



Drought Information Statement for Eastern OR & South Central WA

Valid February 21, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pendleton

Contact Information: pdt.operations@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/pdt/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.

- Moderate Drought remain in portions of western Kittitas and Yakima counties and northern Wallowa county with abnormally dry conditions in Central Kittitas and Yakima counties, central OR Cascades, WA Blue Mountains and northern Union and central Wallowa counties
- Mostly below normal precipitation (50-100% of normal in WA and northeastern OR with mostly above normal precipitation (100-150% of normal) from central OR northeast into Wallowa county
- Well above normal snow water equivalent (100-200% of normal) reported in mountain snowpack in most areas, below normal snow water equivalent (85-95% of normal) in the WA Cascade basins
- Precipitation is forecast to end drought conditions area-wide during the upcoming winter months



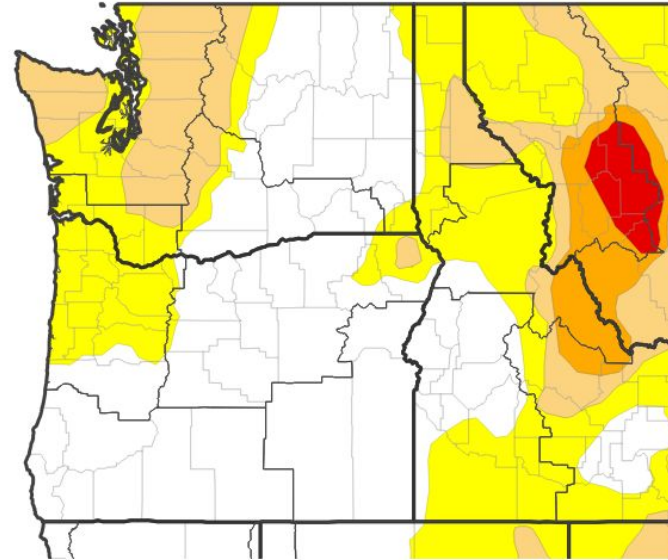


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: None
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Western Kittitas and Yakima counties and northern Wallowa county
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Central Kittitas and western Yakima counties, central OR Cascades, WA Blue Mountains, northern Union and central Wallowa counties
 - All other areas have improved enough to be removed from Abnormally Dry or Moderate Drought conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 02/18/25



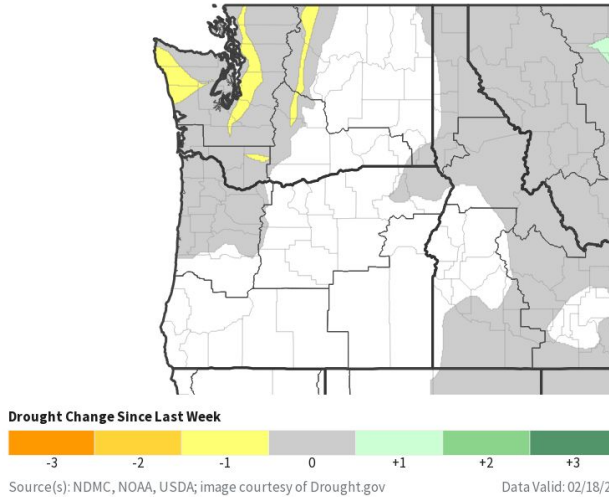


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the Pacific Northwest

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - [Drought Worsened \(1 Class Degradation\)](#): Small portions of western Kittitas and Yakima counties
 - [Drought Improved \(1 Class Improvement\)](#):None
- Four-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - [Drought Worsened \(2 Class Degradation\)](#): Portions of the WA Cascade crest in Yakima county
 - [Drought Worsened \(1 Class Degradation\)](#): Portions of western Kittitas and Yakima counties
 - [Drought Improved \(1 Class Improvement\)](#): Portions of Wallowa county.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Pacific Northwest DEWS 4 Week

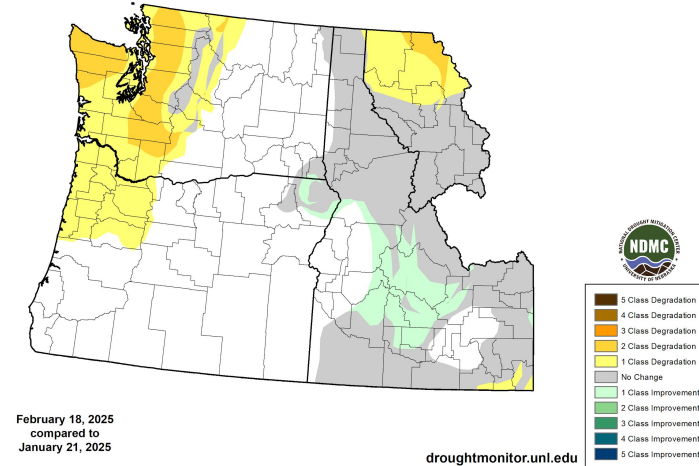
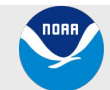


Image Captions:
 Right - 4 Week Drought Class Change
 Left - 1 Week Drought Class Change
 Data Courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor and Drought.gov

