



**Northwest Interagency
Coordination Center**

Predictive Services

Climate and Significant Fire Potential Outlook

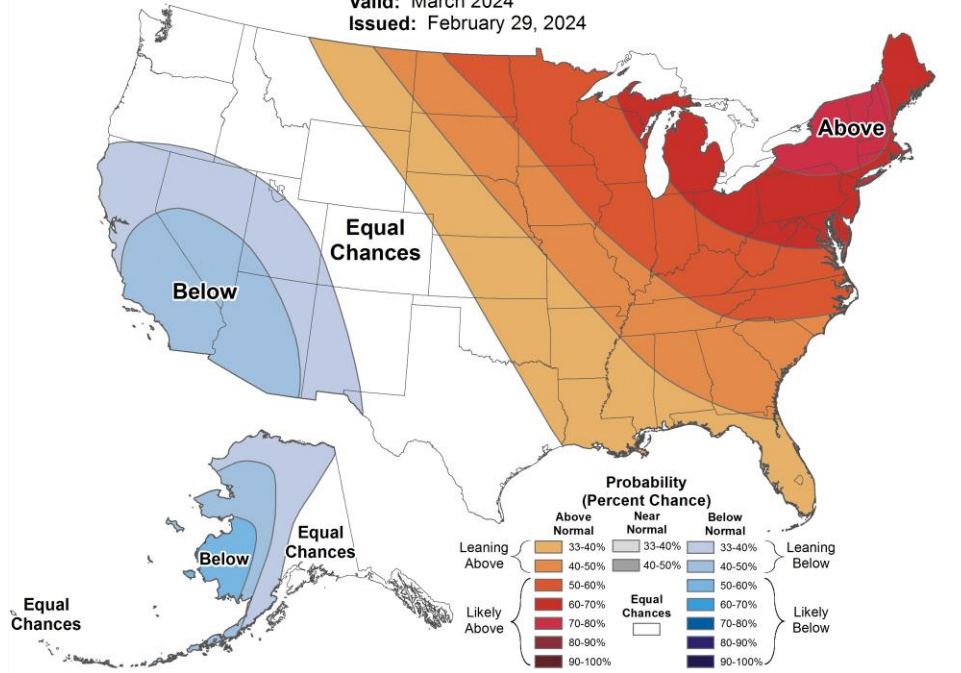
Monday April 1st, 2024

Temperature Forecast vs Observed: March 2024

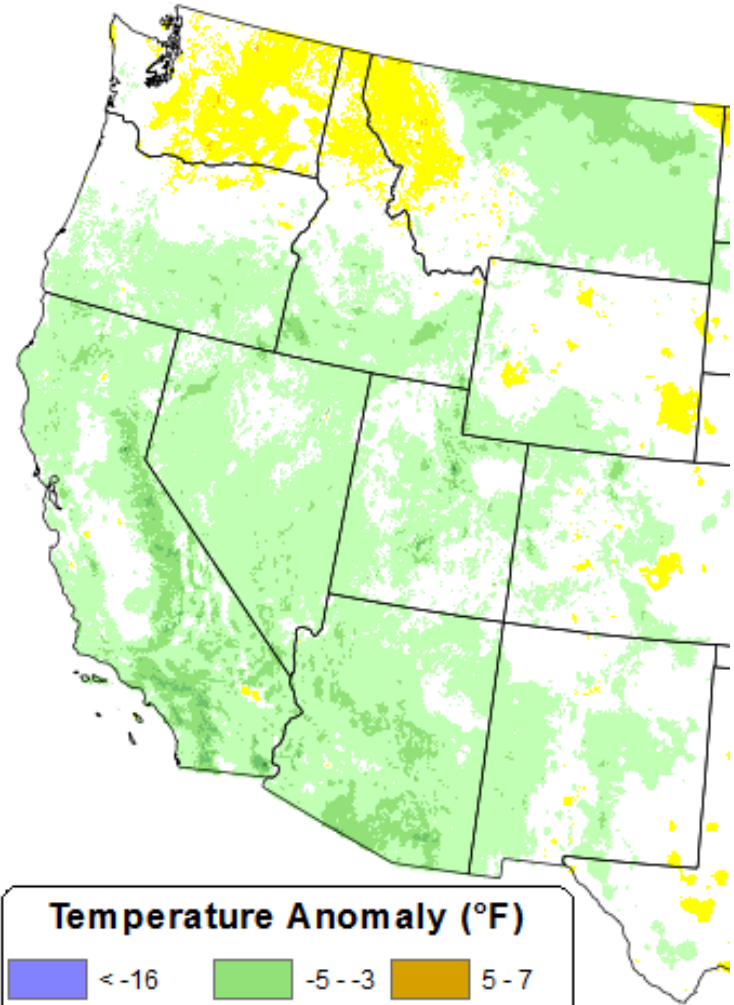


Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: March 2024
Issued: February 29, 2024



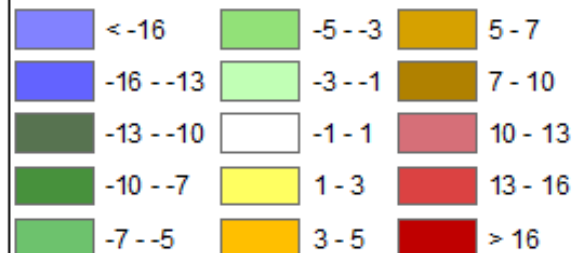
Observed in March 2024



Temperature: March outlook

Characterization: Mean temperature observations were slightly above normal in much of Washington but near normal or slightly below normal for Oregon and southward.

