



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 2890  
Washington, D.C. 20013

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**Weekly Report - Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update**      **Date: March 6, 2008**

## **SNOTEL SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY**

**Snow:** Variability in the weather pattern due to La Nina has been the rule from week to week during this winter. For example, during the past week, snowfall accumulations were up over the Northern Rockies, Front Range of the Rockies in Colorado and New Mexico, and Cascades but were down across the Sierra (<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/reports/EXECSUM>), southern Utah, southern Colorado, and Arizona. A preliminary forecast decrease in excess of 20% in the April-July runoff occurred this week over much of New Mexico and to a lesser extent over Utah and southwest Colorado (Fig. 1). Snow-water equivalent percent to date values shows well above normal conditions over portions of the Cascades, Coastal Ranges of Washington and Oregon, Southern Rockies, eastern Utah, and the mountains of Arizona. Well below normal conditions dominate in southern New Mexico. Overall, across the West, no significant change has occurred since last week although the Oregon and Washington Coast Ranges are well off their record high values (Fig. 1a).

**Temperature:** For the past seven days, average temperature anomaly for most stations in the West were within 5 degrees F of normal with warmest departures over the Sierra and coldest departures over the interior high valleys of the West (Fig. 2). The greatest negative temperature departures occurred over the Uinta and Bear River Ranges of Utah, Wyoming's Snowy and Sierra Madre Ranges, and the Eastern Plains of Oregon (<-8F) and the greatest positive departures occurred over northern and eastern Montana (~+8F) (Fig. 2a).

**Precipitation:** Preliminary precipitation totals for the 7-day period ending 5 March shows significant precipitation scattered across the Rockies and Northern Cascades. Little if any precipitation fell across California, Nevada, and Arizona (Fig. 3). Seasonal precipitation (rain & snow water equivalent) as a percent of normal for the 2008 Water Year that began on October 1, 2007 shows well above normal totals over much of southern Colorado, Arizona, and northern New Mexico. Only a few river basins have lower than 90% of normal values (Fig. 3a).



*Wind whipped snow blows over Mt Hood on March 3<sup>rd</sup> as one of this year's La Nina storms batter the Pacific Northwest. (Photo by Jan Curtis)*

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

### WESTERN DROUGHT STATUS

**The West:** It was a dry week for most of the West, as the main precipitation was recorded along the Oregon and Washington coasts. Some improvements have been made, generally in response to the snowpack conditions and snow water equivalent amounts that have recently been surveyed. In Utah, a categorical improvement to drought intensities was made for the entire state except for the northern drainage basins. Wyoming had improvements as well, with the far northwest corner improved as well as the south central portions of the state. D0 and D1 conditions were improved for both regions as continued snowfall has pushed seasonal values above normal. Improvements in both Idaho and Montana were also made with the improvements in Wyoming. For the West in general, if the above-normal snowpack continues, the opportunity for further improvements will be available as we reach the later portions of the snow season. Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center.

***A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions for the nation can be found at the end of this document.***

### DROUGHT IMPACTS DEFINITIONS (<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/classify.htm>)

The possible impacts associated with **D4 (H, A)** drought include widespread crop/pasture losses and shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies. The possible impacts associated with **D3 (H, A)** drought include major crop/pasture losses and widespread water shortages or restrictions. Possible impacts from **D2 (H, A)** drought are focused on water shortages common and water restrictions imposed and crop or pasture losses likely. The possible impacts associated with **D1 (H, A)** drought are focused on water shortages developing in streams, reservoirs, or wells, and some damage to crops and pastures (Figs. 4, 4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d).

### SOIL MOISTURE

Soil moisture (Figs. 5 and 5a), is simulated by the [VIC macroscale hydrologic model](#). The detailed, physically-based VIC model is driven by observed daily precipitation and temperature maxima and minima from approximately 2130 stations, selected for reporting reliably in real-time and for having records of longer than 45 years (and various other criteria).

### OBSERVED FIRE DANGER CLASS

The National Interagency Coordination Center provides a variety of products that describe the current wildfire status for the U.S. - <http://www.nifc.gov/information.html>. The latest Observed Fire Danger Class is shown in Figs. 6 shows the current active wildfires across the West - <http://geomac.usgs.gov/>.

### U.S. HISTORICAL STREAMFLOW

This map, (Fig. 7) shows the 7-day average streamflow conditions in hydrologic units of the United States and Puerto Rico for the day of year. The colors represent 7-day average streamflow percentiles based on historical streamflow for the day of the year. Thus, the map shows conditions adjusted for this time of the year. Only stations having at least 30 years of record are used. Sub-regions shaded gray indicate that insufficient data were available to compute a reliable 7-day average streamflow value. During winter months, this situation frequently arises due to ice effects. The data used to produce this map are provisional and have not been reviewed or edited. They may be subject to significant change.

[http://water.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/waterwatch?state=us&map\\_type=dryw&web\\_type=map](http://water.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/waterwatch?state=us&map_type=dryw&web_type=map).

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

### STATE ACTIVITIES

State government drought activities can be tracked at the following URL: <http://drought.unl.edu/mitigate/mitigate.htm>. NRCS SS/WSF State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate SS/WSF information - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/bor.pl>. Additional information describing the products available from the Drought Monitor can be found at the following URL: <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/>