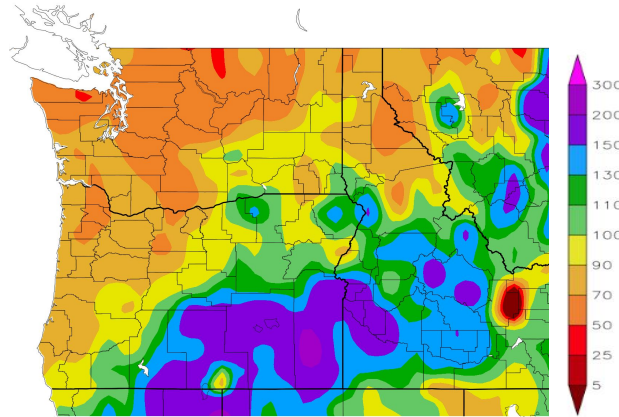




Precipitation - Last 30 Days

- Mostly below normal precipitation (50% to 90% of normal) in WA and central and northeastern OR
- Above to well above normal precipitation (110% to 200% of normal) far southeastern Deschutes county, southern Crook and Grant counties and most of Wallowa county
- Near normal precipitation (90-110%) along portions of the OR Blue Mountains, WA and OR Columbia Basin, Ochoco-John Day Highlands and central Oregon
- Highest precipitation amounts were 3 to 4 inches over the Cascade crest, Wallowa Mountains and portions of the Blue Mountains
- Generally less than 2 inches in the lower elevations

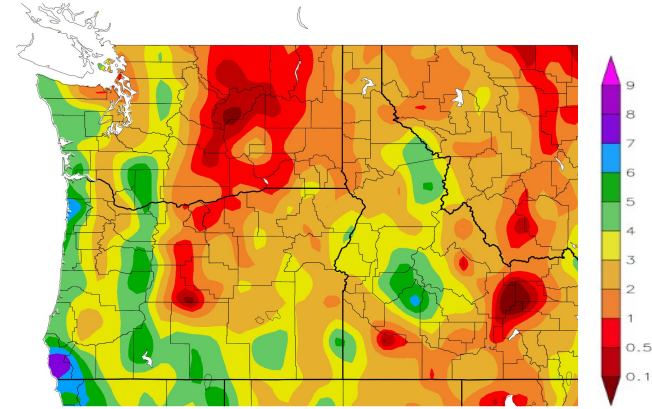
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/21/2025 - 2/19/2025



2/20/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Clir

Precipitation (in)
1/21/2025 - 2/19/2025



2/20/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Clir

Image Captions:
 Right - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
 Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
 Data Courtesy

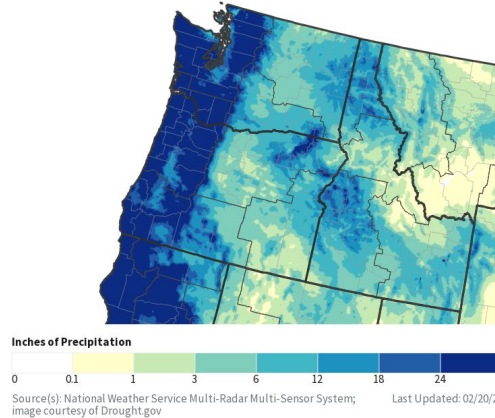




Precipitation - 4-month (120-day) Precipitation

- Near to above normal precipitation (100% to 300% of normal) in the OR and WA Columbia Basin, the Blue Mountain Foothills and small portions of central OR over the last 120-days
- Near to below normal precipitation (25% to 75% of normal) in the mountains and portions of central and north central OR and the Yakima and Kittitas Valleys over the last 120-days

120-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



120-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

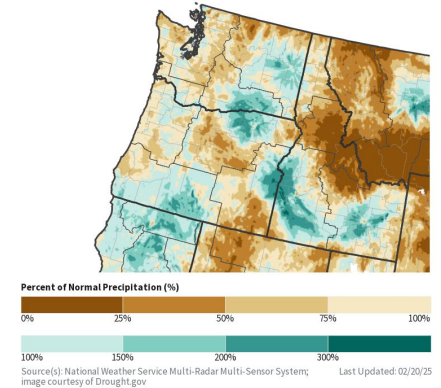
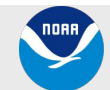


Image Captions:
 Right - Precipitation Amounts for Pacific NW
 Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
 Courtesy of Drought.gov

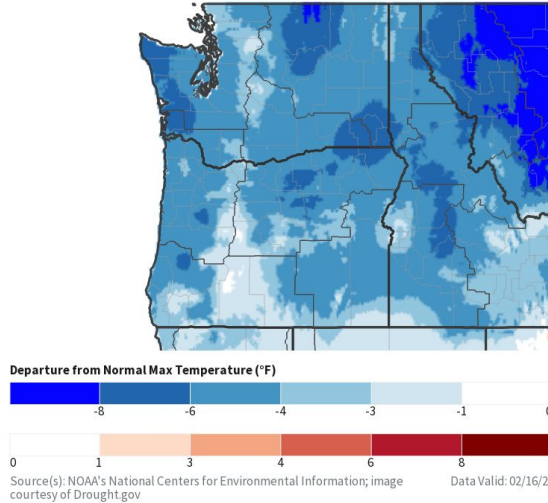




Temperature - Last 7 and 30 Days

- Well below normal temperatures (more than 8 degrees below normal) in all areas for the last 7 days
- Below to well below normal temperatures (0 to 6 degrees) the last 30 days
- Greatest departures (6 to 8 degrees below normal) over the last 30 days were seen across the eastern WA Columbia Basin, WA Blue Mountain Foothills, portions of the Blue Mountains and far northern Wallowa county during the last seven days

