



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

Weekly Report - Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update **Date: April 17, 2008**

SNOTEL SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

Snow: During the past week, warmth dominated the West resulting in substantial snow cover melt off. Since last week, the preliminary April-July streamflow runoff forecast has remained within +/- 5% although yesterday's Central Rockies weather system helped to boost much of Colorado and northern New Mexico's runoff numbers. Snow-water equivalent percent as of 17 April shows well above normal values continuing over the Cascades and Coastal Ranges (Washington and Oregon) and to a lesser extent over Colorado and eastern Utah. Seasonal melt off is nearing its end over Arizona and southern New Mexico (Fig. 1a).

Temperature: For the past seven days, average temperature anomalies were generally within 5 degrees F of average for this time of year across the West (Fig. 2). The greatest negative temperature departures occurred over eastern Idaho and southern Wyoming (<-8F) and the greatest positive departures occurred over Arizona and southern California (>+4F). This is a very similar pattern to last week although a brief warm spell this past weekend helped to push overall temperatures up by a few degrees in the coldest region (Fig. 2a).

Precipitation: Preliminary precipitation totals for the 7-day period ending 16 April shows an abundant amount of precipitation falling over the eastern quarter of the West while very little precipitation fell across California, Nevada, western Utah, Arizona, and southern New Mexico (Fig. 3). Seasonal precipitation (rain & snow water equivalent) as a percent of normal for the 2008 Water Year that began on October 1, 2007 shows above normal totals over much of Colorado, northern New Mexico, and central Arizona. Values in general haven't changed very much since last week (Fig. 3a).

WESTERN DROUGHT STATUS

The West: The presence of a more typical La Nina pattern continued to bring drier than normal conditions to the Southwest during the past week. One-month to three-month precipitation totals less than 50% of average cover large parts of the region. The growing precipitation deficits led to one-category degradation in southern New Mexico, areas of southeastern Colorado, and large parts of Montana and northern California.

A D1A to D2A increase in severity occurred in southeastern New Mexico where three-month precipitation totals less than 25% of average are widespread. In southwestern New Mexico and extreme southeast Arizona the continued lack of precipitation led to a one-category degradation from D0 to D1A. Although precipitation since February also has been well below average in Arizona, and snowpack rapidly diminished since early March, no action was taken to degrade conditions elsewhere in the state. Heavy winter precipitation and subsequent snow melt runoff have filled reservoirs and for the state as whole the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service reports that reservoir capacity is above average.

Conditions also deteriorated in large parts of central and western Montana while average to above snowpack in western areas of the state led to small reductions in abnormally dry (D0H) conditions. Severe drought (D2H) expanded in central Montana, and D1H expanded in southeastern areas of

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the state. Topsoil moisture as reported by the USDA is short or very short in seventy-one percent of the state as of April 13.

Below average precipitation persisted in the Arkansas River Basin of southeast Colorado exacerbating dryness east of the Rocky Mountains. The continued lack of precipitation led to a small westward extension of D0 conditions, leaving a tight gradient between healthy mountain snowpack to the west and abnormally dry conditions to the east. Although unusually dry conditions exist in this area, according to the Colorado State Climatologist the potential exists for spring snowmelt flooding in the same area from very high snowpack conditions immediately upstream in the Arkansas basin. Current impacts of the dry conditions included reports of three major wildfires in the Pueblo region on April 15.

Abnormally dry (DOA) conditions were introduced to areas of northern California where winter and early spring rainfall has been below average and totals within the past three months are less than 70% of average. Soil moisture and streamflow levels have fallen below the 20th percentile in many locations. **Author:** Jay Lawrimore, National Climatic Data Center, NOAA

A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions for the nation can be found at the end of this document.

DROUGHT IMPACTS DEFINITIONS (<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/classify.htm>)

The possible impacts associated with **D4 (H, A)** drought include widespread crop/pasture losses and shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies. The possible impacts associated with **D3 (H, A)** drought include major crop/pasture losses and widespread water shortages or restrictions. Possible impacts from **D2 (H, A)** drought are focused on water shortages common and water restrictions imposed and crop or pasture losses likely. The possible impacts associated with **D1 (H, A)** drought are focused on water shortages developing in streams, reservoirs, or wells, and some damage to crops and pastures (Figs. 4, 4a and 4b).

SOIL MOISTURE

Soil moisture (Figs. 5 and 5a), is simulated by the [VIC macroscale hydrologic model](#). The detailed, physically-based VIC model is driven by observed daily precipitation and temperature maxima and minima from approximately 2130 stations, selected for reporting reliably in real-time and for having records of longer than 45 years (and various other criteria).

OBSERVED FIRE DANGER CLASS

The National Interagency Coordination Center provides a variety of products that describe the current wildfire status for the U.S. - <http://www.nifc.gov/information.html>. The latest Observed Fire Danger Class is shown in Figs. 6 shows the current active wildfires across the West - <http://geomac.usgs.gov/>.

U.S. HISTORICAL STREAMFLOW

This map, (Fig. 7) shows the 7-day average streamflow conditions in hydrologic units of the United States and Puerto Rico for the day of year. The colors represent 7-day average streamflow percentiles based on historical streamflow for the day of the year. Thus, the map shows conditions adjusted for this time of the year. Only stations having at least 30 years of record are used. Sub-regions shaded gray indicate that insufficient data were available to compute a reliable 7-day average streamflow value. During winter months, this situation frequently arises due to ice effects. The data used to produce this map are provisional and have not been reviewed or edited. They may be subject to significant change.

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http://water.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/waterwatch?state=us&map_type=dryw&web_type=map.

STATE ACTIVITIES

State government drought activities can be tracked at the following URL:

<http://drought.unl.edu/mitigate/mitigate.htm>. NRCS SS/WSF State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate SS/WSF information - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/bor.pl>. Additional information describing the products available from the Drought Monitor can be found at the following URL: <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The National Water and Climate Center Homepage provide the latest available snowpack and water supply information. Please visit us at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>. This document is available from the following location on the NWCC homepage - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/water/drought/wdr.pl>

This report uses data and products provided by the Interagency Drought Monitor Consortium members and the National Interagency Fire Center.

