

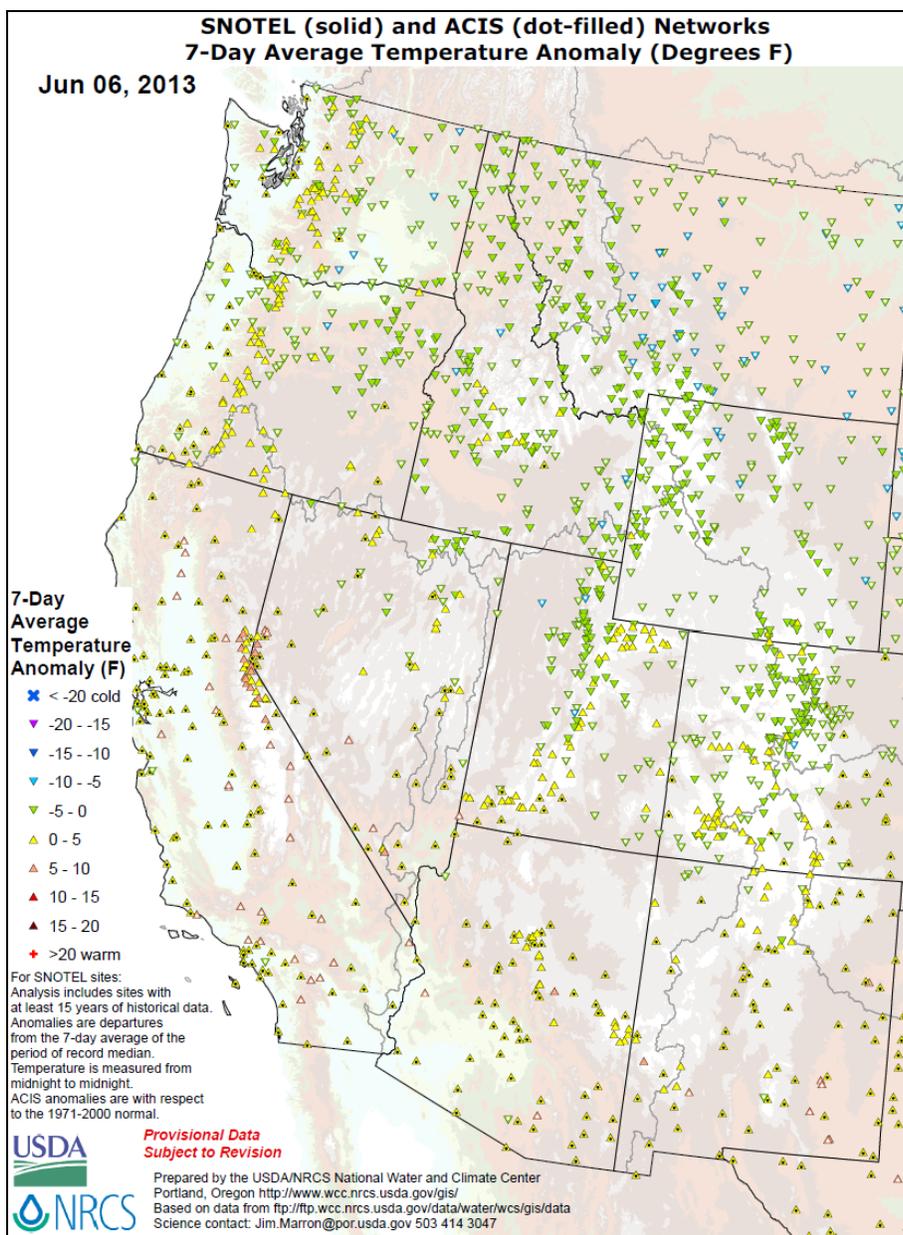


Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

Weekly Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update, 6 June 2013

Most figures are clickable to enlarge and update

Temperature



SNOTEL and ACIS 7-day temperature anomaly ending today reveals temperatures were as much as 10°F below normal across parts of the northern Plains. Temperatures were as much as 10°F above normal across parts of California and the southern reaches of Arizona and New Mexico.

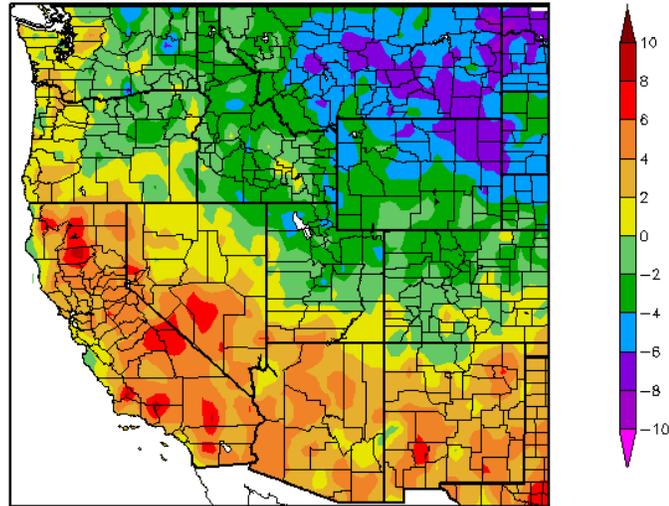
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/30/2013 – 6/5/2013

[ACIS 7-day](#) average temperature anomalies, ending yesterday, show the greatest positive temperature departures scattered over California (>+8°F). The greatest negative departures occur over eastern Montana (<-8°F).

This map currently does not use SNOTEL data, but is expected to later this summer.

For more figures, see the Western Water Assessment's Intermountain West Climate [Dashboard](#). See the [Westwide Drought Tracker](#) for more related maps.



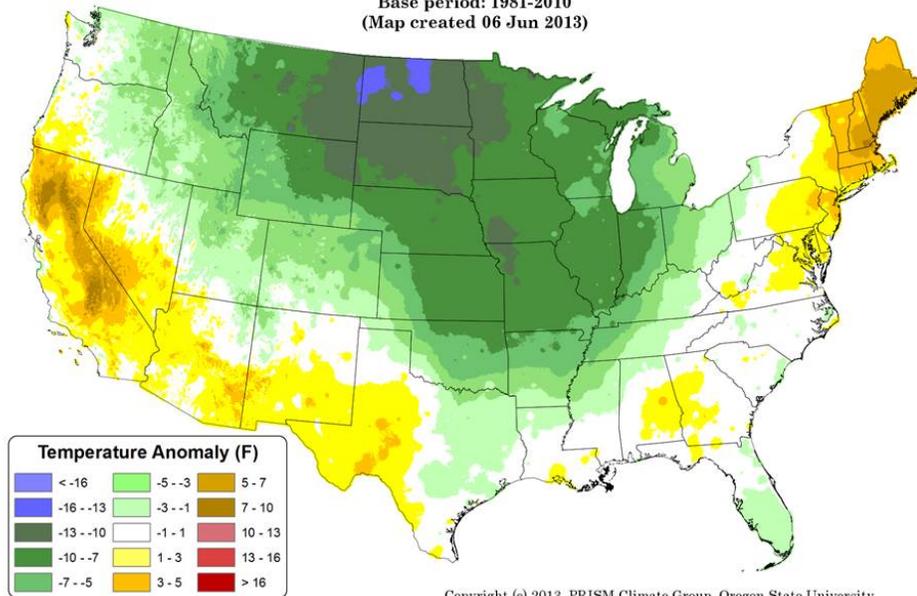
Generated 6/6/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

This new, preliminary [PRISM](#) temperature map, updated daily, will be readily available to the public by early fall. It contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

In this current map, June is starting out with warmer than normal temperatures across California and the southern half of the Southwest and cooler than normal temperatures generally east of the Continental Divide. Much of New England is experiencing very warm temperatures.

