

Oregon Water Conditions Report



January 29th, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

According to the [US Drought Monitor](#), over 17% of Oregon is experiencing moderate (D1) to severe (D2) drought conditions. Over the past two weeks, there has been a reduction of D1 and D2 conditions in SW and NC Oregon, respectively. However, D1 conditions have expanded into SC Oregon (Klamath and Lake Counties).

[Snow water equivalent \(SWE\)](#) is currently measuring below to well above the historical median (min = 78%, max = 136%). In SE OR, SWE continues to increase whereas SWE in many basins across the state recently decreased, likely due to rain-on-snow events. For more information see [individual basin SWE plots](#).

Precipitation over the [past 14 days](#) has been well above average for most of the state with the exception of NE and parts of south-central and SW Oregon, where precipitation was about 1.5 inches below average. Portions of the coast and Willamette Valley received up to 6 inches above average.

Over the past 14 days, temperatures have varied latitudinally across the state, with the northern and southern halves being cooler and warmer than average, respectively. In the north, temperatures ranged from 2°F to 10°F below average (NC OR) and 2°F to 6°F above average (Blue Mountains). In the south, temperatures ranged from 2°F to 4°F below average (Malheur Conty) and 2°F to 8°F above average (Klamath Mountains).

[Root zone soil and surface soil moisture profiles](#) show improvement over recent weeks due to well above average precipitation for most of Oregon.

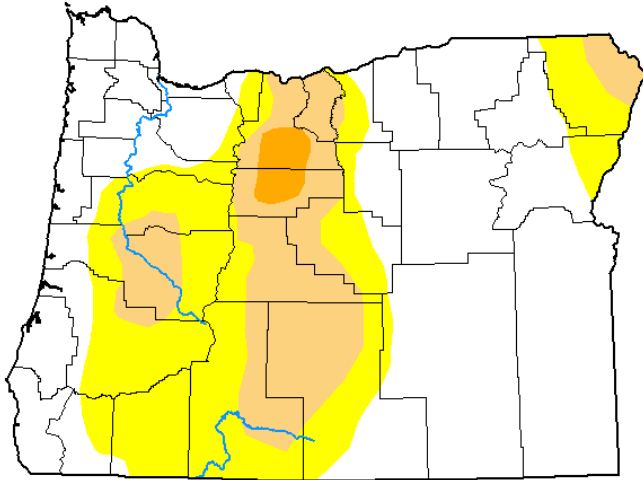
The [near-term climate outlook](#) indicates probabilities leaning towards above average precipitation for most of the state and near normal conditions in NW Oregon. The near-term outlook for temperature indicates probabilities leaning towards below average temperatures statewide.

[Streamflow](#) conditions have varied between western and eastern Oregon. West of the Cascades, most streams were well above average. East of the Cascades, streamflow varied from well below (Klamath and Goose and Summer Lakes basins) to well above average (Blue Mountains). Streamflow conditions over the water year to date have shown some improvement, with the exception of Klamath and Goose & Summer Lakes basins.

Reservoir storage in many basins is currently above average. However, projects in the Deschutes and Rogue basins are measuring below average. See [USBR](#) (including [Klamath](#)) and [USACE](#) teacup diagrams for more information.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

January 23, 2024
(Released Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	55.79	44.21	17.73	1.41	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>01-16-2024</i>	52.62	47.38	18.65	2.91	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>10-24-2023</i>	32.44	67.56	48.42	18.82	2.23	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2024</i>	47.04	52.96	18.85	3.12	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-26-2023</i>	24.13	75.87	54.18	27.06	6.40	0.00
One Year Ago <i>01-24-2023</i>	16.43	83.57	64.15	39.58	14.98	1.40

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>

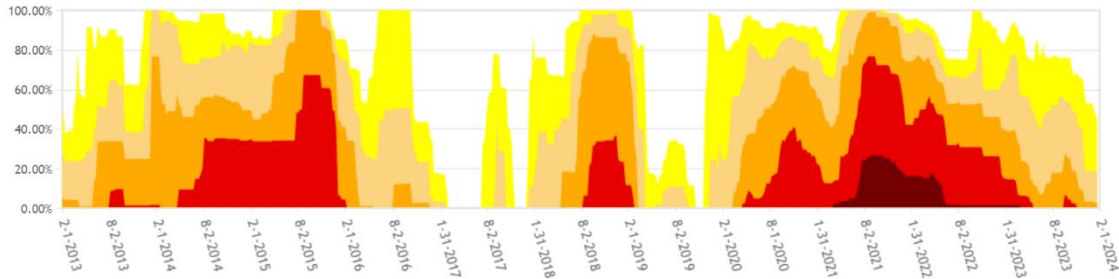
Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

