

Madera County Drought Workgroup

Weather Forecast Office

Hanford, CA

Friday, April 21

Presenter: Brian Ochs

Weather Outlook



Pohono Bridge along Merced River in Yosemite NP



Key Points

Weather Forecast Office
Hanford, CA
Friday, April 21

- **Brief Weather Outlook (Climate Prediction Center, or CPC)**
- **Increasing risk of flooding along waterways due to snowmelt**
- **Wildfire outlook**
- **Drought conditions**



6-10 Day CPC Precipitation Outlook

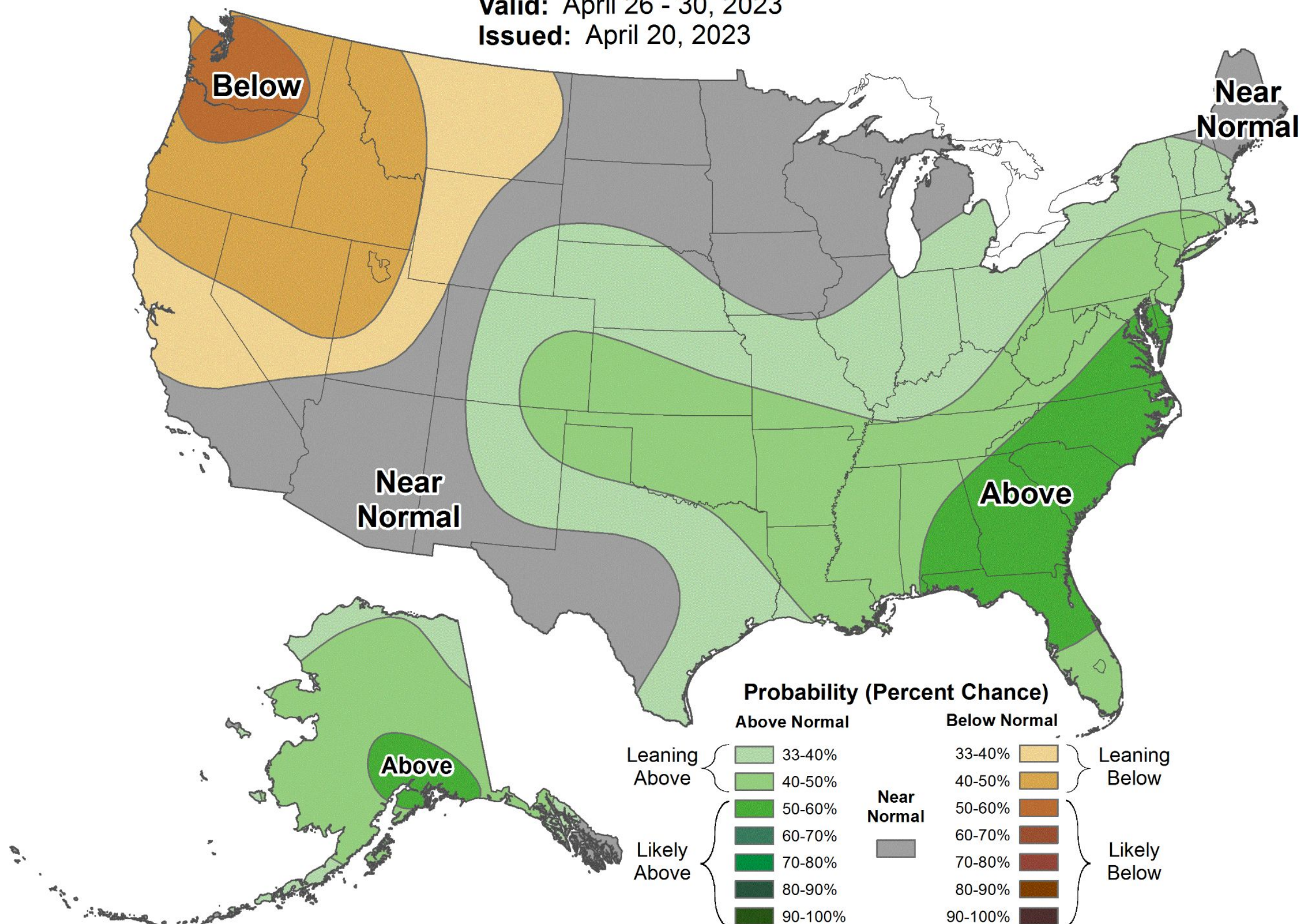
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6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook



Valid: April 26 - 30, 2023
Issued: April 20, 2023





6-10 Day Temperature Outlook

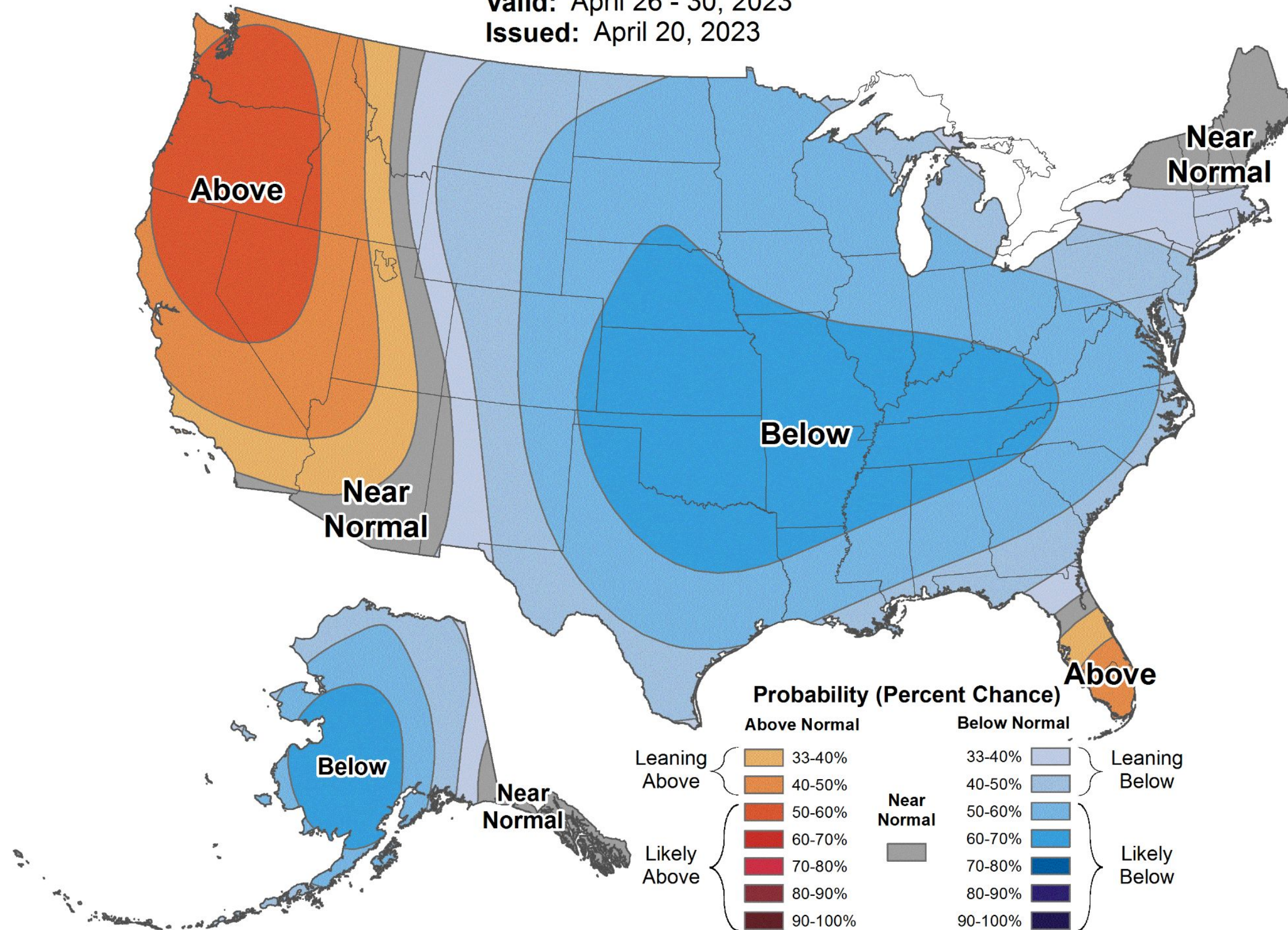
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6-10 Day Temperature Outlook



