

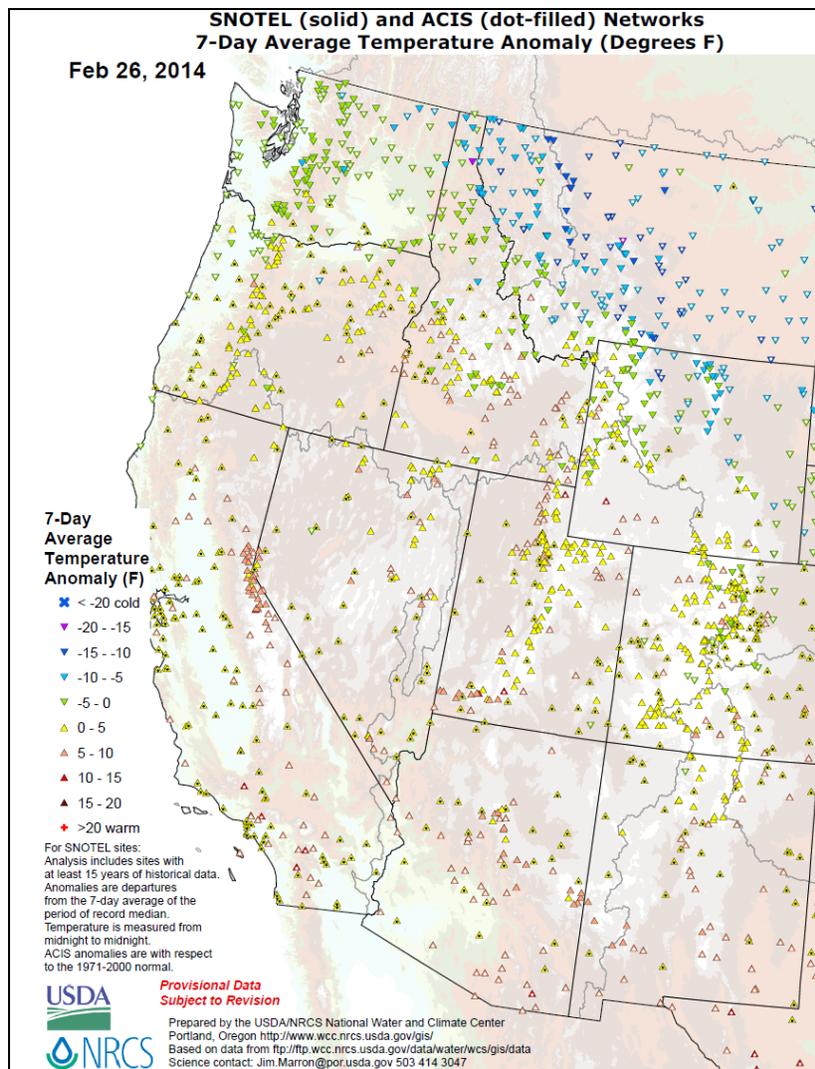


Natural Resources Conservation Service
 P.O. Box 2890
 Washington, D.C. 20013

Weekly Snowpack / Drought Monitor Update February 27, 2014

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Temperature



SNOTEL and ACIS [7-day temperature anomaly](#) shows temperatures well below normal over the northern tier and above normal over the southern tier states of the West.

Click on most maps in this report to enlarge and see latest available update.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

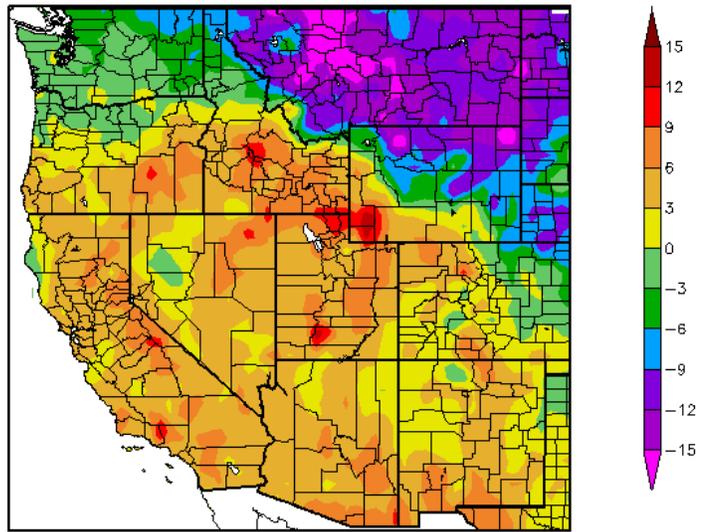
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Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[ACIS](#) 7-day average temperature anomalies, ending February 26, show the greatest negative temperature departures over Montana and northern Wyoming (<-15°F). The greatest positive temperature departures occurred over southwestern Wyoming and north-central Utah (>+12°F).

Also see [Dashboard](#) and the [Westwide Drought Tracker](#).

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/20/2014 - 2/26/2014



Generated 2/27/2014 at HPRCC using provisional data.

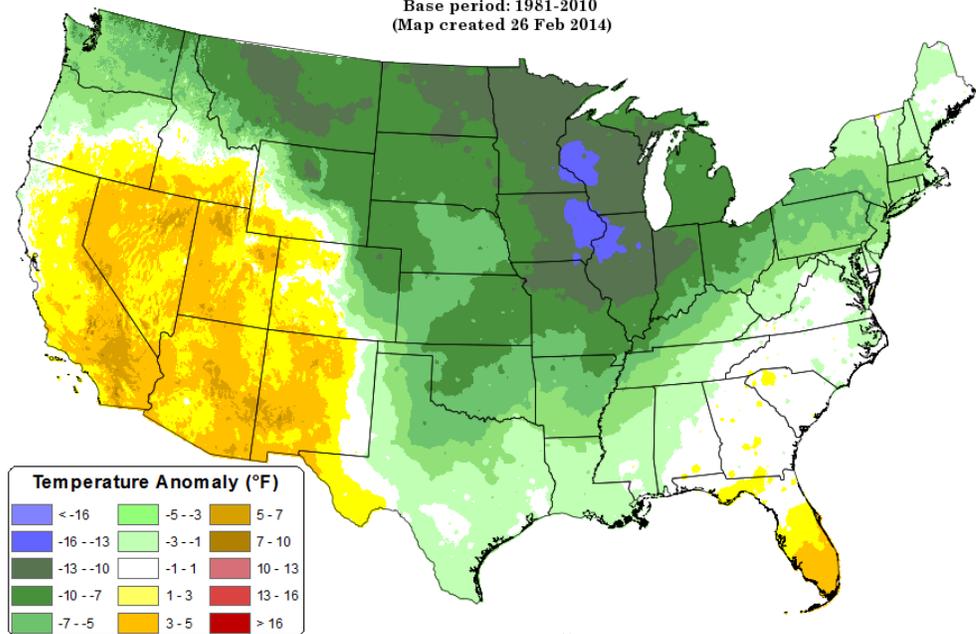
Regional Climate Cent

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 February 2014 - 25 February 2014

Period ending 7 AM EST 25 Feb 2014

Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 26 Feb 2014)

This preliminary [PRISM](#) temperature map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and will be updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.



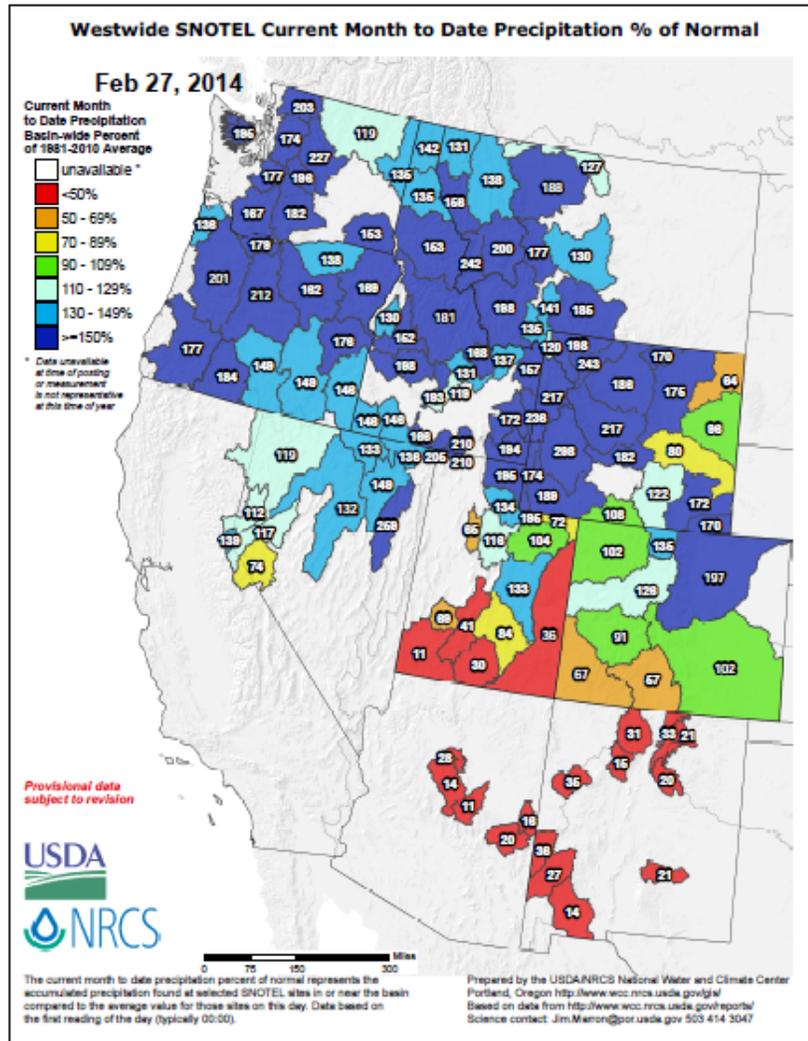
Copyright (c) 2014, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

