



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

Weekly Report - Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update

Date: 24 January 2013

SNOTEL SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

Note: [New 1981-2010 SNOTEL Normals](#) are now being used and in many cases, these values are significantly different than the 1971-2000 Normals.

Temperature: [SNOTEL](#) and ACIS 7-day temperature anomaly ending 23 January shows a mixture of above and below normal temperatures across the West. The above temperatures prevailed east of the Continental Divide (Fig. 1a). [ACIS](#) average temperature anomalies show the greatest positive temperature departures over southwest Montana ($>+5^{\circ}\text{F}$). The greatest negative departures occurred over southwest Idaho and western Utah ($<-25^{\circ}\text{F}$) (Fig. 1b). Since the beginning of January, exceptionally cold temperatures have dominated the Interior West (Fig. 1c).

Precipitation: [ACIS](#) 7-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending yesterday shows that it could not have been too much drier with only moderate precipitation occurring over southern Oregon (Fig. 2a). In terms of percent of normal, this region of Oregon reflects this positive anomaly (Fig. 2b). Note the high percentage of normal values over eastern Montana. This shows that when precipitation, which is usually very light for this time of year, occurs at all it becomes quite noticeable. SNOTEL [month to date](#) precipitation percent of normal for January thus far shows all but one river basin (northeastern Wyoming) well below normal. The actual amount of precipitation to fall in northeastern Wyoming is also usually light for this time of year (Fig. 2c). For the [2013 Water-Year](#) that began on 1 October 2012, statistics continue to favor the Northern Tier States and the Northern Sierra with surpluses. Significant deficits dominate over Sweetwater River Basin in Wyoming and southwestern and north-central New Mexico. Much of Colorado and Arizona are not fairing much better (Fig. 2d).

Snow: [Snow depths](#) for the week revealed that most stations reported gains but the nature of the snow was very dry (i.e., low SWE) due to much below average temperatures (Fig. 3a). As for [snow water-equivalent](#), the largest deficits continue over much of New Mexico, all of Colorado, eastern Wyoming, and the northeastern Great Basin. Significant surpluses exist over the Northernmost Cascades, Sierra, mountain of Arizona, and Central Snake River Basin. However, since last week, many basins with surpluses continue to lower their SWE by significant percentages (Fig. 3b).

The West: The lack of snow continues to heighten concern across much of the West. While there is plenty of time to make up ground, last year's low pack across the central and southern Rockies in particular has several interests watching closely to see if a strong finish to winter can bring about more promising streamflow forecasts for the dry season come summer. This leads to mostly status quo as far as changes are concerned for this week's map. Some slight deterioration is noted this week with the addition of D0 in northwestern Montana around Glacier National Park and to the west into the Idaho Panhandle in and around the Bitterroots. D0 has also expanded slightly across more of southwestern Idaho in the Clearwater and Salmon River Mountain ranges as well as into northeastern Oregon's Wallowa and Blue Mountains. Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

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 4e).

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.

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 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.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

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 Science and Resource Assessment

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

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

Jan 23, 2013

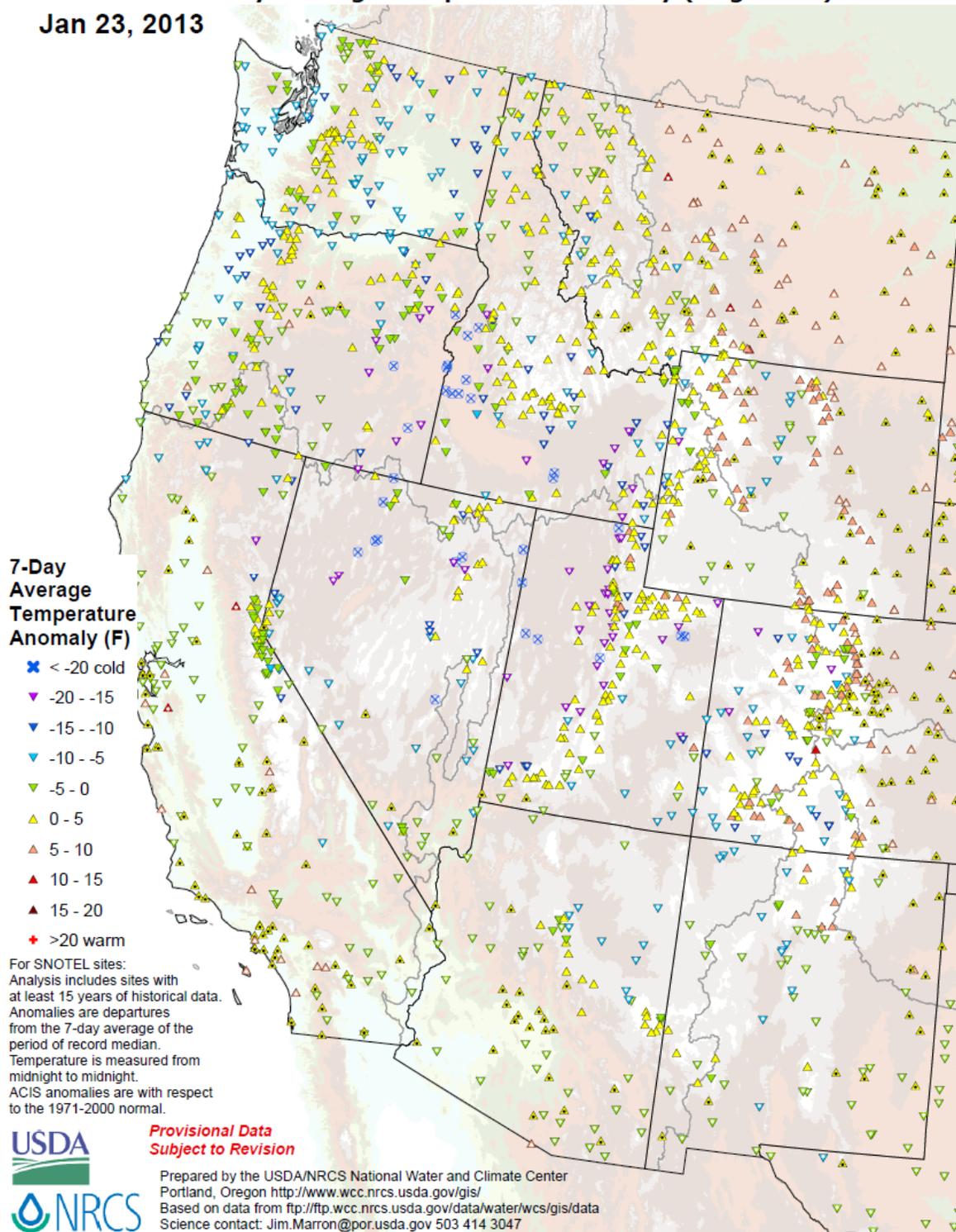
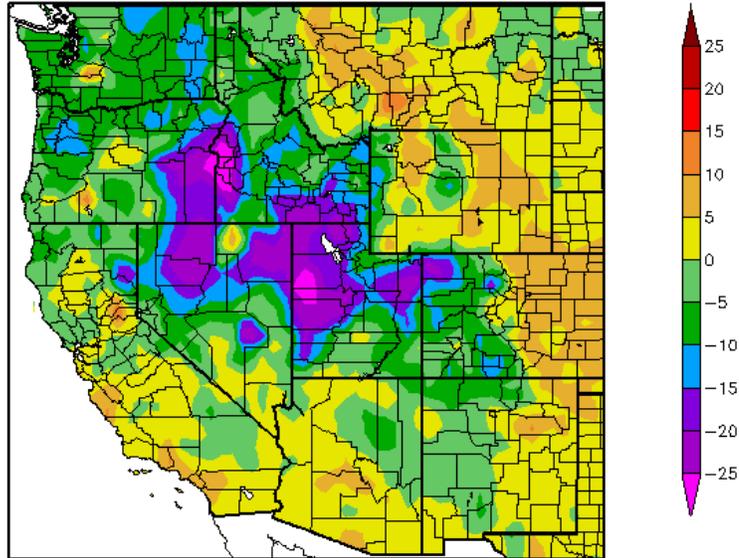


Fig. 1a: **SNOTEL** and ACIS 7-day temperature anomaly ending 23 January shows a mixture of above and below normal temperatures across the West. The above temperatures prevailed east of the Continental Divide.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/17/2013 – 1/23/2013

