

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 August 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 September 14, 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.

With the exception of a couple of isolated locations, August 2026 received well below normal rainfall and well above normal temperatures across eastern OK and northwest AR. Drought conditions rapidly worsened through the month. 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 August 2026 ranged from 0” to around 4.5” across eastern OK and northwest AR, with much of the area receiving 0.25”-1.5”. These rainfall totals correspond to 0% to 130% of the normal August rainfall with most of the area receiving less than 50% of normal (Fig. 1b).

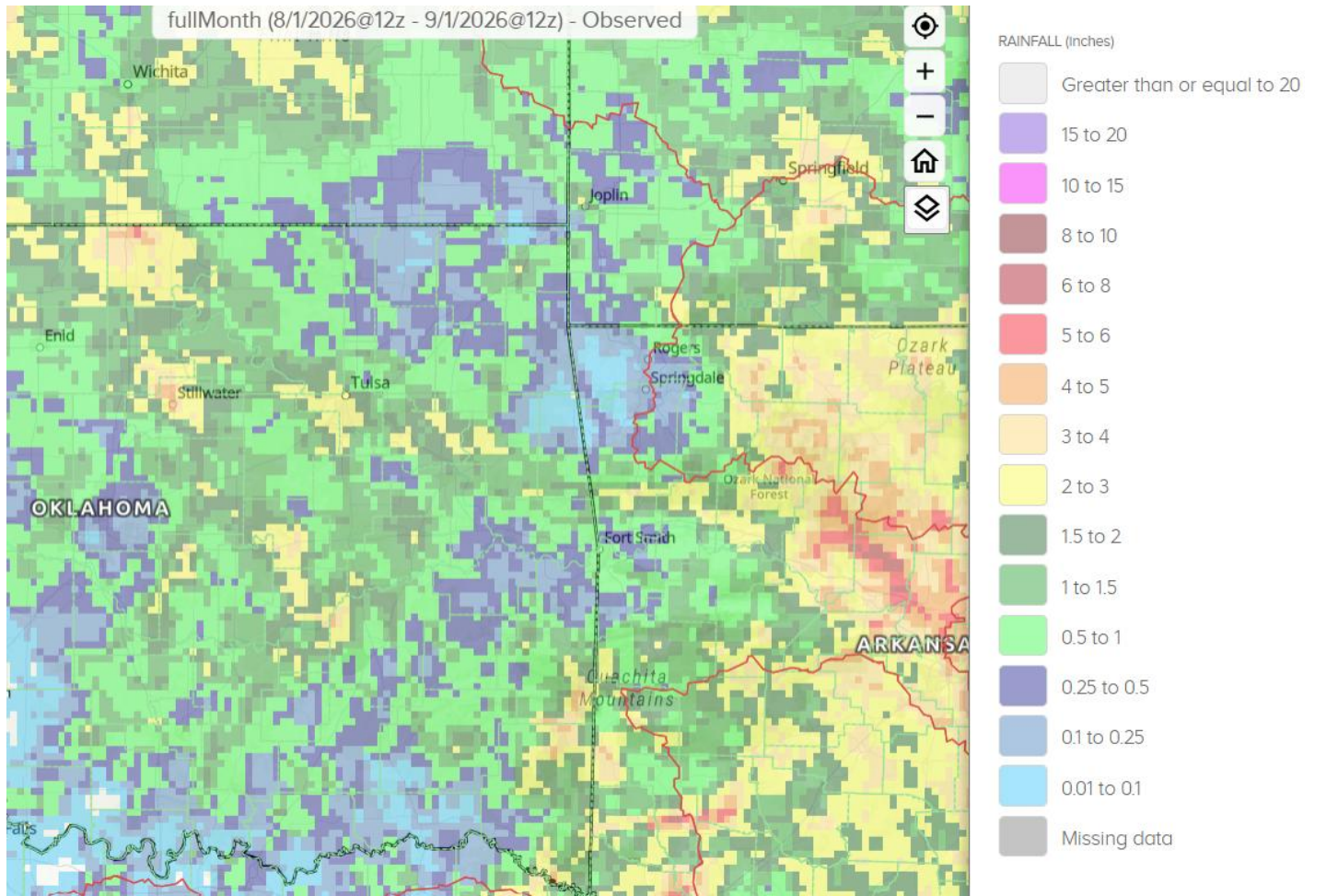


Fig. 1a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for August 2026

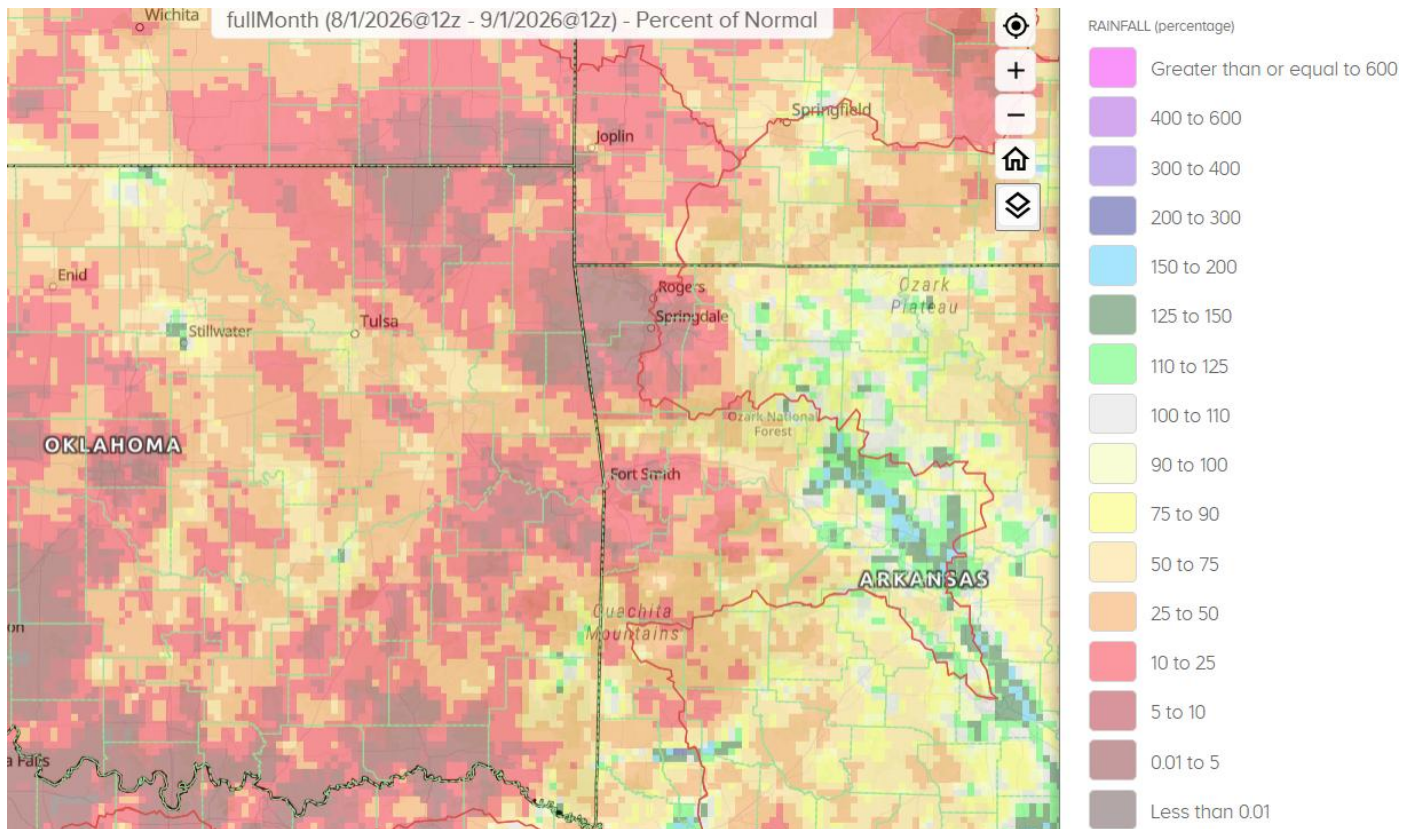


Fig. 1b. Estimated % of Normal Rainfall for August 2026

In Tulsa, OK, August 2026 ranked as the 5th warmest August (87.6°F, tied 2011; since records began in 1905) and the 12th driest August (0.50"; since records began in 1888). Fort Smith, AR had the 3rd warmest August (88.0°F; since records began in 1882) and the 6th driest August (0.26"; since records began in 1882). Fayetteville, AR had the Record warmest (83.8°F, previous record 83.3°F in 1980) and the 3rd driest (0.25") August since records began in 1949.