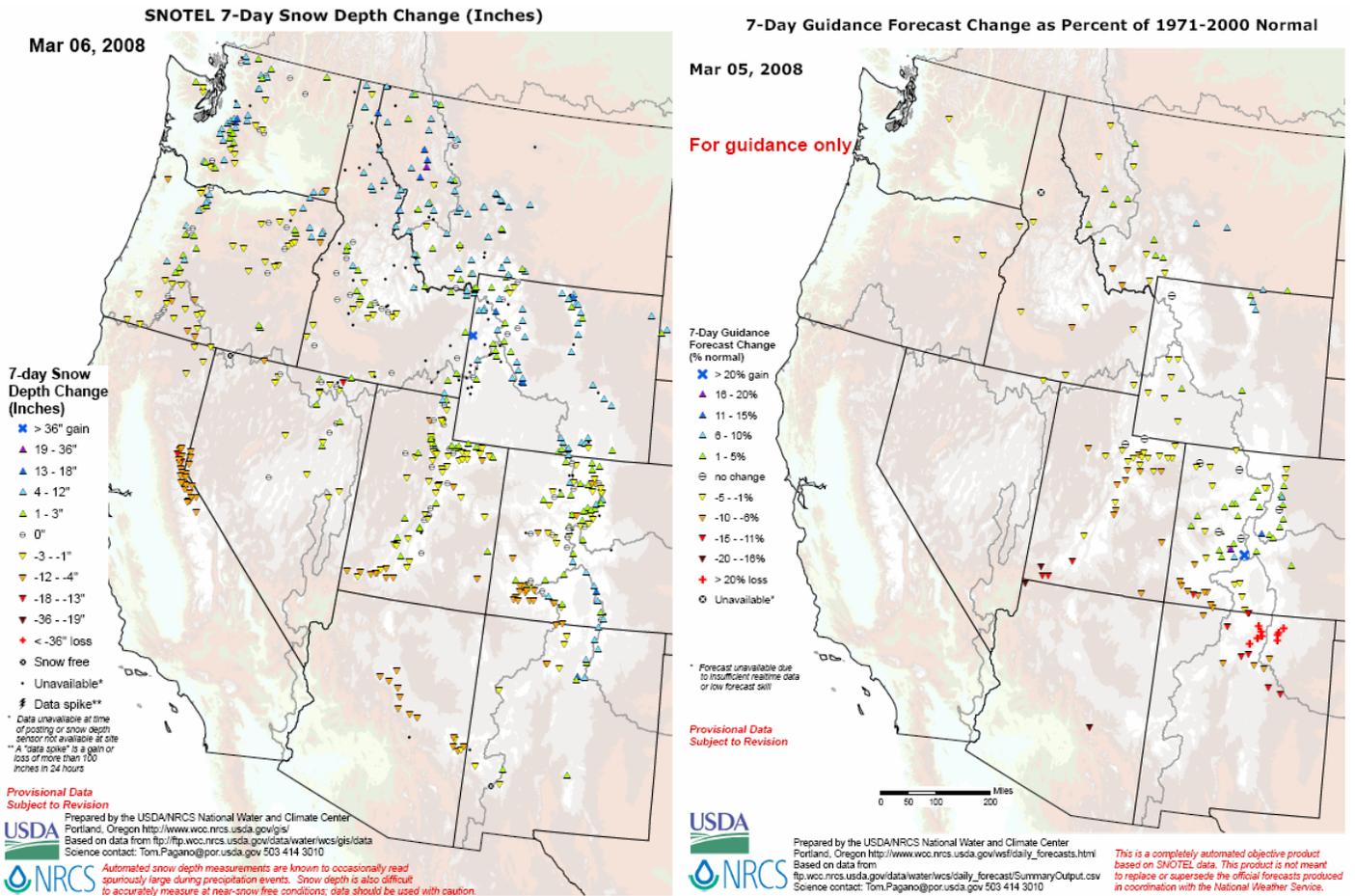
### FOR MORE INFORMATION

The National Water and Climate Center Homepage provide the latest available snowpack and water supply information. Please visit us at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>. This document is available from the following location on the NWCC homepage - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/water/drought/wdr.pl>

This report uses data and products provided by the Interagency Drought Monitor Consortium members and the National Interagency Fire Center.

/s/ NOLLER HERBERT  
Director, Conservation Engineering Division

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



**Fig. 1. During the past week, snowfall accumulations were up over the Northern Rockies (MT & WY), Front Range (CO & NM), and Cascades (WA & OR) but were down across the Sierra, southern UT, CO, and AZ (left figure). A preliminary forecast decrease in excess of 20% in spring-summer runoff occurred this week over much of NM and to a lesser extent over UT and southwest CO (right figure). Note: Area basin preliminary forecasts for the Sierra and Cascades are not made.**

Refs: [ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west\\_snowdepth\\_7ddelta.pdf](ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_snowdepth_7ddelta.pdf)  
[ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/daily\\_forecast/maps/west\\_dailyfcst\\_7daych.pdf](ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/daily_forecast/maps/west_dailyfcst_7daych.pdf)

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

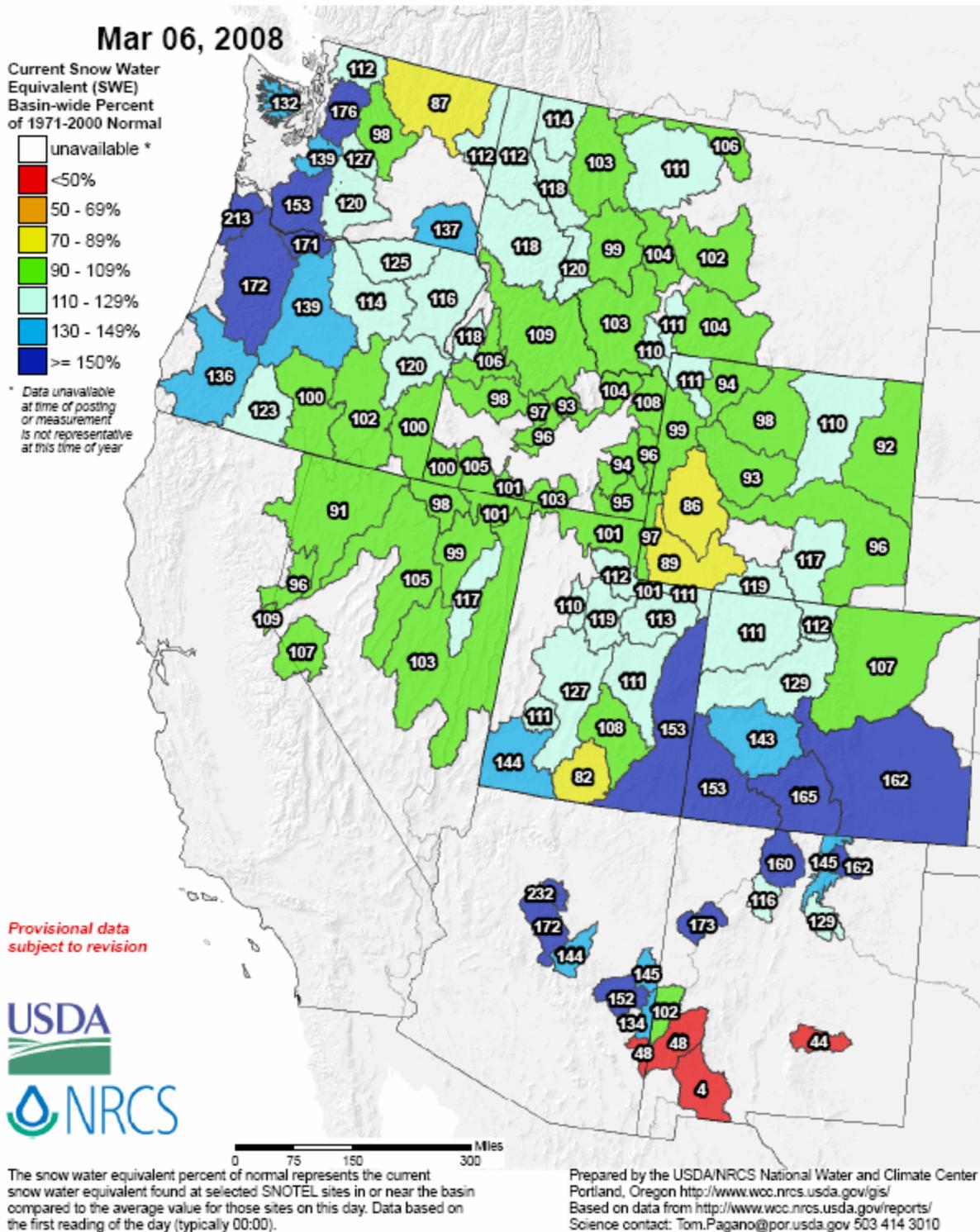


Fig. 1a. Snow-water equivalent percent to date shows well above normal values over portions of the Cascades (WA & OR), Coastal Ranges (WA & OR), Southern Rockies (CO & NM), eastern Utah, and the mountains of Arizona. Well below normal values dominate in southern New Mexico. Overall, across the West, no significant change by class (bins) has occurred since last week.

Ref: [ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west\\_swepctnormal\\_update.pdf](ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_swepctnormal_update.pdf).

