

Oregon Water Conditions Report



November 2, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

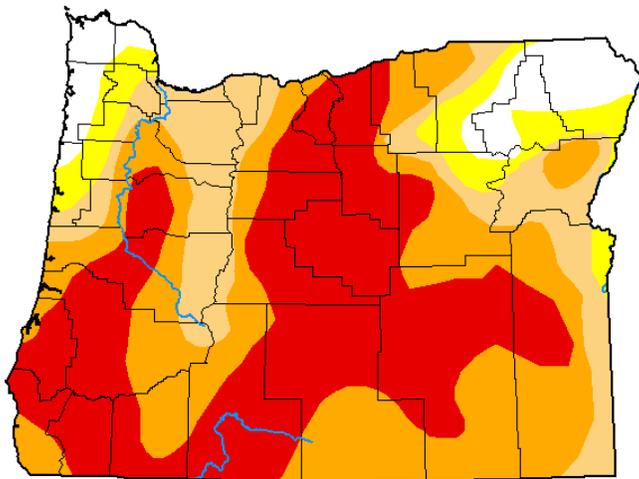
- A month into the 2021 water year, statewide precipitation at [NRCS](#) SNOTEL sites is 84% of normal. NRCS basin values vary from lows of between 27 to 48 percent of normal across the southernmost regions of the state, to 116 percent of normal in the Hood-Sandy-Lower Deschutes basin.
- With the exception of the Hood-Sandy-Lower Deschutes area, precipitation over the past [two weeks](#) has been below average across almost all of Oregon.
- Temperatures over the past [two weeks](#) have been generally cooler than normal across the northern regions of the state transitioning to much warmer than normal across the south and especially the southwest.
- The [8-14 day outlook](#) is for below-normal temperatures across Oregon. Equal chances of above or below normal precipitation probability is forecast across the state.
- US Drought Monitor indicates some degradation of conditions in southeastern Oregon. Fifteen counties are currently under a [Governor's drought declaration](#).
- [Seasonal climate outlook](#) probabilities favor above-normal temperatures in the southern half of the state, with equal chances of above or below normal temperature to the north. Above-normal precipitation is forecast for the northeast third of the state with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation forecast for the remainder.
- Streamflows were below normal at 74% for the month of October, with basins in the northern regions of the state faring better than the south. Current statewide streamflow conditions are trending even lower now at below 50% of normal statewide but are even lower (< 25%) west of the Cascades.
- Storage reservoirs have transitioned to the storage season along with balancing needs to meet seasonal in-stream demands.
- Increasing winds on Tuesday will slightly boost fire risk east of the Oregon Cascades. However, even with increasing winds the risk of large, costly fires is low.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

The most recent update to the US Drought Monitor indicates some degradation of conditions in southeast Oregon. Over 93 percent of the state is in D0 (abnormally dry) conditions, close to 86 percent listed as in D1 (moderate drought), over 70 percent is listed as in D2 (severe drought) and now almost 40 percent is in D3 (extreme drought).

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

October 27, 2020
(Released Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	6.89	93.11	86.44	70.73	39.05	0.00
Last Week 10-20-2020	6.89	93.11	86.44	70.73	39.05	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-28-2020	9.21	90.79	75.88	50.31	12.49	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	2.40	97.60	24.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	6.50	93.50	84.77	65.53	33.59	0.00
One Year Ago 10-29-2019	100.00	0.00	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>

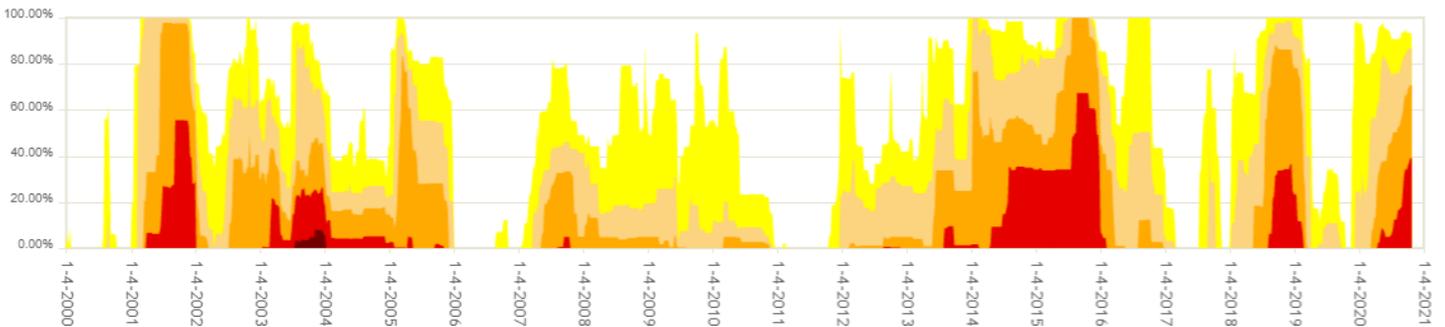
Author:

David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



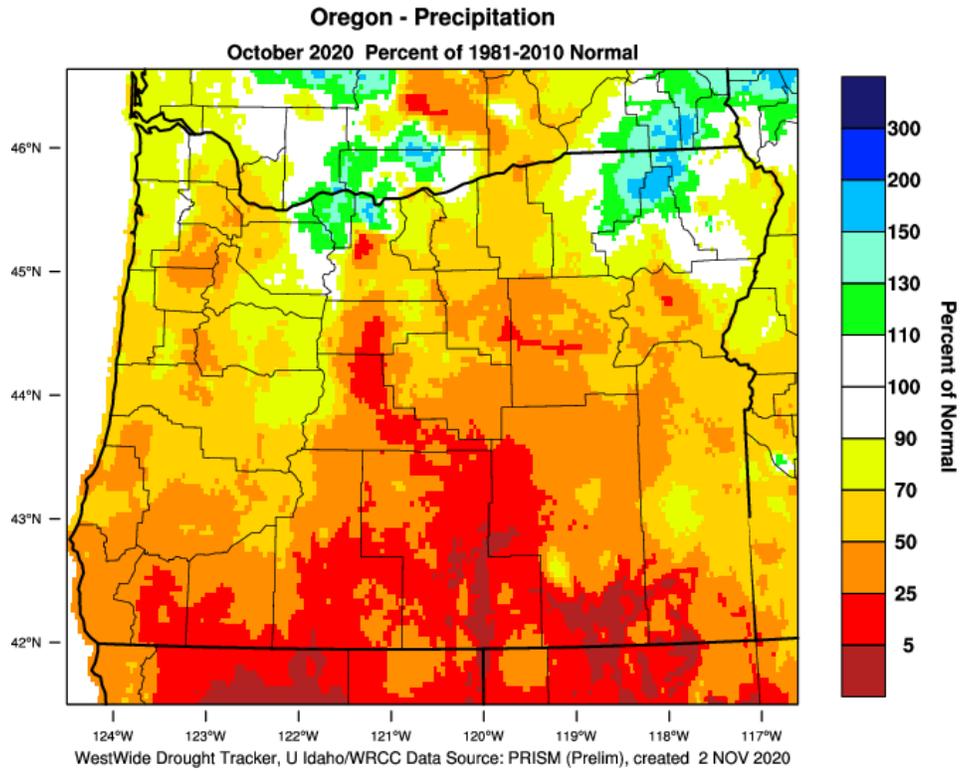
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Oregon Percent Area

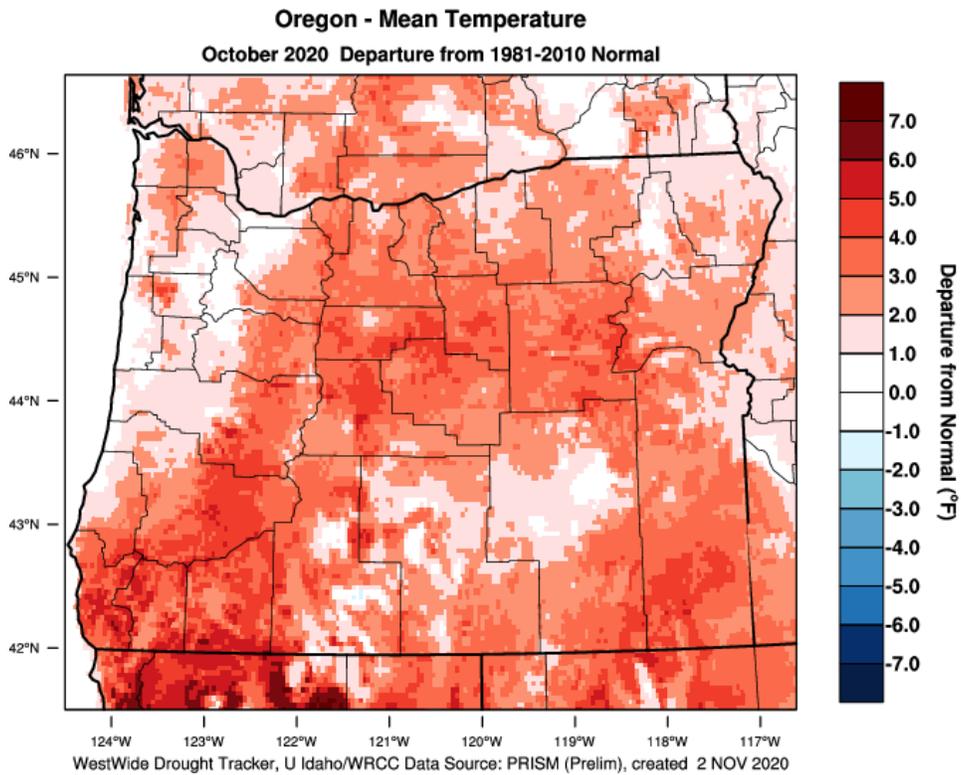


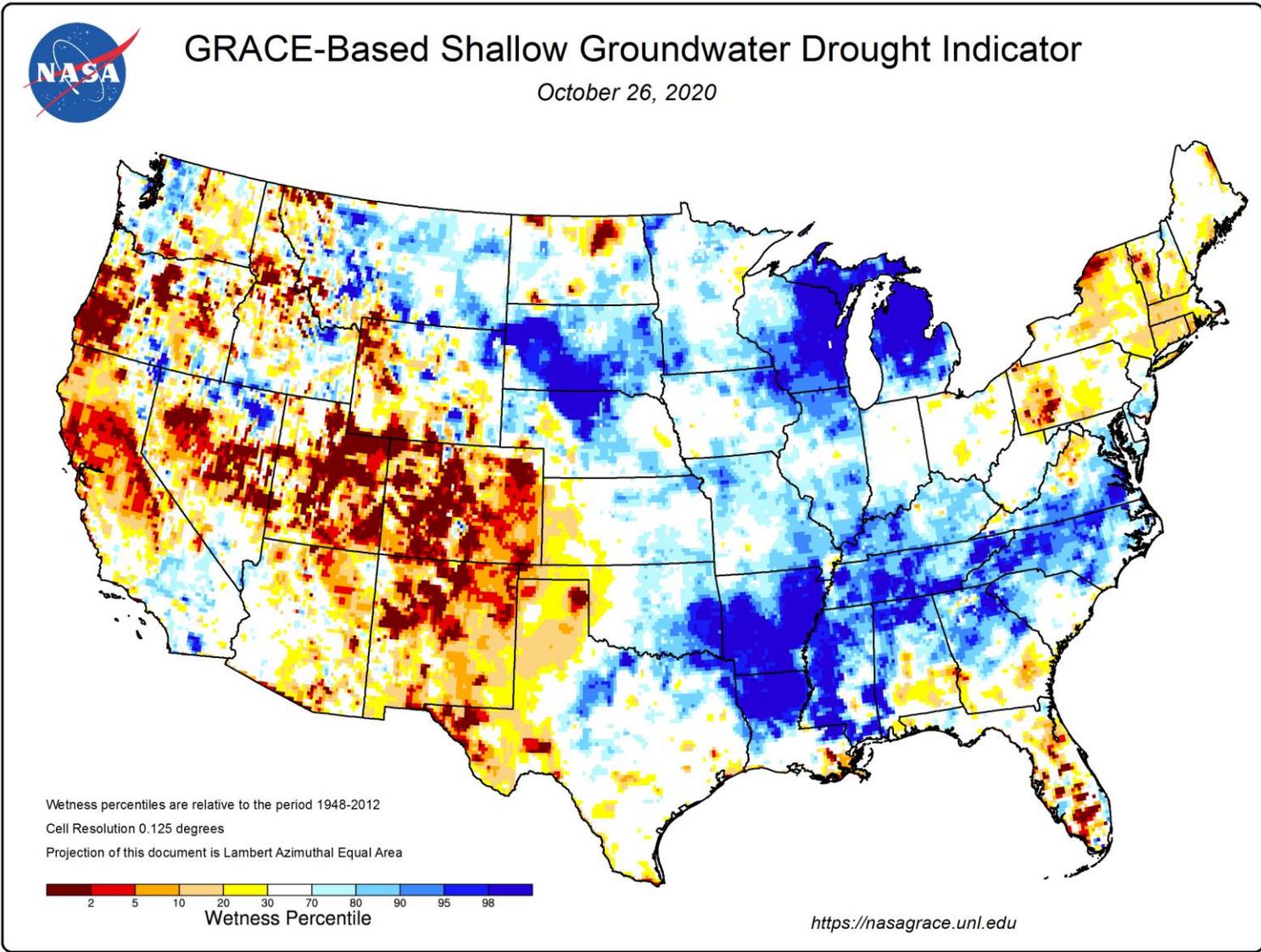
CLIMATE CONDITIONS

