



Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid April 30, 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 WITH A SLIGHT EXPANSION OF D3 IN THE SOUTH.





U.S. Drought Monitor

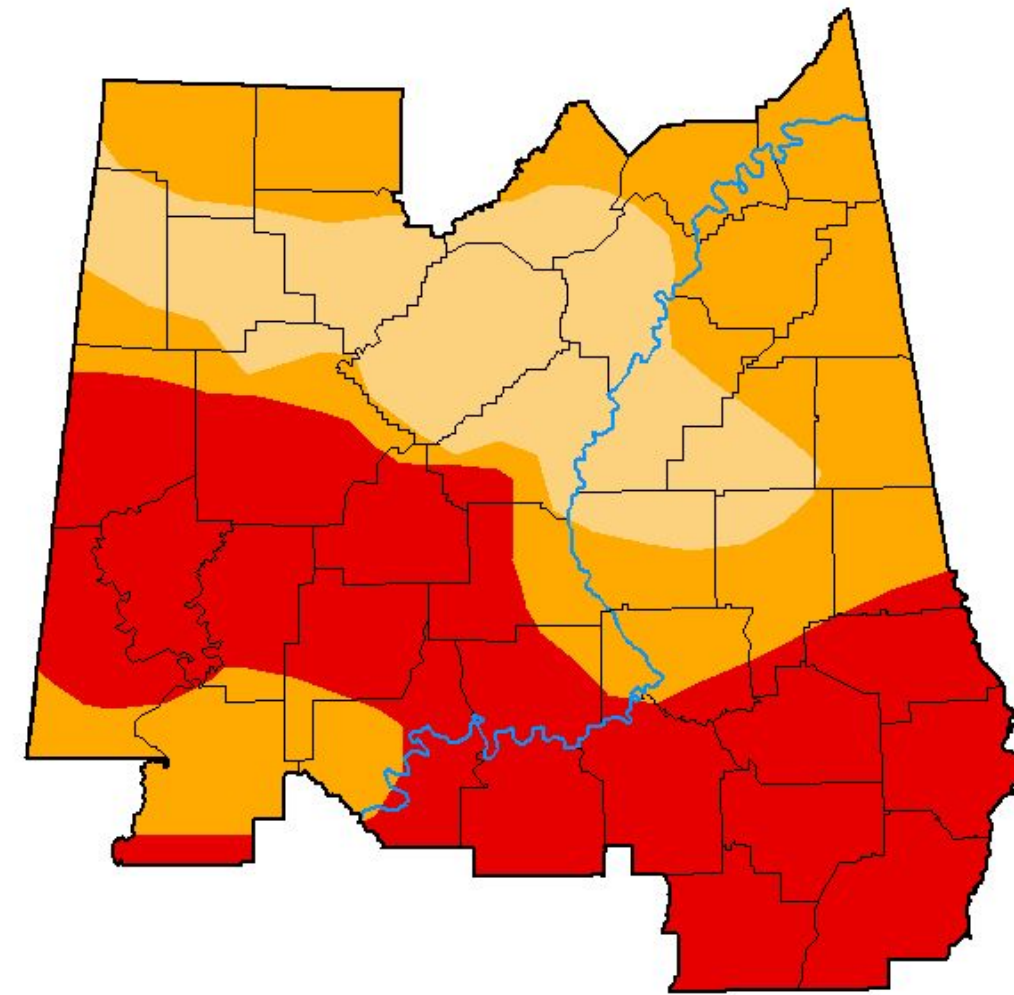
April 30, 2026
11:33 AM CDT

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
 - D3 Extreme Drought: Numerous counties across the southern half of the county warning area experiencing extreme drought conditions.
 - D2 and D1 Severe/Moderate Drought: The rest of the area is experiencing either severe or moderate drought.
 - D0 Abnormally Dry: All of Central Alabama

U.S. Drought Monitor Birmingham, AL WFO

April 28, 2026
(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 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	100.00	79.55	43.92	0.00
Last Week 04-21-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	77.26	41.71	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-27-2026	25.80	74.20	32.18	21.18	2.99	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 04-29-2025	99.45	0.55	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>

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U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

