



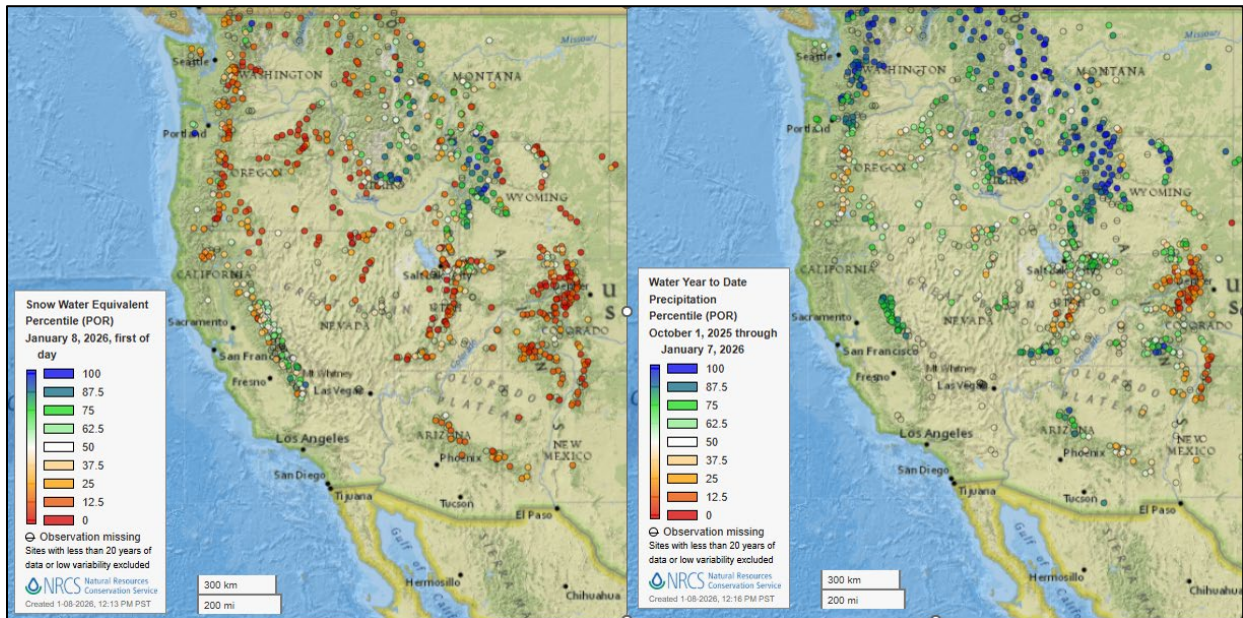
Water and Climate Update

January 8, 2026

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 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.....	14
Temperature	8	More Information	20

Record low snowpack recorded in the New Year

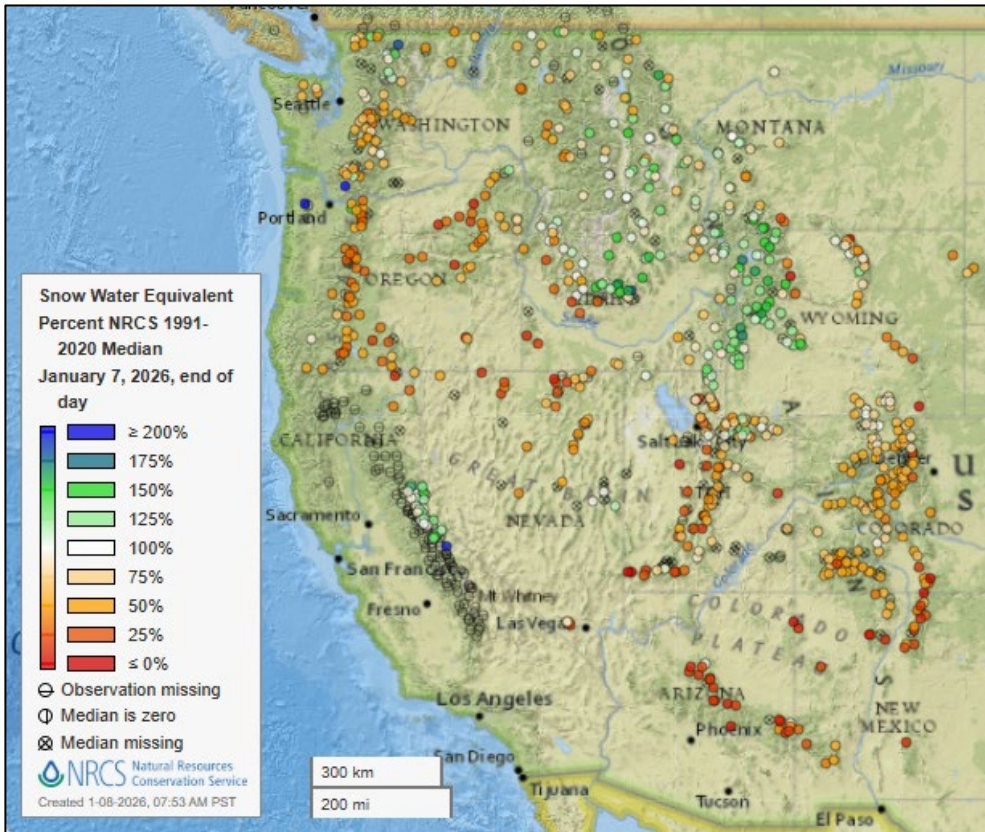


The first NRCS water supply forecasts for the season are being published this month and will run from January to June. The initial forecasts reflect an abundance of SNOTEL sites measuring record and near-record low snowpack, along with record and near-record high precipitation, especially in the Northwest. SNOTEL sites in higher elevations and areas closer to the Continental Divide have recorded above median snowpack and above median seasonal precipitation. The water supply forecasts predict a mix of above and below median streamflow for the spring and summer periods. Meanwhile, the Southwest has measured extremely low snowpack with equally low precipitation in some locations. This region also illustrates a variety of early season conditions and a variety of water supply forecasts, depending on location. It is still considered early in the snow season, and there is opportunity for seasonal conditions to change and further shape the final water supply outlook.

Related:

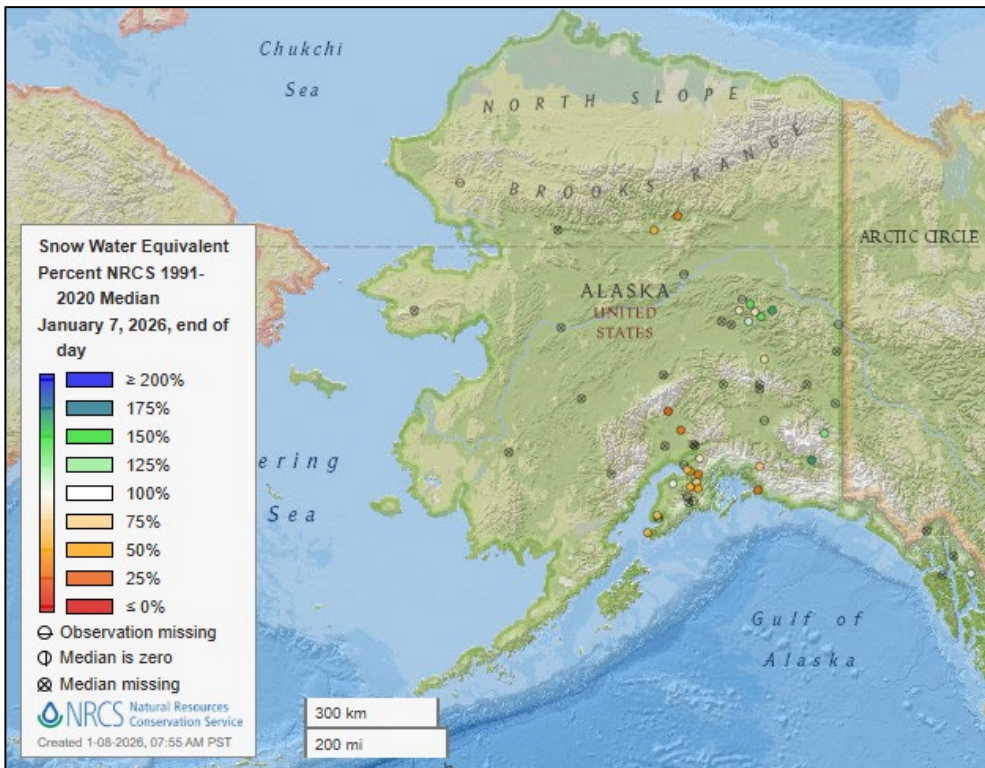
[January 1, 2025 NRCS Streamflow Forecasts](#) – Interactive Map, NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Snow



