



Drought Information Statement for South Central and Eastern Idaho

Valid May 20, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Pocatello Weather Forecast Office

Contact Information: nws.pocatello@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated in mid June, 2026 if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

- Moderate to exceptional drought exists across most of south central and eastern Idaho
- Record warm winter temperatures resulted in snowpack levels well below normal and early snow melt-out
- River levels are very low and all water supply forecasts are less than 75%

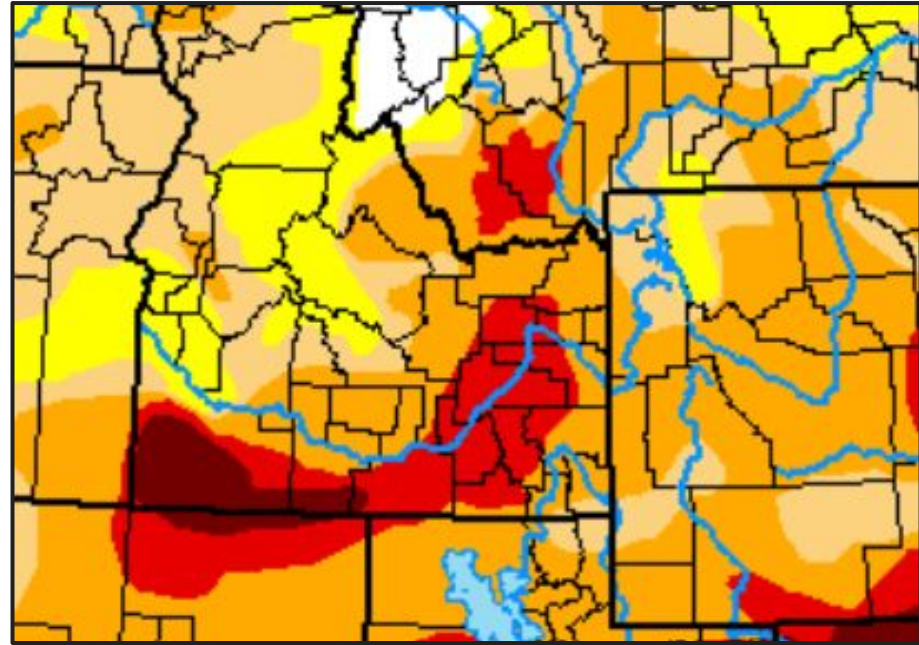




U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for South Central and Southeast Idaho

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Part of western Cassia County
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Southern Highlands, Eastern Magic Valley, and Upper Snake River Plain; all of Bingham and Power Counties; parts of Cassia, Blaine, Oneida, Bannock, Caribou, Bonneville, Jefferson, Madison, Fremont, and Butte Counties.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Parts of every county in the forecast area except Power and Bingham (which are all D3)
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Northern Blaine County, part of Custer County; SE Franklin and southern Bear Lake Counties.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Western Custer and northern Blaine Counties



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/12/26



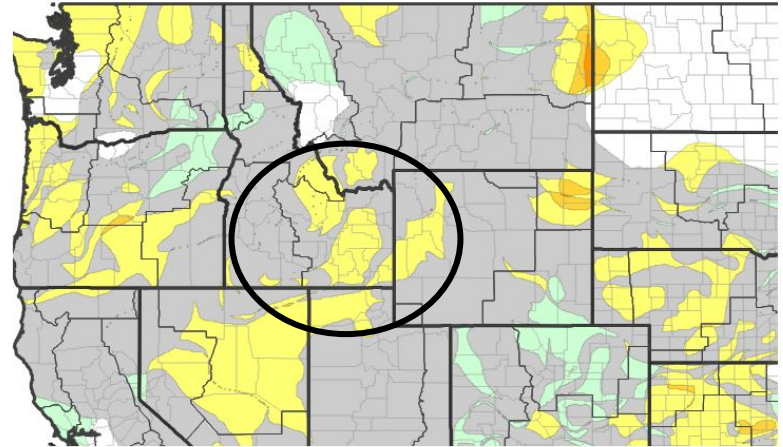


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for South Central and Southeast Idaho

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Big and Little Lost River Basins; Eastern Magic Valley and Upper Snake River Plain; SE Highlands including parts of Caribou, Bannock, Power, Oneida, Franklin, and Bear Lake Counties.
 - No Change: The remainder of the forecast area

