

Oregon Water Conditions Report May 1, 2017



Mountain snowpack in the higher elevations has continued to increase over the last two weeks. Statewide, most low and mid elevation snow has melted so the basin averages values are driven by the remaining snow measured at the high elevation SNOTEL sites. As of May 1, 2017 the statewide snowpack is 156 percent of normal. The last year that Oregon had snowpack values this high was 2011, when the statewide snow water equivalent was 221 percent of normal.

For more region-specific information, refer to [page 4](#). Later this week the May 1, 2017 NRCS [Water Supply Outlook Report](#) should be available.

The NRCS Snow Survey continues to publish weekly condition reports on three areas that were affected by wildfire during 2015 in eastern Oregon. Due to the inability of scorched soils to readily absorb water, these areas can experience a higher risk for flash flooding. The reports can be accessed here:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/or/snow/?cid=nrcseprd854607>

Statewide mountain precipitation continues to be well above average in most locations. As of May 1, 2017, statewide mountain precipitation (based upon SNOTEL data) is 133 percent of normal, compared to 133 percent on April 1 of this year.

Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting enhanced probabilities of above normal temperatures across most of Oregon. Over this same period the outlook is for below normal precipitation in western Oregon and above normal precipitation in eastern Oregon.

The most recent three month outlook from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center indicates an above normal chance of higher than normal temperatures and an equal chance of above or below normal precipitation between now and July. The next outlook will be issued on May 18, 2017.

Statewide streamflows for the month of April were 150 percent of normal. As of late last week, stream flows were up slightly at a little over 160 percent of normal. Regionally for the month of April, streamflow conditions east and west of the Cascades were close to equal with eastern Oregon a few percentage points higher.

Due to the amount of remaining snowpack, the NRCS [April 1st streamflow volume forecast](#) for the state indicates average to above average streamflows for the majority of Oregon this summer.

Most of the state's water supply reservoirs are now at maximum capacity. [Willamette](#) and [Rogue](#) project reservoirs appear to be on track for a good summer season. Central Oregon reservoirs are between 73 and 100 percent of capacity with ample snowmelt expected as the

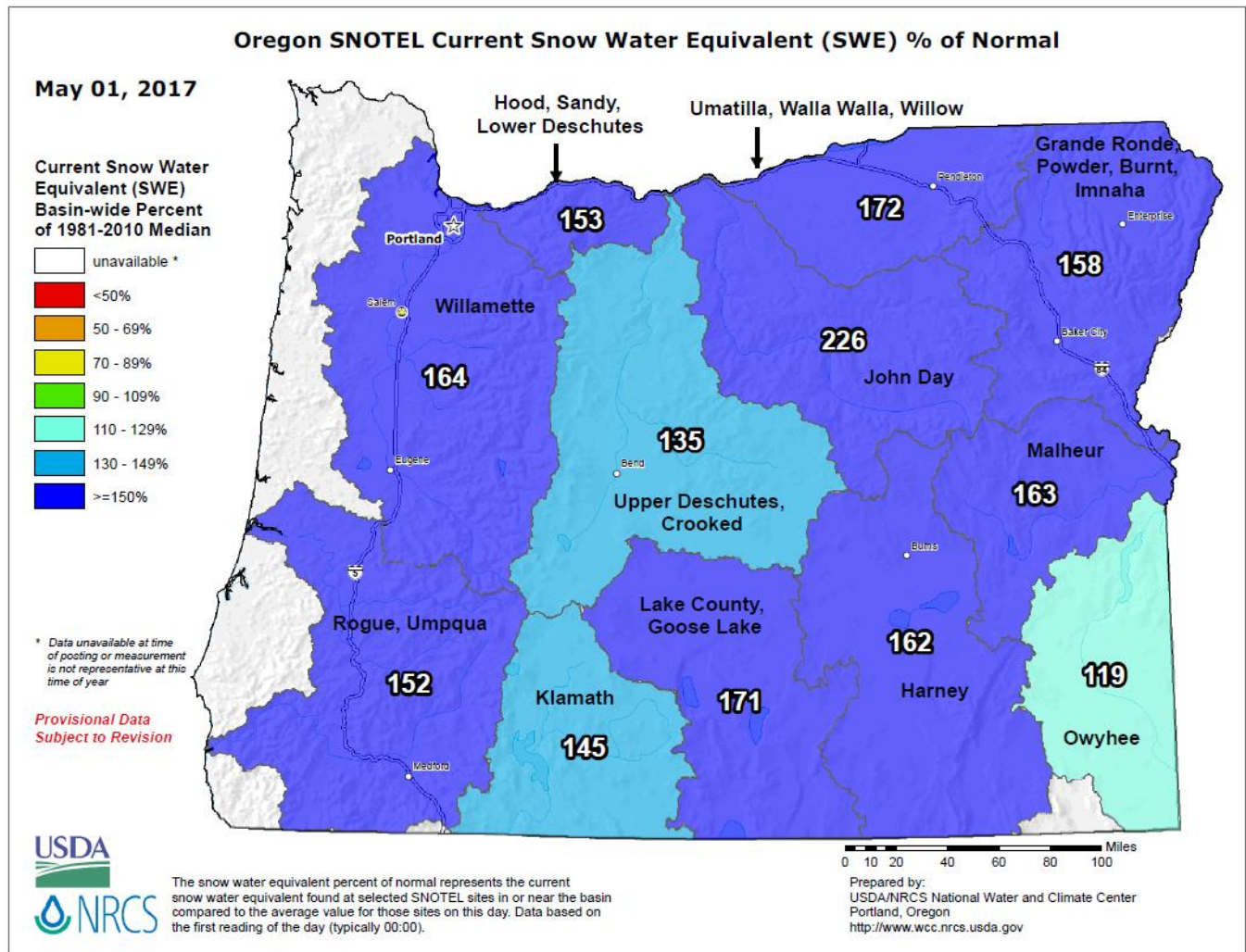
runoff season approaches. With the exception of [Phillips Reservoir](#), most eastern Oregon reservoirs are very close to capacity. For the most recent near real-time, site-specific reservoir conditions (teacup diagrams) visit the [USBR](#) or [USACE](#) websites.

No change in drought status in the past several weeks. The most recent US Drought Monitor report indicates that the entire state (100 percent) is no longer listed in any drought category. The last time this condition was observed was in October, 2011. Refer to the map on [page 9](#) for details.

