



Oregon Water Supply Outlook Report

April 1, 2024



Strawberry Mountain, located in the Blue Mountain Range, overlooking pasture and crop lands near Prairie City, OR in the John Day Basin. Snowpack in the John Day Basin is 106% of median as of April 1st. Photo taken by Allen Buckman, NRCS Hydrologist (March 21, 2024)

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Conditions Overview

Summary

The normal timing for peak snow accumulation has passed for most major basins. As of April 1, both water year-to-date precipitation and snowpack statewide are near normal (105% and 104%, respectively). An active storm pattern starting toward the end of February continued into early March for parts of the state as the system moved from north to south into California. The storm system had the greatest impact in March in southern Oregon, with more substantial precipitation and snowpack accumulation. Some water year-to-date precipitation and snowpack deficits still persist in the region, notably in parts of eastern Klamath Basin and Silver Creek watershed. There were minimal gains in snowpack elsewhere as early-March accumulation was followed by some melting of snowpack, leading to mostly little change in basin snowpack as percent of normal. Snowpack deficits persist in some areas, including lower elevations in the central Cascades, higher elevations in the northern Cascades, and in parts of the Grande Ronde and Powder basins.

Near-normal conditions for much of the state has led to mostly near-normal water supply forecasts (WSF) statewide. Many forecasts in the Harney and Owyhee basins are well-above normal. WSFs across much of the state generally reflect a winter with near-normal precipitation (rain and snow), but also a winter that was wetter overall than the expected pattern for this El Niño winter (based on 1952-2022 record), notably across the Cascades but less so in parts of northeastern Oregon.

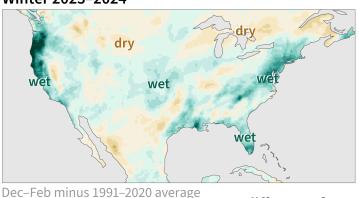
*Note that basin conditions outlined in this report include data from stations within the SNOTEL and SNOLITE network, and/or coopera-tor weather stations.



Coby Pope, PacifiCorp Hydro Repairman, driving through ice layers at North Umpqua Snow Course. Snowpack at the site is 221% of median as of April 1st.

Photo taken by Richard Grost, PacifiCorp Aquatic Scientist (March 28, 2024)

Winter 2023-2024



Pattern expected based on past El Niños



difference from average (mm/day)

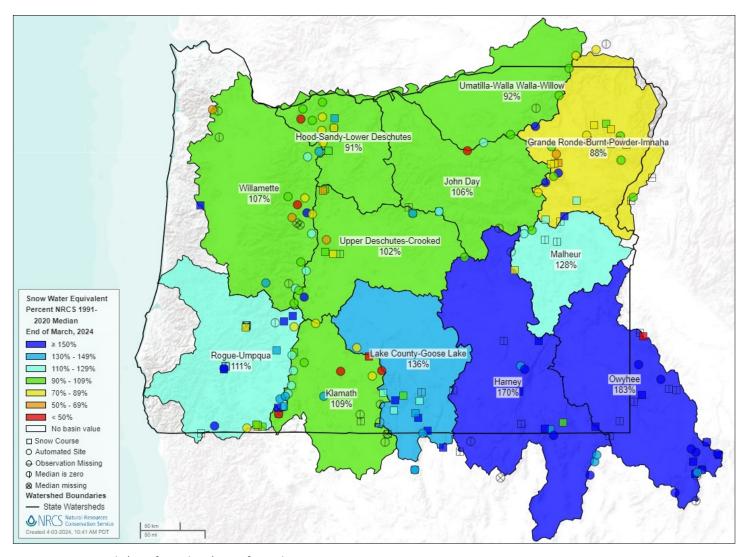
-3.0 -1.5 0 1.5 3.0

The difference in winter 2023-2024 precipitation from the expected precipitation based on past El Niño. (NOAA climate.gov)

Data: ERA5

Snowpack

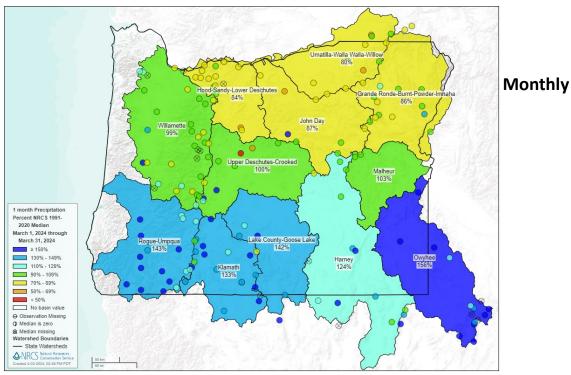
As of April 1, statewide snowpack is 104% of normal. A storm system moved across the state from north to south at the end of February and into early May. The system became more active across southern Oregon and into California. Snowpack in basins across southern Oregon benefited greatly from this event, with snowpack in most of those basins increasing as percent of normal since March 1. Elsewhere, despite some additional snowpack in early March, some melting followed which overall resulted in little change to basin snowpack as percent of normal from March 1 to April 1. Some snowpack deficits still persist in some regions, including in parts of northeastern Oregon, central and northern Oregon Cascades, and parts of Klamath and Lake counties. Snowpack in Owyhee and Harney basins are above normal, with Fish Creek SNOTEL on Steens Mountain recording its 5th highest snowpack on record (current to 1941).



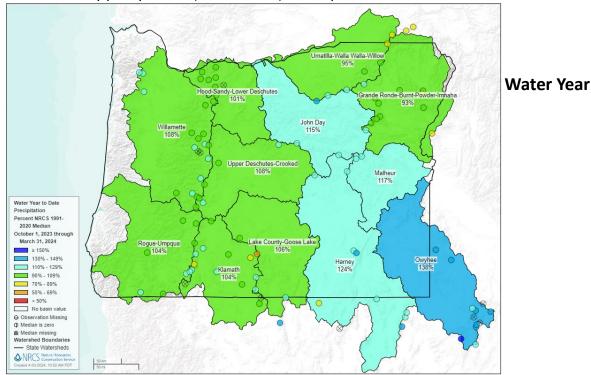
Basin snowpack (% of median) as of April 1

Precipitation

Precipitation during March varied along a north-south gradient, with wetter conditions in the south—a result of an active storm pattern that moved from north to south across the state starting in late February. Statewide, WYTD precipitation is 105% of normal. Few regions are still experiencing a deficit in WYTD precipitation, including basins in the northern Blue Mountains near the WA and ID border and in parts of the Sycan Basin. Elsewhere, WYTD precipitation is near normal across the Cascades and slightly above normal in the John Day Basin and extending south to Steens Mountain.



