

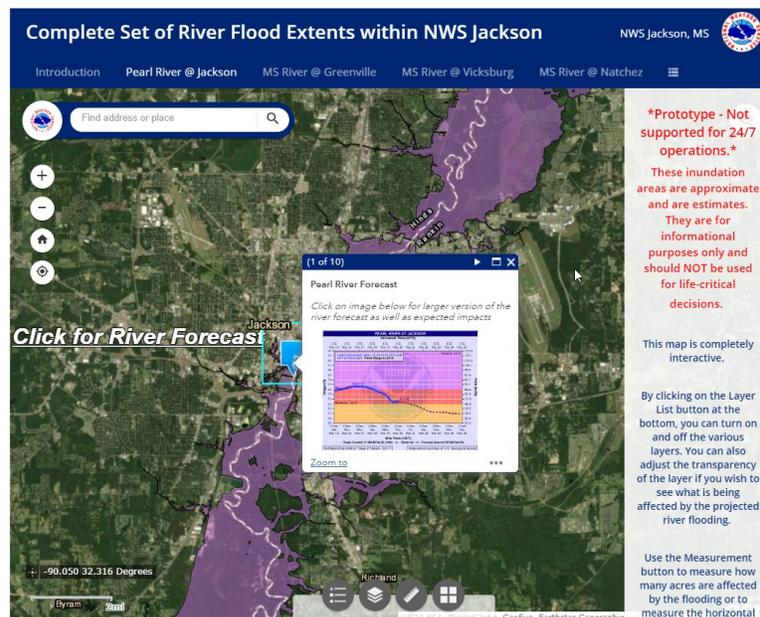
Water and Climate Update

February 20, 2020

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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Persistent rain leads to widespread flooding in Mississippi

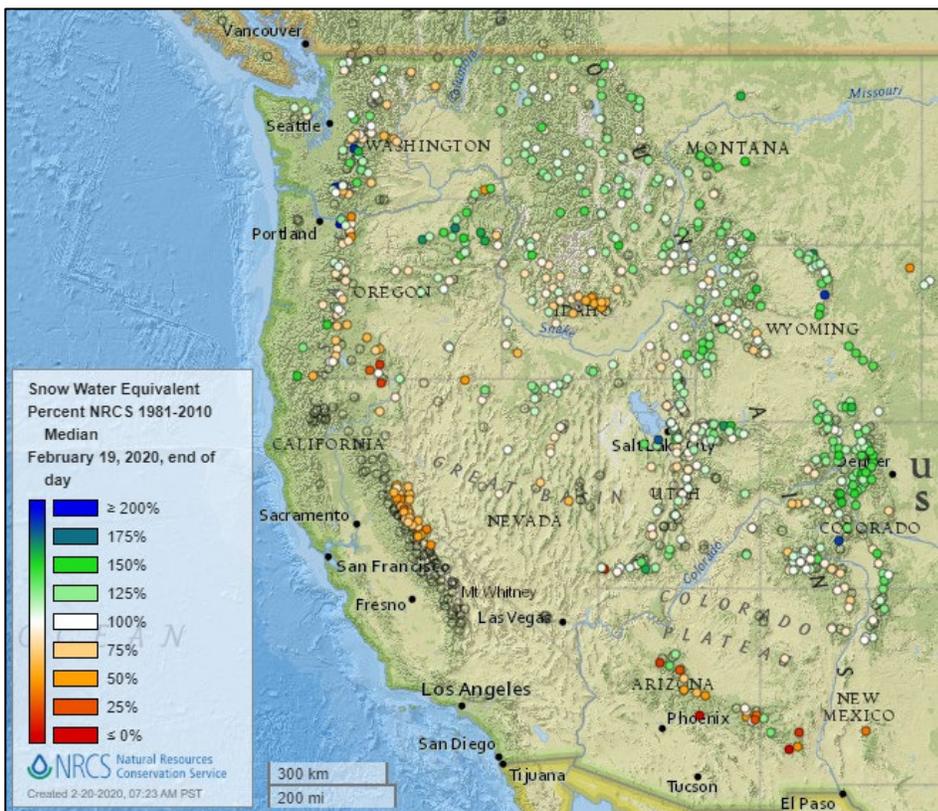


Jackson, Mississippi, was flooded from a continuing series of storms, which brought more than five inches of rain to some parts of Mississippi over the last week. This is in addition to the previous precipitation since January 1 of over 25 inches for central Mississippi. The Pearl River, running through the state capitol, crested at the third highest level on record. The Governor has declared a state of emergency for the historic flood. Mandatory evacuations, power outages, and extensive damage to hundreds of homes and businesses from the flooding was reported. Much of the South has experienced well above normal rainfall since the beginning of 2020.

Related:

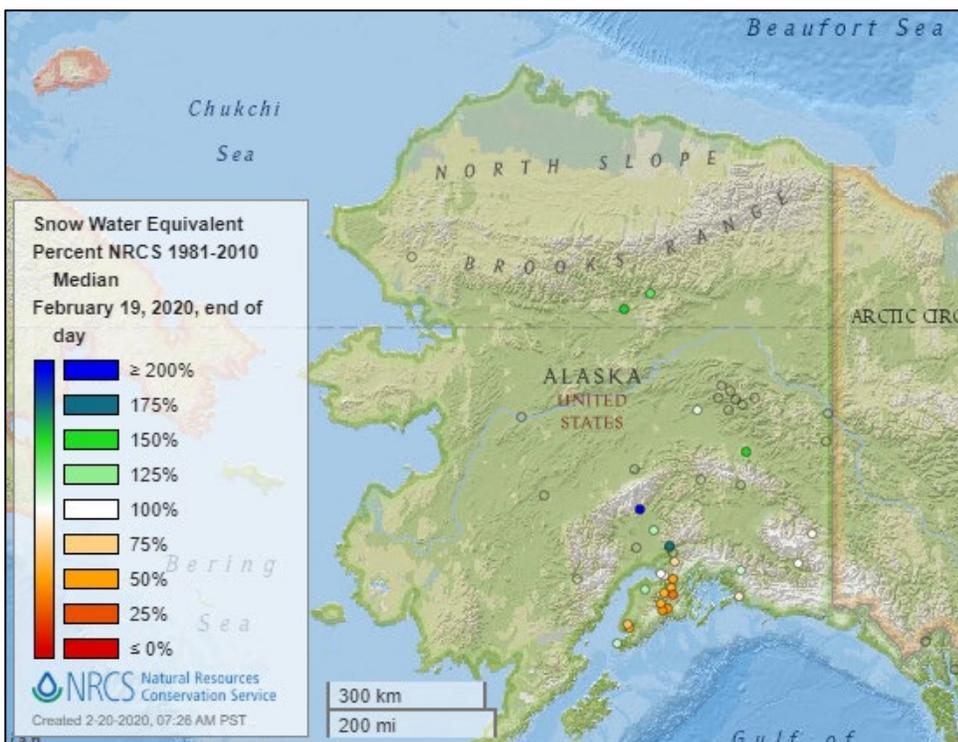
- [Floods put Mississippi capital in 'precarious situation'](#) – Washington Times
- [Pearl River falling in Jackson; rising in areas south of the city](#) – WJTV (MS)
- [Mississippi getting more rain as residents endure 'unprecedented' flooding](#) - ABC
- [More drenching rains take aim at flood-ravaged South](#) - ABC
- [Historic flooding hits Mississippi, Tennessee with more drenching rains expected](#) – Fox 7 Austin KTBC (TX)
- [Mississippi floods leave parts of Jackson under water](#) - Reuters
- [Severe flooding could impact hundreds of homes, businesses, and other structures in Jackson, Mississippi](#) – Local 24 News (TN)
- [Pearl River's third-highest crest on record causes flooding in Jackson, Mississippi](#) - MSN

