

National Weather Service Medford

# 2023: April Climate Summary



\*These data are preliminary and have not undergone final QC by NCEI. Therefore, these data are subject to revision. Final and certified climate data can be accessed at the [National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#).



# April 2023 Weather Review

The previous trend of well below normal temperatures and active weather during the month of March continued well into the beginning of April. A strong front passed through the region during the first few days of the month, which brought gusty winds and widespread snow. Snow levels lowered down to 500 to 1000 ft with this front and Medford recorded a trace of snow each day for the first few days of the month.

A shortwave ridge passed through the region on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, which brought a brief break in the weather and a short period of near normal temperatures. Active weather returned and continued through the first three weeks of the month, though the chances of low elevation snow dwindled as the month progressed. Instead of snow levels bottoming out around 500 to 1000 ft like early in the month and much of March, snow levels bottomed out around 2000-3000 ft. Even then, the longer daytime hours and higher April sun angles limited accumulations at the lowest elevations and snow melted quickly.

There were periods of shortwave ridging during the first three weeks, and high temperatures during these breaks were closer to seasonal norms. Medford recorded its first 70 degree day of 2023 on the 10<sup>th</sup> when the high temperature reached 74 degrees. The timing of this occurrence is notable because it was the 8<sup>th</sup> latest first 70F on record.

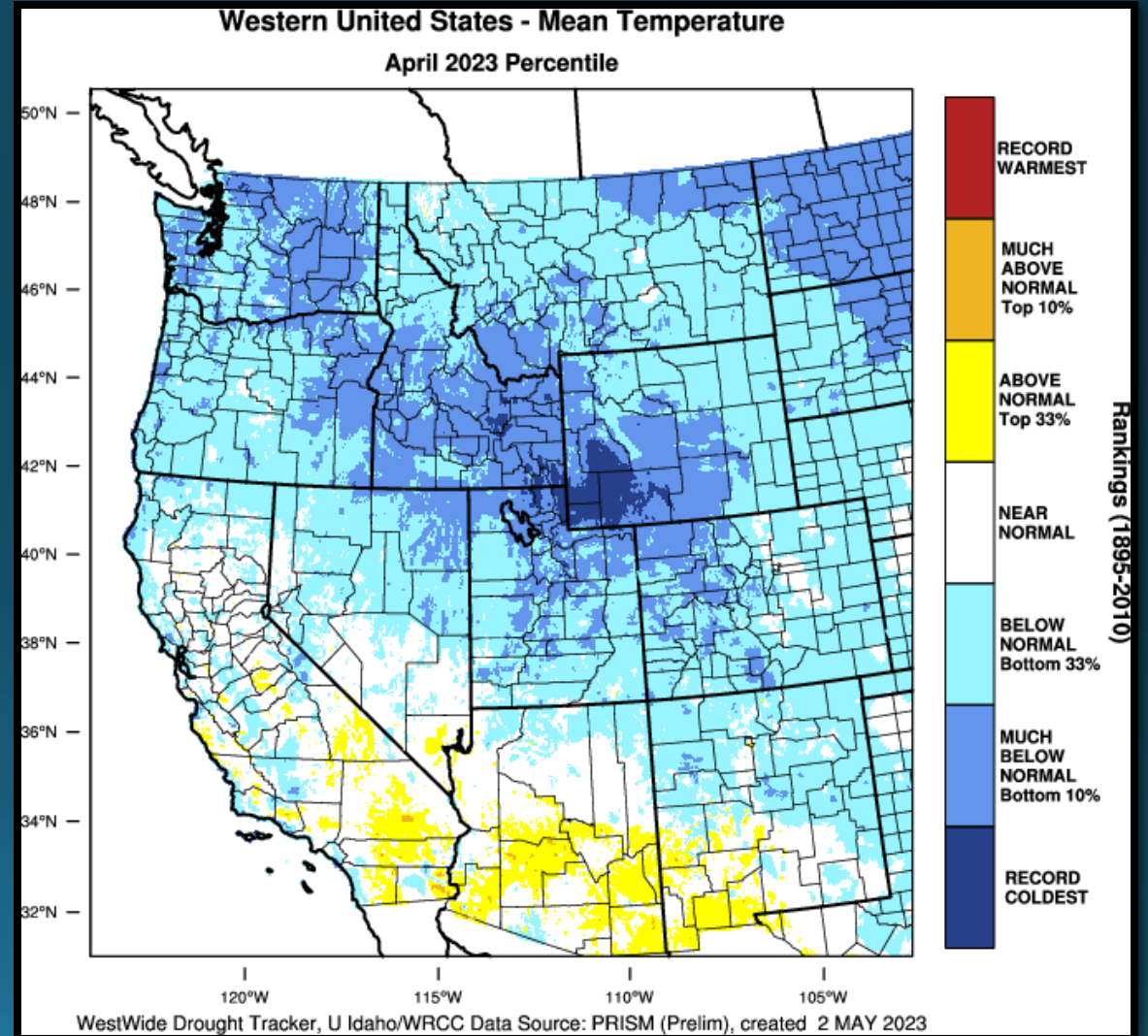
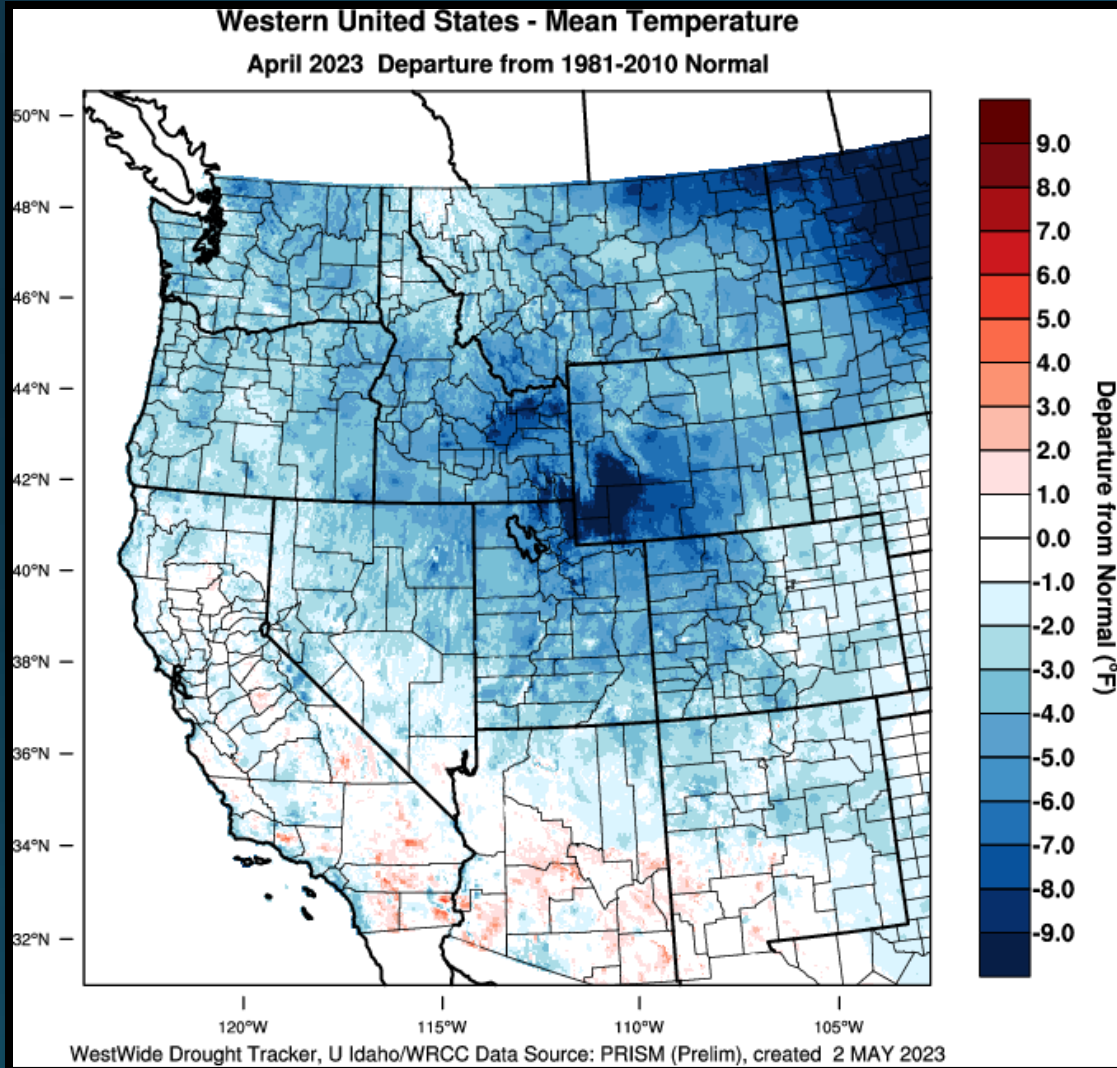
The overall pattern transitioned warmer for the last week of the month, then quickly swung to a summer-like pattern for the last few days of the month. High pressure developed just offshore over the eastern Pacific around the 24<sup>th</sup> and brought a drying and warming trend for the remainder of the month. Temperatures really ramped up on the 26<sup>th</sup> as the ridge amplified and moved overhead. In the same month Medford recorded the first 70F of the year, the first 80F (4/26) and the first 90F (4/28) of the year were recorded in the same week. The first occurrence of 90F was notable as well considering that it was the 8<sup>th</sup> earliest first 90F on record.

