



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

Weekly Water and Climate Update Thursday, May 28, 2015

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2014 Photo Contest: Scenery

Picture from the 2014 scenery category "Red Rocks" in Montana.

Photographer: Lucas Zukiewicz, NRCS

National Outlook: "During the next several days, warmth will continue

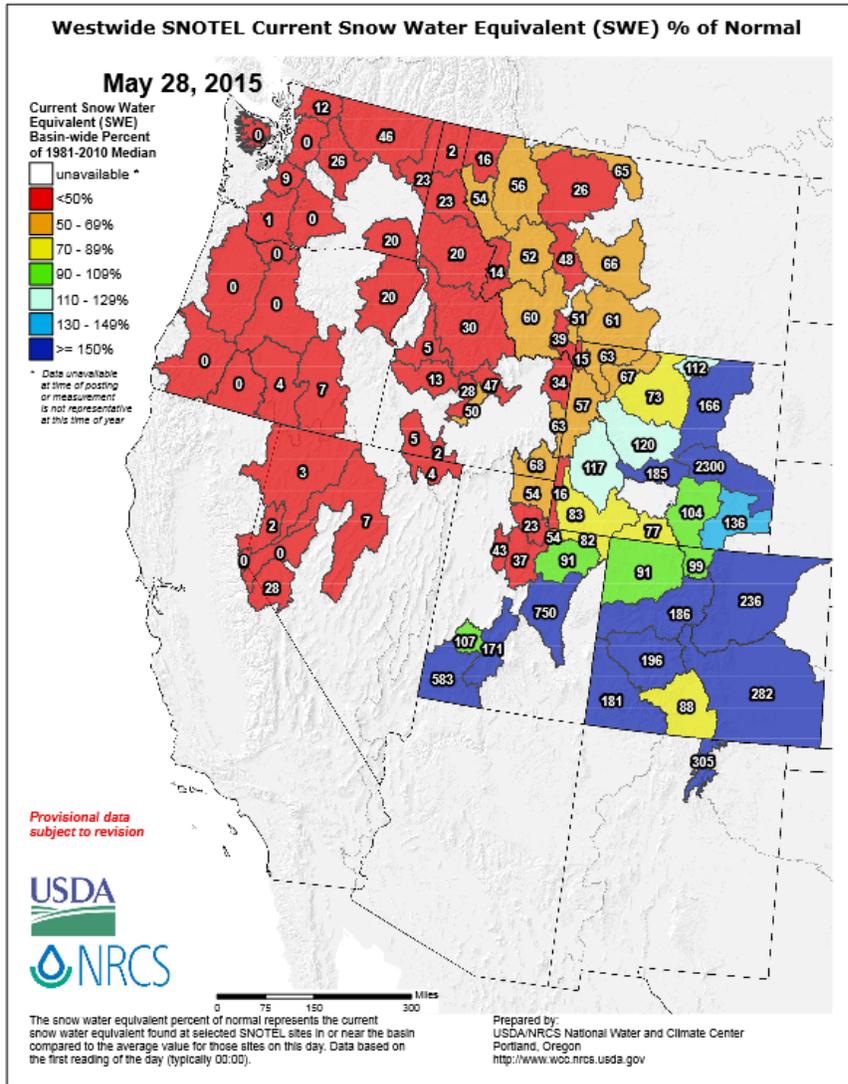
in the eastern U.S. and overspread the West. During the weekend, very warm conditions will cover much of the western U.S. In contrast, cool conditions will cover much of the Plains and Midwest, eventually returning to the Northeast by Sunday. Meanwhile, a very active weather pattern will persist nearly nationwide, with 5-day rainfall totals of 1 to 2 inches or more expected in most areas from the Rockies to the East Coast. Mostly dry weather will prevail, however, in California, the Great Basin, and the Desert Southwest, as well as the southern Atlantic Coast. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for June 2 – 6 calls for the likelihood of near- to above-normal temperatures and precipitation across much of the nation. Enhanced odds of cooler-than-normal conditions will be limited to parts of Texas, while drier-than-normal weather will be limited to the Great Basin, the southeastern Plains, and New England."

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)
Website: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/pubs/Daily/TODAYSWX.pdf>

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Snow

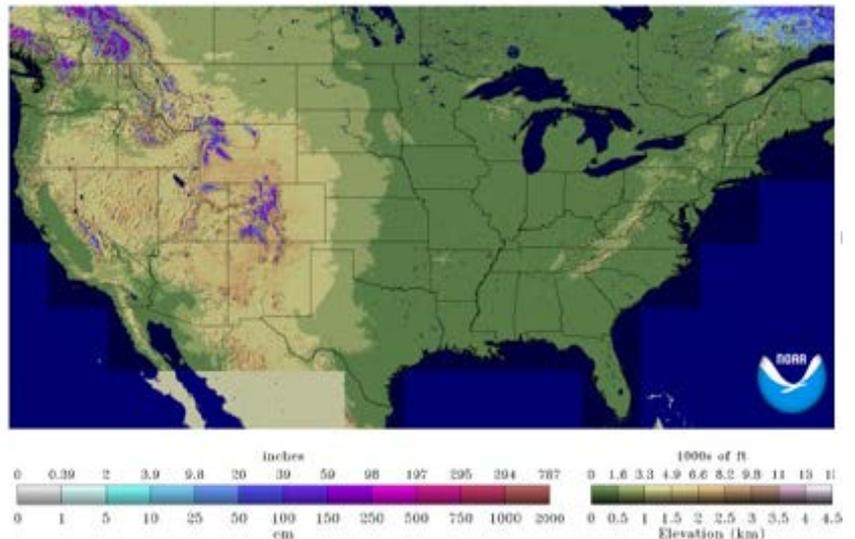


The [Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent \(SWE\) % of Normal](#) map shows the snowpack has primarily melted out, with the exception of late season-snow this past week in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. Many stations have zero SWE at this time.

Percent of average may be exaggerated if the normals are near zero.

The snow depth map as reported from the [NWS NOHRSC](#) for May 28, 2015, shows a decrease in snow cover from last week. Snow now covers 1.3% of the continental U.S. This includes snow that is primarily in the highest mountains in the West.

Snow Depth
 2015-05-28 06 UTC

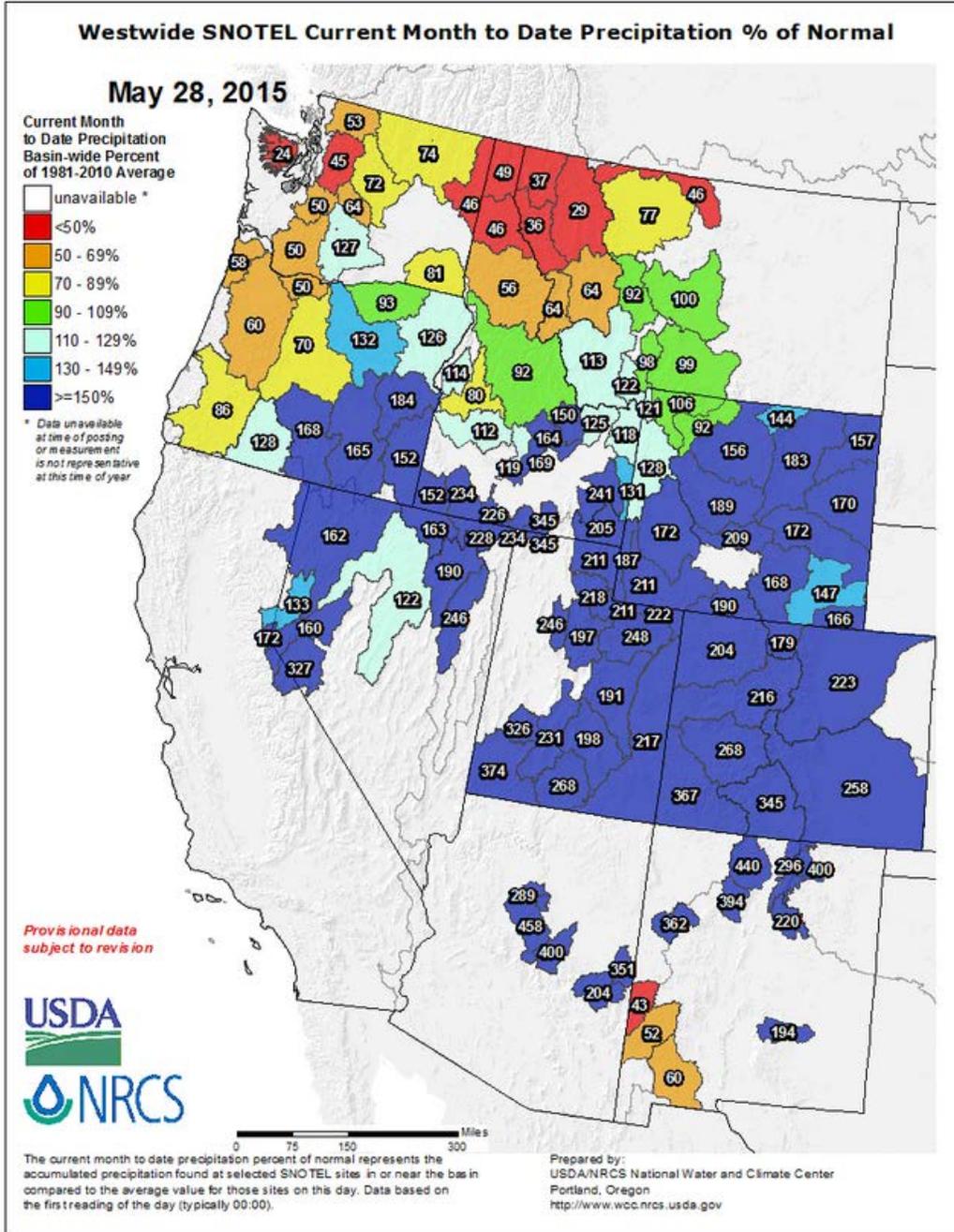


Weekly Water and Climate Update

Precipitation

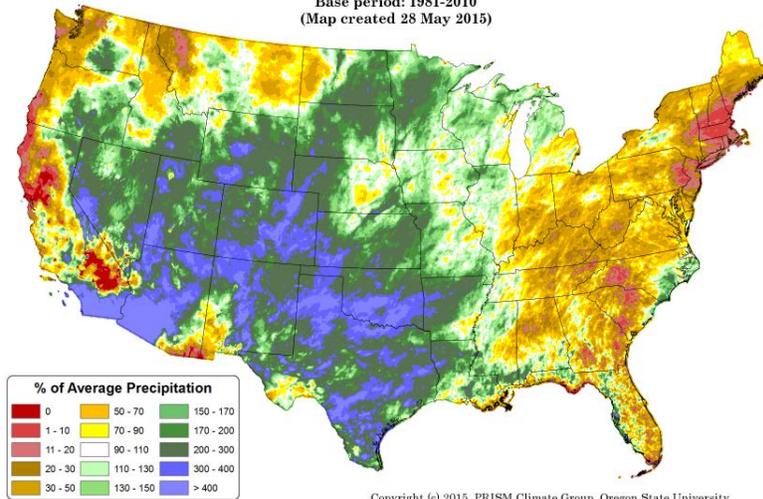
In the West, the SNOTEL [precipitation current month to date percent of normal map](#) for May shows a pattern of generally dry conditions in the northern regions and wet conditions from the central to the southern regions.