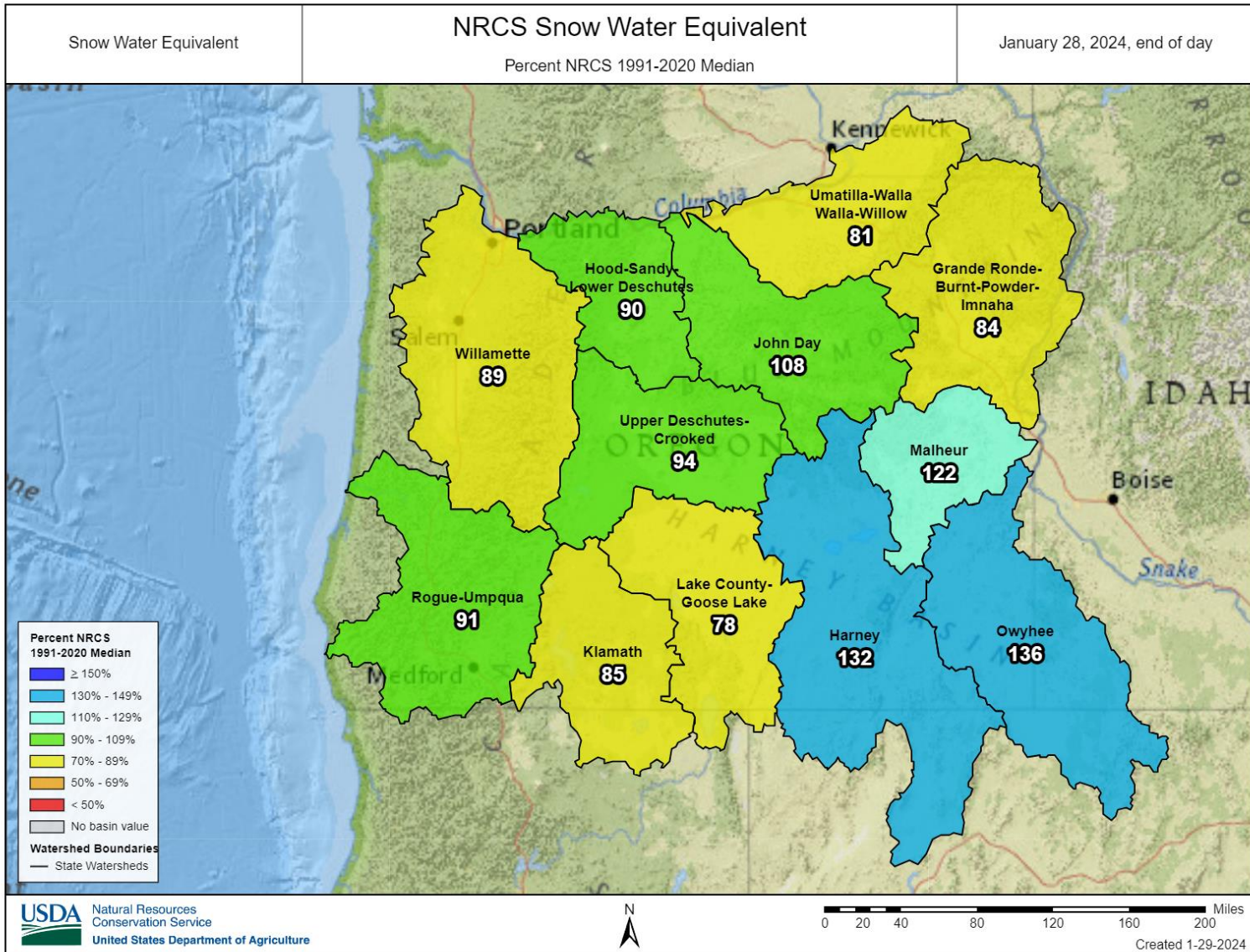
Oregon Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



