

The Weather Watcher Of the Inland Northwest

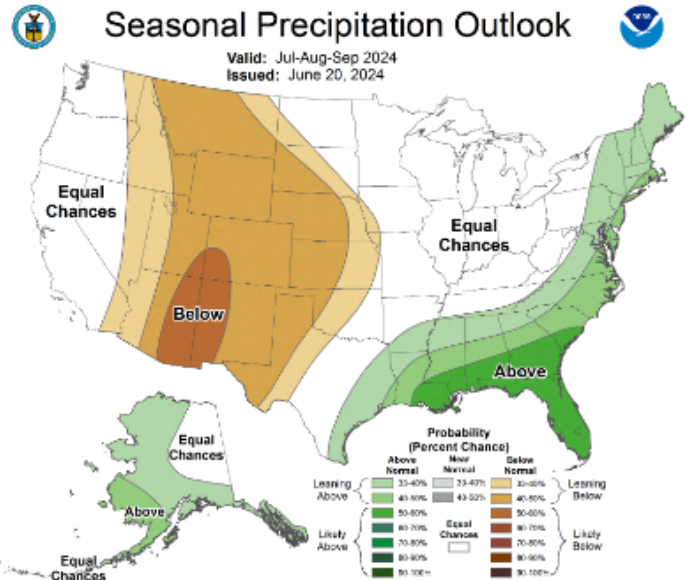
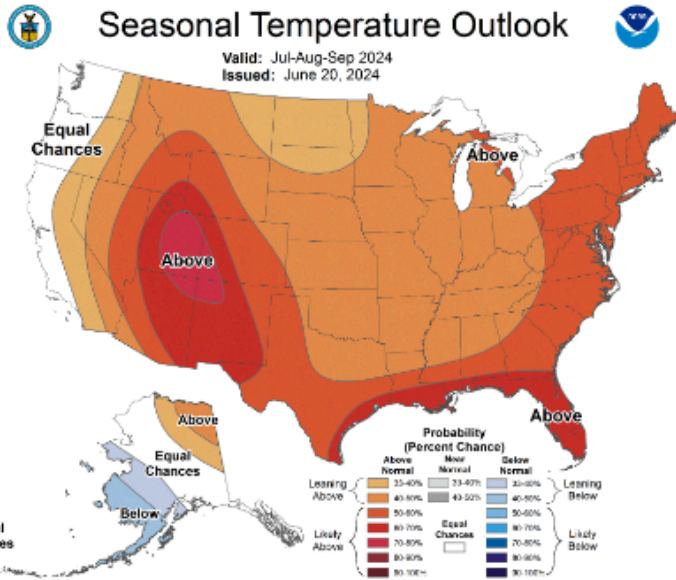
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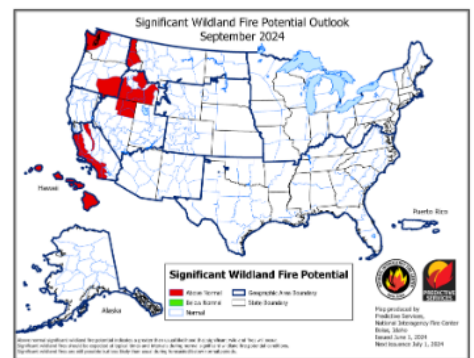
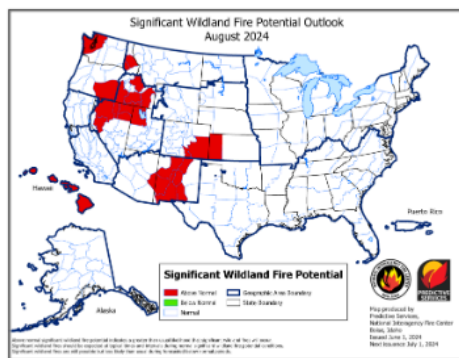
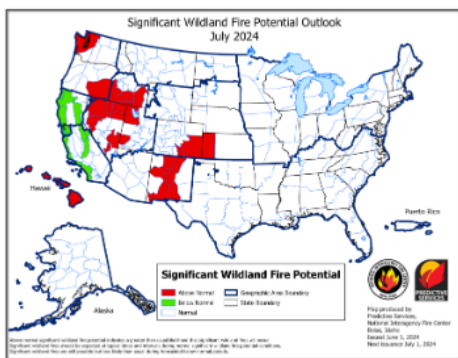
June 2024

Summer Outlook 2024

Summer is upon us when we can expect less rain and more heat. The NWS Climate Prediction Center [CPC Seasonal Outlook](#) is leaning toward slightly above normal temperatures and slightly below normal precipitation across the Inland NW for July through September. Keep in mind, it's our warmest and driest time of the year.



