

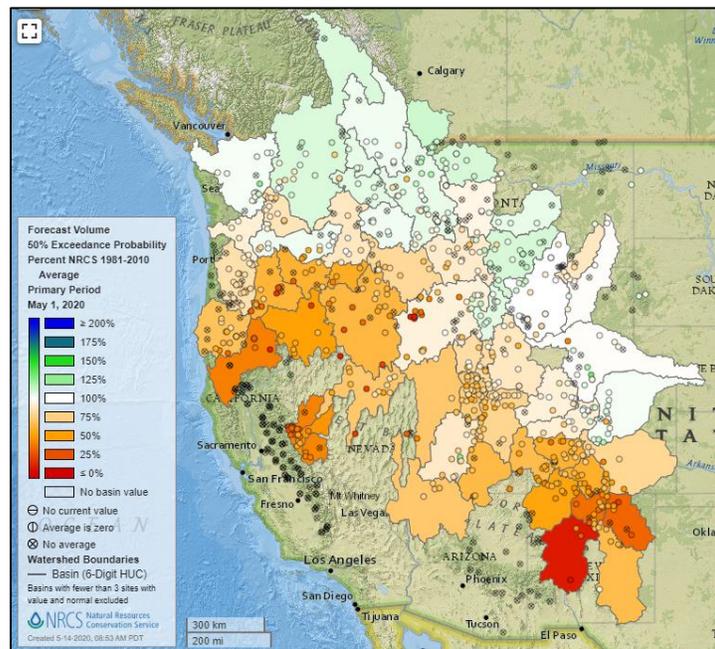
Water and Climate Update

May 14, 2020

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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May 1 water supply forecasts predict summer streamflow

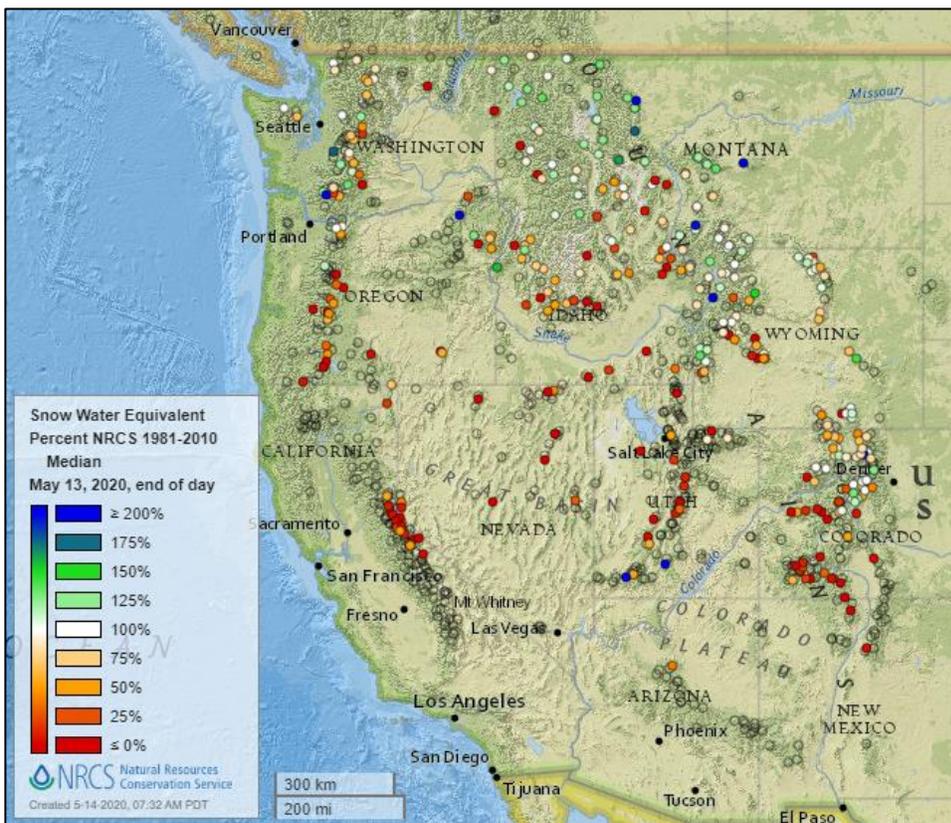


The Natural Resources Conservation Service May 1 water supply forecasts based on current conditions have been released for the western U.S. The northern and northeastern regions including the northern Rockies and northern Cascades are forecast to have near normal to above normal water supplies. Most of the rest of the West are forecast to have below to much below normal water supply conditions. Notable below normal areas are in the southern and central Rockies, the Sierra Nevada, southern Cascades, and the interior Oregon and central Idaho basins. In Alaska, the water supply forecasts range from near normal to much above normal.

Related:

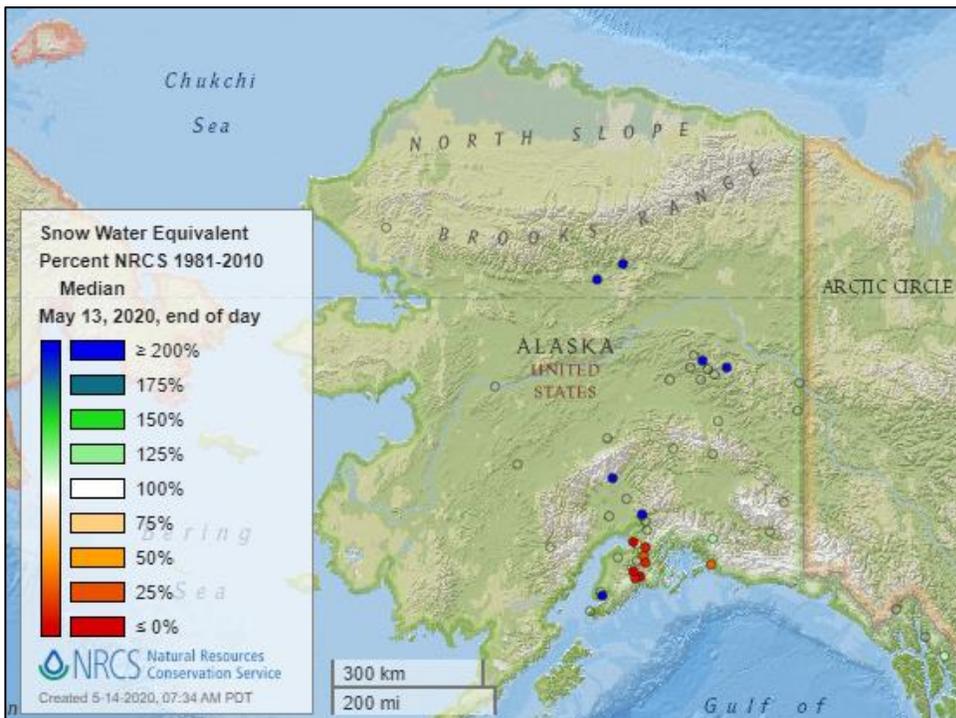
- [Report: Yakima Water Supply Still Healthy for Farmers, Fish](#) – U.S. News & World Report
- [Eastern Idaho water supply outlook is optimistic](#) – Local News 8 (ID)
- [Water outlook looks grim](#) – Idaho Mountain Express (ID)
- [Summer water supply in good shape — for now](#) – Skagit Valley Herald (WA)
- [Scant precipitation, rapidly melting snow put irrigation districts in bind](#) – Capitol Press (OR)
- [Commissioners declare drought order for Douglas County](#) News Review Today (OR)
- [Quick melting snowpack leaves New Mexico vulnerable to drought conditions](#) – KOB (NM)