This early season heat wave was most notable because of how cool the recent temperatures had been. The average high temperature for the first three weeks of April (04/01-04/21) was 58.3F (which tied for the 13<sup>th</sup> coldest average high temps for that date range). High temperatures from the 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> were 20 to 25 degrees above normal (more like typical July weather), and 30 to 35 degrees warmer than what was experienced during the previous three weeks. Additionally, the region's snowpack was well above normal, with snow water equivalent averaging above 150% of normal. These hot, summer-like temperatures enhanced snow melt and pushed many of the rivers east of the Cascades close to action stage. The Sprague River at Beatty received enough snow melt for the river to go into minor flood stage, where it remained through the end of the month into early May.

Low pressure approached the region on the last day of the month and pushed the strong ridge eastward. This brought a significant cooling trend and lowered temperatures back closer to seasonal norms.



# April 2023 Observed Temperatures





# Average Temperatures

	Average (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Max (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Min (°F)	Departure from Normal
North Bend	48.0	<i>-2.4°F</i>	53.9	<i>-2.8°F</i>	42.1	<i>-1.9°F</i>
Roseburg	51.7	<i>-1.2°F</i>	61.2	<i>-2.1°F</i>	42.3	<i>-0.2°F</i>
Medford	52.8	<i>0.0°F</i>	64.7	<i>0.1°F</i>	40.9	<i>-0.1°F</i>
Klamath Falls	43.1	<i>-0.4°F</i>	58.1	<i>0.3°F</i>	28.1	<i>-1.0°F</i>
Montague, CA	48.5	<i>-0.4°F</i>	63.8	<i>0.1°F</i>	33.2	<i>-0.9°F</i>
Mt. Shasta City, CA	47.2	<i>0.3°F</i>	60.8	<i>1.8°F</i>	33.5	<i>-1.4°F</i>
Alturas, CA	43.5	<i>-0.8°F</i>	59.5	<i>1.1°F</i>	27.6	<i>-2.5°F</i>





# Monthly Max & Min Temperatures

	<b>Max (°F)</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Min (°F)</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
<i>North Bend</i>	<b>64°</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>33°</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
<i>Roseburg</i>	<b>95°</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>33°</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>Medford</i>	<b>94°</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>27°</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>Klamath Falls</i>	<b>84°</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>13°</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>Montague</i>	<b>89°</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>20°</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>Mt. Shasta City</i>	<b>86°</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>23°</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>
<i>Alturas</i>	<b>83°</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>15°</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>



# April Record Temperatures

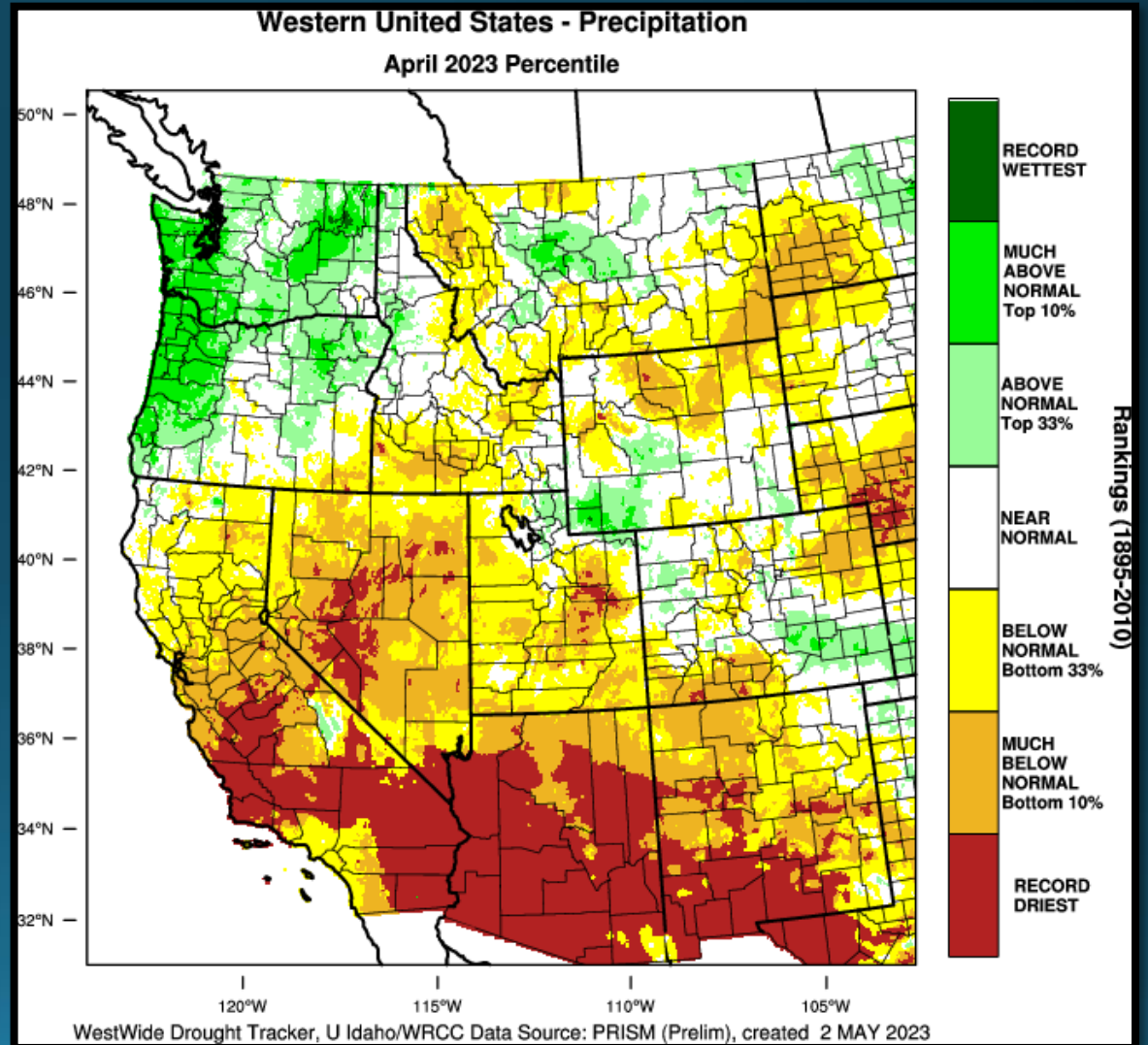
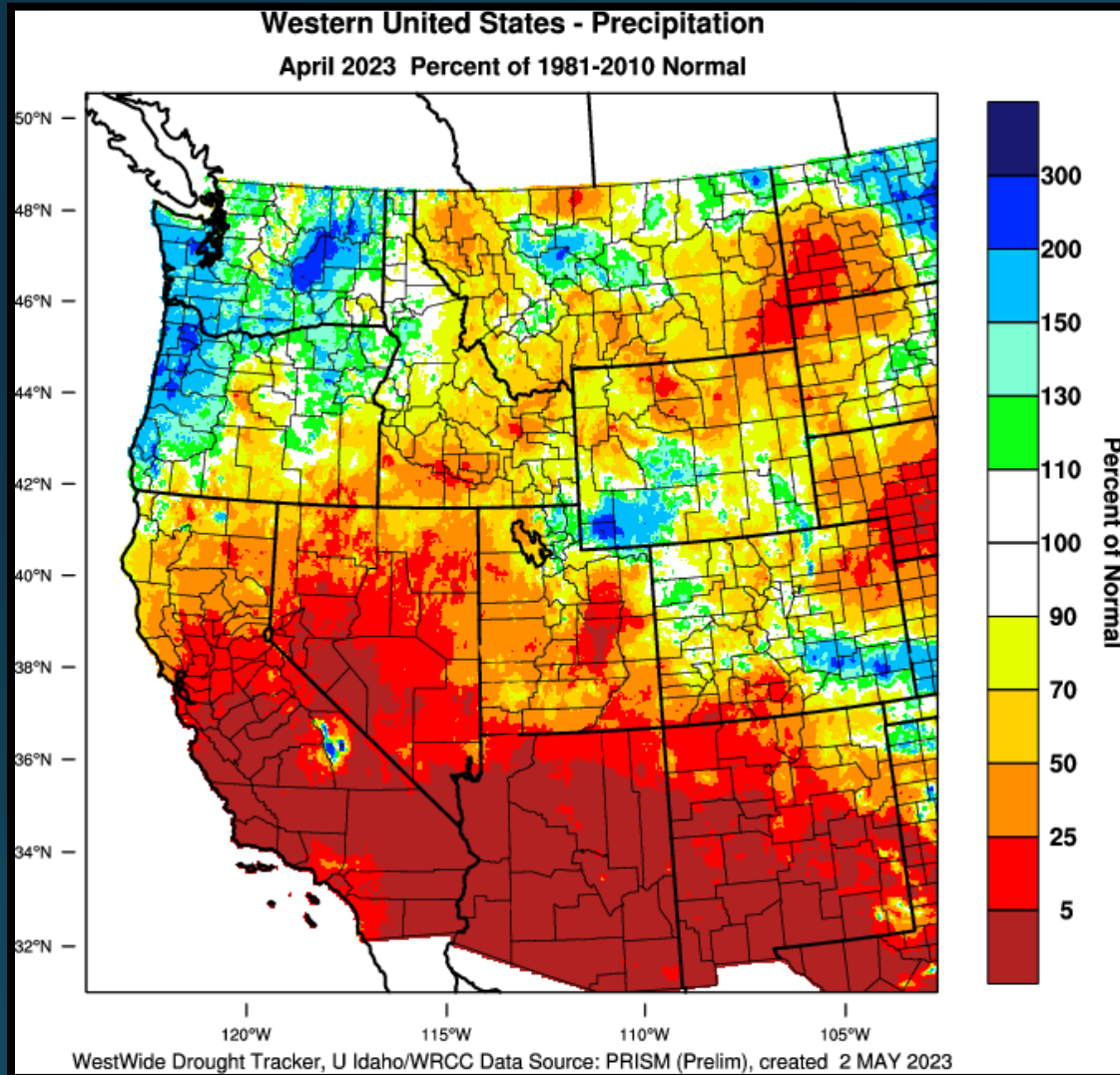
	Date	Record Low <i>Min</i>	Old Record/Year
<b>Alturas</b>	18 <sup>th</sup>	17°F	Ties w/1982
<b>Klamath Falls</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>	13°F	16° / 1968
<b>Montague</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20°F	23° / 1983

