

Oregon Water Conditions Report May 21, 2018



Snowpack at the majority of NRCS SNOTEL sites has melted out, with only a few remaining higher elevation or north-facing sites still measuring snow water equivalent. Many basins have completely melted out and are not reporting snow water equivalent values.

Oregon statewide water year precipitation at NRCS SNOTEL sites is 90 percent of average. The highest amounts of water year precipitation are currently in the Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Willow basins with 109 percent, while the lowest values are in the Harney and Klamath basins at 76 percent and 79 percent of normal, respectively, 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 early June, 2018.

Temperatures over the [past two weeks](#) have continued the trend of warmer than normal. Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an increased probability of above-average temperatures along with below-normal precipitation for the state.

The Climate Prediction Center's most recent [three month outlook](#) also favors increased chances of above-normal temperatures along with below-normal precipitation across the entire state. The next long-term outlook will be issued on June 21, 2018.

[ENSO-Neutral conditions are expected through September-November.](#) For more insight, refer to the May 10, 2018 [diagnostic discussion](#) issued by the Climate Prediction Center. For the latest discussion on the summer outlook, refer to the latest [ENSO blog](#) on the climate.gov website. The Climate Prediction Center will continue to monitor conditions and provide regular updates. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for June 14, 2018.

Statewide streamflows for April were at 94 percent of normal. This is up from the 74 percent seen for the month of March. Regionally for April, streamflow conditions were at 71 percent east of the Cascades and 134 percent to the west. April weather events benefitted primarily the northern and northwestern watersheds. Unfortunately, watersheds in the south and southwest regions of the state did not realize similar benefit from these weather systems. Streamflows in the Owyhee are currently only 20 percent of normal. Flows in the Malheur and Malheur Lake basins are between 35 and 42 percent. [Streamflow forecasts](#) for the approaching summer season continue to predict

that streamflows will be much lower than normal, especially in the south central and southeastern regions of the state.

Most of the state's water supply reservoirs are at near-normal levels for this time of year. In most instances, reservoir operators are now releasing water for seasonal water supply demands.

The [Willamette](#) System is currently almost 90 percent full and 14 percent below fill curve. Lookout Point, Hills Creek and Dorena range from 68 to 80 percent of capacity, all well below fill curve. Other project reservoirs are at or near capacity at this time.

USACE project reservoirs in the [Rogue](#) basin are very near capacity and on fill curve. [Lost Creek](#) is full with releases now higher than inflows. [Applegate](#) is now full and releasing slightly more than inflows.

In north central Oregon, [McKay Reservoir](#) is full and should start releasing in the next week or two. In the Willamette, [Scoggins Reservoir](#) is very close to its fill curve and is currently at capacity.

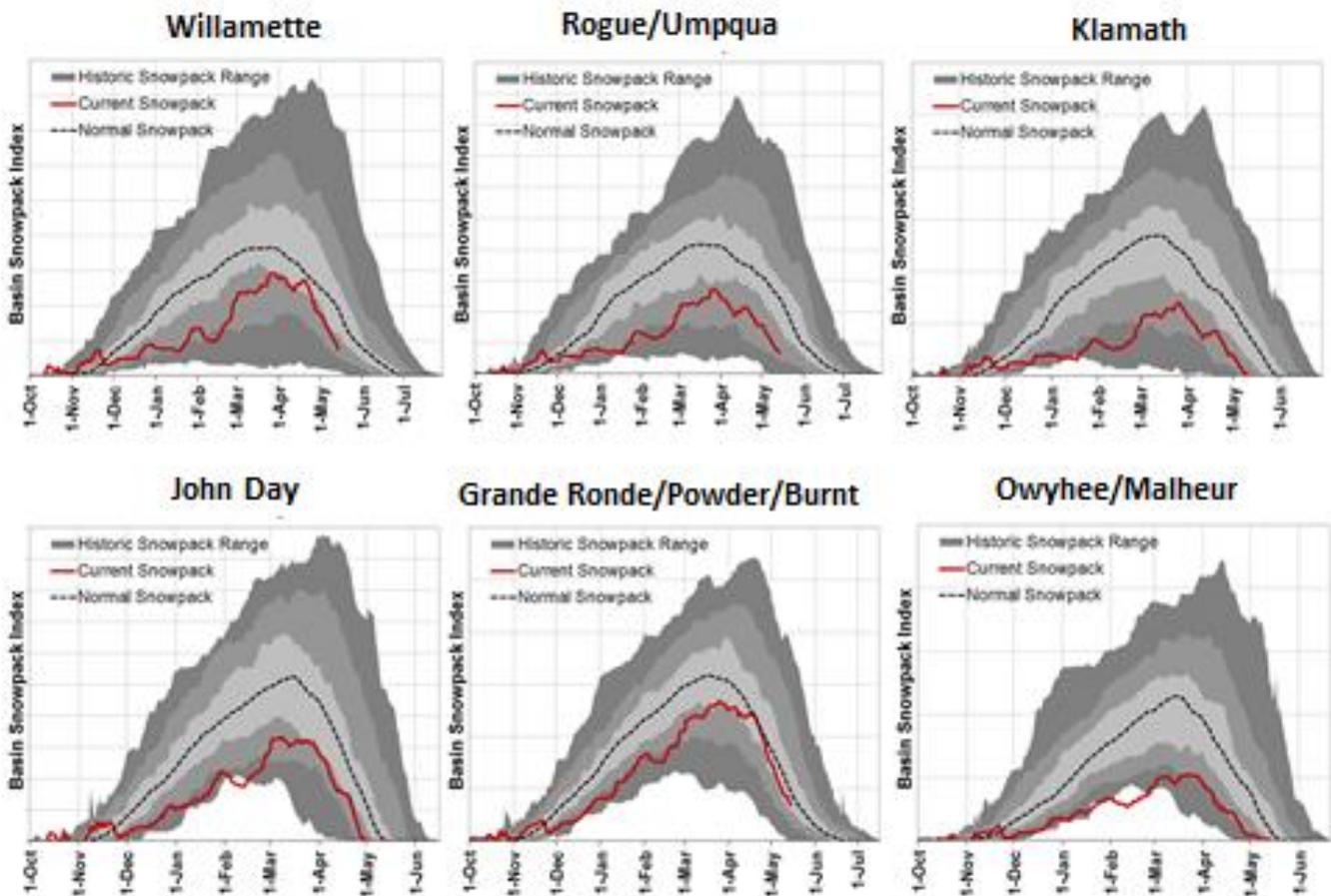
[Central Oregon](#) reservoirs are between 62 and 93 percent of capacity. [Eastern Oregon](#) reservoirs (not considering Thief Valley) are now at 60 to 93 percent of capacity. For the most recent near real-time, site-specific reservoir conditions (teacup diagrams) visit the [USBR](#) or [USACE](#) websites.