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

Mountainburg 2NE, AR (coop)	3.97	Metalton 3.5W, AR (coco)	3.57	Berryville 6.5NW, AR (coco)	3.23
Green Forest 7NNE, AR (coop)	3.11	Tulsa 6.3WSW, OK (coco)	2.68	Jenks Riverside Arpt, OK (ASOS)	2.41
Tulsa 8.9SW, OK (coco)	2.38	Oakhurst 3.5SSE, OK (coco)	2.38	Kingston 2S, AR (coop)	2.23

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

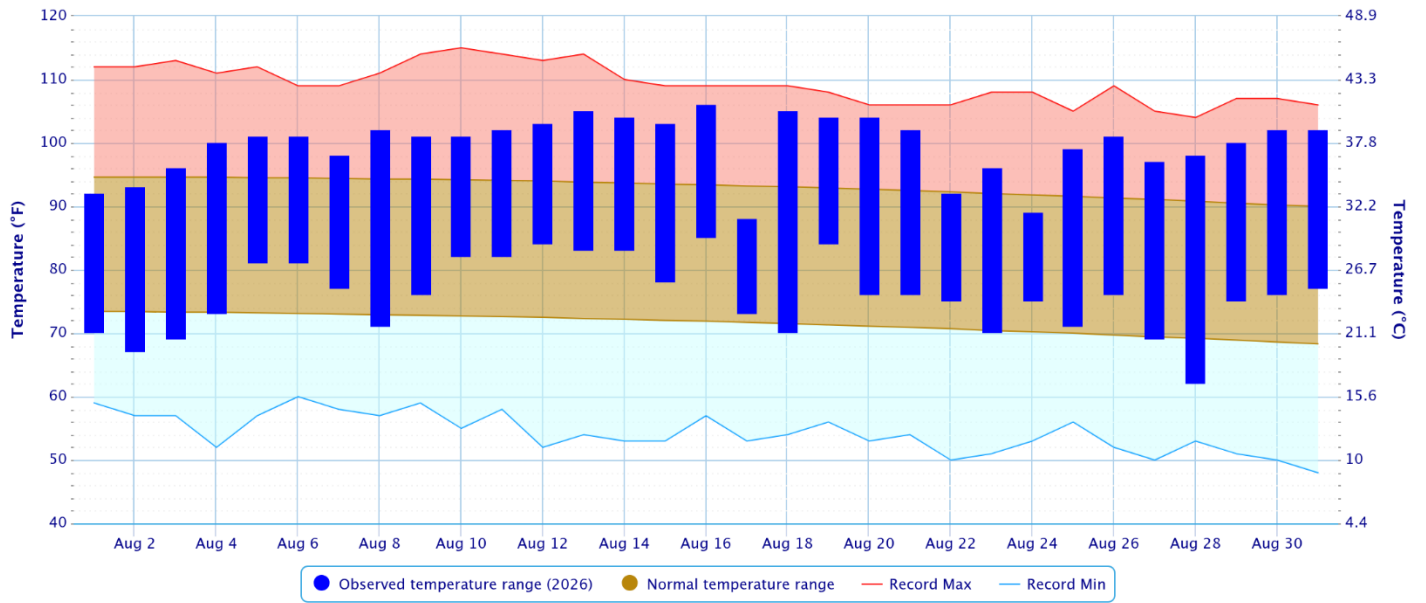
Antlers, OK (coop)	0.00	Greenwood 0.9S, AR (coco)	0.00	McAlester, OK (ASOS)	Trace
Springdale 6.4WSW, AR (coco)	0.02	NW AR Regional Arpt (ASOS)	0.03	Westville, OK (meso)	0.05
Bentonville, AR (AWOS)	0.06	Rogers 2.4SSW, AR (coco)	0.07	Nowata, OK (meso)	0.07

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

Rank since 1921	Last 30 Days (Aug 2 – 31)	Summer 2026 (Jun 1 – Aug 31)	Growing Season-to-Date (Mar 1 – Aug 31)	Last 60 Days (Jul 3 – Aug 31)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Aug 31)	Water Year-to-Date (Oct 1, 2025 – Aug 31, 2026)	Last 365 Days (Sep 1, 2025 – Aug 31, 2026)
Northeast OK	3rd driest	31 st wettest	30 th wettest	10th driest	48 th wettest	47 th driest	40 th driest
East Central OK	12 th driest	45 th wettest	43 rd wettest	20 th driest	51 st driest	33 rd driest	24 th driest
Southeast OK	8th driest	43 rd wettest	51 st wettest	13 th driest	39 th driest	21 st driest	19 th driest
Statewide	5th driest	41 st driest	29 th driest	7th driest	26 th driest	14 th driest	9th driest

Daily Temperature Data – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

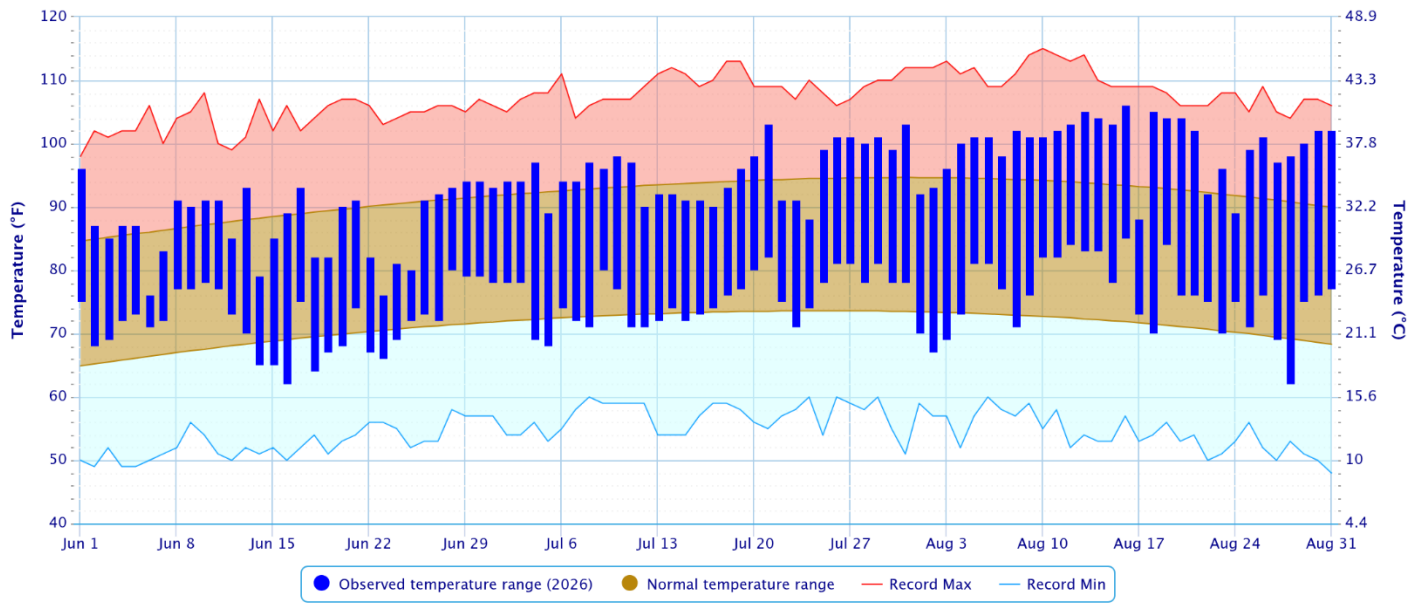
Period of Record – 1905-01-06 to 2026-09-03. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Daily Temperature Data – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

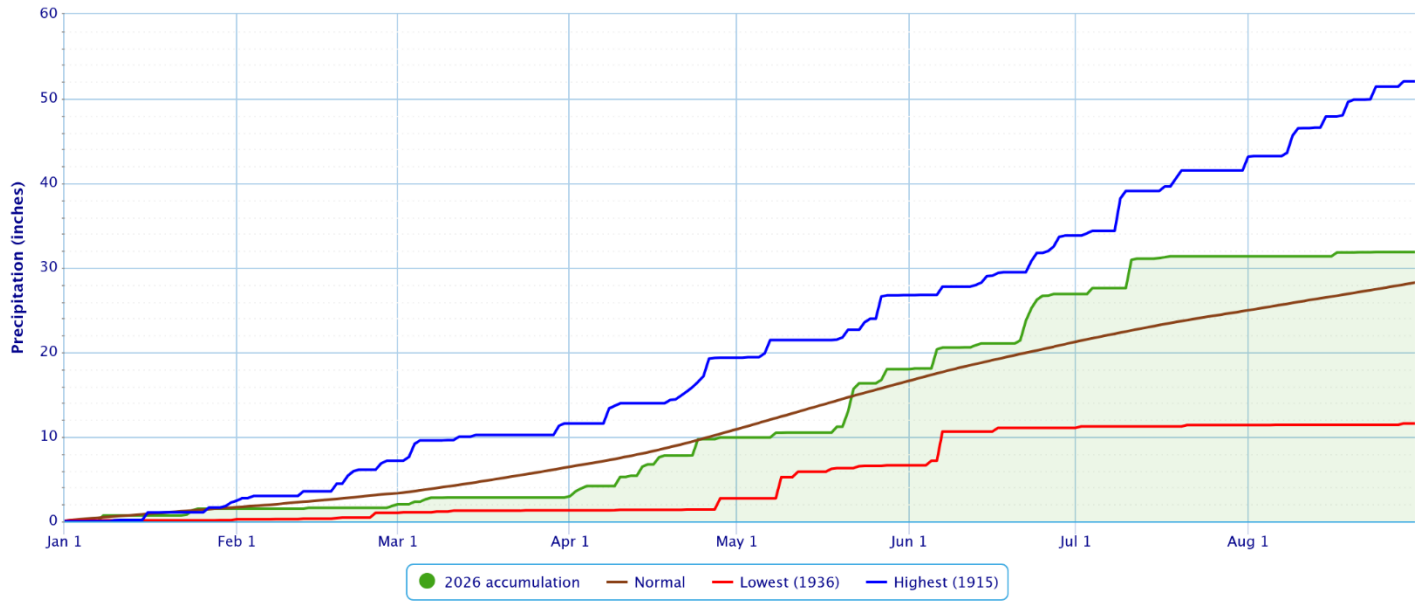
Period of Record – 1905-01-06 to 2026-09-03. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Accumulated Precipitation – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