Snow



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

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

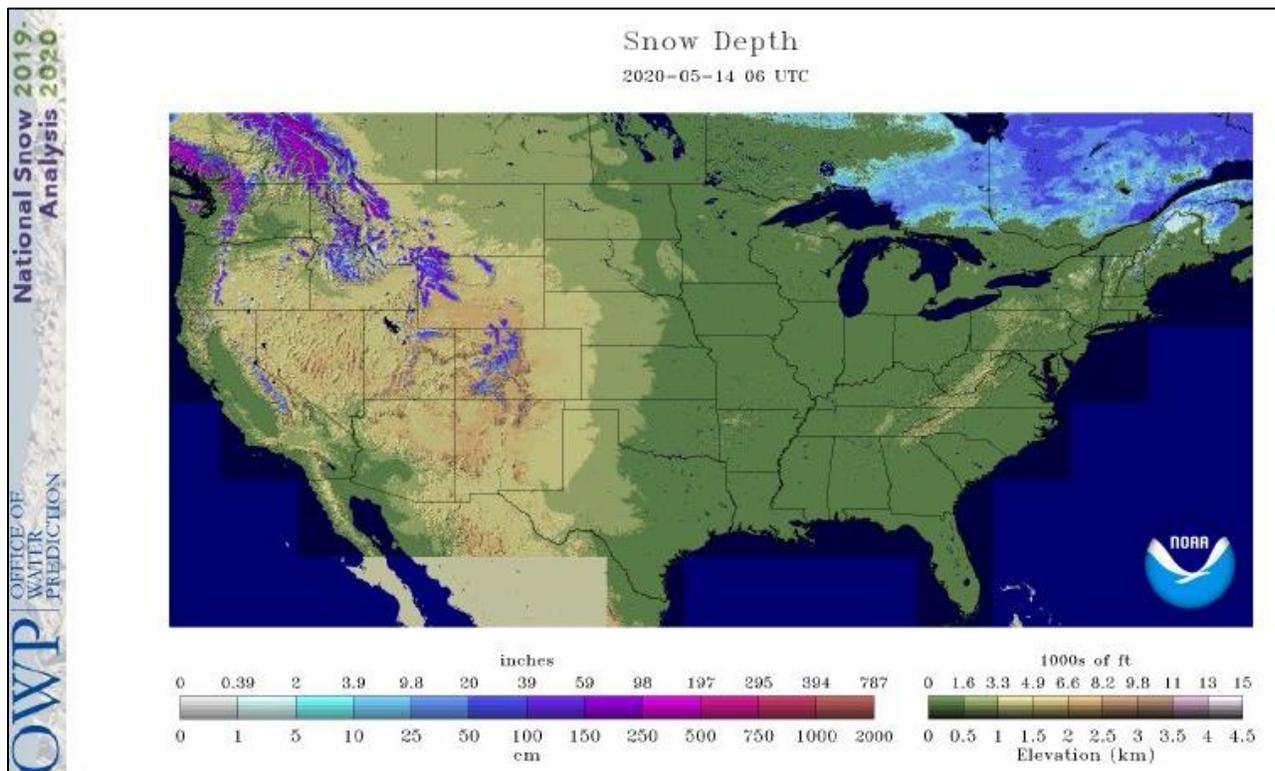


[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

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

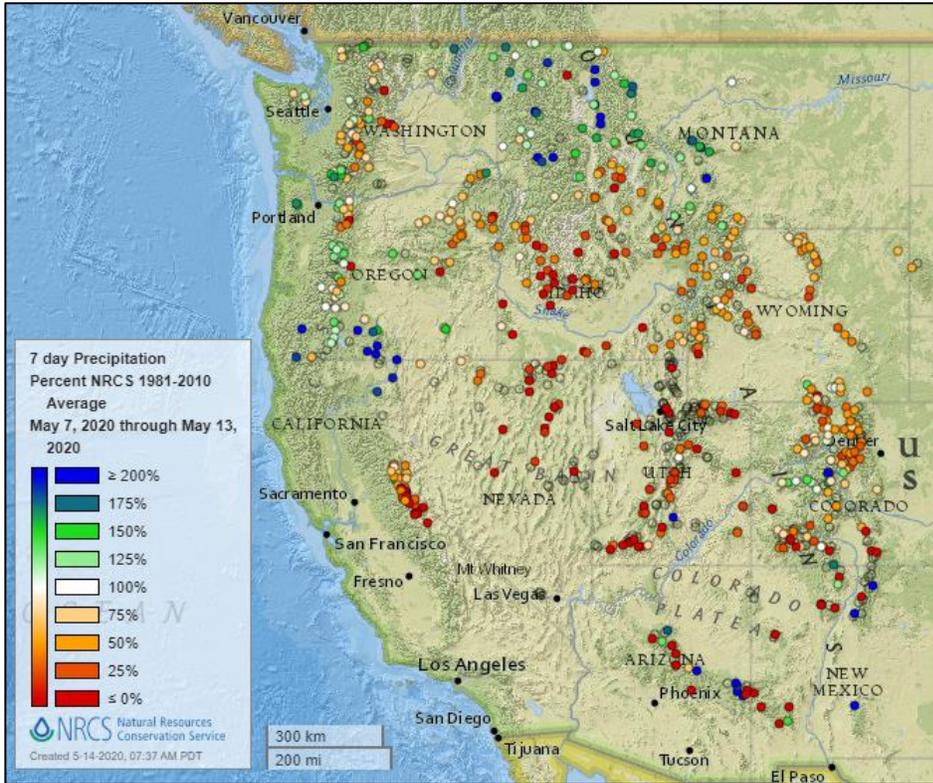
Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis

Source: NOAA Office of Water Prediction



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

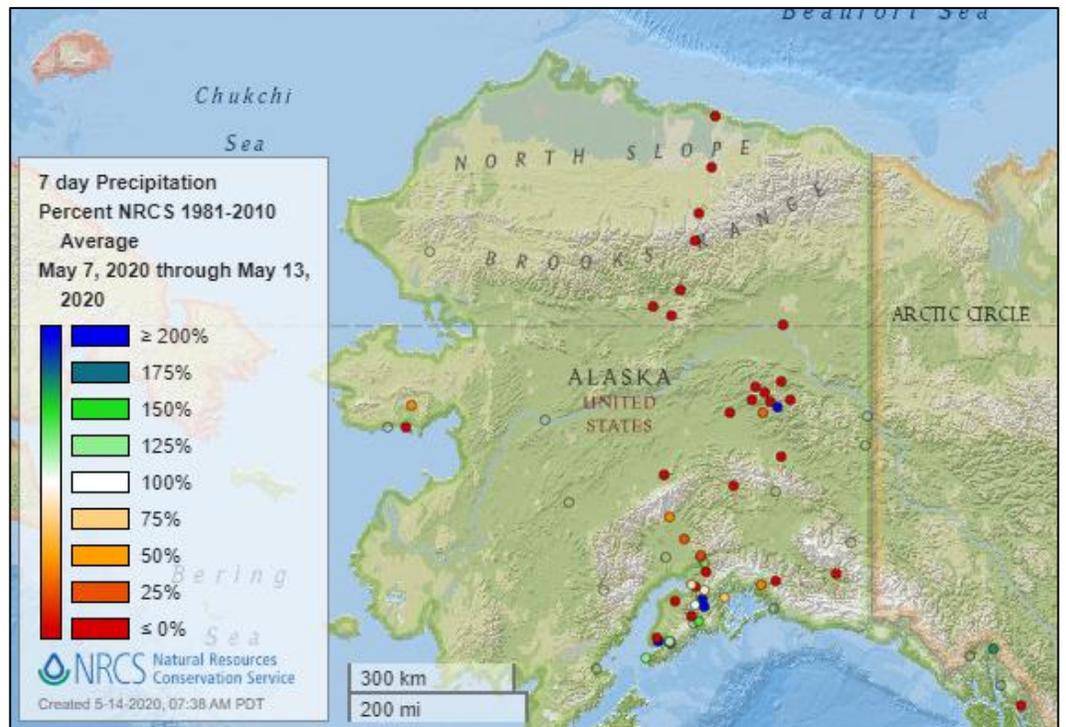


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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

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

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



Water and Climate Update

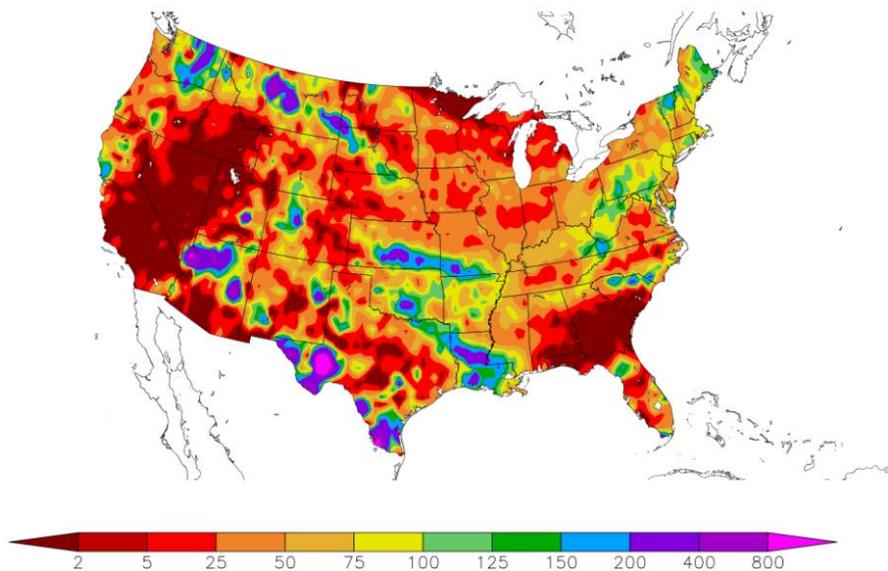
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
5/6/2020 – 5/12/2020



Generated 5/13/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

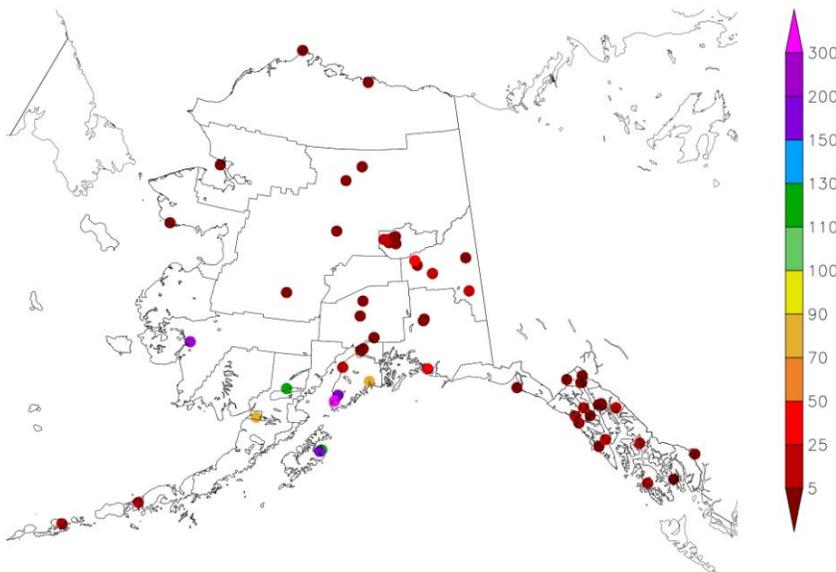
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
5/6/2020 – 5/12/2020



