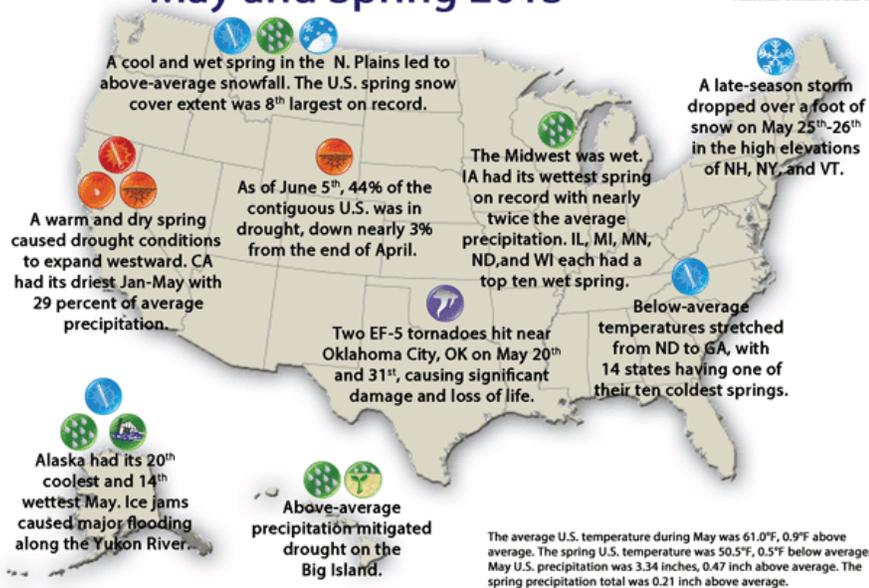


Significant events for March - May 2013

Significant Events for May and Spring 2013

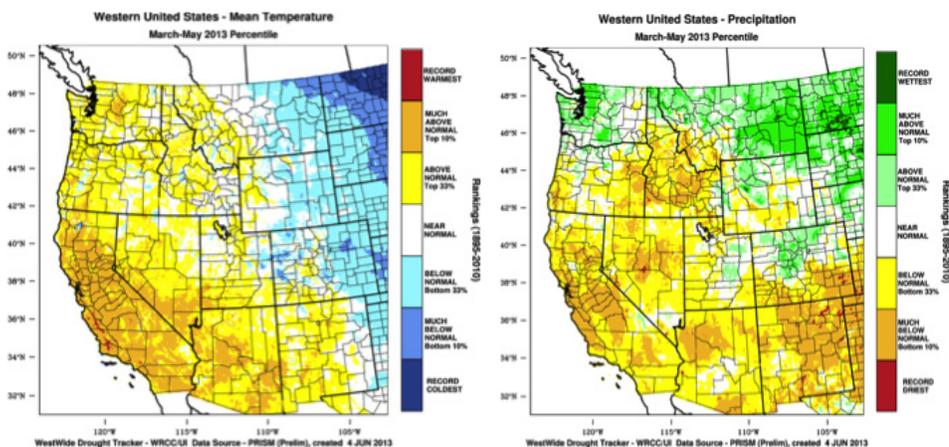


Highlights for the West

- After a wet start to winter, extremely dry conditions persisted in the Southwest
- Reductions in California water allocations as dry spring proceeded
- Colorado River: snowmelt runoff 42% of normal, Lake Powell to drop 30 ft in next year
- Exceptional drought in southern High Plains west to Rocky Mountains
- Much of California in warmest and driest 10th percentile for spring months.
- Unusual early wildfires in New Mexico, California and Arizona
- Western Washington and eastern Montana within 10th wettest percentile
- ENSO-neutral conditions are expected to persist into the summer

Regional Overview for March - May 2013

Temperature and Precipitation Percentile Rankings



US Drought Monitor 6/18/2013

Temperature percentile rankings shown in the left panel display a gradient of spring temperatures far above normal (warm colors) in California, southern Nevada, and Arizona to below normal (cool colors) in the eastern portions of Montana, Colorado, and Wyoming.

Much of the western US was drier than normal this spring, with many southwestern locations receiving their most significant spring precipitation from mid-May thunderstorms. Western Washington, Montana, and the Colorado Rockies received above normal precipitation and snowfall this season as shown in the precipitation percentile rankings in the center panel. (*Temperature and precipitation from the WRCC Westwide Drought Tracker*)

Drought conditions worsened over the spring season in New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho and California. Improvement was seen in eastern Wyoming and Colorado as well as southeastern Montana. (*The Drought Monitor is a collaborative product from the USDA, NOAA and National Drought Mitigation Center www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu/monitor.html*)



Regional Impacts for March - May 2013

Climate and Weather

Dry conditions have prevailed since early January in much of the West. The northern tier of the West saw areas of above normal precipitation throughout the season.

Drought, Flooding and Water Resources

The Oregon governor issued a drought declaration for the Upper Klamath Basin in April. A call on water by senior appropriators was made in early June.

