



Drought Information Statement for the Missouri Ozarks

Valid February 19, 2026

Issued By: *WFO Springfield, MO*

Contact Information: *contact.sgf@noaa.gov*

- This product will be updated by March 5, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/sgf/SGFDroughtMonitor> for additional information.

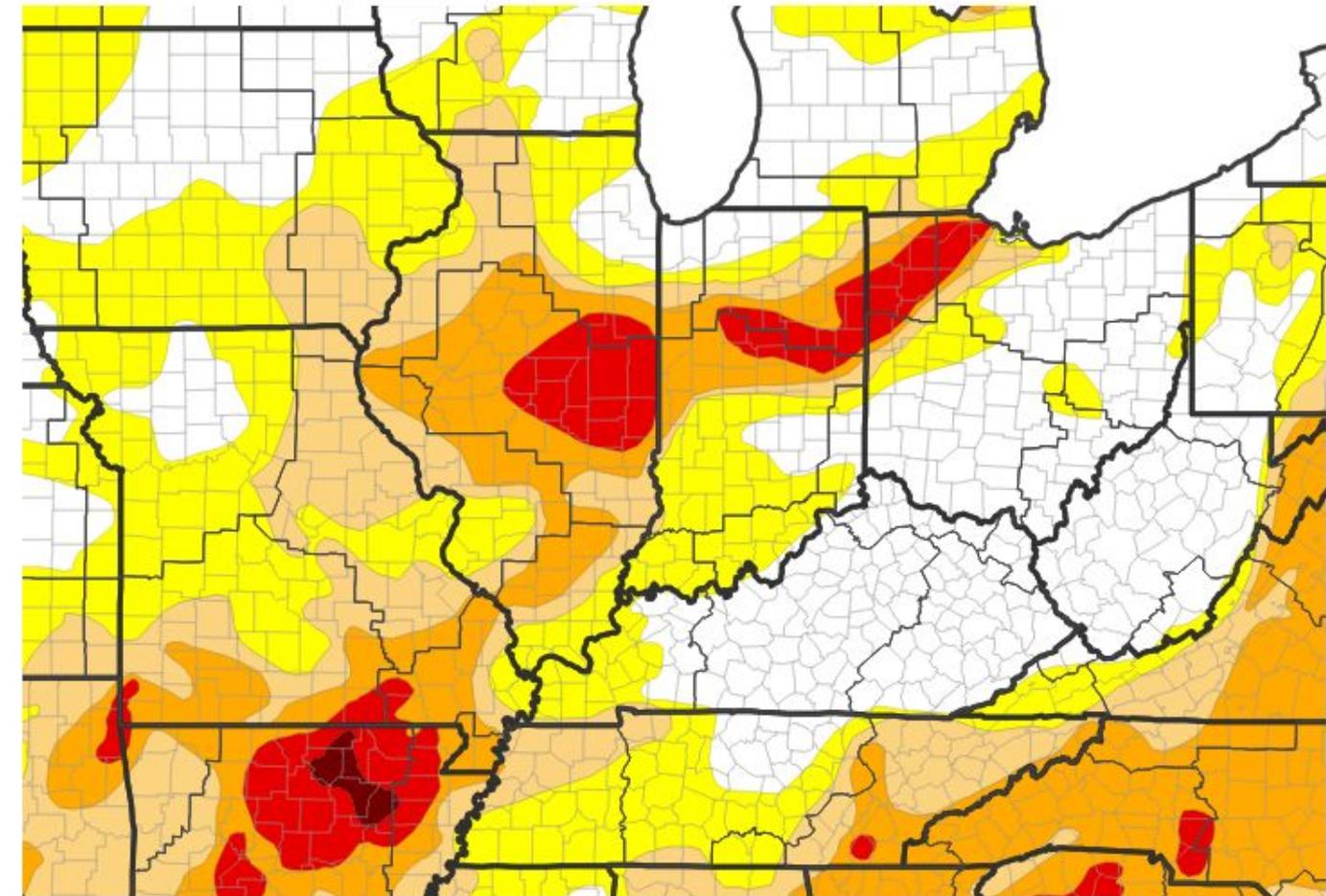




Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Lower Midwest

- **Drought Persists Across the Ozarks Region**
- **Drought Intensity and Extent**
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Portions of Oregon, Howell, Newton and McDonald Counties in Missouri.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Portions of Dade, Dent, Lawrence, Greene, Taney, Christian, Ozark, Oregon, Shannon, Newton, McDonald, Barry, Webster, Stone, Douglas, and Howell Counties in Missouri.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Cherokee Counties, and Portions of Crawford County in Kansas. Barton, Jasper, Newton, Cedar, Barry, Polk, Webster, Douglas, Wright, Pulaski, Maries, Phelps, Dade, Texas, Howell, Hickory, Dallas and Miller Counties in Missouri.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Bourbon County in Kansas. Morgan, Benton, St. Clair, Hickory, Camden, Miller, Dallas, and Laclede Counties in Missouri.

U.S. Drought Monitor



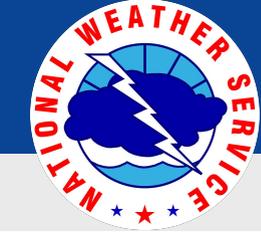
U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/17/26



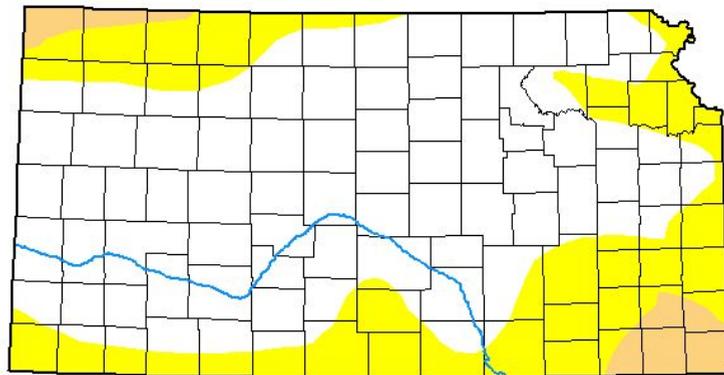


State Drought Monitor

February 20, 2026
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Link to [Recent Change Maps](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor Kansas



February 17, 2026
(Released Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	68.27	31.73	4.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>02-10-2026</i>	66.27	33.73	6.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>11-18-2025</i>	74.94	25.06	10.07	1.65	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-06-2026</i>	68.26	31.74	13.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-30-2025</i>	81.75	18.25	5.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>02-18-2025</i>	33.90	66.10	21.55	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



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>

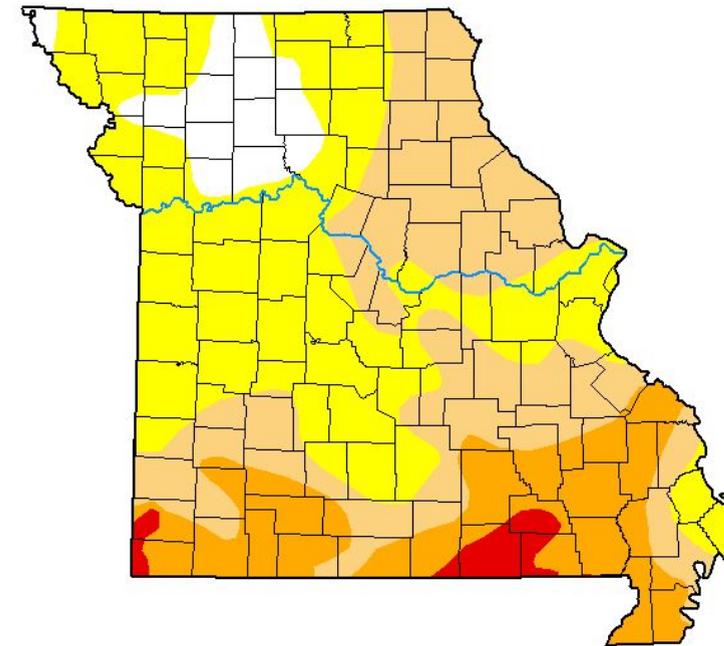
Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Missouri



February 17, 2026
(Released Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7.55	92.45	51.36	19.40	2.25	0.00
Last Week <i>02-10-2026</i>	7.55	92.45	72.78	31.22	1.48	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>11-18-2025</i>	6.74	93.26	63.85	21.77	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-06-2026</i>	4.72	95.28	57.54	11.61	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-30-2025</i>	6.56	93.44	63.57	22.18	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>02-18-2025</i>	60.54	39.46	9.67	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



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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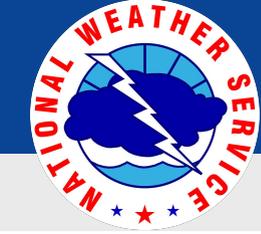
Main Takeaways