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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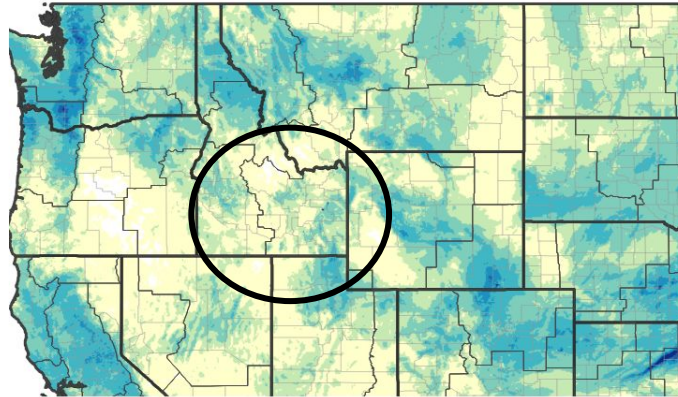




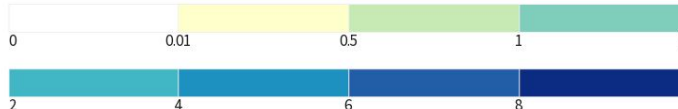
Precipitation

- As of May 20, 30-day precipitation has generally been 50% of normal or lower; particularly low in Cassia, Custer, and Fremont Counties.
- Normal to slightly above precipitation occurred only in isolated pockets of Bonneville and Butte Counties.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



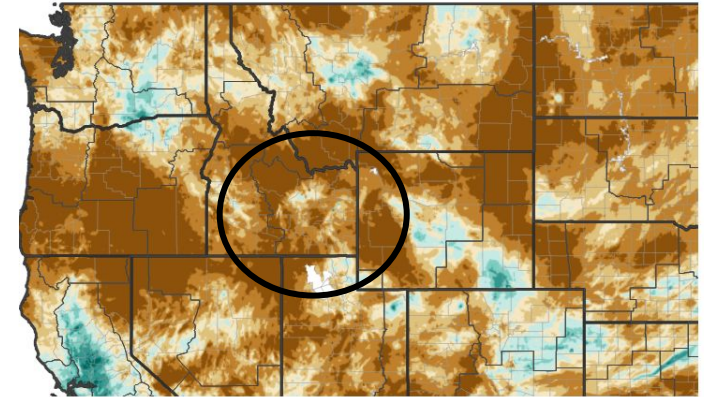
Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/19/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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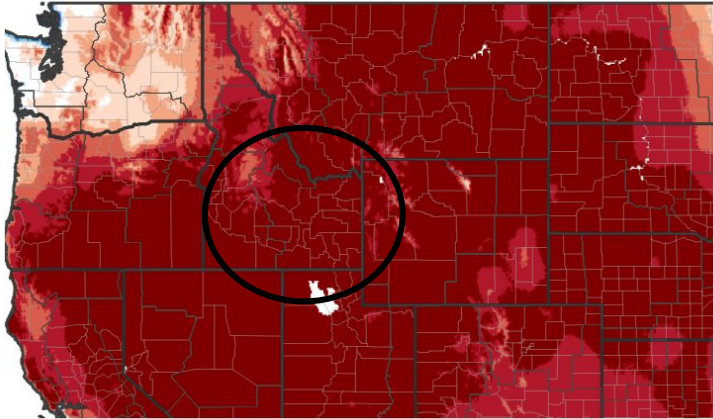




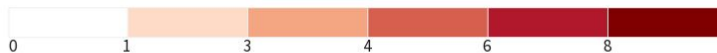
Temperature

- 7-day maximum temperatures were well above normal ($8^{\circ}+$) for the entire region
- 30-day maximum temperatures were above normal for the entire region; in particular, the Eastern Magic Valley ($4-6^{\circ}$ above normal).

