

# Oregon Water Conditions Report



December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## HIGHLIGHTS

According to the [US Drought Monitor](#), just under 60% of Oregon is experiencing drought conditions. Although much of the area west of the Cascades is not classified as drought (i.e., D1 or worse), conditions are abnormally dry (D0) due to less than average precipitation and low streamflows.

[Snow water equivalent](#) is currently measuring well above the historical median in each basin throughout the state (min = 169%; max = 232%).

[November precipitation](#) was below average throughout much of the state, with some exception east of the Cascades. [Precipitation over the water year to date](#) reflects similar patterns.

[Temperatures in November](#) were cooler than usual statewide. A large region in southeast Oregon measured at least 8 °F below the long-term average. West of the Cascades temperatures ranged between 0 and 4 °F below average.

[Soil moisture profiles](#) continue to measure below average throughout much of the state due in part to below average precipitation.

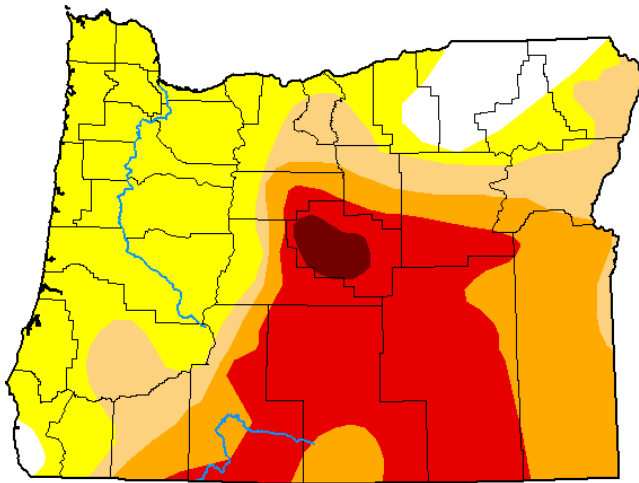
[The three-month seasonal outlook](#) for December through February indicates probabilities favoring above average precipitation and cooler temperatures throughout much of the state. Outlooks for southern Oregon are less clear with probabilities showing equal chances of above/below average precipitation and temperature.

[Streamflows in November](#) were well below average throughout nearly the entire state, with only several counties measuring near or above average in northern Oregon. Flows over the water year to date also remain well below average outside of the Umatilla Basin. See below for more information.

Reservoir storage contents in most [USBR](#) (including [Klamath](#)) systems are well below average, with exceptions in the Burnt and Umatilla Basins.

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Oregon**

**December 6, 2022**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	5.88	94.12	59.76	46.04	26.18	1.40
<b>Last Week</b> 11-29-2022	5.38	94.62	59.76	46.04	26.18	1.40
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 09-06-2022	25.04	74.96	65.71	52.22	30.73	1.40
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-04-2022	4.16	95.84	89.75	75.37	50.84	17.27
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-27-2022	0.42	99.58	68.05	52.42	30.73	1.40
<b>One Year Ago</b> 12-07-2021	1.39	98.61	98.06	91.97	67.56	20.86

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>

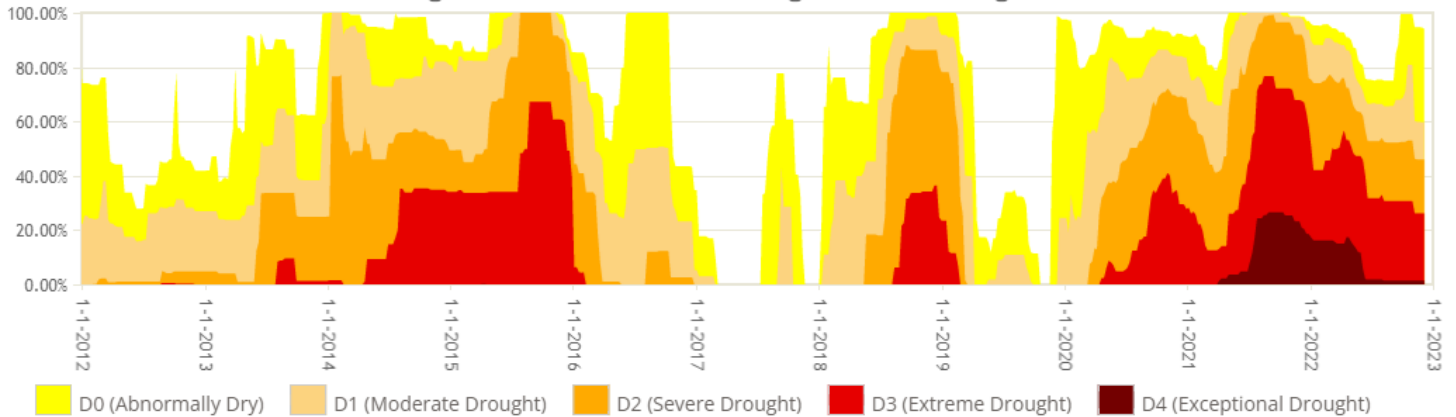
Author:

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center

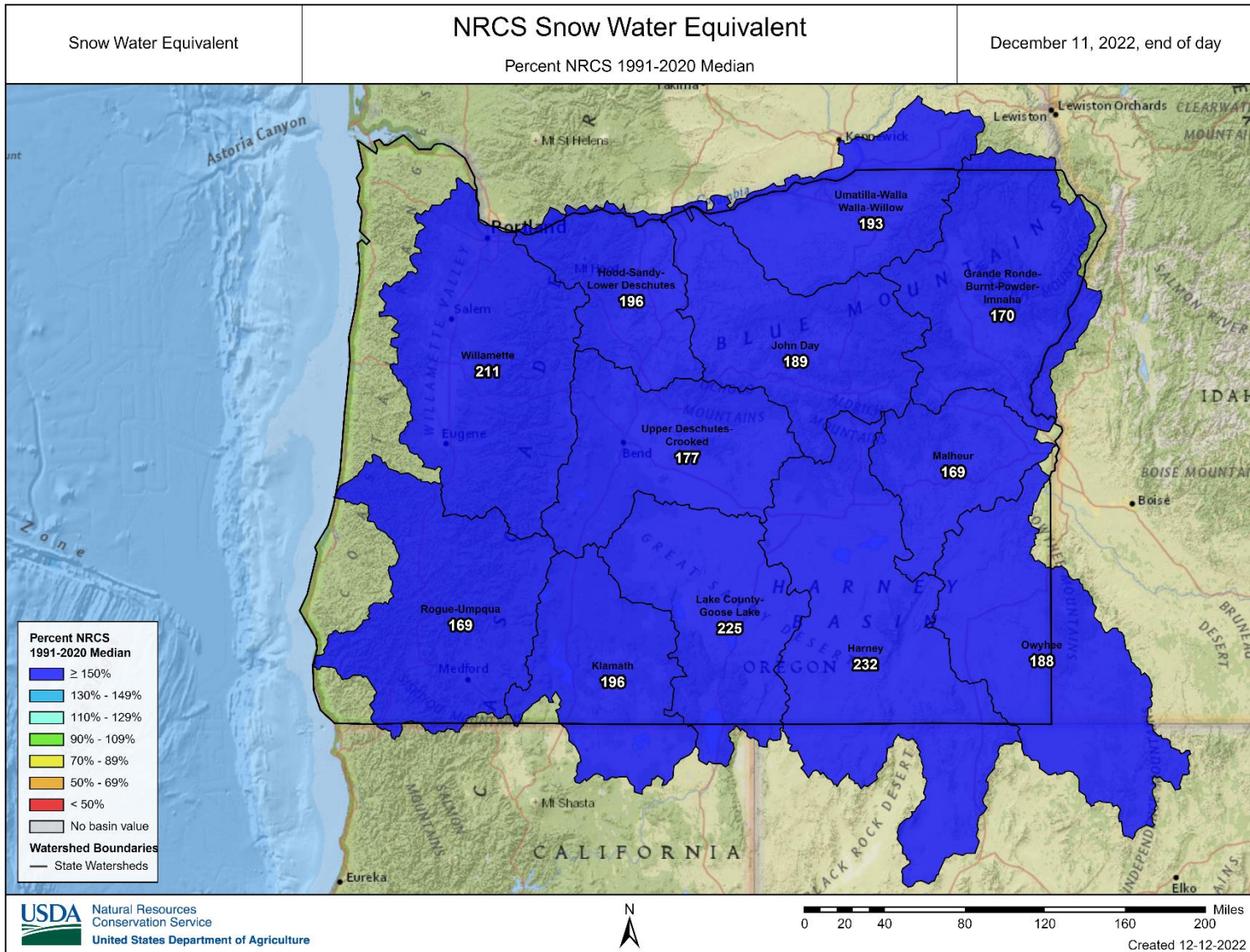


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

**Oregon Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories**

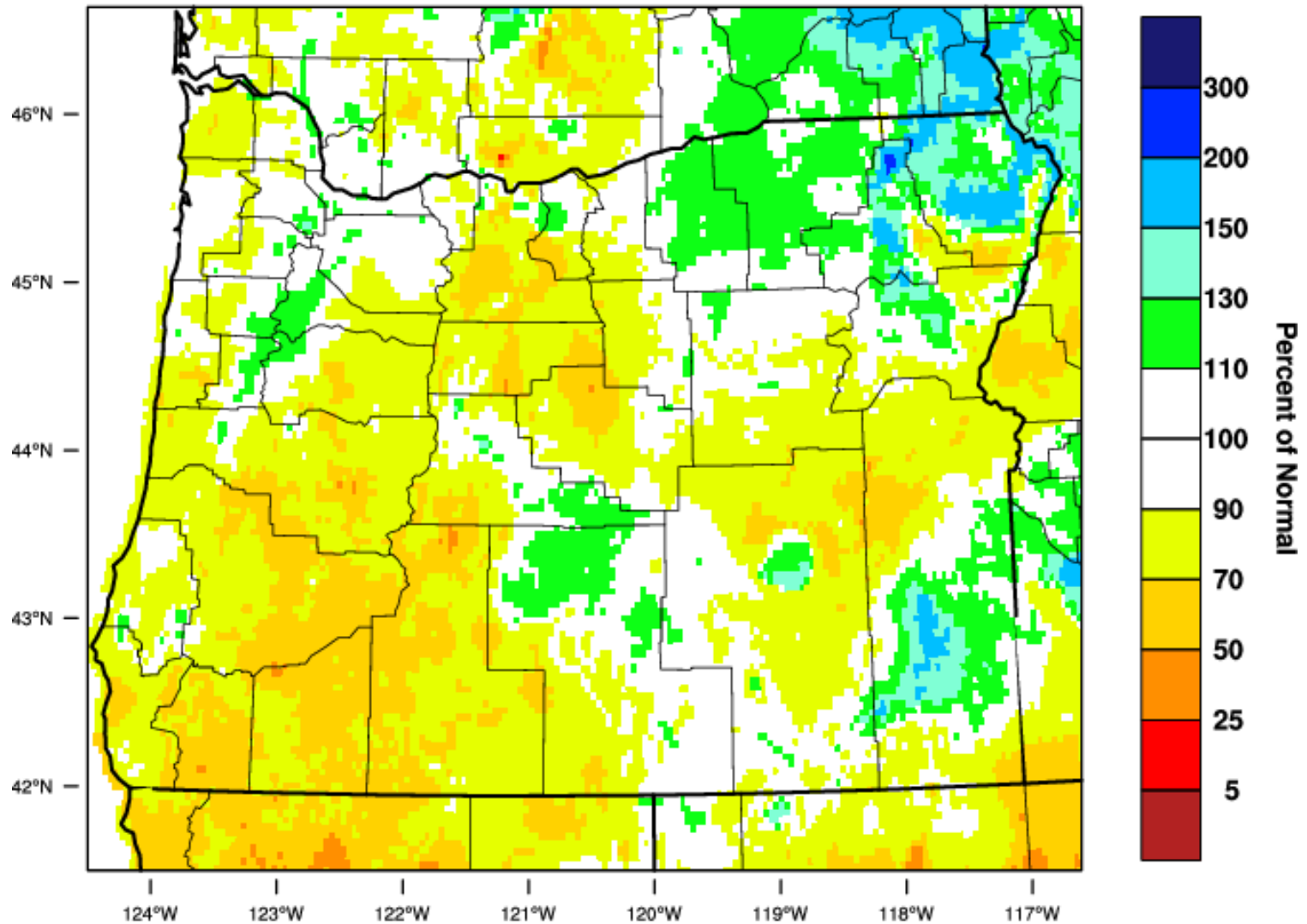