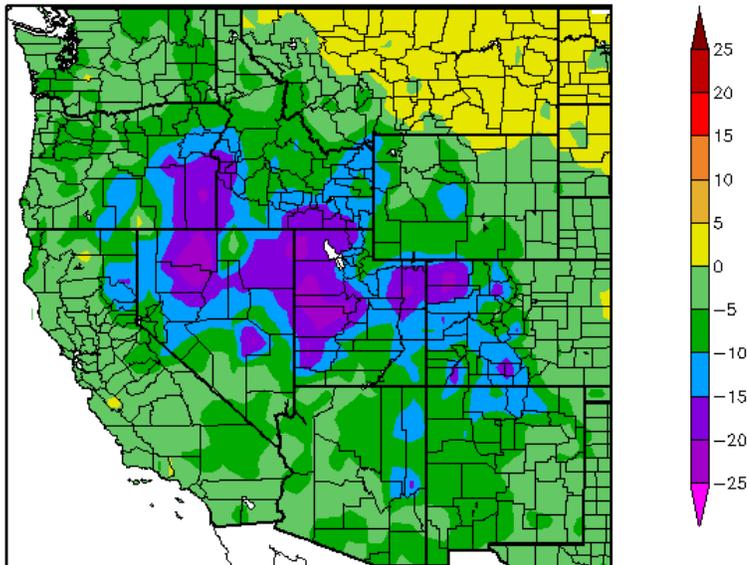


Generated 1/24/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Fig. 1b: ACIS 7-day average temperature anomalies show the greatest positive temperature departures over southwest Montana (>+5°F). The greatest negative departures occurred over southwest Idaho and western Utah (<-25°F!).

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/1/2013 – 1/23/2013



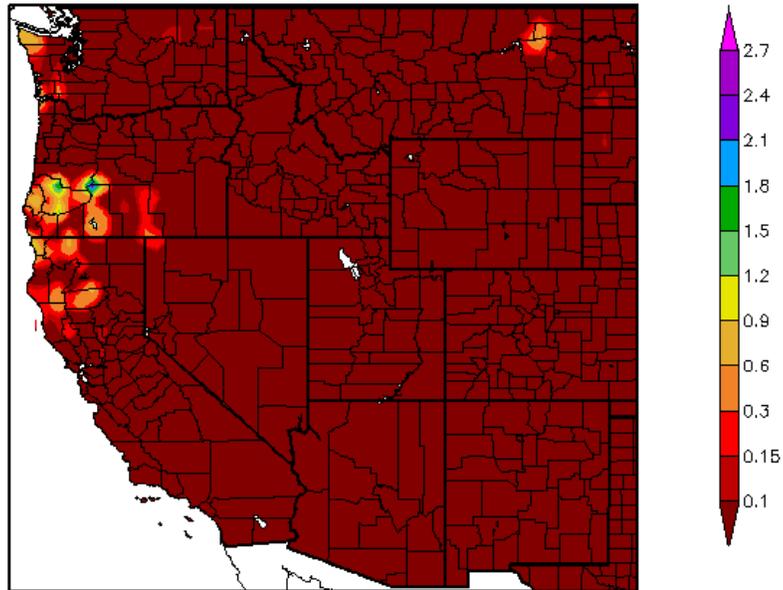
Generated 1/24/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Fig. 1c: Since the beginning of January, exceptionally cold temperatures have dominated the Interior West.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

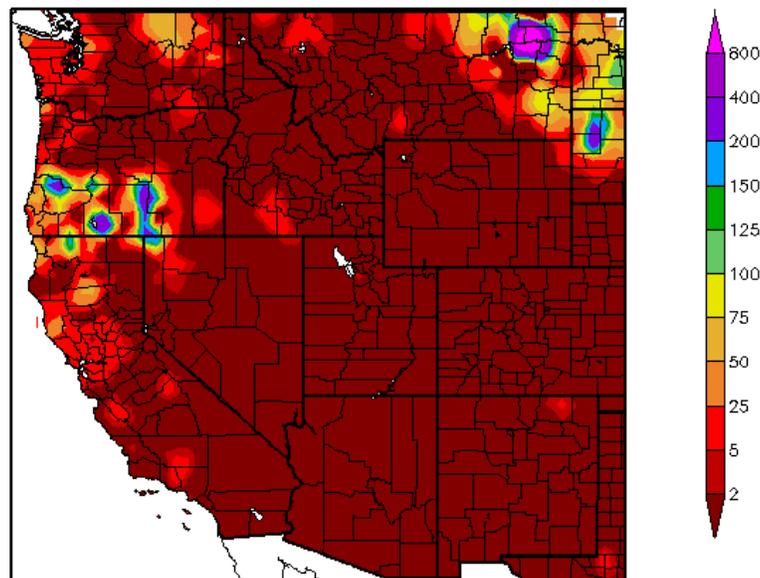
Precipitation (in)
1/17/2013 - 1/23/2013



Generated 1/24/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/17/2013 - 1/23/2013



Generated 1/24/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Fig. 2a and 2b: [ACIS](#) 7-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending yesterday shows that it could not be too much drier with only moderate precipitation over southern Oregon (Fig. 2a). In terms of percent of normal, this region of Oregon reflects this anomaly (Fig. 2b). Note the high percentage of normal values over eastern Montana. This shows that precipitation is usually very light for this time of year and when it occurs at all it becomes quite noticeable.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

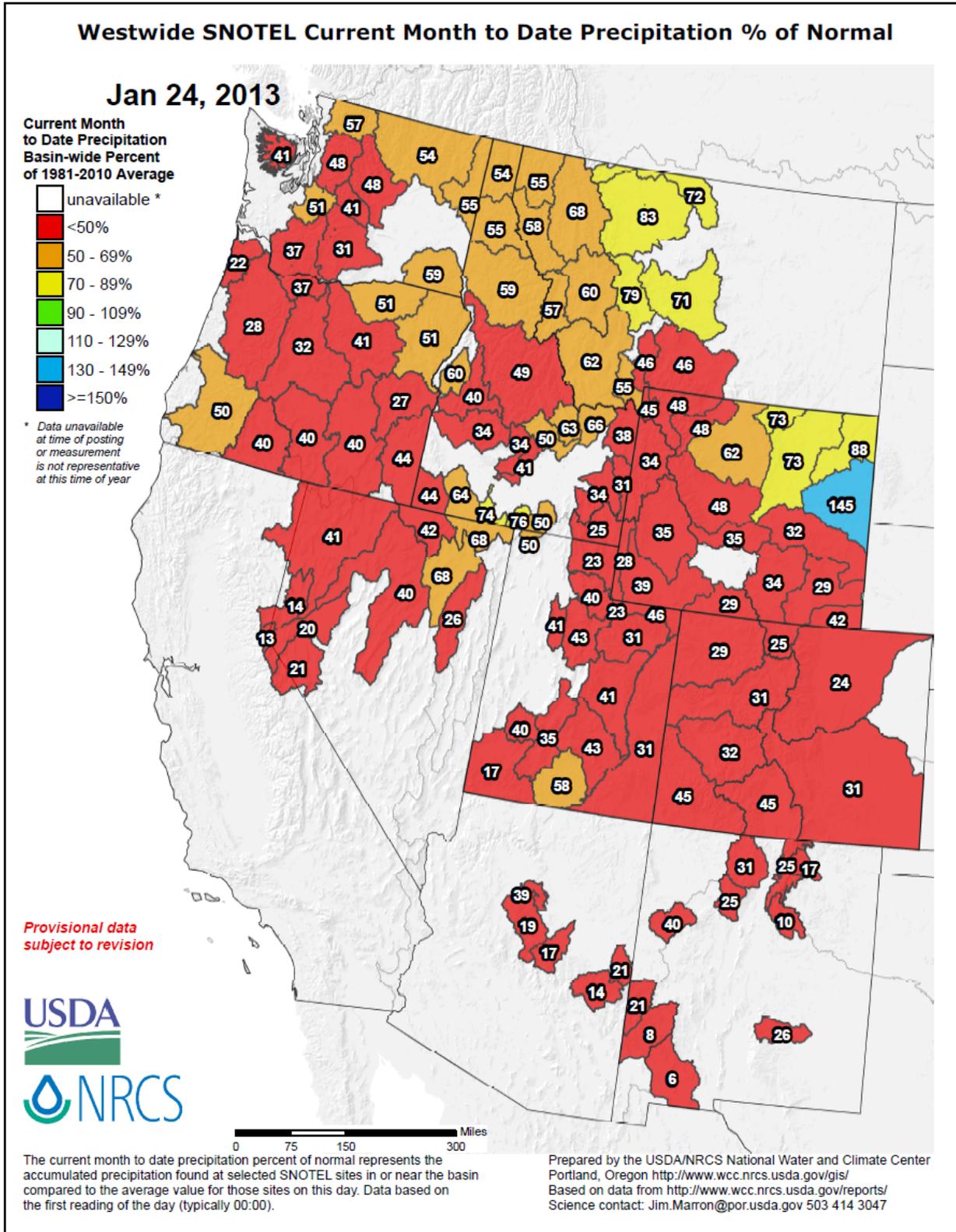


Fig. 2c: SNOTEL month to date precipitation percent of normal for January thus far shows all but one river basin (northeastern Wyoming) well below normal. The actual amount of precipitation to fall in northeastern Wyoming is usually light this time of year.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