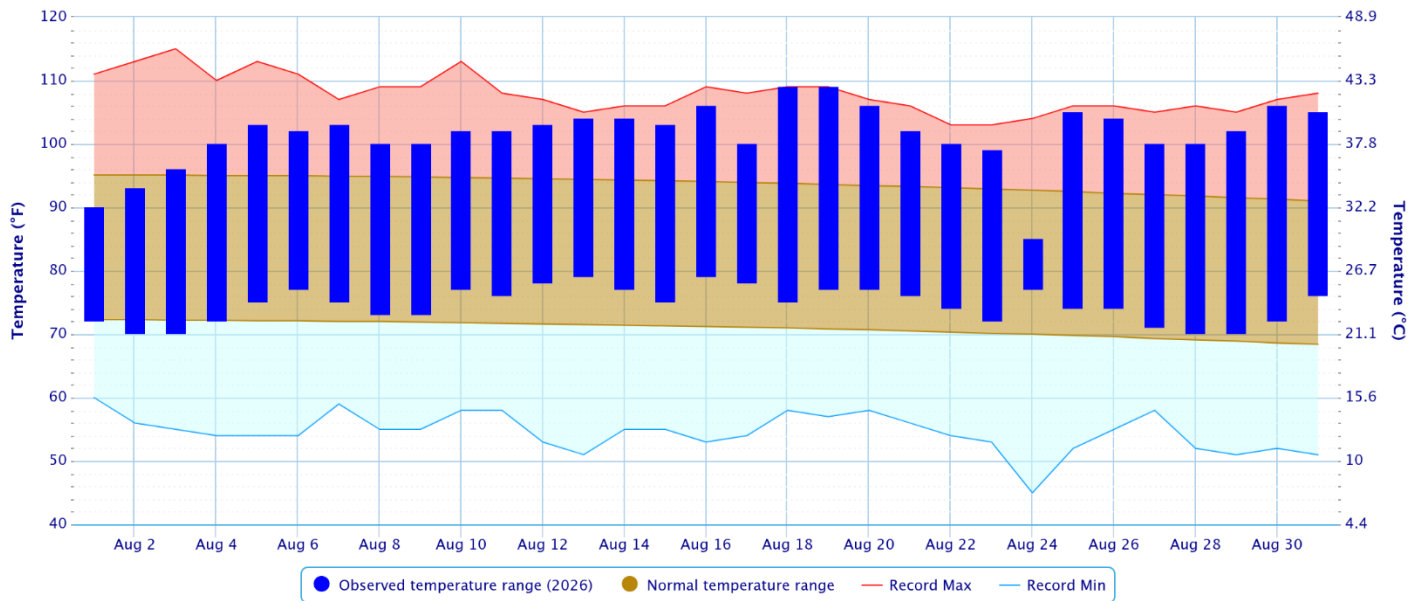
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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

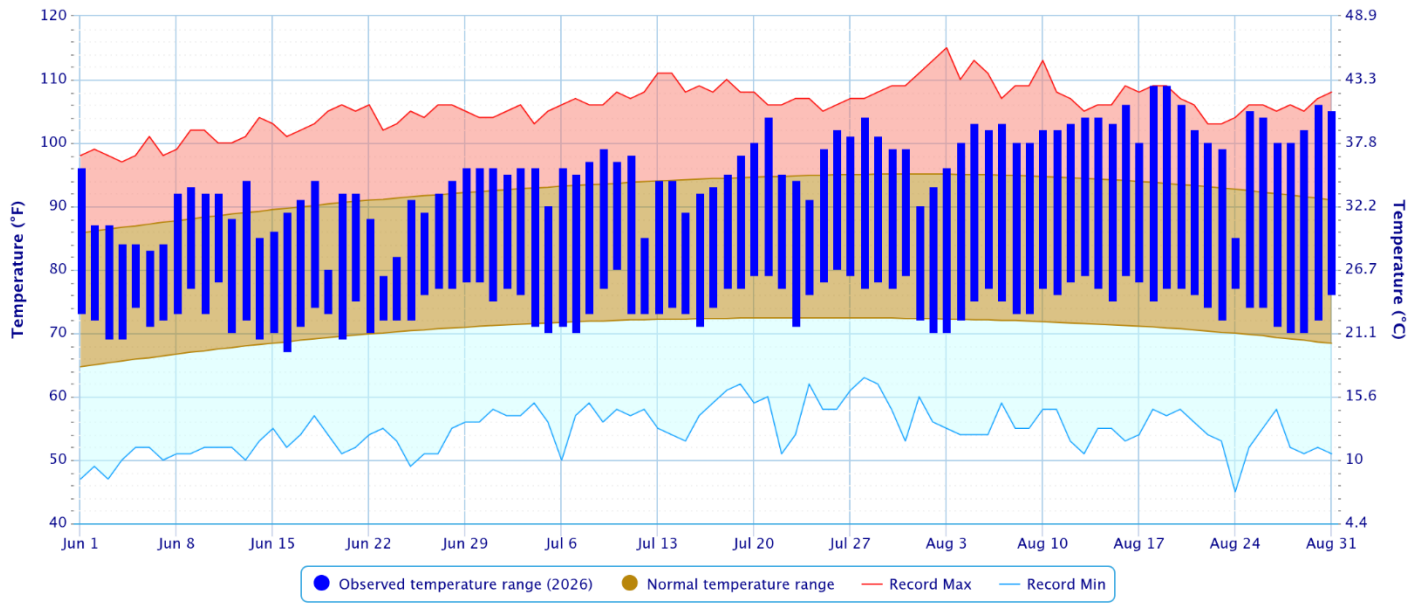
Period of Record – 1882-06-01 to 2026-09-03. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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

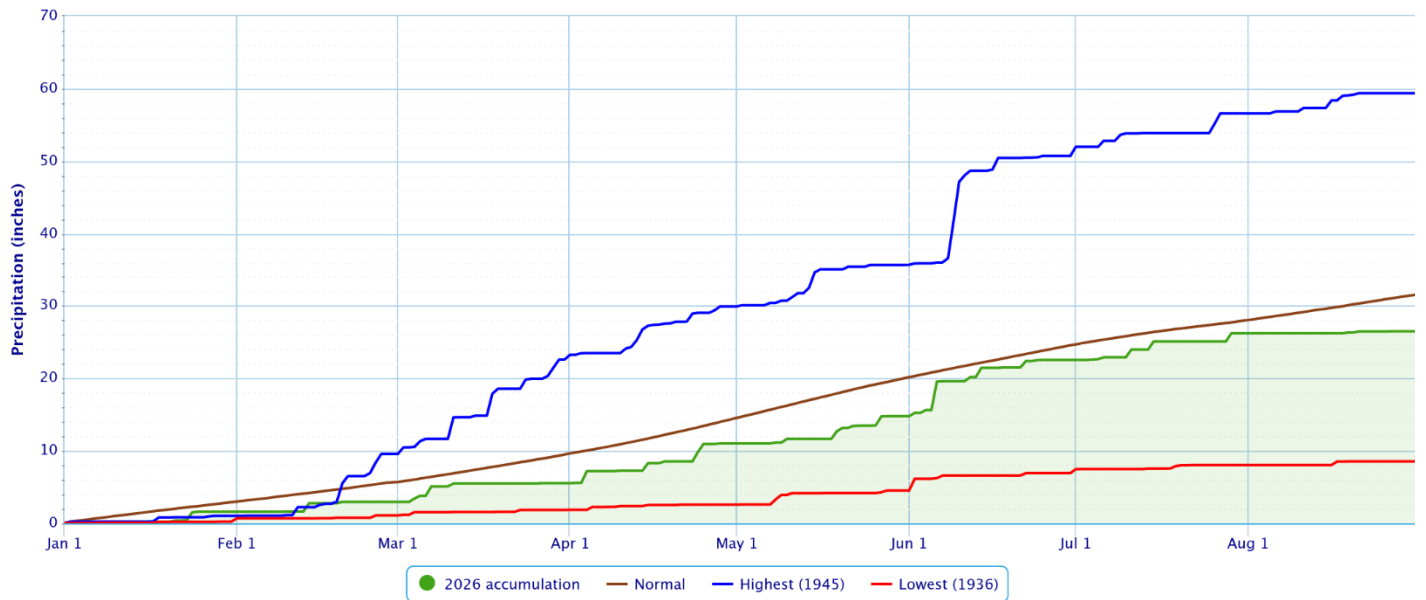
Period of Record – 1882–06–01 to 2026–09–03. Normals period: 1991–2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Accumulated Precipitation – Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

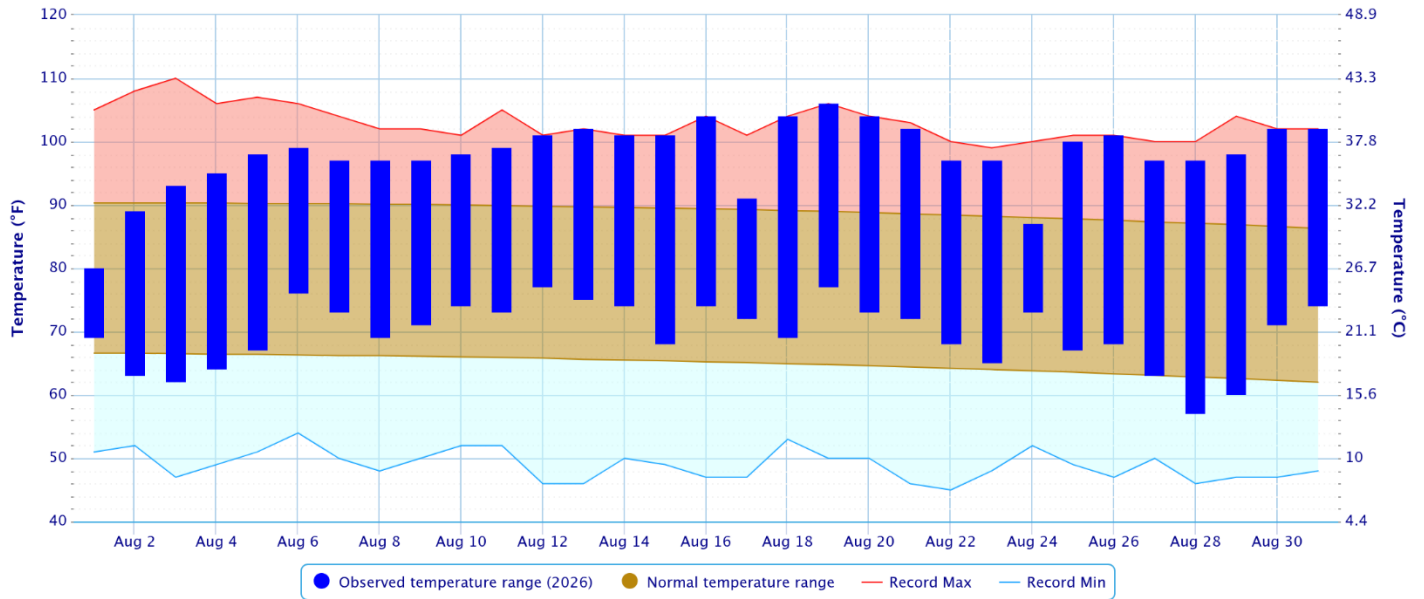
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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Daily Temperature Data – FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

