United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

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

**Weekly Report - Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update** **Date: 26 April 2012**
**(Meltdown)**

## SNOTEL SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

**Snow**: Snow Water-Equivalent: River basins over the Northern Pacific Northwest and Northernmost Rockies are maintaining their high SWE values this week while the opposite is true for the remainder of the Northern Tier States. Record warmth and lack of precipitation has contributed to one and two category (bin) declines as noted by the box delineations (Fig. 1). 7-Day Snow Depth Change ending this morning shows generally one to three foot declines this week (Fig. 1a).

**Temperature**: SNOTEL and ACIS 7-day temperature anomaly showed values well above normal over most of the West (Fig. 2). ACIS 7-day average temperature anomalies show the greatest positive temperature departures over the Great Basin (>+15°F) and the greatest negative departures over Northwest Washington (<-2°F). This pattern reflects a strong ridging over the central Western States (Fig. 2a). Considering all of the Western States (excluding AK, HI) lower elevation sites, there were 1173 new record max temperatures (313 tied) and 592 new record max minimum temperatures (223 tied) thus far for April. For just the 23rd, 273 new record maximum temperatures occurred (46 tied).

**Precipitation**: ACIS 7-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending yesterday shows the wettest areas over northwestern Washington (Fig. 3). However, in terms of percent of normal, the Northern Pacific Northwest and parts of California experienced a wetter week on average (Fig. 3a). Most of the precipitation over the Pacific Northwest fell yesterday. Precipitation over California is somewhat unusual in late April and therefore the percentages reflect high values. Since the start of the 2012 Water-Year that began on 1 October 2011, the seasonal moisture has favored northern Wyoming and Montana and the southern Washington. Drier than normal conditions reigned over most of the southern half of the West (Fig. 3b). Since the start of April, the wetter influence of La Niña is waning over parts of the Pacific Northwest. Overall, the West has been substantially dry this month (Fig. 3c).

**The West:** Severe drought (D2) expansion appears warranted across central portions of Utah. The D2 areas in both eastern Nevada and western Colorado were therefore merged across central Utah. SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) values in this area generally range from 10 to 35 percent of normal. In east-central New Mexico, D3 conditions were extended northward across Guadalupe County. The drought depiction in south-central New Mexico was degraded by one category (from D1 to D2 conditions) to better reflect the unusually warm and dry conditions which have prevailed across the region. A slight improvement was made in far western New Mexico (D2 to D1).

Additional degradation (from last week) was made across northeastern Arizona and extreme northwestern New Mexico, with a slight eastward extension of D2 across this area. The situation across northeastern Arizona justifies a D3 designation, and is supported by longer-term deficits. Deteriorating drought conditions across southeastern parts of the state support the change from D1 to D2. In southwestern Colorado and nearby southeastern Utah, moderate drought conditions (D1) were expanded based upon 60-day SPI's (ranging from -1 to -1.5) and

6-month SPI's (near -1). The rains that fell over California several weeks ago have helped to alleviate drought conditions across the Sacramento Valley, justifying removal of the D2 area. **Author:** Anthony Artusa, Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS/NOAA

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

## Drought Impacts Definitions

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

## Soil Moisture

Soil moisture (Fig. 5), 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). Another good resource can be found at: http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/nldas/drought/.

## Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Figure 6 provides supplemental data on soil conditions (moisture and temperatures at various depths from 2 inches to 80 inches. For more information about SCAN see (brochure).

## 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.

## Fire Conditions

Fig. 8 comes from the Predictive Services (USFS) facilitates integration of comprehensive climate, weather, situation and fuels information in geospatial format.

### 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/ and http://www.drought.gov.

**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. Reports from 2007 are available on-line while ones from 2001-2006 can be acquired upon request.

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

/s/
Micheal L. Golden
Deputy Chief, Soil Survey and Resource Assessment

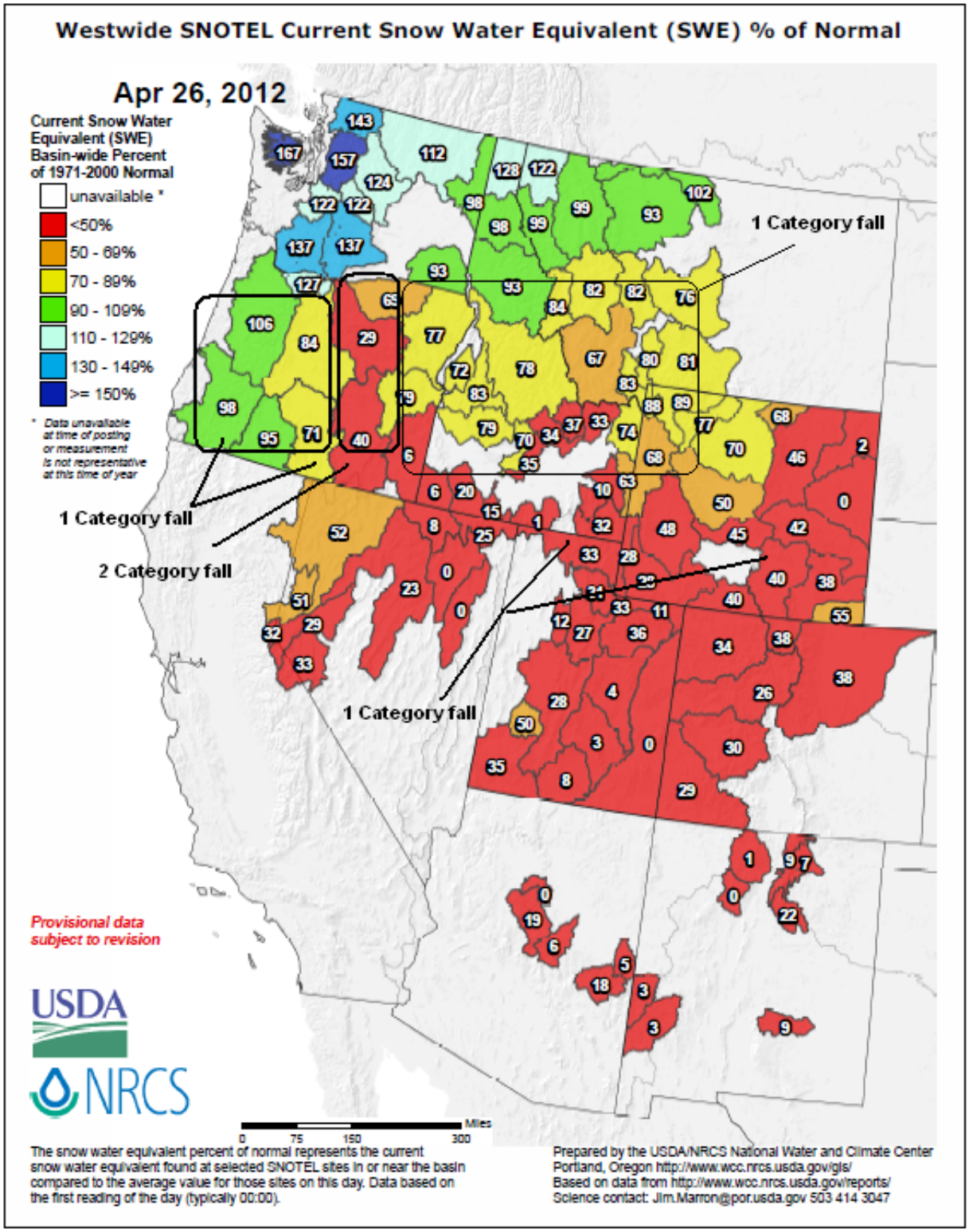



**Fig. 1: Snow Water-Equivalent: River basins over the Northern Pacific Northwest and Northernmost Rockies are maintaining their high SWE values this week while the opposite is true for the remainder of the Northern Tier States. Record warmth and lack of precipitation has contributed to one and two category (bin) declines as noted by the box delineations.**

