

NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE		HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA) Tulsa, Oklahoma (TSA)	
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS				REPORT FOR: MONTH April YEAR 2026	
				SIGNATURE Steven F. Piltz (Meteorologist-in-Charge)	
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283				DATE May 13, 2026	

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

☐ An "X" in the box indicates no flood stages were reached in this Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) during the month above.

Much of eastern OK and northwest AR received above normal rainfall in April 2026, helping to alleviate the ongoing drought. Minor to moderate river flooding occurred, along with several tornadoes. It was also a warm month, with Fort Smith, AR recording its warmest April on record. This report, past E-5 reports, and monthly hydrology and climatology summaries can be found at https://www.weather.gov/tsa/climo_summary_e5list.

Monthly Summary

Using the radar-derived estimated observed precipitation from the RFCs (Fig. 1a), rainfall totals for April 2026 ranged from 4" to 12" across eastern OK and northwest AR, with much of the area receiving 5"-8". These rainfall totals correspond to 75% to 300% of the normal April rainfall with a large portion of the area receiving above normal rainfall this month (Fig. 1b).

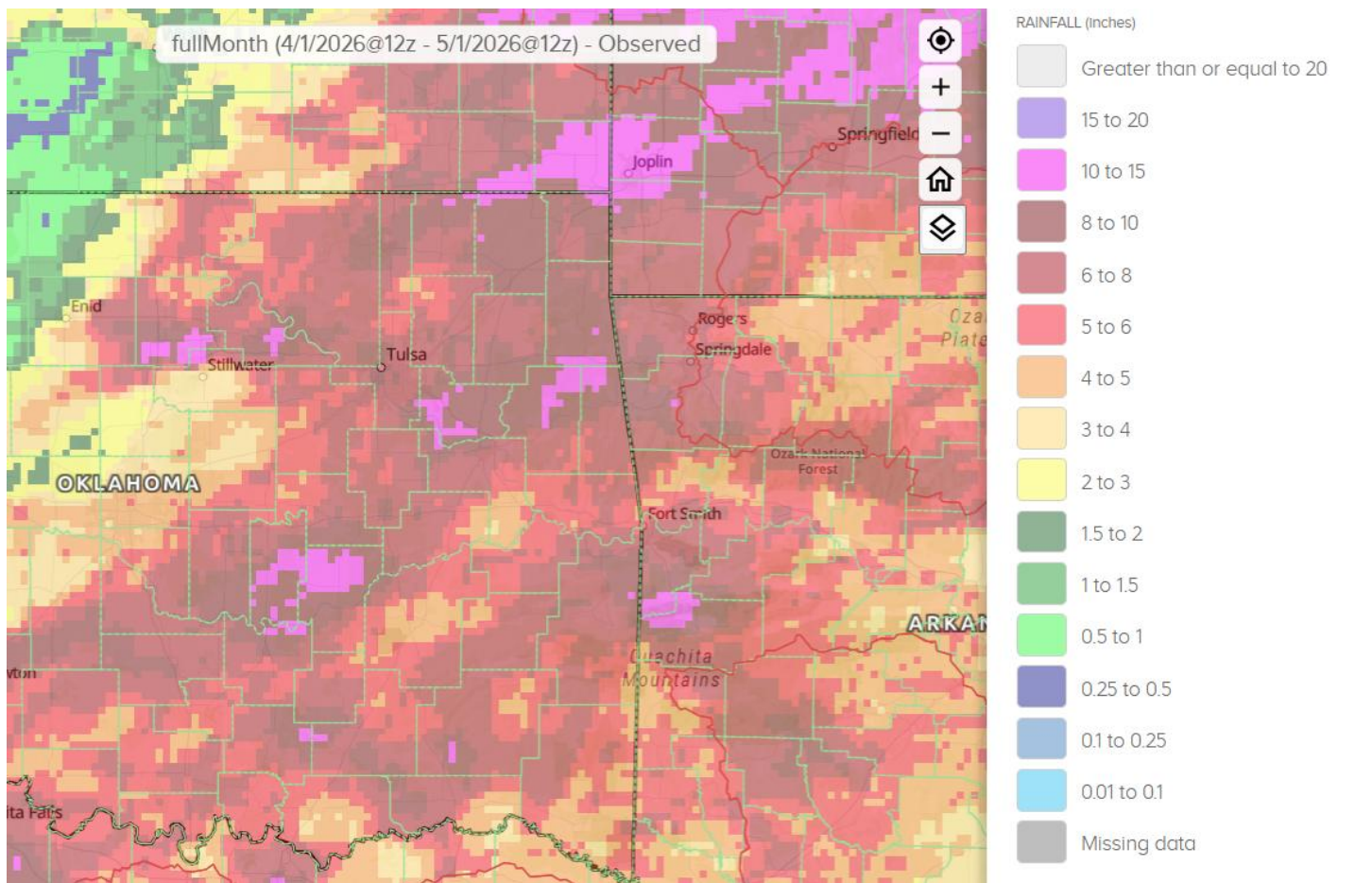


Fig. 1a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for April 2026

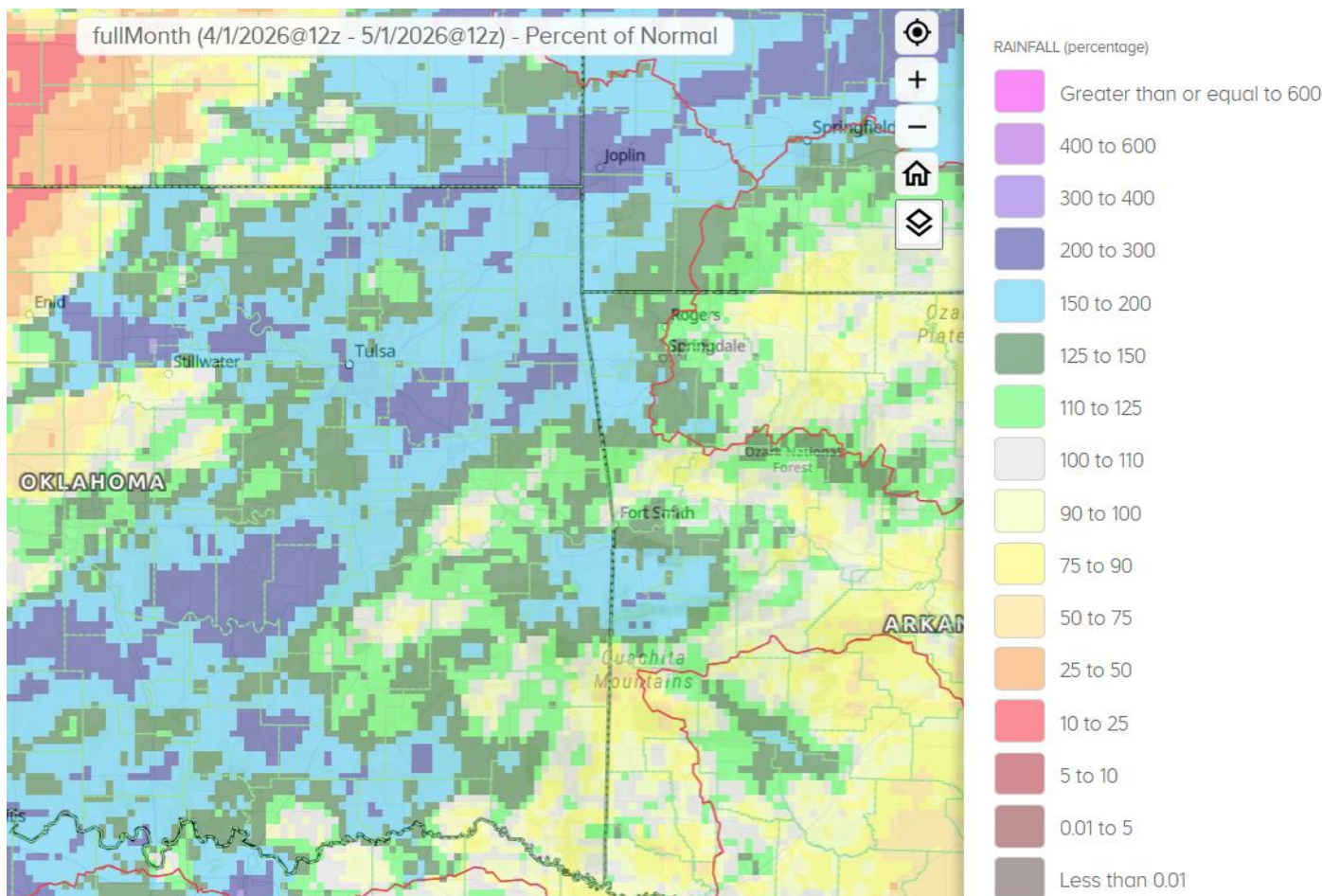


Fig. 1b. Estimated % of Normal Rainfall for April 2026

In Tulsa, OK, April 2026 ranked as the 13th warmest April (65.3°F; since records began in 1905) and the 20th wettest April (7.10"; since records began in 1888). Fort Smith, AR had the Record warmest April (68.3°F, previous record 68.0°F in 1896; since records began in 1883) and the 42nd wettest April (5.51"; since records began in 1883). Fayetteville, AR had the 2nd warmest (64.1°F) and the 18th wettest (5.79") April since records began in 1950.

Some of the larger precipitation reports (in inches) for April 2026 included:

Porter, OK (meso)	10.87	Tahlequah, OK (meso)	10.55	Ochelata 5.6N, OK (coco)	10.28
Watts 7.2WSW, OK (coco)	10.03	Inola 3.3SSE, OK (coco)	9.91	Tulsa 6.3WSW, OK (coco)	9.78
Prairie Grove 0.8ESE, AR (coco)	9.59	Miami 3.7ENE, OK (coco)	9.51	Winslow 7NE, OK (coop)	9.33

Some of the lowest precipitation reports (in inches) for April 2026 included:

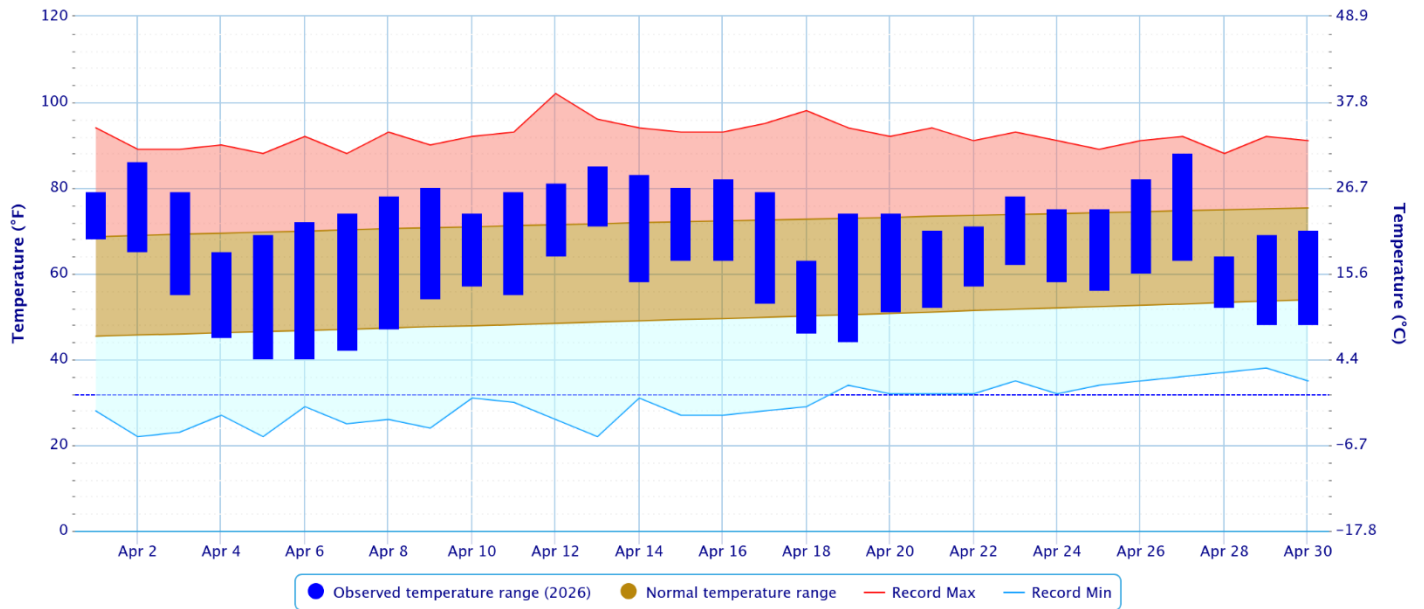
McAlester, OK (ASOS)	4.11	Berryville 4.3N, AR (coco)	4.17	Krebs 0.3WNW, OK (coco)	4.41
Webbers Falls, OK (meso)	4.77	Talala, OK (meso)	4.91	Kingston 2S, AR (coop)	5.31
Sallisaw, OK (meso)	5.33	Pawnee, OK (meso)	5.36	Collinsville 2.1WSW, OK (coco)	5.37

According to statistics from the [Oklahoma Climatological Survey](#) (OCS) Mesonet:

Rank since 1921	April 2026	Spring-to-Date (Mar 1 – Apr 30)	Last 90 Days (Jan 31 – Apr 30)	Last 180 Days (Nov 2 – Apr 30)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Apr 30)	Water Year-to-Date (Oct 1, 2025 – Apr 30, 2026)	Last 365 Days (May 1, 2025 – Apr 30, 2026)
Northeast OK	12 th wettest	25 th wettest	40 th wettest	34 th driest	48 th wettest	39 th driest	33 rd wettest
East Central OK	18 th wettest	26 th wettest	38 th wettest	29 th driest	49 th wettest	33 rd driest	36 th wettest
Southeast OK	34 th wettest	52 nd wettest	39 th driest	28 th driest	34 th driest	21 st driest	44 th driest
Statewide	25 th wettest	53 rd driest	38 th driest	20 th driest	35 th driest	19 th driest	51 st wettest

Daily Temperature Data – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

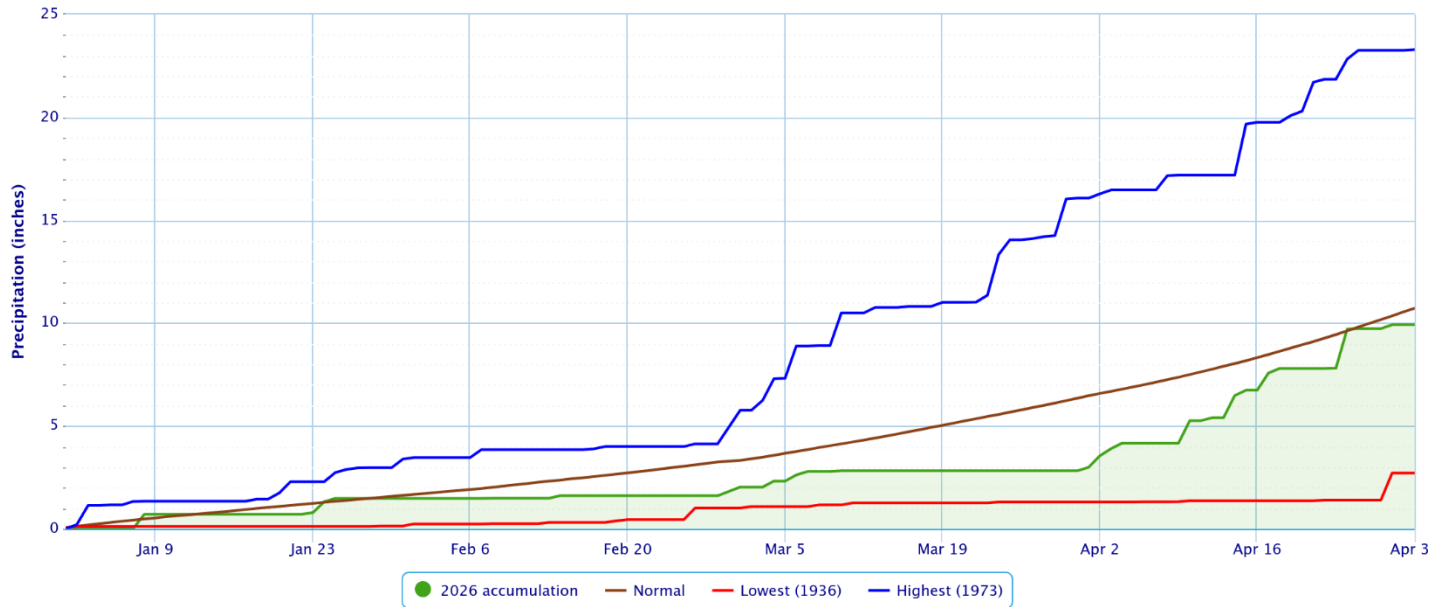
Period of Record – 1905-01-06 to 2026-05-03. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Precipitation – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

