

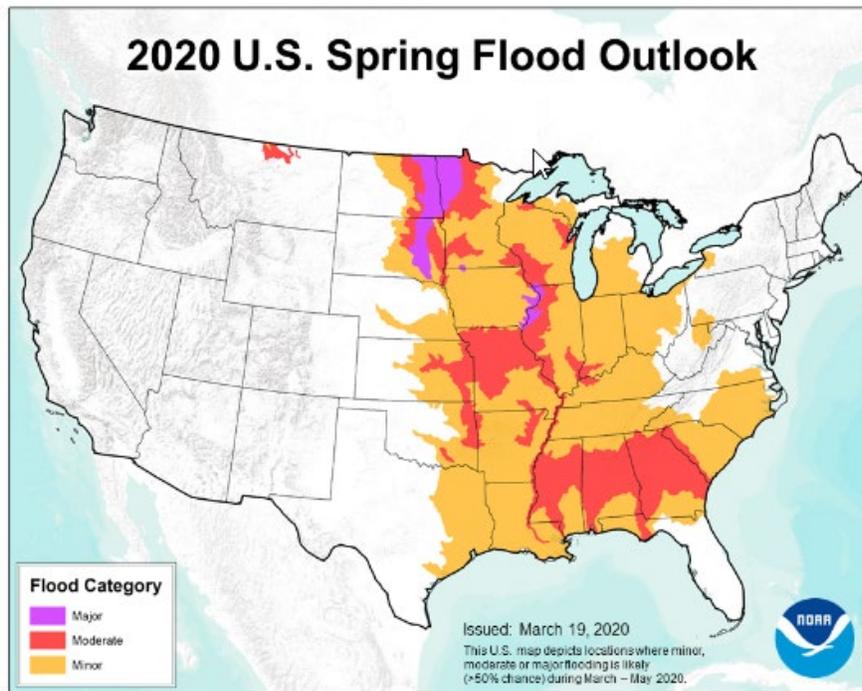
# Water and Climate Update

March 26, 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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Precipitation .....	4	Short- and Long-Range Outlooks.....	18
Temperature.....	8	More Information .....	20
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## NOAA releases its flood outlook for the spring

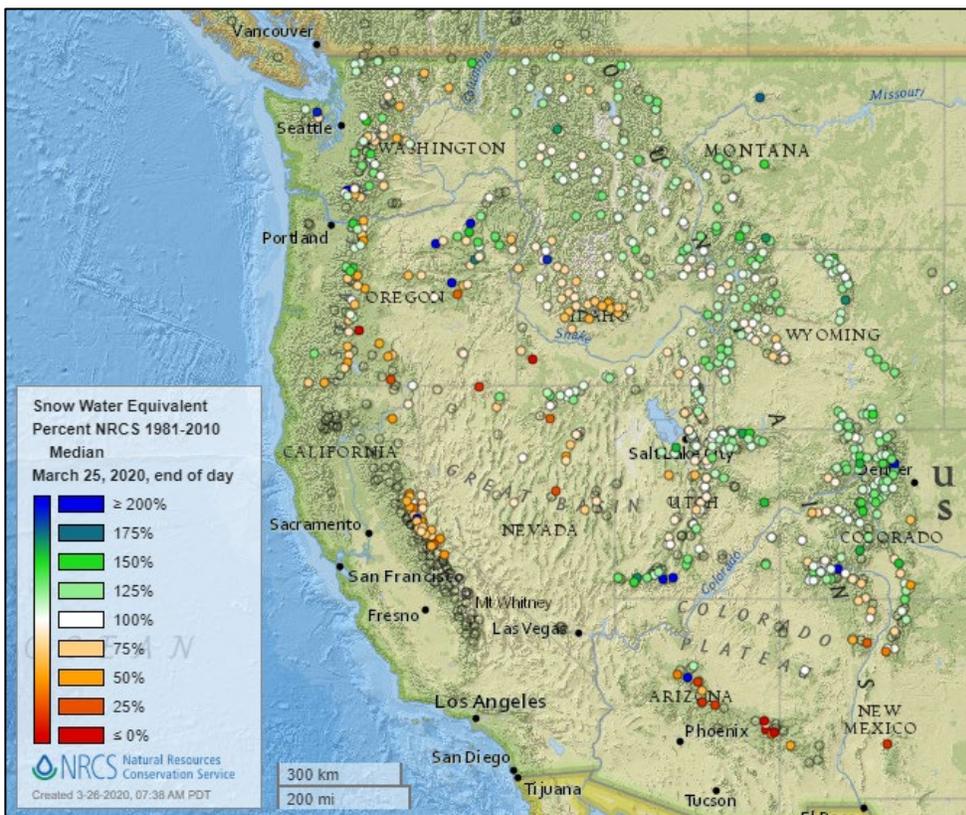


Widespread minor flooding this spring is expected in the Midwest, resulting from months of ongoing rainfall with saturated soils. From the [NOAA](#) press release: “The greatest risk for major and moderate flood conditions includes the upper and middle Mississippi River basins, the Missouri River basin and the Red River of the North. Moderate flooding is anticipated in the Ohio, Cumberland, Tennessee, and Missouri River basins, as well as the lower Mississippi River basin and its tributaries.” Forecasts for a wet spring in some areas will contribute to any flooding conditions.

**Related:**

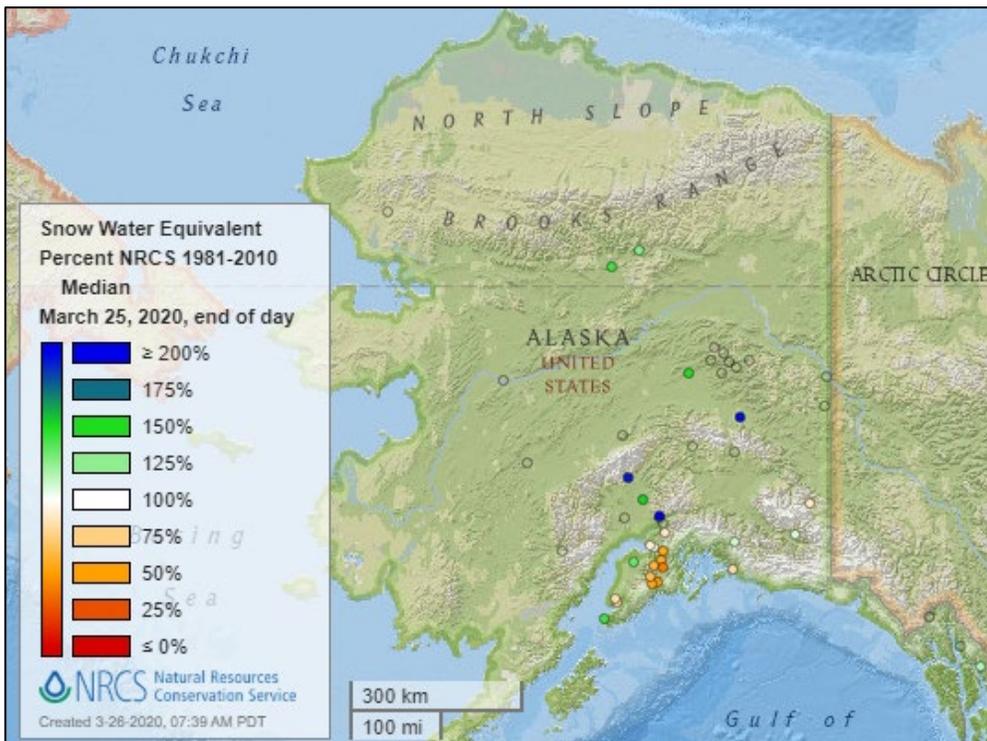
- [U.S. Spring Outlook forecasts another year of widespread river flooding](#) – NOAA Press Release
- [One-third of the Lower 48 faces risk of flooding this spring, Weather Service says](#) – Washington Post
- [U.S. forecasters see widespread spring flooding but less than 2019](#) - Reuters
- [Mississippi River cities brace for 'fight on two fronts': coronavirus and spring flooding](#) – NOLA.com (MS)
- [Spring floods to be milder than last year, except for parts of Minnesota, Dakotas](#) – TwinCities.com (MN)
- [Spring forecast: Region faces higher than average risk of widespread flooding](#) – Omaha.com (NE)

## Snow



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

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

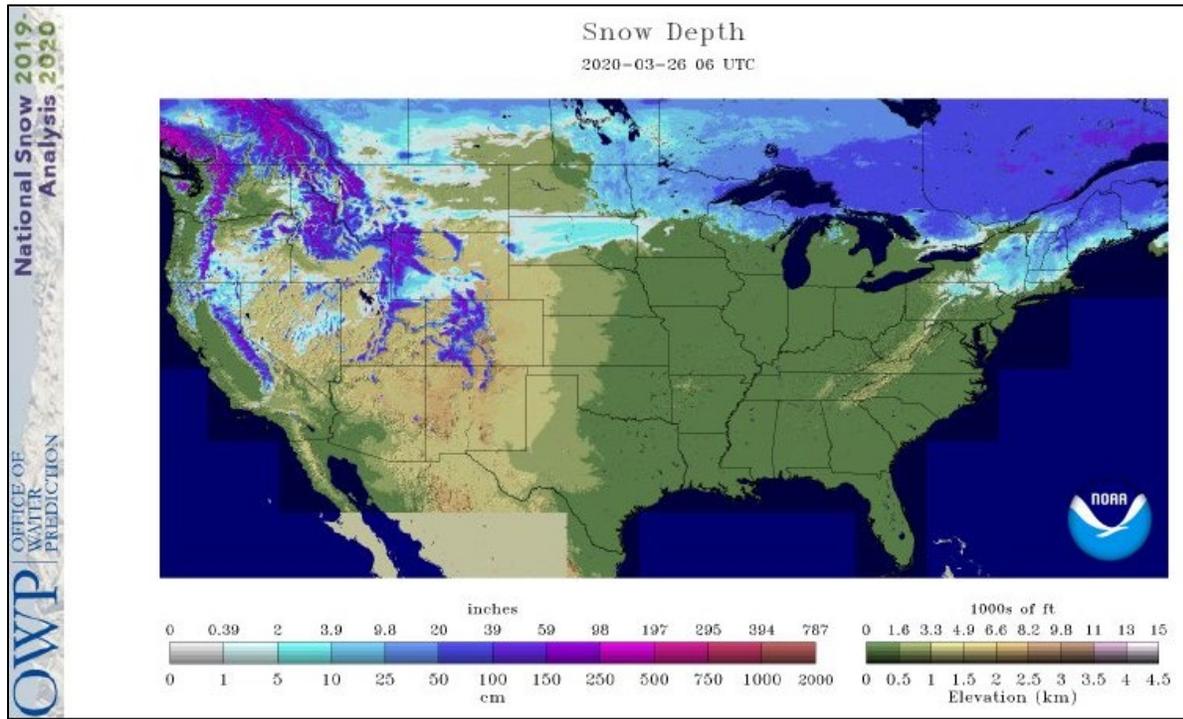


[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

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

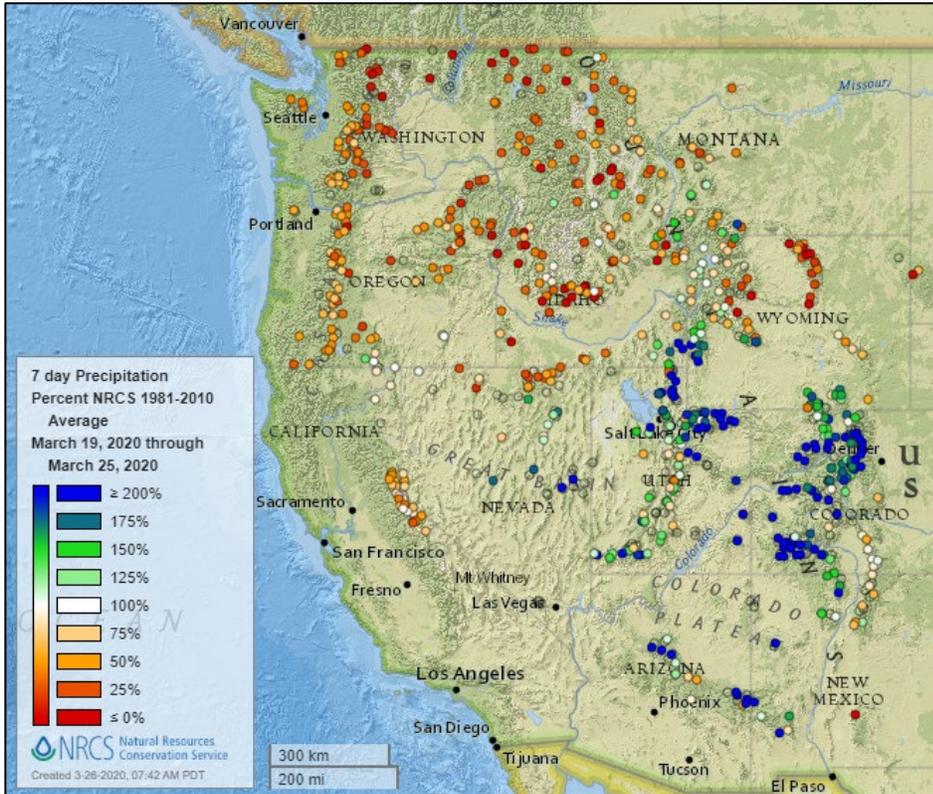
Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis

Source: NOAA Office of Water Prediction



# Precipitation

## Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

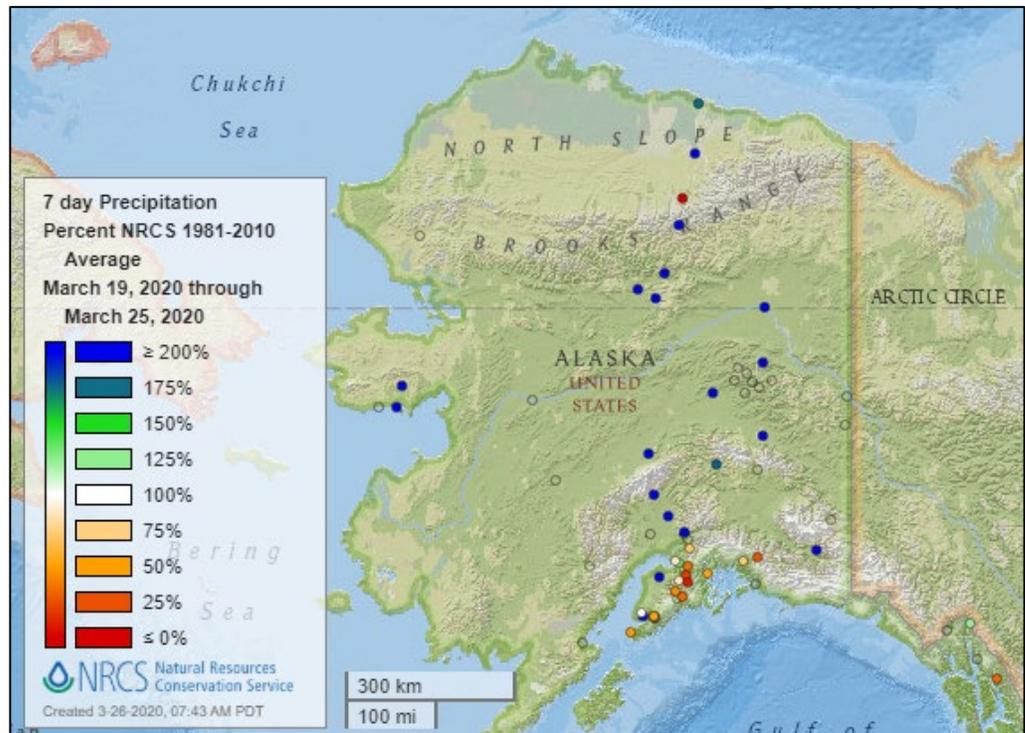


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

**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](#)



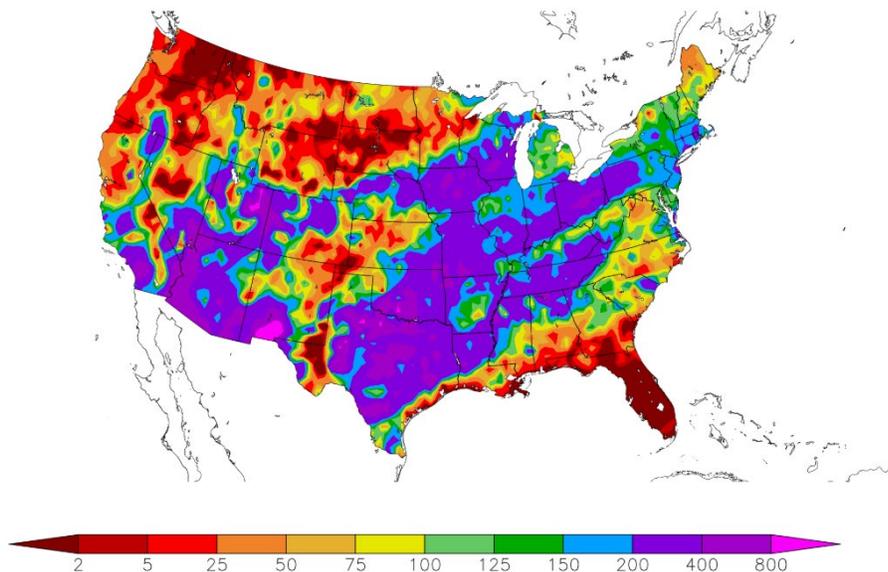
**Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks**

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 (%)  
3/18/2020 – 3/24/2020



Generated 3/25/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

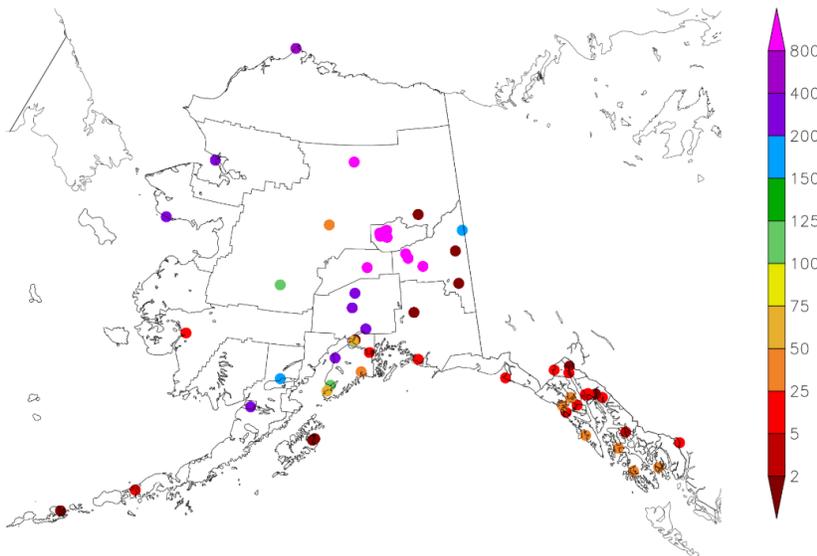
**Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks**

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
3/18/2020 – 3/24/2020



Generated 3/25/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

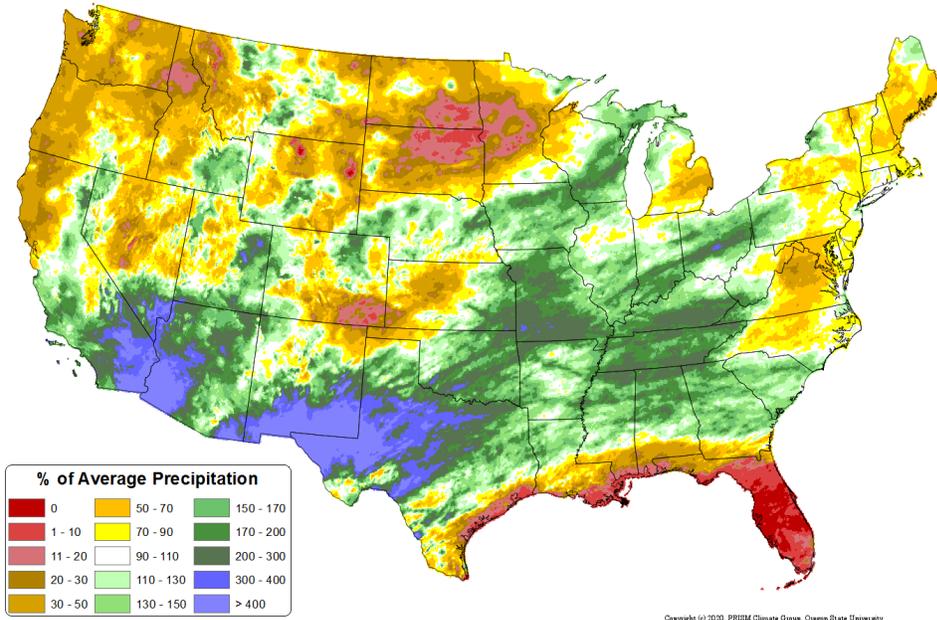
# Water and Climate Update

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

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Mar 2020 - 25 Mar 2020  
Period ending 7 AM EST 25 Mar 2020  
Base period: 1981-2010  
(Map created 26 Mar 2020)

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

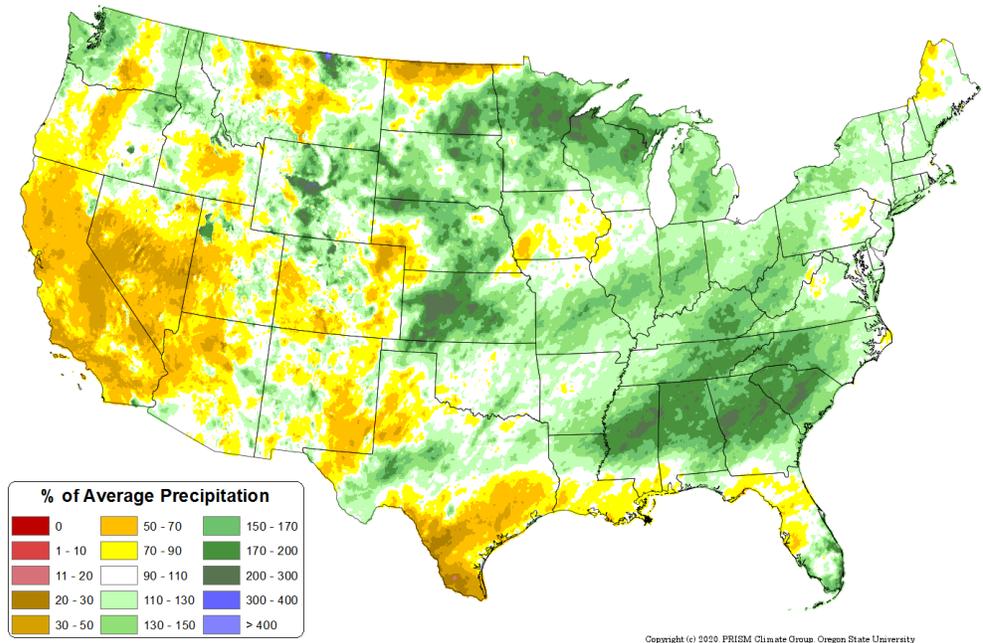


## Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

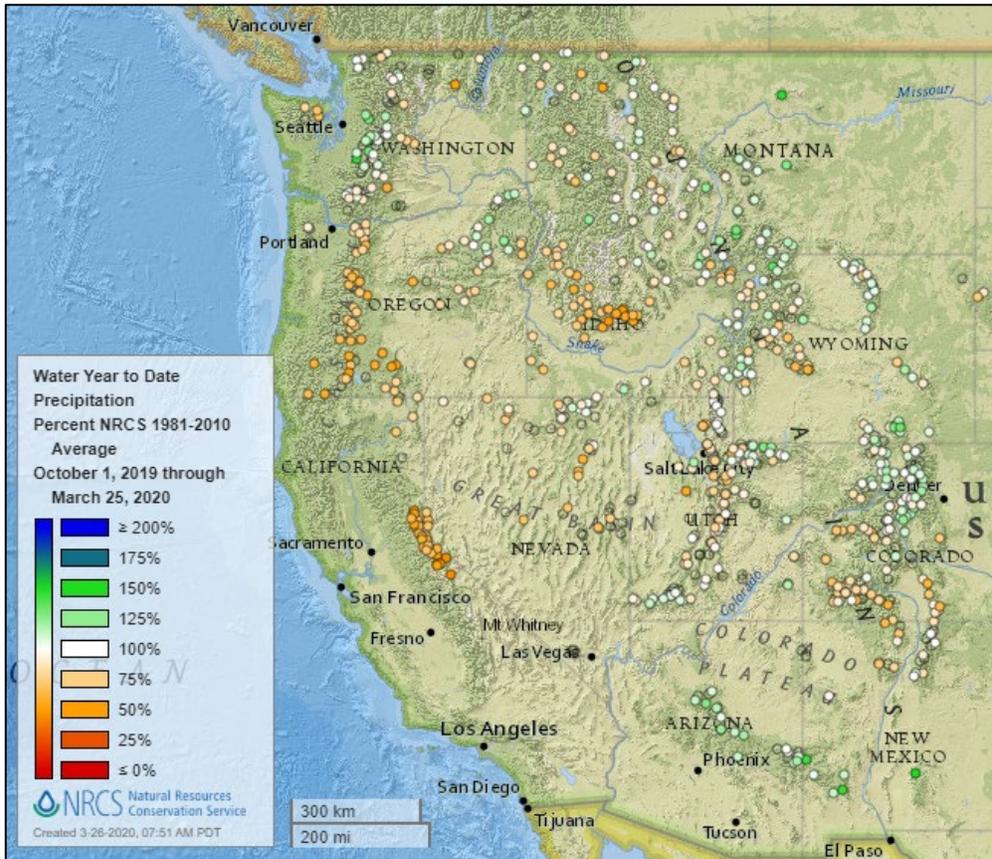
Source: PRISM

[December 2019 through February 2020 total precipitation percent of average map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Dec 2019 - Feb 2020  
Period ending 7 AM EST 29 Feb 2020  
Base period: 1981-2010  
(Map created 02 Mar 2020)

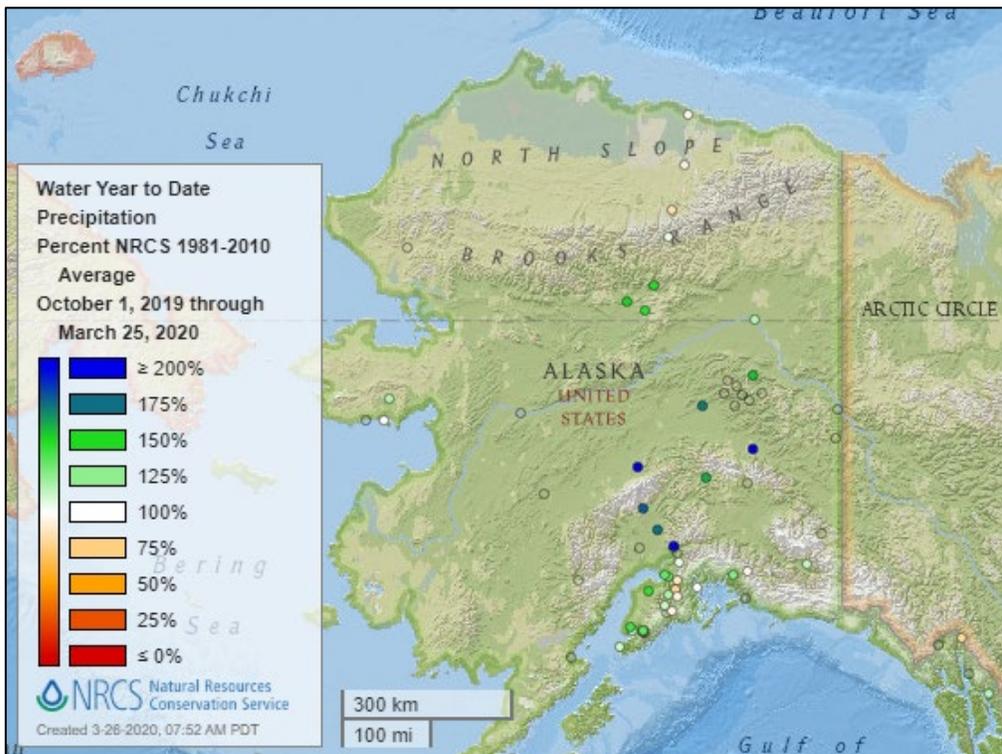


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[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

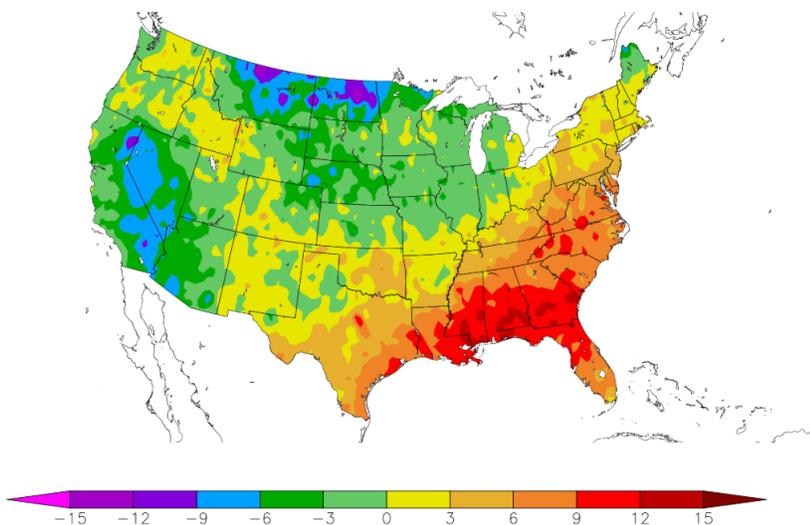
### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)  
3/18/2020 – 3/24/2020



Generated 3/25/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

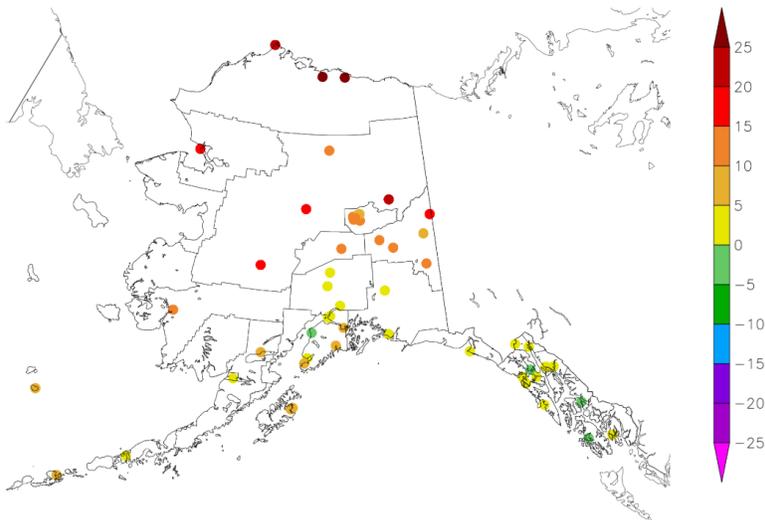
### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/18/2020 – 3/24/2020



Generated 3/25/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

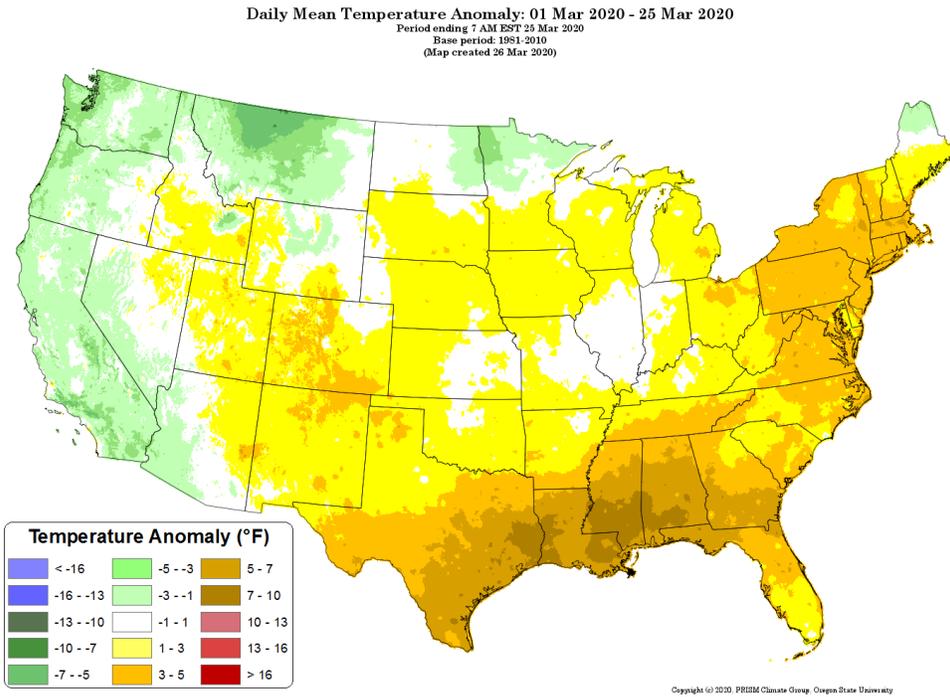
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

# Water and Climate Update

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

Source: PRISM

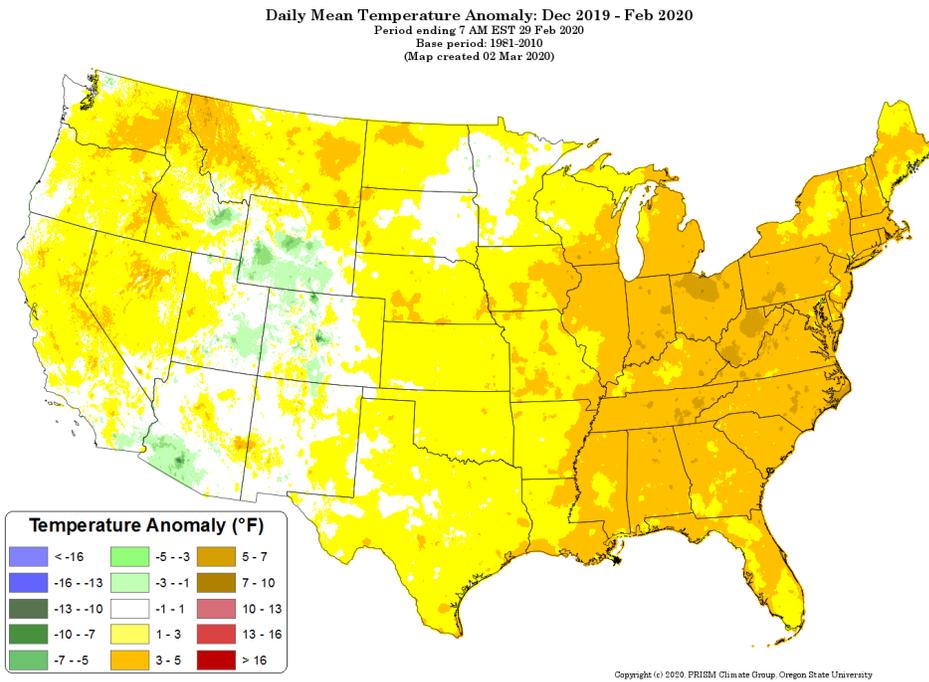
[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

[December 2019 through February 2020 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



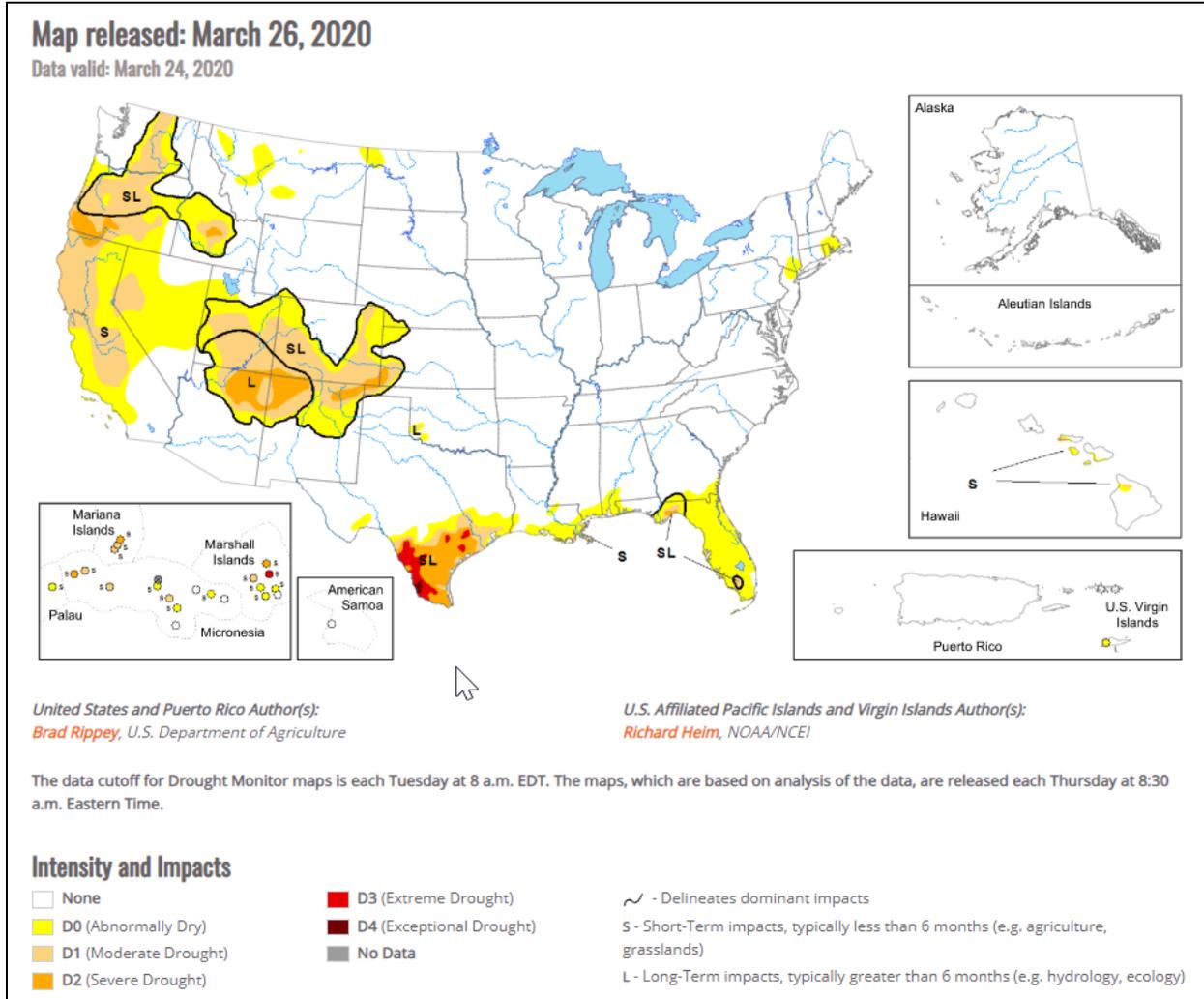
# Drought

## [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

## [U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



## Current [National Drought Summary](#), March 26, 2020

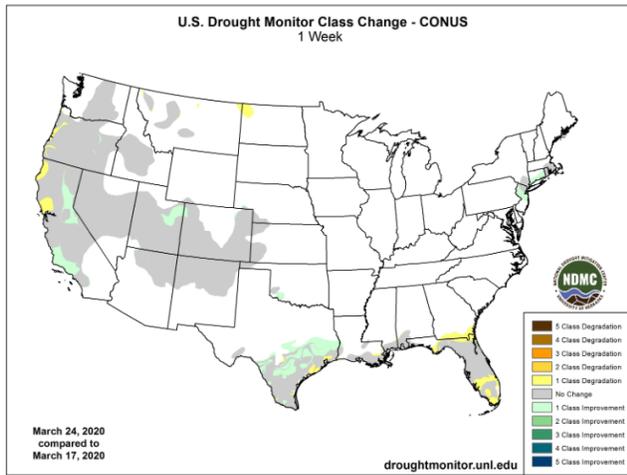
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“Storms delivered much-needed precipitation to California’s key watershed areas before soaking an area from the southeastern Plains into the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys with as much as 2 to 4 inches of rain. Some of the rain overlapped existing drought areas in southern Texas, providing substantial relief. Widespread precipitation also fell across the remainder of the West, except in the northern Rockies. Significant precipitation was also noted in Iowa and environs, while wind-driven snow blanketed parts of northeastern Colorado and western Nebraska. In contrast, warm, dry weather dominated the lower Southeast, including Florida, boosting irrigation demands and further reducing topsoil moisture. Weekly temperatures averaged more than 10°F above normal in many areas from the central Gulf Coast into the Southeast, contributing to further introduction or intensification of abnormal dryness (D0) and moderate to severe drought (D1 to D2).”

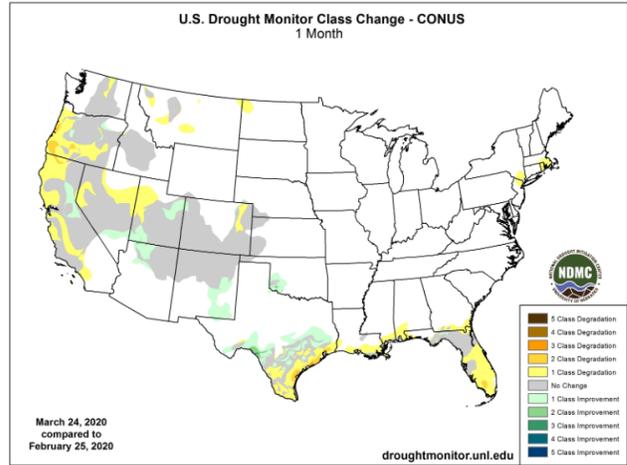
## Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

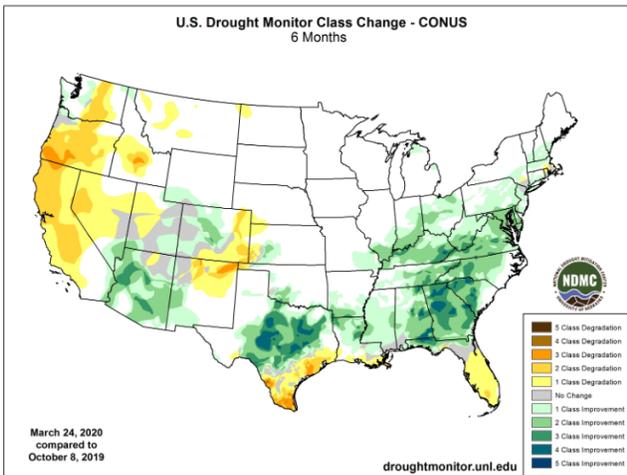
### 1 Week



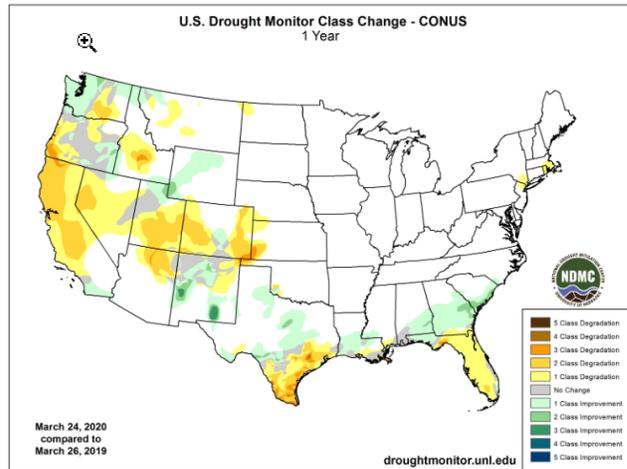
### 1 Month



### 6 Months



### 1 Year



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

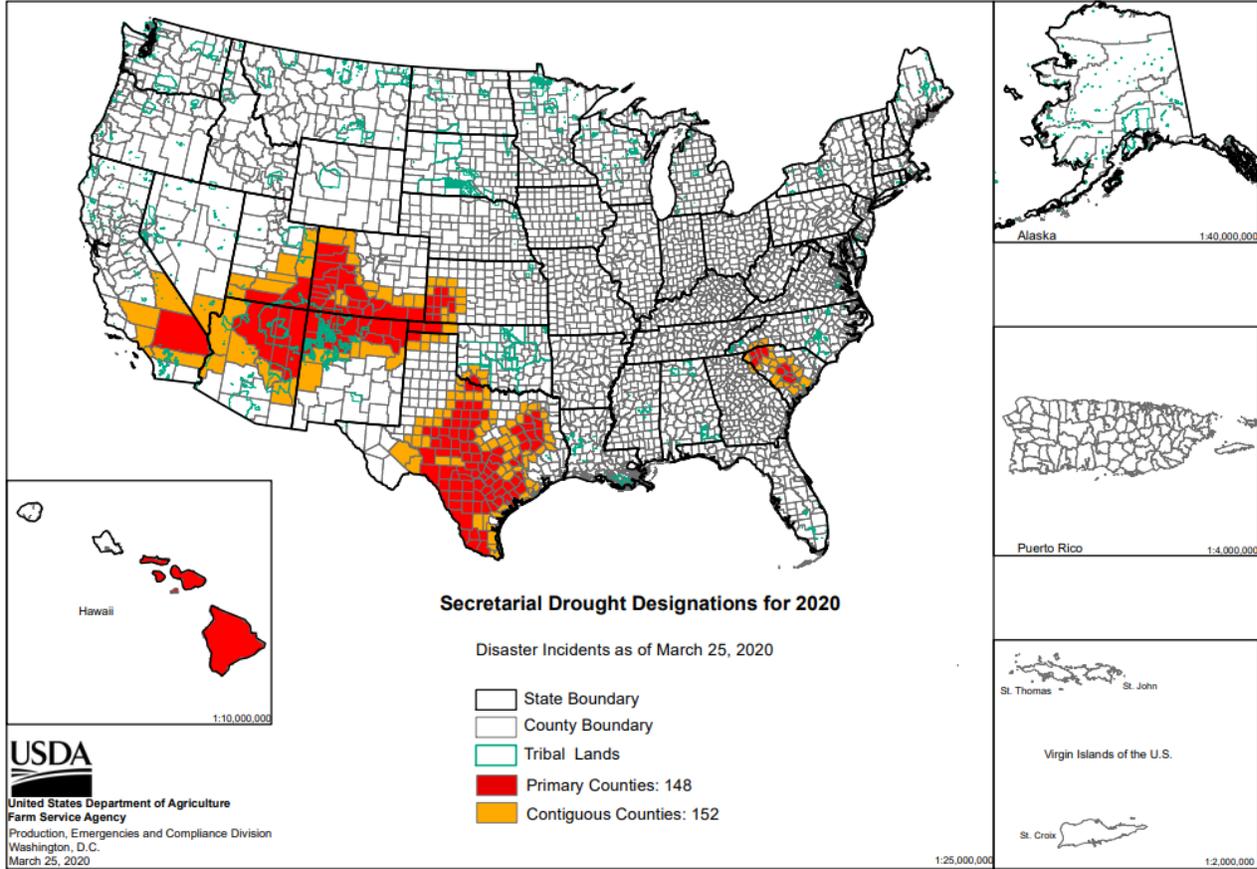
## Highlighted Drought Resources

- [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

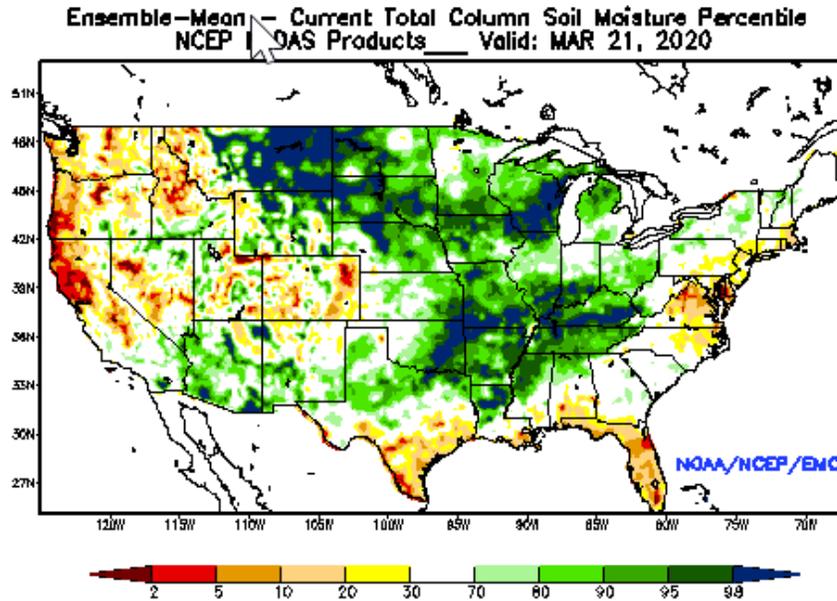
**2020 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought**



## Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

### Soil Moisture

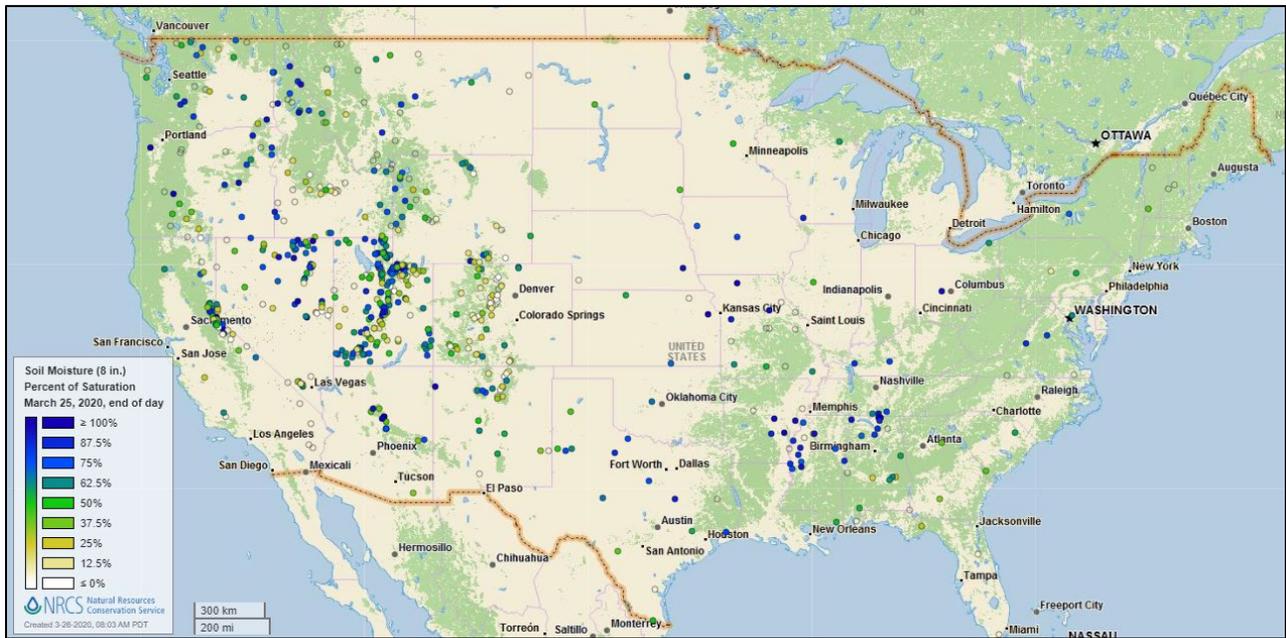
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of March 21, 2020

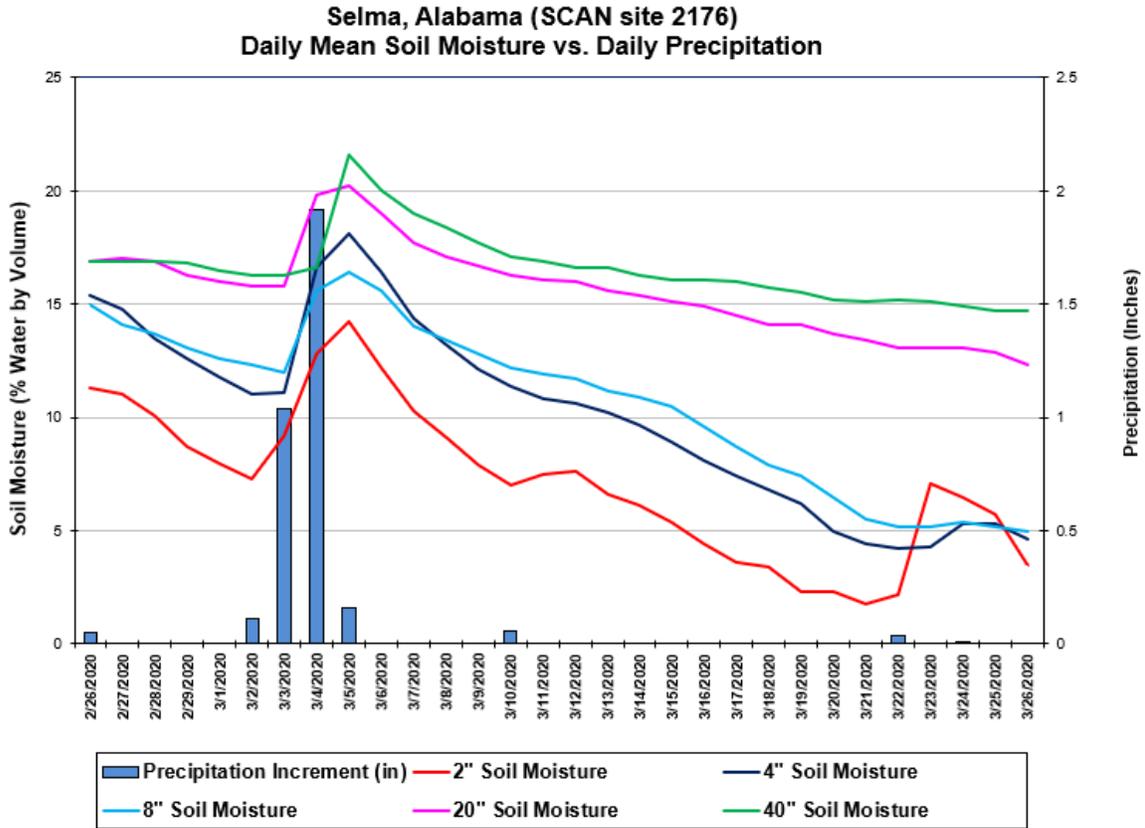
### Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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 [Selma](#) SCAN site in Alabama. This large precipitation event from March 2-5 resulted in increased soil moisture at all sensor depths. Accumulated precipitation for the 30-day period totaled 3.39 inches.

**Soil Moisture Data Portals**

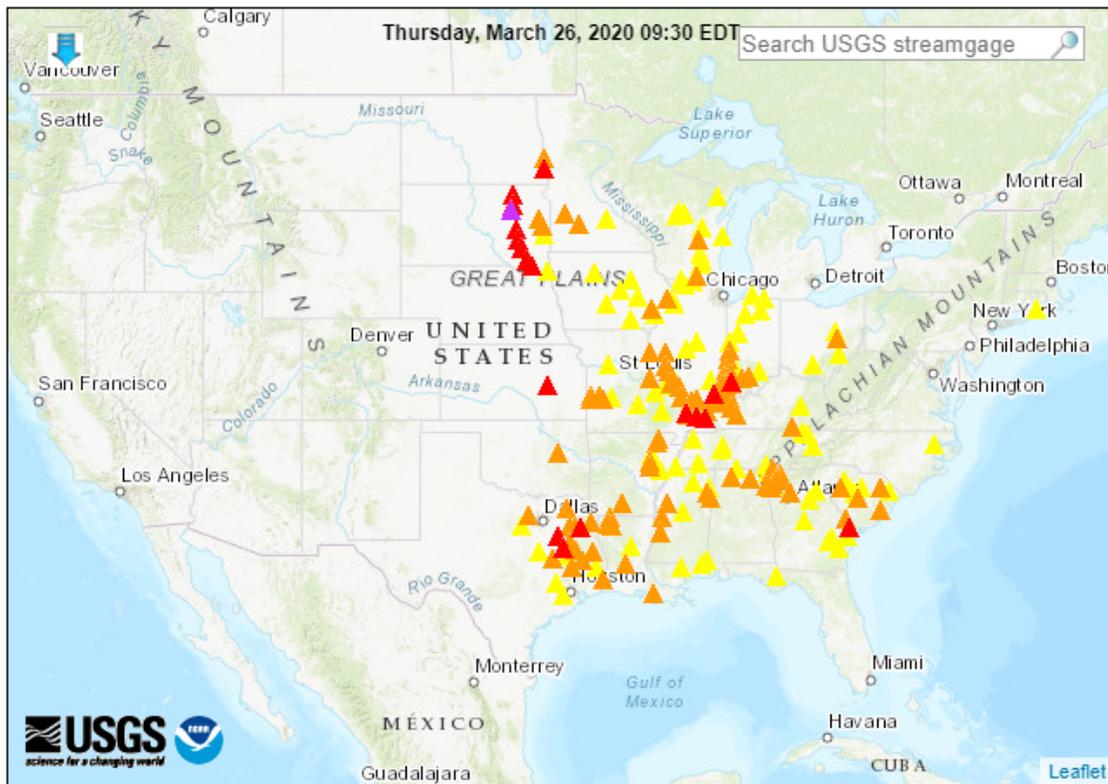
- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

**Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff**

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

**Map of flood and high flow conditions**

(111 in floods [major: 1, moderate: 18, minor: 92], 88 in near-flood)



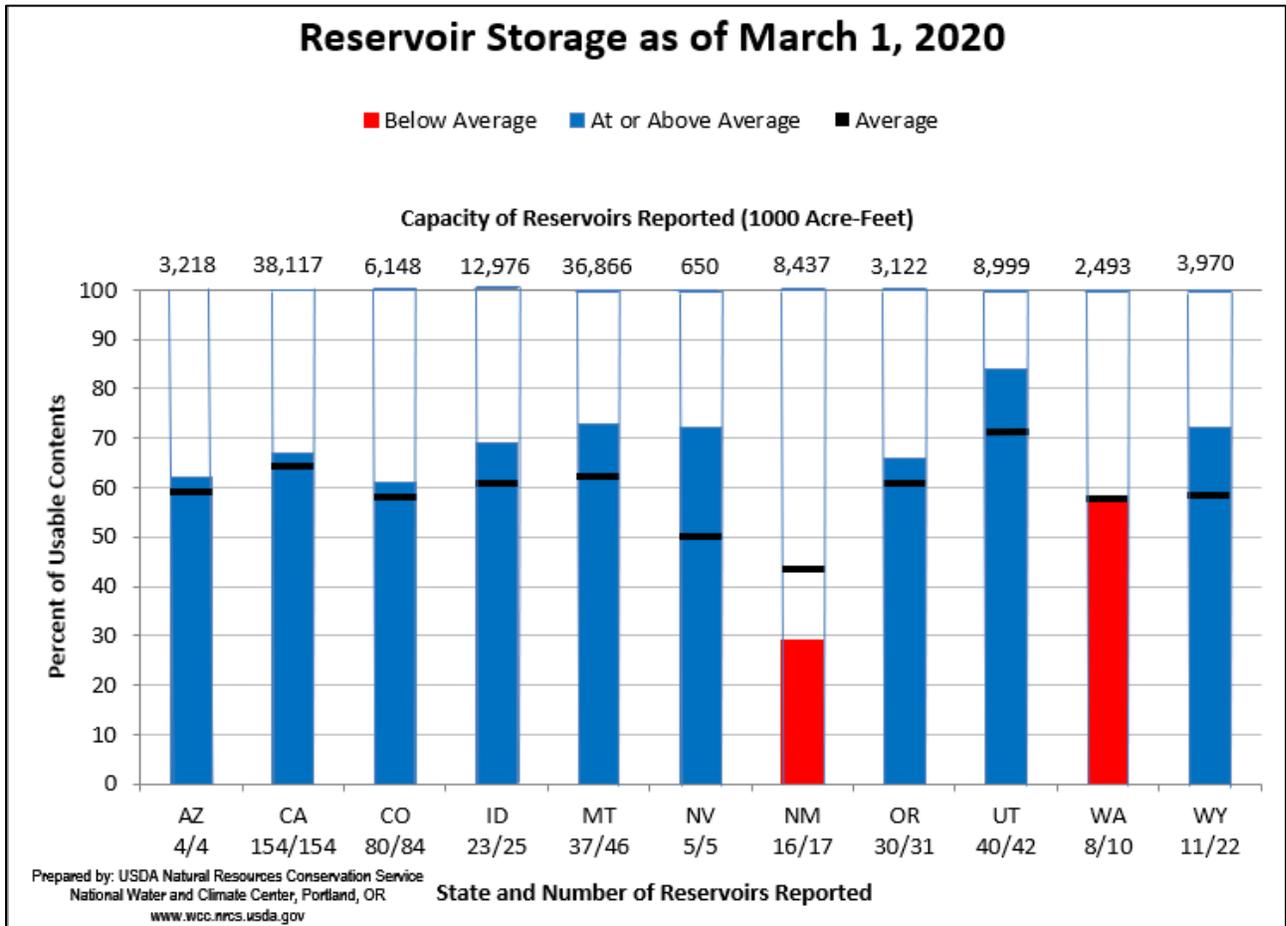
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
			△ Streamgage with flood stage	○ Streamgage without flood stage		

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

## Reservoir Storage

### Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



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

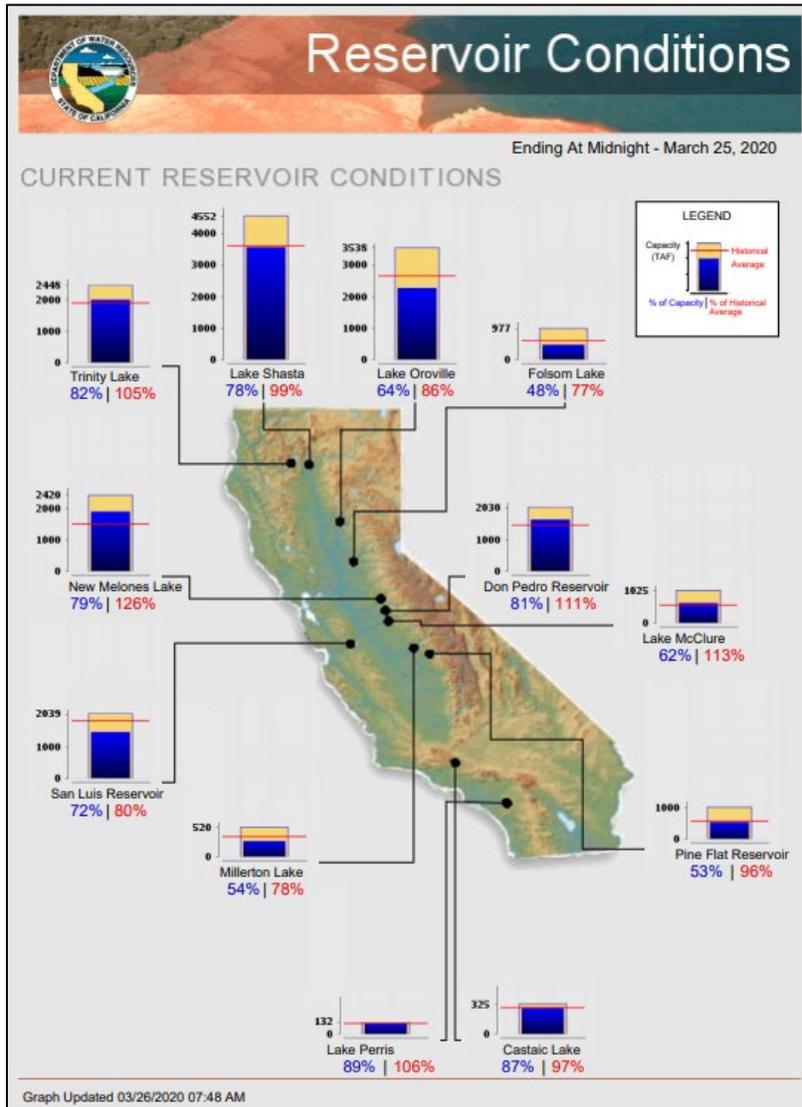
### Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

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

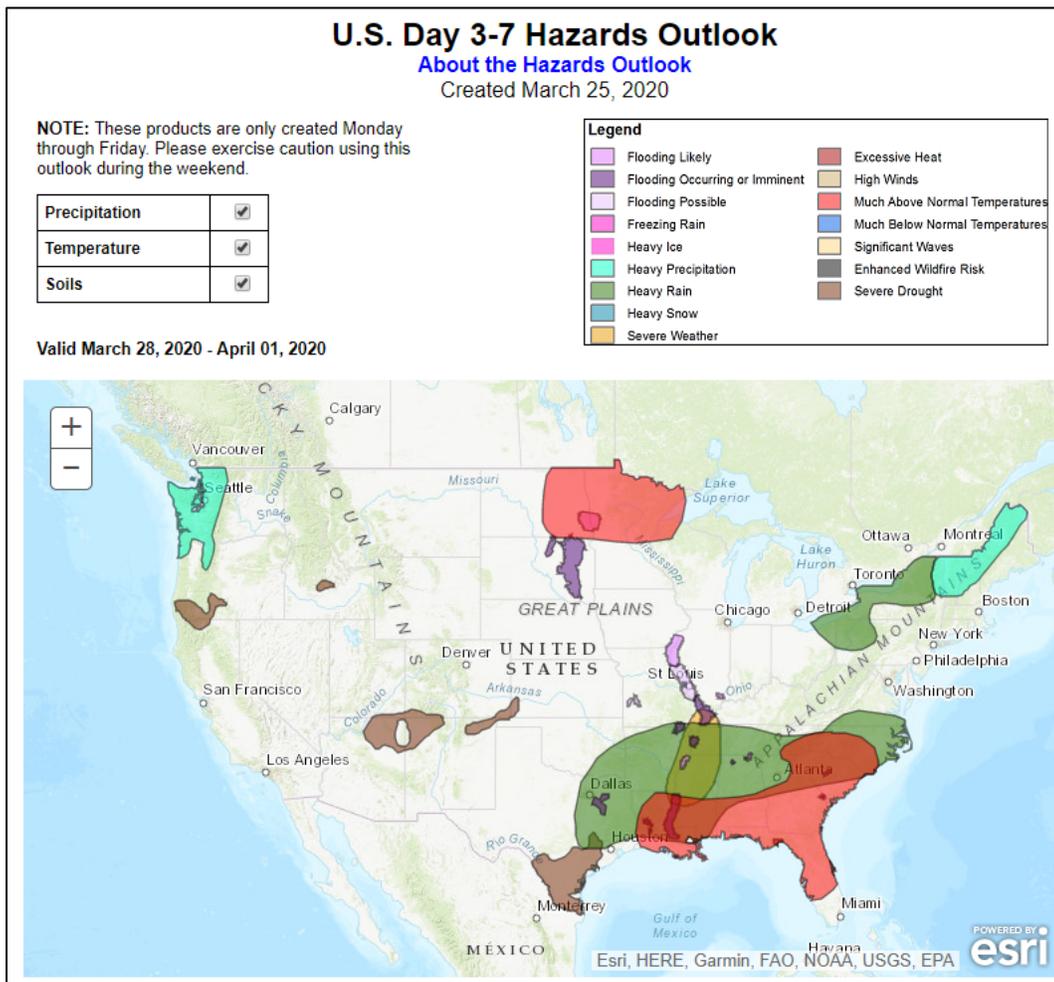
### Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

**National Outlook, Thursday, March 26, 2020:** “During the next several days, a strong spring storm system will result in a variety of weather hazards from the nation’s mid-section into the Northeast. Five-day precipitation totals could reach 1 to 3 inches or more across much of the Midwest, mid-South, and Northeast, possibly causing flash flooding and increasing river flooding. Snow will fall, starting late Friday, across southeastern Wyoming and environs. Weekend snow accumulation may occur in the upper Great Lakes region and across northern New England. Meanwhile, locally severe thunderstorms will sweep across the South and may occur as far north as the southern Corn Belt. Elsewhere, an elevated risk of grassfires will persist across the southern High Plains. By early next week, a new pair of storms will begin to affect the country; one system will develop over the south-central U.S., while the other will arrive in the Northwest. However, little or no rain will fall during the next 5 days in the southern Atlantic States. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 31 – April 4 calls for the likelihood of near- or below-normal temperatures in much of the eastern one-half of the U.S. and across the nation’s northern tier, except Maine. Warmer-than-normal weather can be expected in Maine, along with Florida, the Gulf Coast region, and an area stretching from California to the High Plains. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across large sections of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions along the Canadian border from the northernmost Rockies into the upper Great Lakes region, and across the South from Texas to the southern Atlantic Coast.”

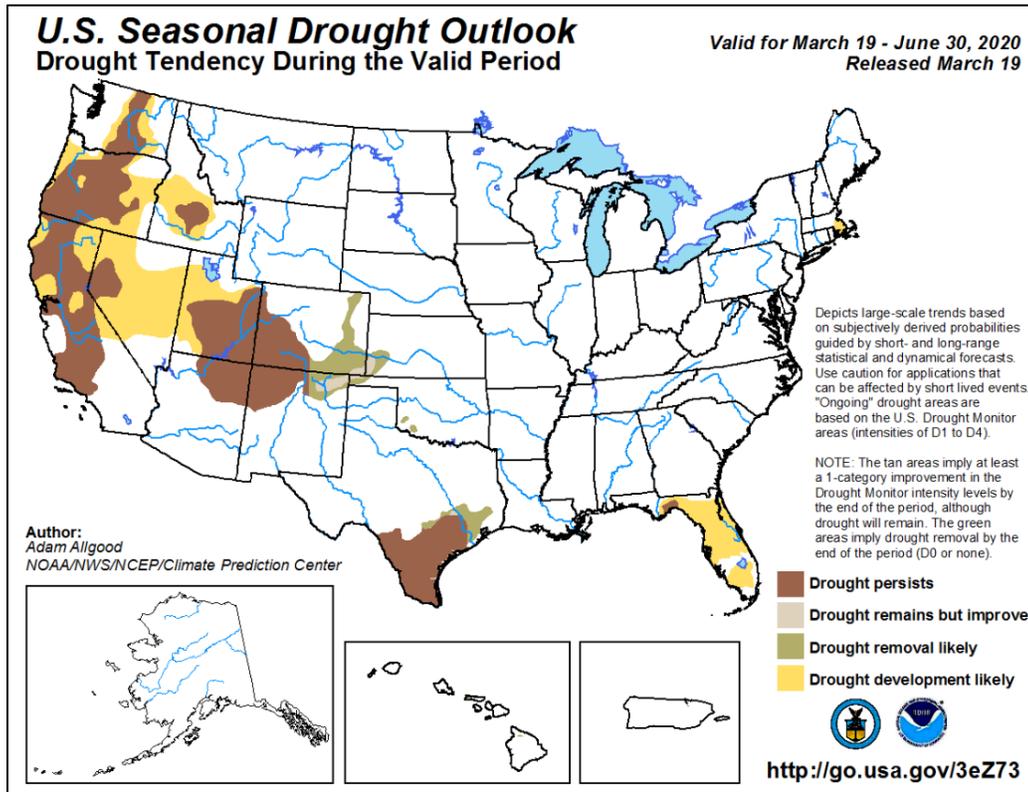
### Weather Hazards Outlook: March 28 – April 1, 2020

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center



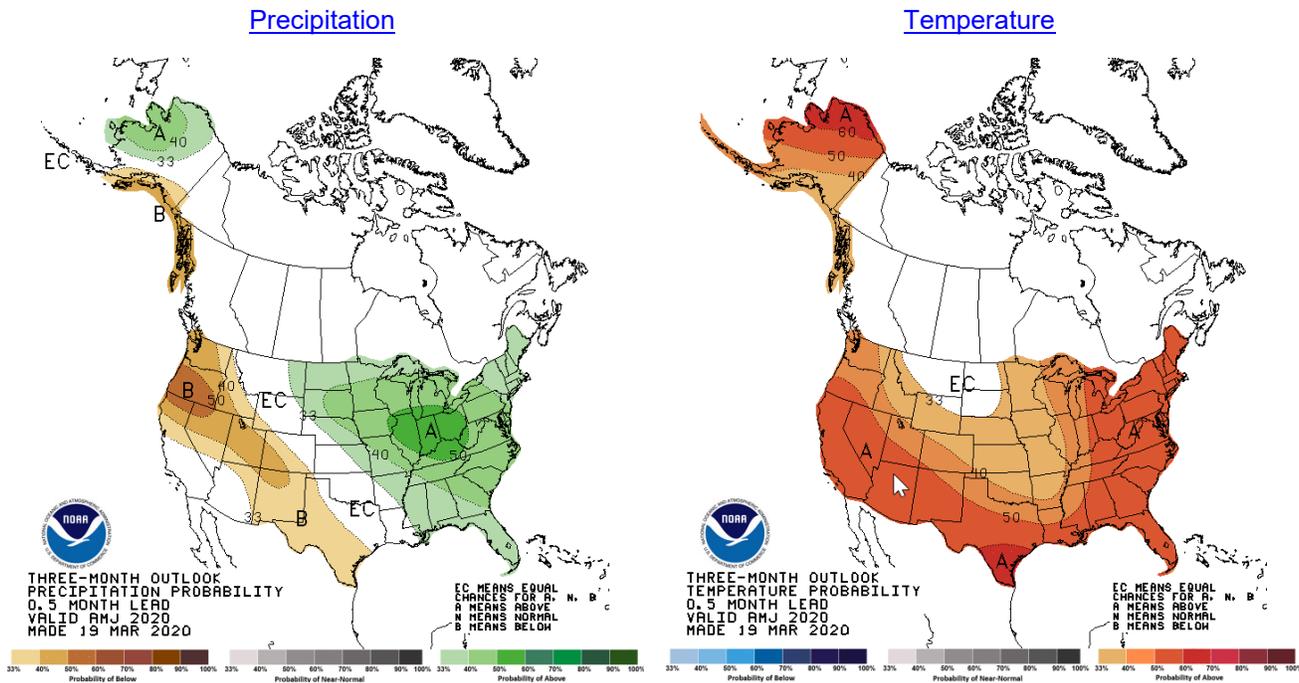
Seasonal Drought Outlook: [March 19 – June 30, 2020](#)

Source: National Weather Service



Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service



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