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

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

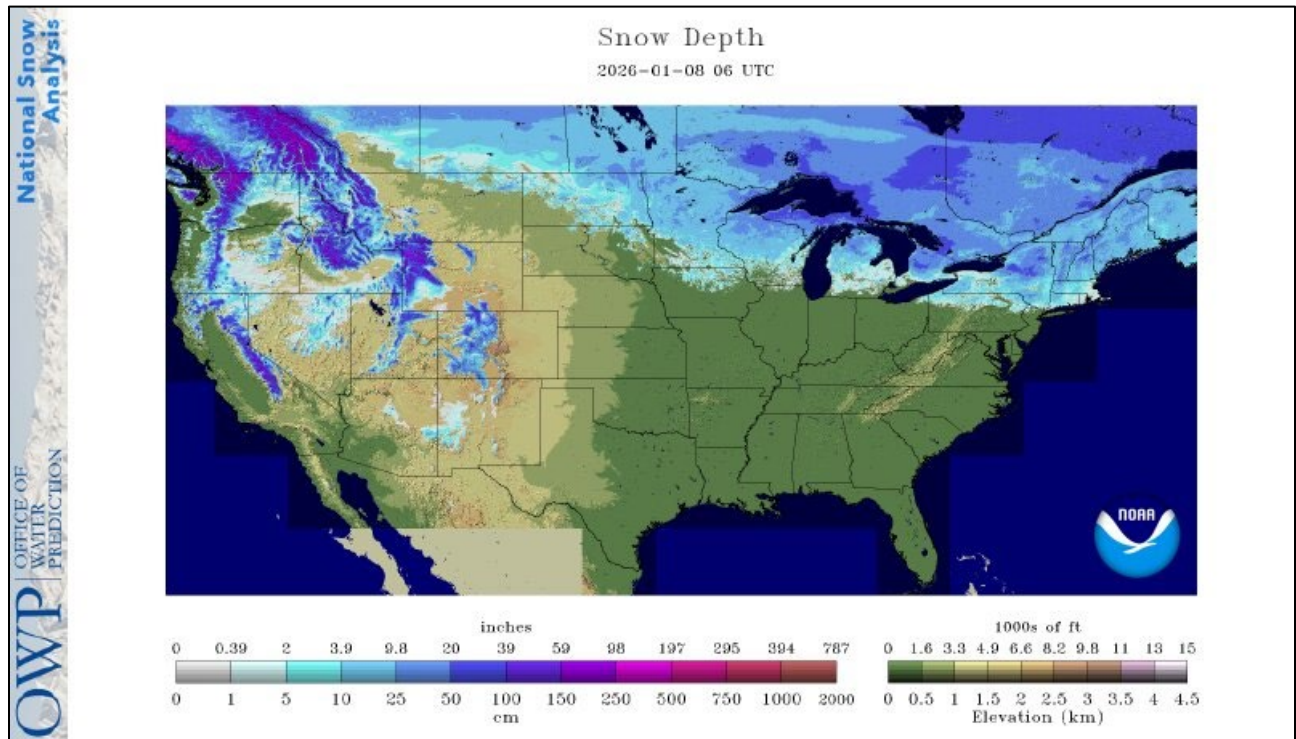


[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

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

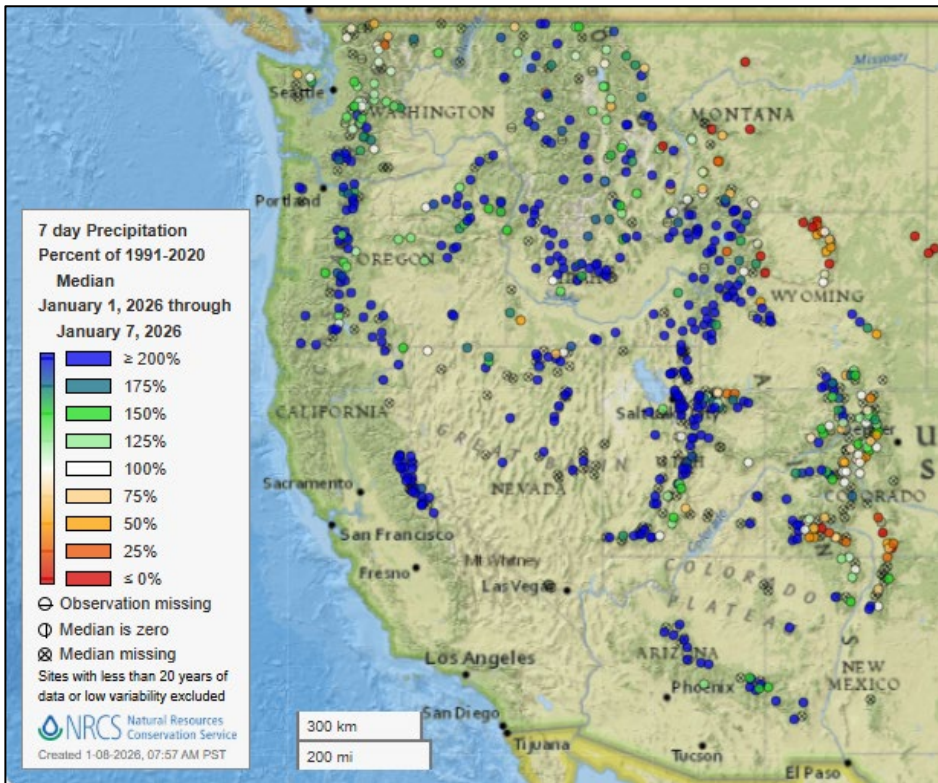
Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis

Source: NOAA NWS National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

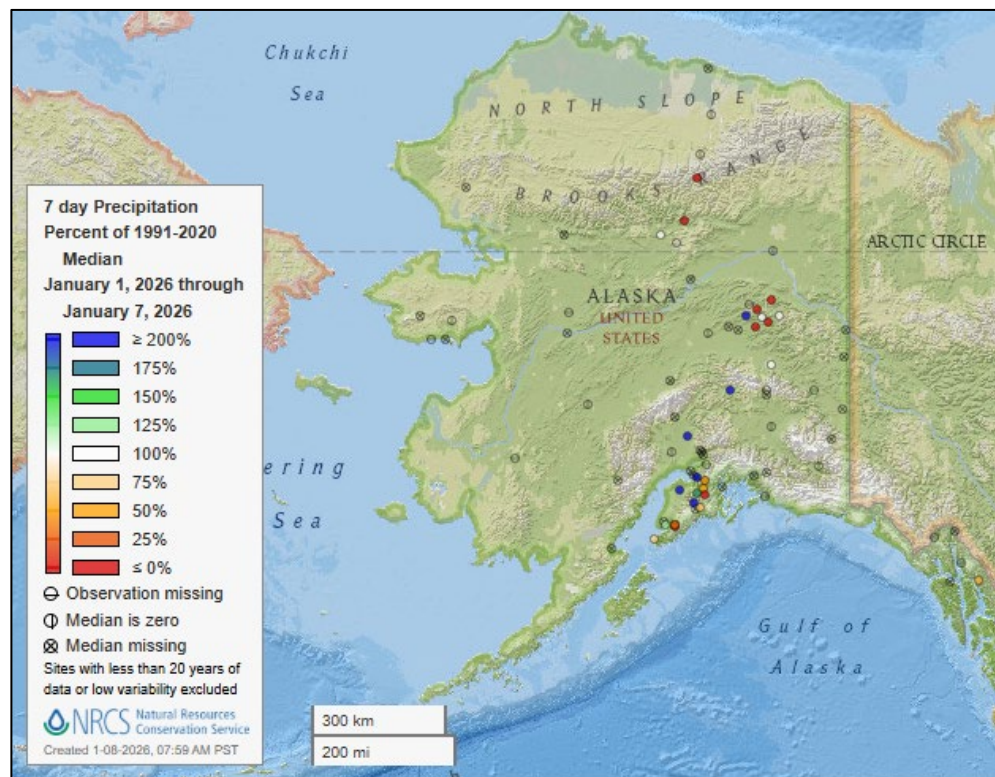


[7-day precipitation percent of median map](#)

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

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

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



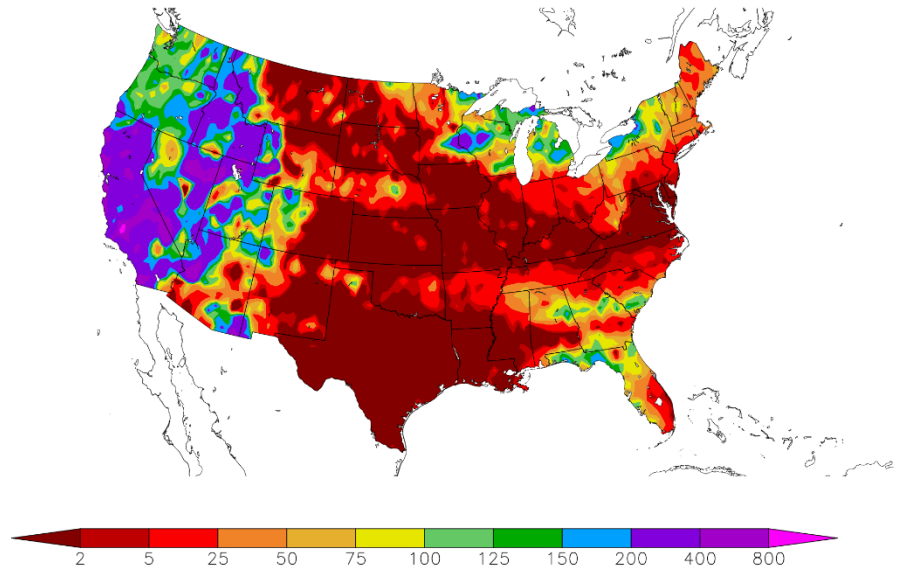
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
1/1/2026 – 1/7/2026



Generated 1/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

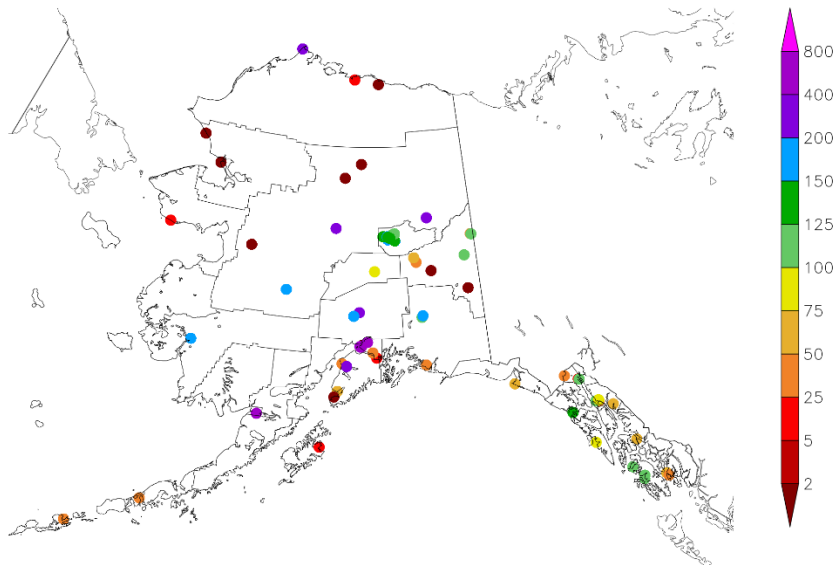
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for Alaska.

