

Oregon Water Conditions Report April 3, 2017



Mountain snowpack rebounded significantly in late March. This followed the warm conditions and rain-on-snow events that decreased statewide snowpack through the 3rd week of the month. By March 23, statewide snowpack had declined to 118 percent of normal after beginning March at 131 percent of normal. As of April 3, the statewide snowpack is back up to 125 percent of normal.

The last year that Oregon had snowpack values this high was 2011, when the statewide snow water equivalent was 143 percent of normal. The Willamette basin currently has the highest basin snowpack at 140 percent of normal, while the lowest is found in the Owyhee basin at 97 percent of normal.

The April 1, 2017 NRCS [Water Supply Outlook Report](#) will be released by the end of this week.

The NRCS Snow Survey also publishes weekly condition reports on three areas that were affected by wildfire during 2015 in eastern Oregon. Because the inability of scorched soils to readily absorb water, these areas experience a higher risk for flash flooding. The reports can be accessed here: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/or/snow/?cid=nrcseprd854607>. Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting a higher than normal probability of above average temperatures in western Oregon, normal temperatures in central Oregon and below normal temperatures in eastern Oregon. There is a higher than normal probability of above average precipitation in the southeast part of Oregon, normal for the rest of the state.

Statewide precipitation continues to be well above normal. Precipitation records for the water year (October 1, 2016 to date) continue to be ranked in the top 5 in several statewide locations. Statewide mountain precipitation has continued to be well above average in most locations as well. As of April 3, 2017, statewide mountain precipitation (based upon SNOTEL data) is 132 percent of average, compared to 126 percent of average on March 1, 2017.

The most recent three month outlook from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center indicates an equal chance of above or below normal temperatures and precipitation between now and June.

Recent climate observations indicate that ENSO Neutral conditions have returned. These conditions will likely persist through spring and summer. The Climate Prediction Center forecasts increasing odds of the onset of [El Niño](#) in fall 2017. This can bring generally warm, dry conditions to the Pacific Northwest.

Statewide average streamflows for the month of March were 230 percent of normal.

Regionally, streamflow conditions east the Cascades were the highest at almost 250 percent of

normal. West of the Cascades, flows were over 200 percent of normal for this time of year. Streams are now receding with current levels at 150 percent in western Oregon and 230 percent east of the Cascades.

Due to the remaining snowpack, it is anticipated that the NRCS April 1st, streamflow volume forecasts for the state will indicate average to above average streamflows for the majority of Oregon this summer.

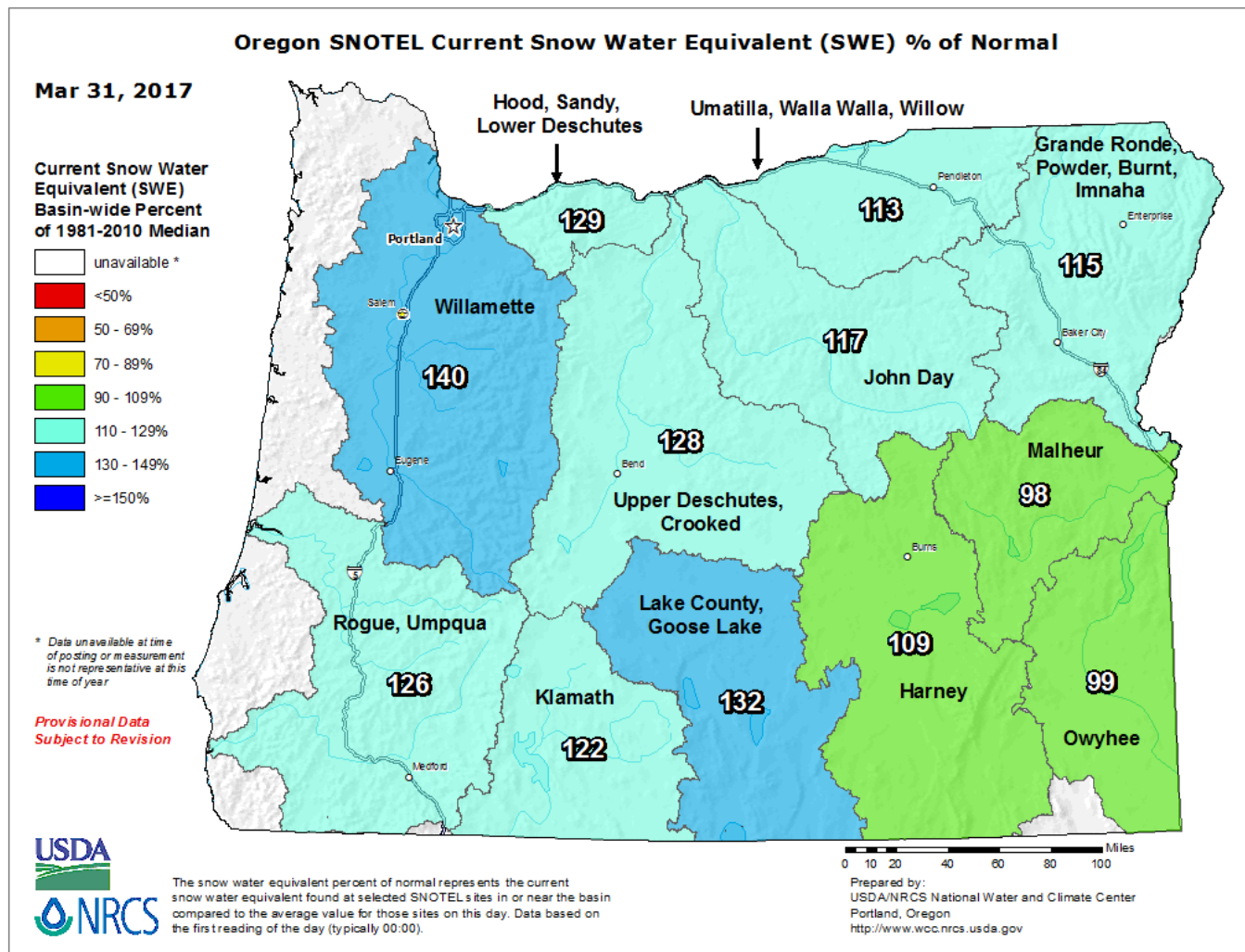
Most of the state’s water supply reservoirs are approaching maximum capacity. [Willamette](#) and [Rogue](#) project reservoirs appear to be on track for a good summer season. Recent weather events continue to fill central and eastern Oregon Reservoirs at a remarkable pace. With the exception of Phillips Reservoir in Baker County, most reservoirs in the central and eastern regions of Oregon are well on the way to full capacity. [Owyhee Reservoir](#) levels have increased to 95 percent of capacity and projected to fill. For the most recent near real-time, site-specific reservoir conditions (teacup diagrams) visit the [USBR](#) or [USACE](#) websites.

