



Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington & North Idaho

Valid February 23, 2024

Issued By: NWS Spokane, WA

Contact Information: w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov

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





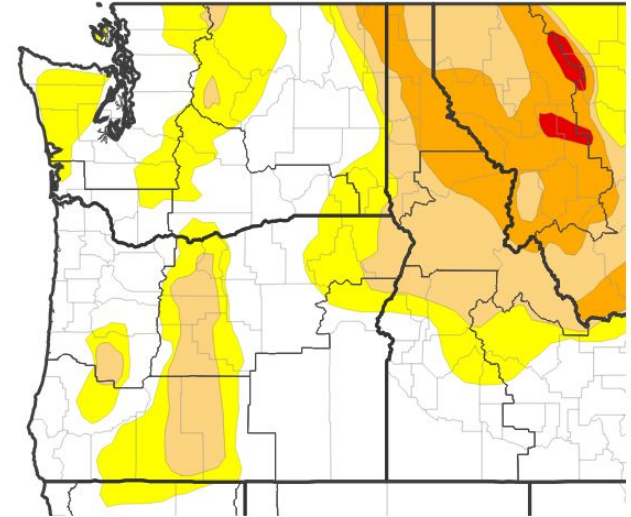
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for eastern Washington and north Idaho

DROUGHT REMAINS ACROSS THE INLAND NW

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Northeast WA and the Idaho Panhandle, **near 16%**
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Near the Cascade Crest, parts of northeast WA, and areas of the ID Panhandle, **near 18%**
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Parts of east slopes of Cascades, Blue Mountains, and a sliver of extreme eastern WA, **near 29%**
 - NONE: **Near 37%** in central WA!

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 02/20/24

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am EDT February 20, 2024





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4 week [change map](#) for eastern Washington and north Idaho

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - No Change: Extreme northeast WA, east slopes of north Cascades, and much of Idaho Panhandle.
 - Drought Improved: Crest of Cascades and southeast WA.
 - Drought degraded: A sliver of the central ID Panhandle and Okanogan Valley to Wenatchee area.

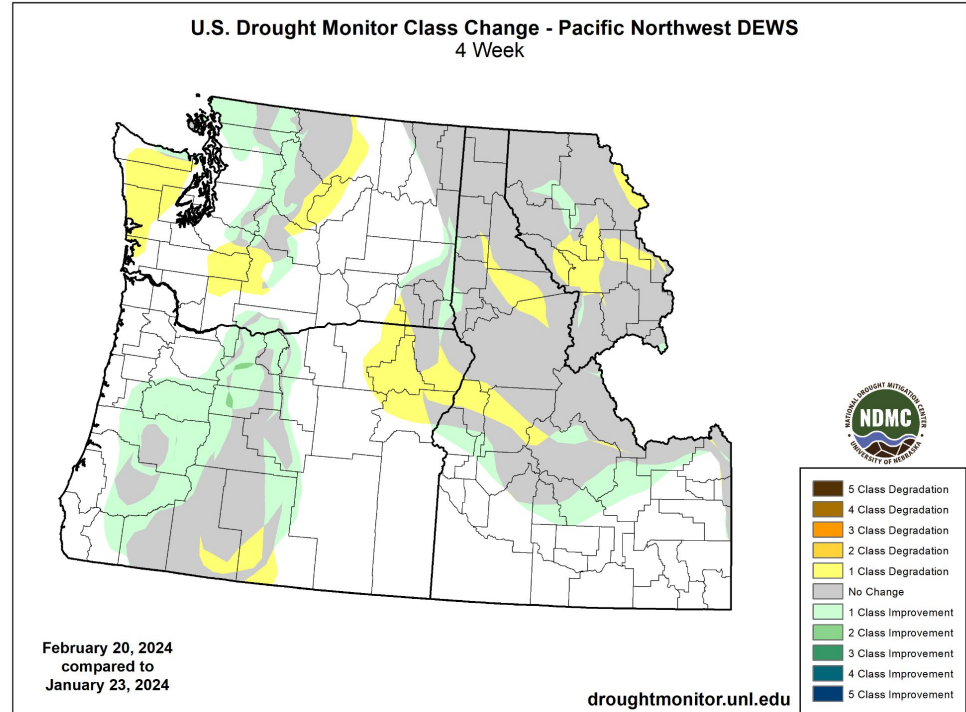


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 7am EDT February 20, 2023.



