



Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid April 3, 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.





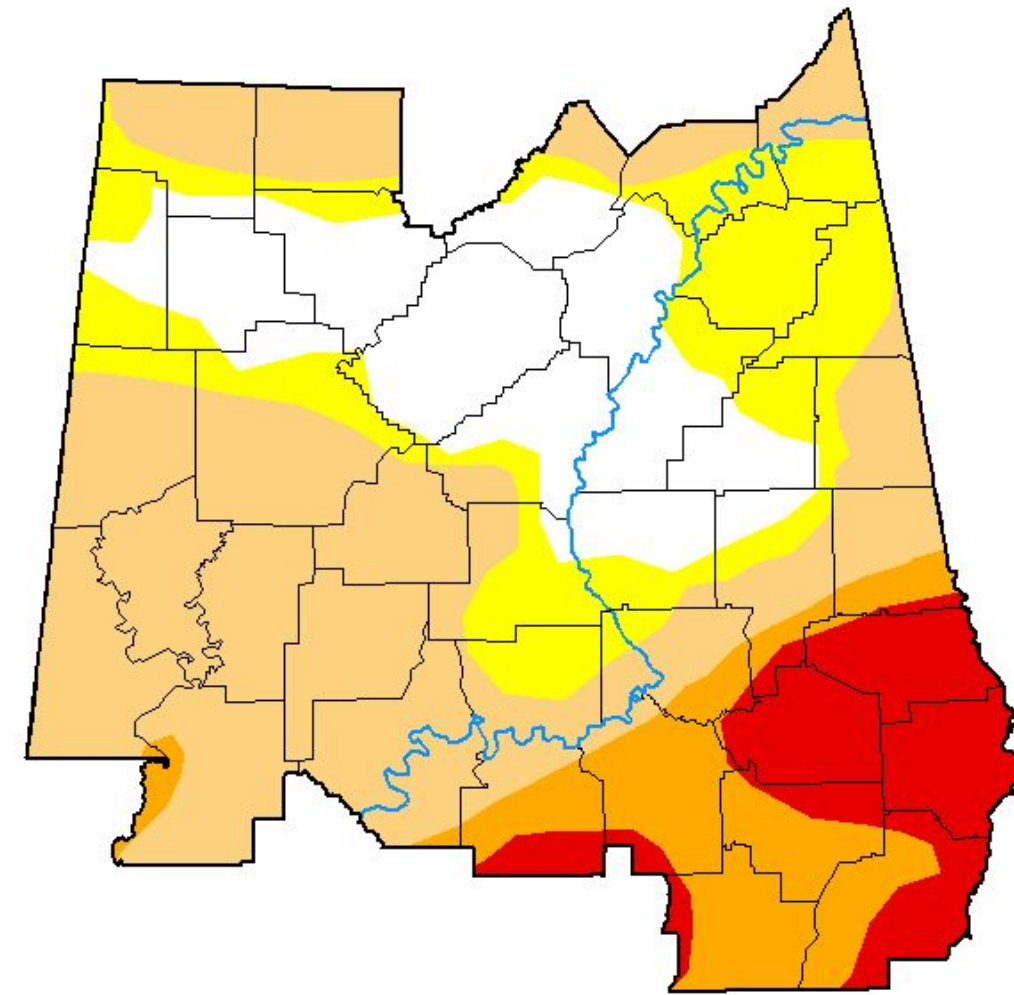
U.S. Drought Monitor

April 3, 2026
9:46 AM CDT

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
 - D3 Extreme Drought: Expanding into several southeastern counties.
 - D2 and D1 Severe/Moderate Drought: Most of the southern half of the Birmingham area of responsibility is in either severe or moderate drought with this latest update. The northern fringes of the area are also experiencing moderate drought conditions.
 - D0 Abnormally Dry: The Anniston and Birmingham metro areas, as well as areas near Jasper, Fayette and Sylacauga are experiencing abnormally dry or no drought conditions. However, even in these areas some wildfires have been reported.

U.S. Drought Monitor Birmingham, AL WFO



March 31, 2026
(Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 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	60.89	21.30	10.57	0.00
Last Week 03-24-2026	20.73	79.27	49.57	19.98	1.40	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-30-2025	0.00	100.00	92.98	19.78	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 04-01-2025	58.03	41.97	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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Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

