

Oregon Water Conditions Report



April 3rd, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

Thus far in 2023, [four Oregon counties](#) have received [Executive Orders](#) issuing state drought declarations under ORS 536. One additional county (Wasco) has requested a state drought declaration.

Over 57% of Oregon is classified as experiencing moderate (D1) to exceptional (D4) drought conditions, according to the [US Drought Monitor](#). Changes over recent weeks include several one-class improvements throughout the state and a nearly 16% reduction in areal drought coverage.

[Snow water equivalent at NRCS SNOTEL sites](#) is measuring above to well above the long-term median in all basins throughout Oregon. Snowpack accumulation has continued to trend upwards recently, with all basins still measuring well above the usual peak values.

Precipitation over the past 30 days has been above average throughout much of Oregon. Much of southern Oregon received [well above average precipitation](#), ranging from [0.5 to more than 5 inches](#).

Temperatures over the past 30 days were [much cooler than usual statewide](#), ranging from 0 to 15 °F below the long-term average. The effect was more pronounced in central and southeastern Oregon.

[Soil moisture profiles](#) have shown some improvements over recent weeks, however, wetness continues to lag behind in parts of central and eastern Oregon.

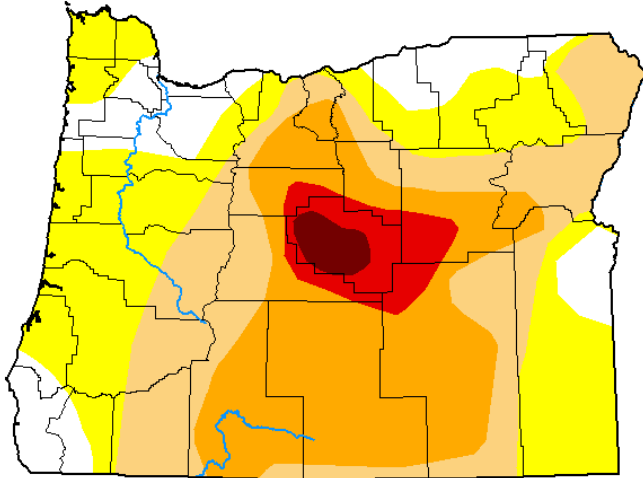
The [three-month seasonal outlook for April through June](#) indicates probabilities favoring below average precipitation for the western two-thirds of the state and equal chances above or below for eastern Oregon. Most of the state is projected to have equal chances above or below average temperatures, although below average temperatures are slightly favored in the southeastern quadrant.

[March streamflows](#) were below to well below average throughout much of the state, but some regions in southwestern and coastal Oregon measured above average (min = Wheeler County @ 8%; max = Curry County @ 143%). Average flows over the [past 7-day period](#) reflect a similar trend, with much of the potential flow in central and eastern Oregon locked up in snowpack.

Reservoir storage contents in [USBR](#) (including [Klamath](#)) and [USACE](#) projects continue to measure below average for this time of year. Basin averages in central and southern Oregon are measuring between 7% and 63% full.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

March 28, 2023
(Released Thursday, Mar. 30, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	12.43	87.57	57.57	32.01	6.20	1.40
Last Week 03-21-2023	8.50	91.50	73.32	33.49	7.18	1.40
3 Months Ago 12-27-2022	8.58	91.42	59.76	46.04	26.18	1.40
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	13.46	86.54	59.75	46.03	26.18	1.40
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.42	99.58	68.05	52.42	30.73	1.40
One Year Ago 03-29-2022	7.16	92.84	88.44	74.25	50.28	15.01

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>

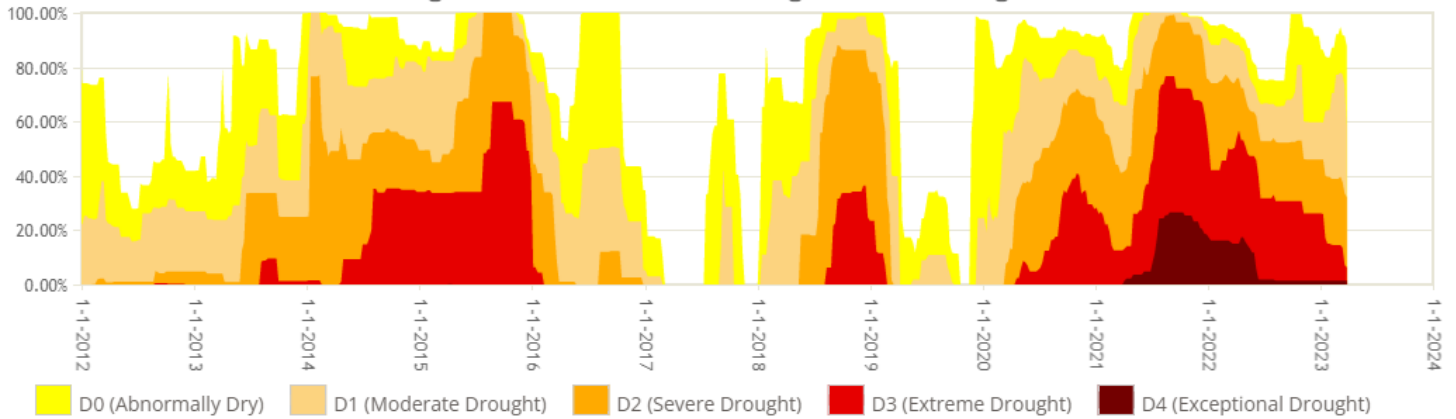
Author:

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National Drought Mitigation Center

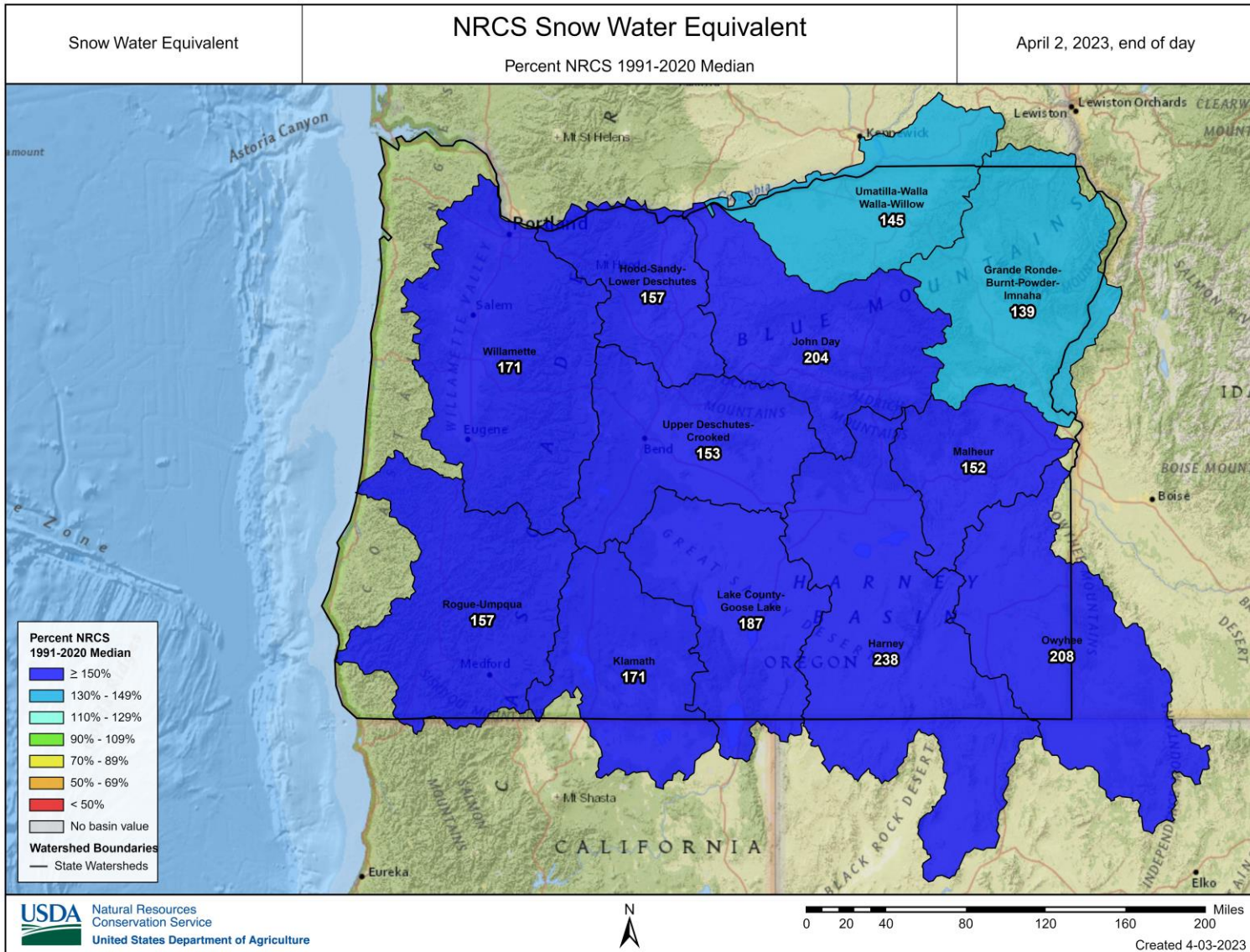


