



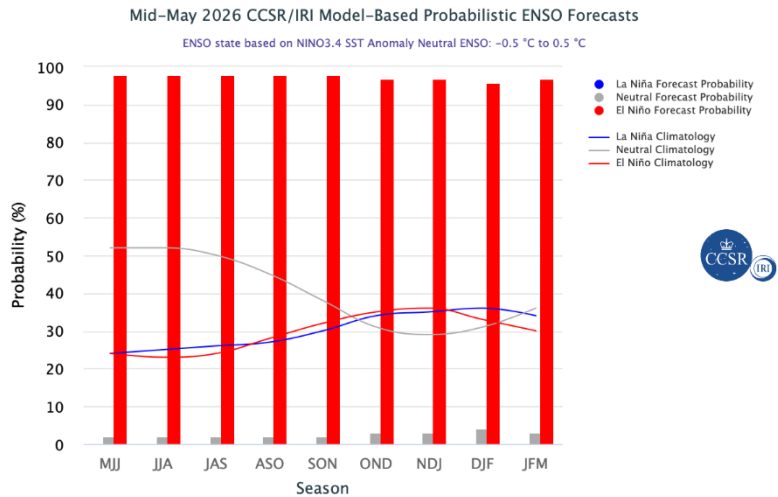
# CLIMATE & FUELS OUTLOOK

## 1. El Niño/ La Niña (ENSO-Southern Oscillation)

Excerpts from the [ENSO Forecast, May 2026](#)

[Quick Look](#) (International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia Climate School): As of mid-May 2026, the equatorial Pacific is rapidly transitioning into El Niño conditions. While monthly SST anomalies remain near the borderline El Niño threshold, weekly values have surged well above it, with the last three weekly pentads firmly reaching +0.9 °C in the Niño3.4 region. This sharp warming strongly indicates that the currently near neutral seasonal averages will rise substantially in the coming months, marking a clear shift from ENSO neutral to El Niño

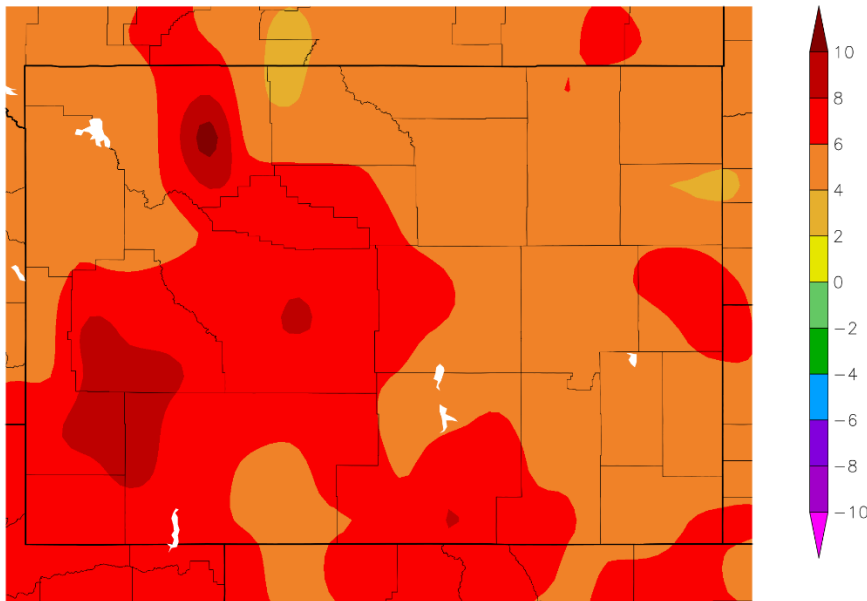
conditions. The latest CCSR/IRI ENSO plume forecast further supports this evolution, assigning a 98% probability to El Niño during May–July 2026 compared to only 2% for continued neutrality. El Niño conditions are then likely to persist through the remainder of 2026, with forecast probabilities consistently maintained within a remarkably high and narrow 97–98% range.



## 2. Temperature

The TIDC area was 4-8 deg F warmer than normal from fall into late spring.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
10/1/2025 – 5/30/2026



Generated 5/31/2026 using provisional data.

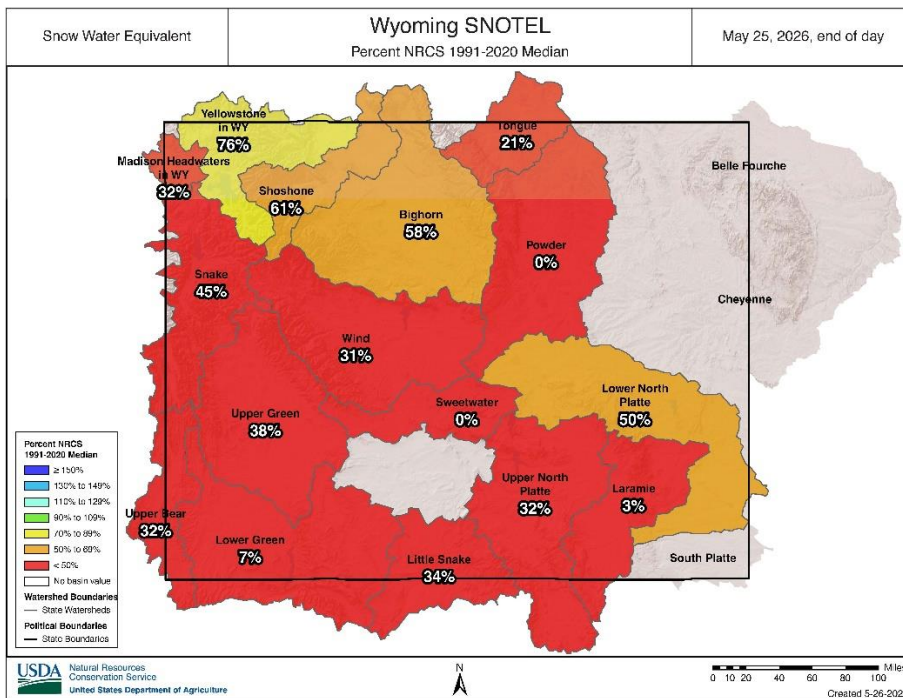
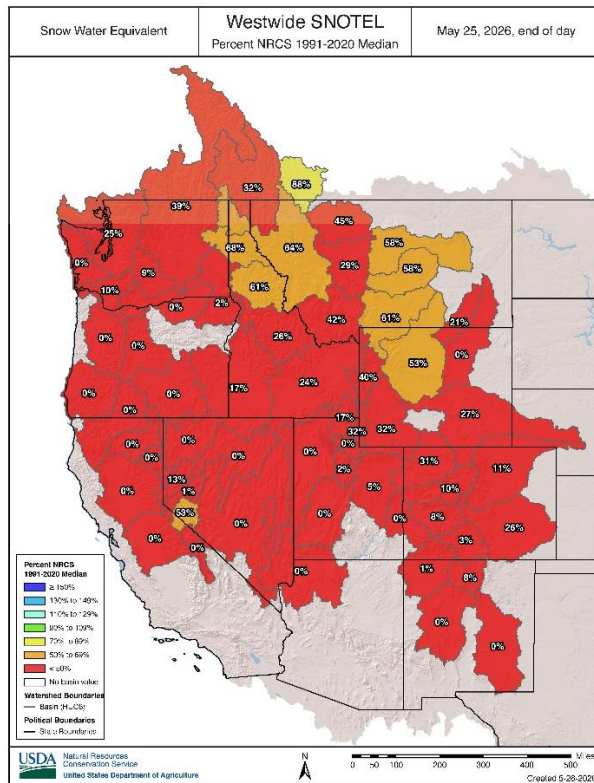
ACIS Web Services