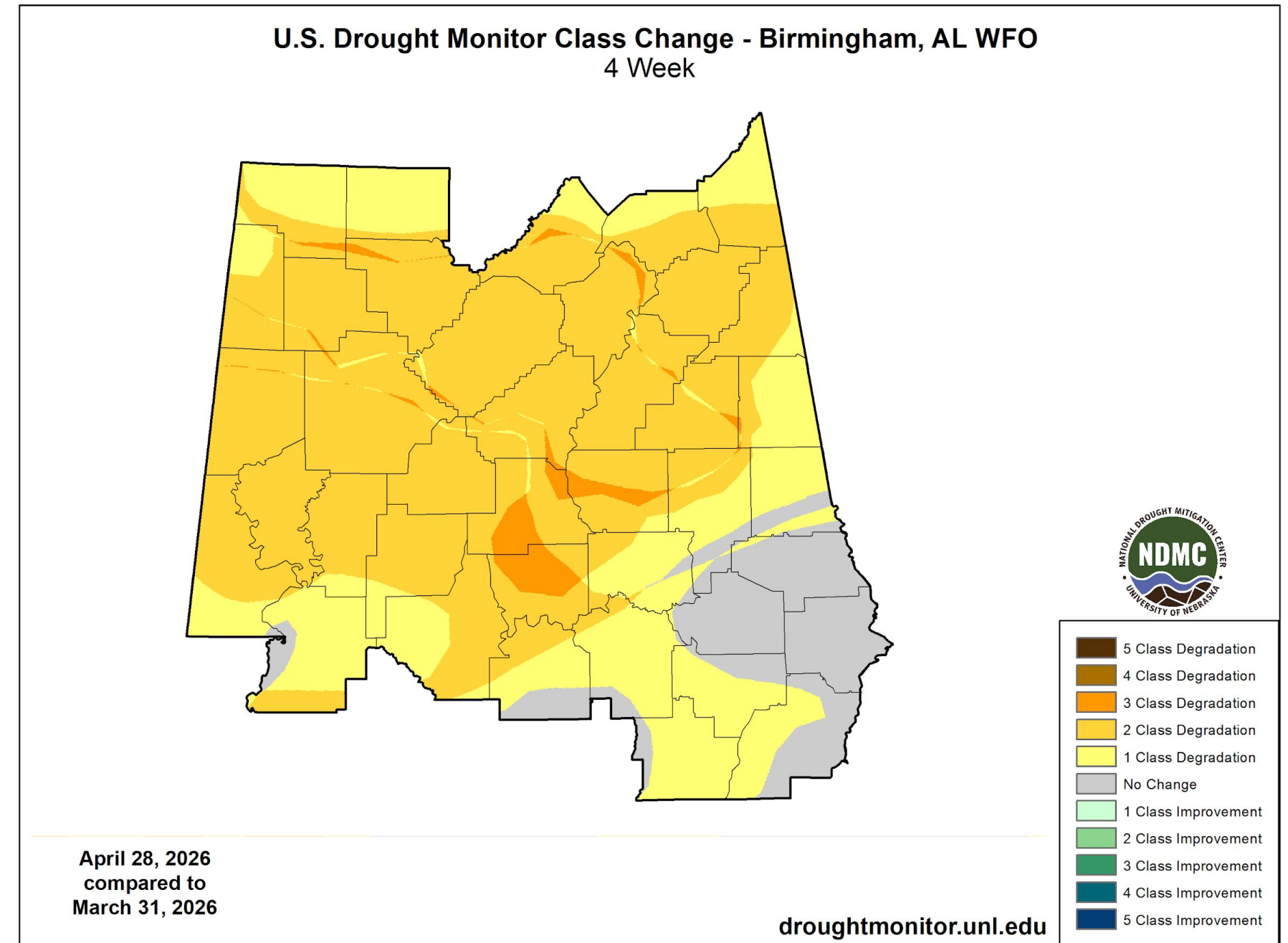


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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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

- Following a few days of wetting rains, streamflows are generally running at normal to above normal levels with some below normal in the southeast.

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. Planting in some areas is being delayed.
- 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 within the last month and the statewide fire alert remains in effect at this time.

Other Impacts

- None

Drought Mitigation Actions

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

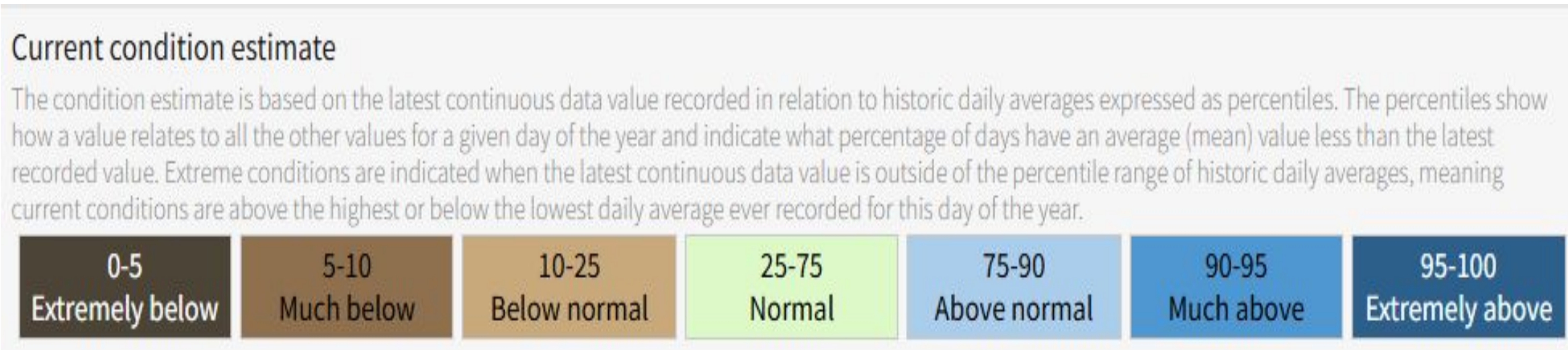
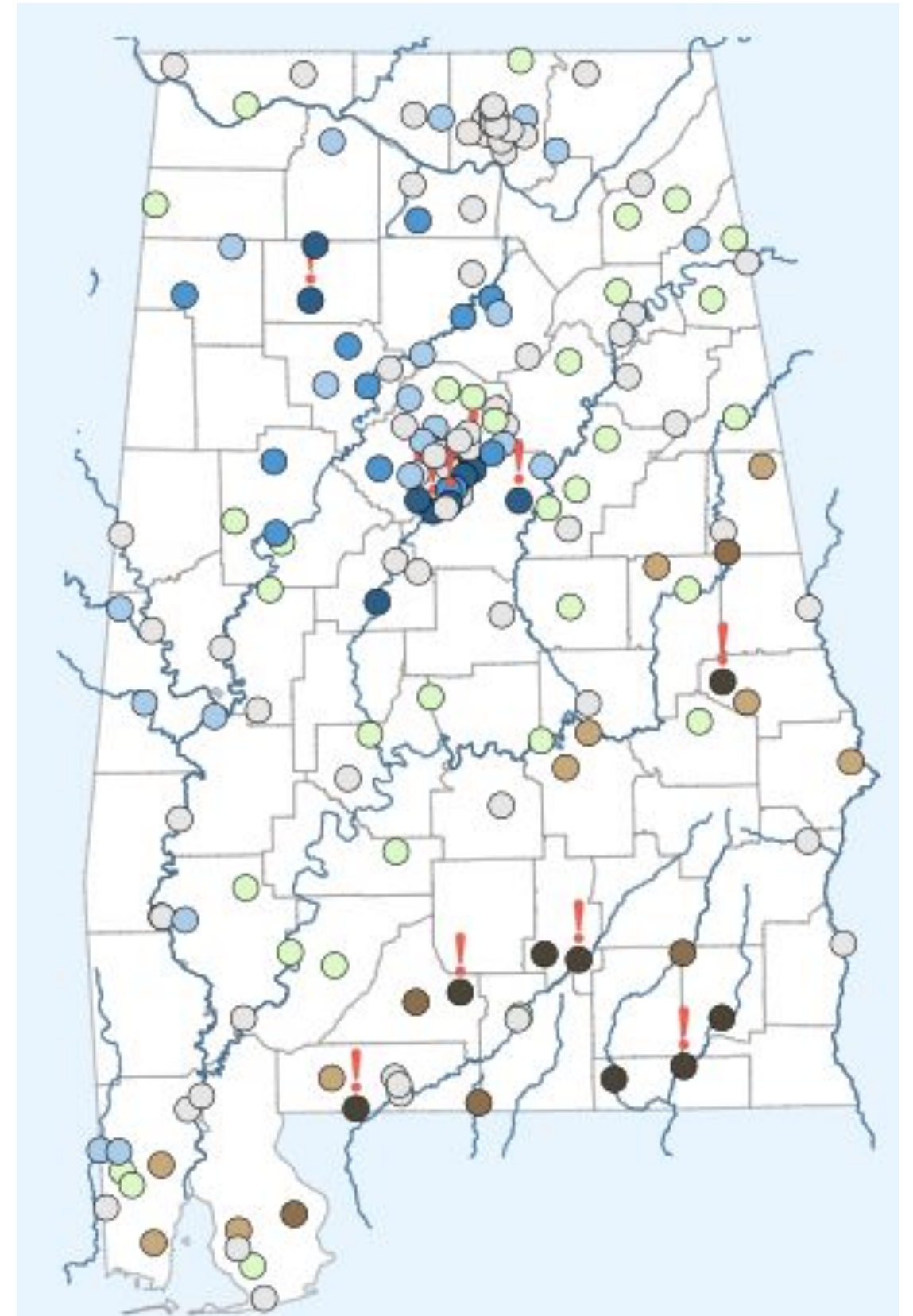




Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

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- Previous days rain has left many streamflows running above normal. Below normal streamflows continue in the southeast.
- 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/>

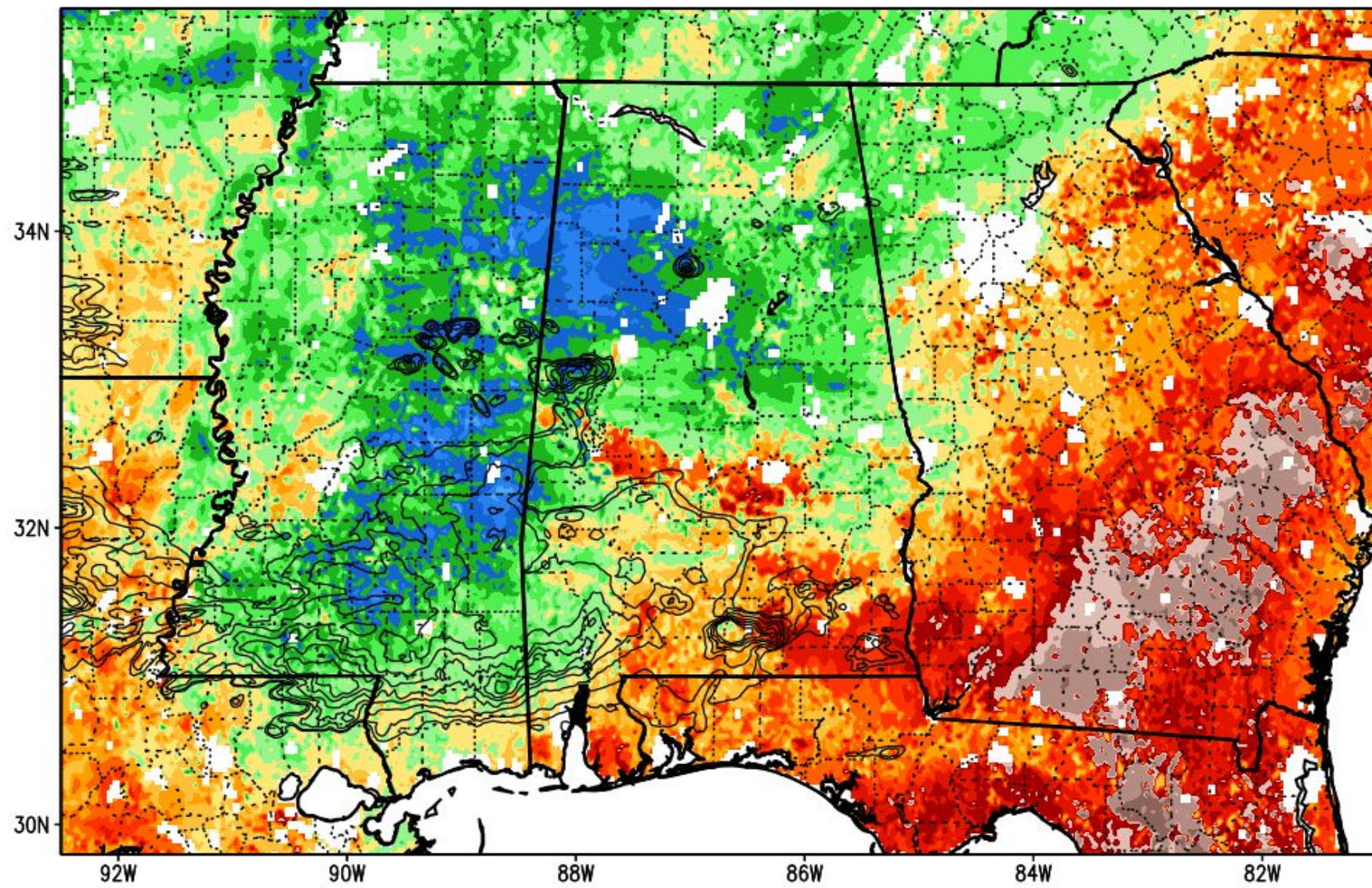




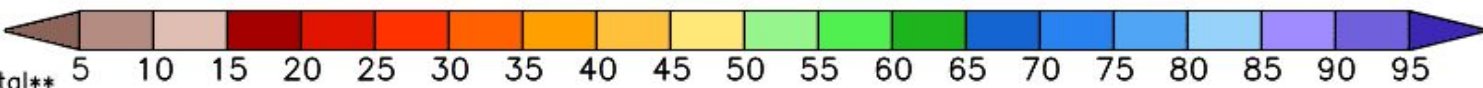
Agricultural Impacts

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0-100 cm Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 00z 30 Apr 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)