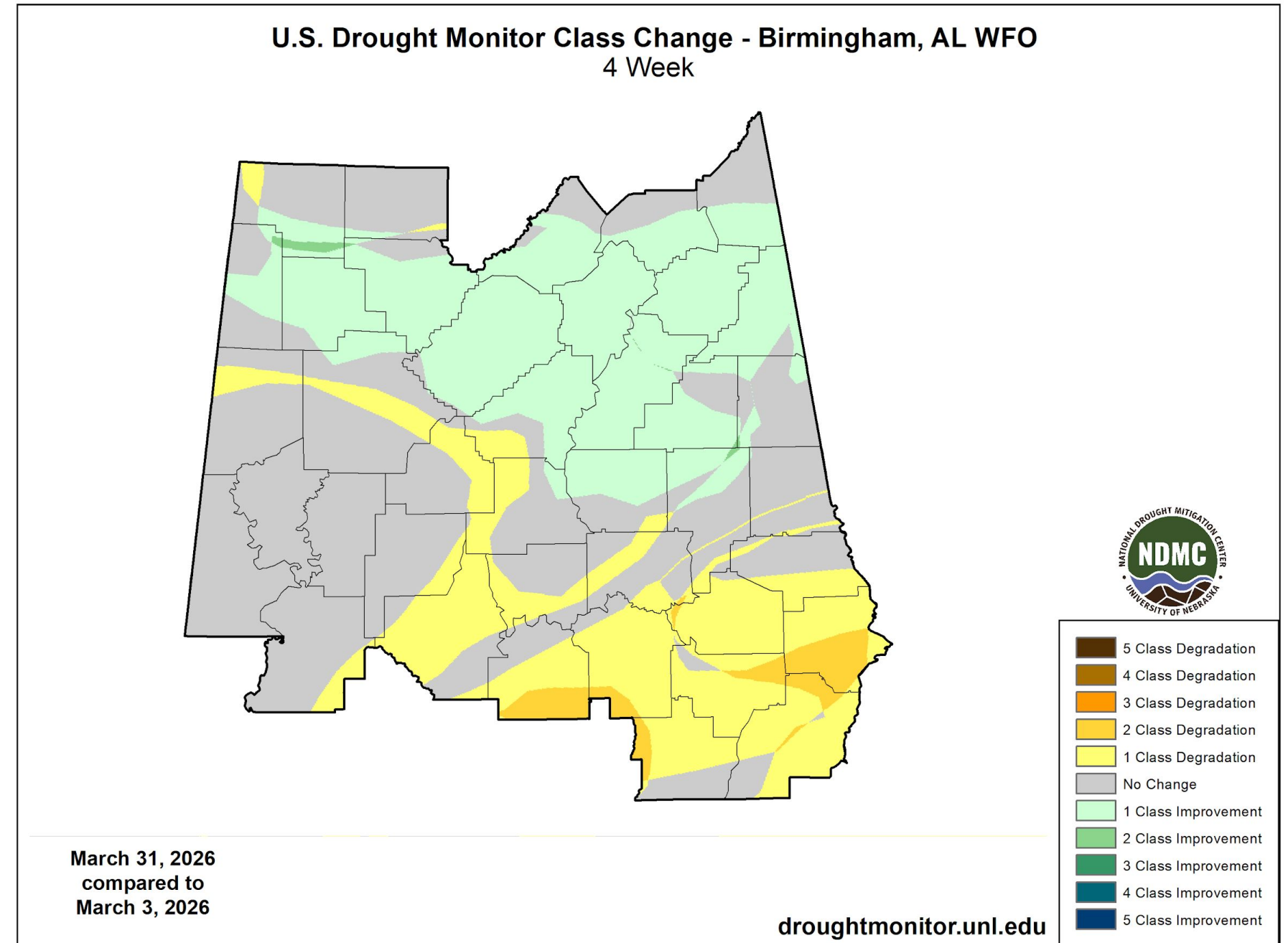


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Mainly in the southeastern locations.
 - No Change and Drought Improvement: Most of the improvement was closest to the metro areas with many rural areas either showing no change or slight improvement.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows are generally running well below normal with some at all time lows for the day across the entire area.

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.
- Hardened soil from lack of moisture has made plowing difficult, leading to increased equipment wear, such as dulled plow blades. Corn planting is underway, but many producers are delaying due to dry soils.
- Much of Alabama's pasture and rangeland is rated in "poor" or "very poor" conditions.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There has been an increased amount of wildfire activity across Central Alabama over the past couple of weeks.