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/1/2026 – 1/7/2026



Generated 1/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Monthly, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

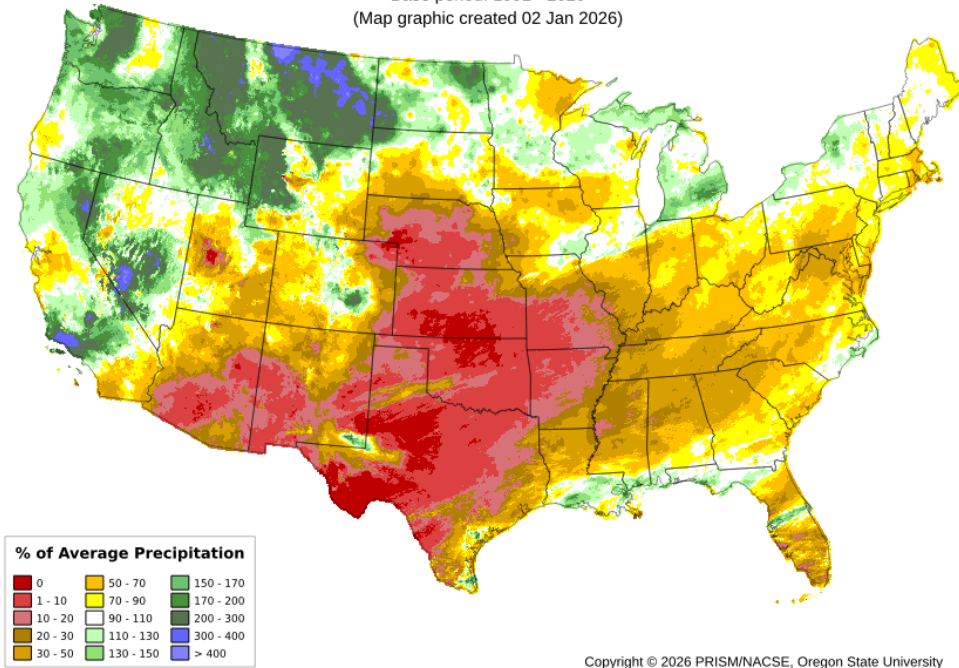
Total Precipitation Anomaly: Dec 2025

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2025

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2026)

[Monthly national total precipitation anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

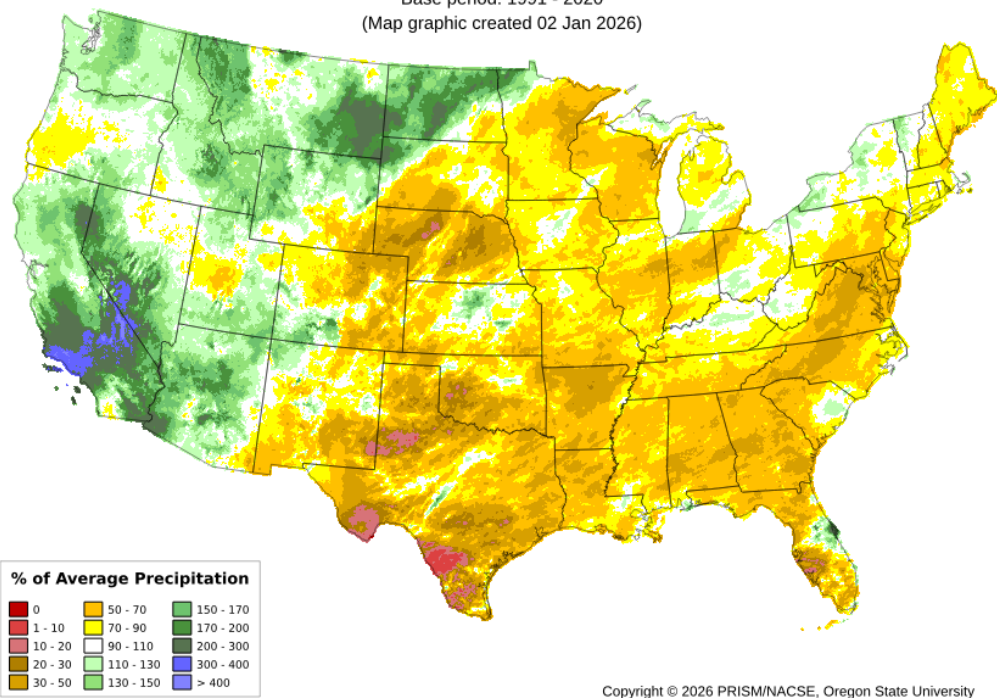
[October through December 2025 precipitation anomaly map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Oct 2025 - Dec 2025

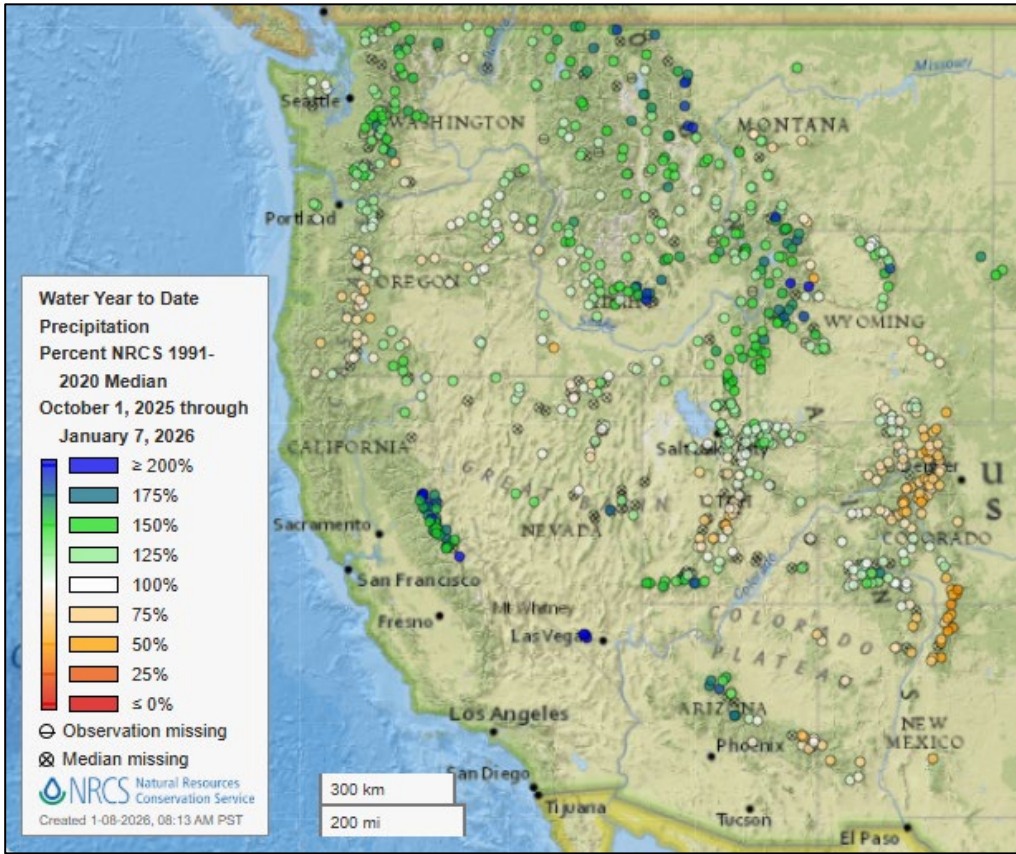
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2025

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2026)