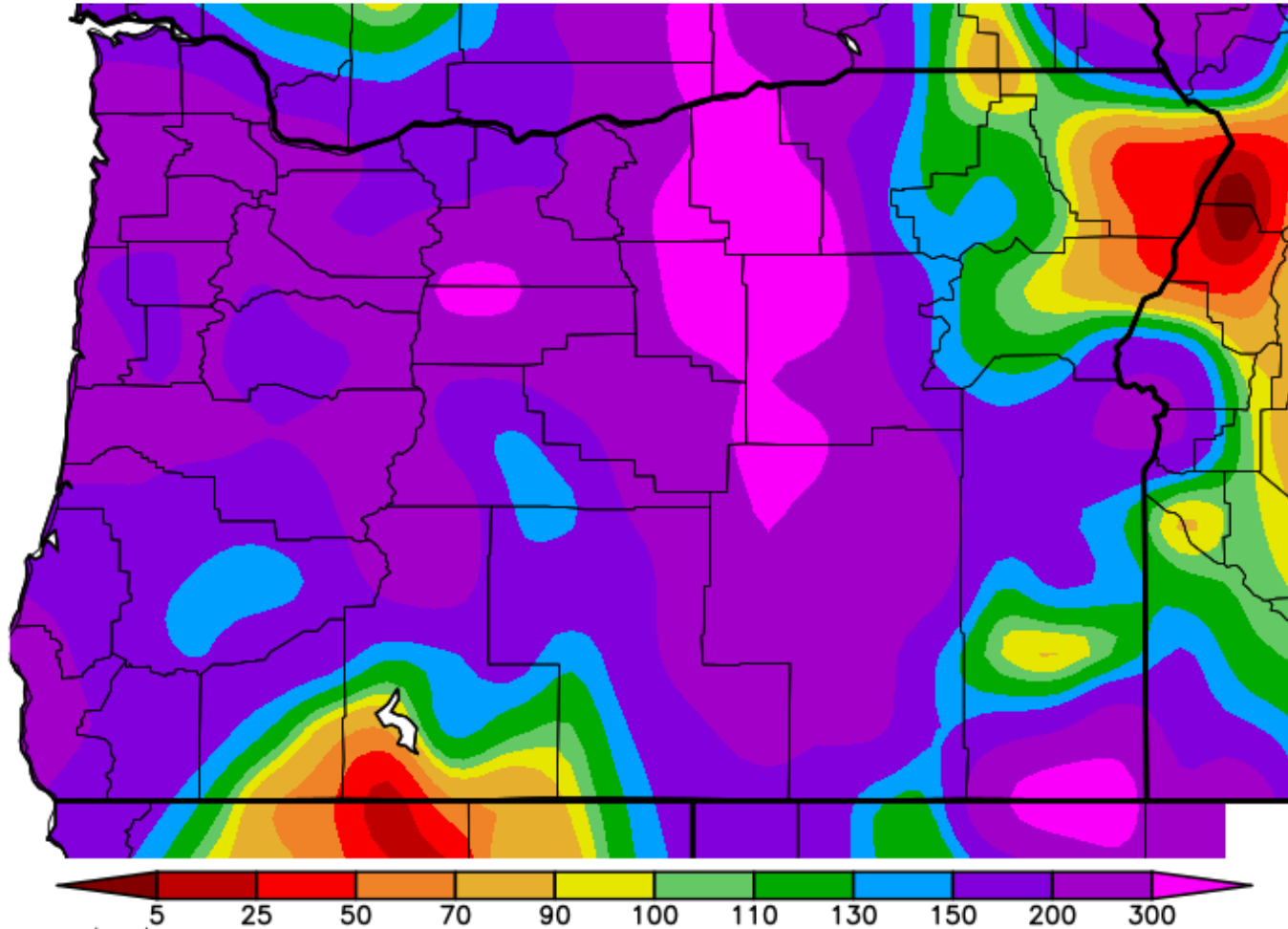
From the U.S. Drought Monitor website, <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx>, 1-29-2024