At this time of year, percent of normal may be exaggerated in normally low precipitation areas.



Weekly Water and Climate Update

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 May 2015 - 27 May 2015
 Period ending 7 AM EST 27 May 2015
 Base period: 1981-2010
 (Map created 28 May 2015)



Copyright (c) 2015, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

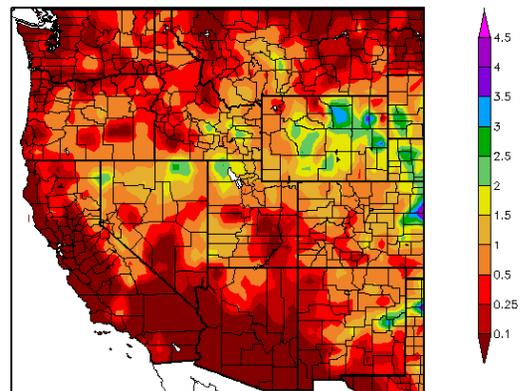
So far in May, the national total [precipitation anomaly](#) pattern reveals higher than normal precipitation across the Southwest, central Rockies, and into the southern and central Great Plains. There was little or no precipitation in a few areas of the West, the South, and the Northeast (red and dark orange areas).

This preliminary daily PRISM precipitation anomaly map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and is updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

The [ACIS 7-day](#) total precipitation map for the western U.S. shows widely scattered precipitation across the area. The highest precipitation total was reported in eastern Wyoming. Light and widely scattered precipitation was reported in all western states.

Little to no precipitation was reported in scattered areas of the West this week (dark red). The largest contiguous dry area was along the Pacific coast of Oregon and continuing along the southern border of Arizona and New Mexico.

Precipitation (in)
 5/21/2015 - 5/27/2015



Generated 5/28/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

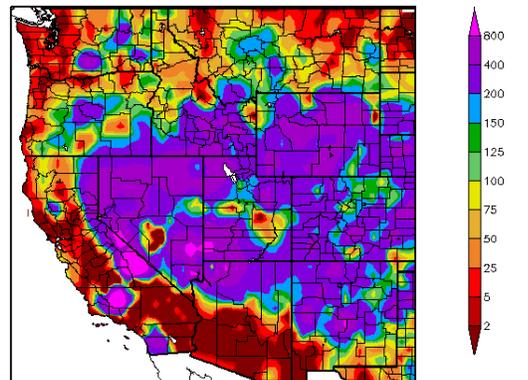
Regional Climate Center

This ACIS percent of normal [map](#) of the West for the last seven days shows that precipitation was above normal across much of the area. The highest percent of normal precipitation fell in several areas of southern California, northern Arizona, and southern Nevada. (magenta areas).

Very dry conditions for the week were reported in widely scattered areas primarily around the perimeter of the West (dark red areas).

Percent of normal precipitation may be exaggerated in areas where the average for this seven-day period is at or near zero.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
 5/21/2015 - 5/27/2015

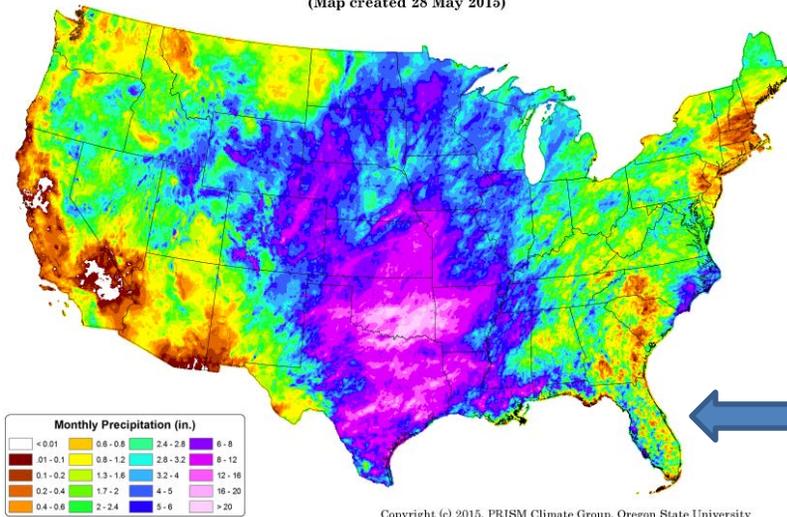


Generated 5/28/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Center

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Total Precipitation: 01 May 2015 - 27 May 2015
 Period ending 7 AM EST 27 May 2015
 (Map created 28 May 2015)



Monthly Precipitation (in.)			
<0.01	0.6-0.8	2.4-2.8	6-8
0.1-0.1	0.8-1.2	2.8-3.2	8-12
0.1-0.2	1.3-1.6	3.2-4	12-16
0.2-0.4	1.7-2	4-5	16-20
0.4-0.6	2-2.4	5-6	>20

Copyright (c) 2015, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

For May 2015, the [total precipitation](#) across the continental U.S. was heaviest in the southern Great Plains. Precipitation continued to inundate much of Texas and Oklahoma. Precipitation also fell elsewhere in the Great Plains and North Carolina. In contrast, much of the West, the Southeast, and the Northeast were mainly dry.

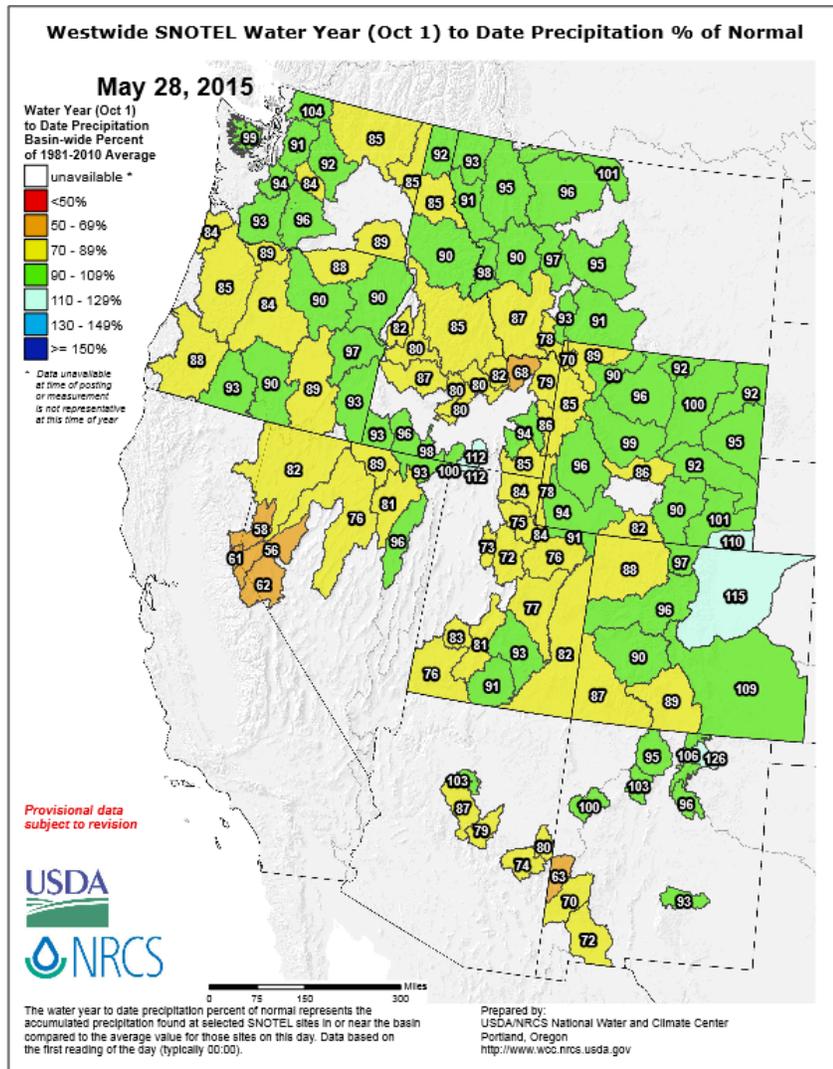


See [Go Hydrology](#) for current and forecast conditions over southern Florida.

For the [2015 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2014, there are a few stations in eastern Colorado and south eastern Wyoming that are reporting above normal precipitation.

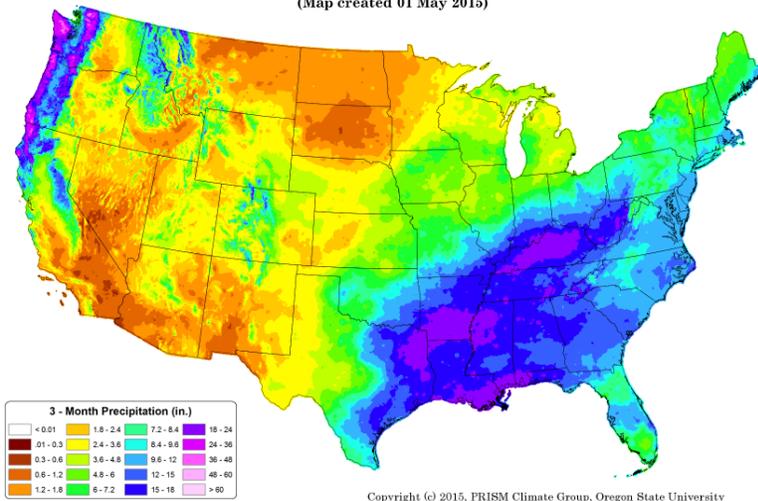
Many scattered stations across the West have near normal conditions for this part of the Water Year (mapped in green).

Several basins in the western states have less than normal precipitation for the Water Year (mapped in yellow and orange).



Weekly Water and Climate Update

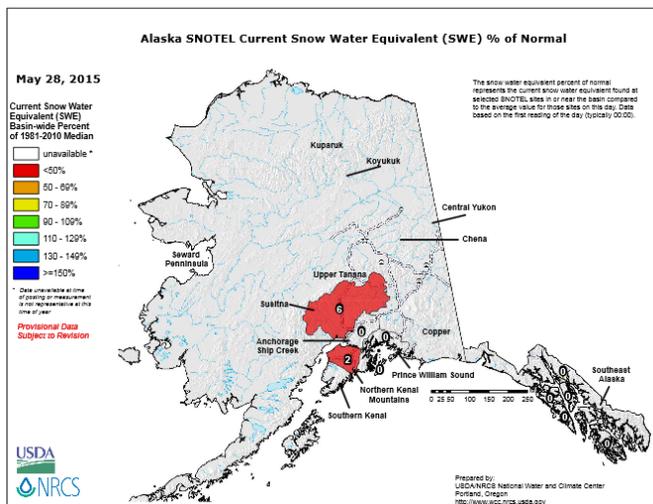
Total Precipitation: February 2015 - April 2015
 Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Apr 2015
 (Map created 01 May 2015)



The national map of the [three-month period](#) (February - April) shows that the southcentral region of the nation received precipitation from 2.4 inches to greater than 18 inches. Parts of the West, especially along the Pacific coast and in the mountains, also received significant precipitation. The highest amounts over 48 inches were recorded in Washington.

In contrast to the eastern U.S. and Pacific coast, parts of the West, the northern Great Plains, and much of the Midwest received totals of less than 2.4 inches.

