



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

Weekly Report - Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update

Date: 7 June 2012

SNOTEL SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

Snow: [Snow Water-Equivalent](#): River basins over the Northern Pacific Northwest and Northernmost Rockies continue to maintain their high SWE values this week while the opposite is true for the remainder of the West. Most of the southern half of the West has melted out. SWE values by this time of year become essentially meaningless so use data with caution (Fig. 1).

Temperature: [SNOTEL](#) and ACIS 14-day temperature anomaly showed values within $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$ across the West with the exception of cooler departures over eastern Montana (Fig. 2). ACIS [14-day](#) average temperature anomalies show the greatest positive temperature departures over eastern New Mexico ($>+6^{\circ}\text{F}$) and the greatest negative departures over parts of northern Montana ($<-8^{\circ}\text{F}$) (Fig. 2a).

Precipitation: [ACIS](#) 14-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending yesterday shows the wettest areas over the Oregon and Washington Cascades, Panhandle of Idaho, and northern Montana Rockies (Fig. 3). In terms of percent of normal, much of the Northern Tier of the Western States experienced decent precipitation for this time of year (some as a result of thunderstorm activity) (Fig. 3a). Since the start of the [2012 Water-Year](#) that began on 1 October 2011, the seasonal moisture has continued to favor the Northern Tier States. Over much of the southern half of the West, drier conditions dominate. Near normal values in some New Mexico basins are not impacting the drought over the state (Fig. 3b). Since the start of [June](#), the Cascades, Northern Rockies, and Northern Great Basin have been much wetter than the long term average due to a persistent trough over the Eastern Pacific. Elsewhere, dry conditions dominate (Fig. 3c).



[Transit of Venus](#): Skies cleared long enough on Tuesday over Portland, OR to capture this rare event. – J. Curtis

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Weather Summary: Early in the week, Tropical Depression Beryl tracked northeastward from southern Georgia to along the Georgia and Carolina coasts before moving into the open waters of the Atlantic. Additional heavy beneficial rains from Beryl fell on eastern Georgia, central and eastern South Carolina, eastern North Carolina, and southeastern Virginia. Meanwhile, a cold front pushed across the Midwest but stalled in the south-central Plains where low pressure developed on the stationary front and brought decent rains to Kansas and Oklahoma. The low deepened and tracked northeastward, eventually pushing the cold front off the East Coast by Saturday, but not before generating severe weather and heavy rains on Friday to parts of the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys and upper South, mid-Atlantic, and New England. The upper-air low, however, lingered over the Great Lakes region and New England, dropping additional rain there. A series of Pacific storm systems brought showery conditions to the Northwest. Hot and dry conditions prevailed in the Southwest, Great Basin, and southern and central High Plains. Drier but cooler weather returned to the northern Plains and upper Midwest. Along the Gulf Coast, little or no rain fell, with the exception of 2 to 4 inches in Florida.

The West: A series of Pacific storm systems brought late season precipitation to the Northwest and as far south as northern California and the northern and central Sierra Nevada. Unfortunately, most of the light to moderate precipitation fell over non-drought areas, except in central Oregon where 1 to 1.5 inches fell. This precipitation brought the Water year to date (YTD) amounts close to normal, so D0 was removed there. The rest of the West, however, received little or no precipitation (southern California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, western Colorado, southern Idaho, and southern Wyoming). Temperatures also soared into the 90s in southern Oregon and southern Idaho, with triple-digit heat occurring in southern California, southern Nevada, Arizona, and southern New Mexico. Temperatures averaged 4 to 12 deg F above normal, especially in the Great Basin. With the normally dry and warm season underway in the Southwest, no changes were made this week. Through June 5, Water YTD average basin precipitation was at or above normal in the Cascades and northern Rockies, and below normal in the Sierra Nevada and central Rockies. The southern Rockies were a mixed bag (values between 69 and 109 percent). In general, the Water YTD precipitation was above normal north of 42 degrees latitude, and below normal south of it. Author: David Miskus, Climate Prediction Center, NCEP/NWS/NOAA

The [latest ENSO discussion](#) is now available.

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

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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

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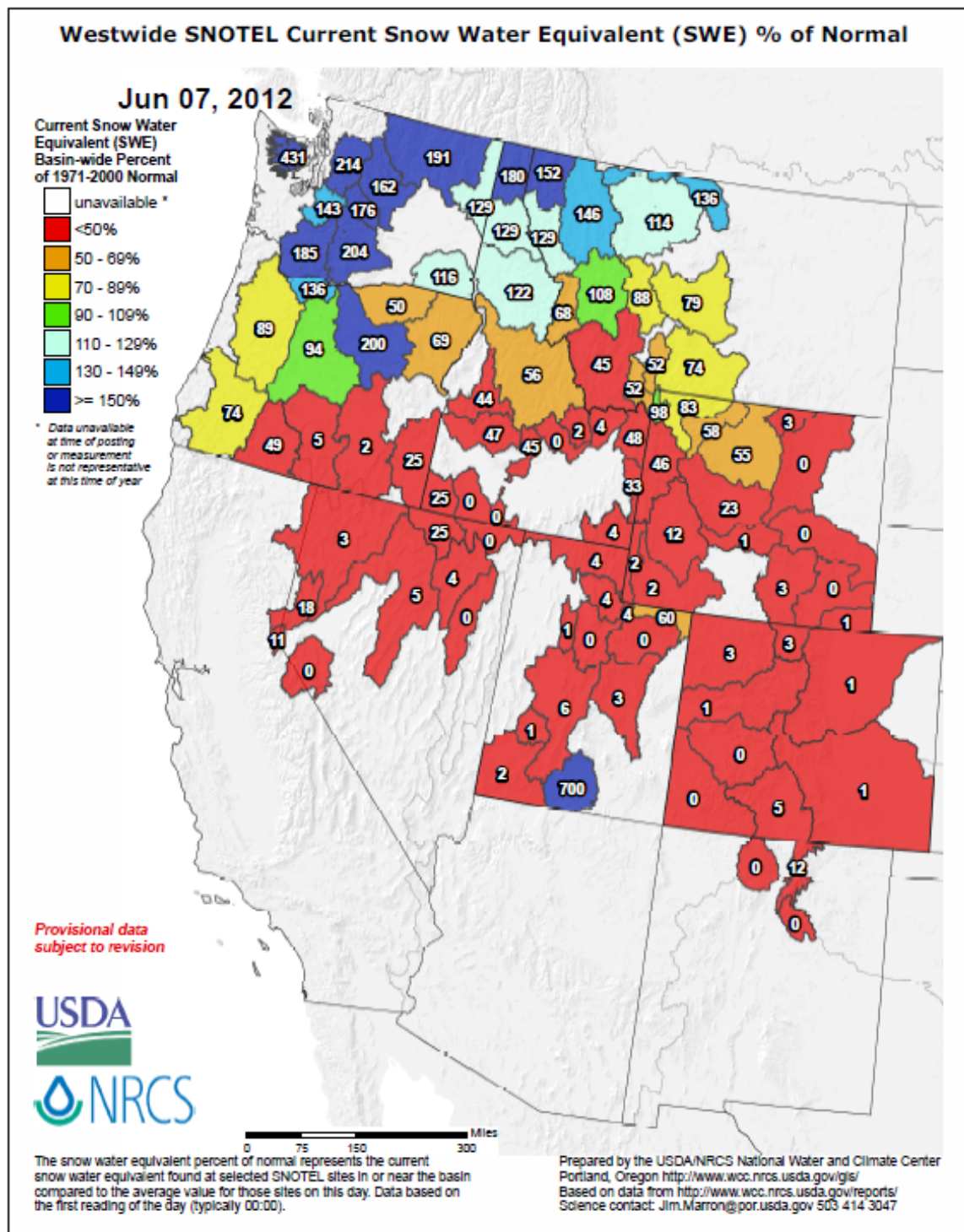


Fig. 1: Snow Water-Equivalent: River basins over the Northern Pacific Northwest and Northernmost Rockies continue to maintain their high SWE values this week while the opposite is true for the remainder of the West. Most of the southern half of the West has melted out. Click on the above link for latest map. SWE values by this time of year become essentially meaningless so use data with caution. This will be the final map posted in this report for the season.

