

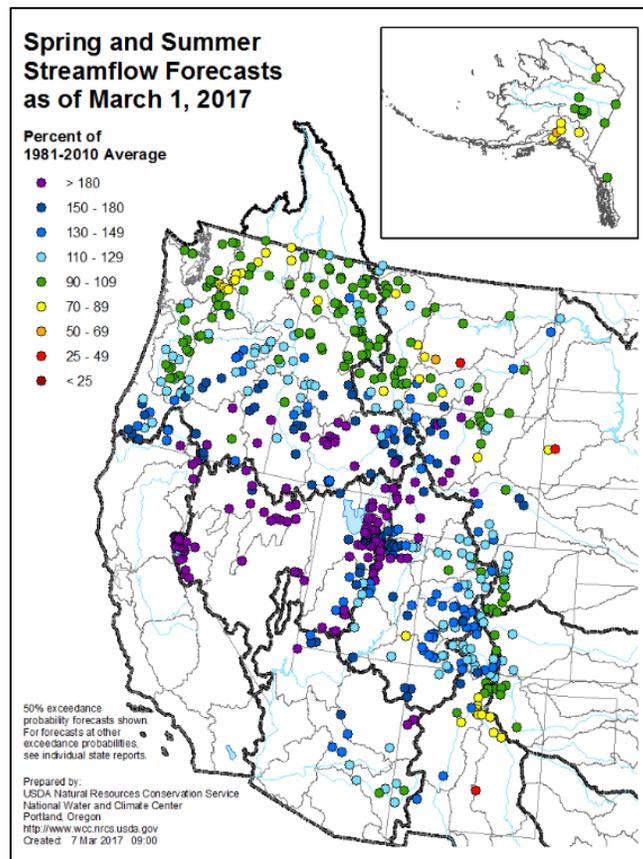
# Water and Climate Update

March 9, 2017

The Natural Resources Conservation Service produces this weekly report using data and products from the [National Water and Climate Center](#) and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

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## Current water supply forecast above average for much of West



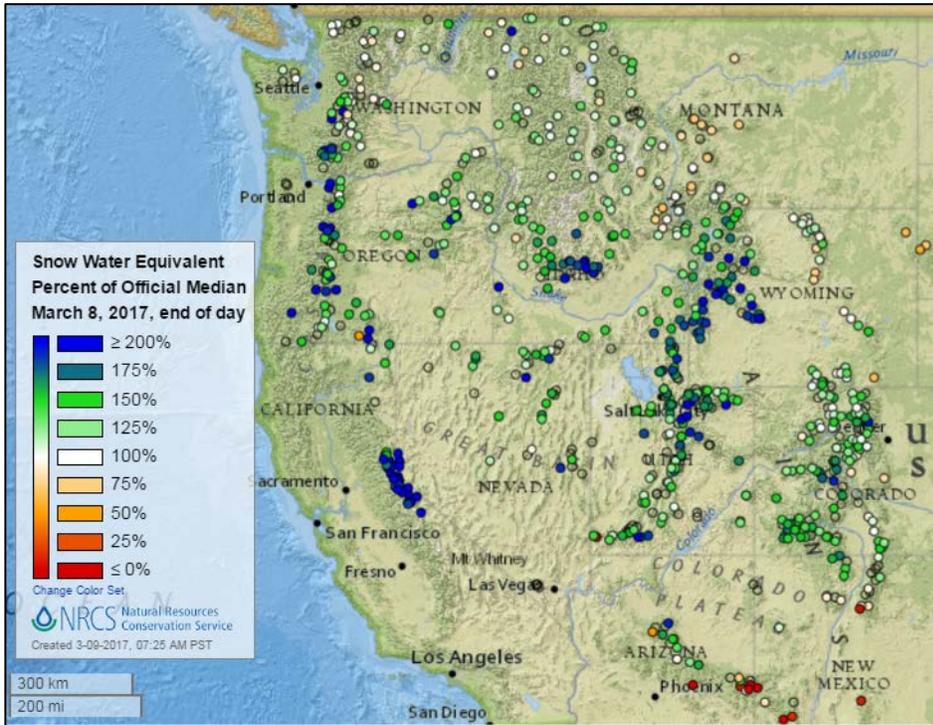
Based on March 1 conditions, [50% exceedance probability](#) forecasts call for average to much above average snowmelt runoff across much of the West. Many points are forecast over 200% of average with some predicted to have record high streamflow volumes.

### More News:

- [Water will be more than abundant this year](#)
- [Heavy winter fall will likely prevent Lake Mead shortage for 2018](#)
- [Irrigators can expect a full water supply](#)
- [Dam managers raise Boise River above flood stage, forced by February Snow Dump](#)
- [February Snowfall Improves Snowpack and Streamflow Forecast for spring](#)
- [Sierra Snowpack near Record Levels but Drought Concerns Remain](#)

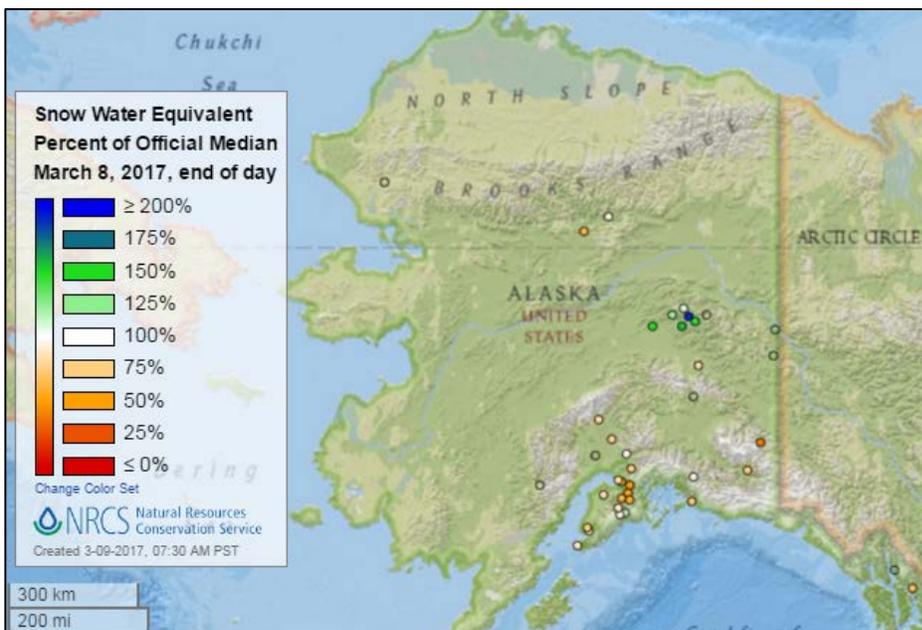
## Snow

### Current Snow Water Equivalent, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[Snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