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

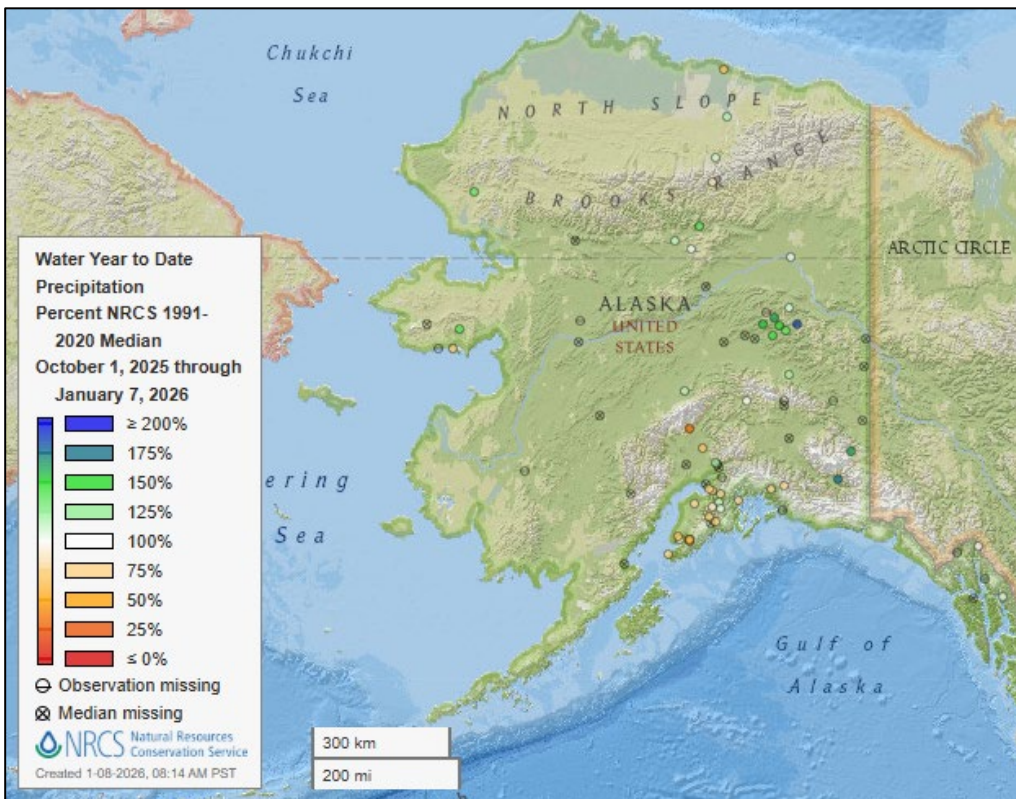


[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

See also:

[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[2026 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

See also:

[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

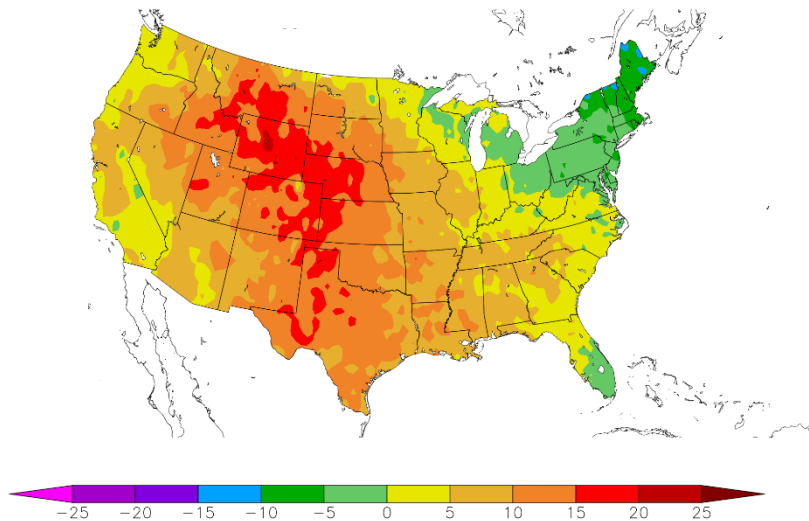
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
1/1/2026 - 1/7/2026



Generated 1/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

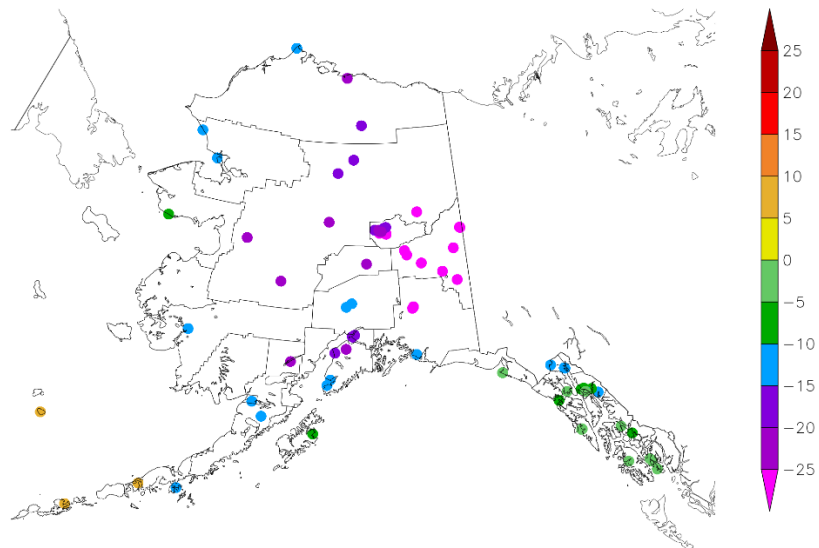
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/1/2026 - 1/7/2026



Generated 1/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Monthly, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

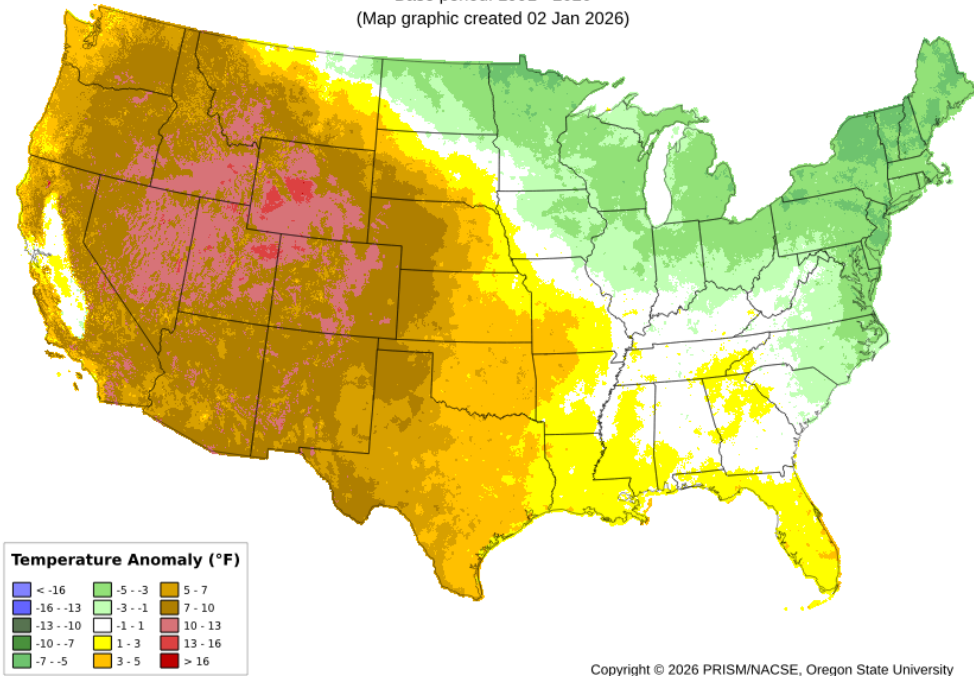
[Monthly national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Dec 2025

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2025

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2026)



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

Source: PRISM

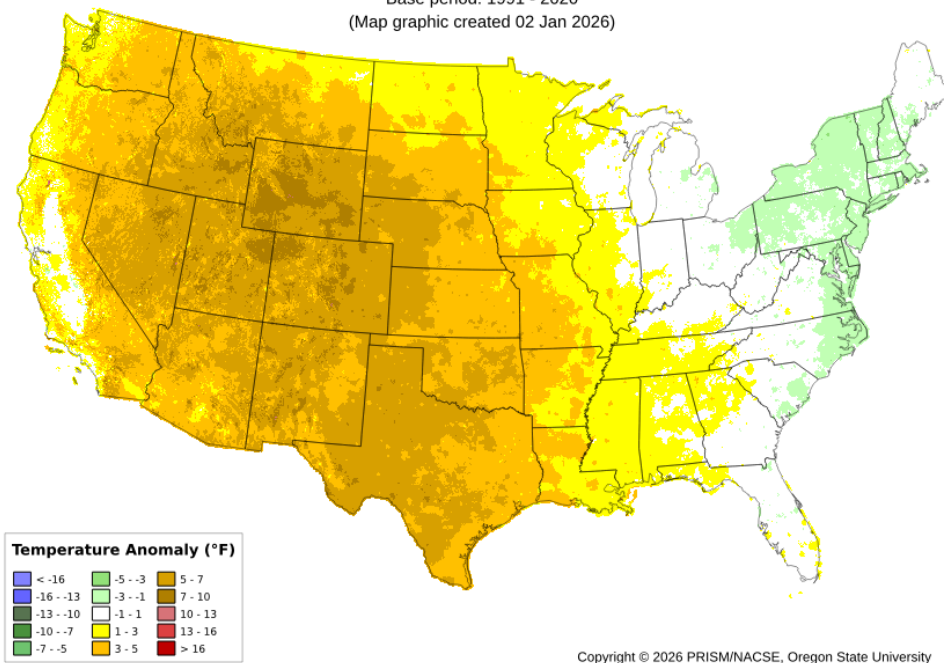
Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Oct 2025 - Dec 2025

