



## Office of the Washington State Climatologist Newsletter

May 23, 2007

### New at OWSC

#### **eWaCH.net - Scoping Workshop on Augmenting the State's Hydro-Climate Network**

You're invited to attend the inaugural meeting of an effort we are calling eWaCH.net, for "enhancing Washington's Climate-Hydrology networks". This effort is aimed at catalyzing an improvement in the usefulness of existing climate and hydrology observation networks in the state of Washington, and upgrading those networks to meet a variety of applications.

The scoping workshop, to be held at the NOAA Western Regional Center campus at Sand Point in Seattle, WA on June 15, 2007, will bring together all who have an interest and a stake in these networks either in operating them or in using data from them. At the workshop, we will discuss and prioritize some goals for enhancements to the existing networks, and to lay plans for how to meet these goals including considering feasibility and costs. The workshop features talks by Dr. Kelly Redmond, Western Regional Climatologist; Dr. Chris Fiebrich, with Oklahoma Mesonet, and others.

To attend the workshop, please register. There is no fee to attend, however, registration is required to assist us in organizing the event and allow participants to quickly pass through security. Those attending the workshop will be responsible for purchasing their own lunch, which will be available in the cafeteria.

Additional information & registration: <http://www.climate.washington.edu/ewachnet>

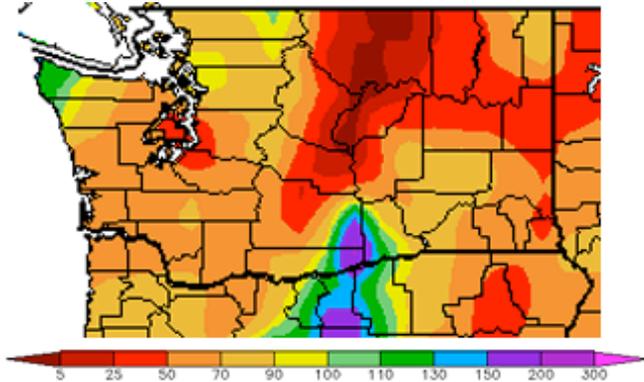
### In this Issue

- ☀ Page 1
  - New at OWSC
    - eWaCH.net Scoping Workshop
- ☀ Page 2
  - April Climate Summary
- ☀ Page 3
  - Outlook

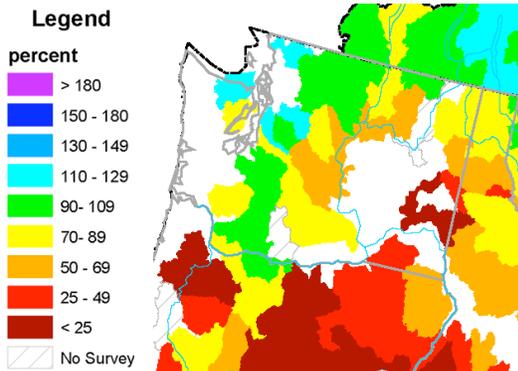
## April Climate Summary

Late season snow showers around the Puget Sound region gave way to record heat a few days later. April 6, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport recorded a record high of 79 degrees, breaking the previous record of 73 set in 1977.

April temperatures were near normal with a statewide average temperature of 47.0F, 0.2F cooler than the 1901-2000 average. Precipitation on the other hand, was below to much below normal for many parts of the state. Statewide precipitation was 63% of normal and 24th driest April out of 113-years (1 being the driest, 113 the wettest), with the Okanogan region being the driest (13% of normal).



April Percent of Normal Precipitation.  
 Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center  
<http://www.hprcc.unl.edu>



Percent of Normal Mountain Snowpack as of May 1, 2007. Source: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

Due to the lack of precipitation, snowpack as of May 1 has not improved since March, but still remains healthy overall for most of the state. Statewide snowpack is 93% of normal, down only 5% from April 1. The lowest observations are found in Eastern Washington-Walla Walla River Basin 35% of average (36% drop from last month), Spokane River Basin 60%, east slopes of the Cascades 79%. Despite the below average readings, the above average snowpack and precipitation received earlier in the season has filled up reservoirs in most areas and is likely not going to produce any water shortages this summer. Further, streamflow forecasts for spring and summer

indicate near to above average streamflow throughout the state.