Basin monthly precipitation (% of median) as of April 1

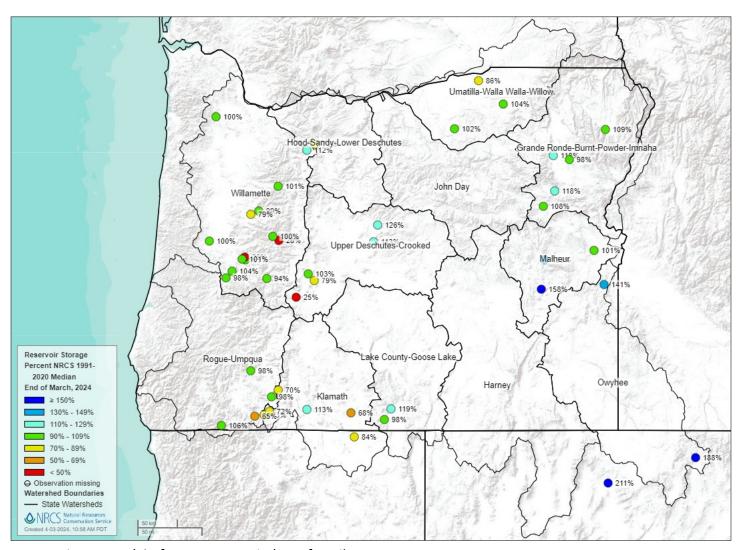


Basin water-year precipitation (% of median) as of April 1

Reservoirs

Volumetric storage for reservoirs across the state varies. In eastern and central Oregon, volumetric storage at reservoirs is mostly near to above normal. Reservoirs in southern Oregon are storing volumes that are below to slightly above normal. In the Deschutes and Willamette basins, volumetric storage ranges from well-below to near normal.

Reservoir storage values aren't necessarily reflective of water supply conditions. Reservoir operators control for a variety of factors when choosing to store or release water, including flooding, irrigation, fisheries, and other water needs. These management needs may impact storage values for a reservoir.



Reservoir storage (% of storage capacity) as of April 1

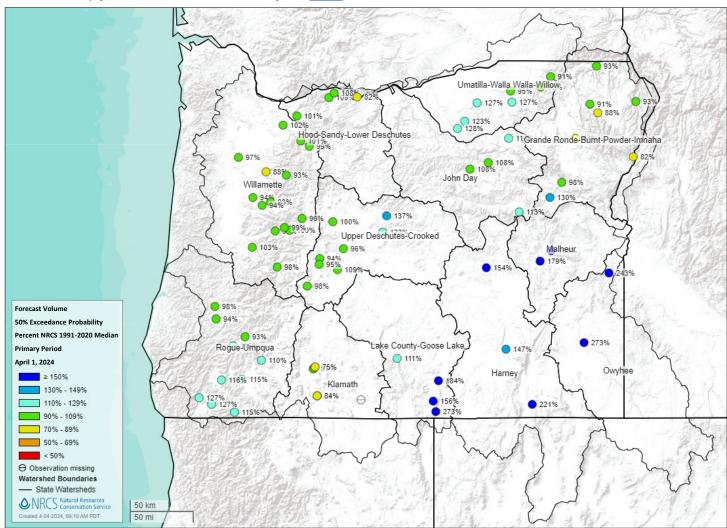
Streamflow

Volumetric streamflow across Oregon is generally near to above normal, with a notable exception for some streams in the Umatilla and John Day basins. March streamflows for the Upper Williamson River in Klamath and Honey Ck nr Plush in the Warner Valley are also notably low.

Water supply forecasts (WSF) for April 1 have remained mostly similar to March-1 WSF, except for modest gains across portions of southern OR including in the Rogue, Lake County & Goose Lake, Harney and Owyhee basins. WSFs (50% exceedance) for the Willamette Basin and across to eastern OR remain mostly near normal. Some forecasts in the Klamath Basin and in northeastern Oregon are slightly below normal.

Predictive skill for WSFs has generally improved since March 1. However, in basins that are rain-dominated (ex., much of the lower Rogue and Umpqua basins), skill may still be sufficiently low. Forecast product-users should bear this and any model uncertainty (quantitatively captured by exceedance intervals) in mind when interpreting WSFs for decision making.

View the map for March observed streamflow <u>here</u>.



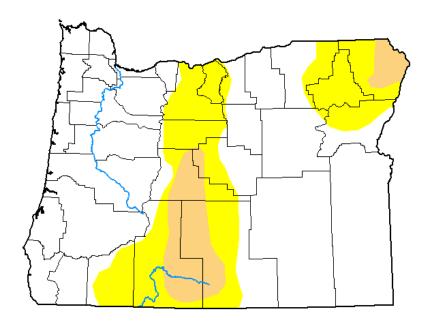
Streamflow forecasts (% of normal) for the primary period as of April 1

Drought

As of April 4, nearly 8% of Oregon is in moderate drought (D1). Drought is primarily distributed from central Deschutes County down to portions of Lake and Klamath counties, with additional D1-drought designation in Wallowa and a small portion of western Crook counties.

At the beginning of the water year, 54% of the state was in some drought category (D1-D3), and 27% of the state in severe to extreme drought.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon



April 2, 2024 (Released Thursday, Apr. 4, 2024) Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

		•	,			
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	69.17	30.83	8.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 03-26-2024	69.14	30.86	8.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Month's Ago 01-02-2024	47.04	52.96	18.85	3.12	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	47.04	52.96	18.85	3.12	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	24.13	75.87	54.18	27.06	6.40	0.00
One Year Ago 04-04-2023	12.87	87.13	57.20	23.63	6.20	0.00

Intensity: None D0 Abnormally Dry

D2 Severe Drought D3 Extreme Drought D1 Moderate 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