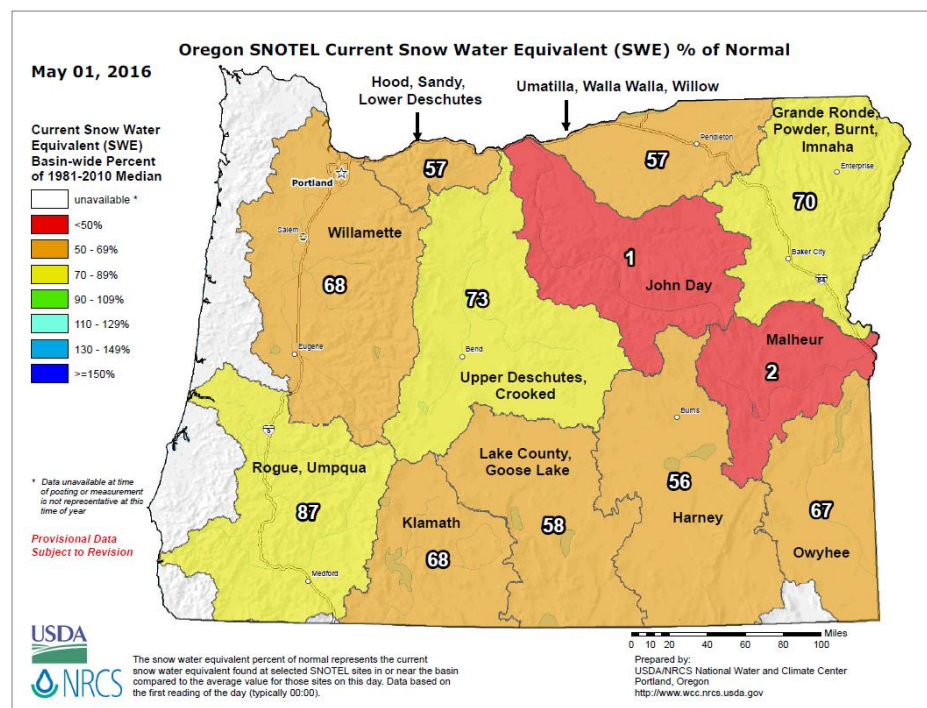
The Oregon Department of Forestry continues to forecast below average 2017 fire season. “Current fuels in the state are either wet or white. While there has been recent snowmelt with the warm rain, it doesn’t appear the existing snowpack will leave the high country early this spring. Spring temperatures are likely to be near average or below average and moisture is likely to be above average. Drought has left the state and combined with the other listed climate conditions, fire season is likely to be below average again.”

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Snowpack - Percent of Normal

