



**NOAA**

**National  
Weather  
Service**

**Spokane, WA**

# Water Forecast

April 23, 2025

Robin Fox

Service Hydrologist / Meteorologist

NOAA/National Weather Service - Spokane WA





# Precipitation

Spokane Precipitation compared to normal

Since Jan 1: 5.63" -0.57" (6.20")

Since Oct 1: 14.68" +2.71" (11.97")

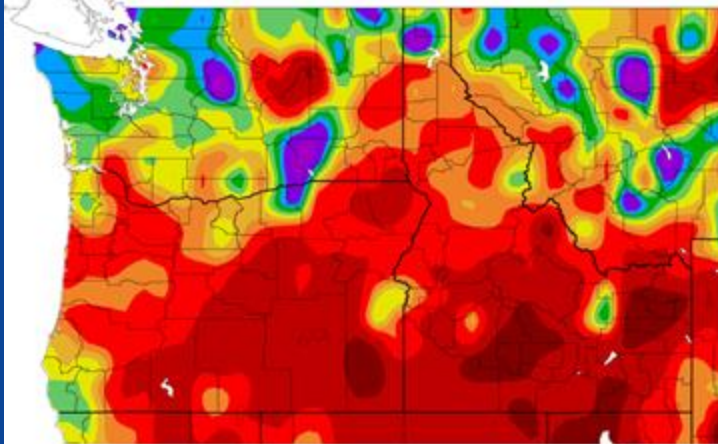


The Water Year has seen plentiful moisture for much of the Inland NW, yet some deficits in the Cascades and Panhandle Mtns. Last month has been drier in most spots.



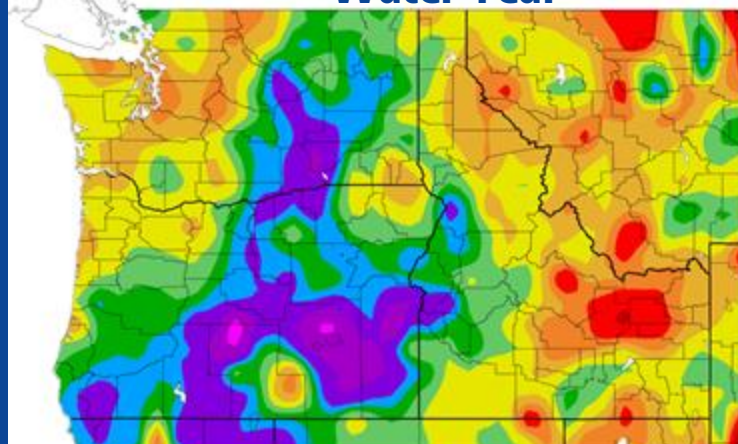
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
3/23/2025 - 4/21/2025

**Last 30 Days**



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
10/1/2024 - 4/21/2025

**Water Year**



SPOKANE



# Temperature

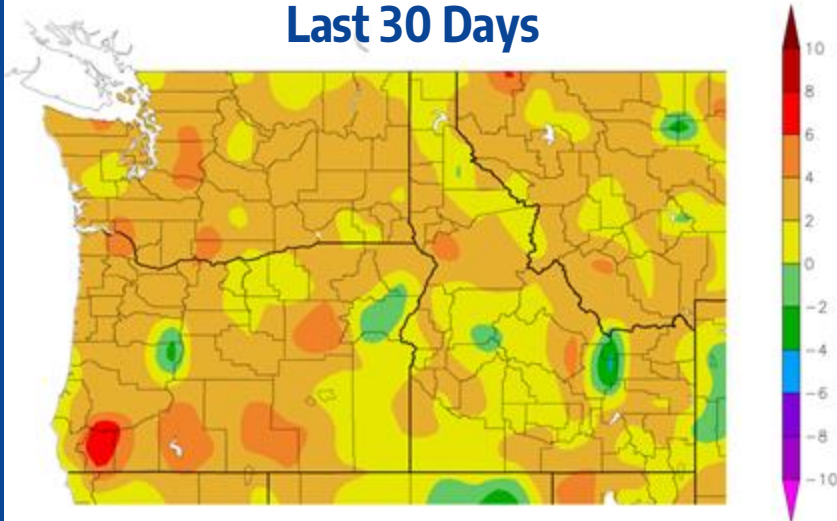


It has been milder than normal for much of the Inland NW since last Fall and the last month, despite the bitter cold “winter” of February!



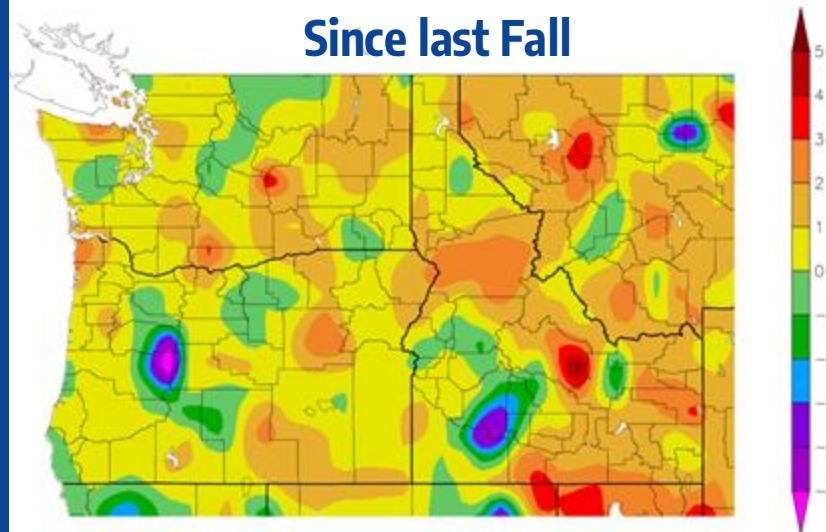
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/23/2025 – 4/21/2025

