# Monthly Climate Report

NWS Reno NV

Issued: 6/17/2025

---

## Weather Synopsis & Highlights:

Temperatures in May finished about 1-4 degrees above average regionwide (Figure 1). Precipitation was below average regionwide, with most areas only receiving 25-50% of average. The deficit wasn't quite as low for central and southern Mono counties, southern Mineral County, and far northwest NV where precipitation was between 50-90% of average (Figure 2).

May began with above average temperatures in the 70s to near 80 for lower elevations and 60s for Sierra communities. However, the weekend of the 3rd and 4th brought yet another closed upper low with much cooler and showery conditions, with highs only in the 50s for lower elevations and mid-upper 40s near the Sierra on the 4th. On the 3rd, scattered thunderstorms across northwest and west central NV produced brief heavy rainfall and gusty outflow winds, with a couple wind sensors reporting peak gusts around 60 mph. Rainfall amounts through the weekend were generally between 0.05" and 0.20", with some sites near the Sierra and far western NV receiving up to 0.50"

A dry period followed after the 4th, with temperatures returning to near average by the 7th and 8th. Very warm conditions then prevailed on the 9th-10th with highs near or above 90 for west central NV. Isolated thunderstorms with sparse rainfall produced a few outflow gusts 50-60 mph in west central NV on the 10th.

A potent late season storm produced strong winds across most of the region on the 11th-12th, with many areas receiving gusts of 50-60 mph, and stronger gusts to 70 mph in wind prone areas. An enhanced downslope windstorm produced several hours of gusts between 80-100 mph between south Reno and Washoe Valley on the morning of the 12th. Many reports of fence and tree damage, including a few downed trees, and overturned vehicles occurred during this wind event, with power outages for up to 8000 customers. Much colder air with this storm (about 30 degrees colder than the warm spell on the 9th and 10th) produced 3-6 inches of snowfall along parts of the Sierra crest on the 12th and 13th, with showers and isolated thunderstorms producing rainfall amounts mainly between 0.05" and 0.20" across much of eastern CA and western NV. A few sites in northeast CA and near the Sierra crest received up to 0.50".

Temperatures rebounded to near average by the 15th and 16th, then another colder storm brought showers and embedded thunderstorms on the 17th, with temperatures cooling to the 60s in western NV and 50s near the Sierra. Rainfall amounts were heaviest in far northeast CA and northwest NV where up to 0.50" fell, while up to 0.10" was reported southward to near the I-80 corridor.

Warmer conditions returned after the 17th, with temperatures climbing into the 80s for most lower elevations from the 20th through 25th. Gusty winds of 30-40 mph and very low humidity on the 22nd led to the first large wildfire of the 2025 season, the "Inn" fire which occurred near the western shore of Mono Lake and closed a section of US-395 in central Mono County for over 2 days, eventually burning 728 acres. No major precipitation

events occurred after the 17th, although isolated short-lived showers and thunderstorms formed on some afternoons during the last week of the month.

A strong high pressure built over CA/NV for the final four days of the month, producing the warmest conditions of the year so far. Highs reached the lower 90s in western NV (including Reno's first 90+ degree day of the year) on the 28th, then peaked on the 31st with highs around 100 in west central NV and a new May (any day) record high of 99 degrees at Reno. Scattered showers and thunderstorms formed on the 31st mainly over Mono, southern Lyon and southern Mineral counties with several hundred lightning strikes concentrated over Northern Mono and far southern Lyon counties, and radar rainfall estimates up to 1.5 inch for parts of US-395 north of Bridgeport, but no reports of flooding. The first Red Flag Warning of the year was also in effect for the 31st due to the hot conditions and lightning threat.

---

## Hydrology:

Relatively warm and dry conditions in May resulted in the continued rapid snowpack loss from April. Mountain precipitation was well below normal for May at most SNOTEL locations (Figure 3). By the end of May, snow was limited to the high elevation and shady aspects, with only 4 SNOTEL sites in the Sierra and one in the Ruby Mountains still reporting snow on the ground (Figure 4). Mountain soil moisture at SNOTEL sites peaked in early May with near normal levels, but have dropped off rapidly with early snowmelt (Figure 5). The satellite based Crop-CASMA soil moisture shows abnormally dry conditions as of mid-June (Figure 6). This is a rapid change from the early May anomaly (not shown). May snowmelt kept streamflows near normal (Figure 7), but lack of snow covered areas and prolonged heat kept streamflows well below flooding concerns. Water year to date observed streamflow mostly aligns with the previous peak snow accumulation, with above normal flows in NE CA, near normal on the Truckee, and slightly below normal on the Carson and Walker, while the Humboldt has been near to below normal despite the above normal snowpack (Figure 8). Reservoir storage remains well above normal in Tahoe and Rye Patch reservoirs, and near to somewhat above normal on the Truckee, Carson and Walker basins for the end of May (Figure 9).

---

## Drought Update:

The continued early loss of snowpack and drying of Sierra south of Lake Tahoe in eastern CA and far western NV lead to an expansion of the abnormally dry (D0) classification by the US drought monitor (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
rev.climate@noaa.gov 775-673-8100
https://www.weather.gov/rev/

---

## Photos:

Photo 1: Strong winds on May 11 produced areas of blowing dust off the Carson Sink northeast of Fallon. Photo courtesy:University of NV-Reno, AlertWest camera network.


Photo 2: The final snow of the season for the main Sierra passes left a few inches mainly on unpaved ground on the morning of May 13. Photo courtesy: CalTrans District 3.

