Drought Information Statement for Southeast TX and Southwest LA

Valid March, 26, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lake Charles, LA

Contact Information:

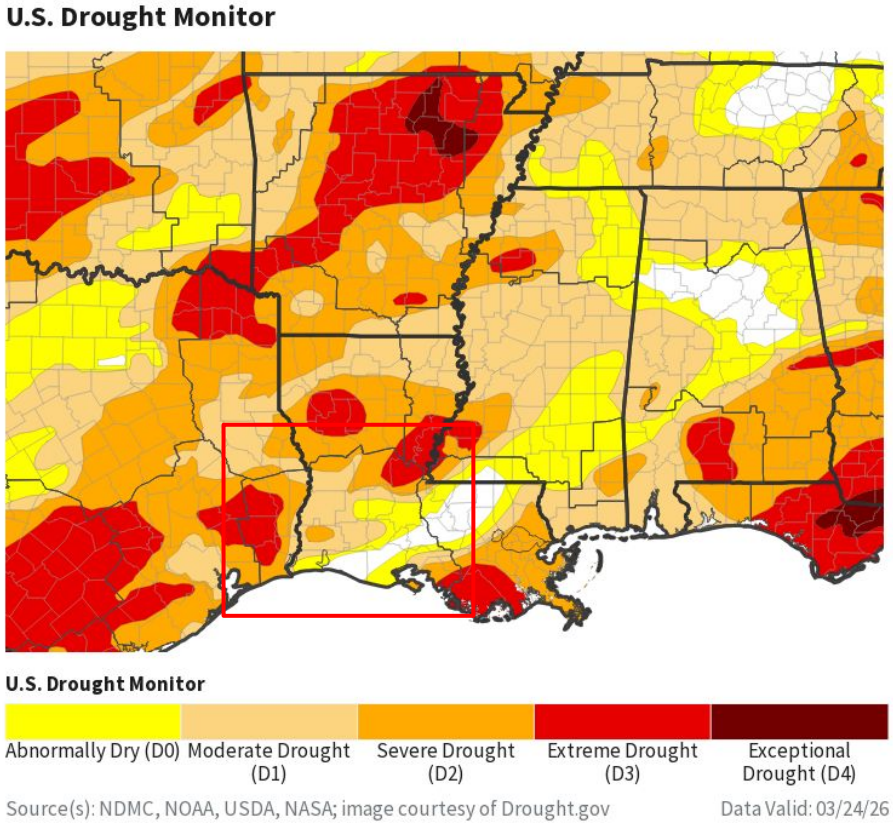
- This product will be updated April, 10, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/LCH/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

- Drought conditions continue to worsen

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

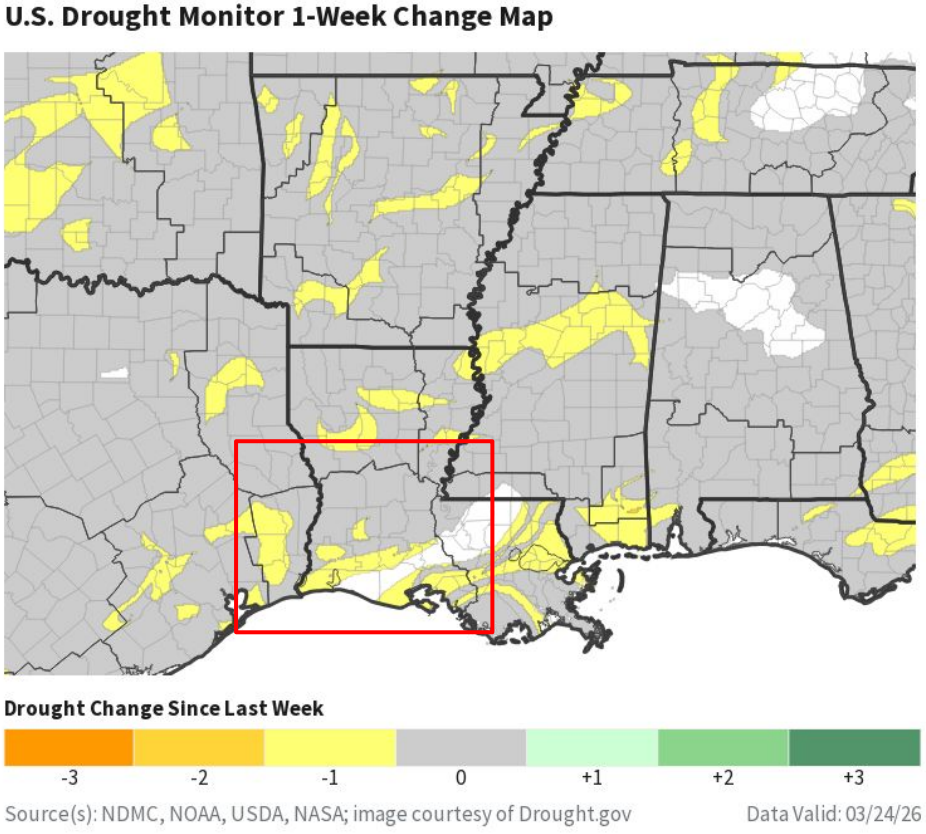
- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Louisiana: Avoyelles, Rapides, St. Mary
  - Texas: Jefferson, Hardin, Tyler, Jasper, Orange
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Louisiana: Vernon, Calcasieu, St. Martin
  - Texas: Newton
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Louisiana: Beauregard Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Allen, Acadia and Evangeline
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Louisiana: St. Landry, Vermillion, Lafayette