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

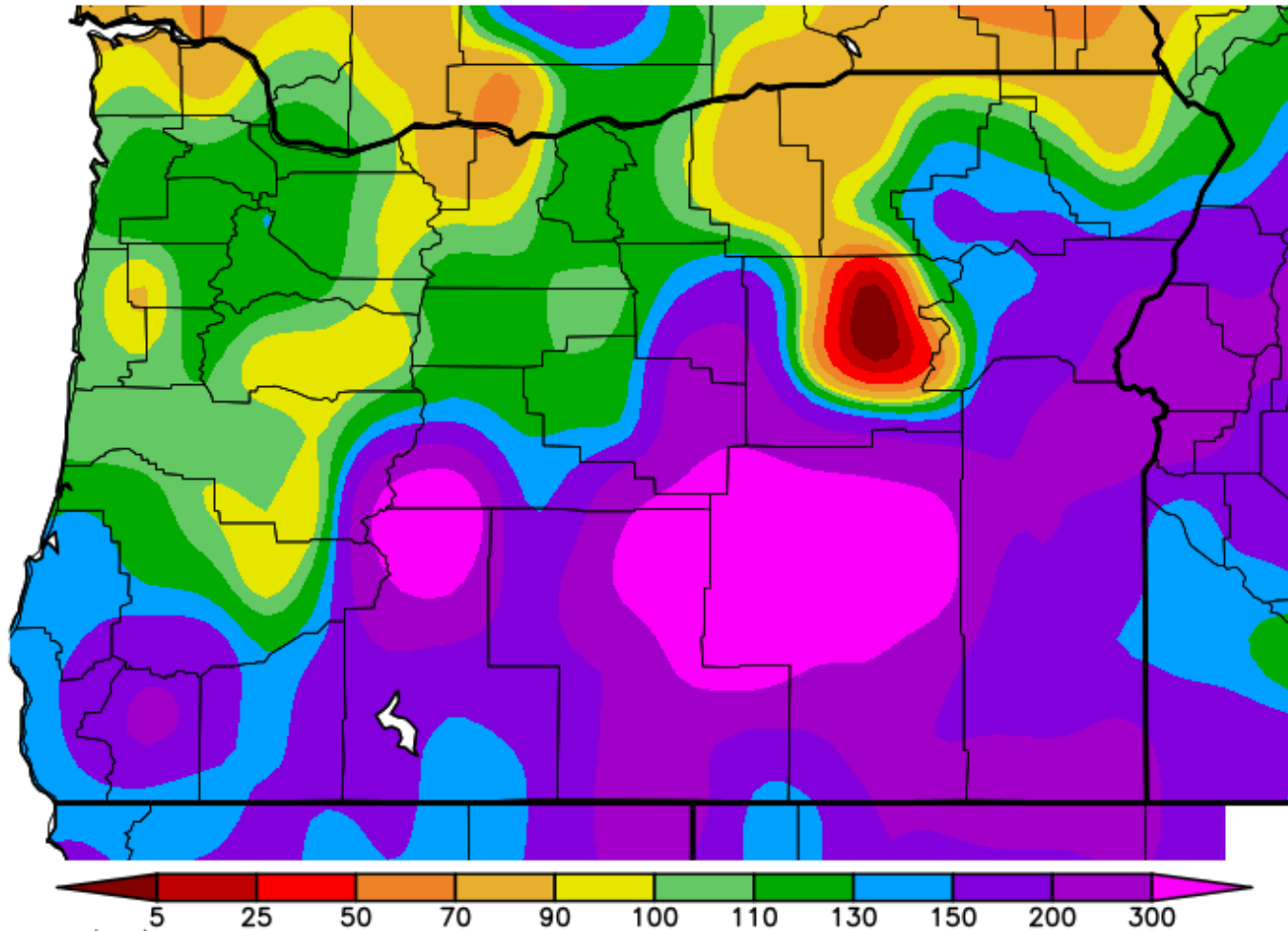
Oregon Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



