



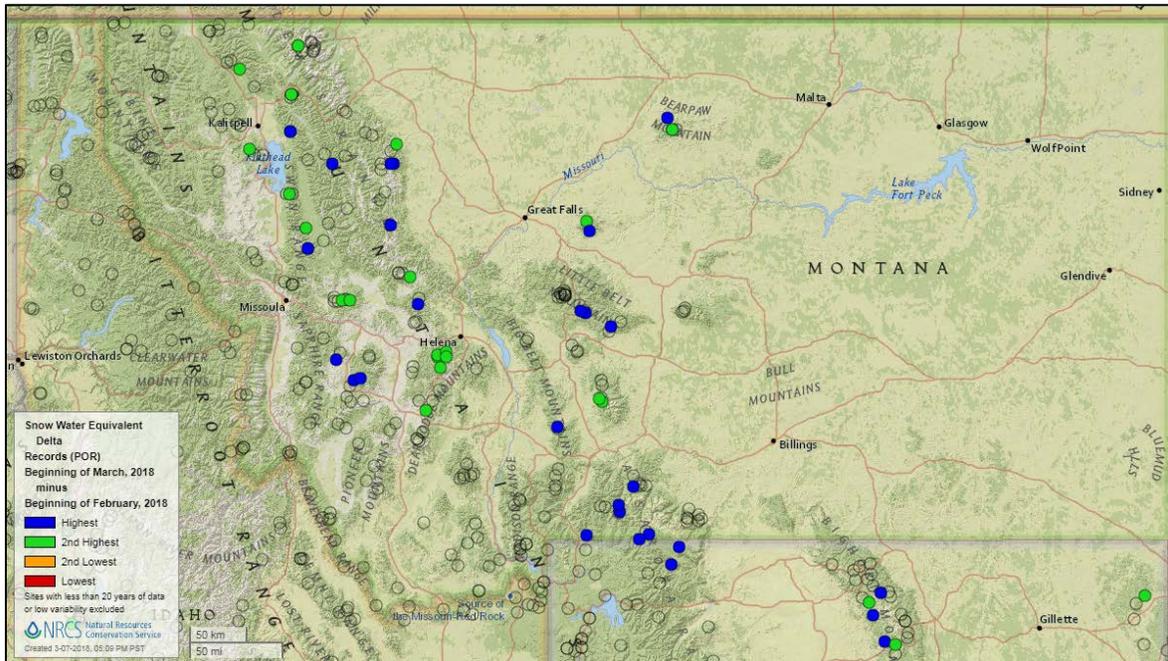
Water and Climate Update

March 8, 2018

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.

Snow	1	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators	12
Precipitation	3	Short- and Long-Range Outlooks.....	15
Temperature.....	7	More Information	18
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Monthly snowpack records set at 25 sites in Montana



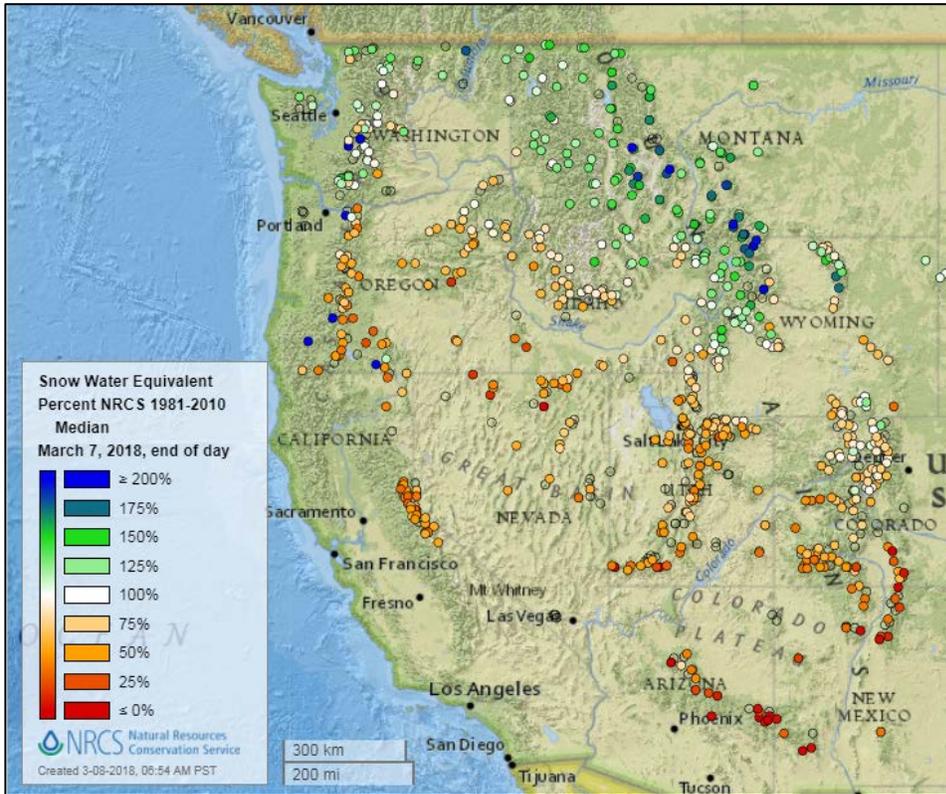
“FEBRU-BURIED” is the best word NRCS snow surveyors in Montana could come up with to describe monthly snowfall across the state of Montana for February. From their monthly [Water Supply Outlook Report](#) they report that “25 snowpack measurement locations set new monthly records, and 21 sites came up just short and were second highest on record. Snowfall during February built on strong early season snowpack totals, which resulted in snowpack percentiles for March 1st that were well above normal across the state of Montana.”

Related:

- [NRCS Western Snowpack and Water Supply Conditions for March 1, 2018](#) – USDA/NRCS
- [Record-setting February weather in some parts of Montana](#) - KRTV.com MT
- [Get ready for runoff: Snowpack setting records across Montana](#) – Helena Independent Record MT
- [Sunday snowfall breaks 100-year-old daily record](#) – Great Falls Tribune MT
- [Gov. Bullock visits snow-bound Blackfeet Nation](#) KXLH Helena News MT
- [‘This is a crisis’: Brutal winter has cattle struggling to survive](#) Great Falls Tribune MT
- [Tough winter taking toll on deer, antelope](#) – Great Falls Tribune MT

