

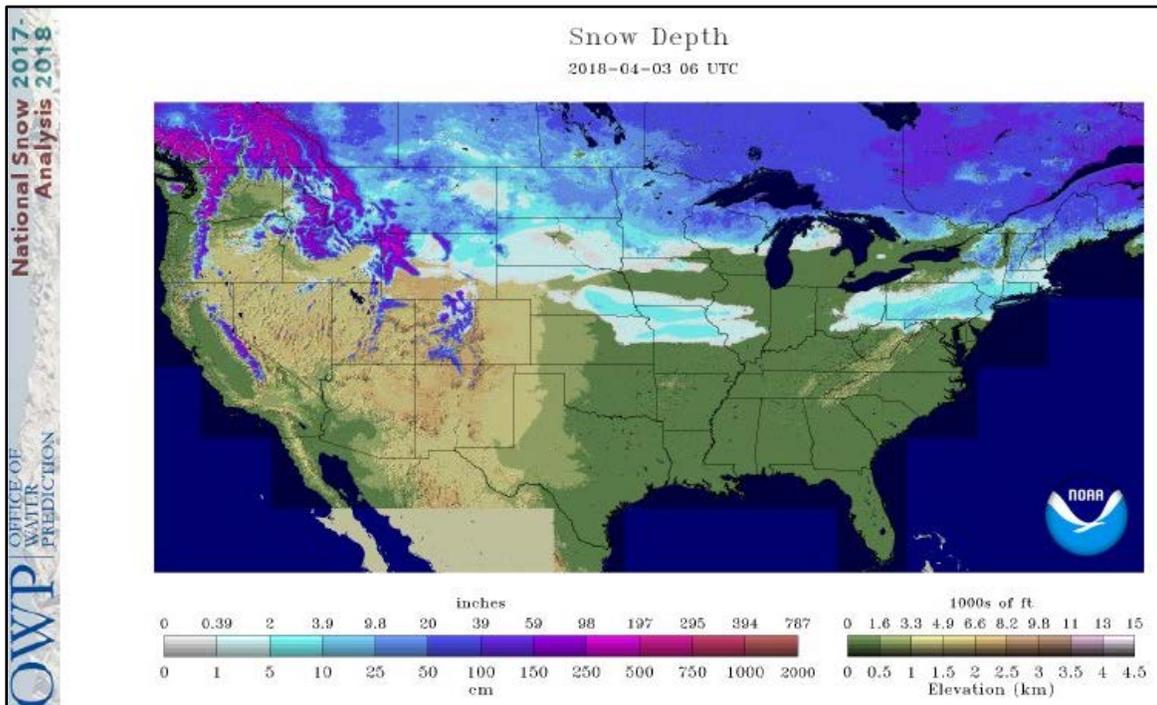
Water and Climate Update

April 5, 2018

The Natural Resources Conservation Service produces this weekly report using data and products from the [National Water and Climate Center](#) and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

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Unusual April snow in the Midwest and Northeast



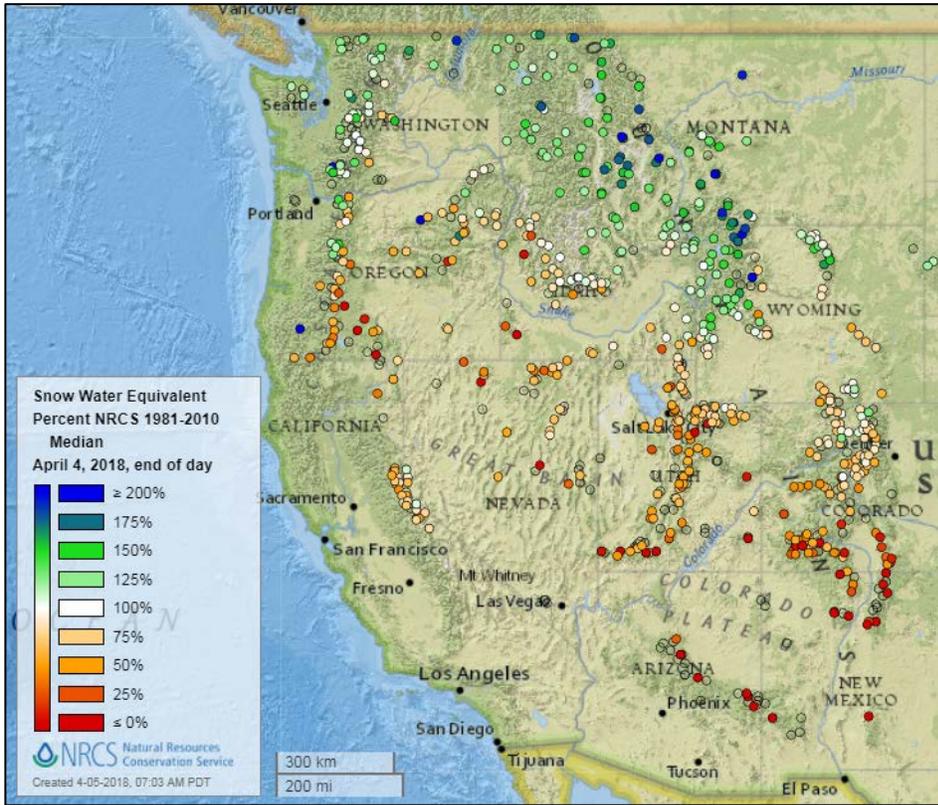
Unusual April snow fell in the Midwest and Northeast earlier this week. 5.5 inches of snow fell in New York City; elsewhere in the Northeast snow totals were over 7 inches. In many areas this was the biggest spring storm in decades. A late-season polar vortex with unseasonably cool temperatures and possible additional snow is forecast to continue in the Midwest, parts of the Mid-Atlantic, and the Northeast.

Related:

- [New York City pasted by heaviest April snow since 1982](#) – ABC News
- [Spring Storm Dumps 7+ Inches on Parts of Tri-State, Becomes Biggest April Snowstorm for NYC in 36 Years](#) – NBC New York
- [Endless winter: Waves of cold, snow to punish Midwest and East](#) – USA Today
- [Spring snow falls in parts of DC region](#) – WTOP Washington DC.
- [MSP Digs Out From Biggest April Snow Event In 34 Years](#) – CBS Minnesota
- [Spring storm leaves up to 11 inches of snow in Nebraska; cooler weather expected through mid-April](#) Omaha World-Herald

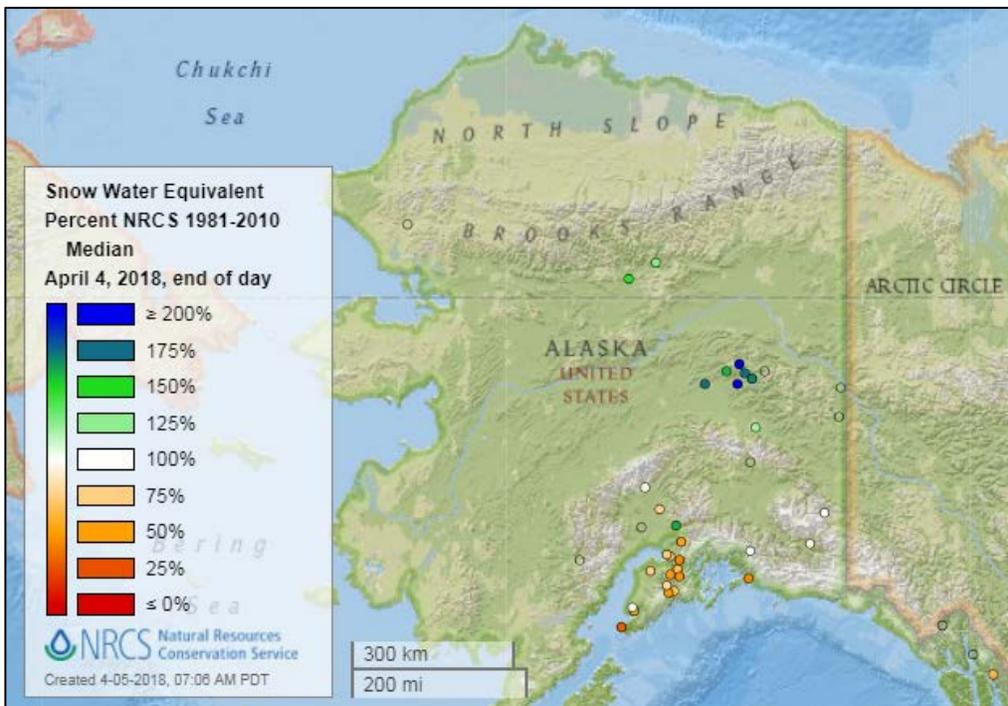
Snow

Current Snow Water Equivalent, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[Snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