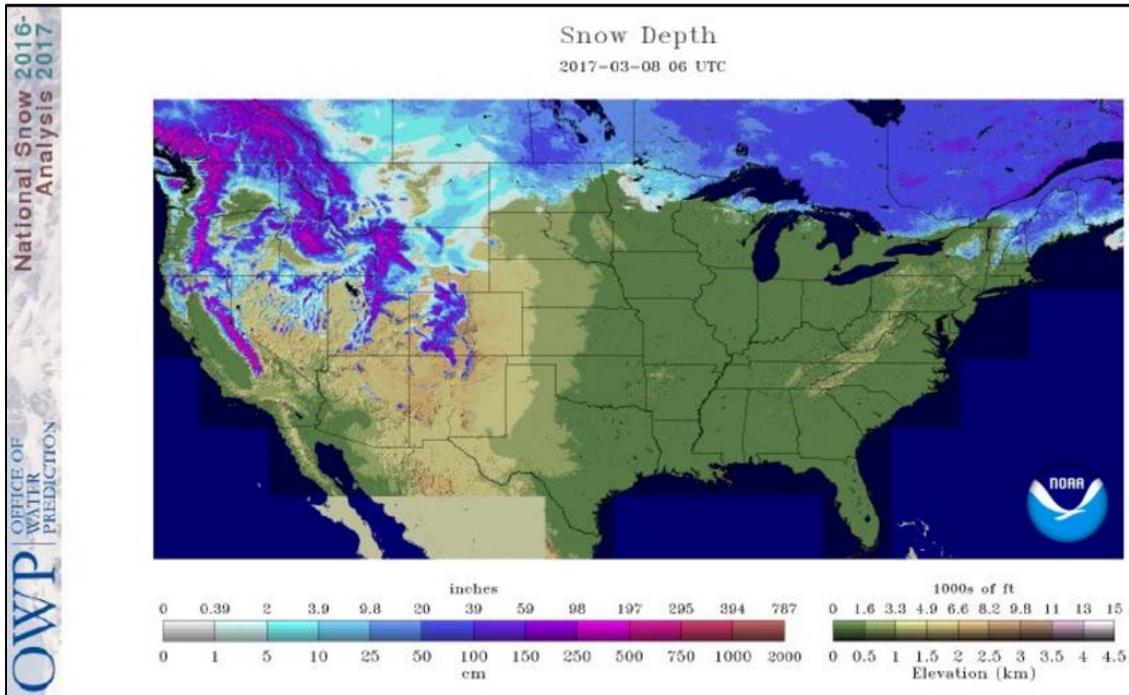
**See also:**  
[Snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

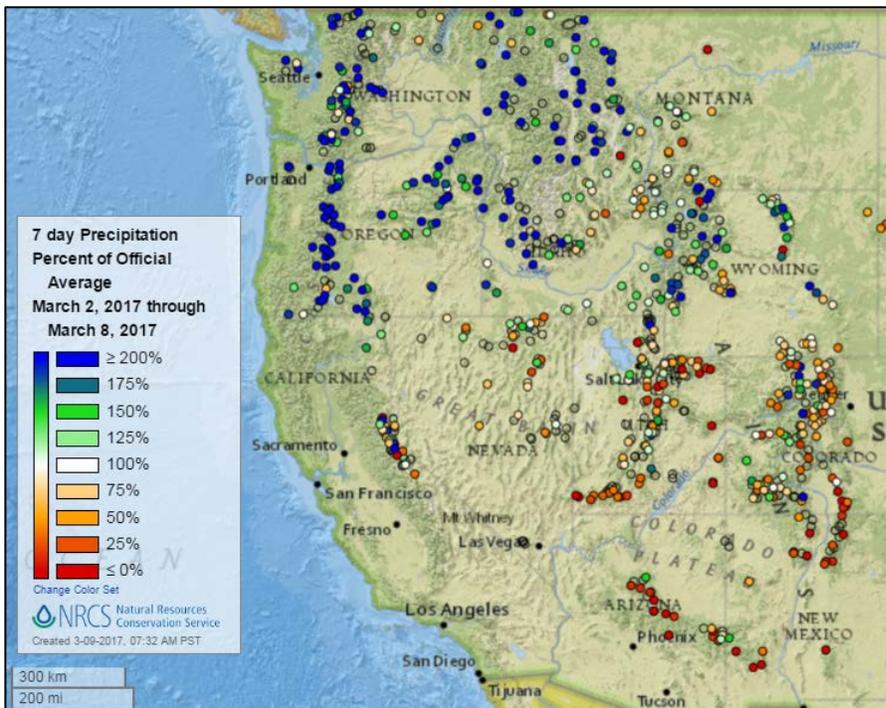
**See also:**  
[Alaska snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks



## Precipitation

### Last 7 Days, Western Mountain Sites (NRCS SNOTEL Network)

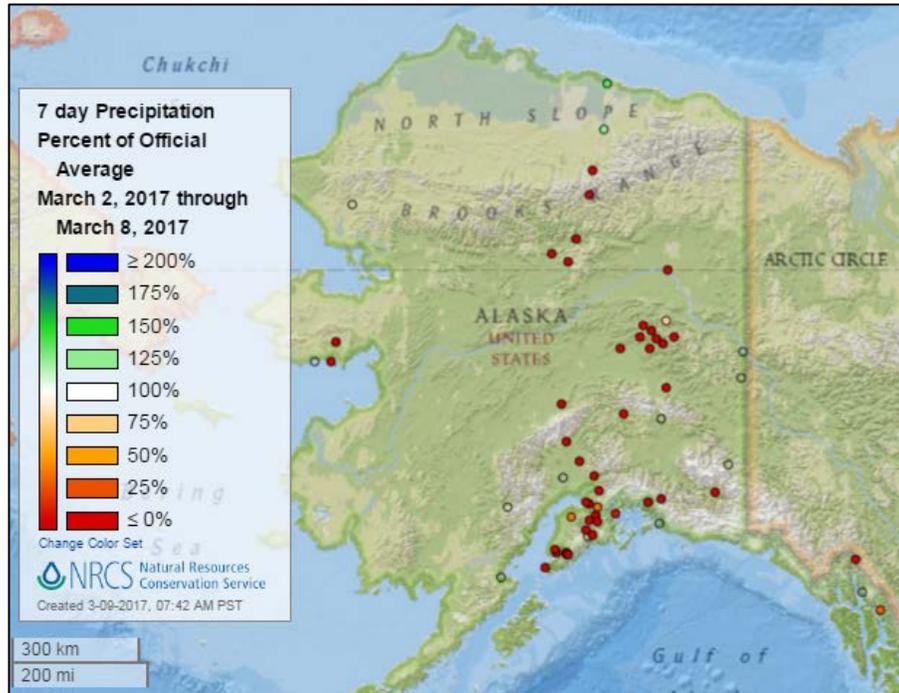


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

**See also:**  
[7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

[Alaska 7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

**See also:** [Alaska 7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



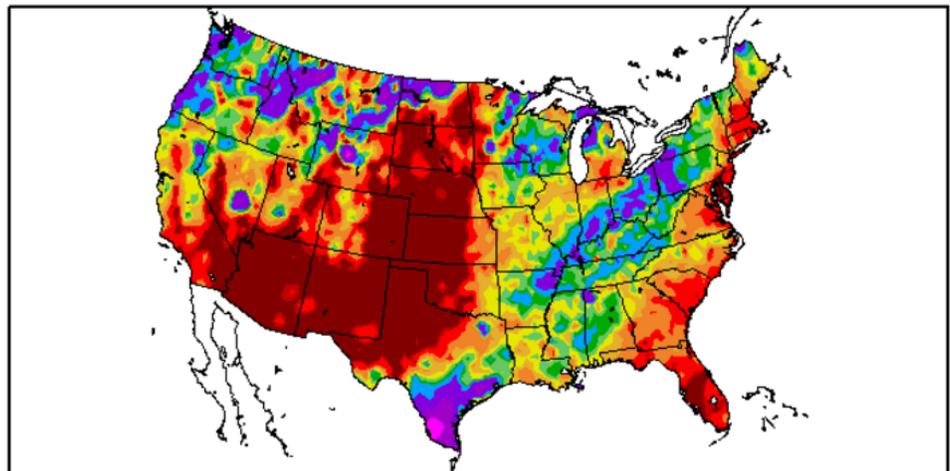
**Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks**