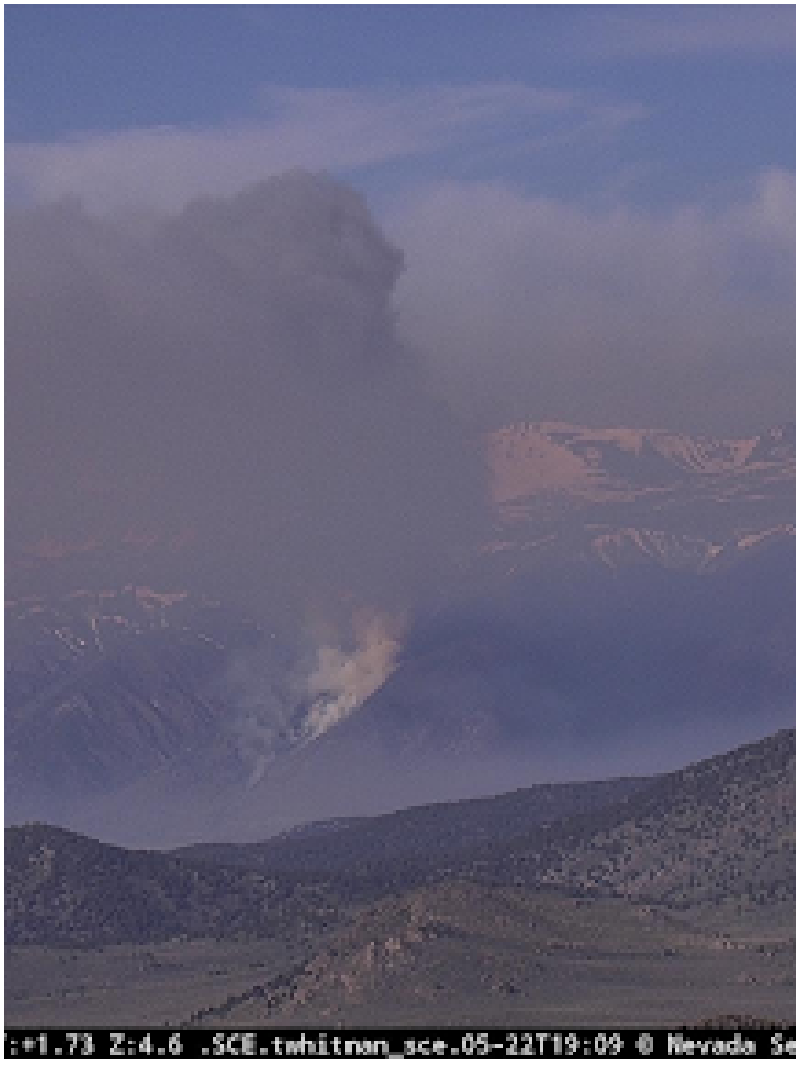


Photo 3: The first large wildfire of the 2025 season (Inn Fire, 728 acres) began on May 23 with dry and breezy conditions in a pocket of drier vegetation west of Mono Lake. Photo courtesy: University of NV-Reno, AlertWest camera network

Photo 4: A small patch of dry grass and brush caught fire near NWS Reno on the afternoon of May 28. Fortunately, response was quick and this fire was extinguished before becoming a threat to our office property. Photo courtesy: NWS Reno.

**Figures:**

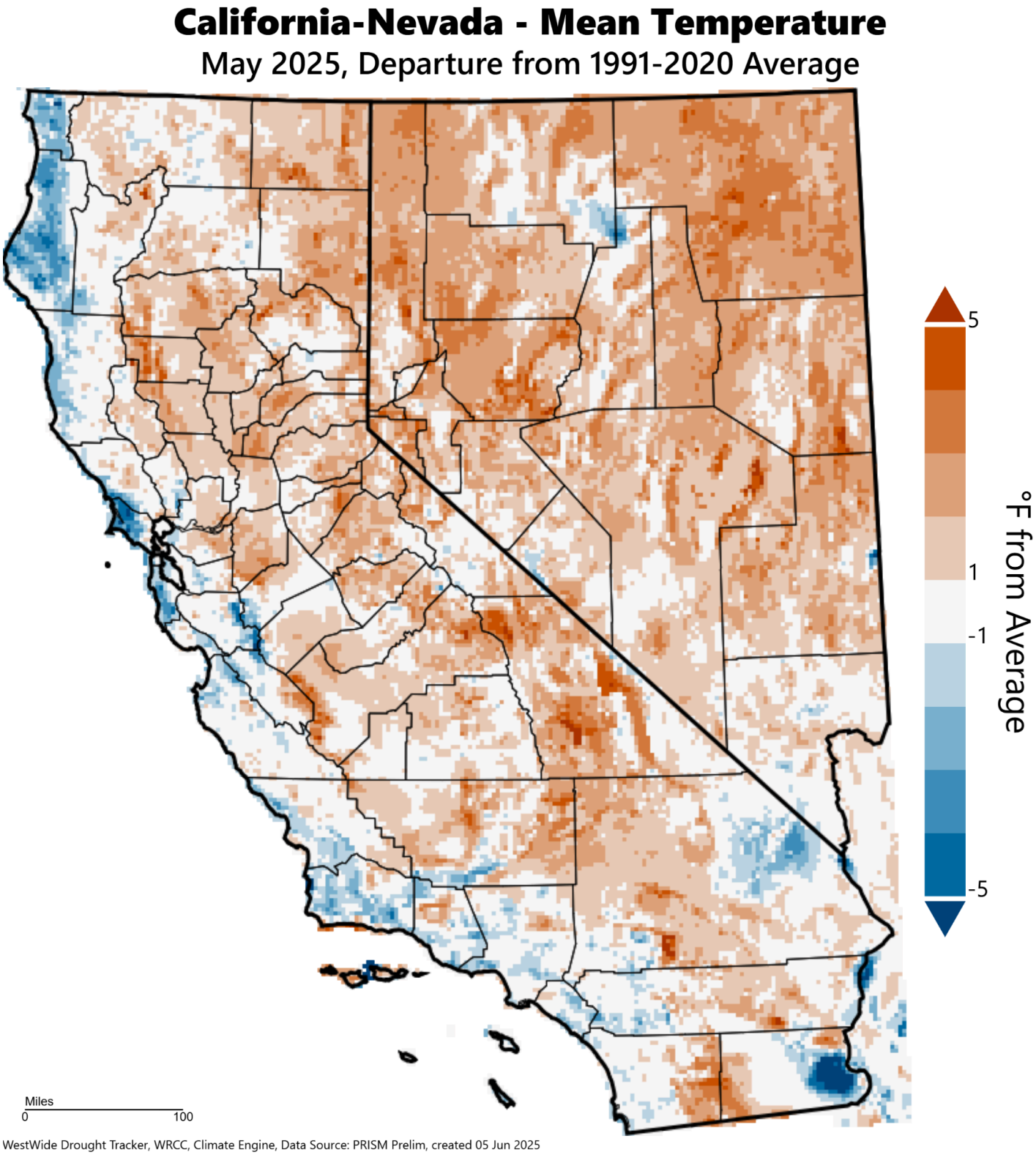



Figure 1: Departure from normal temperatures for May 2025.(WWDT)

