

# The current drought in Nevada & the West

May 21, 2021

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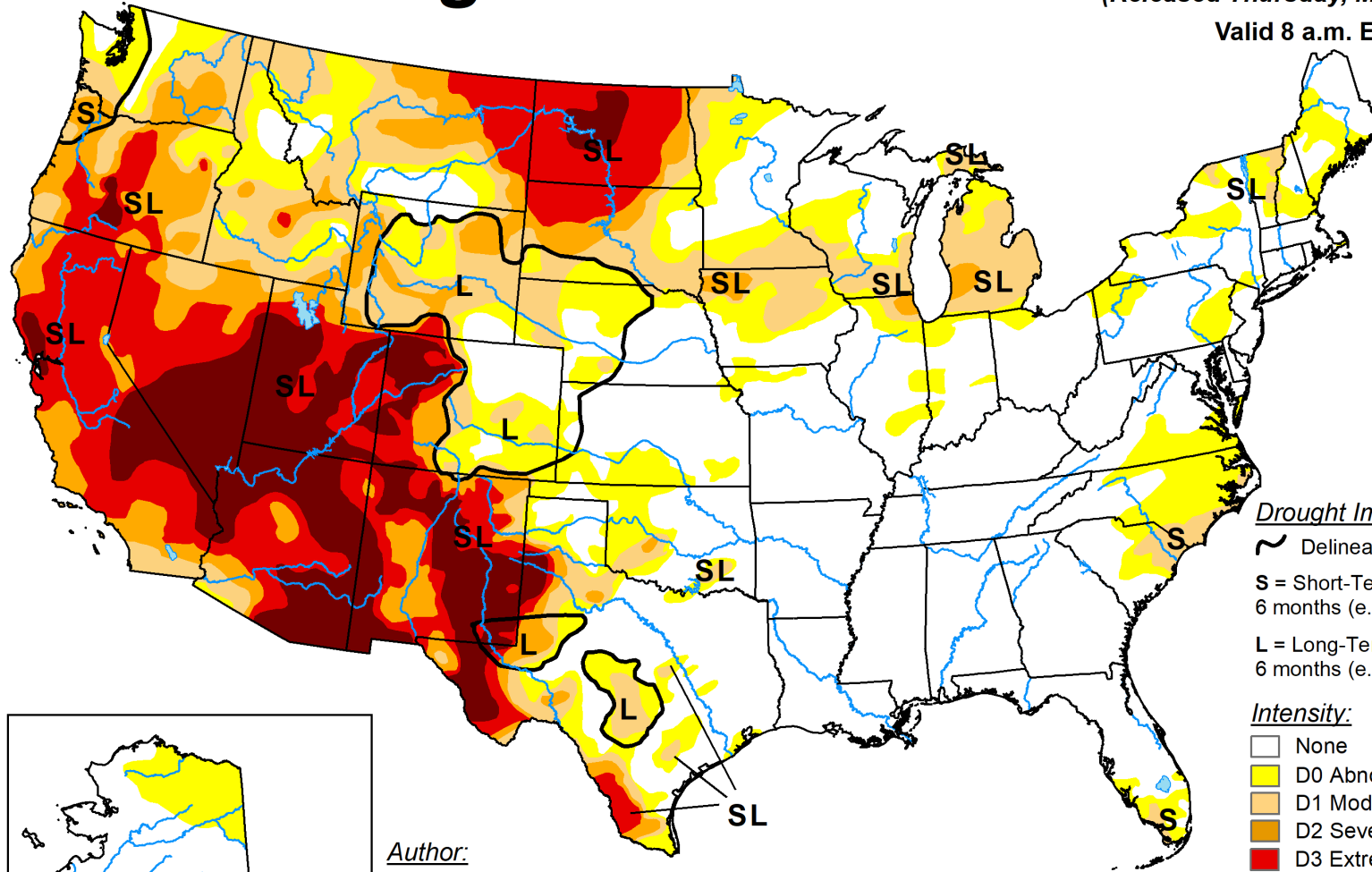
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# U.S. Drought Monitor

May 18, 2021

(Released Thursday, May. 20, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

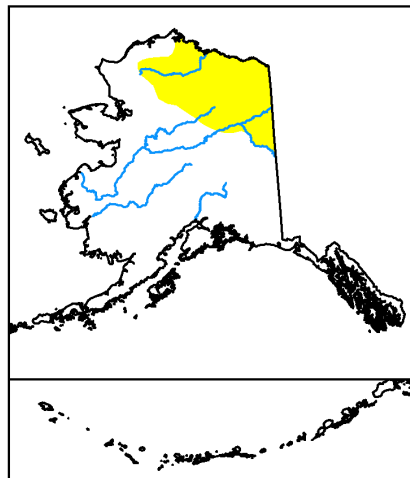


**Drought Impact Types:**

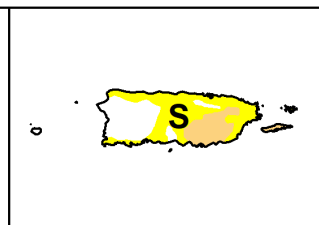
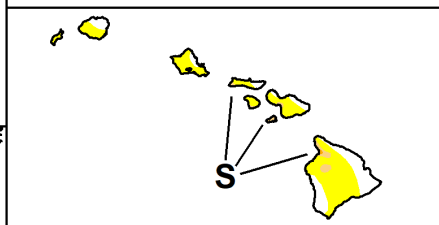
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought



**Author:**  
Adam Hartman  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

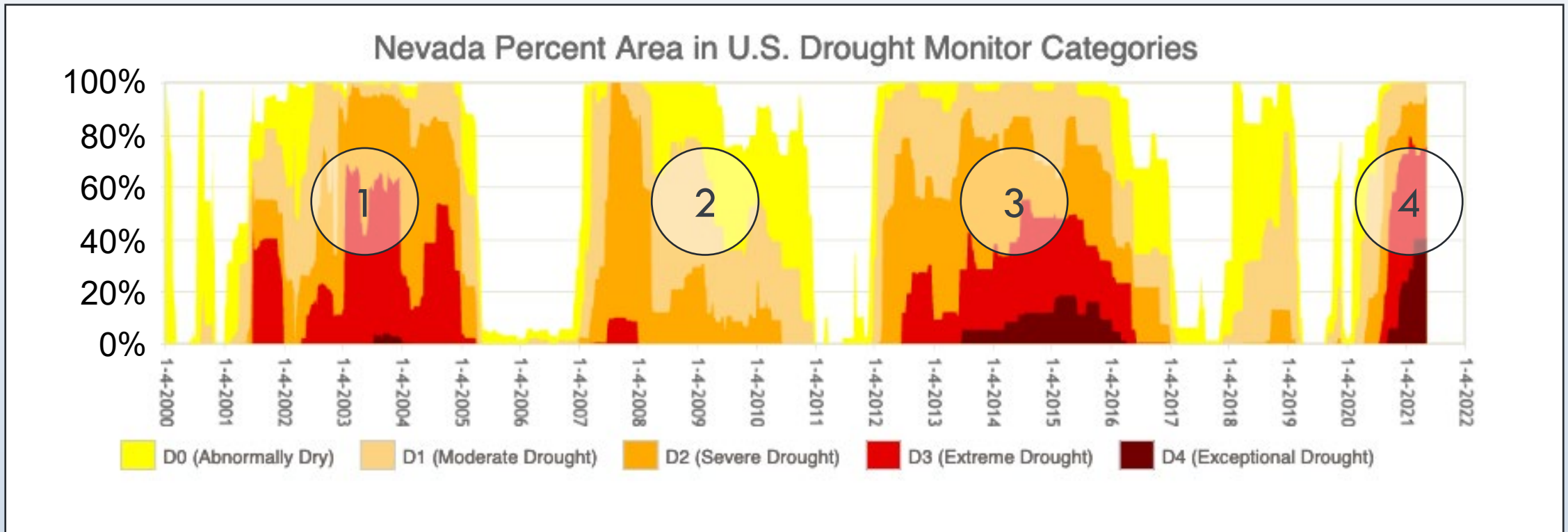


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



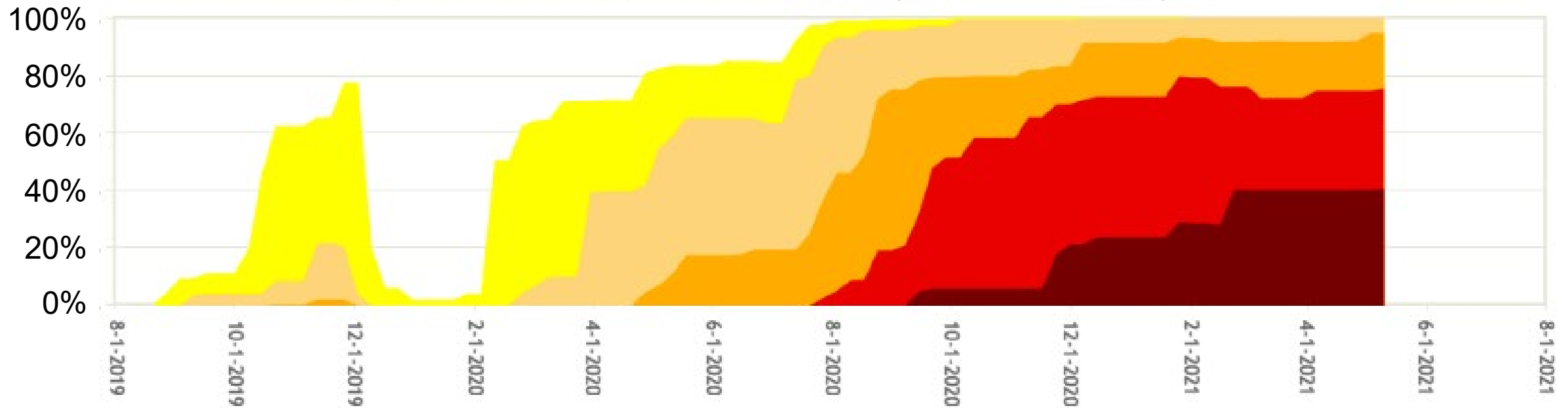
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

# Drought is a frequent occurrence in Nevada.

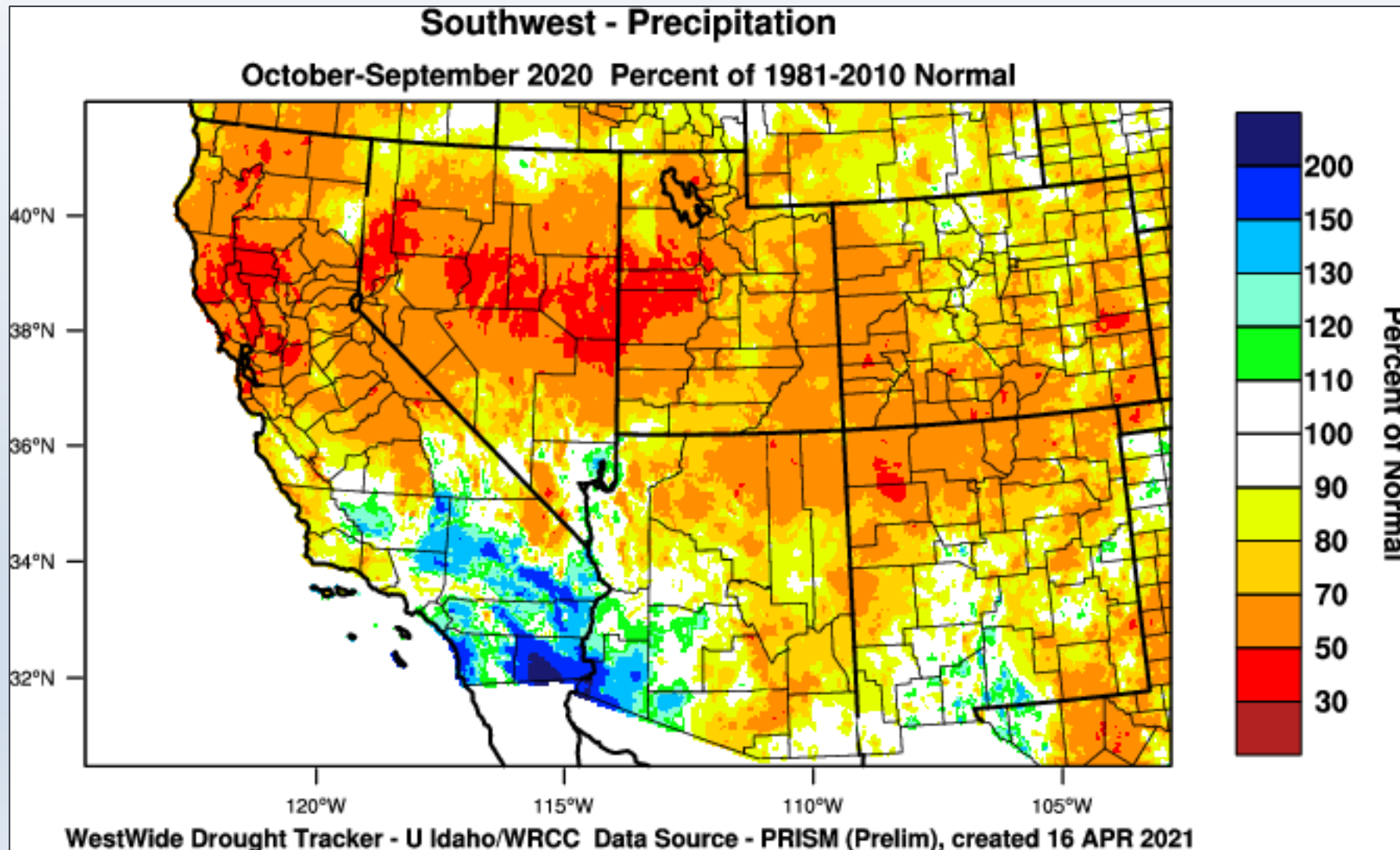


# We are in the second year of this drought.

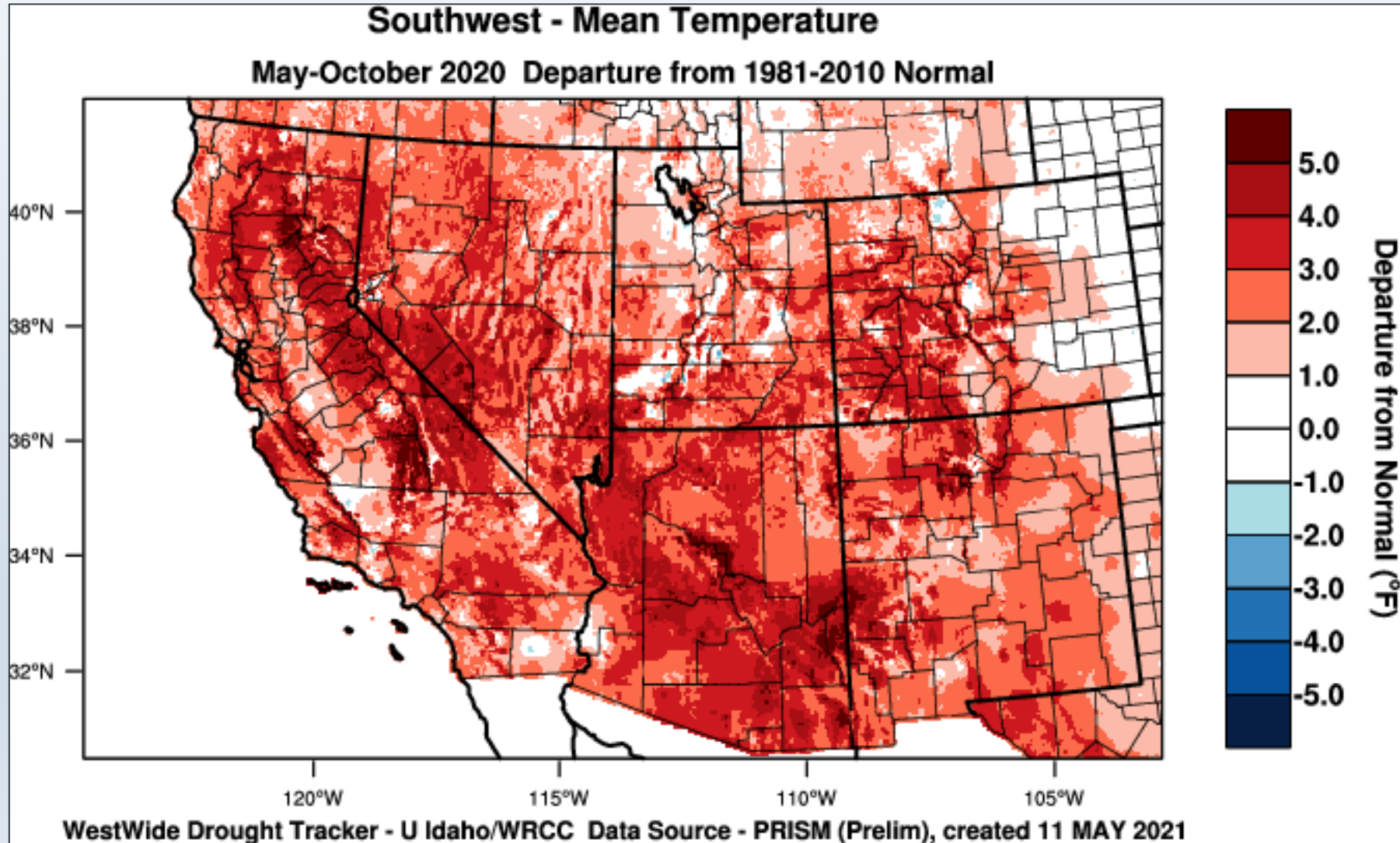
## Nevada Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



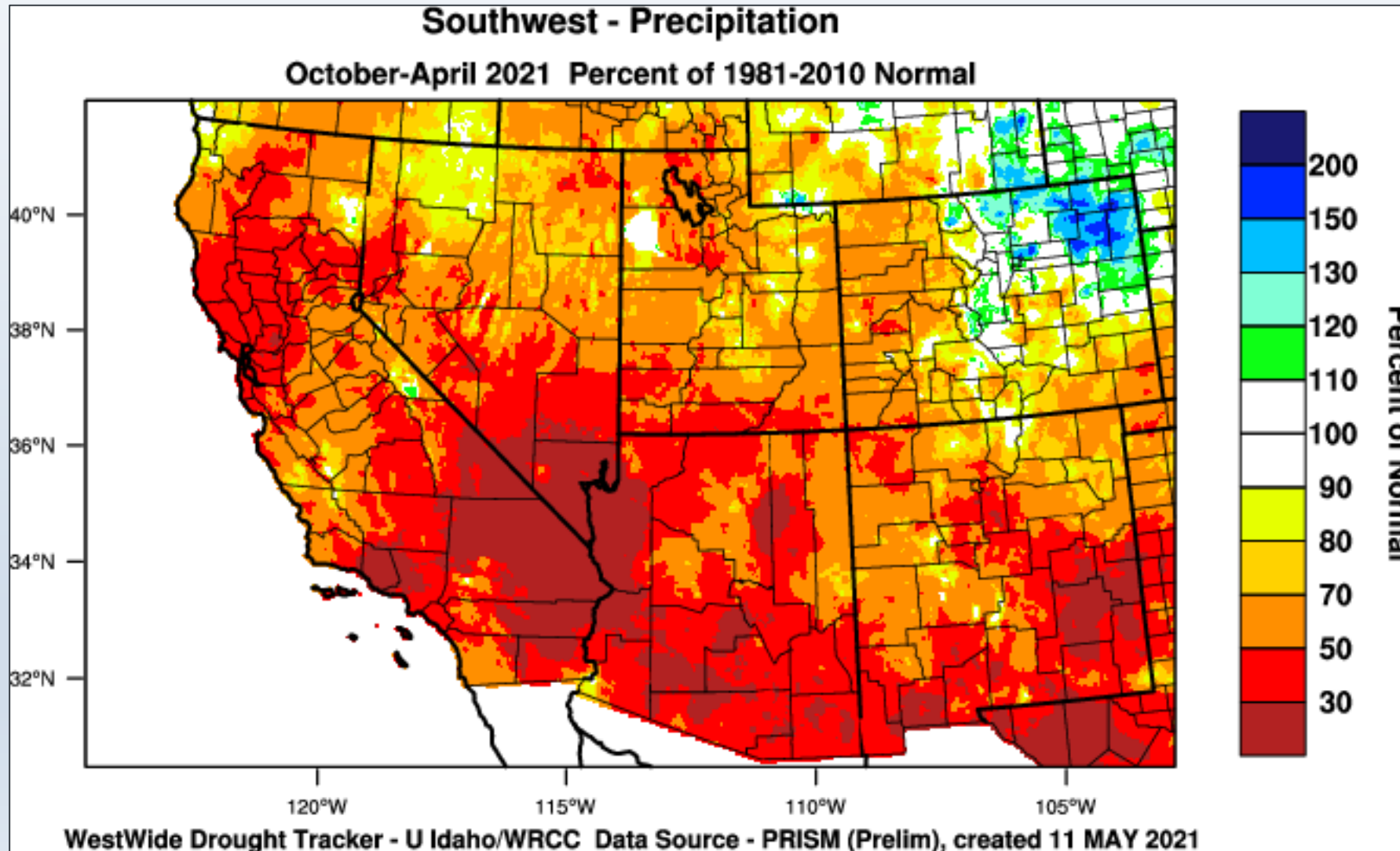
It started with a dry 2020 water year.



A very warm summer worsened the drought.

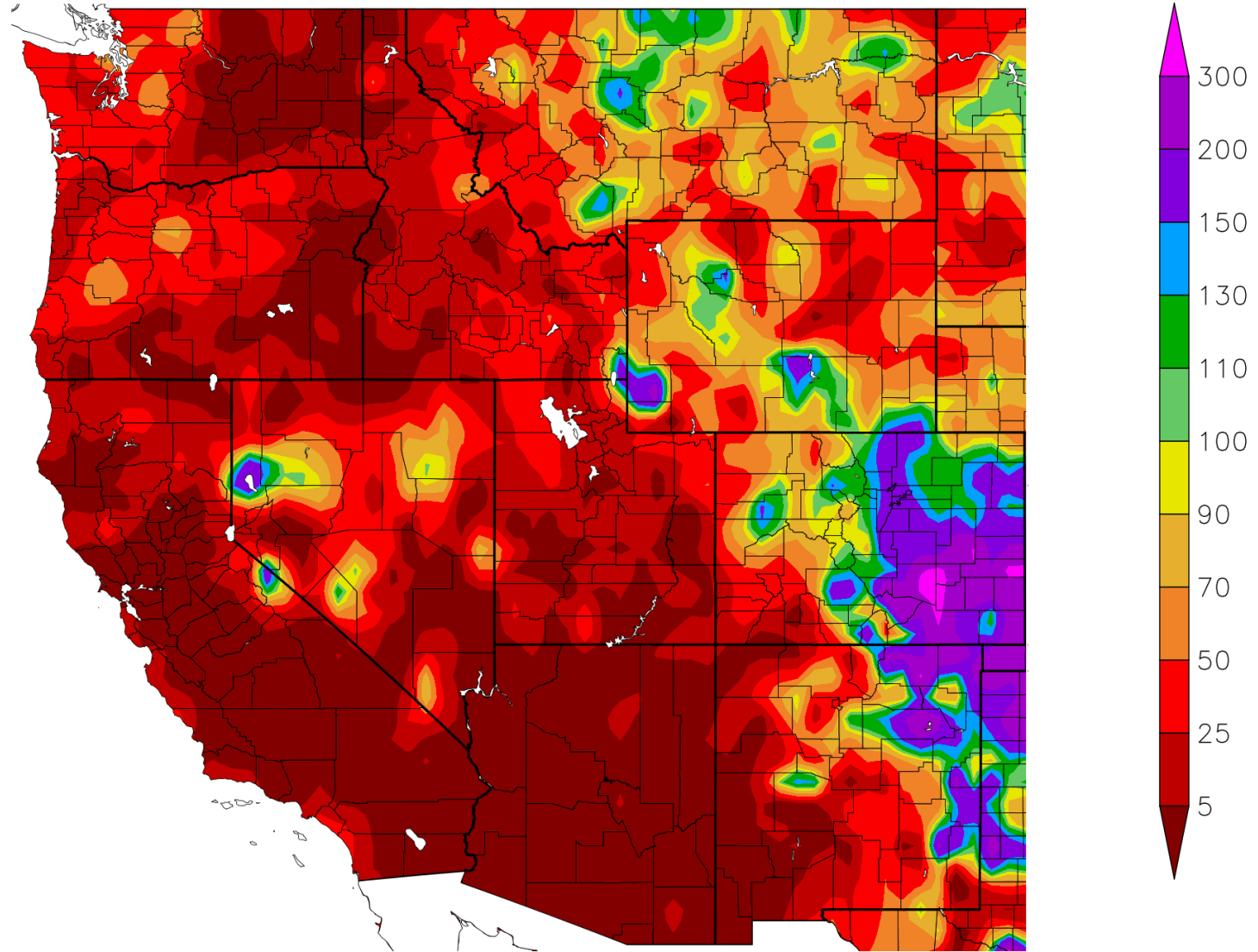


# Precipitation this water year has been low.



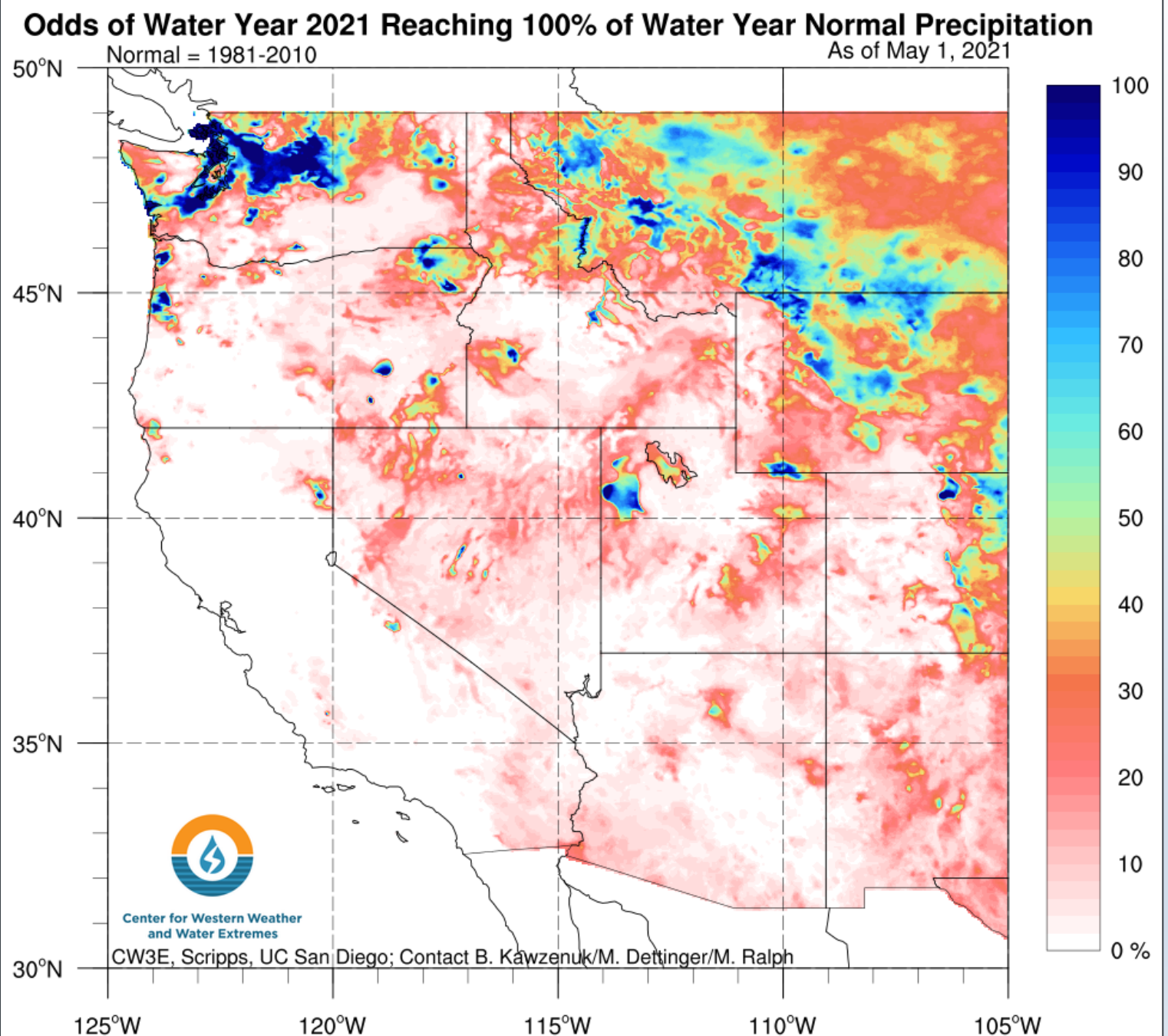
# Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

## 5/1/2021 – 5/18/2021





We are very unlikely to end this water year with normal precipitation.



Shading represents odds, in percent of water years from 1948-2017

Data courtesy: PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, <http://prism.oregonstate.edu>

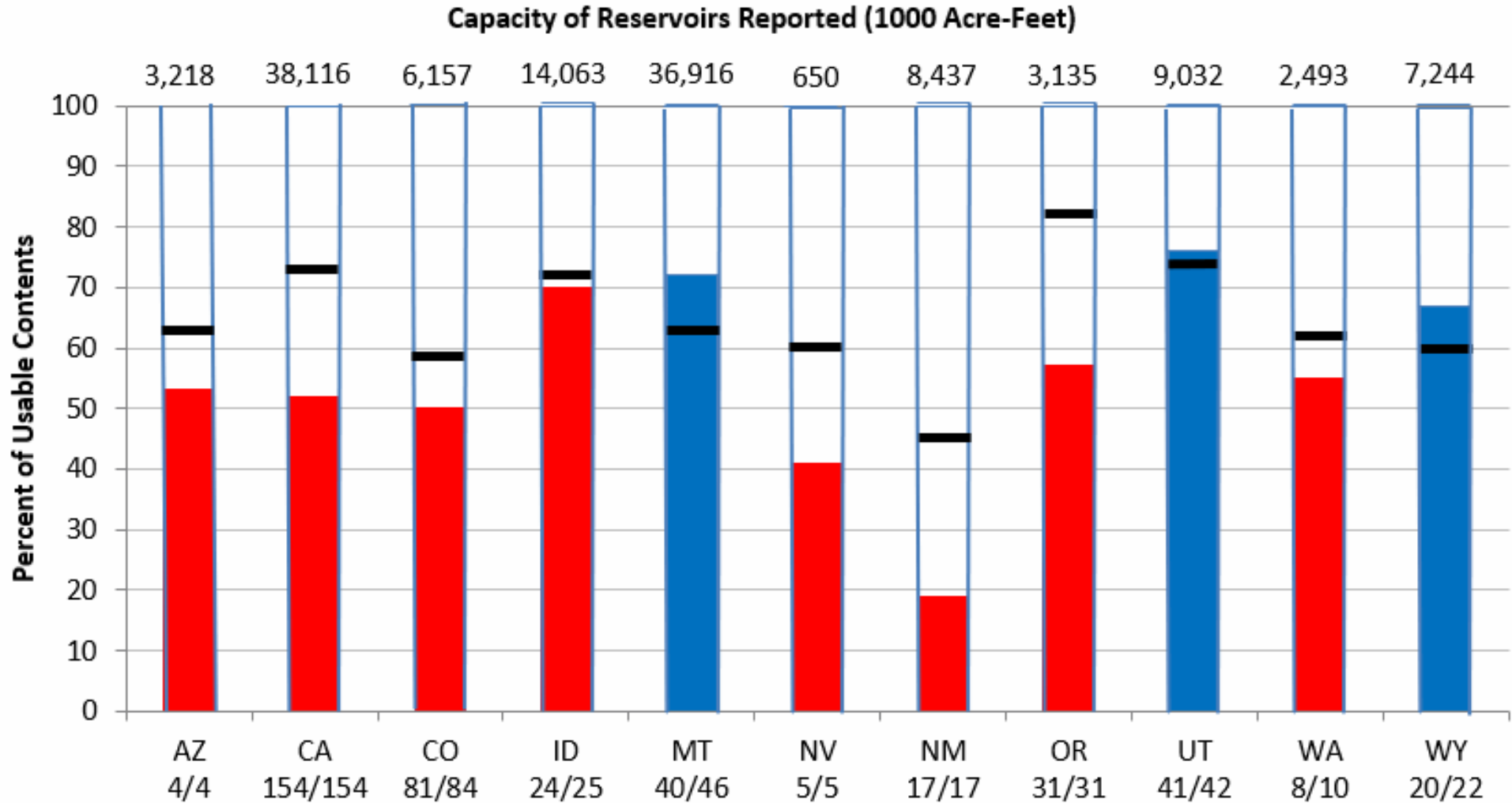
# Here's the bottom line

- All of Nevada is experiencing drought.
- Summer precipitation is usually low.
- Drought is widespread across the West.
- We will probably still be in drought at least into the fall.

# Extra slides

# Reservoir Storage as of May 1, 2021

■ Below Average   ■ At or Above Average   ■ Average

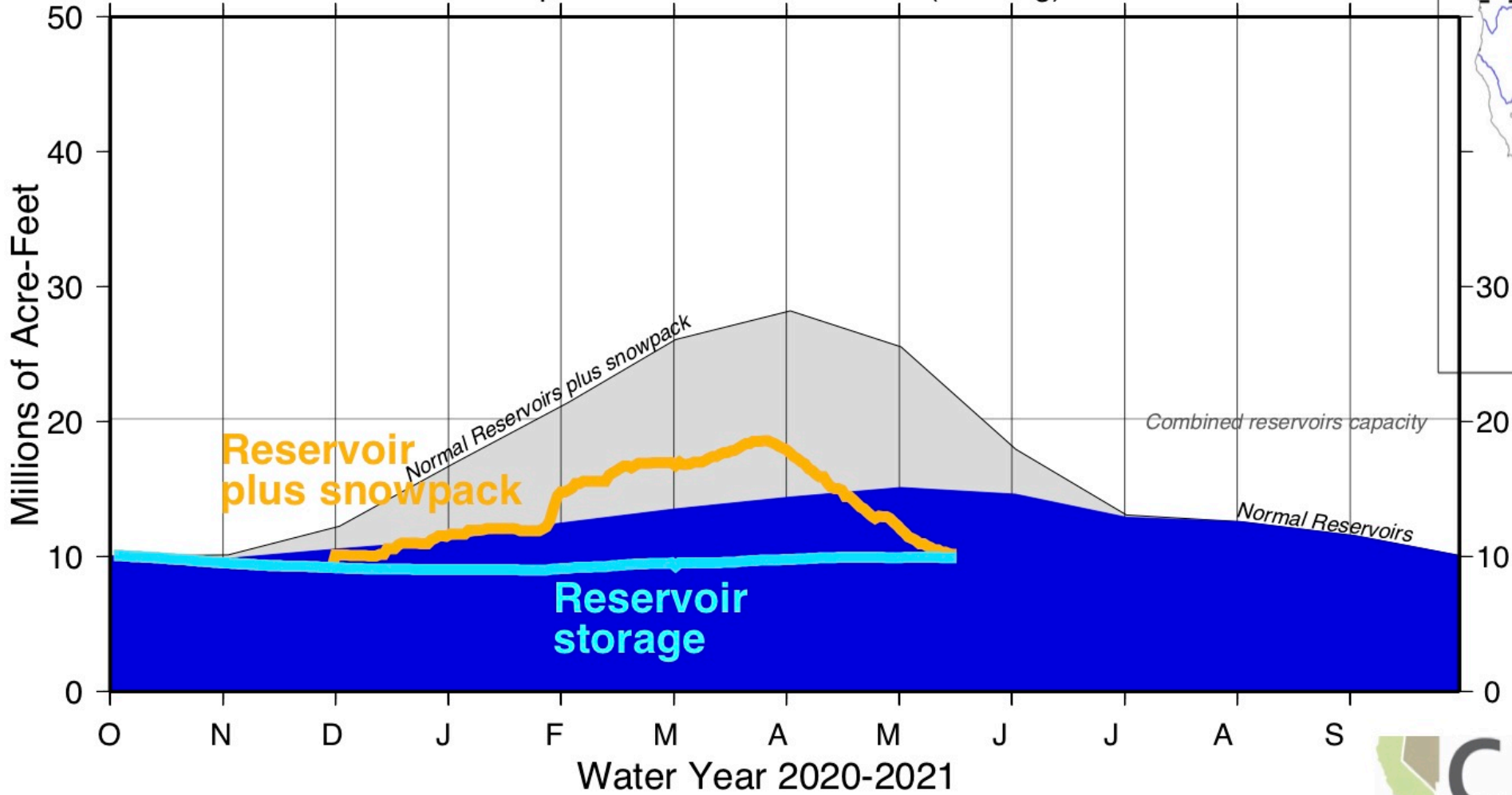


Prepared by: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
National Water and Climate Center, Portland, OR  
[www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov)

State and Number of Reservoirs Reported

# Water Stored in 28 Western Sierra Reservoirs plus Snowpack

Compared to 2000-15 Normals (shading)



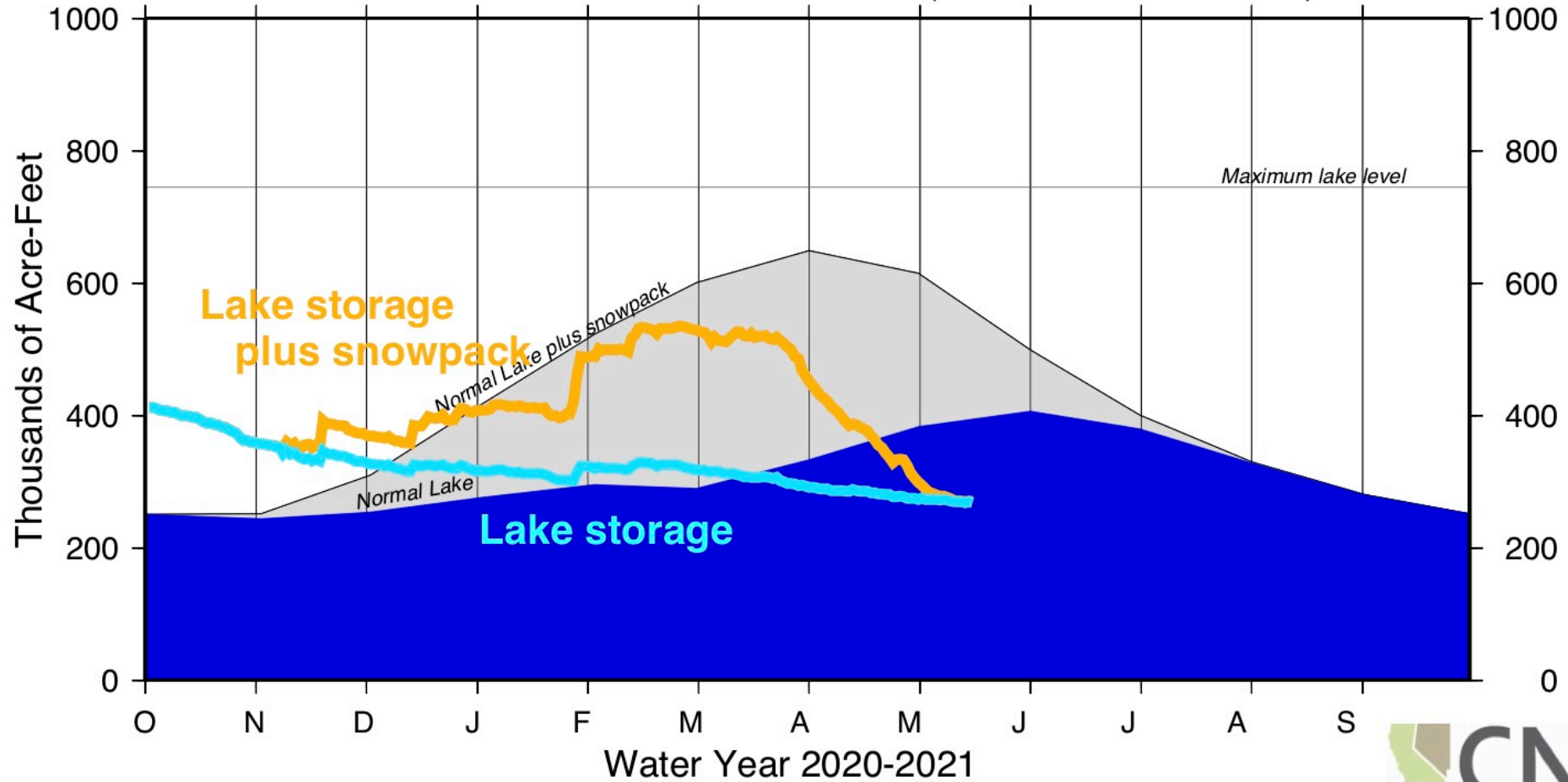
For info: mddettinger at gmail.com

SOURCES: SWE dailies from <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/querySWC.html>  
 SWE volume conversion factor based on Margulis et al, JHM 2016, SWE reanalysis  
 Reservoir storage from <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/queryDaily.html>  
 Reservoirs: SHA, KES, ORO, ANT, FRD, DAV, BUL, ENG, FOL, UNV, LON, ICH, NAT, CMN, PAR, DON, BRD, TUL, NML, DNP, HTH, CHV, EXC, MIL, PNF, TRM, SCC, ISB



# Water Stored in Lake Tahoe (above rim) plus Snowpack

Based on CDEC/UCLA SWE & USGS Lake Levels (w/shaded 1981-2010 Normals)

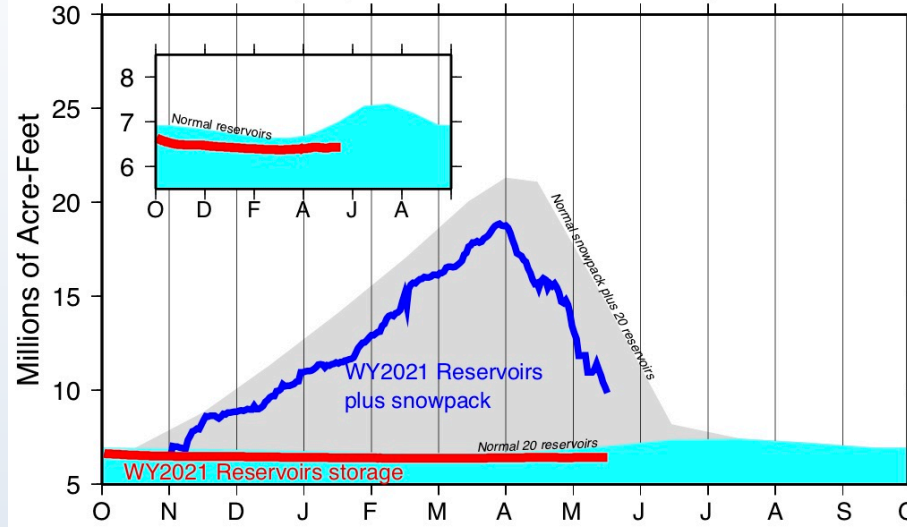


[Daily SWE from CDEC snowtels: EP5, FLL, HGM, HVN, MRL, MSK, RP2, TCC, WC3]

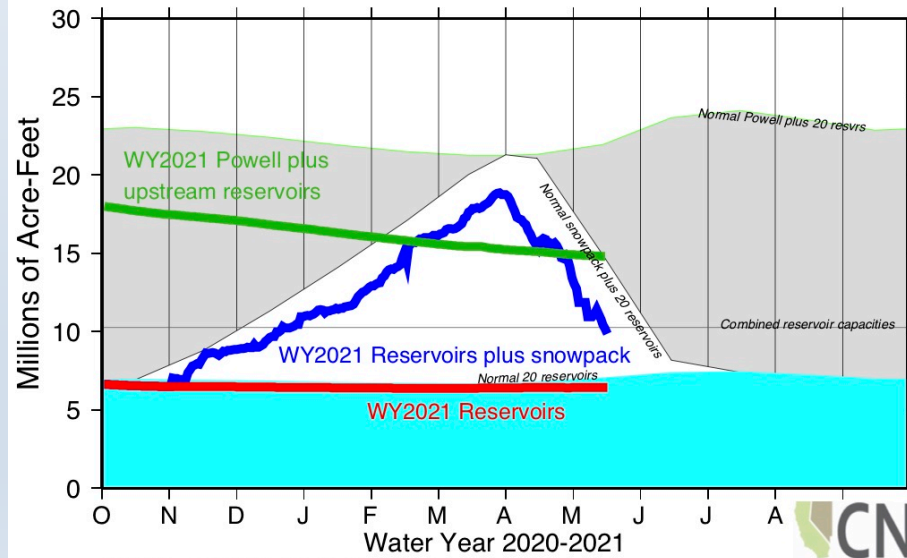
For info: mddettinger at gmail.com

# Water Stored in Snowpack & 20 Reservoirs Upstream of Lake Powell in the Upper Colorado River Basin

(Base period for reservoir normals: WY1989-2018)



# Water Stored in Snowpack, Lake Powell, & 20 Upstream Reservoirs of the Upper Colorado River Basin



For info: mddettinger at gmail.com

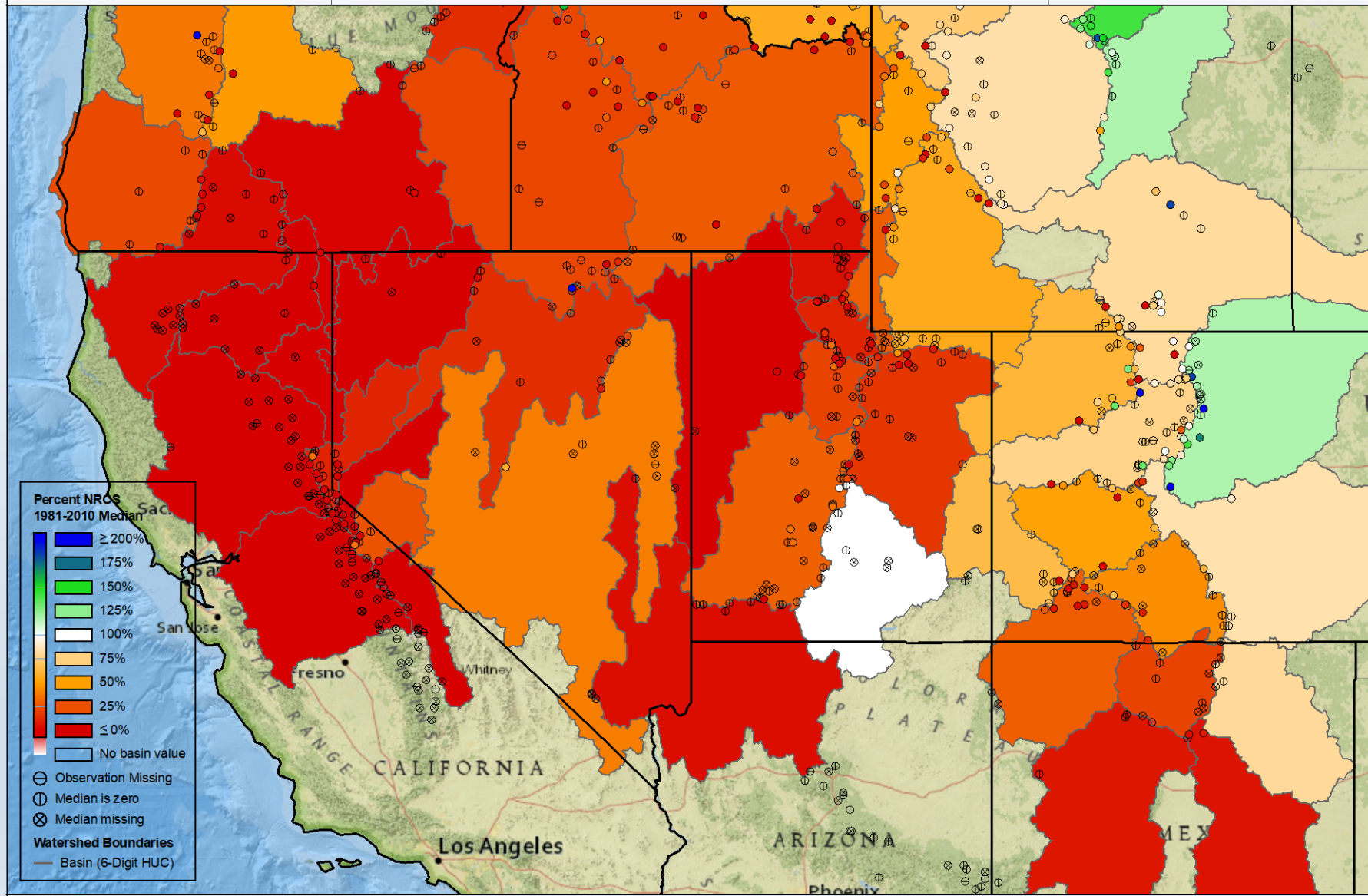


SOURCES: SWE dailies & normal from <http://snowpack.water-data.com/uppercolorado/>  
 SWE volume conversion from historical-obs-driven VIC simulation (WY1981-2010)  
 Reservoir storage from <https://www.usbr.gov/rsvrWater/HistoricalApp.html>  
 (Reservoir IDs #: 1713 - 1720, 1726, 1729 - 1733, 1737, 1743, 1746, 1750, 1756, 1758, 1760)

Snow Water Equivalent

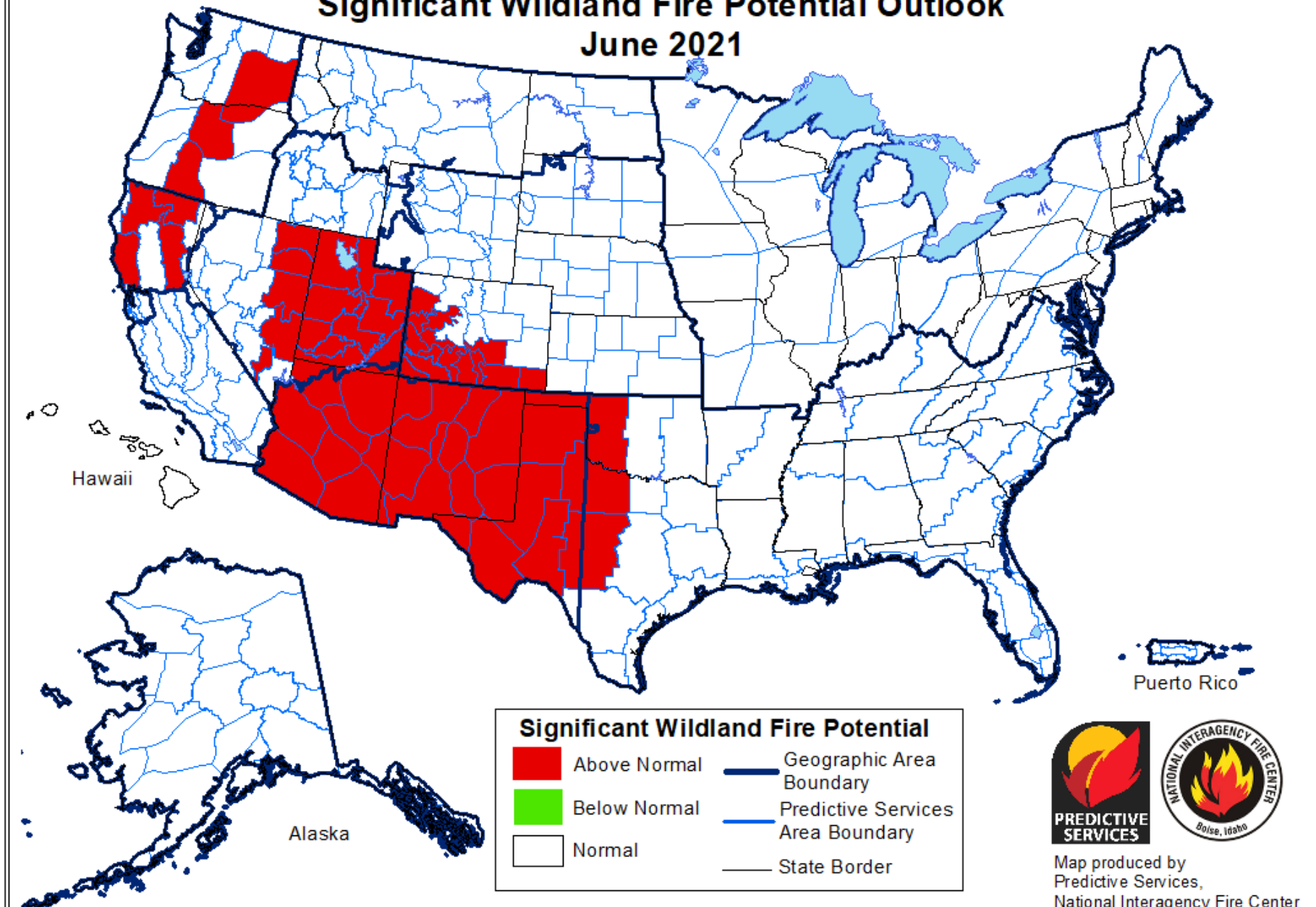
Percent NRCS 1981-2010 Median

May 18, 2021, end of day





# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook June 2021

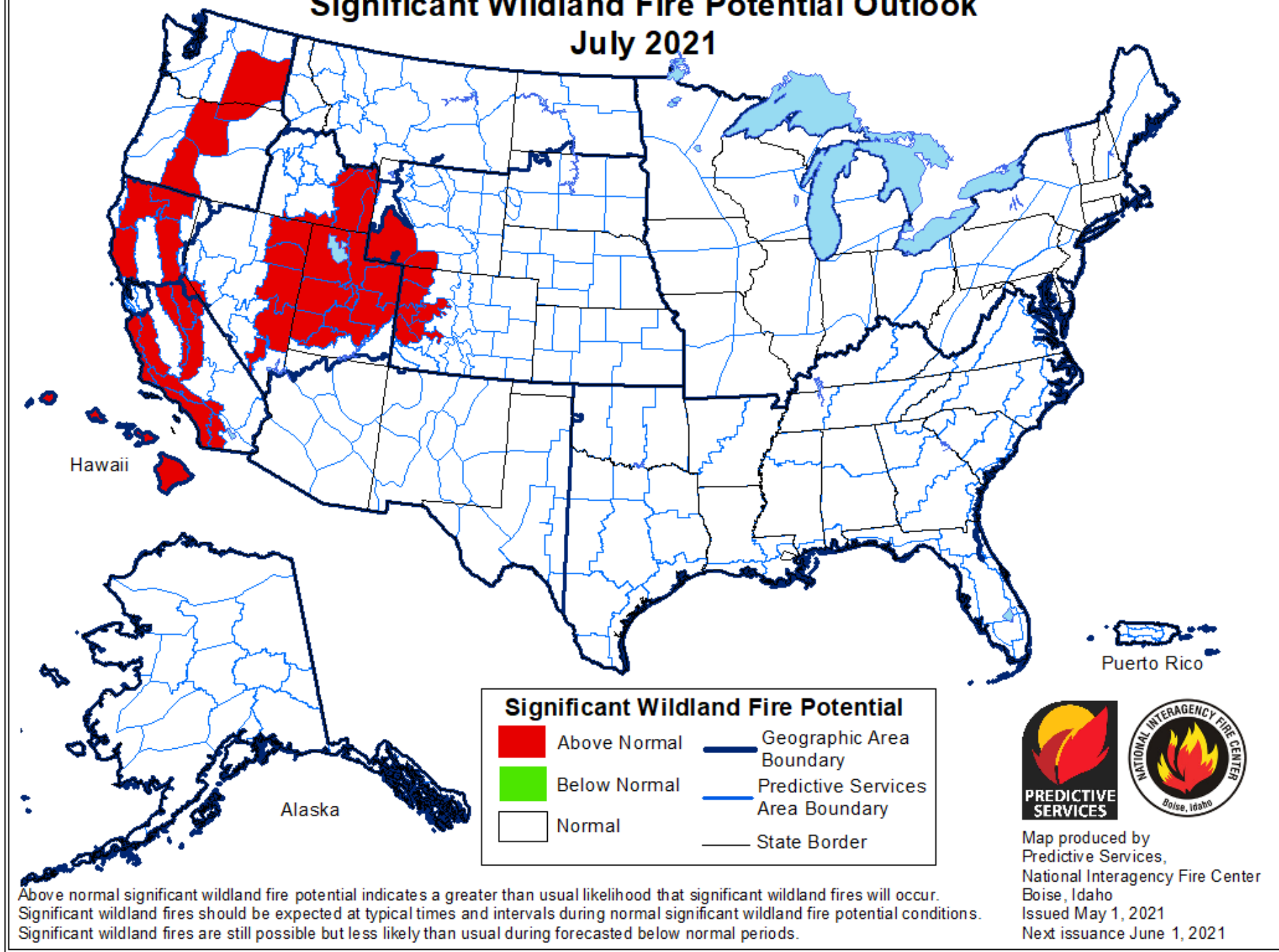


Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.



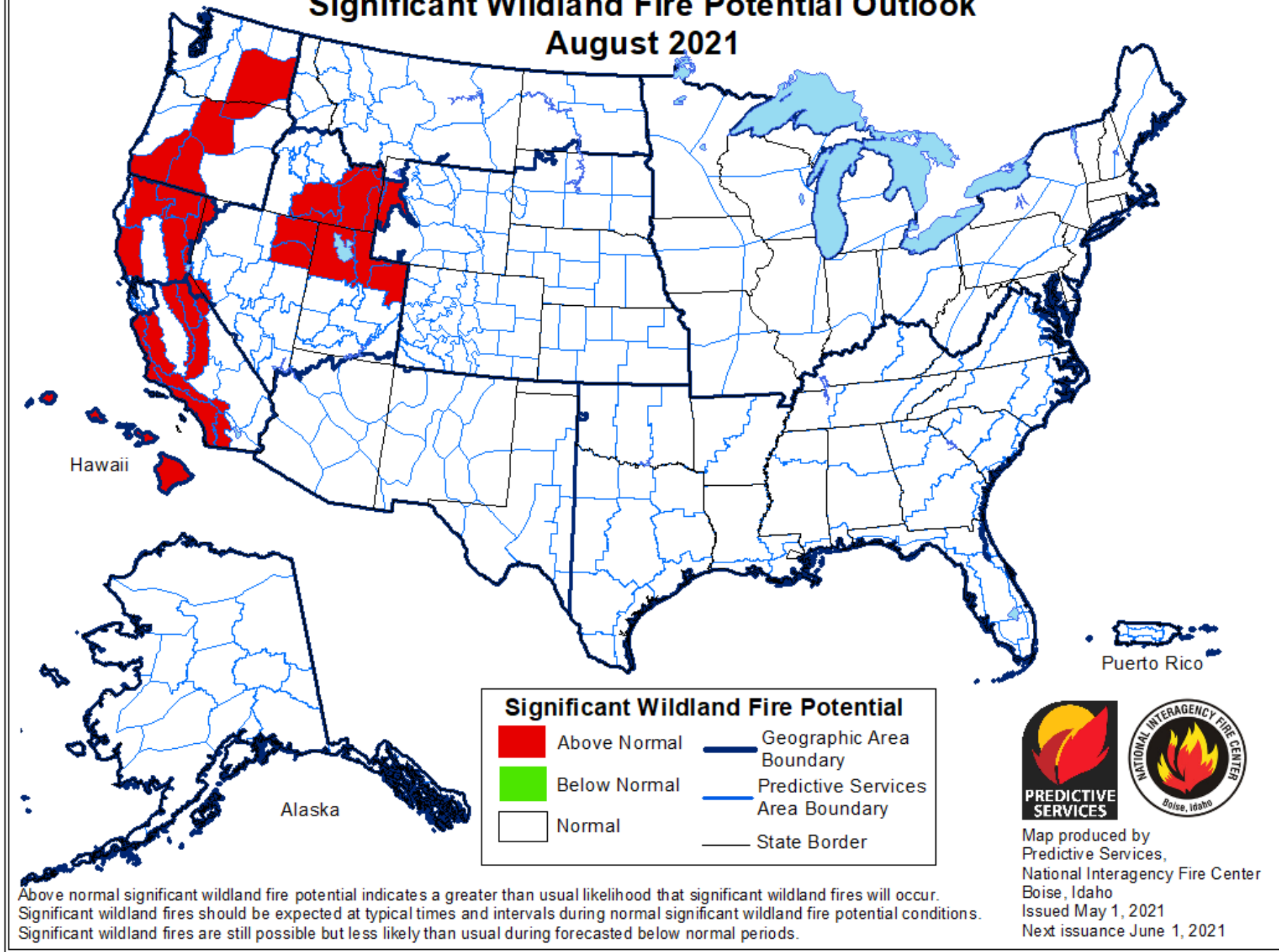
Map produced by  
Predictive Services,  
National Interagency Fire Center  
Boise, Idaho  
Issued May 1, 2021  
Next issuance June 1, 2021

# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook July 2021



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# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook August 2021



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.