

Oregon Water Conditions Report



May 2nd, 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Thus far in 2022, 11 counties have received [Executive Orders](#) issuing state drought declarations, while [four additional counties](#) have requested drought declarations.

According to the [US Drought Monitor](#), over 86% of Oregon is classified as experiencing moderate (D1) to exceptional (D4) drought conditions. There have been [a number of changes](#) in drought coverage and severity to varying degrees between western and eastern Oregon over recent weeks.

[Statewide snow water equivalent](#) (SWE) is variable throughout the state. While northern basins are currently measuring above the median value, SWE in southern basins is well below median. Although some basins are currently measuring well above the current median value, it is important to note that nearly all basins peaked well below the median peak value.

[April precipitation](#) was variable throughout the state. Western Oregon received above to well above average precipitation, while east of the Cascades was more variable. While a majority of the region ranged average to well above average, some areas received below average precipitation.

[Temperatures in April](#) ranged between 1 °F and 9 °F below average statewide. Some localized areas experienced the [coldest April on record](#).

[Soil moisture profiles](#) including the root zone and surface soil profiles benefited from April precipitation.

The [three-month climate outlook](#) for May through July indicates probabilities favoring below average precipitation statewide and above average temperatures for central and eastern Oregon. Temperatures west of the Cascades are projected to be near average.

[April streamflows](#) were variable throughout the state. Much of western Oregon measured flows average to above average, although those in the southwestern portion of the state were below average. East of the Cascades streamflows were below to well below average. Water year streamflows are below to well below average statewide, with just a few exceptions.

Reservoir storage contents in [USBR](#) (including [Klamath](#)) and [USACE](#) systems continue to measure below to well below average throughout much of the state, with exceptions in the Willamette, Umatilla, and Tualatin Basins.

[Significant wildfire potential](#) for the month of May is above average throughout central Oregon.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

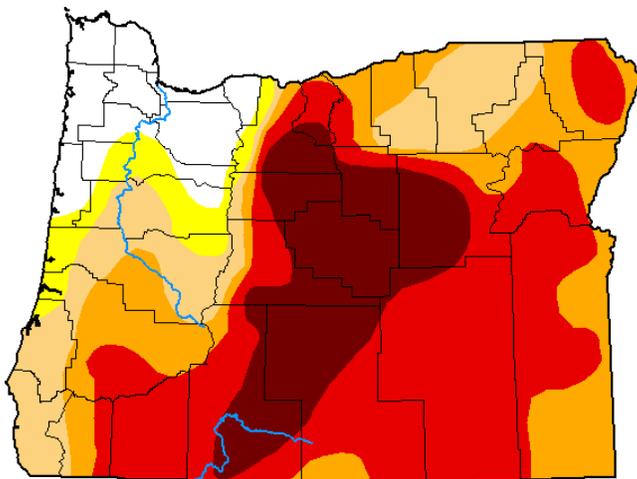
The US Drought Monitor indicates over 86% of Oregon is experiencing drought conditions. In western Oregon, overall drought coverage and severity, as well as coverage of abnormally dry conditions has been reduced. Coverage of exceptional drought (D4) has expanded in Grant County, while there has been some reduction in coverage of extreme drought (D3) in the northeastern quadrant.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

April 26, 2022

(Released Thursday, Apr. 28, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	9.08	90.92	86.14	72.31	53.12	17.30
Last Week 04-19-2022	9.08	90.92	86.14	72.31	53.12	17.30
3 Months Ago 01-25-2022	4.68	95.32	88.23	74.05	42.05	16.22
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	4.16	95.84	89.75	75.37	50.84	17.27
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	96.47	72.10	26.59
One Year Ago 04-27-2021	2.79	97.21	77.74	47.17	14.12	2.22

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

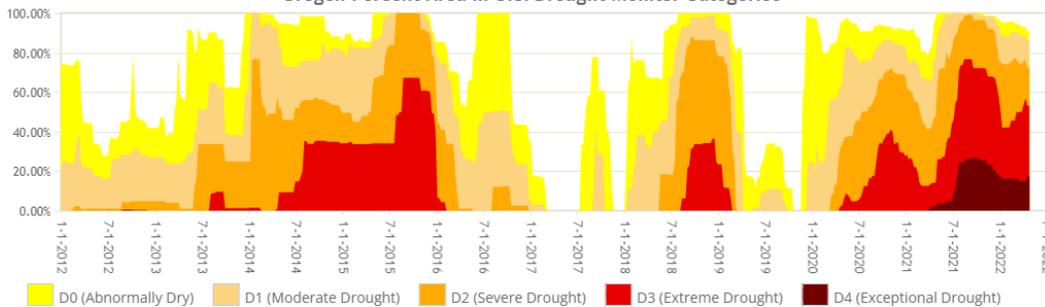
Author:

Brad Rippey
U. S. Department of Agriculture

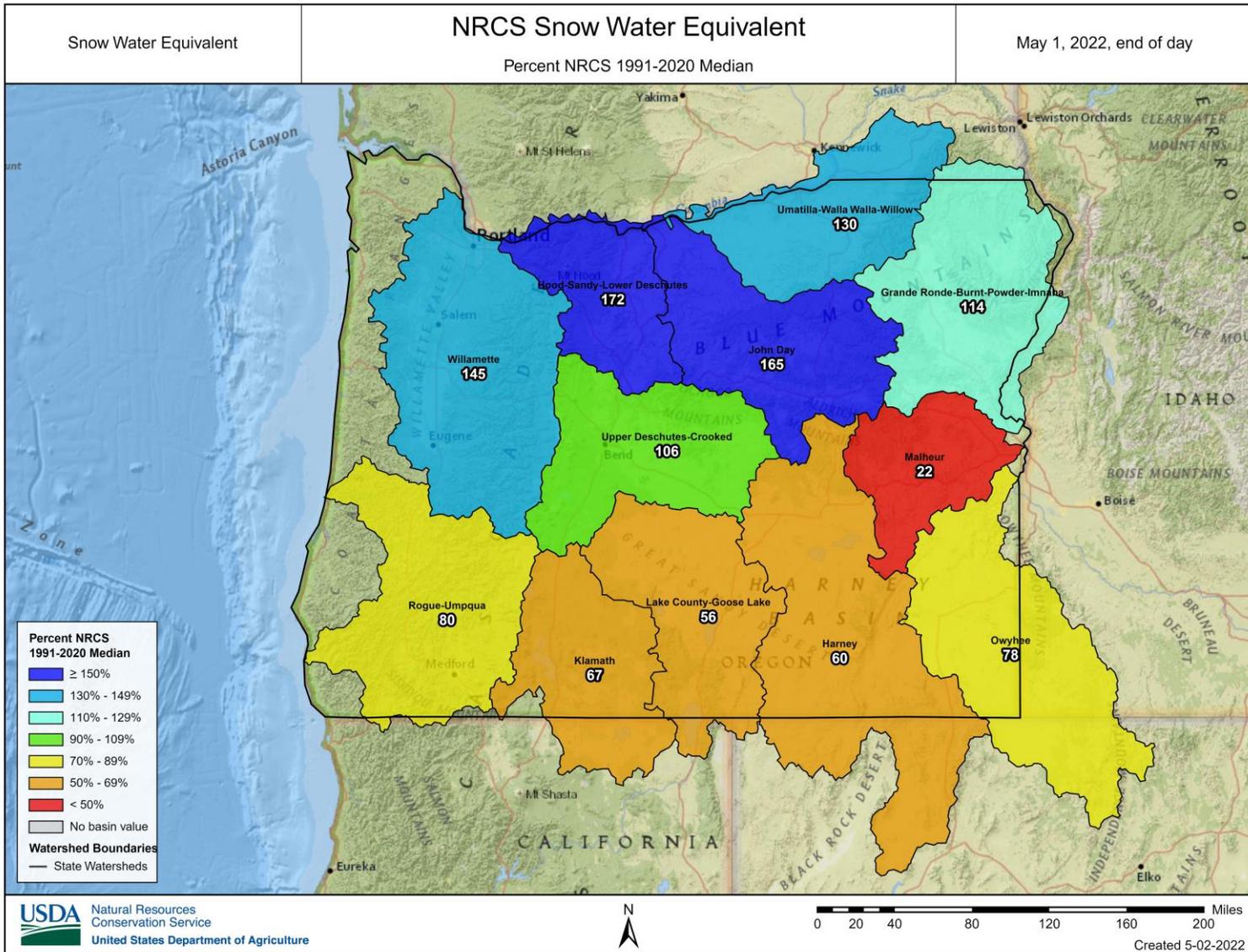


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Oregon Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories

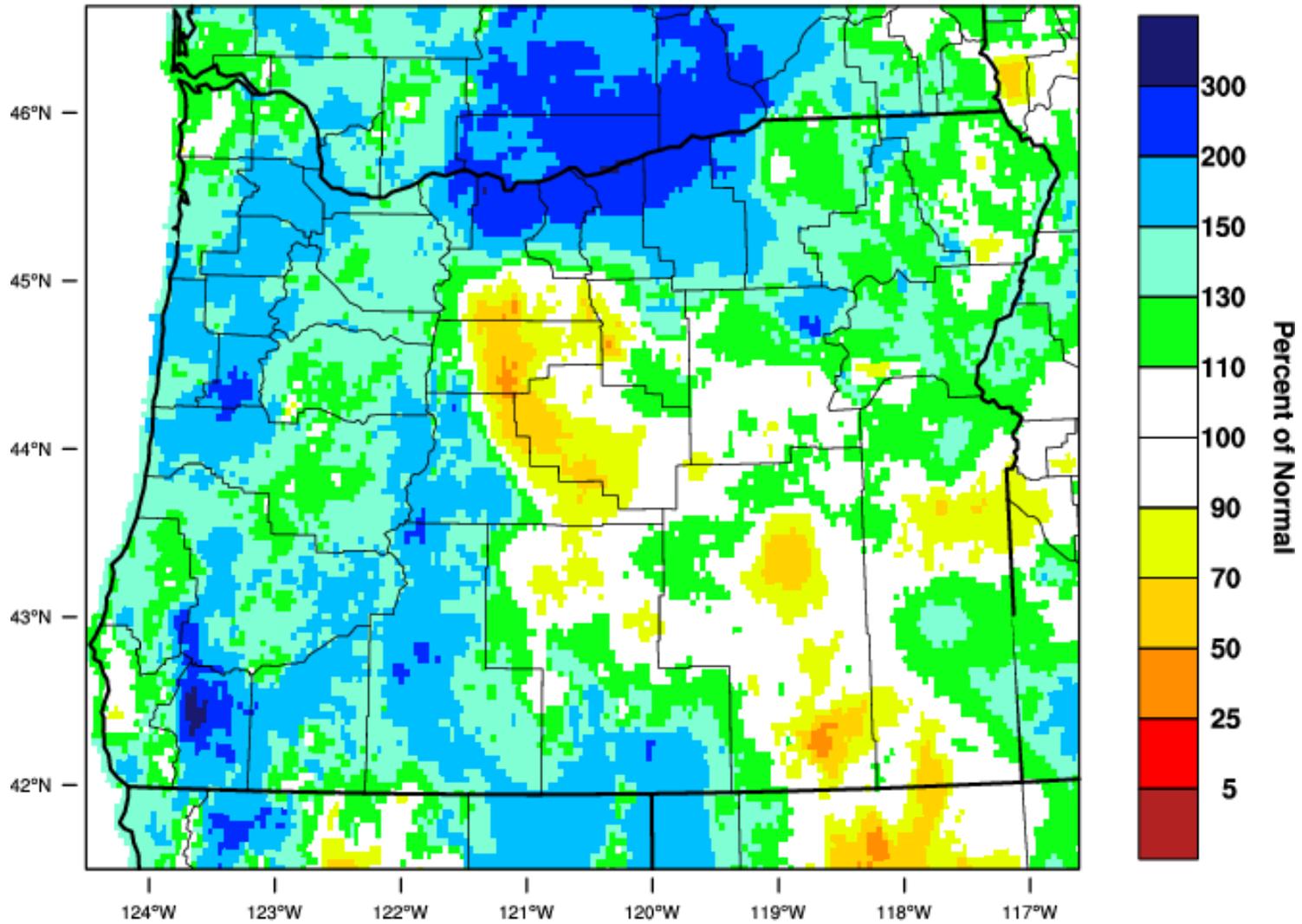


CLIMATE CONDITIONS
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT



Oregon - Precipitation

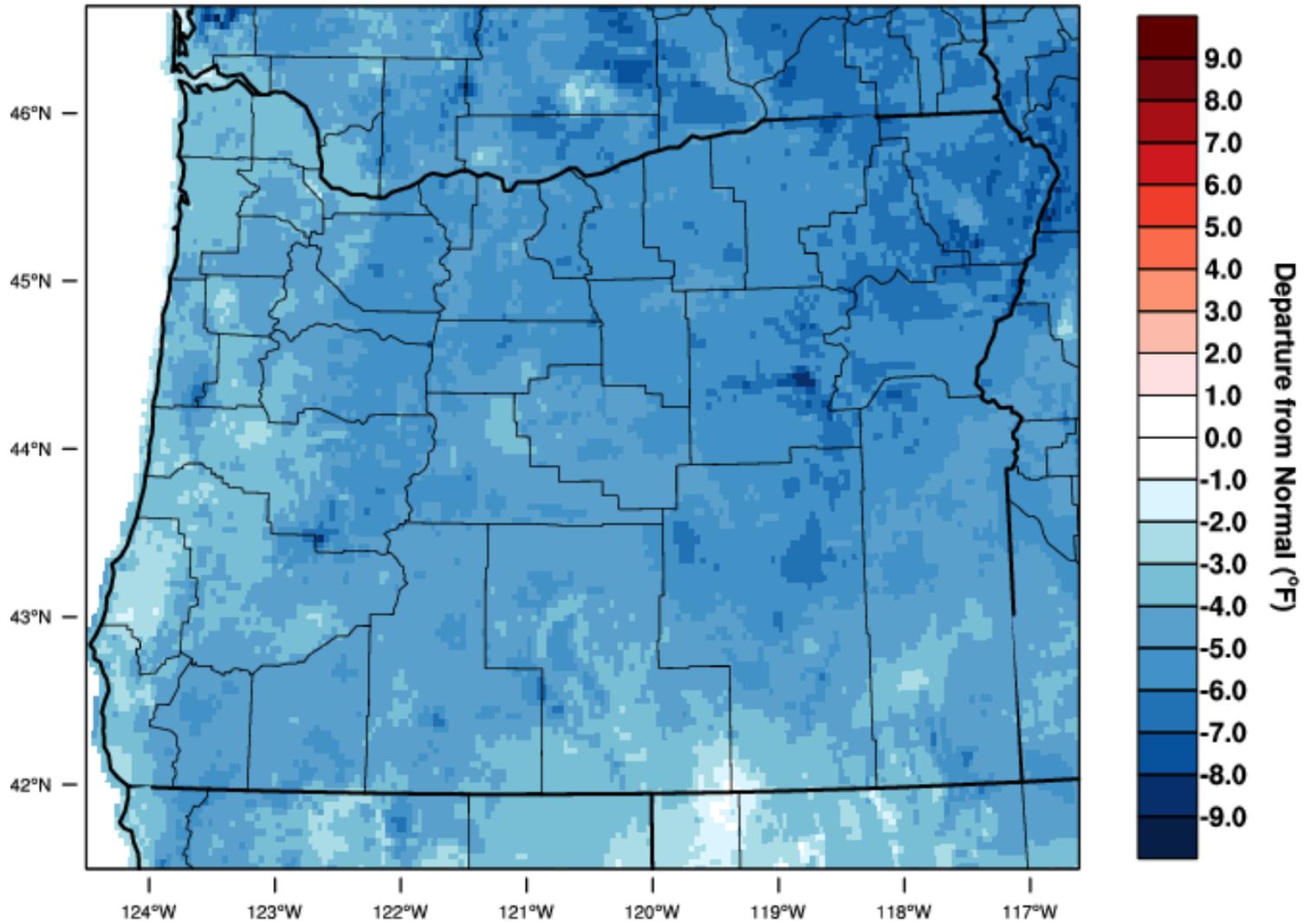
April 2022 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 2 MAY 2022