CLIMATE CONDITIONS
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

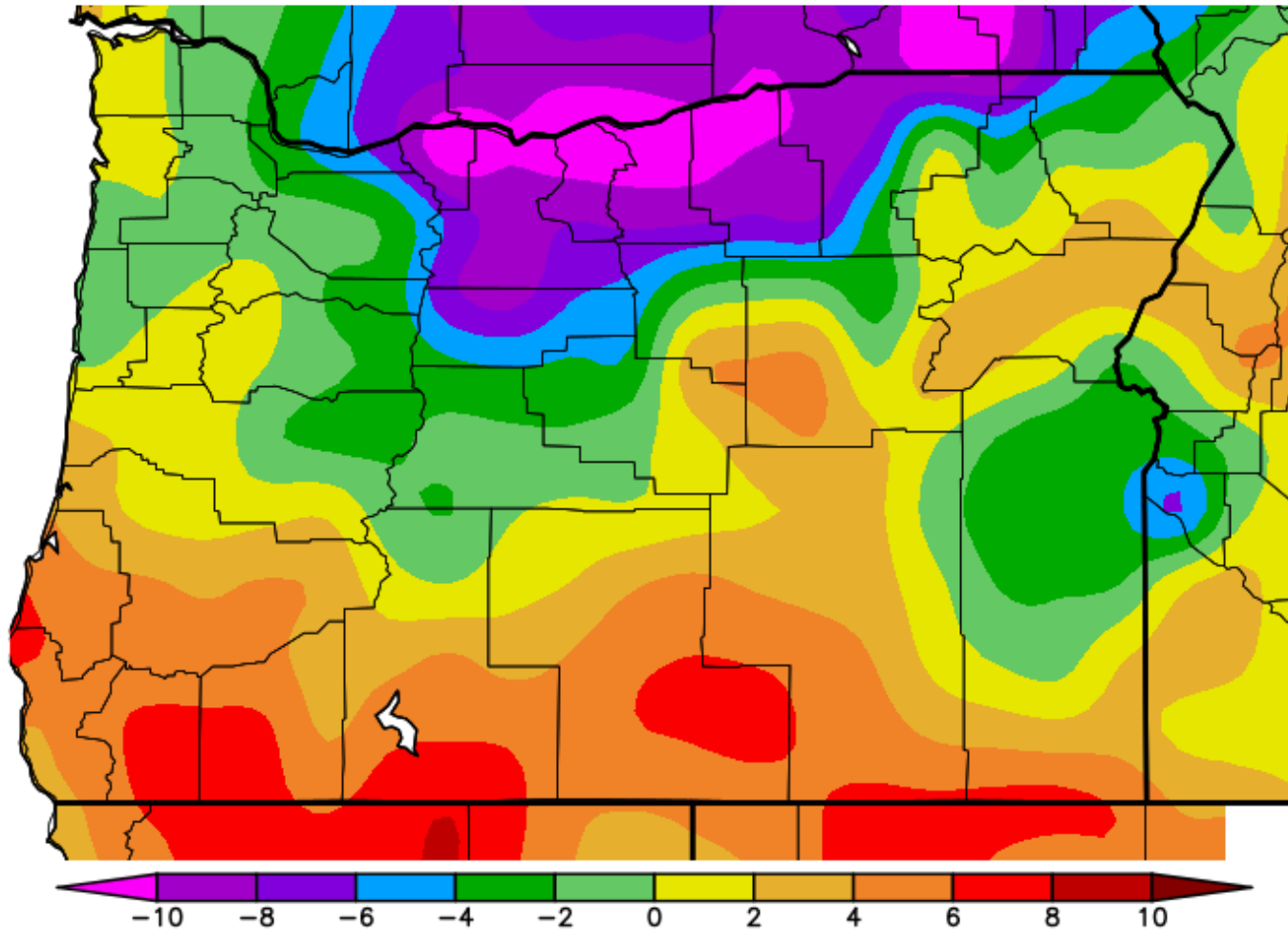


Percent of Average Precipitation (%) 1/15/2024 – 1/28/2024



Generated 1/29/2024 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
1/15/2024 – 1/28/2024

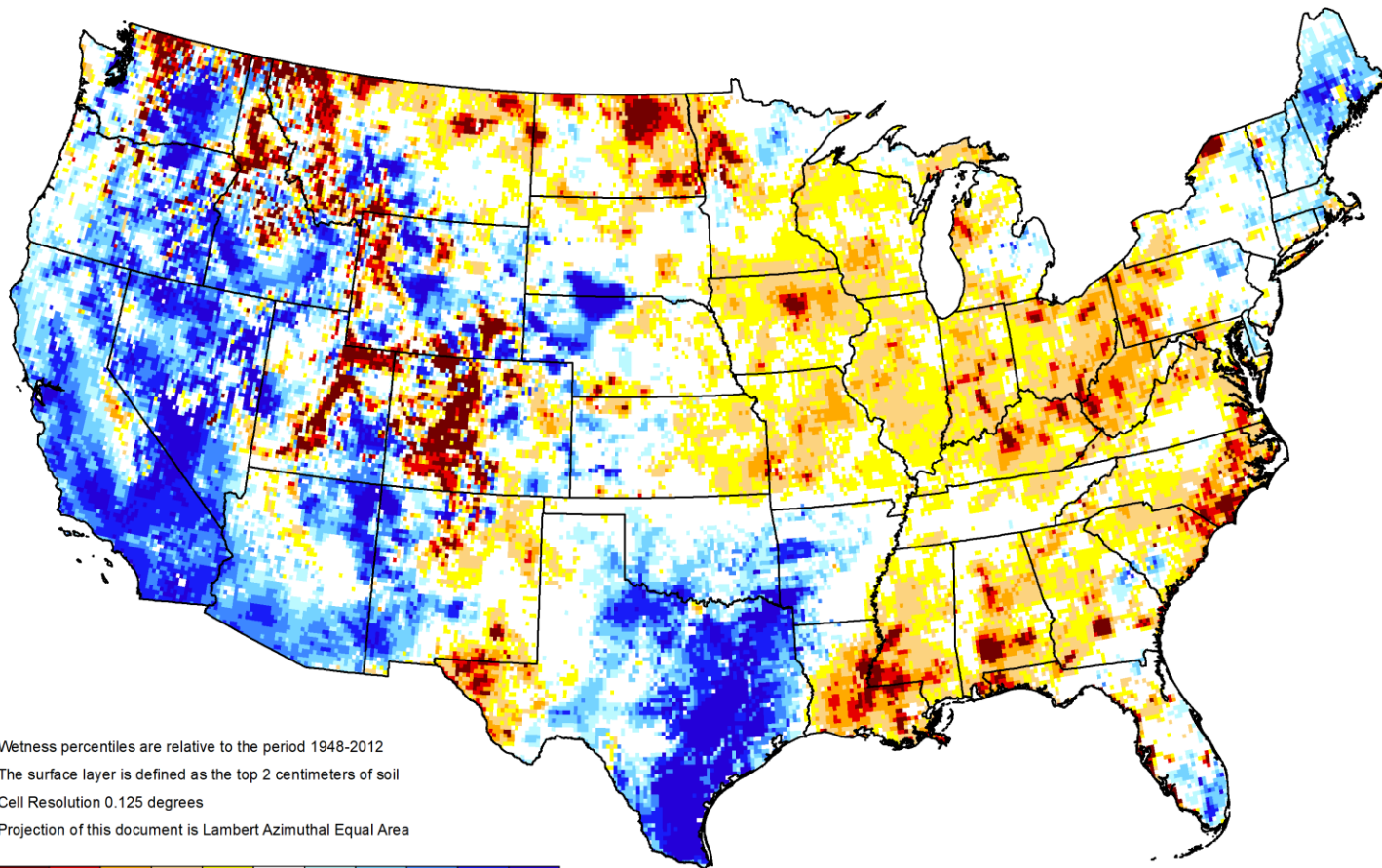


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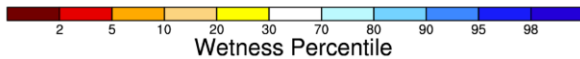


GRACE-Based Surface Soil Moisture Drought Indicator

January 22, 2024



Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012
The surface layer is defined as the top 2 centimeters of soil
Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees
Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area

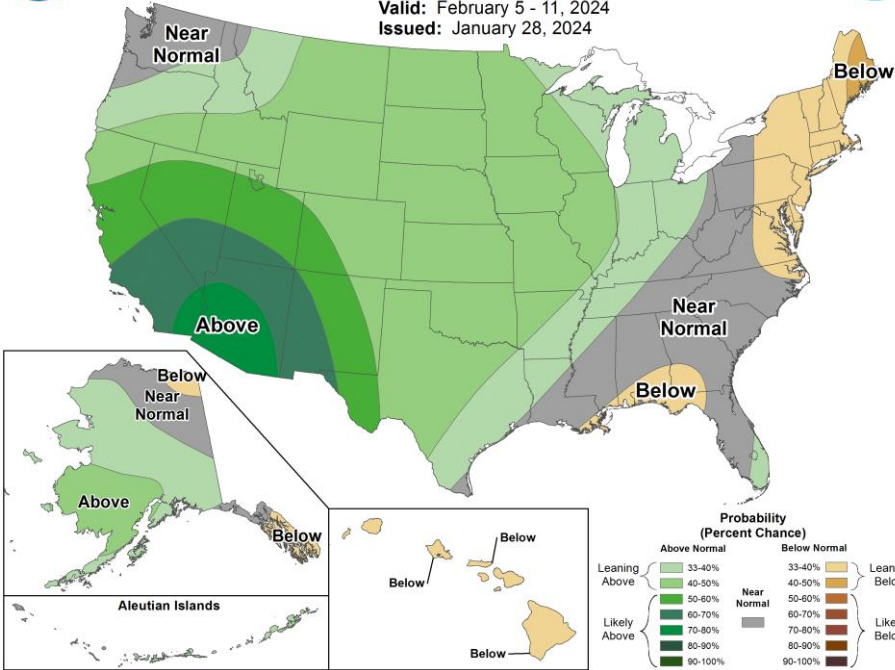


<https://nasagrace.unl.edu>



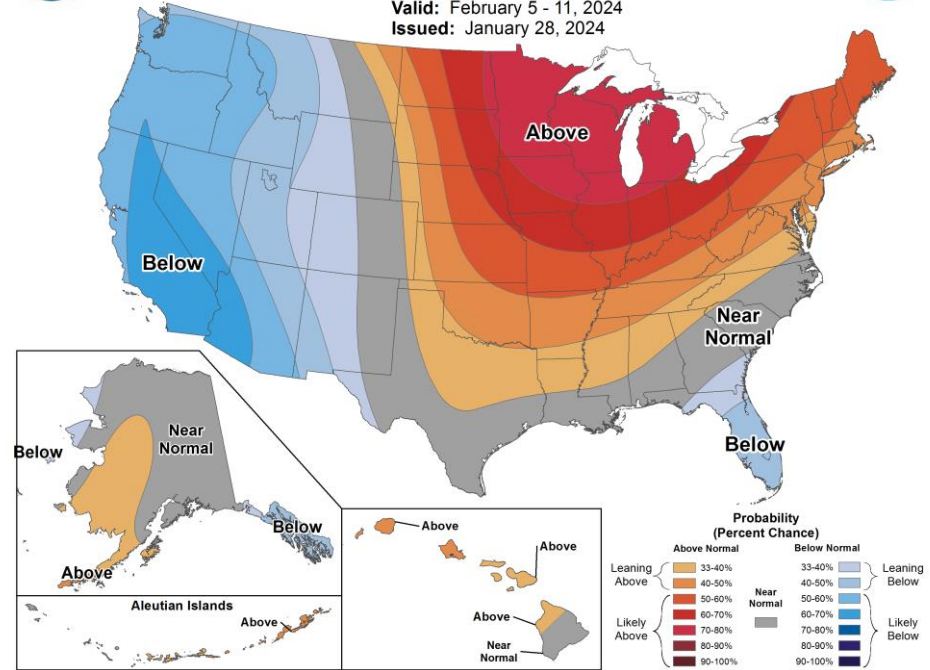
