

Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council (WSWC) and the Western Governors' Association (WGA) in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water issues.

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Floods in the North and Drought in the South

(WestFAST/NOAA/USGS 05/31/18)

The Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest were the only areas in the west to have near to above average snowfall, even record snowfall this winter. Warming temperatures as we head into late spring to early summer along with rainfall from showers and thunderstorms across the area combined with snowmelt, flooding has been an issue. Many of the Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) agencies have been involved with other state and local organizations supporting efforts to mitigate flooding. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS) with data and other technical support from agencies like the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) stream gage and hydromet data networks, NASA's satellite data, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Snotel Network

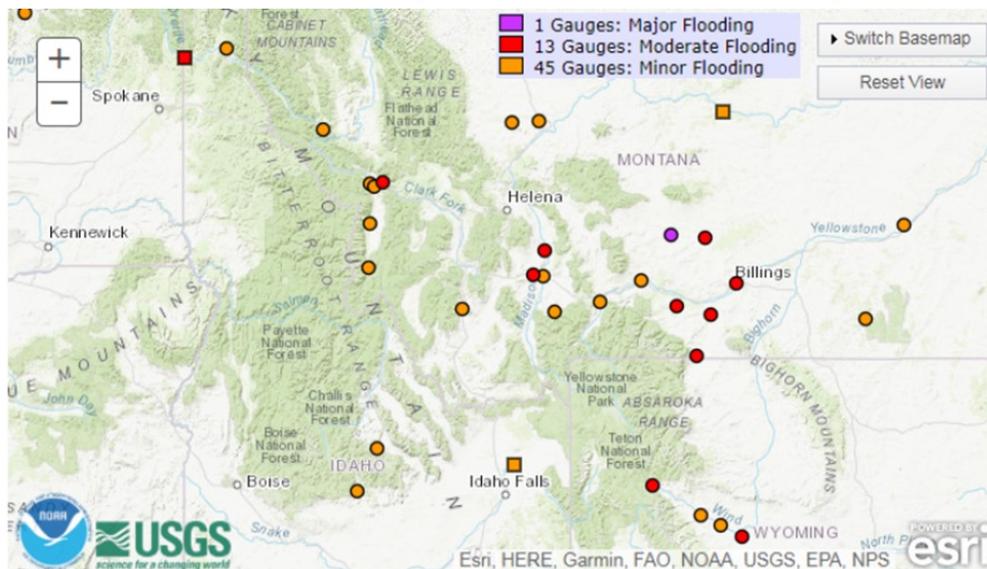
and related data, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) stream flow and reservoir data, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) data and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) information networks, have provided flood forecasts for the region.

The actual flood support and flood fighting efforts have been undertaken with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the USACE with others across this region.

As can be seen on the maps below from late May, a number of USGS and Cooperator stream gages are well above normal flow.



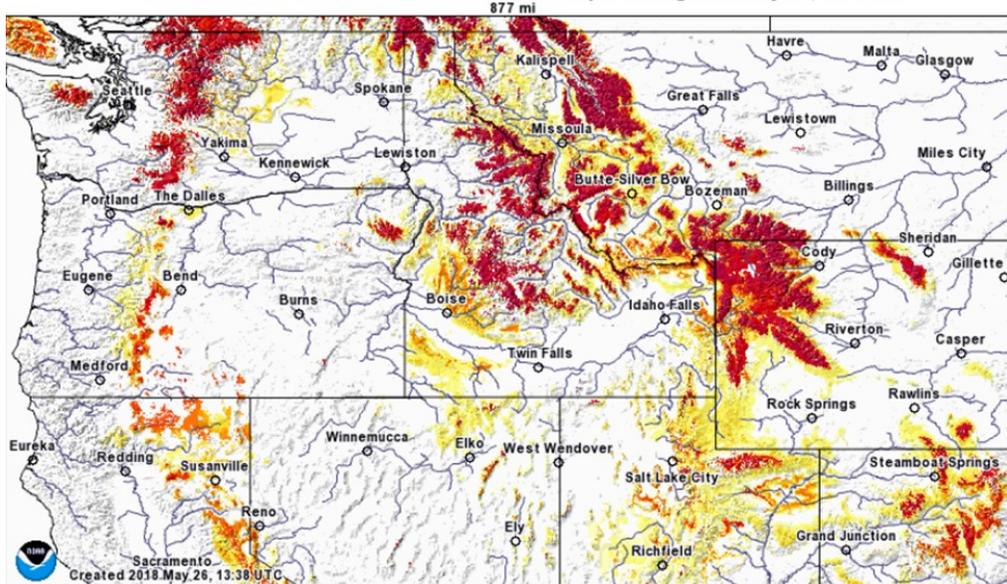
Aerial image of floodwaters of the Milk River near Glasgow, MT. LARRY MAYER, Billings Gazette





