



Monthly Climate Report

NWS Reno NV

Issued: 5/05/2025



Weather Synopsis & Highlights:

Temperatures in April finished near average in the inner-basins to between 2-4 degrees above average for the rest of the eastern Sierra, northeast California, and northern Washoe County (Figure 1). Precipitation was near to above average for portions of northeast California, and far western Nevada, while the inner basin and most mountain SNOTEL locations were below average for April (Figures 2 and 3).

April began with a “fool’s spring” as Sierra snow shower bands continued with the storm that began in the final days of March (Photo 1 and 2). Additional snow amounts ranged from 5-10 inches, with a few higher elevation sites receiving just over a foot of new snow. Elsewhere, high temperatures were only in the 40s for lower elevations while some Tahoe communities remained below freezing on the 1st, about 15-20 degrees below average. Chilly conditions and spotty light snow showers continued through the 3rd, followed by a warmup with temperatures finally rising above average on the 6th.

This warming trend was paused briefly on the 7th due to a weak storm passage which brought breezy winds to the region and light rain to northeast CA and far northwest NV. After this storm departed, temperatures resumed their ascent, peaking on the 10th-11th with highs in the upper 70s-lower 80s for much of western NV and mid 60s-near 70 for Sierra communities, while dry weather prevailed. A dry cold front passage brought temperatures down to near average again by the 13th, before temperatures rebounded into the 70s again on the 14th.

An upper low near the southern CA coast brought conditions that allowed for the first warm-weather thunderstorms of the year near the Sierra crest on the 15th, which returned for parts of eastern CA and western NV on the 16th. Rainfall amounts were sparse with isolated lightning strikes and gusty outflow wind gusts of 40-50 mph.

A dry cold front passage brought temperatures back to slightly below average on the 17th and 18th, with breezy north winds and high temperatures in the 50s to lower 60s. Warmer weather returned from the 19th through 22nd, with highs returning to the 70s for most lower elevations and 60s for Sierra communities. Temperatures cooled slightly but remained average for the 23rd and 24th (Photo 3). Mainly dry conditions prevailed, except for a few short-lived thunderstorms in northern Pershing County on the 20th.

April showers weren’t done though, as a colder low pressure moved slowly across the region from the 25th-27th, dropping daytime temperatures to 10-15 degrees below average. Patchy light rain showers developed across much of the region on the 25th, with isolated thunderstorms over west central NV. More widespread rain and snow developed during the late night of the 25th into the 26th, and again the following night, bringing late season snow for the Sierra and a rain-snow mix down to lower elevations of western NV. Snowfall amounts ranged from 2-7” for the Tahoe basin and into northern Mono County, while in western NV up to 2” of snow fell (mainly on unpaved surfaces) around the main cities of far western NV, and up to 4” in

Virginia City. An additional 1-5" of snow fell in the Tahoe basin with up to 8" in higher elevations during the late night of the 26th into the morning of the 27th (Photos 4 to 6). Rainfall was heaviest across far northeast CA and northwest NV, with several sites receiving between 0.50 and 1 inch, and up to 1.25 inch in parts of the Surprise Valley.

The month ended with temperatures warming up to near or slightly above average. A weak storm system brought an area of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms to parts of eastern CA and western NV for the final 2 days of April. On the 29th, most of the rain fell from central Plumas County and the Tahoe basin eastward across far western NV, with parts of south Reno and Virginia City receiving up to 0.30" of rainfall. On the 30th, most of the activity occurred in Mono, Mineral and Lyon counties. Rainfall was spotty, but a few sites in Mono County received 0.25-0.50".

Hydrology:

Relatively warm and prolonged dry conditions in most of April lead to early melt of low and mid elevation snowpack and rapid reduction of snow covered area. Snowpack as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL network fell to near and slightly below normal on the east side of the Sierra and Humboldt basin (Figures 4 and 5). Snowmelt has brought mountain soil moisture to near normal for this time of year in both the east side of the Sierra and also in the Humboldt (Figure 6). Streamflows in April were near normal at most USGS locations with no snowmelt flooding observed or expected (Figure 7). Water year to date observed flows have been somewhat above normal in northern California and NW Nevada, and near to below normal south of I-80 and along the lower Humboldt (Figure 8 left side). Seasonal water supply outlooks have remained fairly steady since April 1st with near normal (median) April-July volumes expected in the Truckee and lower Humboldt, above normal on the Pit River in NE California, and somewhat below normal in the Carson and Walker Rivers (Figure 8 right side). Reservoir storage remains well above normal in Tahoe and Rye Patch reservoirs, and near to somewhat above normal on the Truckee, Carson and Walker for the end of April (Figure 9).

Drought Update:

The April fluctuations of conditions were not severe enough to either improve or degrade drought conditions in the NWS Reno service area, based on the US drought monitor, where no changes were during the month (Figure 10). Water year precipitation has been near to above normal along in northeastern CA and northwestern Nevada, but still lags below normal in west central Nevada (Figure 11). Meanwhile, this has been a warm water year, which is evident in the below average snow accumulation and early melt-out in lower Sierra elevations. Average temperatures are in the top 10th to 33rd percentile warmest for all of the NWS Reno service area (Figure 12).

Additional Information on Drought and Climate:

[Report Drought conditions here](#)

[Nevada statewide Drought update](#)

[NV Living with Drought](#)

[Drought Monitor](#)

[New Drought.gov](#)

[California Nevada Drought Early Warning System](#)

[NOAA CPC Drought page](#)

[CNAP Drought tracker](#)

[California Nevada River Forecast Center](#)

[WRCC Drought Tracker](#)

[WRCC Enso page](#)

[WRCC Monthly Climate Summaries](#)

[Evaporative Demand Drought Index](#)

[US Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Contact NWS Reno Climate Team

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<https://www.weather.gov/rev/>

Photos:



Photo 1: An April Fools Day snowstorm brought several inches of snowfall to western Nevada. Photo courtesy of Candace Brinsko on Facebook.



Photo 2: An active weather pattern to start April. Image of SR-431 on the 2nd. Courtesy of Nevada Department of Transportation.



Photo 3: We returned to more spring-like conditions mid-month before the late season snowfall. Photo courtesy of Chris Smallcomb.



Photo 4: A late April snow storm brought several inches of snowfall throughout the region. Photo courtesy of Jeanne Weyl Budke on April 26th via Facebook.



Photo 5: The late April storm brought upwards of a foot of snowfall across the Tahoe Basin on the 26th to 27th. Photo courtesy of Nevada Department of Transportation.