Oregon - Mean Temperature

April 2022 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal

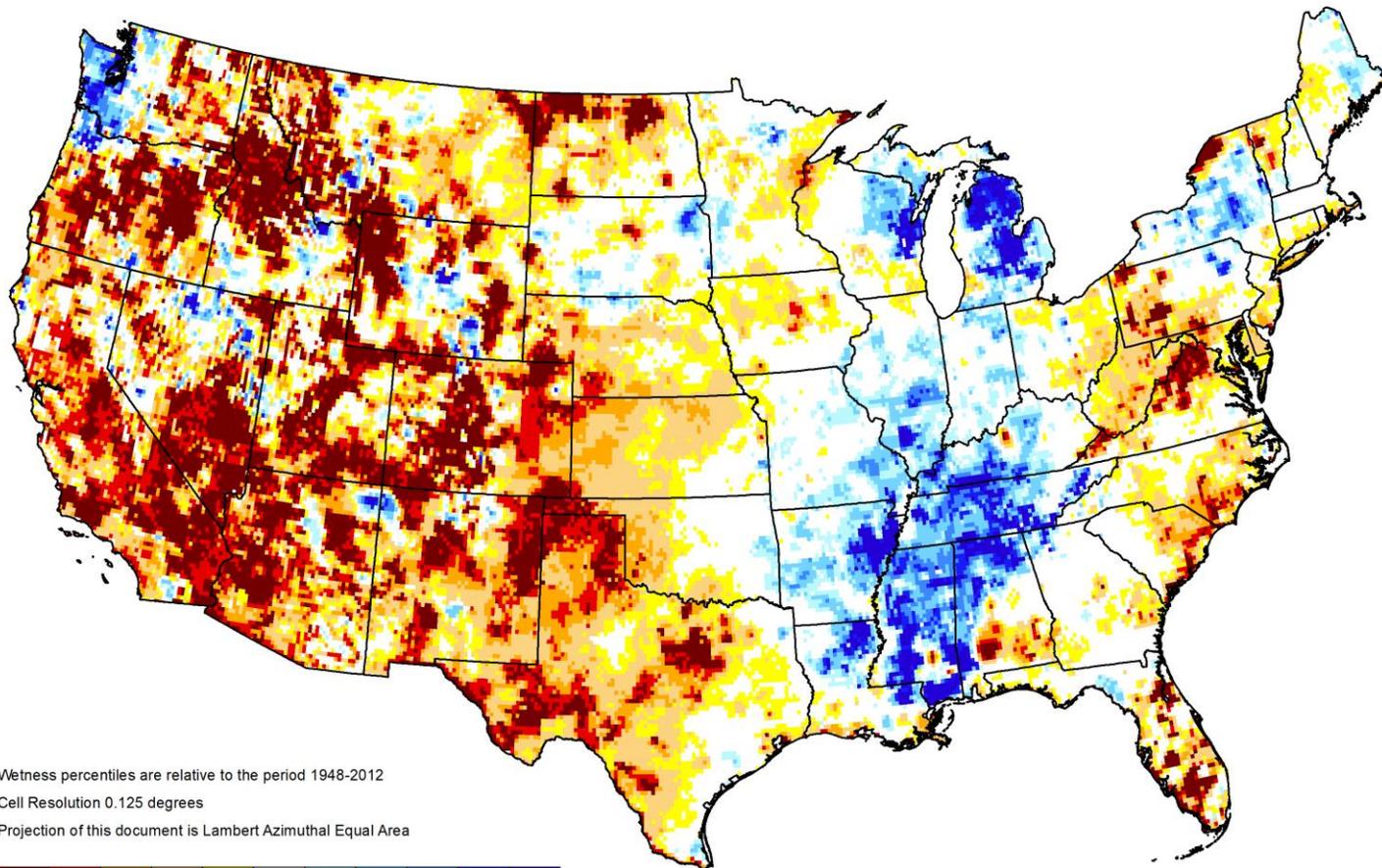


WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 2 MAY 2022

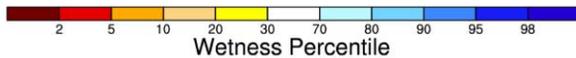


GRACE-Based Shallow Groundwater Drought Indicator

April 25, 2022



Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012
Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees
Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area