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map]

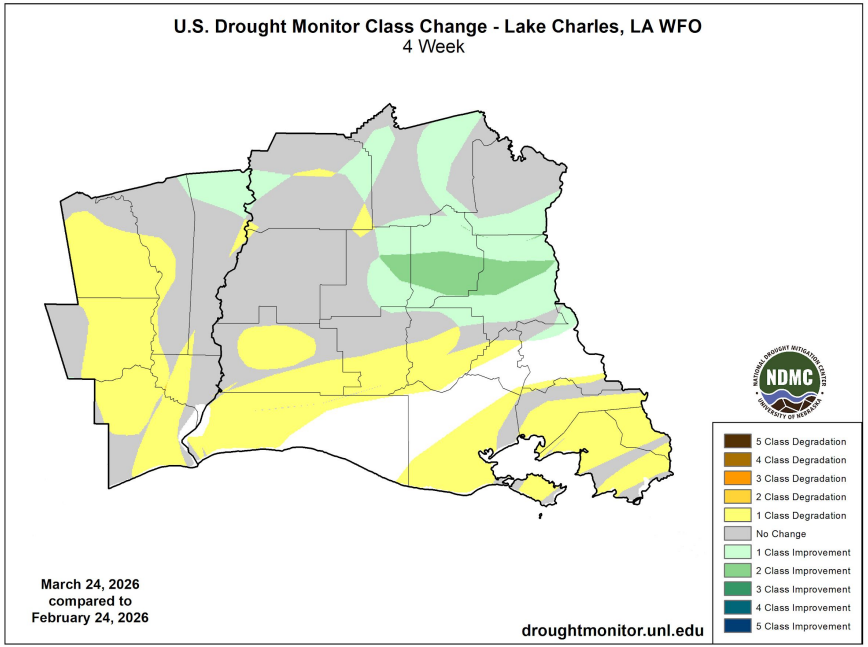
- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Worsen one category across much of Southeast Texas and along I-10 in Southwest Louisiana. There were degradations in South Central Louisiana of one category.
  - No Change: Across most of Central Louisiana and Southeast Texas along the Louisiana border.
  - Drought Improved: There was no drought improvement this week.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Drought worsened 1 category across southeast Texas and southern parts of Louisiana
  - No Change: Drought did not change across Acadiana or across Beauregard Parish
  - Drought Improved: Drought improved 1 to 2 categories in central Louisiana

