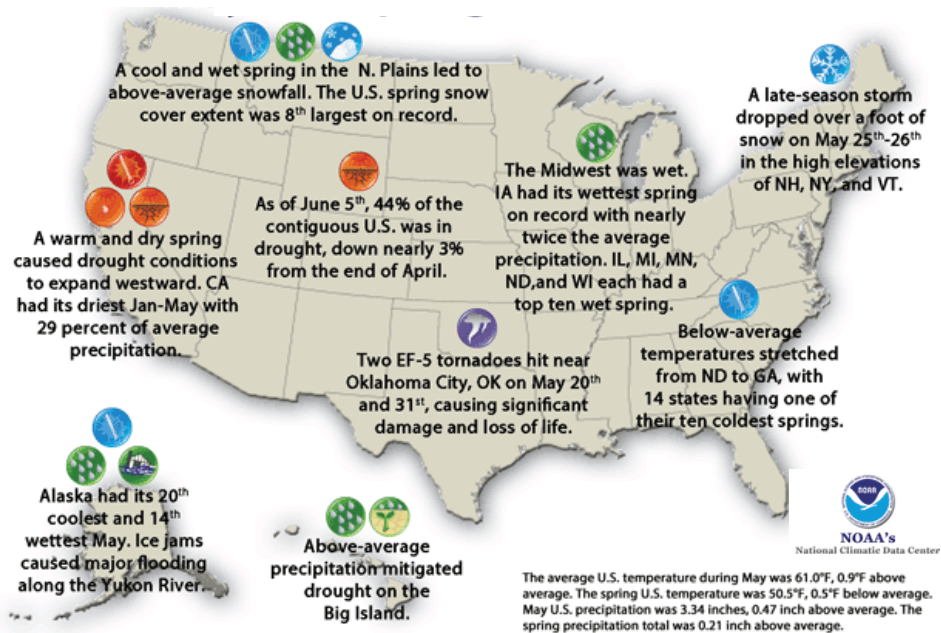


National Outlook — Significant Events for Spring 2013

West sees record low temps, persistent drought



Western US:

- Snowmelt runoff in the Colorado River Basin was 42% of normal, leading to predictions for Lake Powell to **drop 30 feet in the next year.**

Central US:

- This April was the **coldest on record** in North Dakota with an average temperature of 31.0°F, 9.9°F below normal.

Southern Great Plains:

- The drought is particularly devastating in New Mexico, where three of the four largest reservoirs are at **less than 15% of storage capacity.**

Alaska:

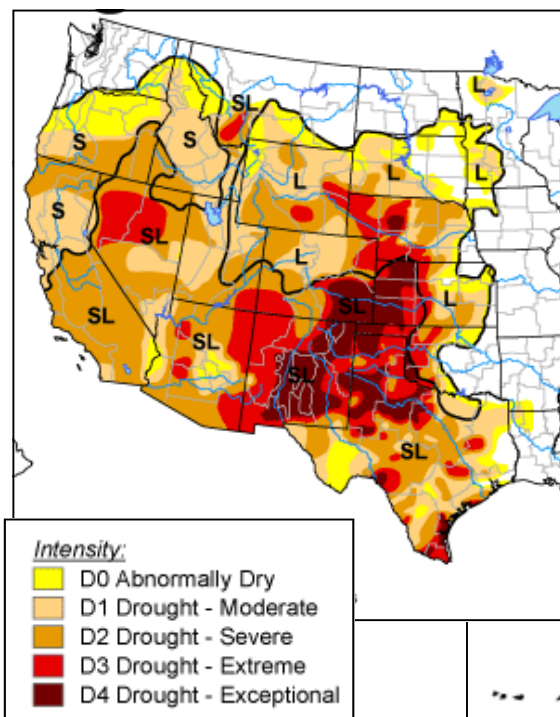
- The **coldest April since 1924** caused many spring activities to be postponed or canceled in Fairbanks and the Interior.

Hawaii:

- Record cold temperatures invaded the islands in early April. **Isolated flash floods** occurred in late March, but prolonged drought remains.

Drought and Temperature in the West — Climate Overview

Drought in the West



Left—US Drought Monitor: Last year's drought covered two-thirds of the US at its height, but has since receded from the East and remained severe across much of the West. The spring brought improvement to eastern Wyoming and Colorado, as well as southeastern Montana.

