Northwest Drought Workshop

July 28, 2020

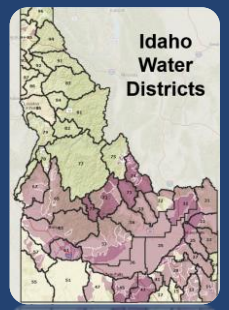
National Weather Service
Boise, ID

Outline

- Idaho Drought Team
- Drought indicators
- Impacts
- Cross border collaboration - Oregon

Idaho Drought Team

- NOAA/NWS
- IDWR – Idaho Dept. of Water Resources
- IOEM – Idaho Office of Emergency Management
- Idaho State Climatologist
- Irrigation Districts
- NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Water Districts

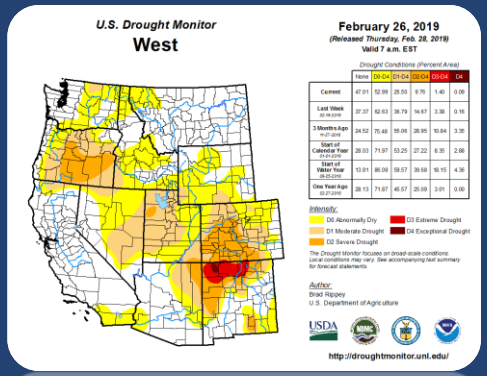


Idaho Drought Collaboration

State Drought Team Meetings...

(teleconference)

- Driven by season and conditions
- Monthly meeting during winter
- Every other week spring through fall



Drought Monitor Recommendations

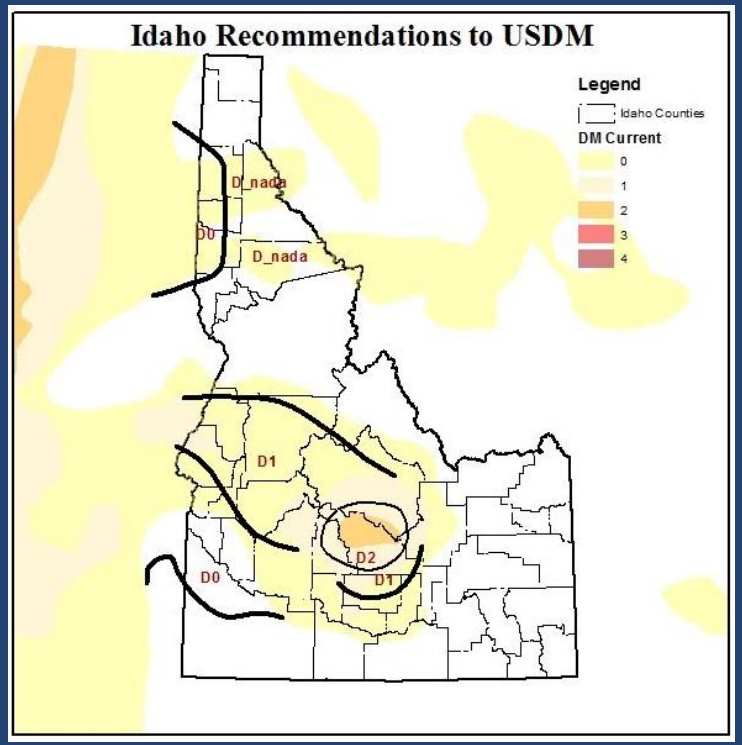
- Idaho drought team recommendations submitted via email through the DROUGHT@listserv.unl.edu

The Idaho Drought Committee met this morning:

Northern Idaho
We feel to follow Montana's recommendations that we remove the D0 along the Idaho/Montana border. The snowpack in these regions is above average. However, we agree with Washington that D0 should extend into the western half of Kootenai, Benewah, and Latah counties. The eastern portions of these counties are mountainous and benefit from the good snowpack conditions, while the western portion of these counties are lower elevation, dryland, agricultural regions that are impacted by the lack of spring precipitation.