Other Impacts

- None

Drought Mitigation Actions

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

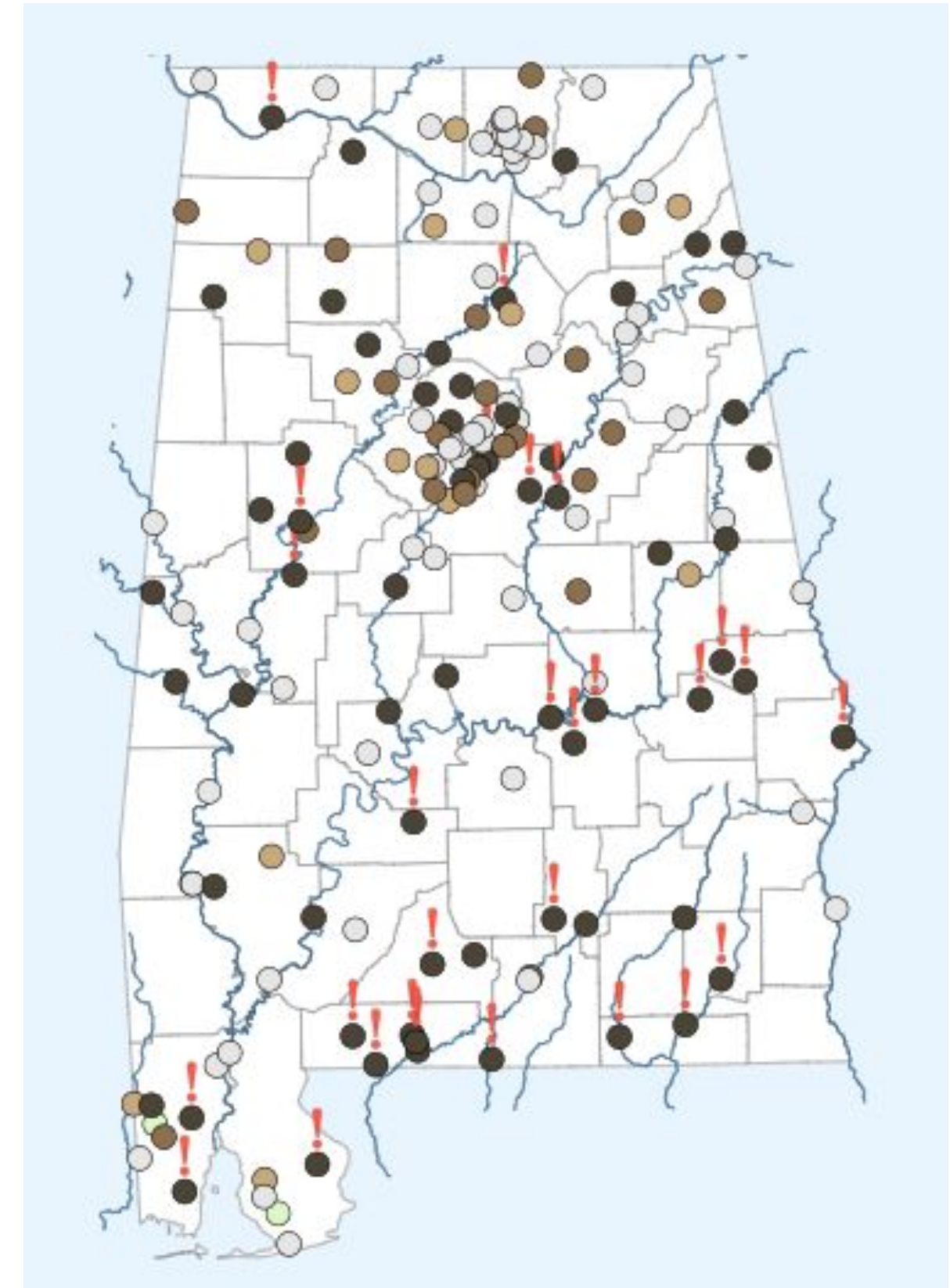




Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

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- Streamflows are running much to extremely below normal.
- Additional information can be found here:
 - <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/state/Alabama/>