Alaska Snow Water Equivalent & Precipitation Conditions

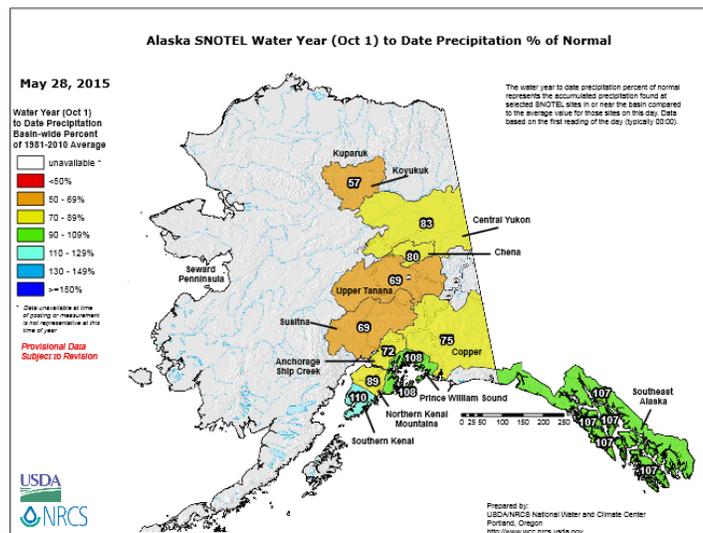


The Alaska SNOTEL [Current SWE Percent of Normal](#) map shows almost all the snow has melted in Alaska. See the [Alaska update report](#) for individual station data.

The Alaska SNOTEL [Water Year to Date Precipitation Percent of Normal](#) map shows near to above normal conditions for a few stations in the southern Kenai basins.

Near normal conditions are reported for Prince William Sound and southeast Alaska.

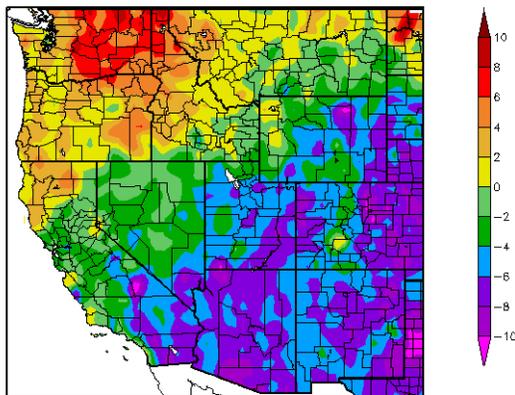
Interior Alaska is reporting drier than normal conditions. See the [Alaska update report](#) for individual station data.



Weekly Water and Climate Update

Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/21/2015 - 5/27/2015



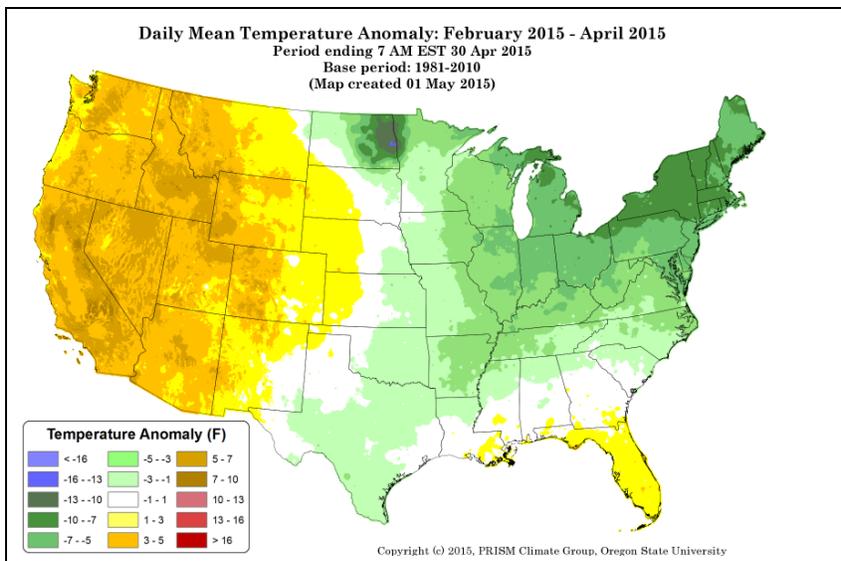
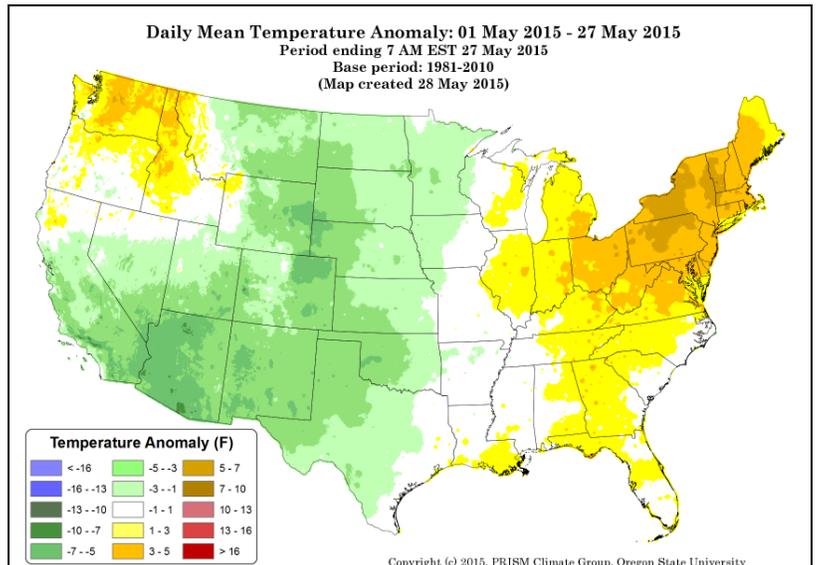
The [ACIS](#) map of the 7-day average temperature anomalies in the West ending May 27 shows that the region had widely different conditions, with the southern states much cooler than normal. In contrast, the northern states, especially eastern Washington, were warm. The greatest positive temperature departures occurred in Washington with the highest anomaly ($>+8^{\circ}\text{F}$). The areas with the largest negative temperature departures were in southern California, southern Utah, eastern Wyoming, and eastern Colorado ($<-10^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Generated 5/28/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

This preliminary [PRISM](#) temperature map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

For May 2015, the national [Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly](#) map shows a cool region over much of the West, with Arizona reporting the largest cool anomaly ($<-7^{\circ}\text{F}$). Above normal temperatures were recorded primarily in much of the Northeast and the Pacific Northwest, with the largest departures in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Washington ($>+7^{\circ}\text{F}$).



The February - April national daily mean temperature anomalies for the U.S. in this [climate map](#) shows the West and Southeast had above normal temperatures ($>+7^{\circ}\text{F}$). The northern Great Plains and the Northeast reported normal to slightly cooler than normal temperatures for this period, with the coolest temperatures in a large area covering most of the Midwest and the Northeast. The coolest anomalies were in the Red River of the North basin in North Dakota and Minnesota ($<-13^{\circ}\text{F}$).

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Weather and Drought Summary

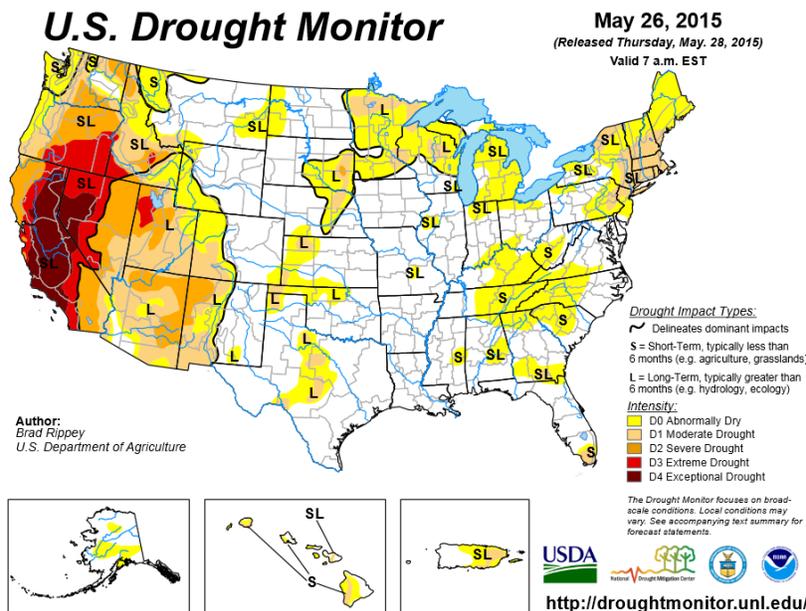
[National Drought Summary](#) – May 26, 2015

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Drought Author, Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

USDM Map Services: contains [archived maps](#)

“For the contiguous 48 states, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 26.35 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 31.54 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 92,891,198 people, compared with 88,035,732 a week earlier.

For all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 22.07 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 26.40 percent a week earlier. Drought now affects 93,988,453 people, compared with 89,132,987 a week earlier.”



See: Latest Drought [Impacts](#) during the past week.

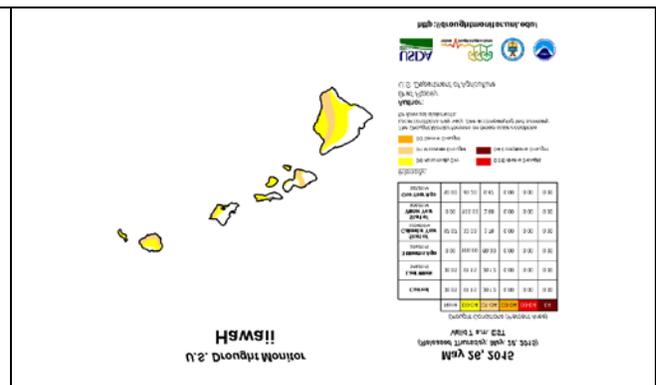
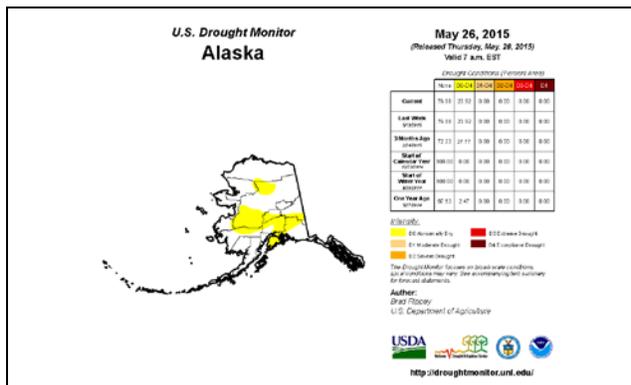
[Current Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are across CA, and NV.

The latest [drought indicator blend and component percentiles](#) spreadsheet is a great resource for climate division drought statistics. This link is for the latest [Drought Outlook](#) (forecast). See [climatological rankings](#).

For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#).
New: [ENSO Blog](#).

