National Weather Service Medford

2023: March 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).

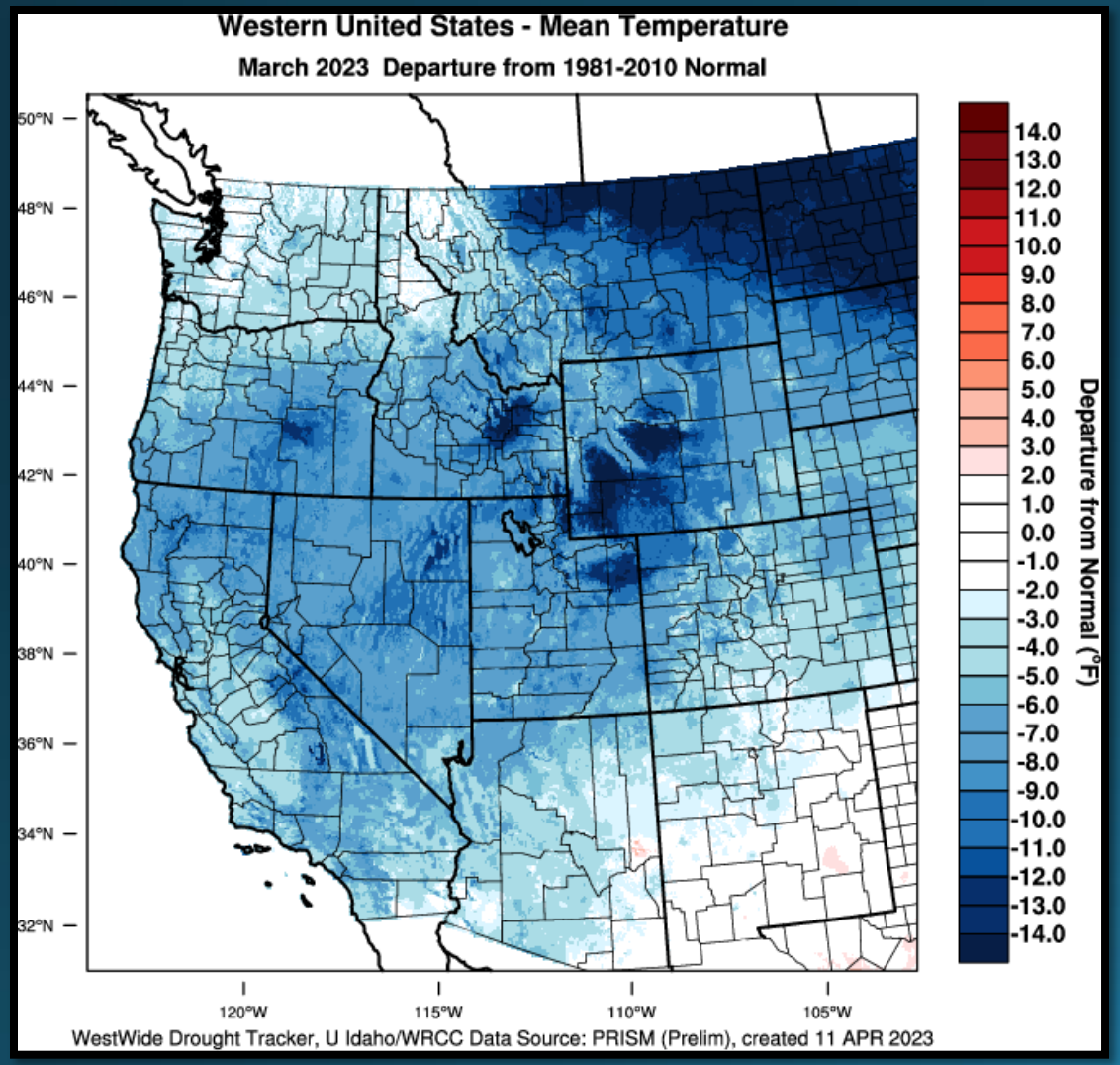
March 2023 Weather Review

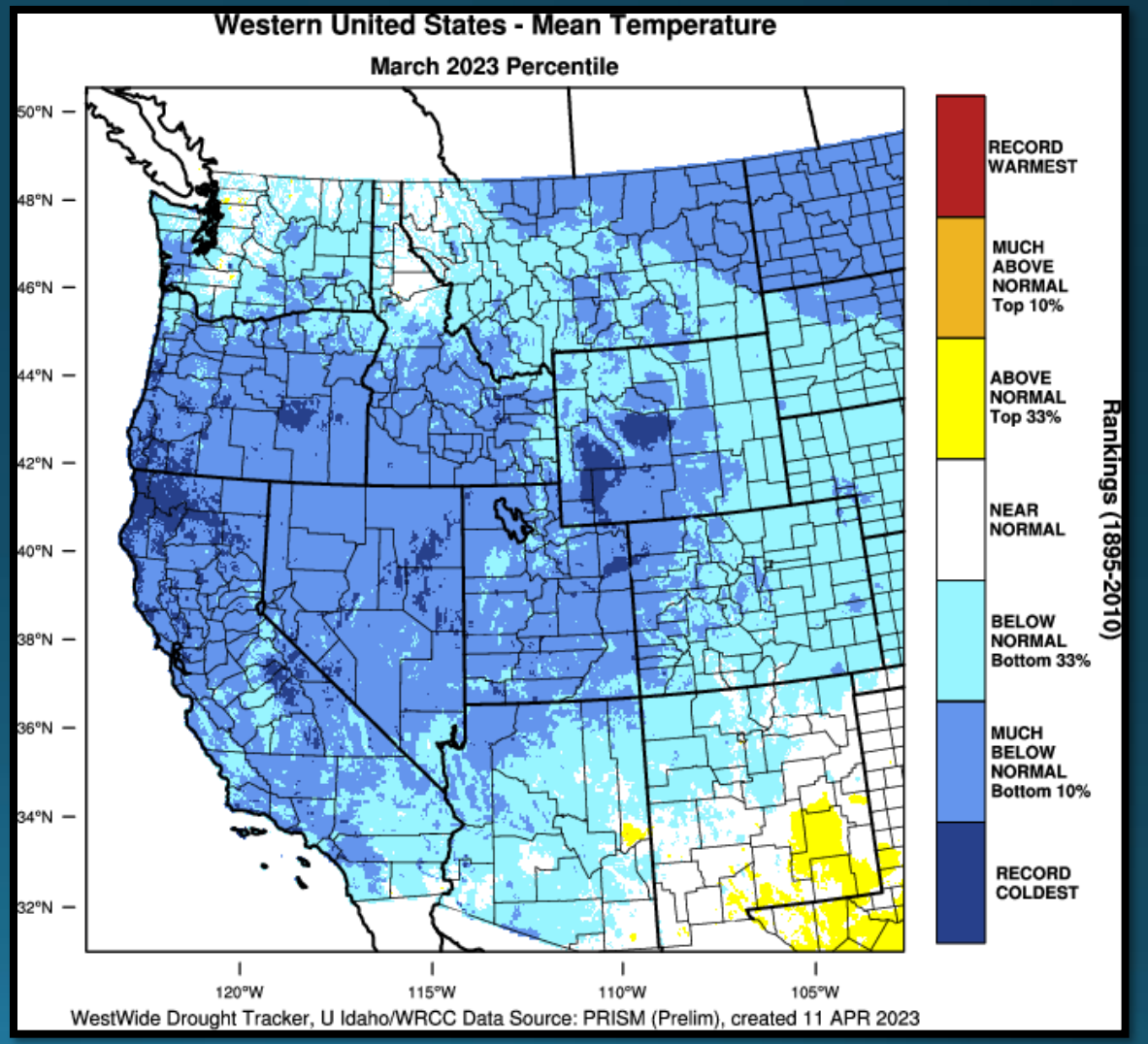
Well below normal temperatures and active weather continued well into March with more rounds of low elevation snow during the first week of the month. Low pressure that brought snow to valley floors at the end of February, exited the region on the first day of March, and this was followed by a shortwave ridge with northwest flow that continued through the 4th. The next low pressure arrived on the 5th and the region remained under the influence of this broad trough with multiple fronts passing through the region through the 10th. Temperatures trended warmer, but still remained below normal and active weather continued. Snow levels trended higher during this time, and ample precipitation on top of low-mid elevation snow pack led to flooding concerns around the 12th and 13th. This was short-lived however, as another arctic front arrived on the 14th and brought another round of heavy mountain snow and valley rain.

High pressure moved into the region, and brought a much welcomed break in the weather around the 16th through the 19th. This gave the area's rivers and streams the chance to recede, and with a thermal trough along the coast, offshore flow brought warmer temperatures day by day and temperatures returned to near normal. This relatively warmer pattern continued through around the 23rd though average temperatures were still below normal. Active weather continued during this time, with the bulk of the impacts focused over California. Several fronts passed through the region bringing additional rounds of mountain snow, valley rain and gusty winds.

Another cold trough settled over the Pacific Northwest for the last week of the month. Yet another round of arctic air moved into the region with successive systems and well below normal temperatures, underlining the abnormally cold month. There was another round of low elevation snow on the 25th when the Medford Airport recorded an inch of snowfall. Temperatures trended slightly warmer as the month came to an end, but still remained below average. All in all, the region recorded near to above normal precipitation and above normal snowpack with March 2023 falling in the top five coldest Marches on record for several of the area's climate sites.

