



Drought Information Statement for Pacific Northwest

Valid May 12, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Seattle, WA

Contact Information: nws.seattle@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated June 8, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/sew/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
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- State-Wide [Emergency Drought declaration](#) by Washington Department of Ecology
 - Very low snowpack will result in below normal water supply and streamflow



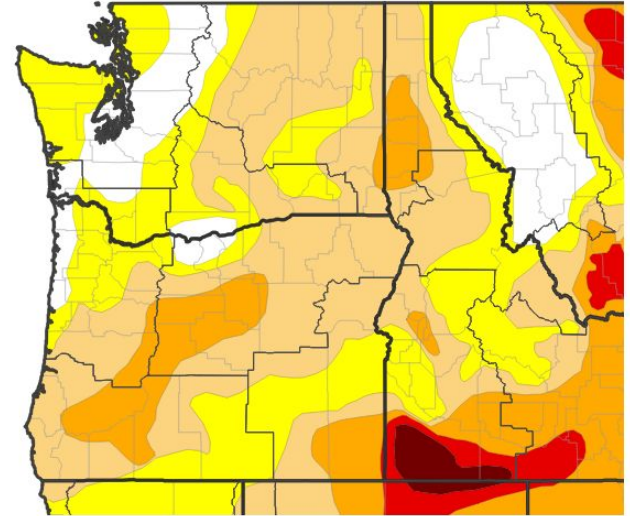


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Pacific Northwest

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Portions of the Olympic peninsula, southern WA Cascades and north interior

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/05/26

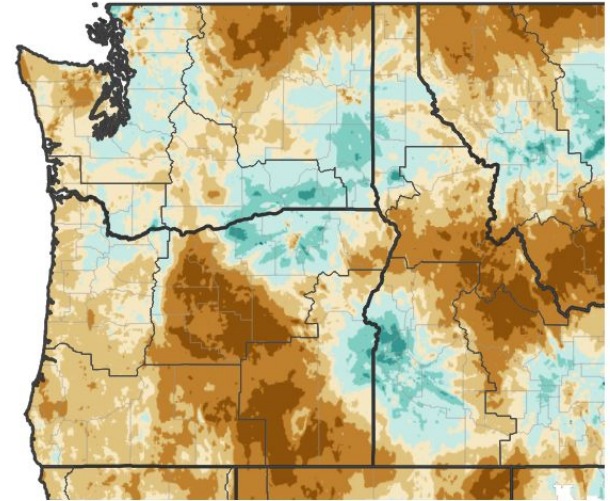




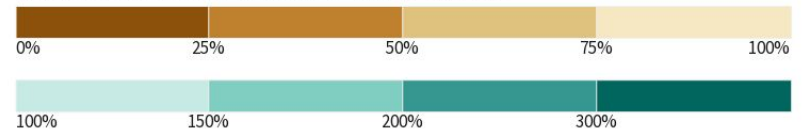
Precipitation

- Precipitation for the last 90 days has a mix of near normal to below normal

90-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 Last Updated: 05/12/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Lower than normal water supply and stream flows to come this summer
- Very low snowpack currently that curtailed snow recreation season and will impact water supply

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Low snowpack and early melt off indicates more likely early start to fire season

