



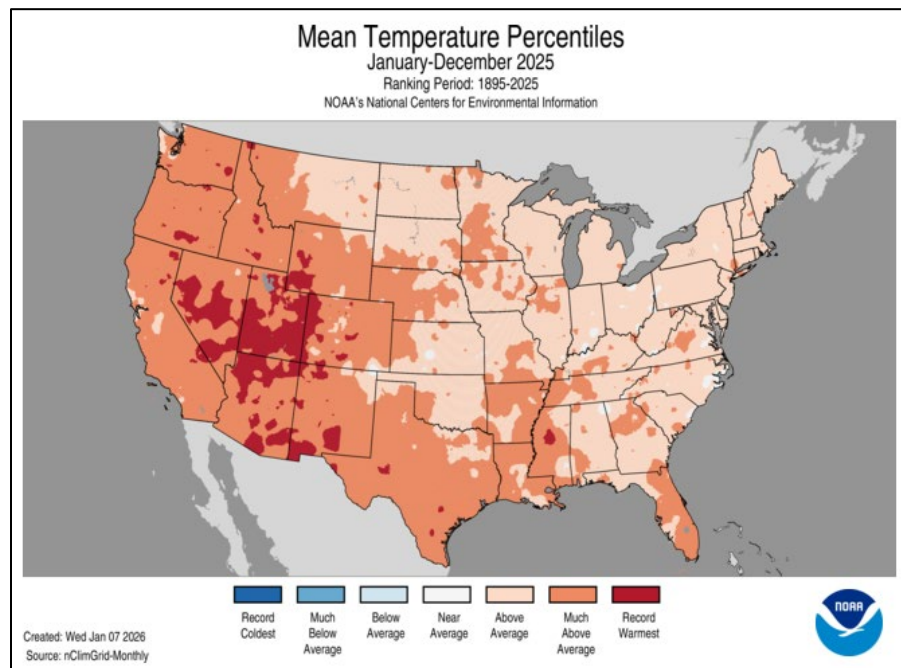
Water and Climate Update

January 22, 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

Annual U.S. climate report published for 2025



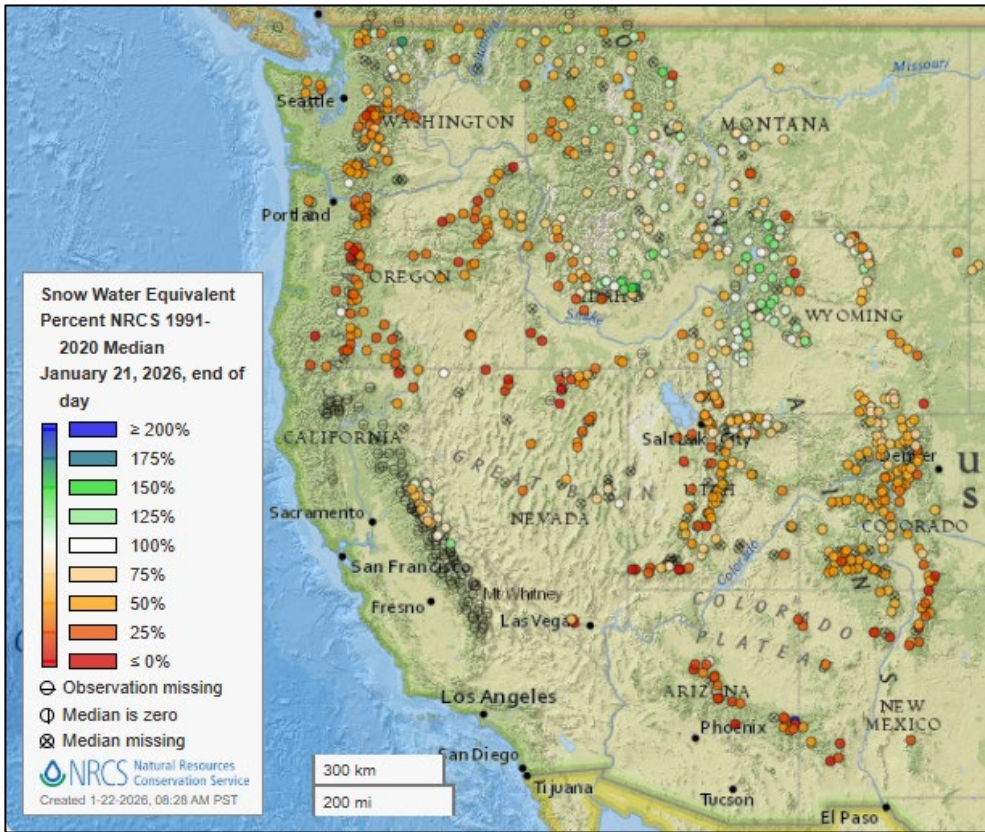
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI) released its annual notable weather and climate events report for the U.S. in 2025. Key points from the 2025 report include:

- For the first time since 2015, no hurricanes made landfall in the U.S. or its territories during 2025.
- The tornado in Enderlin, North Dakota, was the first verified EF-5 since 2013.
- The Eaton and Palisades Fires were the second- and third-most destructive California wildfires on record, respectively.
- The Texas Hill Country experienced a 1-in-100- to 1-in-1,000-year flood event that killed at least 135 people after nearly two feet of rain fell in just a few days.
- Utah and Nevada set new annual temperature records, with Utah eclipsing its previous record that had stood since 1934.
- 2025 was the fourth-warmest year on record for the U.S.

Related:

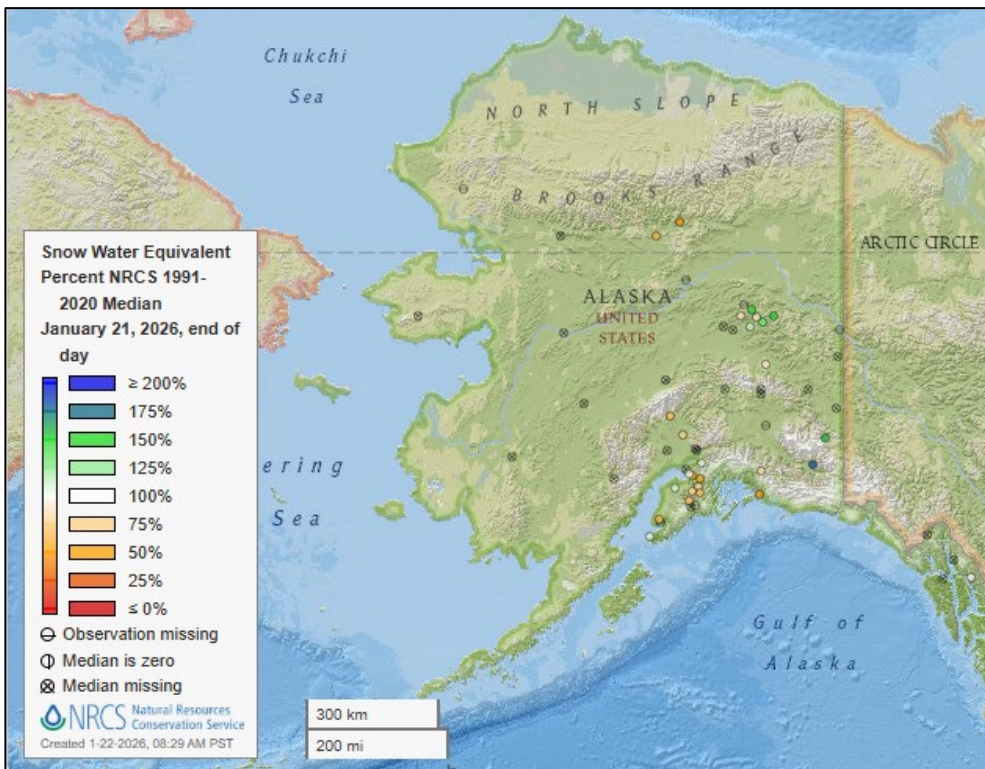
[Assessing the U.S. Temperature and Precipitation Analysis in 2025](#) – NOAA, NCEI