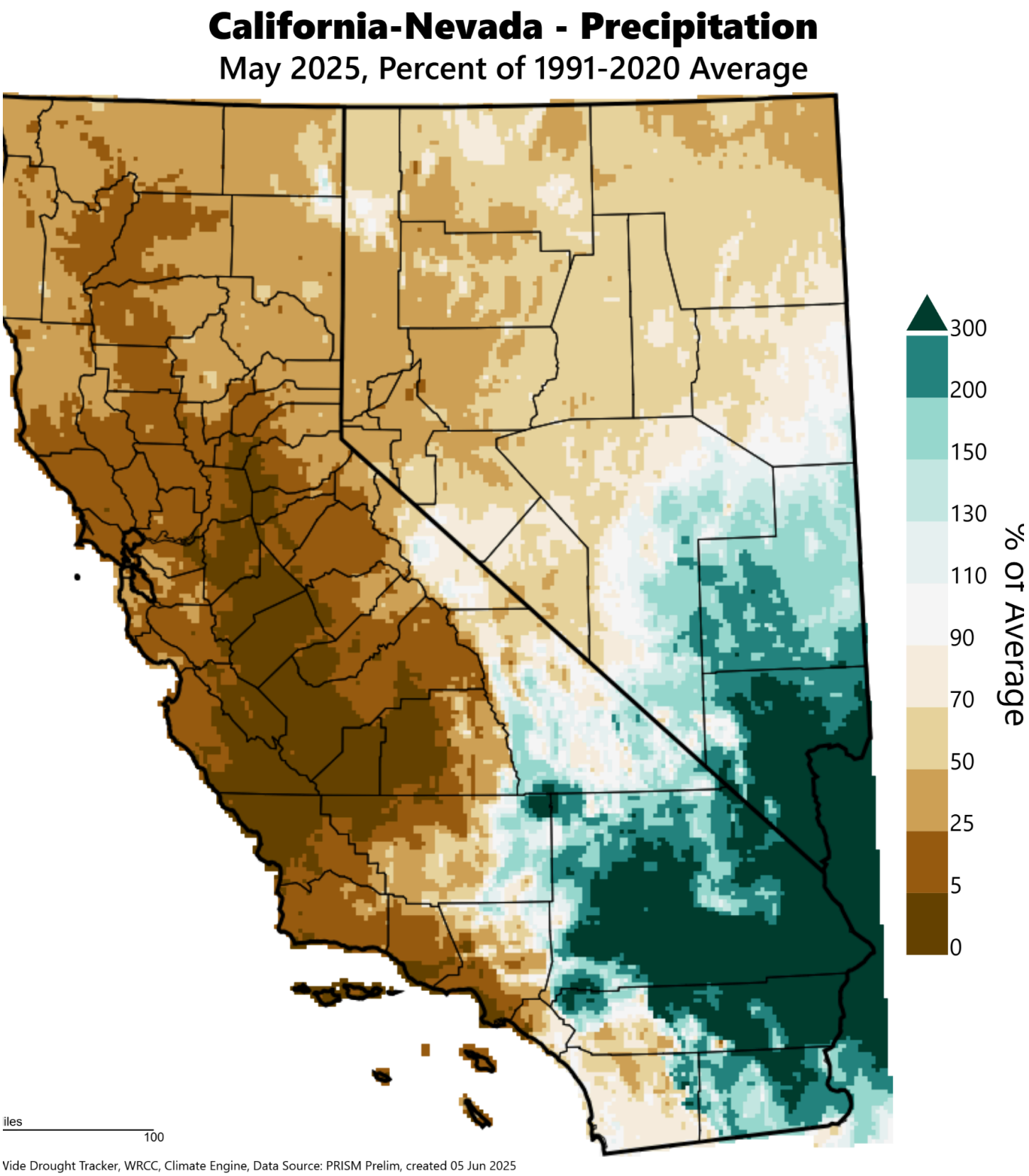



Figure 2: Percent of normal precipitation for May 2025. (WWDT)

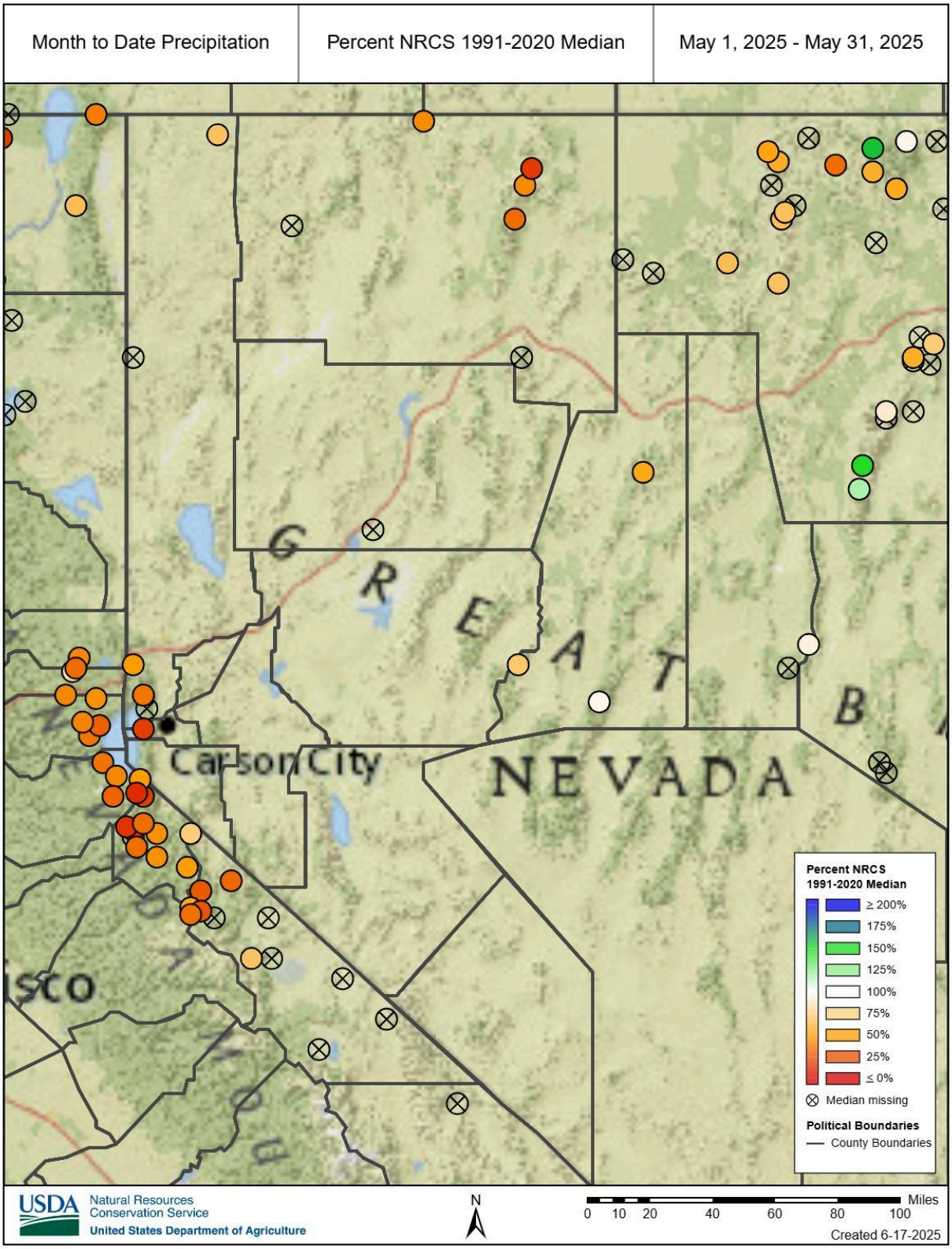



Figure 3. NRCS SNOTEL mountain precipitation as a % of median for the month of May.

