



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

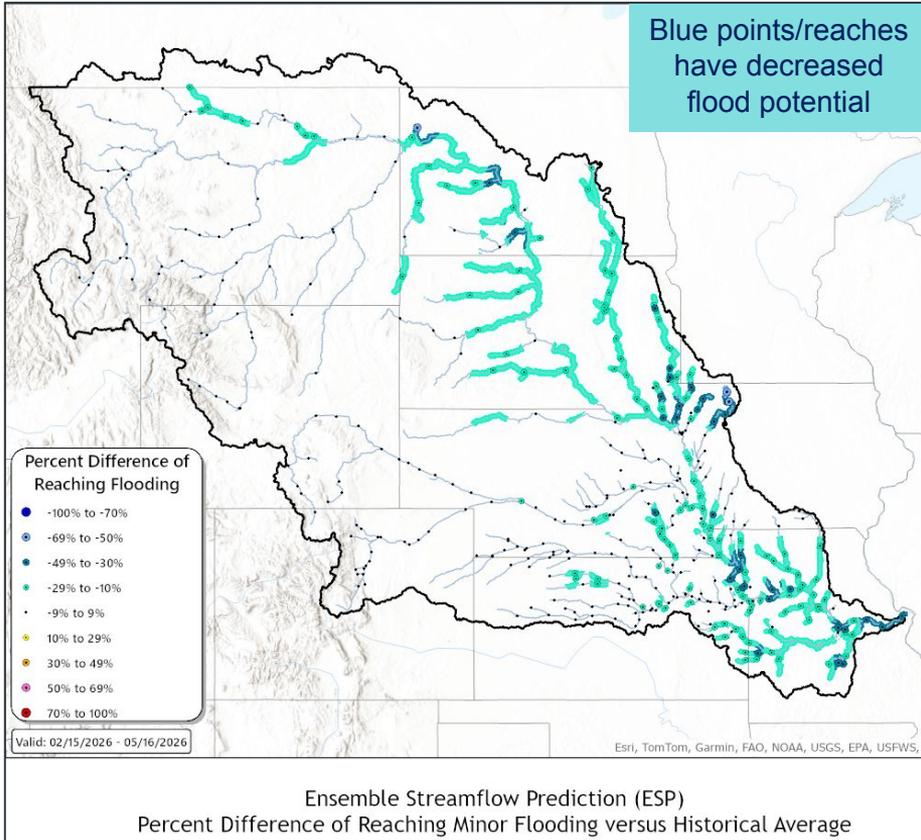
2026 Flood Potential Outlook

Missouri River Basin

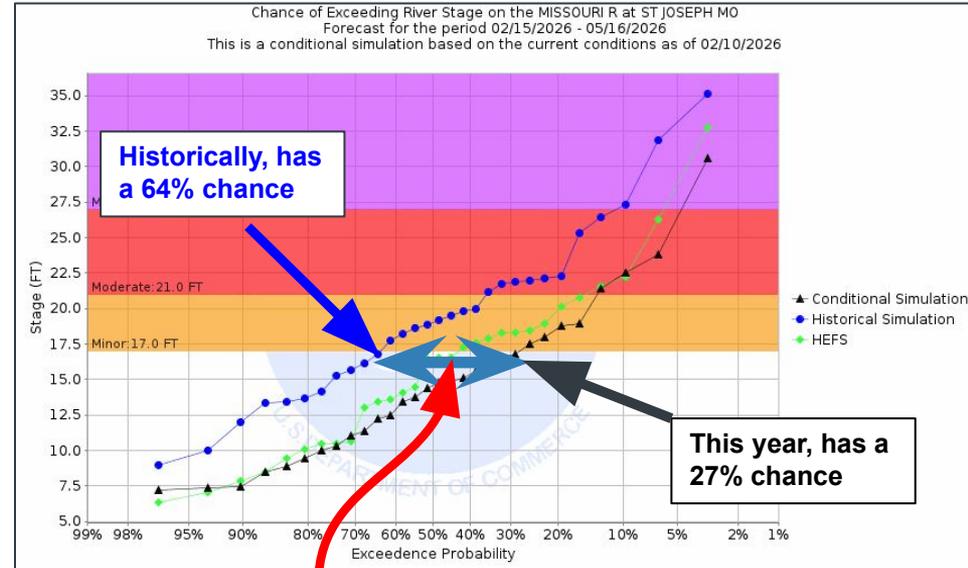
February 12th, 2026

MISSOURI BASIN

CHANCE OF REACHING FLOOD STAGE IN 2026 AS COMPARED TO HISTORICAL