March 2023 Observed Temperatures





Average Temperatures

	Average (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Max (°F)	Departure from Normal	Average Min (°F)	Departure from Normal
North Bend	43.5	-5.0°	50.0	-5.1°	37.0	-4.9°
Roseburg	43.8	-5.4°	52.4	-6.3°	35.2	-4.4°
Medford	42.5	-5.8°	52.5	-6.9°	32.4	-4.8°
Klamath Falls	32.1	-7.3°	41.9	-10.4°	22.3	-4.2°
Montague, CA	38.1	-6.3°	49.0	-9.2°	27.3	-3.3°
Mt. Shasta City, CA	34.5	-7.7°	42.5	-10.0°	26.5	-5.4°
Alturas, CA	31.0	-8.6°	41.0	-11.7°	20.9	-5.6°

Monthly Max & Min Temperatures

	Max (°F)	Date(s)	Min (°F)	Date(s)
North Bend	58°	12th	30°	1st
Roseburg	64°	18th	30°	16th
Medford	64°	21st	24°	6th
Klamath Falls	54°	18th	3°	1st
Montague, CA	60°	13th & 18th	19°	30th
Mt. Shasta City, CA	54°	17th	18°	2nd
Alturas, CA	54°	18th	-1°	2nd

	Date	Record Low	Old Record/Year
Klamath Falls	6th	8°F	9°F / 1917

	Date	Record Low Max	Old Record/Year
Roseburg	14th	44°	45° / 1943
	25th	46°	49° / 2012
	27th	46°	Ties w/1998
Montague	4th	39°	40° / 2009
	14th	41°	42° / 1952
	25th	41°	45° / 2012
	28th	48°	50° / 2016
Mt Shasta City	9th	34°	Ties w/1969
Alturas	25th	36°	Ties w/1936
Medford	14th	42°	43° / 1963
Klamath Falls	4th	32°	Ties w/1918
	6th	33°	Ties w/2012
North Bend	27th	46°	Ties w/1976

Record Cold March

Minimum 31-Day Mean Avg Temperature for ROSEBURG REGIONAL AP, OR

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	42.9	1955-03-31	0
2	43.8	1954-03-31	0
3	43.8	2023-03-31	0
4	44.1	1935-03-31	0
5	44.6	1951-03-31	0
6	44.7	1953-03-31	0
7	45.2	2006-03-31	0
8	45.4	1958-03-31	0
9	45.4	1952-03-31	0
10	45.5	2009-03-31	0

Period of record: 1900-04-01 to 2023-04-14

Minimum 31-Day Mean Avg Temperature for Alturas Area, CA (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descendin

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	31.0	2023-03-31	0
2	32.1	1952-03-31	0
3	32.8	1977-03-31	0
4	33.2	1985-03-31	3
5	33.2	1976-03-31	0
6	33.3	2006-03-31	0
7	33.6	1971-03-31	0
8	34.2	1948-03-31	0
9	34.2	1938-03-31	0
10	34.4	1975-03-31	0

Period of record: 1935-05-01 to 2023-04-14

Minimum 31-Day Mean Avg Temperature for Medford Area, OR (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	39.9	1917-03-31	0
2	42.5	2023-03-31	0
3	42.5	1952-03-31	0
4	42.8	1976-03-31	0
5	43.0	1977-03-31	0
6	43.3	1948-03-31	0
7	43.3	1975-03-31	0
8	43.4	1935-03-31	0
9	43.4	1924-03-31	0
10	43.4	1920-03-31	0

Period of record: 1911-03-11 to 2023-04-14

Minimum 31-Day Mean Avg Temperature for Mount Shasta Area, CA (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	34.2	2006-03-31	0
2	34.5	2023-03-31	0
3	36.3	1958-03-31	0
4	37.0	1975-03-31	0
5	37.1	1991-03-31	1
6	37.3	1999-03-31	0
7	37.4	1952-03-31	0
8	37.6	1967-03-31	0
9	37.9	1971-03-31	0
10	37.9	1977-03-31	0

Period of record: 1948-04-15 to 2023-04-14

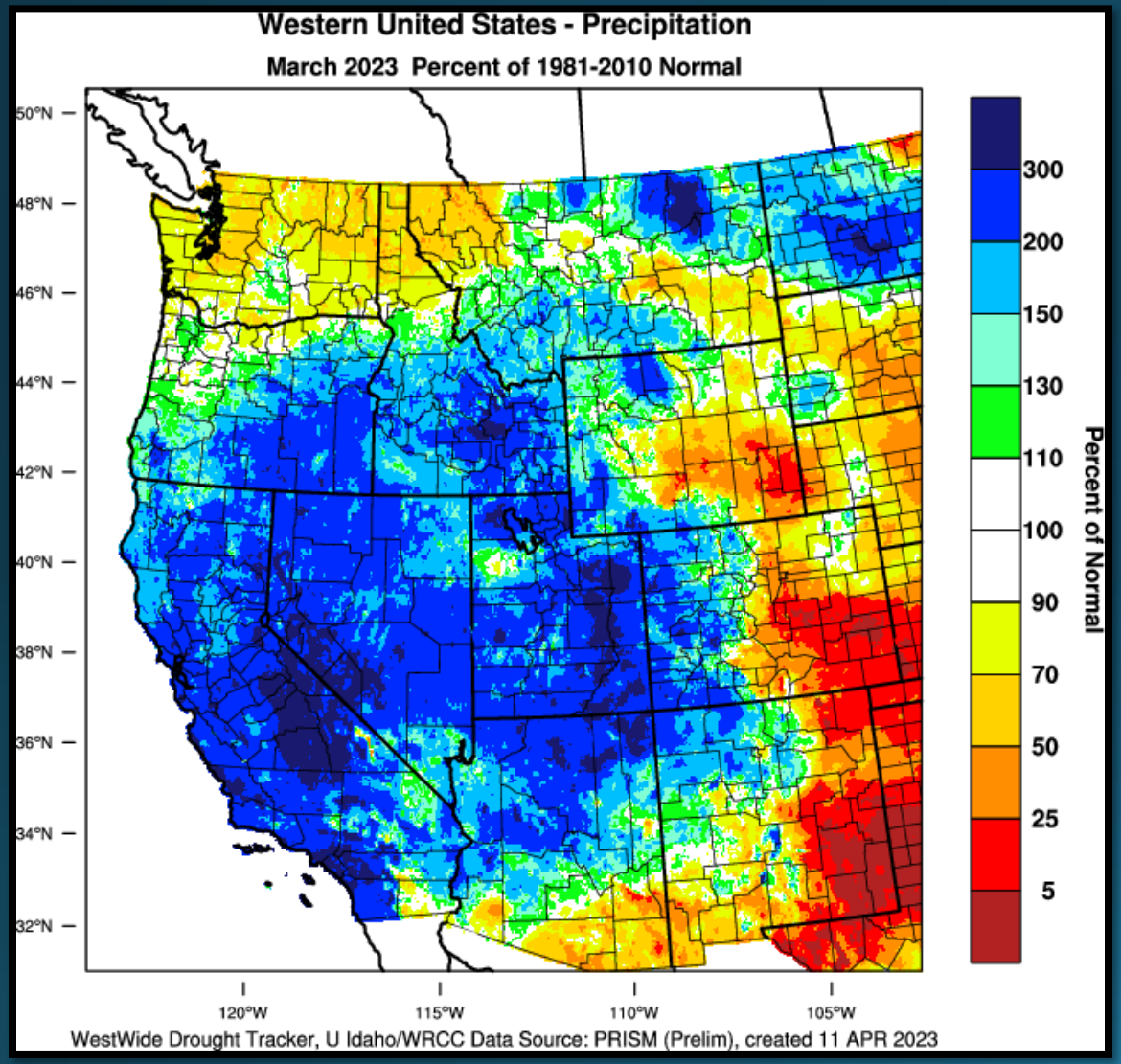
Minimum 31-Day Mean Avg Temperature for Klamath Falls Area, OR (ThreadEx)

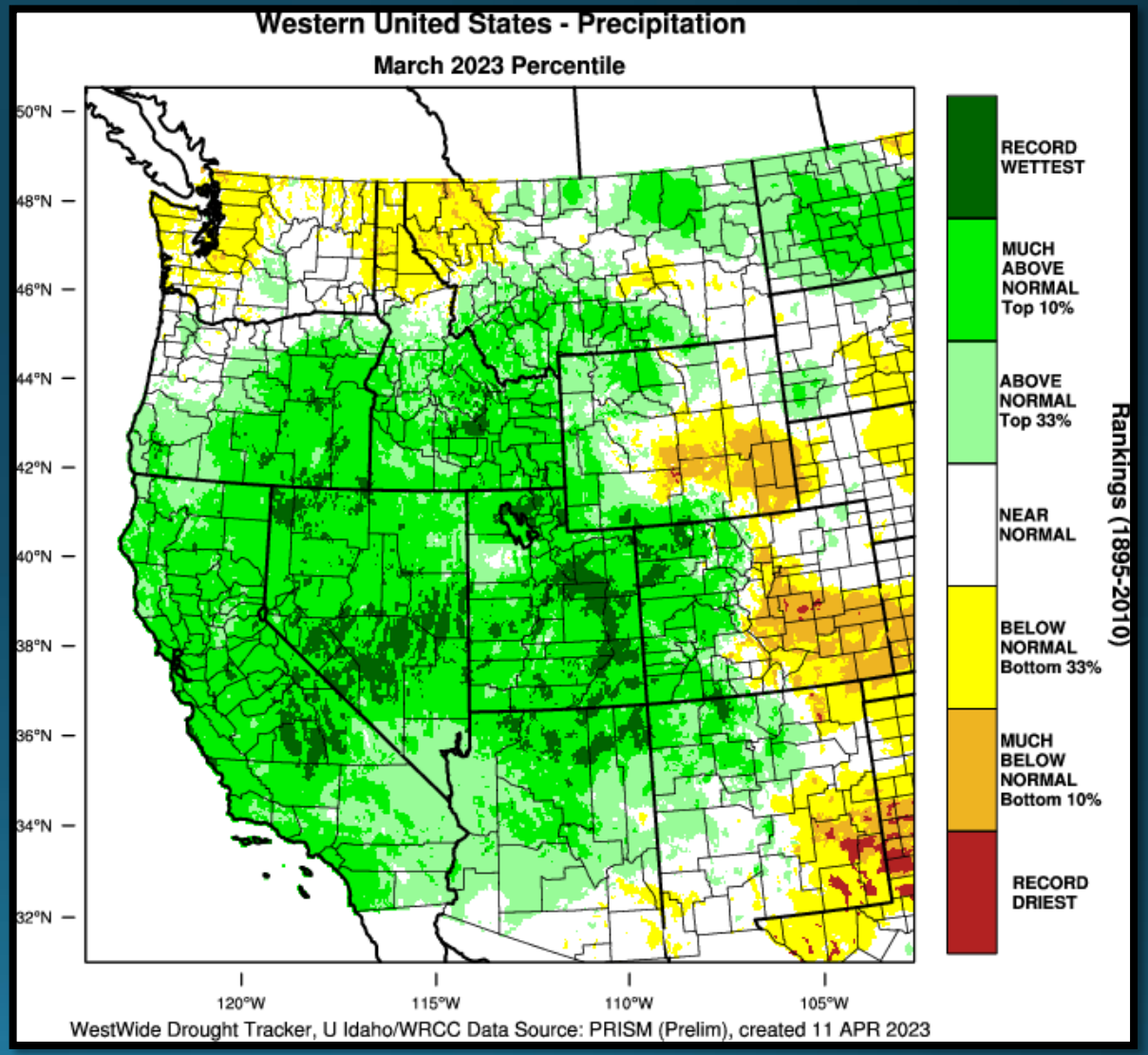
ick column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	26.3	1917-03-31	0
2	32.1	2023-03-31	0
3	32.8	1922-03-31	0
4	33.3	2006-03-31	0
-	33.3	1913-03-31	0
6	34.7	1952-03-31	0
7	34.8	2008-03-31	0
-	34.8	1964-03-31	0
9	34.9	1935-03-31	0
10	34.9	1906-03-31	1

