National Weather Service Medford

2023: 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 2023 Weather Review

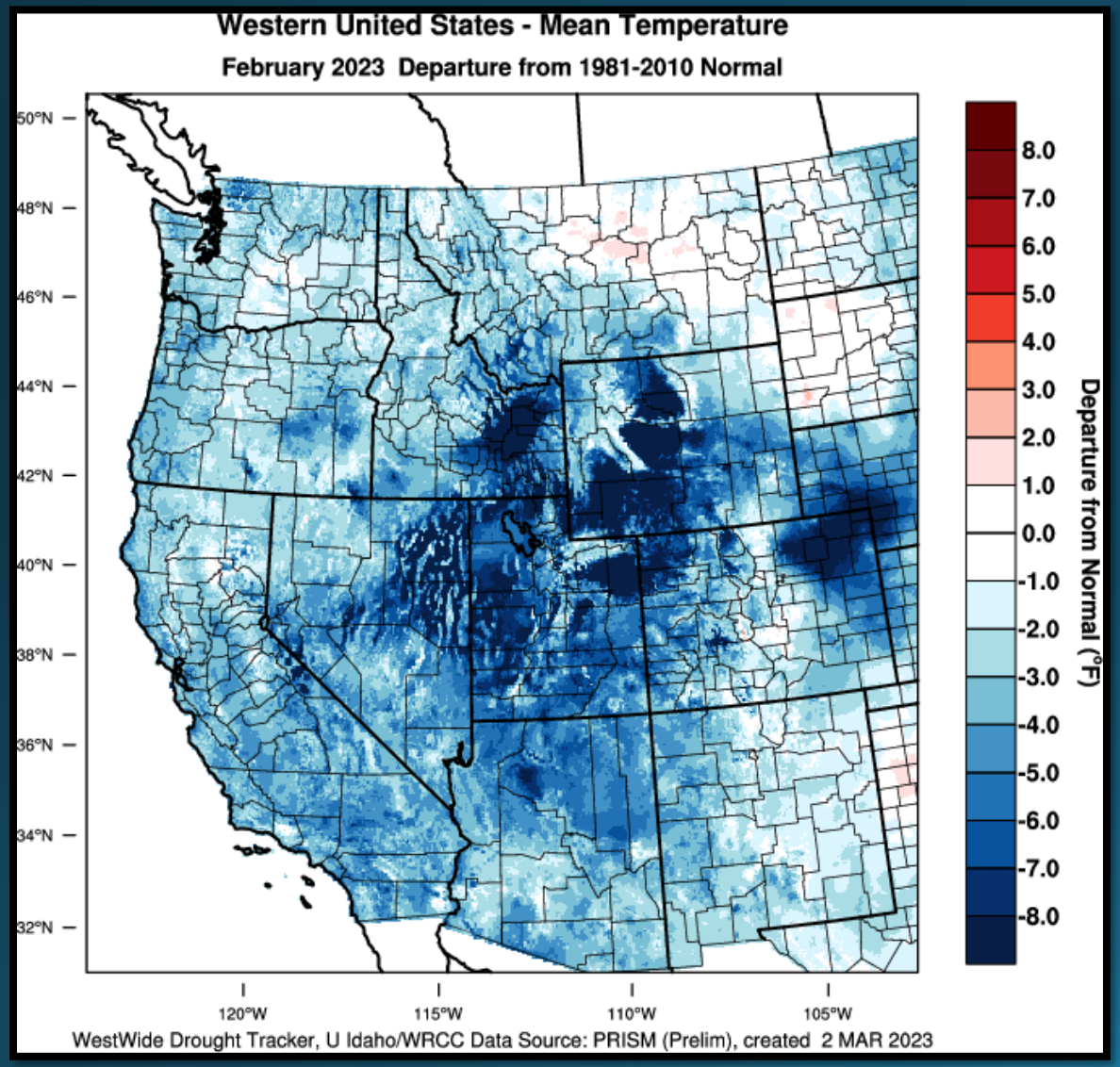
Compared to the latter half of the month, the beginning of February was a relatively quiet, but active, period. Several fronts moved across the region, which brought periods of gusty winds with beneficial precipitation, but these systems were typical for winter in southern Oregon and northern California. Around Valentine's Day, however, the overall pattern began transitioning to a much colder one. A colder system moved through the day before Valentine's Day, and this brought the first of many low elevation snow events during the month. Though snow amounts were generally light, it was a preview of what was to come for the last week of February. High pressure followed for the next week and resulted in a period of dry weather with cold low temperatures, mild to warm daytime temperatures, and light winds.

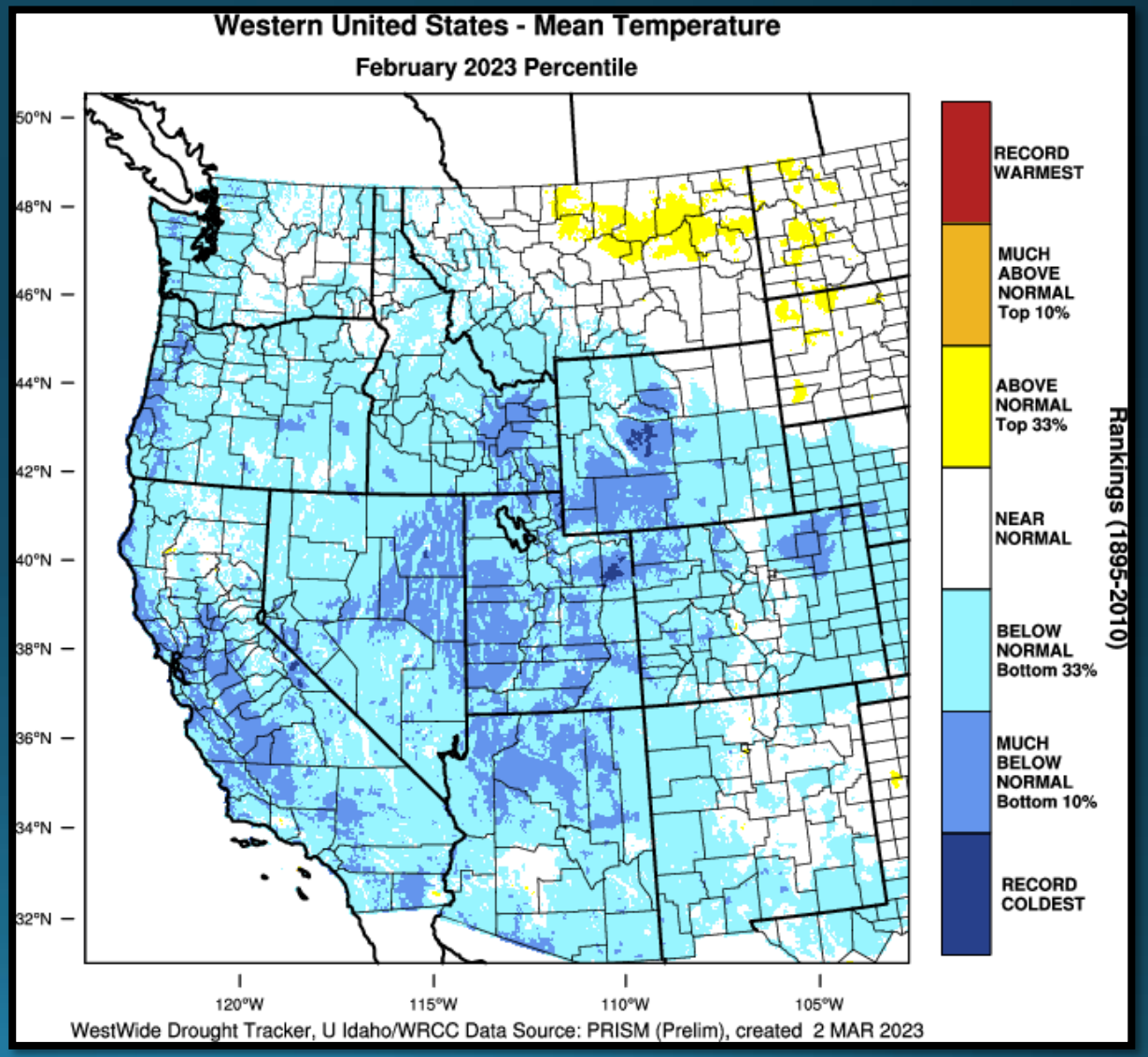
Then, beginning on the 21st, there was a turn towards wetter and much colder conditions with several fronts and low pressure systems moving across the area, bringing rain and numerous low elevation snow events. A total of 3.5 inches of snowfall was observed at the Medford Airport for the month of February and the majority of this, 3.1 inches, fell during the last part of the month from the 21st to the 28th. The greatest daily snowfall for the month in Medford was 2.3 inches, which fell on the 28th.

Surrounding areas in southern Oregon and northern California also saw significant precipitation during this period in late February. Most notable was a storm on February 23rd and 24th that brought moderate to heavy snow to most of the area, with snow even down to the beaches. Observers in Brookings, Gold Beach and Coos Bay all reported 24 hour snowfall amounts of around 5.0 inches on the 24th. Also Mount Shasta City recorded around 3 feet to snow on the 24th. This heavy snow resulted in the closer of Interstate 5 for a long period of time. Medford, however, only recorded a trace of snowfall on the 24th due to drying effects from downslope winds.

Overall, late February storms resulted in beneficial snowpack across much of the area. However, despite a wet and snowy end to the month, the total precipitation that occurred in late February was not enough to make up for the dry conditions earlier in the month. So, in the end, below normal precipitation was recorded area wide for the month of February.