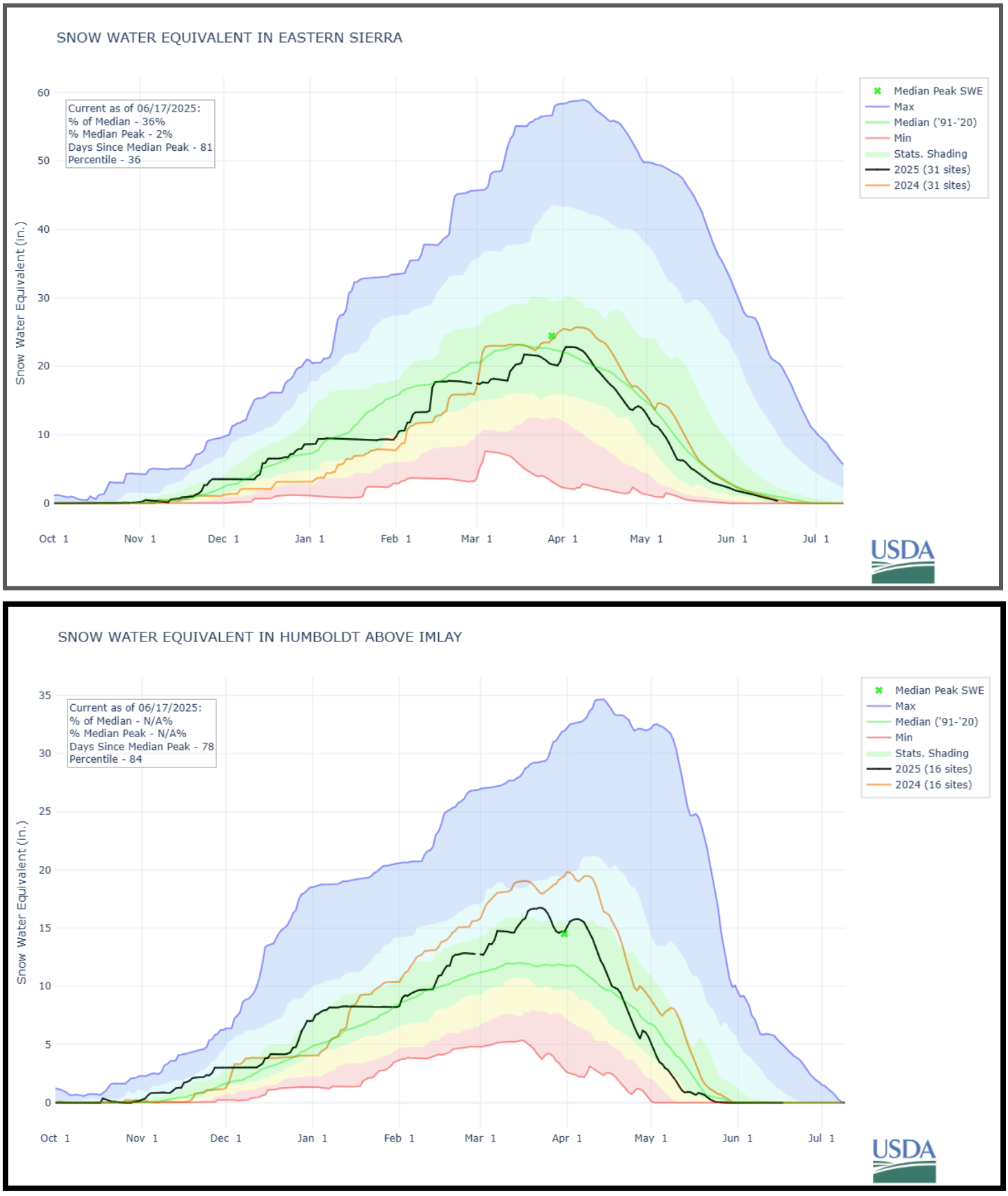



Figure 4. NRCS Snow Water Equivalent for the combined Tahoe, Truckee, Carson and Walker basins (top) and Humboldt basin (bottom) with water year 2025 in black and water year 2024 in orange.