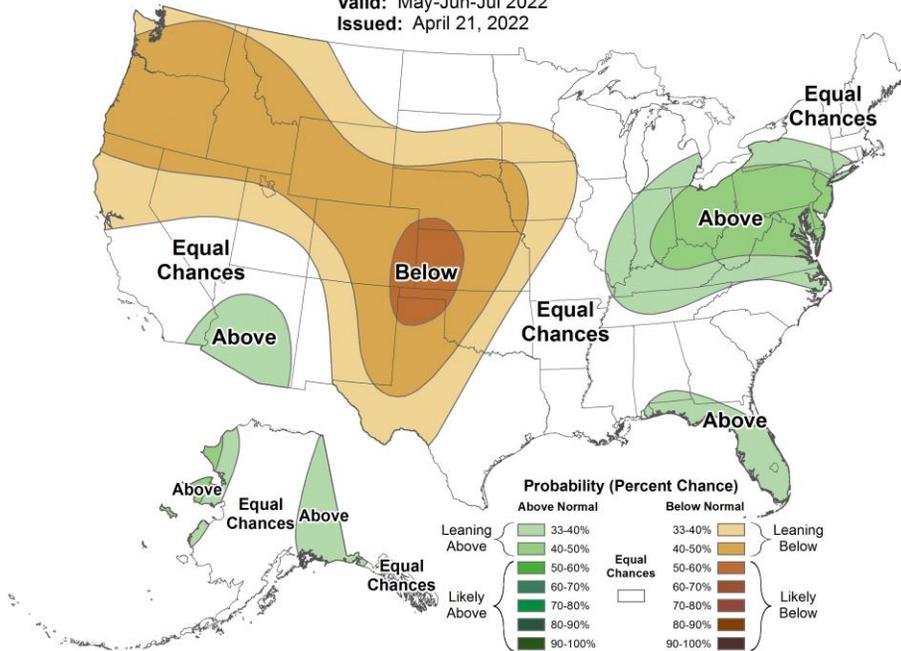
<https://nasagrace.unl.edu>



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



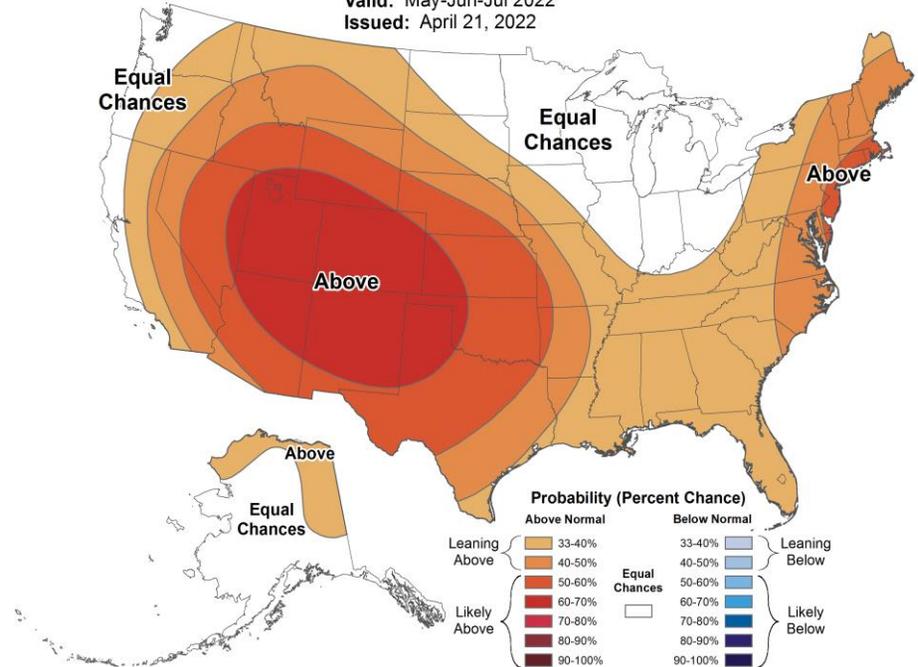
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 Issued: April 21, 2022