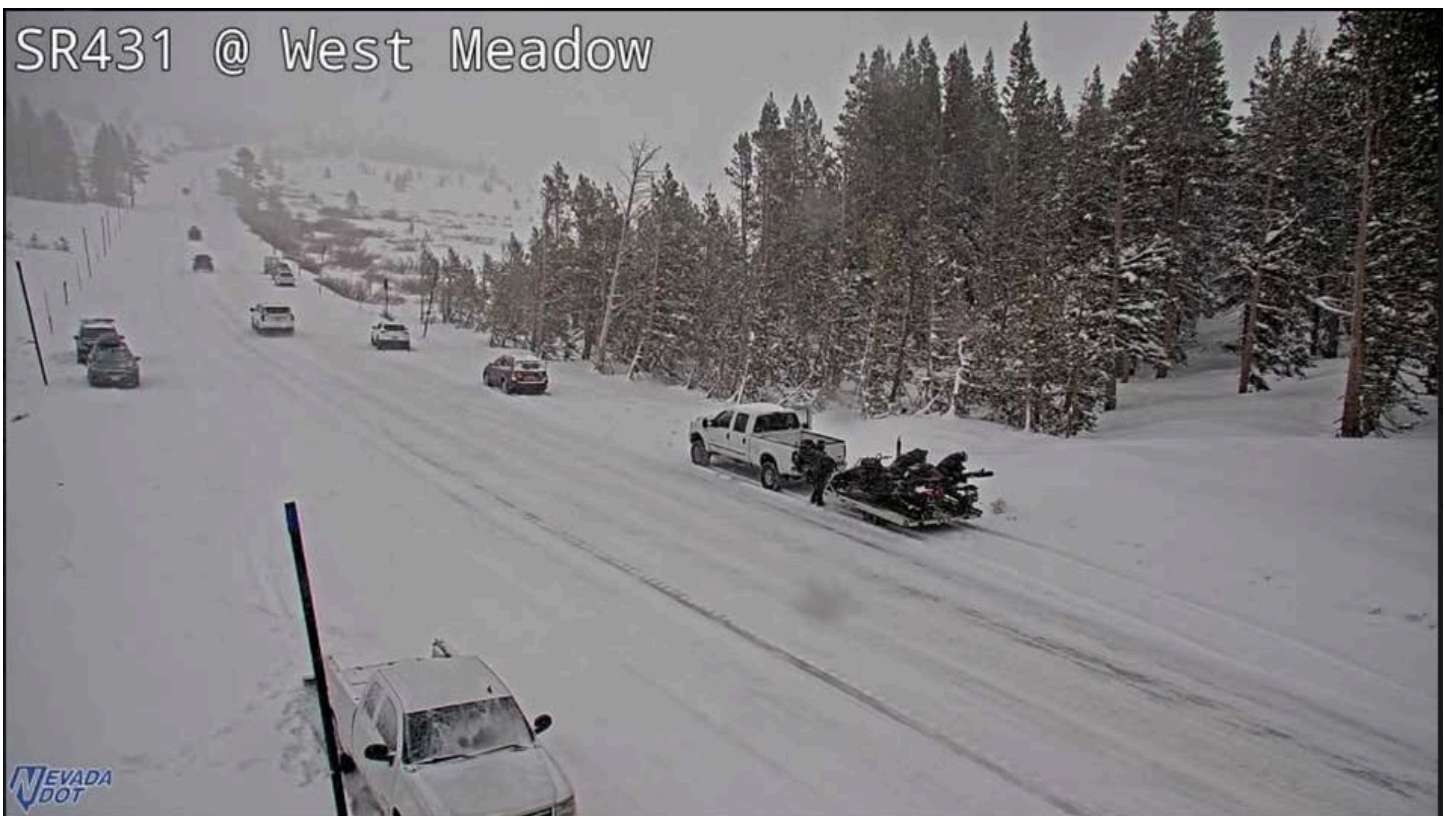
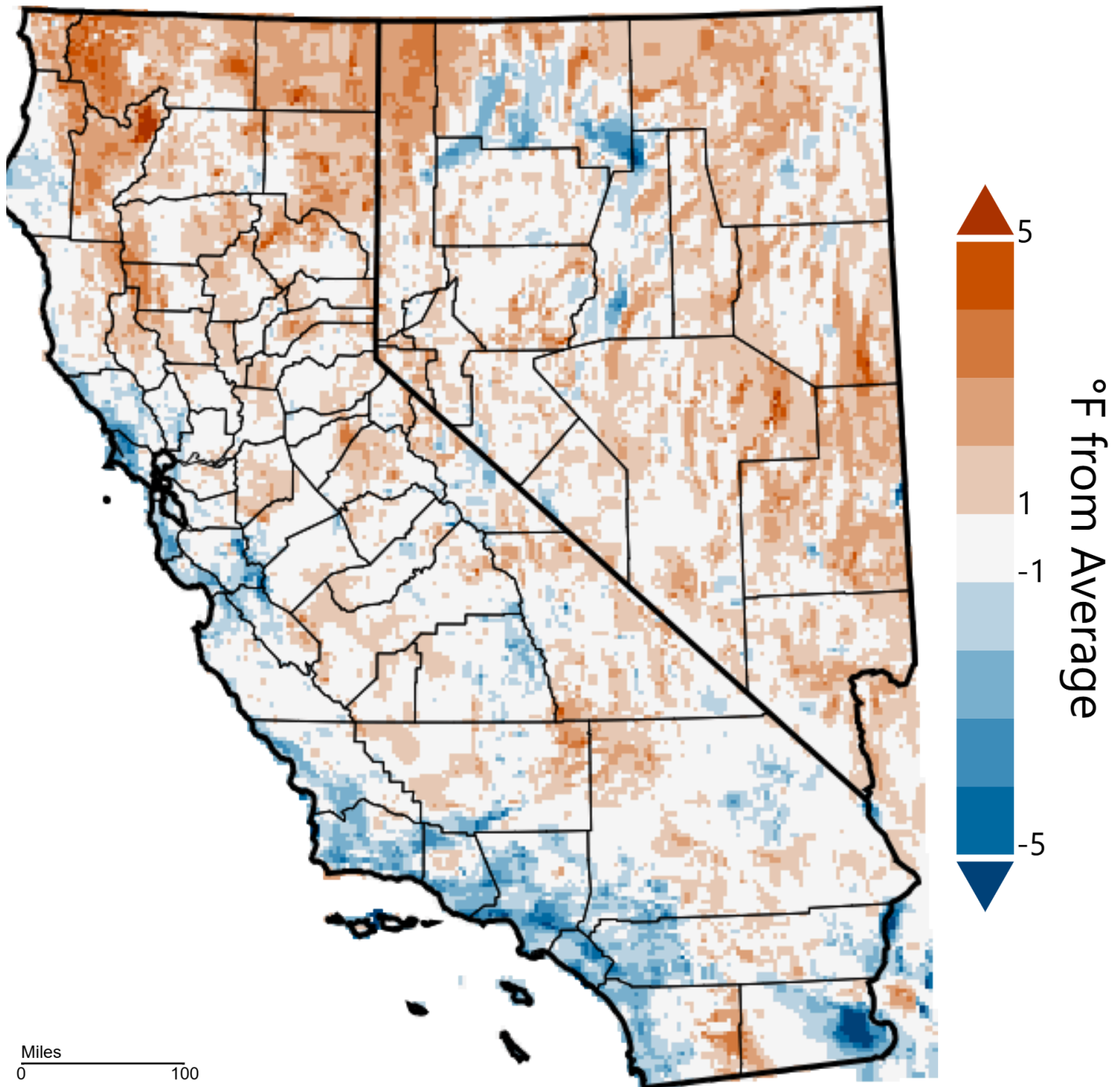


Photo 6: Outdoor enthusiasts enjoyed the late season snowfall on the 26th-27th along Mount Rose Highway. Photo courtesy of Nevada Department of Transportation.

Figures:

California-Nevada - Mean Temperature April 2025, Departure from 1991-2020 Average