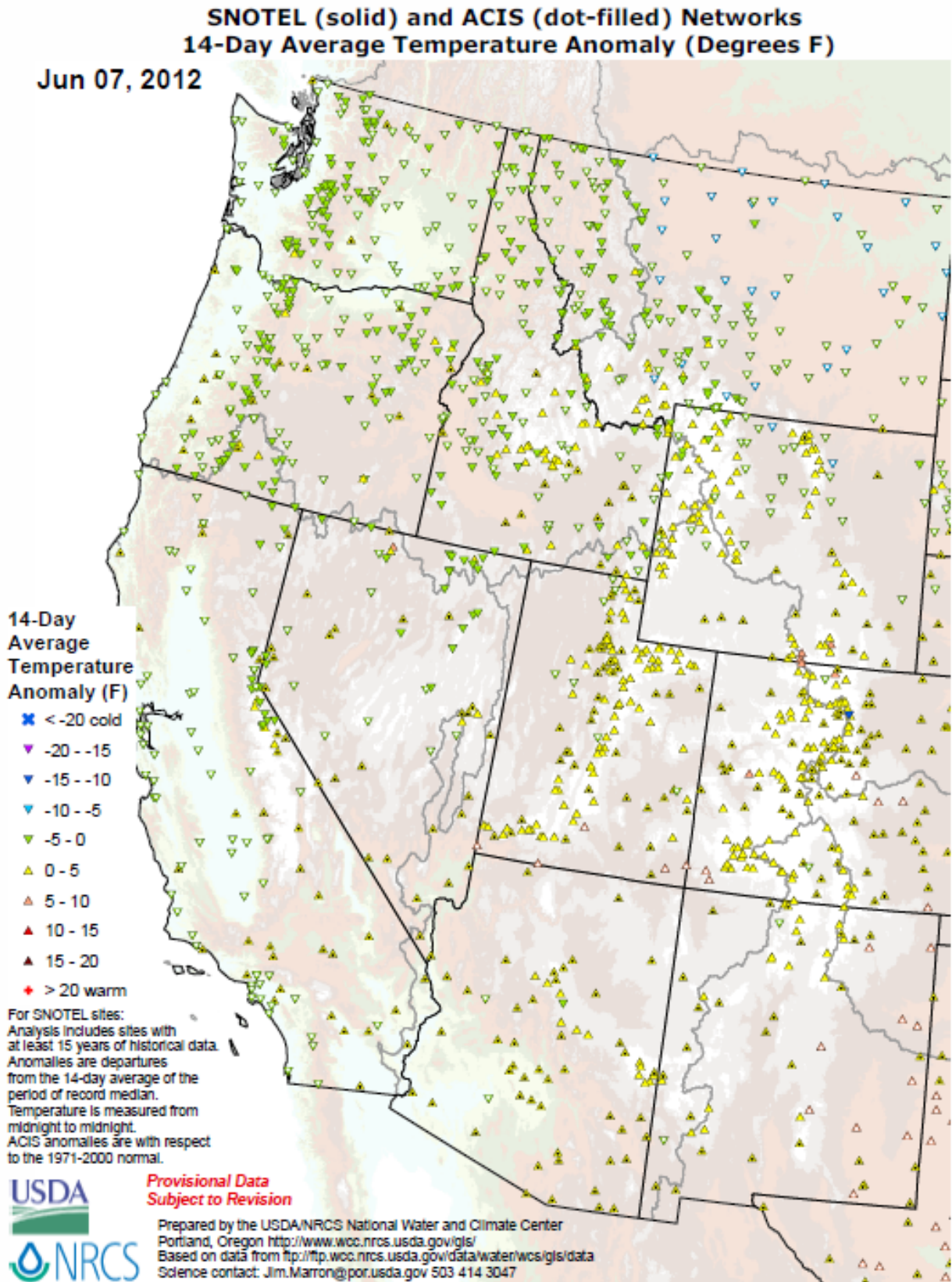
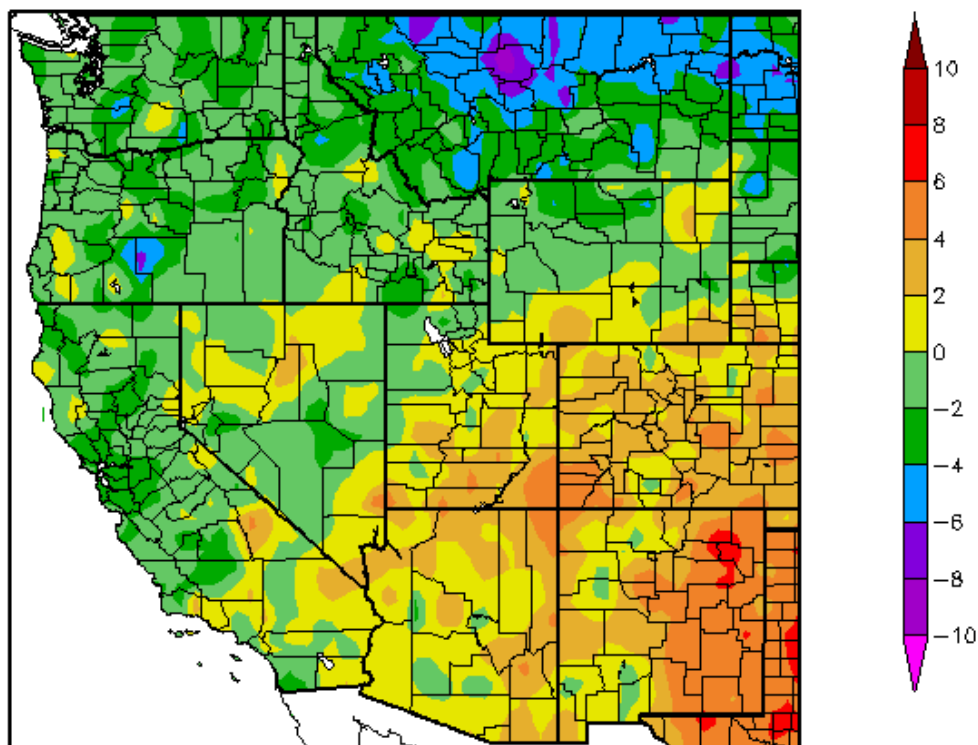


Fig. 2: SNOTEL and ACIS 14-day temperature anomaly showed values within $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$ across the West with the exception of cooler departures over eastern Montana.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/24/2012 – 6/6/2012

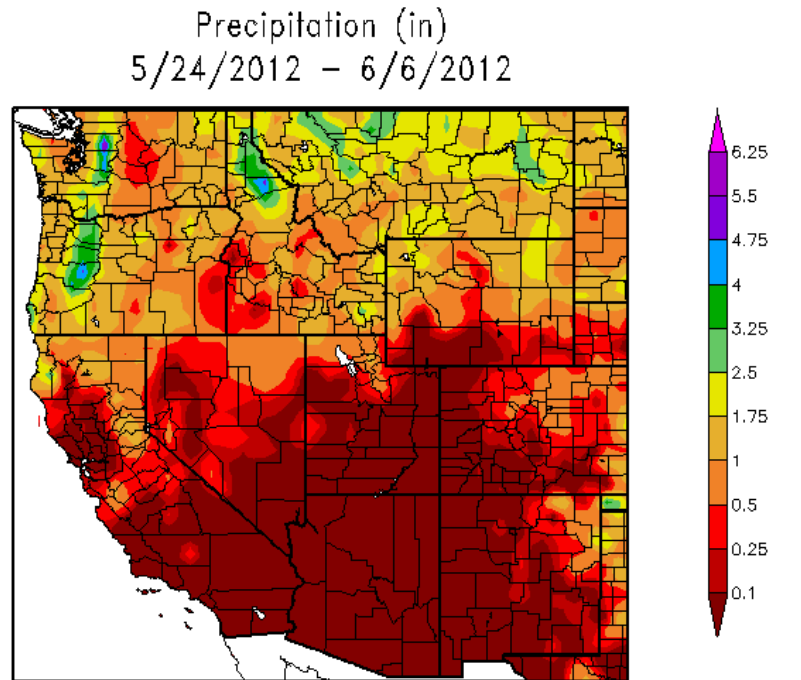


Generated 6/7/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

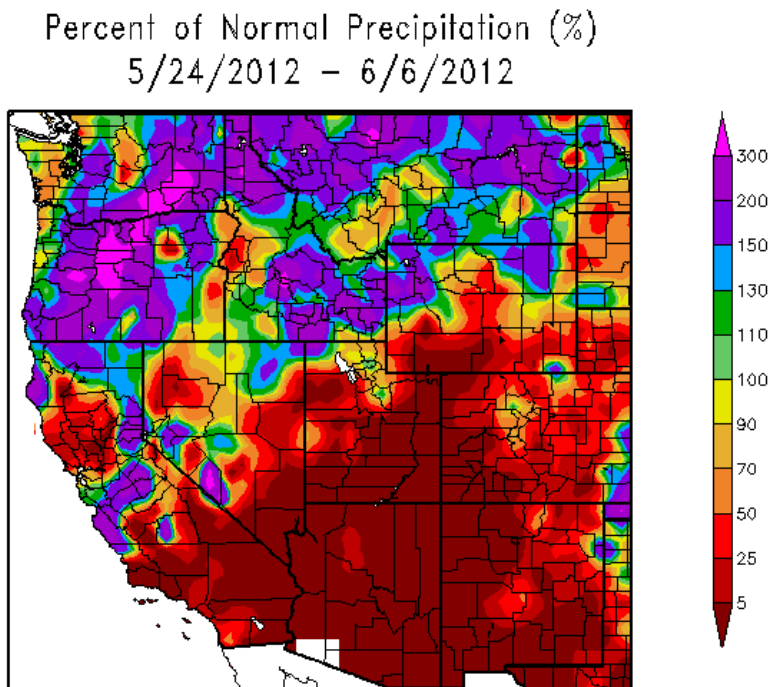
Fig. 2a: ACIS [14-day](#) average temperature anomalies show the greatest positive temperature departures over eastern New Mexico (>+6°F) and the greatest negative departures over parts of northern Montana (<-8°F).