Snow



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

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

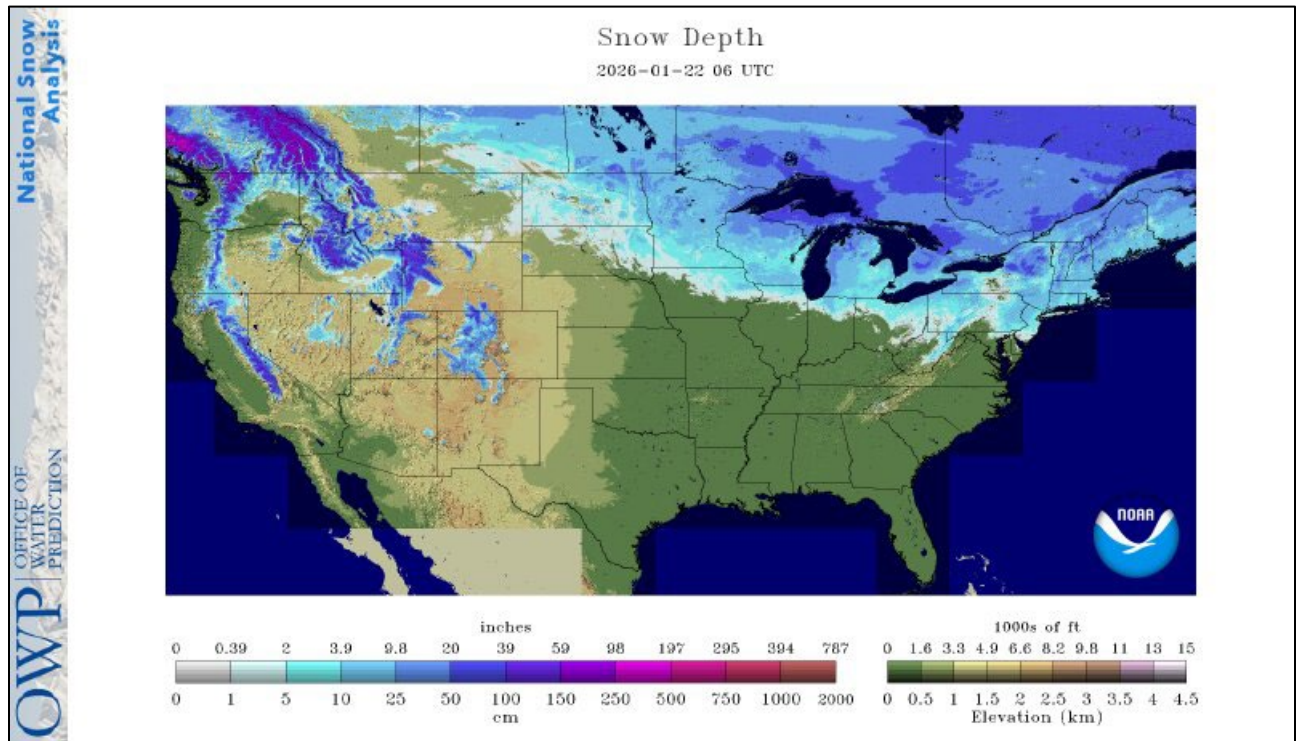


[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

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

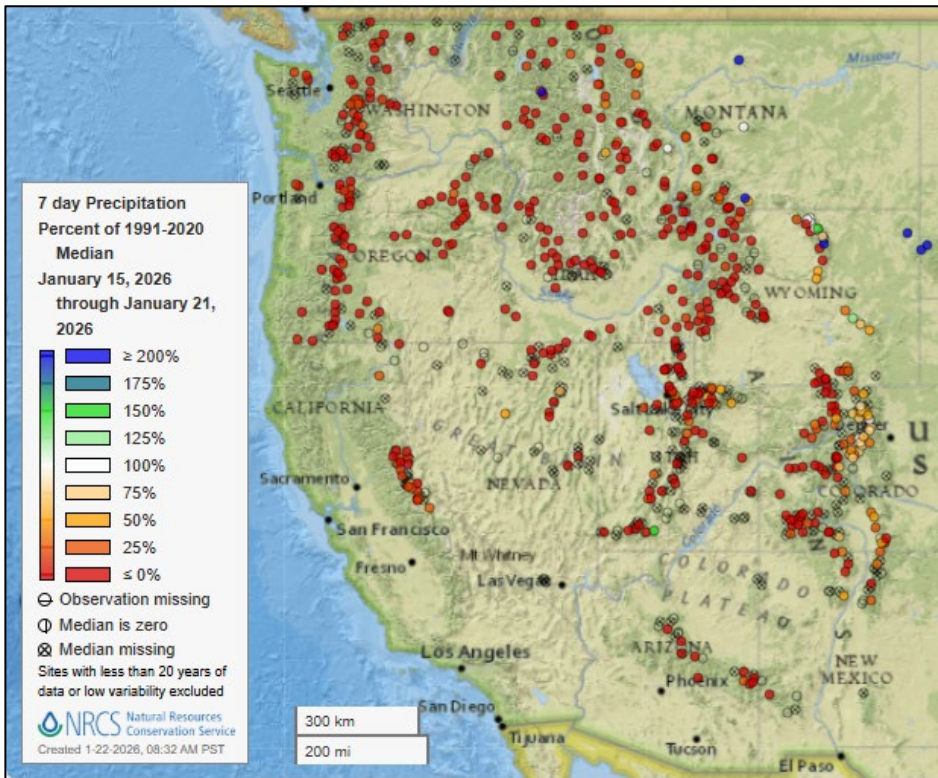
Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service Snow Analysis

Source: NOAA NWS National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

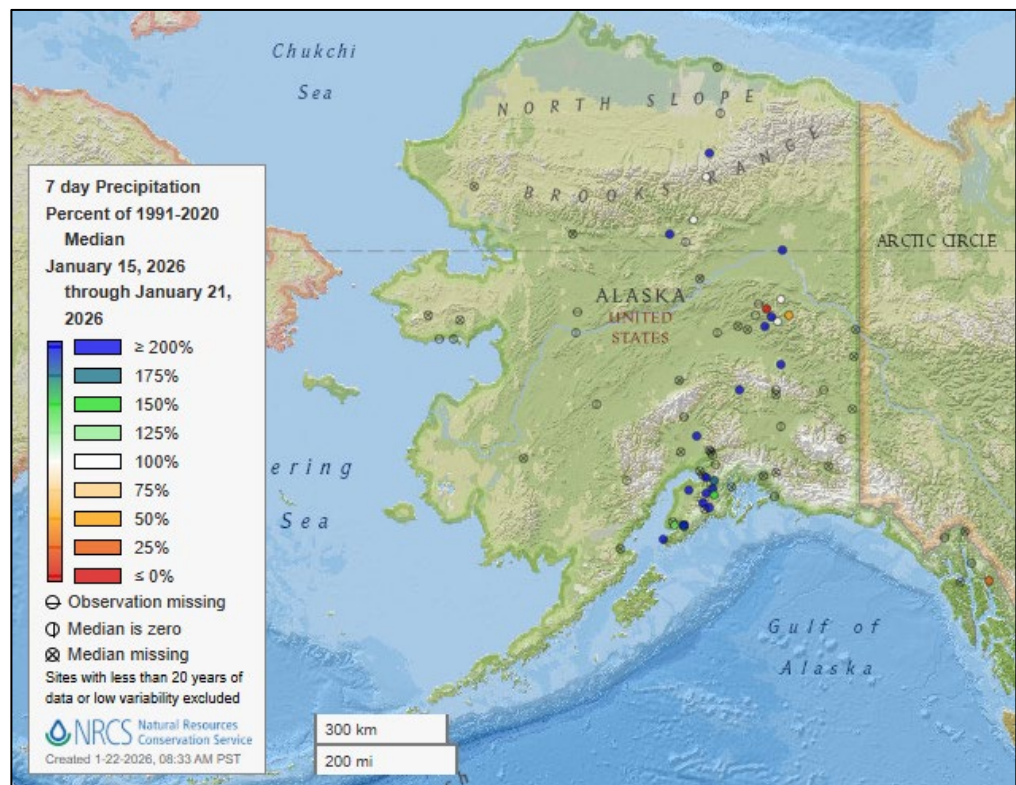


[7-day precipitation percent of median map](#)

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](#)



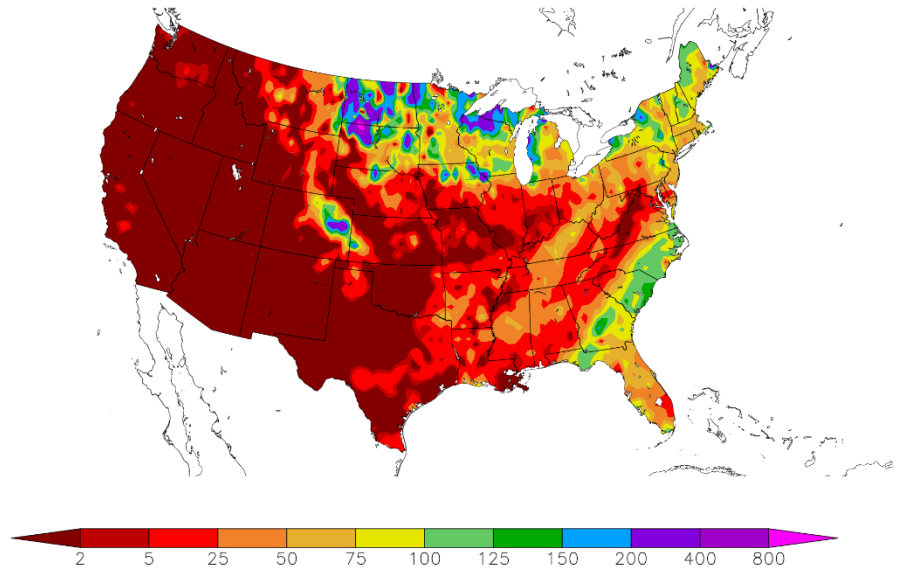
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
1/15/2026 – 1/21/2026



