

Grass:

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After one of the driest beginnings to a year since World War II — precipitation at the Baker City Airport for January, February and March totaled just .67 of an inch, 30% of average — April and May were comparatively soggy.

Rainfall during the two-month period amounted to 3.31 inches — 49% above average.

May, with 2.05 inches, was the wettest month at the airport in almost seven years, since July 2015 (2.72 inches).

The copious rainfall had a dramatic effect on grass, both in hay meadows and in the sagebrush hills where Siddoway and many other ranchers run their cattle during the summer.

“It’s going to be a good grass year,” Siddoway said. “Meadow hay is going to be far better than it was last year. It’s really changed the outlook.”

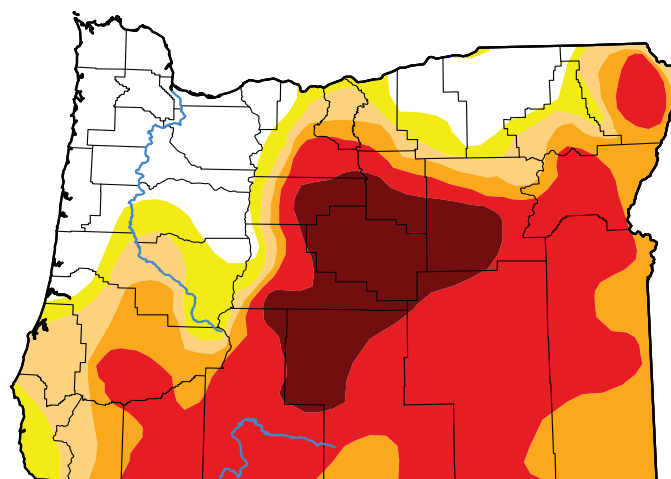
The cool and damp weather that dominated spring continued into the first week or so of June, with heavy snow falling on a couple days at higher elevations of the Elkhorn and Wallowa mountains.

Summery conditions arrived in the middle of June, turning off the tap of Pacific moisture and pushing temperatures as high as 97 at the Baker City Airport on June 27, the very day Siddoway was expressing his gratitude for the bumper grass crop.

That same day the grass in meadows near North Powder was so tall that only the backs of grazing cattle could be seen

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U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon



May 31, 2022

(Released Thursday, Jun. 2, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	18.70	81.30	73.06	63.39	47.22	11.81
Last Week 05-24-2022	17.41	82.59	74.31	63.57	47.22	11.81
3 Months Ago 03-01-2022	4.97	95.03	90.65	77.27	45.61	16.22
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	4.16	95.84	89.75	75.37	50.84	17.27
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	96.47	72.10	26.59
One Year Ago 06-01-2021	0.00	100.00	97.08	72.03	27.36	3.57

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>

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