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for the continental U.S.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
3/2/2017 – 3/8/2017

**See also:** [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



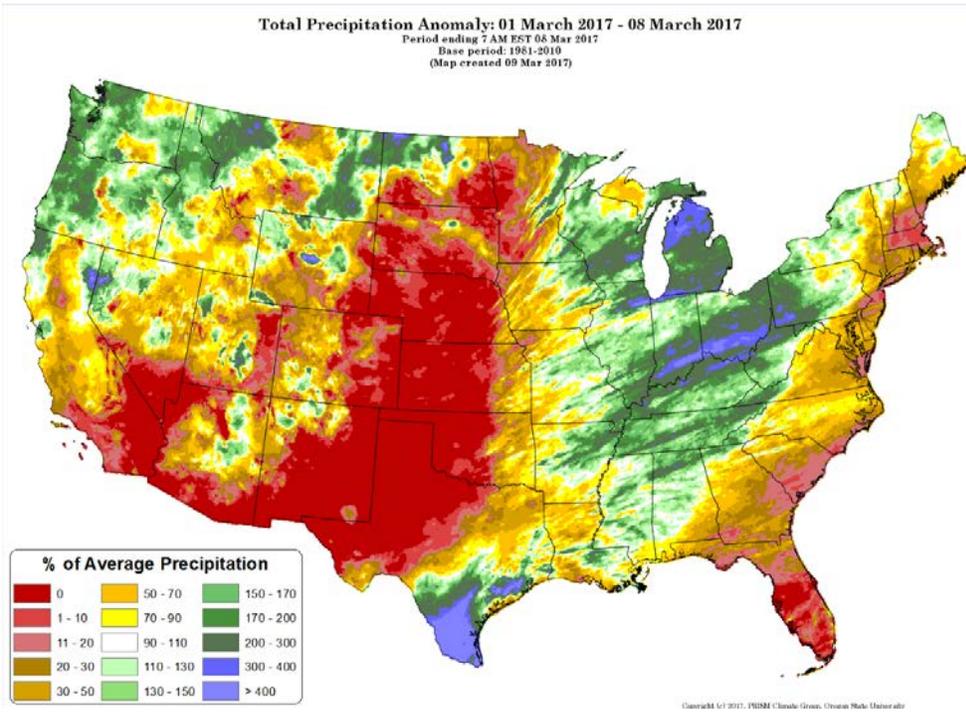
Generated 3/9/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

# Water and Climate Update

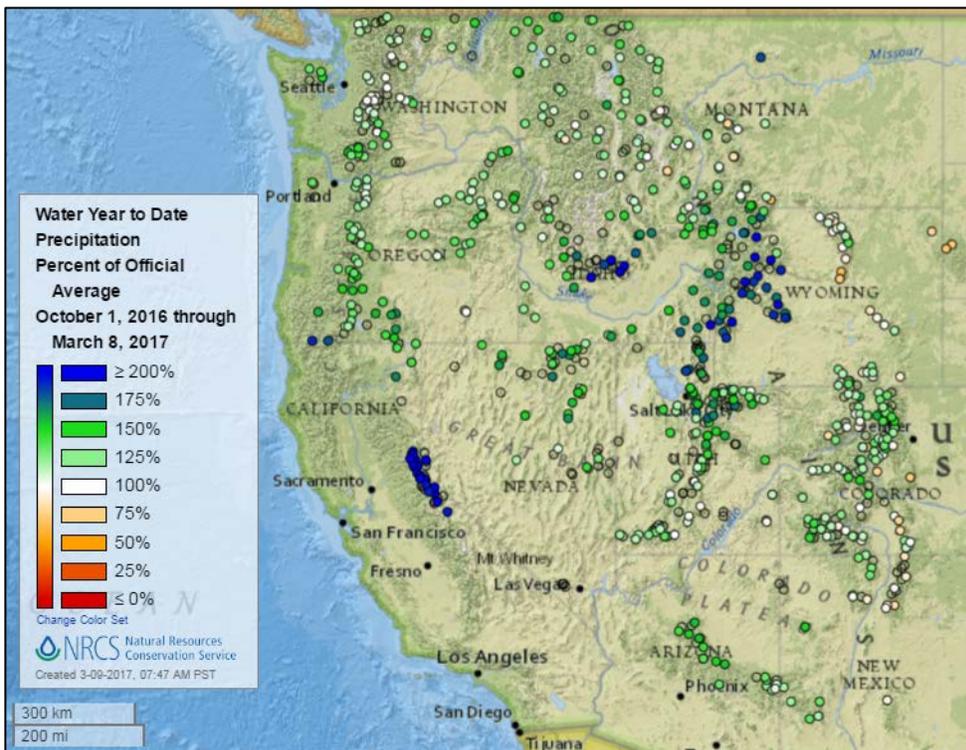
## Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM



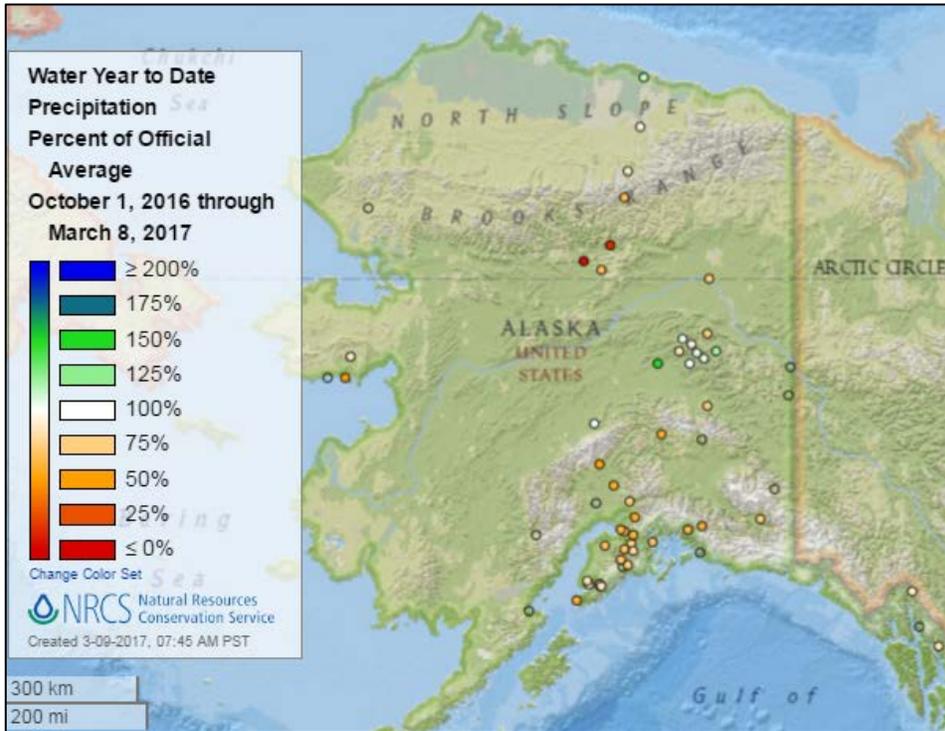
[Month-to-date national precipitation percent of average map](#)

