

# Nevada Drought Update: June 2025

3 June 2025

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- **Some drought improvement in extreme southern Nevada**
- **Drought conditions forecast to persist in June**
- **Slight expansion of abnormally dry conditions in extreme western and northeastern Nevada**

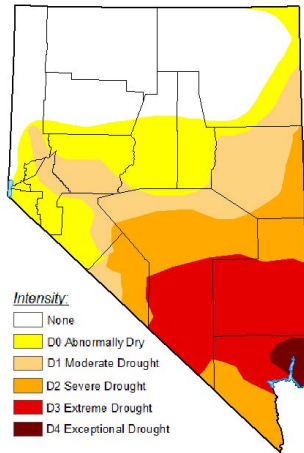


Figure 1. U.S. Drought Monitor for Nevada on 27 May 2025.

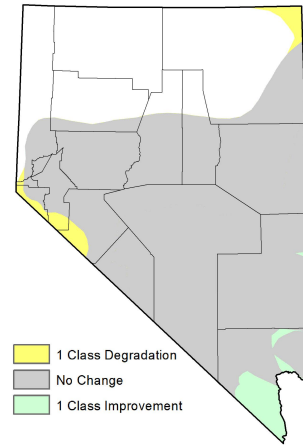


Figure 2. U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change for Nevada between 29 April and 27 May 2025.

Abnormally dry (D0) and drought (D1 to D4) conditions persisted across central and southern Nevada as of 27 May 2025 (Fig. 1). Exceptional Drought (D4) was limited to northeastern Clark County, with Extreme Drought (D3) encompassing northern Clark, Lincoln, and southern Nye counties. Severe Drought (D2) was found just to the north and west, including southern Clark County, northern Nye and Lincoln counties, and eastern Esmeralda and White Pine counties. Moderate Drought (D1) continued to persist across extreme southeast Elko County, most of White Pine County, extreme northern Nye County, and into southern Churchill, eastern Mineral, and southeastern Washoe County. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded into the eastern Sierra in extreme western Nevada and into extreme northeastern Nevada. There was little change in drought conditions across the state in May except for portions of Clark County seeing a one class improvement (Fig. 2). Half of the state (50%) was classified in drought as of 27 May 2025, a substantial increase since 27 August 2024 when only 6% was in drought (Table 1).

Two notable periods of anomalous warmth (8-11 and 28-31 May) rose the May statewide average monthly temperature 2.9°F above normal (Fig. 3). The latter period resulted in record daily highs across western and southern Nevada, including a new record monthly high of 99°F in Reno on the 31st. Precipitation totals were highest in southern and eastern Nevada during May, particularly in Clark County (Fig. 4). Las Vegas recorded 1.44" from 3 to 6 May, eclipsing in these days alone its previously monthly rainfall record of 0.96" from May 1969. Elsewhere, post-frontal convective showers brought intense bursts of rain, snow, and even heavy graupel (snowflake completely encased in rime ice) to northern Nevada from 13 to 14 May. Showers and thunderstorms also brought welcome precipitation to much of northern and eastern Nevada from 17 to 18 May, including 0.37" in Elko and 0.43" in Eureka. Clark and Lincoln counties recorded well above normal precipitation during the month, with below to well below normal precipitation across most of the rest of the state (Fig. 5).

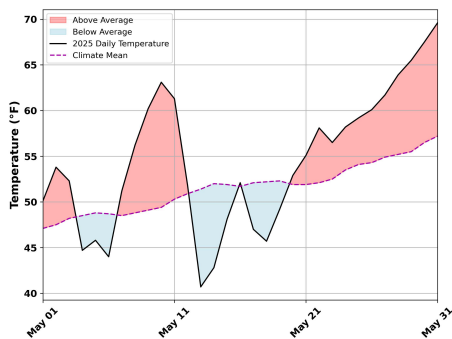


Figure 3. Time series plot depicting the average temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) from the Nevada Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS) network and the Nevada Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network from 1 May 2025 to 31 May 2025 (in black) plotted against the long-term daily mean values.