No change in drought conditions in the past two weeks. The most recent US Drought Monitor report indicates that the entire state (100 percent) is no longer listed in any drought category. The last time this condition was observed was in October, 2011. Refer to the map on page 8 for details.

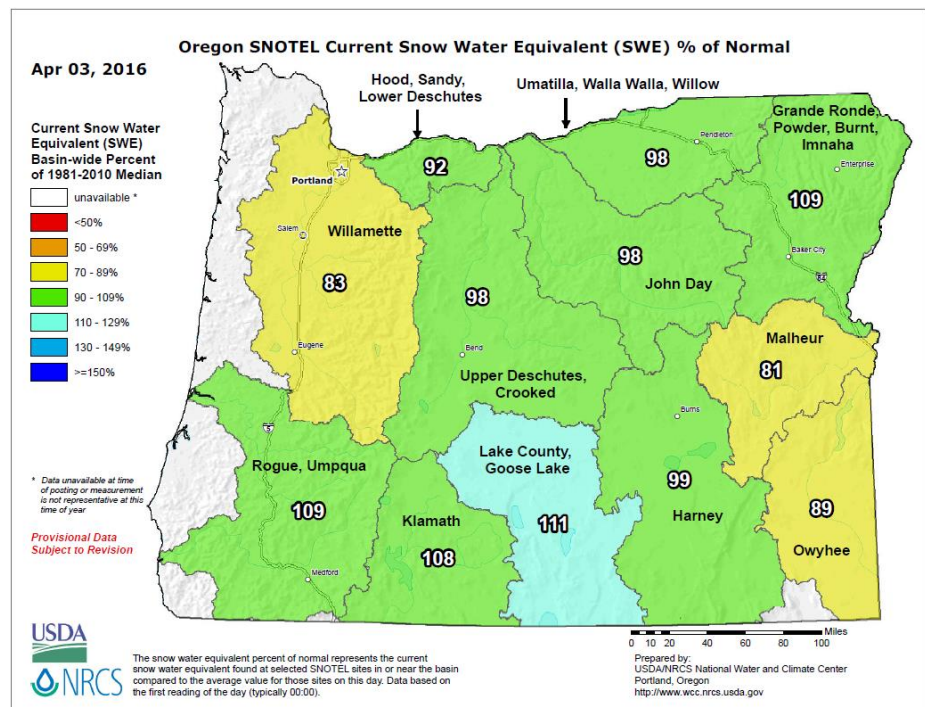
As previously announced, the Oregon Department of Forestry issued the following statement concerning the 2017 fire season outlook. “Current fuels in the state are either wet or white. While there has been recent snowmelt with the warm rain, it doesn’t appear the existing snowpack will leave the high country early this spring. Spring temperatures are likely to be near average or below average and moisture is likely to be above average. Drought has left the state and combined with the other listed climate conditions, fire season is likely to be below average again.”

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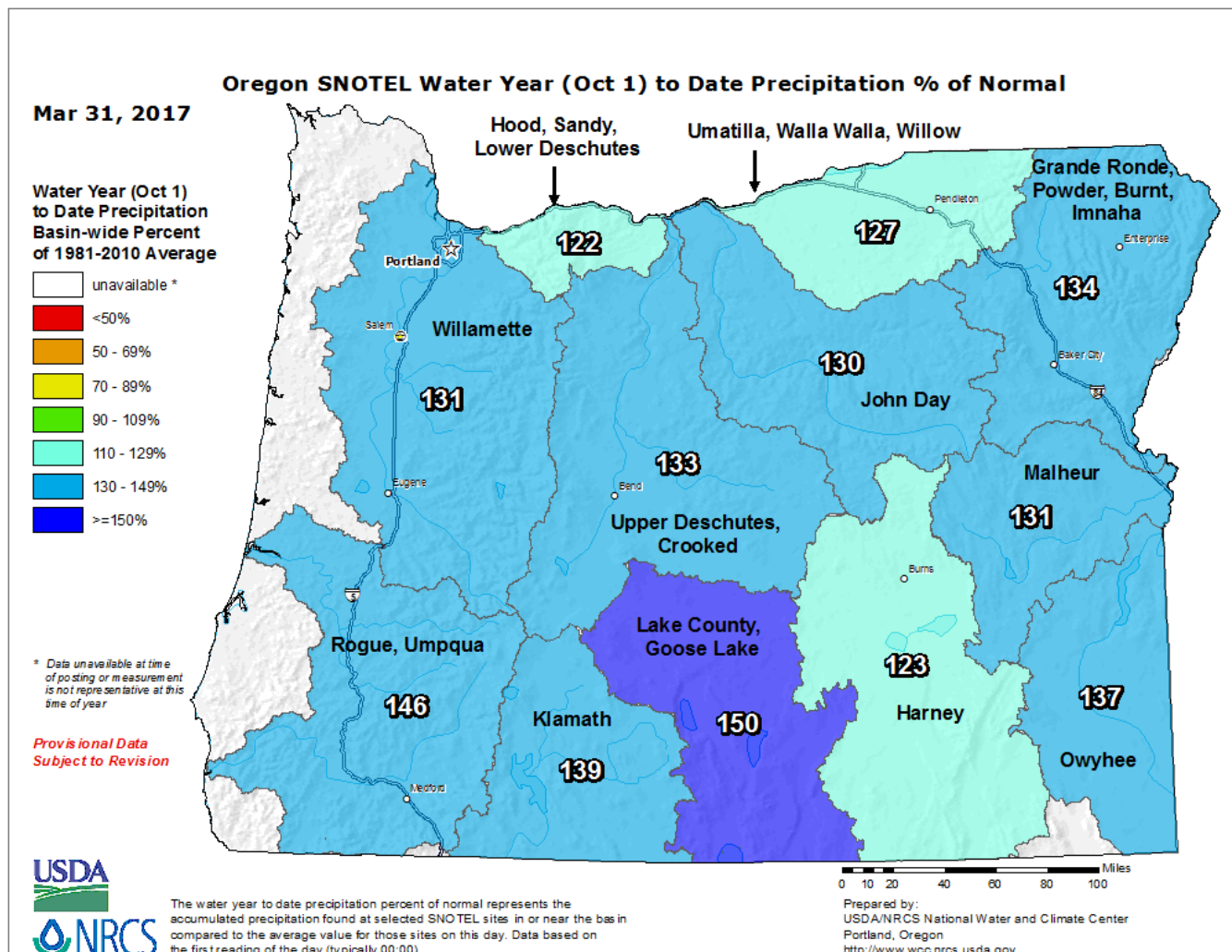
Snowpack - Percent of Normal