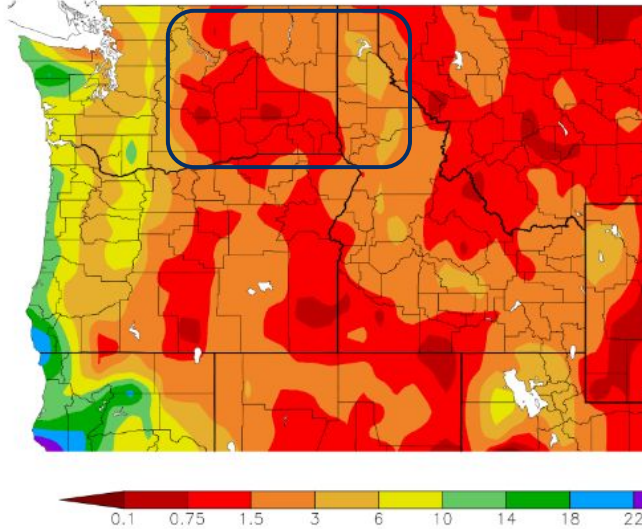


Precipitation

Last 30 Days

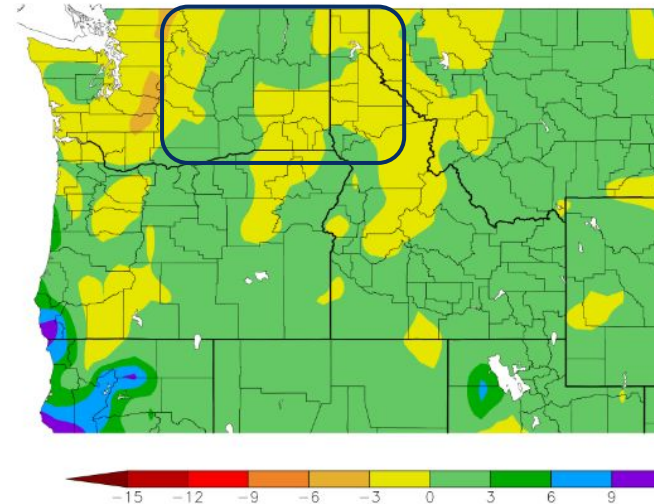
- Precipitation brought above normal amounts to much of central WA, meanwhile the mountain areas were lacking in the moisture especially in northern Cascades and the central Idaho Panhandle.

Precipitation (in)
1/24/2024 - 2/22/2024



Generated 2/23/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation
1/24/2024 - 2/22/2024



Generated 2/23/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data. Image Captions: ^{NOA}

Left - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
 Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
 Data Courtesy [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)
 Data over the past 30 days ending February 22, 2024

