



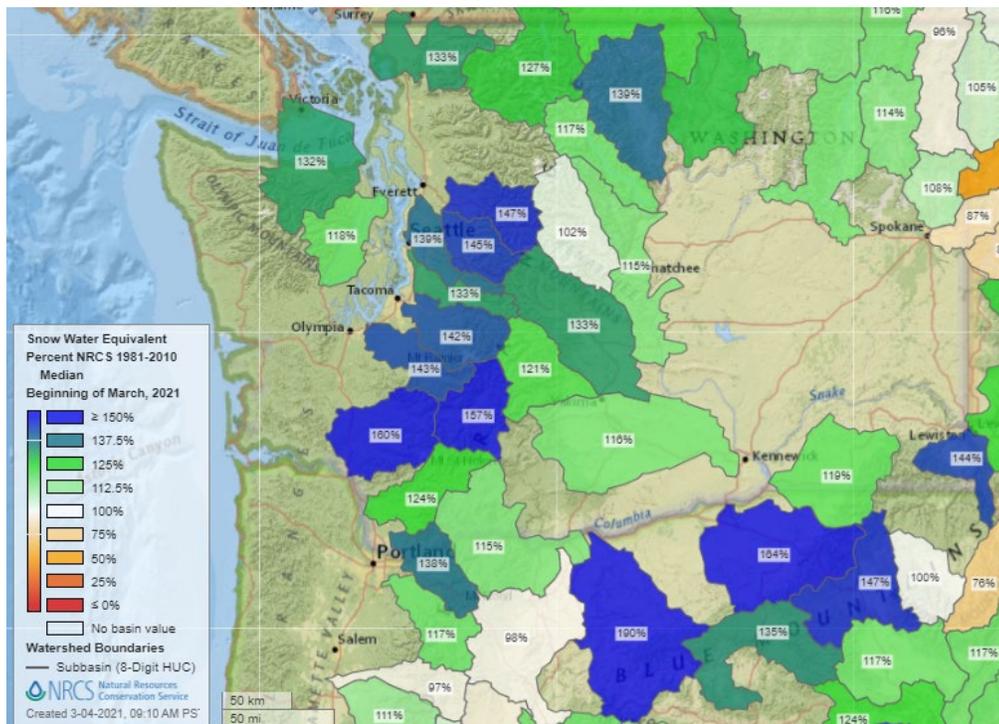
Water and Climate Update

March 04, 2021

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	2	Drought	10
Precipitation	4	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators	13
Temperature.....	8	More Information	19

Pacific Northwest snowpack levels surge due to February storms

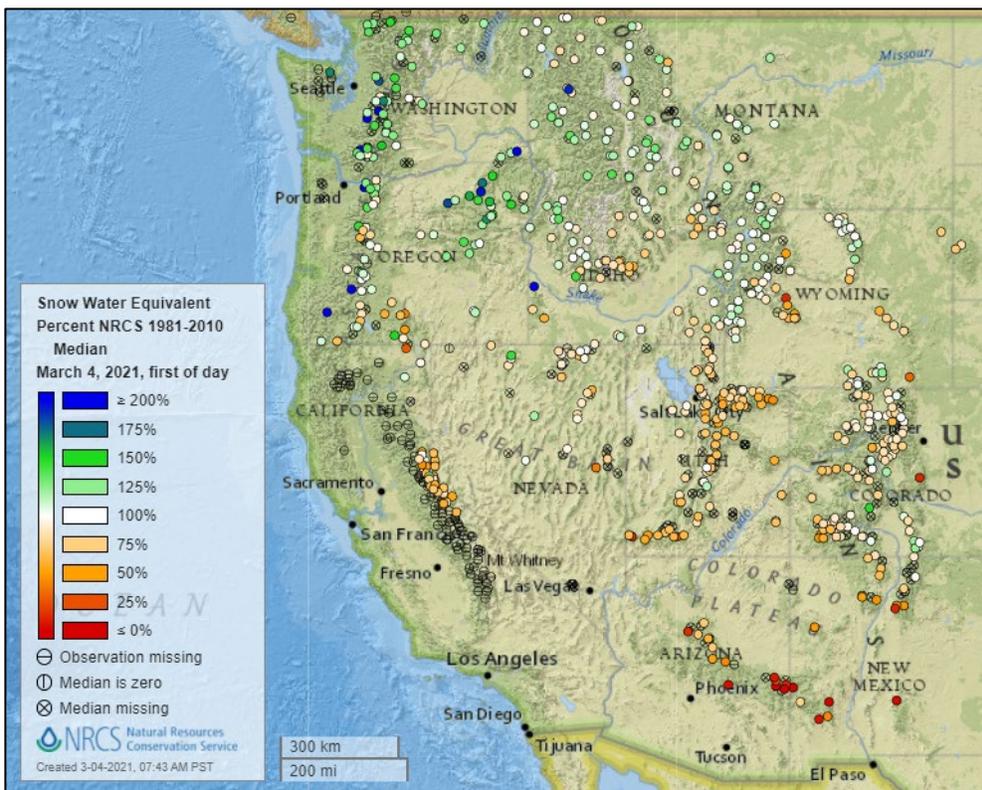


February storms brought large increases in the snowpack of the Cascade Mountains in the Pacific Northwest. Individual SNOTEL stations reported snow water equivalent (SWE) increases of over 500% of normal for the month at many stations. Large snowpack increases also heightened avalanche warnings for the region, and periodically closed mountain passes. The heavy snowpack has improved the water supply outlook to above normal for the spring and summer river flows.

Related:

- [Cascades mountain passes reporting near historic levels of snow this winter](#) – KOMONews on MSN.com (WA)
- [High snowpack in Washington mountains following February storms](#) – The Columbian (WA)
- [Washington forms healthy snowpack after snowiest February recorded in 20 years](#) – King5 (WA)
- [Snowpack high after February storms](#) – Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce (WA)
- [High Snowpack in WA Mountains Following February Storms](#) – U.S. News & World Report
- [High snowpack in WA mountains following February storms](#) – The News Tribune (WA)
- [Mount Hood ski areas close amid avalanche warnings, as Cascades get more snow](#) – Oregonian (OR)