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 June 2013 - 05 June 2013
Period ending 7 AM EST 05 Jun 2013
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 06 Jun 2013)



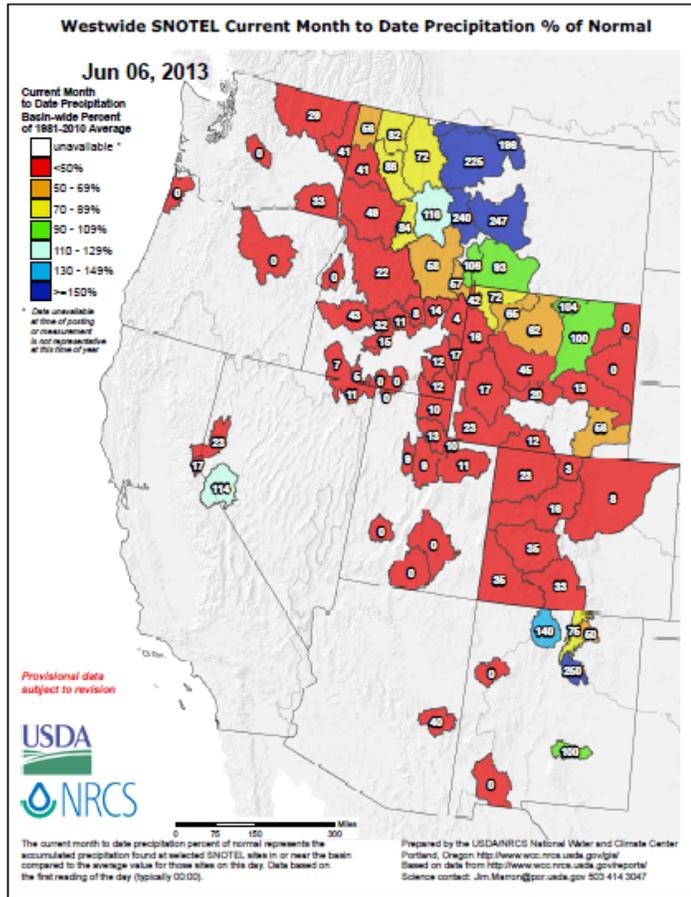
Copyright (c) 2013, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

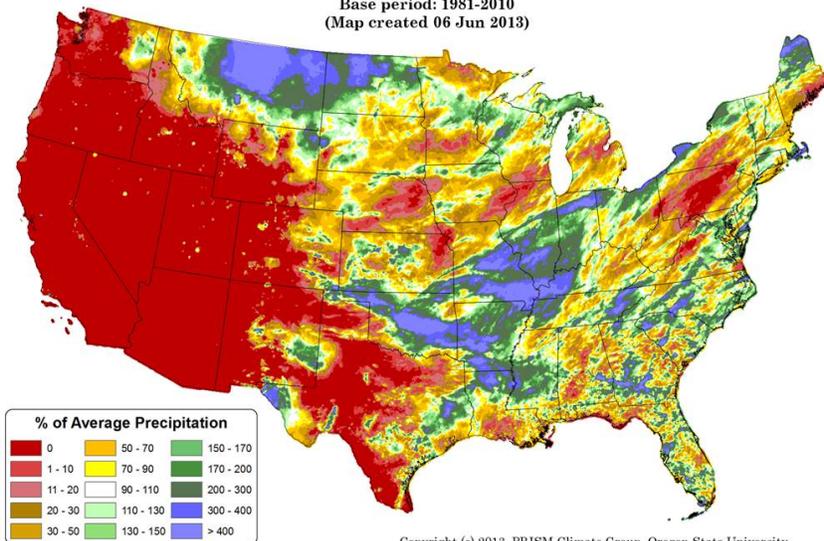
Precipitation

SNOTEL [month to date](#) precipitation percent of normal pattern shows wetter conditions over central Montana and some basins over northern New Mexico due to thunderstorms. Otherwise, generally dry conditions dominated the first week in June over the West.

With the exception of near normal values over Oregon, northwestern Nevada, and parts of the eastern slope of the Continental Divide, the remainder of the West has experienced a dry month with large deficits.



Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 June 2013 - 05 June 2013
 Period ending 7 AM EST 05 Jun 2013
 Base period: 1981-2010
 (Map created 06 Jun 2013)



Copyright (c) 2013, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

This new, preliminary [PRISM](#) precipitation map, updated daily, will be available to the public by early fall.

It contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

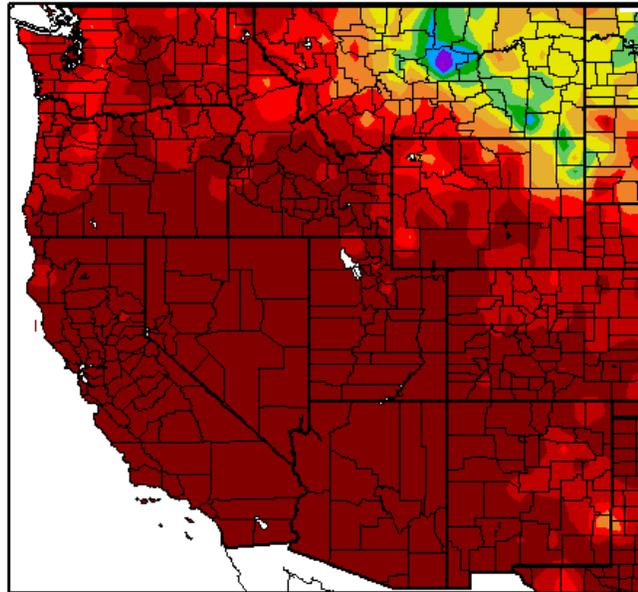
In the West, early June precipitation has been confined to Montana and scattered **across the eastern Rockies**. Considerable moisture has also fallen across the mid-section of the nation.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[ACIS](#) 7-day average precipitation amounts for the period ending June 5 show significant precipitation across the upper Missouri River in Montana and widely scattered thunderstorms across parts of the Rockies. Elsewhere, rainfall was negligible.

This map currently does not use SNOTEL data, but is expected to later this summer.

Precipitation (in)
5/30/2013 – 6/5/2013



Generated 6/6/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

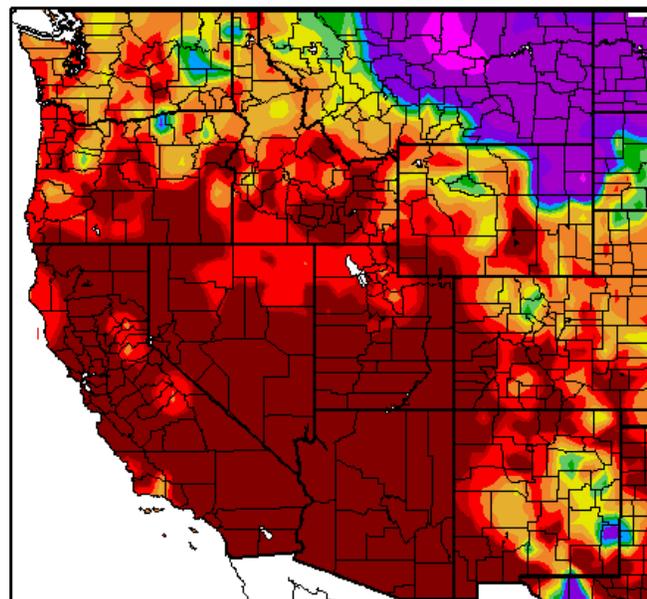
Regional C

In this [map](#), high amounts of precipitation are reflected in terms of very high percent of normal values over much of the northern tier states, but seriously lacking over the southern tier states, with the exception of northeastern New Mexico.

Note the gap in rainfall over northern and southeast regions of Idaho.

This map currently does not use SNOTEL data, but is expected to later this summer.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
5/30/2013 – 6/5/2013



Generated 6/6/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional

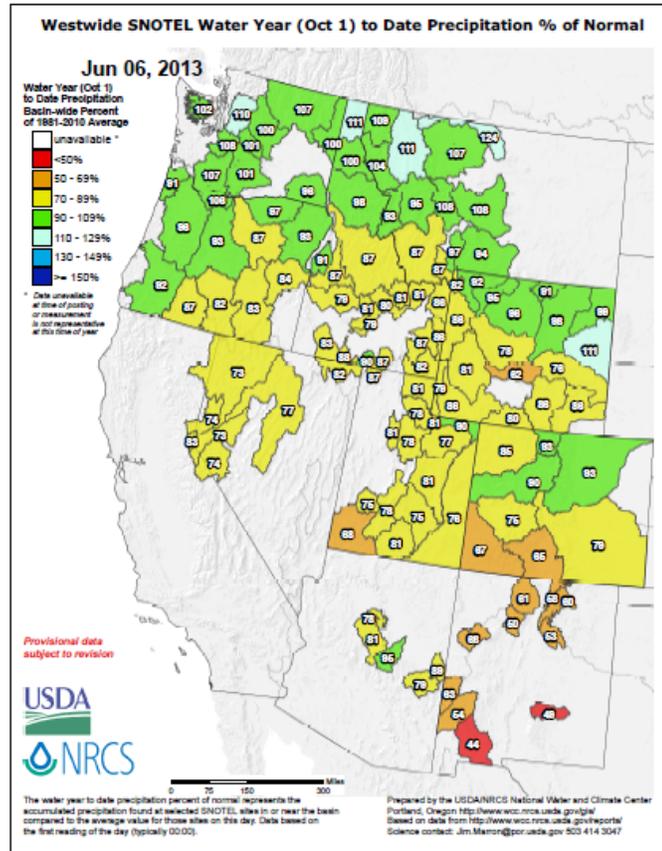
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

For the [2013 Water Year](#) that began on 1 October 2012, the pattern continues to resemble La Niña (i.e., wetter northern tier).