Generated 5/13/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

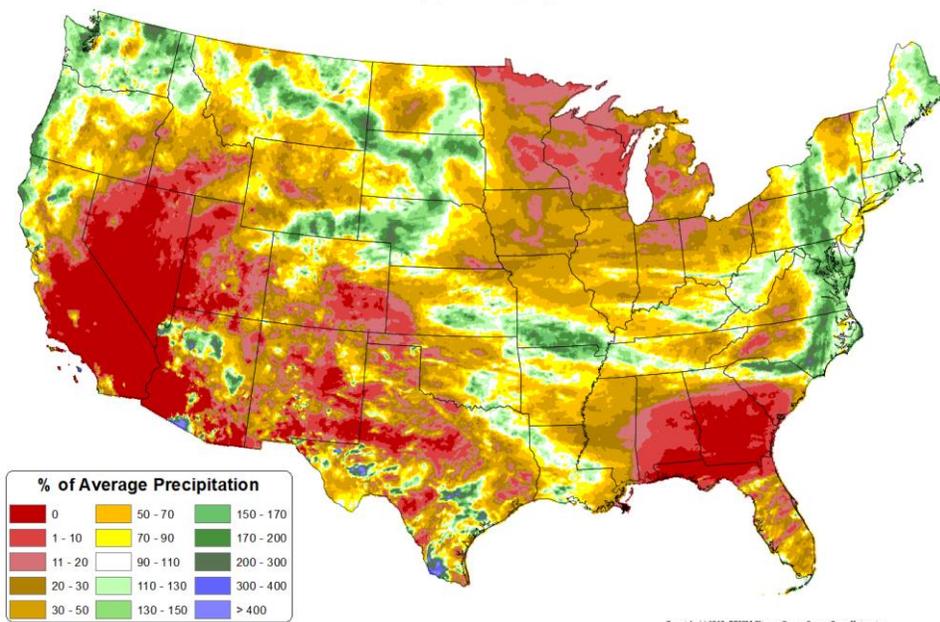
Water and Climate Update

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

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 May 2020 - 13 May 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 13 May 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 14 May 2020)

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

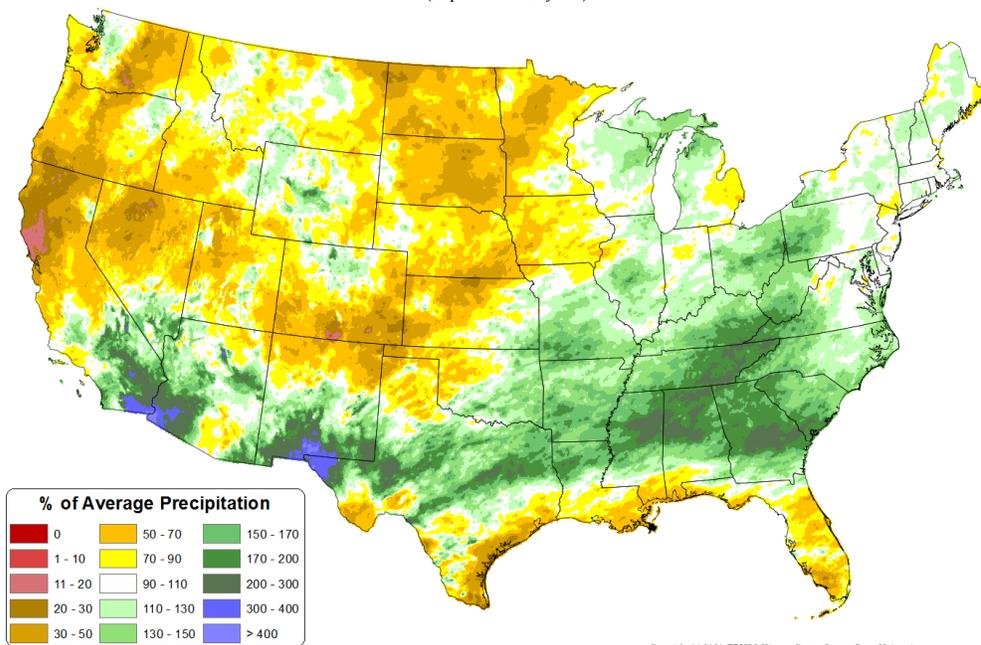


Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

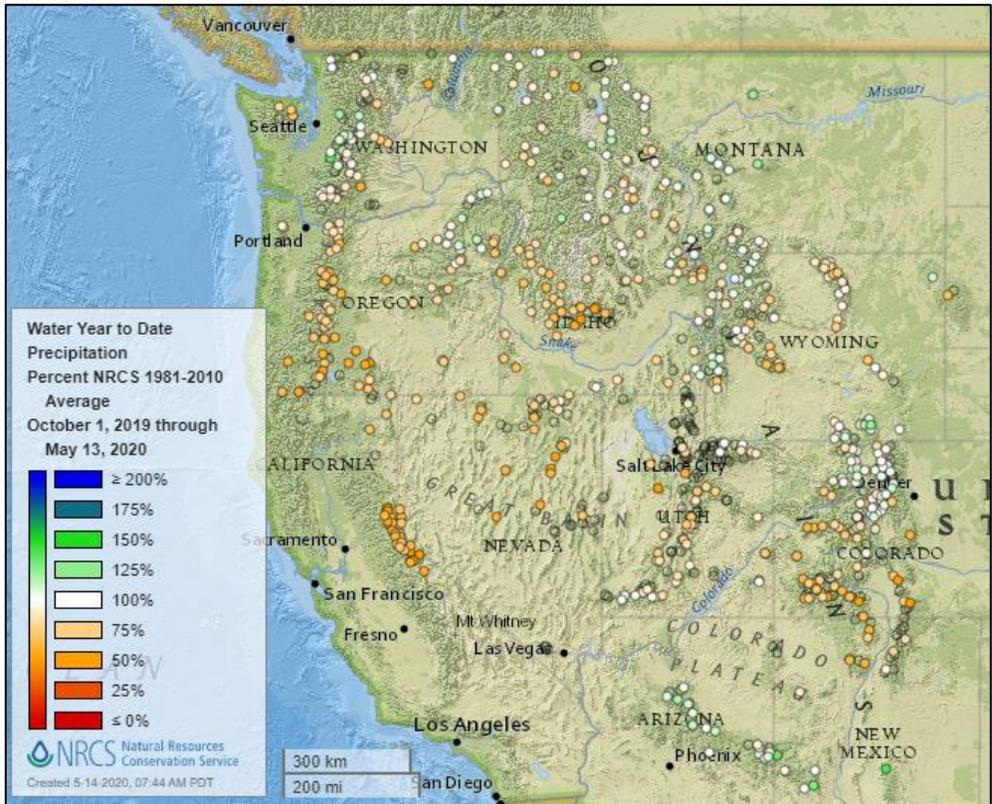
Source: PRISM

[February through April 2020 total precipitation percent of average map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Feb 2020 - Apr 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Apr 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 May 2020)

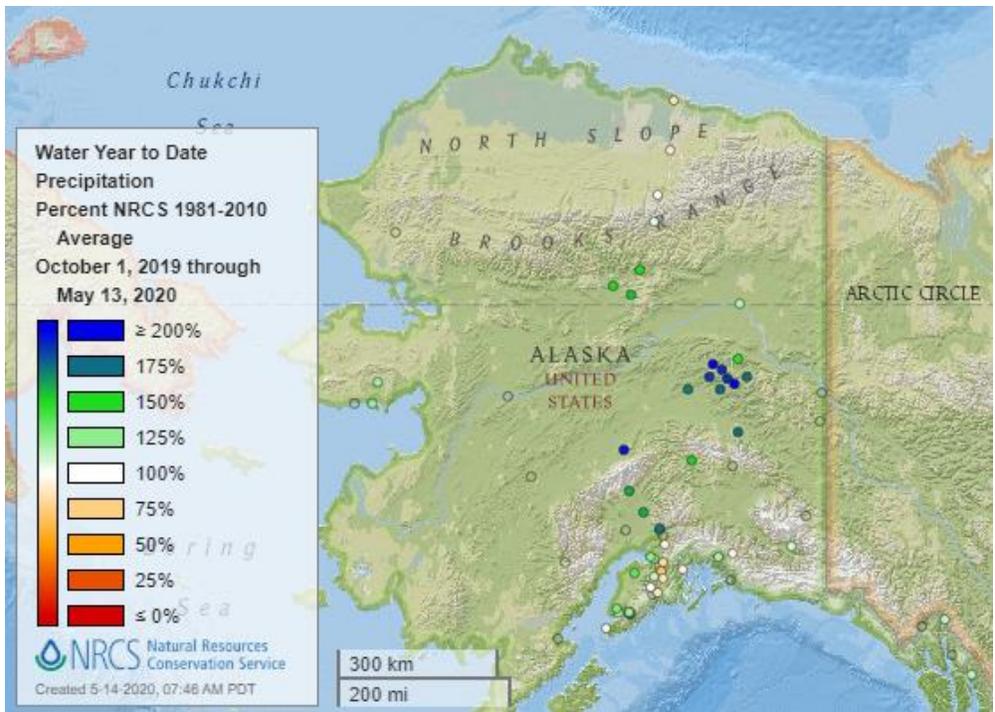


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2020 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[2020 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2020 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 2020 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