Snow



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

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

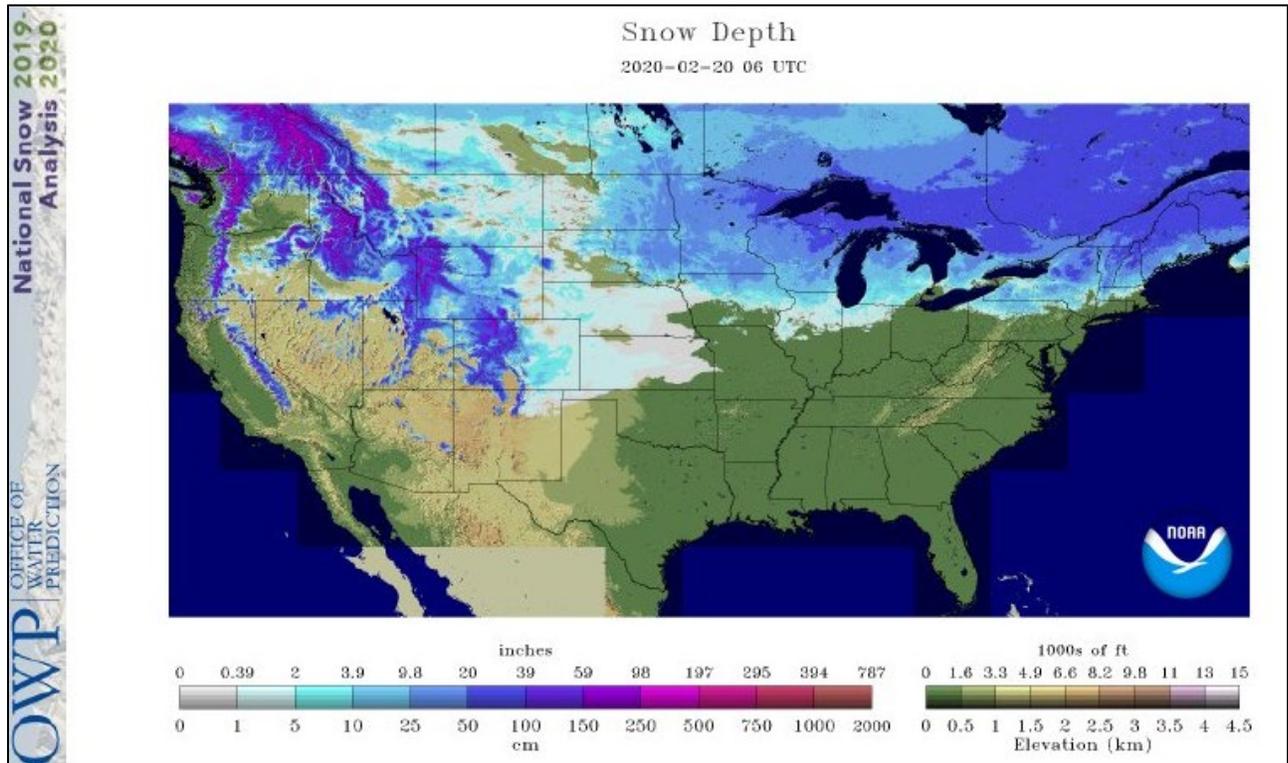


[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

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

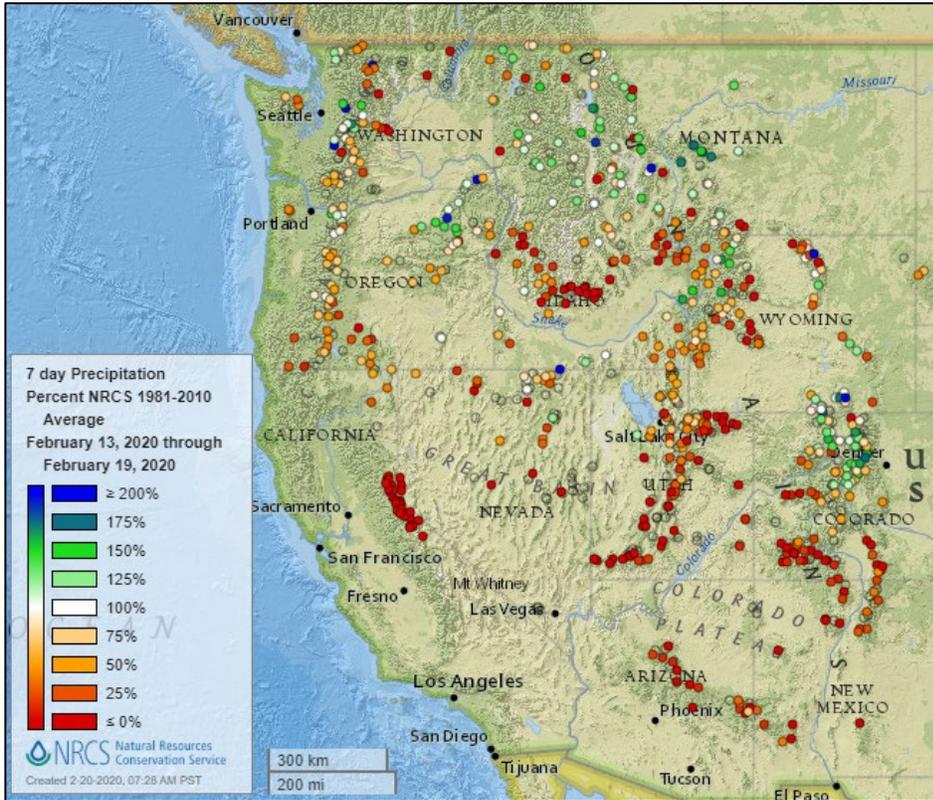
Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis

Source: NOAA Office of Water Prediction



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

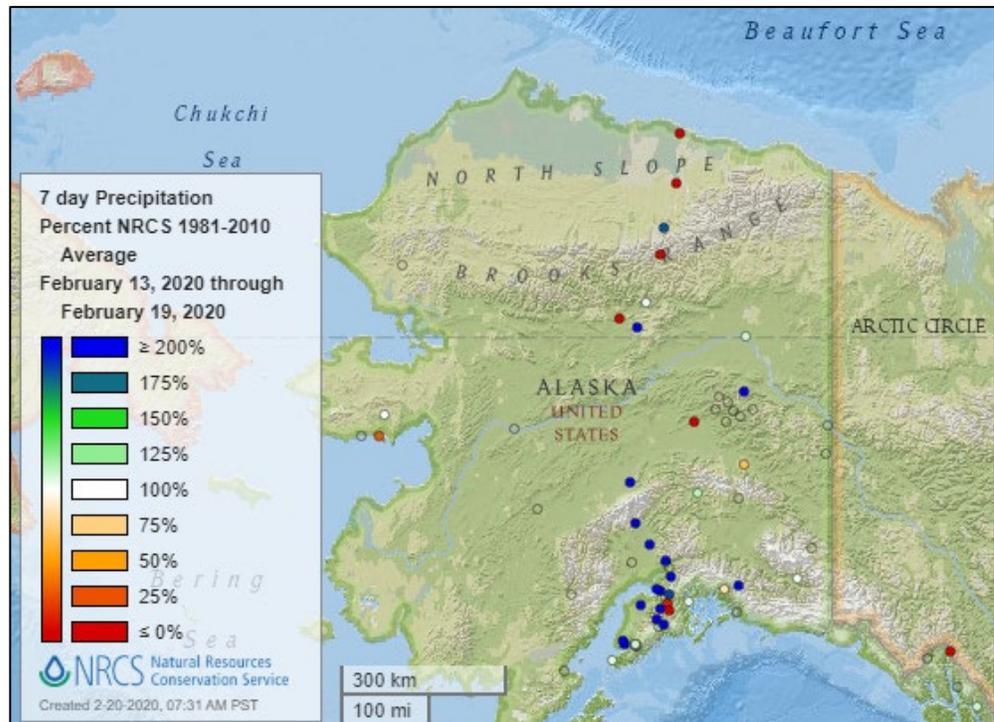


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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](#)



Water and Climate Update

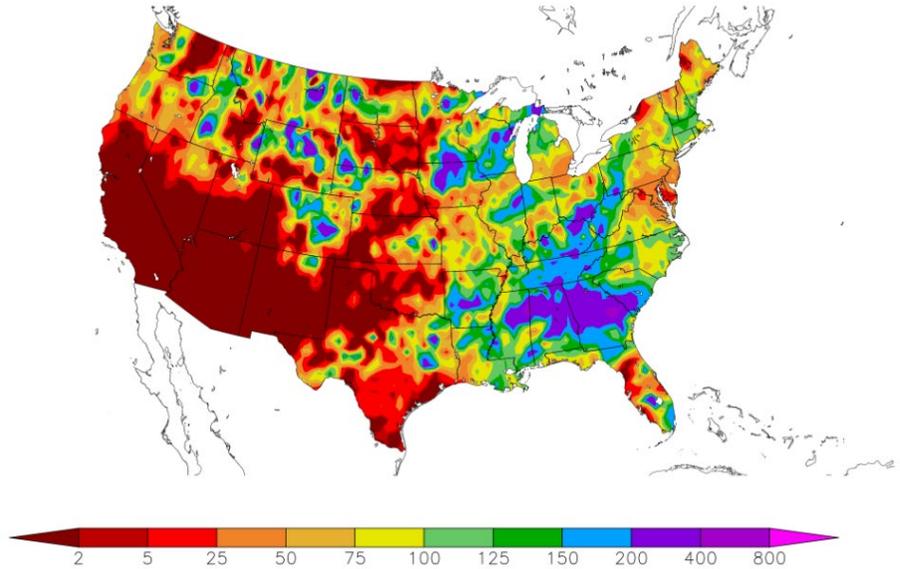
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
2/13/2020 – 2/19/2020



Generated 2/20/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

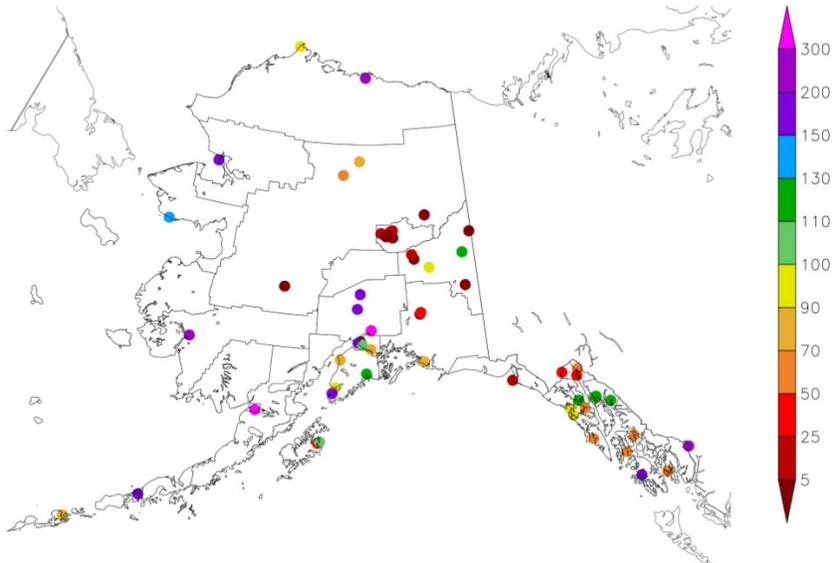
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
2/13/2020 – 2/19/2020