Thus far, February has been exceptionally cold over the Midwest and western Great Lakes regions (<-13°F departures). Warmer than normal temperatures have been confined to southern Florida, the Great Basin, southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico (>+5°F).

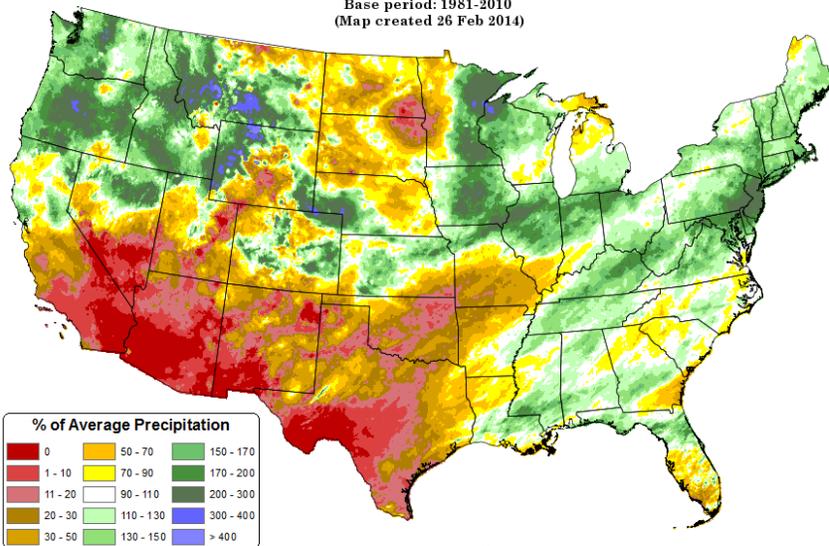
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Precipitation

SNOTEL [month to date](#) precipitation percent of normal shows much of the West with well above normal values. A few river basins in southern and eastern Utah and all basins in Arizona and New Mexico are well below normal.



Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 February 2014 - 25 February 2014
Period ending 7 AM EST 25 Feb 2014
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 26 Feb 2014)



← [February's precipitation](#) pattern has been spotty across the U.S. Areas with above normal amounts have been focused over the Pacific Northwest, the interior West including the Northern Rockies, Midwest, and the mid-Atlantic states. Drier conditions dominated the northern High Plains, southern California and Nevada, and the Southwest into Texas.

This preliminary daily PRISM precipitation map contains all available network data, including SNOTEL data, and is updated periodically as additional data become available and are quality controlled.

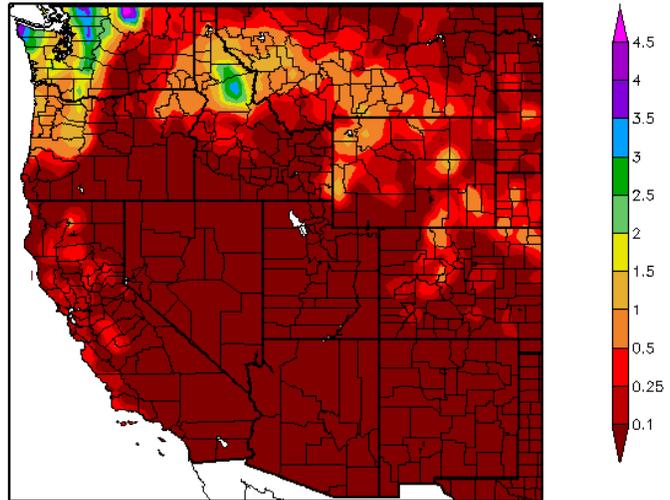
Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[ACIS 7-day](#) total precipitation amounts were greatest over the northernmost Cascades in Washington (4.5 inches).

A secondary maximum area occurred over north-central Idaho (1 to 3 inches).

Elsewhere, excluding northwestern Washington, lesser amounts fell over the Oregon Cascades and the northern Rockies. No precipitation fell over a vast portion of the southern tier of the West.

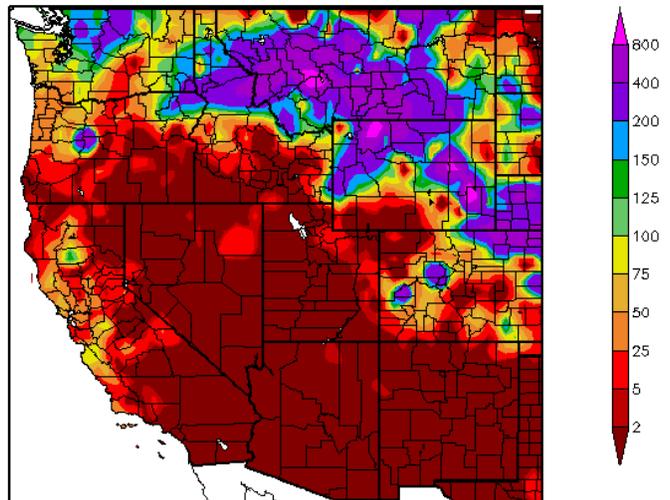
Precipitation (in)
2/20/2014 – 2/26/2014



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
2/20/2014 – 2/26/2014

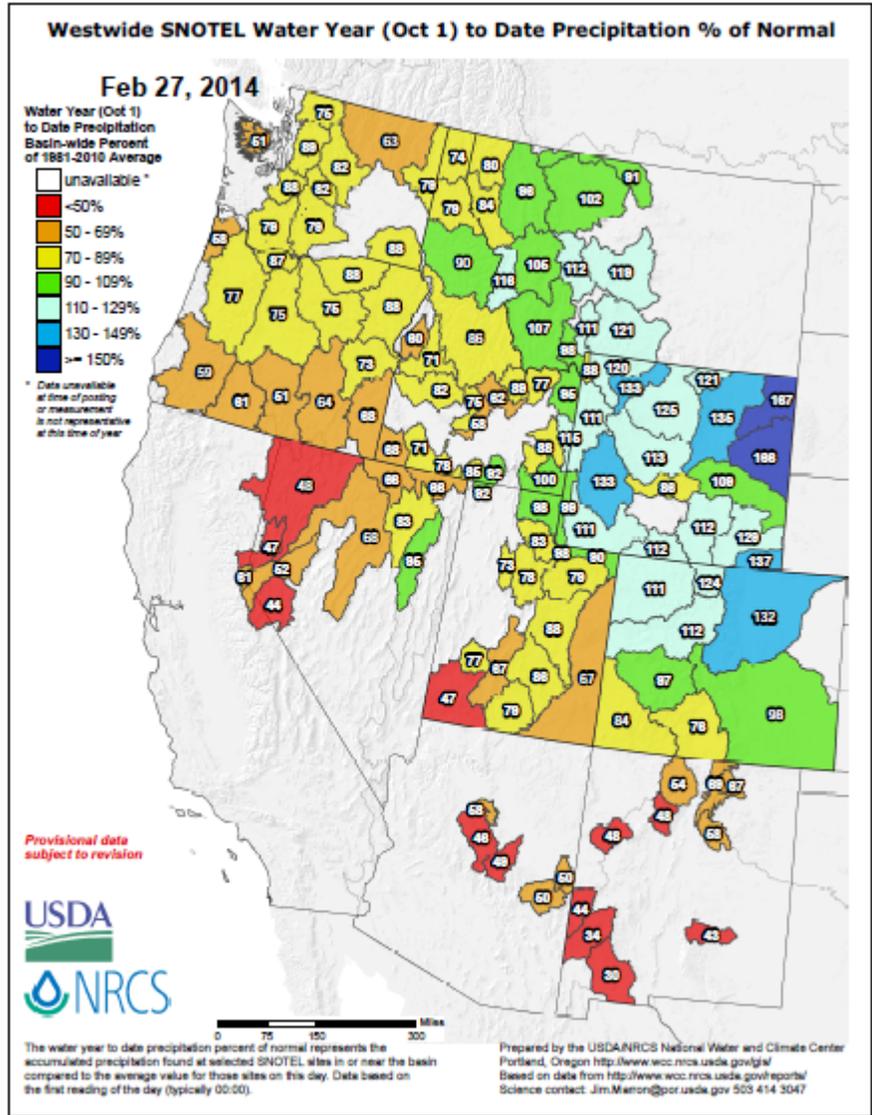
This [map](#) shows the classic La Niña pattern persisting with abundant precipitation amounts over the northern tier states and significant deficits over the southern tier states of the West. →

Note that these ACIS maps reflect only low-elevation stations, where precipitation is typically lighter this time of year than it is over higher terrain. Under average conditions (based on long-term climatology), precipitation tends to increase in the coming weeks for the interior West.