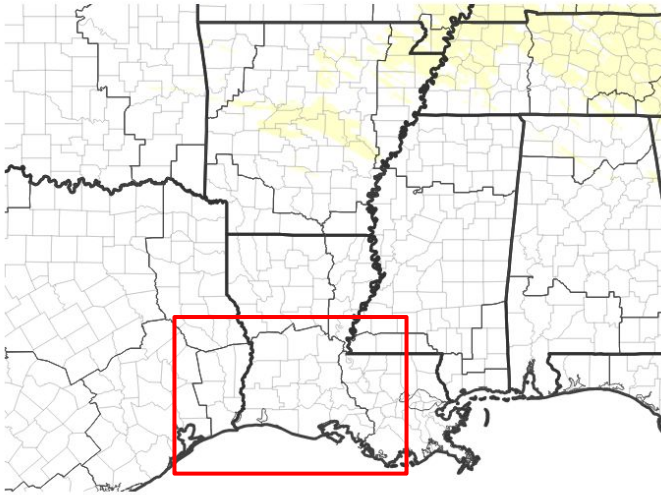


Precipitation

For the past 7 days

- Little to no rain has fallen over the past 7 days

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



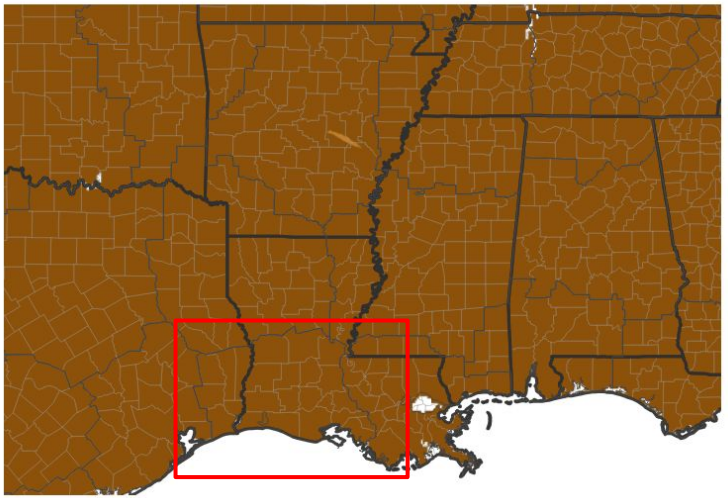
Inches of Precipitation

0 0.01 0.5 1 2 4 6 8

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated:

7-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% 25% 50% 75% 100% 100% 150% 200% 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

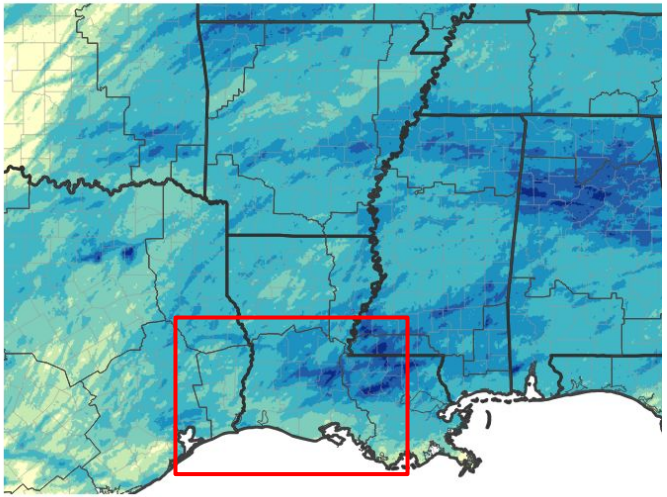
Last Updated: 03/26/26

Precipitation

For the past 30 days

- Rainfall over the past 30 days has been near normal for central Louisiana.
- Rainfall has been below normal for southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



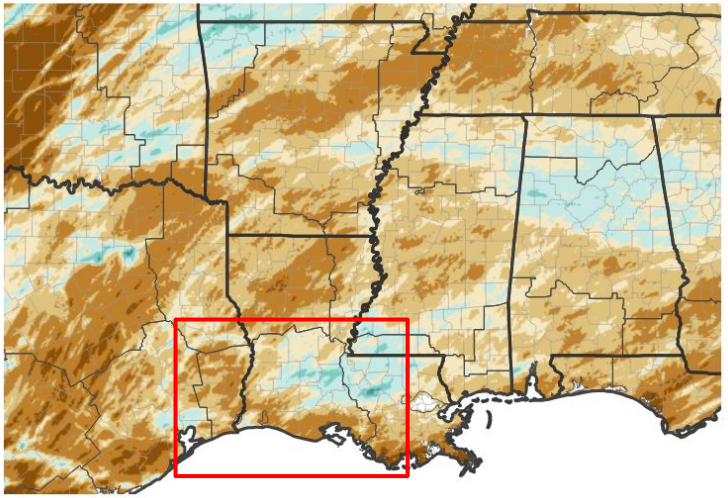
Inches of Precipitation

0 | 0.01 | 0.5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated:

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100% | 100% | 150% | 200% | 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