National Weather Service
Spokane, WA



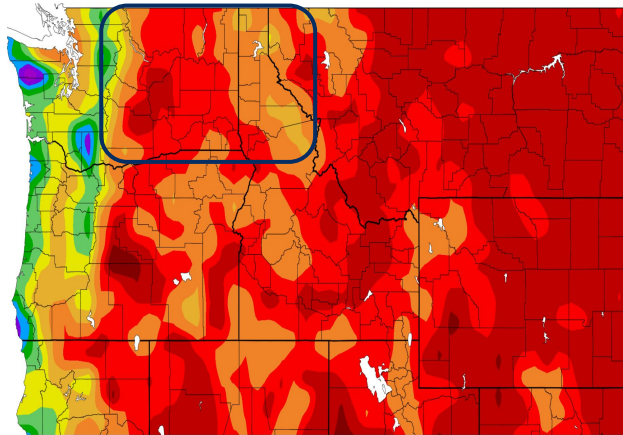


Precipitation

For the Water Year - since Oct 1, 2023

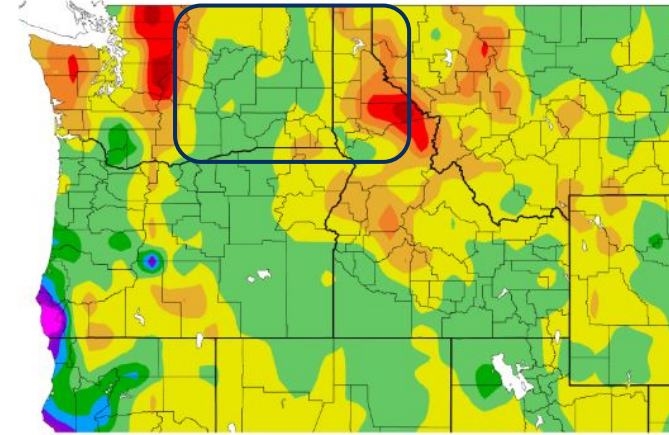
- Water Year Precipitation reflects the trend of the last several months with the abundance in moisture for central WA and the deficits seen across much of north Idaho and near the crest of the northern WA Cascades.

Precipitation (in)
10/1/2023 - 2/13/2024



ated 2/14/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Centers
Generated 2/23/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation
10/1/2023 - 2/22/2024



Generated 2/23/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA

Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Data Courtesy [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)
Data over the past 30 days ending February 22, 2024



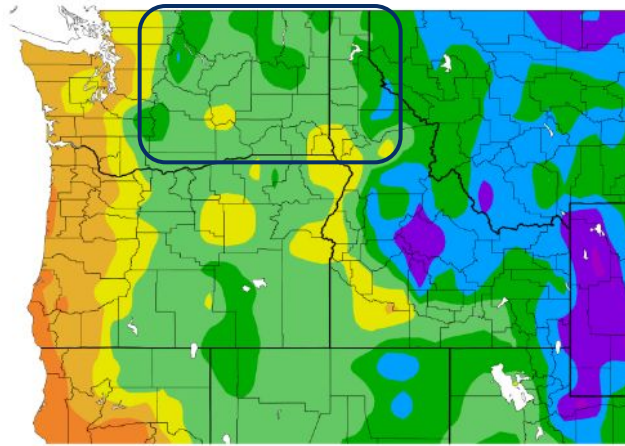


Temperature

Last 30 Days

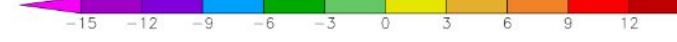
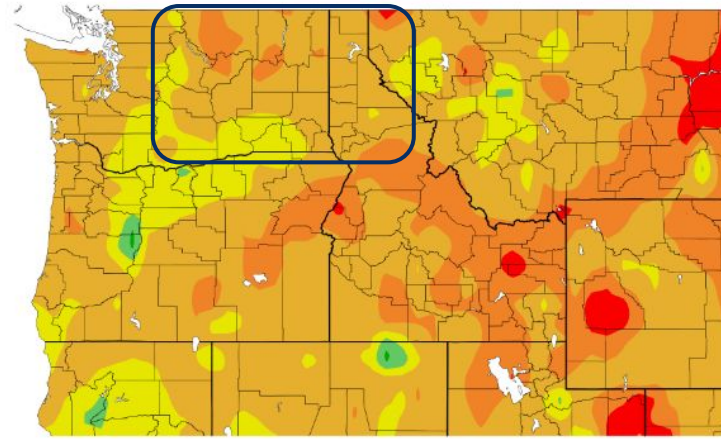
- While January was a colder than normal, milder temperatures have been experienced so far February. This has provide a mix of near to above normal temperatures across the region in the last 30 days.