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Generated 6/7/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers



Generated 6/7/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Fig. 3 and 3a: [ACIS](#) 14-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending yesterday shows the wettest areas over the Oregon and Washington Cascades, Panhandle of Idaho, and northern Montana Rockies (top). In terms of percent of normal, much of the Northern Tier of the Western States experienced decent precipitation for this time of year (some as a result of thunderstorm activity) (bottom).

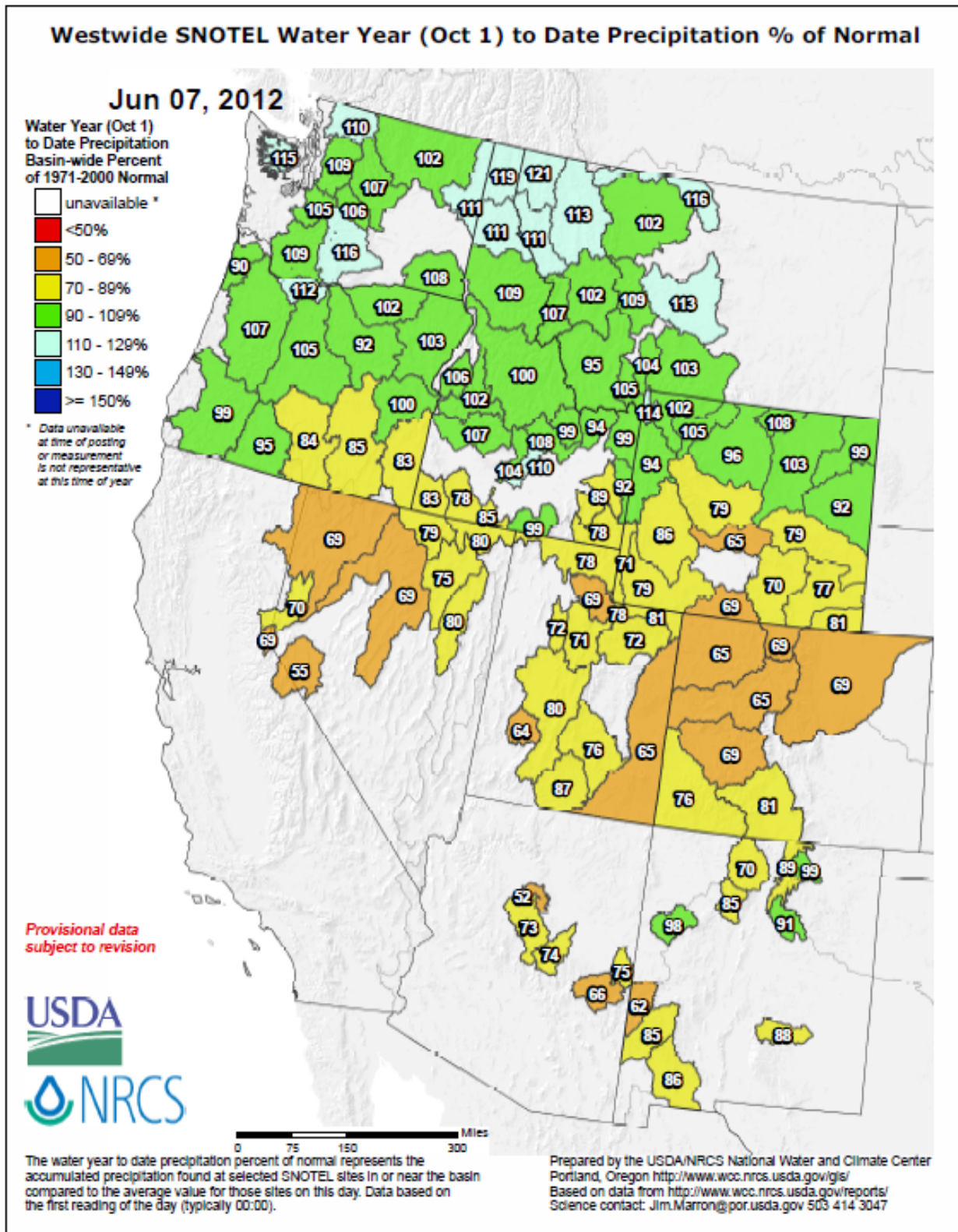


Fig 3b: Since the start of the **2012 Water-Year** that began on 1 October 2011, the seasonal moisture has continued to favor the Northern Tier States. Over much of the southern half of the West, drier conditions dominate. Near normal values in some New Mexico basins are not impacting the drought over the state.

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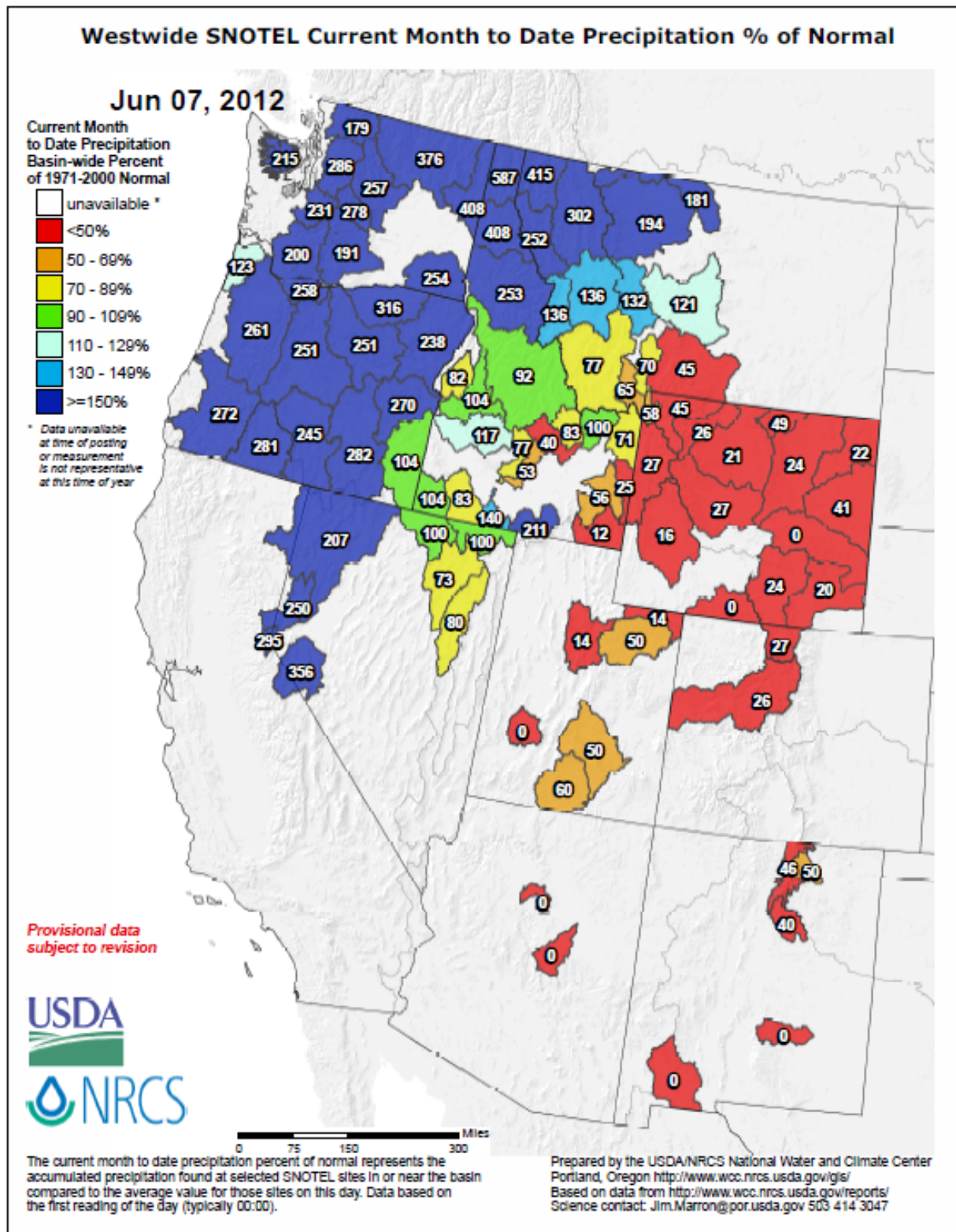


Fig 3c: Since the start of **June**, the Cascades, Northern Rockies, and Northern Great Basin have been much wetter than the long term average due to a persistent trough over the Eastern Pacific. Elsewhere, dry conditions dominate.