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.

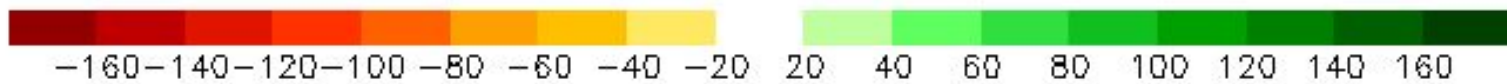
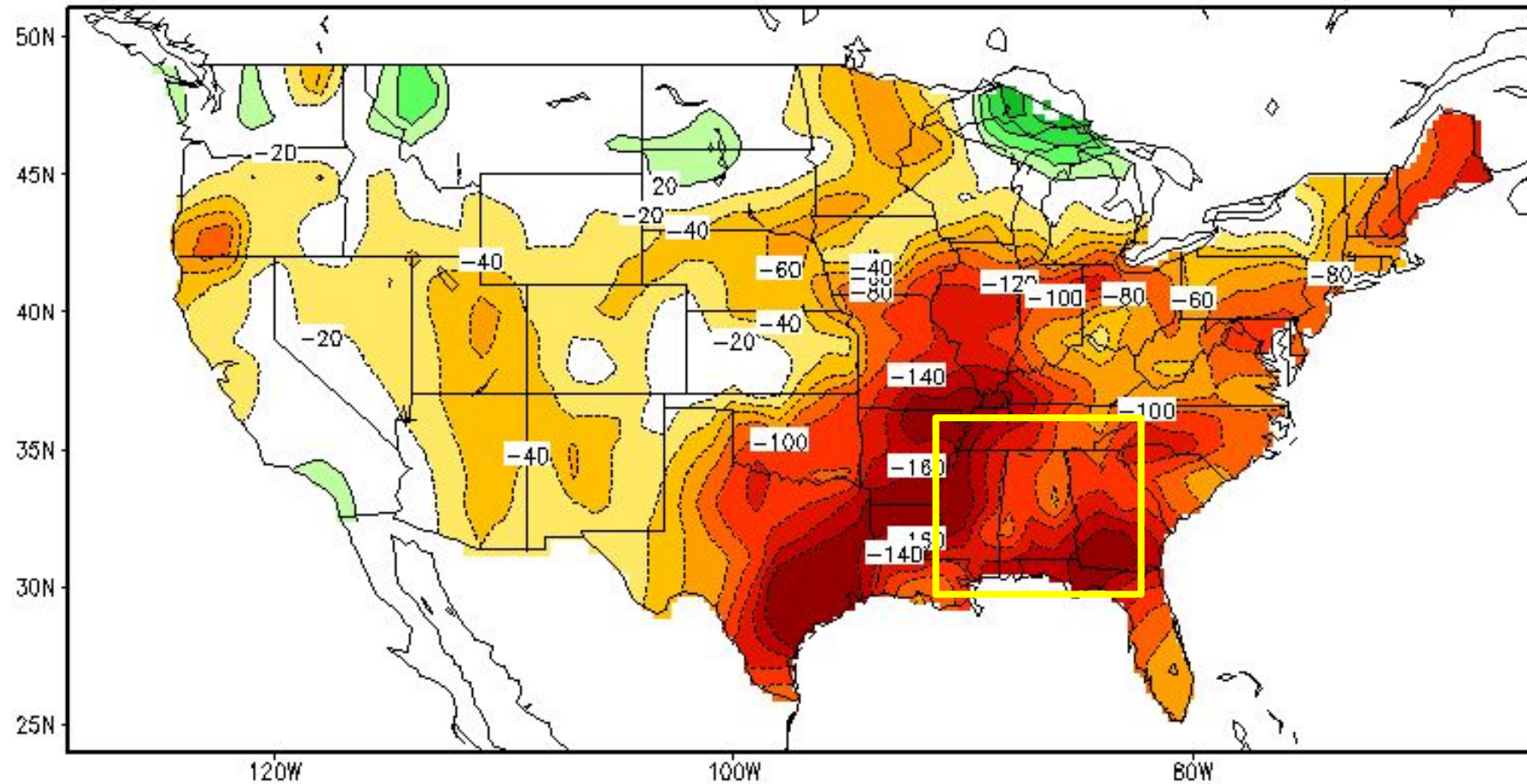
0-5 Extremely below	5-10 Much below	10-25 Below normal	25-75 Normal	75-90 Above normal	90-95 Much above	95-100 Extremely above
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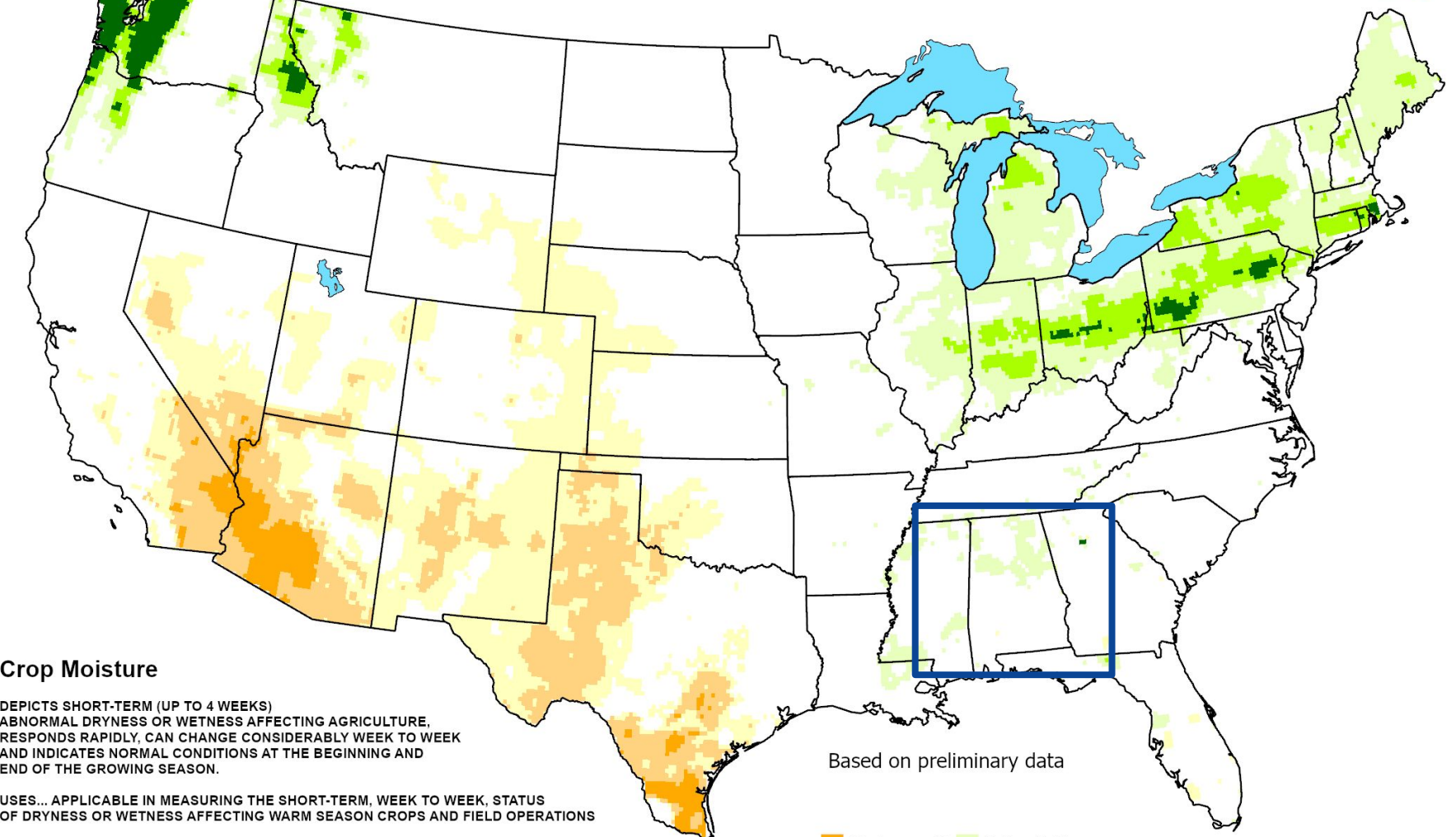
Agricultural Impacts