Generated 1/22/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

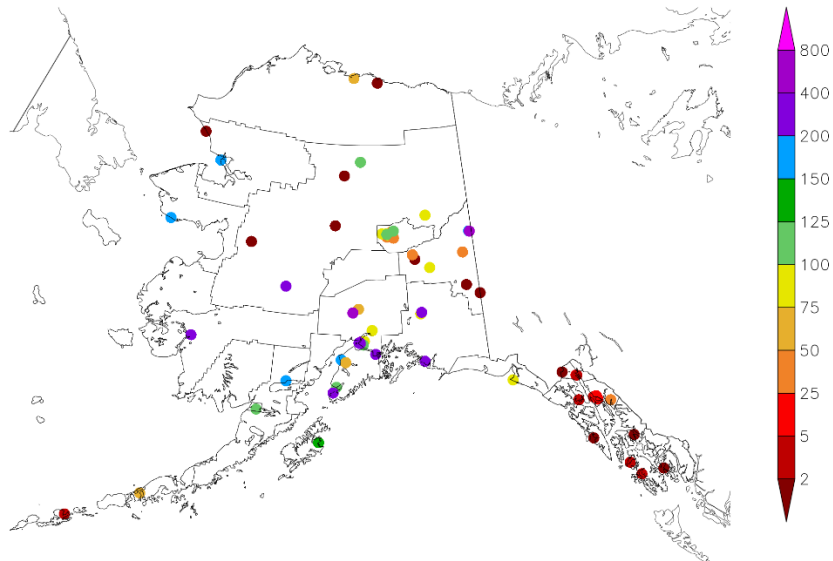
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
1/15/2026 – 1/21/2026



Generated 1/22/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

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

Source: PRISM

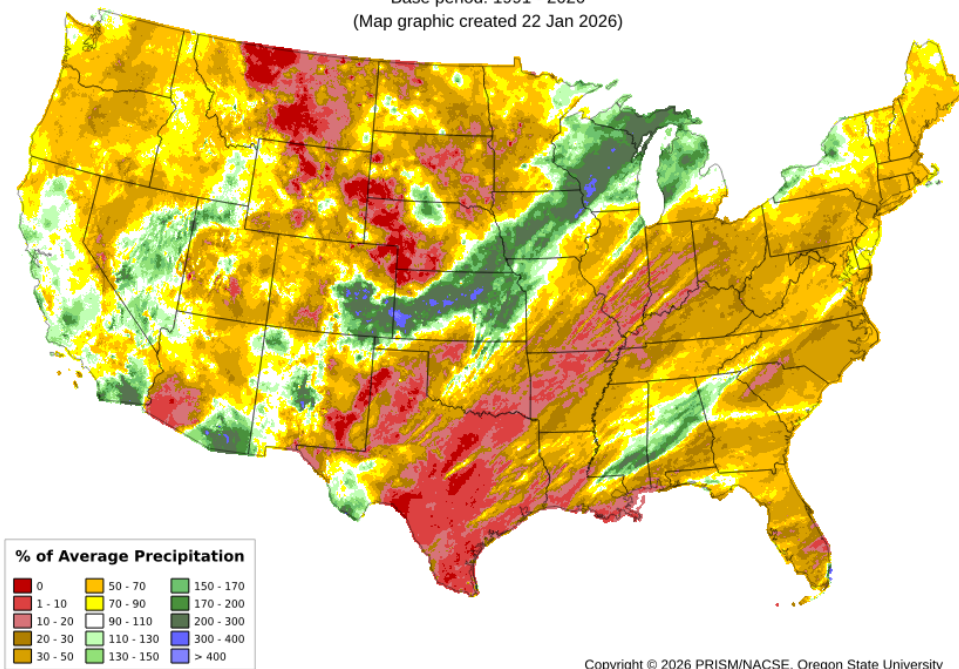
Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Jan 2026 - 21 Jan 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 21 Jan 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 22 Jan 2026)

[Month-to-date national total precipitation anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

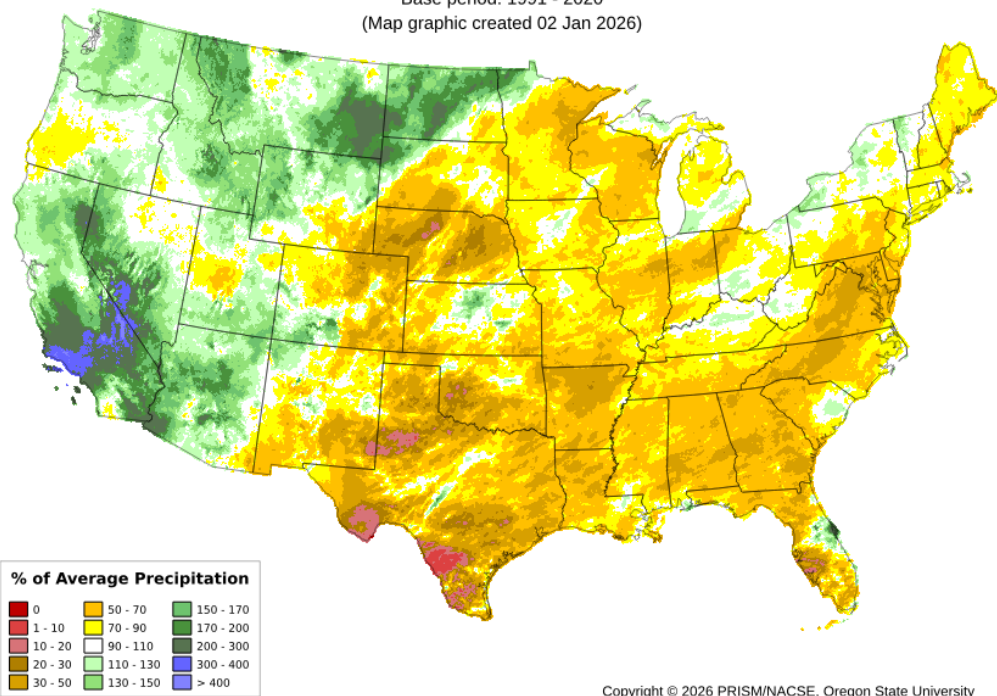
[October through December 2025 precipitation anomaly map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Oct 2025 - Dec 2025

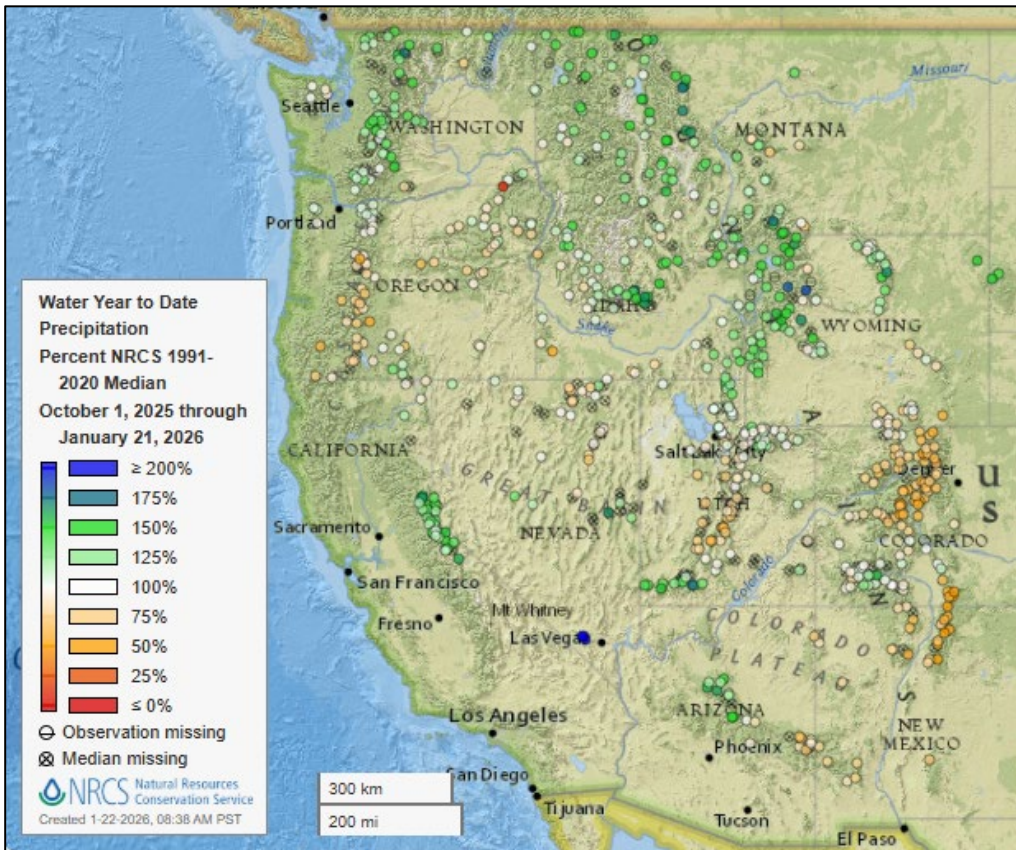
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2025

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2026)