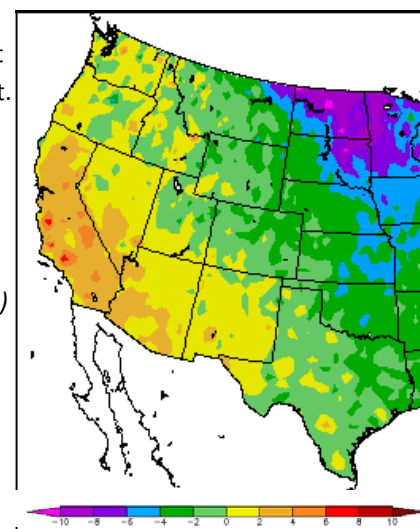
June 18, 2013.

(droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Right — Departure from Normal Temperature: Spring temperatures were far above normal (warm colors) in California, southern Nevada, and Arizona. Meanwhile, temps were 8-10 degrees below normal in the Dakotas. (hprcc.unl.edu)

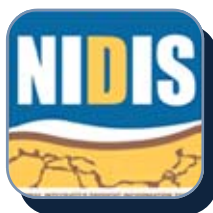
Departure from Normal Temperature

March 1— May 31, 2013



NIDIS Reauthorization

Both the U.S. Senate and the House are considering the reauthorization of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS, in S. 376 and H.R. 2431, respectively.



WGA has expressed support of the reauthorization legislation through written testimony submitted to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and letters to Members of Congress.

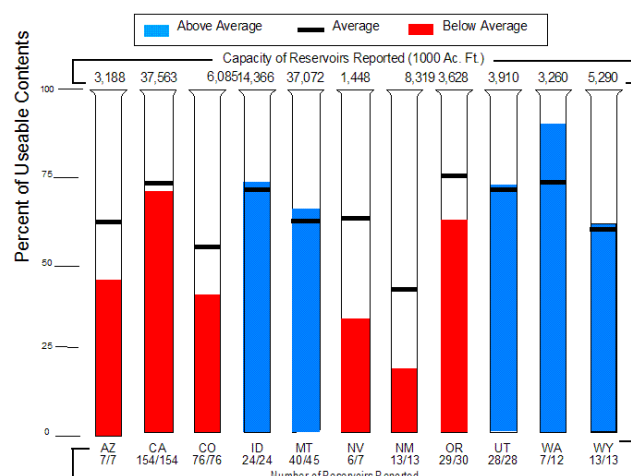
WGA also co-sponsored the Summer 2013 National Drought Outlook on May 16 in Washington D.C., at which representatives from NOAA and other federal agencies gave an update on drought conditions and impacts across the country.

WGA Report on Drought Preparation and Response in the West

WGA recently interviewed top policy advisors for a number of Western Governors about drought preparation and response in their states. The findings of those surveys are summarized in a brief report available on WGA's website: westgov.org/initiatives/climate.

The report demonstrates that states have positive relationships with NOAA and find NOAA's data products useful. Many states requested more information through expanded data collection networks and forecasting.

Reservoir storage below avg. in Southwest



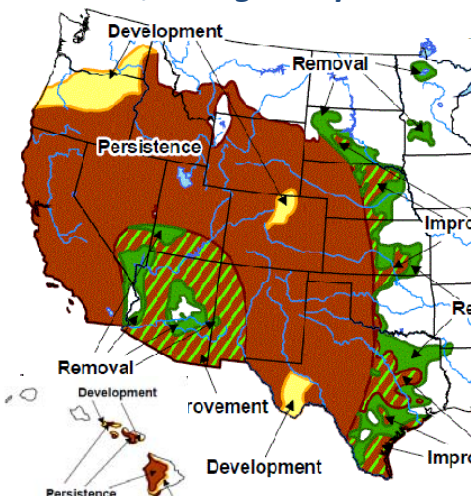
Prepared by: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Water and Climate Center, Portland, OR
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

Reservoir Storage as of May 1, 2013. Graph by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov).

While many states have reservoir levels at or above average, the Southwest is experiencing low storage levels. New Mexico is hardest hit, but Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada have also seen low storage levels.

Regional Outlook and Impacts

Arizona likely to see improvement to drought outlook; drought to persist in much of West



Above: US Seasonal Drought Outlook; valid June 30—September 30.
(cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

KEY:

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Despite some spring precipitation in eastern Wyoming and Colorado, drought is likely to persist in those states.

Drought is likely to continue, with some improvement, in Arizona, southern Nevada, southern Utah, and western New Mexico.

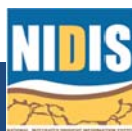
Drought conditions are also likely to improve in the Central Plains states this summer.

Summer wildfire potential high on coast



Significant Wildfire Potential—August & September—
Fire potential is expected to diminish over the Four Corners area after monsoon onset. Potential is expected to remain high in California after the dry winter and in Oregon due to added fine fuel growth.

Map by Predictive Services, National Interagency Coordination Center. (nifc.gov)



Western Governors' Association — Outlook Contact: Carlee Brown (cbrown@westgov.org)