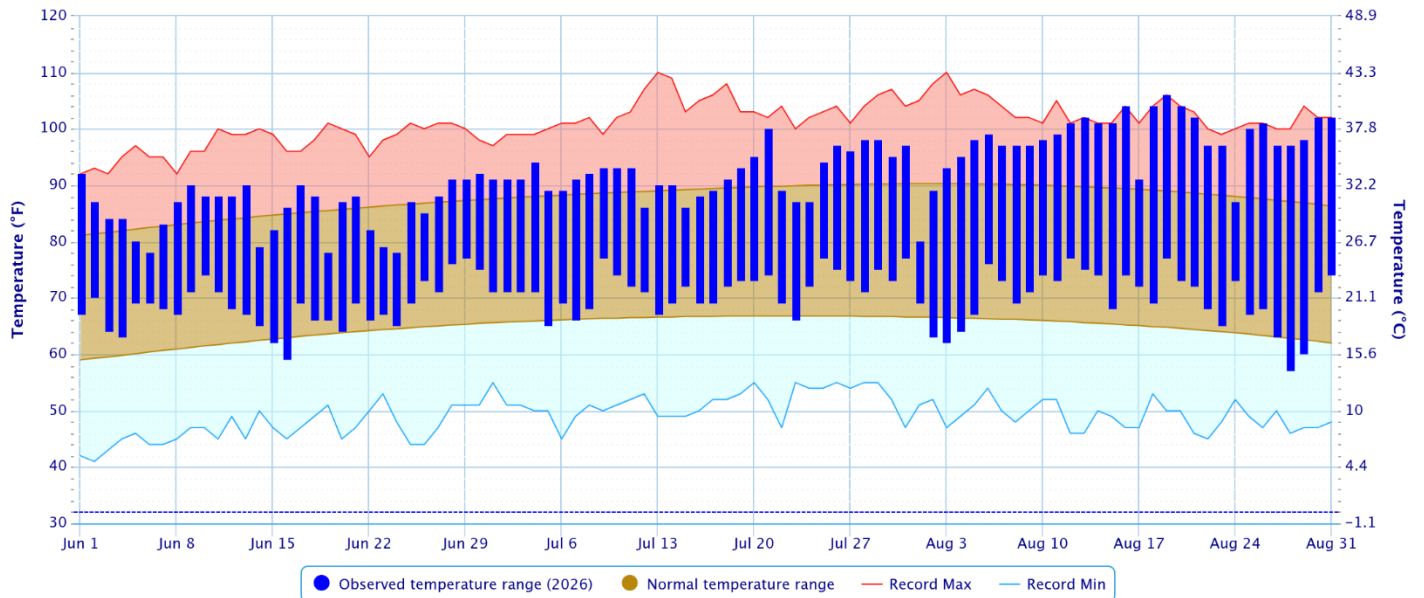
Period of Record – 1949-07-14 to 2026-09-03. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Daily Temperature Data – FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

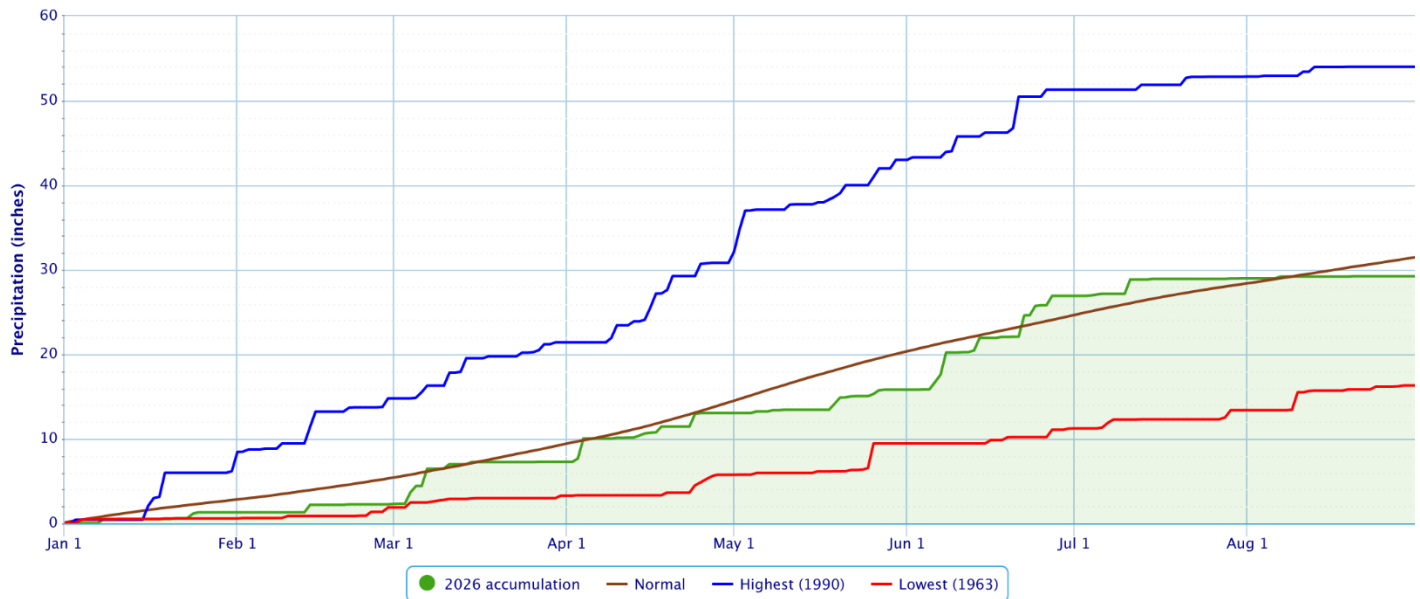
Period of Record – 1949-07-14 to 2026-09-03. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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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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Notable Statistics in August 2026

Fort Smith, AR (records began in 1882)

- Record number of days (26) in August with maximum temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (previous record 24 days in 2000)
- 2nd highest number of consecutive days $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ with 19 consecutive days ending 8/22/2026 (record is 35 consecutive days ending 8/08/2011)
- 2nd warmest August average maximum temperature with 101.4°F in August 2026 (record warmest is 101.5°F in 2000)

Fayetteville, AR (records began in 1949)

- Tied 1954 with the record number of days (13) in August with maximum temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$
- 5th highest number of consecutive days $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ with 5 consecutive days ending 8/16/2026 (tied with ending dates 8/03/2011, 9/03/2000, 8/02/1980)
- Record warmest August average maximum temperature with 97.9°F in August 2026 (previous record warmest was 97.1°F in 1980)
- Record warmest August with 83.8°F in August 2026 (previous record 83.3°F in 1980)