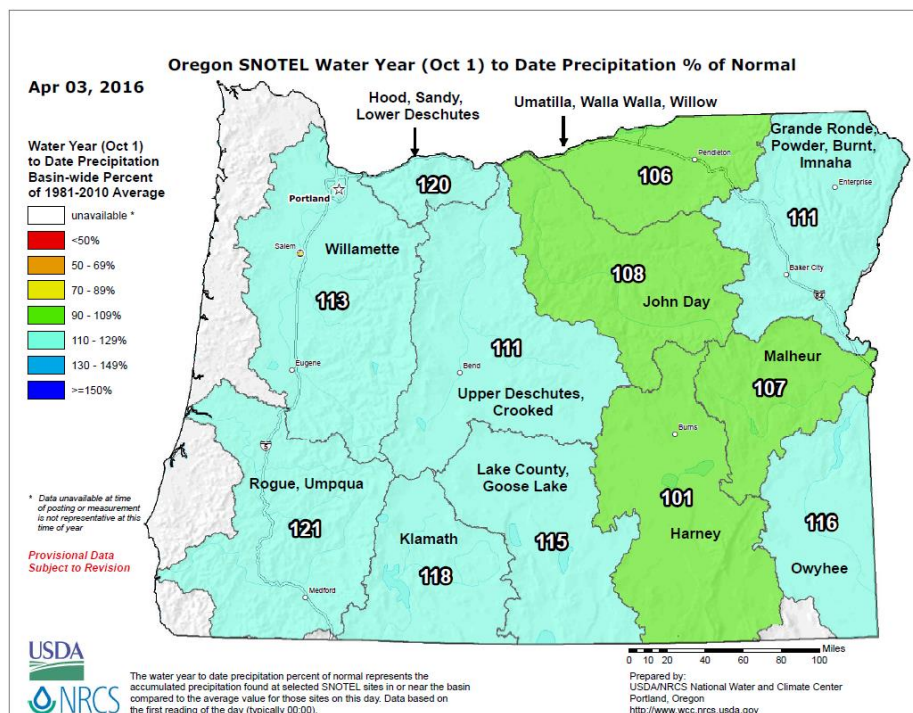
Compared to this time
last year -



Precipitation (mountain) - Percent of Normal



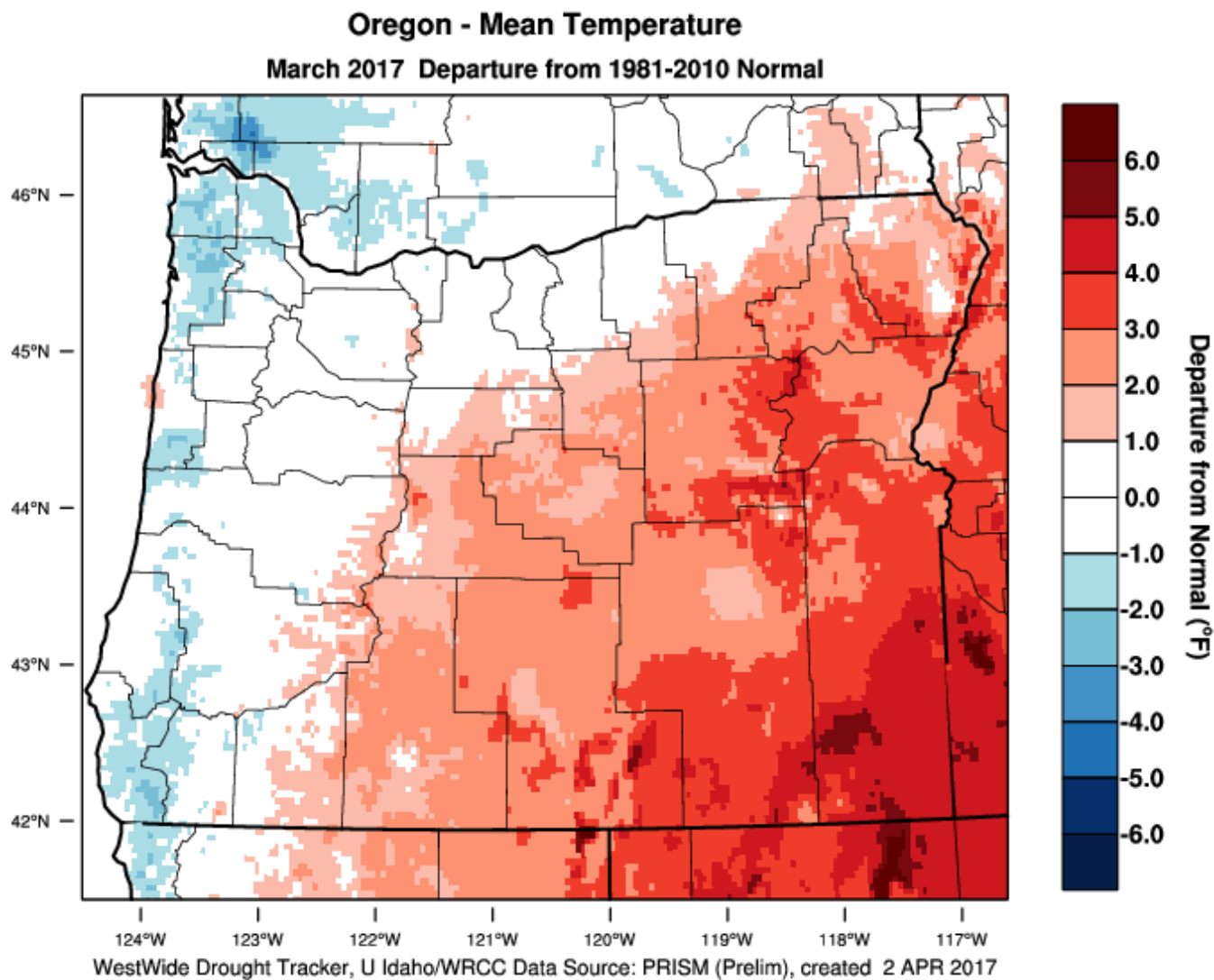
Compared to this time last year -



Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

Website: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=mdn1>

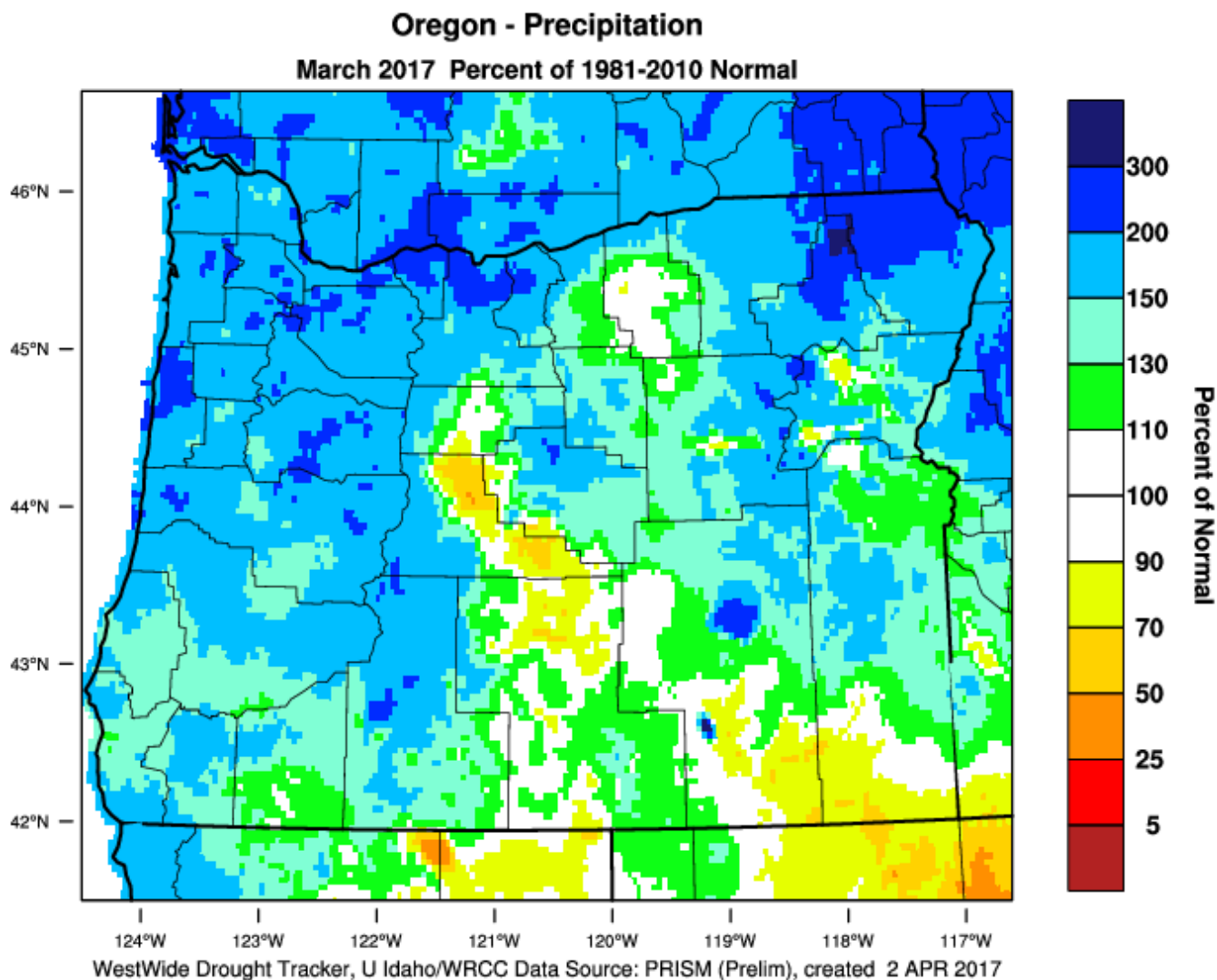
PRISM > Temperature Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