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Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm) MAR, 2026



Crop Moisture Index Value for the March 22 - 28, 2026 Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



Crop Moisture

DEPICTS SHORT-TERM (UP TO 4 WEEKS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE. RESPONDS RAPIDLY, CAN CHANGE CONSIDERABLY WEEK TO WEEK AND INDICATES NORMAL CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE GROWING SEASON.

USES... APPLICABLE IN MEASURING THE SHORT-TERM, WEEK TO WEEK, STATUS OF DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING WARM SEASON CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS

LIMITATIONS... MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE TO GERMINATING AND SHALLOW ROOTED CROPS WHICH ARE UNABLE TO EXTRACT THE DEEP OR SUBSOIL MOISTURE FROM A SHALLOW SOIL PROFILE, OR FOR COOL SEASON CROPS GROWING WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE AVERAGING BELOW ABOUT 55F. IT IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF THE LONG-TERM (MONTHS, YEARS) DROUGHT OR WET SPELLS WHICH ARE DEPICTED BY THE DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX.

Based on preliminary data



- Soil Moisture continues a slow but steady decline even as intermittent rainfall occurs.
- Crop moisture is also continuing a slow decline across the southern half of the area



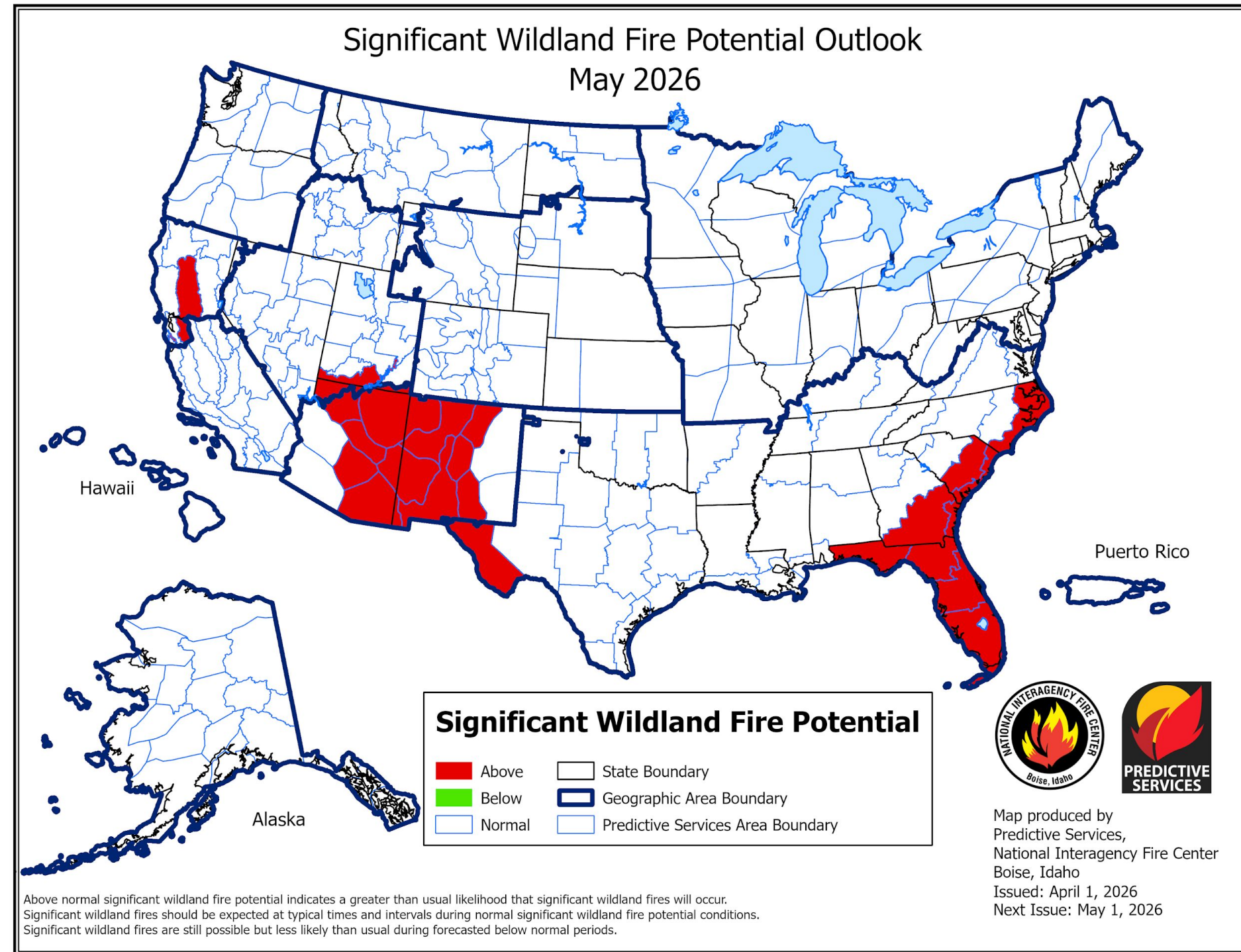


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- There have been an increase of wildfires across central Alabama the past couple of week due to the drought conditions.
- The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) has been routinely limiting or suspending burn permits as dry, windy conditions develop. Any outdoor burning is “strongly discouraged” at this time.
- Several local municipalities have issued their own “no burn” notices.
- The outlook May is calling for normal wildfire conditions across the state.



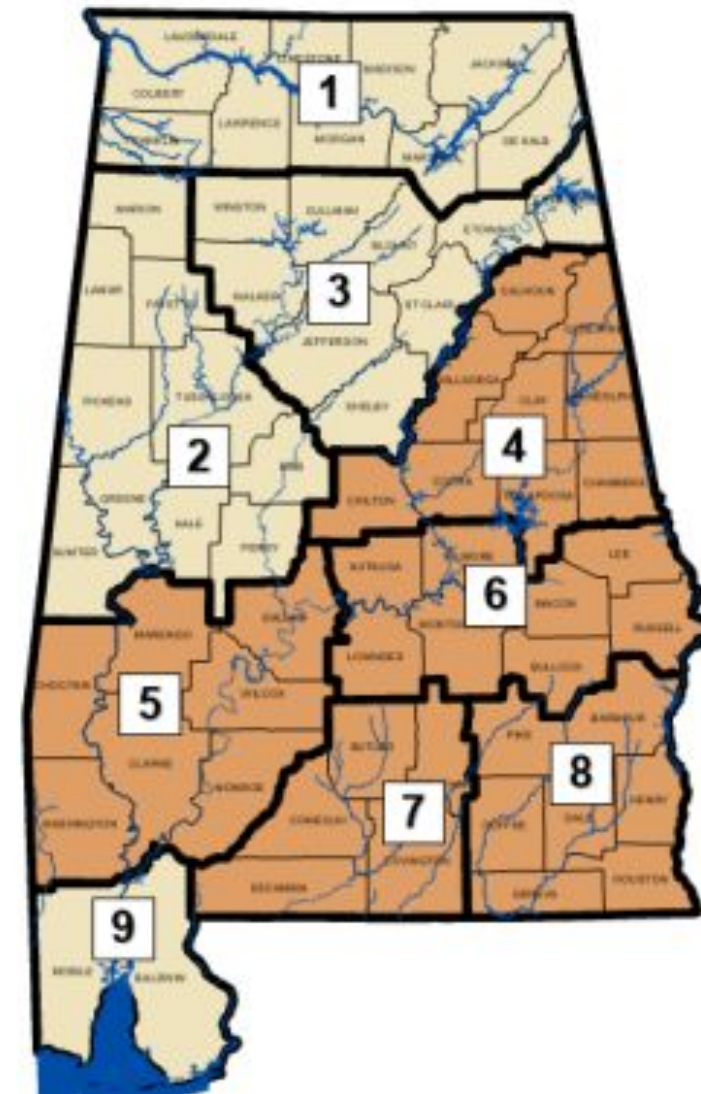


Fire Hazard Impacts

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Link to [Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

- The latest Alabama drought declaration map has all of Alabama in either an advisory, watch or warning status. This map is expected to be updated soon.
- Click the link at the bottom of the page for more information.