Temperature Anomaly (°F)

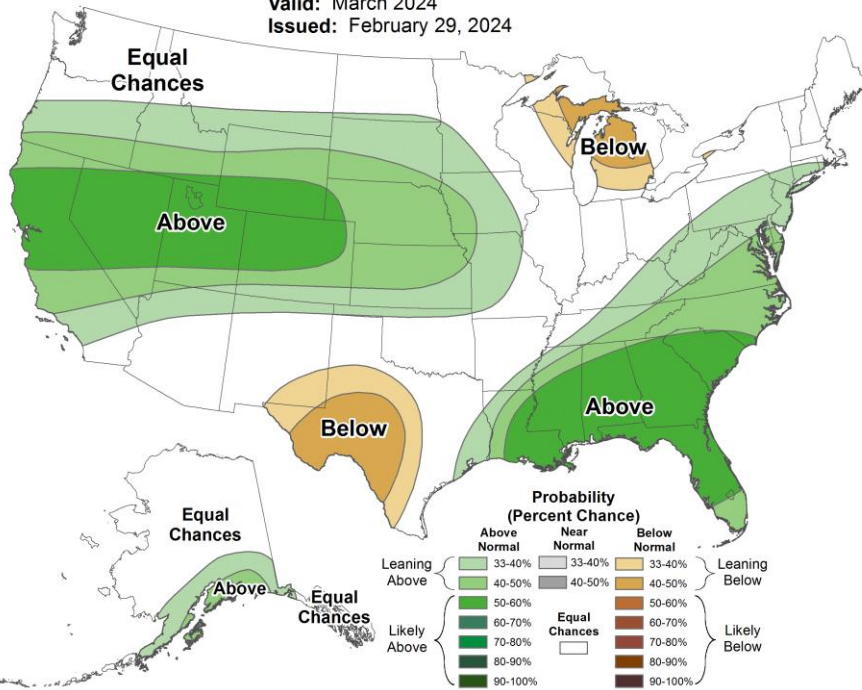


Precipitation Forecast vs Observed: March 2024



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

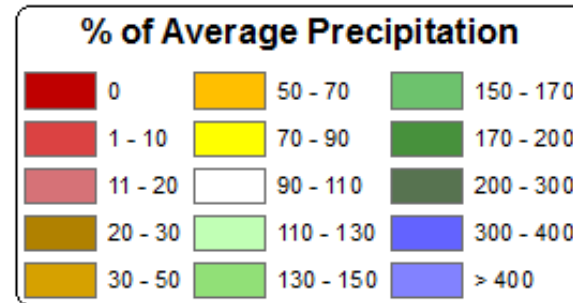
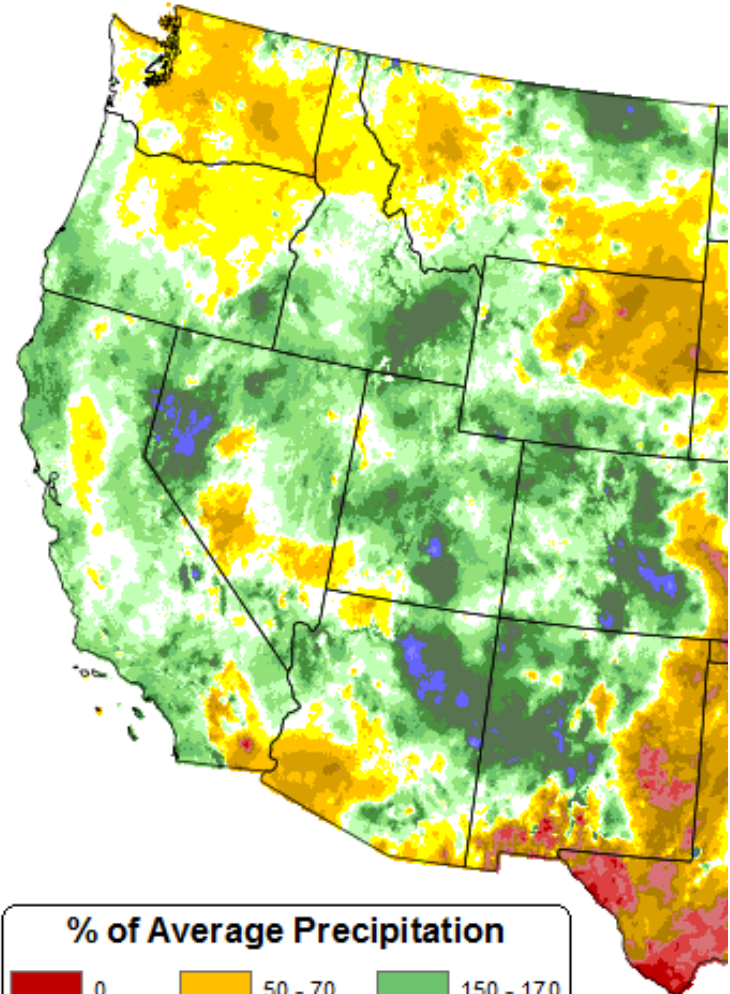
Valid: March 2024
Issued: February 29, 2024



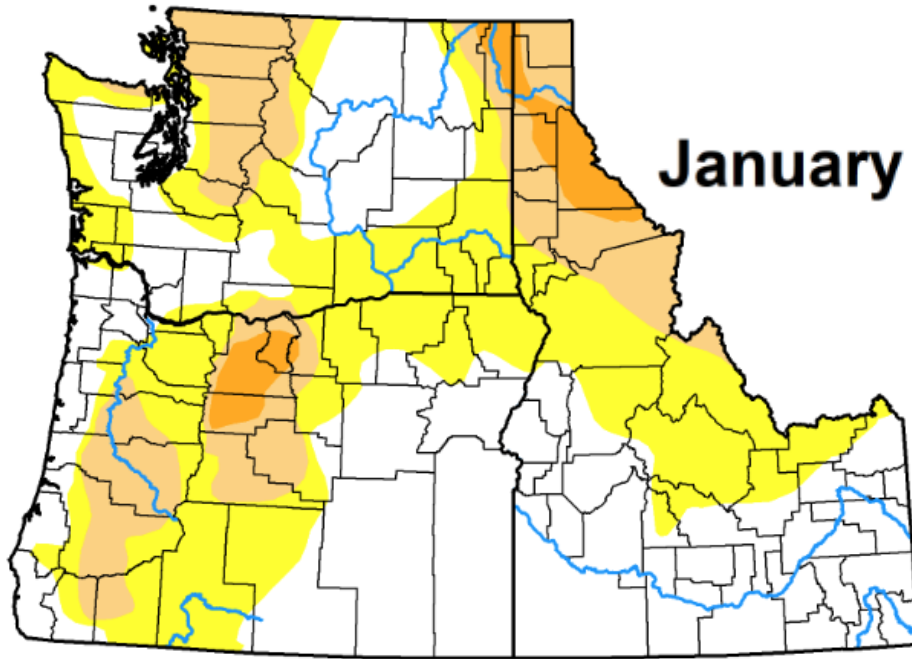
Precip: March outlook

Characterization: Above average precipitation was observed over the Oregon Coast Range and southern Oregon but generally less than average over central and northeast Oregon and much of Washington.