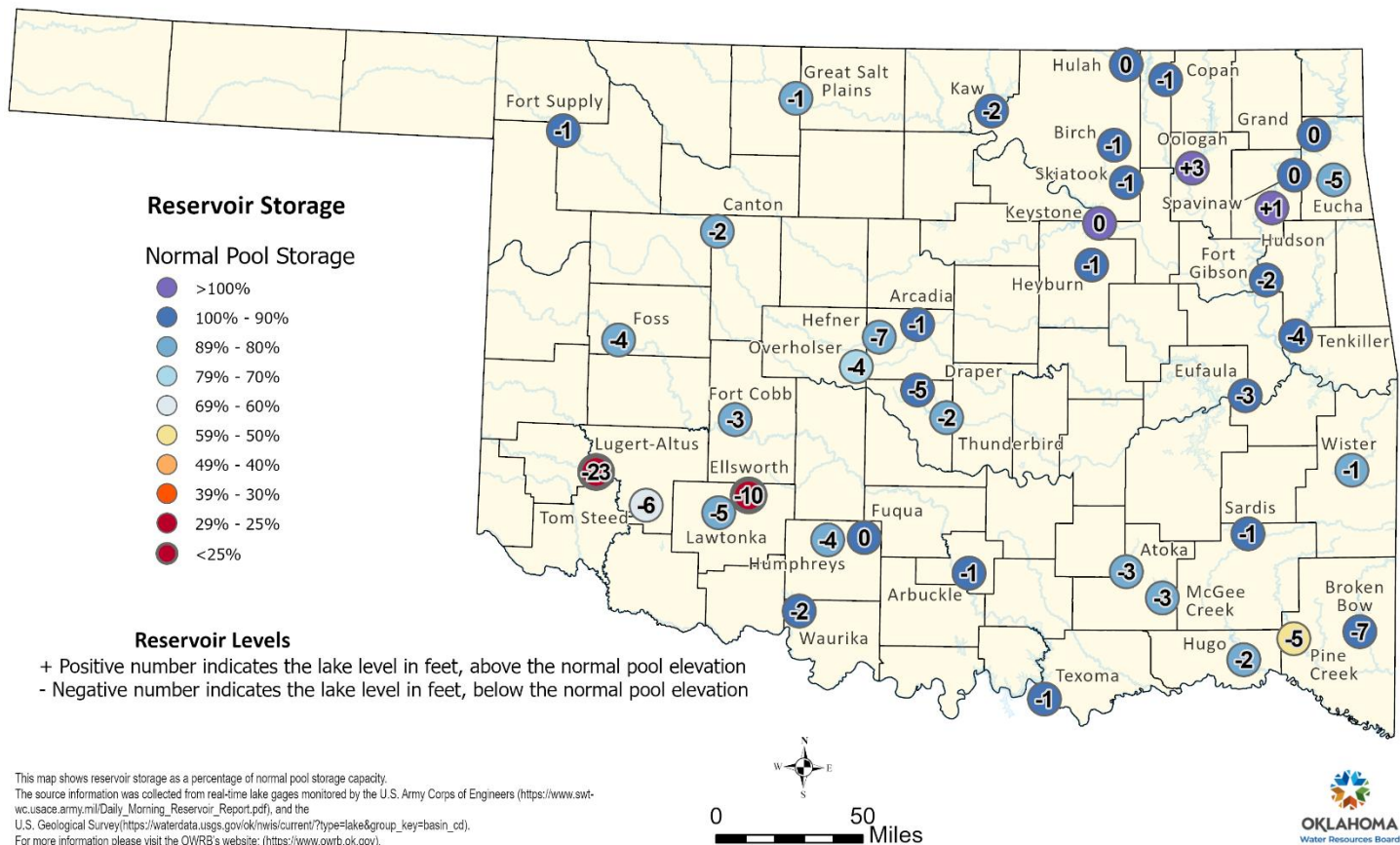
McAlester, OK (records began in 1953)

- Record number of days (26) in August with maximum temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (previous record 24 days in 1956)
- Record warmest August average maximum temperature with 102.5°F in August 2026 (previous record warmest was 102.0°F in 2011 and 1956)
- Record driest August with a Trace of rain in August 2026 (previous record 0.04" in 2000)

Numerous daily record warm maximum temperatures, record warm minimum temperatures, and record warm mean temperatures at Tulsa, McAlester, Fayetteville, and Fort Smith.

Reservoirs

Oklahoma Reservoir Levels and Storage as of 9/2/2026



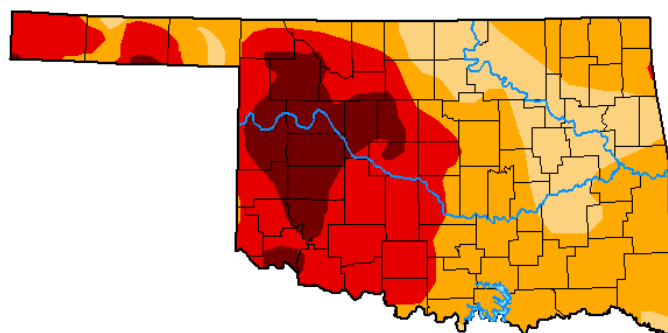
According to the USACE, a couple of lakes in the HSA were above 3% of the top of their conservation pools as of 9/01/2026: Oologah Lake 9% and Hudson Lake 6%. Several lakes were below 3% of the top of their conservation pools: Ft. Gibson Lake 38%, Hugo Lake 80%, Wister Lake 84%, Heyburn Lake 85%, Beaver Lake 85%, Tenkiller Lake 88%, Birch Lake 92%, Copan Lake 93%, Kaw Lake 93%, Sardis Lake 93%, Hulah Lake 95%, and Skiatook Lake 96%.

Drought

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) (USDM) from September 1, 2026 (Figs. 2, 3), Extreme (D3) Drought conditions had developed in portions of Benton, Washington, Crawford, Sebastian, and Franklin Counties in northwest AR, and in a small sliver of Delaware County in eastern OK. Severe (D2) Drought conditions existed in portions of Ottawa, Delaware, Mayes, Rogers, Craig, Nowata, Washington, Osage, Pawnee, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Pittsburg, McIntosh, Muskogee, Haskell, Sequoyah, Adair, Le Flore, Latimer, Pushmataha, and Choctaw Counties in eastern OK, and Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington, Crawford, Sebastian, and Franklin Counties in northwest AR. Moderate (D1) Drought conditions were present in a portion of Osage, Pawnee, Tulsa, Washington, Creek, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, Latimer, Haskell, McIntosh, Muskogee, Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes, Cherokee, Delaware, Adair, and Sequoyah Counties in eastern OK, and Carroll and Madison Counties in northwest AR. All of eastern OK and northwest AR was experiencing drought conditions; therefore, there are no areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) but not in drought conditions.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

September 1, 2026
(Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 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	81.88	40.73	12.64
Last Week 08-25-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	70.53	39.97	12.06
3 Months Ago 06-02-2026	0.69	99.31	80.76	45.54	38.42	9.21
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 09-02-2025	81.67	18.33	0.72	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:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center

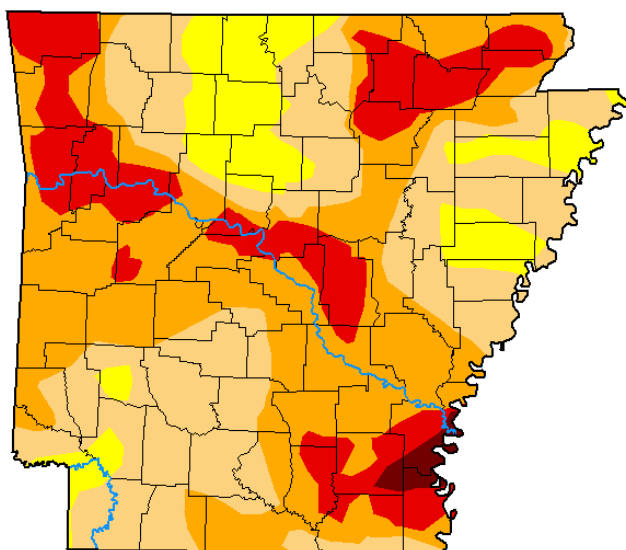


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Fig. 2. Drought Monitor for Oklahoma

U.S. Drought Monitor Arkansas

September 1, 2026
(Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 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	88.17	54.09	17.94	0.99
Last Week 08-25-2026	0.00	100.00	84.90	46.82	13.28	0.99
3 Months Ago 06-02-2026	0.11	99.89	97.47	80.77	42.91	6.19
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 09-02-2025	5.83	94.17	47.04	6.92	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>

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Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



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Fig. 3. Drought Monitor for Arkansas

Summer (June-July-August) Summary

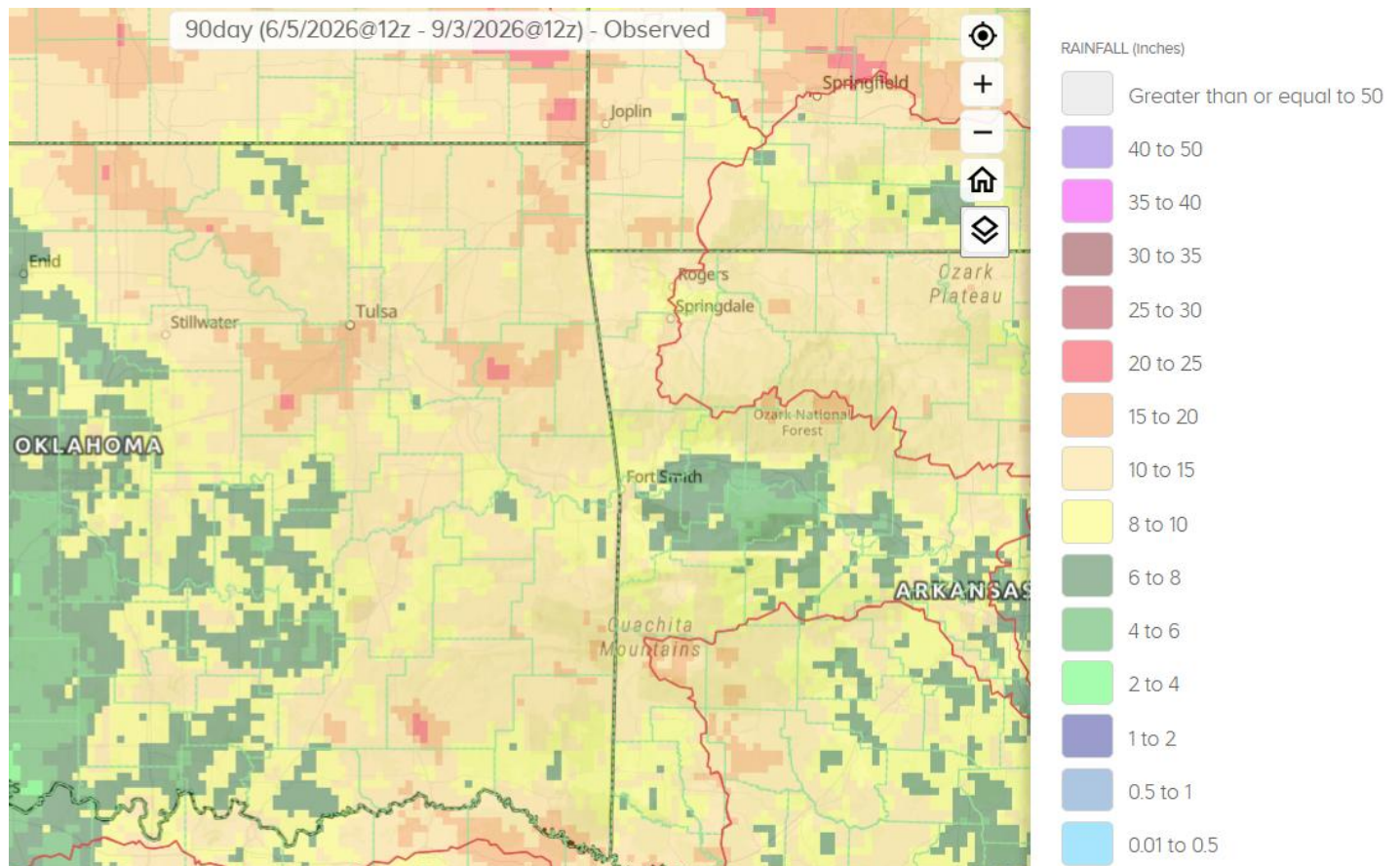


Fig. 4a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for 90 days ending 7am 9/03/2026