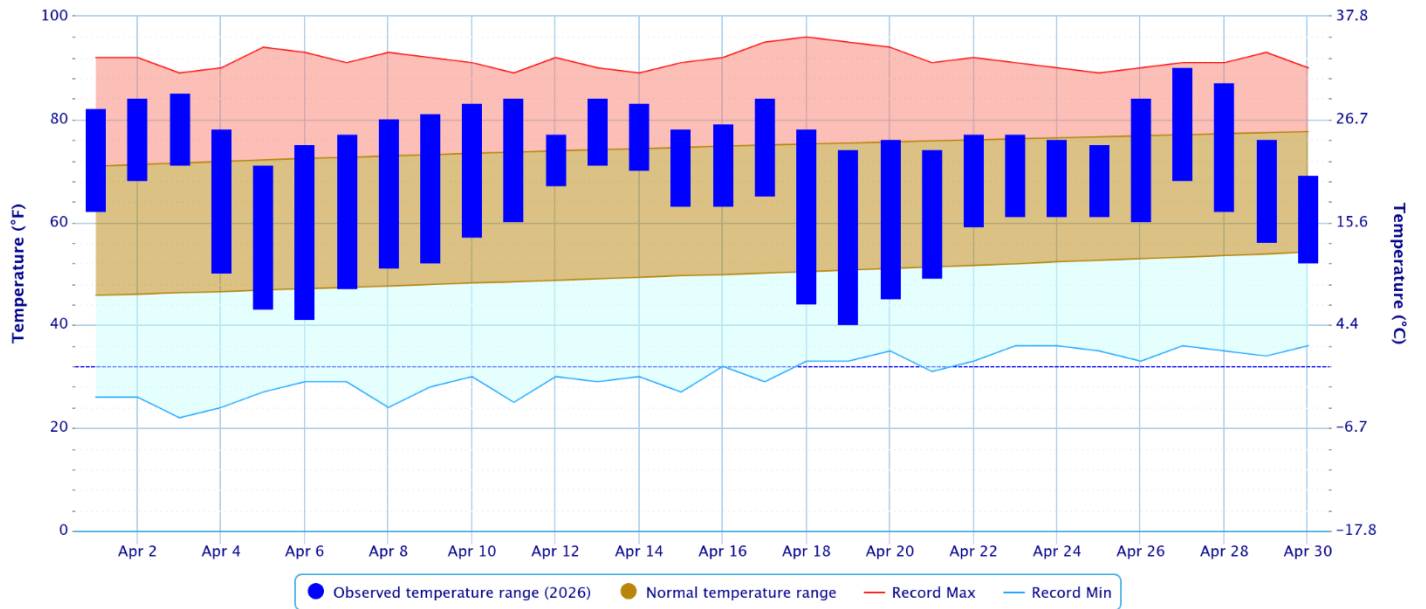
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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Daily Temperature Data – Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

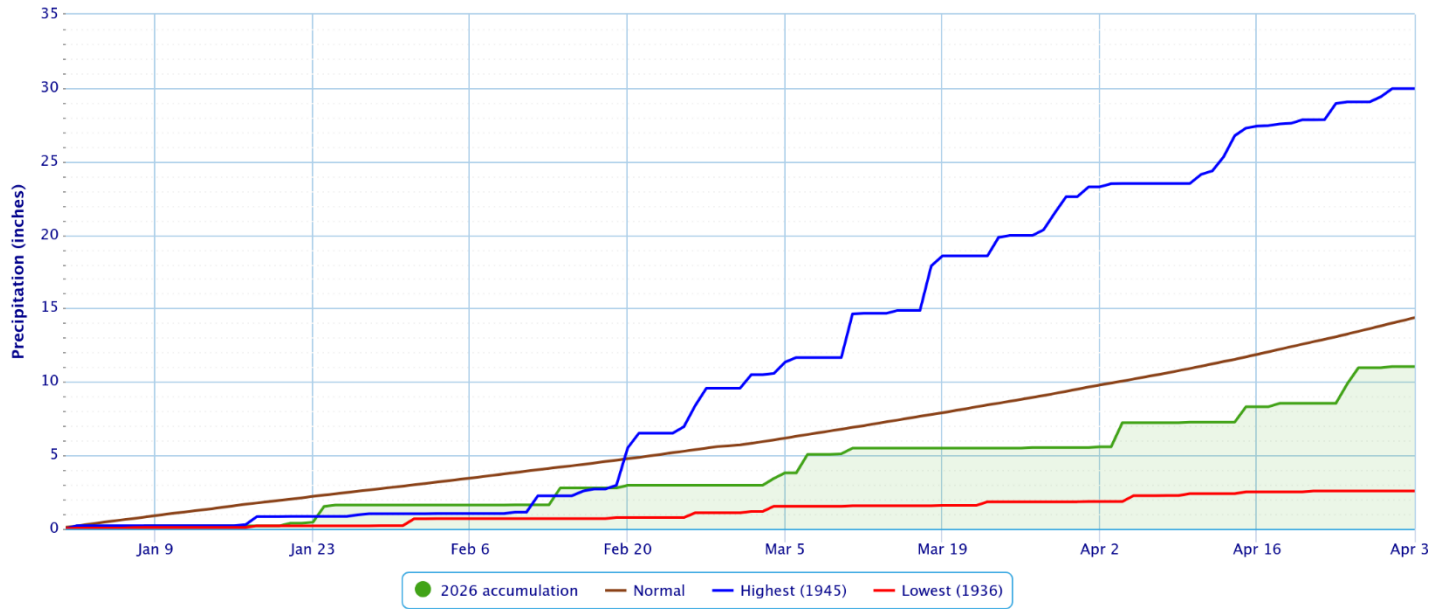
Period of Record – 1882-06-01 to 2026-05-03. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Accumulated Precipitation – Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

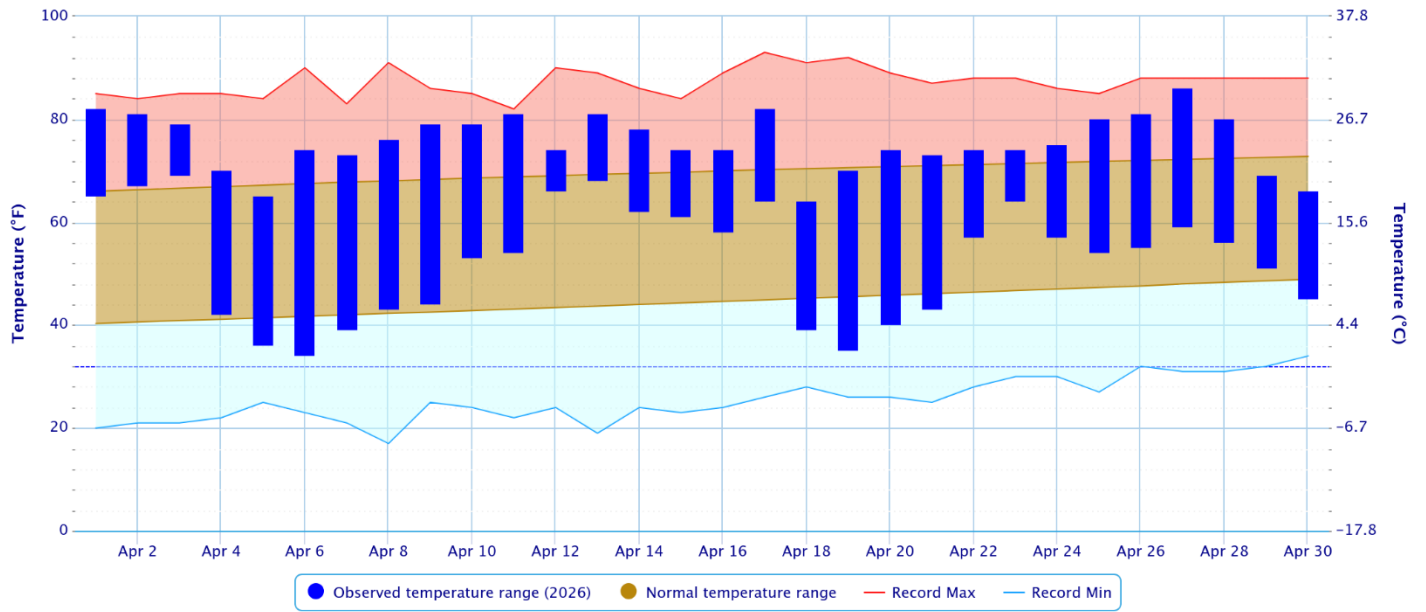
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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Daily Temperature Data – FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

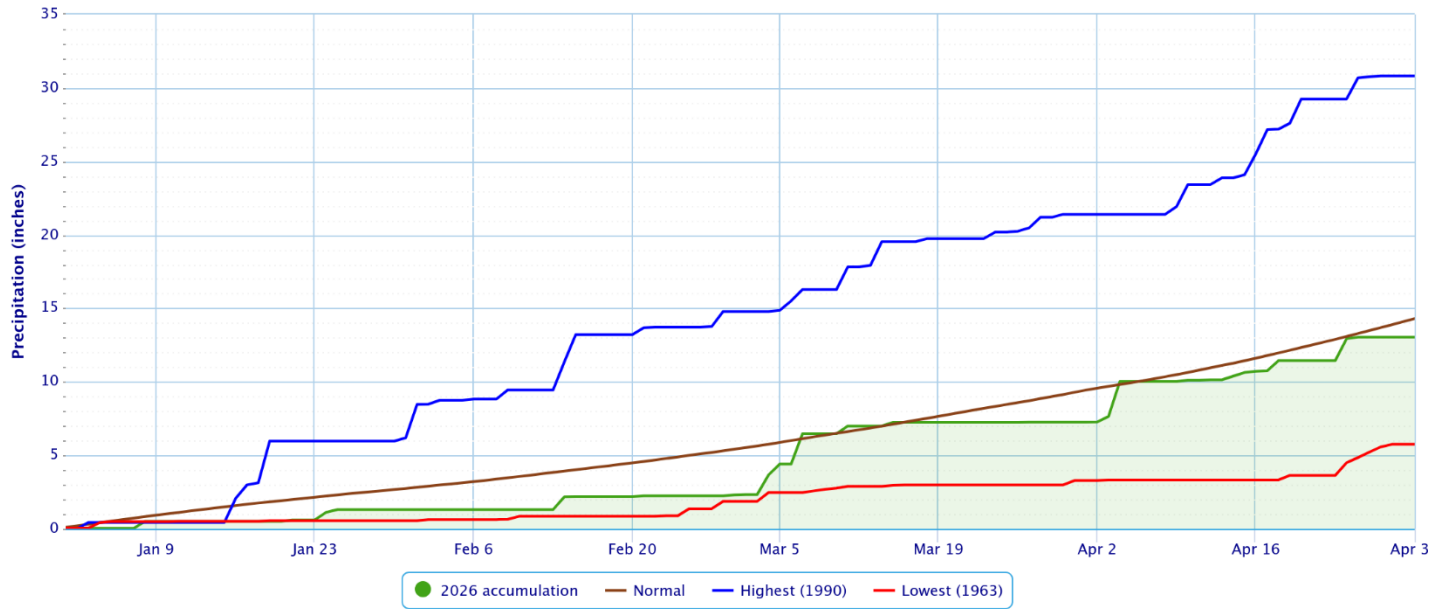
Period of Record – 1949-07-14 to 2026-05-03. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Accumulated Precipitation – FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

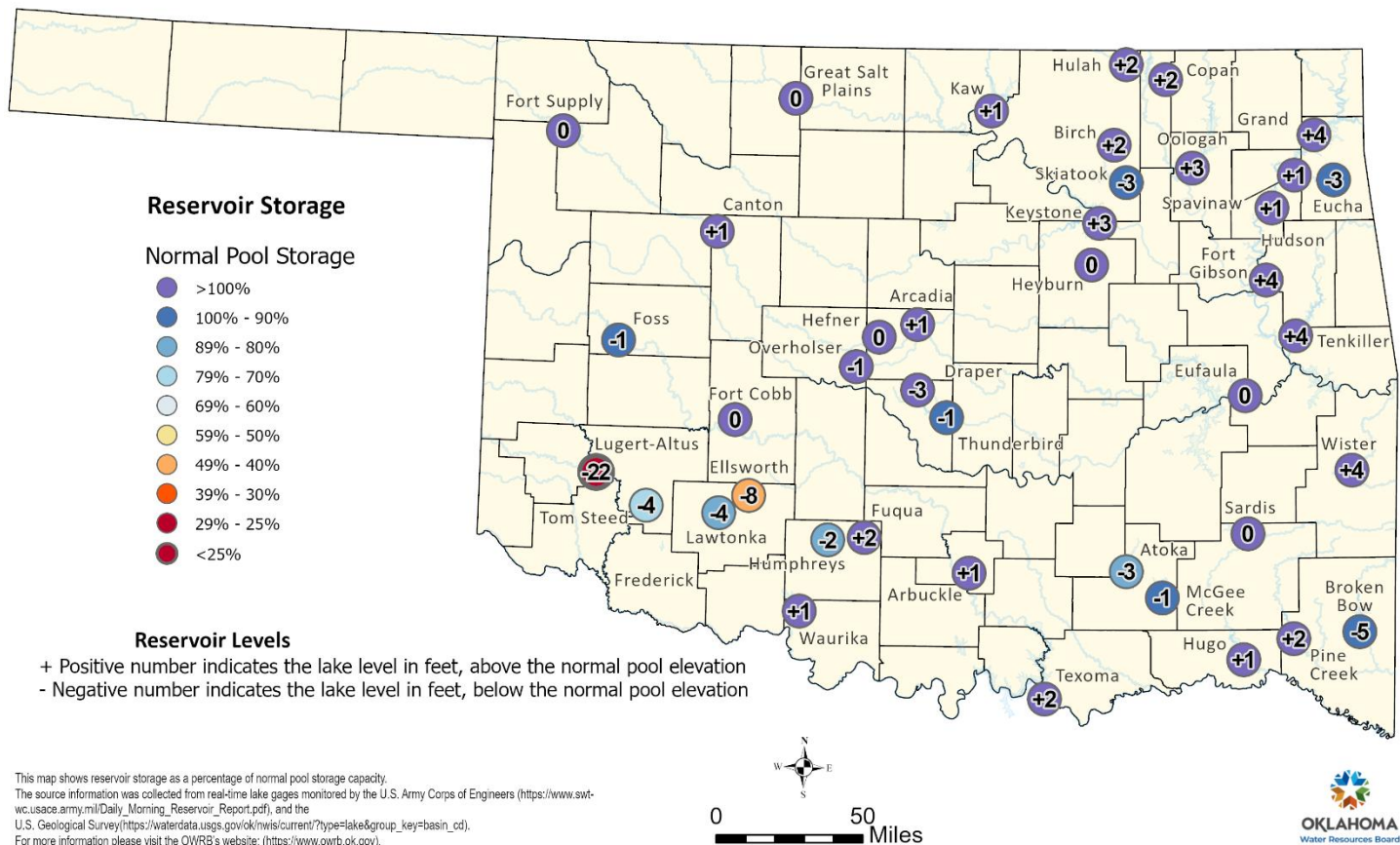
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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Reservoirs

Oklahoma Reservoir Levels and Storage as of 4/28/2026



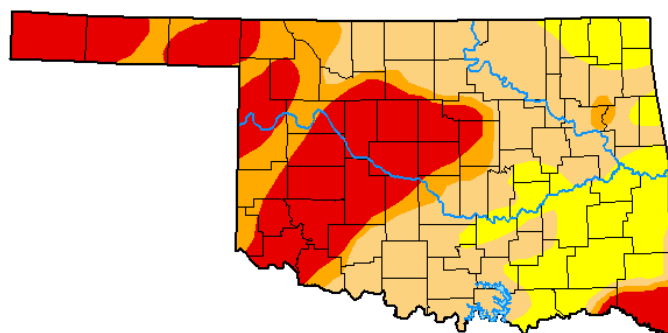
According to the USACE, several lakes in the HSA were above 3% of top of their conservation pools as of 4/30/2026: Grand Lake 21%, Oologah Lake 11%, Hudson Lake 11%, Tenkiller Lake 10%, Ft. Gibson Lake 9%, Wister Lake 8%, Keystone Lake 6%, and Birch Lake 4%. One lake was more than 3% below the top of its conservation pool: Skiatook Lake 92%.

Drought

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) (USDM) from April 28, 2026 (Figs. 2, 3), Extreme (D3) Drought conditions remained in Choctaw County in eastern OK. Severe (D2) Drought conditions existed in portions of Mayes, Cherokee, Wagoner, and Choctaw Counties in eastern OK, and Benton, Carroll, and Madison Counties in northwest AR. Moderate (D1) Drought conditions were present in portions of Osage, Pawnee, Creek, Tulsa, Washington, Nowata, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware, Wagoner, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Okfuskee, McIntosh, Pittsburg, Haskell, Cherokee, Adair, Sequoyah, Le Flore, Pushmataha, and Choctaw Counties in eastern OK, and Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington, Crawford, and Franklin Counties in northwest AR. Abnormally Dry (D0) but not in drought conditions were occurring in parts of Washington OK, Nowata, Rogers, Craig, Mayes, Ottawa, Delaware, Cherokee, Adair, Sequoyah, Muskogee, McIntosh, Okmulgee, Okfuskee, Pittsburg, Haskell, Latimer, Le Flore, Pushmataha, and Choctaw Counties in eastern OK, and Benton, Carroll, Washington, Crawford, Sebastian, and Franklin Counties in northwest AR.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

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	0.01	99.99	80.63	43.81	30.08	0.00
Last Week 04-21-2026	0.00	100.00	85.74	44.53	25.84	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-27-2026	17.38	82.62	71.69	23.32	8.03	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	19.15	80.85	72.77	19.38	6.92	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	64.08	35.92	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-29-2025	66.86	33.14	14.14	6.91	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

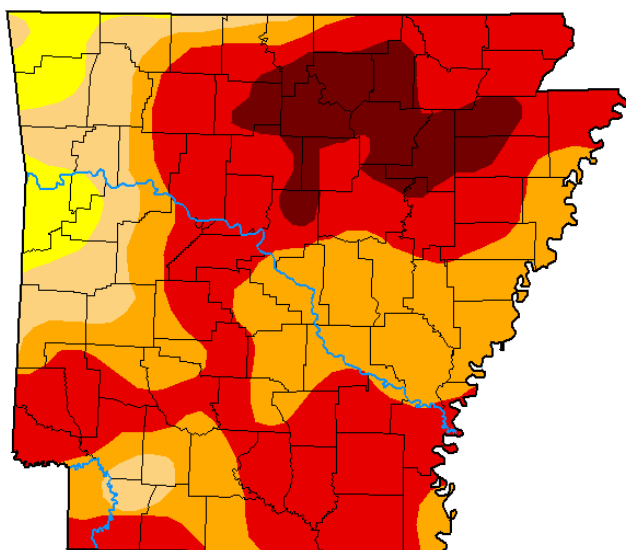


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Fig. 2. Drought Monitor for Oklahoma

U.S. Drought Monitor Arkansas

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	95.05	84.57	54.80	9.93
Last Week 04-21-2026	0.00	100.00	99.79	89.04	68.33	12.69
3 Months Ago 01-27-2026	0.44	99.56	99.01	56.97	19.20	2.55
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.00	100.00	91.34	21.84	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	19.70	80.30	48.43	20.14	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-29-2025	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Fig. 3. Drought Monitor for Arkansas

Outlooks

The [Climate Prediction Center](#) (CPC) outlook for May 2026 (issued April 30, 2026) indicates an equal chance for above, near, or below normal temperatures and precipitation across eastern OK and northwest AR. This outlook was based on impacts from the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), dynamical and statistical model output, and long-term trends. Cooler than normal temperatures are anticipated for the first half of May, with above normal temperatures expected for the second half of the month.