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



7-Day Temperature Anomaly

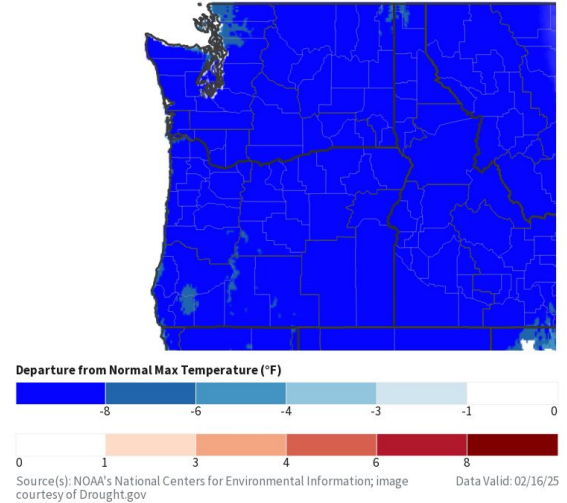


Image Captions:
 Right - Temperature for Pacific NW
 Left - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
 Courtesy of Drought.gov



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most basins report well below normal streamflow (< 25th percentile)
- Near normal streamflow (26th-75th percentile) across the Naches, Upper Crab, Walla Walla, Lower John Day, Willow and Powder basins
- Above normal streamflow (76th-100th percentile) across the Lower Crooked and Wallowa basins

Snowpack Impacts

- Most snow telemetry (SNOTEL) monitoring sites show a near to well above normal snowpack (105-200% of normal). Snowpack values are 85-95% of normal in the WA Cascades. There are no known impacts at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Other Impacts

- Washington: [Washington Drought Emergency declared for all counties east of the Cascades](#)
- Oregon: [No Drought Declaration for Year 2025 as of this Drought Information Statement](#)

Mitigation actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information





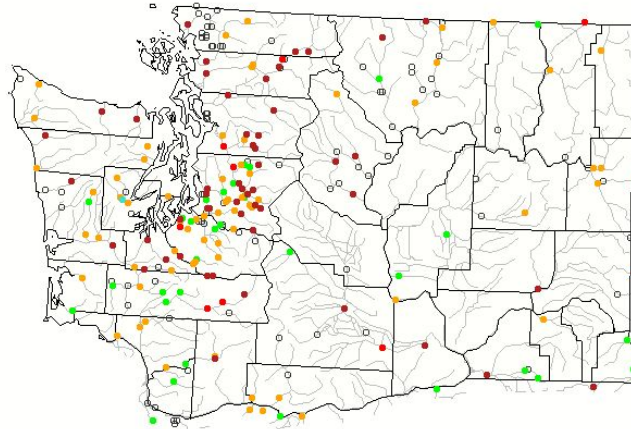
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Washington

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

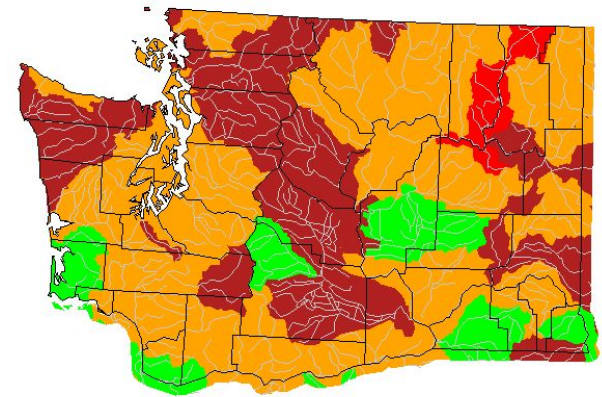
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Main Takeaways

- The Upper and Lower Yakima, Lower Yakima, Palouse and Lower Grande Ronde basins have much below normal streamflow (below the 10th percentile)
- The Naches, Upper Crab and Walla Walla basins have normal stream flows (25th-75th percentiles)
- Other river, stream, and creek flows are below normal (10th-25th percentile)



USGS



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Reduced streamflow may be detrimental to aquatic species and recreational activities.

Image Captions:

Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid February 19, 2025

Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid February 19, 2025

Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch





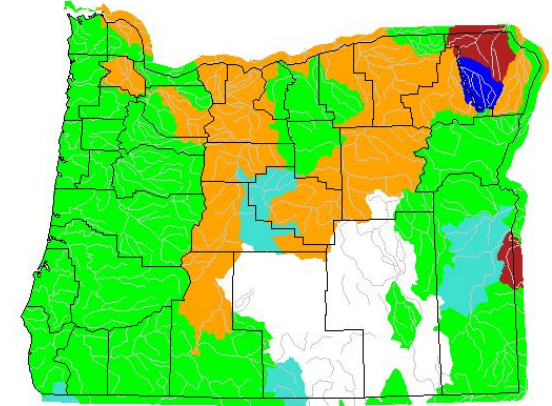
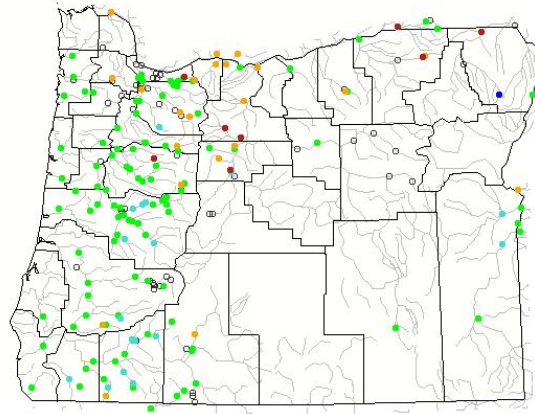
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts - Oregon