February 2023 Observed Temperatures





Average Temperatures

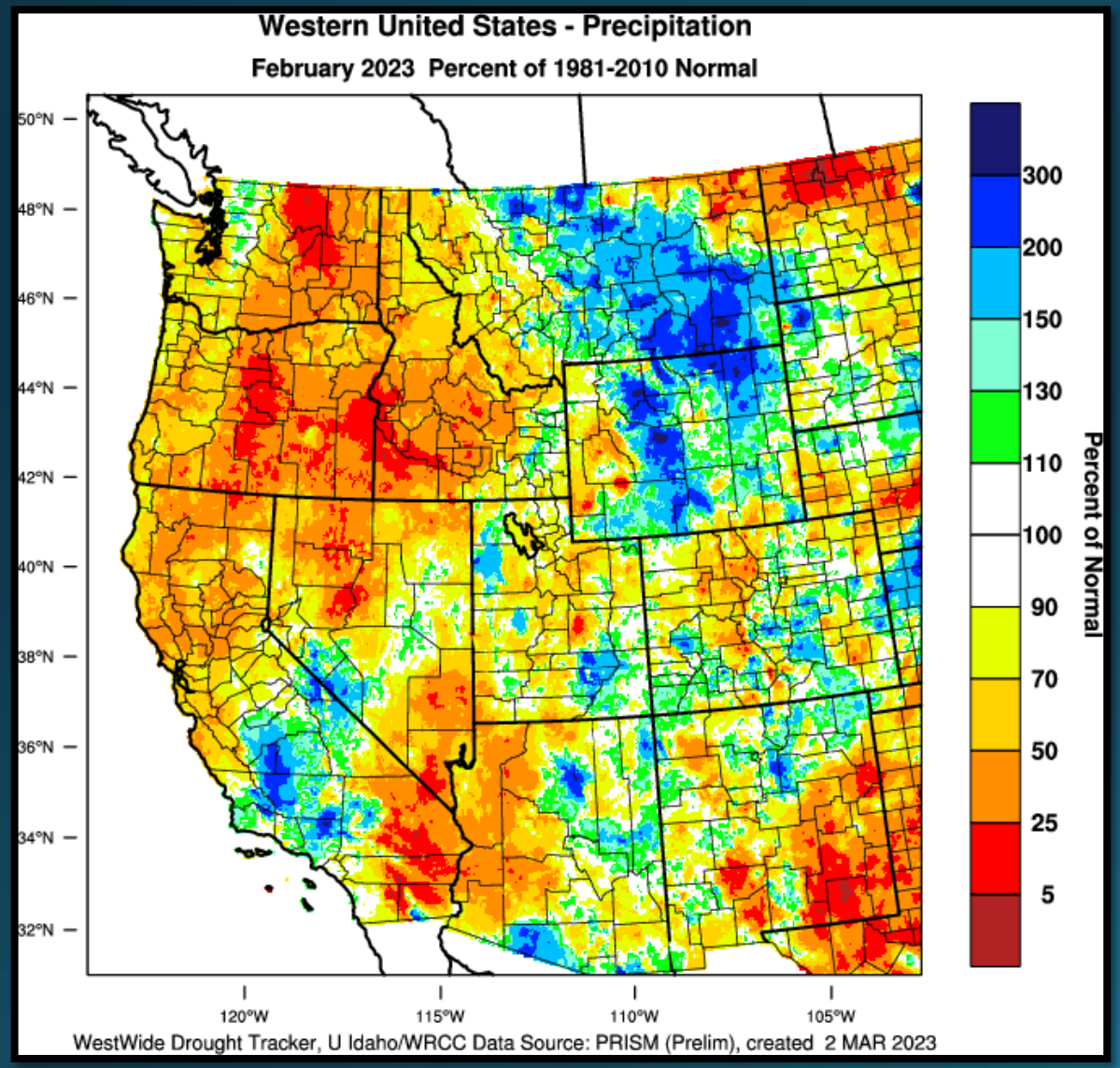
	Average (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Max (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Min (°F)	Departure from Normal
North Bend	43.0	-4.6°F	50.4	-3.1°F	35.6	-5.4°F
Roseburg	41.7	-4.0°F	50.8	-2.9°F	32.7	-4.9°F
Medford	40.2	-3.9°F	51.7	-2.5°F	28.6	-5.3°F
Klamath Falls	32.2	-2.7°F	44.7	-1.6°F	19.7	-3.8°F
Montague, CA	36.7	-3.1°F	49.4	-3.1°F	23.9	-3.2°F
Mt. Shasta City, CA	36.3	-1.8°F	46.4	-0.7°F	26.3	-2.9°F
Alturas, CA	30.8	-4.0°F	43.1	-3.5°F	18.6	-4.4°F

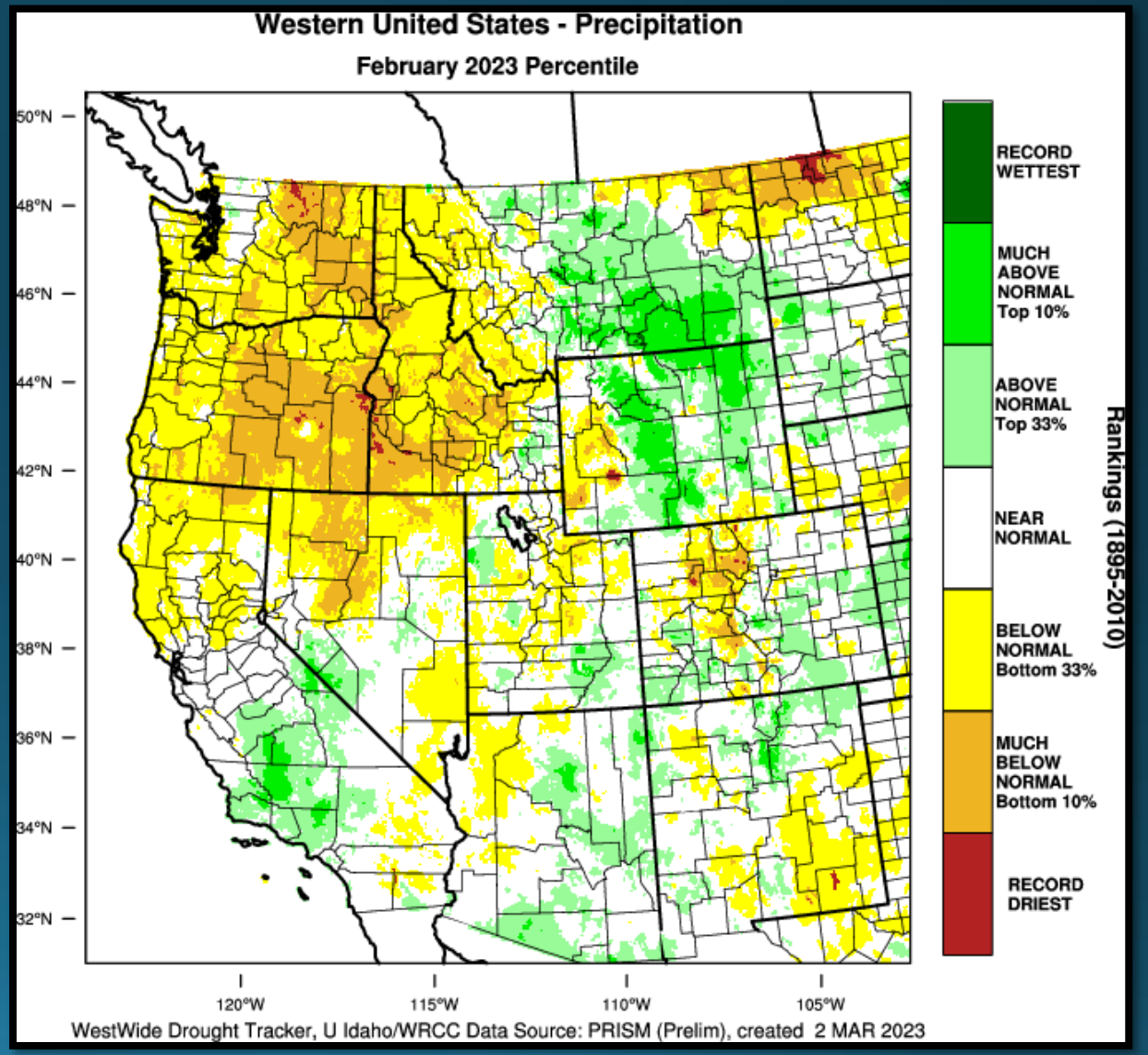
Monthly Max & Min Temperatures

	Max (°F)	Date(s)	Min (°F)	Date(s)
North Bend	60°	9th	28°	24th
Roseburg	62°	9th	24°	25th
Medford	63°	9th	20°	1st
Klamath Falls	58°	20th	7°	28th
Montague, CA	61°	20th	15°	1st
Mt. Shasta City, CA	61°	9th & 20th	16°	15th
Alturas, CA	56°	20th	7°	25th

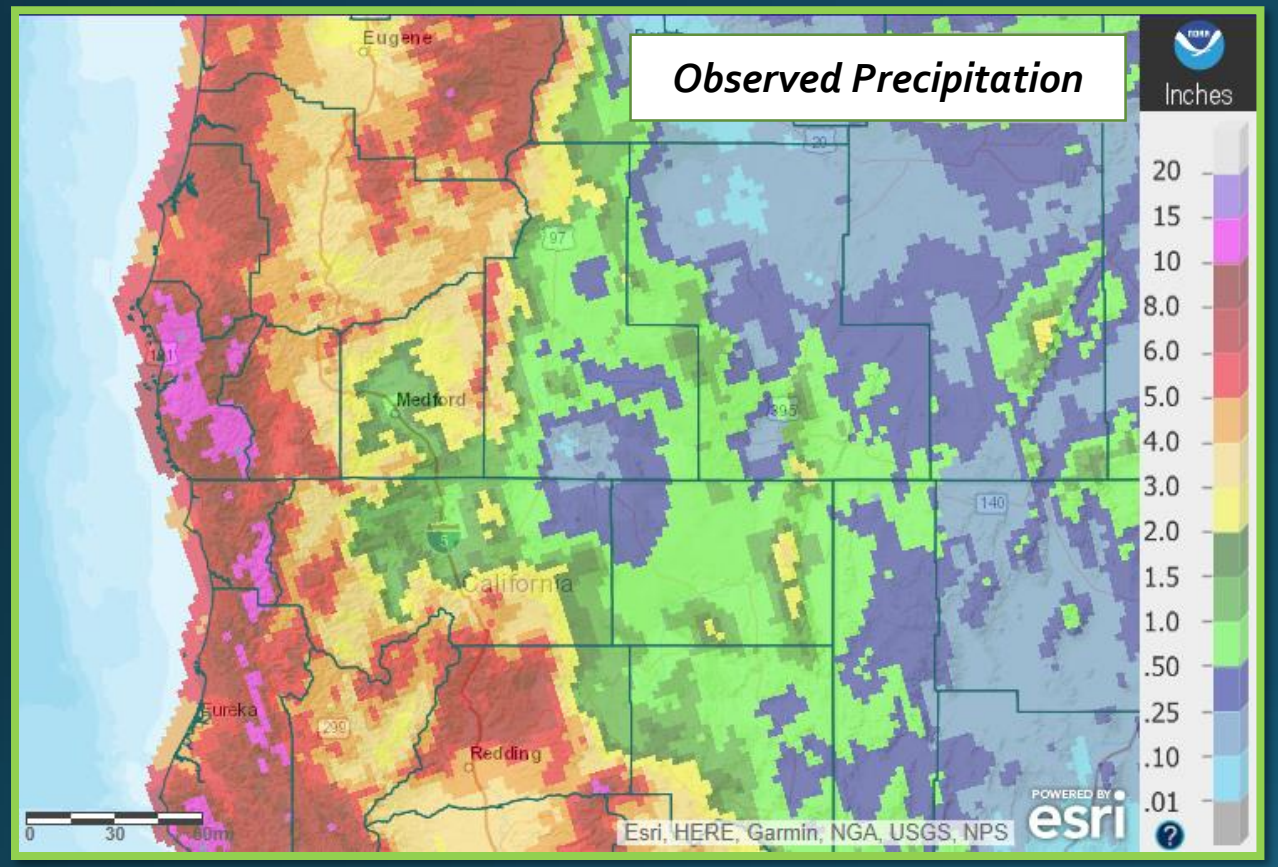
	Date	Record High	Old Record/Year
Montague	20th	61°	Ties w/ 2015