Valid: April 26 - 30, 2023
Issued: April 20, 2023





8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

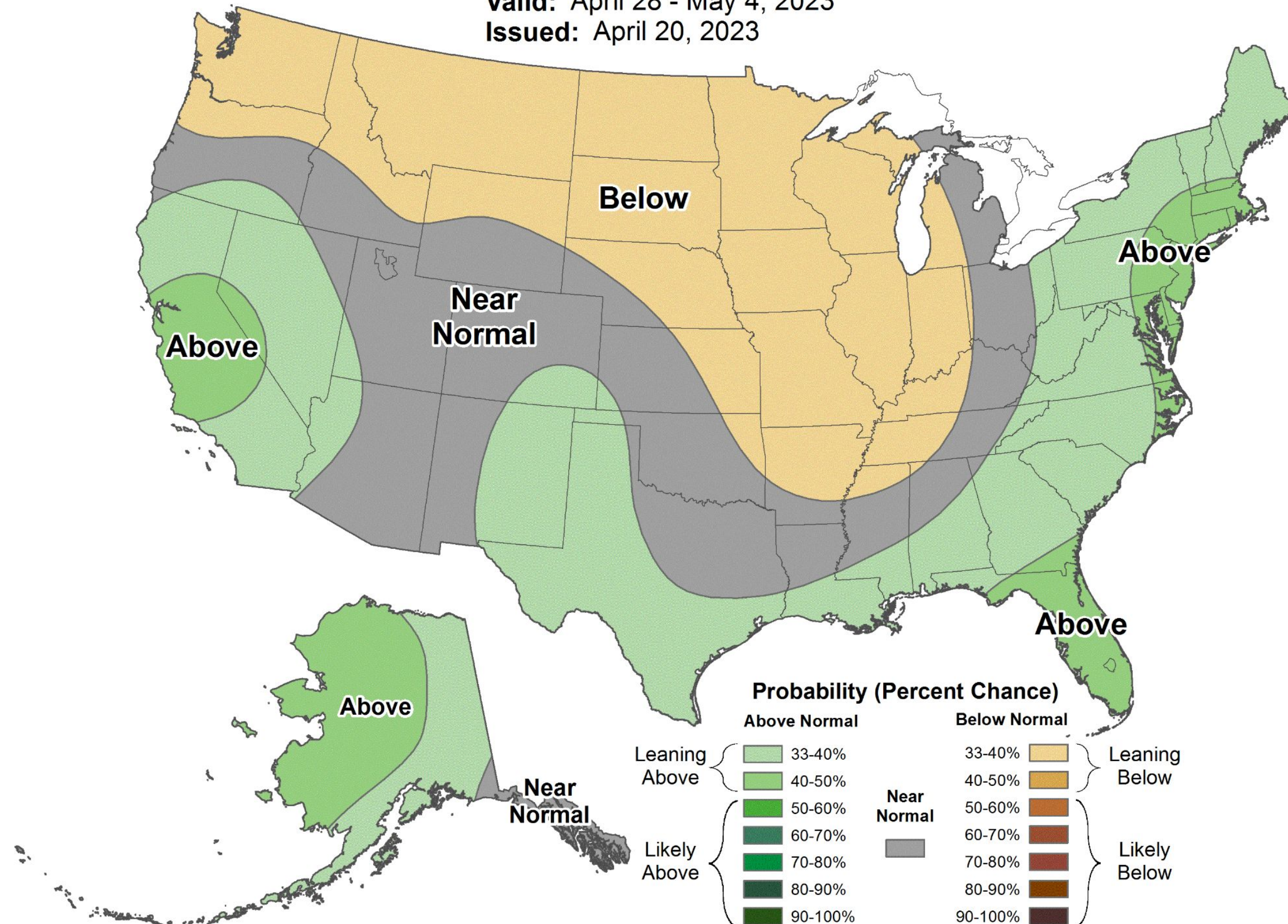
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8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook



Valid: April 28 - May 4, 2023
Issued: April 20, 2023





8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

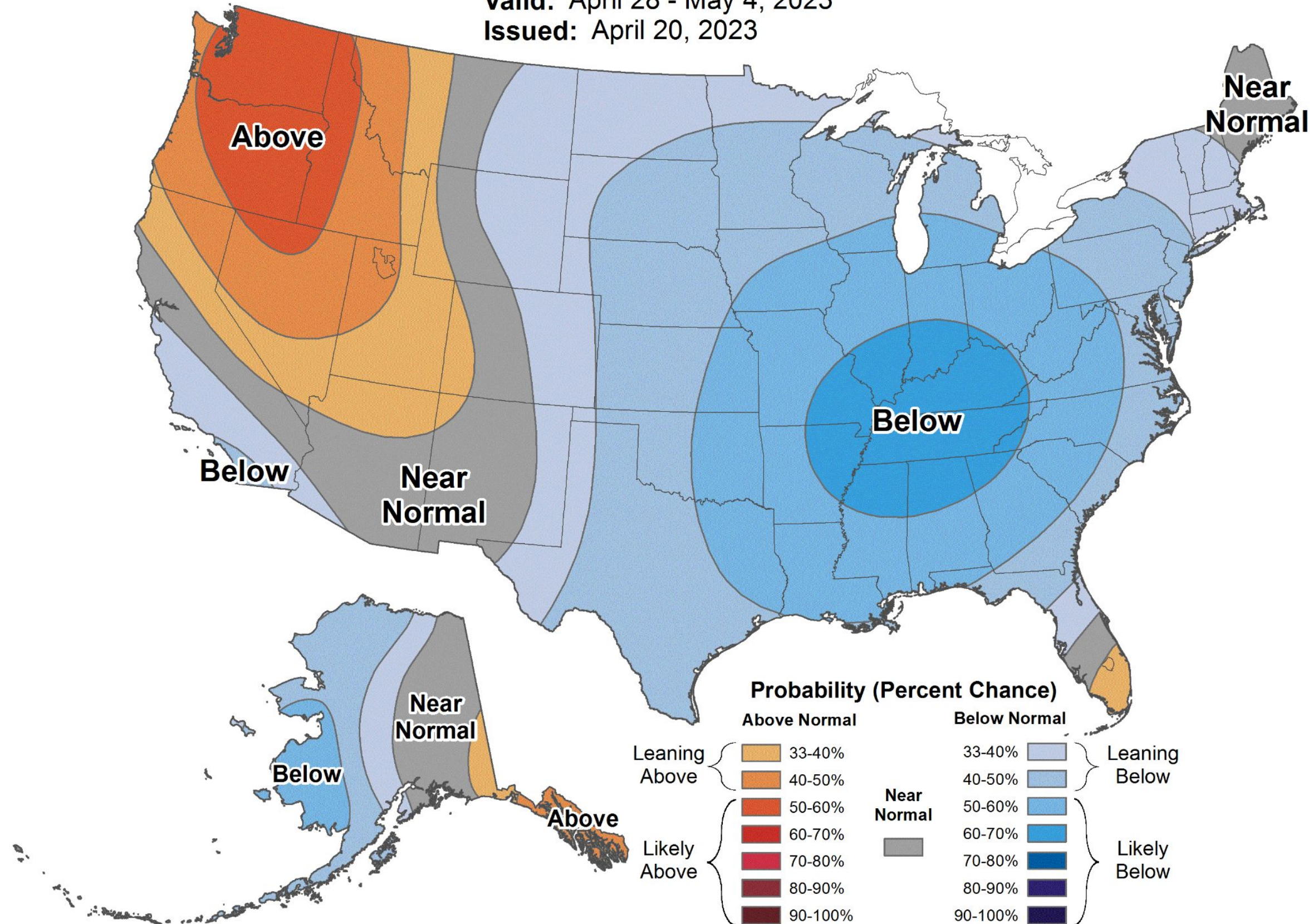
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8-14 Day Temperature Outlook