With the summer weather and lack of a snowpack this year, wildfires are a concern. The [National Interagency Coordination Center](#) has released the Outlooks for Fire Potential across the country. For July through August, it highlights western Washington and even the Idaho Panhandle for the risk of Above Normal Significant Fire Potential.



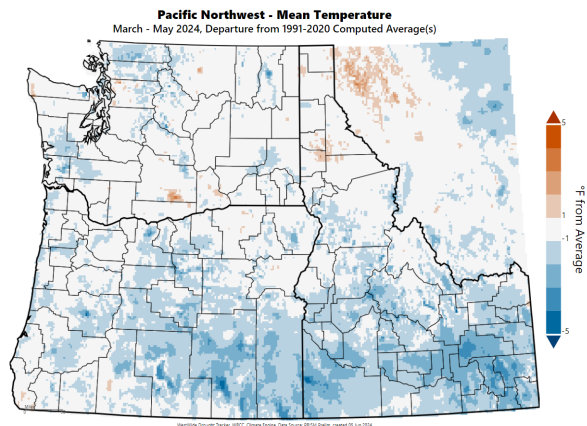
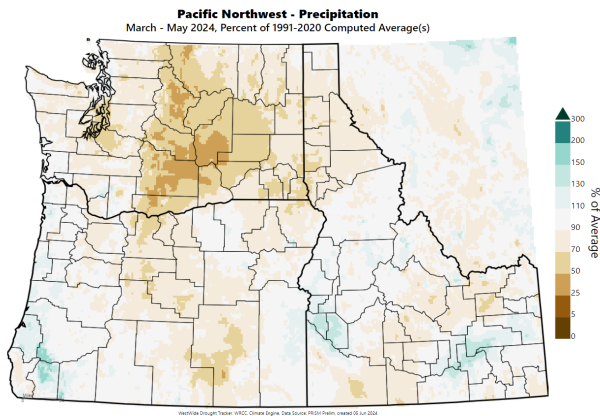
What about El Niño and La Niña?

Glad you asked! The latest [CPC Discussions](#) relay that El Niño is over and ENSO neutral conditions are present. Confidence is growing that La Niña will arrive late this summer and looks to remain for the winter season. ☀️

Trivia Question: *What is the hottest week across the Inland NW?*

Spring 2024 in Review

It was a drier than normal spring with average temperatures across the Inland Northwest. It was especially dry over parts of Central Washington with some locations receiving less than half of normal amounts.



March often brings about several swings in the weather and this one was no different. The month started off on a wintry note with snow over much of northern Washington and Idaho. On the 2nd widespread snow of 1-3" fell, with Wauconda and Saint Maries coming in with 4". Snow showers followed putting down locally heavy amounts on the 3rd and 4th. This includes 8" in Metaline Falls and Dover, 7" Rose Lake, and 6" in Newman Lake and Rathdrum. Cold temperatures followed on the 5th with some of the colder readings including 8°F in Deer Park and 11°F in Mazama. The region then transitioned to more normal temperatures from the 8th through the 12th as a series of weather systems delivered light precipitation and windy conditions at times. Peak gusts during this period included 49 MPH at Deer Park, 44 MPH at the Wenatchee Airport, and 41 MPH in Pullman. Temperatures warmed further from the 16th through the 19th as strong high pressure set up. Several high temperature records were broken as temperatures warmed into the upper 60s to mid 70s. Then on the 23rd and 24th cooler and more active weather returned. Omak received 0.84" of rain on the 23rd, breaking the daily record of just 0.38 inches. It was also the second wettest of any March day dating back to 1909. The dial briefly turned back to winter on the 24th as rain changed back over to snow in Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint, and Coeur d'Alene with little accumulation.