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.

Image caption: [Alabama drought declaration map image](#)



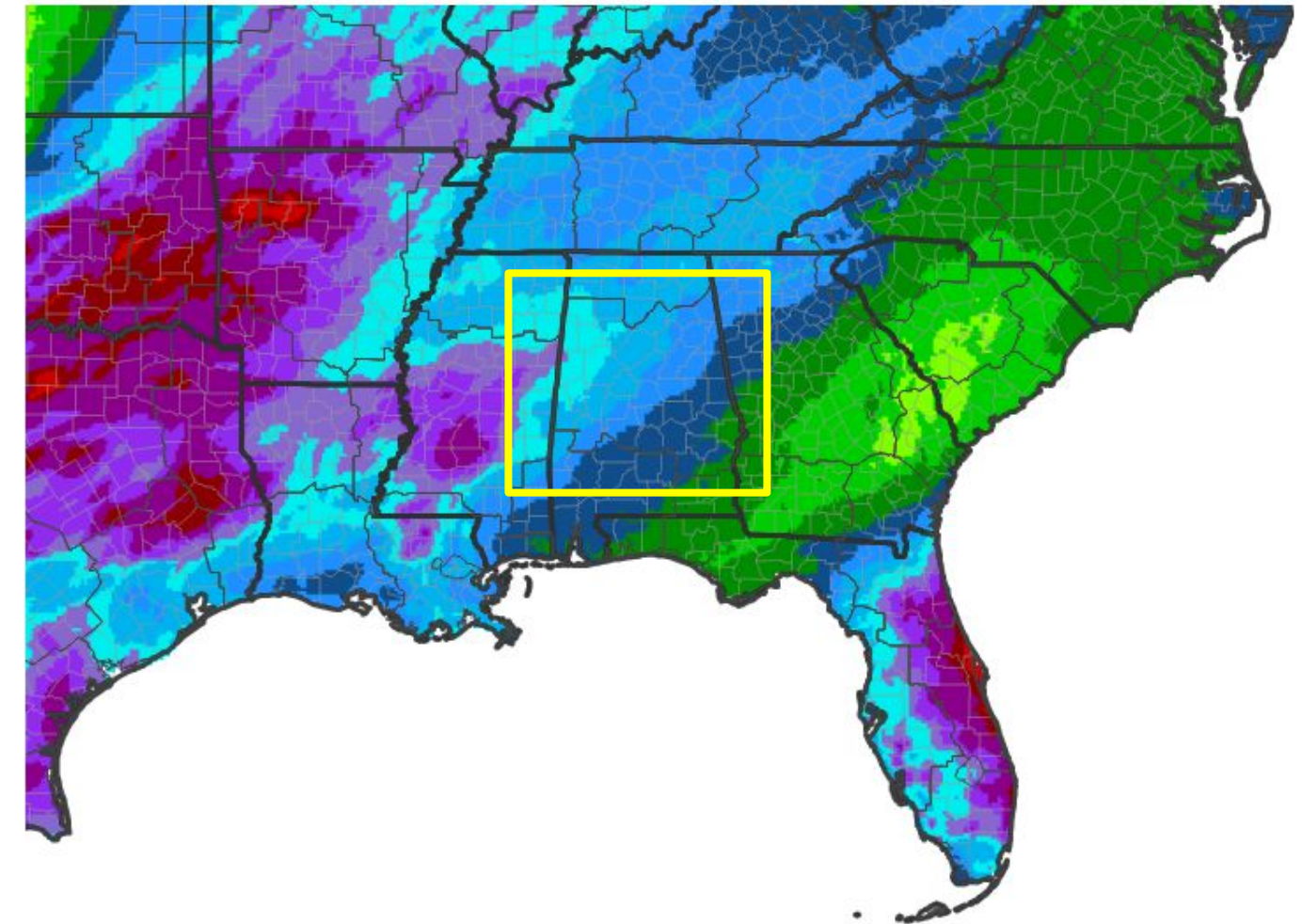


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

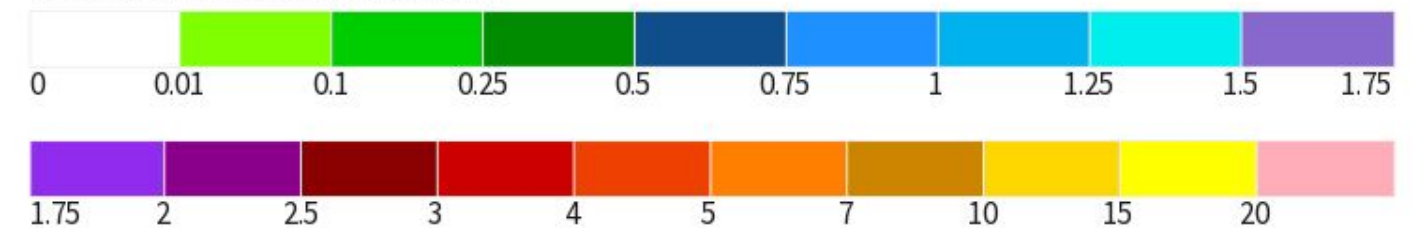
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- Widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms are expected across the area during the Easter weekend. While this will help bring some relief to the area, the overall expected amounts will not be enough to significantly improve the current drought conditions.
- Beyond the Easter weekend, mostly dry conditions are expected through the first half of the month.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 2, 2026–April 9, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/02/26