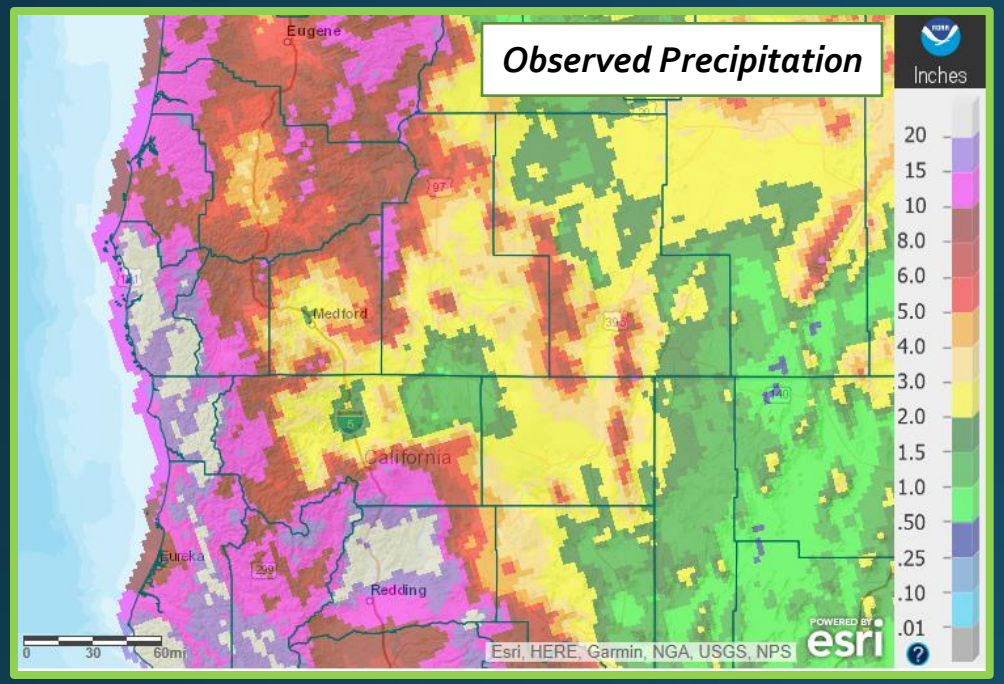
Period of record: 1897-12-02 to 2023-04-12

March 2023 Observed Precipitation

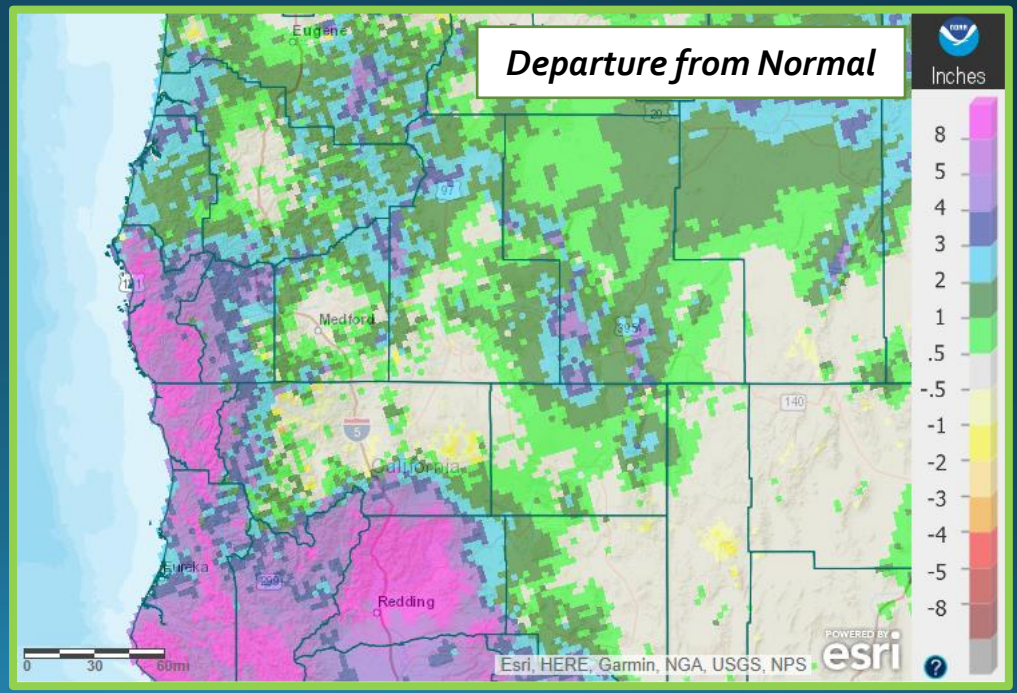




Precipitation



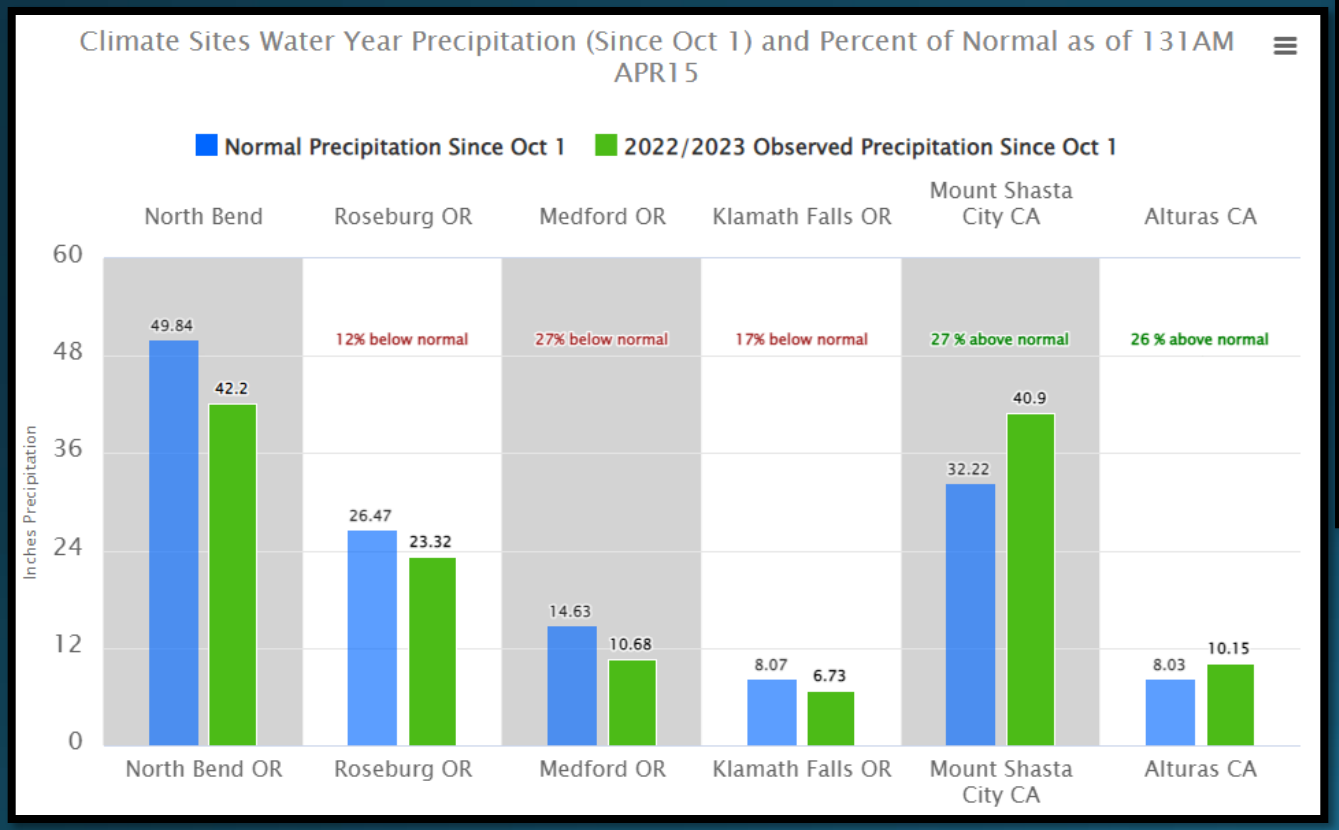
	Total	Departure from Normal	Greatest 24-hr Total	Date(s)
North Bend	9.35"	1.86"	1.39"	12th – 13th
Roseburg	4.05"	0.58"	0.91"	12th – 13th
Medford	1.92"	0.11"	0.74"	13th – 14th
Klamath Falls	1.23"	0.20"	0.68"	13th – 14th
Montague, CA	1.28"	0.03"	0.76"	13th – 14th
Mt. Shasta City, CA	10.01"	4.41"	2.12"	27th – 28th
Alturas, CA	2.80"	1.42"	0.78"	19th – 20th