- Despite widespread rainfall Feb 14-15, drought conditions continue across portions of the Missouri Ozarks, especially south of Interstate 44.
- Drought conditions persist across southeast Kansas.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

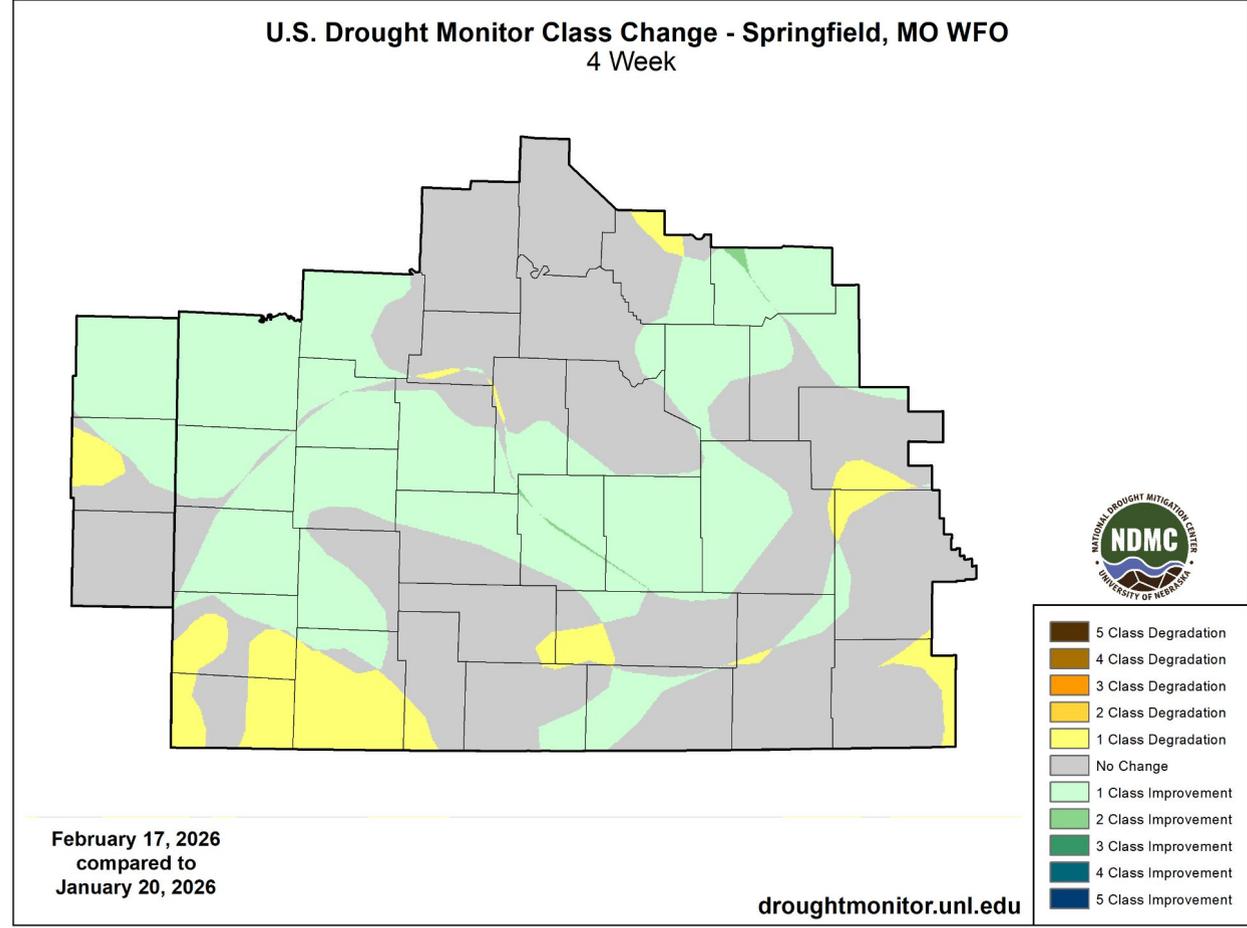
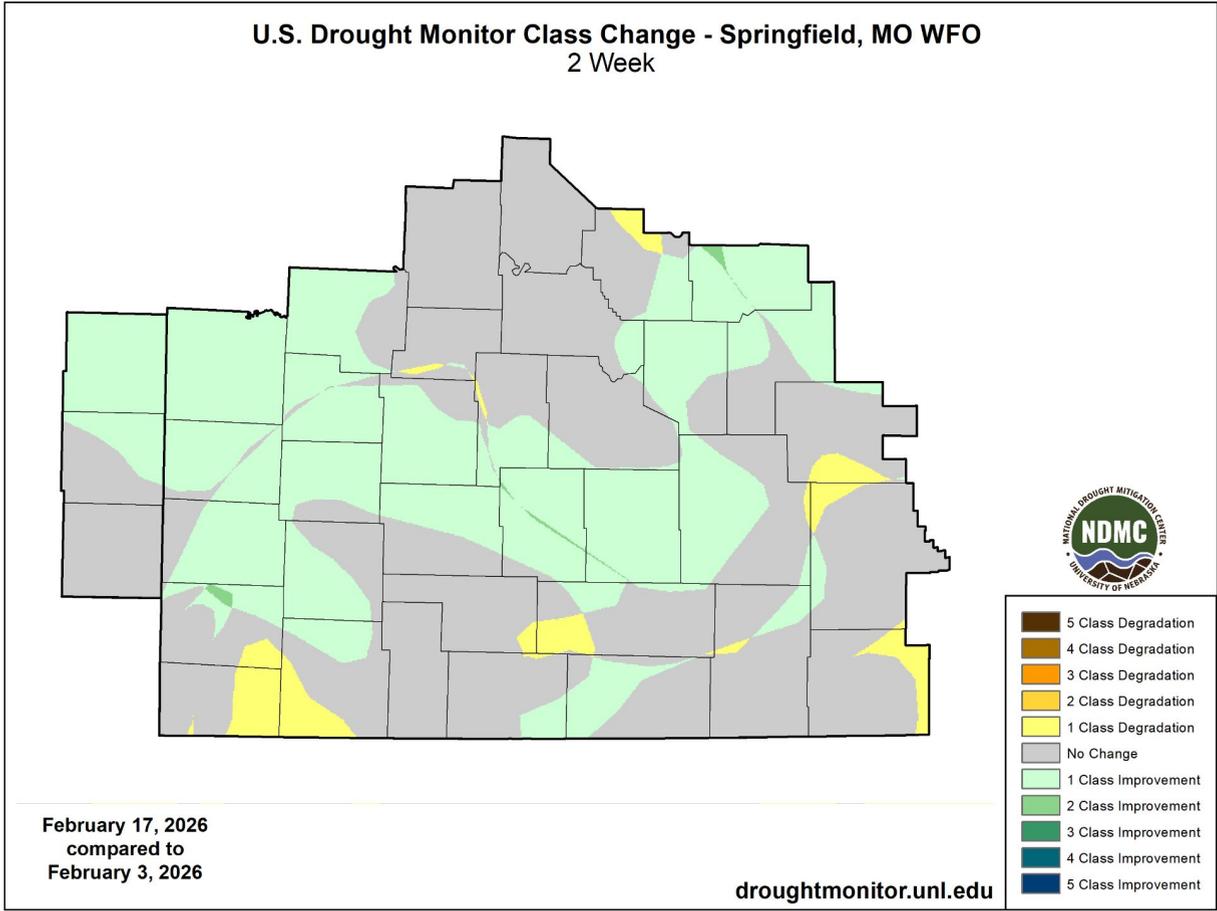
National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

February 20, 2026
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[Link to Recent Change Maps](#)