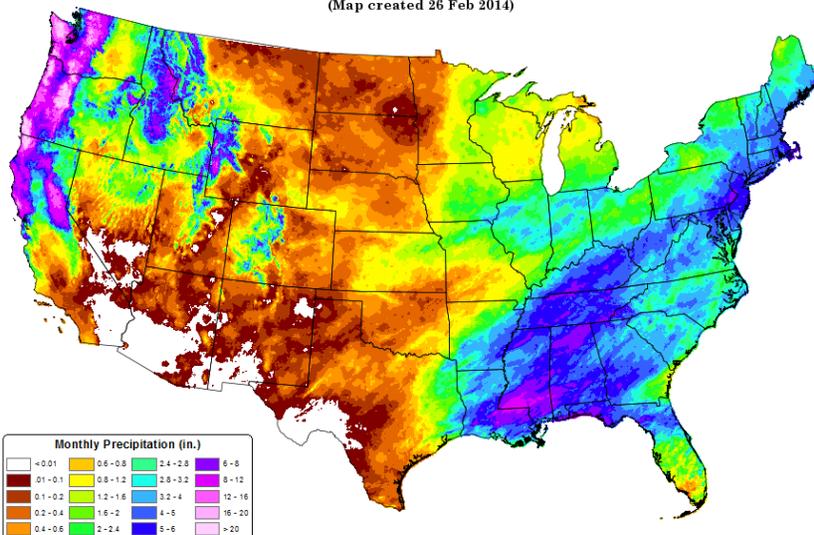


Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

For the [2014 Water Year](#) that began on October 1, 2013, only central Montana, all of Wyoming, and northern Colorado are experiencing surpluses. The worst deficits are located over western Nevada, southwest Utah, and much of Arizona and New Mexico.



Total Precipitation: 01 February 2014 - 25 February 2014
Period ending 7 AM EST 25 Feb 2014
(Map created 26 Feb 2014)



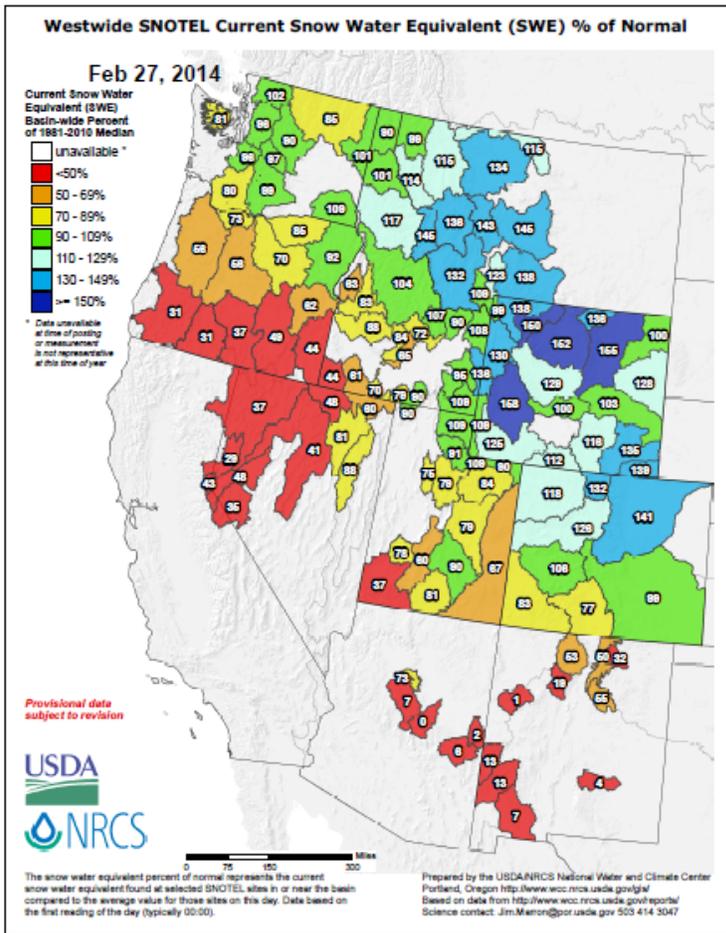
Copyright (c) 2014, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

In this [PRISM](#) map, preliminary data show the **total precipitation** (rain and snow water equivalent) in February to date.

Typical high amounts of precipitation occurred over the coastal ranges, Cascades, and Sierra, with lesser amounts over northern Idaho, northwestern Montana, western Wyoming, and central Colorado. The eastern third of the country has also seen a fair amount of moisture. Much of the Great Plains, Southwest, and southern Great Basin (including southern California) have had very low totals.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Snow



Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) values are higher east of the Continental Divide with the exception of New Mexico. Conditions are near normal over the Washington Cascades and Coast Ranges, the northern half of Idaho, the Bear River drainage in northeastern Utah, and southeast Colorado.

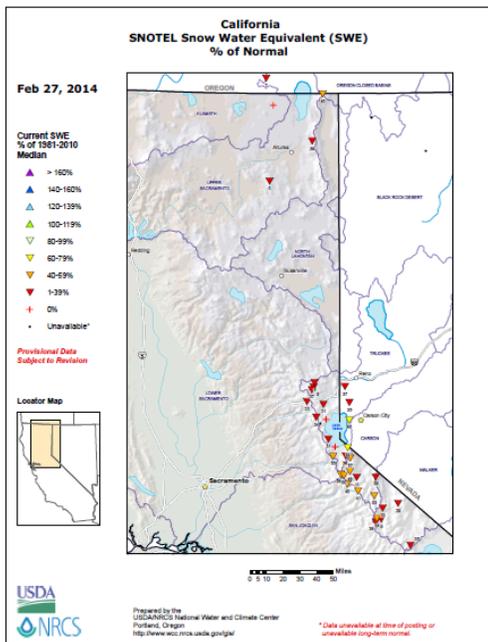
The Sierra Nevada snowpack continues to be in deficit and much more moisture is needed to alleviate the extreme drought conditions.

Weather models continue to suggest a surge in moisture is possible by the end of the month over northern California.

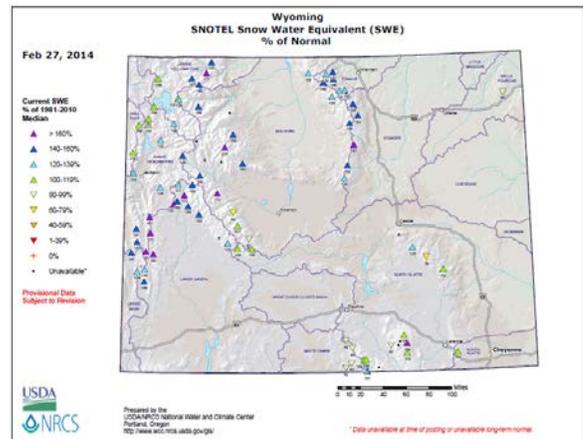
The all-important April 1 SWE date will best determine the water supply forecasts issued by the [National Water and Climate Center](#).

See the latest [National Snow Analysis](#)

See westwide [water supply forecast tables](#)



California-Nevada SWE map by station. Despite recent precipitation most sites have not changed significantly.



Wyoming SWE map by station. Wyoming is faring the best in terms of SWE surplus in the West thus far this winter.

← Despite California experiencing heavy localized precipitation earlier in the month, the climate statistical probability for the state to reach its long-term average amount is about 1 in 1000 by the end of April. – NOAA

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Weather and Drought Summary

National Drought Summary – February 25, 2014

The following **Weather and Drought Summary** is provided by this week's NDMC Drought Author: Brad Rippey, USDA

USDM Map Services: (contains [archived maps](#))

For the contiguous 48 states, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 36.08 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 35.73 percent a week earlier. D4 has increased to 1.76 percent by area this week.