**Last 30 Days**



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
10/1/2024 – 4/21/2025

**Since last Fall**







# February Flooding in Pullman, Palouse, and Spokane



**SF Palouse @ Pullman - Feb 23rd**  
**Minor Flood Stage ~ 7.61 ft (#7)**



**Palouse @ Potlatch - Feb 24th**  
**Major Flood Stage ~ 17.25 ft (#11)**



**Latah Creek @ Spokane - Feb 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Minor Flood Stage ~ 13.11 ft (#4)**

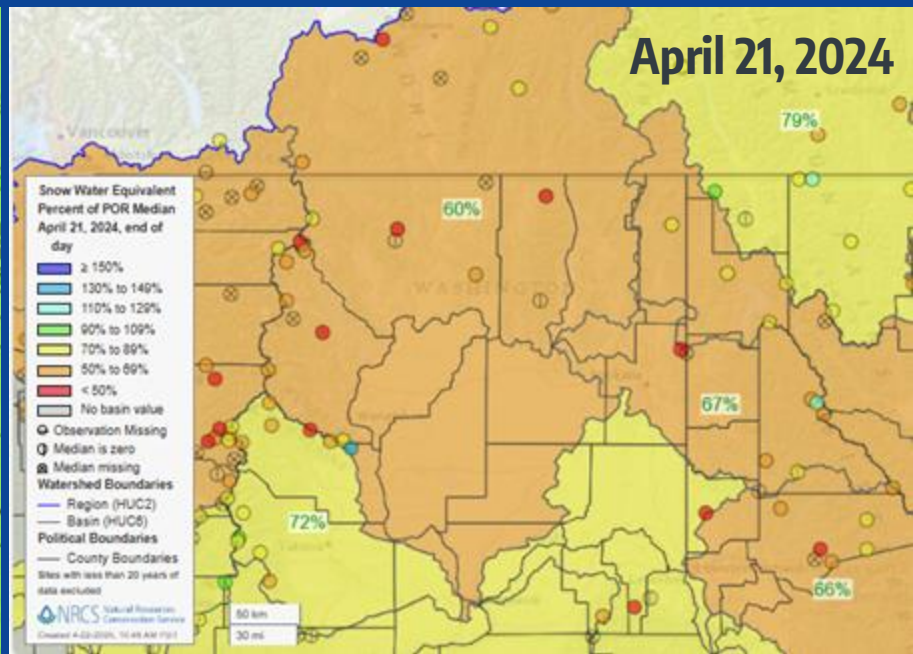
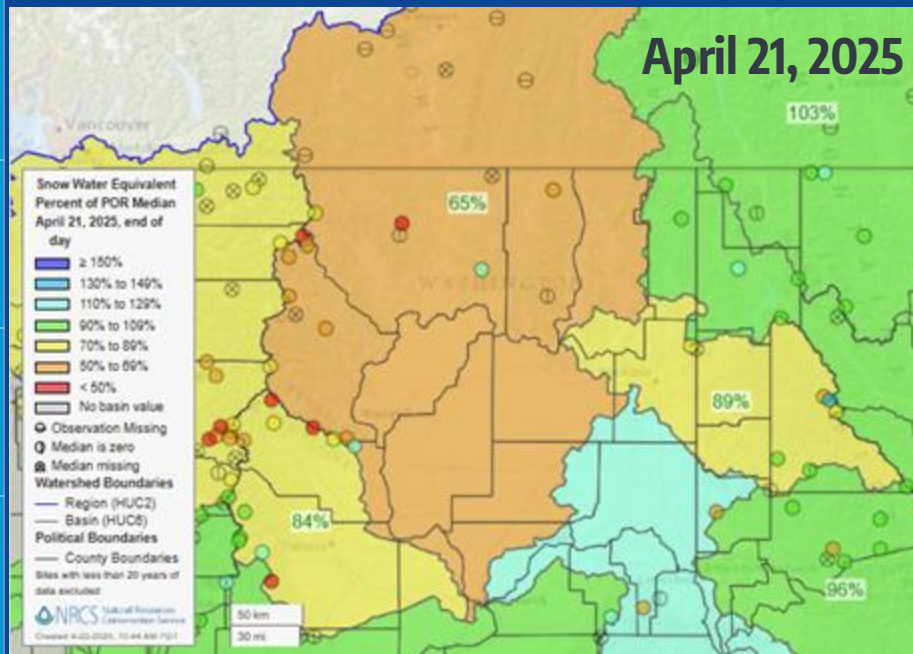




# Mountain Snow



Cascades continue to see deficits along with the central ID Panhandle  
More seasonal snow for the Okanogan Highlands, Blue Mtns, and Selkirks



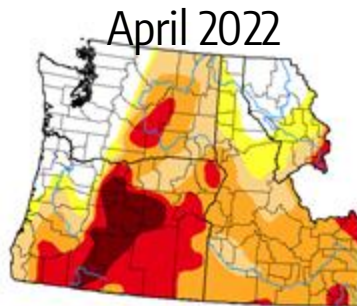




# Drought Monitor

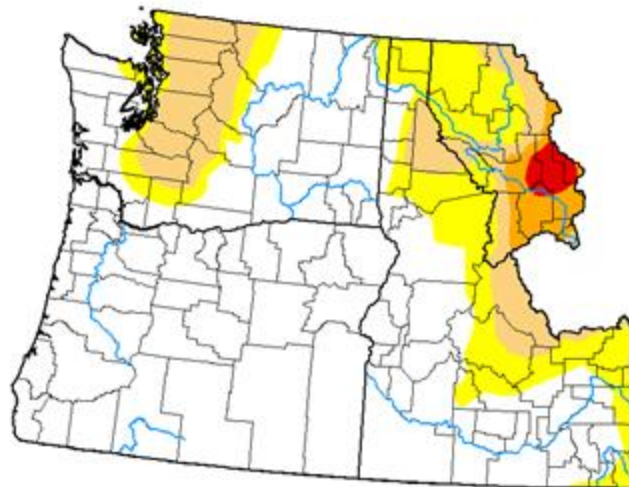


Long term  
dryness in  
the Cascades  
and ID  
Panhandle  
(2-3 years)



## U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

April 15, 2025  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 17, 2025)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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:  
Curtis Riganti  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



SPOKANE



Rain:  $<0.04''$

## Warmer than normal with seasonal precipitation





# Outlook - Month of May

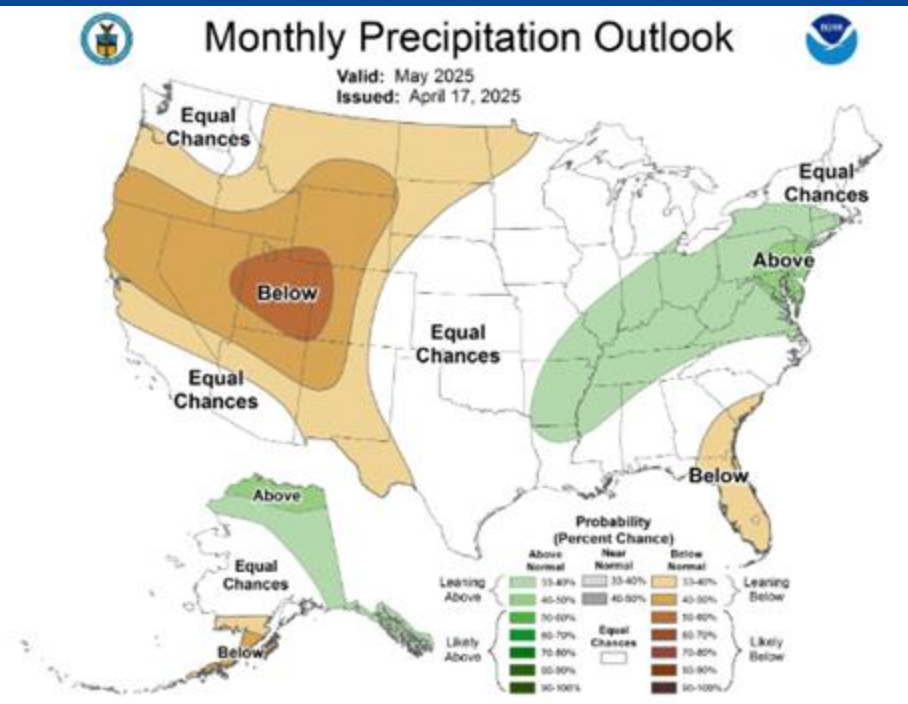
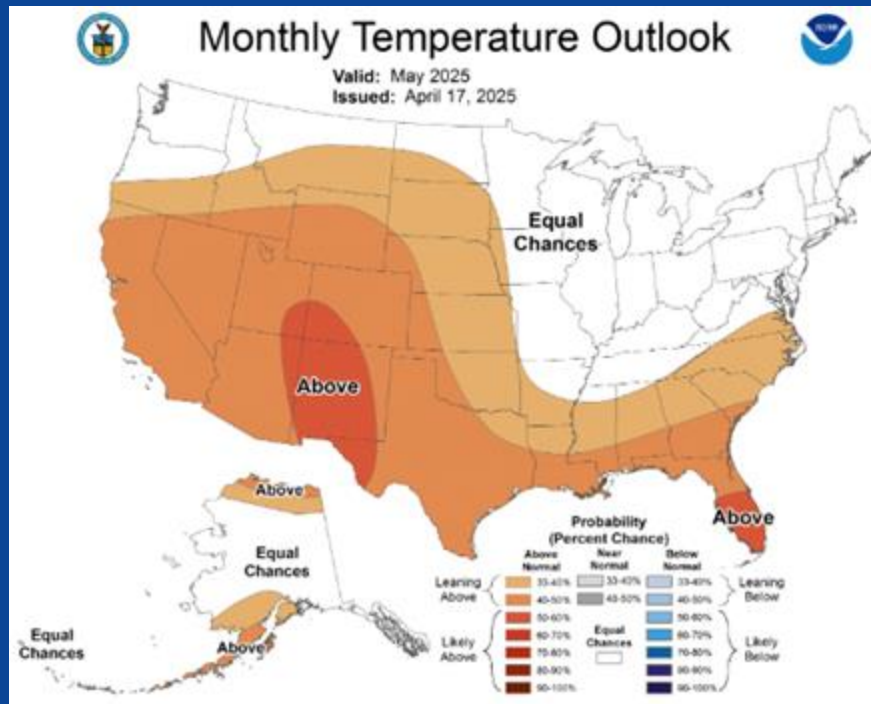
Normals for Spokane for May 15th:

High: upper 60s

Lows: mid 40s

Rain: <0.04"

## Seasonal temperatures and precipitation



SPOKANE





# Latest on ENSO



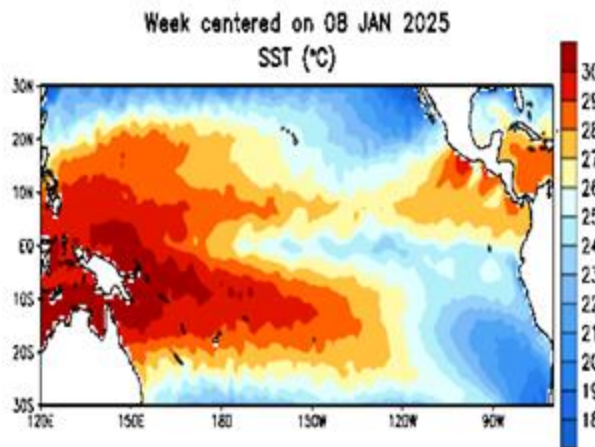
ENSO-neutral is favored during the Northern Hemisphere summer, with a greater than 50% chance through August-October 2025.



CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER/NCEP/NWS

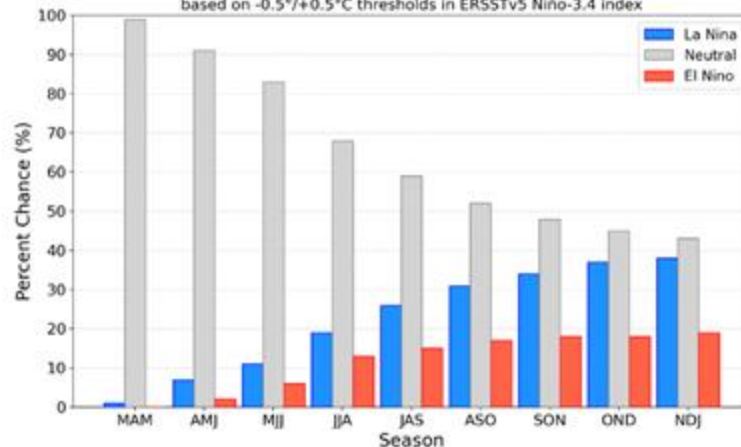
10 April 2025

## ENSO Alert System Status: **Final La Niña Advisory**



Sea Surface temperatures in the Pacific are trending to more seasonal levels.

Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued April 2025)  
based on  $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  thresholds in ERSSTv5 Niño-3.4 index



While the atmosphere is consistent with La Niña conditions, a pattern change is likely soon.



