

County Court

221 S. Oregon St. PO Box 427 Condon, OR 97823
Office: 541.384.6351 Admin: 541.384.3303 Fax: 541.384.3304



Ken Stahr
Surface Water Hydrology Manager
Oregon Water Resources Department
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301
Via Email: Kenneth.L.Stahr@oregon.gov

Traci Naile
Operations and Preparedness Manager
Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council
P.O. Box 14370
Salem, OR 97301
Via Email: Traci.Naile@state.or.us

May 19, 2020

RE: Gilliam County Drought

Mr. Stahr and Ms. Naile:

On behalf of the Gilliam County Court, I am writing to request Governor Kate Brown issue an executive order for all of Gilliam County under the provisions of ORS 536, as a direct result of severe and continuing drought conditions.

Currently, more than half of Gilliam County is in a D3 (extreme) condition, with the remainder of the County in a D2 (severe) condition, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

There is the potential for the Gilliam County agricultural and livestock, natural resources, recreation, and related economies to experience widespread and severe damage resulting from these extreme weather conditions. In fact, the effects of current drought conditions can already be seen in crop health, reduced upland grass production, reduced spring flows, and extremely low river and stream water levels.

The Gilliam County Court formally declared a state of drought emergency on May 19, 2020 and has determined that additional action by and support from the State is needed. This may include assistance from the Oregon Water Resources Department and other executive branch agencies, operating within their statutory authorities. A copy of the adopted resolution is attached for your files.

Therefore, the Gilliam County Court respectfully requests an executive order from Governor Brown declaring drought in Gilliam County.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Farrar
Gilliam County Judge

Judge Elizabeth Farrar
elizabeth.farrar@co.gilliam.or.us

Commissioner Sherrie Wilkins
sherrie.wilkins@co.gilliam.or.us

Commissioner Leslie Wetherell
leslie.wetherell@co.gilliam.or.us

IN THE COUNTY COURT FOR GILLIAM COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. R2020-16

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY

THIS MATTER, coming before the County Court for Gilliam County sitting as the County governing body at a regularly scheduled meeting on this 19th day of May, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the total precipitation for the area is significantly below average; and

WHEREAS, Gilliam County is faced with potential crop failures both in dry land and irrigated areas that are served by streams; and

WHEREAS, Gilliam County is faced with a 50% reduction in available range forage for livestock, likely necessitating livestock feed assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Gilliam County Court hereby resolves as follows:

- (1) The Gilliam County Court declares that a state of drought emergency exists within Gilliam County; and
- (2) The Gilliam County Court requests that Governor Kate Brown declare a state of drought emergency for Gilliam County, and that Governor Kate Brown requests that the United States Secretary of Interior and the United States Secretary of Agriculture issue a Drought Disaster Declaration for Gilliam County.

Adopted by the Gilliam County Court this 19th day of May, 2020.



Elizabeth A. Farrar, County Judge

ATTEST:



Teresa Aldrich, Recording Secretary



Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District
PO Box 106, 333 S. Main St. – Condon, OR 97823 – Phone (541) 384-2672 x108

May 12th 2020

Gilliam County Court
221 S. Oregon St.
P.O. Box 427
Condon, OR 97823

To the
Honorable Elizabeth Farrar
And
Commissioners of Gilliam County

The Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District formally requests that the Gilliam County Court consider and approve an emergency declaration of drought for Gilliam County. We request that the Gilliam County Court, in coordination with the Gilliam County Emergency Management Department pursue the necessary steps to attain an emergency drought declaration from the Governor's office. The following points are our basis for request as are the attached documents:

- Over half of Gilliam County is currently in a D3 drought (extreme drought) and the rest of the County is D2 drought (severe drought) according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.
- The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook expects drought to persist at least until July 31st.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) three-month outlook for Gilliam County forecast a 60-70% probability that temperatures will be above normal and a 33-40% probability that precipitation will be below normal.
- The 1981-2010 average total precipitation for Condon, Oregon through the end of April is 5.52 inches. The Gilliam SWCD weather station has collected 2.44 inches since January 1st.

Throughout Gilliam County the effects of the current drought conditions can already be seen in crop health, reduced upland grass production, reduced spring flows, and extremely low river and stream water levels.

