

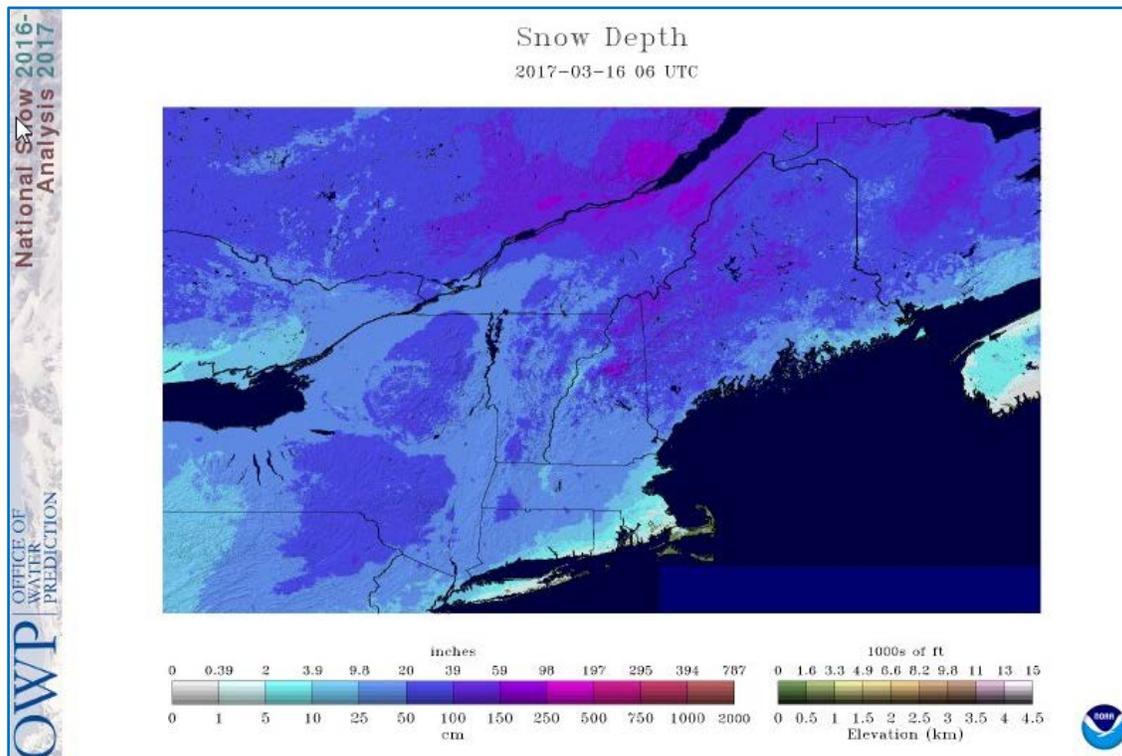
Water and Climate Update

March 16, 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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Late-season Nor'easter buries the region



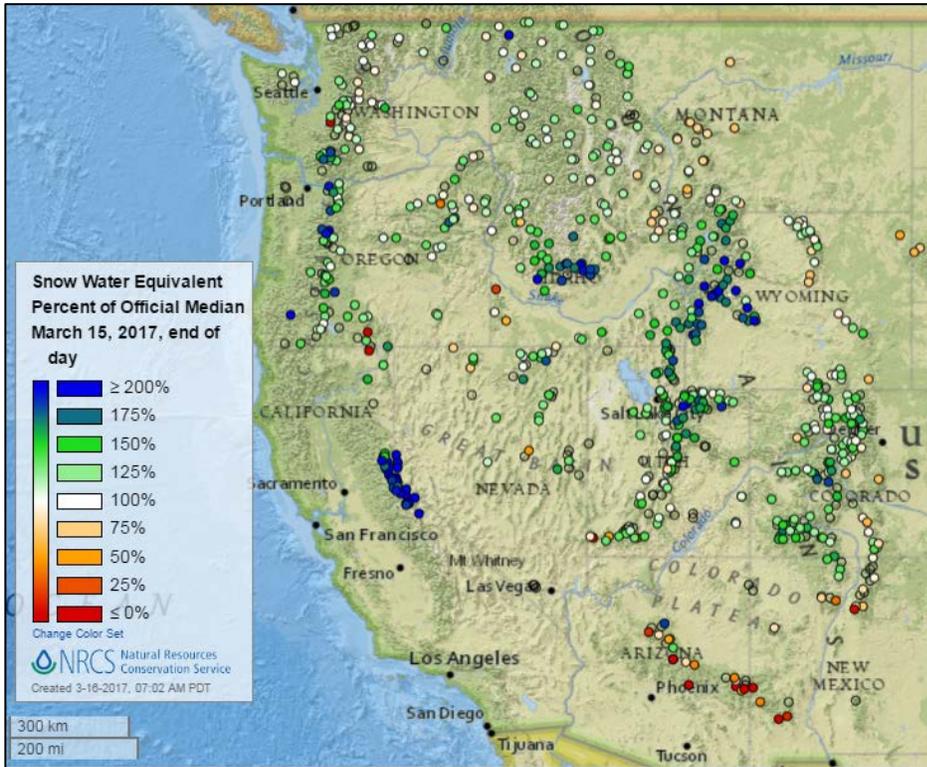
A large winter storm produced heavy snow across much of the northeast U.S. this week. Blizzard warnings were posted from Washington D.C. through Maine, affecting 31 million people. States of emergency were declared in several states with snow falling as fast as four inches per hour and accumulating storm totals of over two feet in some areas. Snow, combined with wind gusts of up to 60 miles per hour, cut power, stopped travel, and caused several fatalities. Some areas recorded their greatest one-storm snowfall totals, with one of the largest recorded totals of 42 inches in West Winfield, NY.

More News:

- [Northeast snowstorm puts 31 million under blizzard warning](#)
- [Snow totals top 2 feet in Capital Region's outlying counties](#)
- [Northeast Snowstorm: Here's What Happened](#)
- [Here's how much snow fell in Massachusetts as of Tuesday night](#)
- [Photos: Blizzard of 2017 drops 42 inches of snow, brings travel to standstill in northeastern US](#)