Hednesday, February 19, 2025

Hednesday, February 19, 2025

Main Takeaways

- Much below normal streamflow (<10th percentile) for the Lower Grande Ronde basin
- Near normal streamflows (25th-75th percentile) for the Walla Walla, Lower John Day, Willow and Powder basins
- Above normal streamflows (76th-90th percentile) for the Lower Crooked basin
- Much above normal streamflow (>90th percentile) for the Wallowa basin
- Below normal streamflows (10th-25th percentile) for all other basins



Explanation - Percentile classes							
	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90		
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High	No Data

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Reduced streamflow may be detrimental to aquatic species and recreational activities.

Image Captions:

Right - USGS 7-day average streamflow station map valid February 19, 2025

Left - USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map valid February 19, 2025

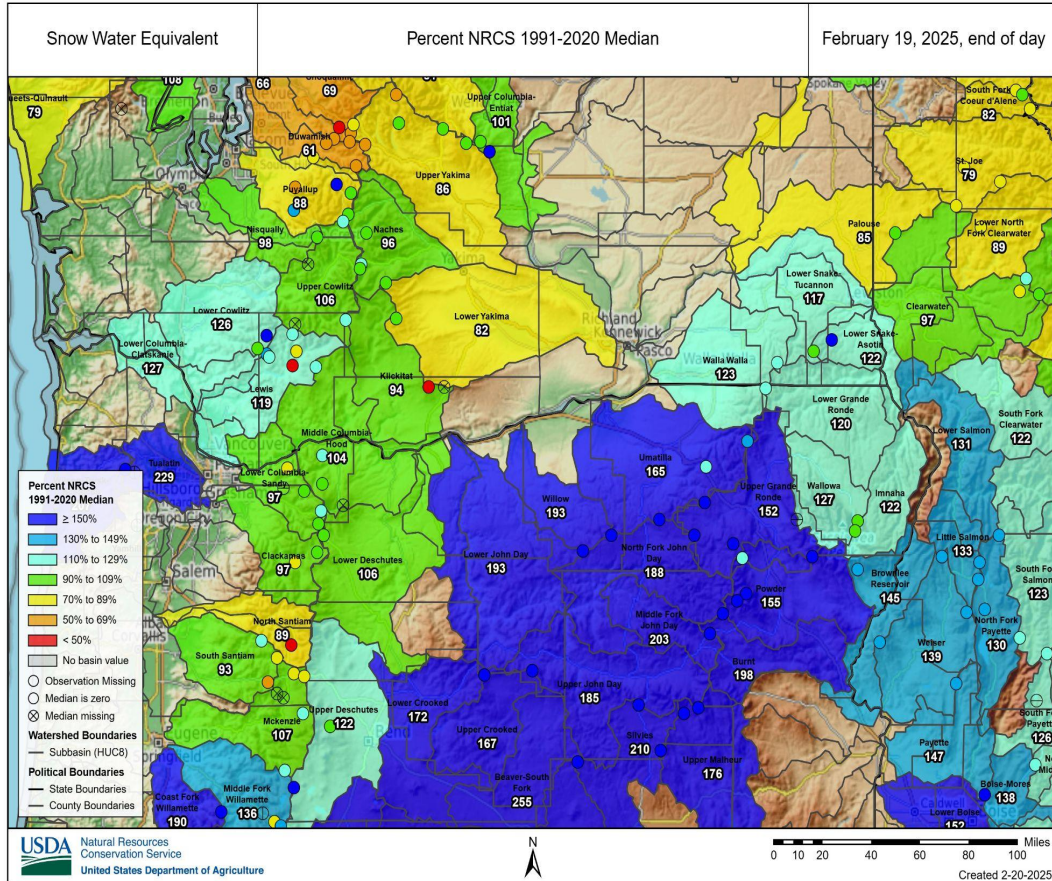
Data Courtesy USGS Water Watch





Snowpack Conditions and Impacts

Link to the [latest Snow Water Equivalent Percent of 1991-2020 Median map](#)



Main Takeaways

- Mountain snowpack snow water equivalent reports are well above normal (150%-200%) across the OR eastern mountains
- Above normal snowpack values (105%-130%) are seen elsewhere across the Oregon Cascades, eastern Washington and Wallowa county basins
- Below normal snowpack values (85%-96%) are seen in the WA Cascade basins

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

Snow water equivalent is related to the amount of water stored in snowpack.

- *Snow can affect the amount of available water for spring and summer snow melt. This can have impacts on water storage, irrigation, fisheries, vegetation, municipal water supplies, and wildfire.*

Image Captions: Oregon and Washington SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent % of Normal
Data Courtesy USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Daily Value as of February 19, 2025



Water Supply Forecast - April - September 2025

Link to the latest [Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Forecast](#).