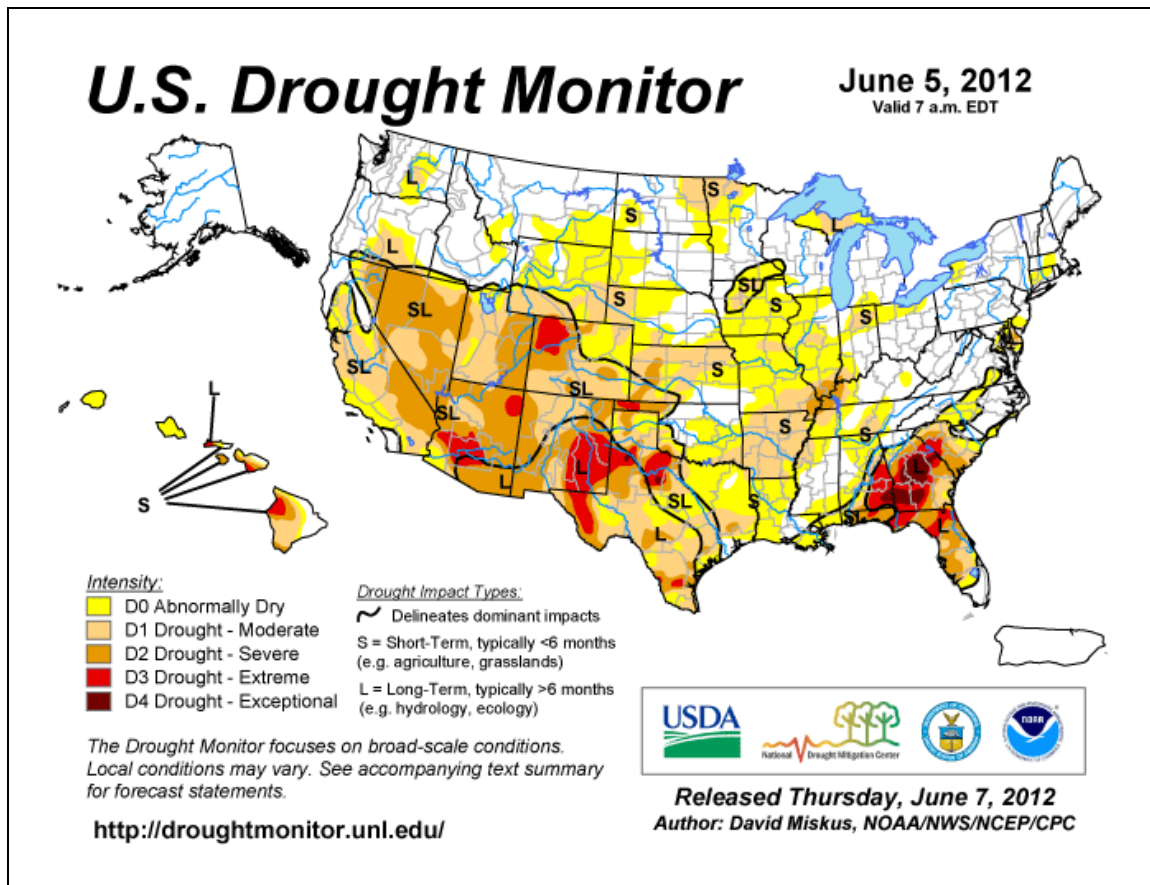


Fig. 4: Current [Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are found over the Southeast US and a few small areas over northern Texas. For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#). Click for the latest statistics for [California Reservoirs](#). More drought news:

Agriculture

[Corn crop under stress](#)

May 31, **Indiana**. The corn crop in Indiana exhibited drought stress as high temperatures and lack of rainfall affected the area.

[Drought Causes Concerns for Pike Co. Farmers](#)

May 29, **Southern Alabama**. Drought has affected corn and soybean production.

[Drought leaves farmers, utilities watching water levels closely](#)

May 29, **Missouri**. Farmers have gotten just one cutting of hay and do not expect another without some rain.

[Dry Conditions For Idaho's Dryland Farmers](#)

May 29, **Idaho**. Dryland farmers south of the Snake River in Power, Bannock and Oneida counties are desperately in need of rain and are on the brink of crop damage.

[Wells saving crops but depleting aquifer, study warns](#)

May 25, **Klamath Basin in southern Oregon**. Many new wells were dug in 2001 when a drought deprived farmers of irrigation water and forced them to seek alternative supplies. Since that time, the water level decreased 10 to 20 feet in some places.

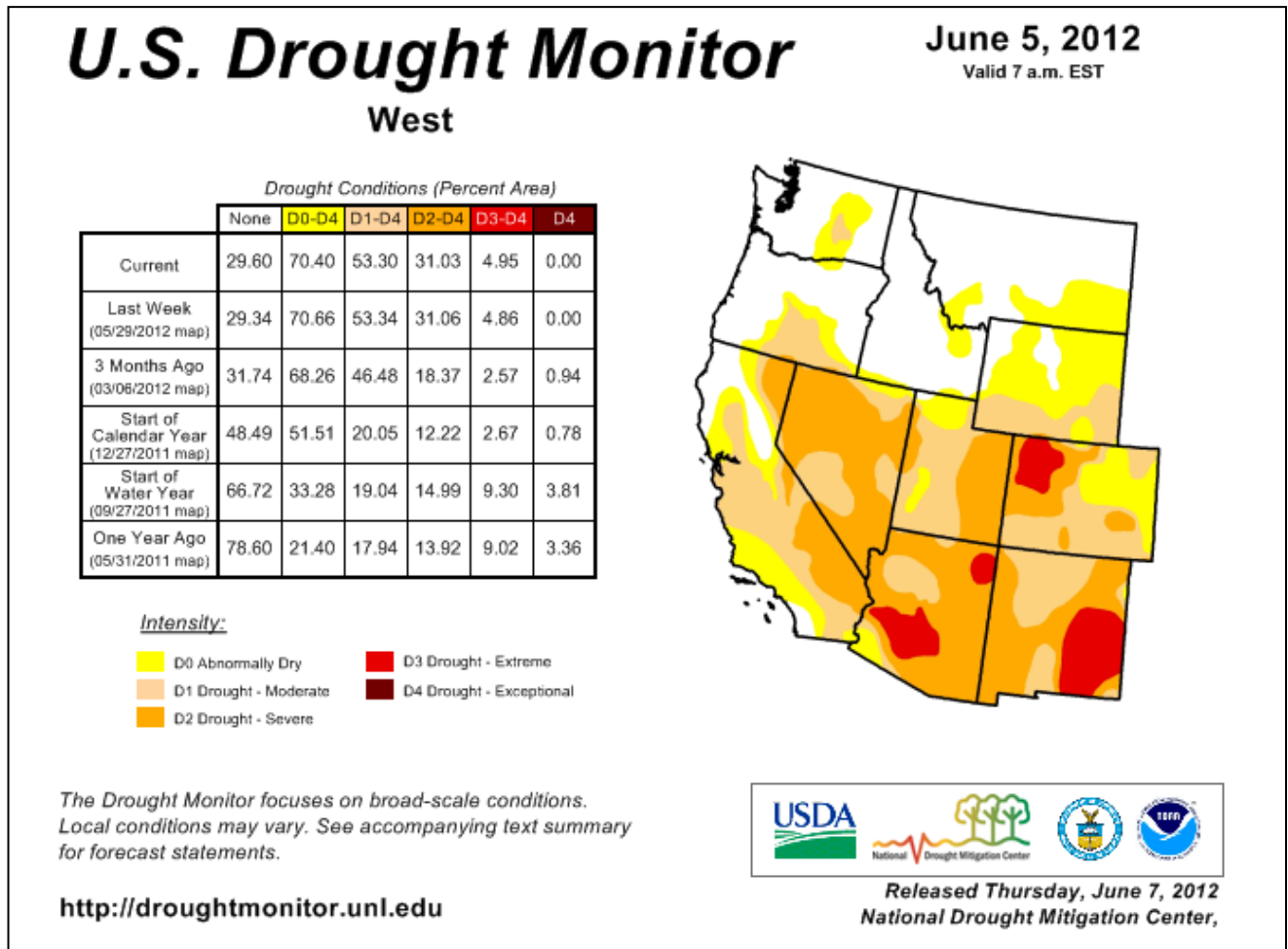


Fig. 4a: Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#) with statistics over various time periods. Note little change has occurred this week. See [article](#) on Utah's grim water supply prospects.