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



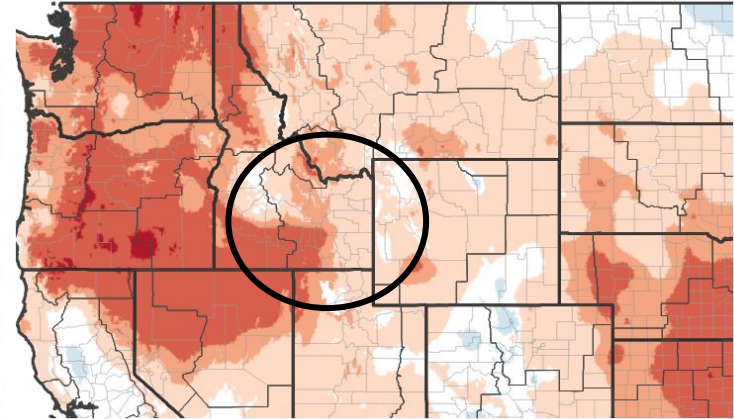
Departure from Normal Max Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{F}$)



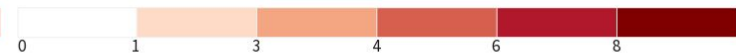
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/15/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{F}$)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/15/26





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- [Near record low snowpack](#) for much of southern and eastern Idaho, especially basins at lower elevations.
- [Early snowpack peak](#) and [early snow melt-out](#) at almost all snow monitoring sites
- [Current streamflows](#) well below normal, particularly in low elevation basins (Goose and Willow Creeks, Raft, Malad, Portneuf, Bear, and Blackfoot Rivers)

Agricultural Impacts

- [Flow volume forecasts](#) well below normal along much of the Snake River, particularly on the Henry's Fork and low elevation tributaries (Portneuf and Blackfoot Rivers, Willow Creek, Goose Creek)
- [Early volume peaks and drafting](#) from storage reservoirs on the Snake River; storage volumes dropping much earlier than normal.

Fire Hazard Impacts

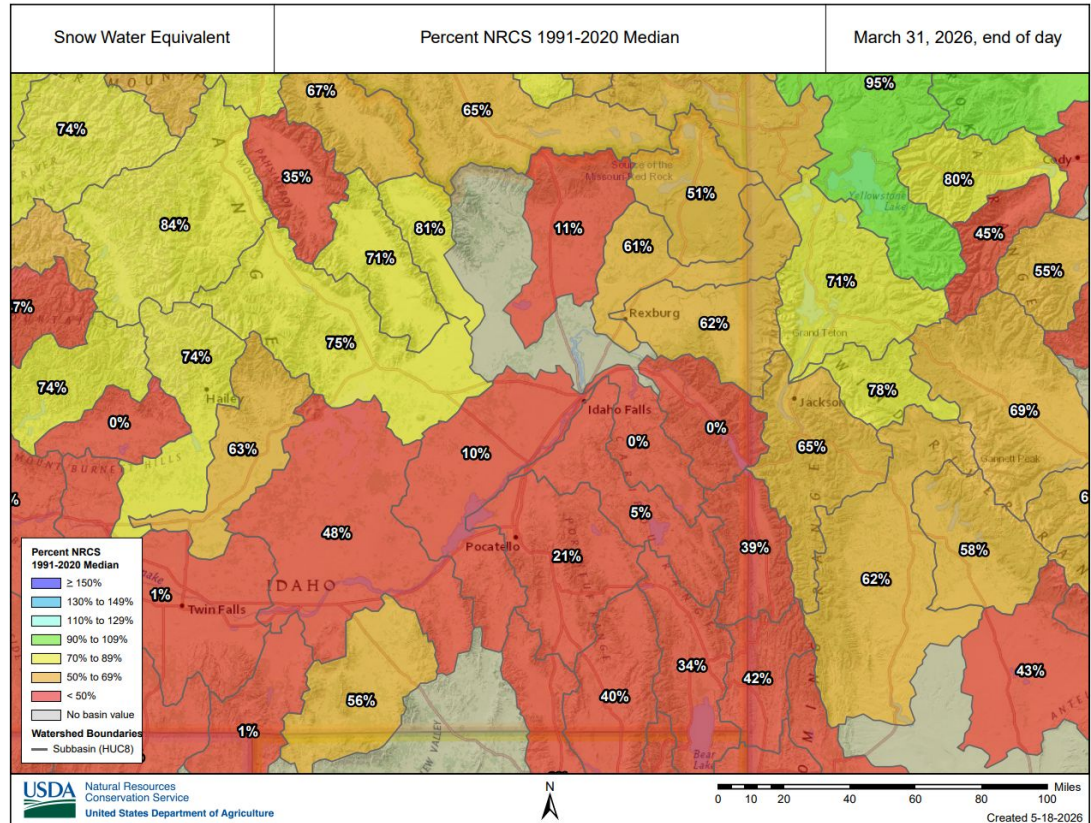
- [Outlook for significant wildland fire potential](#) above normal in July and August
- [Fuel moisture for light fuels](#) is generally well below average; approaching critical levels several weeks earlier than normal.