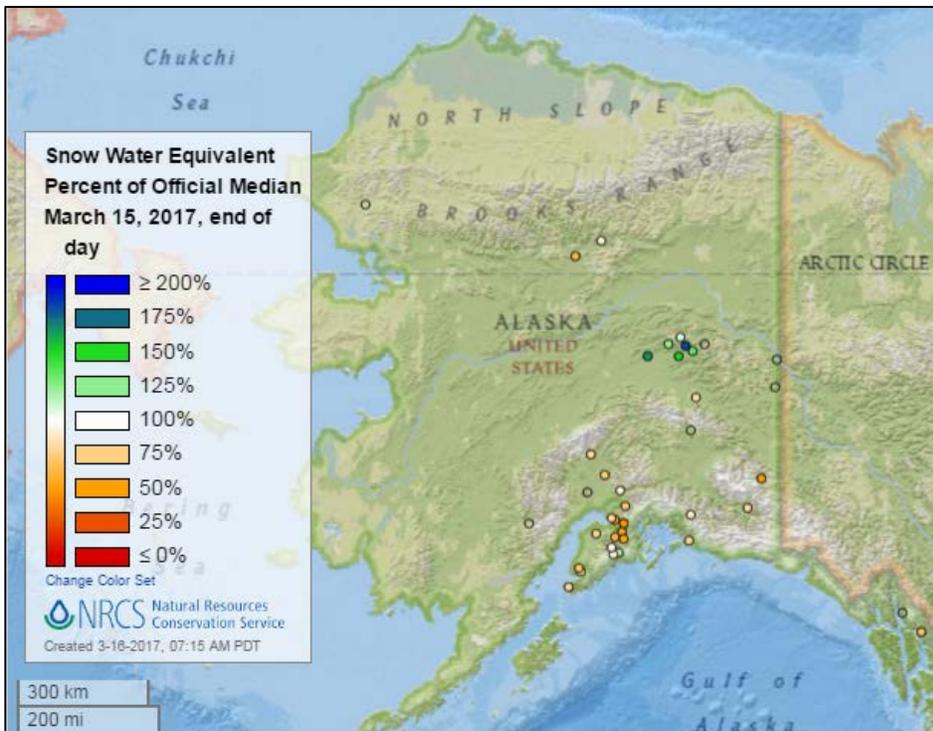
Snow

Current Snow Water Equivalent, NRCS SNOTEL Network



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

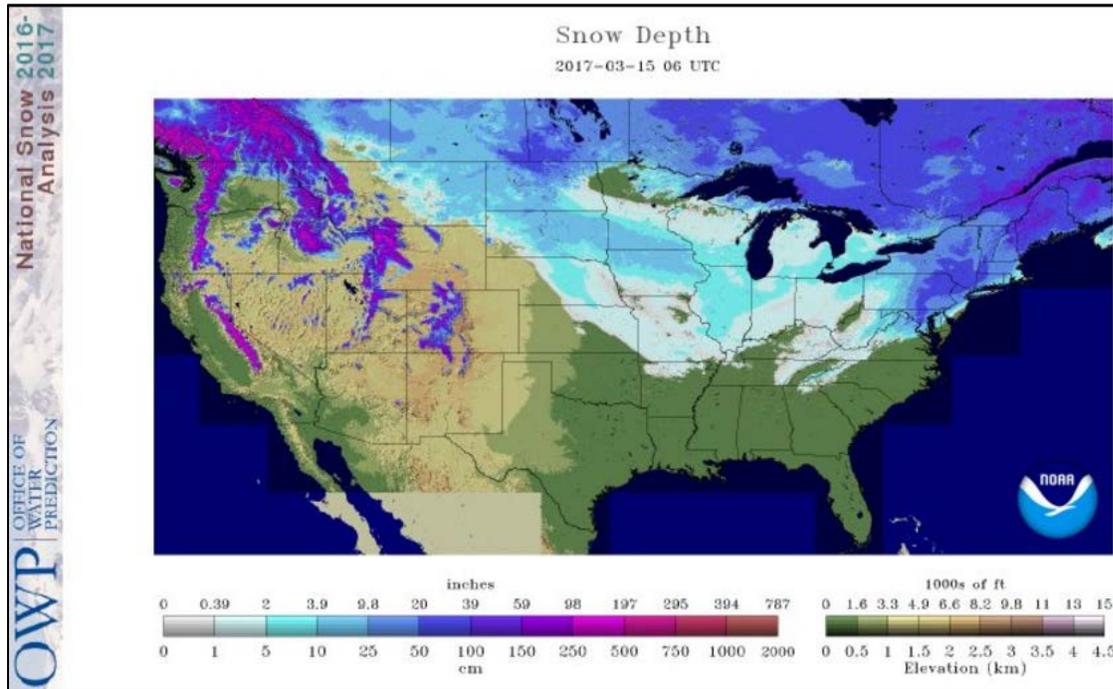
See also:
[Snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)



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

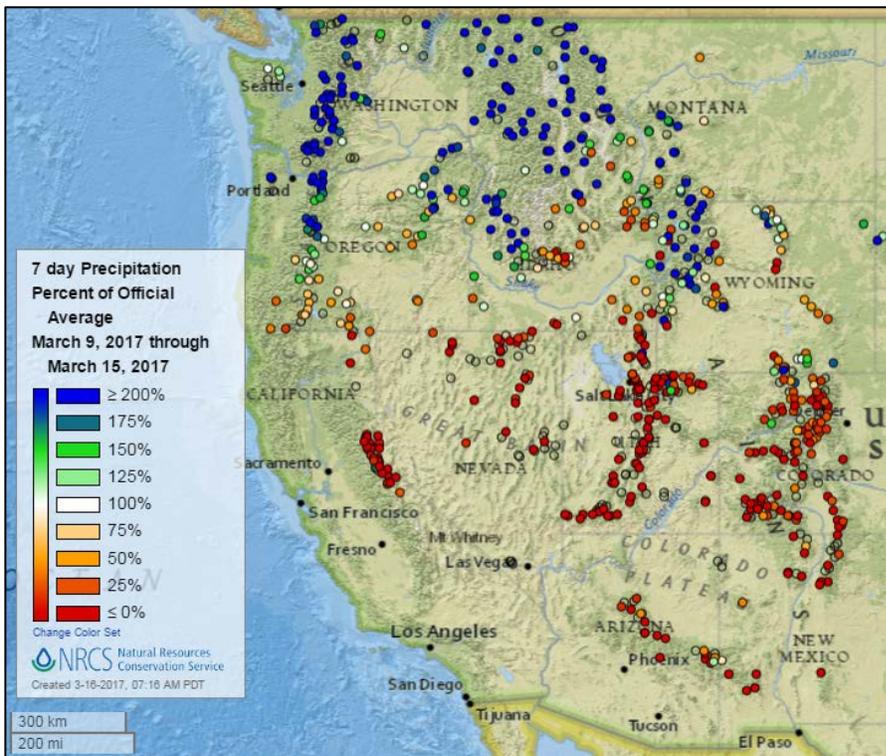
See also:
[Alaska snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks



Precipitation

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



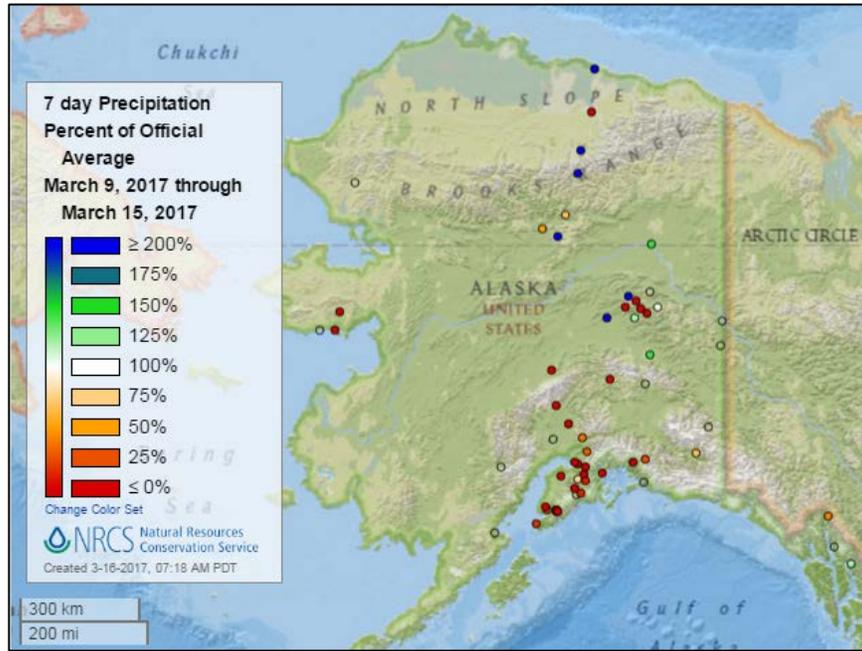
[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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