/s/ NOLLER HERBERT
Director, Conservation Engineering Division

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

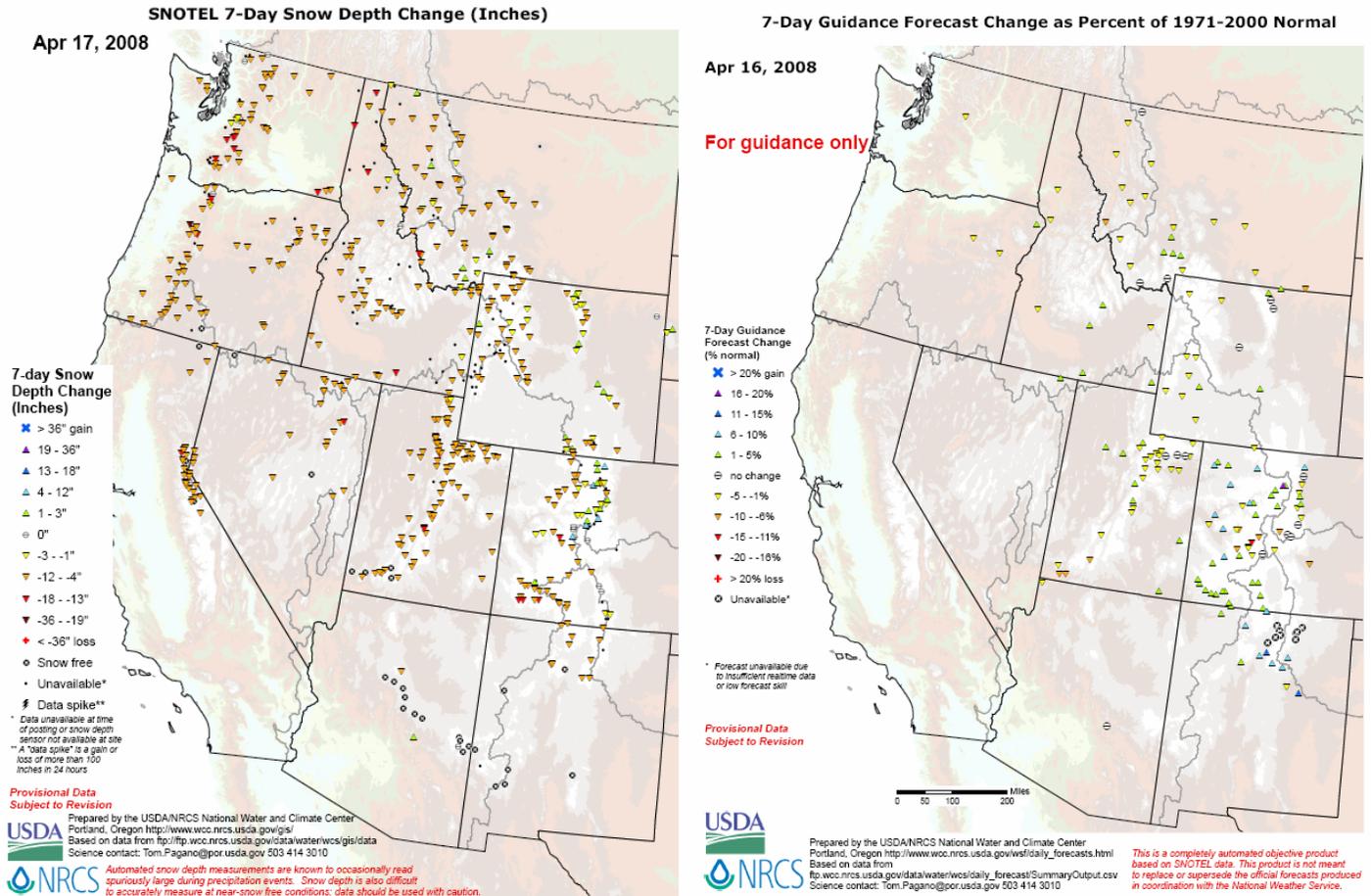


Fig. 1. During the past week, warmth dominated the West resulting in substantial snow cover melt off (left figure). Since last week, the preliminary April-July streamflow runoff forecast has remained within +/- 5% although yesterday's Central Rockies weather system helped to boost much of Colorado and northern New Mexico's runoff numbers (right figure). Note: Area basin preliminary forecasts for the Sierra and Cascades are not made. Refs:

ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_snowdepth_7ddelta.pdf
ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/daily_forecast/maps/west_dailyfcst_7daych.pdf

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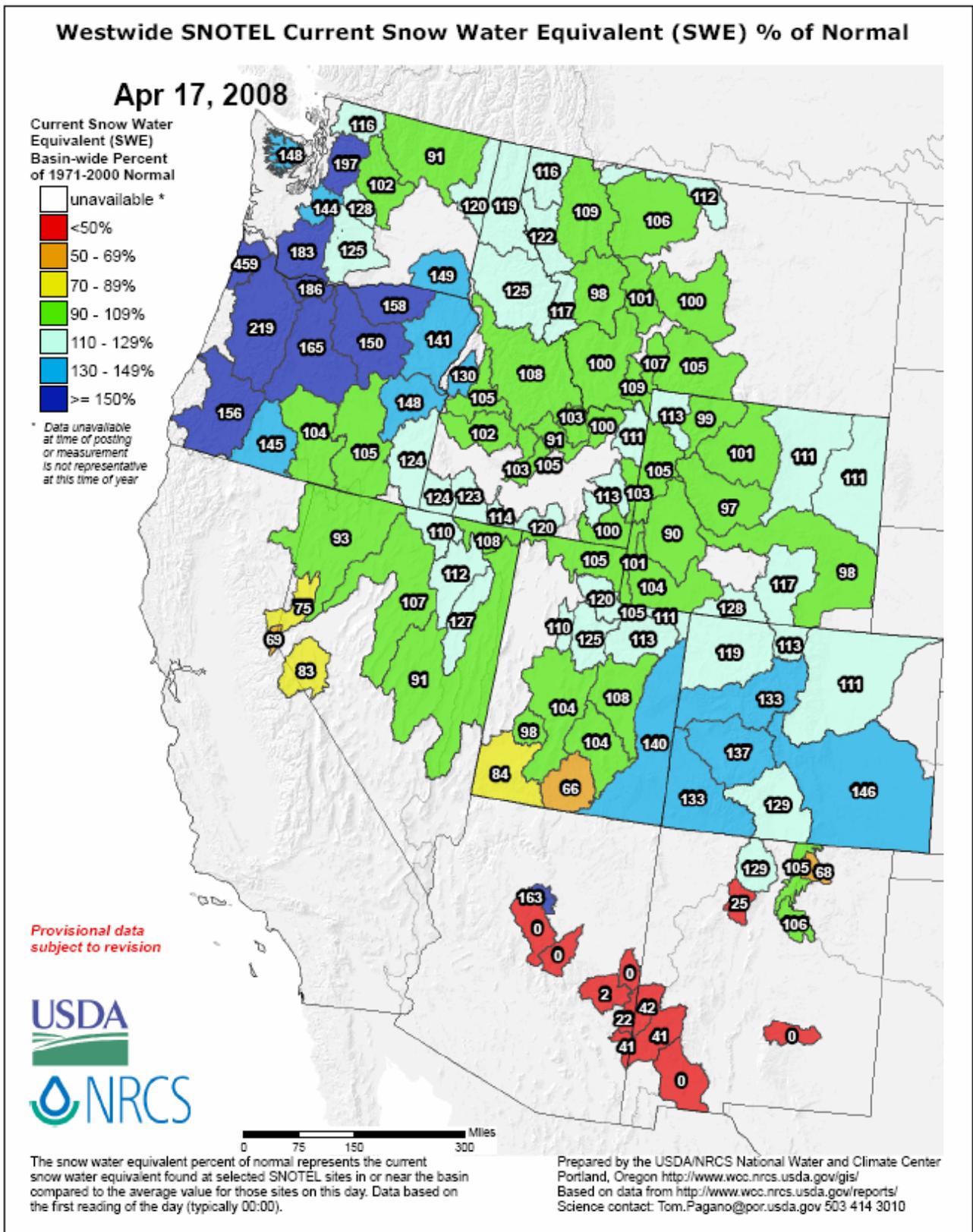


Fig. 1a. Snow-water equivalent percent as of 17 April shows well above normal values continuing over the Cascades and Coastal Ranges (WA & OR) and to a lesser extent over Colorado and eastern Utah. Seasonal melt off is nearing its end over Arizona and southern New Mexico. Ref: ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_swepctnormal_update.pdf

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report
SNOTEL (solid) and ACIS (dot-filled) Networks
7-Day Average Temperature Anomaly (Degrees F)

