

County Court

221 S. Oregon St. PO Box 427 Condon, OR 97823
Admin: 541.351.9499 or 800.568.4558 Fax: 541.351.9561



Ryan Andrews
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: ryan.m.andrews@state.or.us

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

March 16th, 2022

RE: Gilliam County Drought

Mr. Andrews 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 D2 (severe) condition, with the remainder of the County in a D1 (moderate) 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 March 16th, 2022 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 Campbell
Gilliam County Judge

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

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

Commissioner Pat Shannon
pat.shannon@co.gilliam.or.us

IN THE COUNTY COURT FOR GILLIAM COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. R2022-03

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 16th day of March, 2022; 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, Over 66% of Gilliam County is currently in a D3 drought (Extreme Drought), and the rest of the County is in D4 drought (Exceptional Drought), according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

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 16th day of March 2022.


Elizabeth A. Farrar Campbell, County Judge

ATTEST:


Miranda Rees, Recording Secretary



Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District
PO Box 106, 234 S. Main St. – Condon, OR 97823 – Phone (541) 384-2672 x108

March 9, 2022

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

- Over 66% of Gilliam County is currently in a D3 drought (Extreme Drought), and the rest of the County is in D4 drought (Exceptional Drought), according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.
- The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook for March 1 – May 31, 2022 expects the drought to persist in Eastern Oregon.
- Much below normal precipitation was seen during the month of February according to the WestWide Drought Tracker.
- The John Day Basin has seen a strong decline in snowpack due to the warmer and drier condition during February. As of Jan 10, 2022 the snowpack was 124% of normal and as of March 8, 2022 the snowpack was 76% of normal.

Throughout Gilliam County, the effects of the ongoing drought conditions will affect crop health, reduce upland grass production, reduce spring flows, and result in extremely low surface 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,

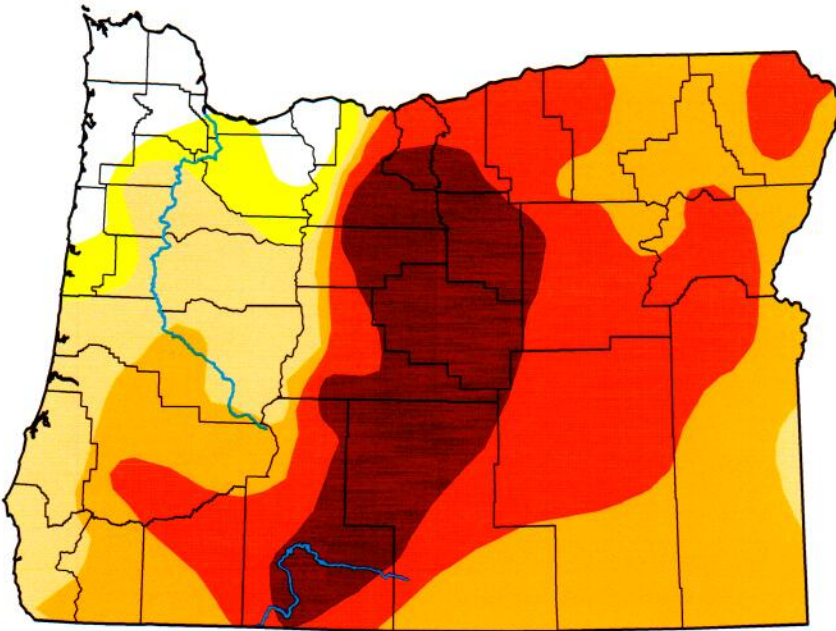
Herb Winters
District Manager

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

March 1, 2022
(Released Thursday, Mar. 3, 2022)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.97	95.03	90.65	77.27	45.61	16.22
Last Week <i>02-22-2022</i>	4.18	95.82	90.65	76.38	45.61	16.22
3 Months Ago <i>11-30-2021</i>	1.34	98.66	98.27	91.97	67.91	23.25
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-04-2022</i>	4.16	95.84	89.75	75.37	50.84	17.27
Start of Water Year <i>09-28-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	96.47	72.10	26.59
One Year Ago <i>03-02-2021</i>	19.33	80.67	67.28	47.14	12.53	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:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