**CLIMATE CONDITIONS**  
**SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT**



### Oregon - Precipitation

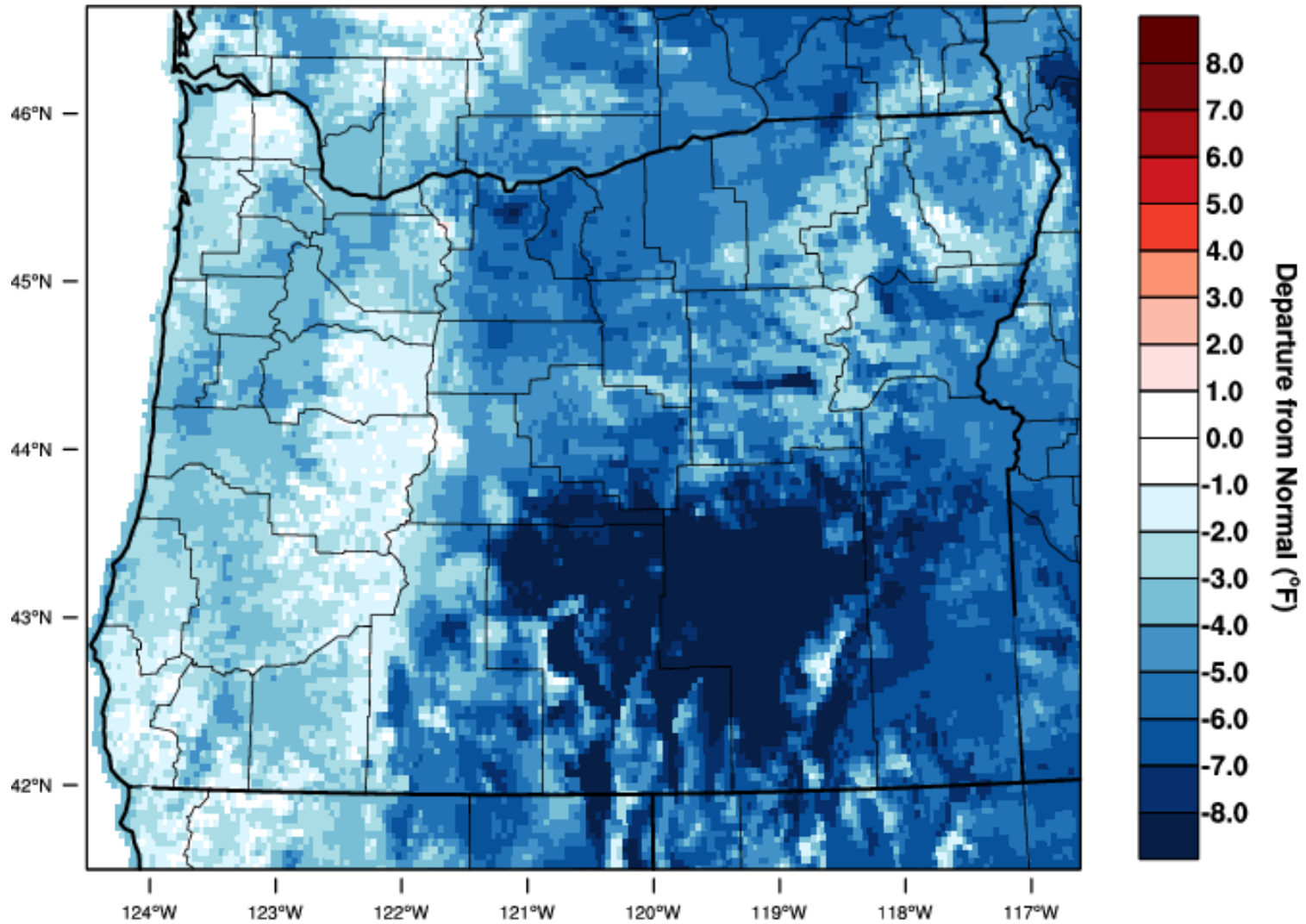
November 2022 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 11 DEC 2022