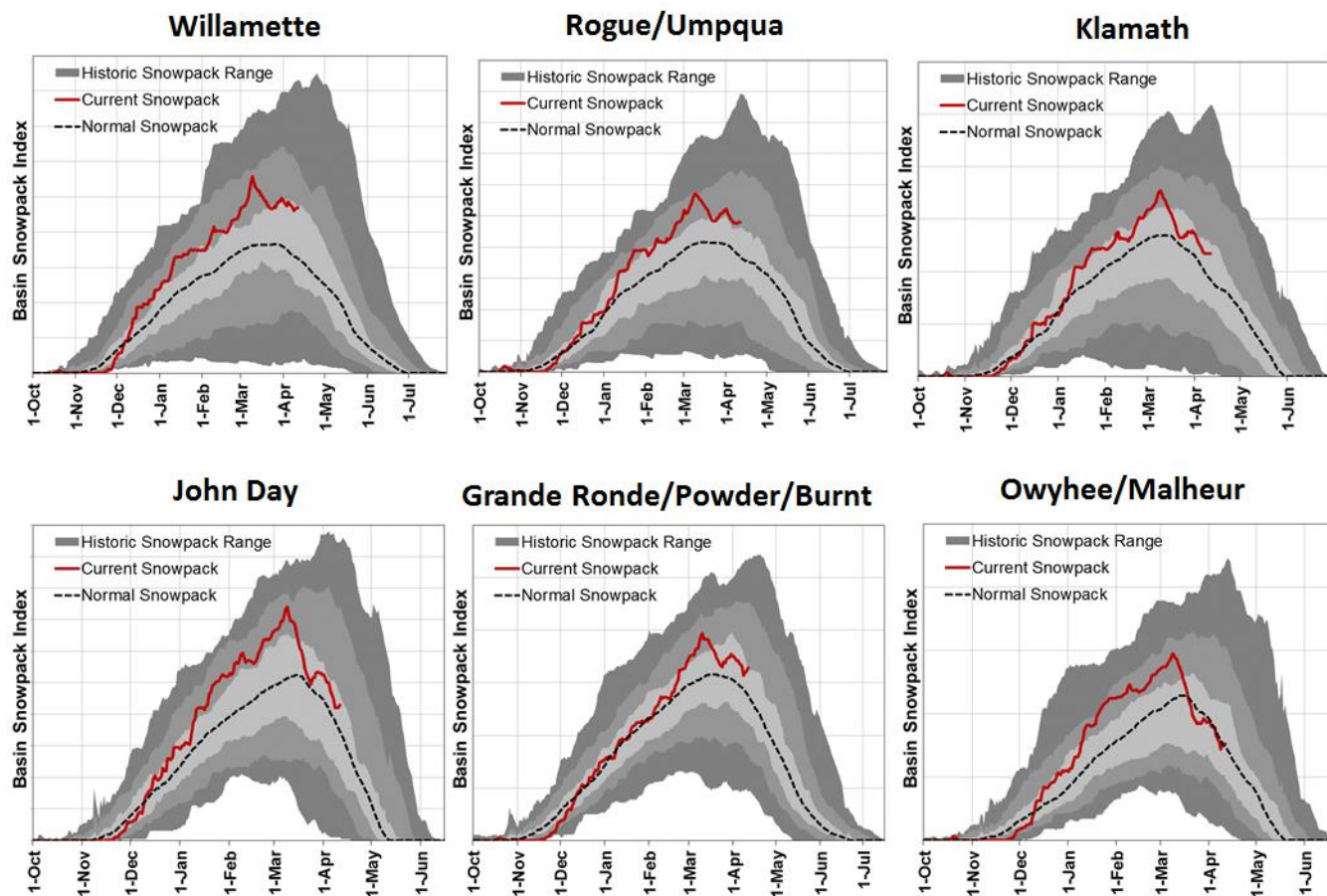


Compared to this time last year -

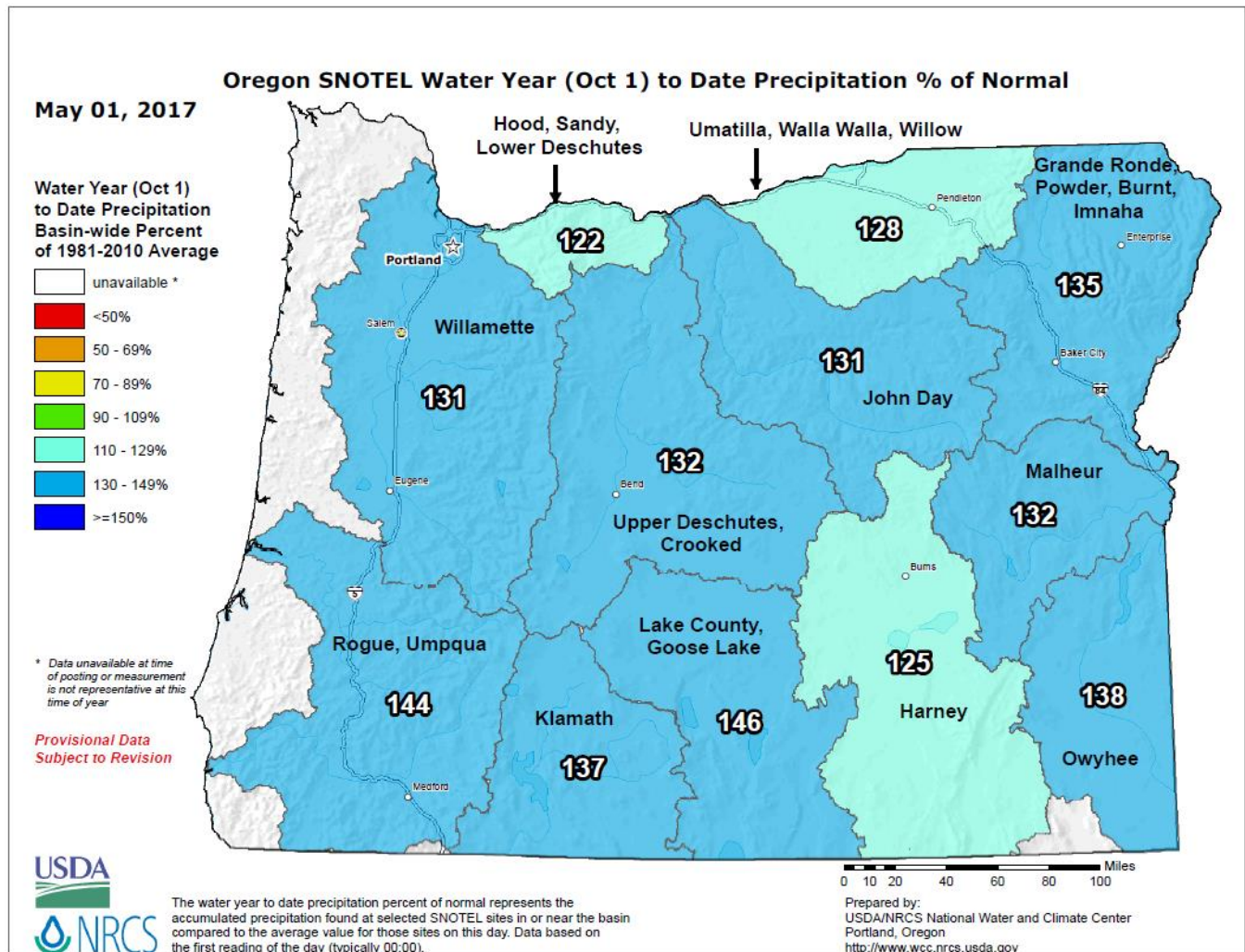


Snowpack - Percent of Normal (continued)

