

Where to Get Help

Rural households and well owners

If your well is going dry or has failed, report it. Reporting dry wells helps the state understand drought impacts and connect people with available resources.

Look for:

- Dry well reporting
- Water Wells and Drought handout
- Well Owner's Handbook
- Water conservation tips
- Well repair, replacement, or abandonment assistance, if eligible

Farmers, ranchers, and water right holders

Start by contacting your local watermaster. They can help explain water rights, regulation, drought conditions, and whether emergency drought tools may apply.

Look for:

- Emergency drought tools
- Temporary emergency water use permits
- Temporary transfers or substitutions
- Instream leases
- Farm and ranch water conservation resources

Cities and water systems

Cities and water providers may use conservation plans, curtailment measures, public messaging, emergency planning, and funding programs to prepare for drought and protect drinking water supplies.

Everyone can help

Drought can affect every part of Jackson County — from household water use and gardens to rural wells, livestock, farms, streams, and fire season. The WaterWise for Jackson County Guides provide practical, easy-to-use information to help residents prepare for dry conditions, reduce water waste, and make informed decisions throughout the season.

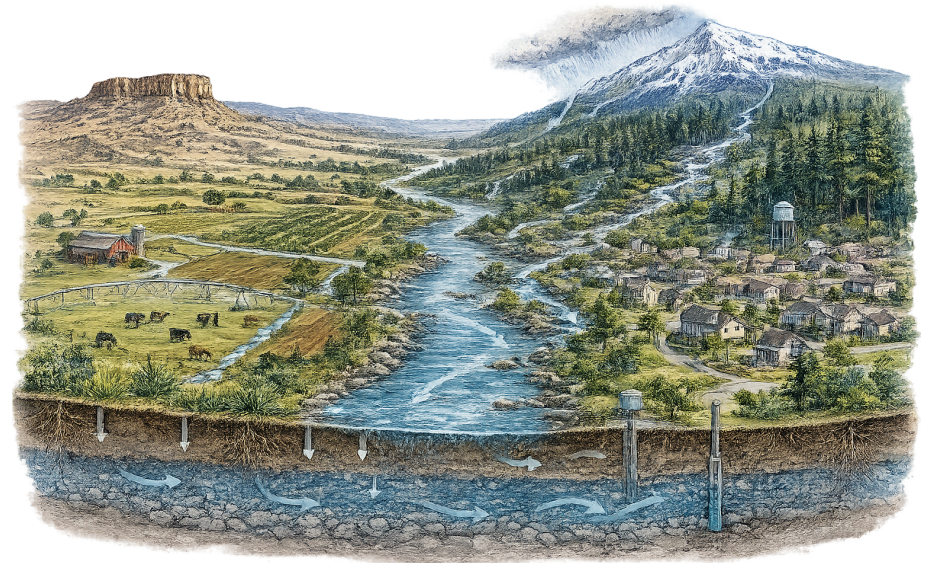
Scan Me to check out the WaterWise Guides to find tips and resources that fit your home, land, livestock, or business needs.



Drought



What to Know, What to Watch, and Where to Get Help



Jackson County is a diverse, and uniquely connected water system.

Drought is more than “not enough rain.”

Jackson County's water system connects snowpack, streams, soils, reservoirs, wells, farms, forests, wildlife, and communities. Our county is part of a diverse, and uniquely connected water system. Winter rain and snow feed soils, groundwater, streams, reservoirs, irrigation systems, farms, cities, rural homes, and habitat. When one part of that system runs short, the effects can show up across the whole county in different ways over time.

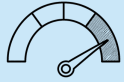
What does a drought declaration mean?

A drought declaration helps Oregon agencies coordinate response. It may also open short-term emergency tools for eligible water right holders. It does not mean every household, farm, well, or creek will experience drought the same way.

Drought emergency tools are generally short-term options, not permanent fixes. Water right holders should contact their local watermaster to understand what options may apply.

What to Watch During Drought

Drought conditions are not measured by one map alone. Use Drought.gov's Jackson County page as a starting place to look at current conditions, possible future conditions, and how this year compares to past years. The U.S. Drought Portal is already recommended in the resource materials as a place to explore current-condition maps and sign up for local drought alerts.