Water and Climate Update

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

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



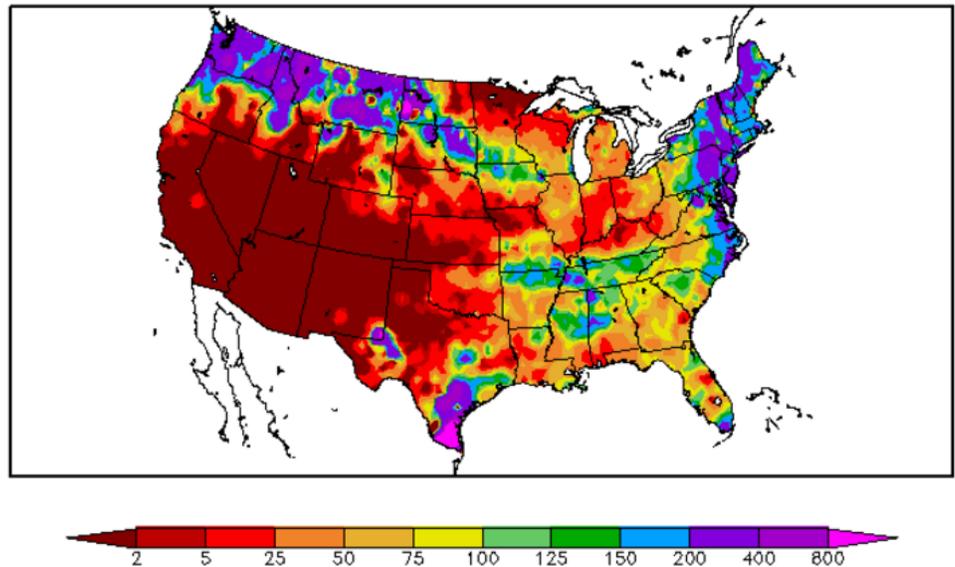
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
3/9/2017 - 3/15/2017

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

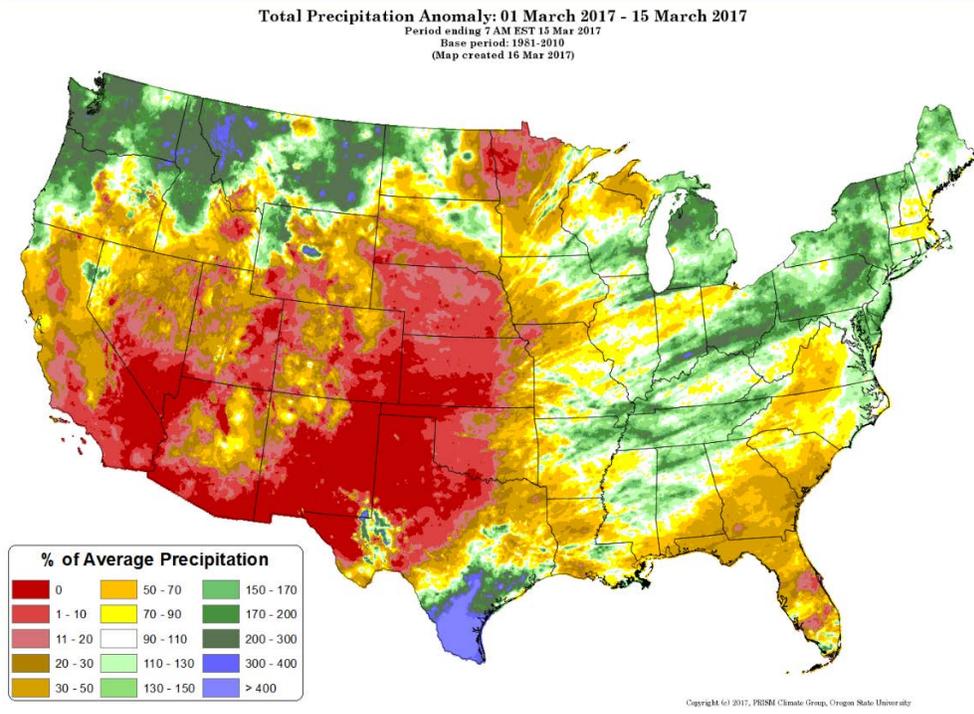


Generated 3/16/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

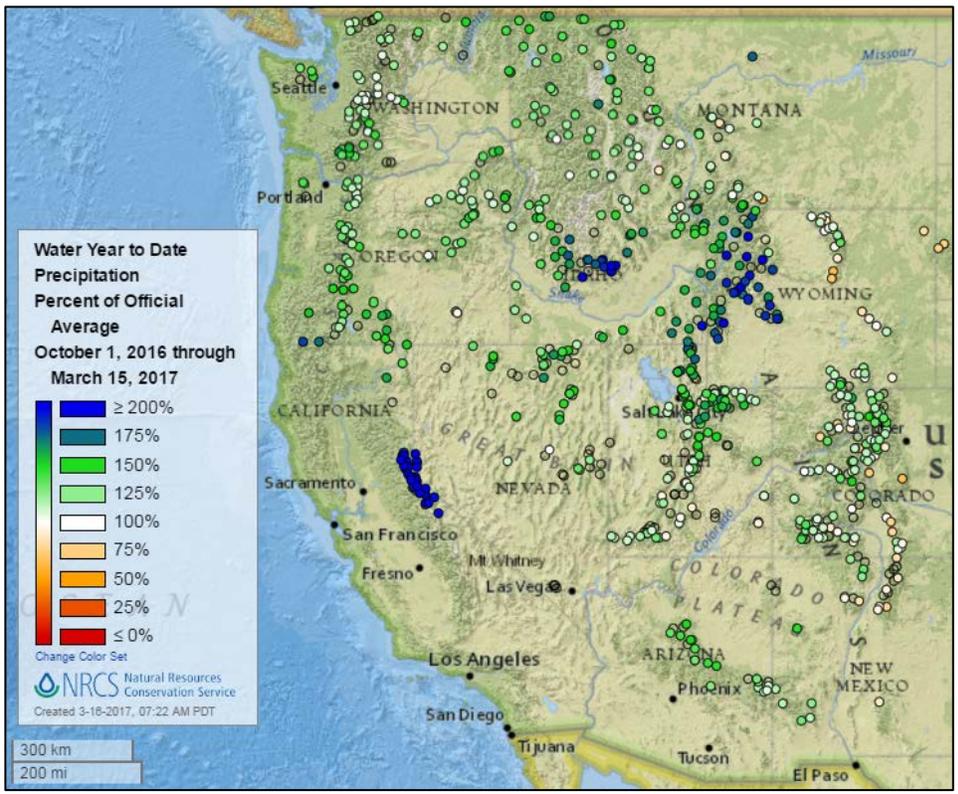
Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM



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

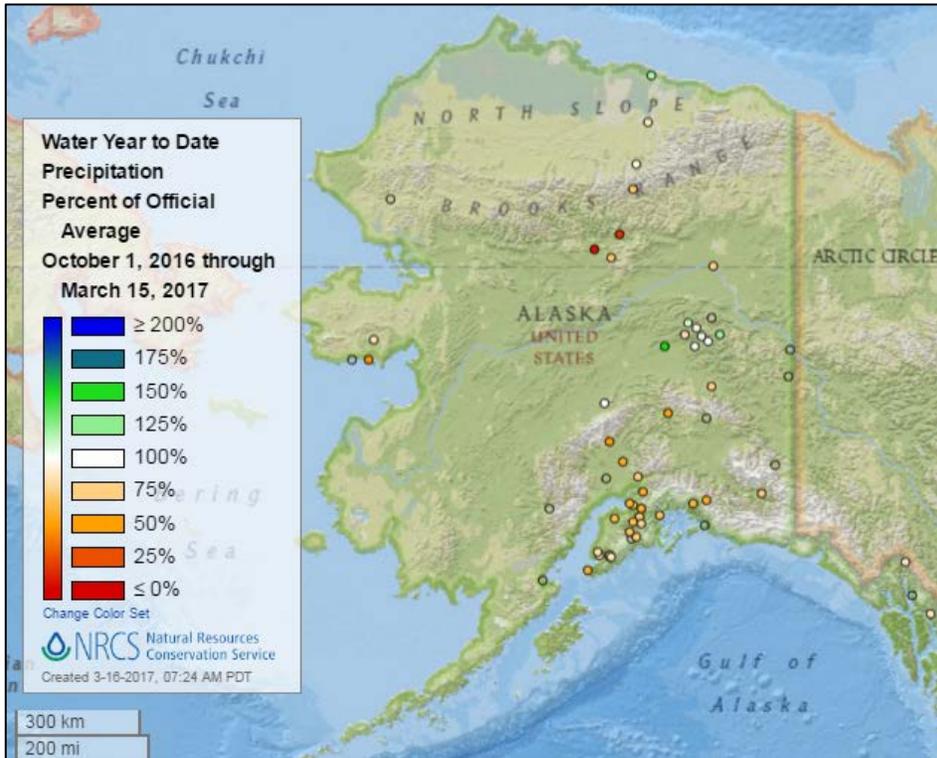
Water Year-to-Date, Western Mountain Sites (NRCS SNOTEL Network)



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

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

Water and Climate Update



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

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

Temperature

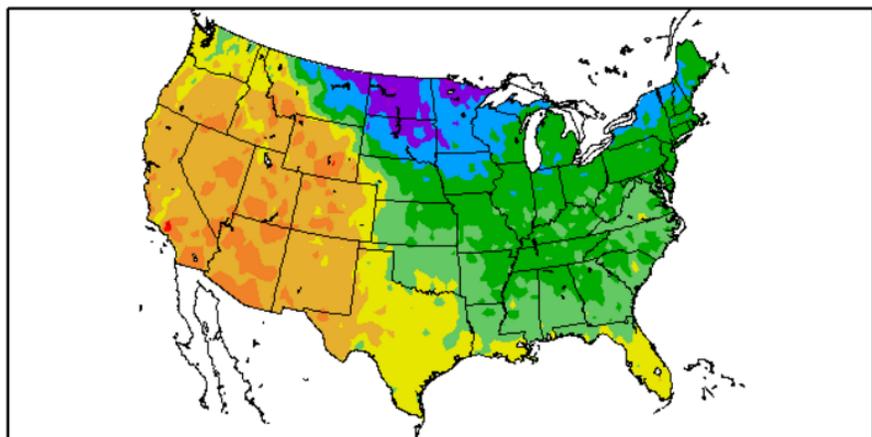
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
3/9/2017 – 3/15/2017



Generated 3/16/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Water and Climate Update

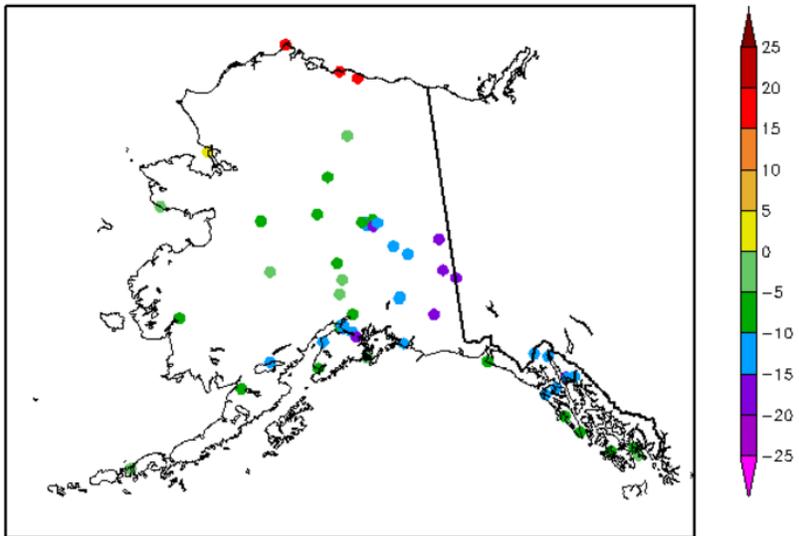
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/9/2017 - 3/15/2017