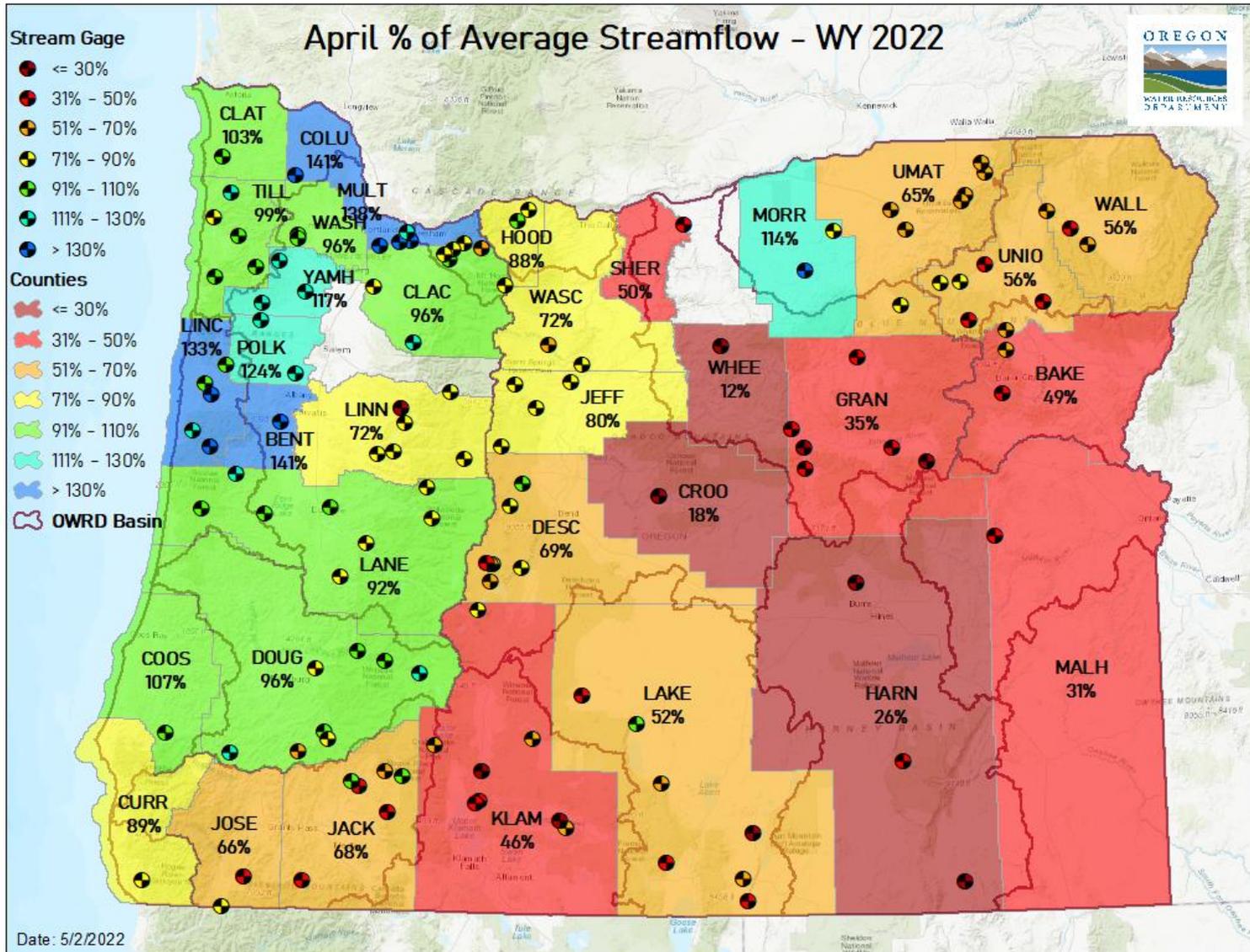


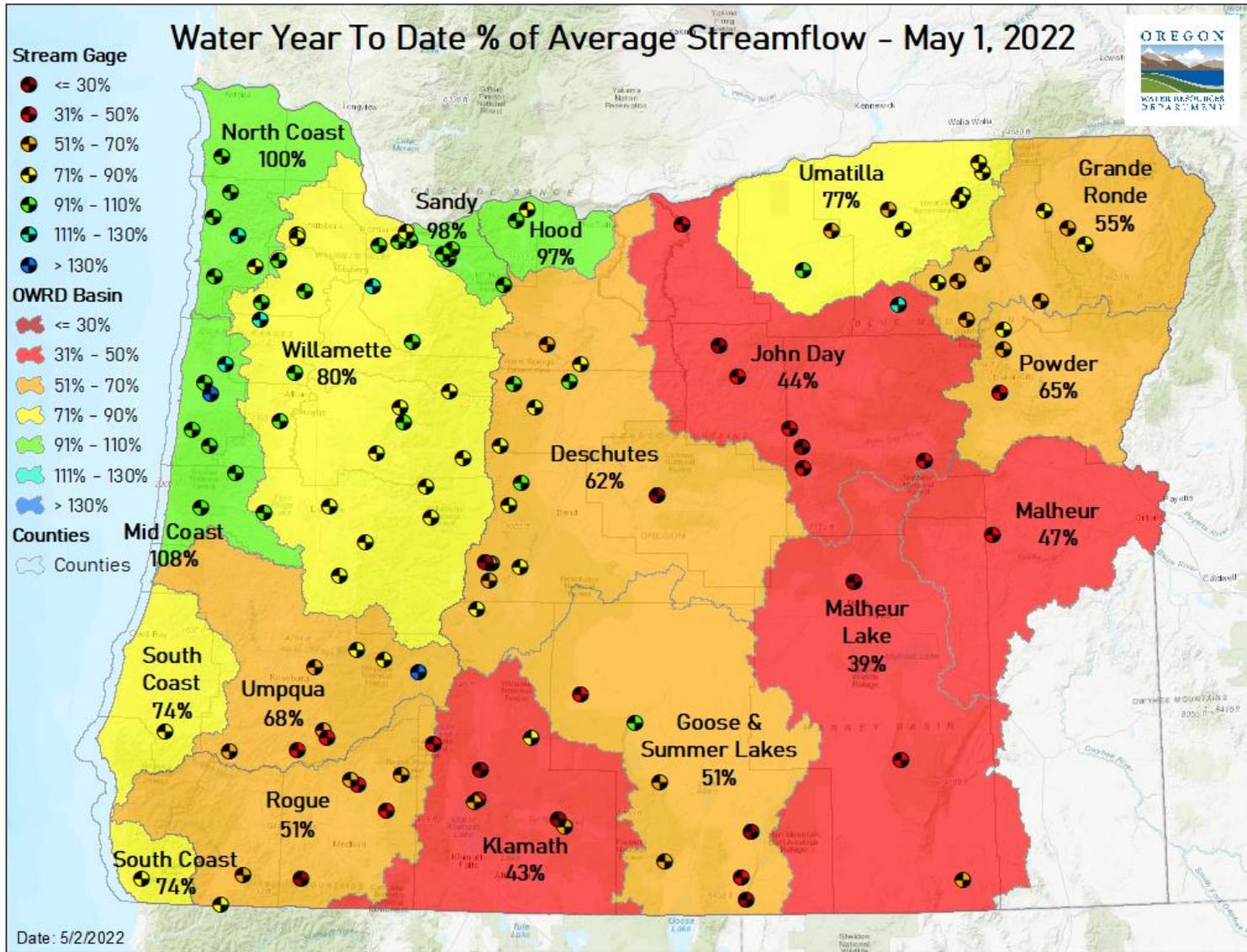
Seasonal Temperature Outlook