	Date	Record High <i>Max</i>	Old Record/Year
<b>Roseburg</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	95°F	88° / 1957
<b>Mt Shasta City</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	86°F	81° / 2020
	27 <sup>th</sup>	84°F	82° / 2004
<b>Montague</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	89°F	85° / 2020
<b>Klamath Falls</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	84°F	Ties w/1926

	Date	Record Low <i>Max</i>	Old Record/Year
<b>Roseburg</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	46°F	49° / 2001
<b>Montague</b>	12 <sup>th</sup>	48°F	49° / 2022
<b>Alturas</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	35°F	37° / 1999
	18 <sup>th</sup>	38°F	39° / 1963
<b>Klamath Falls</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	39°F	Ties w/2012
<b>North Bend</b>	18 <sup>th</sup>	48°F	Ties w/2008



# April 2023 Observed Precipitation

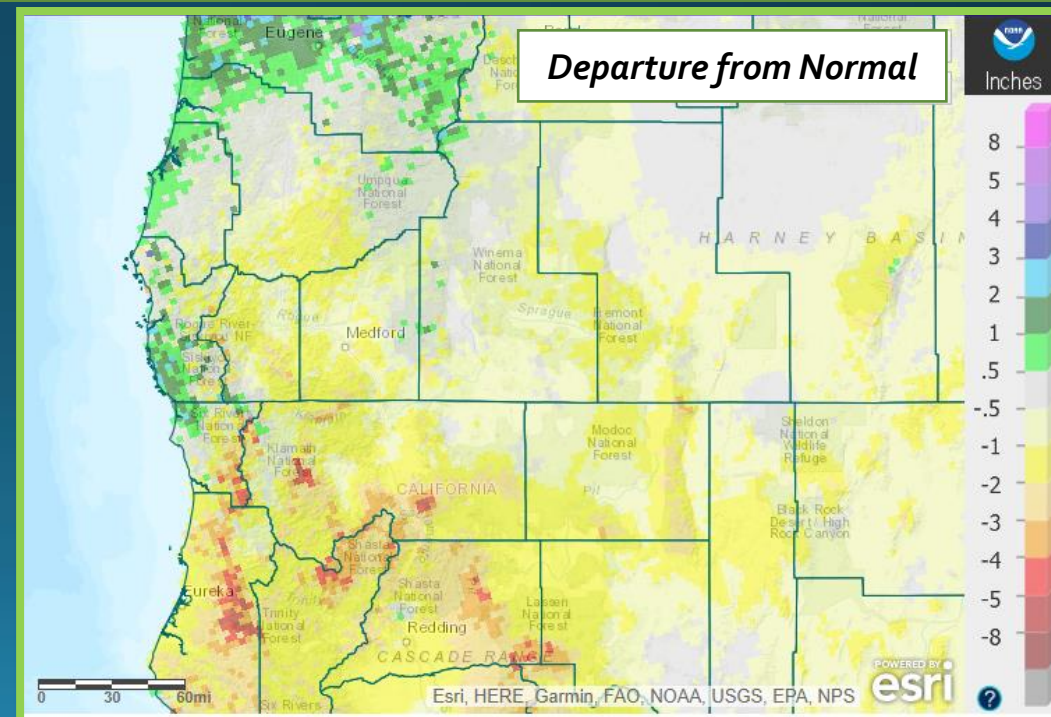
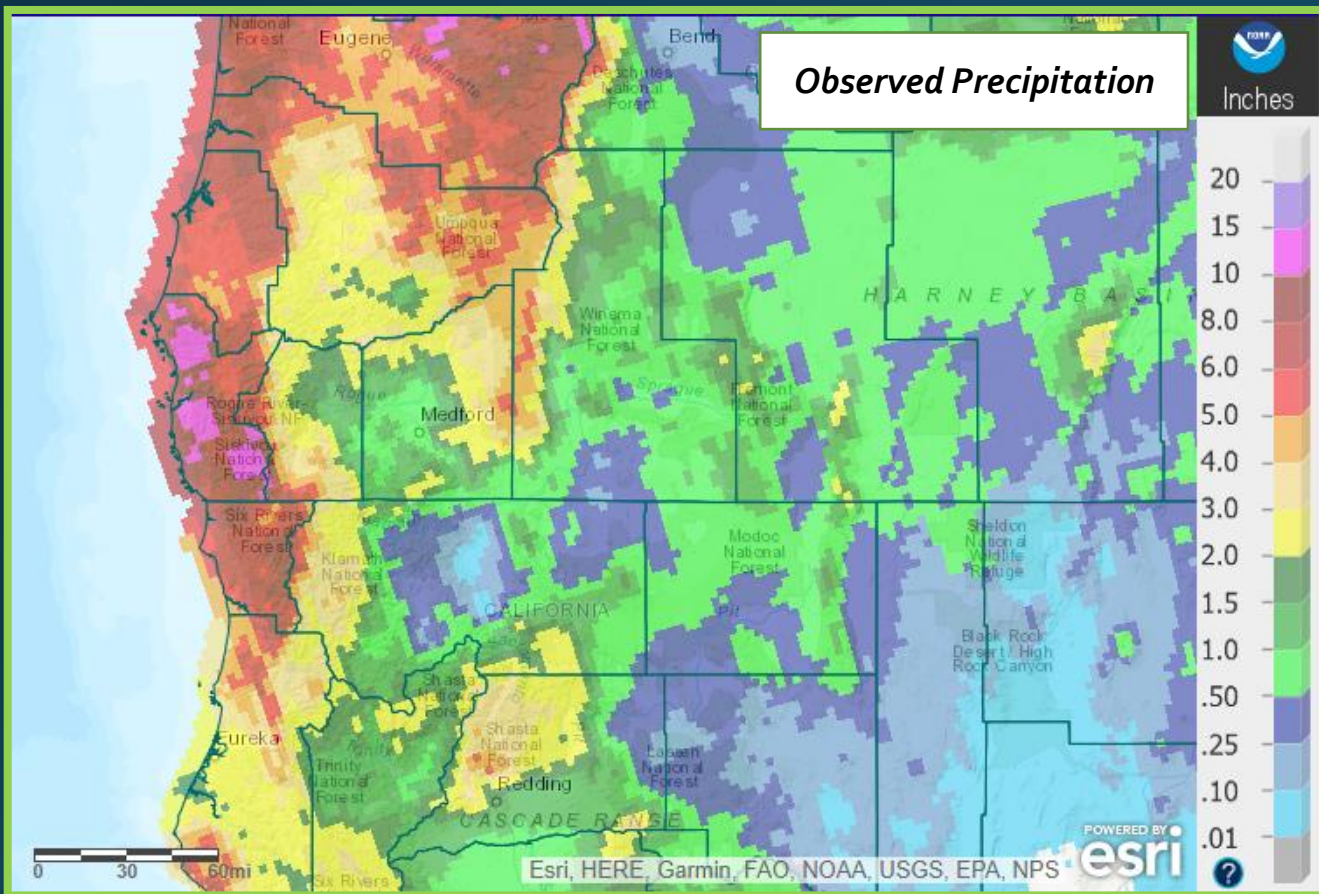






# Monthly Precipitation

	Total	Departure from Normal	Greatest 24-hr Total	Date(s)
North Bend	6.78"	1.38"	1.03"	31 <sup>st</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup>
Roseburg	3.82"	1.11"	0.86"	10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>
Medford	0.78"	-0.73"	0.24"	31 <sup>st</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup>
Klamath Falls	0.33"	-0.73"	0.13"	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>
Montague, CA	0.08"	-0.99"	0.04"	1 <sup>st</sup>
Mt. Shasta City, CA	1.18"	-1.69"	1.00"	6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>
Alturas, CA	0.53"	-0.94"	0.37"	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>