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

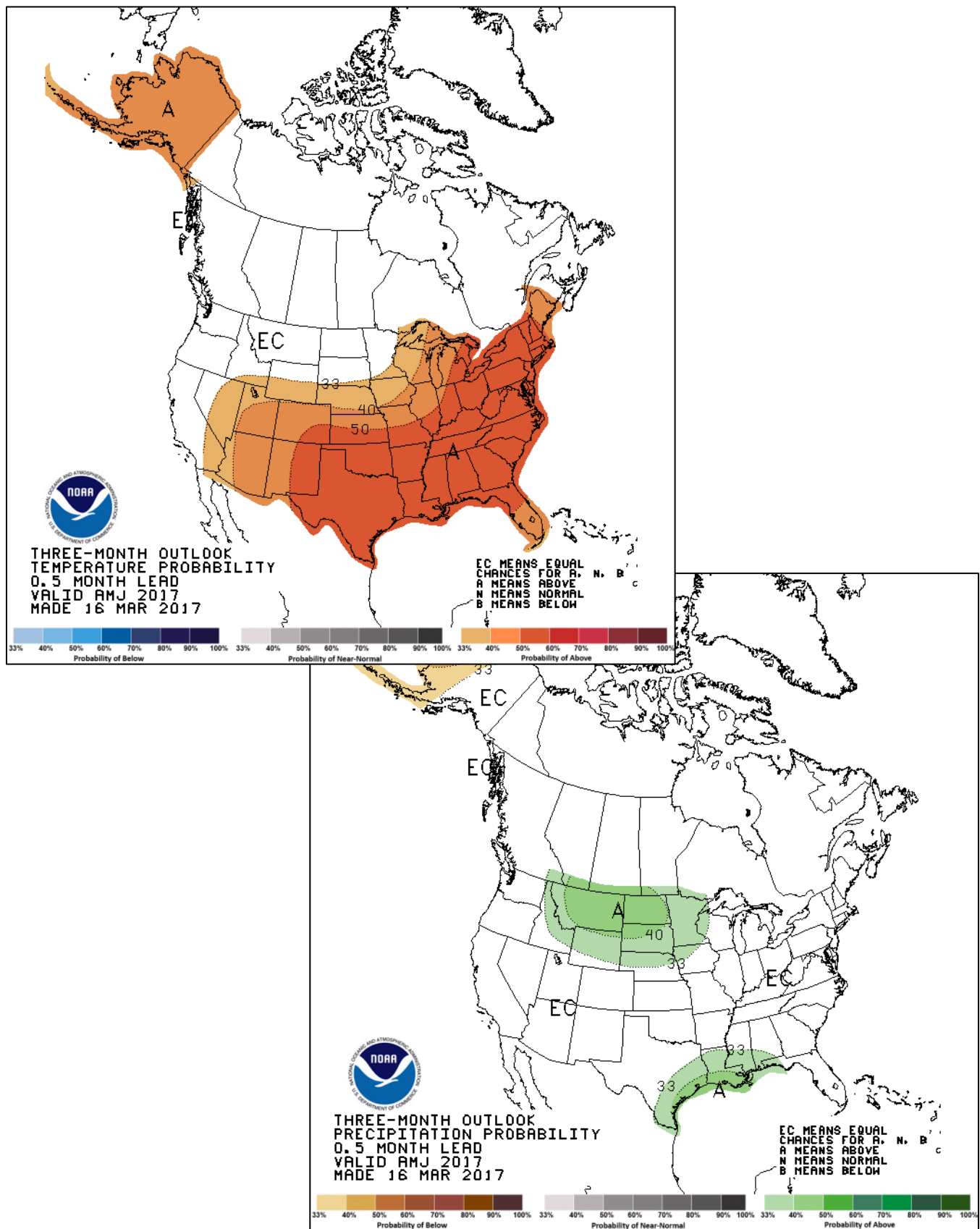
PRISM > Precipitation Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