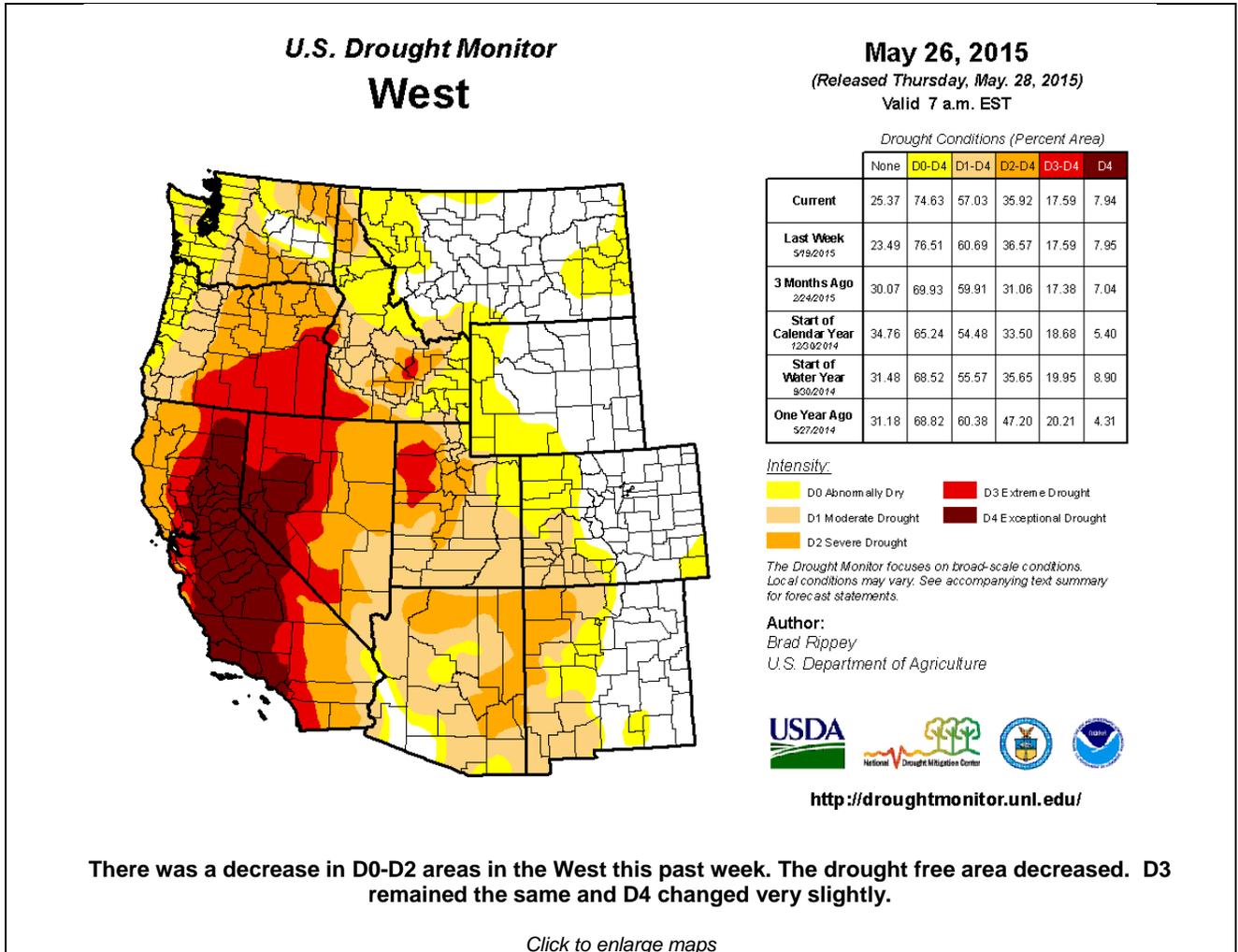
Drought Management Resources:

- ✓ <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>
- ✓ [Watch AgDay TV](#)
- ✓ [Drought Impacts Webinar Series](#)
- ✓ [NIDIS Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- ✓ [The Spring 2014 edition of DroughtScope](#)
- ✓ [U.S. Crops in Drought](#)



“The [49th](#) and [50th](#) States show normal to moderate drought conditions. There was no change in Alaska or Hawaii this week. A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions across other parts of the nation can be found toward the end of this document. For drought impacts definitions for the figures that follow, click [here](#).”

Weekly Water and Climate Update



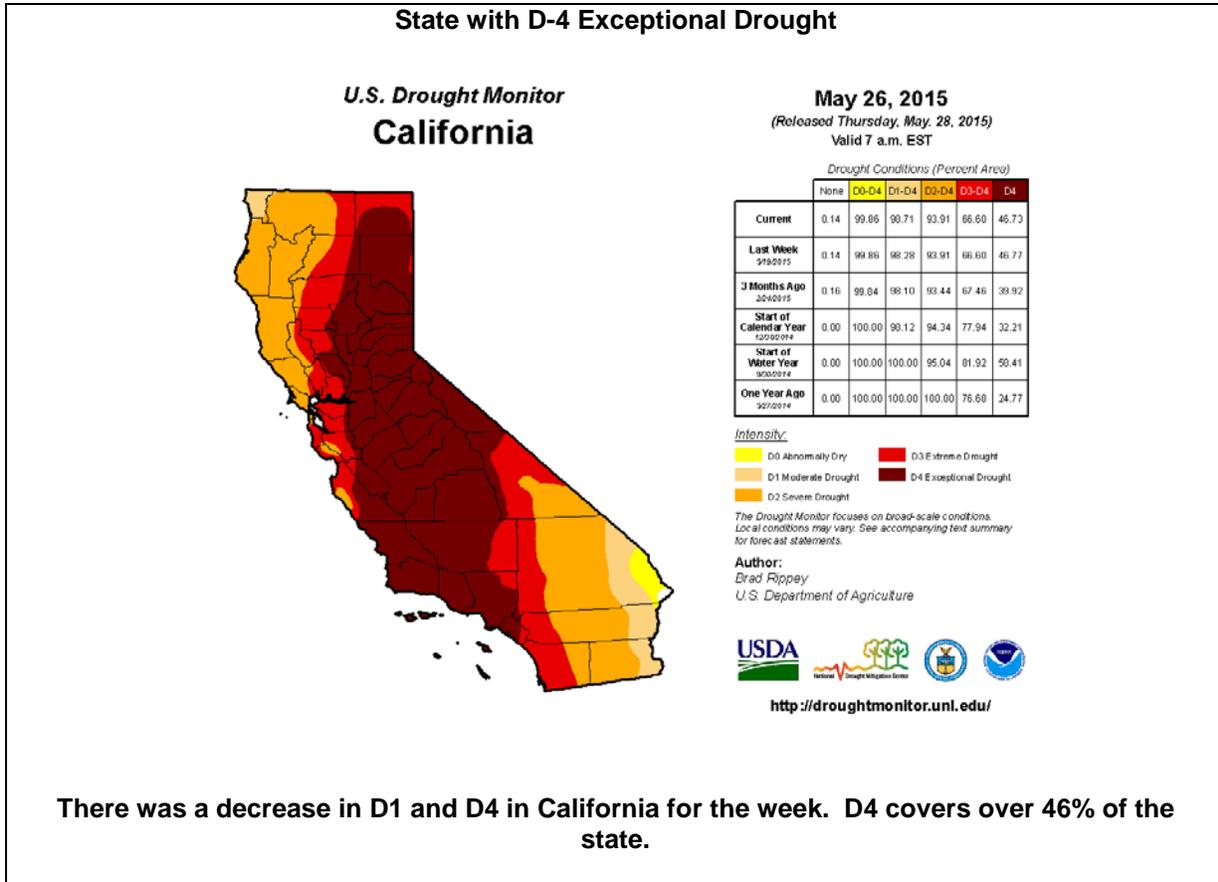
Risk Management Web Resources

Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#). Drought Impact Reporter for [New Mexico](#), [California Data Exchange Center](#) & [Flood Management Intermountain West Climate Dashboard](#)
[California Sierra Nevada-related snow pack](#)

U.S. [Impacts](#) during the past week:

- GA - [Weather causes problems for peanut farmers](#) – May 19
- MA - [Western Massachusetts is now experiencing drought conditions](#) – May 21
- ME - [Drought conditions threaten crops for some Maine farms](#) – May 21
- MT - [Yellow stunted grain plants likely due to drought stress](#) – May 15
- MT - [Warm Montana spring enhances drought by depleting snowmelt](#) – May 21
- NJ - [Drought worsens in New Jersey](#) – May 21
- OR - [Oregon governor expands drought emergency zone, says water shortages imminent](#) – May 22
- OR - [Camping season at hand: national forest sends out these reminders](#) – May 22
- PA - [Drought Watch Underway in Delaware Valley](#) – May 20
- UT - [Quit asking if the drought is over — it isn't](#) – May 18
- U.S. - [8 States Get New Drought Aid for Farms, Ranches](#) – May 19
- WEST - [Feds Providing \\$50M For Water-Saving Projects](#) – May 20

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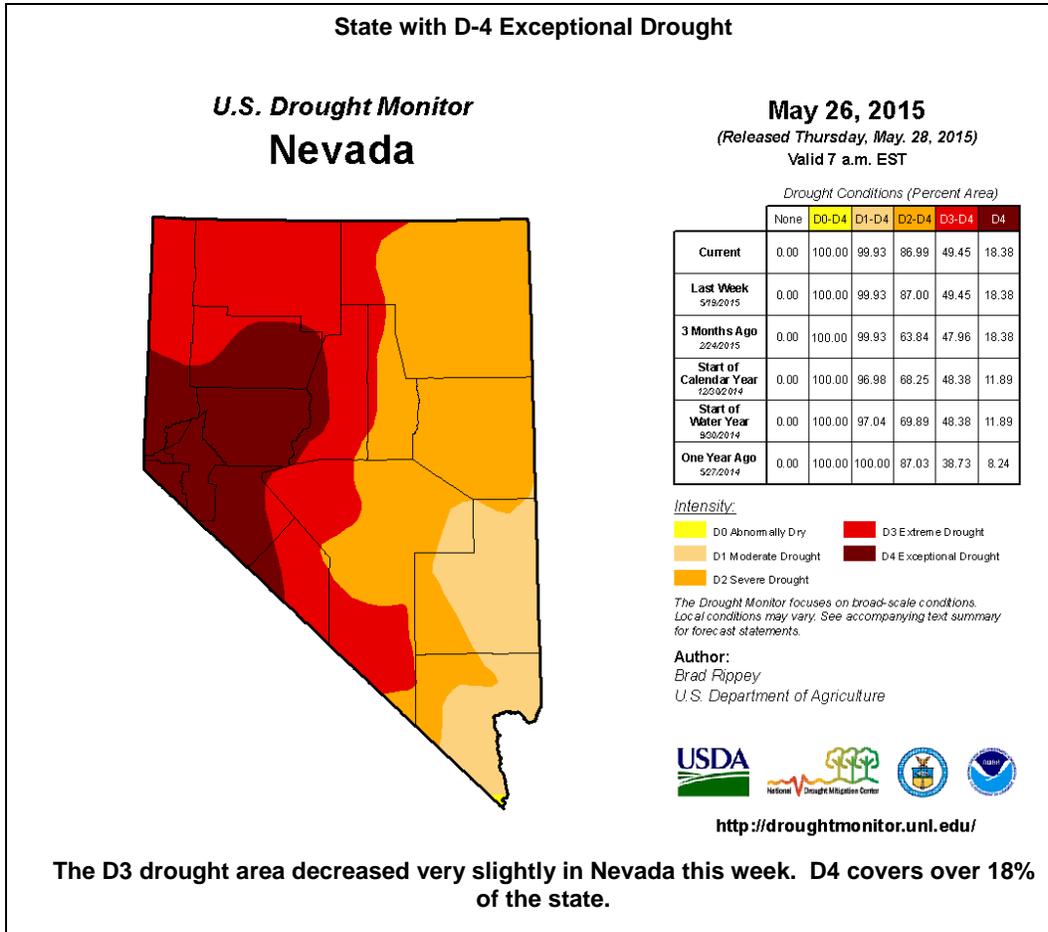


