

Oregon

Water Conditions Report

July 27, 2020



Current Oregon statewide water year precipitation at NRCS SNOTEL sites remains below average at 82 percent. Basin precipitation values range from a low of 68 and 69 percent of average in the Klamath and Lake County, Goose Lake basins to 103 and 104 percent of average in the Umatilla, Walla Walla, Willow and Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt, Imnaha basins.

Precipitation over the [past two weeks](#) has been below average across the state. The most noteworthy areas were parts of Klamath, Wallowa, and western Lane counties where precipitation was almost 4 inches below normal. For the [month of June](#), precipitation was widely varied, from well below normal in southwest and central Oregon to well above normal in southeastern Oregon. Most noteworthy were areas in Malheur County where precipitation was close to 300 percent of normal.

Temperatures over the [past two weeks](#) have been warmer than normal across most of the state with the exception of parts of Grant, Umatilla, Morrow, Wasco, Hood River counties and areas along the mid and south coast where temperatures were a couple of degrees below normal. For the [month of June](#), temperatures were close to normal with the exception of widely scattered areas of above-normal temperatures in northwest, southwest, central, and north central Oregon.

Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting above-normal temperatures along with below-normal precipitation across most of the state. The most recent [three-month outlook](#) (August through October) indicates an increased probability of above-normal temperatures. For the same period, equal chances of above or below-normal precipitation is forecast for the entire state. The next long-term outlook is scheduled to be issued on August 20, 2020.

[ENSO-neutral](#) is favored to continue through the summer, with a 50-55 percent chance of La Niña development during Northern Hemisphere fall 2020 and continuing through winter 2020-21 (~50 percent chance). During June 2020, sea surface temperatures (SST) were near average in the east-central equatorial Pacific and below average in the eastern Pacific. For a more complete update, refer to the July 9, 2020 [diagnostic discussion](#) issued by the Climate Prediction Center. The next diagnostic discussion is scheduled for August 9, 2020. Another source of information is the latest [ENSO blog](#) on the climate.gov website.

Statewide streamflow conditions for June were lower than normal at 77 percent. Values for June ranged from a high of close to 115 percent of normal in the Sandy and Grande Ronde basins to a low of only 33 and 43 percent in the Goose and Summer Lakes and Klamath basins respectively. Recent data indicates a similar but even lower trend with flows in western Oregon close to average, and lower than normal east of the Cascades with the exception of parts of the Umatilla and Grande Ronde basins where flows remain about normal for this time of year.

USACE Reservoirs:

Rogue: The Rogue system is 63 percent full and 36 percent below rule curve. Lost Creek is 68 percent full, 32 percent below rule curve and releasing close to 1,620 cfs. Applegate is only 45 percent full, 55 percent below rule curve and releasing a minimum flow of close to 150 cfs. Applegate did not fill this year, and will probably be on or close to minimum flow for most of the summer.

Willamette: The Willamette system is 83 percent full and 17 percent below rule curve. Milder weather has helped to lessen demand on several project reservoirs. The projects within 5 percent of full are Foster, Dorena, Blue River, and Fall Creek. The flow in the Willamette River at Salem is 7,800 cfs and 5,500 cfs at Albany.

Willow Creek: Willow Creek is 74 percent full, 26 percent below rule curve. Inflow is currently less than 1 cfs with outflow close to 22 cfs.

USBR Reservoirs:

Tualatin River Basin: Scoggins Reservoir is at 80 percent of capacity and drafting with inflows around 5 cfs and outflows around 185 cfs.

Umatilla River Basin: McKay Reservoir is at 79 percent of capacity and drafting with inflows around 5 cfs and outflows around 200 cfs.

Deschutes River Basin: Prineville Reservoir is at 50 percent of capacity and drafting with inflows around 1 cfs and outflows around 250 cfs. Ochoco Reservoir is at 31 percent of capacity and drafting with inflows around 2 cfs and outflows around 10 cfs. Crescent Lake is at 45 percent, Wickiup reservoir is at 23 percent and Crane Prairie reservoir is at 79 percent of capacity.

Malheur River Basin: Warm Springs Reservoir is at 54 percent of capacity and drafting with inflows around 3 cfs and outflows of around 600 cfs. Beulah Reservoir is at 49 percent of capacity and drafting with inflows around 50 cfs and outflows around 250 cfs. Bully Creek Reservoir is at 62 percent of capacity and drafting with inflows close to 0 cfs and outflows around 15 cfs.

Owyhee River Basin: Owyhee Reservoir is at 64 percent of capacity and drafting on average, with current inflows just below 200 cfs and outflows around 200 cfs.

Burnt and Powder River Basins: Unity Reservoir is at 68 percent of capacity and drafting with inflows around 10 cfs and outflows around 120 cfs. Phillips Reservoir is at 44 percent of capacity and drafting with inflows around 4 cfs and outflows around 290 cfs.

The most recent update to the [US Drought Monitor](#) indicates that conditions are deteriorating in south central Oregon. Ninety one (91) percent of the state is in D0 (abnormally dry) conditions, 76 percent listed as in D1 (moderate drought), 50 percent is listed as in D2 (severe drought) and now 12.5 percent is in D3 (extreme drought).