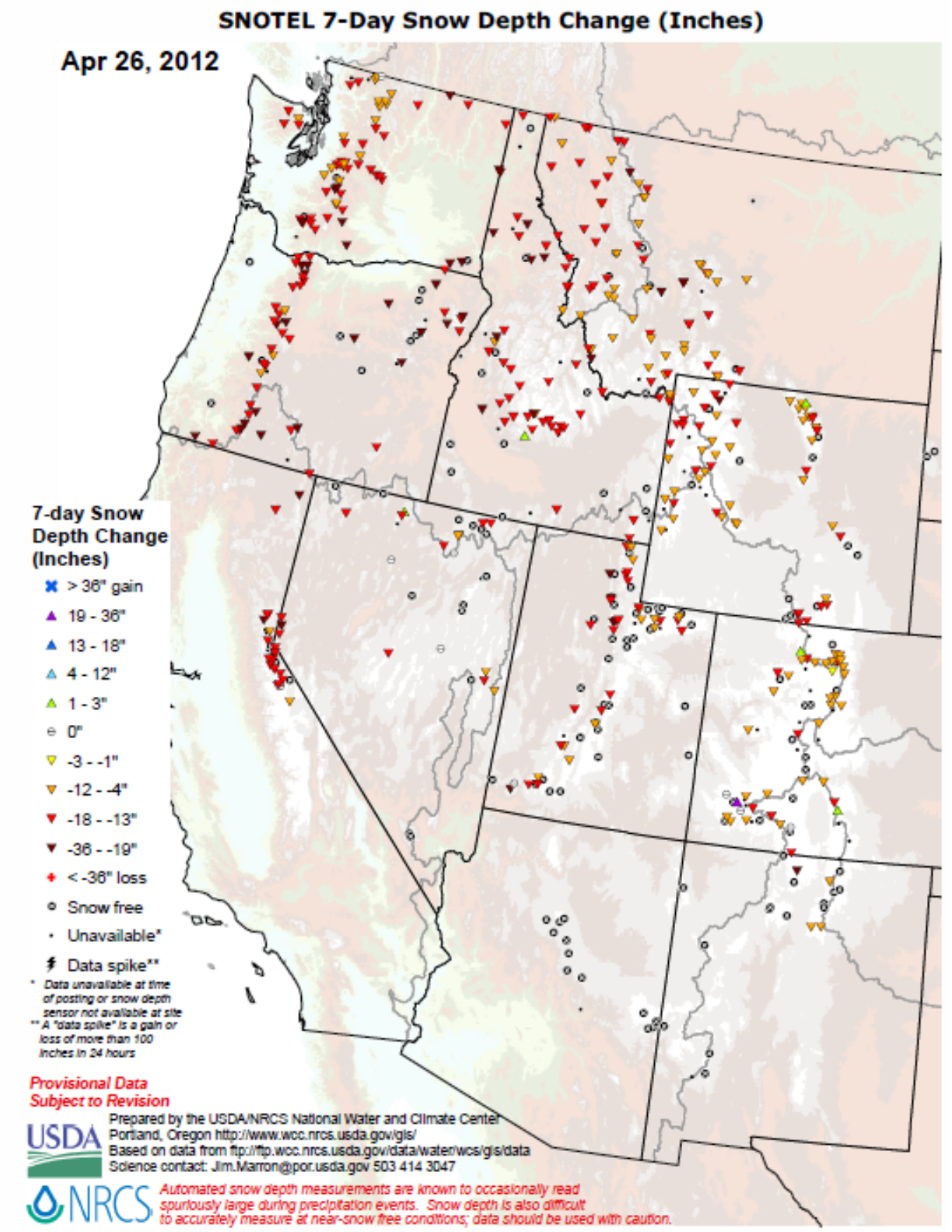



**Fig. 1a: 7-Day Snow Depth Change ending this morning shows generally one to three foot declines this week.**

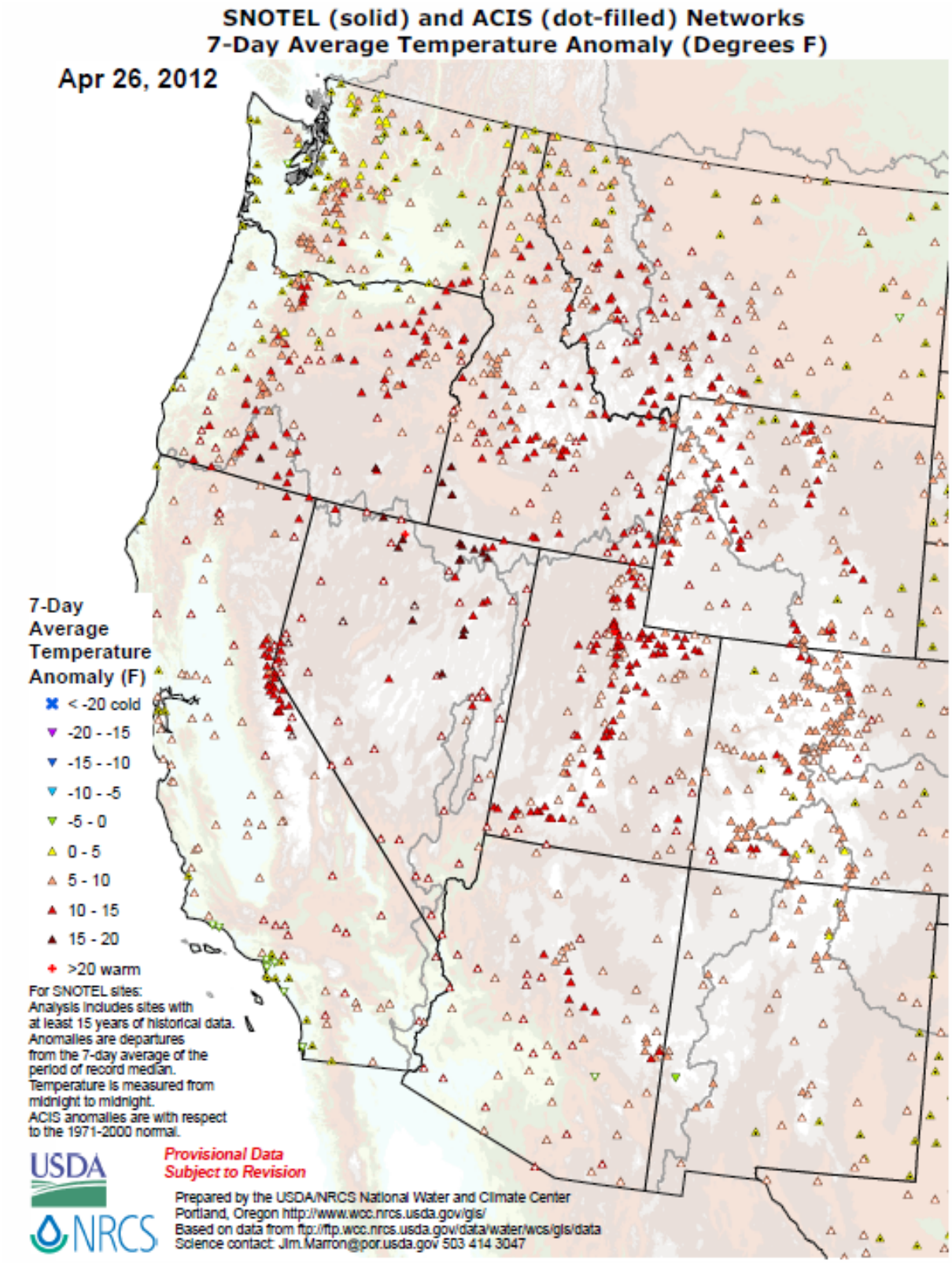
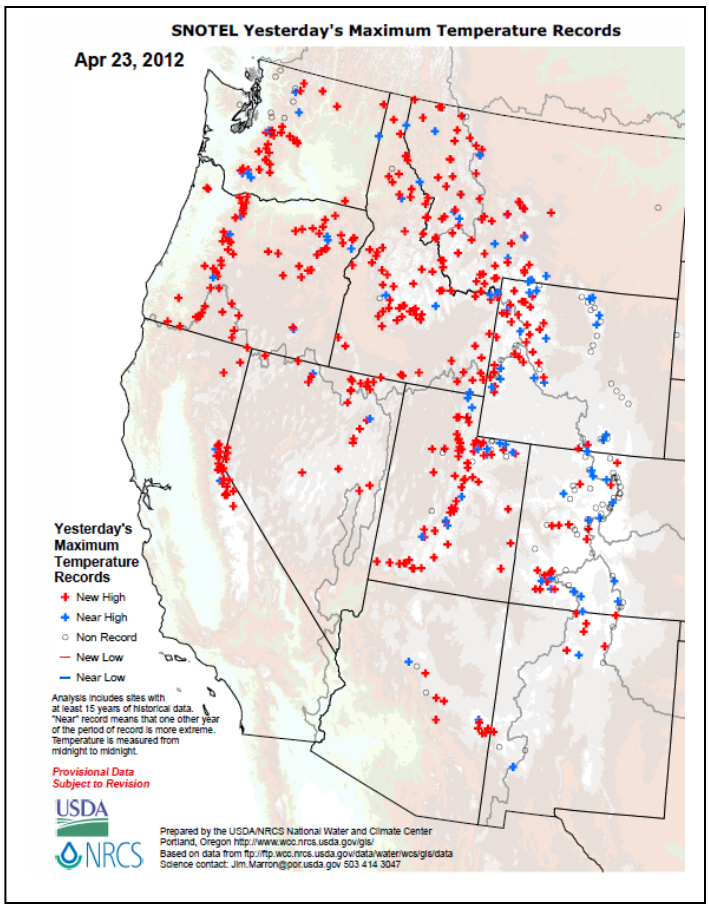