More significant swings in the weather arrived as **April** arrived. Temperatures again became spring-like as temperatures warmed in the 70s on the 2nd. The warmth fueled a cluster of showers and thunderstorms that tracked from Pomeroy and Uniontown into Lookout Pass. But winter was not done with the Inland NW! Just three days later a cold, and compact weather system tracked from the Palouse and Blue Mountains up into the Upper Columbia Basin and Spokane area with rain changing to snow. The Blue Mountains in southeast Washington were especially hit hard with 9" in Anatone. Rosalia received 4.8", making it the highest 24 hour snowfall for the month of April on record. Other amounts include 4.5" two miles north of Moscow, 3.5" in Cheney,



3" in Spangle, and 1" at the Spokane Airport. Spring returned on the 13th and 14th with temperatures back in the 70s. The warmth again fueled a thunderstorm, this time with heavy rain that caused flash flooding in Kamiah. Heavy rain led to debris flows and mudslides with temporary road closures on Highways 12, 64, and 162. Rain gauges in the area measured between 1.90-2.50" in just three hours. The second half of the month brought several cold fronts with breezy to windy conditions.

May entered with more of the same, minus the wintry precipitation. On the 5th, a cool rain fell on the palouse with Pullman only topping out at 48°F. High pressure then brought a prolonged period of mild temperatures from the 9th through the 16th with the region warming back up into the 70s and 80s. A strong dry cold front on the 16th brought an end to the warmth with winds gusting to 55 MPH in Moses Lake, 51 MPH Ephrata, and 50 MPH at the Spokane Airport. The winds picked up a plume of dust across the Columbia Basin into the Spokane area but with little impacts reported. A much needed rain helped settle the dust on the 22nd. The highest amounts were in the Coeur d'Alene area up into the northern mountains with as much as 1.10". On the 23rd, a strong thunderstorm tracked through Sandpoint producing 0.58" of rain in 30 minutes and marble sized hail.

☀️ *Jeremy Wolf*

Spring Weather Stats

Wenatchee Waterplant	MAR	APR	MAY	Total
Average High temp	58.1	66.2	71.6	65.3
Departure from normal	+3.8	+2.3	-1.6	+1.5
Average low temp	34.6	39.1	46.8	40.2
Departure from normal	+1.2	-1.3	-2.5	-0.9
Total precipitation	0.64	0.09	0.42*	1.15
Departure from normal	-0.09	-0.49	-0.35	-0.93
Total snowfall	0	0	0	0
Departure from normal	-0.4	0	0	-0.4

Lewiston, ID	MAR	APR	MAY	Total
Average High temp	57	63.9	72.1	64.3
Departure from normal	+1.9	+1.6	+0.1	+1.2
Average low temp	35.6	41.4	47.5	41.5
Departure from normal	-0.1	+0.7	-0.6	0
Total precipitation	0.5	1.3	0.79	2.59
Departure from normal	-0.8	-0.14	-0.9	-1.84
Total snowfall	Trace	Trace	0	Trace
Departure from normal	-0.8	0	0	-0.8

Spokane, WA	MAR	APR	MAY	Total
Average High temp	51.3	59.7	68.5	59.8
Departure from normal	+2.7	+2.8	+1.4	+2.3
Average low temp	32.7	38.5	45.2	38.8
Departure from normal	+1.2	+1.5	+0.3	+1.0
Total precipitation	0.98	0.56	0.83	2.37
Departure from normal	-0.85	-0.69	-0.72	-2.26
Total snowfall	3.4	1.0	Trace	4.4
Departure from normal	-0.5	+0.3	-0.1	-0.3

Trivia Answer: The last week in July (July 25th - 31th) is climatologically the hottest week of the year with the normal high in Lewiston is 94°, Spokane is 87°, and Wenatchee is 90°. This is roughly 5 weeks after the summer solstice. At the summer solstice, the region experiences a max of 16 hrs of sunlight, by late July it's down to 15 hrs.

Drought

The [Drought Monitor](#) continues to highlight drought over Inland NW, expanding across central WA and remaining over the Idaho Panhandle. The lack of mountain snowpack was the main driver, although the spring precipitation deficits across central WA didn't help. The U.S [Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) suggests drought may persist and expand across the region this summer. A [Drought Information Statement](#) is available and shows what factors are included in the drought determination.