### Oregon - Mean Temperature

November 2022 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal



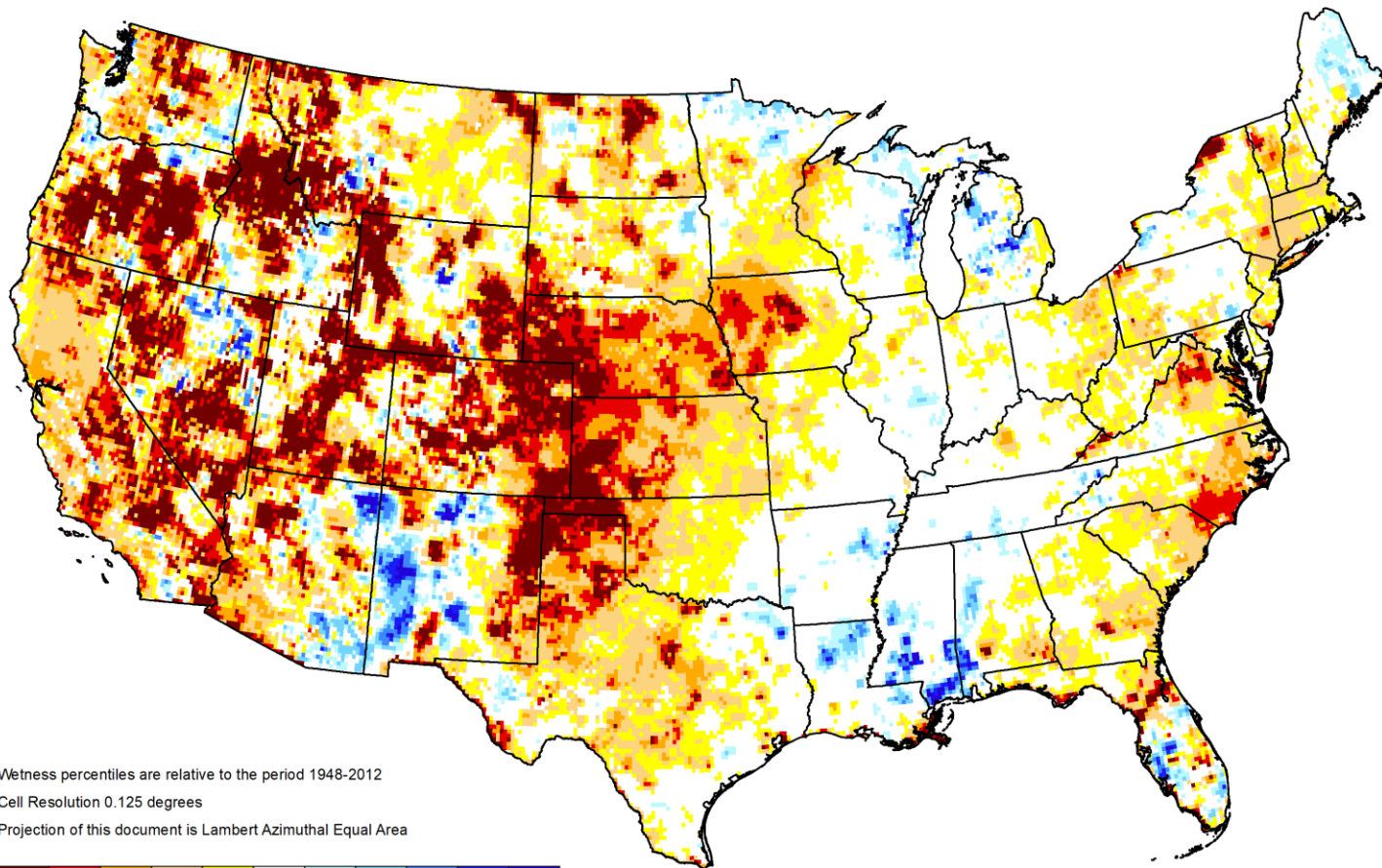
WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 11 DEC 2022



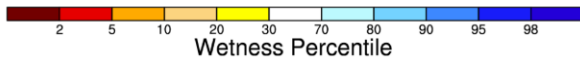


# GRACE-Based Shallow Groundwater Drought Indicator

December 05, 2022



Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012  
Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees  
Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area



