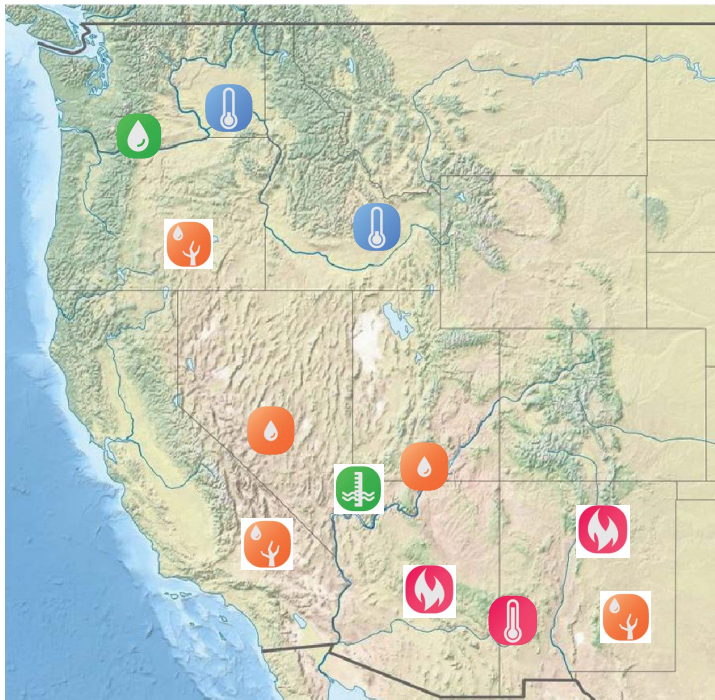


Significant Events for Mar-Apr-May 2022

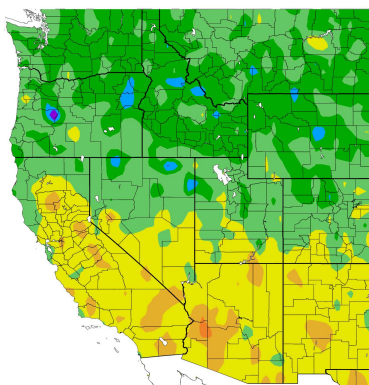


Mar-Apr-May Highlights

- Well below normal temperatures across the PNW with a record cold spring for parts of WA.
- Wet spring in parts of PNW with record precipitation along OR/WA border.
- Well below normal precipitation across the Southwest with a record dry spring in parts of CA, NV, UT, AZ, and NM.
- Extreme to exceptional drought now covers 38% of the West and includes all Western States except for WA.
- Lake Powell (UT) and Lake Mead (NV) remain at record low levels and received well-below normal spring inflows.
- Active and early wildfire season across AZ and NM with two of NM's largest fires on record still burning at the end of May.
- La Niña conditions persisted during Spring with La Niña favored to continue going into Summer.

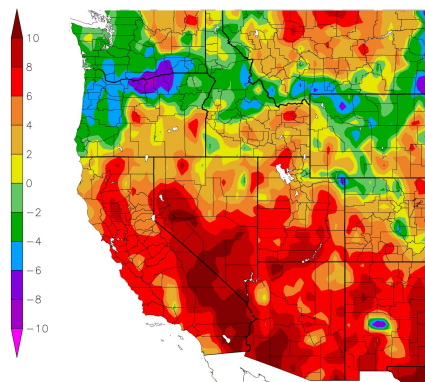
Regional Overview for Mar-Apr-May 2022

Mean Temperature Departure (F)
Mar-Apr-May 2022



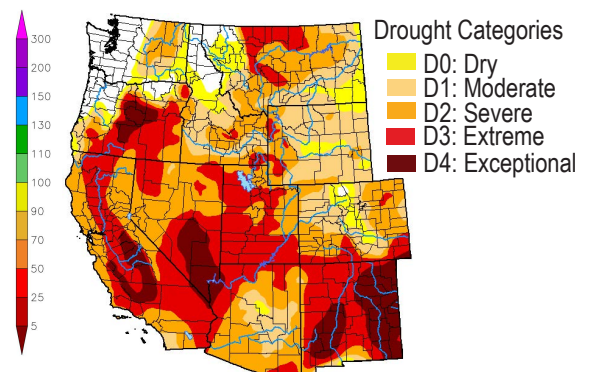
Temperatures were below average across the Pacific Northwest, northern California, and the northern Great Basin. A record cold spring was observed in parts of coastal Washington and southeast Washington. Southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico saw well above normal temperatures.