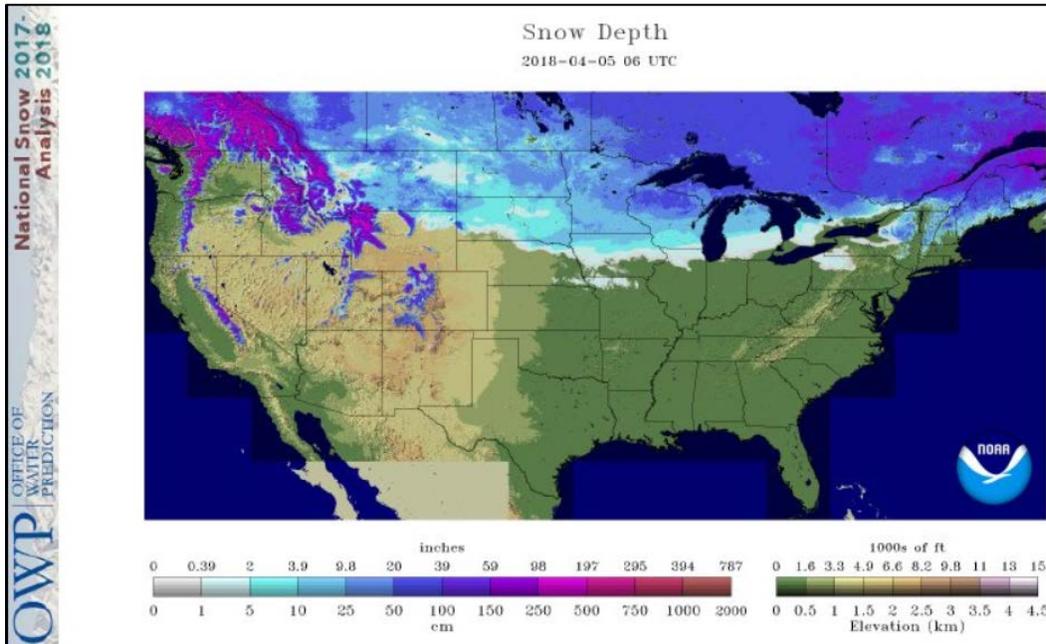
See also:
[Snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

See also:
[Alaska snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

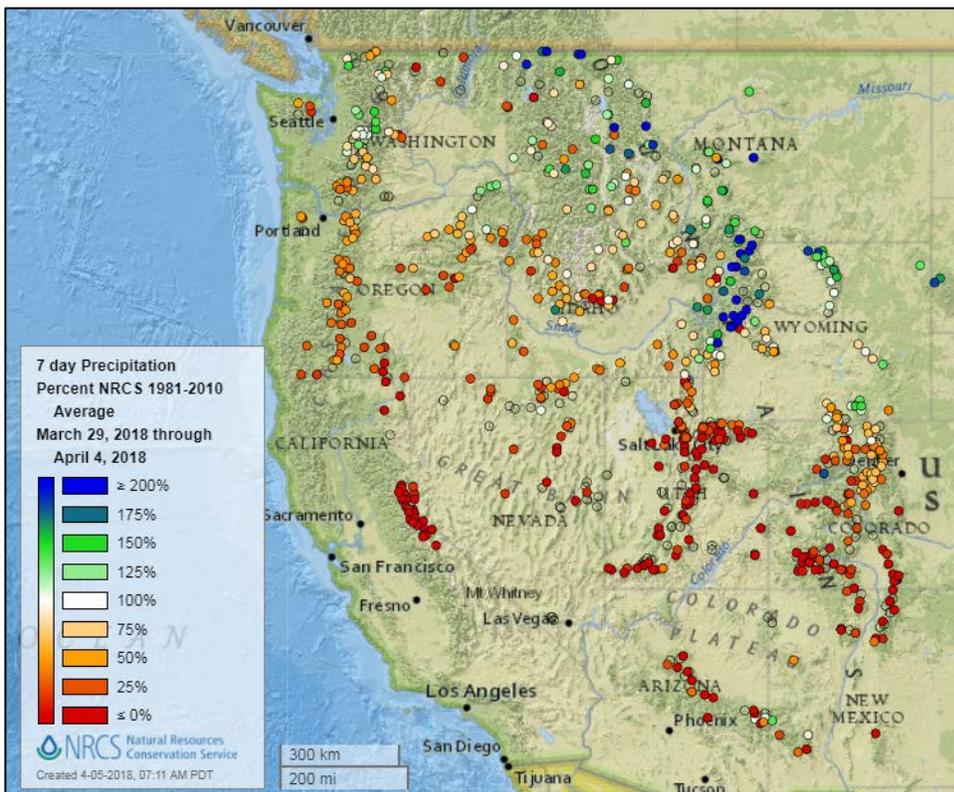
Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis



Note: This map is two days after the map on page 1, showing areas of snowmelt over that period.

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network



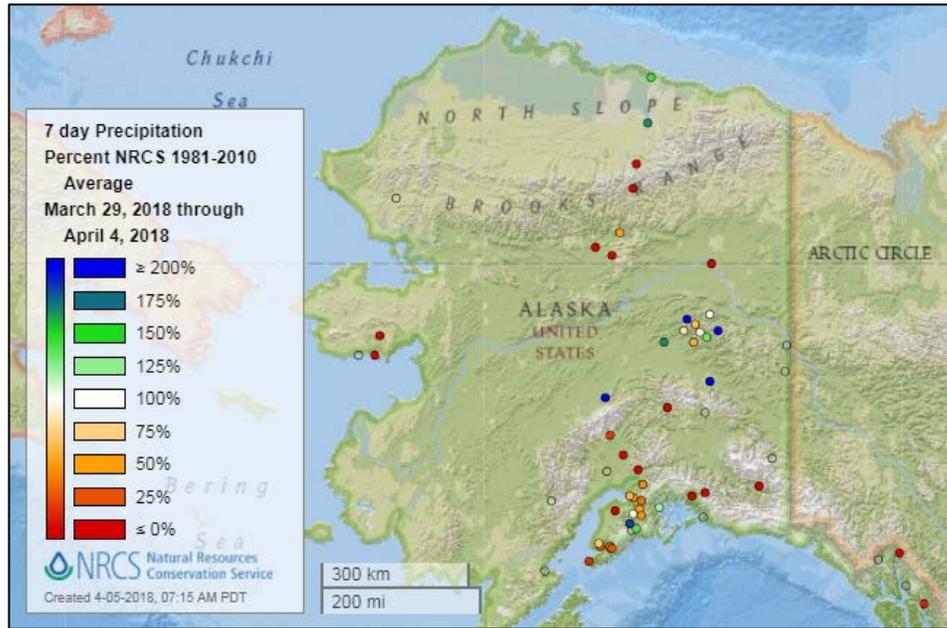
[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Water and Climate Update

[Alaska 7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



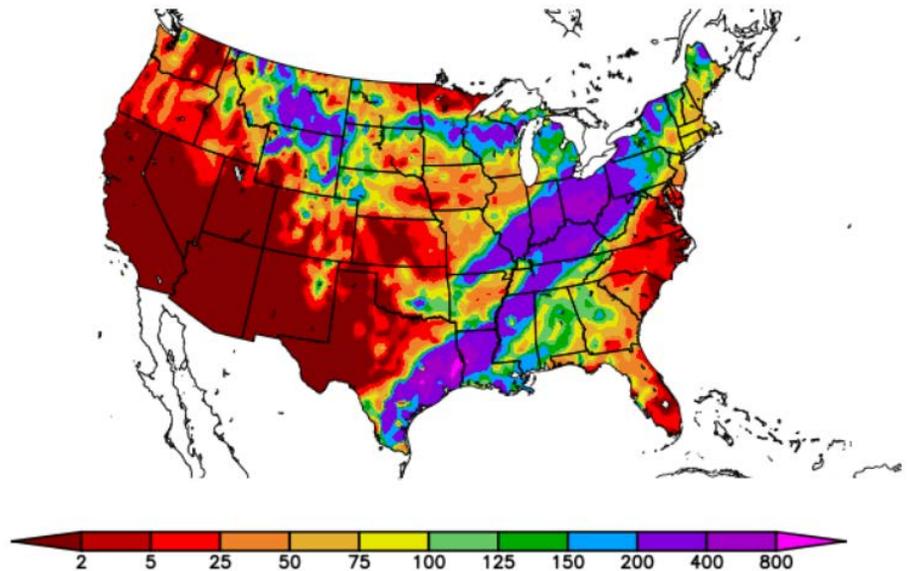
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 3/29/2018 – 4/4/2018