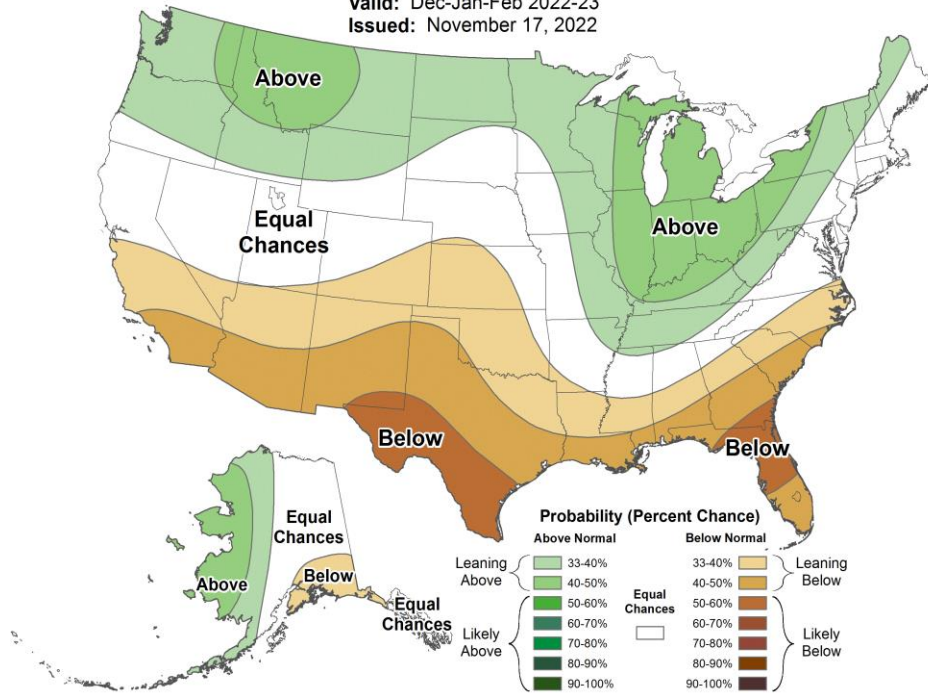
<https://nasagrace.unl.edu>



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



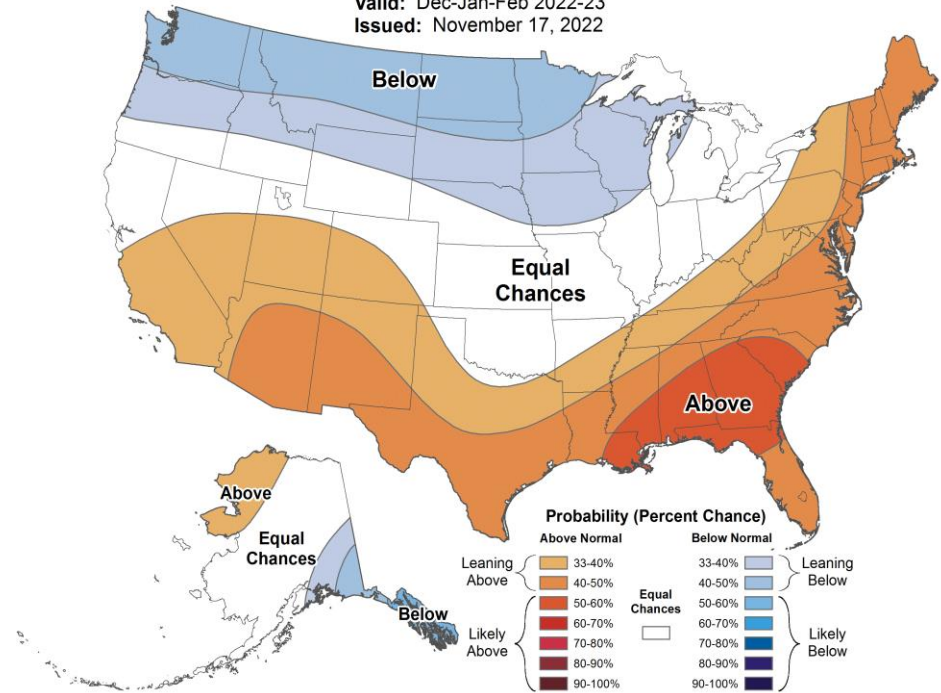
Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2022-23  
 Issued: November 17, 2022