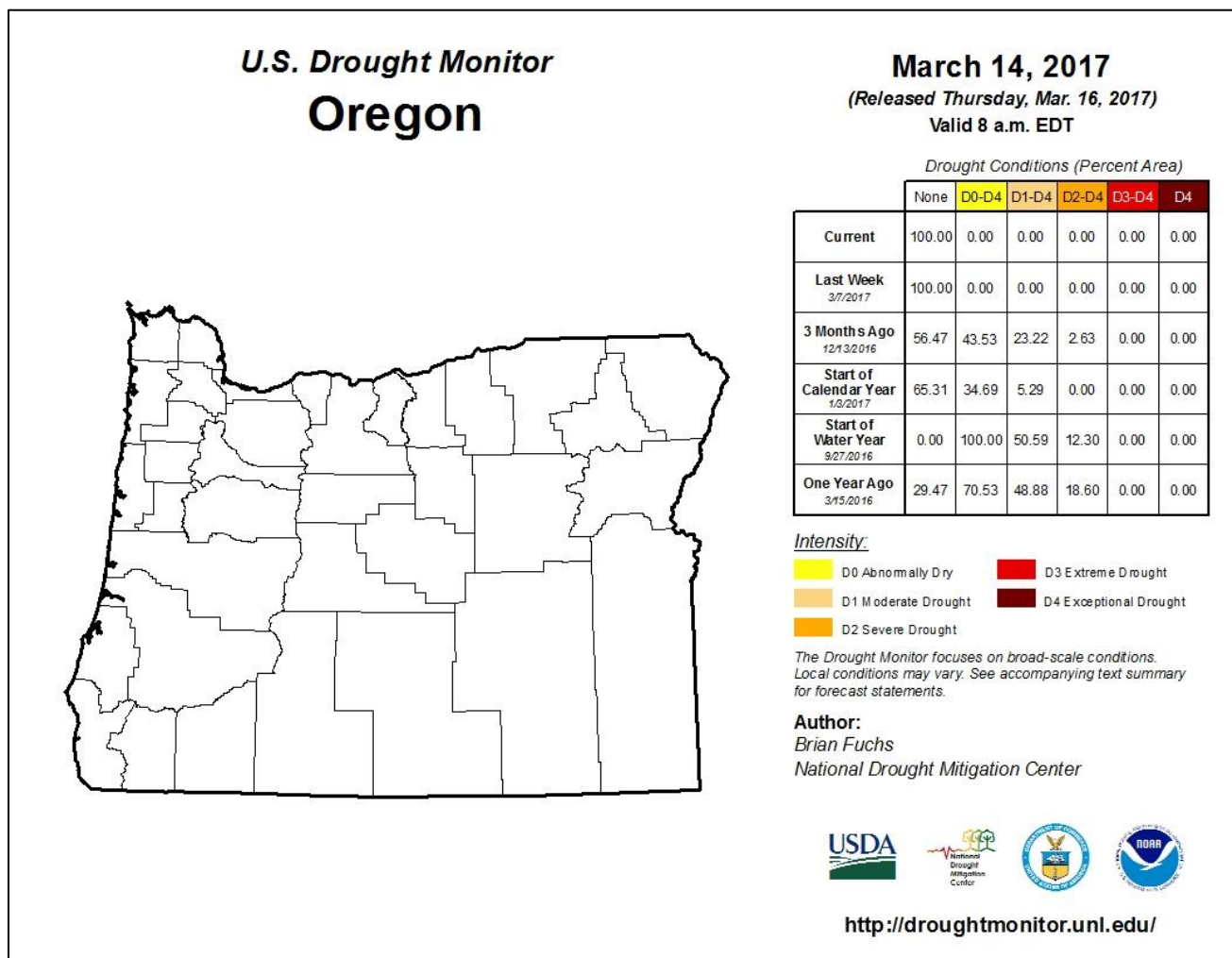
April-May-June

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

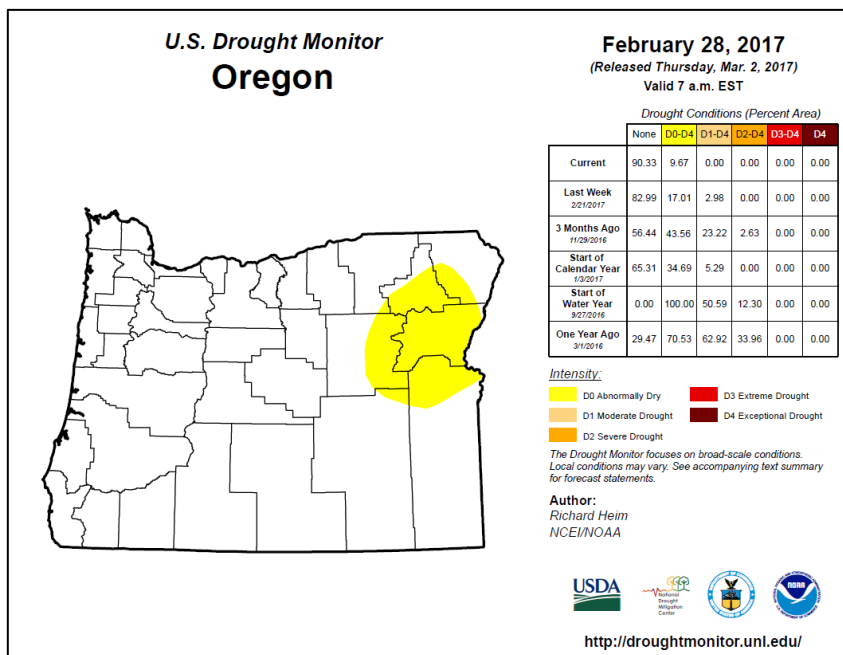


U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon

Website: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR>