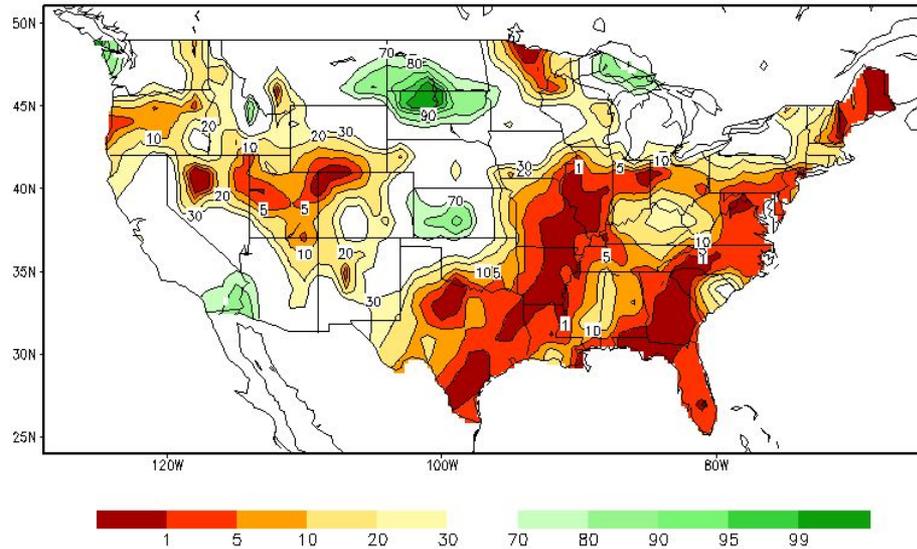


*Many rivers in the eastern portion of the basin have a **REDUCED** flood potential this year.*



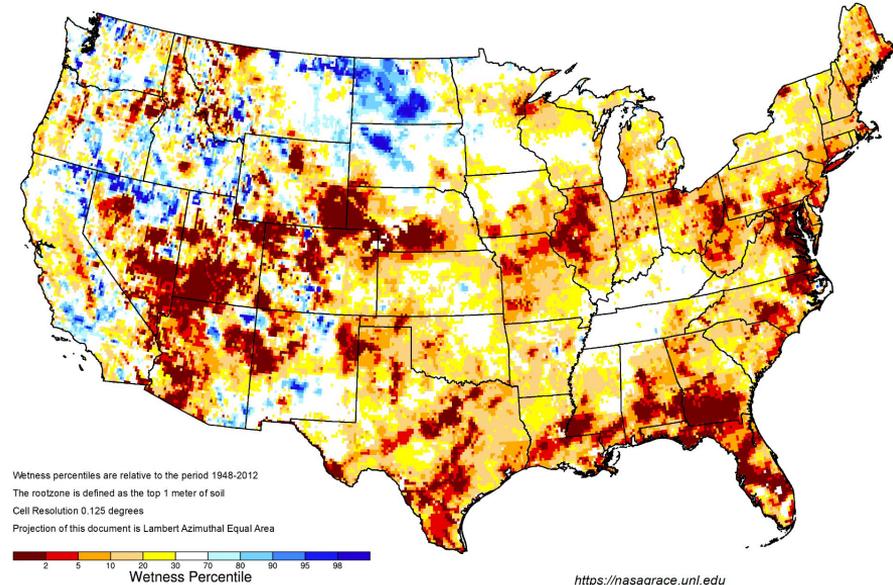
MISSOURI BASIN SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
FEB 10, 2026