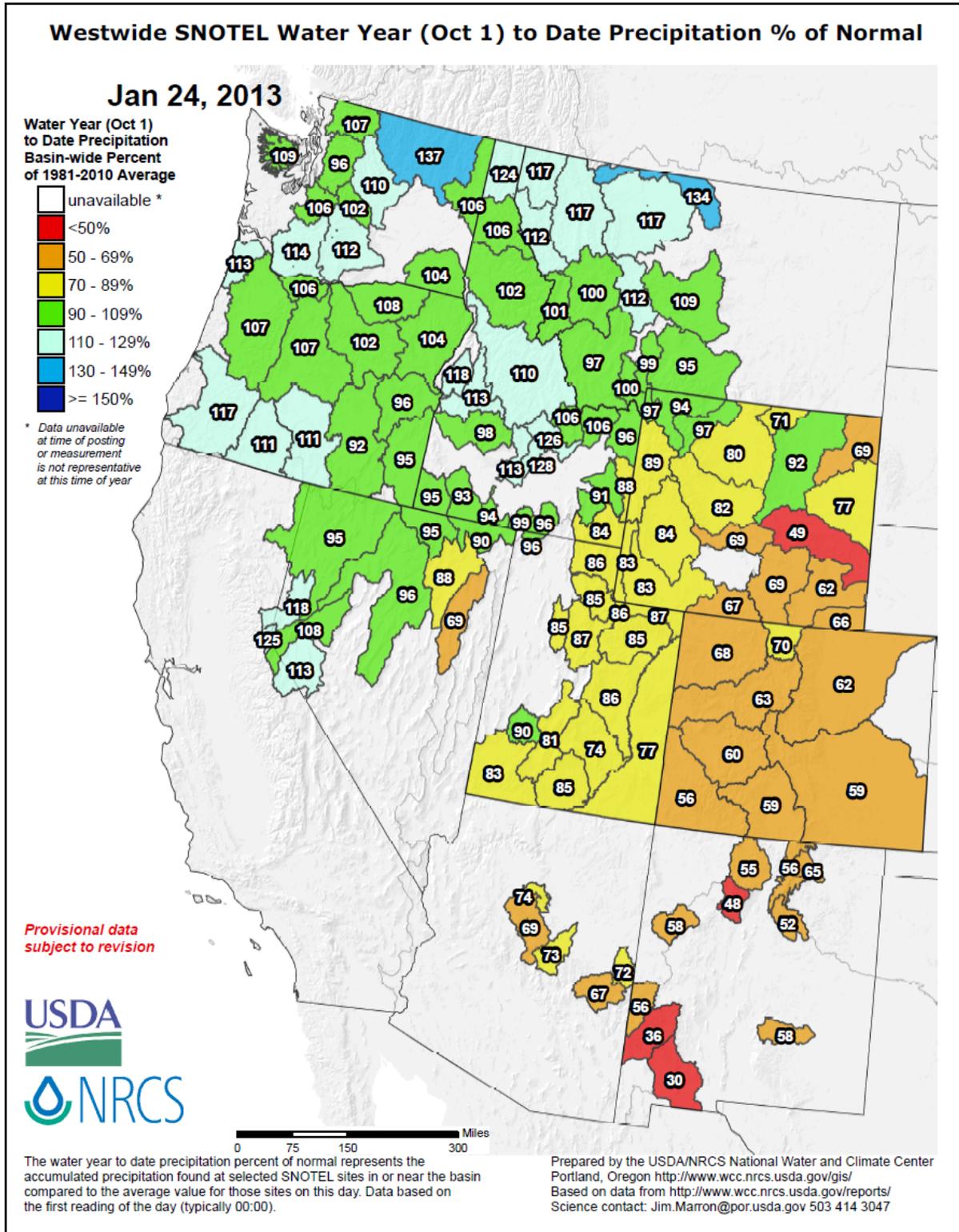


Fig. 2d: For the [2013 Water-Year](#) that began on 1 October 2012, statistics continue to favor the Northern Tier States and the Northern Sierra with surpluses. Significant deficits dominate over Sweetwater River Basin Wyoming and southwestern and north-central New Mexico. Much of Colorado and Arizona are not fairing much better. Update Reports by SNOTEL site can be acquired by clicking [here](#).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

SNOTEL 7-Day Snow Depth Change (Inches)

Jan 24, 2013

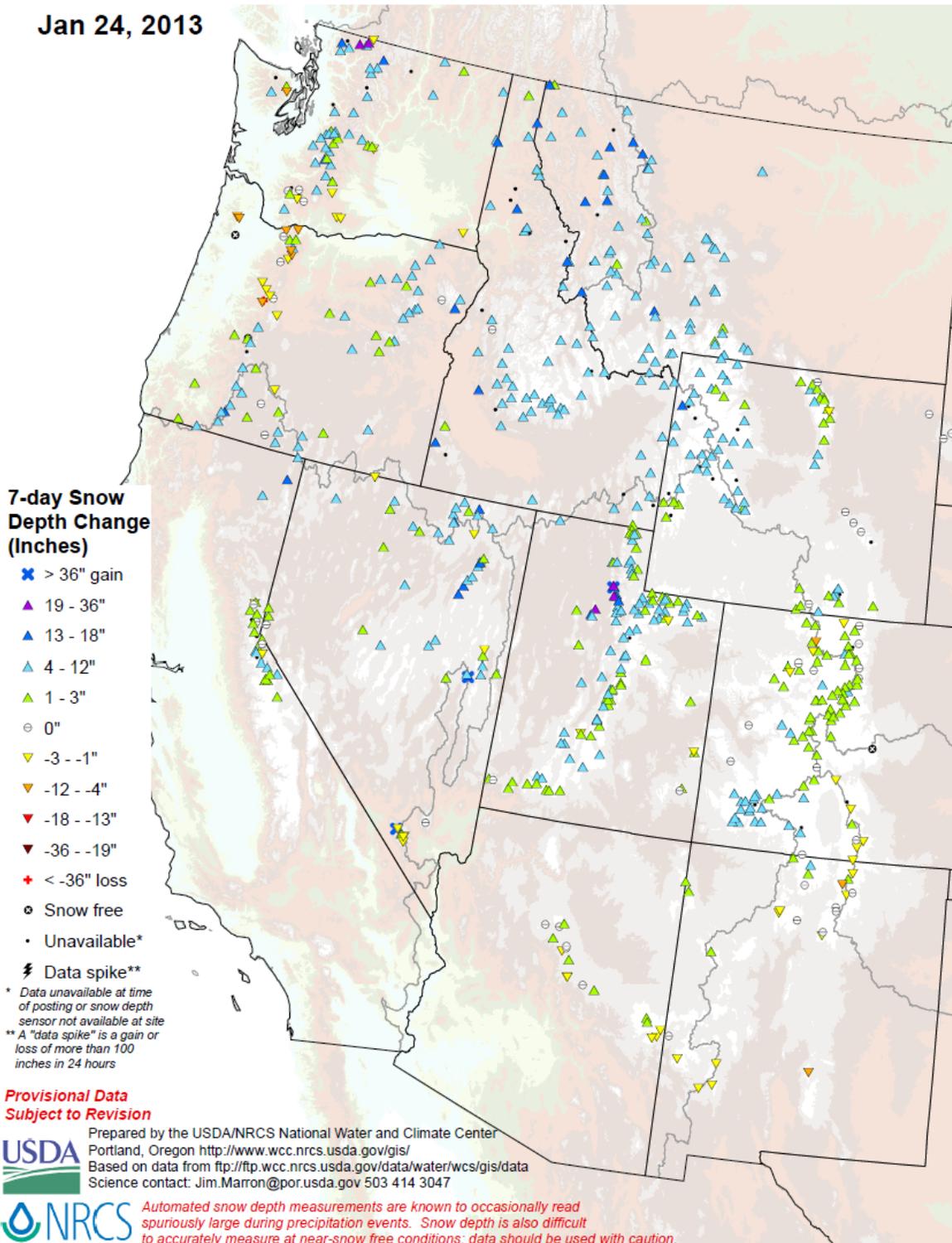


Fig. 3a: [Snow depths](#) for the week revealed that most stations reported gains but the nature of the snow was very dry (i.e., low SWE) due to below average temperatures.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