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

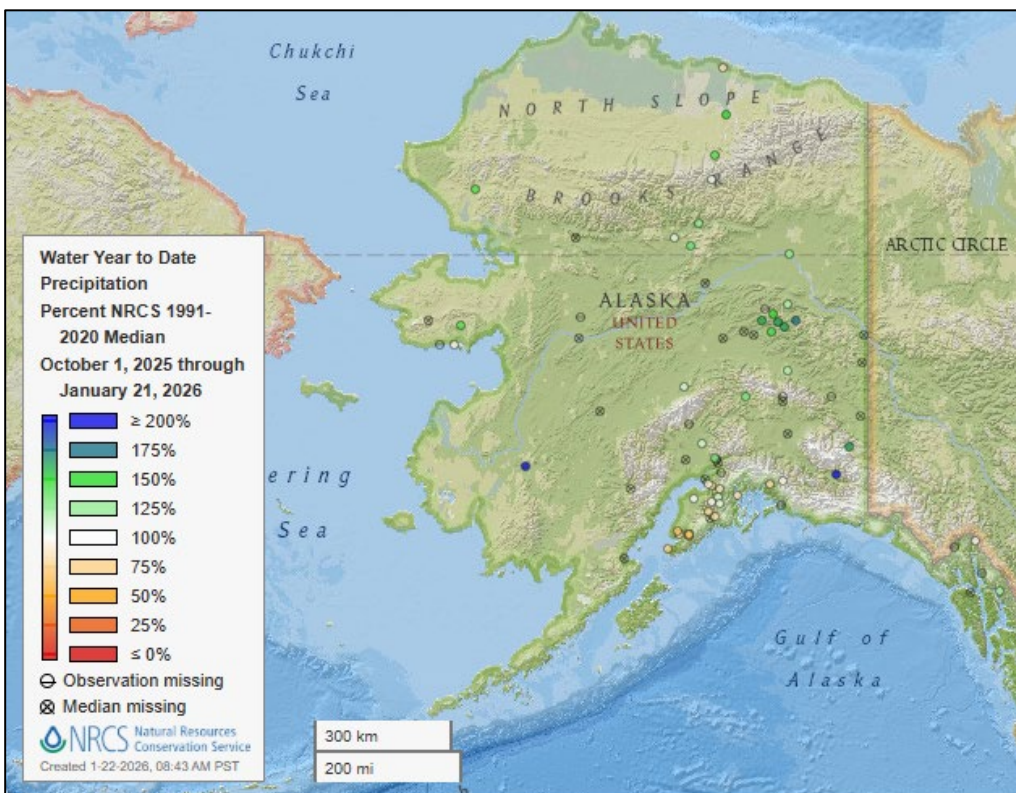


[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

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

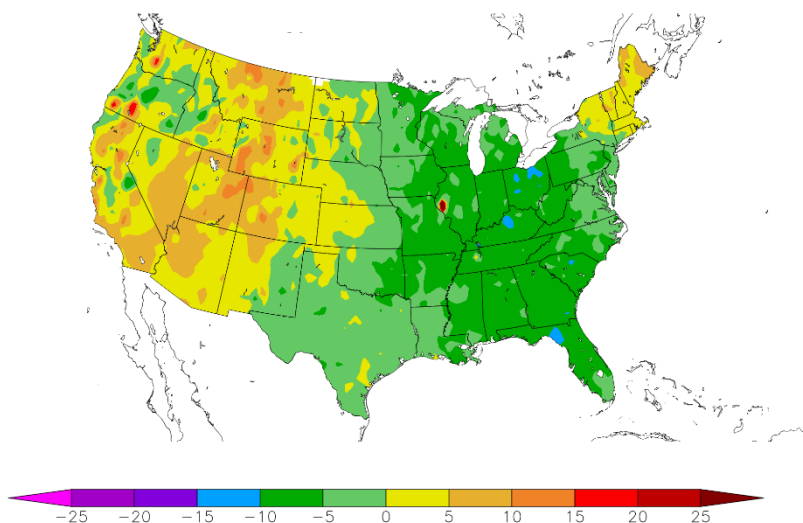
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
1/15/2026 – 1/21/2026



Generated 1/22/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

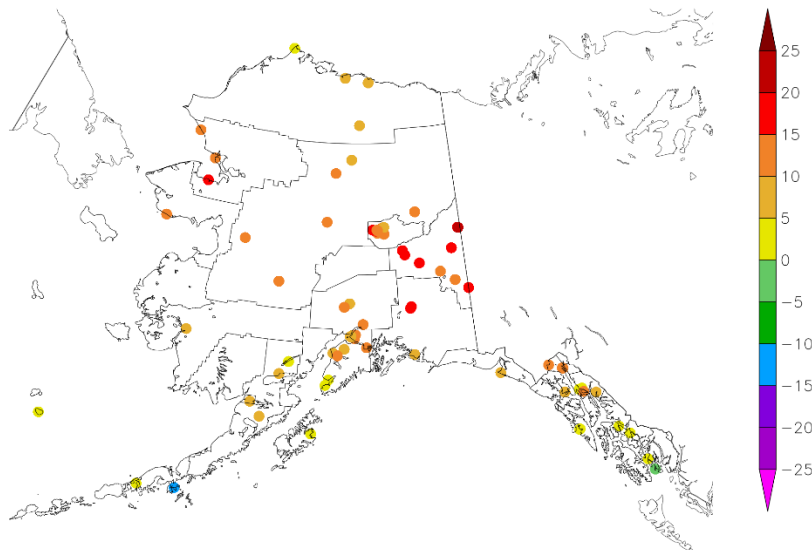
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/15/2026 – 1/21/2026



Generated 1/22/2026 using provisional data.

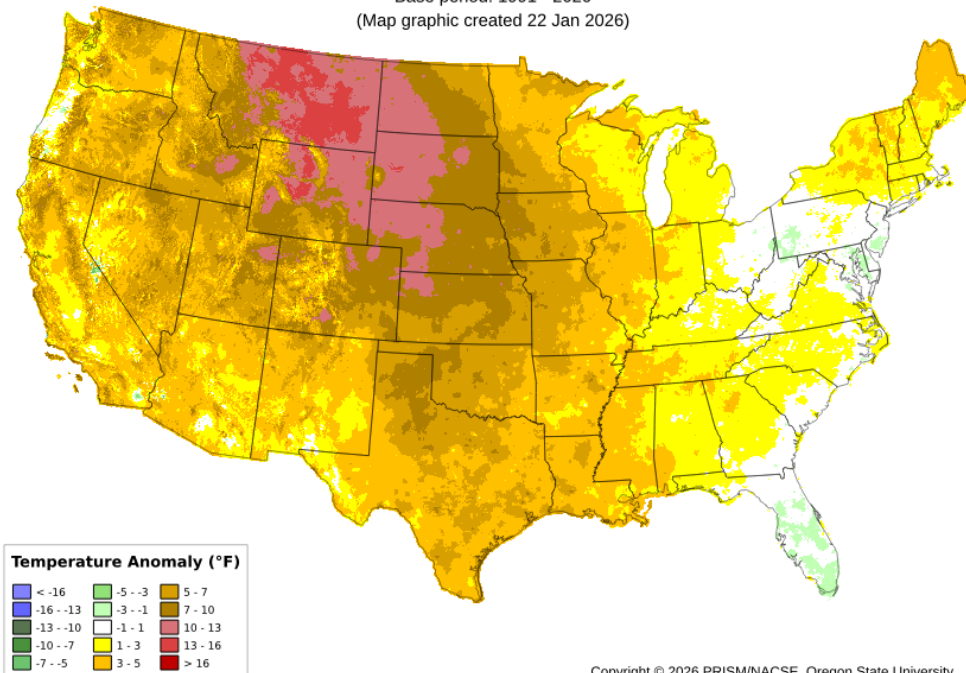
ACIS Web Services

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

Source: PRISM

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

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 Jan 2026 - 21 Jan 2026
Period ending 7 AM EST 21 Jan 2026
Base period: 1991 - 2020
(Map graphic created 22 Jan 2026)

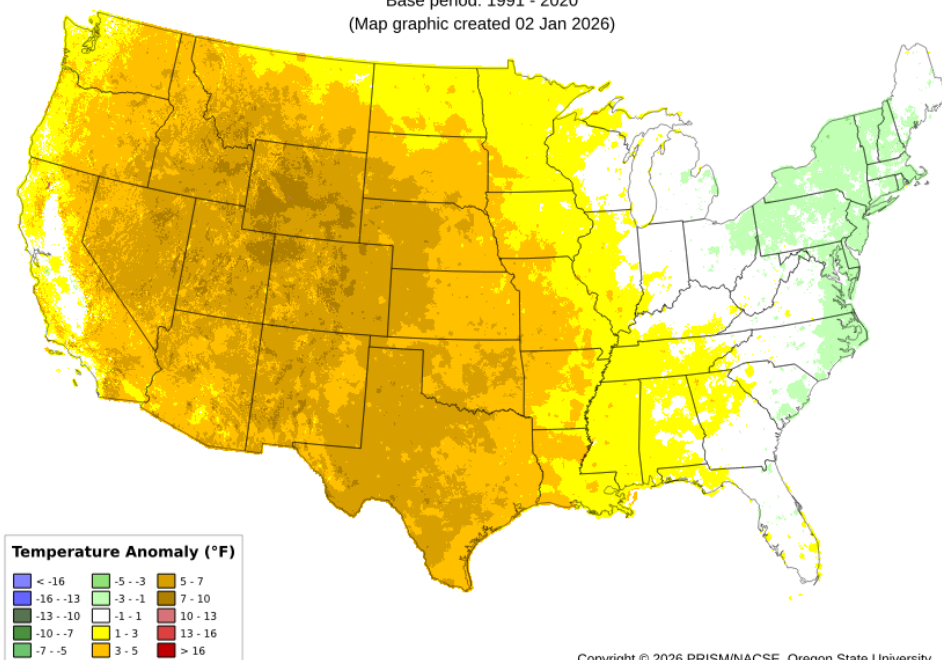


Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

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

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)



Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

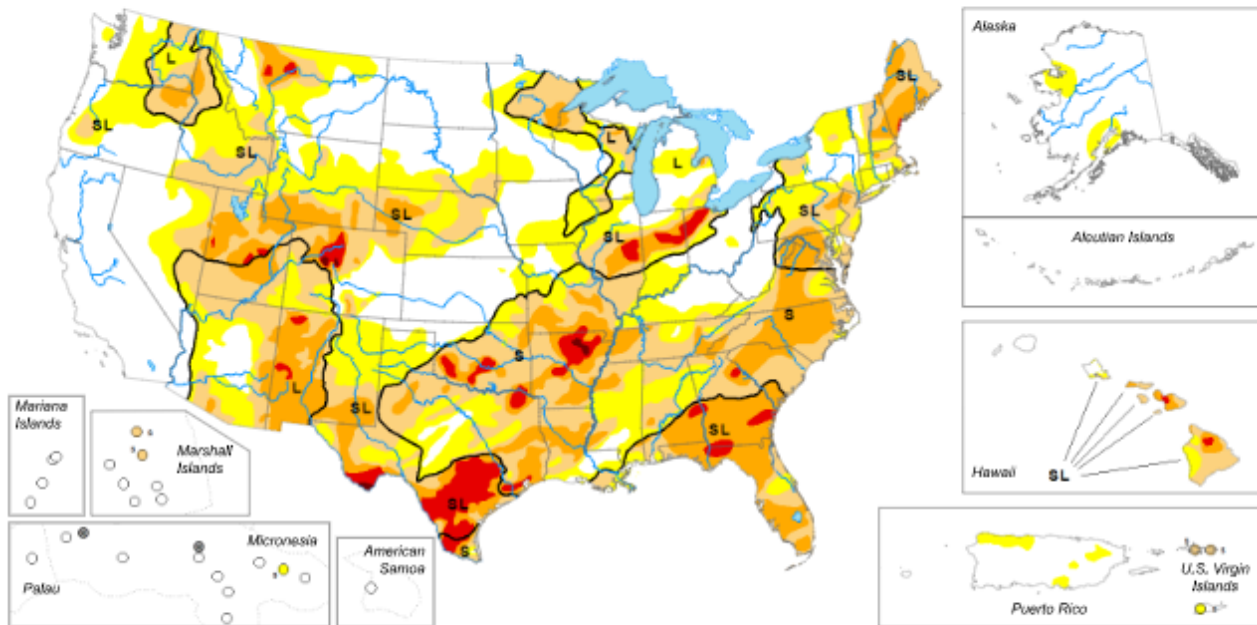
[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA

Map released: January 22, 2026

Data valid: January 20, 2026

View grayscale version of the map



United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
[Lindsay Johnson](#), 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

Current [National Drought Summary](#), January 20, 2026

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“The Lower 48 States finally settled into a more tranquil weather pattern, as a ridge of high pressure settled across the West and a deep trough developed over the East. With many parts of the western U.S. reporting below-average snowpack for this time of year, the pattern change led to increasing concerns regarding Western water supply for next summer and beyond, despite robust precipitation in many areas during the first half of the winter wet season. Still, hydrologic signals were mixed, with California’s 154 primary intrastate reservoirs containing 25.9 million acre-feet of water (123% of the historic average) as 2026 began. Meanwhile, storage in the sprawling, multi-state Colorado River Basin stood at just under 17.3 million acre-feet (53% of average), reflecting long-term issues in part related to chronically elevated temperatures and a multi-decadal Southwestern drought. Farther east, the Plains served as the transition zone between mild, dry weather in the West and increasingly cold conditions in the East. The Plains’ experienced dry weather, aside from wind-driven snow showers on the northern Plains, as well as an occasionally elevated wildfire threat. Elsewhere, areas from the Mississippi Valley eastward noted cold weather, accompanied by occasional rain and snow showers. Some of the heaviest snow fell the Great Lakes States, especially in squall-prone locations. Snow also fell along and near the Atlantic Seaboard, mainly on January 17-18. As colder air became more entrenched in the Midwest and East, drought changes that had been occurring quickly in recent weeks, either due to flash drought or active winter storms, became more muted, with drought effectively “frozen in place” by chilly, mostly dry conditions. During the second half of the drought-monitoring period, sub-0°F temperatures were commonly observed across the upper Midwest and neighboring regions.”

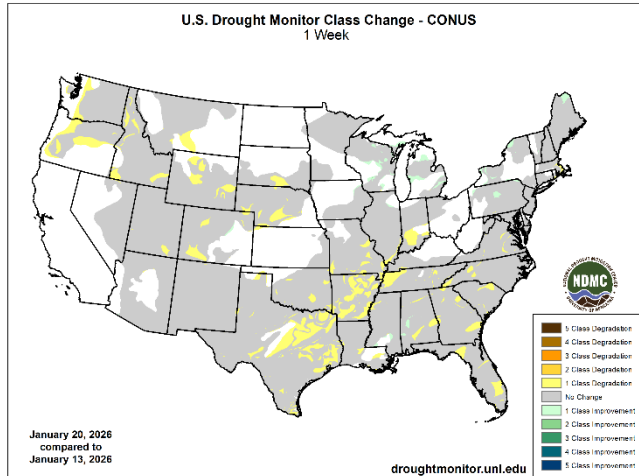
National Drought Summary – West

“Over the last couple of weeks, an uncomfortable silence has settled across the West. With snowpack already below average in many Western watersheds due to this winter’s preponderance of “warm” storm systems, the mid-point of the region’s snow-accumulation season has arrived with snow-water equivalencies falling farther behind normal each day. Among Western basins, only those located in the northern Rockies and neighboring areas are reporting widespread near-normal snowpack. By January 20, snow-water equivalencies were broadly less than 50% of average in Oregon (and portions of adjacent states) and the Southwest. Although many areas of the West are reporting above-average season-to-date precipitation, the anomalous winter warmth and corresponding lack of snow could have serious future implications for wildfire activity and summer water supplies. For now, however, more than half of the 11-state Western region—including all of California—is free of drought.”

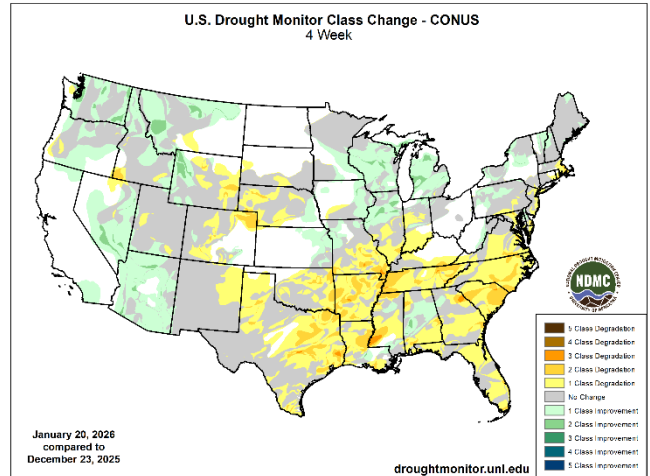
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

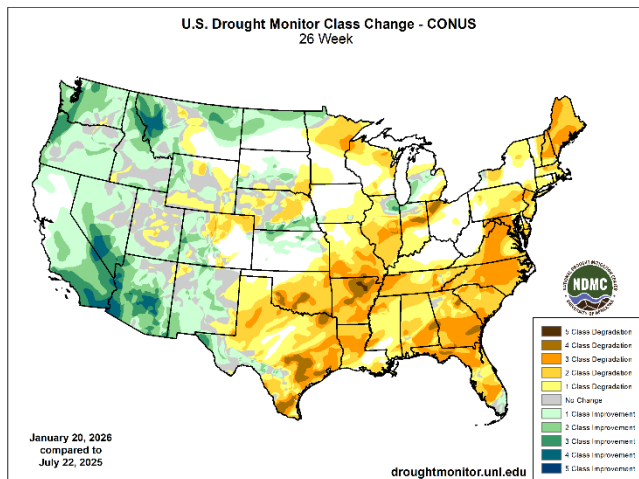
1 Week



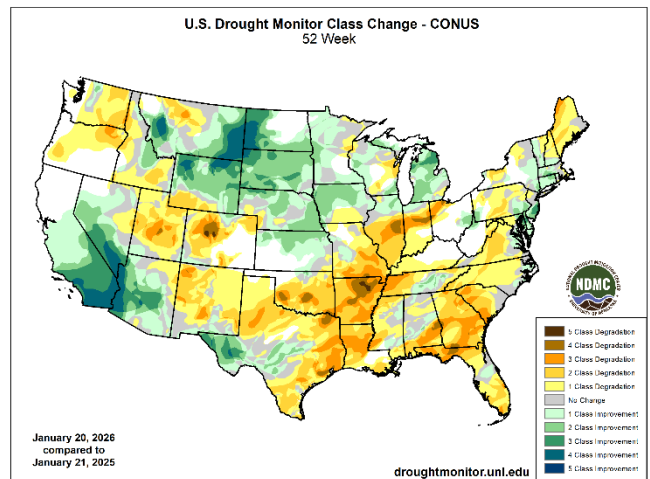
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