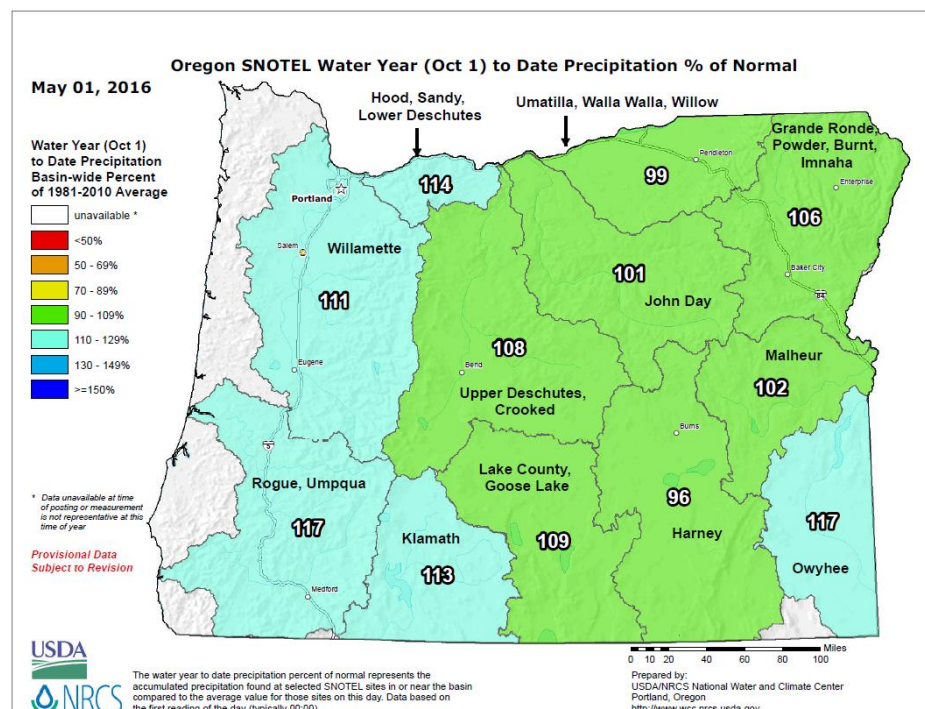
Water Year 2017 – April 11th



Precipitation (mountain) - Percent of Normal



Compared to this time
 last year -

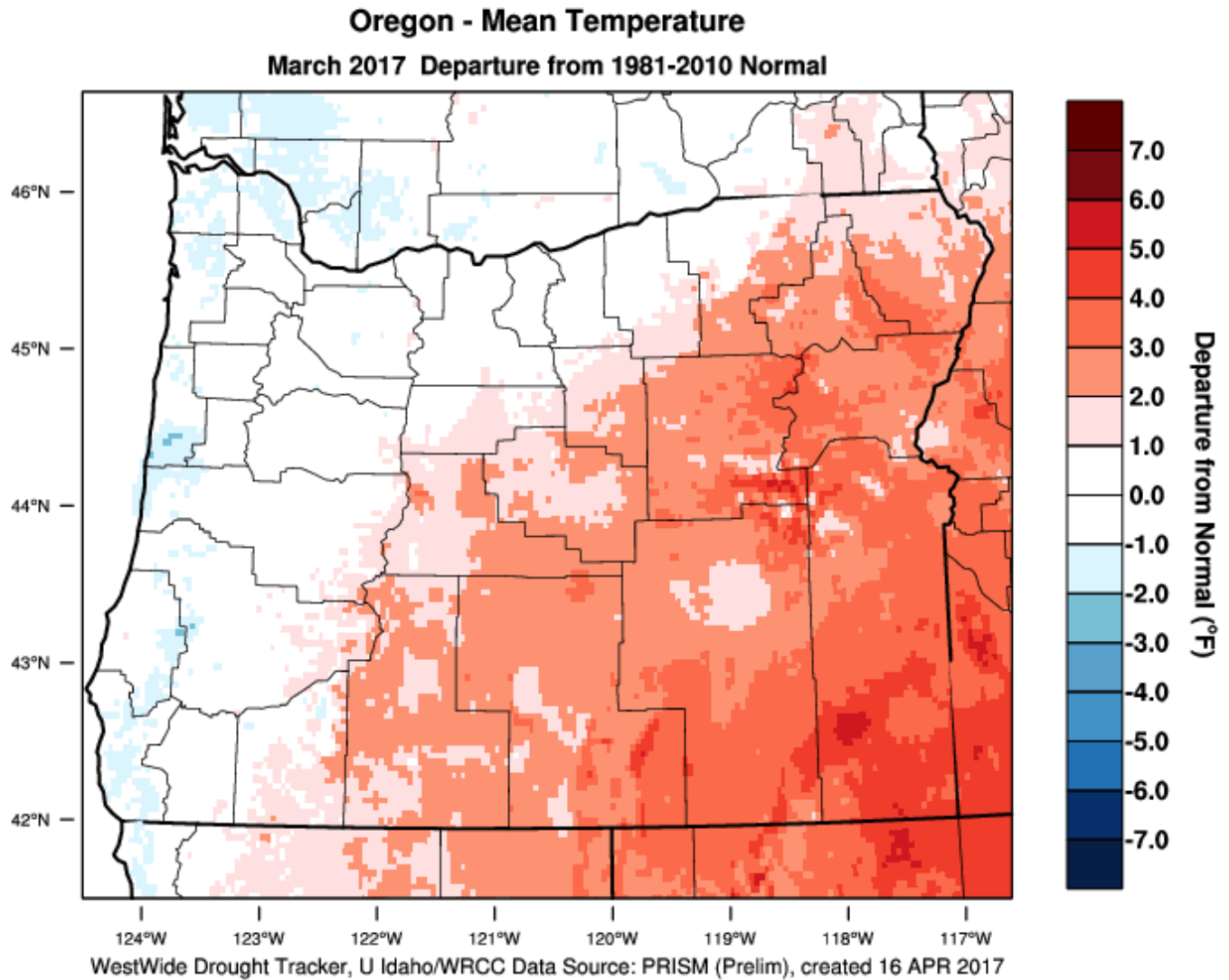


Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

Website: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=mdn1>

Note: this page will be updated later this week. For now, this is the latest graphic.

PRISM > Temperature Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon

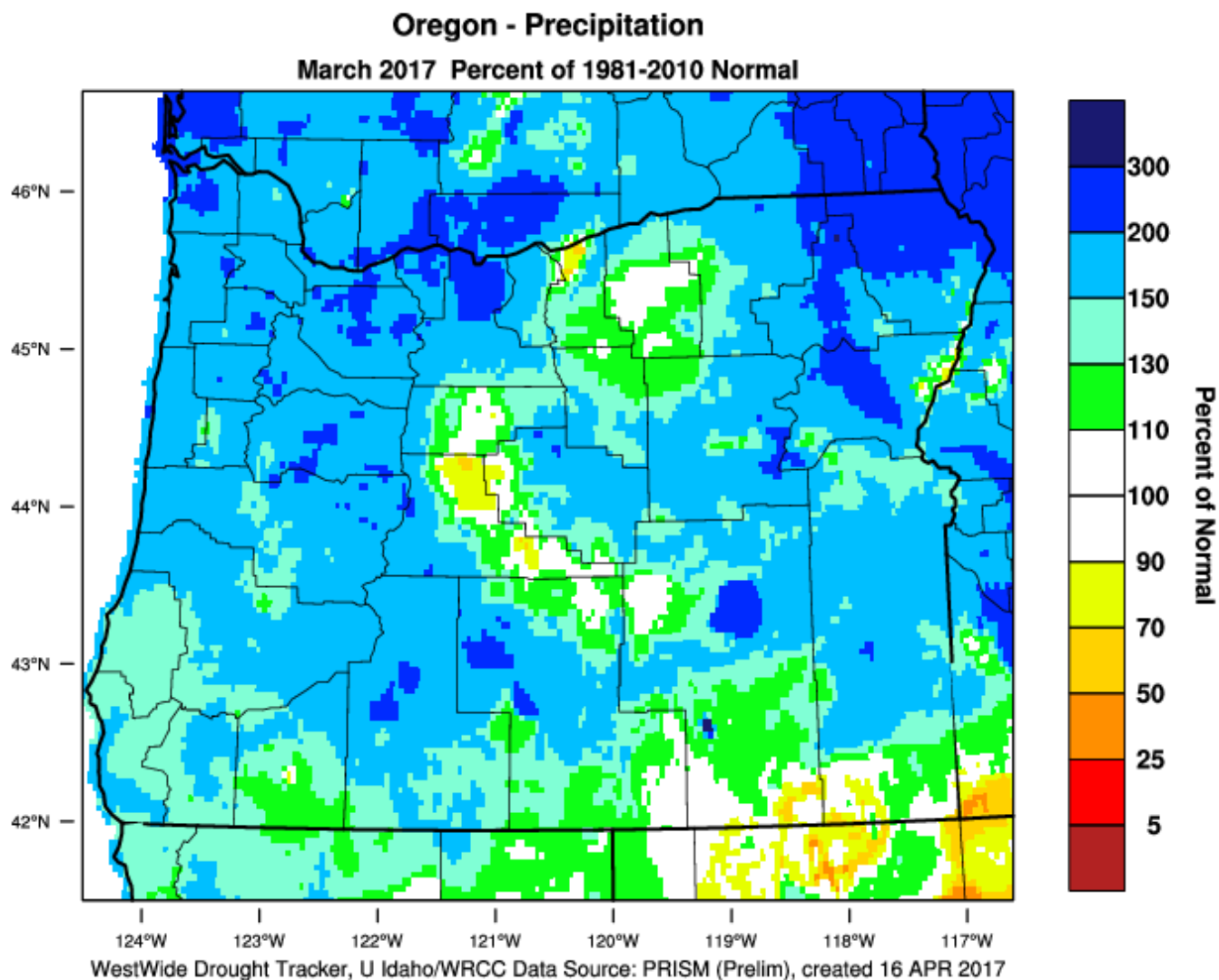


Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

Website: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=pon1>

Note: this page will be updated later this week. For now, this is the latest graphic.

