

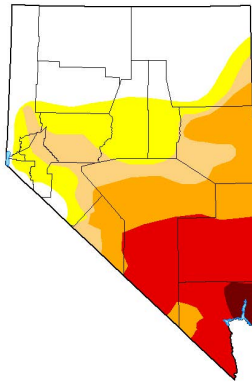
# Nevada Drought Update: April 2025

2 April 2025

G. Dmitruk and B. Perry - Nevada State Climatologist

*Drought persists in southern Nevada; some improvement in the northeast.*

U.S. Drought Monitor  
Nevada



April 1, 2025  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 3, 2025)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4	
Current	33.58	66.42	59.12	38.15	20.27	1.73
Last Week 03-25-2025	33.58	66.42	56.77	38.15	20.24	1.73
3 Months Ago 12-31-2024	11.11	88.89	49.95	26.57	9.95	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	11.52	88.48	49.95	26.57	9.95	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-01-2024	0.11	99.89	32.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-01-2024	95.33	14.67	1.39	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**  
 None  
 D0 Abnormally Dry  
 D1 Moderate Drought  
 D2 Severe Drought  
 D3 Extreme Drought  
 D4 Exceptional Drought

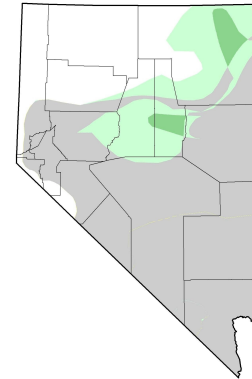
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Nevada  
4 Week



5 Class Degradation  
 4 Class Degradation  
 3 Class Degradation  
 2 Class Degradation  
 1 Class Degradation  
 No Change  
 1 Class Improvement  
 2 Class Improvement  
 3 Class Improvement  
 4 Class Improvement  
 5 Class Improvement

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

April 1, 2025  
compared to  
March 4, 2025

Figure 1. U.S. Drought Monitor for Nevada on 1 April 2025.

Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor class change for Nevada between 4 March 2025 and 1 April 2025.

As of 1 April 2025, two-thirds of Nevada (66% of state area) was impacted by drought (Table 1). Compared to the beginning of climatological winter in December 2024, the spring season started out with considerably less area affected by dry conditions. The wetter conditions were offset by intensification of drought status in southern Nevada. Generally, areas north of US 50 and/or bordering the Sierra Nevada were not classified as abnormally dry or in drought, whereas locations south of US 50 and into White Pine County remained in drought (Fig. 1). With severity increasing southward, a ribbon of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions stretched from western state corner to eastern Elko County. Moderate Drought (D1) to Severe Drought (D2) extended through much of central Nevada, down to Extreme Drought (D3) status through southern Nye, Lincoln, and most of Clark County, including Las Vegas. Eastern Clark County, surrounding the Overton Arm of Lake Mead, remained in Exceptional Drought (D4). No degradation in drought conditions was observed across Nevada during the past month (Fig. 2). Although most of the state exhibited no changes, drought status improved in portions of central and northeastern Nevada, with the greatest improvement observed around the Knoll Mountain region, in northeastern Elko County.

Statewide temperatures from the SNOTEL network remained mostly below median values for the month of March, with well above median values largely confined to 23 to 28 March 2025 (Fig. 3). An active storm track allowed multiple systems to move through the region during the first three weeks of March. The month ended with an active storm pattern returning to the Sierra Nevada and most of northern Nevada. Although most of the state received less than 2 inches of total precipitation over the month, the higher terrain from the Toiyabe Range northeast to the Ruby Mountains received more than 4 inches (Fig. 4), which was considerably above normal (Fig. 5). Conversely, the southern and western corners of the state received below normal precipitation, with some areas seeing no precipitation in March.

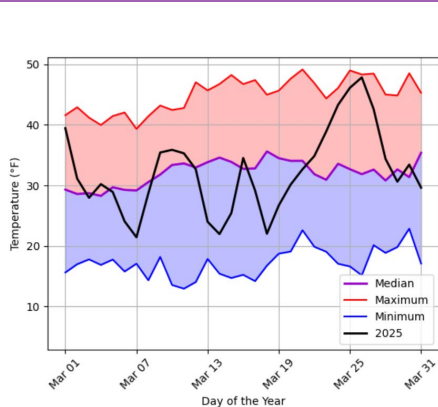


Figure 3. Time series plot depicting the average temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) from the Nevada Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network from 1 March 2025 to 31 March 2025 (in black) plotted against the median, max, and minimum SNOTEL network temperatures between 1992 – 2024.