Generated 3/16/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

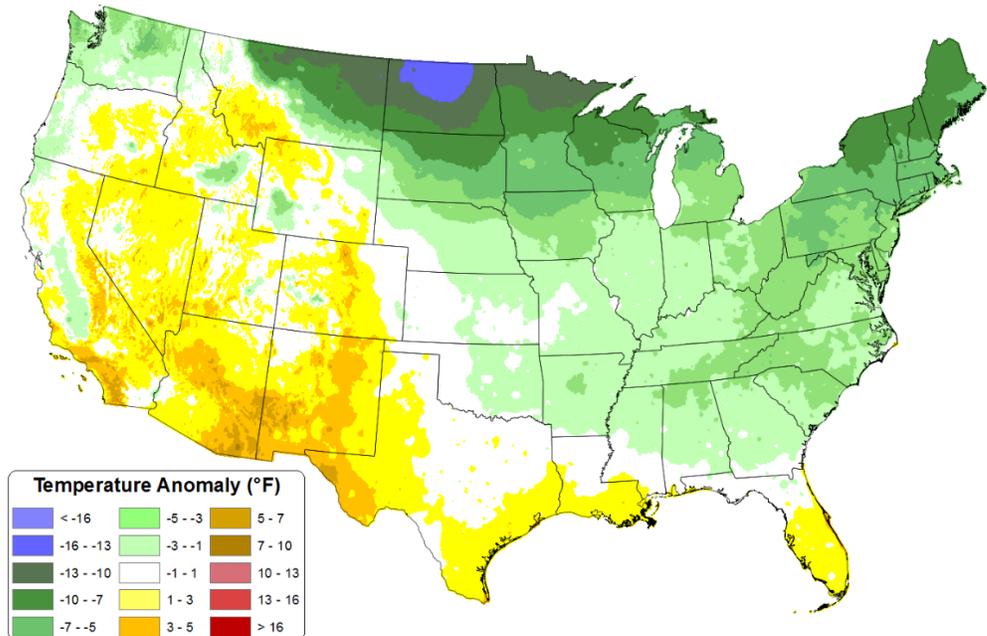
Regional Climate Centers

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

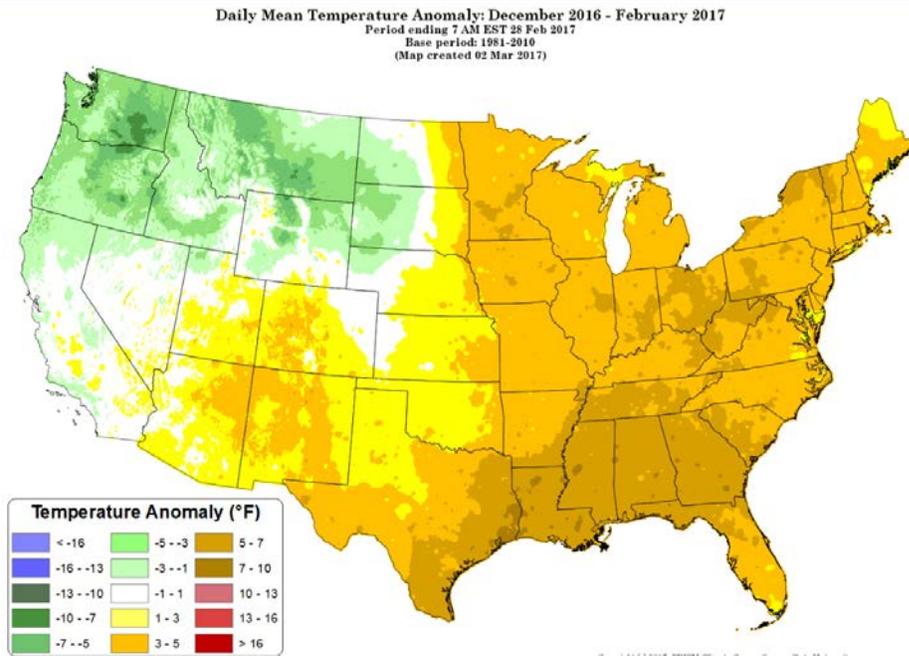
Source: PRISM

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

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 March 2017 - 15 March 2017
Period ending 7 AM EST 15 Mar 2017
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 16 Mar 2017)



Copyright © 2017, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

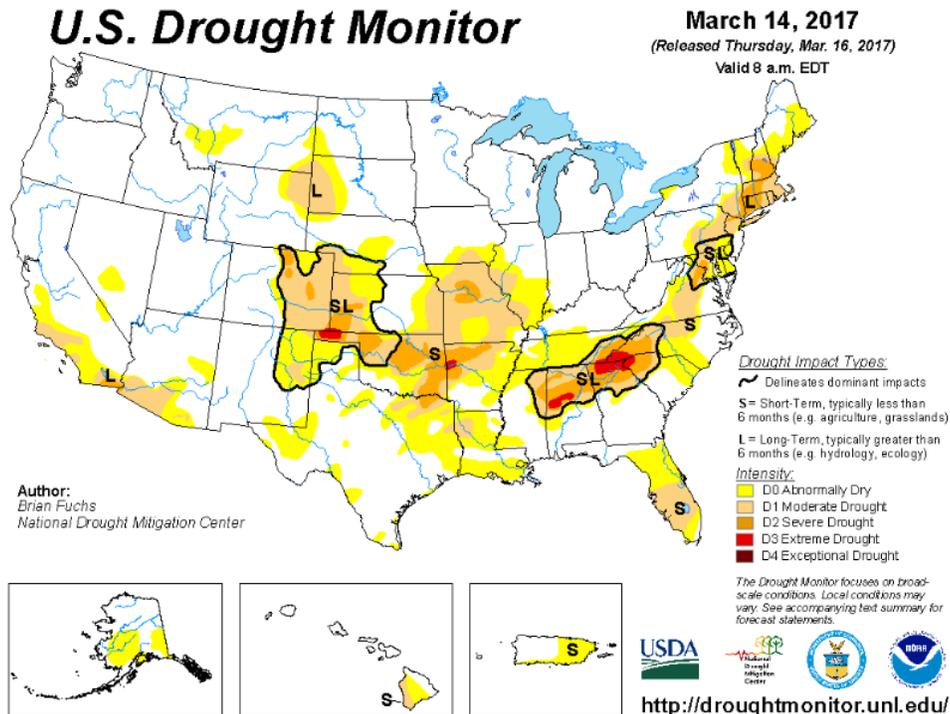


[December 2016 through February 2017 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