Main Takeaways

- Near to above normal water supply (80-120% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast across most of the area for the April-September 2025 period
- Well above normal water supply (150-170% of the 1991-2020 normal) is forecast across the southern Blue mountains and the Ochoco-John Day Highlands

Impacts

No known impacts at this time

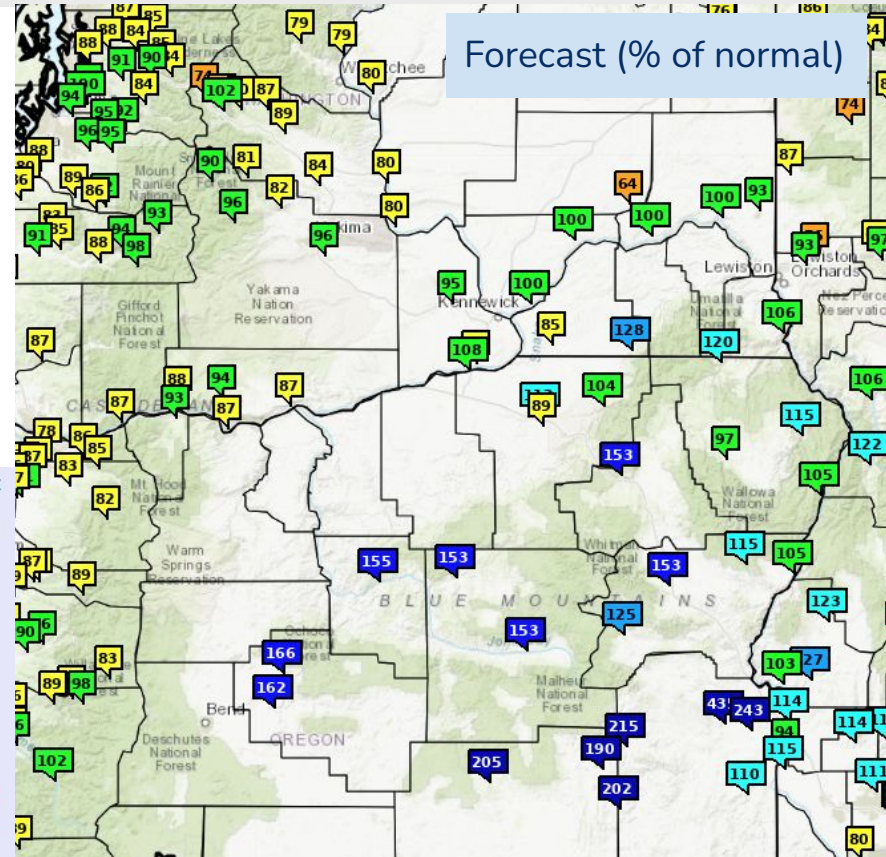
Low reservoir levels would be expected to affect agriculture production, fish, and other aquatic species.

Image Caption:

Ensemble Streamflow Prediction Natural Forecast

Data Courtesy NOAA NWS Northwest River Forecast Center

Issued February 19, 2025



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Pendleton, OR



Fire Hazard Impacts - September through December

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

Main Takeaways

- Normal significant wildland fire potential (i.e., very low risk) for all areas February 2025 through May 2025
- Significant wildland fires are expected at typical times (e.g., warm season) and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions

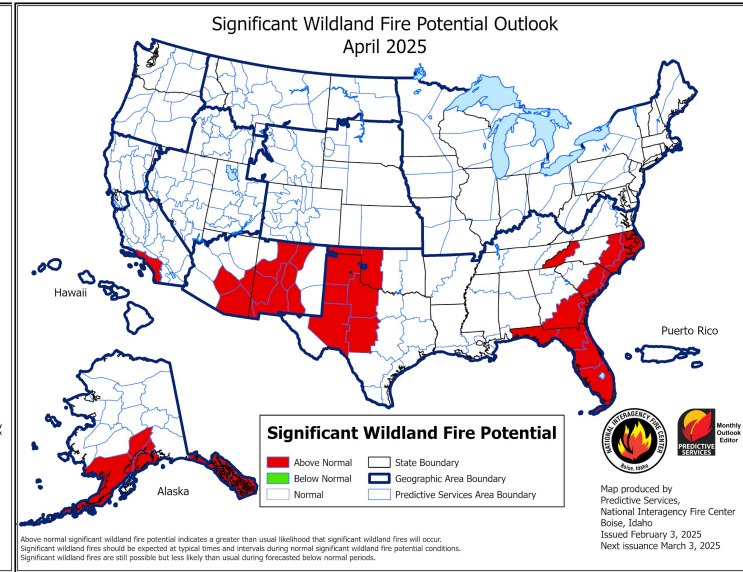
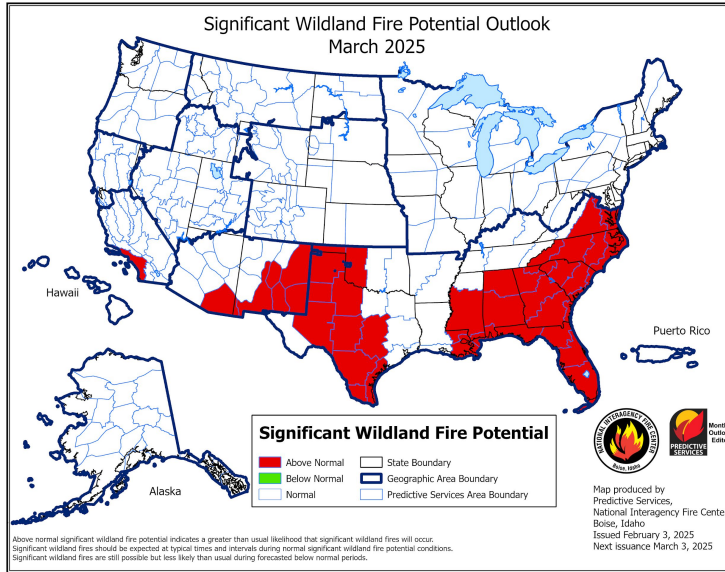


