



# NWS Spokane

# Monthly Summary

## March 2025

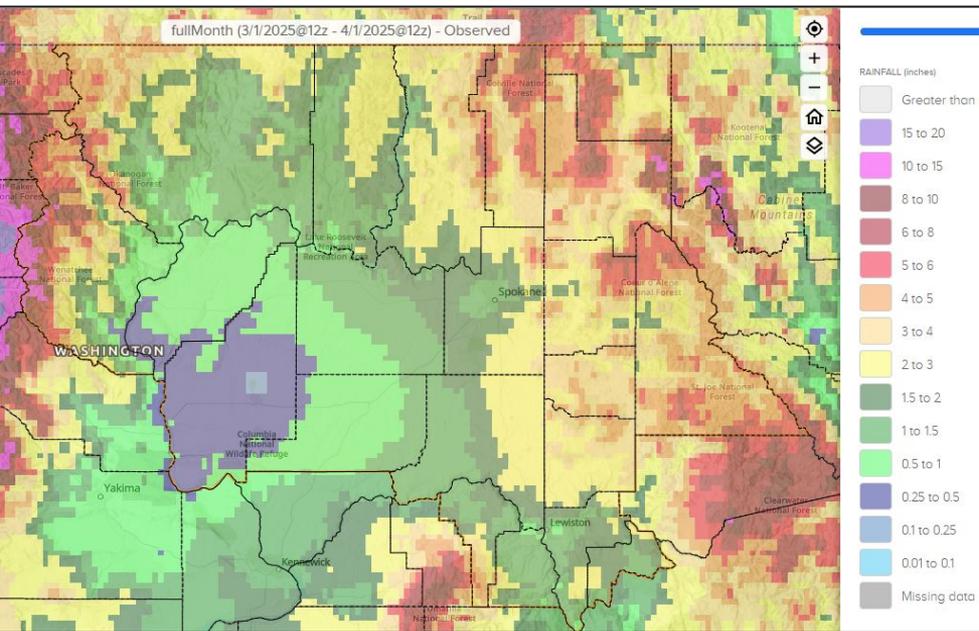
**Summary:** March finished with above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation on average in most areas. The first two weeks of the month were dry and mild with benign weather. The pattern changed by mid month and gave way to active, wet weather with above normal temperatures by the last week of March. This gave way to rapid snowmelt and rises on many rivers and streams.

# Monthly Precipitation for the Inland NW

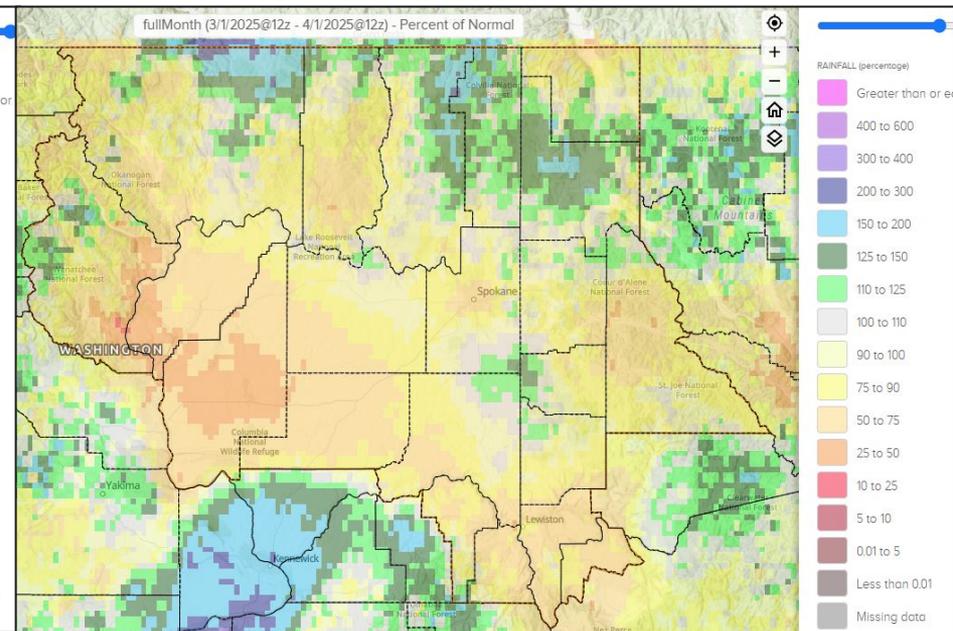


Taking a closer look, March was wetter than normal across the Okanogan Highlands into the northern end of the ID Panhandle. Meanwhile, it was drier than normal across the Wenatchee area to the Columbia basin and LC Valley with monthly rainfall around an inch or less.

## Precipitation Totals for March



## Precipitation Percent of Normal for March



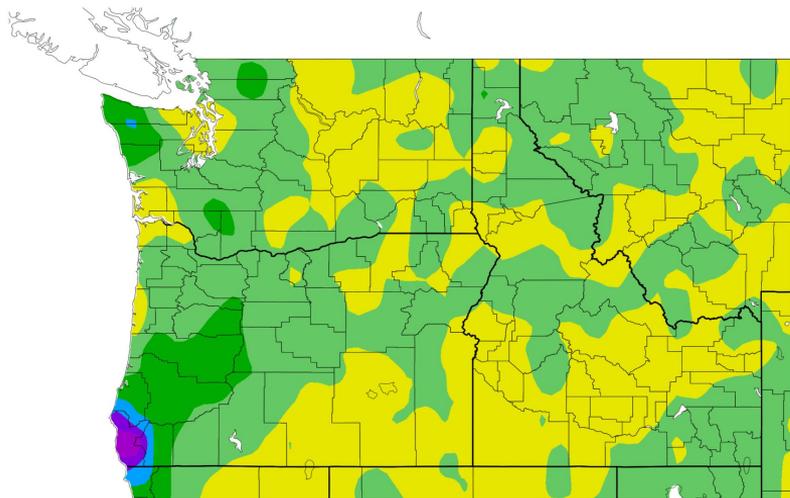
# Regional Precipitation Trends: last 1 to 3 months



Regionwide, March precipitation was a mix of above and below normal. Expanding it across the last 3 months, a drier trend is seen across the Cascades and western WA and over the Idaho Panhandle.

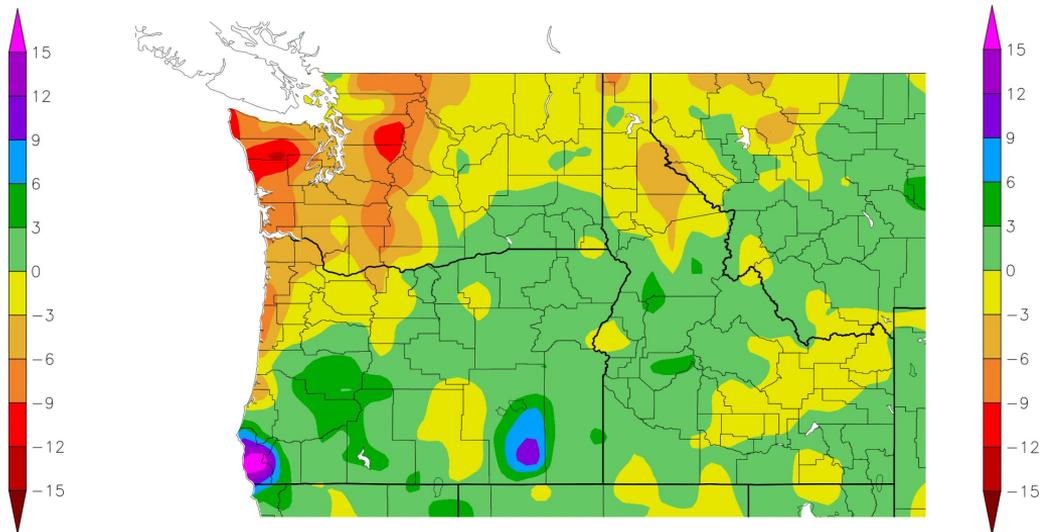
## Last Month: March

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
3/1/2025 – 3/31/2025



## Last 3 Months: January-March

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2025 – 3/31/2025



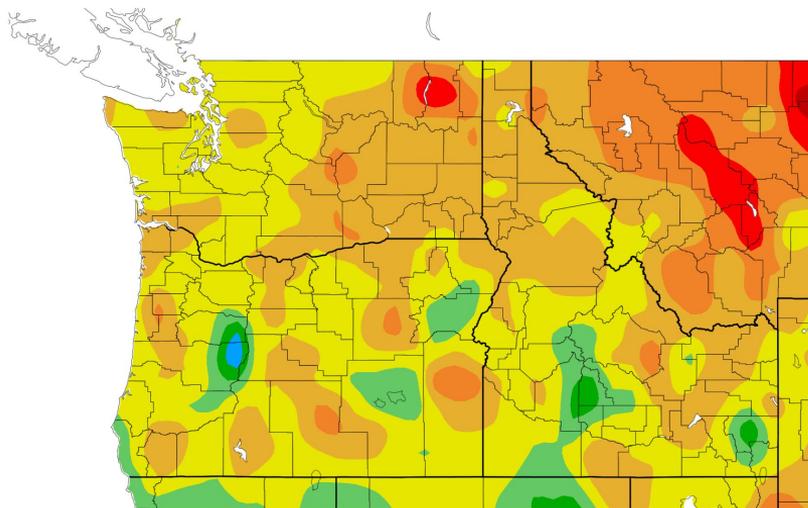
# Regional Temperature Trends: last 1 to 3 months



March temperatures were above normal across the region. Comparing it to the last three months, temperatures were a mix of above and below normal levels.

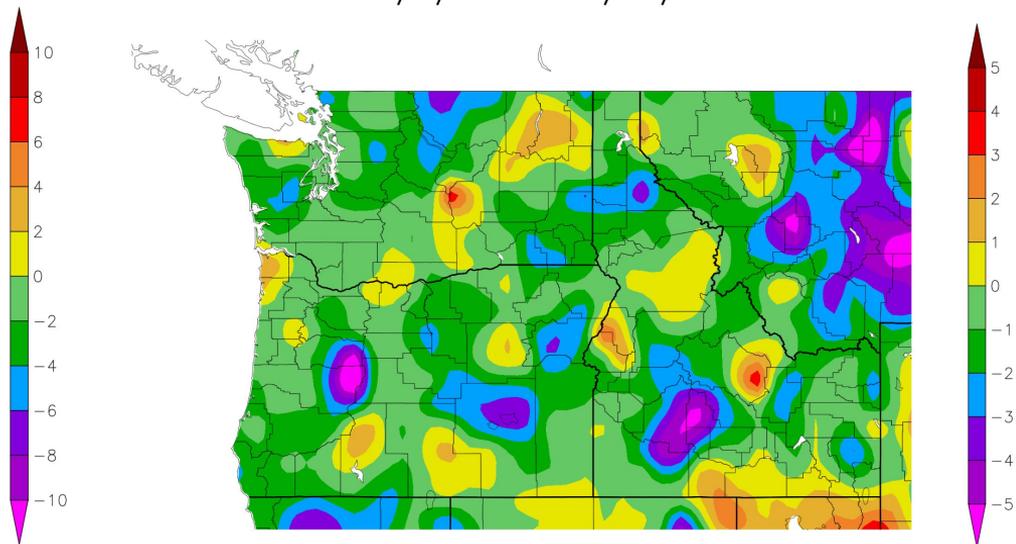
## Last Month: March

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/1/2025 – 3/31/2025



## Last 3 Months: January - March

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
1/1/2025 – 3/31/2025



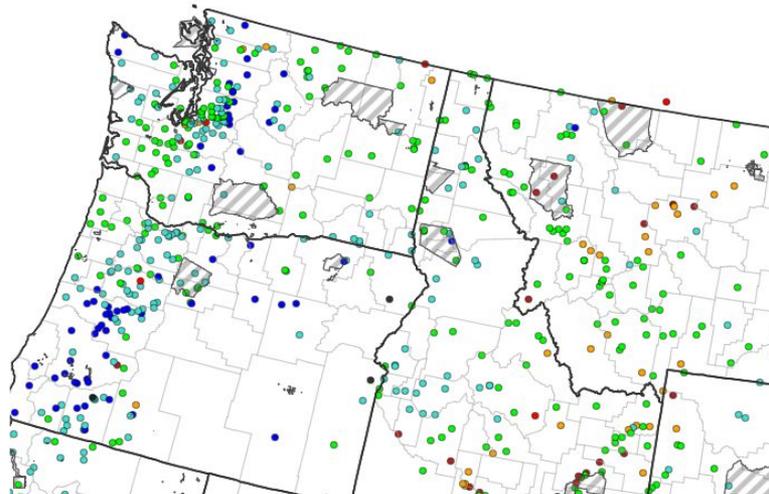
# Streamflows compared to Historical Values



March streamflows averaged near normal across much of the Inland NW due to the wetter pattern and runoff by late in the month.

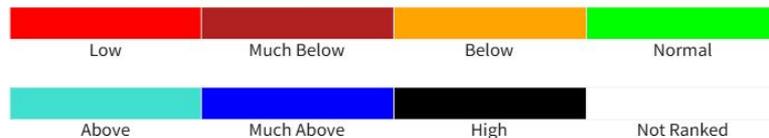
Much above normal flows were seen across much of Oregon, while near to below normal flows were seen in western Montana and southern Idaho.

## 28-Day Average Streamflow



Explanation - Percentile classes						
●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

### Streamflow Conditions

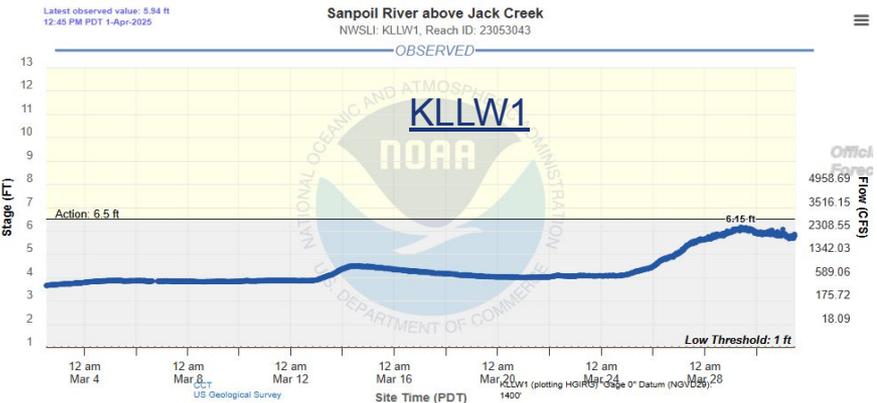
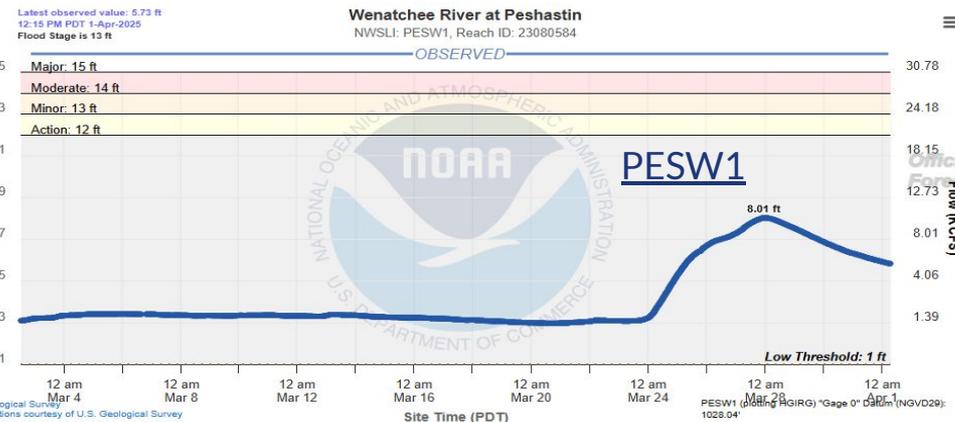
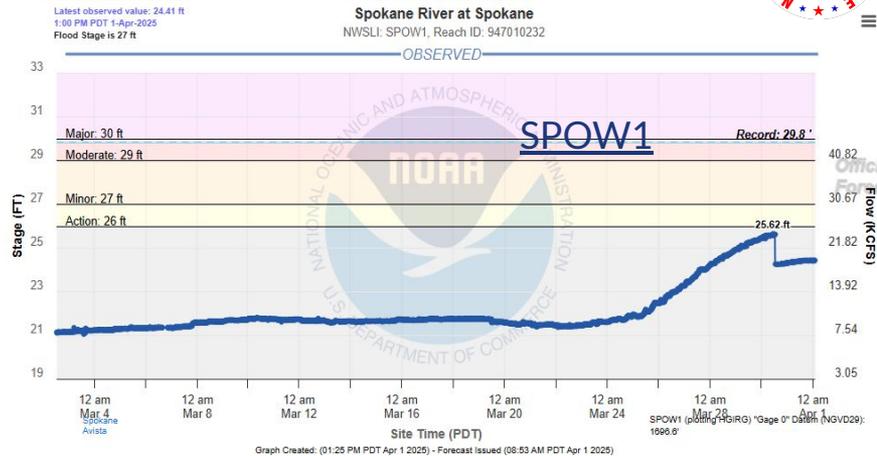
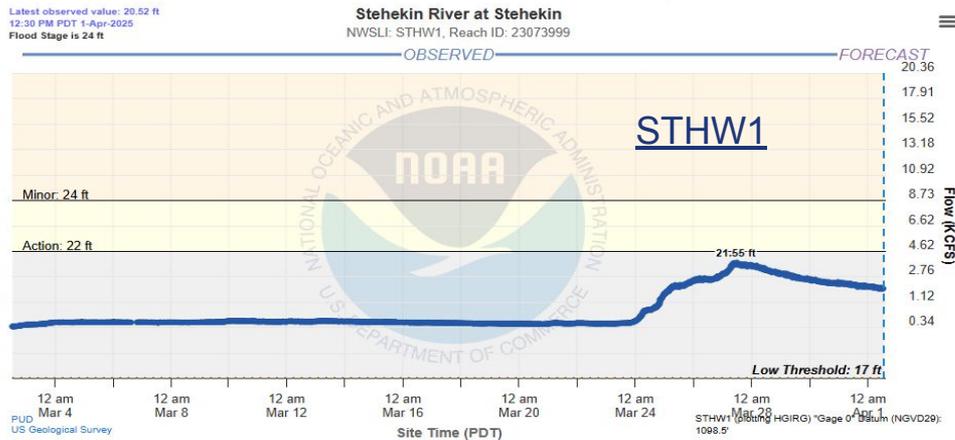


### Tribal Nations

Tribal Nation Boundaries

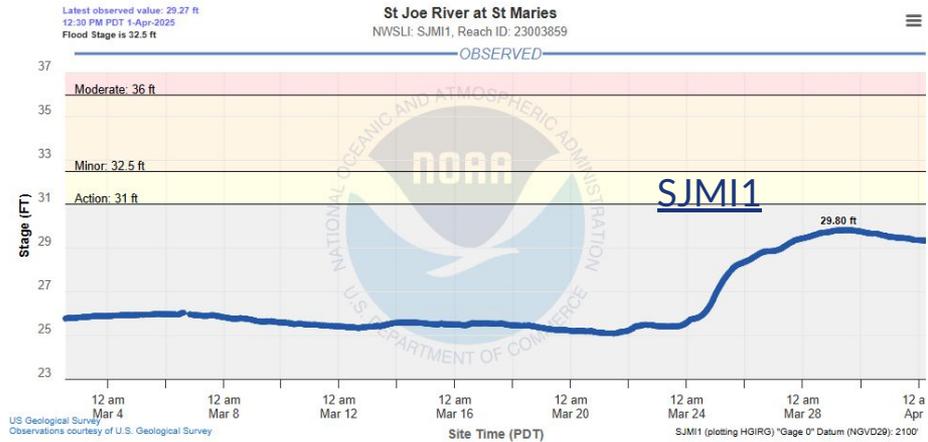
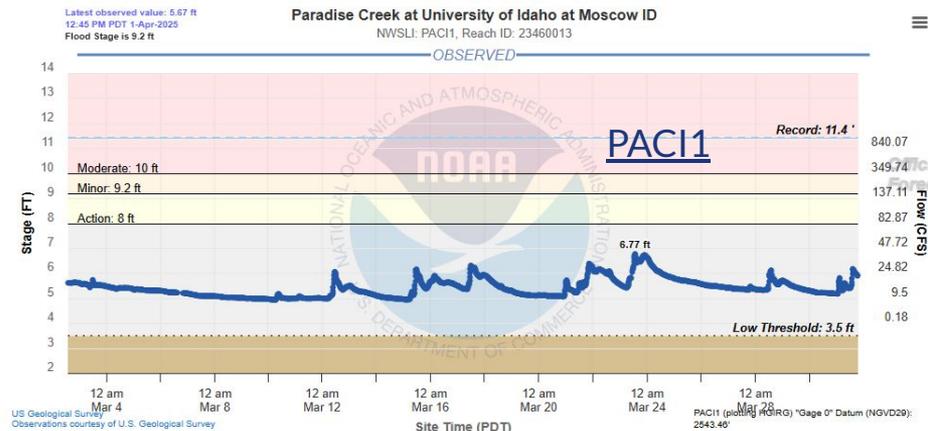
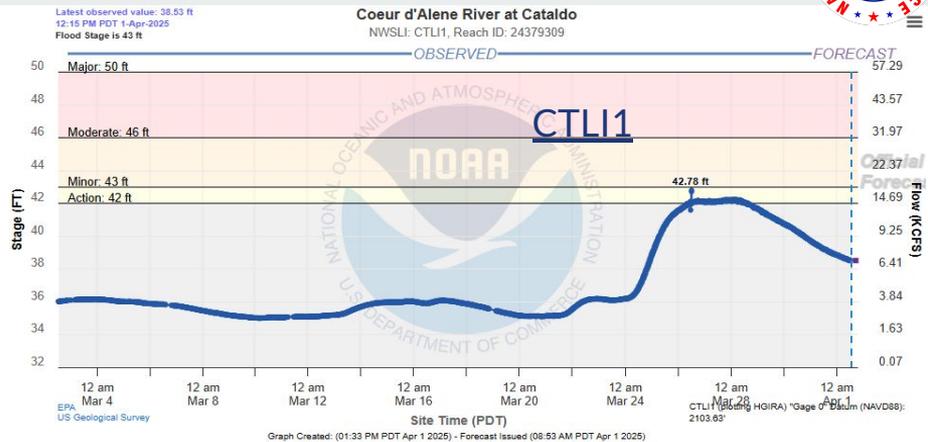
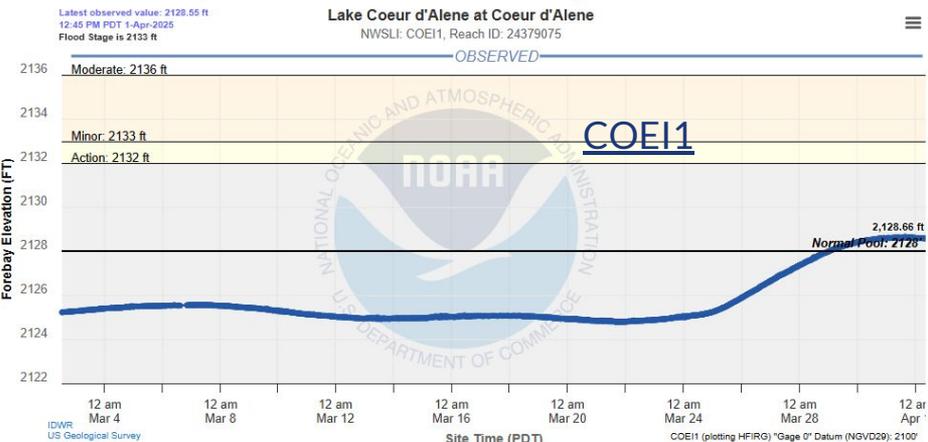
Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey  
Data Valid: 04/01/25

# Hydro Highlights of Specific Forecast Points - Eastern WA



In eastern WA, steady flows were seen for the first half of the month. Most of the high flows arrived in late March with warming and rain which caused several forecast points to approach Action Stage. No flooding reported.

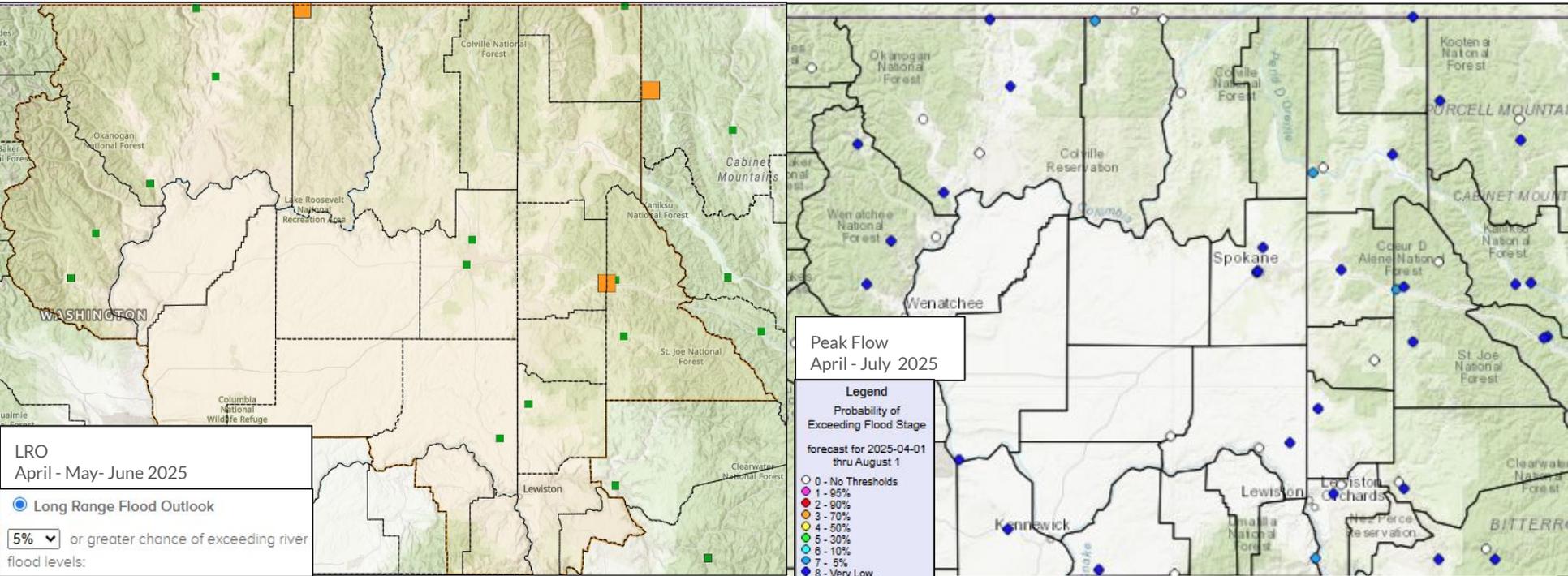
# Hydro Highlights of Specific Forecast Points - North ID



In north ID, flows remain steady with periodic increases on the creeks with precipitation. The warming and rain by late March helped increase the flows on the central Panhandle river basins with the Coeur d'Alene at Cataldo reaching Action Stage.



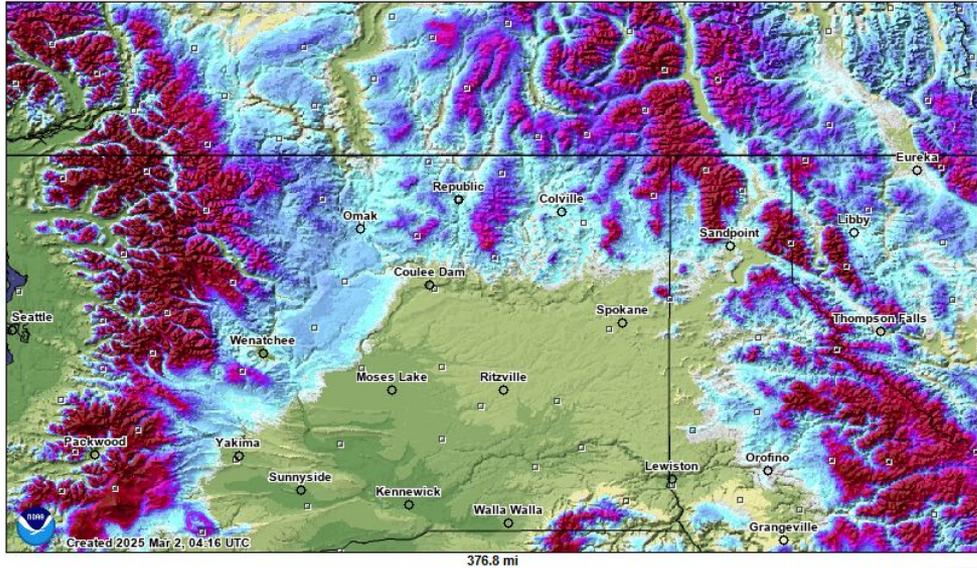
# Long Range Flood (LRO) Outlook & Peak Flow Forecast



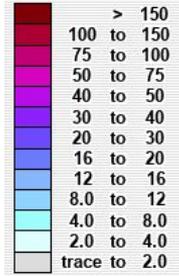
Elevated chances for higher flows are focused to the river basins with higher mountain snowpack through the spring, especially the Kettle River (9%), Coeur d'Alene (14%), and Yaak River (19%) which have a chance to reach flood stage which is near the climatological normals. Higher flows can be expected on any drainage that experiences increased runoff with above normal temperatures and precipitation.

# Change in Snow Cover

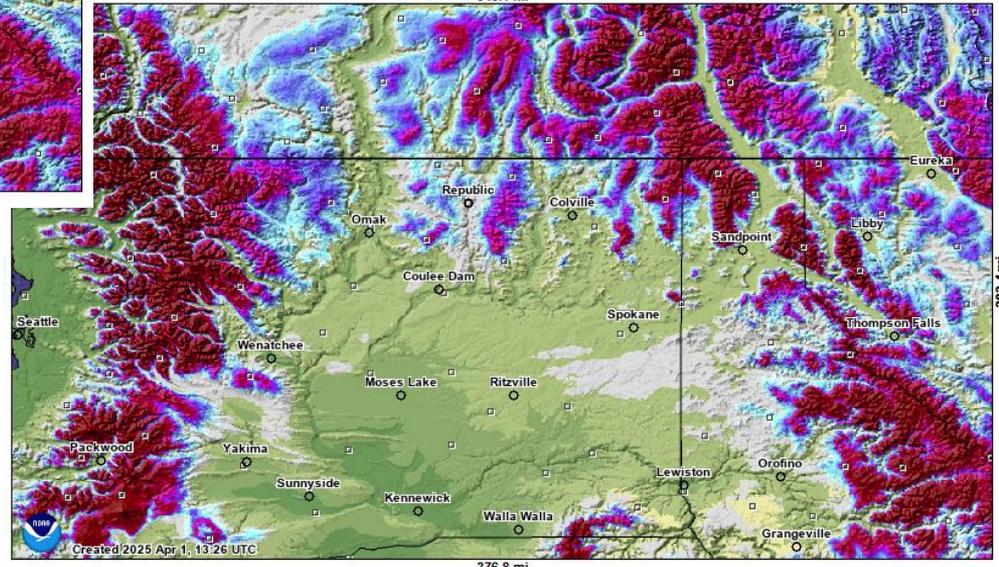
Modeled Snow Water Equivalent for 2025 March 1, 20:00 UTC



Inches of depth



Modeled Snow Water Equivalent forecasted for 2025 April 1, 20:00 UTC



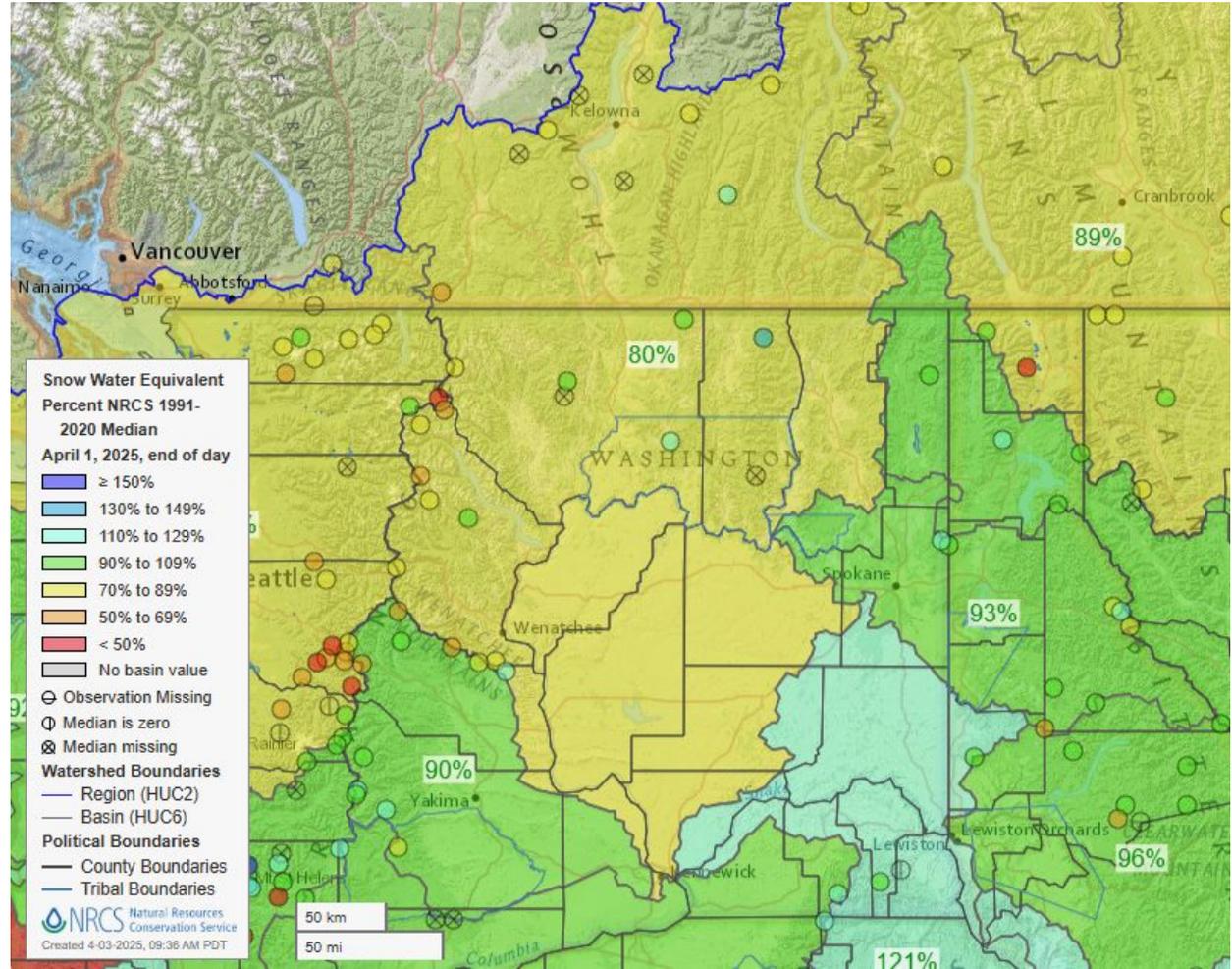
Snowpack varies across the region. Plenty of low and mid level snow was found across north-central WA from the Waterville Plateau to the Okanogan Valley. The warming in late March led to a reduction of the mid slope snowpack, especially between 3500-4500 ft. The high level snowpack remains solid across the region by the end of March.



# Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)

Snow water equivalent (SWE) across the Inland NW trended below normal across the northern Cascades.

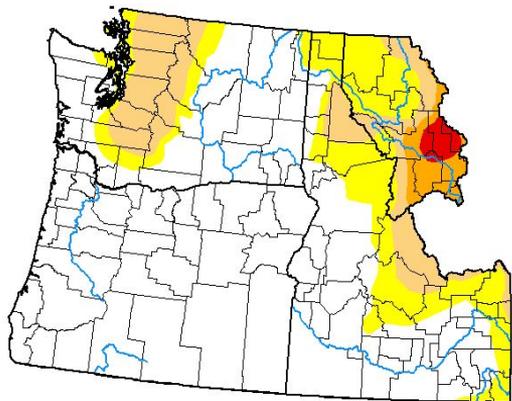
Meanwhile, above normal SWE values were found at the higher elevations in the Okanogan Highlands, northeast WA, local spots in the Idaho Panhandle, and across the Blue mountains. This will contribute to runoff and higher flow in the rivers and streams this spring.



# Monthly drought status



## U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS



**April 1, 2025**

(Released Thursday, Apr. 3, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
<b>Current</b>	69.99	15.79	11.13	2.21	0.87	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 03-25-2025	69.99	15.79	11.30	2.04	0.87	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 12-31-2024	47.24	31.76	16.71	2.54	1.75	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-07-2025	61.17	24.24	10.30	2.54	1.75	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10-01-2024	13.07	30.68	44.86	9.13	1.78	0.49
<b>One Year Ago</b> 04-02-2024	55.07	23.99	13.08	7.32	0.54	0.00

**Intensity:**



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

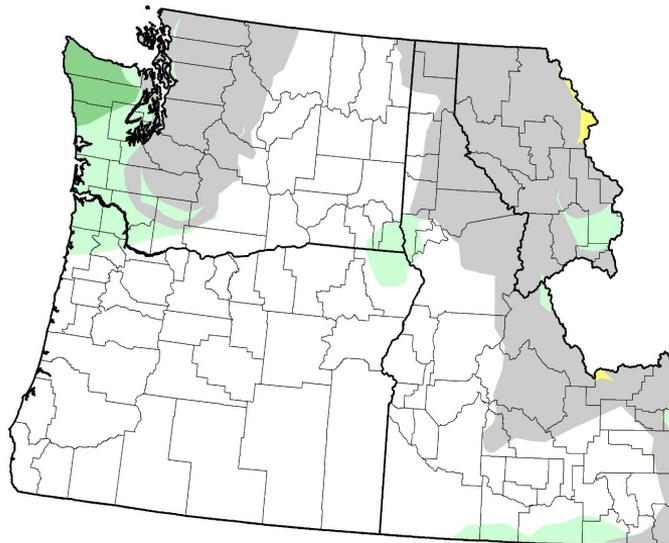
**Author:**

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Pacific Northwest DEWS 4 Week



April 1, 2025  
compared to  
March 4, 2025

[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



The latest Drought Monitor shows small changes across the region. There's been improvement across the Blue Mountains and LC Valley. Nonetheless, long term moderate drought remains across the Cascades and central Panhandle mountains.



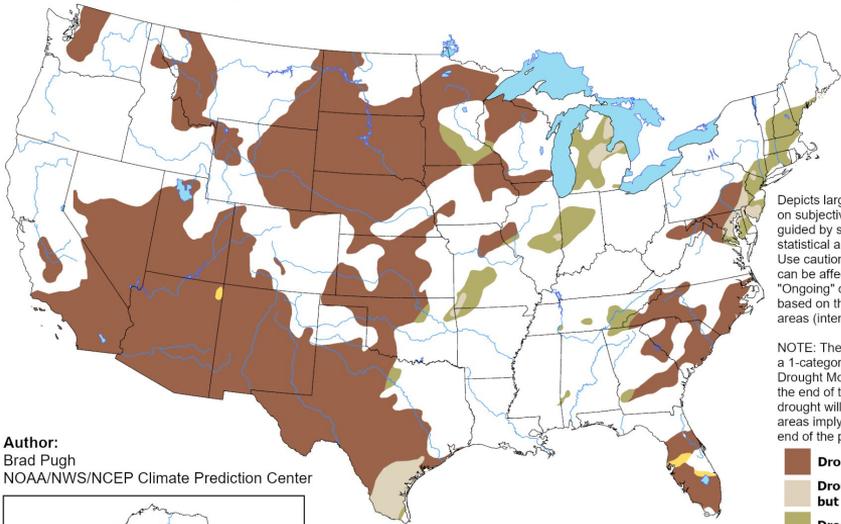
# Drought Outlooks

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

Valid for April 2025  
Released March 31, 2025

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

Valid for April 1 - June 30, 2025  
Released March 31, 2025



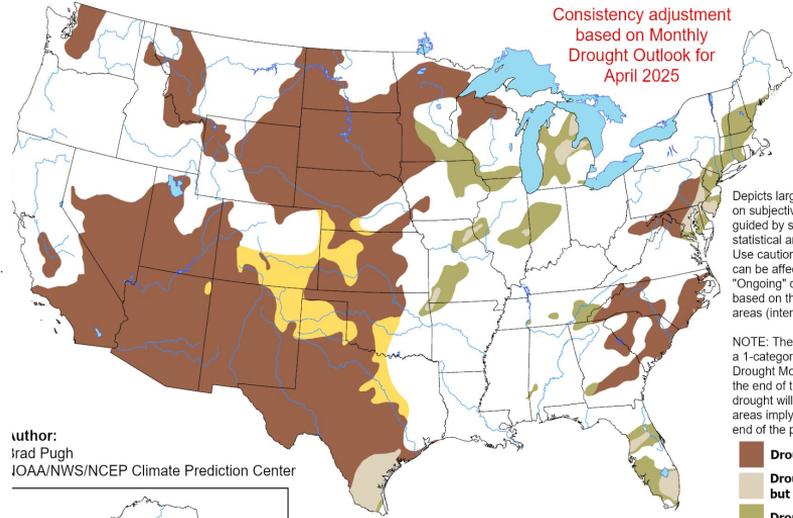
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>



Consistency adjustment based on Monthly Drought Outlook for April 2025

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

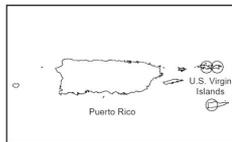
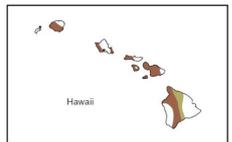
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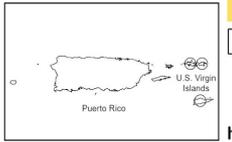
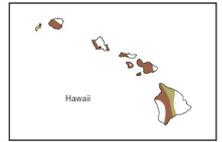


<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

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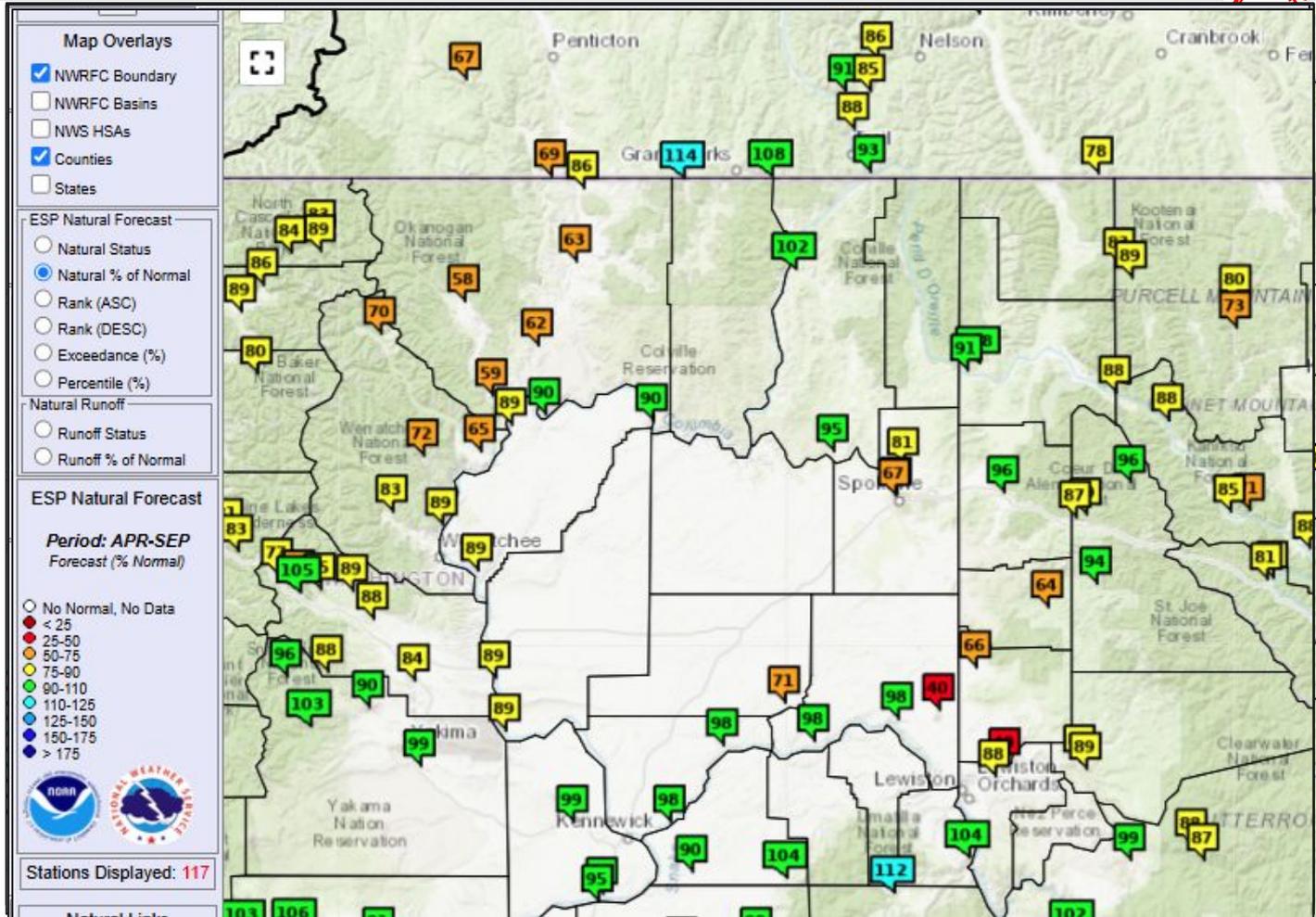


The Monthly and Seasonal Drought Outlooks are similar and lean toward drought persisting across the Cascades and central ID Panhandle through the Spring months.

# Water Supply Outlook

The Water Supply Outlook from the NW River Forecast Center varies across the region, although most areas remain below normal.

The exception being the lower Snake River and the Kettle River at the BC border which are trending near normal to slightly above normal levels. Persistent deficits remain across the Chelan, Methow and Okanogan River basins.





# Looking ahead: Seasonal Outlook: April-May-June



The seasonal outlook continues the trend of equal of near, above, and below normal temperatures and precipitation across the Inland NW for the spring months.