Generated 4/5/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Water and Climate Update

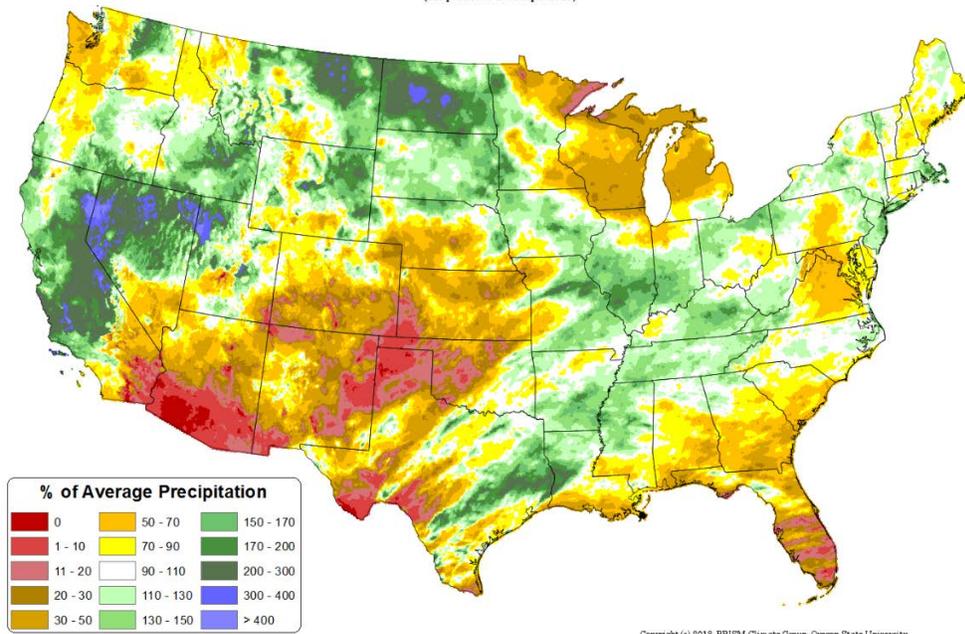
Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: March 2018

Period ending 31 Mar 2018
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Apr 2018)

[Previous month national total precipitation percent of average map](#)



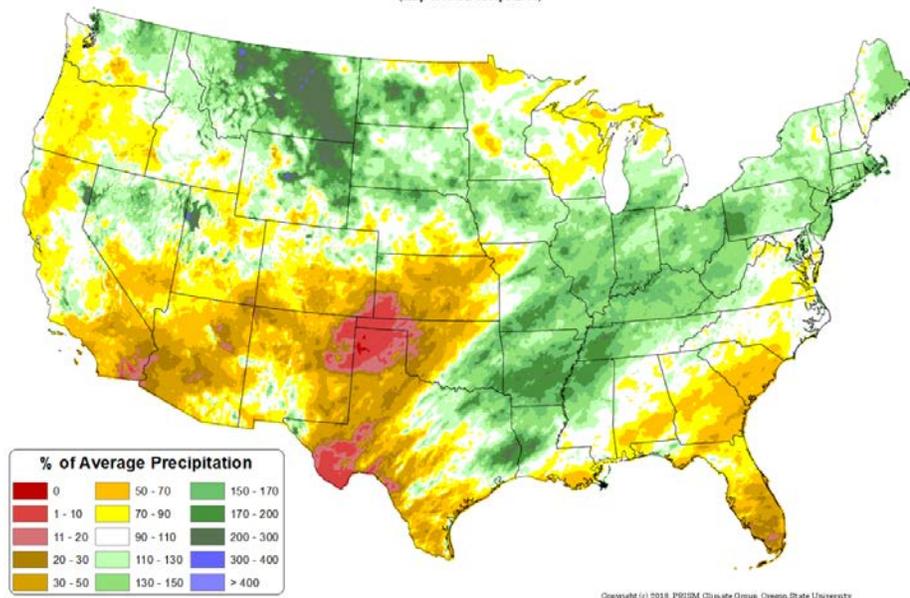
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

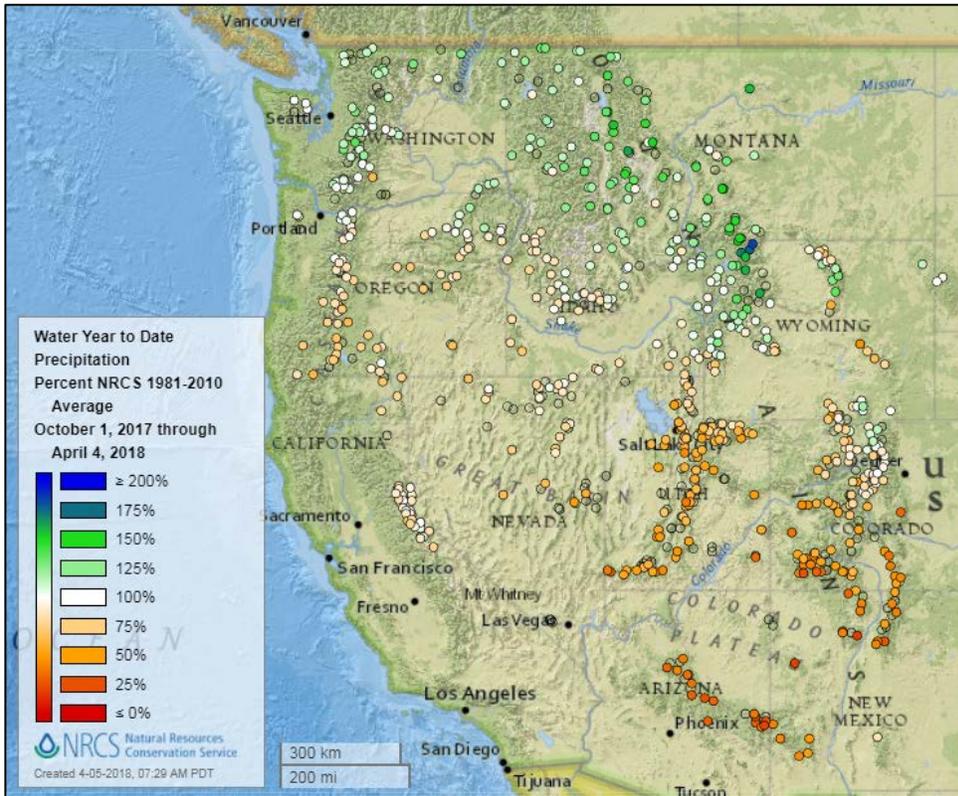
[January through March 2018 total precipitation percent of average map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: January 2018 - March 2018

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2018
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Apr 2018)

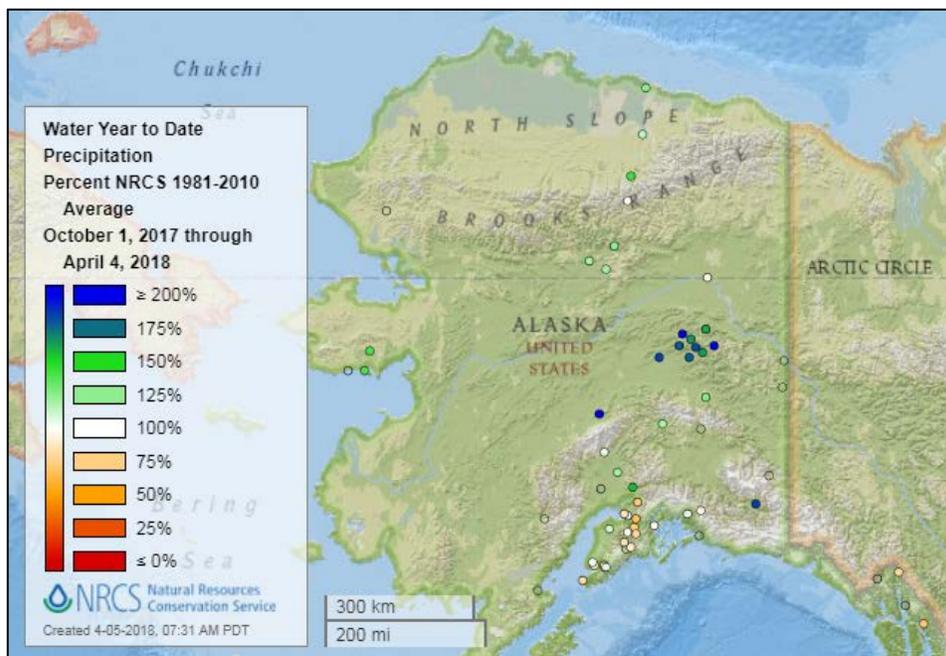


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2018 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [2018 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\)](#)