Snow



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

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

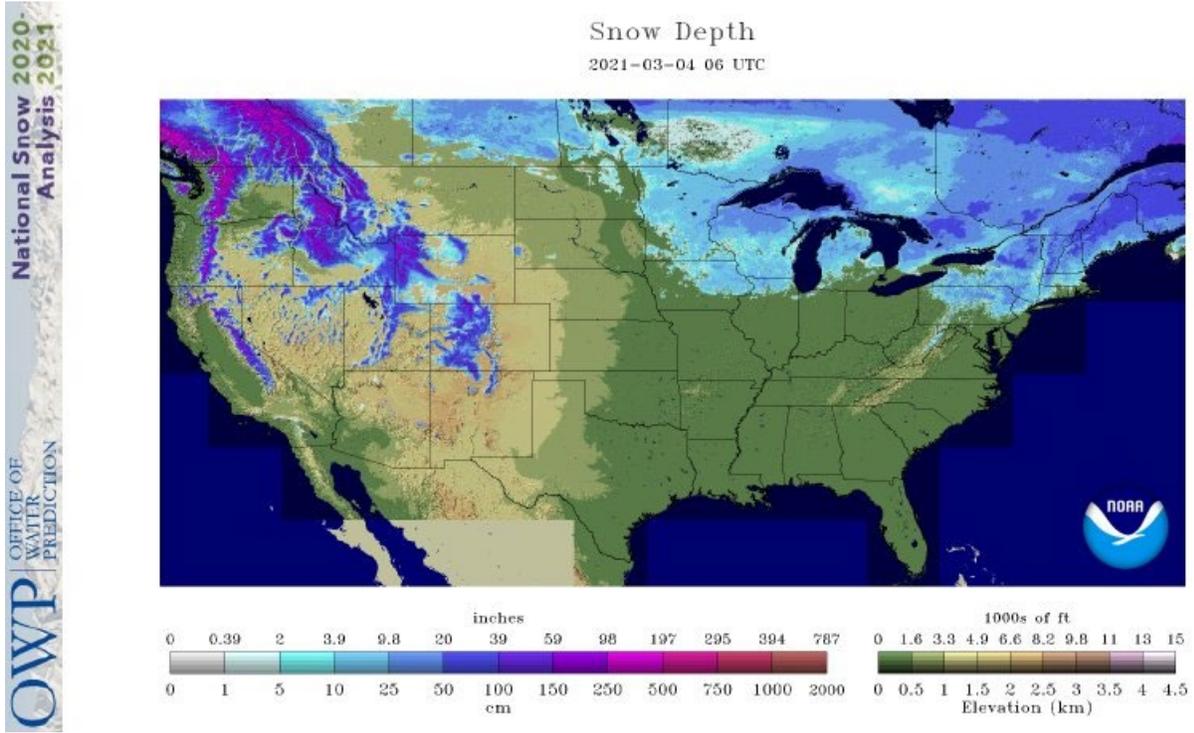


[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

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

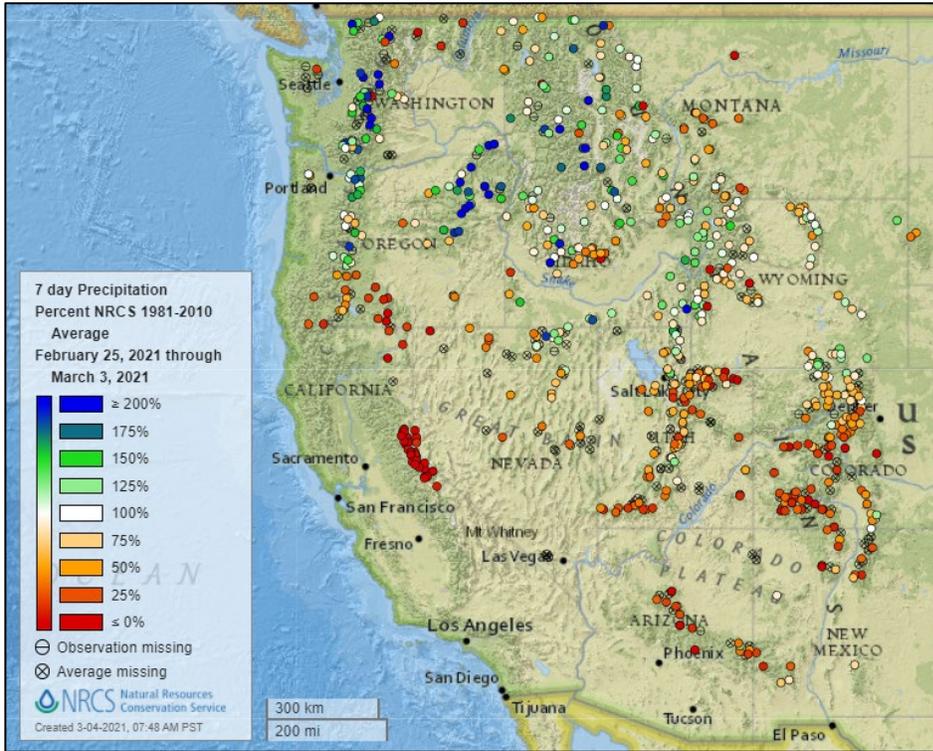
Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis

Source: NOAA Office of Water Prediction



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

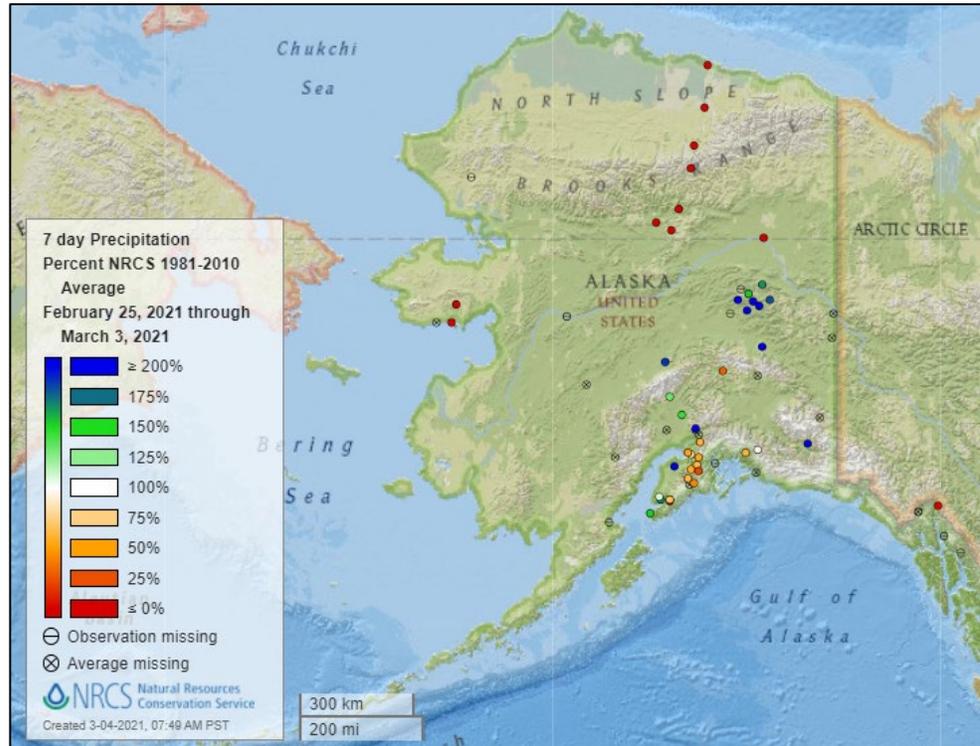


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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](#)



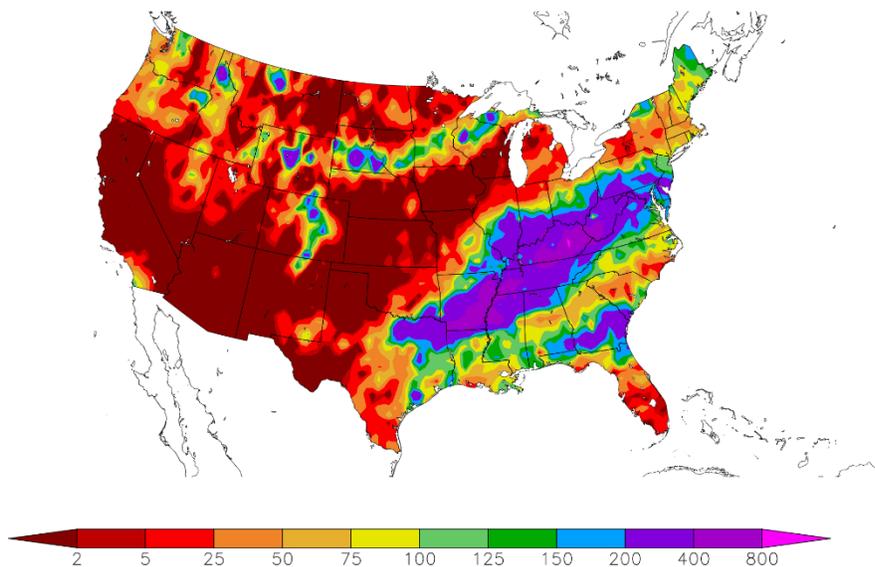
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
2/25/2021 – 3/3/2021



Generated 3/4/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

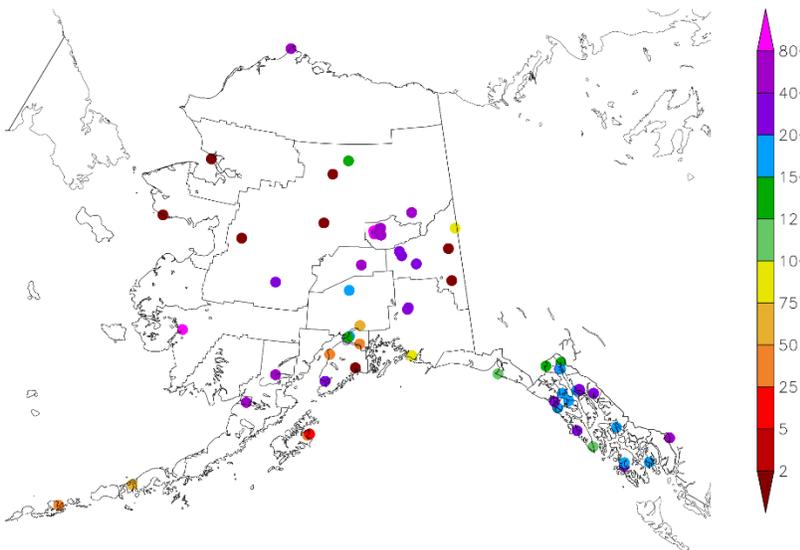
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
2/25/2021 – 3/3/2021



