

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Oregon Water Supply Outlook Report

May 1, 2024



Brock Phillips, USBR Physical Scientist, treks over the end of a plowed road to survey Park H.Q. Snow Course in Crater Lake National Park. Snowpack at the site is 96% of median as of May 1st. Photo taken by Matthew Kritzer, USBR Hydrological Technician (April 29, 2024)

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Conditions Overview

Conditions Overview

Summary

April was a fairly dry month for many regions in the state, notably across much of southern Oregon and in central and north-central Oregon where month-to-date precipitation was mostly below to well-below normal. Snowpack across the state remains near normal as the snowmelt season is well underway. Many SNOTEL stations, notably in the John Day and southeastern basins experienced a higher-than-normal rate of melting in April. In southeastern Oregon, snowpack is still near to above normal, which will sustain higher streamflows through May. Elsewhere, snowpack is near normal across much of the Cascades and generally below normal in northeastern Oregon.

Higher-than-normal rates of snowmelt in portions of eastern OR has led to slight degradations in water supply forecasts (WSFs) from April 1 due to earlier snowmelt-derived runoff. WSFs for the Upper Deschutes and Klamath Basin remains below normal. With the onset to snowmelt underway at all SNOTEL stations in Oregon, the rate of snowmelt—largely driven by temperature—and thus timing of snowmelt-derived runoff will significantly influence summer water supplies and drought conditions.

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



A late-season storm provided some additional snow in the Elkhorn Mountains in late April. Snowpack at the Anthony Lake is 72% of median as of May 1st. Photo taken by Luke Albert, Baker County (April 30, 2024)

Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Snowpack

As of May 1, statewide snowpack is 118% of median. The onset of snowmelt is underway at all SNOTEL stations in Oregon, with snowmelt in some cases occurring at a higher rate than normal. A cold storm starting end of April and lasting through the first few days in May has resulted in some late season snow accumulation, in addition to some rain-on-snow even at higher elevations in the mountains.

Across the Cascades, snowpack is generally near normal, with more above-normal snowpack in the southern Cascades. Snowpack as a percent of normal declined in portions of the Blue Mountains due to a higher rate of melt than normal through much of April. At 2 SNOTEL stations (Crazyman Flat and Summer Rim) in eastern Klamath Basin, snowpack melted out 2-4 weeks earlier than normal.



Basin snowpack (% of median) as of May 1

Precipitation

April was generally a dry month across many parts of the state, notably in portions of northern and southwestern Oregon. April precipitation was the <u>second lowest on record</u> at Annie Springs (out of 24 years) and Ochoco Meadows (out of 44 years) SNOTEL stations. Statewide, water year-to-date (WYTD) precipitation is 103%, a slight decline from 106% on April 1. WYTD precipitation is slightly below normal in parts of northeastern Oregon and more below normal near the headwaters of the Sycan River in Klamath Basin. In contrast, WYTD precipitation is above normal on Steens Mountain.



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

Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Reservoirs

Volumetric storage for reservoirs across the state varies. In eastern and central Oregon, volumetric storage at reservoirs is mostly near to above normal, a result of mostly near to above normal snowpack in that region this winter. Reservoirs in southern Oregon are storing volumes that are below to near 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 May 1

Streamflow

Volumetric streamflow across Oregon varies. Flows in much of central Oregon and southern Oregon east of the Cascade crest are near to well-above normal. Streamflow across much of western Oregon and in the Umatilla and Walla Walla basins range from mostly below to well-below normal.

Water supply forecasts (WSF) for May 1st have remained little changed since April 1 across western Oregon. In central and eastern Oregon, some WSFs have degraded slightly, in part due to more rapid snowmelt thus earlier runoff in some basins in April. WSFs in southeastern Oregon, the Malheur Basin, and in the Warner Valley remain slightly to well-above normal.

Predictive skill for WSFs remains similar to April 1 skill as the normal timing for peak snow accumulation has passed and the onset to snowmelt is underway. However, in basins that are rain-dominated (ex., much of the western Cascades), skill may still be sufficiently low, meaning current conditions are a poor predictor of summer water supply. In this case, forecasts may or may not be more reflective of May-1 conditions. 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 April observed streamflow here.

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

Drought

As of April 30, nearly 5% of Oregon is in moderate drought (D1). Drought is primarily distributed from central Deschutes County down to portions of Lake and Klamath counties. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) are distributed across parts of northwestern and northeastern Oregon and extending from Wasco and Sherman counties down to the California border.

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 30, 2024 (Released Thursday, May. 2, 2024) Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)											
	None	D0-D4 D1-D4 D2-D4 D3-D4										
Current	58.95	41.05	4.59	0.00	0.00	0.00						
Last Week 04-23-2024	58.95	41.05	4.59	0.00	0.00	0.00						
3 Month s Ago 01-30-2024	67.66	32.34	16.39	0.00	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 05-02-2023	23.62	76.38	56.30	22.29	5.78	0.00						

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

<u>Author:</u> Curtis Riganti National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Soils

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

Soil moisture conditions are 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).



0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



Tribal Nations

Source(s): Wasjon Boundaries Data Valid: 05/02/24

Drought.gov

1-Month Outlook

The Climate Prediction Center 1-month climatic outlook calls for equal chances of above and below normal temperatures and precipitation.



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

Owyhee Basin Summary



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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 154% of median. This is an decrease from April 1st, when the basin snow-pack was 208% of median.



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

April precipitation is below normal at 65% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 126% of median.

Reservoir storage across the basin is above normal. As of May 1, storage at Lake Owyhee Reservoir is 140% of median and Wild Horse Reservoir is 184% of median.

Ountres	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
Owynee	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Wild Horse Reservoir	75.7	50.4	41.1	71.5	106%	71%	57%	184%	123%
Lake Owyhee	705.7	486.1	502.4	715.0	99%	68%	70%	140%	97%
Basin Index	C				99%	68%	69%	144%	99%
# of reservoirs	6				2	2	2	2	2

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The streamflow forecasts for the primary period in the basin are above normal and range from 160% to 179% of median.



Malheur Basin Summary



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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 75% of median. On April 1 the basin snowpack was 128% of median.



April precipitation is below normal at 79% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 111% of median.

As of May 1, storage ranges from 98% at Bully Creek Reservoir to 144% of median at Warm Springs Reservoir.

Malheur	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %	
	Maineur	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Bully Creek		23.2	21.0	23.6	23.7	98%	89%	100%	98%	89%
Beulah		58.8	46.1	48.9	59.2	99%	78%	83%	120%	94%
Warm Springs		169.1	114.8	117.1	169.6	100%	68%	69%	144%	98%
	Basin Index					99%	72%	75%	132%	96%
	# of reservoirs					3	3	3	3	3

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin are above normal, with forecast ranging from 112% to 113% of median.



Grande Ronde, Burnt, Powder, Imnaha Basin Summary

SNOWPACK





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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 77% of median. Last month on April 1 the basin snowpack was at 89% of median.

PRECIPITATION





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

April precipitation is below normal at 80% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 92% of median.

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 82% of median at Wallowa Lake to 114% of median at Phillips Lake.

Creado Bondo Burnt Bourder Imacho	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
Grande Ronde-Burnt-Powder-Imnana	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Thief Valley	13.5	13.4	13.7	13.3	101%	101%	103%	98%	98%
Wallowa Lake	17.3	17.1	21.0	37.5	46%	46%	56%	82%	82%
Unity	24.9	24.7	24.4	25.5	98%	97%	96%	102%	101%
Phillips Lake	51.2	17.7	45.0	73.5	70%	24%	61%	114%	39%
Brownlee Reservoir	1271.1	1193.8	1148.0	1420.0	90%	84%	81%	111%	104%
Wolf Creek	10.3	5.6	9.8	11.1	92%	50%	88%	105%	57%
Basin Inde	x				88%	80%	80%	110%	101%
# of reservoir	s				6	6	6	6	6

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 72% to 91% of median.

For data in tabular format and to view other forecasts please view the basin data reports here.



Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Umatilla, Walla Walla, Willow Basin Summary

SNOWPACK



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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 75% of median. Last month on April 1 the basin snowpack was 92% of median.

PRECIPITATION



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

April precipitation is below normal at 56% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - April 1) is 92% of median.

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 66% of median at Cold Springs Reservoir to 99% at Willow Creek Reservoir.

Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
Unatila-Walla Walla-Willow	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Willow Creek	6.0	6.3	6.1	9.8	62%	65%	62%	99%	104%
Mckay	62.0	61.9	64.5	71.5	87%	86%	90%	96%	96%
Cold Springs	21.4	19.9	32.5	38.6	55%	51%	84%	66%	61%
Basin Index	t i				75%	73%	86%	87%	85%
# of reservoirs	5				3	3	3	3	3

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

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

For data in tabular format and to view other forecasts please view the basin data reports here.



Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

John Day Basin Summary



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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 71% of median. Last month on April 1 the basin snowpack was 106% of median.



April precipitation is below normal at 67% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 111% of median.

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin are below normal, with forecast points ranging from 81% to 91% of median.



Upper Deschutes, Crooked Basin Summary

SNOWPACK





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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 93% of median. Last month on April 1 the basin snowpack was 102% of median.

PRECIPITATION



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

April precipitation is below normal as 80% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 106% of median.

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 26% of median at Crescent Lake to 125% of median at Ochoco Reservoir.

Unner Desebutes Creeked	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
Opper Deschutes-Crooked	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Crescent Lake	15.6	9.4	59.7	86.9	18%	11%	69%	26%	16%
Ochoco	43.3	19.2	34.7	44.2	98%	43%	78%	125%	55%
Prineville	148.5	118.8	148.0	148.6	100%	80%	100%	100%	80%
Crane Prairie	48.7	47.2	47.7	55.3	88%	85%	86%	102%	99%
Wickiup	151.9	127.0	183.6	200.0	76%	63%	92%	83%	69%
Basin Inde	x				76%	60%	89%	86%	68%
# of reservoir	s				5	5	5	5	5

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 78% to 106% of median.

For data in tabular format and to view other forecasts please view the basin data reports here.



Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Hood, Sandy, Lower Deschutes Basin Summary

SNOWPACK





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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 101% of median. Last month on April 1 the basin snowpack was 91% of median.

PRECIPITATION



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

April precipitation is below normal at 78% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 99% of median.

As of May 1, volumetric storage for Clear Lake is below normal at 78% of median.

Hood-Sandy-Lower Deschutes	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)	Current % Capacity	Last Year % Capacity	Median % Capacity	Current % Median	Last Year % Median
Clear Lake	4.0	2.7	5.1	13.1	30%	21%	39%	78%	53%
Basin Index					30%	21%	39%	78%	53%
# of reservoirs					1	1	1	1	1

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 76% to 105% of median.



Willamette Basin Summary



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

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

PRECIPITATION



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

April precipitation is below normal at 74% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 105% of median.

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 23% of median at Cougar Reservoir to 110% of median at Foster Reservoir.

Willamette	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
winamette	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Fern Ridge	92.6	95.8	96.0	97.3	95%	98%	99%	96%	100%
Cottage Grove	25.4	27.0	27.2	31.8	80%	85%	86%	93%	99%
Henry Hagg Lake	53.3	52.5	53.3	53.3	100%	98%	100%	100%	98%
Dorena	63.0	62.1	61.0	72.1	87%	86%	85%	103%	102%
Lookout Point	347.2	308.2	386.2	433.2	80%	71%	89%	90%	80%
Cougar	37.1	56.8	158.7	174.9	21%	32%	91%	23%	36%
Foster	25.2	23.6	22.8	46.2	54%	51%	49%	110%	104%
Hills Creek	192.7	140.1	254.5	279.2	69%	50%	91%	76%	55%
Detroit	393.7	357.8	420.7	426.8	92%	84%	99%	94%	85%
Timothy Lake	62.9	57.6	60.3	63.6	99%	91%	95%	104%	96%
Blue River	71.3	79.8	76.4	82.3	87%	97%	93%	93%	105%
Fall Creek	49.6	10.4	108.2	116.0	43%	9%	93%	46%	10%
Green Peter	339.9	386.3	389.4	402.8	84%	96%	97%	87%	99%
Dexter	26.3	26.4	25.4					104%	104%
Basin Inde	x				77%	73%	93%	83%	79%
# of reservoir	S				13	13	13	14	14

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 94% to 100% of median.

Willamette Basin



Rogue, Umpqua Basin Summary

SNOWPACK



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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 94% of median. Last month on April 1 the basin snowpack was 111% of median.

PRECIPITATION



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

April precipitation is below normal at 62% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 100% of median.

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 74% of median at Emigrant Lake to 98% of median at Applegate Reservoir and Fish Lake Reservoir.

	Poque Umpqua	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
	Rogue-ompqua	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Fish Lake		5.0	3.7	5.1	7.9	63%	47%	65%	98%	73%
Emigrant Lake		27.9	25.3	37.7	39.0	72%	65%	97%	74%	67%
Applegate		64.6	67.9	66.0	75.2	86%	90%	88%	98%	103%
Lost Creek		294.4	264.5	303.1	315.0	93%	84%	96%	97%	87%
	Basin Ind	ex				90%	83%	94%	95%	88%
	# of reservo	irs				4	4	4	4	4

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 105% to 125% of median.

For data in tabular format and to view other forecasts please view the basin data reports here.



Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Klamath Basin Summary



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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 102% of median. Last month on April 1 the basin snowpack was 109% of median.



April precipitation is below normal at 66% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 100% of median.

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 63% of median at Gerber Reservoir to 113% of median at Upper Klamath Lake.

Klamath	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
Kiamath	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Howard Prairie	31.1	21.9	42.2	62.1	50%	35%	68%	74%	52%
Fourmile Lake	6.6	5.5	8.5	15.6	42%	35%	54%	77%	64%
Upper Klamath Lake	528.1	479.2	466.3	523.7	101%	91%	89%	113%	103%
Clear Lake	139.9	128.9	174.3	513.3	27%	25%	34%	80%	74%
Hyatt Prairie	9.7	6.2	12.5	16.2	60%	38%	77%	77%	49%
Gerber	41.5	47.4	66.3	94.3	44%	50%	70%	63%	71%
	Basin Index				62%	56%	63%	98%	89%
# 0	of reservoirs				6	6	6	6	6

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The streamflow forecasts for the primary period in the basin range from 82% to 88% of median.



Lake County, Goose Lake Basin Summary

SNOWPACK

Lake County-Goose Lake Basin Snowpack



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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 96% of median. Last month on April 1 the basin snowpack was 136% of median.



April precipitation is below normal at 75% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 101% of median.

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin range from 100% of median at Cottonwood Reservoir to 105% of median at Drews Reservoir.

	Lake County-Goose Lake	Current	Last Year	Median	Capacity	Current %	Last Year %	Median %	Current %	Last Year %
			(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	Capacity	Capacity	Capacity	Median	Median
Cottonwood		8.8	9.2	8.8	9.3	95%	99%	95%	100%	105%
Drews		51.1	43.5	48.8	63.5	80%	68%	77%	105%	89%
	Basin Index					82%	72%	79%	104%	91%
	# of reservoirs					2	2	2	2	2

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 89% to 154% of median.



Harney Basin Summary



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

As of May 1, the basin snowpack is 130% of median. Last month on April 1 the basin snowpack was 170% of median.



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

April precipitation is below normal at 85% of median. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) is 124% of median.

STREAMFLOW FORECAST

The May through September streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 122% to 300% of median.



Additional Resources

Development and Interpretation of Water Supply

Forecasts

User Guide to Forecast Charts

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For more water supply and resource management information, contact: Matt Warbritton Supervisory Hydrologist Portland Data Collection Office USDA NRCS Oregon Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program matt.warbritton@usda.gov Phone: (503) 307-2829 NRCS Oregon Snow Survey Website



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