For all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 30.24 percent of the area in moderate drought or worse, compared with 29.96 percent a week earlier.

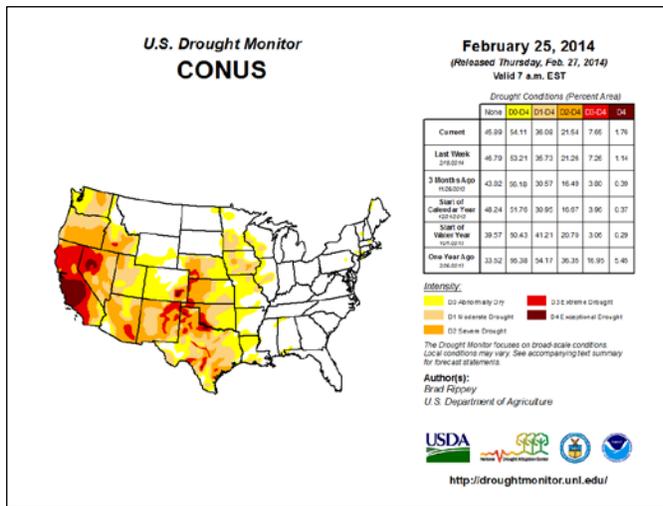
[Current Drought Monitor](#) weekly summary. The exceptional D4 levels of drought are scattered across CA, NV, CO, TX, and OK.

The latest [drought indicator blend and component percentiles](#) spreadsheet is a great resource for climate division drought statistics. This link is for the latest [Drought Outlook](#) (forecast). See [climatological rankings](#).

For more drought news, see [Drought Impact Reporter](#).

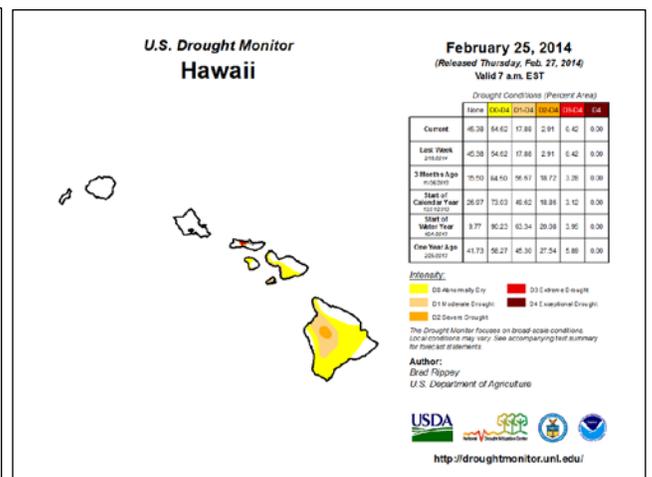
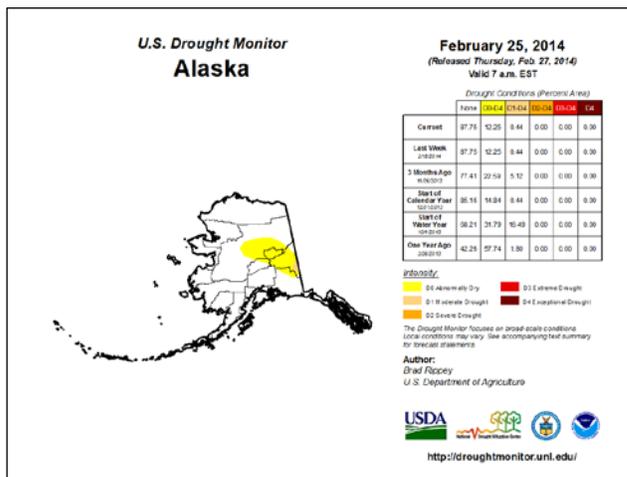
Drought Management Resources (✓):

- ✓ [Watch AgDay TV](#)
- ✓ [Drought Impacts Webinar Series](#)



See: Latest Drought [Impacts](#) during the past week.

- [Rains give hope to drought-plagued Hawaii ranchers](#) - Feb 17, Hawaii.



"The 49th and 50th States show benign drought conditions with the exception of the Big Island of Hawaii and leeward sides of the central island group of the state."

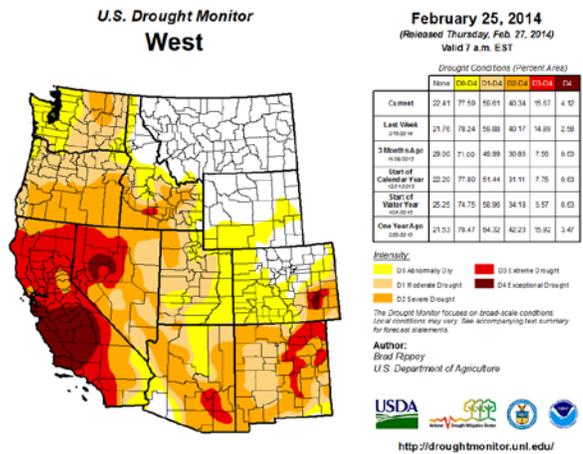
A comprehensive narrative describing drought conditions across other parts of the nation can be found toward the end of this document. For drought impacts definitions for the figures that follow, click [here](#).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

- ✓ Drought Monitor for the [Western States](#)
- ✓ Drought Impact Reporter for [New Mexico](#)
- ✓ [California Data Exchange Center & Flood Management](#)
- ✓ [Intermountain West Climate Dashboard](#)
- ✓ [Great Basin Dashboard](#)
- ✓ [CLIMAS January 2014 Climate Summary](#)

Drought News across the West

- [Drought-stricken states prepare for landmark year in fires](#) - Feb 15, **Western U.S.**
- [Storms improve water outlook](#) - Feb 18, **Idaho.**
- [Fire season underway already in Southern Arizona](#) - Feb 19, **Arizona, New Mexico.**
- [Doña Ana County irrigators could get just 6 acre-inches of water in 2014](#) - Feb 18, **Southern New Mexico**

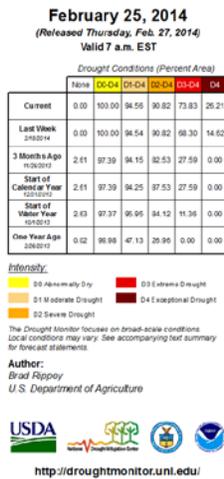
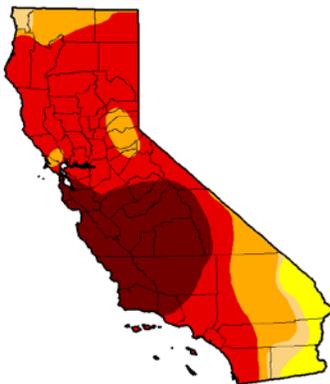


Slight deterioration in D3-D4 has occurred during the past week. - Click to enlarge

Drought News from California

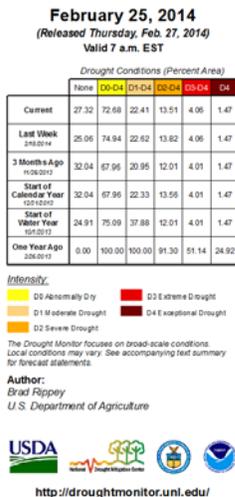
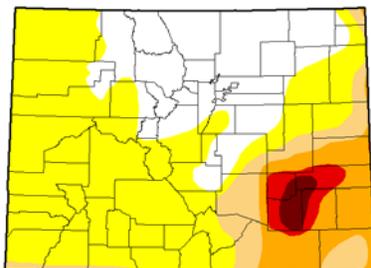
- [California drought: Grass-fed beef industry reeling](#) - Feb 21
- [Farmers: Obama's drought relief efforts lacking](#) - Feb 15
- [California's extreme drought as seen from space](#) - Feb 18
- [California drought: Gov. Jerry Brown proposes \\$687 million aid plan](#) - Feb 19
- [California water board to hold two public workshops on drought response](#) - Feb 17
- [Water bottler faces opposition in California](#) - Feb 19
- [California Farmers Won't Get Federal Water](#) - Feb 21
- [Health experts warn of water contamination from California drought](#) - Feb 19
- [Officials: Ten Communities At Risk of Running Out of Water in 60 Days](#) - Feb 19
- [Parched California Pours Mega-Millions Into Desalination Tech](#) - Feb 17
- [West Side water cuts get even worse](#) - Feb 18

U.S. Drought Monitor California



Significant deterioration in D3 & D4 has occurred for the 2nd consecutive this week.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



✓ [CA Drought Information Resources](#)

No changes have occurred during the past week.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

