



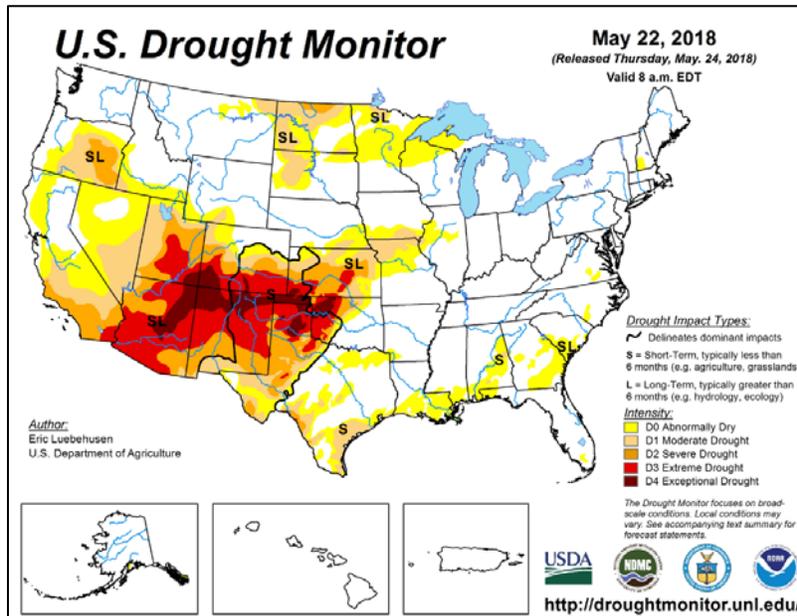
Water and Climate Update

May 24, 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.

Snow	1	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators	12
Precipitation	3	Short- and Long-Range Outlooks.....	15
Temperature	7	More Information	18
Drought	9		

Western drought intensifies and expands



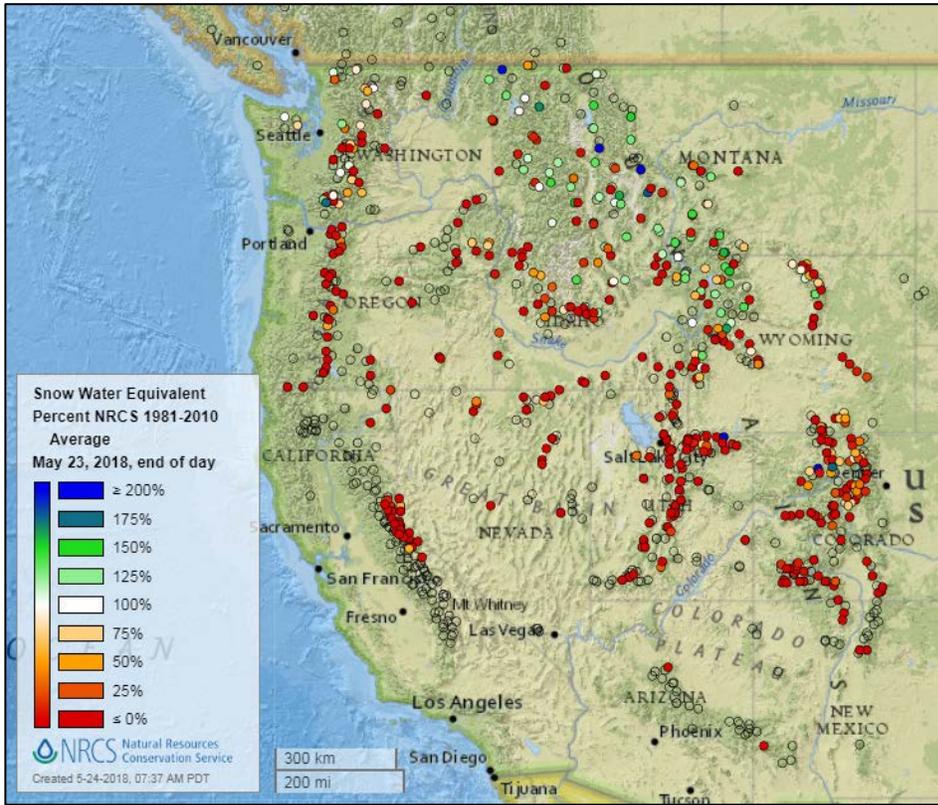
There is an ongoing intensification of the drought conditions in the southern Plains and Southwest. Conditions are especially severe in the Four Corners area, central Arizona, northern New Mexico, northern Texas, and western Oklahoma where these areas are designated as D4 in Exceptional Drought. The mountains in these regions received very little snow or precipitation, starting off the spring with very low streamflow. Refer to pages 10-12 and 17-18 for additional information on the current drought and related fire danger conditions.

Related:

- [Dire Drought Dampening Outlooks in Cotton Country](#) - AgWeb
- [Southern Plains drought continues stress on crops, rangeland](#) – The Denver Post (CO)
- [San Antonio Among Cities With Drought Water Use Restrictions](#) – US News & World Report
- [SRP works to ensure steady water supply](#) – AZ Big Media (AZ)
- [Apache and Navajo counties enter Stage III restrictions](#) – Navajo-Hopi Observer (AZ)
- [As wildfire danger looms, Arizona forest lands begin closing](#) – Williams News (AZ)
- [Extreme N.M. forest fire risk: "We're at the mercy of Mother Nature"](#) – KVIA- ABC (NM)
- [Critical Texas drought forecast may alter summer crop planting](#) – The Eagle (TX)
- [Oklahoma governor lifts burn bans in all but seven counties](#) – The Norman Transcript (OK)