PRECIPITATION

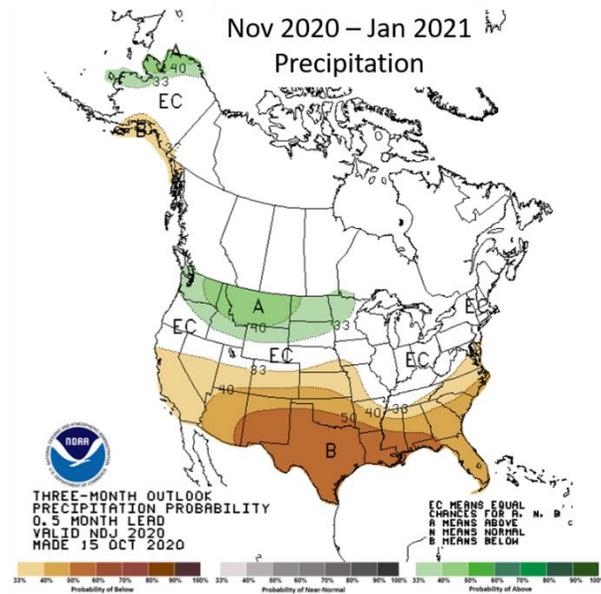
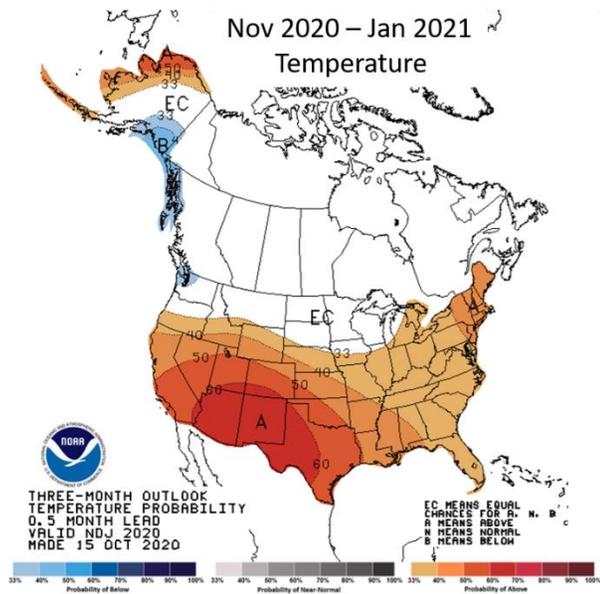