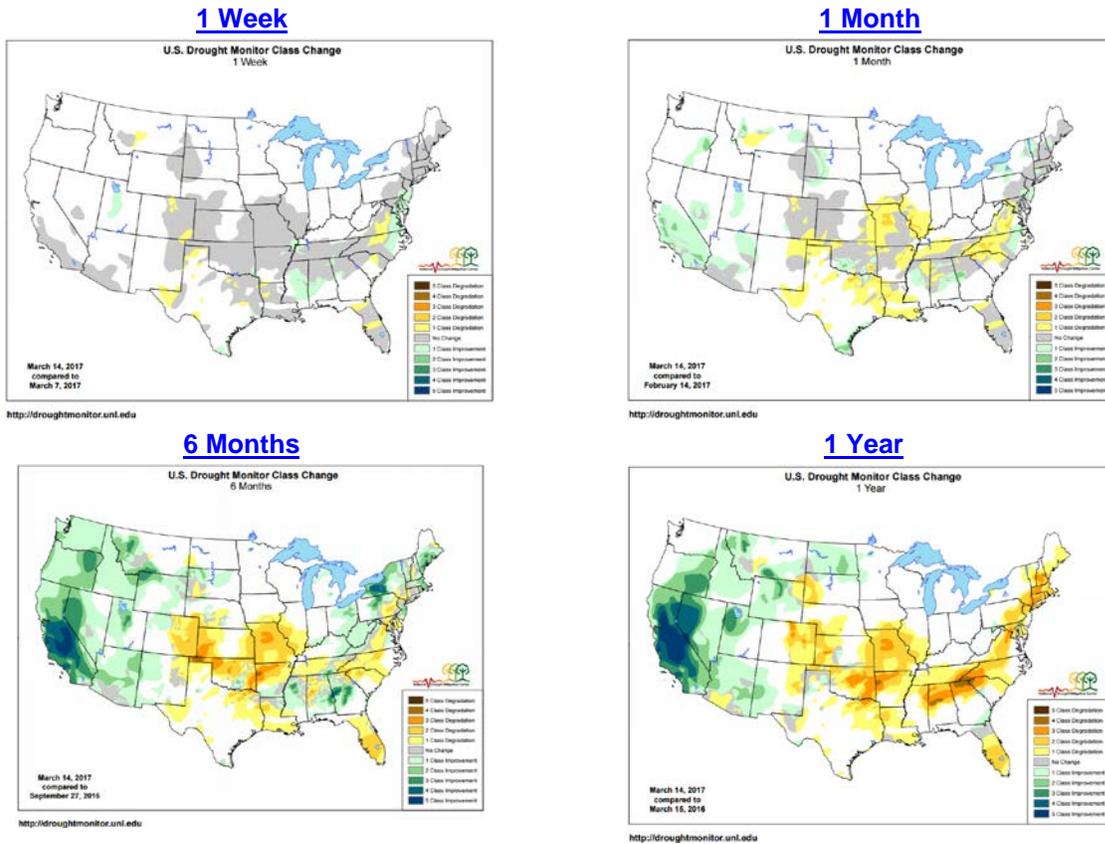
Drought

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

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



Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time



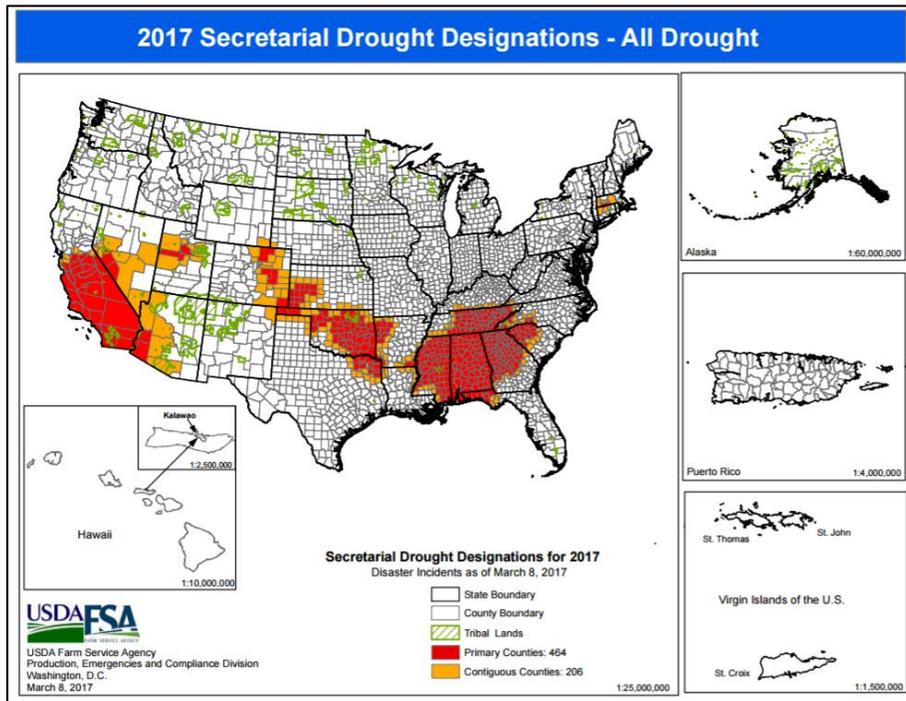
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months](#)

Current National [Drought Summary](#), March 14, 2017

Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

“A blast of winter returned to much of the eastern half of the United States with multiple storm systems impacting the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast. Most areas east of the Rocky Mountains had below-normal temperatures, with portions of North Dakota 20-25 degrees below normal. The West was warm with temperatures 5-10 degrees above normal, especially in southern California and Arizona. The coastal areas of Oregon and Washington recorded up to 5 inches of precipitation and the wet pattern extended into Idaho and western Montana. Areas from south Texas up into the Tennessee Valley also recorded good precipitation amounts with some areas of eastern Mississippi and western Tennessee receiving over 3 inches of rain. At the end of the current U.S. Drought Monitor period, a strong Nor’easter moved up the Atlantic coast and brought with it significant rain and snow to much of New England. The impact of this storm will be determined during the next U.S. Drought Monitor period.”

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

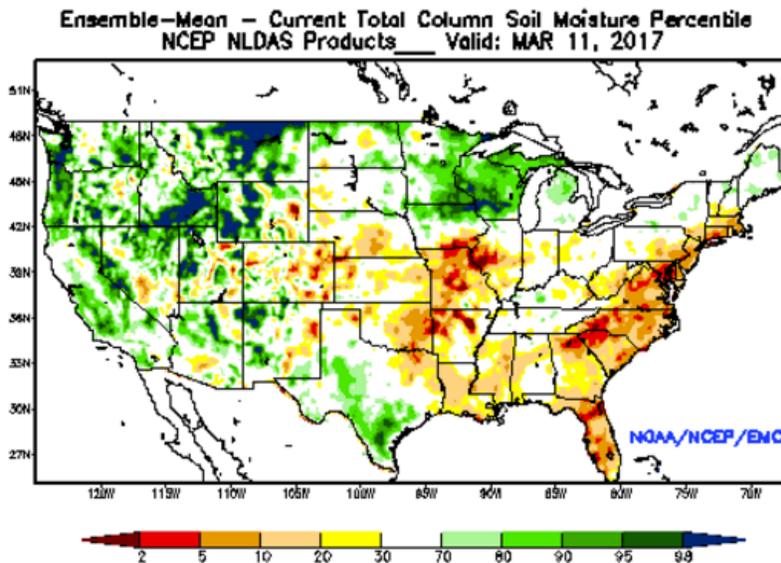


Highlighted Drought Resources

- [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](#)

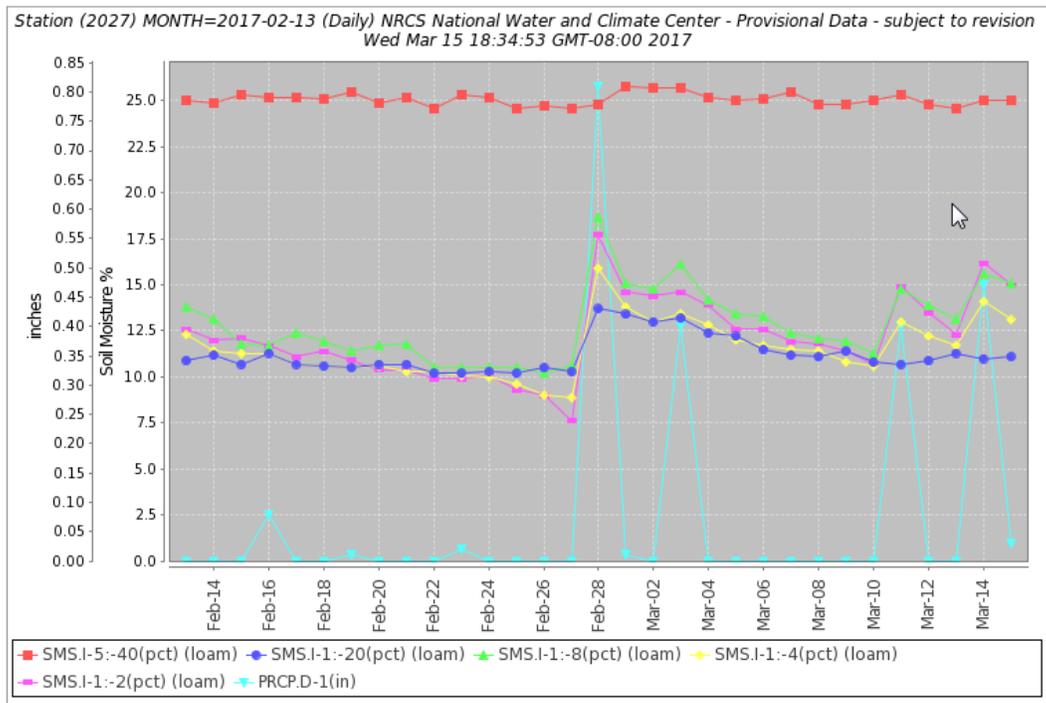
Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of March 11, 2017.