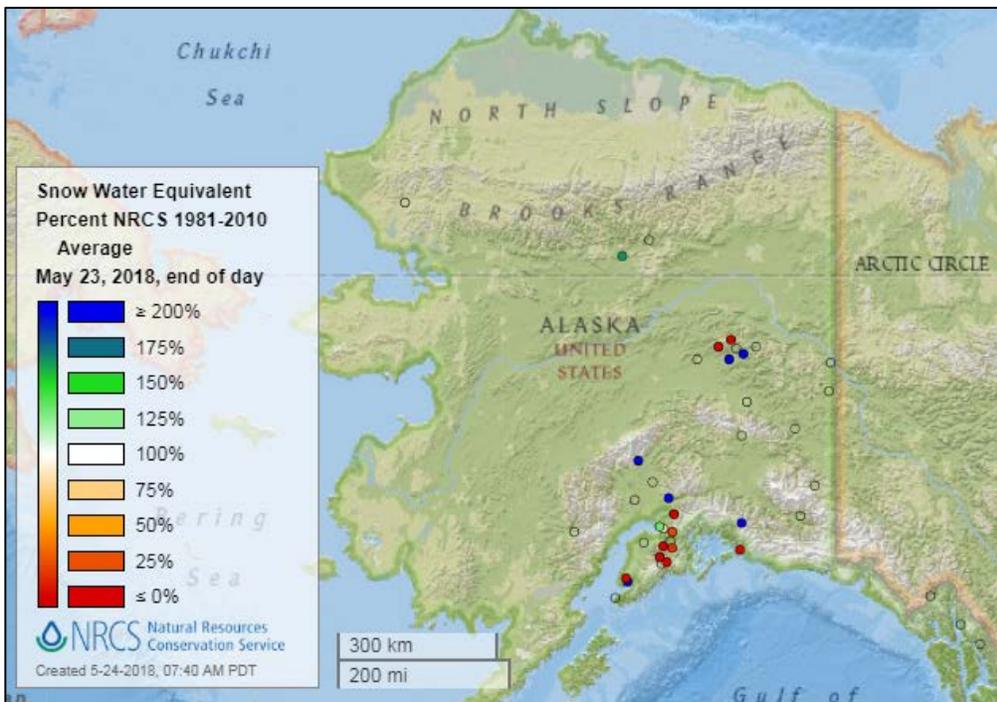
Snow

Current Snow Water Equivalent, NRCS SNOTEL Network



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

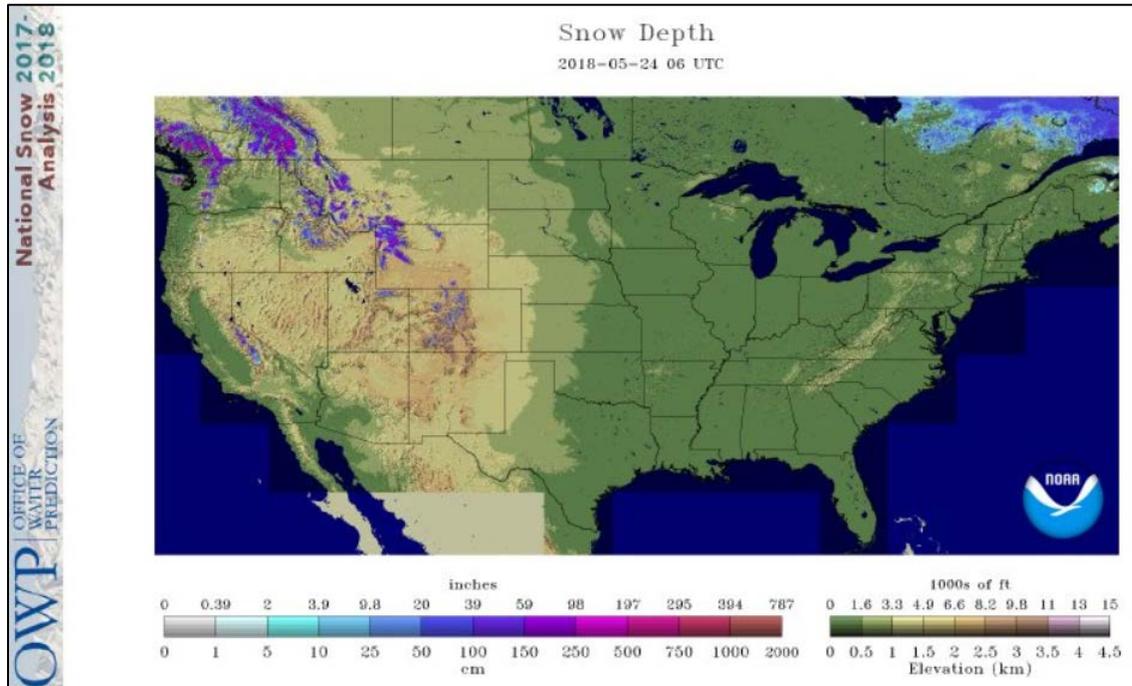
See also:
[Snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)



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

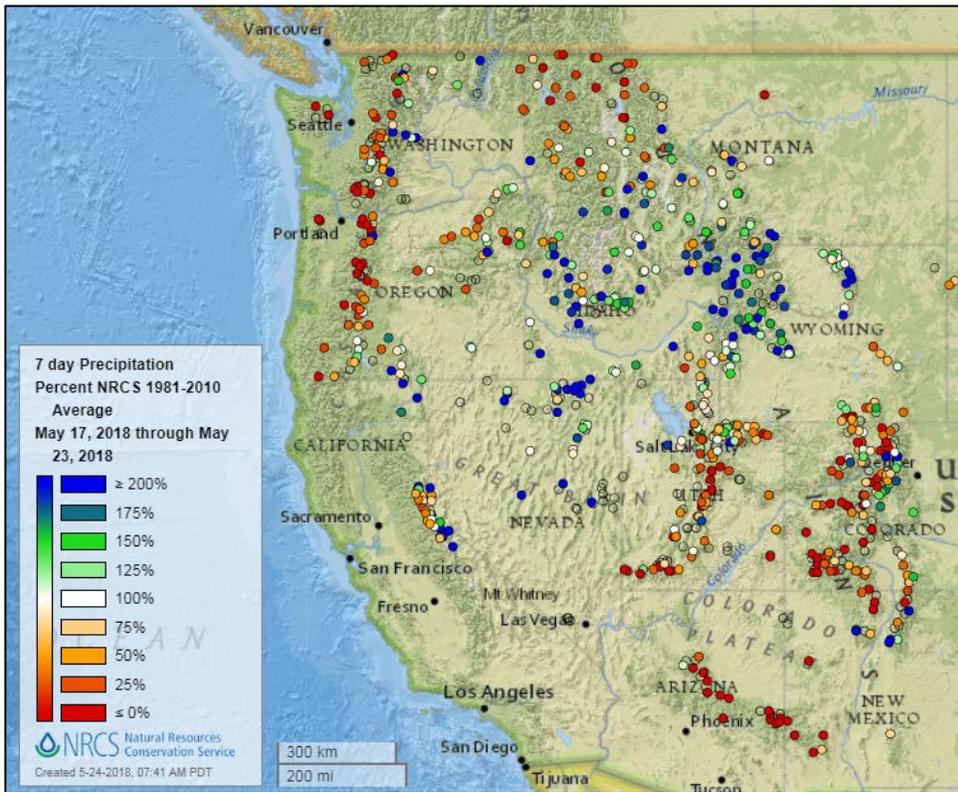
See also:
[Alaska snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network



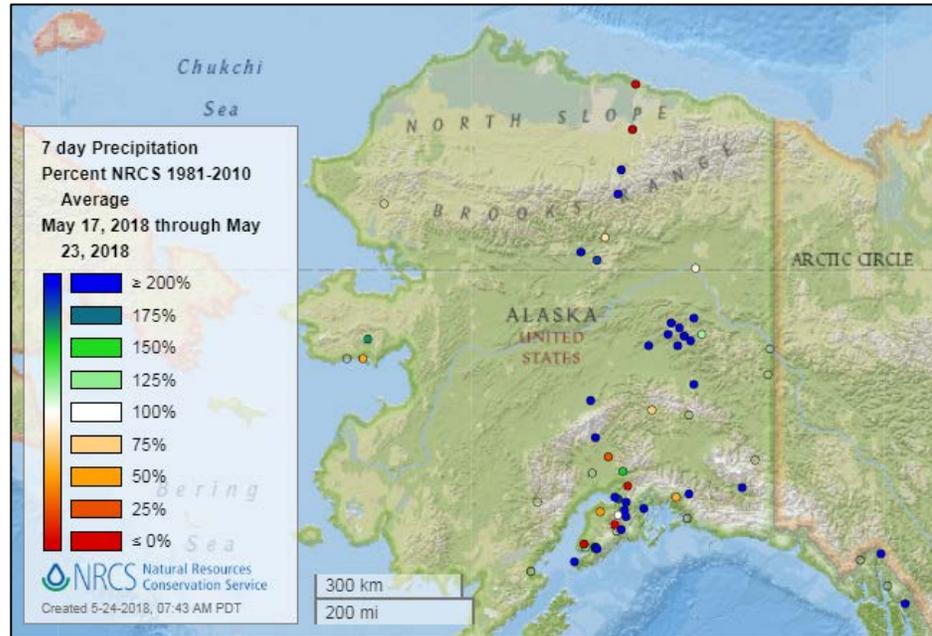
[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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](#)



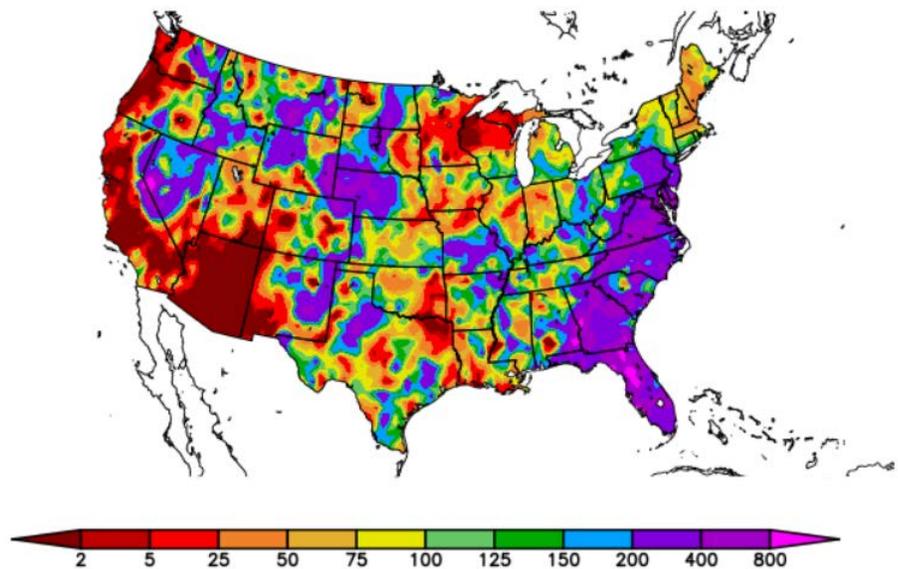
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%) 5/17/2018 – 5/23/2018



