

MAY
2013

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SERVING NWS SKYWARN SPOTTERS,
CO-OP OBSERVERS & COCORAHS OBSERVERS

Sage Winds

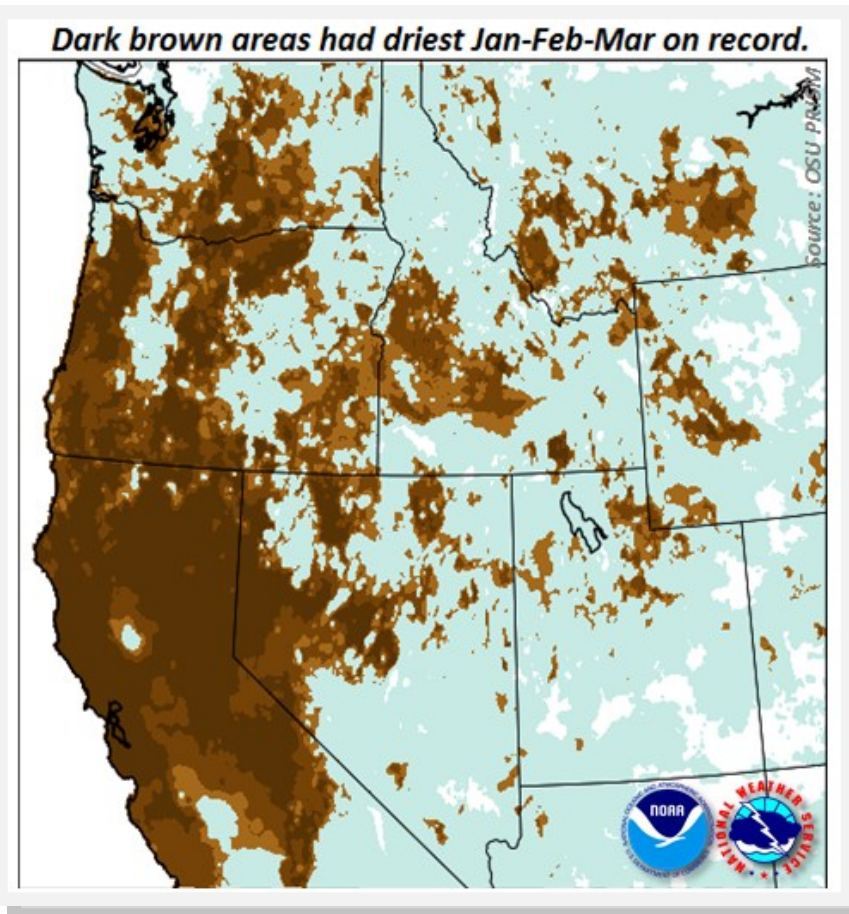
National Weather Service - Boise, Idaho
www.weather.gov/boise

The Tumblin' Tumbleweeds

Penned by:

Dave Groenert, Lead Forecaster

There are many ways to evaluate just how dry the winter and early-spring of 2012-2013 have been.



The anecdotal evidence, from fire users and river rafters, tell of dry ground and less-than-active white-

water. These stories are supported by record low fuel-moisture (the amount of moisture contained in different types of vegetation), and low spring flows at river gauges throughout southeast Oregon and southwest Idaho.

ho.

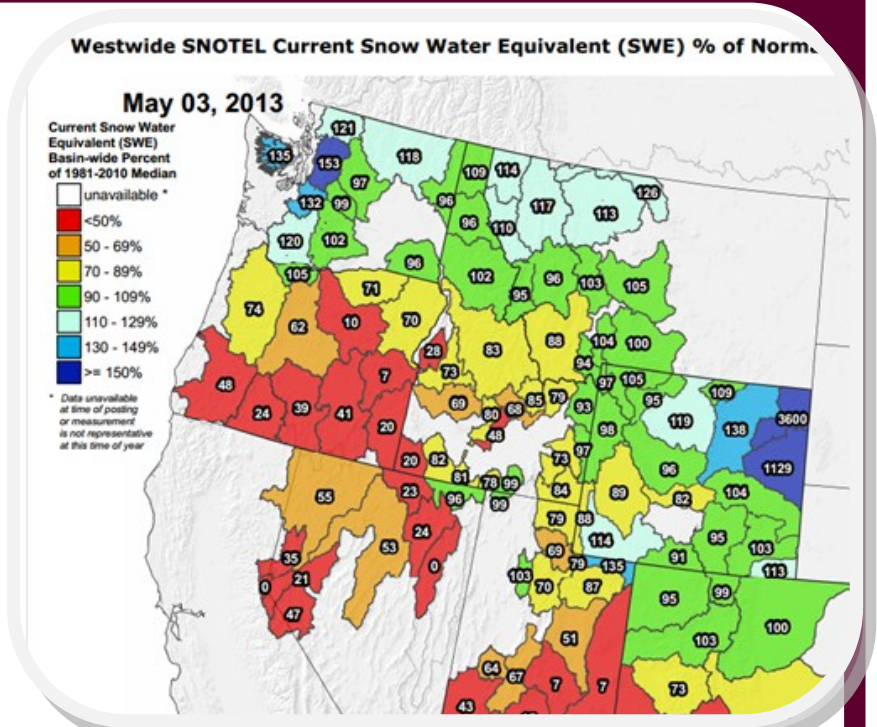
Other evidence of dry conditions is seen in the measurements of snow water equivalent - for river basins across the area. The basins in southeast Oregon are less than 50% of average, with basins in southwest Idaho between 20% and 80% of normal for early May.