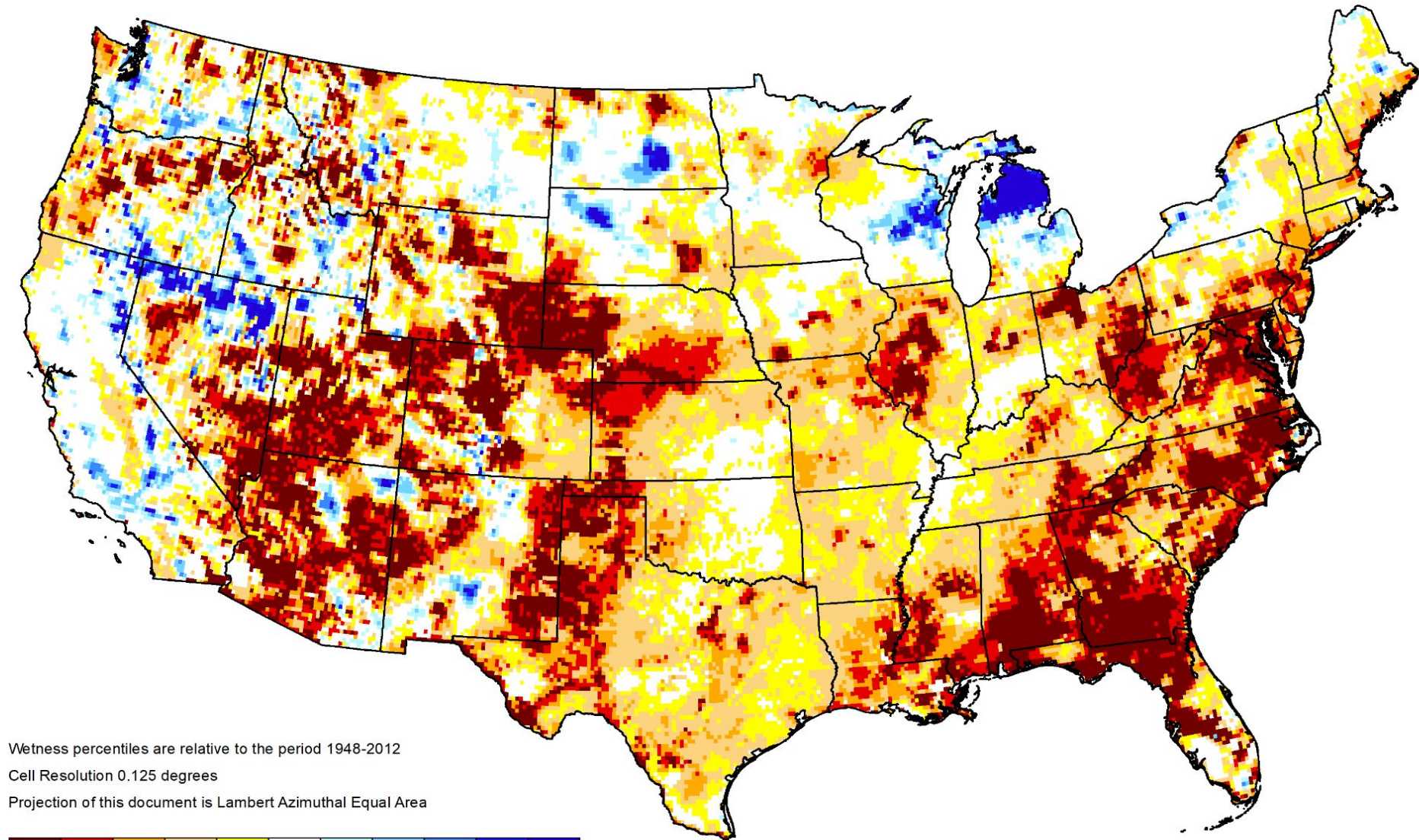


NOTE
Experimental

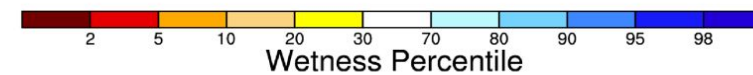


GRACE-Based Shallow Groundwater Drought Indicator

April 27, 2026



Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012
Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees
Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area



<https://nasagrace.unl.edu>

- Recent heavy rainfall has resulted in soil moisture improvements across most of the area except for portions of the south.