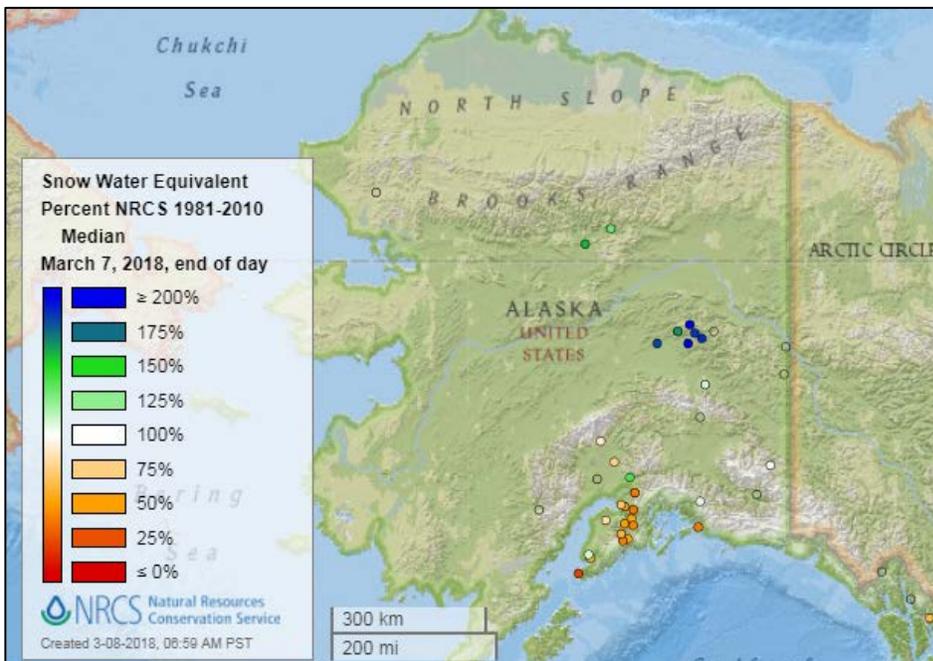
Snow

Current Snow Water Equivalent, NRCS SNOTEL Network



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

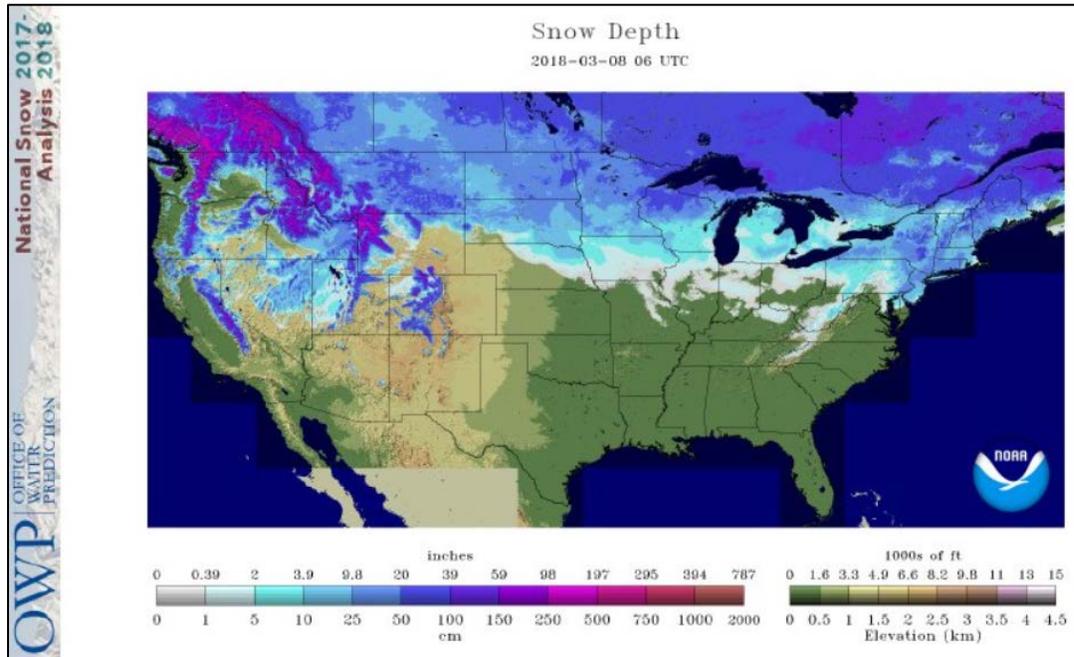
See also:
[Snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)



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

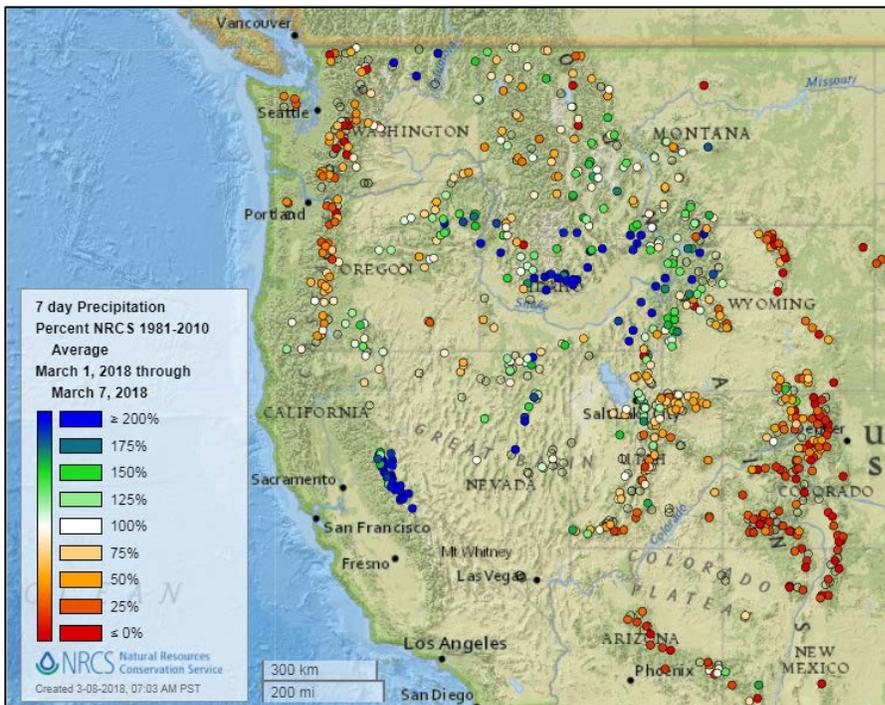
See also:
[Alaska snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network



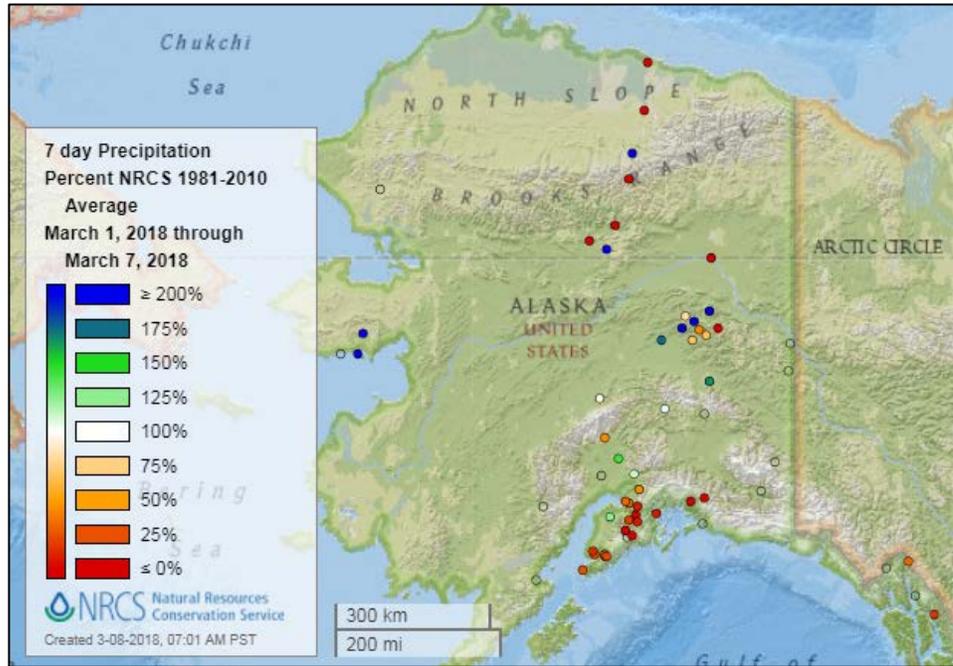
[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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

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

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



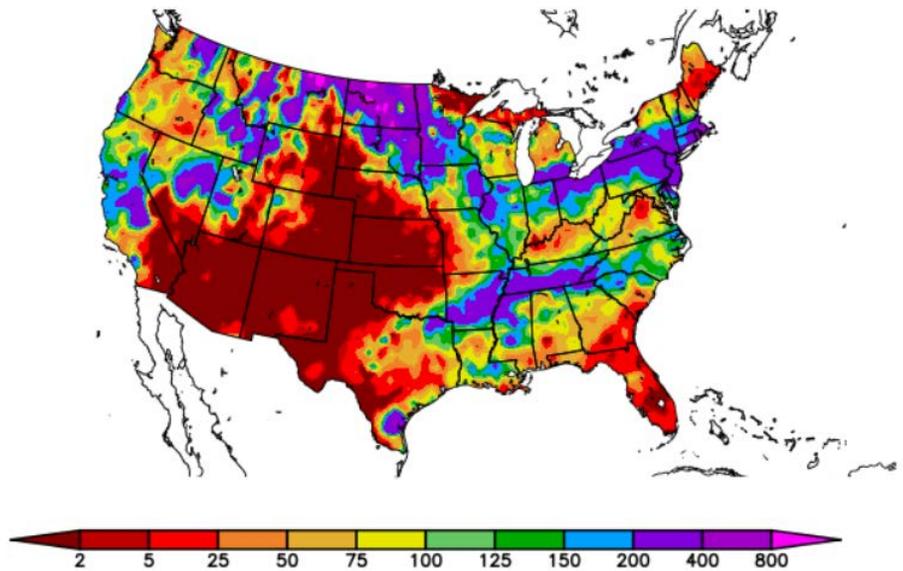
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 3/1/2018 – 3/7/2018