[Alaska 2018 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 2018 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

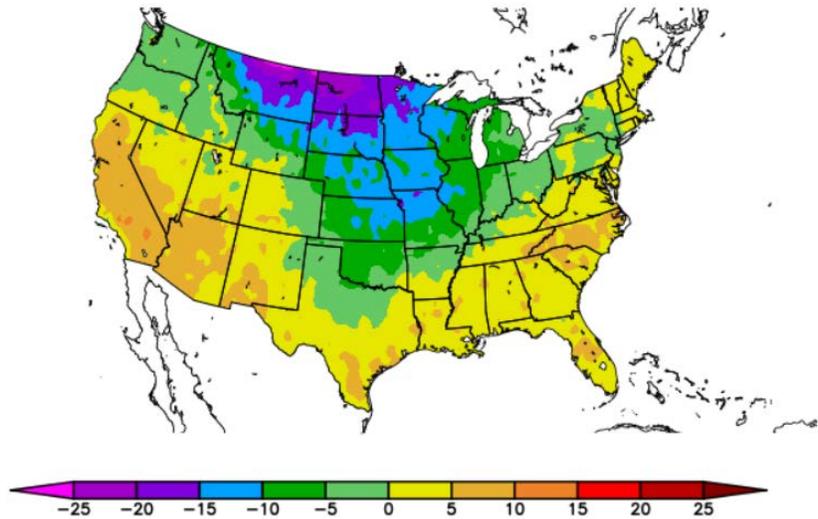
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/29/2018 – 4/4/2018



Generated 4/5/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

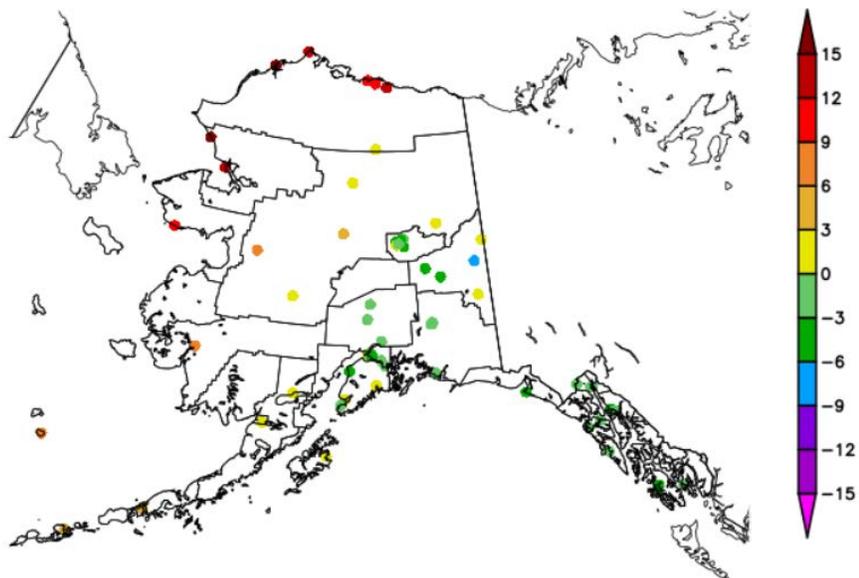
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/29/2018 – 4/4/2018



Generated 4/5/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

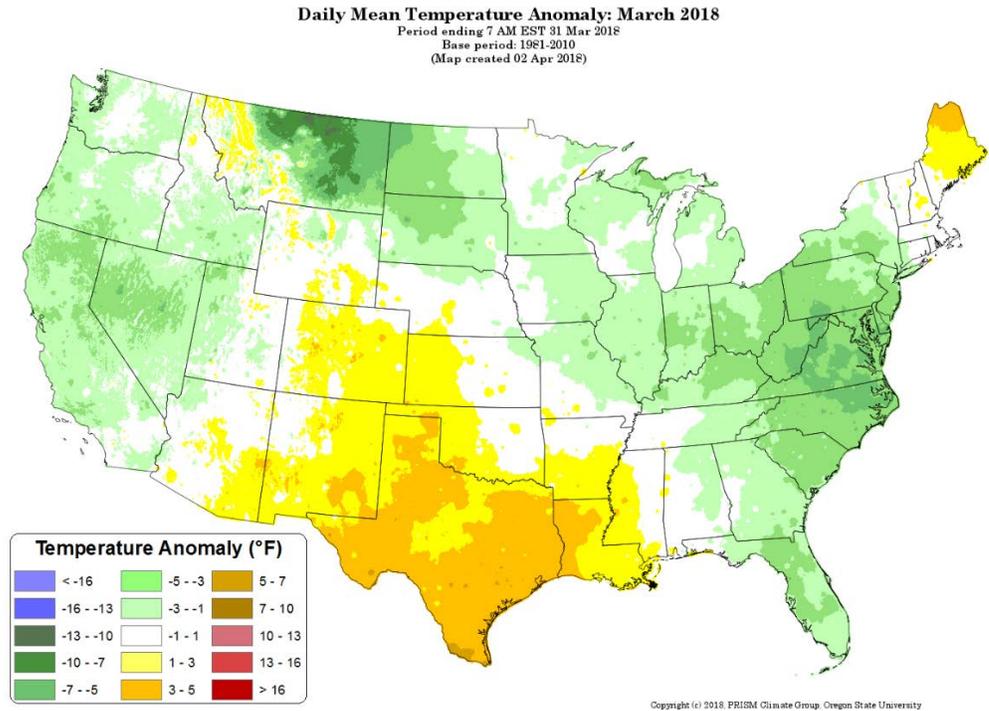
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Water and Climate Update

Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

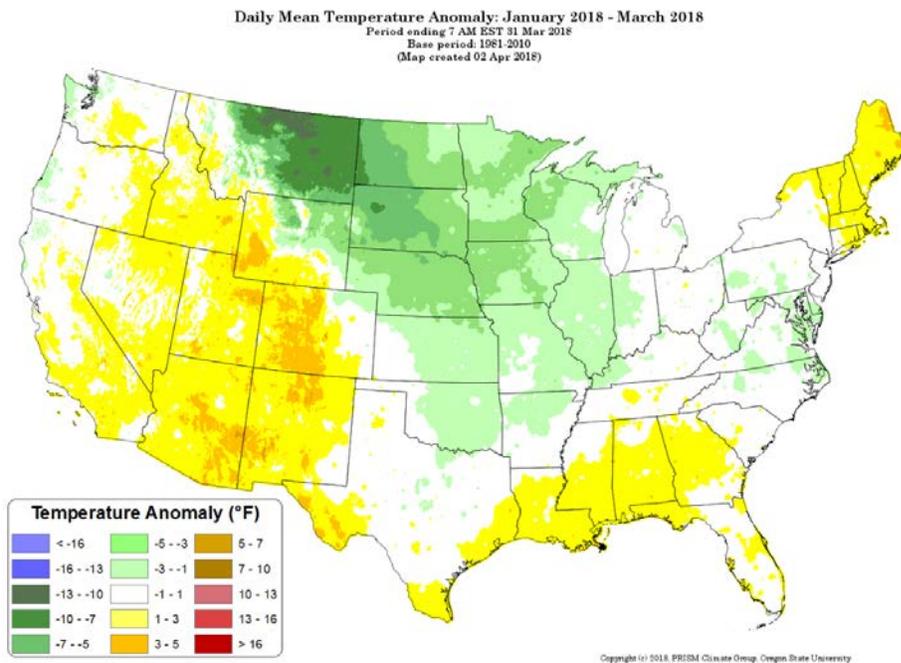
[Previous month national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