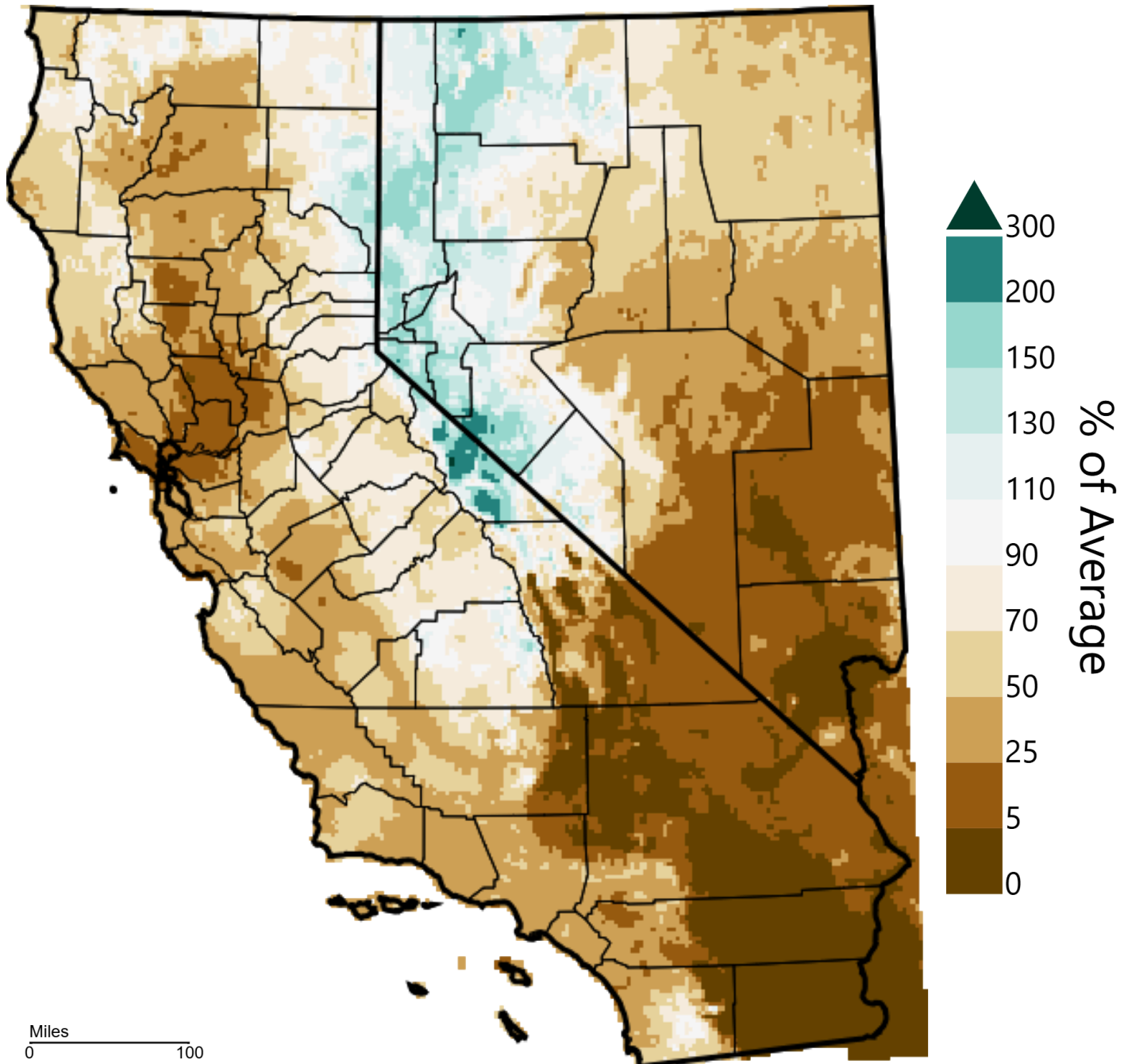


VestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 May 2025

Figure 1: Departure from normal temperatures for April 2025. ([WWDt](#))

California-Nevada - Precipitation

April 2025, Percent of 1991-2020 Average



WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 May 2025

Figure 2: Percent of normal precipitation for April 2025. ([WWDI](#))

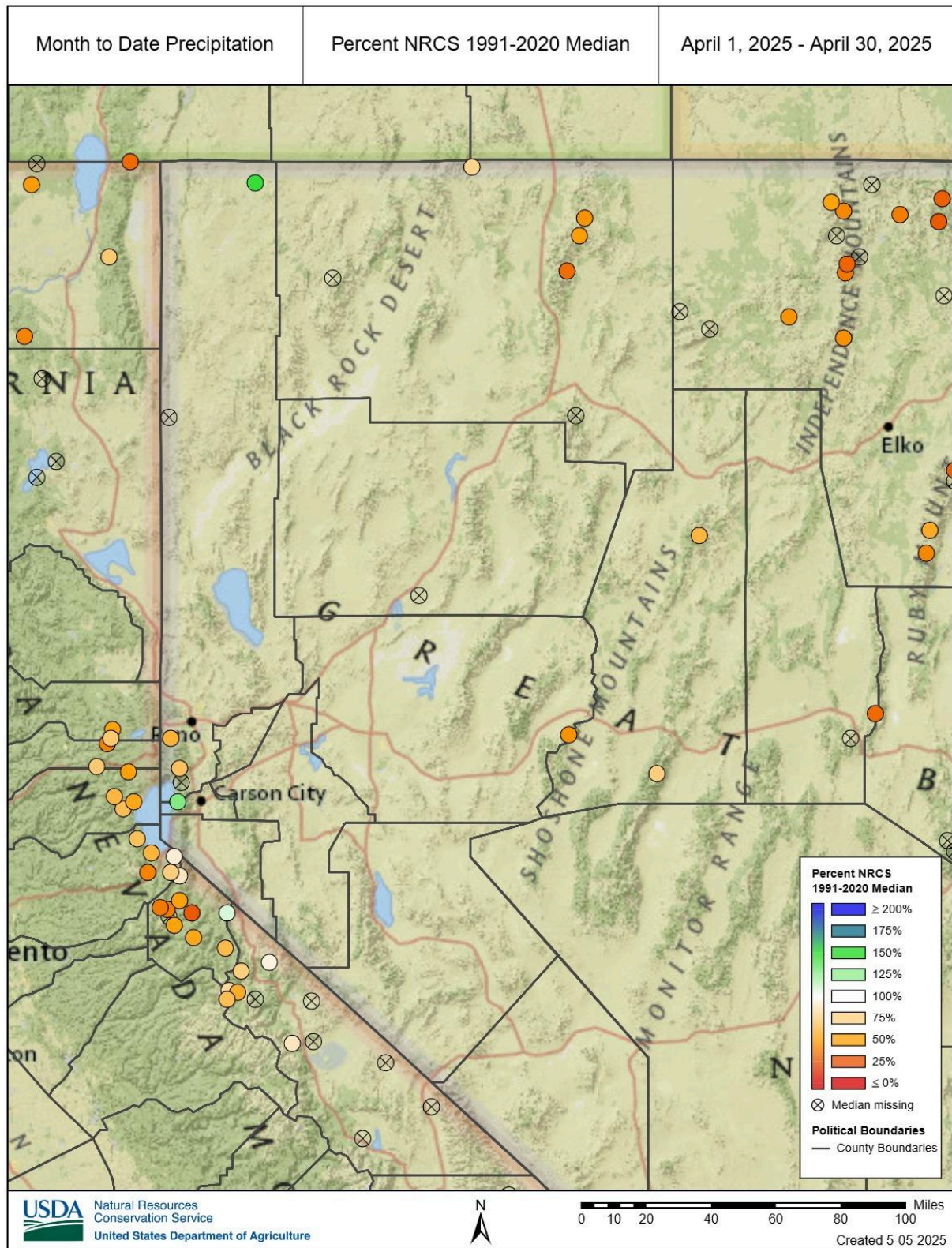


Figure 3. [NRCS SNOTEL mountain precipitation](#) as a % of median for the month of April.

