

Drought Information Statement for Western & Central Wyoming

Valid May, 16, 2024

Issued By: WFO Riverton, WY

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated by June 7, 2024, or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/riw/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
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- Moderate (D1) drought conditions continue across northeast and north-central Wyoming

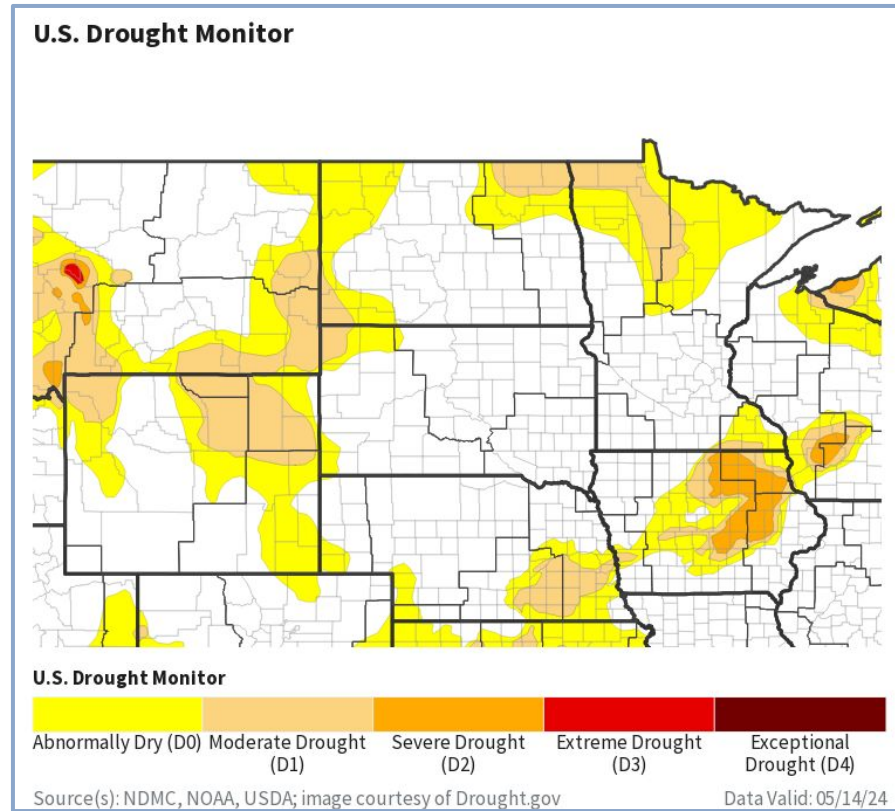




U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Wyoming

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None occurring
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** None occurring
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** None occurring
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Portions of Park, Teton, and Johnson Counties; also, Bighorn Mountain portions of Big Horn and Washakie Counties
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of Natrona, Sublette, Teton, and eastern Big Horn and Washakie Counties





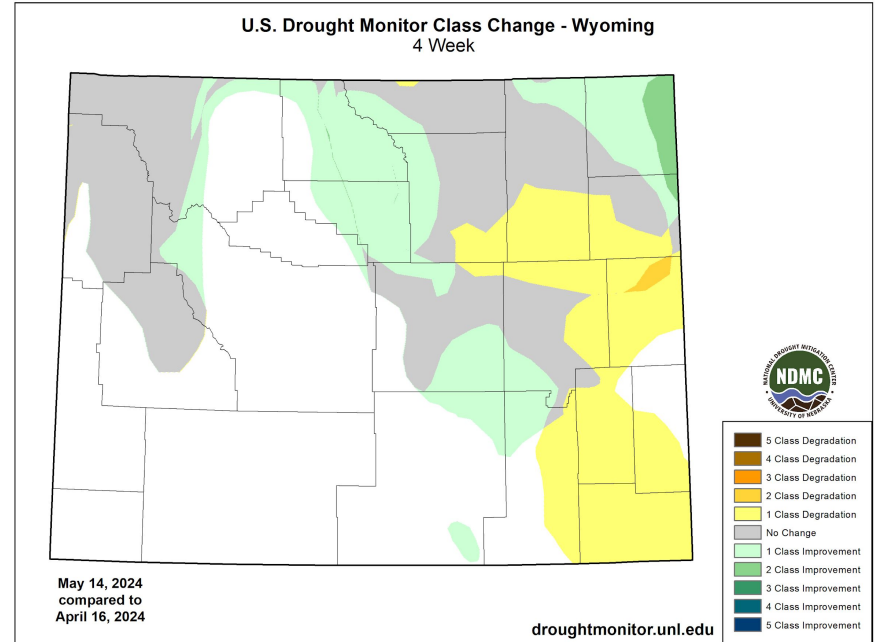
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Wyoming

