



Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid March 19, 2026

Issued By: NWS Birmingham, AL

Contact Information: sr-bmx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated only if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/bmx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor

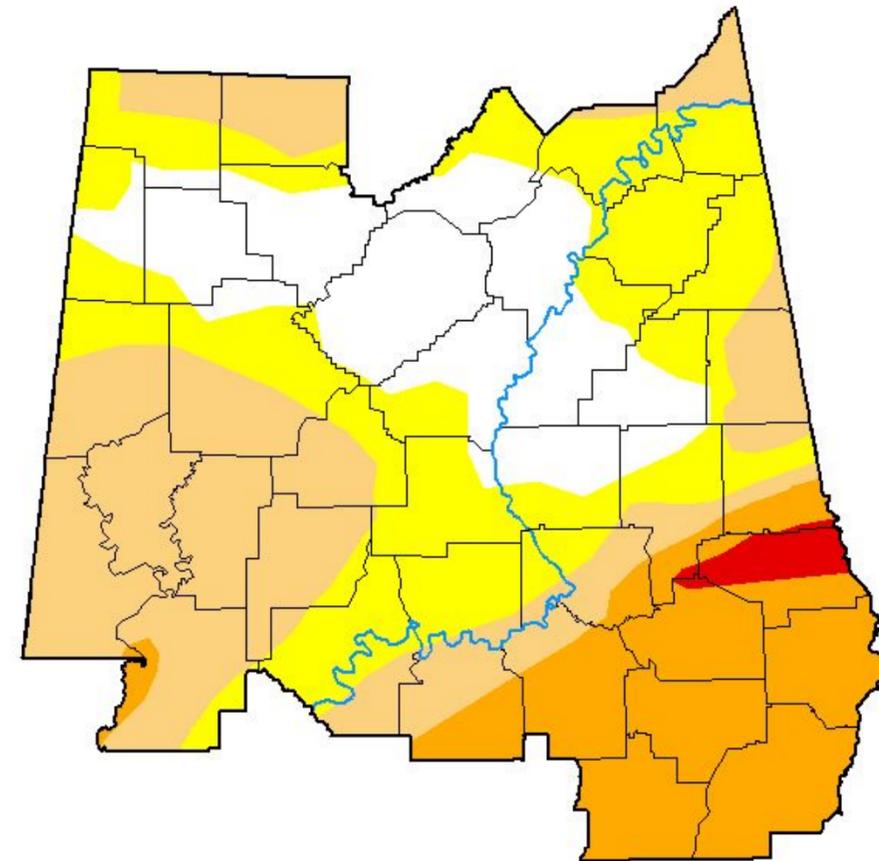
March 20, 2026
9:20 AM CDT

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for central Alabama

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
 - D3 Extreme Drought: A small area in the southeast.
 - D2 and D1 Severe/Moderate Drought: Mainly in the southeast part of the area.
 - D0 Abnormally Dry: Roughly two-thirds of Central Alabama are considered abnormally dry with a slight reduction over central portions of the area since last week.

U.S. Drought Monitor Birmingham, AL WFO

March 17, 2026
(Released Thursday, Mar. 19, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	20.73	79.27	49.53	19.98	1.40	0.00
Last Week 03-10-2026	0.00	100.00	58.43	20.23	1.40	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-16-2025	6.12	93.88	83.70	16.06	3.95	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.00	100.00	97.13	35.80	3.95	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	0.24	99.76	51.39	19.71	2.30	0.00
One Year Ago 03-18-2025	52.62	47.38	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

March 20, 2026
9:20 AM CDT

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for central Alabama

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Western portions of the area with pockets of degradation in the north.
 - No Change and Drought Improvement: About two-thirds of the area experienced no change with pockets of one category improvement in the central and eastern areas.