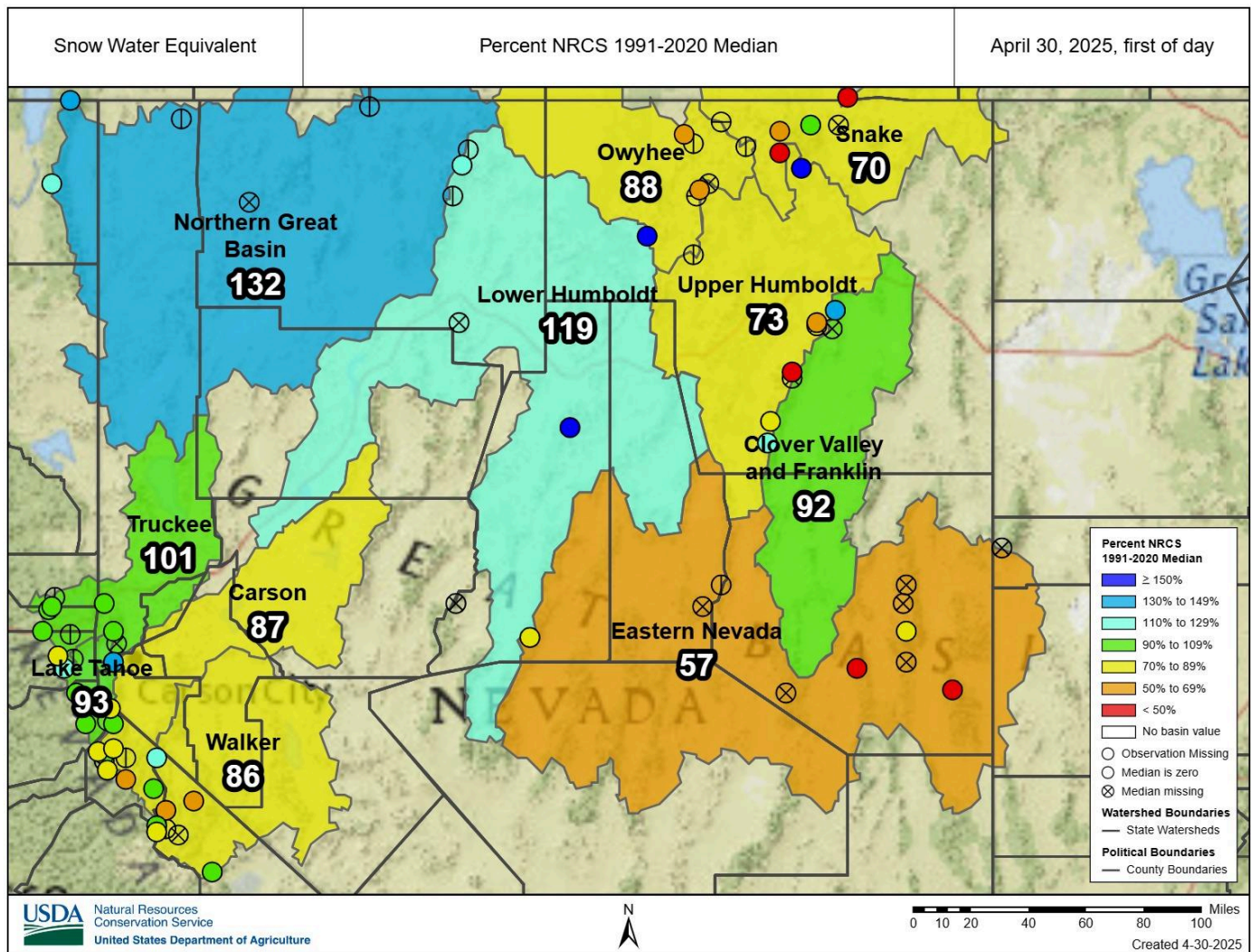


Figure 4. NRCS % of median snow water equivalent for April 30th.

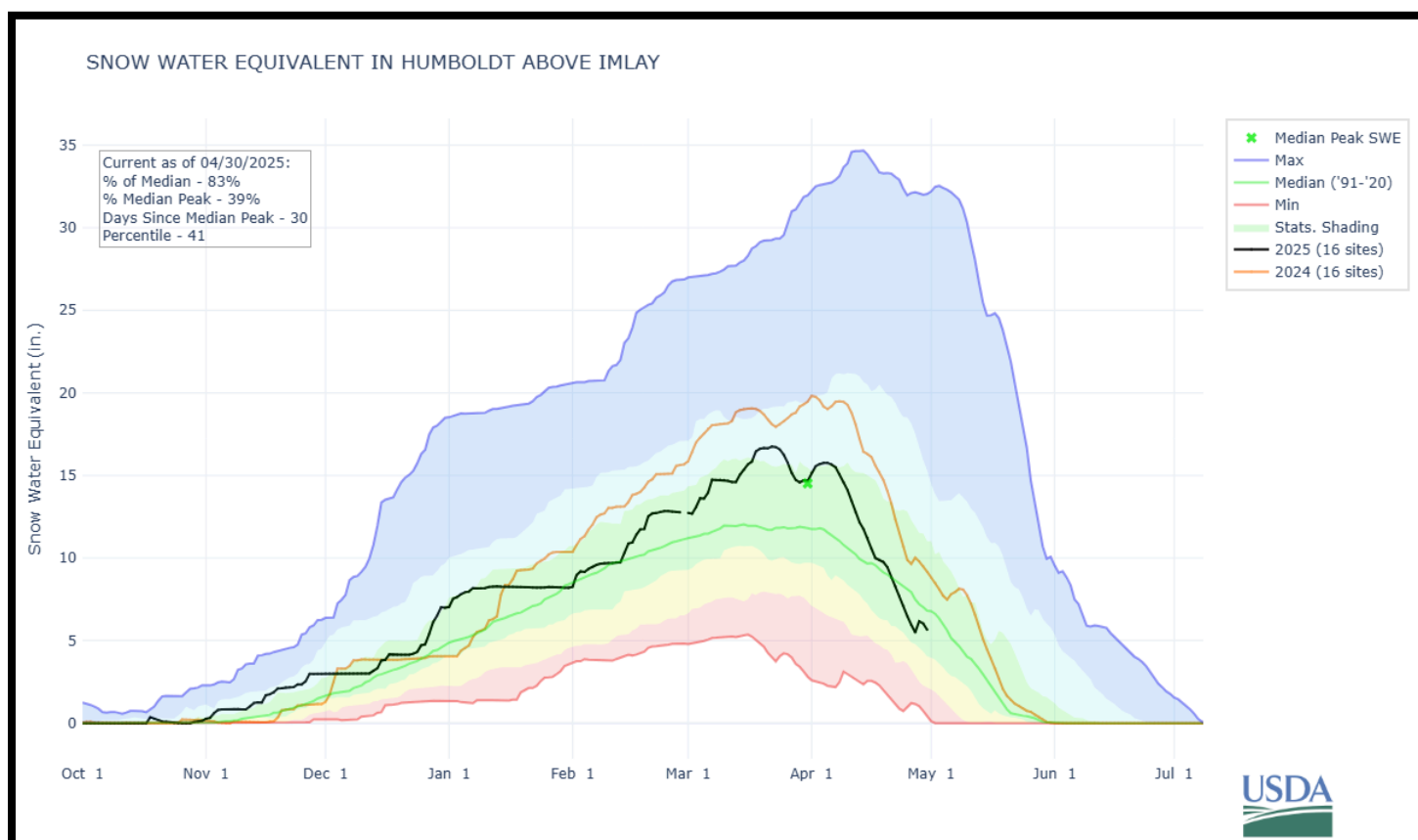
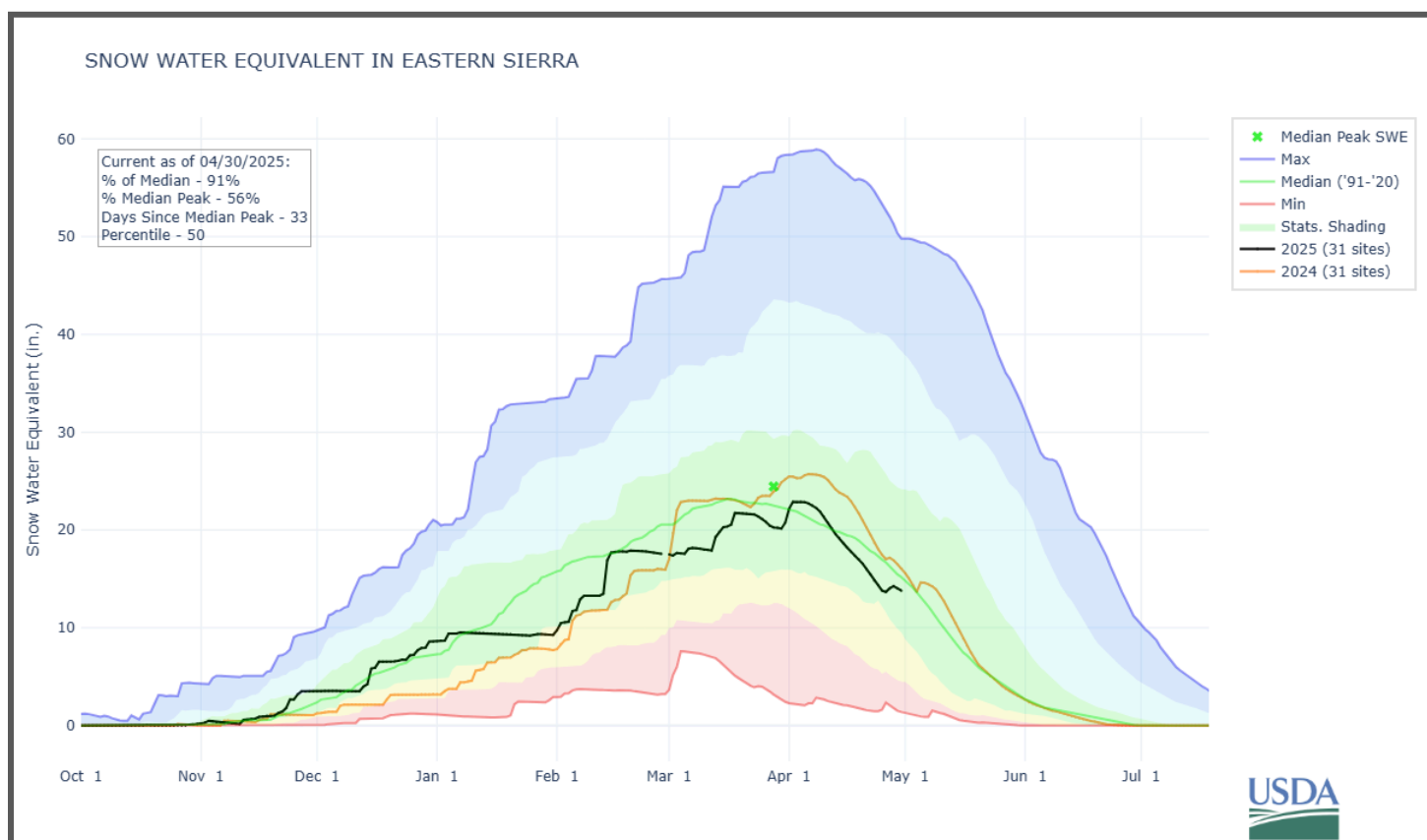