Hydrologic Impacts - Snow Water Equivalent

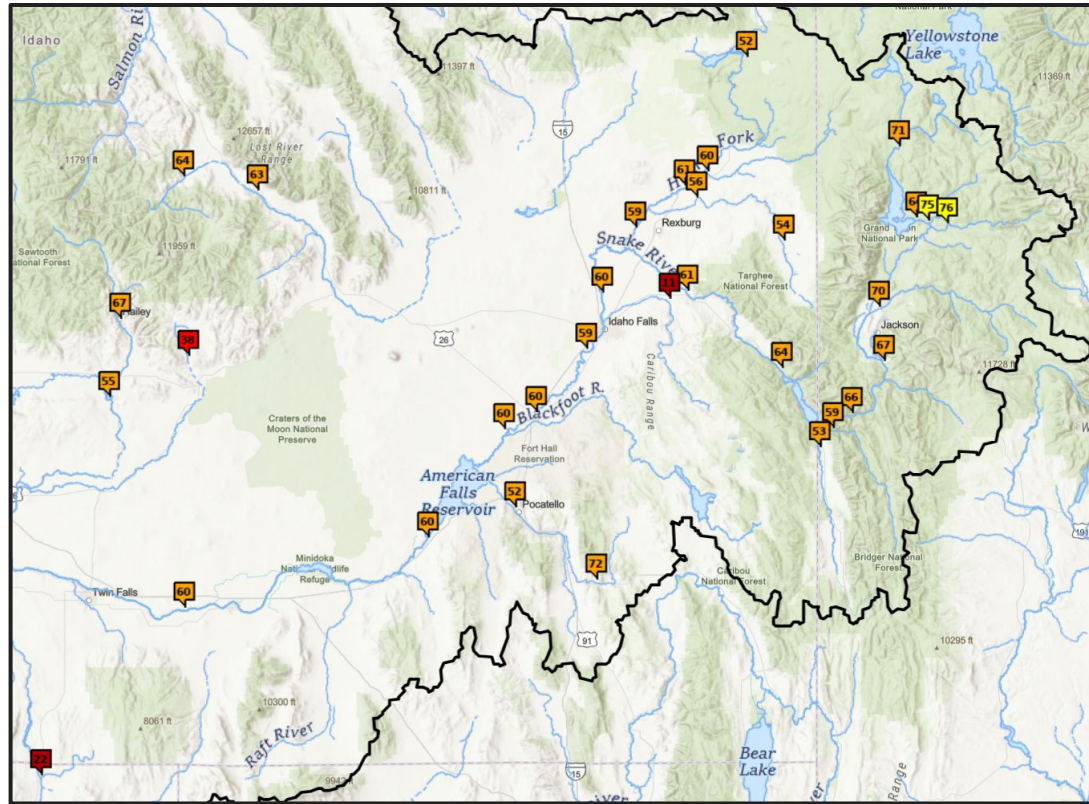
- Warmest winter on record resulted in minimal mid and low elevation snow accumulation.
- Many snow monitoring locations were at period of record low values at the end of March, approximately the normal season peak.
- Peak snow water equivalent values generally ranged from 40-70% of normal.
- Snowpack peaks and snow melt-out occurred 2-4 weeks earlier than normal in most locations.





Agricultural Impacts - Water Supply Forecast


- April through September runoff volume forecasts are below normal for every basin in southern and eastern Idaho.
- Forecasts are particularly low (<50%) for the [Bear River](#), Little Wood River, and Willow Creek.
- Forecasts for the Snake River are generally 50-70% of normal.