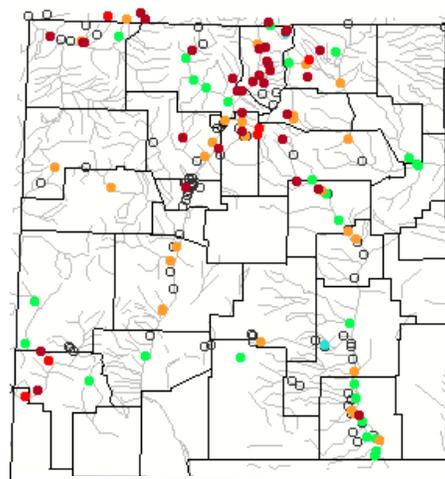
There is still a lot of snow yet to melt to come as seen in the map below and weather patterns are favoring continued warm conditions and above average precipitation. Hundreds of homes and business have been affected in parts of Montana, Idaho and parts of Northern Washington.

Total Modeled Snow Melt forecasted for 72h preceding 2018 May 27, 5:00 UTC



Below are stream gage conditions in New Mexico.

USGS <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nm/nwis/rt>



Explanation

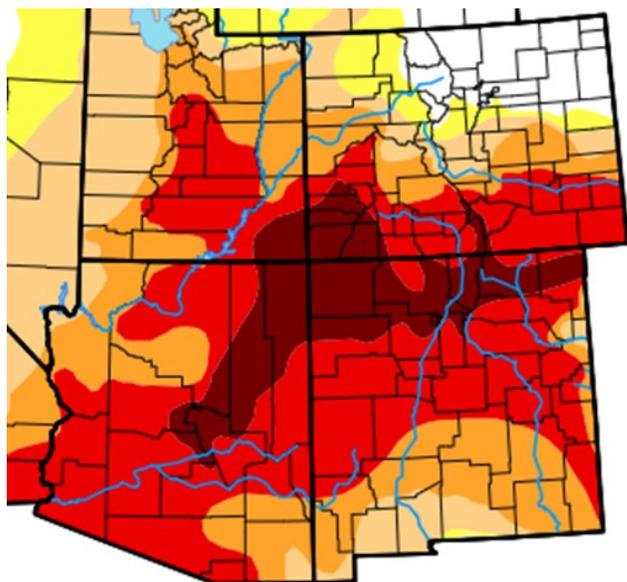
- High
- > 90th percentile
- 76th - 90th percentile
- 25th - 75th percentile
- 10th - 24th percentile
- < 10th percentile
- Low
- Not ranked



USGS

In the South, drought and fire threats are the greatest hazard. The four corners region and east across Northern New Mexico as well as Northeast to Central Arizona are experiencing exceptional drought. There are sections of the Rio Grande River that are not flowing, during what is usually one of the times of the year with higher flows. Stream gage conditions are in the upper right image.

Drought Monitor—May 31, 2018



Intensity:

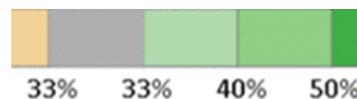
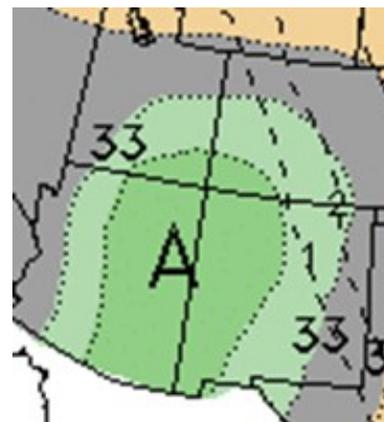
- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)