Valid: April 28 - May 4, 2023
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Monthly Precipitation Outlook

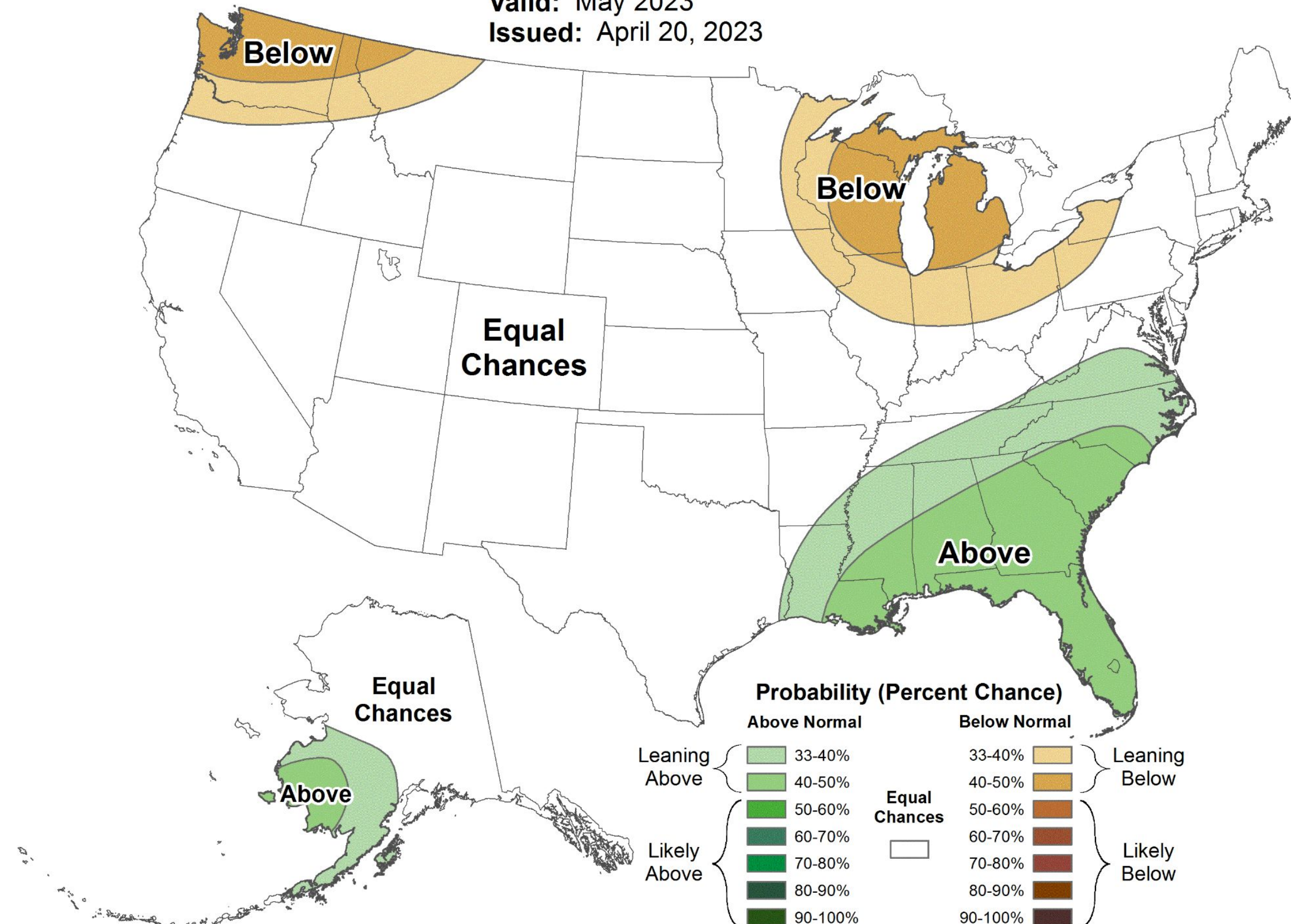
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Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: May 2023
Issued: April 20, 2023





