National Weather Service Medford

2022: February 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).

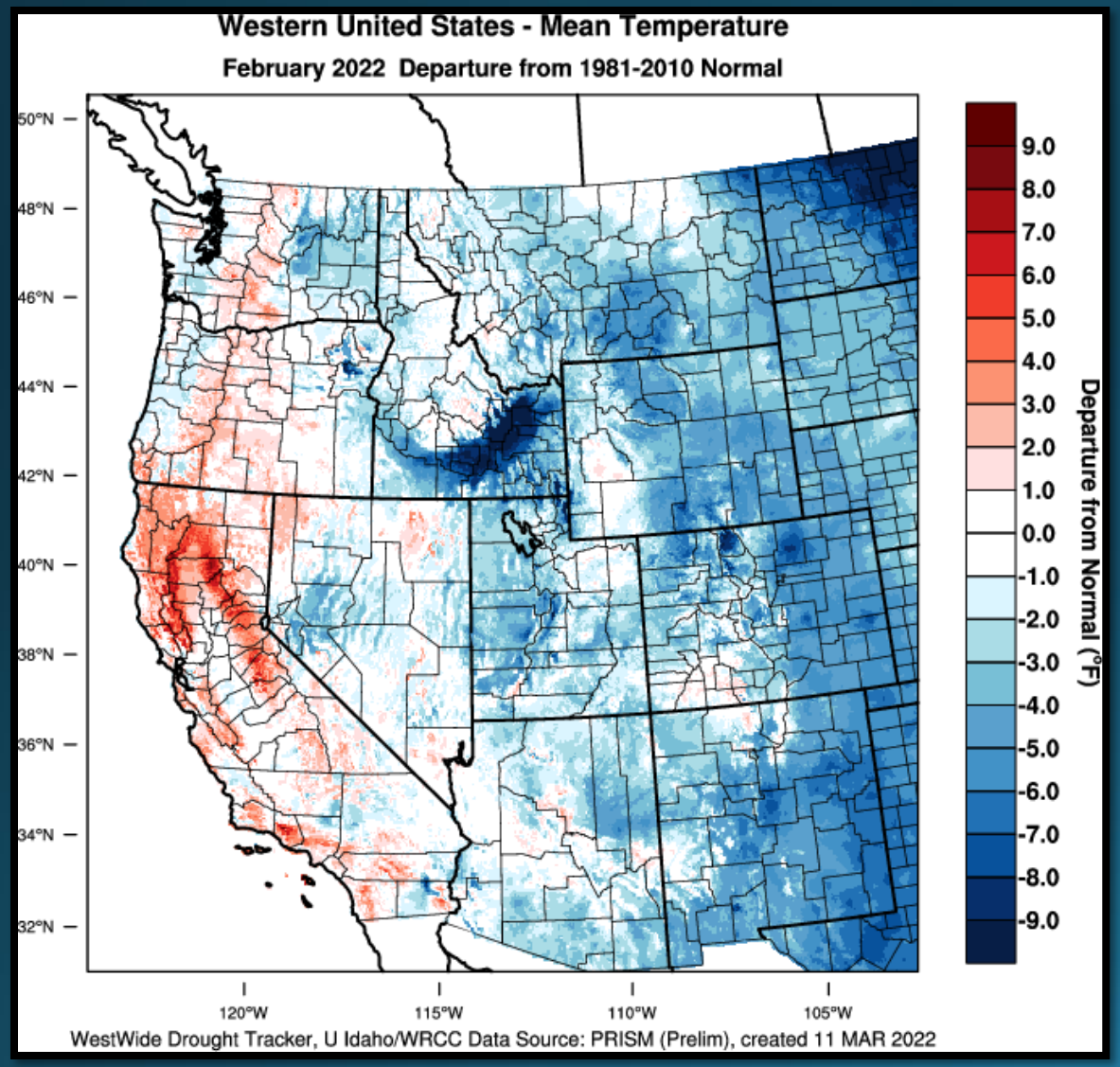
February 2022 Weather Review

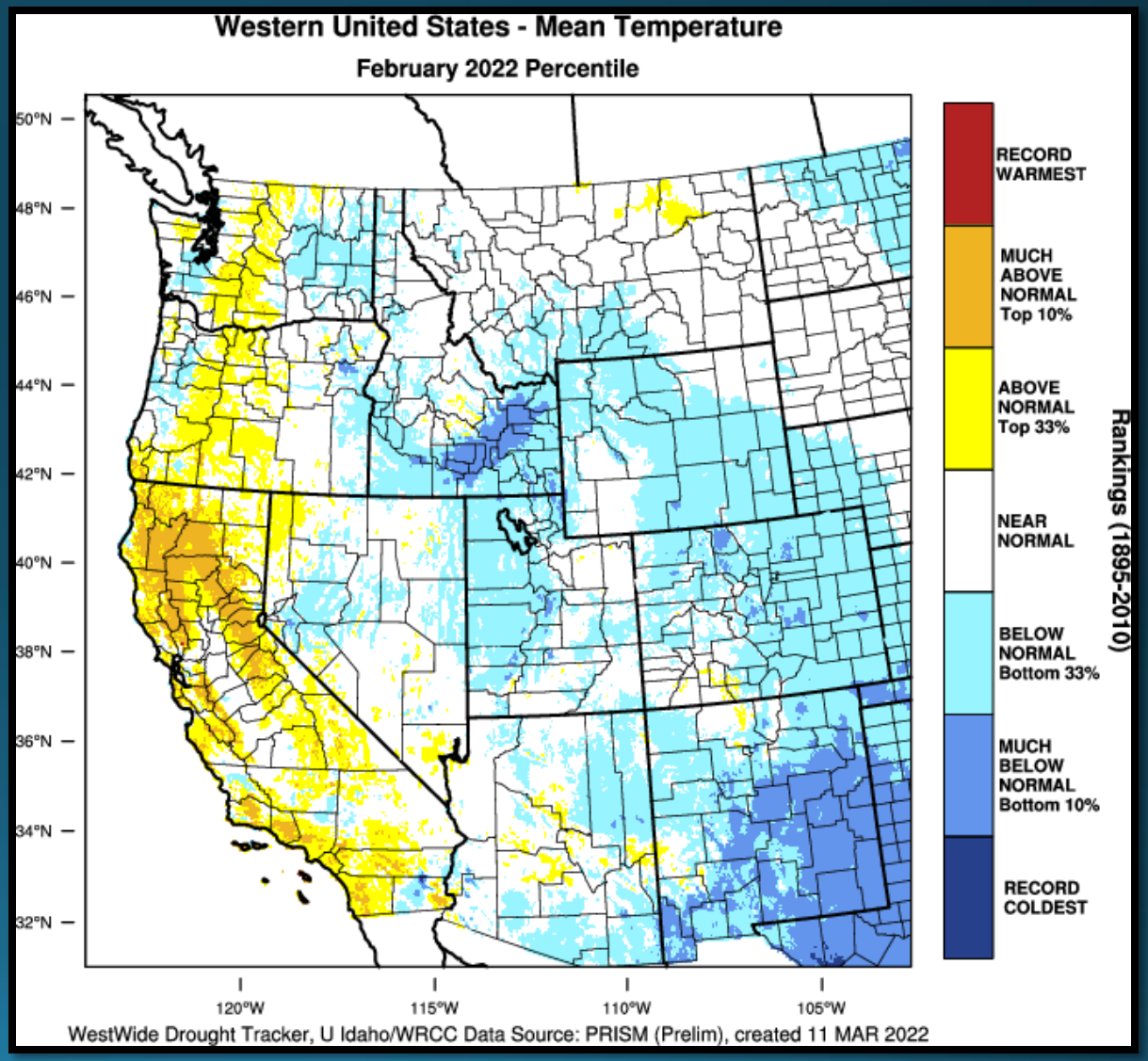
Like much of January 2022, a dominant upper ridge persisted near and just offshore during the first half of the month, which continued the record dry stretch during key months of the wet season. At times, the ridge moved westward which allowed cold continental air to bleed southward from Canada. The lack of precipitation, along with a very dry air mass, greatly inhibited valley fog formation. This allowed for maximum radiational cooling, which led to below normal overnight temperatures. Conversely, the lack of cloud cover in the mornings allowed for full heating during the day, and this led to well above normal high temperatures and large diurnal temperatures swings. In fact, numerous records were set across the area during the week of the 7th as high temperatures reached into the upper 60s and lower 70s.

The record dry stretch finally came to an end on Valentine's Day. The Medford Airport recorded 37 straight days of no measurable precipitation starting on January 7th and ending with 0.02" on February 14th. Quiet weather returned for the week following this front. Upper troughing returned the week of the 21st, and this brought a very cold air mass to the region. Snow levels plummeted to valley floors and a trace of snowfall was recorded at the Medford Airport on both the 21st and 22nd. An arctic air mass lingered in the area during the following week and low temperature records were set and challenged. Single digits were recorded east of the Cascades and valleys west of the Cascades experienced a hard freeze. Even coastal locations recorded freezing temperatures. The air mass moderated and another front pushed into the area during the last few days of the month. An atmospheric river affected the Pacific Northwest with the Medford forecast area lying on the southern periphery of the front. This focused the heaviest precipitation along the coast north of Cape Blanco, where North Bend recorded over an inch of rain on the last day of the month. Looking inland, precipitation amounts were drastically less with only 0.04" at Roseburg, a trace at Medford, and no measurable precipitation east of the Cascades.

February 2022 goes down as one for the record books. Not only was record dry stretch set, February 2022 is now the driest February on record, for the Medford Airport, with only 0.08" of precipitation during the entire month. The previous driest February was in 1913, which had a paltry 0.10". Needless to say, the month of February experienced well below normal precipitation. Regarding temperatures, outside of the region's valleys, temperatures were above normal as well.