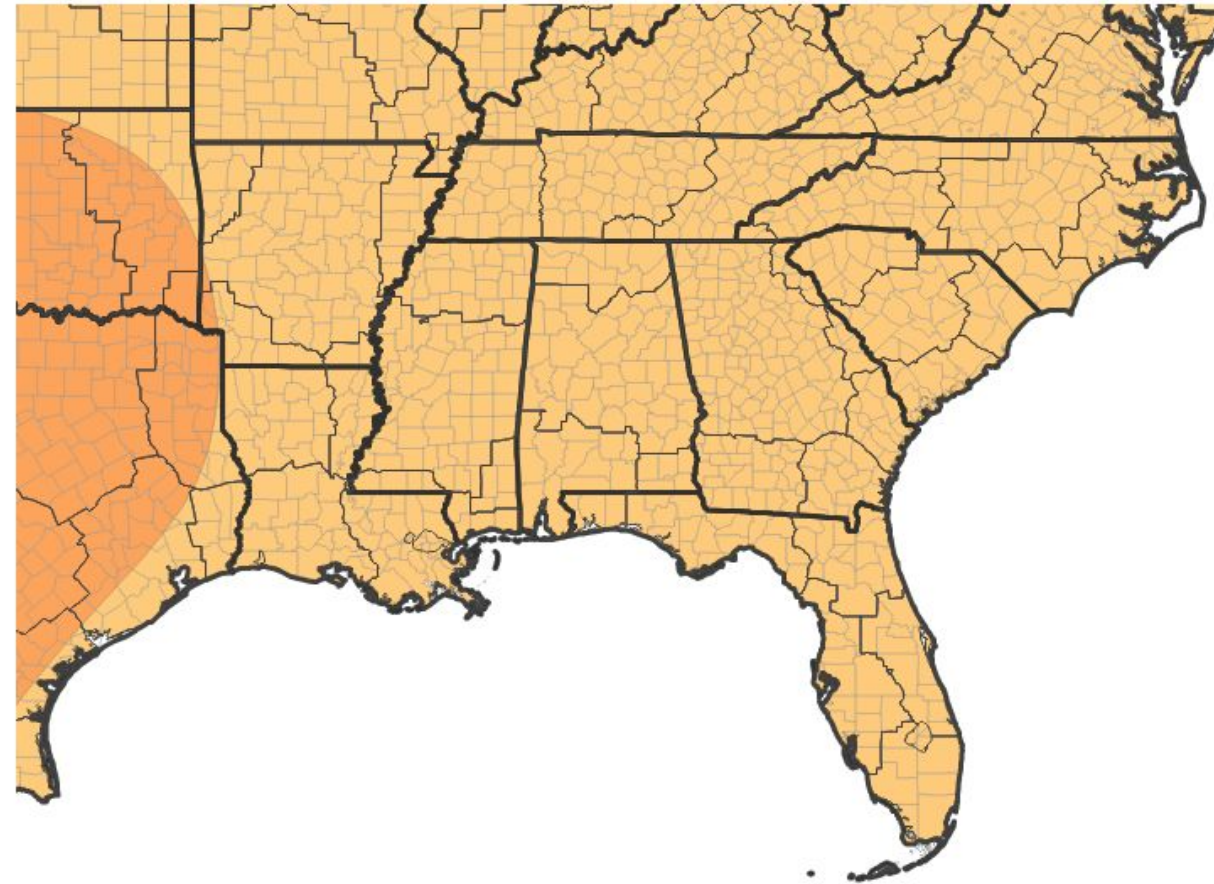
Medium Range Outlook

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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 near normal chances across the north with higher than average chances in the south.
- If this pattern verifies, some improvement would be possible with the drought conditions.

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



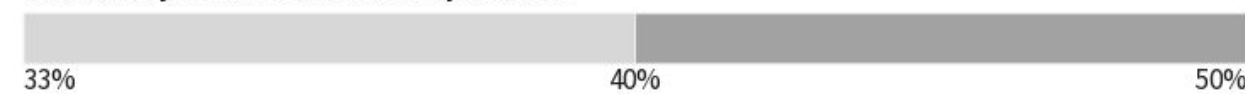
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



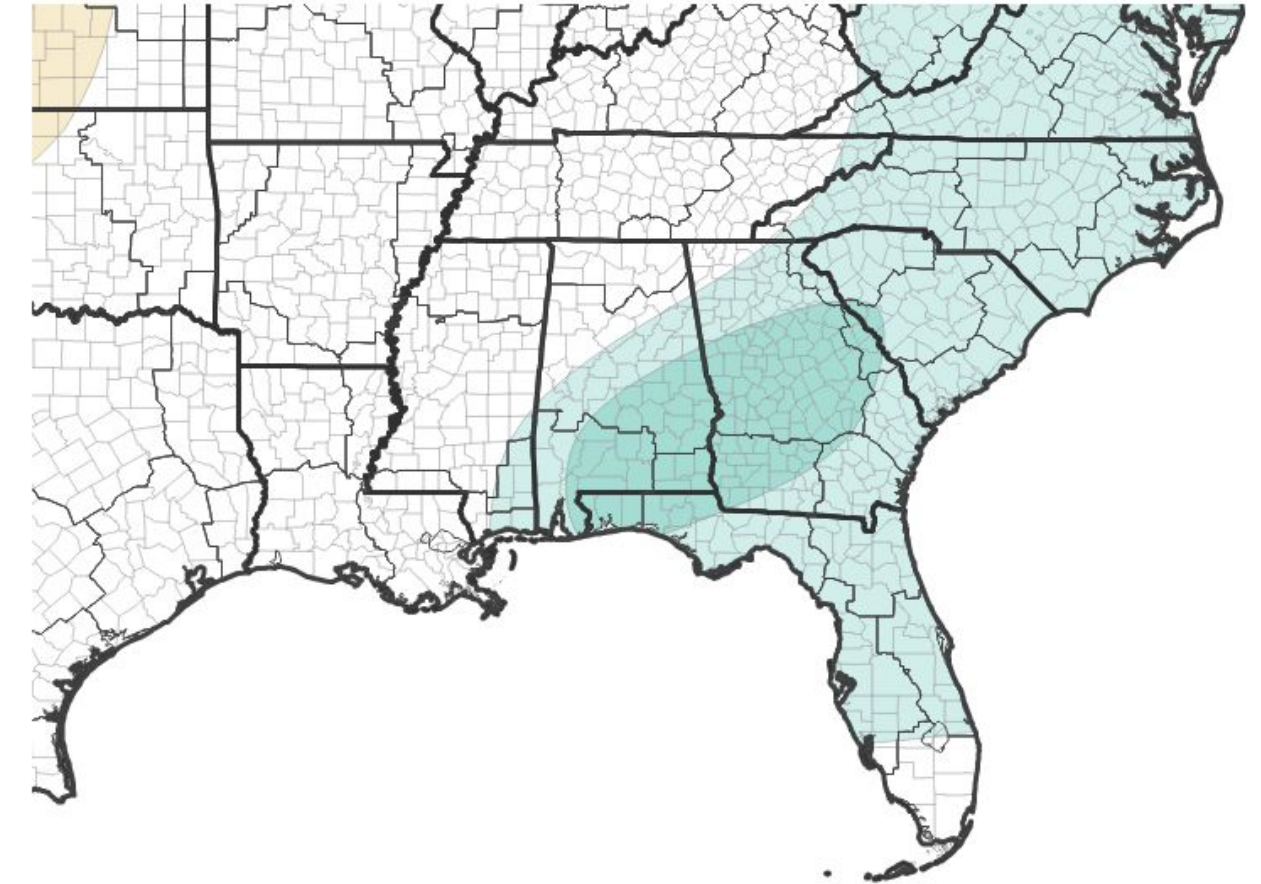
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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