8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

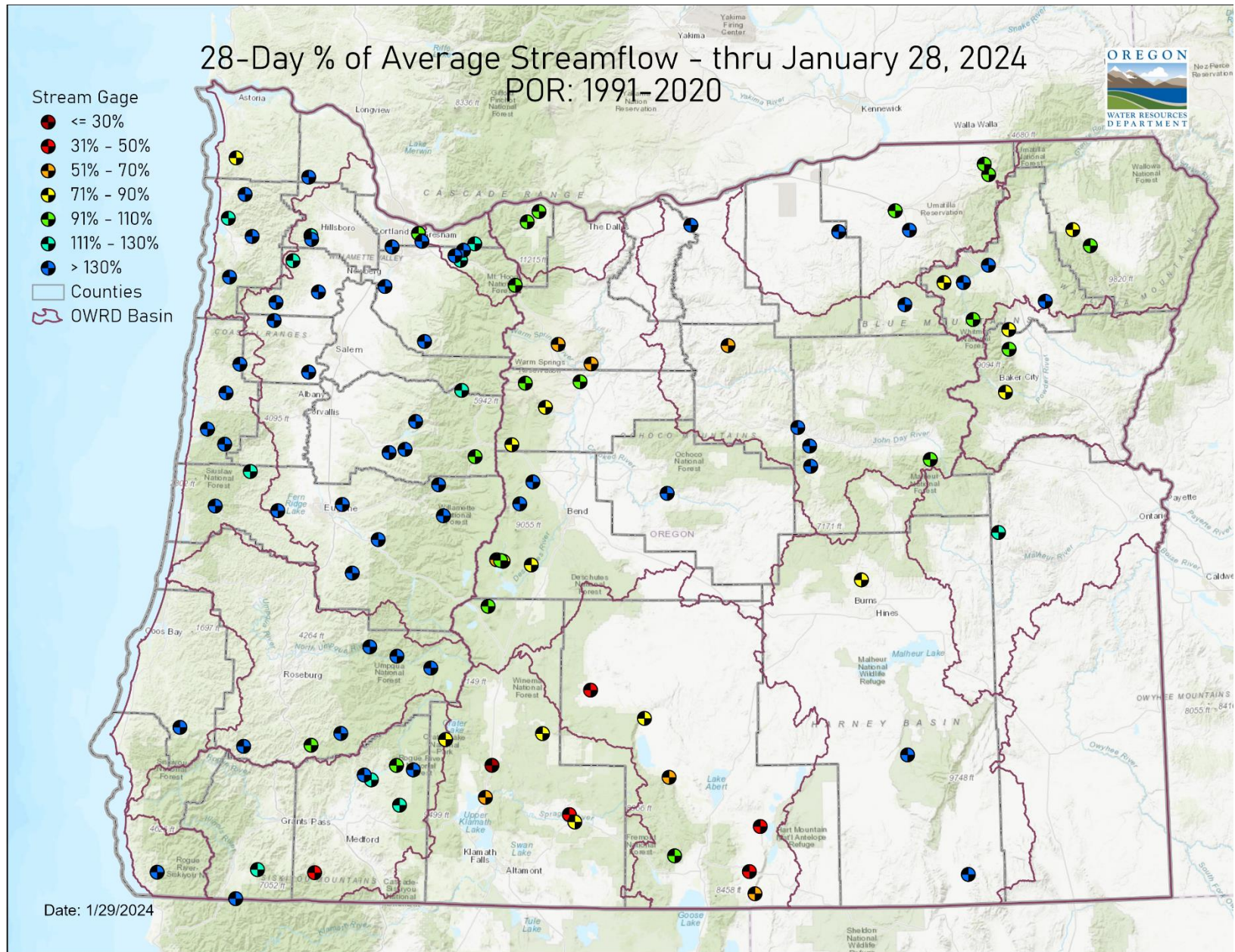
Valid: February 5 - 11, 2024
 Issued: January 28, 2024