February 2022 Observed Temperatures





Average Temperatures

	Average (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Max (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Min (°F)	Departure from Normal
North Bend	46.3	-1.3°	54.4	0.9	38.1	-2.9°
Roseburg	44.3	-1.4°	53.4	-0.3°	35.1	-2.5°
Medford	43.4	-0.7°	58.0	3.8	28.8	-5.1°
Klamath Falls	34.3	-0.6°	51.6	5.3	17.0	-6.5°
Montague, CA	38.3	-1.5°	56.6	4.1	20.0	-7.1°
Mt. Shasta City, CA	41.6	3.5	56.0	8.9	27.2	-2.0°
Alturas, CA	33.2	-1.6°	51.4	4.8	14.9	-8.1°

Monthly Max & Min Temperatures

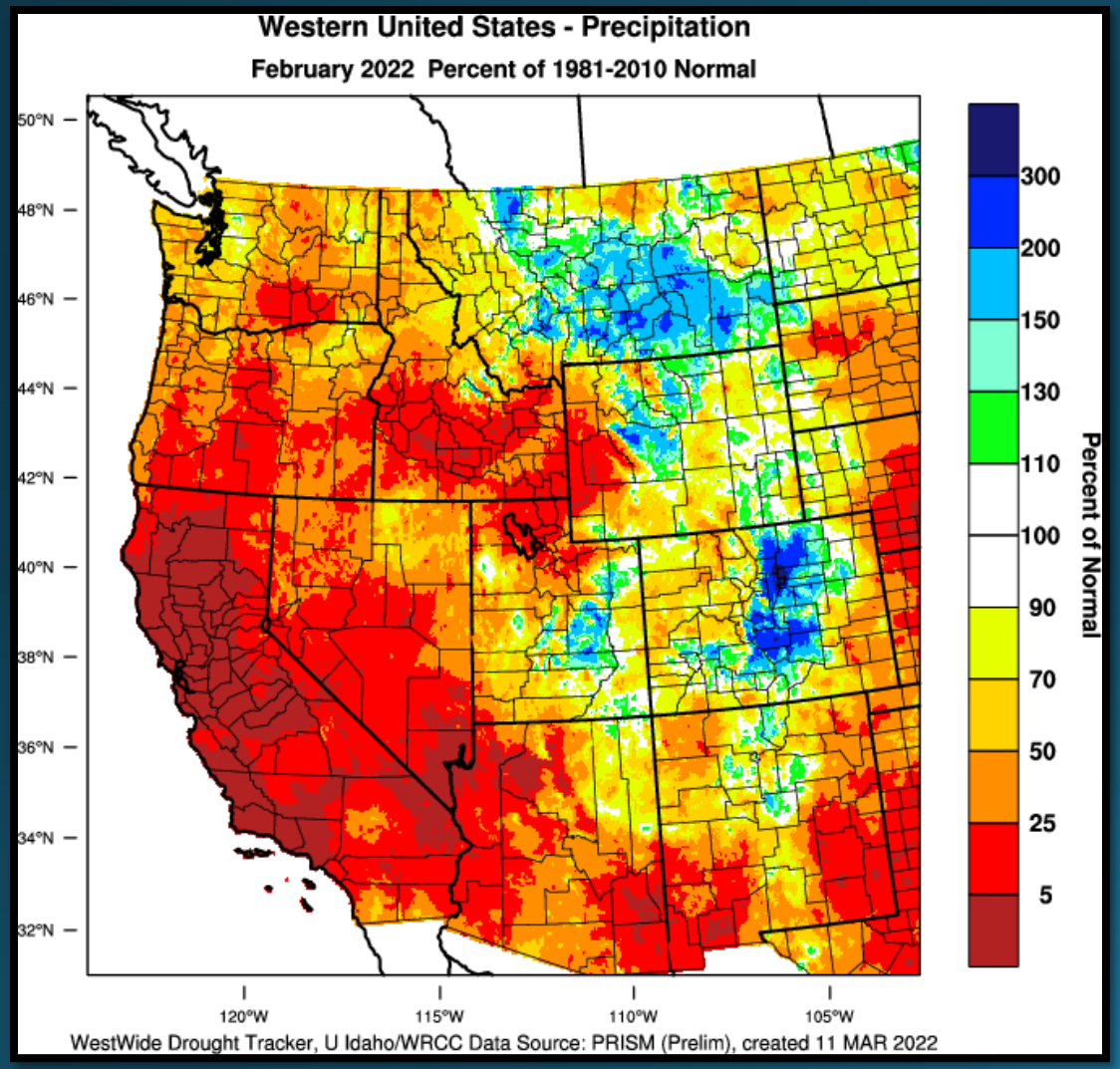
	Max (°F)	Date(s)	Min (°F)	Date(s)
North Bend	70°	6th	25°	24th
Roseburg	68°	28th	22°	24th
Medford	72°	28th	28°	23rd & 24th
Klamath Falls	66°	13th	5°	23rd
Montague, CA	72°	9th	9°	24th
Mt. Shasta City, CA	70°	11th	14°	24th
Alturas, CA	66°	11th	2°	24th

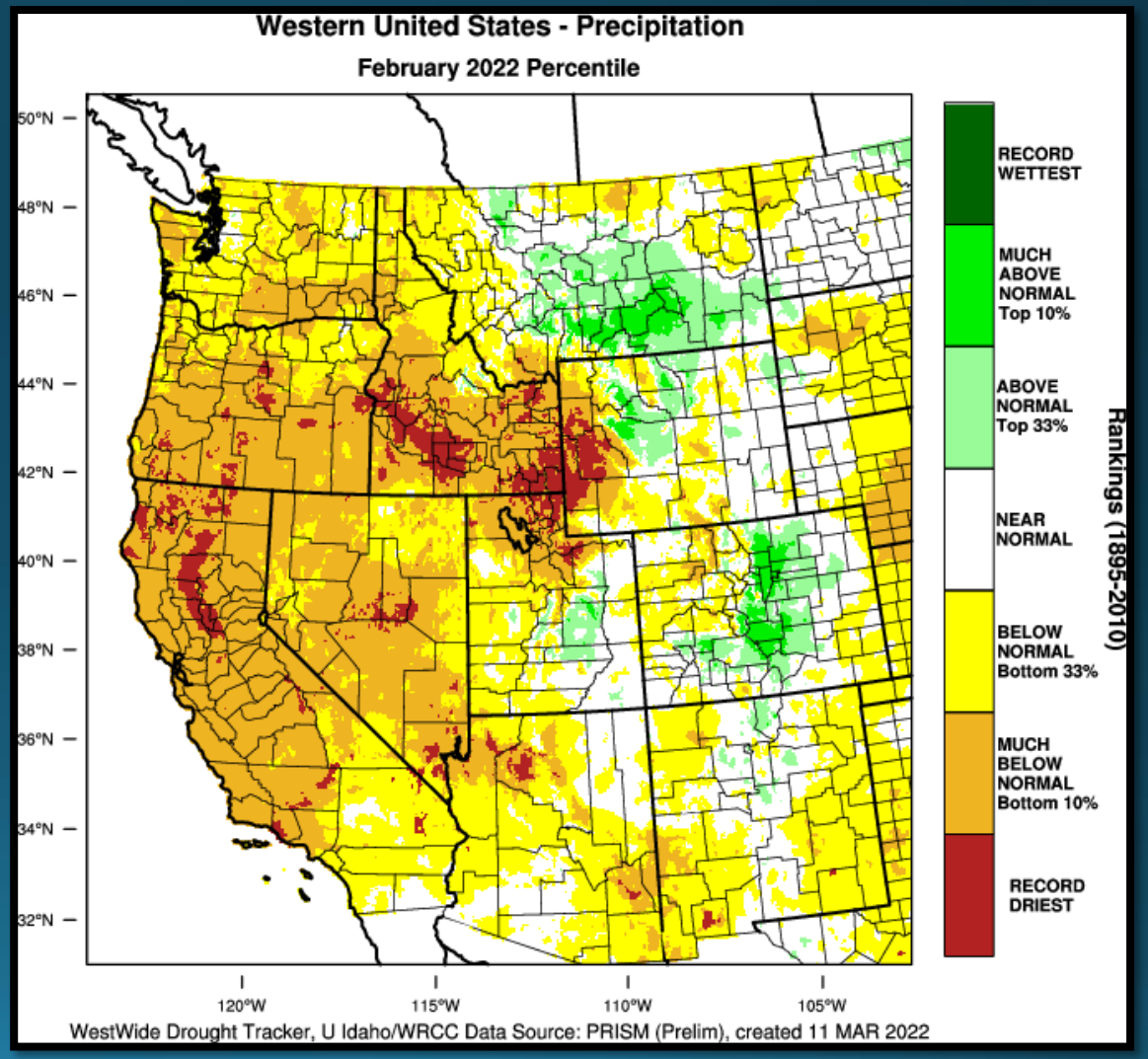
February Temperature Records

	Date	Record Low	Old Record/Year
Roseburg	23rd	23°	Ties w/ 2018
	24th	22°	25° / 1953
Klamath Falls	23rd	5°	Ties w/ 1919
	24th	7°	10° / 1911
Mt Shasta City	23rd	15°	16° / 1974
	25th	16°	17° / 1996
Montague	23rd	13°	14° / 2007
	24th	9°	16° / 2015
	25th	10°	19° / 1996
	26th	12°	13° / 2011
Alturas	24th	2°	5° / 1996

