



Drought Update

The Message

The entire state is experiencing abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions. While in the short-term, the precipitation received last Friday and Saturday and showers expected this week will help to prevent drought conditions from worsening, precipitation forecasts for May do not provide assurance that enough precipitation will be received to turn conditions around. To protect groundwater and surface water levels, NHDES is recommending that outdoor water use restrictions be implemented and conservation messaging be spread across your communities.

Community water systems and municipalities should report restrictions to NHDES for posting on the NHDES website using the [electronic reporting form](#).

Guidance:

[Implementing Restrictions at Public Water Systems](#)
[Lawn Water Restriction Guidance for Municipalities](#)

NHDES Drought Management
Information Center

Low-Income Residential Drought
Assistance Program

Summary

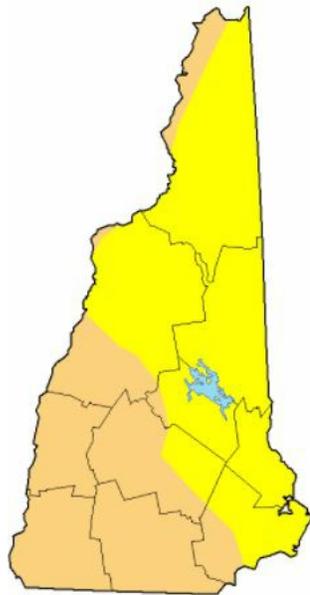
- As a result of a fairly dry winter and weeks of below average amounts of rain, moderate drought" (D1) and "abnormally dry conditions" have expanded across the state.
- Groundwater levels in many parts of the state have not fully recovered to normal from the dry conditions that began in May 2020 and have been in a steady decline since the last major recharge event in December, when parts of the state received above average precipitation.
- Stream flows are much below normal across the state.
- The Three Month Drought Outlook indicates that there is a moderate chance that drought removal will occur by the end of July. This forecast is a reflection of precipitation outlooks tilting toward above normal precipitation for the remainder of the month, as well as for the period of May, June and July.
- While the Three Month Drought Outlook and longer term precipitation outlook is promising, the precipitation outlook for May is equal chances of above, below and near normal precipitation and above normal temperatures, which can exacerbate dry conditions.

Drought Conditions

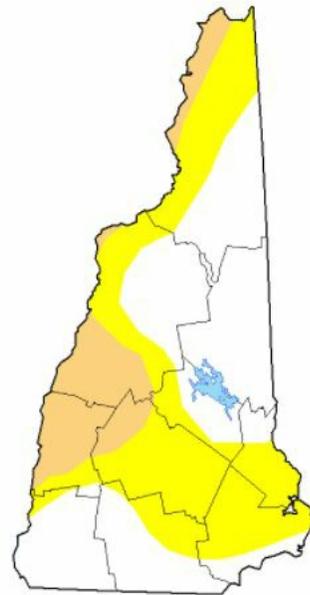
[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Since the end of March, drought and abnormally dry conditions have expanded across the state.

- 42.54% of NH is experiencing moderate drought (D1) conditions.
- 57.46% of NH is experiencing abnormally dry conditions.



« April 13, 2021 »



« March 2, 2021 »

[NWS Northeast River Forecast Center: Precipitation Deficits](#)