**Fig. 2: SNOTEL and ACIS 7-day temperature anomaly showed values well above normal over most of the West.**



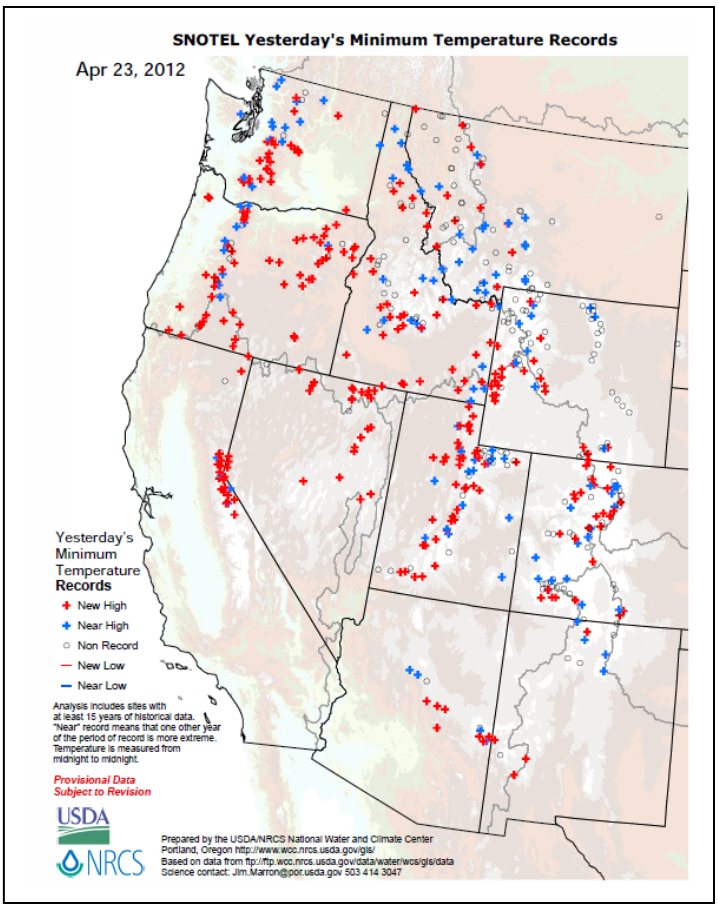




**Fig. 2(1): At the peak of this past week's record heat wave (values are based on the 22nd), many SNOTEL sites experienced record maximum high and maximum low temperatures. For the 23rd new records, click here.**

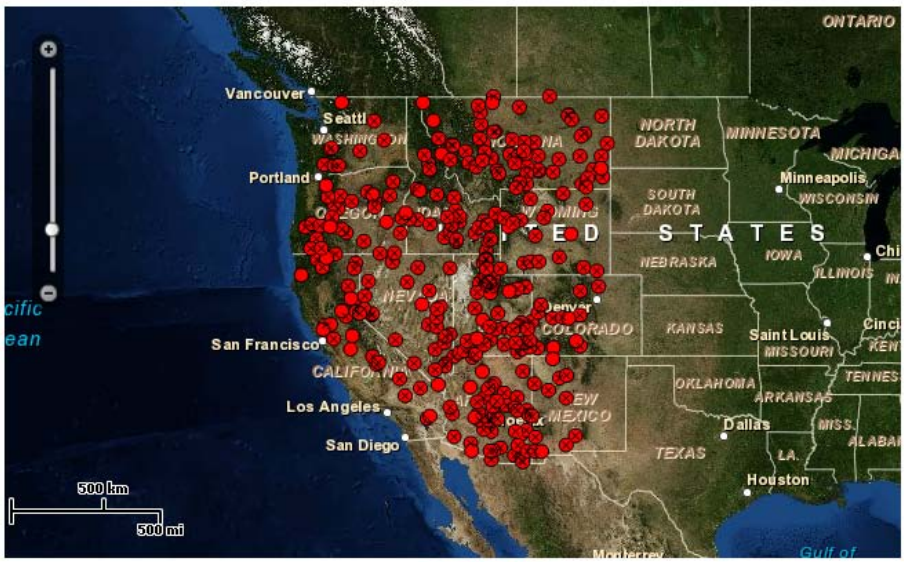



**Fig. 2(2): Lower elevation stations across the west tallied many new record temperatures on the 23rd. (Ref: NOAA Record-Lookup, preliminary data)**

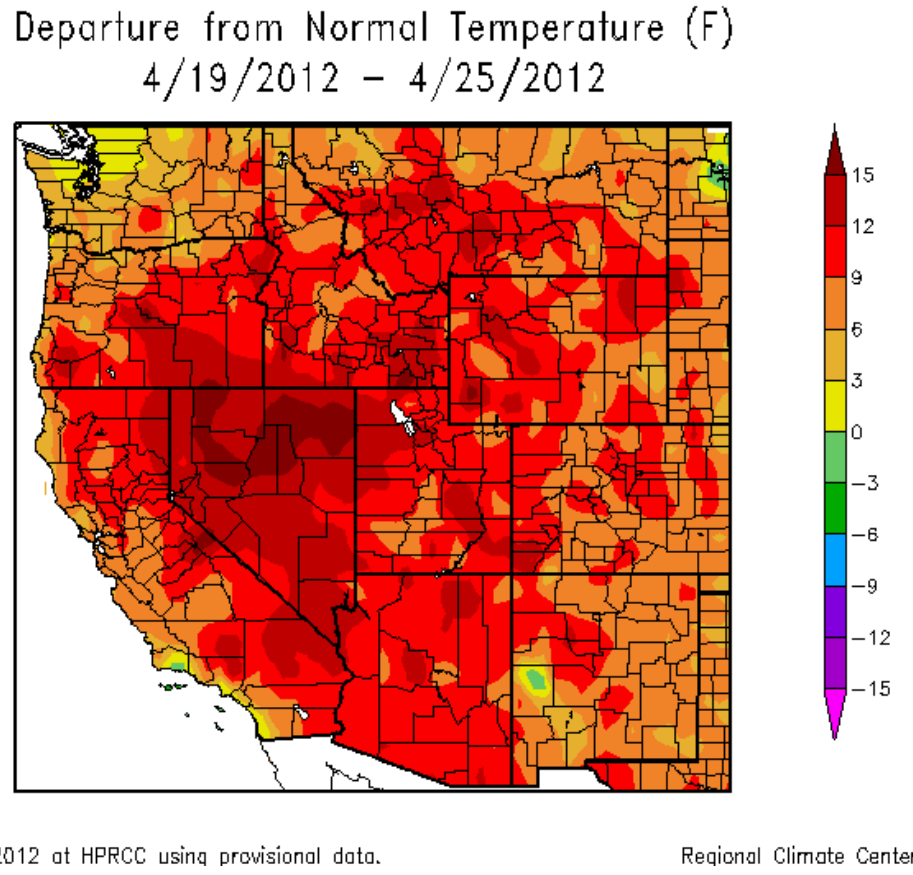



**Fig. 2a: ACIS 7-day average temperature anomalies show the greatest positive temperature departures over the Great Basin (>+15°F) and the greatest negative departures over Northwest Washington (<-2°F). This pattern reflects a strong ridging over the central Western States.**

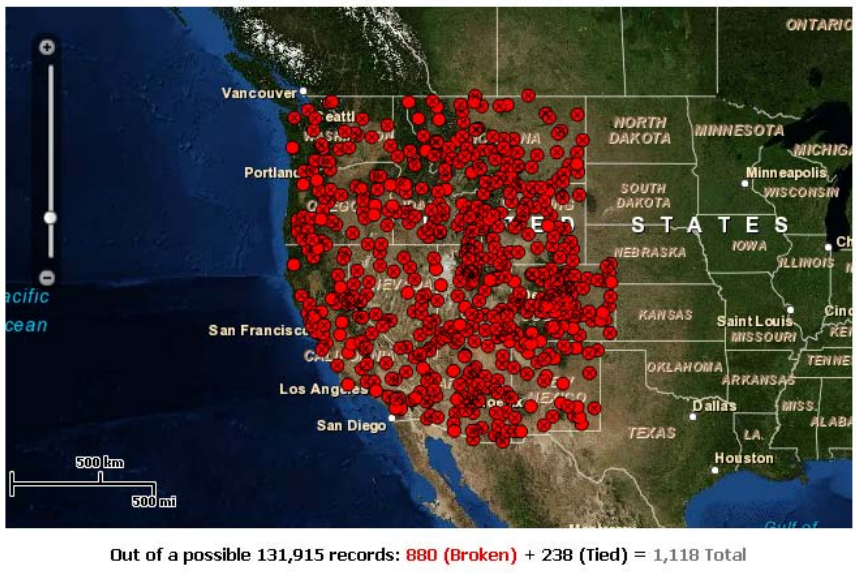
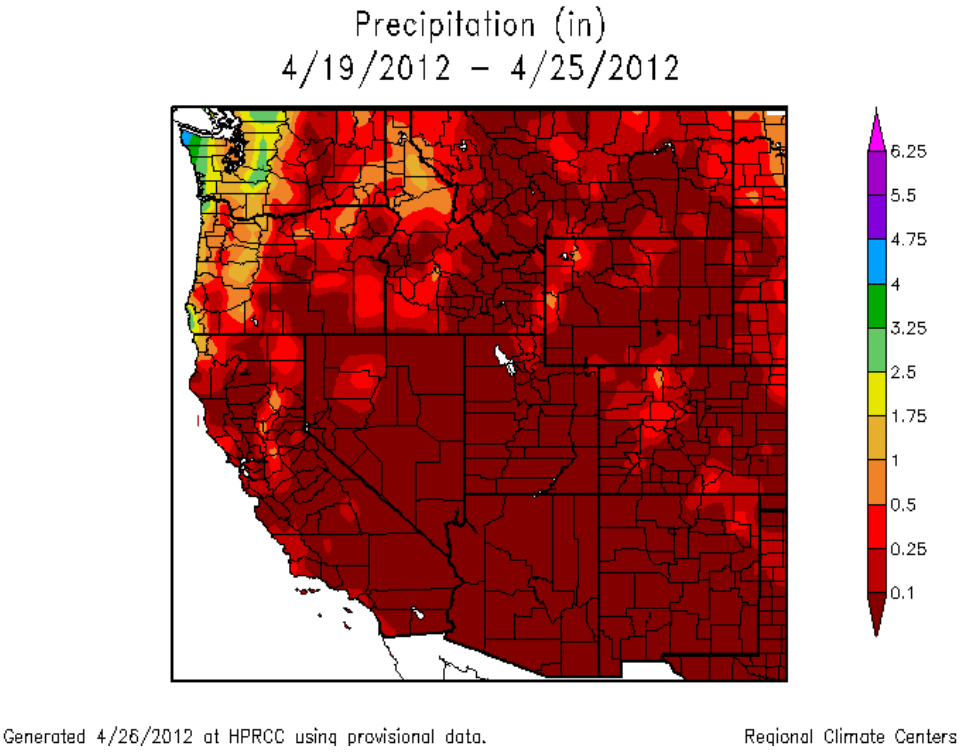