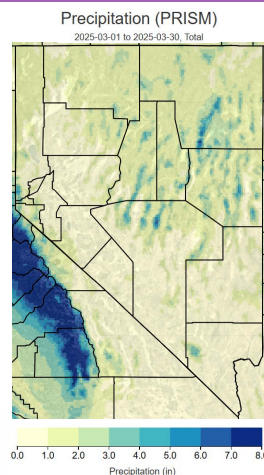


Figure 4. Total precipitation (inches) for Nevada between 1 March 2025 and 30 March 2025. Source: PRISM 4km Daily.

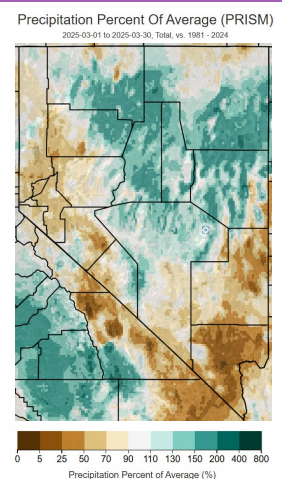


Figure 5. Precipitation percent difference from average between 1 March 2025 and 30 March 2025, compared to 1981-2024 climatology. Source: PRISM 4km Daily.

Table 1. Percent of Nevada area in each drought class from the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Date	2 July 2024	1 October 2024	31 December 2024	1 April 2025
None	84	0	11	34
Abnormally Dry- D0	16	68	39	16
Moderate Drought- D1	0	32	23	12
Severe Drought- D2	0	0	17	18
Extreme Drought- D3	0	0	10	18
Exceptional Drought- D4	0	0	0	2

Most of the regional reservoirs are around their median capacity levels for this time of year (Fig. 6). Lake Mead and Marlette Lake are exceptions to this, both with current volumes just over half their capacity. Conversely, Lake Tahoe, Rye Patch, Topaz, and Wild Horse Reservoir are considerably above their usual early spring volume. As of 1 April 2025, the average snow water equivalent (SWE) in the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Nevada was above median levels (109%) but below median peak (91%; Fig. 7); the most anomalously high measurements for the month being the Great Northern Basin with 152% of median SWE, and the Clover Valley and Franklin Basin, with 153%. The exception was the Spring Mountains in the extreme south, where no snow cover was present. All other basins were near or above median (Fig. 8). Lower elevation SNOTEL stations continue to exhibit snow drought conditions with limited to no snow cover.

For the month of April, the southeastern half of Nevada is likely to experience warmer than average temperatures, with an increased chance (40-50%) in the southeast state corner (within eastern Clark and Lincoln counties; Fig. 9). The northwest can expect average temperatures. All but the northwestern quarter of Nevada can expect below normal precipitation, with the greatest chance (40 - 50%) covering most of Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine counties (Fig. 10). Accordingly, drought conditions are expected to hold steady across the state (Fig 11).

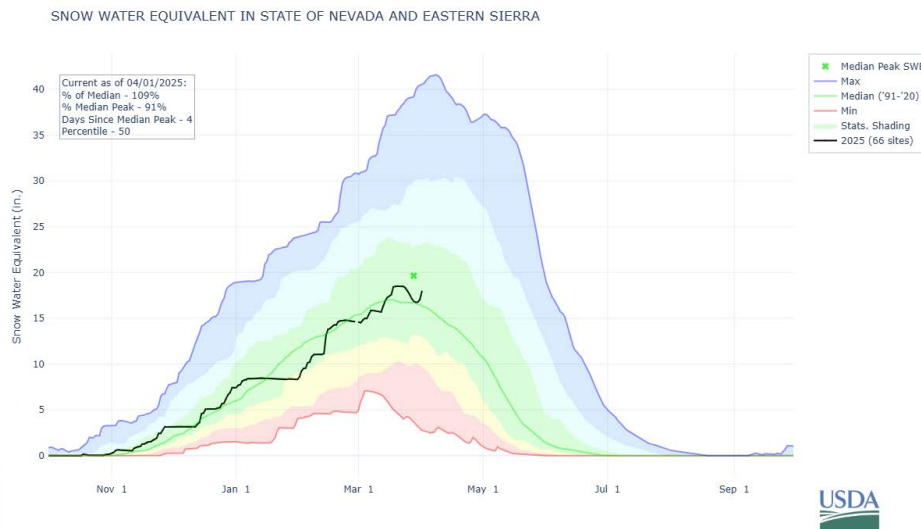


Figure 7. Time series graph showing minimum, median, maximum, and current year levels of Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in inches for the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and the state of Nevada based on measurements from SNOTEL network stations.

Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

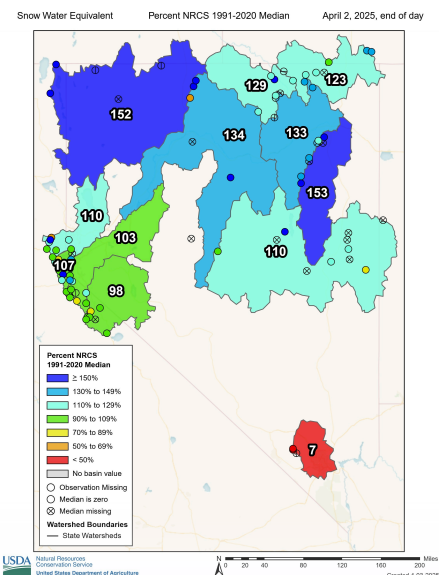


Figure 8. Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) percent of 1991-2020 median values for major watersheds on 2 April 2025 based on measurements from the SNOTEL station network. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

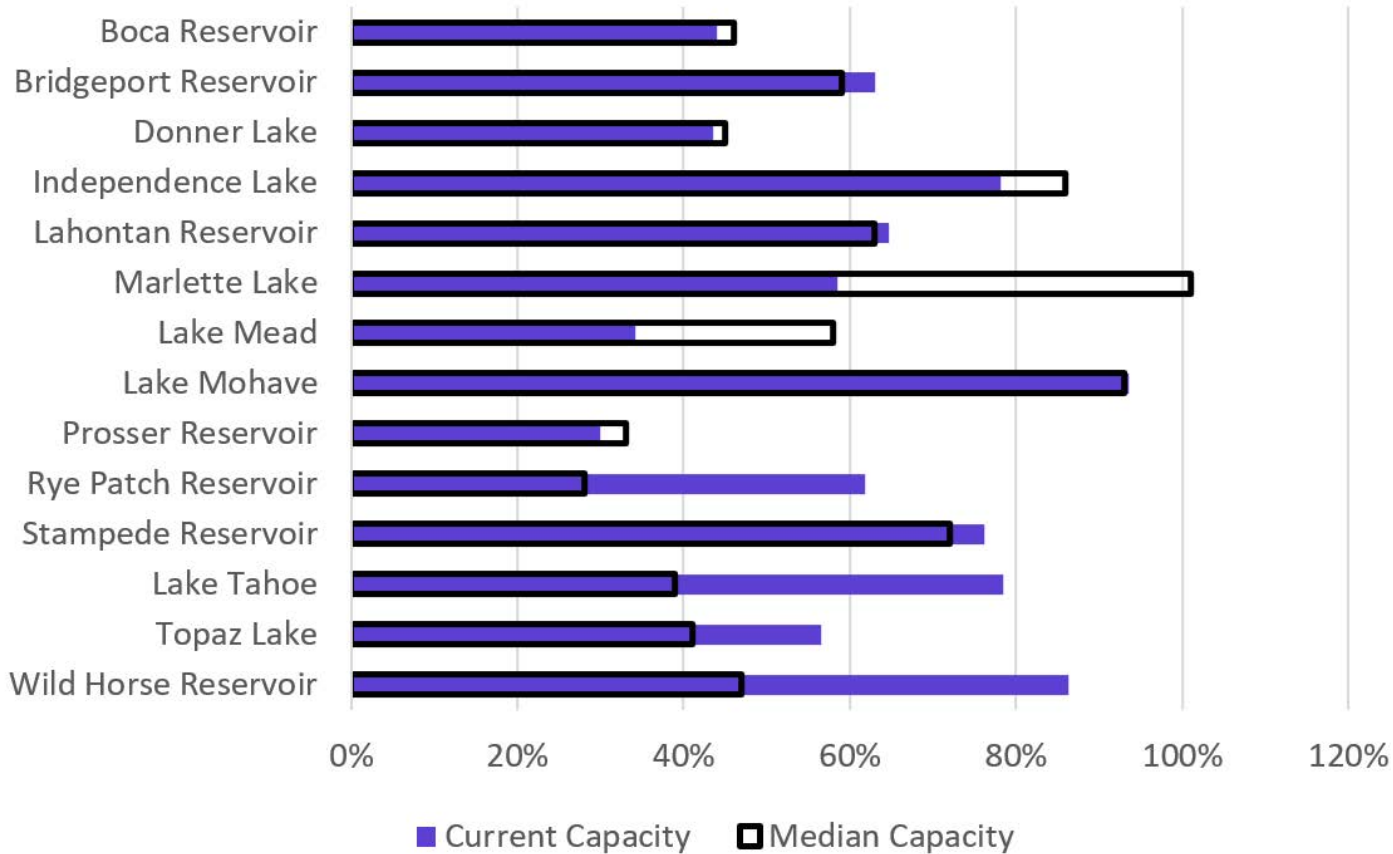
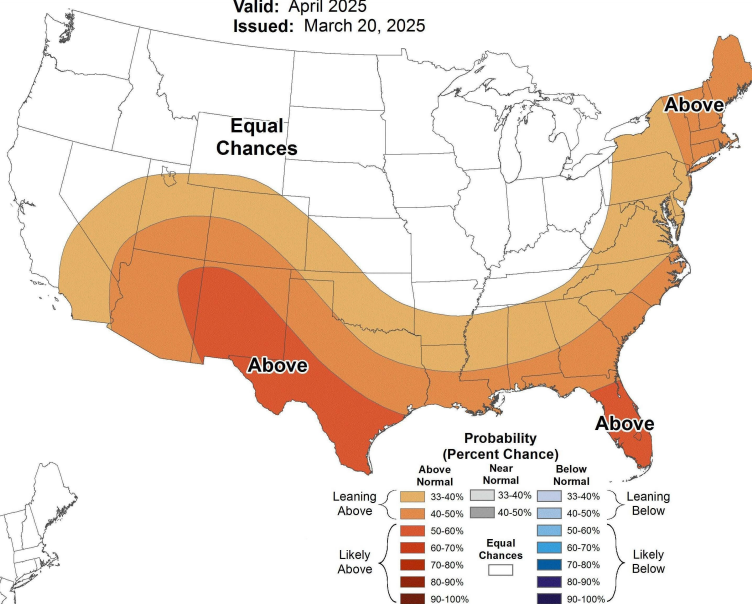