Other Impacts

- There are no known other impacts at this time

Mitigation Actions

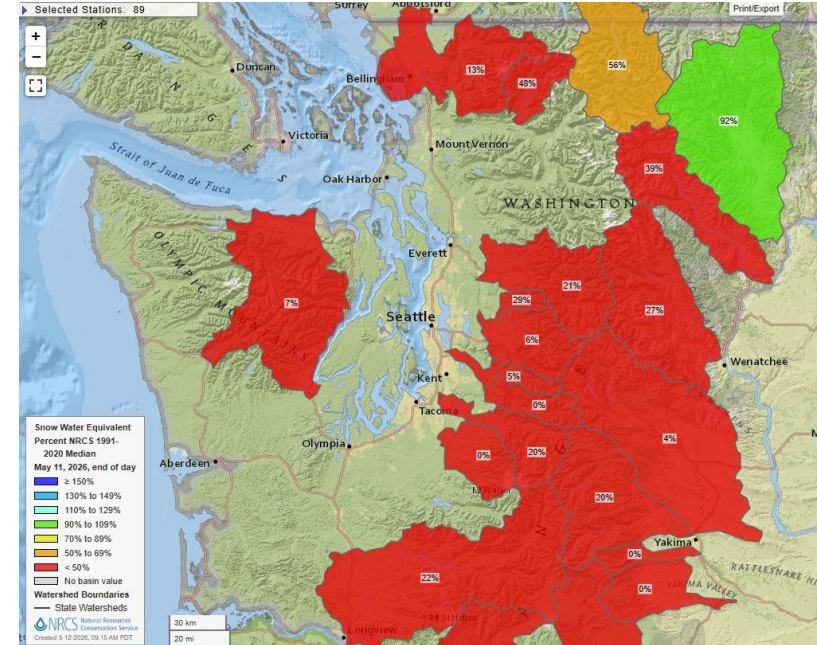
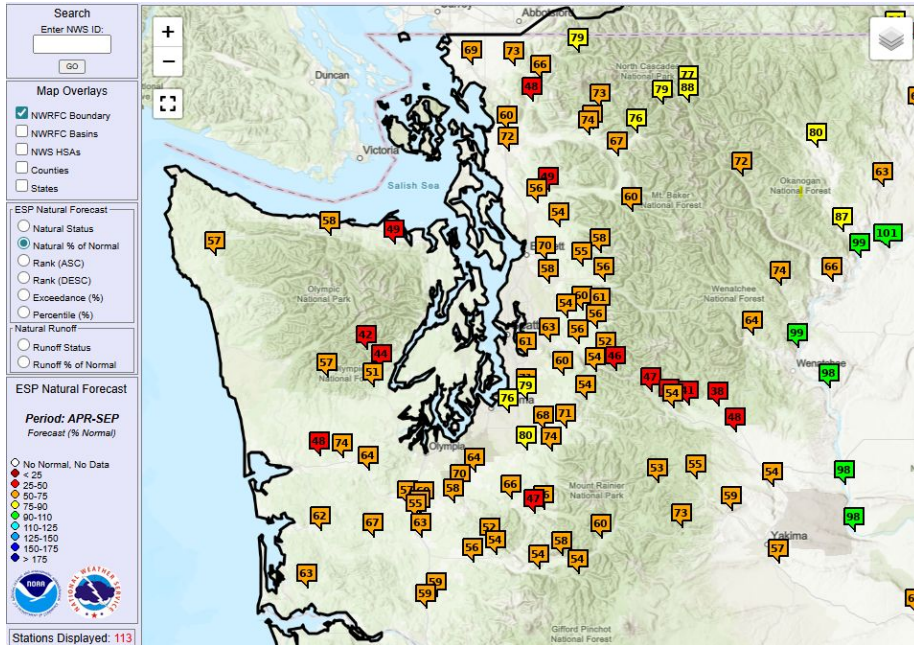
- WA State Department of Ecology declared a Drought Emergency for the entire state
 - Fourth year in a row for at least a portion of the state in drought emergency





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Forecast April - September Water Supply volumes are for much less than normal and final amount expected to land at the lower range of solutions
- Snowpack is much below normal with early melt off likely

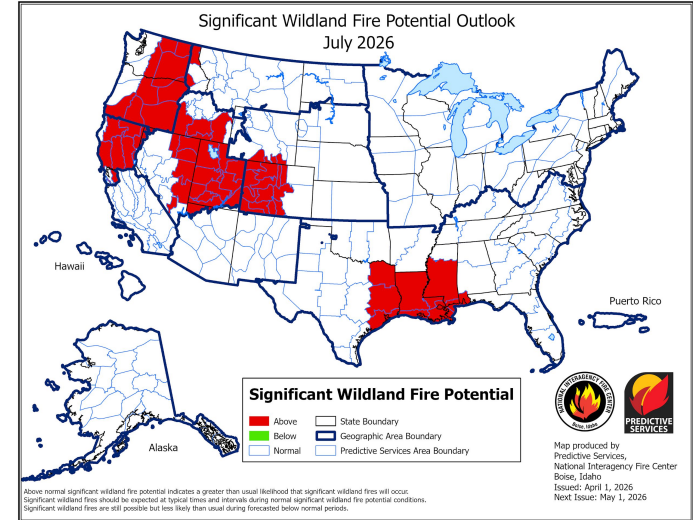
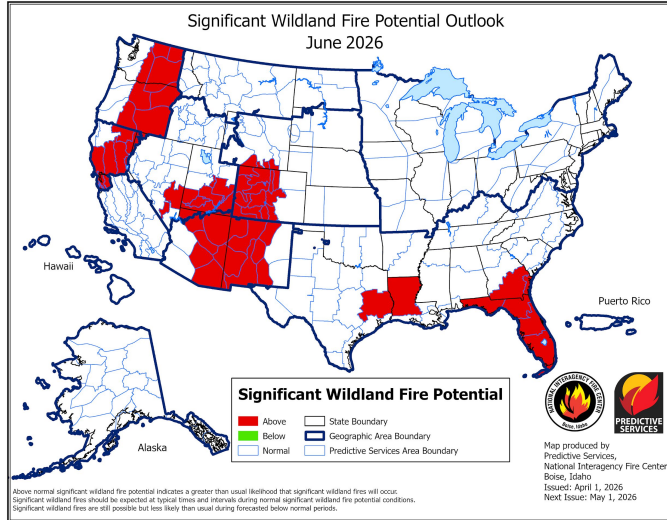