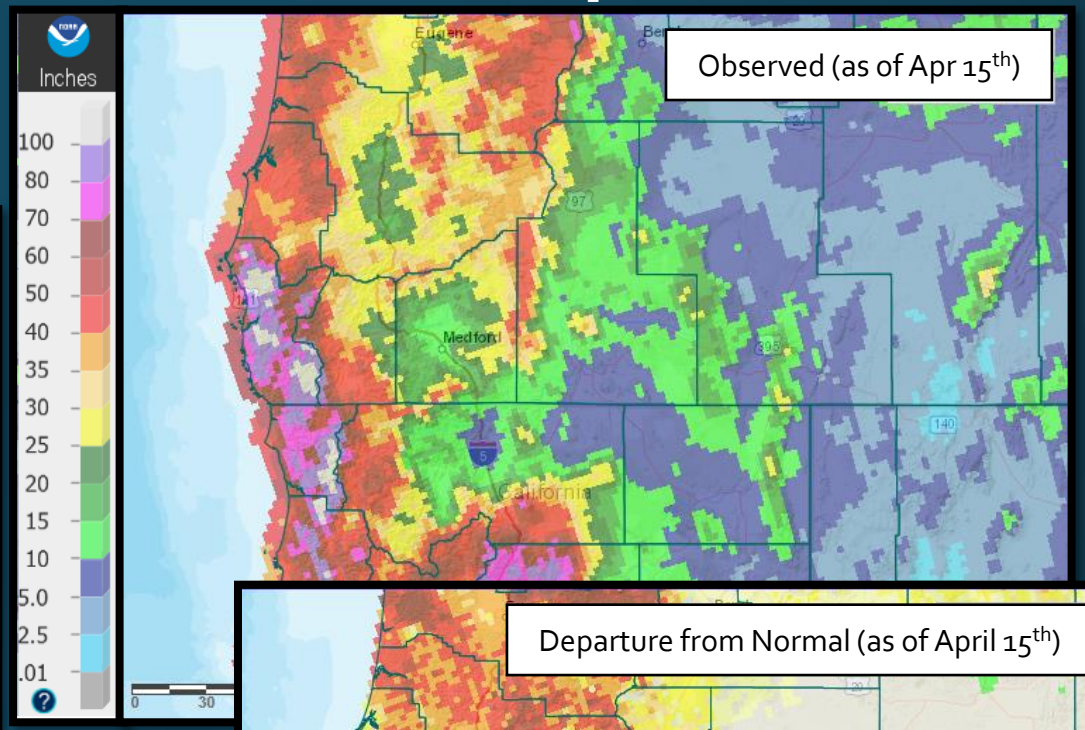


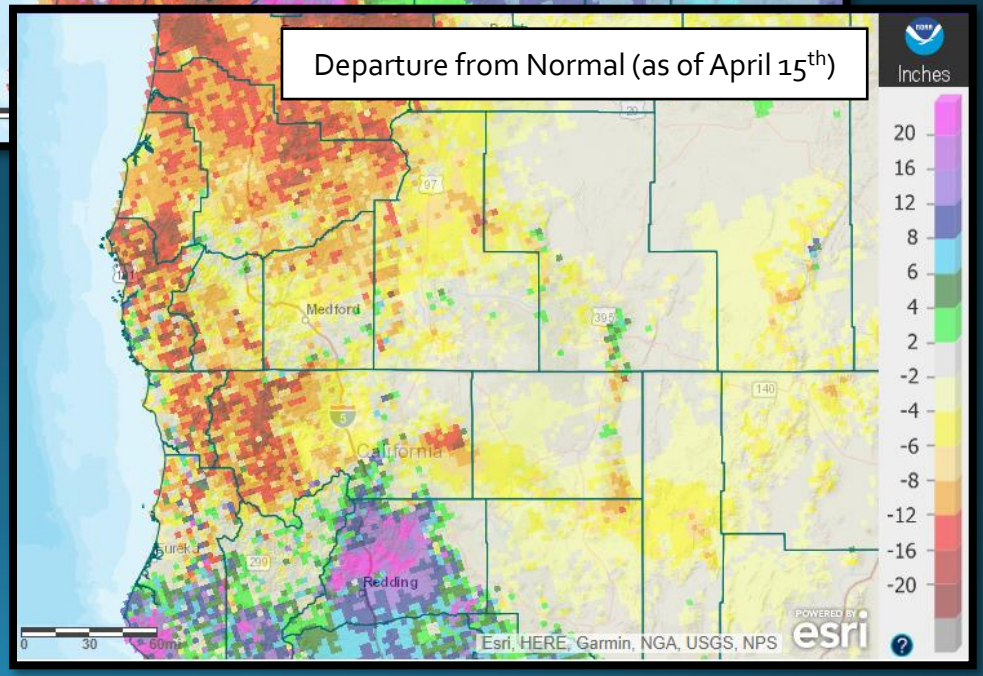
Record Precipitation

	Date / Amount	Old Record / Year
Klamath Falls	14th / 0.65"	0.44" / 1987
Montague	14th / 0.75"	0.49" / 1980
Mt Shasta City	28th / 1.97"	0.80" / 2006
Alturas	14th / 0.57"	0.40" / 2003

Water Year Status (As of April 15th)