Governor Brown declared a [drought emergency](#) in Klamath County in early March, followed by Curry County in April, Jackson County in early May and later by Coos County. Most recently, Governor Brown has declared drought emergencies in Crook, Deschutes, Douglas,

Gilliam, Jefferson, Josephine, Morrow Wasco and Wheeler counties. A drought declaration request has been received from Lake County that is currently in process.

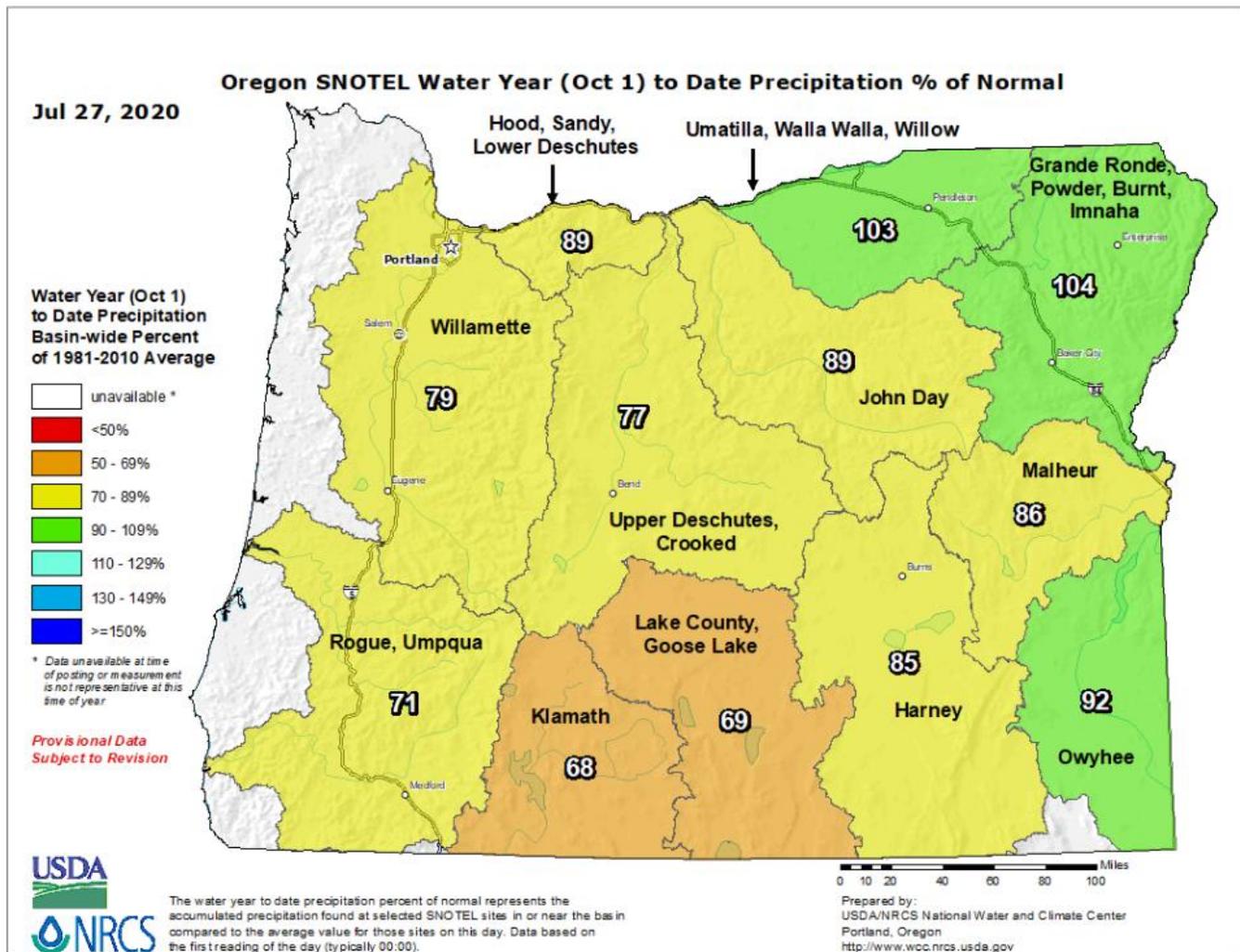
Above-normal significant large fire potential is forecast as dry conditions continue to expand across portions of the Great Basin, Northern California, the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies in August and September. See the latest report from the [National Interagency Fire Center](#) for the July through September outlooks.

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) announced last week, that the Ben Young Fire, estimated at between 1,200 and 1,500 acres with no containment, was burning in the Fremont-Winema National Forest about 10 miles south of Paisley. Resources from multiple agencies are working on the fire, including ODF, U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Refer the Oregon Department of Forestry's [Wildfire News](#) page or the [InciWeb](#) incident reporting system for the latest news and updates.