Temperature (F)
1/24/2024 - 2/22/2024



Generated 2/23/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/24/2024 - 2/22/2024



Generated 2/23/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Image Captions: NOAA Region

Left - Average Temperature for the Pacific NW
 Right - Departure from Normal Temperature for the Pacific NW
 Data Courtesy [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)
 Data over the past 30 days ending February 22, 2024





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most stream flows have varied with near, above and below levels on the rivers and streams in the region.

Agricultural Impacts

- Most crops had good snow cover during the cold temperatures of January across central Washington. Crop conditions were normal for this time of year as snow receded with the recent warmer weather and rain by February, especially in the Palouse and Columbia Basin.

Snowpack Impacts

- Below normal mountain snowpack remains with many locations at near record low levels in the central ID Panhandle and northern Cascades.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Stream flows over the past 7 days have been steady across the region, ranging from normal to above normal across most of the unregulated rivers and streams across the region. Below normal flows seen on the Palouse. More variable steam flows were seen on the controlled rivers like the mid Columbia River.

Thursday, February 22, 2024

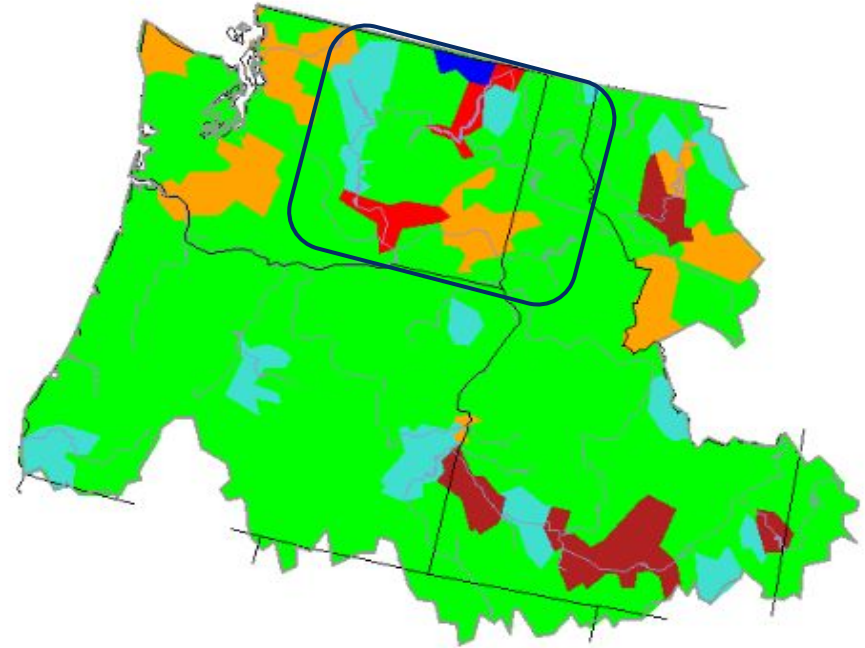


Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map](#) valid February 22, 2024