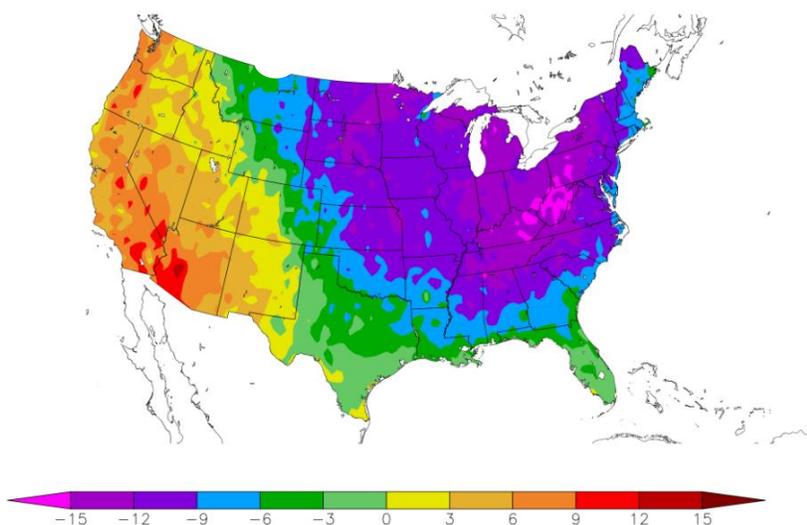
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/6/2020 – 5/12/2020



Generated 5/13/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

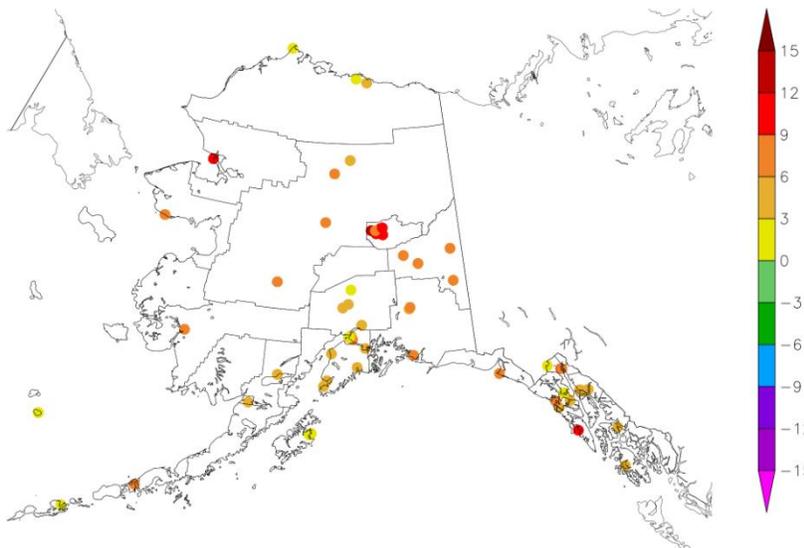
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/6/2020 – 5/12/2020



Generated 5/13/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

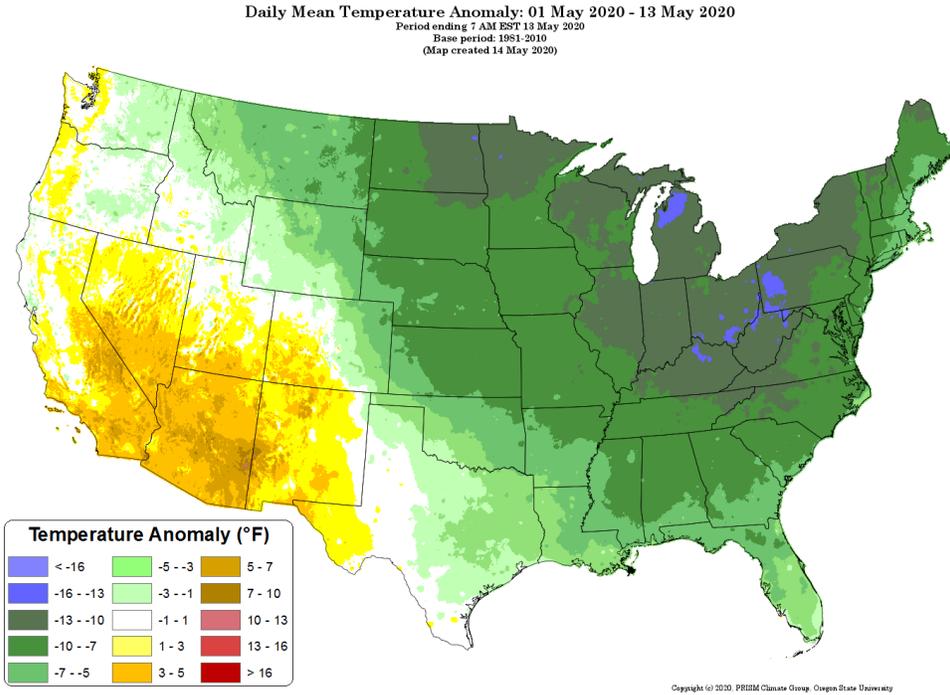
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Water and Climate Update

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

Source: PRISM

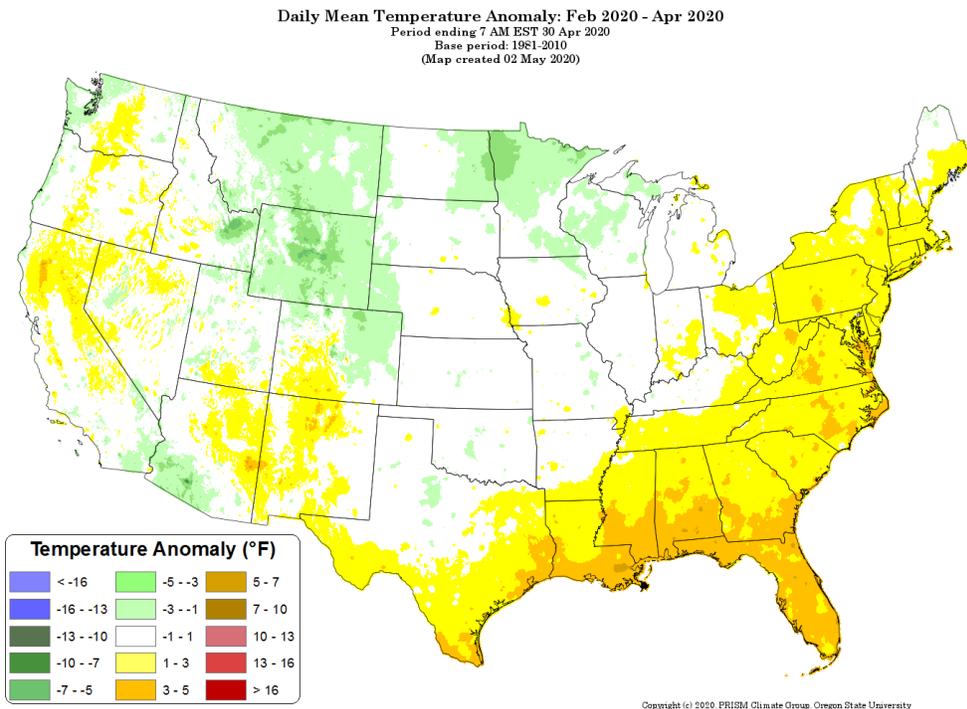
[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

[February through April 2020 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



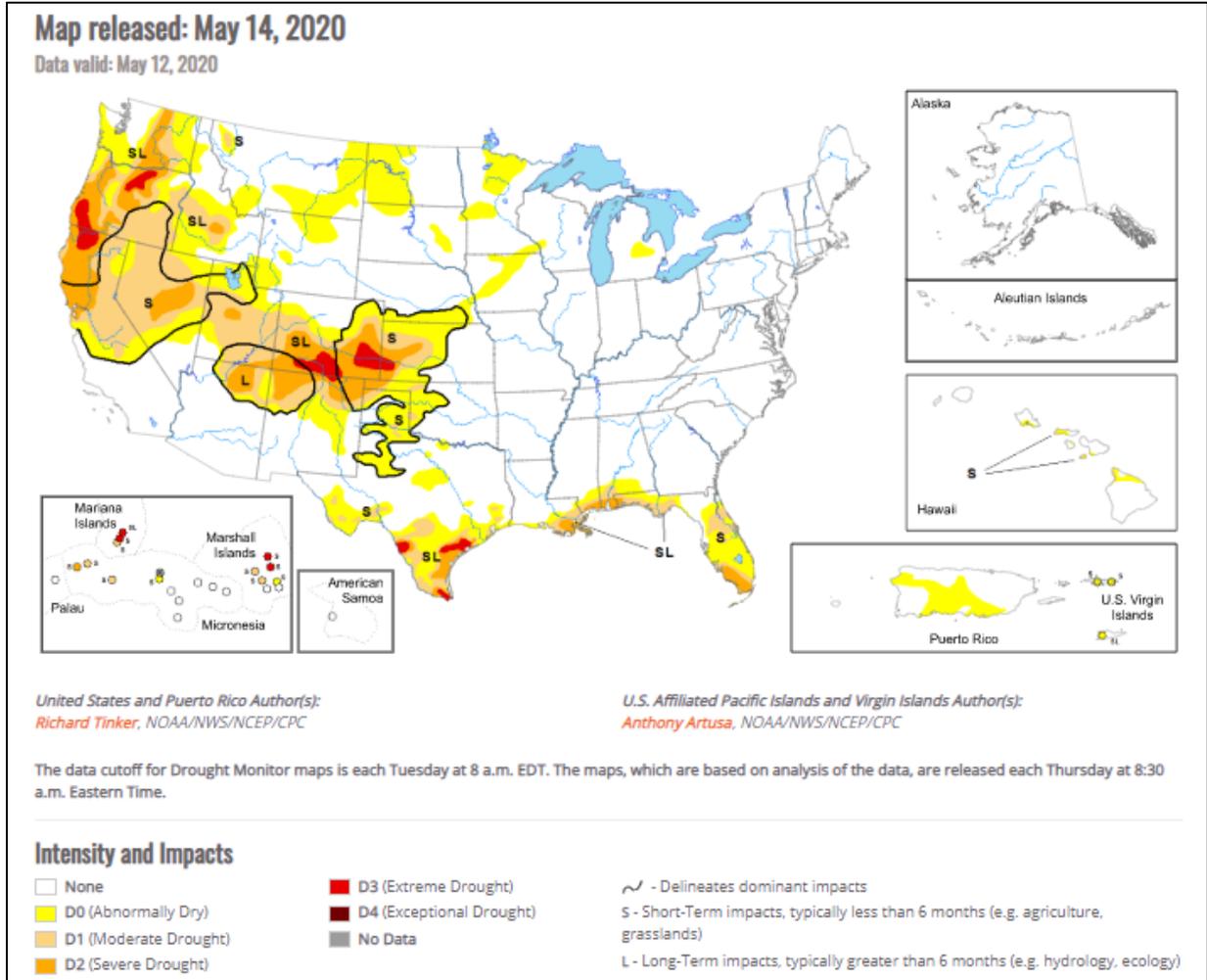
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), May 14, 2020