**Fig. 2a(1): Record maximum temperatures from NOAA's Record-Lookup for the Western States for April through the 23rd.**



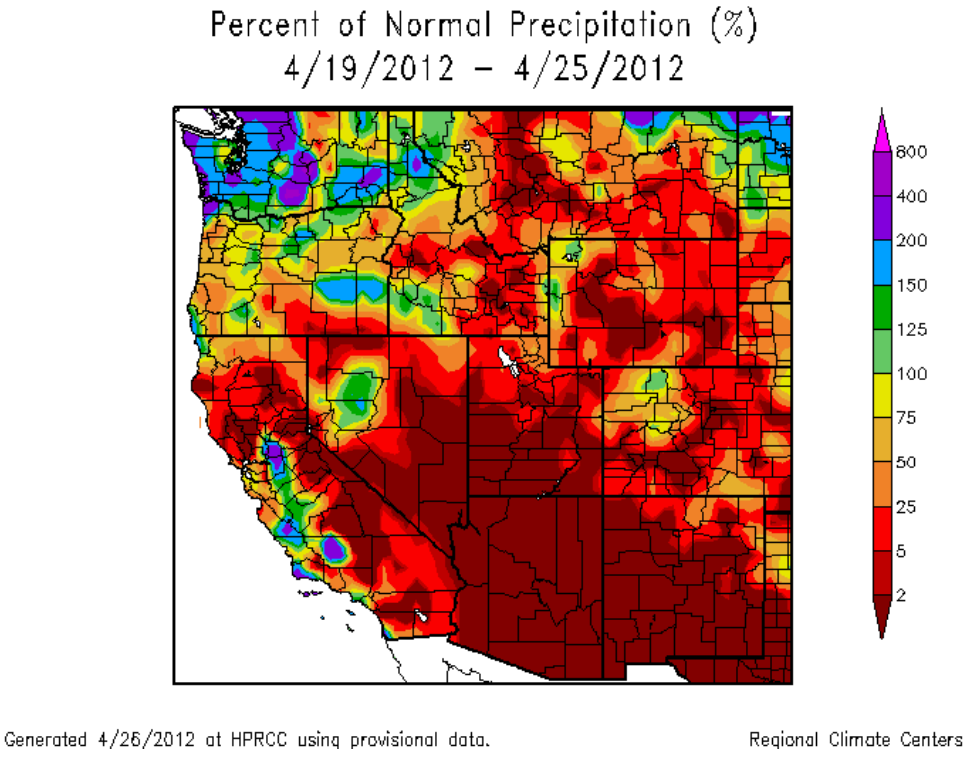




**Fig. 3 and 3a: ACIS 7-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending yesterday shows the wettest areas over northwestern Washington (top). However, in terms of percent of normal, the Northern Pacific Northwest and parts of California experienced a wetter week on average (bottom). Most of the precipitation over the Pacific Northwest fell yesterday. Precipitation over California is somewhat unusual in late April and therefore the percentages reflect high values.**

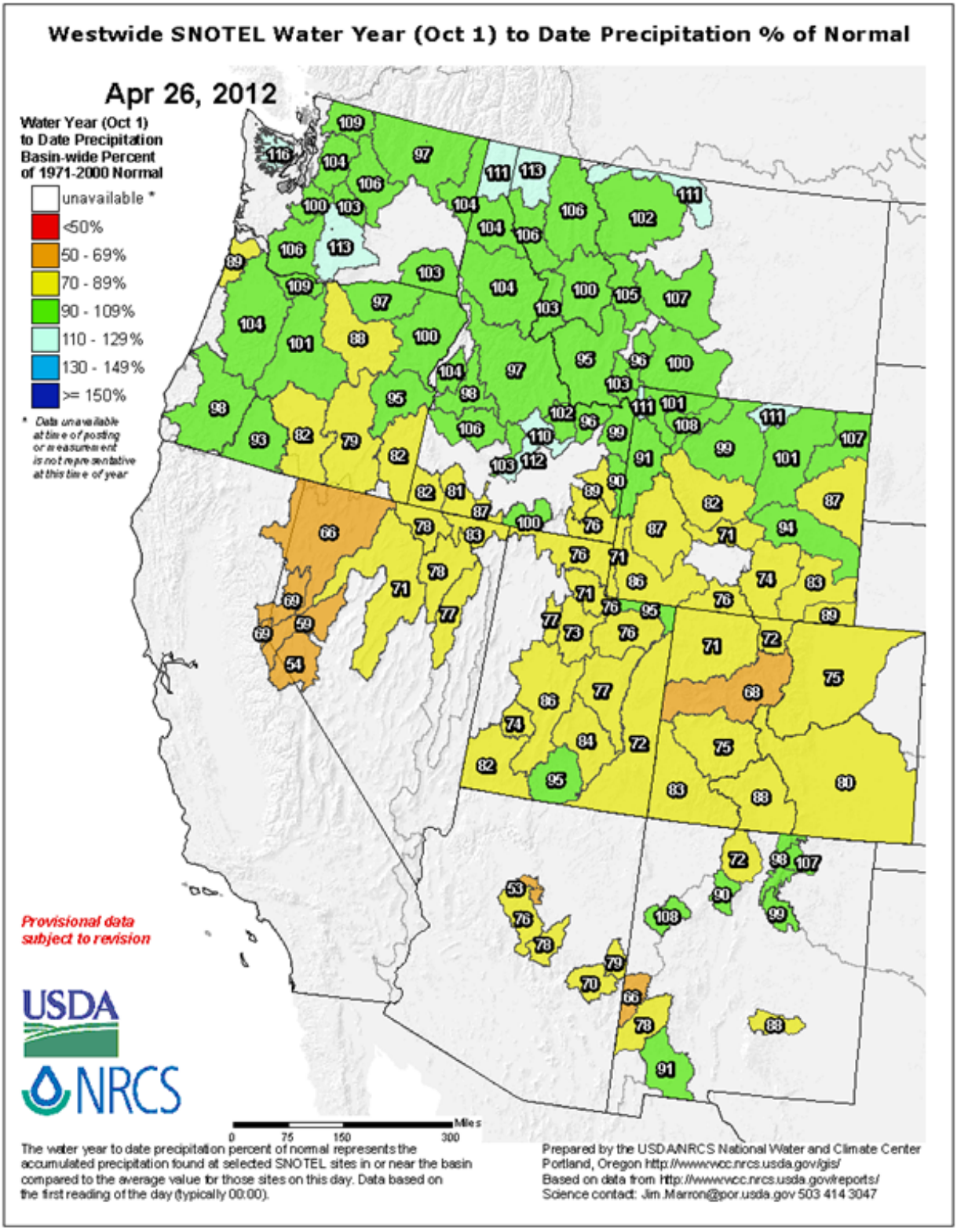



**Fig 3b: Since the start of the 2012 Water-Year that began on 1 October 2011, the seasonal moisture has favored northern Wyoming and Montana and the southern Washington. Drier than normal conditions reign over most of the southern half of the West.**