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2025

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2026)

[October through December 2025 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

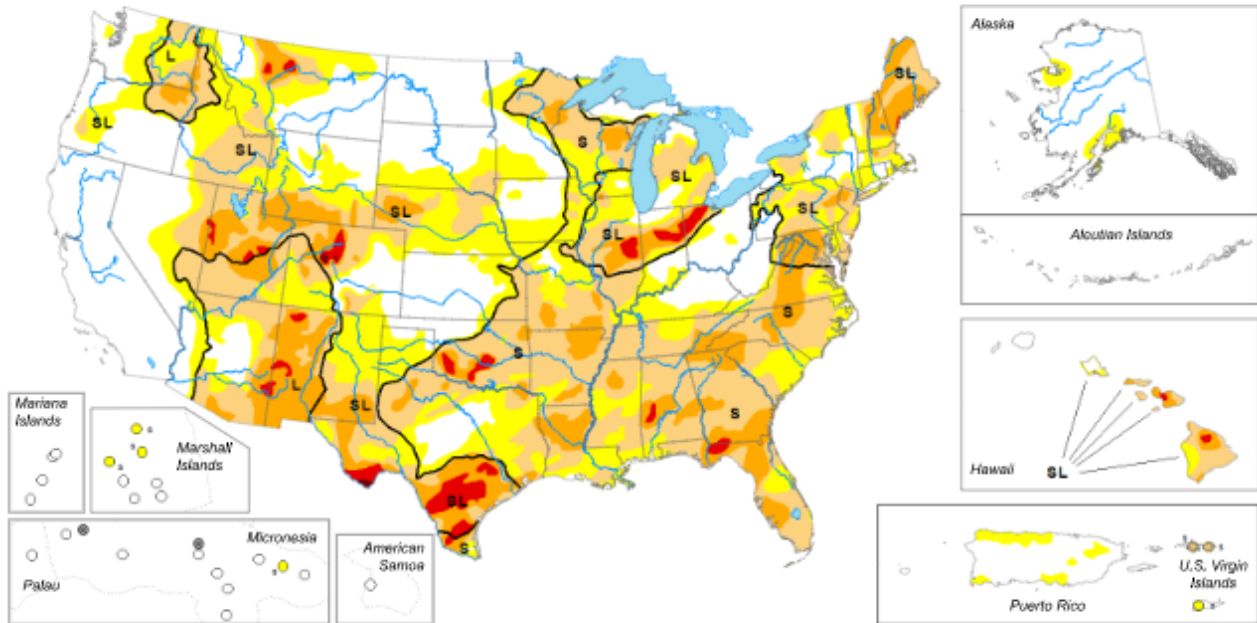
[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA

Map released: January 8, 2026

Data valid: January 6, 2026

View grayscale version of the map



United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Brian Fuchs](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Tsegaye Tadesse](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

More maps and statistics:

- [U.S. States and Puerto Rico](#)
- [Continental U.S.](#)
- [Regions -](#)

The data cutoff for Drought Monitor maps is each Tuesday at 7 a.m. EST. The maps, which are based on analysis of the data, are released each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Intensity and Impacts

<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> D1 (Moderate Drought)	<input type="checkbox"/> D3 (Extreme Drought)	<input type="checkbox"/> No Data
<input type="checkbox"/> D0 (Abnormally Dry)	<input type="checkbox"/> D2 (Severe Drought)	<input type="checkbox"/> D4 (Exceptional Drought)	

- Delineates dominant impacts	S - Short-term impacts, typically less than 6 months (agriculture, grasslands)	L - Long-term impacts, typically greater than 6 months (hydrology, ecology)	SL - Short- and long-term impacts
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Current [National Drought Summary](#), January 6, 2026

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“The past week featured above-normal temperatures across much of the western half of the U.S. Areas west of the Mississippi River generally experienced near- to above-normal temperatures, with portions of the northern Rocky Mountains running 15–20°F above normal for the week. These warm conditions favored rain over snow, which is critical for winter water supply in the West, and many locations continue to experience a slow start to the snow season.

In contrast, cooler-than-normal temperatures dominated the Florida Peninsula, with departures of 5–10°F below normal across southern Florida. Below-normal temperatures were also widespread from the Upper Midwest into the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, where departures of 5°F or more below normal were common. Parts of New England were particularly cold, with temperatures 10–15°F below normal.

Outside of the West, above-normal precipitation was limited to pockets of the Southeast, Florida, and the Upper Midwest. Much of the West recorded more than 100% of normal precipitation for the week, with large portions of California receiving over 200% of normal.”

National Drought Summary – West

“The largest positive temperature departures occurred in the West, with areas from central Montana into western Wyoming and northwest Colorado experiencing temperatures more than 15°F above normal. These warm conditions pushed snow to higher elevations and increased rainfall at lower elevations. While many areas received above-normal precipitation, snowpack remains critically low, and significant snow drought persists across numerous mountain ranges, including the Cascades, Oregon’s Blue Mountains, Idaho’s Bitterroot Range, and the central Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

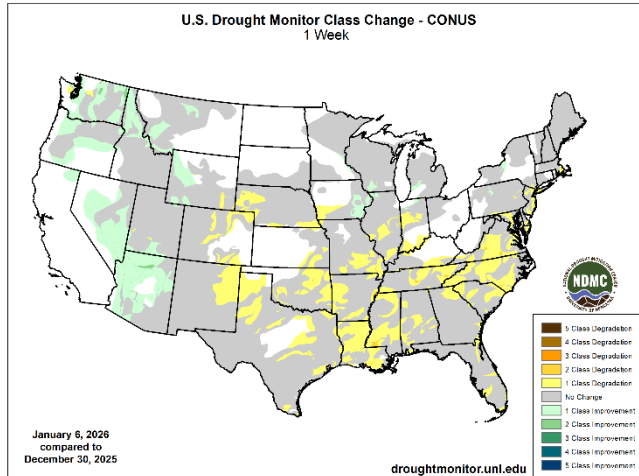
It was a wet week for much of the region, with nearly all of California recording above-normal precipitation, along with much of Nevada and western Arizona. Above-normal precipitation also occurred across eastern Washington and Oregon, Idaho, western Utah, and Montana. Severe and extreme drought improved across northern Montana, with additional improvement to moderate drought in the southwest part of the state.

Continued wet conditions led to improvements in moderate and severe drought across Nevada, Arizona, eastern Oregon and Washington, and the Idaho Panhandle. Abnormally dry conditions expanded across northeast New Mexico, while extreme and exceptional drought expanded across central Colorado. Extreme drought was removed from southwest Wyoming, and moderate drought improved across western Wyoming. In Washington, abnormally dry conditions were adjusted to reflect recent precipitation while also accounting for persistent snow drought in the Cascades.”

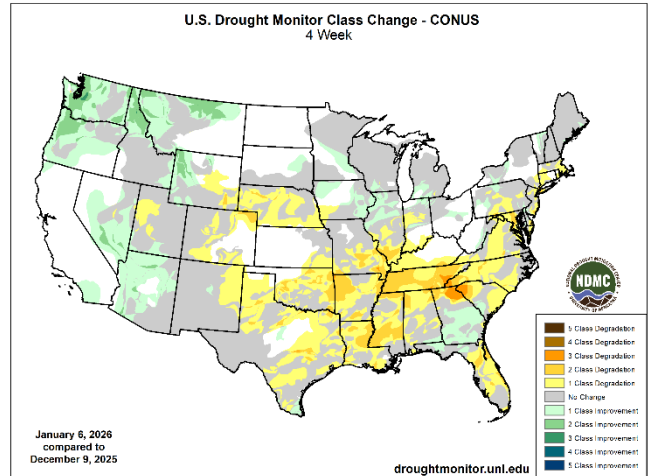
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

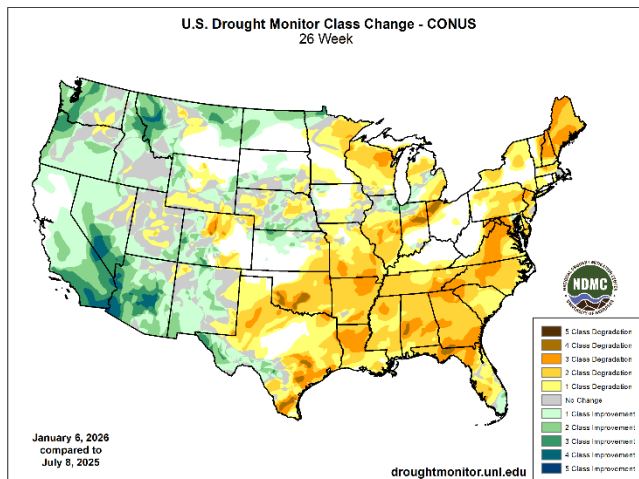
1 Week



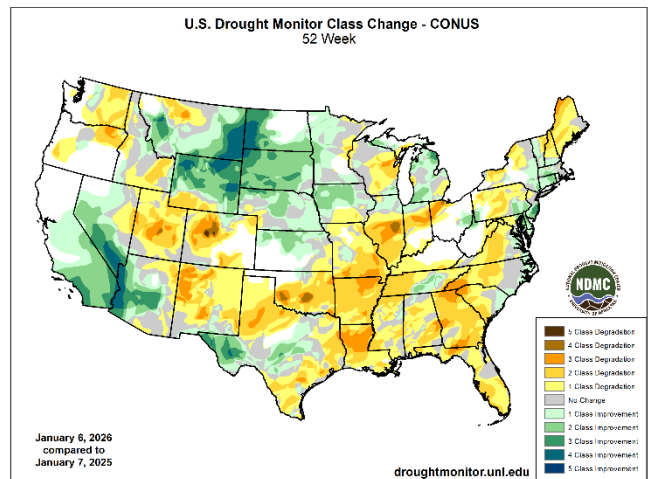
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