Generated 2/20/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

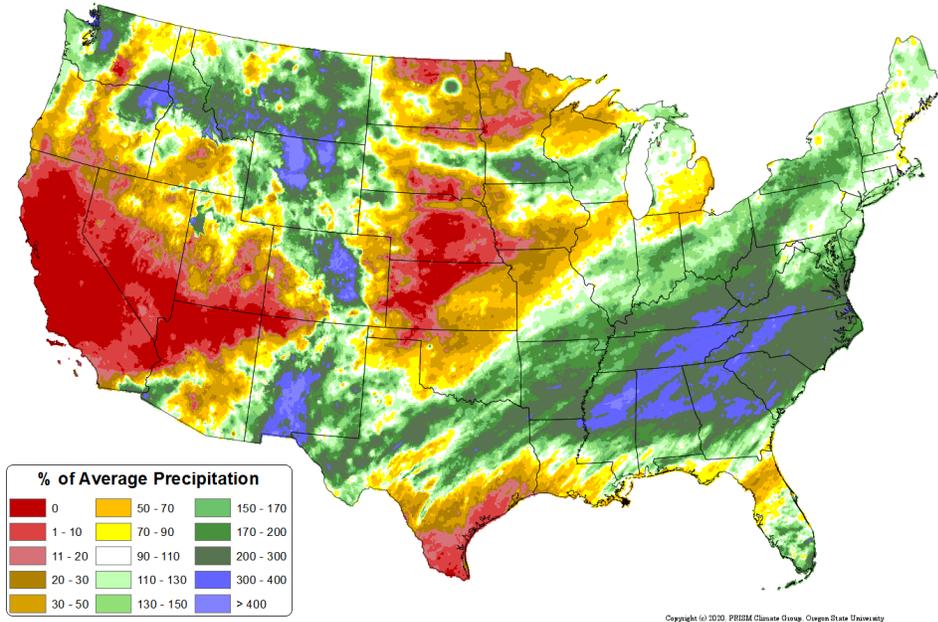
Water and Climate Update

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

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Feb 2020 - 19 Feb 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 19 Feb 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 20 Feb 2020)

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

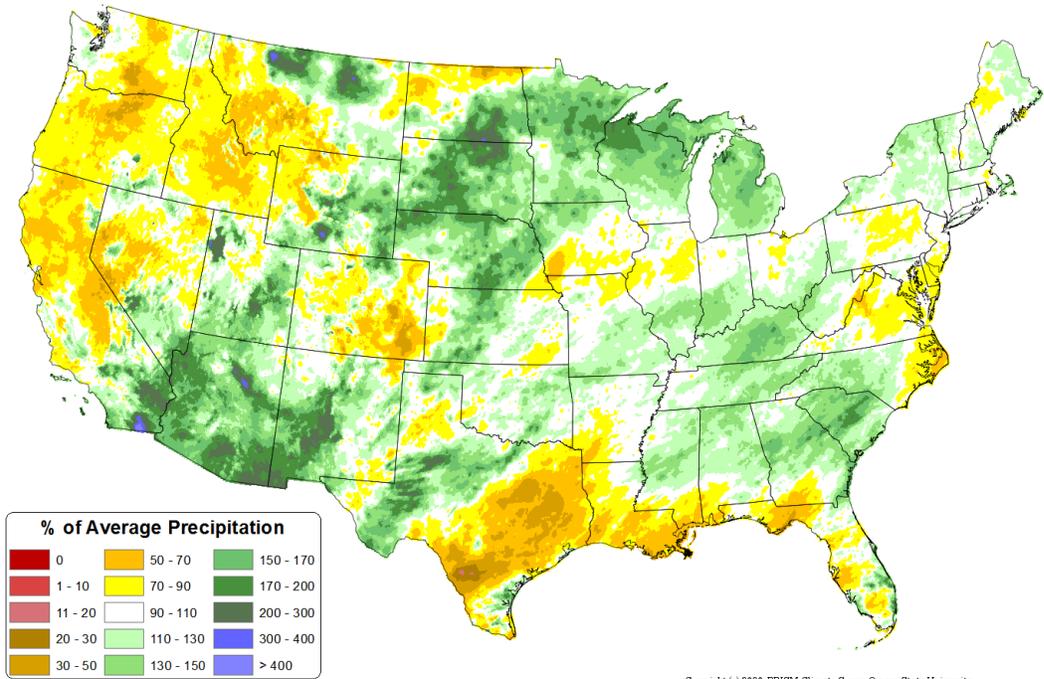


Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

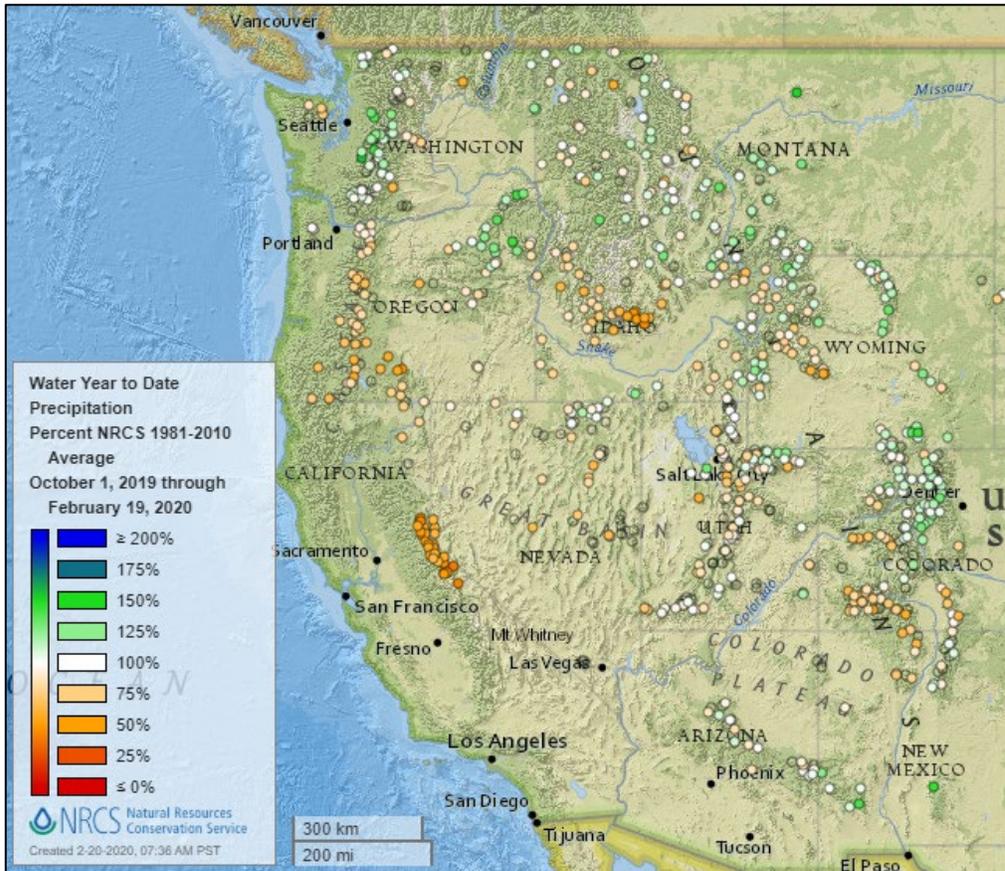
Source: PRISM

[November 2019 through January 2020 total precipitation percent of average map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Nov 2019 - Jan 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Jan 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 03 Feb 2020)

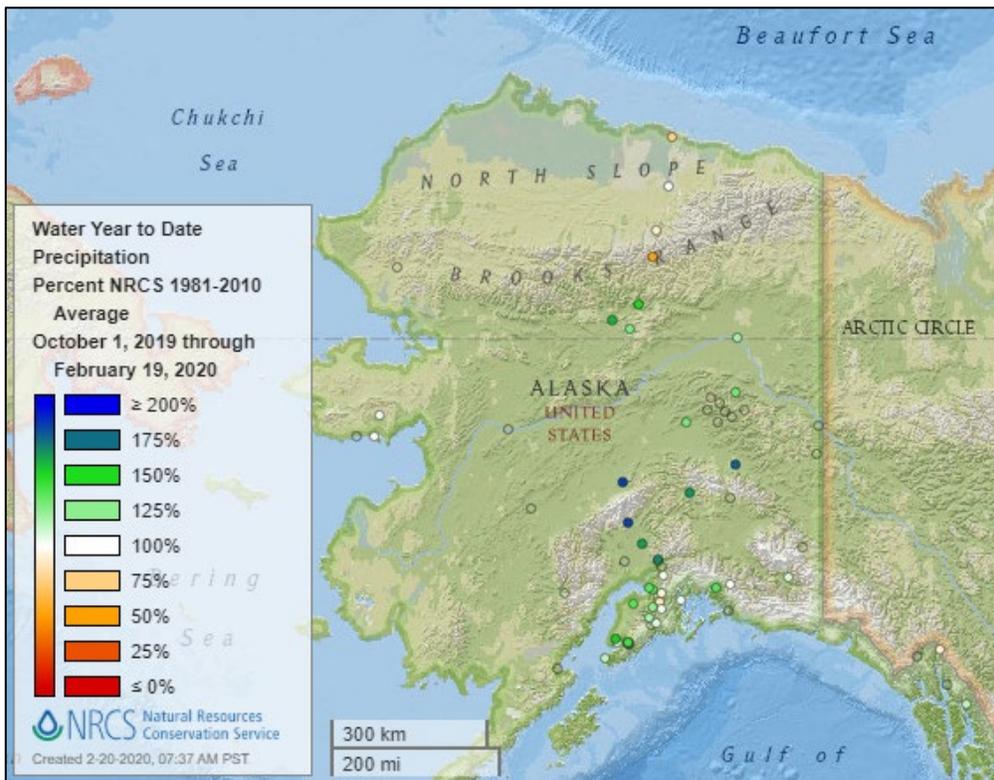


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2020 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[2020 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2020 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 2020 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