Precipitation Outlook June 1-14, 2018



Probability of being above average Precipitation

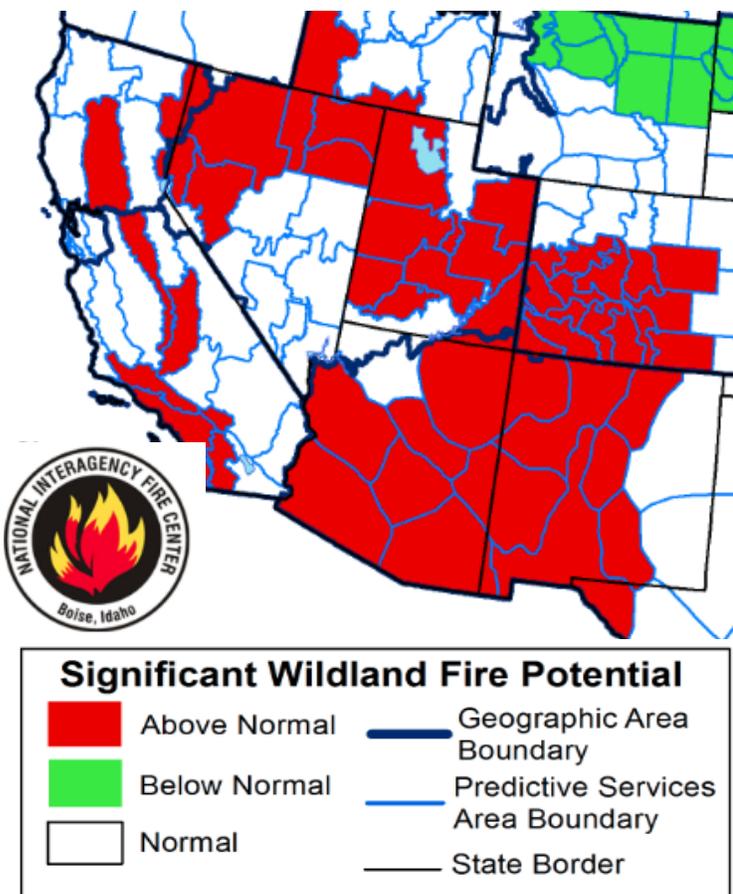


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/>



The forecast from the previous page (<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/>), for this region, the seasonal outlook is for drought to persist through this region through the summer. However, in the next 8 to 14 days, there is some hope for moisture flow from the Gulf of Mexico possible next week, which could bring some showers, but also the risk of thunderstorms. With the thunderstorms, is also lightning, a major source for fires and with the very dry conditions an added hazard risk.

Below is a map from the Predictive Services of the National Interagency Fire Center, showing the areas over the chances of significant wildland fire potential for June 2018.



Army Corps Flood Teams Remain Active

(USACE 05/27/18)

Flood teams from the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are continuing work on the Turah Levee in Missoula County, Montana, and monitoring levees and providing technical assistance to local communities as rivers remain above flood stage. Seattle District flood

teams have completed 17 direct assistance requests in the Okanogan River basin in Washington, in the Clark Fork River basin in Montana and in the Pend Oreille River basin in Idaho and Washington.

Teams have provided technical assistance to Missoula County, Montana; Yakima, Stevens and Pend Oreille County, Washington; Twisp, Washington; Benewah County, Idaho, and the Kalispel and Colville Confederated Tribes. The Seattle District has provided about 1,460,500 sandbags, 2,800 Super Sacks and five pumps with 1,400 lineal feet of hose and delivered 2,340 lineal feet of Hescos to local governments and Tribes.

Warm temperatures combined with above normal snow levels have created a situation where Pend Oreille River flows downstream of Albeni Falls Dam are likely to remain above flood stage through the 10-day forecast period and beyond. Flows on the Pend Oreille River and Lake Pend Oreille are now forecast to meet or possibly exceed 2011 levels. Albeni Falls Dam operational information is available on line at:

<http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Locks-and-Dams/Albeni-Falls-Dam/>

Corps of Engineers' officials warn boaters and the public to be safe and watch out for floating or submerged logs or debris on Lake Pend Oreille. For safety purposes, all of Albeni Falls' boat ramps are closed including Riley Creek's. The Corps' swim beaches are all closed for swimming. There is no re-opening scheduled yet.