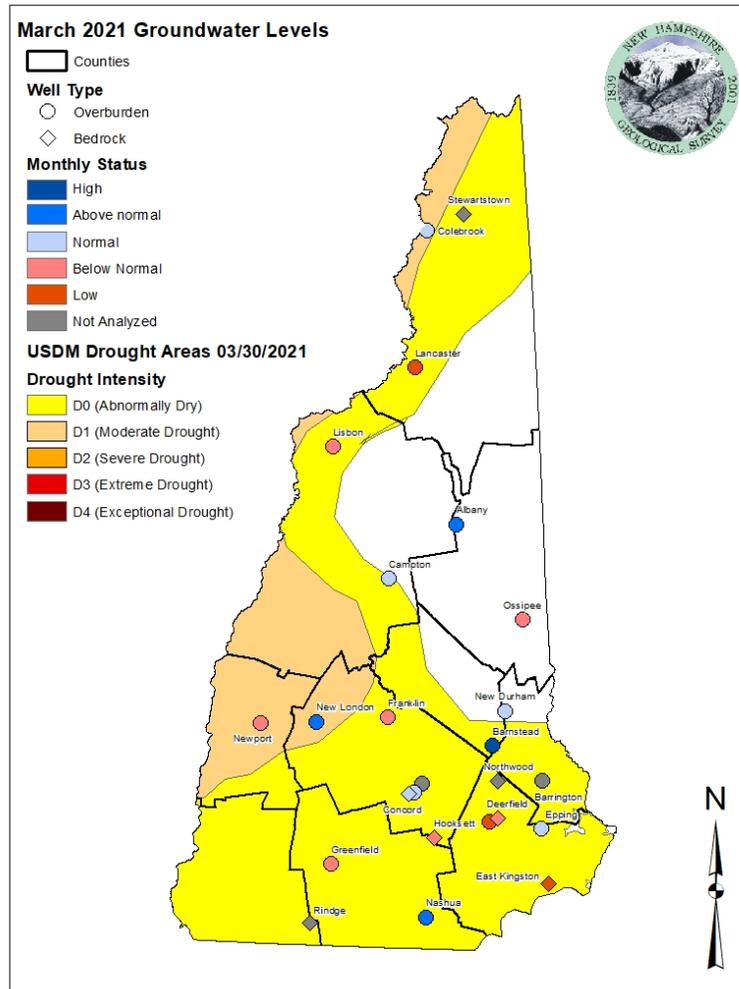
Over the past twelve months, the state has received between 18% to 29% less precipitation than normal, which is equivalent to between 8.45" and 13.41".

Since the beginning of the calendar year the state has received between 28% to 41% less precipitation than normal, which is equivalent to approximately 3.29" and 4.61".

COUNTY	365 Days			YEAR TO DATE		
	PRECIP RECEIVED	DEPARTURE	% DEPARTURE	PRECIP RECEIVED	DEPARTURE	% DEPARTURE
BELKNAP	35.45	9.8	22%	8.35	3.58	30%
CARROLL	40.61	10.22	20%	9.53	4.05	30%
CHESHIRE	38.45	8.45	18%	8.69	3.89	31%
COOS	37.31	10.08	21%	6.58	4.61	41%
GRAFTON	36.72	11.31	24%	8.05	3.69	31%
HILLSBOROUGH	35.7	11.3	24%	8.85	4.26	32%
MERRIMACK	35.46	10.79	23%	8.5	3.96	32%
ROCKINGAM	33.19	13.41	29%	8.8	4.47	34%
STRAFFORD	35.42	11.82	25%	8.62	4.58	35%
SULLIVAN	36.51	8.91	20%	8.5	3.29	28%