A county declaration of drought emergency is the first step in receiving the declaration from the Governor. We need the Governor's declaration to allow our local producers' access to State and Federal drought assistance programs.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Herb Winters
District Manager

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

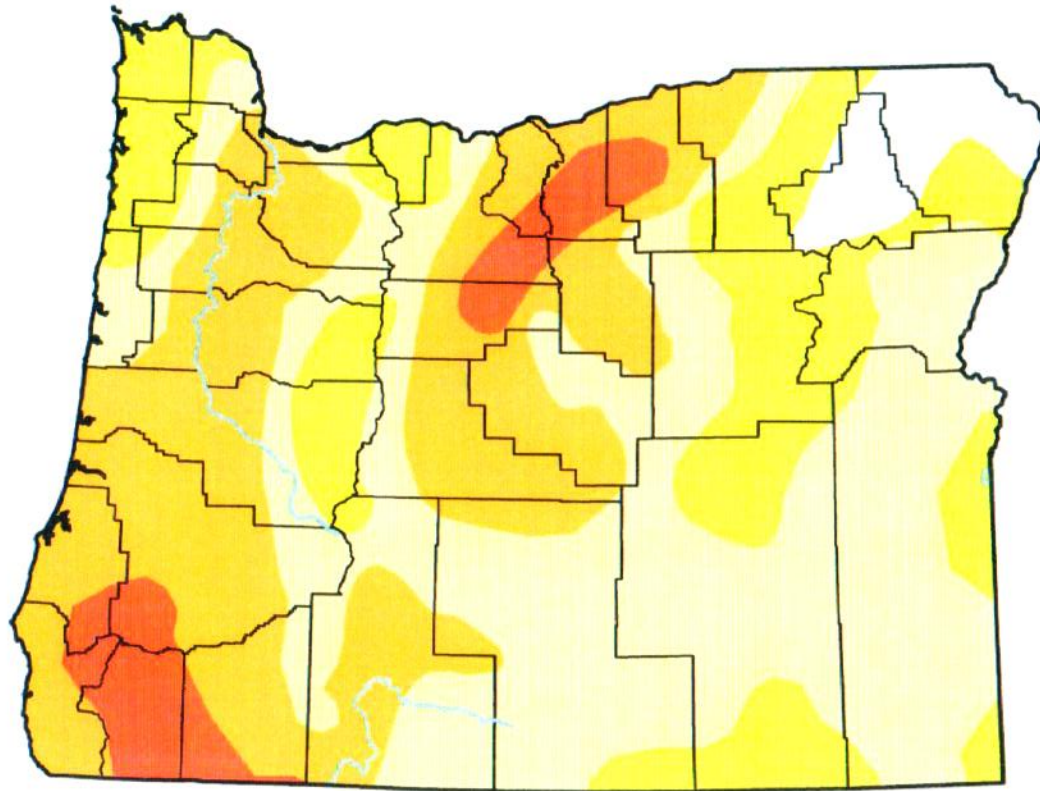
May 5, 2020

(Released Thursday, May. 7, 2020)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	3.84	96.16	76.13	35.97	5.93	0.00
Last Week <i>04-28-2020</i>	3.84	96.16	63.65	33.43	2.36	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>02-04-2020</i>	10.92	89.08	23.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2019</i>	2.40	97.60	24.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10-01-2019</i>	88.54	11.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>05-07-2019</i>	82.70	17.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:



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 Pugh
CPC/NOAA

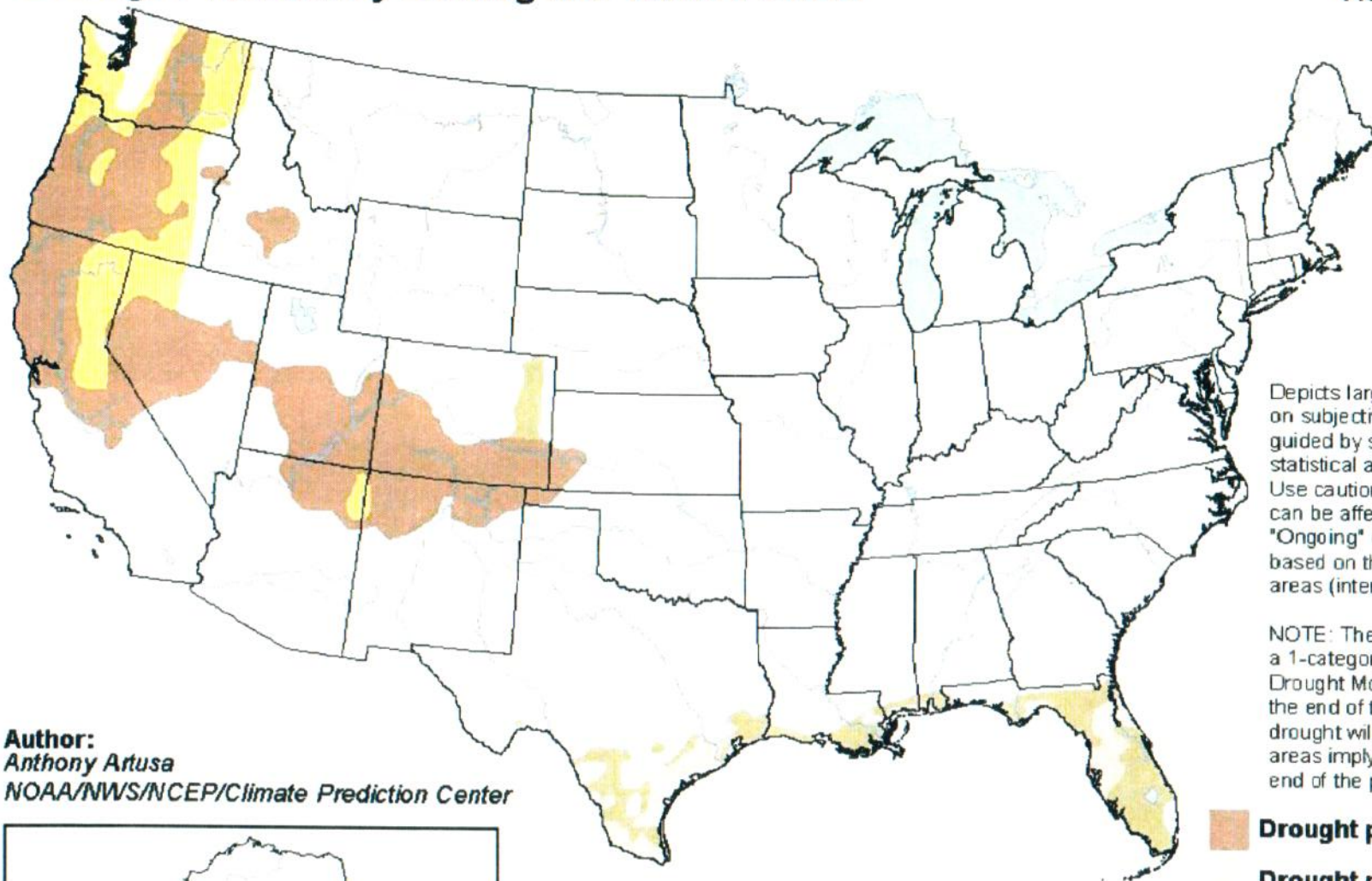


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

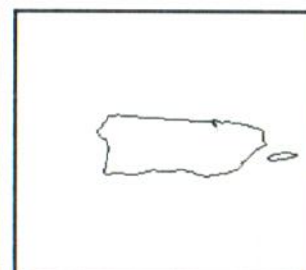
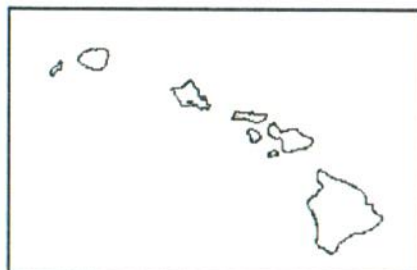
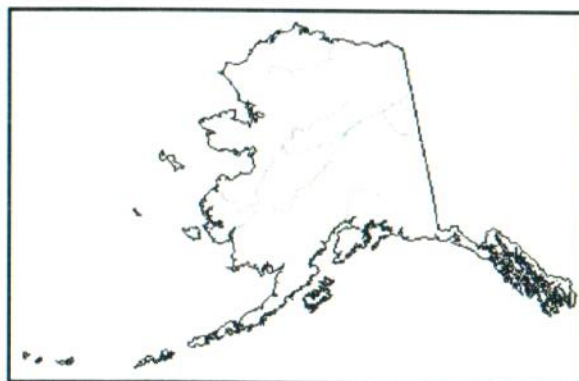
Valid for April 16 - July 31, 2020
Released April 16



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)