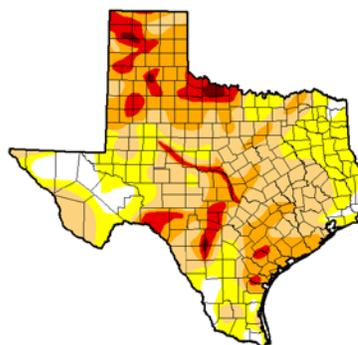
State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

- ✓ Texas Drought [Website](#).
- ✓ [Texas Reservoirs](#).
- ✓ [Texas Drought Monitor Coordination Conference Call](#): on Monday's 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CST

Texas [Impacts](#) during the past week

- [44% of Texas' wheat rated poor to very poor](#) - Feb 19
- [Governor Perry Extends Drought Declaration](#) - Feb 17
- [Up in smoke: Less beef on the hoof boosts barbecue restaurants' costs](#) - Feb 17

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas



February 25, 2014
(Released Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4	D4
Current	7.36	62.62	67.88	33.55	9.45	0.93
Last Week 2/18/14	11.95	68.04	59.20	27.48	8.54	0.71
3 Months Ago 11/25/13	23.81	75.19	47.17	21.23	5.66	0.96
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/14	28.48	71.52	43.84	21.15	5.82	0.79
Start of Water Year 10/1/13	6.62	63.38	70.95	25.88	4.01	0.12
One Year Ago 2/25/13	11.29	66.71	75.11	49.85	22.02	5.17

Intensity:
■ D0 Abnormally Dry ■ D3 Extreme Drought
■ D1 Moderate Drought ■ D4 Exceptional Drought
■ D2 Severe Drought

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

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

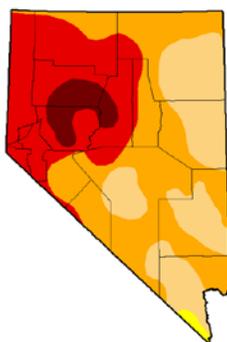
USDA

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Deterioration has occurred in D2 to D4 but mostly in D2 during the past week.

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Nevada



February 25, 2014
(Released Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	90.22	72.95	23.64	5.37
Last Week 2/18/14	0.00	100.00	90.27	72.95	23.41	5.37
3 Months Ago 11/25/13	0.38	100.01	90.81	77.66	26.66	5.37
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/14	0.38	99.61	90.81	77.66	26.66	5.37
Start of Water Year 10/1/13	0.38	99.61	90.79	78.13	26.55	5.37
One Year Ago 2/25/13	0.38	100.00	93.72	86.00	5.28	0.93

Intensity:
■ D0 Abnormally Dry ■ D3 Extreme Drought
■ D1 Moderate Drought ■ D4 Exceptional Drought
■ D2 Severe Drought

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

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

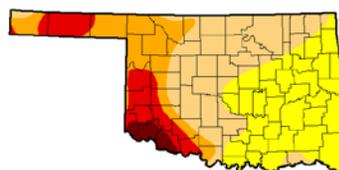
No changes have occurred during the past week.

- [RAC recommends BLM sell excess horses](#) - Feb 14,
- [Drought prompts early Truckee River trout stocking](#) - Feb 20

Slight deterioration in D3 has occurred during the past week

State with D-4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma



February 25, 2014
(Released Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D1-D2	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	99.91	92.41	28.95	13.07	2.40
Last Week 2/18/14	19.94	83.16	47.40	28.40	12.53	2.40
3 Months Ago 11/25/13	52.50	27.34	30.90	15.93	4.92	2.40
Start of Calendar Year 1/1/14	50.94	48.16	38.17	18.99	4.04	2.40
Start of Water Year 10/1/13	21.74	78.25	43.83	17.62	4.42	1.40
One Year Ago 2/25/13	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	61.85	11.80

Intensity:
■ D0 Abnormally Dry ■ D3 Extreme Drought
■ D1 Moderate Drought ■ D4 Exceptional Drought
■ D2 Severe Drought

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

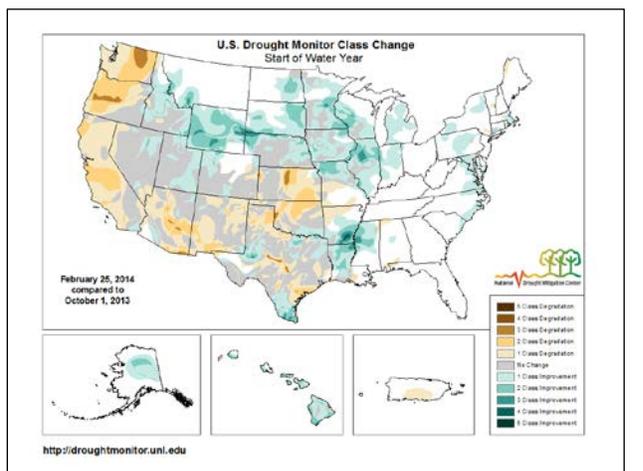
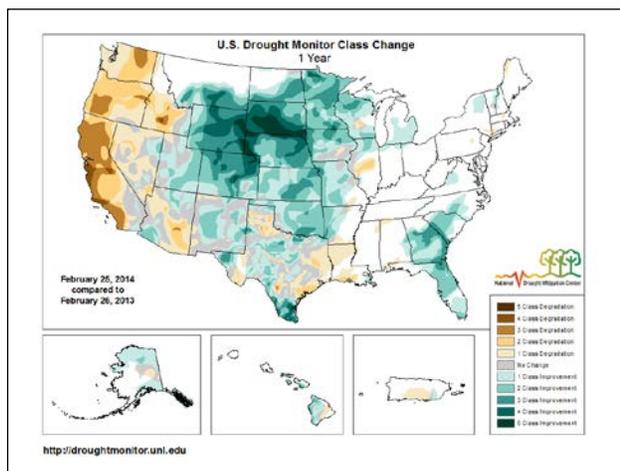
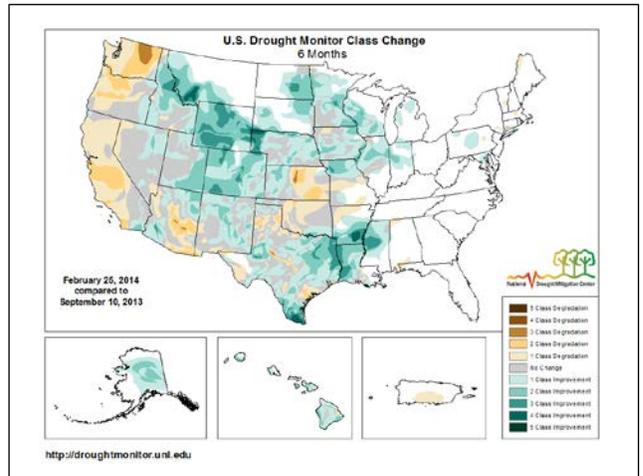
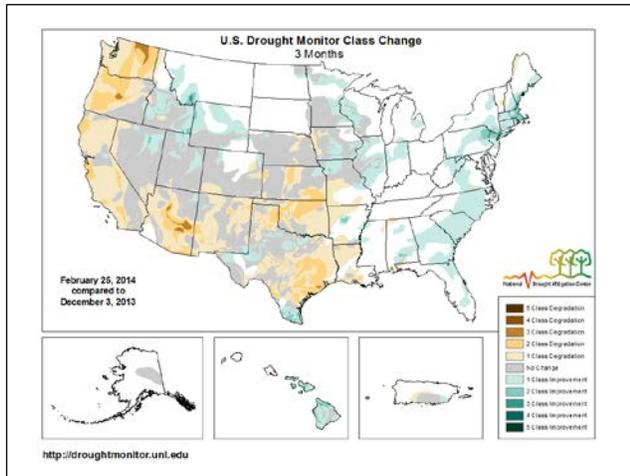
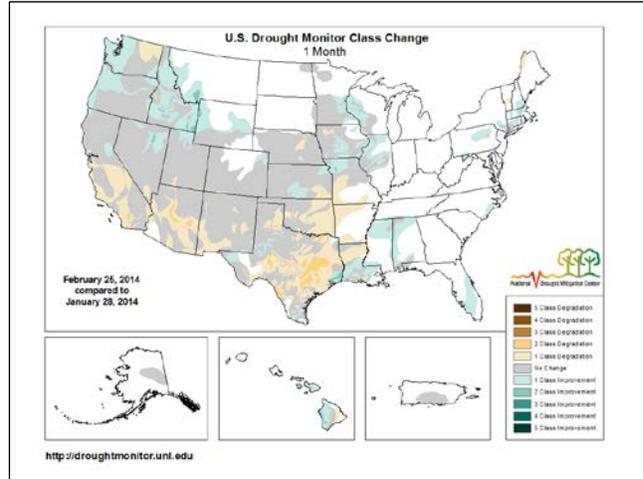
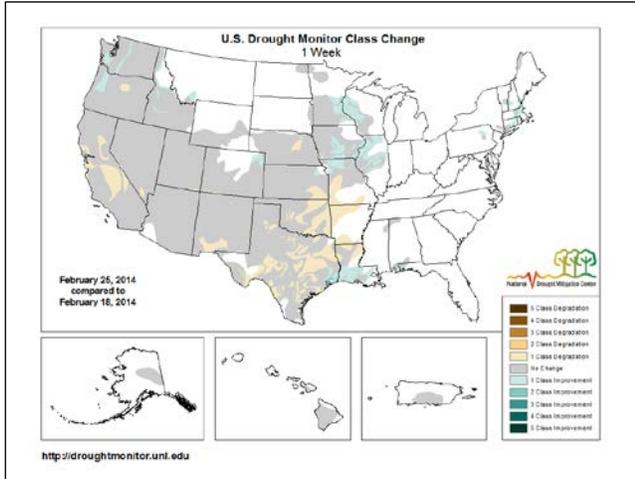
Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

