

SPRING RAIN | BAKER COUNTY

# 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.”

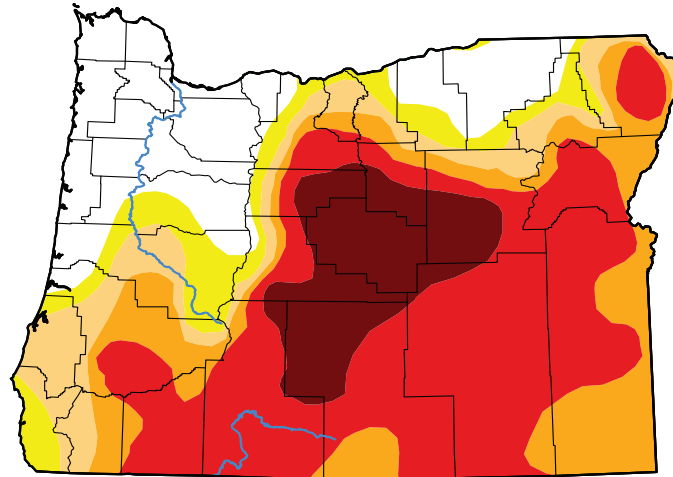
The cool and damp weather that dominated spring continued into the first week or so of June, with heavy snow falling on a couple days at higher elevations of the Elkhorn and Wallowa mountains.

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
<b>Current</b>	18.70	81.30	73.06	63.39	47.22	11.81
<b>Last Week</b> 05-24-2022	17.41	82.59	74.31	63.57	47.22	11.81
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 03-01-2022	4.97	95.03	90.65	77.27	45.61	16.22
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-04-2022	4.16	95.84	89.75	75.37	50.84	17.27
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-28-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	96.47	72.10	26.59
<b>One Year Ago</b> 06-01-2021	0.00	100.00	97.08	72.03	27.36	3.57

**Intensity:**  
 None (White)      D2 Severe Drought (Yellow)  
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Light Orange)      D3 Extreme Drought (Red)  
 D1 Moderate Drought (Dark Orange)      D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

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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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

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