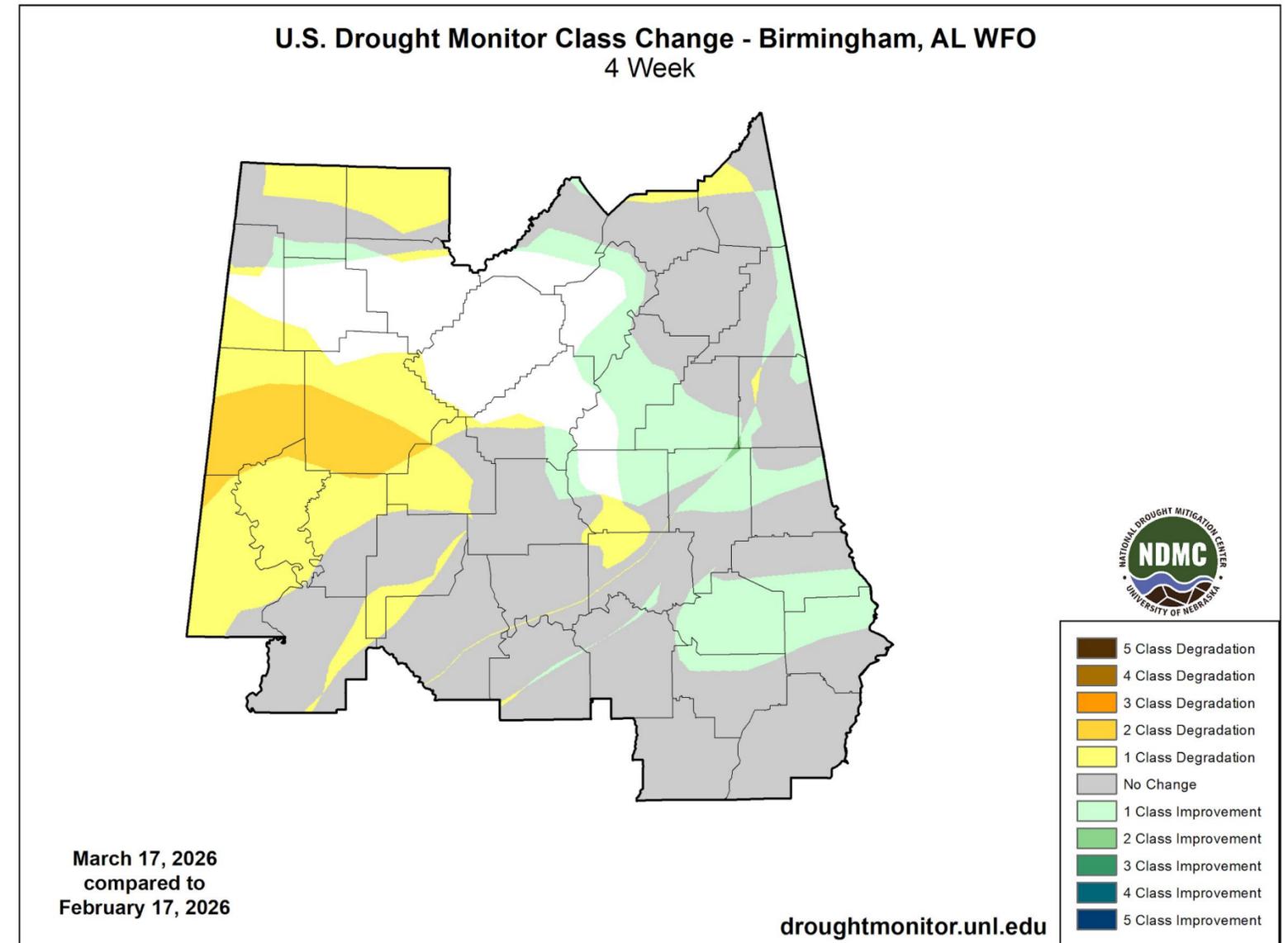


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid February 24, 2026

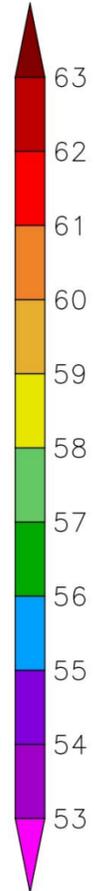
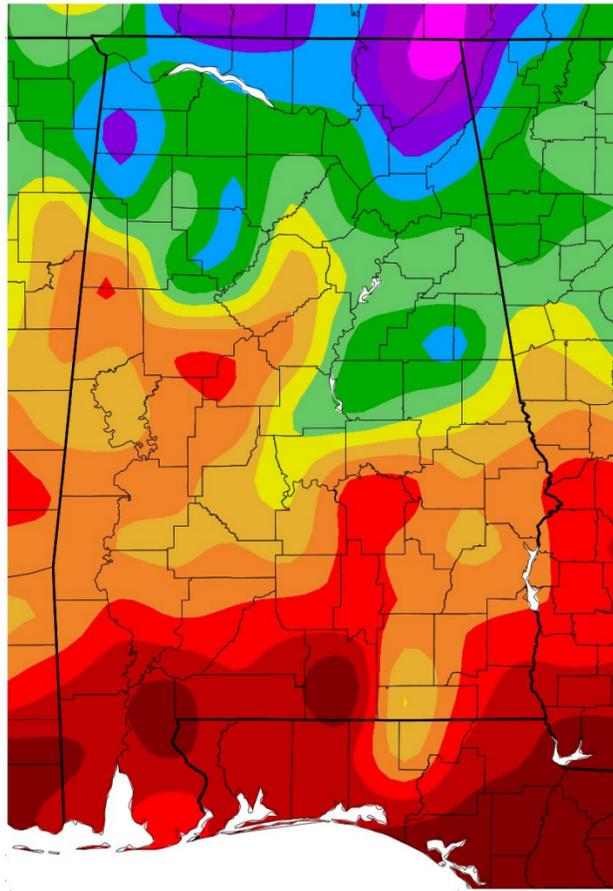