Water allocations for parts of California's Central Valley were reduced from already conservative initial values as dry conditions continued.

Agriculture

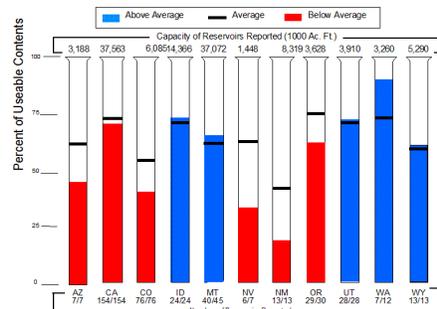
Warm temperatures in the early spring followed by an April cold snap damaged stone fruits in Colorado and Idaho.

May precipitation damaged stone fruits in California and Washington.

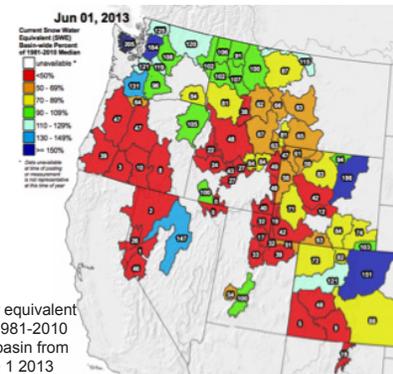
Health

Large scale wind storms in April produced dust and poor air quality in Arizona and New Mexico as well as vehicle crashes, power losses, and surface erosion.

Reservoir storage as of May 1 2013 from NRCS



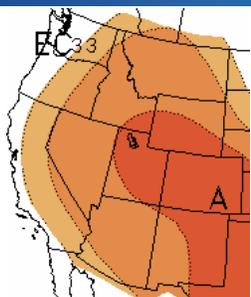
Prepared by: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Water and Climate Center, Portland, OR
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov



Snow water equivalent percent of 1981-2010 median by basin from NRCS June 1 2013

Regional Outlook for Jul-Aug-Sep 2013

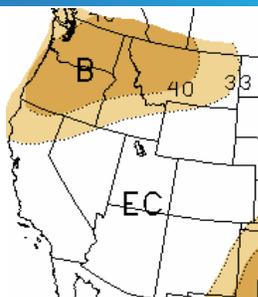
Western Region Partners



Jul-Aug-Sep temperature outlook produced by CPC June 20 2013

EC MEANS EQUAL CHANCES FOR A, B, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW

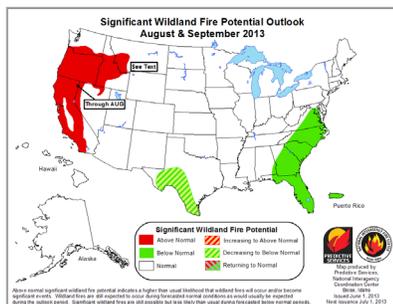
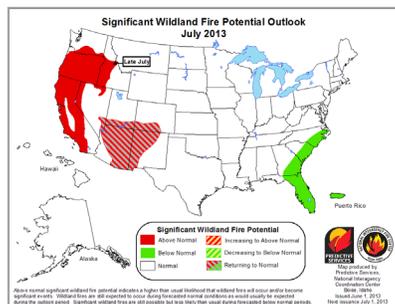
Numbers indicate percent chance of temperature in warmest one-third and of precipitation in driest one-third



Jul-Aug-Sep precipitation outlook produced by CPC June 20 2013

NOAA CPC Summer Seasonal Outlook

Above normal temperature is anticipated throughout the West for the next three months, especially in the central and southern Rocky Mountains. Coastal areas are expected to remain closer to average or cool. A drier than usual season is expected in the Pacific Northwest and eastern New Mexico. During July (not shown) the monsoon outlook is for wetter than usual conditions in Arizona.



NIFC July-September Wildfire Outlook

Fire potential is expected to diminish over the Four Corners area after monsoon onset. Potential is expected to remain high in California after the dry winter and in Oregon due to added fine fuel growth.

- Western Regional Climate Center
wrcc.dri.edu
- National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) - drought.gov
- Western Governors' Association
westgov.org
- Western States Water Council
westgov.org/wswc
- USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center - www.nrcs.usda.gov
- National Interagency Fire Center
www.nifc.gov
- DOI WaterSMART
www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART
- NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
esrl.noaa.gov/psd
- NOAA's Western Regional Collaboration Team
www.regions.noaa.gov/western/western_region_team.html
- Western Water Assessment
colorado.edu
- Climate Assessment for the Southwest
climas.arizona.edu
- California Nevada Applications Program
meteora.ucsd.edu/cap
- Climate Impacts Research Consortium
pnwclimate.org/resources
- Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
www.cbrfc.noaa.gov
- California Nevada River Forecast Center
www.cnrfc.noaa.gov
- NOAA Fisheries Service - www.nmfs.noaa.gov
- NWS Western Region's Climate Service
nws.noaa.gov/om/csd/index.php?section=programs#western
- State Climatologists - stateclimate.org