Atmospheric Rivers update

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Hanford, CA
Friday, April 21

***Please Note: The National Weather Service does not count atmospheric rivers. The official source for this information is: CW3E (Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes) at Scripps Institute at U.C. San Diego, or cw3e.ucsd.edu**

- Can subscribe to email updates directly from CW3E at: <https://cw3e.ucsd.edu/arscale/>
- Latest news on atmospheric rivers: <https://cw3e.ucsd.edu/news/>

What to expect: Snowmelt flooding

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- Increased flows in waterways, including rivers (such as the San Joaquin River), streams, and creeks that may last through late summer.
- Risk of flooding near these waterways.
- Peak snowmelt typically occurs late May-early June.
- Dangerous, high and fast flows that pose a higher risk for potential rescues and drownings.

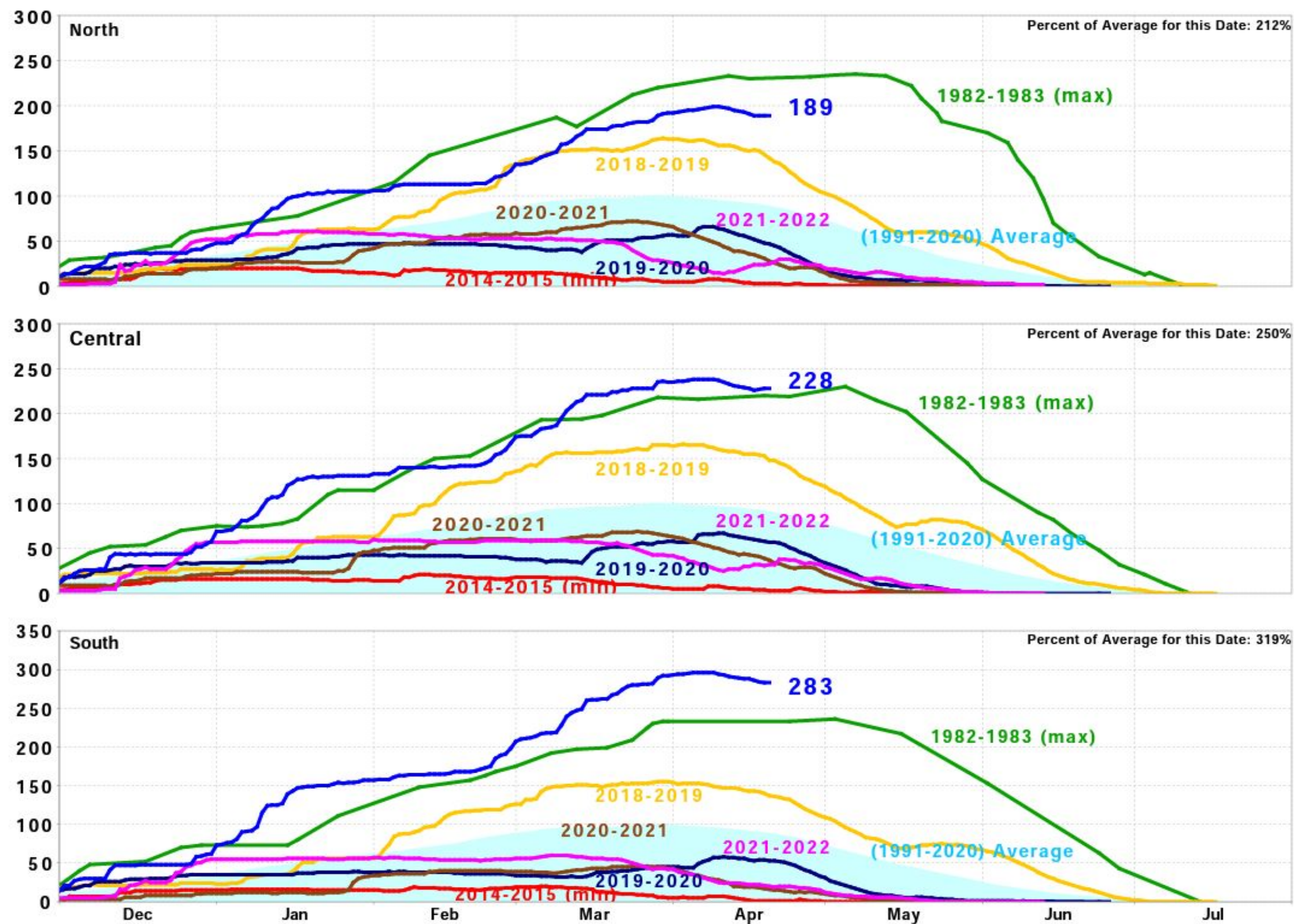