The [US Drought Monitor](#) continues to indicate worsening conditions over the past two weeks. The May 17, 2018 report indicates that 67 percent of Oregon is now listed as "Abnormally Dry" (D0). In addition, over 40 percent of the state is now listed as in "Moderate Drought" (D1).

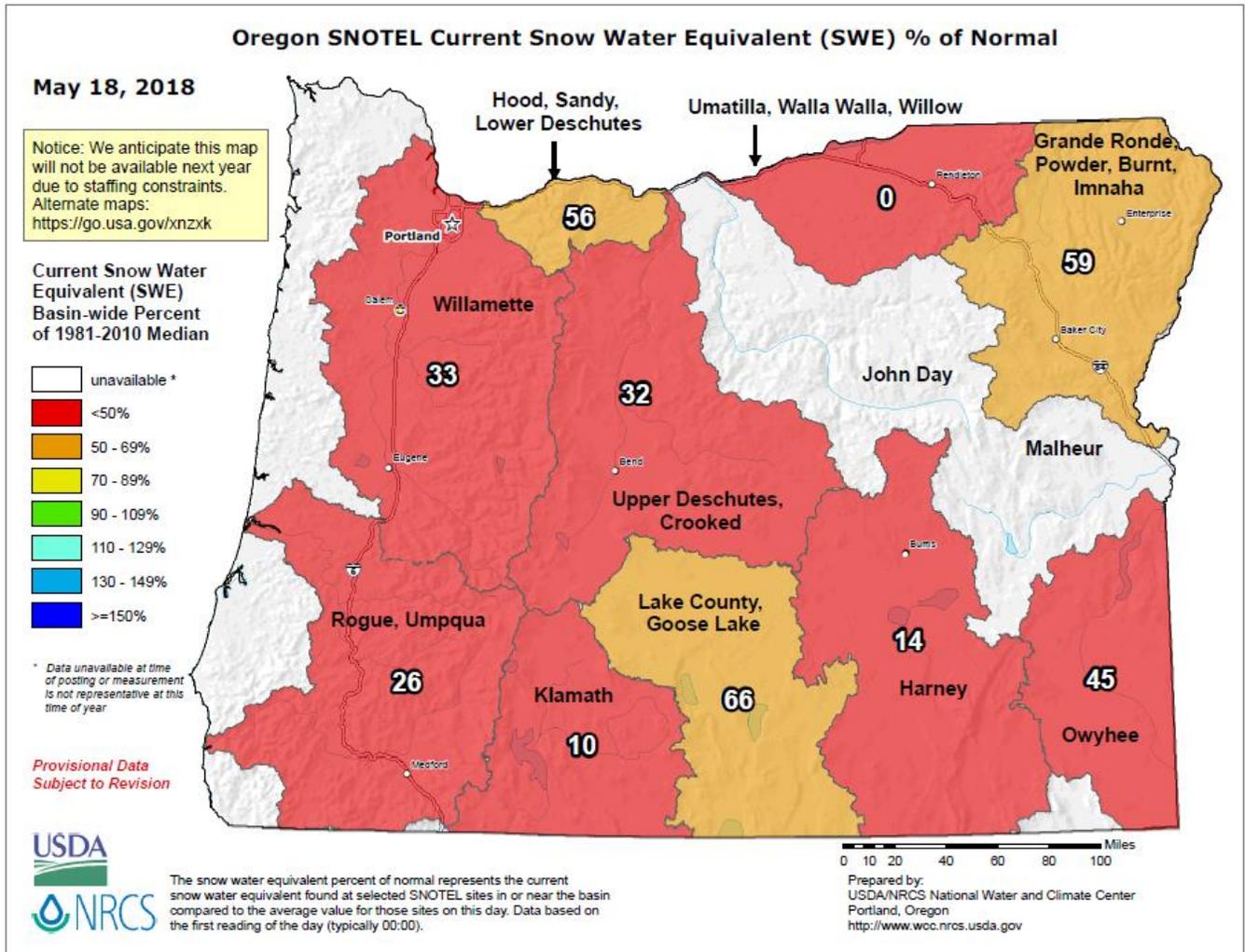
Wildfire conditions and [forecasts](#) for the upcoming season are now being posted. The Oregon Department of Forestry has commented that as recent sunny and dry conditions continue this week, fire risk will increase across the state. Visit the Oregon Department of Forestry's [wildfire blog](#) for the latest updates. More information will be made available as the season progresses.