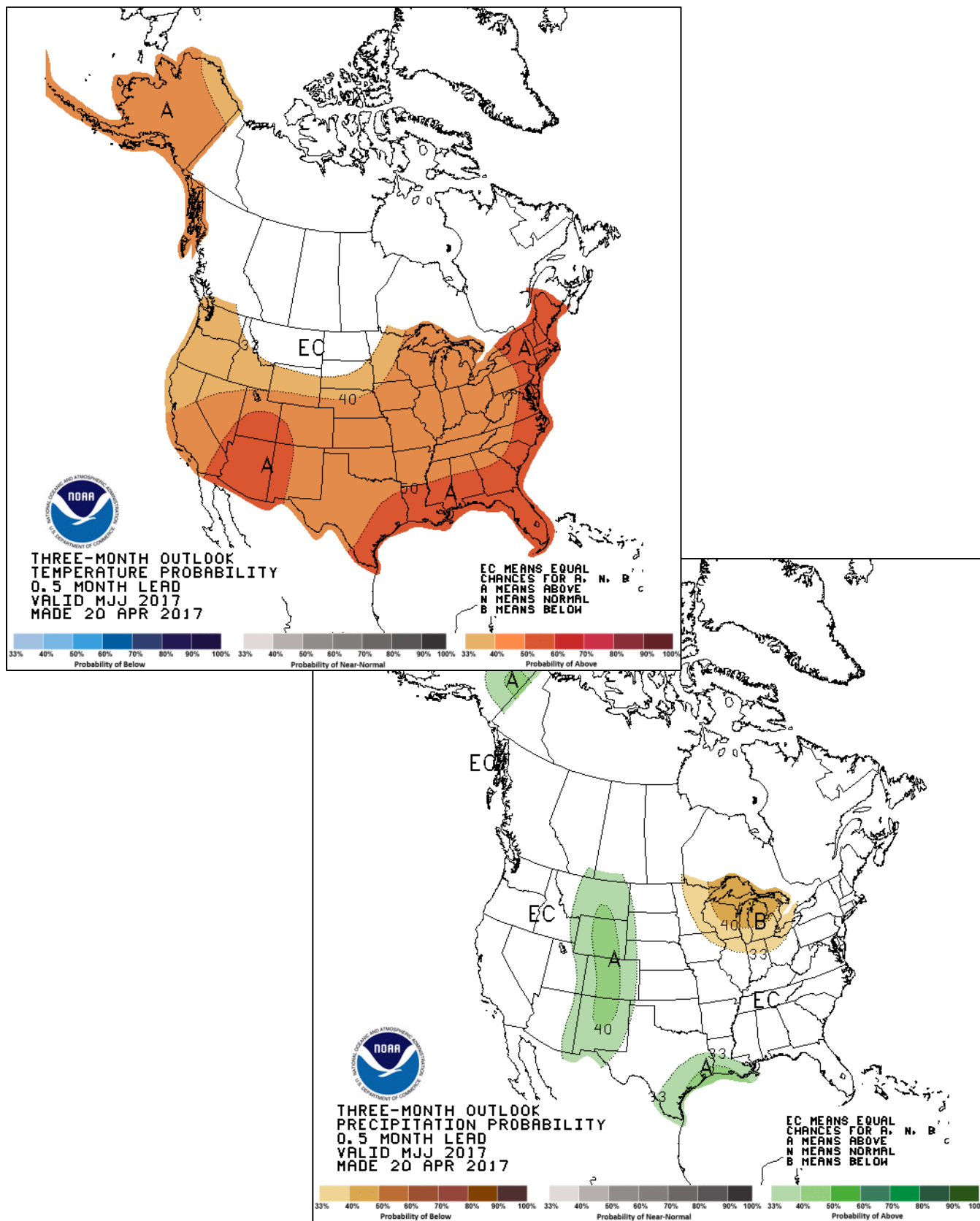
PRISM > Precipitation Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

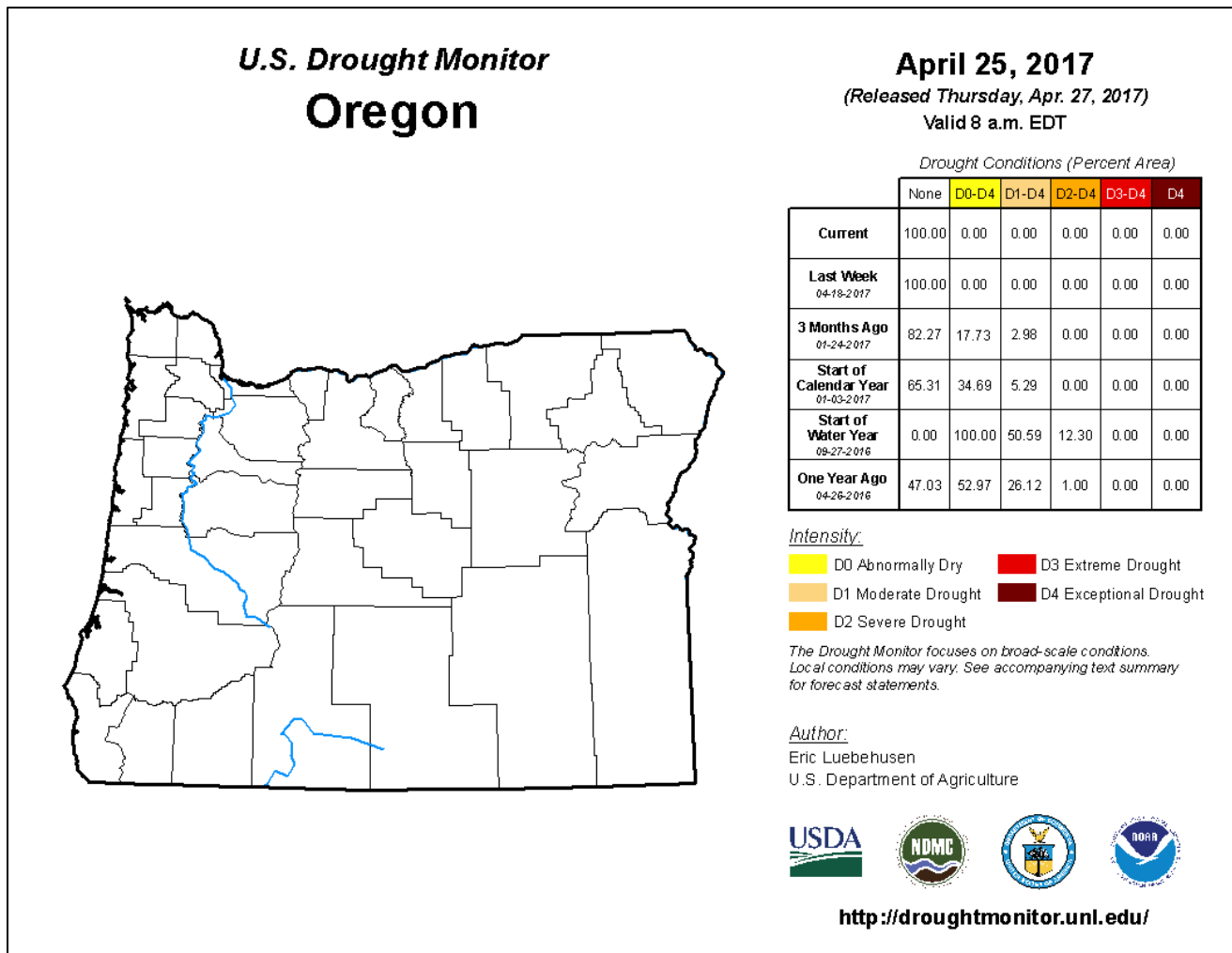
May-June-July – Follow link for the latest information.