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Western Washington not yet showing up above normal Significant Wildland Fire Potential



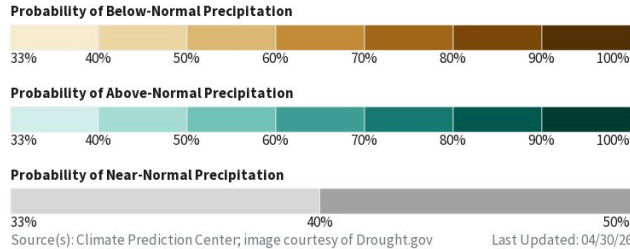
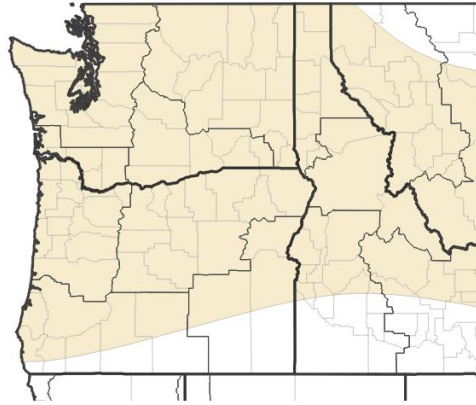


Long-Range Outlooks

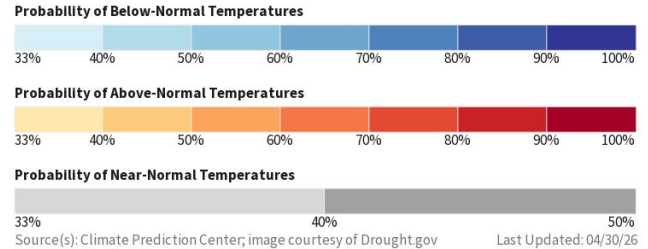
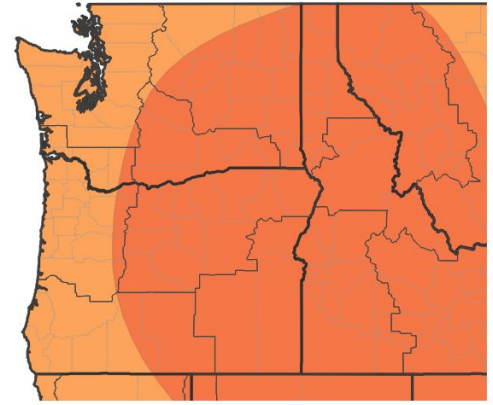
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Precipitation leaning to drier than normal for May
- Temperatures leaning warmer than normal for May

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



Monthly Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



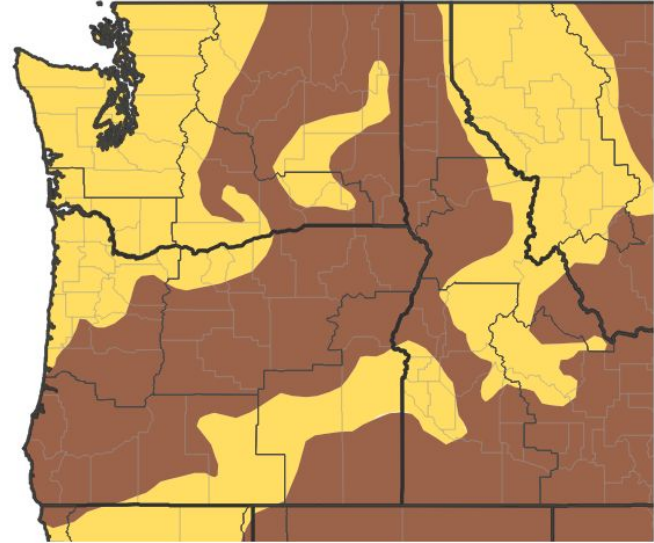


Drought Outlook

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

- Seasonal Drought Outlook showing drought is predicted to develop across western Washington this spring and summer

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](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Seattle, WA