Courtesy: NOAA Climate Prediction Center

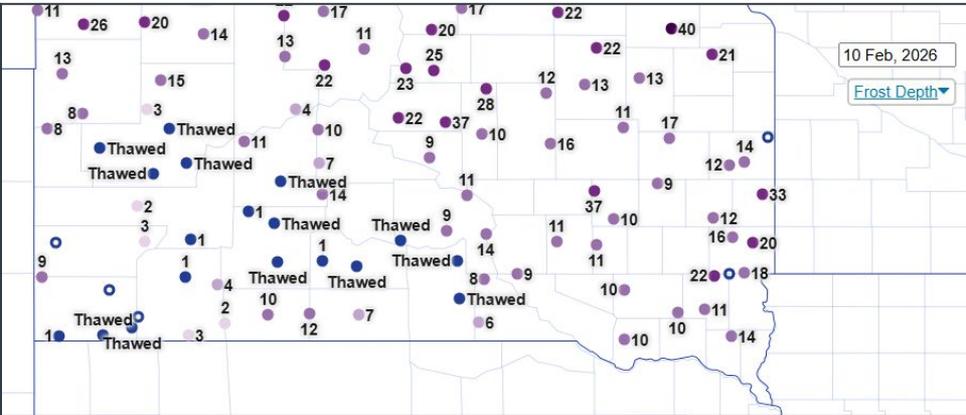
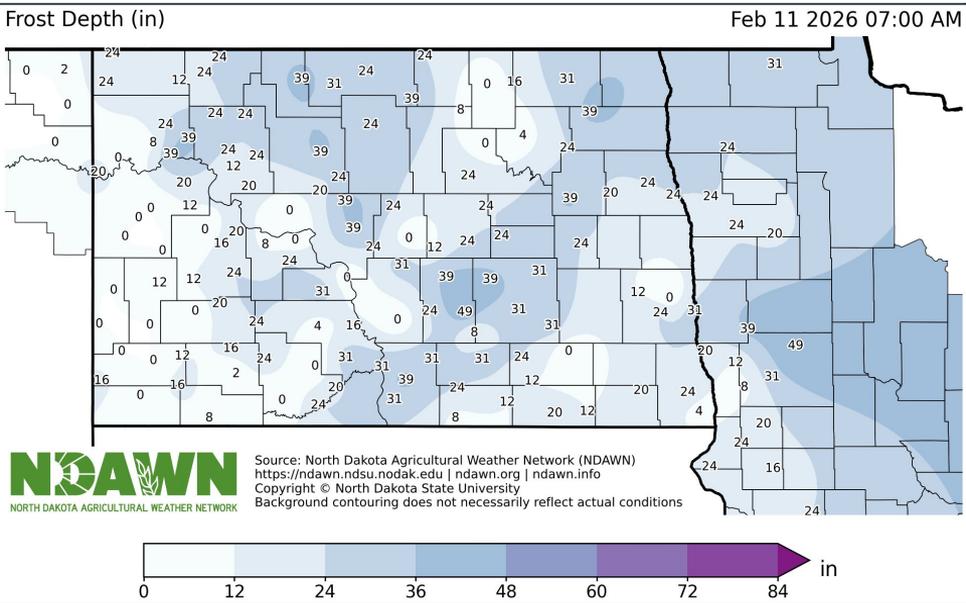
NASA GRACE-Based Root Zone Soil Moisture Drought Indicator
February 09, 2026



Soils are very dry over much of the basin with the exception of North and South Dakota.



