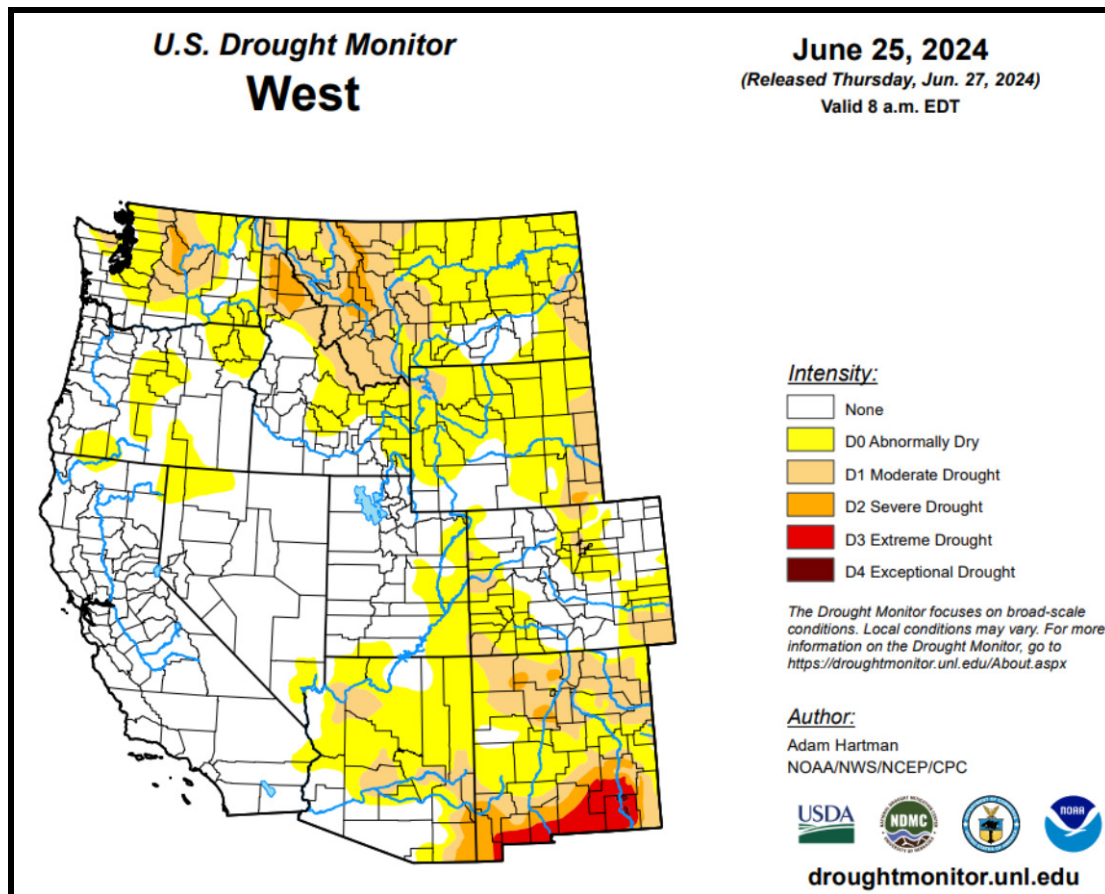


California Heat Ridge To Stress Crops, Livestock

By Andrew Owen

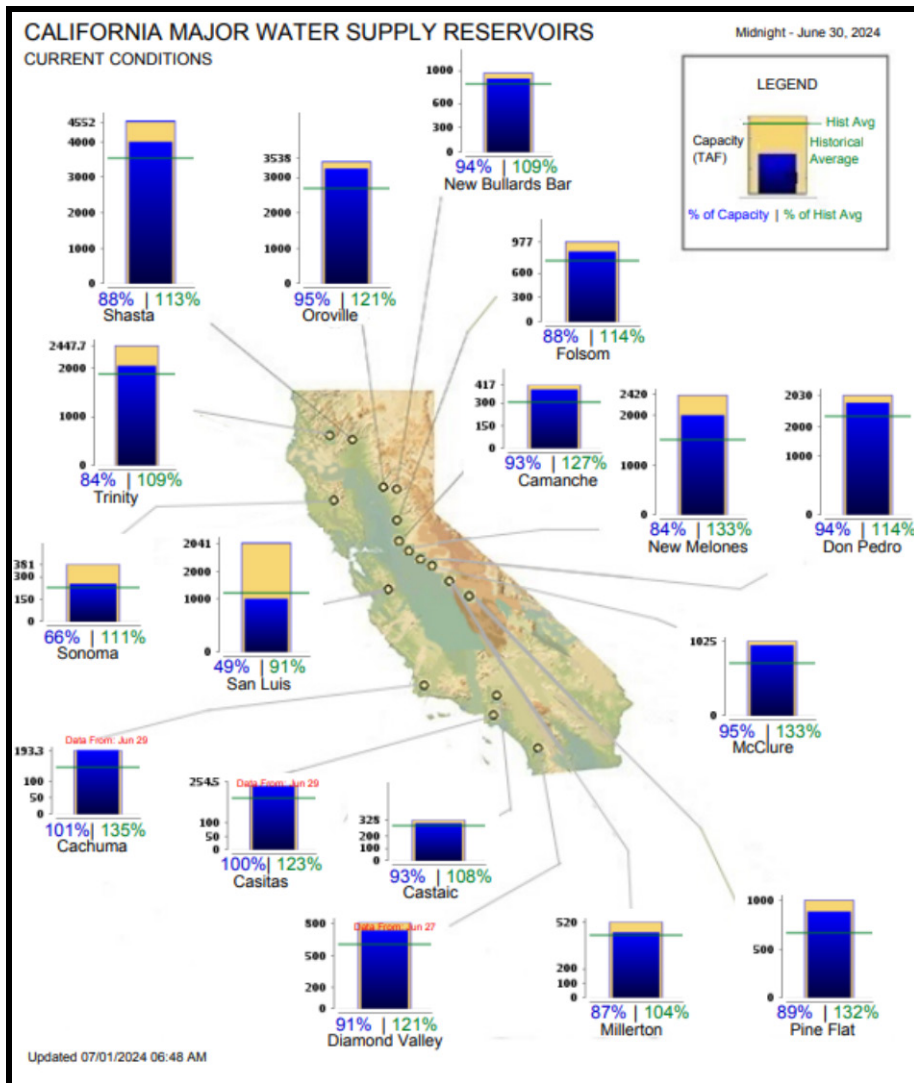
Kansas City, July 1 (World Weather Inc.) – Temperatures will gradually surge above or well above normal for this time of year for western North America, particularly California, in the coming days as a high-pressure ridge moves inland from the Pacific Ocean. This ridge will funnel warmer air across the region with temperatures surging well above 100 degrees (possibly to 115) Fahrenheit in California’s central valleys. Significant crop and livestock stress will be the greatest concern. Crop areas in the Pacific Northwest will also see temperatures surge above normal later this week and weekend with some locations potentially warming near 100 degrees as well. The environment will gradually deteriorate for crops, most notably in Washington where drought or abnormally dry conditions are prevalent in portions of crop country.

Other than some light rain in the north and in the Sierra Nevada, California was seasonally dry in June. The state remained drought-free as of June 25 despite the lack of rain. In the meantime, areas near and west of the Cascade Mountains in Washington and northwestern Oregon received near to above normal rainfall for the month of June. The remaining locations in the Pacific Northwest were drier than normal. Many areas in Washington were abnormally dry with portions of central Washington in a moderate to severe drought as of June 25. Pockets in Oregon were also abnormally dry.



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Prospects for California for the upcoming season are favorable. The state has ample moisture in storage with reservoir levels generally near or above historical averages. Temperatures have not yet been oppressively hot, although there have been some short term bouts of excessive heat. Cotton and rice conditions are generally good to excellent and other crops (including most fruit and vegetable crops) are likely favorable as well. In the meantime, some of the wheat in Washington and Oregon is rated poorly due to the lack of rain in June.



The main concern for western North America this week will be the development of a heat ridge. This high-pressure ridge will move inland from the Pacific Ocean during the next few days and will remain in place through at least early next week. **Daytime highs in California's central valleys and neighboring production areas will often warm above 100 degrees with several pockets likely warming to 115 degrees or slightly higher Wednesday into the weekend.** Oregon and Washington will often warm to the upper 80s and 90s this week with some locations potentially warming above 100 degrees this weekend and early

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next week. The ridge will also restrict rainfall for much of the Pacific Northwest while California remains seasonally dry.

The ridge will shift slowly into central North America July 9 – 15. While warmer than normal conditions will likely persist during the first few days of the outlook, more seasonable temperatures will potentially evolve toward mid-month for much of western North America. Precipitation will remain limited.

The excessive heat for at least the next seven days will potentially stress crops across California. Irrigation may be increased to limit production impacts, though the stressful environment may slow development or even marginally reduce production potentials.

Livestock may also be stressed. Milk production may decrease as a result.

Drought and abnormally dry conditions will otherwise intensify in the Pacific Northwest due to the lack of rain and warm to hot weather for at least the next week. The environment will deteriorate for unirrigated spring and summer crops.

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