February 2023 Observed Precipitation

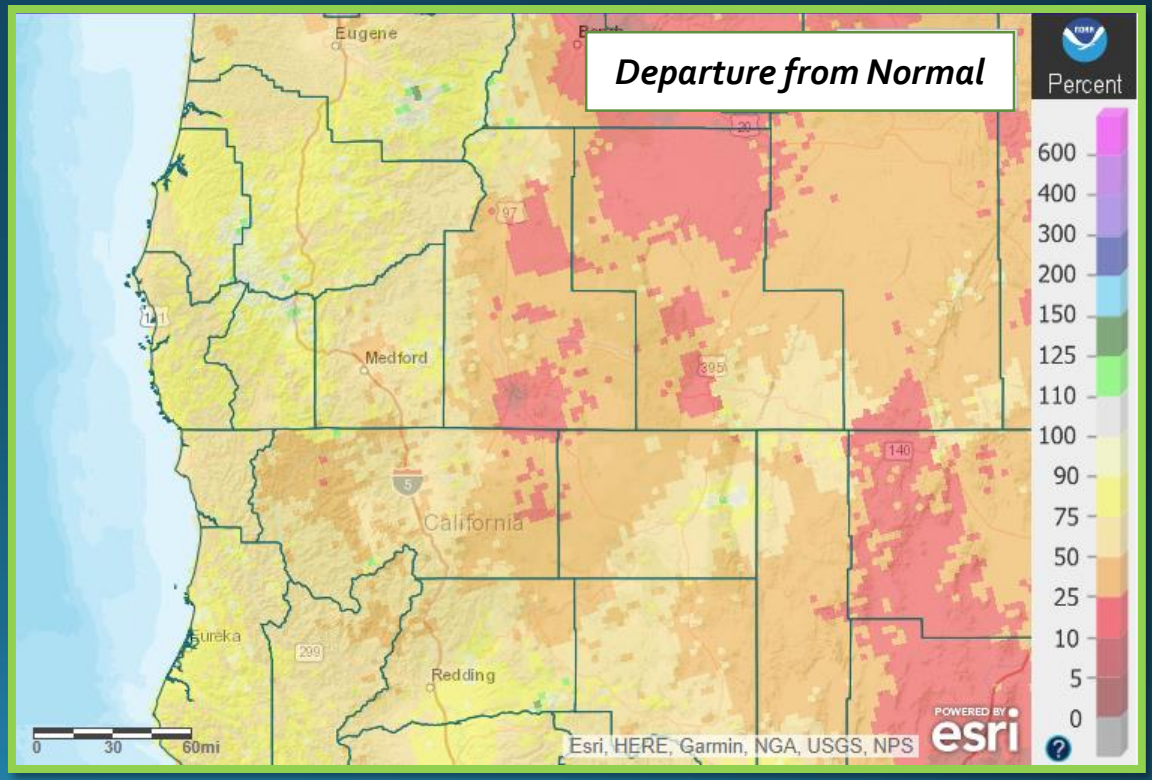




Precipitation



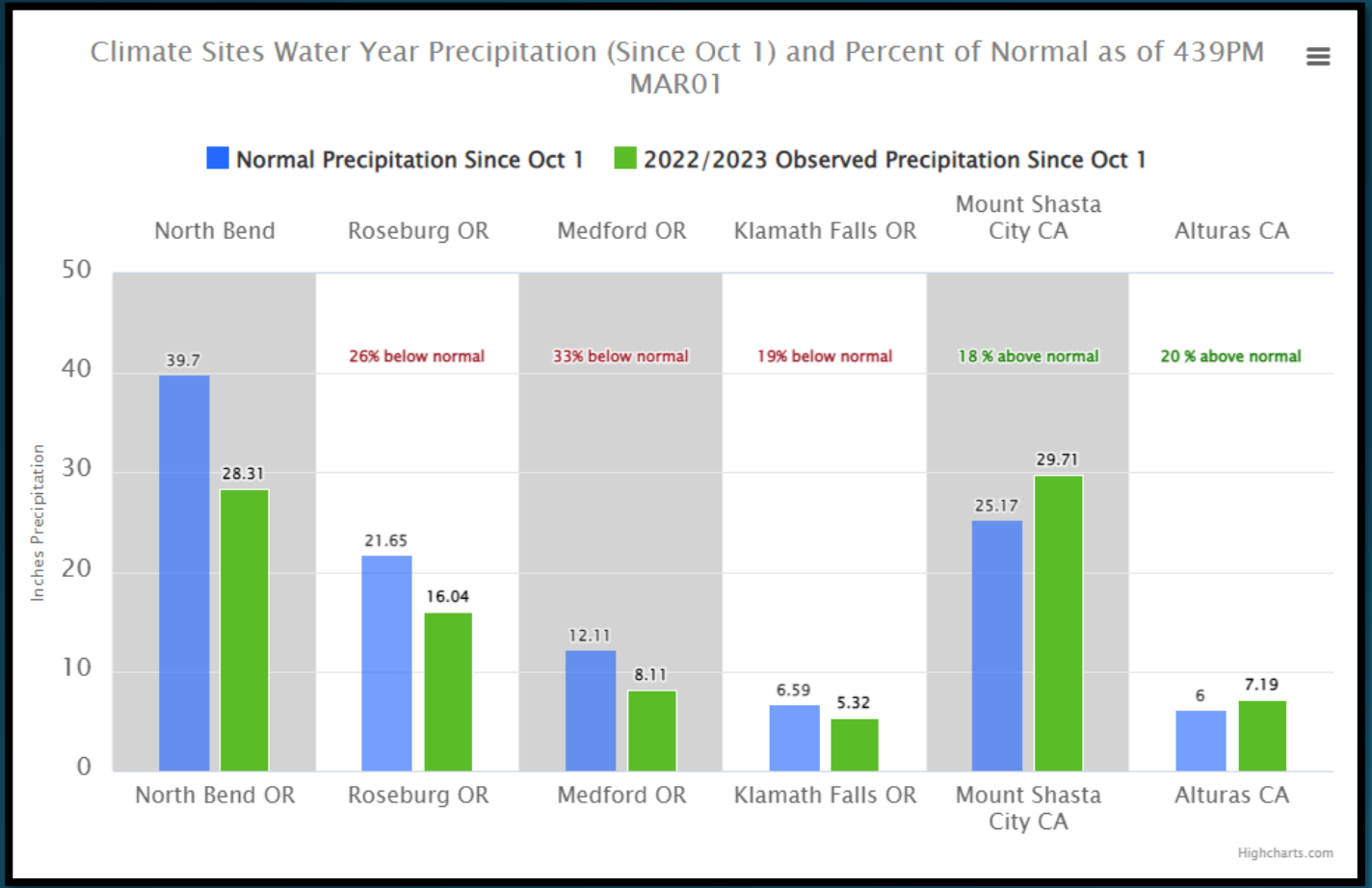
	Total	Departure from Normal	Greatest 24-hr Total	Date(s)
North Bend	4.59"	-2.40"	0.82"	27th – 28th
Roseburg	2.90"	-0.72"	0.68"	27th – 28th
Medford	0.78"	-1.18"	0.29"	27th – 28th
Klamath Falls	0.14"	-0.98"	0.04"	4th – 5th
Montague, CA	0.65"	-0.76"	0.31"	10th – 11th
Mt. Shasta City, CA	3.83"	-2.58"	1.28"	23rd – 24th
Alturas, CA	1.08"	-0.01"	0.37"	22nd – 23rd

