

Wyoming — Climate Overview

Highlights for the State

Temperatures for April were within a degree of normal for much of the state. The Bighorn Basin was one area of above-normal temperatures while the central parts of Park and Fremont counties were up to 2° below normal. While much of the state was normal to below normal in May, the western quarter generally was above normal.

Precipitation for April was well above normal with the south central part of the state being a bit more dry. On 24-26 May, a late spring snow storm hit much of the state, but May's precipitation still remained below normal for much of Wyoming. Scattered stations in the south ended the month with above normal May precipitation totals.

Drought conditions have improved since the last Outlook with only Abnormally Dry conditions remaining in the northeast.

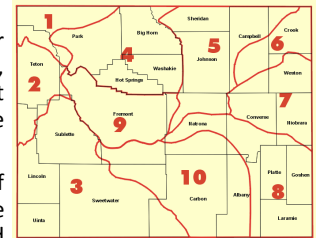
Temperature and Precipitation

April was on the warmer side statewide with parts of the Bighorn Basin having some of the highest positive departures from normal. Statewide, Wyoming's average temperature ranked as the 45th warmest April since 1894.

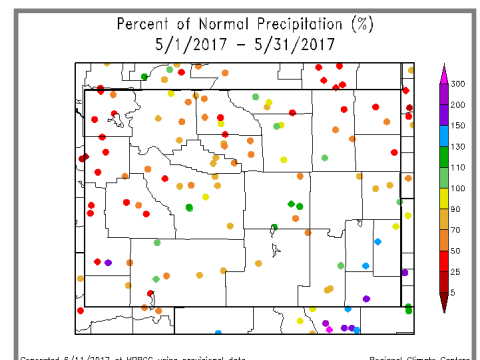
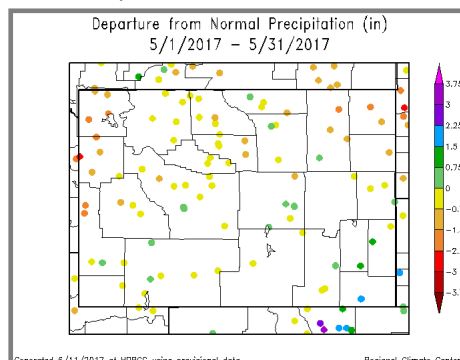
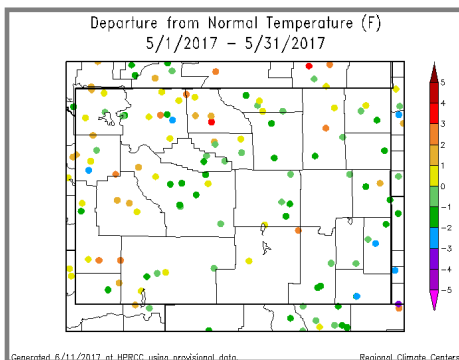
May temperatures were somewhat below normal for much of Wyoming. Only the western counties of Lincoln, Sublette, Teton, Park, Big Horn, and western Fremont counties were above normal. Statewide May was the 53rd warmest of the last 123 years.

For statewide precipitation, April was the 10th wettest of the last 123 years. Climate Division (CD) 5 was the wettest in the state and it ranked as having the 3rd wettest April since 1894.

May was a dry month for much of the state. The southeast part of the state was a little above normal and a few stations in the west were up to 200% of normal but far more were as little as 25-50% of normal. This includes stations in the only remaining drought area of the state; Crook and Weston counties. CDs 1 and 2 were the driest, both ranking as the 9th driest since 1894. The state, as a whole, ranked as the 46th driest of the last 123 years.



Wyoming Climate Divisions



Wyoming — Current Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor

Wyoming

June 6, 2017
(Released Thursday, Jun. 8, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	92.25	7.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 05-30-2017	92.77	7.23	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-07-2017	85.14	14.86	9.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	60.98	39.02	15.58	0.72	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	41.39	58.61	24.40	9.97	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 06-07-2016	76.97	23.03	9.95	0.96	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D0 Abnormally Dry	D1 Moderate Drought	D2 Severe Drought	D3 Extreme Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
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The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Drought conditions have improved throughout the state. Precipitation from the storm in late May helped the southeastern part of Wyoming where both Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions were removed from Carbon, Albany, and Laramie counties.

In the northeast D1 conditions were recently removed from Crook and Weston counties.

D0 still remains in most of Crook and Weston counties as well as much of eastern Campbell County. Abnormally Dry conditions expanded into northern Niobrara County in the last week. Despite this expansion, conditions are an improvement over what they were at the time of the last Outlook.

Drought conditions are expected to continue in northeastern Wyoming where precipitation has been below normal.