Apr 17, 2008

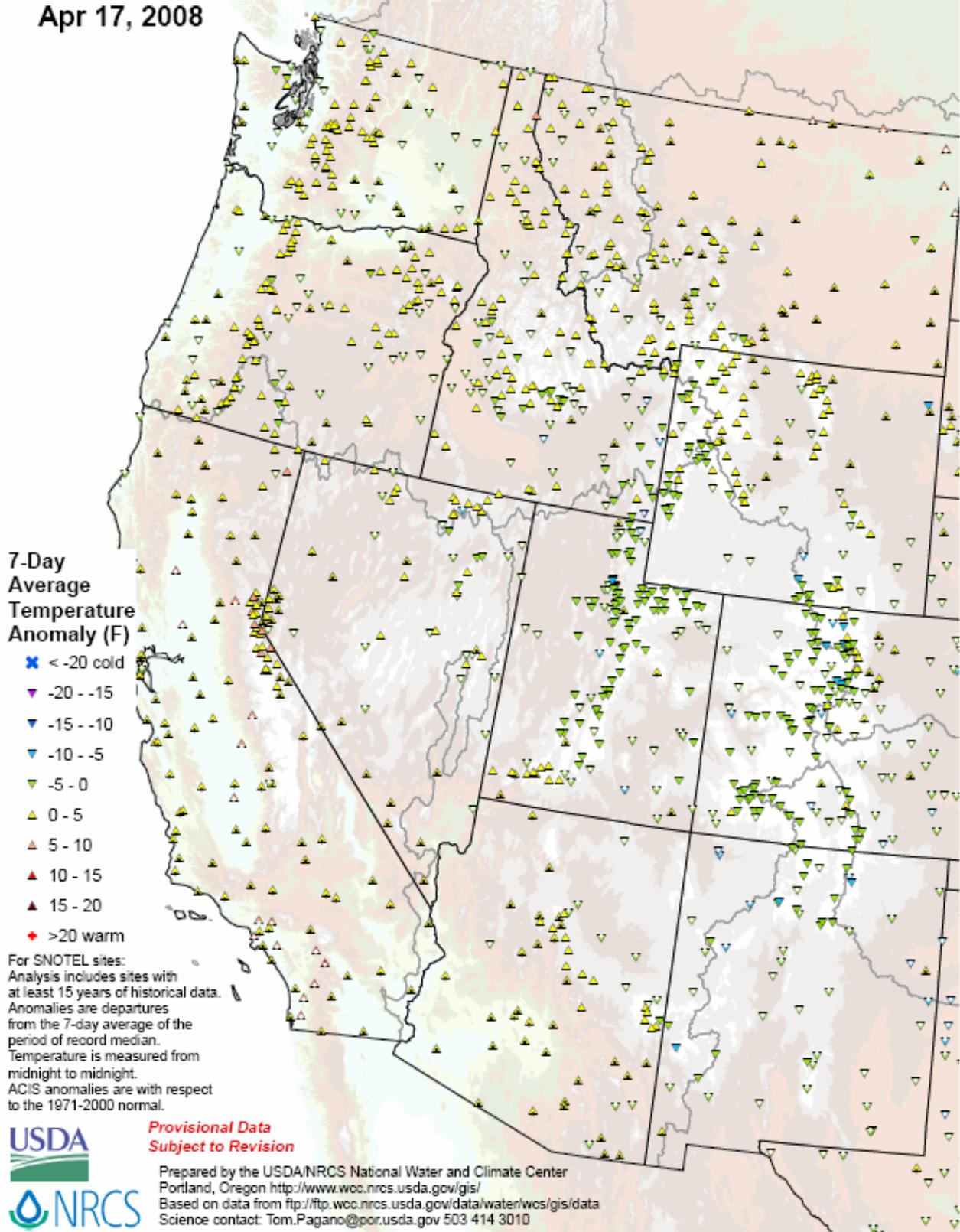
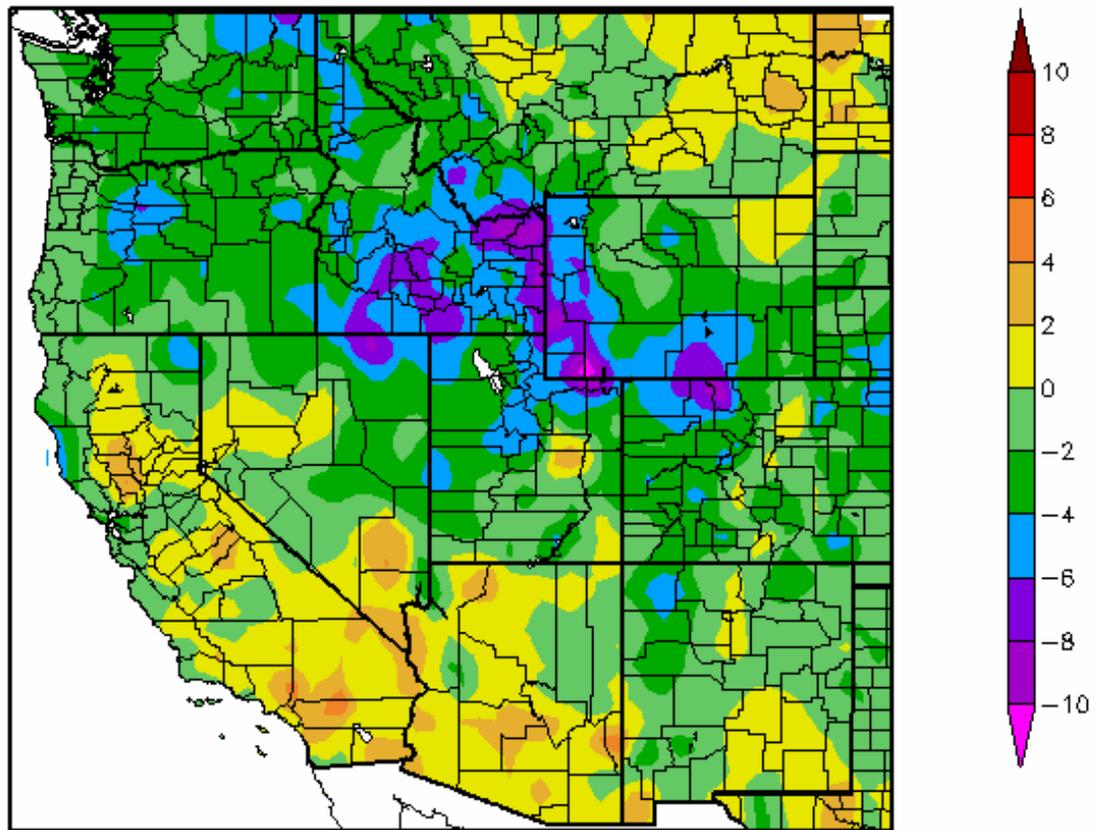


Fig. 2. SNOTEL & ACIS 7-day station average temperature anomalies were generally within 5 degrees F of average for this time of year across the West.

Ref: <ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/WestwideTavg7dAnomalyAcis.pdf>

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/3/2008 - 4/16/2008



Generated 4/17/2008 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

The Current Climate Summary Maps are produced daily using data from the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS). Stations used are from the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network (COOP), and the Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN). All near-real-time data are considered preliminary and should be used responsibly.