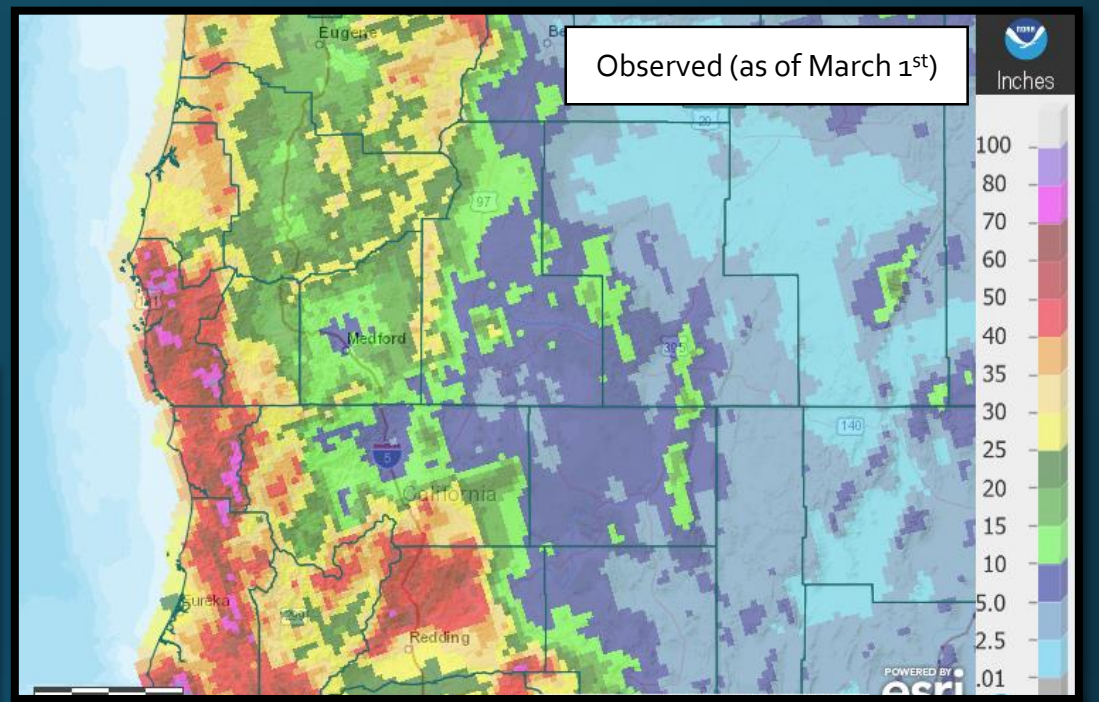


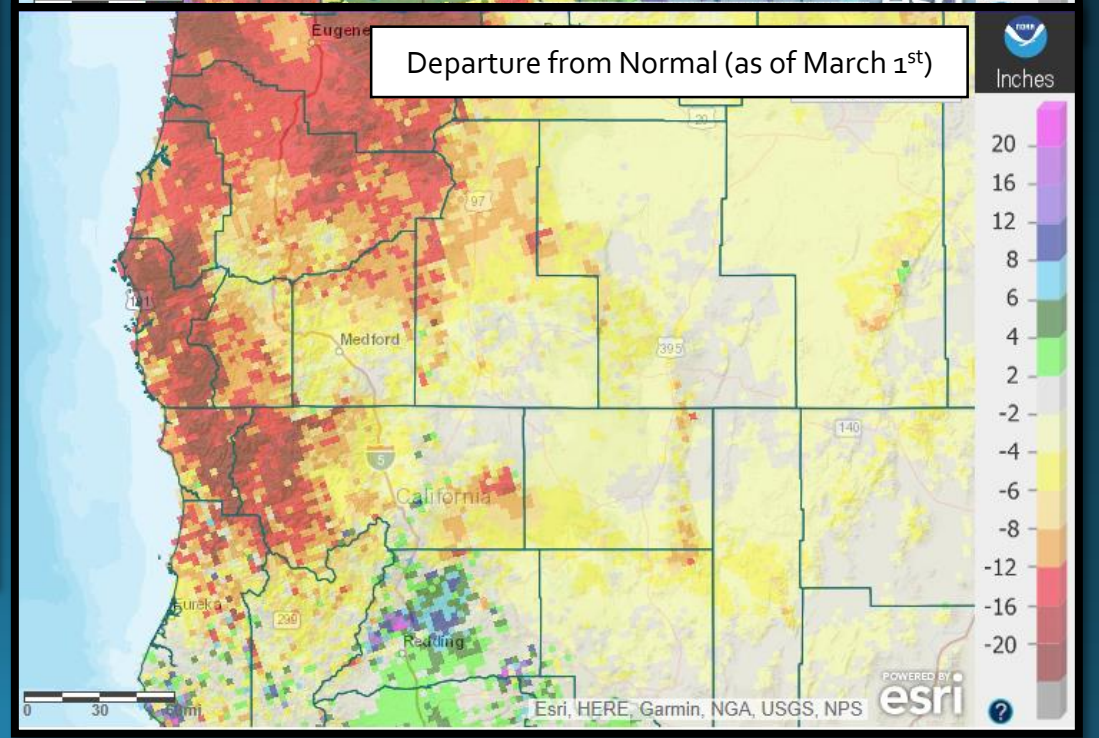
Record Precipitation

	Date / Amount	Old Record / Year
Montague	11th / 0.26"	0.12" / 2001

Water Year Status (As of March 1st)