MISSOURI BASIN FROST DEPTHS

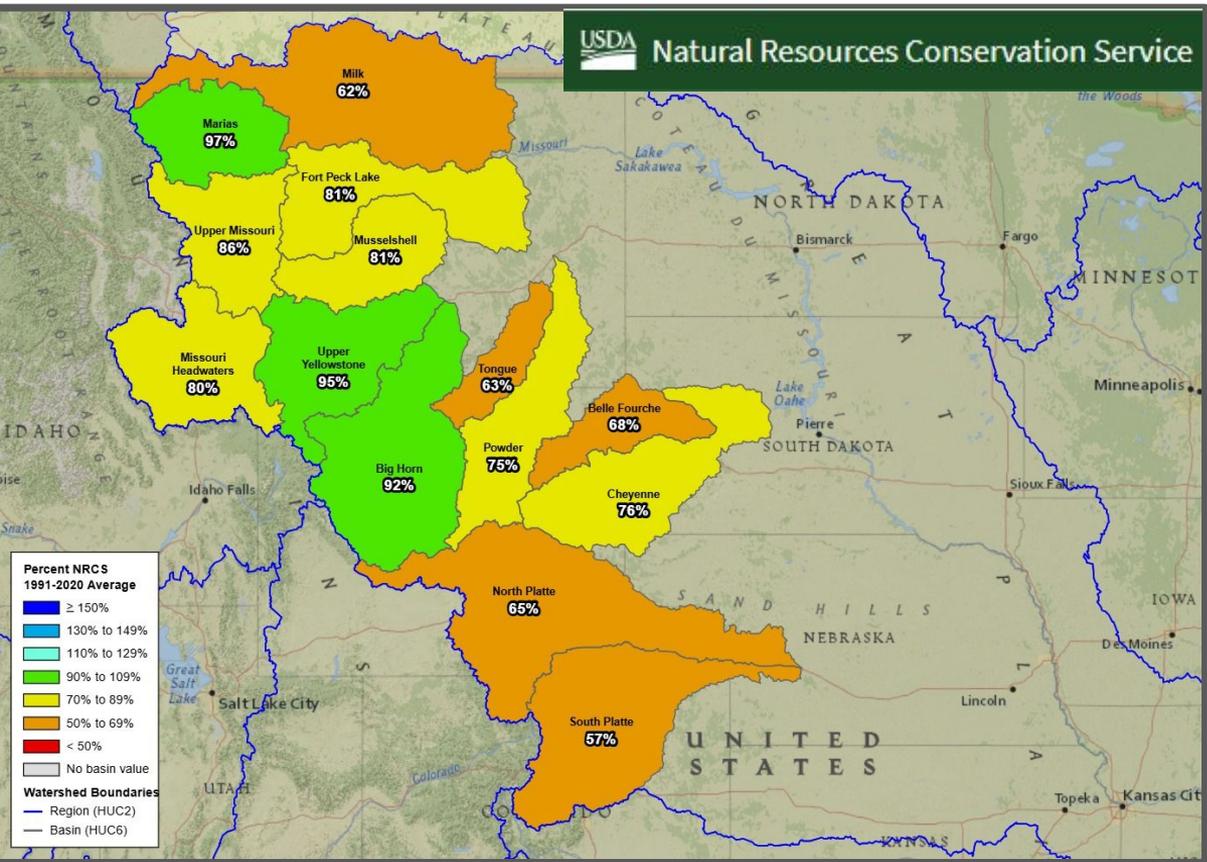


Cold January and little insulative plains snowpack has led to development of a significant frost in the Dakotas. This could lead to increased Spring runoff if snowmelt & rainfall cannot penetrate into the soil.