<u>Author:</u> Brad Pugh CPC/NOAA







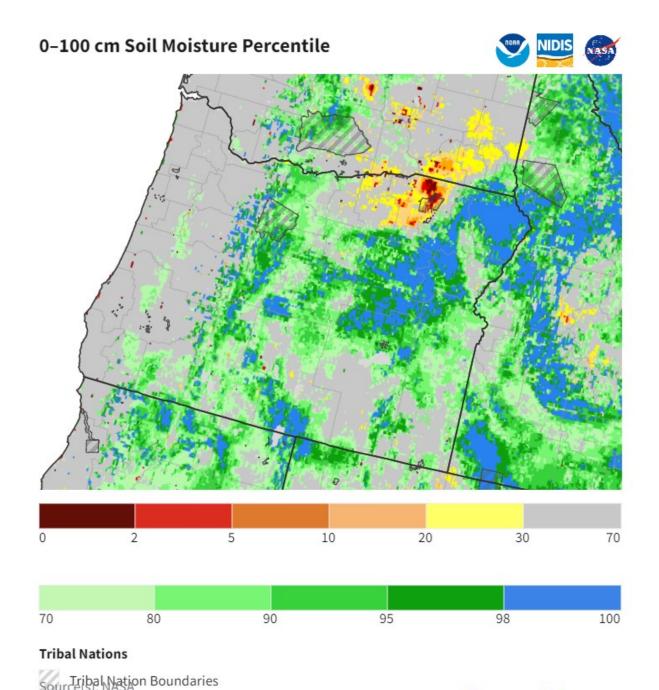


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Soils

The NASA SPORT-LIS product for soil moisture (0-100 cm depth) indicates drier soil moisture profiles in portions of the Umatilla and Walla Walla basins.

Soil moisture conditions can be useful in assessing current drought and future drought potential. In addition, soil moisture is generally a good indicator in some regions of the potential efficiency of snowmelt runoff into streamflow in the spring. Drier soils tend to absorb more water from snowmelt than wetter soils, thus less melt is translated into streamflow (i.e. low efficiency).

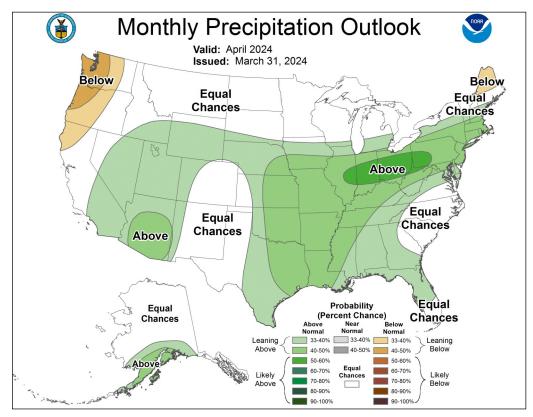


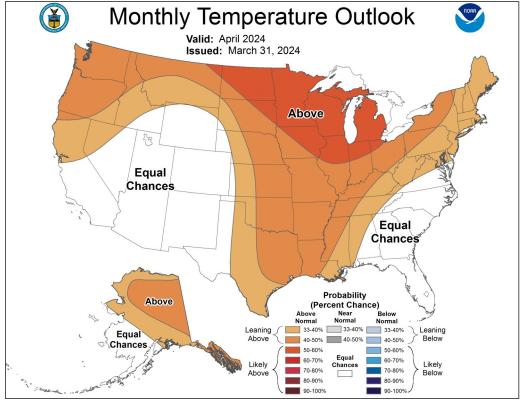
Data Valid: 04/04/24

Drought.gov

1-Month Outlook

The Climate Prediction Center 1-month climatic outlook calls for higher chances of above-normal temperatures, and higher chances of below-normal precipitation for the western and central portions of the state. There is an equal chance of above and below-normal precipitation for eastern Oregon.

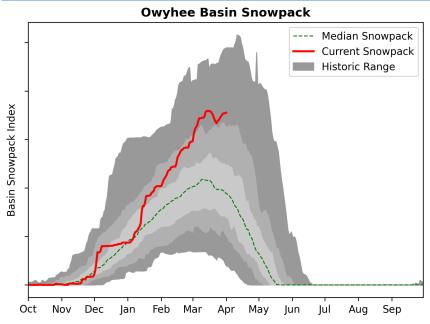




https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

Owyhee Basin Summary

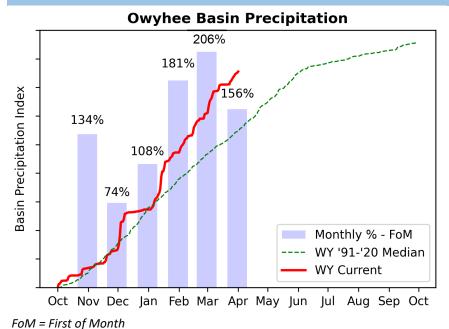
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 208% of median. This is an increase from February 1st, when the basin snowpack was 147% of median.

PRECIPITATION



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

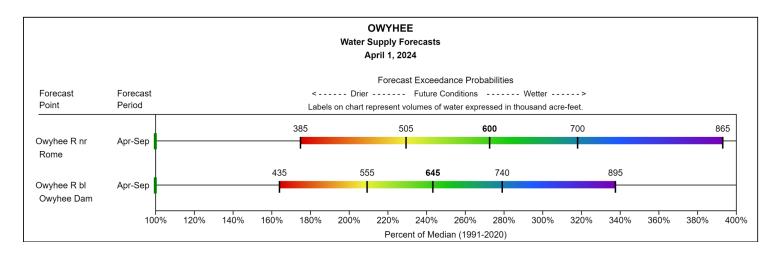
March precipitation is above normal at 156% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 138% of median.

Reservoir storage across the basin is above normal. As of April 1, storage at Lake Owyhee Reservoir is 141% of median and Wild Horse Reservoir is 188% of median.

Ourshan	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
Owyhee	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Wild Horse Reservoir	62.5	30.4	33.3	71.5	87%	42%	47%	188%	91%
Lake Owyhee	649.5	229.5	460.0	715.0	91%	32%	64%	141%	50%
Basin Index					91%	33%	63%	144%	53%
# of reservoirs					2	2	2	2	2

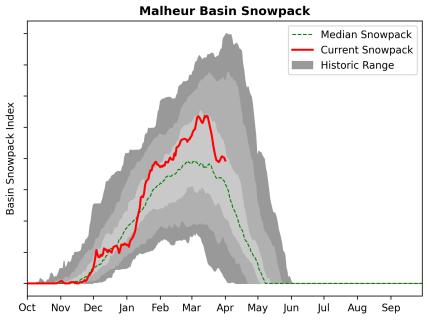
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The streamflow forecasts for the primary period in the basin are above normal and range from 243% to 273% of median.



Malheur Basin Summary

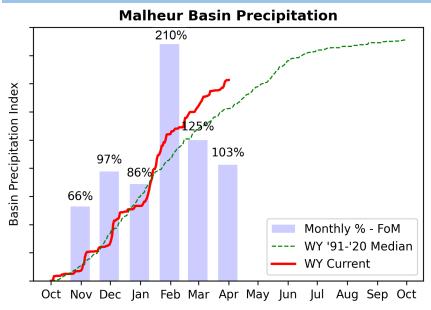
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 183% of median. On March 1 the basin snowpack was 117% of median.