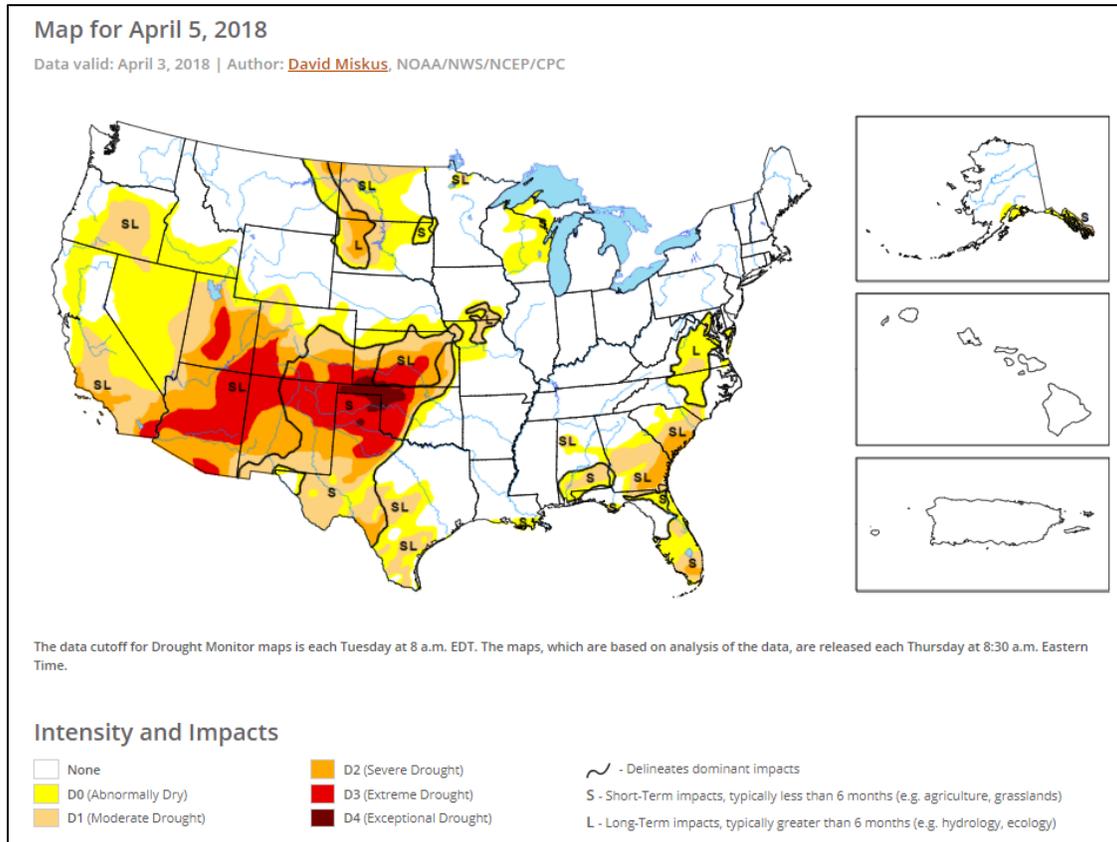
[January through March 2018 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) Select map below.

[U.S. Drought Portal](#) Comprehensive drought resource.



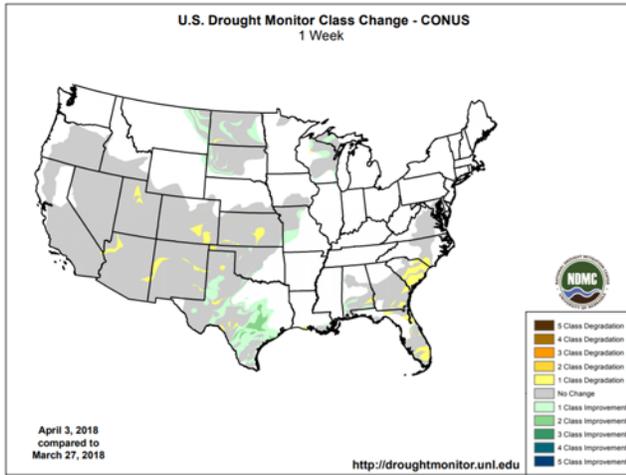
Current [National Drought Summary](#), April 5, 2018

Author: David Miskus, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

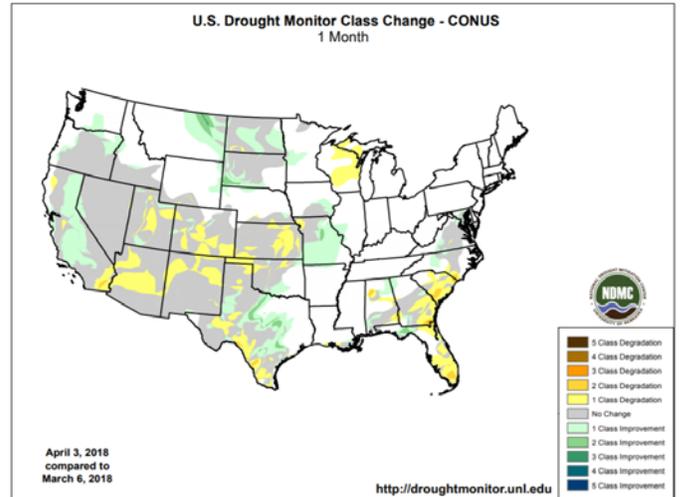
“With a blocking ridge of high pressure anchored over the Southwest, a series of cold fronts tracked across the eastern two-thirds of the Nation. The fronts, however, slowed their southeastward advance across the South and Southeast, and after picking up Gulf moisture, produced numerous and widespread showers and thunderstorms with heavy precipitation (more than 2 inches) from the southern Great Plains northeastward into the northern Appalachians. This was similar to the weather pattern back in mid- to late February when the lower Mississippi, Tennessee, and Ohio Valleys were deluged. Lighter precipitation also occurred across the northern halves of the Rockies and Plains, the upper Midwest, Great Lakes region, western New England, the central Gulf Coast States, and along the Pacific Northwest Coast. Little or no precipitation fell on the remainder of the Far West, Southwest, southern halves of the Rockies and High Plains, western Corn Belt, along the eastern Gulf and Atlantic Coasts, and most of Alaska. Weekly temperatures averaged below normal in the northern Rockies, northern and central Plains, Midwest, mid-Atlantic, and Carolinas, and above-normal in the Far West, Southwest, southern Plains, along the Gulf Coast, and in northern New England. In Alaska, readings were much-above normal in western and northern sections and near to below normal in southern and eastern portions. Most of Hawaii and Puerto Rico observed showery weather.”

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

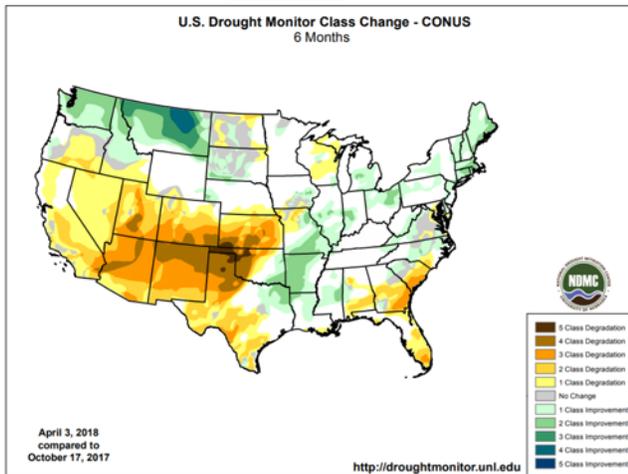
1 Week



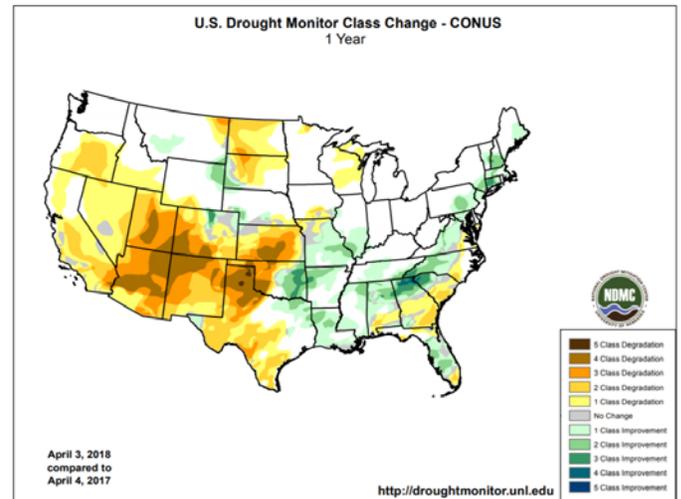
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