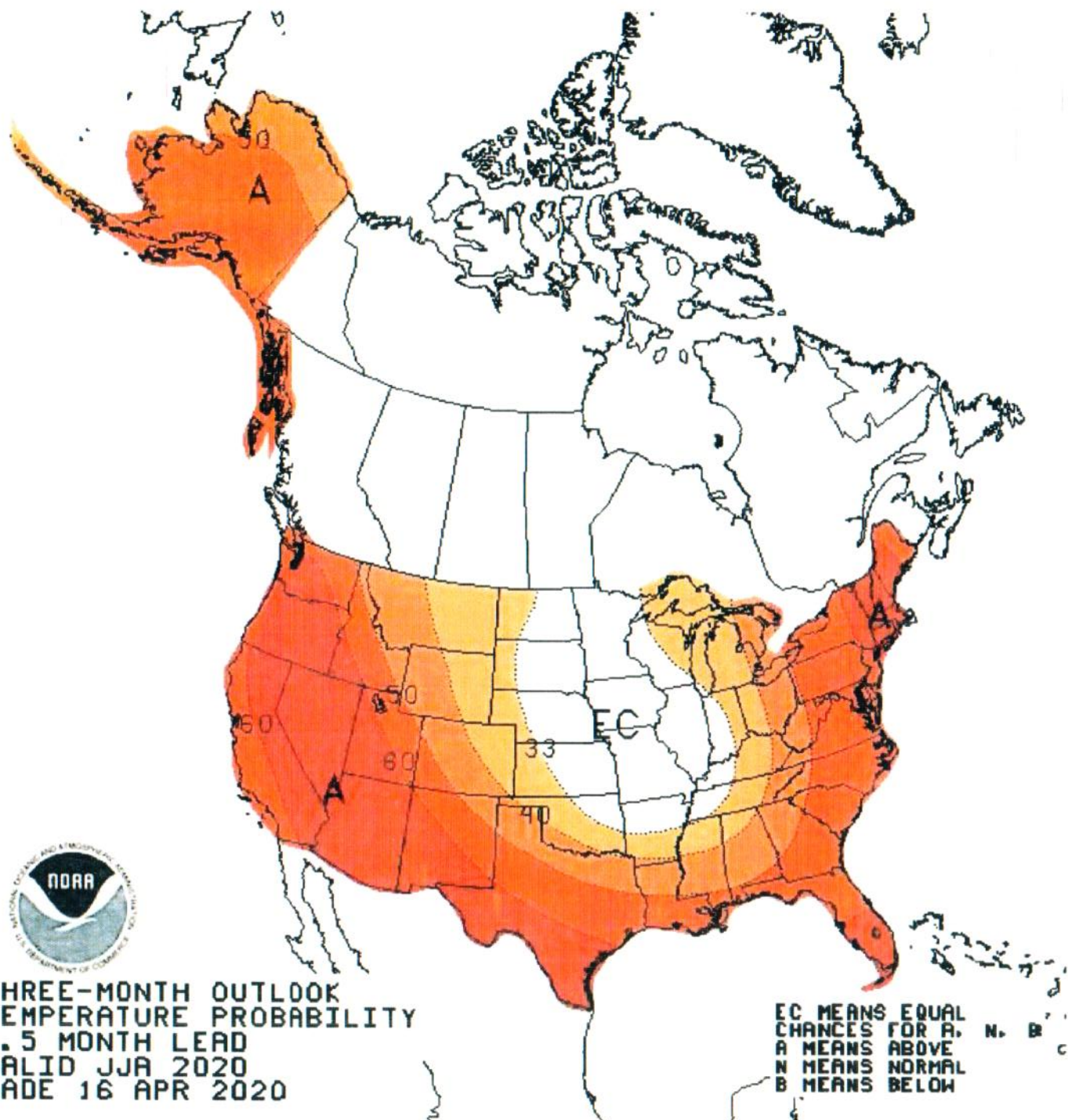
Author:
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