PRECIPITATION



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

FoM = First of Month

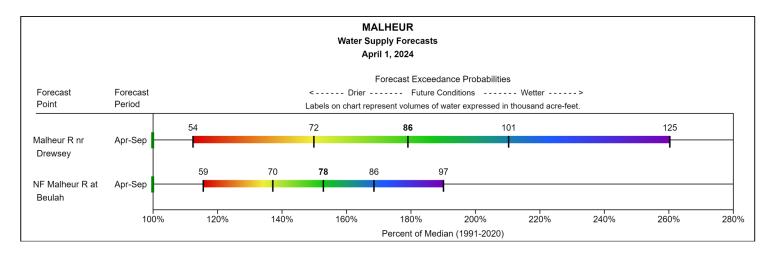
March precipitation is above normal at 103% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 117% of median.

As of April 1, storage ranges from 101% at Bully Creek Reservoir to 158% of median at Warm Springs Reservoir.

Maineur	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %	
	Maineur	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Bully Creek		23.3	18.4	23.0	23.7	98%	78%	97%	101%	80%
Beulah		54.1	21.0	40.7	59.2	91%	35%	69%	133%	51%
Warm Springs		154.9	23.8	98.0	169.6	91%	14%	58%	158%	24%
	Basin Index					92%	25%	64%	144%	39%
	# of reservoirs					3	3	3	3	3

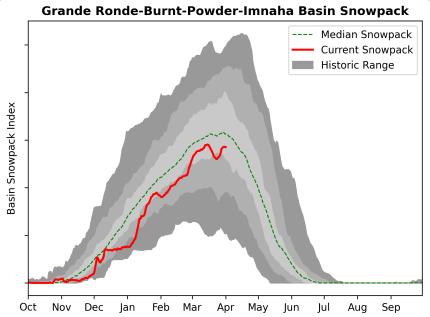
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin are above normal, with forecast ranging from 153% to 179% of median.



Grande Ronde, Burnt, Powder, Imnaha Basin Summary

SNOWPACK

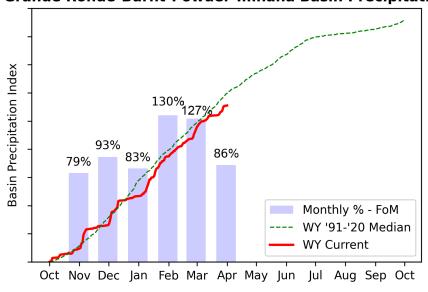


► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 88% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was also at 88% of median.

PRECIPITATION

Grande Ronde-Burnt-Powder-Imnaha Basin Precipitation



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report <u>here</u>.

FoM = First of Month

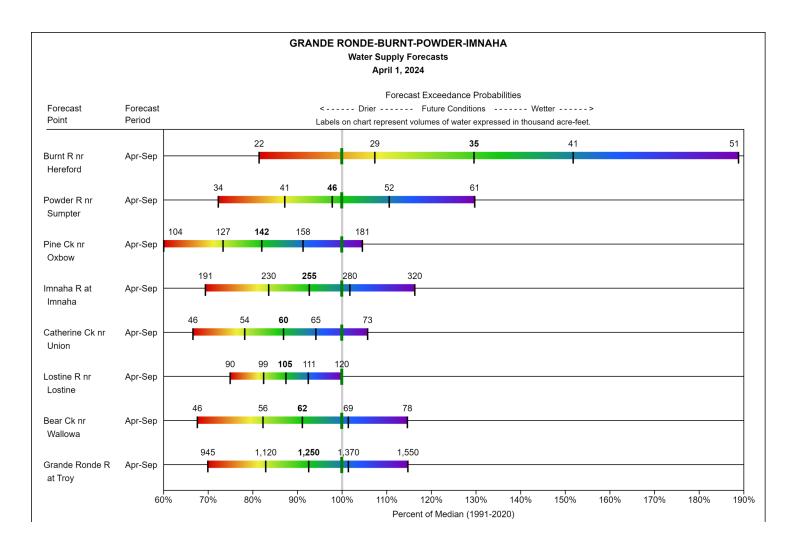
March precipitation is below normal at 86% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 93% of median.

As of April 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 76% of median at Brownlee Reservoir to 118% of median at Phillips Lake and Wolf Creek.

Grande Ronde-Burnt-Powder-Imnaha	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)	Current % Capacity	Last Year % Capacity	Median % Capacity	Current % Median	Last Year % Median
Thief Valley	13.4	13.6	13.7	13.3	101%	102%	103%	98%	99%
Wallowa Lake	20.0	17.3	18.4	37.5	53%	46%	49%	109%	94%
Unity	23.7	15.5	21.9	25.5	93%	61%	86%	108%	71%
Phillips Lake	39.1	5.0	33.2	73.5	53%	7%	45%	118%	15%
Brownlee Reservoir	858.3	883.1	1123.0	1420.0	60%	62%	79%	76%	79%
Wolf Creek	5.4	2.8	4.6	11.1	49%	25%	41%	118%	61%
Basin Inde	X				61%	59%	77%	79%	77%
# of reservoir	S				6	6	6	6	6

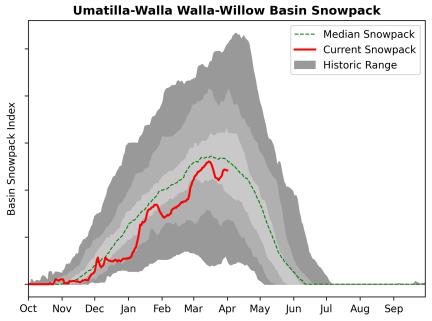
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 82% to 130% of median.



Umatilla, Walla Walla, Willow Basin Summary

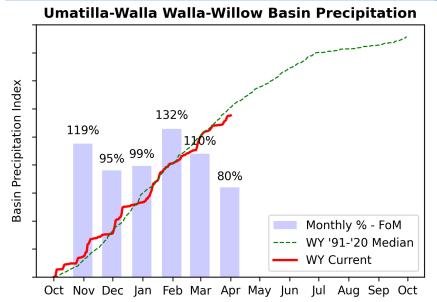
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 92% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was 86% of median.