Temperatures

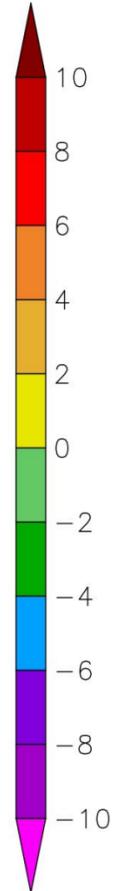
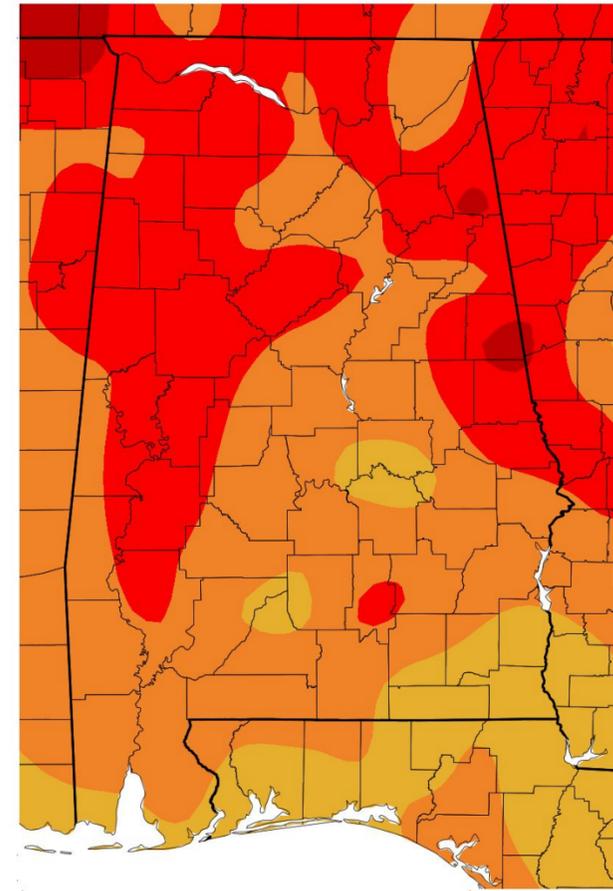
Last 30 Days

March 20, 2026
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Temperature (F)
2/18/2026 – 3/19/2026



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/18/2026 – 3/19/2026



Generated 3/20/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services Generated 3/20/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





Summary of Impacts

March 20, 2026
9:20 AM CDT

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows are generally running normal to near normal across the northern half of the state and well below normal in the southern half.

Drought Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Agricultural Impacts

- In January, the USDA designated 19 Alabama counties as primary natural disaster areas due to the drought conditions impacting row-crop yields and forage availability. Several of these primary counties are in central and southeastern portions of Central Alabama with contiguous counties including most of Central Alabama.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There has been an increased amount of wildfire activity across Central Alabama, all contained as of this issuance.

Other Impacts

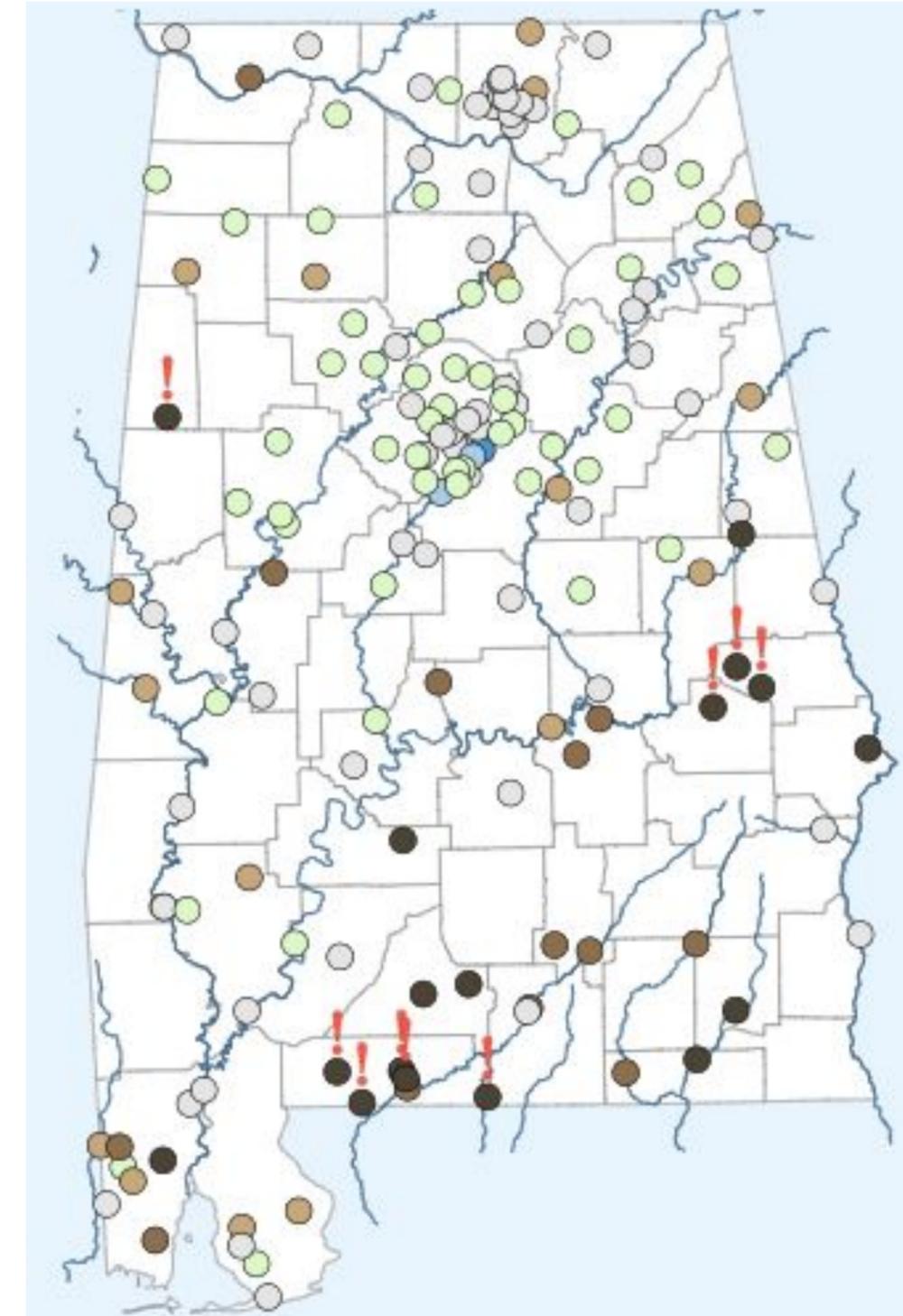
- None



Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

March 20, 2026
9:20 AM CDT

- Streamflows are running near normal across Central portions of the state to much and extremely below normal across southern portions of the state.