Generated 5/24/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

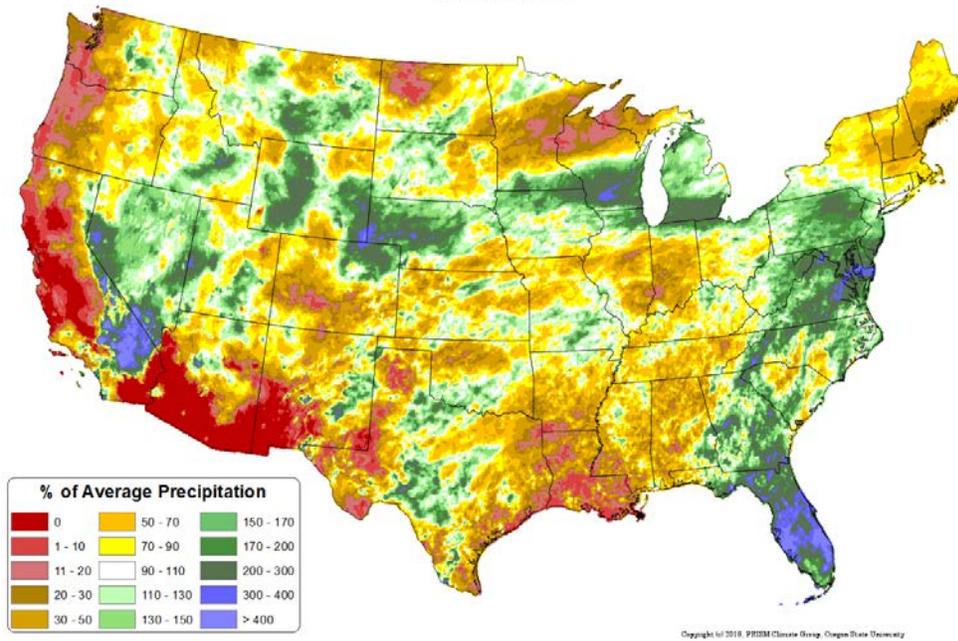
Water and Climate Update

Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 May 2018 - 23 May 2018
Period ending 7 AM EST 23 May 2018
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 24 May 2018)

[Month-to-date national total precipitation percent of average map](#)

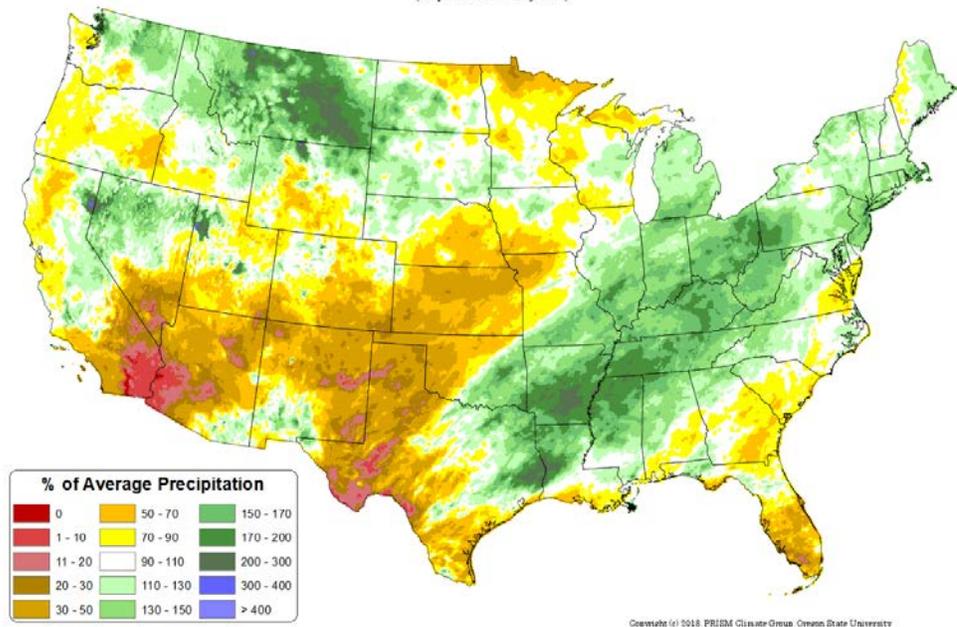


Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

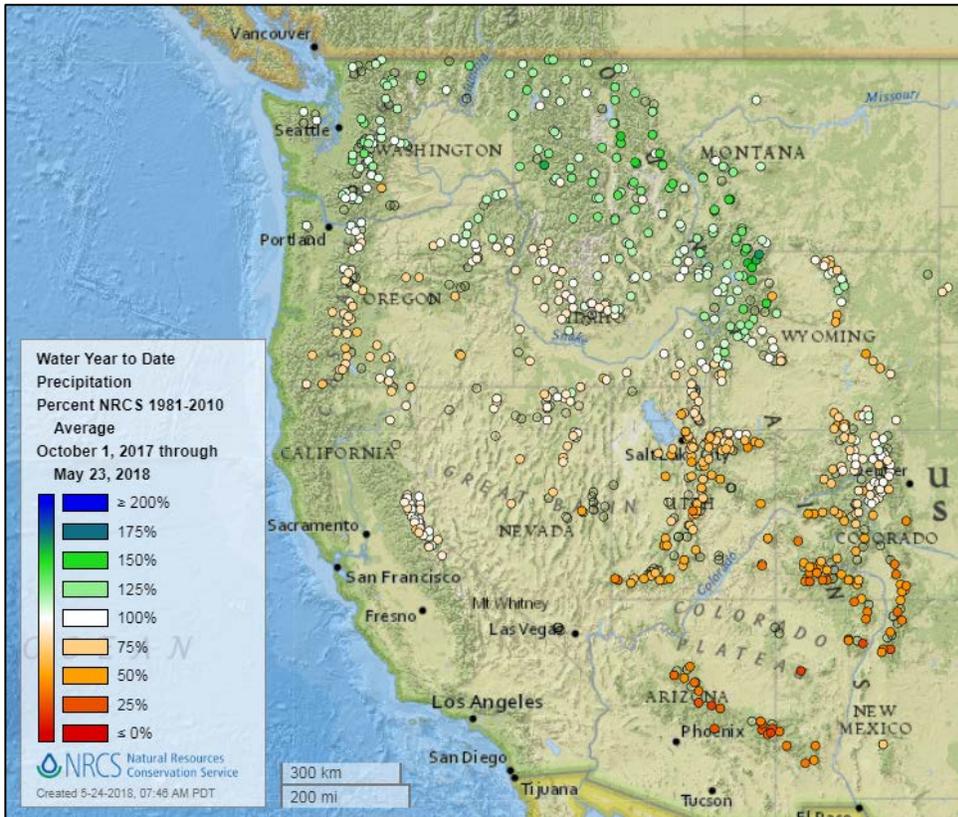
Source: PRISM

[February through April 2018 total precipitation percent of average map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: February 2018 - April 2018
Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Apr 2018
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 May 2018)