PRECIPITATION



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

FoM = First of Month

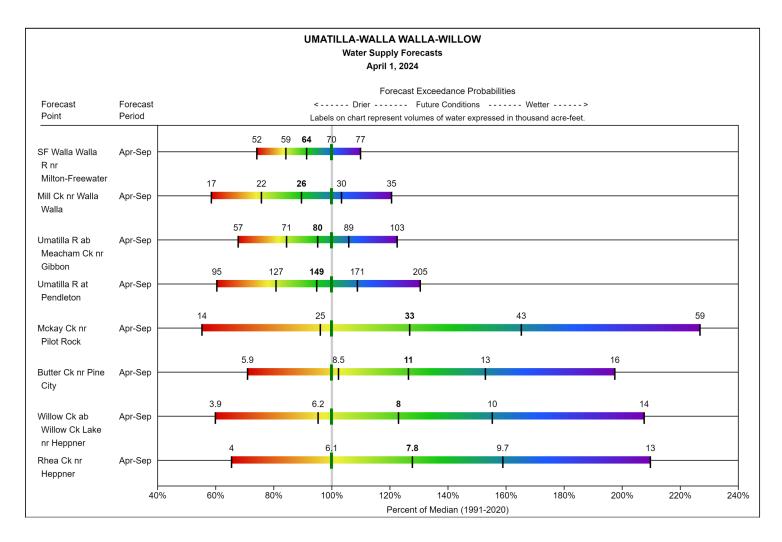
March precipitation is below normal at 80% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 95% of median.

As of April 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 86% of median at Cold Springs Reservoir to 104% at McKay Reservoir.

Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow		Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
Omatina-wana wana-winow	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Willow Creek	5.8	5.7	5.7	9.8	60%	59%	58%	102%	100%
Mckay	56.6	45.0	54.6	71.5	79%	63%	76%	104%	82%
Cold Springs	23.5	15.3	27.4	38.6	61%	40%	71%	86%	56%
Basin Index					72%	55%	73%	98%	75%
# of reservoirs					3	3	3	3	3

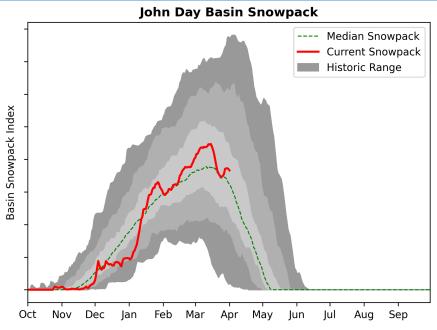
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 91% to 128% of median.



John Day Basin Summary

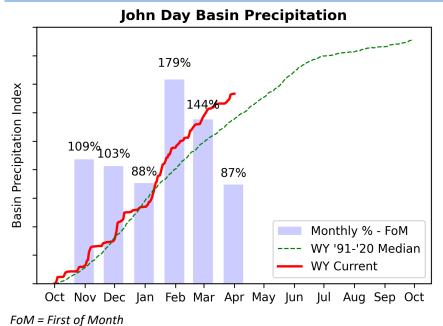
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 106% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was 104% of median.

PRECIPITATION

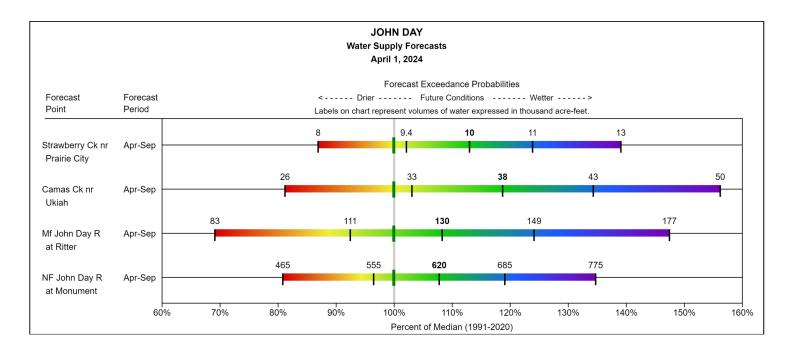


► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

March precipitation is below normal at 87% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 115% of median.

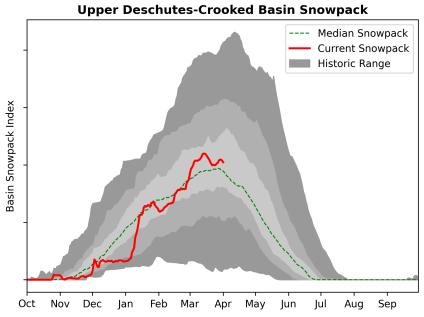
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin are above normal, with forecast points ranging from 108% to 119% of median.



Upper Deschutes, Crooked Basin Summary

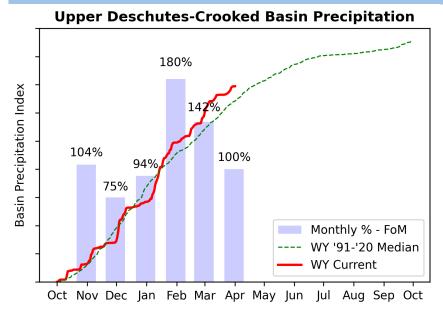
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 102% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was 103% of median.

PRECIPITATION



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

FoM = First of Month

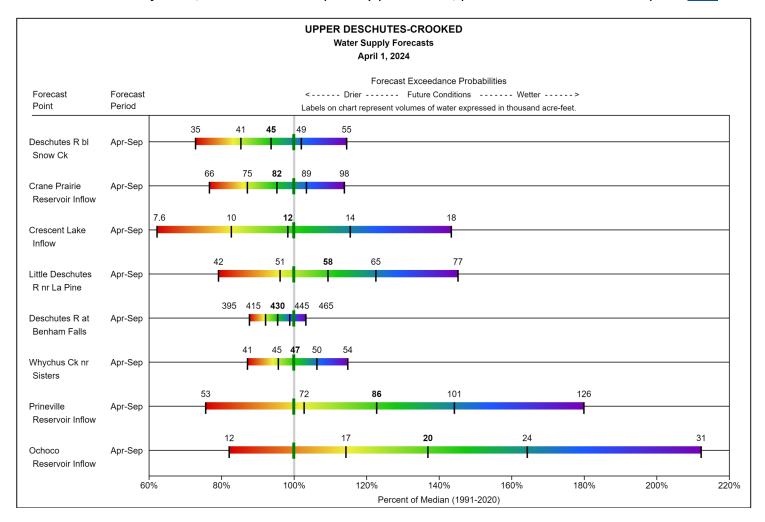
March precipitation is at normal as 100% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 108% of median.

As of April 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 25% of median at Crescent Lake to 126% of median at Ochoco.

Upper Deschutes Creeked	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
Upper Deschutes-Crooked	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Crescent Lake	13.9	8.3	55.9	86.9	16%	10%	64%	25%	15%
Ochoco	37.6	7.0	29.8	44.2	85%	16%	67%	126%	23%
Prineville	144.0	29.2	127.4	148.6	97%	20%	86%	113%	23%
Crane Prairie	47.7	46.6	46.4	55.3	86%	84%	84%	103%	101%
Wickiup	155.2	132.9	196.8	200.0	78%	66%	98%	79%	68%
Basin Index	Κ				74%	42%	85%	87%	49%
# of reservoirs	S				5	5	5	5	5

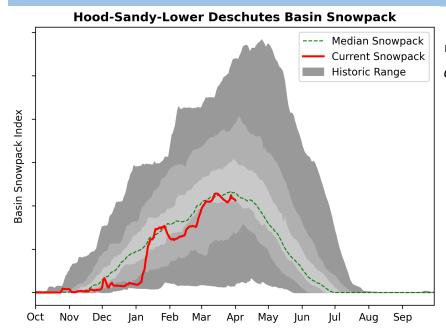
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 94% to 137% of median.



Hood, Sandy, Lower Deschutes Basin Summary

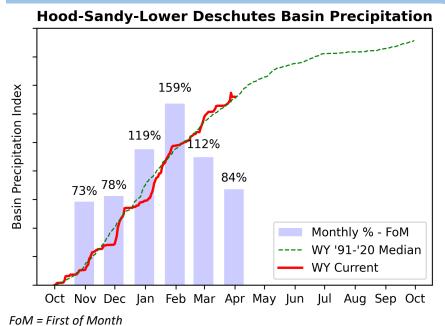
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 91% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was 96% of median.

PRECIPITATION



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

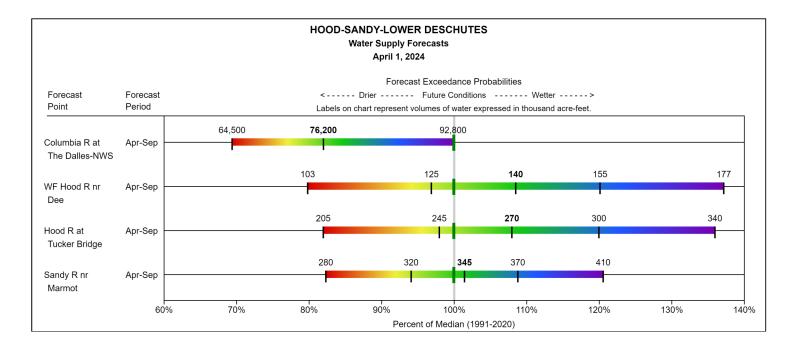
March precipitation is below normal at 84% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 101% of median.

As of April 1, volumetric storage for Clear Lake is below normal at 71% of median.

Hood-Sandy-Lower Deschutes	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
Hood-Salidy-Lower Describtes		(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Clear Lake	2.9	2.3	4.1	13.1	22%	17%	31%	71%	56%
Basin Index					22%	17%	31%	71%	56%
# of reservoirs					1	1	1	1	1

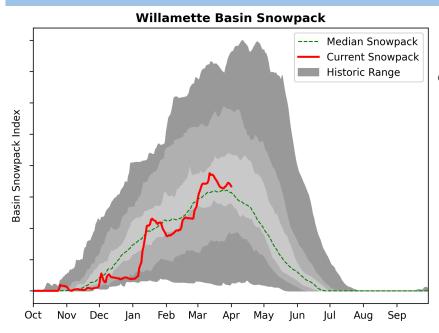
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 82% to 109% of median.



Willamette Basin Summary

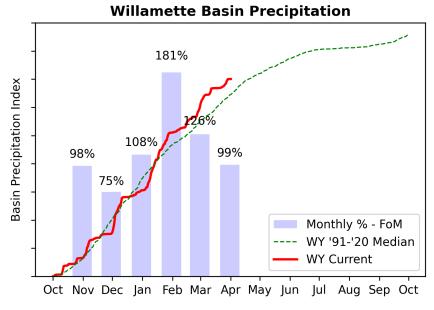
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 107% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was 101% of median.

PRECIPITATION



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report <u>here</u>.

FoM = First of Month

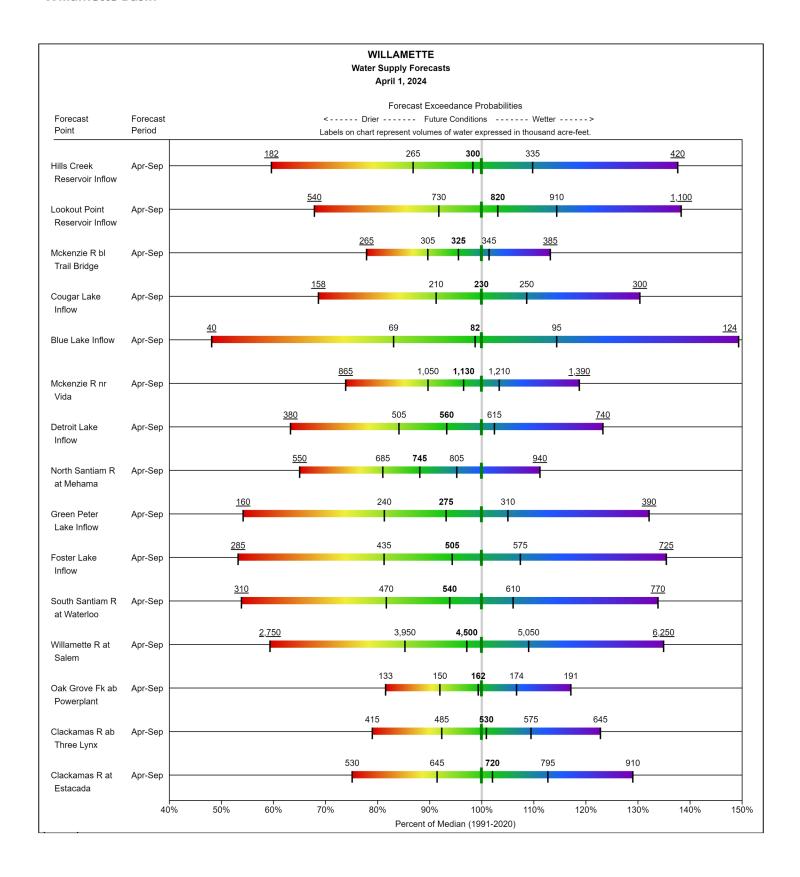
March precipitation is near normal at 99% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 108% of median.

As of April 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 26% of median at Fall Creek to 112% of median at Timothy Lake.

Willamette	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
willamette	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Fern Ridge	77.3	77.5	77.4	97.3	79%	80%	80%	100%	100%
Cottage Grove	19.5	18.8	19.8	31.8	61%	59%	62%	98%	95%
Henry Hagg Lake	51.4	49.5	51.2	53.3	96%	93%	96%	100%	97%
Dorena	46.2	44.1	44.4	72.1	64%	61%	62%	104%	99%
Lookout Point	298.8	180.8	314.6	433.2	69%	42%	73%	95%	57%
Cougar	32.7	31.5	116.3	174.9	19%	18%	66%	28%	27%
Foster	23.6	24.0	29.7	46.2	51%	52%	64%	79%	81%
Hills Creek	205.9	64.9	218.2	279.2	74%	23%	78%	94%	30%
Detroit	349.5	199.7	346.2	426.8	82%	47%	81%	101%	58%
Timothy Lake	61.2	56.5	54.5	63.6	96%	89%	86%	112%	104%
Blue River	57.5	40.8	57.4	82.3	70%	50%	70%	100%	71%
Fall Creek	21.7	9.8	85.2	116.0	19%	8%	73%	26%	11%
Green Peter	336.7	251.8	338.8	402.8	84%	63%	84%	99%	74%
Dexter	25.6	23.7	25.4					101%	93%
Basin I	ndex				69%	46%	77%	90%	60%
# of reser	rvoirs				13	13	13	14	14

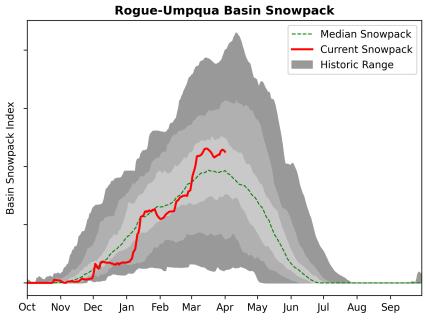
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 88% to 103% of median.



Rogue, Umpqua Basin Summary

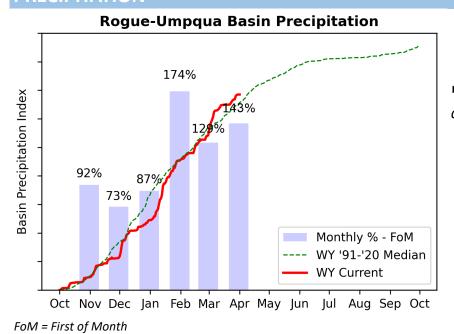
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 111% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was 82% of median.

PRECIPITATION



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

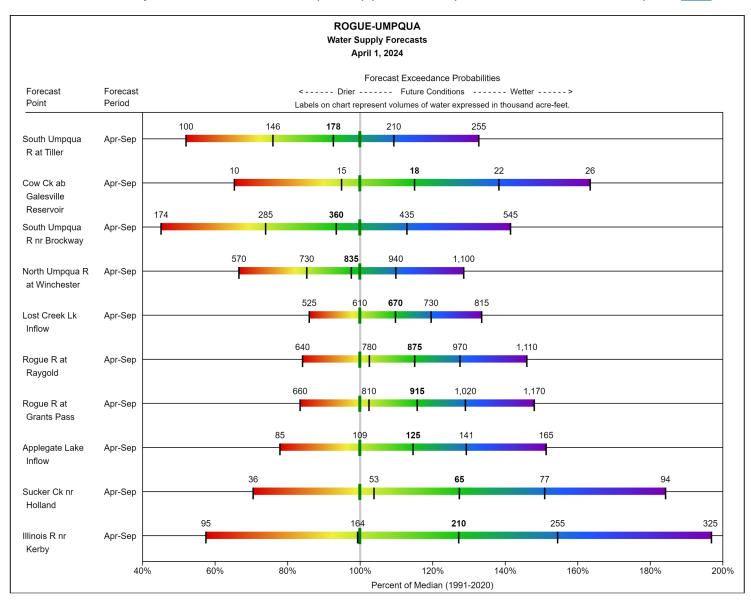
March precipitation is above normal at 143% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 104% of median.

As of April 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 65% of median at Emigrant Lake to 106% of median at Applegate Reservoir.

	Rogue-Umpqua		Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
	Rogue-ompqua	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Fish Lake		4.6	3.4	4.7	7.9	59%	43%	59%	98%	72%
Emigrant Lake		22.2	15.7	34.0	39.0	57%	40%	87%	65%	46%
Applegate		49.6	33.9	46.6	75.2	66%	45%	62%	106%	73%
Lost Creek		264.4	170.7	269.6	315.0	84%	54%	86%	98%	63%
	Basin Index					78%	51%	81%	96%	63%
	# of reservoirs					4	4	4	4	4

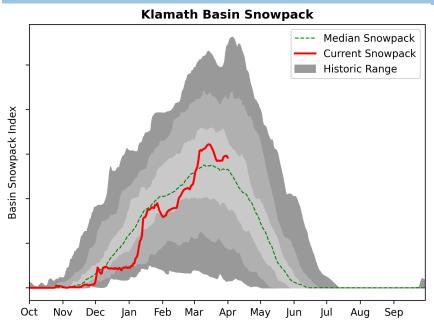
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 93% to 127% of median.



Klamath Basin Summary

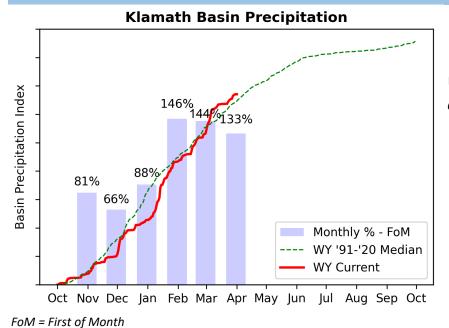
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report <u>here</u>.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 109% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was 90% of median.

PRECIPITATION



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

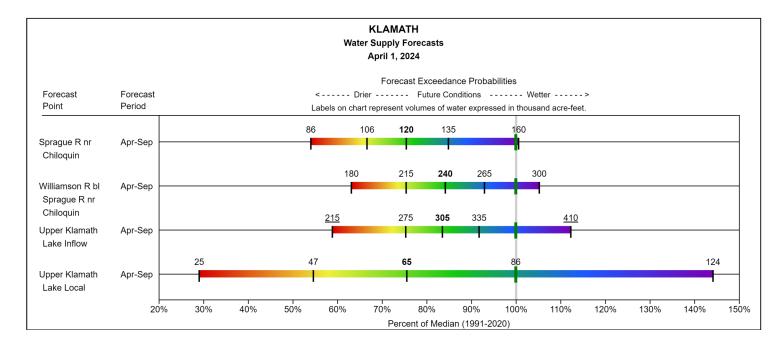
March precipitation is above normal at 133% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 104% of median.

As of April 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 68% of median at Gerber Reservoir to 113% of median at Upper Klamath Lake.

Klamath	Curren (KAF)	t Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)	Current % Capacity	Last Year % Capacity	Median % Capacity	Current % Median	Last Year % Median
Howard Prairie	27.3	3 12.0	38.0	62.1	44%	19%	61%	72%	32%
Fourmile Lake	5.2	2 4.4	7.4	15.6	33%	28%	47%	70%	59%
Upper Klamath Lake	500.0	437.7	441.9	523.7	95%	84%	84%	113%	99%
Clear Lake	129.5	88.2	155.0	513.3	25%	17%	30%	84%	57%
Hyatt Prairie	8.8	3.0	12.0	16.2	54%	18%	74%	73%	25%
Gerber	38.3	3 16.3	56.6	94.3	41%	17%	60%	68%	29%
	Basin Index				58%	46%	58%	100%	79%
	# of reservoirs				6	6	6	6	6

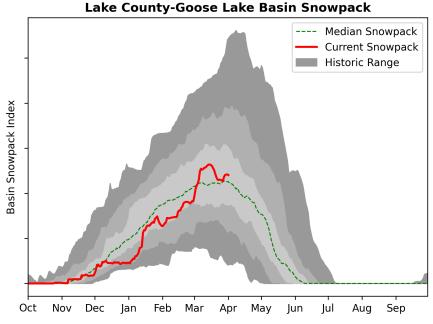
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The streamflow forecasts for the primary period in the basin range from 76% to 84% of median.



Lake County, Goose Lake Basin Summary

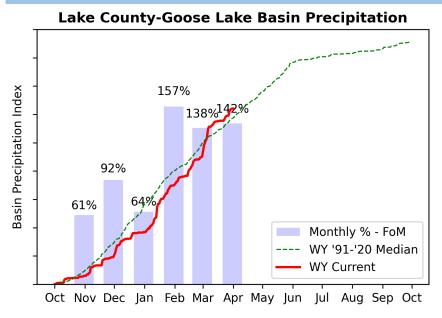
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 136% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was 100% of median.

PRECIPITATION



► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

FoM = First of Month

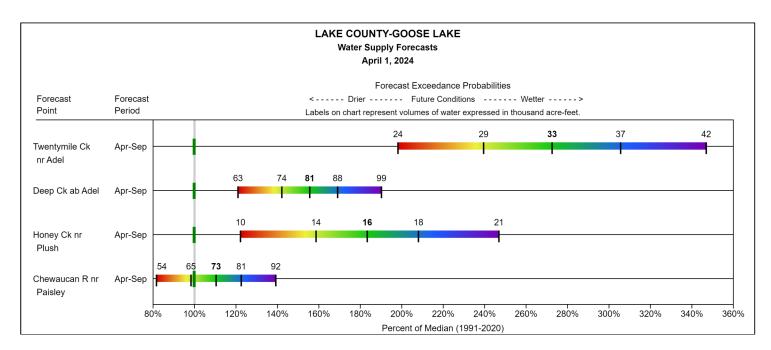
March precipitation is above normal at 142% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 106% of median.

As of April 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin range from 98% of median at Drews Reservoir to 119% of median at Cottonwood Reservoir.

	Lake County-Goose Lake	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
	Lake County-Goose Lake		(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Cottonwood		8.0	2.9	6.7	9.3	86%	31%	72%	119%	43%
Drews		43.1	10.8	44.0	63.5	68%	17%	69%	98%	25%
	Basin Index					70%	19%	70%	101%	27%
	# of reservoirs					2	2	2	2	2

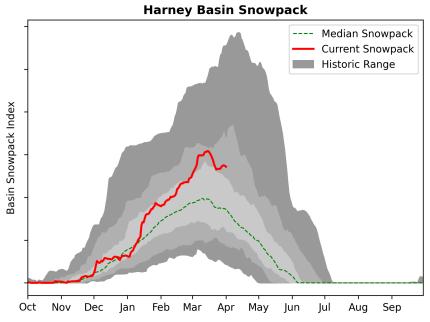
STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 111% to 273% of median.



Harney Basin Summary

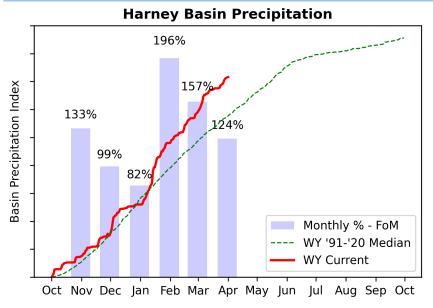
SNOWPACK



► View snowpack for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

As of April 1, the basin snowpack is 170% of median. Last month on March 1 the basin snowpack was 140% of median.

PRECIPITATION



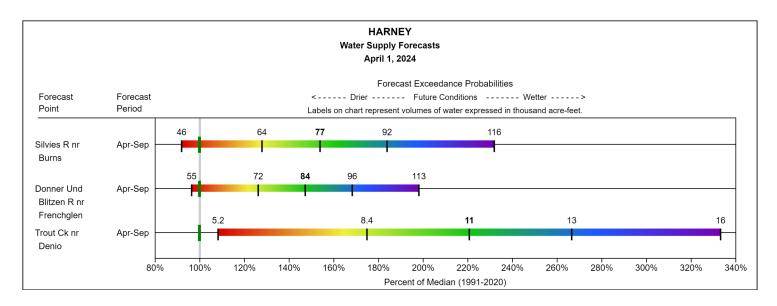
► View precipitation for individual sites by accessing the basin data report here.

FoM = First of Month

March precipitation is above normal at 124% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 124% of median.

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The April through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 154% to 221% of median.



Additional Resources

<u>Development and Interpretation of Water Supply</u> Forecasts

User Guide to Forecast Charts

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For more water supply and resource management information, contact:

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