*Departure from Normal Temperature, Wyoming, for October 1, 2025 to May 30, 2026 (which correlates with the Water Year-to-Date), with significantly warmer than normal winter temperatures in the TIDC area.*

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/products/maps/acis/hprcc/wy/WaterTDeptHPRCC-WY.png>

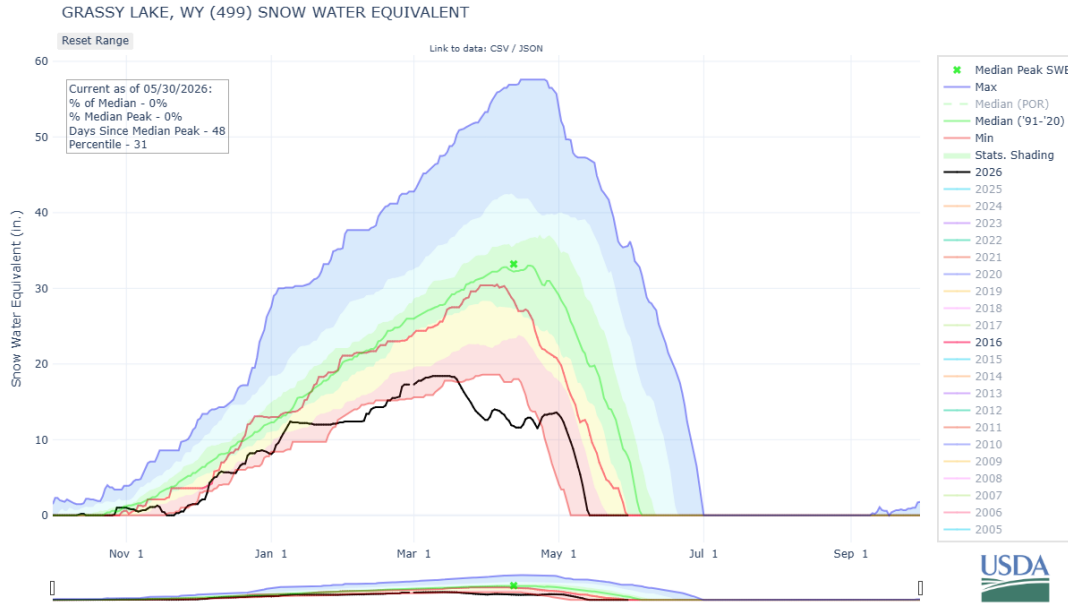
### 3. Snowpack

Due to above-normal winter temperatures and moisture patterns, snowpack throughout the US West has been at historic lows for much of the 2025-2026 winter. The [Intermountain West Dashboard](#) from the University of Colorado/CIRES updates snowpack conditions weekly for the US West and Wyoming.

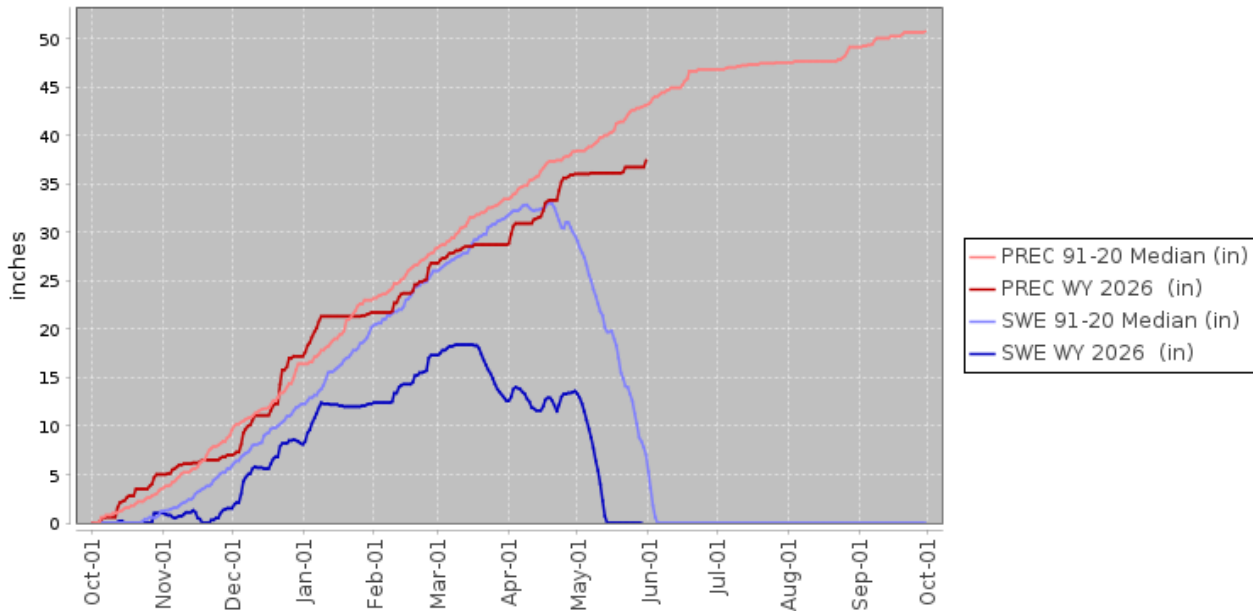


**REPRESENTATIVE SNOTEL SITES.** SNOTEL Water Year to Date, Snow Water Equivalent for Grassy Lake (North Zone BTNF/Grand Teton NP), Elkhart Park Guard Station (East Zone), and Snider Basin (West Zone). Generally, these representative sites exhibited normal to below-normal moisture (in total precipitation) and below normal SWE, with an earlier and faster snowmelt..

