

Oregon Water Conditions Report February 14, 2018



Statewide snow water equivalent values measured at NRCS SNOTEL sites continue to decline. The statewide average is well below normal at 39 percent. By comparison on this same date in 2015, the snow water equivalent was at 25 percent. The Grand Ronde, Powder, Burnt, and Imnaha basins retain the highest amount of snowpack at 59 percent of normal. The Klamath and Owyhee basins are measuring the least amount of snowpack at 29 and 27 percent of normal. Recent short-term forecasts for snow in the Cascades and lower elevations in western Oregon should help to some degree but it is not likely to significantly improve overall conditions.

Oregon statewide water year precipitation at NRCS SNOTEL sites is 86 percent of normal. On the same date in 2015, precipitation was 104 percent of normal. The highest amounts of water year precipitation have been in the Umatilla and Hood basins with 103 and 102 percent of normal, while the lowest value is in the Harney basin at 67 percent of normal for the water year.

For more region specific details, the most recent [NRCS Snow Survey Basin Outlook Report](#) is now available and will continue to be published monthly until June, 2018. The Snow Survey also publishes weekly condition reports on three areas affected by wildfire in eastern Oregon. Because the burned soils can't absorb as much water, these areas experience a higher risk for flash flooding. The reports can be accessed at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/or/snow/?cid=nrcseprd854607>

Temperatures over the [past two weeks](#) have been warmer than normal. Central and eastern Oregon has seen a continued trend of much warmer than normal temperatures, especially evident in Baker and Malheur County. Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an increased probability of below-normal temperatures. West of the Cascade Range, there is an increased probability of above-normal precipitation while east of the Cascades there are equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center's most recent [three month outlook](#) favors increased chances of below-normal temperatures in the northwestern half of Oregon with equal chances of above or below-normal temperatures for the rest of the state. The precipitation outlook for the same period indicates enhanced probabilities of above-normal precipitation for most of the state. This is an encouraging forecast but it will take an inordinate amount of snowfall to return our snowpack to normal. The next outlook will be issued on February 15, 2018.

La Niña conditions are expected to continue. A transition from La Nina to ENSO-Neutral is most likely this spring (~55 percent chance). The [diagnostic discussion](#) issued on February 8, 2018 provides more detail. For the latest discussion on the winter outlook, refer to the latest [ENSO blog](#) on the climate.gov website. The situation continues to be monitored; any changes will be made to the status by the Climate Prediction Center. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for March 8, 2018.

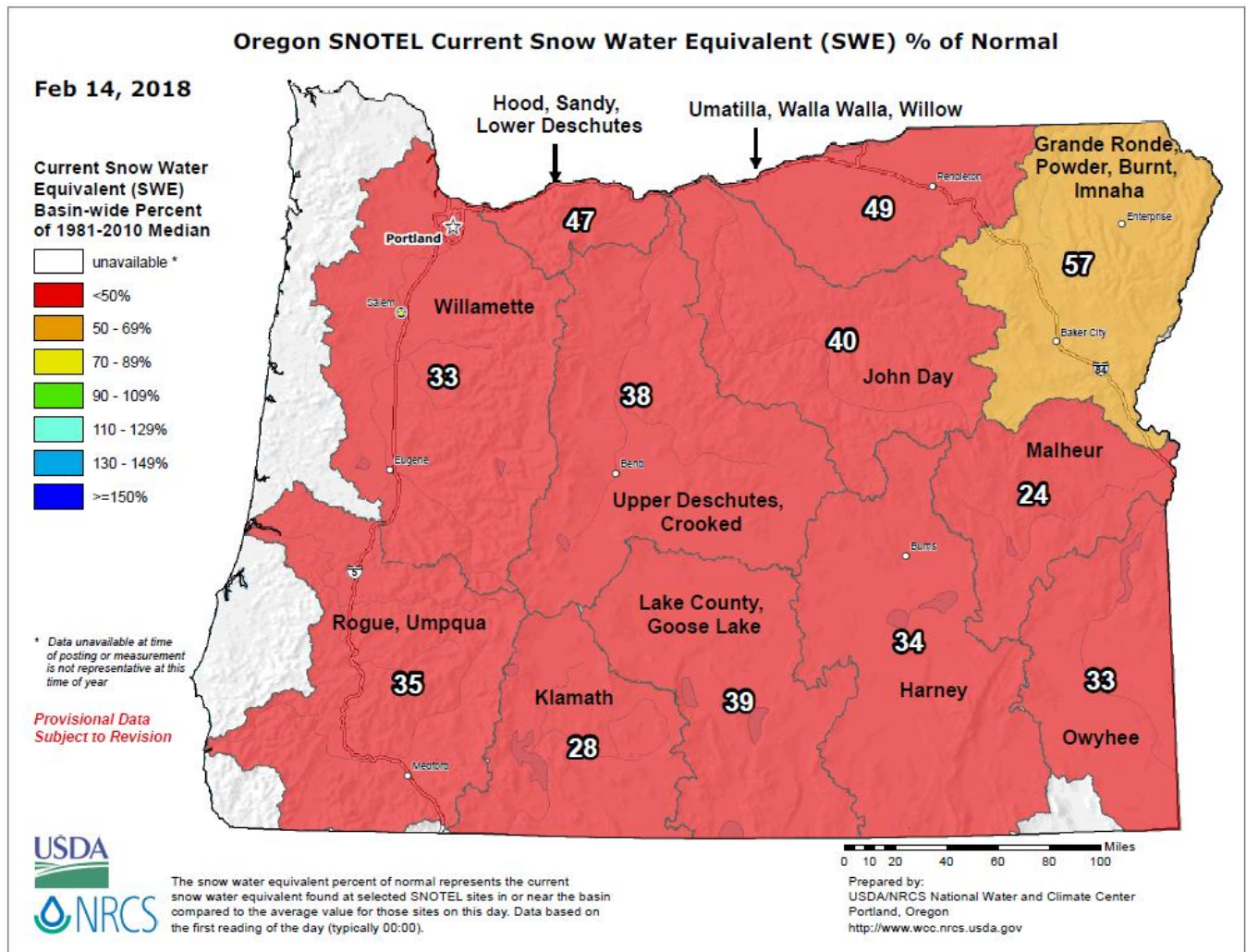
Statewide streamflows for January ended up at 90 percent of normal. This is up considerably from 65 percent seen for the month of December. Regionally for January, streamflow conditions were somewhat evenly distributed at 90 percent east and west of the Cascades. Recent weather events have sustained flows in some areas but conditions continue to indicate that flows for the month of February are trending downward especially west of the Cascades. Streamflow forecasts for the approaching spring and summer season continue to predict that streamflows will be much lower than normal.