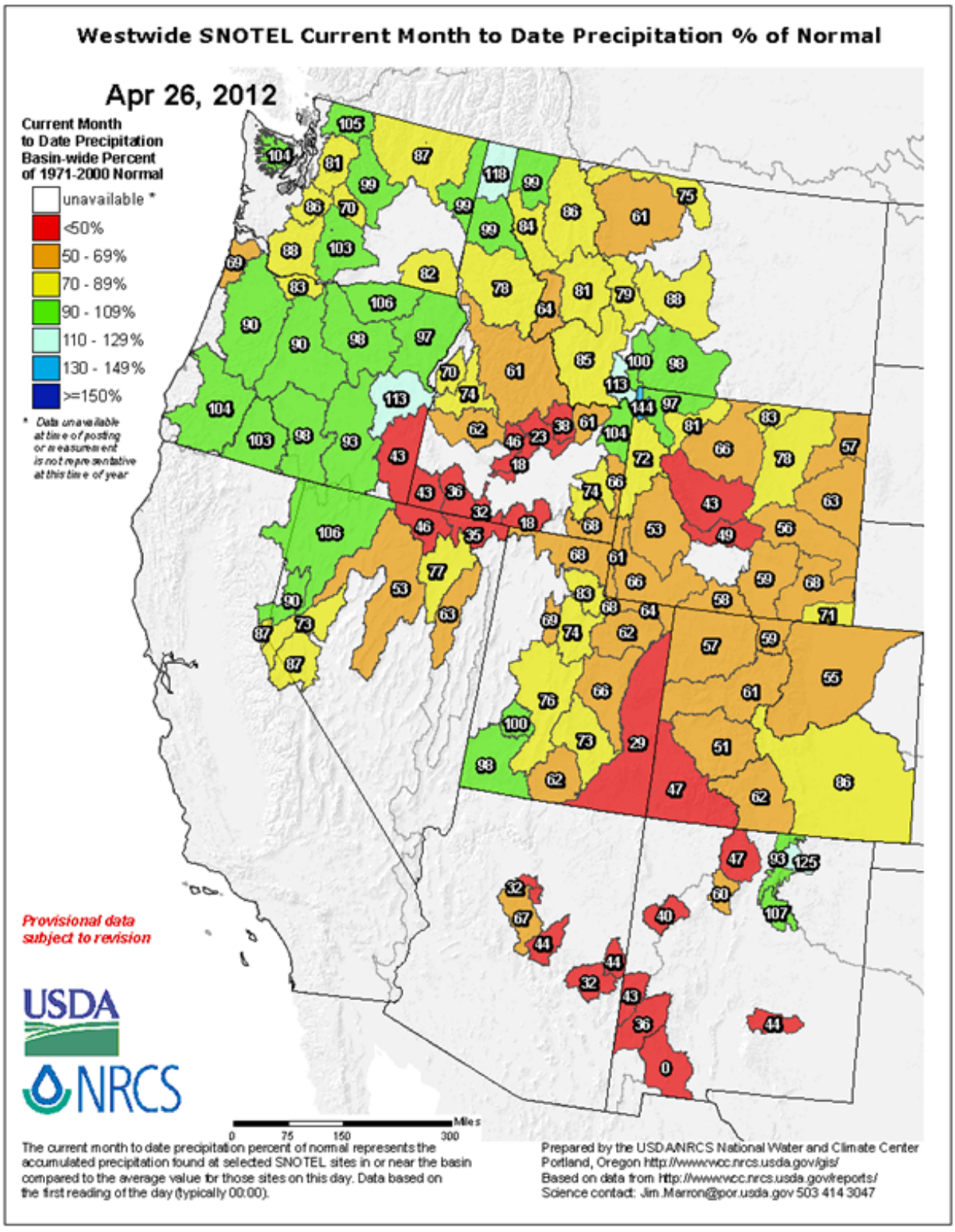



**Fig 3c: Since the start of April, the wetter influence of La Niña is waning over parts of the Pacific Northwest. However, overall, the West has been substantially dry this month.**

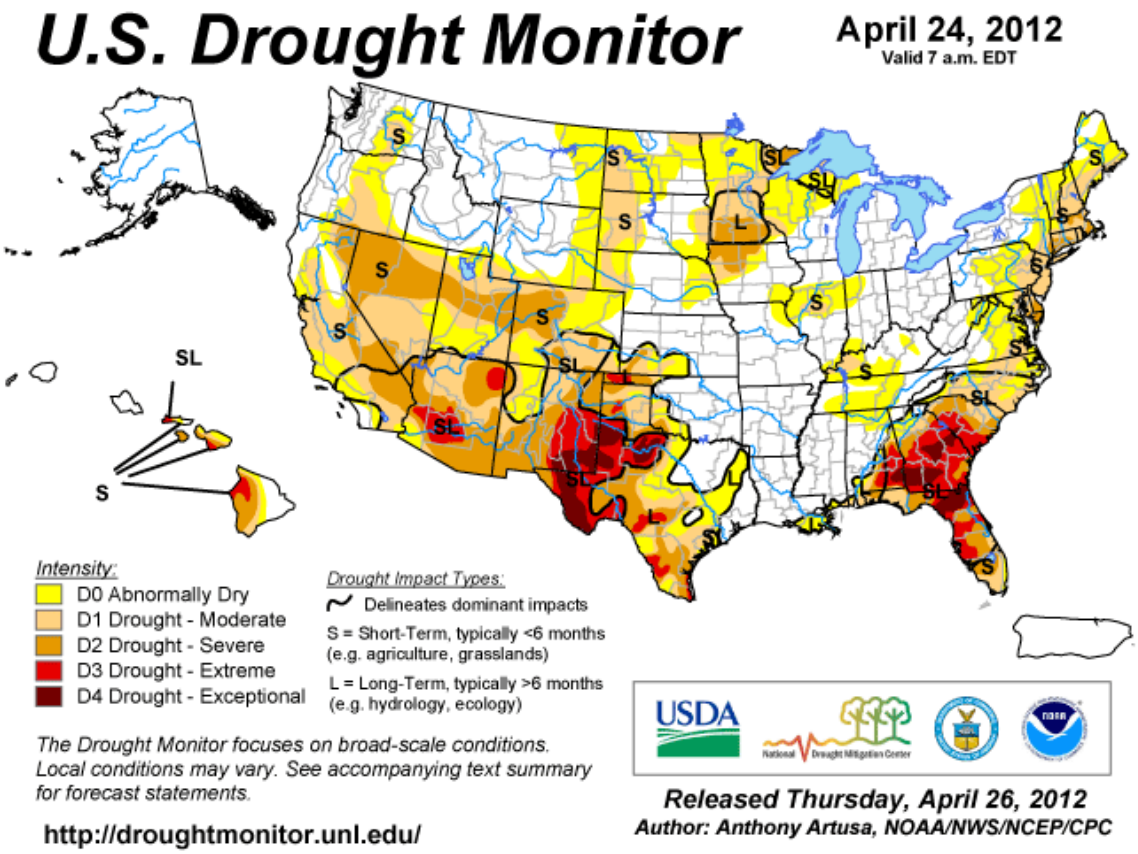



**Fig. 4: Current Drought Monitor weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are found over southeastern New Mexico, much of western Texas and to a lesser extent over Georgia, southeast Alabama, and northern Florida. For more drought news, see Drought Impact Reporter. Click for the latest statistics for California Reservoirs. For the Southwest Climate Outlook, click here.**

**Agriculture**

April drought threatens 'May flowers'
April 19, **Maryland**. Low soil moisture makes it risky to plant crops. One farmer postponed planting corn and may plant soybeans instead

Prices for beef up, are likely to remain high
April 17, **U.S.** The price of ground beef continued to climb to a new high of $3.02 per pound in March 2012, an uptick of 11 percent compared to prices in 2011 and 35 percent more expensive than in 2010. The U.S. Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service revealed that the average retail price of USDA Choice-grade beef was $5.05 per pound; choice-grade round steak sold for $4.81 per pound, an increase of 13 percent over the past two years; and choice-grade boneless sirloin fetched $6.53 per pound, a 16 percent increase.

**Water Supply & Quality**
A low-water mark for reservoirs, rivers
Area under moderate drought, officials asking citizens to monitor water consumption
Dallas approves permanent water restrictions
Dry weather causing well water issues
Dry weather drops the water table
Experts fret over water levels in Western Pa.
Low water in area lakes
Spicewood Beach must keep getting water trucked in, officials say
Water levels at near-record lows in NH

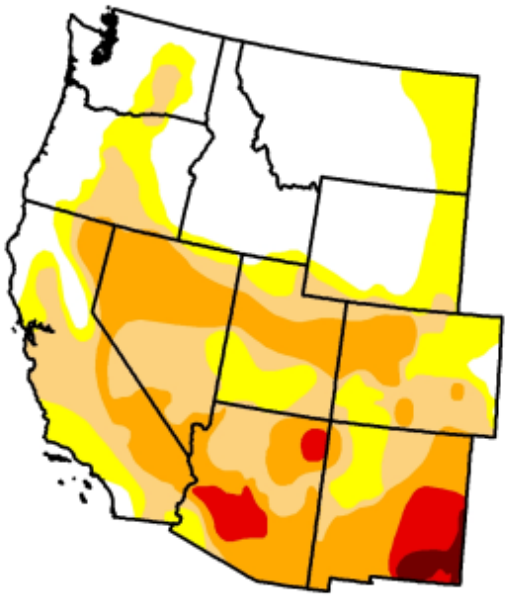
# U.S. Drought Monitor

**West**

**April 24, 2012**
Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Current | 32.83 | 67.17 | 47.61 | 25.91 | 4.36 | 0.91 |
| Last Week (04/17/2012 map) | 32.80 | 67.20 | 46.92 | 24.14 | 3.77 | 0.91 |
| 3 Months Ago (01/24/2012 map) | 34.41 | 65.59 | 35.66 | 10.98 | 2.68 | 0.77 |
| Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map) | 48.49 | 51.51 | 20.05 | 12.22 | 2.67 | 0.78 |
| Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map) | 66.72 | 33.28 | 19.04 | 14.99 | 9.30 | 3.81 |
| One Year Ago (04/19/2011 map) | 76.60 | 23.40 | 19.17 | 13.55 | 4.57 | 0.00 |



*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://droughtmonitor.unl.edu**

***Released Thursday, April 26, 2012***
***Anthony Artusa, Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS/NOAA***

**Fig. 4a**: **Drought Monitor for the Western States with statistics over various time periods. Note some deterioration this week.**