Observed in March 2024



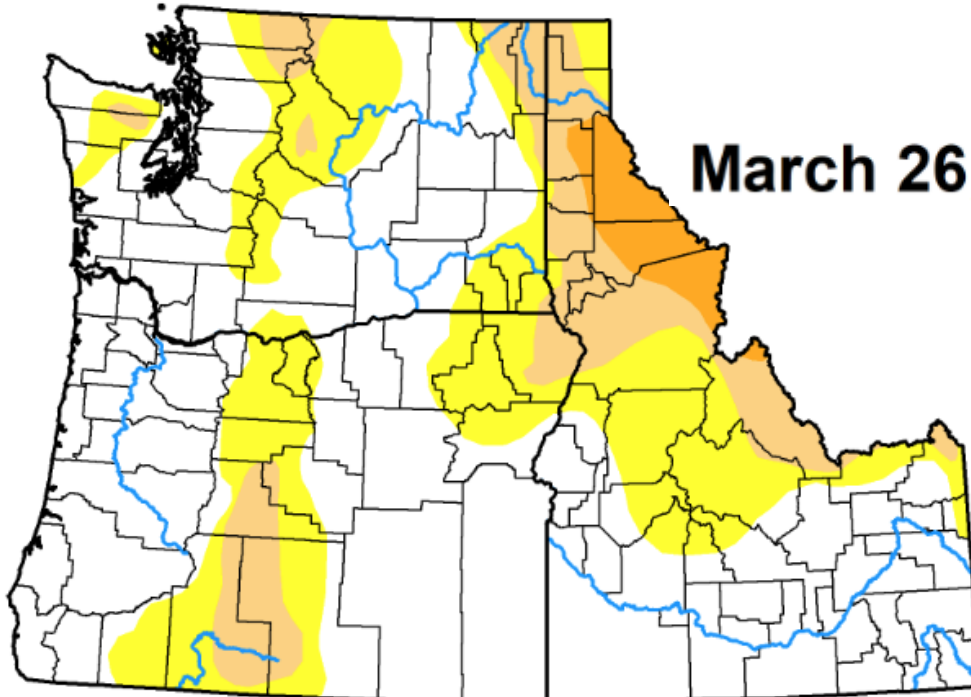
January 2, 2024



Intensity:



March 26, 2024



Intensity:





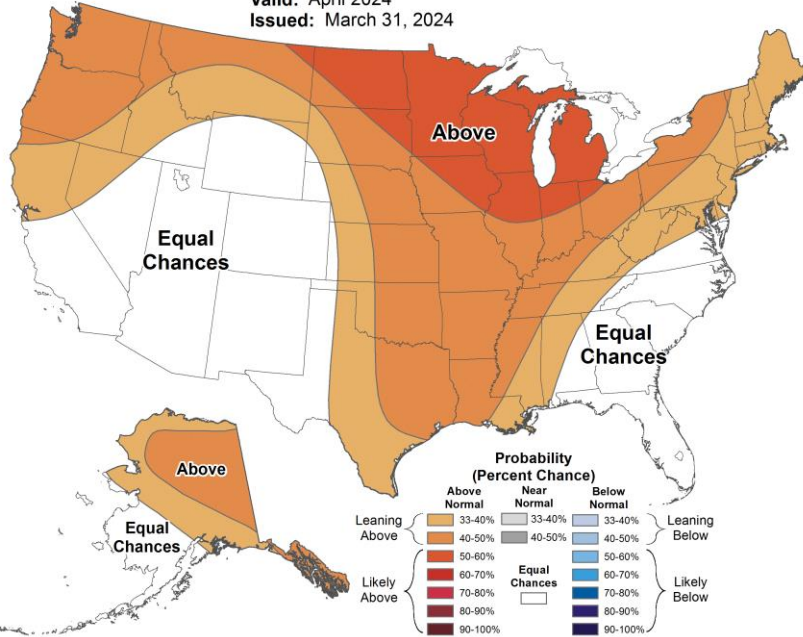


April 2024 Outlook



Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: April 2024
Issued: March 31, 2024

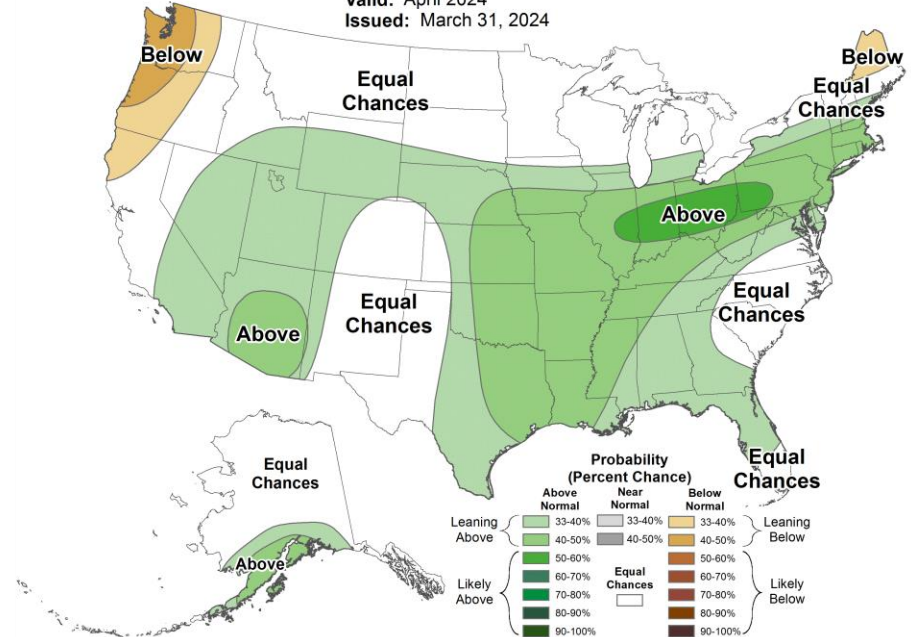


Temperature



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: April 2024
Issued: March 31, 2024