[CA Drought Information Resources](#)

[Drought News from California:](#)

- [California drought: State approves farmers' offer of 25% voluntary water cuts](#) – May 22
- [Drought good for businesses that paint lawns green](#) – May 20
- [Drought leaves no water to combat salmon-killing parasite](#) – May 20
- [West Nile virus showing up early in county](#) – May 20
- [Owens Valley ranchers and environmentalists brought together by drought](#) – May 20
- [Delta detours due to drought for boaters](#) – May 20
- [Poll: Large majority of Californians support water restrictions amid drought](#) – May 18
- [California water officials deliver sobering facts on depleted wells](#) – May 17

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Nevada Drought News:

[Big game tag quotas set, drought has impact](#) – May 20

[Drought soon will force use of backup water](#) – May 21

[Feds project Lake Mead below drought trigger point in 2017](#) – May 18

[U.S. Population in Drought](#)

Number of people in each drought category in the U.S. for the week ending May 26, 2015

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2015-05-26	138,040,100	167,357,355	92,891,198	41,576,544	31,217,712	20,564,003
2015-05-19	152,415,585	152,981,870	88,035,733	42,034,072	31,217,712	20,564,132

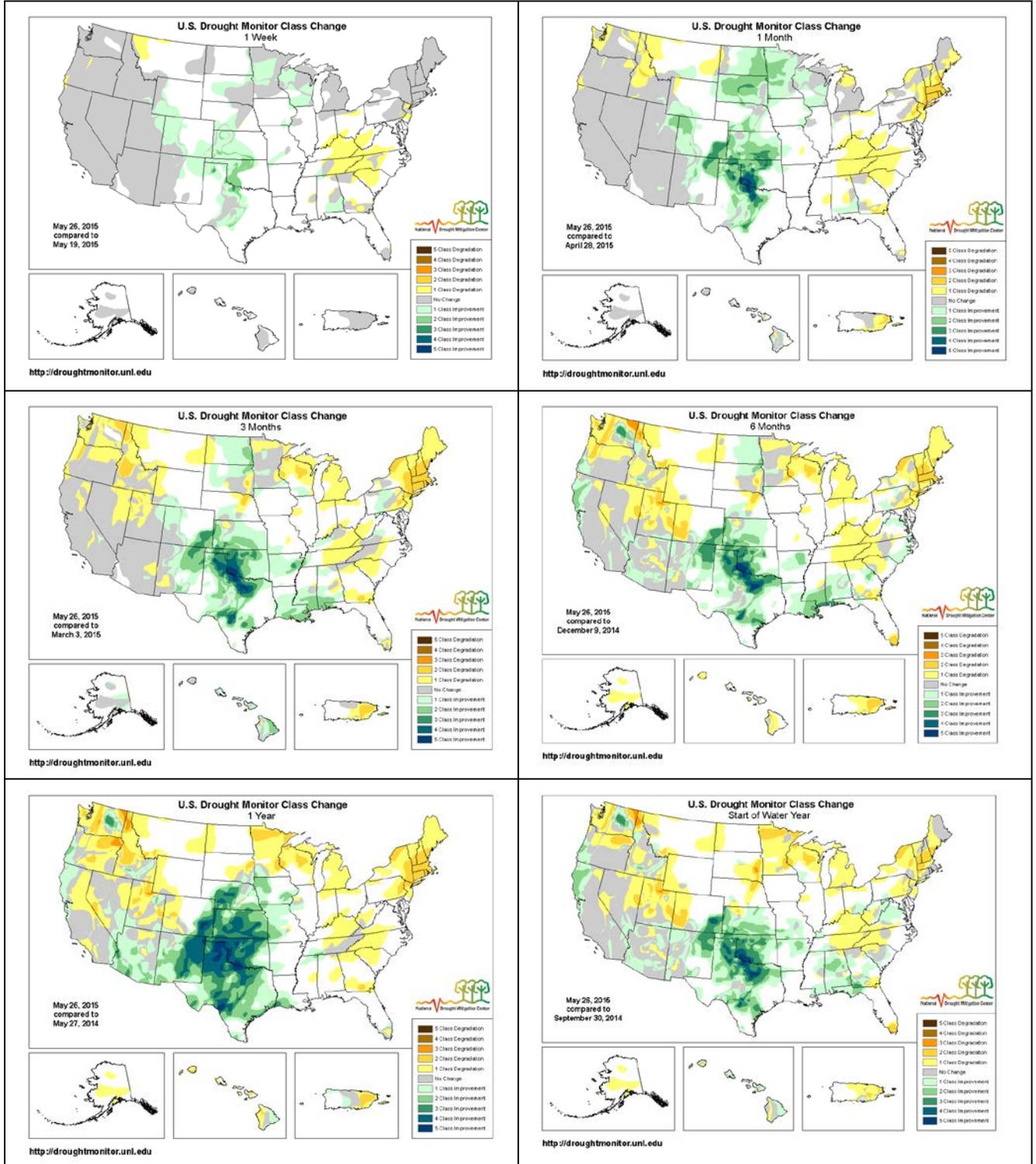
Population figures affected by drought in the U.S. Drought Monitor website show that, for this week, more than 92,000,000 people in the United States were in a drought-affected area, which is an increase by over 4.8 million people from last week.

Population Statistics Methodology:
The U.S. Drought Monitor population statistics are calculated at the county level, and aggregated to the state, regional, and national levels. The population densities have been calculated for each county. The proportion of the physical area of the county that is in drought is multiplied by the uniform population density in order to obtain a number for each county. The county values are then summed at the state, regional, and national level.

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Changes in Drought Monitor Categories

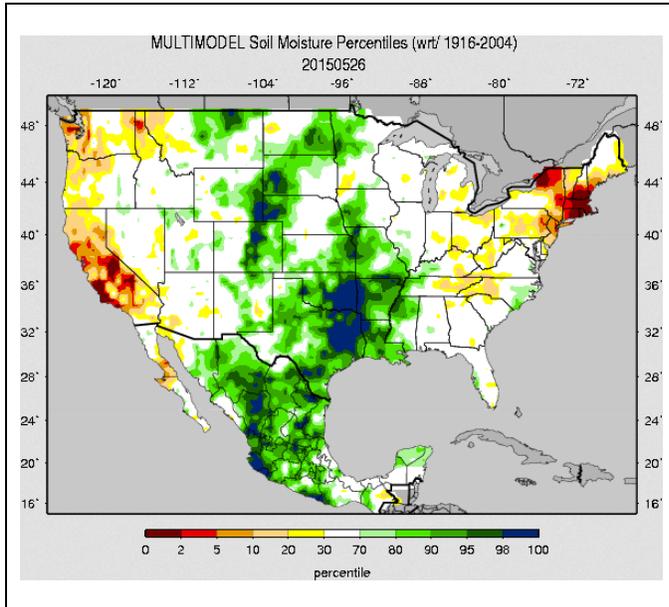
Over Various Time Periods



Click on any of these maps to enlarge. Note how the conditions over the upper Great Plains and the central Rockies have degraded between 6 to 12 months (middle right to lower left maps). However, also note that, since a year ago, conditions over parts of the central and southern Great Plains and the Southwest have improved (lower left map).

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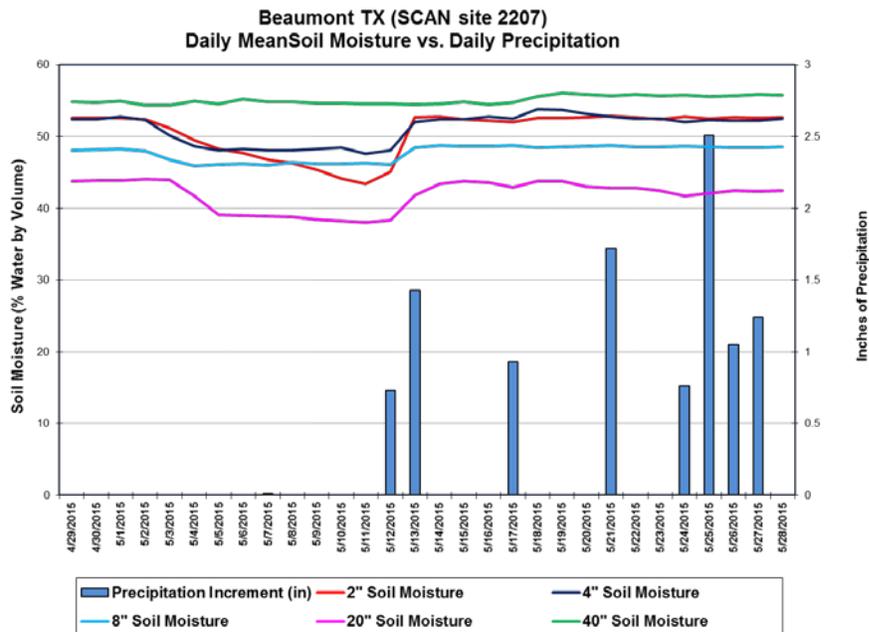
Soil Moisture



The national soil moisture model ranking in [percentile](#) as of May 26, 2015, shows dryness over most of the West and the Northeast. Additional drier than normal conditions are scattered across areas in many states. Moist soils dominated the central region of the country, including much of northeastern Montana, eastern Wyoming, eastern Colorado, parts of Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and western Iowa. Slightly moist soils were also scattered elsewhere in the U.S.

Useful Hydrological Links: [Crop Moisture Index](#); [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#); [Standardized Precipitation Index](#); [Surface Water Supply Index](#); [Weekly supplemental maps](#); [Minnesota Climate Working Group](#); [Experimental High Resolution Drought Trigger Tool](#); [NLDAS Drought Monitor](#); [Soil Moisture](#)

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

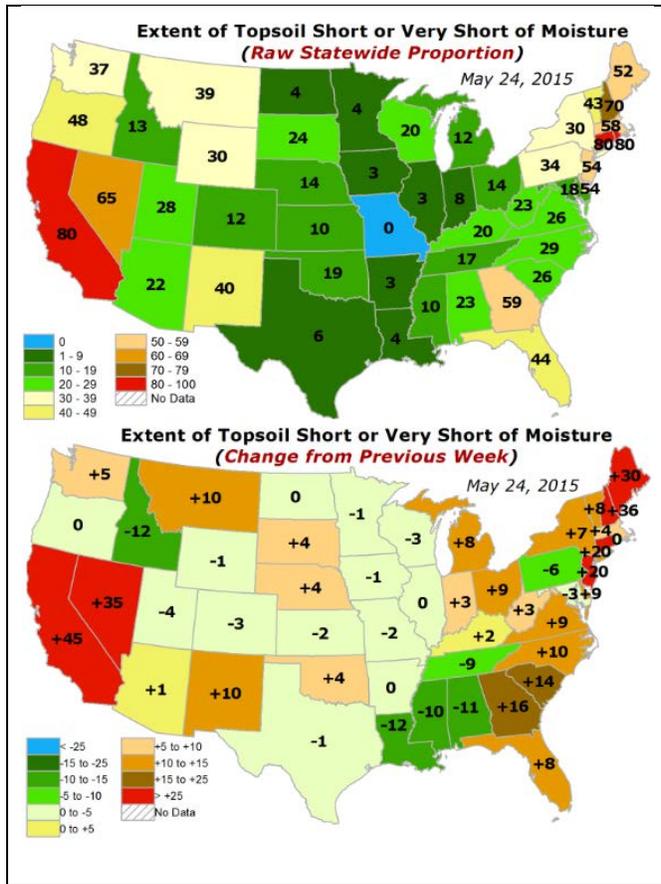


This NRCS resource shows soil moisture data for the last month at the [Beaumont, TX SCAN site 2207](#). The area had several, large precipitation events in the last 30 days, with several large events from recent storms (blue bars). This rainfall resulted in continued high soil moisture at all sensor depths.

Useful Agriculture Links: [Vegetation Drought Response Index](#); [Evaporative Stress Index](#); [Vegetation Health Index](#); [NDVI Greenness Map](#); [GRACE-Based Surface Soil Moisture](#); [North American Soil Moisture Network](#); [Monthly Wild Fire Forecast Report](#).

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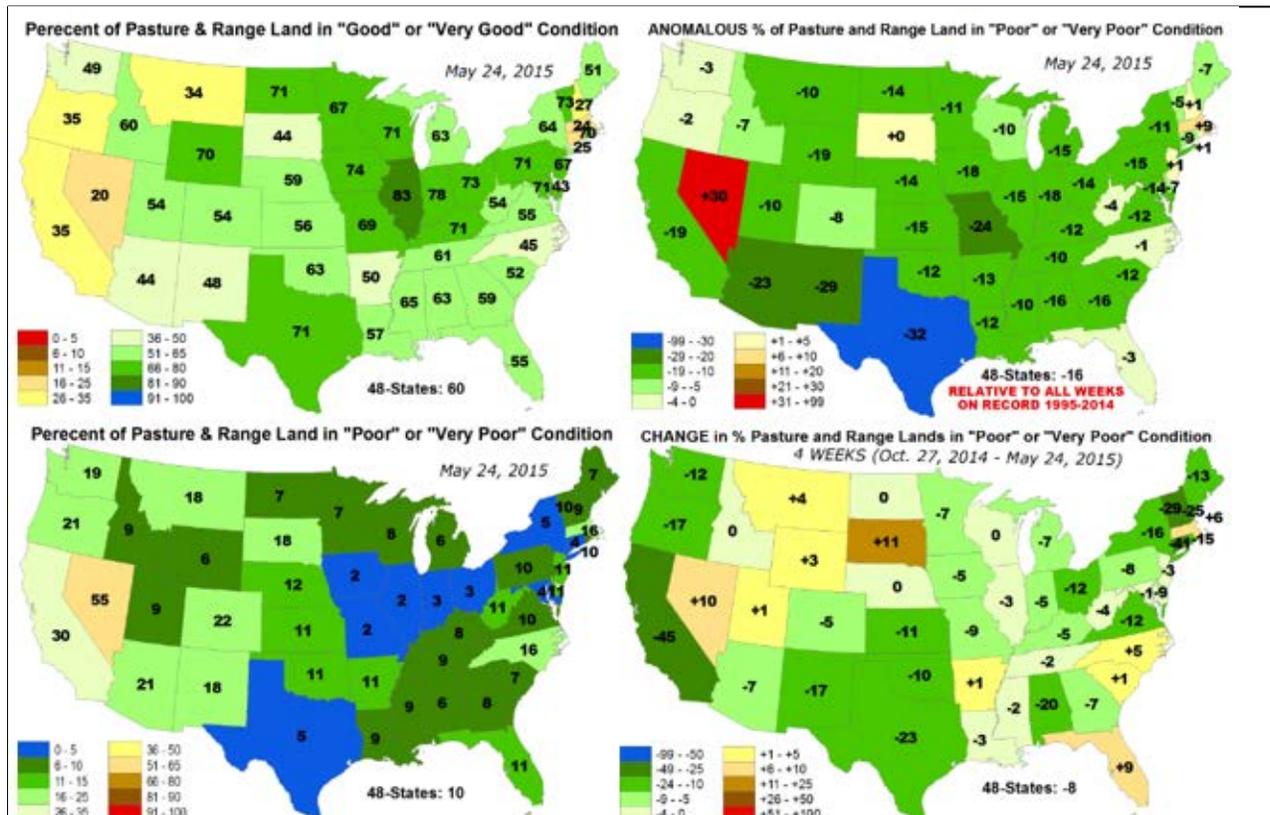
Topsoil and Pasture & Rangeland National Conditions



↩ **Topsoil Moisture** is exceptionally poor (top) over California, Nevada, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Connecticut with values representing more than 60% poorer conditions than the median for this time of year. Locations in the Great Plains to the Southeast have good soil moisture conditions.

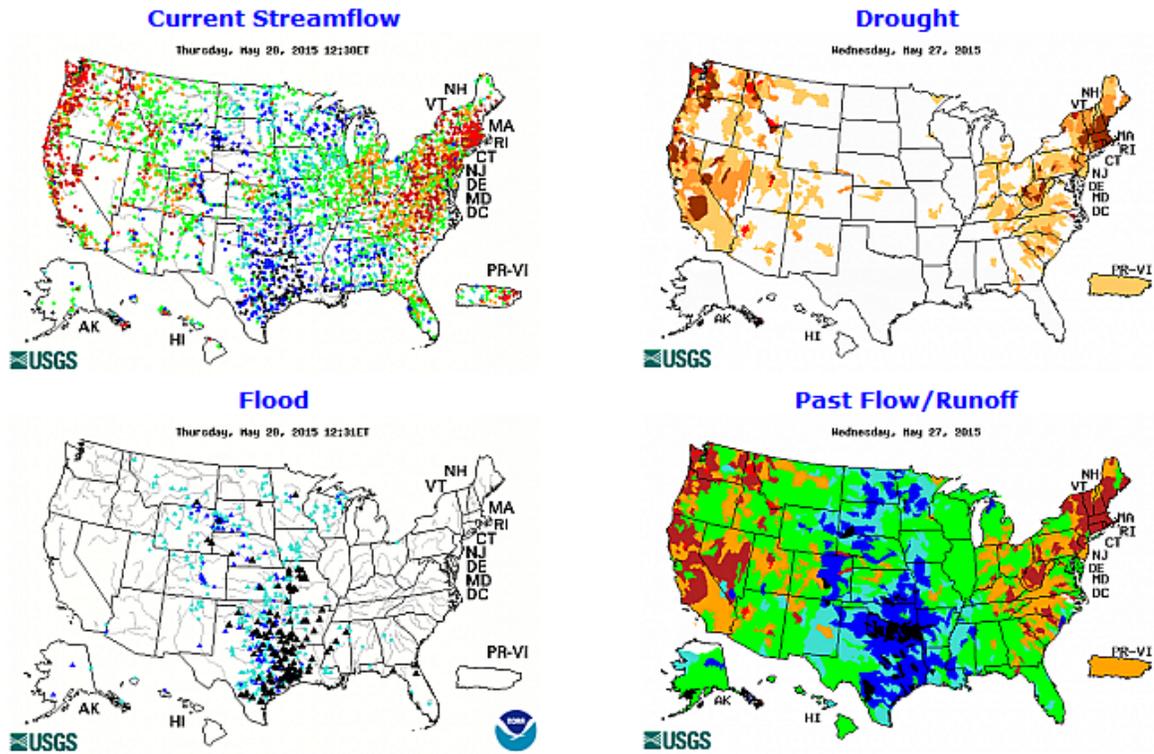
Over the past week, good topsoil moisture dominated the central and western U.S. (bottom panel). Louisiana and Idaho showed the largest topsoil moisture increase for the week, whereas the East coast, California, and Nevada were drying out.

↩ **Pasture and Rangeland across the U.S.** Many of the states east of the Mississippi River are in good condition, as noted below. These conditions also extend across the northern Great Plains and northern Rockies. Pasture and rangelands are stressed over California, Nevada, and New England. Conditions have generally shown improvement over this past week.



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Streamflow



Nationally, stream gages primarily in the southern Great Plains are reporting much above normal streamflow. There are many gages at or above flood stage centered in the Mississippi River tributaries and southern U.S. this week.

National Long-Range Outlook



[Click map to enlarge and update](#)

Currently the Upper Midwest part of the map has not been calculated for the long range flood outlook (dark gray dots).

According to the National Weather Service, during the next three months there is a risk of flooding in the Midwest and the Southeast. Currently, **0** gages have a greater than 50% chance to experience major flooding; **22** gages for moderate flooding; and **96** gages for minor flooding.

These numbers represent no change in the number of gages with a greater than 50 percent chance of minor flooding category since last week.

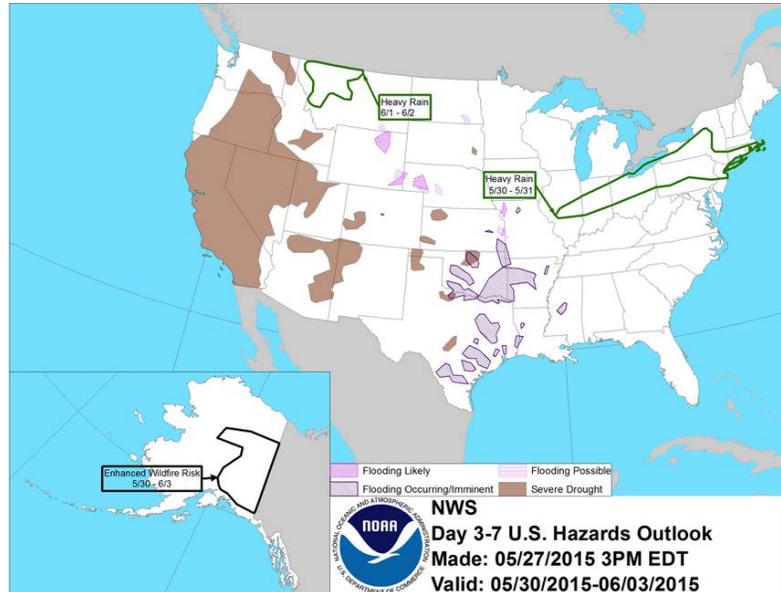
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National [Weather Hazards](#)

The National Weather Service map of national weather hazards for the next 3 – 7 days forecasts heavy rain in the northern Rockies (6/1-2) and the north central to northeast U.S. (5/30-31). Flooding is occurring or possible in many portions of the Mississippi basin, especially in Oklahoma and Texas.

Severe drought remains a large issue in much of the southcentral and western U.S.

In Alaska, an enhanced risk of wildfire is expected (5/30 – 6/3).



[National Drought Summary for May 26, 2015](#)

Prepared by the Drought Monitor Author: Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Summary

“An extraordinarily active weather pattern led to flood intensification across the central and southern Plains, culminating in a Memorial Day weekend deluge. The latest round of heavy rain pushed Oklahoma to its wettest month on record, based on preliminary data, supplanting October 1941. Showery weather extended beyond the Plains, reaching into the lower Mississippi Valley, parts of the upper Midwest, and much of the northern Intermountain West. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions dominated much of the eastern U.S., where diminishing soil moisture began to have some adverse effects on pastures and summer crops. In contrast, beneficial rain dampened some of the hard-hit drought areas of the Far West, including parts of Oregon, Nevada, and northern California.

Great Plains

Mostly dry weather returned to North Dakota, but the remainder of the nation’s mid-section continued to receive substantial rainfall. A small pocket of moderate to severe drought (D1 to D2) persisted from northeastern Nebraska into eastern South Dakota. Otherwise, the Plains were free of severe drought, with only a few remaining pockets of moderate drought—largely due to lingering hydrological concerns. In Texas, reservoirs were collectively 82.0% full by May 27, up from 73.2% a month ago and 62.5% six months ago. In the last month, reservoir storage in Texas has increased 2.77 million acre-feet.

By May 26, month-to-date rainfall totals climbed to 18.97 inches in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and 14.53 inches in Wichita Falls, Texas. In both locations, those values represent the highest monthly totals on record. Previously, Oklahoma City’s wettest month had been June 1989, with 14.66 inches, while Wichita Falls’ had been May 1982, with 13.22 inches. Oklahoma City’s total was boosted by a daily-record total (3.73 inches) on May 23, part of a broad heavy rain event that led to catastrophic flash flooding in portions of the south-central U.S. In Texas, for example, preliminary USGS data indicated that the Blanco River at Wimberly rose more than 35 feet in less than 8 hours, cresting on May 24 at 27.21 feet above flood stage. The preliminary high-water mark at Wimberly was 6.91 feet above the previous record set on May 28, 1929. The San Marcos River near Martinsdale, Texas, surged more than 51 feet in less than 24 hours on May 23-24, based on initial data.

Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico

No changes were made in Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. Hawaii experienced a few periods of showers, mainly in windward locations. On Maui, Kahului’s 0.51-inch rainfall on the 23rd boosted its May 1-26 total to 1.06 inches (156% of normal). Elsewhere in Hawaii, May 1-26 rainfall included 0.58 inch (32% of normal) in Lihue, Kauai, and 0.15 inch (27%) in Honolulu, Oahu. Farther north, warm, dry weather across interior and southeastern Alaska contrasted with showery weather in the southwestern part of the state. The dryness in

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southeastern Alaska follows a very wet April; therefore, impacts have been slow to emerge. A few wildfires have been recently reported in Alaska, including the 556-acre Bolgen Creek fire south of Circle. Rivers are running high in some parts of Alaska due to early-season warmth melting high-elevation snow. Meanwhile, recent shower activity has been sufficient to stabilize the drought situation in Puerto Rico. Rain has been especially beneficial in northeastern Puerto Rico, where San Juan received 1.01 inches on May 20.

Midwestern and Great Lakes States

Significant rain shifted eastward into Wisconsin and environs, leading to reductions in the coverage of dryness (D0) and moderate drought (D1). During the week ending May 24, topsoil moisture rated very short to short declined from 24 to 20% in Wisconsin. Additional rain arrived on May 26, after the drought-monitoring period ended, and will be reflected next week. Further analysis of the previous week's rainfall led to some additional reductions in drought coverage in Minnesota.

Southeast

Broad expansion of abnormal dryness (D0) was noted in the Southeast, with a new spot of moderate drought (D1) introduced in southern Georgia. Statewide, Georgia's topsoil moisture was rated 59% very short to short by May 24. During the week ending May 24, pastures rated by USDA in good to excellent condition declined at least 5 percentage points in Virginia (from 62 to 55%); South Carolina (from 58 to 52%); and North Carolina (from 53 to 45%). Late in the drought-monitoring period (on May 25-26), rain began to spread into the Southeast, followed by additional rain that will be reflected next week.

The Northeast

Isolated showers had little effect on the Northeastern dryness (D0) and moderate drought (D1). From March 1 – May 26, precipitation totaled one-half to two-thirds of normal in locations such as Boston (5.64 inches, or 52% of normal), New York's Central Park (7.12 inches, or 58%), and Providence (7.42 inches, or 60%). Stream data from USGS indicated extremely low flows for this time of year from the northern Mid-Atlantic region into southern New England. According to USDA, topsoil moisture on May 24 was rated 80% very short to short in Connecticut, along with 70% in New Hampshire; 58% in Massachusetts; 54% in Delaware and New Jersey; and 52% in Maine.

West

Similar to the previous drought-monitoring period, Western precipitation boosted topsoil moisture and eased irrigation requirements, but in many states provided negligible relief from long-term, hydrological drought. However, in areas where long-term drought was less deeply entrenched, particularly in Wyoming, Colorado, and parts of neighboring states, the recent and ongoing wet spell has put a meaningful dent in the drought.

While most of the West has experienced an unusually cool, wet May, warmth has prevailed from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies. As a result, an emerging area of short-term dryness (D0) has begun to appear near the Canadian border as far east as northwestern Montana.

Looking Ahead

During the next 5 days, the western U.S. will experience a warming trend, while near- to above-normal temperatures will continue in the East. In contrast, very cool weather will cover much of the Plains and Midwest. Meanwhile, heavy rain (locally 2 to 4 inches) will lead to additional flooding across the southeastern Plains and western Gulf Coast region. A broader area of the Plains and Midwest will receive 1 to 2 inches, with locally higher totals. Similar amounts can be expected in the eastern U.S., except along the southern Atlantic Coast. Elsewhere, showers in the Rockies and Intermountain West will contrast with warm, dry weather in the Pacific Coast States and the Desert Southwest.

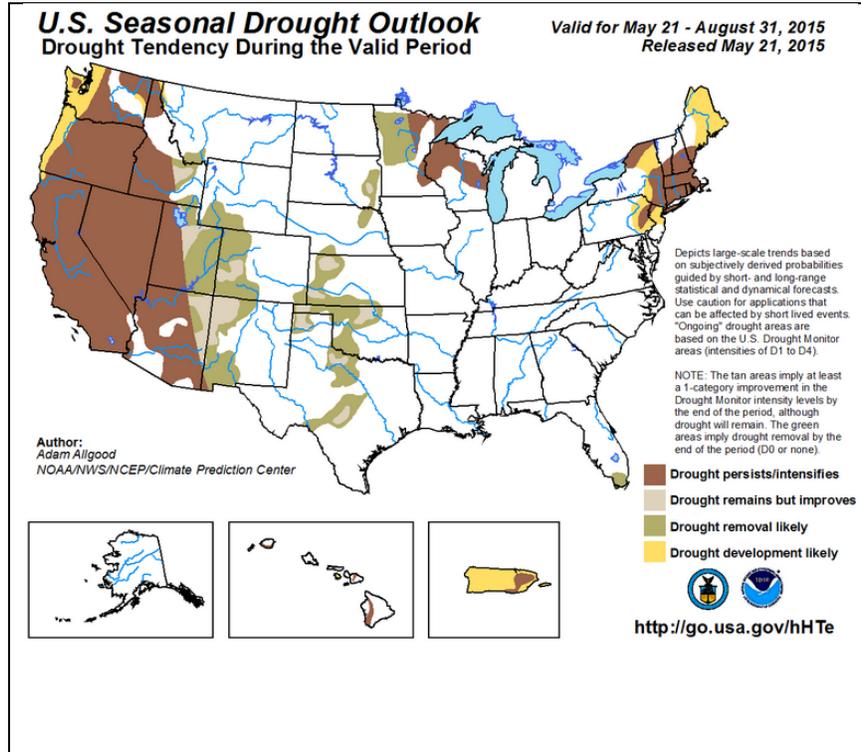
The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for June 2 – 6 calls for the likelihood of near- to above-normal temperatures and precipitation across much of the nation. Enhanced odds of cooler-than-normal conditions will be limited to parts of Texas, while drier-than-normal weather will be limited to the Pacific Northwest and the northern Intermountain West."

Supplemental Drought Information

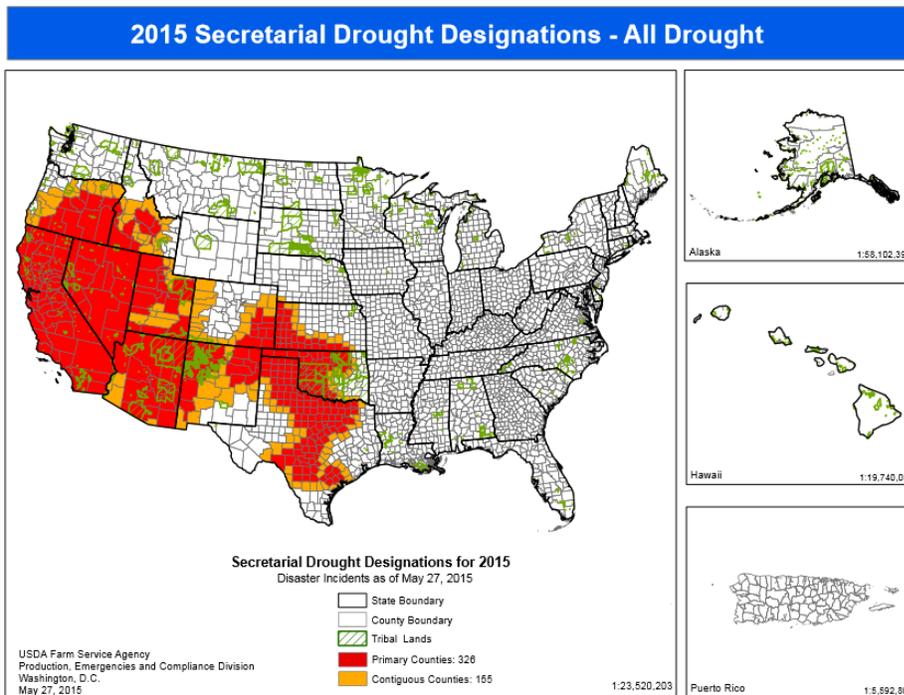
National Seasonal Drought Outlook

Nationally, [drought](#) is expected to persist or intensify over much of the west, central, and northeast U.S., including California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Arizona, Minnesota, Wisconsin, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Improvements and removal of drought status are expected in parts of Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and southern Florida. The areas of drought that are likely to develop further are in the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast, and Puerto Rico.



2015 USDA Secretarial Drought Designations



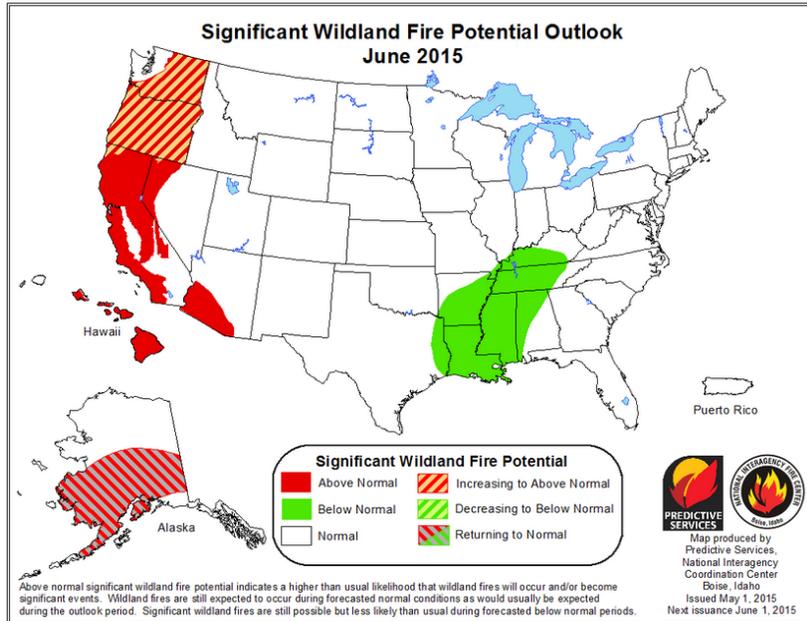
Refer to the USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#).

