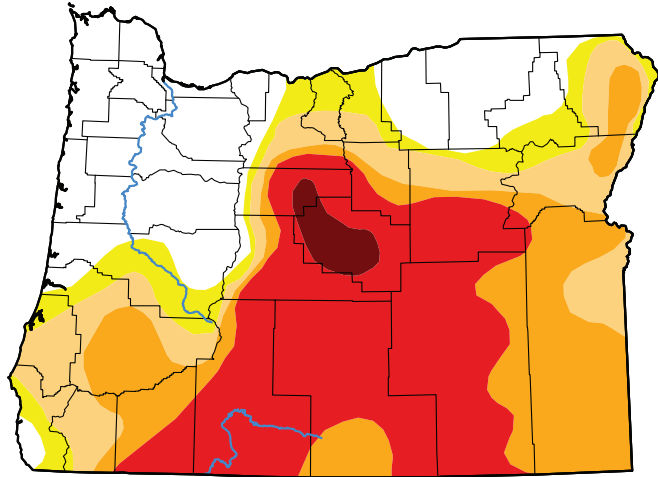


SPRING RAIN | BAKER COUNTY

U.S. Drought Monitor  
Oregon



June 28, 2022  
(Released Thursday, Jun. 30, 2022)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	24.60	75.40	66.49	52.71	31.72	1.77
<b>Last Week</b> 06-21-2022	24.60	75.40	66.49	52.71	31.72	1.77
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 03-29-2022	7.16	92.84	88.44	74.25	50.28	15.01
<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> 06-29-2021	0.00	100.00	99.97	81.96	43.93	4.78

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

Grass:

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from Interstate 84, their shoulders rising from the green sea like whales' flukes.

The soggy spring significantly eased the drought that has plagued Baker County, and much of Northeastern Oregon, for more than a year.

On June 21, just 4% of Baker County — a small sliver in the southwest corner that doesn't include any farmland — was rated as being in extreme drought, the second-worst among the five-level drought rating system, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. That's the lowest percentage since Jan. 26, 2021, when no part of the county was in extreme drought.

On April 5, 2022, by contrast, almost the entire county — 84% — was in extreme drought.

Siddoway said the spring rain, though immensely helpful for this year's grass crop, wasn't sufficient to replenish aquifers depleted by the drought.

He said springs that have dried up or diminished haven't recovered — a heavy winter snowpack would help with that situation, he said.

"The drought is not over yet," Siddoway said.

'One of the best grass years'

Clair Pickard chooses the same word as Siddoway did when talking about his expectations when April began.

"Disaster."

"We just completely expected a disaster," said Pickard, who with his wife, Patti, has a ranch in Keating Valley about 15 miles east of Baker City.

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