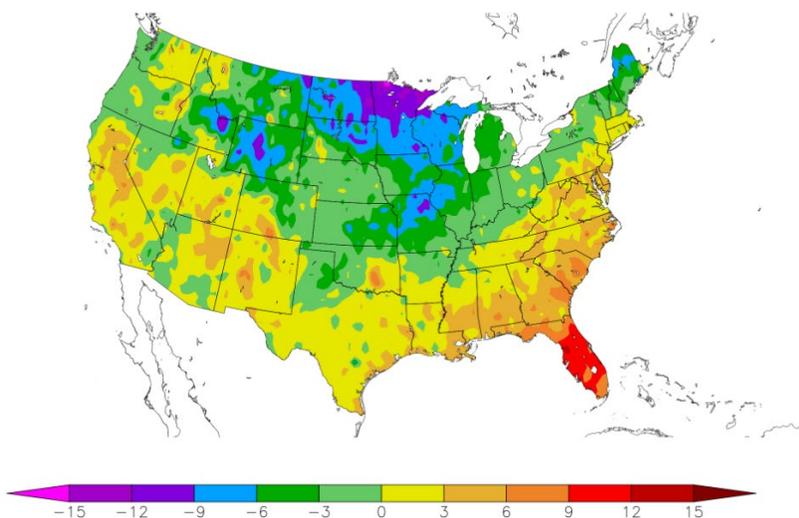
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/13/2020 – 2/19/2020



Generated 2/20/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

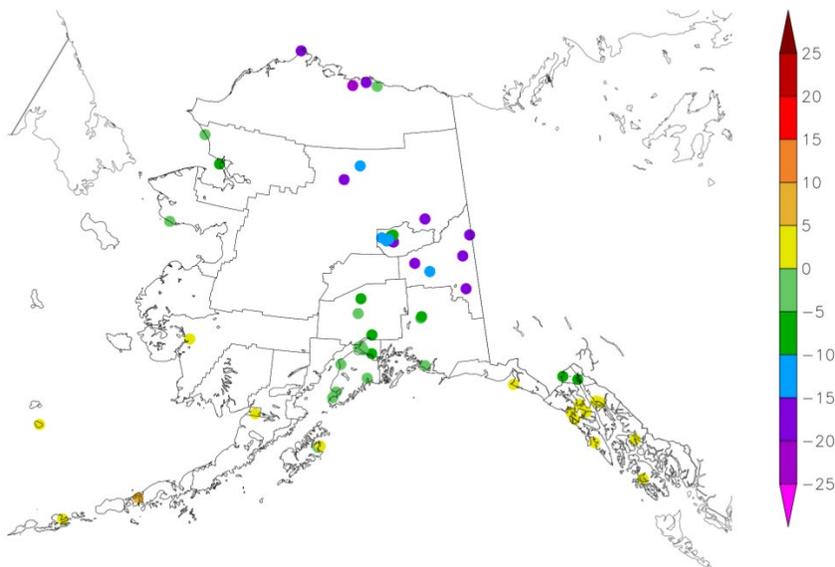
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/13/2020 – 2/19/2020



Generated 2/20/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

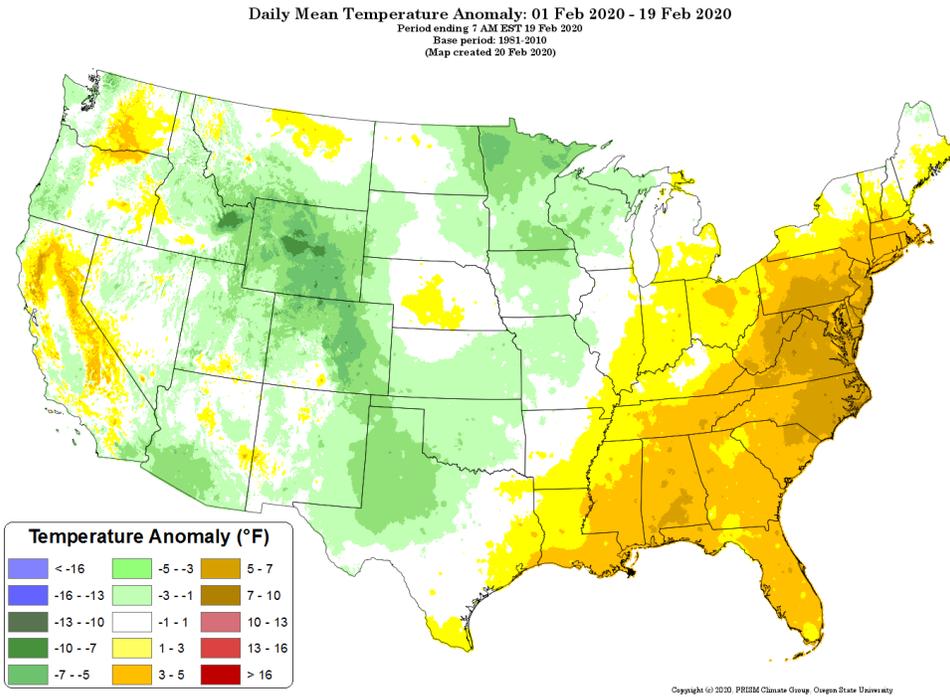
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Water and Climate Update

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

Source: PRISM

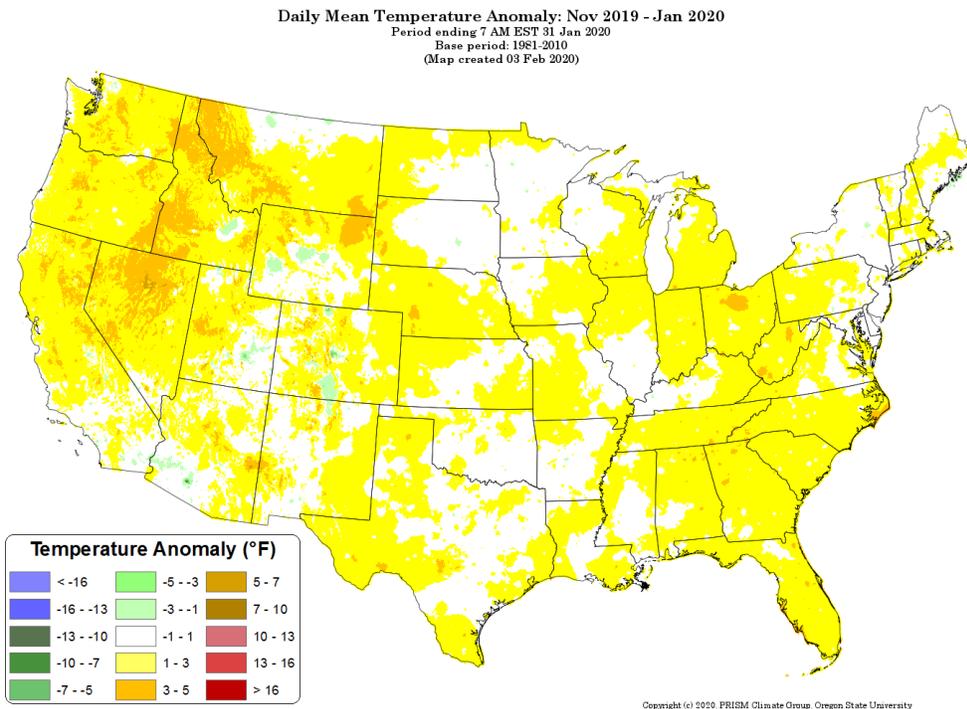
[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

[November 2019 through January 2020 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



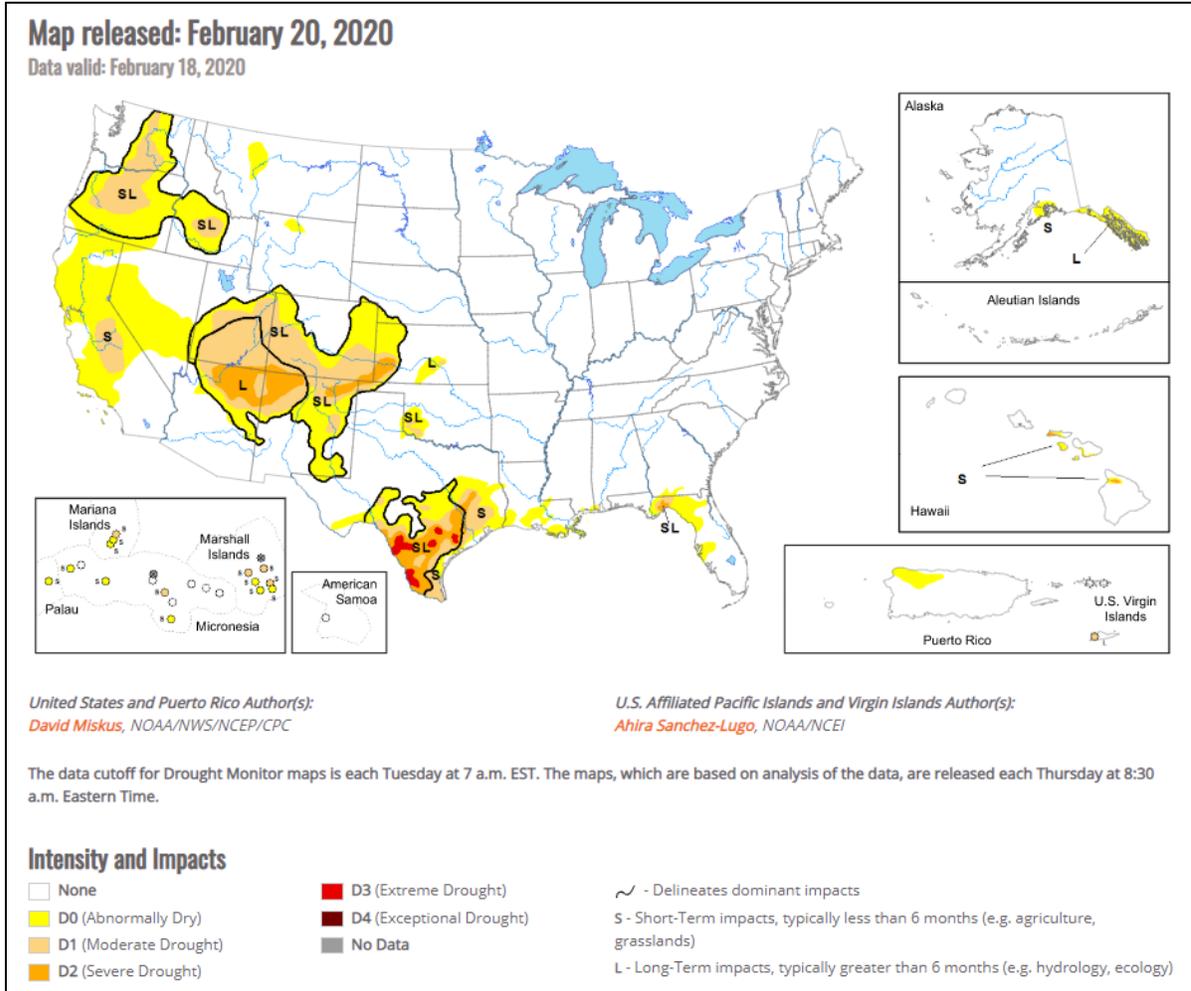
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), February 20, 2020

