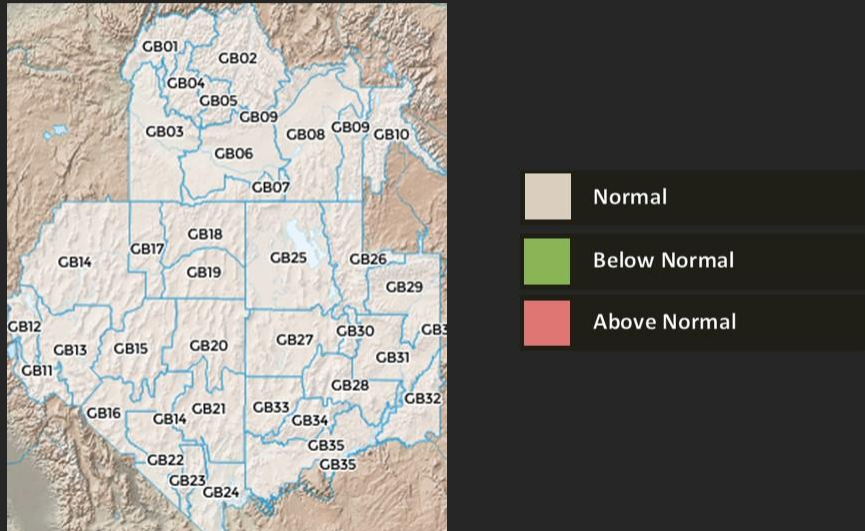


Great Basin Seasonal Outlook: February Through May 2025

February – May 2025



PAST WEATHER:

Temperatures over the last 30 days have been much cooler than normal across much of the Great Basin, especially across Idaho and Wyoming. Precipitation has been well below normal across the region, and below 10% of normal across the southern half of Nevada, Utah and the Arizona Strip where little if any precipitation has occurred. **(Fig 1 and 2)**. Precipitation has been well below normal since October 1, 2024, especially in southern areas of the Great Basin. Snowpack is below normal regionwide, but colder temperatures have eased some of the decrease so areas in the north are 70-90%, then drop to 50-60% in the Sierra and below 40% in the south. Improvements to the snowpack in the north and west are expected in February. **(Fig 3 and 4)**

ENSO neutral conditions are expected to shift to weak La Nina or remain neutral. Due to recent dryness, drought has intensified in parts of Idaho, Wyoming and southern areas of the Great Basin with areas of moderate drought, and even areas of severe to extreme drought in southern Nevada, southwest Utah, the Arizona Strip, western Wyoming and central Idaho. Otherwise, abnormally dry conditions have developed across the rest of the Great Basin. **(Fig 5)**.

Fire danger remains low across the northern half of the Great Basin due to colder temperatures, and shorter daylight despite below normal

FIRE POTENTIAL AND OUTLOOK:

precipitation. A more active storm track is forecast across the northern half of the Great Basin heading into February. This will bring colder temperatures, wind, rain and snow which will keep fire danger lower. These systems may even dip south into southern areas of the Great Basin occasionally. However, drier weather in the south recently has kept ERCs higher than normal due to fuel dryness in the brush. Wetter and cooler weather may linger through March before drier and warmer weather return in April and May. **(Fig 7, 8)**.

Well above normal carryover and new fine fuel growth increased loading across northern Nevada, and southern Idaho last year. Invasive species are also showing high continuity across western and northern Nevada, even if loading is not as high as other areas to the northeast. **(Fig 9)** Lower elevations of Idaho and northern Nevada where fine fuel loading is above normal may see a brief uptick in fire potential and possibly large fires later in the spring in the lower elevations if longer dry periods exist and followed by wind. Otherwise, fire potential is expected to be normal through April, which would be low for the Great Basin. Depending on fuel dryness, some areas in the southern Great Basin may see fire potential increase to above normal, but confidence is too low at this time to include it in the outlook. Another area of concern heading into fire season is over northern Nevada, southern Idaho and northern Utah as fine fuel growth and carryover from last year has yet to be compacted by snow in many areas. Precipitation and temperatures will be monitored closely over the next few months to determine how much carryover, and new growth will be a concern this fire season.