## Water Year-to-Date, Western Mountain Sites (NRCS SNOTEL Network)



[2017 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[See also: 2017 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\)](#)



[Alaska 2017 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

**See also:** [Alaska 2017 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

## Temperature

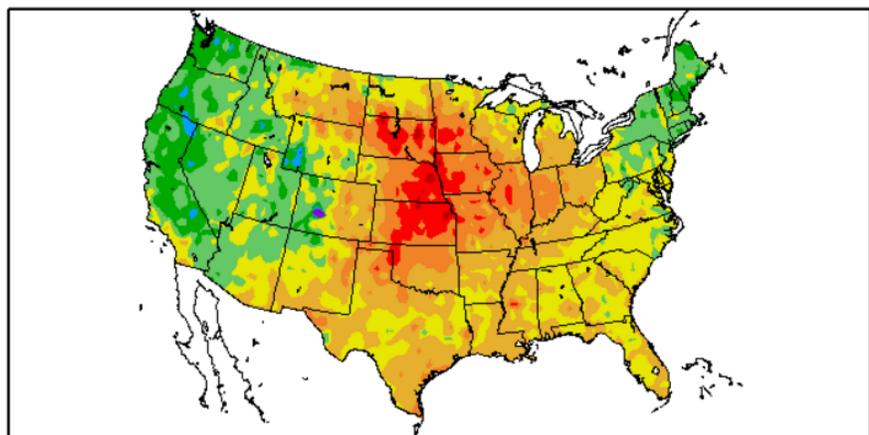
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for the continental U.S.

**See also:** [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/2/2017 – 3/8/2017



Generated 3/9/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

# Water and Climate Update

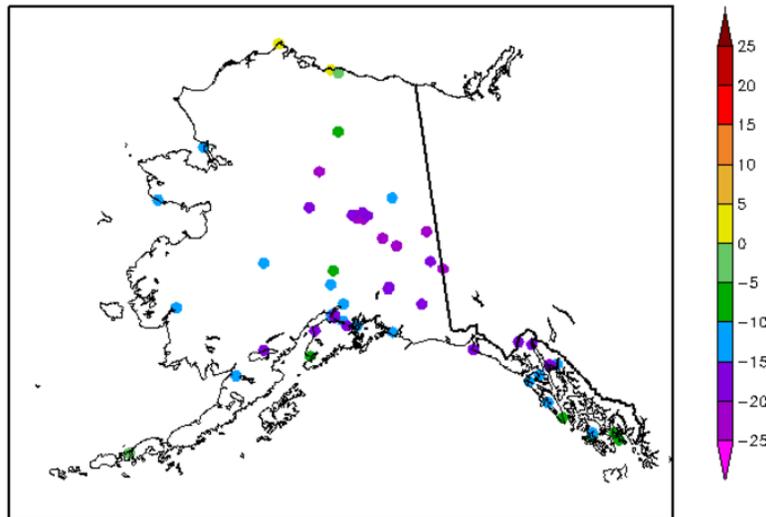
## Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