The U.S. Drought Monitor, is a weekly map of drought conditions produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The U.S. Drought Monitor website is hosted and maintained by the NDMC. <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Wyoming — Drought Indicators

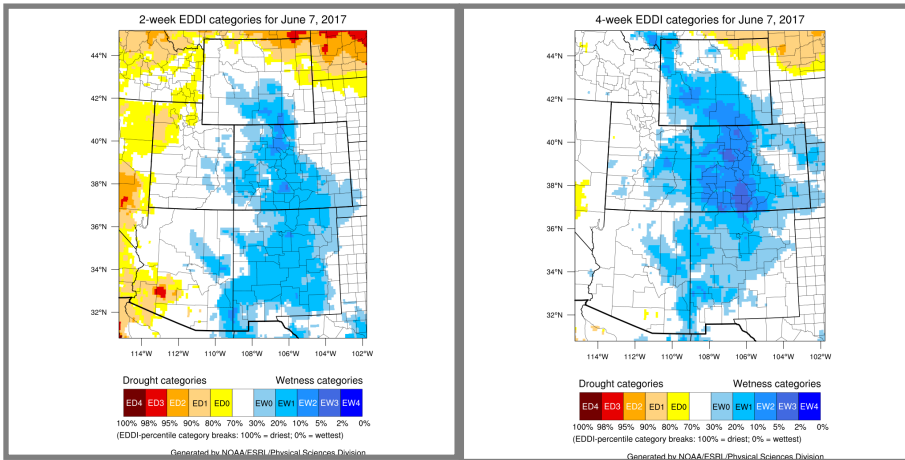
Snowpack/Evaporative Demand

Record high snowpack was experienced in several western basins this year. The subsequent runoff has caused significant flooding in several areas and reservoirs are filling to near-capacity.

The Evaporative Demand Drought Index is showing good conditions across most of the state at the 4-week window but the 2-week view shows some developing concerns in the northeastern part of the state again. Eastern Sheridan and northern Campbell and Crook counties are the areas of greatest concern at present.

Snowpack products can be found at: http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/products_and_data.html

Do you have drought impacts to report? We still need your on-the-ground reports and you can input them here: <http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/>

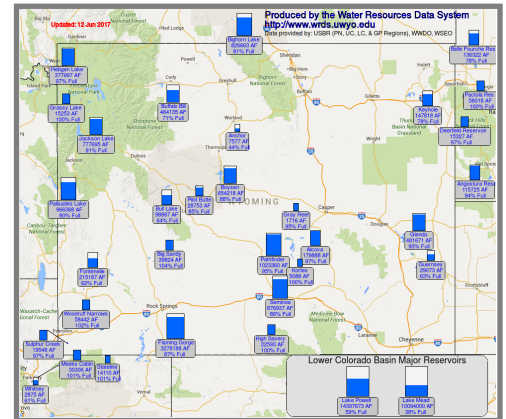


Water Resources

Reservoirs statewide are in good shape. Some western sites, which had been lowered in anticipation of the runoff, are starting to fill. Most reservoirs in the Platte system are near full. Streamflows are above normal in the west and normal in the eastern half of Wyoming except for some border stations in the far northeast.

The map below shows reservoir conditions in Wyoming as of June 12. This map is accessible online at:

http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/surface_water/teacups.html

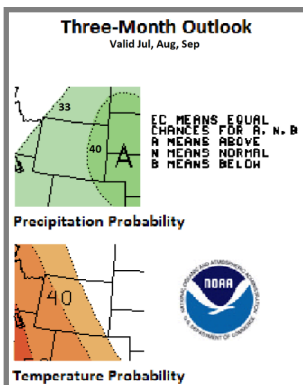


Wyoming — Short- and Long-term Outlooks

Weather and Climate Outlooks

For the next two weeks, Wyoming looks to have better chances for above-normal temperatures whereas precipitation during the first ten days is more likely to be below-normal for all of Wyoming except the south central and southeast parts. For the latter part of the period, there are even chances of above, below, or normal precipitation.

Looking at the period of July through September, there are better chances for above-normal temperature except for the area east of a line from the southeast corner running northwest to the Sheridan area. Precipitation during this period of time is favored to be above normal with chances better in the eastern quarter of Wyoming. Moving forward to August through October, there are good chances for above-normal temperature statewide. Precipitation is expected to be above normal for all but the northwest corner of the state.



Drought conditions are expected to persist in the northeast part of the state. This area is starting to see soil moisture conditions a bit below normal and, while temperatures in May were below normal, so was precipitation. The late May snow storm brought relief to the southern part of the state however soil moisture levels in the Sweetwater and Carbon counties area are below normal.

Need a Forecast?
Visit your local National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office for the most up-to-date forecast at:
<http://www.weather.gov>

Stay Tuned and In Touch

The next Wyoming Drought Impacts and Climate Outlook will be released around July 20th. If you need information in the meantime, please reach out to any of the partners listed to the right or contact Tony Bergantino directly at Antonius@uwyo.edu

The Wind River Indian Reservation and Surrounding Area Climate and Drought Summary at: WindRiverRes-Climate-Drought-Summary-Mar2017.html

Heard Around the State

Sheridan Co., May 14: It is a lush spring. The tulips are gorgeous. The dry hills are very green from the past moisture in April and May, Clear Creek started flooding its low banks.

Laramie Co., May 18: Heavy wet snow after rain are preventing us from very good oversight of our ranch and cattle. But the moisture is fabulous and precious. We'll wait it out.

Weston Co., Jun 01: Cool season grasses are good to date—no frost for 2 months and 3/10 of moisture each week has helped. Now with 85° and wind, the wheatgrass has the silvery sheen and there is no soil moisture.

Partners

- Wyoming State Climate Office
www.wrds.uwyo.edu
- National Integrated Drought Information System
www.drought.gov
- National Weather Service
 - Riverton Weather Forecast Office
www.weather.gov/riw/
 - Cheyenne Weather Forecast Office
www.weather.gov/cys/
- High Plains Regional Climate Center
www.hprcc.unl.edu
- National Drought Mitigation Center
www.drought.unl.edu
- USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub and University of Wyoming Extension
www.climatehubs.ocs.usda.gov/northernplains/
- Western Water Assessment
wwa.colorado.edu