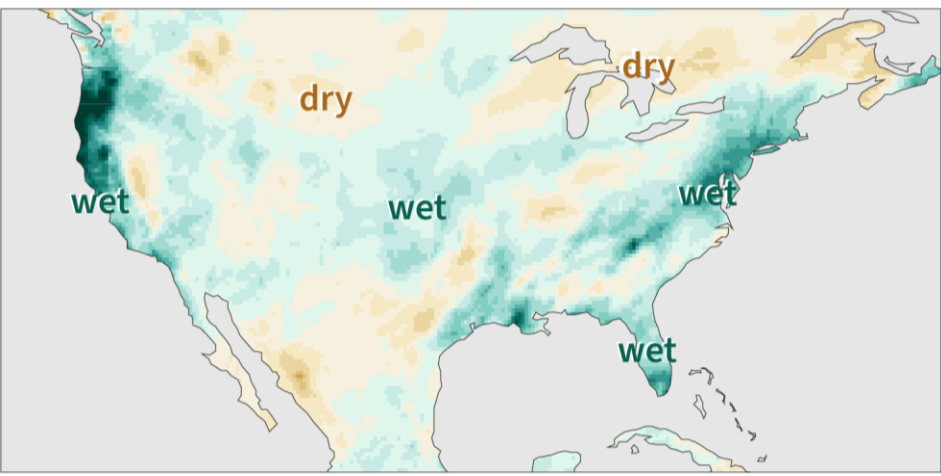


Precipitation

Characterization: The outlook for April suggest that temperature warmer than usual is the most likely scenario for the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies eastward. For precipitation, accumulation is most likely to be less than usual for western Oregon and Washington.

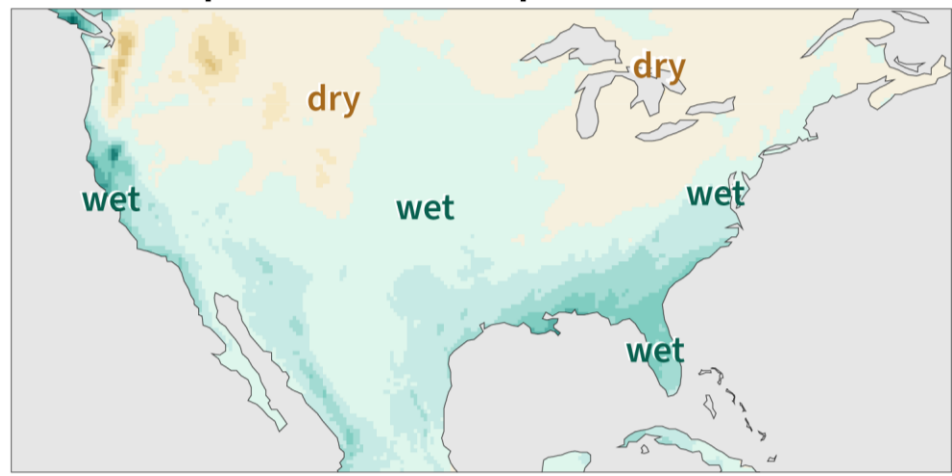
How well did winter precipitation match the typical El Niño pattern?