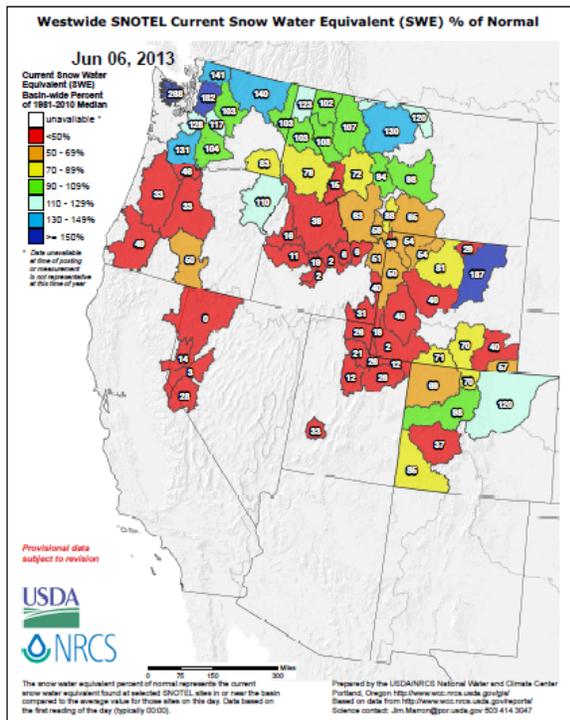
Southeastern Oregon and northern Nevada have bucked this tendency over the northern tier states with less precipitation. Southwestern Colorado and all of New Mexico are experiencing considerable deficits.

In New Mexico, the past [two years](#) are the driest on record (i.e., since 1895).

For additional information, daily reports by SNOTEL sites are available [here](#).



Snow



Snow-Water Equivalent (SWE): Today's map shows high values* holding on in parts of Washington and the northern Rockies.

A useful basin-by-basin assessment of SWE to date can be viewed by state [here](#) and [here](#).

* Exercise caution when using SWE values this late into the season. Actual small values of snow can mislead statistics when there is usually no measurable snow cover.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

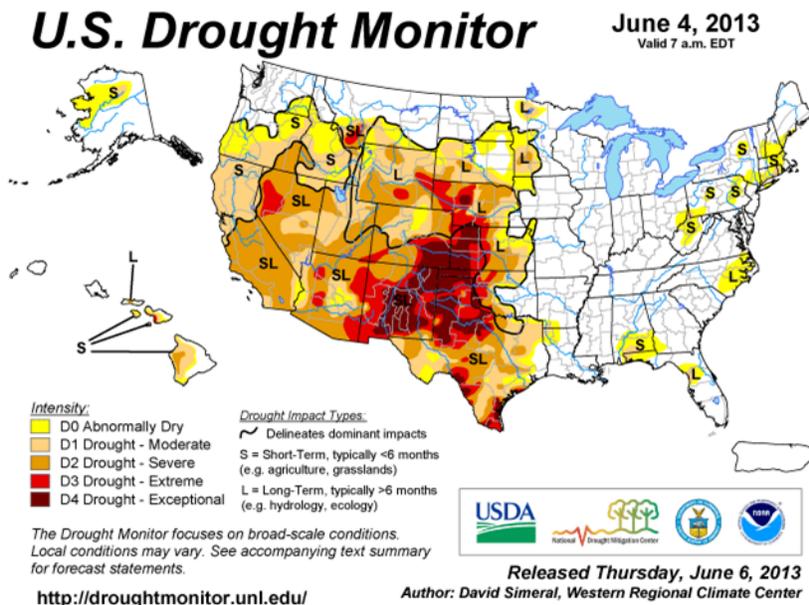
WEATHER AND DROUGHT SUMMARY

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Author: [David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center](#).

Weather Summary: "This U.S. Drought Monitor week saw overall improvements in some drought-stricken areas as significant rain fell across the Great Plains, Midwest, and northern interior portions of the West. In the West, heavy rainfall over the eastern half of Montana and northern Wyoming helped to ease drought conditions. Conditions continued to deteriorate in parts of the Southwest, Great Basin, and interior portions of the Pacific Northwest as a result of below-normal precipitation over the winter and spring months. Overall, temperatures were well above normal in the Southwest while much of the Intermountain West and Pacific Northwest were well below normal. Temperatures were below normal across most of the Great Plains and western portions of the Midwest while the eastern third of the conterminous U.S. experienced temperatures well above average – especially in New England and the Mid-Atlantic region. In Alaska, temperatures were above normal throughout most of the state, while precipitation was above normal in southeastern Alaska."

The West: "During the last seven-day period, most of the West was generally dry, with the exception of Montana and northern Wyoming. Widespread heavy rain fell over the eastern half of Montana and the northeast quarter of Wyoming, helping to significantly improve drought conditions. Some areas of central and eastern Montana received over eight inches of rain, leading to one- and two-category improvements in southeastern Montana. The combination of recent rainfall and near-normal winter precipitation led to one-category improvements across northern Wyoming, including the removal of an area of Extreme Drought (D3) along the Wyoming-Montana border. Conditions continued to deteriorate over southern Idaho, the northern Great Basin, and southeastern Oregon as a result of below-normal precipitation throughout the winter and spring months. One-category degradations were made in these areas. In California, below-normal precipitation for the Water Year (starting October 1) and wildfire-related impacts led to the expansion of areas of Severe Drought (D2) in southern California as well as central California. Currently, the Powerhouse fire in southern California has charred over 32,000 acres, marking an early start to the wildfire season in the California. In the Four Corners region, a new area of Extreme Drought (D3) was introduced in response to below-normal precipitation throughout the winter and spring months."

A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions for the nation can be found toward the end of this document. For drought impacts definitions for the figures below, click [here](#).



Current [Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across the western Corn Belt of the Plains into southeastern Colorado and much of New Mexico. For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#).

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

- [Drought damage could top \\$200 billion](#)
- [Aquifers May Be Latest Casualty of Drought](#)

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

See:

- Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#)
- Drought Impact Reporter for [New Mexico](#)
- News Stories: [As Colorado River drought worsens, water officials parley](#); [In brief: Rio Grande flows in NM may be cut soon](#); [Drought drives wildlife into yards](#)

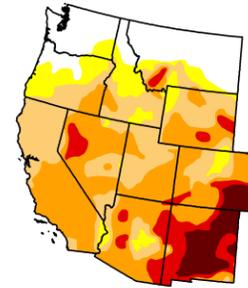
May 27, **Northern New Mexico.** Wildlife in northern New Mexico are turning up more frequently in people's yards and are being taken to The Wildlife Center in Española as the state enters its third year of drought. The executive director of the center said, "What is disturbing is the number of birds and animals we are getting now that aren't injured, they are just starved and dehydrated. They're so weak that by the time we get them, their livers have shut down. We've been able to save some, but we've lost others." Some birds and raptors arriving at the center have lost one-third of their weight.

U.S. Drought Monitor

June 4, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

West

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	16.44	83.56	72.90	46.70	14.65	5.98
Last Week (05/28/2013 map)	13.91	86.09	71.11	47.04	15.04	5.99
3 Months Ago (03/05/2013 map)	21.50	78.50	63.15	41.77	15.72	3.13
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 (05/29/2012 map)	29.34	70.66	53.34	31.06	4.86	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>

USDA National Drought Watch Report
 Released Thursday, June 6, 2013
 David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

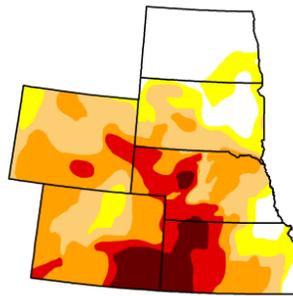
Conditions remain essentially unchanged from last week.

U.S. Drought Monitor

June 4, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

High Plains

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	18.13	81.87	69.02	46.22	19.48	7.48
Last Week (05/28/2013 map)	15.36	84.64	72.98	55.55	21.35	7.41
3 Months Ago (03/05/2013 map)	4.65	95.35	91.30	82.03	55.76	25.87
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	96.91	83.80	61.28	24.35
One Year Ago (05/29/2012 map)	34.45	65.55	31.55	7.60	2.03	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>

USDA National Drought Watch Report
 Released Thursday, June 6, 2013
 David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

Conditions improved notably in all but D-4 this past week.