Figure 6. Reservoir storage capacity on 1 April 2025.  
 Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center; Bureau of Reclamation; Truckee River Operating Agreement.

Figure 9. U.S. monthly temperature outlook for April 2025. Source: NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center (CPC).

## Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: April 2025  
Issued: March 20, 2025



## Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: April 2025  
Issued: March 20, 2025

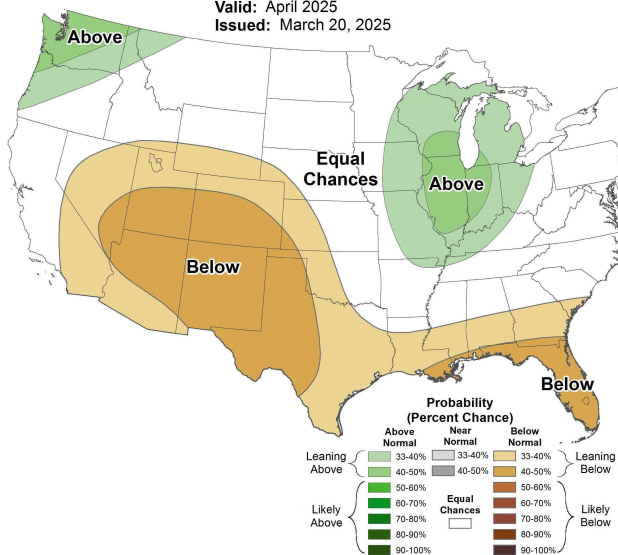
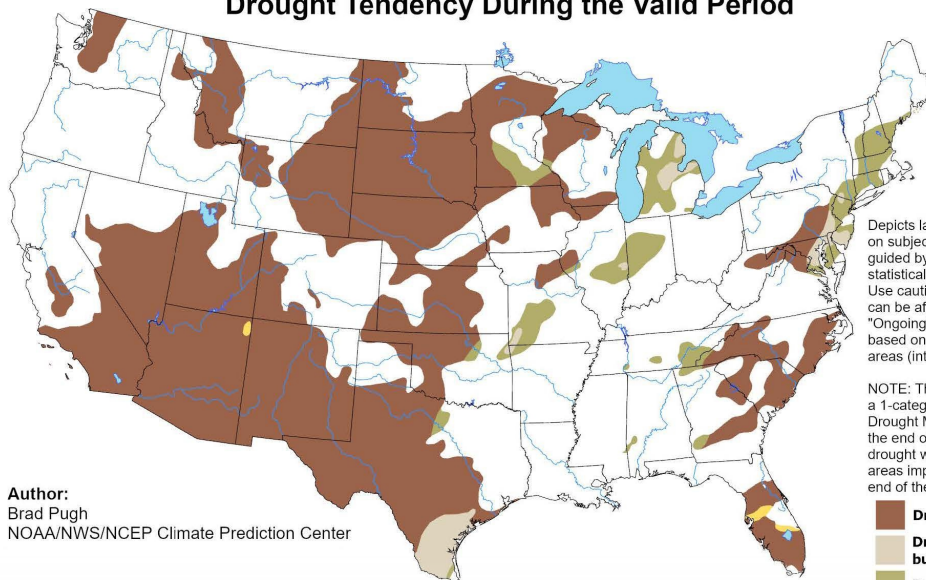


Figure 10. U.S. monthly precipitation outlook for April 2025. Source: NOAA NWS CPC.

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 2025  
Released March 31, 2025



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

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).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

Figure 11. U.S. monthly drought outlook for April 2025. Source: NOAA NWS CPC.