Figure 5. [NRCS Snow Water Equivalent](#) for the combined Tahoe, Truckee, Carson and Walker basins with WY 2025 in black and WY 2024 in orange (Top, and Humboldt bottom).

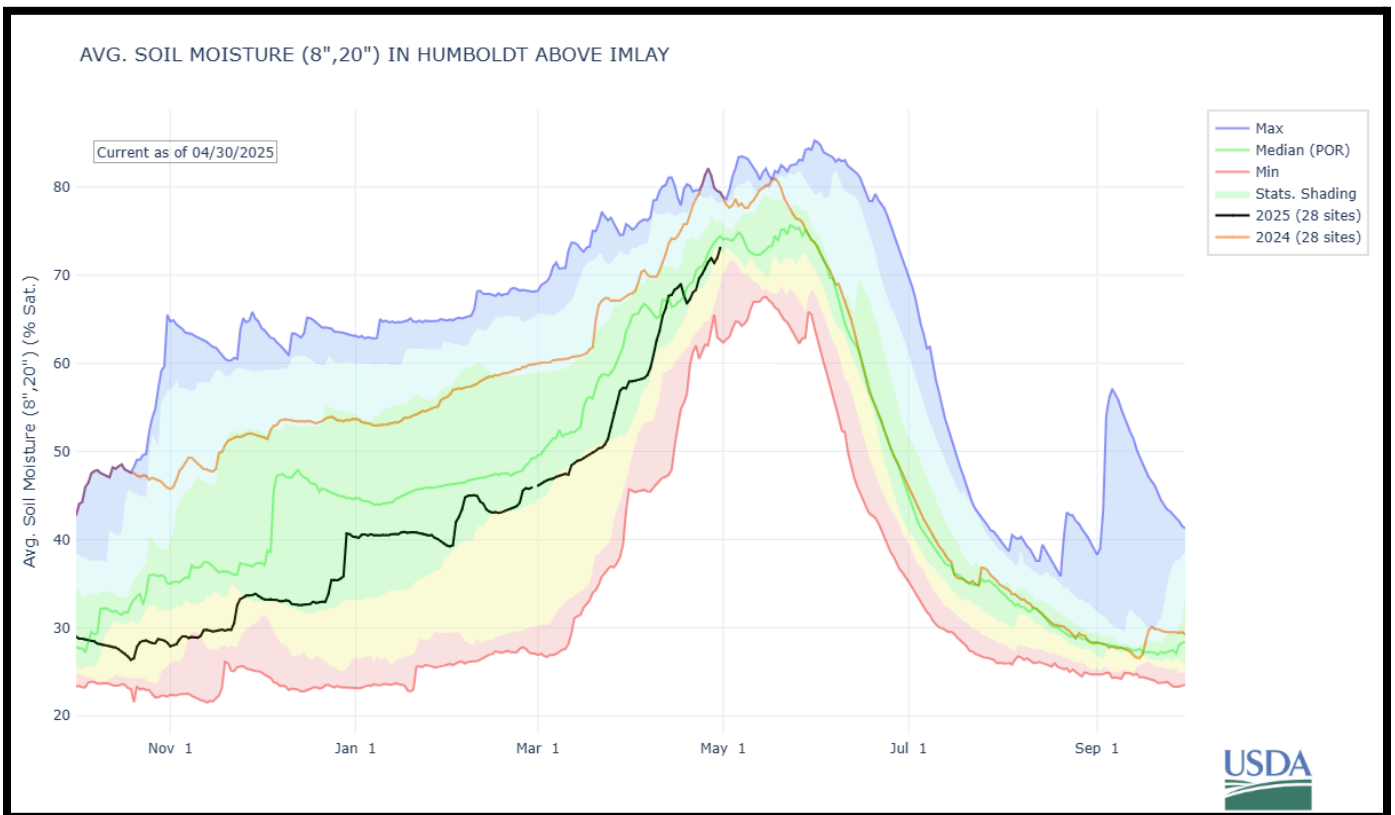
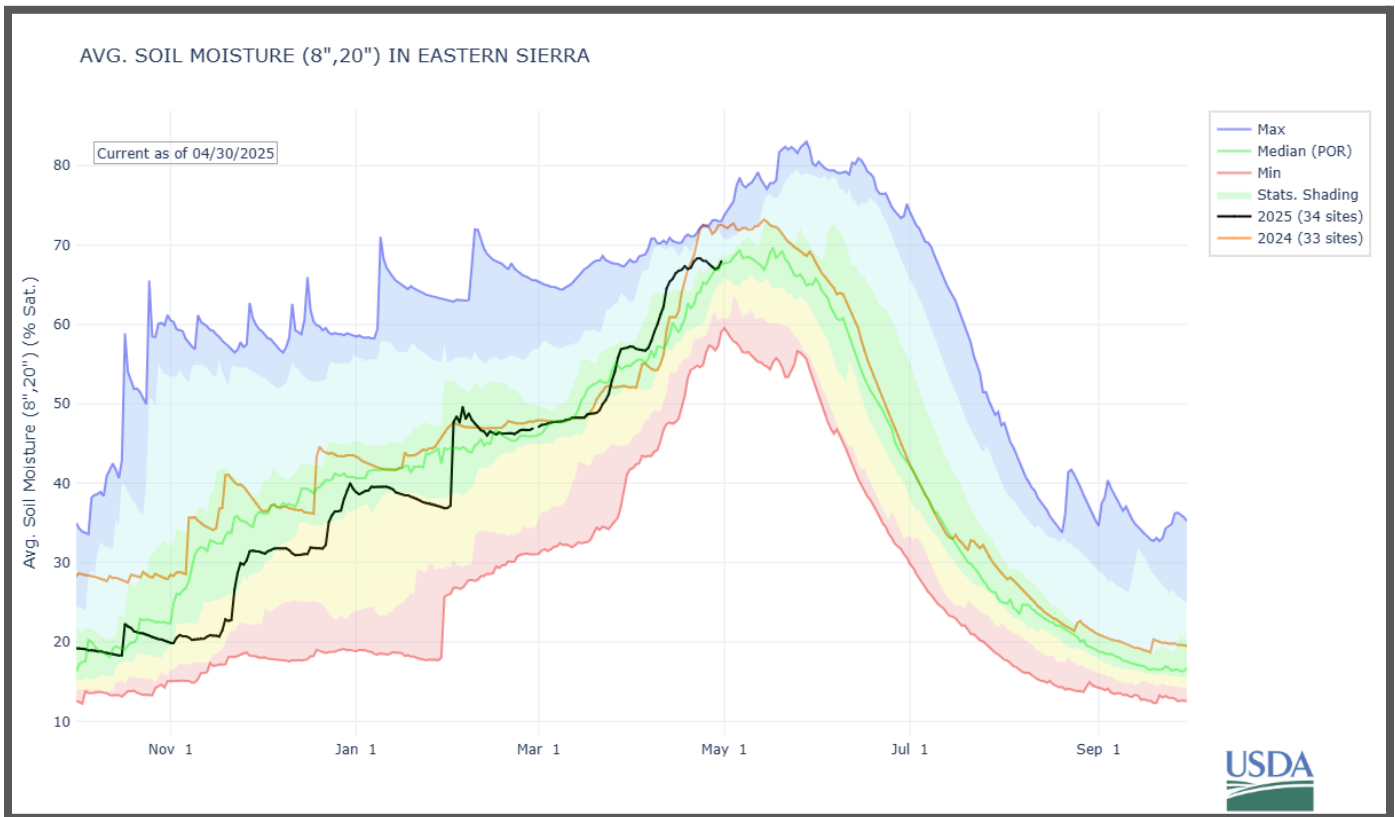
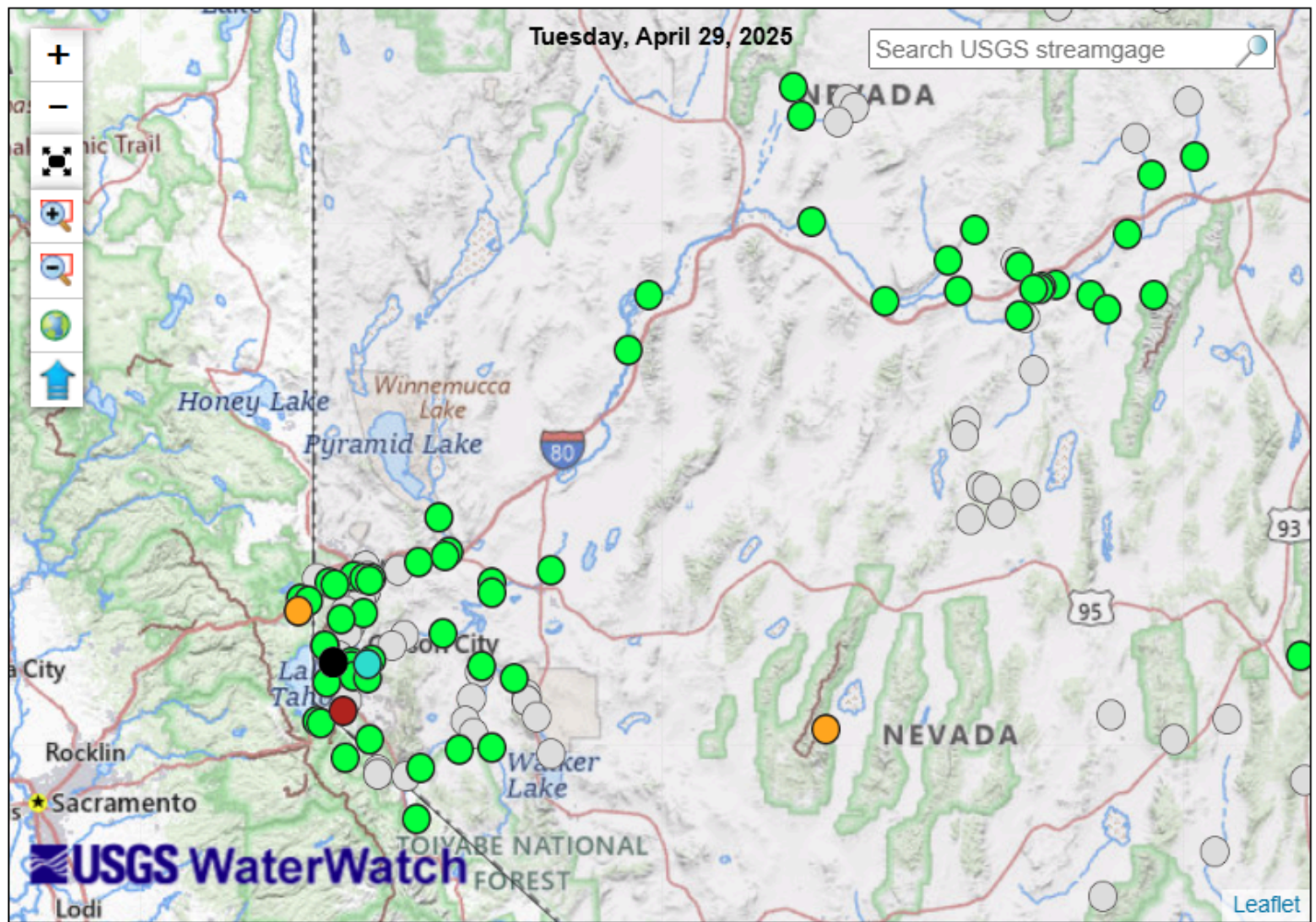