CLIMATE CONDITIONS
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

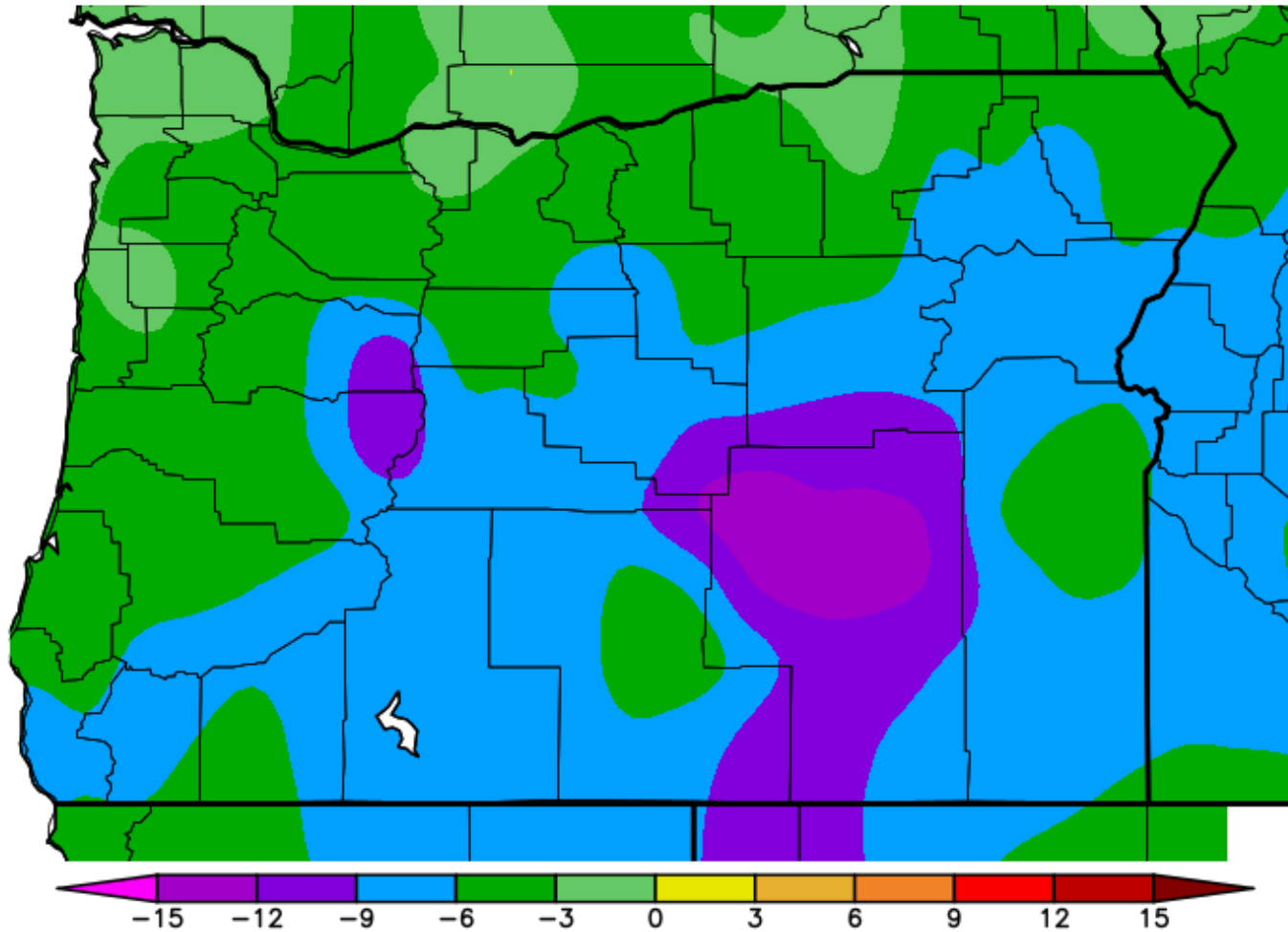


Percent of Average Precipitation (%) 3/4/2023 - 4/2/2023



Generated 4/ 3/2023 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
3/4/2023 - 4/2/2023