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

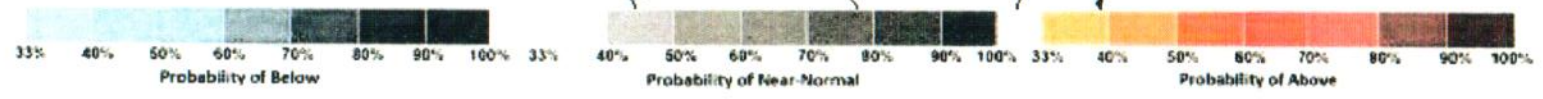


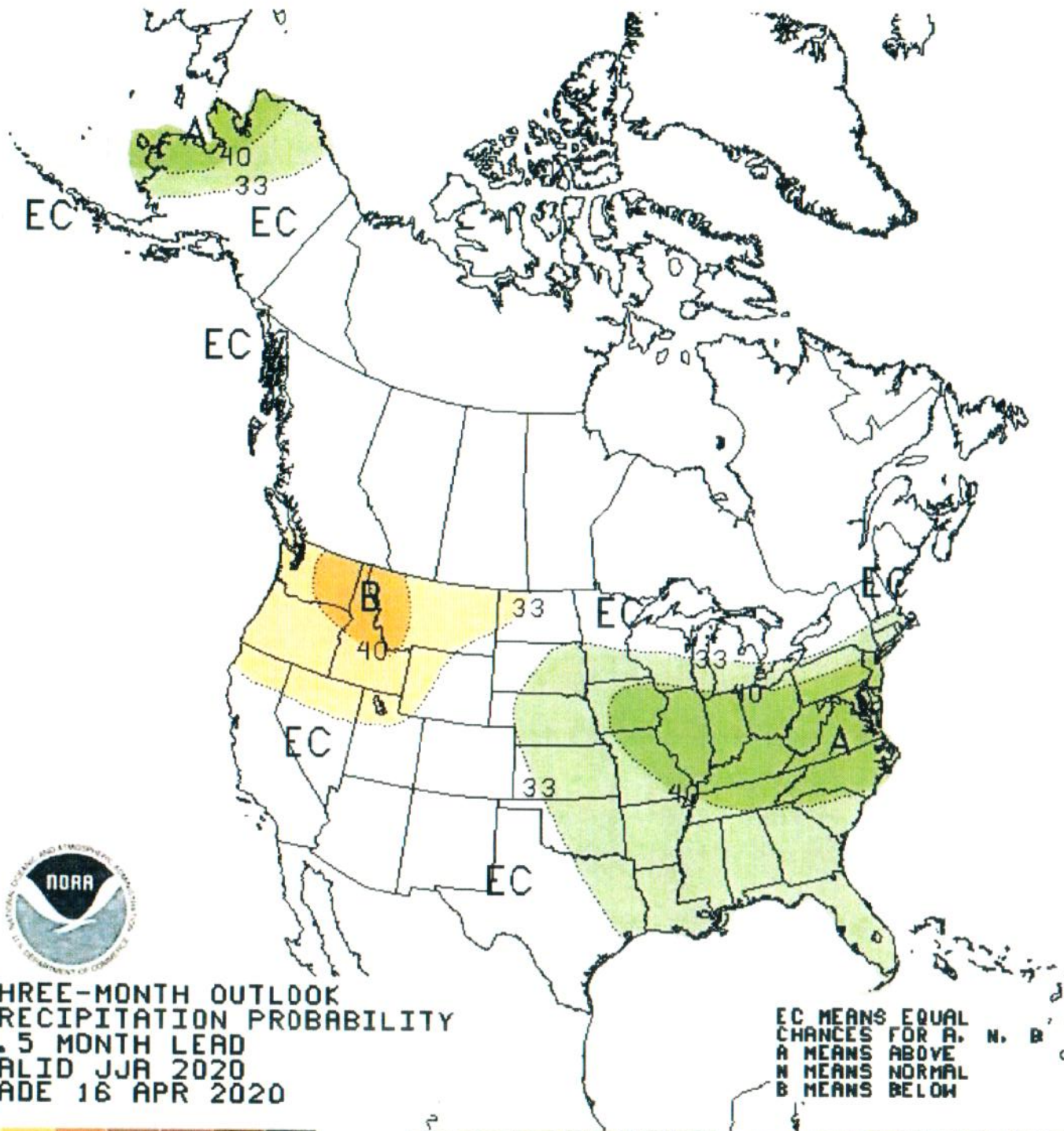
<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>



THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
1.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID JJA 2020
MADE 16 APR 2020

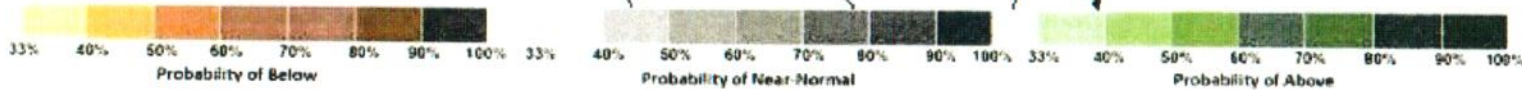
EC MEANS EQUAL
CHANCES FOR A, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW





**THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
1.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID JJA 2020
MADE 16 APR 2020**

**EC MEANS EQUAL
CHANCES FOR A, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW**





Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

Watermaster 21

Gilliam County Courthouse

P.O. Box 427

Condon, OR 97823

Ph: (541) 384-4207

Fax: (541) 384-2166

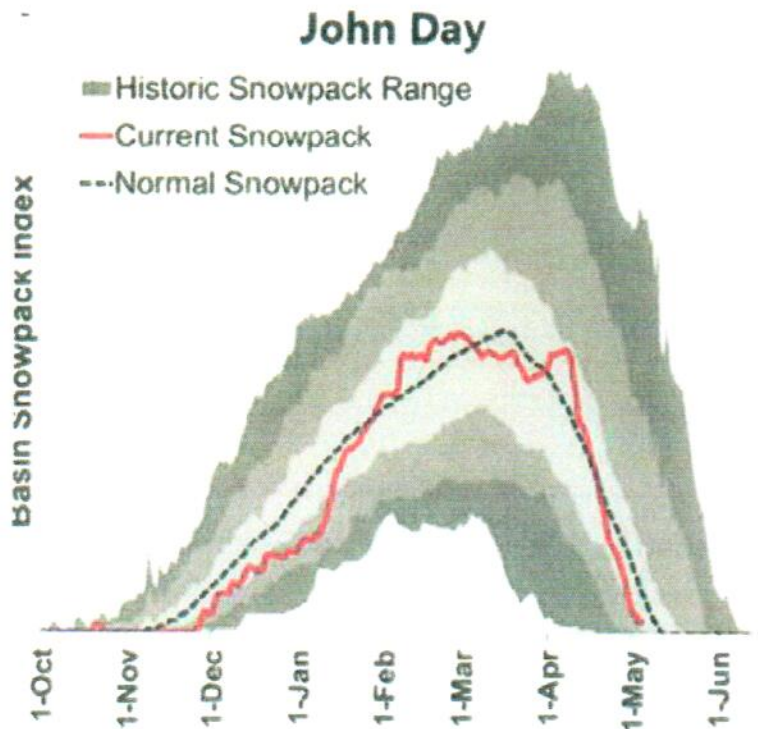
2020 Drought Information

May 6, 2020

Gilliam County Court

Dear Gilliam County Commissioners,

This is to notify you of the declining surface water conditions in the tributaries to the John Day River. The large flows on the John Day River have been quickly diminishing, and while snow pack is currently slightly below average in the upper John Day, the lower John Day system has no snow pack and will continue to dry up, especially with the forecasted weather.

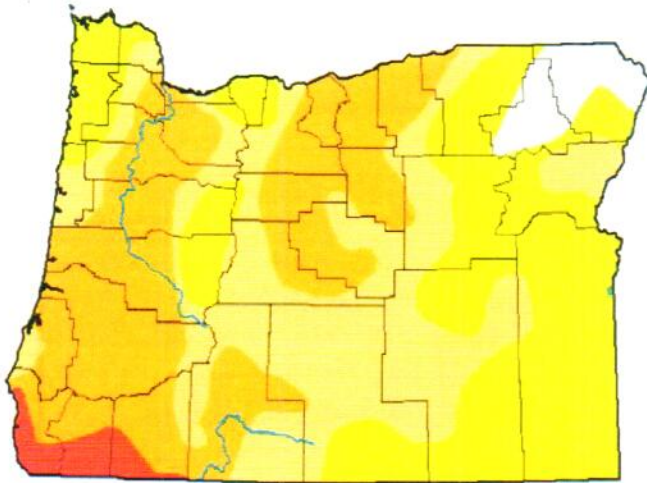


The latest rainfall will help, but we are at about 83% of average precipitation at this time. Gilliam County only received about half of the average rainfall for the month of April. If the temperatures increase at the rate predicted, the benefits will dry up quickly.

The U.S. Drought Monitor has Gilliam County already listed as severe drought conditions.

**U.S. Drought Monitor
Oregon**

April 28, 2020
(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	3.84	96.16	83.65	33.43	2.36	0.00
Last Week 04-21-2020	5.37	94.63	83.13	31.84	2.36	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-28-2020	9.12	90.88	29.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2020	2.40	97.60	24.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	88.54	11.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-30-2019	82.70	17.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

I hope this helps.

Sincerely,

Ken Thieman
Watermaster, District 21

cc: Chris Kowitz, (Region Manager), Keith Mills (Drought Board)