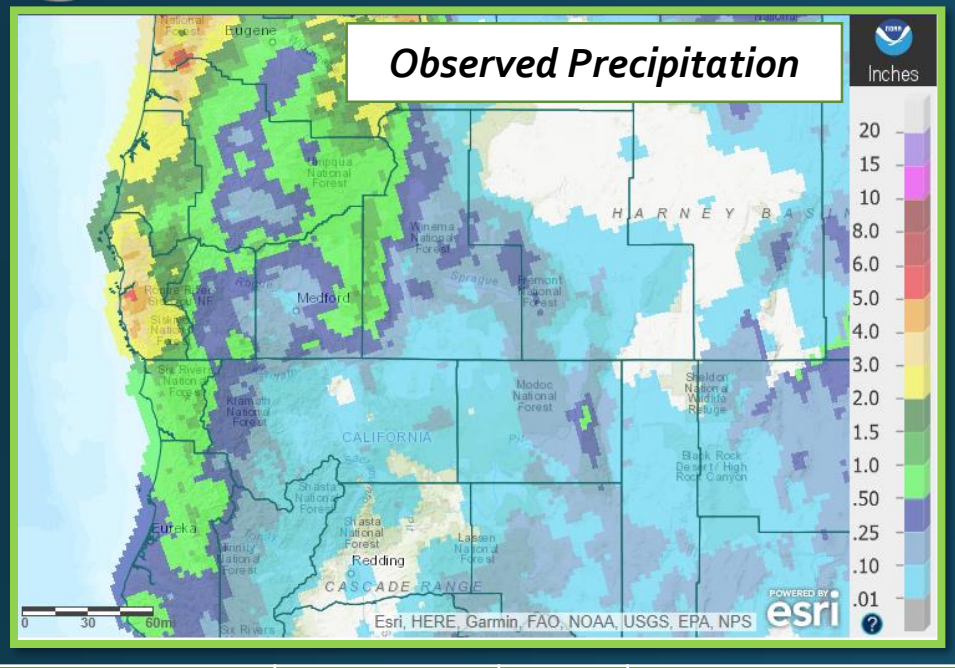
	Date	Record High	Old Record/Year
North Bend	6th	70°	69° / 1917
Medford	10th	70°	69° / 2006
	11th	69°	Ties w/ 1996
	12th	71°	70° / 196
Klamath Falls	9th	63°	62° / 1951
	10th	65°	61° / 1995
	12th	62°	61° / 2016
	13th	66°	61° / 1924
Alturas	11th	66°	Ties w/ 2016
Montague	9th	72°	67° / 1951
	10th	67°	63° / 1995
	13th	68°	67° / 1996
	28th	69°	Ties w/ 1968
Mt Shasta City	6th	65°	Ties w/ 1954
	10th	67°	66° / 1971
	11th	70°	67° / 1971
	12th	69°	65° / 1996
	13th	67°	Ties 1996
	19th	67°	Ties 1995

February 2022 Observed Precipitation



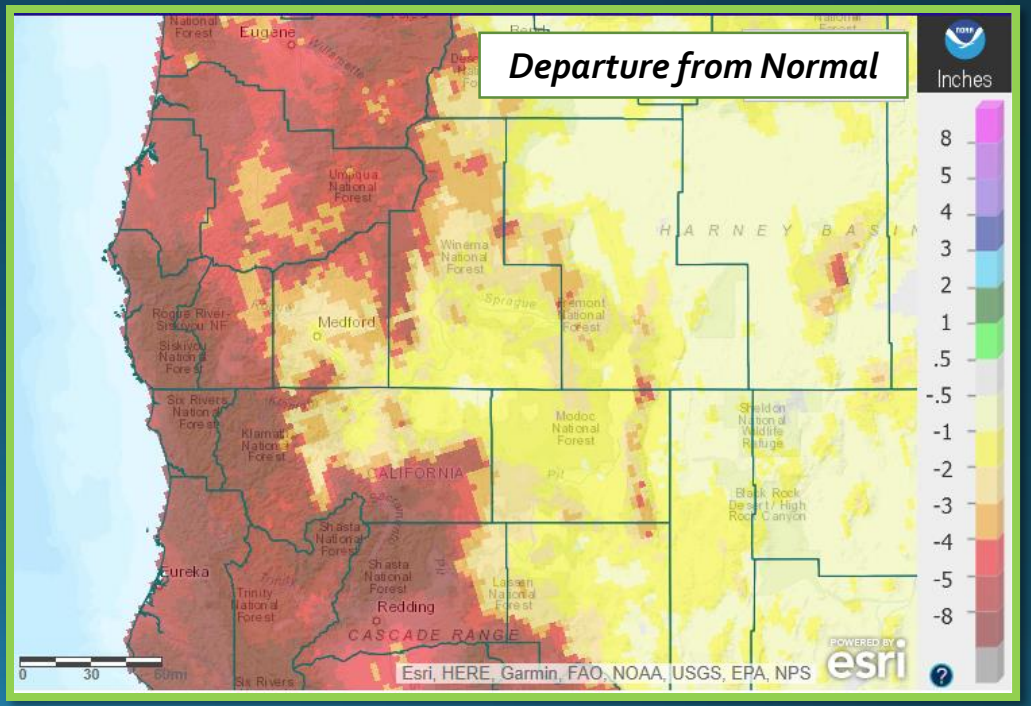


Precipitation

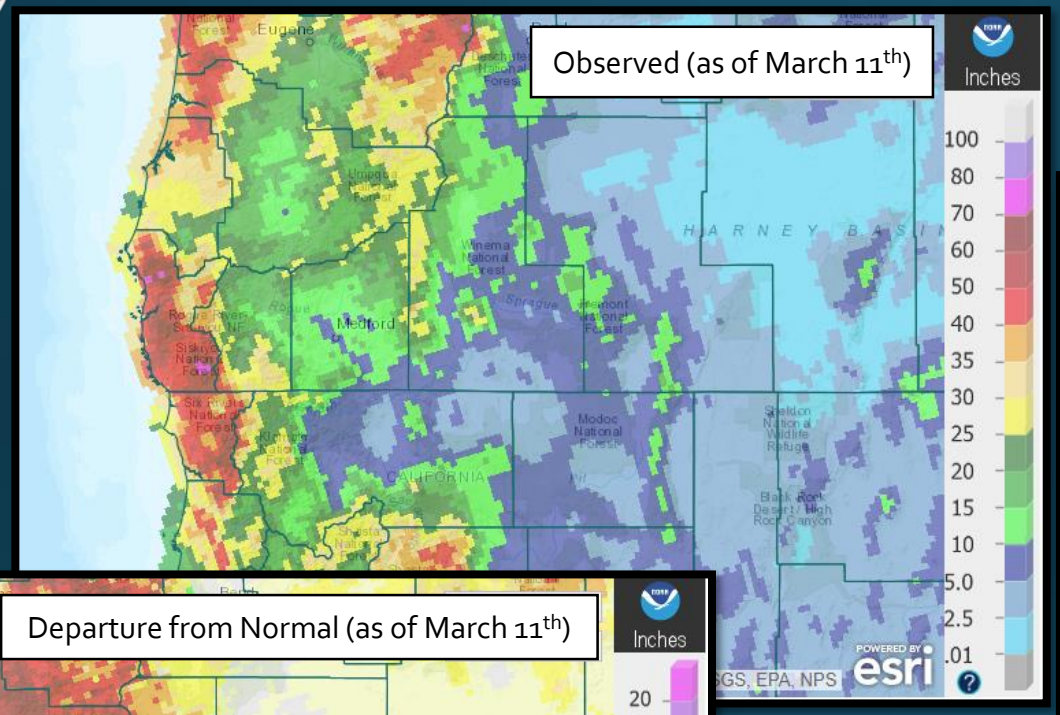


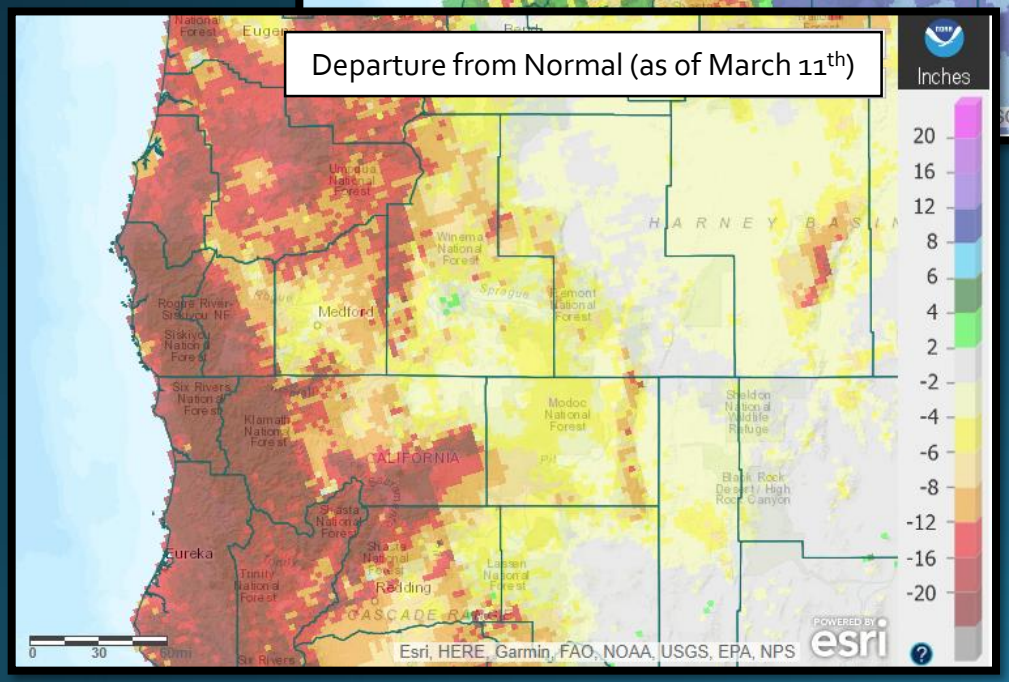
Record Dry February	Feb 2022 Total	Rank	Current*/Previous Record
Medford	0.08"	1st	0.10" / 1913
Klamath Falls	0.05"	2nd	T / 1903*
North Bend	2.23"	5th	0.39" / 1920*
Roseburg	0.48"	1st	0.74" / 2013
Mt Shasta City	0.09"	1st	0.12" / 2020
Alturas	0.39"	10th	0.14" / 2020*
Montague	T	1st	0.04" / 2020