**See also:** [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/2/2017 – 3/8/2017



Generated 3/9/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data

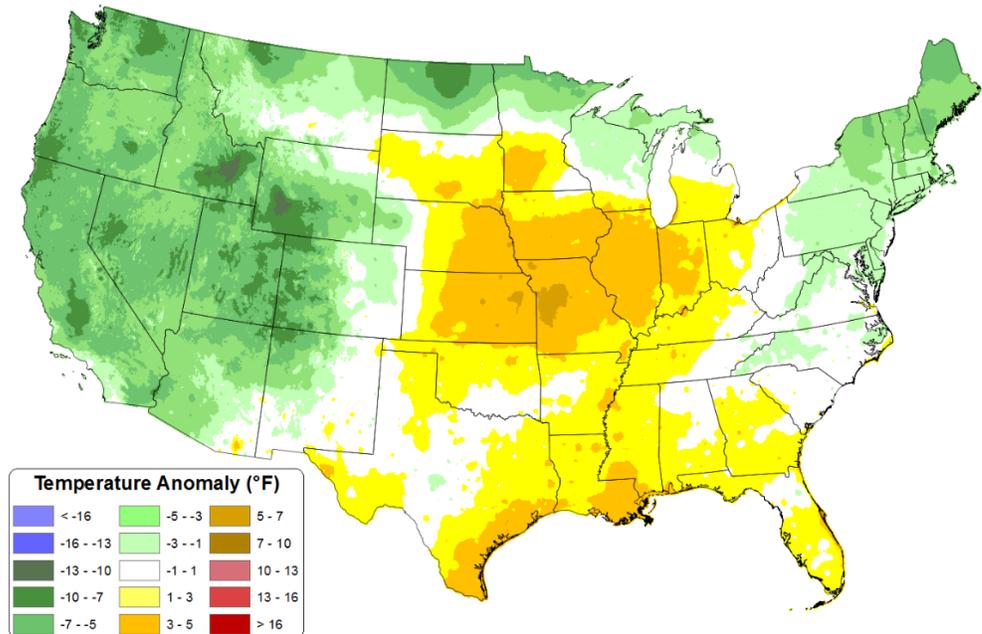
Regional Climate Centers

## Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

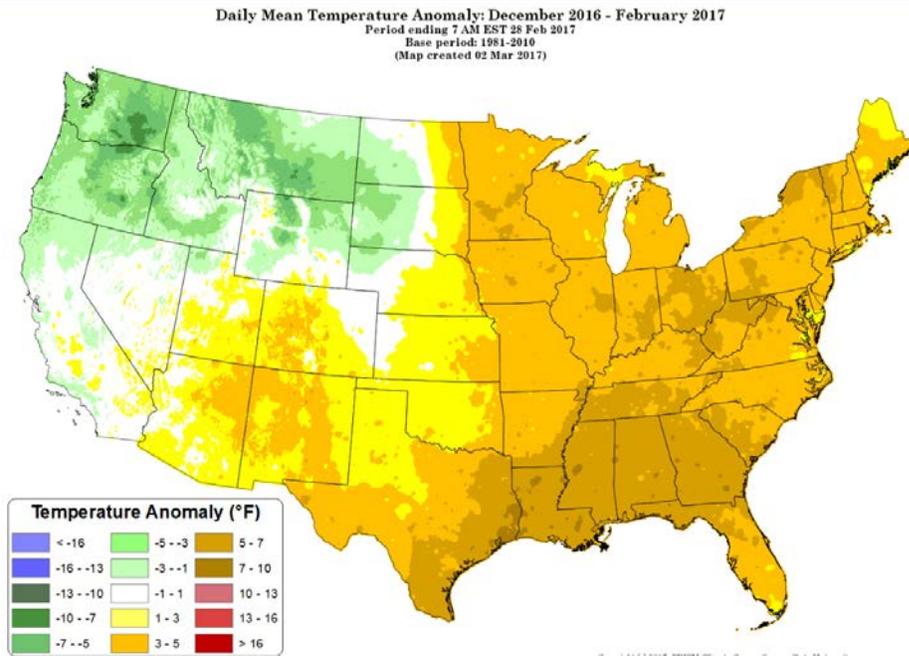
Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 March 2017 - 08 March 2017  
Period ending 7 AM EST 08 Mar 2017  
Base period: 1981-2010  
(Map created 09 Mar 2017)



Copyright © 2017, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM



[December 2016 through February 2017 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

## Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) See map below.

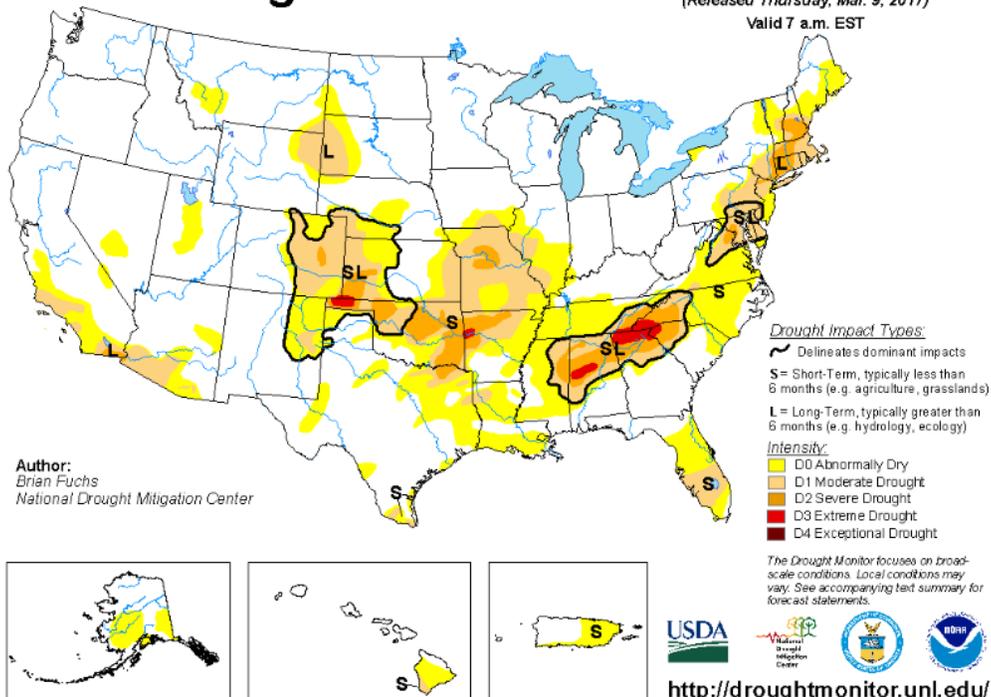
[U.S. Drought Portal](#) Comprehensive drought resource.

### U.S. Drought Monitor

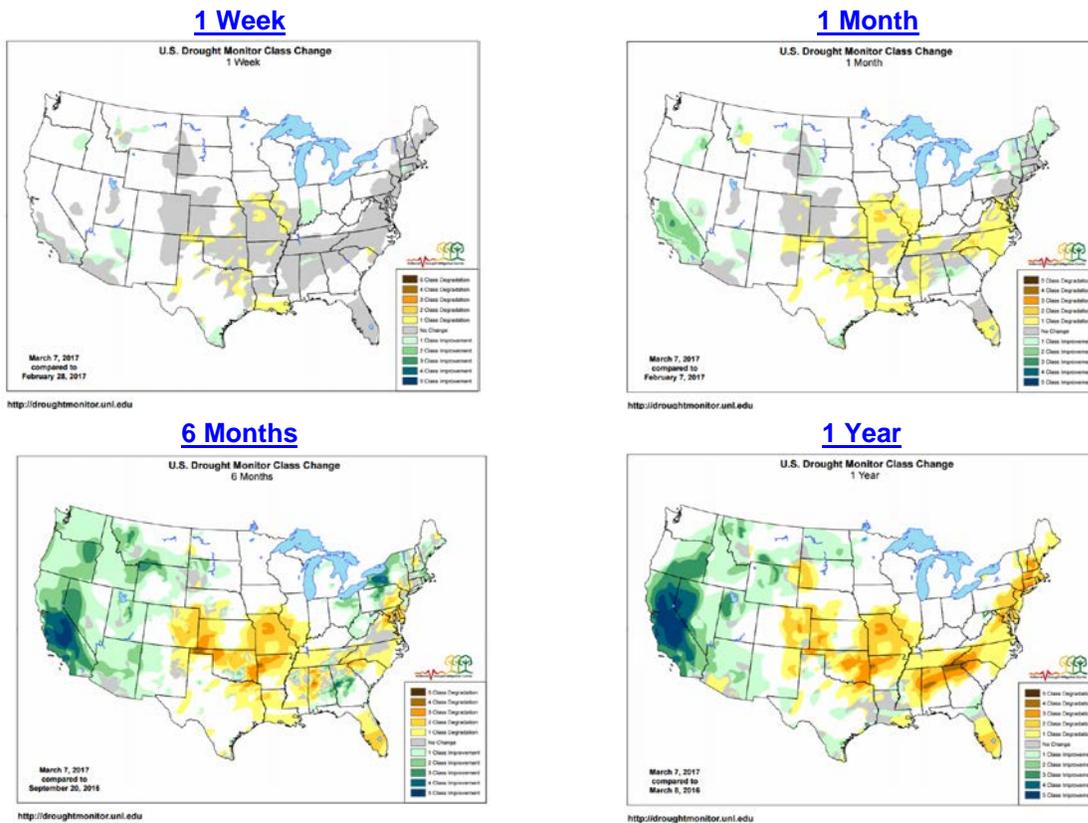
March 7, 2017

(Released Thursday, Mar. 9, 2017)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



## Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time



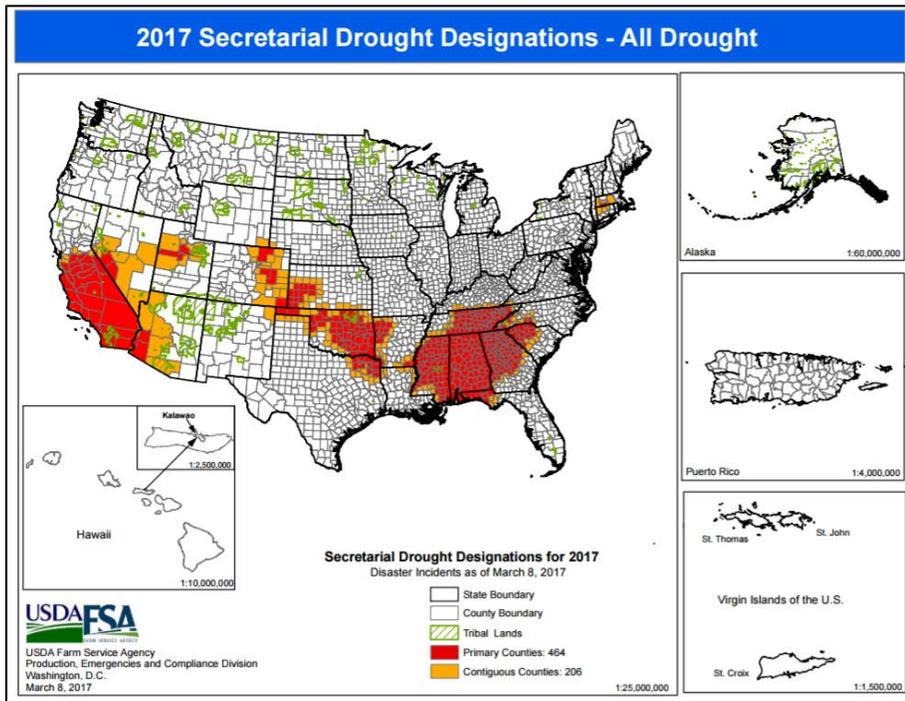
### [Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months](#)

## Current National [Drought Summary](#), March 7, 2017

Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

“Active weather across the Midwest during the beginning and end of the current period brought rain and severe storms over the region. Warm and windy conditions dominated conditions on the Plains; wildfires were a great concern throughout Oklahoma and Kansas, with multiple fatalities associated with the fires. Temperatures from South Dakota into Texas were 6-9 degrees above normal, with portions of eastern Nebraska and eastern Kansas 9-12 degrees above normal. Much of the West was cooler than normal with departures of 3-6 degrees below normal. Rain and snow over parts of northern California and into the coastal regions of Oregon and Washington continued the active pattern that has been consistent over the West Coast. The driest areas of the Southeast did pick up some precipitation, but most areas were normal to slightly below normal for the week.”

**Updated!** USDA 2017 Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

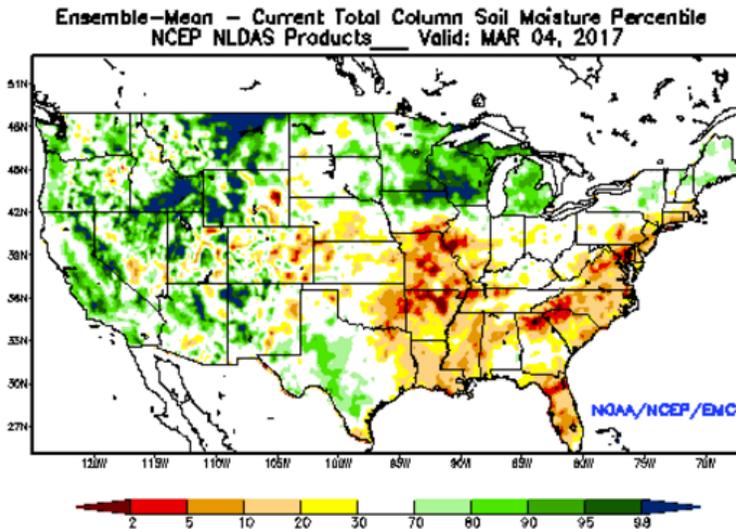


**Highlighted Drought Resources**

- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

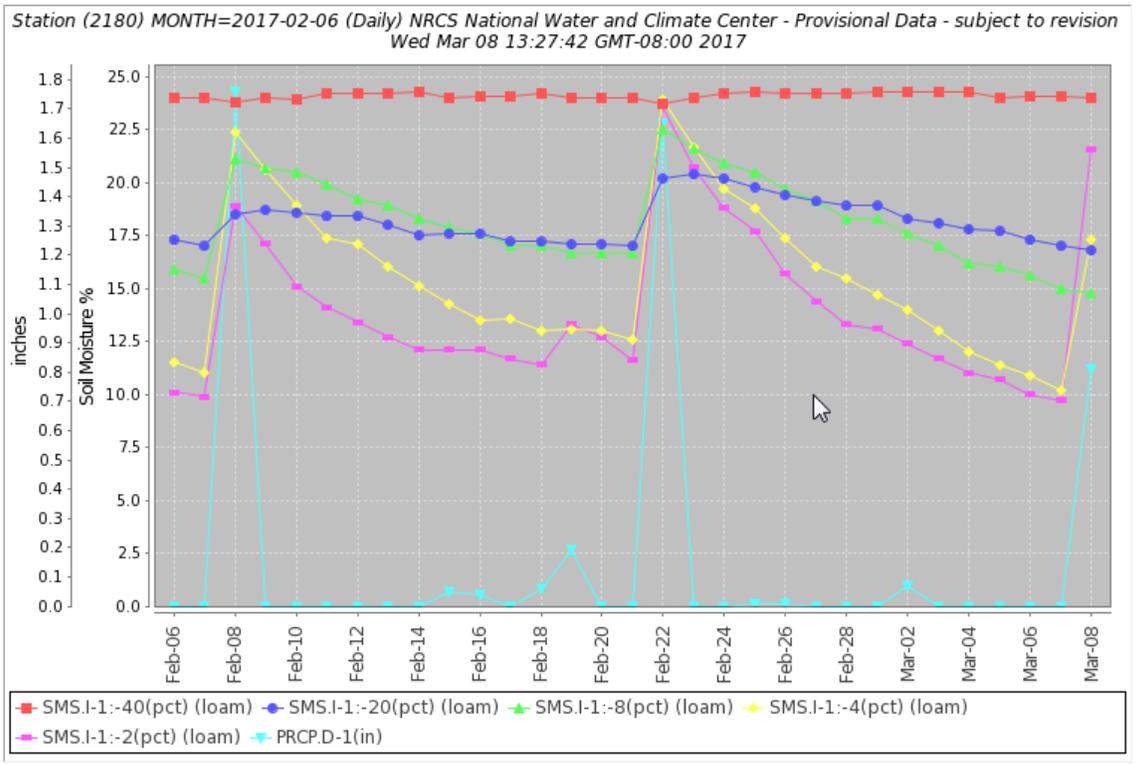
**Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators**

**Soil Moisture**



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of March 4, 2017.