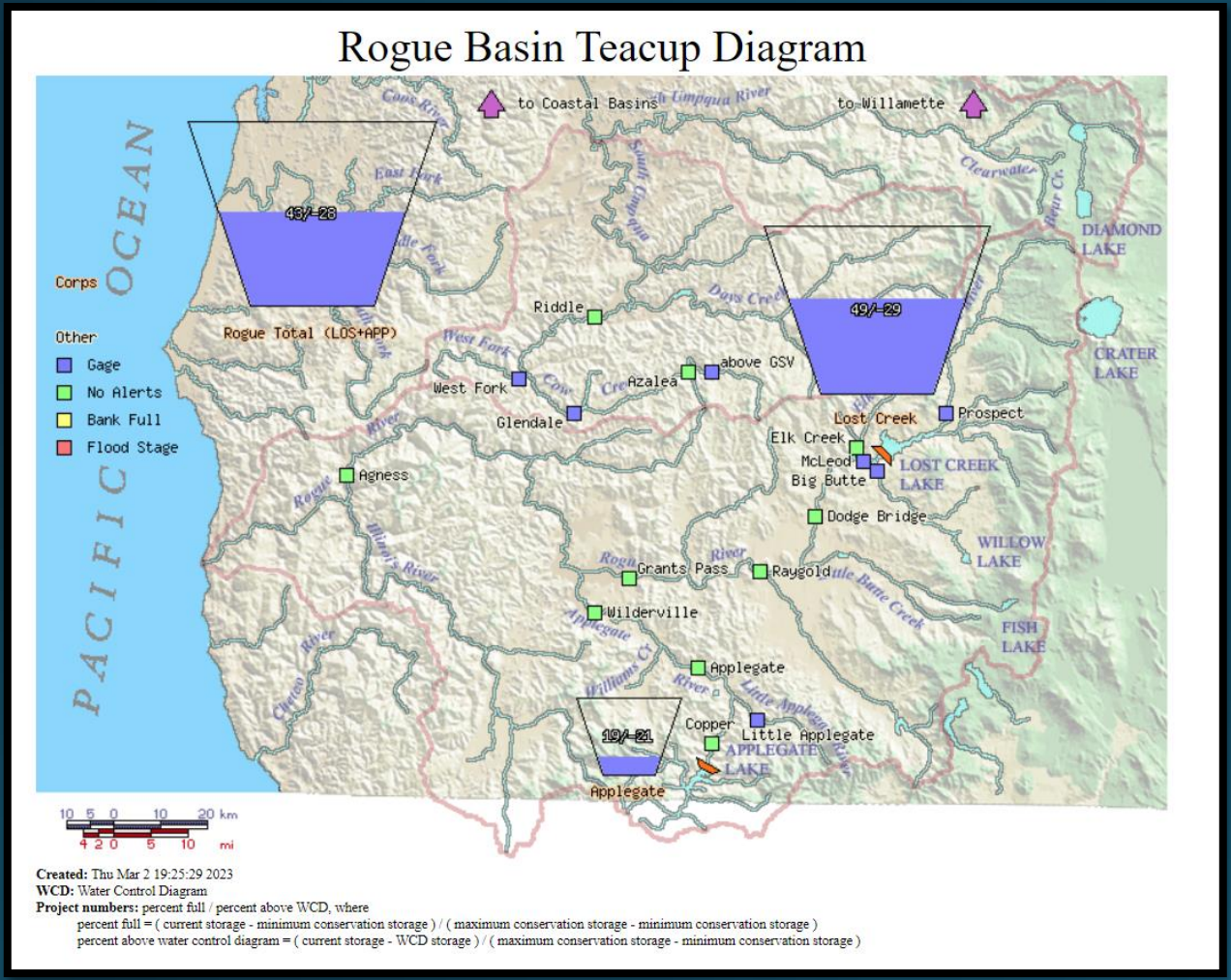




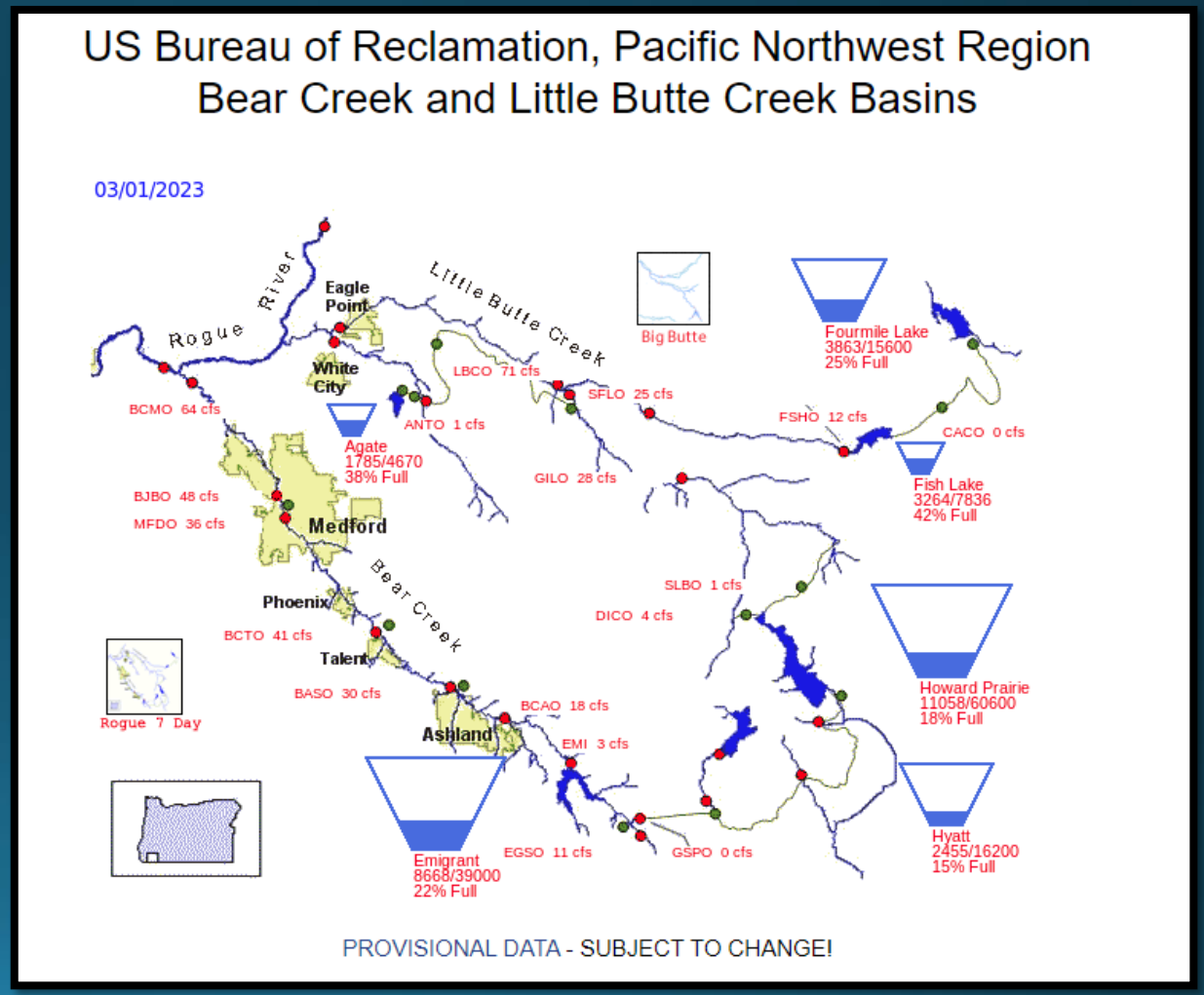


Reservoir Status

Data courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers

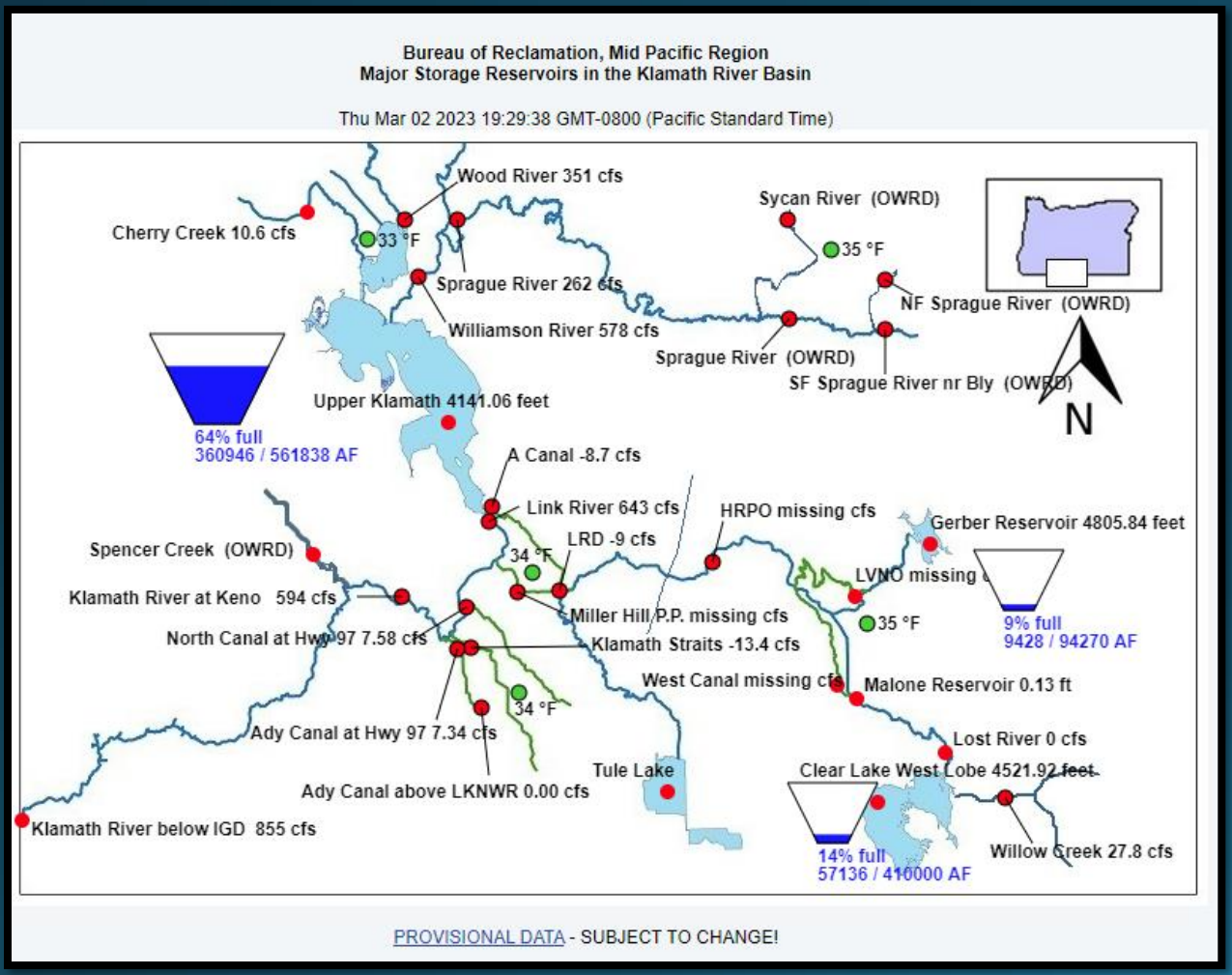


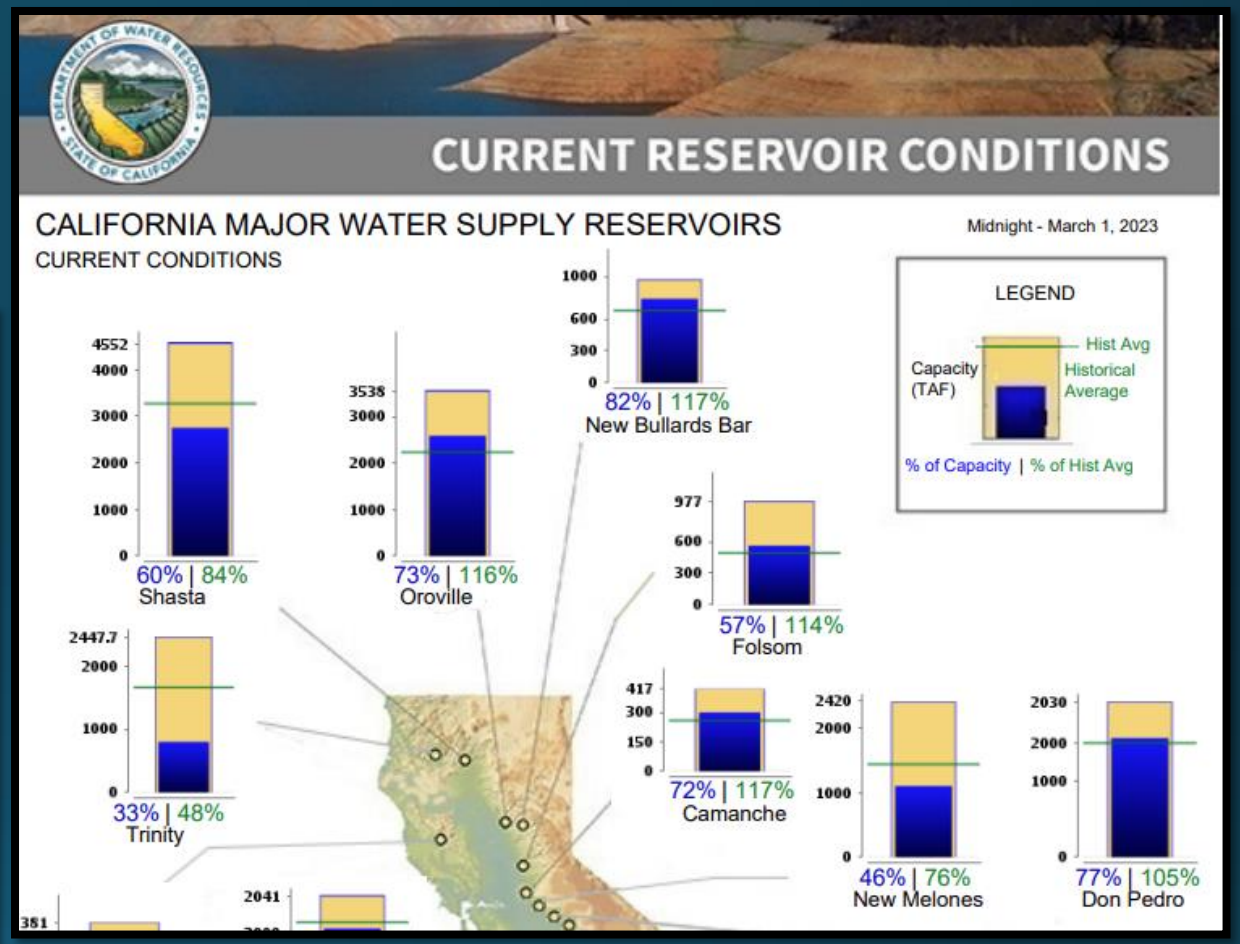
Data courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation



Reservoir Status

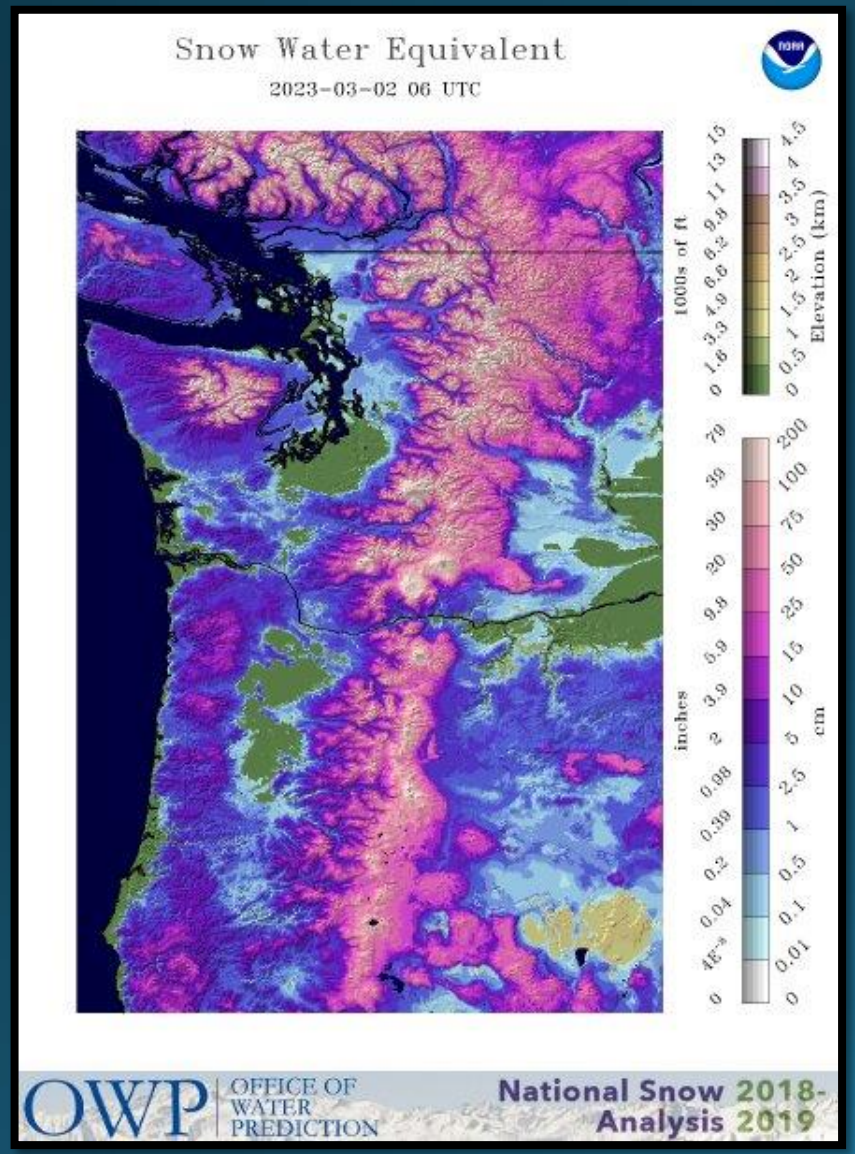
Klamath River Basin. Data courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation

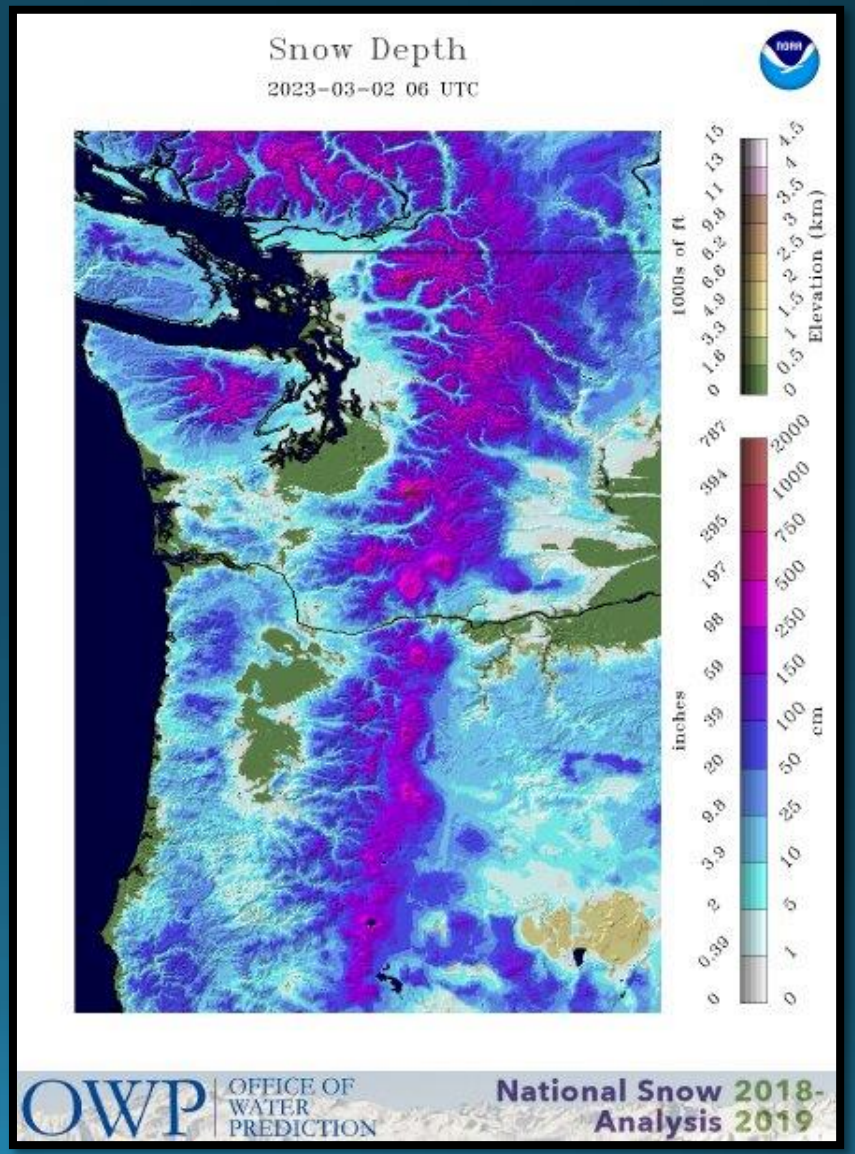




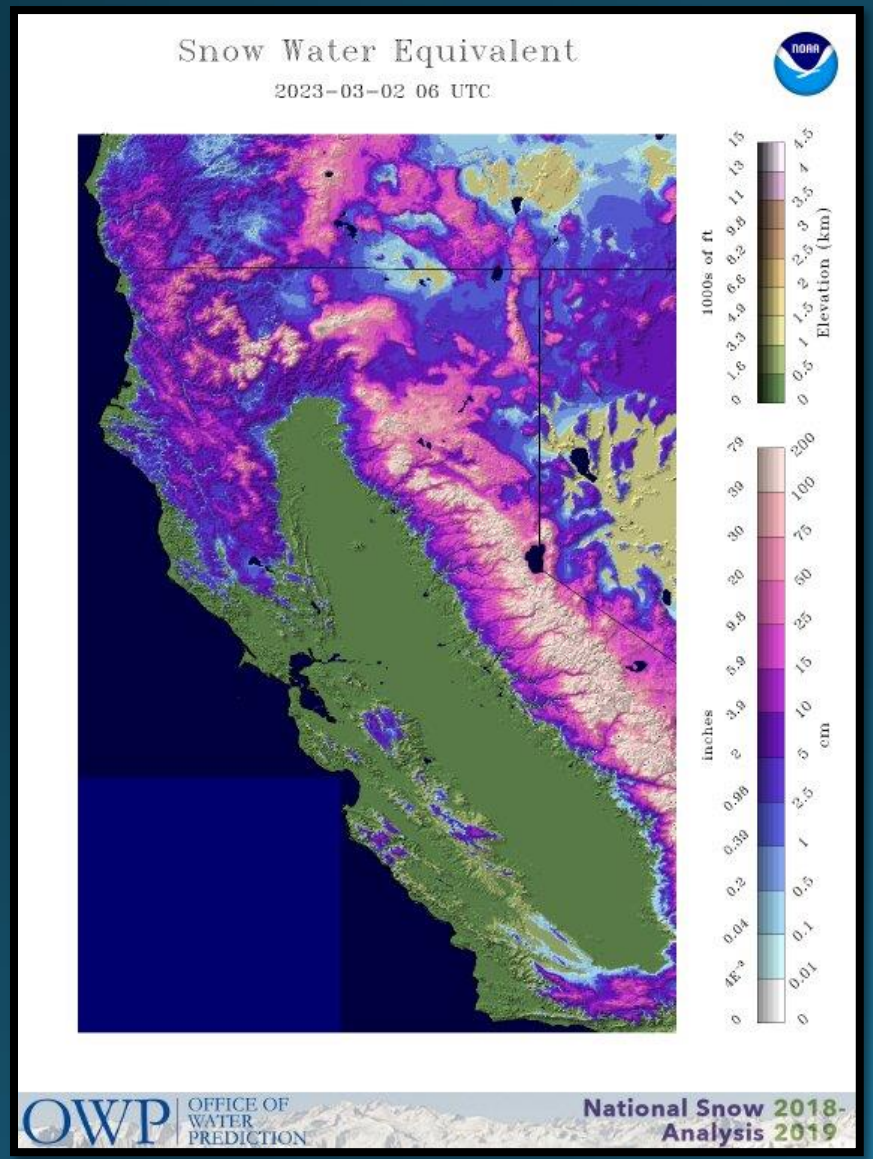
Northern California. California Data Exchange Center