Most of the state’s water supply reservoirs are at normal to above-normal levels for this time of year. [Willamette](#) and [Rogue](#) project reservoirs remain on track this winter. [Central Oregon](#) reservoirs are between 48 and 91 percent of capacity. [Eastern Oregon](#) reservoirs continue show improvement at 45 to 70 percent of capacity. Most if not all water supply reservoir operators are now in active storage mode. For the most recent near real-time, site-specific reservoir conditions (teacup diagrams) visit the [USBR](#) or [USACE](#) websites.

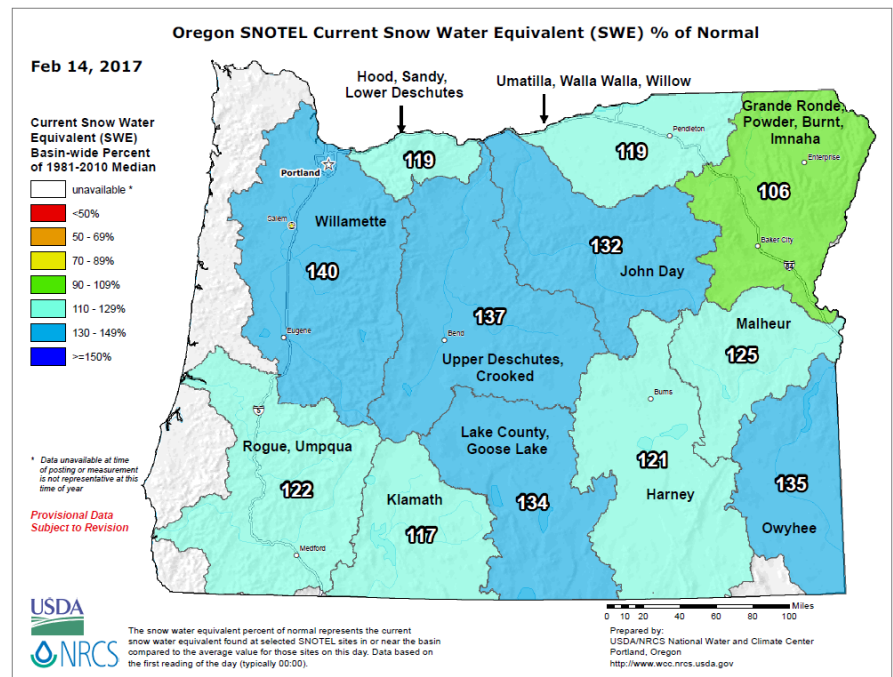
The [US Drought Monitor](#) has been updated recently to reflect an expansion of drought conditions. The February 6, 2018 report indicates that 73 percent of Oregon is now listed as “Abnormally Dry” (D0). In addition, 20 percent of the state is now listed as in “Moderate Drought” (D1). Conditions are being closely monitored and areas of drought are expected to expand.

Data & Products:	Page:
Snow Water Equivalent – Percent of Normal	3
Mountain Snowpack – Basin Plots	4
Precipitation (Mountain) - Percent of Normal	5
Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal	6
Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal	7
Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook	8
Soil Moisture - Percentile	9
U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon	10
Statewide Streamflow Conditions - January	11
Streamflow Conditions – Klamath	11
Streamflow Conditions – Grande Ronde	12
Statewide Reservoir Conditions - January	12