Lastly, precipitation measurements from NWS

ASOS and CO-OP gauges (over the past six months) tells the same story. For many sites, including Boise, Burns,

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and Baker, the past six months rank in the top ten driest on record. May is historically the second wettest month, and has the potential to bring some welcome relief. However, widespread precipitation has yet to be seen and the current forecast (out to Thursday, May 16th) isn't very promising. It could be one long, smoky summer.



Snow water equivalent for select river basins throughout the Western U.S. (Data current as of May 3.) Notice the number of local basins running near or below 60%.

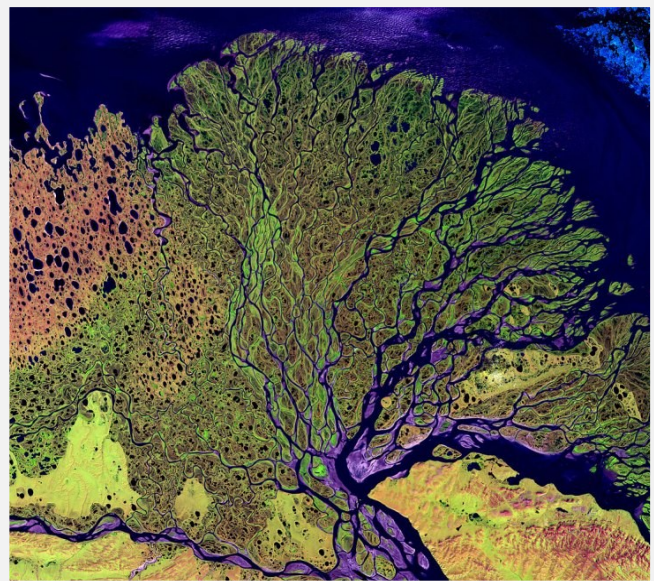
TIMELAPSE: This Is Cool!

Google has created the first-ever animated time-lapse of our earth—and it spans nearly three decades.

Through the efforts of the NASA Landsat program (started in 1972; the first satellite program to monitor earth instead of space) and contributions from the USGS, Google has woven satellite images together to create seamless animations of the earth's evolution since 1984.

Click on the following link to watch the time-lapse!

<http://world.time.com/timelapse/>



Landsat satellite image of the Lena River of Russia, one of the largest rivers in the world. Image courtesy of USGS, NASA, and Google.

BOI.SPOTTER@NOAA.GOV

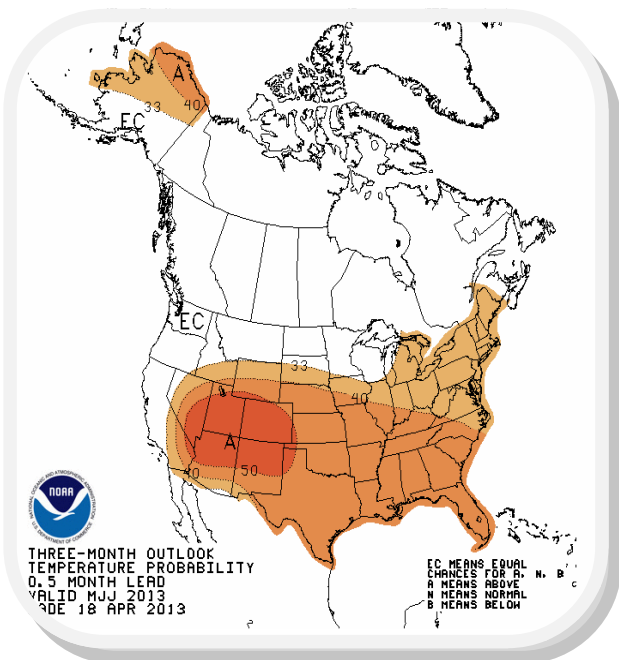
Weather Whimsy

(The “What Happened To Spring?” Edition)

- Duluth, Minnesota measured 50.8 inches of snow in April. That’s the most, in any month, in its history.
- Arkansas recorded its *first* ever measurable snow in May.
- Fairbanks still has ten inches of snow on the ground, as of May 9th. They’ve also just experienced a all-time record cold April through early May, with an average temperature of 19.9 °F. Brrr!
- Southeastern Minnesota experienced its heaviest May snowfall on record. The city of Blooming Prairie received 18 inches of snow in this one May storm!
- Bismarck, North Dakota had its greatest one-day April snowfall, with 17 inches on April 14th.

Summer Outlook

<<
Temperature
Outlook



>>
Precipitation
Outlook