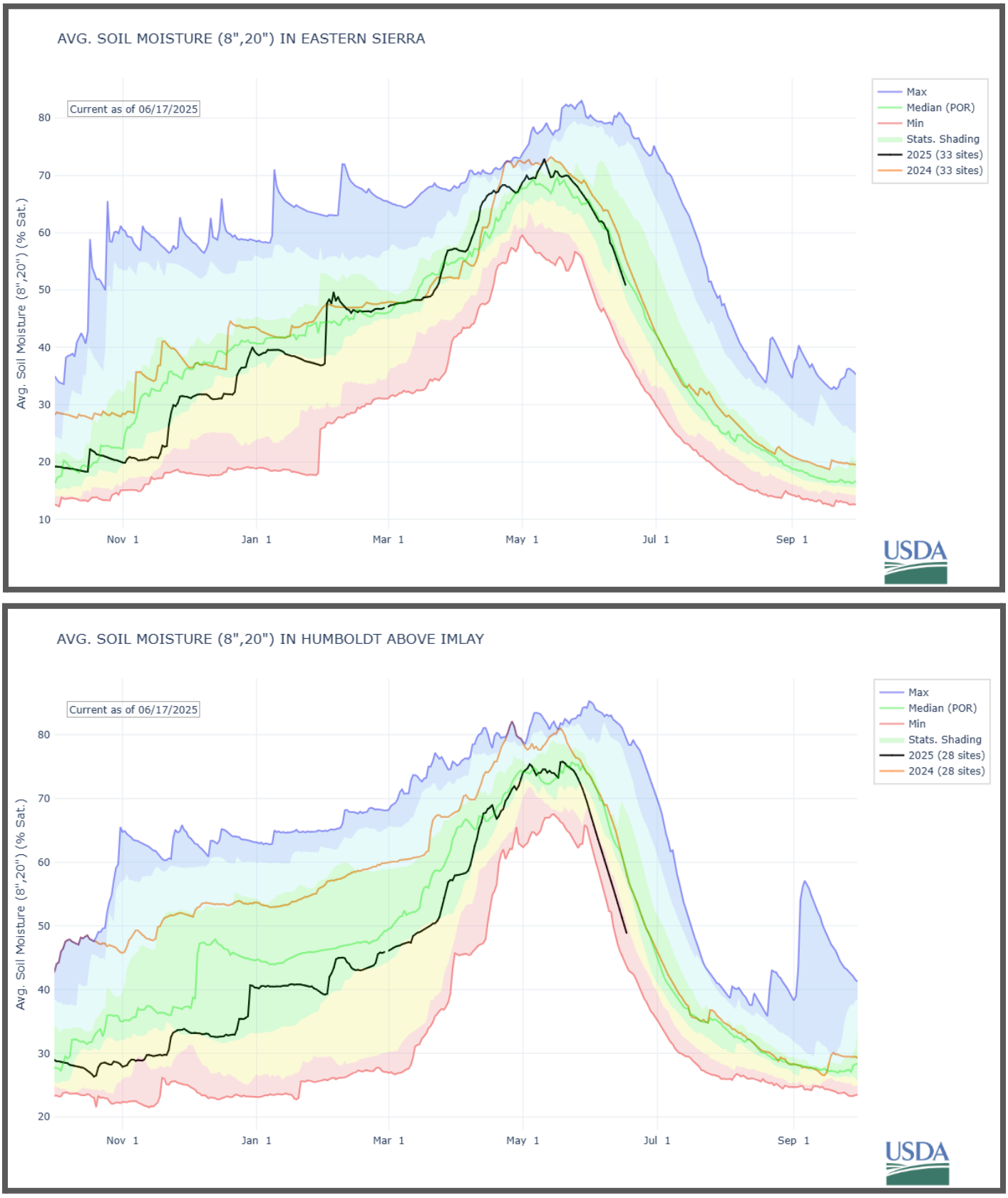



Figure 5: NRCS SNOTEL soil moisture for the combined Tahoe, Truckee, Carson and Walker basins (top) and Humboldt basin (bottom) with water year 2025 in black and water year 2024 in orange.

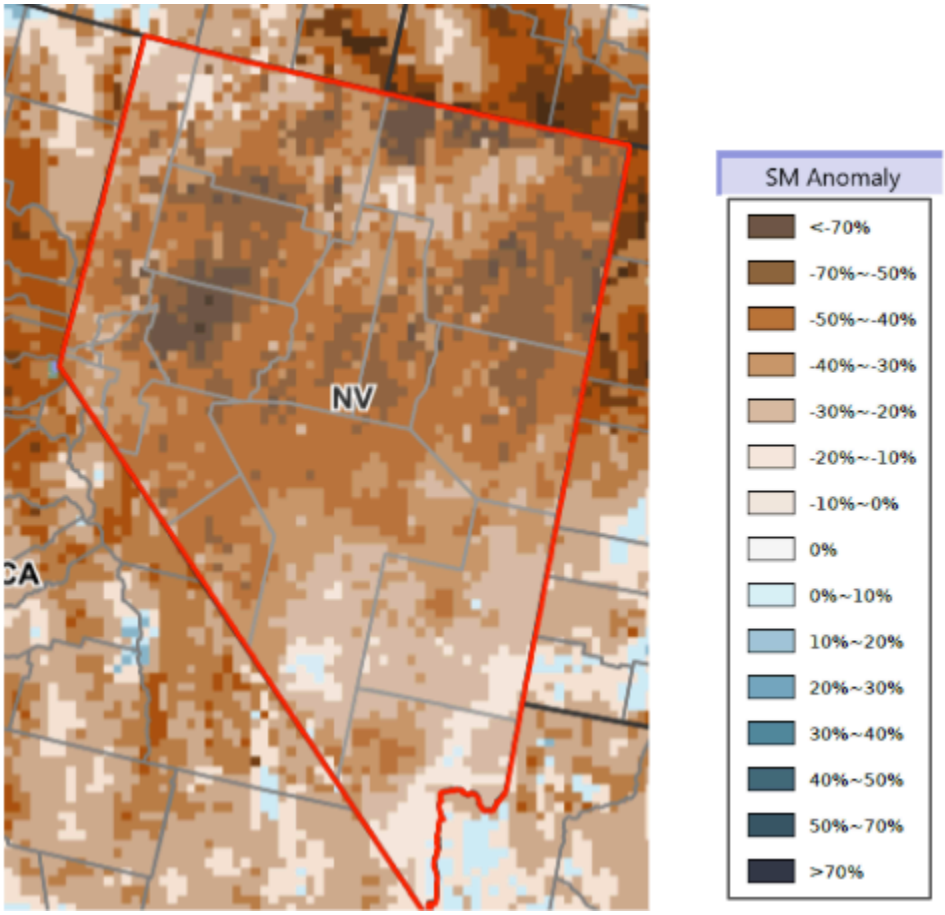
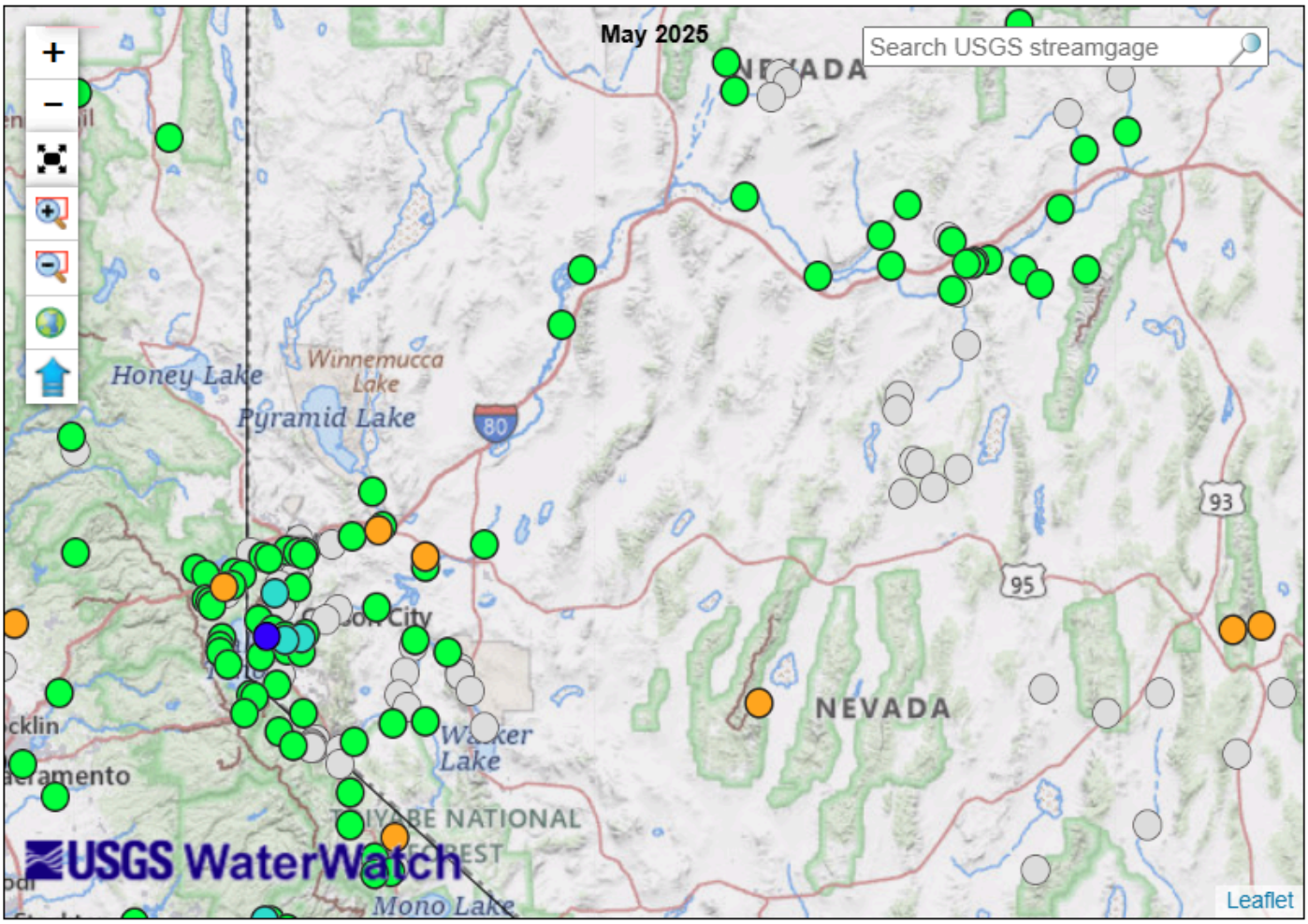