Figure 6: [NRCS SNOTEL soil moisture](#) for the combined Tahoe, Truckee, Carson and Walker basins (top), and Humboldt basin (bottom) indicated in black for the water year 2025 to date. Water year 2024 is plotted in orange for additional perspective.

Map of 28-day streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year



| Explanation - Percentile classes | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|-------------------|------|------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| Low | <10 | 10-24 | 25-75 | 76-90 | >90 | High | Not-ranked |
| | Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal | | |

Figure 7: [USGS 28 day streamflow](#) for April.

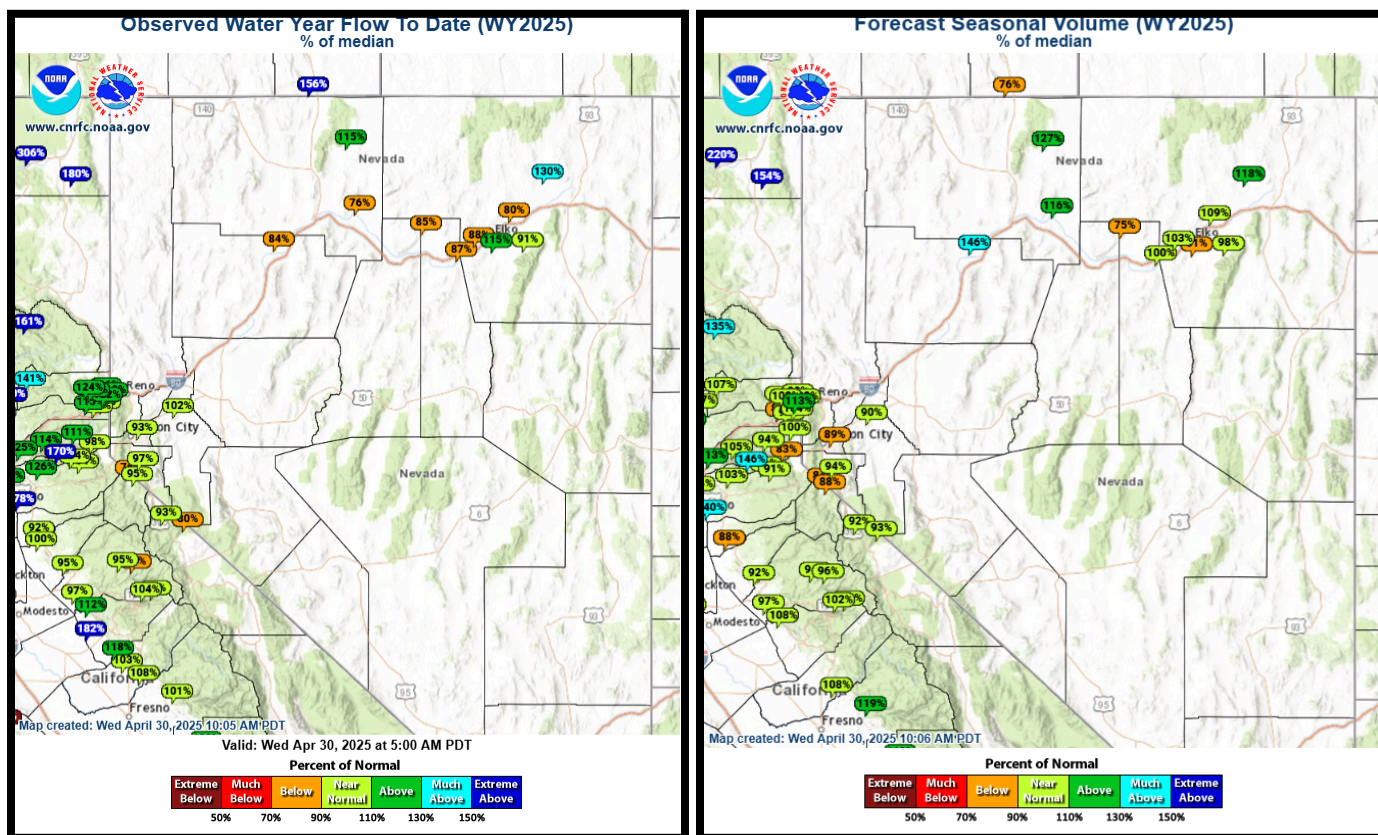


Figure 8. Left figure [CNRFC](#) Water year 2025 observed flow to date and right figure [CNRFC April-July](#) forecast volume both as % of median, both as of April 30th.

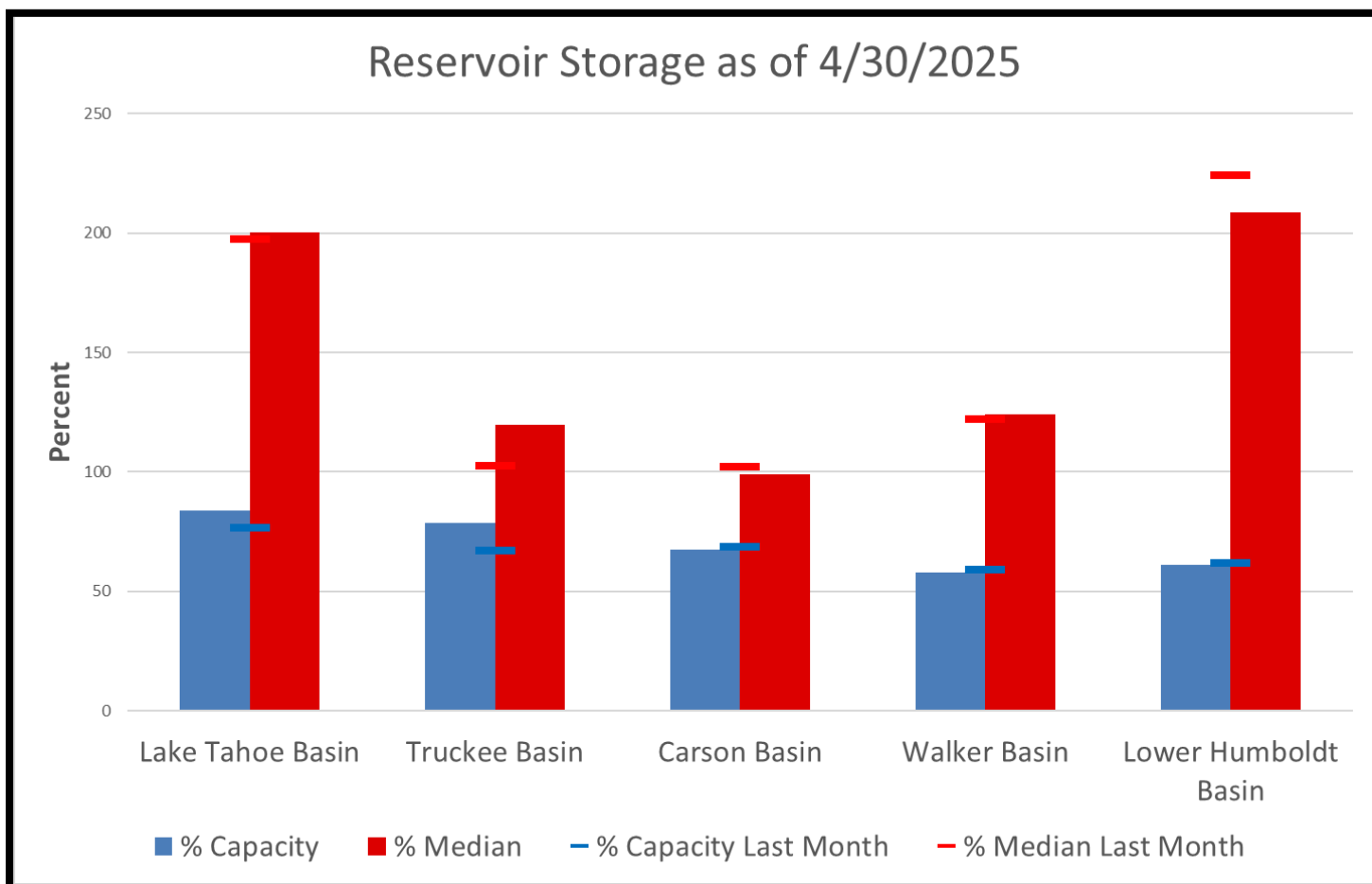


Figure 9. End of April reservoir storage relative to capacity and **median*** for this month and last month. (*note reference was recently updated to NRCS 1991-2020 median values)