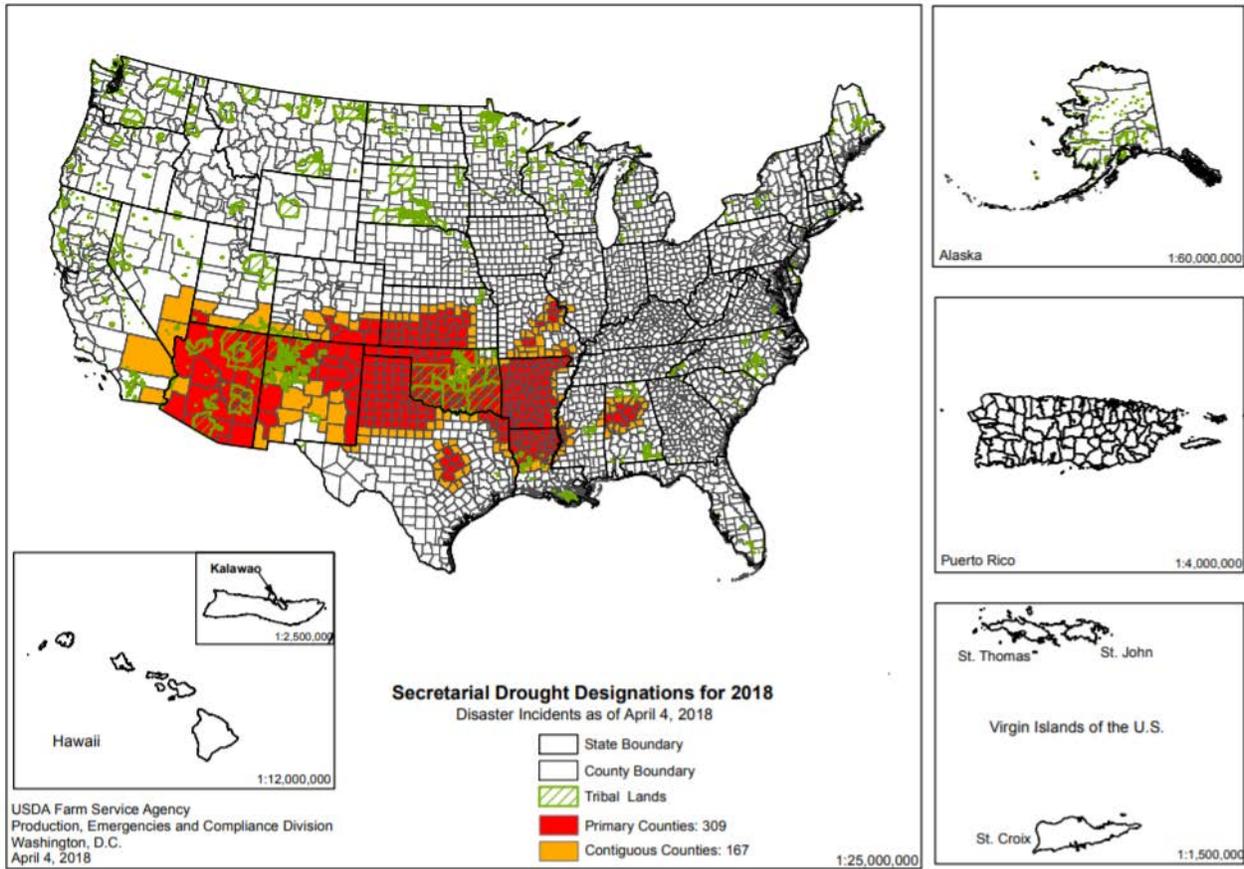
Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months

Highlighted Drought Resources

- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

USDA 2018 Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

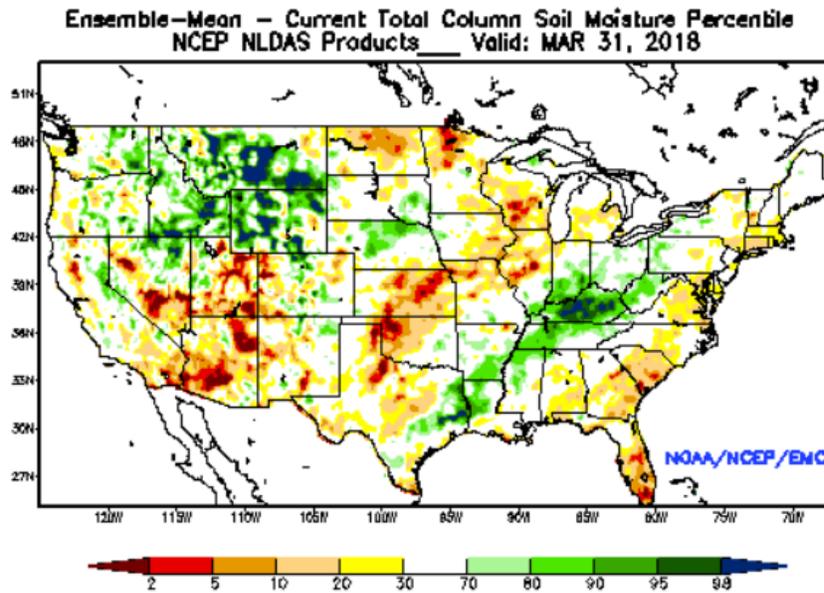
2018 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

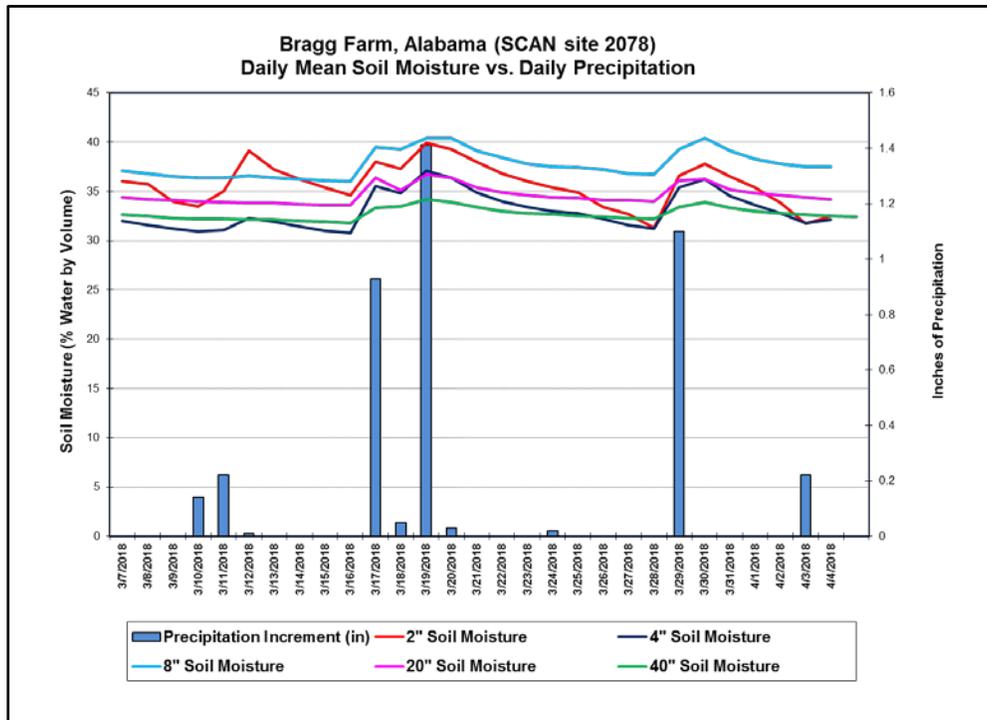
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of March 31, 2018.

Soil Moisture Data

Source: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network \(SCAN\)](#)



The chart shows precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Bragg Farm SCAN site 2078](#) in Alabama. All sensor depths showed an increase in soil moisture percentage from the three largest precipitation events during the month.