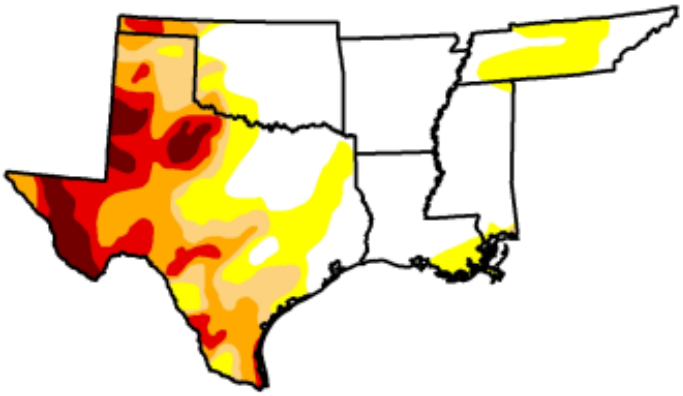
# U.S. Drought Monitor

## South

**April 24, 2012**
Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Current | 49.41 | 50.59 | 33.77 | 24.86 | 13.28 | 4.70 |
| Last Week (04/17/2012 map) | 49.97 | 50.03 | 34.29 | 24.89 | 13.99 | 4.87 |
| 3 Months Ago (01/24/2012 map) | 28.47 | 71.53 | 64.62 | 52.75 | 37.37 | 13.27 |
| Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map) | 26.47 | 73.53 | 69.01 | 54.81 | 39.11 | 17.15 |
| Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map) | 18.34 | 81.66 | 76.26 | 70.61 | 63.67 | 53.77 |
| One Year Ago (04/19/2011 map) | 10.72 | 89.28 | 80.97 | 67.61 | 44.34 | 8.15 |



*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://droughtmonitor.unl.edu**

***Released Thursday, April 26, 2012***
***Anthony Artusa, Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS/NOAA***

**Fig. 4b**: **Drought Monitor for the South-Central States with statistics over various time periods. Note no significant change occurred this week.**

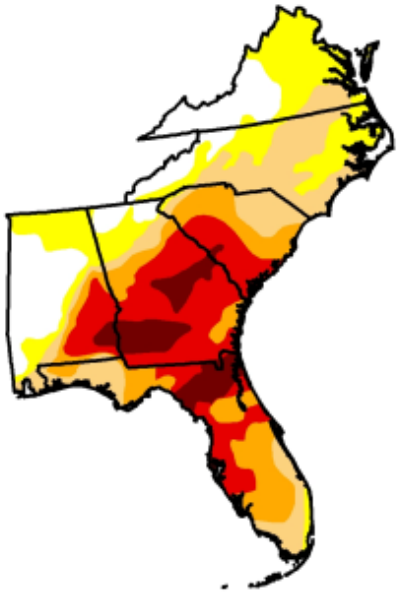
# U.S. Drought Monitor

**April 24, 2012**
Valid 7 a.m. EST

## Southeast

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Current | 16.47 | 83.53 | 62.80 | 42.62 | 27.42 | 7.14 |
| Last Week (04/17/2012 map) | 17.04 | 82.96 | 63.56 | 43.54 | 27.65 | 7.14 |
| 3 Months Ago (01/24/2012 map) | 30.52 | 69.48 | 54.04 | 32.17 | 19.37 | 1.22 |
| Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map) | 40.38 | 59.62 | 43.05 | 28.62 | 18.71 | 0.00 |
| Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map) | 42.24 | 57.76 | 41.82 | 31.77 | 23.48 | 0.00 |
| One Year Ago (04/19/2011 map) | 31.69 | 68.31 | 41.75 | 14.99 | 3.08 | 0.00 |



*Intensity:*

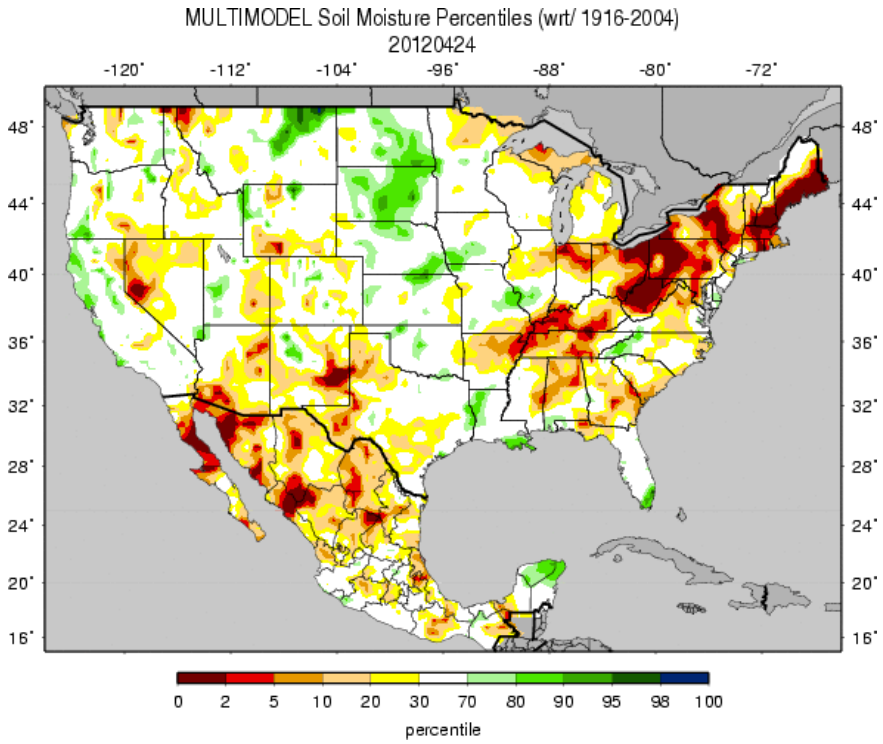
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

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

**http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu**

*Released Thursday, April 26, 2012*
*Anthony Artusa, Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS/NOAA*

**Fig. 4c**: **Drought Monitor for the Southeastern States with statistics over various time periods. Note no significant change occurred this week.**




**Figs. 5: Soil Moisture ranking in percentile as of 24 April shows extremely dry conditions over an enlarging area of the Northeastern US. Also note the very dry conditions over parts of the Northeast and Ohio Valley. Note: Soil moisture is often unreliable due to frozen ground over the Northern Tier States. For example, conditions over the Washington Cascades and Panhandle of Idaho no doubt will reflect more moisture in the weeks due to abundant snow cover and subsequent runoff.**

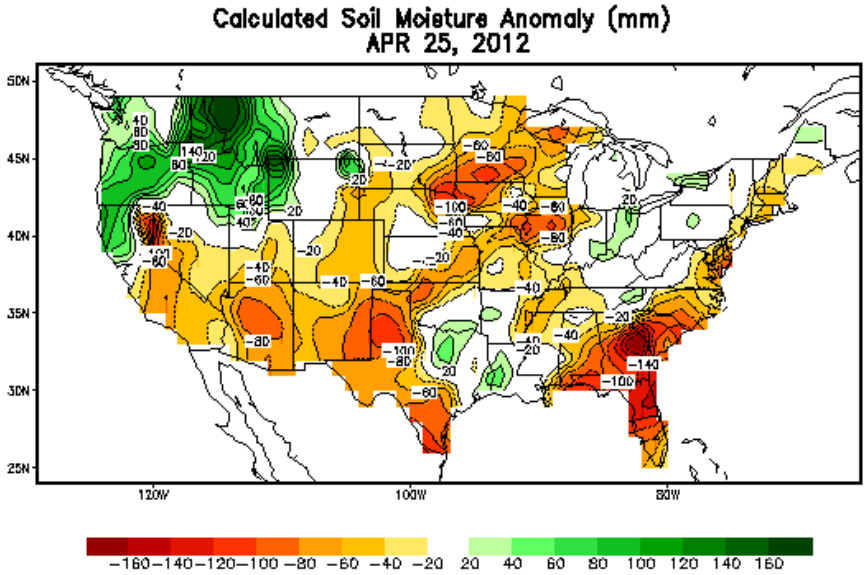



**Fig 5a: The NOAA CPC version of the top figure reflects the missing moisture over the Cascades. It is also interesting to see moister depiction of the Ohio Valley compared to Fig. 5.**

## Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

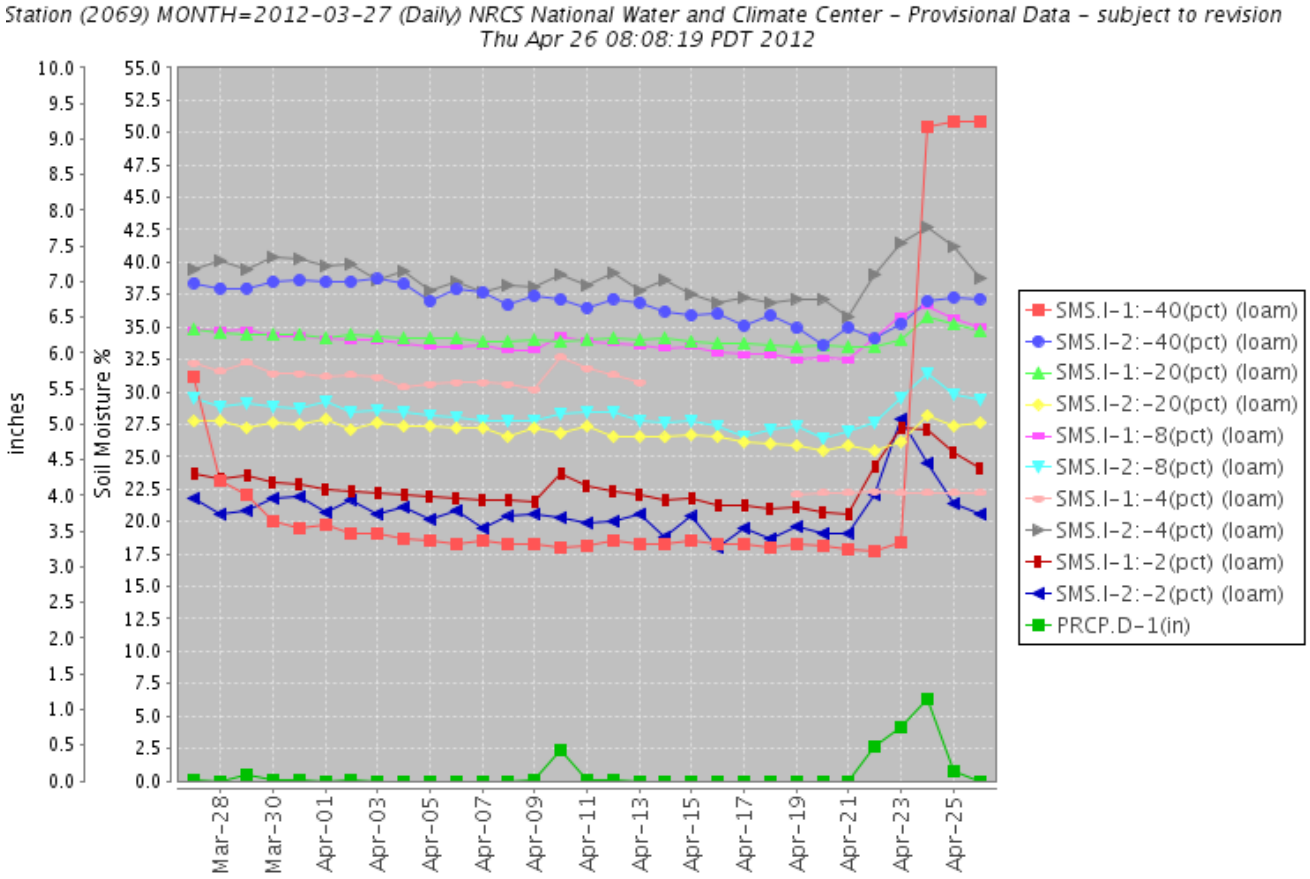



**Fig. 6: This NRCS resource shows a site over northern New Hampshire with soil moisture responding to recent heavier precipitation.**

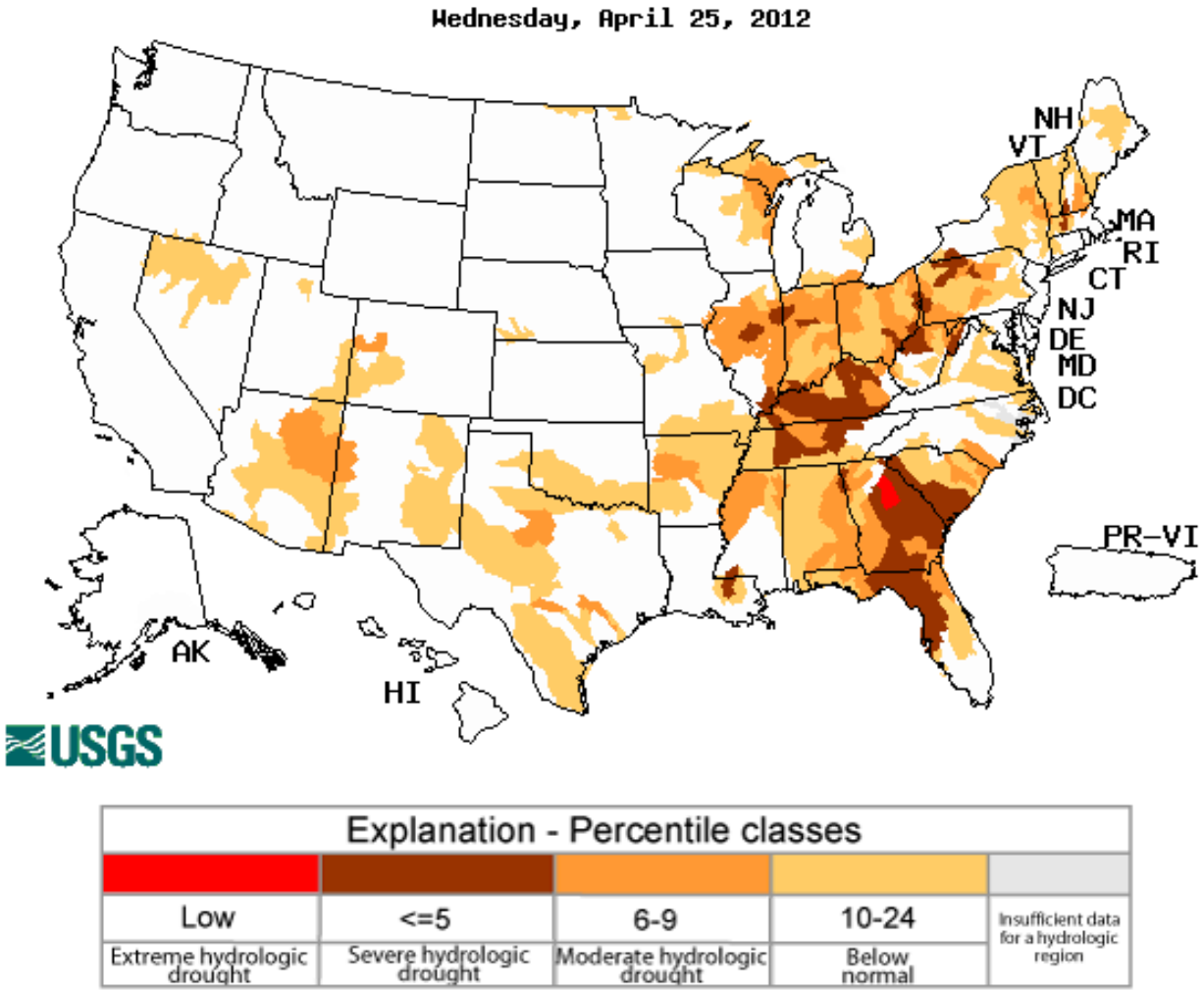



**Fig. 7: Map of below normal 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of year. Extreme conditions exist over northern Georgia this week.**