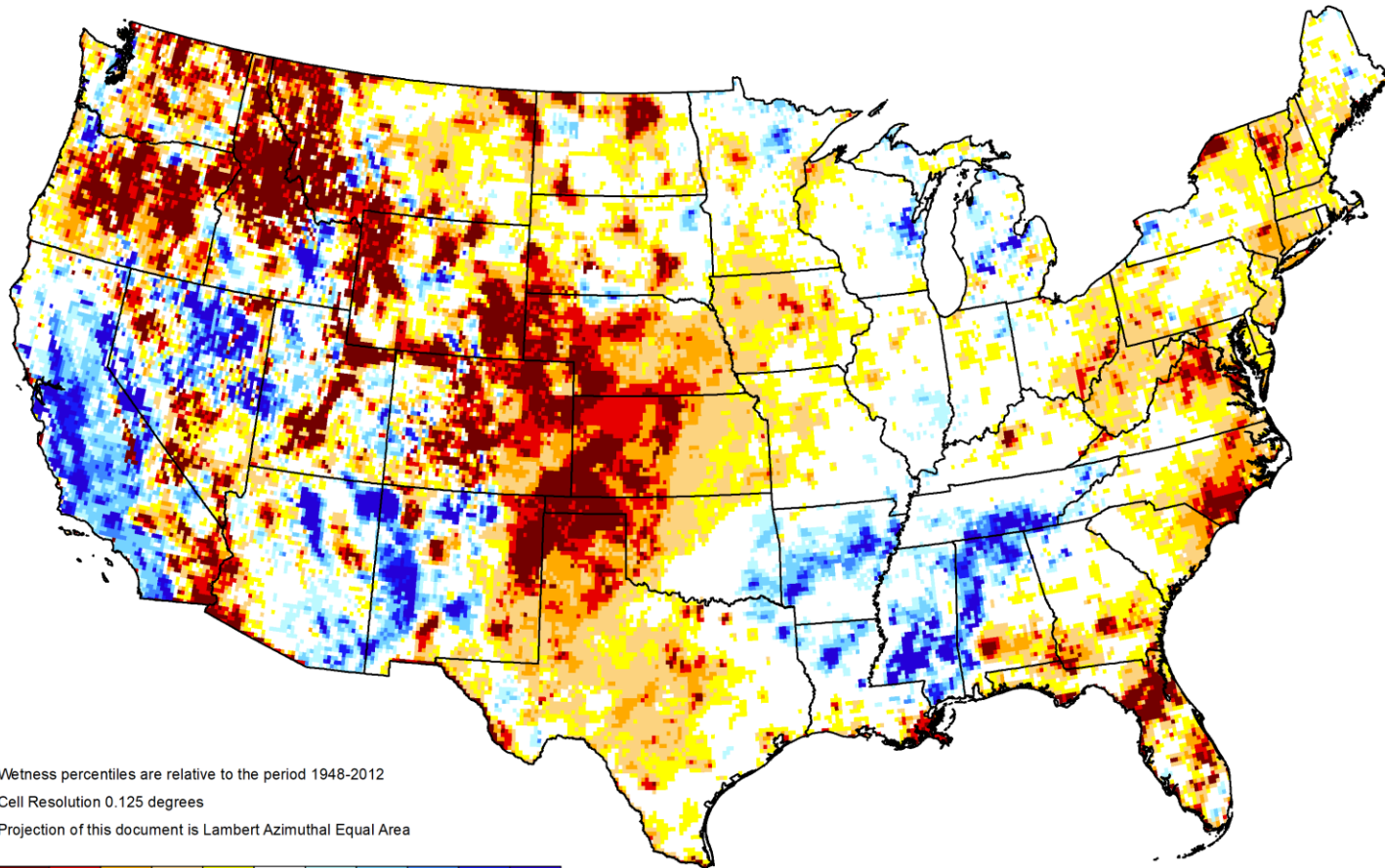


Generated 4/ 3/2023 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

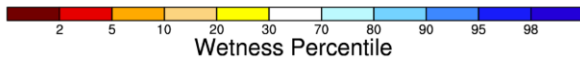


GRACE-Based Shallow Groundwater Drought Indicator

March 27, 2023



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