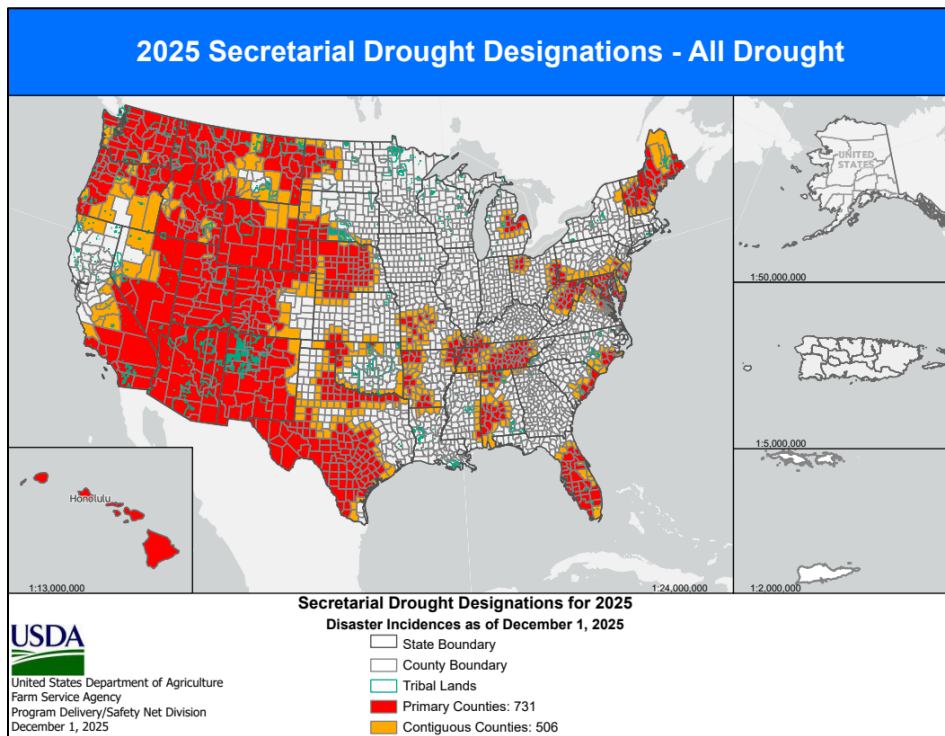
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

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](#)

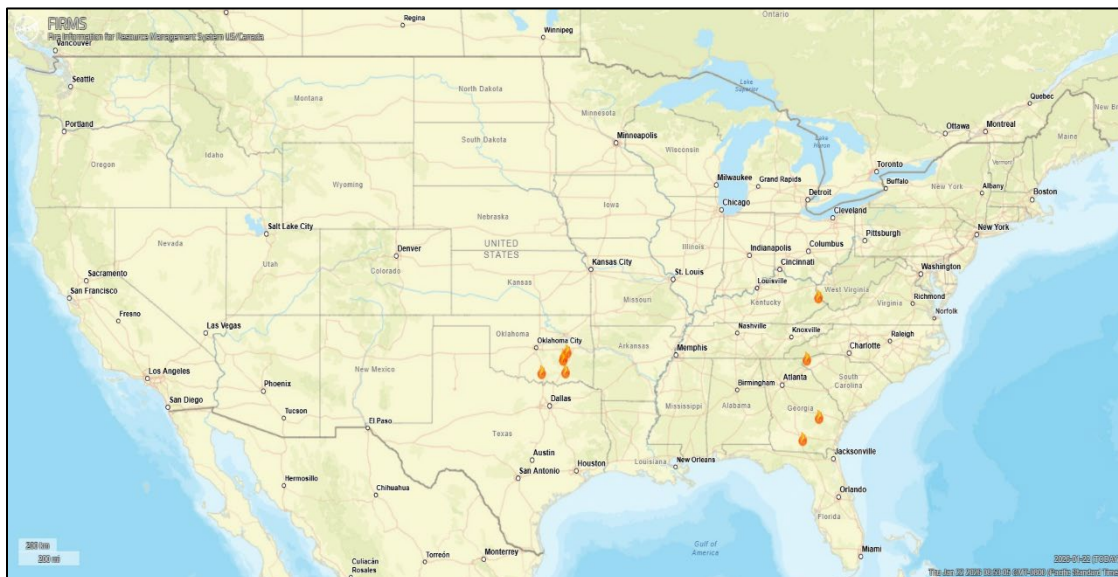
USDA Secretarial Drought Designations

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

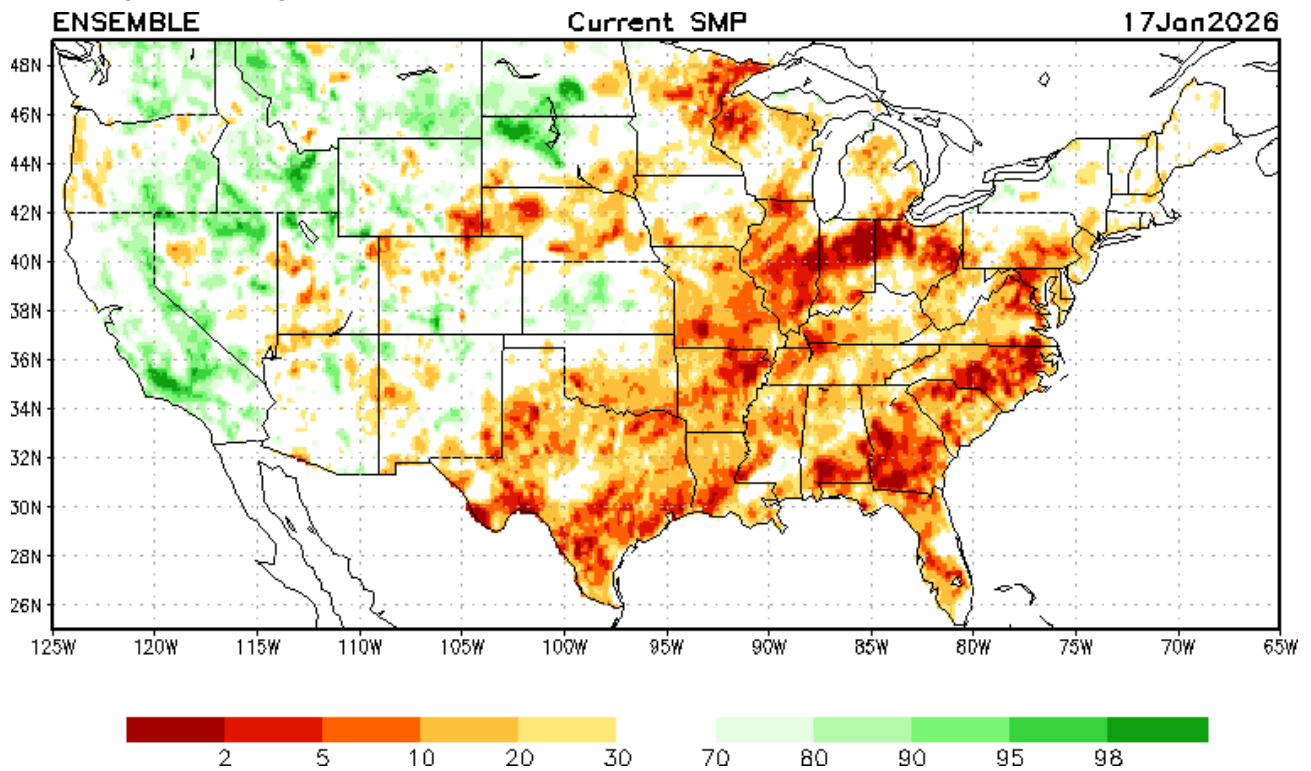
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [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