Drought puts hay supply at new low

May 26, **Kansas.** Hay stocks in Kansas on May 1 were 460,000 tons or 29 percent lower than on May 1, 2012, according to the Kansas Agricultural Service. Hay supplies have not been so low since 1957 and were 58 percent below the 10-year average of 1.1 million tons.

See [Kansas Drought Update](#).

Drought Monitor for the [South-Central Region](#) with statistics over various time periods. Note some deterioration in the higher categories this week.

Check out the Texas Drought [Website](#). See [Texas Reservoirs](#).

Drought Brings Little to Harvest for Wheat Industry

May 30, **Texoma region.** An employee with Gavilon Grains in Wichita Falls stated that farmers will only get about half of last year's harvest and noted that many farmers are not bothering to cut the wheat. A wheat harvester said yields have been 12 bushels per acre or less.

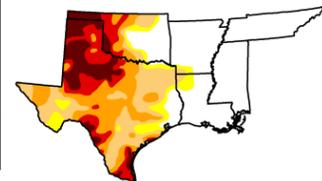
- [Drought Forces Farmers to Sell Land](#)
- [Lack of Rainfall Concerns Oklahoma Cotton Farmers as Planting Gets Underway](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor

June 4, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

South

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.93	58.07	51.68	35.56	20.24	9.83
Last Week (05/28/2013 map)	40.25	59.75	52.84	36.91	19.92	9.60
3 Months Ago (03/05/2013 map)	36.58	63.42	55.03	43.05	20.26	5.01
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 (05/29/2012 map)	12.92	87.08	43.29	15.05	5.57	0.37



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.

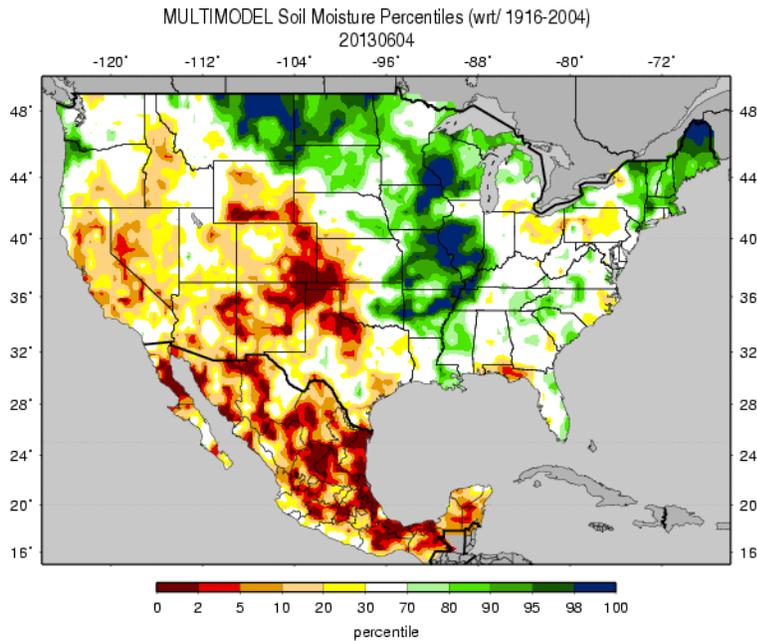
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

USDA National Drought Watch Report
 Released Thursday, June 6, 2013
 David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

No significant changes occurred this past week.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Soil Moisture



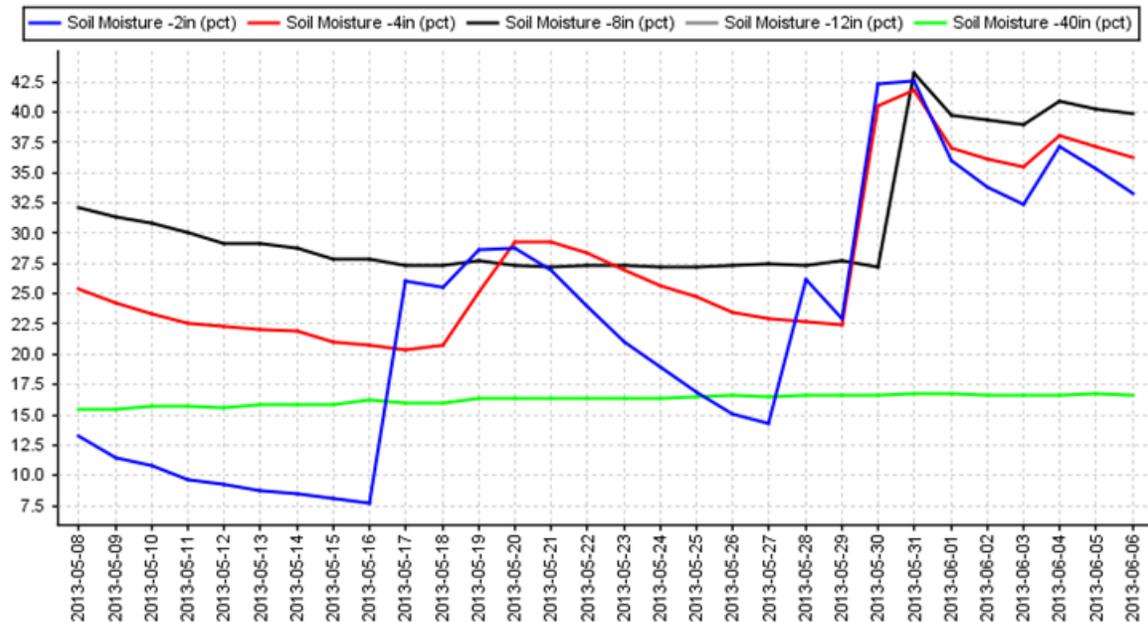
Soil moisture ranking in [percentile](#) as of June 4 shows significant dryness over the southwestern and southern high plains (including southern Wyoming), and developing dryness over California. Excess moisture is noted over the northern High Plains, Mississippi River drainage, and northern Maine.

Useful Hydrological Links: [Crop Moisture Index](#); [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#); [Standardized Precipitation Index](#); [Surface Water Supply Index](#); [Weekly supplemental maps](#), [Minnesota Climate Working Group](#).

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Montana Site - Jordan (2121)

(As of: Thu Jun 06 09:17:59 PDT 2013)
Provisional data, subject to revision



This NRCS resource shows a site over [east-central Montana](#) with very moist soils and a slow steady increase at the 40 inch depth.

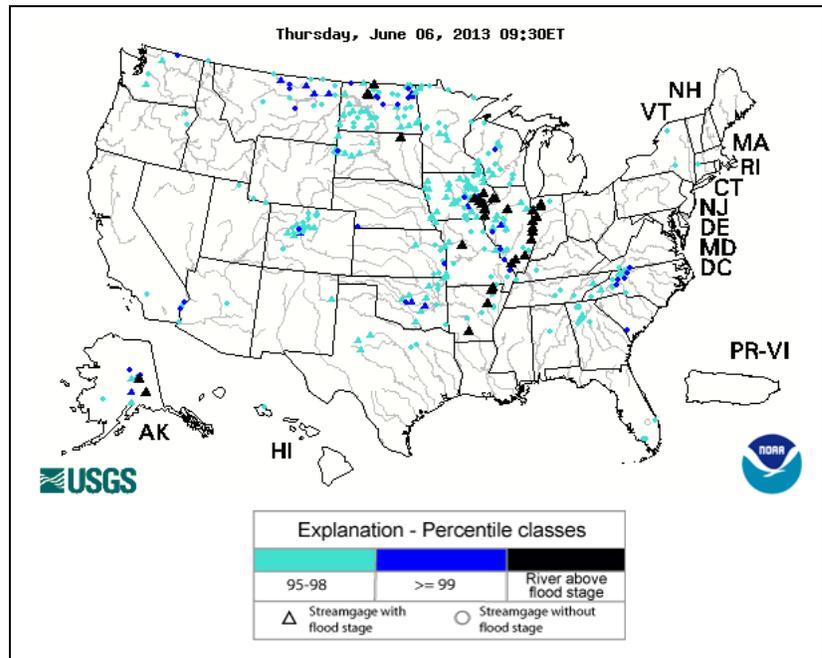
Useful Agriculture Links: [Vegetation Drought Response Index](#); [Evaporative Stress Index](#); [Vegetation Health Index](#); [NDVI Greenness Map](#); [GRACE-Based Surface Soil Moisture](#); [North American Soil Moisture Network](#); [Monthly Wild Fire Forecast Report](#).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

U.S. Historical Streamflow

The entire Midwest received copious amounts of precipitation, producing flooding nearly everywhere.