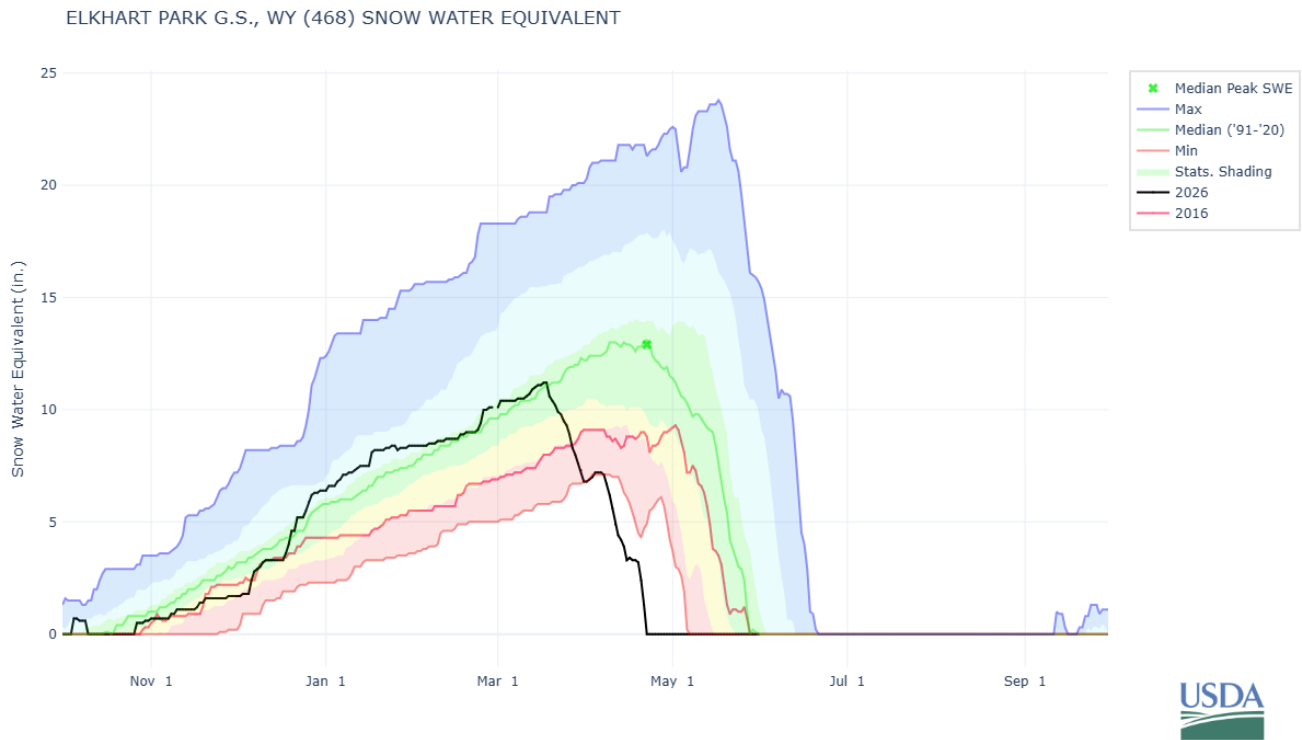
[NRCS Grassy Lake Snotel](#) with season statistics (top) and [Grassy Lake Snotel \(Teton Zone\), 499](#) (bottom) with YTD precipitation and snow water equivalent (SWE).



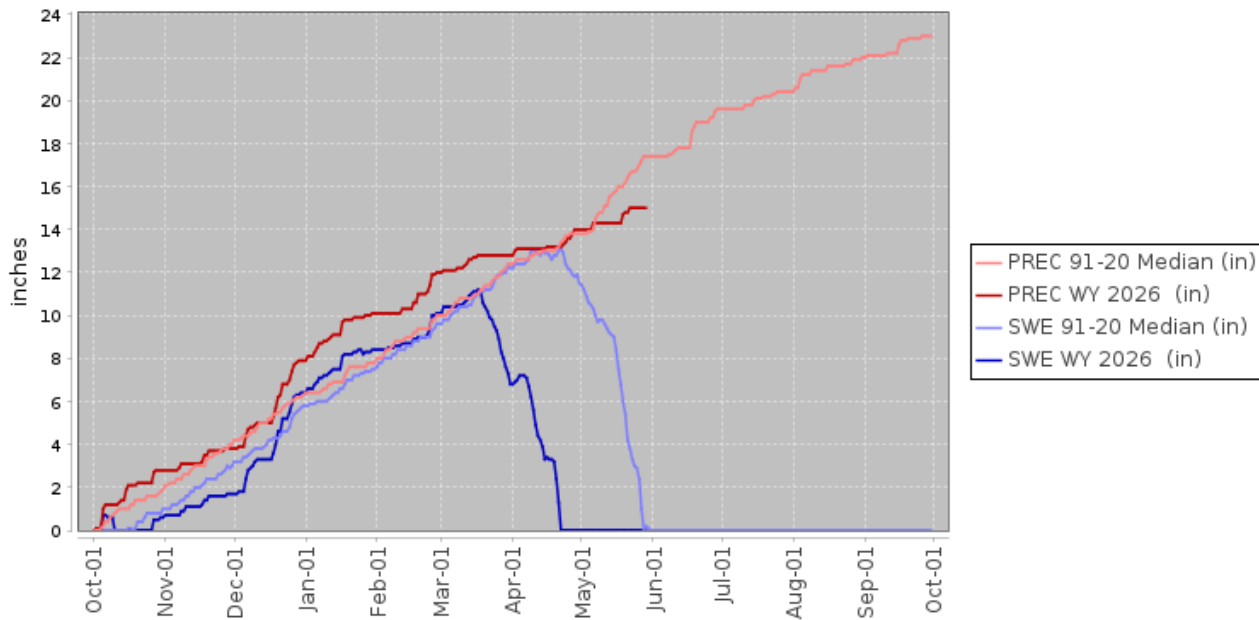
Station (499) WATERYEAR=2026 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision  
 Sun May 31 12:56:22 GMT-08:00 2026