MISSOURI BASIN

Mountain Snowpack As of 1 February 2026



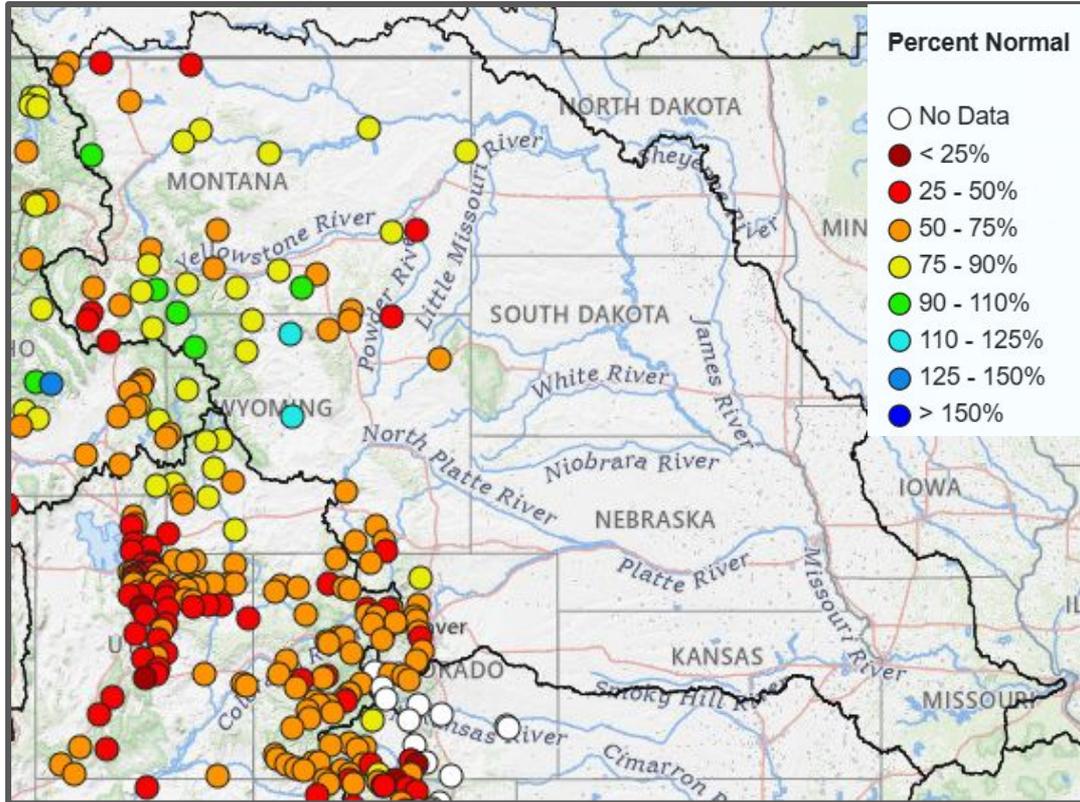
Mountain snowpack is below average

We are about 70% of the way through the peak seasonal snow equivalent accumulating period



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Mountain Runoff Volume April-September Percent of Normal