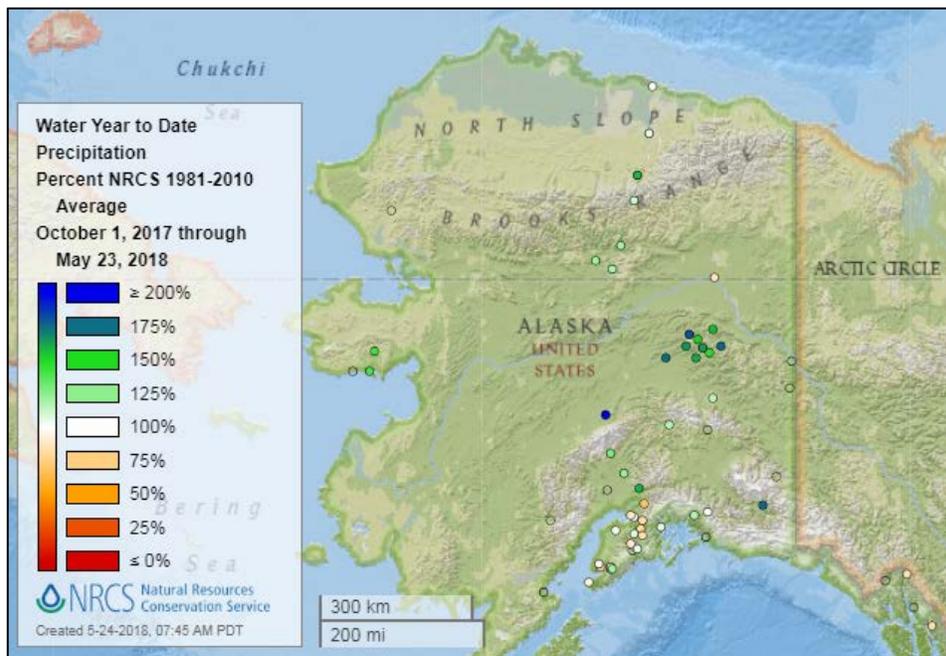


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



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

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



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

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

Temperature

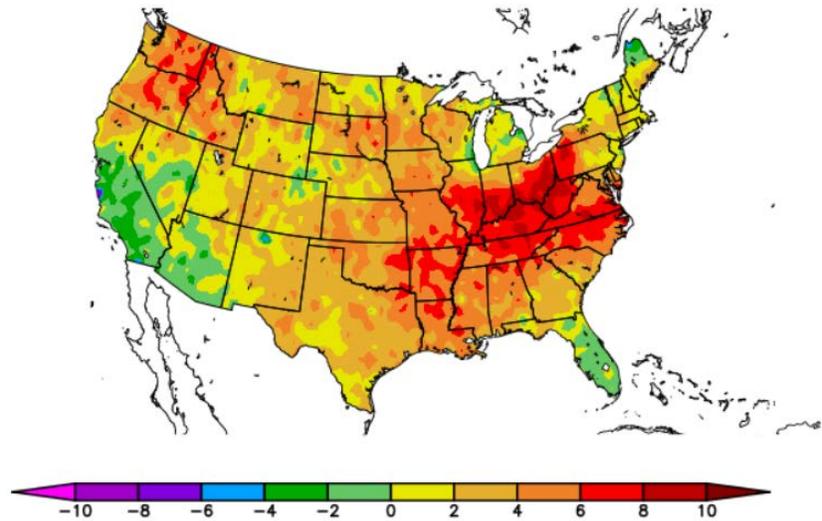
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
5/17/2018 – 5/23/2018



Generated 5/24/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

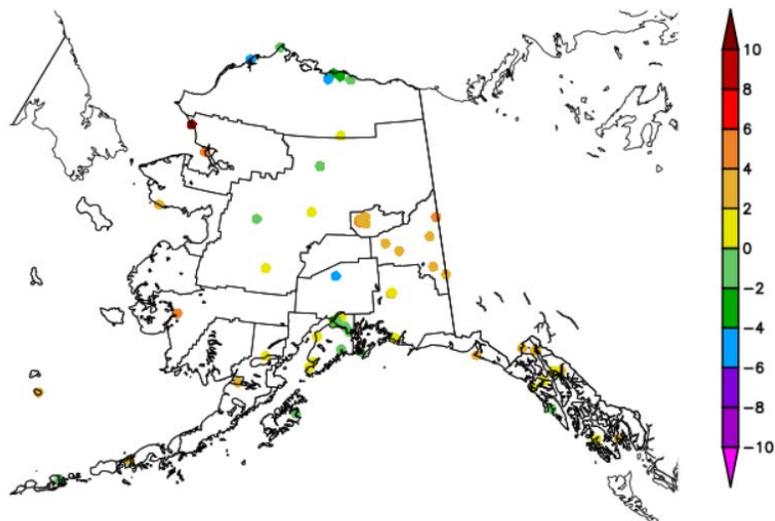
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/17/2018 – 5/23/2018



Generated 5/24/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

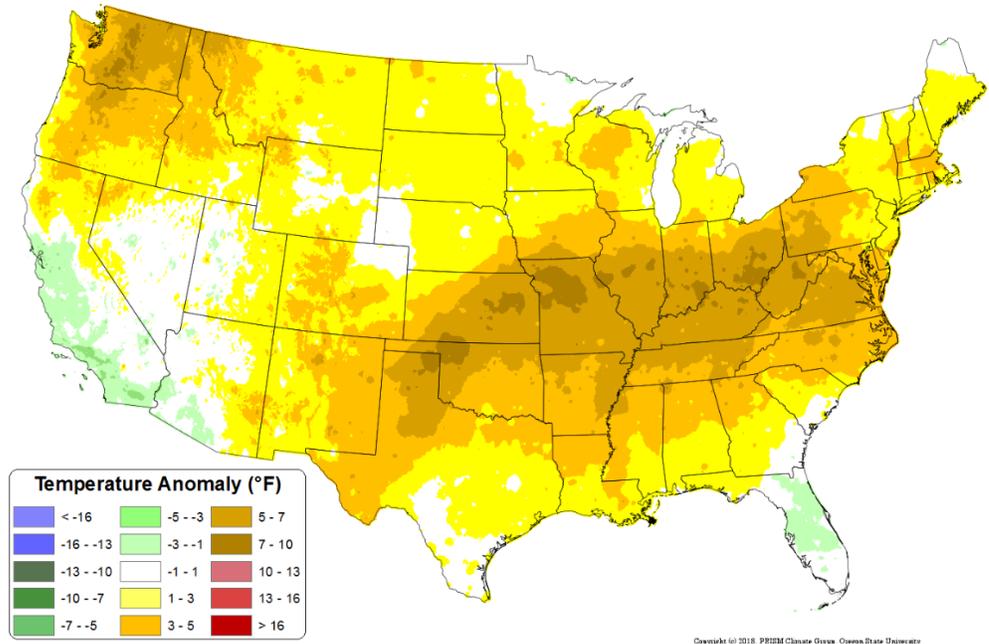
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Water and Climate Update

Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks Source: PRISM

[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

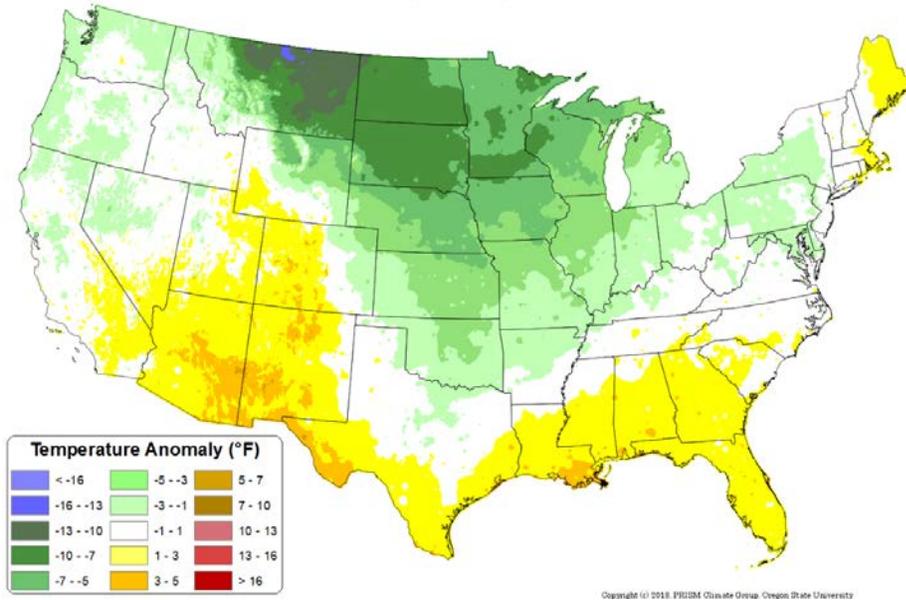
Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 May 2018 - 23 May 2018
Period ending 7 AM EST 23 May 2018
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 24 May 2018)



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

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: February 2018 - April 2018
Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Apr 2018
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 May 2018)