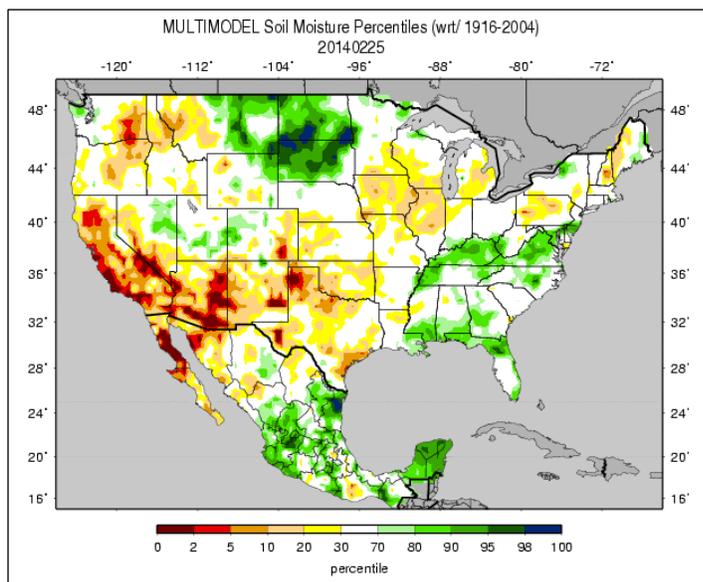
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories (over various time periods)



Winter time changes to the drought monitor are usually minimal. However, since the start of the 2014 Water Year, the western drought conditions have worsened over the Pacific Northwest and improved over Wyoming. Conditions have also improved over the Mississippi River Valley, but have worsened over Kansas.

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Soil Moisture



Soil moisture ranking in [percentile](#) as of February 25 shows considerable dryness over California, Arizona, New Mexico, parts of eastern Washington, and the southwestern Great Plains. Moist soils dominate the Northern Plains.

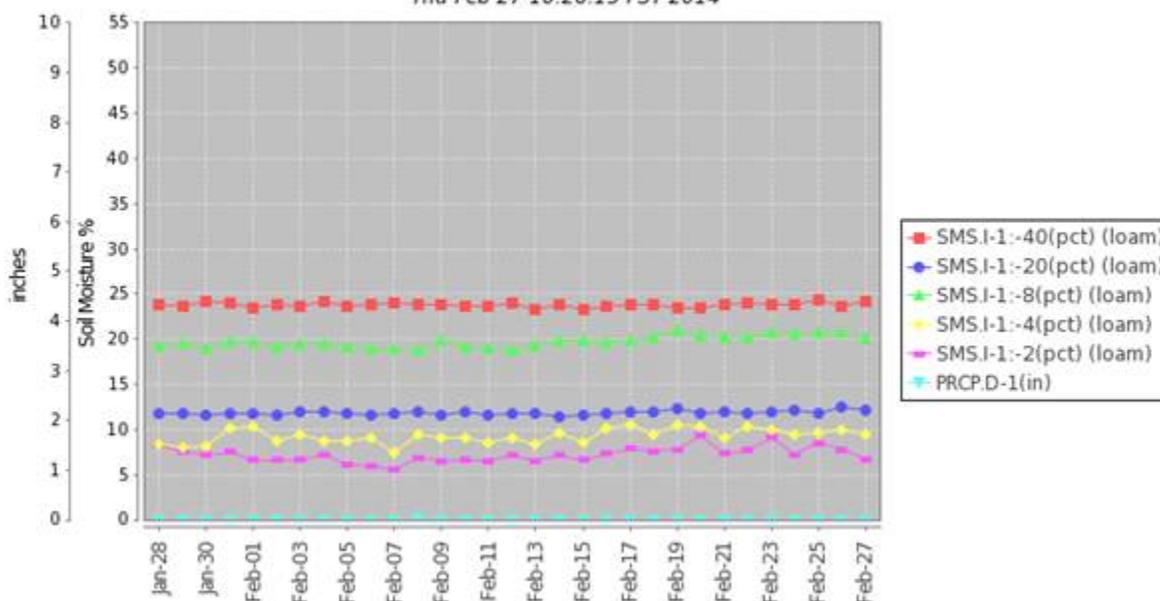
Useful Hydrological Links: [Crop Moisture Index](#); [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#); [Standardized Precipitation Index](#); [Surface Water Supply Index](#); [Weekly supplemental maps](#); [Minnesota Climate Working Group](#); [Experimental High Resolution Drought Trigger Tool](#); [NLDAS Drought Monitor](#); [Soil Moisture](#).

[Soil Health-unlock your farm's potential](#)

Note: With frozen ground, accuracy of measured moisture becomes suspect.

Soil Climate Analysis Network ([SCAN](#))

Station (2006) MONTH=2014-01-28 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Thu Feb 27 10:26:15 PST 2014



This NRCS resource shows soil moisture data at a SCAN site located in [northern Texas](#) with moist conditions at depth.

Useful Agriculture Links: [Vegetation Drought Response Index](#); [Evaporative Stress Index](#); [Vegetation Health Index](#); [NDVI Greenness Map](#); [GRACE-Based Surface Soil Moisture](#); [North American Soil Moisture Network](#). [Monthly Wild Fire Forecast Report](#).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

[National Drought Summary for February 25, 2014](#)

Prepared by: Drought Monitor Author: Brad Rippey, USDA

Summary

“California remained the focal point of a U.S. drought that stretches from the Pacific Coast to portions of the Mississippi Valley. During the 7-day drought-monitoring period, which ended early on February 25, generally dry weather prevailed in key drought areas from California to the southern High Plains. Farther north, however, rain and snow further chipped away at dryness and drought in the Northwest. Emerging dryness became an issue from the eastern Plains (Kansas to Texas) eastward into the middle and lower Mississippi Valley, while heavy rain fell in the central Gulf Coast region. Elsewhere, the year’s first widespread severe weather outbreak—accompanied by locally heavy showers—struck the Southeast and lower Midwest on February 20-21, while wind-driven snow fell from Iowa northward into the upper Great Lakes region.

Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico

There were no changes to the depictions of dryness and drought in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Generally dry weather covered mainland Alaska, including the small area still experiencing abnormal dryness and moderate drought (D0 and D1). Following a February cold spell, Alaskan temperatures have rebounded to near- or above-normal levels in recent days.

Significant Hawaiian shower activity has been scarce during the last several days, except on Kauai. Hawaii’s western islands remain free of dryness and drought, while varying degrees of drought exist from Molokai to the Big Island. Conservation measures within the Molokai Irrigation System require all non-homestead water users to cut consumption by 30 percent.

In recent days, Puerto Rican shower activity has been mostly confined to northeastern and western sections of the island. As a result, there was no change to the abnormally dry (D0) conditions that exist in south-central Puerto Rico.

Central and Southern Plains

Dry weather dominated the central and southern Great Plains, although warmth yielded to colder conditions. There were broad expansions of various categories of dryness and drought in southeastern Kansas and parts of Oklahoma and Texas. In Texas, the portion of the winter wheat crop rated in very poor to poor condition climbed to 47 percent on February 23, up from 28 percent in late-November 2013. Additionally, 52 percent of Texas’ rangeland and pastures were rated very poor to poor on February 23, up from 30 percent just 3 months ago. Spring planting is underway across Deep South Texas (e.g. Texas corn was 3 percent planted, statewide, by February 23), and moisture will be needed soon as fieldwork moves northward. By February 23, statewide topsoil moisture was rated 75 percent very short to short in Texas. Roughly the southern half of the Great Plains region is facing a potential fourth consecutive summer of drought—a stretch that began with the historic drought of 2011. Texas cotton abandonment, which until recently only exceeded 40 percent only once (in 1998), has topped 40 percent in three consecutive years (2011, 2012, and 2013).

Weekly Snowpack and Drought Monitor Update Report

Mississippi Valley

In contrast to the Southeast, short-term dryness (D0) rapidly expanded across the southern half of the Mississippi Valley. Several days of very warm weather, which has since ended, aggravated the effects of dry conditions. Year-to-date precipitation deficits have begun to mount from northern Louisiana to southern Missouri. For example, precipitation from January 1 – February 25 totaled 0.83 inch (20 percent of normal) in Joplin, Missouri; 1.94 inches (29 percent) in De Queen, Arkansas; and 3.30 inches (39 percent) in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Farther north, a strong storm crossed the upper Midwest on February 20-21, delivering wind-driven snow. The latest storm, on top of several earlier systems, further boosted the upper Midwestern snowpack. In Minnesota, Rochester set daily records on February 20 for both precipitation (0.99 inch) and snowfall (8.8 inches). Mason City, Iowa, received 7.1 inches of snow on February 20-21 to increase its depth to 19 inches, while Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minneapolis, collected 9.9 inches to boost its depth to 24 inches. Nearly every flake of snow that has fallen across the far upper Midwest this winter remains on the ground. Although there are some uncertainties regarding how much of the moisture will run off and how much will soak in, the latest storm resulted in further reductions in the coverage of dryness (D0) and lingering drought (D1 and D2). Minneapolis-St. Paul reported its 45th day with a below 0°F reading on February 26, the most in any winter at that location since 1981-82. Meanwhile, the storm responsible for the snow also contributed to heavy rain, severe thunderstorms, and melting snow in other parts of the Midwest. Enough rain fell to result in some reductions in coverage of dryness and drought in Illinois and neighboring areas, and Springfield, Illinois, reported a monthly record wind gust to 64 mph on February 20.

Northeast

Winter storms continued to chip away at long-term dryness (D0) in the Northeast. On February 18, Concord, New Hampshire, received 12.2 inches of snow, a record for the date. Three days later, a strong cold front generated locally heavy rain showers. Record-setting precipitation totals for February 21 included 0.86 inch in Watertown, New York, and 0.65 inch in Burlington, Vermont.

Southeast

With widespread rain showers dotting much of the Southeast, little dryness (D0) remained. Lingering pockets of dryness were centered on northwestern sections of Alabama and Florida. The Southeast also endured its first significant severe weather outbreak of the year, with several tornadoes and hundreds of reports of wind damage noted on February 20-21.

The West

Record-setting warmth accompanied dry weather from California into the Southwest, while beneficial precipitation fell from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies. Benefits of California's early-February precipitation are being overcome by resurgent warmth and dryness, leading to rapid expansion of extreme to exceptional drought (D3 to D4) into the San Joaquin Valley and the southern Sierra Nevada. By February 26, the California Department of Water Resources reported that the Sierra Nevada snowpack contained an average of 5 inches of liquid, just 22 percent of the late-February normal. Prior to the early-February storminess, the water equivalency of the Sierra Nevada snowpack was 3 inches, about one-sixth of the end-of-January normal.

From a broader perspective, California completed its 12th-driest year from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012, and its 11th-driest year from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013, according to the National Climatic

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Data Center. During the last 120 years, the only comparable period for dryness occurred from July 1, 1975 – June 30, 1977, when California experienced its fourth- and third-driest years on record. However, that drought ended with heavy winter precipitation in 1977-78. This year, California is on track to complete one of its driest years on record; the period from July 1, 2013 – January 31, 2014, broke an all-time record for dryness. Heat has certainly not helped California's drought situation; Needles—with a high of 90°F on February 19—reported its earliest ever 90-degree reading (previously, 90°F on February 24, 1904). Sandberg, California, has reached or exceeded the 70-degree mark on 7 days in February; the previous standard of 4 days was established in February 1963.

California's drought impacts continue to mount, with one of the most recent blows to agriculture being that the Central Valley Project plans to deliver no water to many growers in 2014. The most senior rights holders are pegged to receive 40 percent of their normal water. Those allocations could change if reservoir storage were to improve. Some growers could make up the loss by pumping groundwater or buying water from senior rights holders.

Meanwhile, significant long- and short-term drought persisted or intensified in the Great Basin and the Southwest. Arizona's rangeland and pastures were rated 60 percent very poor to poor on February 23, up from 24 percent at the beginning of 2014. Statewide reservoir storage was barely one-quarter of normal for this time of year in Nevada and just over half of normal in New Mexico. Farther north, Pacific storms led to reductions in coverage of dryness and drought from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies. In fact, no drought remained along the eastern slopes of the Rockies from Montana to northeastern Colorado.

Looking Ahead

From February 27 - March 3, precipitation will engulf much of the West. Five-day precipitation totals could reach 2 to 4 inches or more in the Sierra Nevada and 3 to 6 inches along the California coast. Totals of 1 to 3 inches will be common elsewhere in the West, except for locally higher amounts on Arizona's Mogollon Rim. Late in the period, a sprawling storm will affect the central and eastern U.S. Snow, sleet, and freezing rain can be expected across portions of the Plains, Midwest, Mid-South, and Mid-Atlantic States. Another strong surge of frigid air will trail the storm into the Plains and Midwest. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 4-8 calls for below-normal temperatures from the Plains to the East Coast, except for warmer-than-normal weather in southern Florida. Warmth can be expected west of the Rockies, excluding areas near the Canadian border. Meanwhile, above-normal precipitation in the Pacific Northwest and the Atlantic Coast States will contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in a broad area stretching from central and southern portions of the Rockies and Plains into the middle Mississippi Valley.”

State Activities

[State government drought activities](#) can be tracked through their drought plans. NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF) Program State Office personnel are participating in state drought committee meetings and providing the committees and media with appropriate [SSWSF information](#). Additional information describing the [tools](#) available from the Drought Monitor can also be found at the [U.S. Drought Portal](#).

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More Information

The National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) [Homepage](#) provides the latest available snowpack and water supply information. This document is available [weekly](#). CONUS Snowpack and Drought Reports from 2007 are available online. Reports from 2001-2006 are available on request.

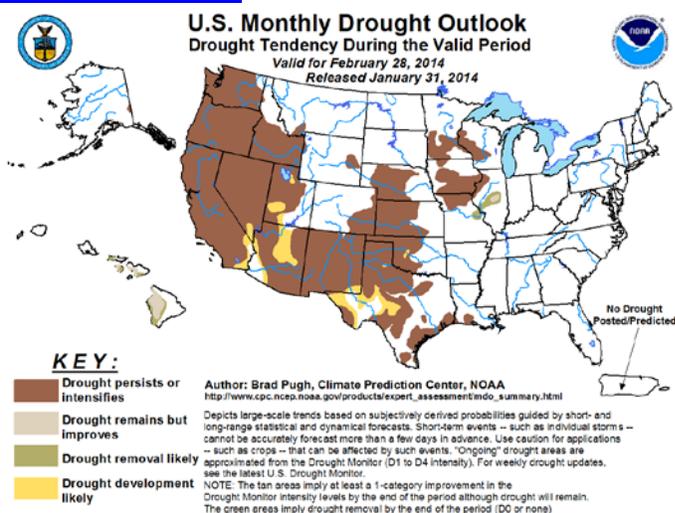
This report uses data and products provided by the Interagency Drought Monitor Consortium members and the National Interagency Fire Center.

/s/

David W. Smith

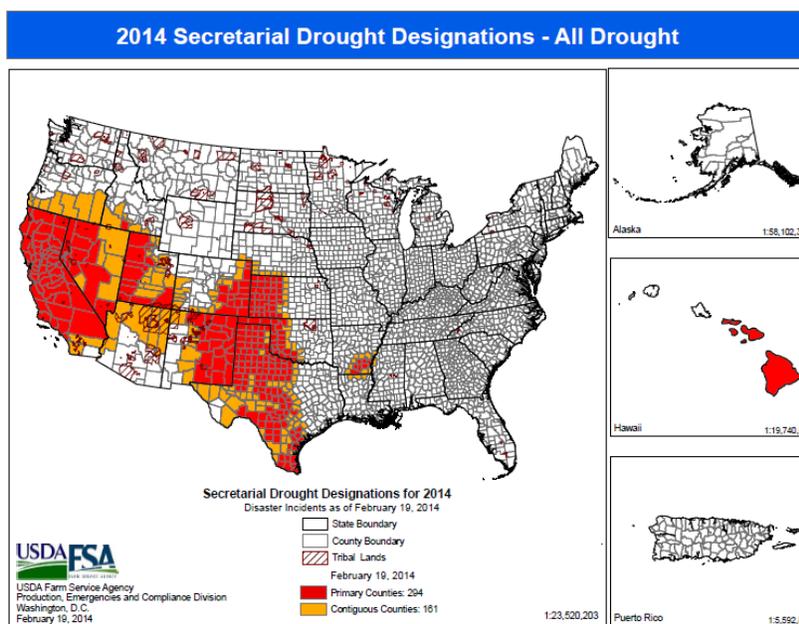
Acting Deputy Chief, Soil Science and Resource Assessment