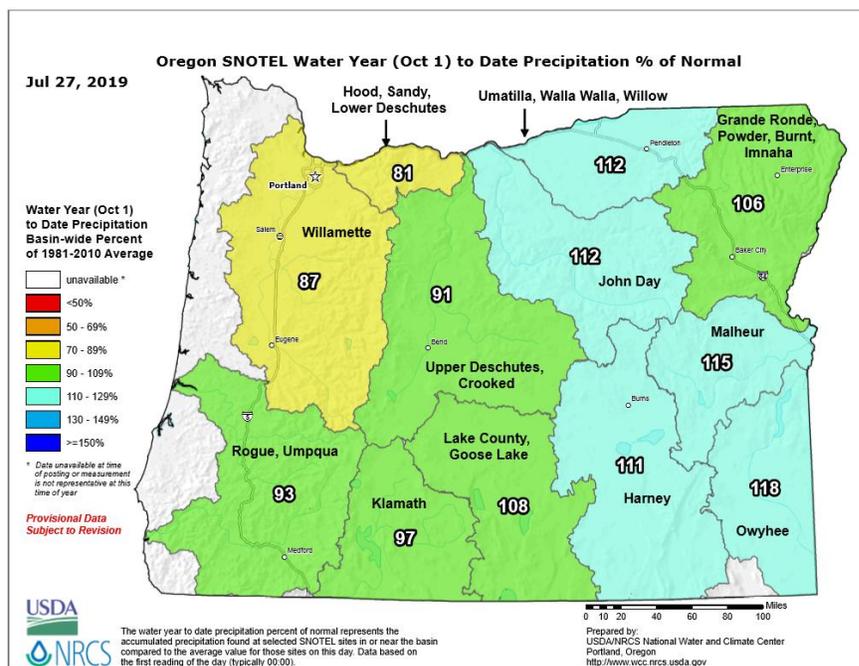
The Oregon Office of Emergency Management has assembled a [hydrology/meteorology dashboard](#) featuring many of the data sources used to generate this report. Use the selection arrows at the bottom of your browser to navigate to the various data sources.

Data & Products:	Page:
Precipitation (Mountain) - Percent of Normal	4
Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal	5
Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal	6
Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook	7
Satellite-Based Soil Moisture Percentile.....	8
U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon	9
Streamflow Conditions by County – June, 2020.....	10
Streamflow Conditions – 7-day average (USGS)	10

Precipitation (Mountain) - Percent of Normal

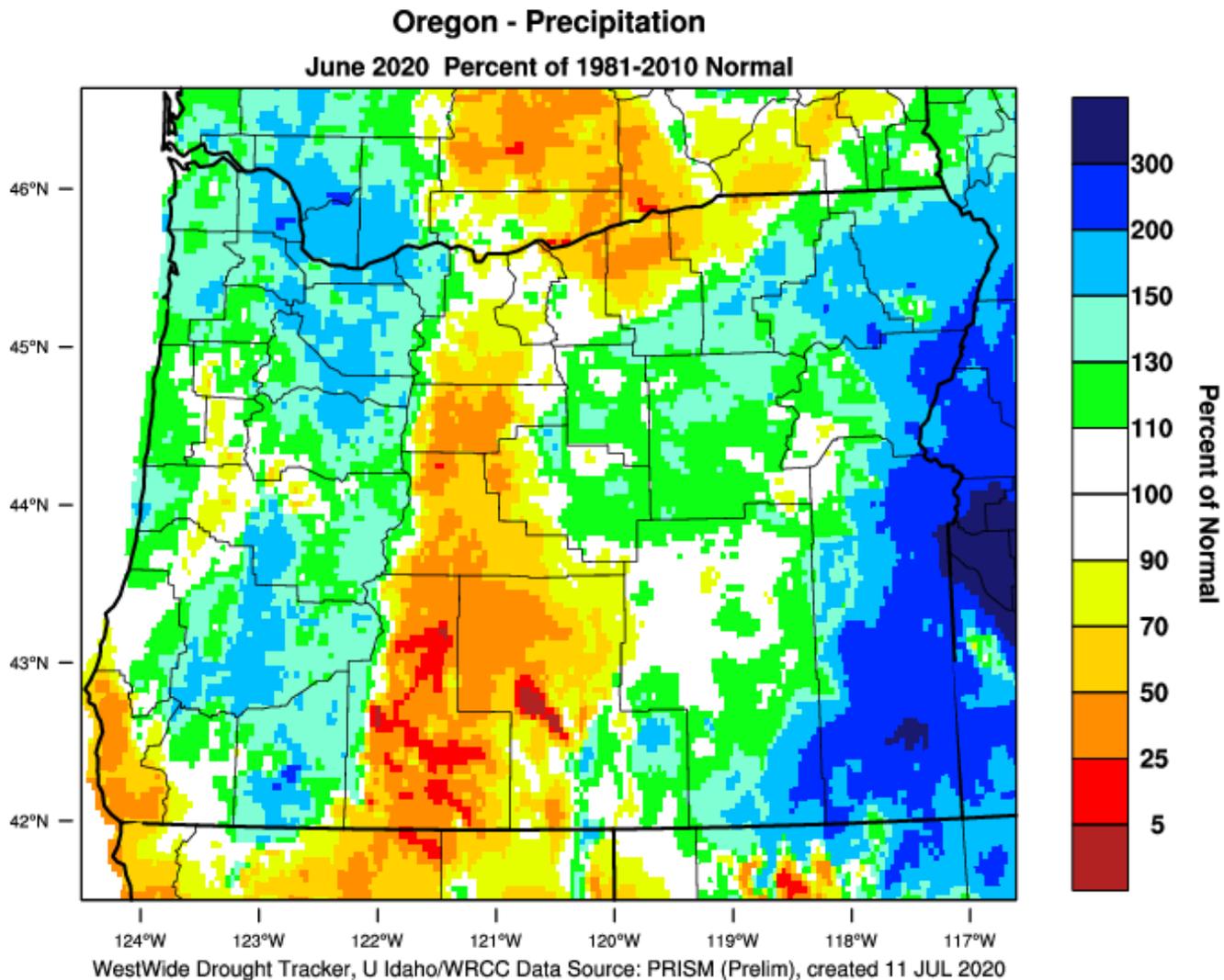


Compared to this time last
year:

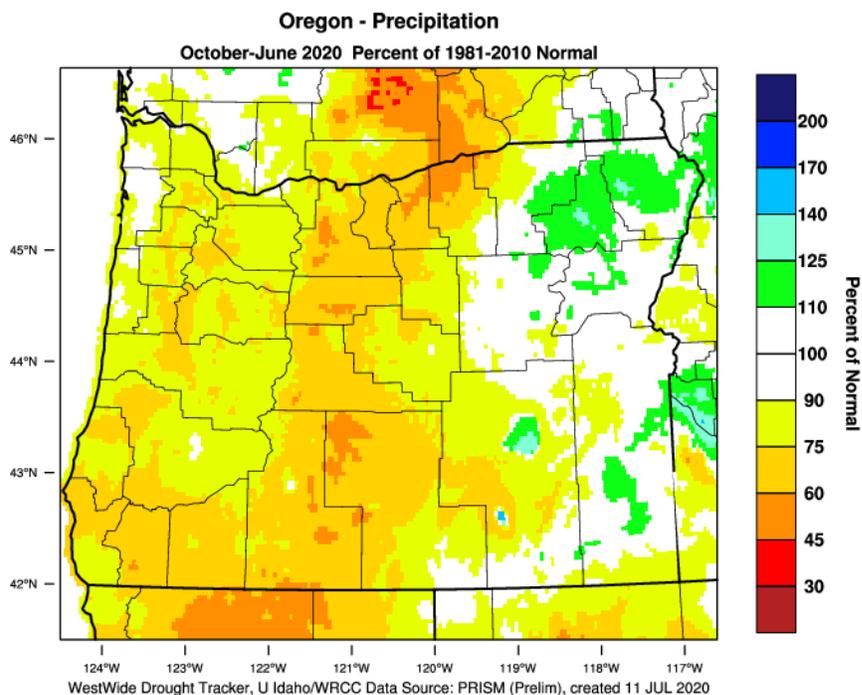


Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

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



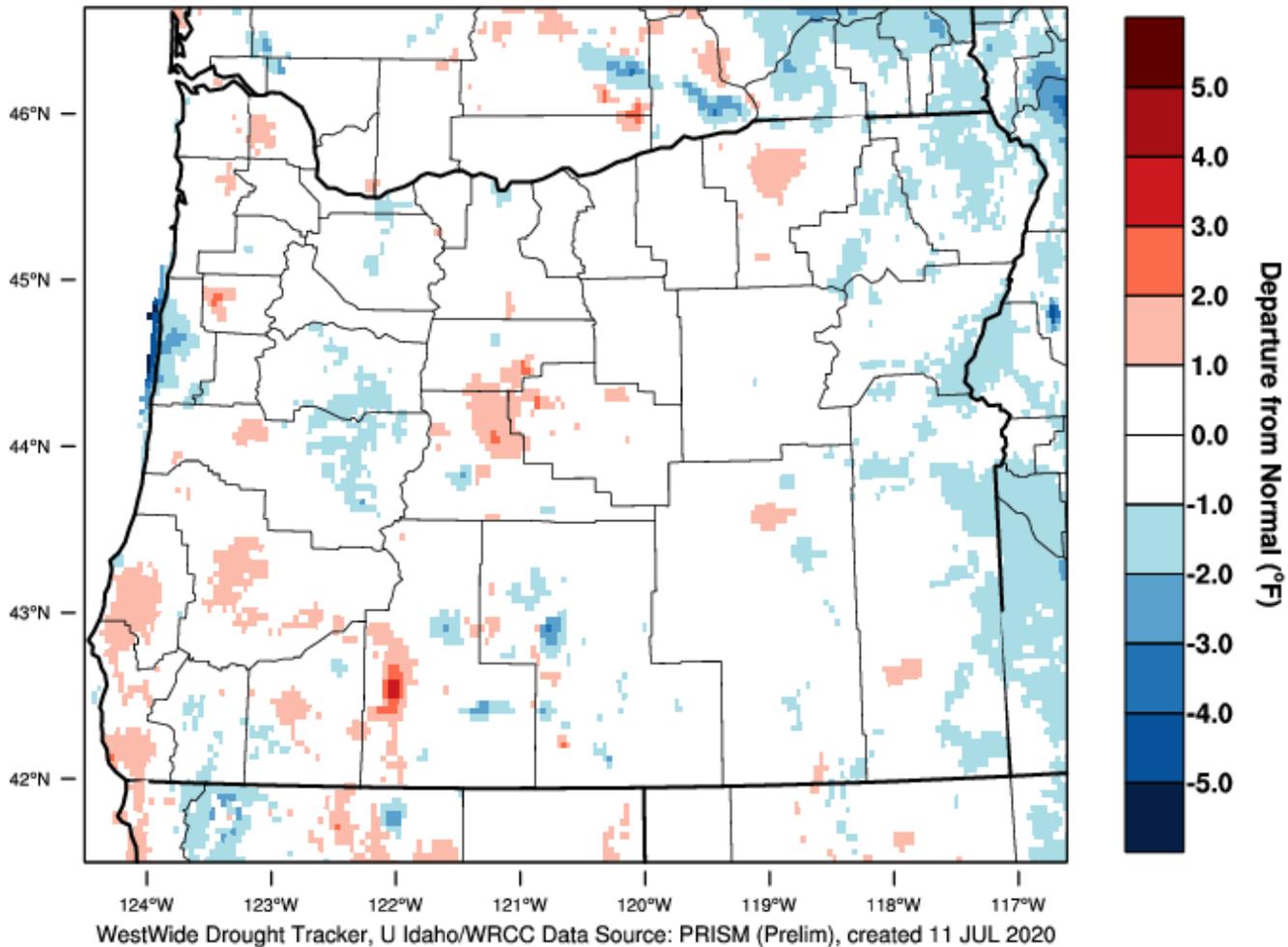
Precipitation since the beginning of the water year:



Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

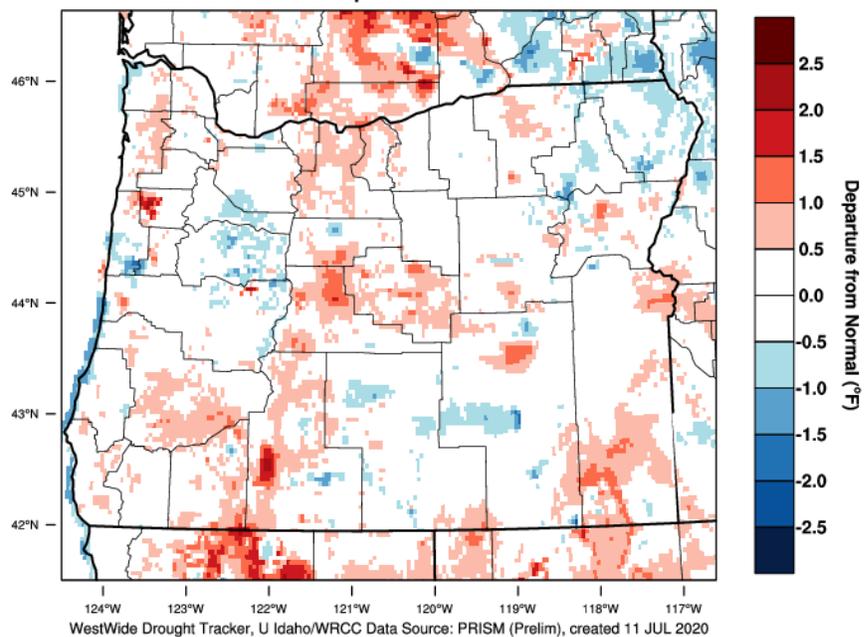
Website: <https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/anomimage.pl?ore30dTvdep.png>

Oregon - Mean Temperature
June 2020 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal



Temperature since the beginning of the water year:

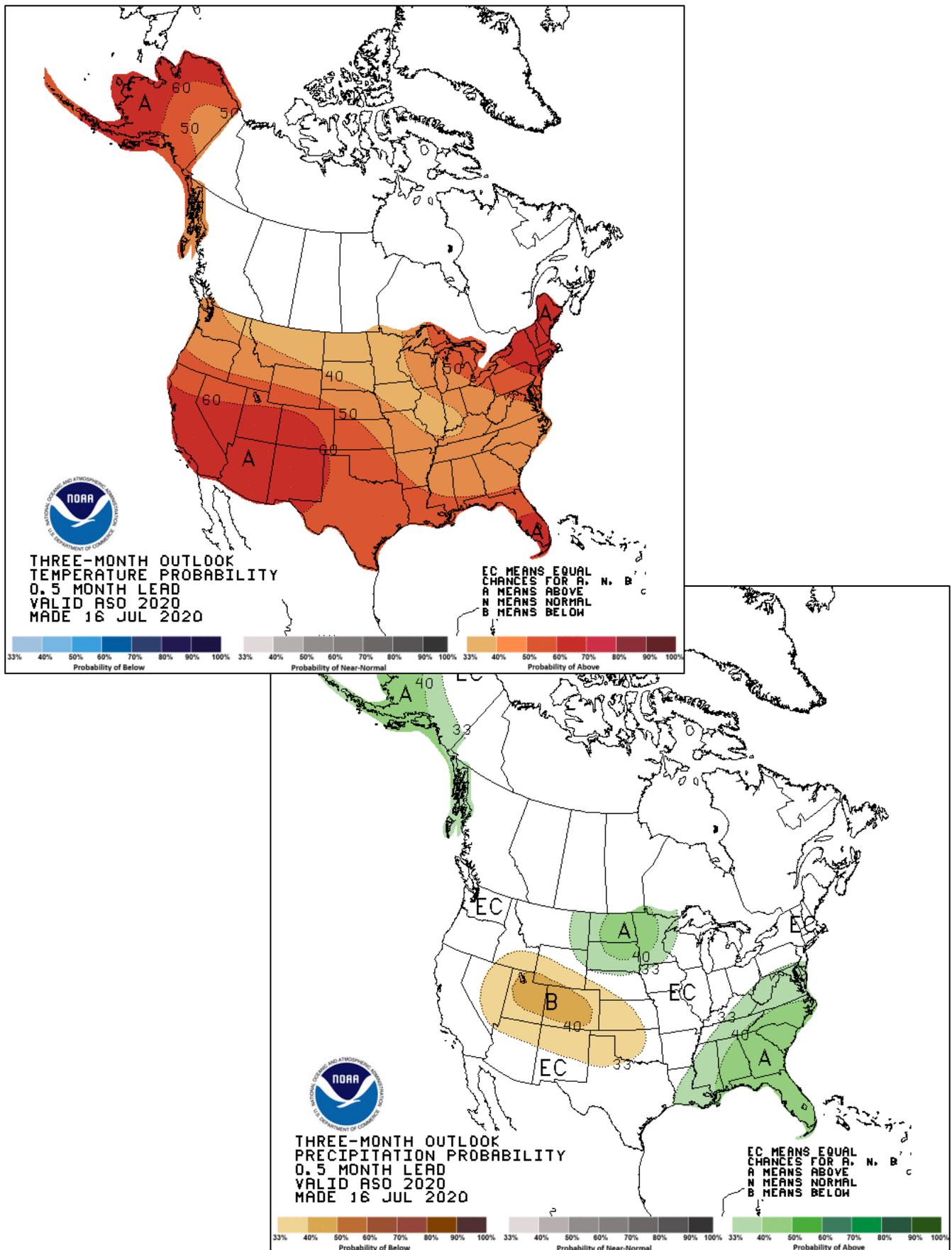
Oregon - Mean Temperature
October-June 2020 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

August through October

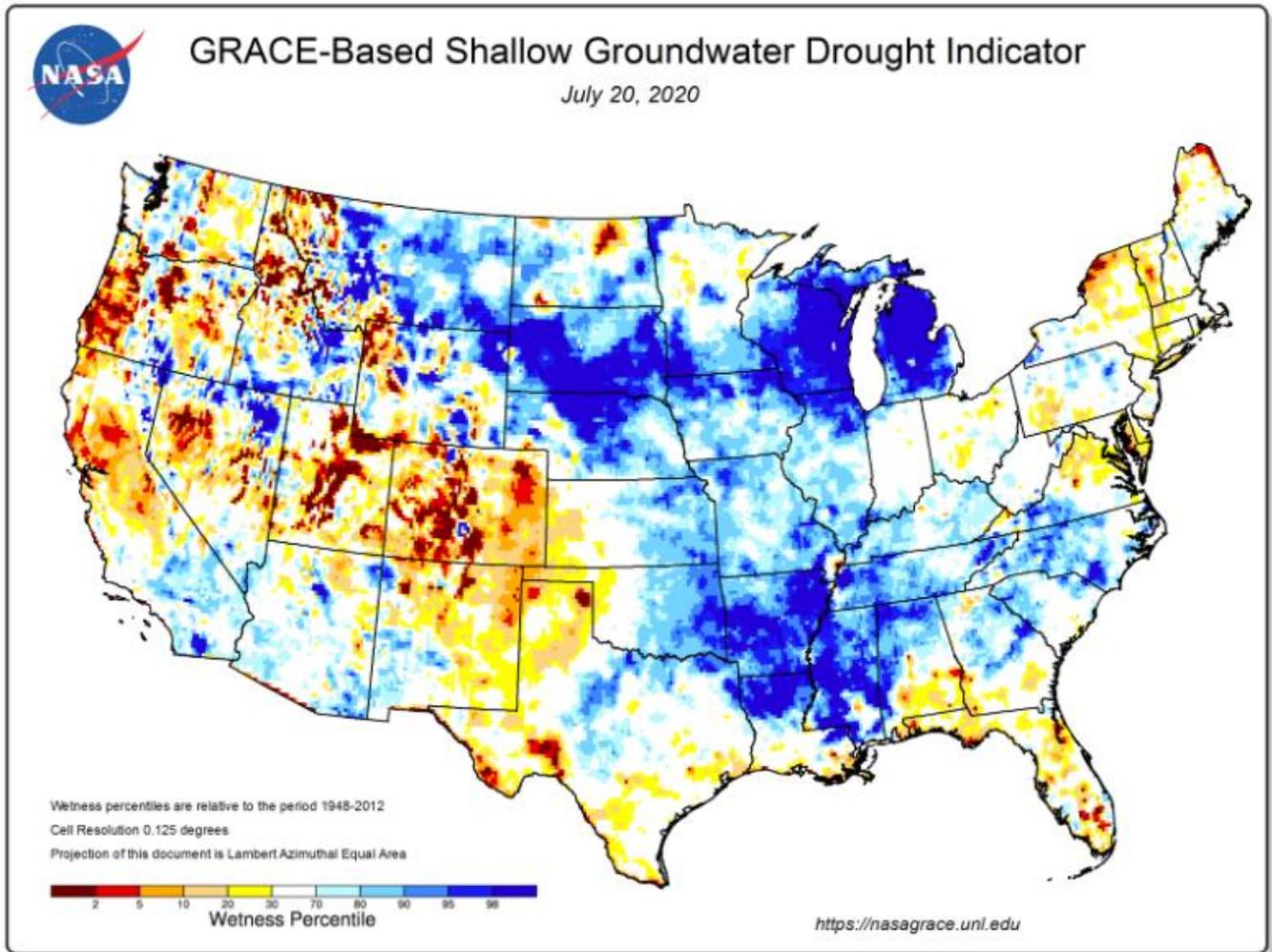
Website: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1



Satellite-Based Soil Moisture Percentile

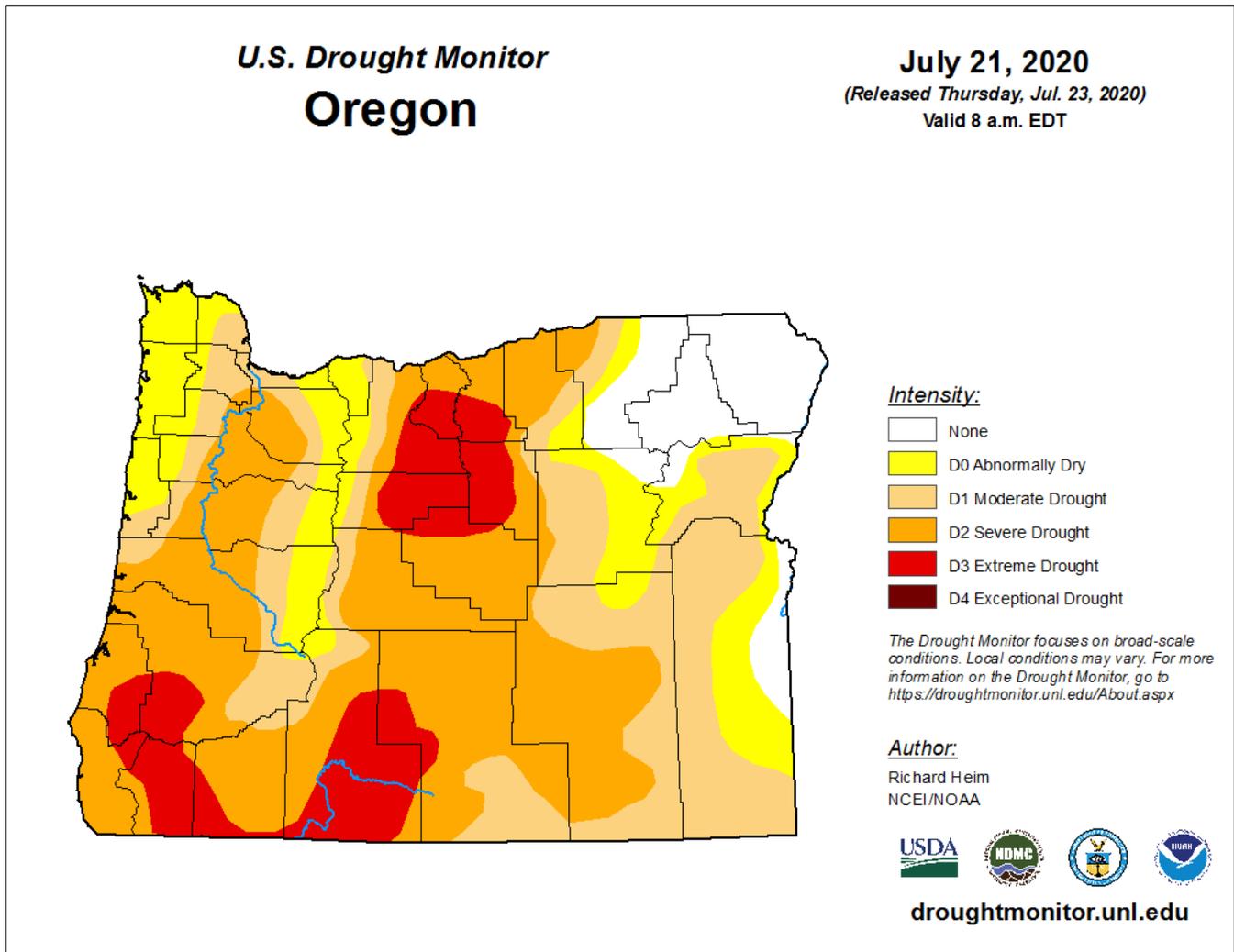
The maps are based on data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE; 2002-2017) and GRACE Follow On (GRACE-FO; 2018-present) satellites, which detect small changes in the Earth's gravity field caused by the redistribution of water on and beneath the land surface.