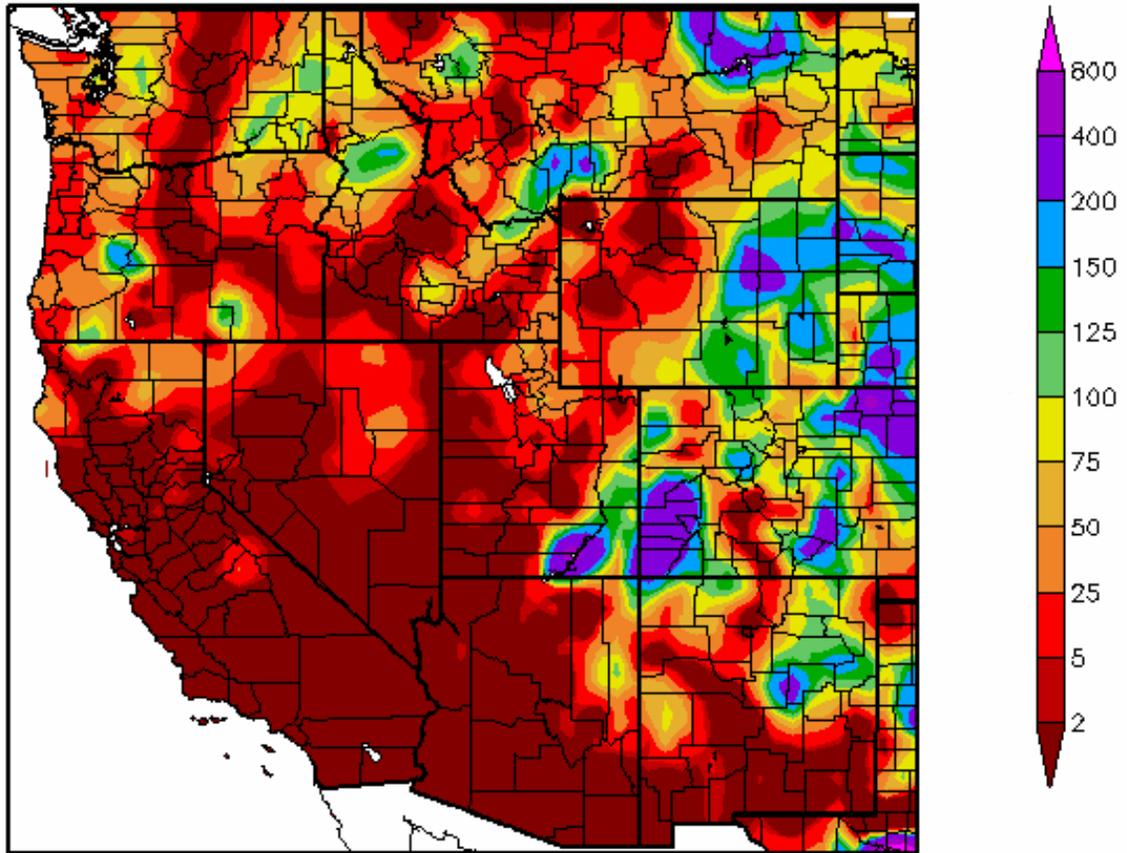


Normal refers to the 1971-2000 Climate Normal for the selected product.

Fig. 2a. ACIS 7-day average temperature anomalies: Greatest negative temperature departures over eastern Idaho and southern Wyoming (<-8F) and greatest positive departures over Arizona and southern California (>+4F). This is a very similar pattern to last week's map although a brief warm spell this past weekend helped to push overall temperatures up by a few degrees in the coldest regions.

Ref: http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current/index.php?action=update_product&product=TDdept

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/10/2008 – 4/16/2008



Generated 4/17/2008 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

The Current Climate Summary Maps are produced daily using data from the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS). Stations used are from the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network (COOP), and the Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN). All near-real-time data are considered preliminary and should be used responsibly.



Normal refers to the 1971-2000 Climate Normal for the selected product.

Fig. 3. ACIS 7-day average precipitation anomaly: Preliminary precipitation totals for the 7-day period ending 16 April shows an abundant amount of precipitation falling over the eastern quarter of the West while very little precipitation fell across California, Nevada, western Utah, Arizona, and southern New Mexico.

Ref: http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/index.php?action=update_product&product=PNorm

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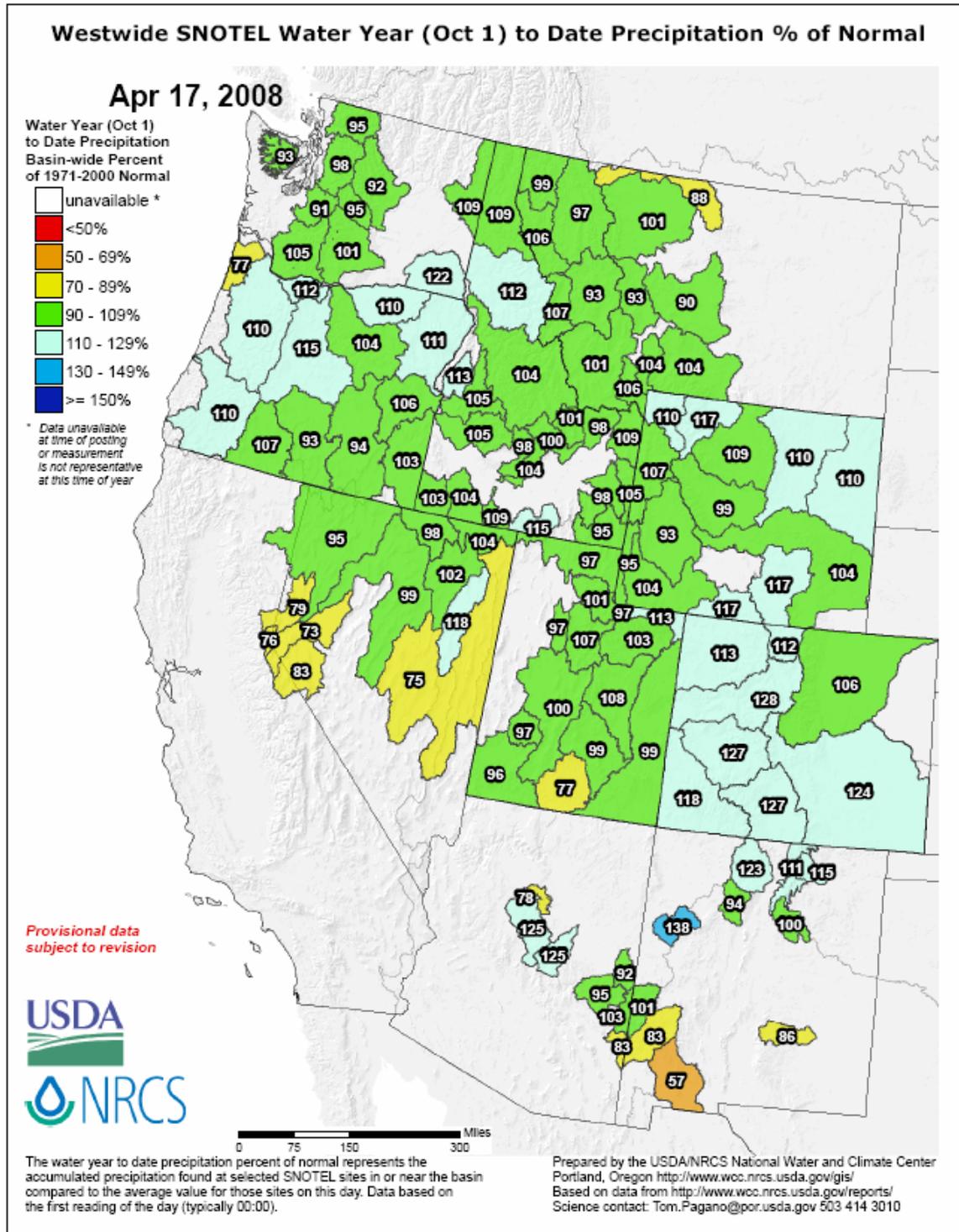