Note: Change from February 28, 2017 report



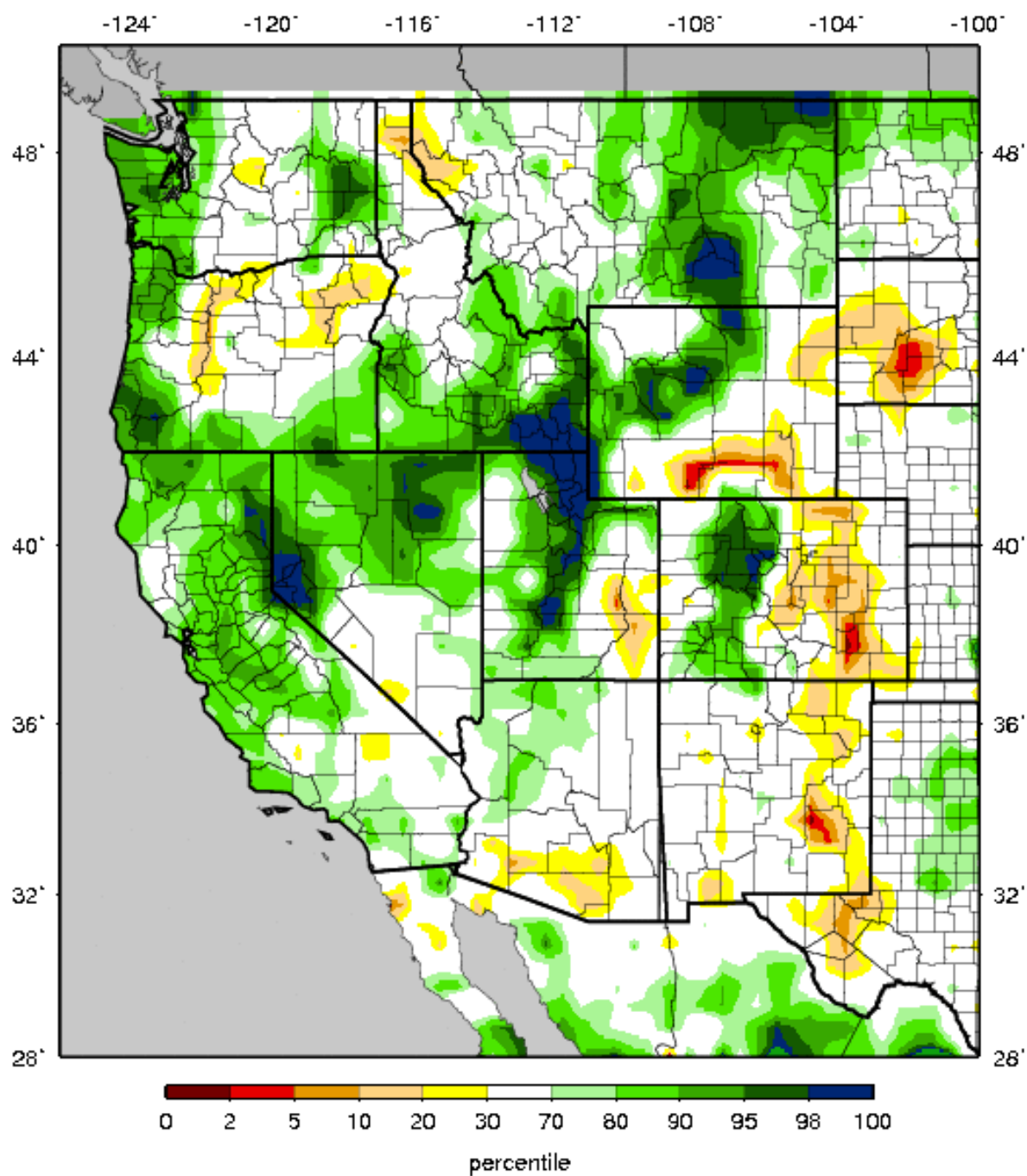
Soil Moisture - Percentile

Website:

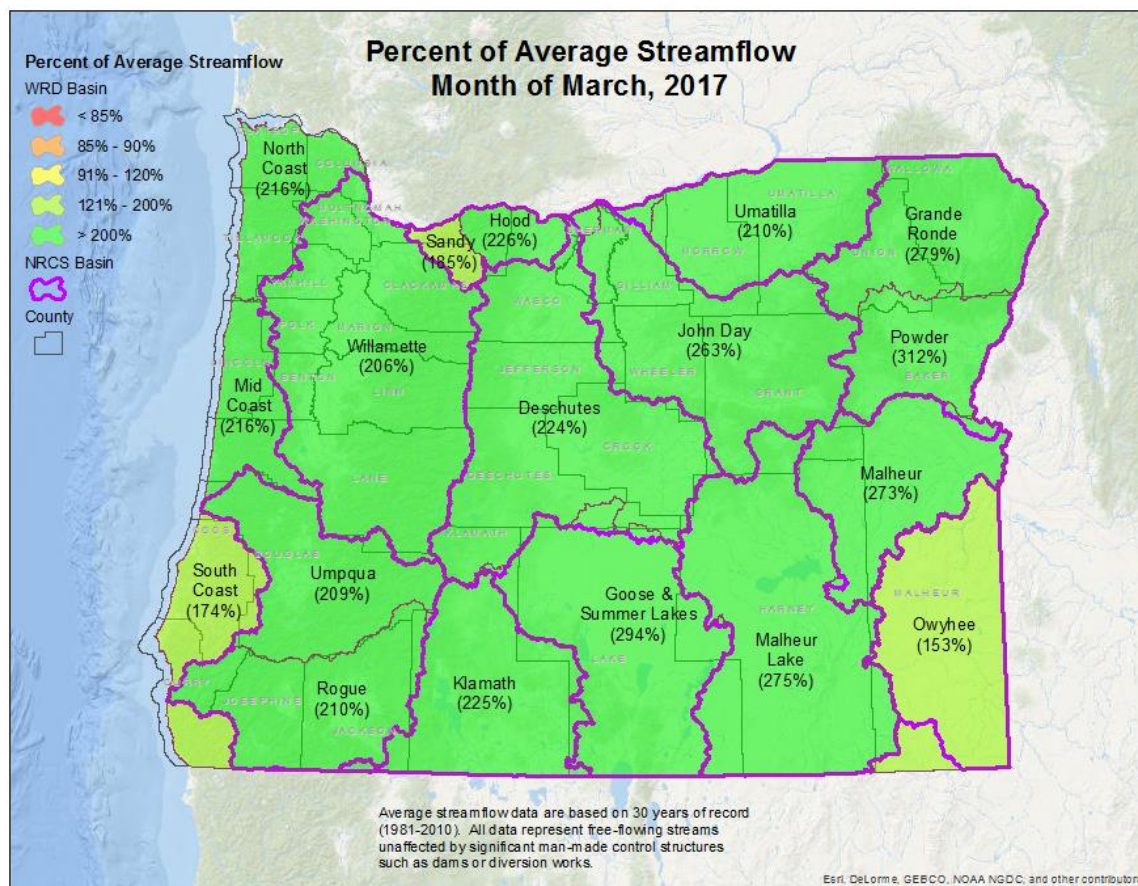
http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/conus.mexico/west.vic.sm_qnt.gif

VIC Soil Moisture Percentiles (wrt/ 1916-2004)