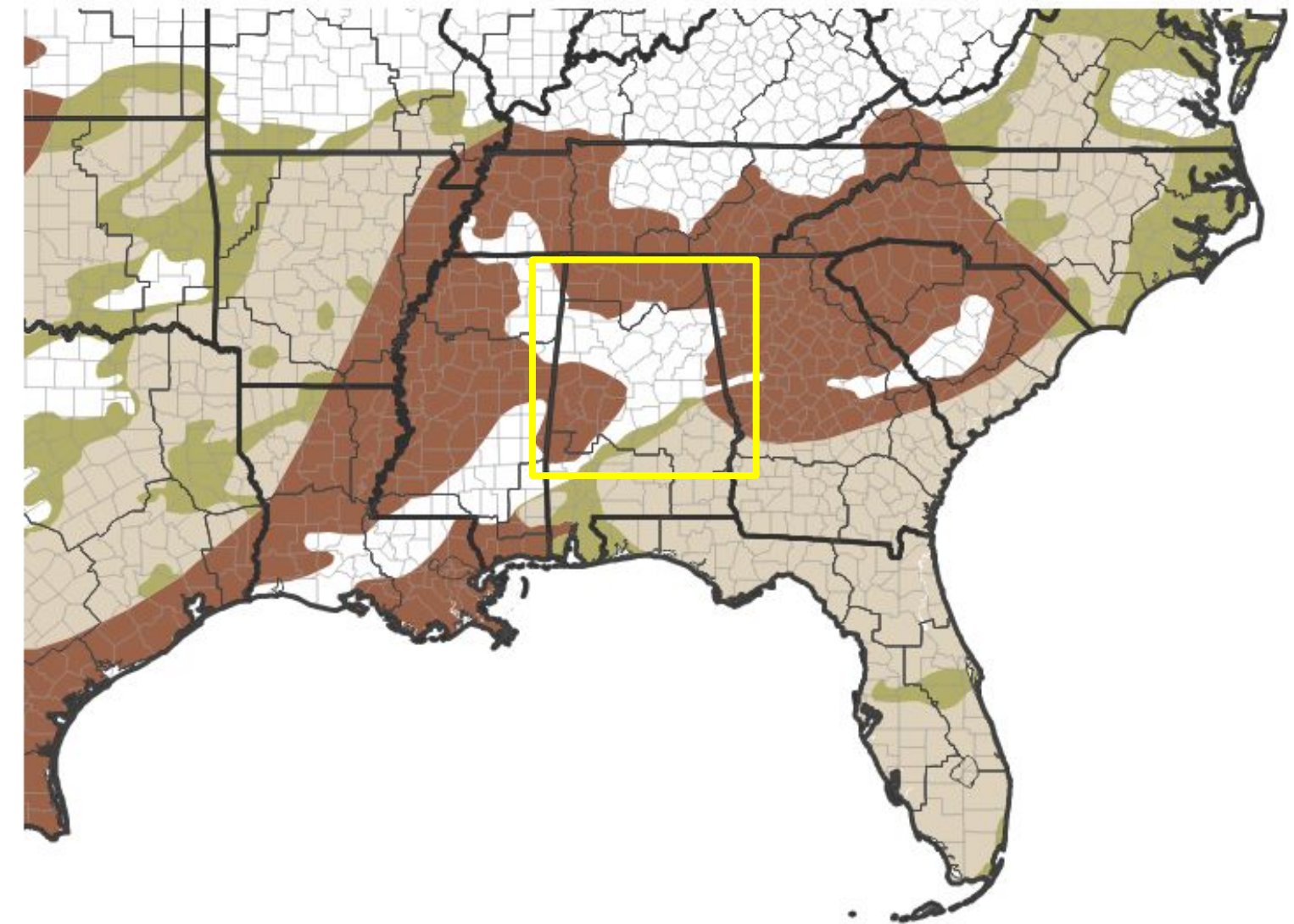
Drought Outlook

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- The latest seasonal outlook released by the CPC on March 31st and valid through June, shows a mix of improvement and persistence across the area.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 31, 2026–June 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 03/31/26