Drought status

Drought status shows the current drought level for an area, using the U.S. Drought Monitor. It is a helpful first look, but it does not tell the whole story for every creek, farm, well, or neighborhood.



Precipitation

Precipitation shows how much rain or snow has fallen compared with what is normal for the area. This matters because most Rogue Basin precipitation falls in winter, while summer rainfall is very limited.



Temperature

Temperature shows whether conditions are warmer or cooler than normal. Hot weather can increase water demand, dry out soils and vegetation faster, and add stress for people, livestock, crops, gardens, and streams.



Agriculture

Agriculture indicators may include crop conditions, pasture conditions, and soil moisture. These help show how drought is affecting farms, ranches, hay fields, and working lands.



Water supply

Water supply includes streamflow, groundwater, reservoirs, and related water data. Low streamflow or reservoir storage can affect irrigation, fish habitat, recreation, and water management decisions. The Rogue Basin relies on a connected system of winter precipitation, snowpack, groundwater, streams, reservoirs, and irrigation infrastructure.



Public health

Drought can connect with heat, smoke, dust, and drinking water concerns. Watching public health information can help households prepare for hot, dry months and protect people who may be more at risk.



Drought outlook

Drought outlooks and precipitation forecasts show what conditions may look like in the weeks or months ahead. They are not guarantees, but they can help residents, farms, water systems, and communities plan earlier.

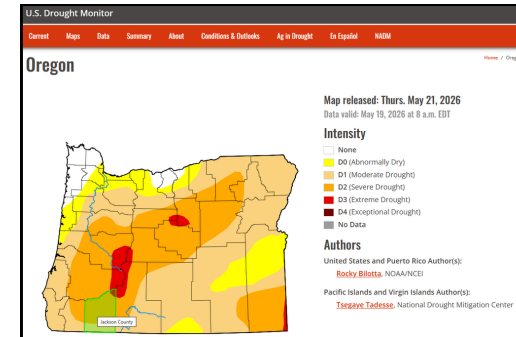


Alerts

Sign up for drought alerts to stay informed as conditions change. Alerts can help you know when new drought updates, forecasts, or regional briefings are available.

Where to Check Current Conditions

Use Drought.gov as your starting place. Check Jackson County's drought status, precipitation, temperature, agriculture, water supply, public health, outlooks, and alerts.

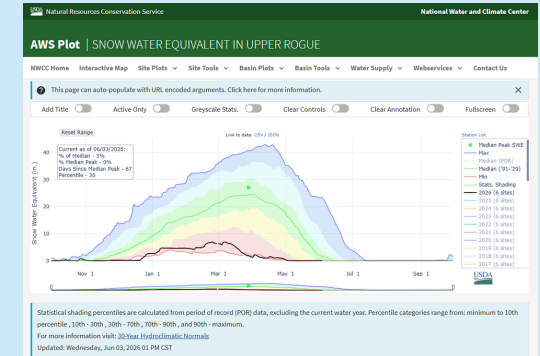


Scan Me to Check Current Conditions

In Jackson County, most precipitation comes in winter, but water demand is highest in summer.

Don't Forget About Snowpack

Snowpack is one of Jackson County's natural water savings accounts. Snow water equivalent, or SWE, tells us how much water is stored in snow if it melted. Drought.gov has many useful drought indicators, but snowpack is worth checking separately through NRCS SNOTEL or the Snow and Water Interactive Map.



USDA NRCS basin plots help show whether Oregon is building enough water supply before the dry summer season.

Snow Water Equivalent, or SWE

- Shows how much water is stored in the snowpack.
- Helps estimate how much water may flow into streams, reservoirs, and irrigation systems as snow melts.
- Low SWE can be an early warning sign for summer drought.

Precipitation

- Shows how much rain and snow has fallen since the water year began on October 1.
- Helps show whether a basin is getting normal, above-normal, or below-normal moisture.
- A basin can have normal precipitation but still have low snowpack if storms are warm and fall mostly as rain.

Average Daily Temperature

- Helps explain whether precipitation is falling as rain or snow.
- Warmer temperatures can melt snow earlier and increase water use by plants.
- Early snowmelt can lead to lower streamflows later in summer.