ESP Natural Forecast

Forecast (% Normal)

- No Normal, No Data
- < 25
- 25-50
- 50-75
- 75-90
- 90-110
- 110-125
- 125-150
- 150-175
- > 175

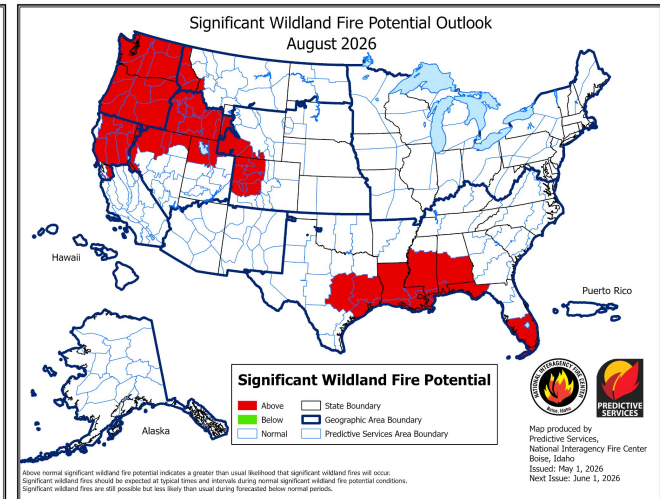
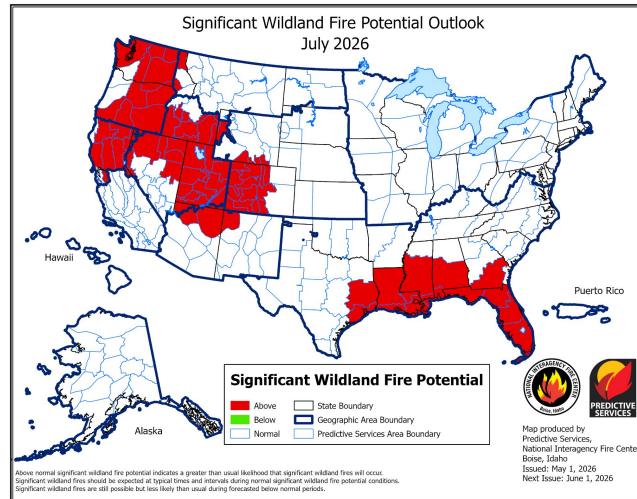
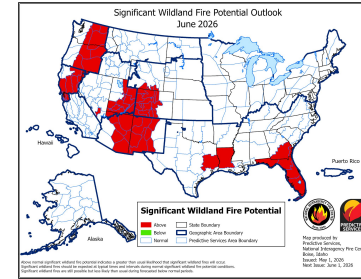
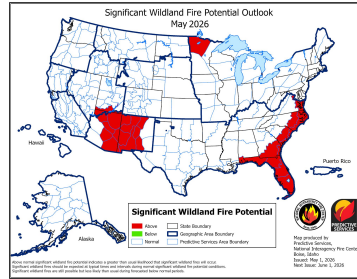




Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for May and June is “normal” for southern and eastern Idaho.
- The Outlook is “above normal” for July and August
- Fuel moisture levels are below normal in May, likewise approximately 3-4 weeks early.