Current condition estimate

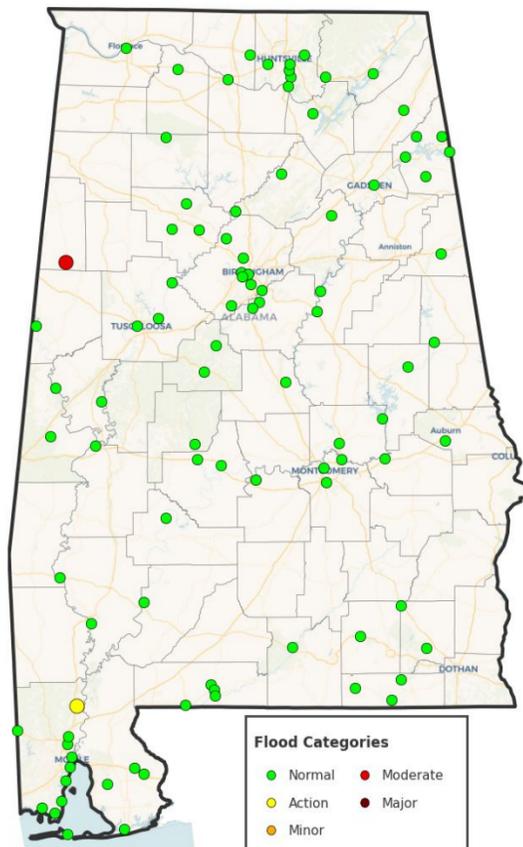
The condition estimate is based on the latest continuous data value recorded in relation to historic daily averages expressed as percentiles. The percentiles show how a value relates to all the other values for a given day of the year and indicate what percentage of days have an average (mean) value less than the latest recorded value. Extreme conditions are indicated when the latest continuous data value is outside of the percentile range of historic daily averages, meaning current conditions are above the highest or below the lowest daily average ever recorded for this day of the year.

0-5 Extremely below	5-10 Much below	10-25 Below normal	25-75 Normal	75-90 Above normal	90-95 Much above	95-100 Extremely above
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Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

March 20, 2026
9:20 AM CDT



Statewide Summary

Observed Stages

Total Gauges: 95
 Major Flooding: 0
 Moderate Flooding: 1
 Minor Flooding: 0
 Action Stage: 1

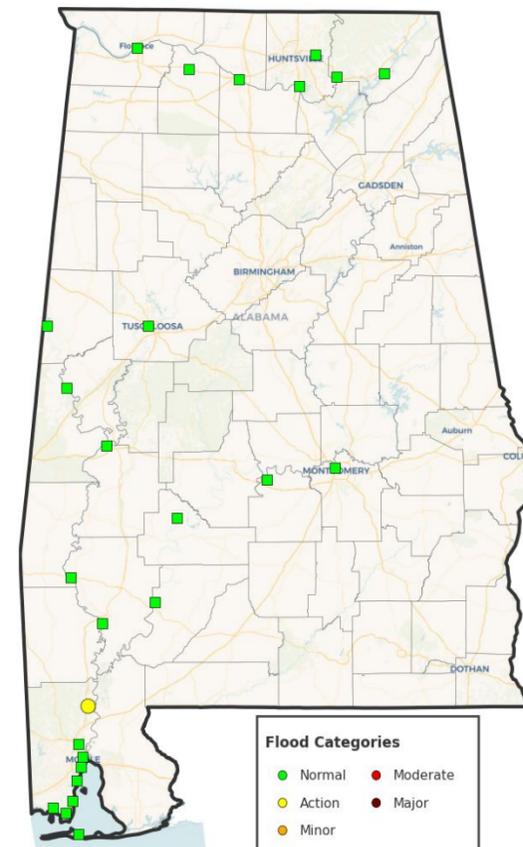
Rivers In Flood:
 Luxapallila Creek, Mobile River

Gauges In Flood

MLLA1 Luxapallila Creek At Millport
 BGR2A Mobile River At Barry Steam Plant

Data Updated: 03/20/2026 14:15 Z

Latest observed river conditions



Statewide Summary

Forecast Crests

Total Gauges: 26
 Major Flooding: 0
 Moderate Flooding: 0
 Minor Flooding: 0
 Action Stage: 1