Image Caption:
Left - March 2025
Right - April 2025
Data Courtesy National Interagency Coordination Center
Issued February 3, 2024





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A series of systems fed by an atmospheric river at times will bring moderate rain and high mountain snow to the area Friday night into early next week.
 - The mountains will get 1 to 4 inches of rain or snow
 - The lower elevations will get up to a half inch of rain
- Visit weather.gov/Pendleton for the latest weather forecast

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 20, 2025–February 27, 2025

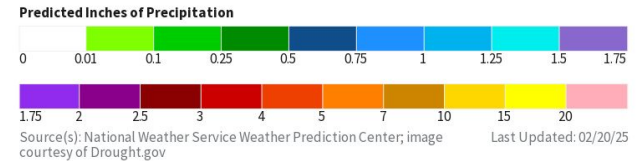
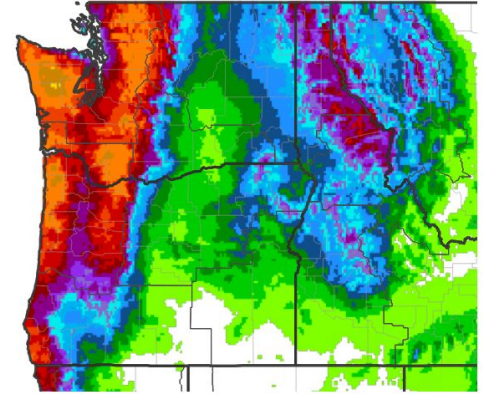
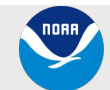


Image Caption:
Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](https://weather.gov/Pendleton)





6-10 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 6 to 10 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways

- Leaning towards above normal temperatures in all areas (60-70%)
- Leaning towards below normal precipitation in all areas (33-50%)

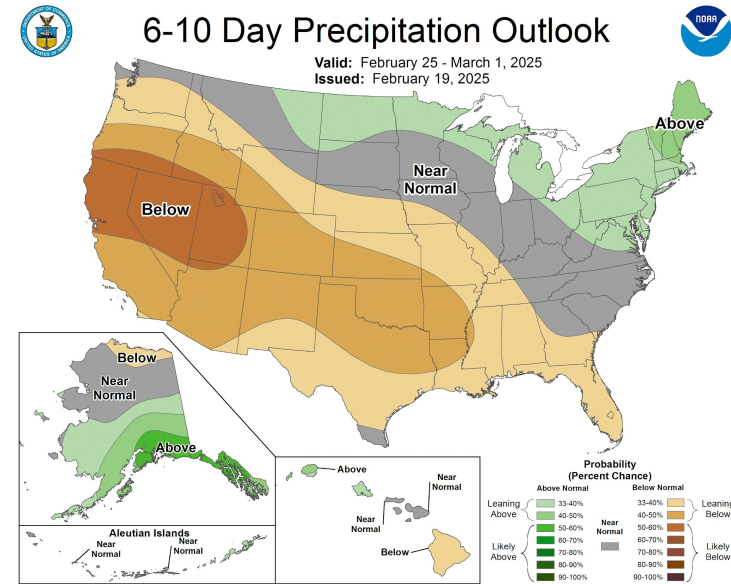
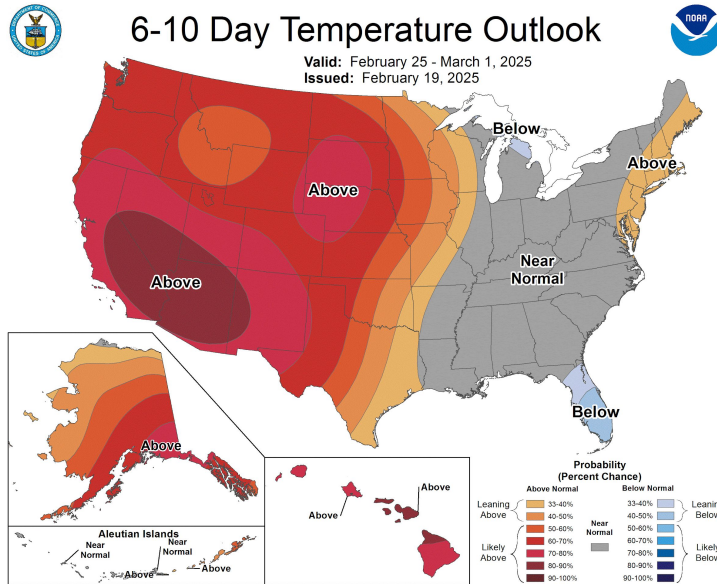
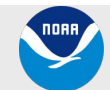