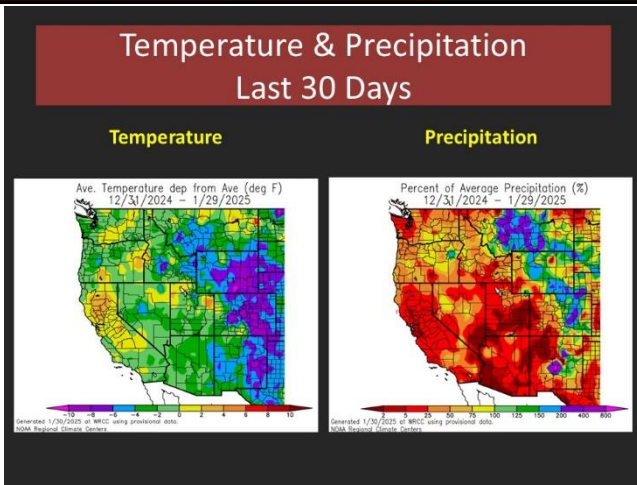


Fig 1. (Precipitation & Temperature)

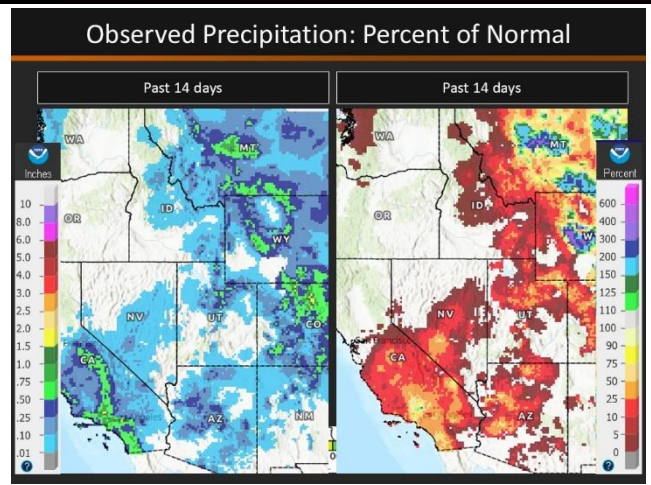


Fig 2. (Precipitation Last 2 Weeks of Sept)

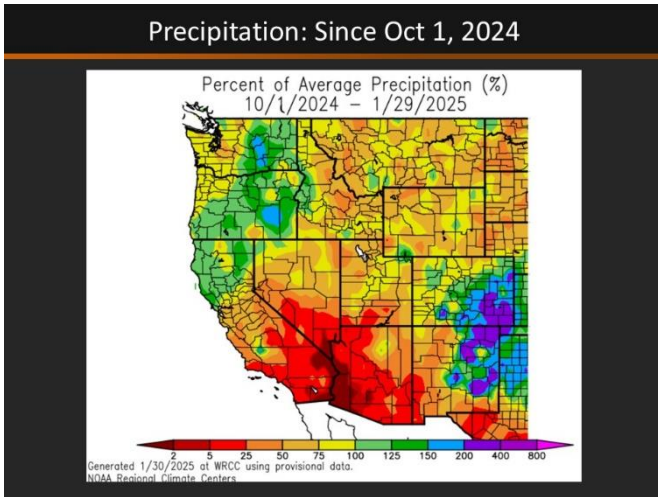


Fig 3. (Water Year Precipitation)

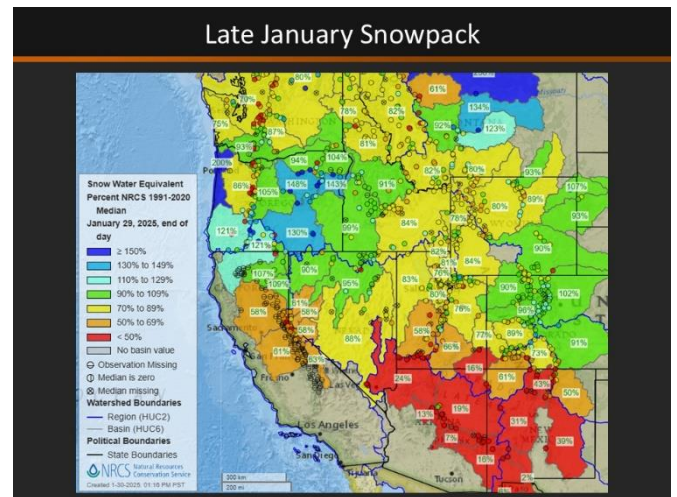


Fig 4. (Late January Snowpack)

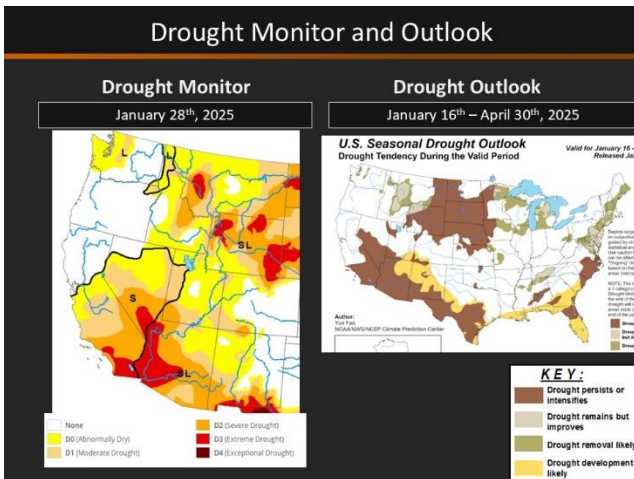


Fig 5. (Drought Conditions)