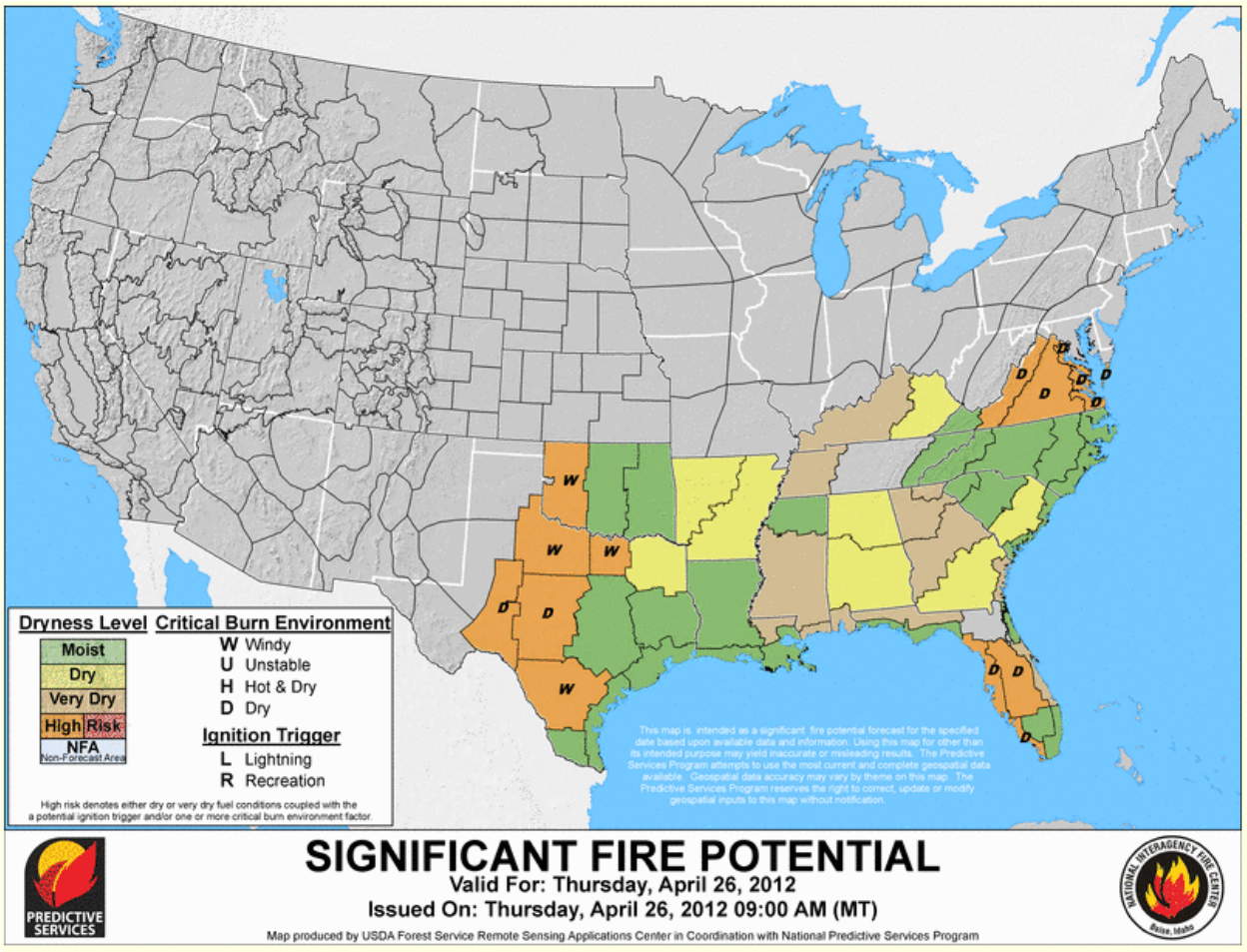



**Fig. 8: Significant fire potential for today. This resource also provides forecasts out to 7 days.**

**National Drought Summary -- April 24, 2012**

*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 Northeast and mid-Atlantic:** A significant storm system brought widespread rains (2-4 inches) to coastal areas of the Northeast and mid-Atlantic region early this week, and generally up to a foot of unusually late-season snow across the higher terrain of west-central Pennsylvania, western Maryland, extreme eastern West Virginia, and portions of western New York. Even higher snowfall accumulations were reported over very localized areas. Towards the Atlantic coast, light to moderate rain fell for a 24-36 hour period, with most of it going right into the dry soils, and not as runoff into streams and rivers. As a result, stream flow gauges showed little rise overall, despite the impressive precipitation amounts. The precipitation departures from normal (DNP) during the past 60- and 90-days over this region are between 2-6 inches and 4-8 inches, respectively. Parts of the drought depiction in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic were scaled back to highlight improvement, especially along the coastal areas. In some cases, if the offsetting 60- and 90-day DNPs were not too large, a 1-category improvement was made.

**The Southeast:** During the past week, light to moderate rain (less than 2 inches) fell across a large portion of the Southeast, with heavy precipitation (2 inches or greater) observed near the spine of the southern Appalachians, a few locations over the coastal plain, and also over a significant portion of Florida. Though rainfall coverage was good across North Carolina, the stream flows apparently have not responded in tandem, suggesting no modifications to the state's drought rendition. In South Carolina, showers and thunderstorms provided much needed rainfall to crops and pastures. Soil moisture conditions improved slightly to 9 percent very short, 39 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. The average temperature for the state during this period was 3 degrees above normal with 6 days suitable for field work. The drought depiction was not altered. Minor trimming of the abnormal dryness (D0) region in northeast Georgia was performed, due to weekly rainfall amounts of 3 or more inches. The elimination of D0 conditions was applied to the counties of Habersham, White, Lumpkin, Union, Towns, and Rabun – all in far northeast Georgia.

Recent rainfall has also warranted a 1-category upgrade to much of southern Florida. One of the upgrades included removal of the extreme drought (D3) area in Glades County (west side of Lake Okeechobee). In northern Alabama, water demand from vegetation, higher sun angle, and low stream flows (lowest tenth of historical distribution) supported some southward expansion of D0 conditions.

**The Ohio and Tennessee Valleys:** During the past week, light to moderate rain (less than 2 inches) fell across the region. However, these amounts are not nearly enough to offset short-term deficits and increase the low stream flows. Accordingly, abnormal dryness (D0) was expanded across western and central sections of Kentucky and central Tennessee. Moderate drought conditions (D1) were also expanded in western Kentucky to include the Paducah area.

**The Midwest/Northern Plains:** A band of heavy precipitation (2 inches or greater) was observed from north-central Iowa into southern Wisconsin. Widespread moderate precipitation (0.5 to 2 inches) was observed across most of the remainder of Iowa, Wisconsin, and southern Minnesota. One-category improvements were made in southeast Minnesota, and the northeastern quarter of Iowa. In southern Minnesota, the topsoil moisture situation has improved, while the remaining drought concerns focus on subsoil moisture and surface hydrology. The precipitation deficits currently in place are primarily attributed to deficits accrued from August through October of last year. Therefore, southern Minnesota's drought impact designation has been changed from short-term (S) to long-term (L).

In eastern South Dakota, D0 conditions were removed from the counties of Sanborn, Miner, and Hanson, which is consistent with the recent precipitation. Elsewhere, in central South Dakota, lingering D0 conditions were removed, while in the drier western portion of the state, the D1 region was expanded and connected to the D1 area in western North Dakota. In west-central Illinois, little rainfall resulted in the merging of the D0 area with neighboring southeastern Iowa, and D0 was expanded across several counties in the southeastern corner of Iowa. These expansions of abnormal dryness (D0) are supported by 60- day and 90-day DNP. D0 conditions were also extended eastward from Illinois across northwestern Indiana, based on similar conditions to those in Illinois and southeastern Iowa. Stream flows across northwestern Indiana are mostly within the lowest ten percent of the historical distribution.

In northwest Missouri, recent dryness has been especially pronounced around the Kansas City area, extending into neighboring parts of eastern Kansas. Pending what rainfall occurs this week, D0 may need to be introduced next week. The same is true for portions of the Missouri Boot-heel (portions of Mississippi, New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties) where less than 1-inch of rain has fallen so far this month. If this dryness persists, it will likely impact regional cropland irrigation. Temperatures during the past 7-days have averaged between 2 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal across the Corn Belt region.

**Central and Southern Plains:** No alterations were made to the drought depiction in Oklahoma this week, while the small sliver of lingering D0 in extreme northwestern Louisiana was eliminated. Notable improvements were made in Texas, especially the Coastal Bend and far southern Texas. In addition, some of the D0 in east Texas has retreated, while some trimming of extreme drought (D3) and exceptional drought (D4) areas was also performed in the Panhandle. The dominant impacts across most of the state are considered to be long-term (L). The small patch of SL (both short- and long-term impacts) denotes where rice farmers have had their water allocation curtailed. Insufficient recharge so far this year (and inadequate rainfall in central Texas in 2011) has led to drastic reduction in rice yield, with no migratory waterfowl thriving in the rice patties as before. This is a case where remote long-term drought leads to local short-term drought impacts.

**The West:** Severe drought (D2) expansion appears warranted across central portions of Utah. The D2 areas in both eastern Nevada and western Colorado were therefore merged across central Utah. SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) values in this area generally range from 10 to 35 percent of normal. In east-central New Mexico, D3 conditions were extended northward across Guadalupe County. The drought depiction in south-central New Mexico was degraded by one category (from D1 to D2 conditions) to better reflect the unusually warm and dry conditions which have prevailed across the region. A slight improvement was made in far western New Mexico (D2 to D1).

Additional degradation (from last week) was made across northeastern Arizona and extreme northwestern New Mexico, with a slight eastward extension of D2 across this area. The situation across northeastern Arizona justifies a D3 designation, and is supported by longer-term deficits. Deteriorating drought conditions across southeastern parts of the state support the change from D1 to D2. In southwestern Colorado and nearby southeastern Utah, moderate drought conditions (D1) were expanded based upon 60-day SPI's (ranging from -1 to -1.5) and 6-month SPI's (near -1). The rains that fell over California several weeks ago have helped to alleviate drought conditions across the Sacramento Valley, justifying removal of the D2 area.

**Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico:** Windward locations of the Hawaiian Islands generally received 1-3 inches of precipitation during the past 7-days, while leeward locations reported little if any rainfall. Stream flows across the state are currently near to above normal. No changes to the drought depiction for Hawaii were deemed necessary this week. There were no drought conditions noted in Alaska or Puerto Rico.

***Looking Ahead:*** Over the next five days (April 26-30), a cold front will move across the Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies, while a slowly meandering front is predicted to stretch from the southern Great Plains eastward to the southern Atlantic coast. Heavy precipitation (2 inches or greater) is forecast across portions of South Dakota, Nebraska, and the middle Ohio River Valley, which will help to alleviate drought conditions in those areas. Moderate amounts of precipitation (0.5 to 2 inches) are anticipated over parts of California, eastern Montana and much of North Dakota, the middle Mississippi Valley, the mid-Atlantic region, northern New York, northern New England, and southeastern parts of Florida. Light precipitation (less than 0.5 inch) is predicted across most of the Southeast, Texas, the central and southern Rockies and Colorado Plateau, and the Great Lakes region, while most remaining areas are likely to receive little if any precipitation.

The CPC 6-10 day forecast (May 1-5) shows favorable odds for above median precipitation over the Midwest, the Pacific Northwest, extreme southern Florida, southeastern Alaska, and the Alaska Panhandle. Odds for below median precipitation are elevated over the Atlantic Coast states, the Southeast, the Southwest as far north as Idaho and Wyoming, and west-central Alaska. Warmer than normal temperatures are favored over most of the lower 48 states, with the highest probabilities (60 percent) centered over the Corn Belt region. Cooler than normal temperatures are favored over the Pacific Northwest and most of Alaska.

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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**

S ... Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agricultural, grasslands)
L ... Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

*Updated April 25, 2012*