For the 3-month period May-June-July 2026, CPC is forecasting an enhanced chance for below median precipitation along the OK-KS state line and an equal chance for above, near, or below median precipitation elsewhere across eastern OK and northwest AR. This outlook also indicates an enhanced chance for above normal temperatures across all of eastern OK and northwest AR (outlook issued April 16, 2026). This outlook is based on long-term trends, ENSO state, soil moisture, and incorporates a suite of statistical and dynamical forecast tools. According to CPC on April 9, "ENSO-neutral conditions are present and are favored through April-June 2026 (80% chance). In May-July 2026, El Niño is likely to emerge (61% chance) and persist through at least the end of 2026."

Summary of Heavy Precipitation Events Daily quality-controlled rainfall maps can be found at: http://water.weather.gov/precip/index.php?location_type=wfo&location_name=tsa

Scattered showers and thunderstorms developed during the late morning of the 1st across northeast OK near a stationary front as a subtle wave passed by within a warm advection regime. This activity quickly moved northeast and out of the area during the early afternoon hours as the wave passed. Additional convection then redeveloped along the front and moved into northeast OK from the west during the mid-evening hours. These storms moved slowly east while new development occurred along the front and dryline to the west. These two areas of convection merged together, resulting in a line of storms that stretched from Missouri to Texas. Significant rainfall occurred across Pawnee, Osage, Washington, and Nowata Counties in northeast OK due to the slow eastward progression of this line of thunderstorms, combined with the initial convection over this area. The wide line of showers and thunderstorms continued across all of eastern OK through the overnight hours and crossed into AR just before sunrise. Weakening also occurred during the early morning hours over far eastern OK and northwest AR. This activity exited the region by late morning of the 2nd. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.3" to 4" across all of eastern OK and northwest AR (Figs. 4, 5). Widespread 1.5" to 3.5" also fell across southeast KS in the Neosho River basin, resulting in minor flooding along the Neosho River near Commerce (see E3 and preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report).

There was an influx of moisture on the 3rd as an upper-level low moved into the Central Plains, resulting in precipitable water (PWAT) values near the climatological maximum for this time of year during the afternoon and evening. Widely scattered thunderstorms developed in central OK along a cold front as it moved into this environment during the afternoon hours. The broken line of showers and thunderstorms moved into eastern OK during the early evening hours. Convection continued to fill in and become more linear across eastern OK during the evening as the mid-level flow became more parallel to the front. The line of storms then slowly progressed eastward overnight and through the early morning hours, affecting all of eastern OK and northwest AR. The trailing stratiform rain continued across the area during the morning hours, ending from northwest to southeast by noon of the 4th. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.10" to around 5.5" across eastern OK and northwest AR (Figs. 6, 7). Widespread 1.7" to around 3" of rain in the lower Poteau River basin caused minor flooding near Panama (see E3 and preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report).

An area of scattered showers and thunderstorms that had developed along a quasi-stationary front moved south out of KS into northeast OK shortly after sunrise on the 10th. These storms continued to move east-southeast across eastern OK and northwest AR through the afternoon hours, with additional widely scattered showers and thunderstorms developing across the region during the evening along both an outflow boundary and the approaching cold front. This activity ended by midnight with the loss of daytime heating. Locations that were affected by the storms received a few hundredths of an inch to near 3" of rain (Fig. 8).

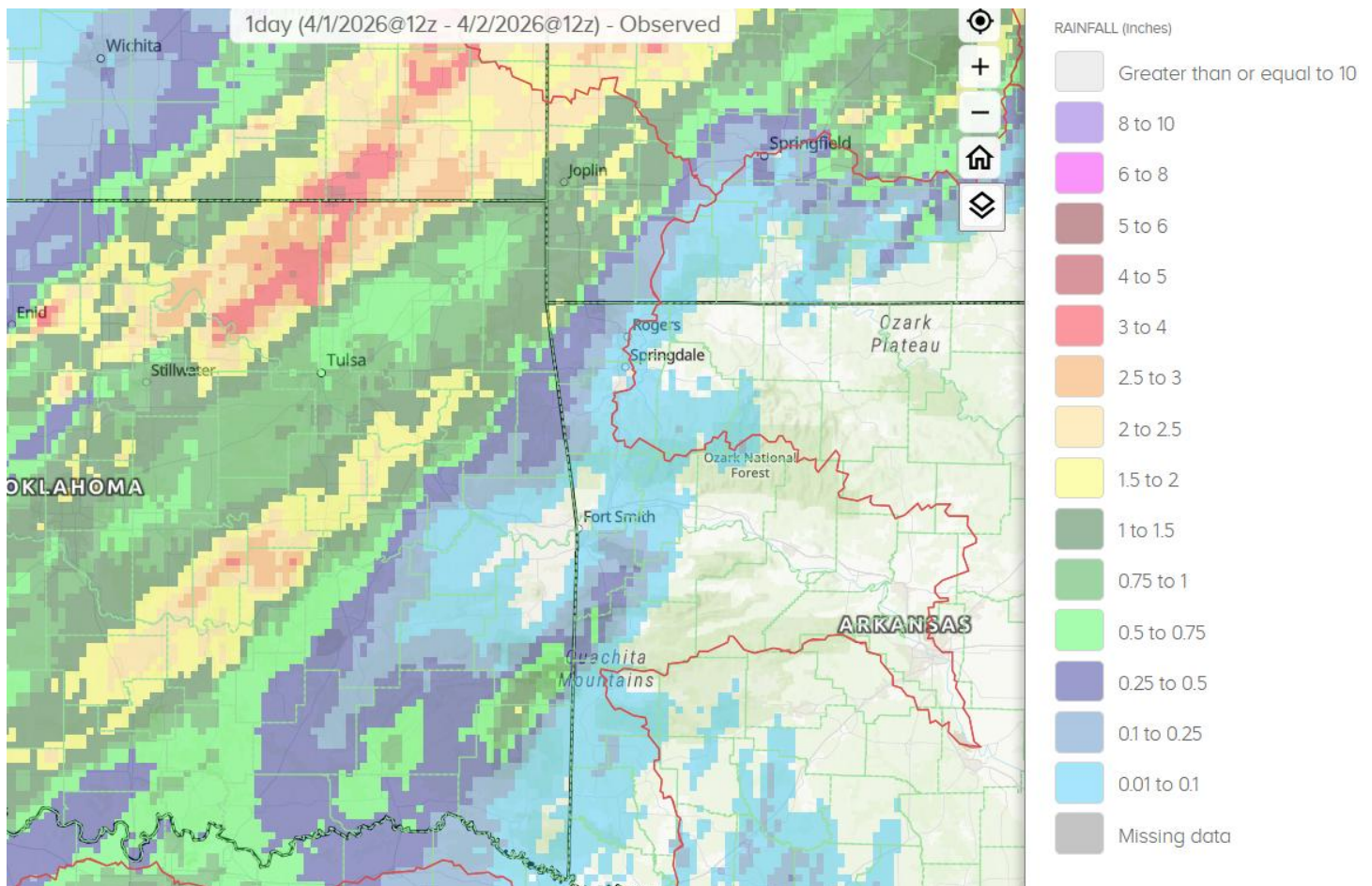
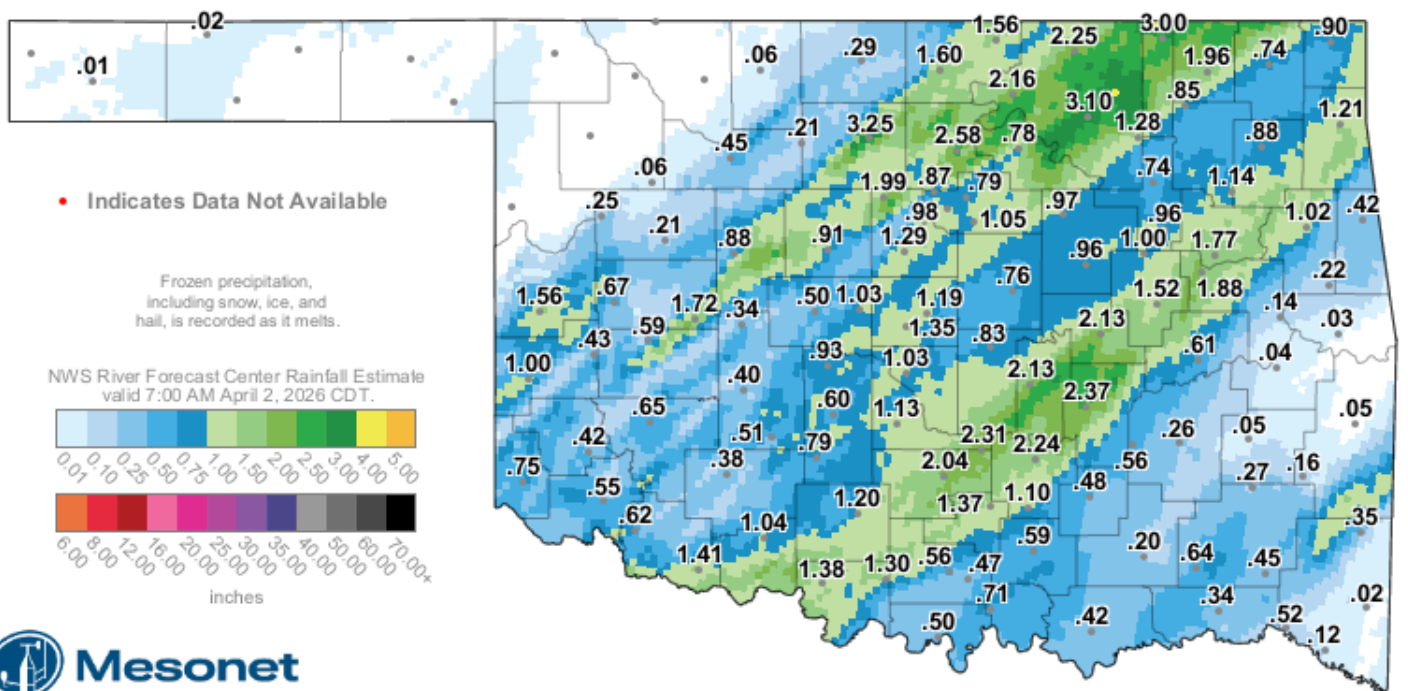


Fig. 4. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/02/2026.



7:55 AM April 2, 2026 CDT

Created 8:01:25 AM April 2, 2026 CDT. © Copyright 2026

Fig. 5. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 7:55 am CDT 4/02/2026.

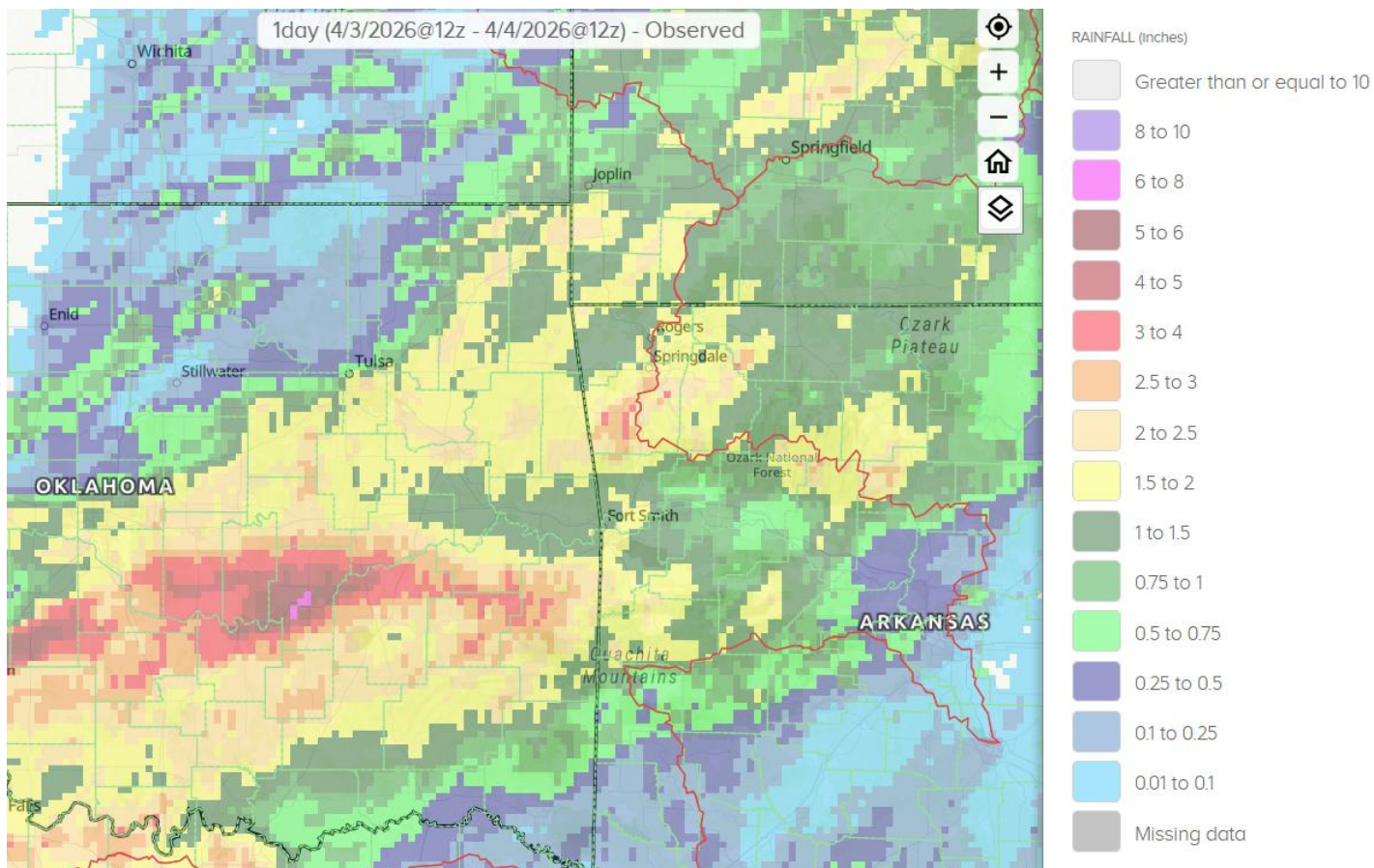


Fig. 6. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/04/2026.