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid February 25, 2025 - March 1, 2025





8-14 Day Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways

- Leaning towards below normal temperatures area-wide (33-40%)
- Leaning towards below normal precipitation area-wide (33-50%)

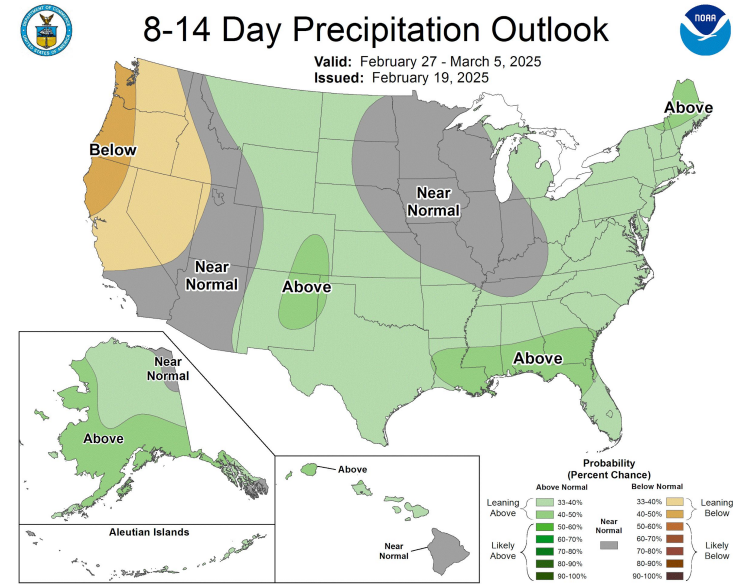
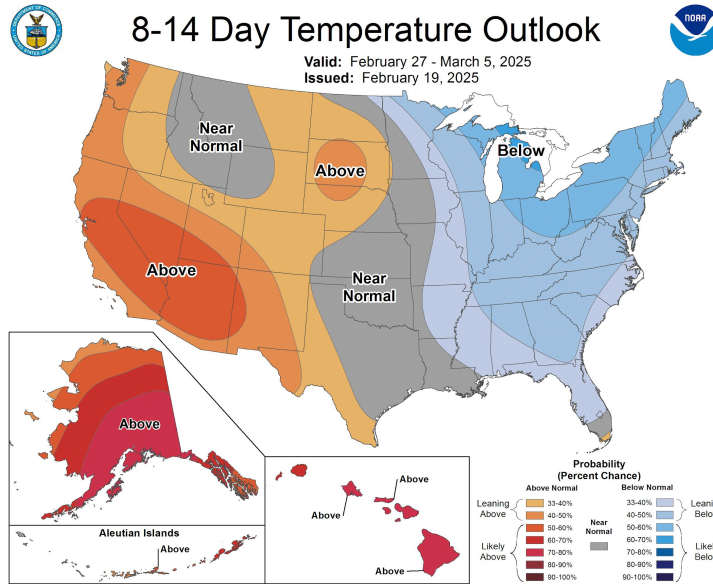
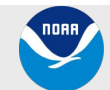


Image Captions:
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook](#),
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook](#),
 Valid February 27, 2025 - March 5, 2025





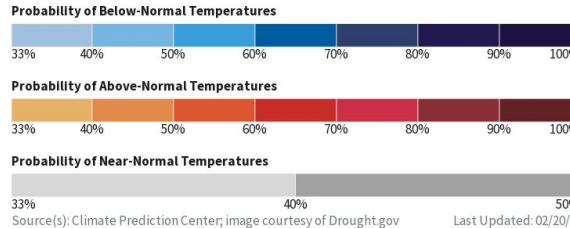
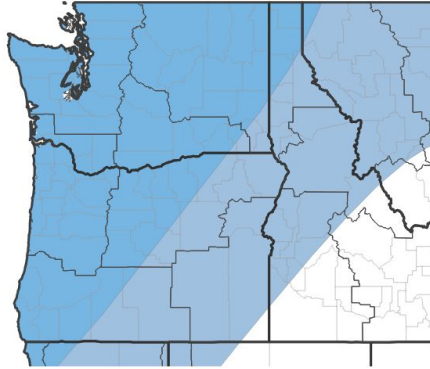
Monthly Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center [Monthly Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways for January

- Odds favor below normal temperatures (33-50%) area-wide
- Odds favor above normal precipitation (33-50%) area-wide

Monthly Temperature Outlook for March 1, 2025–March 31, 2025



Monthly Precipitation Outlook for March 1, 2025–March 31, 2025

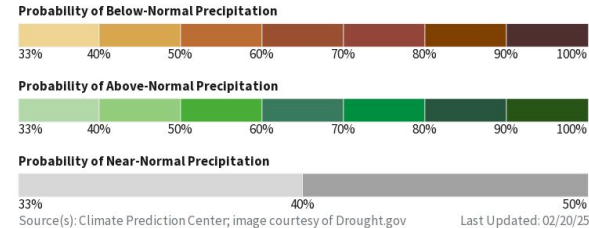
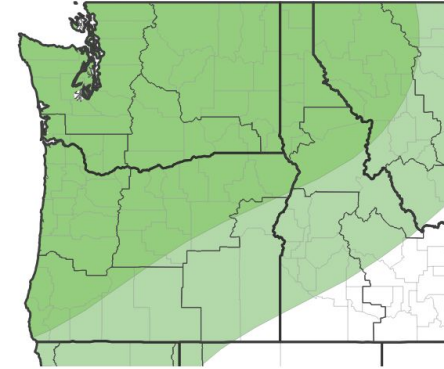