SPOKANE



# La Nina → Neutral Yearly Composites



Best Fit

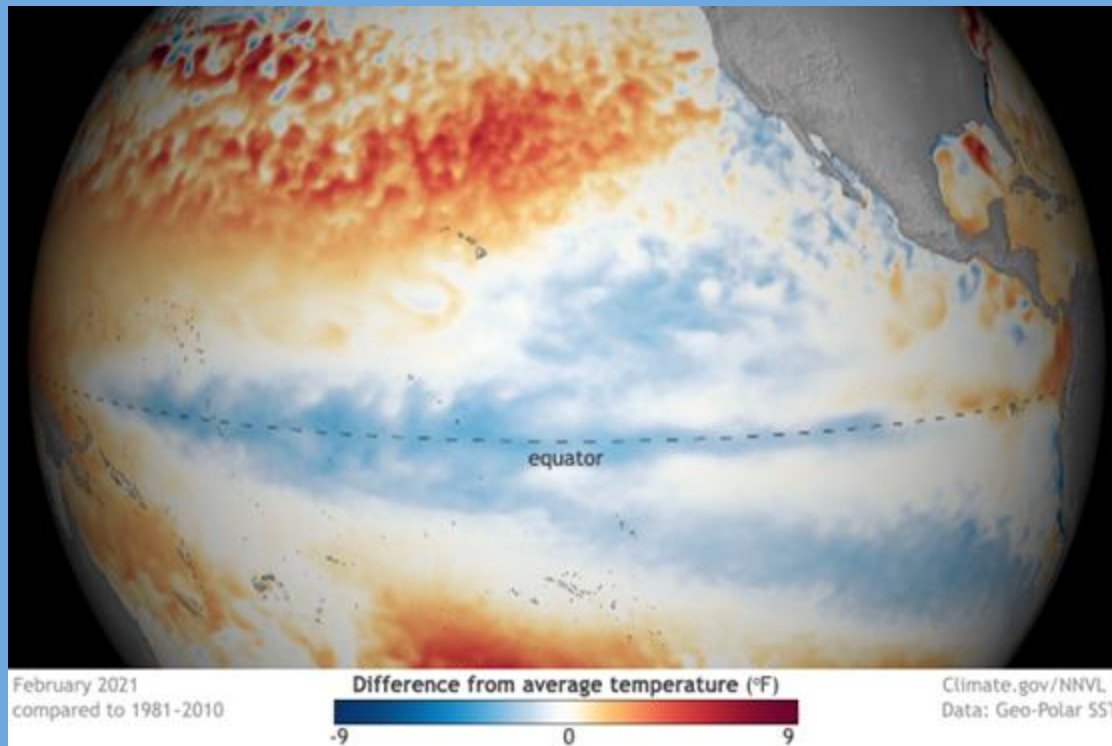
2001

2006

2013

2014

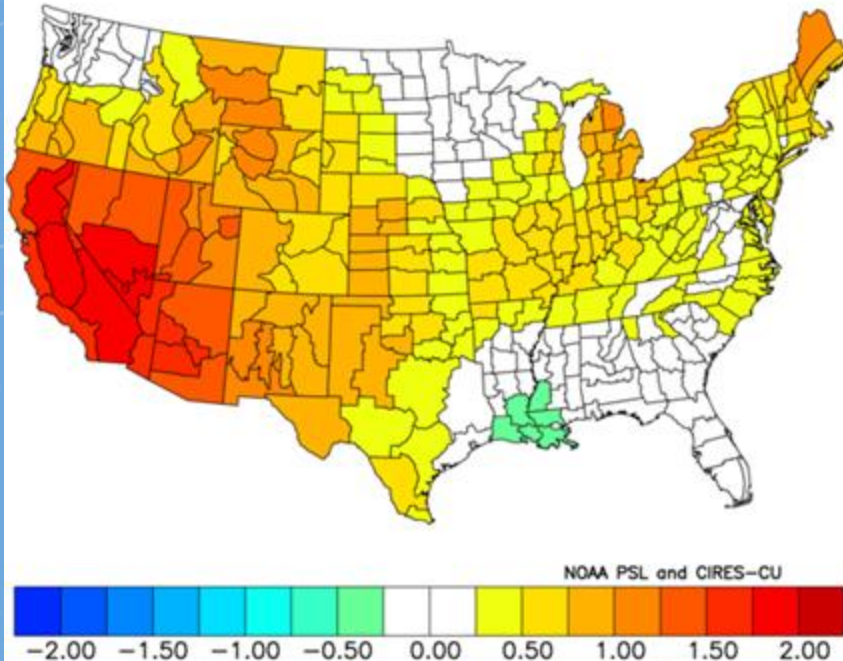
2017



# Analog Years Anomalies - Spring

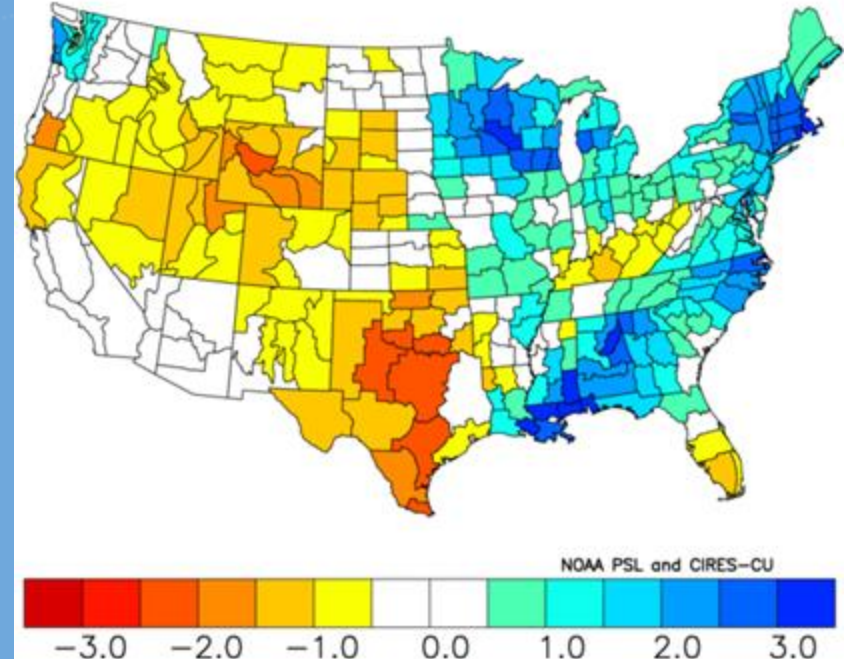
What was the average of the these 5 best fit years

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)  
Apr to Jun 2001,2006,2013,2014,2017  
Versus 1991–2020 Longterm Average



## Temperature

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)  
Apr to Jun 2001,2006,2013,2014,2017  
Versus 1991–2020 Longterm Average



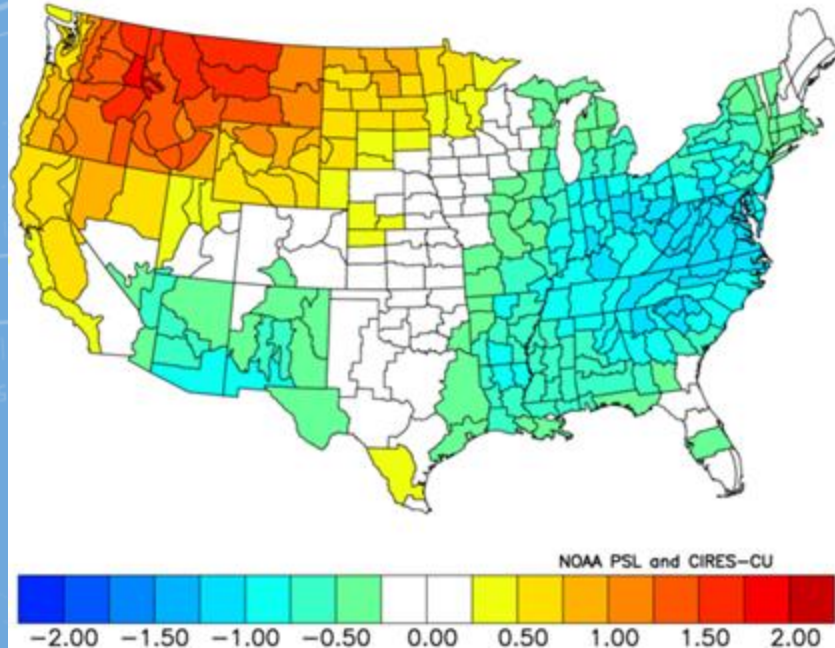
## Precipitation



# Analog Years Anomalies - Summer

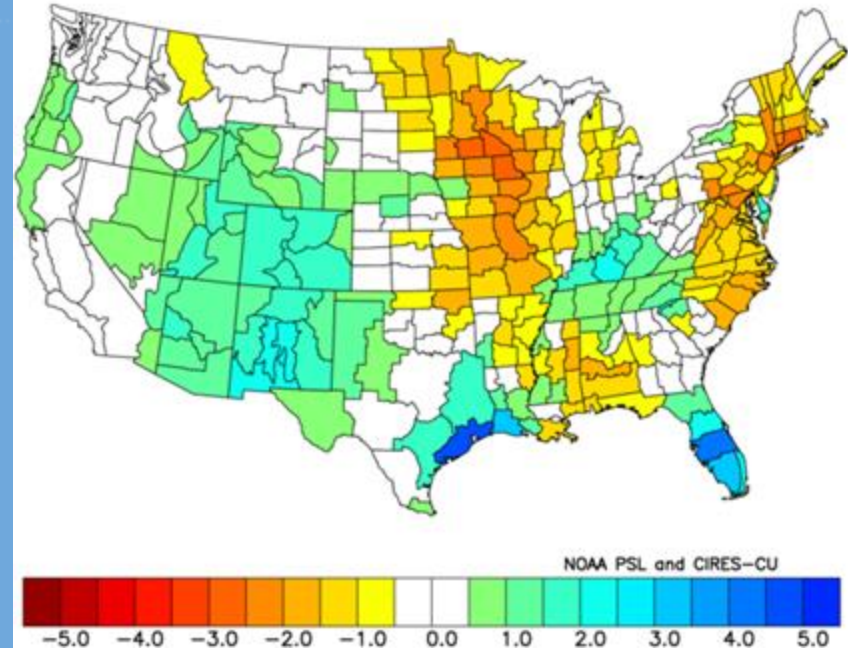
What was the average of the these 5 best fit years

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)  
Jul to Sep 2001,2006,2013,2014,2017  
Versus 1991–2020 Longterm Average



## Temperature

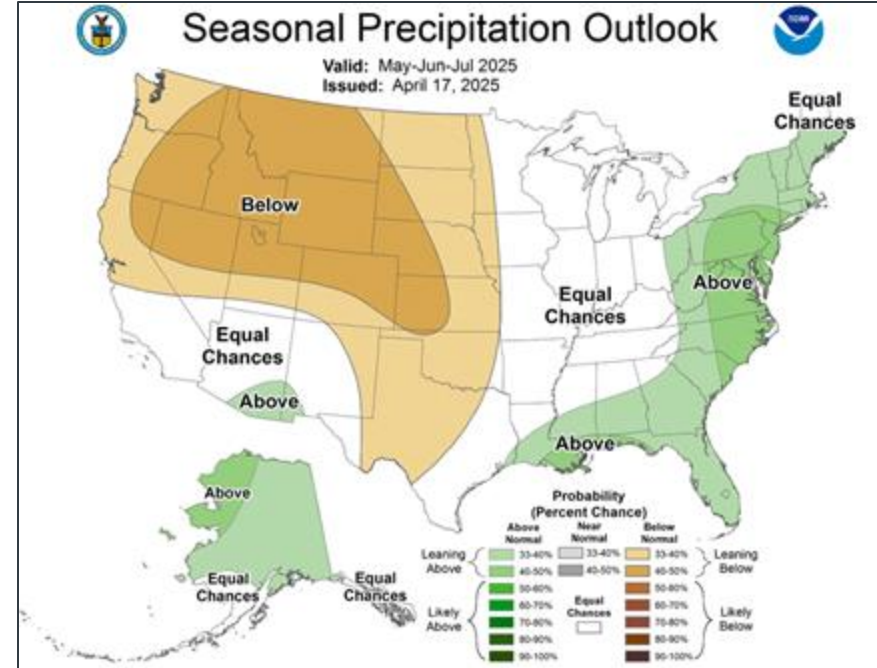
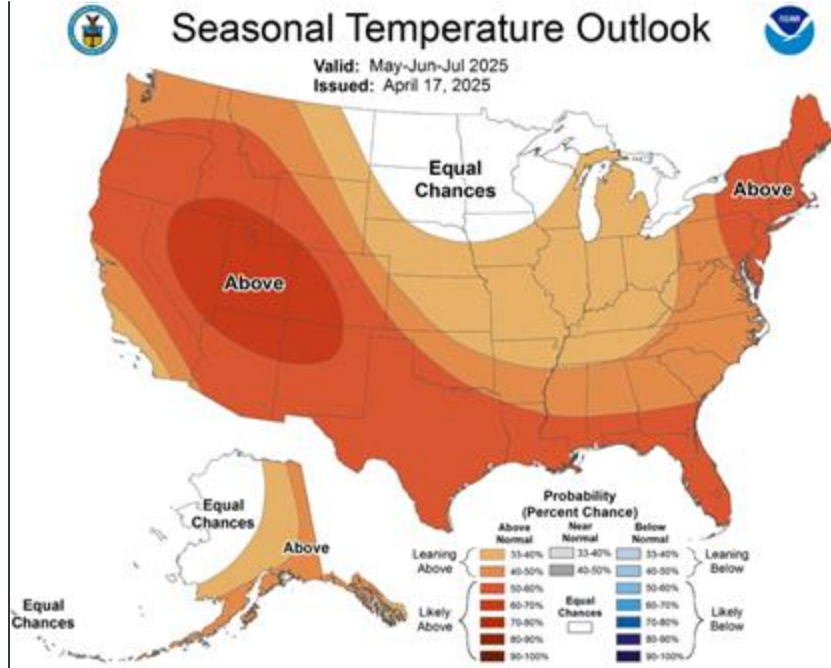
NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)  
Jul to Sep 2001,2006,2013,2014,2017  
Versus 1991–2020 Longterm Average



## Precipitation

# Official CPC Outlook

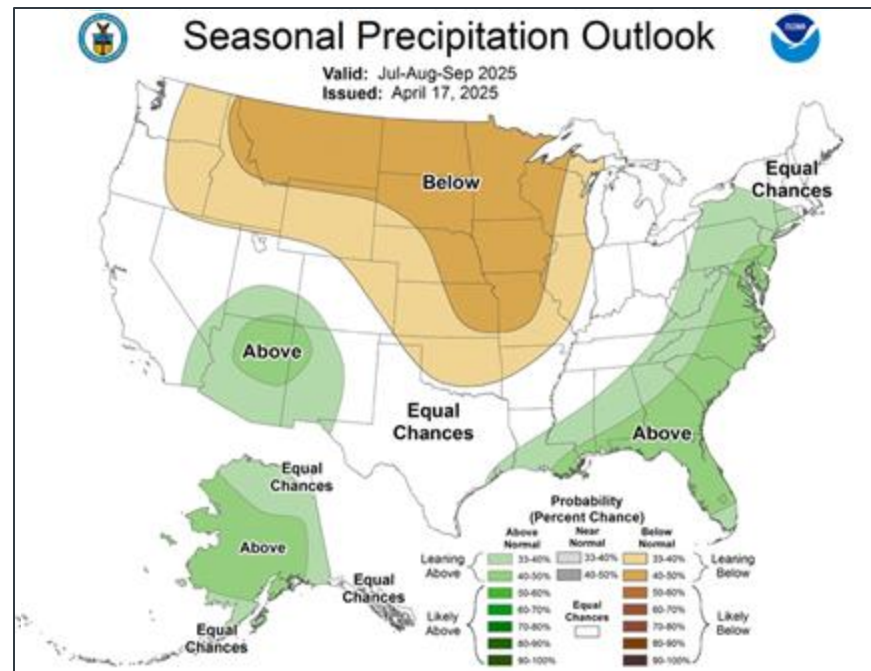
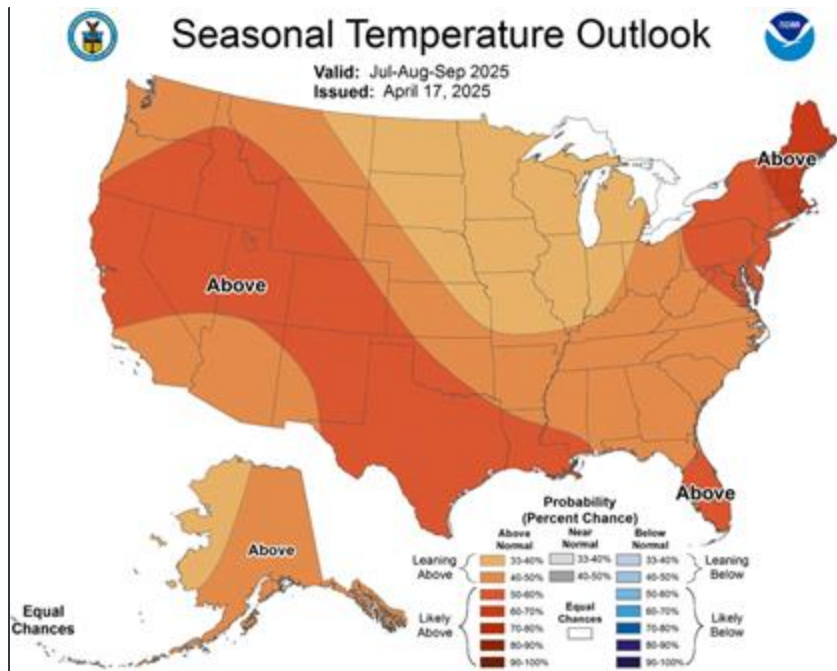
## 3 Month - May through July 2025