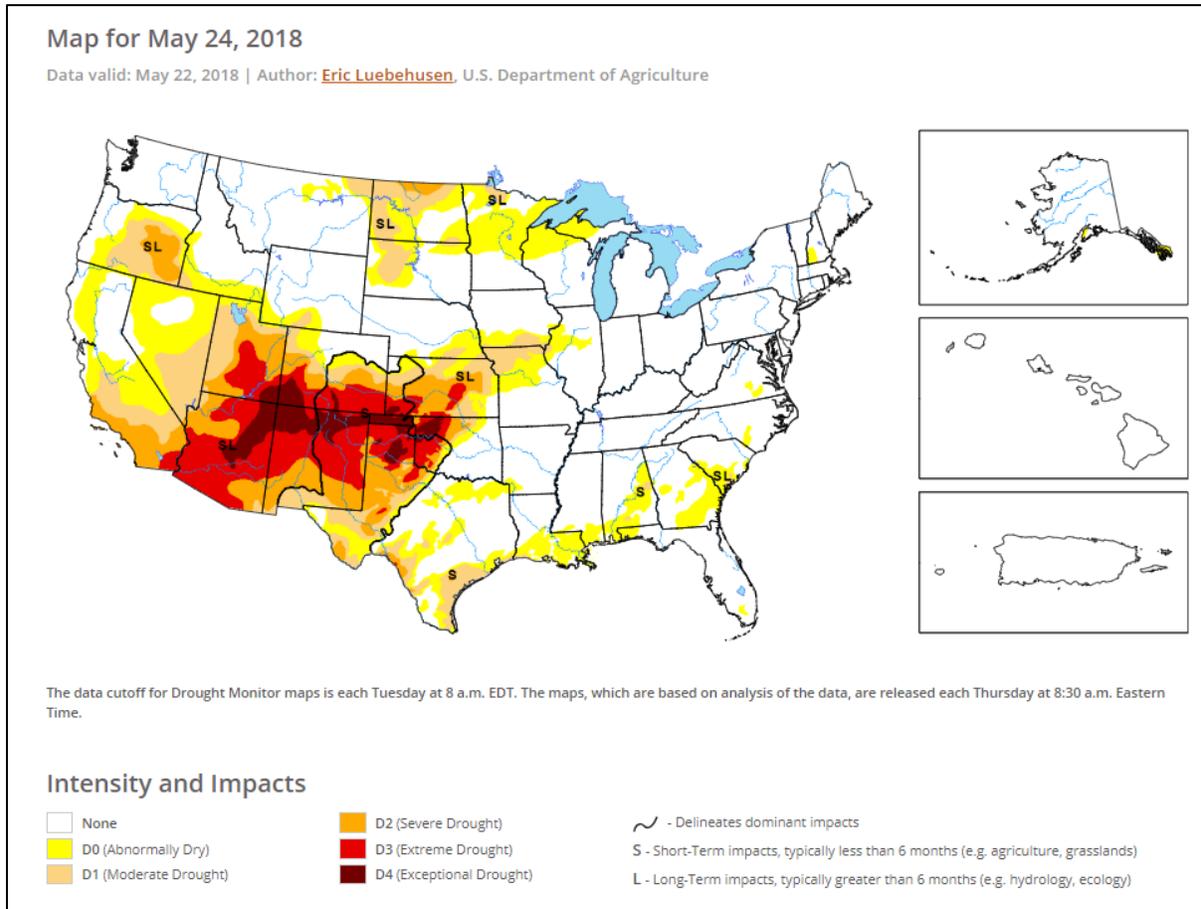
[February through April 2018 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



Drought

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

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



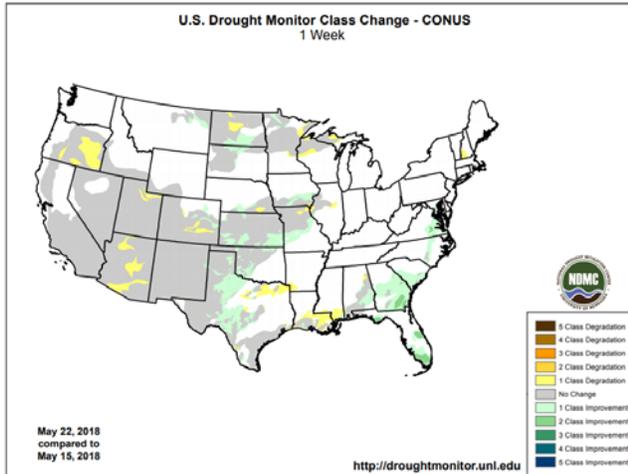
Current [National Drought Summary](#), May 24, 2018

Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

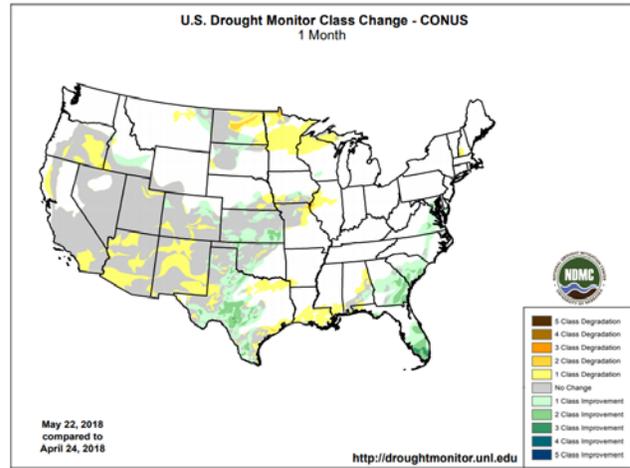
“The active weather pattern persisted across most of the nation, though unfavorably dry, hot weather lingered over parts of the South and Southwest. During the 7-day period ending Tuesday morning, areas of heavy to excessive rainfall provided widespread drought relief across the central and southern Atlantic Coast States and from Texas northward into Montana and the Dakotas. Conversely, short-term dryness intensified along the central Gulf Coast, while worsening drought conditions were noted in portions of Arizona and Oregon. Likewise, short-term dryness continued to develop in parts of New England. Please note the wet weather pattern continued through the week; any rain that fell after 12z Tuesday (8 a.m., EDT) will be incorporated into the following week’s drought assessment.”

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

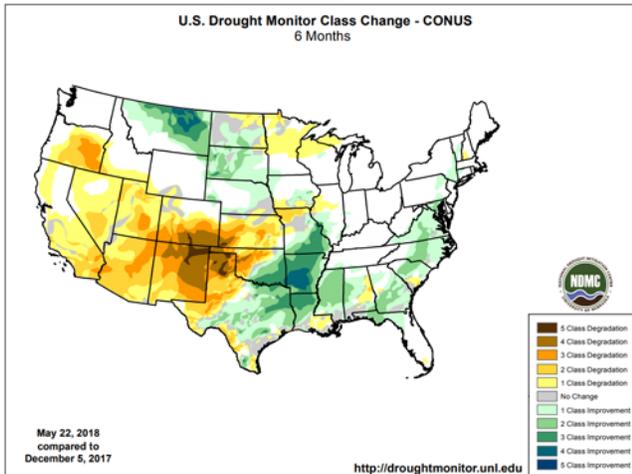
1 Week



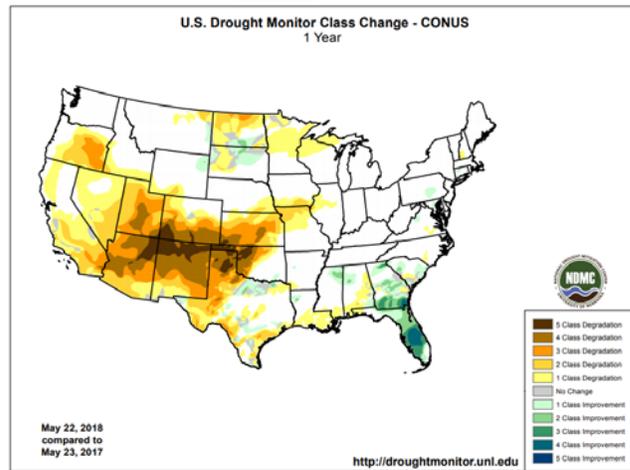
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year