Figure 6. Crop-CASMA Soil Moisture Anomaly 06/14/2025

# Map of monthly streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the month 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 monthly streamflow for May.

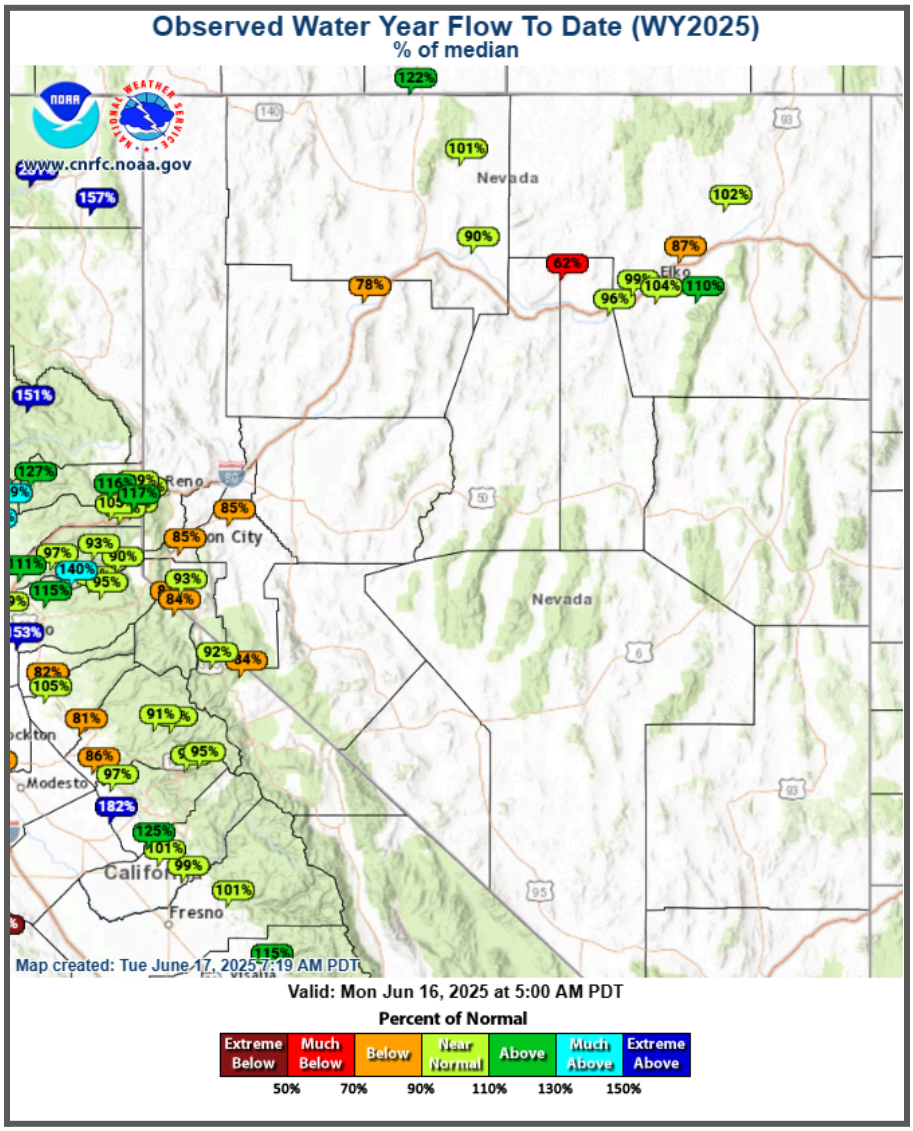



Figure 8. CNRFC Water year 2025 observed flow to date as % of median, both as of June 15th.