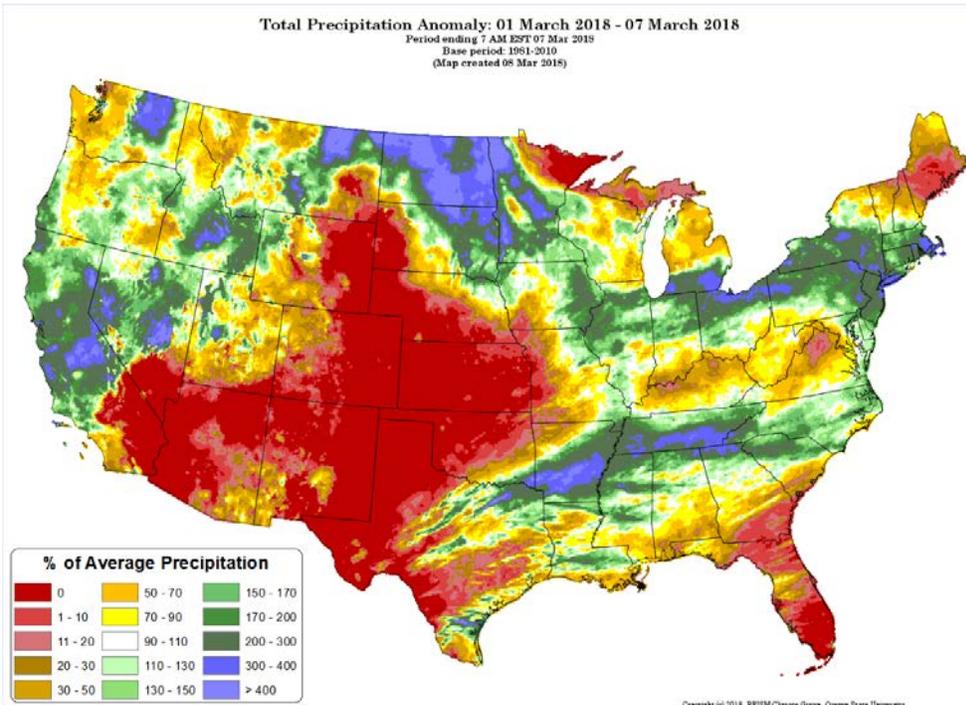


Generated 3/8/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

Source: PRISM

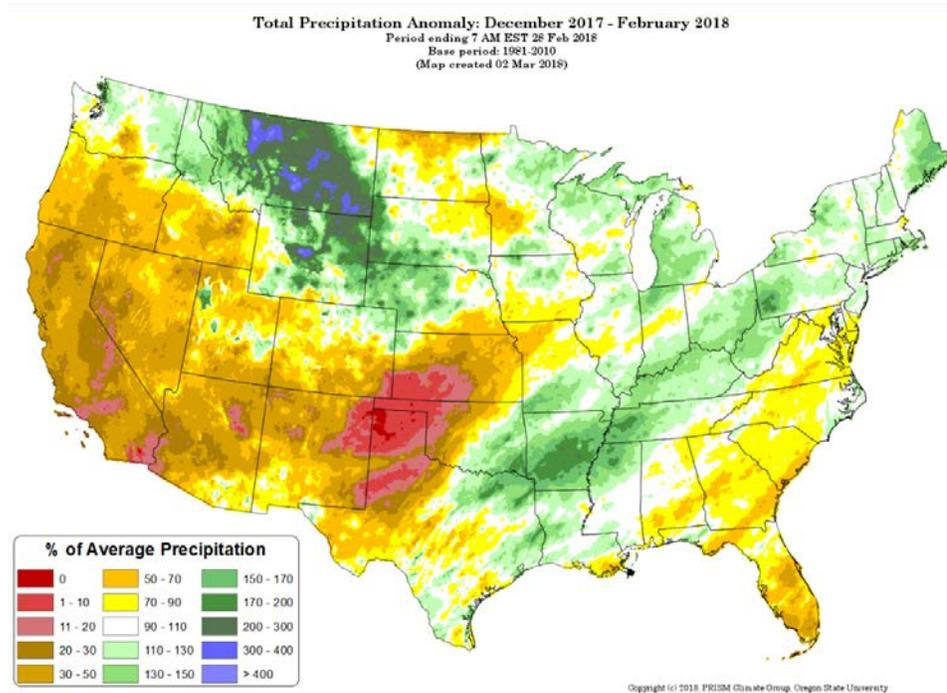


[Month-to-date national total precipitation percent of average map](#)

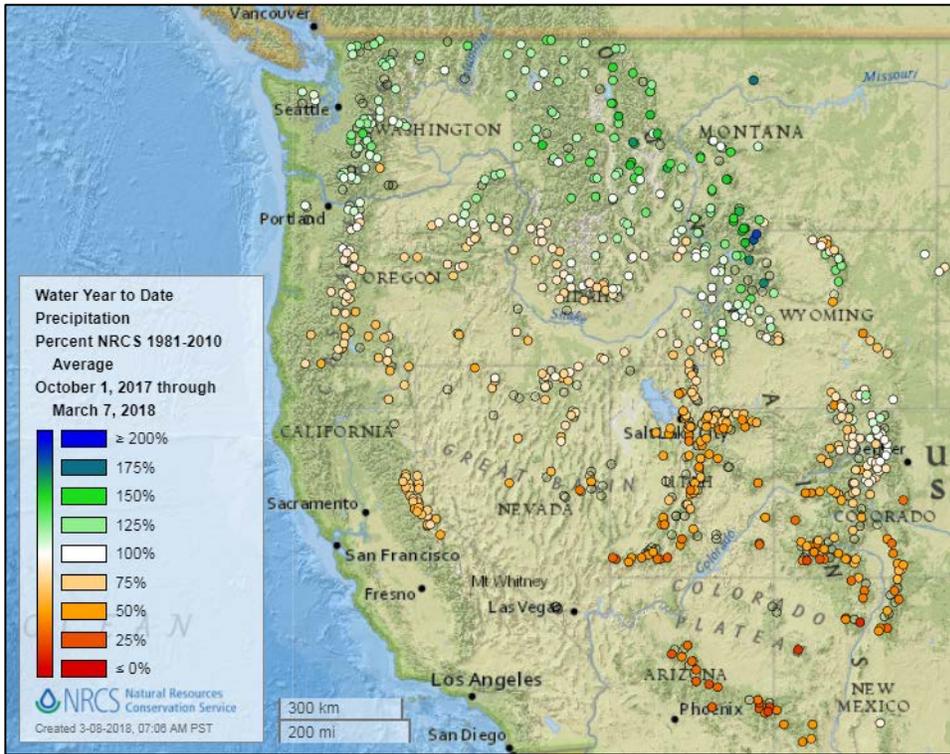
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[December 2017 through February 2018 total precipitation percent of average map](#)

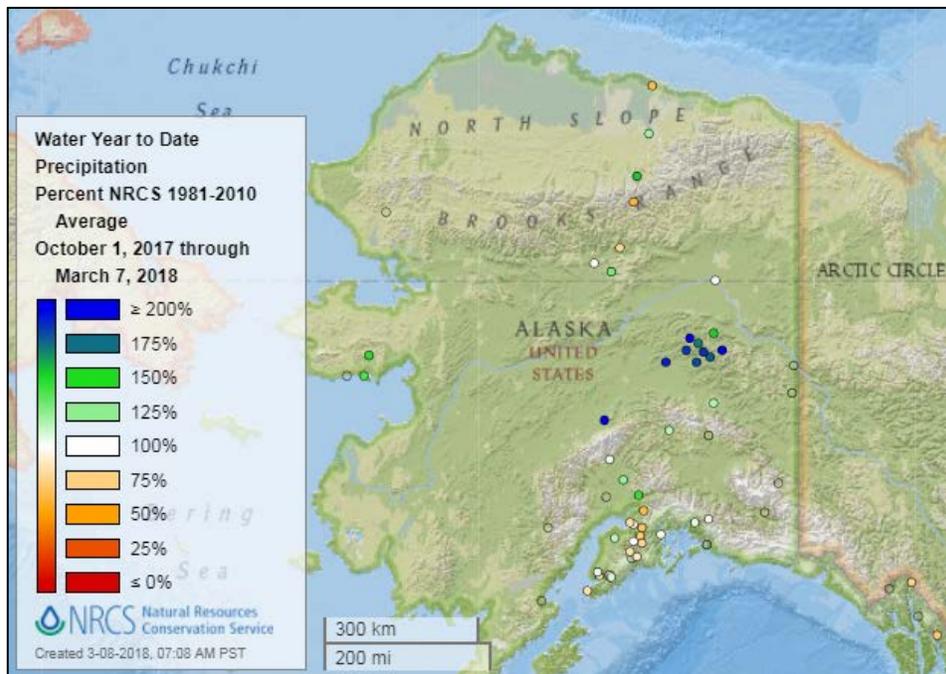


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2018 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [2018 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\)](#)



