



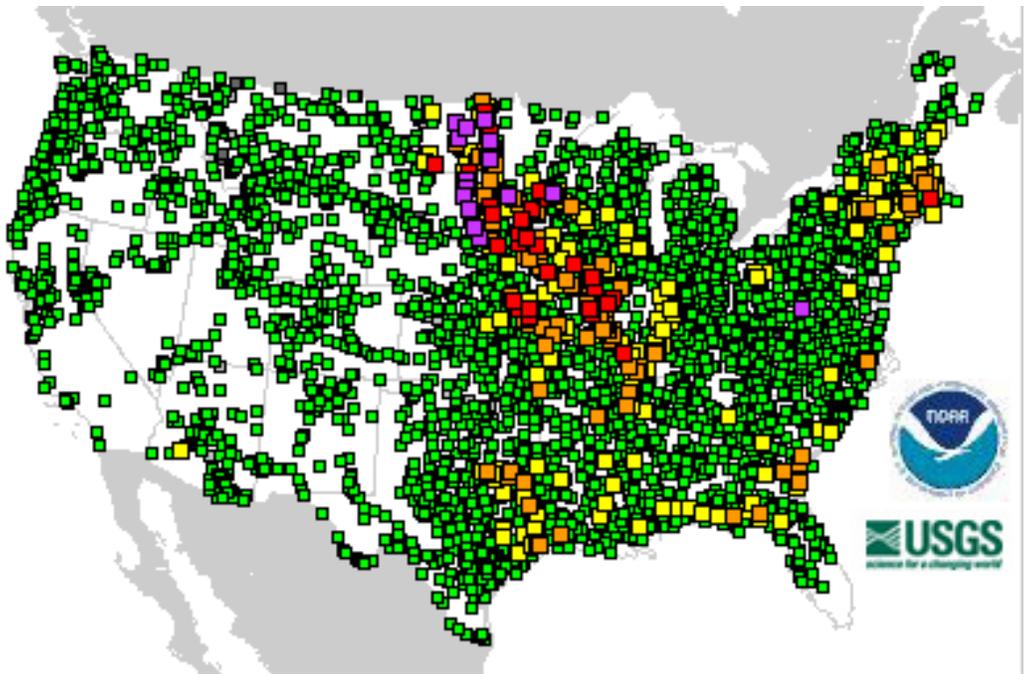
National Weather Service, Boise, Idaho

Sage Winds

April 2010

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/boi/>

Staying Informed About Rivers—Nationwide



<http://www.weather.gov/ahps/>

The water tab on the main <http://www.weather.gov/> web page takes you to a nationwide view of the river status. This map shows areas of major, moderate, and minor flooding, along with areas just below flood stage, and where flooding is not a problem. The colors are green (no problem), yellow (just below flood stage), orange (minor flooding), red (moderate flooding), and purple (major flooding). You can click anywhere on the map to get a detailed view of an area, including river forecasts for any of the more than 4000 locations monitored.

This year the Red River of the North, along the North Dakota/Minnesota border, is an active area with major river flooding taking place.

Due to the much below normal snowpack across Idaho and Oregon, the risk of snowmelt flooding in our area is low.

The national flood threat is discussed in the article at

NEW!



www.climate.gov

Here at your National Weather Service, we know *very* well what a hot-button topic climate change is. Regardless of politics, as members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration we are, first and foremost, committed to our role as stewards of the environment. For us, that means no matter what our personal opinions are, we must be objective in our continued analysis of climate and its possible variability over the coming decades. As anyone who has ever called us requesting climate data knows, often just finding the data you want is a difficult and lengthy process. Simplifying this process, in addition to understanding climate change, are just a few of the goals of NOAA's Climate Service. As a NWS Spotter, you play an integral role in the success of our mission, and we want you to be informed on the latest changes and developments in our field. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions that we hope will help you understand the changes.

What is the NOAA Climate Service? The NOAA Climate Service will be a comprehensive and integrated office responsible for NOAA's climate science, data, information and services. It will provide a one stop shop for users across the nation in much the same way NOAA's National Weather Service has been providing weather information and services for 140 years

What will the Climate Service do? A NOAA Climate Service will provide a single, reliable and authoritative source for climate data, information, and decision-support services to help individuals, businesses, communities and governments make smart choices in anticipation of a climate changed future.

Why did NOAA create a Climate Service? Until now, individuals, communities, governments and industry have relied on what we know about the climate in the past to make important decisions about our systems and infrastructure – from agriculture to energy to transportation. Our scientific observations of the climate tell us that climate change is real, and we are already seeing its impacts in our own backyards. Over time, we expect these impacts will be felt in nearly every aspect of our lives. Individuals and decision-makers nationwide are asking NOAA for information about the climate, so they can prepare their lives, communities and businesses for the impacts of climate change.

What are the top priorities for this office? The NOAA Climate Service will work to develop a sustained capacity to provide regional and sectoral climate vulnerability and risk assessments to more effectively meet the requirements of the US Global Change Research Act (national assessment required every 4 years). The NOAA Climate Service will have a more clearly established regional footprint to coordinate and provide improved regional climate services. The NOAA Climate Service will be able to better align climate observing and modeling assets with strategic needs.

What are the economic benefits of a Climate Service? The NOAA Climate Service will help decision-makers, resource managers, and the public to better anticipate, plan for, and respond to impacts of changing climate conditions.