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



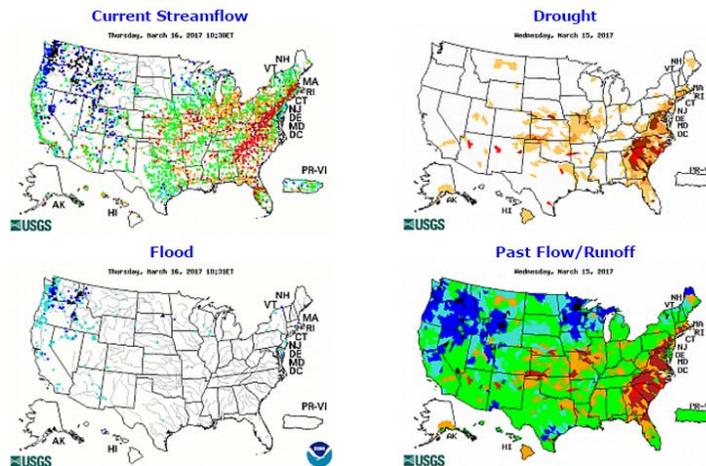
Soil moisture (at 2-, 4-, 8-, 20-, and 40-inch depths) and precipitation for the last 30 days at the [Little River SCAN site 2017](#) in Alabama. Precipitation during multiple events in the last month has increased soil moisture at the 2-, 4-, 8-, and 20-inch soil moisture sensors. The 40-inch sensor has only a very slight increase in soil moisture associated with the largest precipitation event of over 0.8 inches on February 28.

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:

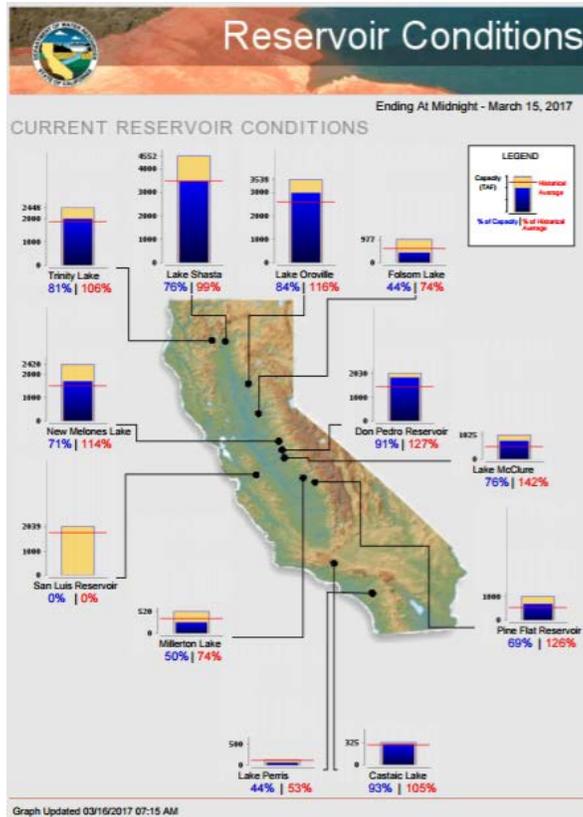
[Upper Colorado](#)

[Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)

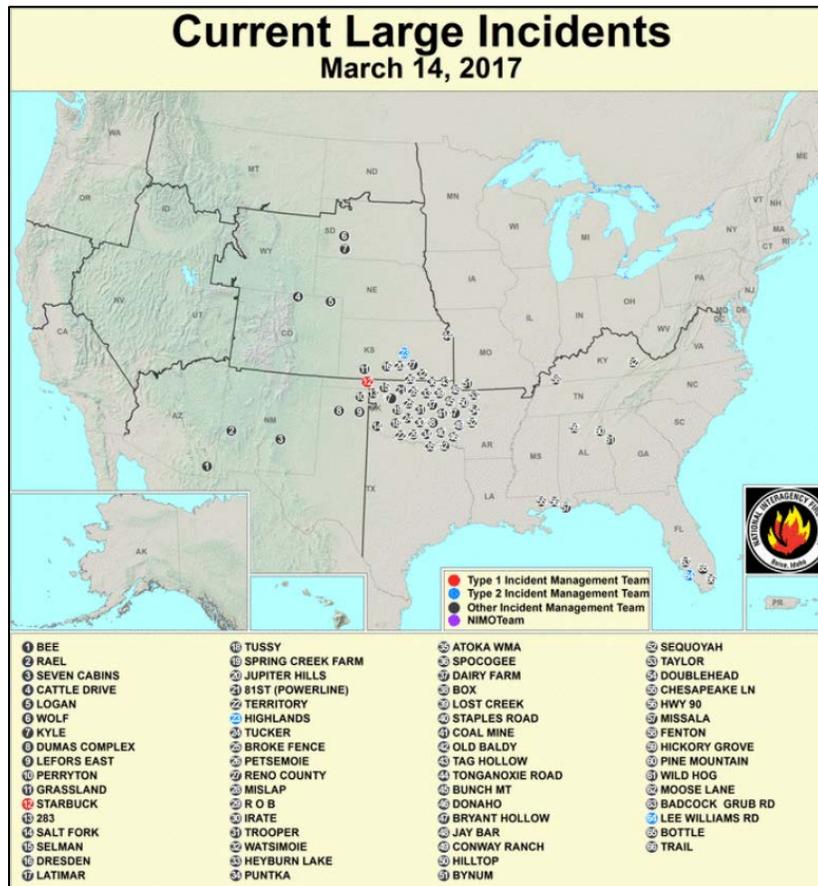
[Sevier River Water, Utah](#)

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

[California Reservoir Conditions](#)