[Alaska 2018 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 2018 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

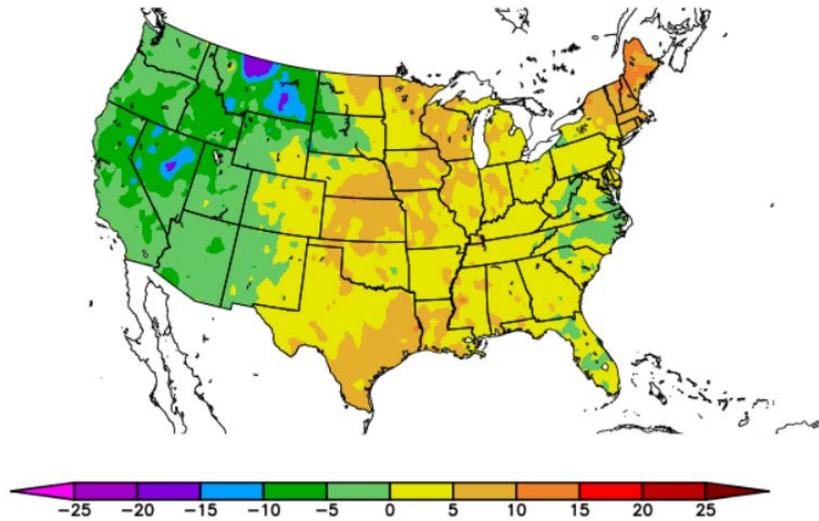
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
3/1/2018 – 3/7/2018



Generated 3/8/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

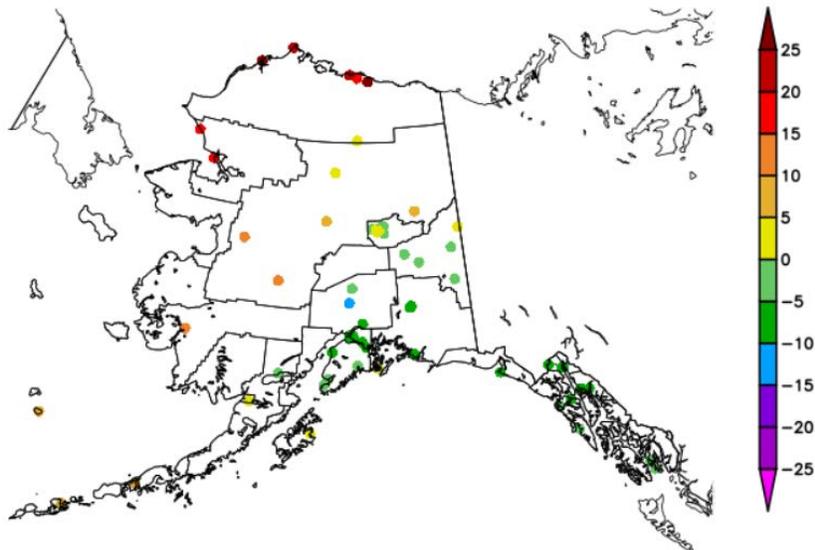
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/1/2018 – 3/7/2018



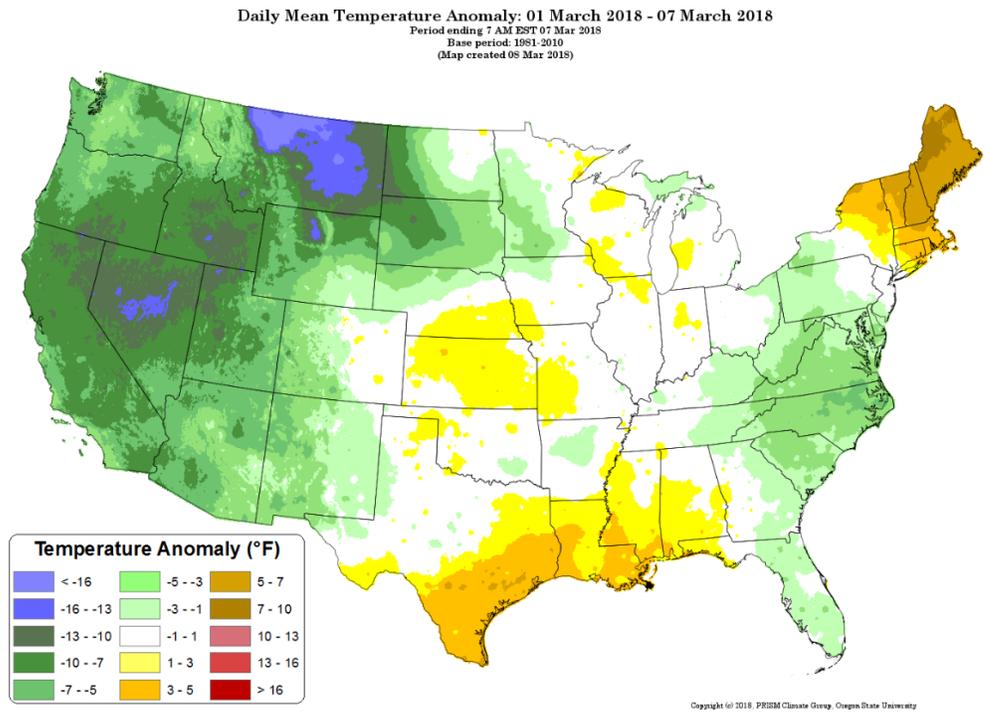
Generated 3/8/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

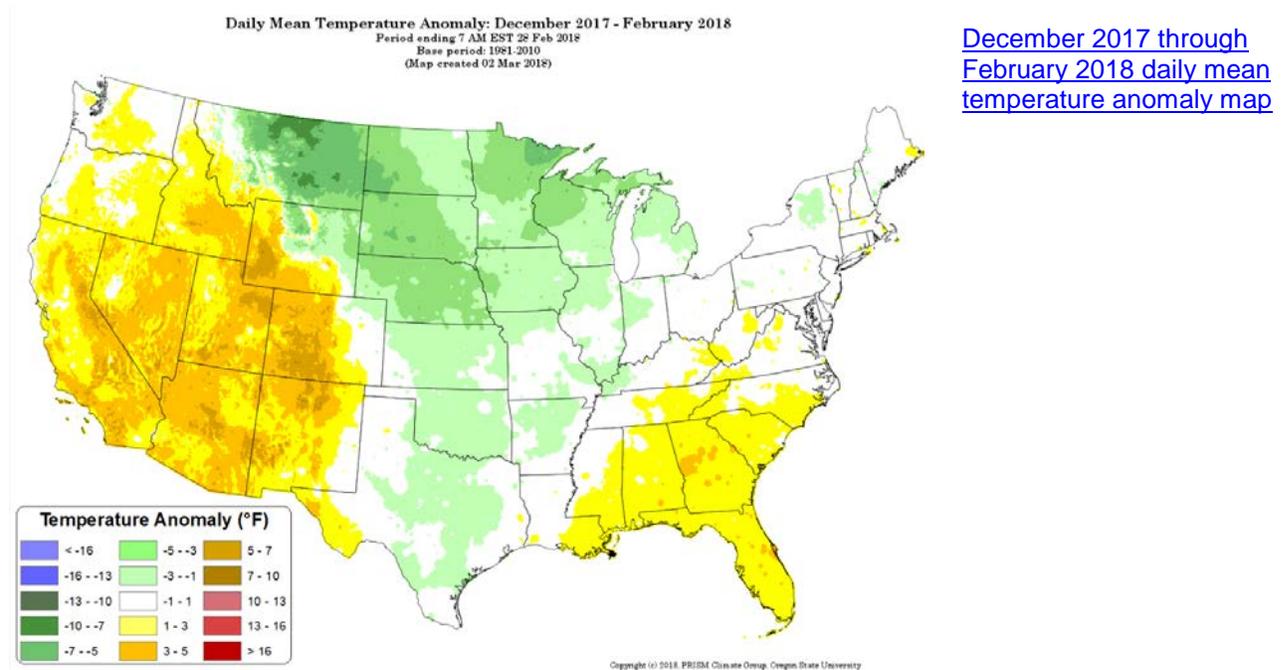
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Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks Source: PRISM