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		

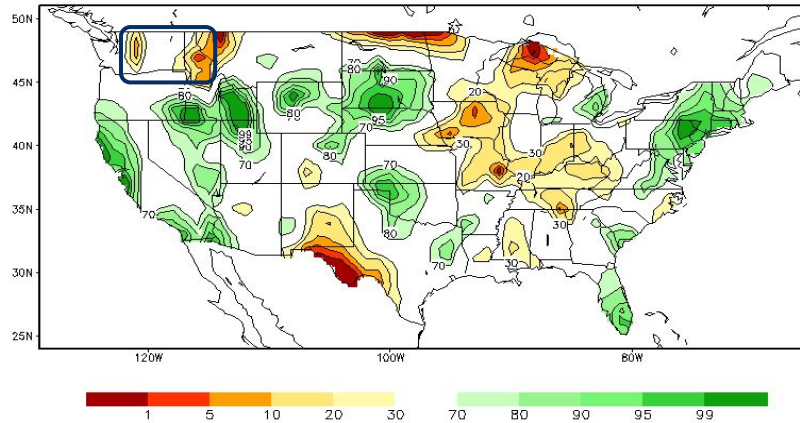




Agricultural Conditions and Impacts

- Soil moisture has decreased slightly in the past month with drier conditions in the Cascades and Idaho Panhandle.
- Crop moisture remains near to slightly wet across portions of the Inland NW. Crop conditions were normal for this time of the year.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
FEB 22, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending FEB 17, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

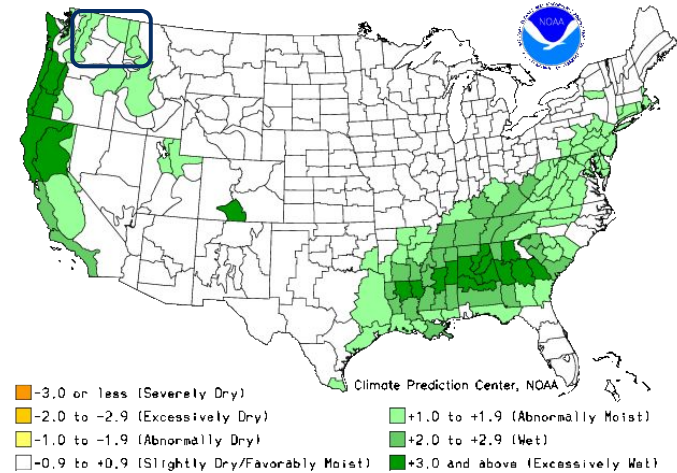


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid February 22, 2024

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending February 17, 2024





Mountain Snowpack Conditions and Impacts

- Much of the snowpack remains below normal across the Inland NW spanning from 55% to near 75% of normal for Snow Water Equivalent.
- Many mountain snow observations are near record low levels especially in the central Idaho Panhandle and far northern Cascades.