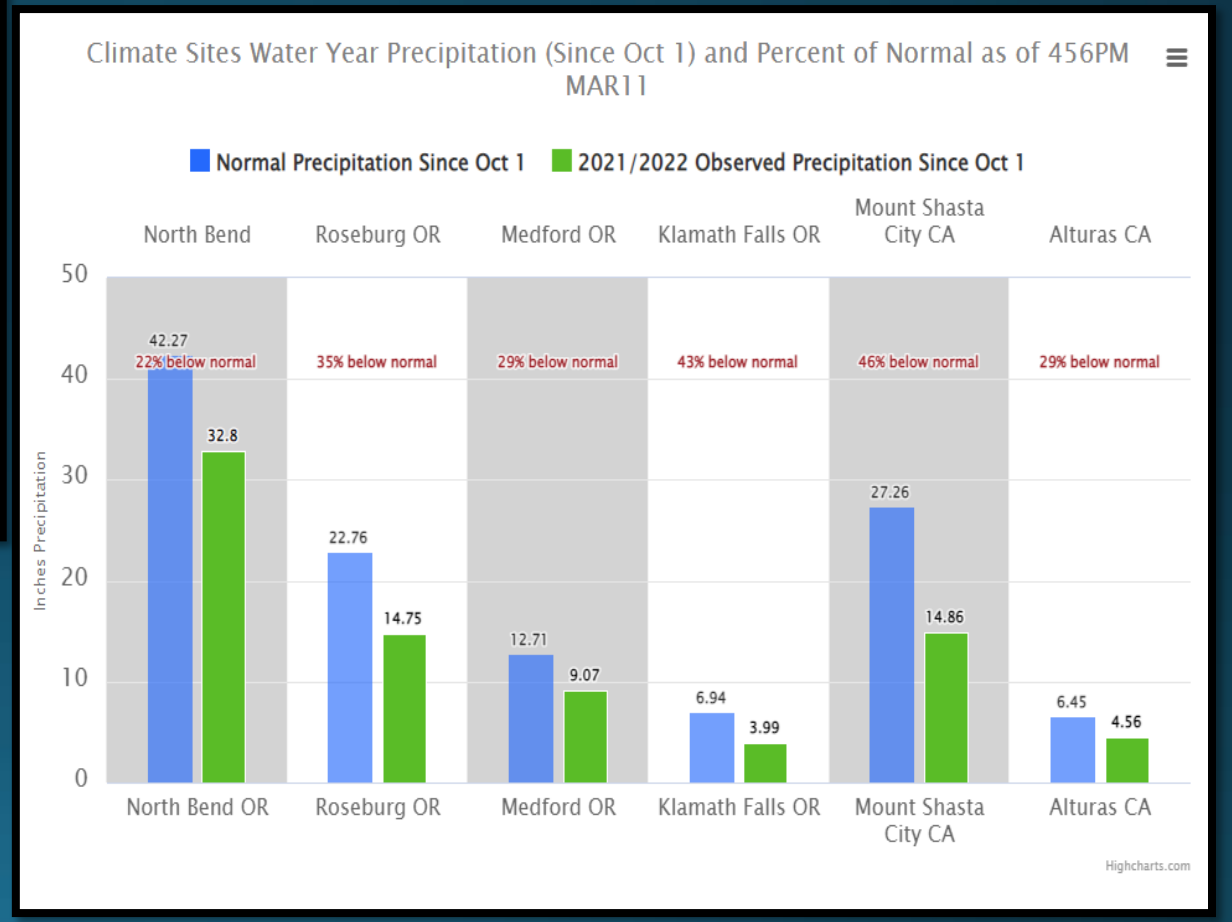
	Total	Departure from Normal	Greatest 24-hr Total	Date(s)
North Bend	*2.32"*	*-4.67"*	*1.34"*	*28th*
Roseburg	*0.48"*	*-3.14"*	*0.17"*	*20th – 21st*
Medford	*0.08"*	*-1.88"*	*0.04"*	*21st*
Klamath Falls	*0.05"*	*-1.07"*	*0.05"*	*21st*
Montague, CA	*0.00"*	*-1.41"*	*Trace*	*14th*
Mt. Shasta City, CA	*0.09"*	*-6.32"*	*0.07"*	*14th*
Alturas, CA	*0.39"*	*-0.70"*	*0.21"*	*14th*



Water Year Status (As of March 11th)