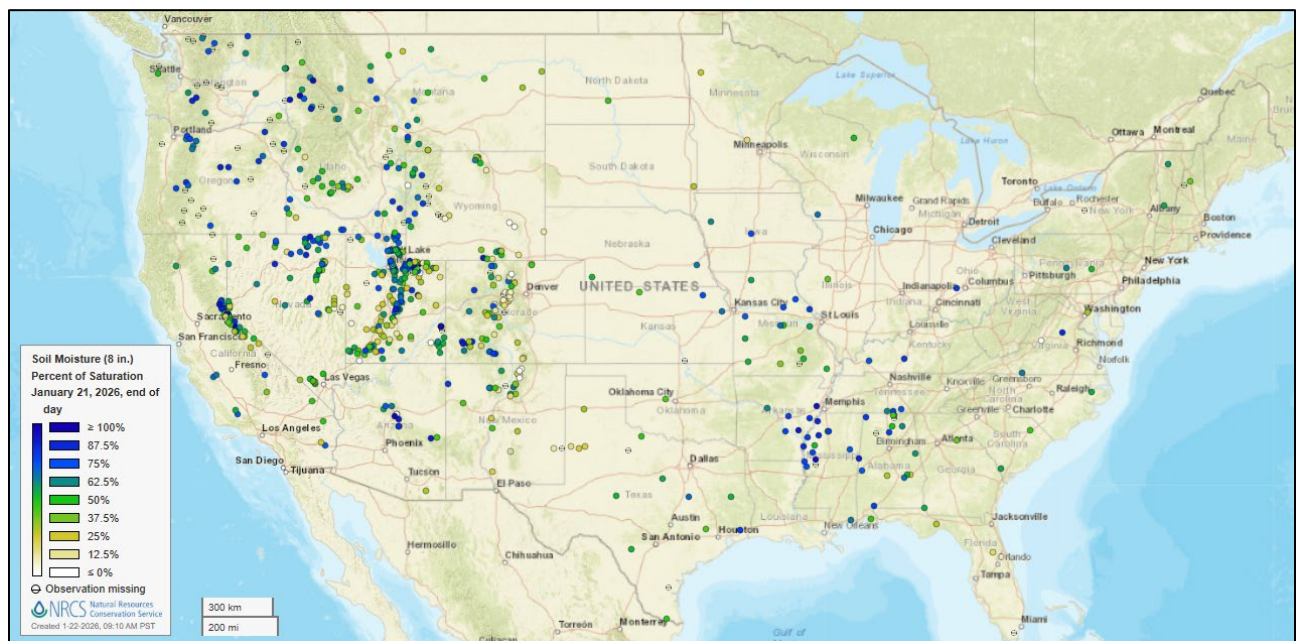


[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of January 17, 2026

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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

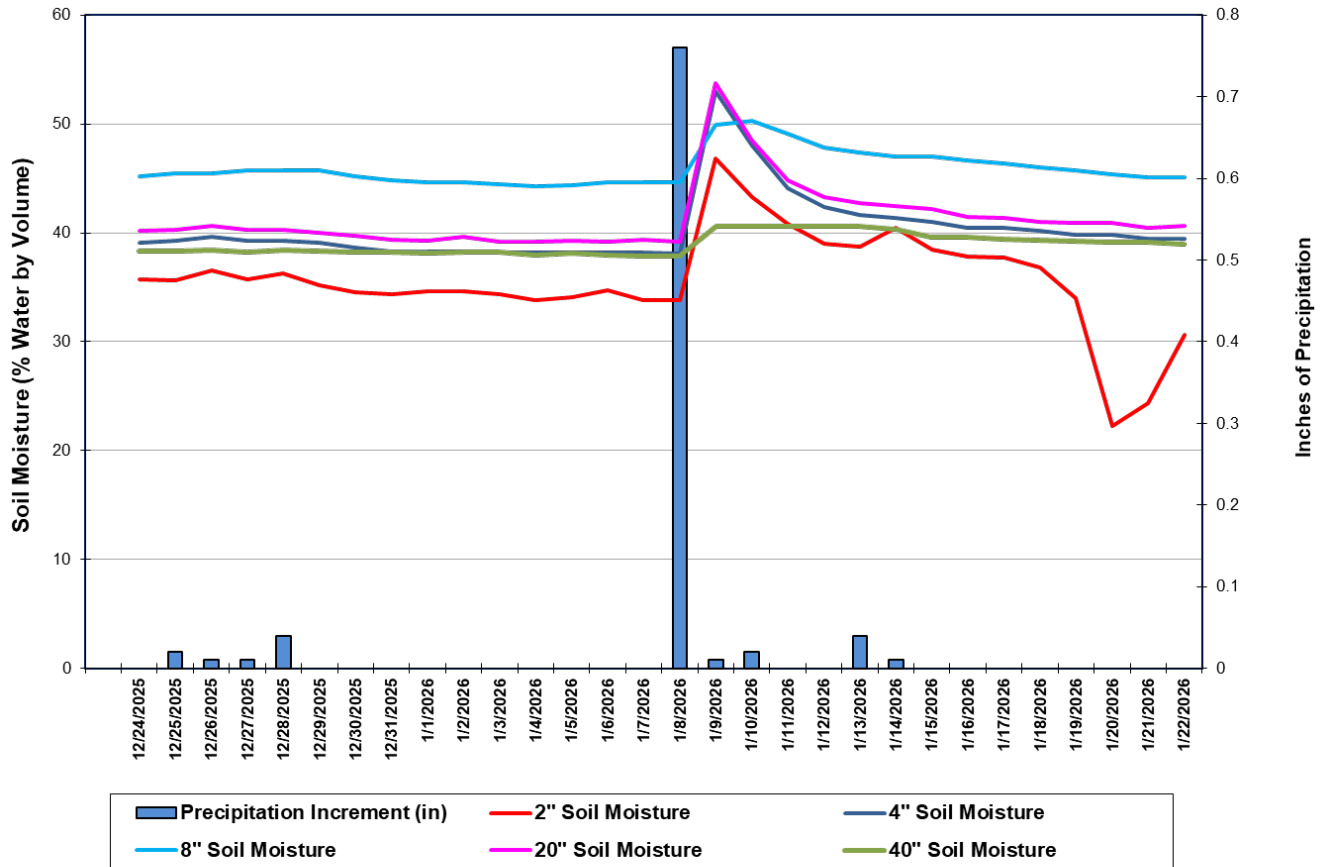
[U.S. soil moisture map at 8-inch depth:](#)



Soil Moisture

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

Powell Gardens, Missouri (SCAN site 2061)
Daily Mean Soil Moisture and Daily Precipitation



This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Powell Gardens](#) SCAN site in Missouri. Soil sensors at all depths recorded increases in soil moisture after the site received 0.76 inches of precipitation on January 8. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 0.92 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

(7 in floods [major: 5, moderate: 1, minor: 1],)



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

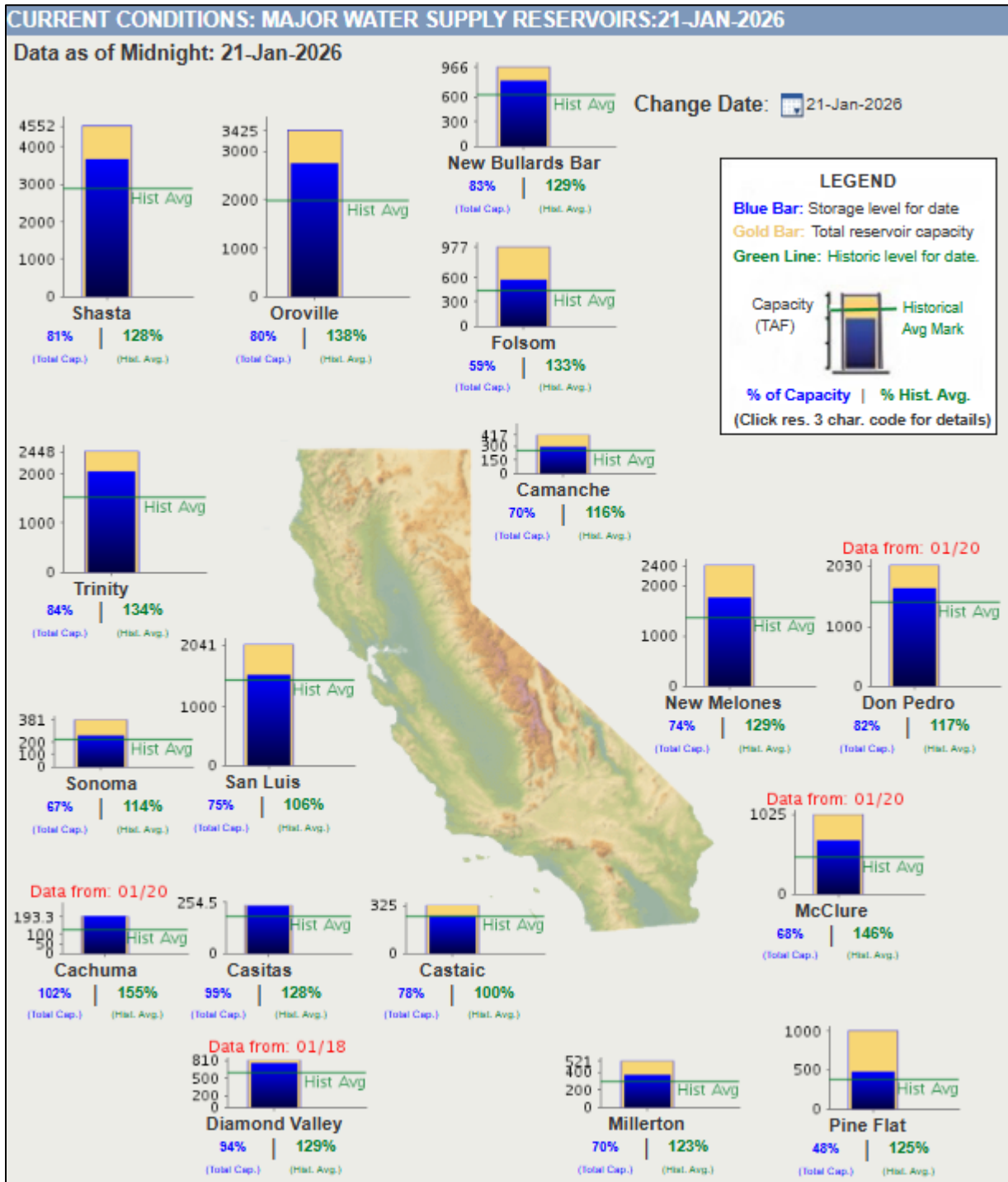
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