Website: <https://nasagrace.unl.edu/Default.aspx>

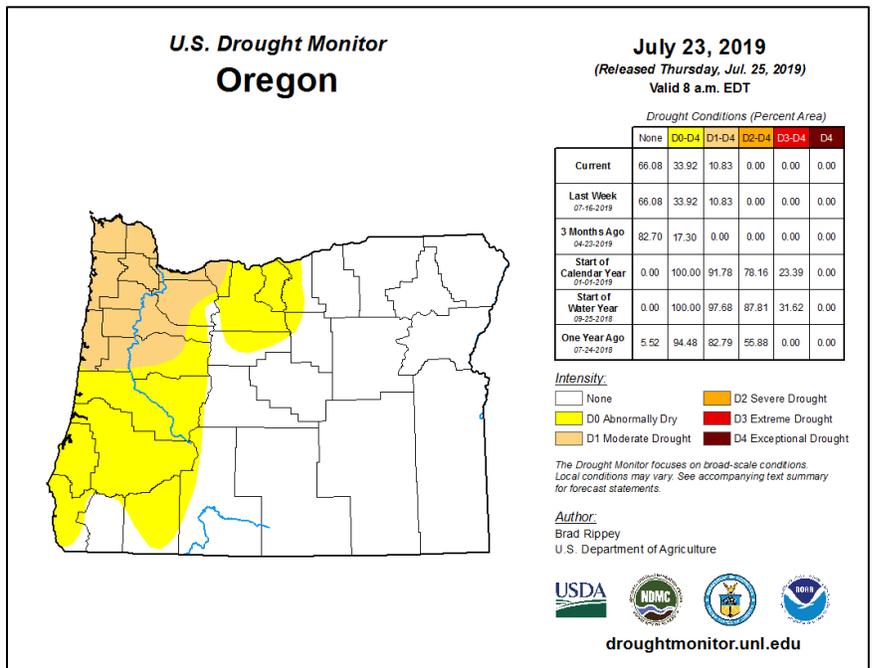


U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon

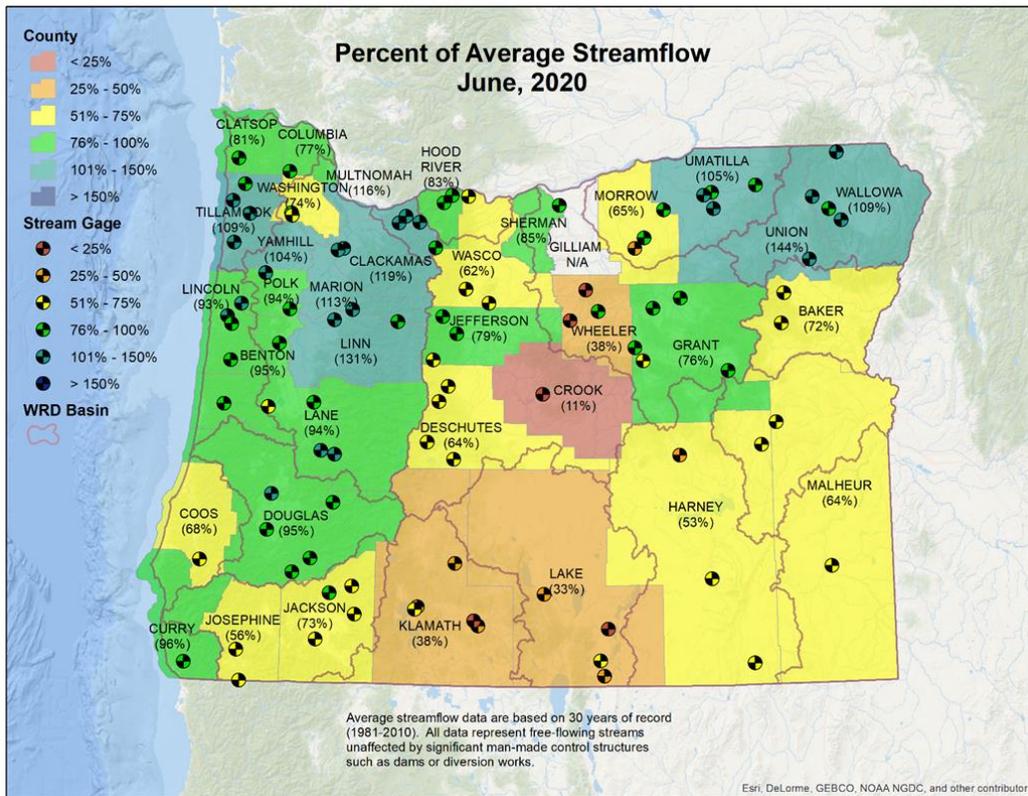
Website: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR>



Compared to this time last year:



Streamflow Conditions by County – June, 2020



Streamflow Conditions – 7-day average (USGS)

Website: <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?m=pa07d&r=or&w=map>

Sunday, July 26, 2020