See the USGS [National Water Information System Mapper](#).



Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

National Drought Summary – June 4, 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 following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Author: [David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center](#).

"This U.S. Drought Monitor week saw overall improvements in some drought-stricken areas as significant rain fell across the Great Plains, Midwest, and northern interior portions of the West. In the West, heavy rainfall over the eastern half of Montana and northern Wyoming helped to ease drought conditions. Conditions continued to deteriorate in parts of the Southwest, Great Basin, and interior portions of the Pacific Northwest as a result of below-normal precipitation over the winter and spring months. Overall, temperatures were well above normal in the Southwest while much of the Intermountain West and Pacific Northwest were well below normal. Temperatures were below normal across most of the Great Plains and western portions of the Midwest while the eastern third of the conterminous U.S. experienced temperatures well above average – especially in New England and the Mid-Atlantic region. In Alaska, temperatures were above normal throughout most of the state, while precipitation was above normal in southeastern Alaska.

The Northeast: The Northeast saw minor improvements as rainfall in excess of two inches fell over portions of Connecticut and Massachusetts. As a result, areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) were removed in northwestern Connecticut and southeastern Massachusetts. Otherwise, the map remained unchanged. Temperatures throughout the region were well above normal over the past seven days.

Mid-Atlantic: The Mid-Atlantic region remained status quo on this week's map.

The Southeast: The Southeast saw some minor improvements in areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) as a result of rainfall totals ranging from one to five inches over southwest and south central Florida. In southern Alabama and southwestern Georgia, continued below-normal precipitation and low streamflows led to the expansion of areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1). Temperatures during the past week were above normal in Alabama, the Florida Panhandle, Georgia, and North Carolina while the eastern half of South Carolina and the southern half of Florida experienced below-normal temperatures.

The South: Modest rainfall over Arkansas and Texas led to some minor improvements this week. In Arkansas, locally heavy rainfall led to the removal of an area of Abnormally Dry (D0) in northwestern Arkansas. In the Texas Panhandle, moderate rainfall this week led to improvement from Exceptional Drought (D4) to Extreme Drought (D3). Continued longer-term dryness over west Texas and north central Texas led to expansion of areas of Exceptional Drought (D4) and Extreme Drought (D3). In southeast Texas, modest rainfall totals ranging from one to two inches led to one-category improvements from Severe Drought (D2) to Moderate Drought (D1). In east Texas, locally heavy rainfall in excess of three inches helped to improve areas of Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0). Temperatures were above normal throughout the region over the past week, with exception of northern Arkansas.

Midwest: Only minor adjustments in were made in the region for this week's map. The remaining area of Abnormally Dry (D0) in northern Wisconsin was removed as one to two inches of rain fell over the area. In northwestern Minnesota and western Iowa, small areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) were removed as a result of heavy rainfall during the past week. Temperatures throughout the region were below normal west of the Mississippi River and generally above normal east of the Mississippi River.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

The Plains: In Oklahoma, heavy rainfall and severe weather continued this week. A sharp drought gradient has been developing between the eastern and western sections of Oklahoma. According to the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, El Reno, Oklahoma (site of the EF-5 tornado on May 31), had a 30-day total rainfall accumulation of 12.65 inches while neighboring Watonga to the west had only 2.4 inches for the same period. Much of eastern Oklahoma returned to normal or near-normal conditions, while the western one-third remained dry. This week, one-category improvements were made in central, north central, and northeast Oklahoma along the eastern edge of the drought boundary. In Kansas, heavy rainfall in excess of six inches fell over the southeastern portion, leading to one-category improvements in areas of Severe Drought (D2), Moderate Drought (D1), and Abnormally Dry (D0). In south central Kansas, improvements were made in an area of Extreme Drought (D3). Mirroring Oklahoma, the far western part of Kansas has been much drier with long-term deficits remaining, leading to a slight expansion of Exceptionally Dry (D4). In Nebraska, drought conditions eased as widespread rainfall ranging from one to five inches fell over the eastern two-thirds of the state. One-category improvements were made in areas Exceptional Drought (D4), Extreme Drought (D3), Severe Drought (D2), Moderate Drought (D1), and Abnormally Dry (D0). In South Dakota, heavy rainfall this week (two to seven inches) led to widespread one-category improvements in the northwestern quarter of the state. Temperatures throughout the region were below normal over the past week.

The West: During the last seven-day period, most of the West was generally dry, with the exception of Montana and northern Wyoming. Widespread heavy rain fell over the eastern half of Montana and the northeast quarter of Wyoming, helping to significantly improve drought conditions. Some areas of central and eastern Montana received over eight inches of rain, leading to one- and two-category improvements in southeastern Montana. The combination of recent rainfall and near-normal winter precipitation led to one-category improvements across northern Wyoming, including the removal of an area of Extreme Drought (D3) along the Wyoming-Montana border. Conditions continued to deteriorate over southern Idaho, the northern Great Basin, and southeastern Oregon as a result of below-normal precipitation throughout the winter and spring months. One-category degradations were made in these areas. In California, below-normal precipitation for the Water Year (starting October 1) and wildfire-related impacts led to the expansion of areas of Severe Drought (D2) in southern California as well as central California. Currently, the Powerhouse fire in southern California has charred over 32,000 acres, marking an early start to the wildfire season in the California. In the Four Corners region, a new area of Extreme Drought (D3) was introduced in response to below-normal precipitation throughout the winter and spring months.

Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico: The Hawaiian Islands saw improvements on the Big Island, Lanai, Maui, and Molokai. Alaska remained status quo for the week.

Looking Ahead: The NWS HPC 5-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) calls for heavy precipitation over the Southeast, Mid Atlantic, and New England while moderate precipitation amounts are forecasted over the South, Midwest, and High Plains. The 6–10 day outlooks call for a high probability of above-normal precipitation across New England and Mid-Atlantic states while the West sees a high probability of below-normal precipitation. Temperatures forecasted on the 6–10 day outlooks call for a high probability of above-normal temperatures across most of the West and the Plains while New England has a high probability of below-normal temperatures.”

Author: [David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center](#)

Updated June 5, 2013

State Activities

State government drought activities can be tracked at the following URL:

<http://drought.unl.edu/mitigate/mitigate.htm>. NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF) Program State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate SSWSF information -

<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/bor.pl>. Additional information describing the products available from

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

the Drought Monitor can be found at the following URLs: <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/> and <http://www.drought.gov>.

For More Information

The National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) Homepage provides 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 online. Reports from 2001-2006 are available on request.

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

/s/

Micheal L. Golden
Deputy Chief, Soil Science and Resource Assessment

[USDA News Release](#)

Vilsack Outlines Vision for Agricultural Solutions to Environmental Challenges

Regional Climate Hubs, New Research Tools, Uniform Policy Guidelines Will Help Producers Mitigate Threats, Adapt for the Future

WASHINGTON, June 5, 2013 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today said that the Federal government must increase collaboration with producers, researchers and industry to develop the next generation of solutions that will help agriculture mitigate and adapt to modern climate challenges.

"Our farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are the most innovative on earth, and they're up to the task of meeting environmental challenges that lay ahead," Vilsack said. "We know what we're seeing on the ground - more intense weather events, and a greater number of them. USDA will be there to support the efforts of our farmers and ranchers to adapt to these new challenges, just as we have been for decades."

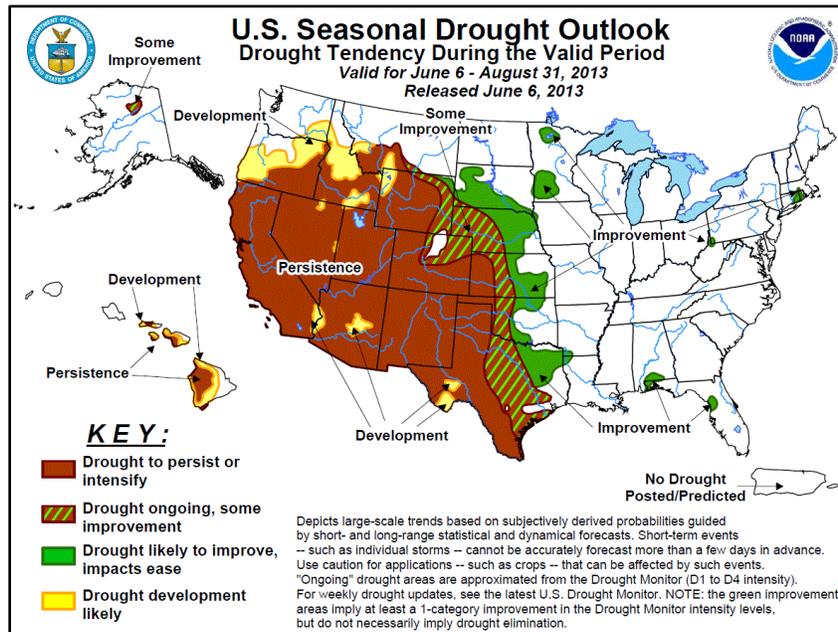
Vilsack noted that under the Obama Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has taken a wide variety of proactive steps to prepare for climate challenges projected in the years ahead. This includes the development of Climate Adaptation Plans by USDA agencies to continue delivering quality service in the years and decades to come. Additionally, earlier this year, USDA released two Climate Assessments - one focused on the climate impacts to agriculture in the coming years, and a second focused on U.S. forests.