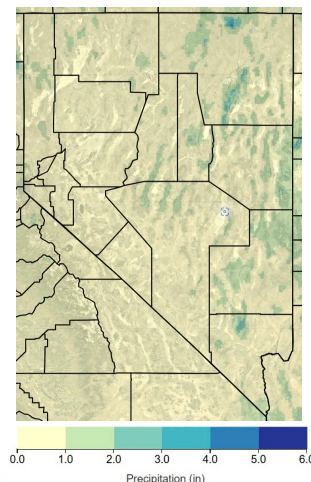


Figure 4. Total precipitation (inches) for Nevada between 1 May 2025 and 31 May 2025. Source: PRISM 4km Daily.

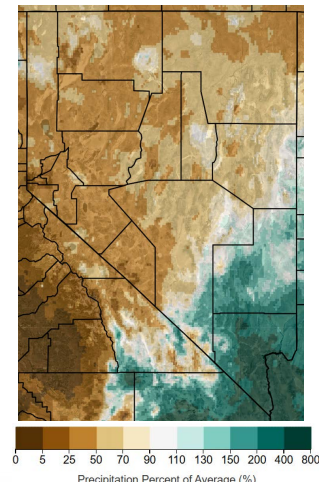


Figure 5. Precipitation percent difference from average between 1 May 2025 and 31 May 2025, compared to 1981-2024 climatology. Source: PRISM 4km Daily.

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

Date	27 August 2024	26 November 2024	25 February 2025	27 May 2025
None	1	1	22	32
Abnormally Dry- D0	93	71	18	18
Moderate Drought- D1	5	7	21	16
Severe Drought- D2	1	19	19	16
Extreme Drought- D3	0	2	18	17
Exceptional Drought- D4	0	0	2	1

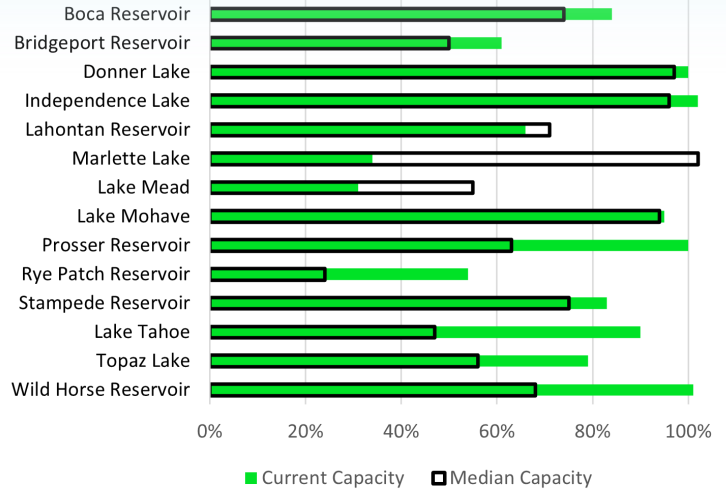


Figure 6. Reservoir storage capacity on 1 June 2025. Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center; Bureau of Reclamation; Truckee River Operating Agreement.

Reservoir storage levels generally remain above to well above the median capacity for 1 June (Fig. 6). Donner Lake, Independence Lake, Prosser Reservoir, and Wild Horse Reservoir are at or above 100% capacity. Lahontan Reservoir is slightly below median capacity, while in the south, Lake Mead remains well below the median at 31% capacity. Marlette Lake is also well below median storage capacity, but this is due to dam renovations in progress.

Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in Nevada and the eastern Sierra as of 1 June is 79% of median (Fig. 7). Rapid snow ablation (loss) occurred in early May, with some stabilization and even some gains in the north in mid-May, and then continued losses in late May. The remaining snowpack is confined to only the highest elevations above 8,000 ft. Average soil moisture from SNOTEL stations in Nevada and the eastern Sierra is 93% of median and declining rapidly (Fig. 8).