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Updated February 20, 2024





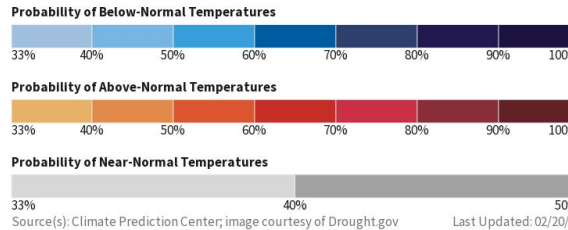
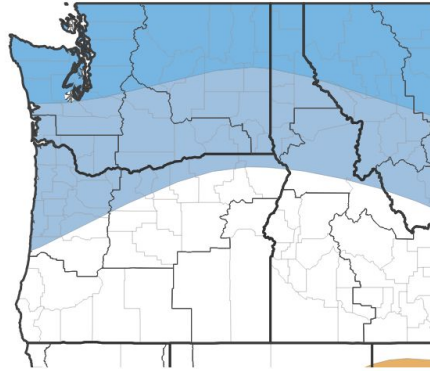
Seasonal Climate Outlook

Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center [Seasonal Outlook](#).

Main Takeaways for January-February-March

- Odds leaning towards below normal temperatures (33-40%) in WA and far northern OR with equal chances of above, below or near normal in the rest of northeast OR
- Odds leaning towards above normal precipitation (40-50%) for all areas

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for March 1, 2025–May 31, 2025



Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for March 1, 2025–May 31, 2025

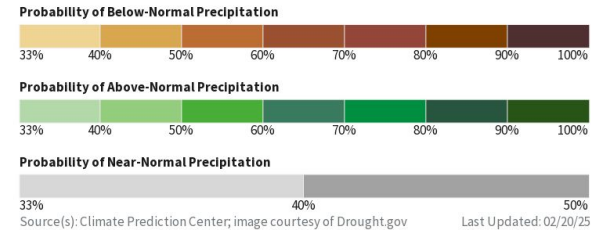
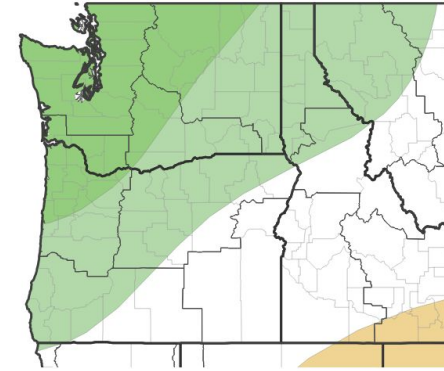
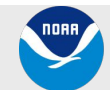


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid March-May 2025





Drought Outlook

The latest drought outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#).

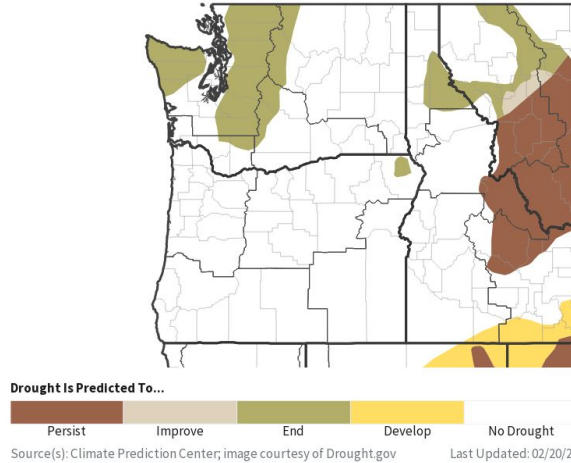
Main Takeaways

- Drought is expected to end in the WA Cascades and northern Wallowa county and after that, all areas will be drought free by the end of May

Possible Impacts

- Reduced streamflows and reservoir levels may persist a while longer and this could result in possible reduction in agricultural yield, crop loss, and poor pasture conditions where irrigation water is not available.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 20, 2025–May 31, 2025



1-Month Drought Outlook for February 1, 2025–February 28, 2025

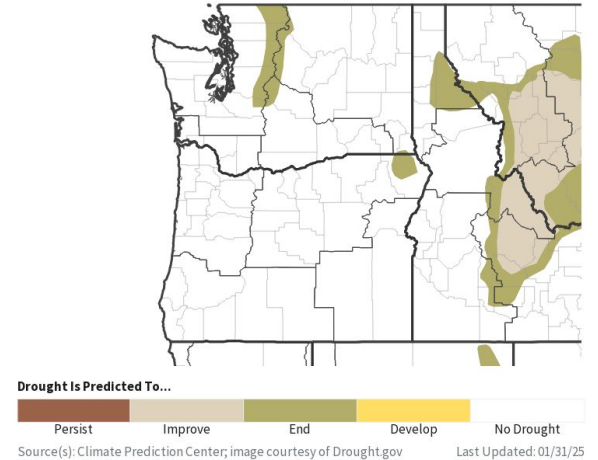


Image Captions:

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) Released January 31, 2025

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) Released February 20, 2025