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## SNOTEL (solid) and ACIS (dot-filled) Networks 7-Day Average Temperature Anomaly (Degrees F)

Mar 06, 2008

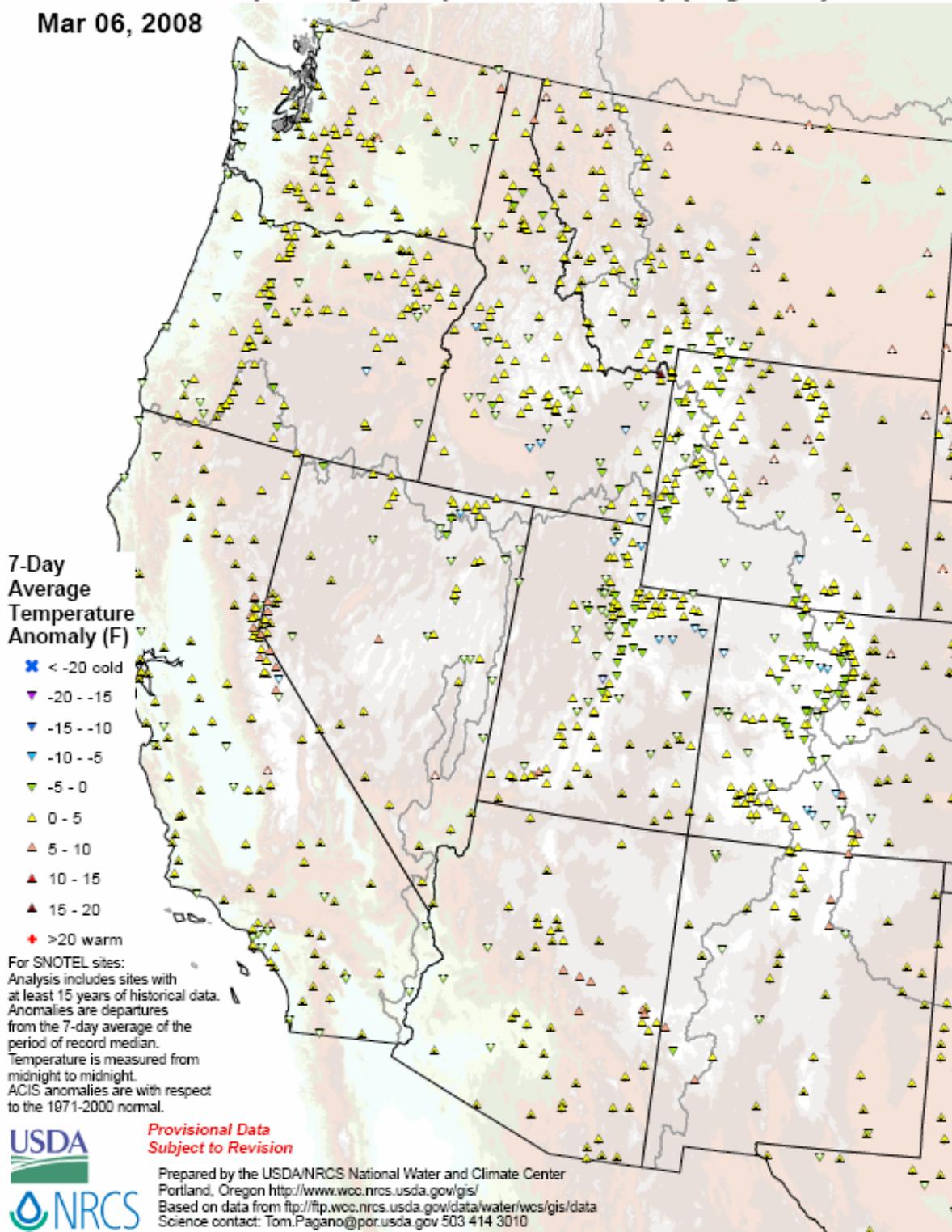
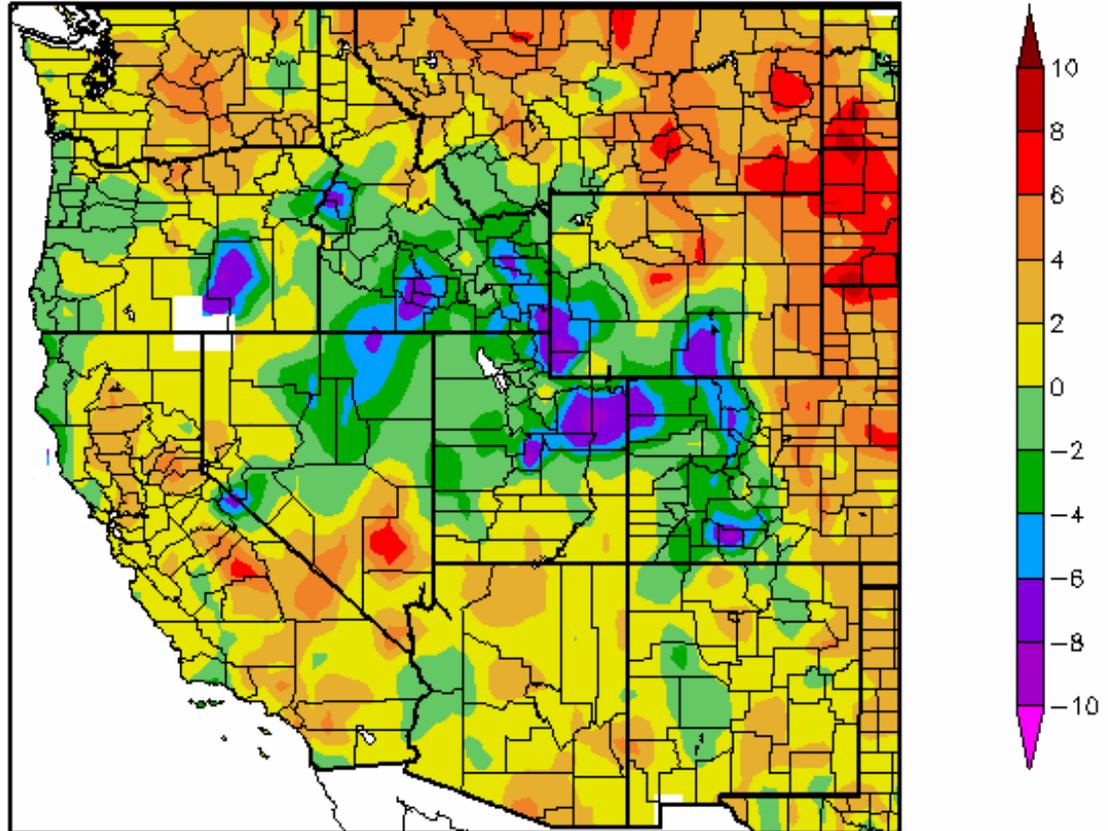


Fig. 2. SNOTEL & ACIS 7-day station average temperature anomaly for most stations in the West were within 5F of normal with warmest departures (~+10F) over the Sierra and coldest departures (~-10F) over the interior high valleys of the West.

Ref: <ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/WestwideTavg7dAnomalyAcis.pdf>.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
2/28/2008 – 3/5/2008



Generated 3/6/2008 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

The Current Climate Summary Maps are produced daily using data from the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS). Stations used are from the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network (COOP), and the Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN). All near-real-time data are considered preliminary and should be used responsibly.