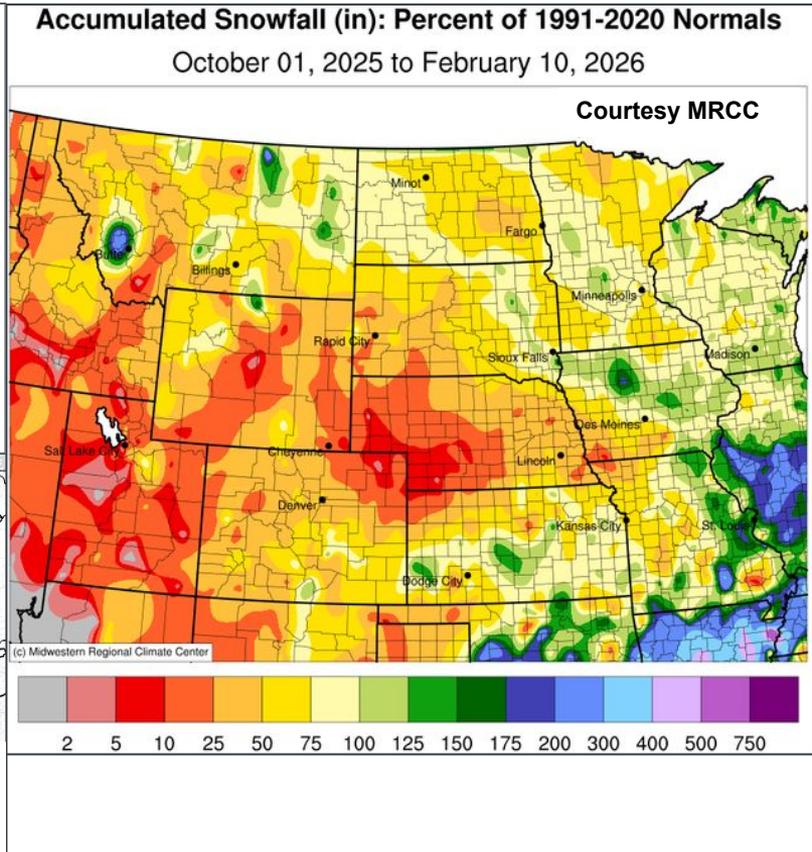
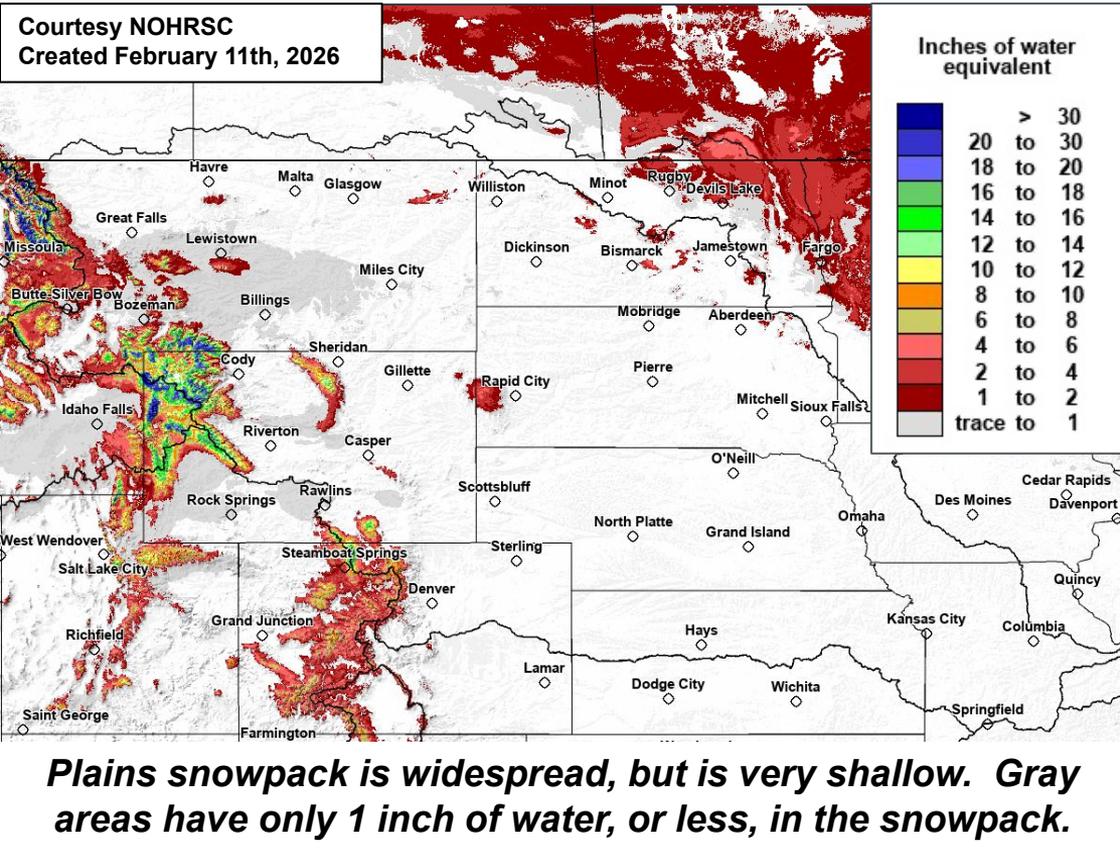


Mountain runoff volume projected to be below normal (per 01 Feb 2026 Outlook)

- Upper Missouri above Ft. Peck: 77%
- Yellowstone: 84%
- North Platte: 66%
- South Platte: 53%