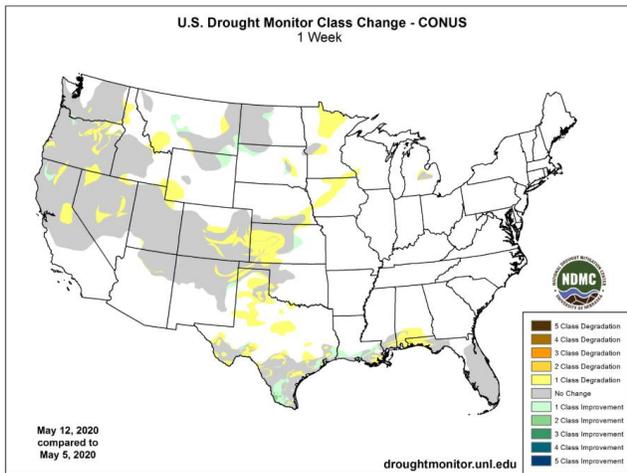
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“Light precipitation at best covered most of the 48 states, so drought deterioration was more common than improvement this past week. Less than half an inch fell on most areas across the Southeast, Great Lakes Region, central and northern Plains, Mississippi Valley, Texas, and from the Rockies to the Pacific Coast. Widespread light to moderate precipitation covered the Northeast and the central Appalachians, and a fairly broad area centered along the Ohio Valley received from a few tenths to one-half inch. Farther west, there were a few exceptions to the generally dry week. More than 2 inches of rain soaked parts of the south-central Great Plains and adjacent western Mississippi Valley, western Deep South Texas, and central Montana. The broadest area of heavy precipitation covered a solid swath from south-central Kansas through southern Missouri, where totals ranged from 2 to nearly 4 inches. Similar amounts were more scattered in a stripe from southern Oklahoma and northeastern Texas through southern Louisiana, as well as in central Montana. Isolated sites in southwestern Texas were soaked by as much as 6 inches of rain, but closer to 2 inches fell on most locales there. Elsewhere, there were a few areas of moderate to precipitation from the northern High Plains into central Montana, and in orographically-favored parts of the northern Cascades.”

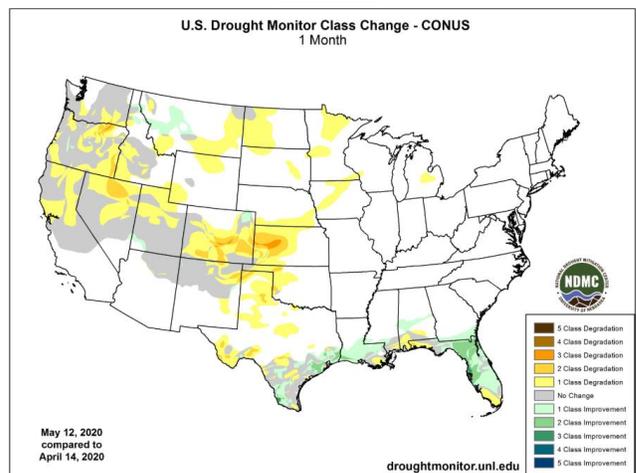
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

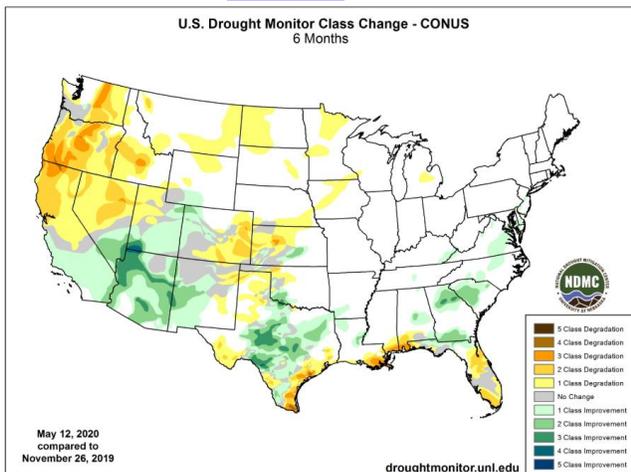
1 Week



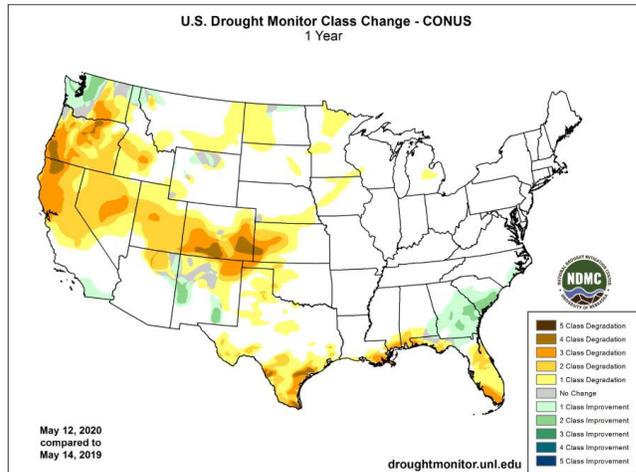
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

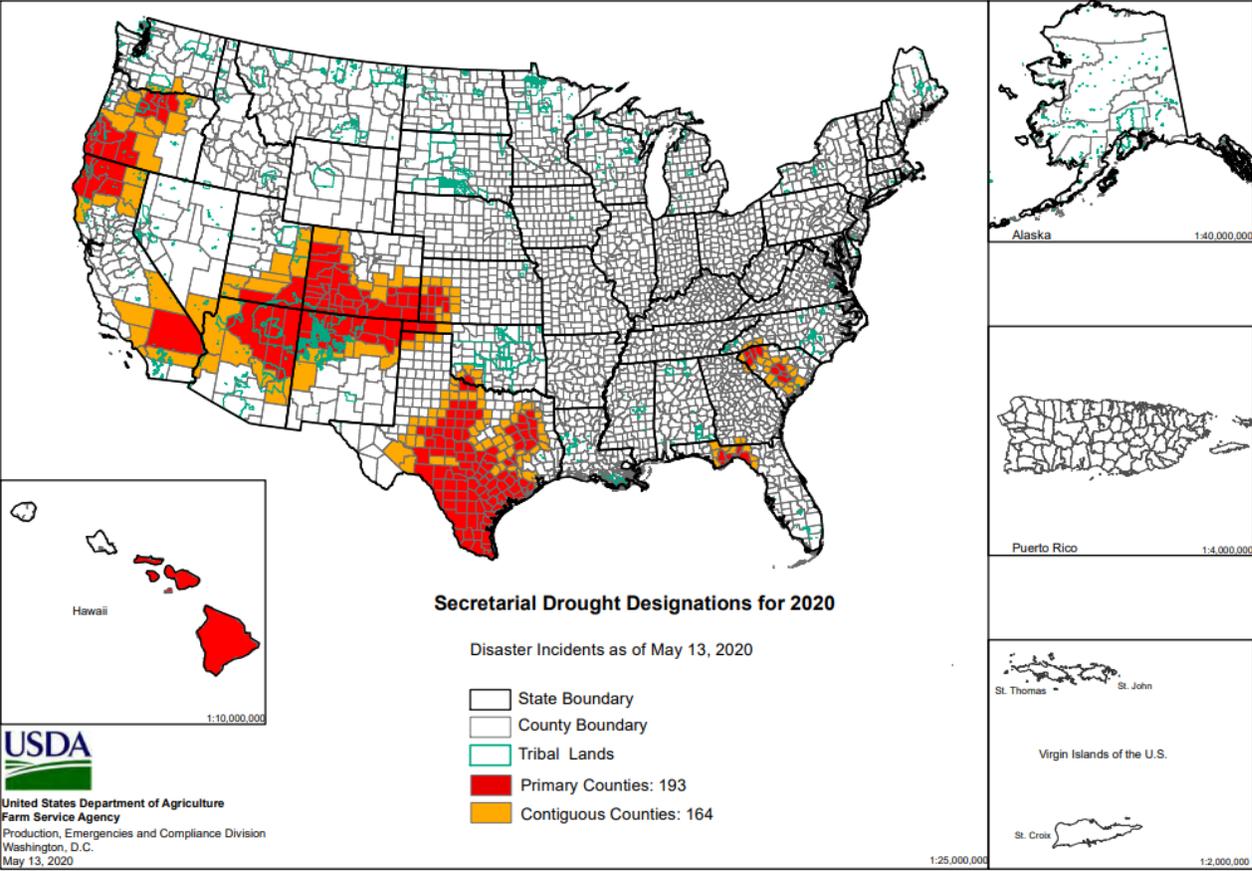
Highlighted Drought Resources

- [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](#)

Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency

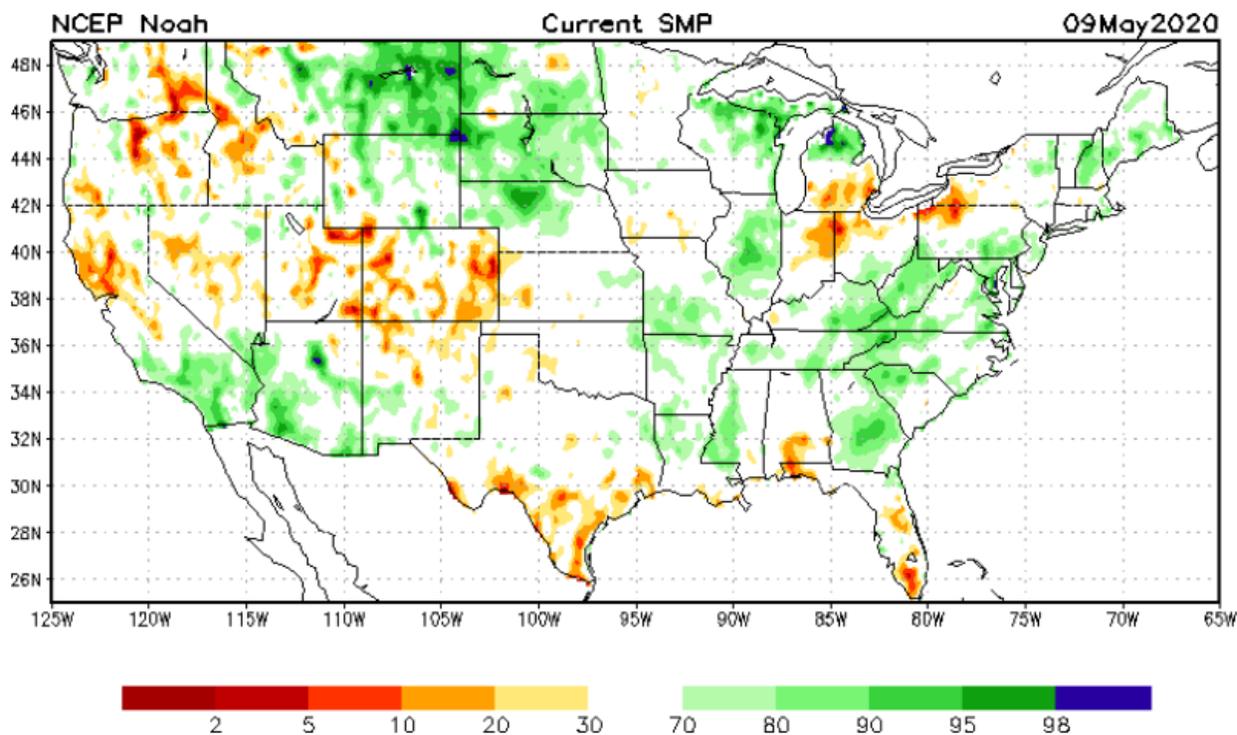
2020 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

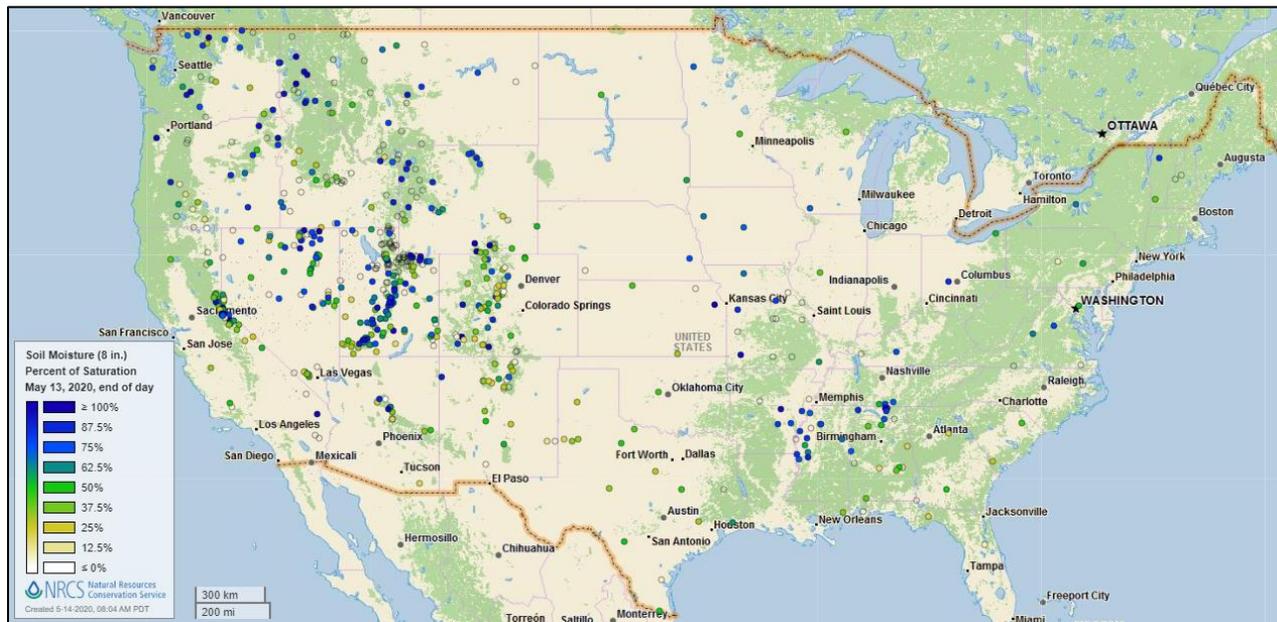
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of May 9, 2020

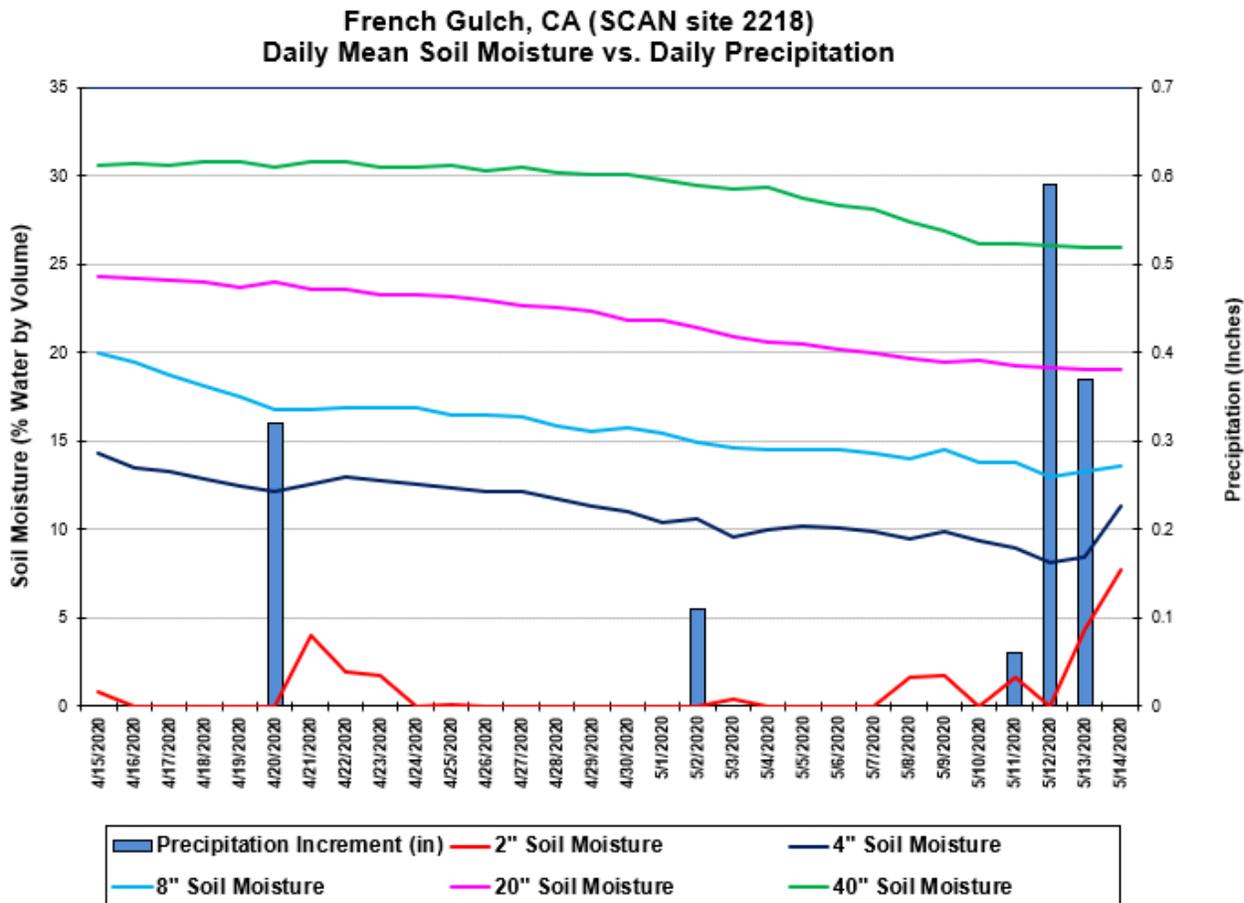
Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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



Soil Moisture Data

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



This chart shows the soil moisture and precipitation for the last 30 days at the [French Gulch](#) SCAN site in northern California. Several precipitation events throughout the month increased soil moisture at the -2” sensor. Precipitation between May 11-13 also increased soil moisture at the -4” and -8” sensors. The -20” and -40” sensors showed a gradual decrease in soil moisture throughout the period.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