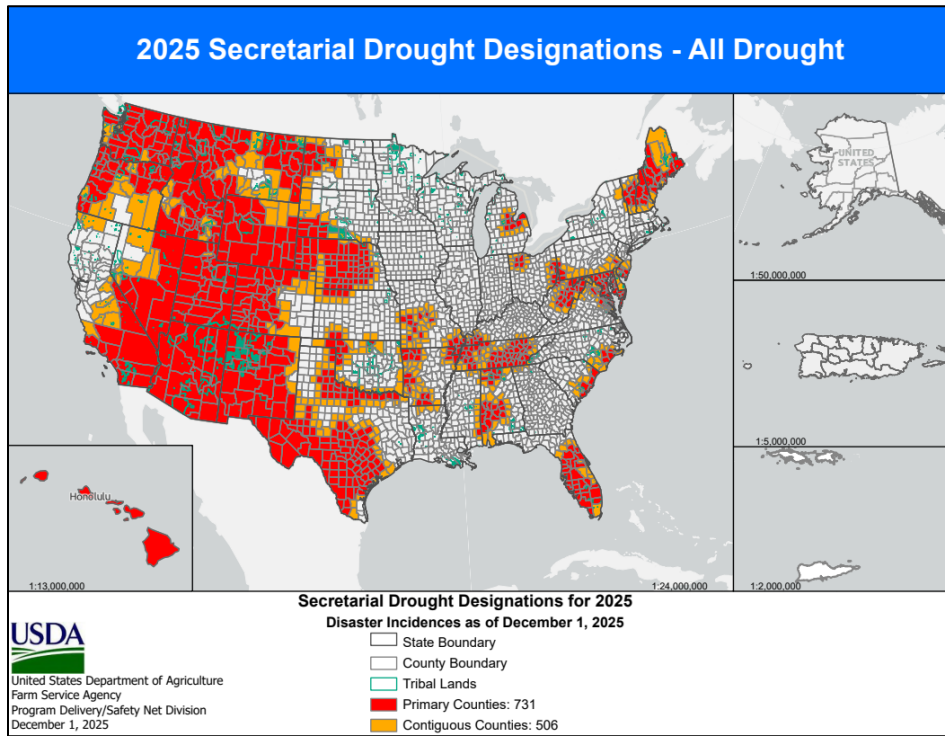
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

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](#)

USDA Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



Wildfires: [Fire Information for Resource Management System US/Canada](#)

Source: NASA/USDA Forest Service



Current large wildland fires, as classified by the National Interagency Coordination Center

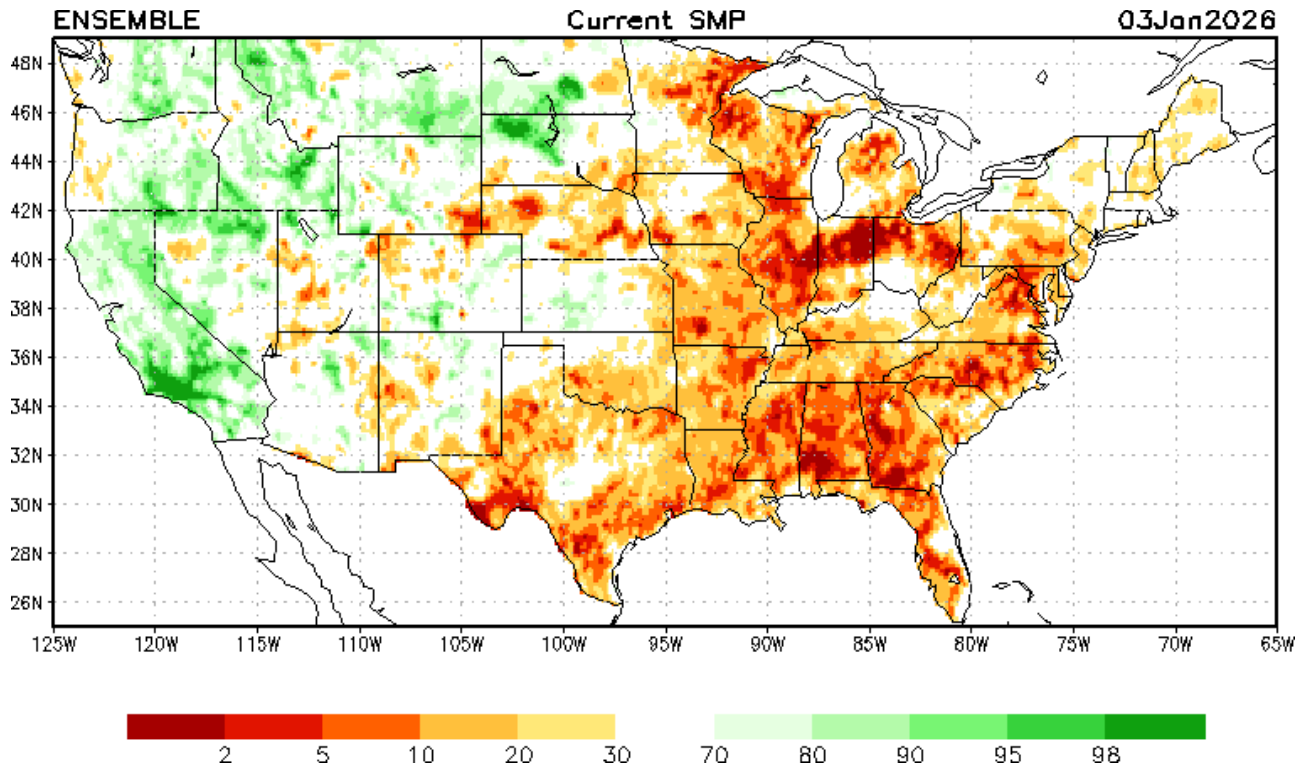
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [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

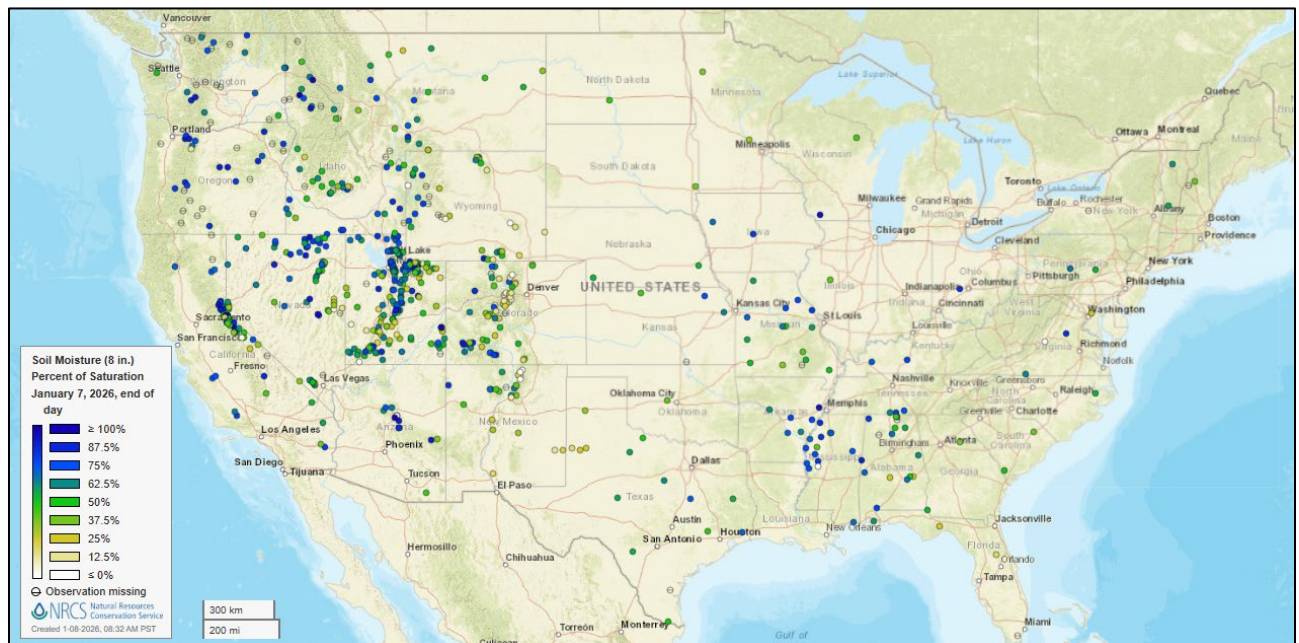


[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of January 3, 2026

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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