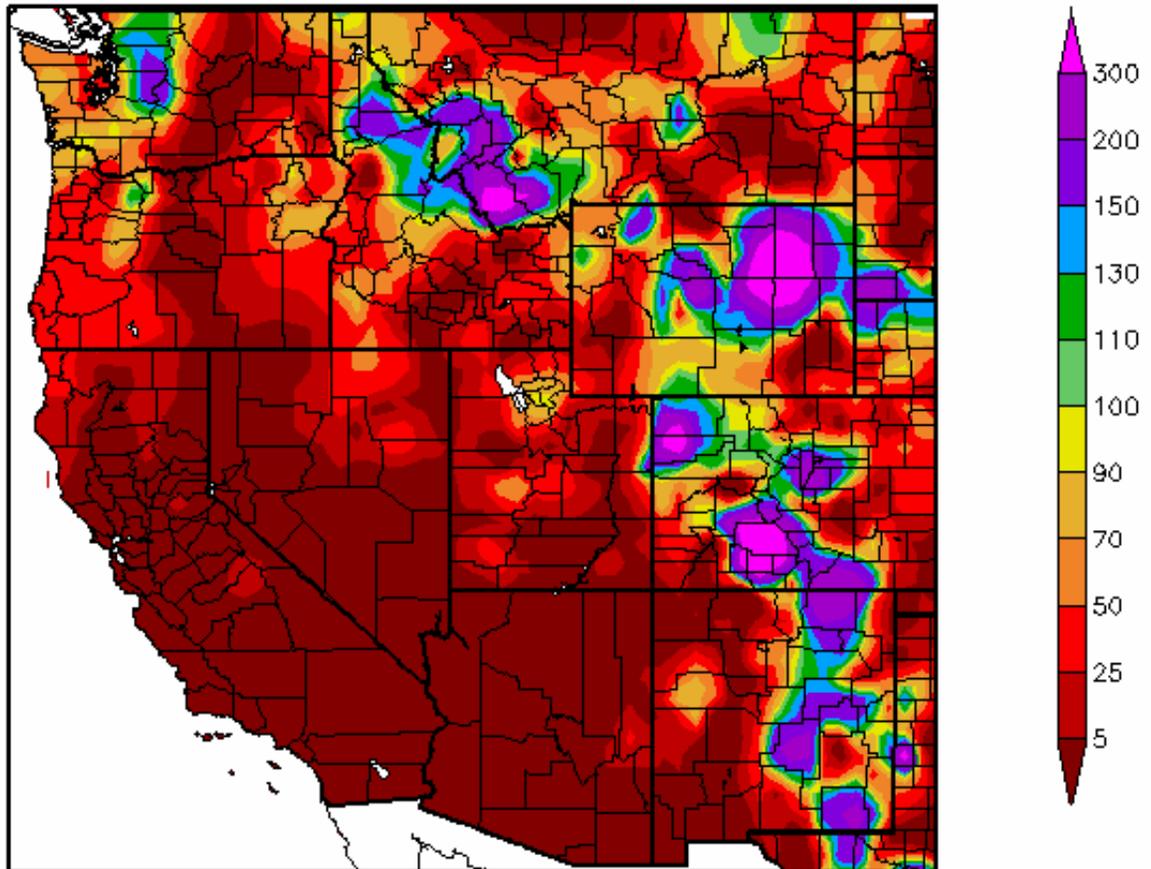
Normal refers to the 1971-2000 Climate Normal for the selected product.



**Fig. 2a. ACIS 7-day average temperature anomaly: Greatest negative temperature departures over the Uinta, Bear River Range, Snowy Range, and Oregon Eastern Plains (<-8F) and greatest positive departures over northern and eastern Montana (~+8F).**

Ref: [http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/index.php?action=update\\_product&product=TDept](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/index.php?action=update_product&product=TDept).

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
2/28/2008 – 3/5/2008



Generated 3/6/2008 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

The Current Climate Summary Maps are produced daily using data from the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS). Stations used are from the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network (COOP), and the Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN). All near-real-time data are considered preliminary and should be used responsibly.



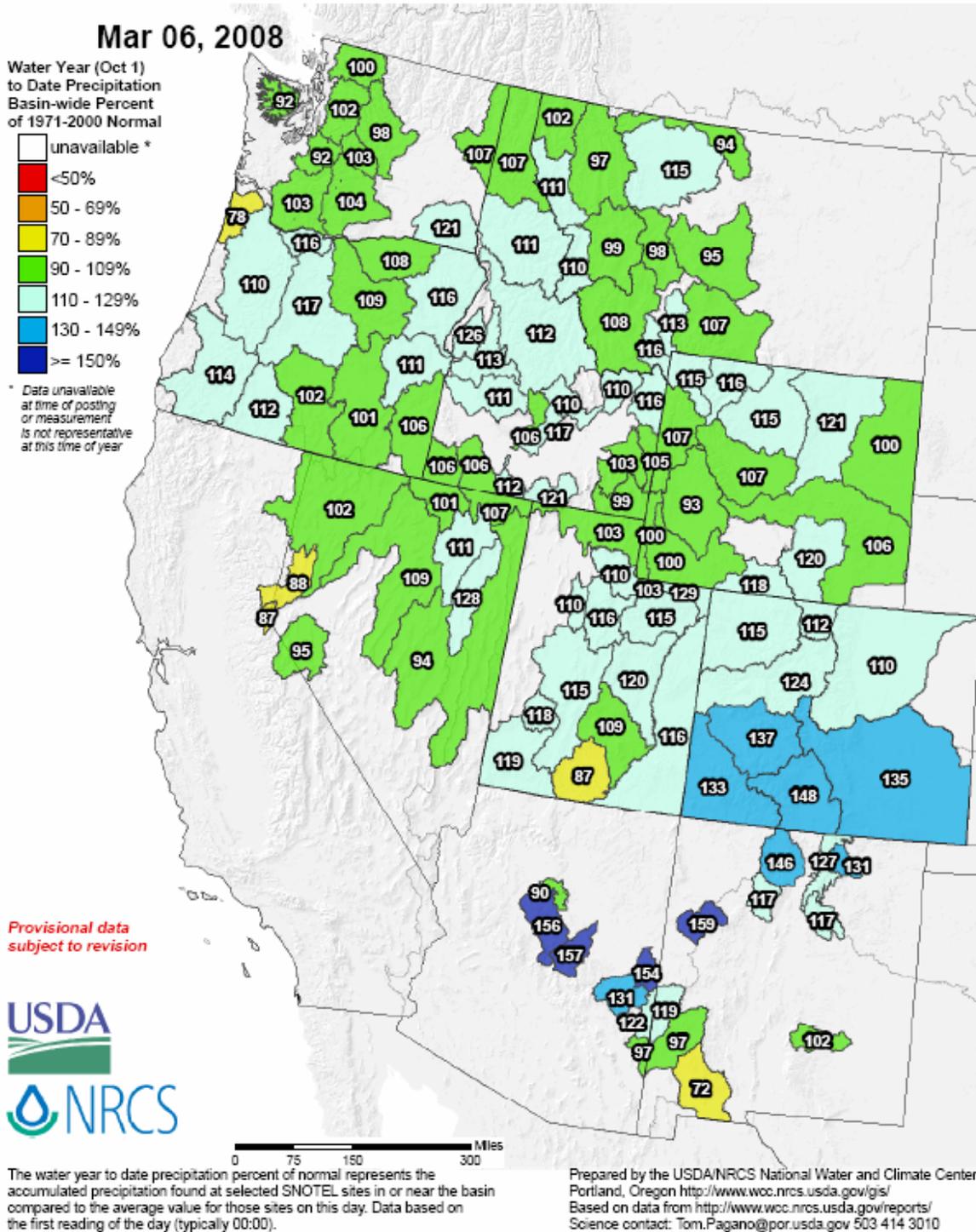
Normal refers to the 1971-2000 Climate Normal for the selected product.

**Fig. 3. ACIS 7-day average precipitation anomaly: Preliminary precipitation totals for the 7-day period ending 5 March shows significant precipitation scattered across the Rockies and Northern Cascades. Little if any precipitation fell across California, Nevada, and Arizona.**

Ref: [http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/index.php?action=update\\_product&product=PNorm](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/index.php?action=update_product&product=PNorm).

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## Westwide SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation % of Normal



**Fig 3a. Seasonal precipitation (rain & snow water equivalent) as a percent of normal for the 2008 Water Year that began on October 1, 2007 shows well above normal totals over much of the southern CO, AZ, and northern NM. Only a few river basins (one in OR, UT, and NM, and two in NV) are lower than 90% of normal.**

Ref: [ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west\\_wytdprecpcnormal\\_update.pdf](ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_wytdprecpcnormal_update.pdf)

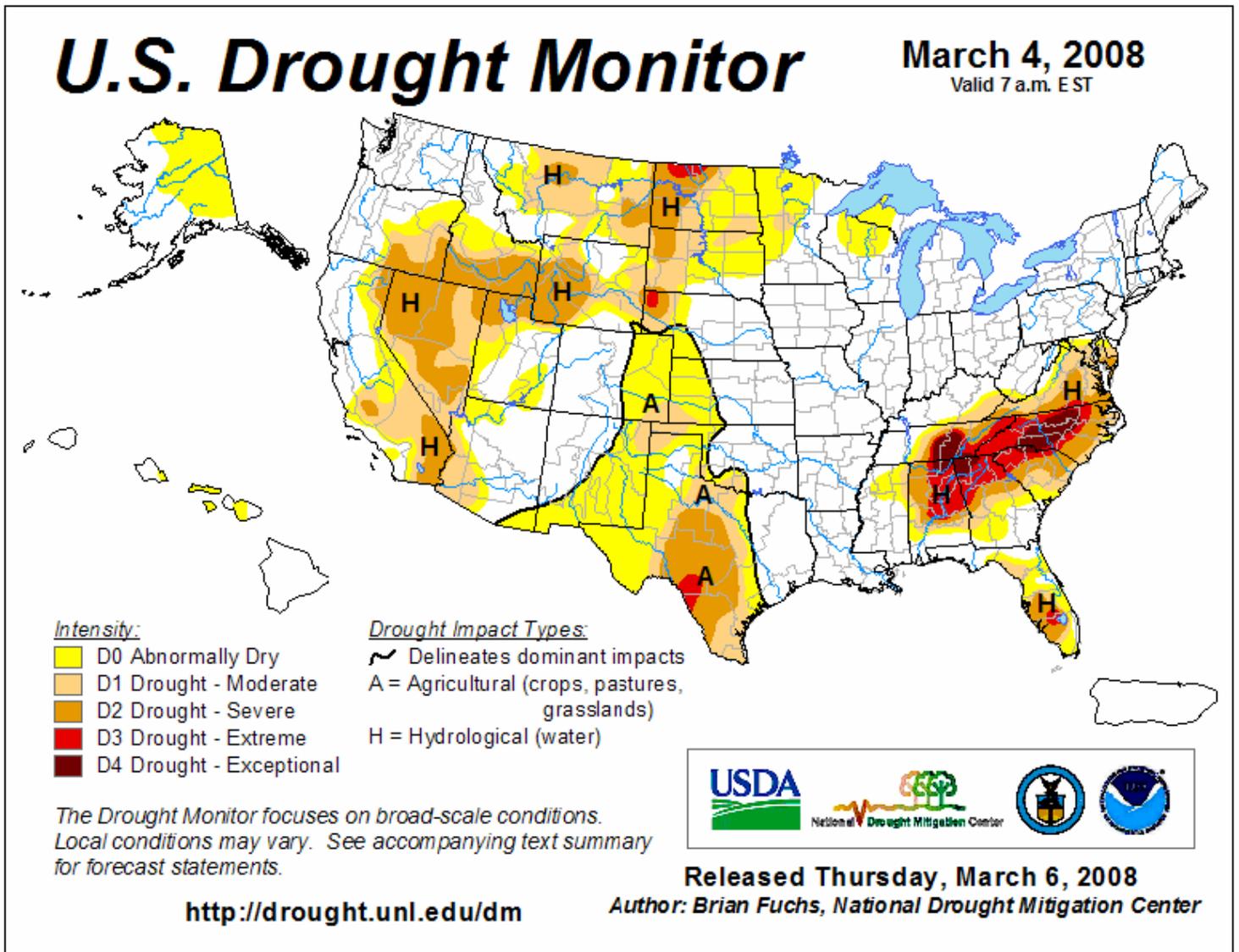
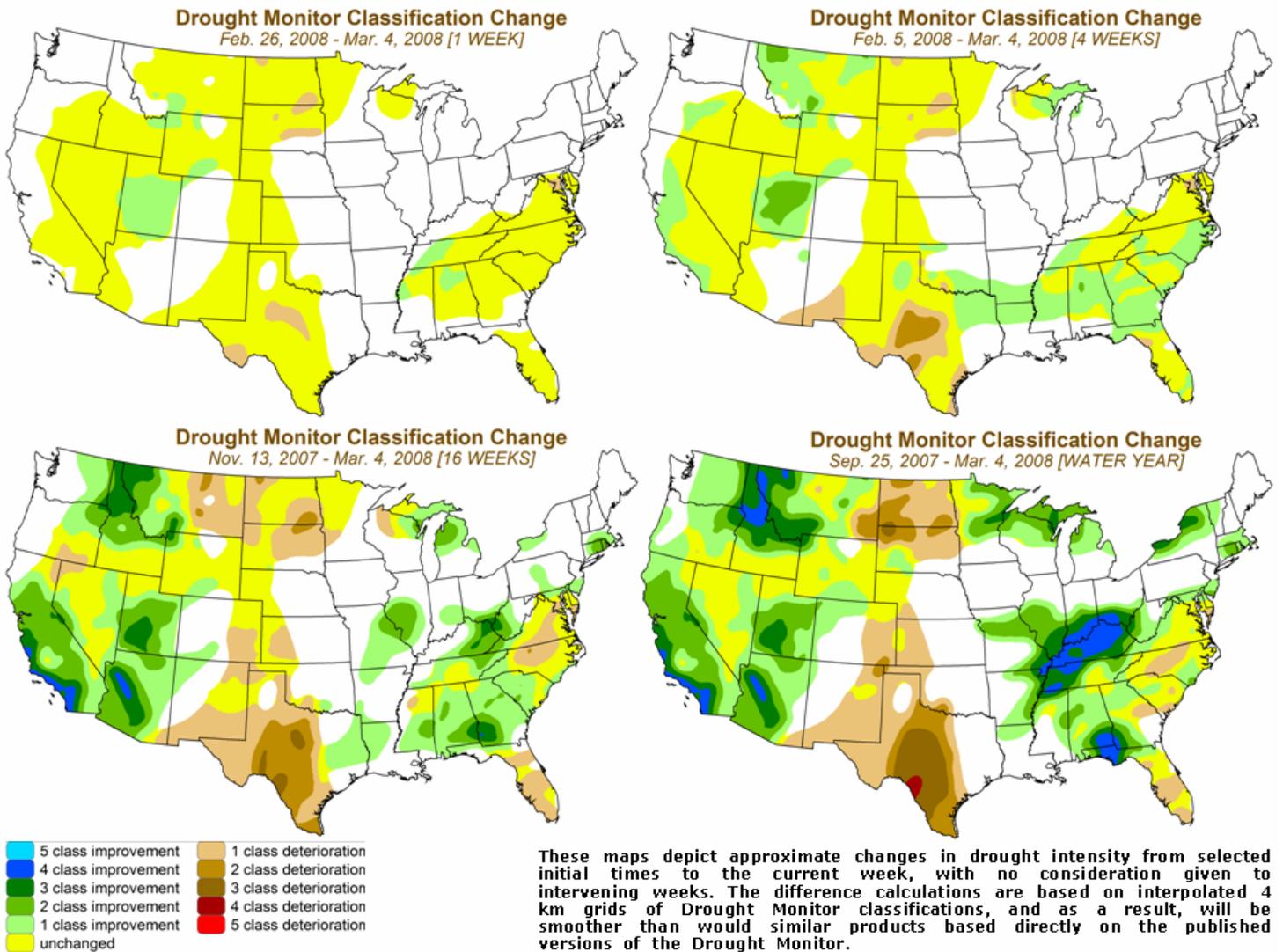


Fig. 4. Current Drought Monitor weekly summary.

Ref: National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) - <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



**Fig. 4a. Drought Monitor classification changes during several time periods. Scattered improvement over the West occurred across UT, WY, MT, and ID. Longer term improvement has occurred over Kentucky, northwest Florida, northern Idaho, southern California, and southwestern Arizona but worsening conditions over central Texas, North Carolina, and the Northern Plains.**

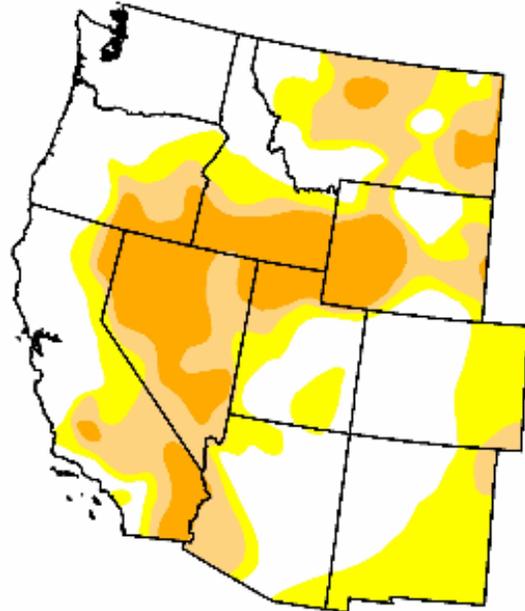
Ref: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/dm-change-4maps.png>.

# U.S. Drought Monitor West

March 4, 2008  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	42.3	57.7	34.0	16.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (02/26/2008 map)	37.8	62.2	37.0	16.6	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (12/11/2007 map)	27.7	72.3	54.2	32.8	2.7	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	26.3	73.7	54.7	33.1	2.7	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	22.0	78.0	62.3	44.7	12.4	0.0
One Year Ago (03/06/2007 map)	41.9	58.1	31.8	16.6	3.2	0.0



**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements*

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



**Released Thursday, March 6, 2008**  
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

**Fig. 4b. Drought Monitor for the Western States with statistics over various time periods. Note some improvement since last week (mostly in D0 and D1 categories).**

Ref: [http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM\\_west.htm](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_west.htm).

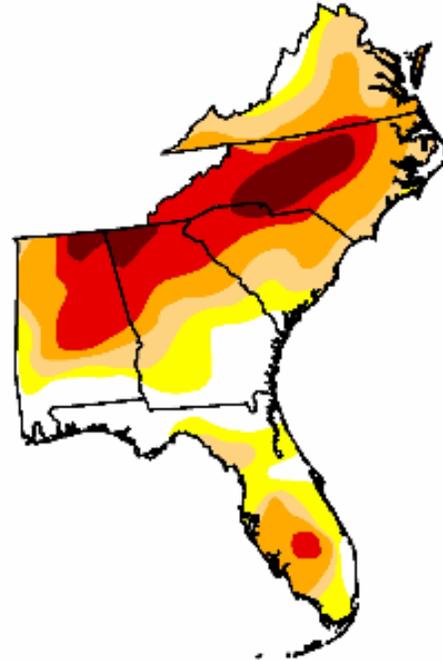
# U.S. Drought Monitor

## Southeast

March 4, 2008  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	18.1	81.9	66.5	48.6	25.8	6.9
Last Week (02/26/2008 map)	18.1	81.9	66.2	48.6	27.1	8.9
3 Months Ago (12/11/2007 map)	8.6	91.4	79.3	63.2	47.9	36.2
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	9.6	90.4	74.3	58.5	41.0	22.0
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	10.1	89.9	77.9	63.8	45.2	24.0
One Year Ago (03/06/2007 map)	63.0	37.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements



Released Thursday, March 6, 2008  
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Fig. 4c: Drought Monitor for the Southeastern States with statistics over various time periods. Note the slight improvement in the D3 and D4 categories since last week.

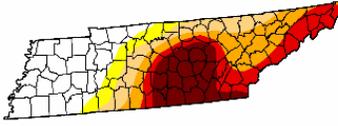
Ref: [http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM\\_southeast.htm](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_southeast.htm).

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

## U.S. Drought Monitor Tennessee

March 4, 2008  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	31.6	68.4	61.3	49.4	32.9	16.7
Last Week (02/26/2008 map)	14.3	85.7	66.2	54.0	34.5	17.0
3 Months Ago (12/11/2007 map)	25.6	74.4	61.8	54.0	46.8	20.7
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	27.4	72.6	60.8	53.8	46.8	19.9
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	85.7	61.3
One Year Ago (03/06/2007 map)	35.0	65.0	36.9	0.0	0.0	0.0



**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

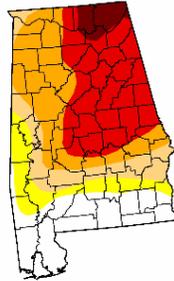


Released Thursday, March 6, 2008  
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

## U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama

March 4, 2008  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	20.2	79.8	69.6	57.3	34.1	4.2
Last Week (02/26/2008 map)	20.2	79.8	69.6	57.3	41.8	15.4
3 Months Ago (12/11/2007 map)	6.0	94.0	86.0	72.0	60.8	49.2
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	9.5	90.5	80.8	66.9	56.5	38.9
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	0.0	100.0	95.4	83.7	76.1	52.0
One Year Ago (03/06/2007 map)	37.6	62.4	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0



**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

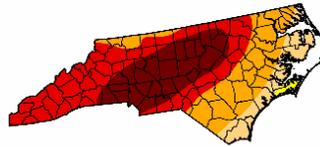


Released Thursday, March 6, 2008  
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

## U.S. Drought Monitor North Carolina

March 4, 2008  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.0	100.0	98.8	87.7	61.3	26.3
Last Week (02/26/2008 map)	0.0	100.0	98.8	87.7	61.3	26.3
3 Months Ago (12/11/2007 map)	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	84.0	66.2
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	83.7	51.3
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	0.0	100.0	100.0	92.8	79.4	37.7
One Year Ago (03/06/2007 map)	91.8	8.2	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



**Intensity:**

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

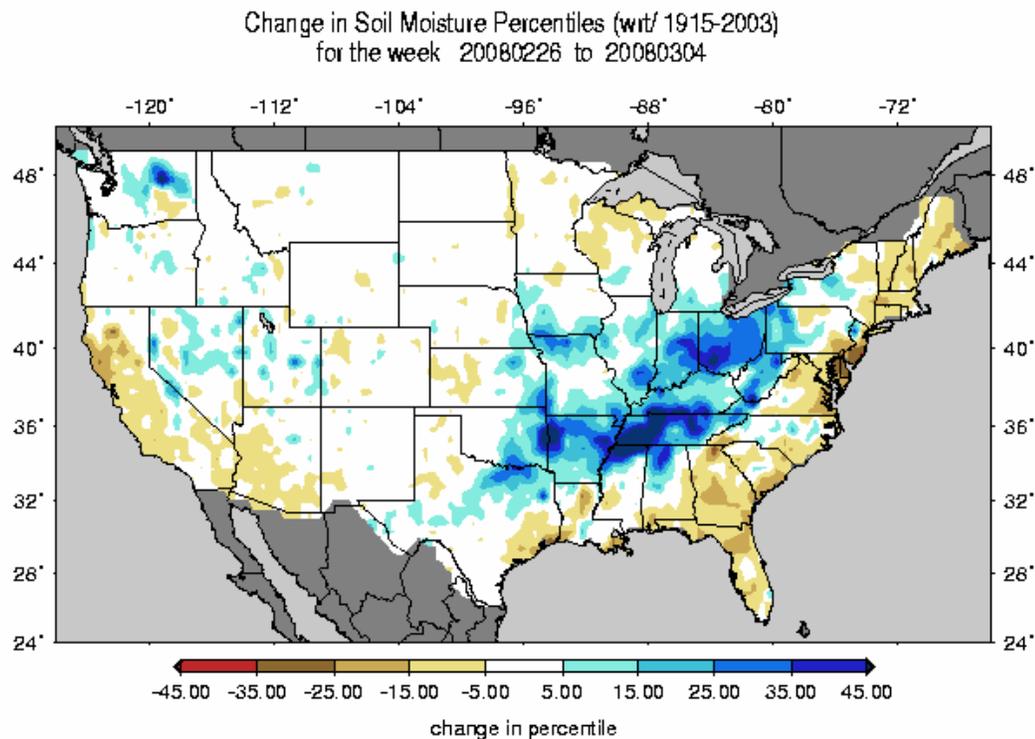
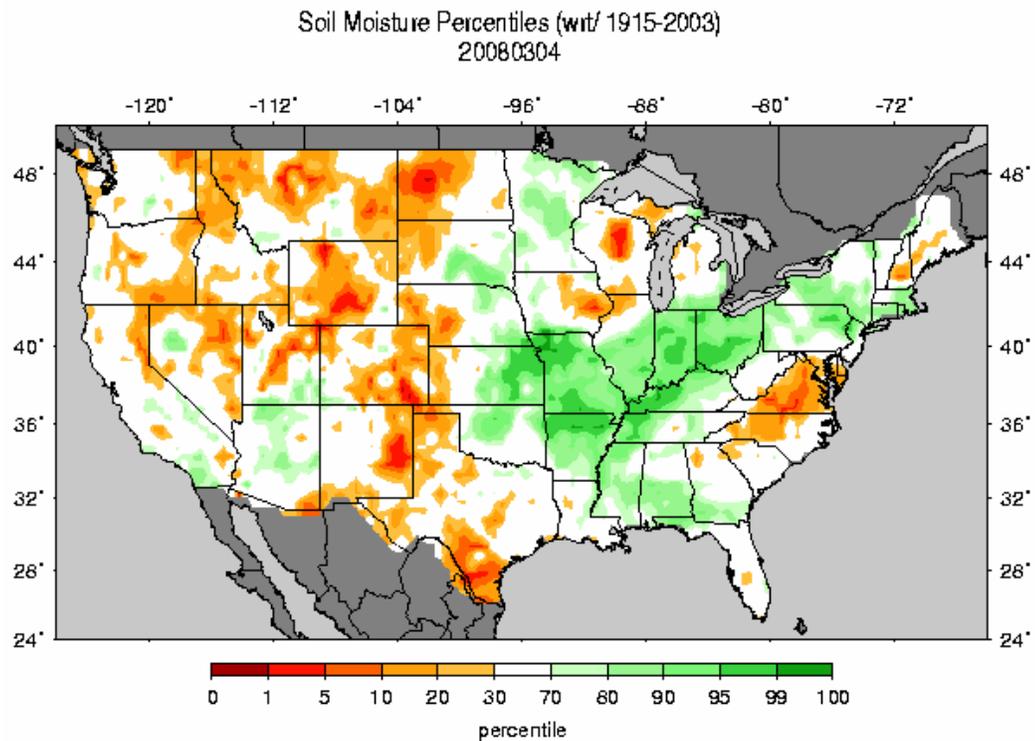
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, March 6, 2008  
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

**Fig. 4d. Drought Monitor for Tennessee, Alabama, and North Carolina with statistics over various time periods shows some of the severest drought conditions in the US. Note slight improvement for Tennessee but a 10% improvement for Alabama's worst drought conditions and no change for North Carolina since last week. Ref: [http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM\\_state.htm?TN,S](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_state.htm?TN,S) [http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM\\_state.htm?AL,SE](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_state.htm?AL,SE) [http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM\\_state.htm?NC,SE](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_state.htm?NC,SE)**

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



**Figs. 5 & 5a:** Soil Moisture Ranking and change in percentile based on 1915-2003 climatology for this past week. Note significant moistening over the lower Mississippi, Tennessee, and Ohio Valleys but significant drying over the Eastern Seaboard and California. Remark: In colder regions of the West, frozen ground suggests incorrect values or missing data.

Ref: [http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/CONUS.sm\\_gnt.gif](http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/CONUS.sm_gnt.gif)  
[http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/CONUS.sm\\_gnt.1wk.gif](http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/CONUS.sm_gnt.1wk.gif)

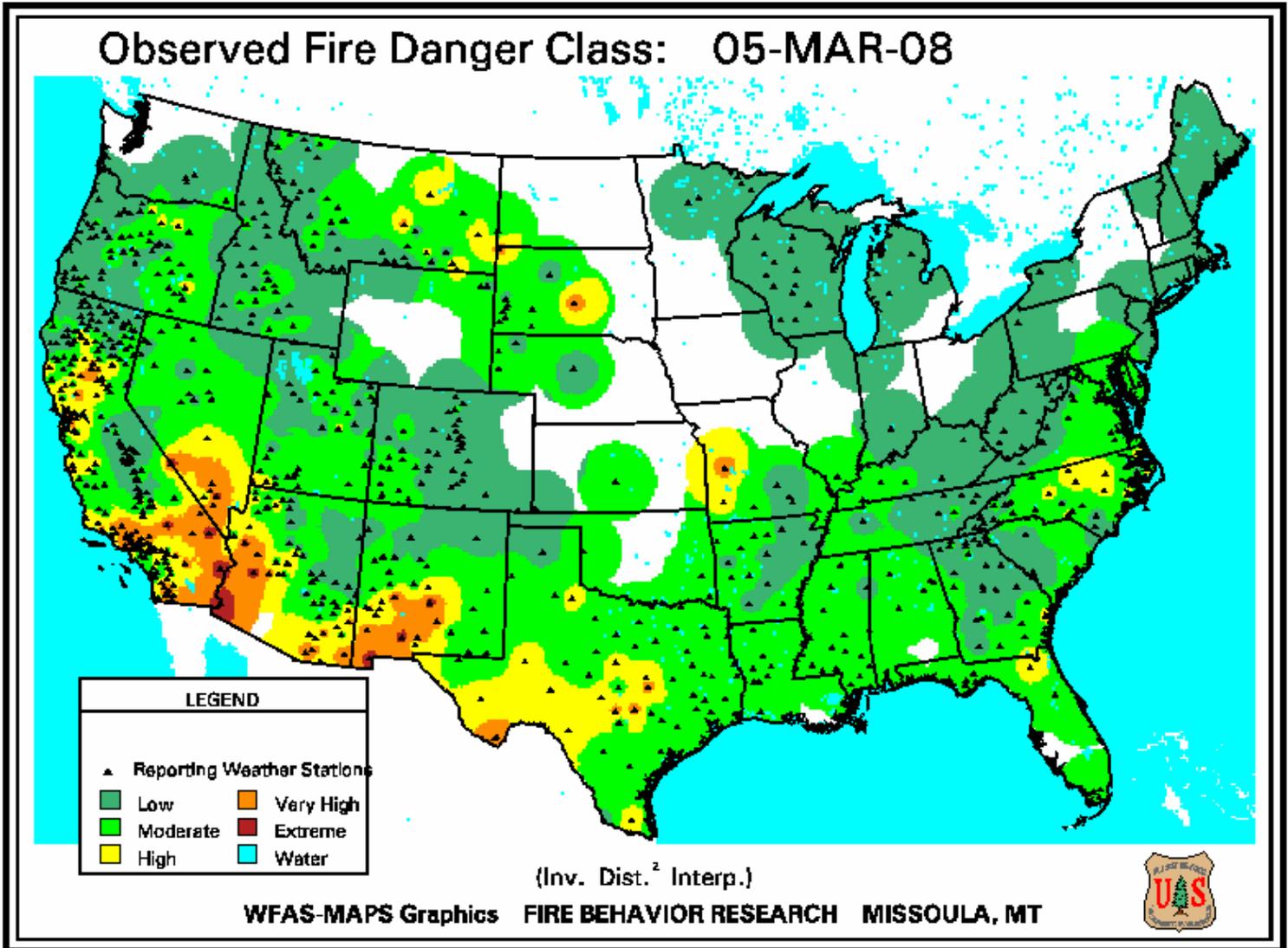
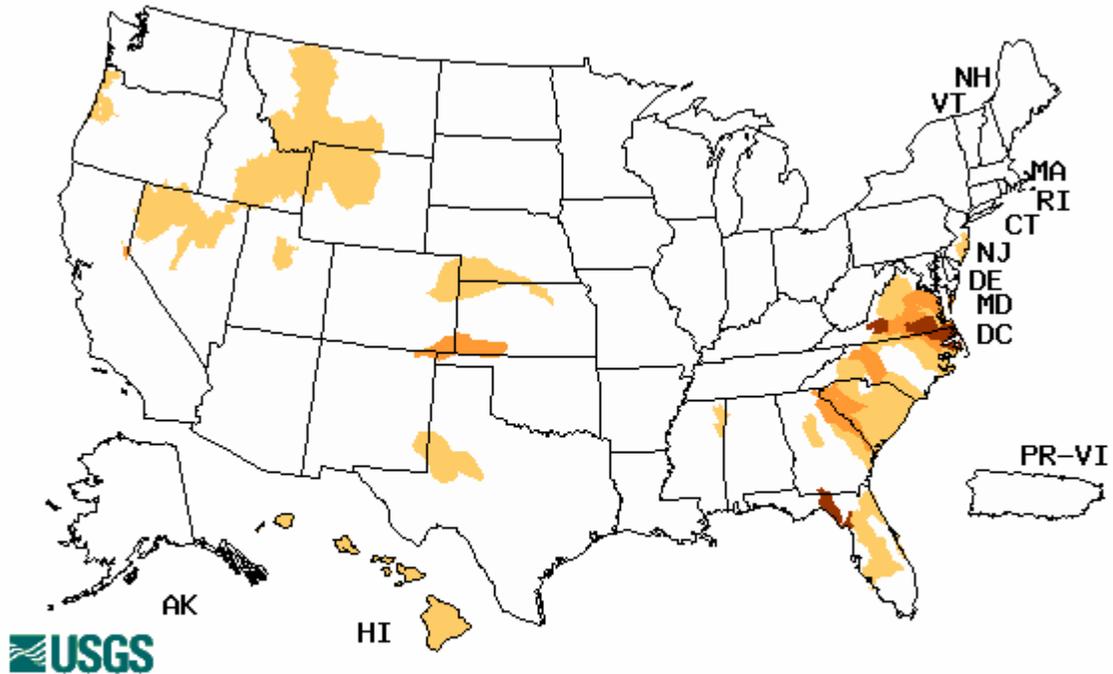


Fig. 6. Observed Fire Danger Class. Note increase risk of fire from southern California to southwestern-central Texas. Some increase in northern California since last week.  
Source: Forest Service Fire Behavior Research – Missoula, MT.  
Ref: [http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas/fd\\_class.gif](http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas/fd_class.gif)

# Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Wednesday, March 05, 2008



Explanation - Percentile classes				
Low	≤5	6-9	10-24	Insufficient data for a hydrologic region
Extreme hydrologic drought	Severe hydrologic drought	Moderate hydrologic drought	Below normal	

Fig. 7. This week's map shows limited improvement the Mid-Atlantic States since last week. Values over the colder regions of the West and northern states are probably missing or are in error due to river icing and freeze-up.

Ref: USGS <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/?m=dryw&w=map&r=us>

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

National Drought Summary March 4, 2008

*The discussion in the Looking Ahead section is simply a description of what the official national guidance from the National Weather Service (NWS) National Centers for Environmental Prediction is depicting for current areas of dryness and drought. The NWS forecast products utilized include the HPC 5-day QPF and 5-day Mean Temperature progs, the 6-10 Day Outlooks of Temperature and Precipitation Probability, and the 8-14 Day Outlooks of Temperature and Precipitation Probability, valid as of late Wednesday afternoon of the USDM release week. The NWS forecast web page used for this section is: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>.*

**The Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States:** Several precipitation events impacted the region, helping to improve some of the drought status. At the end of the current Drought Monitor period, several inches of rain were reported in the Mid-Atlantic region, which will be analyzed next week for improvements to the drought status there. For this week, D1 conditions were pushed north in Maryland and eastern Virginia in response to low streamflows associated with the recent dryness. In Alabama and Tennessee, the western stretches of the D3 and D4 regions were improved as up to 4 inches of rain fell. In Tennessee, there were also improvements to the western extent of the D0, D1 and D2 categories.

**The Plains:** Dry conditions continued to plague the northern Plains over the last several months. Several stations in South Dakota have recorded top 10 driest periods from November to February, with two locations having the driest on record. Madison, South Dakota, has recorded just 0.92 inches of precipitation since November, with the previous low amount of 2.24 inches in 1999. The Waubay National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota also has recorded the lowest recorded precipitation from November to February with just 0.73 inches. This breaks the previous record of 1.43 set in 1967. In North Dakota, D3 conditions were pushed farther to the west and a new area of D1 was introduced in southeast North Dakota and northeast South Dakota. D1 conditions were also expanded in northwest South Dakota, bringing the D1 all the way east to the Missouri River. D0 conditions were pushed south in eastern South Dakota. The winter has been dry but cold for much of the northern Plains, limiting any drought impacts for now.

Dryness continues across central and west Texas. After an eight-month period of wet weather in 2007, the end of 2007 and start of 2008 has been very dry over much of the western half of Texas. D2 was expanded north and west this week and D1 conditions were pushed to the west as well. D0 was introduced into the Big Bend region as well this week. D0 was improved slightly in south central Oklahoma as it was on the western fringe of heavy rain and snow this week. Places east of the D0 area received more than 4 inches of rain, with 4 to 6 inches of snow reported on top of that.

**The West:** It was a dry week for most of the West, as the main precipitation was recorded along the Oregon and Washington coasts. Some improvements have been made, generally in response to the snowpack conditions and snow water equivalent amounts that have recently been surveyed. In Utah, a categorical improvement to drought intensities was made for the entire state except for the northern drainage basins. Wyoming had improvements as well, with the far northwest corner improved as well as the south central portions of the state. D0 and D1 conditions were improved for both regions as continued snowfall has pushed seasonal values above normal. Improvements in both Idaho and Montana were also made with the improvements in Wyoming. For the West in general, if the above-normal snowpack continues, the opportunity for further improvements will be available as we reach the later portions of the snow season.

## Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

**Hawaii:** D0 was introduced into several of the Hawaiian Islands this week. Most of Maui did not see much of the heavy rains that occurred during early February, which included 40 inches in 5 days on the east side of the Big Island. East Oahu and all of Molokai and Lanai were put into D0 as well because of low rainfall totals.

**Looking Ahead:** During the next 5 days (through March 10), the period begins with a mean trough pattern working through the Great Lakes. As this system moves through and out of New England, the general pattern becomes zonal for the United States. Precipitation associated with the trough will allow significant precipitation over New England and south along the East Coast. Secondary precipitation maxima are forecasted for east Texas and the Florida Panhandle. Temperatures are forecasted to be below normal for all areas from the Rocky Mountains east. Temperature departures will range from 15 degrees Fahrenheit below average near the Great Lakes and 6 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit below average over much of the Plains and Southeast. Warm conditions dominate the Pacific Coast during this time, with temperatures 3 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit above average.

The NWS 6 to 10 day outlook for March 11-15 is setting up to be a transitional period for the United States with zonal flow changing to more meridional flow over the western and central United States. Below-normal precipitation is expected over much of the southern tier of the country and up the east coast and Alaska. The Pacific Northwest, northern Plains, and upper Midwest are looking at above-normal precipitation. Temperatures over the eastern half of the United States look to be below normal with areas west of the Missouri River near normal. Southern California, southern Nevada and Arizona are forecasted to have above-normal temperatures.

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### Dryness Categories

D0 ... Abnormally Dry ... used for areas showing dryness but not yet in drought, or for areas recovering from drought.

### Drought Intensity Categories

D1 ... Moderate Drought

D2 ... Severe Drought

D3 ... Extreme Drought

D4 ... Exceptional Drought

### Drought or Dryness Types

A ... Agricultural

H ... Hydrological

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