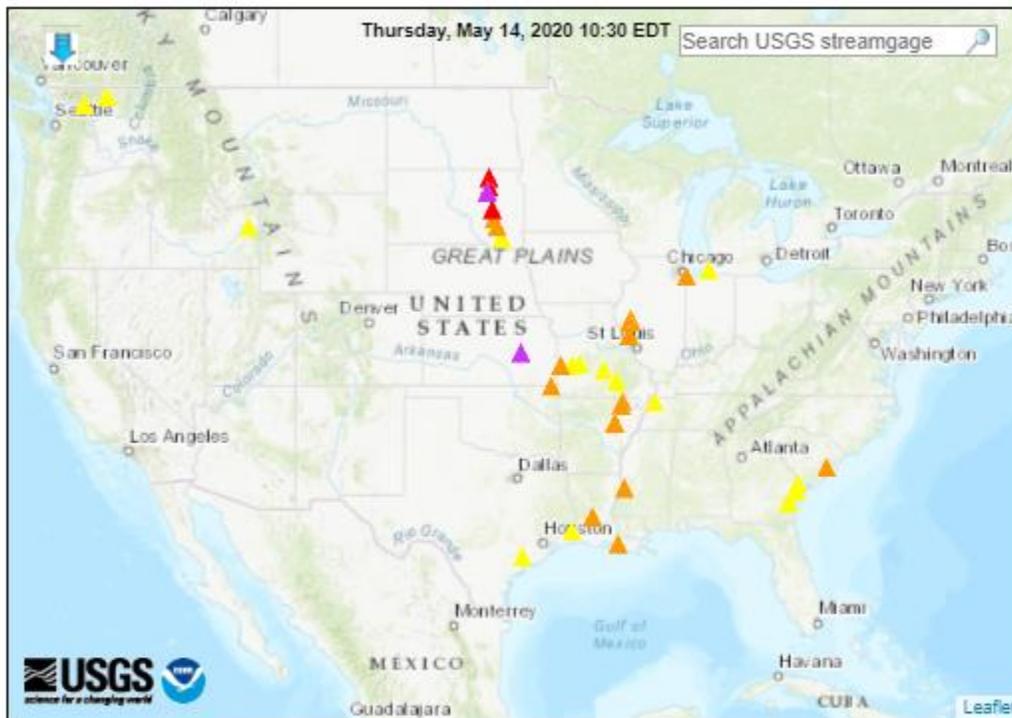
- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Map of flood and high flow conditions

(21 in floods [major: 2, moderate: 3, minor: 16], 18 in near-flood)



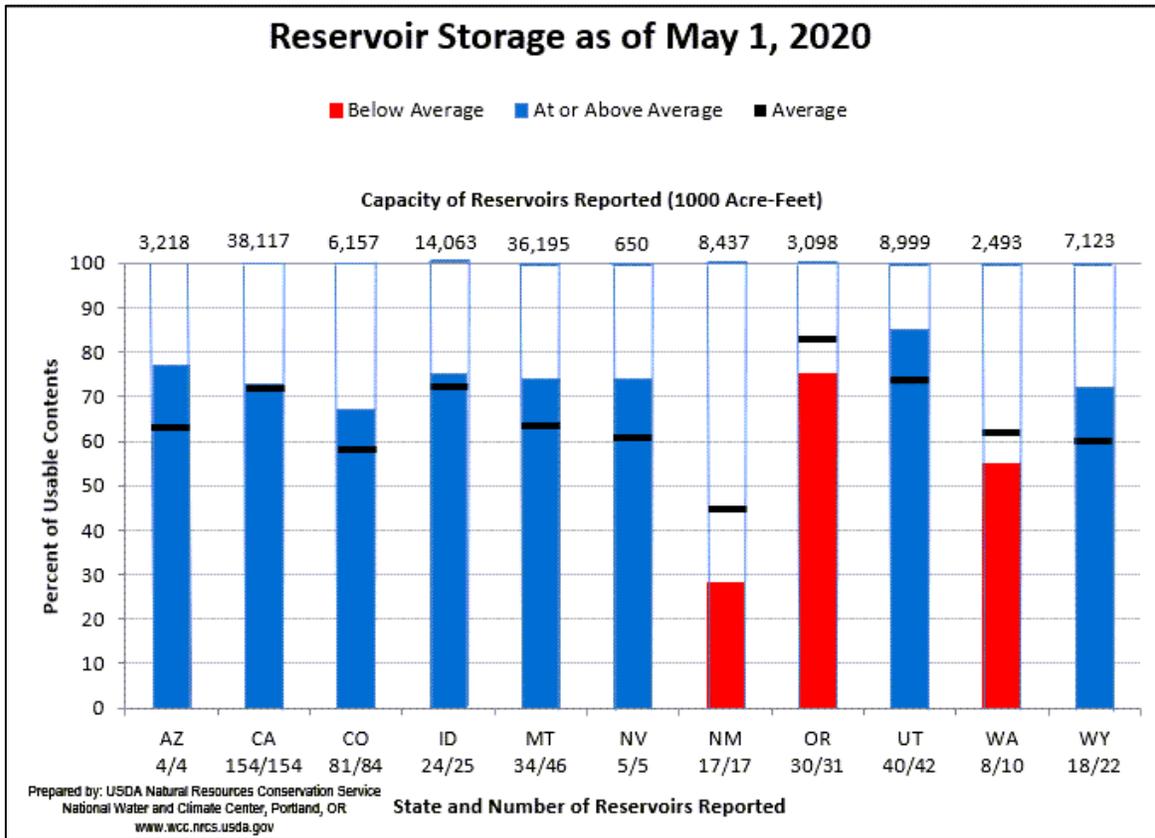
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
▲ Streamgauge with flood stage ○ Streamgauge without flood stage						

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

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



May 1, 2020 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

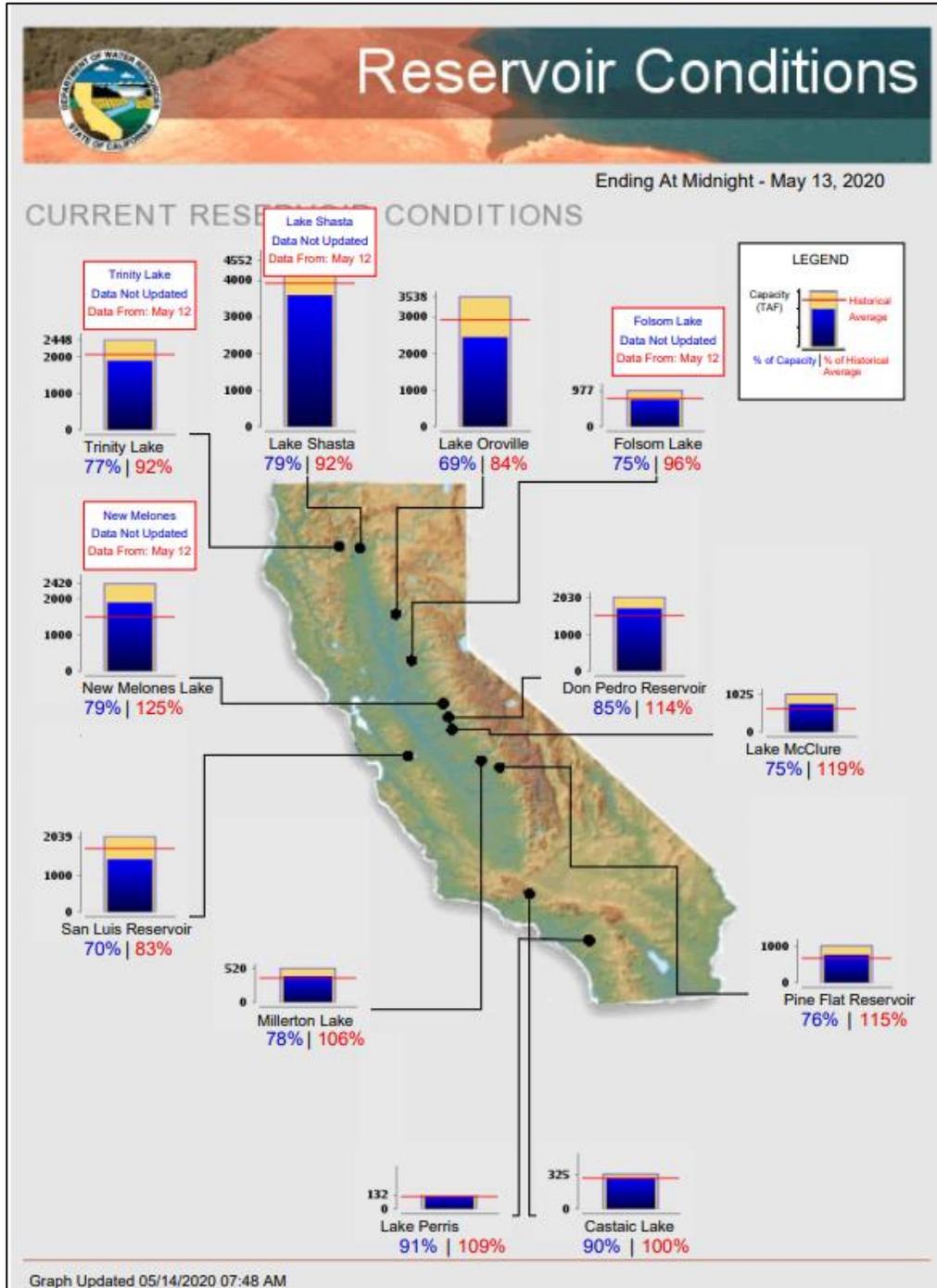
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- [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