Rivers In Flood:
 Mobile River

Gauges In Flood

BGR2A Mobile River At Barry Steam Plant

Data Updated: 03/20/2026 14:15 Z

Latest river forecasts



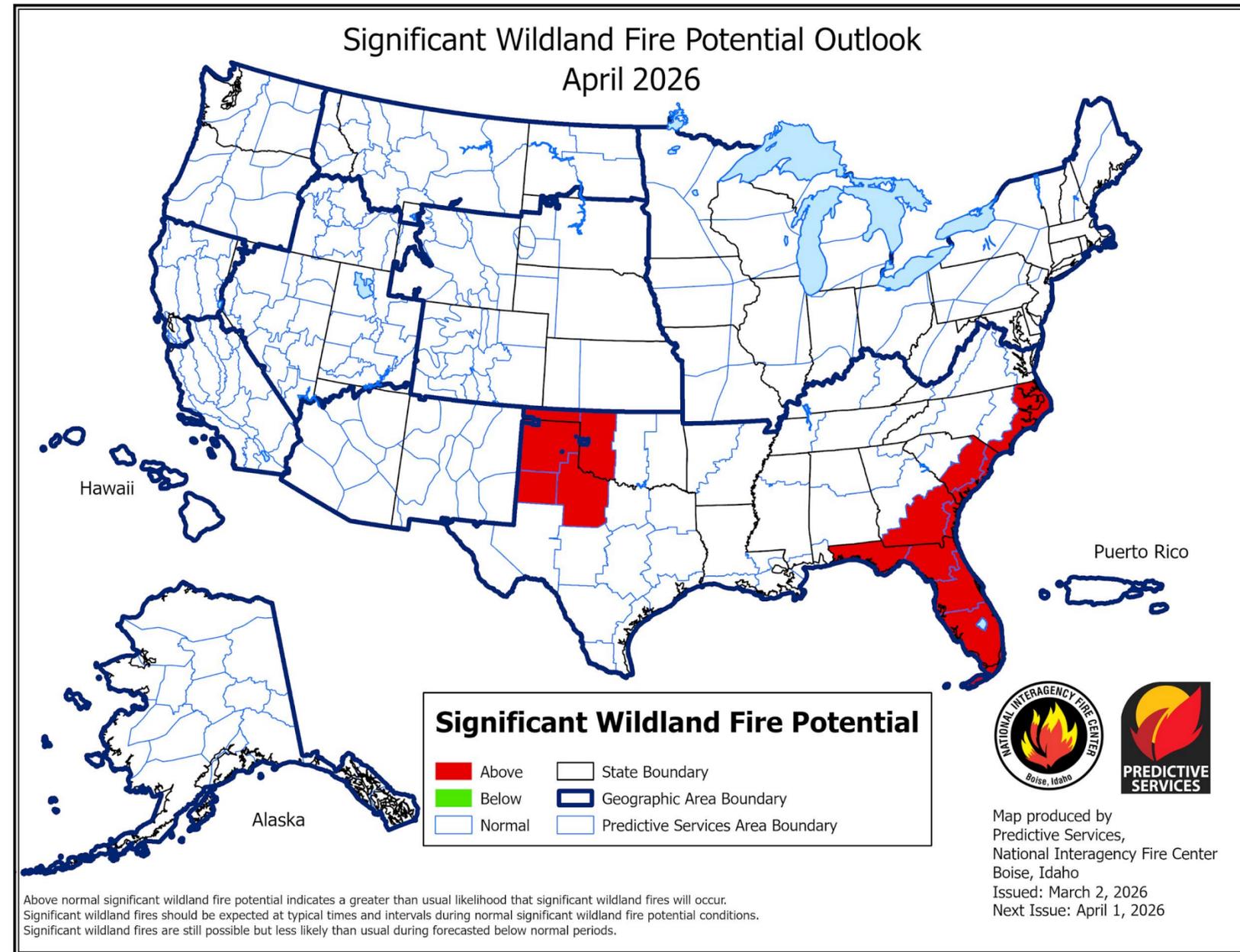


Fire Hazard Impacts

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Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Normal chances for significant wildland fire potential