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



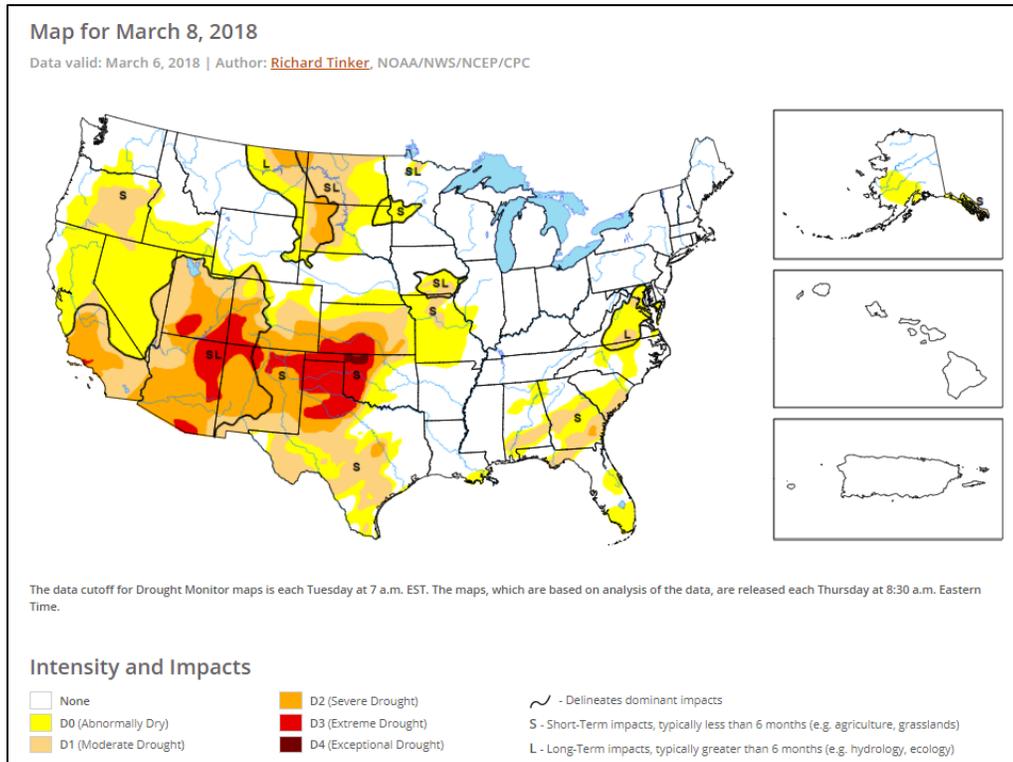
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks Source: PRISM



Drought

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

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



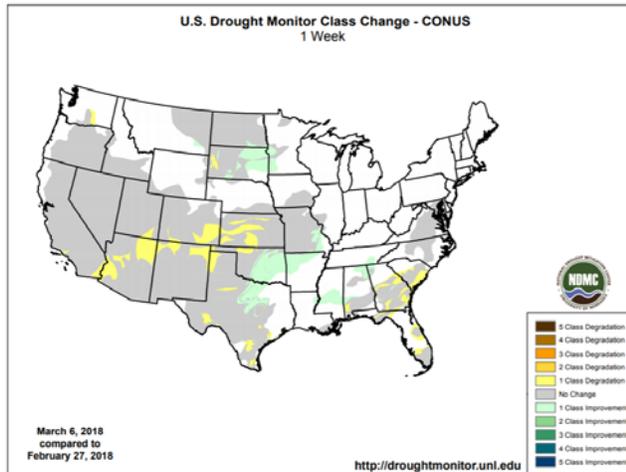
Current [National Drought Summary](#), March 8, 2018

Author: Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

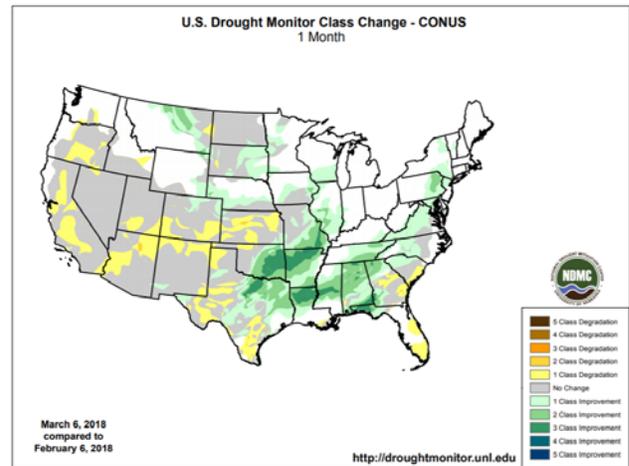
“Moderate to heavy precipitation evaded most areas of dryness and drought this week, falling on the lower Northeast, a swath from northeastern Texas eastward through the upper Southeast and Tennessee Valley, the Sierra Nevada, and parts of the West Coast. In areas of existing dryness and drought, precipitation exceeded 1.5 inches only in southeastern Tennessee and adjacent areas, the southeastern tier of the dry area in Arkansas, the Sierra Nevada, and portions of southwestern California. Windstorms were almost as noteworthy as precipitation patterns this past week. The mid-Atlantic and Northeast were buffeted by gusts frequently reaching 55-70 mph, and briefly climbing to over 90 mph in southern New England, during the first couple days of the month. Toward the end of the period, strong winds and similar gusts were observed across much of Kansas and the adjacent High Plains, spinning up dust storms in a few areas.”

Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

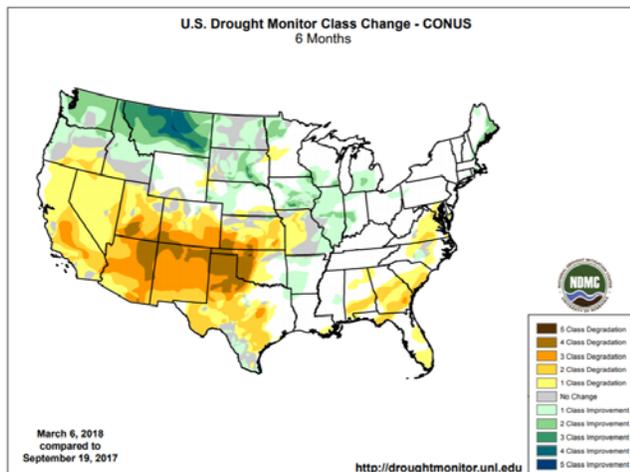
1 Week



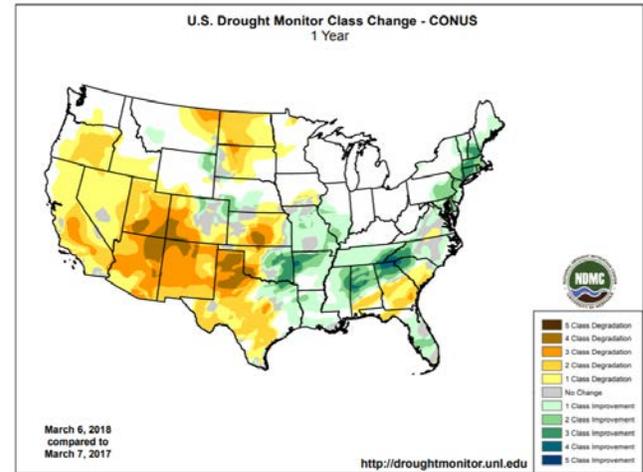
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year