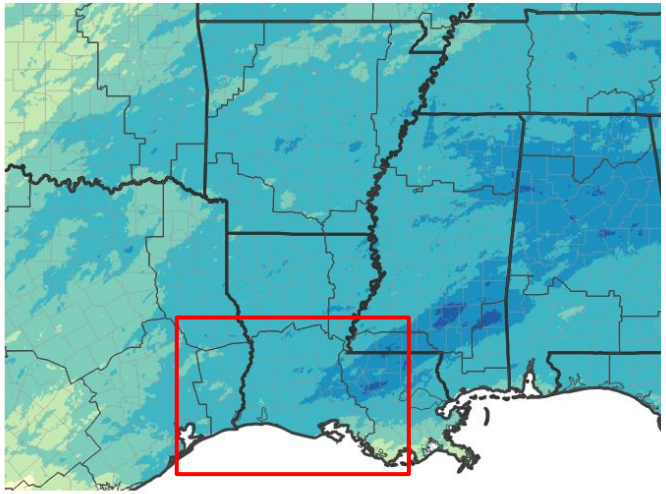
Last Updated: 03/26/26

Precipitation

For the past 90 days

- Over the past 90 days rainfall amounts have been below 50% of normal

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



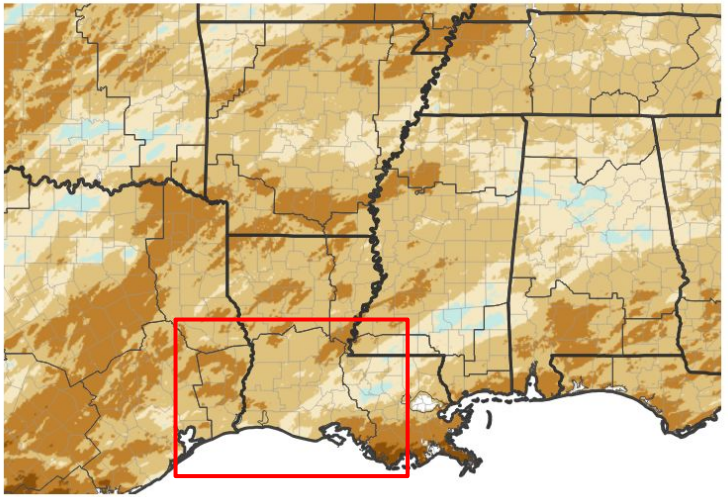
Inches of Precipitation

0 | 0.01 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 24

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated:

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100% | 100% | 150% | 200% | 300%

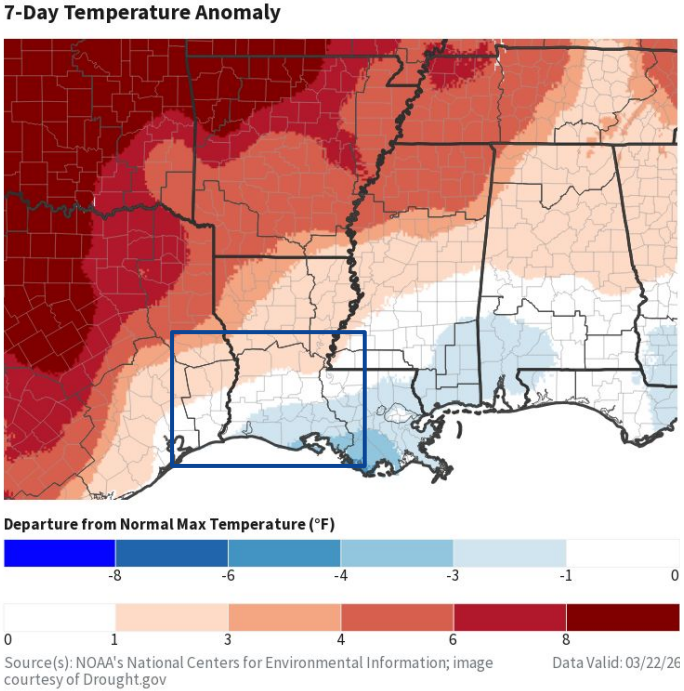
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