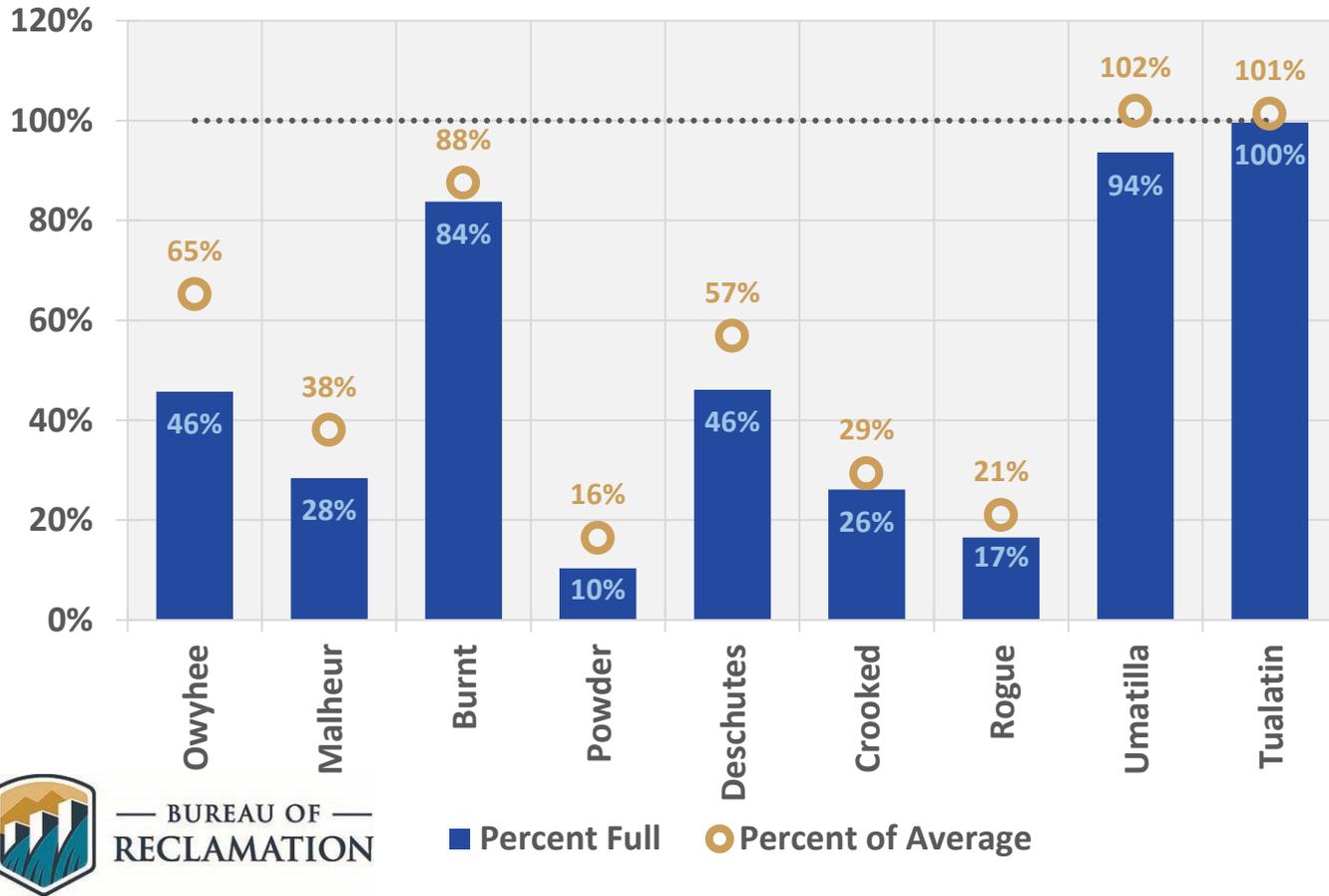
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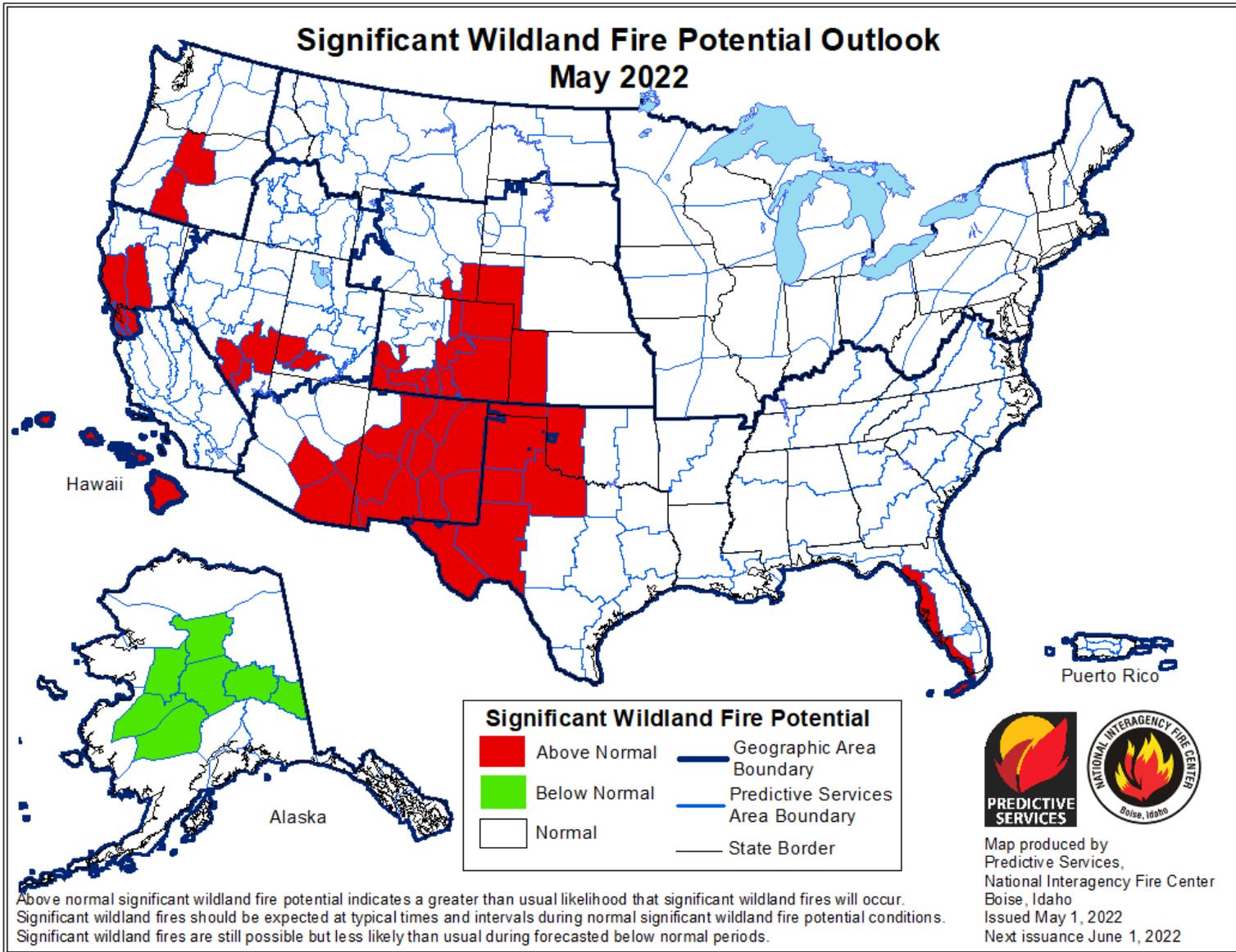