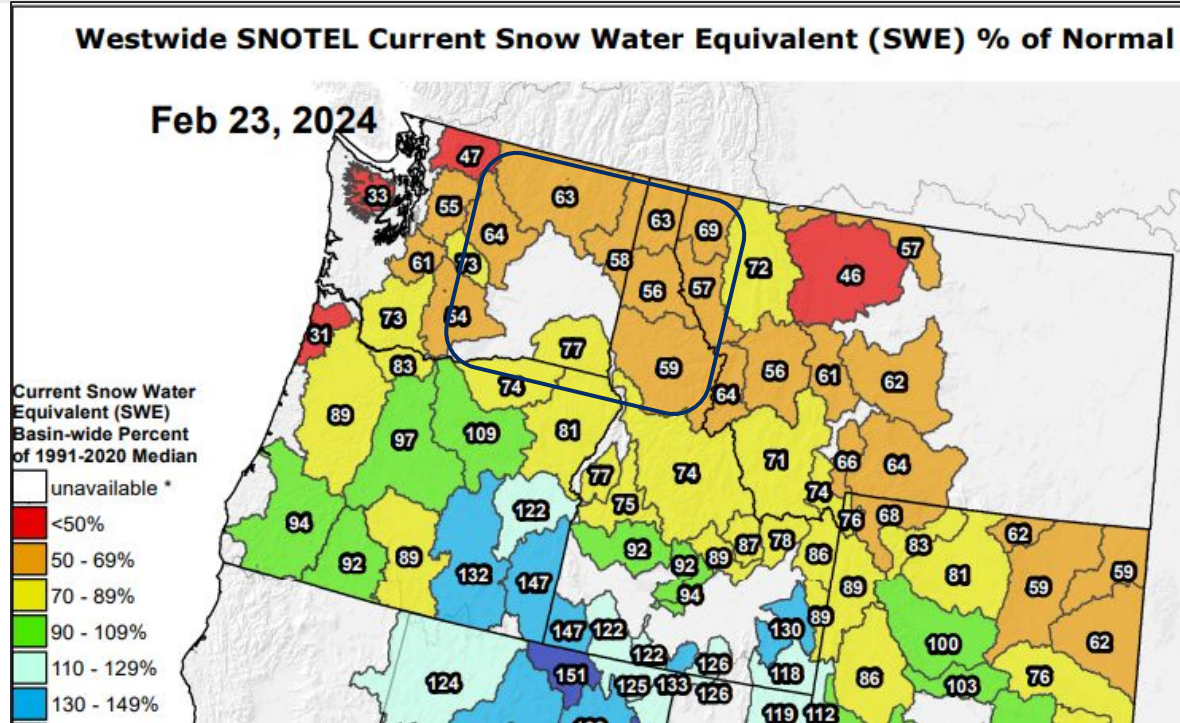


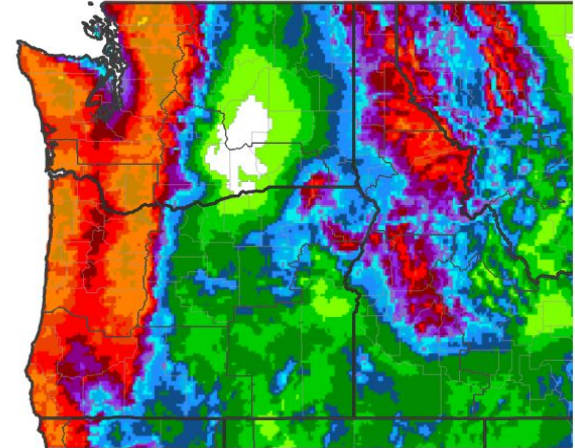
Image Captions:
[Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent](#) percentage .
 Daily value ending February 23, 2024



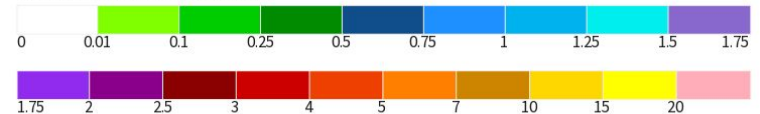
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Here is a forecast of precipitation for the Inland NW for the upcoming week.
- Rounds of lowland rain and mountain snow will take aim on the region late this weekend and again by late in the work week.
- The 8-14 day outlook leans toward below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for early March.
- The threat for heavy precipitation has increased for the upcoming week for the Cascades and the Idaho Panhandle.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/23/24

Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid February 23-29, 2024





Long-Range Outlooks

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

The MAR-APR-MAY outlook leans toward a 50-70% chance of above normal temperatures.

Precipitation is leaning toward a 40-50% of below normal region wide.