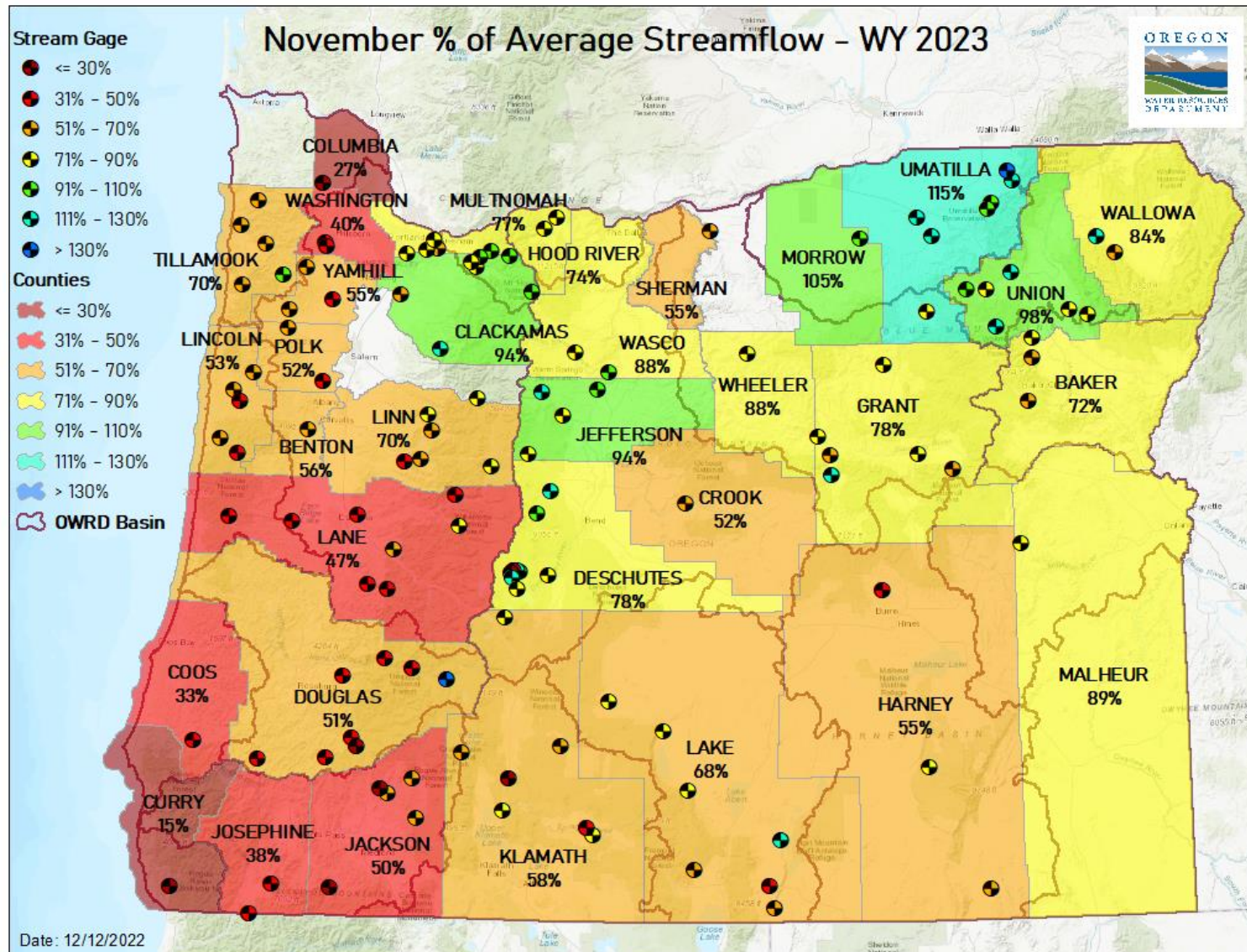
## Seasonal Temperature Outlook



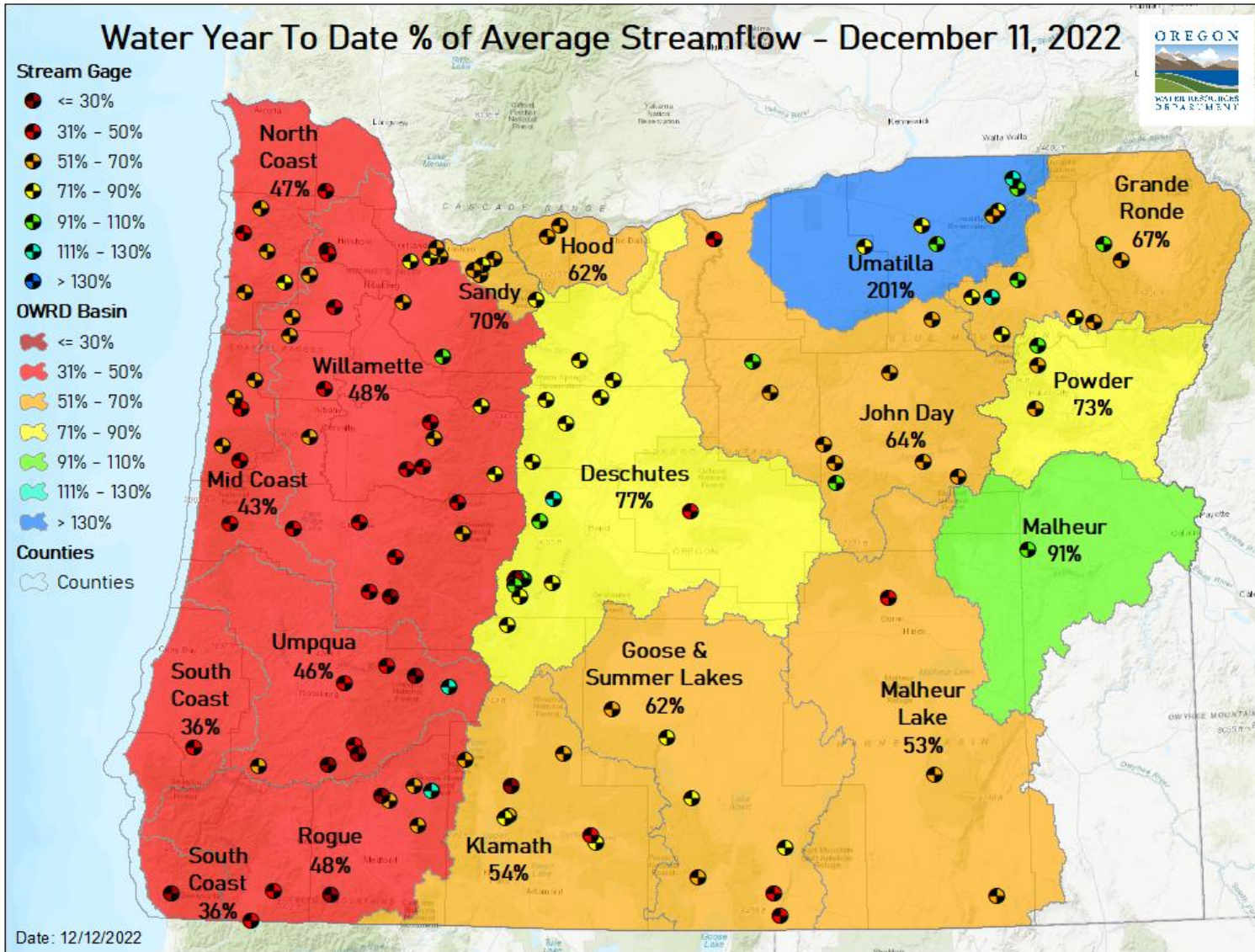
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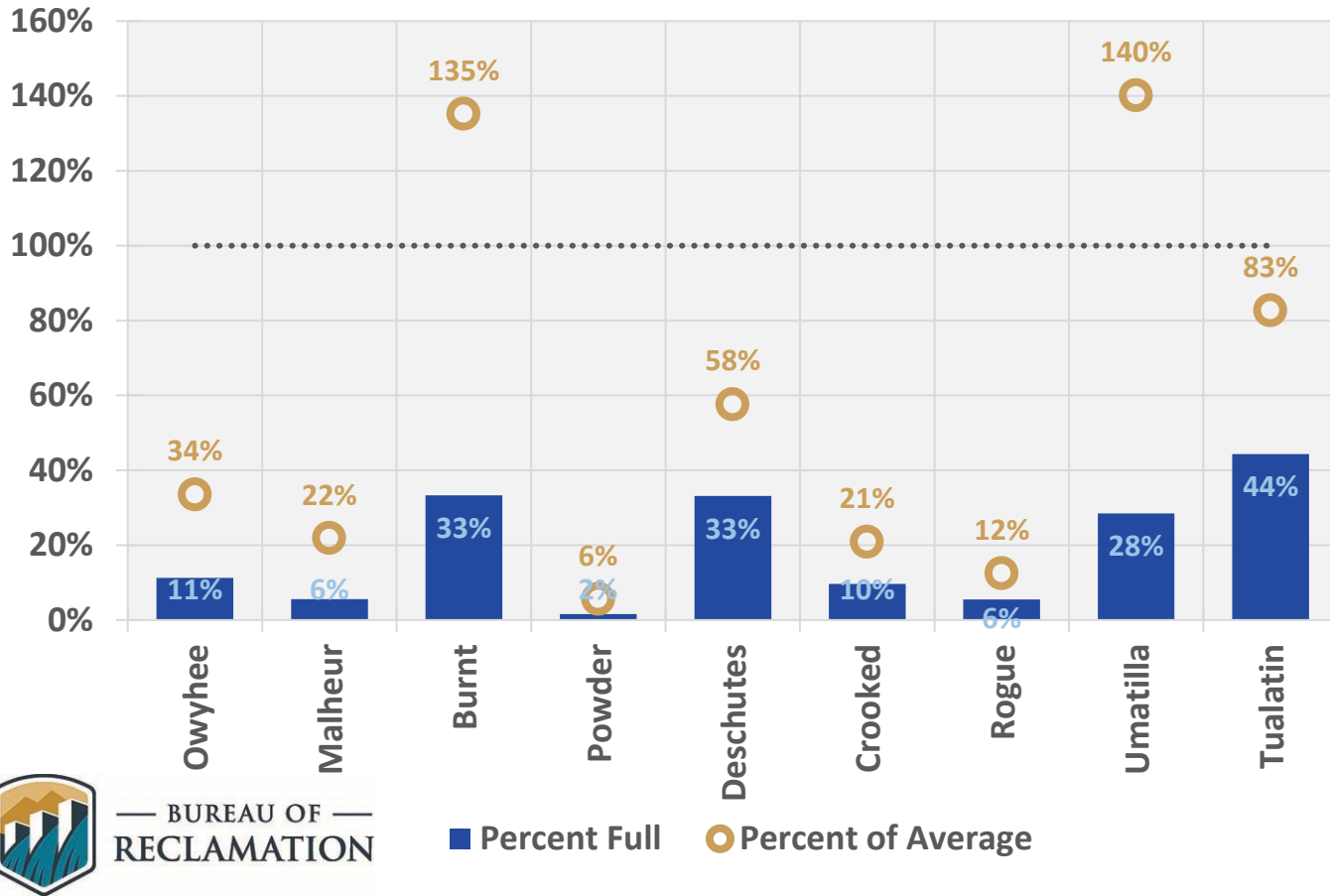
**STREAMFLOW**  
**NOVEMBER**







## December 11 Reservoir Storage



## RESOURCES/REFERENCES

Please visit [Oregon Water Resources Department's drought information page](#) to learn about current drought conditions, assistance programs, and potential drought tools.

If you are interested in submitting local drought-related conditions and impacts, please visit the [drought impacts toolkit](#) to learn more. [Click here](#) to visit the map of condition monitoring observer reports.

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 [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.