Drought Outlook



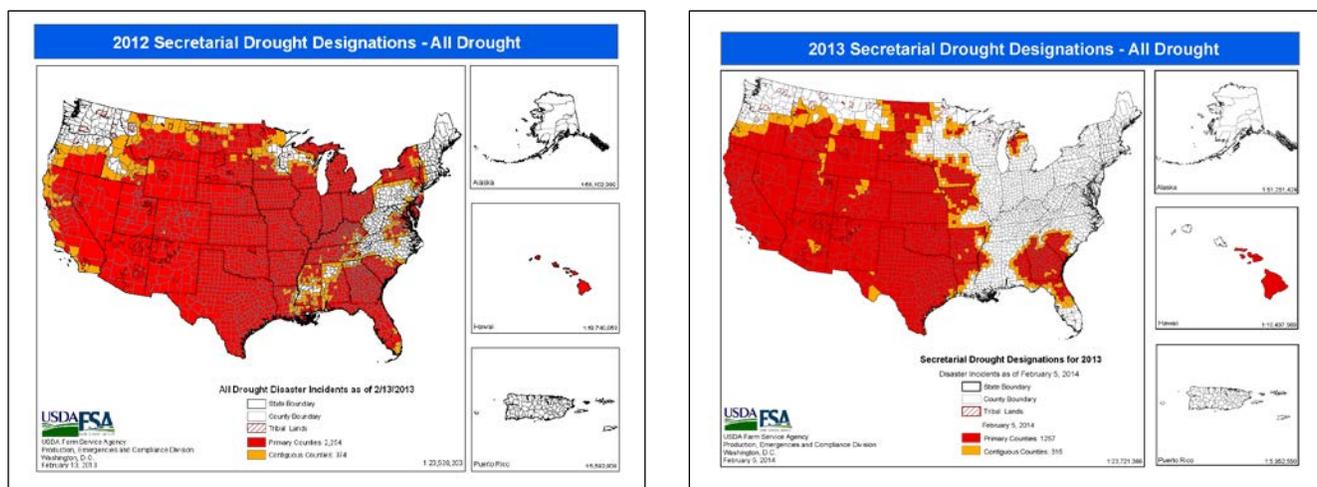
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook for February:

- Drought is expected to deteriorate over parts of the Southwest and southern Texas. Much of the West and south-central Plains including the upper Mississippi River Valley are expected to have persistent drought.
- ✓ Also see: [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) (updated on the first of each month) contains a content summary of the previous month's conditions.



Refer to the USDA Drought Assistance [website](#) and [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#). Read about the new [USDA Regional Climate Hubs](#).

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USDA 2012 & 2013 Drought Designations. Note the improvement over much of the eastern third of the country in 2013. - Provided by Brad Rippey, USDA

Supplemental Drought News

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather/Drought/AgInDrought.pdf>

Download archived "U.S. Crops in Drought" files here:

<http://drought.unl.edu/Planning/Impacts/USAginDroughtArchive.aspx>.

This following a collection of drought-related news stories from the past seven days or so. Impact information from these articles is entered into the [Drought Impact Reporter](#). A number of these articles will also be posted on the [Drought Headlines](#) page at the NDMC website. List compiled by Denise D. Gutzmer, Drought Impact Specialist, National Drought Mitigation Center

California Central Valley Project water announcement

The long-awaited water allocation estimate for the Central Valley Project was announced today by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Farmers in the CVP will get no water as the state endures its third dry winter, while communities and wildlife will get some small amount of water. In 2013, Central Valley farmers received 20 percent of contracted amounts.

Governor and Democratic leaders in California put forth aid plan

The governor and Democratic leaders offered emergency drought legislation with \$687.4 million in funding for water projects and relief for drought-affected farmers without an income. The proposed assistance would include \$549 million to local governments for water conservation projects; \$40 million for grants to local agencies to improve water-use efficiency, irrigation and pumping system efficiency and commercial water-use efficiency; \$25.3 million from the general fund for food assistance to those impacted by the drought; \$21 million from the general fund for housing related assistance; and \$15 million from the general fund for the Emergency Drinking Water Fund to address emergency water shortages due to the drought.

Water quantity/quality concerns

Ten water systems in Mendocino, Kern, Tulare, Yuba, Nevada, Mariposa and Placer have less than 60 days' worth of water remaining.

As groundwater supplies become depleted, contaminants may become more concentrated when there is less water to dilute them, according to state health officials at a legislative hearing.

Adjustments to certified organic meat production in California

The U.S. Department of Agriculture began allowing producers of certified organic beef and other ruminants to graze the animals on grass for less than 120 days, as used to be the policy, in counties

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that received a primary disaster declaration due to drought. All counties in California qualify, except Riverside, San Diego, Imperial and San Francisco counties.

U.S. beef prices

Drought and the shrinking cattle herd in the U.S. led the average price of beef to climb to a new high of \$5.04 per pound.

Western U.S.

Much of the West has been parched by three years of drought and is laden with desiccated fuels, portending another bad fire year.

“Things really are at critical levels in parts of the West, and while we're hoping and praying for rain and some moisture, we are very worried,” said Tom Harbour, the U.S. Forest Service's National Director of Fire and Aviation Management.

The fire season has already begun in Arizona and New Mexico.

Water supplies in southern New Mexico

Ongoing drought and poor snowpack in the southern Rocky Mountains leaves irrigators along the southern end of the Rio Grande River in New Mexico parched again this year with expectations of just 6 acre-inches of water.

Wild horses in Nevada

The Bureau of Land Management should gather and sell excess wild horses as an emergency response to drought, said BLM Nevada's three resource advisory councils. Drought, the expanding population of wild horses, poor range conditions and lack of long term holding capacity increases the need for some form of assistance for the horses.

Texas wheat

Drought has left 44 percent of wheat and 51 percent of pastures and rangelands in poor to very poor condition.

A NASA image of California shows brown areas where there should be green and green areas that should be white with snow.



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California has 96 impacts recorded for the last month in the [Drought Impact Reporter](#), with most of those impacts related to water supply and quality.



The "U.S. Crops in Drought" products are produced on a weekly basis. Archived "U.S. Crops in Drought" files may be downloaded [here](#).

Tea Cup reservoir depictions:

- <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/basin/tc_gr.html; ← Upper Snake
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/burtea.html> ← Upper Colorado
- http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/basin/tc_cr.html ← Upper Colorado
- <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html> ← Pacific Northwest
- <http://www.sevierriver.org/reservoirs/teacup-diagram-of-reservoirs/> ← Sevier River Water (UT)

Supplemental California Drought Information

DROUGHT INDICATOR BLEND AND COMPONENT PERCENTILES -- February 22, 2014																		
(KEY: D4=0-2 [dark fill] D3=2-5 [red fill] D2=5-10 [brown fill] D1=10-20 [tan fill] D0=20-30 [yellow fill] WET=70-100 [green text])																		
Climate Division						Drought Blends		Individual Blend Components										
								Precipitation					Palmer Z-Index	Palmer Drought Index (PDI)	Palmer Hydro. Drought Index (PHDI)	5-Year Average Z-Index	CPC Soil Moisture Model	
ID #	U.S. CD #	State #	State CD #	State Name	CD Name	Short Term	Long Term	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year					
0401	25	4	1	California	North Coast Basin	36.1	5.6	67.5	4.2	1.7	1.2	9.2	17.3	64.8	3.6	1.5	28.1	3.6
0402	26	4	2	California	Sacramento Basin	31.6	6.3	57.3	5.1	2.1	1.1	7.7	22.9	59.4	0.0	0.0	33.8	4.8
0403	27	4	3	California	Northeast Interior Basin	20.4	11.6	55.6	18.4	12.5	12.1	26.5	36.8	27.2	0.0	0.0	39.6	1.2
0404	28	4	4	California	Central Coast Basin	3.1	3.3	24.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	22.5	10.3	0.0	0.0	27.9	1.2
0405	29	4	5	California	San Joaquin Basin	5.6	0.5	26.9	2.1	0.1	0.0	1.0	7.2	17.3	0.0	0.0	5.7	1.2
0406	30	4	6	California	South Coast Basin	0.6	0.4	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.4	5.9	0.0	0.0	3.8	1.2
0407	31	4	7	California	Southeast Desert Basins	0.1	1.8	7.8	0.0	2.9	1.7	2.0	0.8	1.1	3.8	3.8	5.2	3.6

Summary of drought conditions based on different drought indexes for different [climate divisions](#) (click on table to enlarge).