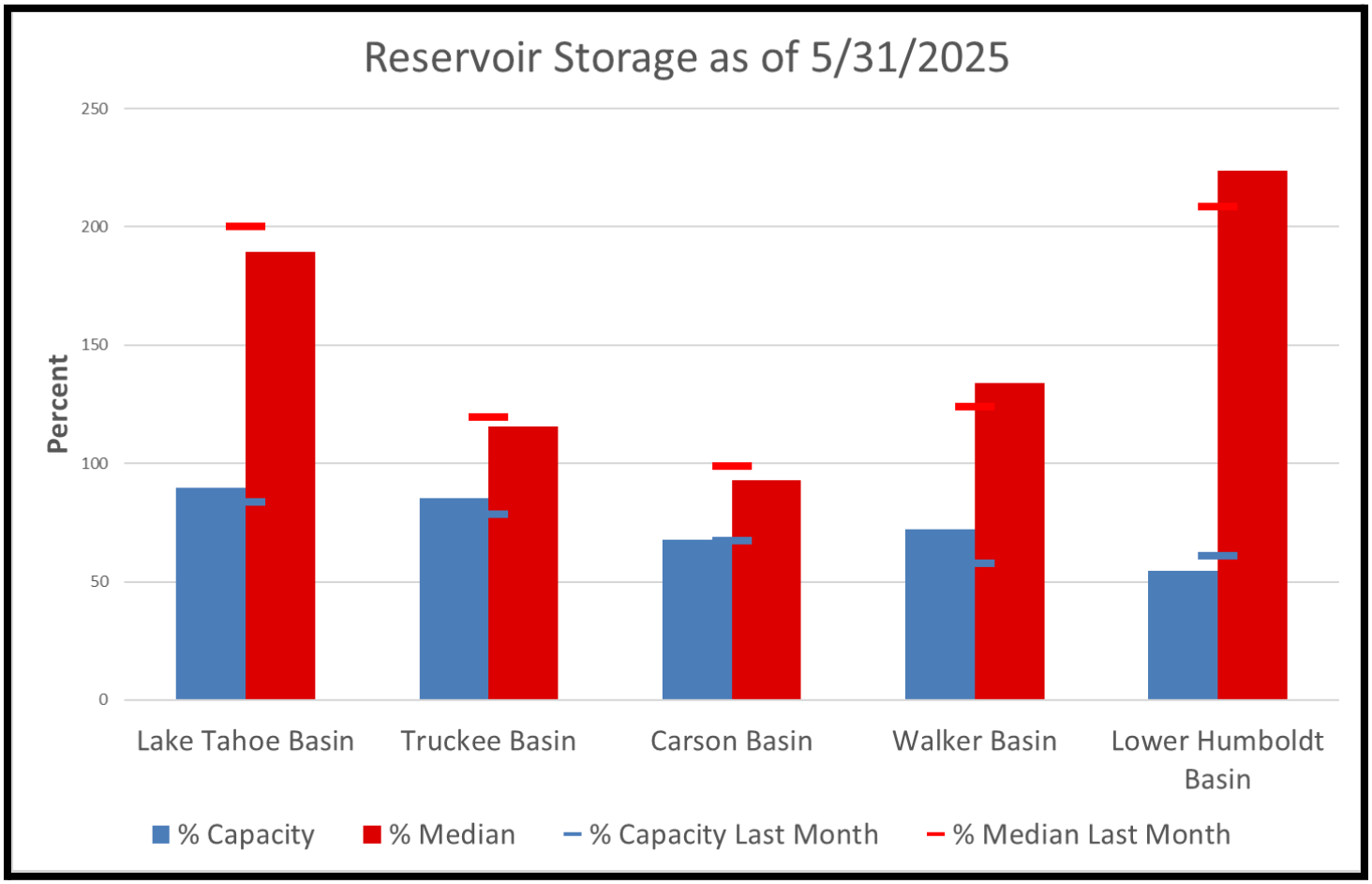
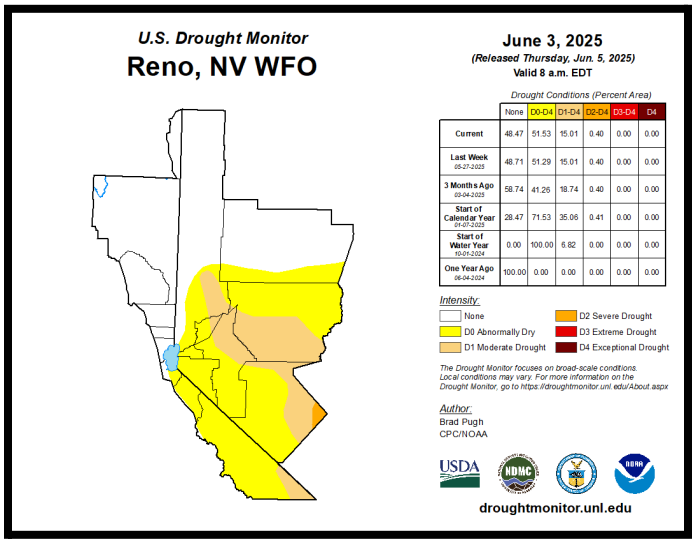



Figure 9. End of May reservoir storage relative to capacity and **median*** for this month and last month. (*note reference was recently updated to NRCS 1991-2020 median values)



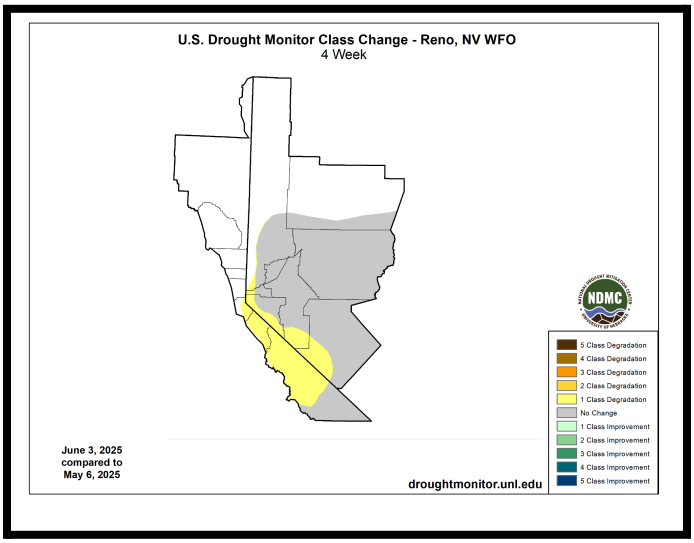




Figure 10: June 3rd. Drought Monitor Status and 4 week change map. Check for updates at: [Drought Monitor](Drought Monitor).