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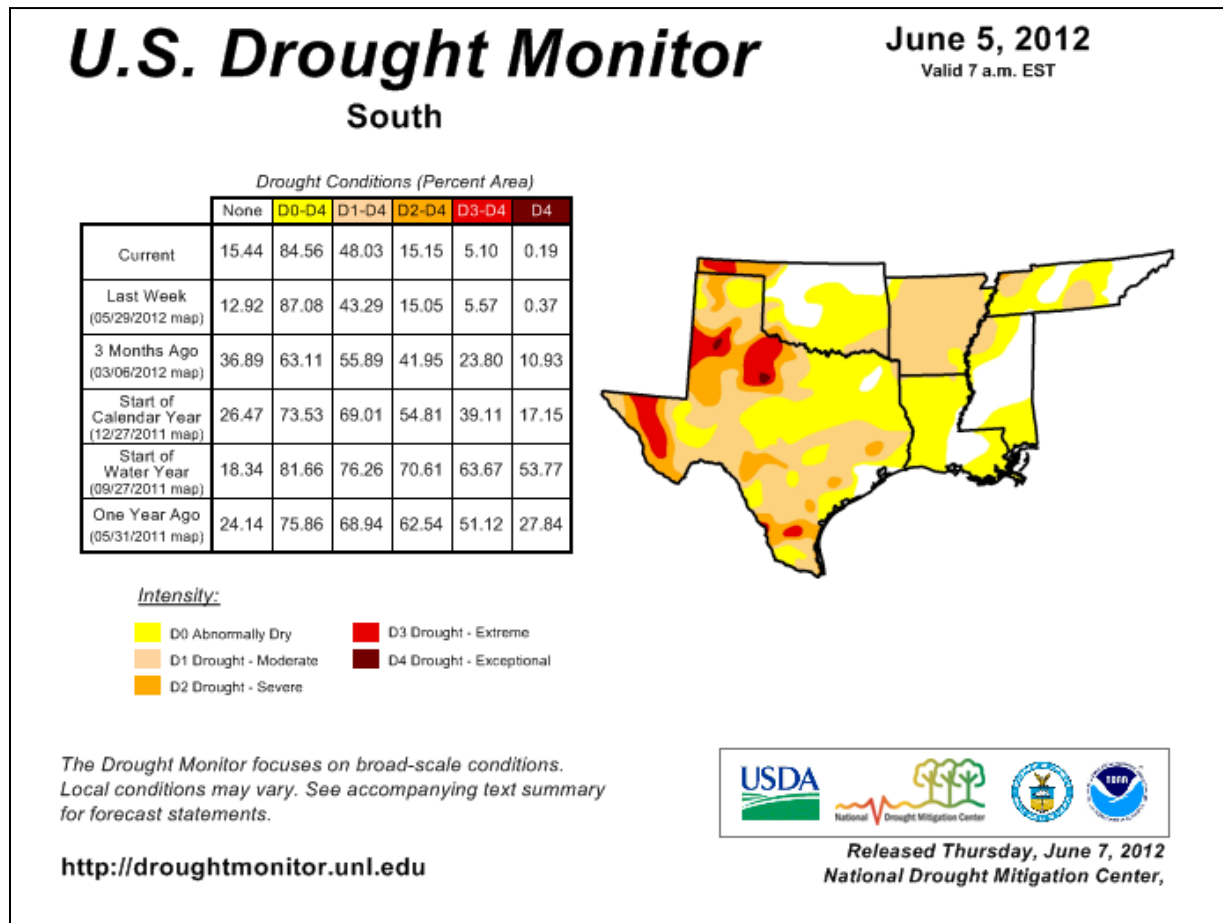


Fig. 4b: Drought Monitor for the [South-Central States](#) with statistics over various time periods. Note overall improvement in the lower D- Categories this week. Some D-4 spots still persists over parts of northern Texas.

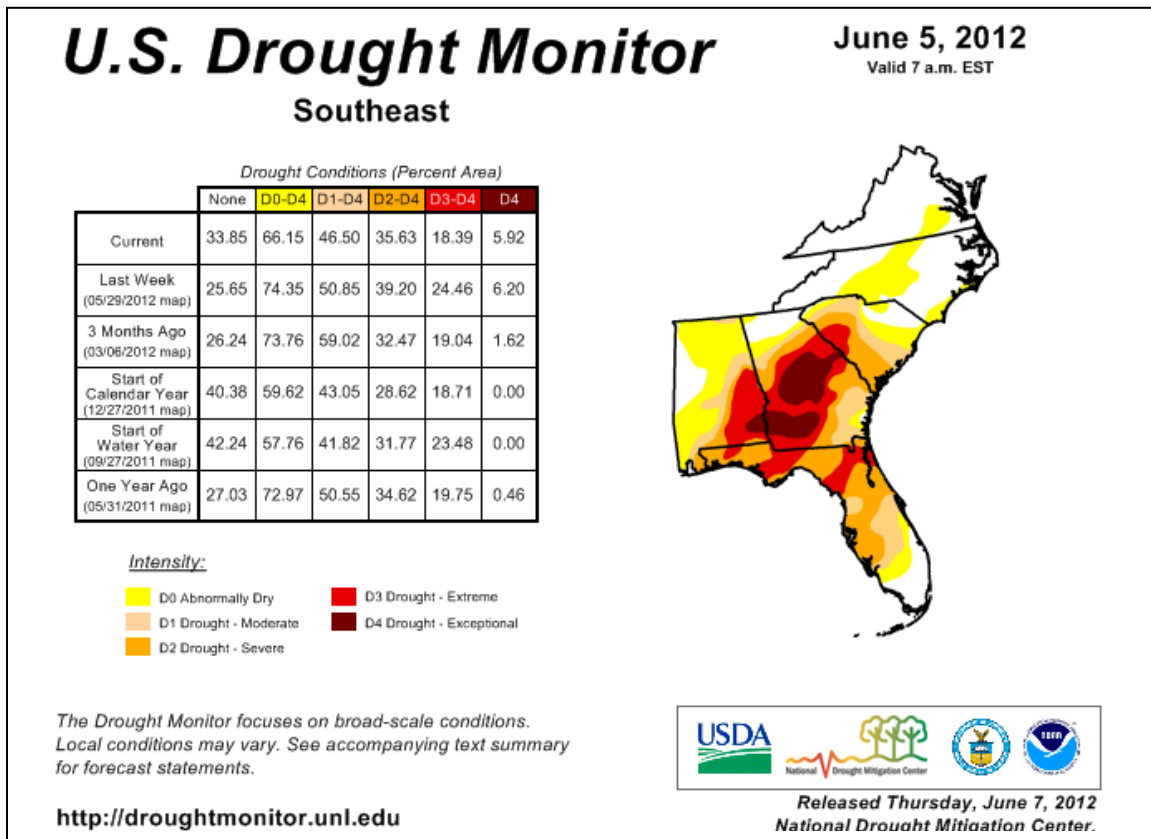
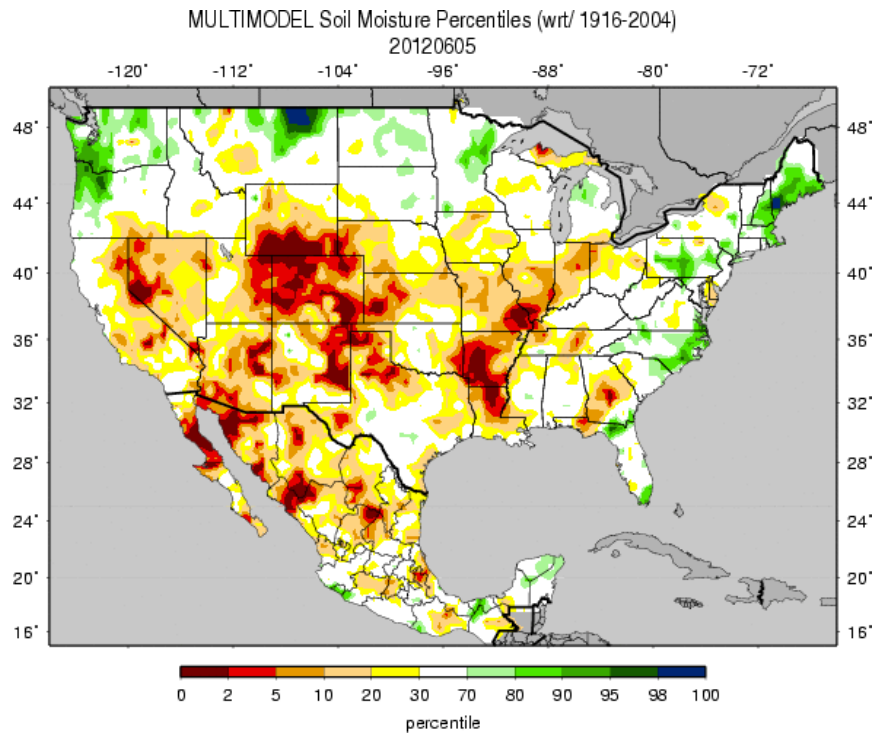
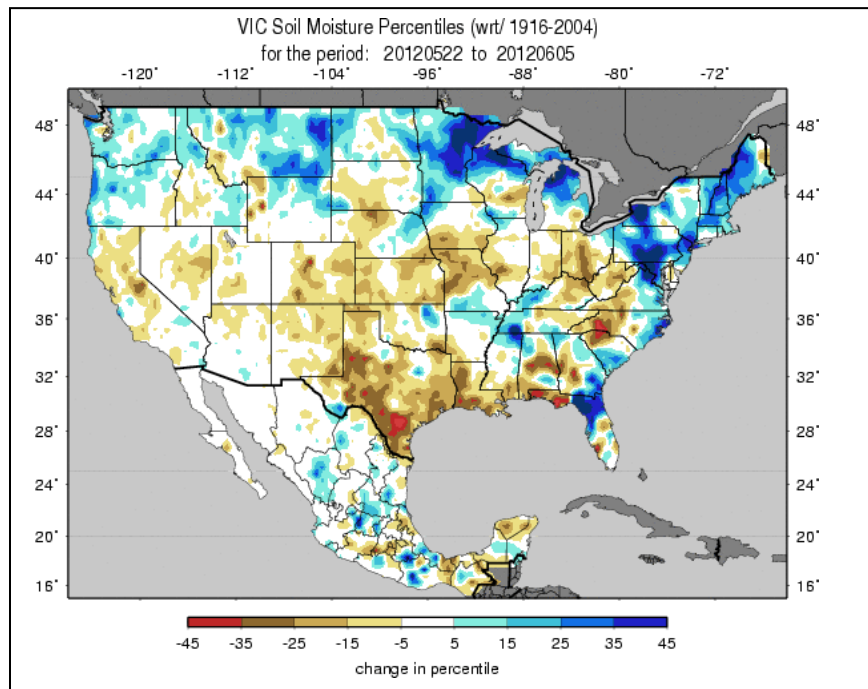


Fig. 4c: Drought Monitor for the [Southeastern States](#) with statistics over various time periods. Note some improvement in all categories this week due to the impact of a weak tropical system over the region.