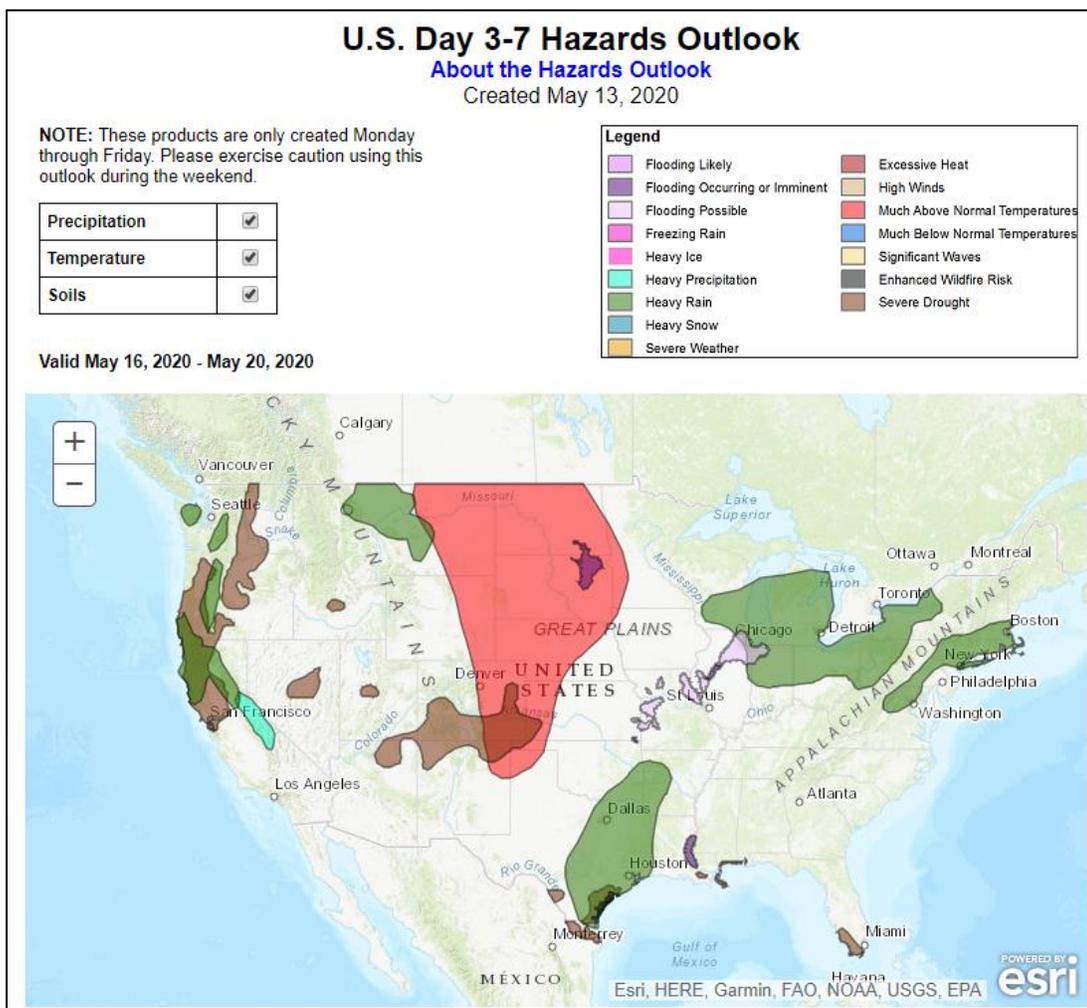
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday, May 14, 2020: “Mild, showery weather will prevail during the next few days across much of the central and eastern U.S., followed by the return of below-normal temperatures late in the weekend and early next week. Five-day rainfall totals could reach 2 to 4 inches or more from the western Gulf Coast region into the southern and eastern Corn Belt, lower Great Lakes region, and Northeast. Meanwhile, a disturbance near the southern tip of Florida will drift northeastward and may become a subtropical storm north of the Bahamas. Immediate U.S. impacts should be limited to rain in southern Florida and possible gusty winds and heavy surf along the southern Atlantic Coast. Farther west, a winter-like Pacific storm system should arrive during the weekend across the Northwest, accompanied by cool, wet, breezy weather. In contrast, dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days from southern California to the southern Rockies. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 19 – 23 calls for the likelihood of near- or above-normal temperatures throughout the central and eastern U.S., while cooler-than-normal conditions will cover the Far West. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across much of the western and central U.S. should contrast with drier-than-normal weather in the Four Corners region and from the middle Mississippi Valley and the mid-South to the Atlantic Seaboard.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [May 16 – 20, 2020](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

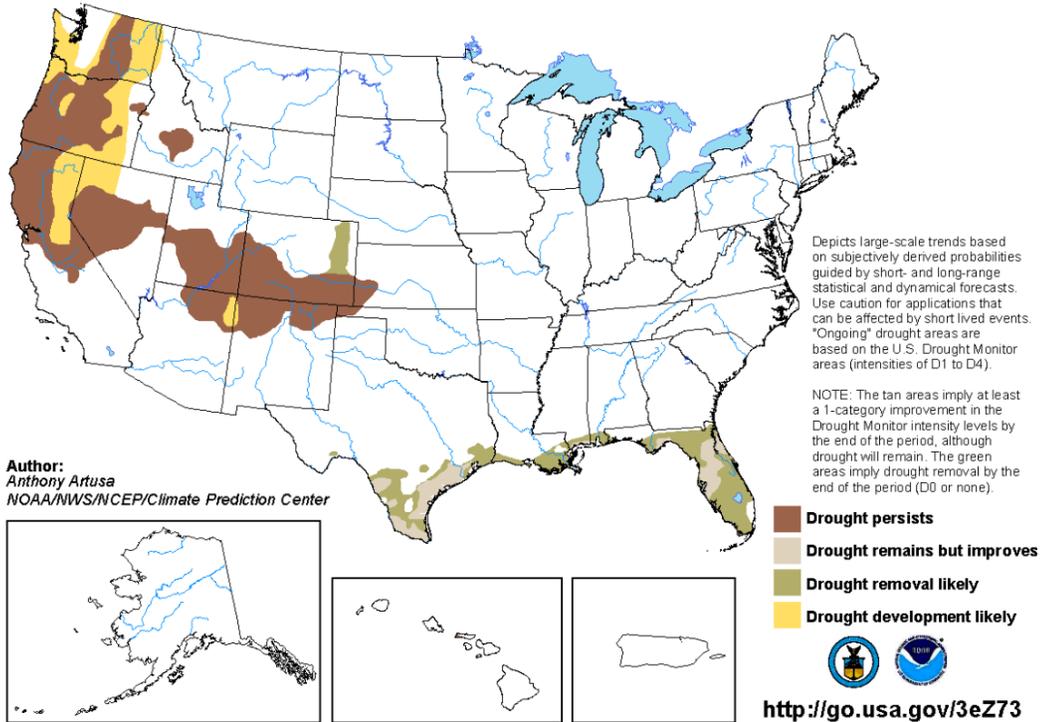


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [April 16 – July 31, 2020](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for April 16 - July 31, 2020
Released April 16

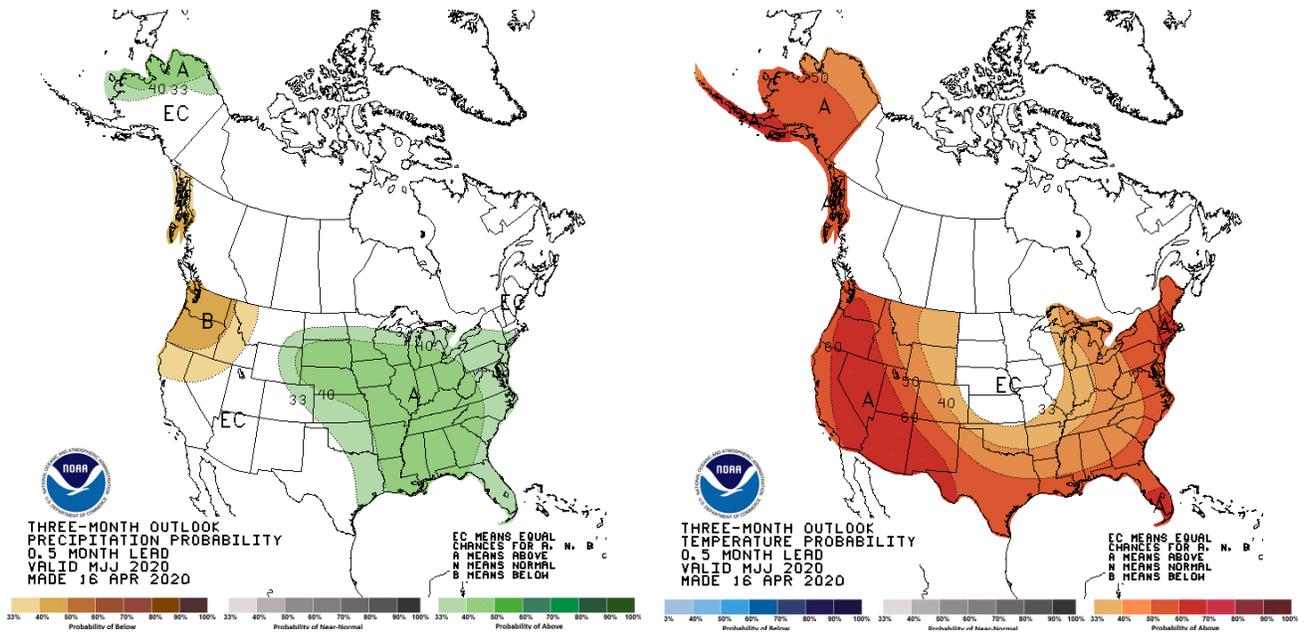


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)

[Temperature](#)



[May-June-July \(MJJ\) 2020 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](#).