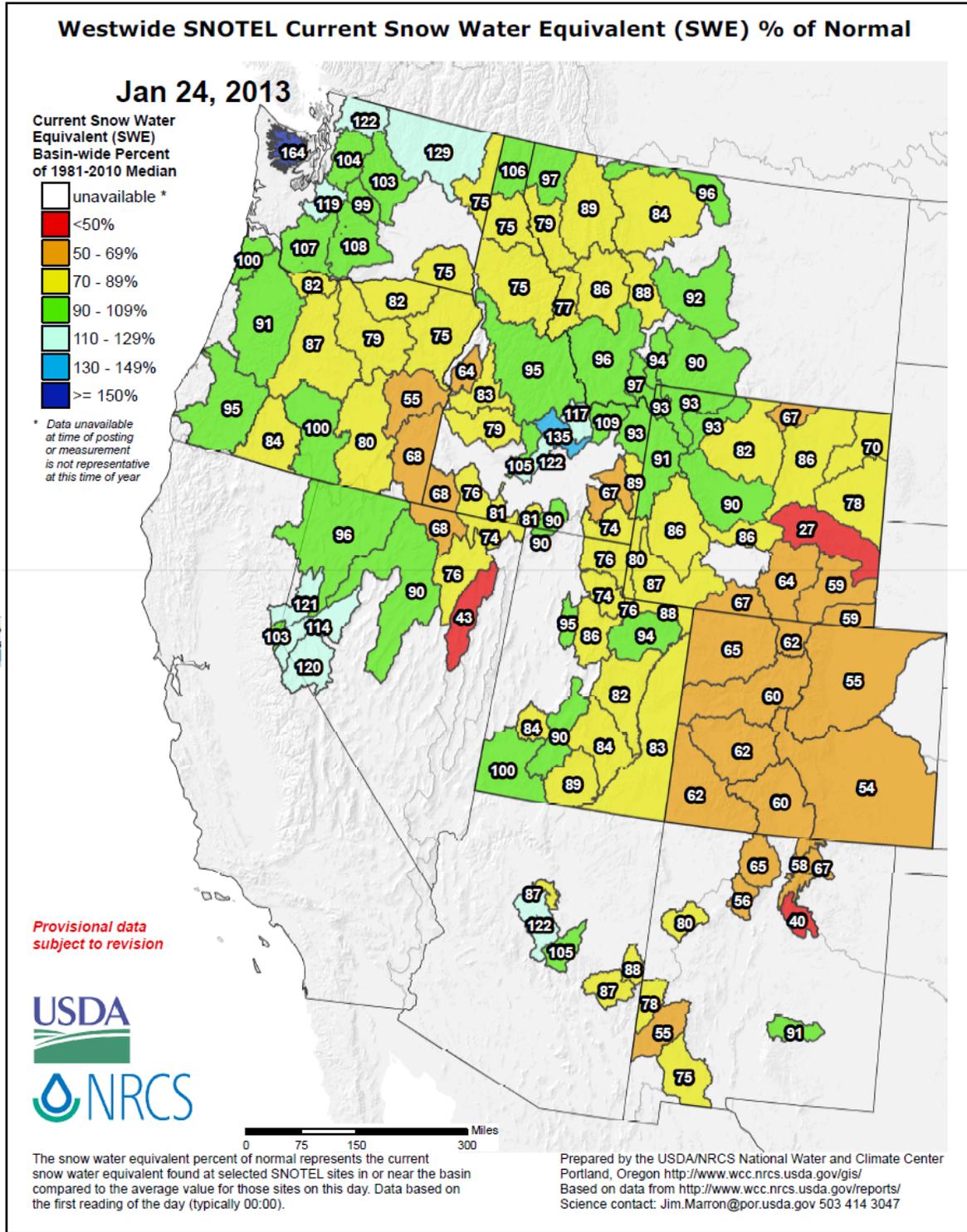


Fig. 3b: Snow Water-Equivalent: Largest deficits continue over much of New Mexico, all of Colorado, eastern Wyoming, and the northeastern Great Basin. Significant surpluses exist over the Northernmost Cascades, Sierra, mountain of Arizona, and Central Snake River Basin. However, since last week, many basins with surpluses continue to lower their SWE by significant percentages. For expected snowfall amounts, click [here](#). A useful basin by basin assessment of SWE to date can be viewed by state at [here](#) and [here](#).

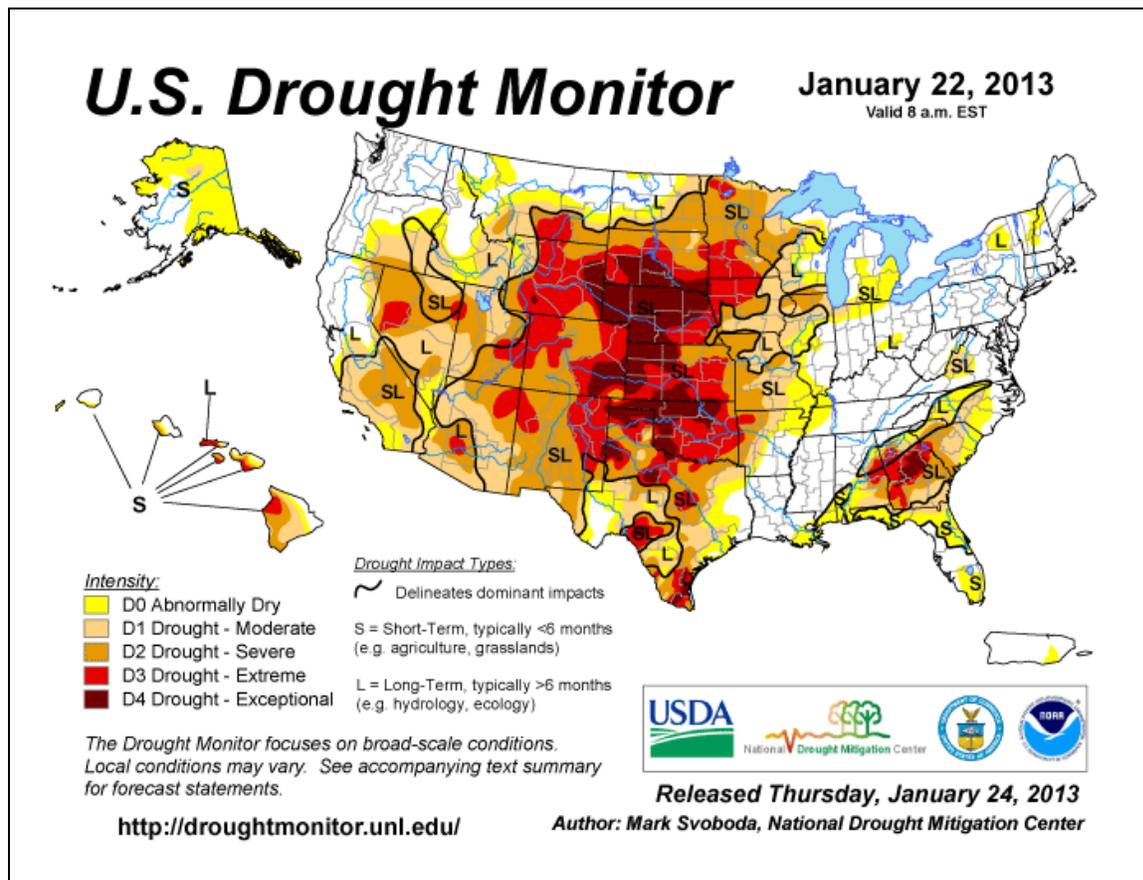


Fig. 4: Current [Drought Monitor](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are found over Georgia, and scattered across the western corn belt of the Plains into Colorado, Wyoming, easternmost New Mexico, and southward into Texas. For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#). Click for the latest statistics for [California Reservoirs](#). The latest [drought indicator blend and component percentiles](#) spreadsheet is a great resource for climate division drought statistics. See Fig. 8 for the latest [Drought Outlook](#) (forecast). The Winter 2013 edition of DroughtScape, the quarterly newsletter of the National Drought Mitigation Center, is now available at <http://drought.unl.edu/Portals/0/docs/DroughtScape/Winter2013.pdf>

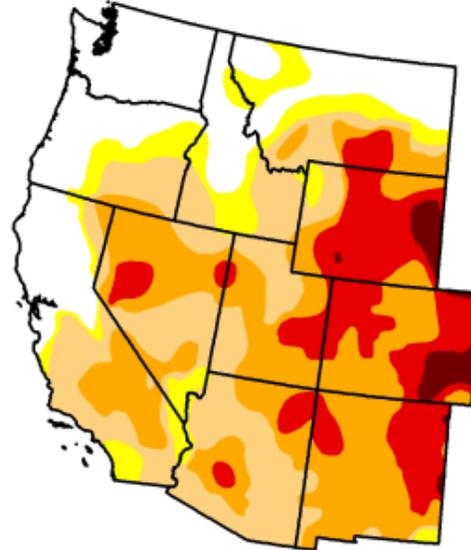
U.S. Drought Monitor

West

January 22, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	22.60	77.40	68.24	44.51	17.27	2.15
Last Week (01/15/2013 map)	24.75	75.25	68.24	44.51	17.27	2.15
3 Months Ago (10/23/2012 map)	14.05	85.95	76.17	43.80	17.77	1.93
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	24.39	75.61	69.31	45.04	18.01	2.15
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	15.12	84.88	77.15	43.65	16.85	1.77
One Year Ago (01/17/2012 map)	36.17	63.83	29.46	11.40	2.68	0.77



Intensity:

<p>■ D0 Abnormally Dry</p> <p>■ D1 Drought - Moderate</p> <p>■ D2 Drought - Severe</p>	<p>■ D3 Drought - Extreme</p> <p>■ D4 Drought - Exceptional</p>
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The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



Released Thursday, January 24, 2013
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Fig. 4a: Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#) with statistics over various time periods. No changes occurred this past week. See latest [Western Water Assessment Report](#).

In California, there are cooperative snow survey made up of 35 or so utilities, water agencies, government agencies and the Department of Water Resources. The NRCS is one of the cooperating agencies. Through this cooperative, California has over 200 manual snow surveys and has a similar number of snow pillows. With this data they publish a Bulletin 120 every month from February through May which provides a forecast of April through July runoff. We provide daily snow reports through the California Data Exchange Center (which also posts the Bulletin 120 at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/bulletin120/index2.html>) through the following links:

- Current PAGE6 report: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PAGE6>
- Current DLYSWEQ report: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>
- Current Regional Snowpack Plots: http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PLOT_SWC

California also hosts a statewide water conditions page at:

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/water_cond.html which has links to precipitation, reservoir storage, snowpack, runoff, and summary reports.

See [Southwest Climate Outlook](#).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

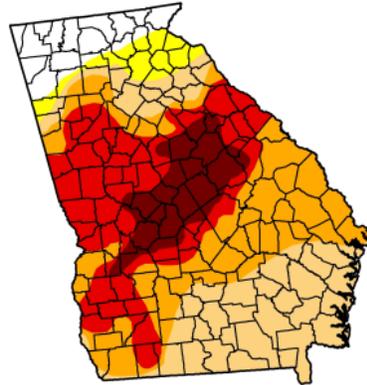
U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia

January 22, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.12	91.88	87.51	61.29	34.57	10.64
Last Week (01/15/2013 map)	6.19	93.81	91.24	62.53	35.38	10.64
3 Months Ago (10/23/2012 map)	39.60	60.40	47.11	40.12	23.25	10.03
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	1.63	98.37	89.49	64.87	36.96	10.25
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	37.30	62.70	52.44	42.66	34.04	17.18
One Year Ago (01/17/2012 map)	12.21	87.79	85.28	82.55	74.99	4.48

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>



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Fig. 4b: D4 conditions are over Georgia. Slight improvement in the lower D-categories this past week.

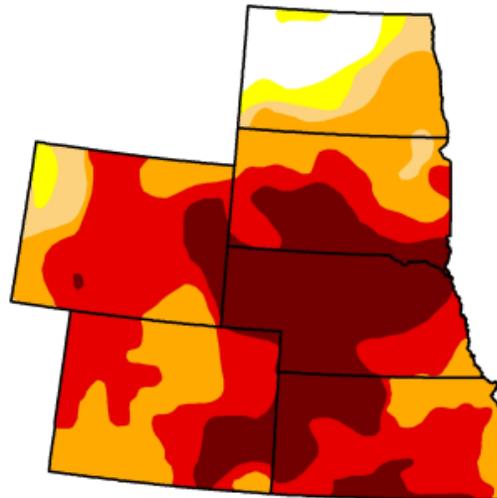
U.S. Drought Monitor High Plains

January 22, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.79	95.21	92.08	87.25	61.30	27.02
Last Week (01/15/2013 map)	4.79	95.21	92.08	87.25	61.27	26.81
3 Months Ago (10/23/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	98.93	84.90	57.55	27.44
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	1.54	98.46	93.01	86.20	60.25	26.99
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	98.91	83.80	61.28	24.35
One Year Ago (01/17/2012 map)	46.59	53.41	18.52	6.33	2.22	0.04

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, January 24, 2013
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

Fig. 4c: Drought Monitor for the High Plains with statistics over various time periods. Conditions remained essentially unchanged for the week.

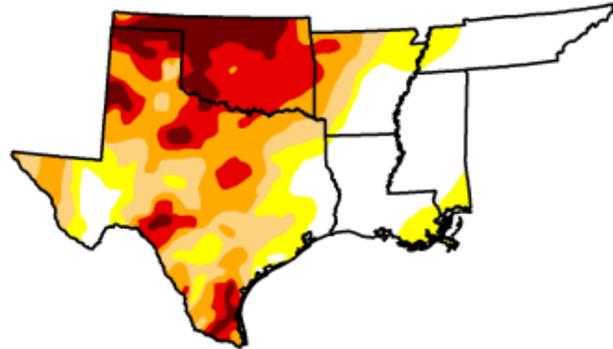
U.S. Drought Monitor

South

January 22, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	31.00	69.00	55.13	41.37	23.50	8.66
Last Week (01/15/2013 map)	29.64	70.36	56.14	42.31	23.78	8.57
3 Months Ago (10/23/2012 map)	29.65	70.35	54.93	37.22	20.52	5.29
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	21.18	78.82	63.69	50.50	32.80	10.98
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	24.13	75.87	66.61	51.50	29.86	9.11
One Year Ago (01/17/2012 map)	28.56	71.44	65.03	52.77	37.37	13.27



Intensity:

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

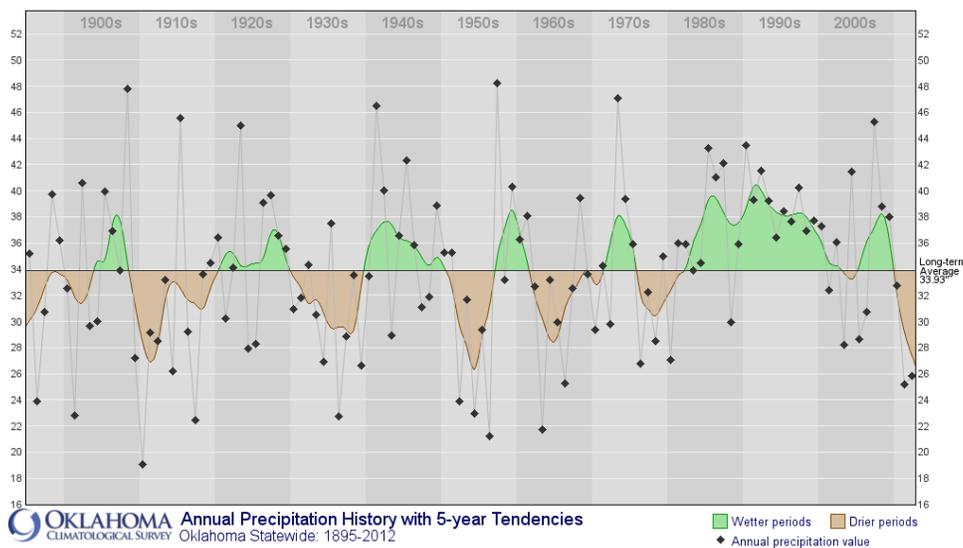
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



Released Thursday, January 24, 2013
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Fig. 4d: Drought Monitor for the [South-Central Region](#) with statistics over various time periods. Note no improvement over the past 7 days. Check out the Texas Drought [Website](#). From a historical [perspective](#), see the annual precipitation chart for Oklahoma:



This chart shows 5-year running average and annual precipitation for Oklahoma. Fewer people now remember the Dust Bowl era drought; especially after the recent prolonged wet period.

Drought Monitor Classification Changes for Selected Time Periods

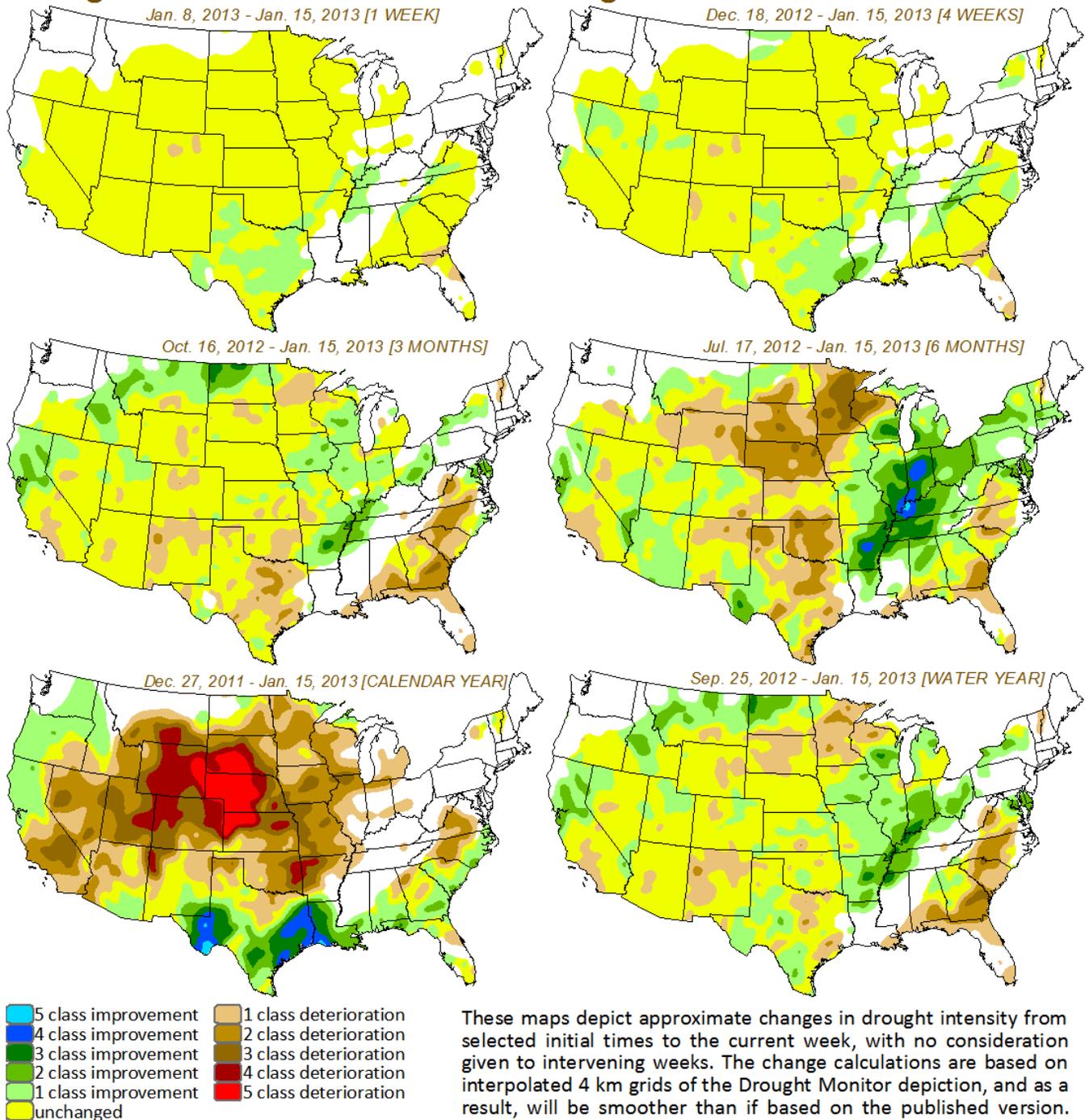
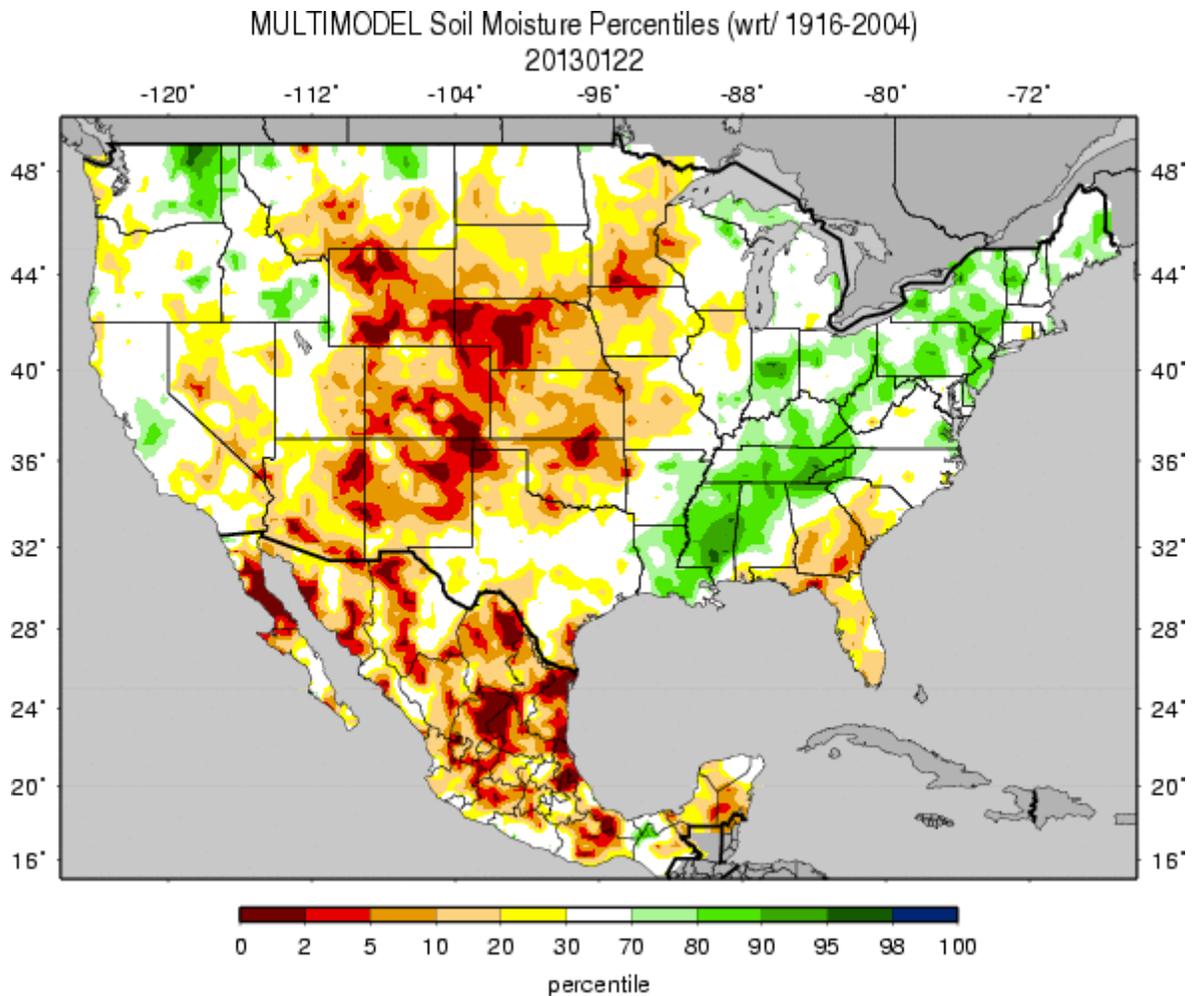


Fig. 4e: Drought Monitor category changes over various time periods. Note little change during the recent past but big changes during the past calendar year. Maps reflect changes through 15 Jan 13.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



Figs. 5: Soil Moisture ranking in [percentile](#) as of 22 January shows dryness scattered across Plains, much of the Rockies, and southern half of the Southwest. Wetness dominates eastern Washington and the Lower Mississippi River Valley to New England. Freezing soils will distort actual moisture values, making them less than reliable over the Northern States.

Useful Hydrological Links:

USDA western U.S. mountain snow water content anomaly map.