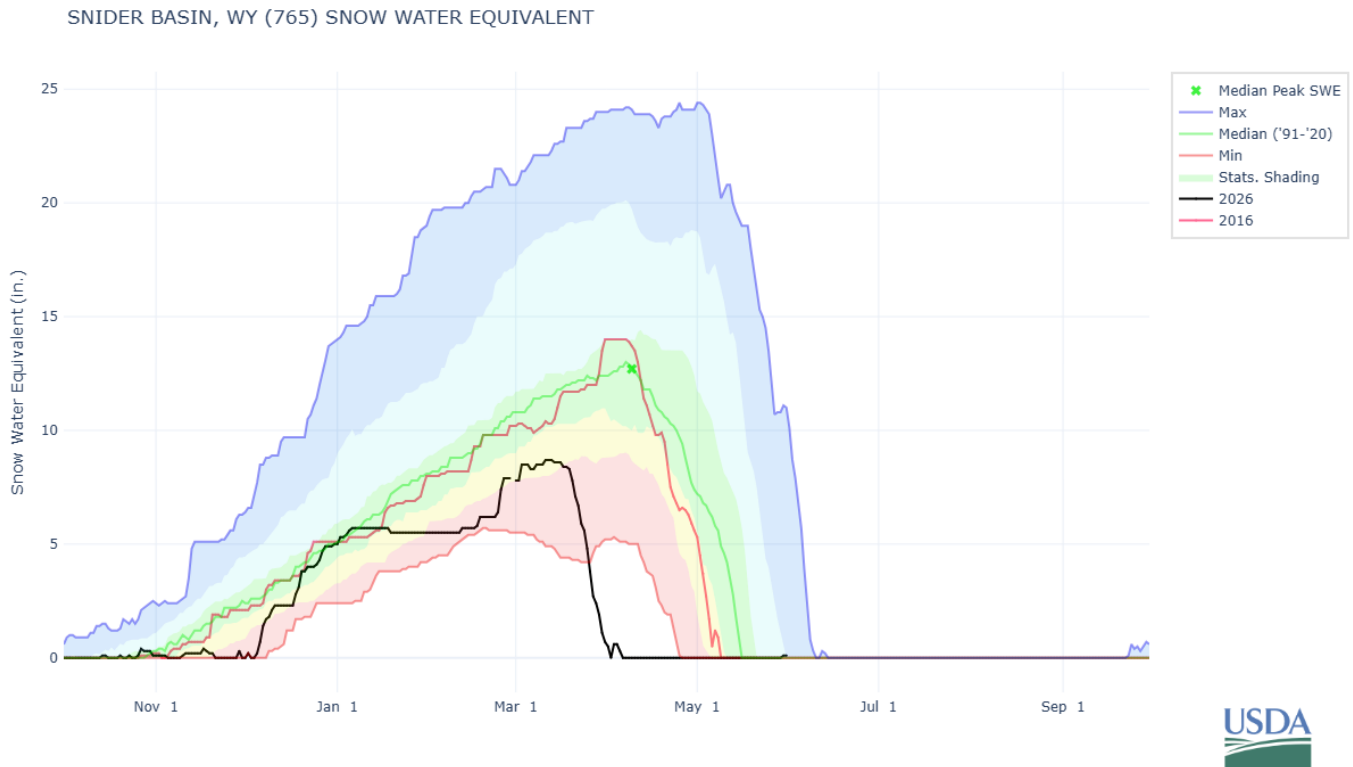
[NRCS Elkhart Snotel](#) with season statistics (top) and [Elkhart Snotel \(Wind River Zone\), 468](#) (bottom) with YTD precipitation and snow water equivalent (SWE).



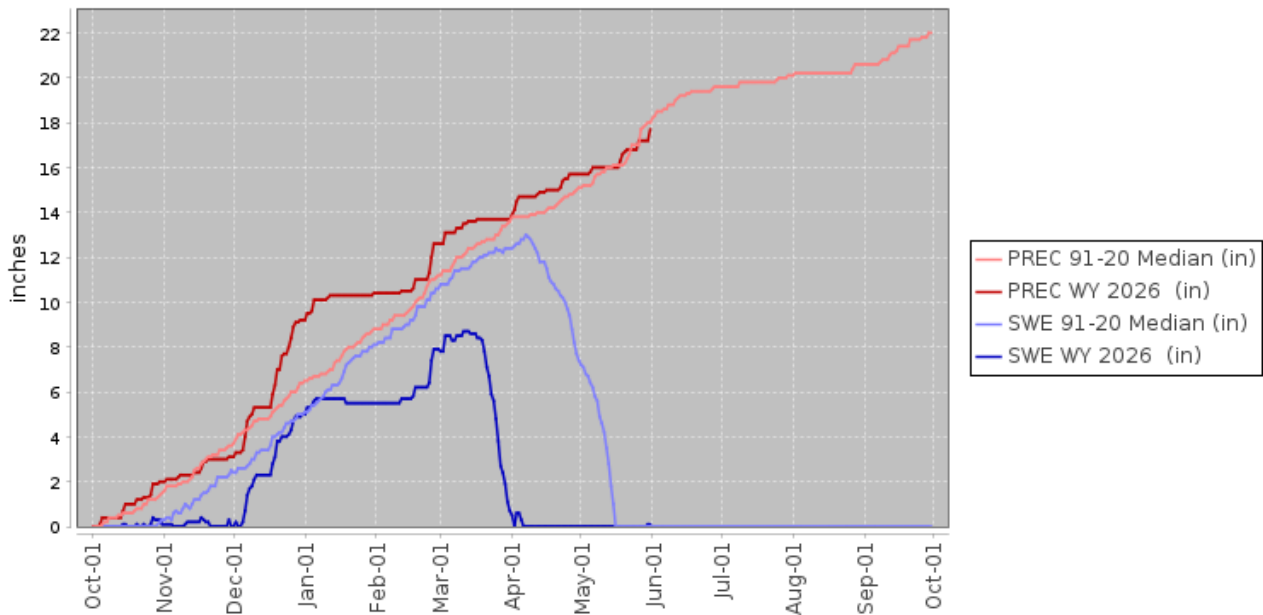
Station (468) WATERYEAR=2026 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision  
Sun May 31 13:18:21 GMT-08:00 2026



[NRCS Snider Basin Snotel](#) with season statistics (top) and [Snider Basin Snotel \(Wyoming Range Zone\), 765](#) (bottom) with YTD precipitation and snow water equivalent (SWE).

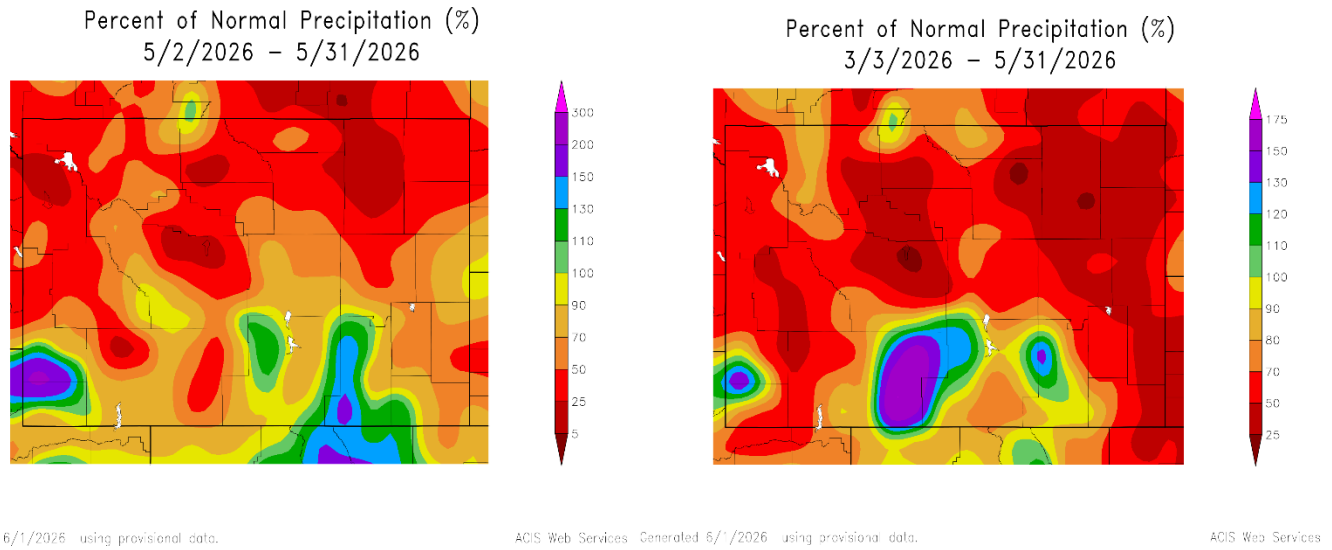


Station (765) WATERYEAR=2026 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision  
Sun May 31 13:31:07 GMT-08:00 2026



## 4. Precipitation

The Wyoming precipitation map for the prior month reflects significantly drier than normal precipitation, which includes areas in western Wyoming that received heavy late-May precipitation (30-day, left). The 90-day total (right) shows wetter conditions in south-central Wyoming but predominantly a drier-than-normal conditions.