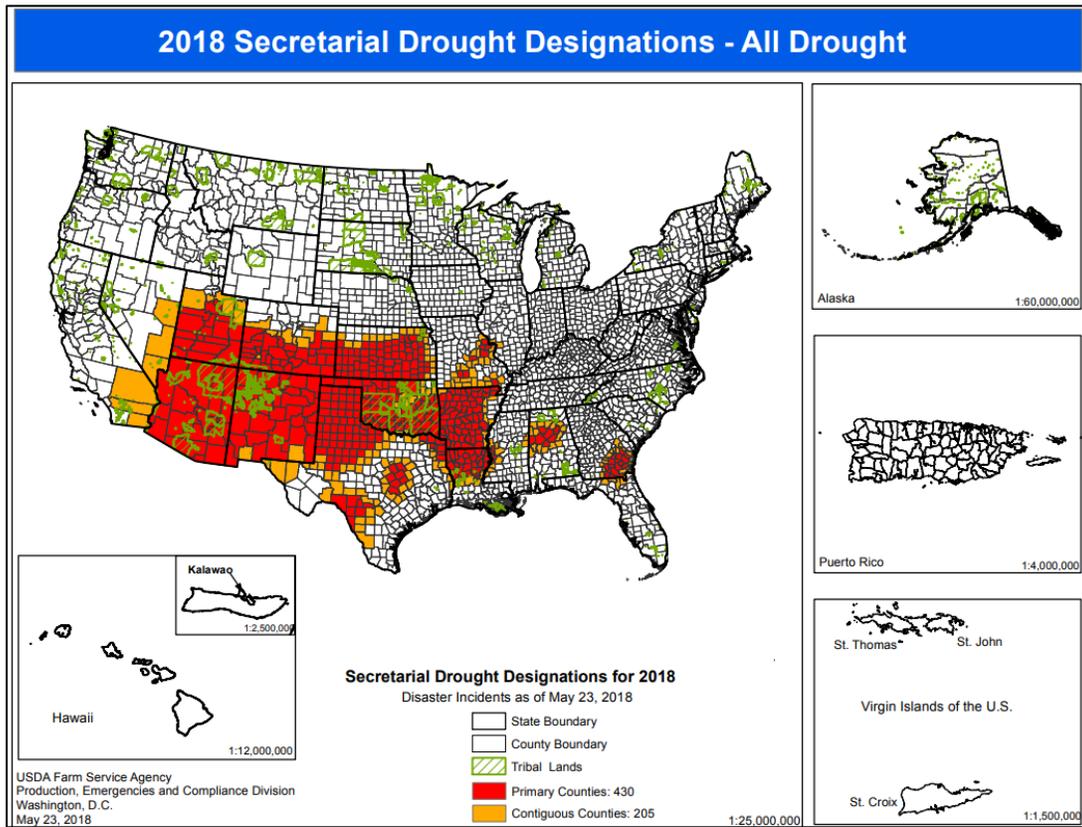


Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months

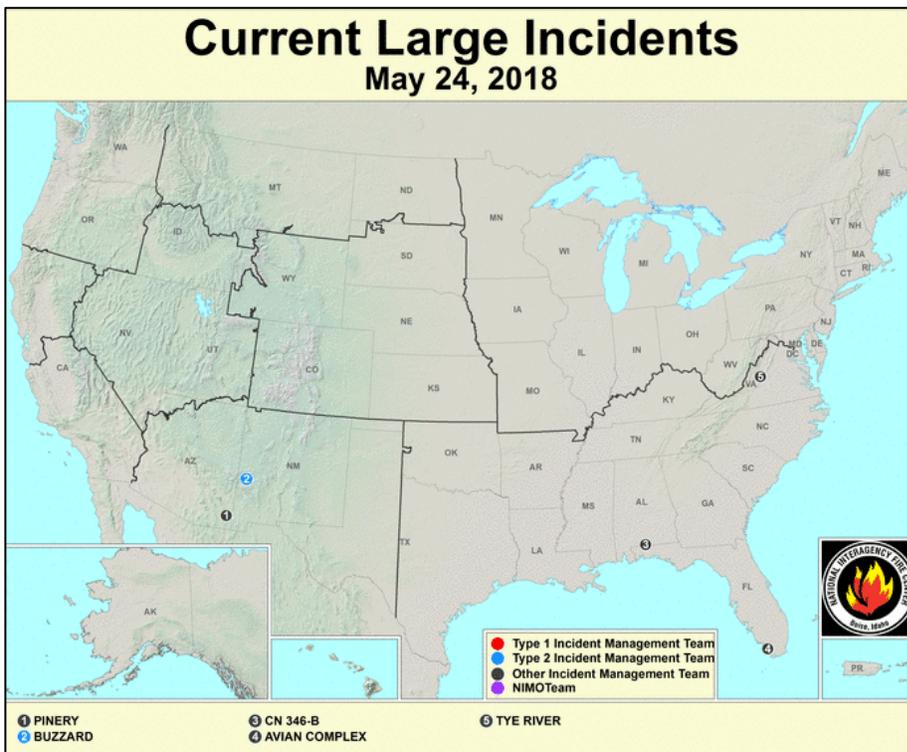
Highlighted Drought Resources

- [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



Wildfires: USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping



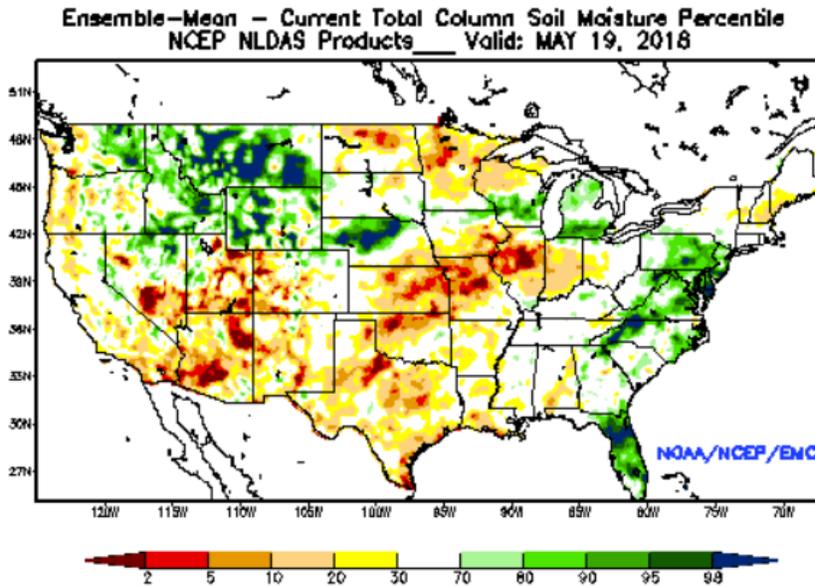
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)
- [InciWeb Incident Information System](#)
- [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#)

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

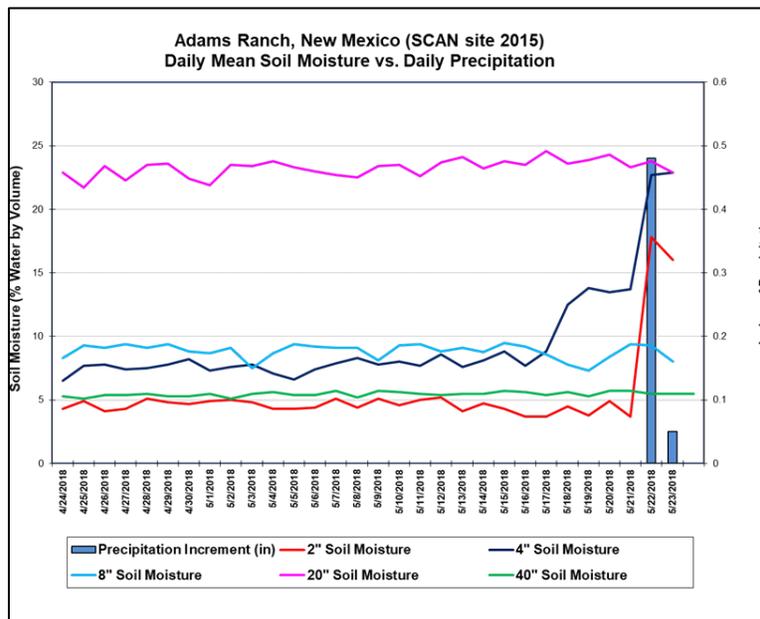
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of May 19, 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 [Adams Ranch SCAN site 2015](#) in New Mexico. This station is located in an area that has experienced long-term drought. On 5/22/18, accumulated precipitation totaled 0.48 inches. The 2" and 4" sensors showed a significant increase in soil moisture levels.