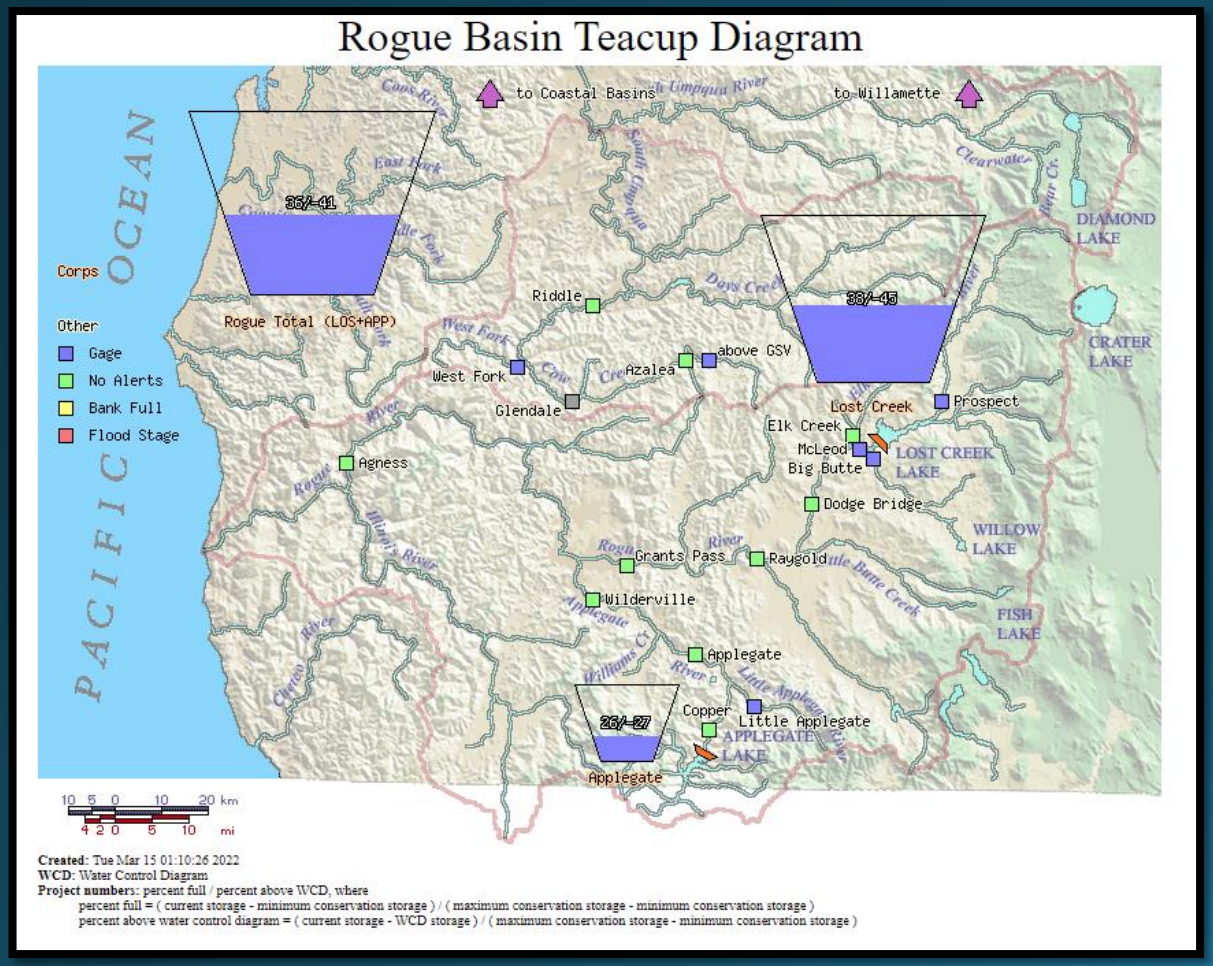


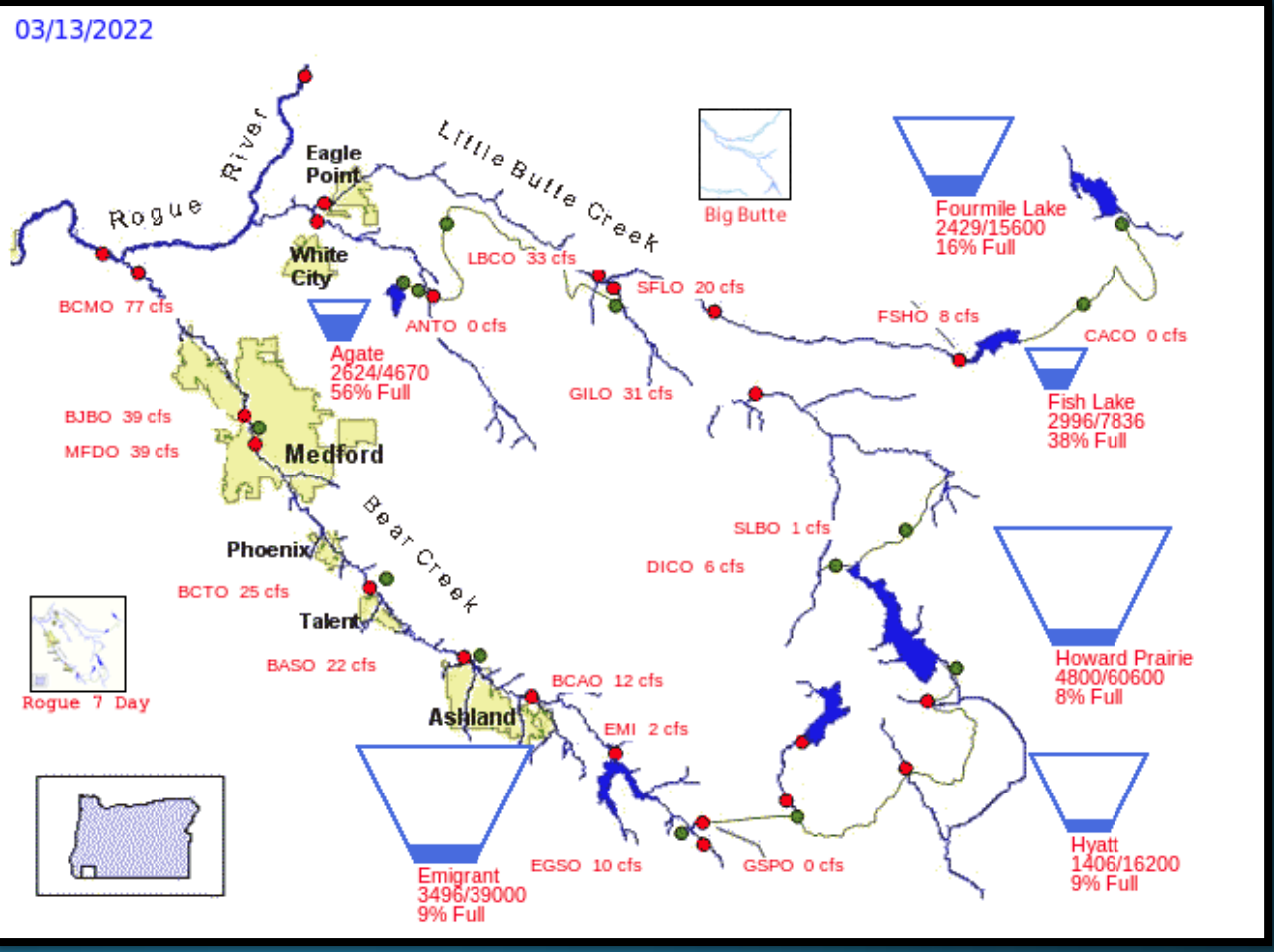


Reservoir Status

Data courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers

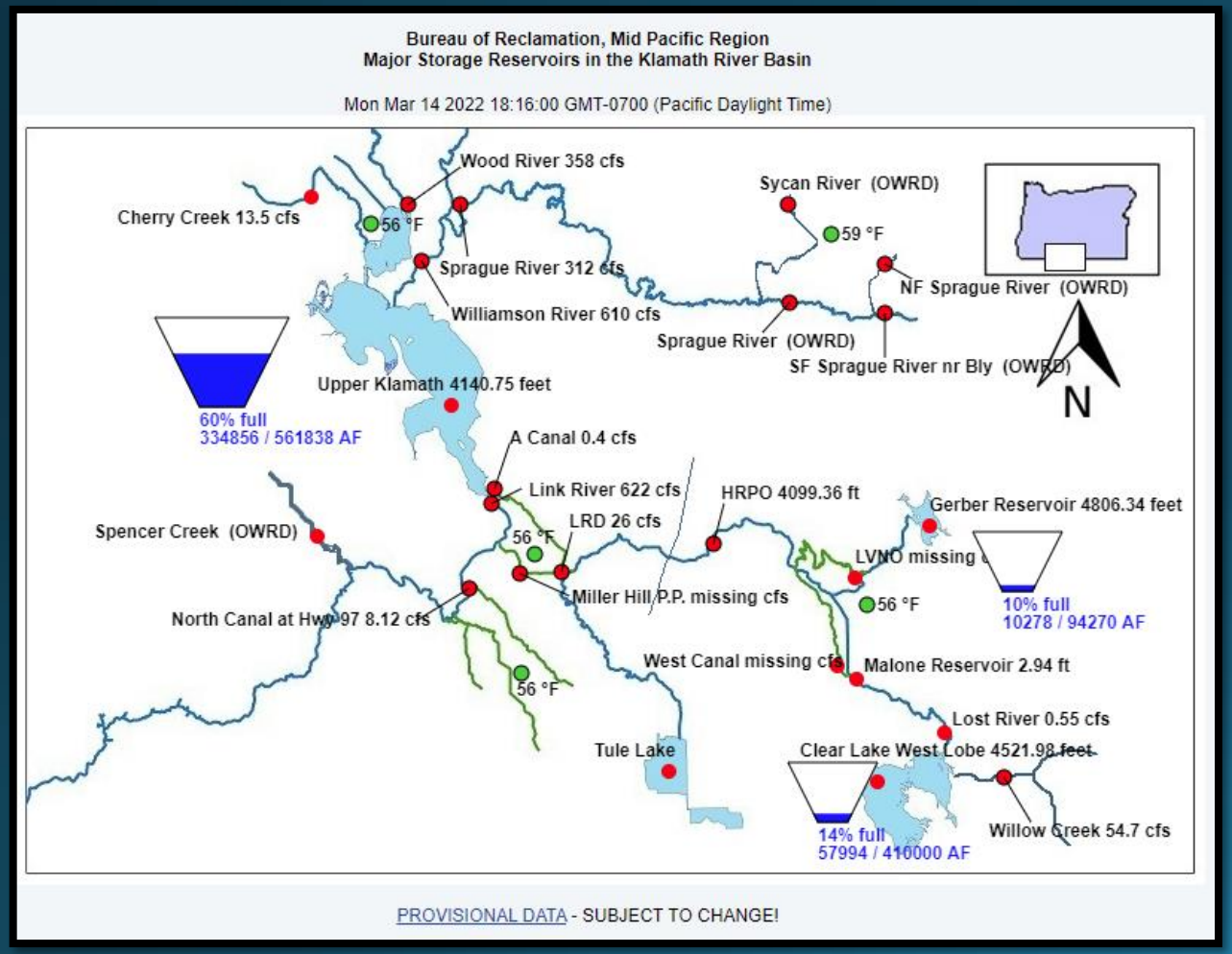
Data courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation

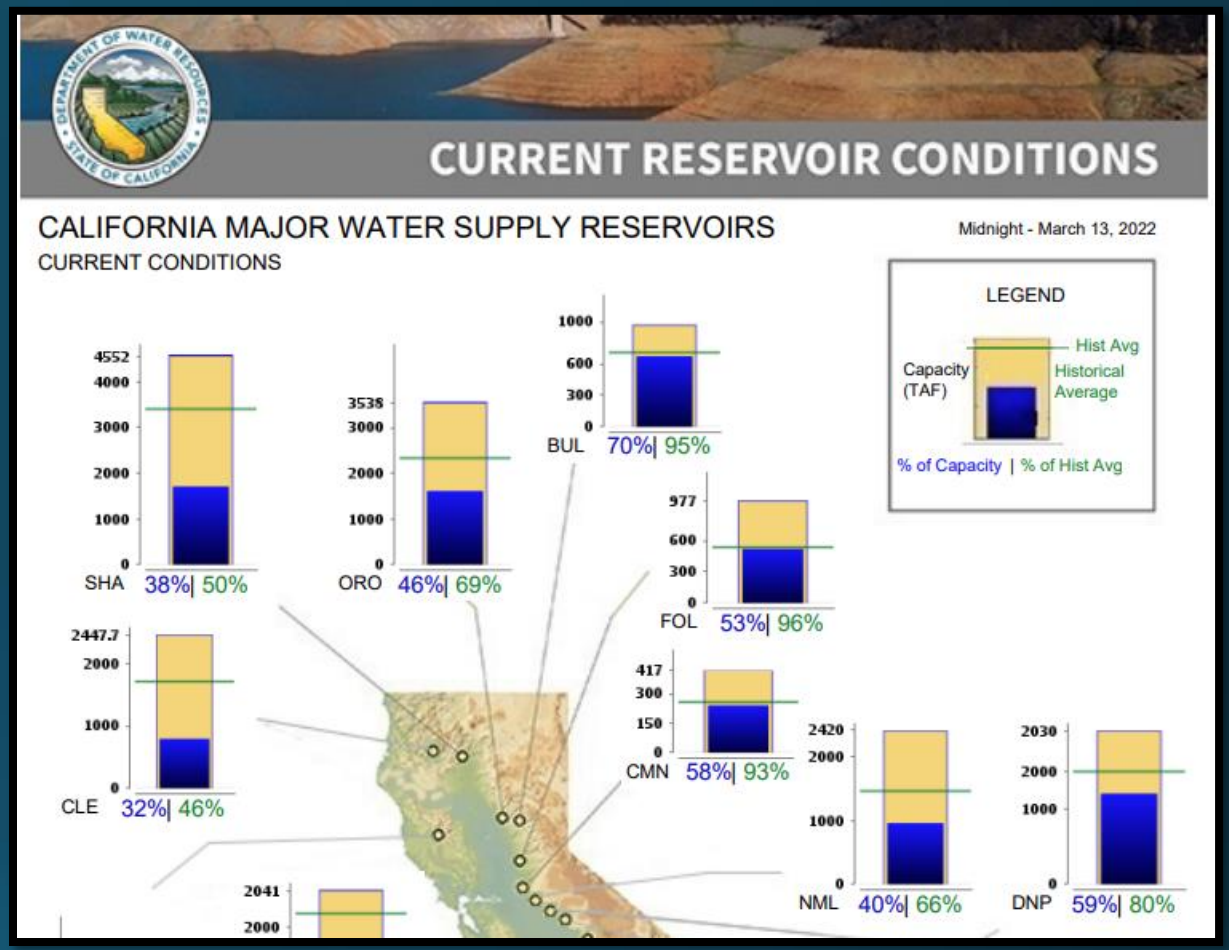




Reservoir Status

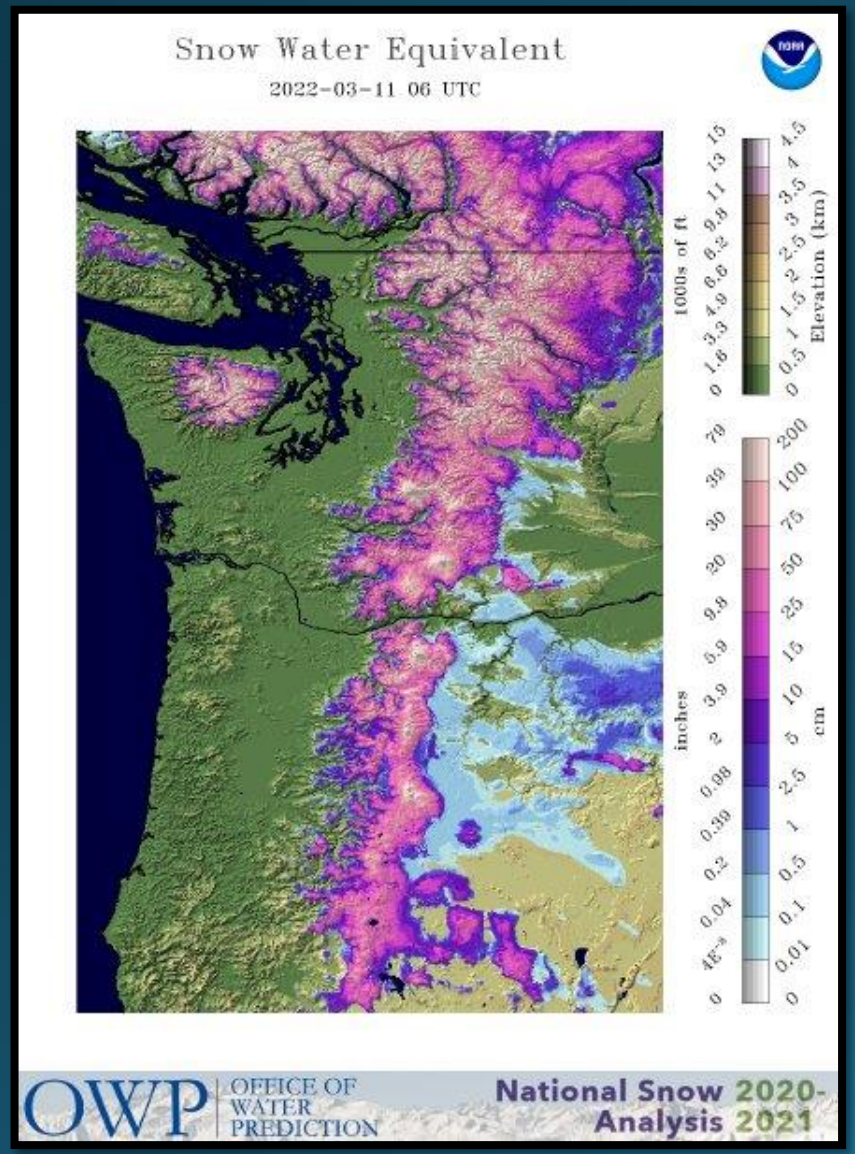
Klamath River Basin. Data courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation

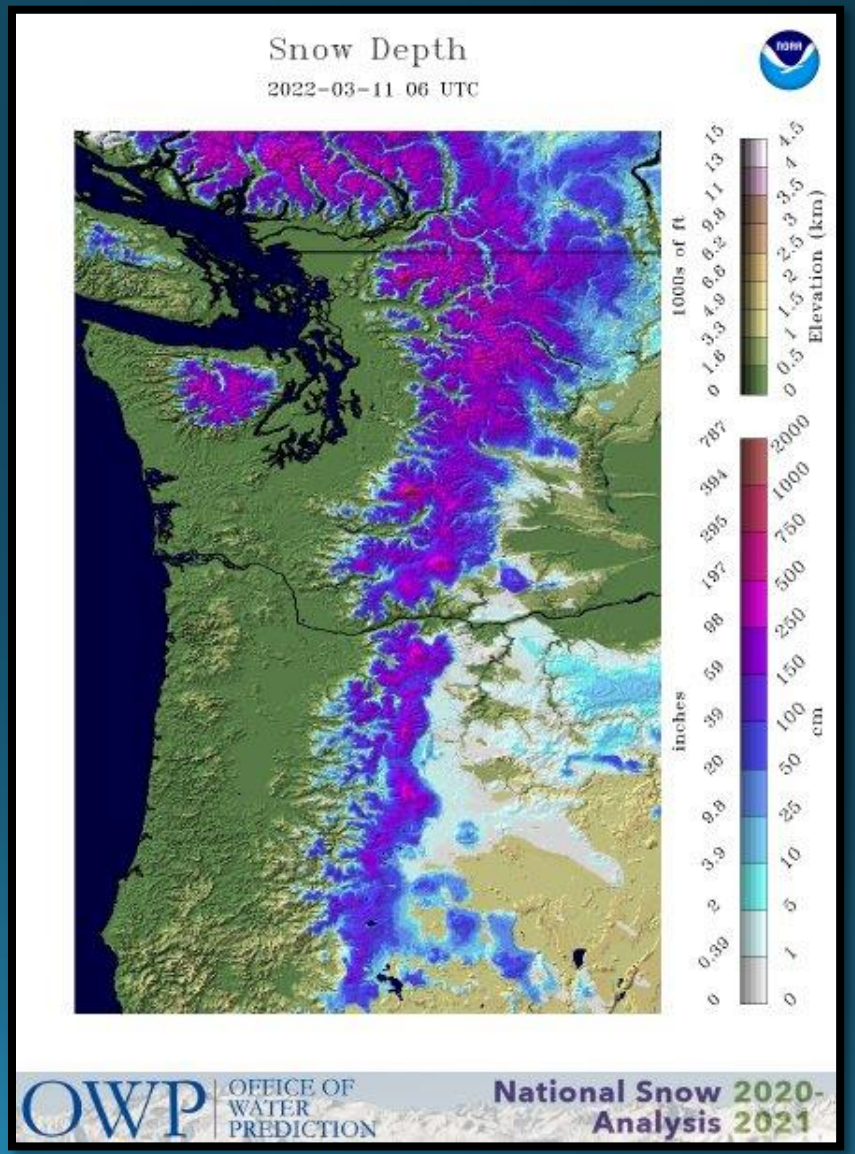




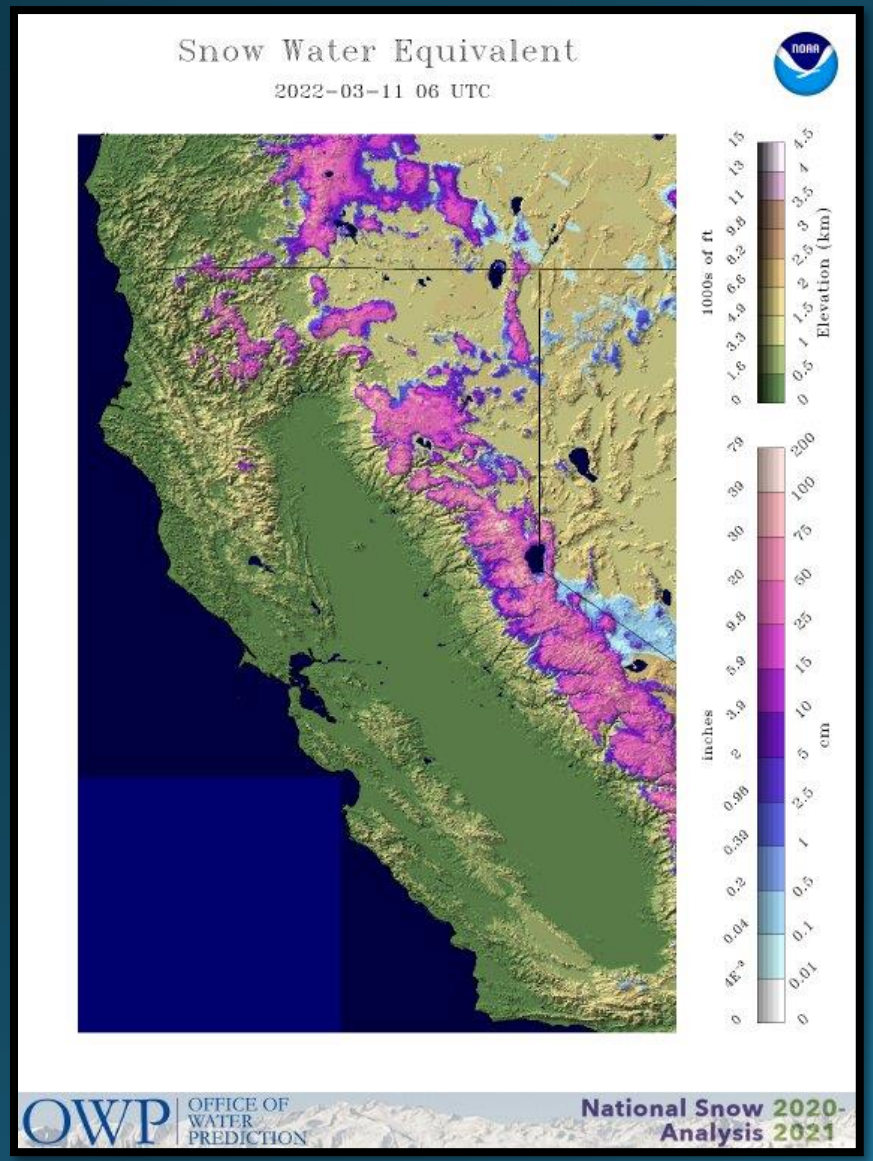
Northern California. California Data Exchange Center