Winter 2023–2024

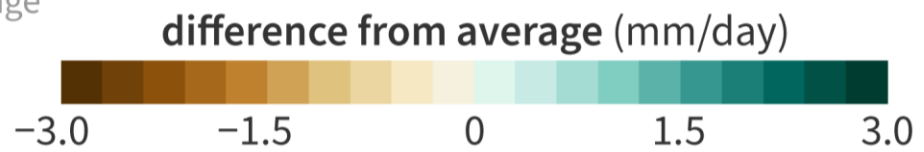


Dec–Feb minus 1991–2020 average

Pattern expected based on past El Niños

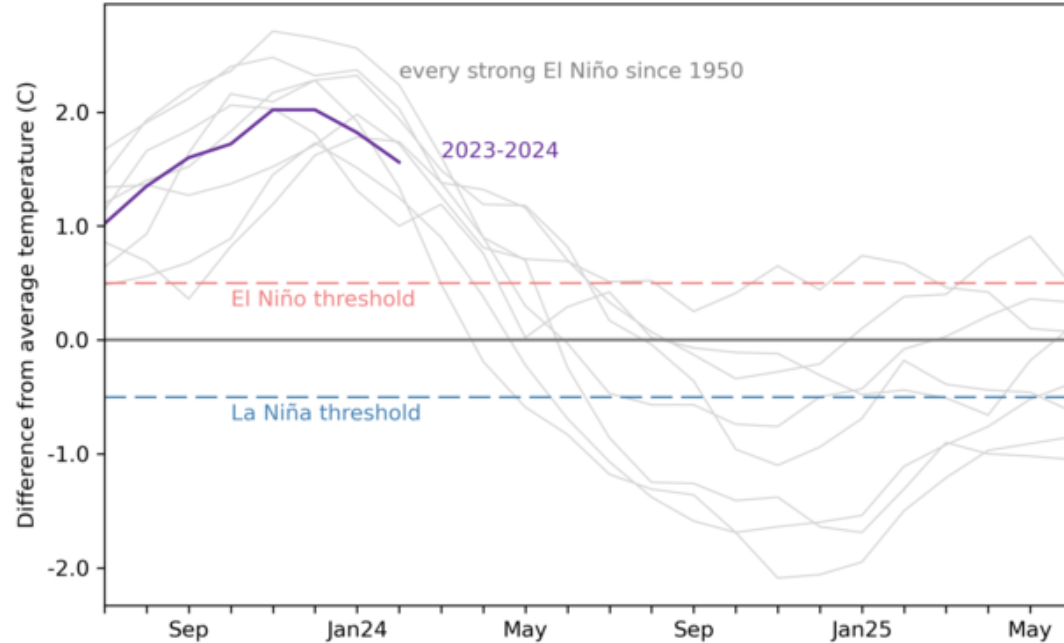


NOAA Climate.gov
Data: ERA5

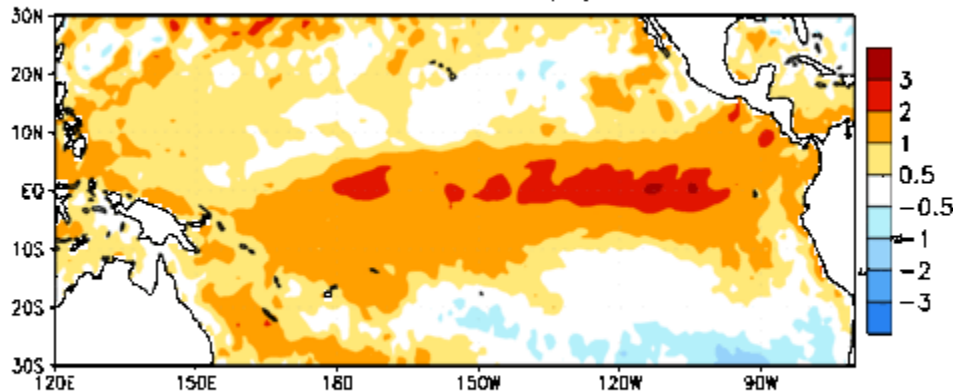




Monthly sea surface temperature Niño3.4 Index values



Week centered on 10 JAN 2024
SST Anomalies (°C)

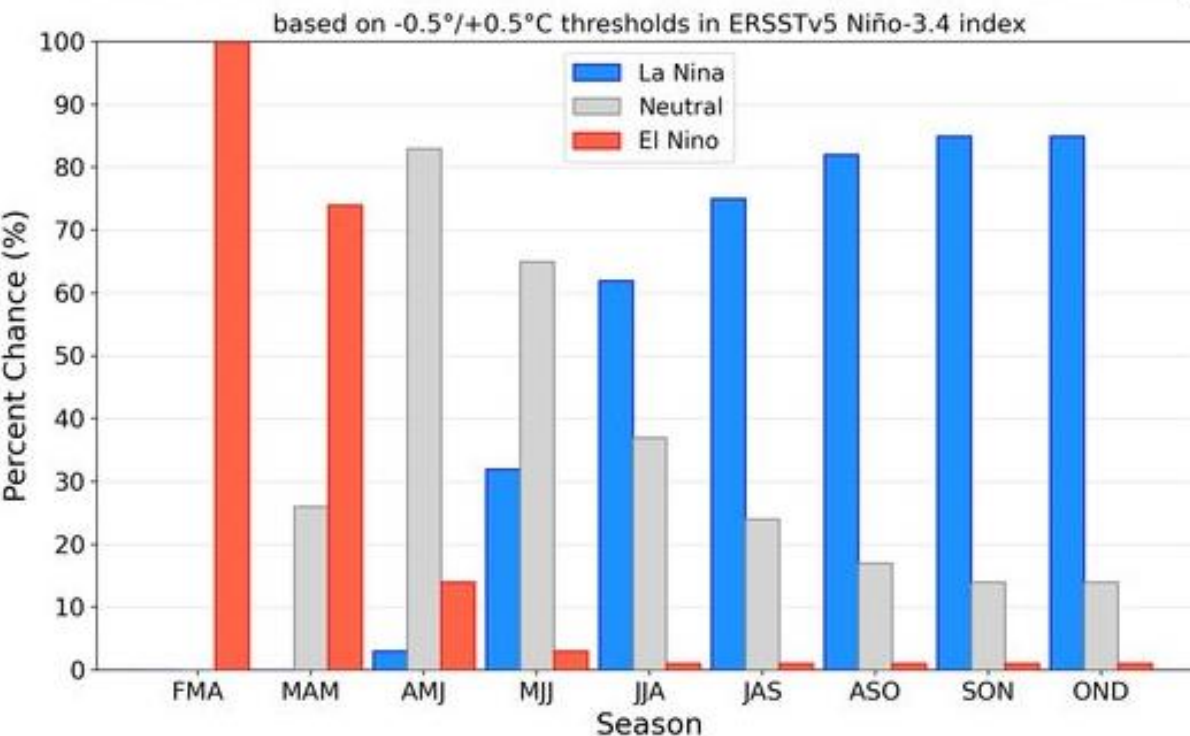


El Niño—the warm phase of Niño-Southern Oscillation—is still hanging on in the tropical Pacific, but signs are pointing to a quick transition to neutral conditions by the April–June period.

There's a [62% chance of La Niña](#) getting the golden ticket by June–August. Stay tuned, because La Niña affects global climate patterns, including the Atlantic hurricane season and North American winter.

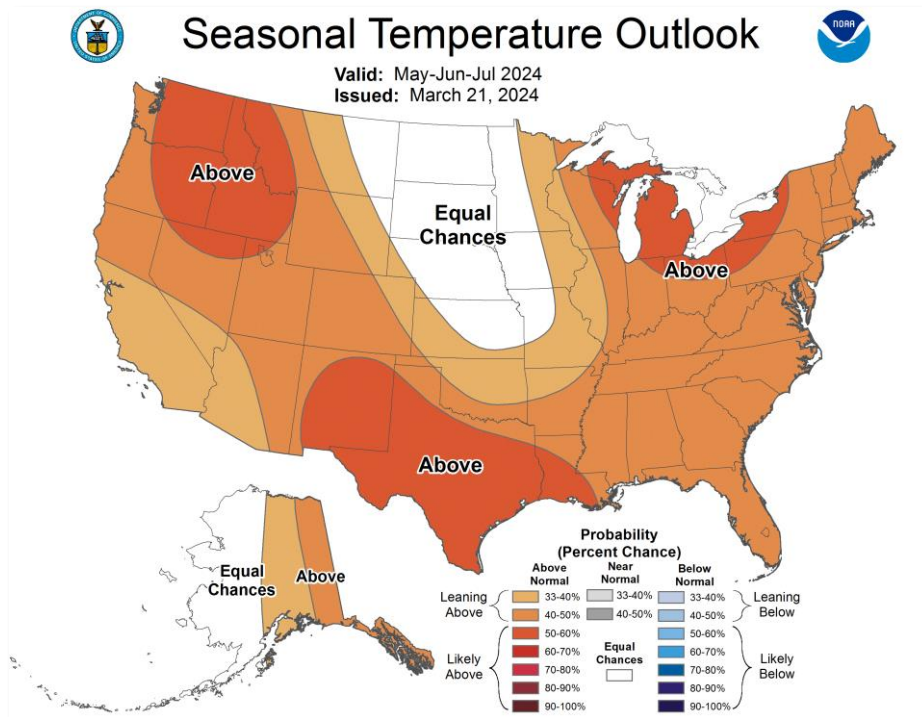
Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued Mar. 2024)