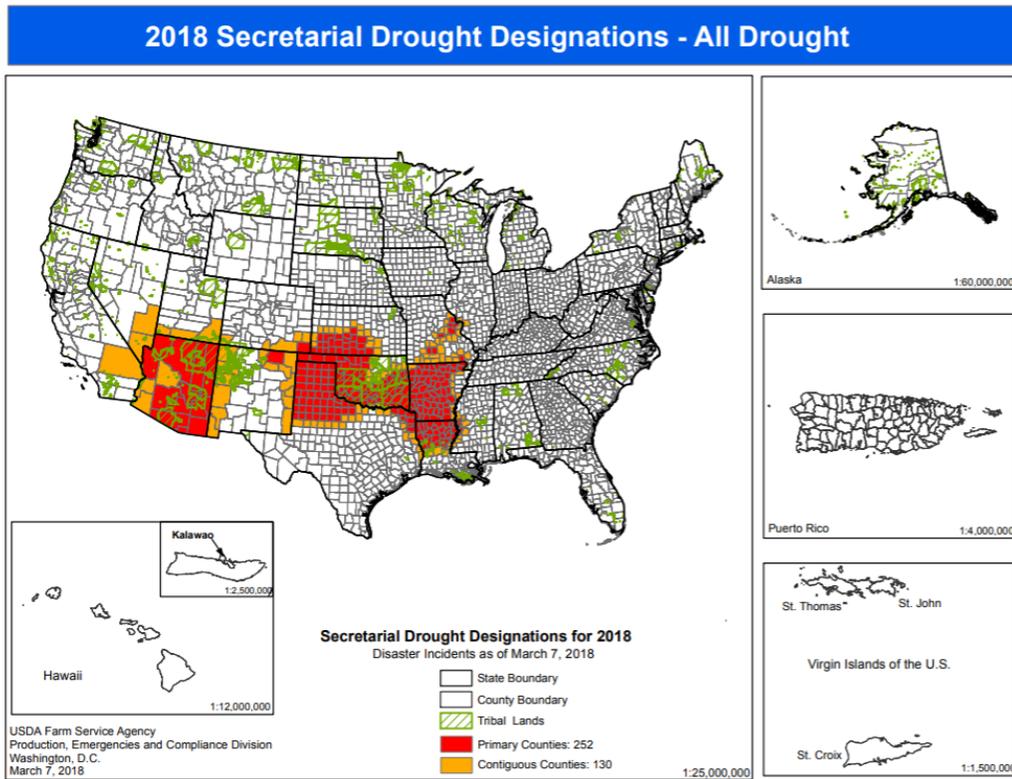


Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months

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](#)

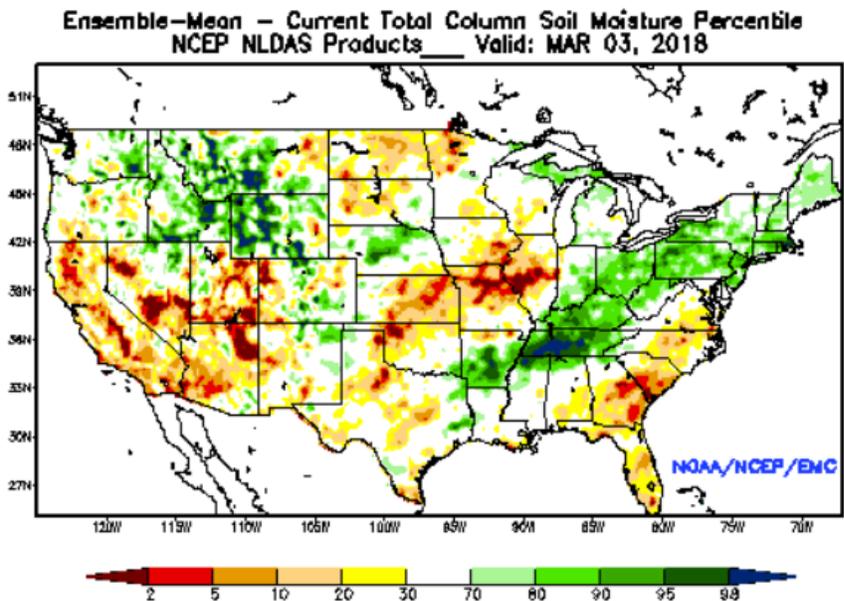
USDA 2018 Secretarial Drought Designations



Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

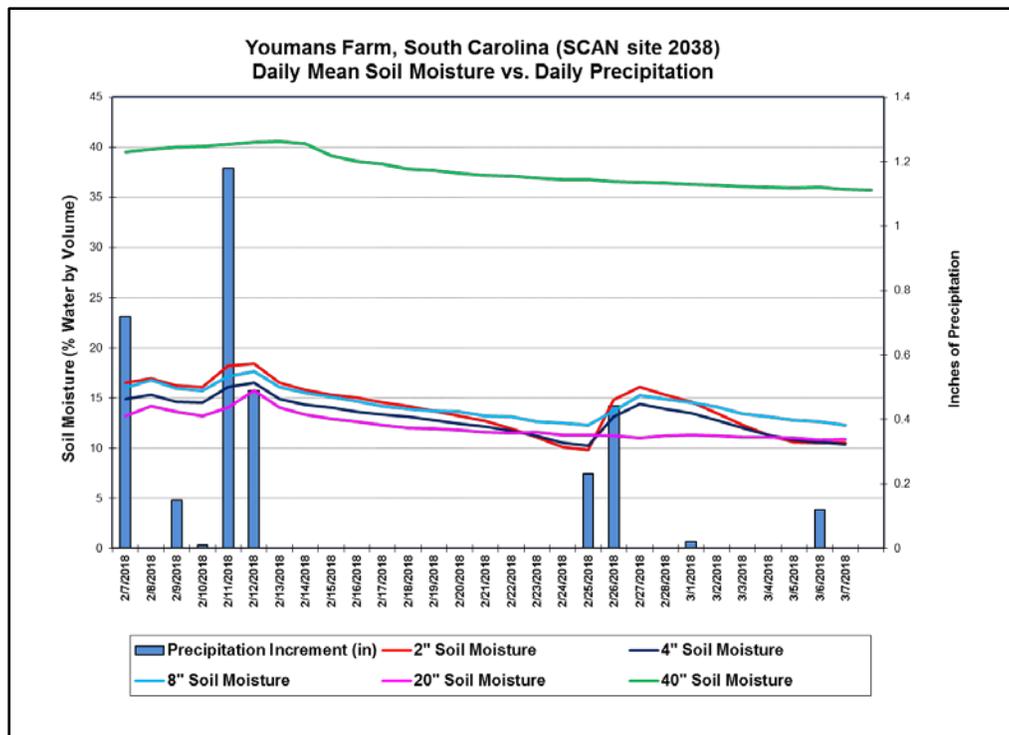
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of March 3, 2018.

Soil Moisture Data

Source: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)



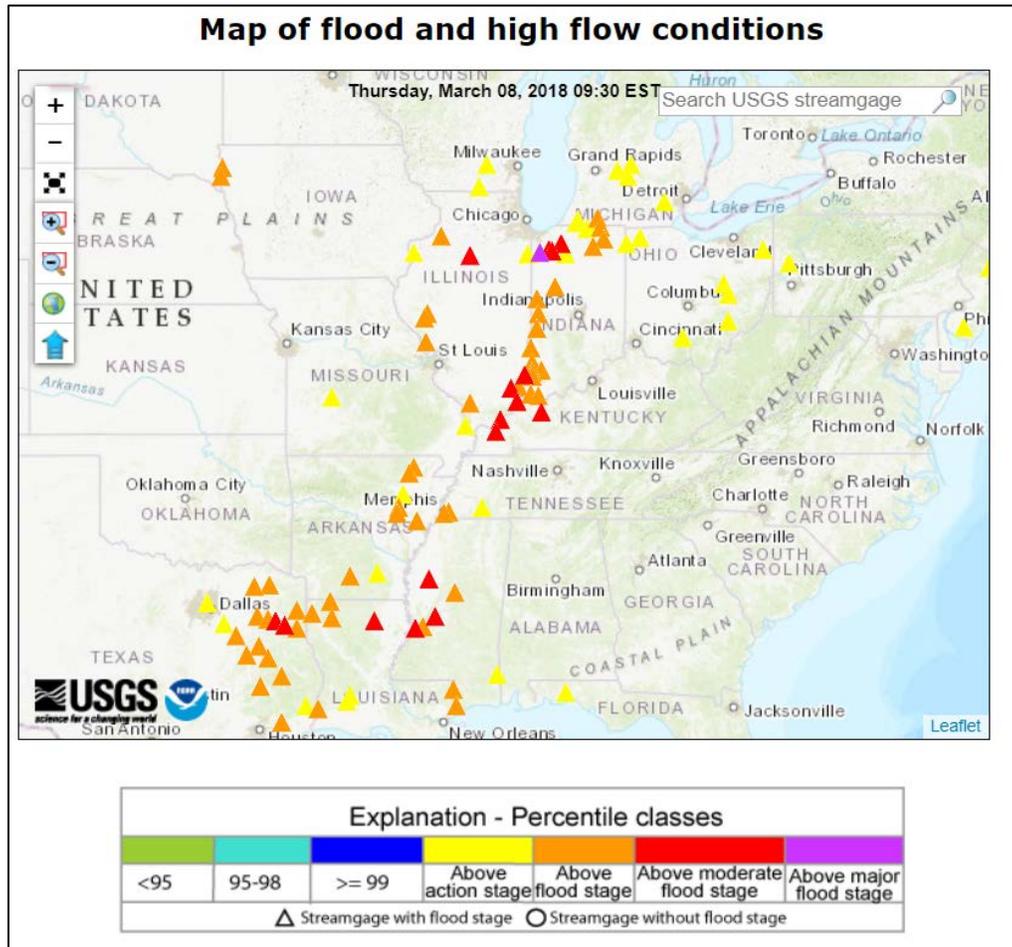
The chart shows precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Youmans Farm SCAN site 2038](#) in South Carolina. The past 30 days show a decrease in soil moisture after the heavy precipitation at the beginning of the period. The 2-, 4-, and 8-inch sensors showed an increase in soil moisture from the more recent 2-day event.