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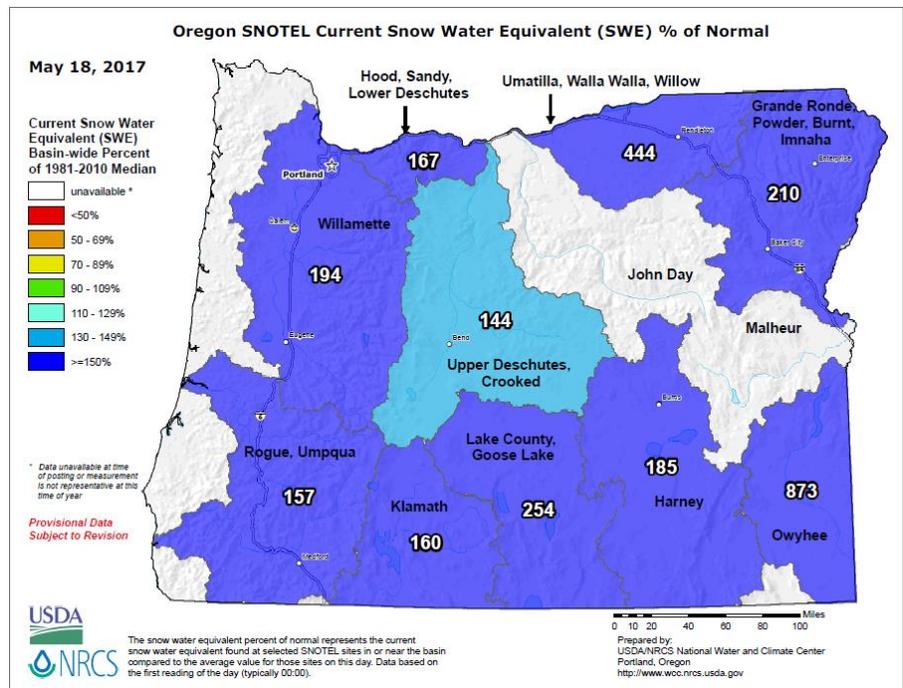
Snowpack - Water Year 2018 – May 14th



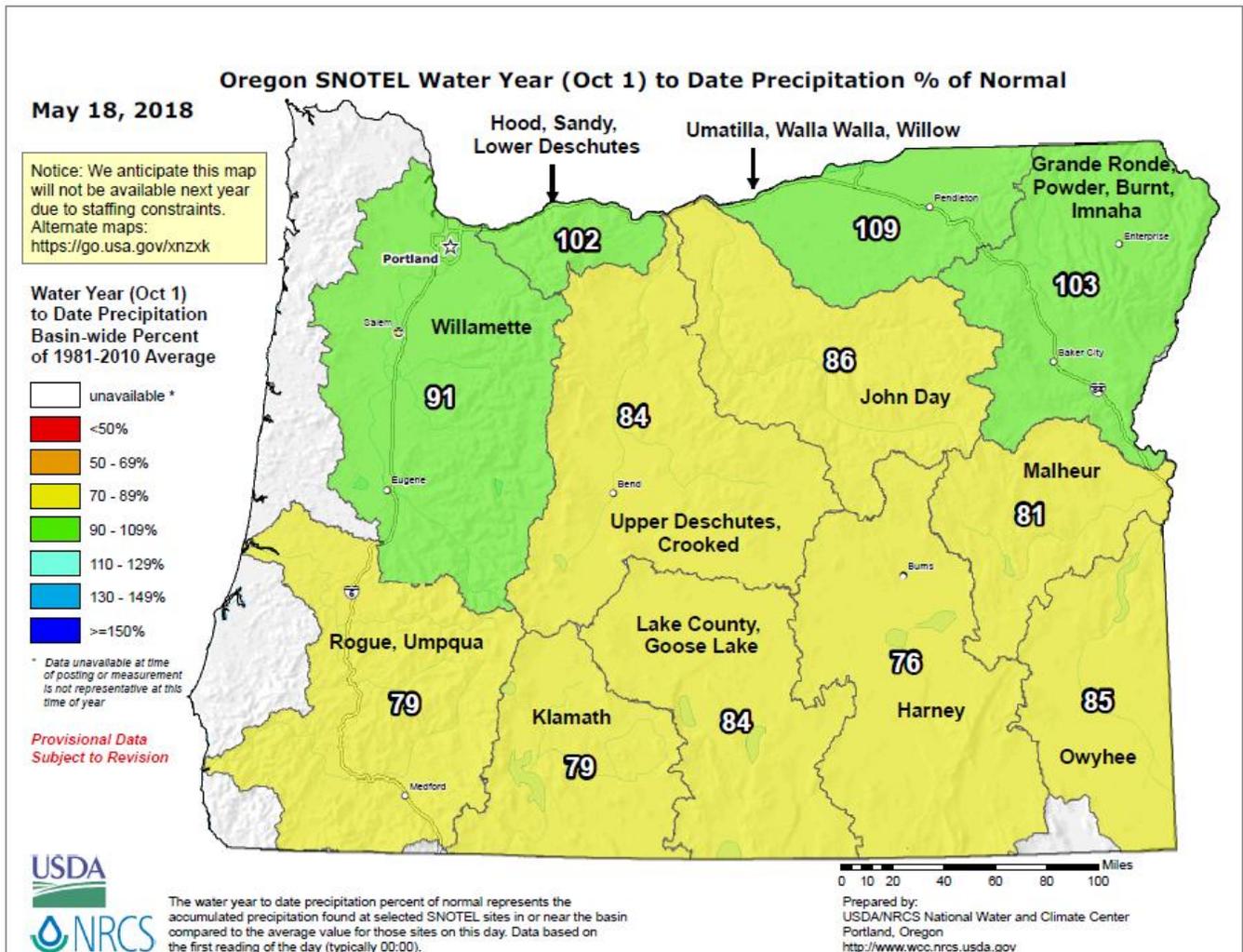
Snow Water Equivalent – Percent of Normal