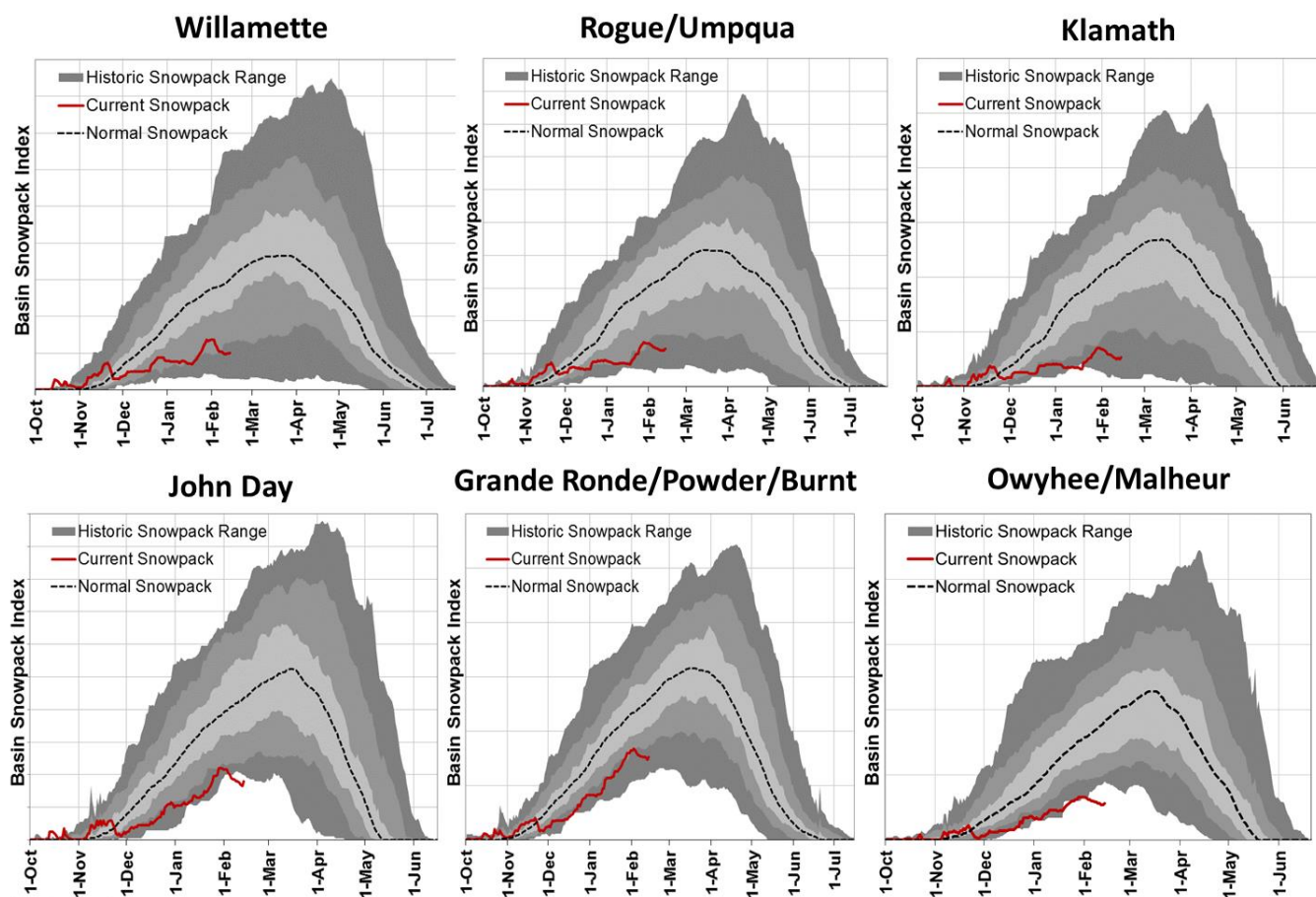
Snow Water Equivalent – Percent of Normal