Flood fight teams are coordinating with the States of Washington, Idaho and Montana. Agency representatives will continue to coordinate with the Tribes, counties and cities along the rivers.



Image: EastIdahoNews.com

Public Law 84-99

authorizes USACE to provide flood fight assistance at the request of local officials when rivers are at or above flood stage and local resources are fully used.

Private citizens seeking sandbags should contact their local government offices. USACE coordinates closely with the National Weather Service. The Weather Service issues flood watches and warnings and should be consulted for that information.

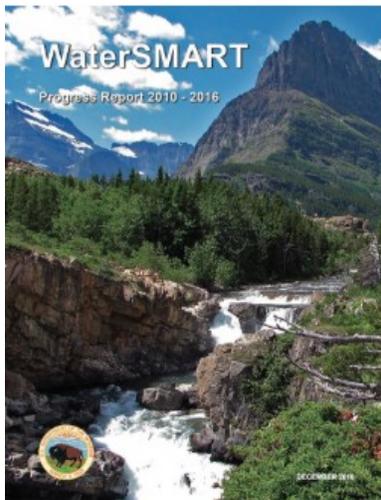


Reclamation Opportunities Available for Desalination and Reuse Projects

(BOR 05/30/18)

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has made two funding opportunities available, Desalination Construction Projects under the WIIN Act and Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects. Applications are due for both funding opportunities by 4 p.m. MDT on July 27, 2018.

The Desalination Construction Projects under the WIIN Act funding opportunity provides sponsors of ocean and brackish water desalination project the opportunity to request cost-shared funding for the planning, design and/or construction of those projects. Desalination projects provide flexibility for communities to stretch the limited water supplies in the Western United States by developing and supplementing municipal and irrigation water supplies through the treatment of ocean or brackish water. Reclamation is making up to \$18 million available under this funding opportunity. This funding opportunity is available at www.grants.gov by searching for funding opportunity number BOR-DO-18-F012.



The Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects funding opportunity allows for sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects that are congressionally authorized or are eligible under section 4009(c) of the WIIN Act to request cost-shared funding for planning, design and/or construction of those Projects. Water reclamation and reuse projects provide improved efficiency, flexibility during water shortages and diversifies the water supply. Reclamation is making up to \$20 million available for those projects authorized under the WIIN Act and \$34 million for the congressionally authorized Title XVI projects. Learn more about Title XVI at www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/. This funding opportunity is available at www.grants.gov by searching for funding opportunity number BOR-DO-18-F011.

Both of these funding opportunities are part of WaterSMART. Through WaterSMART, Reclamation works cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply through investments to modernize existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts. WaterSMART <https://www.usbr.gov/>

Corps of Engineers Hosts Stakeholder Listening Session on Infrastructure Initiatives

(USACE 05/08/18)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) hosted infrastructure listening sessions on Wednesday, May 2, and Thursday, May 3, at its headquarters here to get stakeholder perspectives on how USACE can better deliver critical infrastructure. The stakeholder sessions were conducted in support of the administration's infrastructure efforts. The sessions were designed to engage a diverse group of interested stakeholders and to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute input on ways USACE can streamline permitting and improve project delivery within its current authorities.

Wednesday's session focused on issues related to water resources, including financial mechanisms such as the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and incentive grants. Thursday's session focused on permitting practices consistent with the administration's efforts.

Thirty-seven national-level stakeholder organizations participated in the listening sessions on a non-attribution basis. The organizations represented a wide range of interests including tribal, governmental, ports and waterways, environmental, agricultural, dam and levee safety, flood risk management, shore protection, hydropower and business.



Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James

In his opening remarks on Wednesday, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works R.D. James noted the importance of the administration's infrastructure



efforts and the recent One Federal Decision Memorandum of Understanding to advance the nation's infrastructure and require federal agencies to work collaboratively to make faster infrastructure decisions. "Quit getting all wrapped up in the process," said James. "Do what's in the law and get to the result."

Mr. James C. Dalton, USACE director of Civil Works, also addressed participants saying, "This entire session and the infrastructure initiative are about us getting to a point of producing something, producing it more efficiently and getting more effective results than what we have done in the past and just following process."