Soil Moisture Data: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network \(SCAN\)](#)



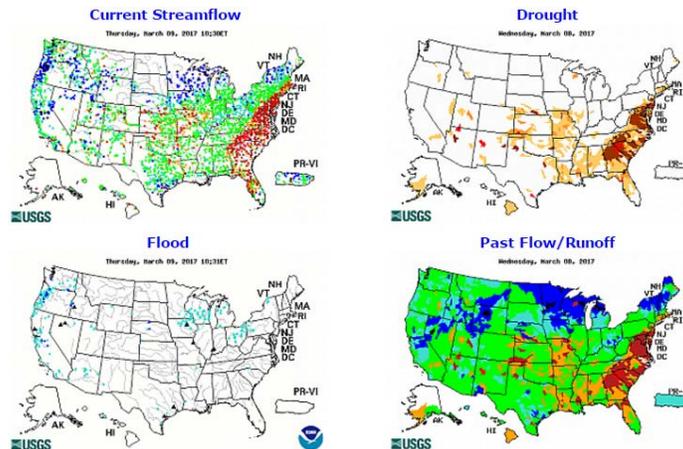
Soil moisture (at 2-, 4-, 8-, 20-, and 40-inch depths) and precipitation for the last 30 days at the [Koptis Farms SCAN site 2180](#) in Alabama. Precipitation during multiple events in the last month has increased soil moisture at the 2-, 4-, 8-, and 20-inch soil moisture sensors. The 40-inch sensor has only a slight increase in soil moisture associated with the larger precipitation events.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow

Source: USGS



[Current streamflow maps](#) Click graphic to enlarge and display legends

## Reservoir Storage

[National Water and Climate Center Reservoir Data](#)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Hydromet Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions:

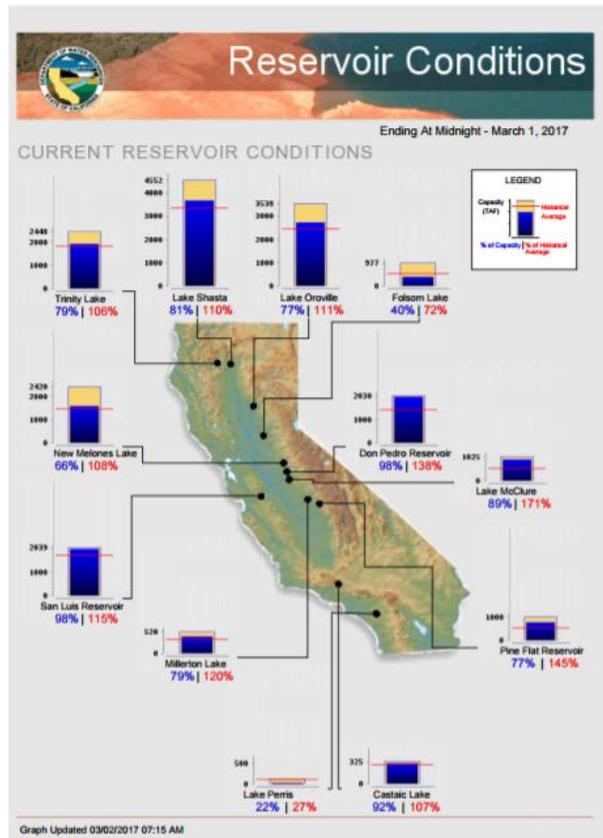
[Upper Colorado](#)

[Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)

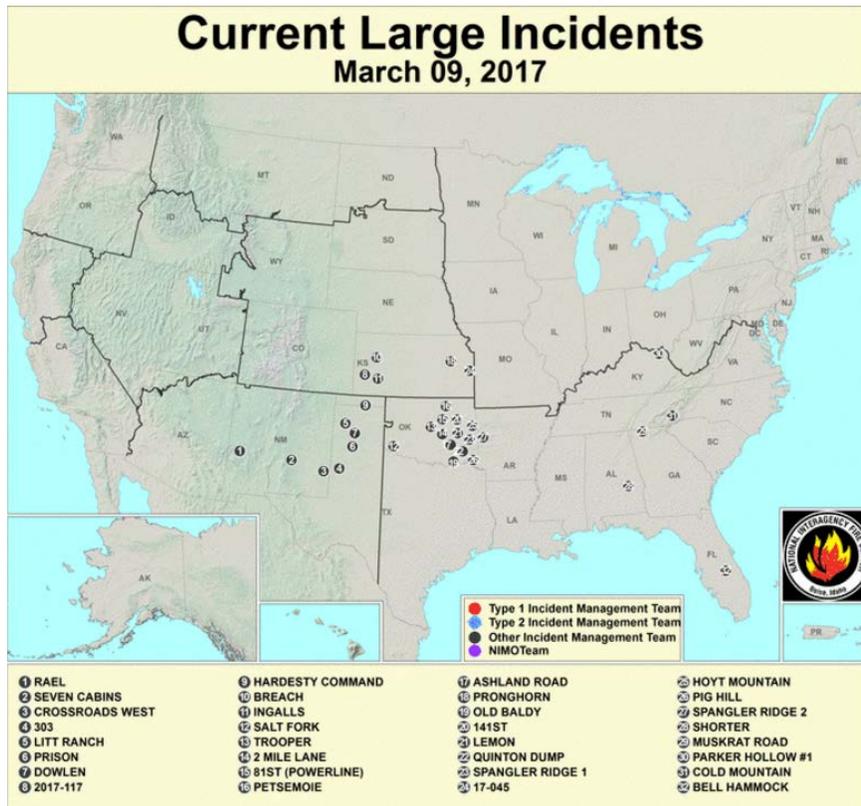
[Sevier River Water, Utah](#)

[Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas](#)

### [California Reservoir Conditions](#)



Wildfires: [USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping](#)