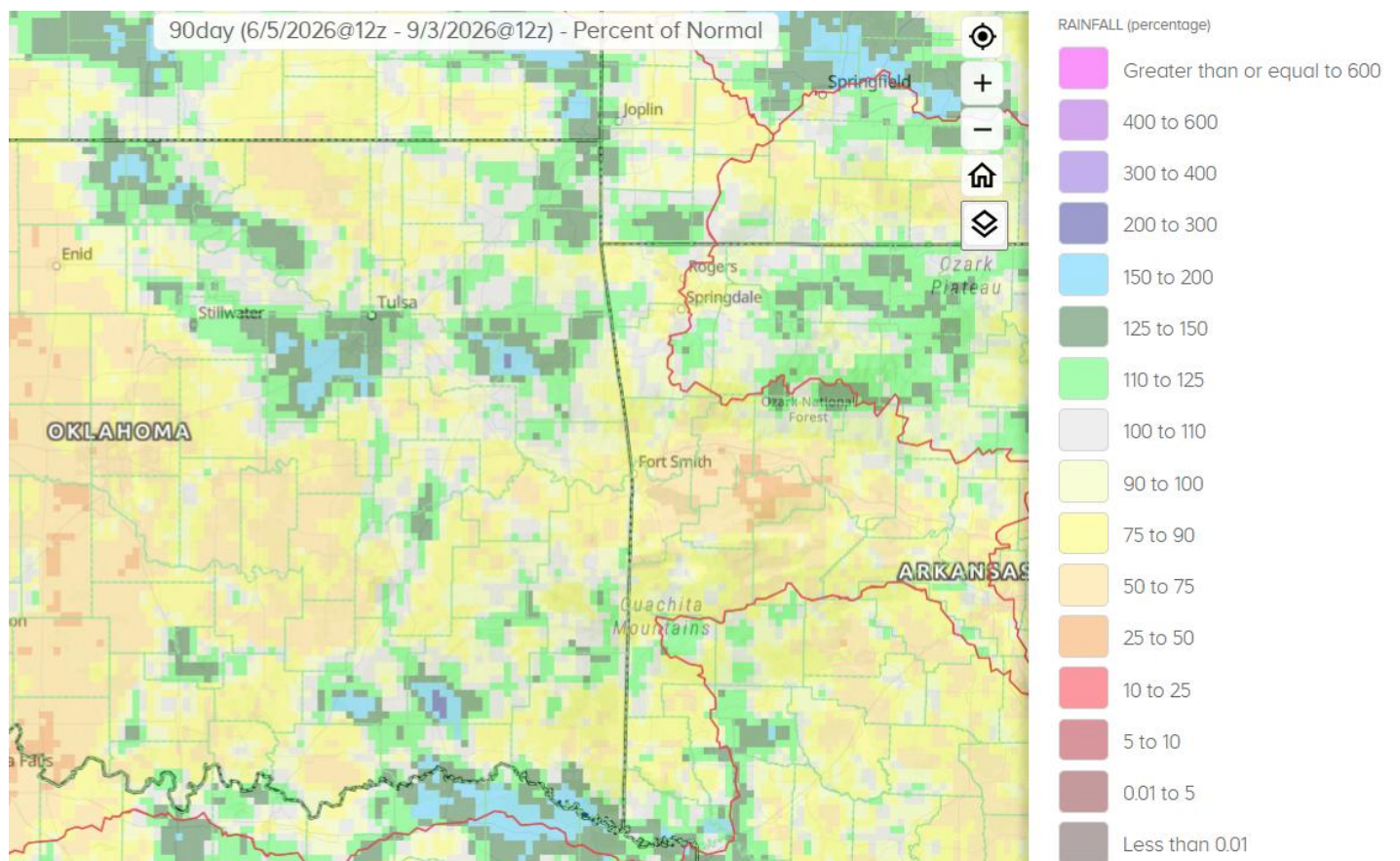


Fig. 4b. Estimated % of Normal Rainfall for 90 days ending 7am 9/03/2026

Using the radar-derived estimated observed precipitation from the RFCs (Fig. 4a), rainfall totals for the 90-day period June 5-September 3, 2026 ranged from 5.5" to 23.5" across eastern OK and northwest AR, with much of the area receiving 8"-15". These rainfall totals correspond to 50% to 230% of the normal 90-day rainfall for this time period, with most of the area receiving 75% to 110% of normal (Fig. 4b).

In Tulsa, OK, Summer 2026 ranked as the 7th warmest Summer (84.2°F, tied 2012; since records began in 1905) and the 33rd wettest Summer (13.85"; since records began in 1888). Fort Smith, AR had the 6th warmest Summer (84.9°F; since records began in 1882) and the 51st wettest Summer (11.73"; since records began in 1882). Fayetteville, AR had the 4th warmest (80.9°F) and the 26th wettest (13.41") Summer since records began in 1950.

Outlooks

The [Climate Prediction Center](#) (CPC) outlook for September 2026 (issued August 31, 2026) indicates an enhanced chance for above normal temperatures across eastern OK and northwest AR. This outlook also indicates an enhanced chance for below median precipitation across most of eastern OK and northwest AR, with the exception of far southeast OK where there is an equal chance for above, near, and below median precipitation. This outlook was based on dynamical and statistical model output, and soil moisture.

For the 3-month period September-October-November 2026, CPC is forecasting an enhanced chance for above normal temperatures and an equal chance for above, near, or below median precipitation (outlook issued August 20, 2026). This outlook is based on long-term trends and ENSO state, and incorporates a suite of statistical and dynamical forecast tools. Despite the strength of this El Niño, its influence on temperatures is seen more strongly during the winter versus the fall. Therefore, temperature trends were relied on more heavily than El Niño for the September-November outlook. There is also a big difference between precipitation trends (drier) compared to El Niño influence (wetter), and with the lag in El Niño impacts, equal chances are outlooked for the next three-month period. According to CPC on September 10, "El Niño is strengthening, with a greater than 90% chance of a very strong event during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2026-27." For the October-December season, there is a 75% chance of an historic event that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950.

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 moved south out of MO and into northwest AR mid-evening of the 6th, with additional thunderstorms developing in far northeast OK along outflow from this activity. These storms moved to the south through the rest of the evening before dissipating shortly after midnight. Rainfall totals in the affected areas ranged from 0.10" to around 2.5" (Fig. 5).

Around sunrise on the 7th, showers and thunderstorms moved south out of KS and into northeast OK. Most of this activity quickly dissipated, though some thunderstorms continued due to redevelopment along an outflow boundary. By afternoon, numerous outflow boundaries remained across the area and a compact area of low pressure with a vorticity maximum was sliding southeast out of KS and into far northeast OK. Combined with the hot surface conditions, isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms developed and affected portions of eastern OK and northwest AR through the afternoon and evening hours. After midnight, a few storms remained through 4am across eastern Carroll and eastern Madison Counties in northwest AR. Rainfall totals were 0.10" to 3.25" (Fig. 6).

A thunderstorm complex from north central OK moved east into northeast OK around sunrise on the 17th and continued to quickly trek east-southeast across eastern OK and west central AR through the morning hours. While the strongest activity moved east of the area around noon, some lingering showers continued for another couple of hours. Additional isolated showers and thunderstorms developed over eastern OK and northwest AR during the afternoon and evening hours, but this activity quickly dissipated with the loss of daytime heating. Around midnight, showers and thunderstorms developed in the Arkansas River Valley of west central AR due to the combination of a low-level moisture axis, leftover boundary from earlier convection, and a weak low-level jet axis interacting with a weak mid-level wave in this area. These storms then dissipated before sunrise on the 18th. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.10" to around 2" (Fig. 7).