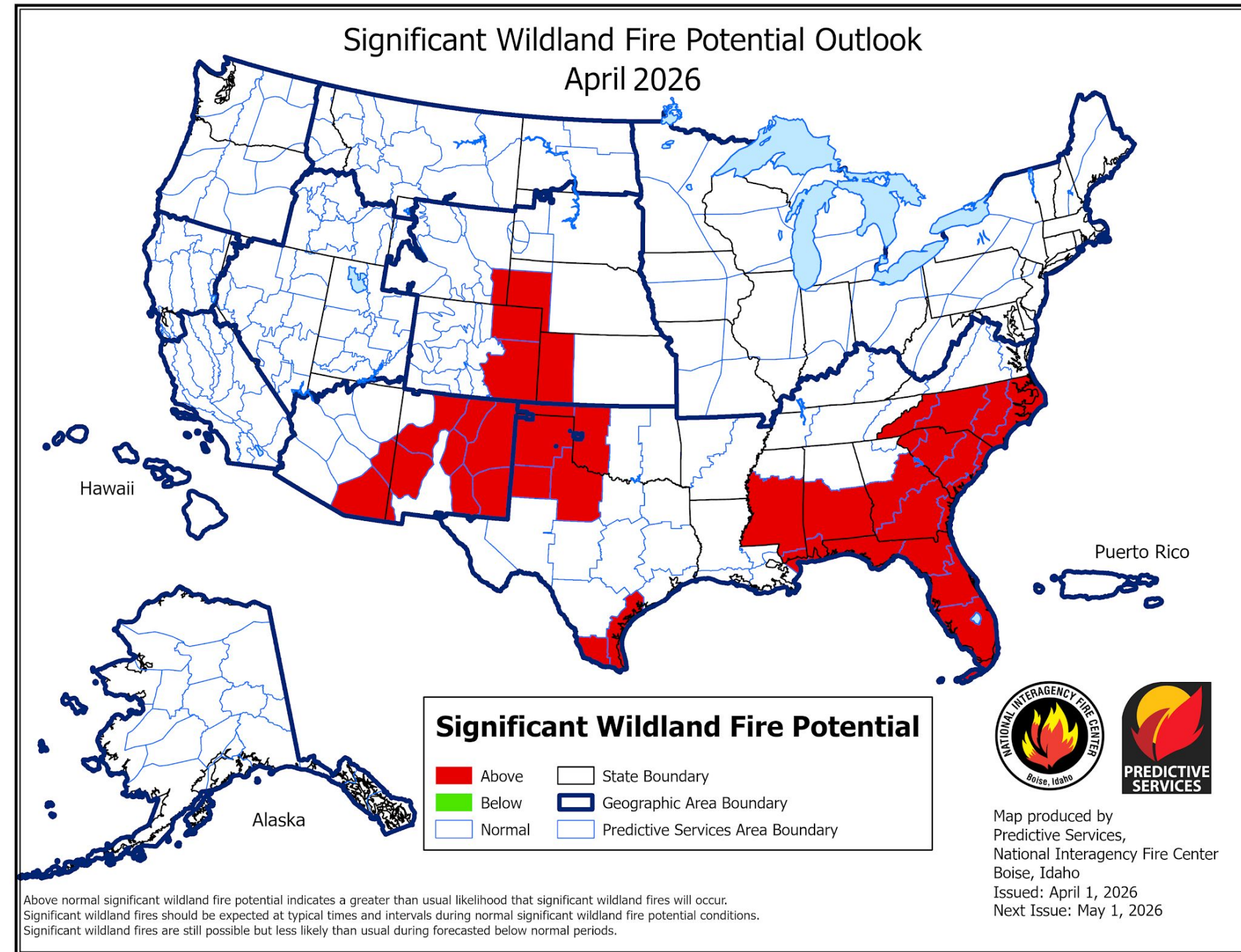


Fire Hazard Impacts

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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 over the past month 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.



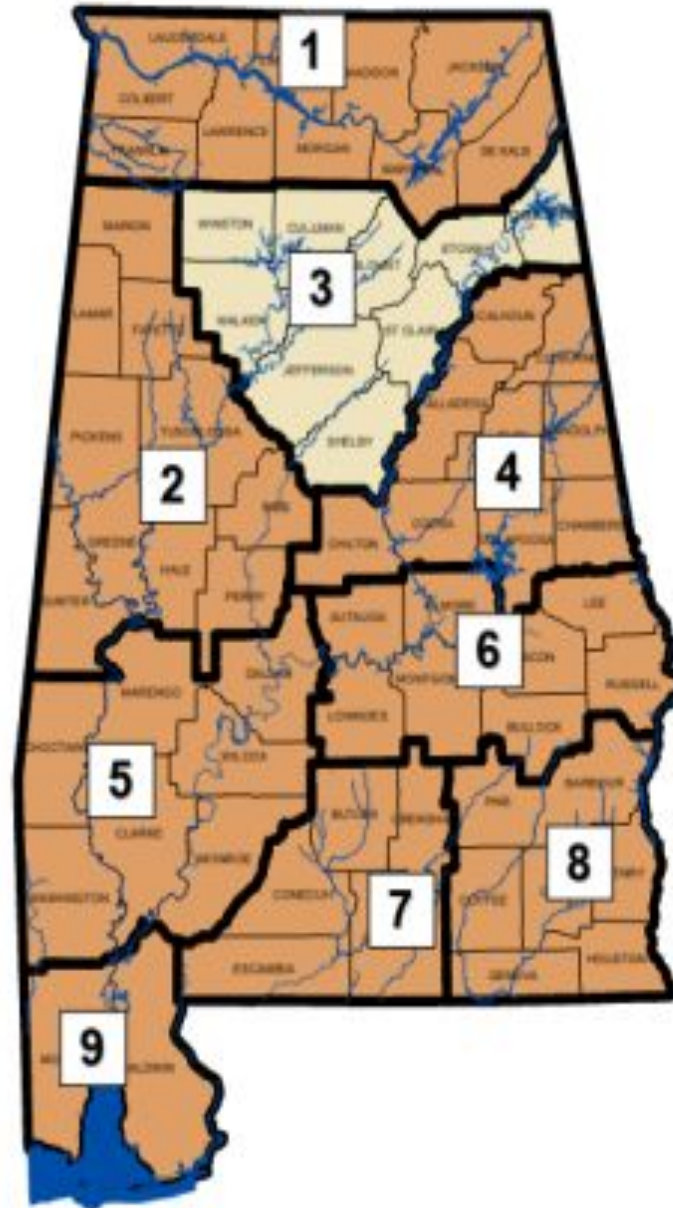


State Alerts

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Link to [Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

- 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](#)