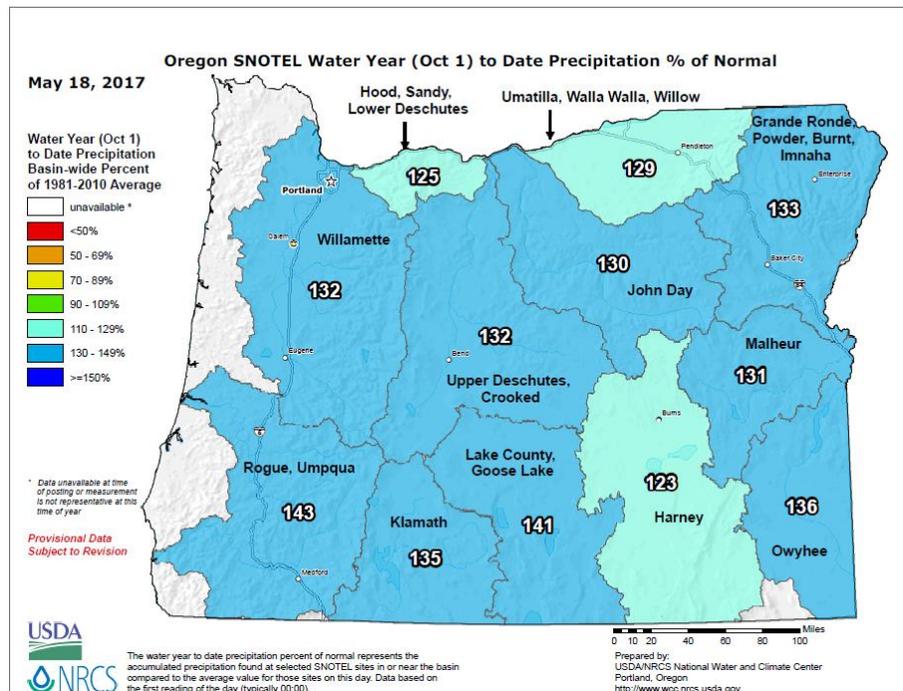
Compared to this time last year -



Precipitation (Mountain) - Percent of Normal



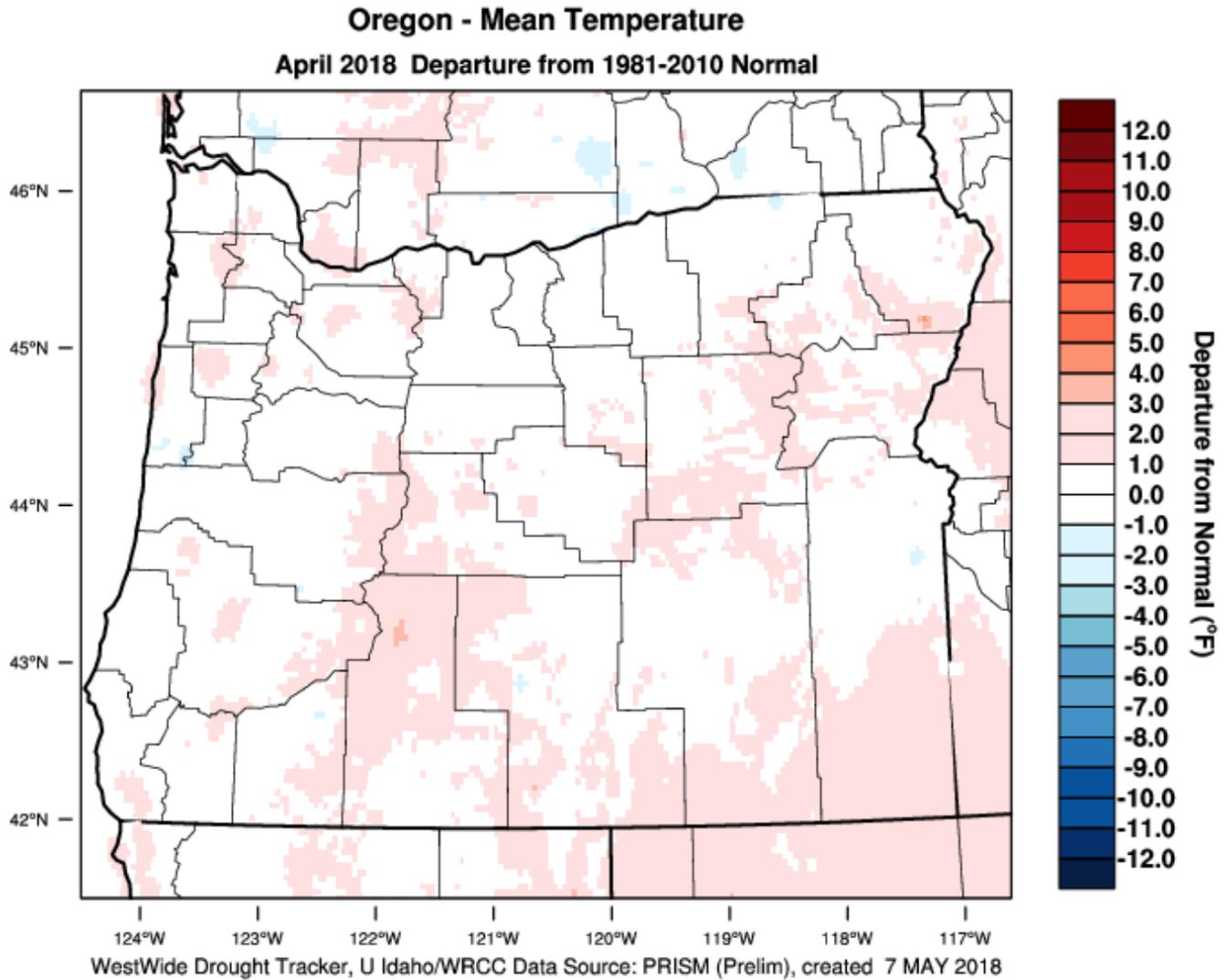
Compared to this time last year -



Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

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

PRISM > Temperature Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



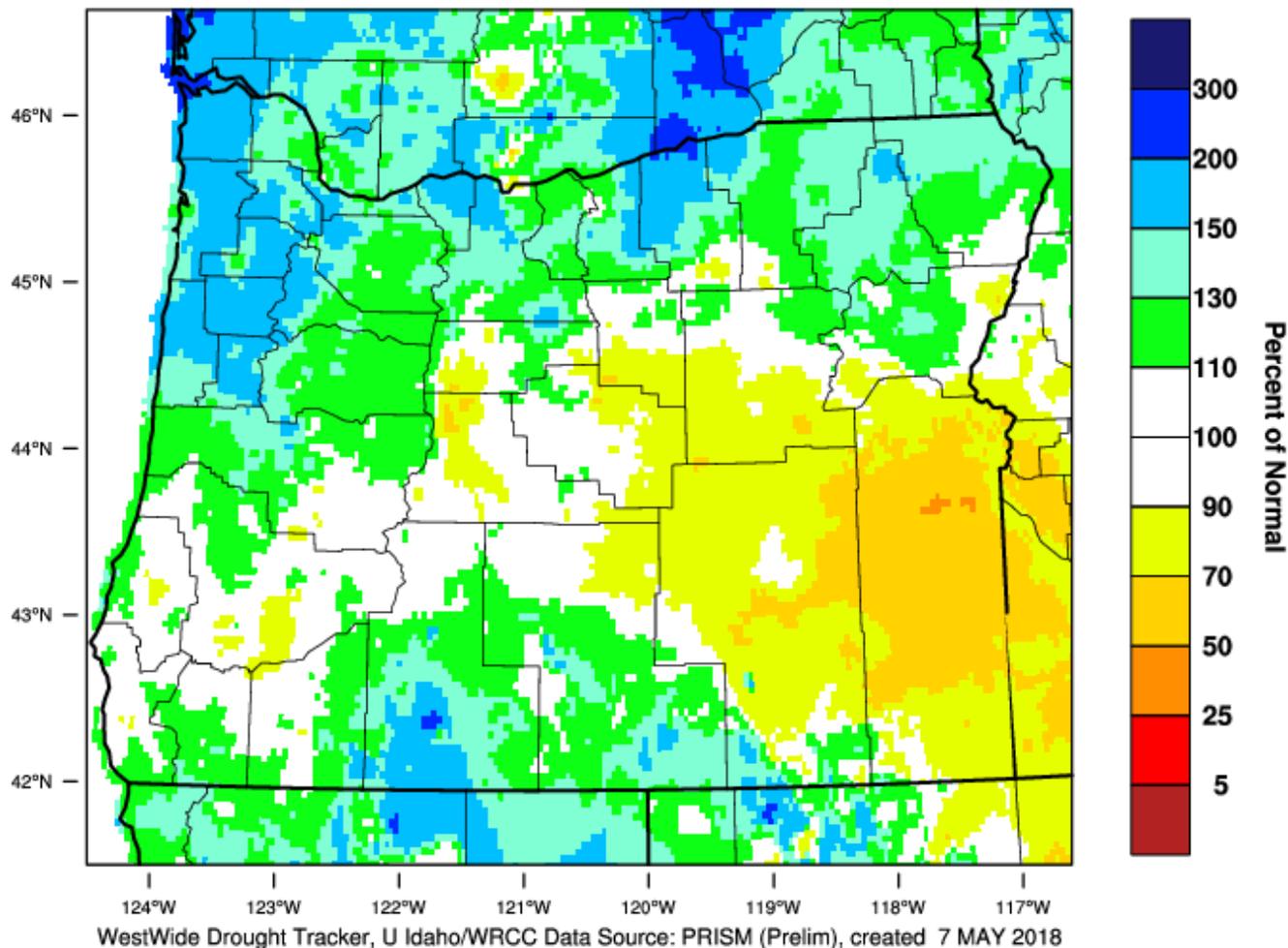
Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