*James C. Dalton,
USACE director of
Civil Works*

The USACE has been and continues to be part of the federal team assisting the administration with implementing its infrastructure agenda. USACE is working to streamline processes and procedures in an effort to remove roadblocks which delay the implementation of projects.

Recent Meetings:

2018 CDWR/WSWC Workshop: Improving S2S Precipitation Forecasting and Pilot Projects: Some WestFAST Agencies were represented —[see presentations](#)

Upcoming Meetings:

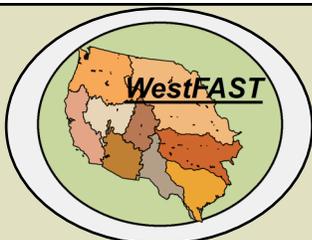
The **WSWC Summer (187th) Meeting** will be held in Newport, Oregon on August 1-3, 2018. For further information, please see:

<http://www.westernstateswater.org/upcoming-meetings/>.

Federal News (Control click to articles)

- 5/01: [May is Wildfire Awareness Month](#)
- 5/01: [Wetlands Oasis Mingles with Urban Life](#)
- 5/01: [Planting Green - Cover Crop Management](#)
- 5/02: [NRCS Announces Funds Available for Agricultural Management Assistance Program](#)

- 5/02: [EPA Seeks Input for Study on Management of Wastewater from Oil and Gas](#)
- 05/03: [Reclamation Issues Snowmelt Forecast and Expected Operations for North Platte River Basin](#)
- 5/04: [Widespread mountain snowmelt occurring in Idaho](#)
- 5/04: [Record and Above Normal Snowpack Primed to Melt Across Montana](#)
- 5/07: [Oregon braces for low water supply season](#)
- 5/08: [U.S. Had its Coldest April in More Than 20 years](#)
- 05/09: [Another dry year in the Colorado River Basin increases the need for additional state and federal actions](#)
- 5/09: [La Nina is Gone, for Now](#)
- 05/09: [Another dry year in the Colorado River Basin increases the need for additional state and federal actions](#)
- 05/10: [Bureau of Reclamation launches prize competition seeking improved methods for monitoring pathogens to facilitate water reuse](#)
- 5/14: [Dr. Jim Reilly Now at the Helm U.S. Geological Survey](#)
- 5/14: [GRACE-FO Will Help Monitor Droughts](#)
- 5/15: [EPA Extends Deadline to Apply for a WIFIA Water Infrastructure Loan](#)
- 05/16: [Spring Rains and Grass Production Status Could be Misleading for Livestock Producers](#)
- 5/16: [USDA Forest Service Awards Wood Innovation Grants](#)
- 5/16: [NASA Satellites Reveal Shifts in Global Freshwater](#)
- 5/16: [Mapping the Nations Wind Turbine's](#)
- 5/16: [Emissions of an Ozone Destroying-Chemical Rising](#)
- 5/18: [Just Five Things About GRACE Follow-On](#)
- 5/19: [New Study Provides the First Comprehensive, Long-term Look at Alaska's Changing Ecosystems](#)
- 5/19: [Army Corps flood teams complete flood fight projects](#)
- 5/22: [Twin Spacecraft Launch to Track Earth's Water](#)
- 5/22: [NASA Measures Heavy U.S. Rainfall From Space](#)
- 5/22: [Bureau of Reclamation provides \\$260,000 for two WaterSMART drought contingency planning projects](#)
- 5/23: [Climate Change: Maybe Bigger Atmospheric Rivers](#)
- 05/24: [Tribes continue work with Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee on strategic plan](#)
- 5/24: [Better Together: How Ecosystem Services and Adaptive Decision-Making Can Improve Land Management](#)
- 5/25: [USGS Fish Passage Research Helps Fish Get to Spawning Grounds](#)
- 05/29: [Interior/NPS Announce more than \\$60 Million in Historic Preservation Grants to States and Tribes](#)
- 05/30: [Next Generation Polar Orbiter Satellite is Operational](#)
- 05/30: [Secretary Zinke Announces 19 New National Recreation Trails in 17 States](#)
- 05/30: [50th Anniversary Celebration of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act!](#)



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Check out the WestFAST Web Site: <http://www.westernstateswater.org/westfast>