

Snowpack Evaluation

Weather Research and Consulting Services, LLC

This is the April 15, 2024 Washington and Oregon snowpack report, along with comparisons to 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The report will be updated on or about May 1.

The first half of April was generally drier and slightly warmer than usual across Washington and Oregon. The only exception was far eastern Oregon which received greater than 150% of normal rainfall. As a result, snowpack percentages declined about 5% compared to median in both states. The Oregon Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) percentage is still above normal at 112% of median. However, this is quite a bit lower than last year's 209% on this date. The SWE ranges from 91% of median in the Mt. Hood area to 190% in the Owyhee River Basin (southeastern Oregon). Washington's snowpack remains well below normal at 64% of median. This is way down from last year's 92% and is the lowest since the 32% in 2015. The SWE ranges from 84% of median in the Lewis/Cowlitz River Basin to only 48% in the Lower Yakima River Basin. The higher snowpack in Oregon compared to Washington is very typical of El Nino winters when lowest snowpacks tend to occur near the United States/Canadian border. The last half of April will likely experience near normal temperature and below normal precipitation across the Pacific Northwest. The winter snowpack is expected to melt at a faster than usual rate. Thus, early snowmelt dates should be expected across all of Washington and northern Oregon.

A graphic of Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) percentages across the western United States is also included for comparison. Areas shaded in blue indicate above normal snowpack, green indicates near normal, and yellow, orange, and red below normal. The best snowpacks compared to median are in southern Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. The lowest snowpacks are in Washington, northern Idaho, and Montana. The statewide California snowpack (not shown on map but reported by the California Department of Water Resources) increased 8% and is now 112% of normal. However, this is still way below last year's record setting 247%.

We will continue to monitor snowpack figures through June 1. If you have questions about this report, please contact Weather Research and Consulting Services, LLC using the links at the end of this report.

Oregon and Washington Snowpack Comparison as of April 15, 2024

Oregon

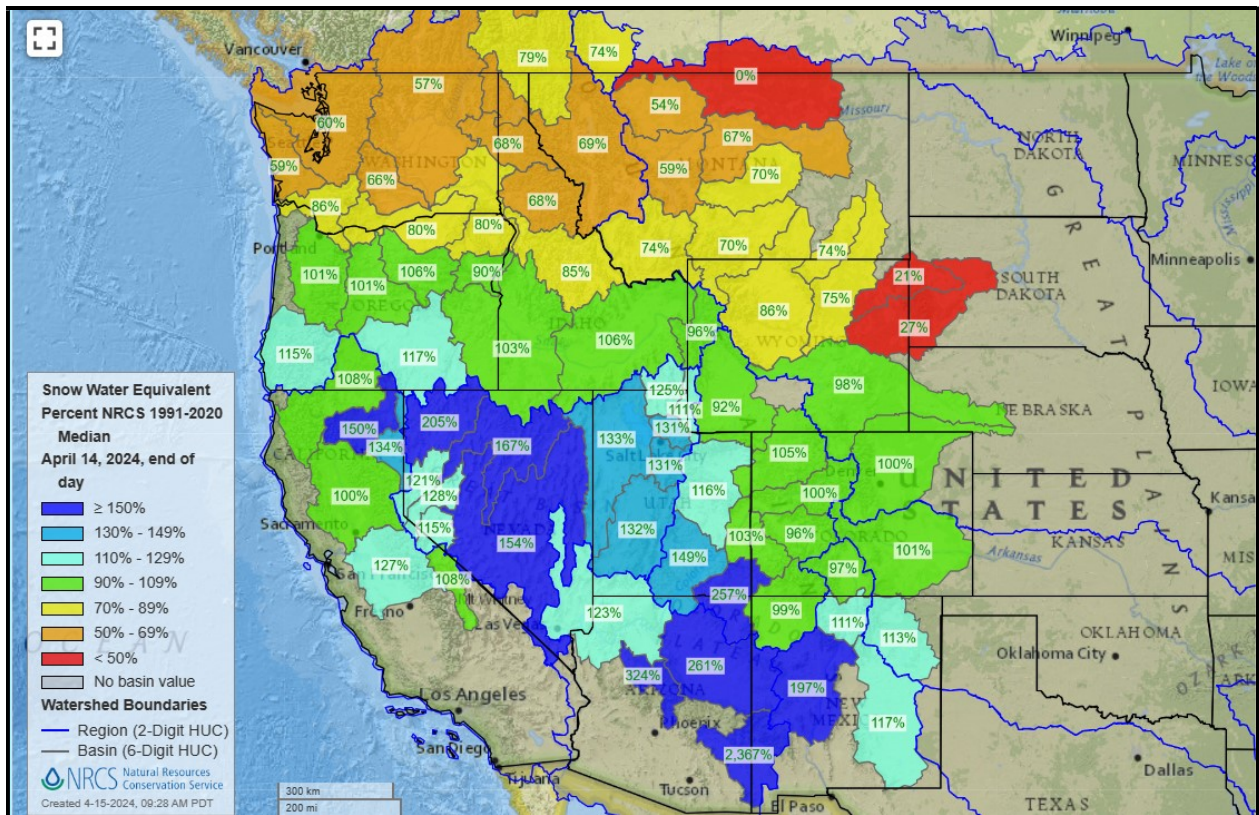
		(Percent of Normal)				
<u>River Basin</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Owyhee	April 15	190	256	67	64	90
Malheur	April 15	86	243	42	66	96
Grande Ronde	April 15	85	155	81	127	121
Umatilla	April 15	82	155	98	136	126
John Day	April 15	106	298	68	105	105
Deschutes	April 15	105	178	85	99	85
Lower Columbia	April 15	91	166	130	138	103
Willamette	April 15	101	195	110	121	99
Rogue/Umpqua	April 15	115	179	70	77	78
Klamath	April 15	111	192	55	70	76
Lake County	April 15	105	189	50	64	78
Harney	April 15	166	305	65	90	97
State AVG		112	209	77	96	96

Note: Red figures indicate the lowest snowpack average in the past 5 years.

Washington

(Percent of Normal)

River Basin	Date	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Spokane	April 15	67	93	102	111	93
Columbia/Methow	April 15	55	93	123	99	86
Chelan/Wenatchee	April 15	57	99	122	91	76
Upper Yakima	April 15	65	97	134	83	69
Lower Yakima	April 15	48	59	116	103	98
Lower Snake	April 15	83	84	127	114	116
Lewis/Cowlitz	April 15	84	98	137	106	92
White/Green	April 15	62	96	145	121	87
Cedar/Snoqualmie	April 15	61	107	173	111	66
Baker/Skagit	April 15	58	98	123	107	72
Olympic	April 15	61	90	154	107	81
State AVG		64	92	132	105	85



Paul Werth, Fire Weather Meteorologist
 Weather Research and Consulting Services, LLC
www.fireweather.com or www.firewx.com
 360.907.2022 (cell)
wrcs@prodigy.net