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 January 22, 2026: “From Friday into Monday, a sprawling and dangerous winter storm will produce wintry precipitation (snow, sleet, and freezing rain) from central and southern sections of the Rockies and Plains to the Atlantic Coast. Snowfall totals of 1 to 2 feet may occur in several areas, including the Ozark Plateau and portions of the middle Atlantic States. Significant ice accretion could lead to extensive and extended power outages from northeastern Texas into the mid-South, as well as interior sections of the Carolinas and portions of neighboring states. There will be a relatively sharp northern cutoff of accumulating snow, especially from the central Plains into the eastern Corn Belt. However, many areas east of the Rockies will also have to contend with extreme cold, with temperatures expected to fall to 0°F or below at least as far south as the central Plains, Ohio Valley, and portions of the middle Atlantic States. Livestock will experience stressful conditions in the South due to cold, snowy, icy weather and in the North due extremely cold, windy conditions. Some winter wheat across the northern half of the Plains will experience sub-0°F temperatures without the benefit of a protective snow cover. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for January 27 – 31 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures throughout the eastern half of the U.S., while warmer-than-normal weather will prevail in the West. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation nearly nationwide should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions in a few areas, including southern Florida and southern and coastal Texas.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [January 24 – 28, 2026](#)


Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

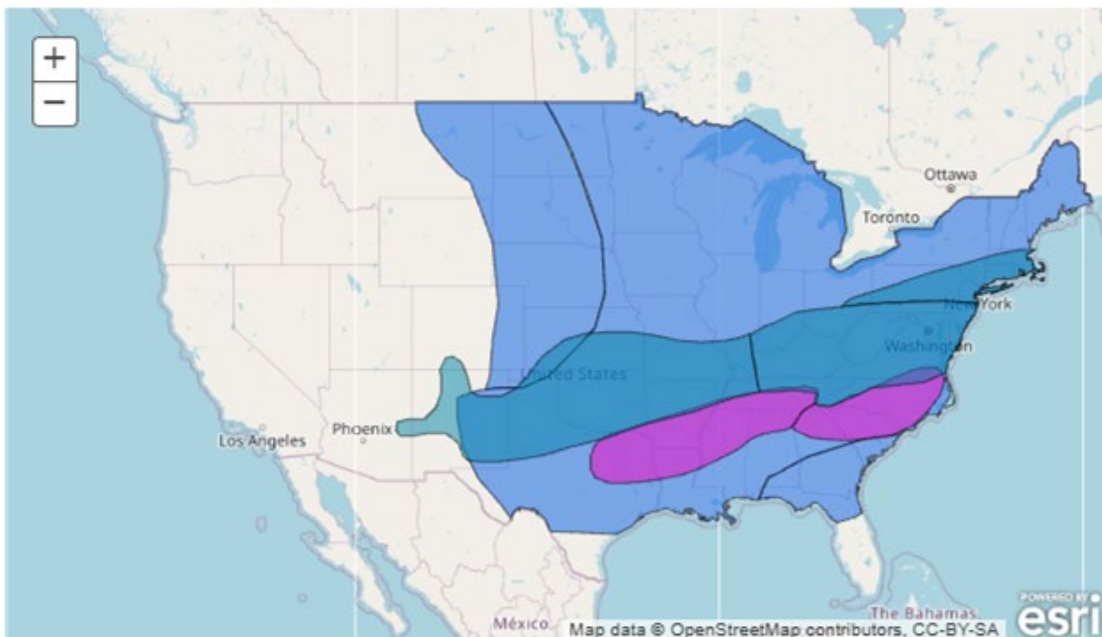
About the Hazards Outlook

Created January 21, 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 24, 2026 - January 28, 2026

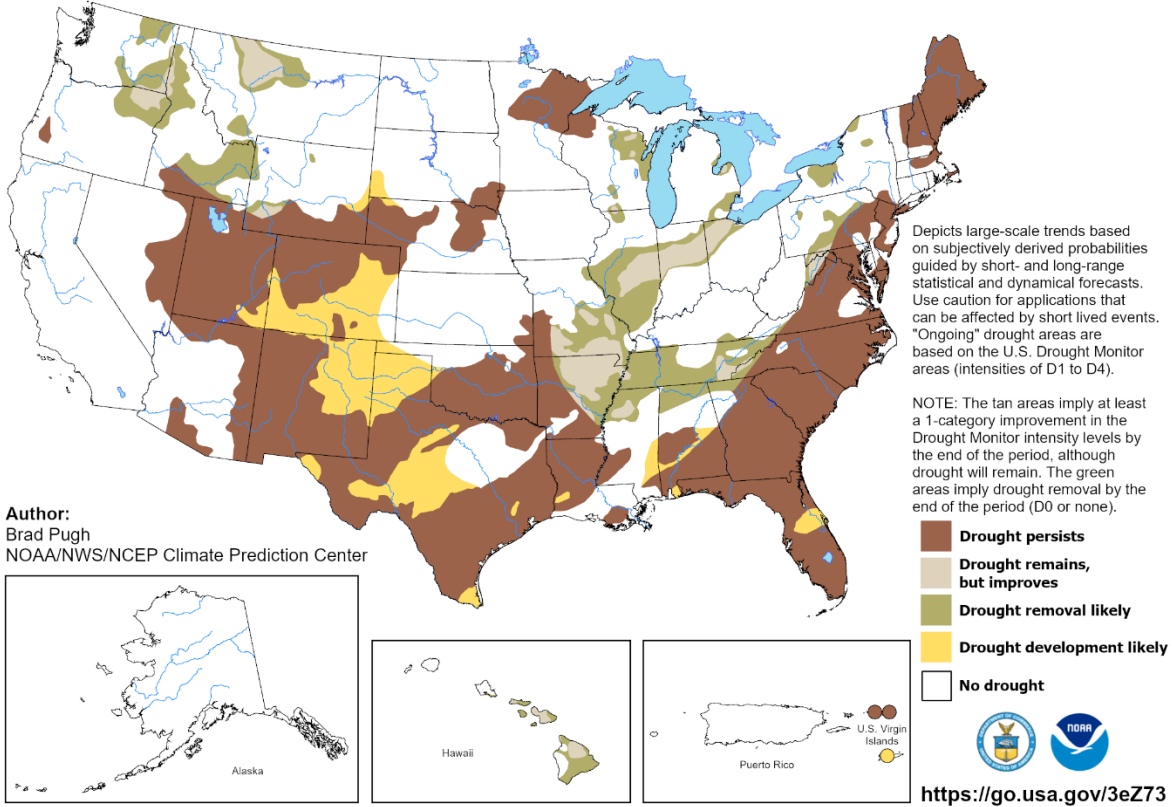


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [January 15 – April 30, 2026](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for January 15 - April 30, 2026
Released January 15, 2026

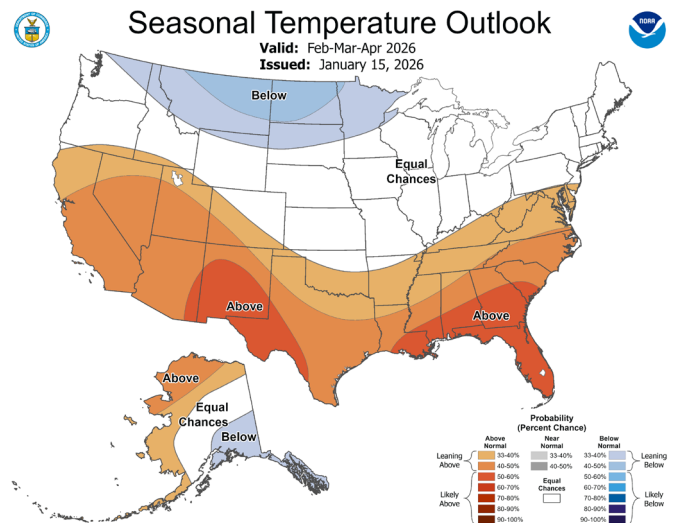
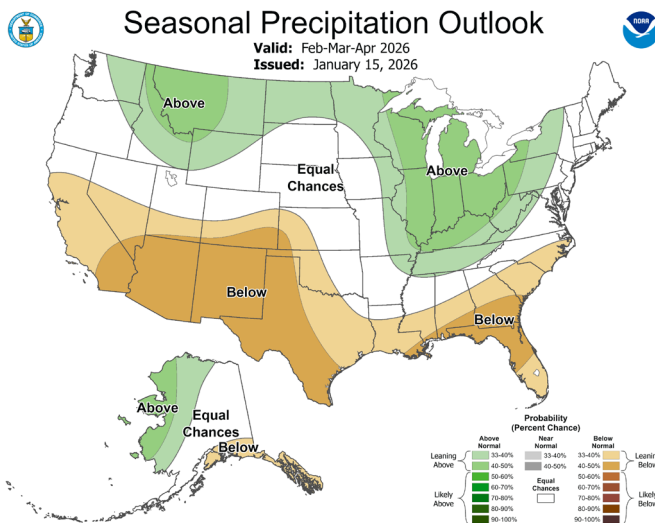


Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

Precipitation

Temperature



[February-March-April 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](#).