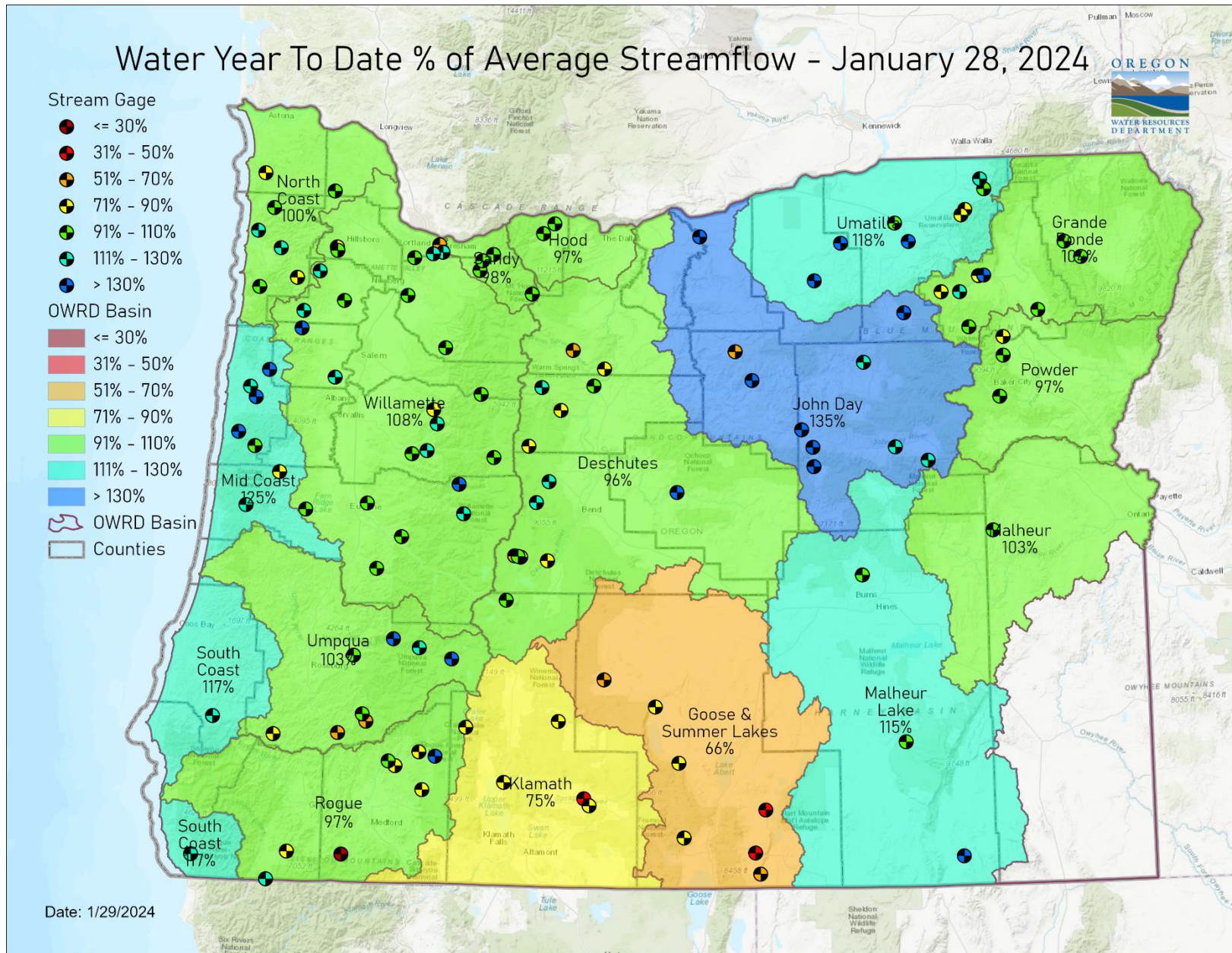


8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

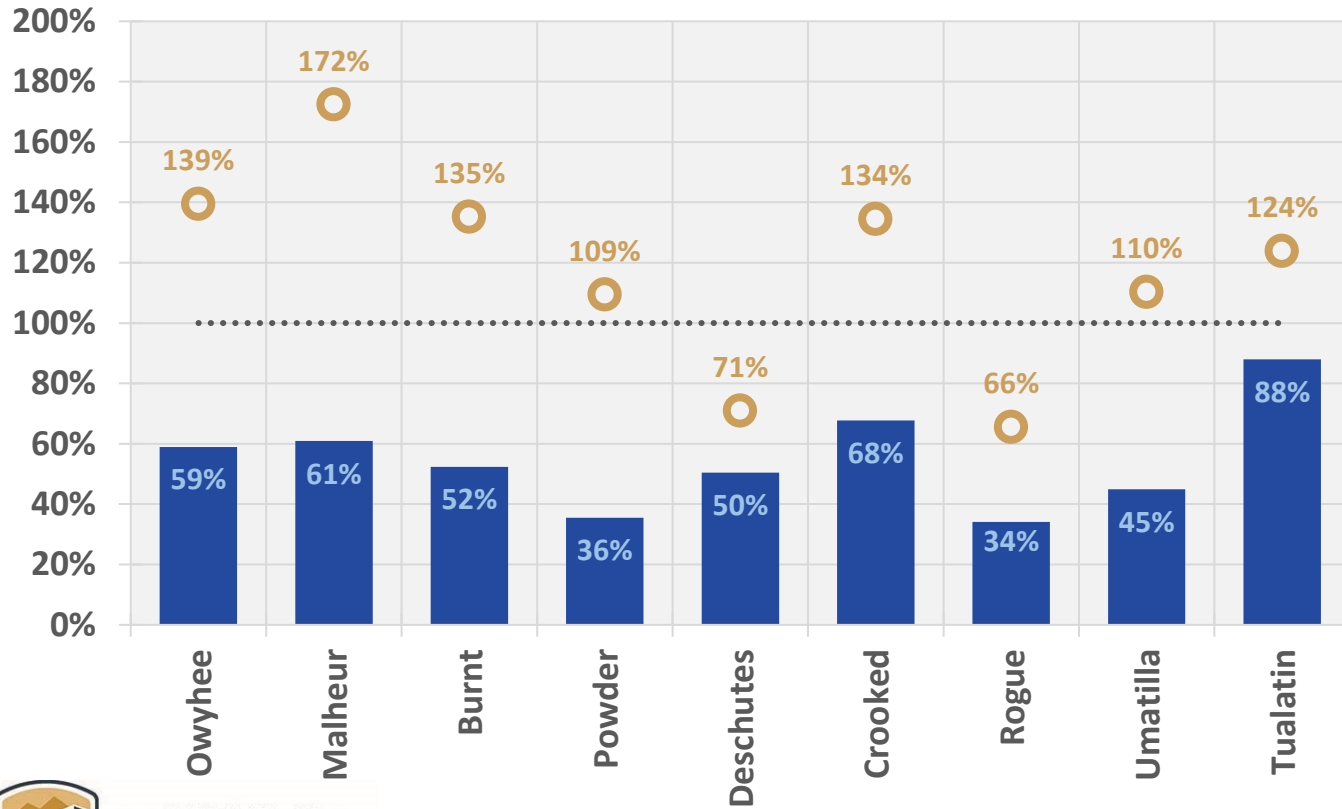
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January 28 Reservoir Storage



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.