

Regional – Impacts for March - May 2025

Agriculture

Soil moisture in North Dakota drastically improved after the heavy rains in May. The same cannot be said for Montana, where 61 percent of topsoil moisture was rated poor to very poor. Spring wheat across the northern plains had a historically poor start, with one of its [worst initial ratings](#). Winter wheat yields are projected to be [down over 15 bushels an acre](#) in Nebraska and South Dakota.



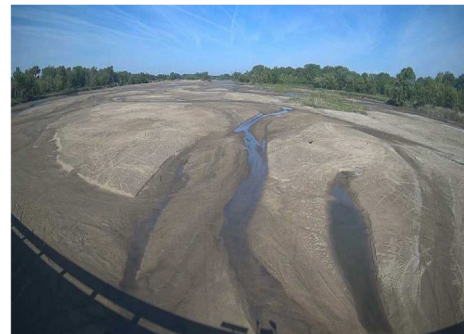
Wildfires

The dryness plaguing the region since last fall led to thousands of acres burned across the Basin. Nearly 34,000 acres were burned in the [Cheyenne River fire](#) in March, while numerous smaller wildfires were reported on a daily basis. Also, towards the end of May, smoke from the wildfires in Canada [blanketed](#) most of the Basin.



Water Resources

Warmer temperatures in the west led to a [rapid snowpack melt-off](#) in the Rockies this spring. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, runoff in the Upper Missouri Basin above Sioux City, IA is projected to be [77 percent of normal](#) in 2025. Lower releases will continue from Gavins Point Dam to the Missouri River this summer. Despite the heavy May rainfall in North Dakota, there was no flooding reported.



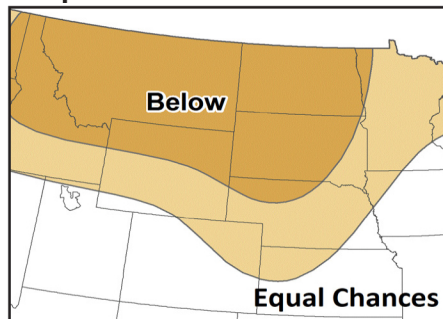
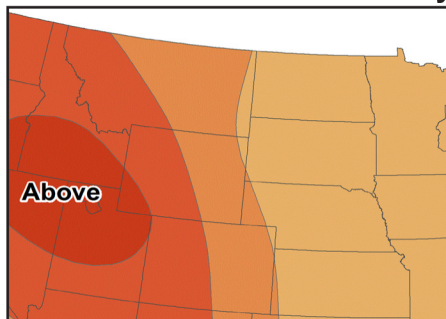
Above: Condition Monitoring Observer Report (CMOR) in late May near Kimball, Nebraska, credit National Drought Mitigation Center (left); Aftermath of the Cheyenne River Fire in South Dakota, credit [InciWeb](#) (center); Platte River near Duncan, Nebraska, credit United States Geological Survey (right)

Regional – Outlook for July - September 2025

Temperature

Precipitation

Outlooks for July - September 2025



EC: Equal chances of above, near, or below normal

A: Above normal, B: Below normal

According to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, the outlook for the upcoming season indicates increased chances of above-normal temperatures across the Basin. Increased chances of below-normal precipitation are present in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming. The rest of the Basin has equal chances of above, below, and near-normal precipitation.

The combination of warmer temperatures and below normal precipitation could lead to the redevelopment of drought conditions. Chances for wildfires are elevated this summer, particularly in the northern portions of the Basin. Smoke drifting down from the Canadian wildfires is likely to continue causing air quality issues.

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