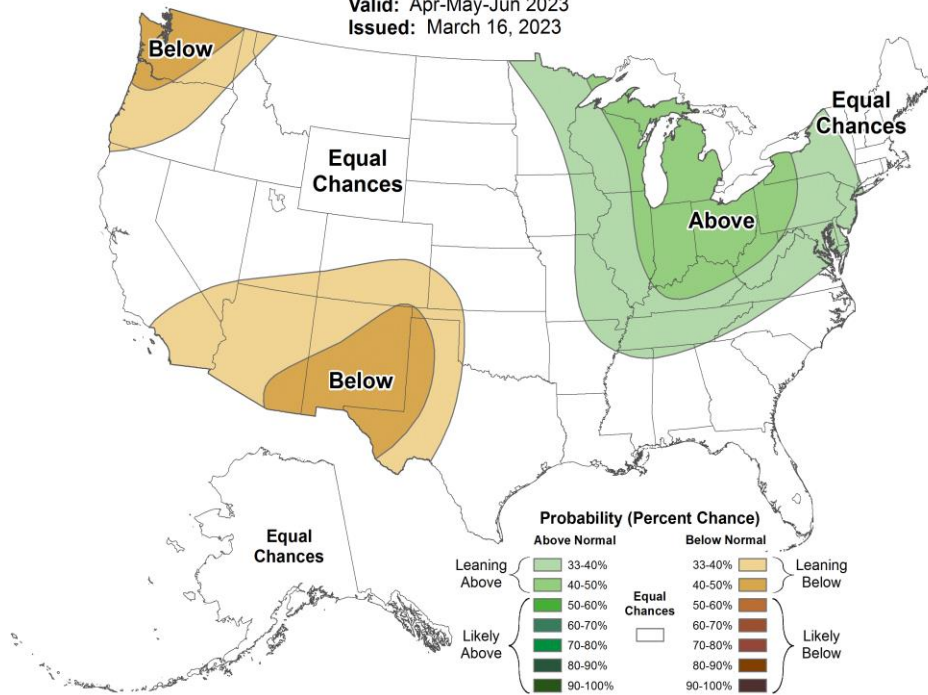
<https://nasagrace.unl.edu>



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



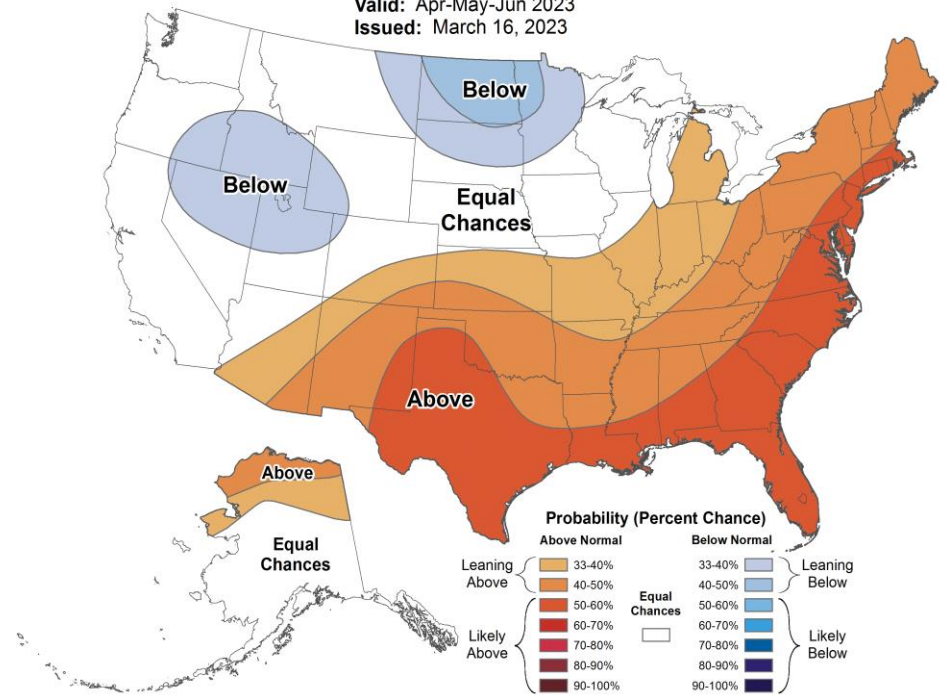
Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2023
 Issued: March 16, 2023