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

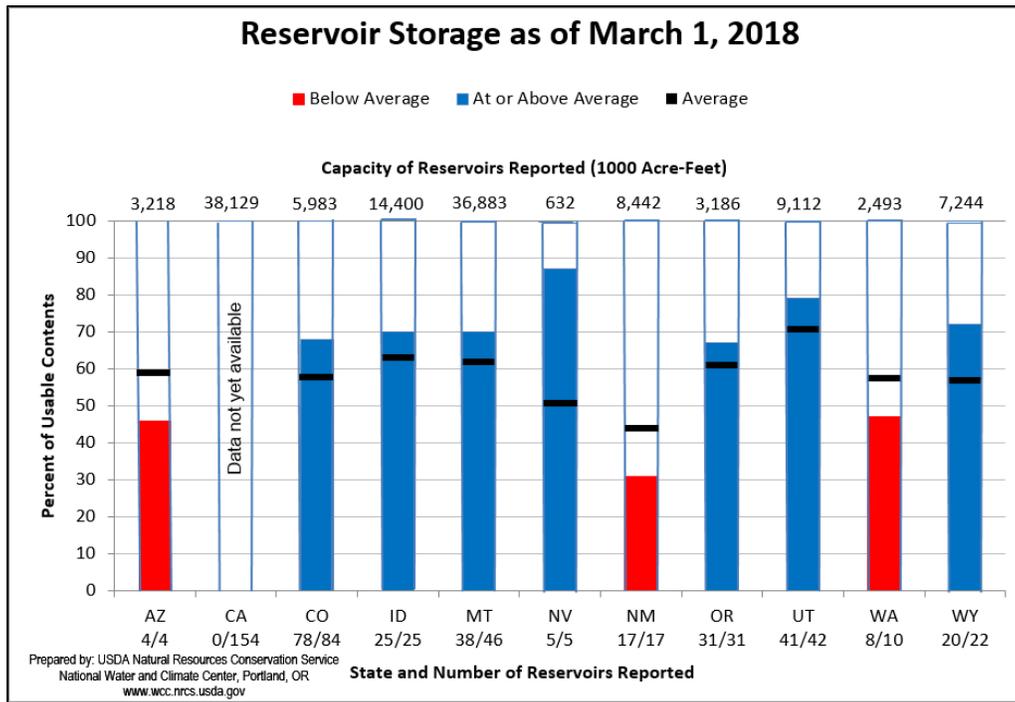


[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



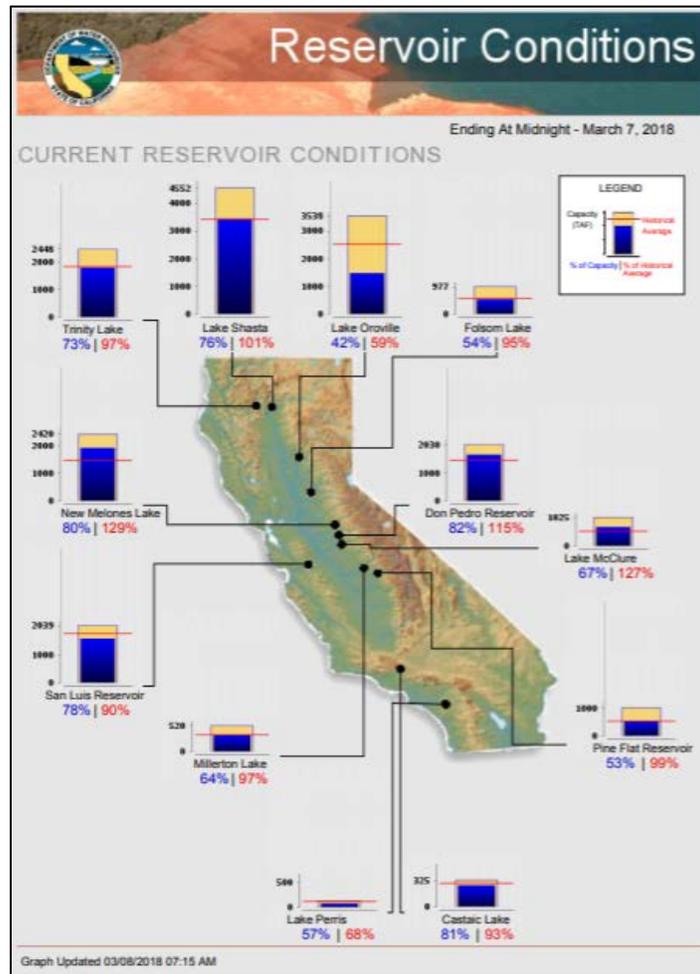
March 1 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

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](#)

Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

Short- and Long-Range Outlooks

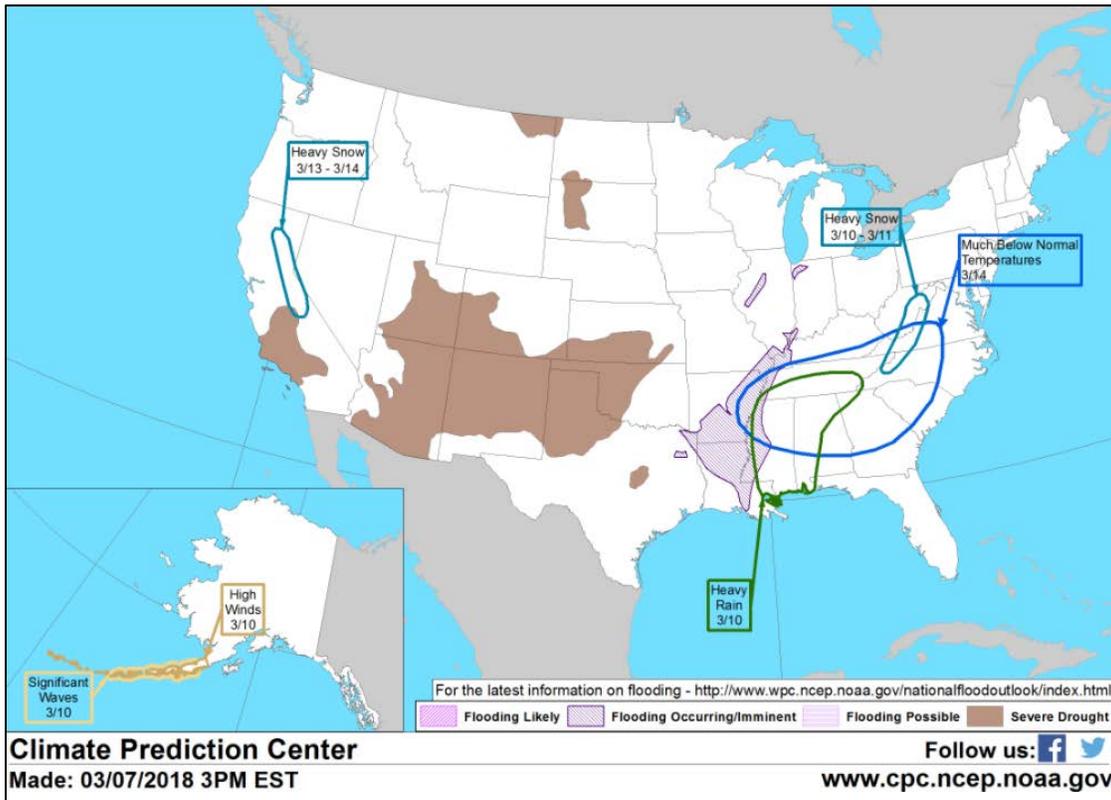
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

[National Outlook, Thursday, March 8](#): “For the remainder of today, an intensifying storm along the northern Atlantic Coast will produce wind driven rain and snow. In parts of the Northeast, snow- and wind-related storm impacts will linger into Thursday. Cold air trailing the storm will result in freezes on March 8-9 as far south as portions of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Cold weather will linger across the Midwest and East for several days, but late-week warmth will arrive on the central and southern Plains. In addition, dry weather will persist for at least the next 5 days on the central and southern High Plains. Elsewhere, wet weather will be mostly confined to the Northwest until the weekend, when showers will develop across California and the Southwest. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 12 – 16 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures across much of the Plains, Rockies, and upper Midwest, while colder-than-normal conditions will prevail in the Far West and from the mid-South and lower Midwest to the Atlantic Coast. Meanwhile, near- to below-normal precipitation throughout the central and eastern U.S. should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in the West.”