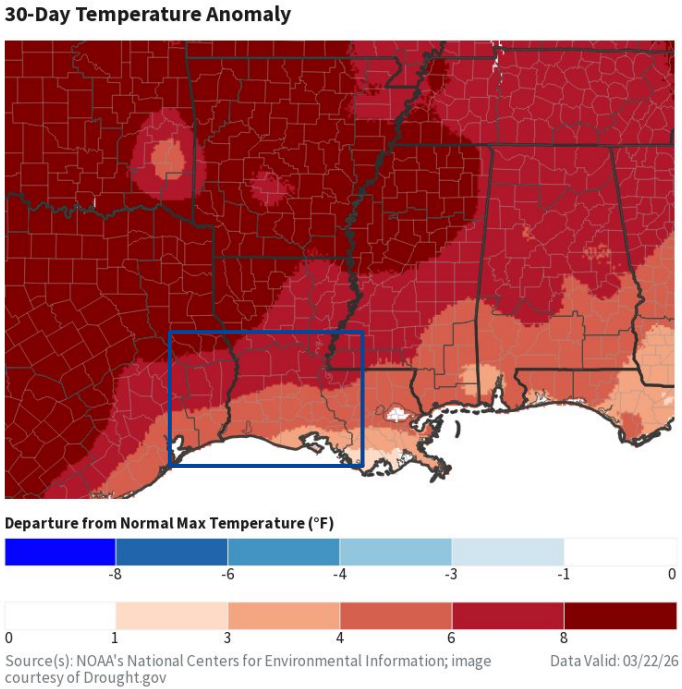
Last Updated: 03/26/26

Temperature

Link to Southern Regional Climate Center

- Over the past week temperatures have been near to slightly below normal
- Over the past 30 days temperatures have been several degrees above normal





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Observed river flows are much below normal on area river basins across Southeast Texas and far western portions of Central Louisiana. Otherwise slightly below to normal flows are noted in the Mermentau and Vermilion/Teche basins.

Agricultural Impacts

- Field conditions as reported by the LSU Ag Centers are running slightly dry across portions of Central and Southern Louisiana.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Increased wildfire risk has been noted when coupled with low humidity and elevated winds.
- Burn bans are currently in place for Tyler County, Jasper and Newton Counties in Texas.

Other Impacts

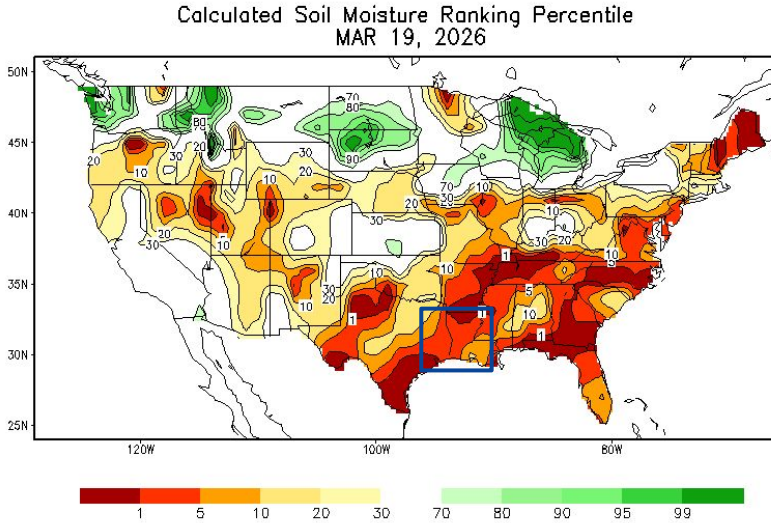
- There are no known impacts at this time.