Vilsack stressed the need to work closely with farmers and ranchers who stand "on the front line" of risk adaptation - and he pledged that USDA will take steps to help producers adapt to new threats. He announced a number of new measures that USDA will take to help producers create new climate solutions:

Regional Climate Hubs: USDA will establish seven "Regional Climate Hubs" to work in partnership with producers and foresters. The Secretary called them "Service centers for science-based risk management." Working with other agencies, the hubs will serve as a source of regional data and information for hazard and adaptation planning in the agriculture and forest sectors. The hubs will provide outreach and extension to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners on science-based risk management and will seek to partner with the land grant universities, Extension, and the private sector. *(Click link above for more)*

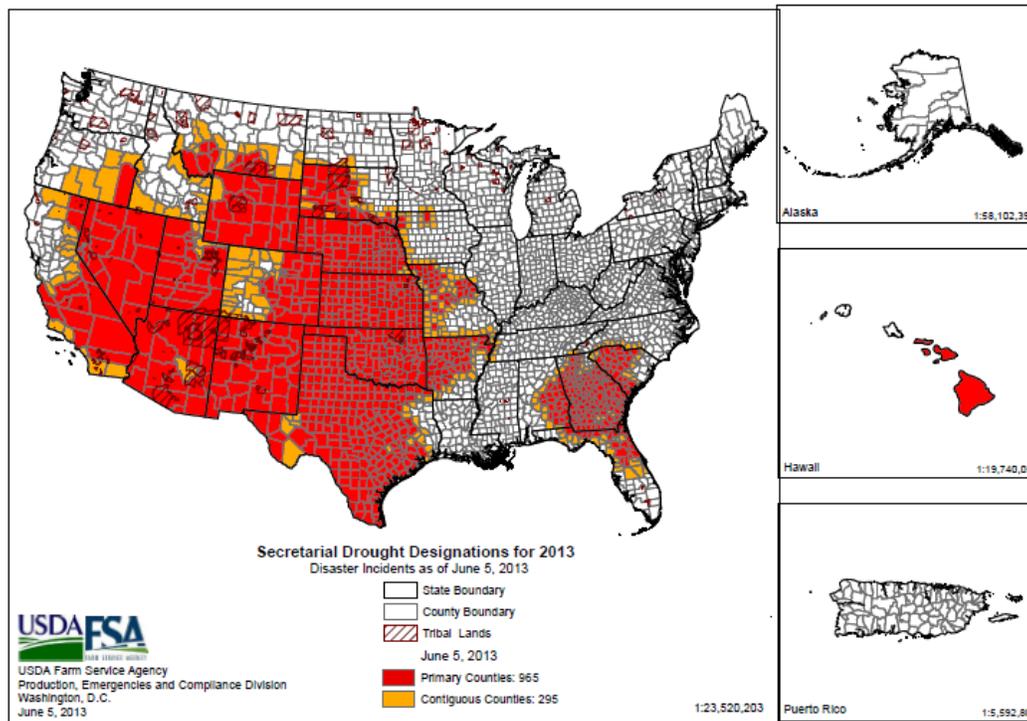
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Drought Outlook (Forecast)



U.S. Seasonal [Drought Outlook](#) as of June 6. Note that there are no significant changes since the last update two weeks ago.

2013 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



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

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Supplemental Information

Following provided by: Brad Rippey, USDA Meteorologist, Office of the Chief Economist, World Agricultural Outlook Board, Washington, D.C.

The “Ag in Drought” file that had been previously posted each week by NDMC’s Brian Fuchs is now available at:

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>

“Highlights for the drought-monitoring period **ending 7 am EDT on May 28** include:

- Heavy rain returned to the northern Plains and upper Midwest, further easing or eradicating lingering long-term drought and turning residual drought to flooding in some of the hardest-hit areas. By late May, minor to moderate flooding was underway at about 100 river gauges in the western Corn Belt, with major flooding occurring in a few locations. Local downpours also dotted the southeastern Plains, while a sustained period of heavy rain (and high-elevation snow) nearly eradicated dryness (D0) and drought (D1) in New York and New England. Meanwhile, little or no precipitation fell from California to the central and southern High Plains, further sharpening the gradient between drought and non-drought areas across the nation’s mid-section.

- Overall U.S. drought coverage fell 1.73 percentage points to 44.34%, and has decreased during 27 of the last 35 weeks. Drought coverage is down 16.75 percentage points since the beginning of 2013 and down 21.11 points from the record high of 65.45% on September 25, 2012.

- The portion of the contiguous U.S. in the worst category – D4, or exceptional drought – decreased slightly (0.20%) to 4.74%. Compared to a week ago, there were slight increases in D4 coverage noted in Kansas (22%) and Oklahoma (11%). D4 coverage was unchanged or decreased slightly in New Mexico (45%), Texas (16%), Colorado (16%), and Nebraska (4%).

- As the gradient between drought and non-drought areas continues to sharpen, there are some interesting statistics for cattle and winter wheat. Nearly half (47%) of the domestic cattle inventory was in drought on May 28, down three percentage points from a week ago to the lowest level since June 12, 2012. However, cattle in exceptional drought (D4) remained steady at 10% during the last week. Similarly, winter wheat in drought fell one percentage point to 49%, while the portion of the crop in D4 was steady at 14%. For other commodities, hay in drought declined two percentage points in the last week to 35%; corn in drought dipped six points to 23%; and soybeans in drought fell seven points to just 13%.”

Following provided by: Kelly Helm Smith, Communication & Planning Specialist, National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Drought shrinks across upper Midwest and northern Plains

Lincoln, Neb. -- The area of the United States in all categories of drought shrank in the week that ended May 28, with the biggest improvements in the upper Midwest and northern Plains, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The proportion of the 48 contiguous states in moderate drought or worse declined to 44.34 percent from 46.07 percent a week earlier. That proportion is down from the record high of 65.45 percent on September 25, 2012. Drought coverage has decreased in 27 of the last 35 weeks, said Brad Rippey, this week’s U.S. Drought Monitor author.

“Heavy rain returned to the northern Plains and upper Midwest late in the drought-monitoring period, further easing or eradicating lingering long-term drought and turning residual drought to flooding in some of the hardest-hit areas,” Rippey said in narrative accompanying the map. “Local downpours also dotted the southeastern Plains, while a sustained period of heavy rain (and high-elevation snow) nearly eradicated dryness (D0) and drought (D1) from New York and New England. Meanwhile, little or no

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precipitation fell from California to the central and southern High Plains, further sharpening the gradient between drought and non-drought areas across the nation's mid-section."

The state of Iowa is now down to just 1.97 percent in moderate drought, with no parts of the state in any of the three worst categories, in contrast to a week ago, when 17.63 percent of the state was in moderate drought or worse, with small areas in severe and extreme drought. Missouri is now drought-free for the first time since May 1, 2012, with only a small patch of abnormally dry conditions remaining. Drought also receded and eased in the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska and Texas.

Kansas and Oklahoma saw drought recede in the east but intensify in the west. A small area of moderate drought appeared in Alabama.

The epicenter of drought has shifted south and west in the past two months. Three-quarters of Nebraska was in exceptional drought from October 2, 2012, through April 2, 2013, and that proportion is now down to 4.02 percent. But 44.87 percent of New Mexico is now in the worst category of drought, with exceptional drought also extending into Colorado, Kansas and the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles. The total proportion of the contiguous 48 states in exceptional drought decreased slightly to 4.74 percent this week.