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

PRISM > Precipitation Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon

Oregon - Precipitation

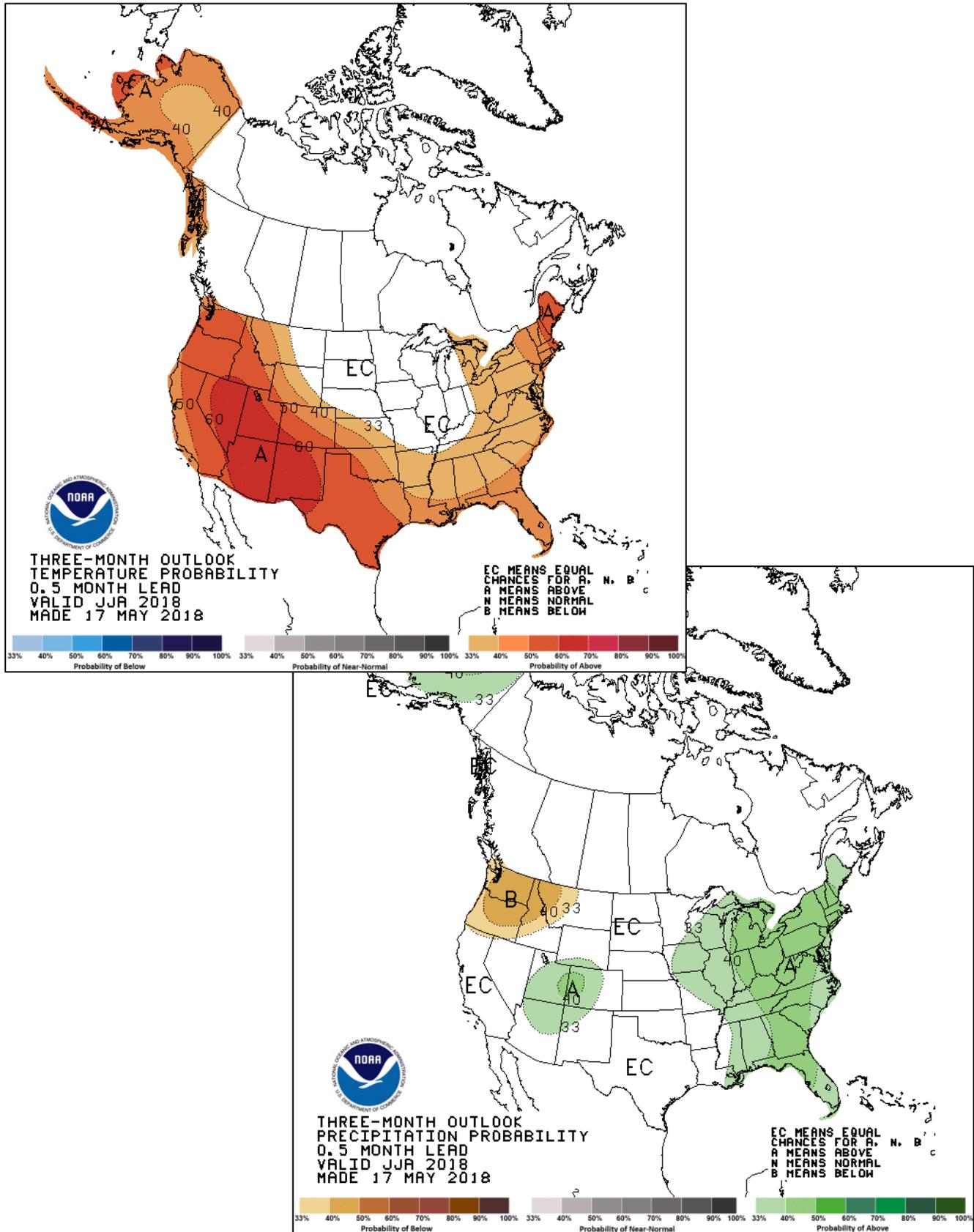
April 2018 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

June through August Outlook - Follow link for the latest information.