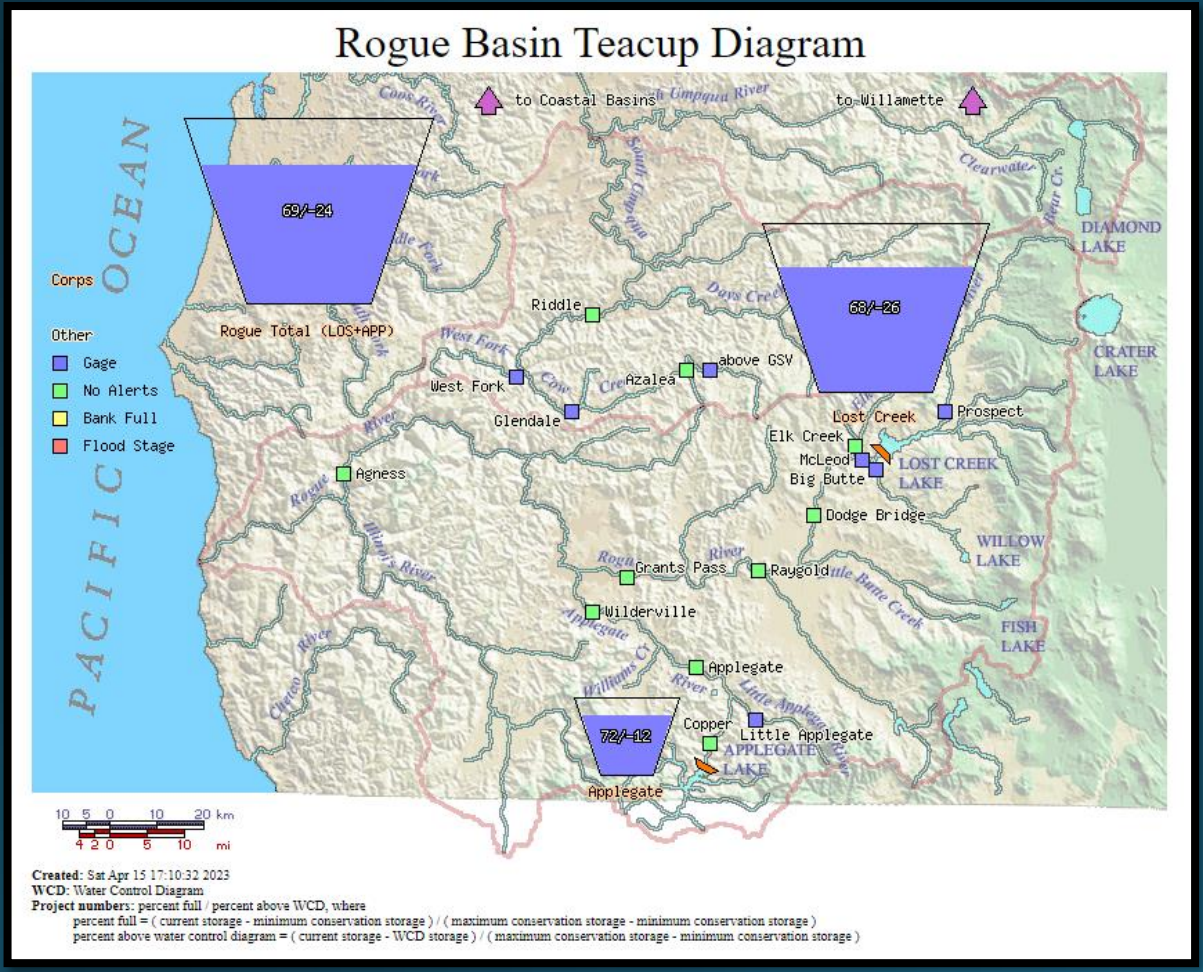




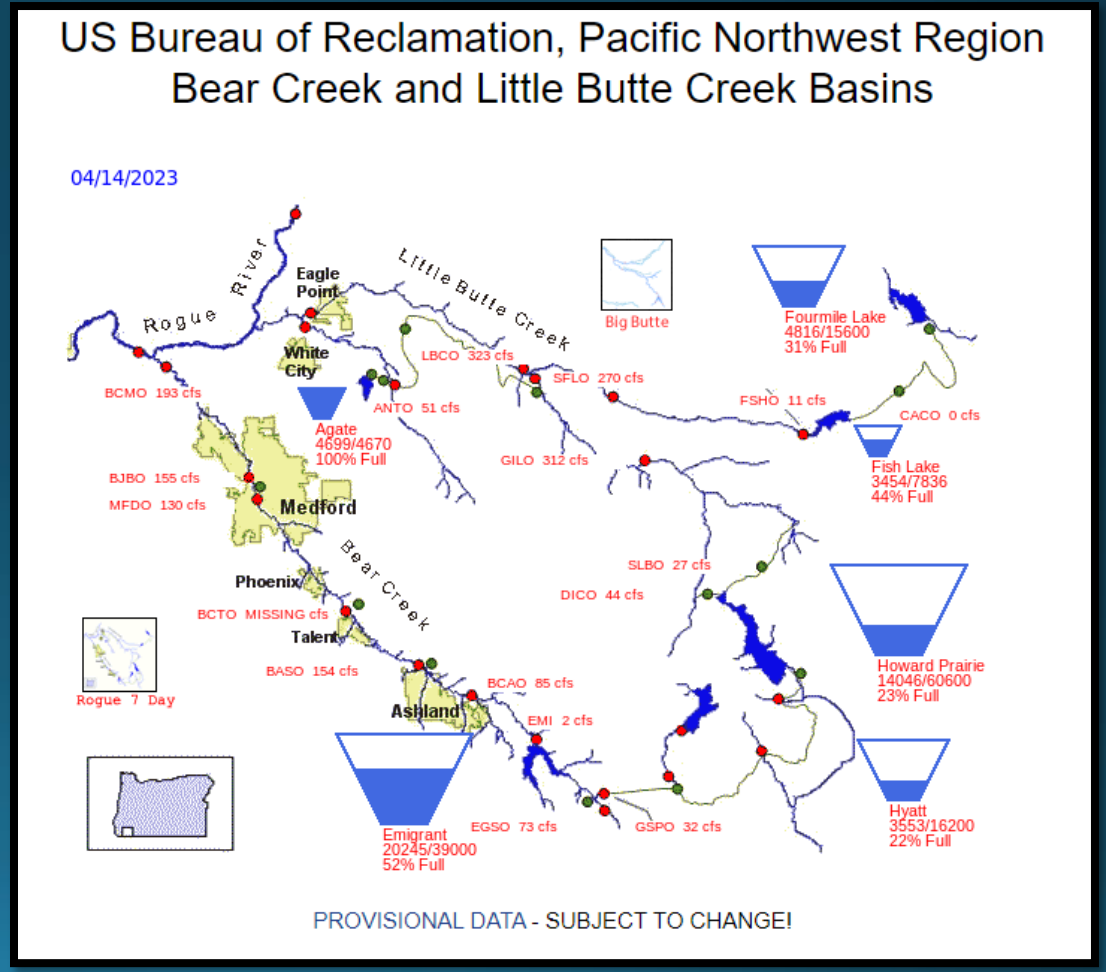


Reservoir Status

Data courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers

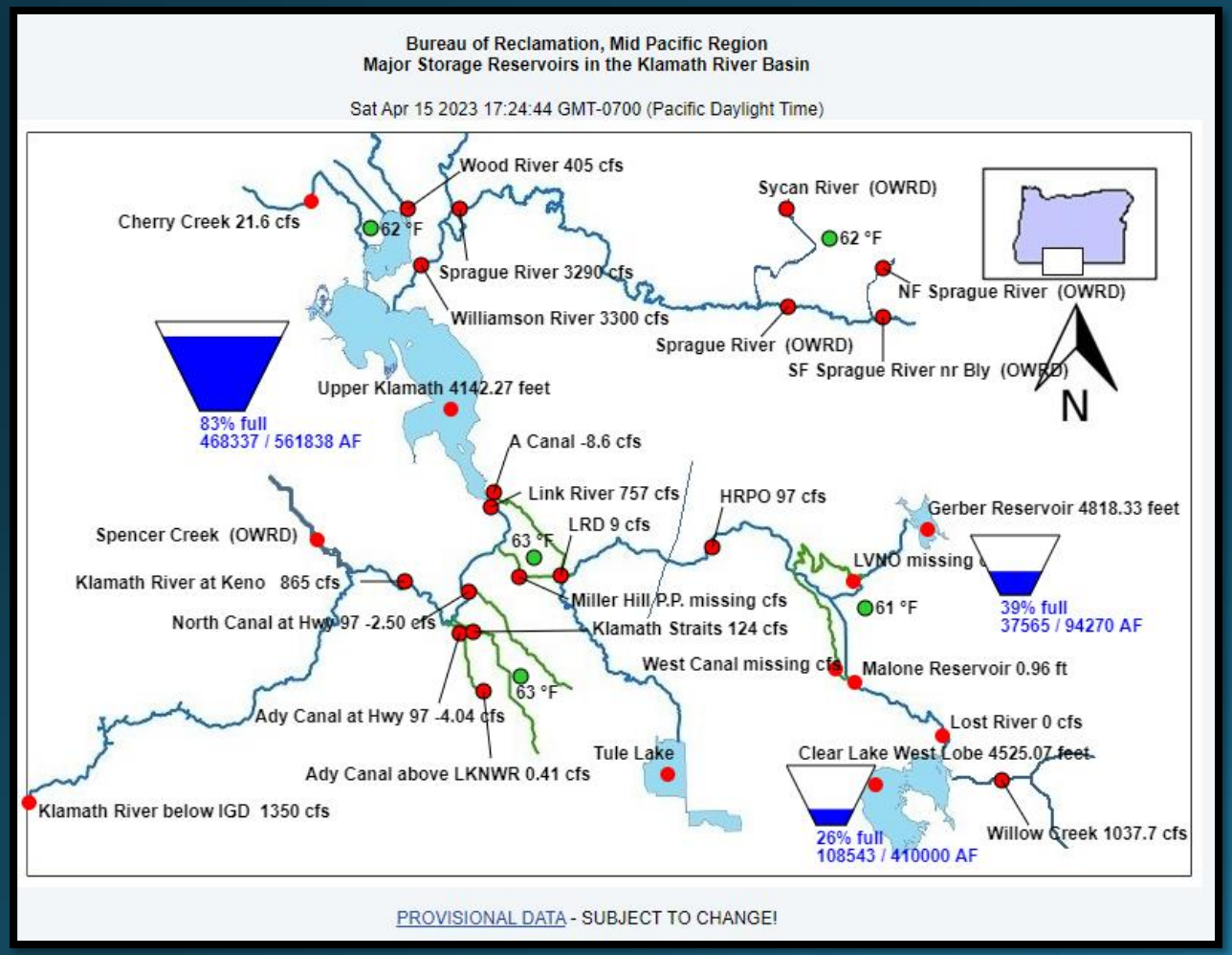


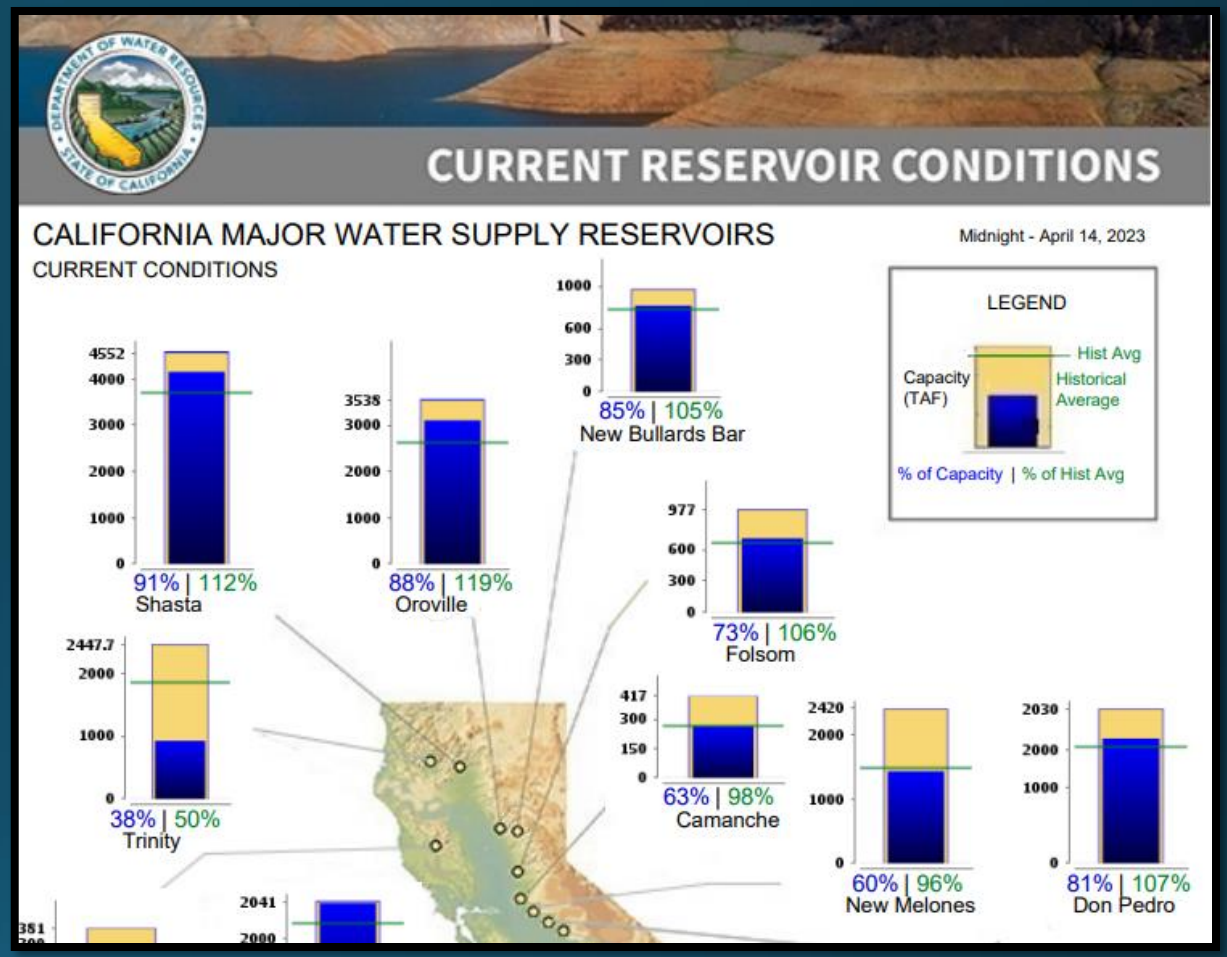
Data courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation



Reservoir Status

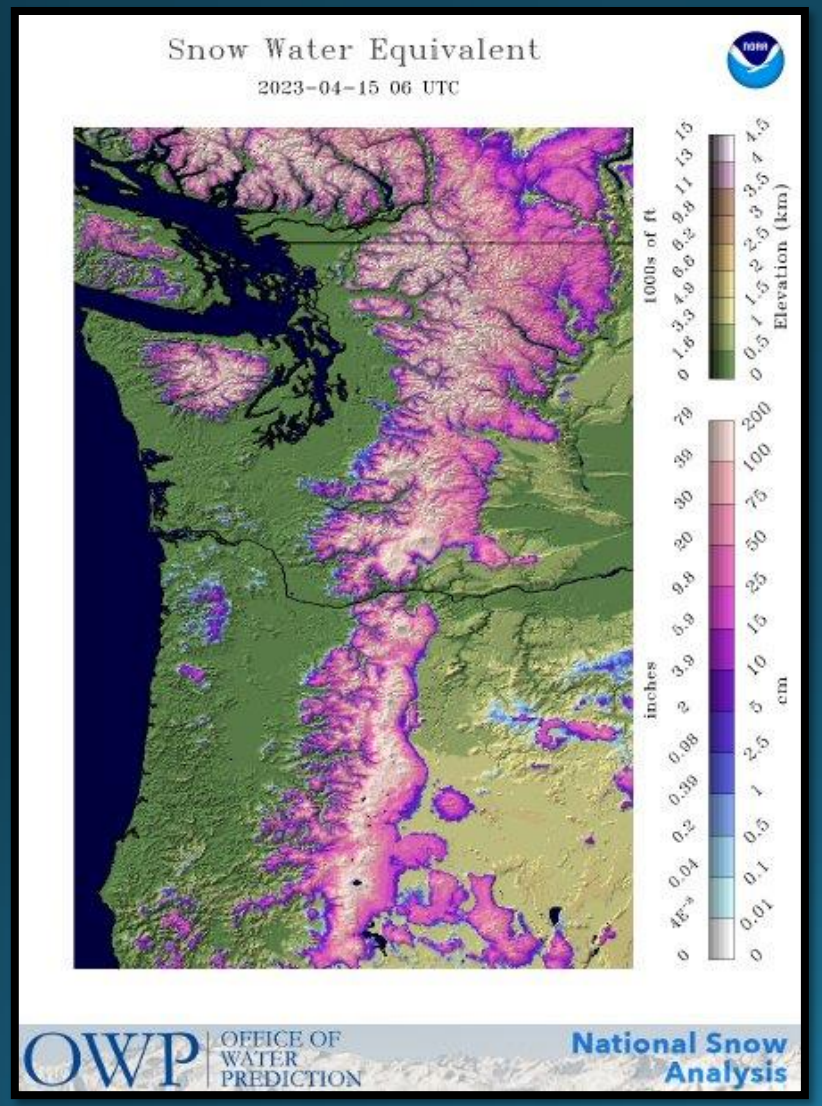
Klamath River Basin. Data courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation

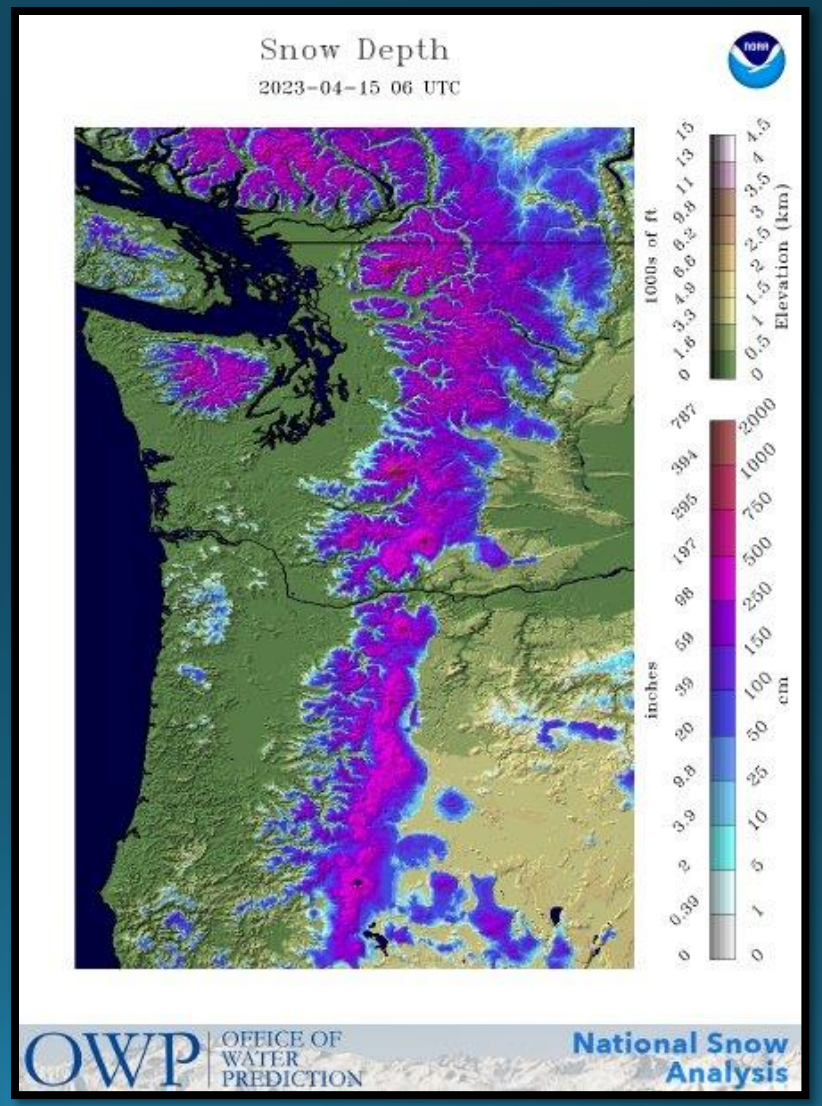




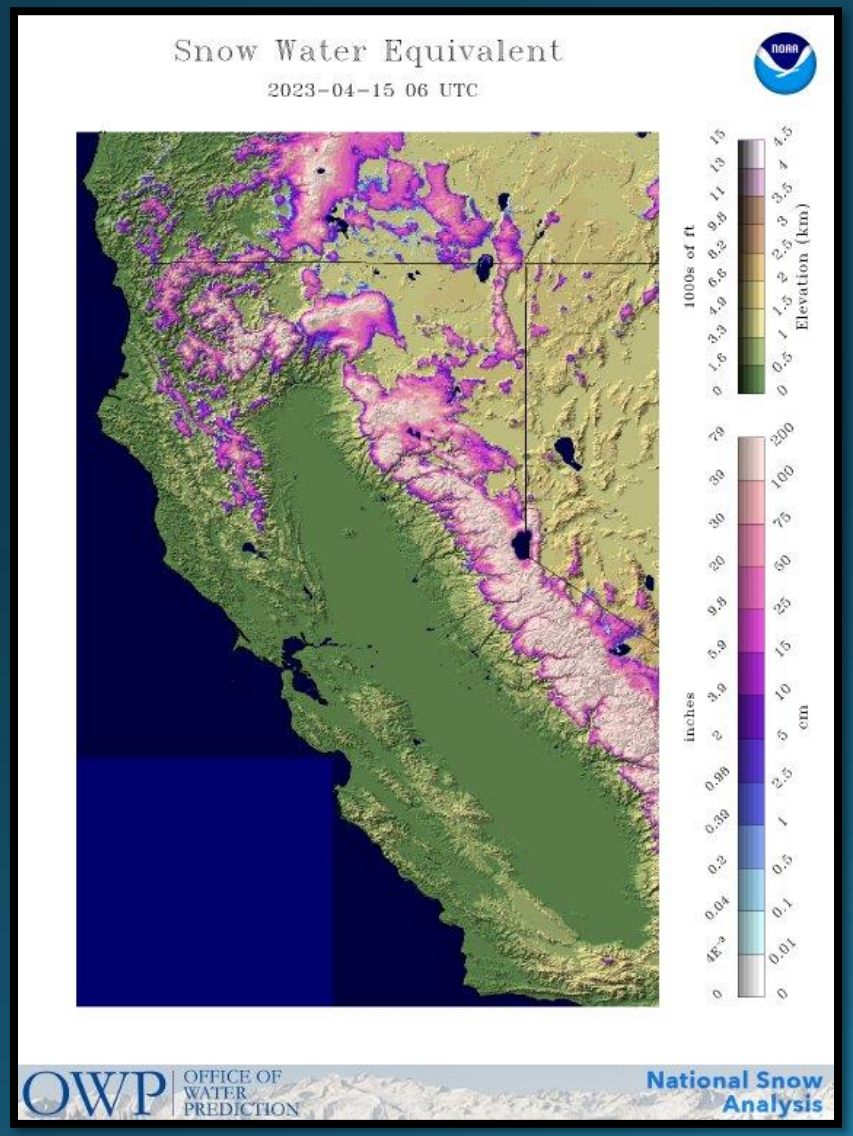
Northern California. California Data Exchange Center