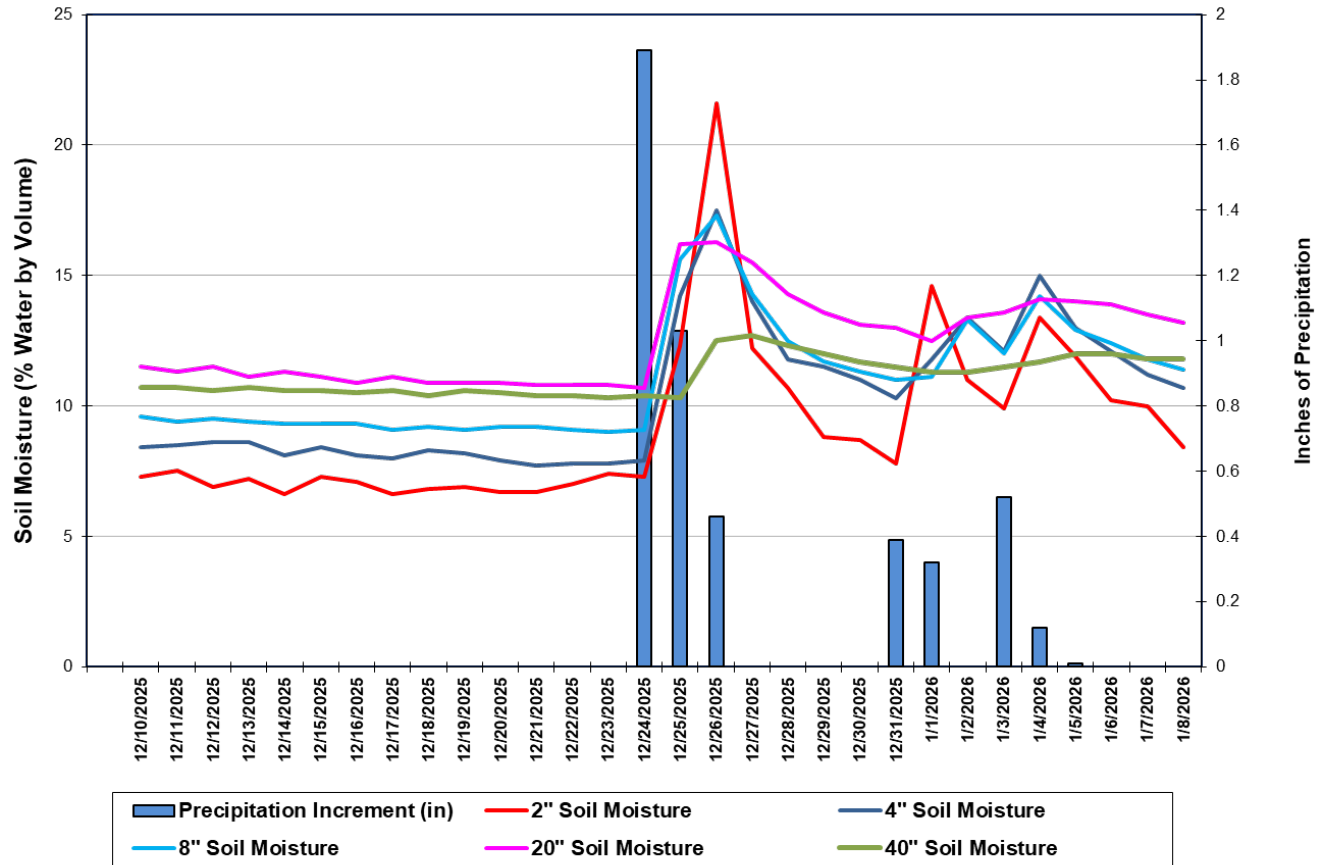
[U.S. soil moisture map at 8-inch depth:](#)



Soil Moisture

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

**Chimney Creek, California (SCAN site 2240)
Daily Mean Soil Moisture and Daily Precipitation**



This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Chimney Creek](#) SCAN site in California. Soil sensors at all depths recorded pronounced increases in soil moisture after the site received 3.38 inches of precipitation between December 24-26. Fluctuations in soil moisture were recorded at all sensor depths as storm activity deposited 1.35 inches of precipitation at the site between December 31 and January 4. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 4.74 inches.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

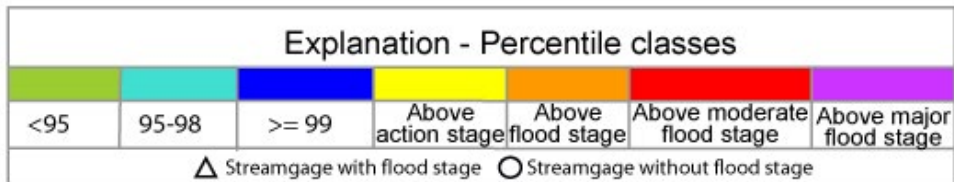
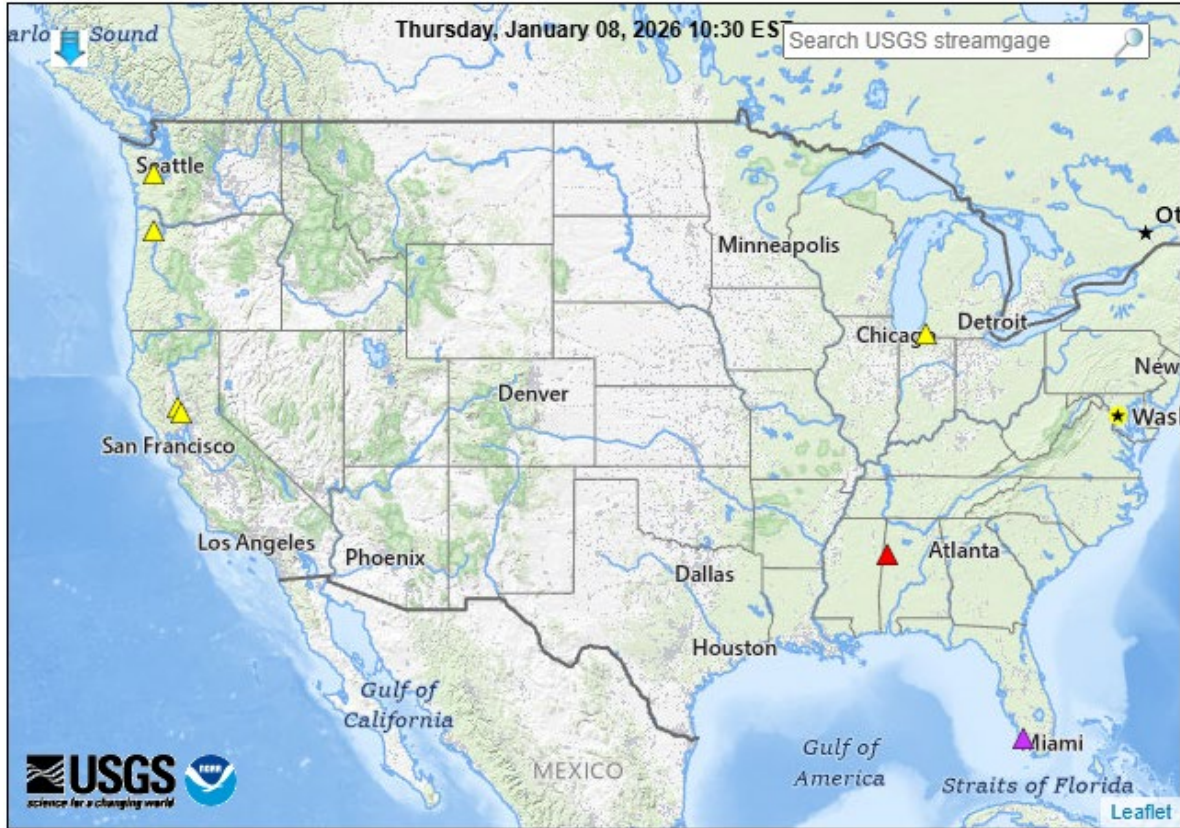
- [USCRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [National Soil Moisture Network](#)
- [NOAA Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture](#)
- [NASA Grace](#)

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey [WaterWatch Streamflow Map](#)

Map of flood and high flow conditions

(2 in floods [major: 1, moderate: 1], 5 in near-flood)