Sierra Nevada snowpack update

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Friday, April 21

California Snow Water Content, April 20, 2023, Percent of April 1 Average



Statewide Percent of April 1: 228%

Statewide Percent of Average for Date: 253%

Fire Season Forecast

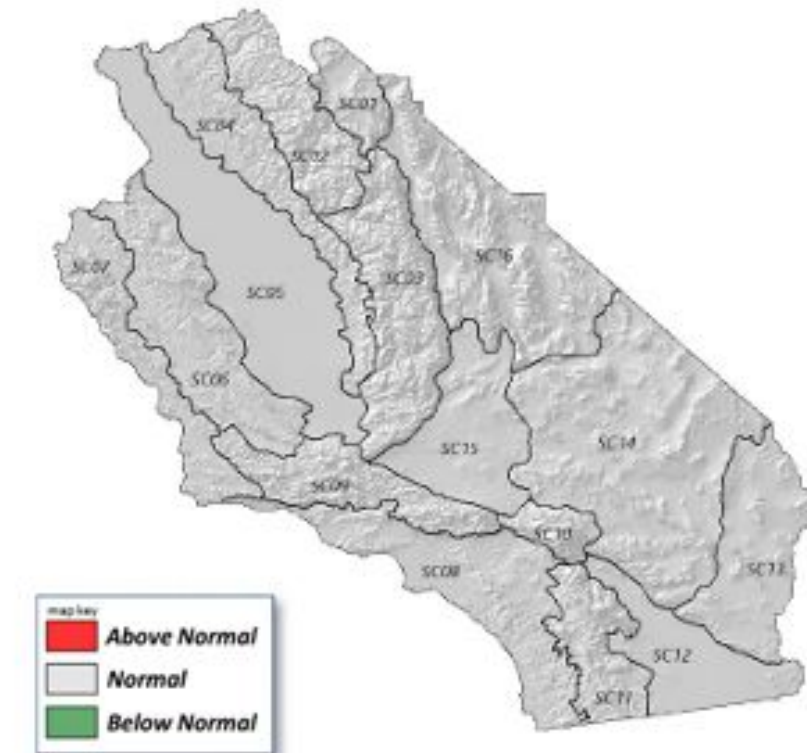
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- Near average wildfire risk through May; below normal wildfire risk in June-July in Sierra Nevada.
- Despite below to near normal risk, still could see wildfires due to finer fuels, such as dead trees, grass and shrubs. Also, any thunderstorms can produce cloud to ground lightning that could cause fire starts. Also relatively low risk at this time.
- Increased risk of flooding near any recent burn scars.

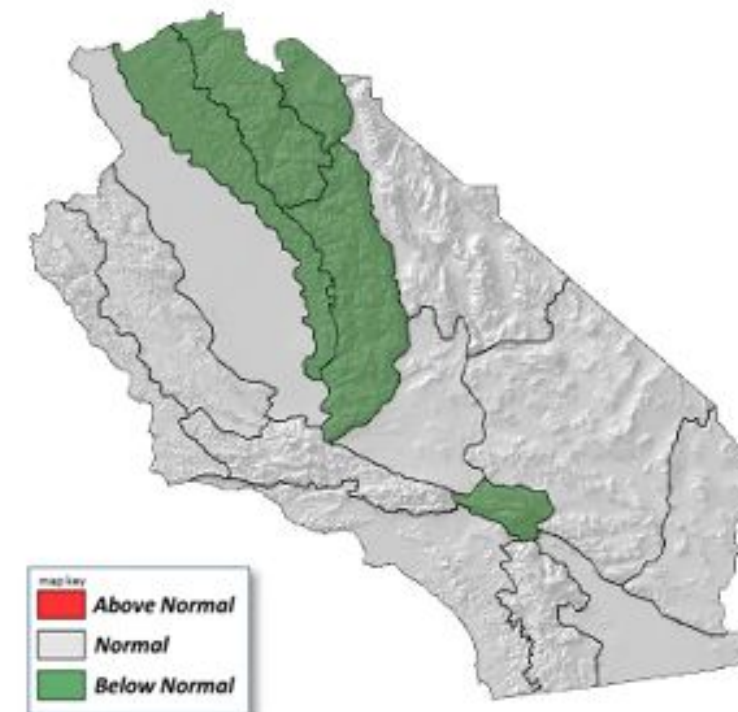
Source: NIFC (National Interagency Fire Center) GACC (Geographic Area Coordination Center) South Ops - Riverside, CA