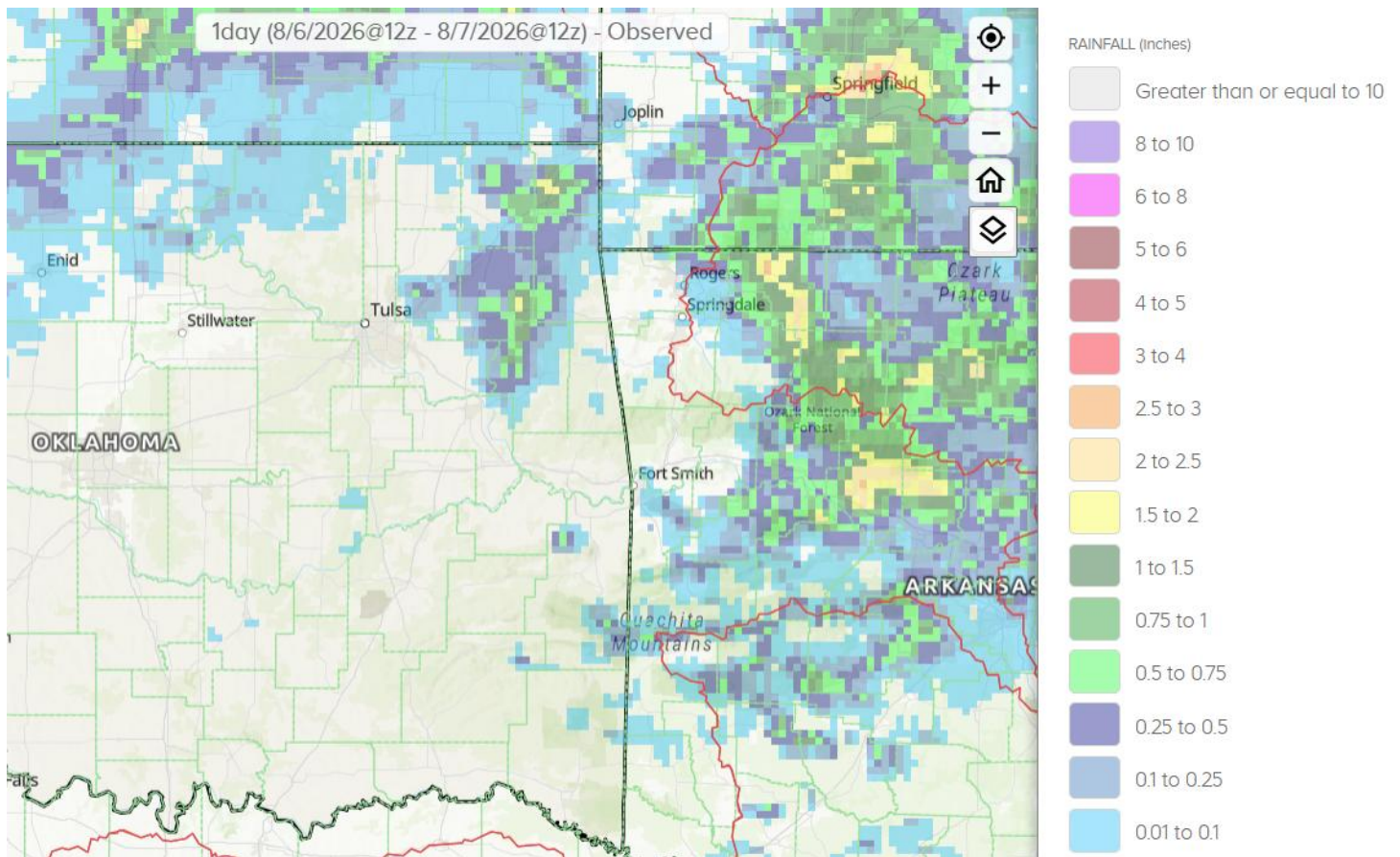


Fig. 5. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 08/07/2026.

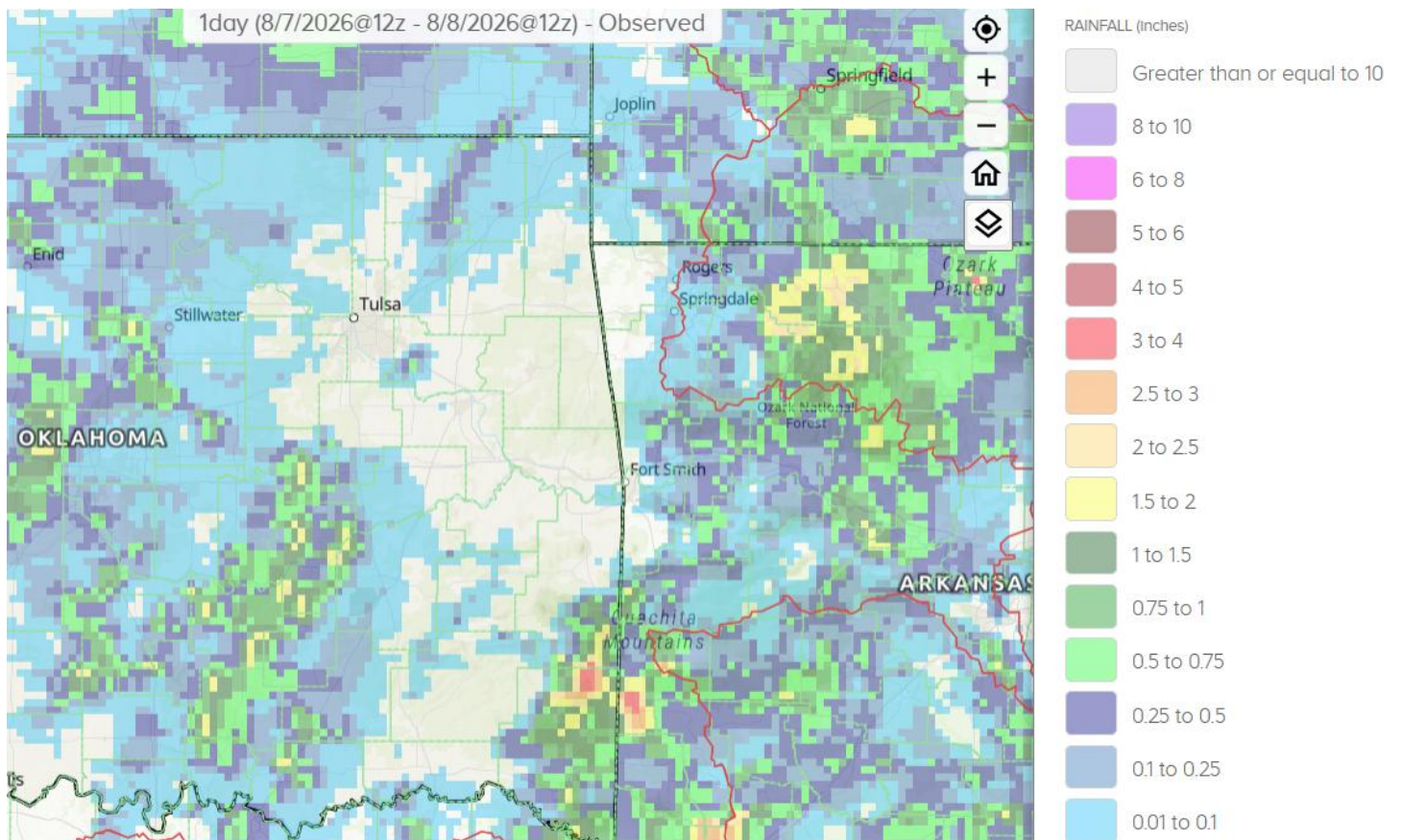


Fig. 6. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 08/08/2026.

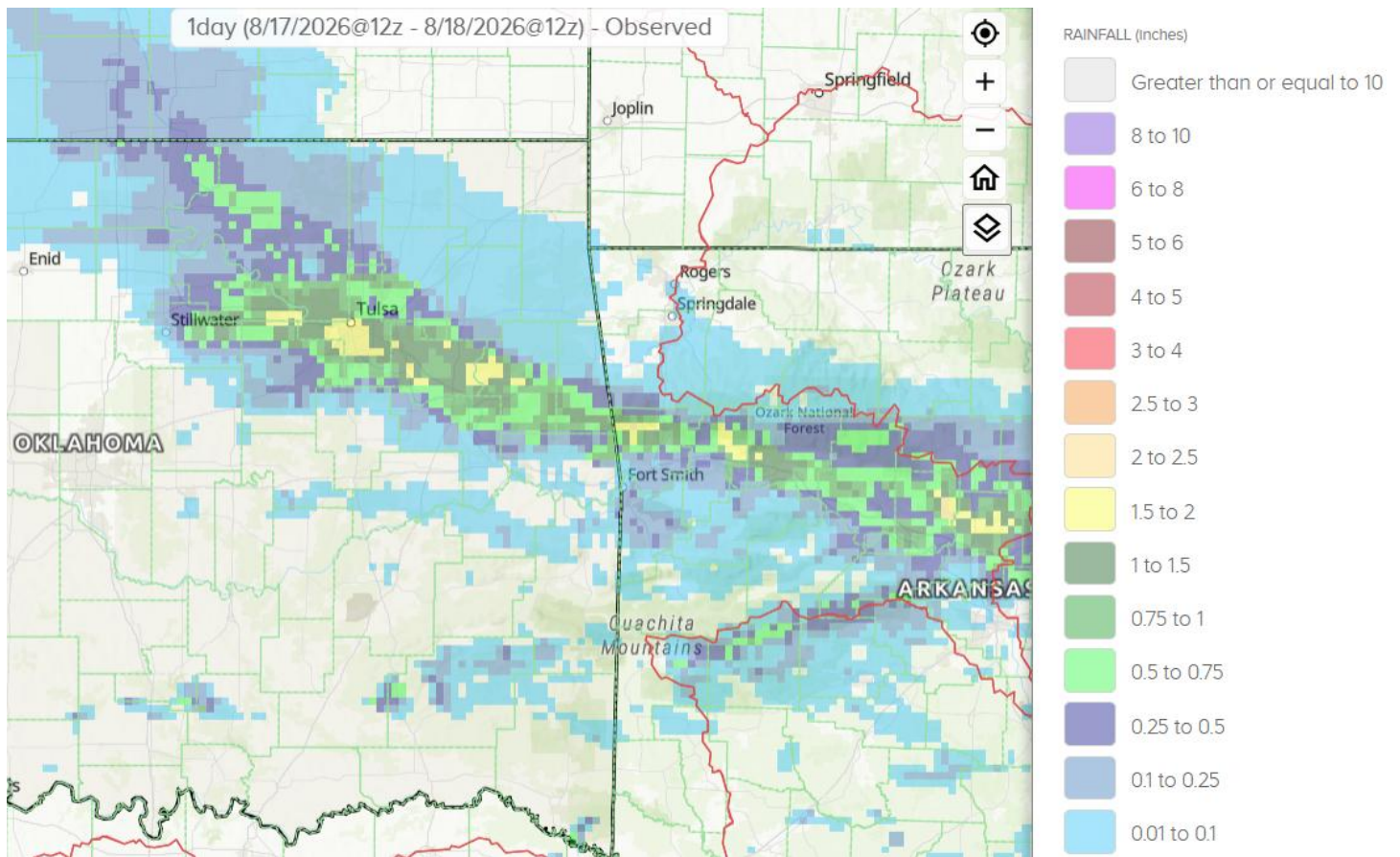


Fig. 7. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 08/18/2026.