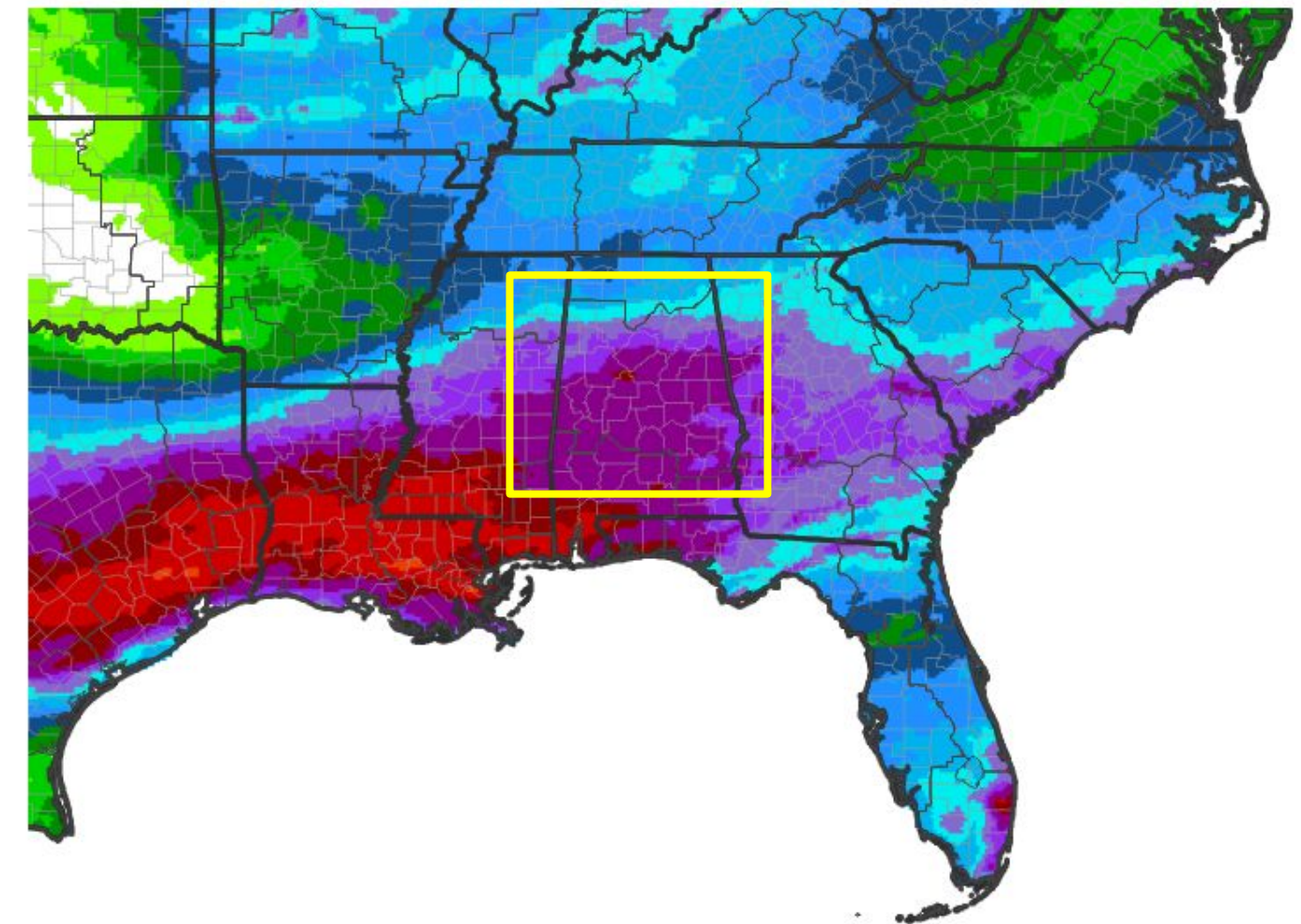


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

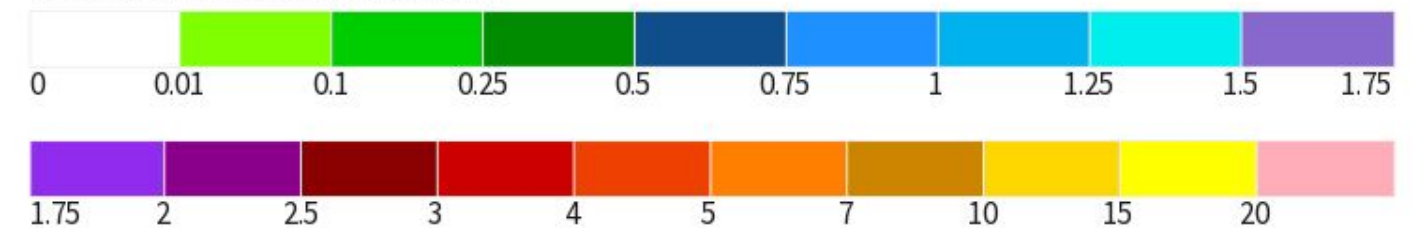
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- Scattered to widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms will be possible through this weekend with drier conditions expected next week. Following wetting rains over the last few days, this additional rainfall will be beneficial for some improvements.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 30, 2026–May 7, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26