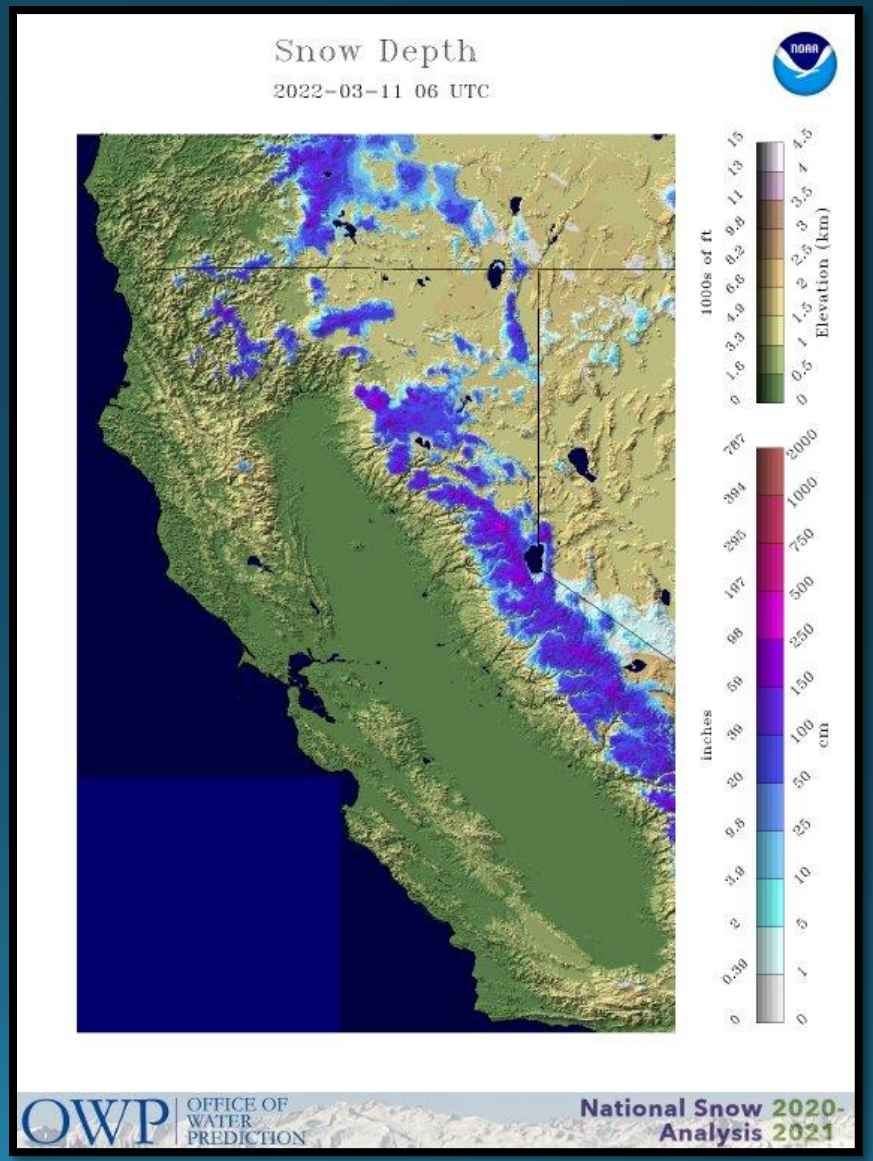
PacNW SWE & Snow Depth as of 3/11/22



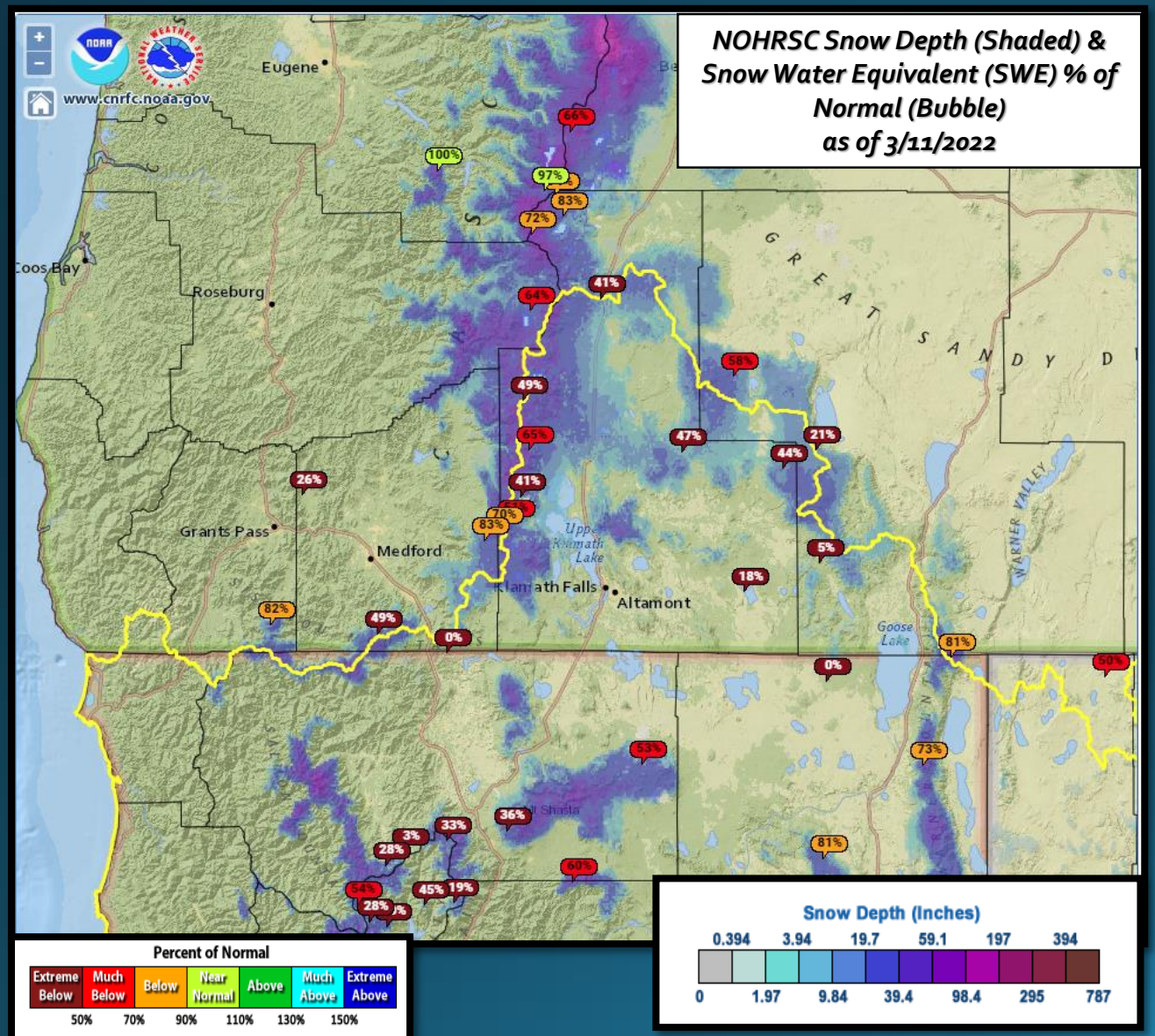


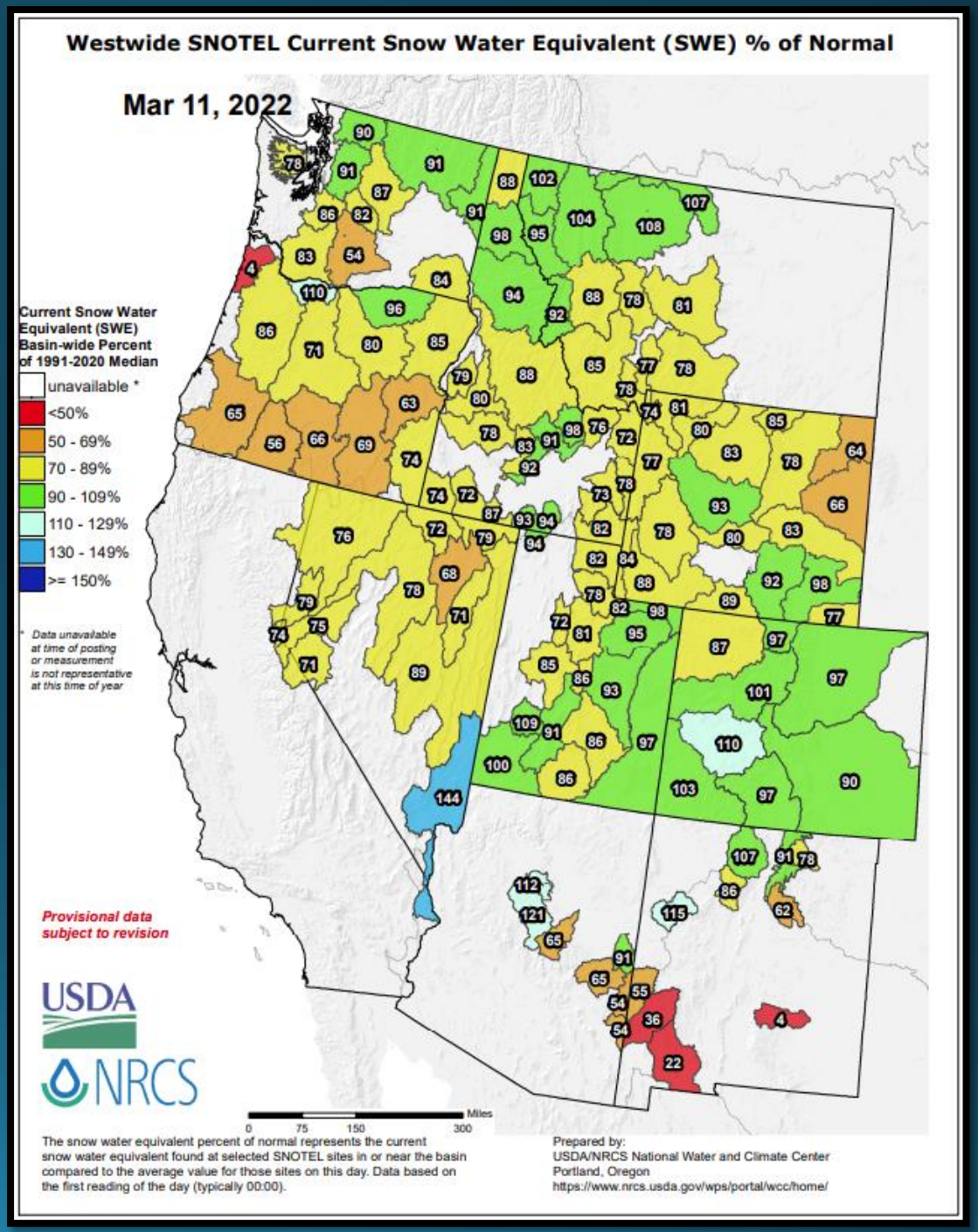
California SWE & Snow Depth as of 3/11/22