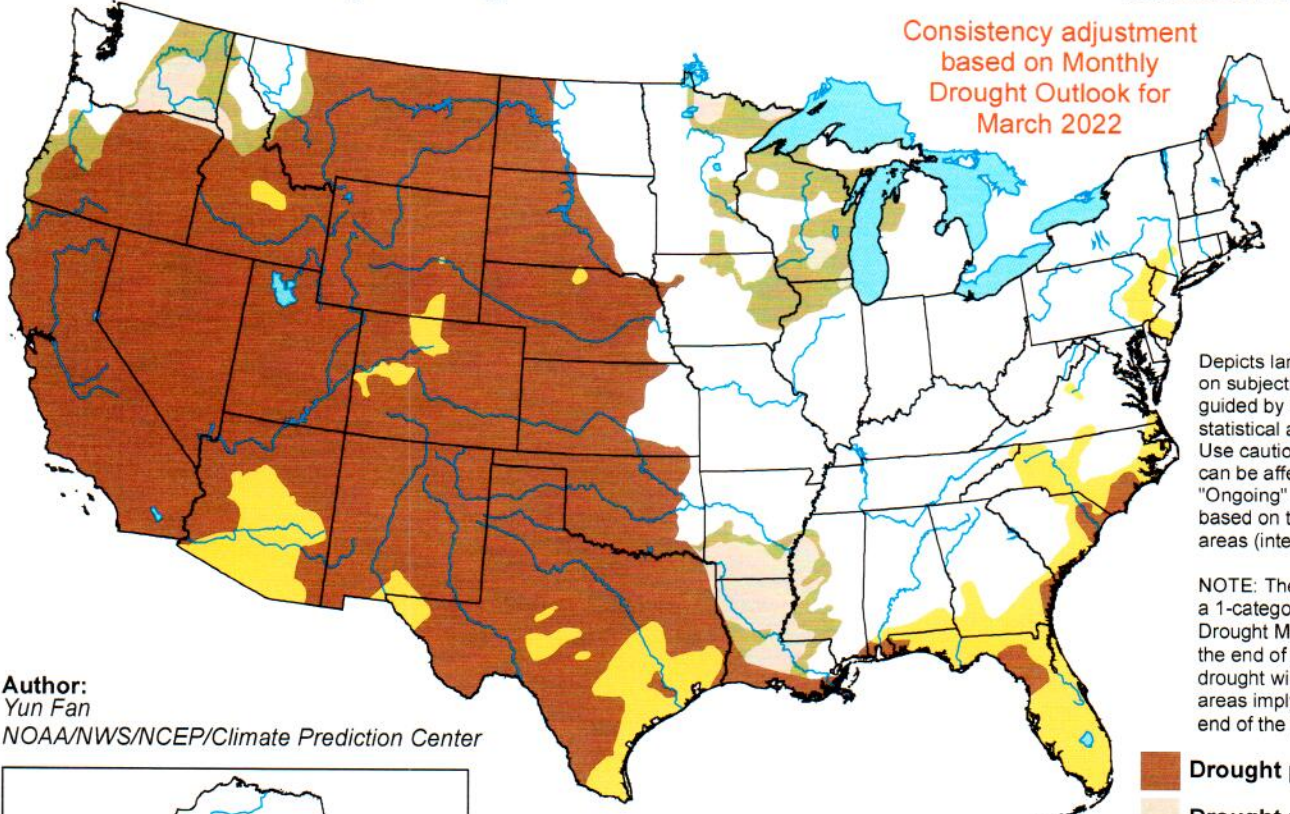


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 1 - May 31, 2022
Released February 28, 2022

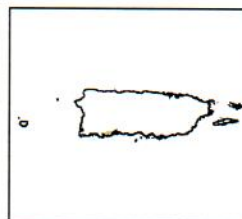
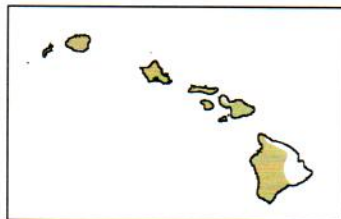
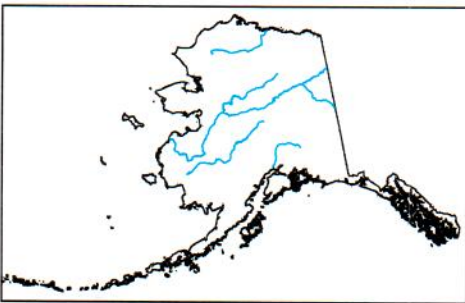


Consistency adjustment
based on Monthly
Drought Outlook for
March 2022

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:
Yun Fan
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



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



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



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

2022 Drought Information

March 15, 2022

Gilliam County Court

Dear Gilliam County Judge and Commissioners,

On the heels of an exceptionally dry year, with little snowpack, I would support a drought declaration for Gilliam County, given the following information:

The current John Day River basin snowpack levels are below the average levels for this time of year (See attached #1). The Lower John Day system (downstream from Kimberly, OR) has very little, if any snowpack now, and may run out quickly with the predicted spring weather.

The North Eastern portion of Gilliam County is now considered to be in Extreme Drought, while experiencing Exceptional Drought in the South Western portion of the county. A drought conditions comparison, showing Gilliam County now, and last April are attachment #2 and #3.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Thiemann Jr.