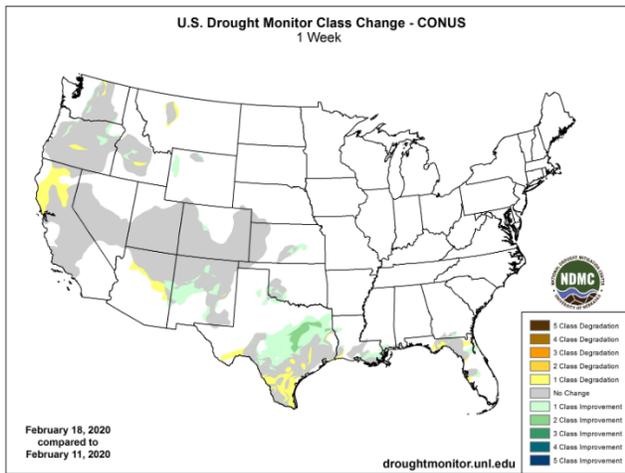
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“With high pressure anchored over the eastern Pacific Ocean, storm systems bypassed California, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah, instead tracking either northward into the Pacific Northwest or southward across Baja California and into the southern Rockies. Once they reached the Nation’s mid-section, ample Gulf moisture was incorporated into the storm systems, generating widespread showers and thunderstorms in the South and Southeast, along with mixed or frozen precipitation in more northern locales. The week’s heaviest precipitation (1-4 inches) fell on western sections of Washington and Oregon, parts of the Rockies, and in the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi, Tennessee, and Ohio Valleys, Southeast, and Appalachians. Weekly temperatures averaged below normal in Alaska and across much of the North-Central States as Arctic air brought sub-zero readings to most of the Midwest Thursday and Friday. In contrast, above-normal readings encompassed the Southeast, mid-Atlantic, and portions of the Far West.”

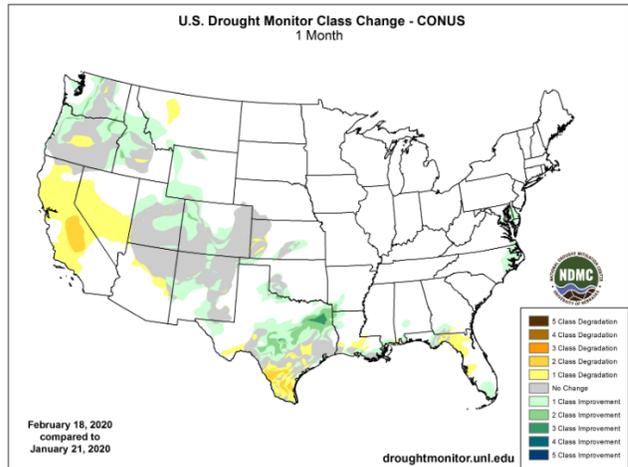
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

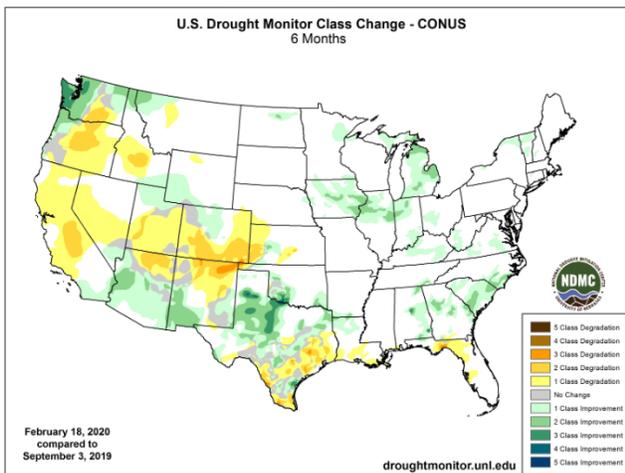
1 Week



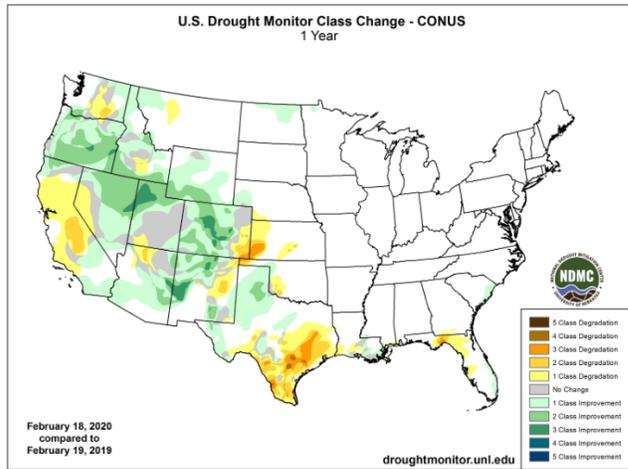
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

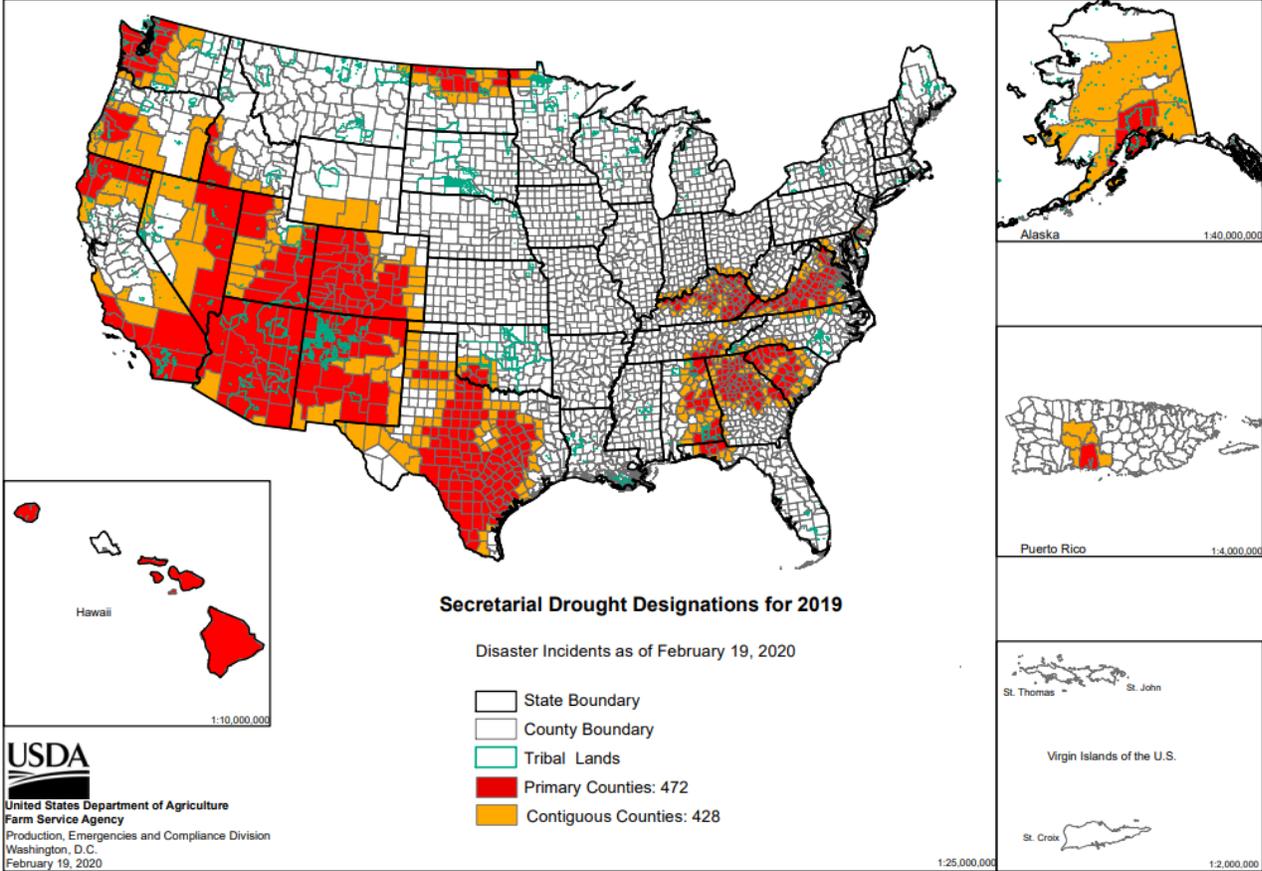
Highlighted Drought Resources

- [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](#)

