



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

Weekly Report - Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update **Date: 29 May, 2008**

SNOTEL SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

Snow: As would be expected by the end of May, most mountain SNOTEL sites have or are nearly melted out. However, a few exceptions exist over the Cascades and scattered across the Northern and Central Rockies where snow-water equivalent values are still greater than 50% of the seasonal peak values which normally occurs in early April (Fig. 1). Snow-water equivalent percent for this Water Year as of 29 May shows well above normal values continuing over the Cascades, Idaho Panhandle, and over parts of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Cooler weather this past week helped to maintain very high snowpack across the northern Western States (Fig. 1a).

Temperature: For the past seven days, average temperature anomalies were up to 15 degrees F below average across much of the area south of Oregon and Idaho. The only area with above normal temperatures occurred over Washington (Fig. 2). Specifically, the greatest negative temperature departures occurred over central Wyoming and southern California (<-10F to -15F) and the greatest positive departures occurred over south central Washington (>+6F) (Fig. 2a).

Precipitation: Preliminary precipitation totals for the 7-day period ending 28 May shows an abundant amount of precipitation falling over the Southern Cascades, and parts of the Southwest. Little if any precipitation fell over the Central and Southern Rockies and along the West Coast (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 above normal totals over much of Colorado, central Arizona, and northern Wyoming (Fig. 3a).

WESTERN DROUGHT STATUS

The West: The week saw a dramatic change from summer (hot and dry) to early spring-like (cool and unsettled) conditions in the Far West, initially from a strong cold front, then maintained by a quasi-stationary, upper-air low pressure system over the central Rockies. With many western locations measuring 0.5 inch or more, weekly precipitation was well above normal as late May climatology is quite low. Overall, the wet and cool weather generally maintained drought conditions, and extended the spring and summer snowmelt season a bit longer. Improvements were made, however, where precipitation was exceptional, or where short-term dryness (D0(A)) had been present.

As mentioned in The Plains and Upper Midwest summary, a widespread 2 to 6 inches (locally to 10 inches) of precipitation fell on much of Montana and Wyoming, causing localized flooding but improving or alleviating drought by 1 category. Wet weather in southern Washington and central Oregon eased just-added D0, while 1 to 2 inches in south-central Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and central Idaho diminished D0. In parts of the Sierra Nevada, Cascades, northeast Oregon's Blue Mountains, and north-central Rockies, over 2 inches of precipitation fell. This actually increased both the average basin water-year-to-date (WYTD) percent of normal precipitation and snow water content (SWC) for May 26 when they would typically decline, especially SWC, although its value can rapidly fluctuate during the late spring snowmelt. The biggest increases in SWC (May 19 versus 26) occurred in western Montana (97-149% vs. 114-

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

166%); western Wyoming (78-132% vs. 87-148%); and western Washington (121-229% vs. 145-252%). Even California's Sierra Nevada slightly increased its meager SWC (2-52% vs. 3-58%), as well as its WYTD precipitation (70-79% vs. 73-82%). The western areas that received little or no precipitation were limited to coastal and southeastern California. Author: [David Miskus, Joint Agricultural Weather Facility, CPC/NCEP/NWS/NOAA](#)

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, and 4c).

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.

VEGETATION HEALTH

Associated with vegetation health are pasture and rangeland conditions (Fig. 8) as noted at: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/pasture-range-statewide-conditions.pdf>

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/cqibin/bor.pl>. Additional

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

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

SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Percent of Normal Peak May 29, 2008

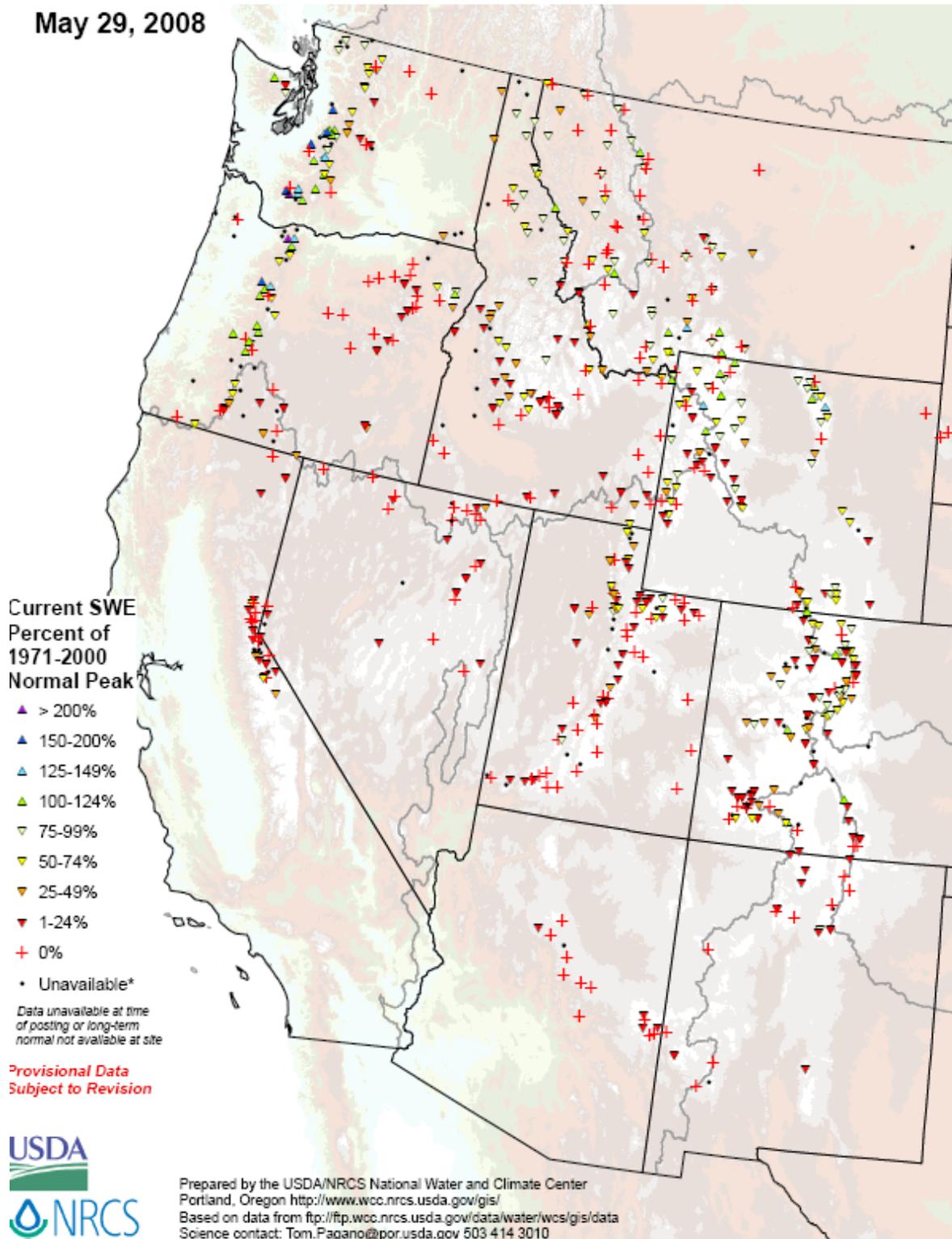


Fig. 1. As would be expected by the end of May, most mountain SNOTEL sites have or are nearly melted out. However, a few exceptions exist over the Cascades and scattered across the Northern and Central Rockies where snow-water equivalent values are still greater than 50% of the seasonal peak values which normally occurs in early April.

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

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

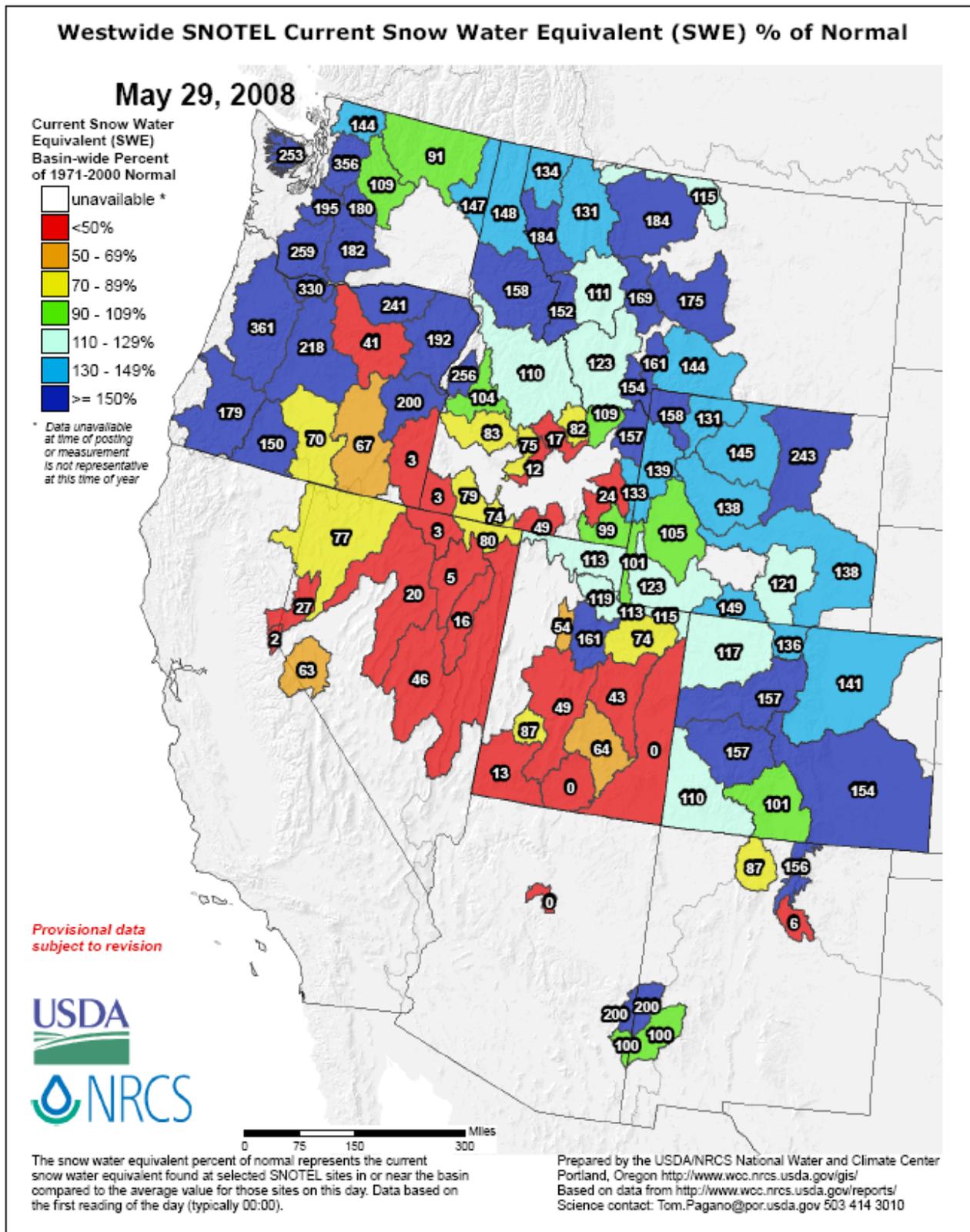


Fig. 1a. Snow-water equivalent percent for this Water Year as of 29 May shows well above normal values continuing over the Cascades, Idaho Panhandle, and over parts of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Cooler weather this past week helped to maintain very high snowpack. Ref: ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_swepctnormal_update.pdf

**SNOTEL (solid) 7-Day Average Temperature Anomaly (Degrees F)
May 29, 2008**

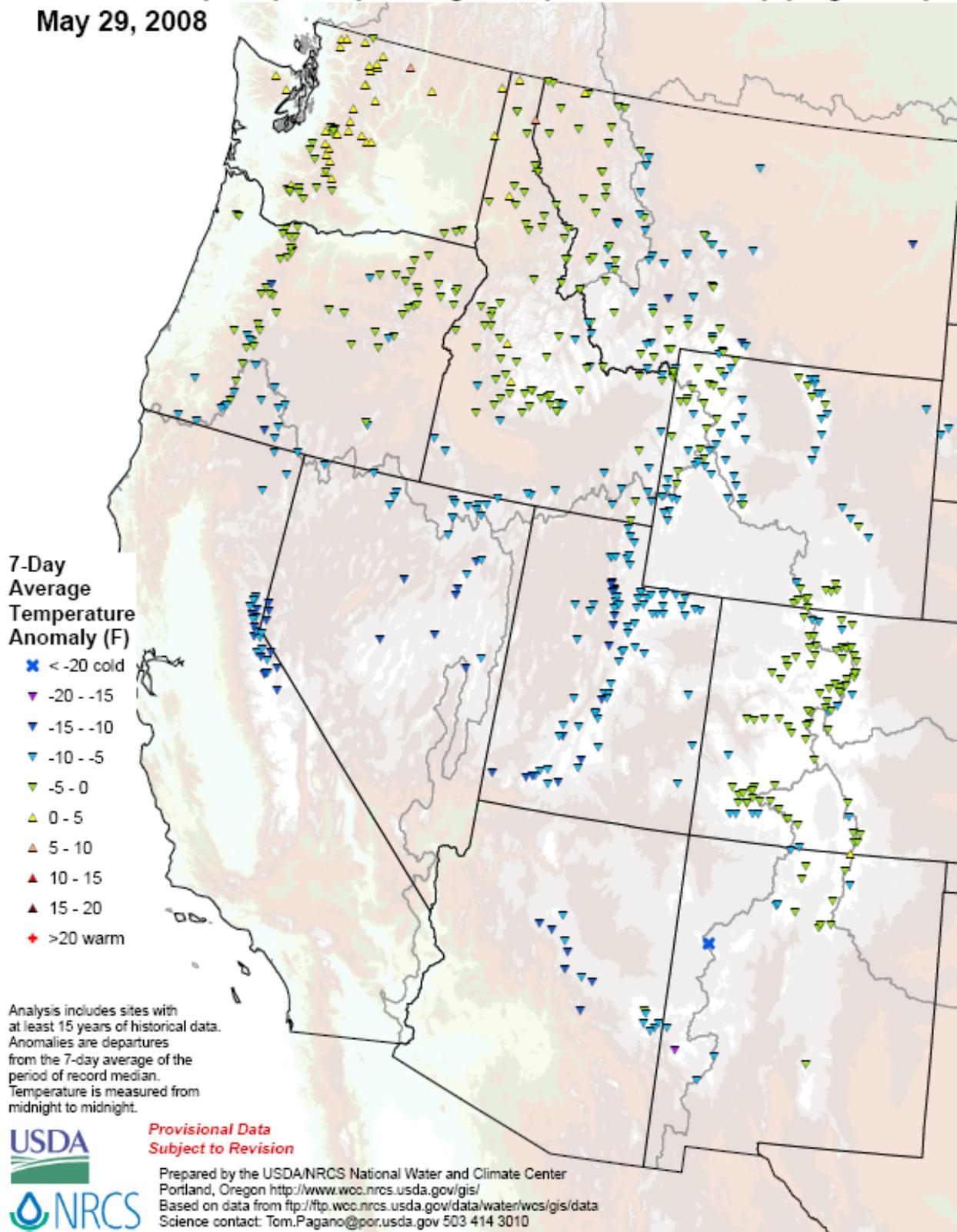


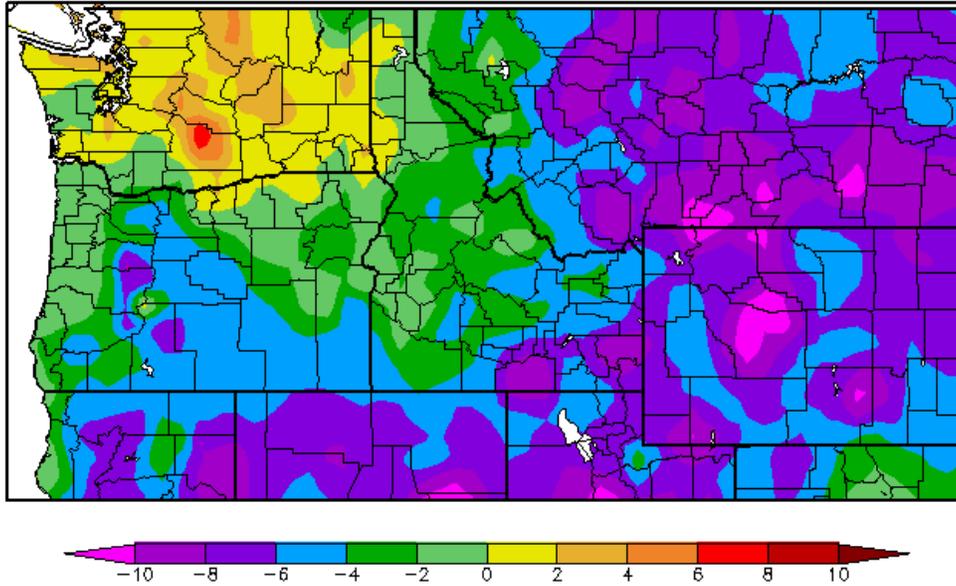
Fig. 2. SNOTEL & ACIS 7-day station average temperature anomalies were up to 15 degrees F below average across much of the area south of Oregon and Idaho. The only area with above normal temperatures occurred over Washington.

Ref:

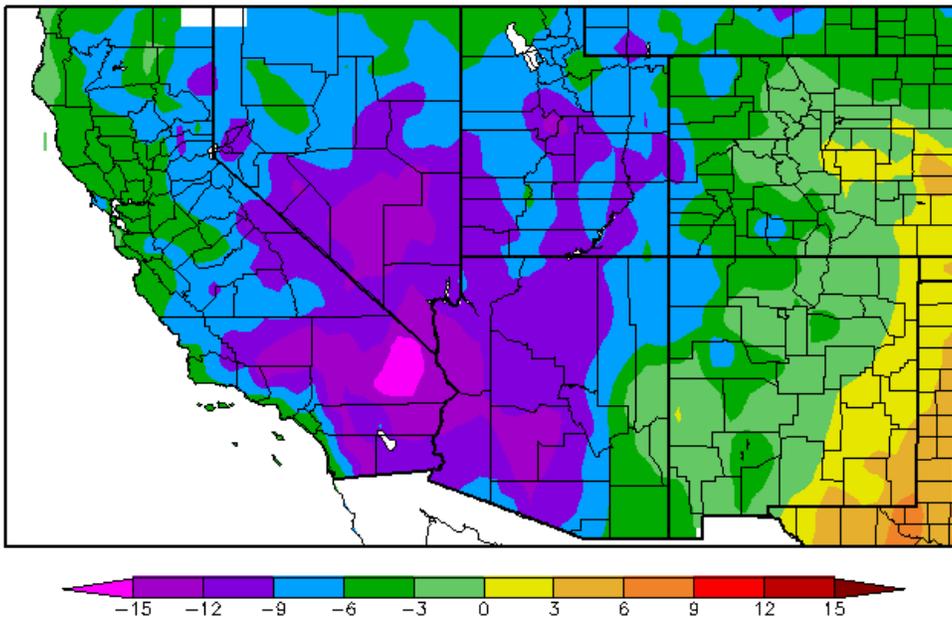
<ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/WestwideTavg7dAnomalyAcis.pdf>

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/22/2008 – 5/28/2008



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/22/2008 – 5/28/2008



Generated 5/29/2008 at HPRCC using provisional data.

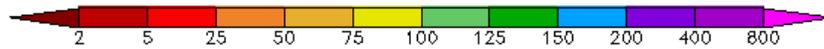
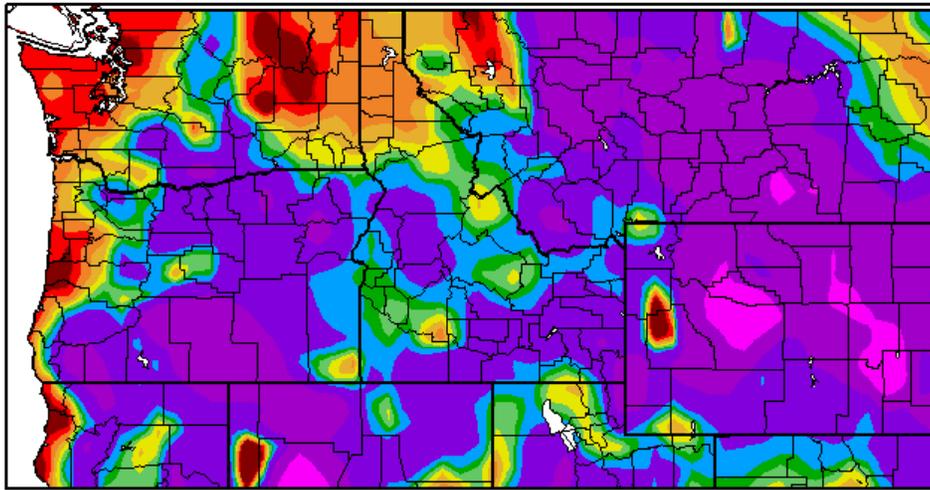
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Fig. 2a. ACIS 7-day average temperature anomalies: Greatest negative temperature departures over central Wyoming and southern California (<-10F to -15F) and greatest positive departures over south central Washington (>+6F).

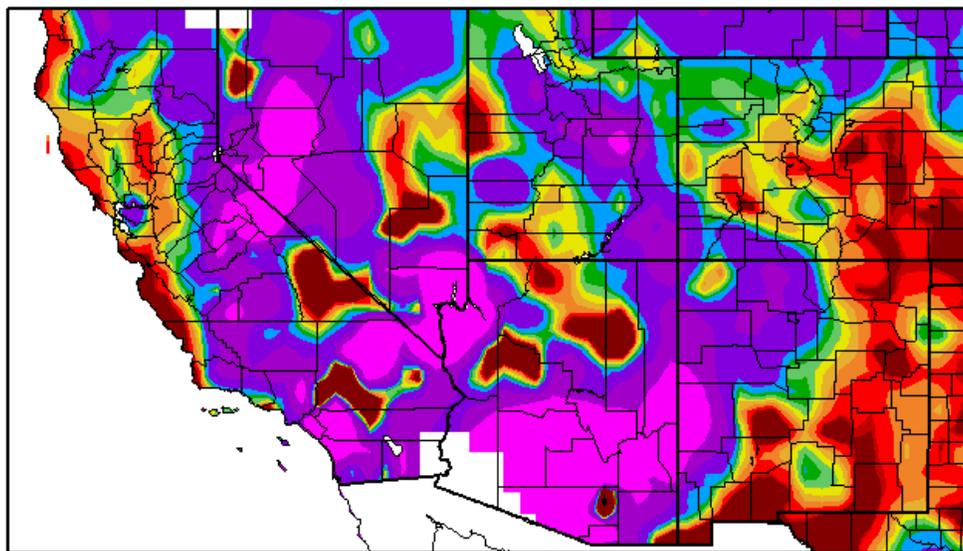
Ref: http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/index.php?action=update_product&product=TDept

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
5/22/2008 – 5/28/2008



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
5/22/2008 – 5/28/2008



Generated 5/29/2008 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Fig. 3. ACIS 7-day average precipitation anomaly: Preliminary precipitation totals for the 7-day period ending 28 May shows an abundant amount of precipitation falling over the Southern Cascades, and parts of the Southwest. Little if any precipitation fell over the Central and Southern Rockies and along the West Coast.

Ref: http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/index.php?action=update_product&product=PNorm

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

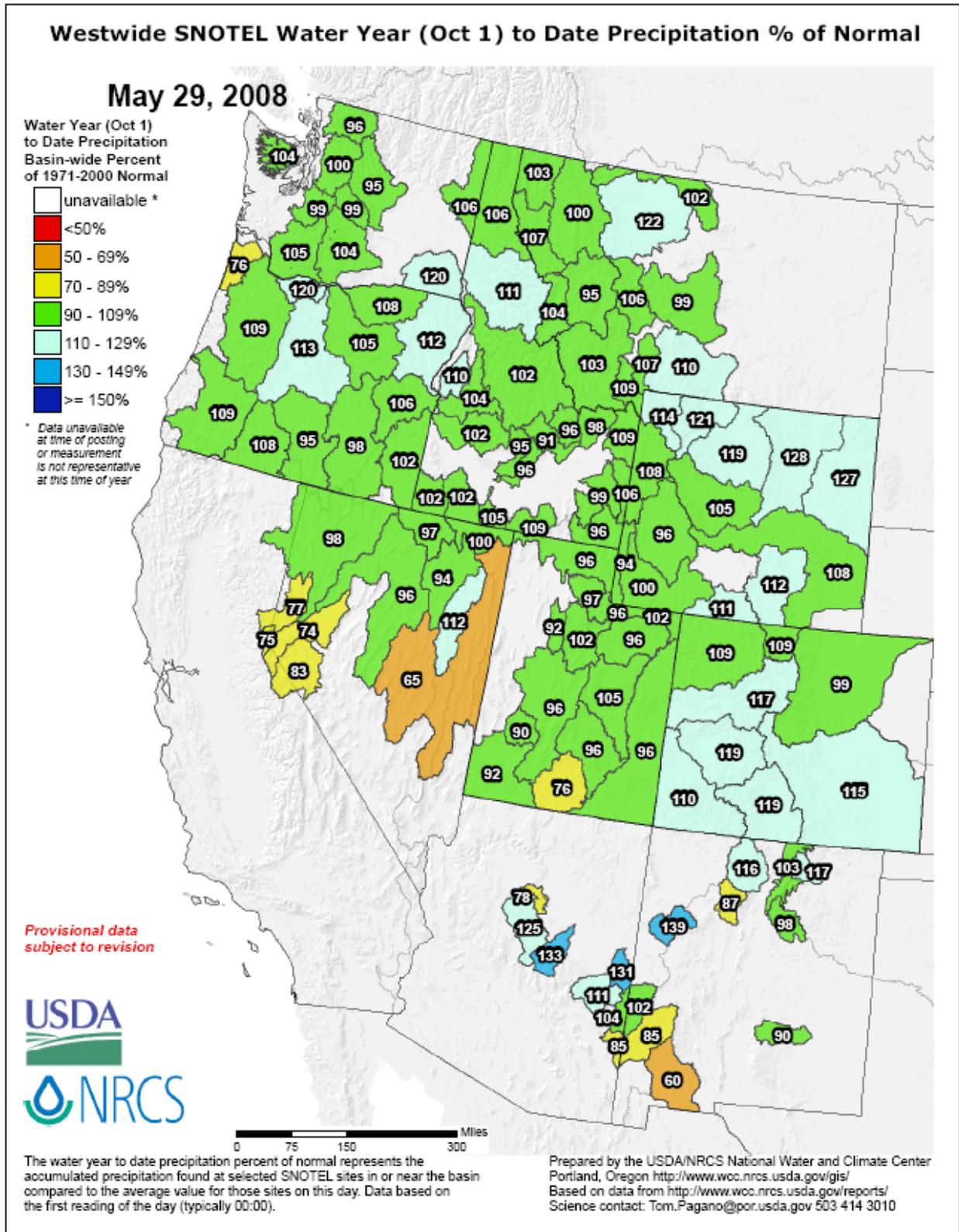


Fig 3a. Seasonal precipitation (rain & snow water equivalent) as a percent of normal for the 2008 Water Year that began on October 1, 2007 shows above normal totals over much of Colorado, central Arizona, and northern Wyoming.

Ref: http://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_wytdprecptnormal_update.pdf

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 27, 2008
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

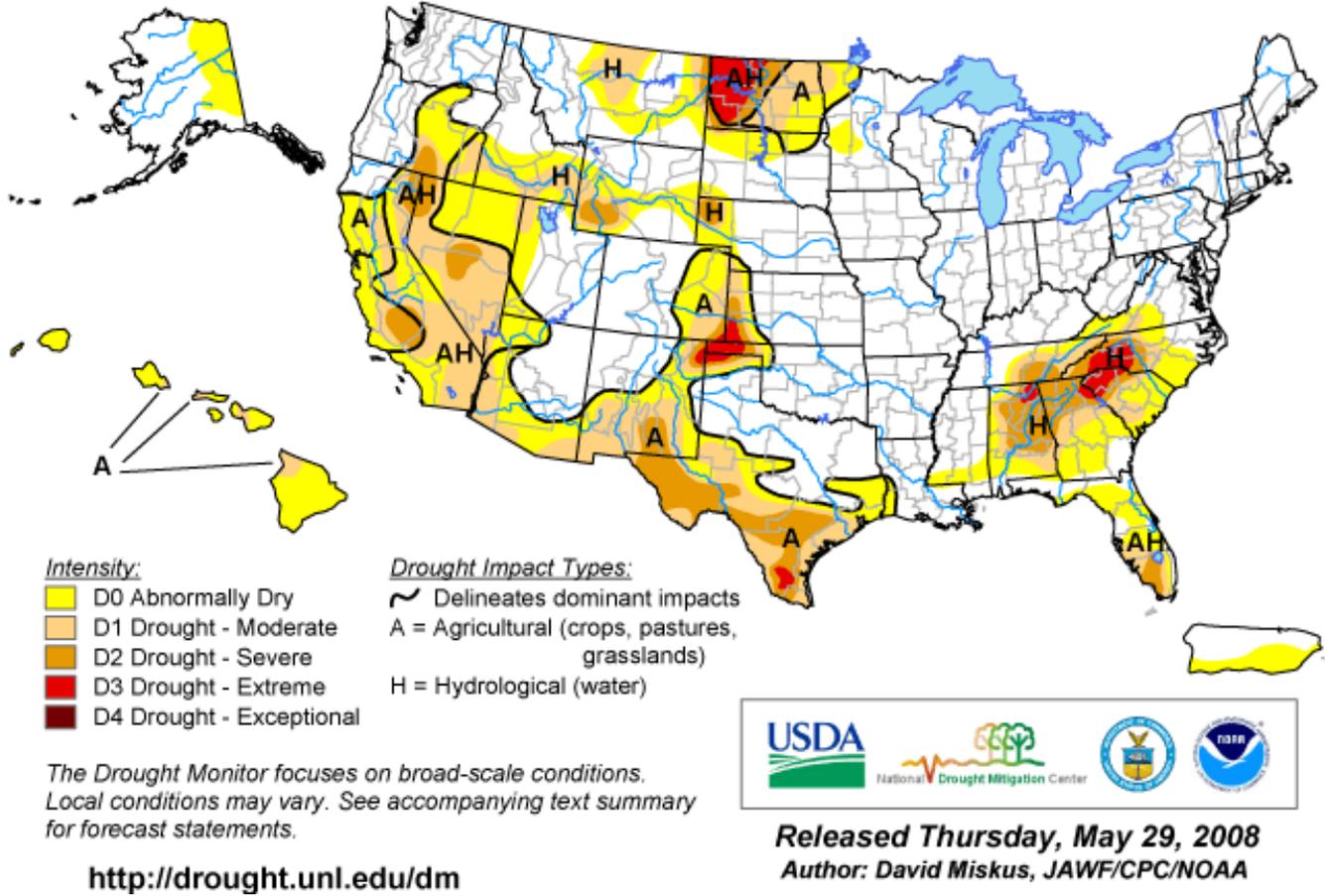


Fig. 4. Current Drought Monitor weekly summary.

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

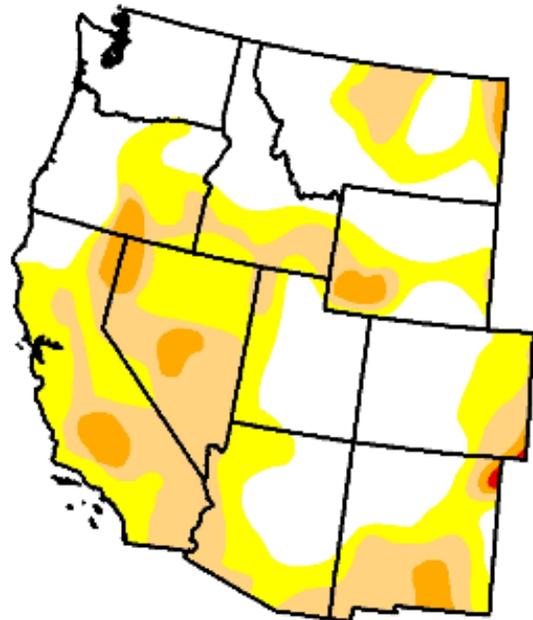
U.S. Drought Monitor

West

May 27, 2008
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	45.9	54.1	26.2	4.7	0.1	0.0
Last Week (05/20/2008 map)	32.8	67.2	34.5	6.8	0.2	0.0
3 Months Ago (03/04/2008 map)	42.3	57.7	34.0	16.0	0.0	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 (05/29/2007 map)	31.4	68.6	49.6	25.6	7.8	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, May 29, 2008
Author: David Miskus, JAWF/CPC/NOAA

Fig. 4a. Drought Monitor for the Western States with statistics over various time periods. Note some improvement since last week.

Ref: http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_west.htm

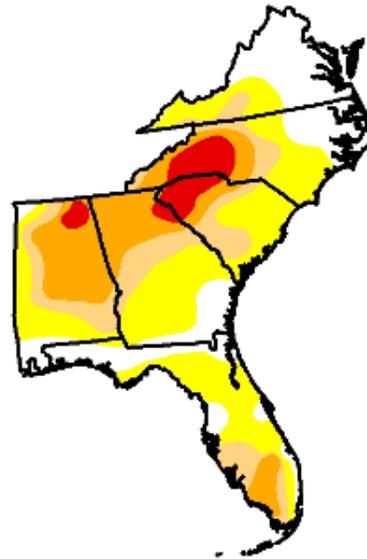
U.S. Drought Monitor

Southeast

May 27, 2008
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	25.5	74.5	39.7	23.9	5.9	0.0
Last Week (05/20/2008 map)	24.5	75.5	39.2	22.9	4.8	0.0
3 Months Ago (03/04/2008 map)	18.1	81.9	66.5	48.6	25.8	6.9
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 (05/29/2007 map)	10.3	89.7	82.6	47.6	27.6	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>



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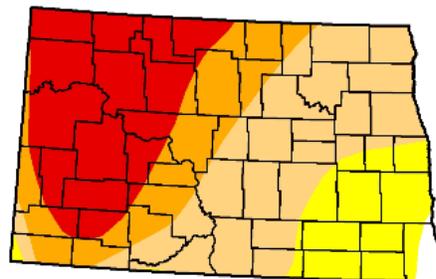
U.S. Drought Monitor

North Dakota

May 27, 2008
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.3	98.7	83.5	47.8	29.5	0.0
Last Week (05/20/2008 map)	4.0	96.0	83.9	48.5	29.5	0.0
3 Months Ago (03/04/2008 map)	0.0	100.0	62.3	39.1	5.8	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	19.8	80.2	55.5	16.4	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	25.6	74.4	38.1	4.4	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (05/29/2007 map)	49.8	50.3	4.1	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

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



Released Thursday, May 29, 2008
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Fig. 4b: Drought Monitor for some areas across the US with worst drought conditions include the Southeastern States and North Dakota with statistics over various time periods.

Ref: http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_southeast.htm

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

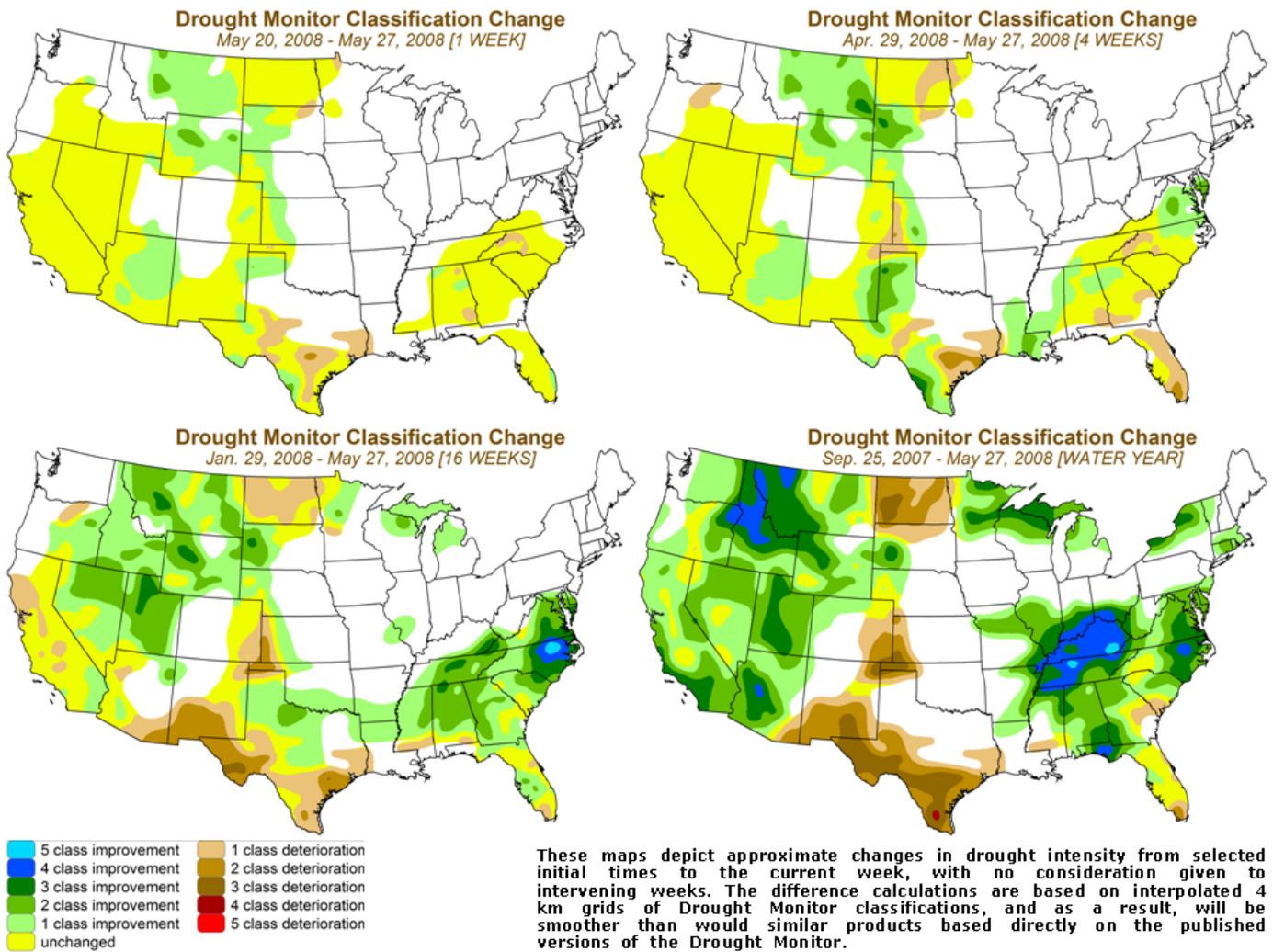
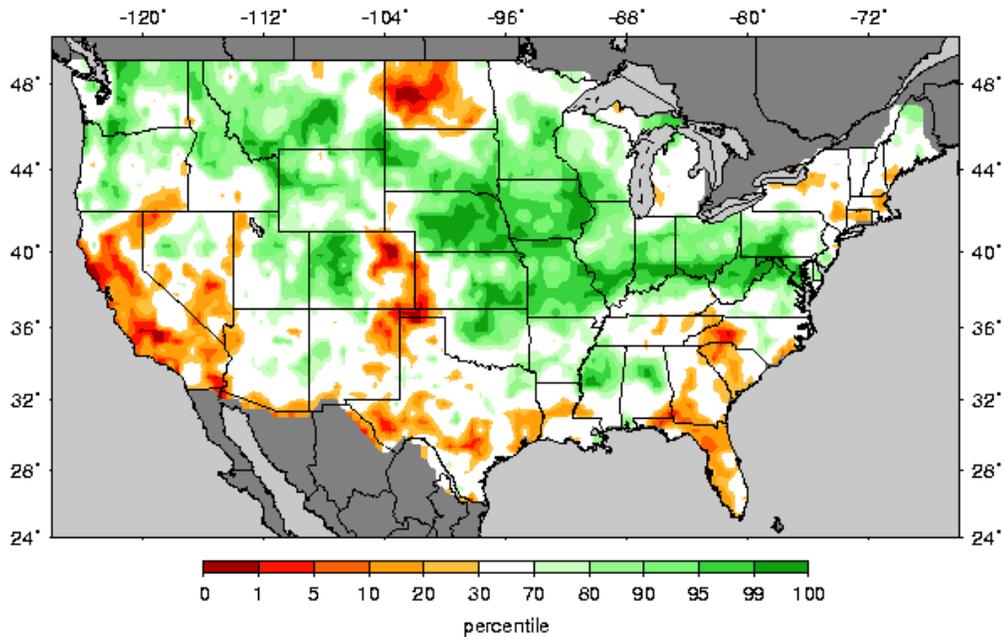


Fig 4c: Drought Monitor Classification Change for various time periods. Note some improvement over the Northern Rockies and over Arizona since last week (upper left). Note worsening over the Central Plain States since the start of the Water Year (lower right panel). Also note significant improvement in drought conditions over the Tennessee River Valley and Idaho.

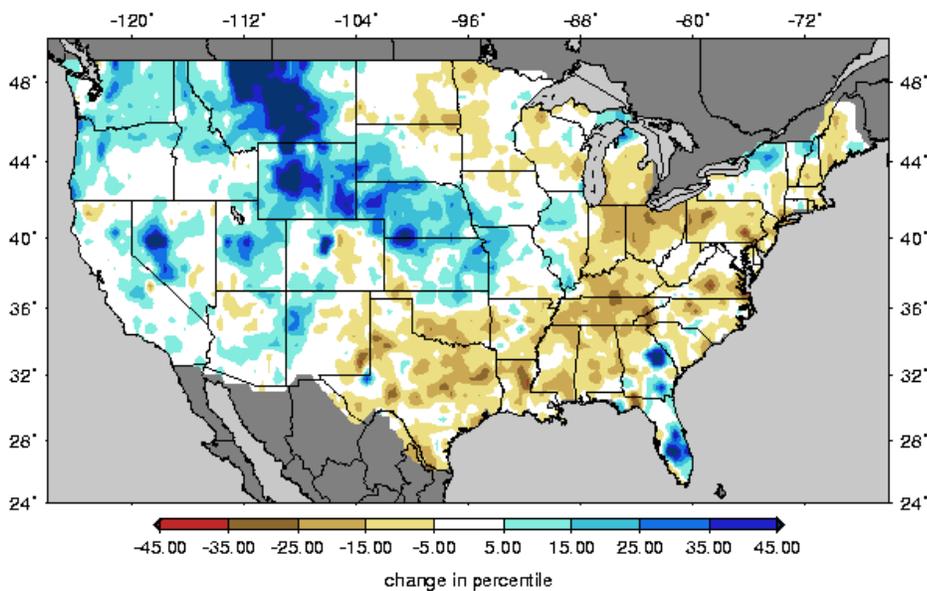
Ref: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/dm-change-4maps.png>

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

MULTIMODEL Soil Moisture Percentiles (wrt/ 1920-2003)
20080526



Change in Soil Moisture Percentiles (wrt/ 1915-2003)
for the week 20080520 to 20080527



Figs. 5 & 5a: Soil Moisture Ranking and change in percentile based on 1915-2003 climatology for this past week. Excessively moisture persists over the interior eastern half of the nation while dryness dominates California, North Dakota and Colorado's High Plains (Fig. 5). Last week saw a significant increase in soil moisture over the Northern Rockies and drying from Texas to the Ohio River Valley (Fig. 5a).

Ref: http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/CONUS.multimodel.sm_qnt.gif
http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/CONUS.sm_qnt.1wk.gif

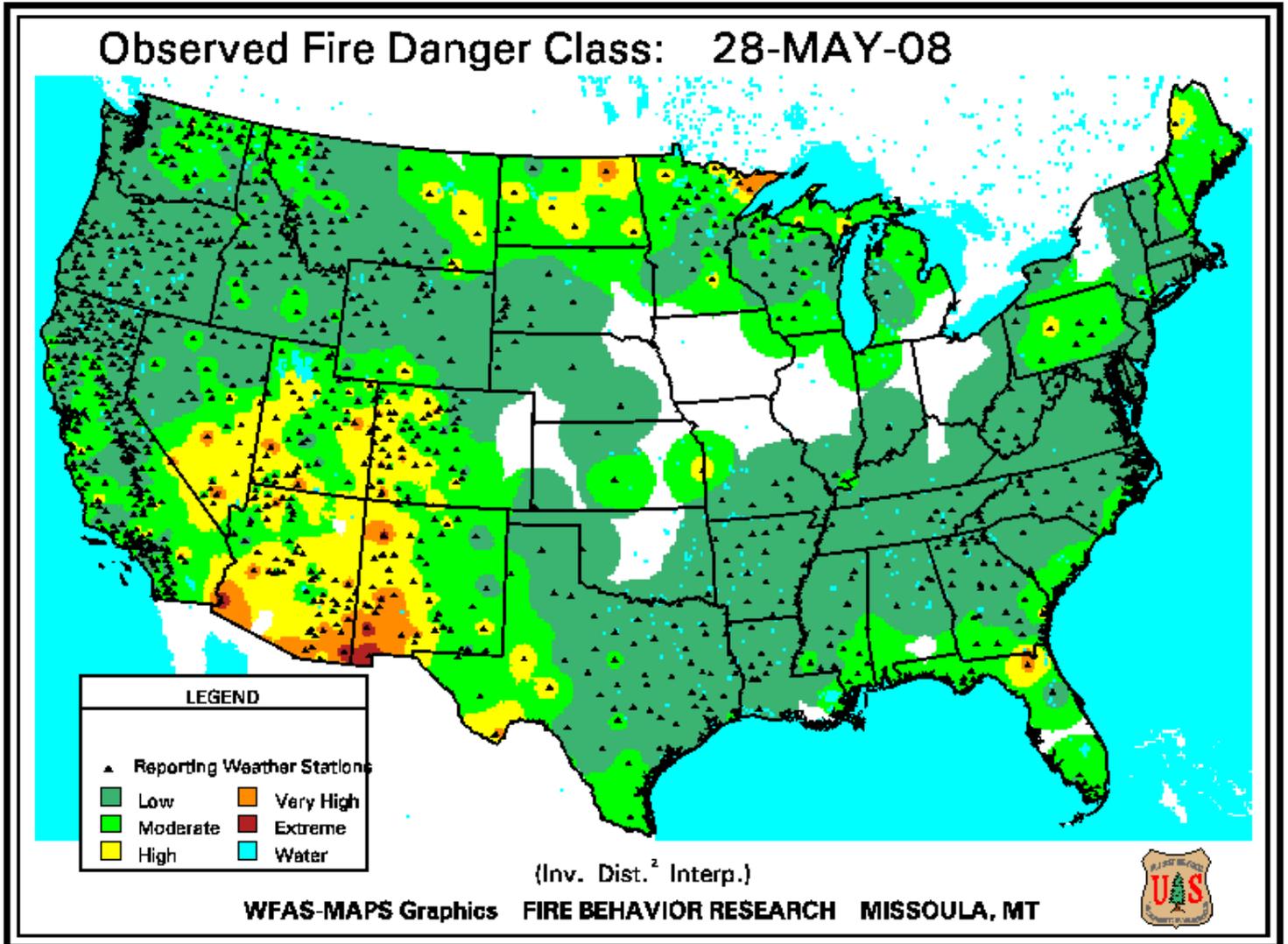


Fig. 6. Observed Fire Danger Class. Note extreme fire danger over the extreme southern reaches of the Southwest Source: Forest Service Fire Behavior Research – Missoula, MT.
Ref: http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas/fd_class.gif

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

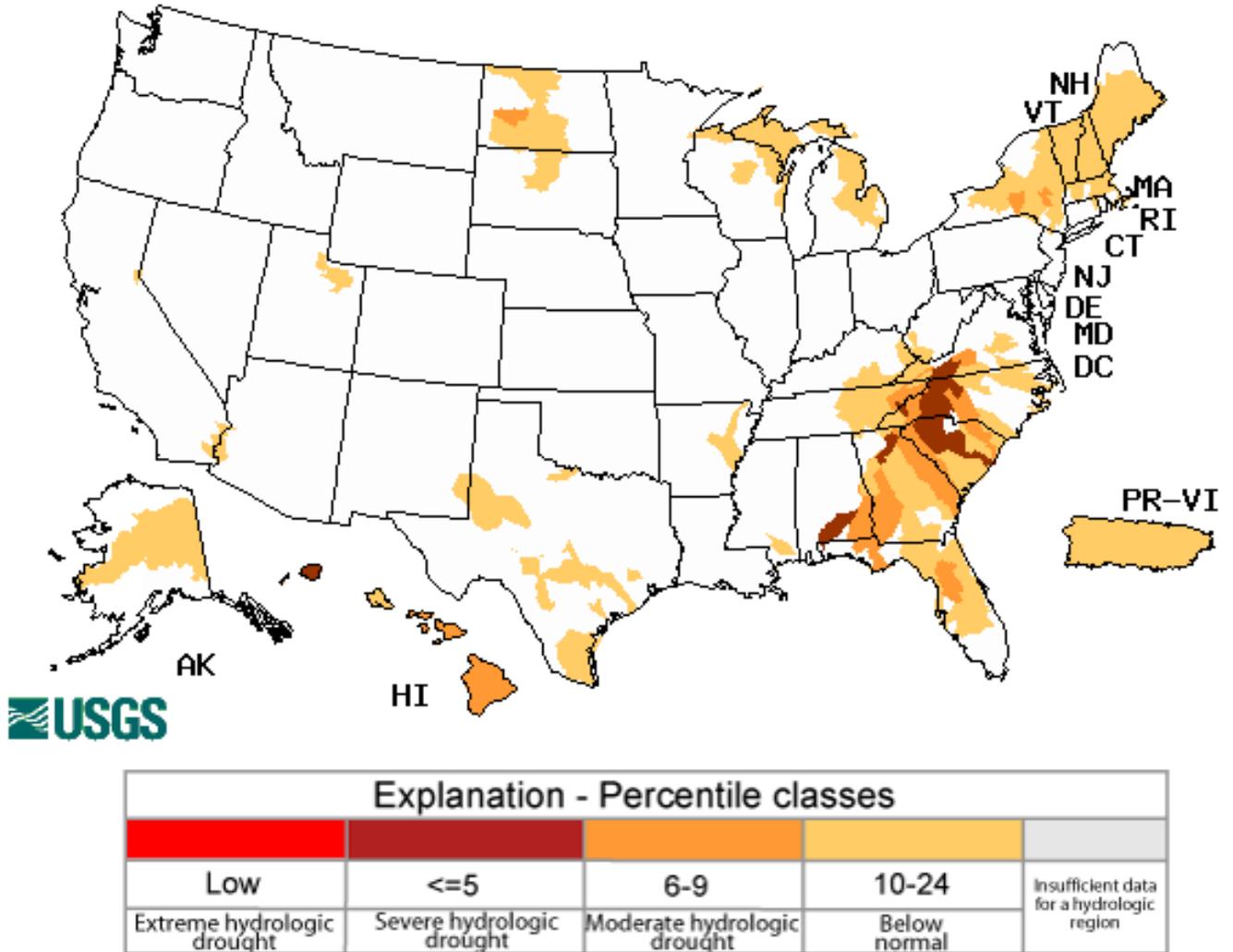
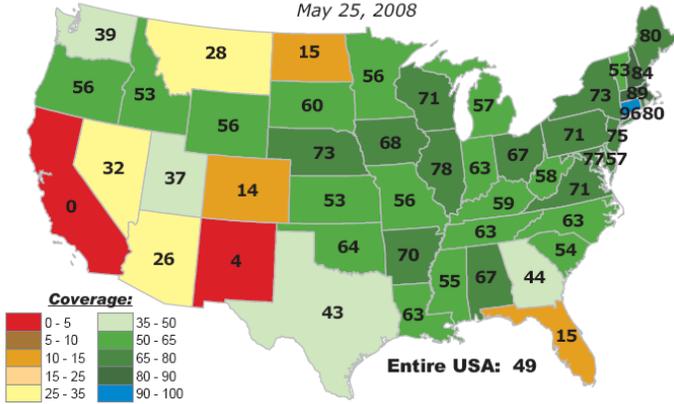


Fig. 7. This week's map shows continued low stream flow over parts of the Southeast.

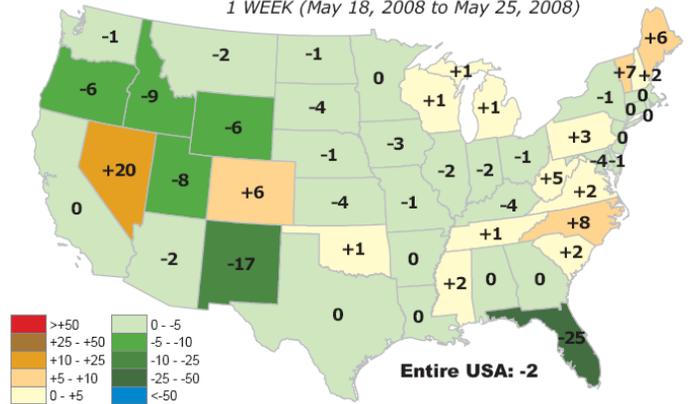
Ref: USGS <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/?m=dryw&w=map&r=us>

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

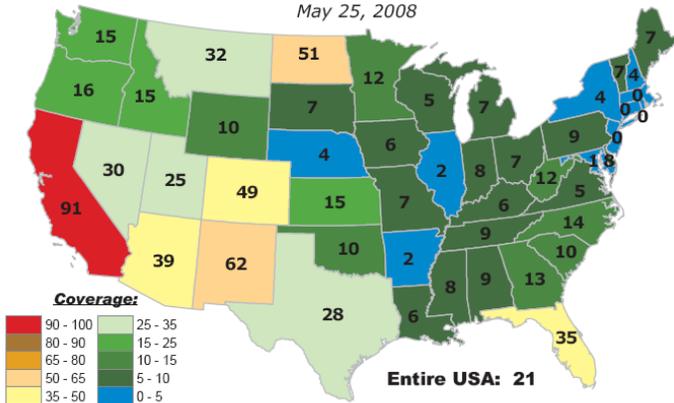
Percent of Pasture & Range Land in "Good" or "Excellent" Condition
May 25, 2008



CHANGE in % of Pasture and Range Lands in "Poor" or "Very Poor" Condition
1 WEEK (May 18, 2008 to May 25, 2008)



Percent of Pasture & Range Land in "Poor" or "Very Poor" Condition
May 25, 2008



CHANGE in % of Pasture and Range Lands in "Poor" or "Very Poor" Condition
4 WEEKS (October 28, 2007 to May 25, 2008)

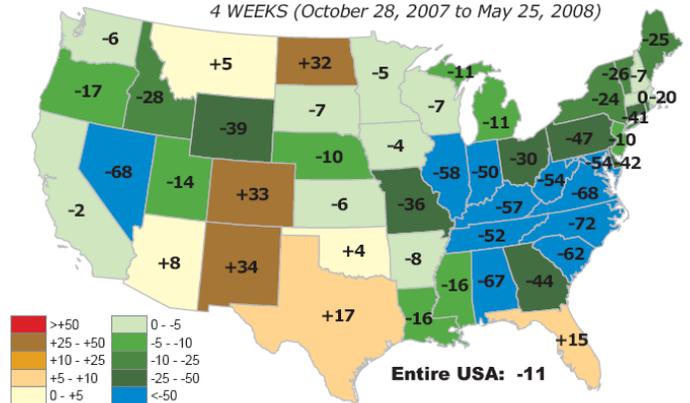


Fig. 8: Pasture and rangeland conditions and changes for various periods. Note poor conditions over California and New Mexico (lower left) and worsening conditions over Nevada and Colorado since last week (upper right). During the past four weeks, conditions have worsened significantly over North Dakota (lower right).

Ref: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/experimental/edb/pasture-range-statewide-conditions.pdf>

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

National Drought Summary -- May 27, 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/>.

Weather Summary: An abrupt end to the record heat in the Far West came courtesy of a strong Pacific cold front, while a vigorous and slow-moving storm system centered over the central Rockies dumped unseasonably heavy (2 to 4 inches, locally to 8 inches) and widespread amounts of rain on much of Montana, Wyoming, western South Dakota, Nebraska, most of Kansas and Oklahoma, and the middle Mississippi Valley. Even parts of the normally dry (in late May) Southwest observed heavy rainfall (1 to 2 inches), including reports of severe weather (tornado and hail) near Riverside, CA. Numerous outbreaks of severe weather also frequented the nation's mid-section. The Northeast saw light rain and cool weather, while widely scattered showers and thunderstorms provided additional relief to parts of the Southeast, including southeastern Florida. In contrast, little or no rain and readings in the 90s and 100s baked much of Texas.

The mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and lower Delta: A cool May persisted in the mid-Atlantic and the Carolinas as weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 6 degrees F below normal. Light rain (generally less than 0.5 inch) maintained D0-D1(H) in Virginia, but a continued lack of normal rainfall in the southern Appalachians, with May typically one of the wetter months of the year, added to accumulated short- and long-term deficits. While the core D2-D3 areas of the Southeast have remained in the western Carolinas, consistent, heavier rains farther to the southwest have provided short-term relief and adequate topsoil moisture, with 30-day surpluses existing in central Georgia and the northern halves of Alabama and Mississippi. In northwestern Alabama, 2 to 4.5 inches of rain provided another 1-category of improvement, and 28-day USGS stream flow levels have returned and remained in the normal (25-75 percentile) range in northern Alabama. The small D3(H) area in northeastern Alabama was relocated northward from last week's position after reassessing the drought indicators, blends, and products, and incorporating information from local experts. In southern Florida, 2 to 4 inches of rain along the Atlantic Coast and in south-central Florida eased D0-D1 from Miami to Ft. Pierce and north of Lake Okeechobee, but elsewhere, amounts were lighter, and conditions remained status-quo. The brief increase in shower activity halted the steady drop in Lake Okeechobee's level and actually provided a small rise (from 9.72 feet on May 21 to 9.78 feet on May 25), but it has since fallen back to 9.72 feet as of May 27. Four large wildfires, however, remained active, and the fire danger and KBDI was still high across much of the state.

In contrast, subnormal rainfall (<70%) during the past 90-days has fallen on southeastern Alabama, southwestern Georgia, and the western Carolinas. Accordingly, D0 and D1 was expanded into the first two areas, while long-term drought, recent short-term dryness, and 1-, 7-, 14-, and 28-day average USGS stream flow levels in the lower 10th percentile (with some at record lows) warranted an increase of D2 and D3 in the western Carolinas.

The Plains and Upper Midwest: Widespread heavy showers and thunderstorms, including numerous episodes of severe weather, inundated the central Great Plains, north-central and northern High Plains, and the middle Mississippi Valley with over 2 inches of rain, and caused

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

localized flooding. The quasi-stationary storm system over the central Rockies produced several days of rainfall, allowing much of the moisture to soak into the ground instead of running off like a quick heavy thunderstorm normally does. With weekly totals of 3 to 6 inches (locally almost 10 inches in northwestern Wyoming), a general 1-category improvement was made in much of Montana, Wyoming, western South Dakota, western Nebraska, and the eastern-most edge of the D0-D1 area of western Kansas. Precipitation, however, rapidly decreased from 2 inches to zero in western Kansas as one headed toward the Colorado and Oklahoma borders. In the Texas Panhandle, a line of storms dropped 1 to 2 inches of rain near and south of the Canadian River, bringing some short-term relief there.

In the northern- and southern-most areas, however, status-quo (North Dakota) or deterioration (southern Texas and northeastern South Dakota) took place. In Texas, mostly dry and hot weather (highs in the 90s and 100s degree F), including low dew points in the west, caused large evaporative losses while short-term deficits continued to grow. In southeastern Texas (climate division 7), little or no rain has fallen during the past 30 days, and less than half the normal rain has fallen at 60- and 90-, and 180-days. With May the wettest month climatologically, D2(A) was expanded into this climate division, with some areas experiencing a 2-category degradation. In addition, several south-central Texas stations were observing one of the driest January-May periods on record. Using January 1-May 26, 2008 totals, the 3.93 inches at San Antonio was the 6th driest (since 1871); 1.32 inches at Del Rio was the 2nd driest (since 1906); and 9.61 inches at Austin/Bergstrom was 16th driest (since 1943). Finally, after further review of both short- and long-term precipitation anomalies in southern Texas, the drought contours were redrawn to best represent the recent haves and have-nots. Most notable was the eastward shift of the D3(A) in southern Texas, and the D0 expansion into southeastern Texas. The improvement from D2 to D1 in the Big Bend region was due to long-term surpluses a year ago, although vegetative health remains poor and the wildfire danger high, with several active wildfires ongoing west of the Pecos River. In the Dakotas, the first significant rain (0.5 to 1 inch) in months in western North Dakota was welcome and prevented further deterioration, but much more is needed. Statewide, North Dakota pasture and range conditions were rated 51% poor or very poor, according to NASS/USDA. Farther east, dryness the past few weeks in extreme northeastern South Dakota has stressed some of the crops, thus D0(A) was added.

The West: The week saw a dramatic change from summer (hot and dry) to early spring-like (cool and unsettled) conditions in the Far West, initially from a strong cold front, then maintained by a quasi-stationary, upper-air low pressure system over the central Rockies. With many western locations measuring 0.5 inch or more, weekly precipitation was well above normal as late May climatology is quite low. Overall, the wet and cool weather generally maintained drought conditions, and extended the spring and summer snowmelt season a bit longer. Improvements were made, however, where precipitation was exceptional, or where short-term dryness (D0(A)) had been present.

As mentioned in The Plains and Upper Midwest summary, a widespread 2 to 6 inches (locally to 10 inches) of precipitation fell on much of Montana and Wyoming, causing localized flooding but improving or alleviating drought by 1 category. Wet weather in southern Washington and central Oregon eased just-added D0, while 1 to 2 inches in south-central Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and central Idaho diminished D0. In parts of the Sierra Nevada, Cascades, northeast Oregon's Blue Mountains, and north-central Rockies, over 2 inches of precipitation fell. This actually increased both the average basin water-year-to-date (WYTD) percent of normal precipitation and snow water content (SWC) for May 26 when they would typically decline, especially SWC, although its value can rapidly fluctuate during the late spring snowmelt. The biggest increases in SWC (May 19 versus 26) occurred in western Montana (97-149% vs. 114-166%); western Wyoming (78-132% vs. 87-148%); and western Washington (121-229% vs. 145-

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

252%). Even California's Sierra Nevada slightly increased its meager SWC (2-52% vs. 3-58%), as well as its WYTD precipitation (70-79% vs. 73-82%). The western areas that received little or no precipitation were limited to coastal and southeastern California.

Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico: In Hawaii, except for some scattered light to moderate showers (0.5 to 2 inches) early in the week on Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, and the leeward side of the Big Island, the remainder of the period was mostly dry. Although rainfall has been subnormal this spring across much of the state, drought-related impacts had been negligible until this week. According to the Senior Service Hydrologist in Honolulu, voluntary conservation of water use was requested in Upcountry (central) Maui from the Department of Water Supply (D1). In eastern Oahu (Waimanalo area), reduced water availability for irrigation is affecting the harvest and increasing insect damage, while on the northwest side of the Big Island, voluntary water restrictions are in place for irrigation users. Accordingly, D1(A) was added in the latter two areas.

In Alaska, seasonable temperatures (weekly departures within 5 degrees F of normal) and scattered precipitation (0.3 to 1 inch), especially in central Alaska, continued a trend of damp weather in the interior, further shaving away abnormal dryness along the northern and southern portions of the western D0 edge.

Scattered moderate to heavy showers (1.5 to 4.5 inches) continued across northwestern Puerto Rico, but little to no rain fell on D0 areas across southern sections of the island, maintaining abnormal dryness there.

Looking Ahead: For May 29-June 2, a strengthening ridge over the southern Plains and Rockies will promote dry weather and building heat, while a pair of upper-level troughs over the West and Northeast will maintain subnormal temperatures. Unsettled weather will persist in the Northwest, while showers and thunderstorms along a frontal boundary in the Southeast will diminish early in the period. A shortwave trough will bring heavy rainfall to the western Corn Belt early in the period and track eastward into New England and the mid-Atlantic during the weekend. A second system may bring showers to the northern Plains by early next week.

For the ensuing 5 days (June 3-7), the CPC 6-10 day outlook favors drier-than-normal conditions in the Southwest and southern Plains, and above-normal rainfall in the northern Great Plains, upper Midwest, and Florida. Unseasonable warmth is expected in the Southwest and southern half of the Plains, and along the mid-Atlantic and New England coasts. Subnormal temperatures are predicted for the northern Great Plains and upper Midwest.

Author: [David Miskus, Joint Agricultural Weather Facility, CPC/NCEP/NWS/NOAA](#)

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

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

A ... Agricultural
H ... Hydrological

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