Website: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1

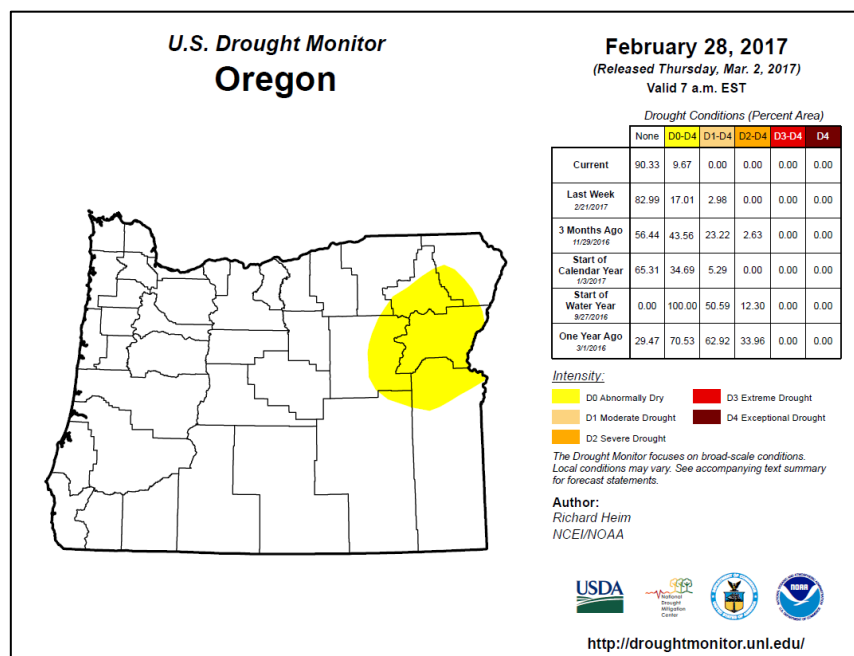


U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon

Website: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR>



Note: Change from February 28, 2017 report



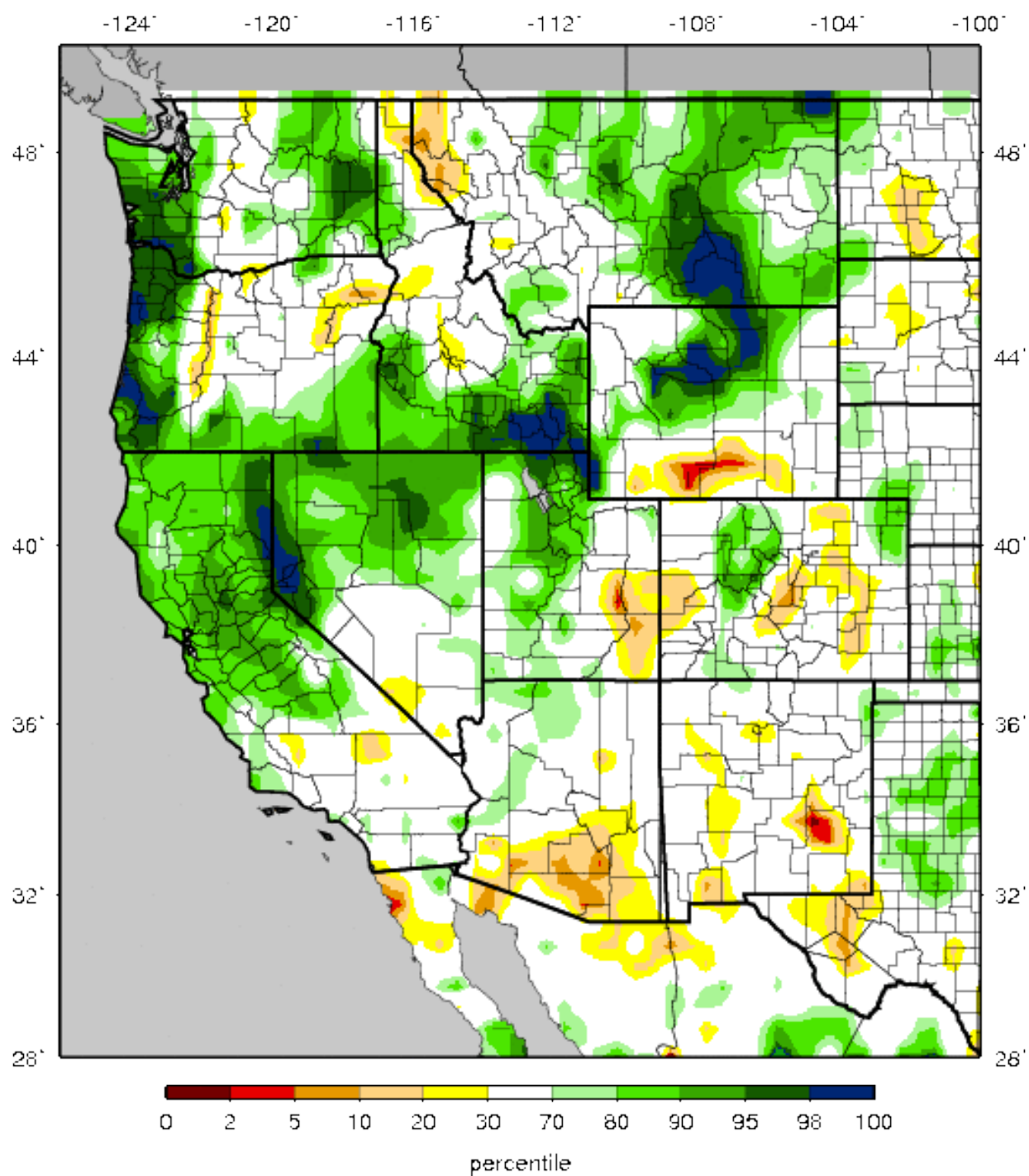
Soil Moisture - Percentile

Website:

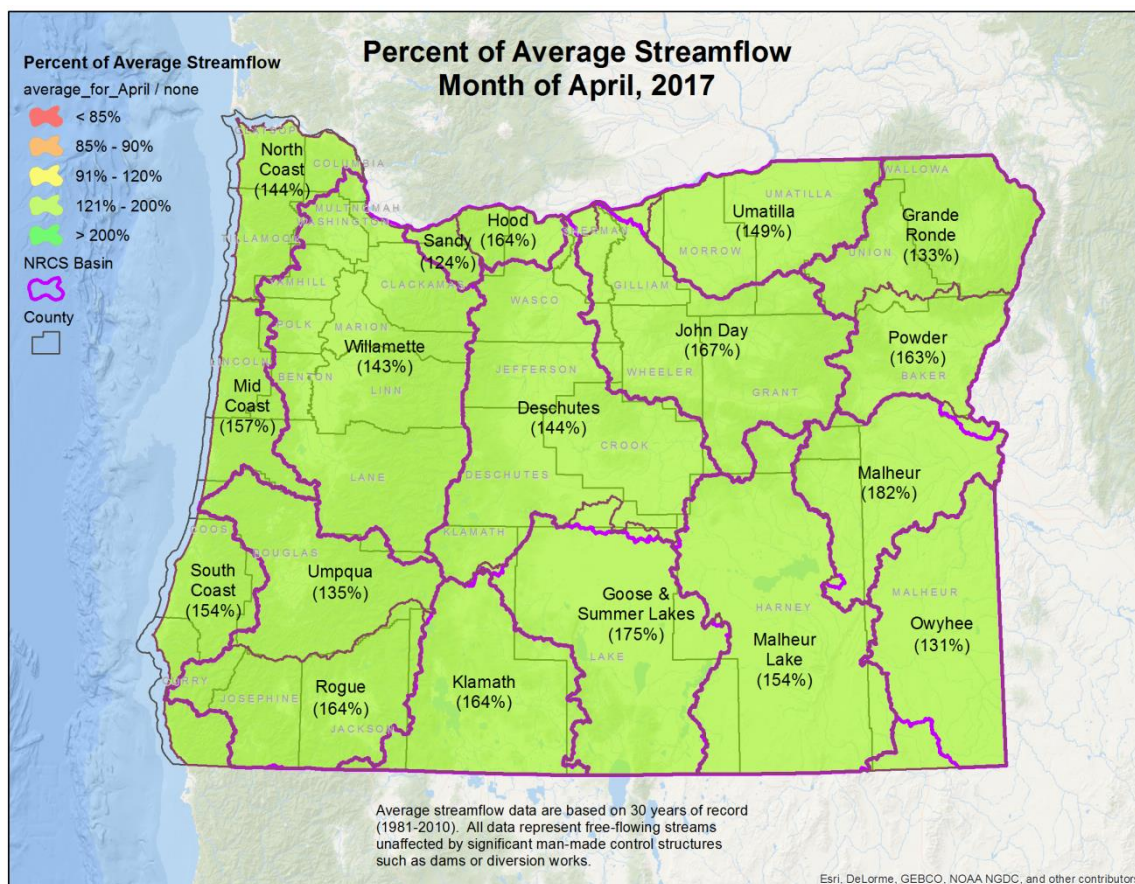
http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/conus.mexico/west.vic.sm_qnt.qif

VIC Soil Moisture Percentiles (wrt/ 1916-2004)