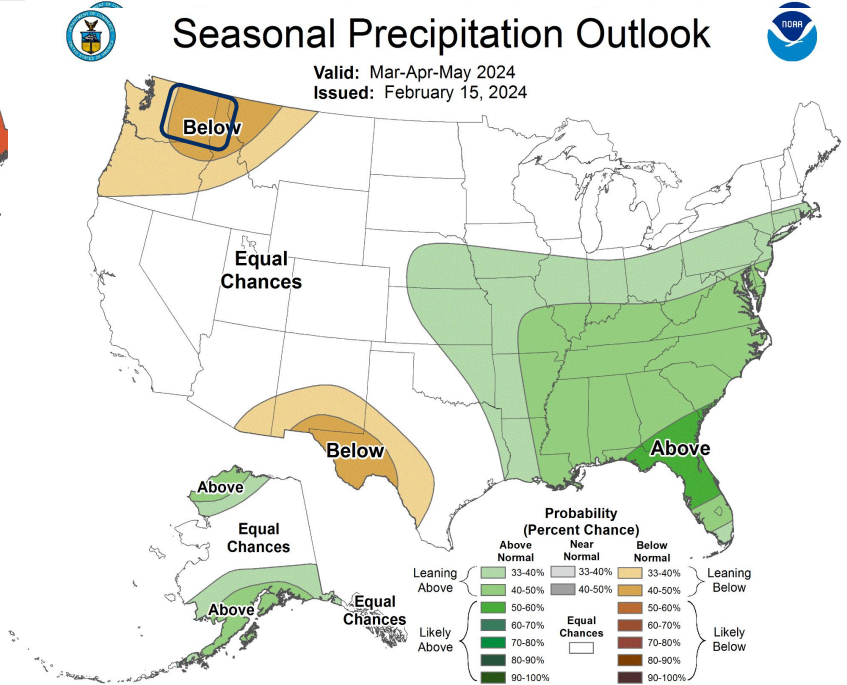
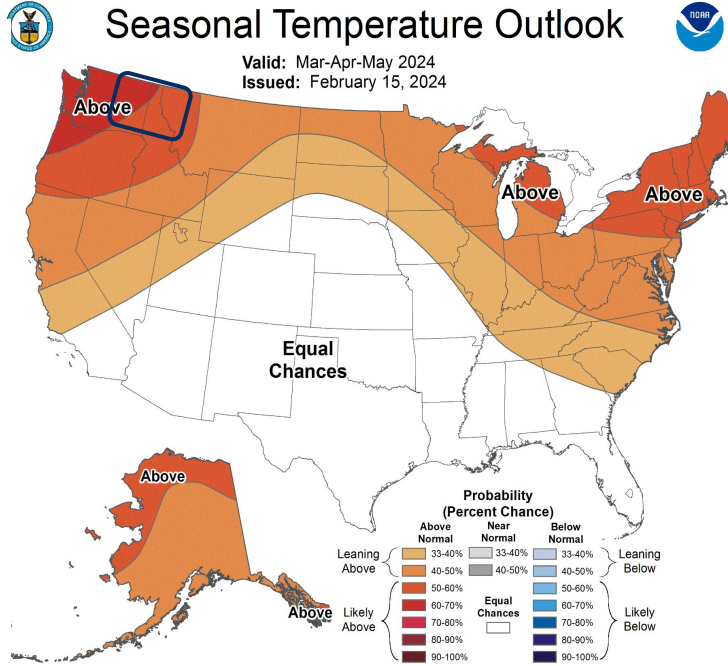


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid Mar-Apr-May 2024





Long-Range Outlooks

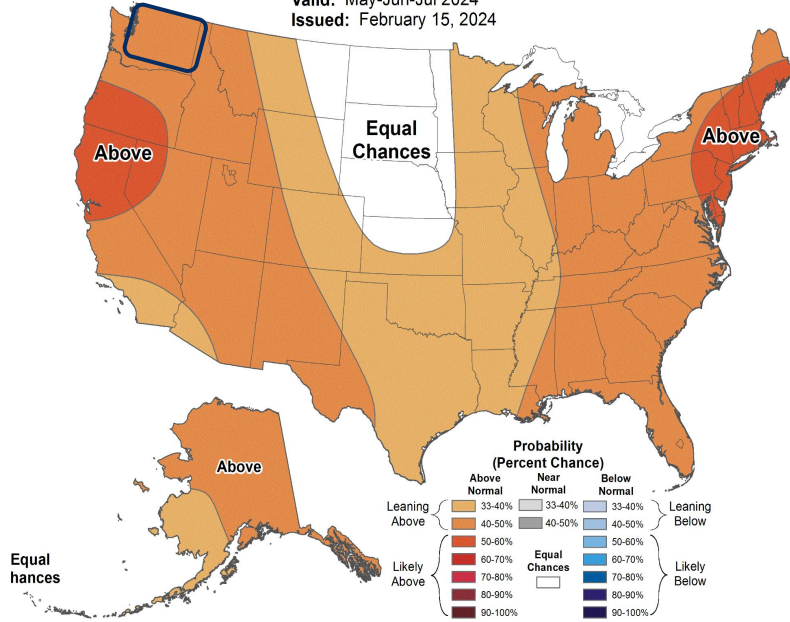
The latest seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2024
Issued: February 15, 2024