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**

- **Drought Worsened:** Far southeast Johnson and extreme northeast Natrona Counties
- **No Change:** Teton, Sublette, Park, Johnson, and portions of Natrona Counties
- **Drought Improved:** Mainly Big Horn and Washakie Counties, the Bighorn Mountains, and southeast Natrona County

- **Several wet spring storm systems** helped provide needed precipitation to the Bighorn Mountains and adjacent areas during the first half of May



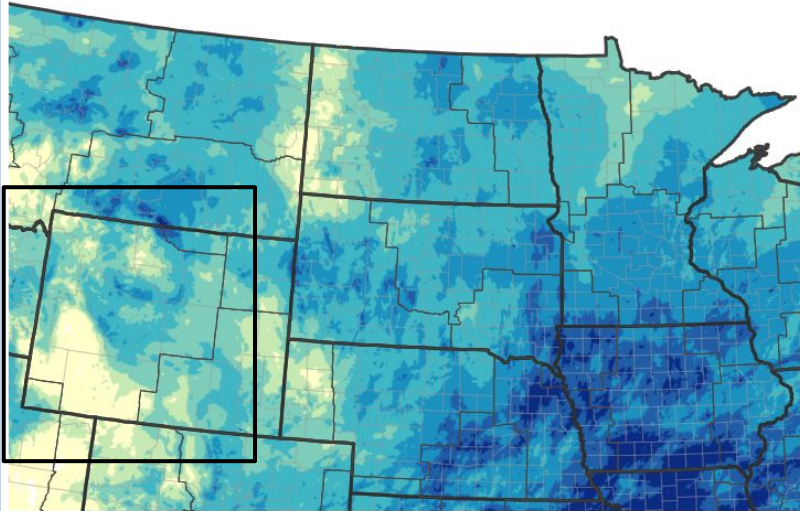


Precipitation

Areas west of the Continental Divide and the central Bighorn Basin had below normal precipitation over the past 30 days

Above normal precipitation was mainly focused over Fremont and Hot Springs Counties

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



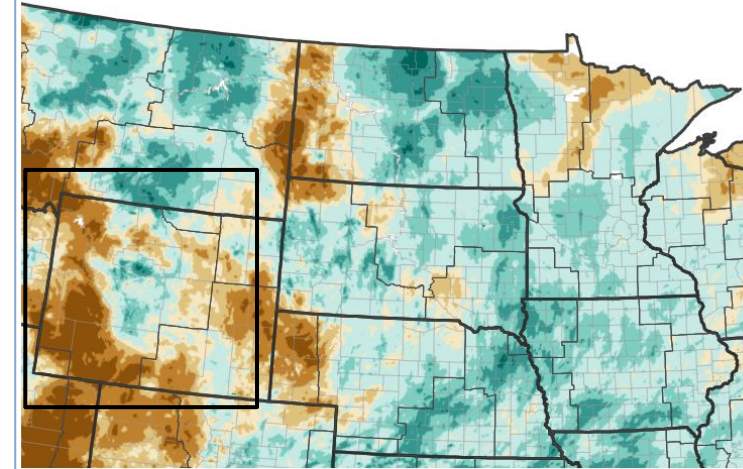
Inches of Precipitation



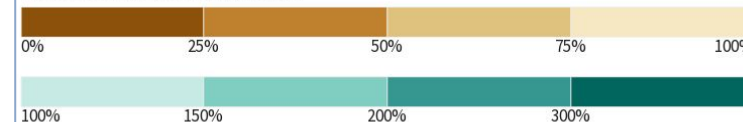
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/16/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/16/24