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

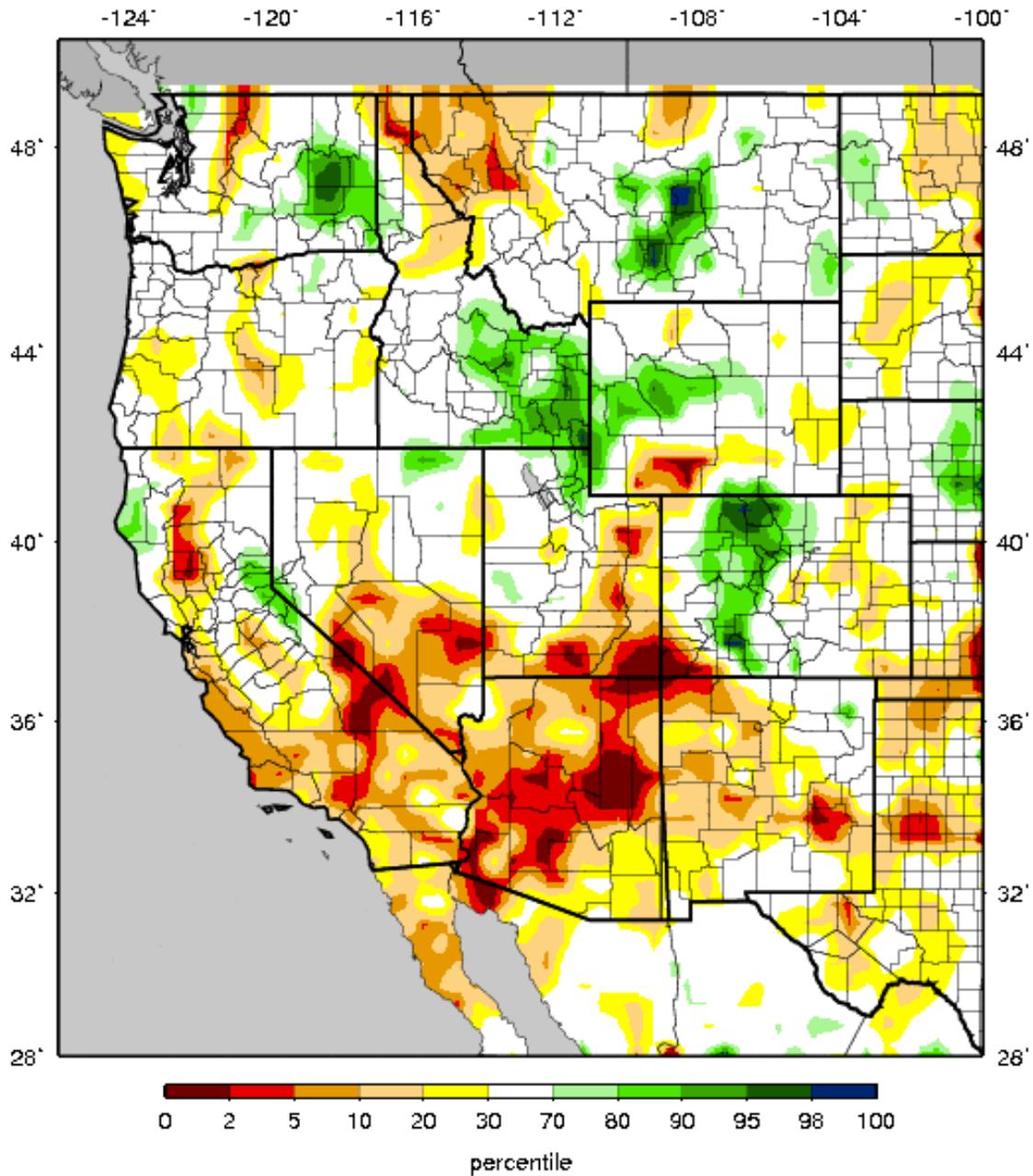


Soil Moisture - Percentile

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 - 20180519

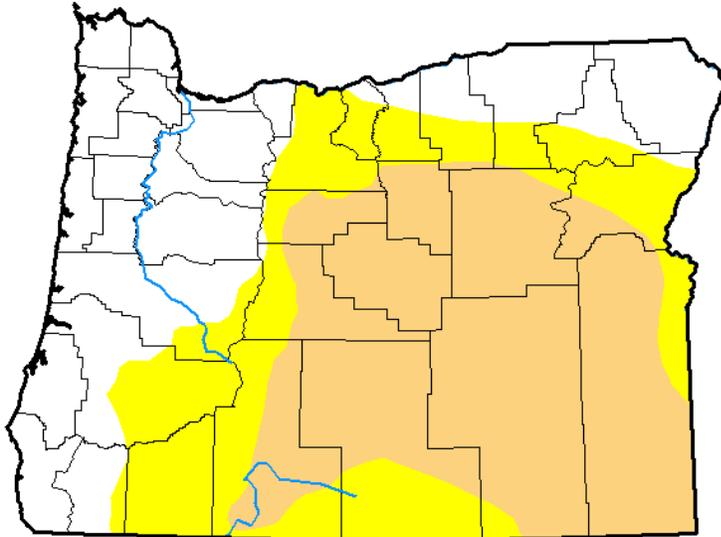


U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

May 15, 2018
(Released Thursday, May 17, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	33.33	66.67	41.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 05-09-2018	32.54	67.46	39.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-13-2018	23.82	76.18	24.45	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 05-16-2017	100.00	0.00	0.00	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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U.S. Department of Agriculture