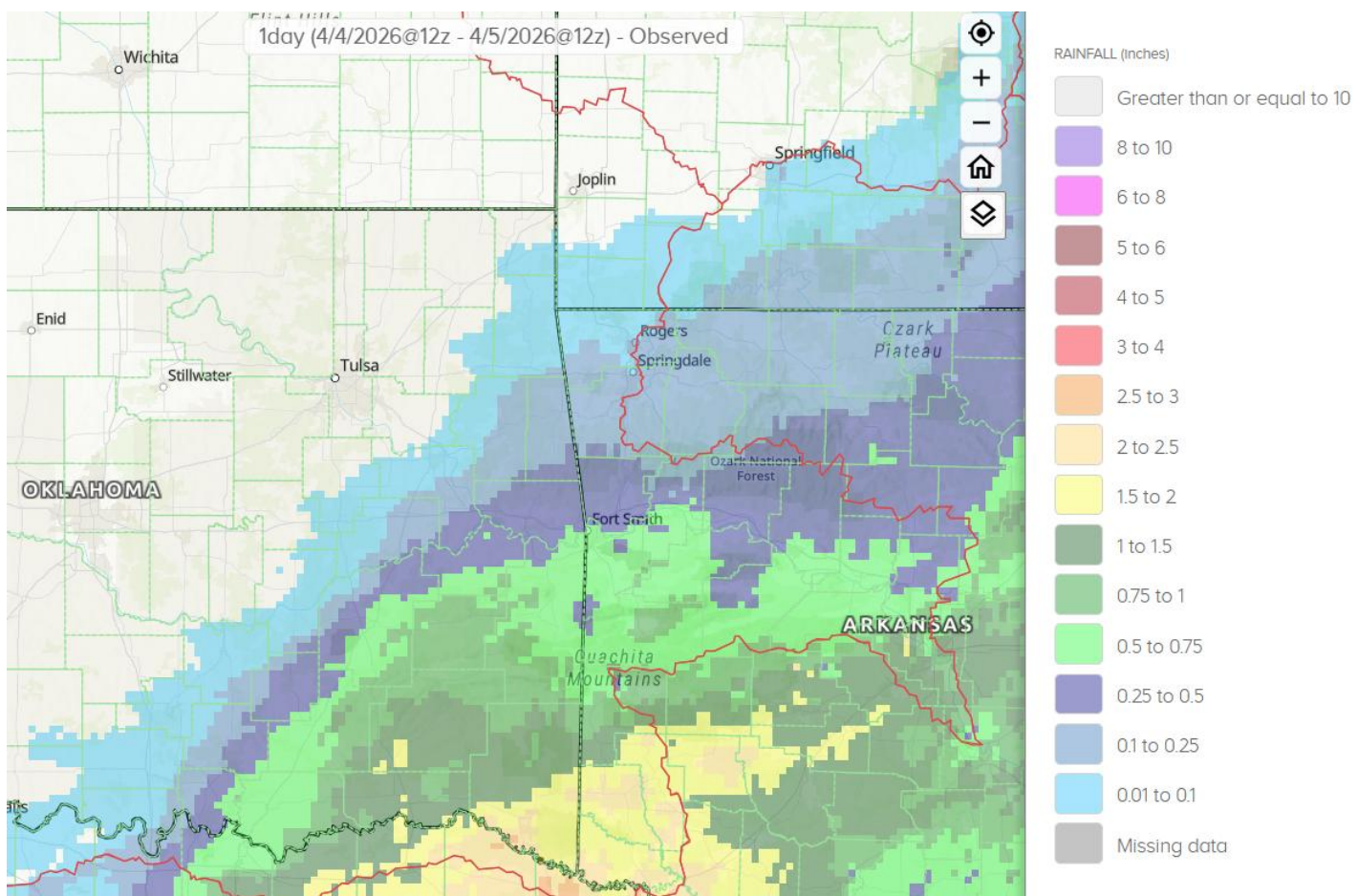


Fig. 7. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/05/2026.

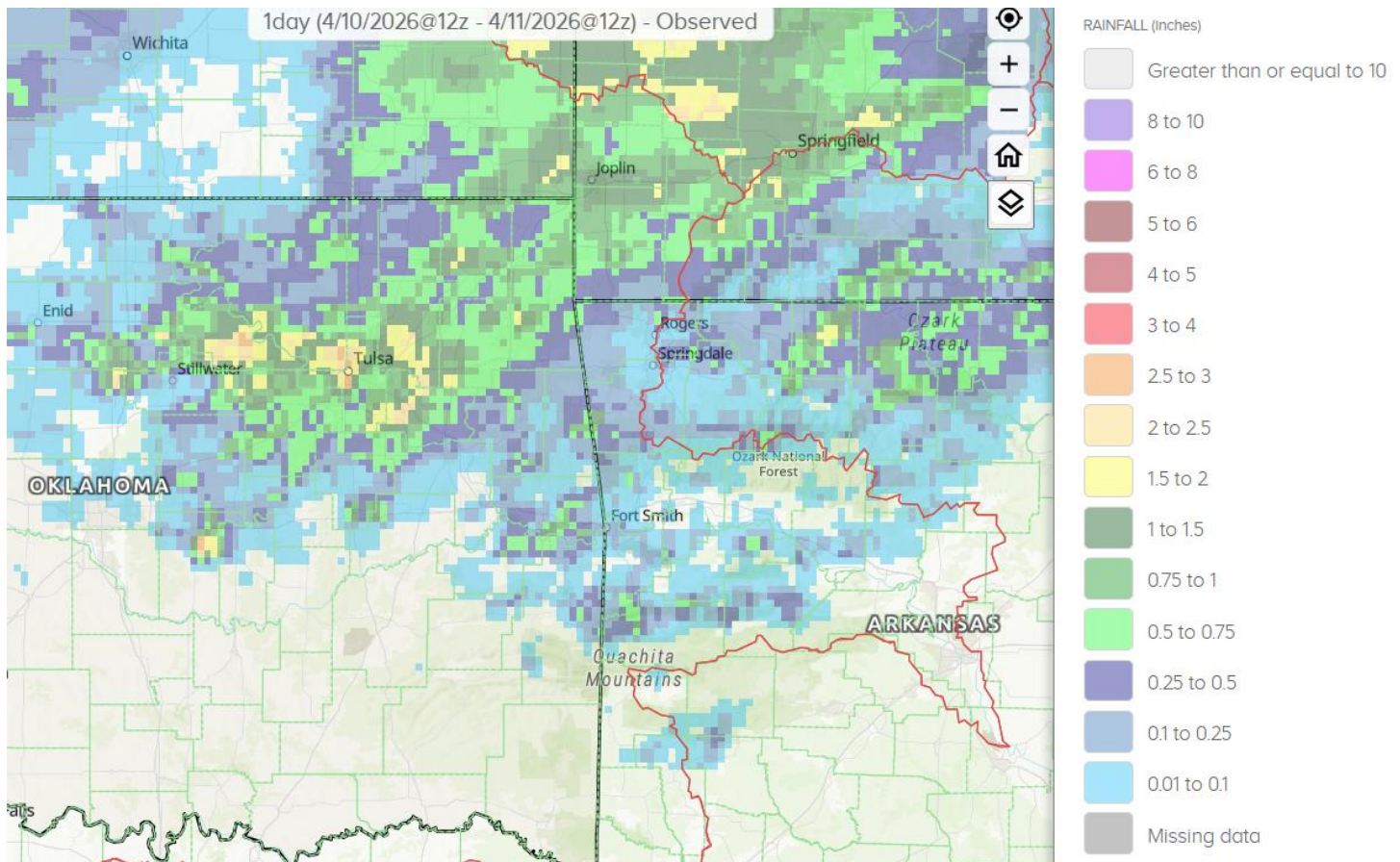


Fig. 8. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/11/2026.

Showers and thunderstorms moved in from the west during the evening of the 14th and quickly developed into a quasi-linear convective system (QLCS) over eastern OK. This severe line of storms moved east across northeast and east central OK and northwest AR during the evening, produced five EF-1 tornadoes (see <https://arcg.is/0S1KGa2> for details), and exited the forecast area shortly after midnight. Additional convection developed during the overnight hours due to continued forcing along the dry line. This activity primarily remained over northeast OK and far northwest AR through sunrise of the 15th. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.20" to 3" (Figs. 9, 10).

A warm and humid airmass remained over the region on the 15th, and isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms developed in response to an upper-level trough that approached from the west. During the morning, the convection affected southeast OK up through northwest AR. By afternoon, the storms were more focused across northeast OK into far northwest AR. A more organized line of thunderstorms then moved out of south central OK/north central TX into southeast OK and west central AR during the evening, while a second smaller line of storms was impacting locations just south of the OK/KS state line. Both lines continued to move east overnight before exiting the area during the early morning hours of the 16. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.30" to 3" in the locations affected by the storms, with a minimum in rainfall in between (Figs. 11, 12).

On the 17th, an unstable and strongly sheared environment was in place over the area ahead of an approaching cold front. Supercells that formed ahead of the front moved across eastern Kay, Osage, and Pawnee Counties during the afternoon, producing EF-1 tornadoes (see <https://arcg.is/0S1KGa2> for details). By evening, a line of convection had developed along the front from southeast KS into northwest OK. This line of storms moved southeast across all of eastern OK and northwest AR through the evening and overnight hours, exiting the area soon after sunrise. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.10" to 3.5", with the highest totals across far northeast OK (Fig. 13). Additional widespread 1"-4" of rain fell across southeast KS, resulting in moderate flooding along the Neosho River near Commerce (see E3 and preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report). The Spring River near Quapaw also saw a rise, but the river crested just below flood stage.

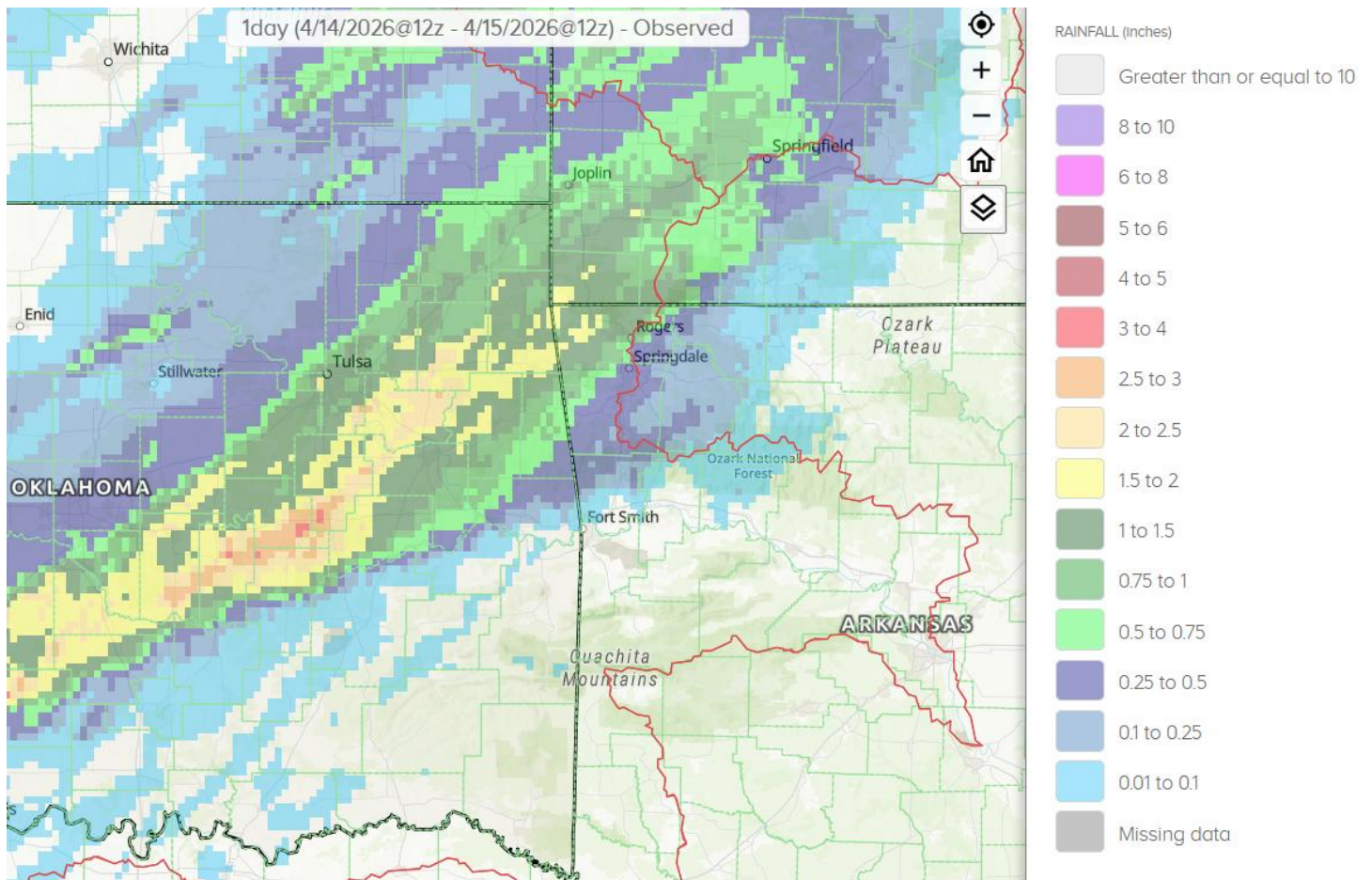


Fig. 9. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/15/2026.

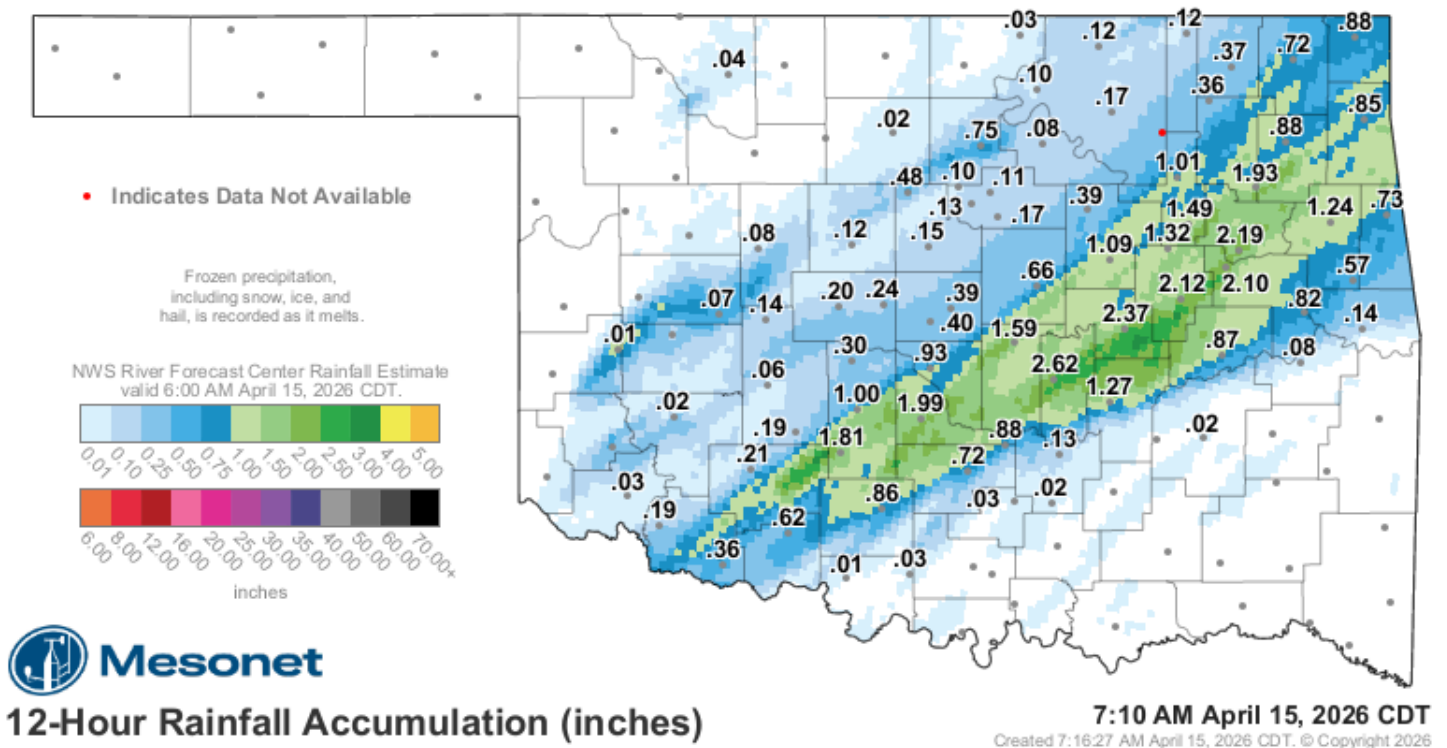


Fig. 10. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 12-hour rainfall ending at 7:10 am CDT 4/15/2026.

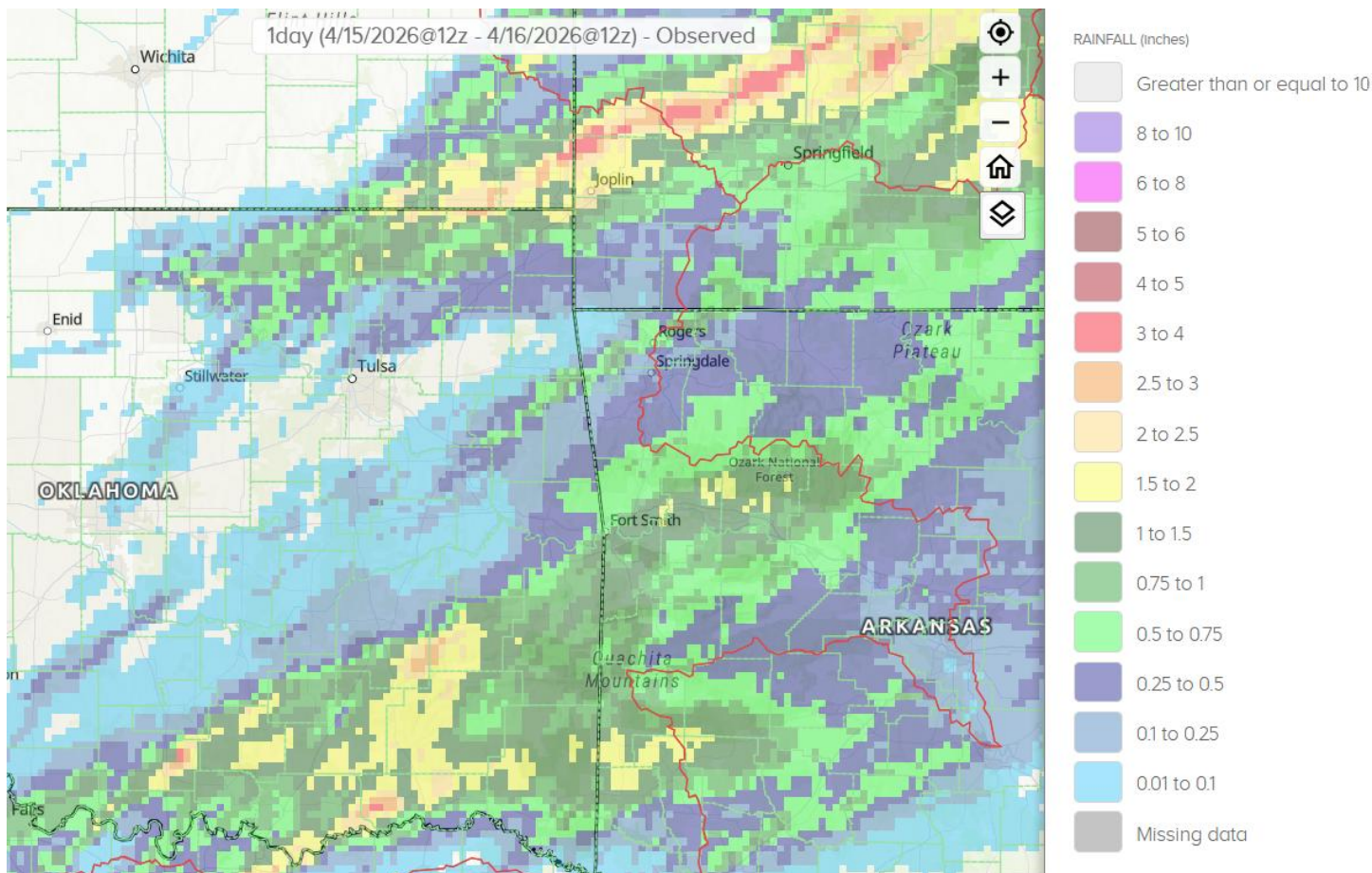


Fig. 11. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/16/2026.