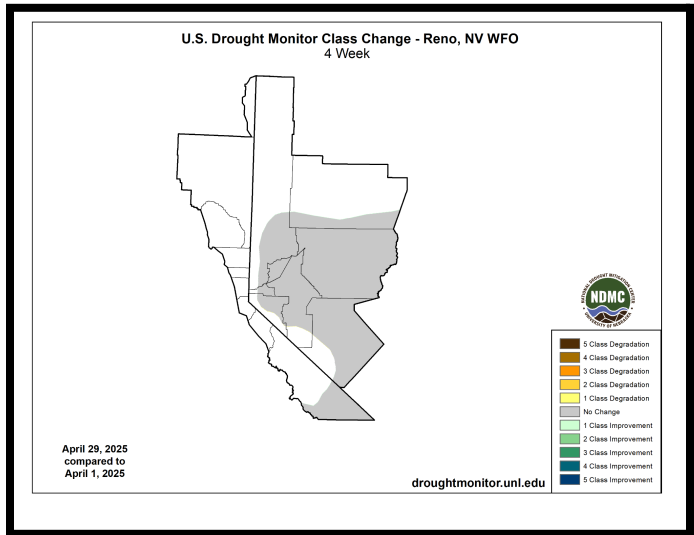
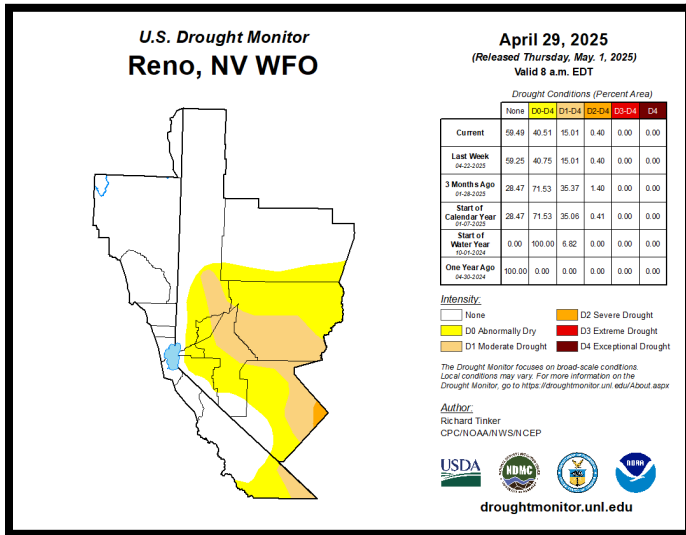
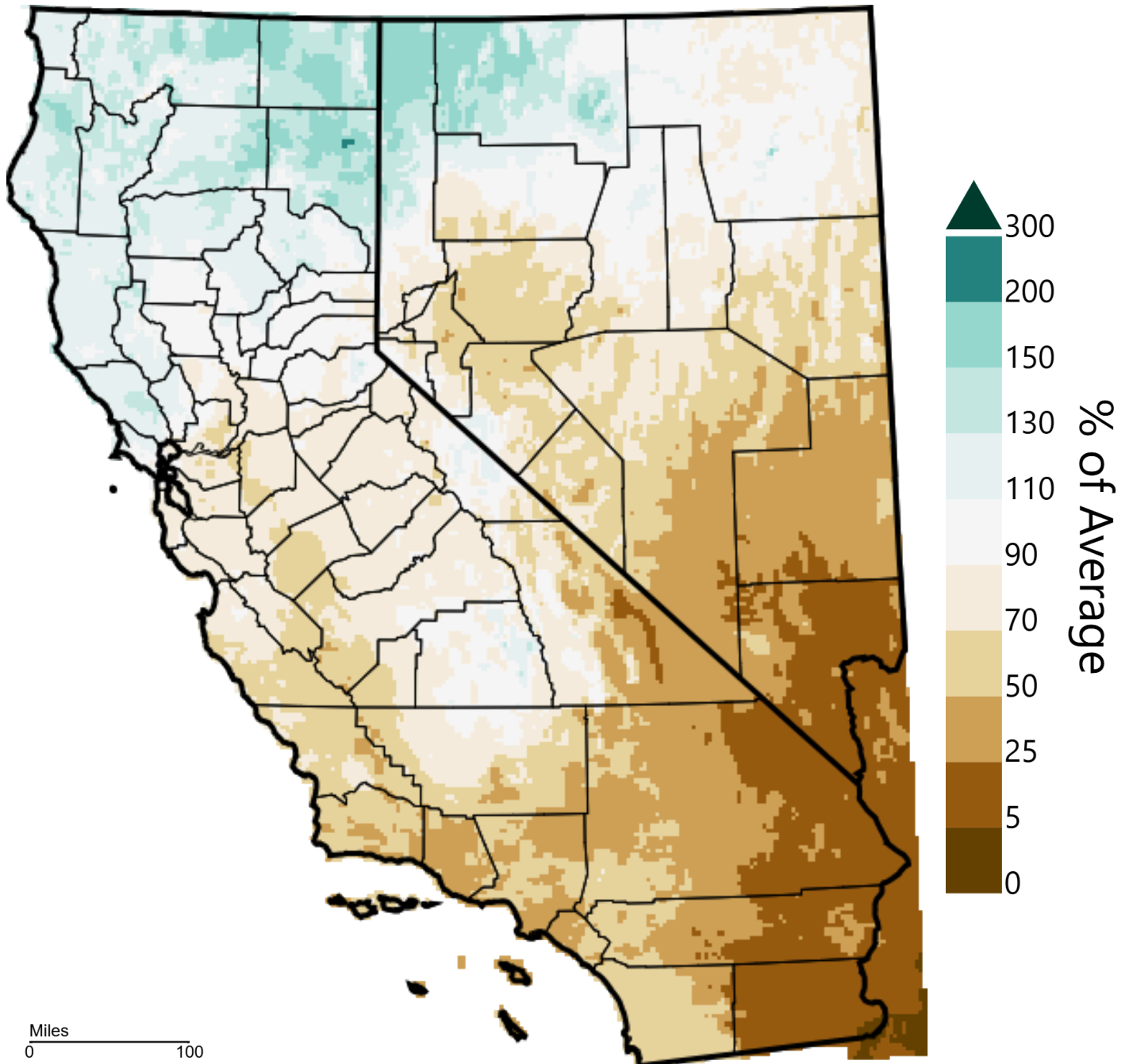


Figure 10: April 29th. Drought Monitor Status and 4 week change map. Check for updates at: [Drought Monitor](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu).

California-Nevada - Precipitation

October 2024 - April 2025, Percent of 1991-2020 Average

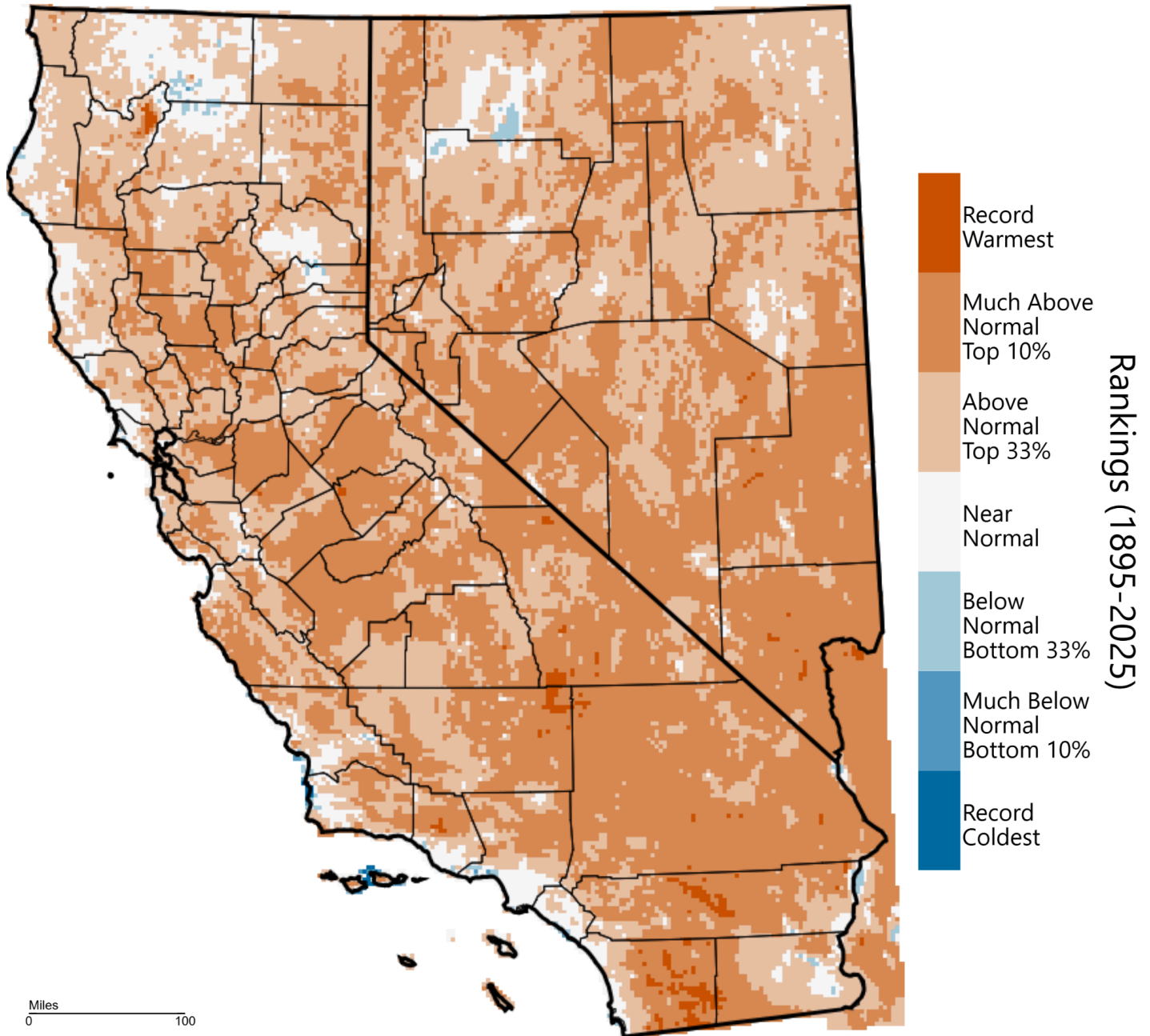


WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 May 2025

Figure 11: Water year to date precipitation. Courtesy of West Wide Drought Tracker. ([WWDT](#))

California-Nevada - Mean Temperature

October 2024 - April 2025, Percentile



WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 May 2025

Figure 12: Water year to date mean temperatures percentile ranking. Courtesy of West Wide Drought Tracker. ([WWDI](#))