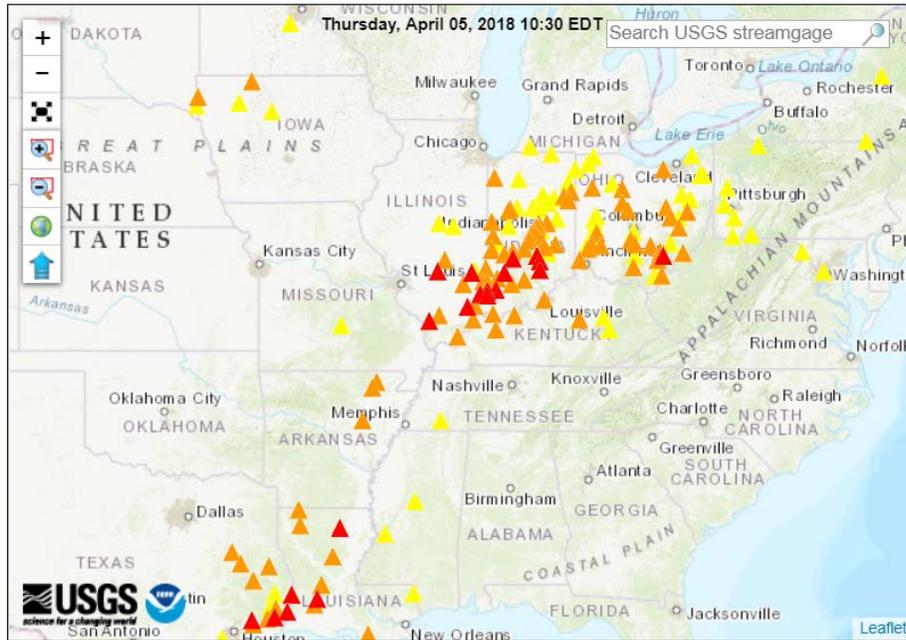
Soil Moisture Data Portals

- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow

Source: USGS

Map of flood and high flow conditions



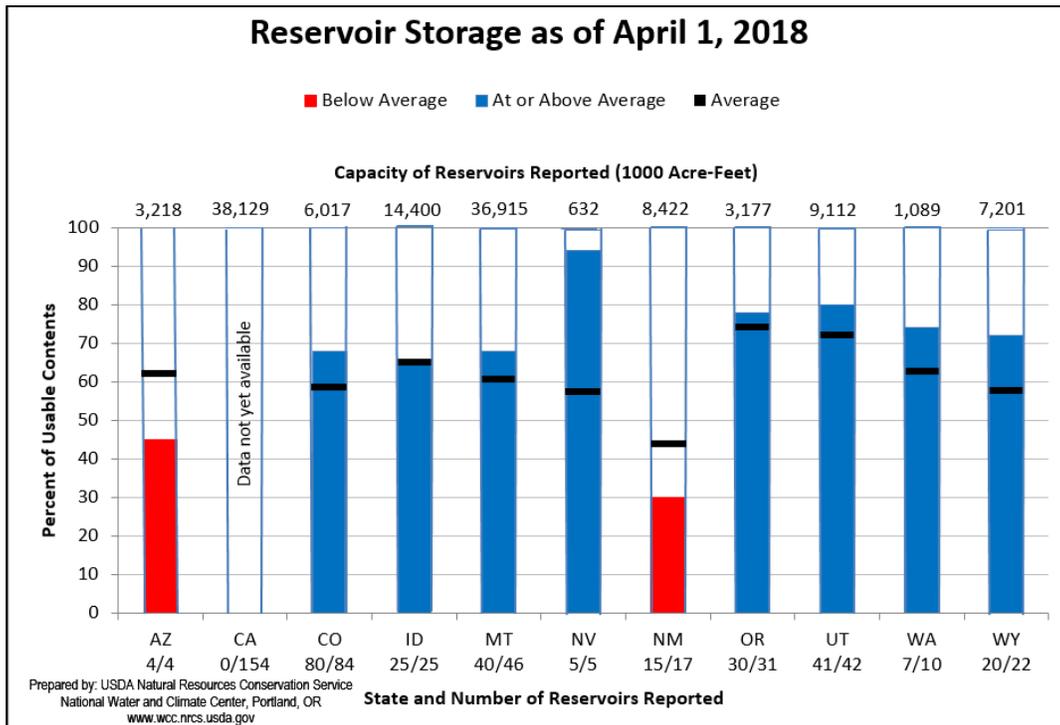
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
			▲ Streamgage with flood stage	○ Streamgage without flood stage		

[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



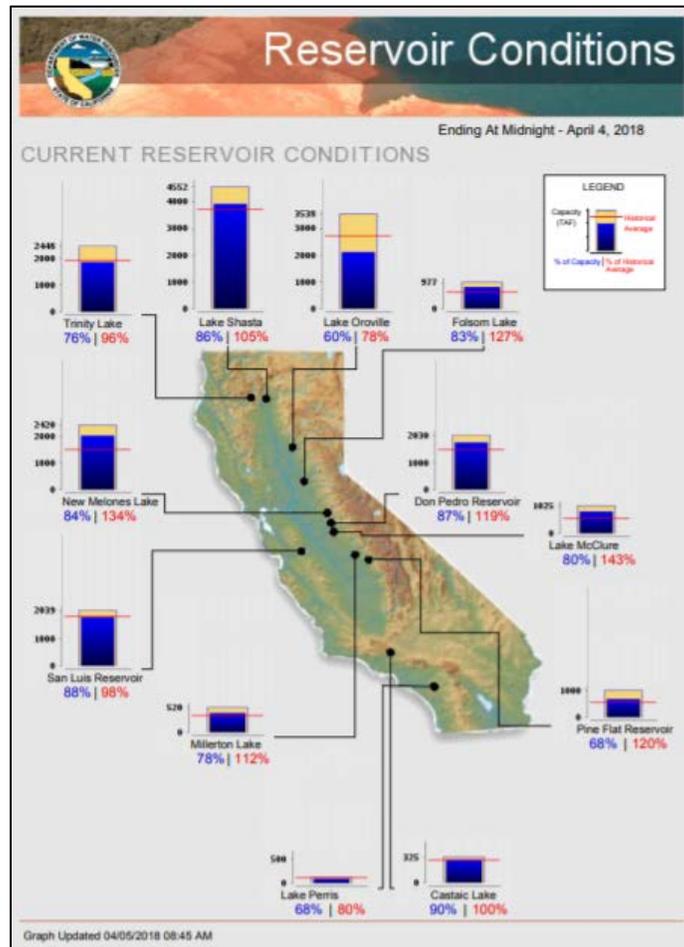
April 1 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Hydromet Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions

- [Upper Colorado](#)
- [Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)
- [Sevier River Water, Utah](#)
- [Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas](#)

Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

Short- and Long-Range Outlooks

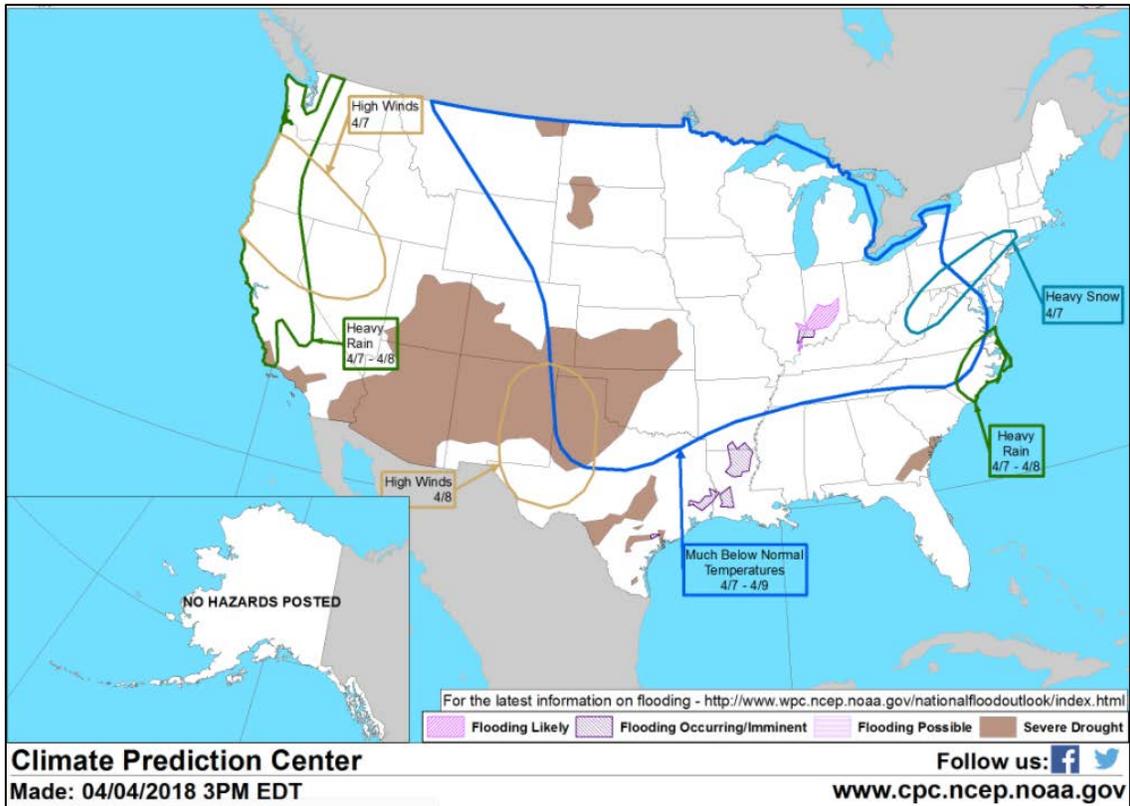
Agricultural Weather Highlights

Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

[National Outlook, Thursday, April 5](#): “A late-week Pacific storm moving ashore will result in warm weather and heavy precipitation in northern and central California, the northern Great Basin, and parts of the Northwest. In some areas, the combination of rain and melting snowpack could lead to flooding. In contrast, dry weather will persist into next week from southern California to the southern High Plains. Farther east, late-week and weekend rainfall could total 1 to 3 inches in the Southeast, with some wet snow possible in the Ohio Valley and environs, on the northern edge of the precipitation. Elsewhere, cold weather will persist in most areas east of the Rockies, while warmth will continue in the Southwest. Weekend freezes could further threaten winter wheat, fruit crops, and newly emerged summer crops from the southern Plains to the interior Southeast. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for April 10 – 14 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures across much of the North and East, while warmer-than-normal weather will prevail in southern Florida and the south-central and southwestern U.S. Meanwhile, near- to above-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in parts of the Southeast and Southwest, as well as the southern half of the High Plains.”