Precipitation % of Normal
Mar-Apr-May 2022



Dry conditions persisted across the Southwest with record low spring precipitation in parts of Nevada, California, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. A persistent trough of low pressure in April and May led to well above normal spring precipitation in parts of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southwest Montana.

US Drought Monitor
May 31 2022



Over 87% of the western U.S. is in drought, with 38% in extreme to exceptional drought. Modest drought amelioration occurred during the spring in parts of the Pacific Northwest that were wetter and cooler than normal. Drought severity intensified by up to two DM categories across the Southwest coincident with warm and dry spring conditions.

Regional Impacts for Mar-Apr-May 2022

Drought and Water Resources

Lake Mead and Lake Powell remain at record low levels (29% and 27% of capacity, respectively). May inflows into Lake Powell were 67% of normal and the June inflow forecast is 49% of normal.

Due to drought and water supply concerns the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has implemented restrictions limiting outdoor watering to one day per week.

Agriculture

Crop planting and growth delayed across Washington farms due to cold and wet spring. Cherry crops were hard hit with some farmers expecting to lose up to 50% of their crop.

Air Quality

The Clark County Department of Air Quality (NV) reported 2022 was the worst dust season in over a decade. Long-term drought combined with windy conditions contributed to the dust problem. Spring 2022 was notably windy throughout the West creating impacts from air quality to wildfire spread.

Active Fire Season in New Mexico with Largest Wildfire in History

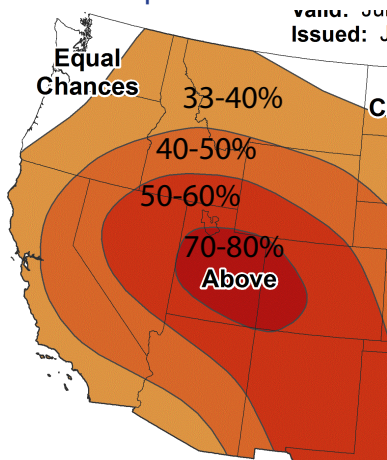


Image: Satellite view from 2 May 2022 of smoke plumes from New Mexico wildfires. Credit: Wildfire Today

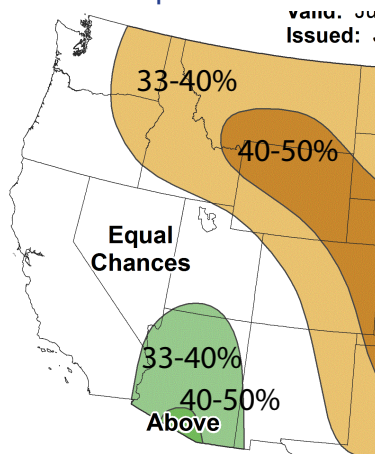
The Calf Canyon and Hermits Peak fires both originated in April in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in northern New Mexico. Both fires remained active in May due to persistent hot, dry, and windy conditions. The fires merged to burn over 300,000 acres, becoming the largest fire in New Mexico history, destroying over 700 structures and forcing widespread evacuations. Numerous large fires originating and rapidly growing amidst dry and windy conditions in the Southwest have produced regional air quality impacts in addition to raising post-fire hydrologic hazard concerns heading into North American Monsoon season.

Regional Outlook for Jul-Aug-Sep 2022

CPC Temperature Outlook



CPC Precipitation Outlook



Numbers indicate percent chance of temperatures in warmest/coolest one-third and precipitation in wettest/driest one-third. Outlook produced June 16, 2022.

The CPC outlook for July-September favors above normal temperatures across the West with equal chances of above or below normal temperatures in the coastal Pacific Northwest. Highest chances for above normal temperatures are in Utah and western Colorado. Above normal precipitation is forecast for Arizona with below normal precipitation forecast for the northern Intermountain West. The precipitation pattern highlights an increased probability of an active monsoon for Arizona. Widespread above-average temperatures and drier-than-normal conditions elsewhere suggest an anomalously strong ridge of high pressure to set up over the West.

Western Region Partners

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
NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division
esrl.noaa.gov/psd
NOAA Climate Prediction Center
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov
National Centers for Envir. Info. (NCEI)
www.ncei.noaa.gov
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center - www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov
National Interagency Fire Center
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Western Water Assessment
wwa.colorado.edu
Climate Assessment for the Southwest
climas.arizona.edu
California Nevada Applications Program
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Climate Impacts Research Consortium
pnwclimate.org/resources
NWS Western Region Forecast Offices
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