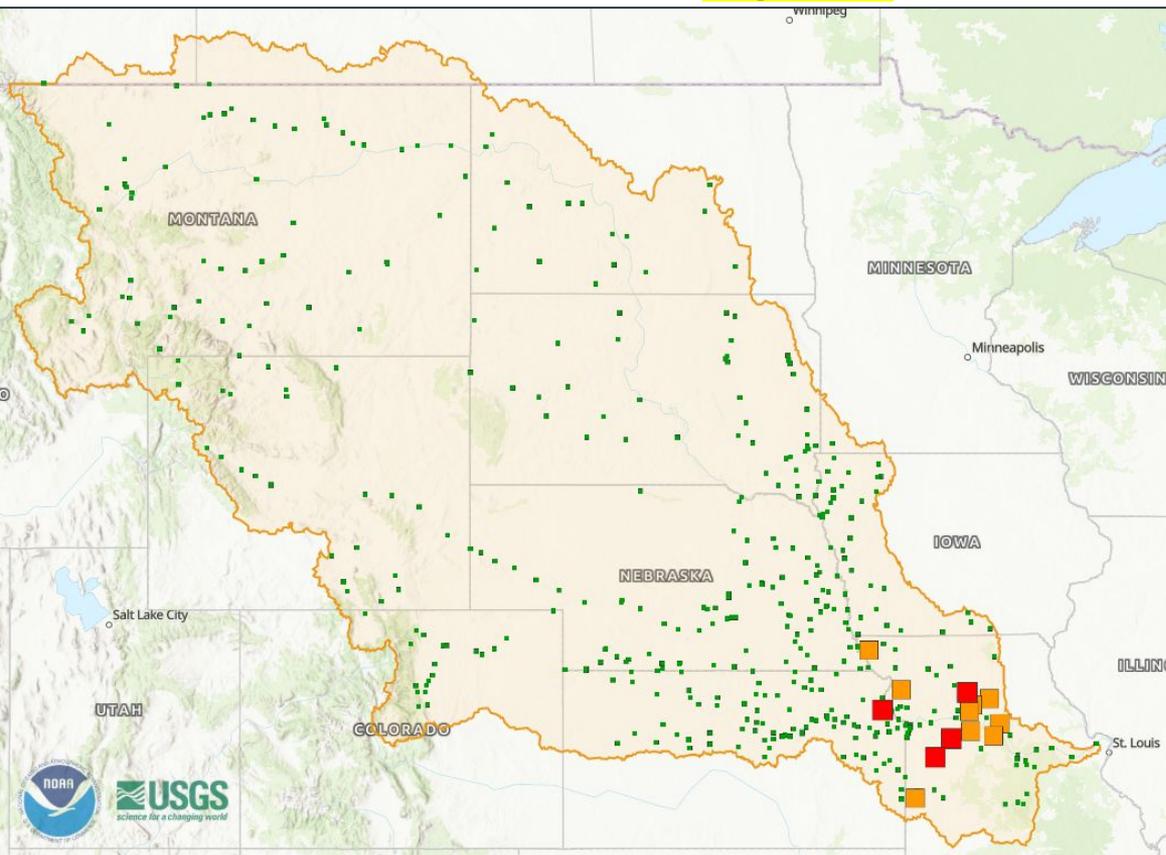
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Plains Snowpack



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Locations **Expected** to Flood Through Mid-May



Long Range Flood Outlook

Greater than 50% chance of exceeding river flood levels

- | | |
|-----|-------------|
| 0 | Major |
| 4 | Moderate |
| 9 | Minor |
| 417 | No Flooding |

Flooding should be limited to only the lower portion of the basin (indicated by orange and red squares). This is typical.

Springtime flooding in the lower basin is driven by thunderstorm activity.