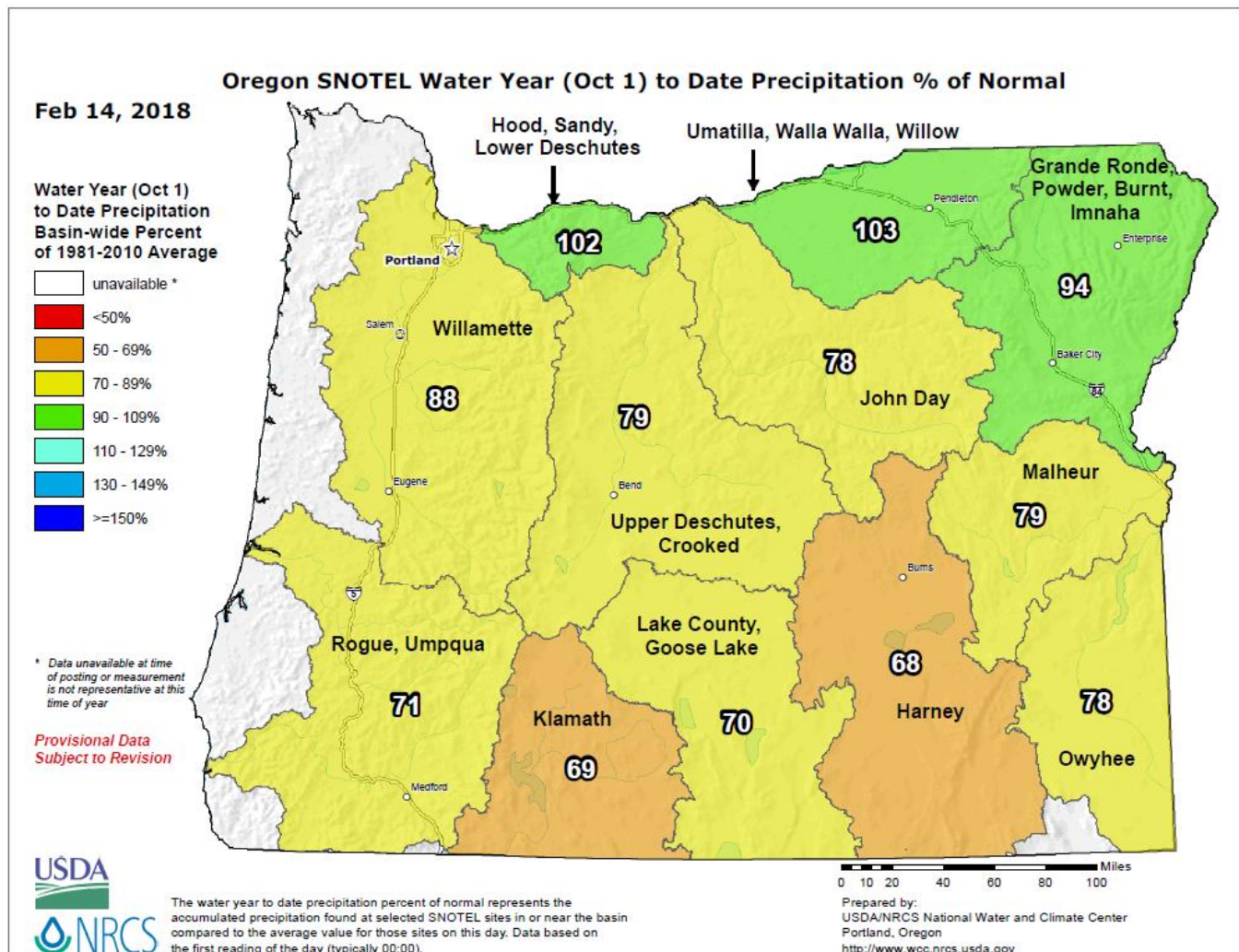
Compared to this time last year -



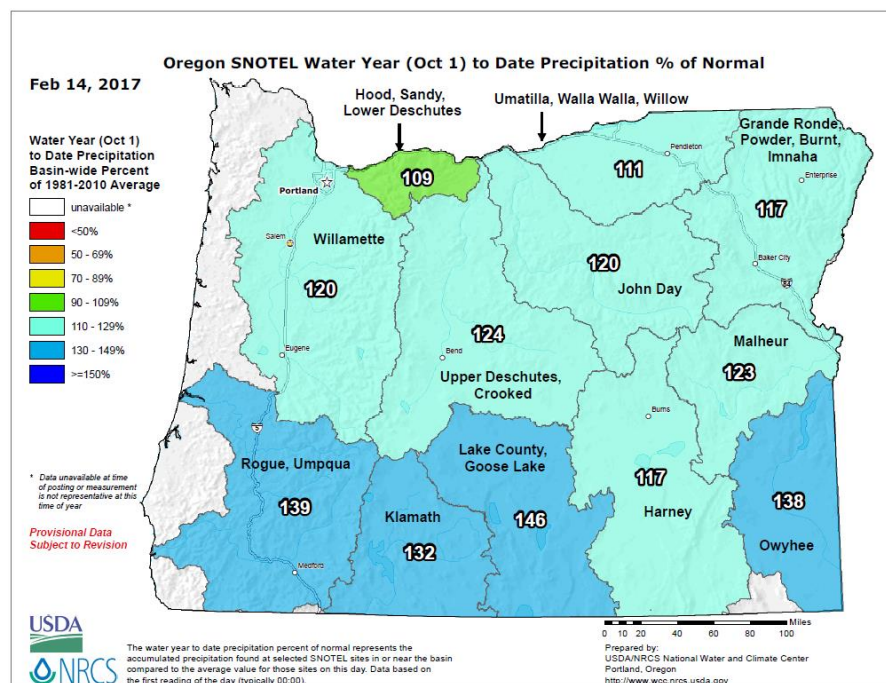
Mountain Snowpack – Basin Plots



Precipitation (Mountain) - Percent of Normal



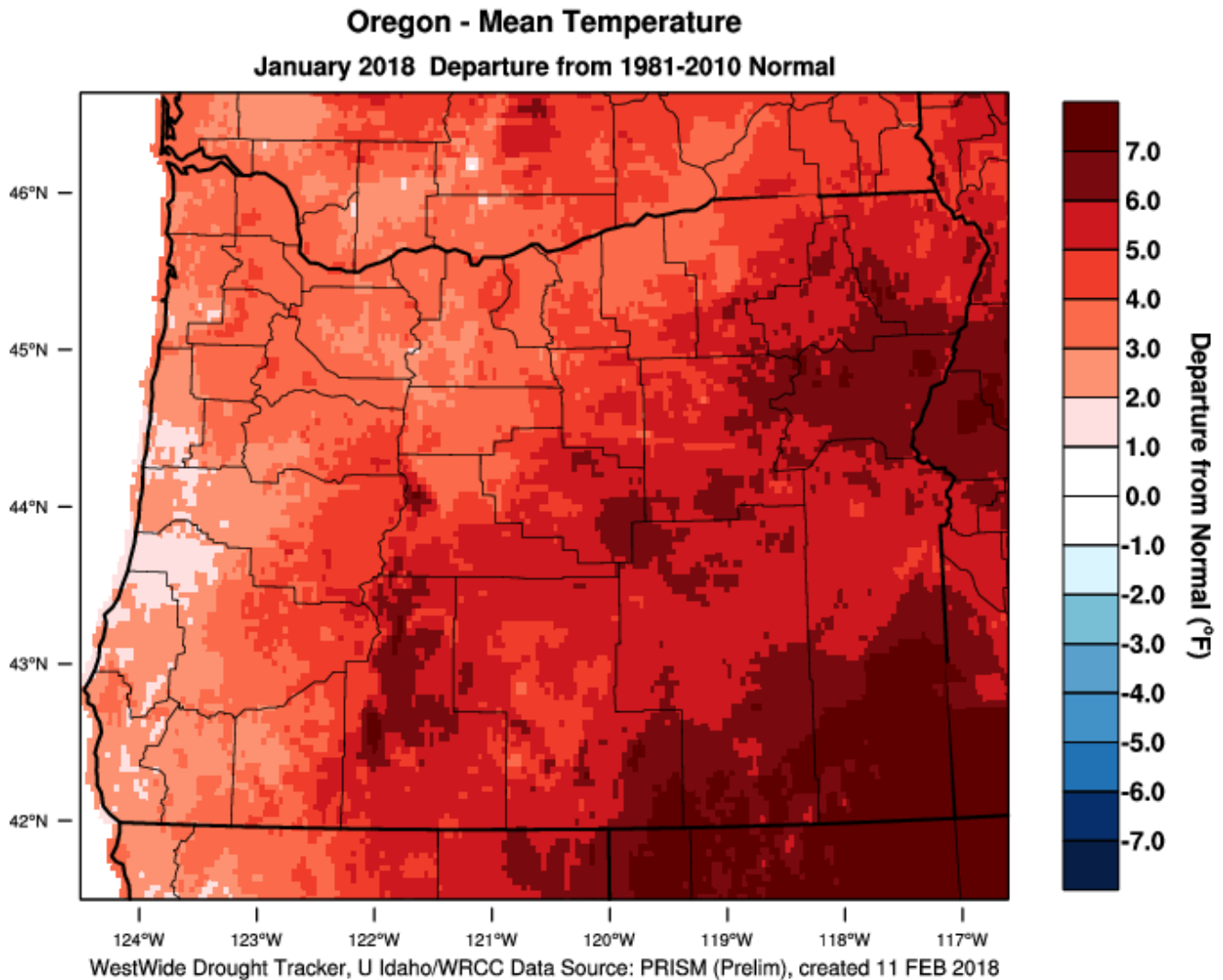