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2024
Issued: November 16, 2023

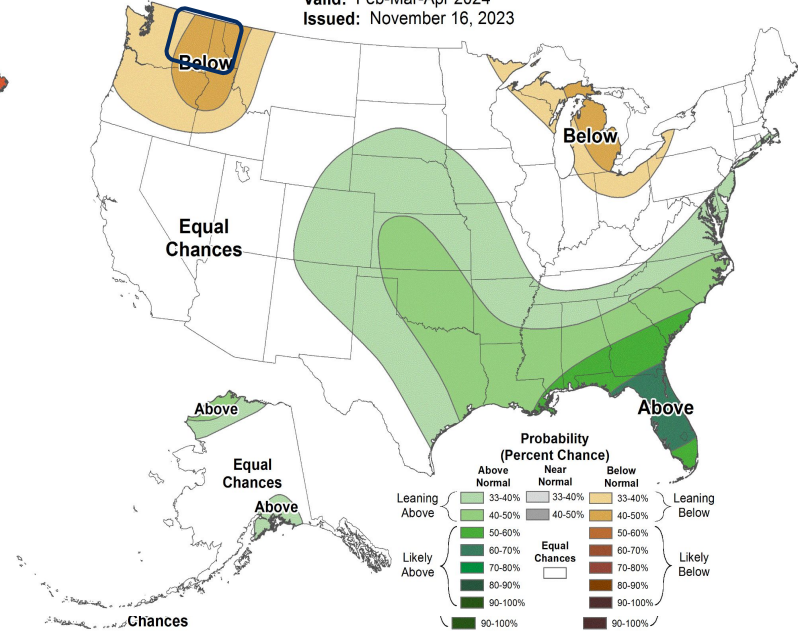


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid May-Jun-Jul 2024



The MAY-JUN-JUL outlook continues the mild trend with a 40-50% chance of above normal temperatures.

Precipitation is leaning toward a 40-50% of below normal region wide.

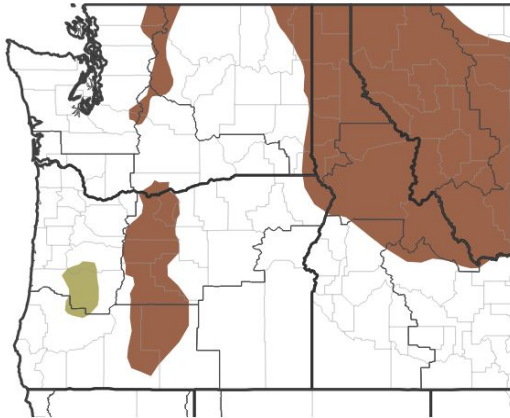


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

Where there is drought in the Cascades and north Idaho, it's likely to persist for the month and the season with gradual expansion into extreme eastern WA and over the Cascades.

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



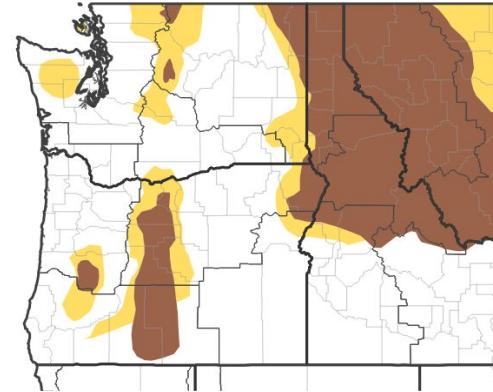
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/23/24

Image Caption:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) Released January 31, 2024 and valid for February 2024

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/22/24

Image Caption:

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) Released February 15, 2024 and valid through May 2024