Secretarial Drought Designations

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency

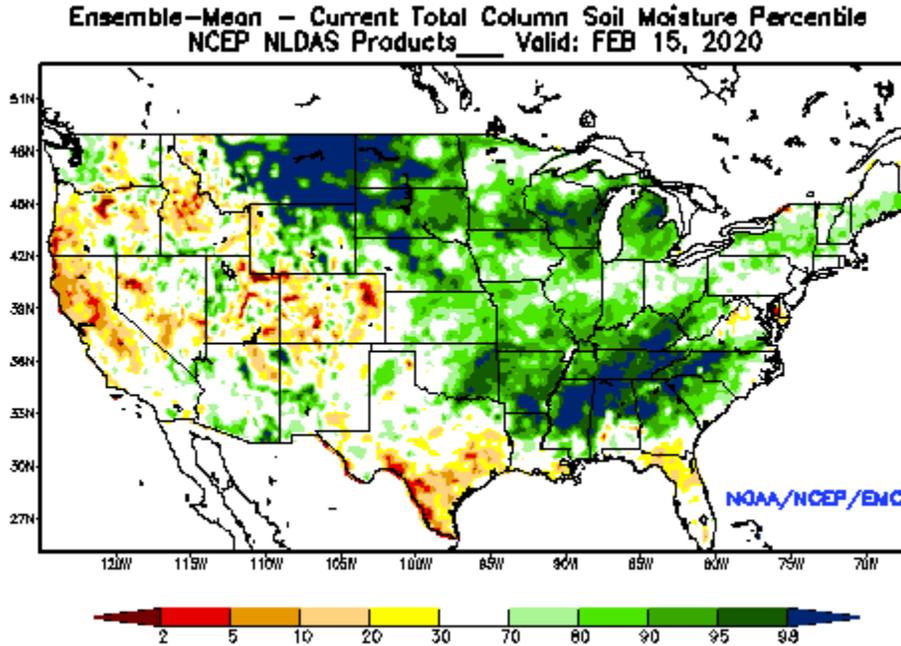
2019 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

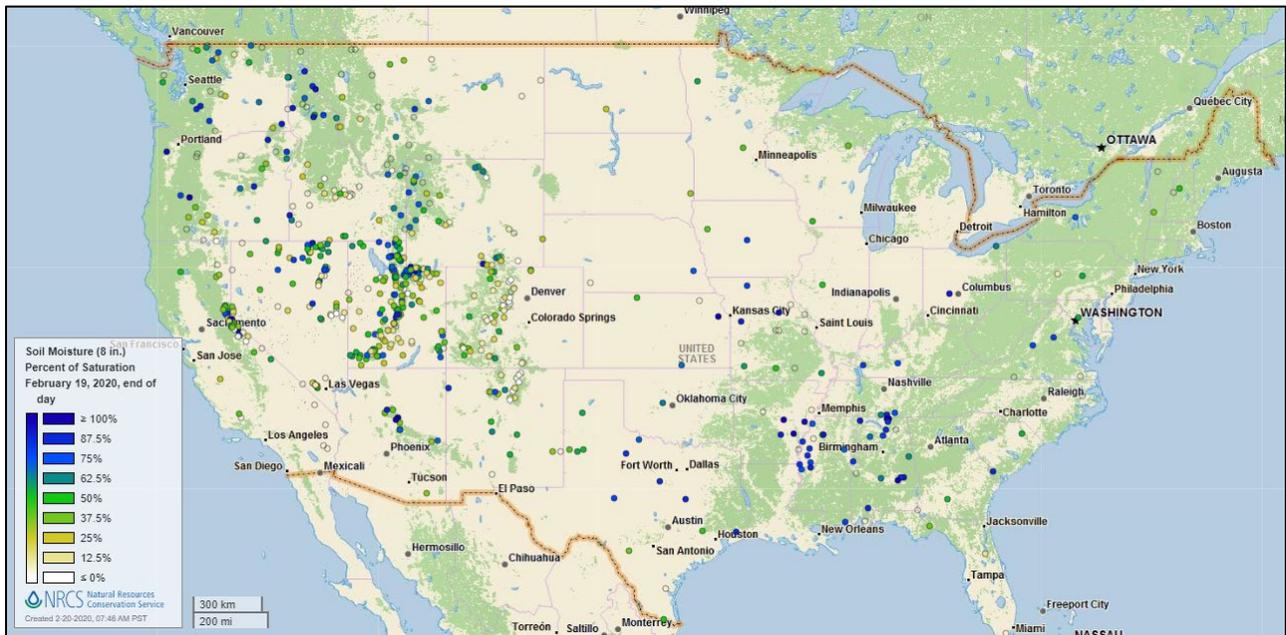
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of February 15, 2020

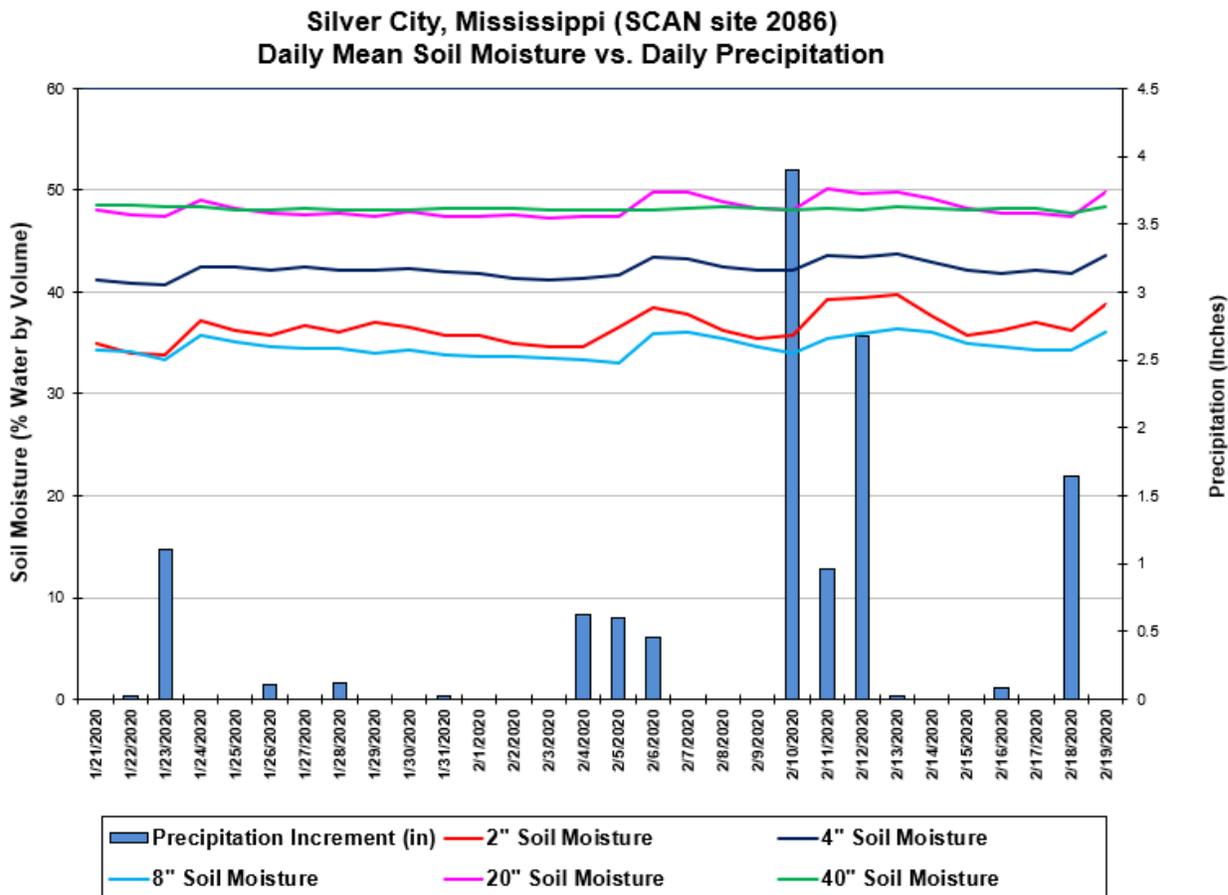
Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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



Soil Moisture Data

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



This chart shows the soil moisture and precipitation at the [Silver City](#) SCAN site in Mississippi. This site has experienced several precipitation events in the last 30 days, resulting in increased soil moisture at the -2”, -4”, -8”, and -20” sensor depths. Accumulated precipitation for the period totaled 12.36 inches.