However, the subsurface warmth peaked in November, and has been gradually waning over the past few months, becoming cooler-than-average in February

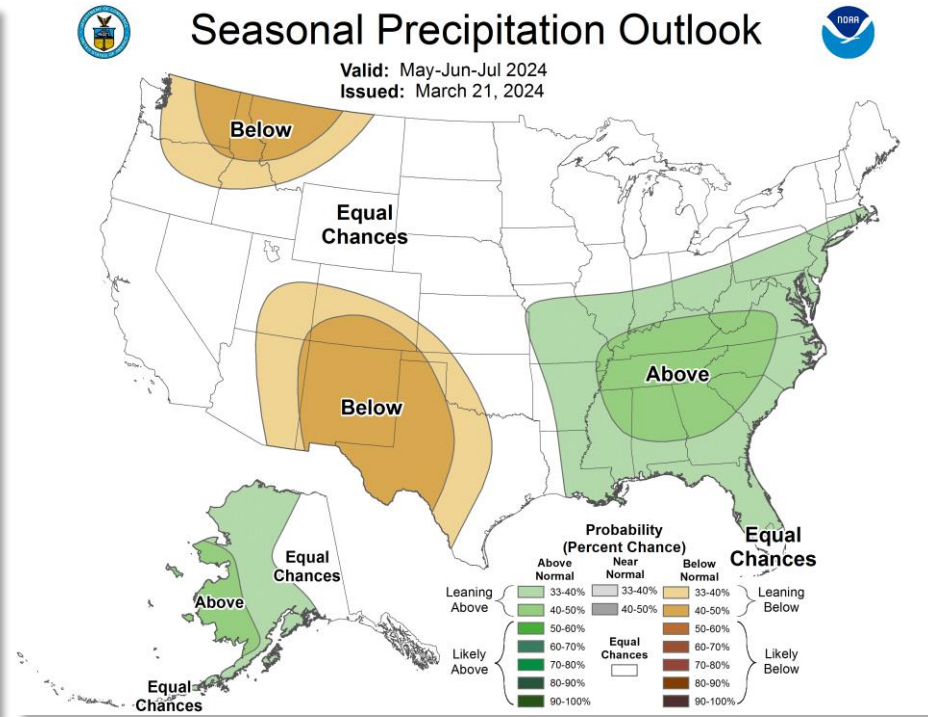


This change in the subsurface adds to our confidence that El Niño will continue weakening. Most of our [computer climate models](#) predict that neutral conditions will develop by April–June, and forecasters estimate an [83% chance](#) of this.

May-Jun-Jul 2024 Outlook



Temperature



Precipitation

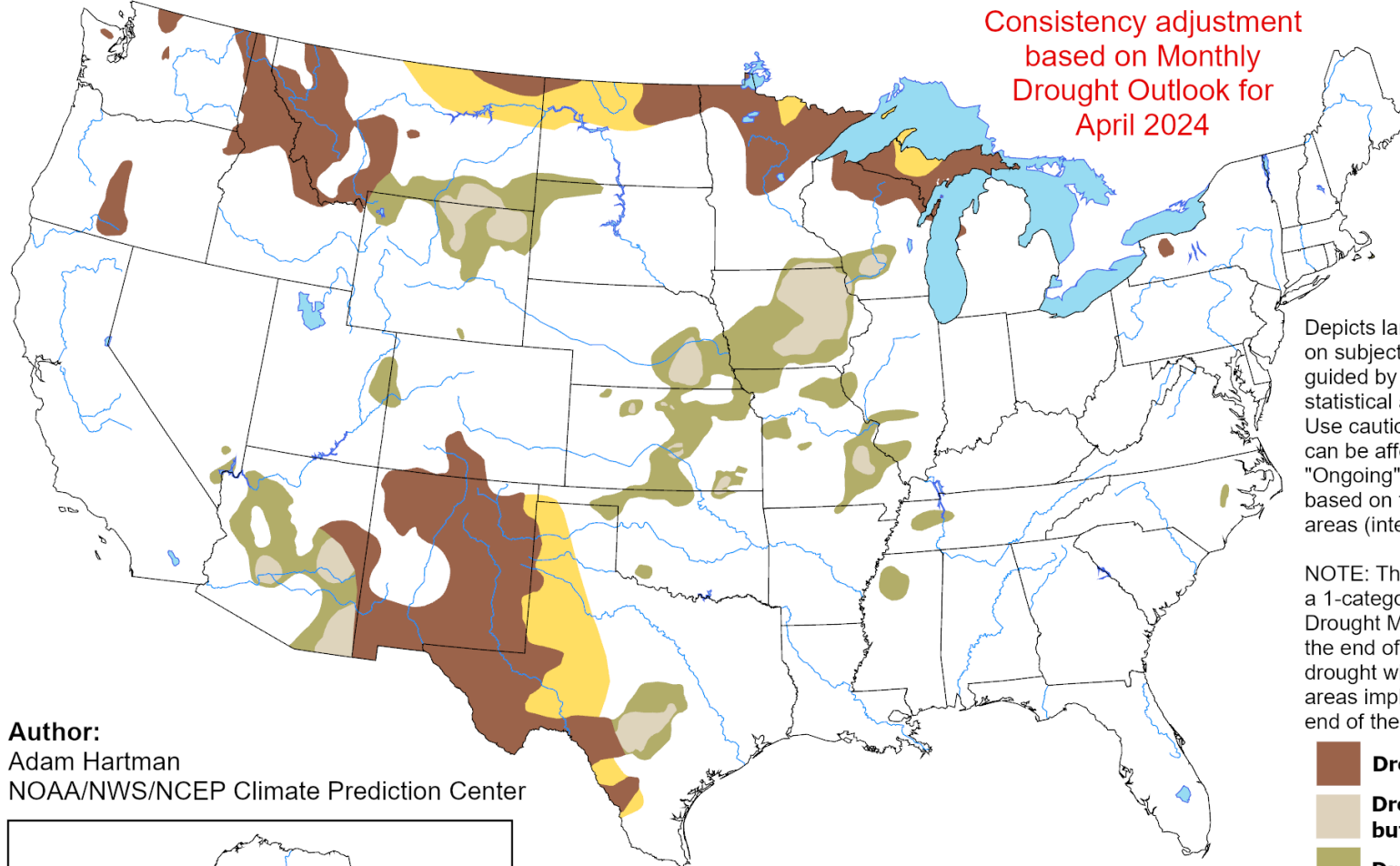
Characterization: Much of the CONUS is under elevated risk for warmer-than-typical temperatures for May through July. Much of the PACNW as well as the Rockies and southern plains are favored for below average accumulation of precipitation.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 1 - June 30, 2024
Released March 31, 2024