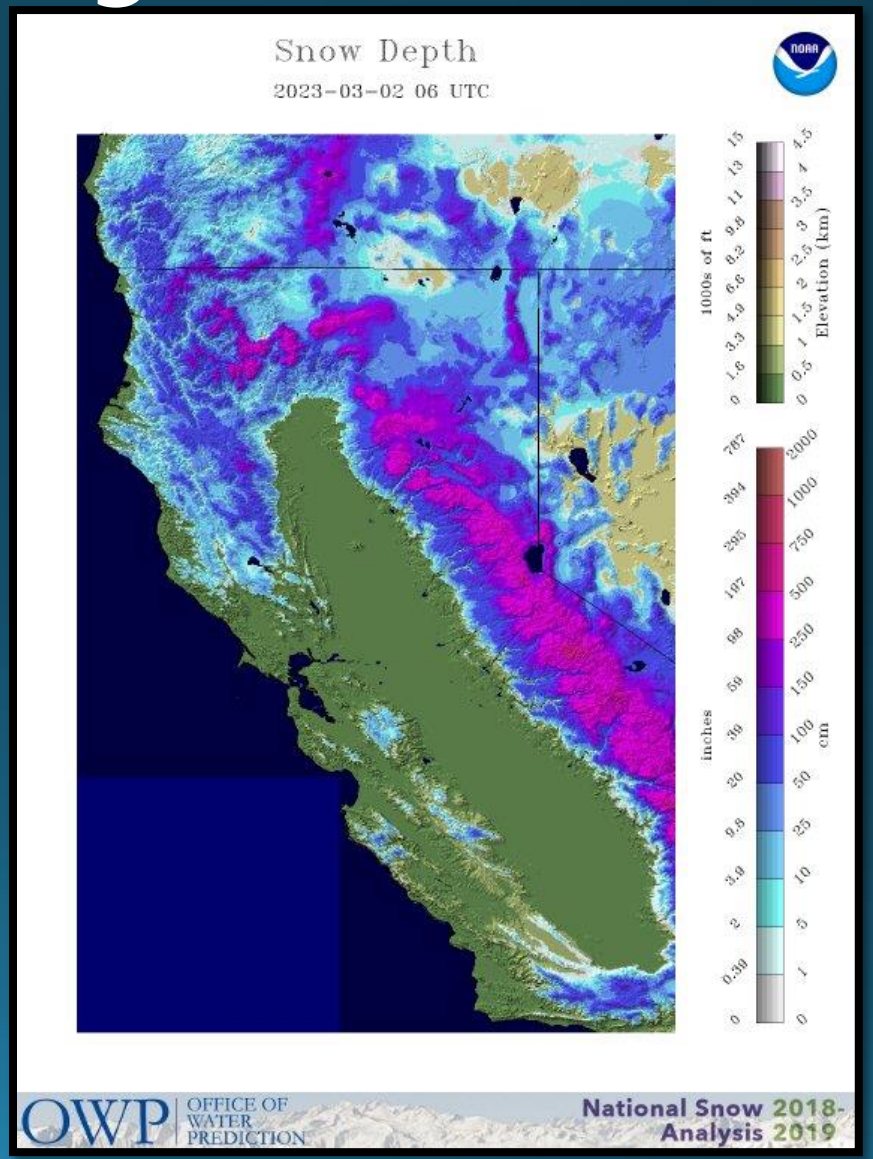
PacNW SWE & Snow Depth as of 3/1/23



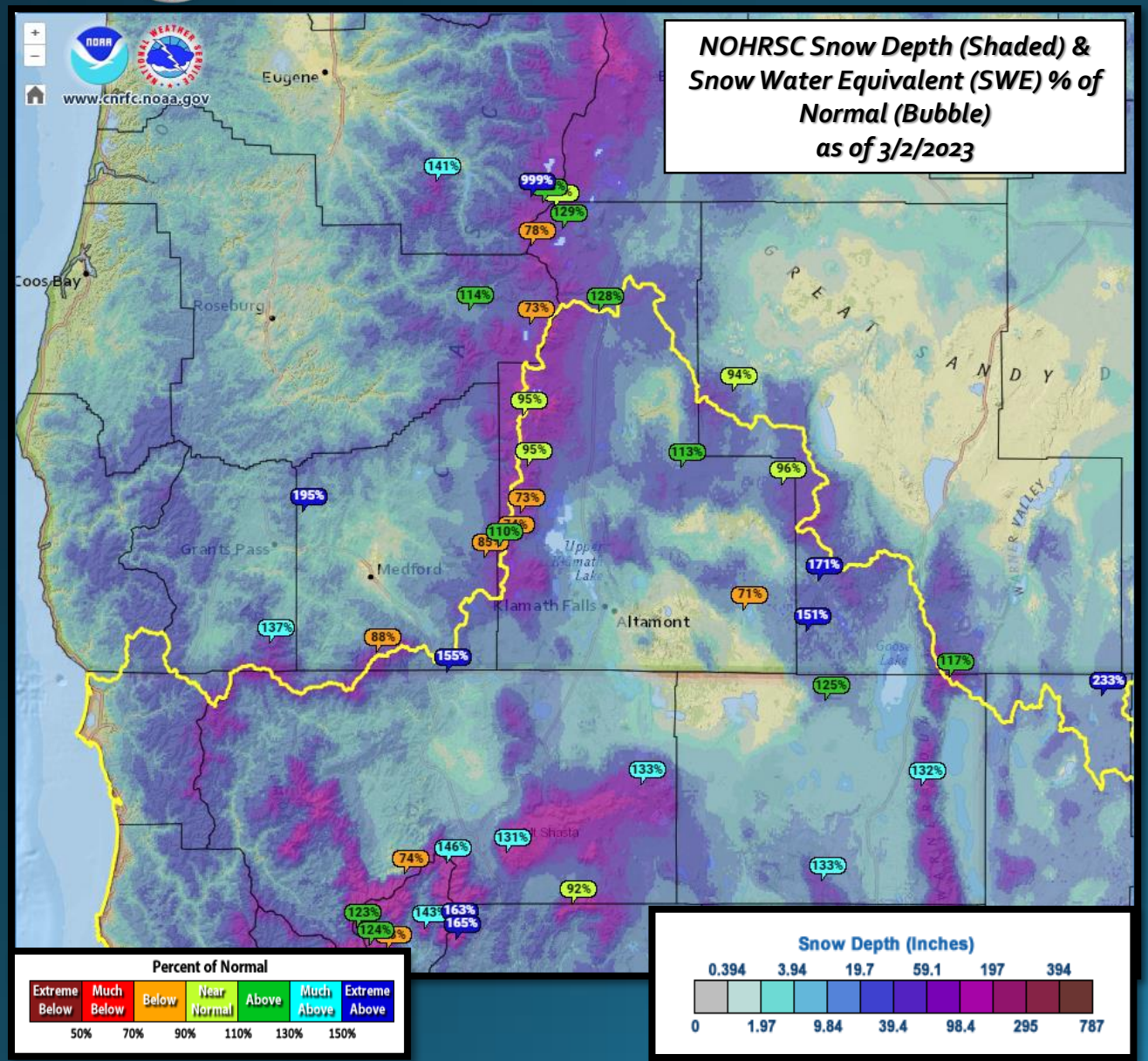


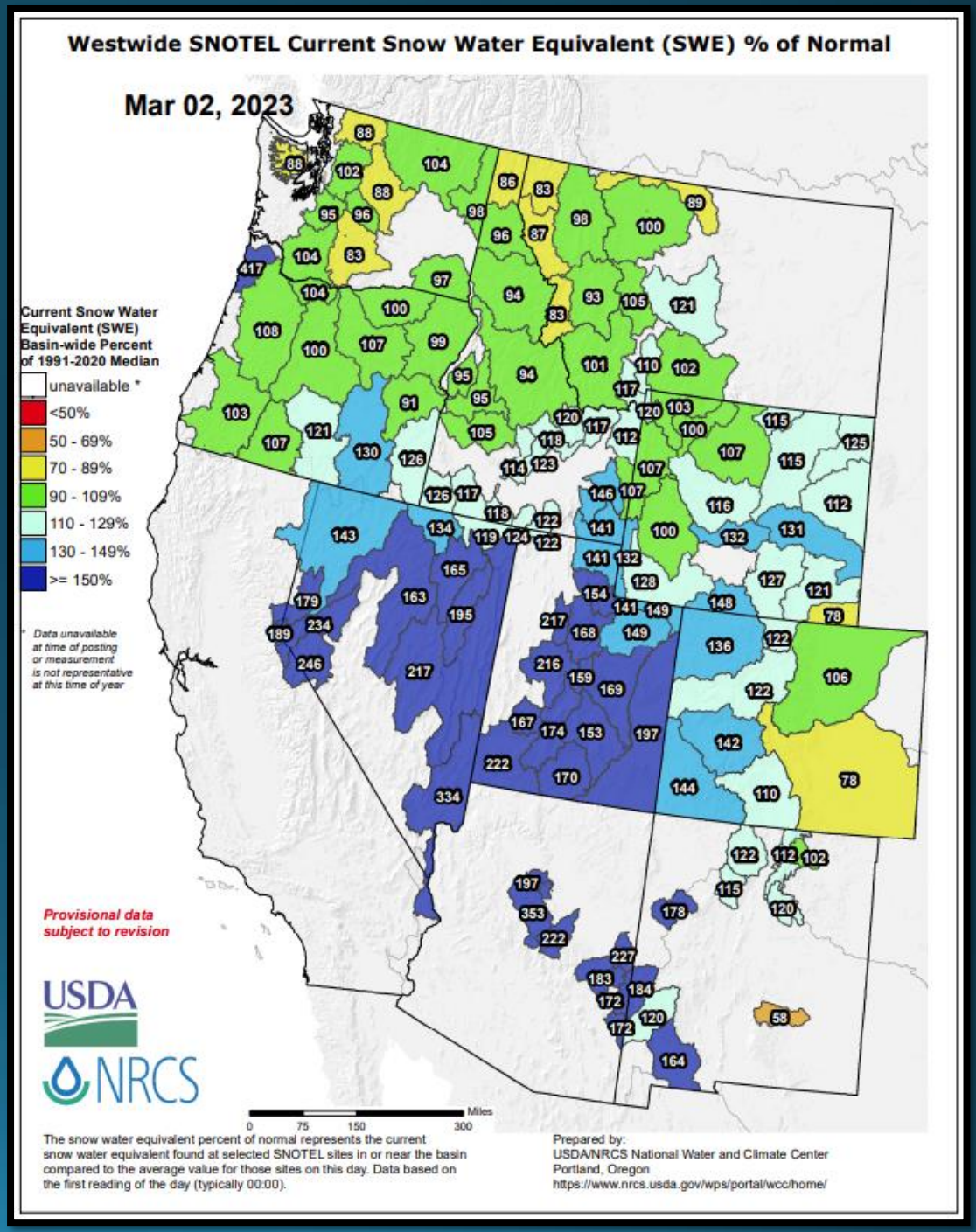
California SWE & Snow Depth as of 3/1/23