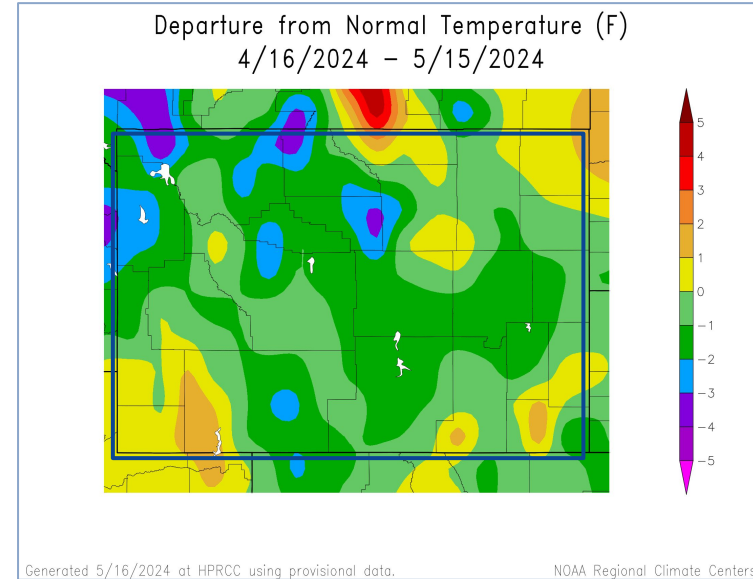
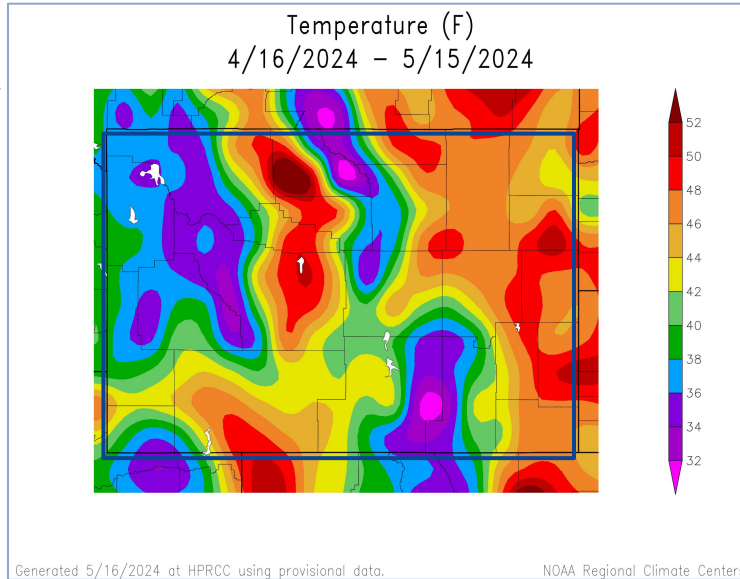
Temperature

Link to [ACIS Climate Maps from the High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)

Much of the region saw around or slightly below normal temperatures the past 30 days

The temperatures most below normal were scattered across the far north and southern Bighorn Mountains