Remember, there are ways that you can help report any drought-related impacts in your area. It's called [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#). Scan the QR code to the left to learn more on sharing your drought conditions. Likewise CoCoRaHS can share drought reports as well!! ☀️



Spring Runoff Season

It was an uneventful spring runoff season. Being an El Niño winter with below normal mountain snowpack, the odds were in our favor for a lower threat of spring flooding. Not one river forecast point reached flood stage so far in 2024. There were a few rivers that reached bankfull or Action Stage, including the Stehekin and the Kootenai at Bonners Ferry by mid May. In addition, there was the report of flash flooding and debris flows near Kamiah on April 14th. ☀️

New Hydro page

The new NWS hydrologic web page is online. It's called the [National Water Prediction Service](#) (NWPS), and it's linked under the Rivers and Lakes tab on the NWS web page. This replaces the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS). It provides easy access to view river observations and forecasts for across the region. Being GIS based, there's the ability to view different layers including: precipitation estimates, weather and water hazards, and National Water Model data. ☀️

So long to mobile.weather.gov

On June 26th, the NWS Mobile site at: <https://mobile.weather.gov> will be decommissioned and redirected to weather.gov in order to focus NWS resources on redesigning weather.gov to improve its value and user experience, which will include full mobile accessibility. In place of the mobile site, users can bookmark an NWS forecast page, which is compatible with most mobile devices and provides NWS forecasts and warnings, [like this one](#).

The National Weather Service doesn't have a weather app because apps are widely available in the commercial marketplace. Consumers have a lot of choice in this arena, and so the NWS are not funded to produce or maintain an app. If you are looking for recommendations on weather apps to use, please try the [FEMA app](#), which delivers real-time weather alerts during hazardous weather. ☀️

It's hot - What's the NWS HeatRisk

[NWS HeatRisk](#) is an experimental color-numeric-based index that provides a forecast risk of heat-related impacts to occur over a 24-hour period. HeatRisk takes into consideration: how unusual the heat is for the time of the year, the duration of the heat, and how this compares to CDC data. Expect to see this more in the coming months. ☀️

Weather Spotter & Observer Corner

Thank you for your detailed spotter reports over the last several months. We appreciate your reports and enjoy your pictures or images. If you need a refresher on what to report, please refer to the [Spotter Resources](#). If you are interested to see where your storm reports go, check out this [Local Storm Report page](#). The next round of spotter training will be scheduled for Fall of 2024. ☀️



Staff Updates

We have a new promotion to announce! Charlotte Dewey is now the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at NWS Spokane. As a former lead forecaster, her new role will be coordinating the outreach in the office. She has worked previously at NWS Phoenix and NWS Salt Lake City. Congratulations to Charlotte! We still have a few spots to fill and hopefully have new names to share in the coming months. ☀️

NWS OTX

Meteorologist In Charge
Andy Brown

Warning Coordination Meteorologist
Charlotte Dewey

Science Operations Officer
-

Administrative Assistant
Jodi Miller

Information Technology Officer
Todd Carter

Service Hydrologist
Robin Fox

Observation Program Leader
Ken Daniel

Lead Forecasters
Greg Koch
Steve Bodnar
Jeremy Wolf

Meteorologists
Jon Fox
Rocco Pelatti
Laurie Nisbet
Miranda Coté
Steven Van Horn
Joey Clevenger
Valerie Thaler
Krista Carrothers
Dan Butler
Rachael Fewkes

Electronic Systems Analyst
Mike Henry

Electronic Tech
Christopher Huckins
Kyle Dauk

Facilities Tech
Joshua Miller

Be Safe this Summer

HEAT DANGER BEYOND HEATWAVES

- ⚠️ *Most heat-related deaths occur outside of heat waves. Stay Weather-Ready!*
- 🏃 **Avoid overexertion and stay hydrated.** Heat stroke can occur even during moderate heat.
- 🚗 **NEVER leave people or pets in a vehicle.** Hot car deaths occur year-round.
- ❤️ **Assist those who are at higher risk** for heat-related illness, including children, pregnant people, and older adults.

weather.gov

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Wildfires Are A Health Risk.

Smoke from wildfires can...

- ...hurt your eyes
- ...irritate your lungs
- ...and worsen respiratory illness

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Remember your Summer Spotter Checklist

Tornado or Funnel Cloud
Hail: pea size or larger
Strong Winds: 30mph+ or damage
Any Flooding
Reduced Visibility: under a mile— dust, smoke, fog
Heavy Rain: Showery: 1/2" + in 1hr Steady: 1"+ in 12hr/1.5"+ in 24hr
Travel Problems or Damage: due to severe/hazardous weather