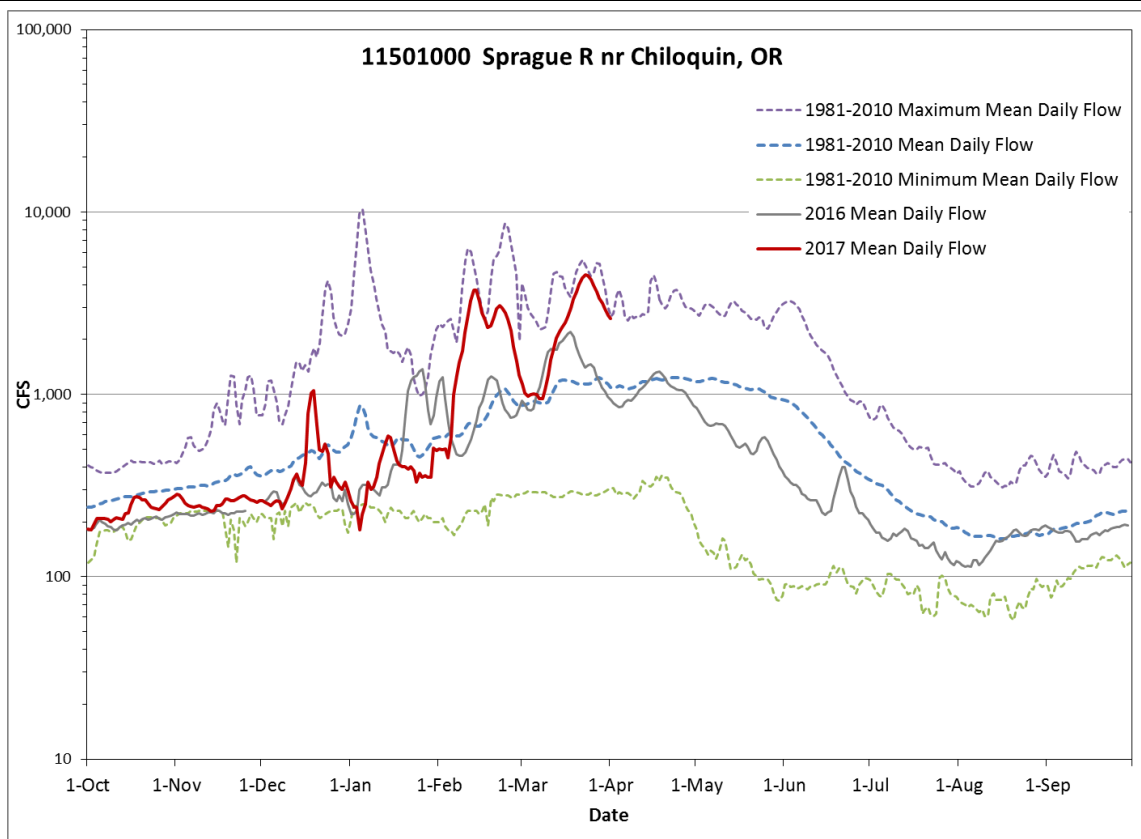
Western United States - 20170402



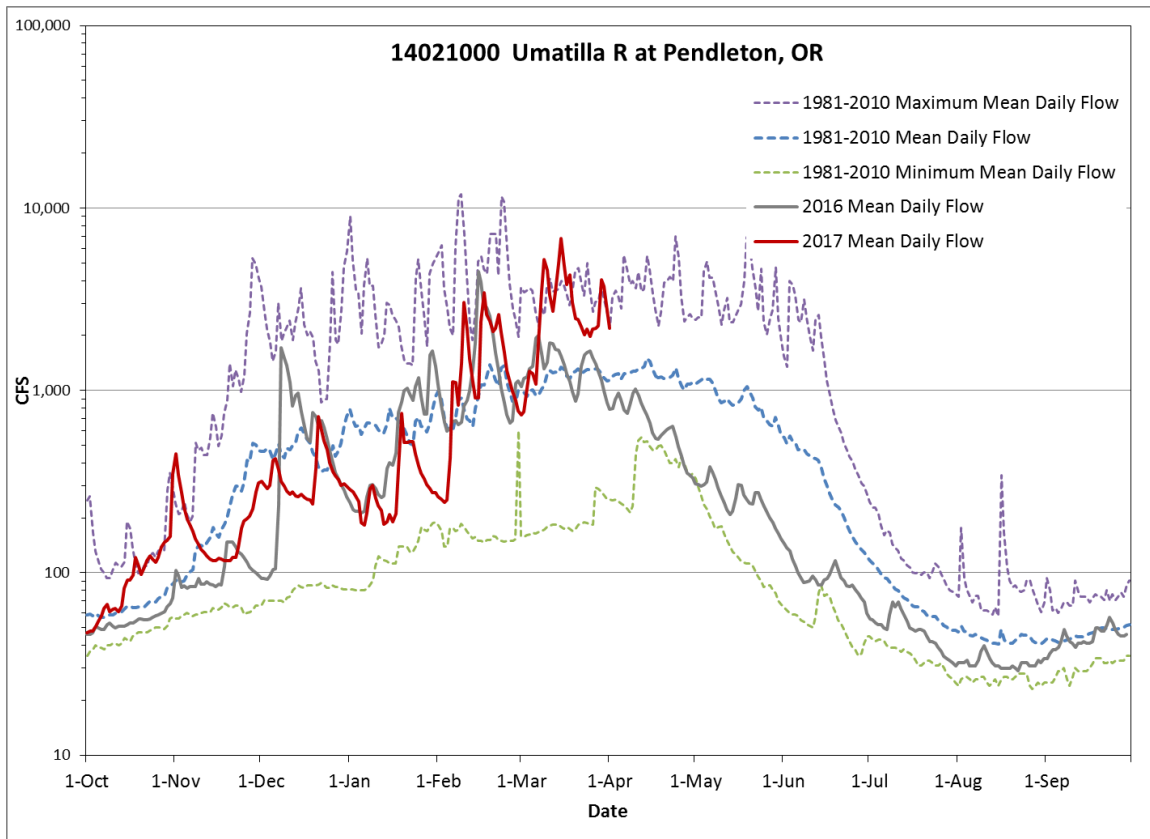
March Regional Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Example – South Central Oregon (Klamath)



Streamflow Example – North Central Oregon (Umatilla)



Streamflow Example – Eastern Oregon (Powder)