The latest U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook for June 2025 projects drought to persist across most of the southern two-thirds of Nevada (Fig. 9). Drought development is likely in extreme western Nevada into the eastern Sierra. The latest U.S. Monthly Outlook for June 2025 favors above normal temperatures (40-60% probability, Fig. 10) and equal chances for above or below normal precipitation across nearly the entire state (Fig. 11). The outlook projects above normal precipitation in Arizona and below normal precipitation in the northwestern U.S.

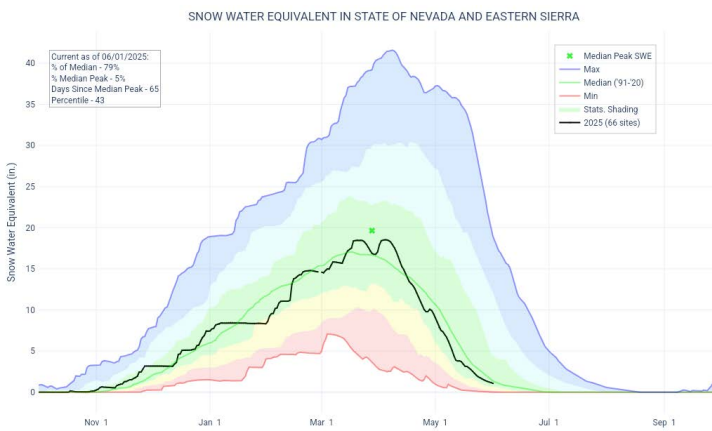


Figure 7. Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) for Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 1 June 2025 based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

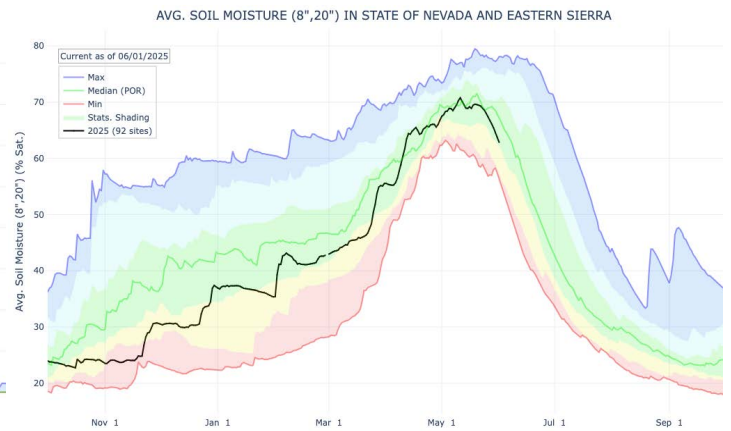


Figure 8. Soil moisture for Nevada and the eastern Sierra on 1 June 2025 based on measurements from the Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network of stations. Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