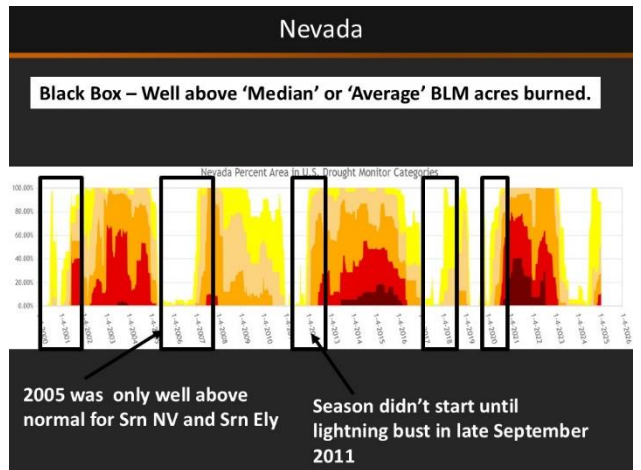


Fig 6. (Fire Season/Drought Correlation)

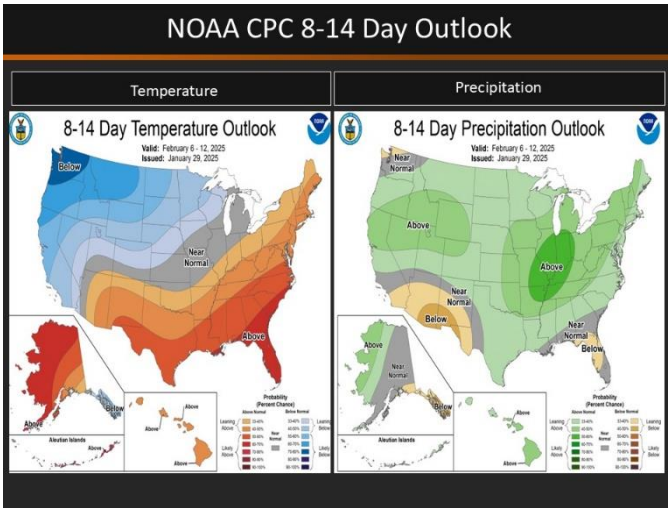


Fig 7. (14-Day Temp/Precip Forecast)

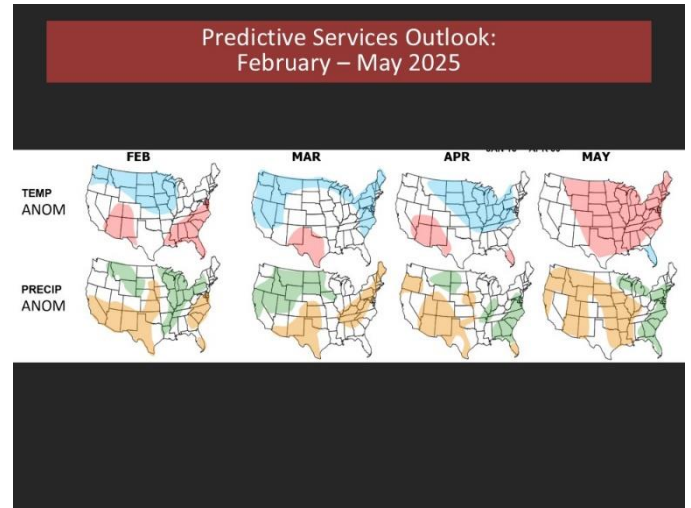


Fig. 8 (PS 4-Month Outlook)

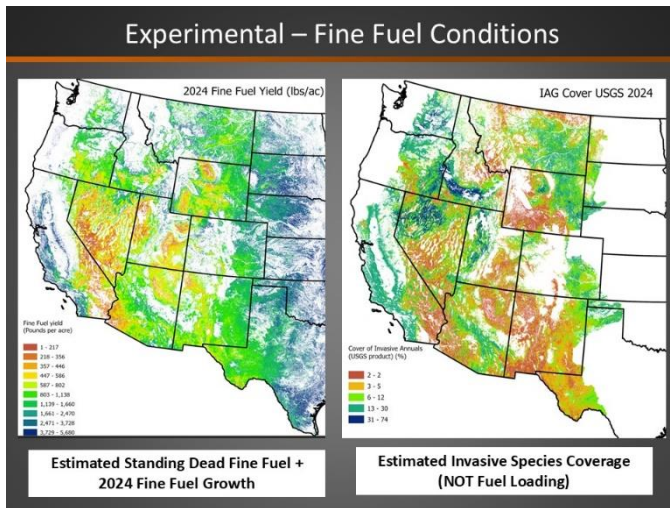


Fig. 9 (Estimated 2024 Fine Fuel Conditions)



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