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

Reservoir Storage

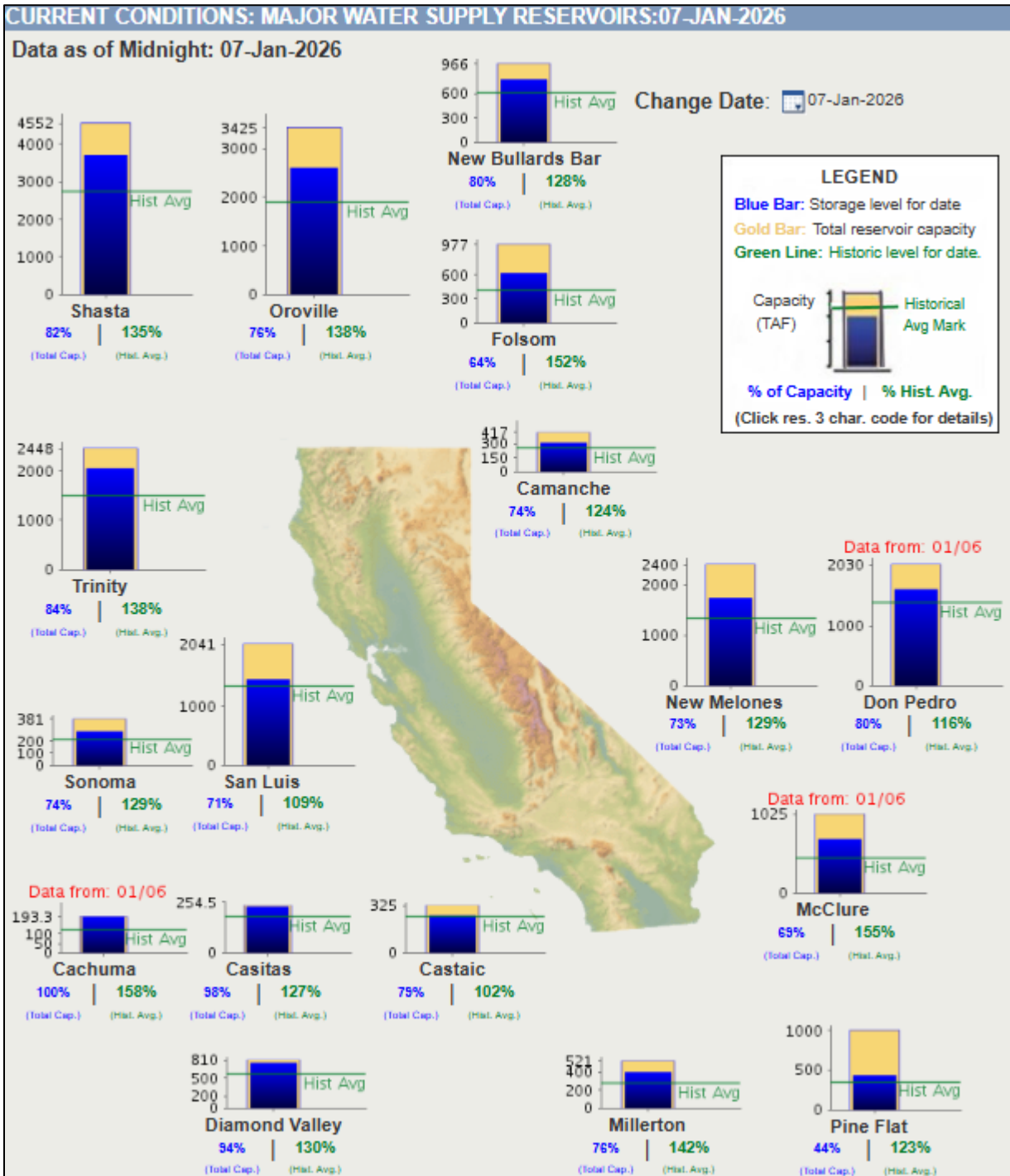
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

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 January 8, 2026: “Back-to-back storm systems emerging from the western U.S. will result in widespread precipitation. The lead system, currently crossing the central Plains, will reach the Great Lakes region early Friday. Although most of the precipitation will fall as rain, some snow may accumulate in the upper Great Lakes States and environs. Meanwhile, the trailing storm will traverse the lower Mississippi Valley on Friday night before nearly stalling over the Great Lakes region during the weekend. The latter storm may result in a Southern severe weather outbreak on Friday and Saturday, along with rainfall totals of 2 to 4 inches or more from the central Gulf Coast to the southern Appalachians. Additionally, heavy weekend snow will blanket portions of the Great Lakes States, including northern Lower Michigan. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for January 13 – 17 calls for near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, with the northern High Plains and the Far West having the greatest likelihood of experiencing unusually warm weather. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions across the West and from the southern Plains into the mid-South should contrast with near- or above-normal precipitation across the remainder of the country, including the Midwest, East, Gulf Coast region, and northern half of the Plains.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [January 10 – 14, 2026](#)













Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

[About the Hazards Outlook](#)

Created January 07, 2026

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

Legend			
	Flooding Likely		Hazardous Heat
	Flooding Occurring or Imminent		Hazardous Cold
	Flooding Possible		Frost/Freeze
	Freezing Rain		High Winds
	Heavy Precipitation		Significant Waves
	Heavy Rain		Critical Wildfire Risk
	Heavy Snow		Severe Weather

Valid January 10, 2026 - January 14, 2026



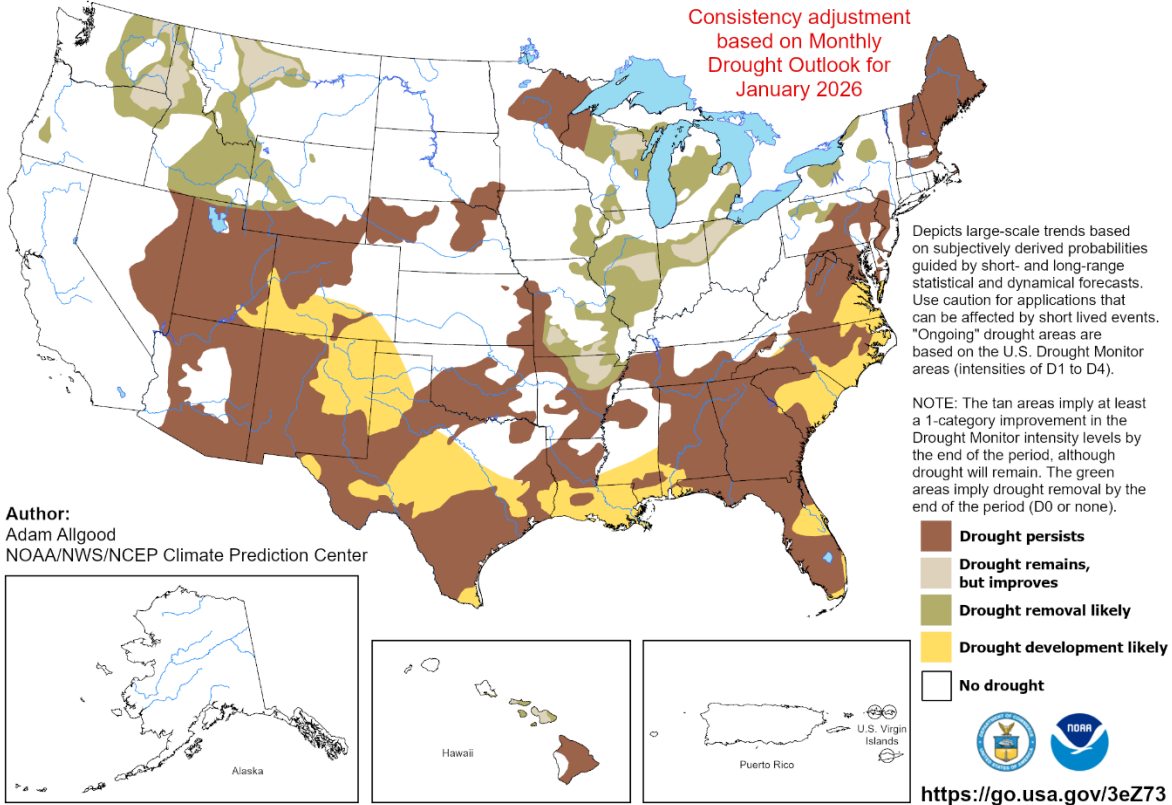
Seasonal Drought Outlook: [January 1 – March 31, 2026](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for January 1 - March 31, 2026
Released December 31, 2025

Consistency adjustment
based on Monthly
Drought Outlook for
January 2026

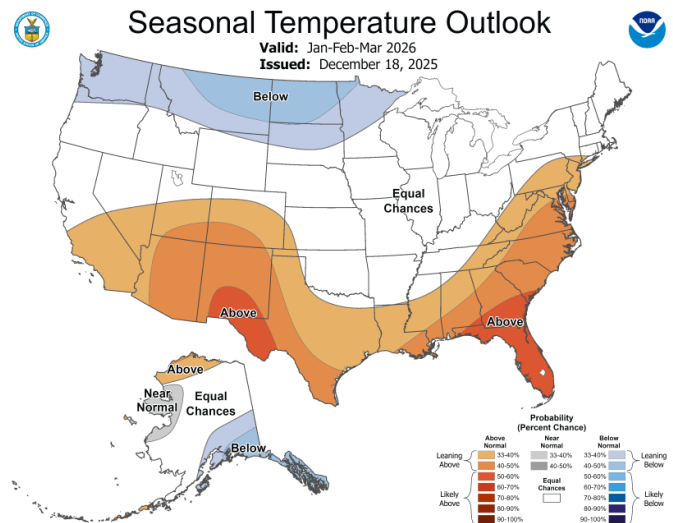
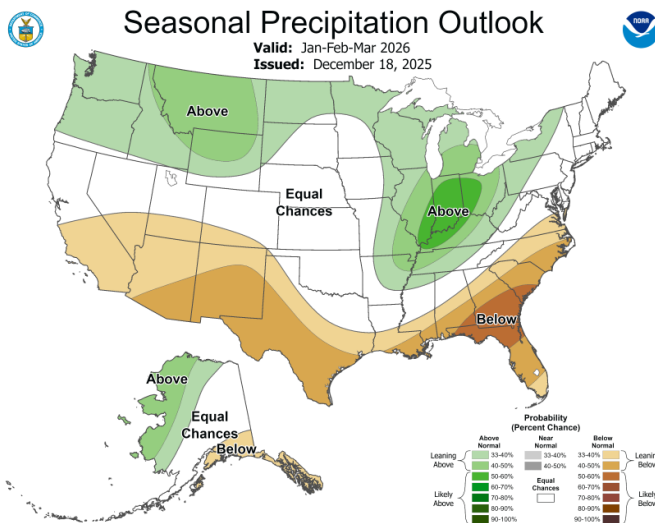


Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)

[Temperature](#)



[January-February-March 2026 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](#).