Fig 3a. Seasonal precipitation (rain & snow water equivalent) as a percent of normal for the 2008 Water Year that began on October 1, 2007 shows above normal totals over much of Colorado, northern New Mexico, and central Arizona. Values in general haven't changed very much since last week. Ref:

ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_wytdprecpcnormal_update.pdf

Note: A new basin-filled running monthly precipitation as a percent of normal map is now available at:

ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/west_mtdprecpcnormal_update.pdf

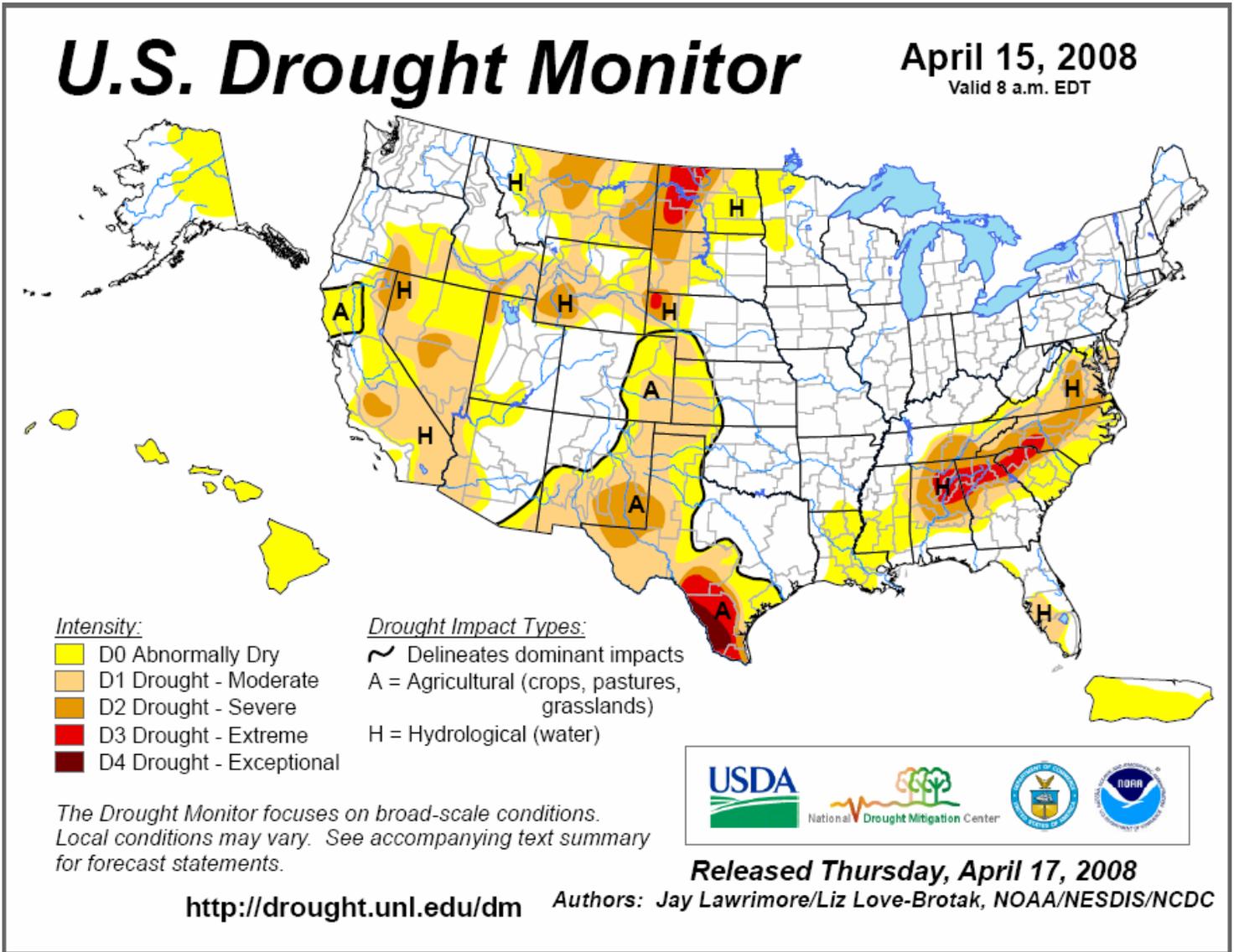


Fig. 4. Current Drought Monitor weekly summary.

Ref: National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) - <http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>.

U.S. Drought Monitor

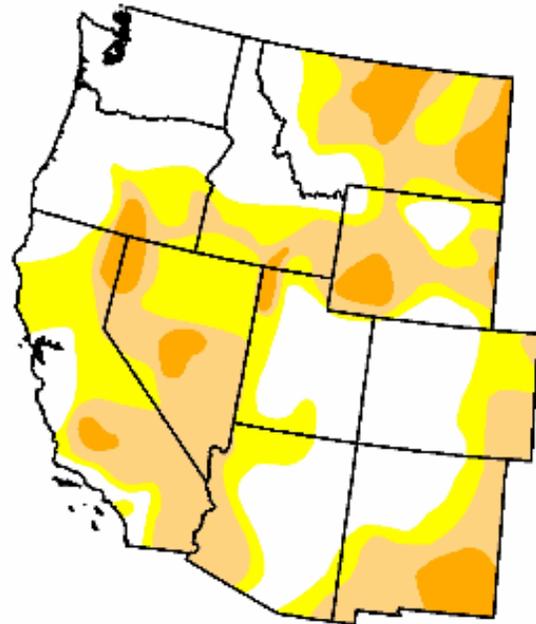
West

April 15, 2008

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	40.5	59.5	35.0	8.4	0.0	0.0
Last Week (04/08/2008 map)	42.4	57.6	33.7	5.4	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (01/22/2008 map)	28.7	71.3	51.8	26.2	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	26.3	73.7	54.7	33.1	2.7	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	22.0	78.0	62.3	44.7	12.4	0.0
One Year Ago (04/17/2007 map)	25.5	74.5	54.7	23.4	6.9	0.0



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, April 17, 2008

Author: J. Lawrimore/L. Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

Fig. 4a. Drought Monitor for the Western States with statistics over various time periods. Note some deterioration in the D2-D4 levels since last week.

Ref: http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_west.htm.

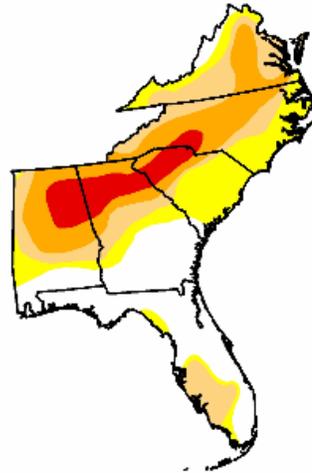
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U.S. Drought Monitor
Southeast

April 15, 2008
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	29.0	71.0	50.3	29.3	8.9	0.0
Last Week (04/08/2008 map)	29.6	70.4	50.3	29.3	11.5	0.0
3 Months Ago (01/22/2008 map)	6.3	93.7	73.8	54.5	37.4	20.2
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	9.6	90.4	74.3	58.5	41.0	22.0
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	10.1	89.9	77.9	63.8	45.2	24.0
One Year Ago (04/17/2007 map)	31.6	68.4	41.3	16.6	1.8	0.0