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Figs. 5: Soil Moisture ranking in **percentile** as of 5 June shows developing drying over the Lower Mississippi River Basin, Central Rockies, and Western Great Basin. Note that as snows continue to melt over the Cascades and Northern Rockies, increases in soil moisture are being reflected.



Figs. 5a: Soil Moisture **change** during the past two week reveals increases over parts of the Southeast, New England, and the Northern Tier States and drying over much of Gulf Coast, western North Carolina, and Texas.

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Soil Climate Analysis Network ([SCAN](#))

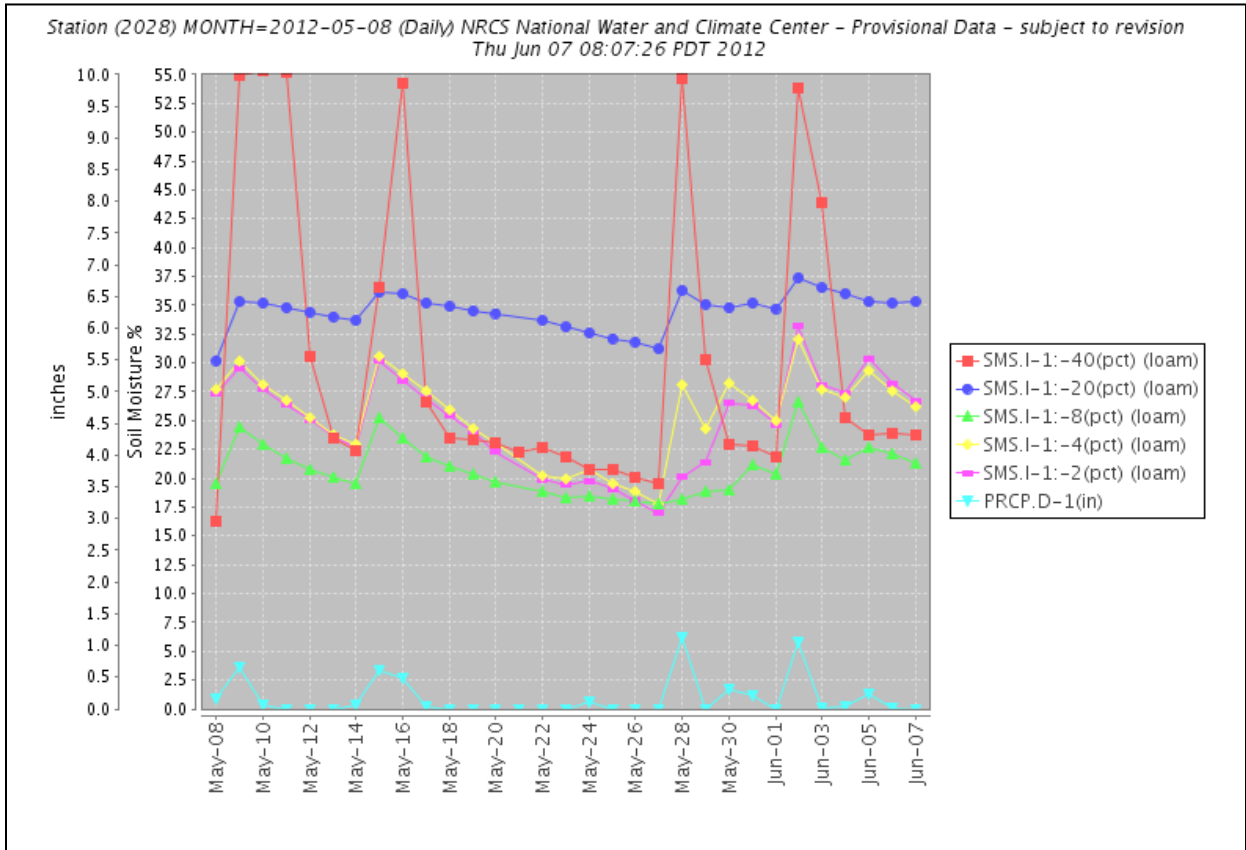


Fig. 6: This NRCS resource shows a site over [eastern Pennsylvania](#) with soil moisture responding to recent rains.

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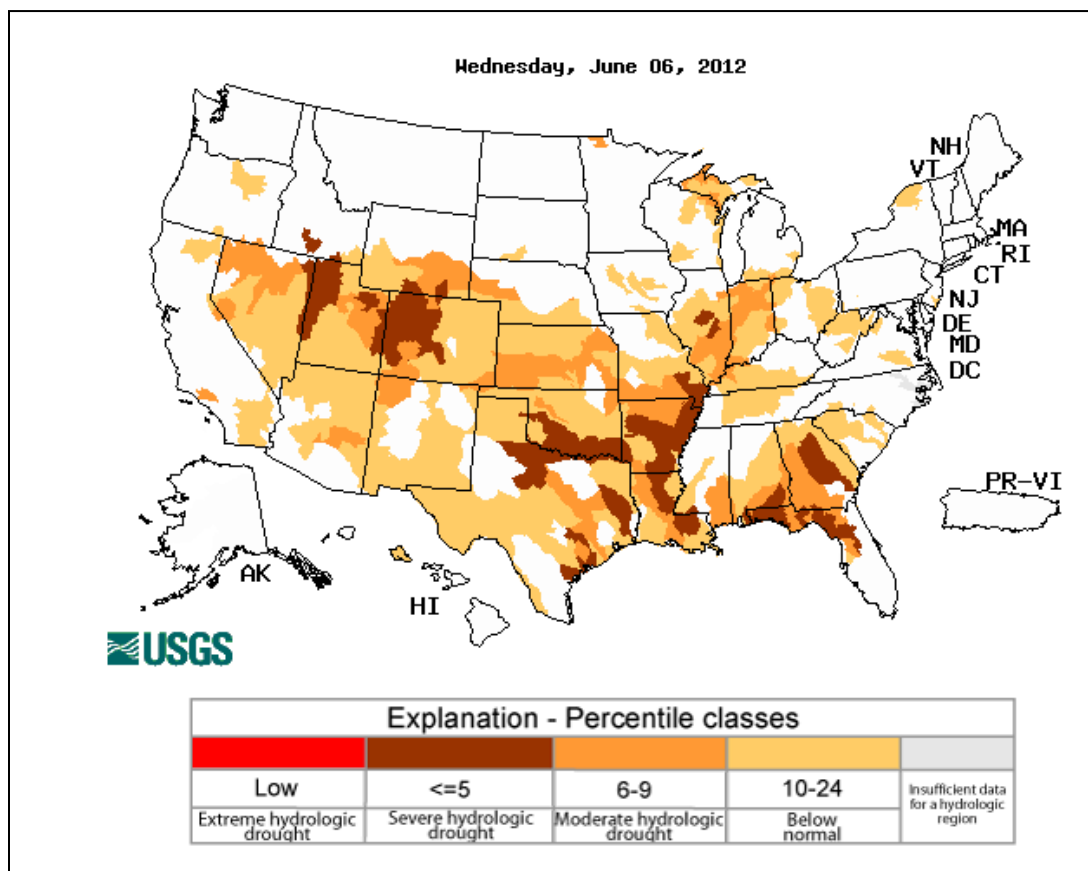


Fig. 7: Map of below normal 7-day average [streamflow](#) compared to historical streamflow for the day of year. **Severe** conditions are scattered from Utah to Florida.