Generated 6/1/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services Generated 6/1/2026 using provisional data.

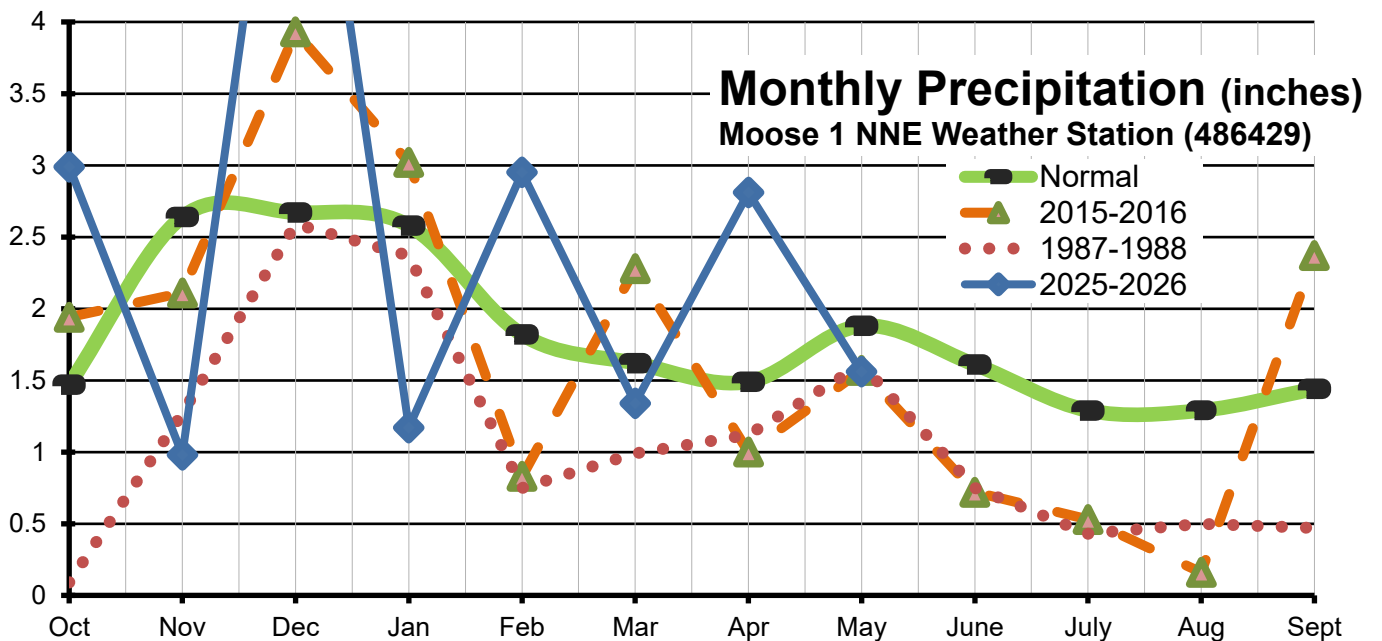
ACIS Web Services

Wyoming, Percent of Normal Precipitation for the past 30 days (left).

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/products/maps/acis/subrgn/WY/30dPNormWY.png> and 90 days (right)

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/products/maps/acis/subrgn/WY/90dPNormWY.png>.

**PRECIPITATION TRACKING** at the [Moose 1 NNE WY Climate Reference Weather Station](#) serves as a representative site for lower elevations in Grand Teton National Park and BTNF North Zone. The station recorded 126% of 30-year normal for water year-to-date, compared to 135% for last year at this time and 103% for 2016, a prior active fire year. Four of the past 8 months recorded below-normal precipitation. *Note that this site was far below normal for May until 1.03" rain fell in the last two days of the month.*

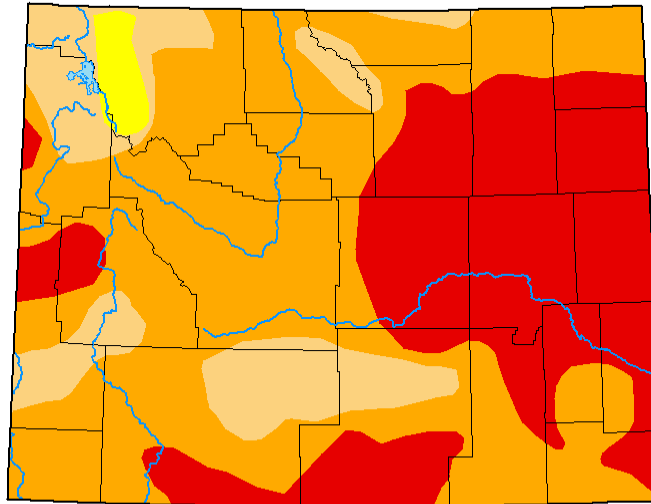


## 5. Drought Indicators and Impacts

**PERSISTENT DROUGHT:** Western Wyoming is primarily in Moderate to Extreme Drought and all Wyoming is in some state of drought. Seasonal outlooks indicate persistent drought conditions through the fire season.