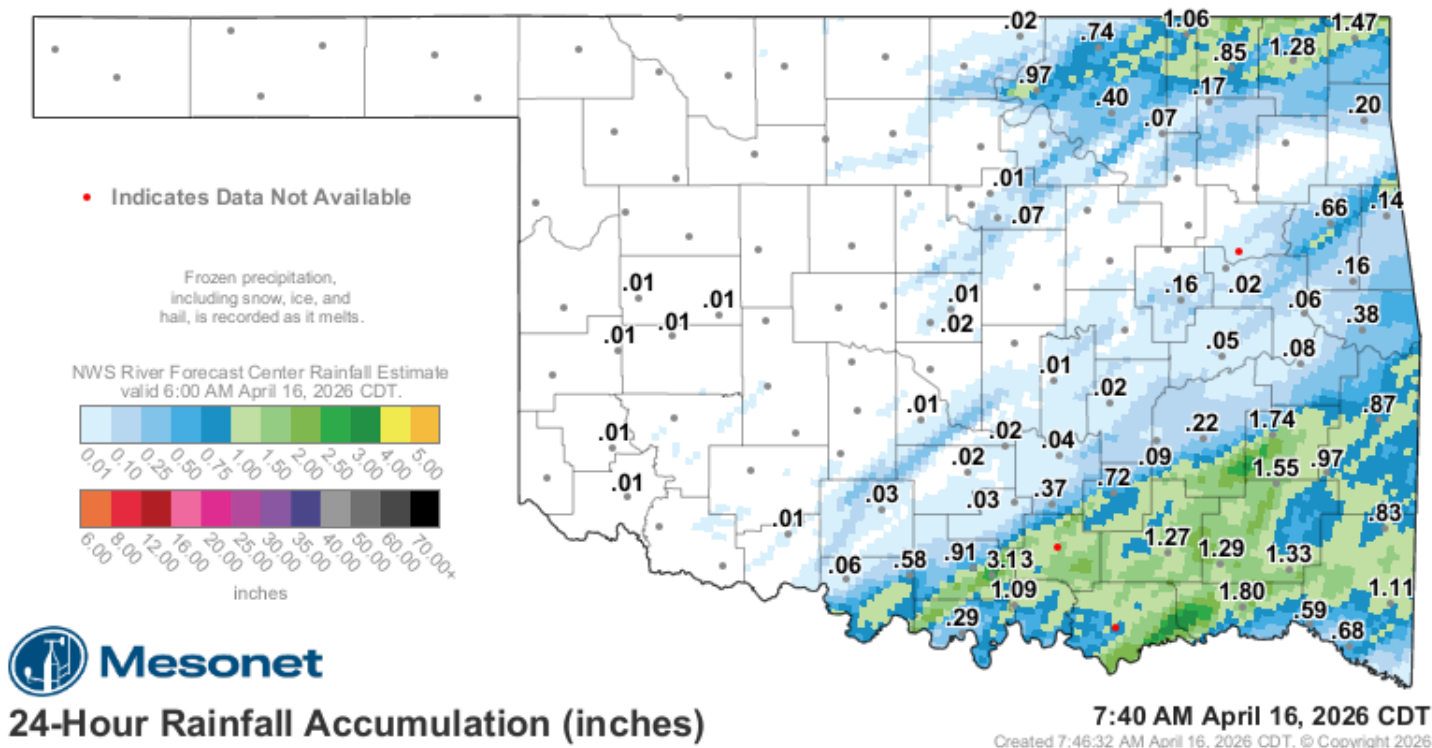


Fig. 12. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 7:40 am CDT 4/16/2026.

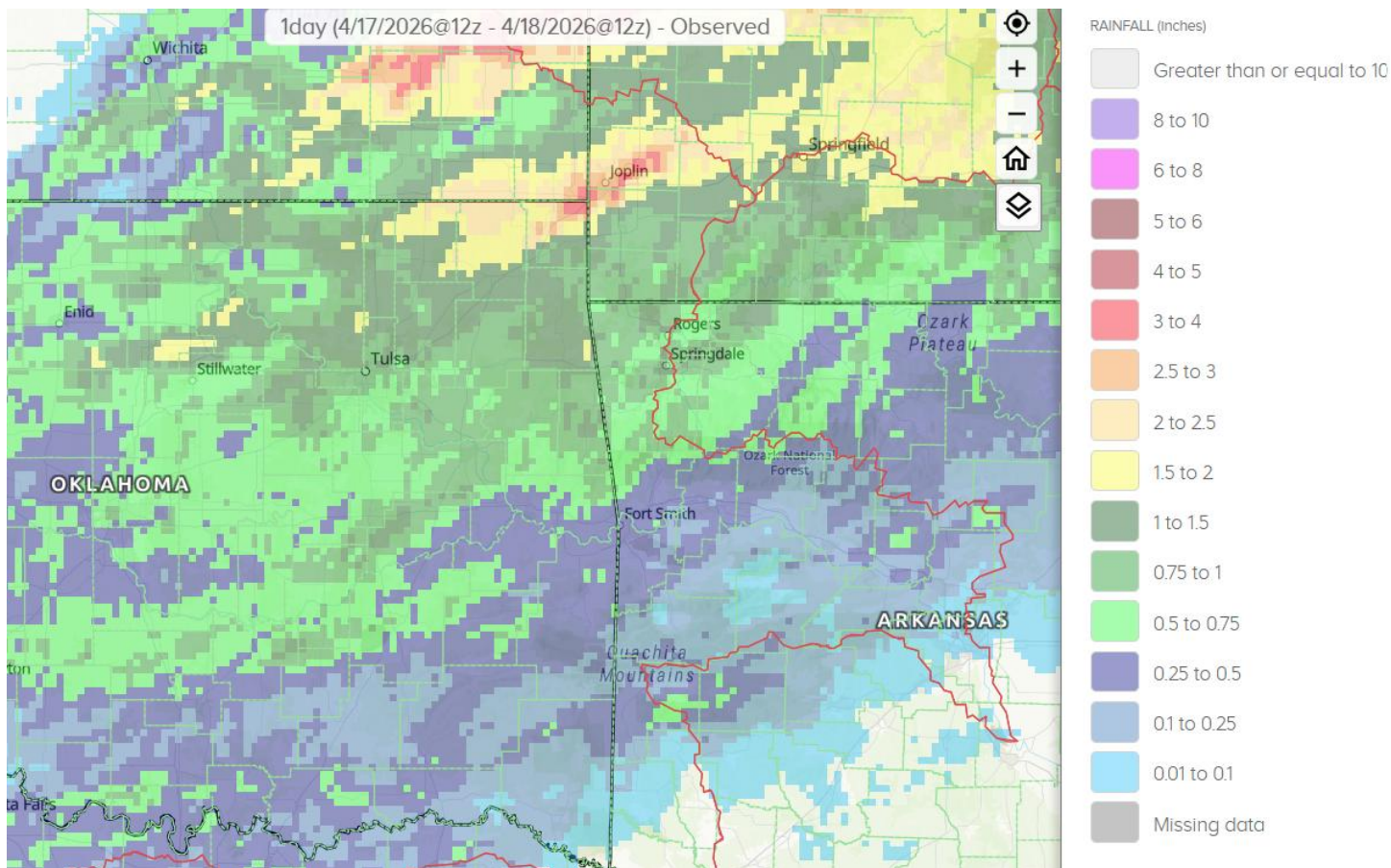


Fig. 13. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/18/2026.

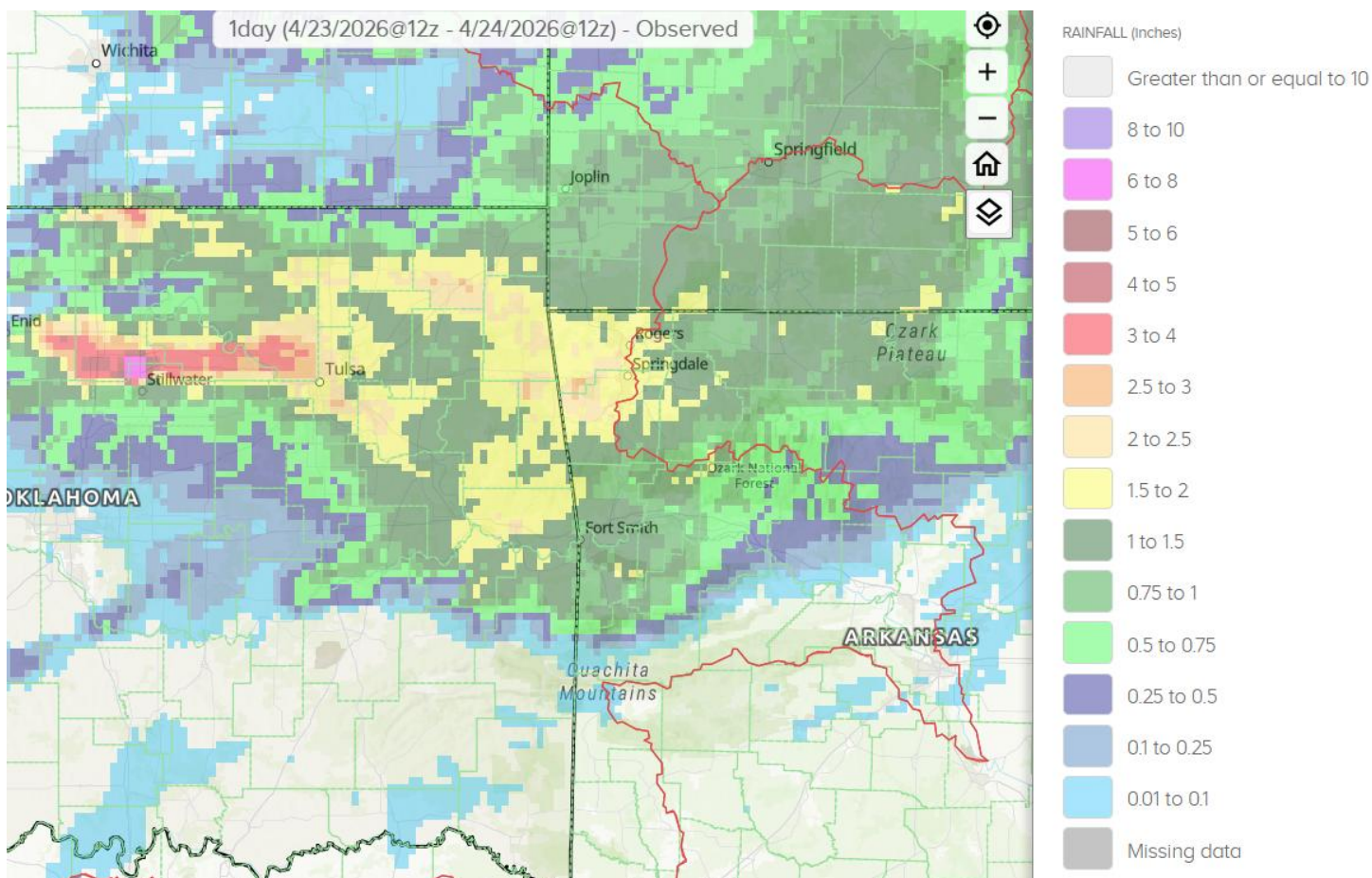


Fig. 14. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/24/2026.

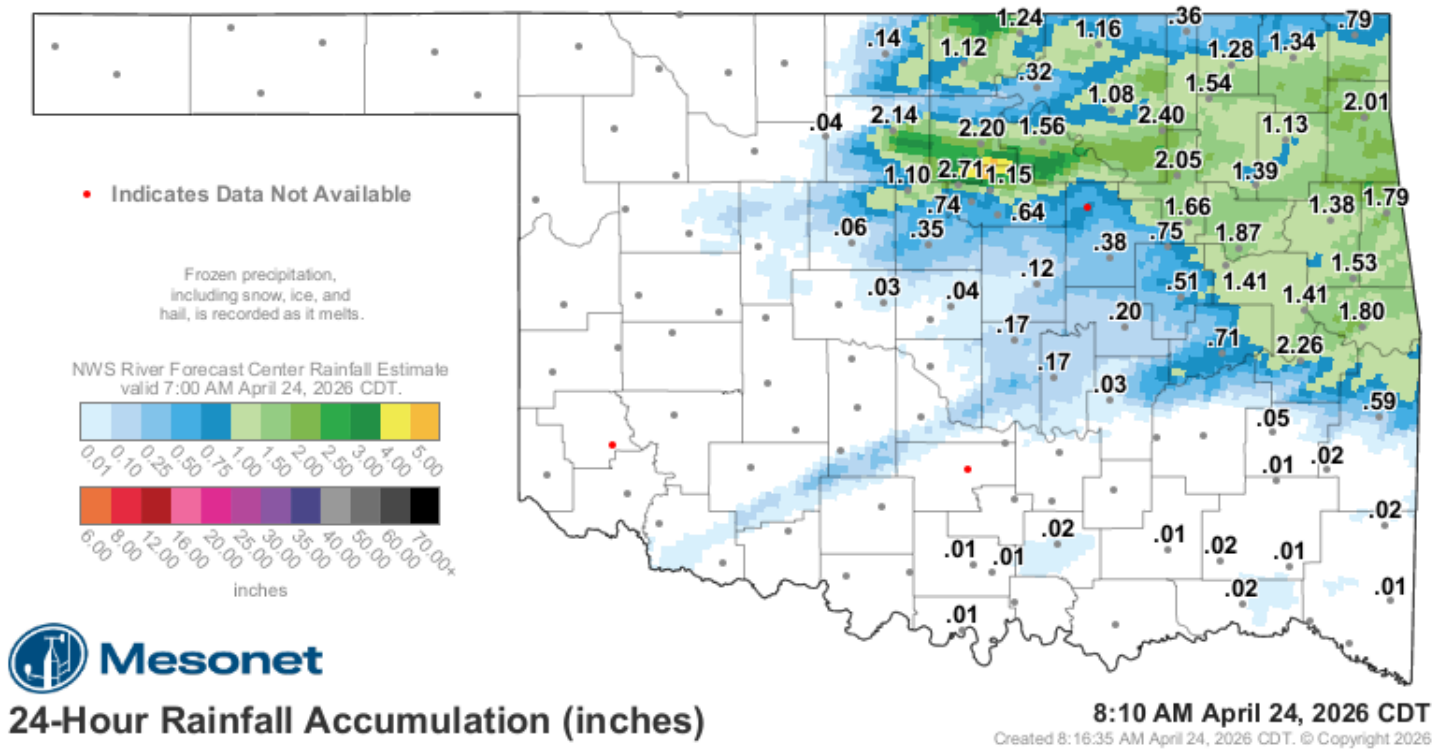


Fig. 15. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 8:10 am CDT 4/24/2026.