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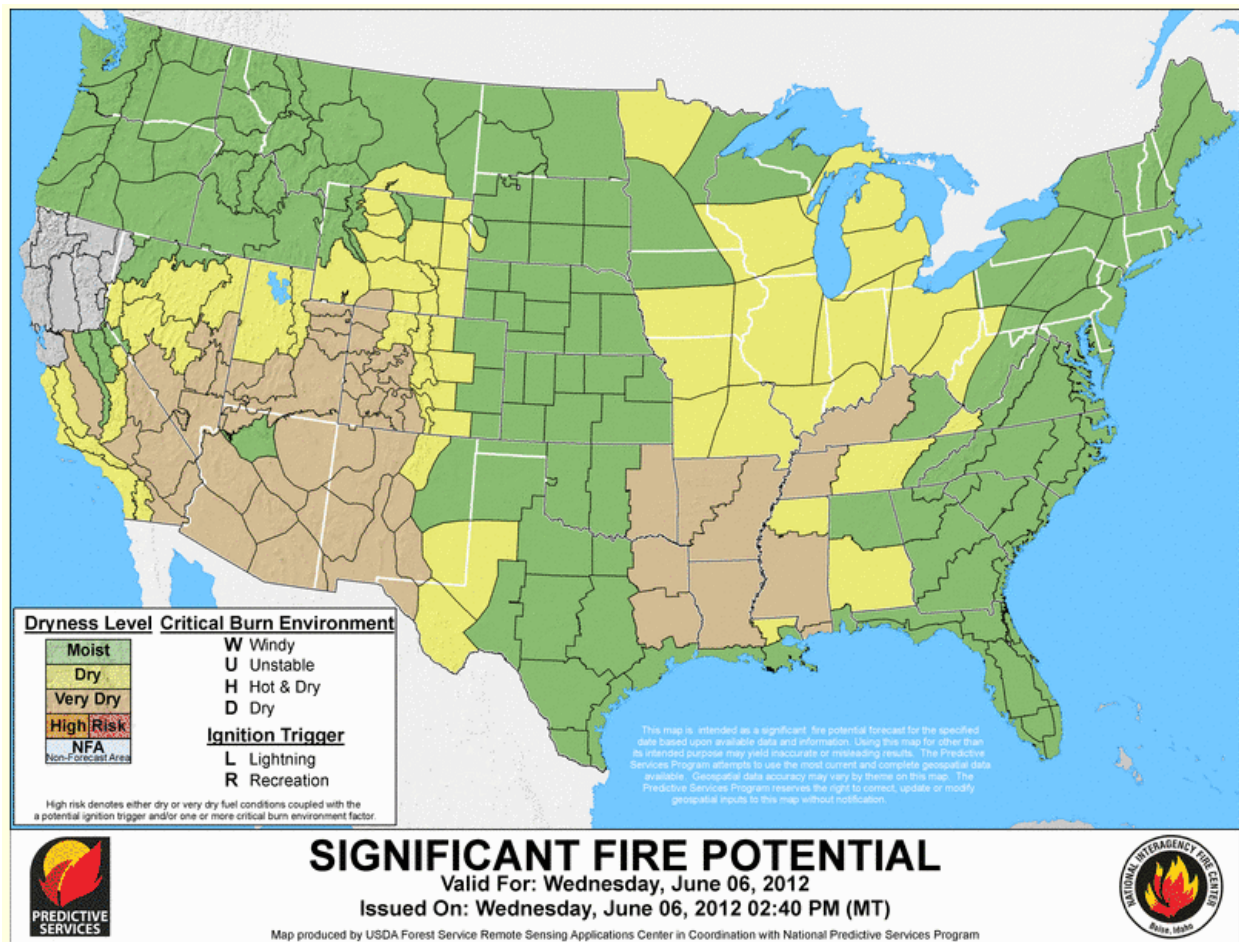


Fig. 8: **Significant fire potential** from yesterday. This resource also provides forecasts out to 7 days. Also check out: [NOAA's Fire Server](#). Here are a couple stories related to wildfires in NM: (1) and (2). Recent cooler and wetter weather over parts of the Western States have helped to lessen the fire risk.

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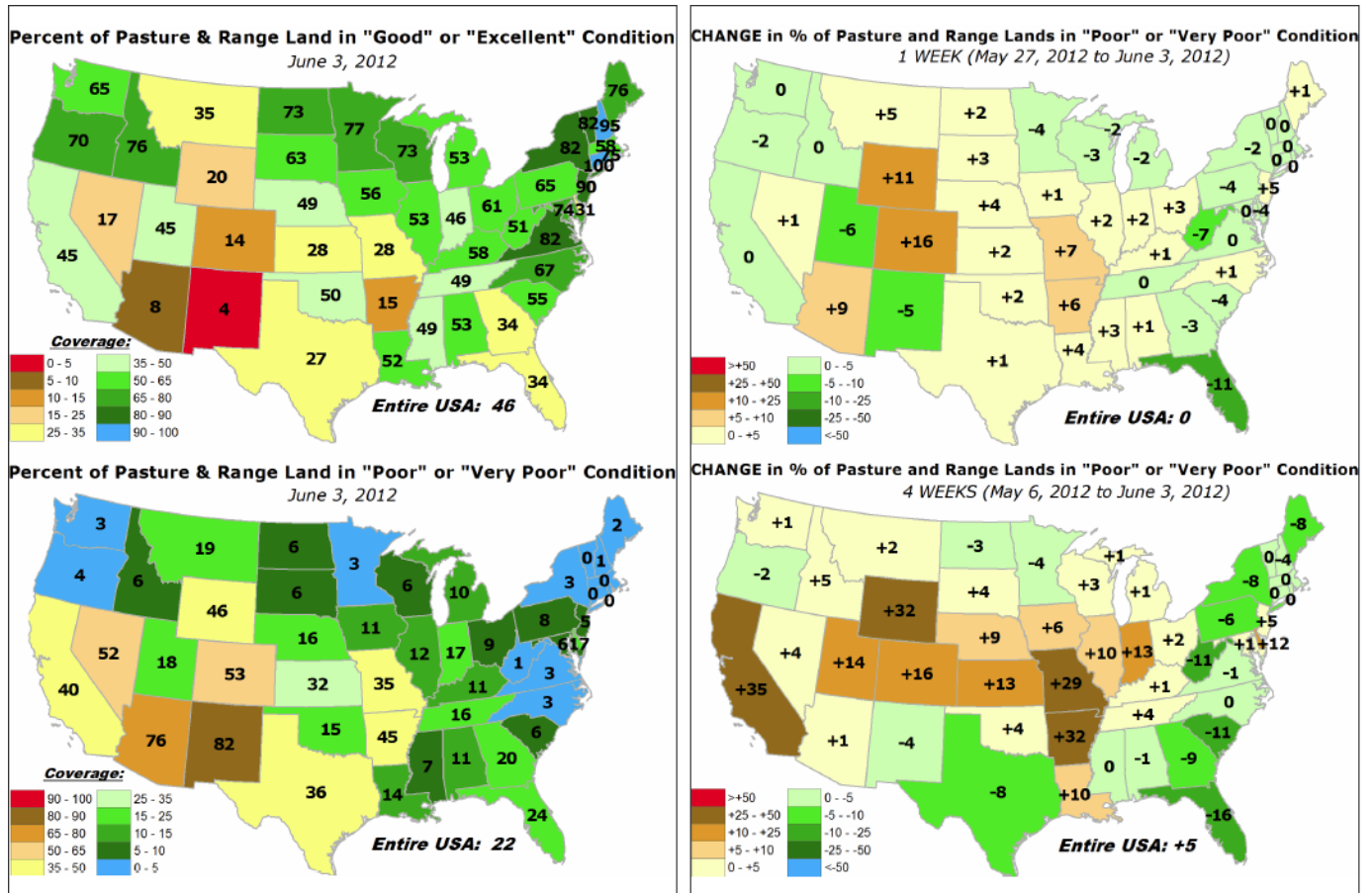


Fig. 9: [Pasture and range land conditions](#) and changes during the past week. New Mexico has the most poor or very poor conditions (lower left panel) and Wyoming and Colorado have experienced the worst declines this week (upper right panel).

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National Drought Summary -- June 5, 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/>.

Weather Summary: Early in the week, Tropical Depression Beryl tracked northeastward from southern Georgia to along the Georgia and Carolina coasts before moving into the open waters of the Atlantic. Additional heavy beneficial rains from Beryl fell on eastern Georgia, central and eastern South Carolina, eastern North Carolina, and southeastern Virginia. Meanwhile, a cold front pushed across the Midwest but stalled in the south-central Plains where low pressure developed on the stationary front and brought decent rains to Kansas and Oklahoma. The low deepened and tracked northeastward, eventually pushing the cold front off the East Coast by Saturday, but not before generating severe weather and heavy rains on Friday to parts of the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys and upper South, mid-Atlantic, and New England. The upper-air low, however, lingered over the Great Lakes region and New England, dropping additional rain there. A series of Pacific storm systems brought showery conditions to the Northwest. Hot and dry conditions prevailed in the Southwest, Great Basin, and southern and central High Plains. Drier but cooler weather returned to the northern Plains and upper Midwest. Along the Gulf Coast, little or no rain fell, with the exception of 2 to 4 inches in Florida.

The East: Widespread, beneficial moderate to heavy rains soaked much of the Atlantic Coast States (from Florida to Maine). Early in the week in southern sections, heavy rains from departing Tropical Depression Beryl dumped 1 to 6 inches of rain from northern Florida and southern Georgia northeastward to eastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Right after Beryl departed, a slow-moving but potent cold front triggered showers and thunderstorms, some severe, in the mid-Atlantic. Heavy rains from the upper-air low then soaked coastal New England with up to 9 inches of rain, causing localized flooding. In Florida, scattered showers dropped 2 to 4 inches of rain around the Tampa Bay area and in southern sections of the state in addition to Beryl's 1 to 2 inches in northern Florida. With the widespread coverage of moderate to heavy rain this week, a 1-category improvement was made in parts of Florida where more than 2 inches fell, in eastern parts of Georgia and South Carolina, and from North Carolina to Maine. A few areas that were left unchanged included most of the Delmarva Peninsula and southern New Jersey where less than an inch of rain fell as both short and long-term deficits lingered, and in central North Carolina where totals were less than an inch and Year-To-Date precipitation was still between 50-75 percent. 1, 7, 14, and 28 day USGS stream flows were above or near record-high levels in much of the Northeast, but still below to much-below normal farther south, away from the coastal locations.