May 1 Reservoir Storage





RESOURCES/REFERENCES

Please visit [Oregon Water Resources Department's drought information page](#) to learn about current drought conditions, assistance programs, and potential drought tools.

If you are interested in submitting local drought-related conditions and impacts, please visit the [drought impacts toolkit](#) to learn more. [Click here](#) to visit the map of condition monitoring observer reports.

Released every Thursday, the [US Drought Monitor](#) provides a weekly assessment of drought conditions. The USDM provides a [network infographic](#) which depicts the network of observers who gather and report information about conditions and drought impacts.

The [WestWide Drought Tracker](#) uses data from [PRISM](#) to provide easy access to fine-scale drought monitoring and climate products, such as the figures depicting climate conditions within this report.

The National Weather Service's [Climate Prediction Center](#) offers [weekly](#), [monthly](#), and [seasonal](#) climate outlooks illustrating the probabilities of temperatures and precipitation.

The [Regional Climate Centers](#) (RCC) working with NOAA partners, deliver climate services at national, regional, and state levels. Climate [anomaly maps of Oregon](#) are updated daily at around noon PST.

NASA's [Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment](#) (GRACE) provide satellite-based observations of soil moisture conditions that are useful as drought indicators, helpful in describing current wet or dry soil conditions.

USGS [Water Watch](#) provides maps of real-time and average streamflow conditions at USGS sites throughout the state.

Reservoir storage "teacup" diagrams are offered by both the [US Bureau of Reclamation](#) and [US Army Corps of Engineers](#). The diagrams represent the level of fill in the reservoirs as both percent full and as a ratio of volume of water currently in the reservoir to the volume of water in the reservoir when it is full.

Oregon wildfire information can be found through [InciWeb](#) and the Oregon Department of Forestry's [Wildfire News](#), along with the [National Interagency Fire Center](#) which offers outlooks on the significant wildland fire potential.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management maintains a [hydrology/meteorology dashboard](#) which shows state and local drought declarations, as well as hosts many of the data sources to generate this report. Use the selection arrows at the bottom of your browser to navigate through the various sources.

US Department of Agriculture provides the [Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin](#) as a vital source of information on US and global weather, climate, and agricultural developments, along with seasonally appropriate agrometeorological charts and tables. USDA's [Drought Programs and Assistance](#) offers links to programs and resources to help those struggling with persistent drought.