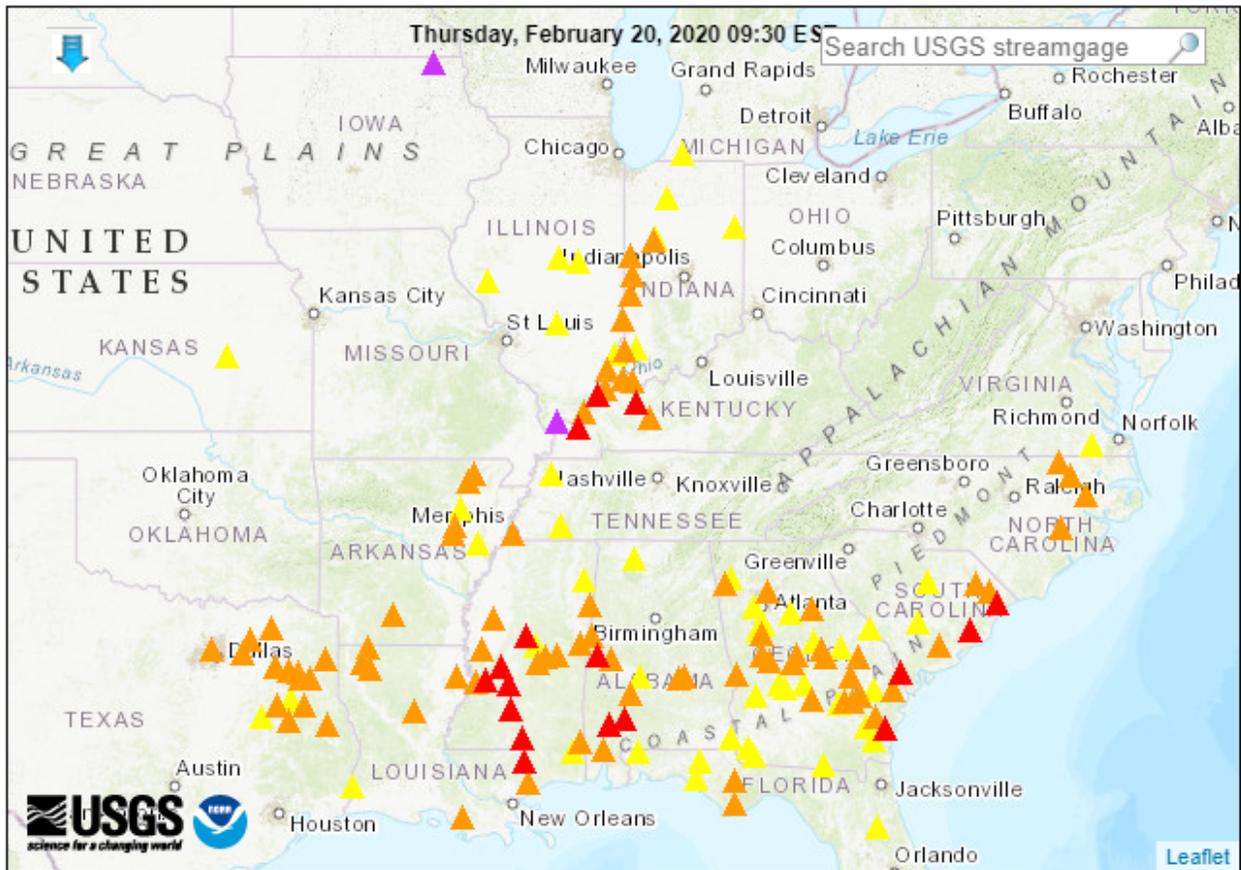
Soil Moisture Data Portals

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

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Map of flood and high flow conditions
 (106 in floods [major: 2, moderate: 17, minor: 87], 50 in near-flood)



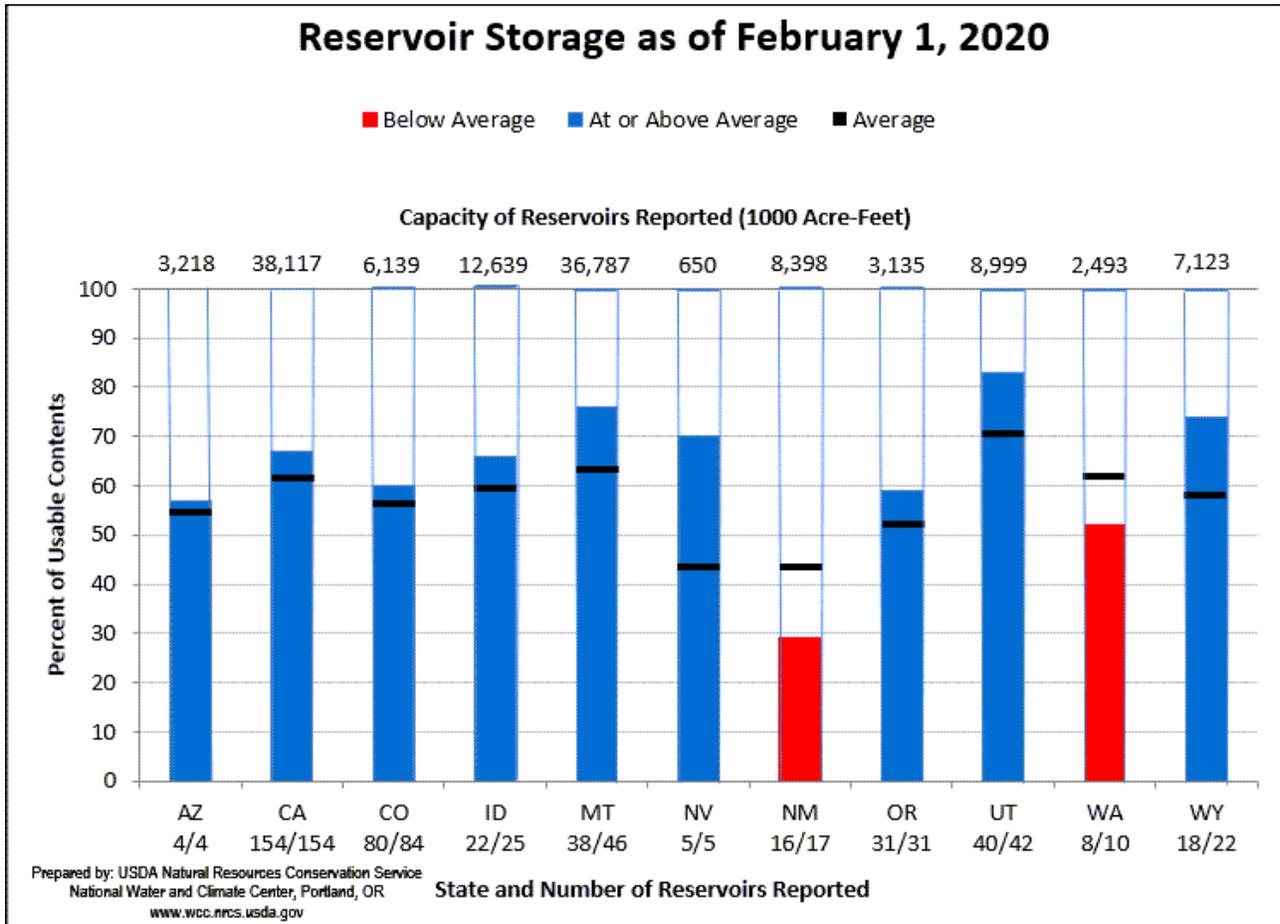
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
			△ Streamgage with flood stage	○ Streamgage without flood stage		

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

Reservoir Storage

Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



February 1, 2020 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

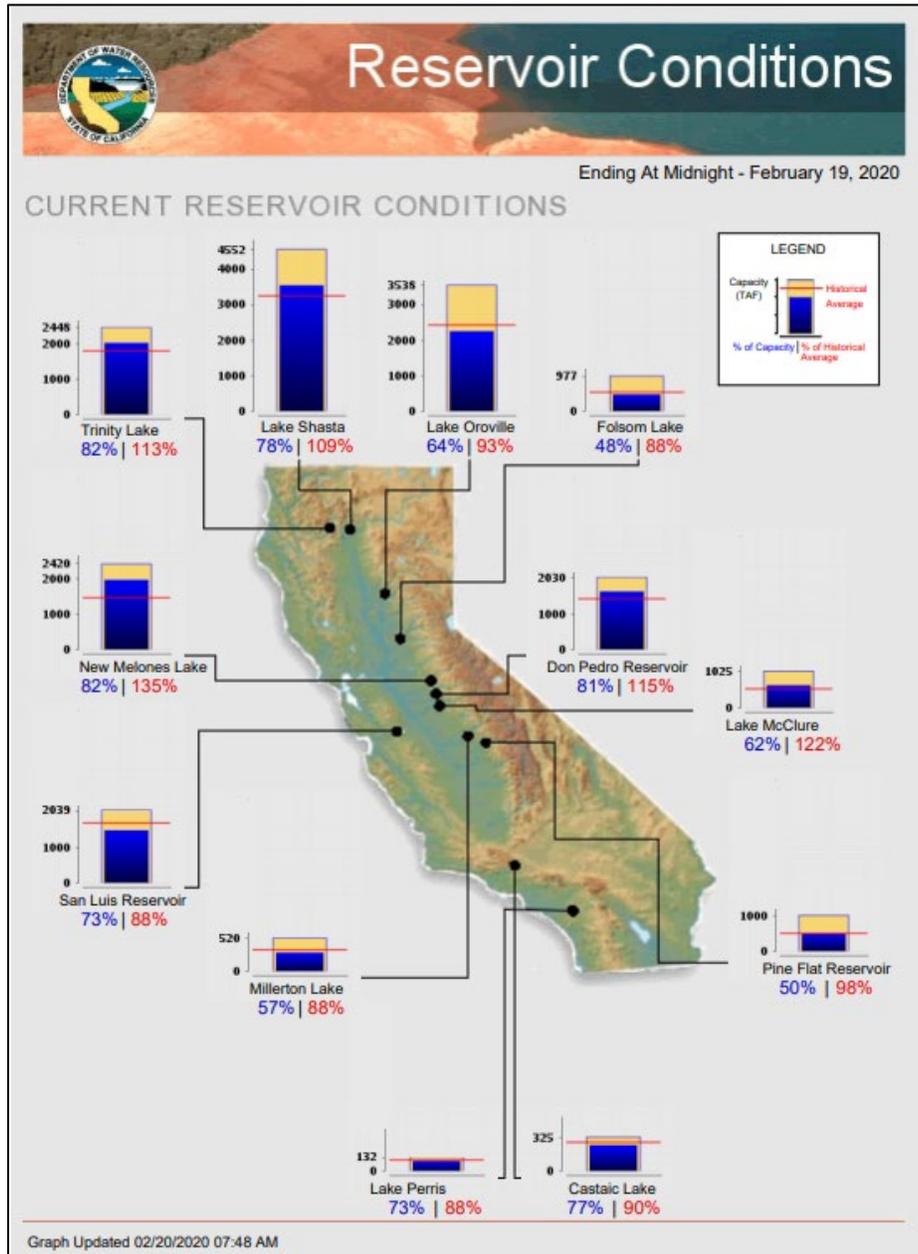
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- [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