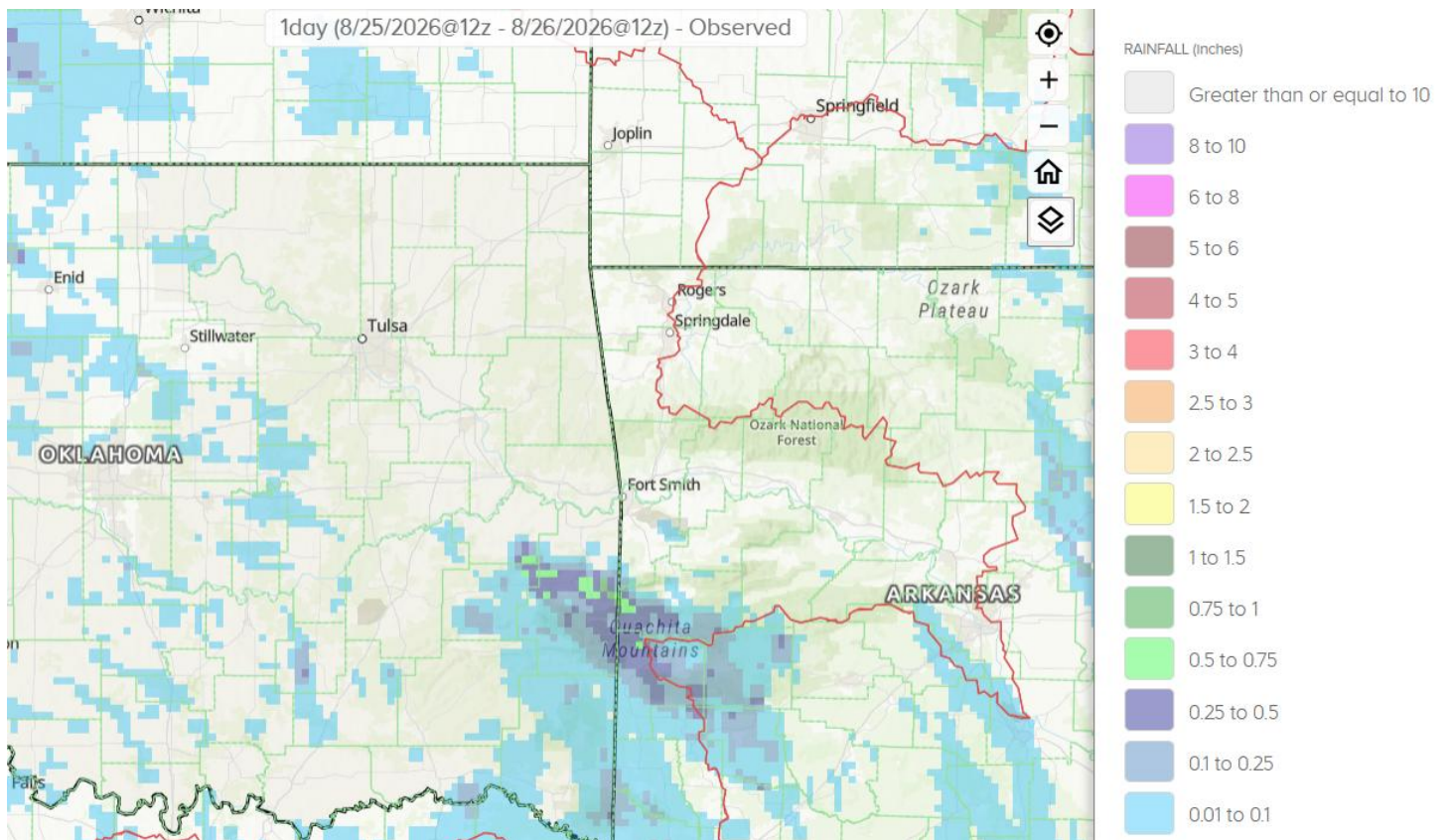


Fig. 8. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 08/26/2026.

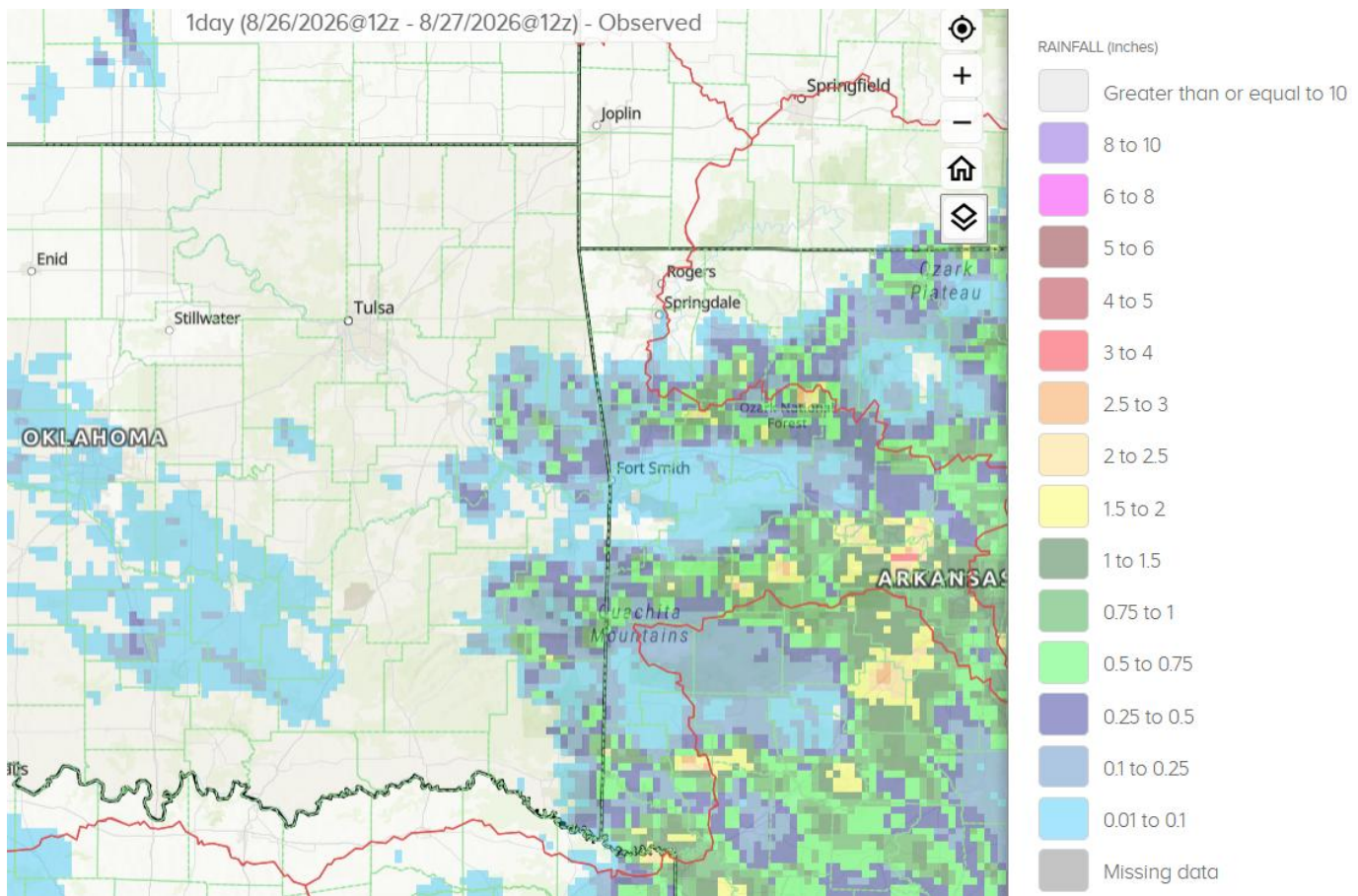


Fig. 9. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 08/27/2026.

During the early morning hours of the 26th, showers and thunderstorms developed over southeast OK as a weak area of vorticity and a 20-30 kt low-level jet interacted with a nearly stationary surface boundary draped across southeast OK into west central AR. This activity continued through mid-morning before shifting south of the area. By mid-afternoon, convection renewed across east central and southeast OK and northwest AR near the boundary as a mesoscale convective vortex (MCV) moved through the region. This convection was more intense and widespread than the morning storms, but moved off to the east fairly quickly. By mid-evening, the convection had come to an end. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.25" to 2.5" (Figs. 8-9).

Written by:

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WFO Tulsa

Products issued in August 2026:

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

Preliminary Hydrographs: None