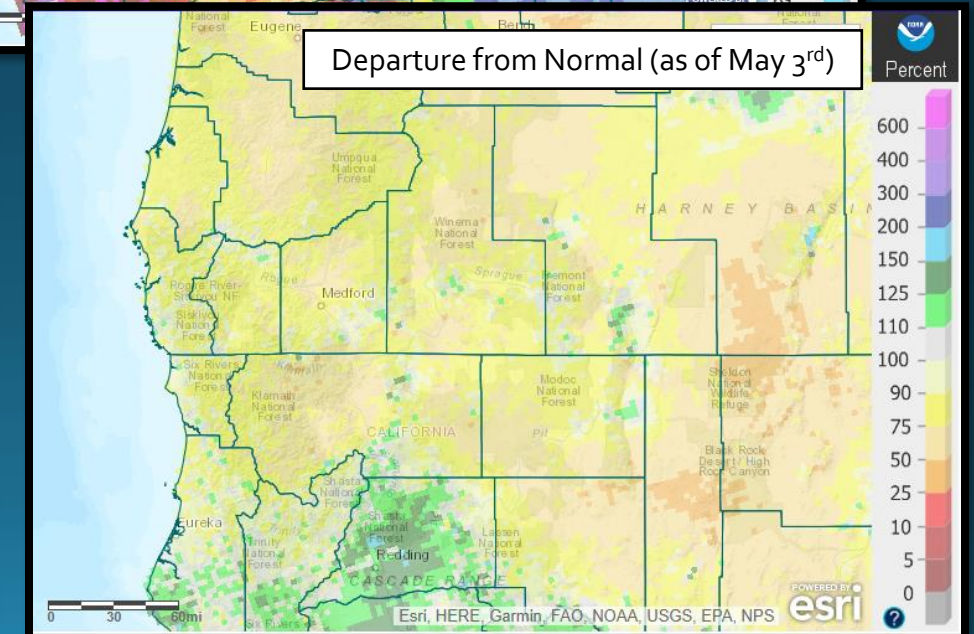
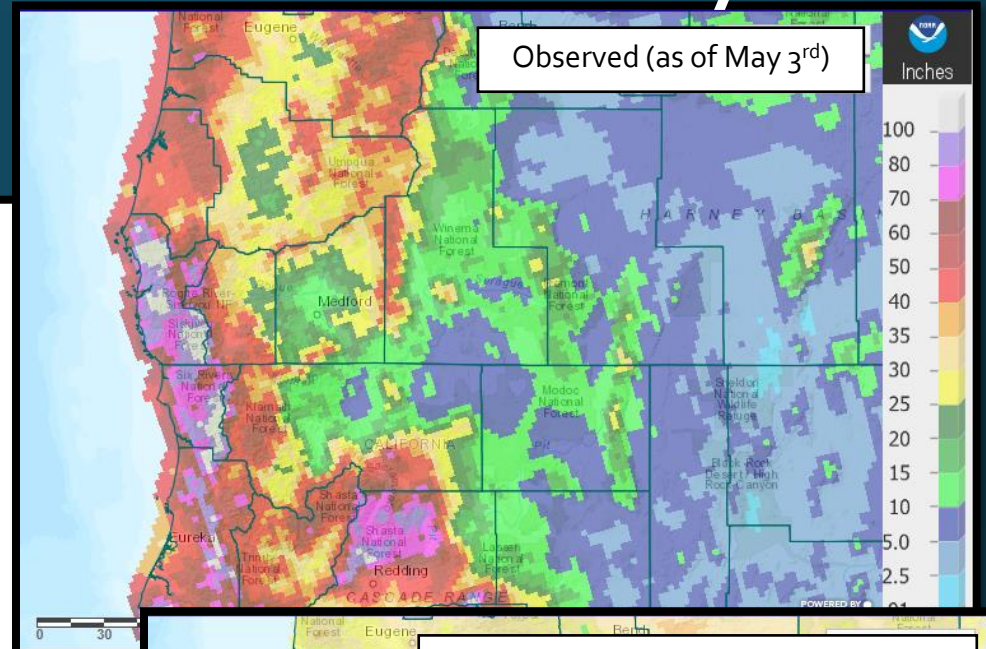
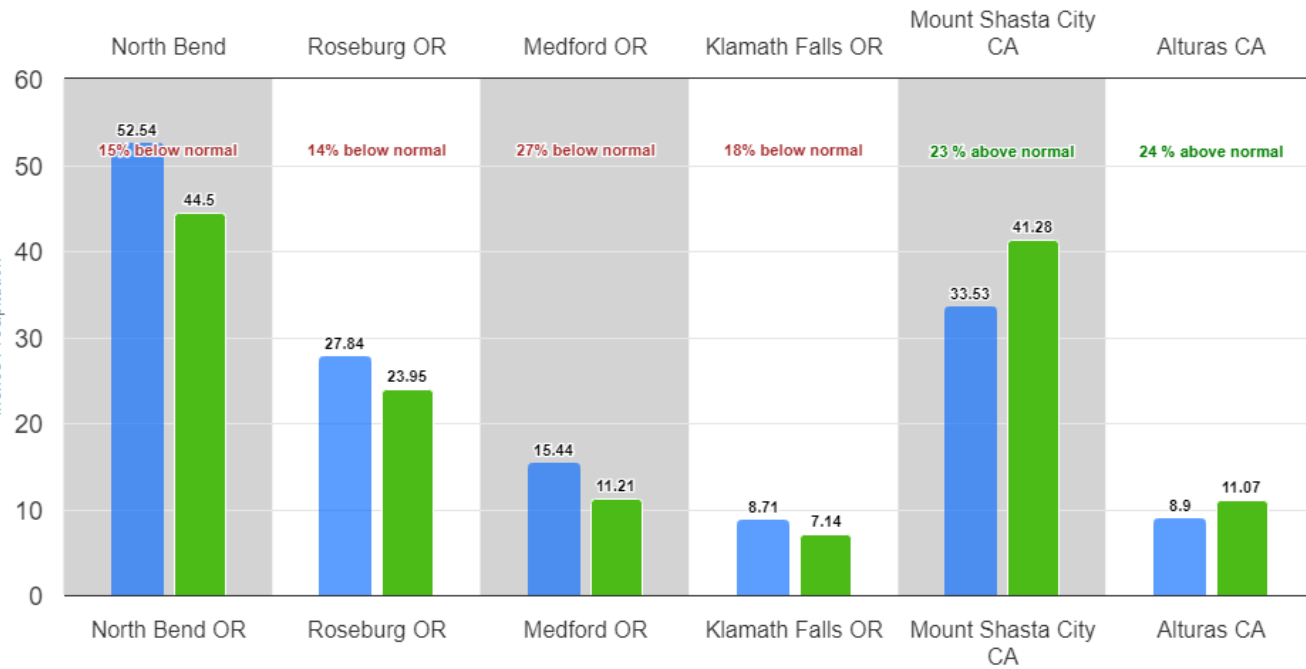




# Water Year Status (As of May 1<sup>st</sup>)

Climate Sites Water Year Precipitation (Since Oct 1) and Percent of Normal as of 151AM MAY03

■ Normal Precipitation Since Oct 1 ■ 2022/2023 Observed Precipitation Since Oct 1



Highcharts.com

Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS

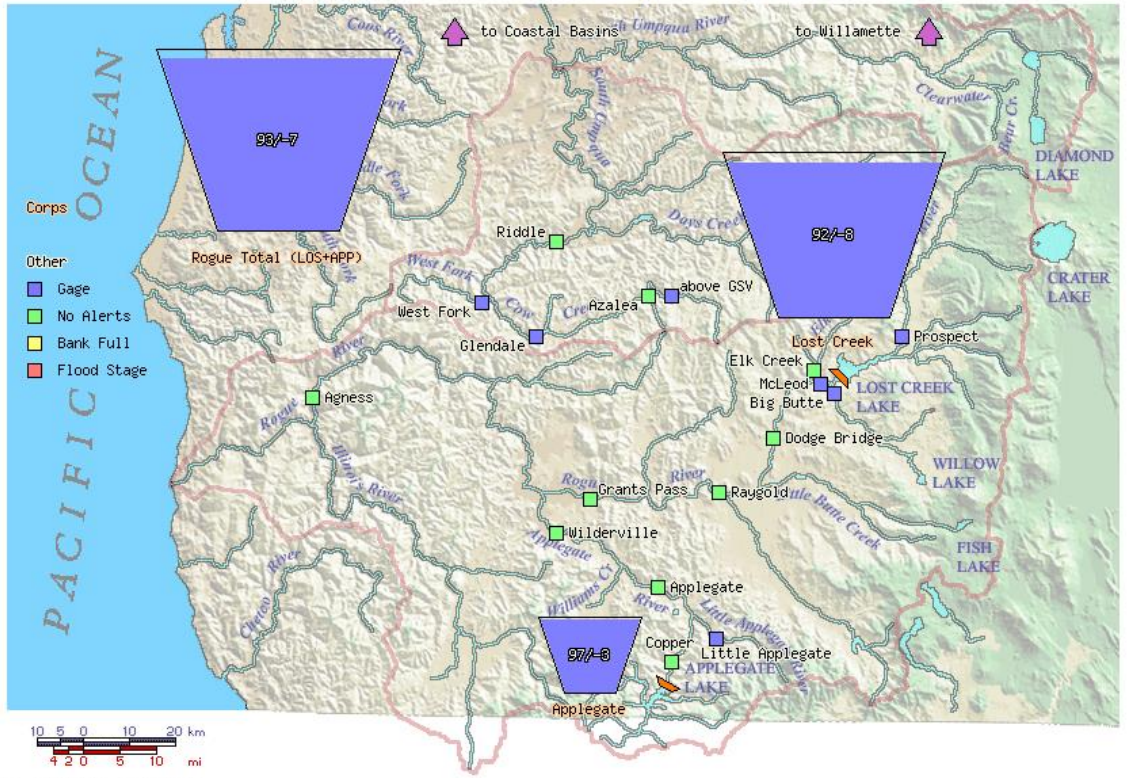


# Reservoir Status

Data courtesy of [US Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Data courtesy of [Bureau of Reclamation](#)

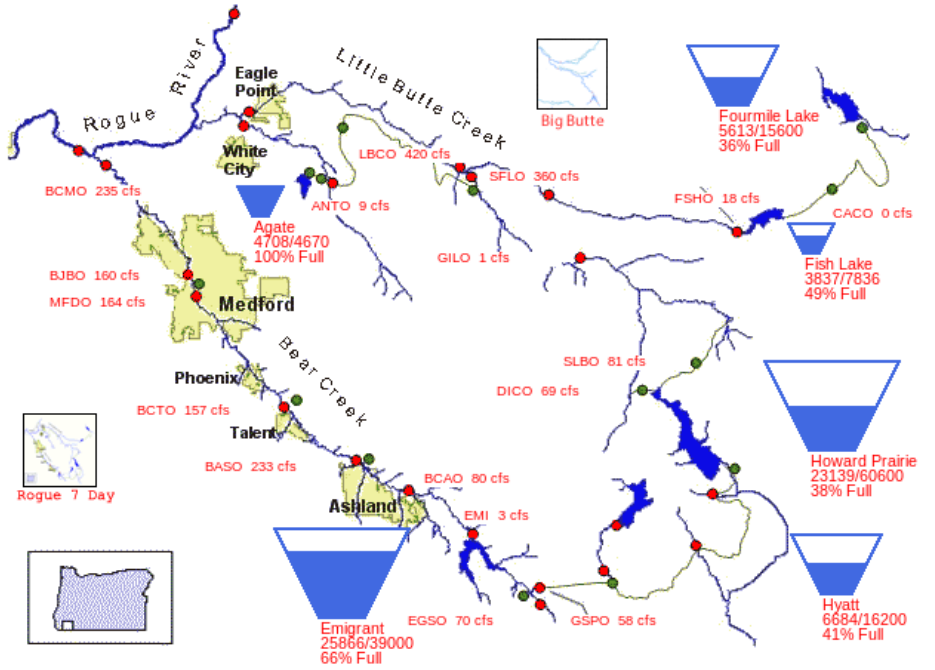
### Rogue Basin Teacup Diagram



Created: Wed May 3 10:40:33 2023  
 WCD: Water Control Diagram  
 Project numbers: percent full / percent above WCD, where  
 percent full = (current storage - minimum conservation storage) / (maximum conservation storage - minimum conservation storage)  
 percent above water control diagram = (current storage - WCD storage) / (maximum conservation storage - minimum conservation storage)

### US Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek Basins

05/02/2023



PROVISIONAL DATA - SUBJECT TO CHANGE!



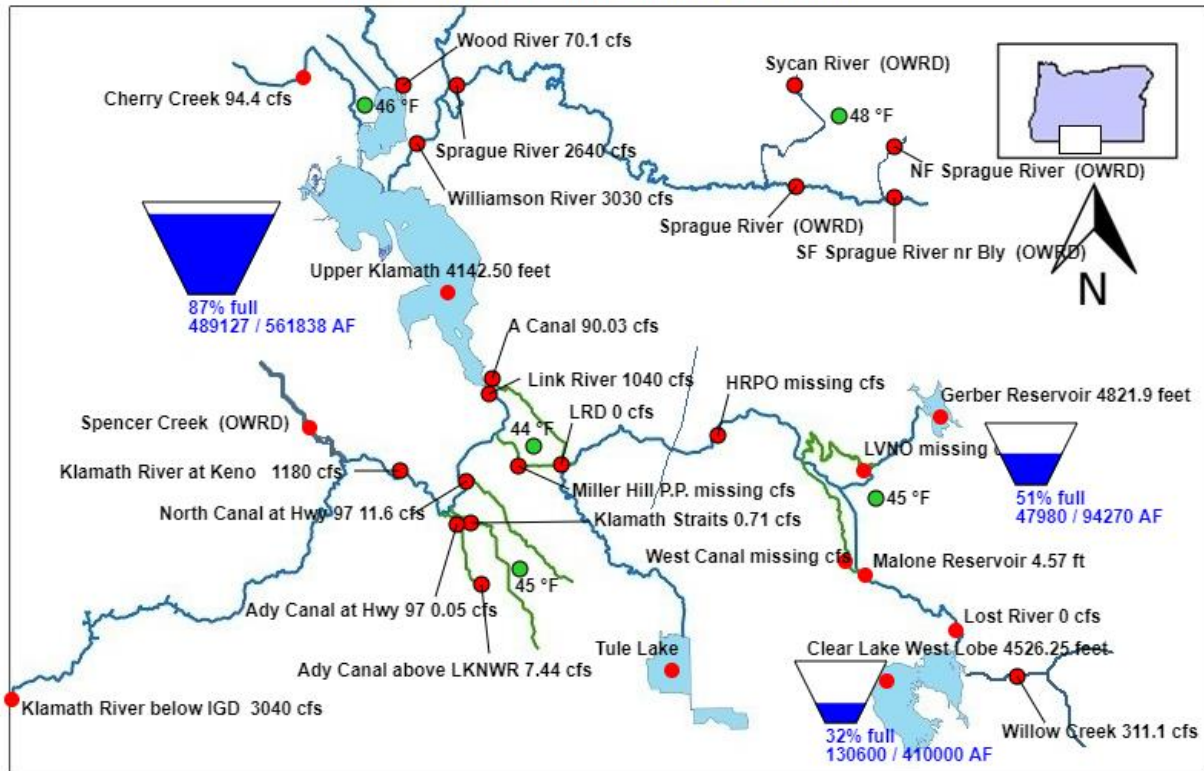


# Reservoir Status

Klamath River Basin. Data courtesy of [Bureau of Reclamation](#)

Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region  
Major Storage Reservoirs in the Klamath River Basin

Wed May 03 2023 10:51:34 GMT-0700 (Pacific Daylight Time)



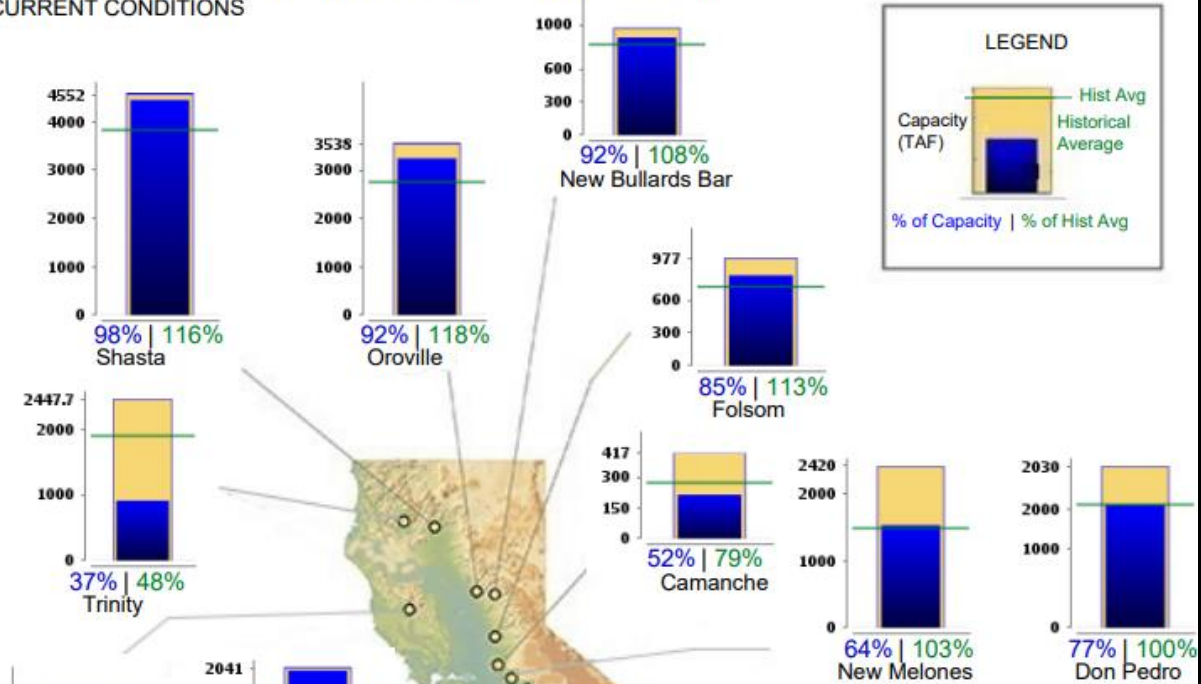
[PROVISIONAL DATA](#) - SUBJECT TO CHANGE!



## CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS  
CURRENT CONDITIONS

Midnight - May 2, 2023

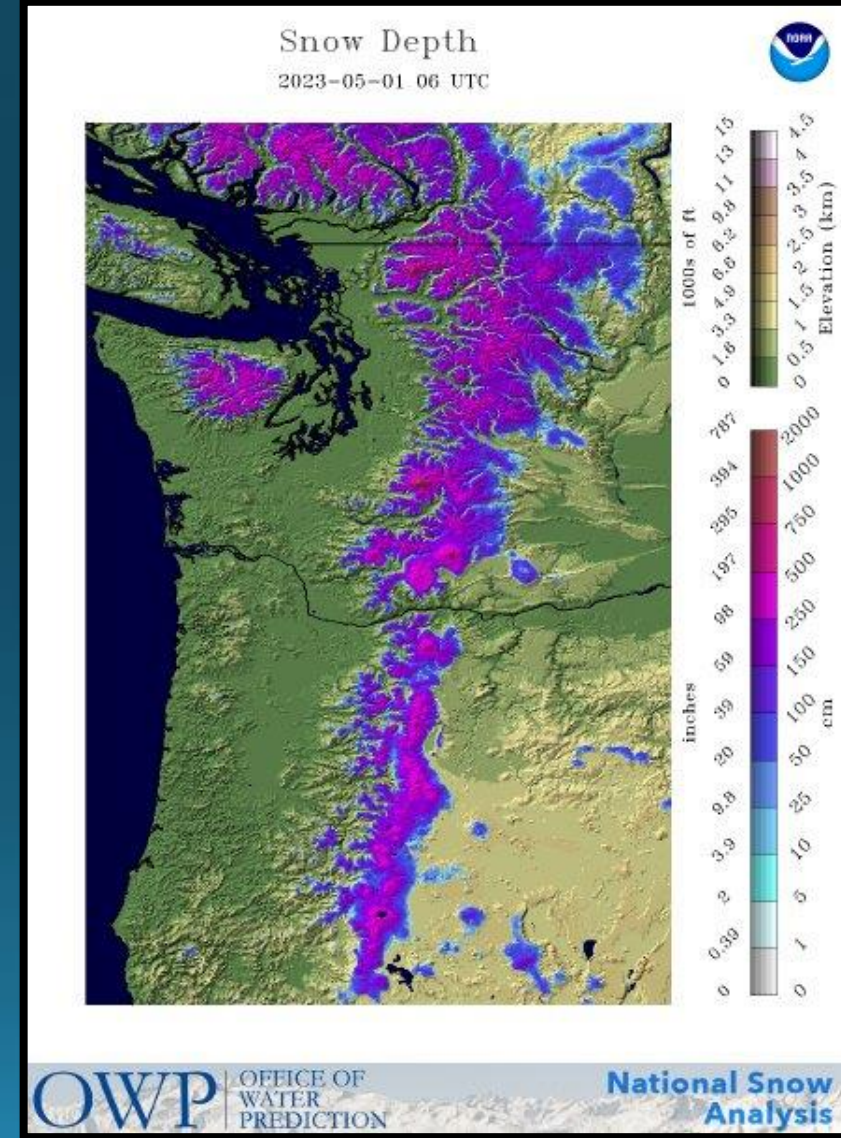
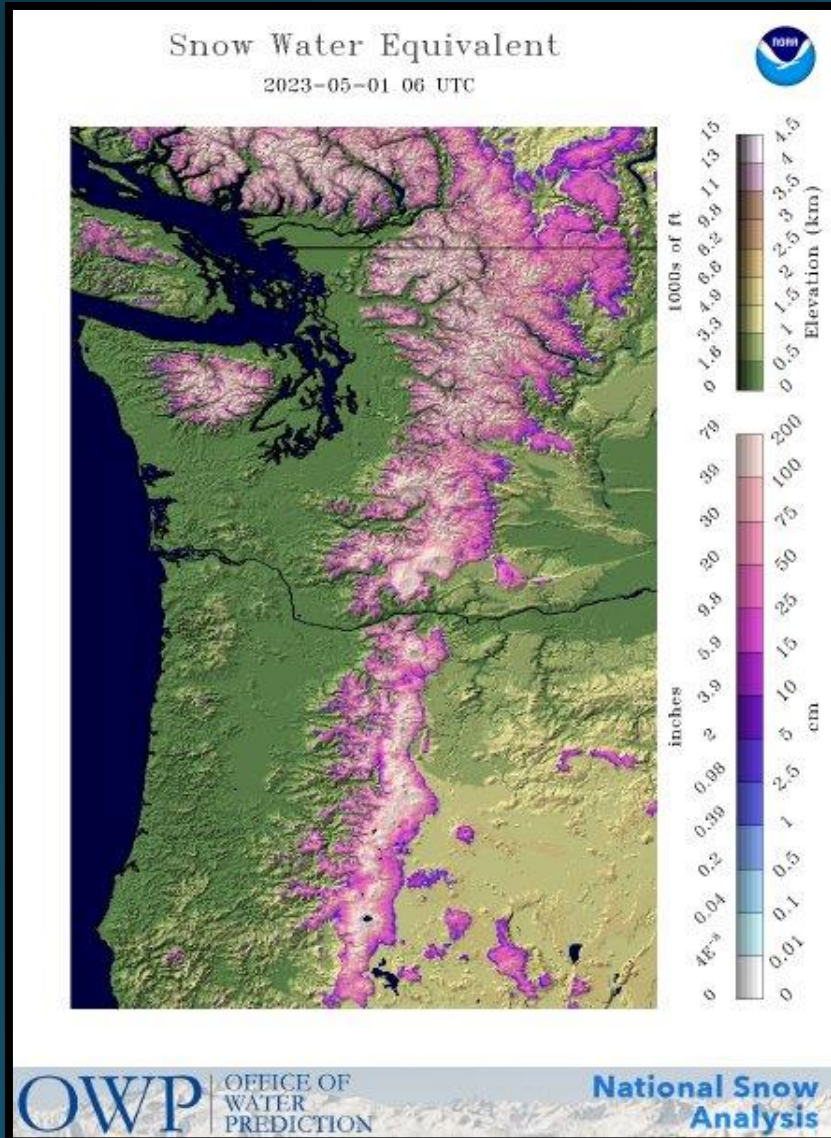


Northern California. [California Data Exchange Center](#)