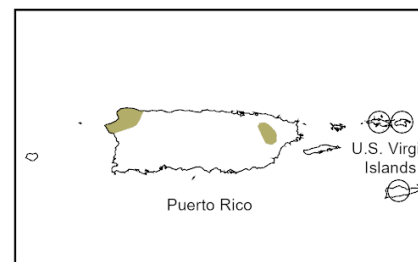
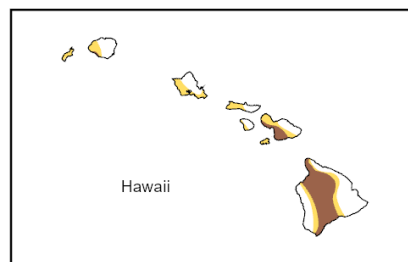
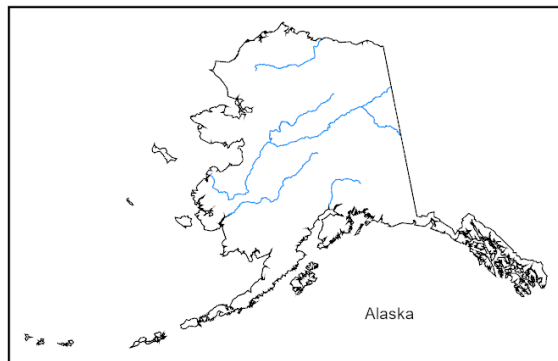
Consistency adjustment
based on Monthly
Drought Outlook for
April 2024



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).

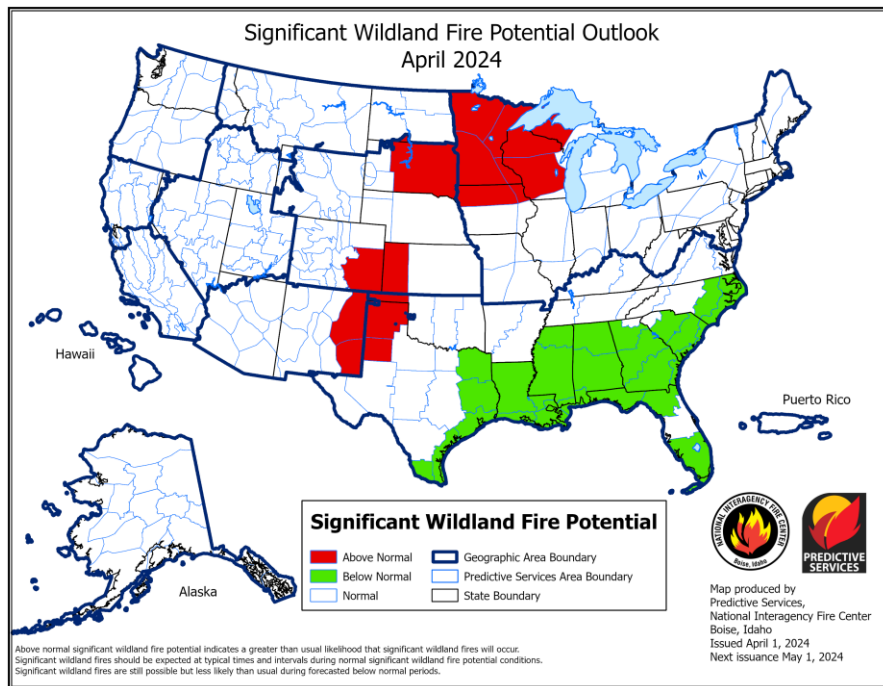
Author:
Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



-  **Drought persists**
-  **Drought remains, but improves**
-  **Drought removal likely**
-  **Drought development likely**
-  **No drought**