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
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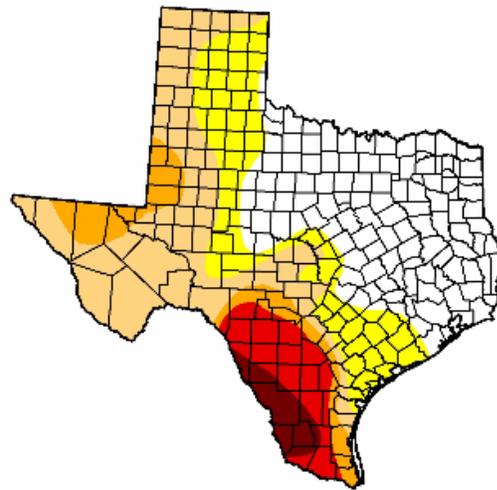
Author: J. Lawrimore/L. Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

April 15, 2008
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	36.2	63.8	45.0	18.4	10.5	3.3
Last Week (04/08/2008 map)	27.9	72.1	46.7	13.9	9.9	0.0
3 Months Ago (01/22/2008 map)	32.4	67.6	24.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2008 map)	52.0	48.0	11.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/02/2007 map)	97.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (04/17/2007 map)	87.0	13.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

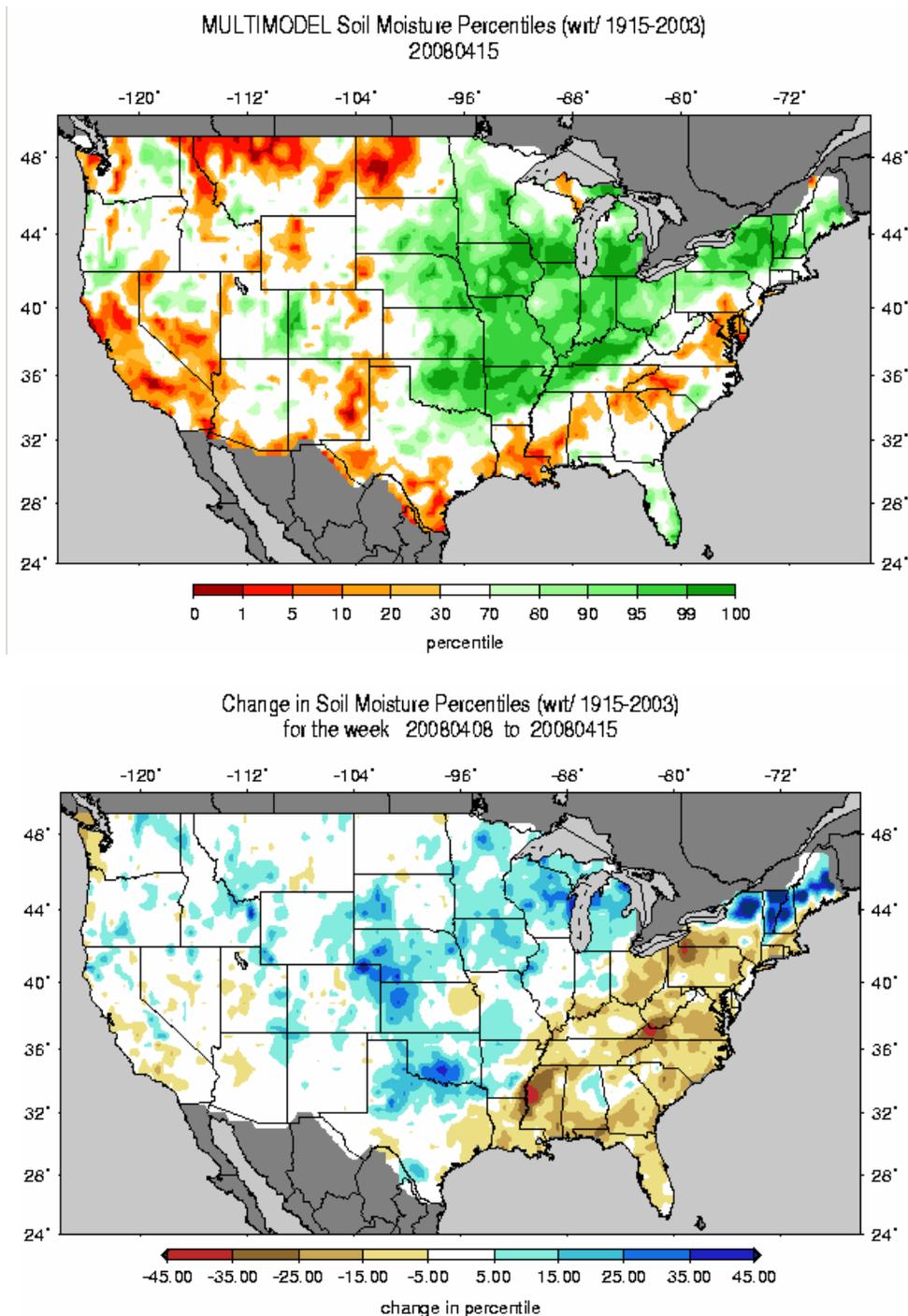


Released Thursday, April 17, 2008

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Fig. 4b: Drought Monitor for the Southeastern States and Texas with statistics over various time periods. Note some improvement in D3 since last week. Southern Texas has deteriorated to D4 intensity this week. Ref: http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/DM_southeast.htm

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report



Figs. 5 & 5a: Soil Moisture Ranking and change in percentile based on 1915-2003 climatology for this past week. Dry soils dominate over areas of the mid Atlantic to Texas, the Northern Plains, California and southern Nevada (Fig. 5). Remark: In colder regions of the West, frozen ground suggests incorrect values or missing data (e.g. the Cascades are considerably wetter than depicted). Last week saw an increase in soil moisture over northern New England and the Great Plains as noted in Fig. 5a.

Ref: http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/CONUS.multimodel.sm_qnt.gif
http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/CONUS.sm_qnt.1wk.gif