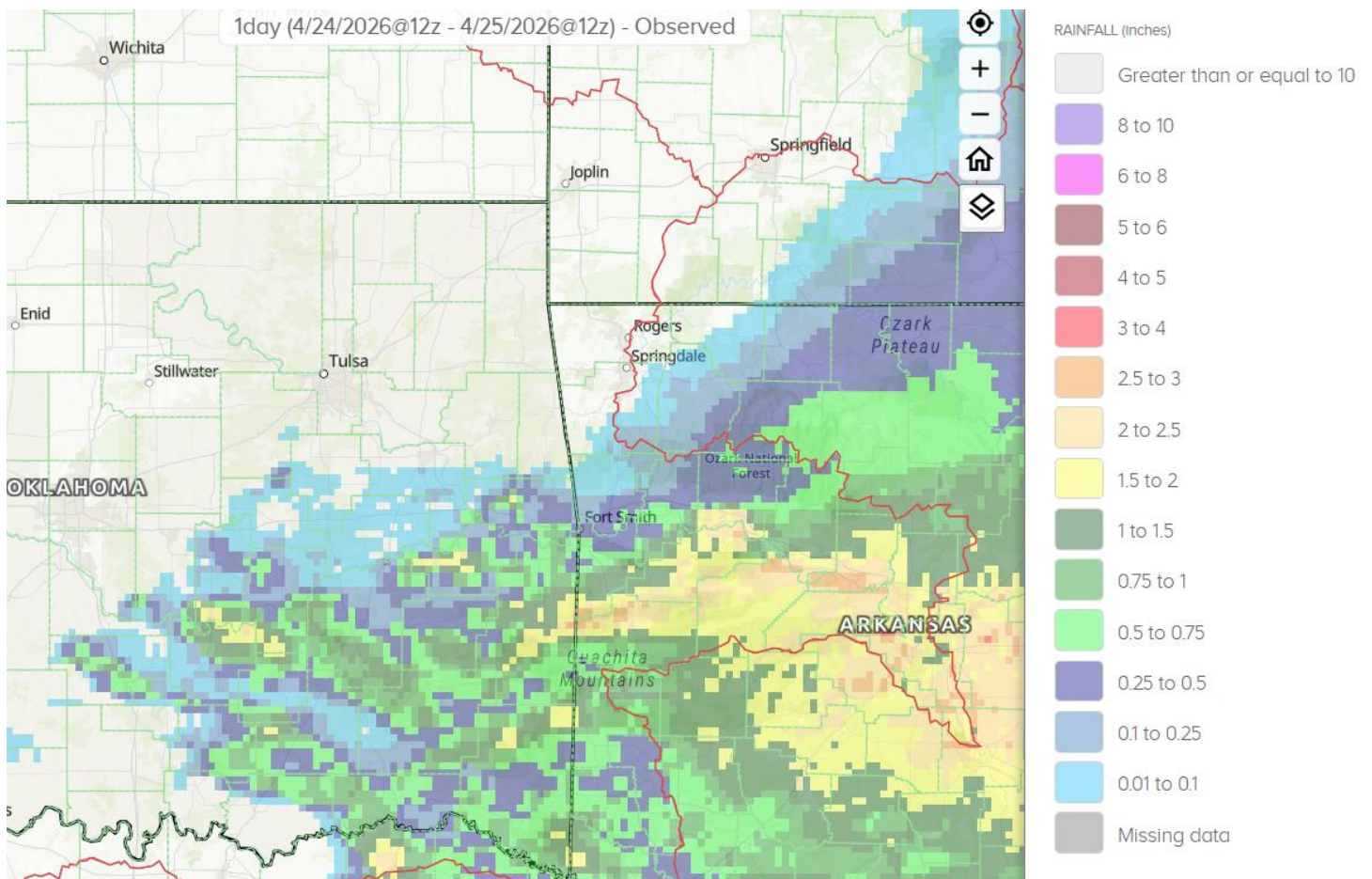


Fig. 16. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/25/2026.

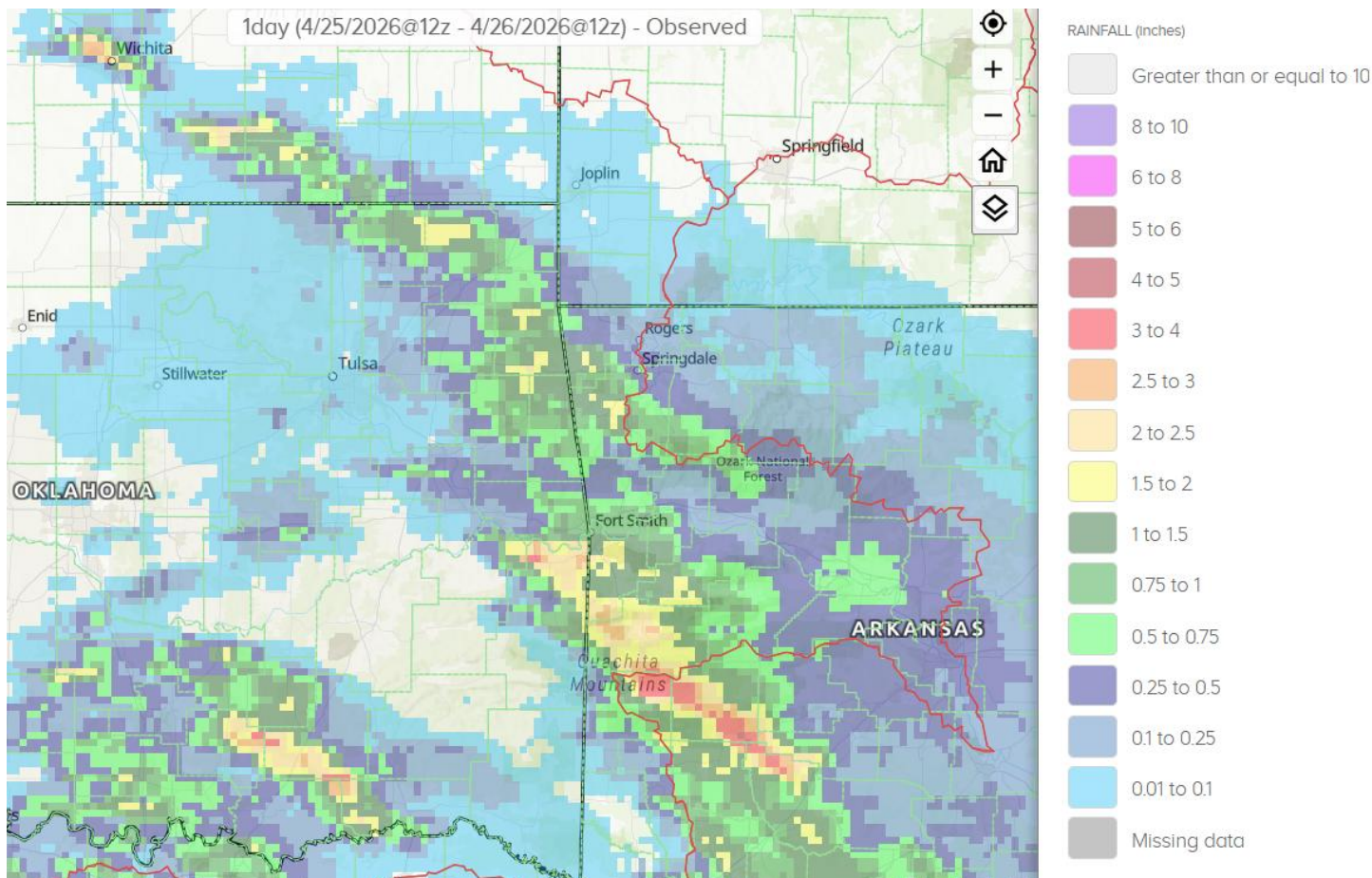


Fig. 17. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/26/2026.

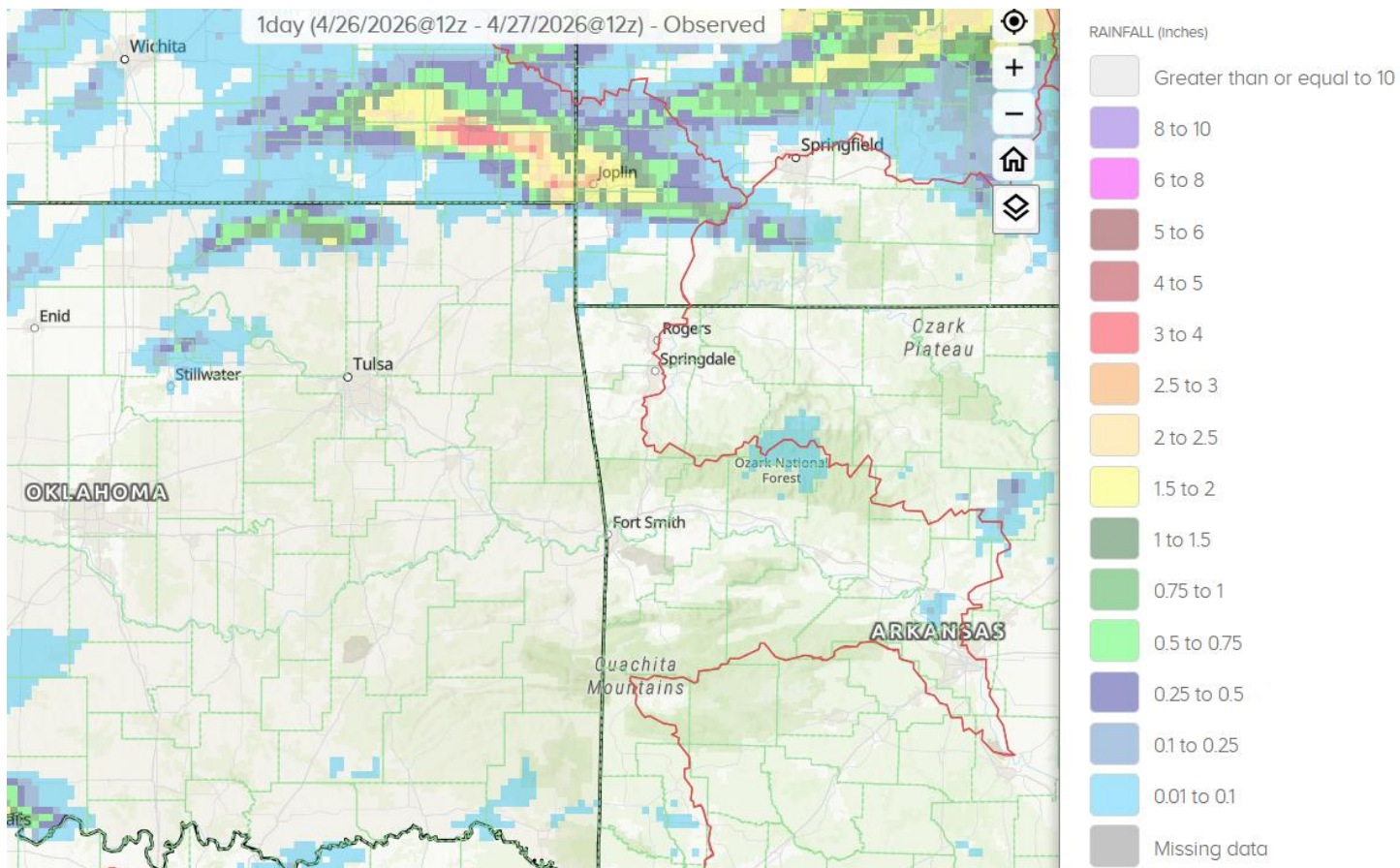


Fig. 18. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/27/2026.

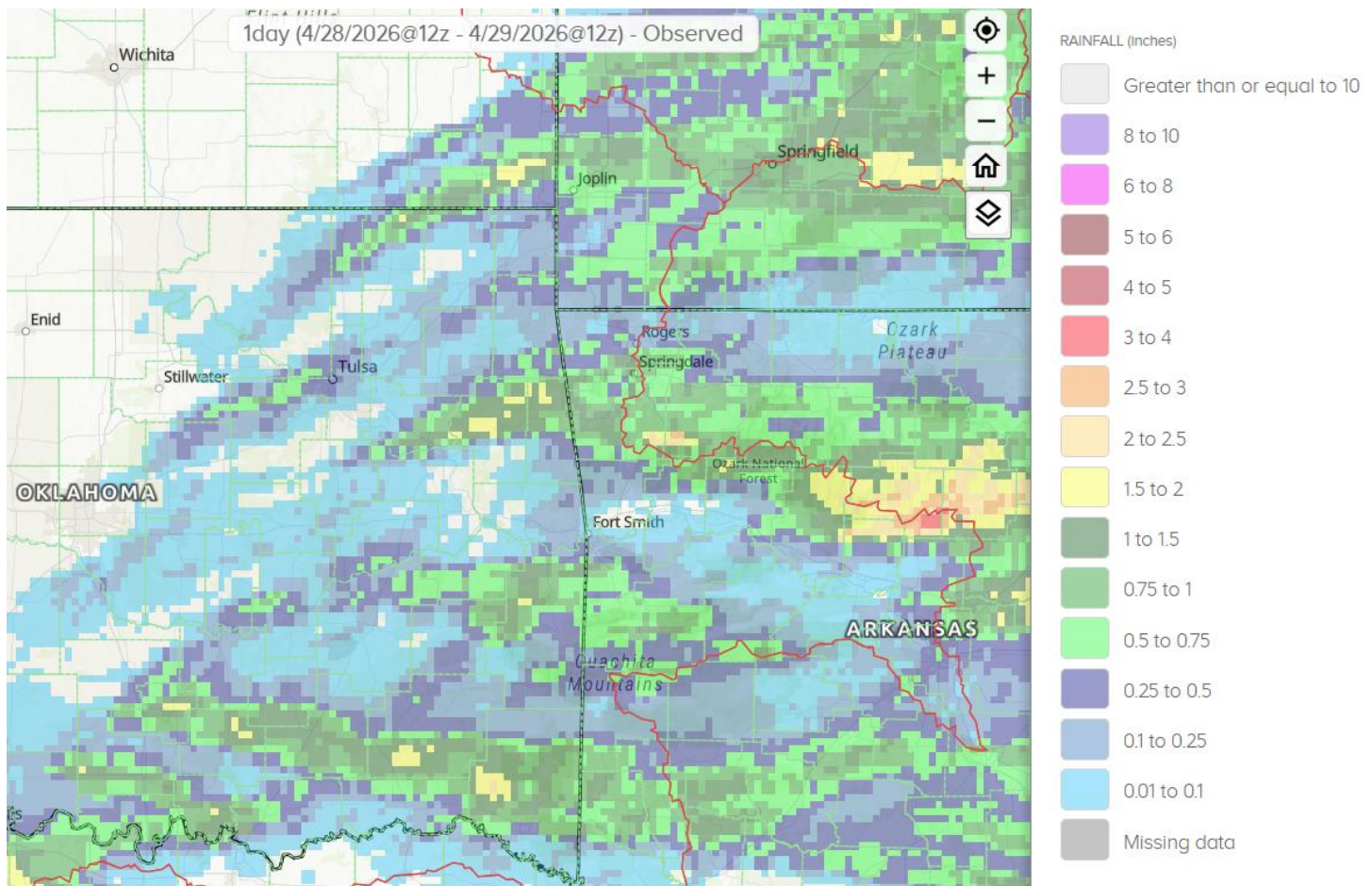


Fig. 19. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/29/2026.

Thunderstorms developed near the triple point (where a dryline intersected an approaching cold front) in north central OK on the evening of the 23rd. These severe thunderstorms remained discreet as they moved into northeast OK, but then transitioned into a line of storms by late evening. The line continued to move east-southeast through the overnight hours, impacting all but southeast OK, before exiting the area during the morning of the 24th. Rainfall totals were 0.50" to 3.5" (Figs. 14, 15). Widespread 1.5" to 2.5" of rain in the Illinois River basin caused flows that were unsafe for recreation, but the river did not flood (see preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report). By noon of the 24th, the morning activity had exited the area, but new convection began to develop along and south of I-40 near a west-to-east boundary of existing outflow merging with a weak cold front. Several severe thunderstorms tracked southeast across southeast OK from late afternoon through the mid-evening hours, with one supercell producing an EF-1 tornado in Pittsburg County (see <https://arcg.is/0S1KGa2> for details). Rainfall totals after 7am ranged from 0.25" to 3" (Fig. 16).

During the afternoon and early evening hours of the 25th, thunderstorms developed near a warm front over southeast OK and along a more subtle boundary along a Theta-E gradient across northeast OK. The environment over the area, and especially across southeast OK, was moist with steep lapse rates and strong deep layer shear. Discreet strong to severe thunderstorms were the primary storm mode initially, with more scattered shower and thunderstorm activity by late evening. This activity dissipated or moved southeast of the area shortly after midnight. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.10" to around 3" (Fig. 17). The Poteau River was still elevated from the previous rainfall event, and the additional 1" to 2.5" over the lower Poteau River basin resulted in minor flooding along the Poteau River near Panama (see E3 and preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report). The rain over the Illinois River basin also created another rise, with flows once again unsafe for recreation, but remaining below flood stage.

A couple of isolated thunderstorms developed mid-evening of the 26th within an unstable airmass defined by steep lapse rates and strong wind shear. One of the storms was able to take advantage of this environment and developed into a supercell that produced three tornadoes in Osage County (see <https://arcg.is/0S1KGa2> for details). This storm also brought 0.5" to around 1.5" of rain (Fig. 18).

Warm advection showers and thunderstorms developed over the area during the late morning hours of the 28th as an upper-level wave influenced the region. A warm front was also draped from southern OK into west central AR. By afternoon, several clusters of storms, some of which were severe, were impacting parts of eastern OK and northwest AR. A supercell in Choctaw County produced an EF-1 tornado (see <https://arcg.is/0S1KGa2> for details). This activity moved east through the early- and mid-evening hours before exiting the area with the passing wave. Rainfall totals were 0.2" to 2.7" (Fig. 19) in locations affected by the storms. Once more, the rainfall over the Illinois River basin increased flows, but no flooding occurred.

