



We work with others to protect the health of the people of Washington State by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water.



DROUGHT ADVISORY—2021

Washington State Department of Health
Office of Drinking Water

DWAG June 28



Sheryl Howe

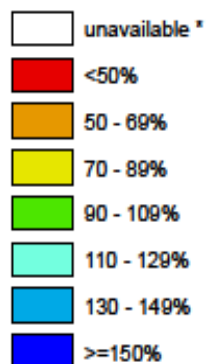
Hydrogeologist

Office of Drinking Water

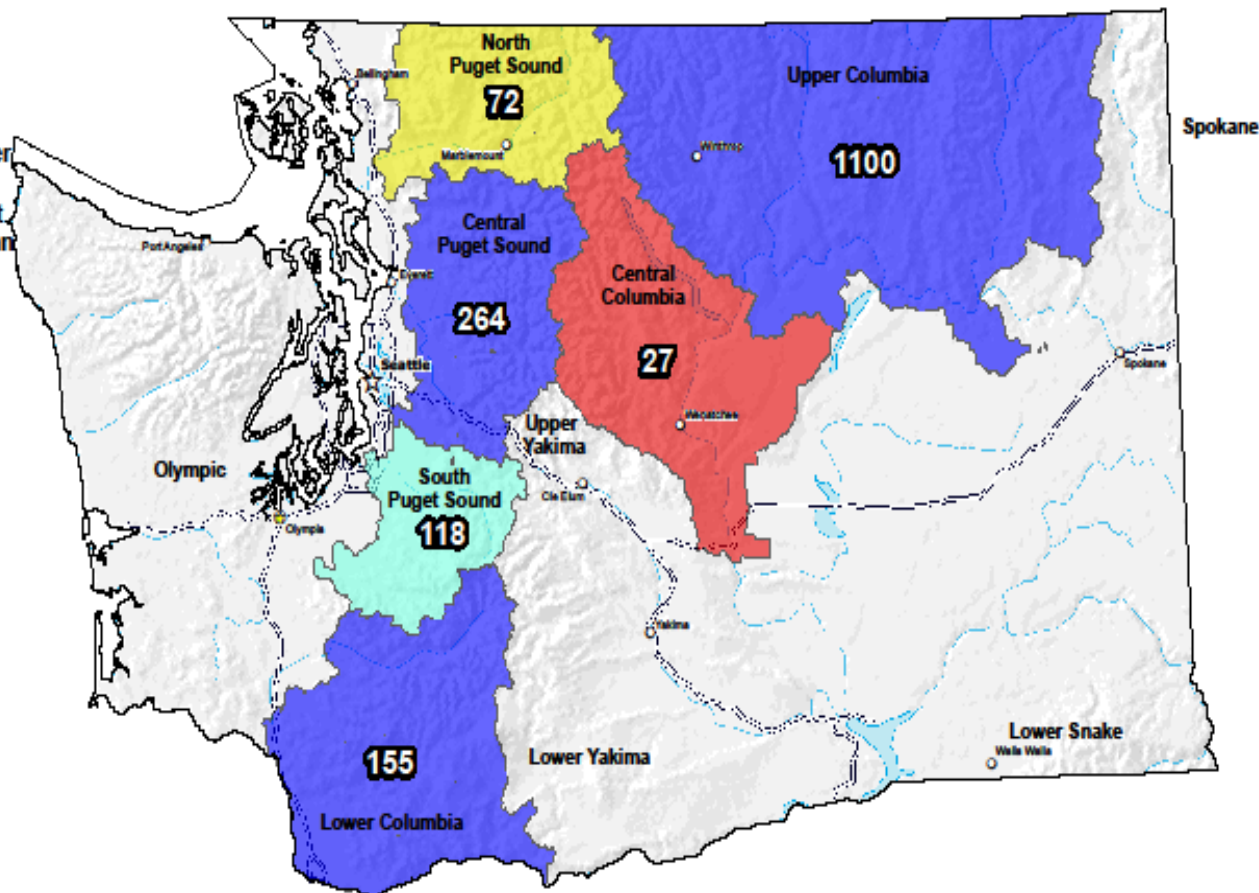
Washington SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

Jun 22, 2021

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1981-2010 Median



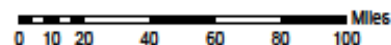
* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year



Provisional Data
Subject to Revision



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

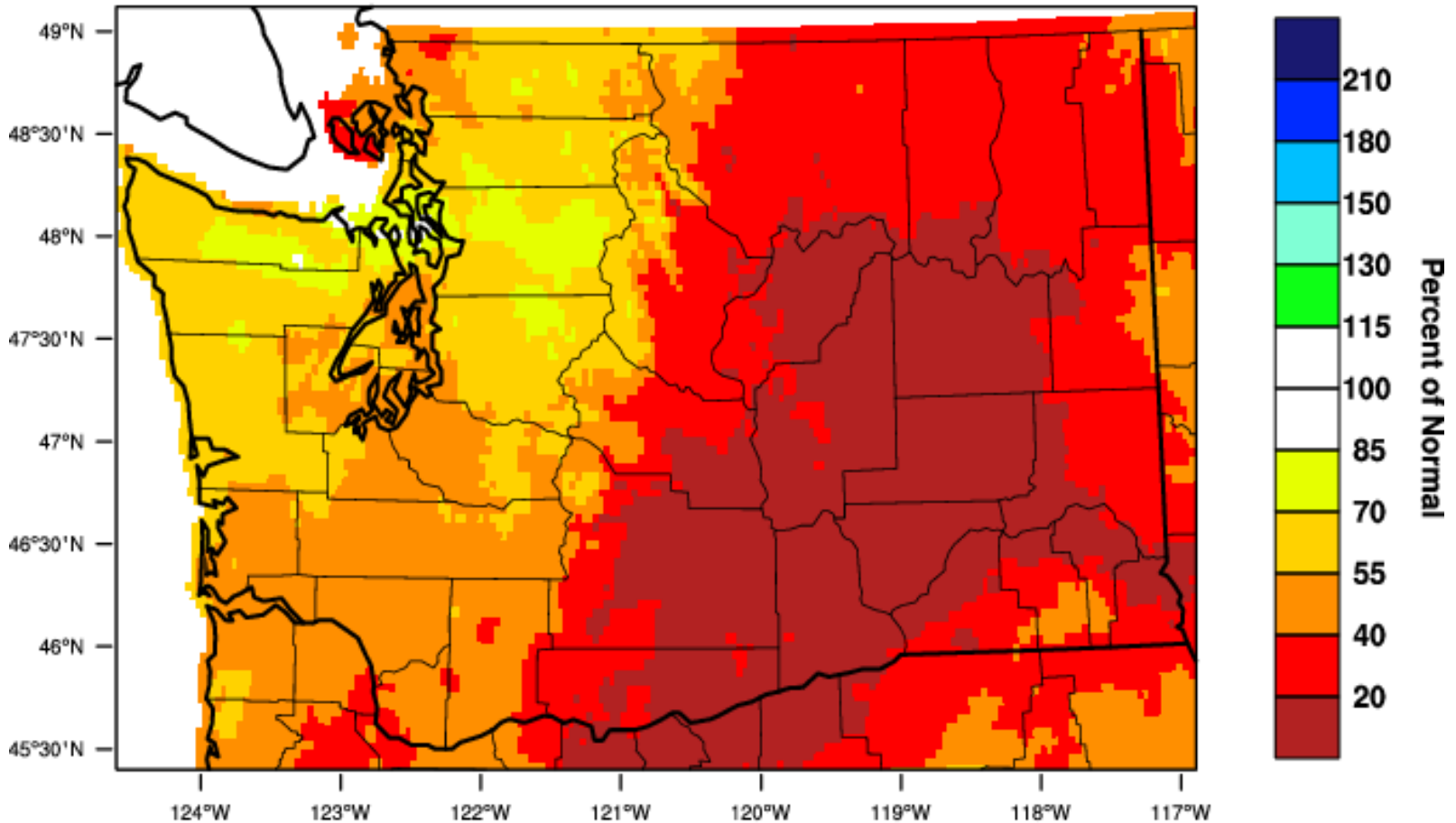


Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

March Through May 2021

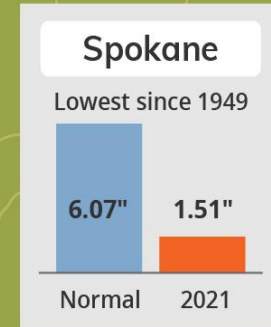
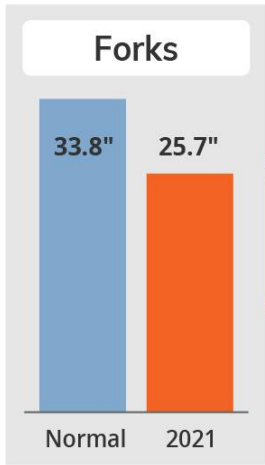
Washington - Precipitation

March-May 2021 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 16 JUN 2021

Precipitation Deficits



Rainfall measurements from **Feb 1 - May 31**

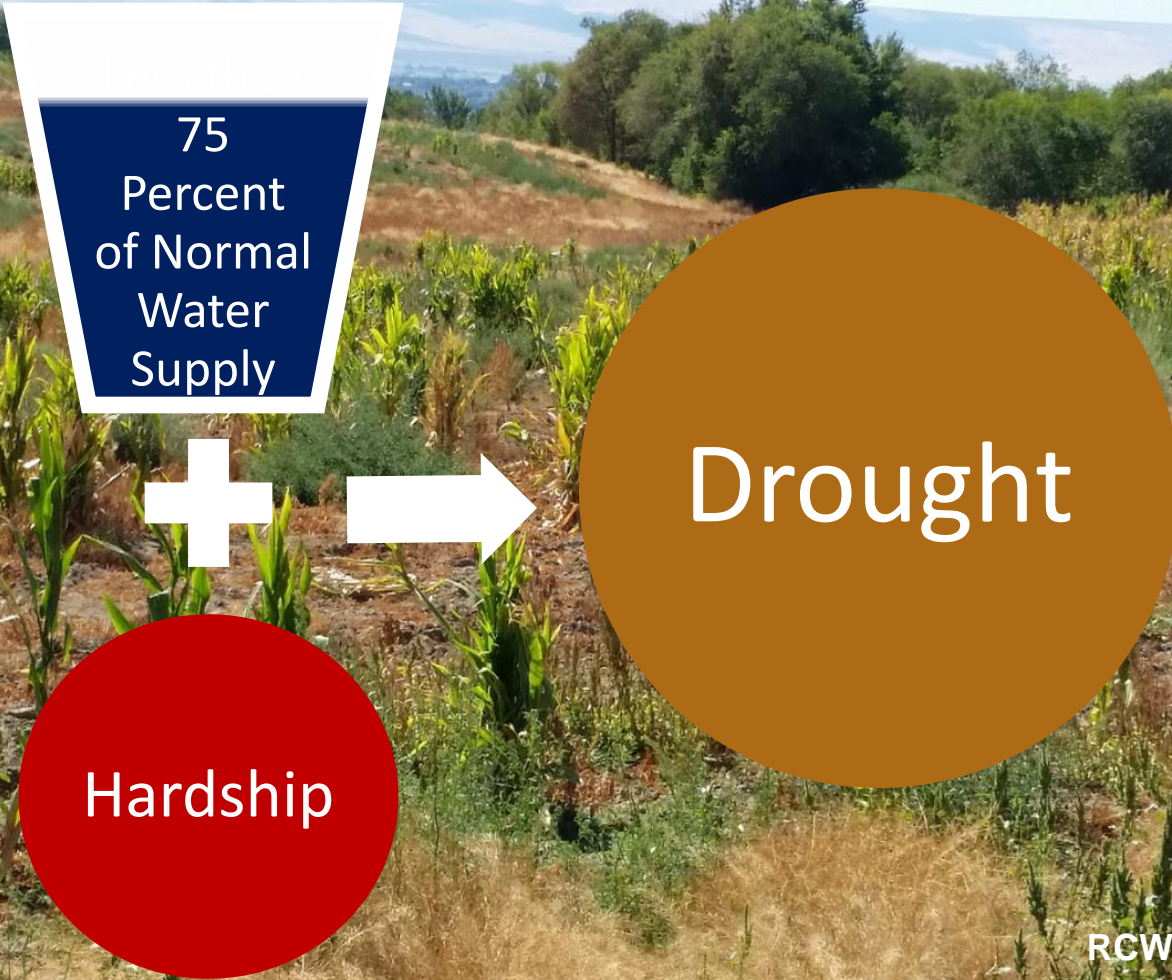
May 24 Drought Advisory

- Averaged statewide, March through May total precipitation ranked as the second driest on record (since 1895)
- Rivers and streams originating in higher elevation areas of melting snowpack are expected to be near to above normal, while lower elevation and rain-dominated watersheds are below normal

May 24 Drought Advisory

- A drought advisory is a new tool authorized in 2020 that is intended to increase awareness of developing drought conditions and provide recommendations for voluntary actions to alleviate impacts
- Drought advisories are informational only and include no emergency authorizations or funding

Washington State's Drought Trigger



75
Percent
of Normal
Water
Supply



Drought

Hardship

RCW 43.83B.400

Hardship

- Neither the Legislature nor Ecology has a formal definition of drought. In general—
 1. Cause serious economic impact
 2. Create a public health emergency
 3. Cause serious environmental harm
- Food, folks, and fish



Northwest River Forecast Center ESP Natural Forecast



River and Hydrology

Water Supply

Observations

Weather Forecasts

Climate

NWRFC

Home

Zoom Out

--- Quick Zooms ---

ESP Issued: 2021-06-13

Ensemble Date: 2021-06-13

[Permalink](#)

Search

Enter NWS ID

GO

Map Overlays

- NWRFC Boundary
- NWRFC Basins
- NWS WSAs
- Counties

ESP Natural Forecast

- Natural Status
- Natural % of Normal
- Rank (ASC)
- Rank (DESC)
- Exceedance (%)
- Percentile (%)

Natural Runoff

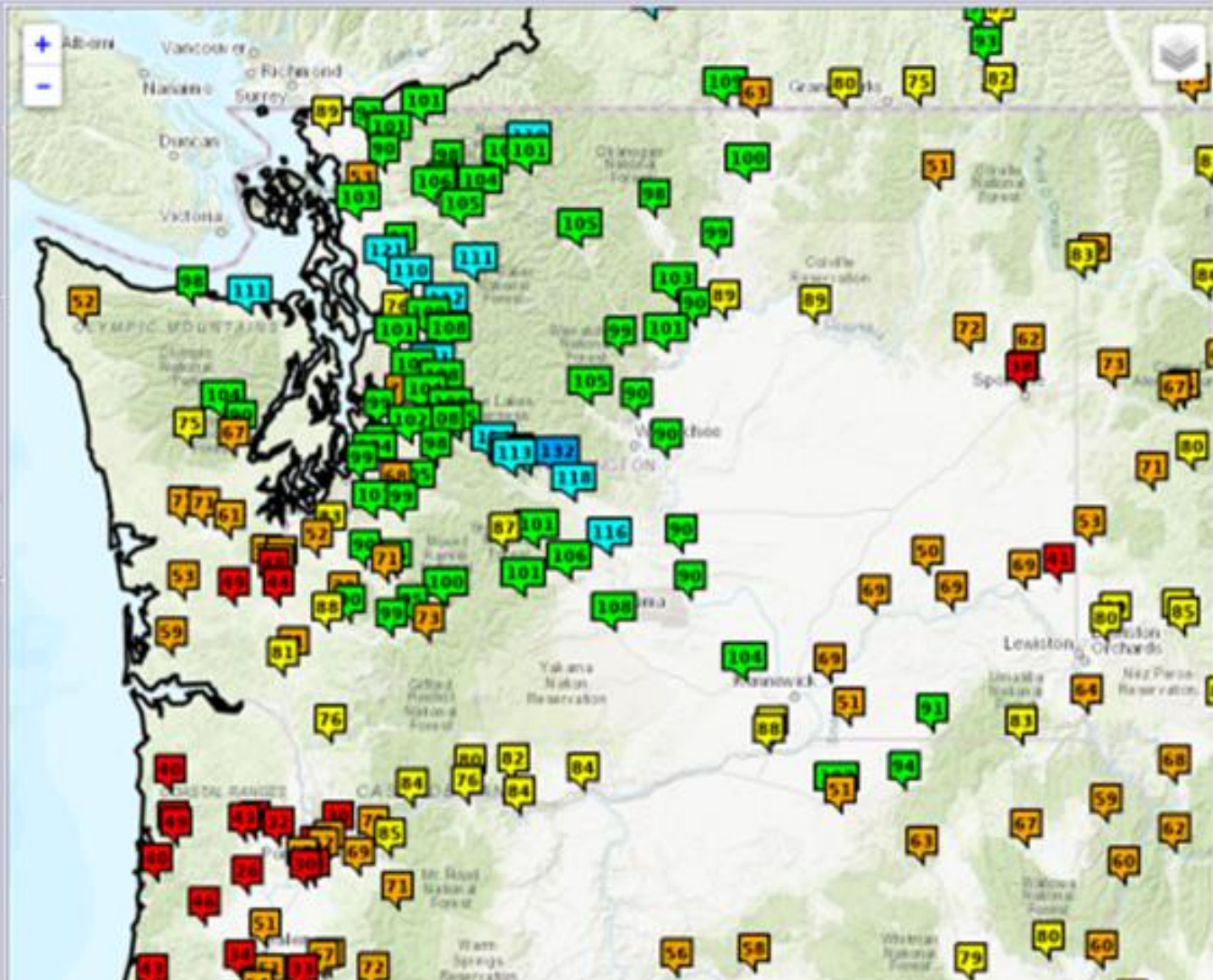
- Runoff Status
- Runoff % of Normal

ESP Natural Forecast

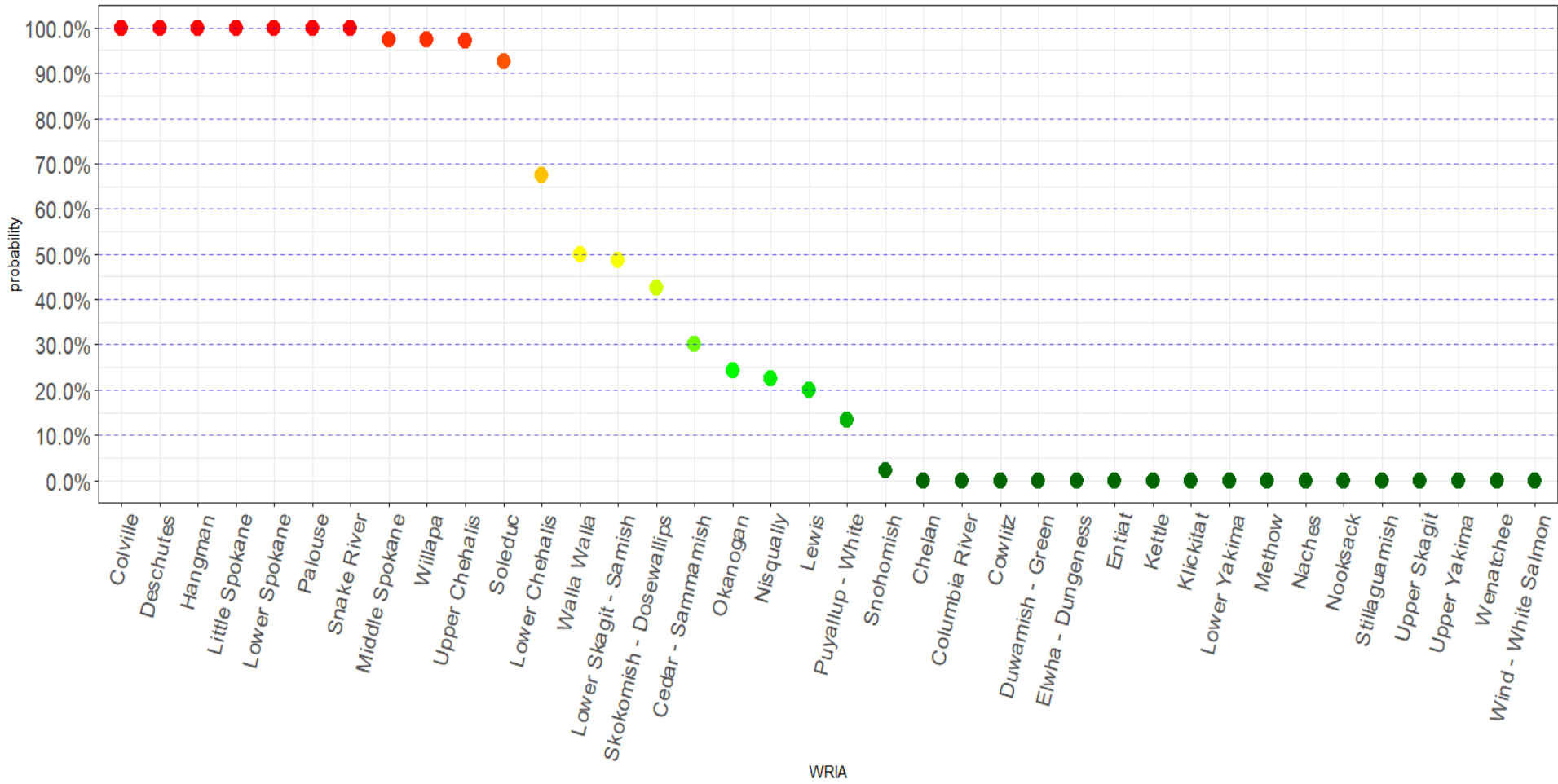
Period: APR-SEP

Forecast (% Normal)

- No Normal, No Data
- < 25
- 25-50
- 50-75
- 75-90
- 90-110
- 110-125
- 125-150
- 150-175
- > 175



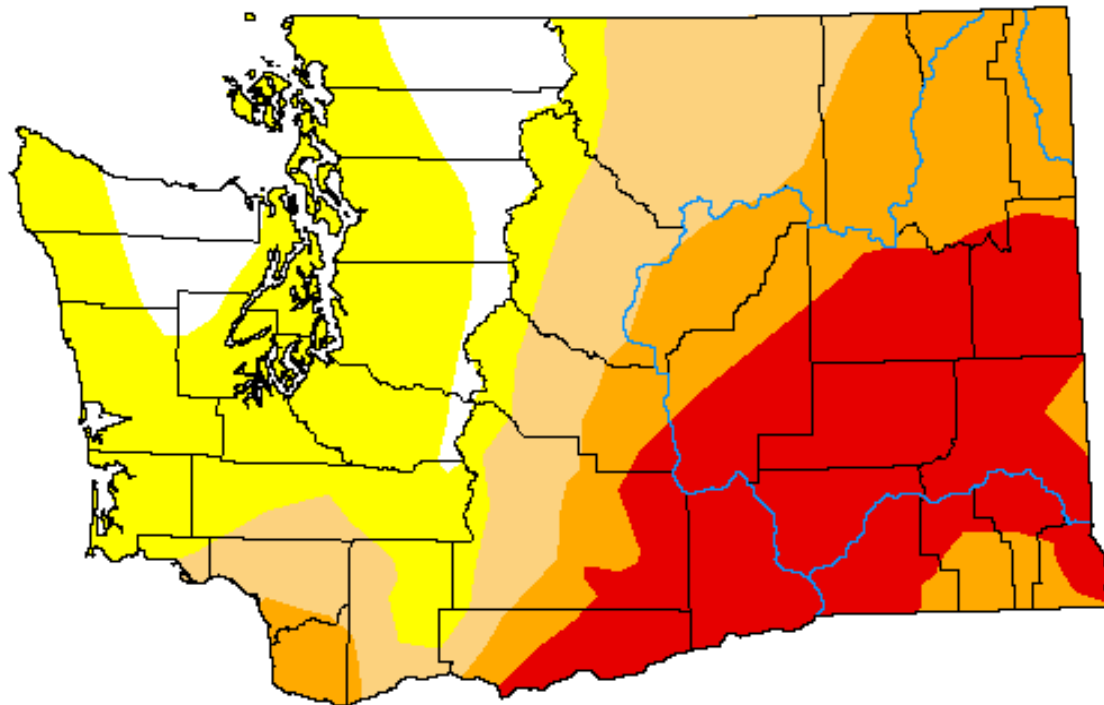
Drought Risk: Probability of Reaching Drought Threshold Averaged by WRIA









based on NWRFC data
 ESPF10 ISSUED:2021-06-16_17:09_GMT

U.S. Drought Monitor Washington

June 22, 2021
(Released Thursday, Jun. 24, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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>

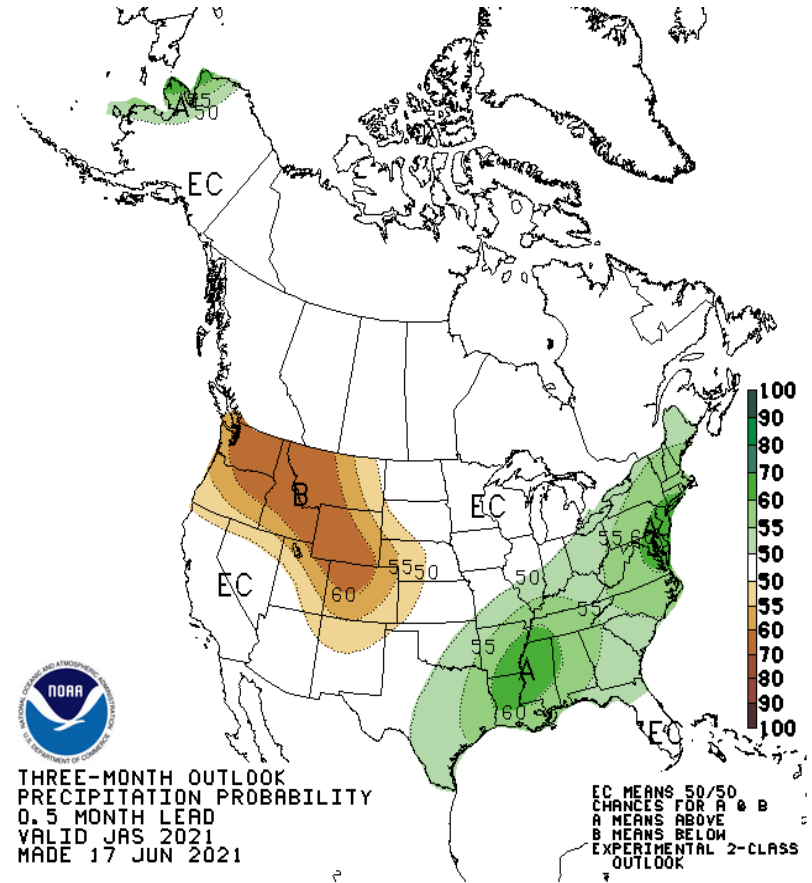
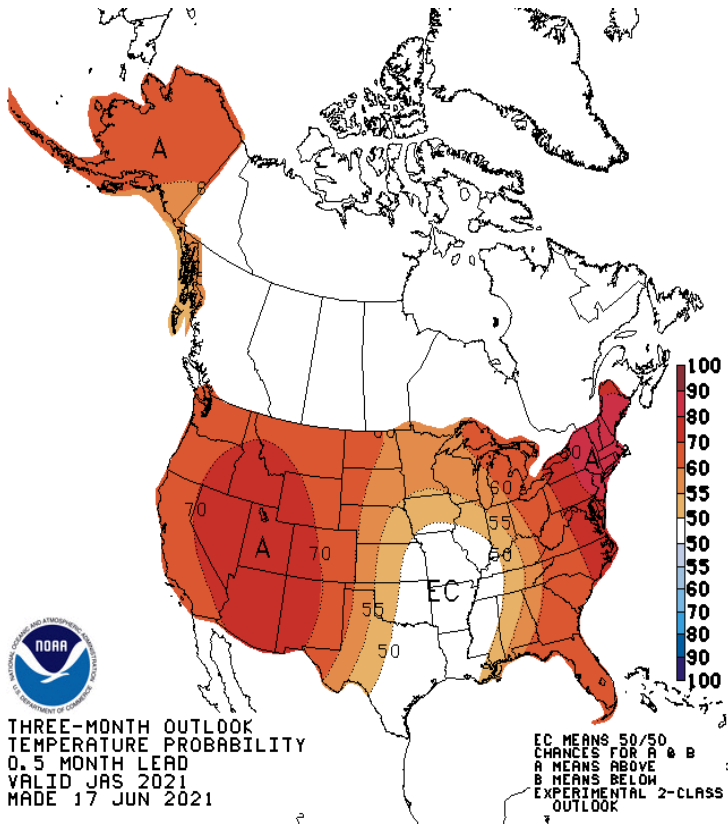
Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

NOAA Forecasts



Summing Up

- Washington had an exceptionally dry spring
- The impacts are falling unevenly on different classes of water users (irrigated vs. non-irrigated) depending upon their ability to benefit from our snowpack
- Federal disaster designation is in effect for most of eastern Washington
- Ecology continues to monitor water supply
- Elevating the drought advisory to a drought emergency is not under consideration at this time but that could change.

What is ODW Doing?

- Updating our website with drought information
- Contacting systems that had trouble in 2015 to determine if vulnerabilities still exist
- Coordinating with local health jurisdictions on Group B and private system concerns
- Proactively communicating with utilities in drought sensitive locations.



With a Declaration Ecology Can...

- Authorize emergency withdrawals
- Authorize emergency water right transfers
- Provide emergency grants and loans

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Water Supply Availability Committee (WSAC)

Contact Information

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doh.wa.gov/DWSRF



handle: WADeptHealth
WA State DOH | 20