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

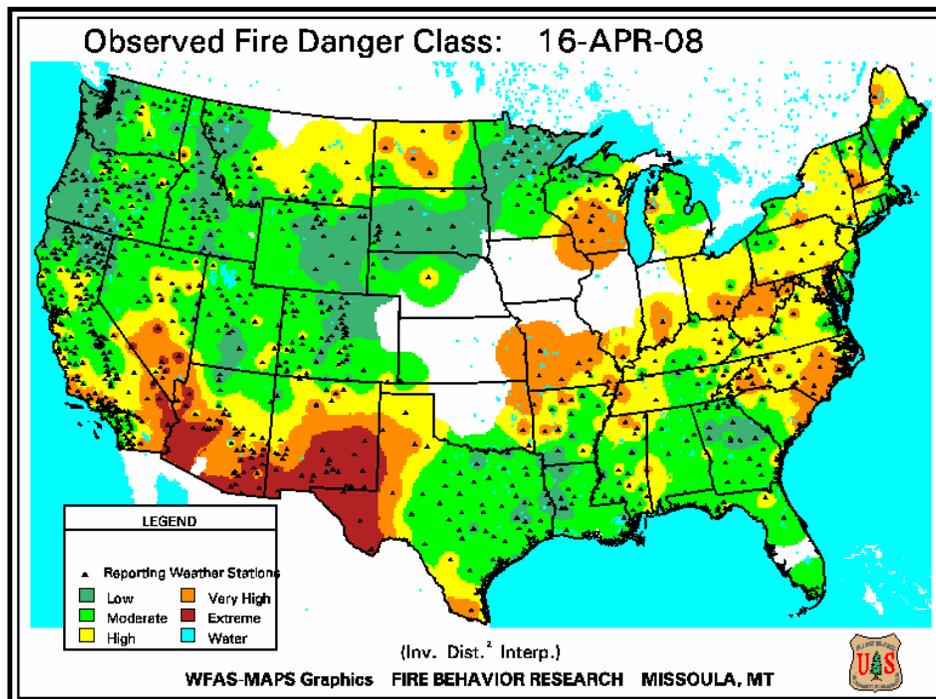
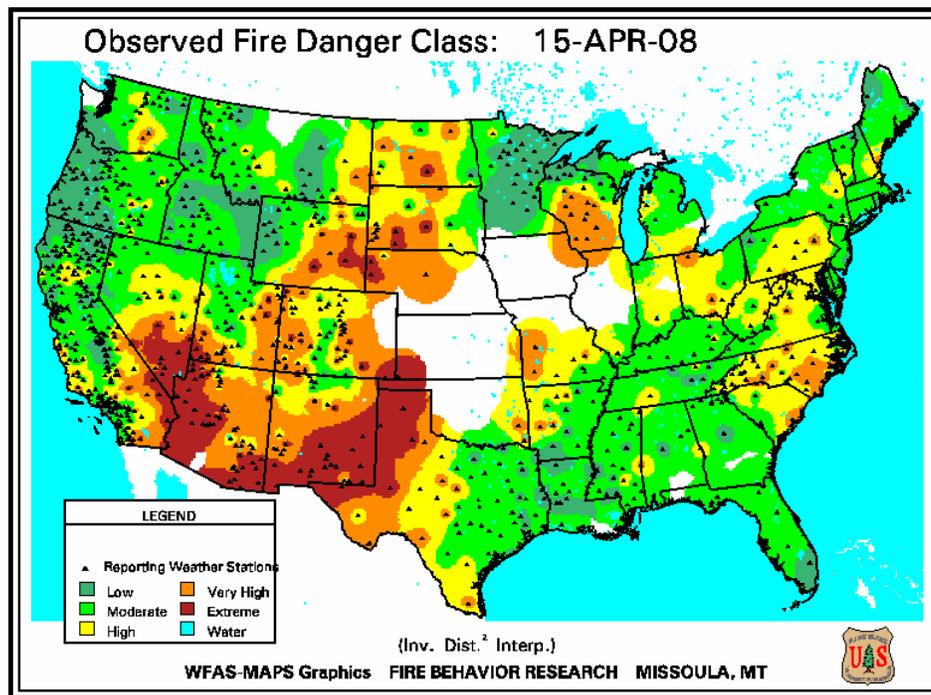
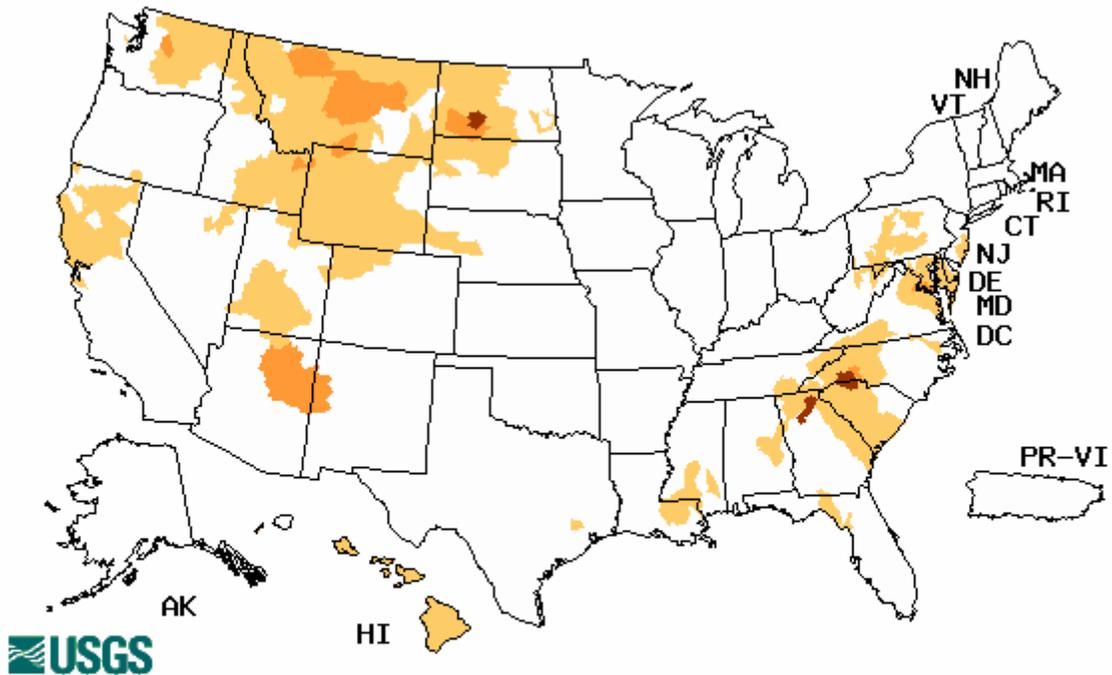


Fig. 6. Observed Fire Danger Class. Note general deterioration over the Southwest and west Texas since last week. Serious fires occurred in Colorado, killing three people. A winter storm moved through the Central Rockies on April 16th. Note the improvement in just one day from Wyoming to New Mexico. Source: Forest Service Fire Behavior Research – Missoula, MT.

Ref: http://www.fs.fed.us/land/wfas/fd_class.gif

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Wednesday, April 16, 2008



Explanation - Percentile classes				
Low	<=5	6-9	10-24	Insufficient data for a hydrologic region
Extreme hydrologic drought	Severe hydrologic drought	Moderate hydrologic drought	Below normal	

Fig. 7. This week's map shows some improvement over the West since last week. This improvement is probably the result of warmer conditions that have helped kick start the seasonal mountain snow runoff. Values over the colder regions of the West and northern states are probably missing or are in error due to river icing and freeze-up although this is rapidly becoming a non-issue as we enter mid-spring.

Ref: USGS <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/?m=dryw&w=map&r=us>

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

National Drought Summary - April 15, 2008

The discussion in the Looking Ahead section is simply a description of what the official national guidance from the National Weather Service (NWS) National Centers for Environmental Prediction is depicting for current areas of dryness and drought. The NWS forecast products utilized include the HPC 5-day QPF and 5-day Mean Temperature progs, the 6-10 Day Outlooks of Temperature and Precipitation Probability, and the 8-14 Day Outlooks of Temperature and Precipitation Probability, valid as of late Wednesday afternoon of the USDM release week. The NWS forecast web page used for this section is: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>.

The Southeast and Mid-Atlantic: Following a week in which beneficial rain fell over most of the drought-affected parts of the region, much of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic received less than 0.5 inches of rain last week. Generally heavier amounts of 1 to 2 inches fell from central Alabama to the Upstate of South Carolina and totals exceeded 2 inches in parts of central and western Tennessee, primarily in areas that were drought-free. With most areas receiving little to no precipitation on top of what had fallen in the previous week, a one-category improvement in drought severity occurred in only two areas, while conditions deteriorated in another.

In the area covering southeast Tennessee, northern Georgia and northern Alabama, a reduction from D4H to D3H reflected the beneficial impact of precipitation amounts that widely exceeded 12 to 15 inches in the past three months. Although mid- and longer-term deficits remain, precipitation has been sufficient to end D4H conditions in southeastern Tennessee and reduce its coverage in northern Georgia and Alabama. Topsoil conditions in this region have improved significantly during the past two to three months as reflected in USDA reports that show topsoil as short or very short in only 10% of Georgia and Alabama as of April 13. However, subsoil conditions at depths to at least four feet, which are important for crop development, have very likely not recovered from the exceptional drought conditions that affected this area since last summer. In central Tennessee, additional rainfall along the southern edge of the persistent southern Plains to Midwest storm track was sufficient for a southward nudge in the D0 and D1H boundary.