Read about the [USDA Regional Climate Hubs](#).

[New useful resource: NASS Quick Stats](#)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

National Fire Potential Outlook



June Fire Forecast

In June, much of the U.S. is forecast to have normal [fire potential](#).

Below normal fire potential for June 2015 (in green on the map) is forecast for the southern U.S.

California, western Nevada, southwest Arizona, and Hawaii have above normal fire potential.

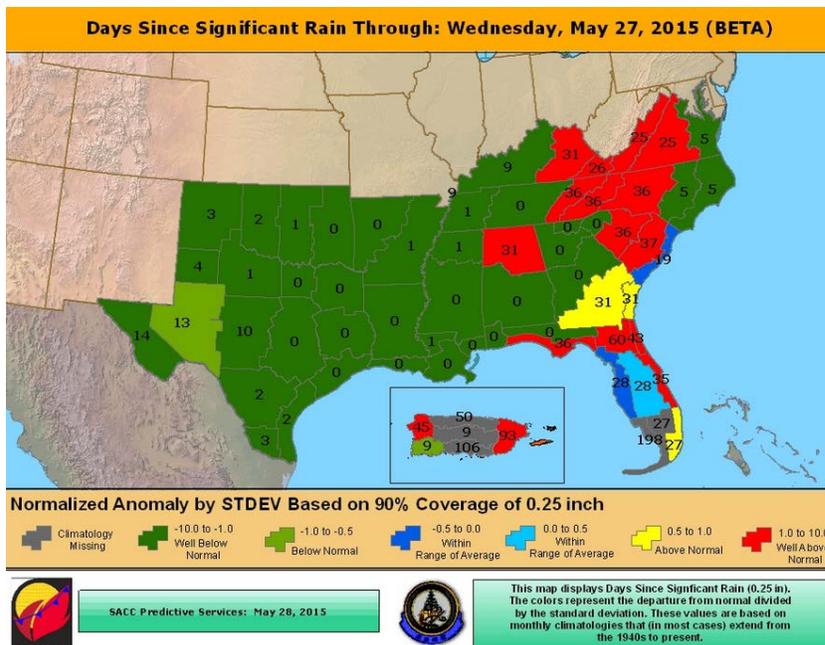
Oregon and western Washington have increasing to above normal fire potential for June.

The southern half of Alaska is returning to normal fire potential.

Additional Maps

U.S. Maps PowerPoint presentation: <http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/US-Maps.ppt>.

Regional zooms of ACIS station data percent-of-normal precipitation: <http://dmcommunity.unl.edu/maps/All-CONUS-ACIS-PNP.pptx>. National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) maps: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/swsi.html>



[Days since Significant Rain Summary](#)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

Supplemental Drought-Agriculture News

Download [archived](#) "U.S. Crops in Drought" files.

The following is a collection of drought-related news stories from the past seven days or so. Impact information from these articles is entered into the [Drought Impact Reporter](#). A number of these articles will also be posted on the [Drought Headlines](#) page at the NDMC website. The list is compiled by Denise D. Gutzmer, Drought Impact Specialist at the National Drought Mitigation Center.

California

California's Delta farmers offer deal on water use, State water regulators accept

The State Water Resources Control Board approved a proposition put forth by farmers with senior water rights in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The growers offered to curb water use by 25 percent in exchange for having no further restrictions on their water for the summer. Water would have to be left in the delta or 25 percent of crops would be left unplanted.

Groundwater levels plummeting

Mark Cowin, director of the state Department of Water Resources, reported to a California Senate joint oversight hearing that roughly 1,900 wells have gone dry. Of the 4,500 or so monitored wells in the state, 40 percent have dropped more than 2 feet, more than 15 percent have fallen more than 10 feet and some wells plummeted more than 25 feet in central California. "Significant to severe" drops in groundwater were also seen in the Central Coast and Southern California.

Most Californians favor water restrictions

A new Field Poll found that 65 percent of Californians favor the mandatory water restrictions issued by Gov. Brown. At the same time, many people think it will be difficult to conserve more water and feel that farmers could find ways to cut back.

Major fish kill in the making on the Klamath River in northern California

Nearly all of the juvenile chinook salmon in the Klamath River were infected with a deadly parasite that thrives when the river is warm and low. Additional water releases would wash the parasite-laden worms down the river, but water stored in the Klamath Basin reservoirs was already set aside for endangered sucker fish and threatened coho salmon. The Klamath Fish Health Advisory Team say that a major fish kill is likely.

East Coast

Dry weather preventing crop planting in southern Maine

The dry weather kept a farmer in Poland from getting out in the field to plant. He was also hand-watering plants and preparing his indoor irrigation systems for use at a time of year when the ground is typically wet and muddy.

Western Massachusetts drying out

Farmers have begun to irrigate their crops; lawns were going dormant; and the Westfield River continues to dwindle for want of rain. No water restrictions were in effect yet, but may not be far off.

Drought watch continued in southeastern Pennsylvania

The drought watch for 27 Pennsylvania counties remained in effect after the initial March declaration. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection issued the drought watch after a dry autumn and a relatively dry January and February failed to replenish groundwater.

Peanut planting delayed in southern Georgia

Dry weather halted most peanut planting in southern Georgia, except in fields with irrigation capability. The peanuts cannot germinate and sprout in the dusty soil. Prior to the dry spell, an unusually wet spring delayed planting.

Northwestern U.S.

Drought emergencies in eight additional Oregon counties, potential summer water shortages

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown recognized another eight counties as having drought emergencies. The counties are Deschutes, Grant, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Morrow, Umatilla and Wasco. The governor also cautioned that water shortages and a blistering fire season may lie ahead.

Weekly Water and Climate Update

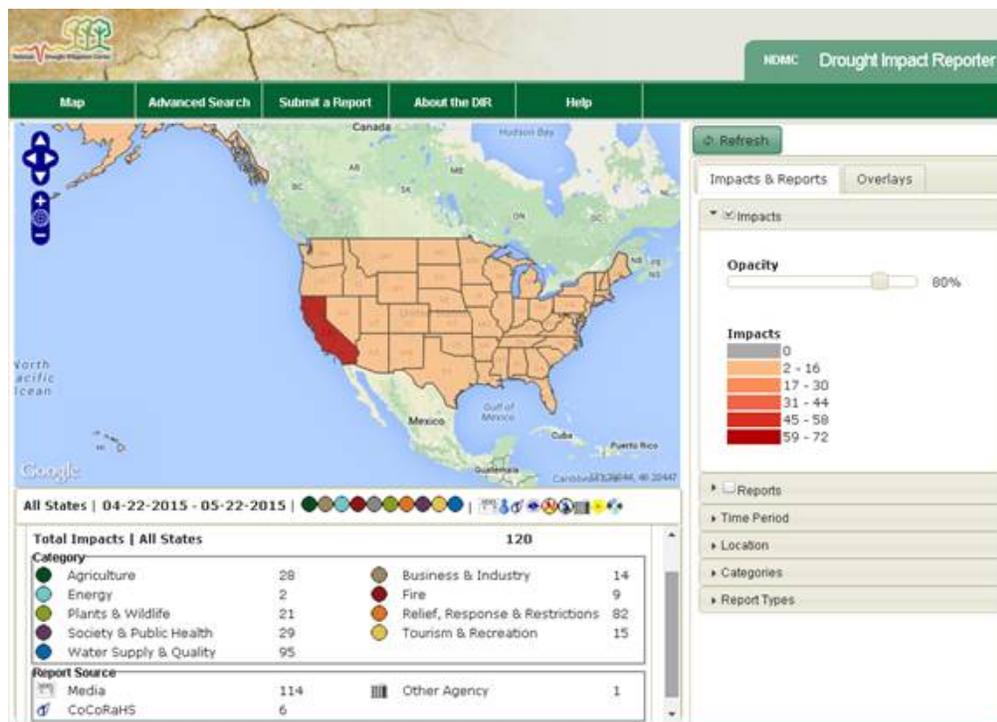
Water supply outlook not so rosy for Montana

The Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee in Montana assessed discouraging reports about depleted snowpack and potentially insufficient water supplies for the summer. Reservoirs were currently at capacity, but this winter's snow drought kept snowpack at less than half of average. With May and June being the state's wettest months, there was still hope that precipitation could brighten the water outlook.

Montana wheat likely affected by moisture stress

Yellow and brown spots speckled the lower leaves on some of Montana's wheat plants. A number of factors, including frost damage, drought and nutrient deficiencies, may have caused the spots."

[The Drought Impact Reporter](#) shows California as having the most impacts by far.



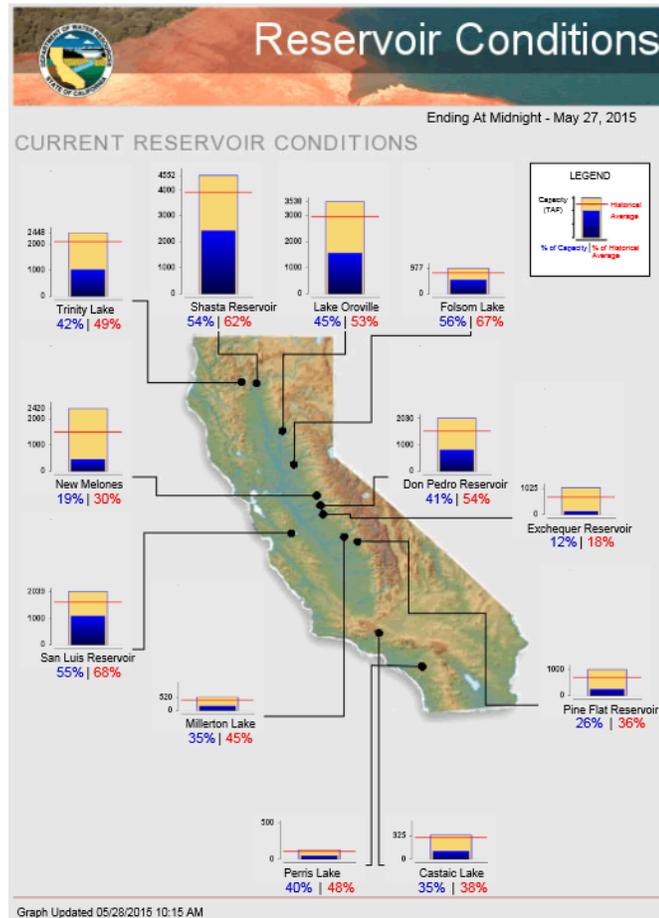
Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

- <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/basin/tc_gr.html; ← Upper Snake
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/burtea.html> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/tc_cr.html ← Upper Colorado
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html> ← Pacific Northwest
- <http://www.sevierriver.org/reservoirs/teacup-diagram-of-reservoirs/> ← Sevier River Water (UT)

Weekly Water and Climate Update

California Reservoir Conditions

[California Major Reservoir conditions from the CA Department of Water Resources](#)



State Drought Activities

[State government drought activities](#) can be tracked through their drought plans. NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF) Program State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate SSWSF information. Additional information describing the [tools](#) available from the Drought Monitor can also be found at the [U.S. Drought Portal](#).

More Information

The National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) [website](#) provides the latest available snowpack and water supply information. This document is available [weekly](#). CONUS Water and Climate Updates from 2007 are available online. Reports from 2001-2006 are available on request.

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

/s/

David W. Smith
Deputy Chief, Soil Science and Resource Assessment