Won't they need new funding to really get this office up and running? The proposal does not call for additional funding to establish the new line office. This is a reorganization of existing assets to coordinate and integrate NOAA's existing climate capabilities for greater effectiveness, cohesiveness, and to improve service relevance and delivery. While additional funds are needed to increase the core capabilities and fully meet the rapidly growing demands for climate science and service, this proposed reorganization streamlines current capabilities to maximize effectiveness independent of new resources.

Skywarn Spotter Training Sessions

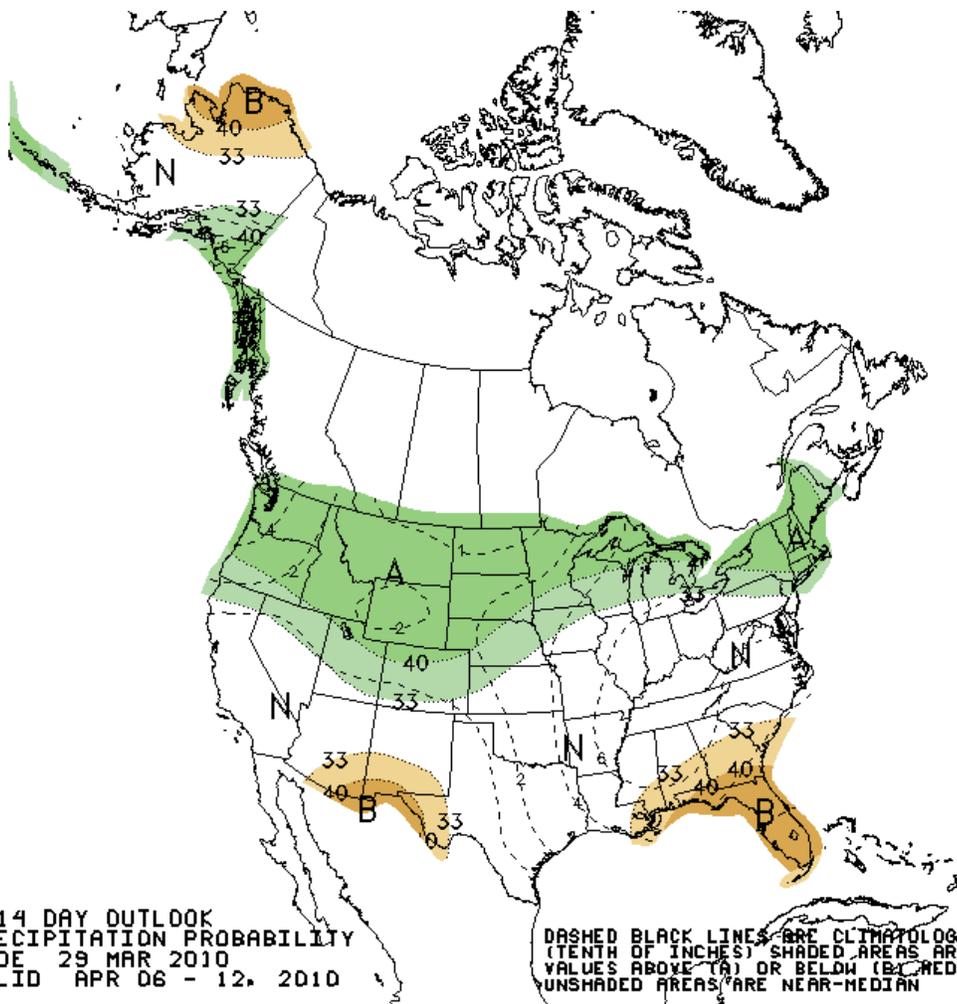
In coordination with local county Emergency Coordinators, We have set up 2 training sessions this spring. If you haven't been to a training session, this is a good time attend. If you have already been to one or more, come again and learn something new. Here are the details...

April 8, 2010 7-9 pm Ada County Public Safety Building
7200 Barrister Dr.
Boise, Idaho
Meet in the Lobby no later than 7 pm

May 5, 2010 7-9 pm Jerome, Idaho
Jerome City Council Chambers
100 East Avenue A
Jerome, ID

8—14 Day Precipitation Outlook

What a difference a month makes. The chart below shows the chance of precipitation being near normal, above normal, or below normal for the period from April 6-12. This chart is from the Climate Prediction web site at <http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/index.php>.



The darker green shaded areas mean that the odds of above normal precipitation are much greater than normal or below normal precipitation.

The series of storms that began on Sunday March 28th will help increase the snowpack in Idaho's mountains. While this added snow will bring a significant increase to the snowpack, unless the storms keep coming into the end of April, the mountains will likely remain below normal for their total snowpack this winter season.



Weather Humor

Perhaps you heard of the 2 feet of snow that recently landed in New York City.

National Weather Service

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Weather in the News

- Get those tomato plants going, prices may be going up—
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35728221/ns/business-consumer_news/
- Sandstorm in China—http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35959965/ns/world_news-asiapacific/
- Sandstorm in Nigeria—<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36025129/ns/weather/>
- Northern Rockies snowmelt/water supply—[http://www.usatoday.com/weather/drought/2010-03-11-low-snow-pack_N.htm?csp=34&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+usatoday-WeatherTopStories+\(Weather+-+Top+Stories\)](http://www.usatoday.com/weather/drought/2010-03-11-low-snow-pack_N.htm?csp=34&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+usatoday-WeatherTopStories+(Weather+-+Top+Stories))
- First it's a very snowy winter, now rain is the problem—
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36076597/ns/weather/>
- 2010 Hurricane season forecasts are out—<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35796810/ns/weather/>