Central Mountains
We feel that the D2 region should be expanded as shown and that the D1 in Washington County should be expanded to the D1 in Custer and Elmore County. Recent forecasts indicate that the dry soils in these regions are likely to decrease runoff below original forecasts and the chances of topping off the reservoir system seem to be diminishing. We would also like to expand D0 across Ada and Canyon County into Owyhee County so that the new D0 line would extend over the Owyhee Range. A lack of precipitation in the valleys has resulted in higher than normal irrigation demand. The watermaster expressed that they are having difficulty delivering irrigation water to the lower portion of the basin for the first time in his career. Typically these ditches rely on return flows in drainage ditches. But the drains in the basin are running at much lower levels than is normal for this time of year. The snowpack in the Owyhee range is almost melted out and the runoff has been coming in lower than originally forecast.

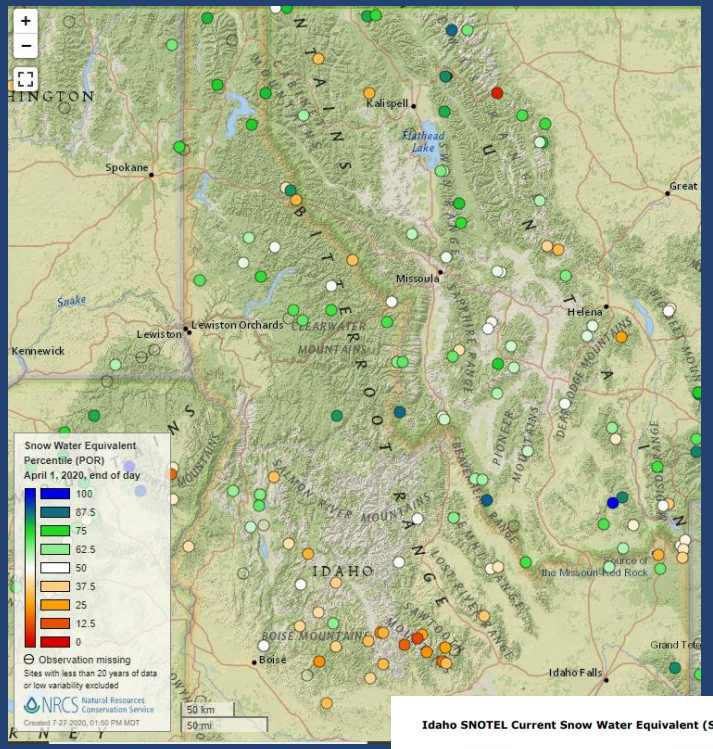
Eastern Idaho
Snowpack and water supply are looking good. There may be some flood control issues coming up. This region should remain in D_nada.

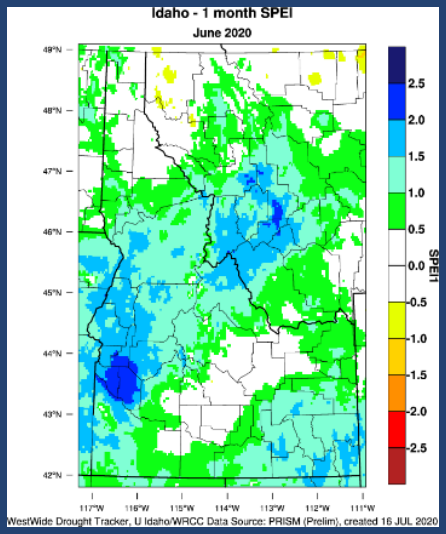


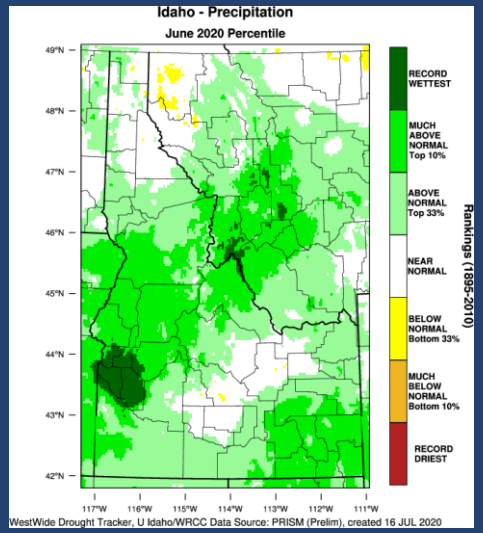
David Hoekema
Hydrologist, Hydrology Section
Idaho Department of Water Resources

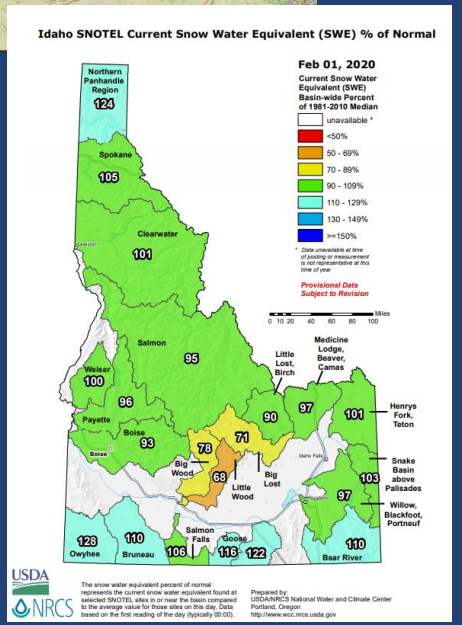
Drought Indicators

- Snowpack
  - % of normal
  - Percentile
- Precipitation
  - Percentile
  - SPEI



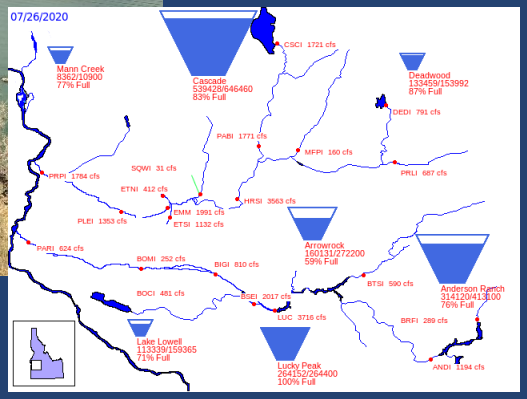


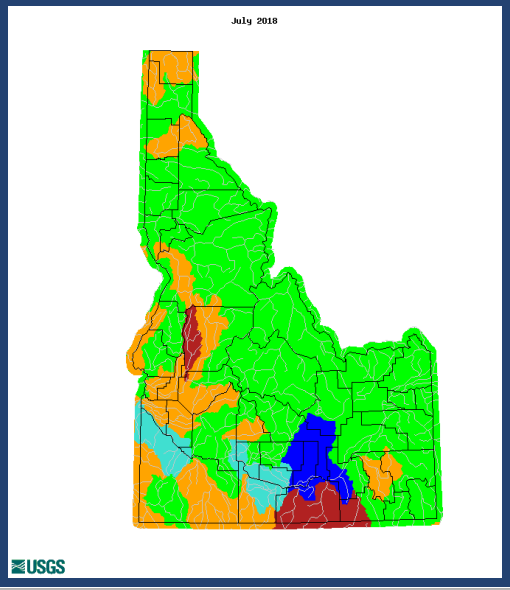




Drought Indicators

- Reservoir Content
- Streamflow

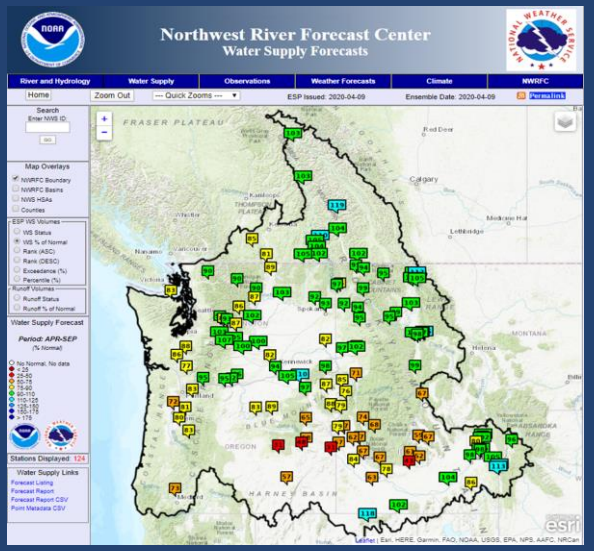


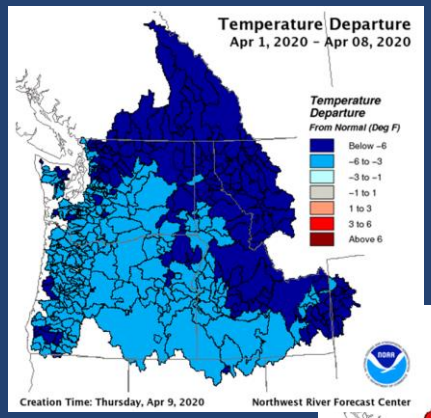


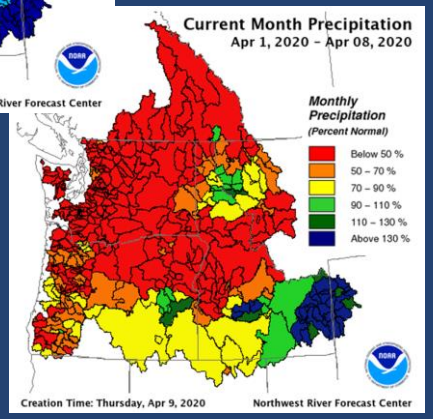
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

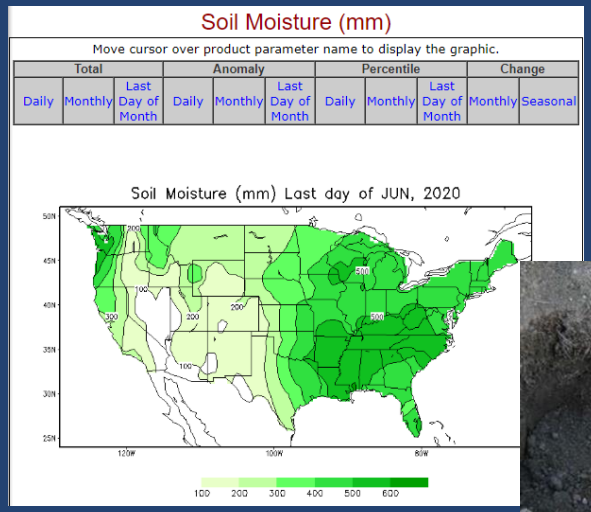
Drought Indicators

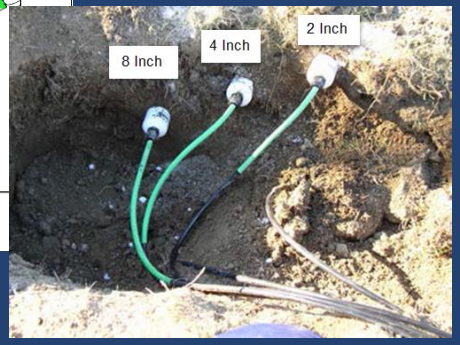
- Water Supply Forecasts
- Soil Moisture
- Temperature & Precipitation



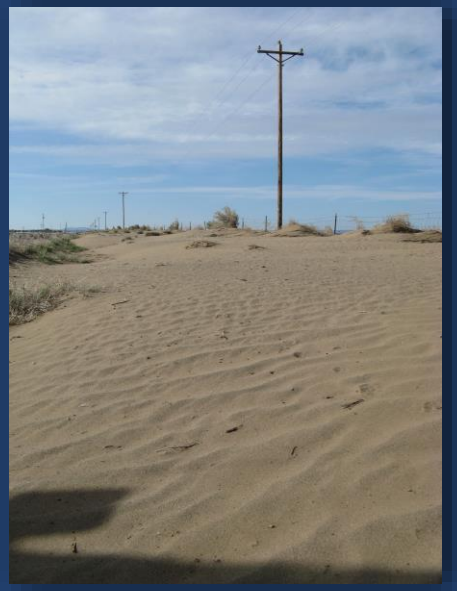








Impacts



Where do we look for impacts?

- Media
- Contacts with various industries
  - Irrigation
  - Farm & ranch
  - Recreation
  - Land management
- Emergency Managers
- Windshield surveys

Cross Border Collaboration - Oregon

NWS Forecast Office Service Areas