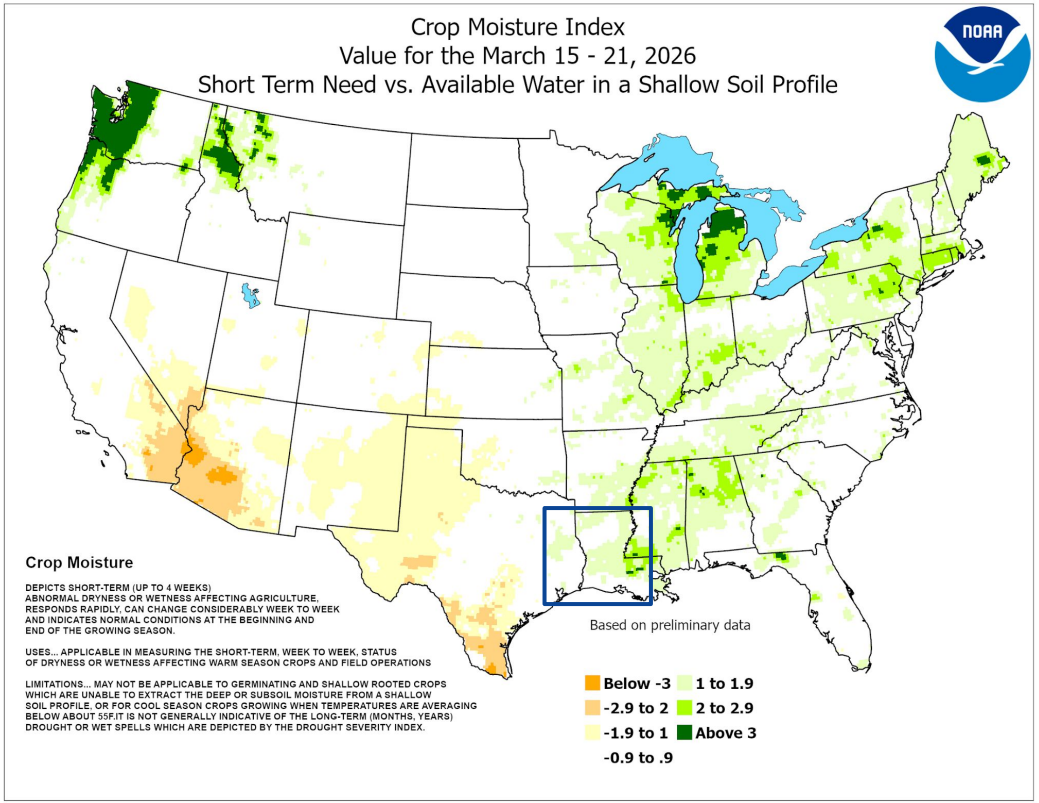
Mitigation Actions

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

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is below normal across the area with shallow soil moisture near normal to slightly above normal.

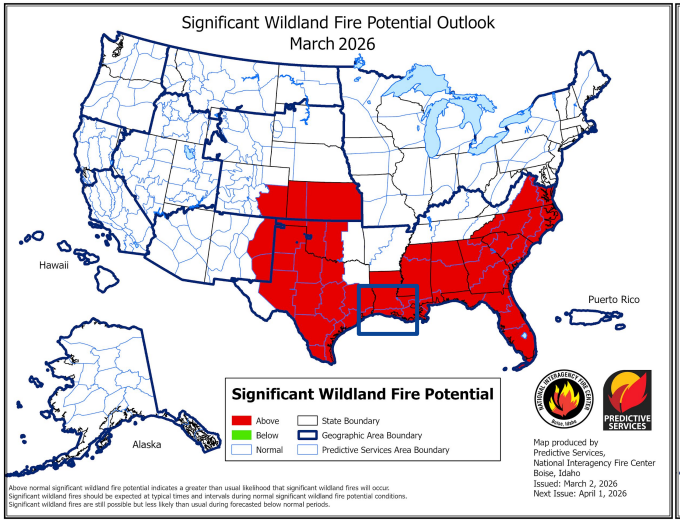


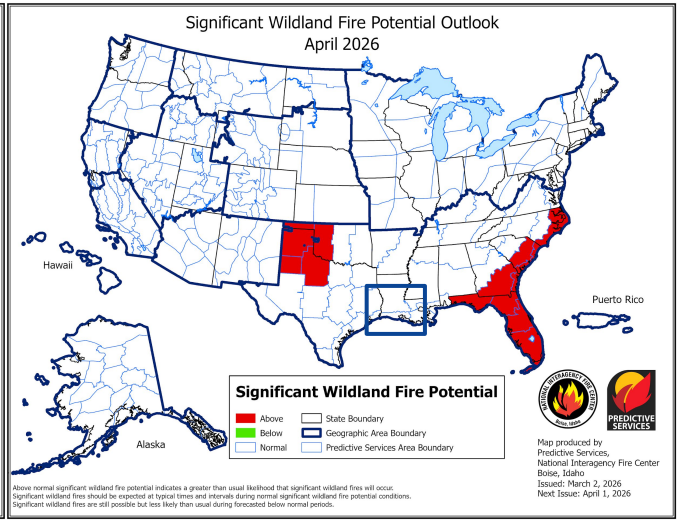


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Burn Bans are in place for Tyler, Jasper and Newton Counties.
- Wildfire conditions are expected to remain above normal in March for Louisiana.