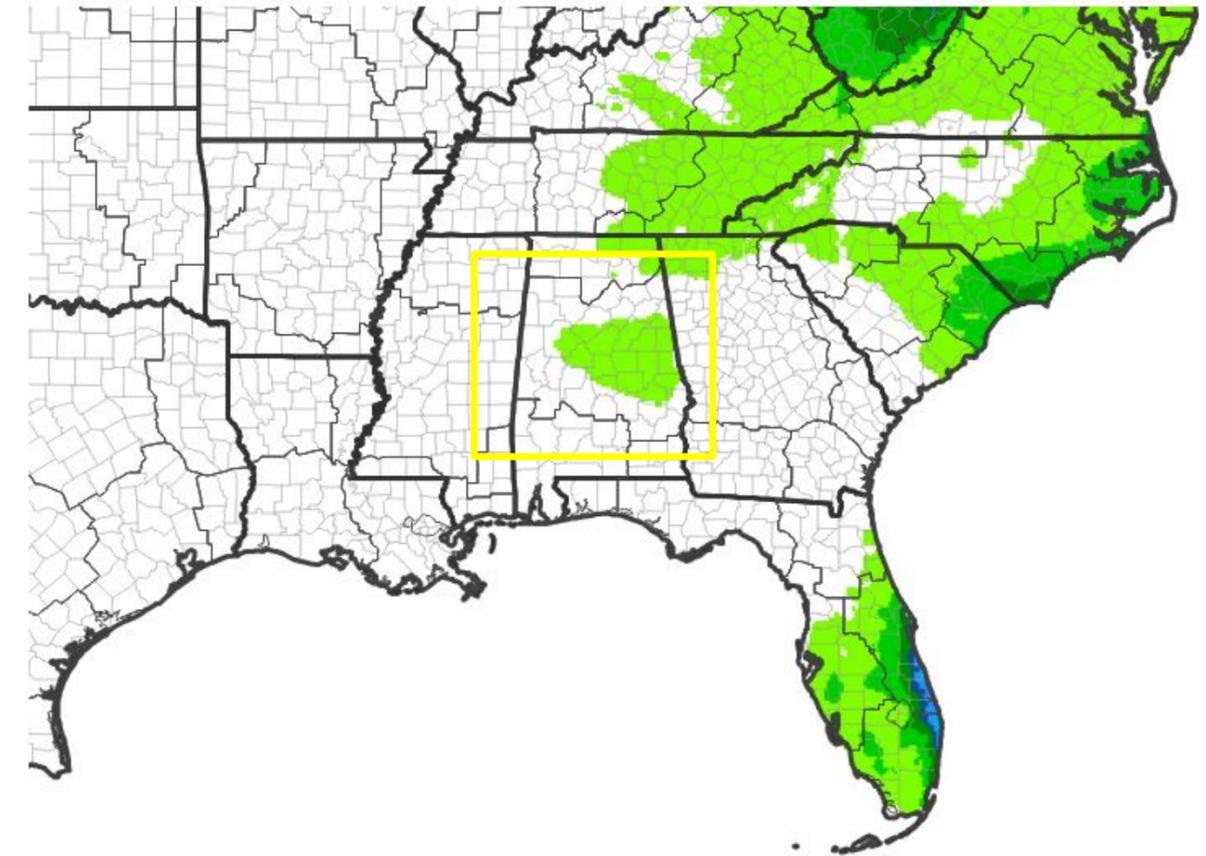


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

March 20, 2026
9:20 AM CDT

- Little to no rain is forecast over the next 7 days. This will likely result in drought worsening across the area.

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



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 03/19/26





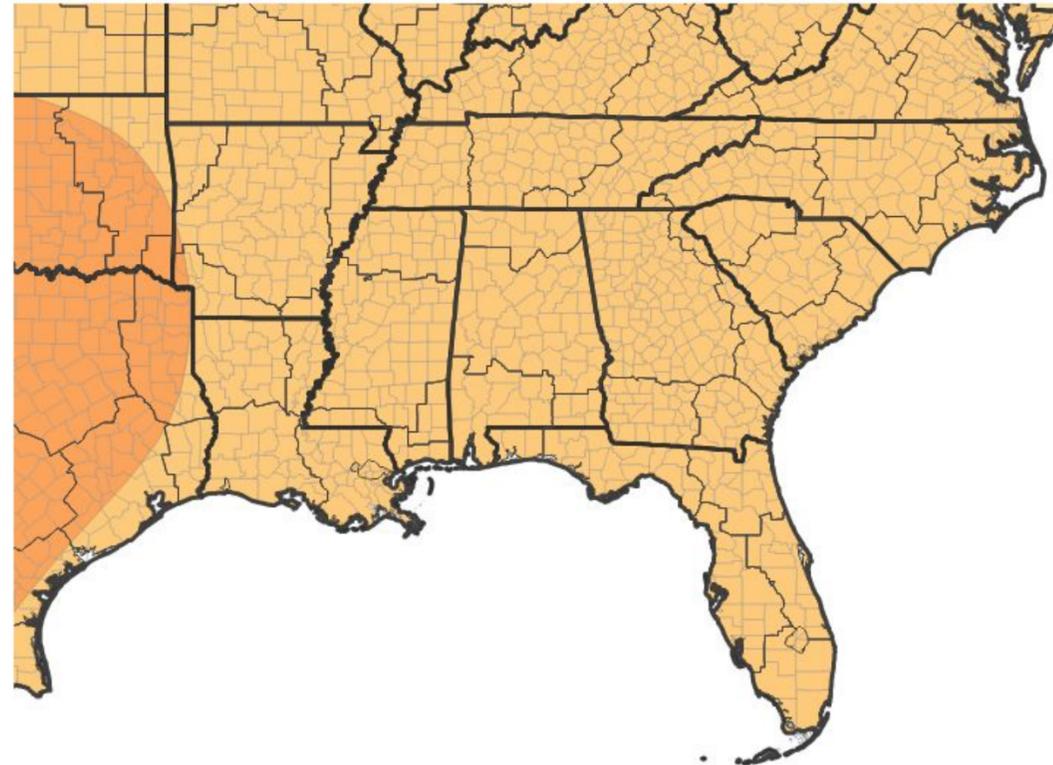
Medium Range Outlook

March 20, 2026
9:20 AM CDT

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

- The seasonal outlook for the next 3 month period is calling for medium chances of above average temperatures.
- Rainfall probabilities during this same time-frame are calling for low to medium chances of above normal rainfall.
- If this pattern verifies, it would lend towards persisting drought conditions with a small chance for some drought improvement, particularly south.

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



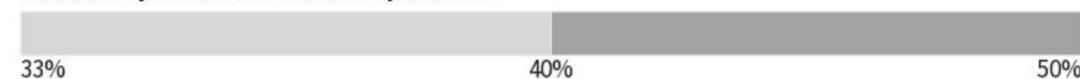
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



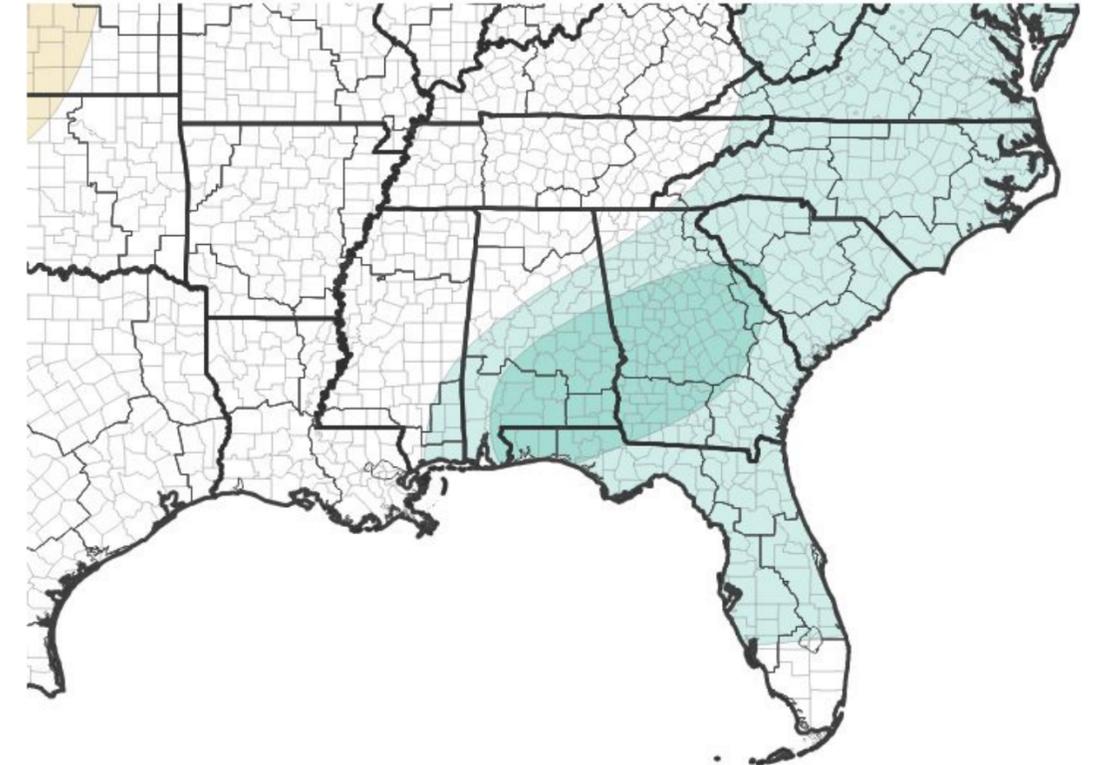
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 03/19/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



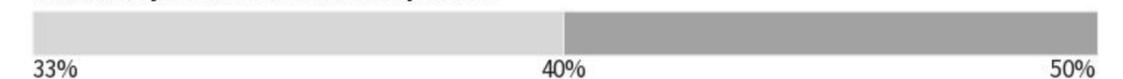
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 03/19/26





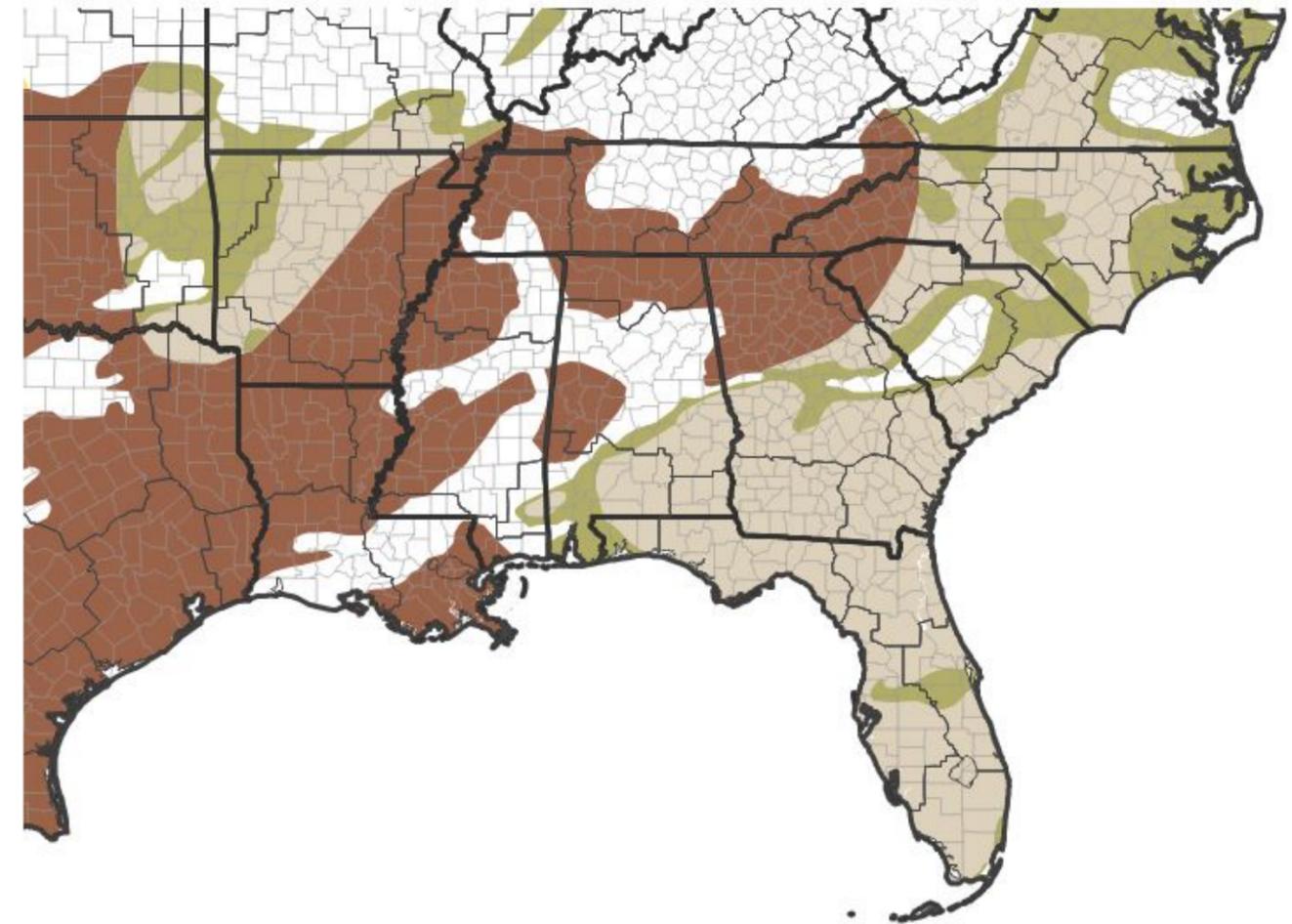
Drought Outlook

March 20, 2026
9:20 AM CDT

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

- The latest seasonal outlook released by the CPC and valid through June 30th shows some drought improvement in the southeast with drought persisting in the southwest and small areas in the north.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 19, 2026–June 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 03/19/26

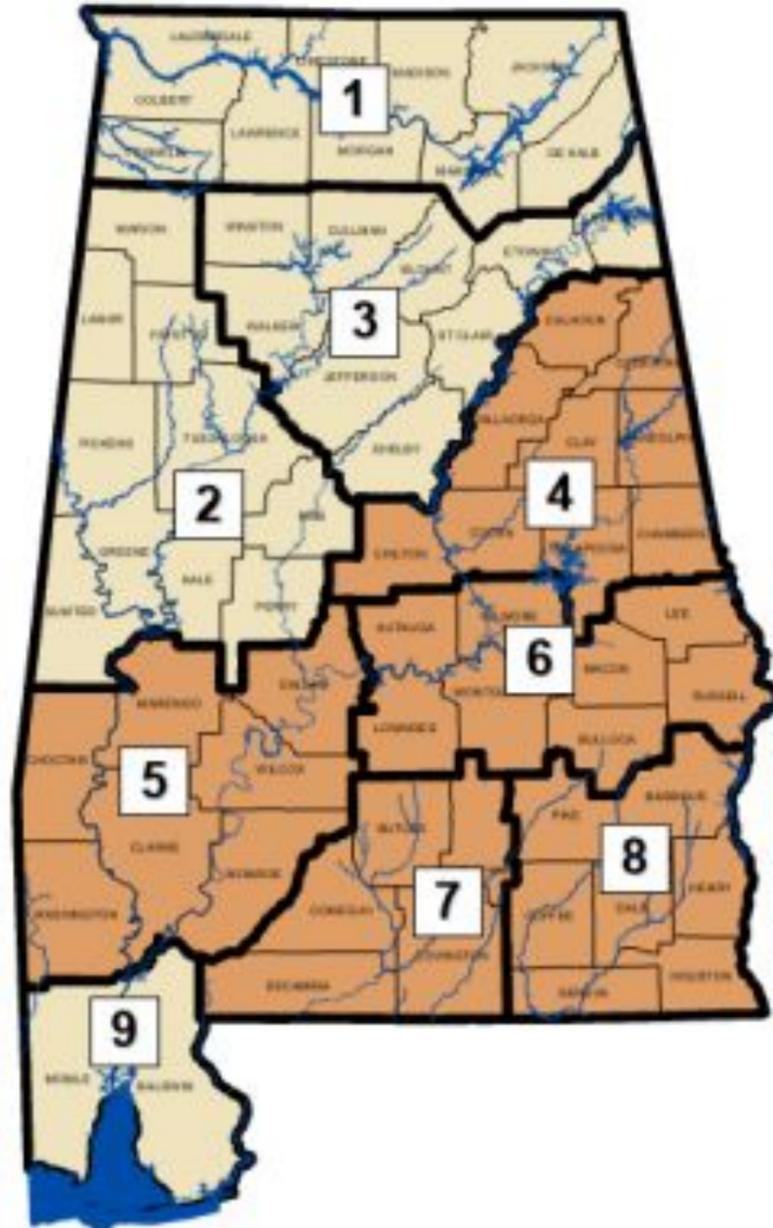




State Drought Declaration

The latest information on the state declaration can be found [HERE](#)

- The latest Alabama Drought declaration released on March 5th has placed much of the southern and eastern counties in a warning with watches throughout the rest of the state.



Legend
No Drought Declaration
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

Significant precipitation deficits have led to worsening drought conditions across most of the State. Drought Regions 1, 2, 3 and 9 have been downgraded to the Watch level and Region 4 and a portion of Region 5 have been downgraded to the Warning level. OWR will continue monitoring our water resources and update this Declaration as needed.

Water managers and public water system customers are encouraged to follow their local water system's recommendations regarding water use. All water users should make prudent decisions on their water use to protect available resources.