Compared to this time
last year -



Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

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

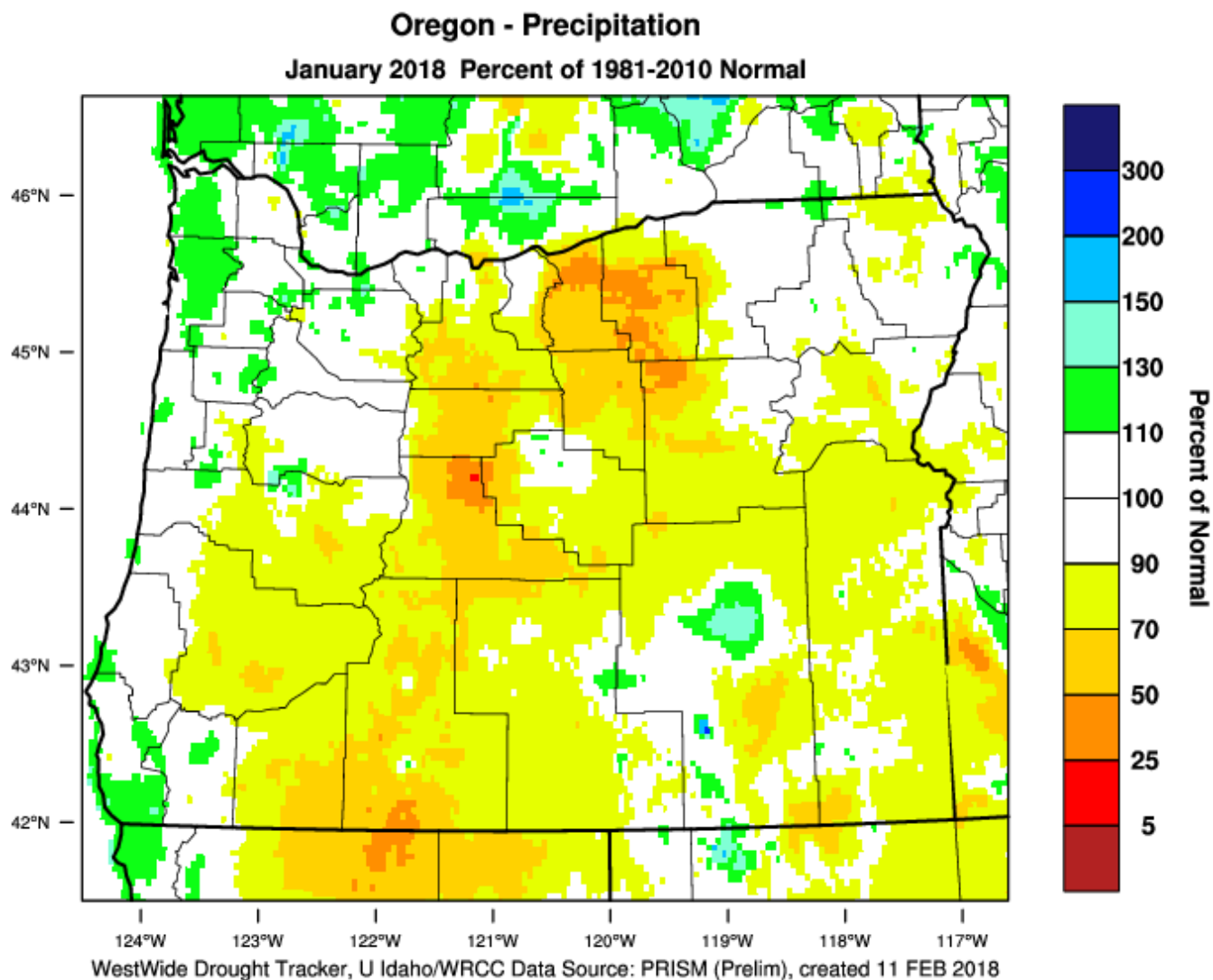