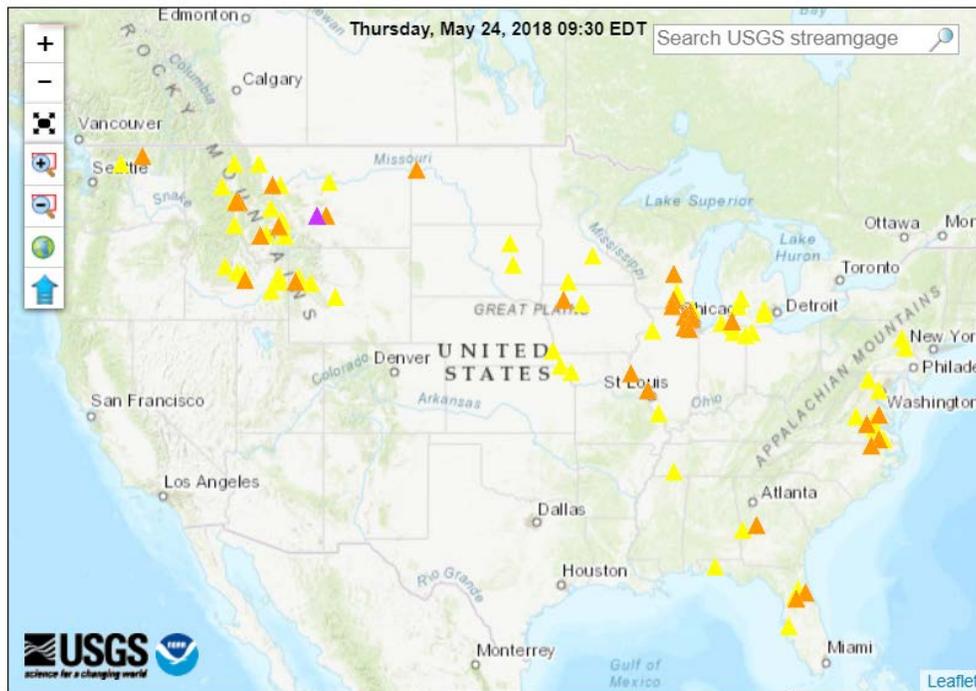
Soil Moisture Data Portals

- [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



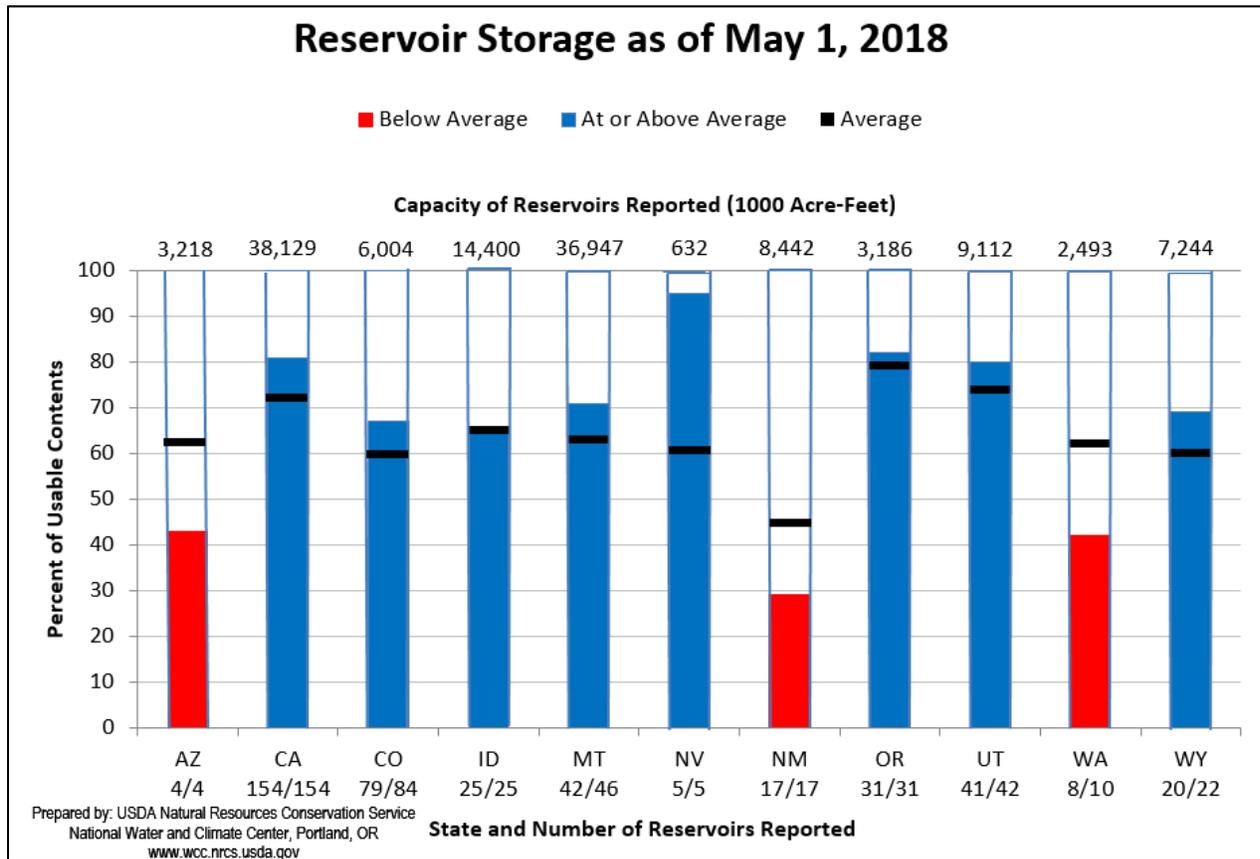
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
			△ Streamgauge with flood stage	○ Streamgauge without flood stage		

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

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



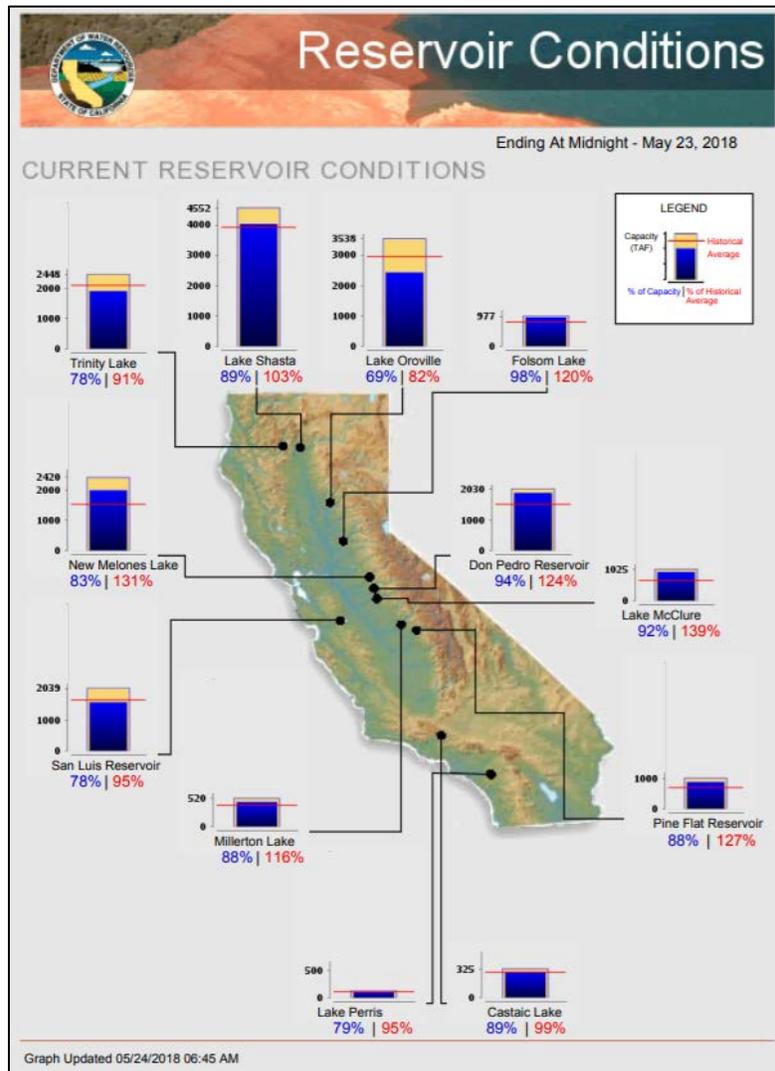
May 1 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

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

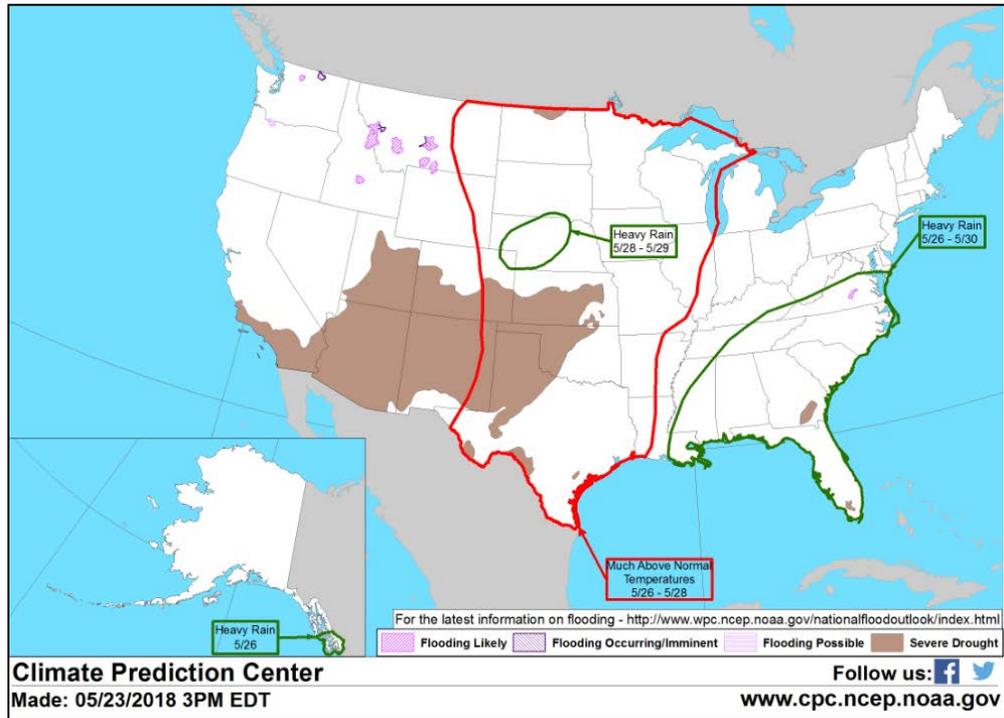
Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