Far southwest Wyoming saw temperatures slightly above normal

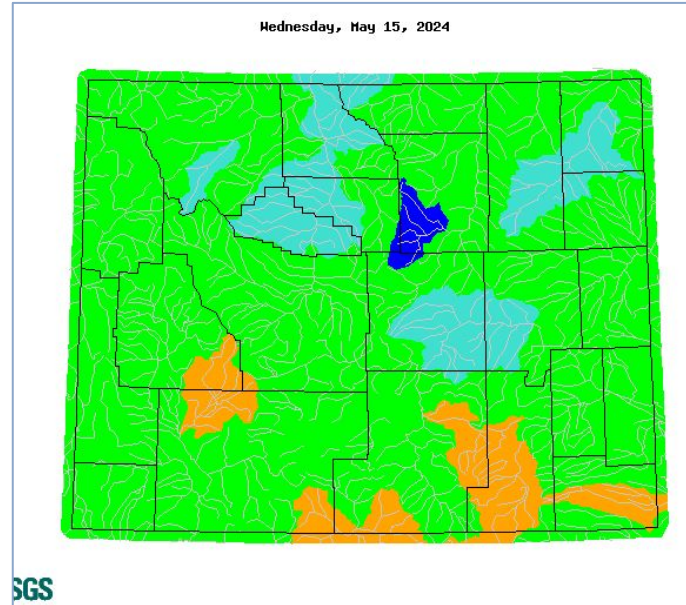




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

7-Day Average Streamflow Ending May 15, 2024

- Big Sandy Basin has below normal streamflow for this time of year
- A majority of the region has normal streamflow
- Portions of the Bighorn, North Platte, and Middle Powder River Basins have above normal streamflow as compared to normal



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High	No Data

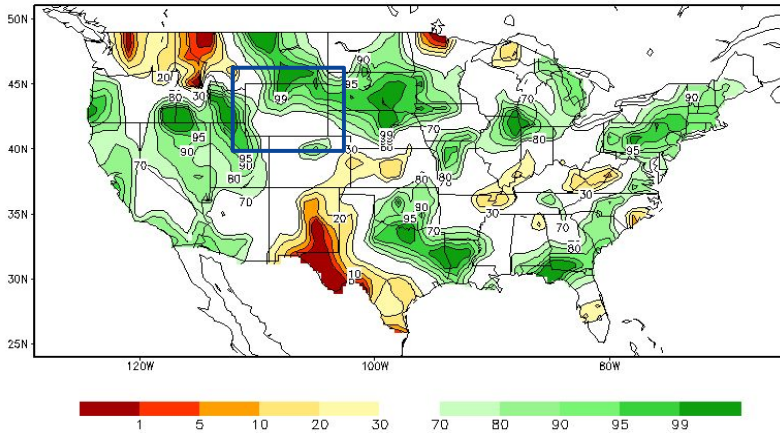
Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 05 15 2024





Agricultural Impacts

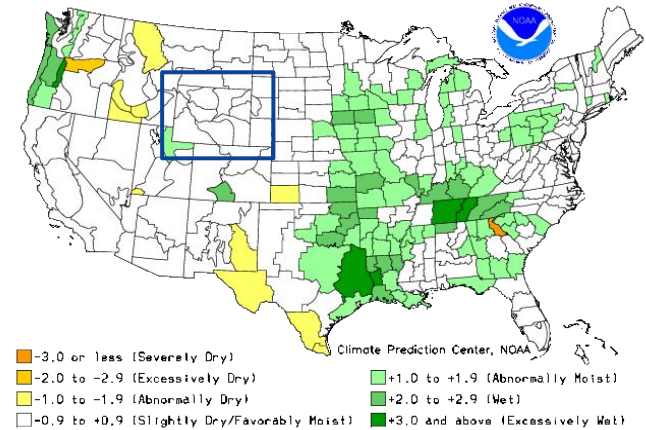
Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAY 15, 2024



- Recent precipitation has created wet soil moisture conditions across mainly northern Wyoming

- Short-term water need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil profile is trending neither dry or moist - this comparison is characterized as “Slightly Dry/ Favorably Moist”

Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending MAY 11, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