MISSOURI BASIN

Locations **Possible** to Flood Through Mid-May

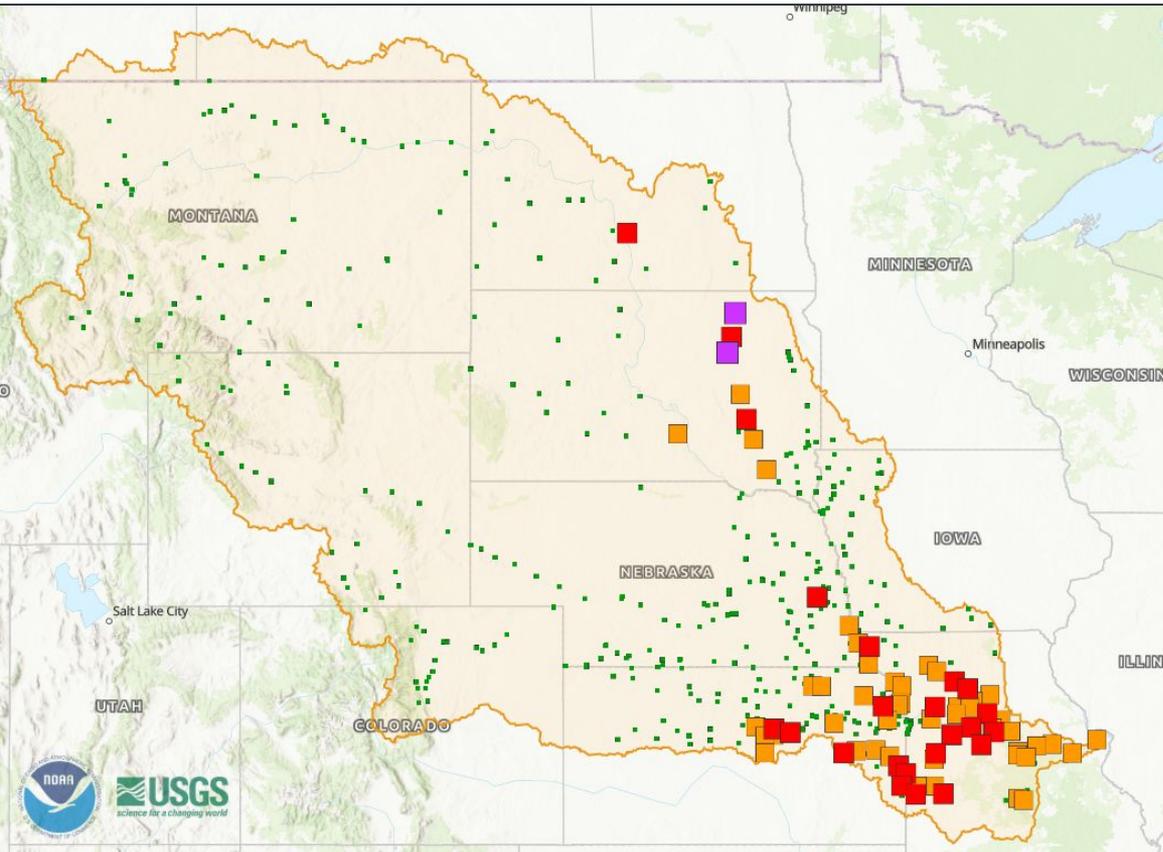
Long Range Flood Outlook

Greater than 25% chance of exceeding river flood levels

2	Major
23	Moderate
46	Minor
359	No Flooding

Flooding is possible in the eastern portion of the basin (indicated by orange, red, & purple squares).

Springtime flooding in the lower basin is driven by thunderstorm activity and a combination of snowmelt and rainfall in the northern basin.



MISSOURI BASIN

Flood Potential Outlook: Summary Points

- **Overall, spring flood risk is normal to lower-than-normal.**
- Mountain snowpack is slightly below normal this year. We still have roughly 30% of snow accumulating period remaining.
- Plains snowpack that existed has largely melted
- Impressive frost depths in the Dakotas. Wetter than normal soils could pose concern during possible rainfall events
- Ice jam break-up flooding risk is low. **Where river ice remains, risk for break-up ice jamming remains.**
- **Flood Potential mountains:** No flooding currently expected.
- **Flood Potential northern plains:** No flooding currently expected.
- **Flood Potential lower basin:** Episodic minor-to-moderate level flooding likely in the lower portion of the basin (eastern KS, MO) due to Spring-time thunderstorm activity.
- **Flood Potential Missouri River mainstem:** Minor flooding possible downstream of KC, again due to thunderstorm activity.