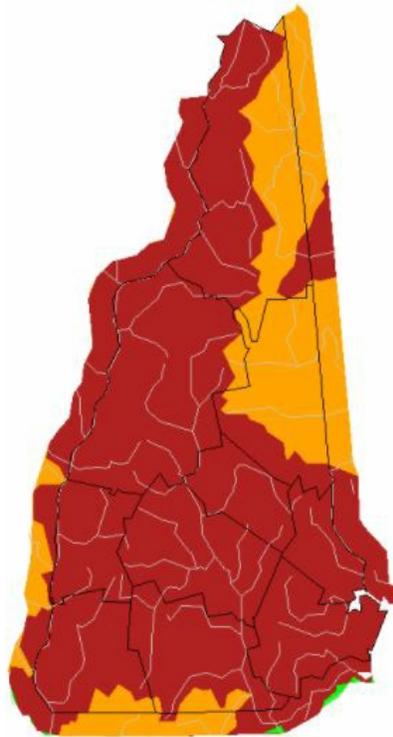
Drought Impacts

- Eleven of the 24 groundwater levels analyzed at the end of March were at below average levels.
- Groundwater levels peaked in December across much of the state, following rain events and subsequent snowmelt. Since then, groundwater has been in steady decline in the northern and western portions of the state.
- Groundwater level trends are mixed in the Merrimack River basin and Seacoast Region with the majority showing a downward trend.
- Wells that are showing upward trends (New London, Barnstead, Nashua and Albany) are likely responding to localized continued run-off events and snowmelt.



[NH USGS WaterWatch Stream Flows](#)

7-day average stream flows are much below normal for most of the state.



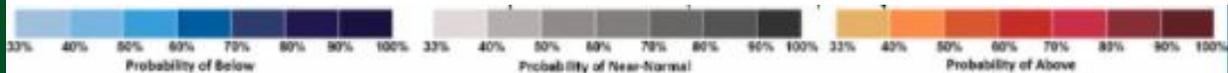
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

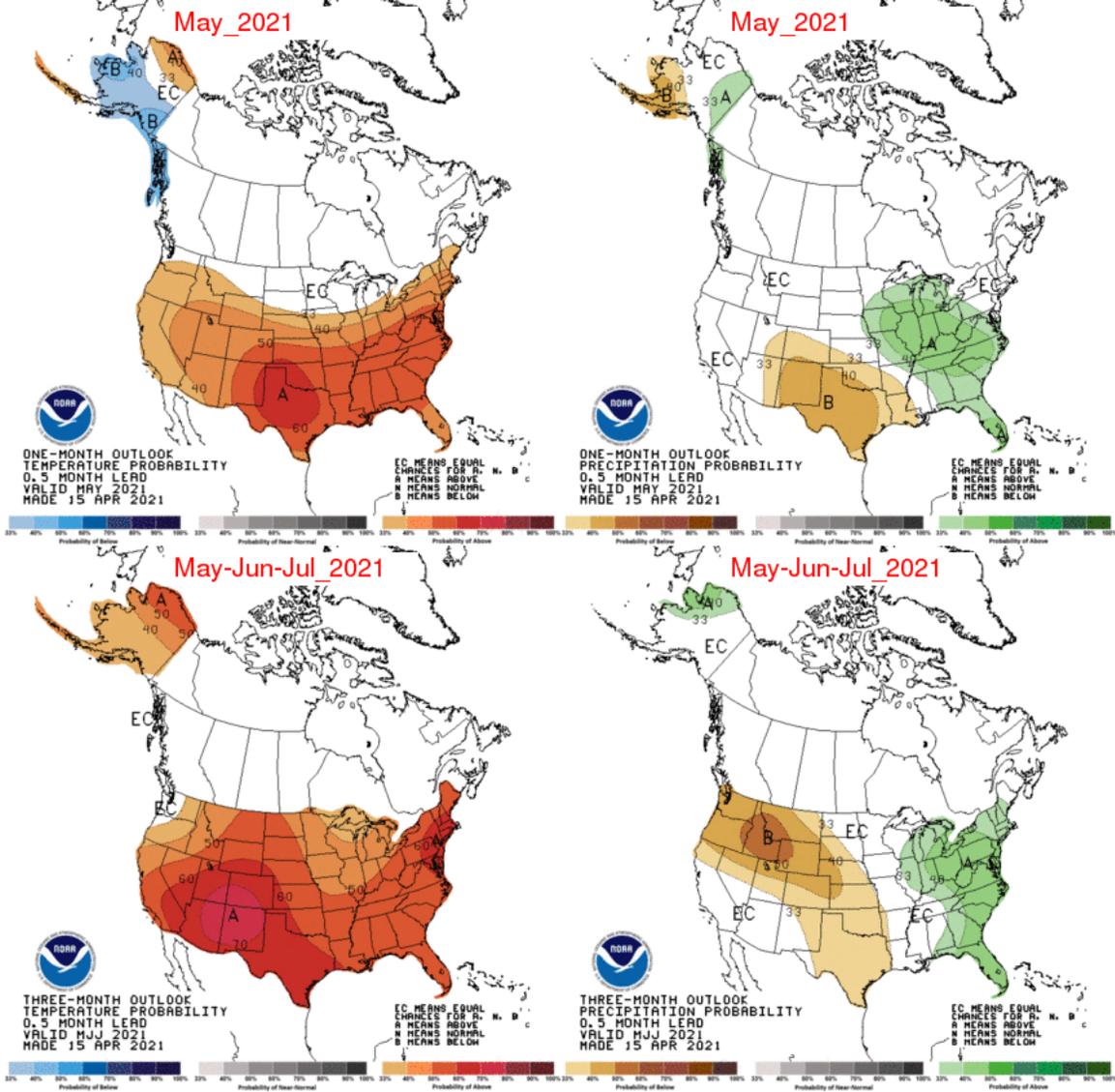
Forecasts and Outlooks

Precipitation and Temperature Forecasts

The monthly outlook for May predicts equal chances for above normal, normal or below normal precipitation and an increased chance of above normal temperatures across the state.

The three month outlook tilts toward above normal precipitation and indicates a likelihood of above normal temperatures.





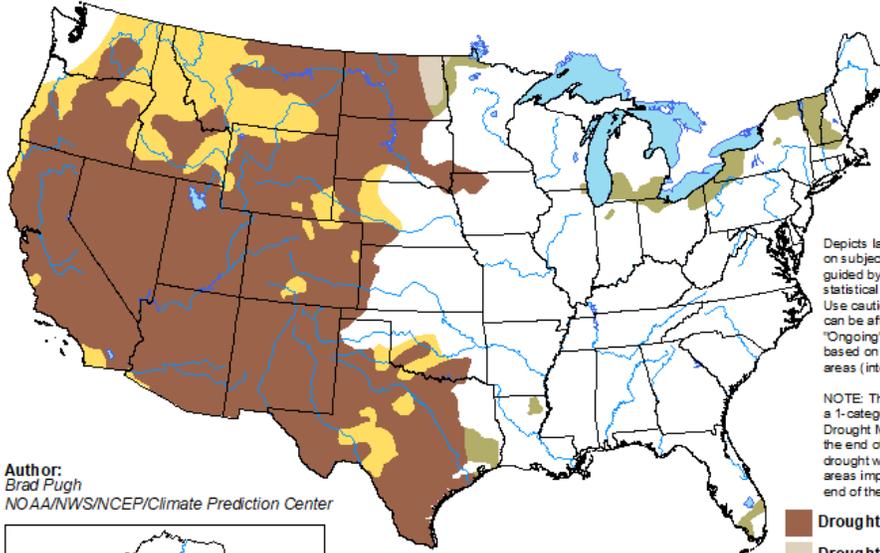
[Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook predicts drought removal will be likely by the end of July.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

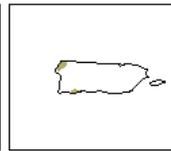
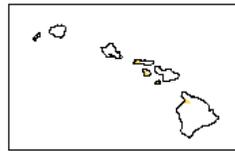
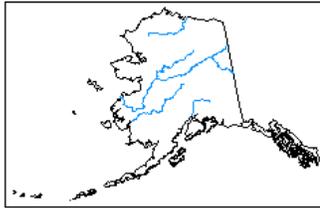
Valid for April 15 - July 31, 2021
Released April 15



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short-lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:
Brad Pugh
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Additional Resources

Regional Forecast - [National Weather Service Forecast Discussion](#)
Precipitation and Temperature Outlooks - [NWS Climate Prediction Center](#)

Visit the NHDES Drought Management Webpage