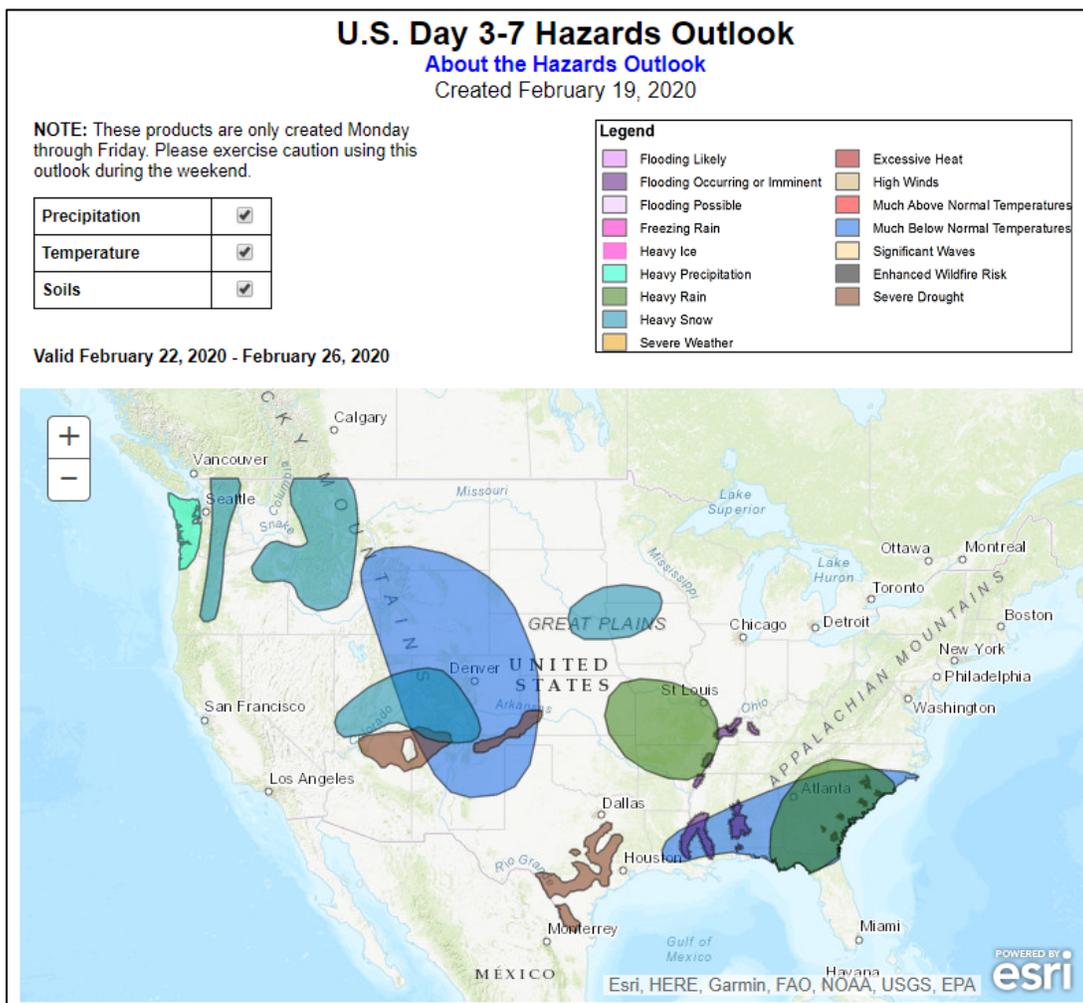
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday, February 20, 2020: “Precipitation will end later today or tonight across the South, followed by a few days of cold weather. However, travel disruptions across the southern Mid-Atlantic region may linger into Friday, following the first significant snowfall of the season. By Sunday morning, freezes may occur as far south as northern Florida. Meanwhile, a new storm system will arrive during the weekend across southern California. The fast-moving storm should cross the middle Mississippi Valley on Monday and reach New England late Tuesday. Precipitation associated with the storm should be heaviest—locally 1 to 2 inches—from the Four Corners States into the middle Mississippi Valley. Snow can be expected in the mountains of the Southwest and from the central Plains into parts of the Midwest. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather should prevail during the next 5 days in the upper Great Lakes region and from northern California to the northern Intermountain West. By early next week, temperatures will rebound to above-normal levels in the eastern U.S., while another surge of cold air should arrive across the Rockies and Plains. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for February 25 – 29 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures nearly nationwide. Warmer-than-normal weather will be limited to parts of California, the southern tip of Florida, and the middle and northern Atlantic coastal plain. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across much of the central and eastern U.S. should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in the West, as well as an area stretching from western Texas to the northern Mississippi Delta.”

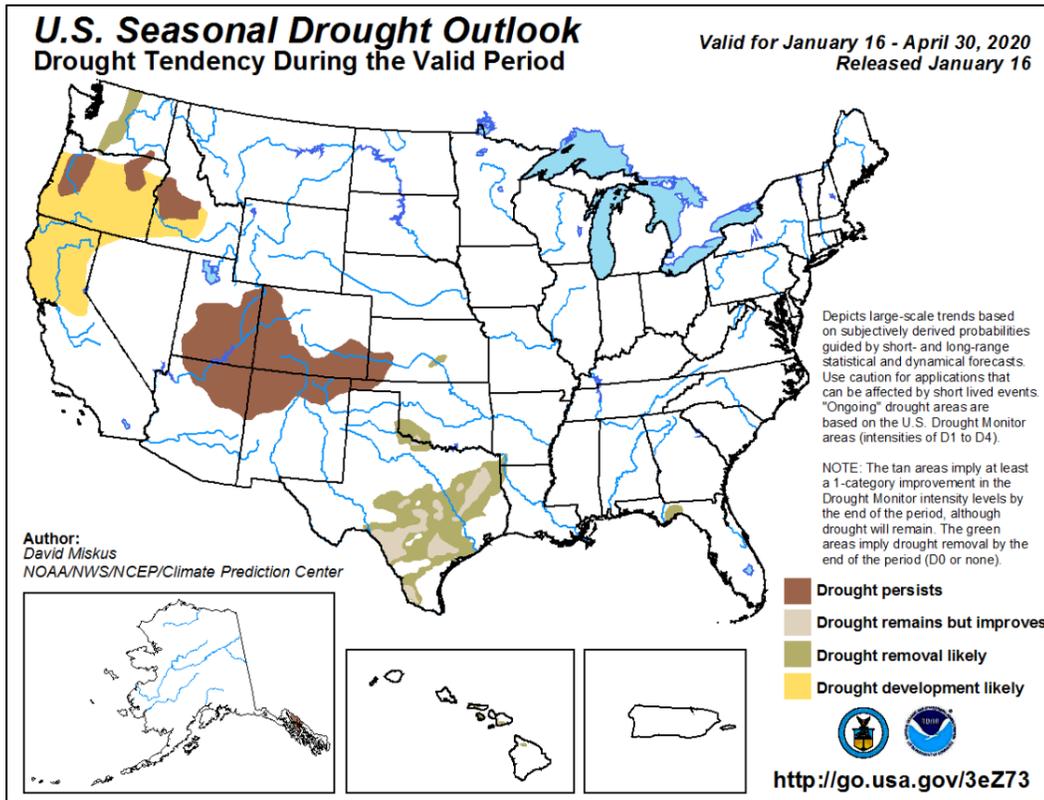
Weather Hazards Outlook: [February 22 – 26, 2020](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center



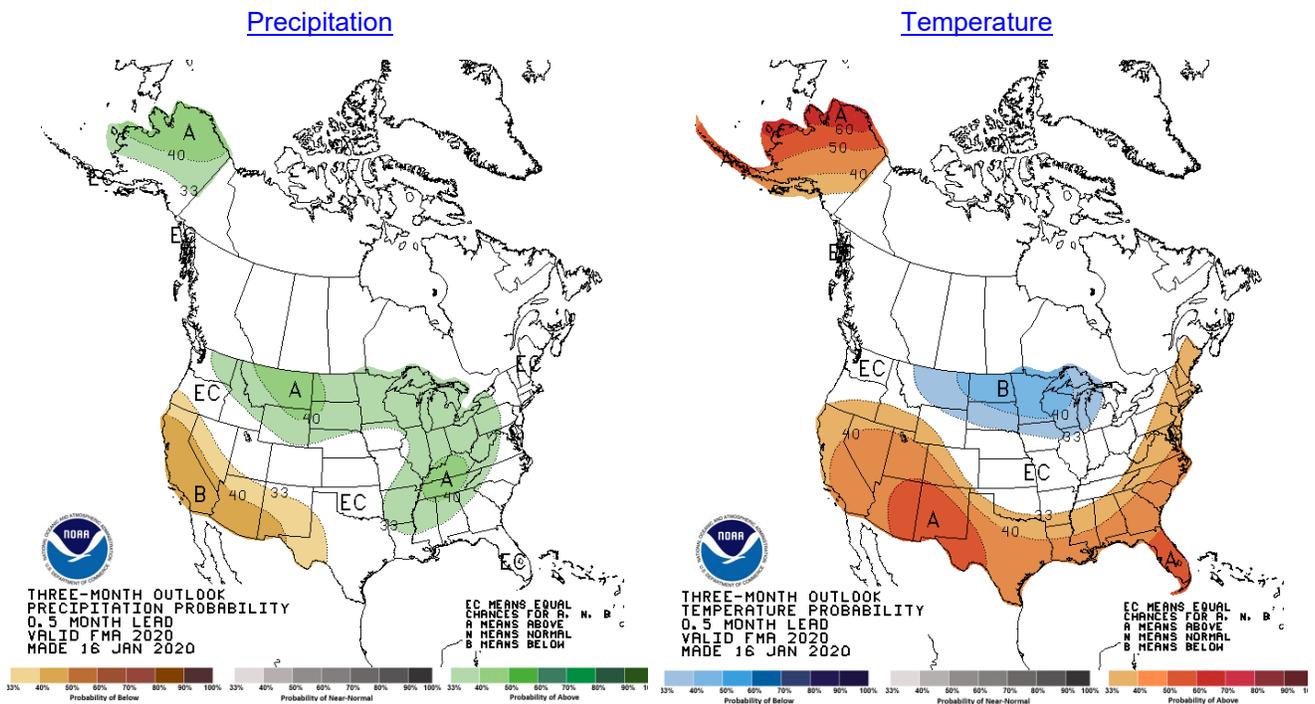
Seasonal Drought Outlook: [January 16 – April 30, 2020](#)

Source: National Weather Service



Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service



[February-March-April \(FMA\) 2020 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](#).