In contrast, D2 to D4 continued in southern and southwestern South Carolina, southwestern and central Georgia, northern Florida, and southeastern Alabama. Precipitation amounts were generally less than 0.5 inches. Unfortunately, Beryl made a U-turn near Valdosta, GA, and headed away from the core drought area of central Georgia that runs from Macon northeastward to Augusta. The past 365 days have been the driest on record at Augusta by over 3 inches, and Georgia climate division 6 (east-central GA) had its driest 24-months on

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record, nearly 26 inches below normal. In southeastern Alabama, southwestern Georgia, and Florida Panhandle, 12-month precipitation has been 50-70 percent of normal, with deficits exceeding 20 inches. USGS stream flows also reflect the long-term drought, with all time periods below the 10th percentile level on June 5. The drought appeared to be shifting or expanding westward from the Augusta to Macon area as portions of the east have improved.

The Mid-South: Contrasting conditions affected the region this week, with showers and thunderstorms dumping 2 to 4 inches on parts of central and western Kentucky, western and eastern Tennessee, northern and central Mississippi, and northern Alabama while under 0.5 inches of rain fell on northern and central Missouri, parts of Kentucky, central Tennessee, southern Arkansas, most of Louisiana, southern Mississippi, and southern Alabama. The rains were welcome where they fell as conditions had been drying out during April and May, especially in the lower Mississippi River Valley. Accordingly, D1 was removed from western Tennessee, northern Mississippi, and northern Alabama, but was expanded southward into southern Arkansas, and northward into southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois, and southwestern Indiana where 60 and 90 day totals were less than 25 percent and less than 50 percent with deficits of 6 to 9 and 8 to -12 inches, respectively. D2 was also increased into the latter areas. In western Kentucky, Paducah set a record dry Apr-May with only 0.95 inches (10 percent of normal). One year ago, conditions were the exact opposite as Fulton County (extreme western KY) received 21.55 inches rain during Apr-May, but this year only 1.44 inches. In Arkansas after a very wet March, rainfall declined in April and was lacking during May, with many stations reporting their driest May ever (Harrison, WFO Little Rock, Hot Springs). Across northern Arkansas, although 1 to 2 inches fell, conditions had been so dry that no improvement was made. According to the USDA/NASS, topsoil moisture was short or very short in 58, 74, and 82 percent of LA, AR, and MO, respectively, while pasture conditions rated poor or very poor were 35 and 45 percent in MO and AR. And not surprisingly, most USGS stream flows in southern Missouri, western Kentucky, central Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, and southern sections of Mississippi and Alabama were in the lower 10th percentile.

The Midwest: Although cooler air finally filtered into the northern Plains and Midwest this week (temperatures averaged 2 to 6 deg F below normal), the combination of a very warm (4 to 6 deg F above normal) and dry May (less than 50 percent of normal rain) in the lower Midwest, plus the emergence and growth of crops that require adequate topsoil moisture, has quickly deteriorated conditions in parts of the Midwest. In particular, most of Missouri, southeastern Iowa, and northwestern Illinois were placed in abnormal dryness, with new D1 areas in northern Missouri and central Illinois where 90 day precipitation was half of normal. In the short-term, 30 day percentages were less than 25 percent in Missouri, southern Illinois, and southern Indiana (3 to 6 inch deficits), while less than half of the normal rain fell on Iowa (2 to 4 inch deficits). Extension agents in Iowa and Missouri reported curling corn leaves, stunted or no root growth, and soybean emergence problems, with some cracks in the soil. Stream flows have declined rapidly during the past few weeks. According to the Iowa State Climatologist, rapid deterioration of the crops is likely in the next few weeks if substantial rain does not arrive as crop moisture needs greatly increase over the period and subsoil moisture is mostly out of reach of young plants at this stage of development.

Farther north, 1.5 to 2.5 inches of rain fell on northern Lower Michigan and the eastern Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan, slightly easing drought in the region. Although less than 0.5 inches fell on northeastern Minnesota, a reassessment of conditions showed that surplus precipitation existed up to 9 months, hence the small area of D1 and D0 was removed. In addition, the UP of Michigan impacts were changed to Long term as recent wetness had eliminated short-term

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deficiencies. Light rains (0.5 to 1 inch) were not enough to erase short-term shortages (D0 and D1) in northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota, so conditions remained status-quo.

The Plains: With the late spring and early summer months normally the wettest time of the year in the High Plains, several weeks of dry and warm weather usually does not bode well for moisture conditions. Unfortunately after a relatively wet (and warm) April, drier and warmer weather enveloped the central High Plains during May and early June. Some county reports indicated that pastures have begun to show signs of stress. As a result, D0 was increased across north-central Nebraska (Sandhills) and into southern South Dakota. Similarly, slight expansion of D0 was made in western and northeastern parts of South Dakota and southwestern North Dakota based upon a very dry 30 days. Farther south, scattered but generally light showers further degraded conditions in southern Nebraska and western and northern Kansas. Reports from southeastern Nebraska and Kansas indicated poor soybean emergence, corn stress, and some stock ponds drying up. Accordingly, D1 was expanded across western and northern Kansas and southeastern Nebraska, with D2 increasing in western Kansas.

In contrast, moderate to heavy (1.5 to 4.5") rains fell on south-central and southeastern Kansas, northern and eastern Oklahoma, and parts of northern Texas and the Texas Panhandle, but most of this rain fell on non-drought areas of Kansas and Oklahoma (although northeastern Oklahoma was trending back toward D0-D1). Fortunately in Texas, the rain did provide some relief, with some trimming of D1 to D4 areas in the northern Panhandle where 1 to 3 inches fell. Farther southeast, however, another dry and warm week expanded D1 across southeastern Texas, with some small areas degrading into D2 that had larger short-term deficits.

The West: A series of Pacific storm systems brought late season precipitation to the Northwest and as far south as northern California and the northern and central Sierra Nevada. Unfortunately, most of the light to moderate precipitation fell over non-drought areas, except in central Oregon where 1 to 1.5 inches fell. This precipitation brought the Water year to date (YTD) amounts close to normal, so D0 was removed there. The rest of the West, however, received little or no precipitation (southern California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, western Colorado, southern Idaho, and southern Wyoming). Temperatures also soared into the 90s in southern Oregon and southern Idaho, with triple-digit heat occurring in southern California, southern Nevada, Arizona, and southern New Mexico. Temperatures averaged 4 to 12 deg F above normal, especially in the Great Basin. With the normally dry and warm season underway in the Southwest, no changes were made this week. Through June 5, Water YTD average basin precipitation was at or above normal in the Cascades and northern Rockies, and below normal in the Sierra Nevada and central Rockies. The southern Rockies were a mixed bag (values between 69 and 109 percent). In general, the Water YTD precipitation was above normal north of 42 degrees latitude, and below normal south of it.

Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico: Although the normal dry season in Hawaii is underway, it has commenced quite strongly, especially in the western islands (Kauai and Oahu). Nearly all locations on Kauai and Oahu received subnormal April and May precipitation, and this week was no exception as most stations recorded minimal or no rainfall. Accordingly, all of Kauai and Oahu was placed in abnormal dryness. In contrast, continued light to moderate windward showers over eastern Maui (6.93 inches at Puu Kukui this week) was enough to eliminate D0 there, however, a strong gradient remained as little rain was getting over into the D3 area on the

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southwest side. Elsewhere, conditions were maintained. There was no drought or abnormal dryness depicted in Alaska and Puerto Rico.

Looking Ahead: During the next 5 days (June 7-11), the best chances for decent rainfall will be along the northern U.S. border, stretching from coastal Washington and Oregon eastward to the northern Plains and upper Midwest, and in New England. A second area of rain is forecast from the south-central Great Plains into the lower Mississippi Valley and southeastward into Florida. Dry weather is expected in the Southwest and Midwest. Temperatures should average above normal in the southern High Plains, Great Lakes region, eastern Corn Belt, and Northeast. Subnormal readings are forecast for the West and the southern Atlantic Coast, with seasonable weather in the Southeast and Nation's midsection.

The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for June 12-16 calls for increased odds of above-normal precipitation in the Southeast (highest probabilities over South Carolina/Georgia/Alabama/Florida Panhandle) and mid-Atlantic, and in the northern Plains and upper Midwest. Best chances for subnormal rainfall were across the Southwest, Great Basin, and Alaska. Above-normal temperatures are expected from the central and southern Rockies northeastward into the Northeast. Subnormal readings should be limited to the Pacific Northwest Coast and southern Atlantic Coast.

Author: [David Miskus, Climate Prediction Center, 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

S ... Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agricultural, grasslands)

L ... Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Updated June 6, 2012