Snowpack Status



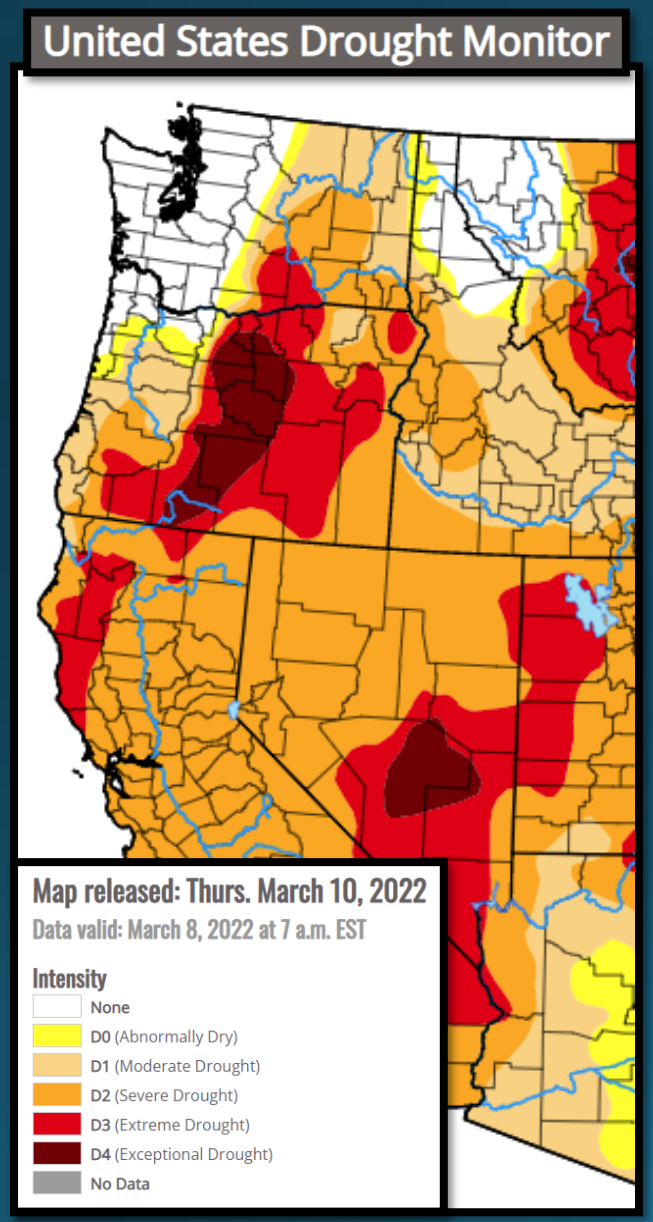


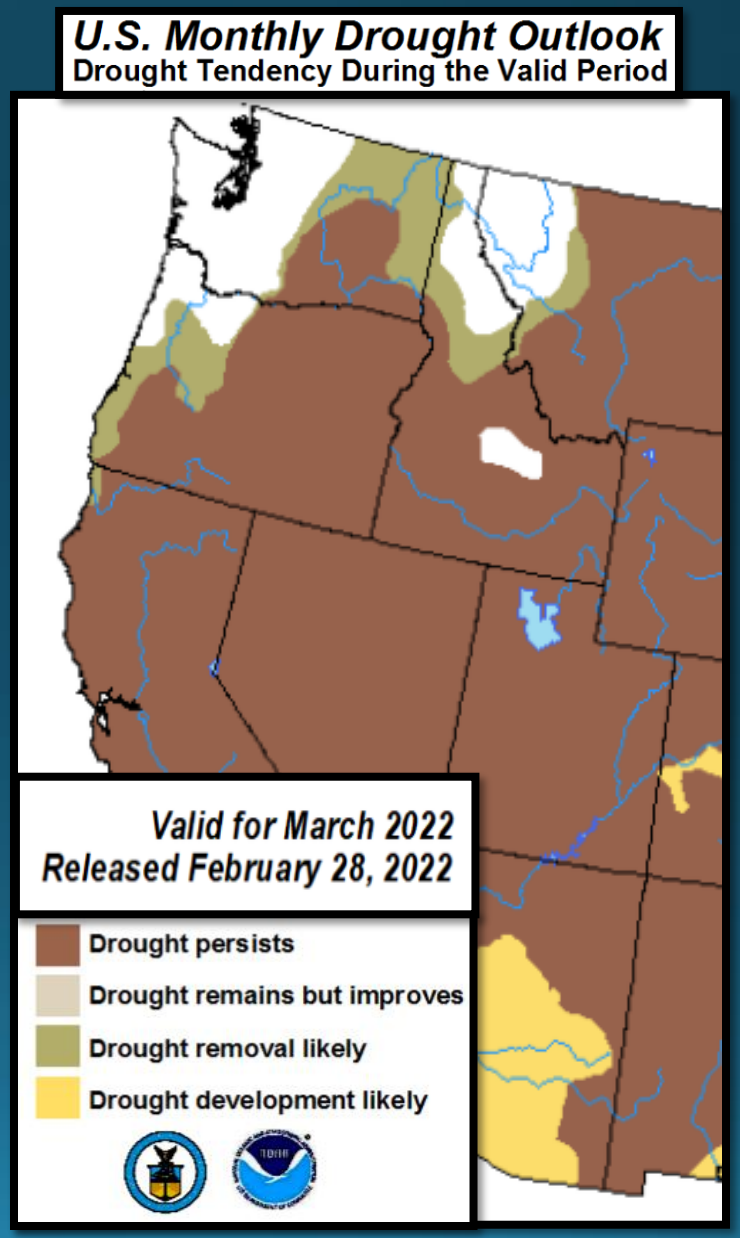
Crater Lake

Image Courtesy: NPS

	Average Max Temp (°F)	Average Min Temp (°F)	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Snow Depth as of: 02/28/22	Highest Max/ Lowest Min
February	39.9°	21.3°	1.83"	*16.3"*	46"	59° on 11th / *-2° on 23rd*
Normal (1991-2020)	33.6°	18.9°	7.53"	68.9"	99"	N/A

Drought Monitor (Current) & Outlook (March)





Normals for March (1991-2020)

Temperatures:

Along the coast, lows are typically in 40s with highs in the 50s to near 60F. The Interior West Side usually experiences average lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s and highs in the 50s to near 60 in the lower valleys. Lows in the upper teens to mid 20s occur across the higher, most typically snow packed mountains, and the East Side. Highs in those mountains and across the East Side are typically in the mid 30s to the lower 50s.

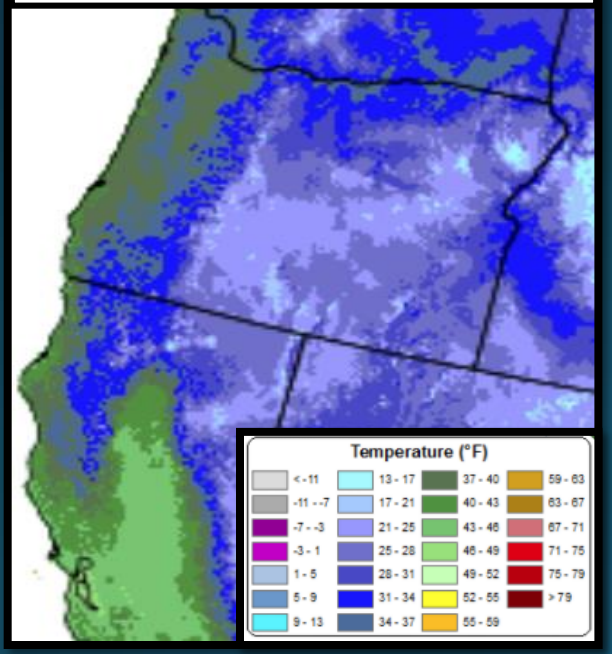
Precipitation:

On the high side for March, Curry County usually gets 10 to 20 inches of water. South and southwest flow favored areas of west of the Cascades, the Mount Shasta area, and the Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains typically receive 5 to 10 inches. The remainder of the West Side has a wide range in normals, ranging from 1 to 5 inches. East of the Cascades, the drier portions of Lake County typically receive about a half an inch, while the rest of the area gets 1 to 3 inches of water, except up to around 5 inches in the some of the mountains.

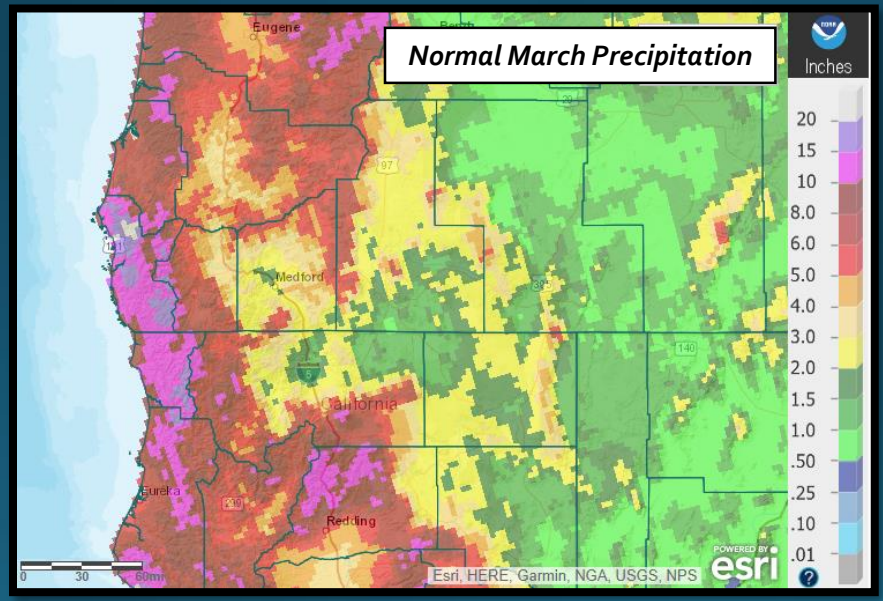
Snow:

Peak snowpack, in terms of snow water equivalent, for the forecast area occurs in the mid-March to mid-April time frame. Thus, in early March, we usually continue to add more water to the snowpack than is lost from melting and sublimation and, sometimes, this lasts through mid-April. Our maritime snowpack usually yields depths of 5-10 feet above 6000 feet elevation in mid-March. Crate Lake's snowpack has historically peaked around 125 inches on March 31st. Average March snowfall for Crater Lake Park Headquarters is 73 inches.

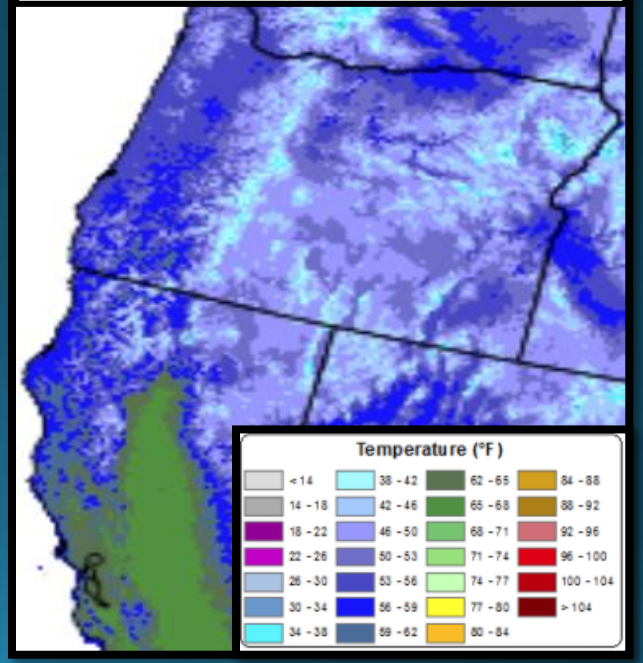
Average Minimum Temperatures



Normal March Precipitation



Average Maximum Temperatures



*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**