PRISM > Temperature Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

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

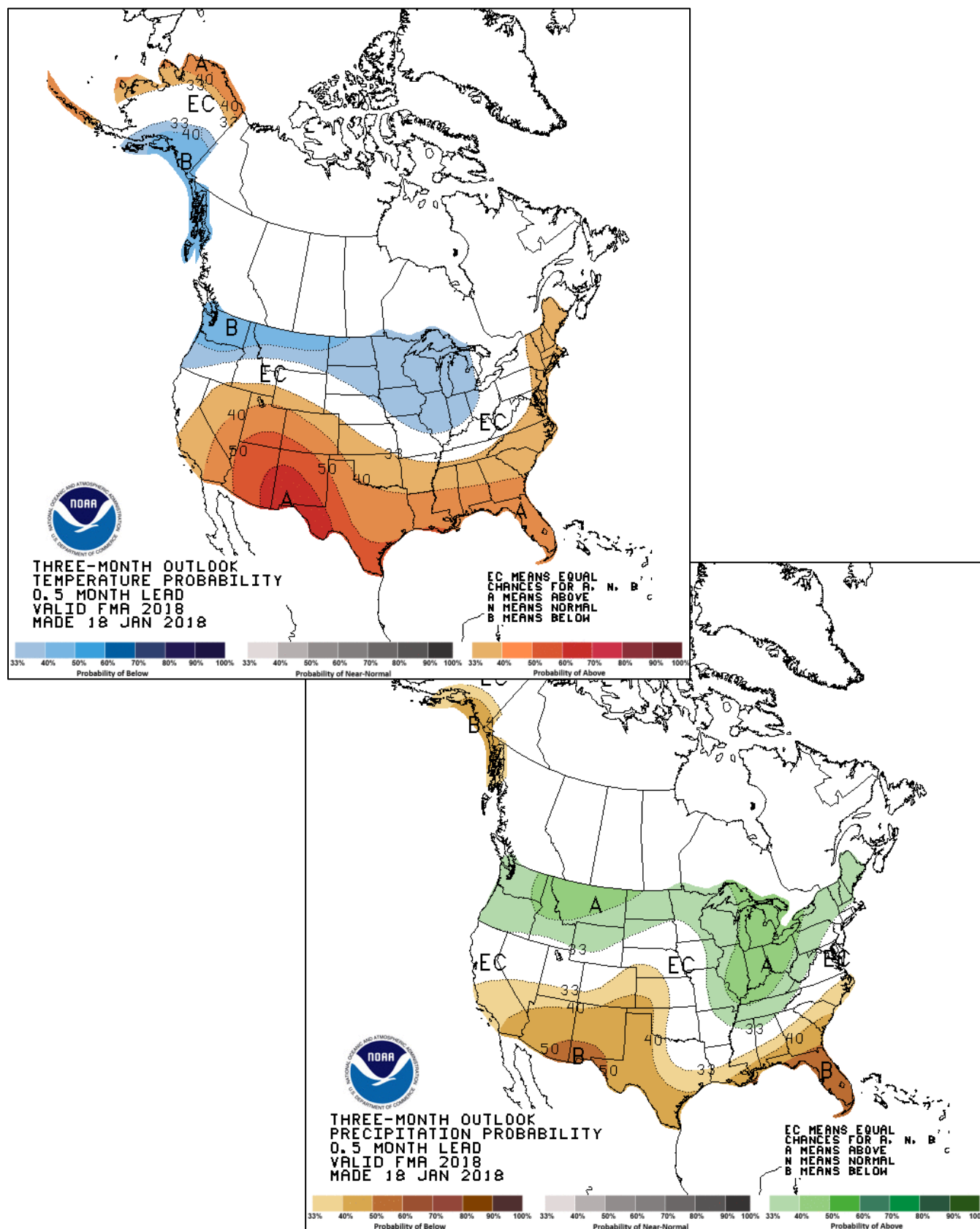
PRISM > Precipitation Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

February through April Outlook - Follow link for the latest information.

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

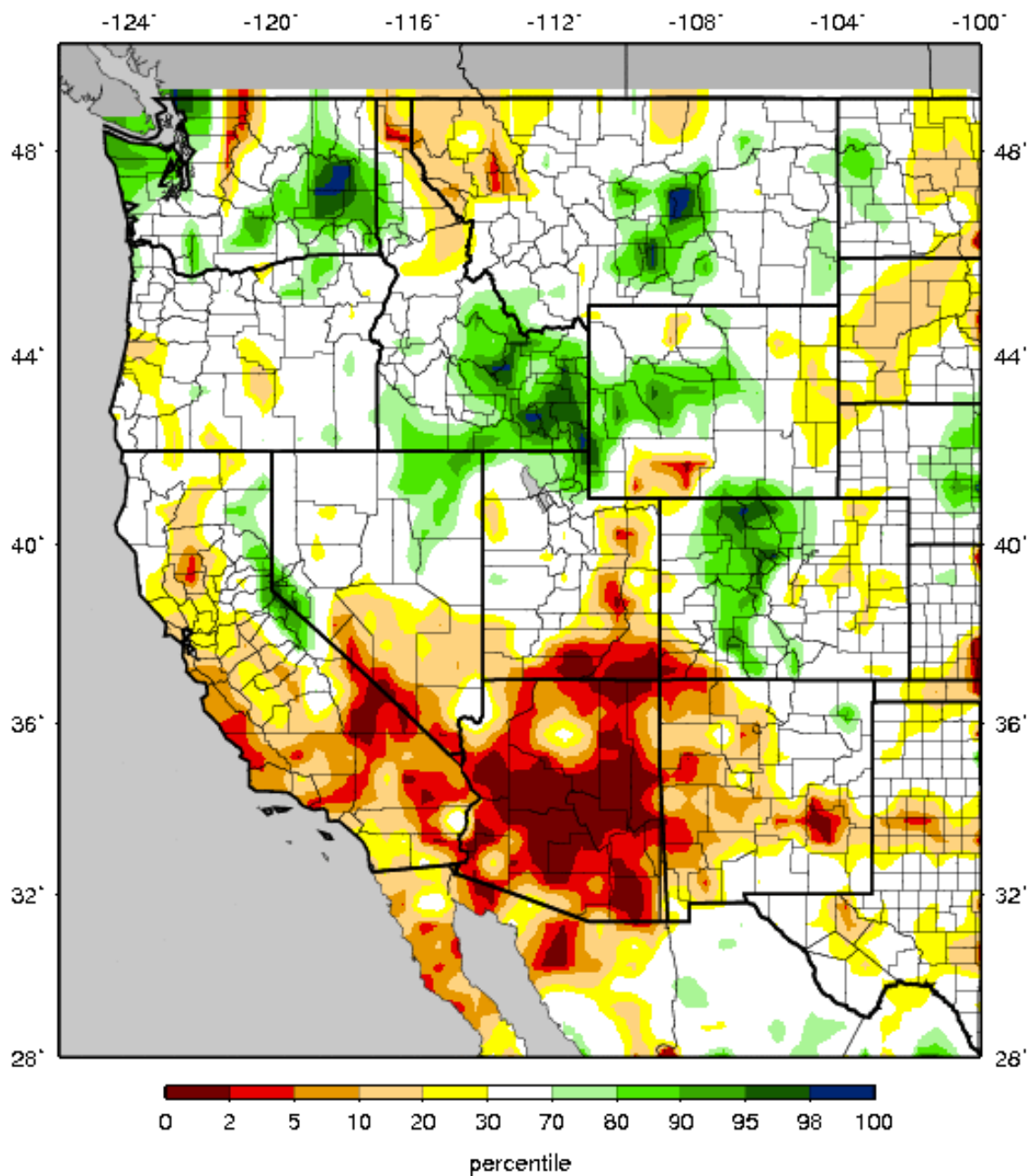


Soil Moisture - Percentile

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 - 20180213

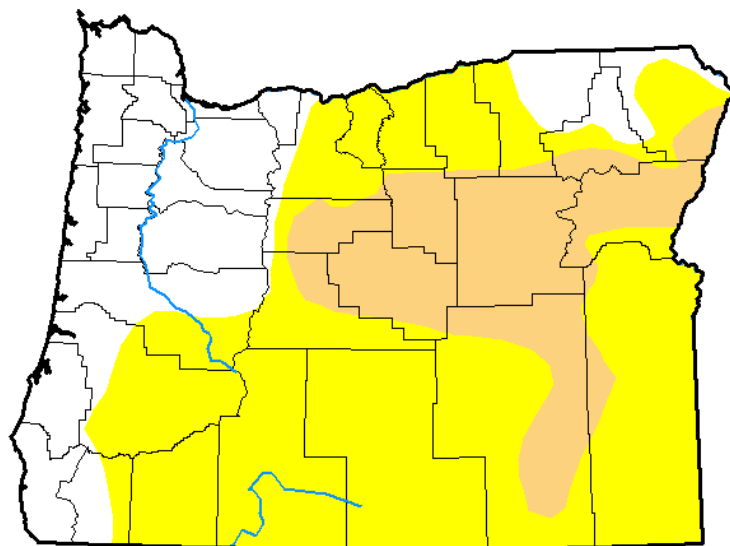


U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

February 6, 2018
(Released Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	26.55	73.45	20.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-30-2018	12.18	87.82	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-07-2017	67.05	32.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2018	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2017	39.23	60.77	28.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 02-07-2017	82.99	17.01	2.98	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- 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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Eric Luebehusen
U.S. Department of Agriculture

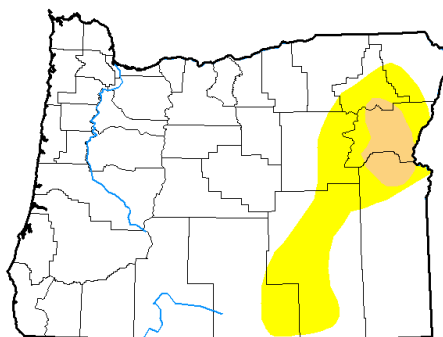


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

February 7, 2017
(Released Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Compared to this time last year:



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	82.99	17.01	2.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-31-2017	82.27	17.73	2.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-08-2016	56.44	43.56	23.22	2.63	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	65.31	34.69	5.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	0.00	100.00	50.59	12.30	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 02-09-2016	16.88	83.12	74.55	33.96	0.00	0.00

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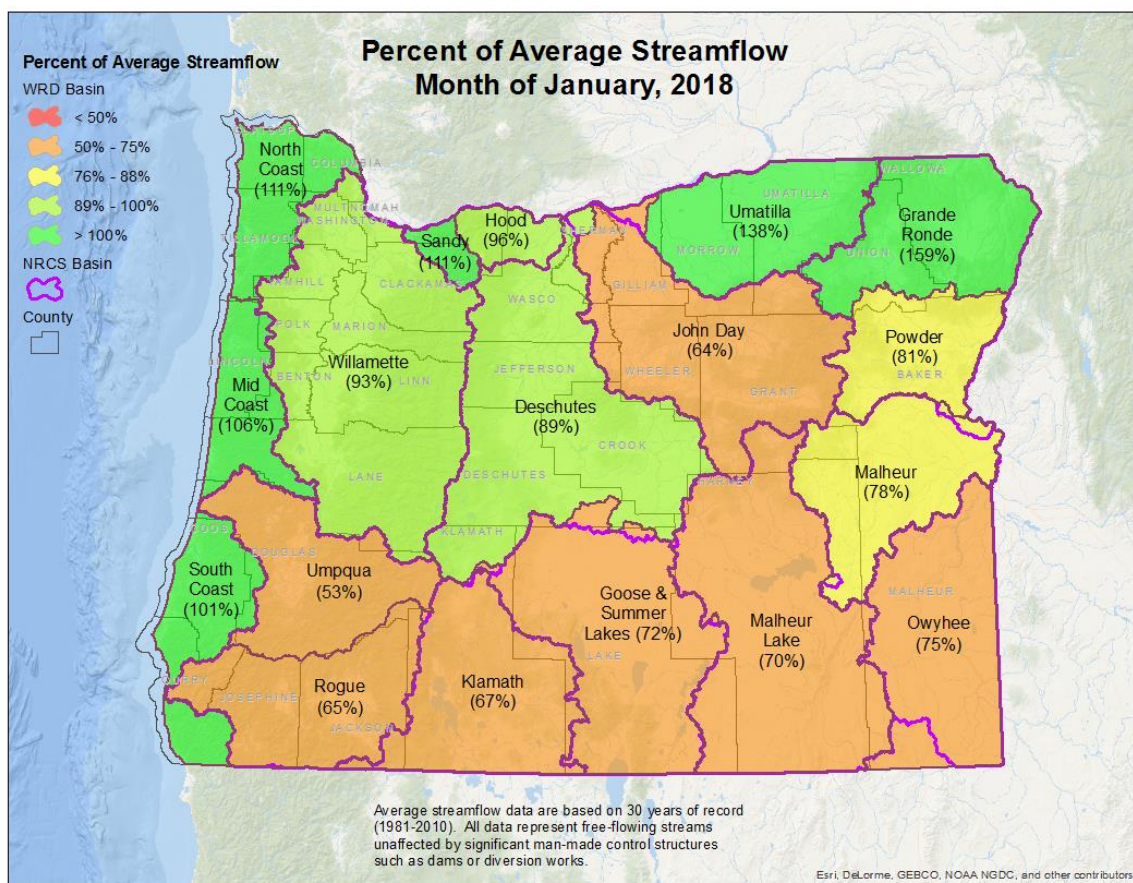
Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center