More information: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/>

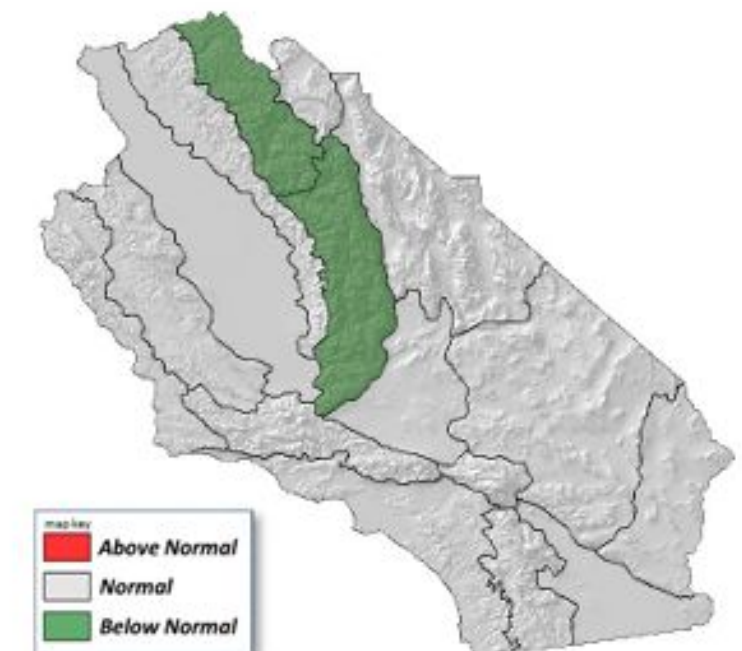
April – May 2023



June 2023



July 2023

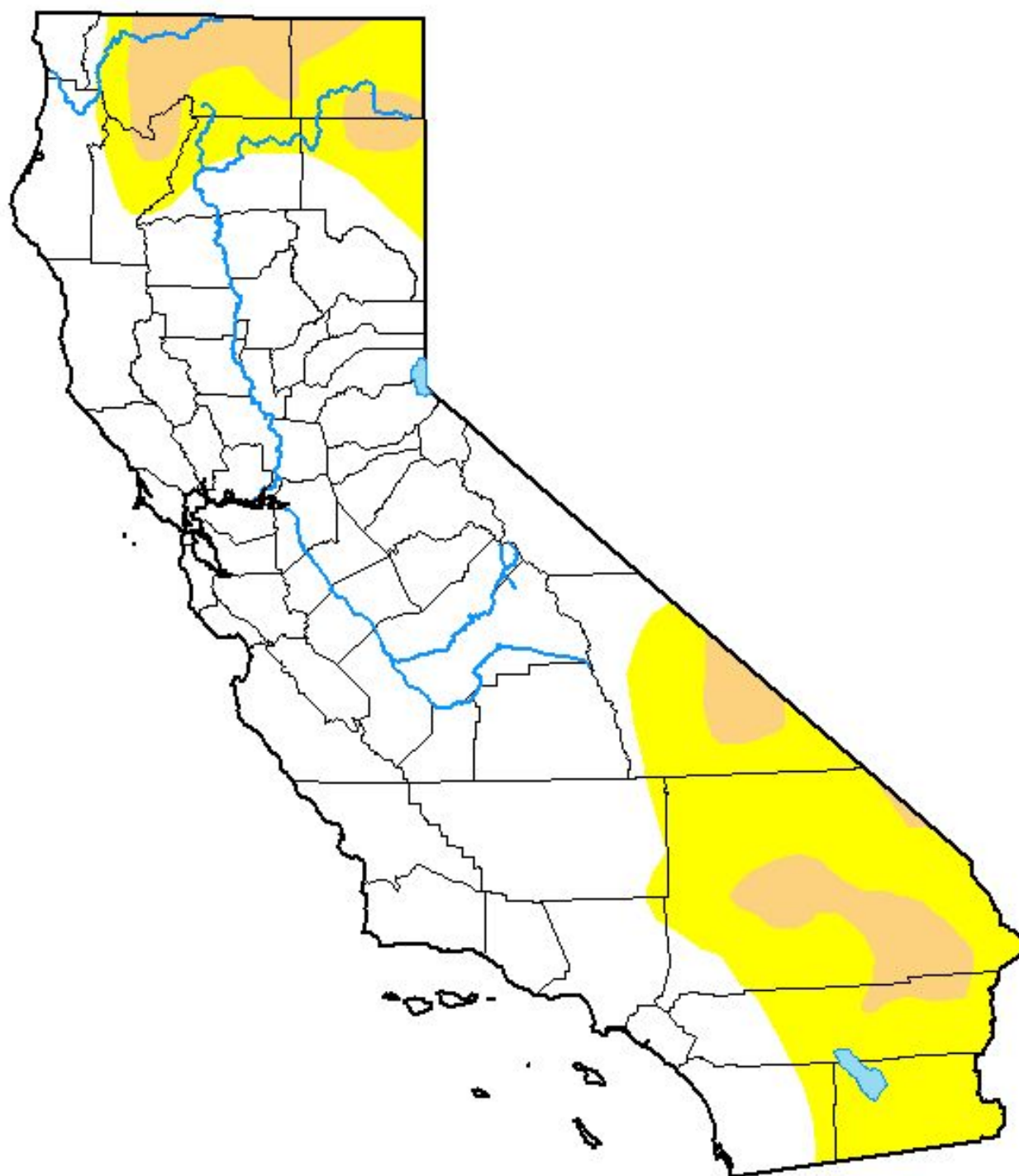




California Current Drought Conditions

Weather Forecast Office
Hanford, CA
Friday, April 21

U.S. Drought Monitor California



April 11, 2023

(Released Thursday, Apr. 13, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	65.67	34.33	8.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-04-2023	56.17	43.83	24.86	0.82	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-10-2023	0.00	100.00	95.38	46.00	0.32	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	0.00	100.00	97.93	71.14	27.10	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.00	100.00	99.76	94.01	40.91	16.57
One Year Ago 04-12-2022	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.75	46.87	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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>*

Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



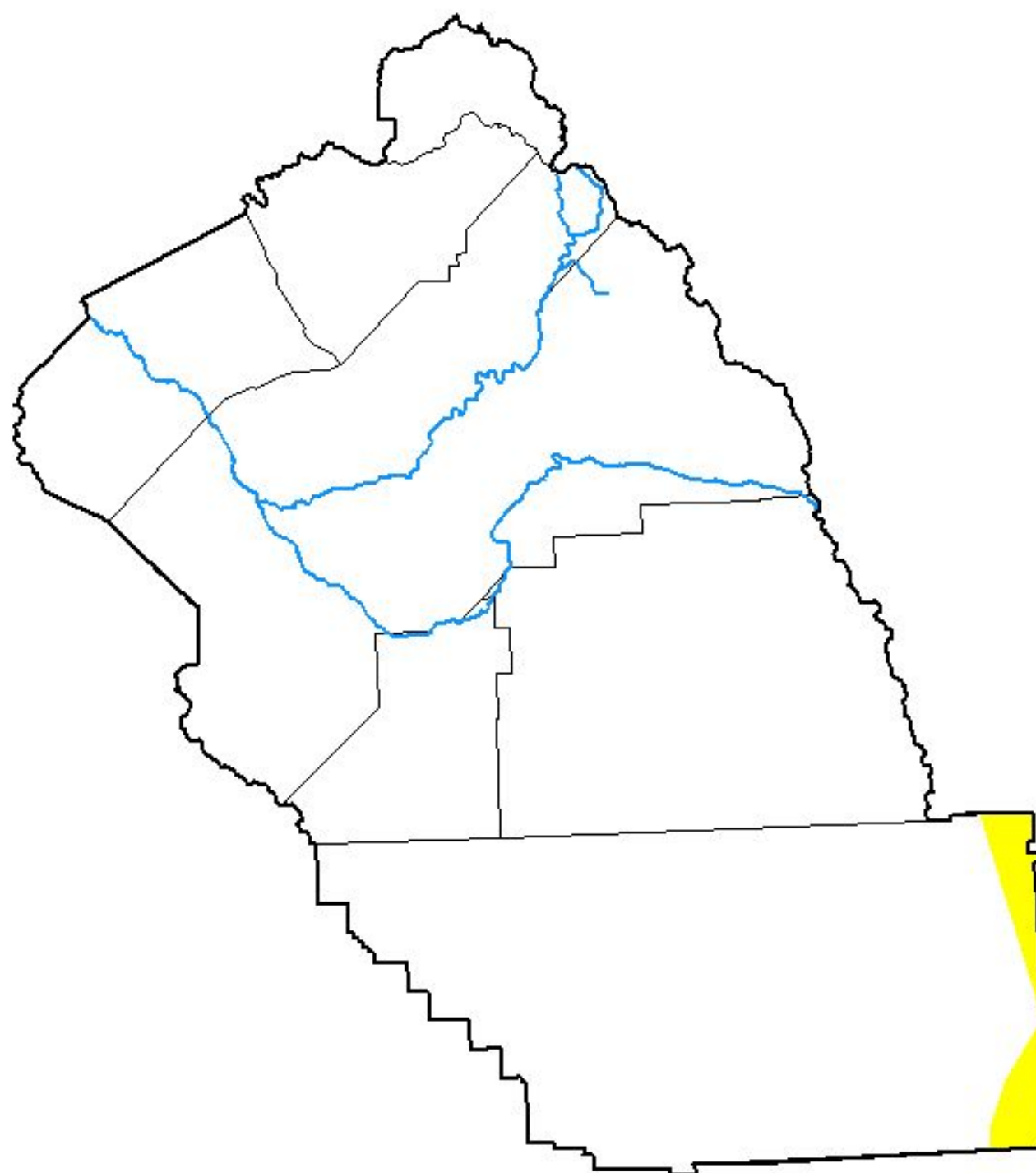
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Hanford, CA Current Drought Conditions

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U.S. Drought Monitor Hanford, CA WFO



April 11, 2023

(Released Thursday, Apr. 13, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	98.38	1.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-04-2023	98.38	1.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-10-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	65.93	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	88.26	63.71	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	97.55	85.95
One Year Ago 04-12-2022	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	93.29	0.00

Intensity:

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

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Summary

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- **Brief Weather Outlook (Climate Prediction Center)**
- **The increasing risk of flooding due to the recent storms and record levels of snowpack.**
- **Wildfire outlook below average this summer.**
- **Drought conditions (ended due to recent precipitation).**

Questions?



River gage at Pohono Bridge along Merced River in Yosemite NP
(not a recent river stage measurement)