Generated 3/4/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

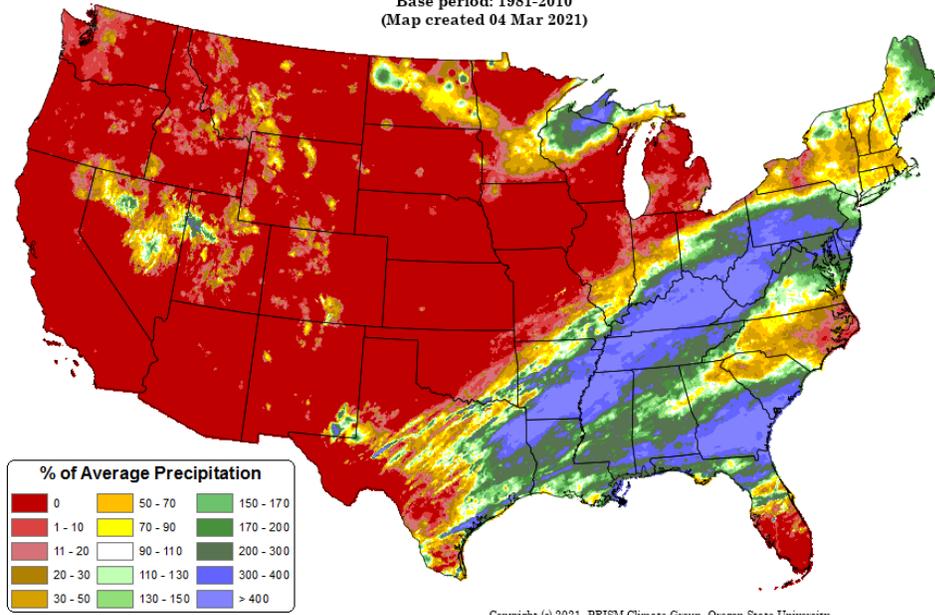
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Mar 2021 - 03 Mar 2021
Period ending 7 AM EST 03 Mar 2021
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 04 Mar 2021)

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

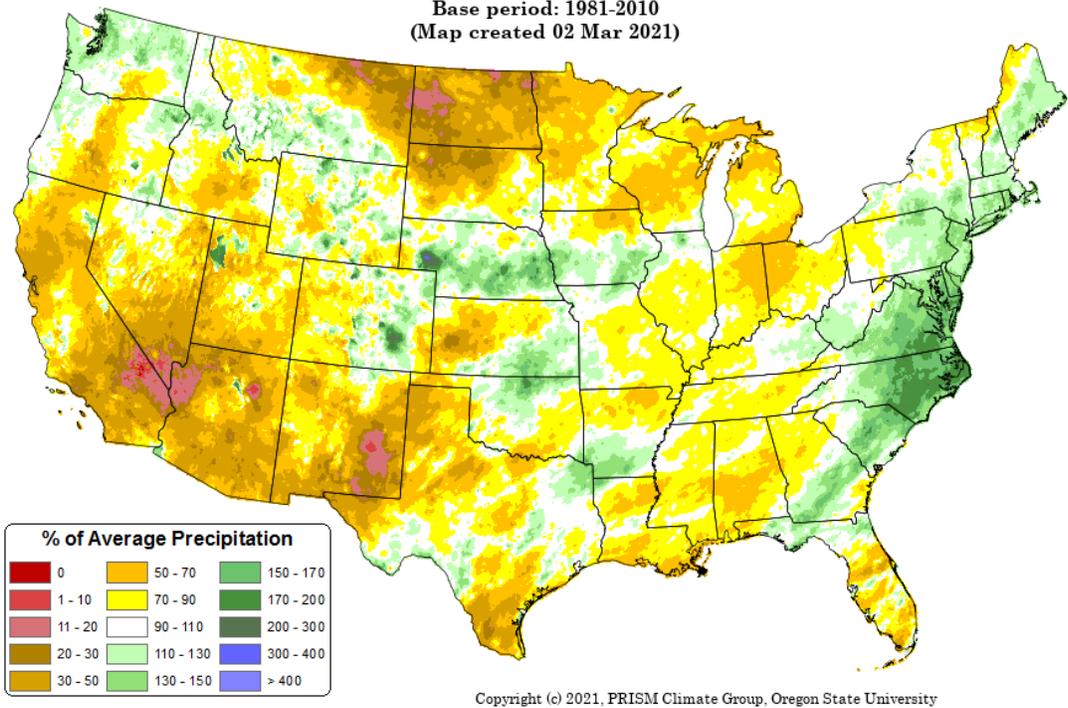


Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

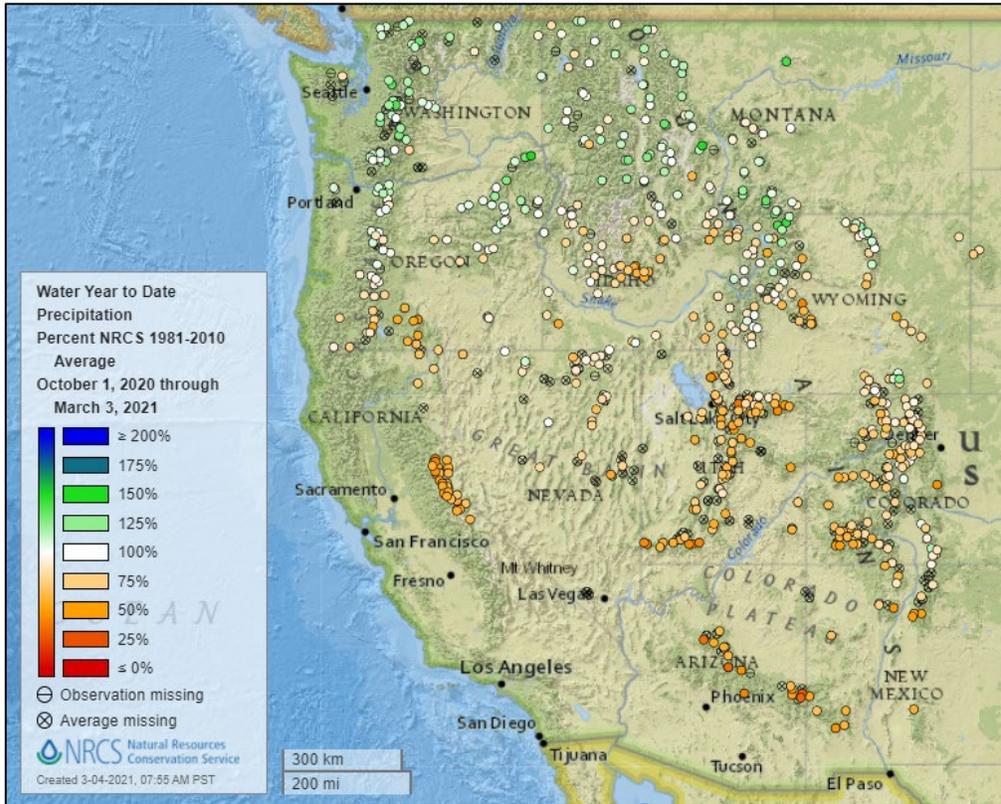
Source: PRISM

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

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Dec 2020 - Feb 2021
Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Feb 2021
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Mar 2021)

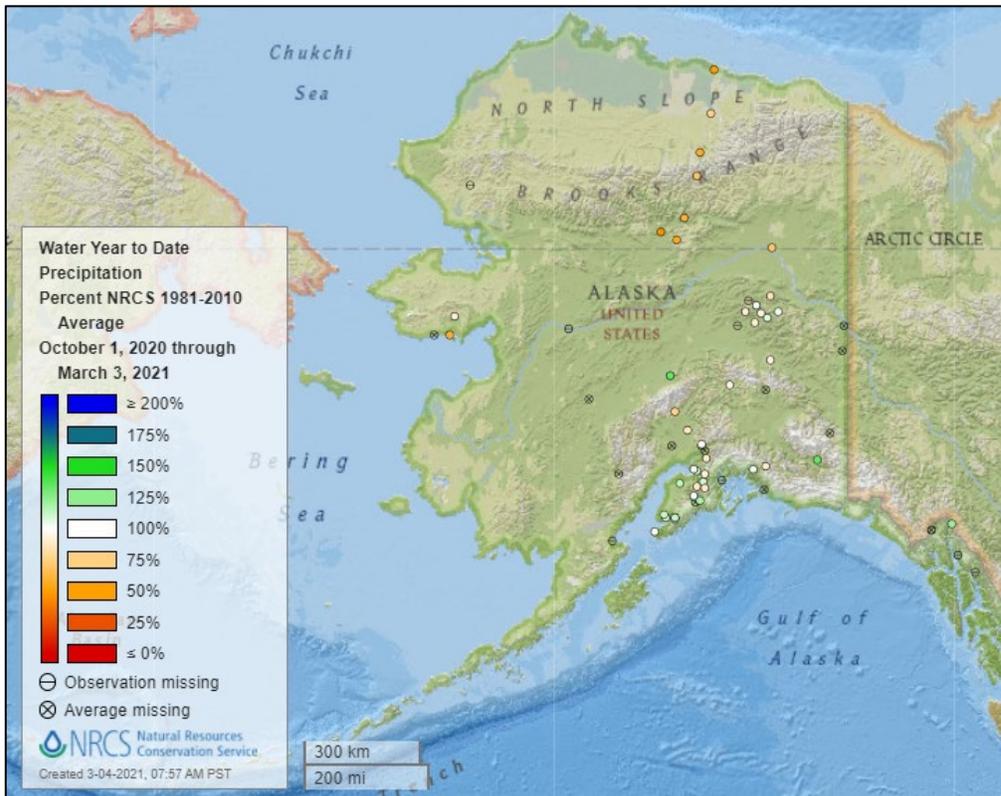


Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2021 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[2021 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2021 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[Alaska 2021 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

