



Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid April 16, 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.

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS WORSEEN OVER CENTRAL ALABAMA





U.S. Drought Monitor

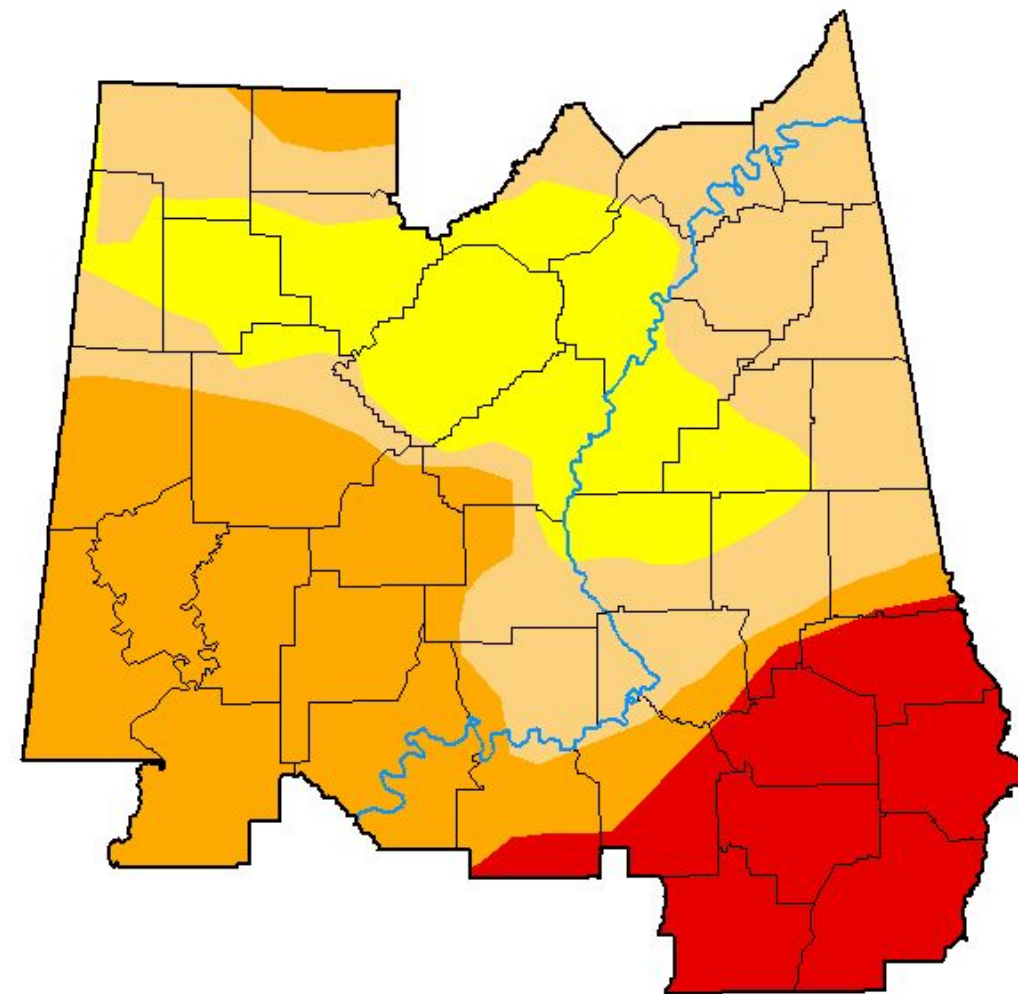
April 16, 2026
11:53 AM CDT

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
 - D3 Extreme Drought: Numerous counties in the southeast are experience extreme drought conditions.
 - D2 and D1 Severe/Moderate Drought: Impact areas include Tuscaloosa to Demopolis, Montgomery, Selma and many areas surrounding the Birmingham metro.
 - D0 Abnormally Dry: The majority of the Birmingham metro area and a few other areas as well.

U.S. Drought Monitor Birmingham, AL WFO

April 14, 2026
(Released Thursday, Apr. 16, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	79.53	49.23	16.95	0.00
Last Week 04-07-2026	20.73	79.27	60.89	21.30	10.57	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-13-2026	0.00	100.00	51.42	22.67	0.00	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 04-15-2025	100.00	0.00	0.00	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>

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

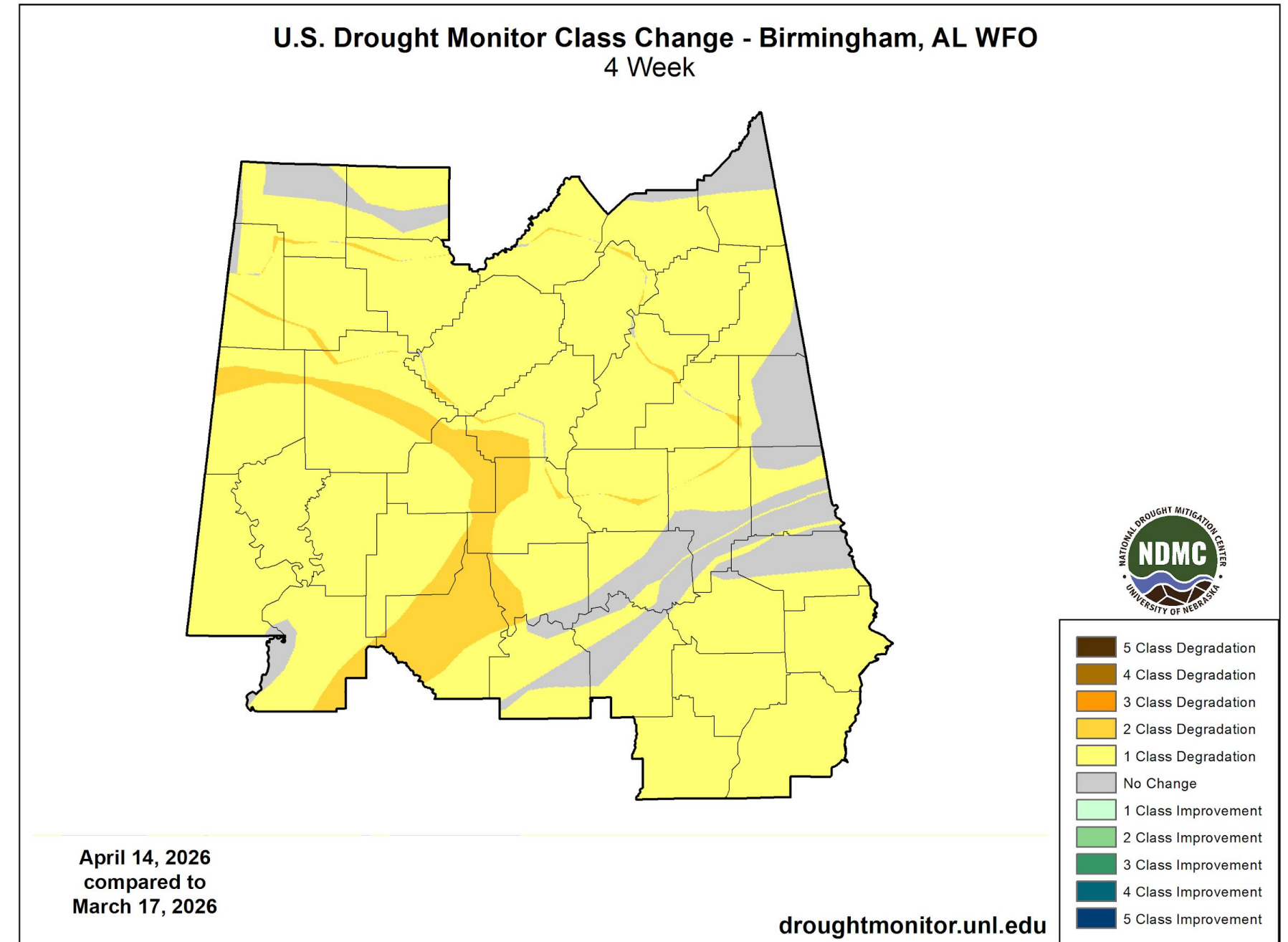


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Almost the entire area had at least a 1 category change toward worse drought conditions.
 - No Change and Drought Improvement: There were no areas of improvement with this update and only a few locations with no change.





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 this time of year.

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 and the state has issued a fire alert.

Other Impacts

- None

Drought Mitigation Actions

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

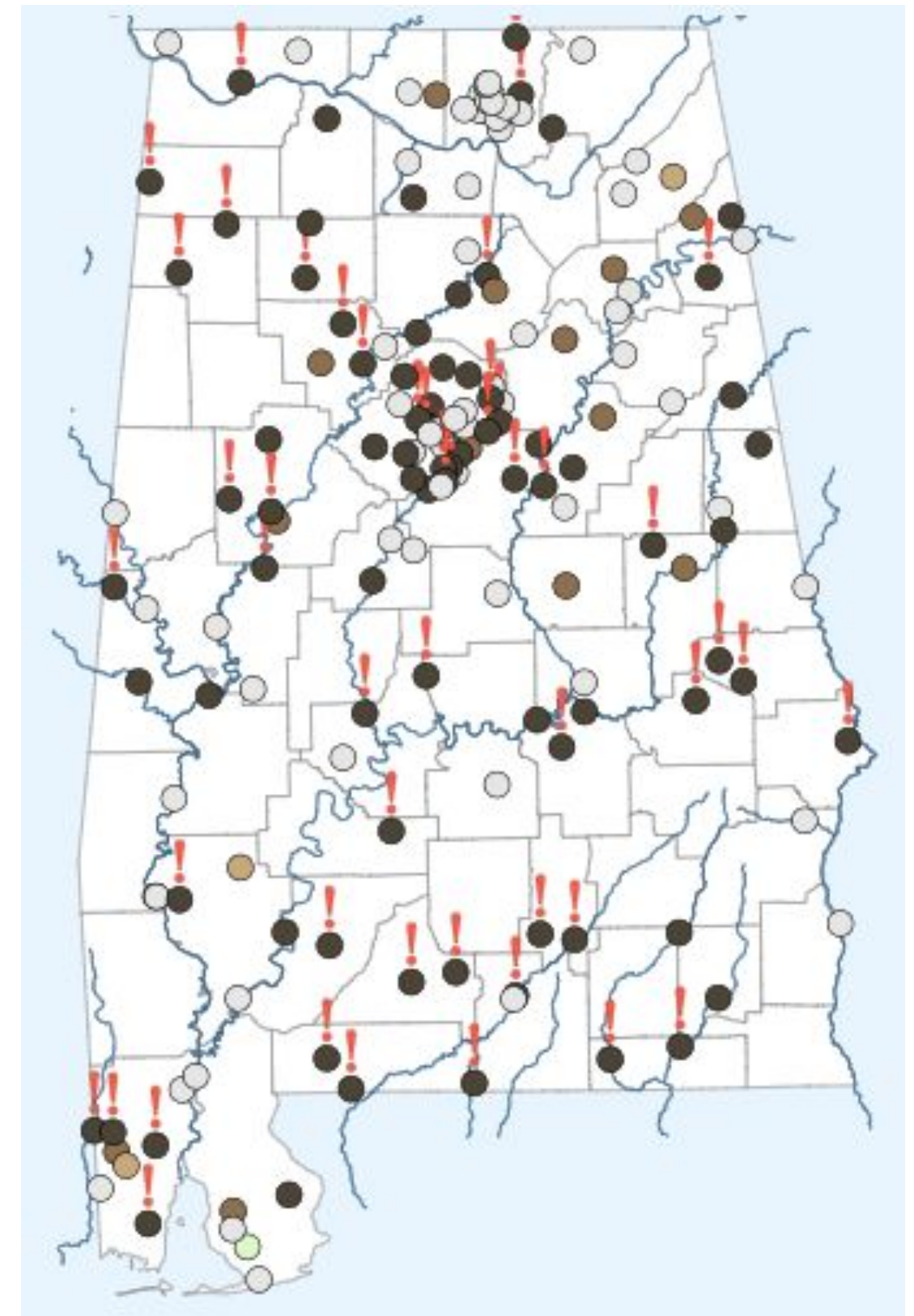




Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

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- Streamflows are running much below to extremely below normal.
- Some navigation issues are expected for barge traffic on the lower Alabama River.
- 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.

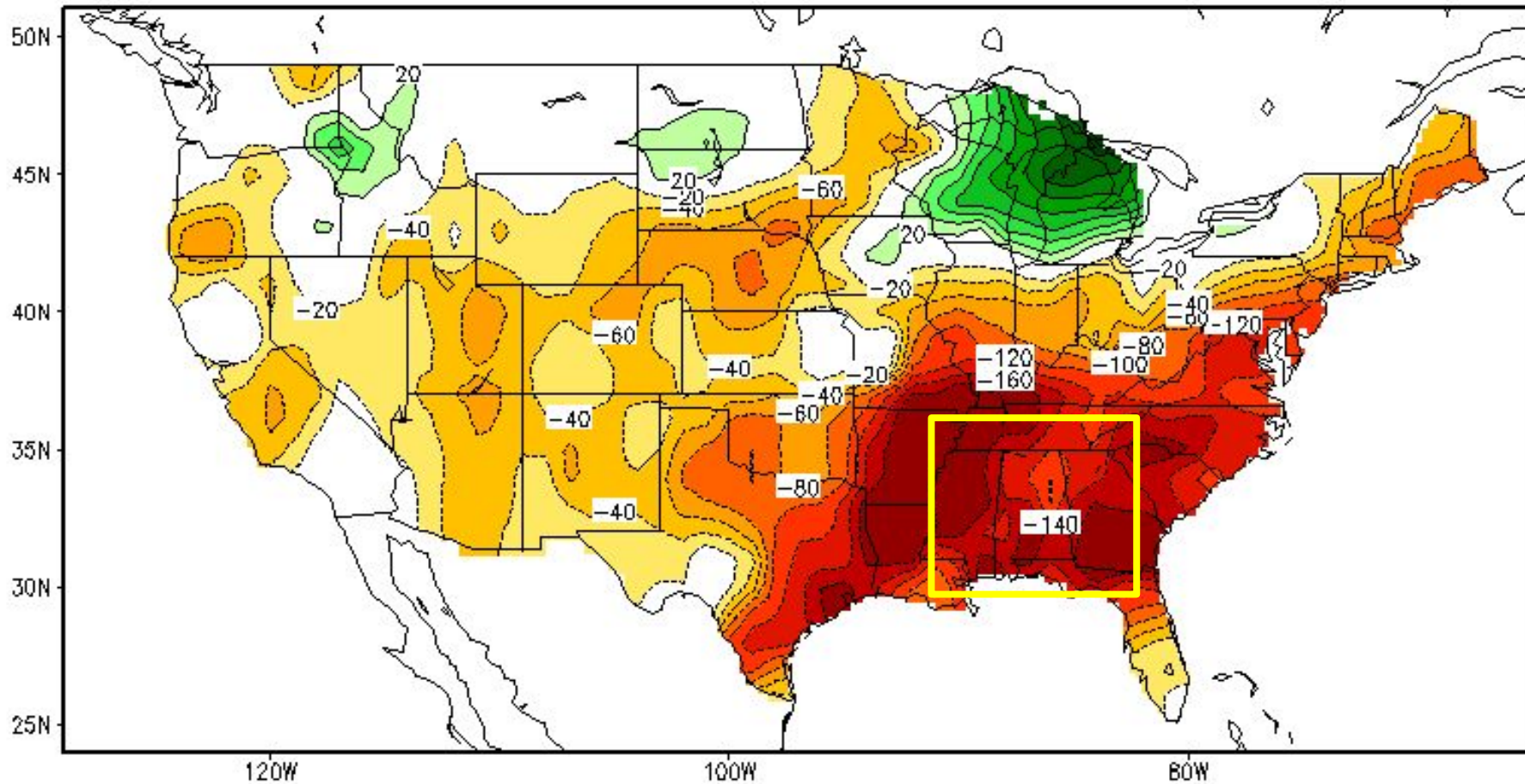
0-5 Extremely below	5-10 Much below	10-25 Below normal	25-75 Normal	75-90 Above normal	90-95 Much above	95-100 Extremely above
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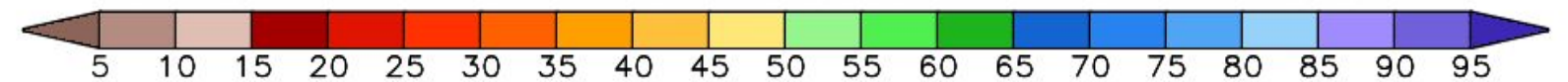
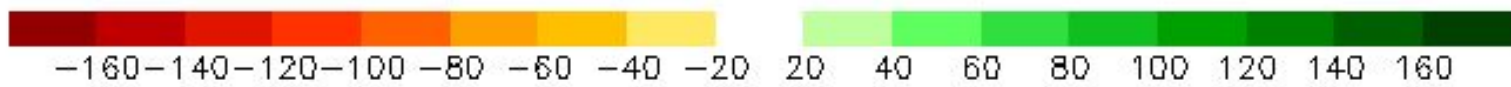
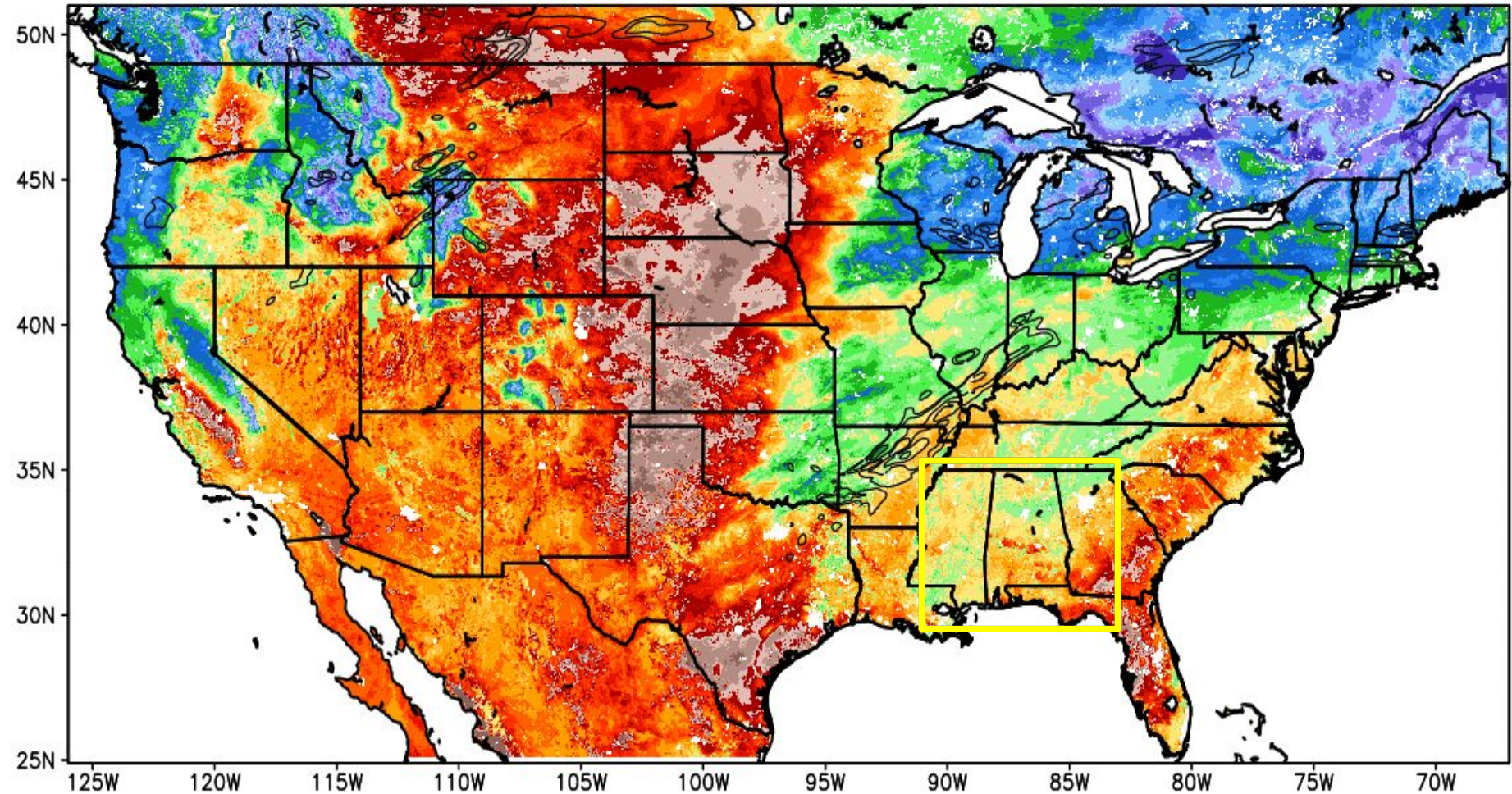
Agricultural Impacts

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Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)
APR 15, 2026



0-100 cm Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 12z 16 Apr 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



NOTE
Experimental

- Soil Moisture continues steady decline even as intermittent rainfall occurs.



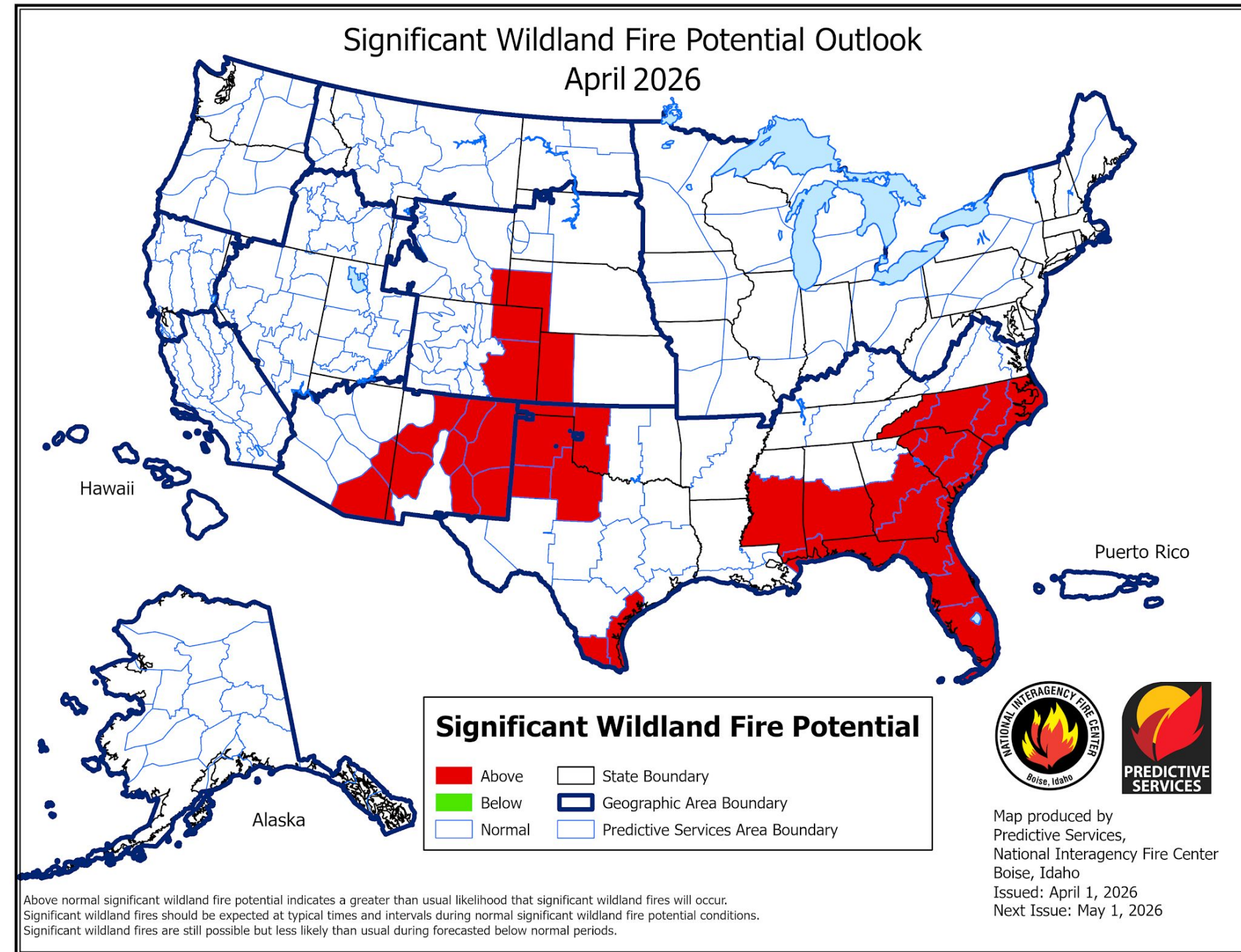


Fire Hazard Impacts

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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 issued a statewide Fire Alert
 - [Fire Alert](#)
- Several local municipalities have issued their own “no burn” notices.
- The remainder of April shows an above average potential for fires for the southern half of Alabama.
- The outlook May is calling for normal wildfire conditions across the state.



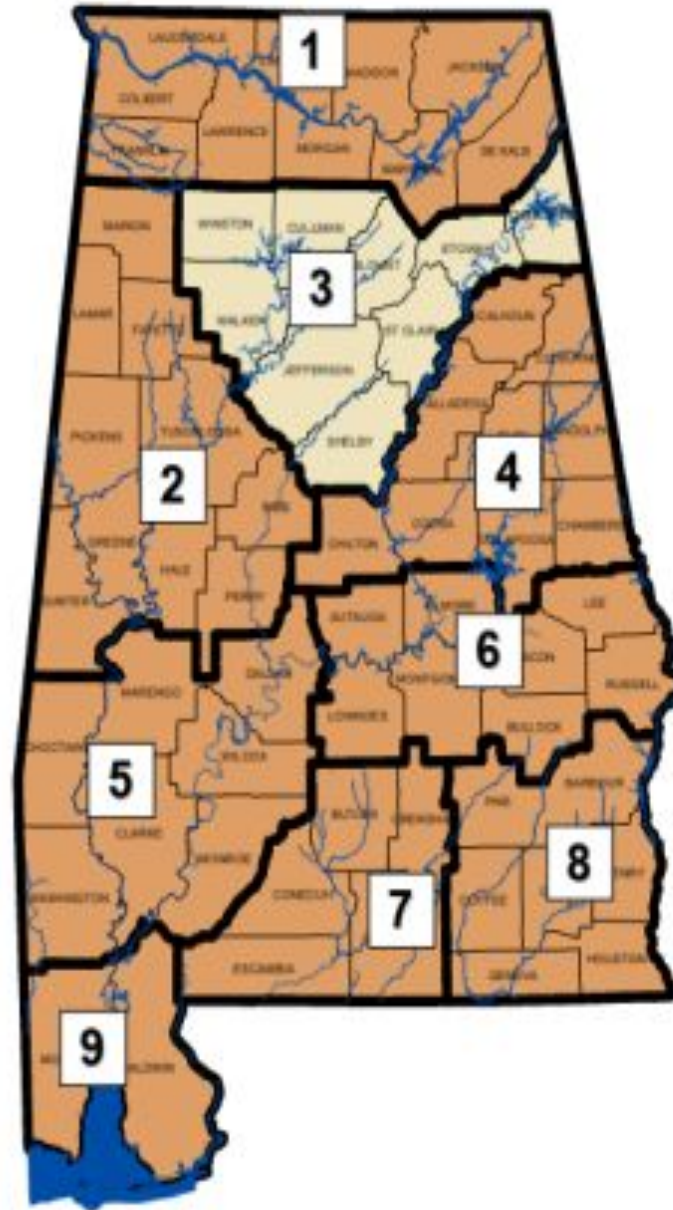


State Alerts

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Link to [Alabama Forestry Commision](#)

- The latest Alabama drought declaration map has all of Alabama in either an watch or warning status.
- Click the link at the bottom of the page for more information.



Legend
No Drought Declaration
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

Prolonged precipitation deficits along with extremely low streamflows and groundwater conditions have led to rapidly deteriorating drought conditions across the state. 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](#)



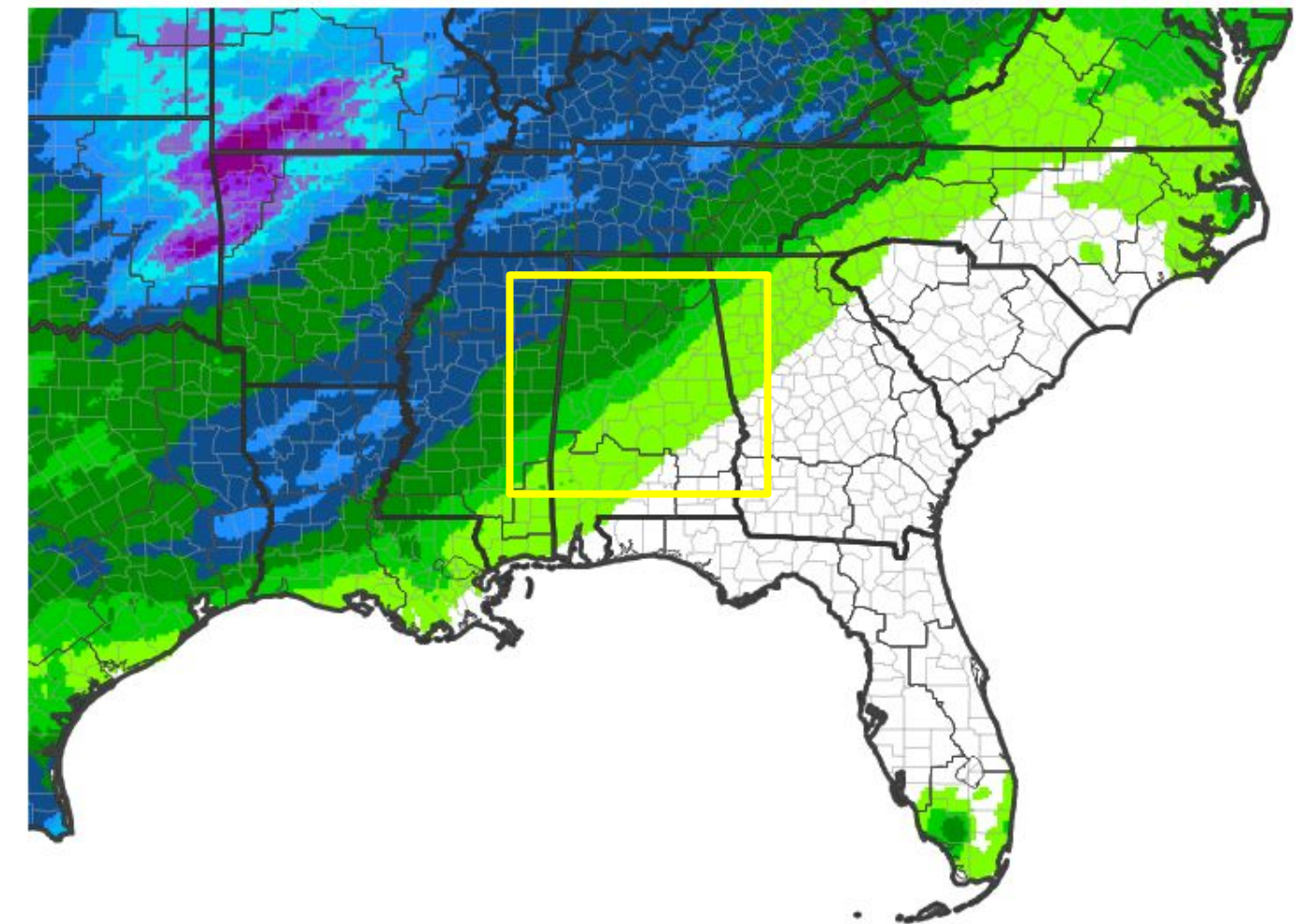


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

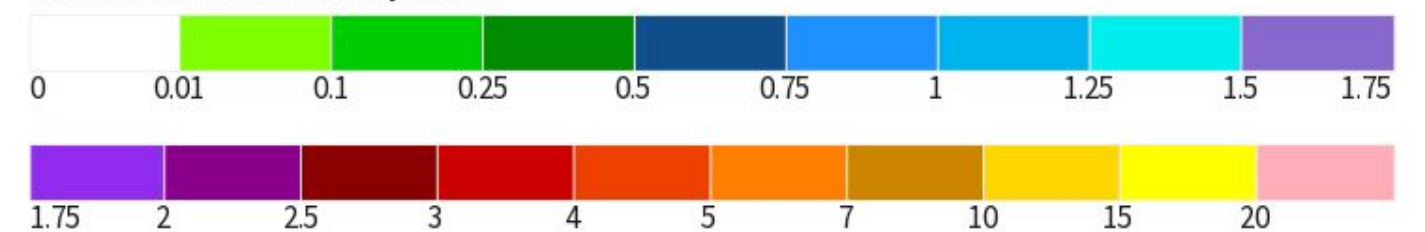
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- Widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms will be possible through April 22nd. Most of this rainfall is expected in the northwestern third of the state with little to no accumulation in the worst drought locations of southeastern Alabama. Whatever amount does fall will not be enough to improve the current drought conditions.
- Beyond April 22nd, there are some hints of a slight pattern shift that would bring a little more moisture to the area. However, it doesn't look significant enough, at this time, to ease the overall severity of the drought.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 15, 2026–April 22, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/15/26





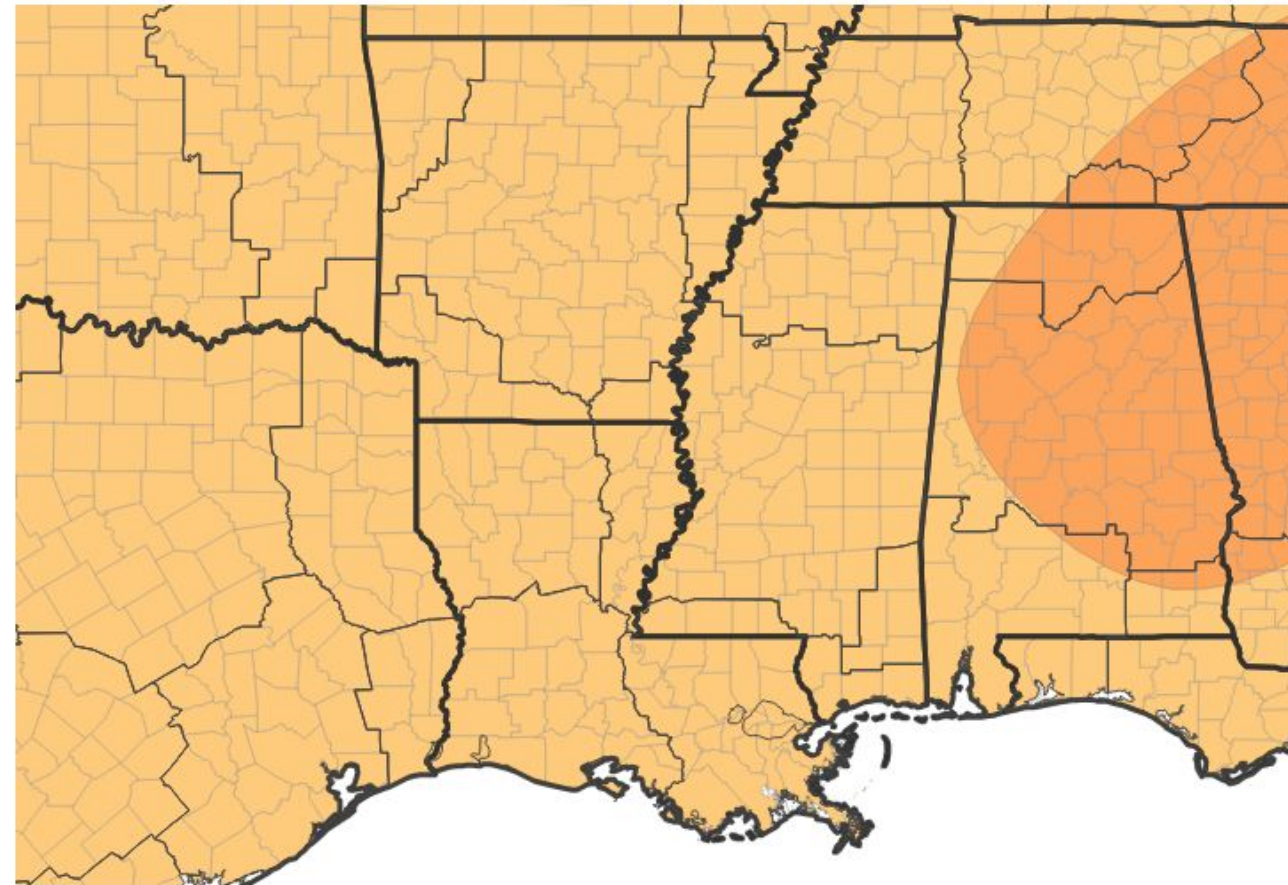
Medium Range Outlook

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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 slightly higher than average chances in the south.

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



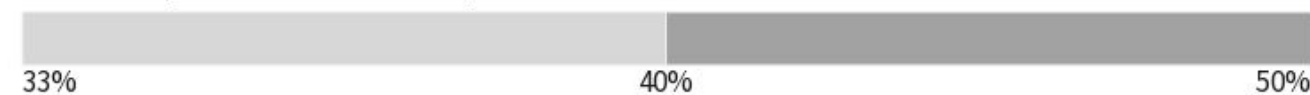
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



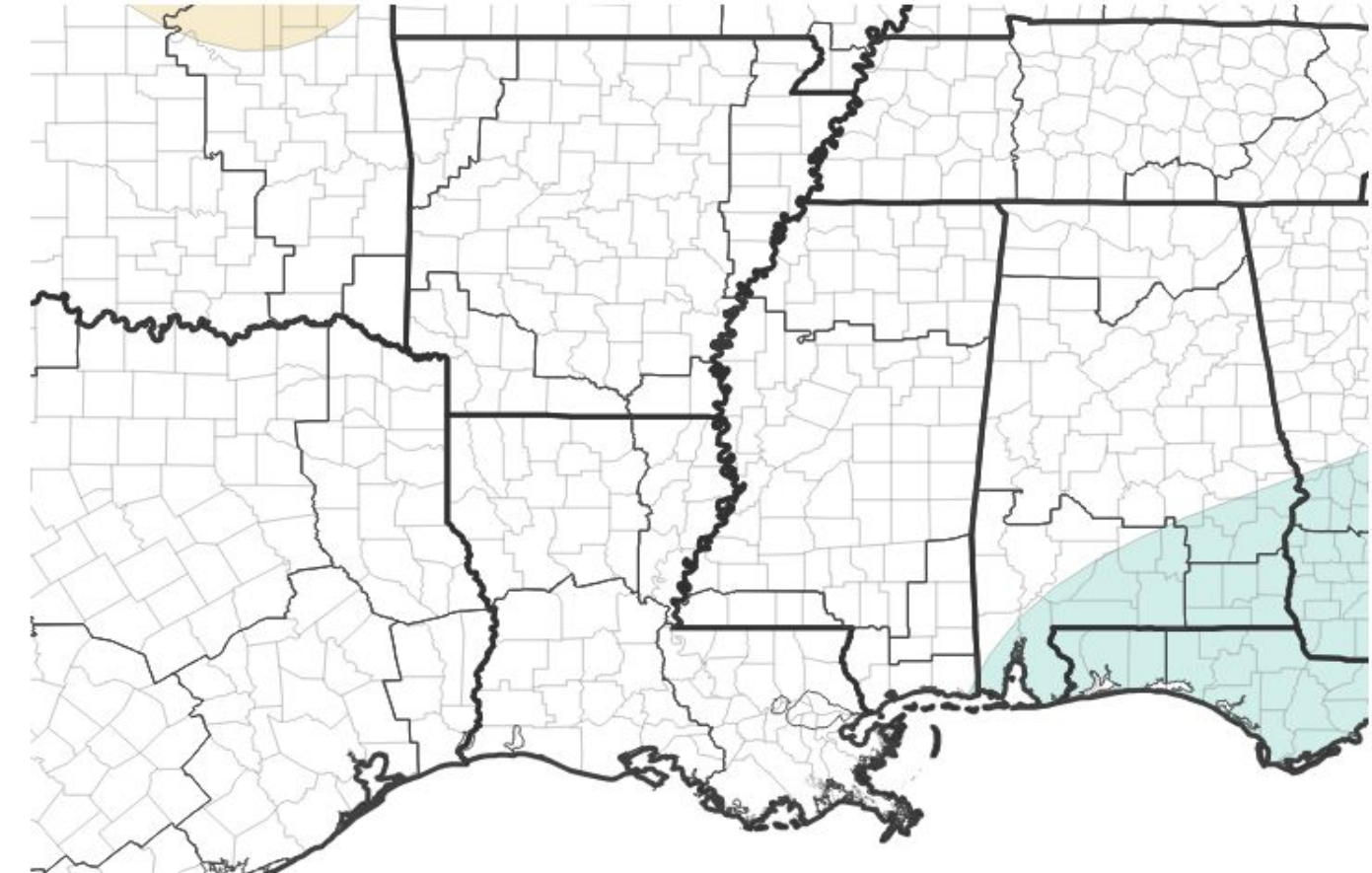
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



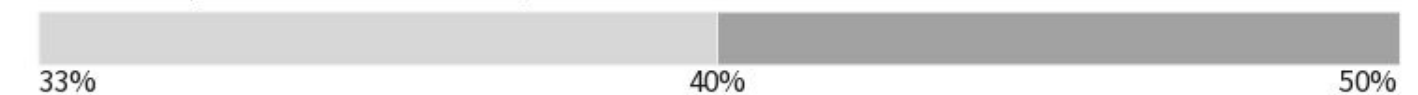
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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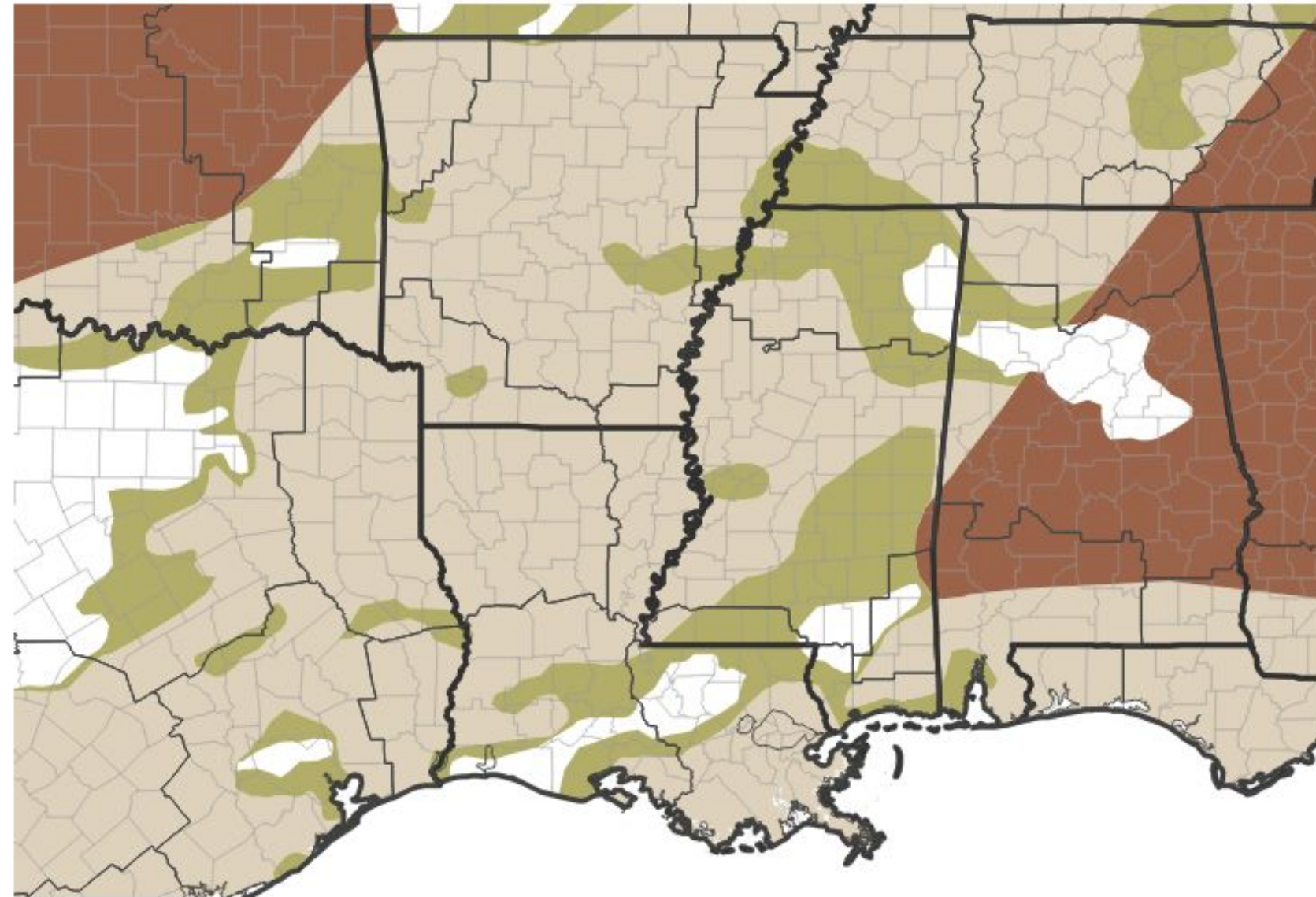
Drought Outlook

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- The latest seasonal outlook released by the CPC on April 16th and valid through July, shows a mix of improvement and persistence across the area.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 16, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26