Rippey noted that, "As the gradient between drought and non-drought areas continues to sharpen, there are some interesting statistics for cattle and winter wheat. Nearly half (47 percent) of the domestic cattle inventory was in drought on May 28, down three percentage points from a week ago to the lowest level since June 12, 2012. However, cattle in exceptional drought remained steady at 10 percent during the last week. Similarly, winter wheat in drought fell one percentage point to 49 percent, while the portion of the crop in D4 was steady at 14 percent. For other commodities, hay in drought declined two percentage points in the last week to 35 percent; corn in drought dipped six points to 23 percent; and soybeans in drought fell seven points to just 13 percent."

U.S. Drought Monitor authors synthesize many drought indicators into a single map that identifies areas of the country that are abnormally dry (D0), in moderate drought (D1), in severe drought (D2), extreme drought (D3) and exceptional drought (D4).

The U.S. Drought Monitor map is jointly produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and about 350 drought observers across the country. Rippey is a meteorologist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the Chief Economist. The map is released each Thursday based on data through the previous Tuesday morning.

Statistics for the percent area in each category of drought are automatically added to the U.S. Drought Monitor website each week for the entire country and Puerto Rico, for the 48 contiguous states, for each climate region, and for individual states. U.S. Drought Monitor data online goes back to January 2000. <http://drought.unl.edu/MonitoringTools/USDroughtMonitor/DroughtMonitorTips.aspx>

U.S. Drought Monitor map, statistics and narrative summary: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Drought Impact Reporter: <http://droughtreporter.unl.edu>

USDA's weekly "Agriculture in Drought" analysis: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>

National Climatic Data Center's State of the Climate Drought Summary: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/drought/>

Seasonal Drought Outlook: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html

Press release archive: <http://drought.unl.edu/NewsOutreach/NDMCNews.aspx>.

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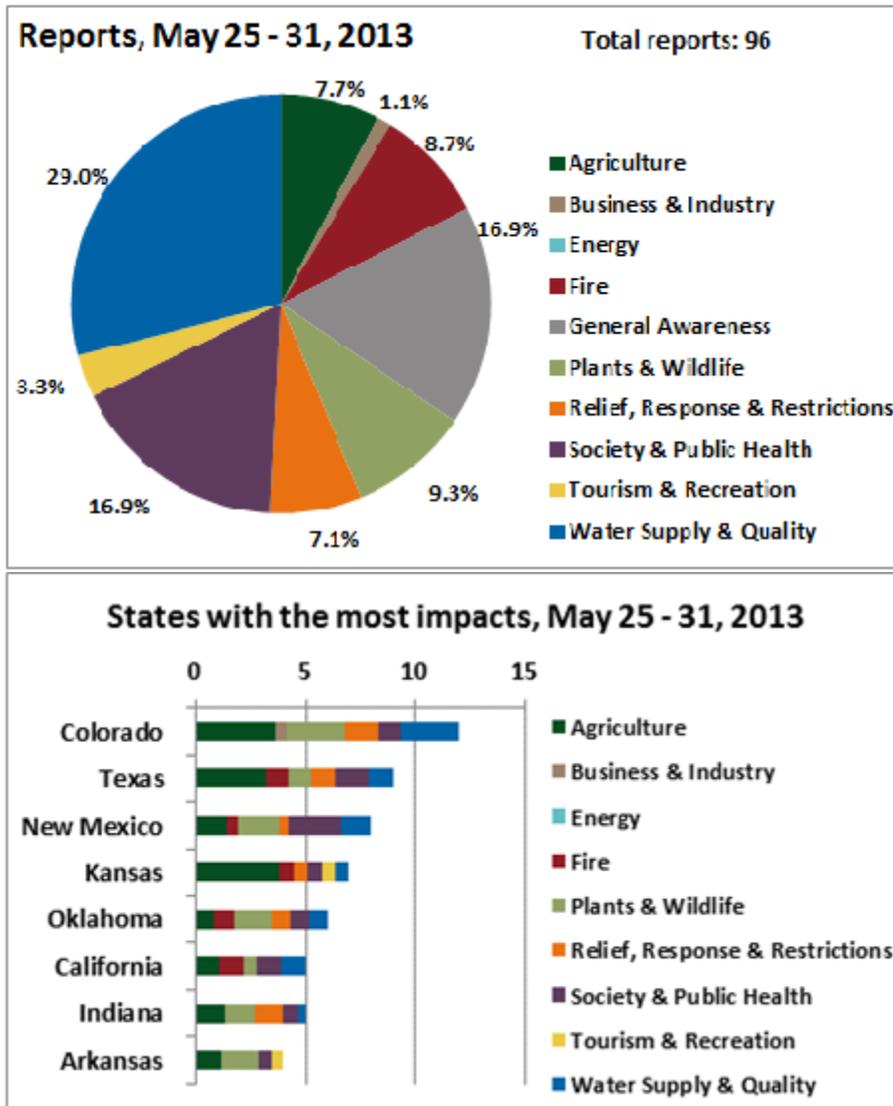
This is a collection of drought-related news stories from the past seven days or so. Impact information from these articles is entered into the [Drought Impact Reporter](#). A number of these articles will also be posted on the [Drought Headlines](#) page at the NDMC website.

This was another week of relatively slow news as far as drought is concerned, especially with all of the severe weather recently.

Colorado River in the arid West – It is widely recognized that water conservation is needed in the West since the Colorado River has 40 million people relying on it to quench their thirst. Water officials from across the West met in San Diego on May 28 to discuss options for the future.

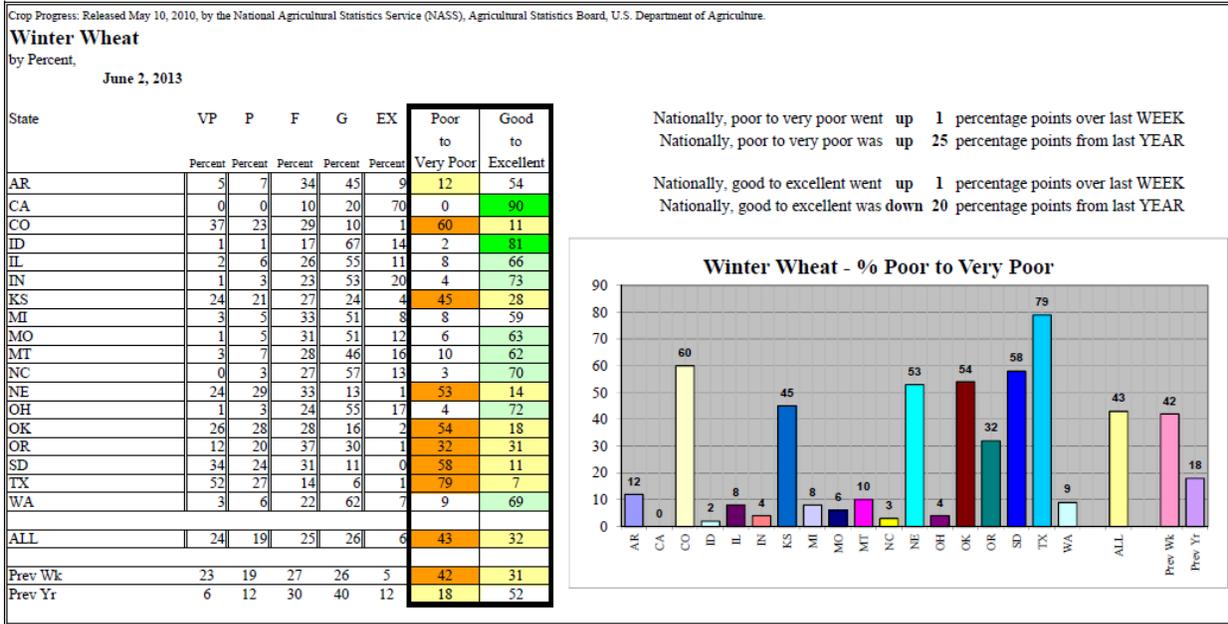
Wildlife in northern New Mexico – All kinds of wildlife are suffering from dehydration and starvation as food sources dwindle.

Beef prices – Beef prices are at record highs. The average price of steak is \$4.81 per pound, while ground beef sells for \$3.51 per pound.