### U.S. Drought Monitor Wyoming

**May 26, 2026**  
(Released Thursday, May. 28, 2026)  
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>

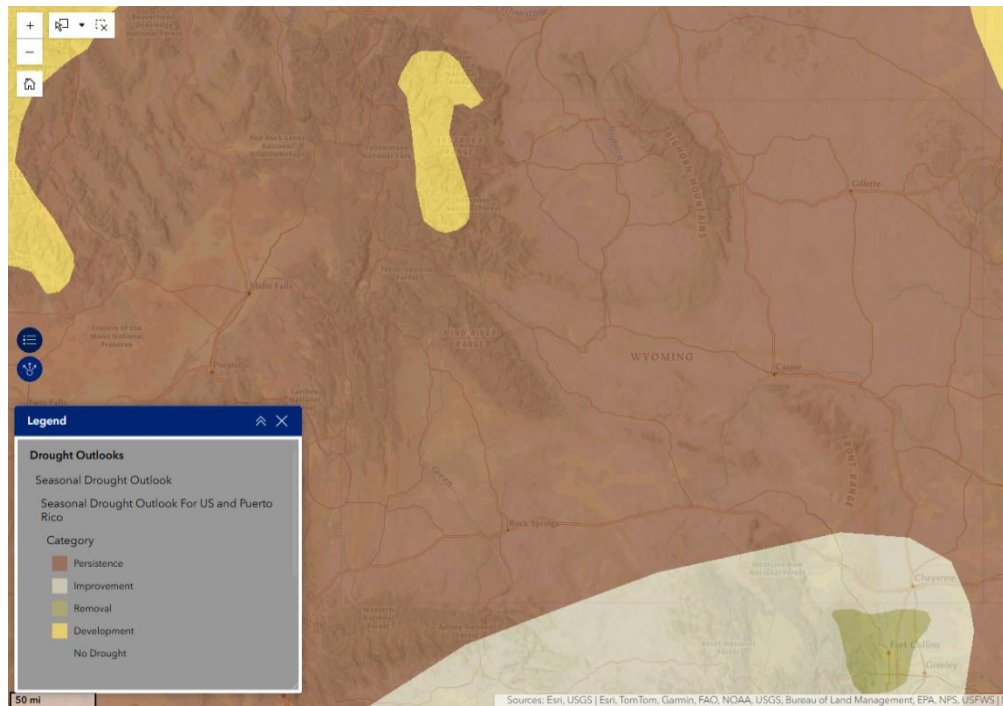
**Author:**

Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



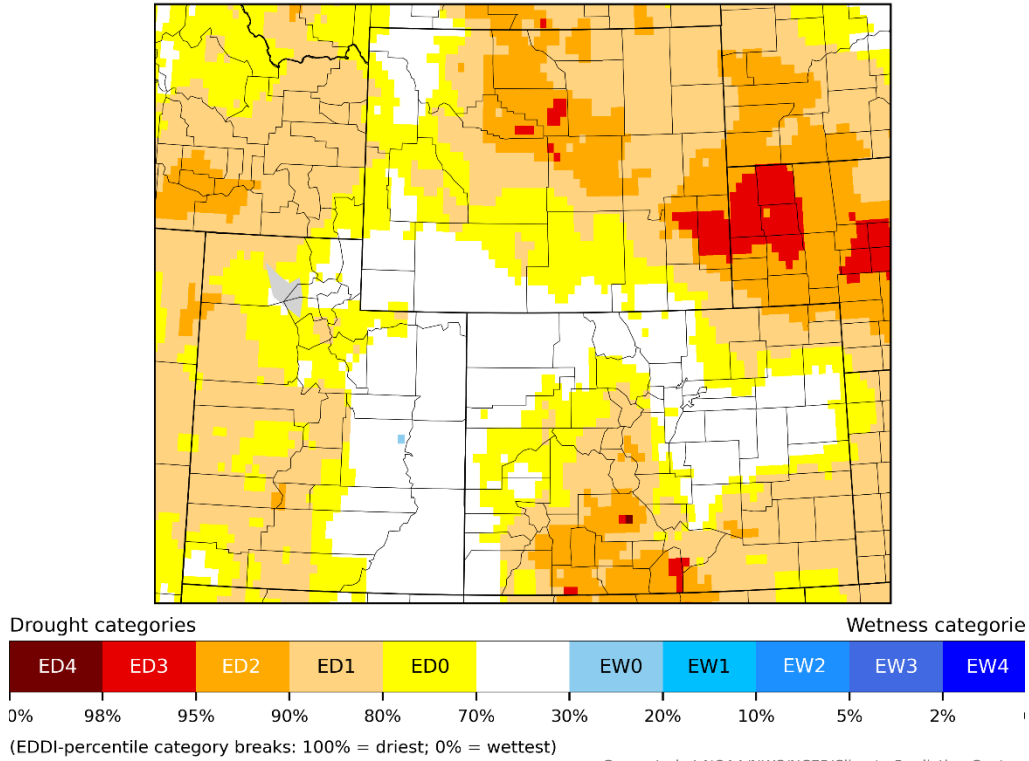
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

U.S. Drought Monitor – Wyoming – May 26, 2026. [Wyoming | U.S. Drought Monitor \(unl.edu\)](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Wyoming)



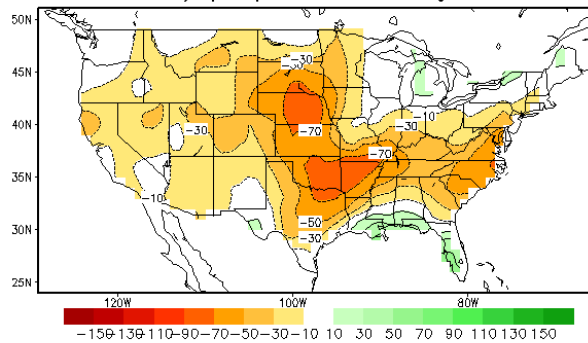
Seasonal Drought Outlook (centered on Wyoming), May 31, 2026: [Drought Outlook Interactive Experience](#)

2-week EDDI categories for May 25, 2026

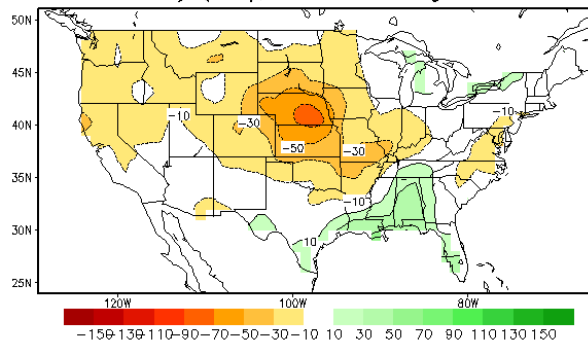


Evaporative Demand Drought Index. The EDDI can reflect recent and longer-term moisture trends and may forecast drought transitions. The 2-week EDDI indicates reflects dry spring conditions.

Lagged Averaged Soil Moisture Outlook for End of JUN2026  
units: anomaly (mm), SM data ending at 20260529



Lagged Averaged Soil Moisture Outlook for End of AUG2026  
units: anomaly (mm), SM data ending at 20260529