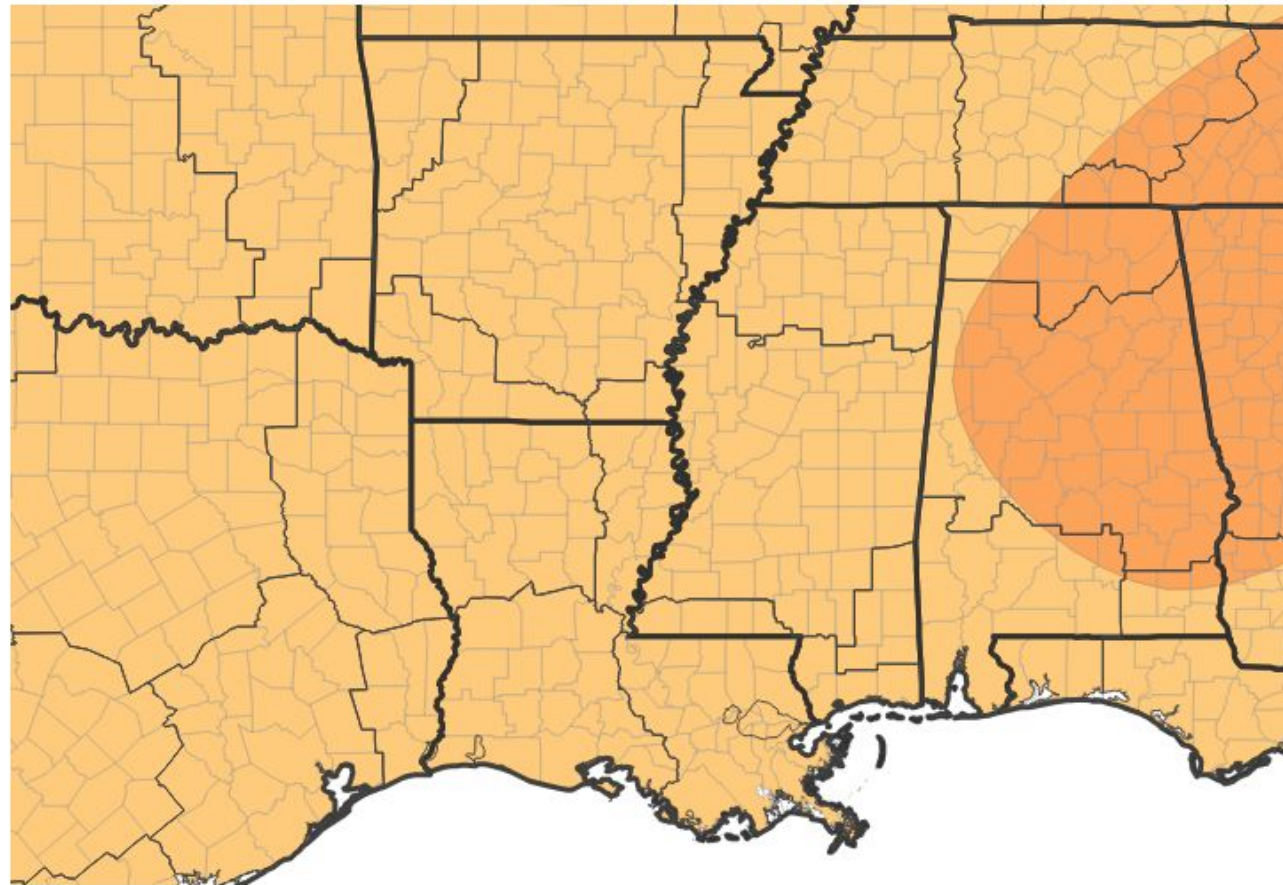
Medium Range Outlook

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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



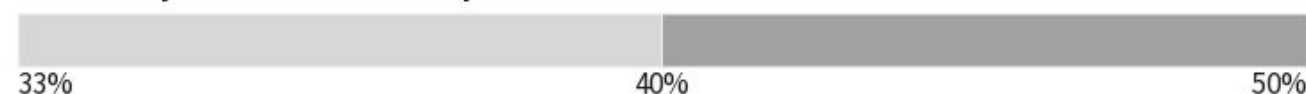
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