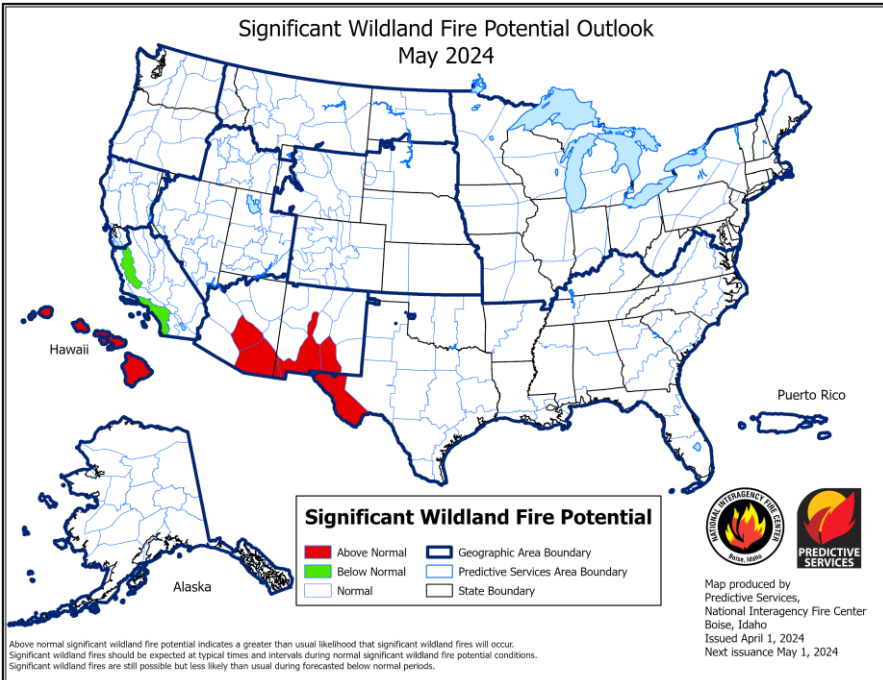


<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

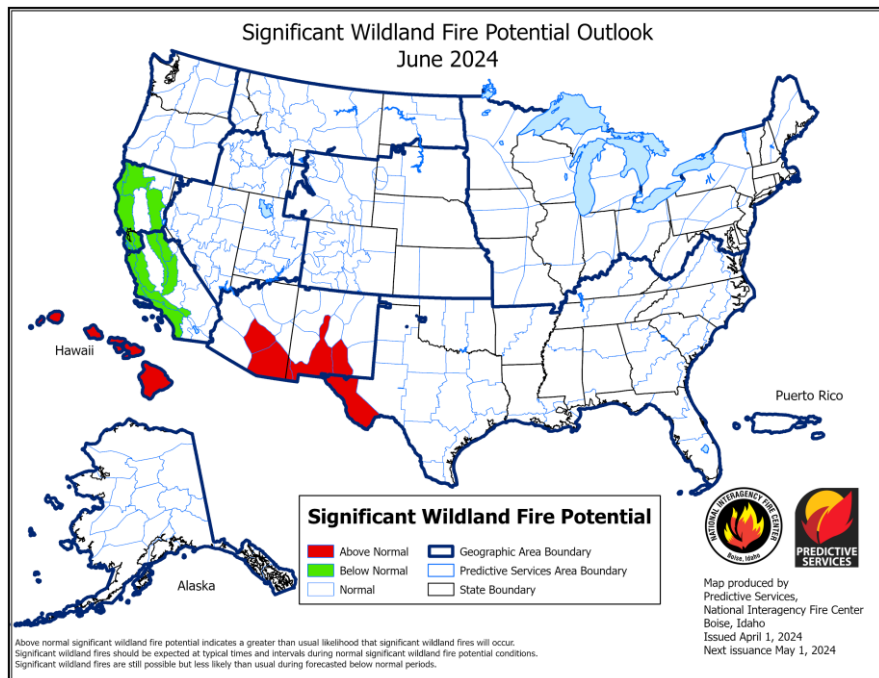


April and May 2024 Significant Fire Potential Outlooks

The risk of significant fires in most of the western states is generally estimated to be normal (ie low risk) except for the southern plains and lower elevations of the desert southwest.

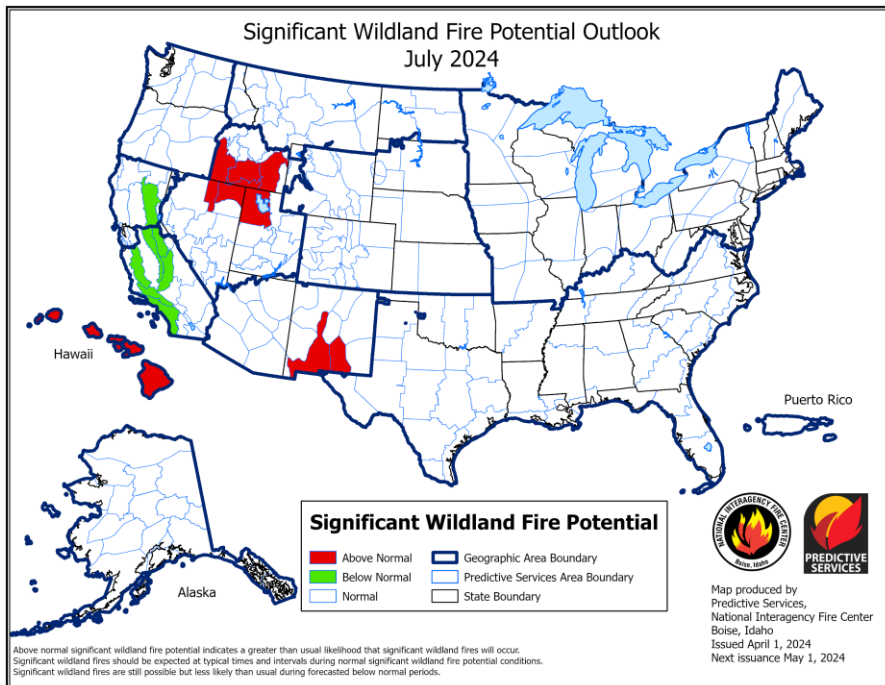


Sections of southern California are estimated to be at lower-than-normal risk in May.



June and July 2024 Significant Fire Potential Outlook

The risk of significant fires in the Pacific Northwest and other western states is anticipated to be normal (low risk) except for lower elevations of the southwest.



The Hawaiian Islands are expected to elevate into above average risk for Significant Fires.

Next Outlook:

First week of May 2024

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/predict/outlook.aspx>

Sources:

NOAA ENSO blog:

<https://climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso>

NOAA Climate Prediction Center ENSO home

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina

NOAA Climate Prediction Center Outlook Maps

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>

US Drought Monitor

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

US Seasonal Drought Outlook

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php

West Wide Drought Tracker

<https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=mdn1>

Sources:

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (Basin Plots and Interactive Map):

<https://nwcc-apps.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Oregon Department of Forestry Outlook:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/Pages/Weather.aspx>

Reading the Tea Leaves

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/rmrs/products/multimedia/webinars/rttl>