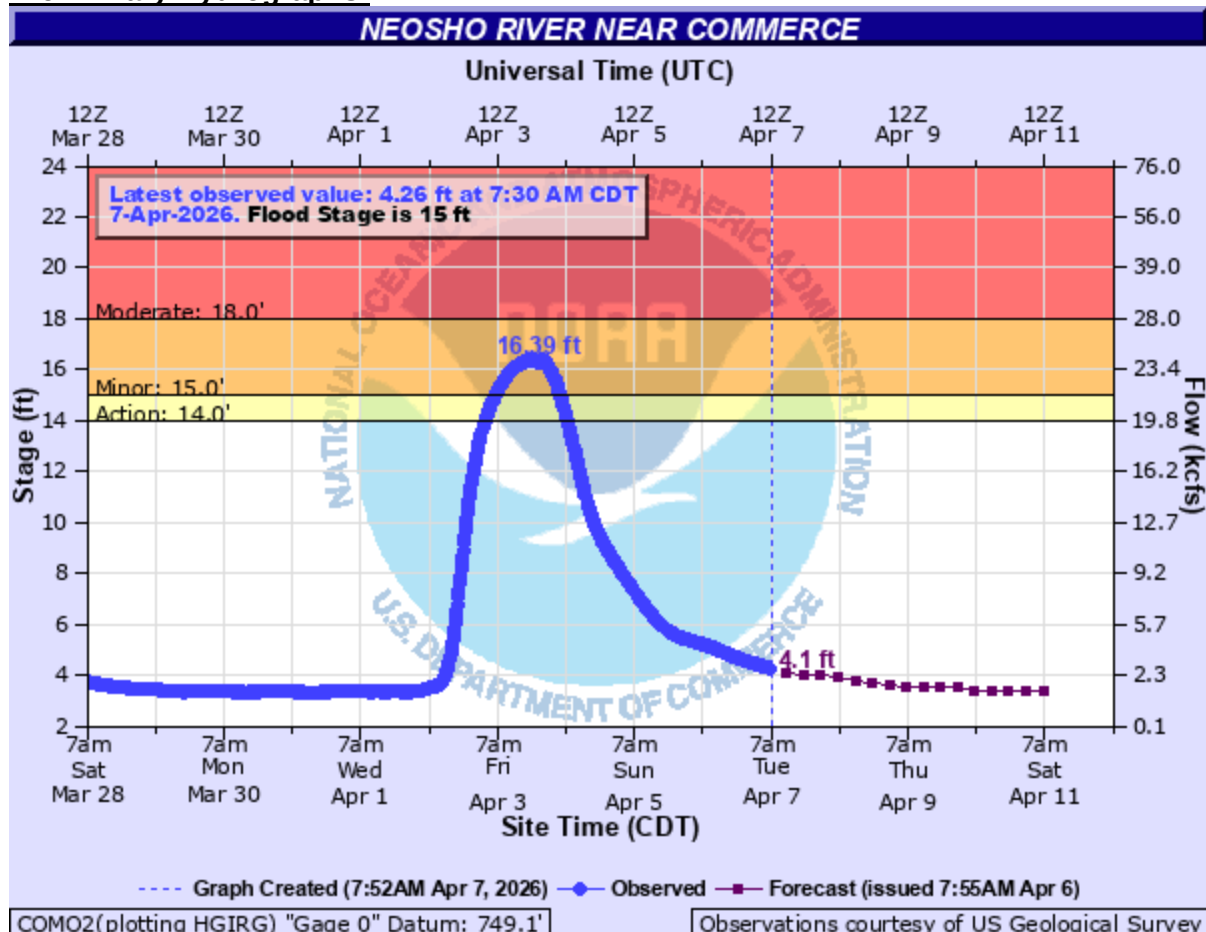
Written by:

Nicole McGavock
Service Hydrologist
WFO Tulsa

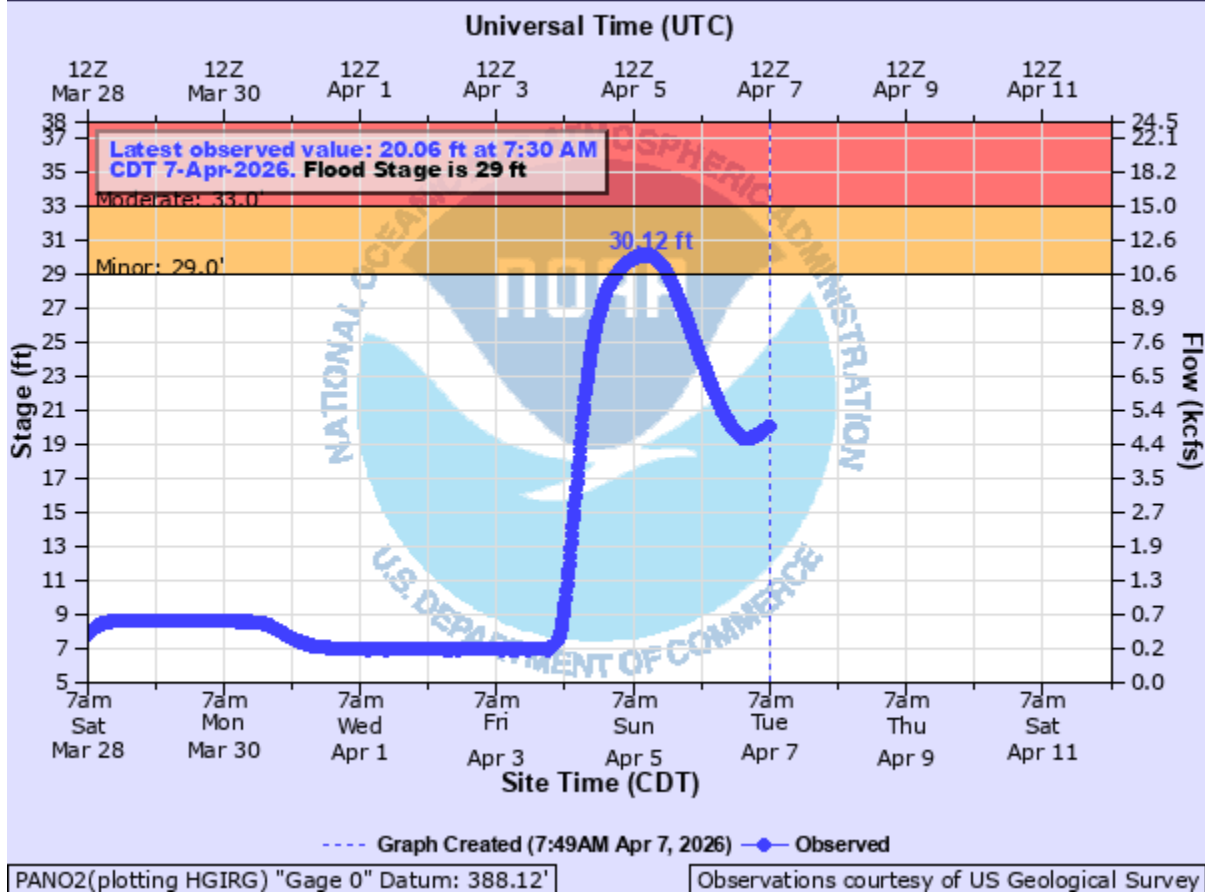
Products issued in April 2026:

- 1 Flash Flood Warnings (FFW)
- 1 Flash Flood Statements (FFS)
- 1 Flash/Areal Flood Watches (FFA) (2 Watch FFA CON/EXT/EXA/EXB/CAN)
- 30 Urban and Small Stream Advisories (FLS)
- 0 Areal Flood Warnings (FLW)
- 0 Areal Flood Statements (FLS)
- 6 River Flood Warnings (FLW) (includes category increases)
- 25 River Flood Statements (FLS)
- 9 River Flood Advisories (FLS) (25 Advisory FLS CON/EXT/CAN)
- 0 River Flood Watches (FFA) (0 Watch FFA CON/EXT/CAN)
- 0 River Statements (RVS)
- 0 Hydrologic Outlooks (ESF)
- 1 Drought Information Statements (DGT)

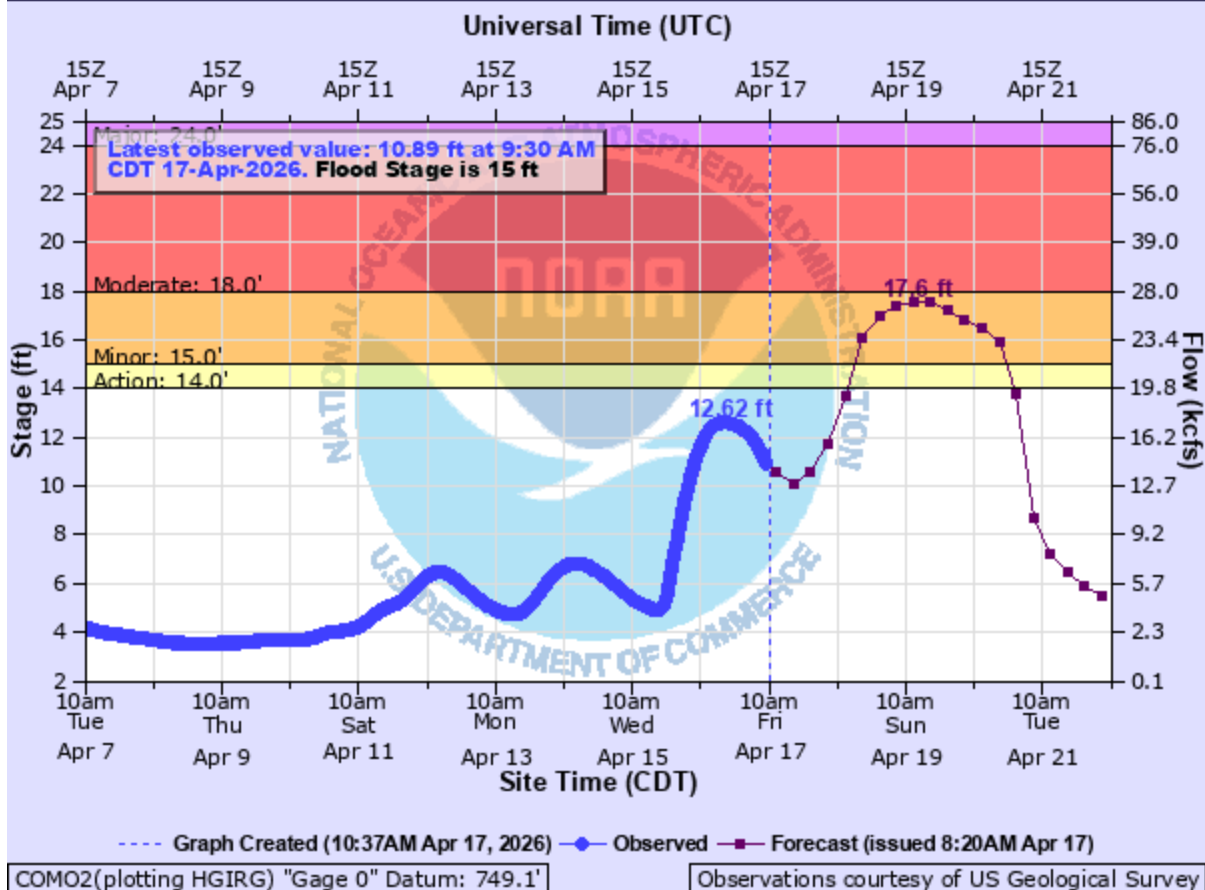
Preliminary Hydrographs:



POTEAU RIVER NEAR PANAMA

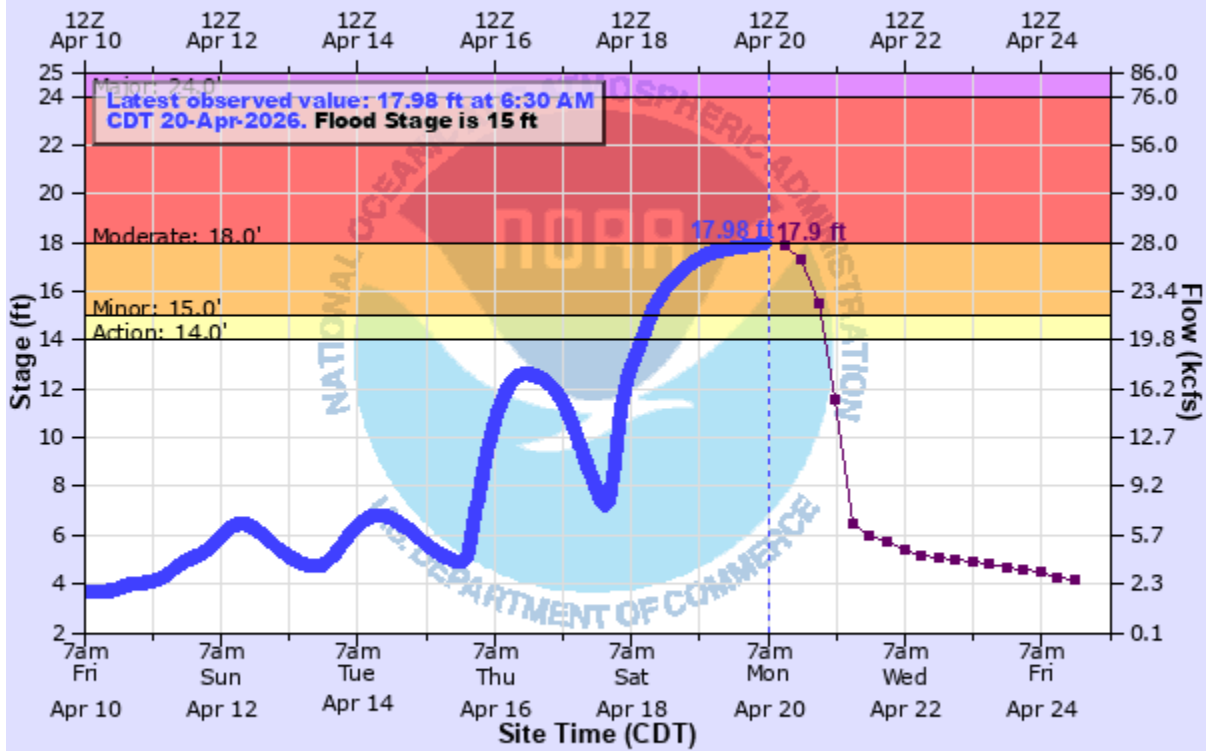


NEOSHO RIVER NEAR COMMERCE



NEOSHO RIVER NEAR COMMERCE

Universal Time (UTC)



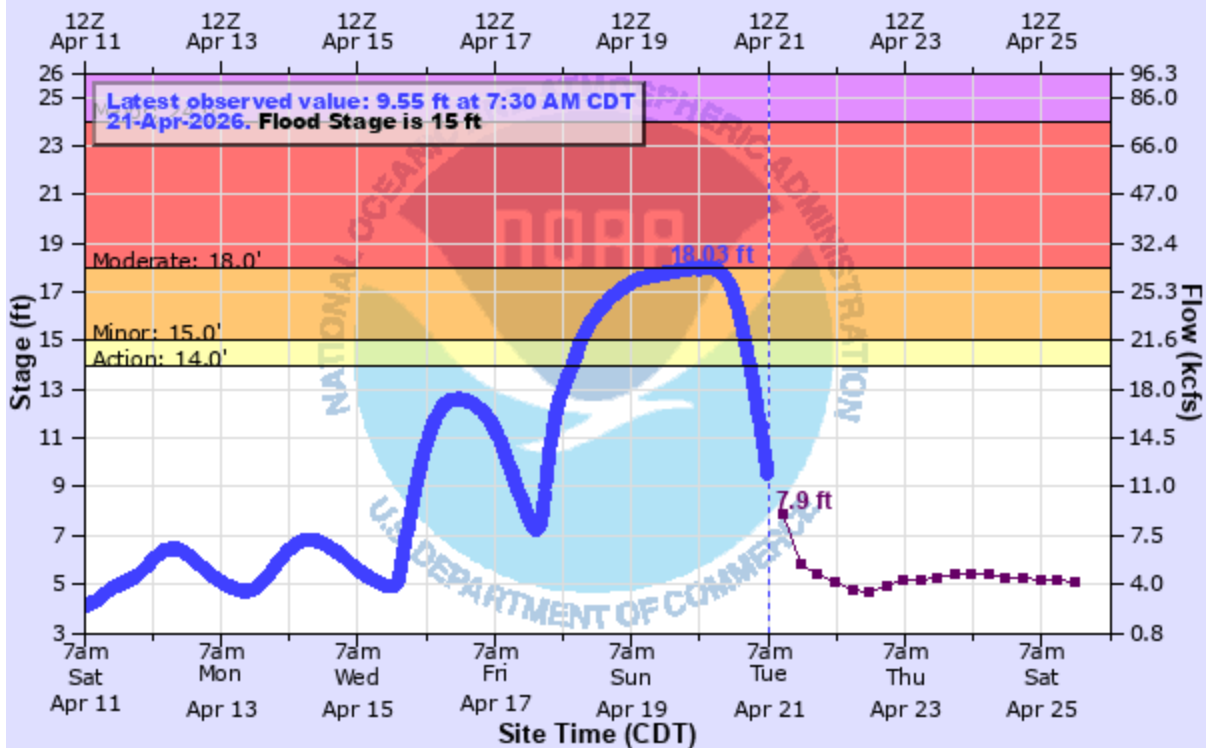
--- Graph Created (7:36AM Apr 20, 2026) —●— Observed —■— Forecast (issued 7:53PM Apr 19)

COMO2(plotting HGIRG) "Gage 0" Datum: 749.1'

Observations courtesy of US Geological Survey

NEOSHO RIVER NEAR COMMERCE

Universal Time (UTC)