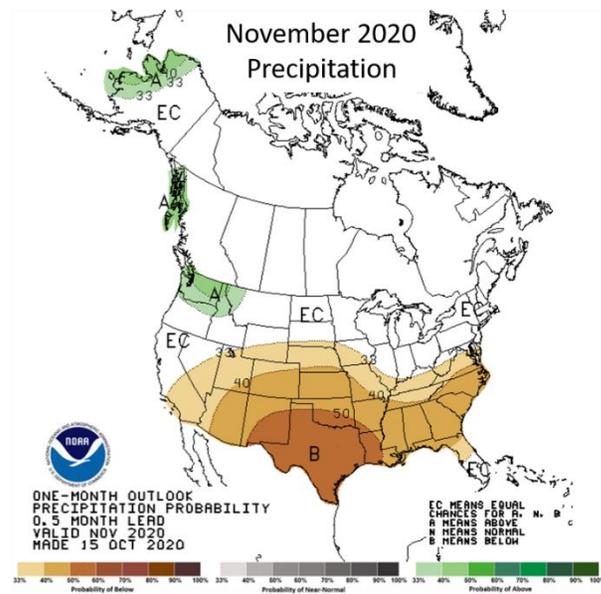
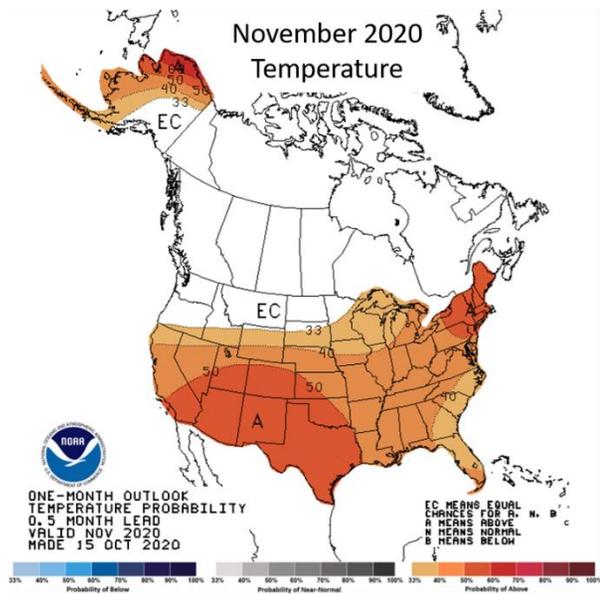