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

Compared to this time last year:

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

May 16, 2017
(Released Thursday, May 18, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 05-09-2017	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-14-2017	82.99	17.01	2.98	0.00	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 05-17-2016	33.66	66.34	24.74	1.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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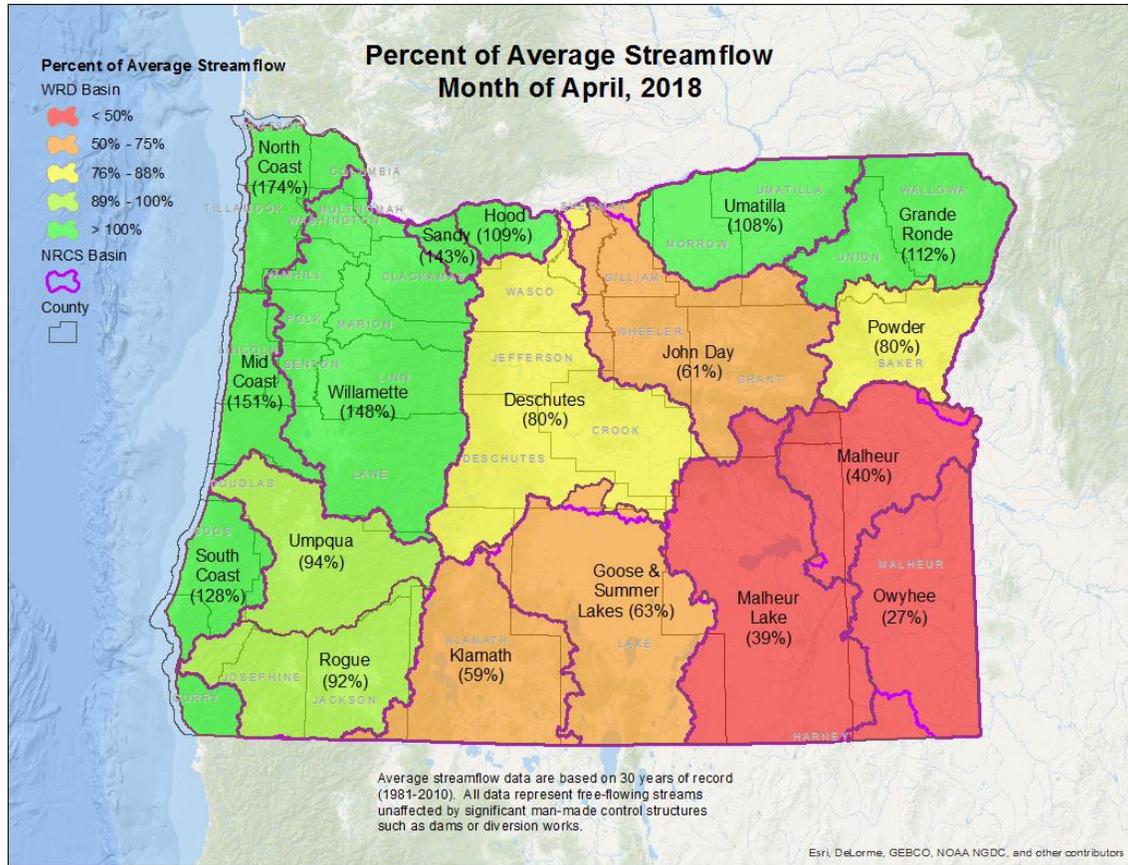
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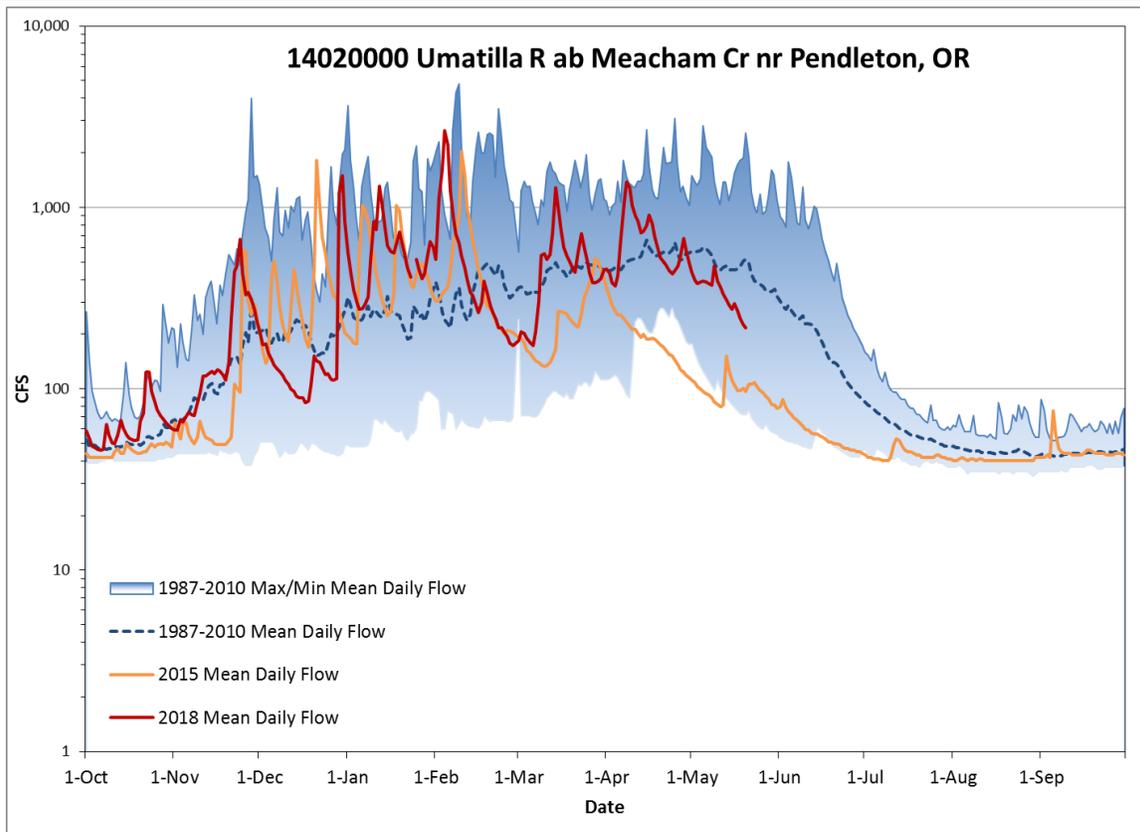