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



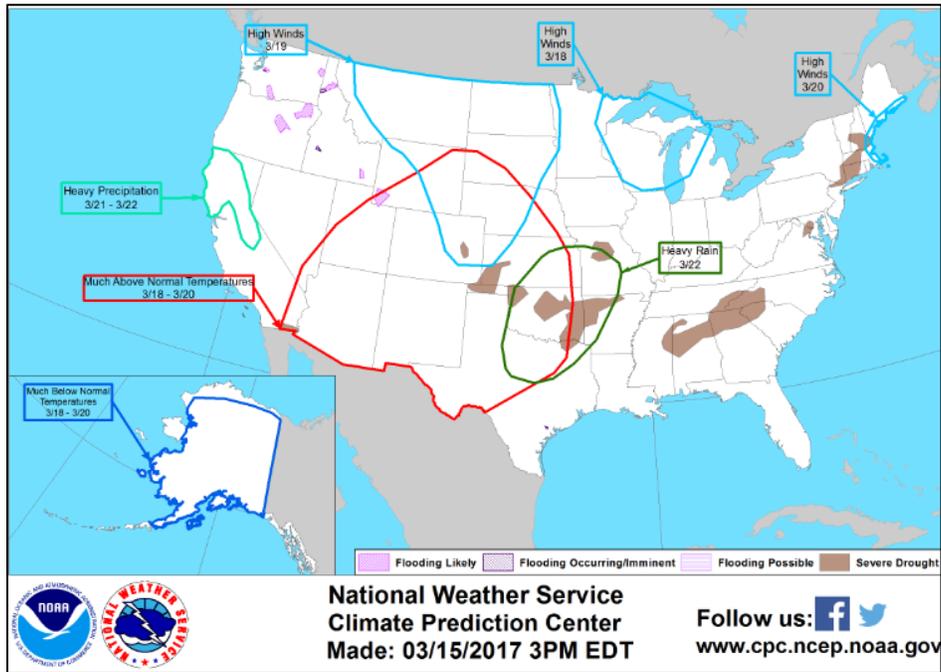
Short- and Long-Range Outlooks

Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

[National Outlook, March 16, 2017](#): “The coldest weather has likely passed for Southeastern producers concerned about freeze damage to fruit and nut crops, as well as winter wheat, nursery crops, and ornamentals. However, some additional frost may occur on Friday morning, especially in the southern Atlantic States. Farther north, a fast-moving disturbance will produce some late-week rain and snow from the Midwest into the Northeast, as well as some rain showers across the interior Southeast. Meanwhile, very warm, mostly dry weather will persist through the weekend from California to the Plains. Elsewhere, wet weather will return to the Northwest during the weekend, followed by a southward push of precipitation into parts of California by early next week. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 21 – 25 calls for the likelihood of near- to above-normal temperatures and precipitation across most of the country. The greatest odds of warm weather can be expected across the South, while wetness will be most likely in California. Exceptions to the warm, wet pattern should include cool weather in California and the Great Lakes and Northeastern States, and mostly dry weather across the Deep South from Texas to Florida.”

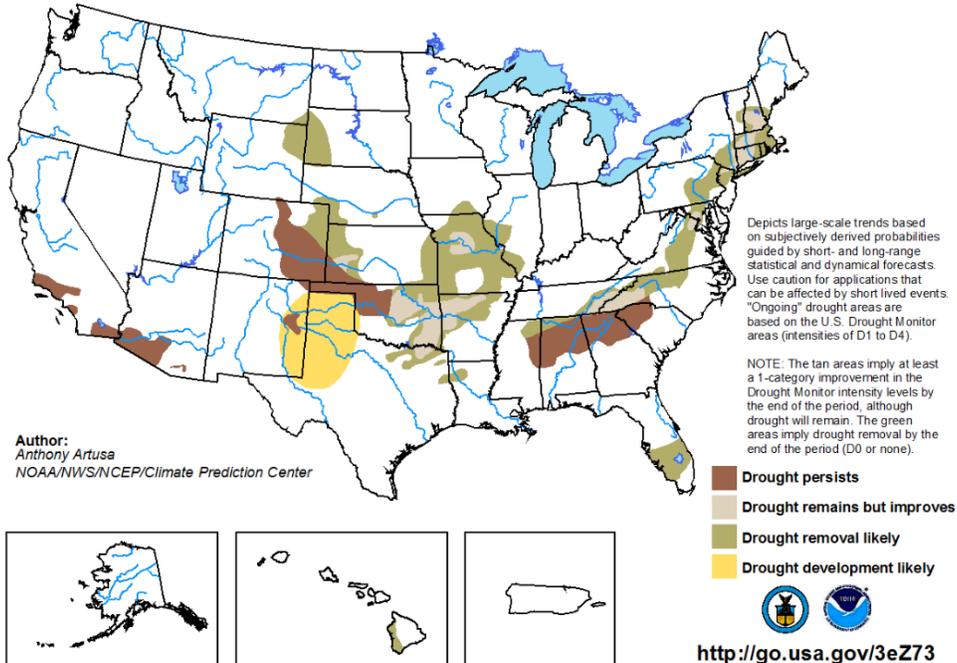
NWS Climate Prediction Center Weather Hazard Outlook: [March 18 – 22, 2017](#)



NWS Seasonal Drought Outlook: [March 16 - June 30, 2017](#)

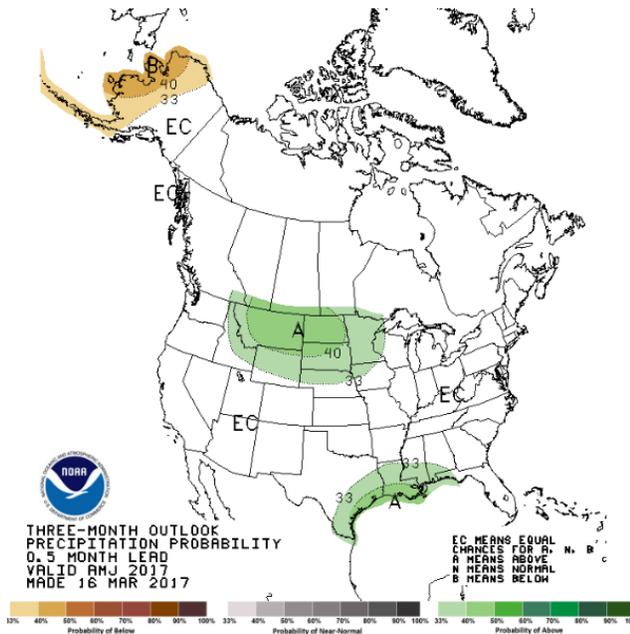
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 16 - June 30, 2017
Released March 16, 2017

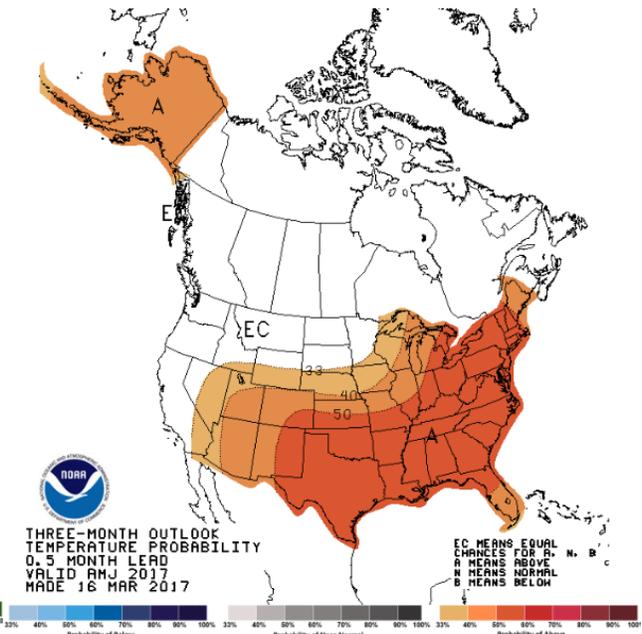


NWS Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

[Precipitation](#)



[Temperature](#)



[April-May-June \(AMJ\) 2017 precipitation outlook summary](#)

[April-May-June \(AMJ\) 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](#).