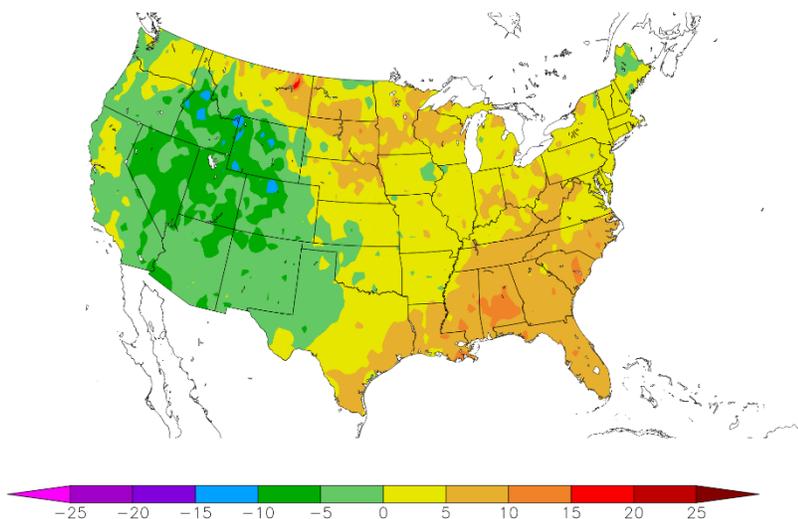
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
2/25/2021 – 3/3/2021



Generated 3/4/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

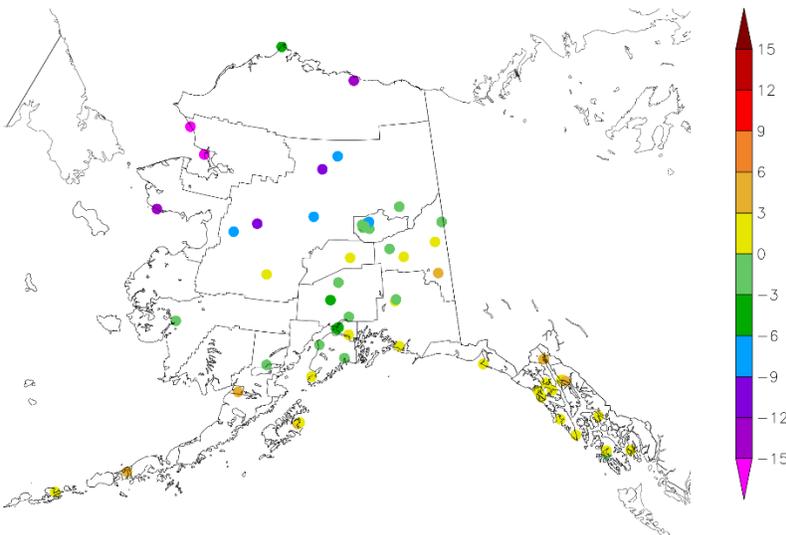
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/25/2021 – 3/3/2021



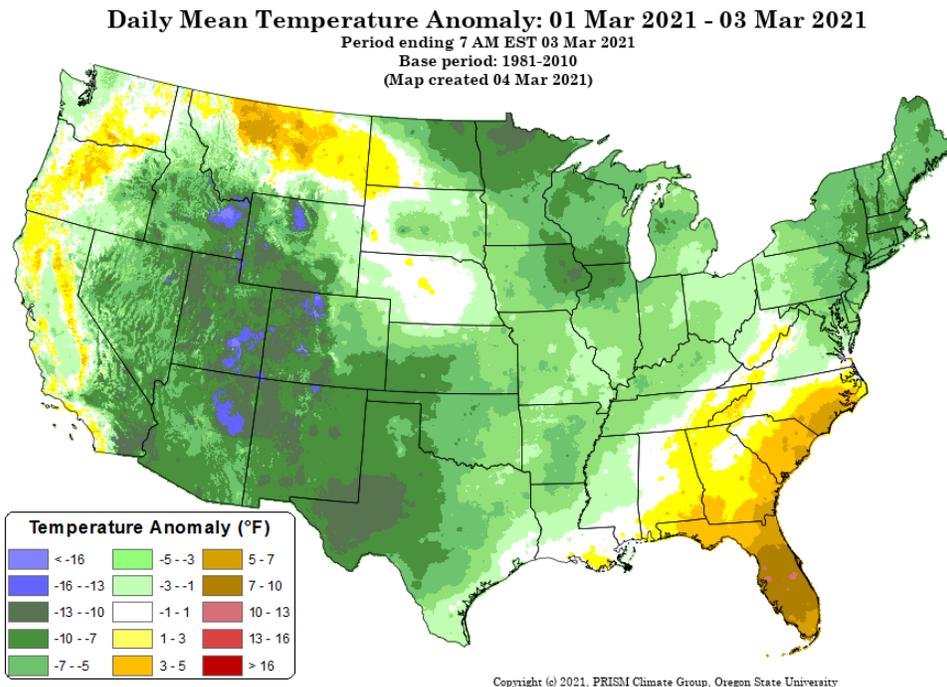
Generated 3/4/2021 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

Source: PRISM

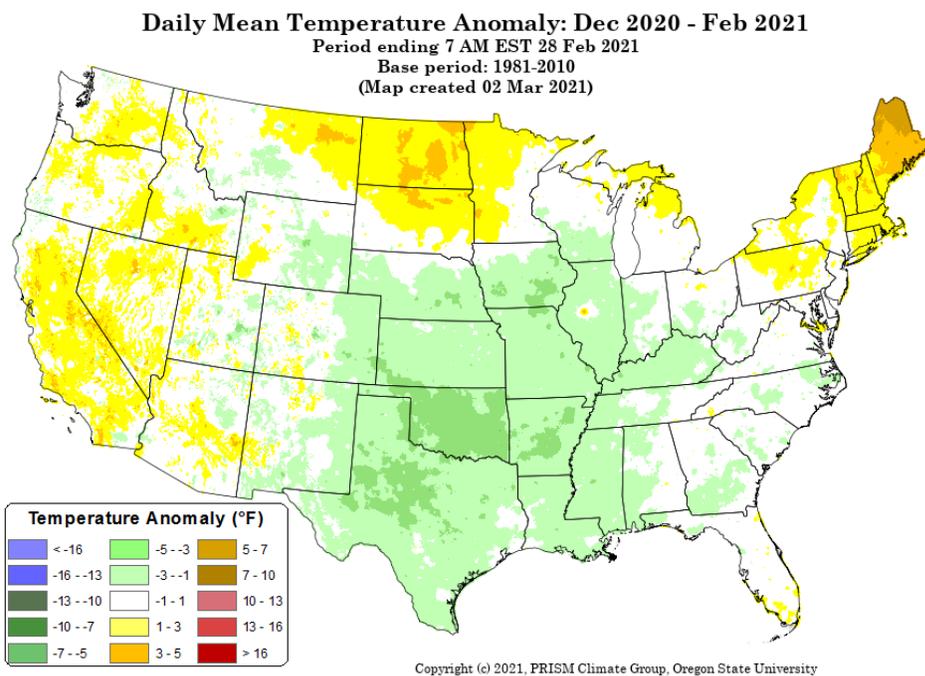
[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

[December 2020 through February 2021 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



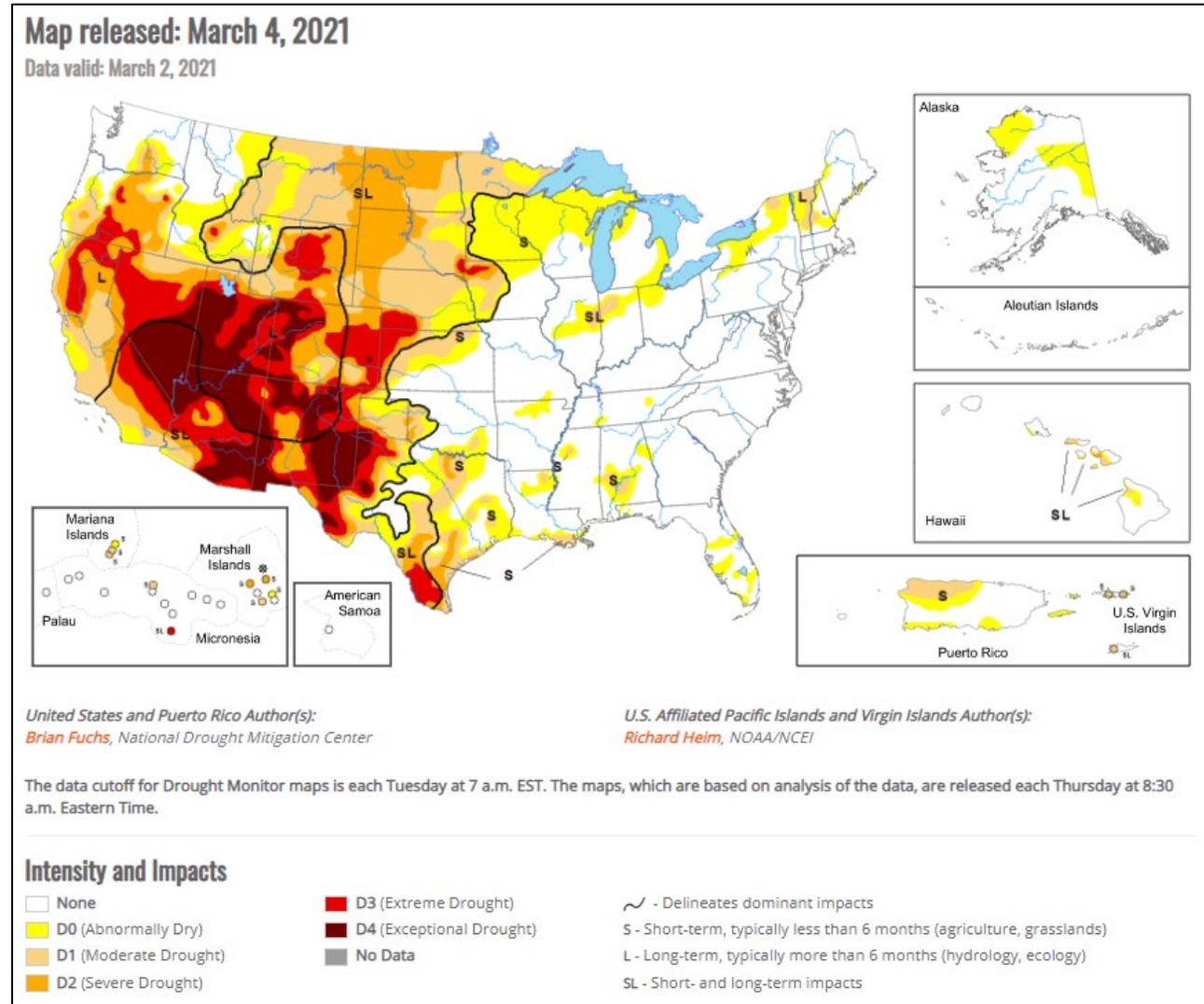
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), March 04, 2021

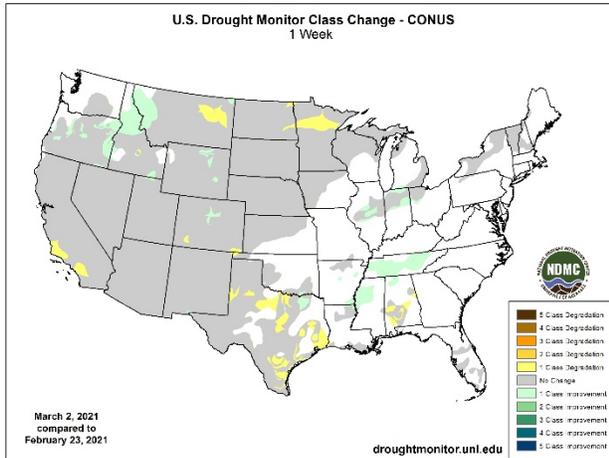
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“The current U.S. Drought Monitor period was highlighted by a large swath of heavy rain that started in northeast Texas and progressed northeast into the Mid-Atlantic. In this area, widespread reports of 200-400% of normal precipitation took place, with some areas of Kentucky having widespread 6-8 inch amounts. Dry conditions dominated much of the West and especially the Southwest and into the Plains. Some active weather in the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains brought with it rain and snow, helping to boost seasonal snow totals. Temperatures during the week were cooler than normal over the West with departures of 6-9 degrees below normal widespread, while temperatures were above normal from the Plains eastward with departures of 9-12 degrees above normal over much of Alabama.”

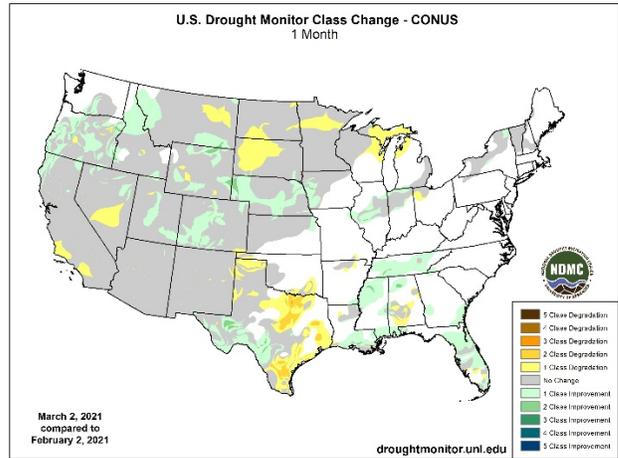
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

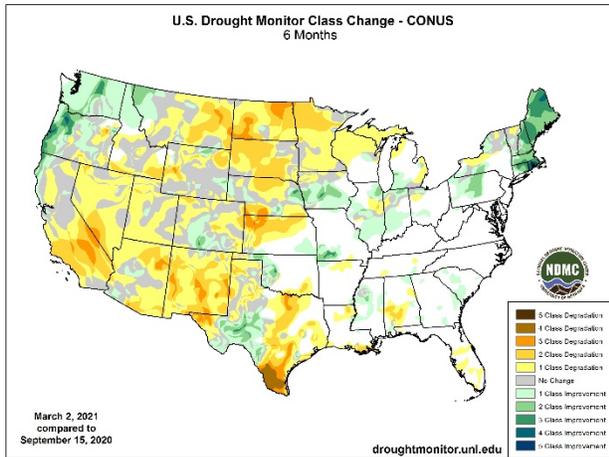
1 Week



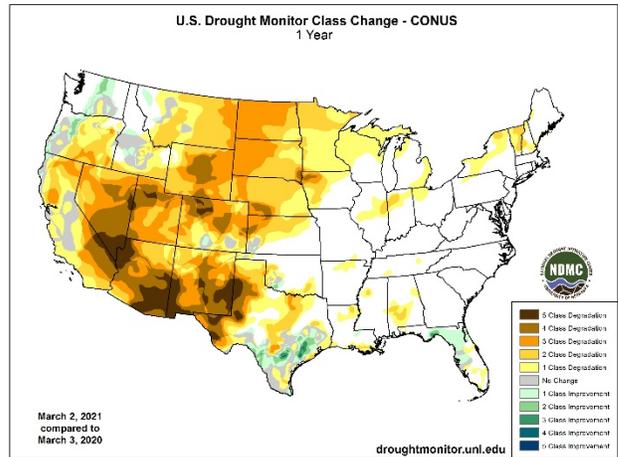
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



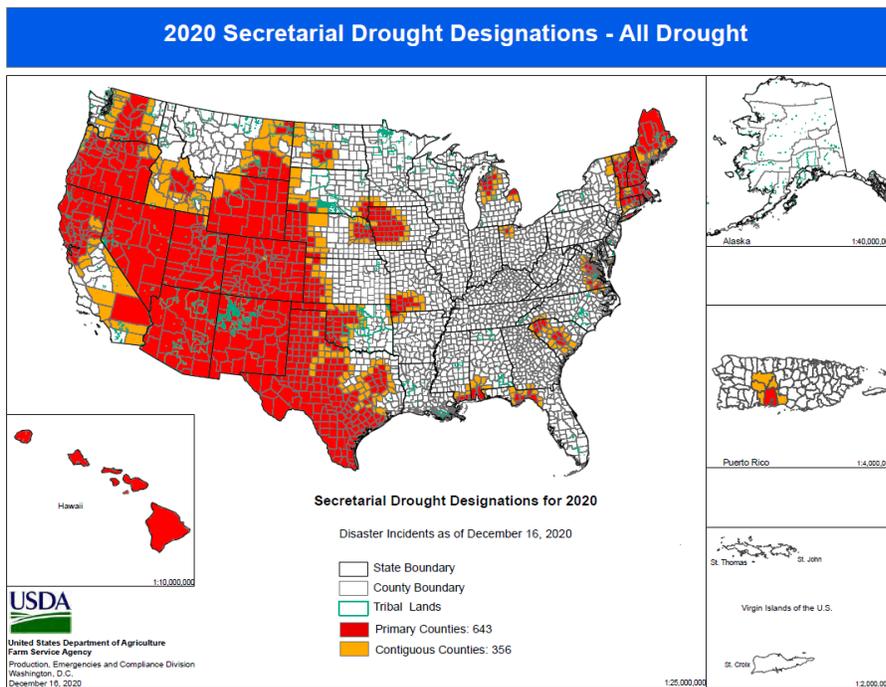
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

Highlighted Drought Resources

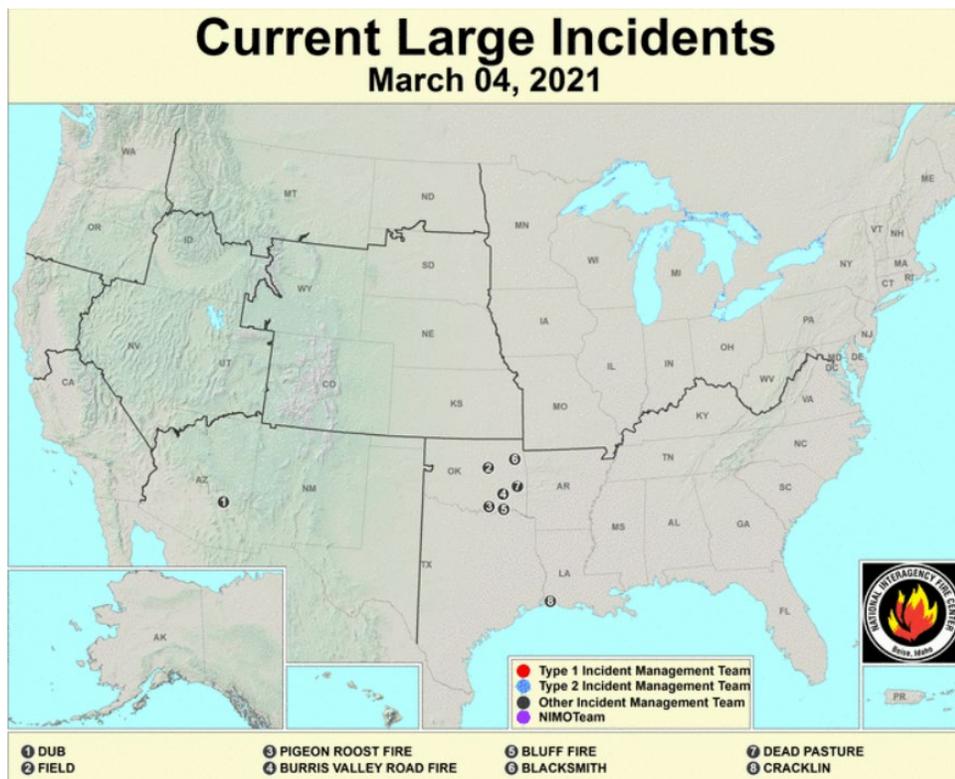
- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

Secretarial Drought Designations

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



Wildfires: USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping



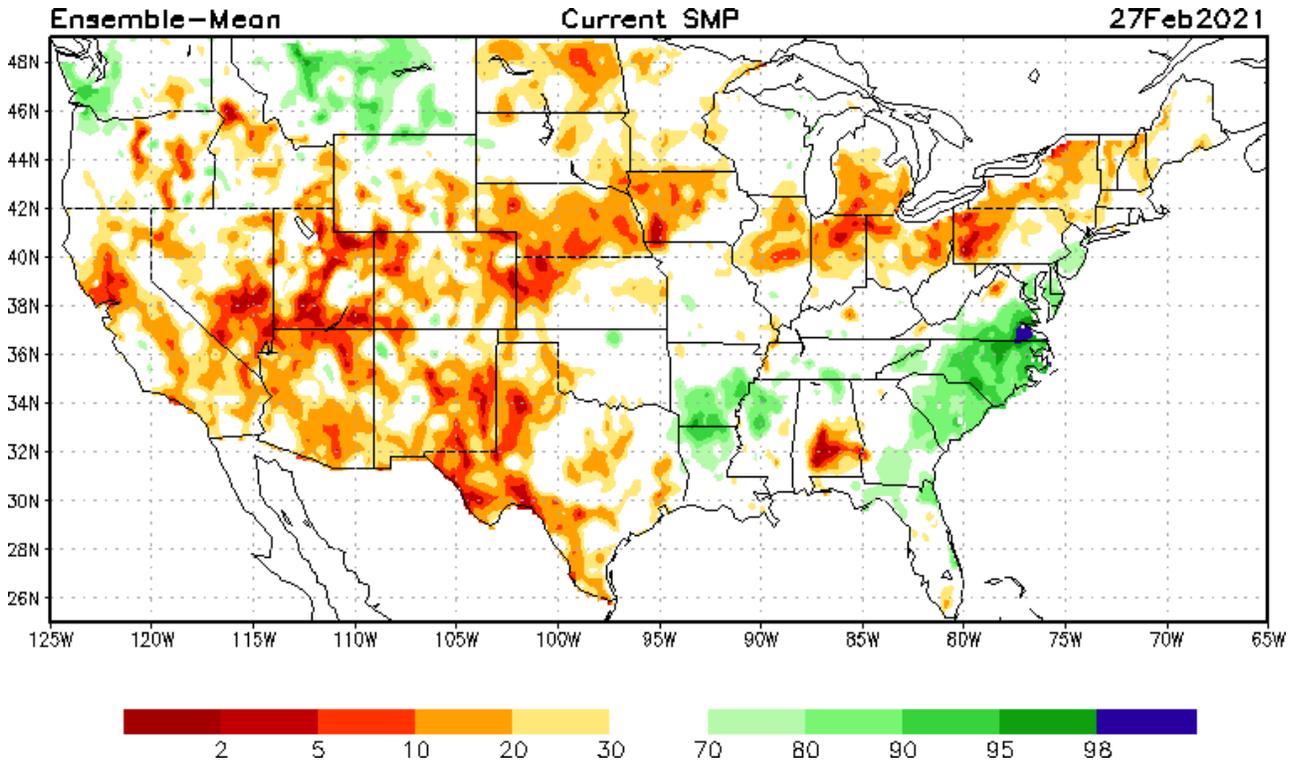
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)
- [InciWeb Incident Information System](#)
- [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#)

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

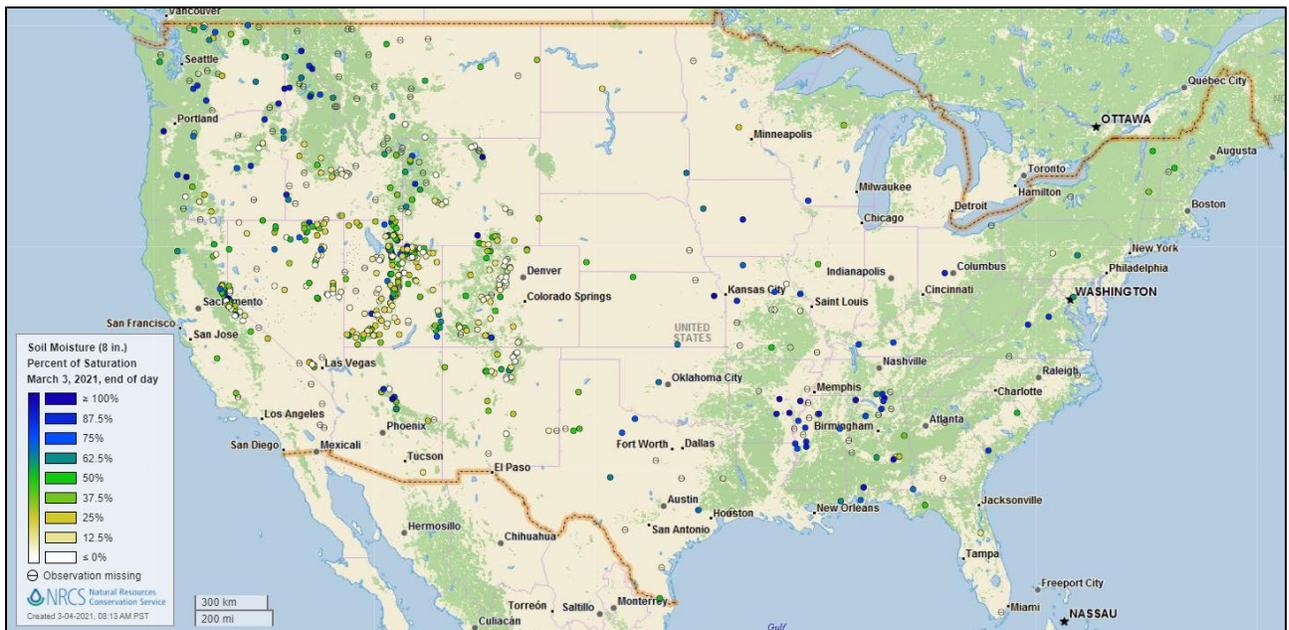
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of February 27, 2021

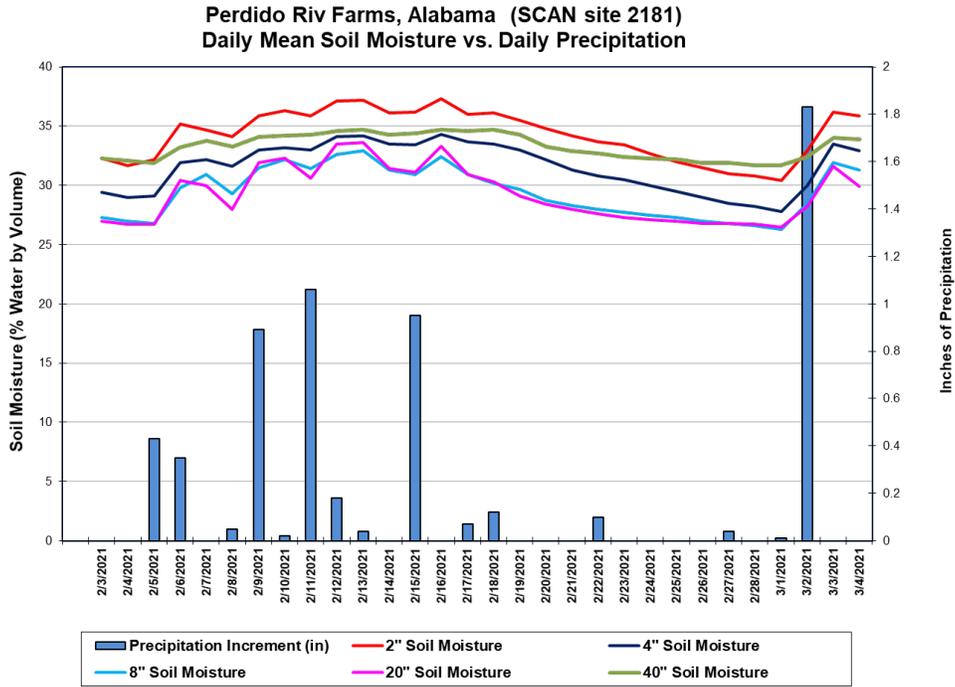
Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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



Soil Moisture

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



This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Perdido Riv Farms](#) SCAN site in Alabama. Precipitation totaling 1.83 inches fell on March 02 and increased the soil moisture at all sensor depths. Accumulated precipitation for the 30-day period was 6.14 inches.

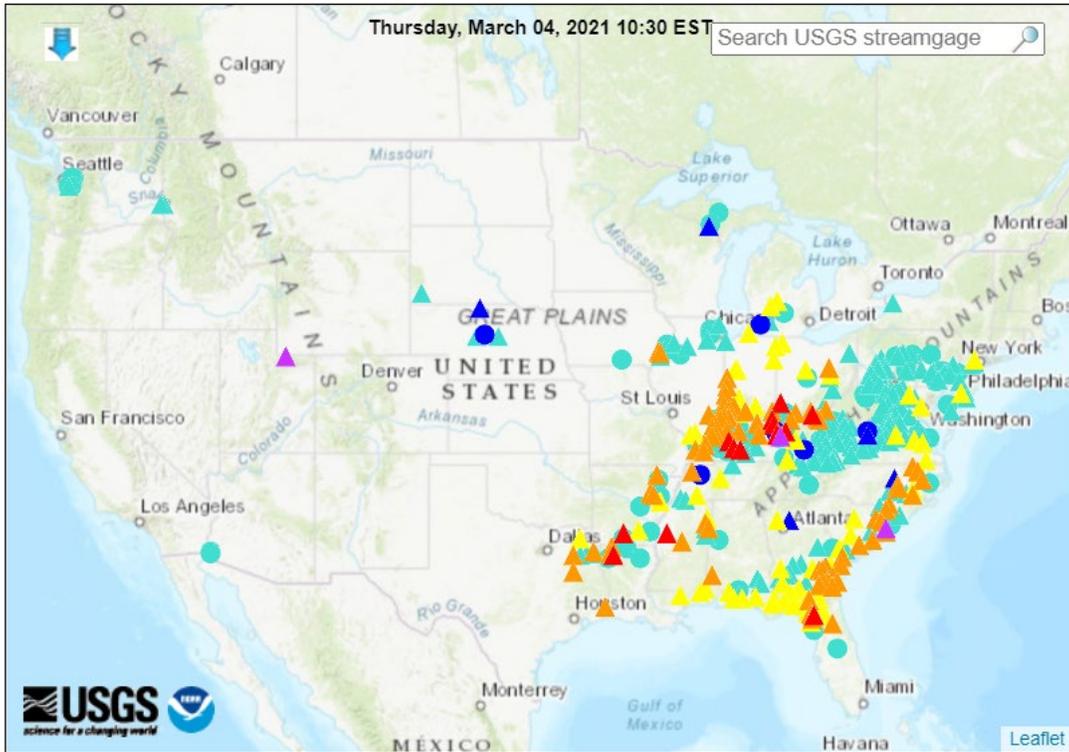
Soil Moisture Data Portals

- [USCRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [National Soil Moisture Network](#)
- [NOAA Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture](#)
- [NASA Grace](#)

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Map of flood and high flow conditions (93 in floods [major: 3, moderate: 14, minor: 76], 62 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](#)

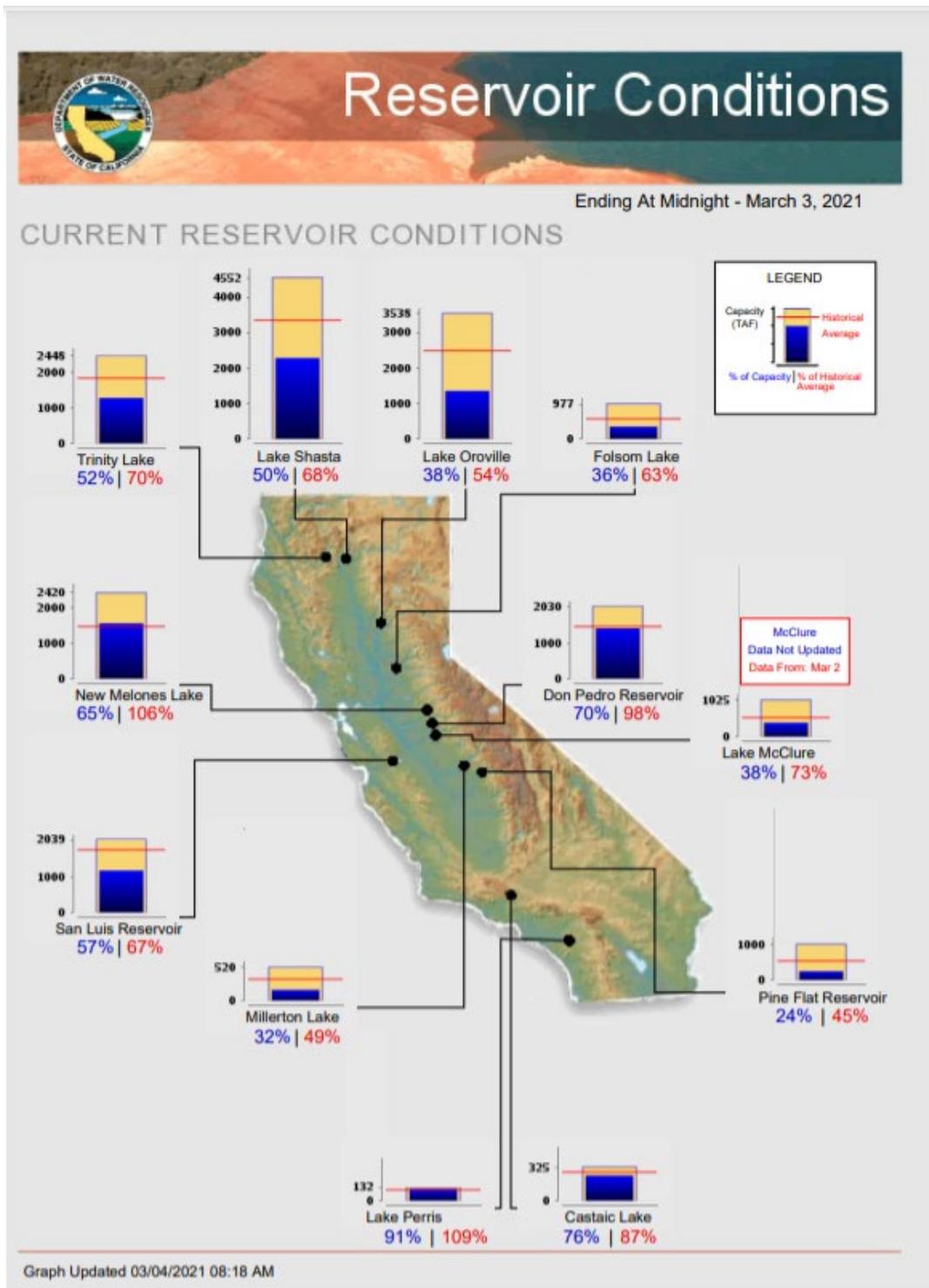
Reservoir Storage

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](#)

Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday, March 04, 2021: “A moisture-starved storm system will continue to cross the southern U.S., delivering generally light precipitation. However, storm totals may exceed an inch in parts of Florida, Kansas, and Oklahoma. By Saturday, the storm will exit the southern Atlantic Coast. Meanwhile, Pacific moisture will begin to spread inland across the western U.S. Five-day precipitation totals could reach 2 to 4 inches or more along the northern Pacific Coast, extending into northwestern California. Mostly light precipitation will fall across the remainder of the Northwest. Early next week, precipitation may begin to spread farther south across the remainder of California and into the Great Basin. Elsewhere, dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days across the northern Plains, Midwest, mid-Atlantic, and interior Southeast. Ongoing warmth across the Plains will contrast with chilly conditions in the Great Lakes and Northeastern States. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for March 9 – 13 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures from the central and southern Plains to the Atlantic Coast, while colder-than-normal conditions will prevail across the northern High Plains and the West. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal weather along the southern Atlantic Coast.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [March 06 – 10, 2021](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

[About the Hazards Outlook](#)

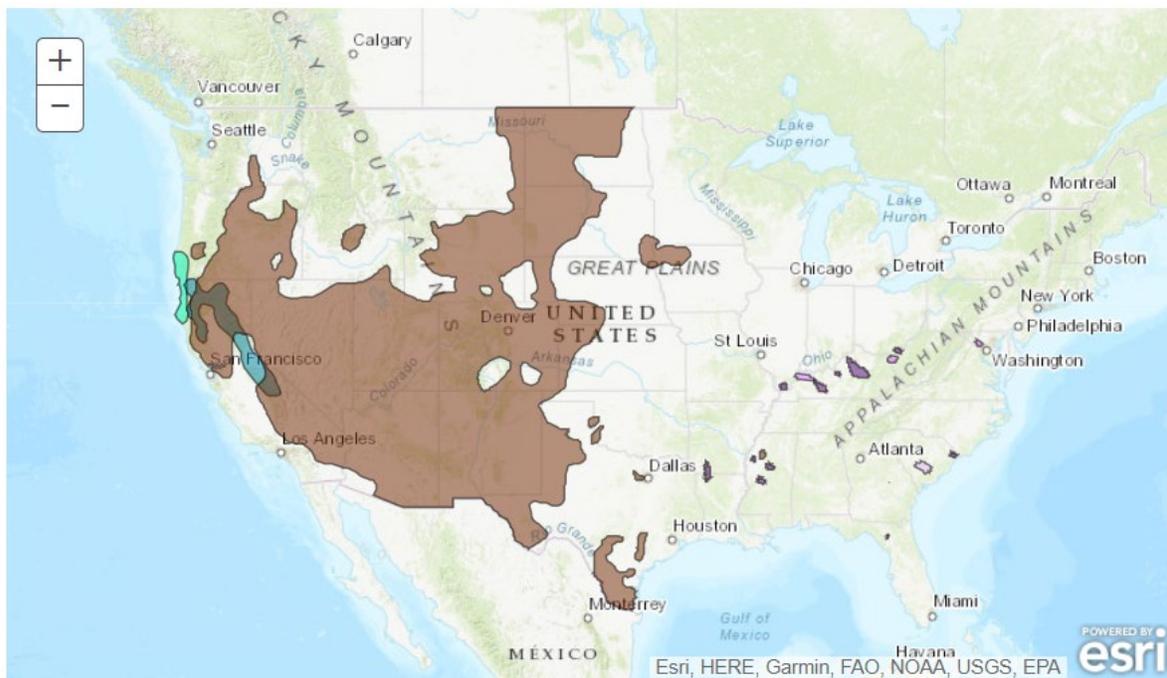
Created March 03, 2021

NOTE: These products are only created Monday through Friday. Please exercise caution using this outlook during the weekend.

Precipitation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Temperature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Legend			
	Flooding Likely		Excessive Heat
	Flooding Occurring or Imminent		High Winds
	Flooding Possible		Much Above Normal Temperatures
	Freezing Rain		Much Below Normal Temperatures
	Heavy Ice		Significant Waves
	Heavy Precipitation		Enhanced Wildfire Risk
	Heavy Rain		Severe Drought
	Heavy Snow		
	Severe Weather		

Valid March 06, 2021 - March 10, 2021

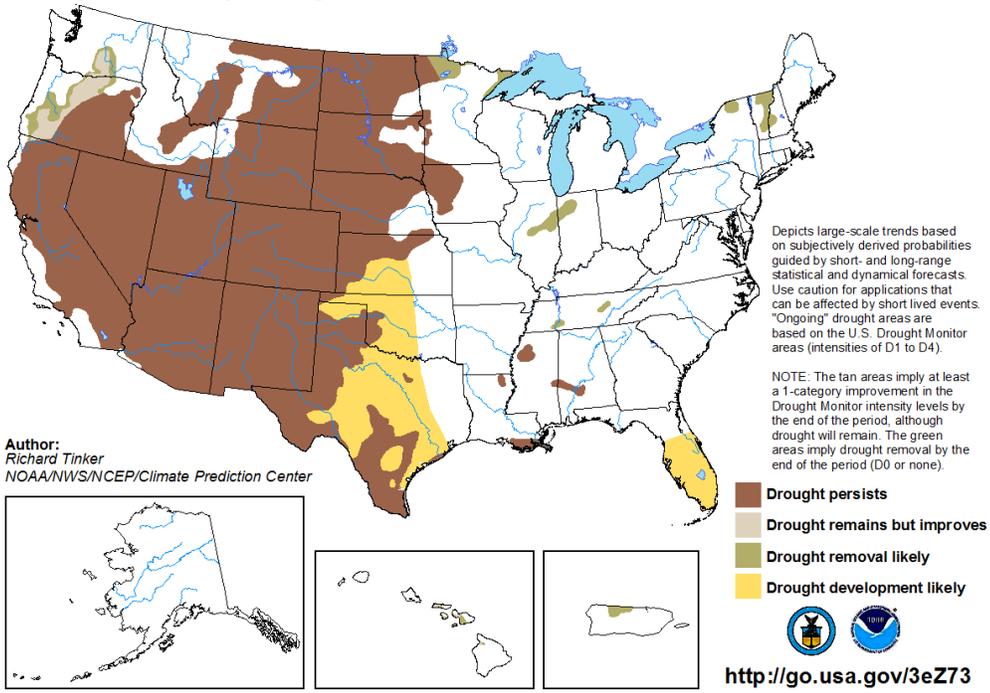


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [February 18 – May 31, 2021](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for February 18 - May 31, 2021
Released February 18

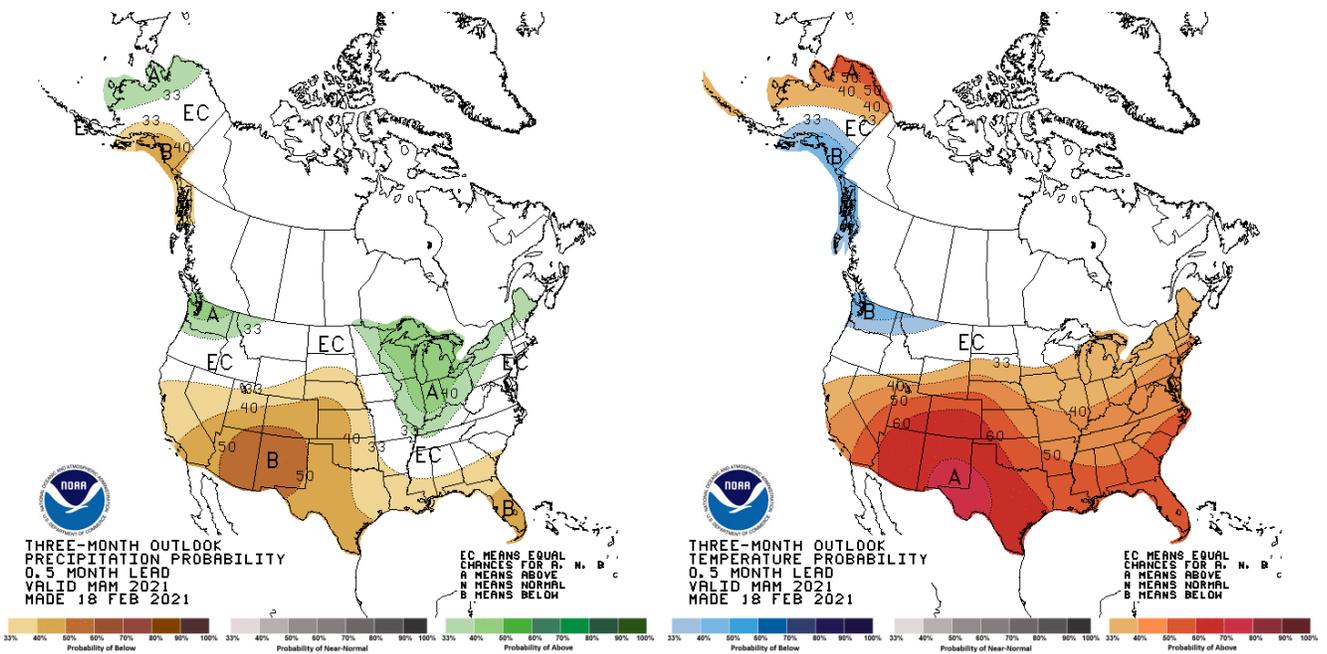


Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

Precipitation

Temperature



[March-April-May \(MAM\) 2021 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](#).