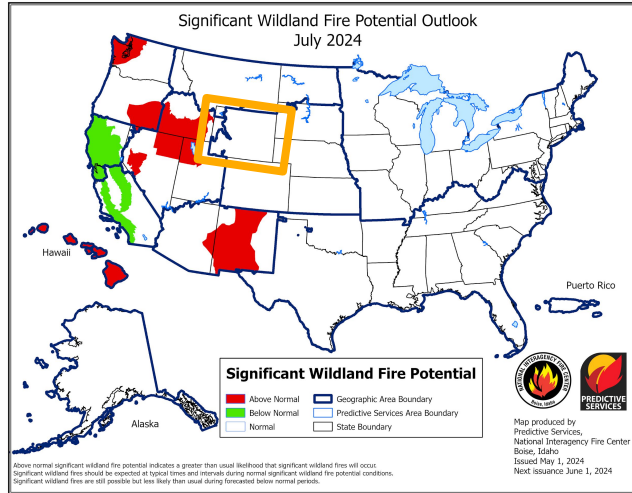




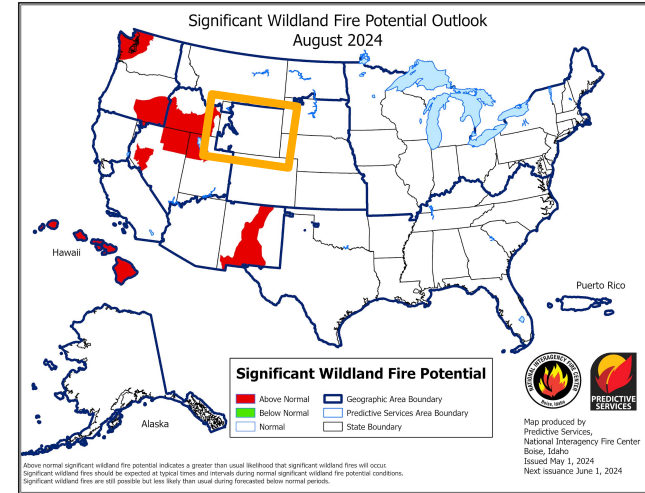
Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- **Grasslands:** Many places in “green up” - wildland fire hazards may be possible as fuels become drier in the coming 30-45 days
- **Mountains:** Fire season begins after the mountain snow melt ends. Peak wildfire season is usually mid-July through early September



July 2024 Outlook



August 2024 Outlook



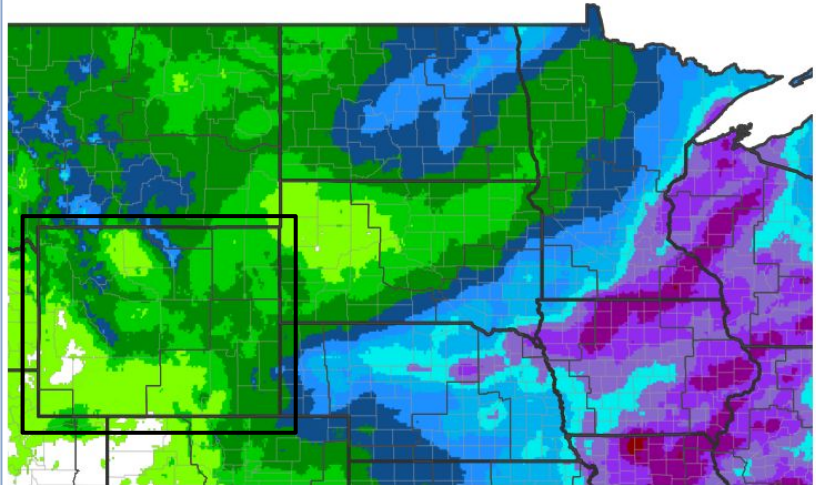


Seven-Day Precipitation Forecast

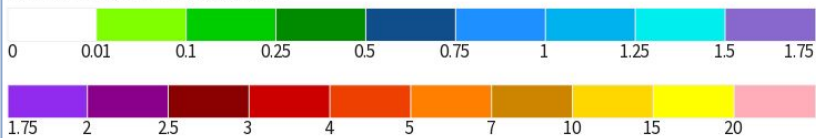
Precipitation Outlook Valid May 17-23

- The next storm system is set to arrive early next week (May 20-21), but precipitation totals are not looking heavy at this time
- There is potential for a more vigorous storm arriving from the west Thursday, May 23 (and 24). This storm may pack a better punch and provide cooler temperatures and widespread precipitation
 - Mountain snow, especially in far west and northern Wyoming
 - Lower elevation precipitation will likely be in the form of rain