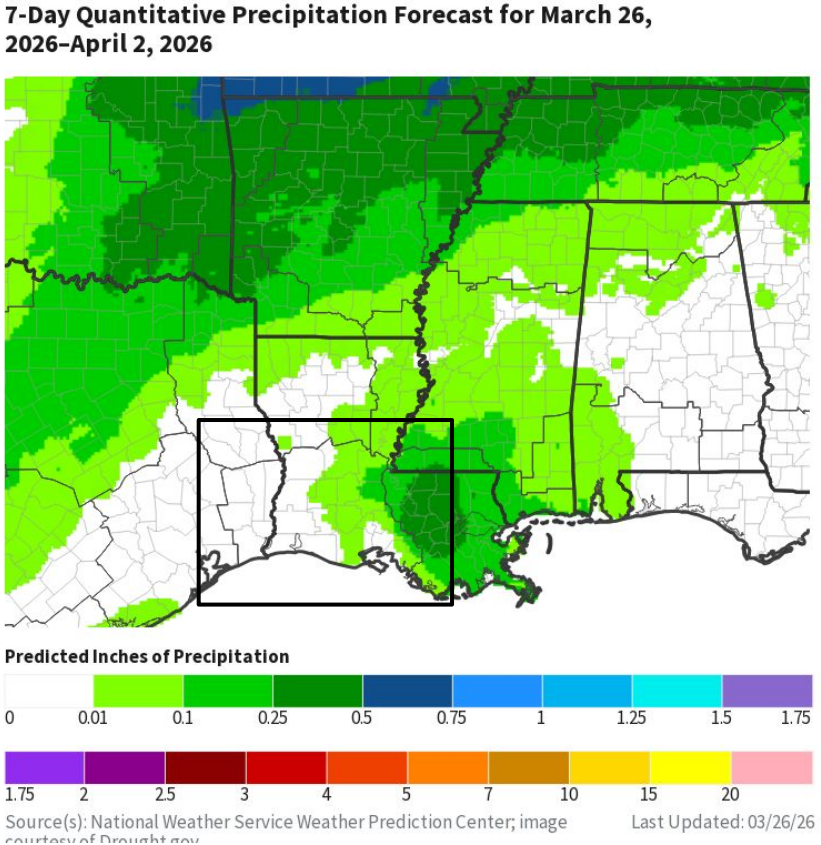


Latest TX Burn Ban map available here.

Latest LA Burn Ban map available here.

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Little to no rainfall is expected over much of the region. One quarter of an inch or less is forecast across the eastern portions of the area.

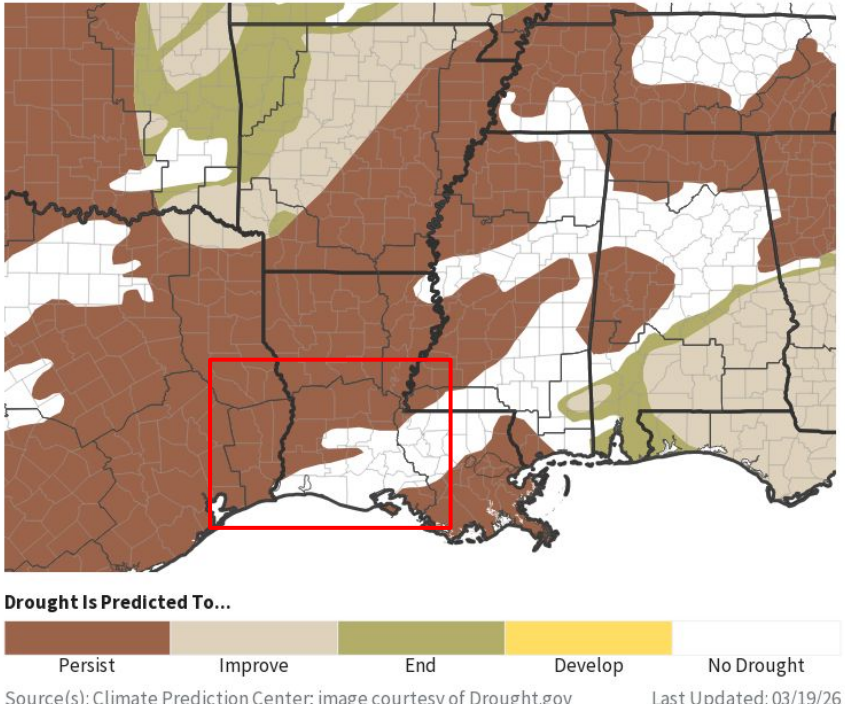


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Drought conditions are expected to persist over the remainder of the spring.

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



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook