

Oregon Water Conditions Report February 26, 2018



Snow water equivalent values measured at NRCS SNOTEL sites have increased over the past two weeks. While still below normal, the statewide average is now over 59 percent. This has been buoyed by recent snow events in the northern part of the state, in particular the northern Cascades, and northeastern basins. The Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Willow basins are currently measuring the highest at 78 percent of normal with basins across the southern parts of the state still lagging behind. The Owyhee and Klamath basins are currently measuring the lowest at 39 and 40 percent of normal.

Statewide water year precipitation at NRCS SNOTEL sites is over 90 percent of normal. The Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Willow basins currently are measuring the highest at 110 percent of average water year precipitation, while the Lake County and Goose Lake basins are measuring 69 percent of average.

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 cooler than normal. Of note, areas in central and south central Oregon have seen temperatures up (or down) to 12 degrees cooler than normal. Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an increased probability of below-normal temperatures along with an increased probability of above-normal precipitation.

The Climate Prediction Center's most recent [three month outlook](#) favors increased chances of below-normal temperatures in the north and 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 equal chances of above or below-normal precipitation for most of the state. The next outlook will be issued on March 15, 2018.

La Niña conditions are expected to continue but a transition from La Nina to ENSO-Neutral is most likely early 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 just under 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 88 percent east of the Cascades and 91 percent west. Recent weather events have sustained flows in some areas but conditions continue to indicate that flows for the month of February are continuing to trend downward especially west of the Cascades and southern regions of the state. 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 49 and 94 percent of capacity. [Eastern Oregon](#) reservoirs continue to show improvement at 48 to 72 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.

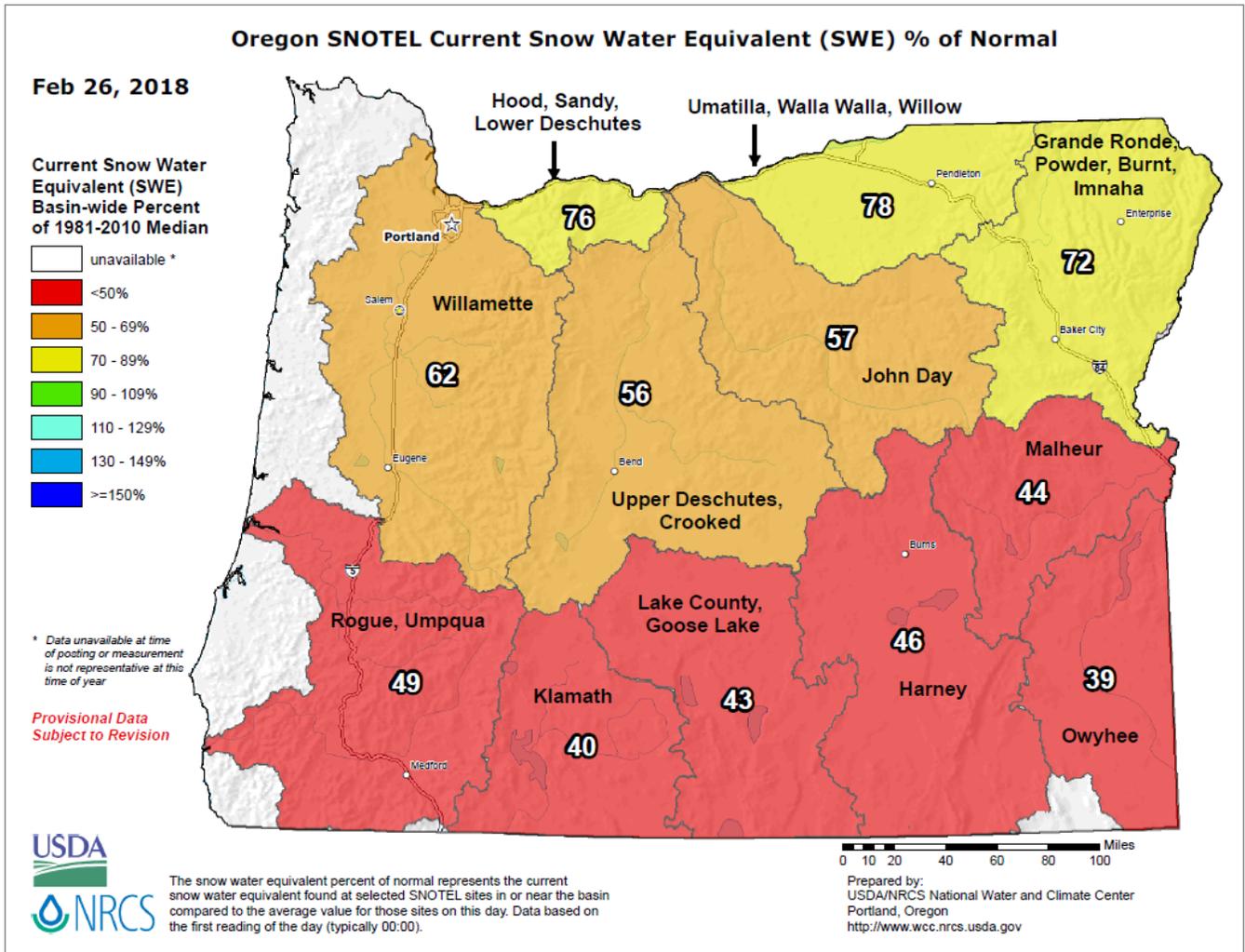
The [US Drought Monitor](#) has been updated recently to reflect an expansion of drought conditions. The February 22, 2018 report indicates that 76 percent of Oregon is now listed as “Abnormally Dry” (D0). In addition, 38 percent of the state is now listed as in “Moderate Drought” (D1).

Data & Products:

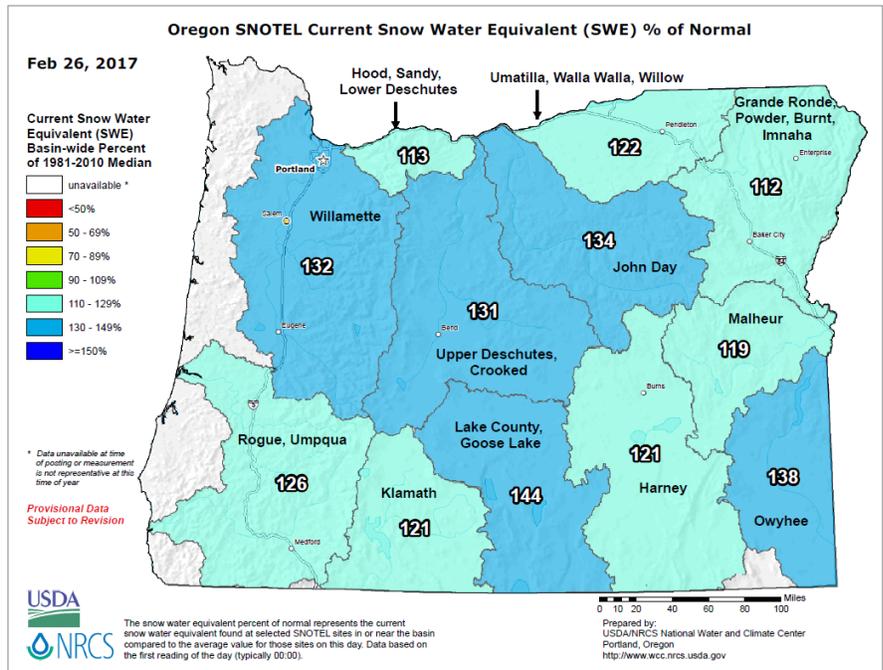
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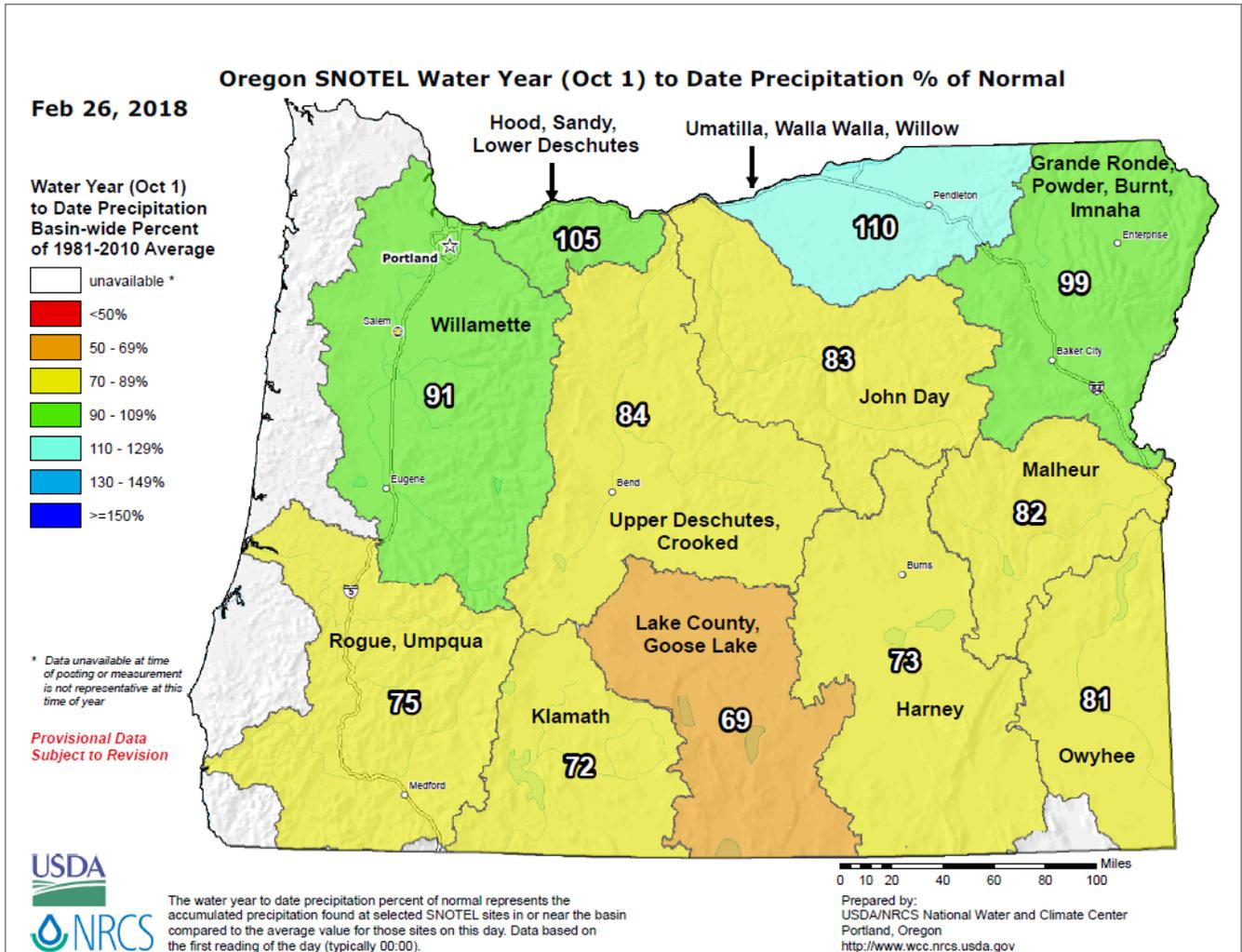
Snow Water Equivalent – Percent of Normal



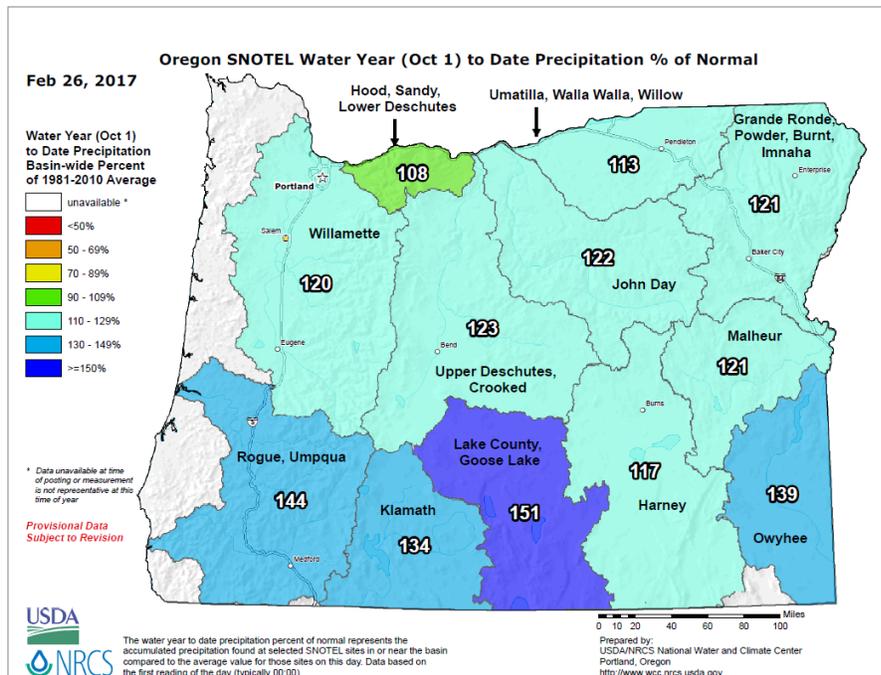
Compared to this time last year -



Precipitation (Mountain) - Percent of Normal



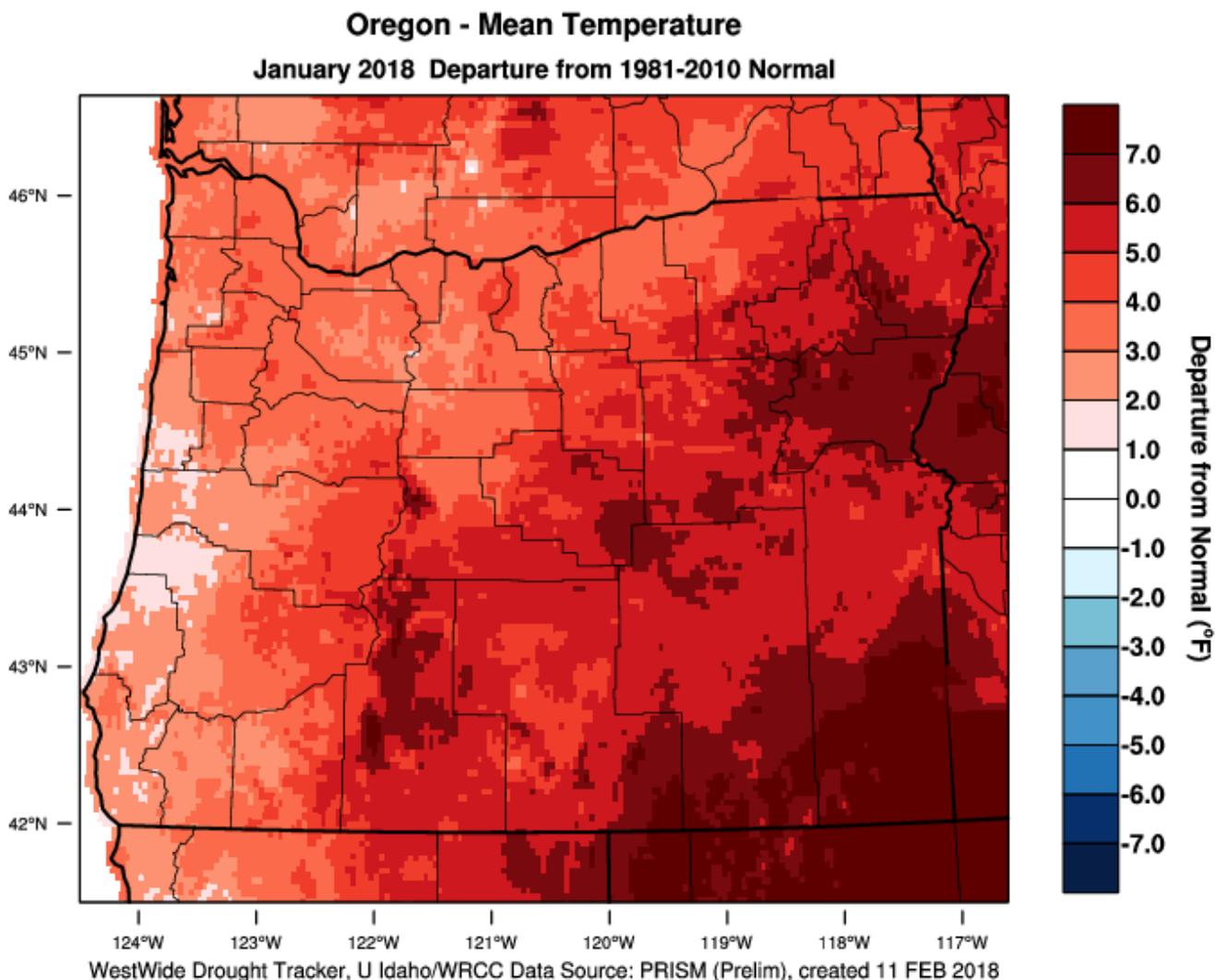
Compared to this time last year -



Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

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

PRISM > Temperature Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



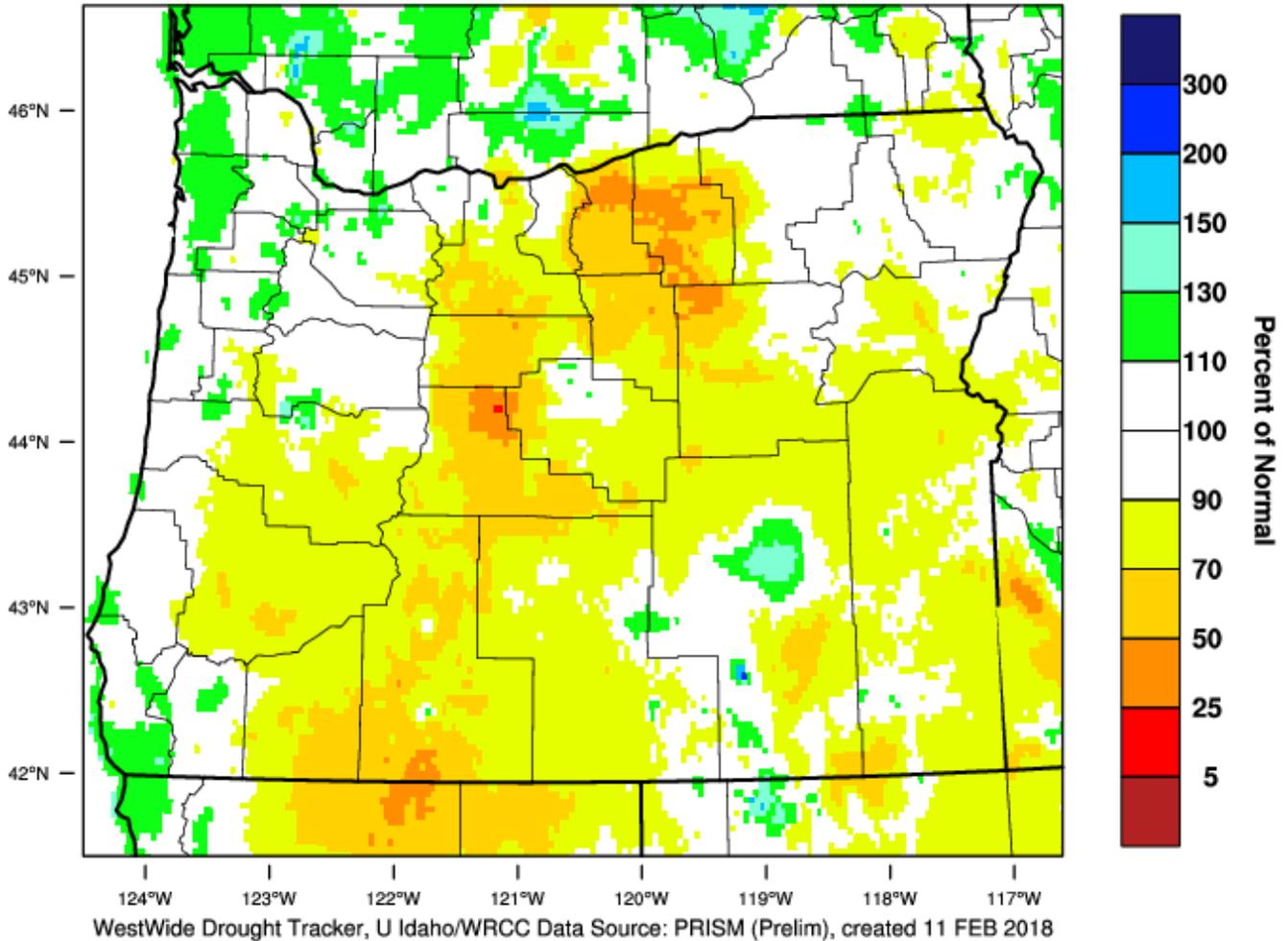
Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

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

PRISM > Precipitation Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon

Oregon - Precipitation

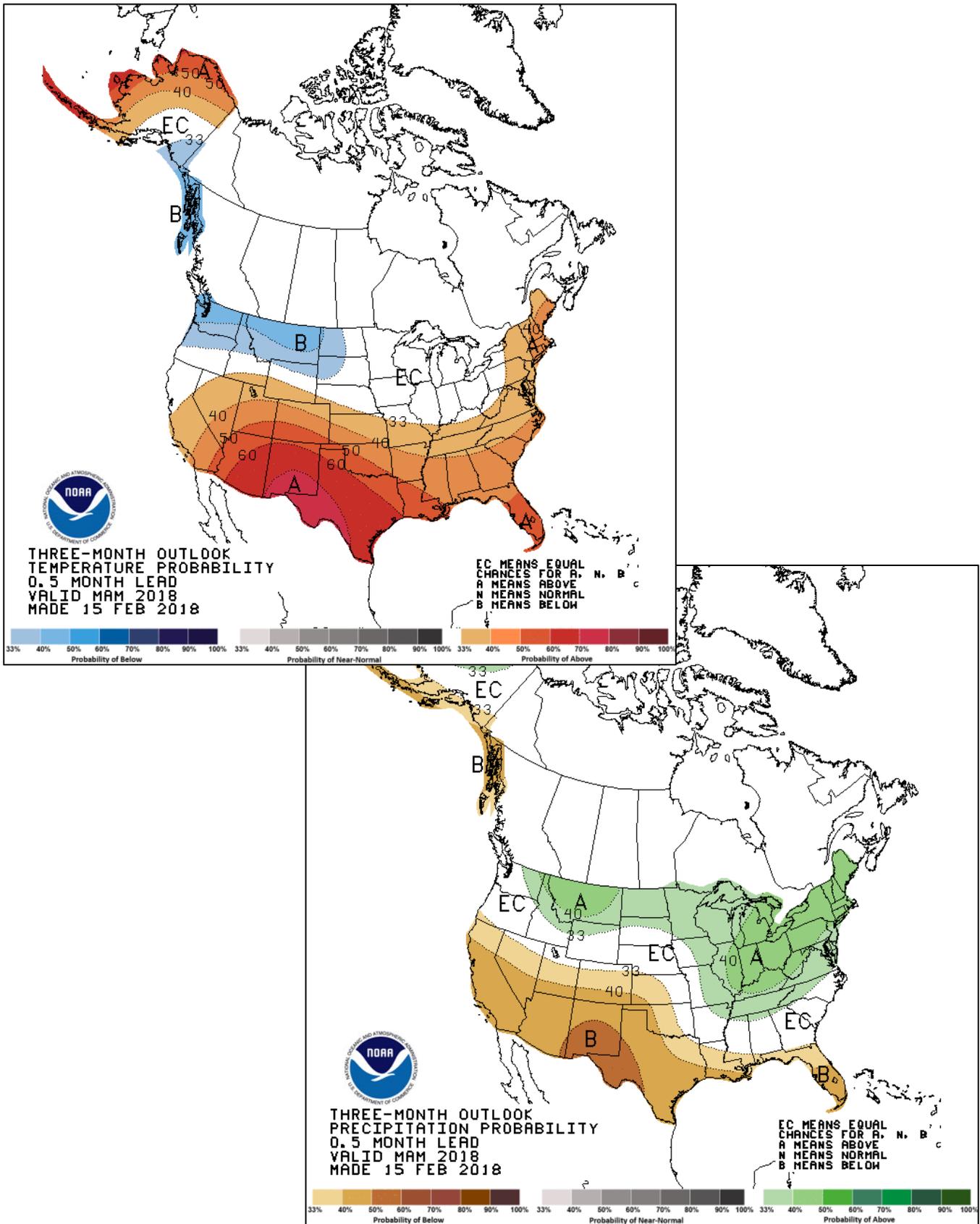
January 2018 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

March through May Outlook - Follow link for the latest information.

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

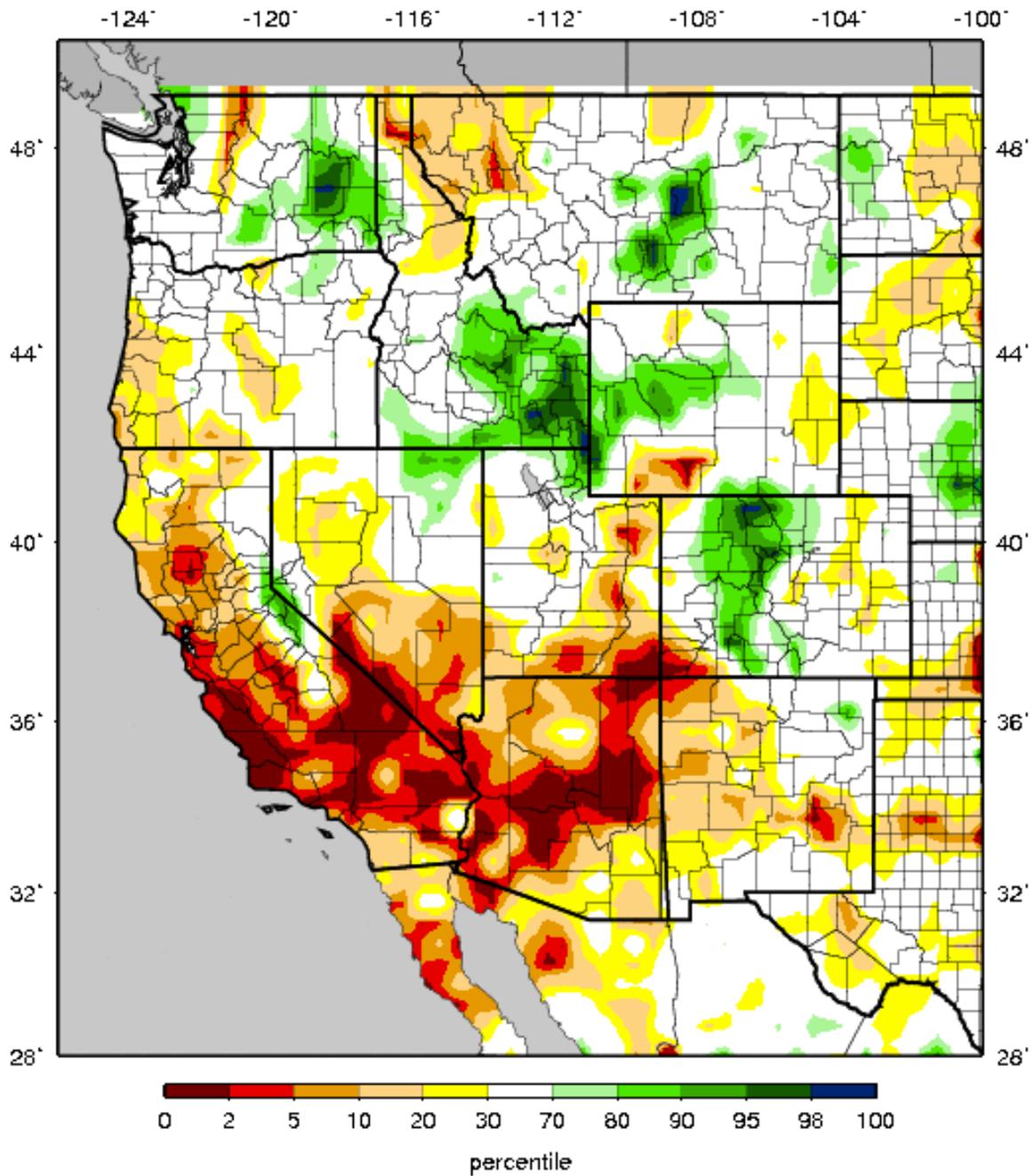


Soil Moisture - Percentile

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 - 20180225

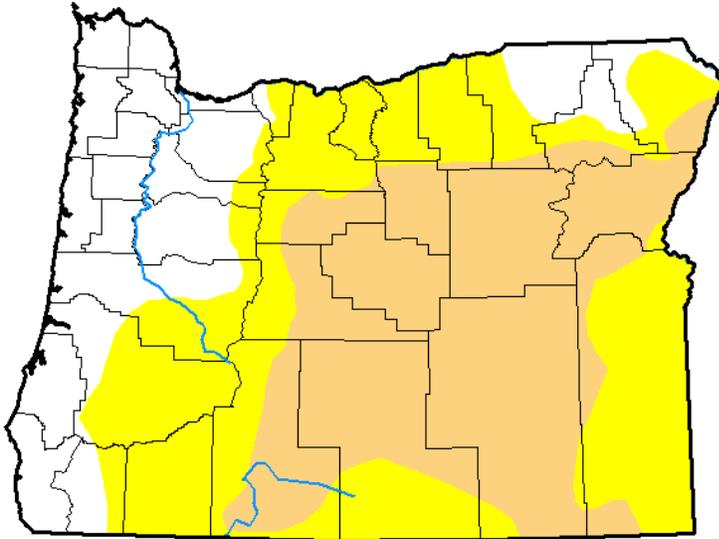


U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

February 20, 2018
(Released Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	23.82	76.18	38.32	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-13-2018	23.82	76.18	24.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-21-2017	100.00	0.00	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 02-21-2017	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:

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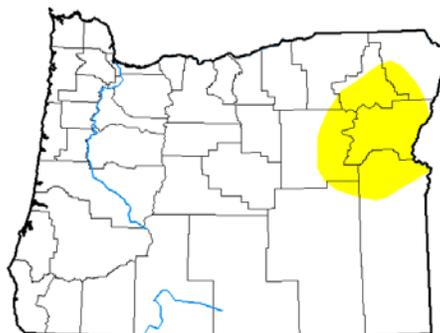


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Compared to this time last year:

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

February 28, 2017
(Released Thursday, Mar. 2, 2017)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	90.33	9.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-21-2017	82.99	17.01	2.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-28-2016	96.44	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 02-01-2016	29.47	70.53	62.92	33.96	0.00	0.00

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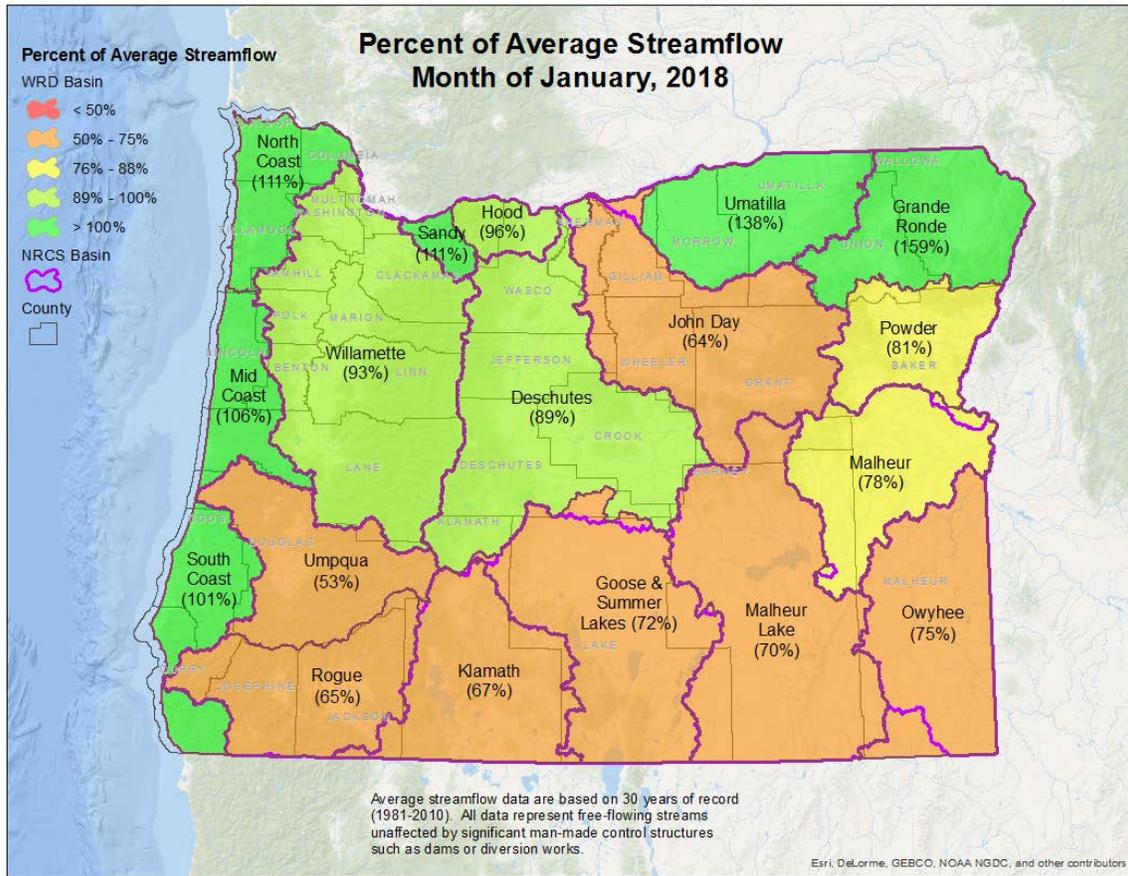
Author:

Richard Heim
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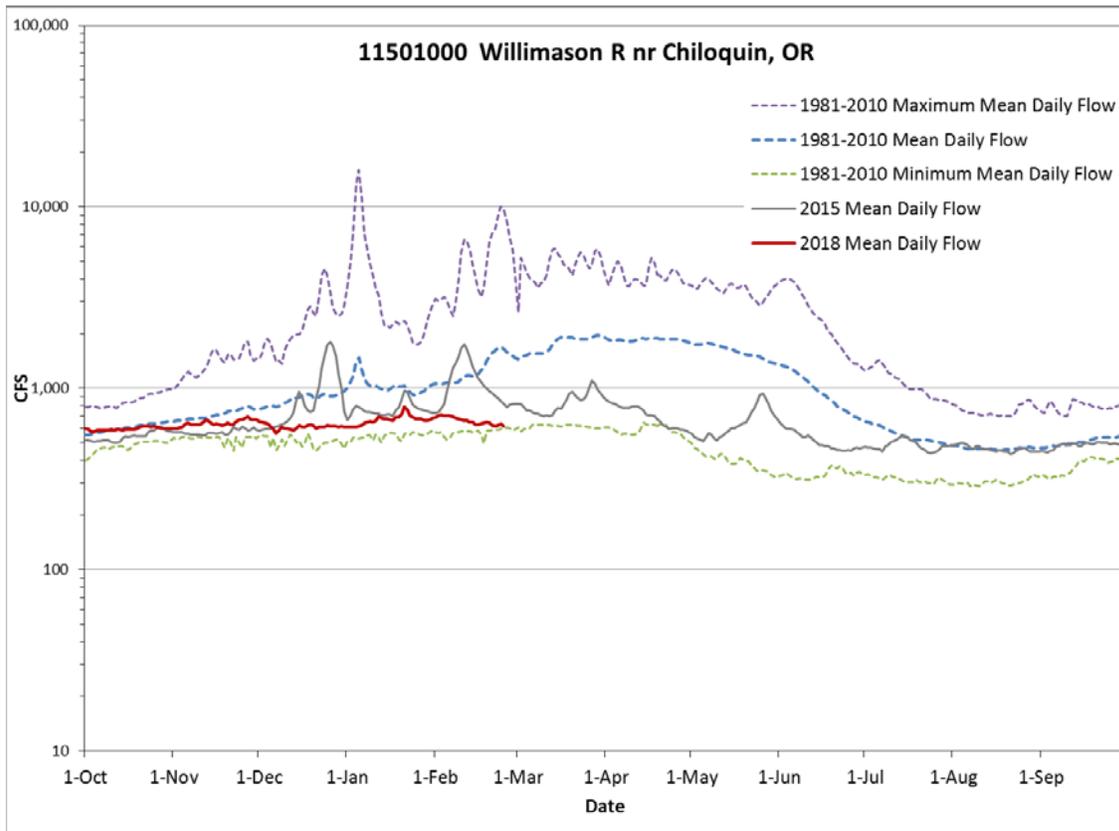


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

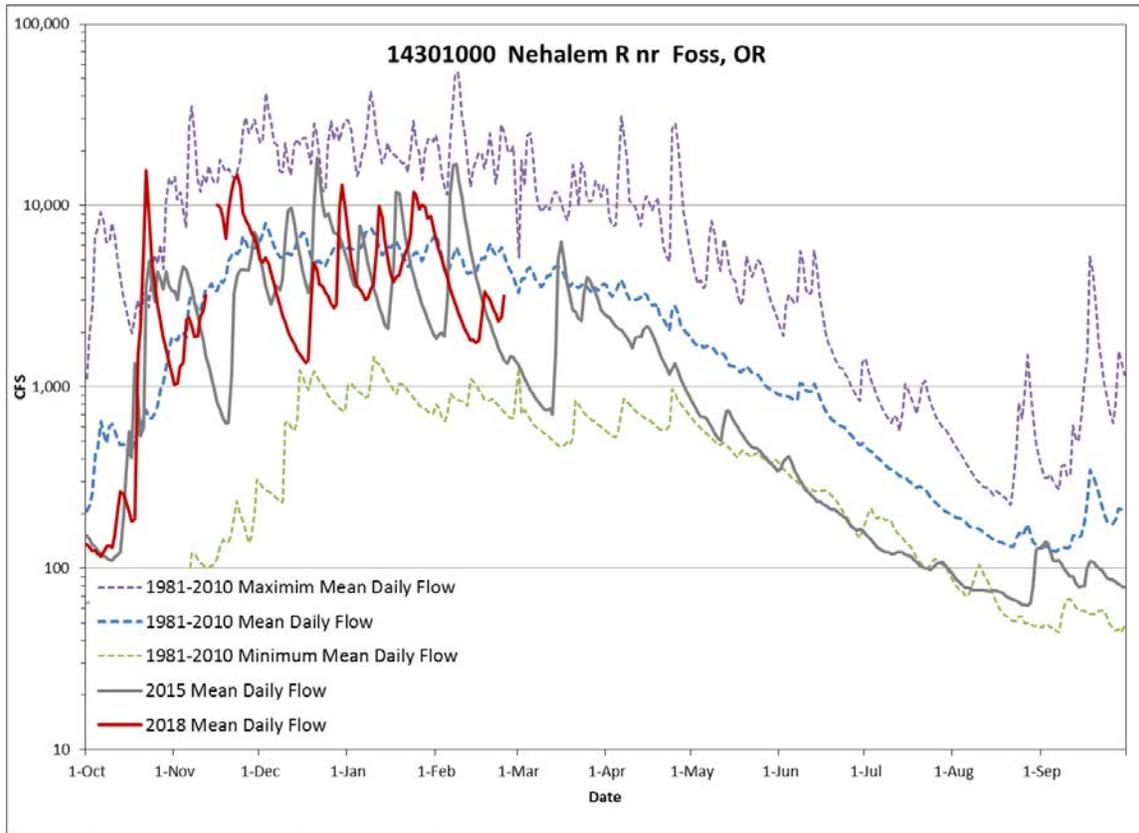
Statewide Streamflow Conditions - January



Streamflow Conditions – Klamath



Streamflow Conditions – North Coast



Statewide Reservoir Conditions - January