USGS (U.S. Geological Service) [observed streamflow](#); NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) modeled runoff [anomalies](#) and [percentiles](#); VIC (University of Washington Variable Infiltration Capacity macro scale hydrologic model) [1-](#), [2-](#), [3-](#), and [6-](#)month and [water year-to-date](#) runoff percentiles; NLDAS (North American Land Data Assimilation System) modeled streamflow [anomalies](#) and [percentiles](#); NLDAS model runoff [anomalies](#) and [percentiles](#); USGS groundwater observations ([real-time network](#), [climate response network](#), [total active network](#)); USDA snow water content observations for the West (SNOTEL station [percentiles](#) and [percent of normal](#), SNOTEL basin [percent of normal](#) and [percent of average](#)) and Alaska ([SNOTEL station percent of normal](#), [SNOTEL basin percent of normal](#)); USDA reservoir storage as [percent of capacity](#).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

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

on (2093) MONTH=2012-12-25 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Thu Jan 24 07:18:13 PST 2013

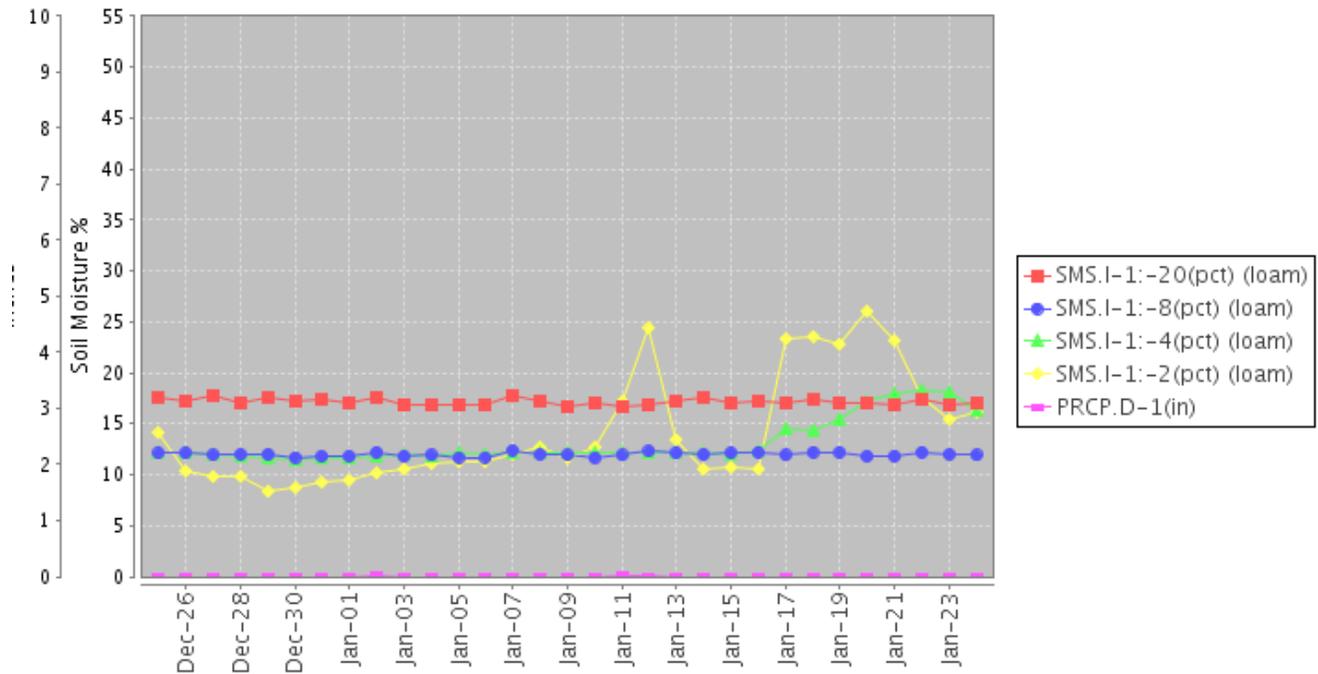


Fig. 6: This NRCS resource shows a site over the [north-central Kansas](#) with marginally moist soil despite the lack of precipitation during the past month.

Useful Agriculture Links:

USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) [observed soil moisture conditions](#), [departures and percentiles](#), and comparison to [5-year average](#) and [10-year average](#); the Palmer [Crop Moisture Index \(CMI\)](#), which intensified during the month in the West and Lower to Mid-Mississippi Valley (weeks [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)); CPC modeled soil moisture [anomalies](#) and [percentiles](#) for end of May, and [soil moisture anomaly change](#) compared to previous month; CPC's Leaky Bucket model [soil moisture percentiles](#); NLDAS modeled soil moisture percentiles for the [top soil layer](#) and [total soil layer](#); VIC modeled [soil moisture percentiles](#), and [soil moisture percentile change](#) compared to previous month; USDA observed [pasture and rangeland conditions](#); [Vegetation Drought Response Index \(VegDRI\)](#); the NOAA/NESDIS satellite-based [Vegetation Health Index \(VHI\)](#); the USGS agro-hydrologic model ([Soil Water Index](#), [Water Requirement Satisfaction Index](#)); Selected SNOTEL Sites (measured [2"](#), [4"](#), [8"](#), [20"](#), and [40"](#) soil moisture depths); Monthly [SCAN Report](#) from Utah.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

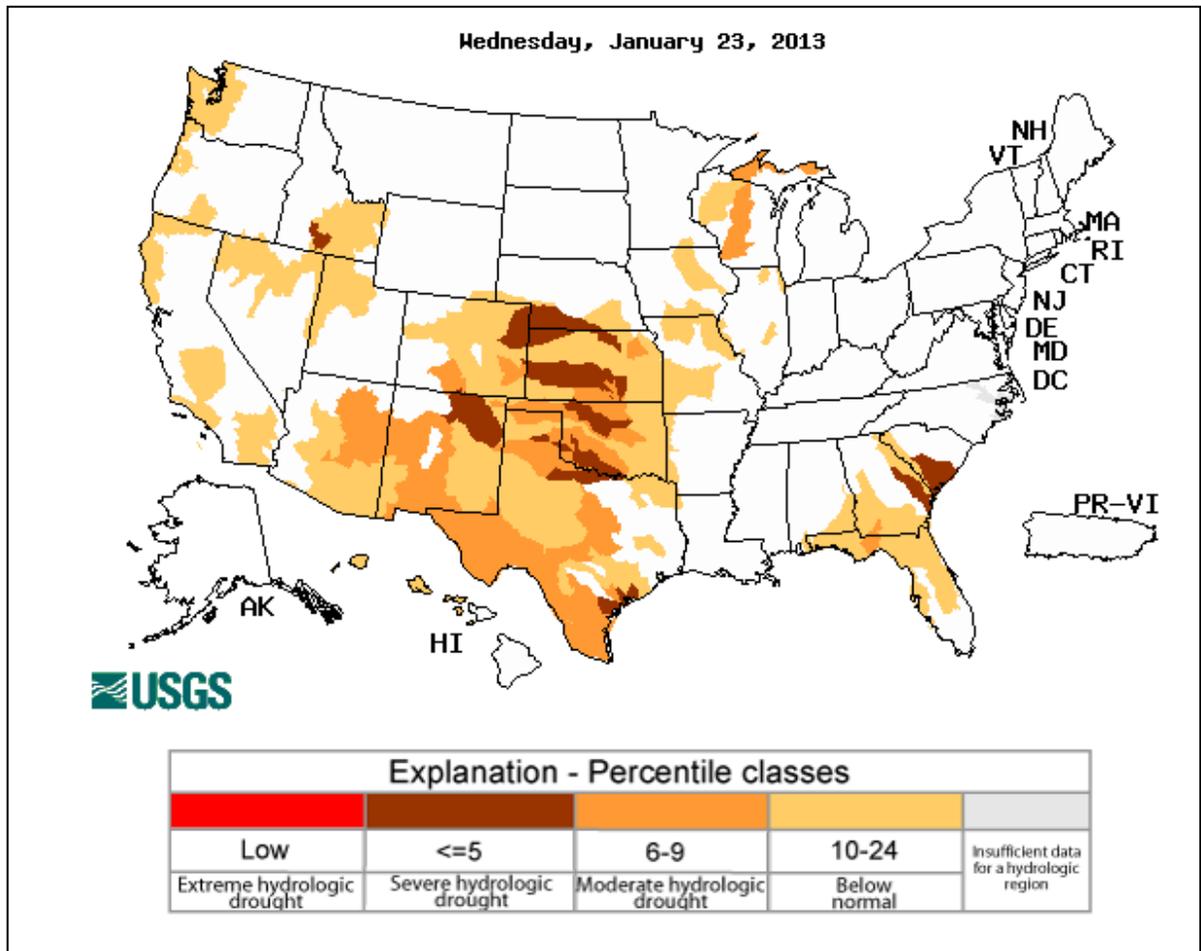


Fig. 7: Map of below normal 7-day average [streamflow](#) compared to historical streamflow for the day of year. **Severe** conditions exist over northern Kansas, northern Texas/southern Oklahoma, southern Idaho, and parts of the Southeast States. As with soil moisture, streamflow data can be severely compromised by prolonged freezing temperatures. See the USGS [National Water Information System Mapper](#).