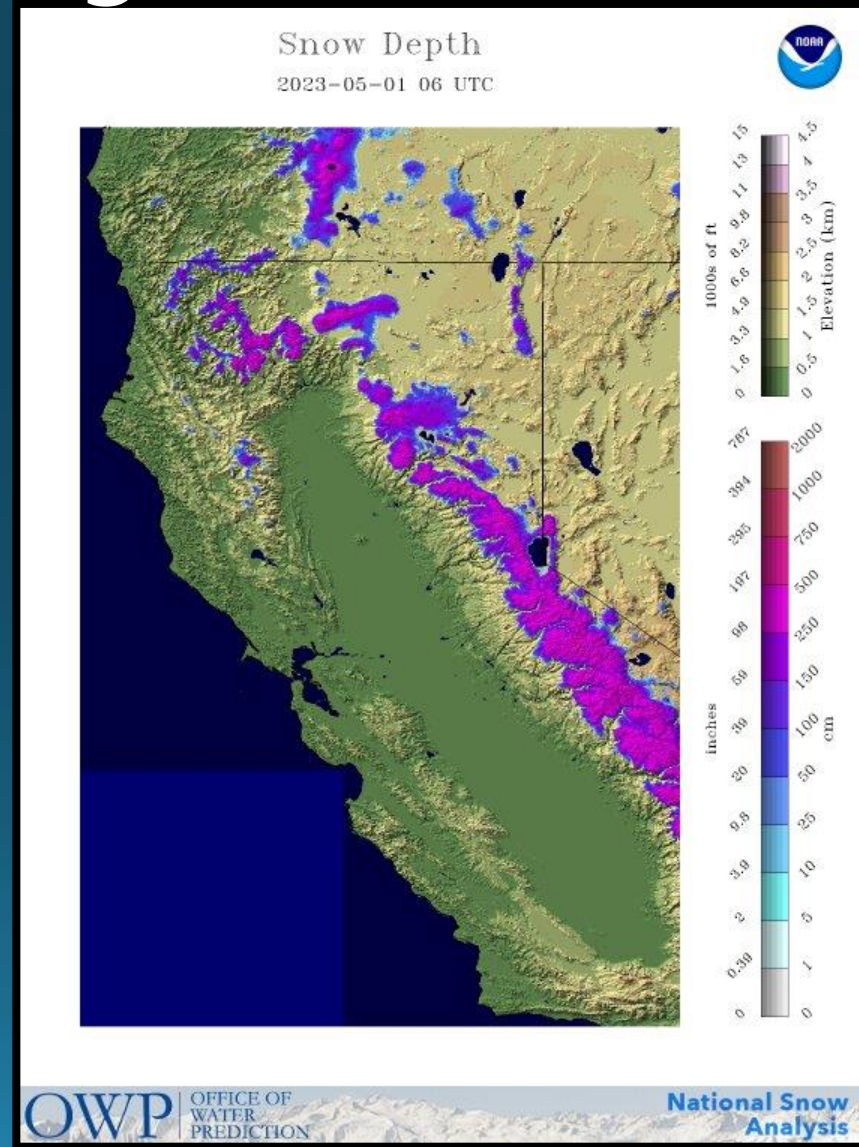
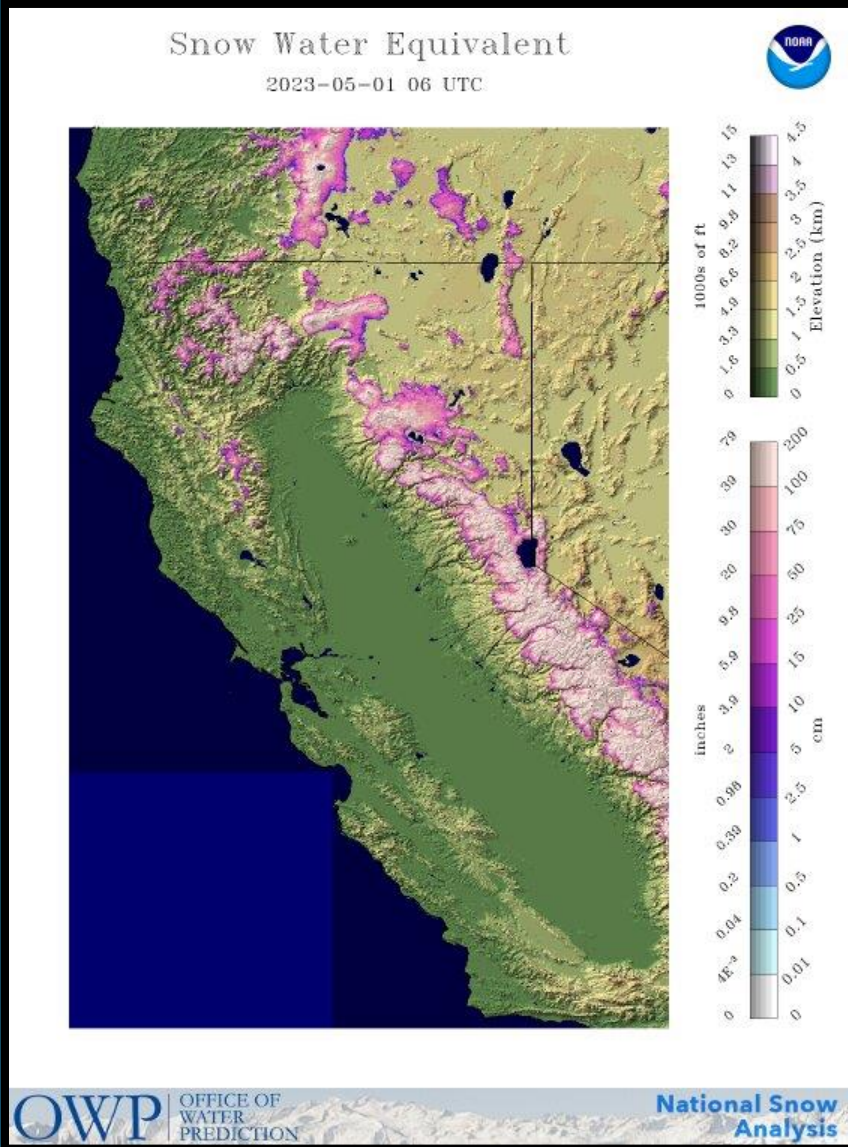


# PacNW SWE & Snow Depth as of 5/1/23





# California SWE & Snow Depth as of 5/1/23







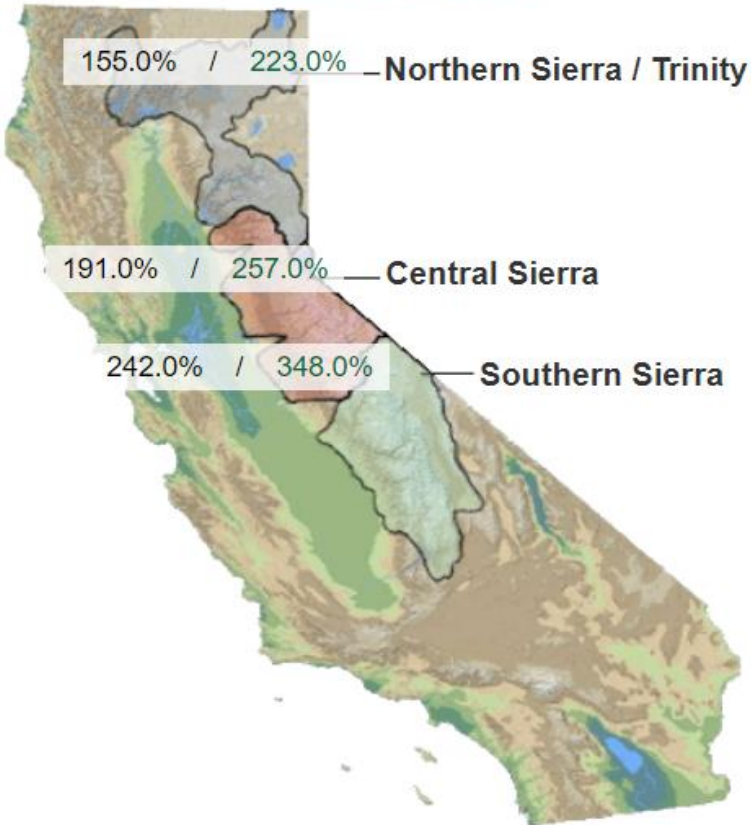
# Snowpack Status



## STATEWIDE SNOW WATER CONTENT

Data For: 03-May-2023

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



### NORTH

Data For: 03-May-2023  
 Number of Stations Reporting 24  
 Average snow water equivalent 45.9"  
 Percent of April 1 Average 155%  
 Percent of normal for this date 223%

### CENTRAL

Data For: 03-May-2023  
 Number of Stations Reporting 40  
 Average snow water equivalent 47.7"  
 Percent of April 1 Average 191%  
 Percent of normal for this date 257%

### SOUTH

Data For: 03-May-2023  
 Number of Stations Reporting 25  
 Average snow water equivalent 49.9"  
 Percent of April 1 Average 242%  
 Percent of normal for this date 348%

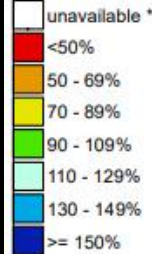
### STATEWIDE SUMMARY

Data For: 03-May-2023  
 Number of Stations Reporting 89  
 Average snow water equivalent 47.9"  
 Percent of April 1 Average 191%  
 Percent of normal for this date 265%

## Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

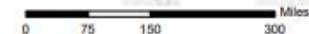
May 03, 2023

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1991-2020 Median



\* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

Provisional data subject to revision



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:  
 USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
 Portland, Oregon  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>