Main Takeaways

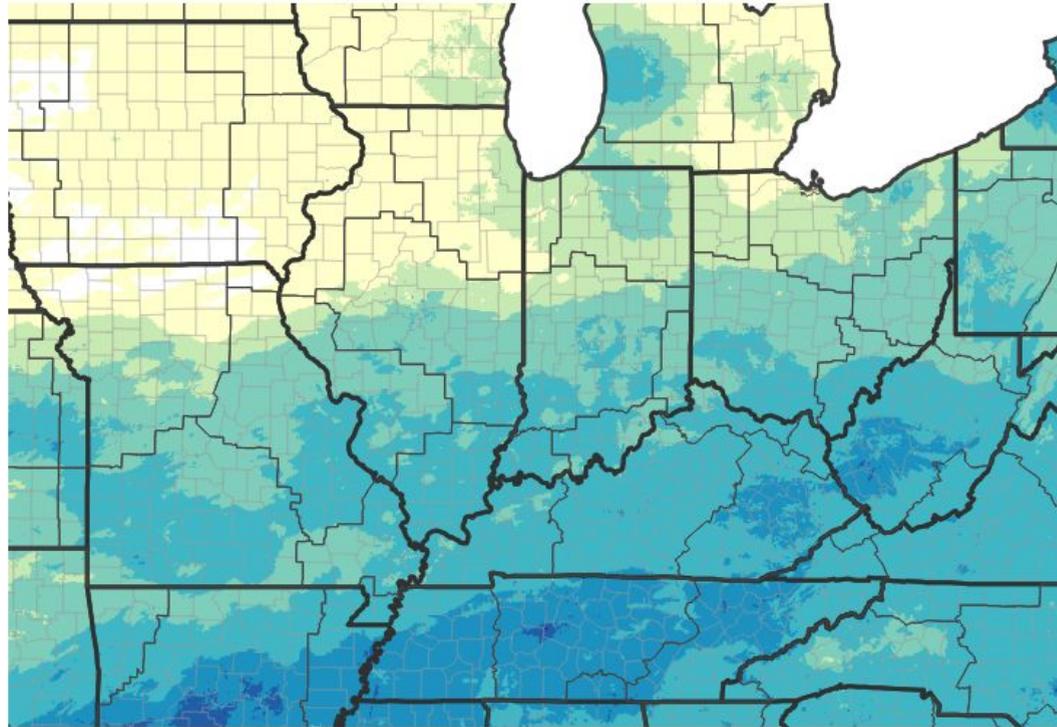
- Drought conditions had marginal improvement over some locations across the area over the last 4 weeks.



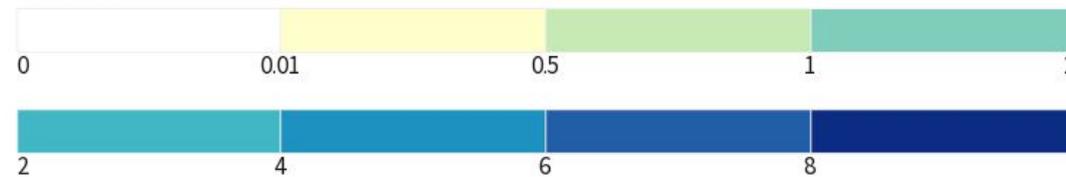
Precipitation

February 20, 2026
5:09 AM

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

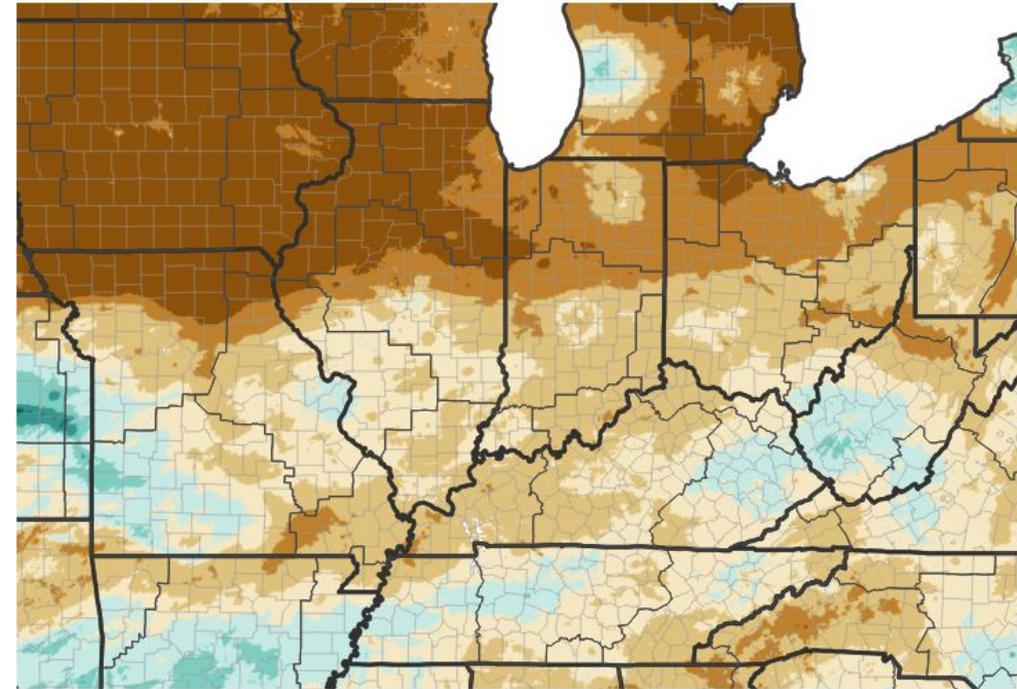


Inches of Precipitation

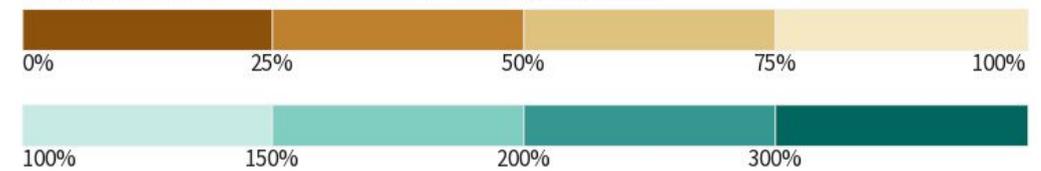


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/19/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/19/26

Main Takeaways

- Feb 14-15 rainfall event did increase monthly percentages across some areas however far southwest Missouri and central Missouri still have below normal rainfall over the last 30 days.





Summary of Impacts

February 20, 2026

5:09 AM

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- A number of locations continue to see below normal streamflows, with reports of small creeks, streams, and ponds nearly dried up with large cracks in soil.

Agricultural Impacts

- Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMORs) from the last 7 days were limited as the active growing season ended in the fall, however dry conditions over the D1 to D3 areas continued the following:
 - Supplementing feed and feeding hay early (since August for some) with dead grass and little to no regrowth
 - Lack of water for livestock requiring water hauling, reduced water quality where water remains
 - Decreased stock weights, animal stress and livestock mortality, and farmers selling livestock to reduce hay and water consumption
 - Later crop harvests and/or planting, crop stress and failures, reduced crop yields, increases in invasive insects, erosion (no-till practices not helping), inability to plant fall forage for lack of moisture
 - Farmers report: “Even with a recent 2 inch rain fields are still hard and very little moisture. Ponds are still well below spillways. Winter wheat is struggling to thrive.”

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Increased risk of fires as we head into late winter and early spring due to below normal precipitation, above normal temperatures, and dry soils.
 - A few wildfires have occurred across the region over the past 30 days.

Other Impacts

- Some reports of change in air quality due to dust along with mental stress.

Mitigation actions

- The Missouri Drought Alert issued by the Governor has been extended through April 1, 2026.
- The Missouri Department of Agriculture has an AgriStress Helpline at 833-897-2474.
- More information is available at muext.us/PSCFarmRanch.

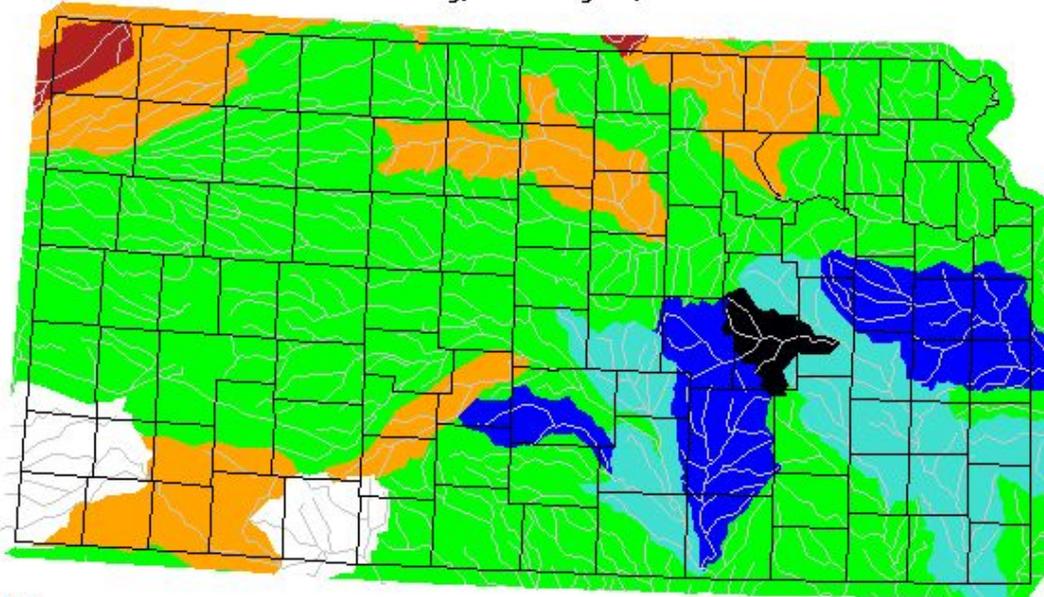




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

February 20, 2026
5:09 AM

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

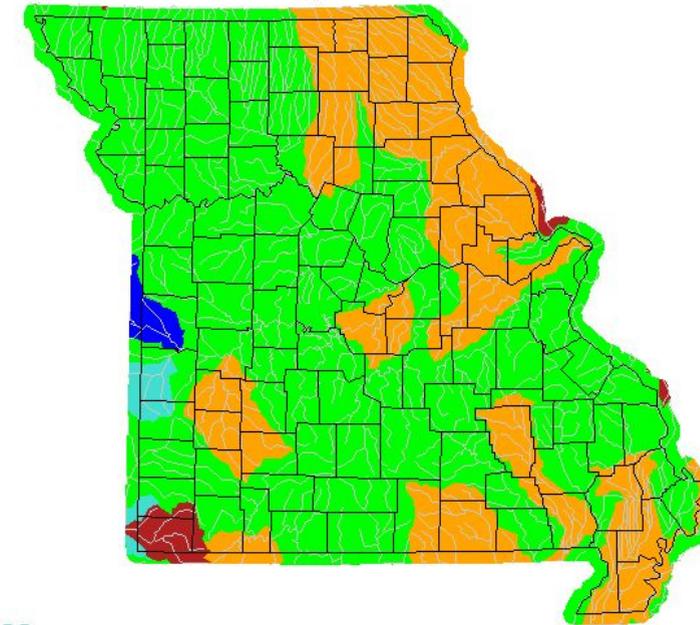


USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Caption: : [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map - Kansas.](#)

Wednesday, February 18, 2026



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Caption: : [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map - Missouri.](#)

Main Takeaways

- Streamflow percentiles over the past 7 days were normal to above normal across southeast Kansas
- Streamflow percentiles over the past 7 days still had several below normal areas across the Missouri Ozarks, especially the Elk River basin.

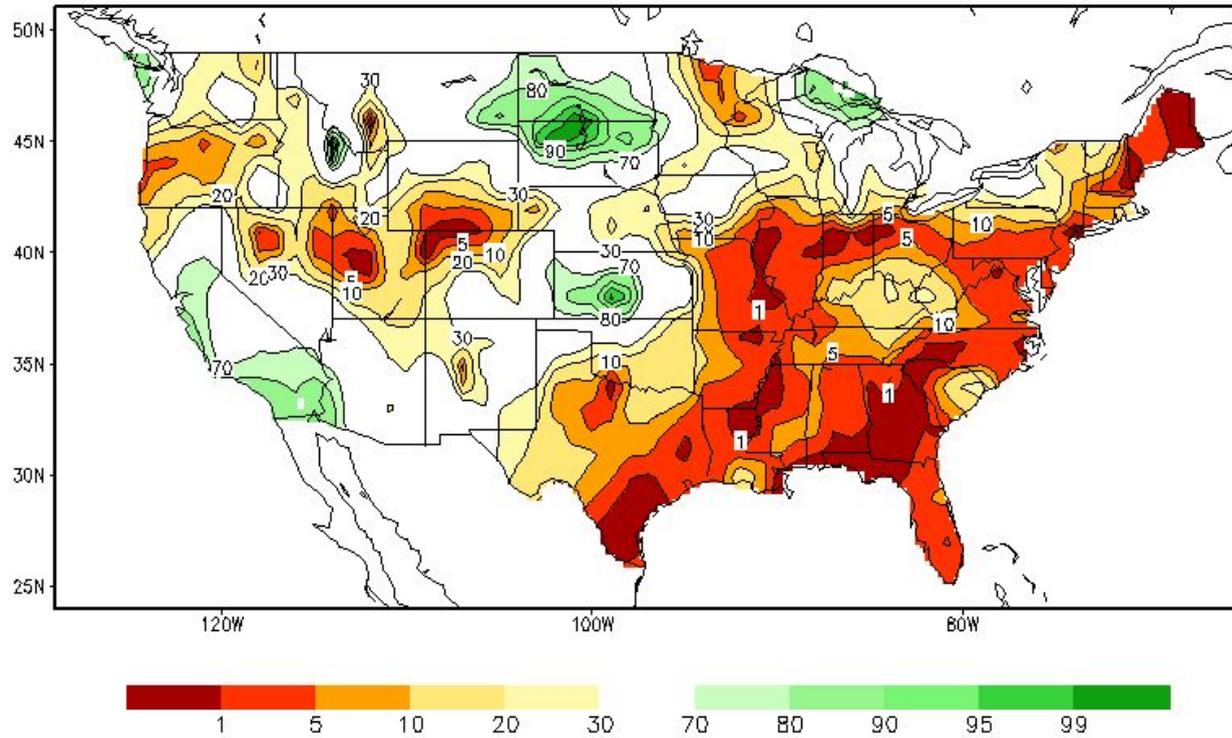




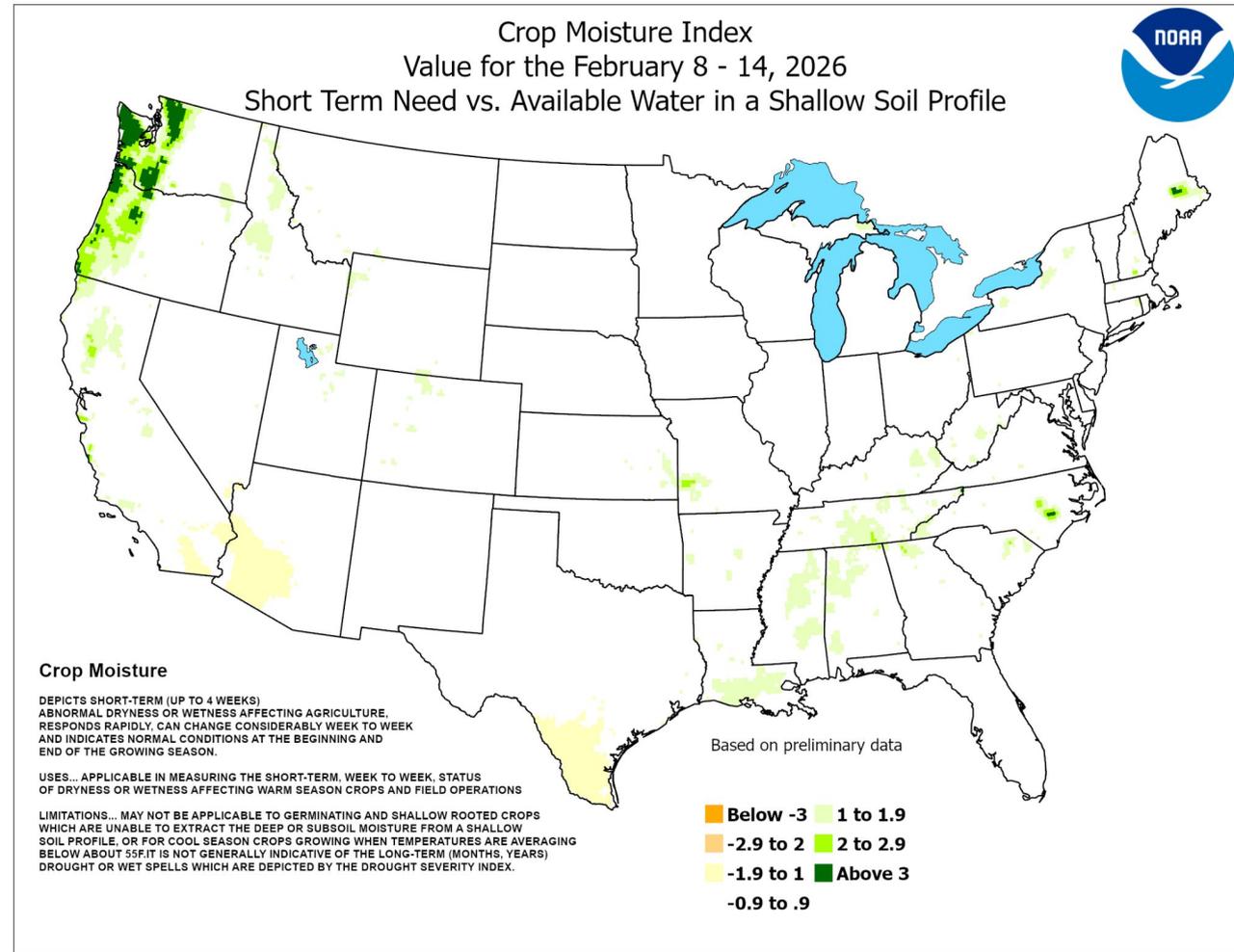
Agricultural Impacts

February 20, 2026
5:09 AM

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile FEB 18, 2026



Crop Moisture Index Value for the February 8 - 14, 2026 Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



Main Takeaways

- February 1st soil moisture was below average across much of the area.
- Crop Moisture Index from February 8th - February 14th was around normal.





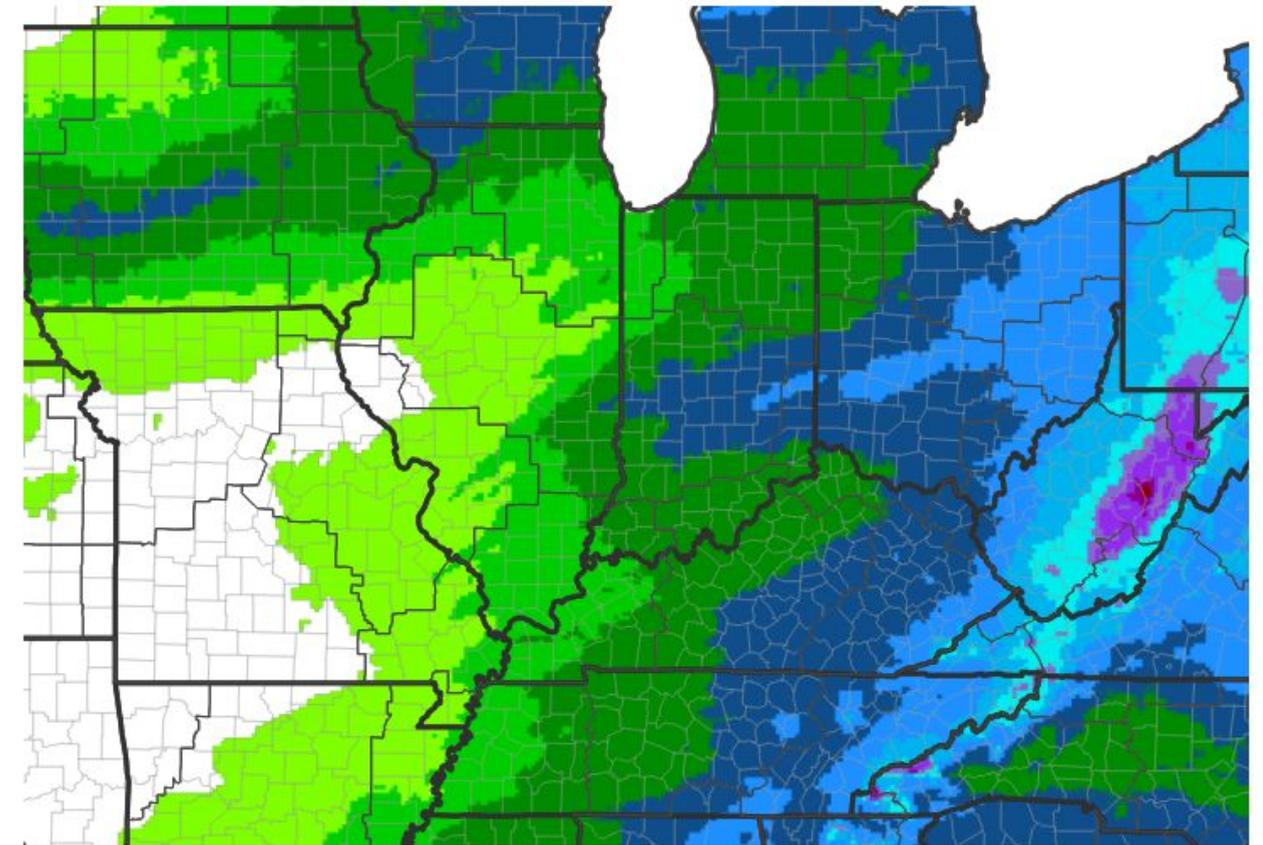
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

February 20, 2026
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Main Takeaways

- The eastern Ozarks are expected to receive some light precipitation over the next 7 days. No widespread precipitation is expected over the next 7 days.
- Precipitation amounts from 0.01” to 0.1” are forecast east of Highway 63.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 19, 2026–February 26, 2026



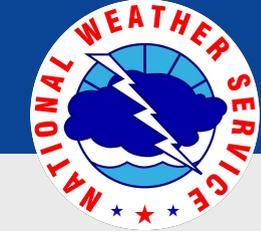
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/19/26





8 to 14 Day Outlooks

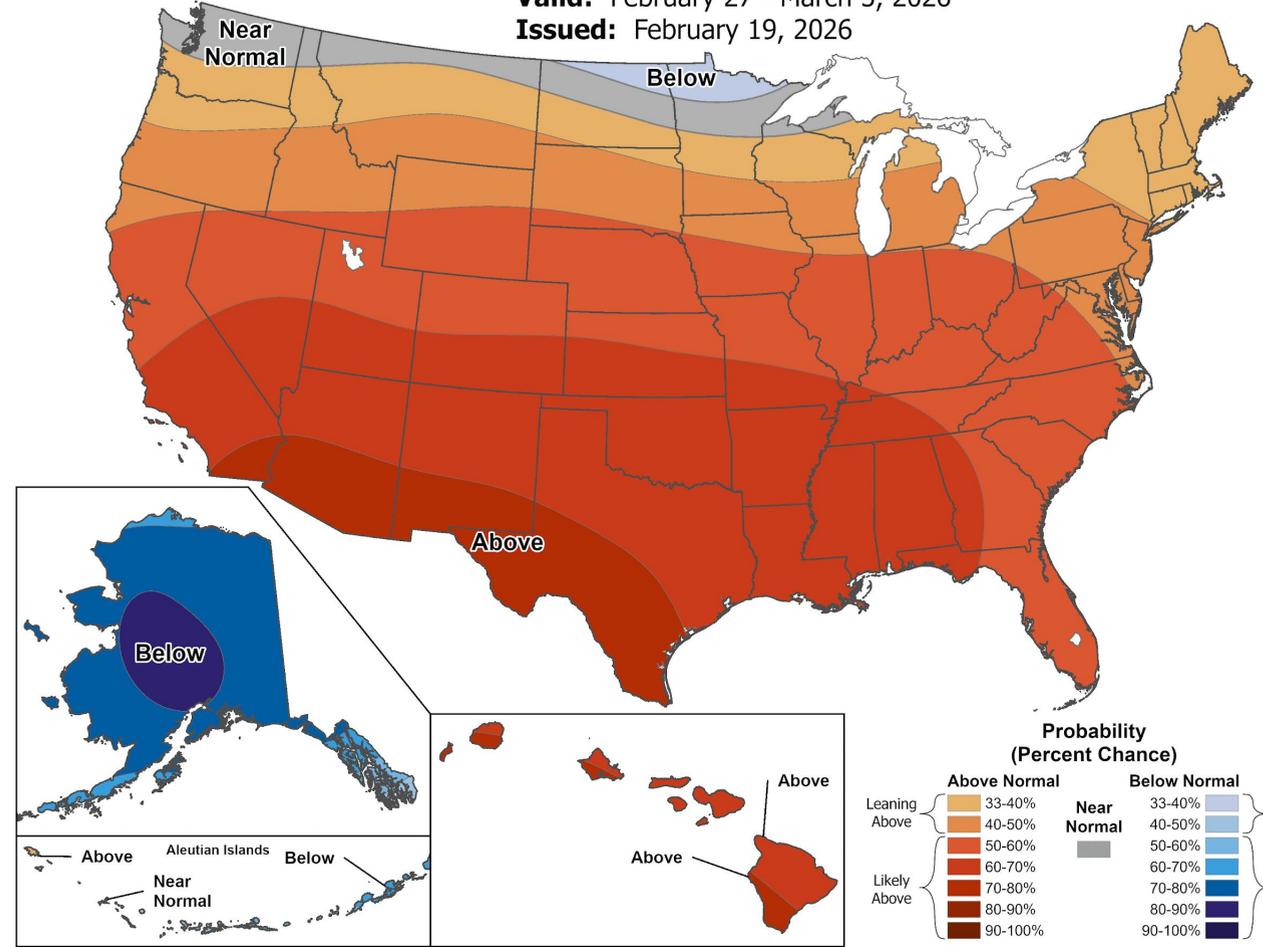
February 20, 2026
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



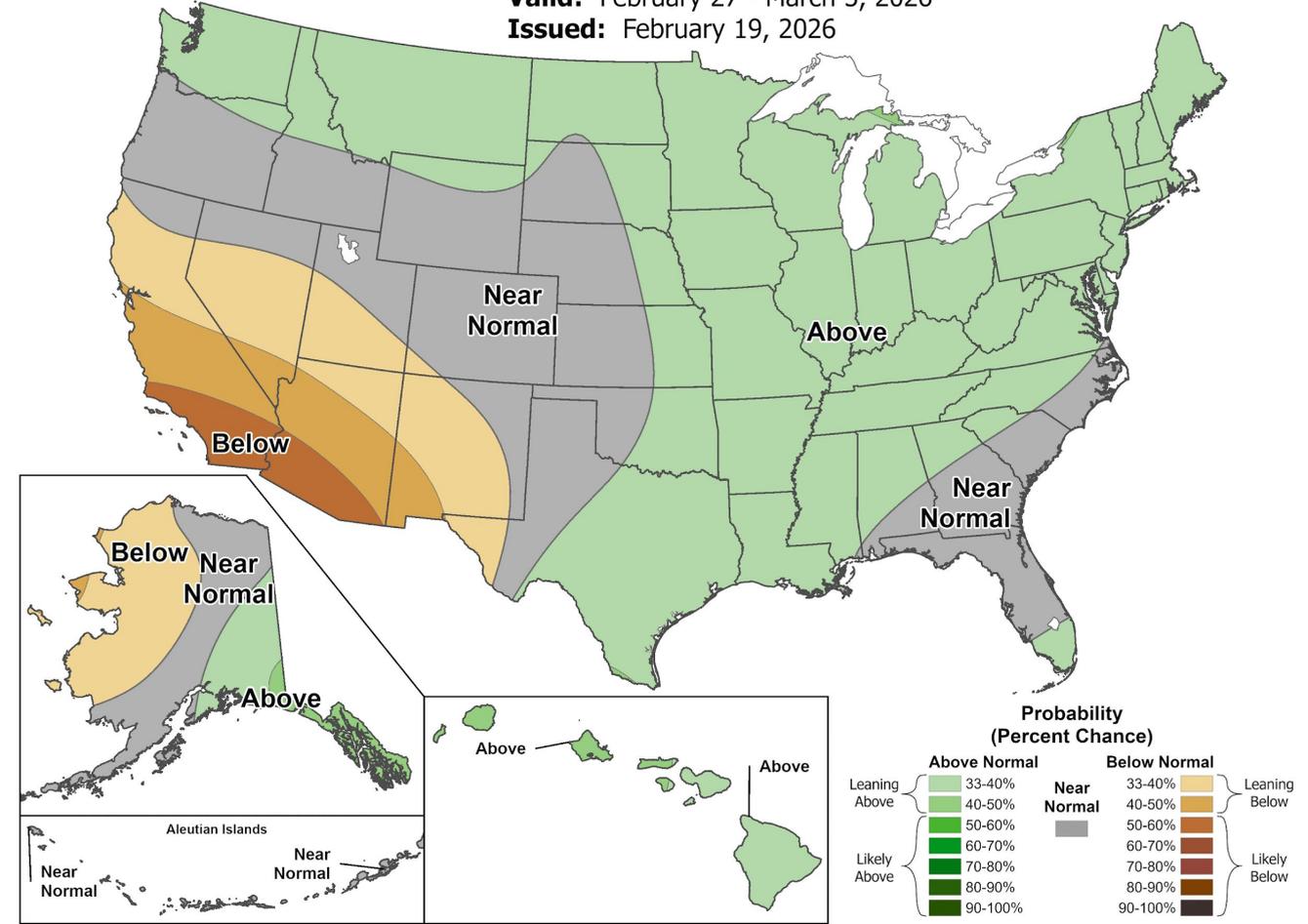
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: February 27 - March 5, 2026
Issued: February 19, 2026



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: February 27 - March 5, 2026
Issued: February 19, 2026



Main Takeaways

- The signal favors above normal temperatures and a slight favoring toward above normal precipitation for the February 27th - March 5th timeframe.





Monthly Outlooks

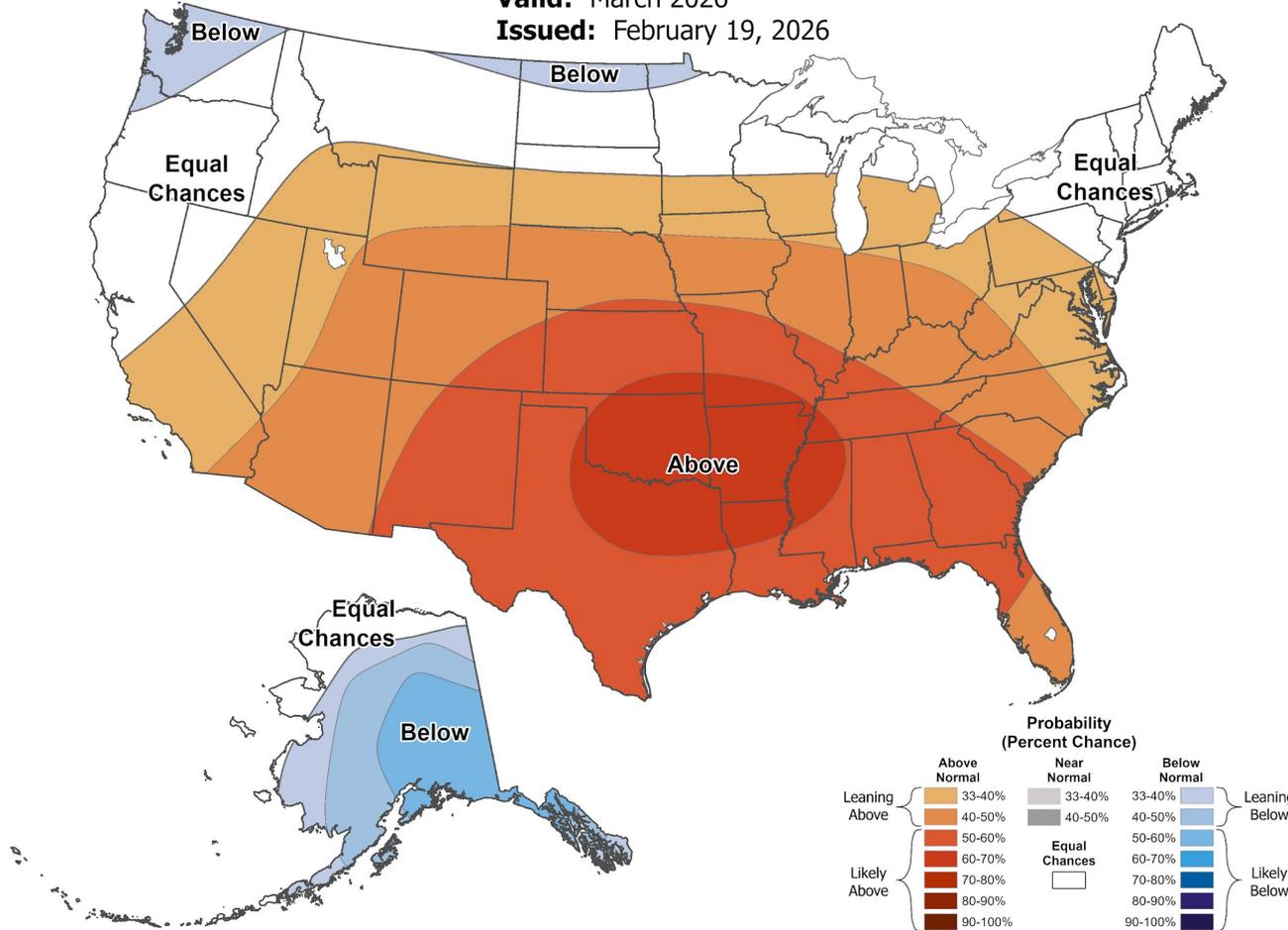
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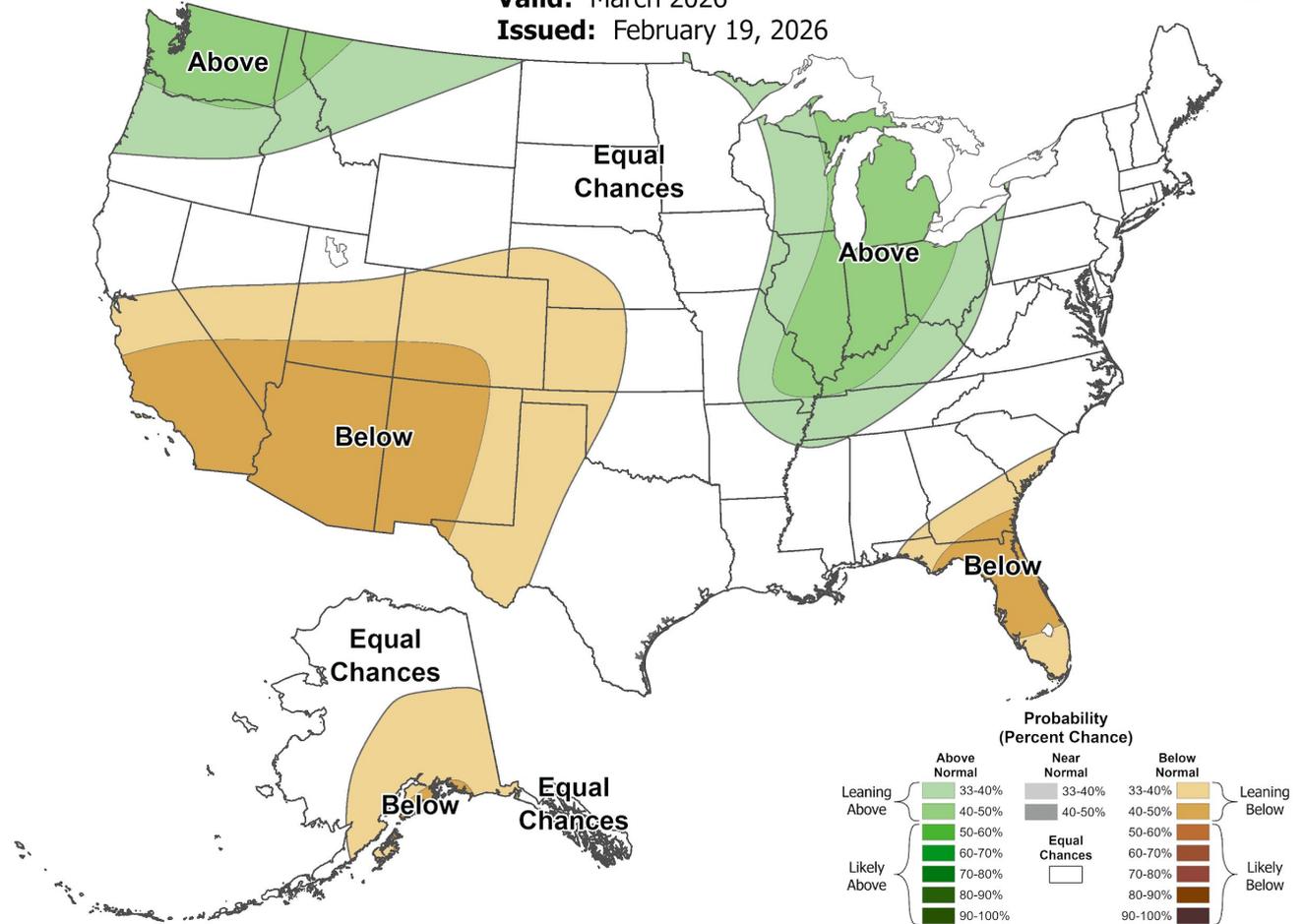
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: March 2026
Issued: February 19, 2026



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: March 2026
Issued: February 19, 2026



Main Takeaways

- The signal favors above normal temperatures for the month of March
- There is a signal for slightly above normal chances for precipitation across the eastern portions of Missouri for March.





Seasonal Outlooks

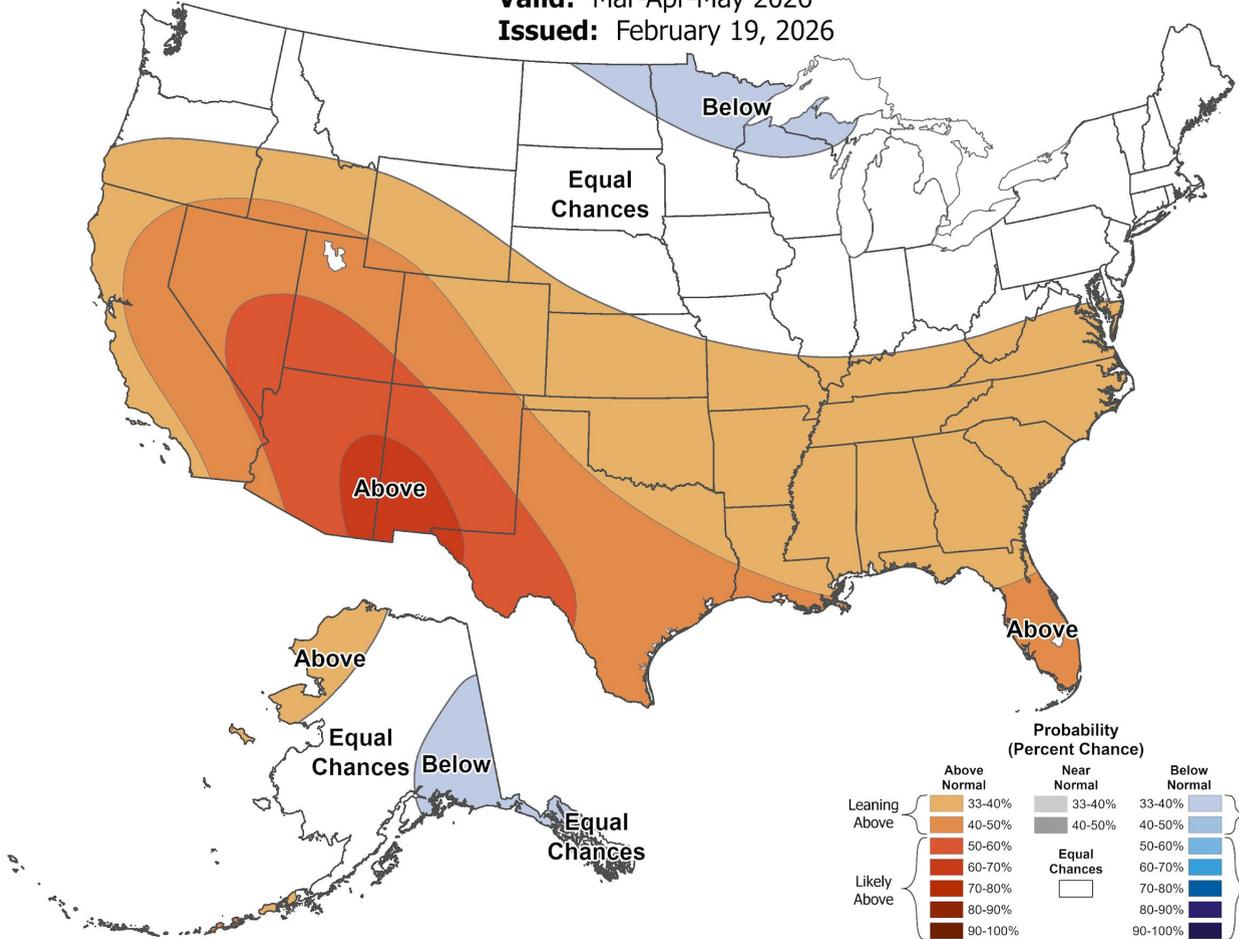
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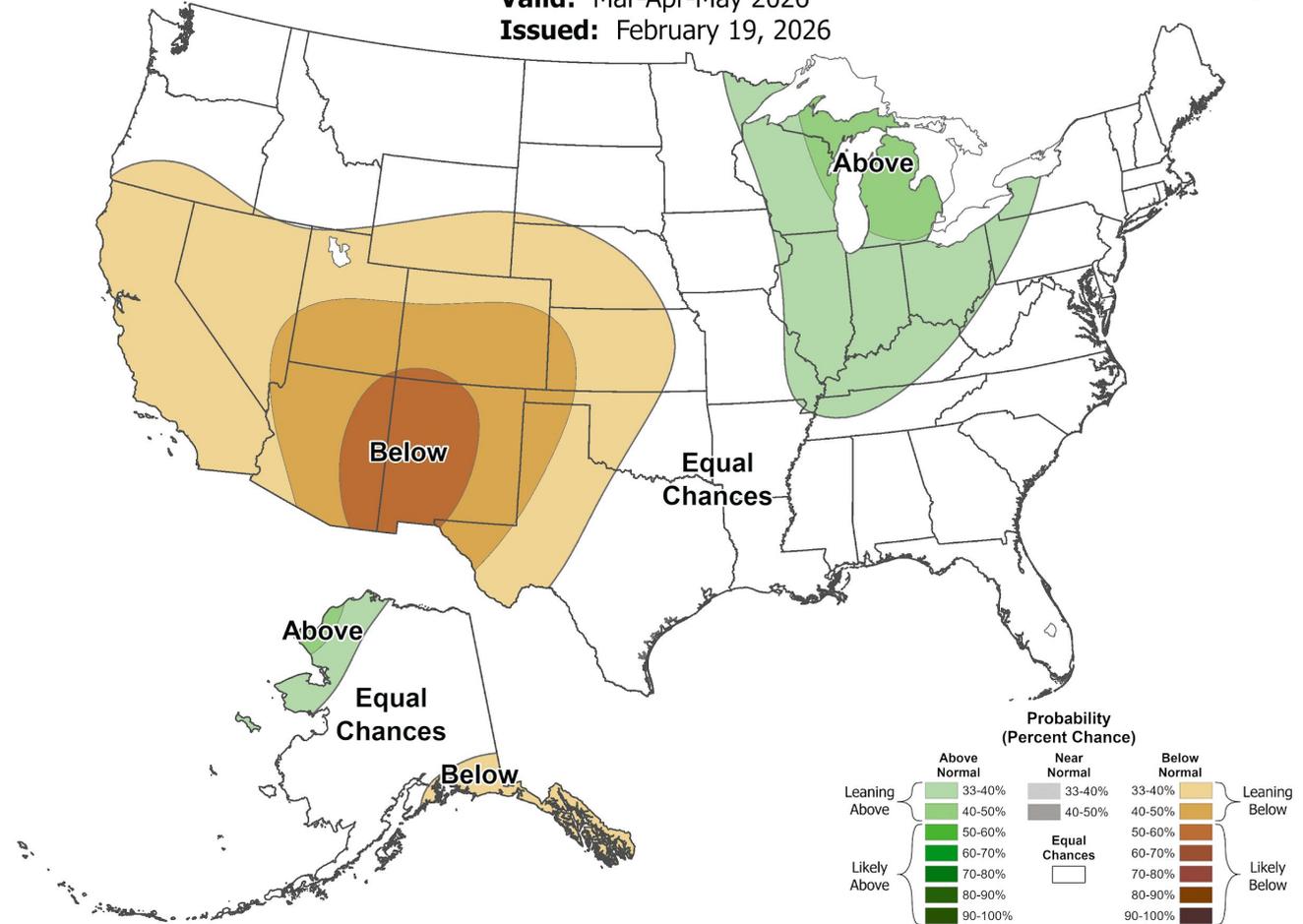
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2026
Issued: February 19, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2026
Issued: February 19, 2026



Main Takeaways

- The signal slightly favors chances of above normal temperatures however equal chances for precipitation for the period of March to May.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO

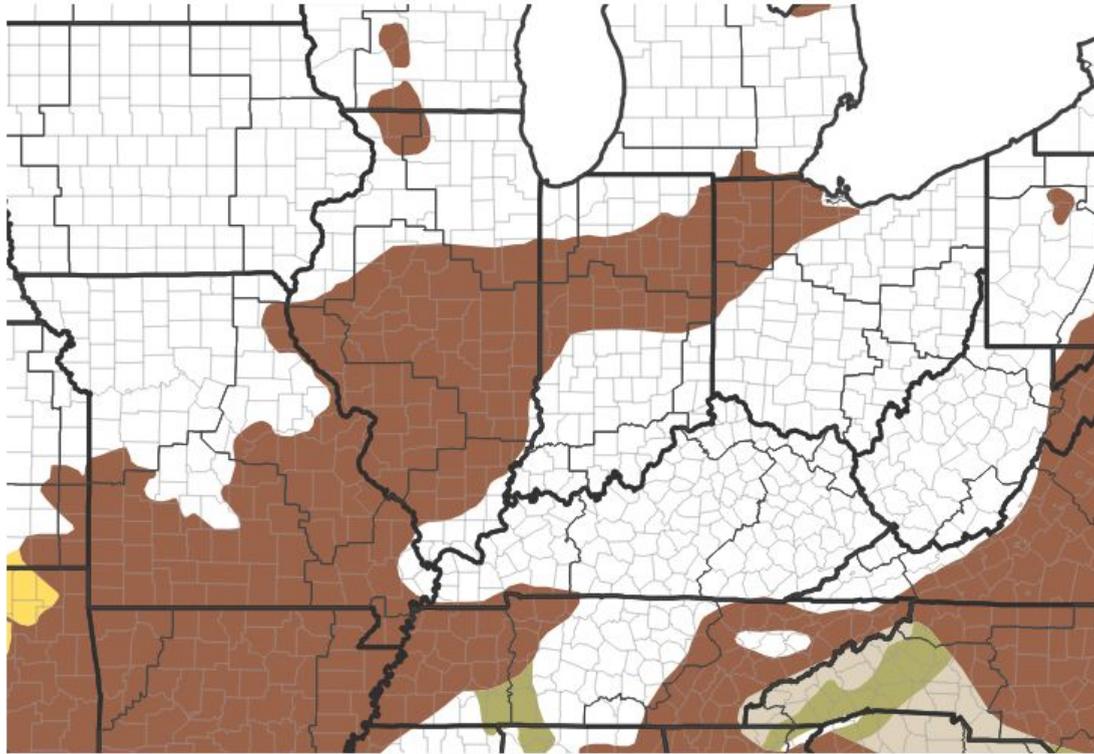


Drought Outlook

February 20, 2026
5:09 AM

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) | [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

1-Month Drought Outlook for February 1, 2026–February 28, 2026



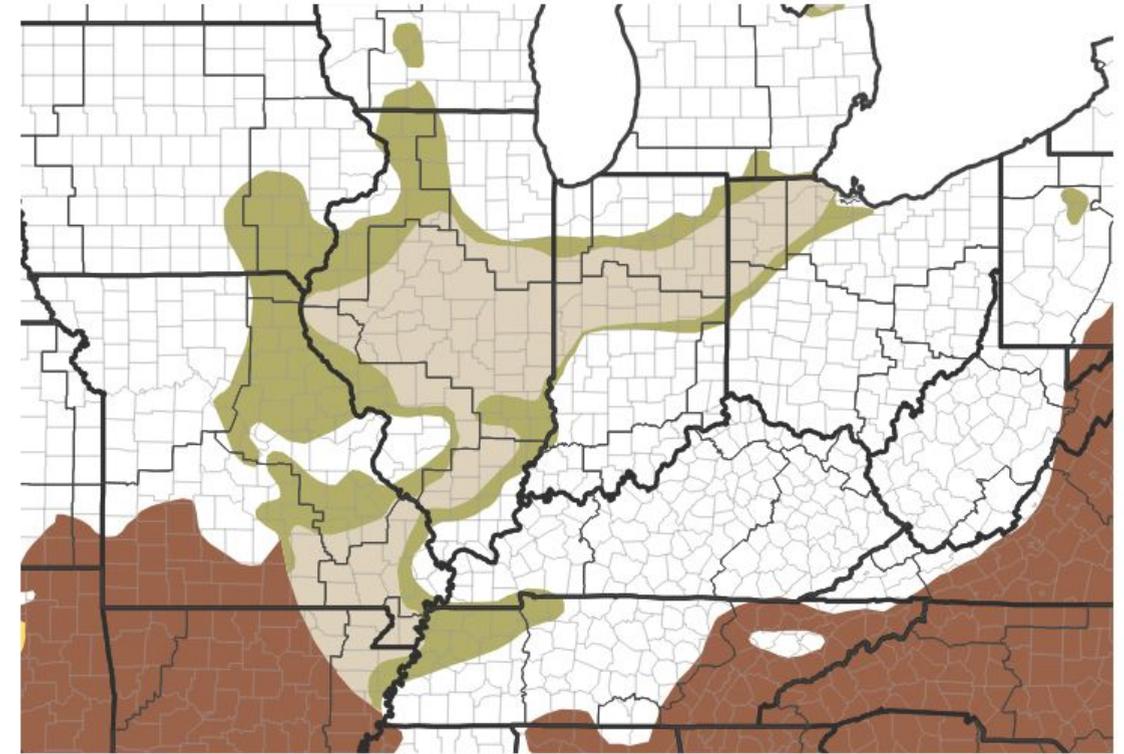
Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/31/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 19, 2026–May 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/19/26

Main Takeaways

- Drought likely to persist through February but show some potential improvement in late Winter/Spring across the eastern Ozarks.





For Additional Information

- [NWS Springfield Webpage](#) | [IDSS Point Forecasts](#)
- [Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
- [Missouri Drought Monitor](#) | [Kansas Drought Monitor](#)
- [Drought Monitor Archive](#)
- [CPC Drought Information](#)
- [National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](#)
- [National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](#)
- [Missouri USGS Streamflows](#) | [Kansas USGS Streamflows](#)
- [Drought Safety](#)

Drought Impacts



Agriculture

Farms, ranches, and grazing lands suffer, and increases the cost of their products



Public Health

A decrease of water can lead to an increase of illness, disease, mortality rates, and adverse mental health



Ecosystems

Harms fish, wildlife, and plants, as well as the benefits these ecosystems provide



Wildfire Management

Dry, hot, and windy weather combined with dried out vegetation can lead to more large-scale wildfires



Manufacturing

Interruptions in the water supply can result in a reduction of productivity or closure of facilities



Energy

Production of all types of energy requires water, and drought can severely impact energy systems and prices



During a Drought be Vigilant

Conserve Water

Practice Fire Prevention

Follow Directions from Local Officials

Trinity Lake, CA, dry lakebed during California Drought, 2014. Photo: USGS