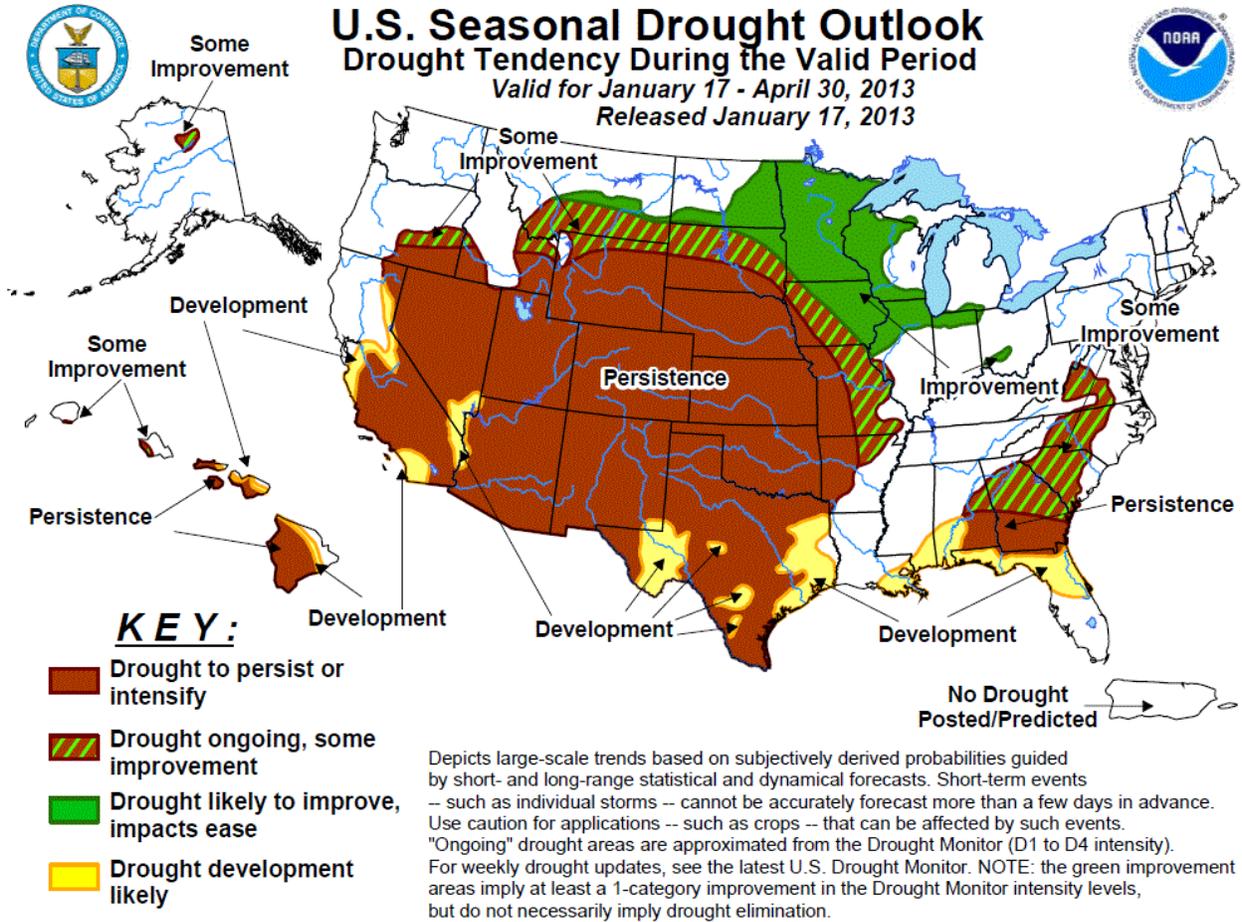


Fig. 8: U.S. seasonal [Drought Outlook](#) released 17 January.

See USDA Drought Assistance [website](#).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

National Drought Summary -- January 22, 2013

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: Status quo is the word this week as an unseasonably warm and dry weather pattern persisted, leading to no changes on the map.

Mid Atlantic: Most of the Mid Atlantic saw very beneficial rains on the order of 1 to 5 inches across eastern West Virginia, western and southern Virginia and the western Carolinas. They couldn't have come at a better time given the low-demand season and receptive soils. Longer-term streamflow averages are beginning to respond in kind. These factors led to sweeping 1-category improvements and a substantial reduction of drought across the region, particularly in Virginia and western North Carolina.

The Southeast: The Southeast also shared in the warmth last week with Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia seeing rains as well, although not as widespread as what was observed next door in the Mid Atlantic. The rains in southeast Alabama, northern Georgia and eastern Tennessee were enough to remove the D0 in Tennessee and reduce the drought's intensity with 1-category improvement in southeast Alabama and northern Georgia. The lingering dryness is still cause for concern, especially in the southern and coastal regions of South Carolina and Georgia. The rains and resultant improvement carried over into upstate South Carolina with a reduction of drought on its western flank where rains of 2 to 4 inches prevailed. Continued drier than normal dry season conditions in Florida has also led to some slight expansion of D0 to include all of the Florida Panhandle as well as the southern peninsula counties.

The South: Very little of the wet stuff fell across the entire South, leading to mostly status quo with some slight expansion of D3 in northeastern Oklahoma and extreme southeastern Kansas. There was also a gentle nudging east of the D3 in north-central Texas. Cooler temperatures and continued assessment of last week's rain led to some more 1-category improvement of the drought across western and northern Arkansas. This also spilled over into the Bootheel region of Missouri, with improvement being noted there as well.

Midwest: The rains of two weeks ago led to some more carryover improvement in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois where D1 was removed from Ohio, D0 was eliminated from southern Indiana and reduced in northern counties, and D0 was removed from east-central Illinois.

The Plains: Most of the Plains states experienced above-normal temperatures, but were bone dry as well. Aside from the slight expansion of D3 in southeastern Kansas noted earlier, the rest of the region remains in a holding pattern as we push toward spring.

The West: The lack of snow continues to heighten concern across much of the West. While there is plenty of time to make up ground, last year's low pack across the central and southern Rockies in particular has several interests watching closely to see if a strong finish to winter can bring about more promising streamflow forecasts for the dry season come summer. This

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

leads to mostly status quo as far as changes are concerned for this week's map. Some slight deterioration is noted this week with the addition of D0 in northwestern Montana around Glacier National Park and to the west into the Idaho Panhandle in and around the Bitterroots. D0 has also expanded slightly across more of southwestern Idaho in the Clearwater and Salmon River Mountain ranges as well as into northeastern Oregon's Wallowa and Blue Mountains.

Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico: Improvements continued on Kauai and the Big Island (South Point region) over the past week as beneficial rainfall has brought steady improvement to the pastures and native vegetation, particularly in the higher elevations.

Conditions in Alaska and on Puerto Rico remain unchanged from last week.

Looking Ahead: The NWS HPC 5-Day forecasts show a good shot of well above normal warmth (6 to 12 degrees) filtering across the Southwest, the Intermountain West and the entire Rocky Mountain chain from border to border, along with the southern Plains and Gulf Coast region sharing in the warmth. Cooler temperatures are expected in the Great Lakes region and eastern seaboard. As for precipitation during the next five days, the best chances appear to be in the Southwest centered over Arizona and along the West Coast as well as the Tennessee Valley and Mid Atlantic.

The CPC 6–10 day outlook (January 29 thru February 2) calls for a greater likelihood of below-normal temperatures across the Alaskan interior, the northern Plains and the Upper Midwest/Great Lakes regions, with above-normal temperatures most likely being confined to the Gulf Coast and Carolina coastal counties. Precipitation is looking promising for most folks east of the Mississippi River while the Southwest/Intermountain West along with California and Oregon look to be below normal during this time frame.

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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)

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