# U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for June 2025  
Released May 31, 2025

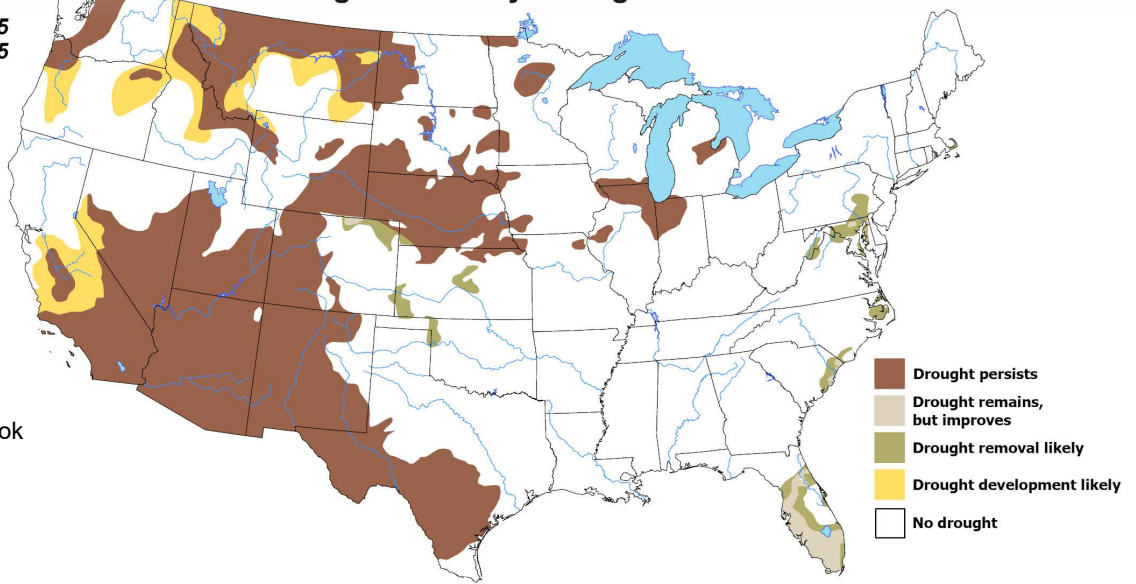


Figure 9.  
U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook  
for June 2025.

# Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: June 2025  
Issued: May 31, 2025

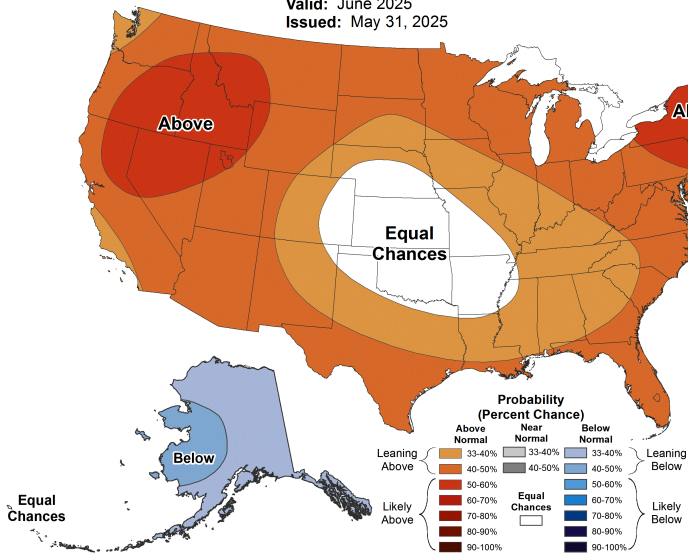


Figure 10. U.S. Monthly Temperature Outlook for June 2025.

# Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: June 2025  
Issued: May 31, 2025

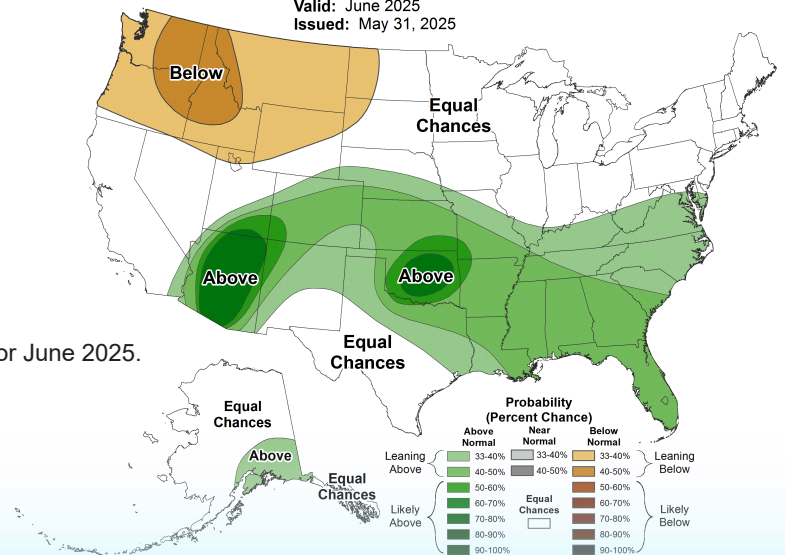


Figure 11. U.S. Monthly Precipitation Outlook for June 2025.