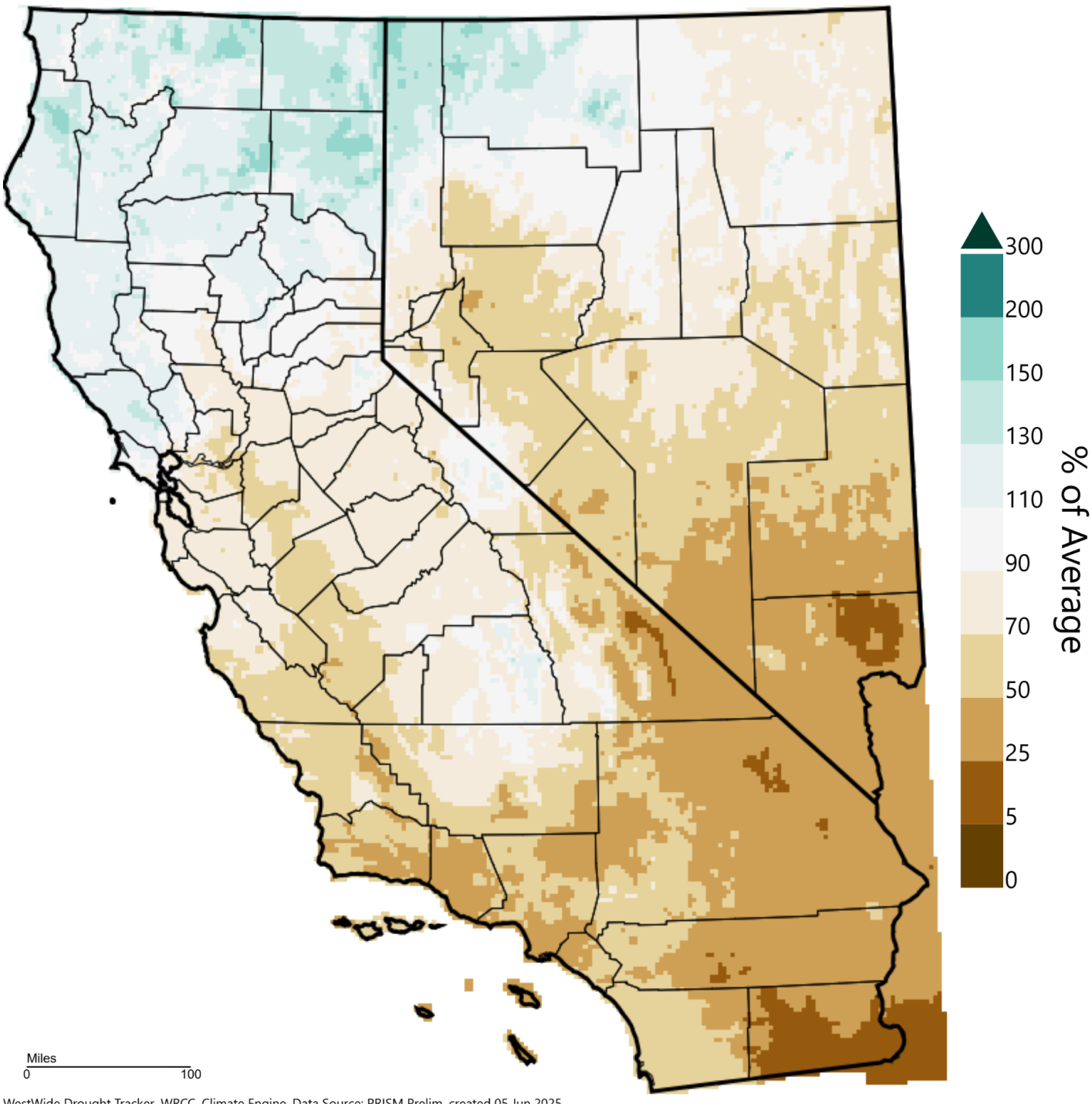



Figure 11: Water year to date precipitation. Courtesy of West Wide Drought Tracker. (WWDT)

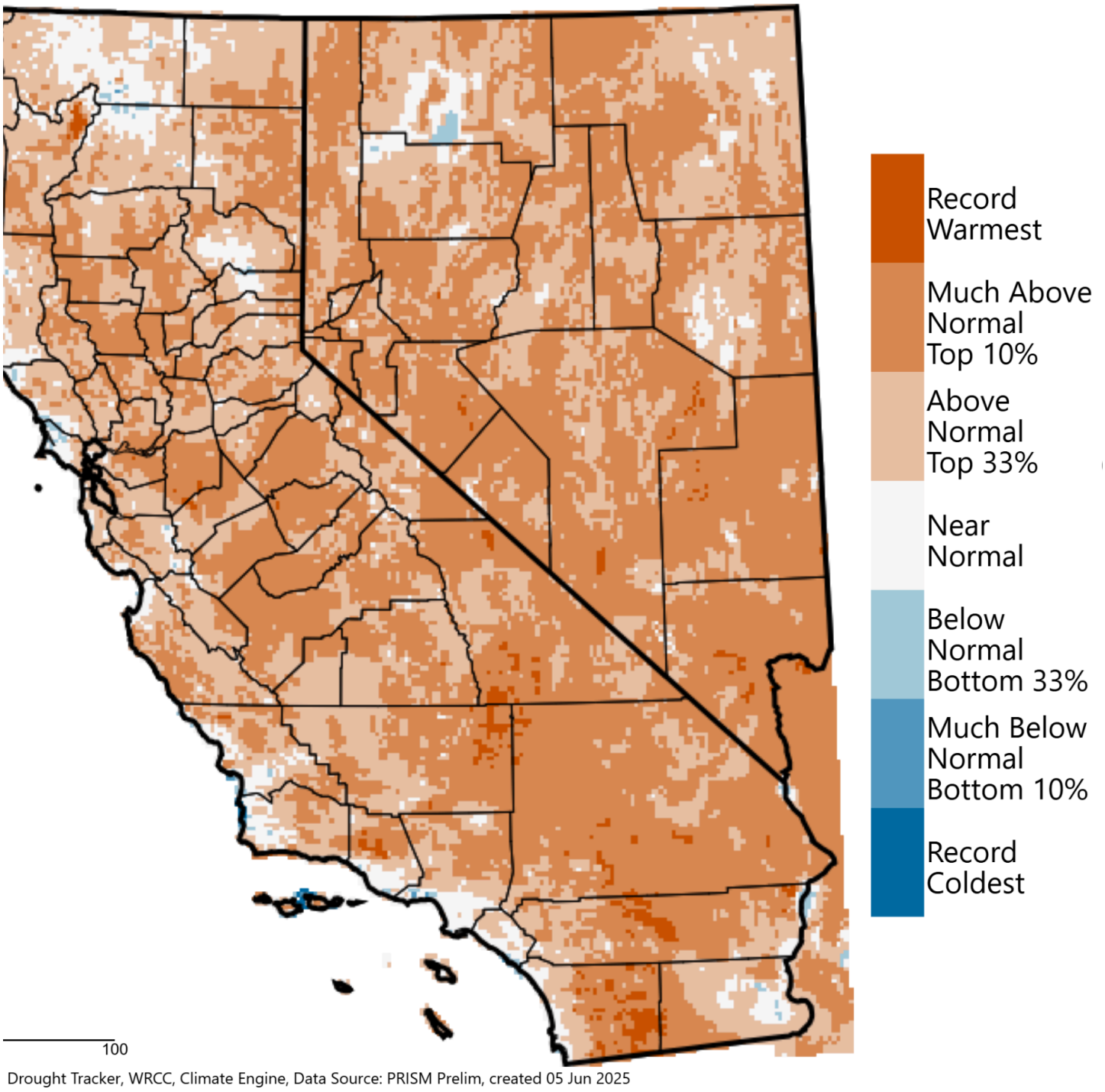



Figure 12: Water year to date mean temperatures percentile ranking. Courtesy of West Wide Drought Tracker. (WWDT)