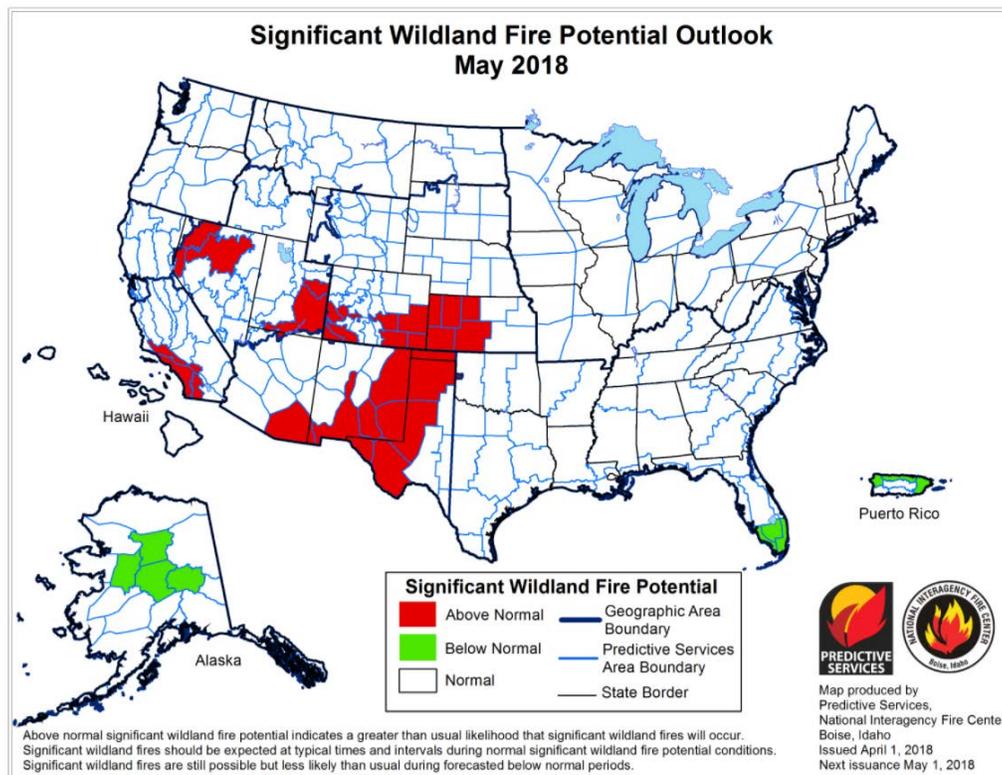
Weather Hazard Outlook [April 7 - April 11, 2018](#)

Source: Climate Prediction Center



Significant Wildland [Fire Potential Outlook](#)

Source: National Interagency Fire Center

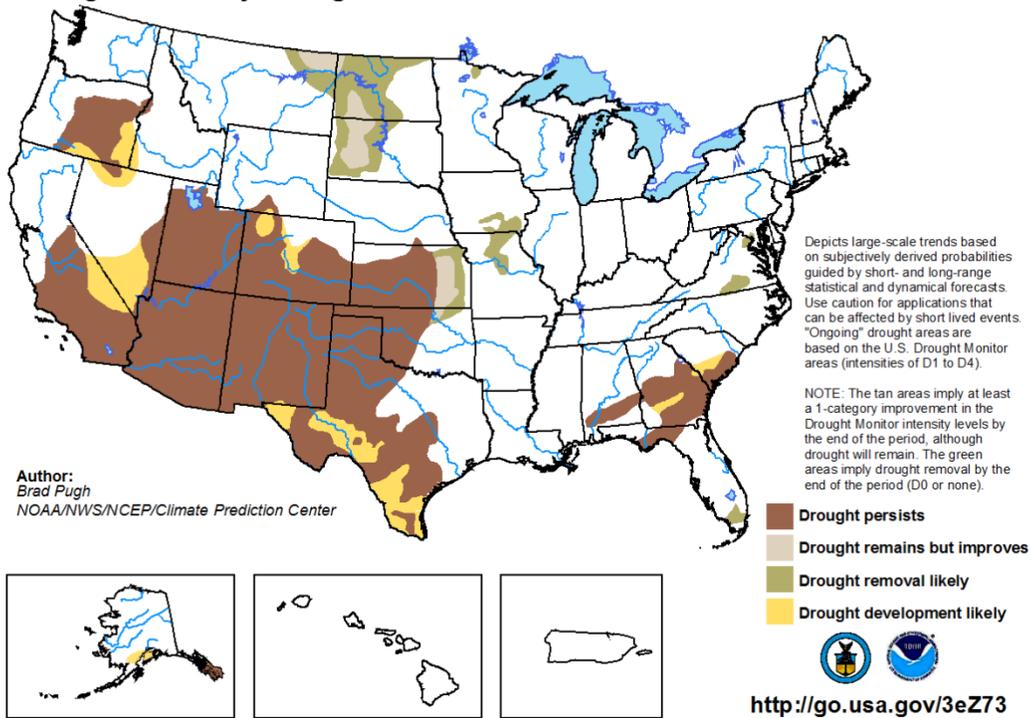


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [March 15 - June 30, 2018](#)

Source: National Weather Service

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 15 - June 30, 2018
Released March 15, 2018

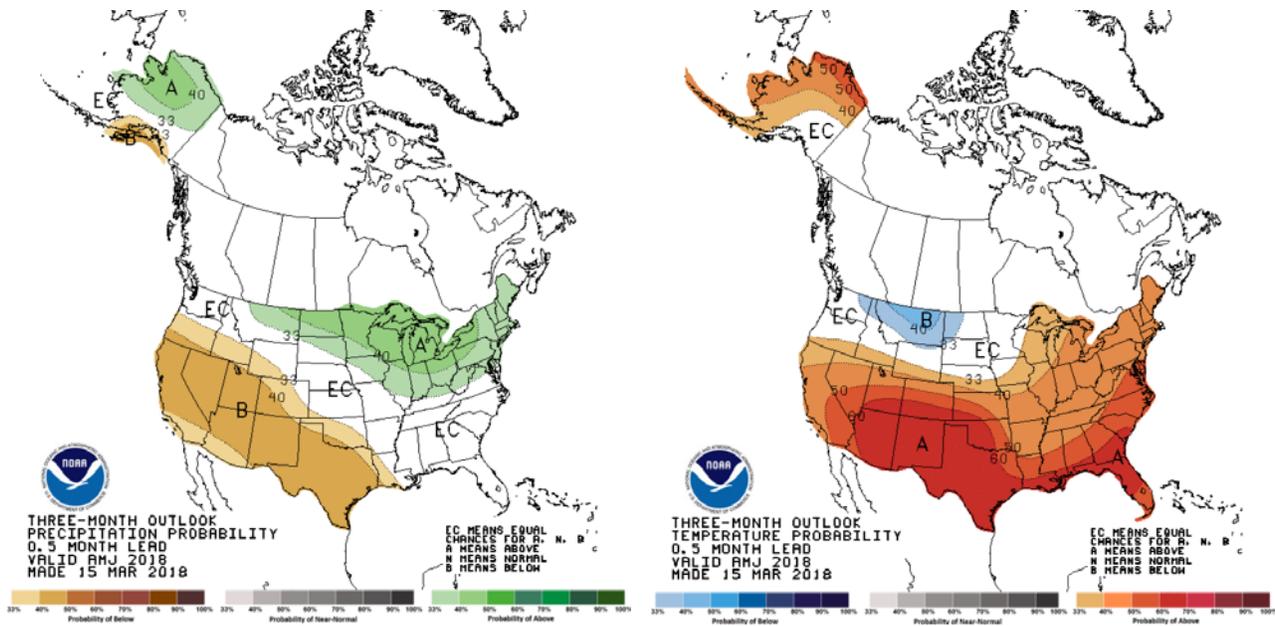


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)

[Temperature](#)



[Apr-May-June \(AMJ\) 2018 precipitation and temperature outlook summaries](#)

More Information

The NRCS [National Water and Climate Center](#) publishes this weekly report. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please [contact us](#).