TEMPERATURE

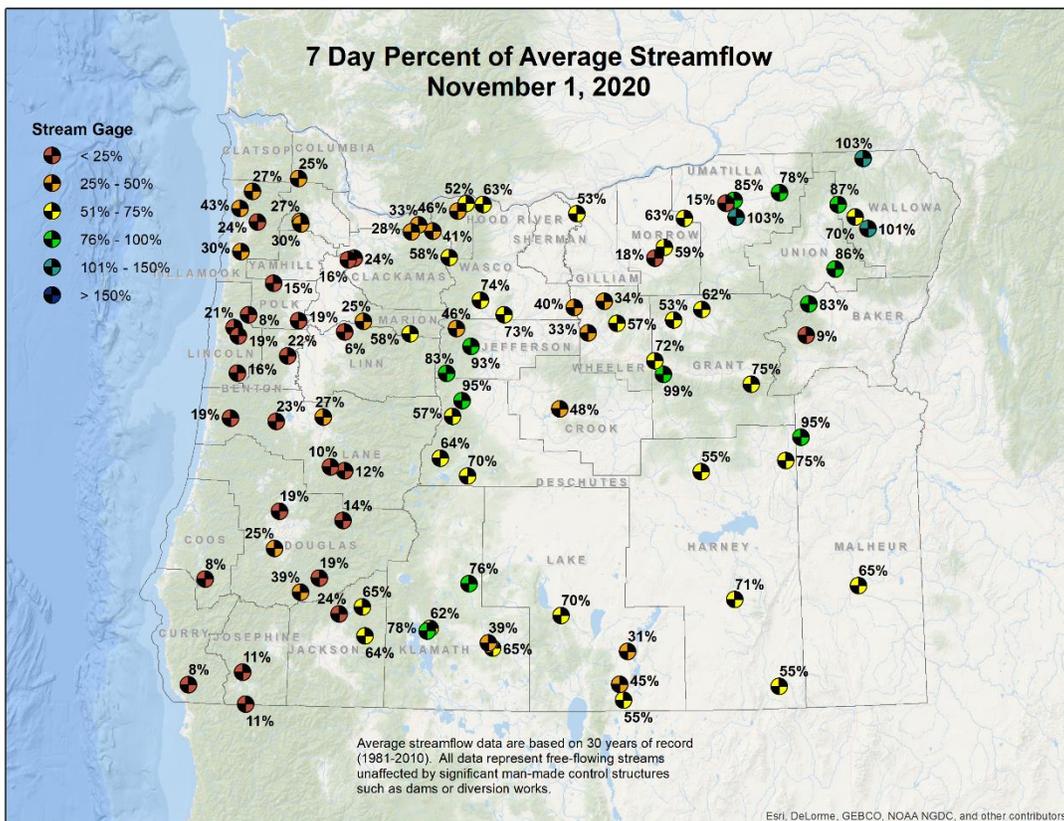
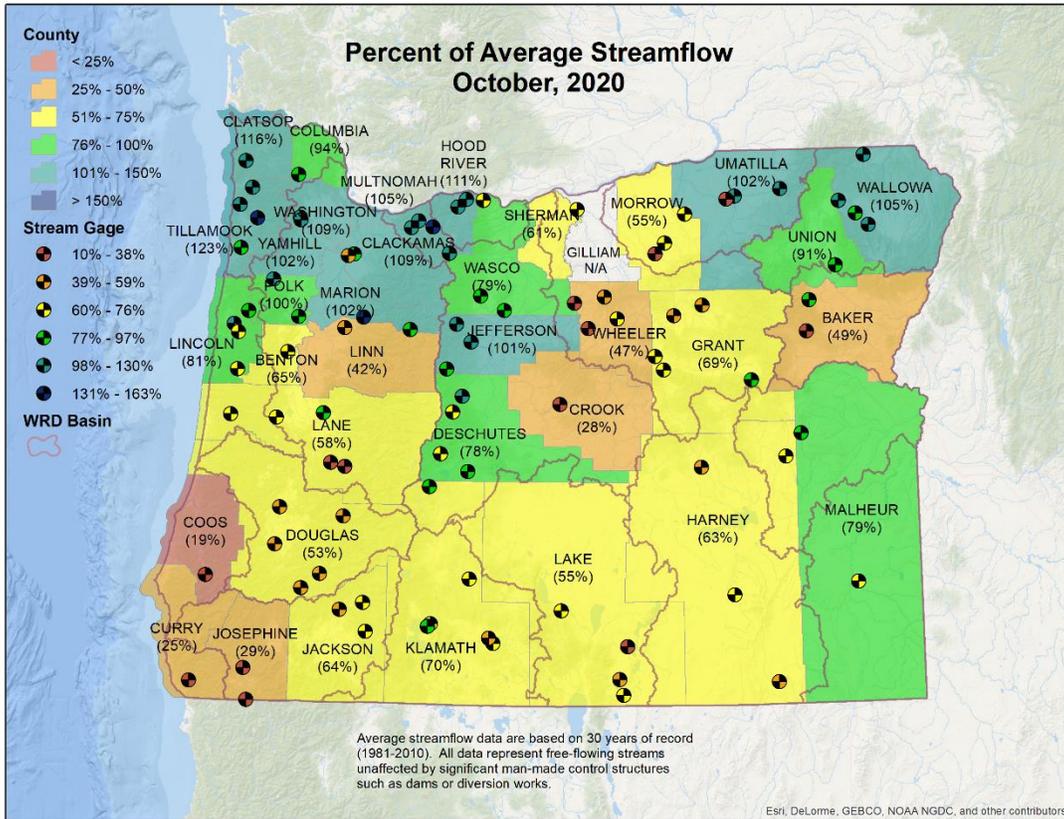




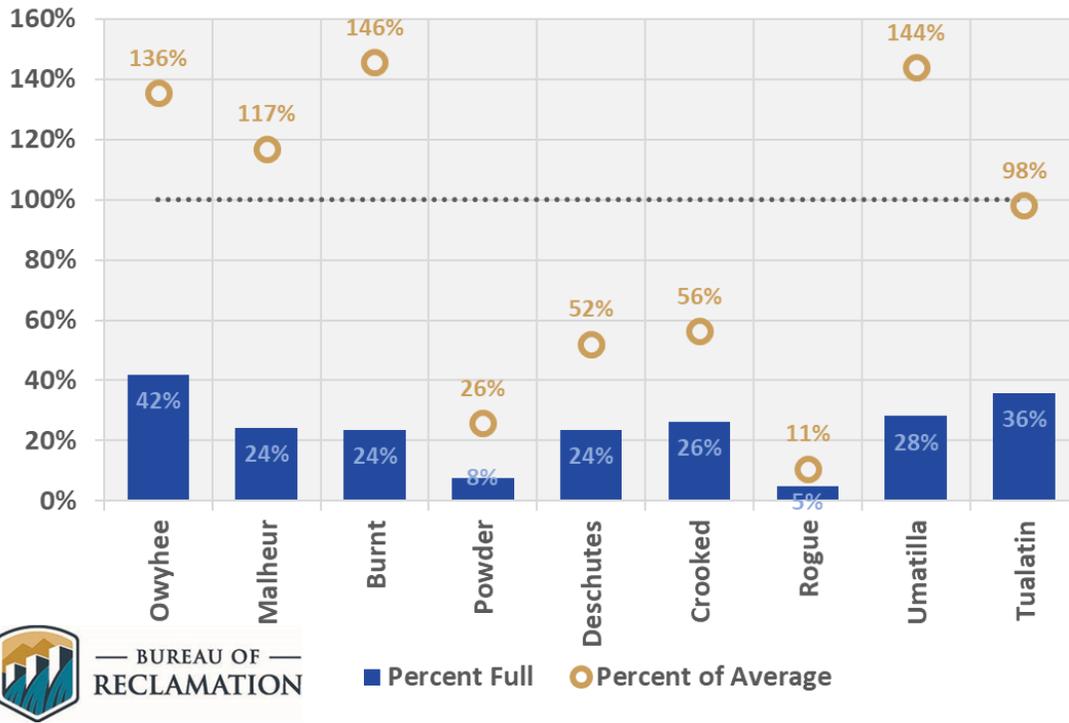
CLIMATE OUTLOOK



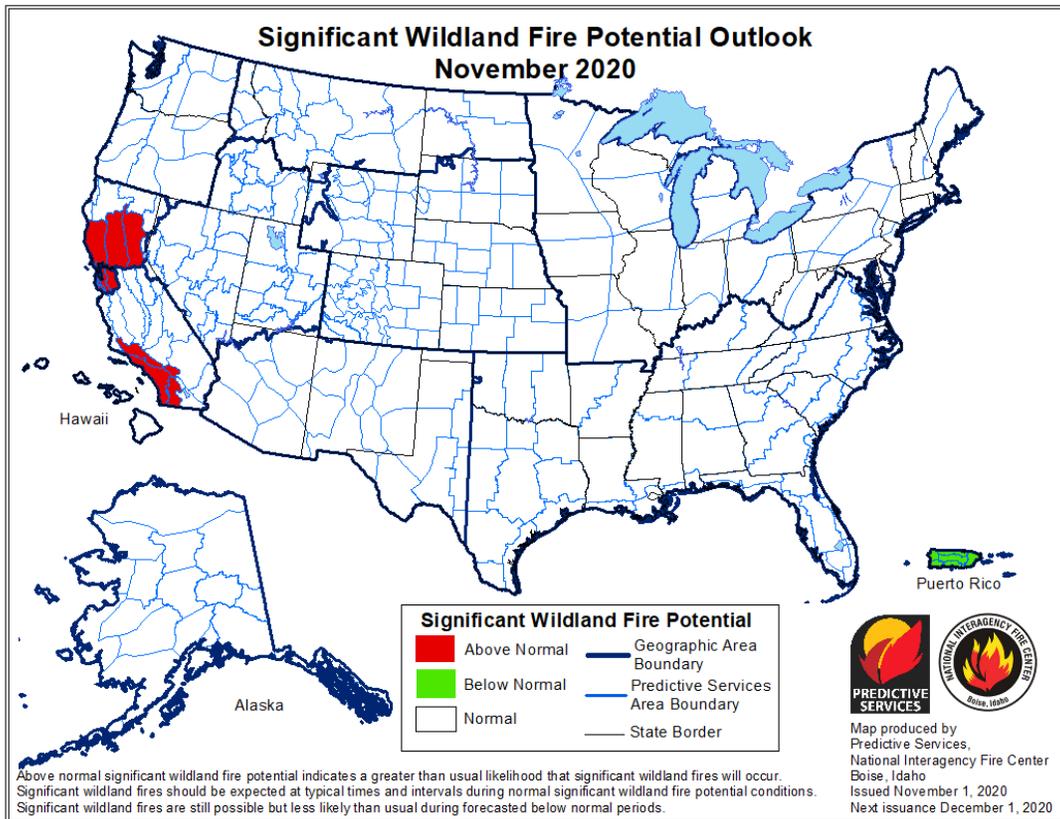
STREAMFLOW



November 1 Reservoir Storage



FIRE CONDITIONS



RESOURCES / REFERENCES

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 [NRCS Snow Survey](#) Program provides mountain snowpack data and streamflow forecasts for Oregon and the western United States.

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.