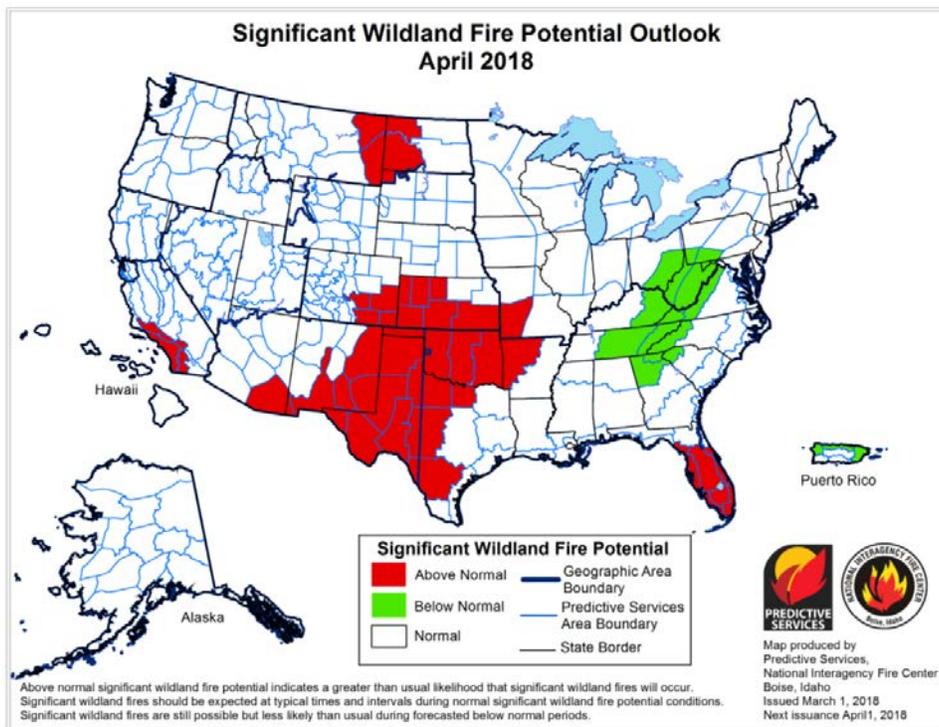
Weather Hazard Outlook [March 10 - 14, 2018](#)

Source: Climate Prediction Center



Significant Wildland [Fire Potential Outlook](#)

Source: National Interagency Fire Center

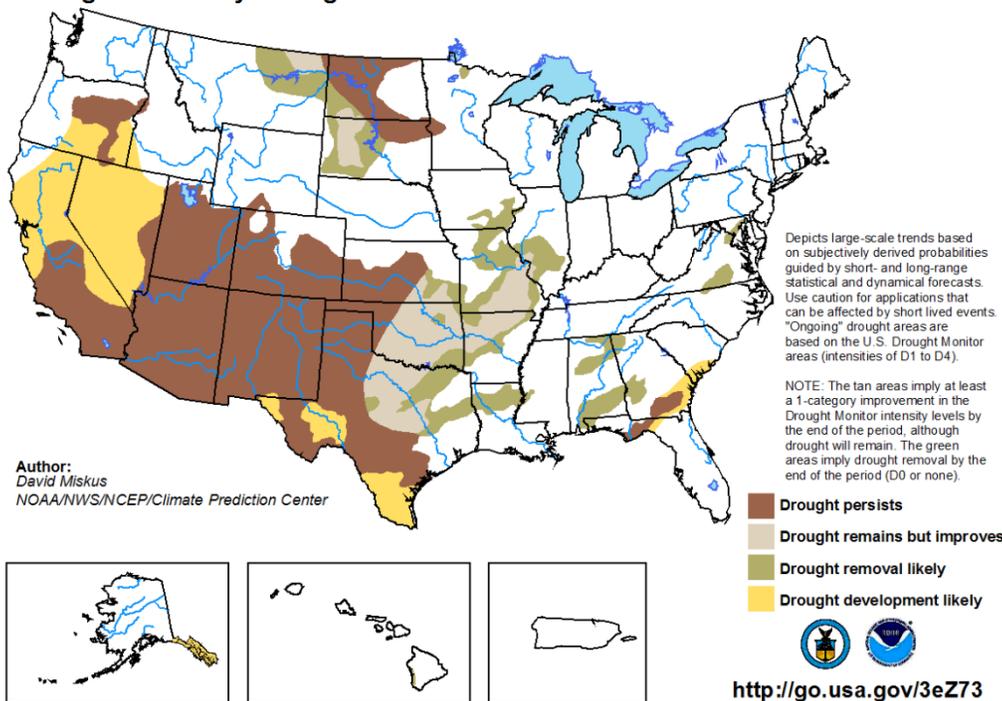


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [February 15 - May 31, 2018](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for February 15 - May 31, 2018
Released February 15, 2018

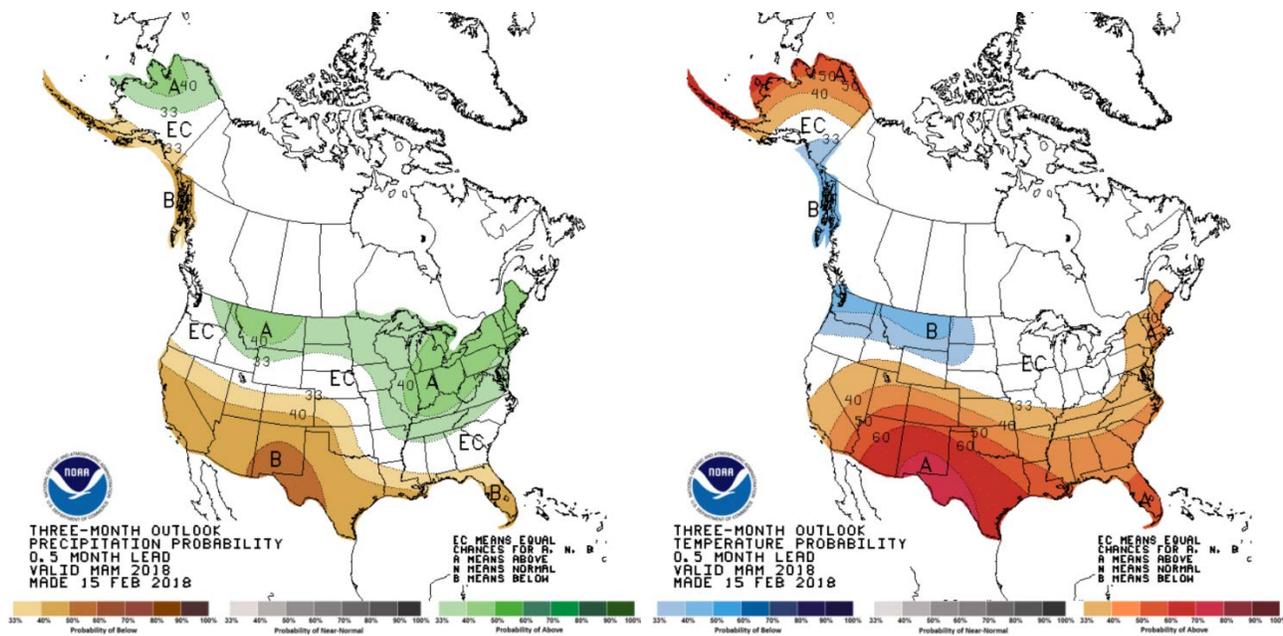


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)

[Temperature](#)



[Mar-Apr-May \(MAM\) 2018 precipitation and temperature outlook summaries](#)

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](#).