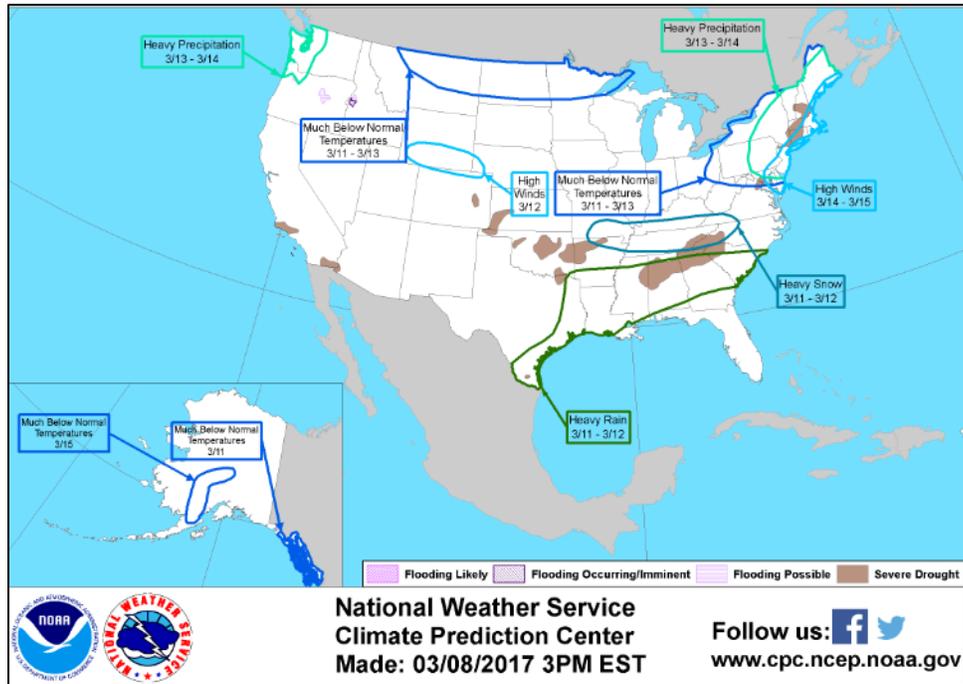
**Short- and Long-Range Outlooks**

**Agricultural Weather Highlights**

Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

[National Outlook, March 9, 2017](#): “A few days of relatively tranquil weather will be replaced by a more active pattern across the South during the weekend. Southern rainfall could reach 1 to 2 inches or more, with some snow possible on the northern edge of the weekend precipitation shield. Although eastern portions of the central and southern Plains can expect to see some rain or snow, areas of the High Plains that have been experiencing wildfires should remain mostly dry. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather in central and southern California and the Southwest will contrast with ongoing showers in the Northwest. Five-day precipitation totals could reach 2 to 8 inches in the Pacific Northwest and 2 to 4 inches in the northern Rockies. During the next several days, expanding warmth across the West will contrast with very cold weather on the northern Plains and progressively colder conditions across the eastern half of the U.S. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 13 – 17 calls for the likelihood of colder-than-normal conditions across the nation’s northern tier, particularly in the Northeast and from the Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies. Near- to above-normal temperatures will cover the remainder of the U.S., with the greatest likelihood of warmth in the Southwest. Meanwhile, wetter-than-normal weather across most of the country will contrast with near- to below-normal precipitation in the nation’s southwestern quadrant, stretching from southern California to the central and southern High Plains.”

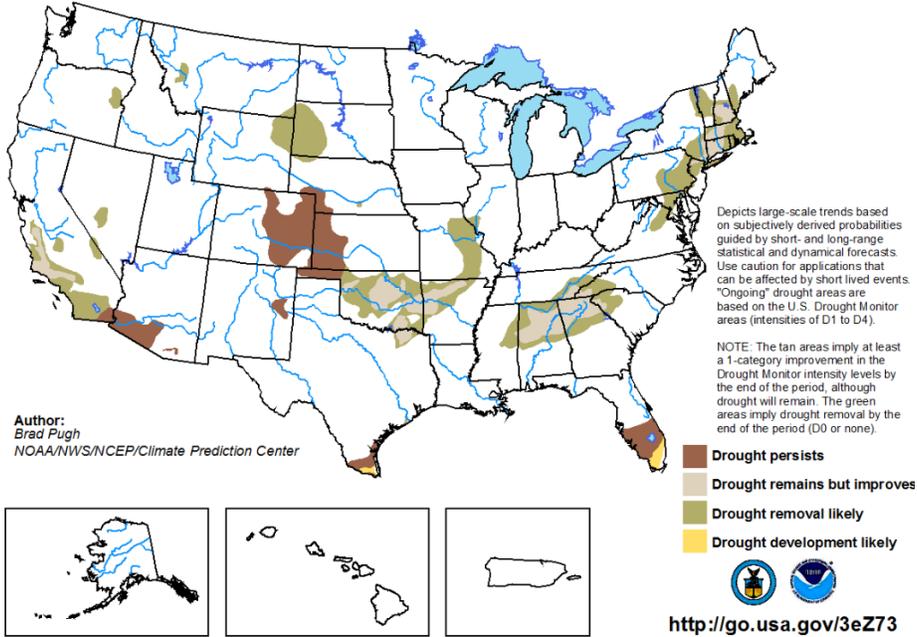
NWS Climate Prediction Center Weather Hazard Outlook: [March 11 – 15, 2017](#)



NWS Seasonal Drought Outlook: [February 16 – May 31, 2017](#)

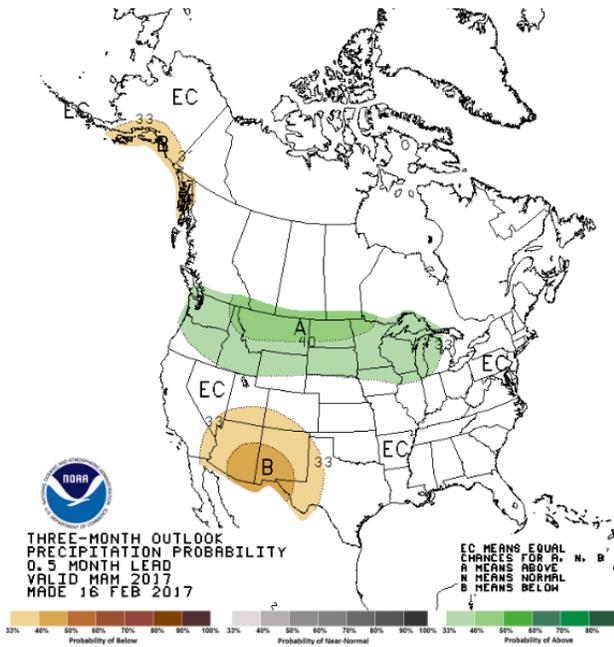
**U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook**  
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 16 - May 31, 2017  
Released February 16, 2017

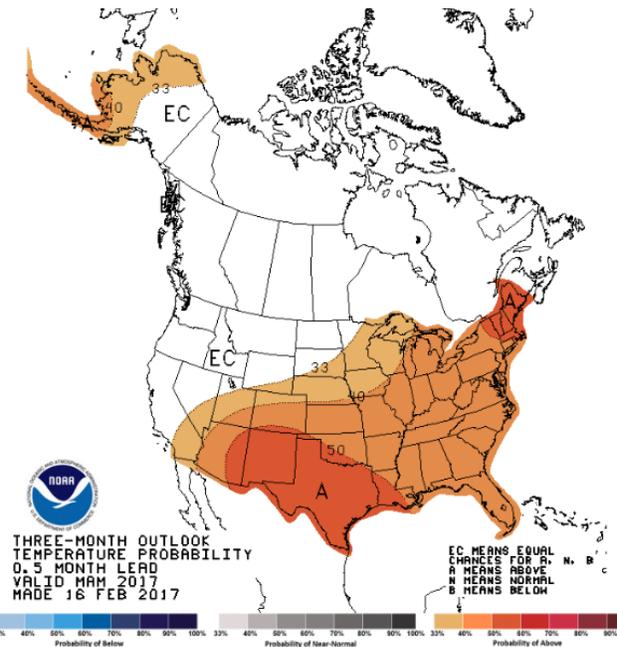


## NWS Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

### [Precipitation](#)



### [Temperature](#)



[March-April-May \(MAM\) 2017 precipitation outlook summary](#)

[March-April-May \(MAM\) 2017 temperature outlook summary](#)

## More Information

The NRCS [National Water and Climate Center](#) publishes this weekly report. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please [contact us](#).