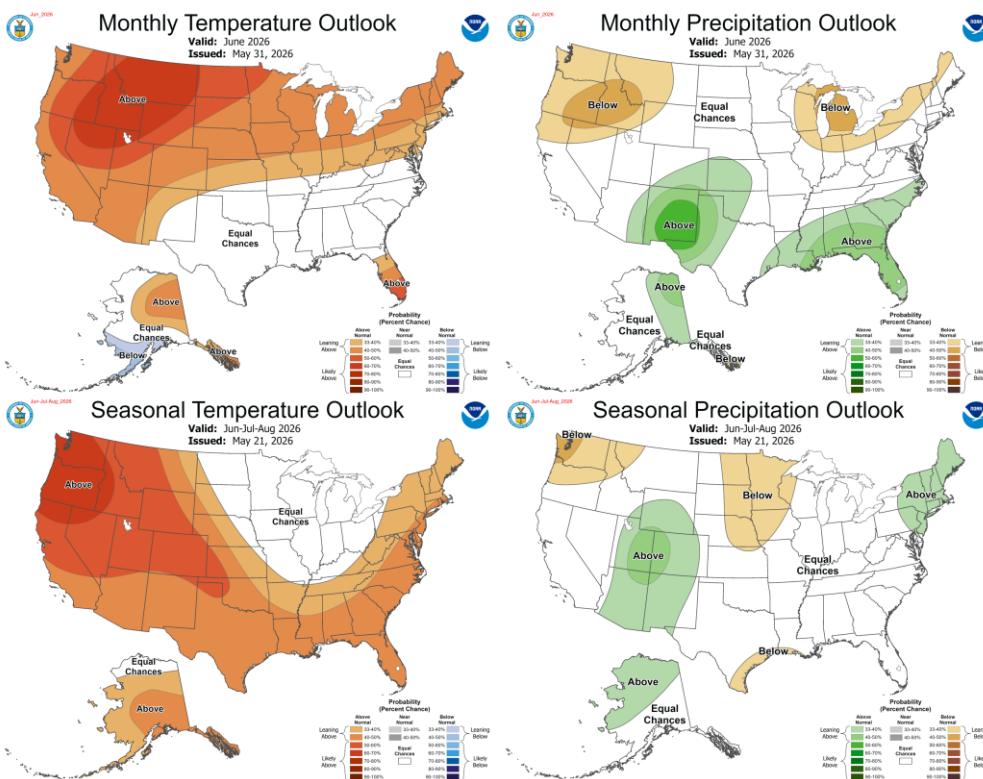
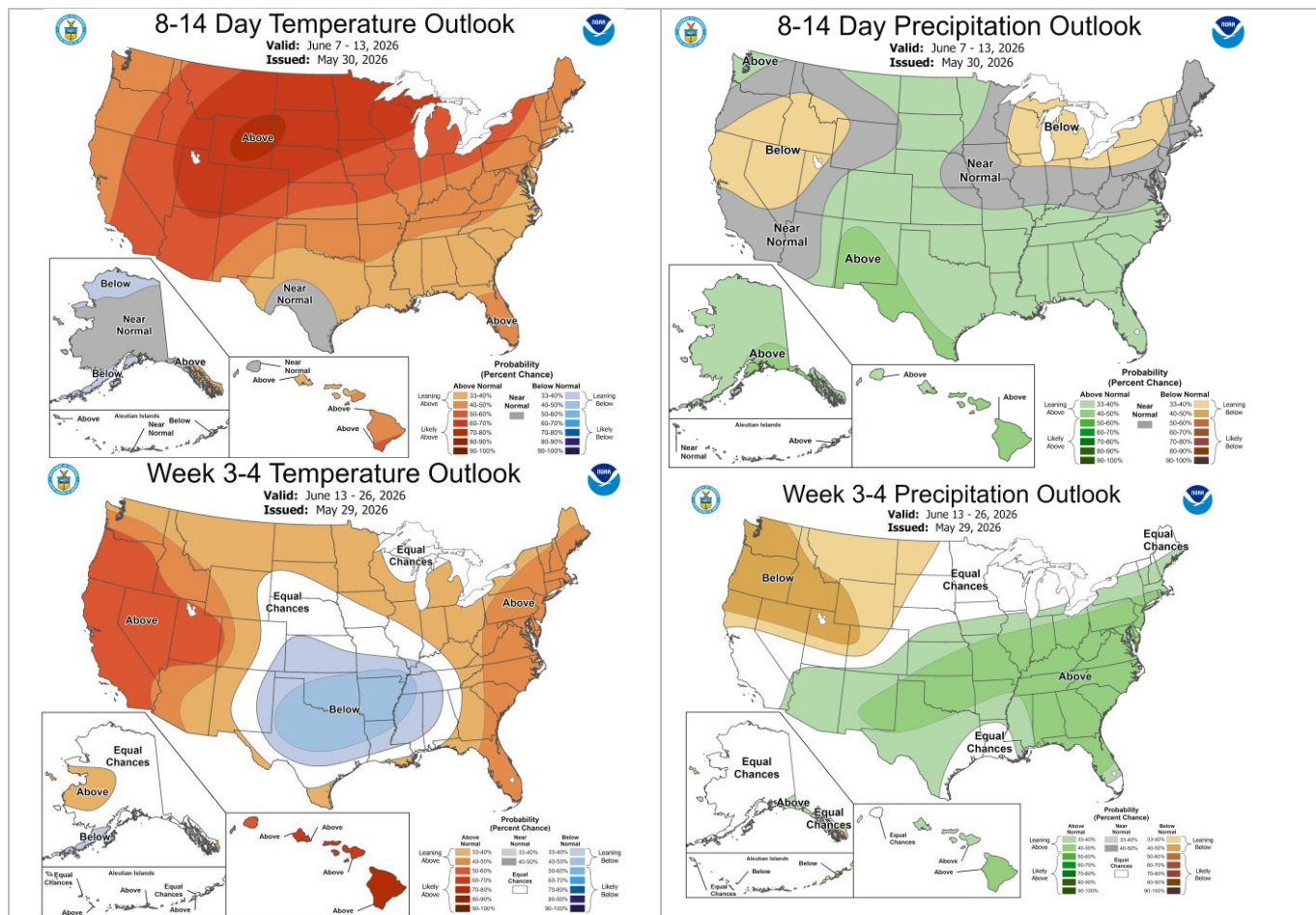


Soil Moisture Outlook for end of June and August 2026.

[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Soilmst\\_Monitoring/US/Outlook/CAS/SM.shtml](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Soilmst_Monitoring/US/Outlook/CAS/SM.shtml)

# 6. Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

**HOTTER, DRIER:** From early June through August, outlooks indicate hotter and drier than normal conditions.



## 7. Critical Fuel Status / Fuel Moisture

Early season conditions have been drier than normal, with late May precipitation offering some moderation and green up occurring early in most locations.

June 1 – Critical Fuels Status: All TIDC zones are in

- **Green: Not Critical.**

The Critical Fuels Status is informed by zone fire danger, trends in Energy Release Component and locally sampled fuel moistures. This status offers guidance to the National Weather Service for Red Flag forecasts.

Fuel sampling was conducted prior to late May moisture and recorded drier than normal conditions for a range of fuels. In Grand Teton NP, 2 of 5 sample types were trending normal for this date (Live Woody Sagebrush and Live Herbaceous in conifer) and 3 of 5 sample types were at 90<sup>th</sup> percentile dryness (Live Herbaceous in sagebrush, Live Woody in conifer, and 1000-hour dead fuels). In the Bridger-Teton NF, 14 samples were not critical, 1 sample was approaching critical, and 9 samples were in critical status.

See “Supporting Information” for graphs of fuel moisture trends and status.