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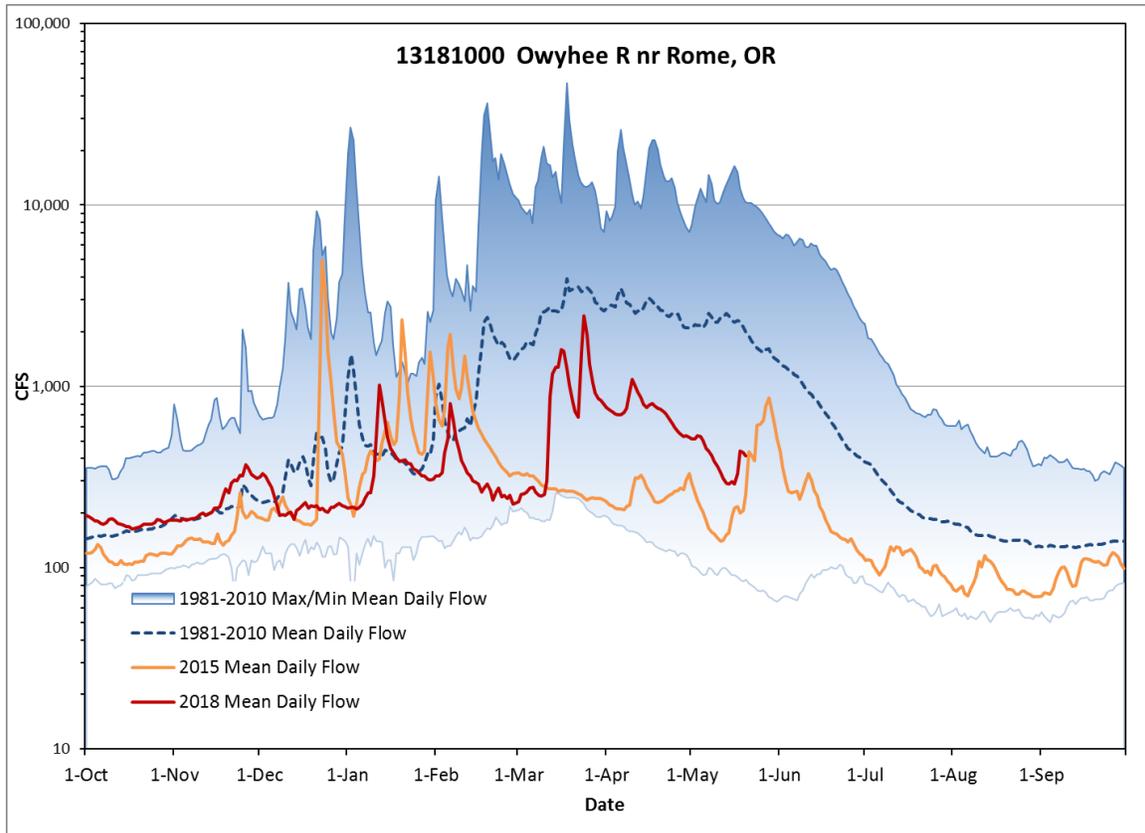
Statewide Streamflow Conditions - April



Streamflow Conditions – Umatilla



Streamflow Conditions – Owyhee



Statewide Reservoir Conditions - April