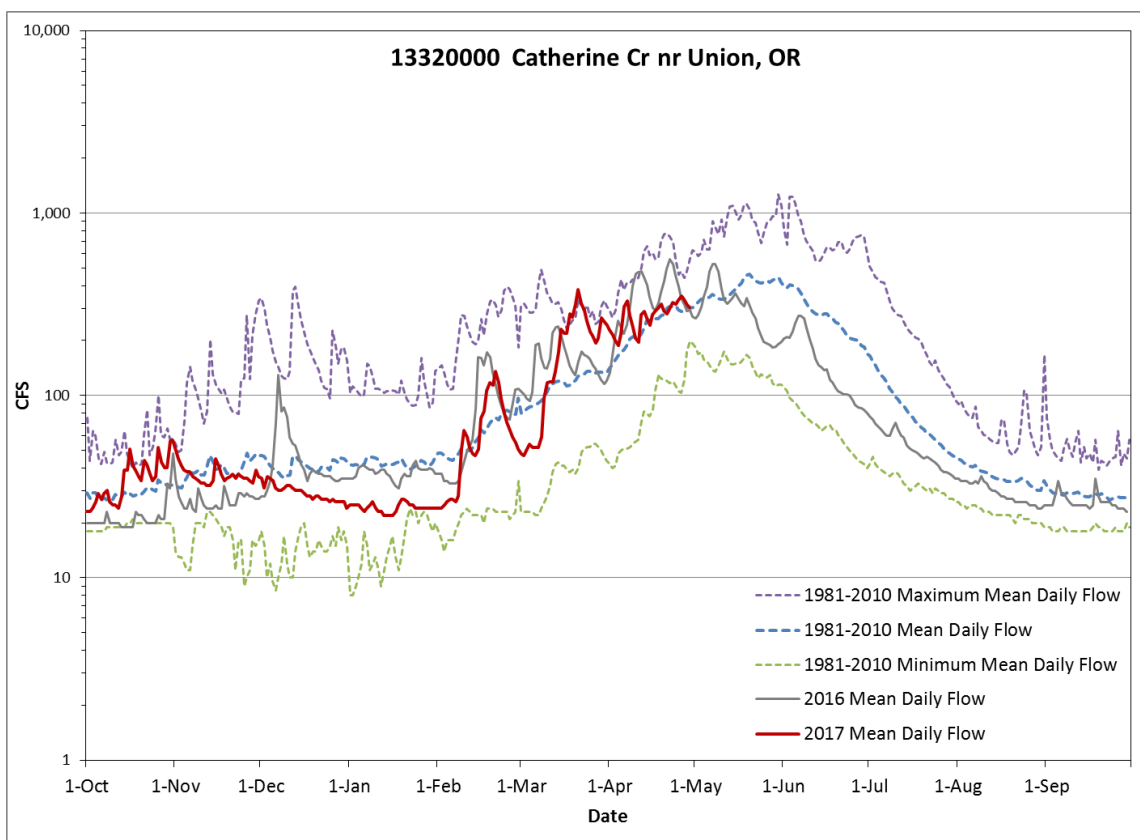
Western United States - 20170430



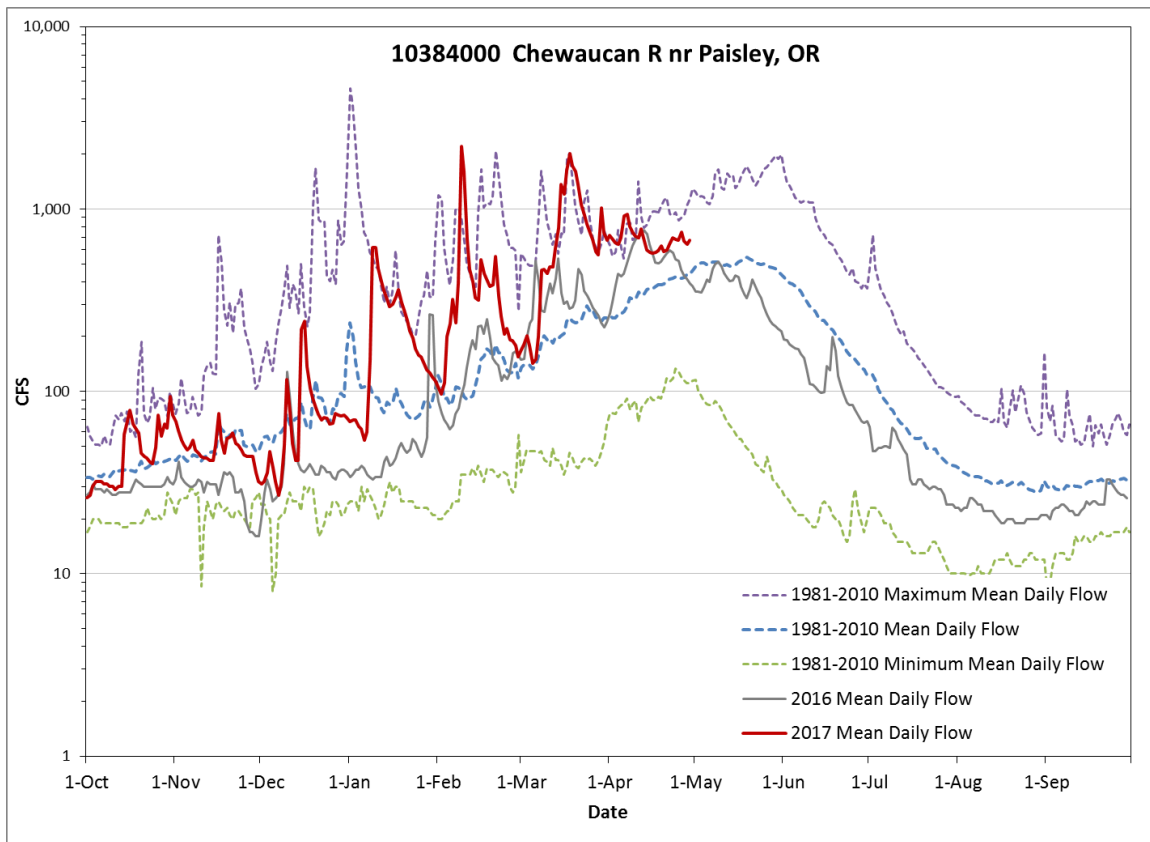
April Regional Streamflow Conditions



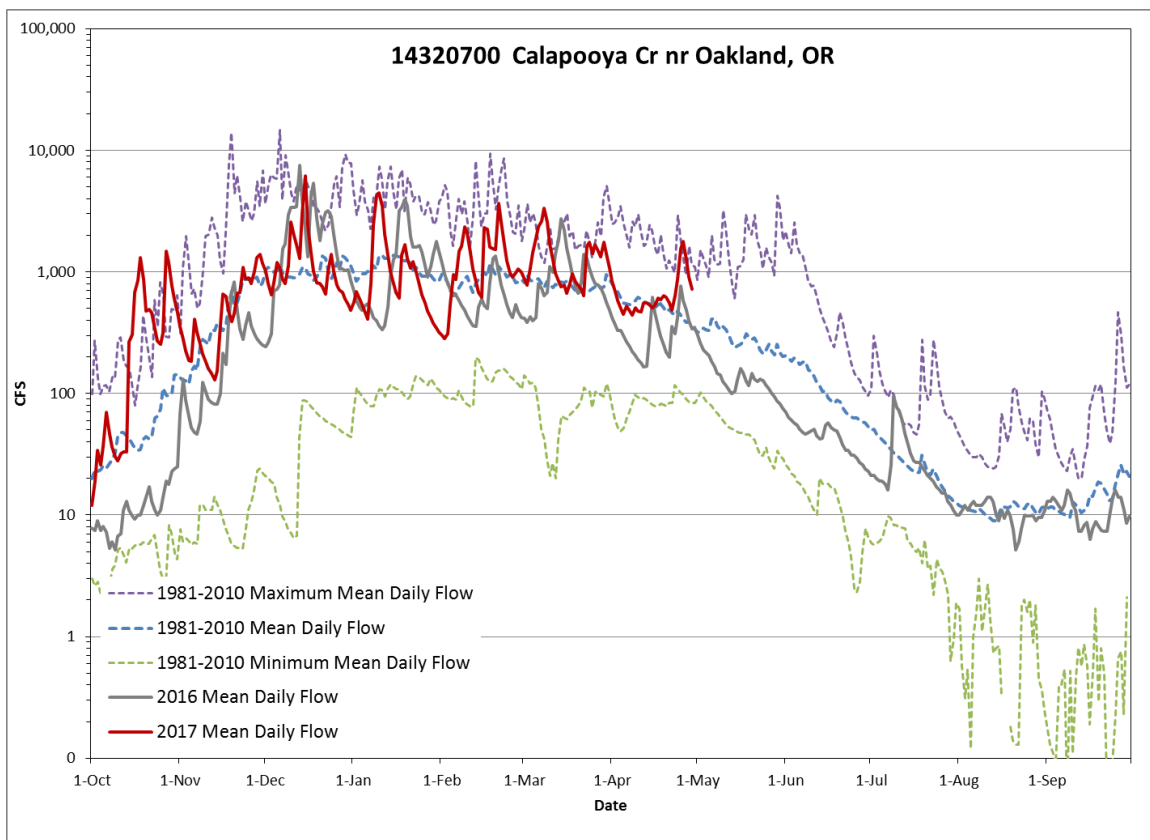
Streamflow Example – Eastern Oregon (Grande Ronde)



Streamflow Example – South Central Oregon (Goose & Summer Lake)



Streamflow Example – Western Oregon (Umpqua)



April Regional Reservoir Storage Conditions