## GEOGRAPHIC AREA OUTLOOKS

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Teton Interagency Dispatch is in the Great Basin Geographic Area and adjacent to Rocky Mountain and Northern Rockies geographic areas, which converge in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) and share fire activity trends. Outlooks for Teton Interagency Dispatch indicate normal fire activity for June and above normal for July-September. *Excerpts of National and Regional Outlooks.*

### National – Great Basin area excerpts

From the [National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook](#) (June 1, 2026):

A much warmer and drier than normal winter and early spring has pushed fuels to record dry levels across the southern half of the Great Basin. Many mountain areas in Utah, Nevada, and the Arizona Strip had record low snowpack. Wetter conditions developed in some areas later in the spring, but warm and dry conditions are expected to continue for most areas heading into summer, so an earlier start and more severe than normal fire season is likely for many areas. Temperatures over the last 30 days have been warm, 2-4°F above normal for most of the region, while precipitation has only been 10-20% of normal across most areas, with far southern areas just 5-10% of normal. The only wetter than normal areas were in the northern Utah mountains from one storm that occurred in mid-May. The U.S. Drought Monitor has most southern and central areas in severe to extreme drought, with far southwest Idaho and northeast Utah seeing pockets of exceptional drought.

Farther north across the Idaho and Wyoming mountains, peak end of March snowpack was higher, 60-75% of normal, which was still significantly below normal, and much of the middle slopes in those areas that are normally snow covered had been bare for quite some time.

Fuels in the southern half of the Great Basin are near or exceeding record dry levels. Many areas in the south and east are seeing elevated Energy Release Component values that are 4-6 weeks ahead of normal. However, most lower elevation areas have a below normal grass crop this season due to the dry winter. The exceptions are across portions of northern Nevada and southern Idaho, where there are pockets of more carry-over fuels from the past two years. Heavy rain that occurred in southwest Idaho in early April has resulted in significant grass growth, which will be rapidly curing in June.

Fire activity increased in recent weeks, with large fires in southern Idaho/northern Nevada in the 1,000-7,000-acre range. Some fires are burning in heavier fuels and timber of higher elevations, very unusual for late May.

A hot and dry start to June is expected. Afterward, the warmest and driest conditions will shift to the northern and western areas of the Great Basin from mid-July onward as a strong El Niño unfolds. Above normal significant fire potential is expected across many southern and central areas in June, mostly in the middle to upper elevations where heavier fuels are dominant. Above normal potential will then spread steadily northward into Idaho and Wyoming by mid to late summer. The North American Monsoon should begin to take the edge off significant fire potential across southern areas from the second half of July onward.

## Great Basin Outlook (excerpts)

From the [Great Basin Seasonal Outlook for June-September 2026](#) (references to figures are in the document)...

**PAST WEATHER:** Temperatures the last 30 days were 2-4 degrees above normal for most areas, while precipitation was only 10% - 20% of normal across most area (Fig 1). Across the ID/WY mountains, peak end of March snowpack was 60-75% of normal, which was still significantly below normal, and much of the middle slopes in those areas that are normally snow covered, had been bare for quite some time (Fig 2).

**FIRE POTENTIAL AND OUTLOOK:** Fuel conditions in many areas are 3-6 weeks ahead of schedule (Fig 5). A hot/dry start to June is expected (Fig 6). Afterwards the warmest/driest conditions will shift to the northern and western areas of the Great Basin from mid-July onwards (Fig 7) as a strong El Niño unfolds (Fig 8). “Above Normal” fire potential is expected across many southern and central areas in June, mostly in the middle to upper elevations where heavier fuels are dominant, then spreading steadily northward into Idaho and Wyoming by mid late summer. The Summer Monsoon should begin to take the edge off of large fire potential across southern areas from later in July onwards.

## CURRENT FIRE ACTIVITY – Teton Interagency Dispatch

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/predictive-services/intelligence>

Early season wildland fire activity is typically limited to a period after snowmelt and prior to green-up. After the dry winter, the early fire season saw more active thunderstorms, with lightning igniting three fires. The Spread Creek Fire was managed as a Type 3 complexity incident and burned 257 acres, the largest fire in May based on Teton Interagency Fire records for the past 30 years. In spring 2026, six prescribed fires were ignited (the same number as 2025) and treated 1809 acres, nearly 600 more acres than spring 2025.

Year-to-Date Fire Activity for Dispatch Center response zones, May 31, 2026. [2026 TIDC Fire Statistics](#).

<b>Teton Interagency Fire Management Area Totals</b>	Human Fires	Human Acres	Natural Fires	Natural Acres	RX Fires	RX Acres	Abandoned Non-escape Campfires
	3	4.7	3	257.35	6	1809	5

# Supporting Information

Compiled by Tim Sherwin (Fire Management Specialist - Prescribed Fire/Fuels, Bridger-Teton National Forest), Paul Hood (Fire Ecologist, US Wildland Fire Service/Bridger-Teton National Forest), and Ron Steffens with support of district fuels specialists. For questions and to share additional info, contact your local fuels specialists or Ron Steffens (Fire Analyst, US Wildland Fire Service: Grand Teton National Park/National Elk Refuge/Teton Interagency Fire). [ron\\_steffens@nps.gov](mailto:ron_steffens@nps.gov).

## Selected Sources

- Precipitation tracking: <https://water.weather.gov/precip/>
- Snowpack precipitation tracking focused on [Wyoming Snotel sites](#)
- [Home | Climate Toolbox](#). <https://climatetoolbox.org/>
- Climate Prediction Center, Three-Month Outlooks: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/>
- Drought.gov Portal / Fire: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/data-maps-tools/fire>
- Drought.gov Portal / Wyoming: <https://www.drought.gov/states/wyoming>
- Intermountain West Climate Dashboard: <https://wwa.colorado.edu/climate/dashboard.html>
- Regional outlooks from “National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook” (first of each month during fire season, NIFC Predictive Services): [https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/outlooks/monthly\\_seasonal\\_outlook.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf).
- Great Basin Area – Predictive Services/Outlooks: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/outlooks.php>.
- Rocky Mountain Area – Predictive Services/Outlooks: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/outlooks1.php>.
- Teton Interagency Dispatch: [www.tetonfires.com](http://www.tetonfires.com) / <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/>.
- National Weather Service – [Fire Weather \(Riverton, WY\)](#).

## Snow Water Content and Precipitation by Area Basin

Most area SNOTEL sites melted early so basin-wide snow water equivalent (SWE) averages may be less valid due to the limited number of snowpack data sources. Snow Water Content is averaging below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Total Precipitation Water for the water year-to-date is trending from slightly below to slightly above normal.

<b>Percent of 30-Year Average Snow Water Content and Precipitation by Basin</b>		
* = Analysis may not be valid measure of conditions. <a href="#">Wyoming Snow Precipitation Update (uwyo.edu)</a> . 05/30/2026.		
	<b>Snow Water Content</b>	<b>Total Precipitation (Water YTD)</b>
Snake River	36 % *	98 %
Upper Green River	27 %	96 %
Yellowstone	62 %	109 %
Wind River	22 % *	102 %
Upper Bear River	37 % *	93 %

# Fuel Moisture Trends

## Fuel Moisture Analysis – Grand Teton National Park

The tracking of five fuel moisture types in Grand Teton National Park is compared to a 30-year sampling average. For the May 15 sampling period, all 1000 hour fuels and live fuel categories in sagebrush and conifer were at or below the 90th percentile of dryness except for Live Woody Sagebrush and Live Herbaceous in conifer sites, which are trending near normal. Note that these samples were collected prior to precipitation in the area in late May.