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Data Valid: 05/16/24

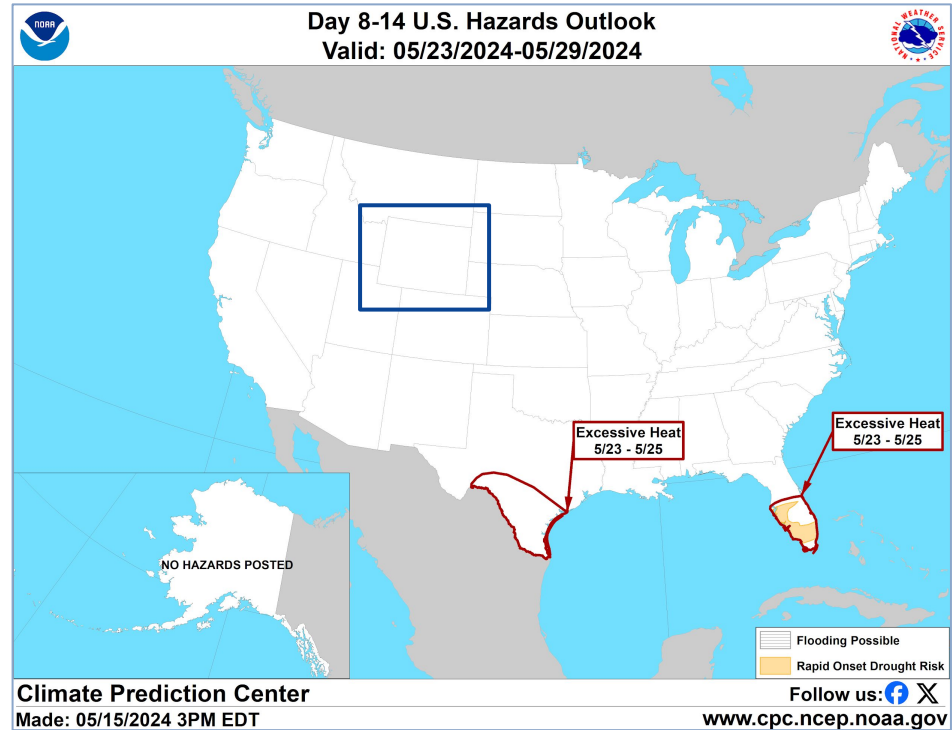




Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- No significant hazards are expected over Wyoming from May 24 through May 29