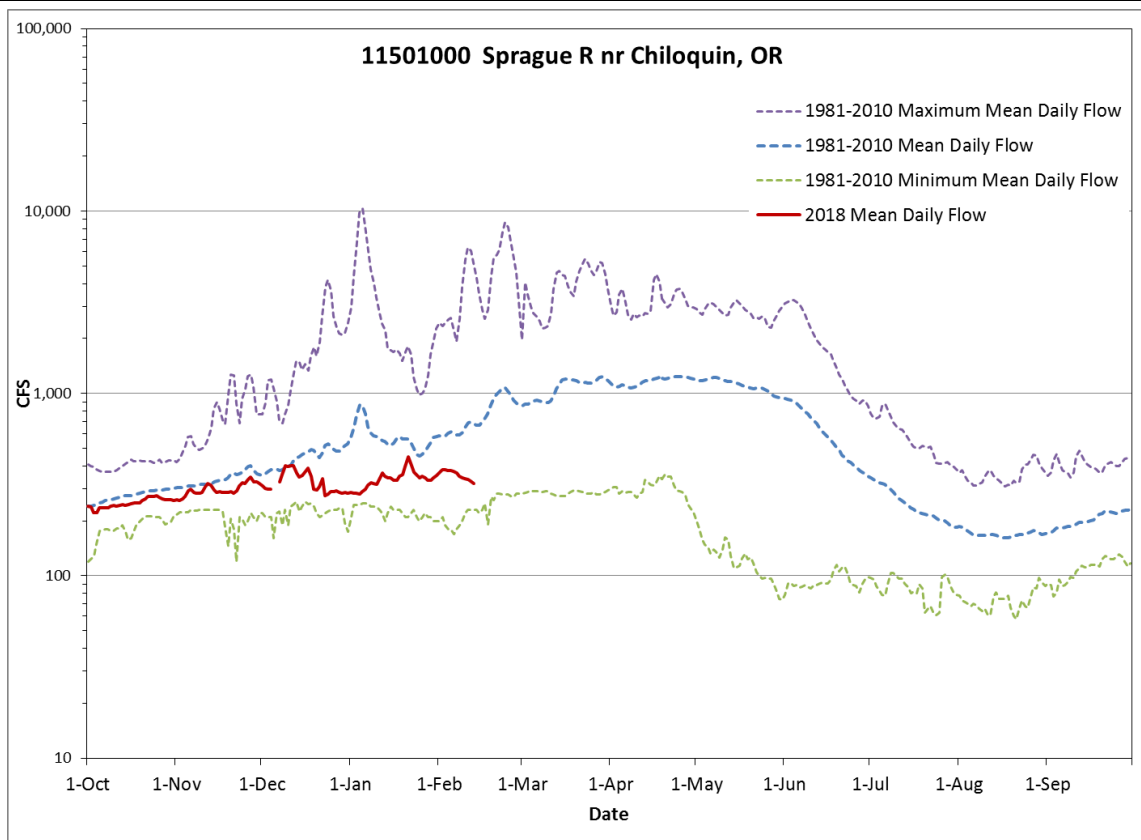


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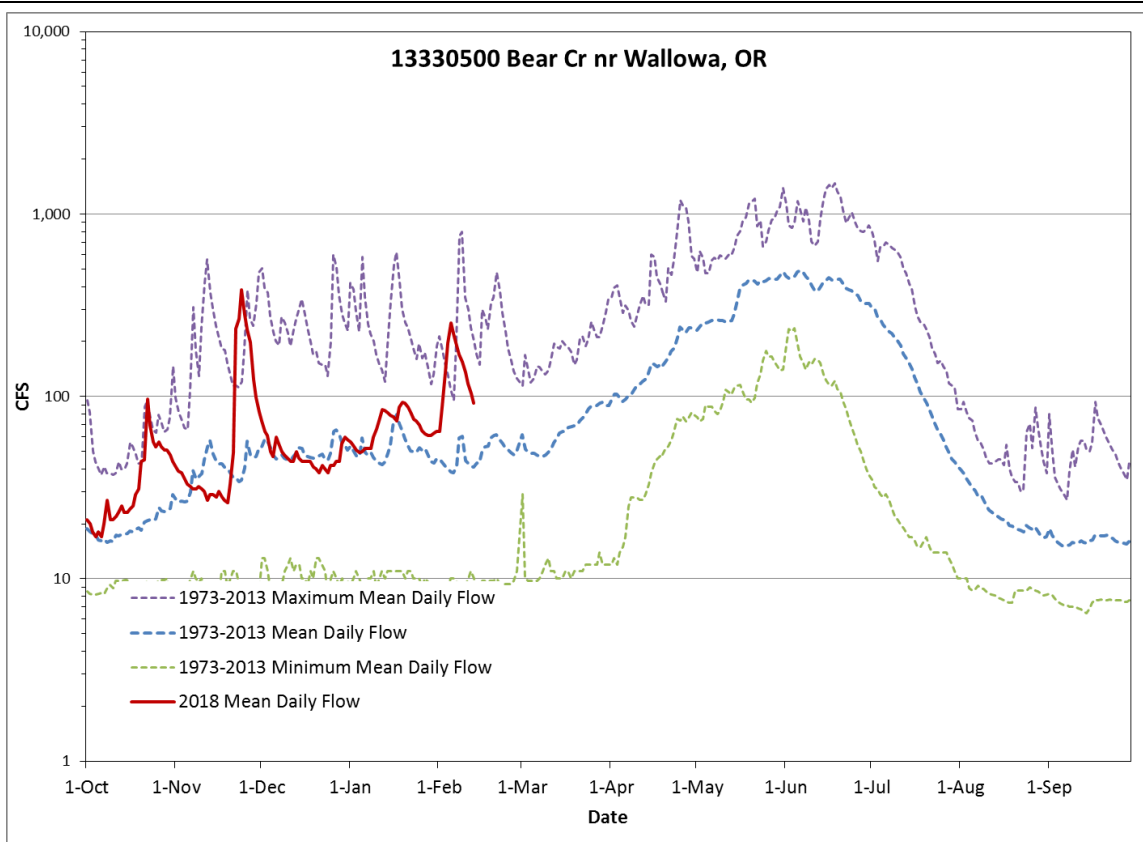
Statewide Streamflow Conditions - January



Streamflow Conditions – Klamath



Streamflow Conditions – Grande Ronde



Statewide Reservoir Conditions - January