# Crater Lake

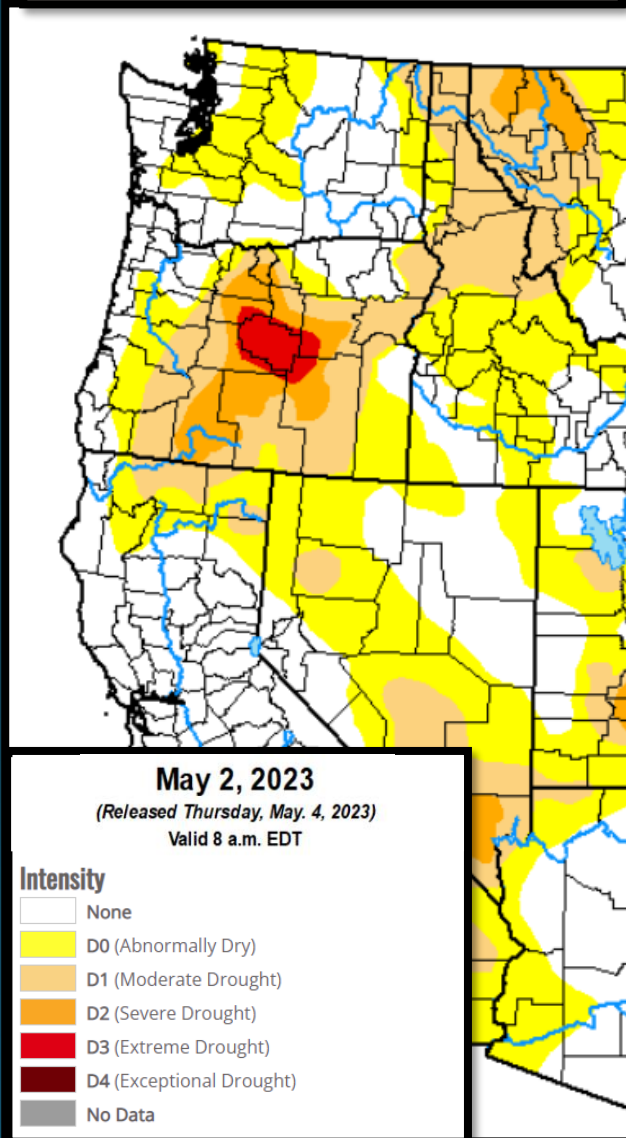
Image Courtesy: NPS



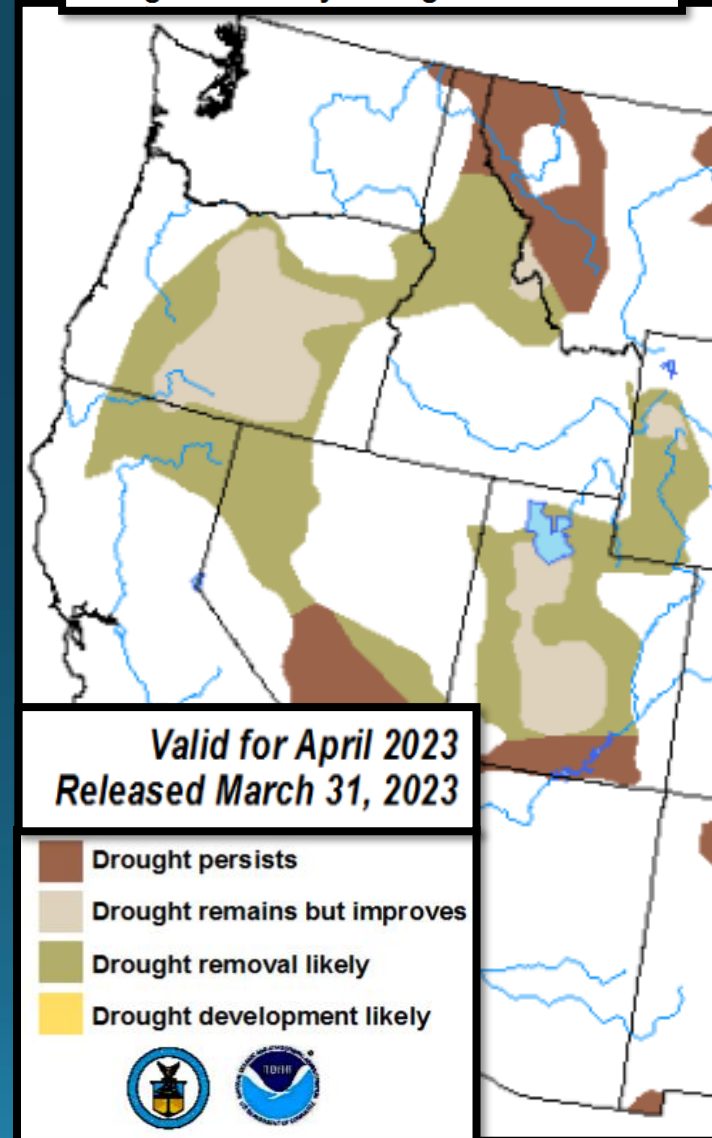
	Average Max Temp (°F)	Average Min Temp (°F)	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Snow Depth as of: 04/30/23	Highest Max/ Lowest Min
April	38.0°	23.0°	7.37"	96.6"	127"	66° on 29 <sup>th</sup> / 9° on 13 <sup>th</sup>
Normal (1991-2020)	40.3°	23.1°	6.16"	48.7"	90"	N/A

# Drought Monitor (Current) & Outlook (May)

## United States Drought Monitor



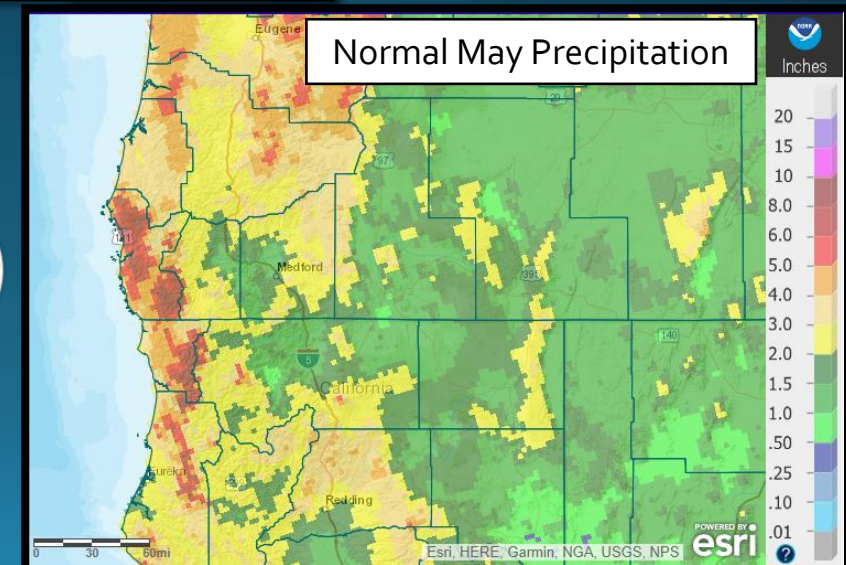
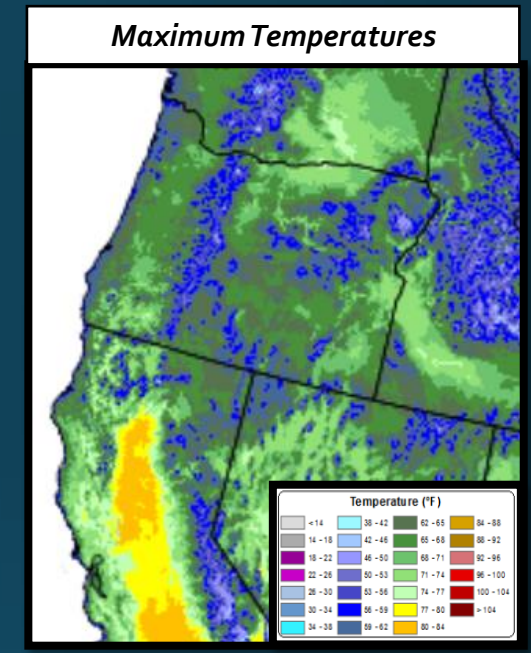
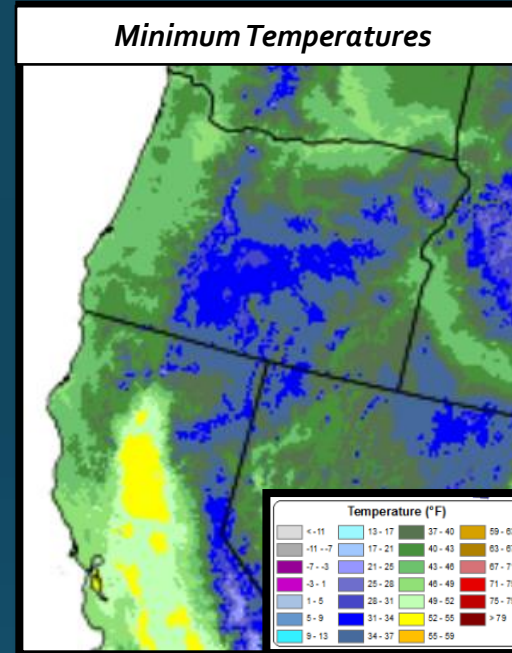
## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





# Looking Ahead: Normals for May (1991-2020)

- **Temperatures:** Along the coast, lows are typically in upper 40s to lower 50s with highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s. The Interior West Side valleys usually experiences average lows in the 40s to 50s and highs in the lower 60s to mid 70s. Lows are typically in the 30s across the higher mountains west of the Cascades and the majority of the East Side. Highs across even the higher elevations are typically in the 40s and 50s, while across the valleys east of the Cascades highs are typically 60-70 degrees.
- **Precipitation:** Curry County usually gets 4 to 10 inches of water. South and southwest flow favored areas west of the Cascades, the Mount Shasta area, and the Cascades and Siskiyou's typically get 2 to 5 inches. The remainder of the West Side has a wide range in normals, from as low as 0.50 up to 2 inches. East of the Cascades, the drier portions of Lake County can expect 0.50 to 1.5 inches, while most of the rest of the East Side gets 1 to 3 inches of water, though some of the mountains typically see up to around 4 inches.
- **Snow:** With peak snow water equivalent normally having occurred in mid-March, we expect the snowpack to be melting off. However, in some years the snowpack peaks in April. Also, we do sometimes get mountain snow in May that slows the melting process. The snowpack typically melts off much faster on southerly slopes than northerly slopes due to exposure and related temperatures. Snowpack at and above 7000 feet usually remains through the month of May, though it is melting much of the time. Snowfall drops precipitously at Crater Lake NP HQ in May, to 15.9 inches per the 1981-2010 normal period.







# \*A note about Period of Record (POR)

When looking at record setting events, it's important to consider the length and completeness of the site's period of record (POR). For example, a site may have records back to the early 1900's, but if there is a significant portion of the record missing, it's possible that the POR is not encompassing another significant event that may have surpassed the event in question. Therefore, "record setting" should be considered relative to the completeness/length of POR. To help keep records in context, the POR for each climate site is listed below:

- **North Bend: 01/1902 – Present**
- **Roseburg: 04/1900 – Present**
  - ❖ *Missing:*
    - 05/1900-01/1901
    - 03/1901-06/1902
    - 08/1902-12/1930
    - 10/1965-06/1997
- **Medford: 03/11/1911 – Present**
- **Klamath Falls: 12/1897 – Present**
- **Montague, CA: 07/1948 – Present**
  - ❖ *Missing:*
    - 08-09/1952
    - 02/1953-06/2000
- **Mount Shasta City, CA: 04/1948 – Present**
- **Alturas, CA: 05/1935 – Present**