Leaning to **above normal** (40-50%) **temperatures** and  
Leaning to **below normal** (40-50%) **precipitation**

# Official CPC Outlook

3 Month - July through September 2025



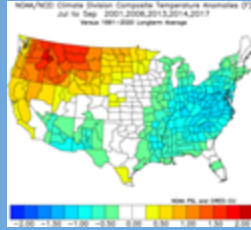
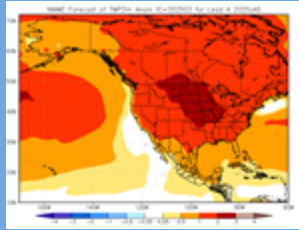
Leaning to **above normal** (40-50%) **temperatures** and  
Leaning to **below normal** (33-40%) **precipitation**



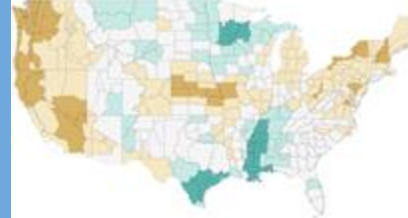
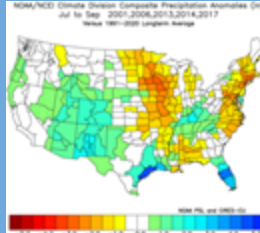
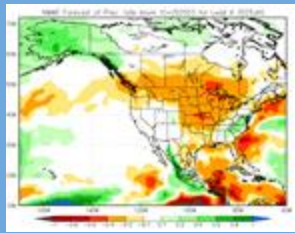
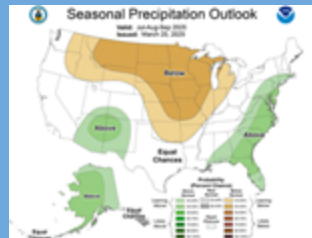


# NWS Spokane Toolbox

*CPC, Climate Models, Analog Years, and Local Study: Springtime Variables in Relation to Fire Season Activity*



**Temperature: → All lean toward Warmer than Normal**



**Precipitation: → All lean Near to Drier than Normal**





# Drought Outlook Spring 2025



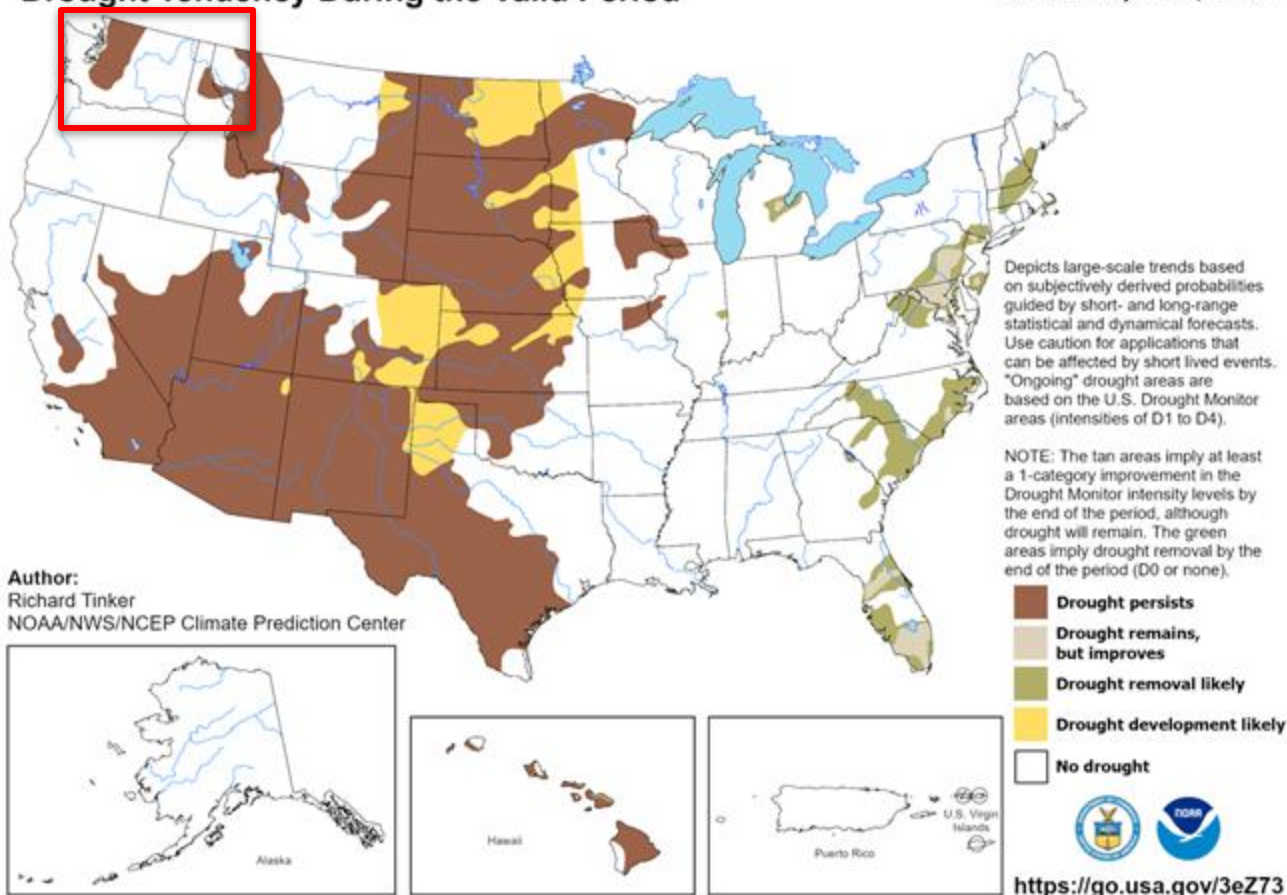
Central  
Panhandle Mtns  
will like see the  
moderate  
drought persist



## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

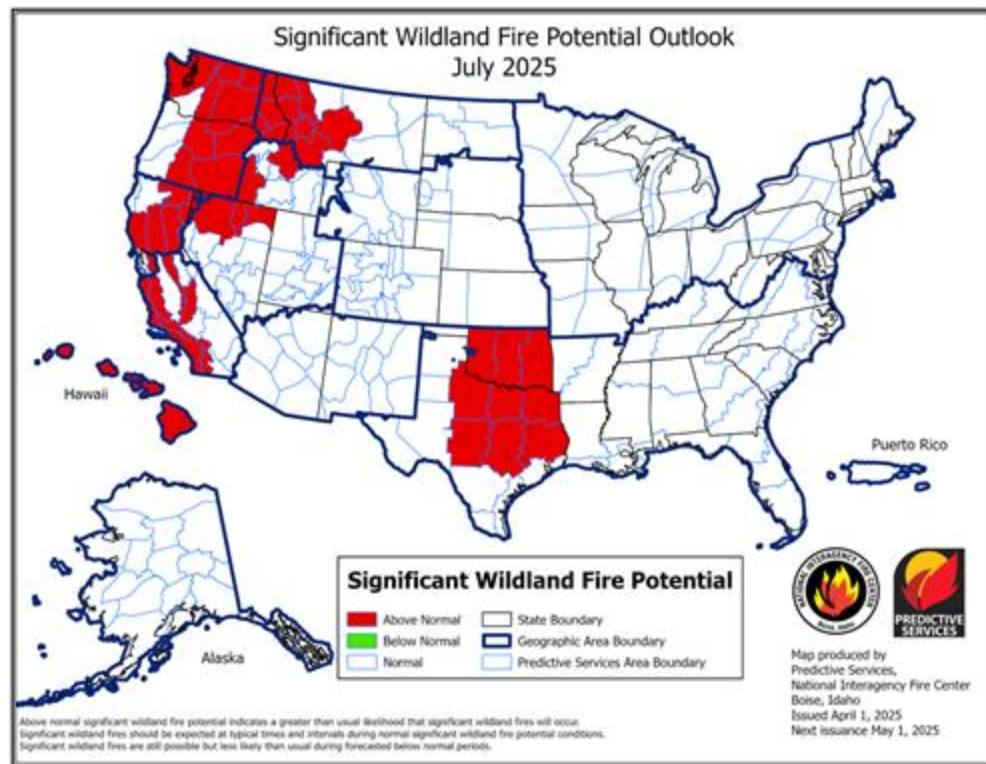
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 17 - July 31, 2025  
Released April 17, 2025



SPOKANE

# Significant Wildland Fire Potential



The last 7 out of 10 fire seasons have been above normal. Anticipate an active fire season unless we see trends that indicate something different.



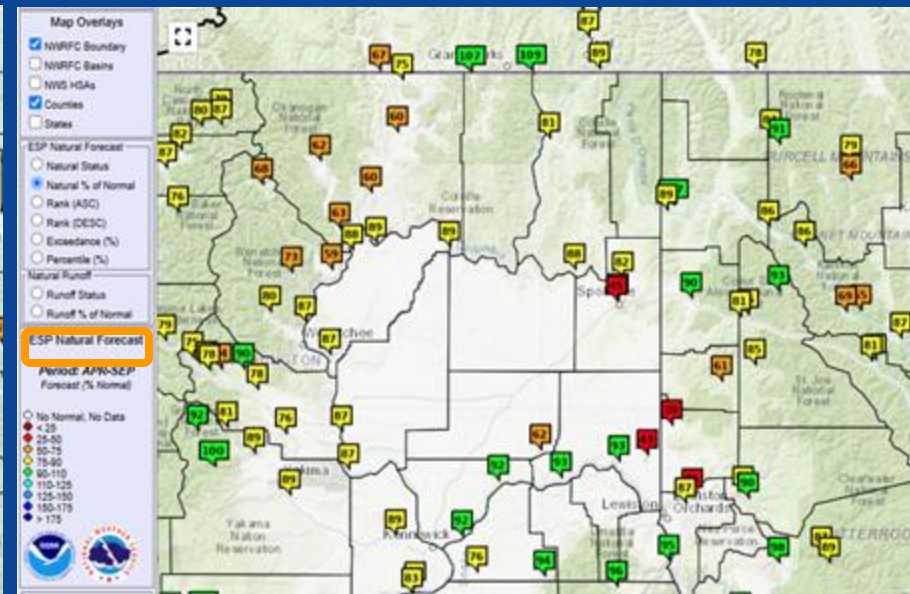
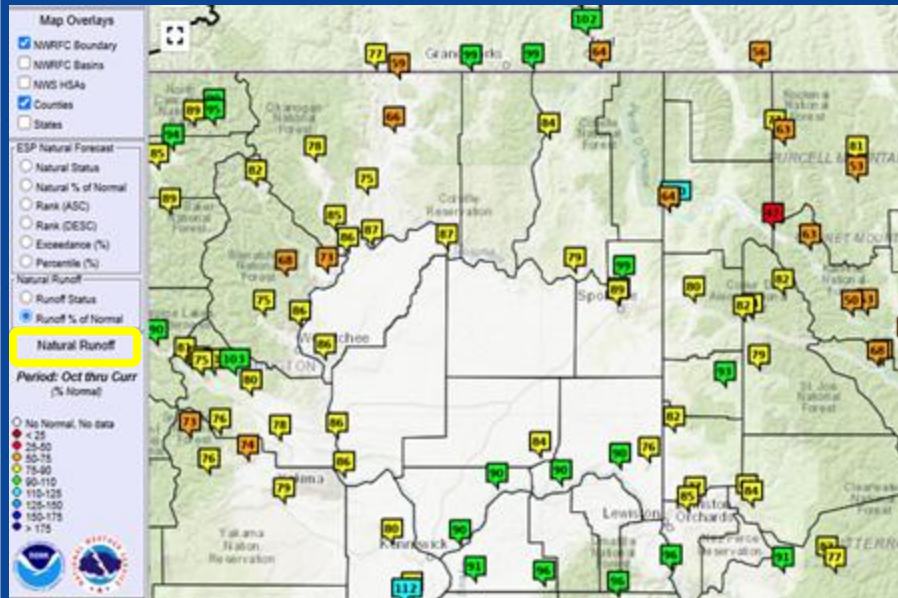




# Runoff vs. Water Supply



From the NWRFC, runoff has been earlier and lower than normal with water supply outlooks trending lower than normal. Similar trend as 2024. WA Drought