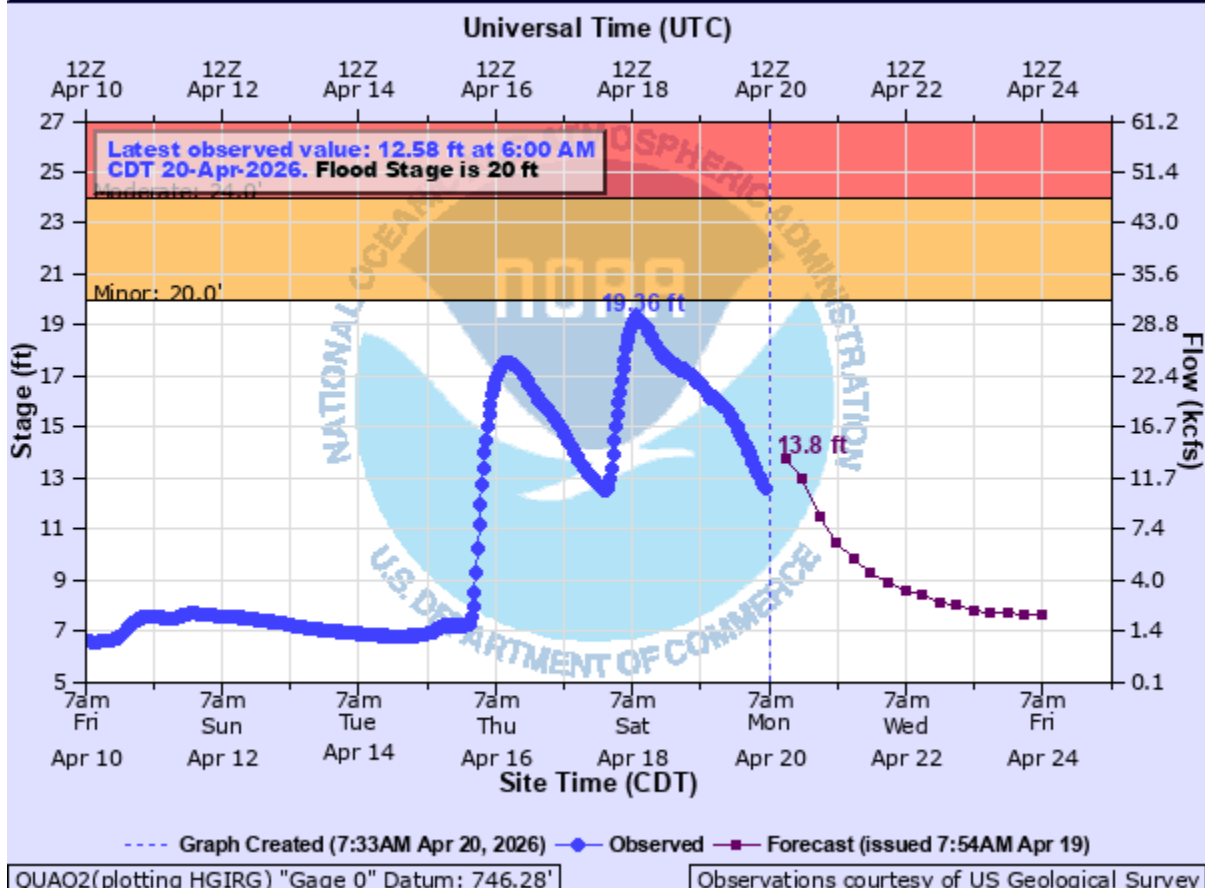


--- Graph Created (7:52AM Apr 21, 2026) —●— Observed —■— Forecast (issued 7:38PM Apr 20)

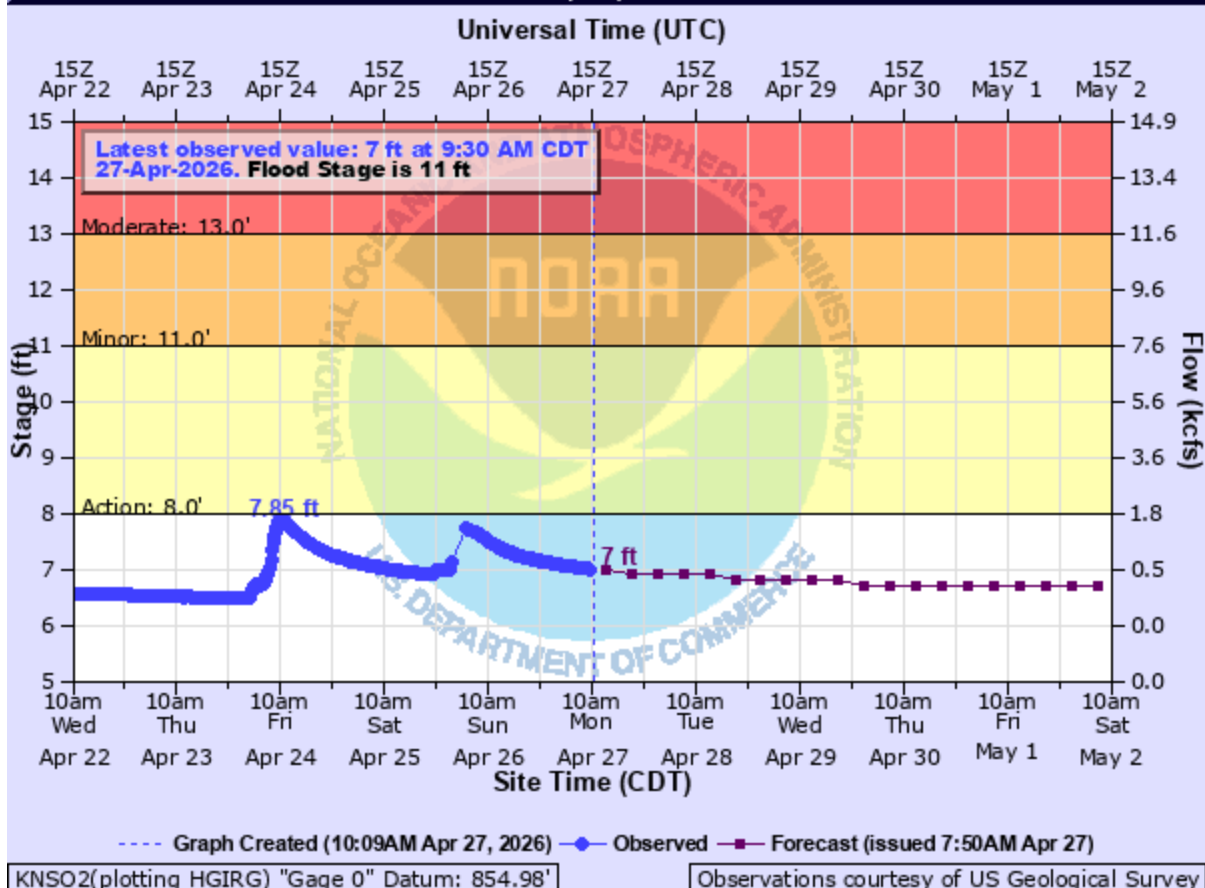
COMO2(plotting HGIRG) "Gage 0" Datum: 749.1'

Observations courtesy of US Geological Survey

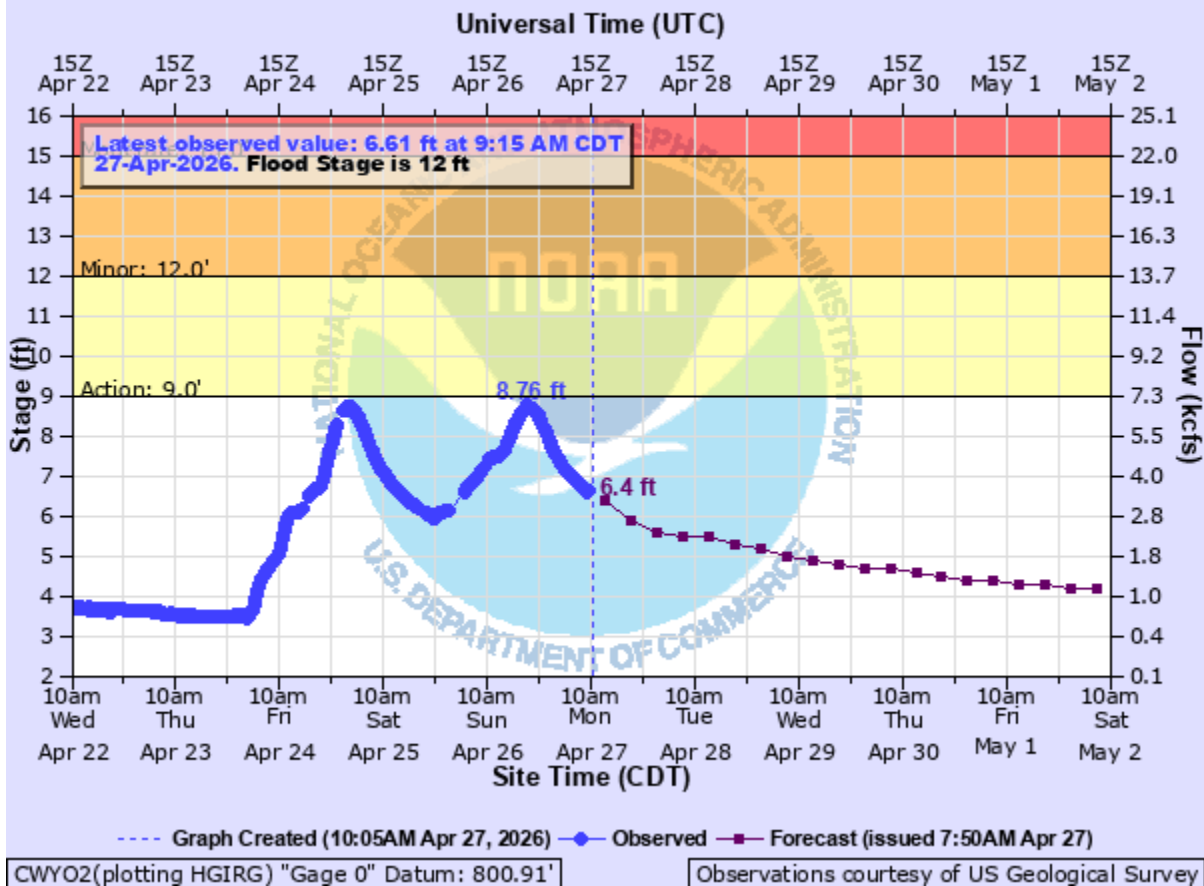
SPRING RIVER NEAR QUAPAW



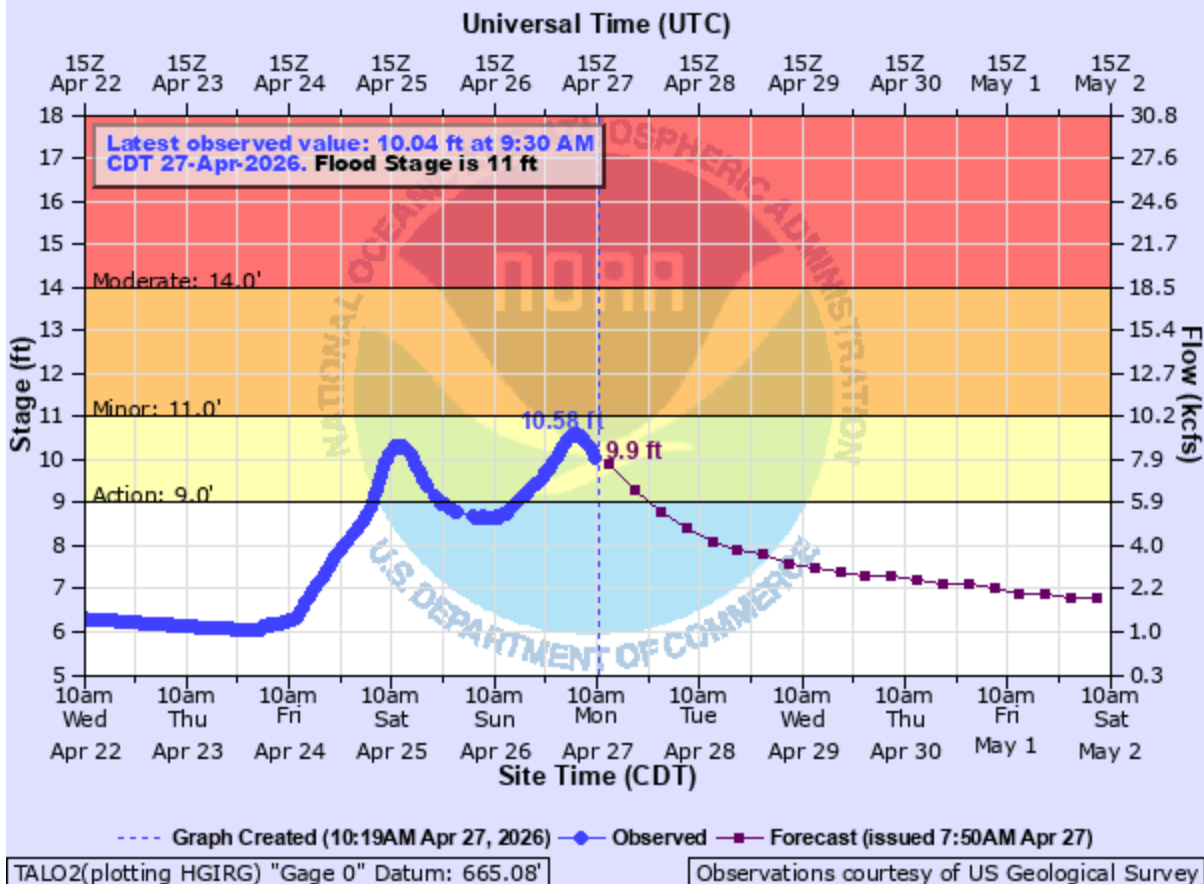
FLINT CREEK (OK) NEAR KANSAS



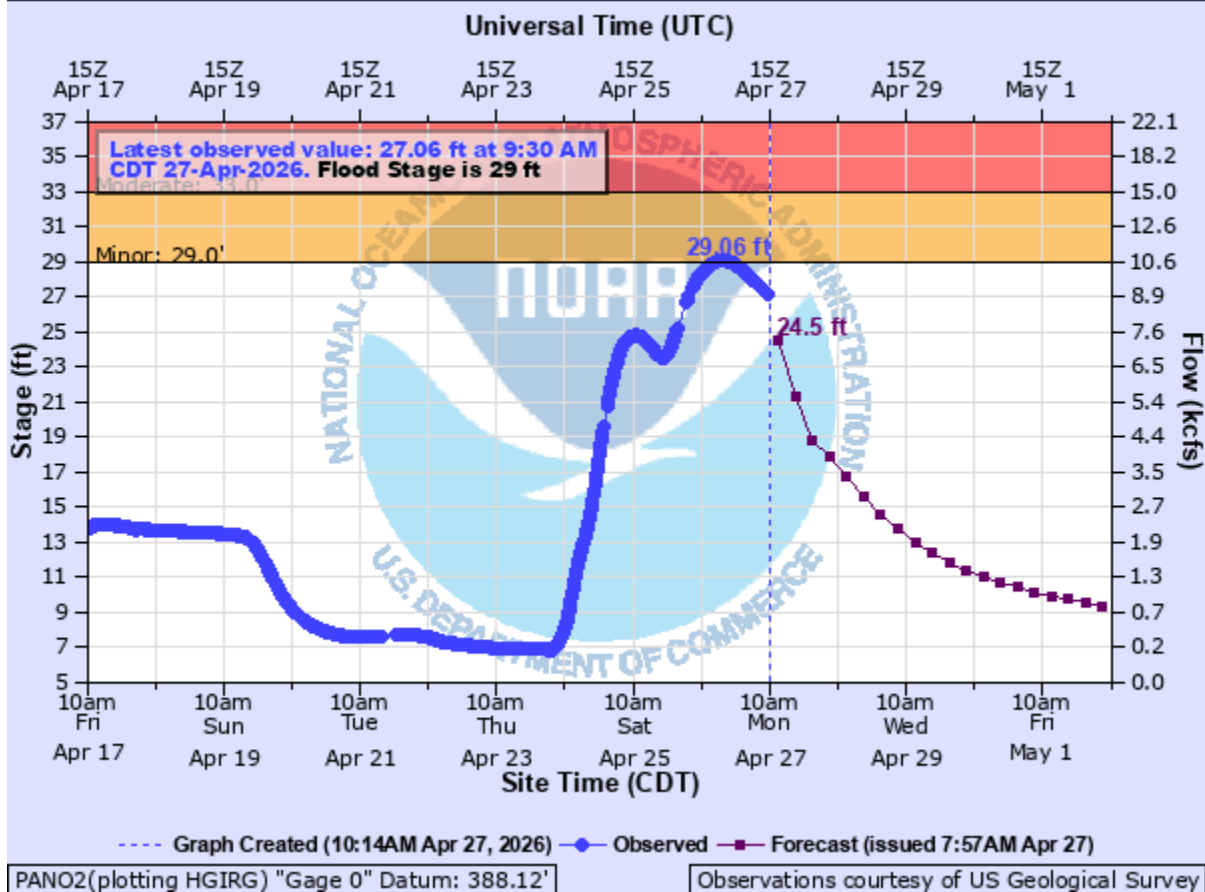
ILLINOIS RIVER (AR OK) AT CHEWEY



ILLINOIS RIVER (AR OK) NEAR TAHLEQUAH



POTEAU RIVER NEAR PANAMA



ILLINOIS RIVER (AR OK) NEAR TAHLEQUAH