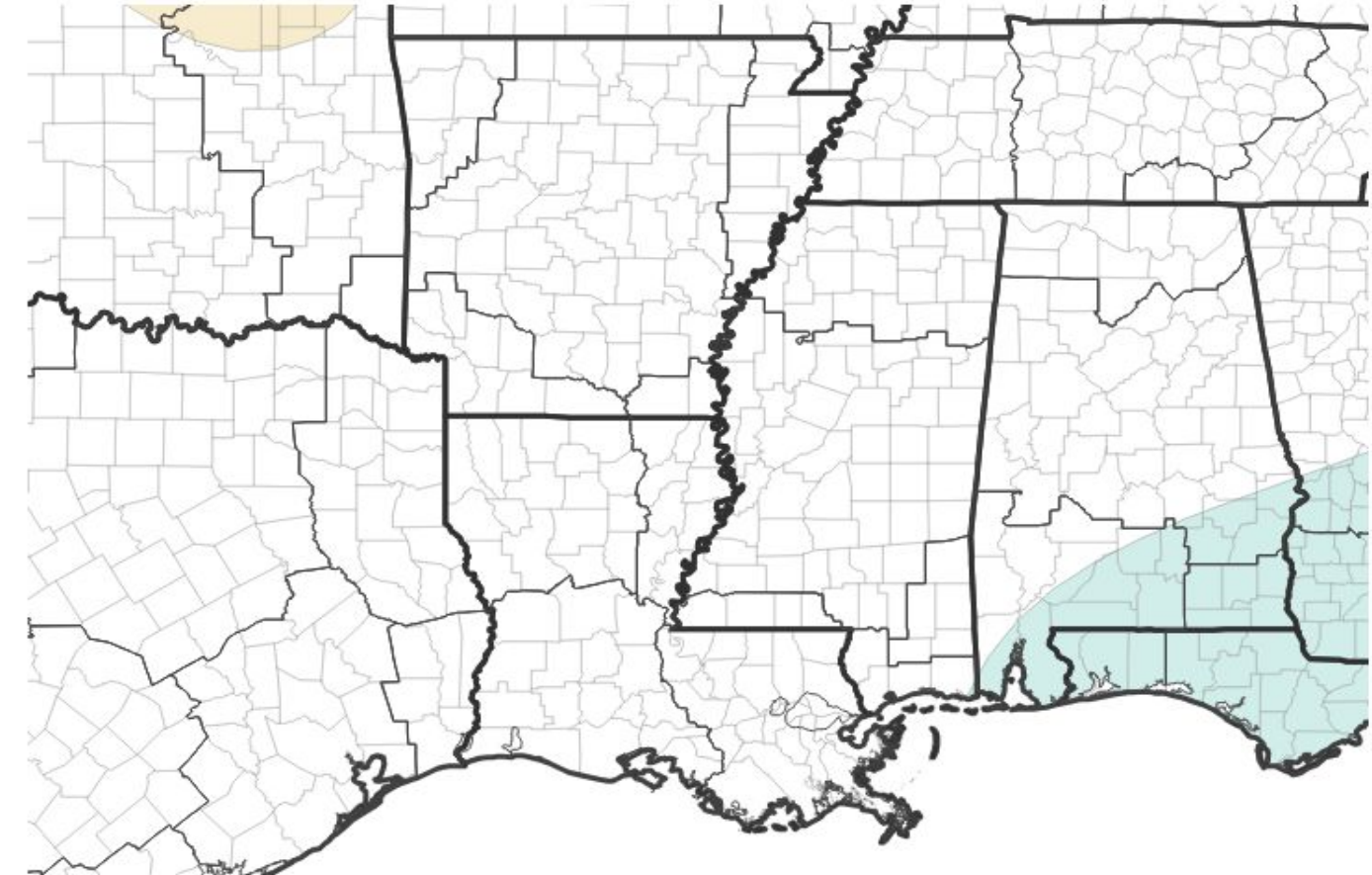


Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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



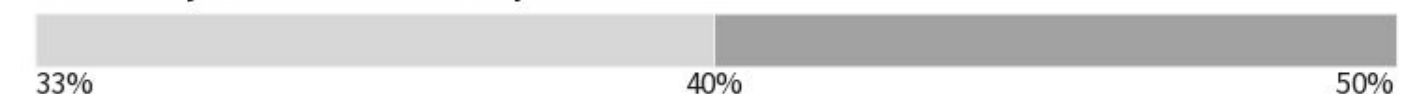
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/16/26





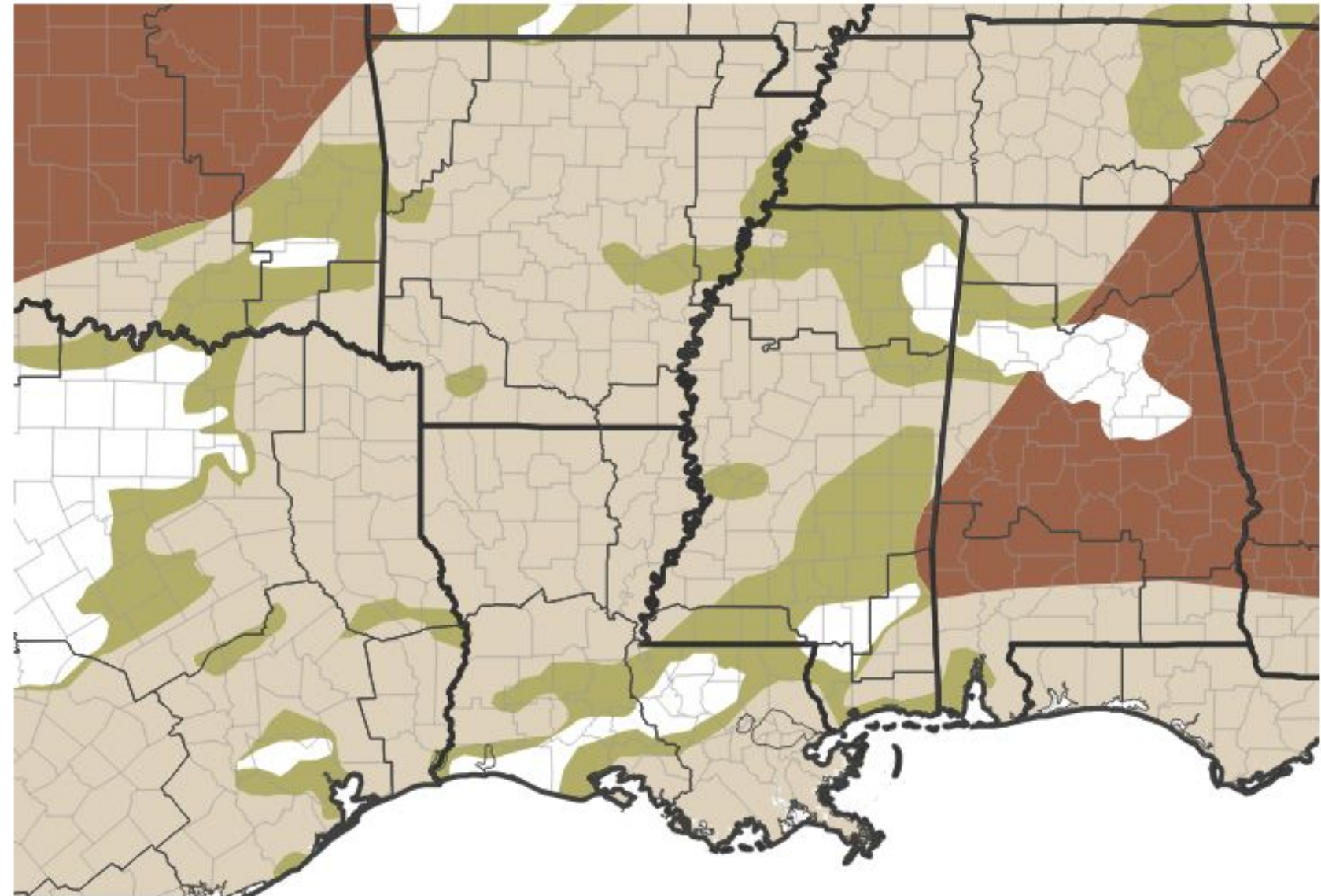
Drought Outlook

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

- 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