No improvements were made in the Carolinas and Virginia. The Corps of Engineers projects in North Carolina and reservoirs in the Catawba basin of western NC have levels at or above target elevations according to the North Carolina Drought Advisory Team. However, these levels are not solely attributed to rainfall events during the past six weeks. Current levels in the Catawba basin are due primarily to the fact that very little to no power generation is occurring. Streamflows in the Catawba basin continue to show below-normal at most all USGS gages.

An expansion of D0 conditions in the southern half of Mississippi and eastern Louisiana reflect 30-day precipitation totals that were less than 50% of average, modeled soil moisture below the 20th percentile, and 7-day to 28-day USGS streamflow conditions that are generally below the 10th percentile.

The Plains and Midwest: A second storm following one in the previous week brought additional improvements to several parts of the northern Plains and upper Midwest. In western Nebraska, snowfall produced significant improvements to soil moisture conditions and D1H was reduced to D0 across the southeast Panhandle and the southwestern corner of the state. The area affected by abnormally dry (D0) conditions contracted in northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota where additional precipitation brought 30-day totals to more than 150% of average. In northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan an additional 1.0 to 2.0 inches of precipitation during the past week provided sufficient improvement for removal of the abnormally dry (D0H) designation that has lingered over the region for the past two months.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Although as much as 10 inches of snow fell in isolated areas of North Dakota, no changes to drought classification were made as six-month precipitation remained 30% of normal in the most severely affected areas, and no significant improvements to one-month to three-month precipitation totals occurred.

More than 1.0 inches of rain fell along the abnormally dry (D0A) and moderate drought (D1A) areas of southwestern Kansas, western Oklahoma, the eastern Panhandle of Texas, and west-central Texas during the past week. This continuation of wetter-than-average conditions led to an erosion of abnormally dry (D0A) conditions in this region. Precipitation surpluses are present in many locations beyond 60 days and USGS 7-day to 28-day streamflow levels are average to above average.

Contrasting these improving conditions was a continued lack of rainfall in southern Texas that led to further deterioration from D3A to D4A conditions along the US/Mexico border. Rainfall during the past six months leading up to and including spring planting season has been extremely dry, less than 10% of normal in many places. In Laredo, Texas less than 0.1" of rain has fallen since February 1, tying the driest such period on record, and 120-day rainfall totals in many parts of the area are below the 2nd percentile. Moderate drought (D1A) also was degraded to D2H in the southern Panhandle of Texas as precipitation deficits continued to mount. The dry conditions that now follow an extremely wet summer in 2007 are creating a growing fire hazard, according to local reports, as the now dry vegetation that developed last summer is present in abundance.

The West: The presence of a more typical La Nina pattern continued to bring drier than normal conditions to the Southwest during the past week. One-month to three-month precipitation totals less than 50% of average cover large parts of the region. The growing precipitation deficits led to a one-category degradation in southern New Mexico, areas of southeastern Colorado, and large parts of Montana and northern California.

A D1A to D2A increase in severity occurred in southeastern New Mexico where three-month precipitation totals less than 25% of average are widespread. In southwestern New Mexico and extreme southeast Arizona the continued lack of precipitation led to a one-category degradation from D0 to D1A. Although precipitation since February also has been well below average in Arizona, and snowpack rapidly diminished since early March, no action was taken to degrade conditions elsewhere in the state. Heavy winter precipitation and subsequent snow melt runoff have filled reservoirs and for the state as whole the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service reports that reservoir capacity is above average.

Conditions also deteriorated in large parts of central and western Montana while average to above snowpack in western areas of the state led to small reductions in abnormally dry (D0H) conditions. Severe drought (D2H) expanded in central Montana, and D1H expanded in southeastern areas of the state. Topsoil moisture as reported by the USDA is short or very short in seventy-one percent of the state as of April 13.

Below average precipitation persisted in the Arkansas River Basin of southeast Colorado exacerbating dryness east of the Rocky Mountains. The continued lack of precipitation led to a small westward extension of D0 conditions, leaving a tight gradient between healthy mountain snowpack to the west and abnormally dry conditions to the east. Although unusually dry conditions exist in this area, according to the Colorado State Climatologist the potential exists for spring snowmelt flooding in the same area from very high snowpack conditions immediately upstream in the Arkansas basin. Current impacts of the dry conditions included reports of three major wildfires in the Pueblo region on April 15.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Abnormally dry (D0A) conditions were introduced to areas of northern California where winter and early spring rainfall has been below average and totals within the past three months are less than 70% of average. Soil moisture and streamflow levels have fallen below the 20th percentile in many locations.

Hawaii: Precipitation was generally near to slightly below average on all but the island of Maui, keeping D0 conditions intact across the state.

Alaska: Precipitation was generally above average across the state during the past week. Totals were less than one inch in all but the panhandle, where amounts exceeded 3.0 inches in many places. In areas of eastern Alaska where snowpack remained well below average there was no change to the D0 designation and other others of the state remained drought free.

Puerto Rico: From 0.5 to 1.5 inches of rain fell across large parts of the island during the past week. Amounts were generally near to slightly below 30-year averages, keeping abnormally dry (D0) conditions in place.

Looking Ahead: The next 5 days (April 16-21, 2008) are expected to bring moderate rains (1.0 to 2.0 inches) to many of the dry areas of North Carolina and Virginia, while amounts of 0.5 to 1.0 inches are possible from northern Alabama to the Upstate of South Carolina. Lighter amounts are expected from southern Alabama to eastern South Carolina. Heavy precipitation (2.0 to 5.0 inches) is again likely from southern Missouri and eastern Kansas to northern Illinois, while as much as 1.0 inch of rain may fall from eastern Oklahoma to drought-affected areas of eastern and central Texas. Further west from the dry areas of west Texas to coastal California little to no precipitation is anticipated. Drought-affected areas of Montana may receive from 0.5 to 1.0 inches of precipitation, while little to no precipitation is expected from North Dakota to Nebraska.

The period begins with daily high temperatures generally 5-10°F below average in the western U.S. and parts of the Southeast. Warmer-than-average temperatures in the central U.S. are expected to be replaced by cooler than average temperatures in association with a frontal system. Ahead of the front, temperatures are anticipated to warm to 5-10°F above average in the mid-Atlantic and Northeast in the middle of the period. As the forecast period ends, near-average to cooler-than-average temperatures are expected in the eastern third of the nation, while the central U.S. is warmer than average and large parts of the western U.S. are 10-20°F below average.

The ensuing 5 day period (April 22 – 26, 2008) is expected to be highlighted by a deep trough over the West that will track eastward bringing precipitation to the Rocky Mountains, the central U.S. and the Southeast. A closed low may also bring heavy rain to the mid-Atlantic states early in the period. The odds favor above-normal precipitation in the western High Plains, Upper Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and western Alaska. Drier-than-average conditions are more likely in the Southwest from southern New Mexico to central California as well as eastern Alaska. The odds favor cooler-than-normal conditions in the western third of the nation, particularly the northern Rockies. Cooler-than-normal temperatures are also more probable in Florida, while warmer-than-average temperatures are favored from the Deep South to the Midwest and parts of the Northeast. Warmer-than-average temperatures also are favored in central and western Alaska.

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Dryness Categories

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

D0 ... Abnormally Dry ... used for areas showing dryness but not yet in drought, or for areas recovering from drought.

Drought Intensity Categories

D1 ... Moderate Drought

D2 ... Severe Drought

D3 ... Extreme Drought

D4 ... Exceptional Drought

Drought or Dryness Types

A ... Agricultural

H ... Hydrological

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