SPOKANE



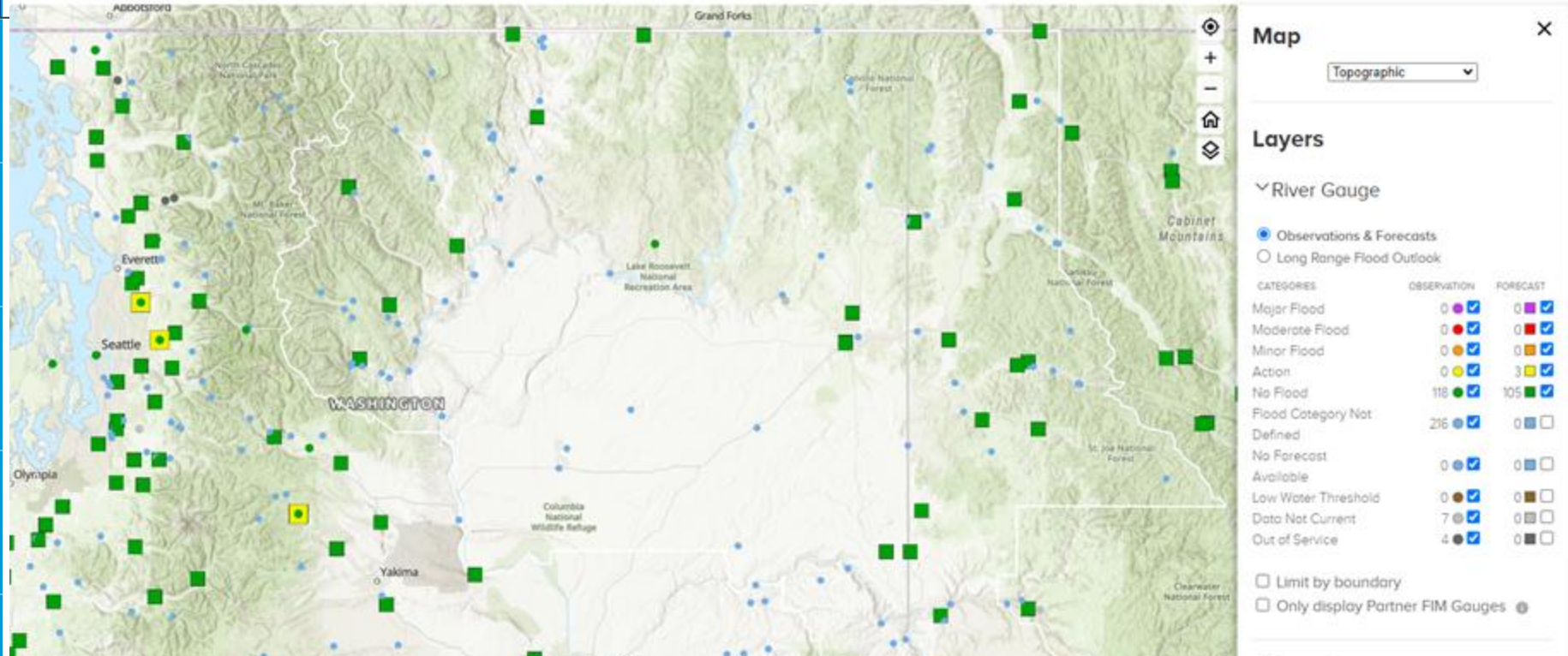
## Bottom Line

- Precipitation was good, snowpack a little less
- La Niña is departing -> leading to ENSO Neutral by summer
- Flood risk remains low on mainstem rivers. Runoff from higher elevations especially for Okanogan Highlands and Blue Mtns.
- Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the summer season -> anticipate an active fire season
  - Short-lived, intense heat spells
  - Distribution of the summer precipitation



# NWS Hydrologic Web Page

[water.noaa.gov](https://water.noaa.gov)



## National Water Prediction Service (NWPS)







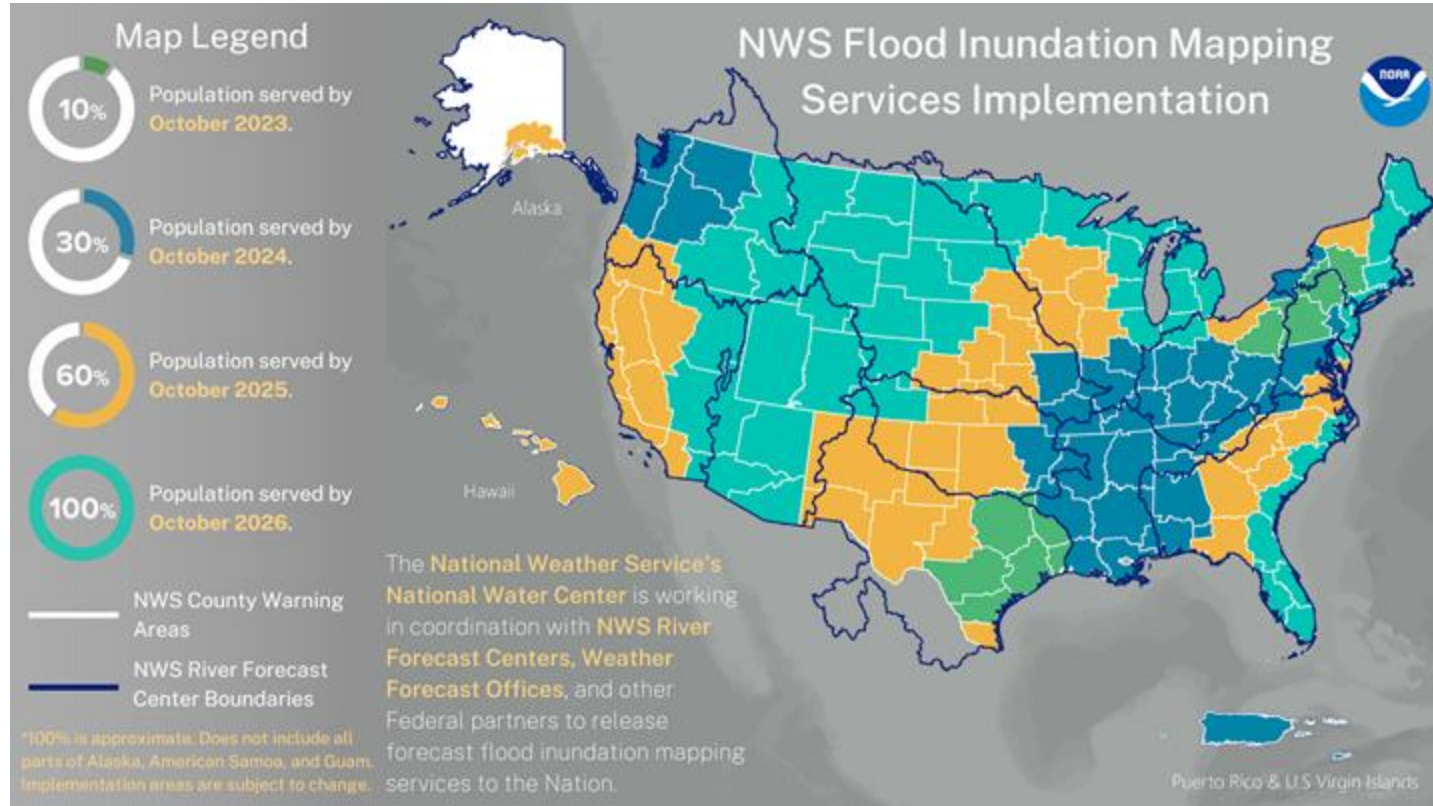
# Flood Inundation Mapping (FIM)



**Pacific NW &  
northern Idaho  
is live NOW**



**Southern Idaho  
will be fall 2026**





# Thank you!

**Robin Fox - National Weather Service**

[robin.fox@noaa.gov](mailto:robin.fox@noaa.gov)

[nws.spokane@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.spokane@noaa.gov)