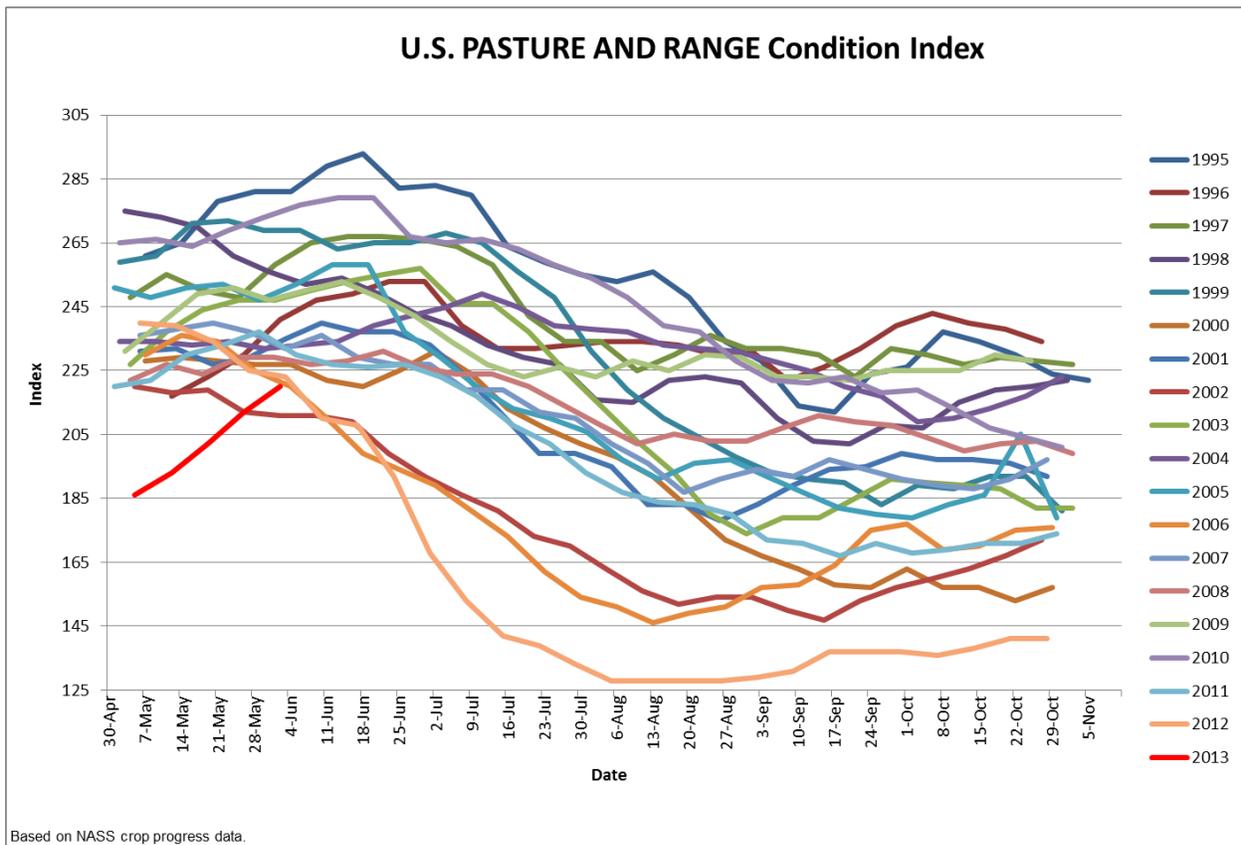
Because impacts may have more than one category, the category color is shown in proportion to the total number of categories selected overall for all of the impacts.

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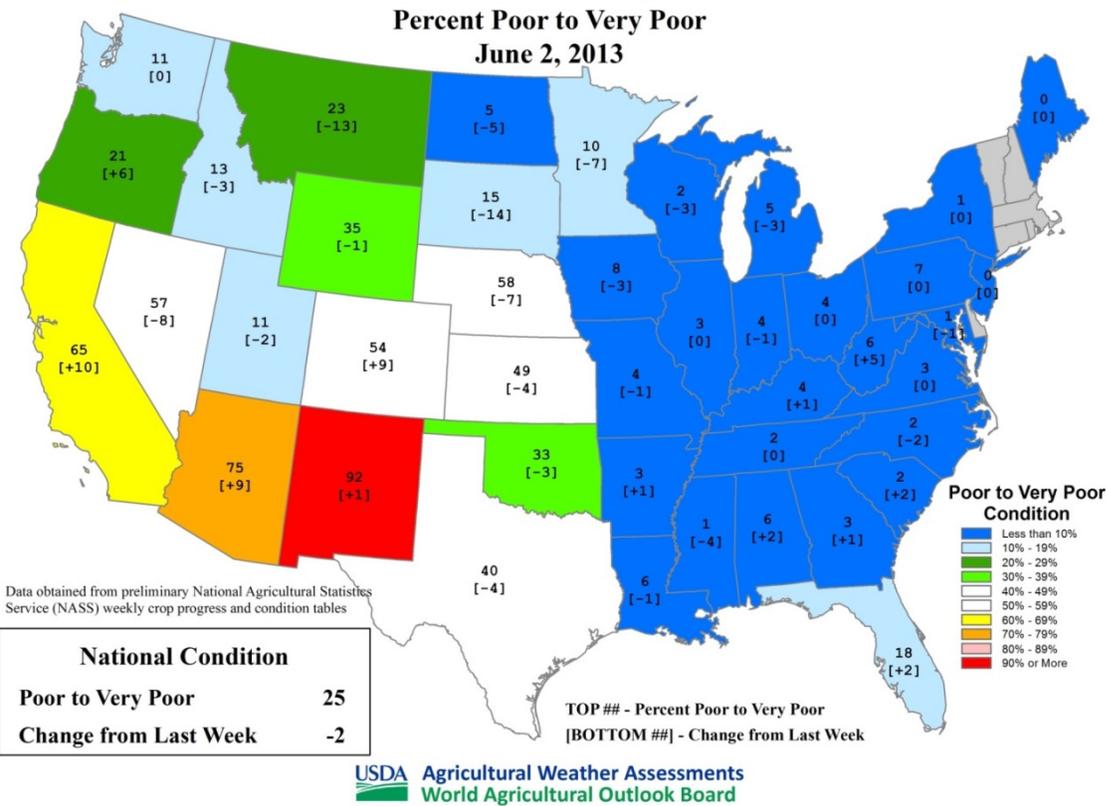


Status of Winter Wheat as of 2 June 2013. In southwest KS, a large part of the low NDVI values reflect the freeze damage to winter wheat.

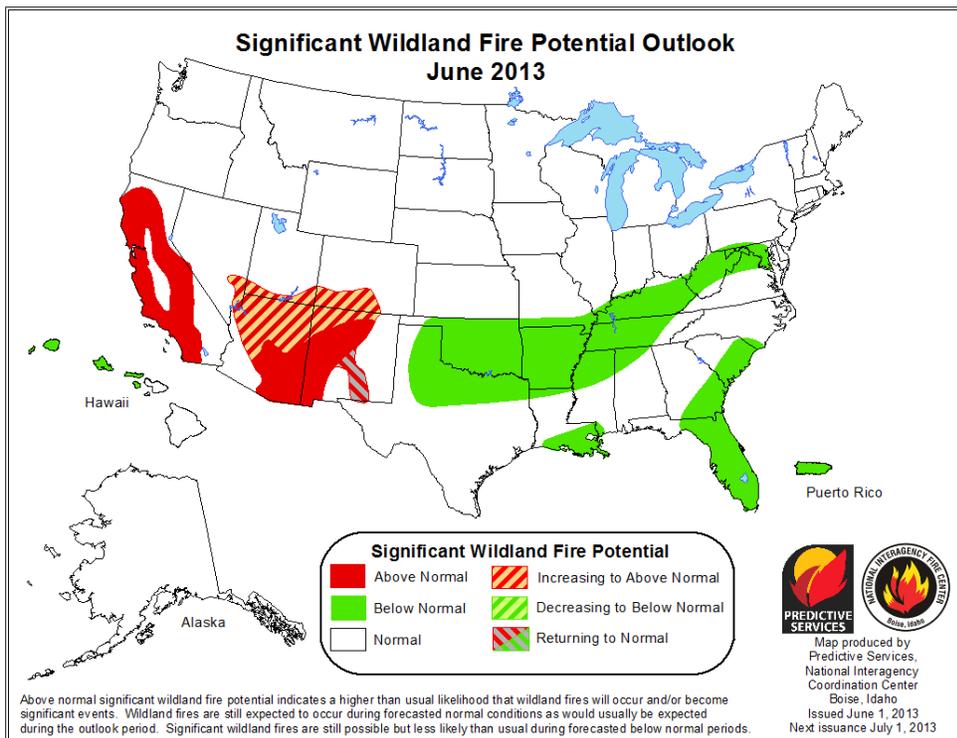
The following graphs are provided by Brad Rippey, USDA Meteorologist



U.S. Pasture and Range Conditions



National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook



June's forecast is calling for heightened potential for fires over [New Mexico](#), [Arizona](#) and [California](#).