### April Climate Summary for Various Cities

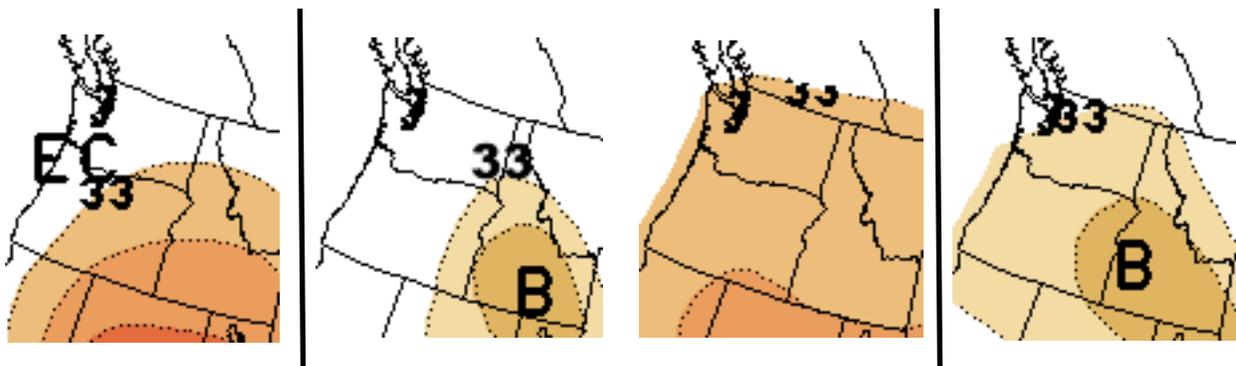
City	Temperature (F)			Precipitation (inches)		
	Average	Normal	Departure from Normal	Total	Normal	% of Normal
Bellingham	47.6	48.8	-1.2	2.30	2.78	83%
Hoquiam	50.3	49.1	+1.2	2.91	4.98	58%
Lind	47.5	49.3	-1.8	0.43	0.83	52%
Mt. Rainier (Paradise)	33.1	33.1	0.0	4.61	9.01	51%
Quillayute	46.7	46.8	-0.1	8.96	7.44	120%
Republic	43.4	44.1	-0.7	0.30	1.32	23%
Seattle	50.6	50.1	+0.5	0.69	2.59	27%
Stampede Pass	36.6	36.4	+0.2	4.38	5.47	80%
Spokane	46.5	46.5	0.0	0.50	1.28	39%
Walla Walla	52.5	52.7	-0.2	1.16	1.71	68%
Wenatchee	51.4	51.4	0.0	0.05	0.47	11%
Yakima	48.7	49.7	-1.0	0.25	0.53	47%

### Outlook

The Climate Prediction Center's 1-month outlook (see images below) for June indicates equal chance conditions for temperature and precipitation, except for the Blue Mountain region where there is a slightly increased probability for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. The 3-month outlook for June-July-August suggests a slightly increased chance for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for much of Washington. In the tropical Pacific, sea-surface temperatures remain consistent with ENSO neutral conditions and may transition to La Niña conditions in the next 2-3 months based on the current observed atmospheric trends and as predicted by a few models. However, half the models suggest ENSO neutral conditions will prevail for the remainder of the year. With the current spread of the forecasts and the typically low forecast skill of ENSO in the spring, there is considerable uncertainty as to whether or not La Niña may develop and therefore, not much emphasis should be placed on the current ENSO forecasts. Historically, the next few months are a critical time period for the possible emergence of La Niña and ENSO forecasts issued in the summer and fall have been much more accurate than those issued in the spring. For other seasonal outlooks, including local temperature outlooks, see <http://climate.washington.edu/outlook.html>.

**June Outlook**  
Temperature - Precipitation

**June-July-August Outlook**  
Temperature - Precipitation



EC Means equal chances for A, N, B.  
A means above, N means normal, B means below.