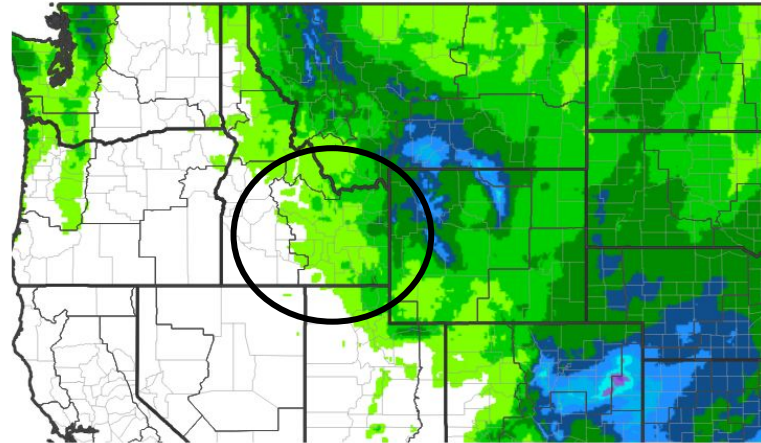




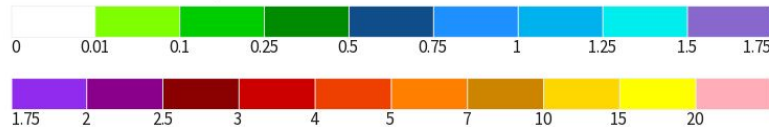
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The 7-day precipitation forecast calls for minimal precipitation for the western two thirds of the forecast area (up to 0.1”).
- Forecasts for the eastern third of the region include:
 - Up to up to ¼” in the eastern Idaho highlands and Island Park area.
 - Up to ½” in the highest elevations of the Bear River Range, and the Big Hole Range and Teton foothills in Idaho.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 19, 2026–May 26, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/19/26



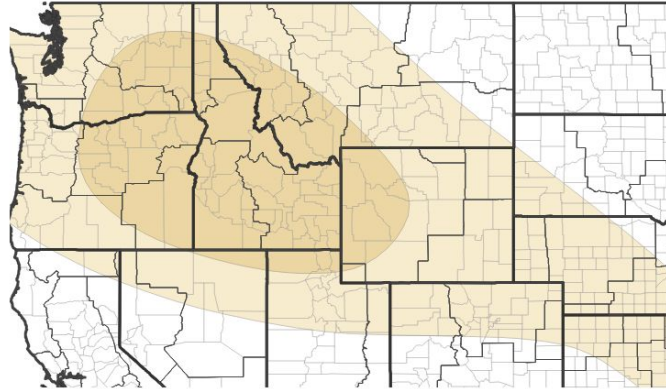


Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Seasonal outlook probabilities are for below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures for the entire region.

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



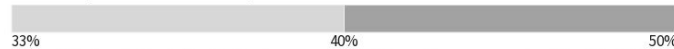
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



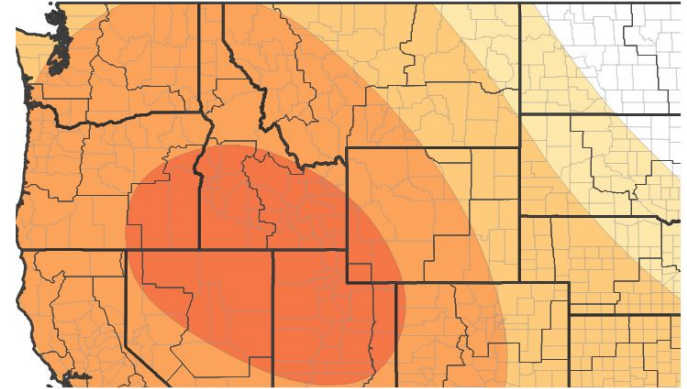
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/16/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/16/26



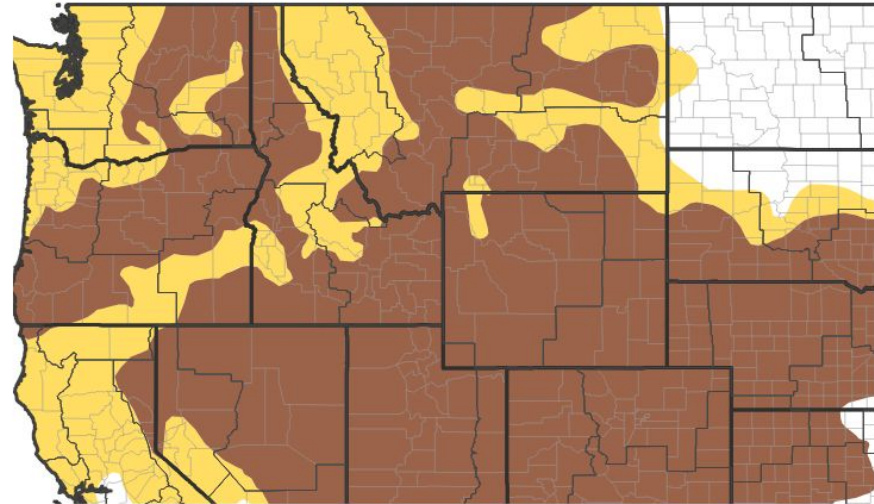


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions are expected to persist and develop throughout much of the western United State, including the entire southern Idaho region.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 30, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/30/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