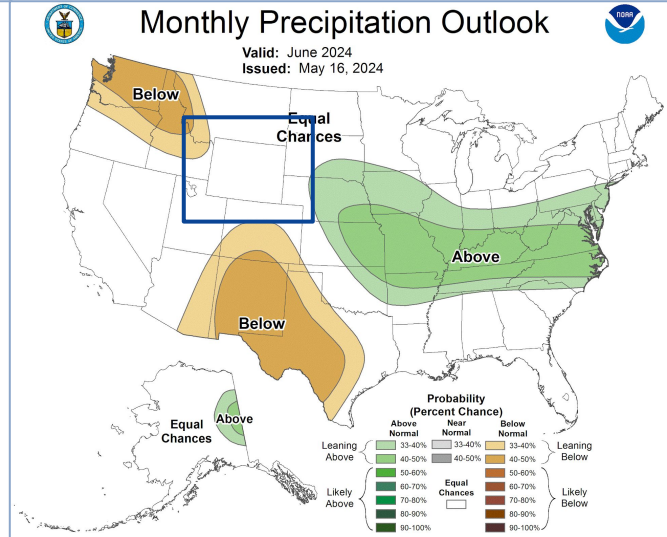
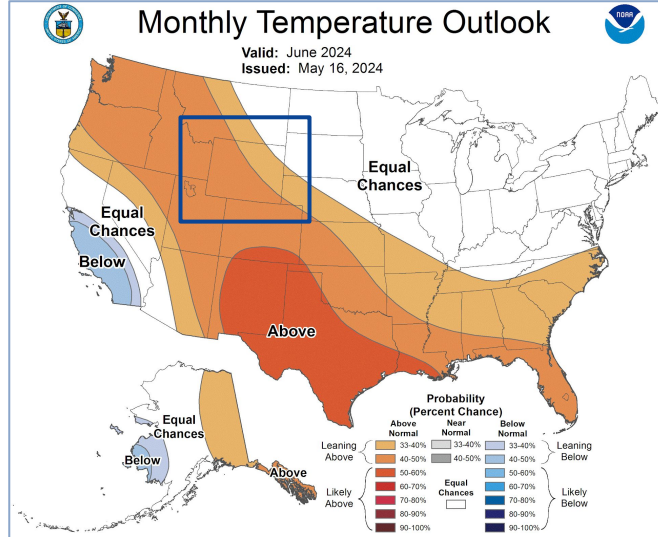




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Temperatures for June are expected to trend above normal, with much of the area having a 40-50% chance of warmer-than-normal temperatures.
- June precipitation chances are expected to have equal chances of below, normal, and above normal. Climatology is favored.



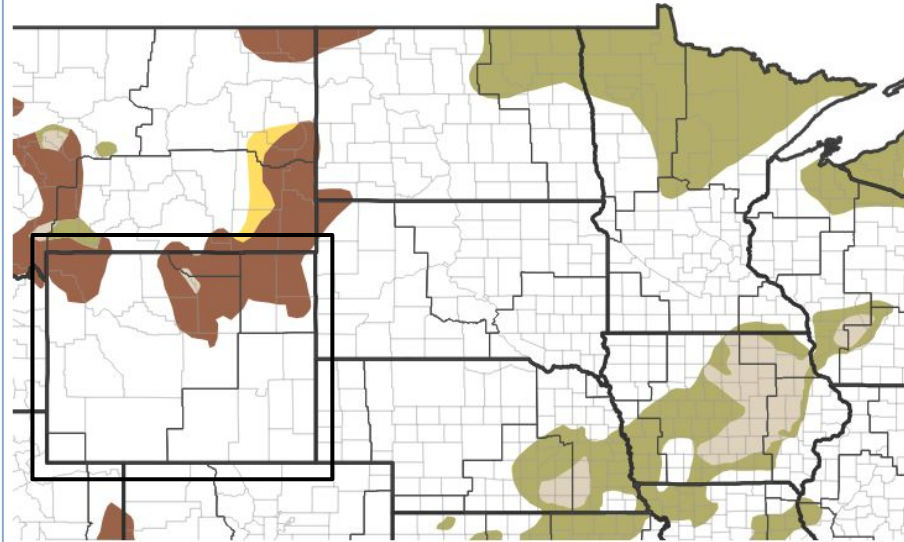


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across northeast and far northwest Wyoming through the remainder of May

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid: 04/30/24

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Riverton, Wyoming



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Conditions are continuing to trend drier west of the Continental Divide
- Precipitation the first half of May has provided some drought relief to the Bighorn Mountains

Agricultural Impacts

- USDA Wyoming Crop Progress and Condition Reports can be found [here](#)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time ([Most recent Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#))

Other Impacts

- Snowmelt will begin soon as temperatures rise. River flooding depends on many factors, but is possible at any time until the bulk of the snow melts out of the mountains.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information
- Clear debris from around structures to protect from potential wildfires