Snowpack Status



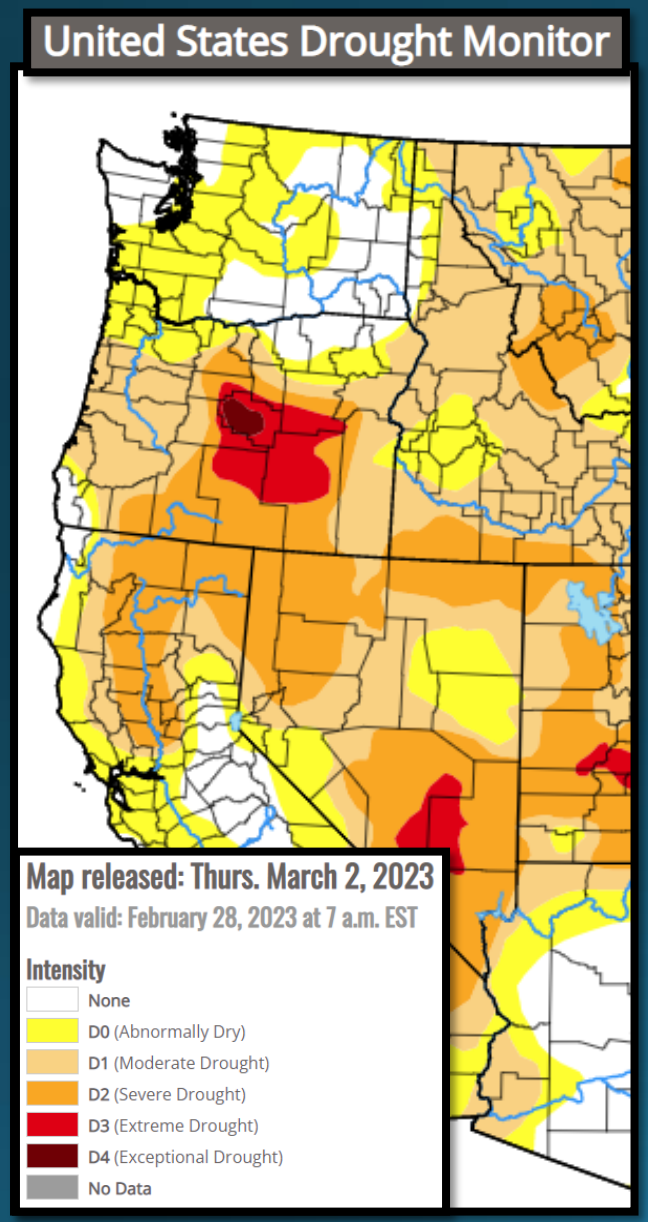


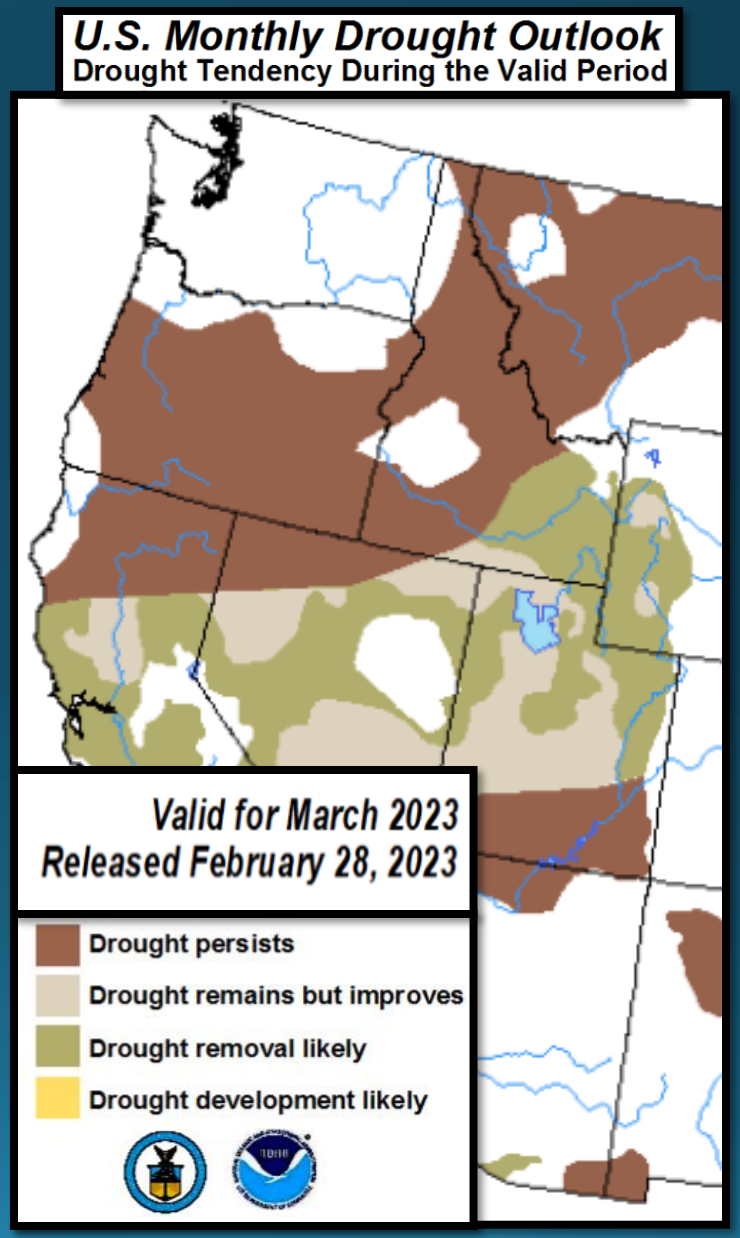
Crater Lake

Image Courtesy: NPS

	Average Max Temp (°F)	Average Min Temp (°F)	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Snow Depth as of: 02/28/23	Highest Max/ Lowest Min
February	32.9°	15.7°	6.10"	*103.5"*	122"	52° on 13th / *0° on 22nd*
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.

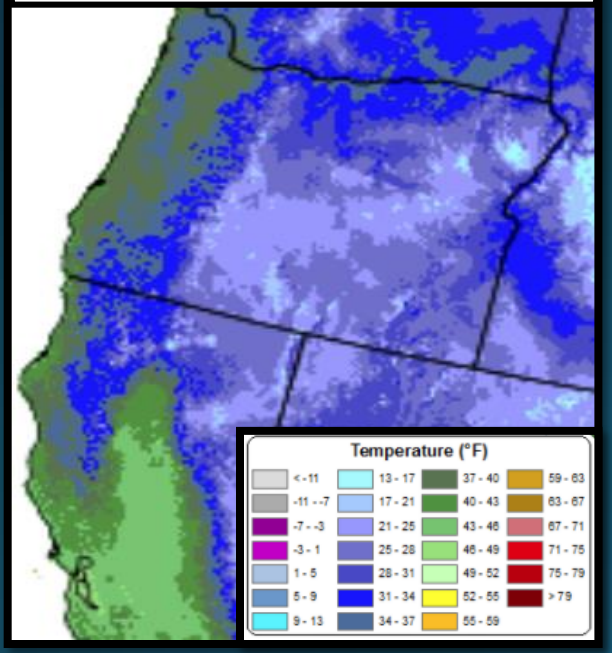
Precipitation:

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.

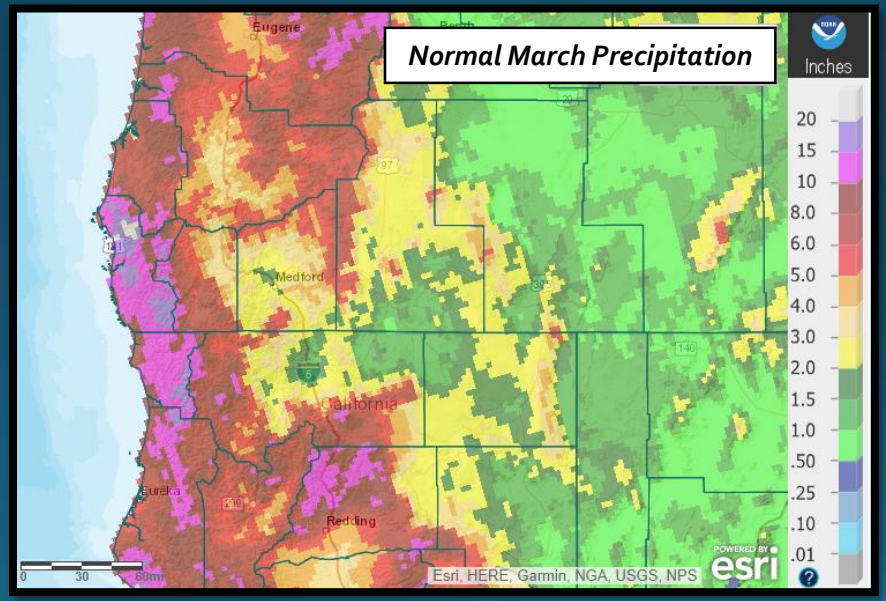
Snow:

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.

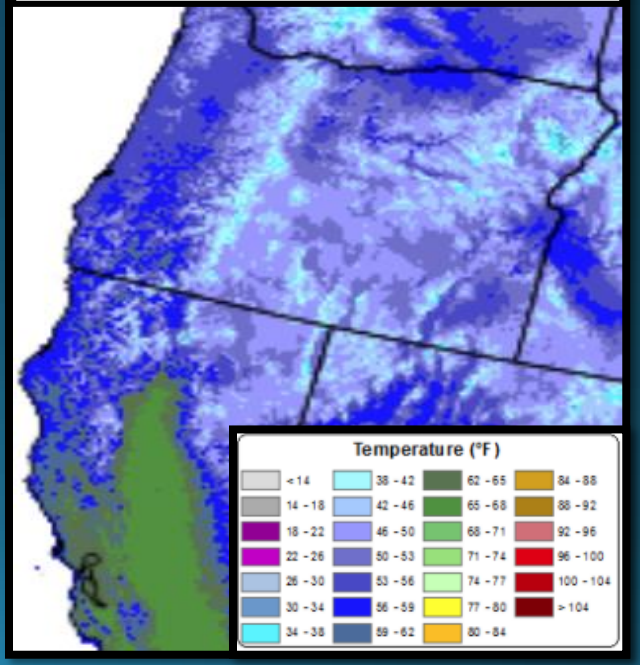
Average Minimum Temperatures



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**