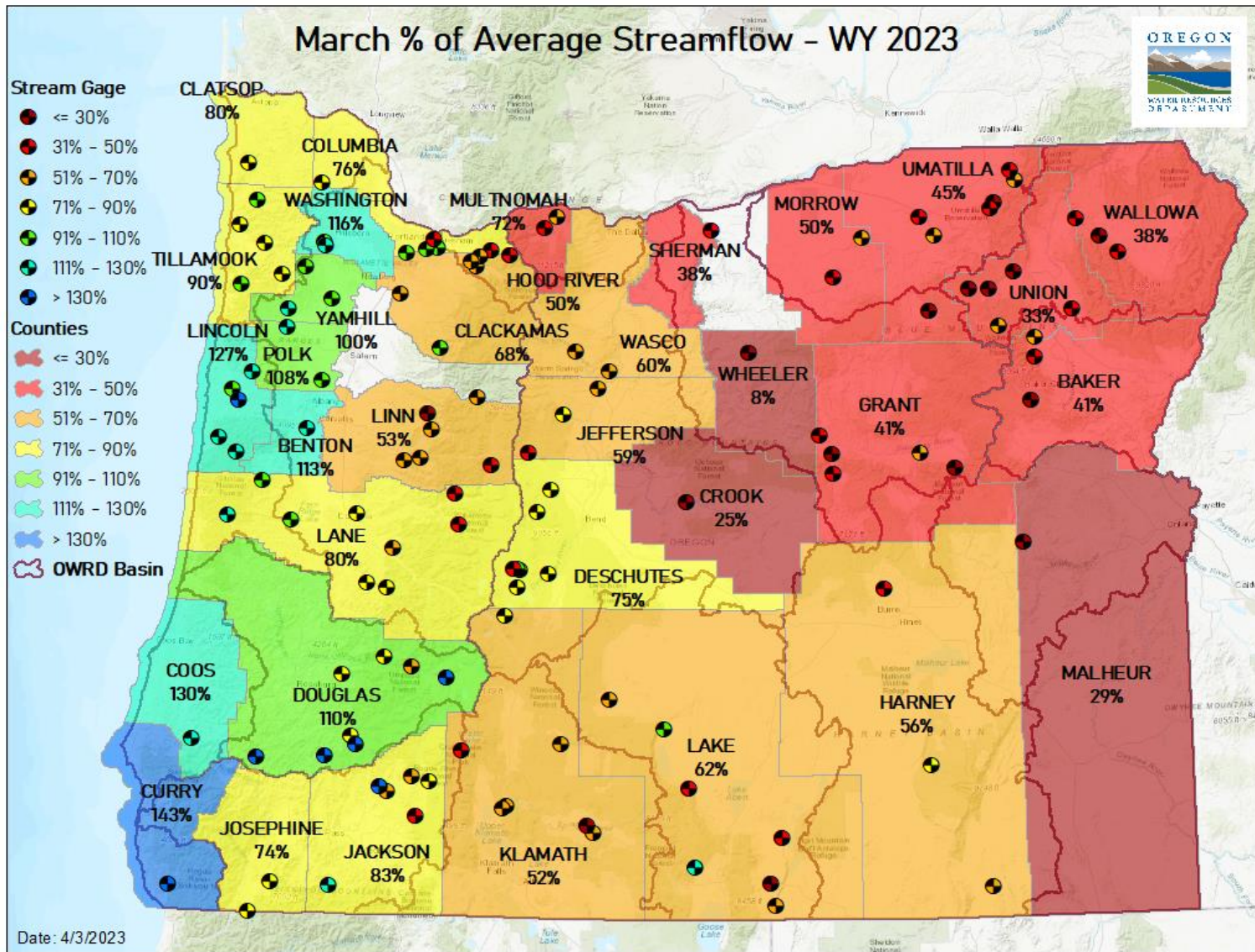
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

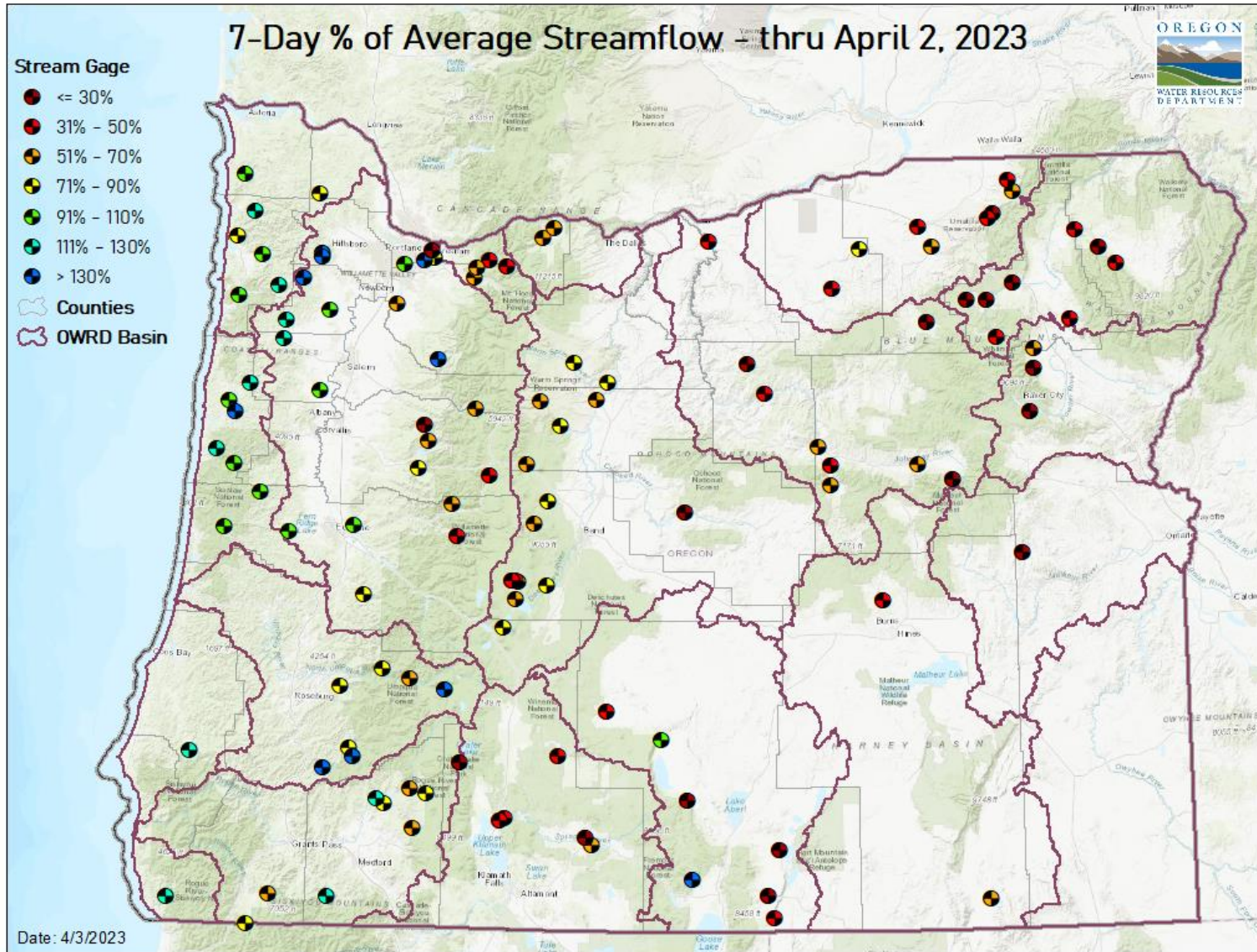


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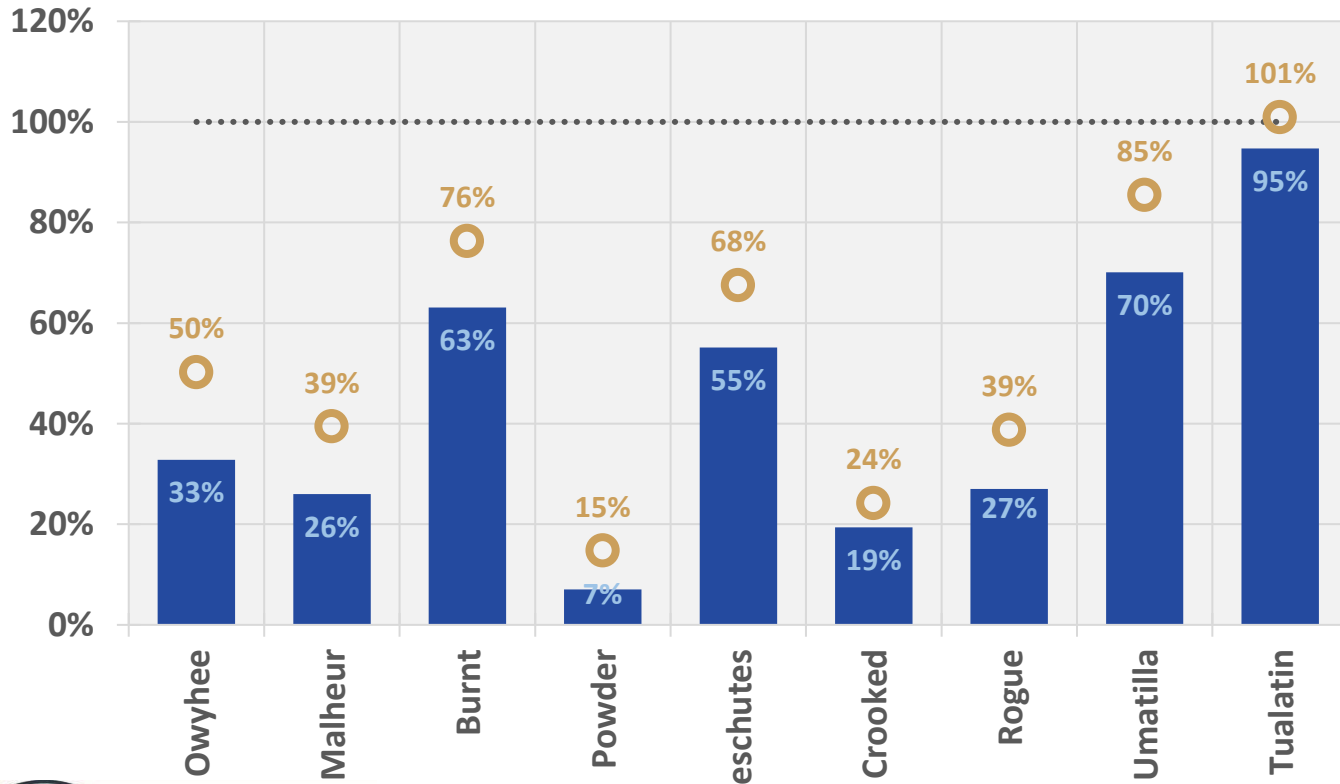


STREAMFLOW
MARCH





April 2 Reservoir Storage



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

■ Percent Full

● Percent of Average

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.