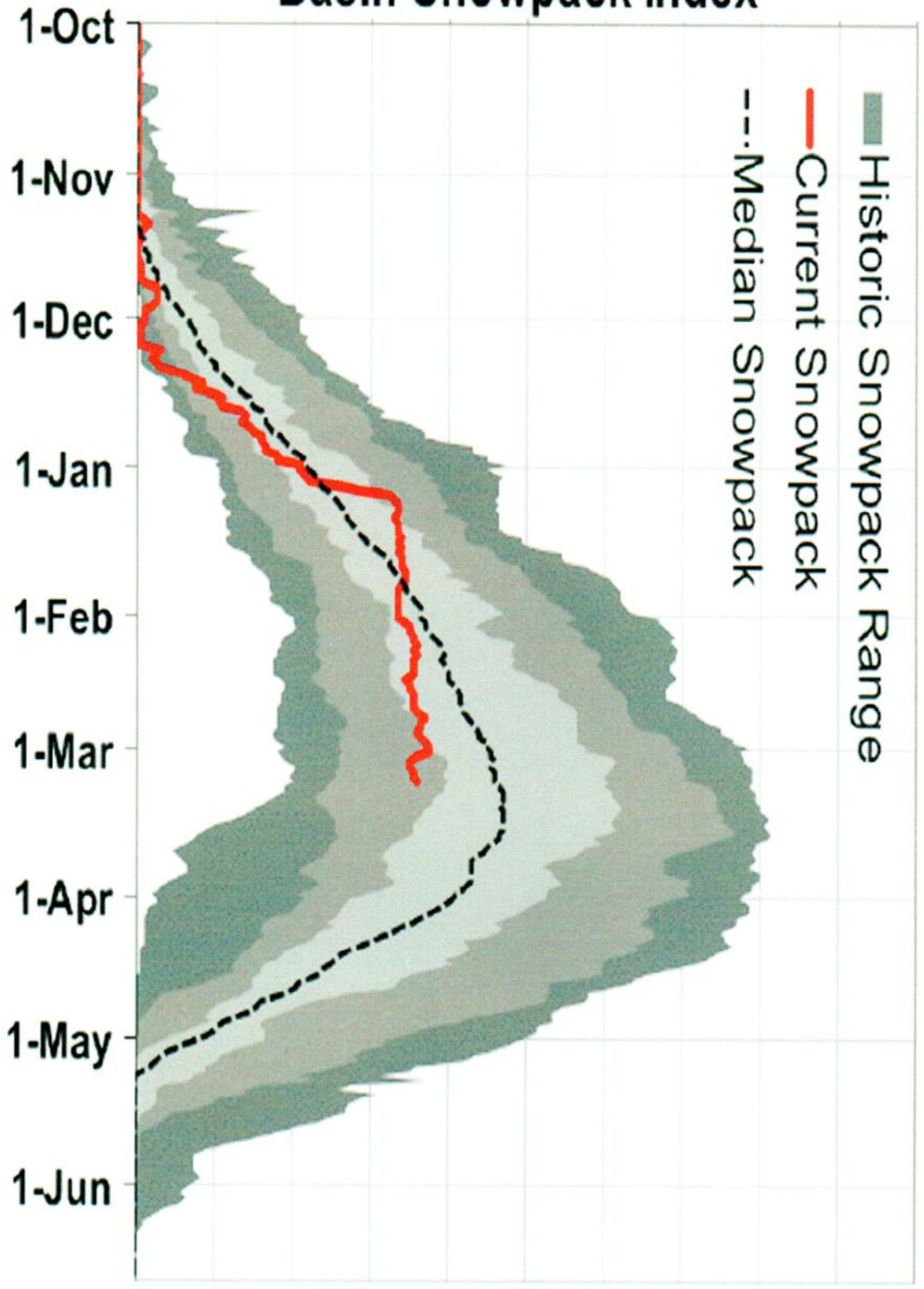
Ken Thiemann
Watermaster, District 21

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

John Day

Attachment #1

Basin Snowpack Index

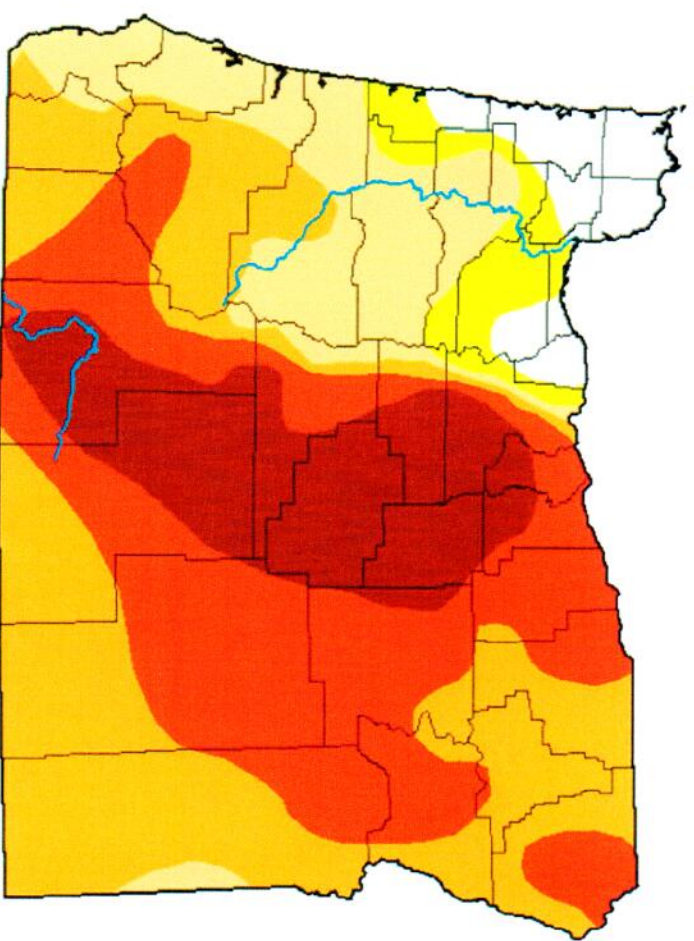


Attachment #2 Now (Gilliam in Extreme (NE) Exceptional (SW))

U.S. Drought Monitor

Oregon

March 1, 2022
 (Released Thursday, Mar. 3, 2022)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

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- Intensity:**
- None
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Author:
 Brad Rippey
 U S Department of Agriculture



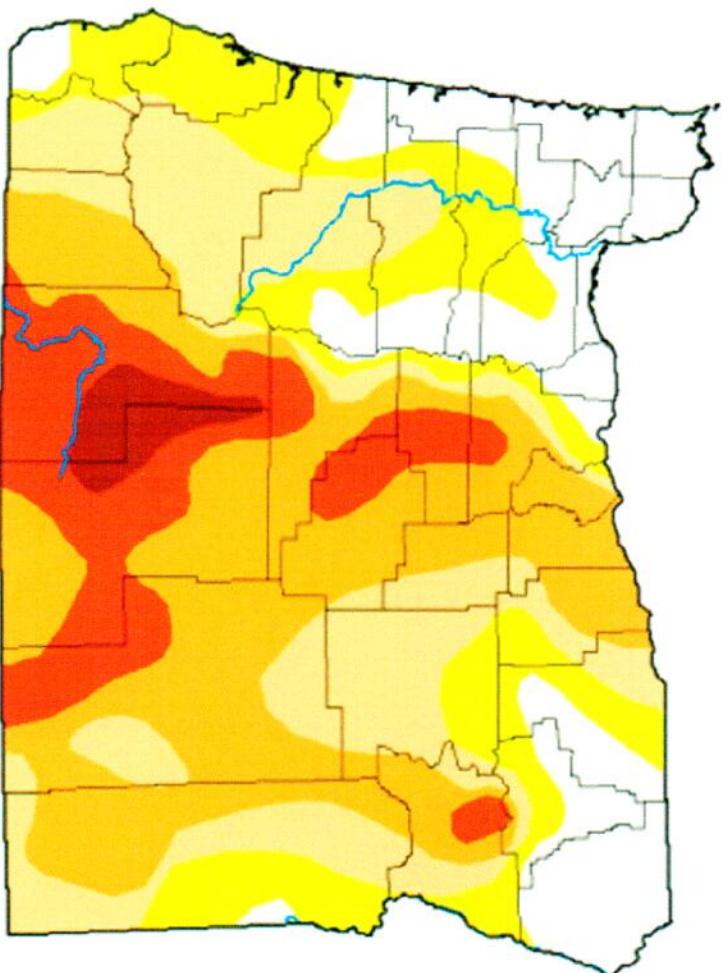
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Oregon

Attachment #3 [Last April \(Gilliam in Severe, declared drought\)](#)

13

(Released Thursday, Apr. 15, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	16.95	83.05	66.95	42.60	14.12	2.22
Last Week 04-06-2021	17.73	82.27	66.94	41.68	13.22	1.48
3 Months Ago 01-13-2021	8.91	91.09	75.17	50.94	25.97	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-28-2020	8.57	91.43	83.53	68.71	27.74	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-28-2020	6.50	93.50	84.77	65.53	33.59	0.00
One Year Ago 04-14-2020	10.53	89.47	60.46	26.20	0.00	0.00

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

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Author
Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



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