[National Outlook, Thursday, May 24](#): “The probability of a tropical or subtropical storm developing over the Gulf of Mexico is increasing, with a named storm likely to form by week’s end. However, regardless of the degree of tropical development, heavy showers (2 to 5 inches or more) can be expected in the Southeast during the next several days. Occasional showers will affect other areas of the country, except for dry weather across the Pacific Northwest and the nation’s southwestern quadrant. Late-week precipitation could become heavy across northern sections of the Rockies and Plains. Warmth will continue to dominate the country, except in the Far West and portions of the Atlantic Coast States. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 29 – June 2 calls for the likelihood of warmer-than-normal weather nationwide, except for near-normal temperatures across the lower Southeast. Meanwhile, near- to above-normal rainfall across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in a few areas, including Texas, the Northeast, and the Pacific Northwest.”

Water and Climate Update

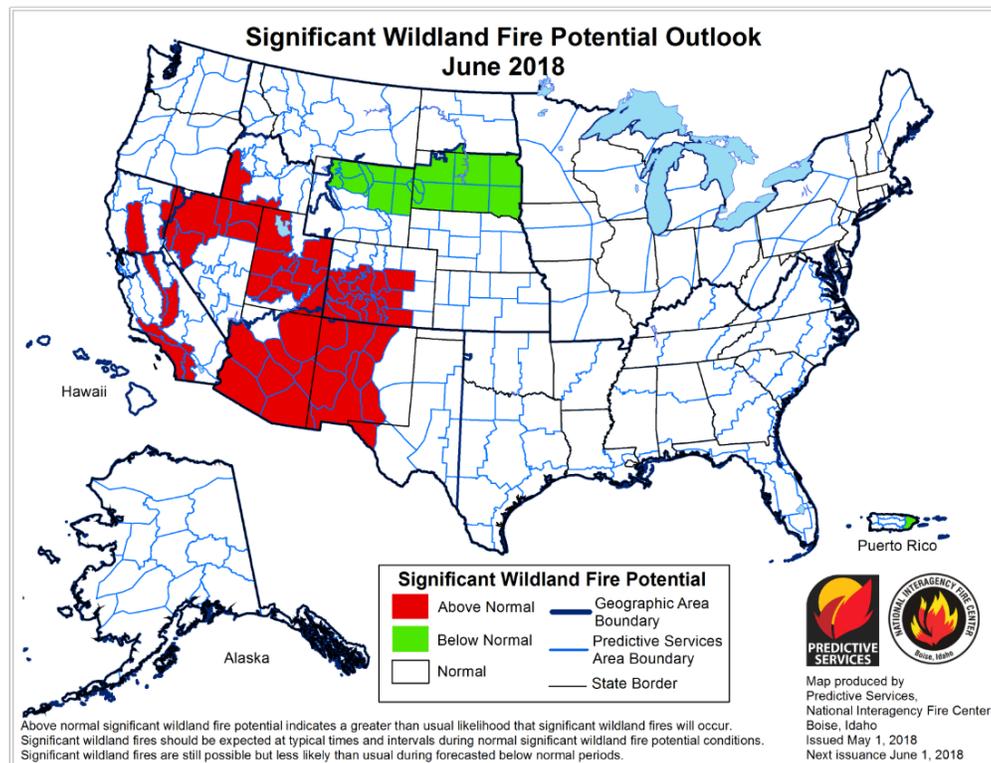
Weather Hazard Outlook [May 26 – 30, 2018](#)

Source: Climate Prediction Center



Significant Wildland [Fire Potential Outlook](#)

Source: National Interagency Fire Center

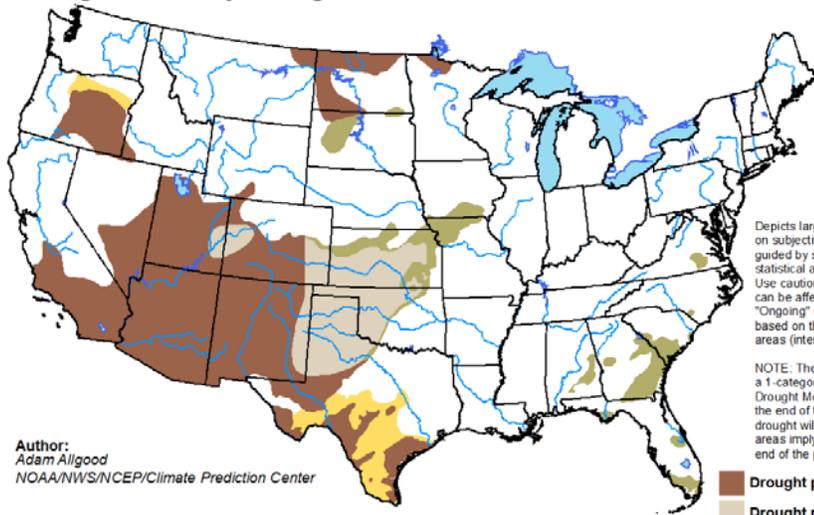


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [May 17 – August 31, 2018](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for May 17 - August 31, 2018
Released May 17, 2018



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

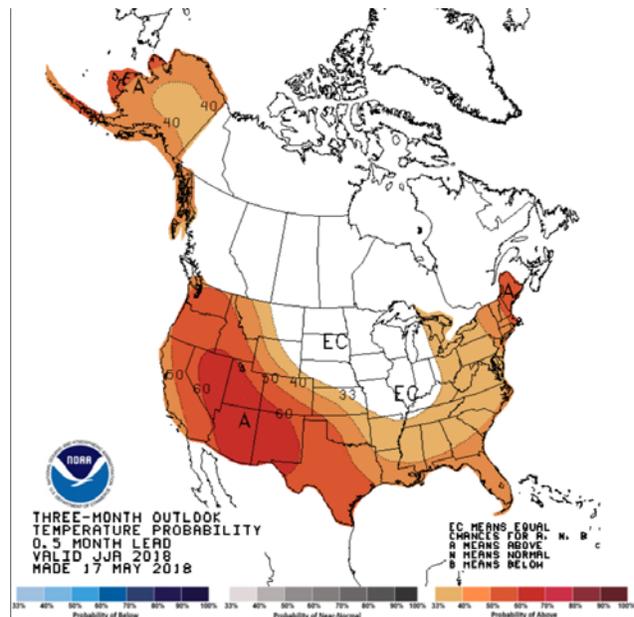
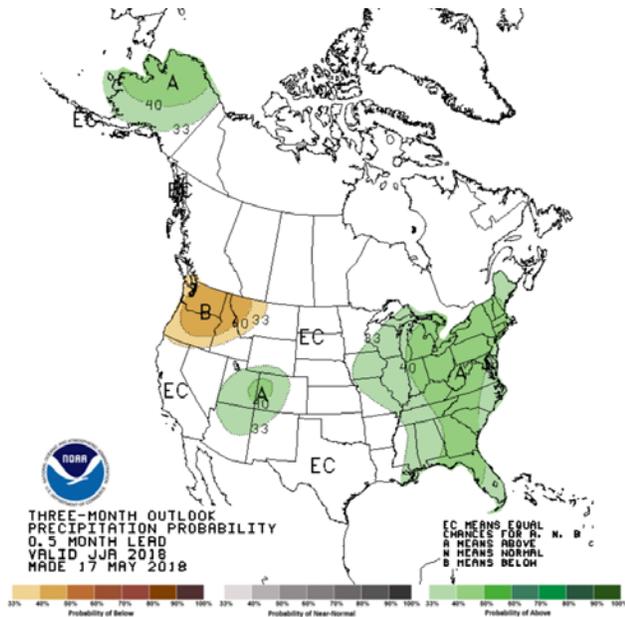


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

Precipitation

Temperature



[June-July-August \(JJA\) 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](#).