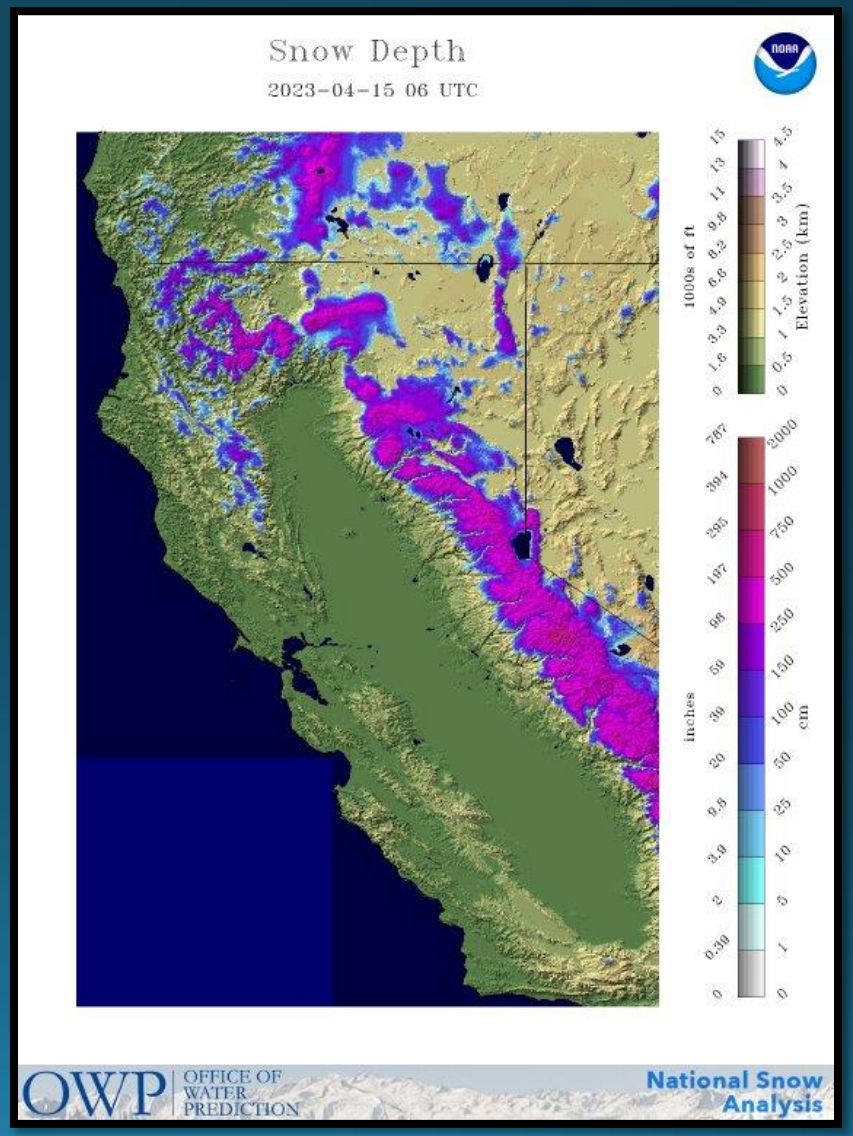
PacNW SWE & Snow Depth as of 4/15/23



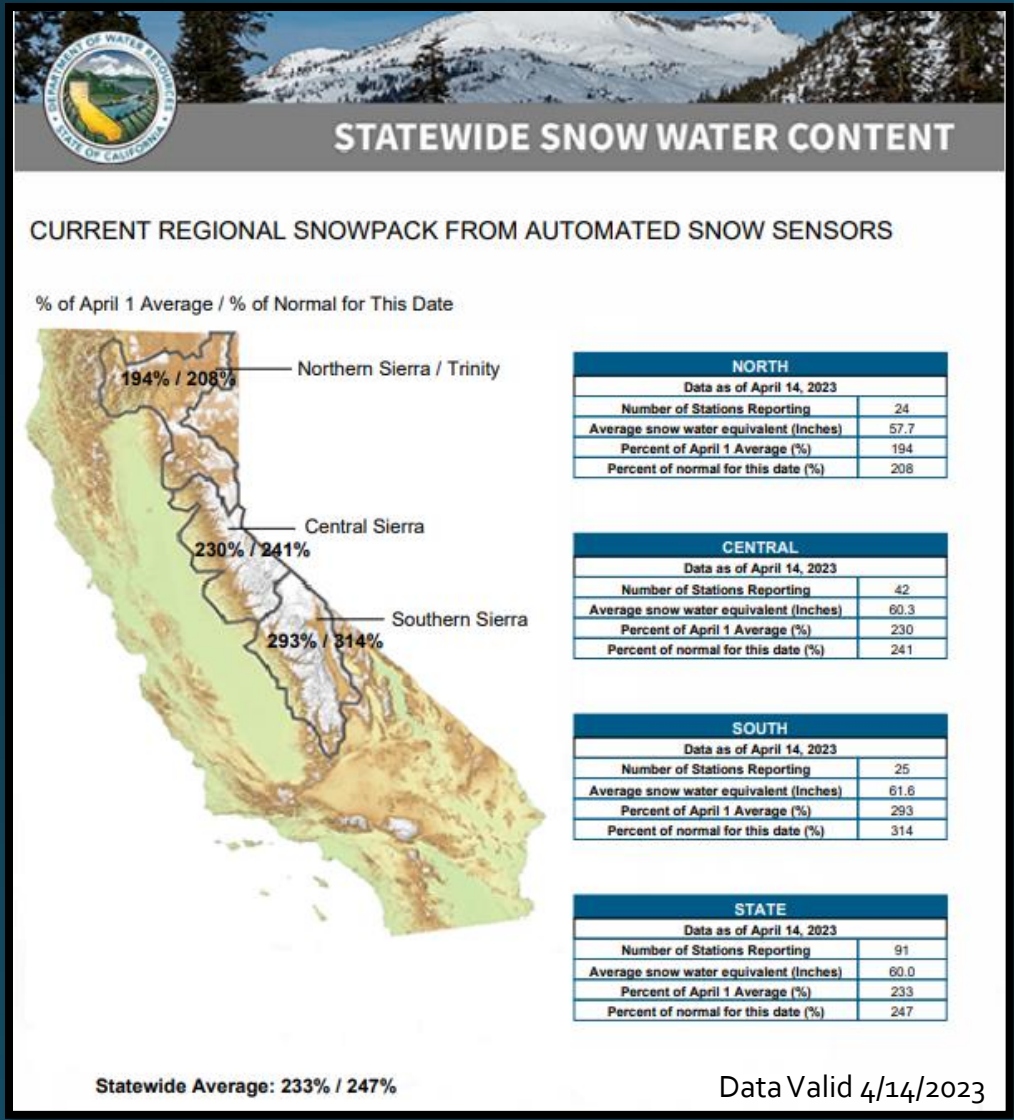


California SWE & Snow Depth as of 4/15/23

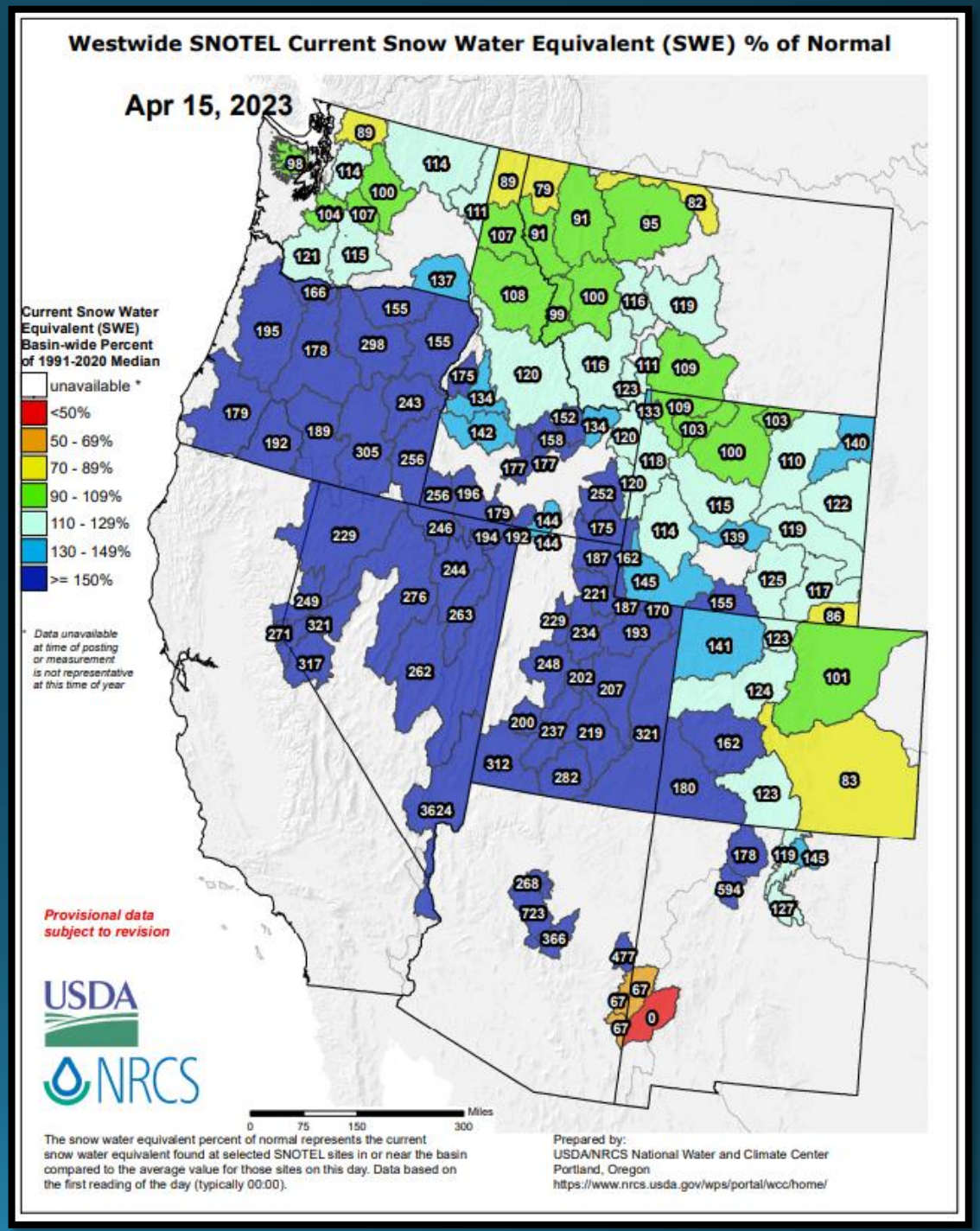




Snow Water Equivalent Status



Data Valid 4/14/2023

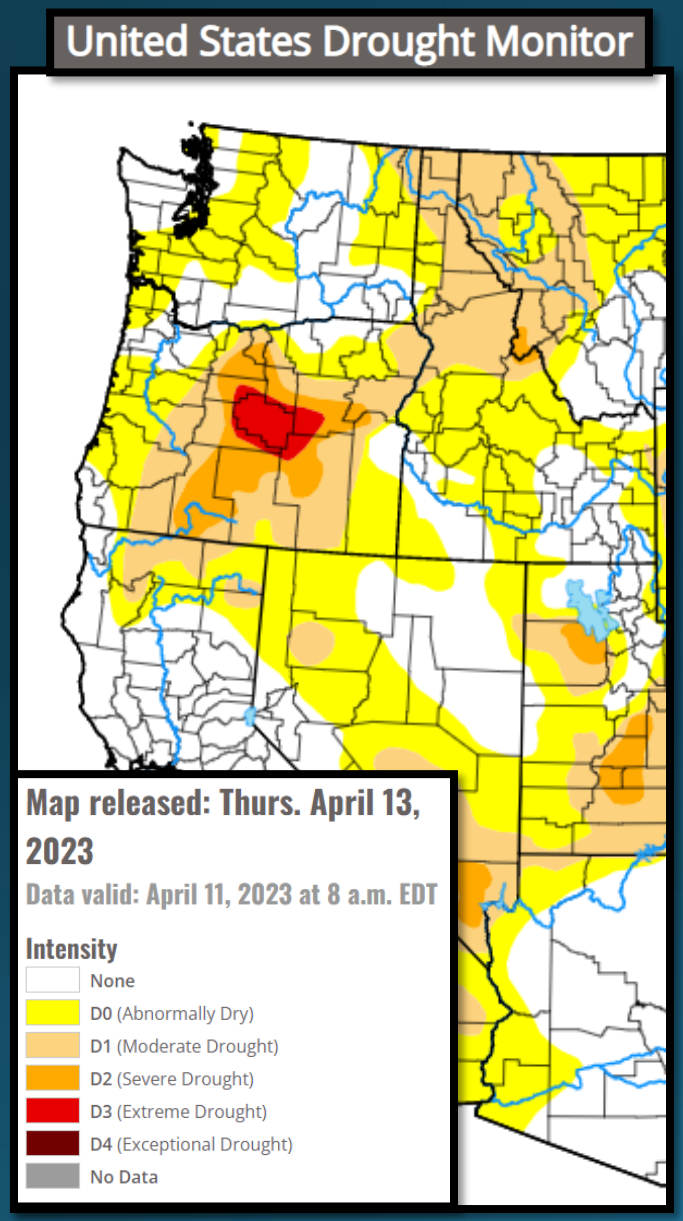


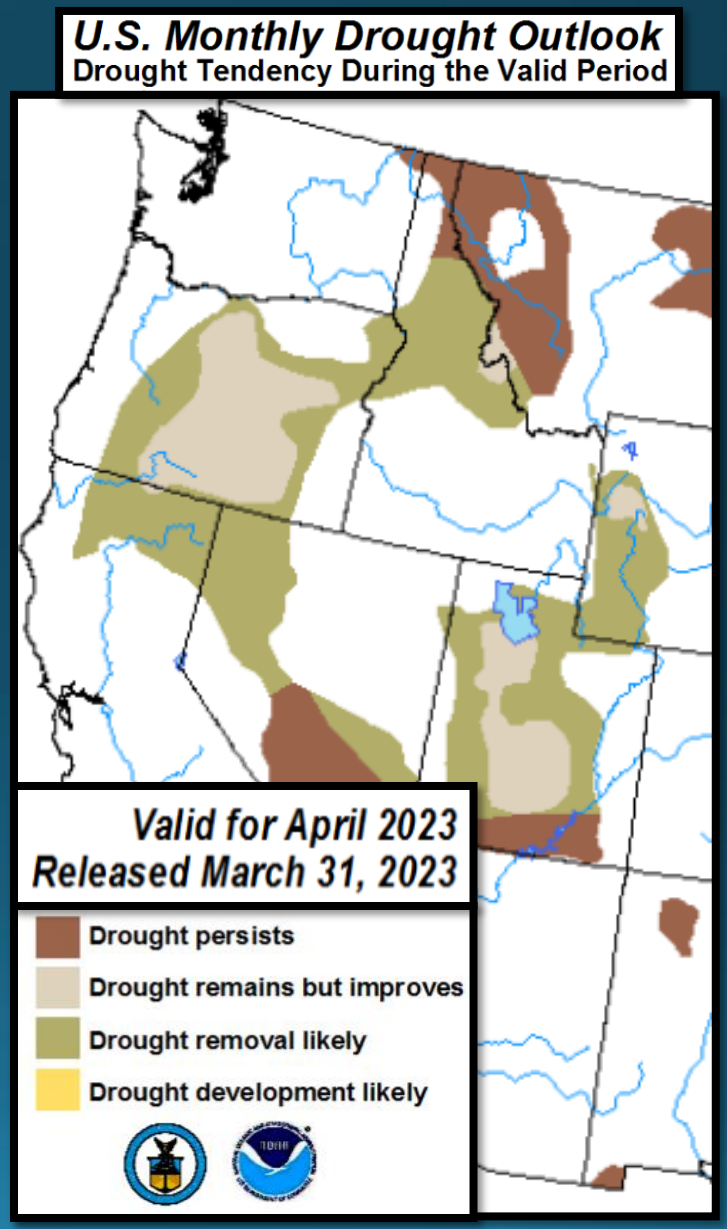
Crater Lake

Image Courtesy: NPS

	Average Max Temp (°F)	Average Min Temp (°F)	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Snow Depth as of: 03/31/23	Highest Max/ Lowest Min
March	26.2°	13.9°	14.12"	*179.3"*	156"	36° on 19th / 4° on 26th
Normal (1991-2020)	36.1°	20.3°	7.81"	71.9"	102"	N/A

Drought Monitor (Current) & Outlook (April)

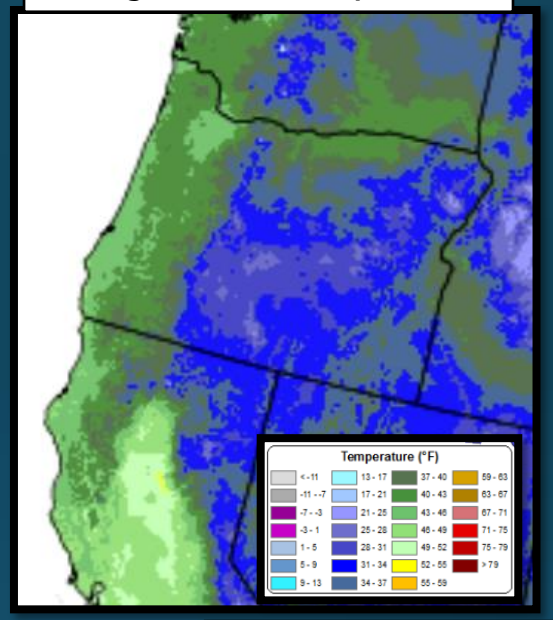




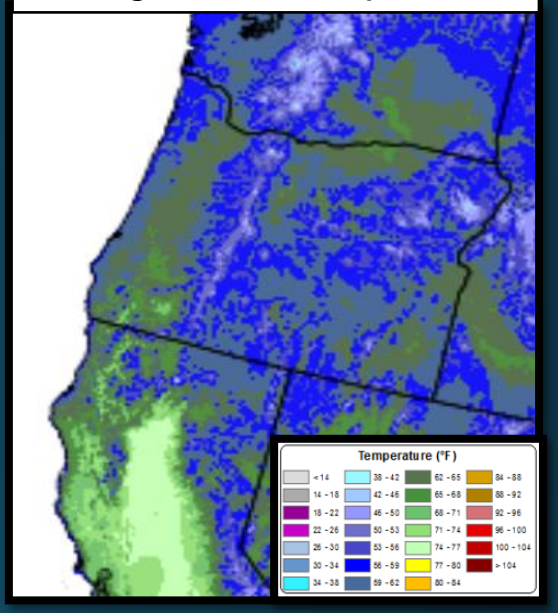
Looking Ahead: Normals for April (1991-2020)

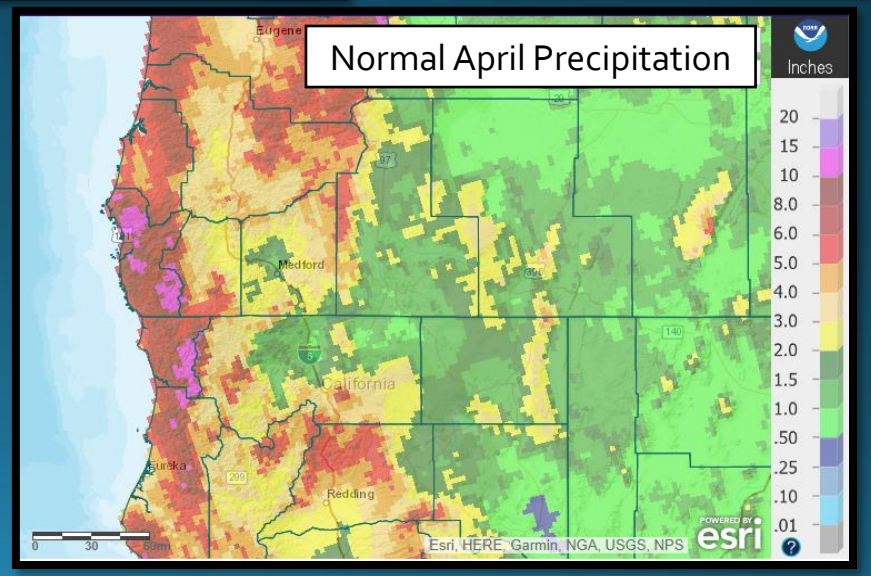
- ***Temperatures:*** Along the coast, lows are typically in 40s with highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Valleys west of the Cascades usually experiences average lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s and highs 55 to 65 degrees . Lows in the upper teens to mid 20s occur across the higher, more typically snow packed mountains, with lows in the 20s to lower 30s for the valleys east of the Cascades. Highs in the higher terrain are typically in the upper 30s to mid 40s, while across the valleys east of the Cascades, highs are typically in the upper 40s to upper 50s.
- ***Precipitation:*** Curry County usually gets 6 to 15 inches of water. South and southwest flow favored areas of west of the Cascades, the Mount Shasta area, and the Cascades and Siskiyous typically get 4 to 8 inches. The remainder of the West Side has a wide range in normals, from as low as 0.50 to 4 inches. East of the Cascades, the drier portions of Lake County can expect 0.50" to an inch, while the remainder of the East Side gets 1 to 4 inches of water, with up to around 5 inches in the some of the mountains.
- ***Snow:*** With peak snow water equivalent normally having occurred in mid-March, we expect the snowpack to begin melting off in April. In some years the snowpack peaks in April. Also, we do often get snow in April that slows the melting process. The snowpack typically melts off much faster on southerly aspects than northerly ones due to exposure and related temperatures. Crater Lake NP HQ normal snowfall for April is 48.7 inches.

Average Minimum Temperatures



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**