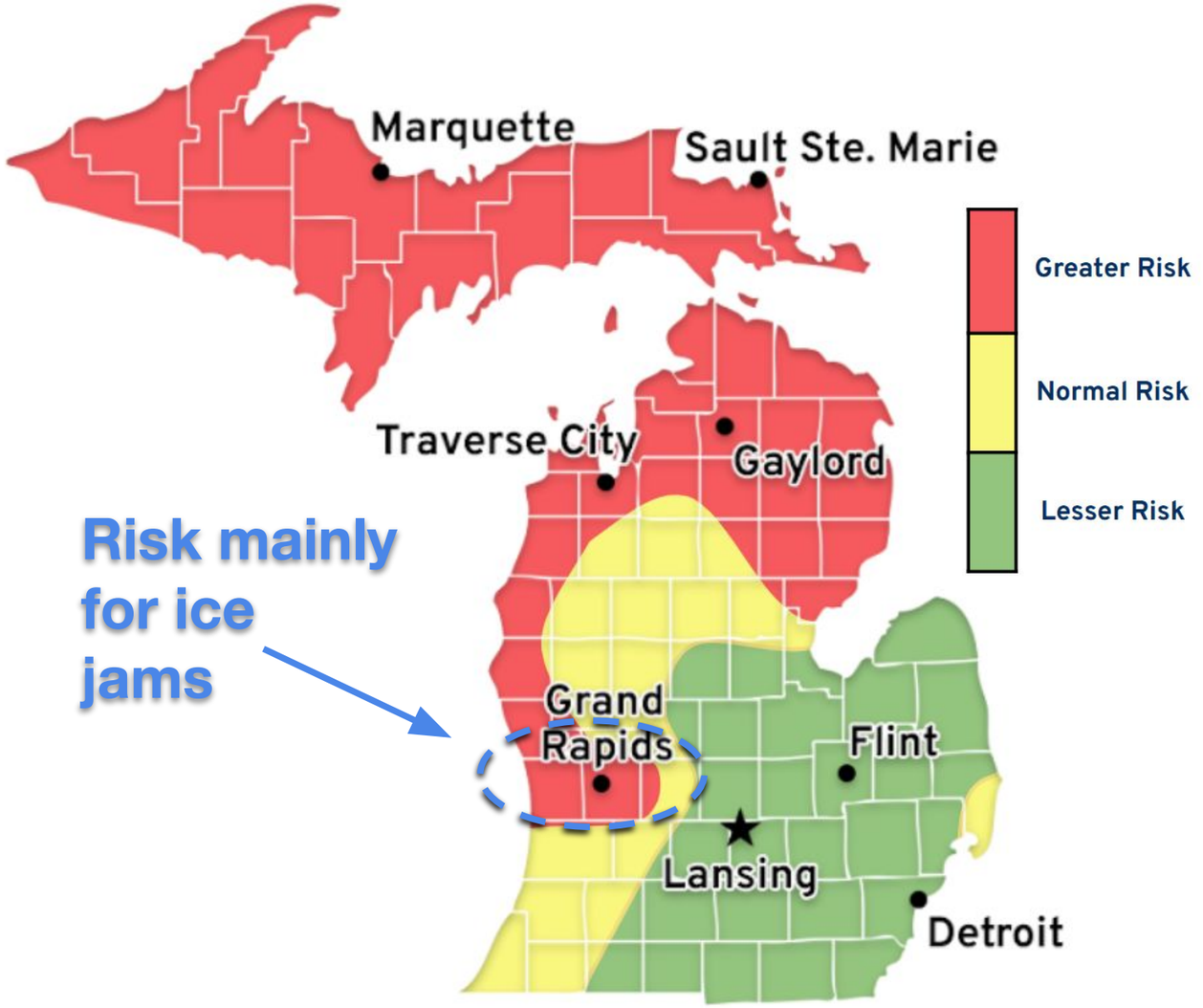
2026 Michigan Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook

National Weather Service
Michigan Offices

February 12, 2026

Next Update: Feb 26, 2026

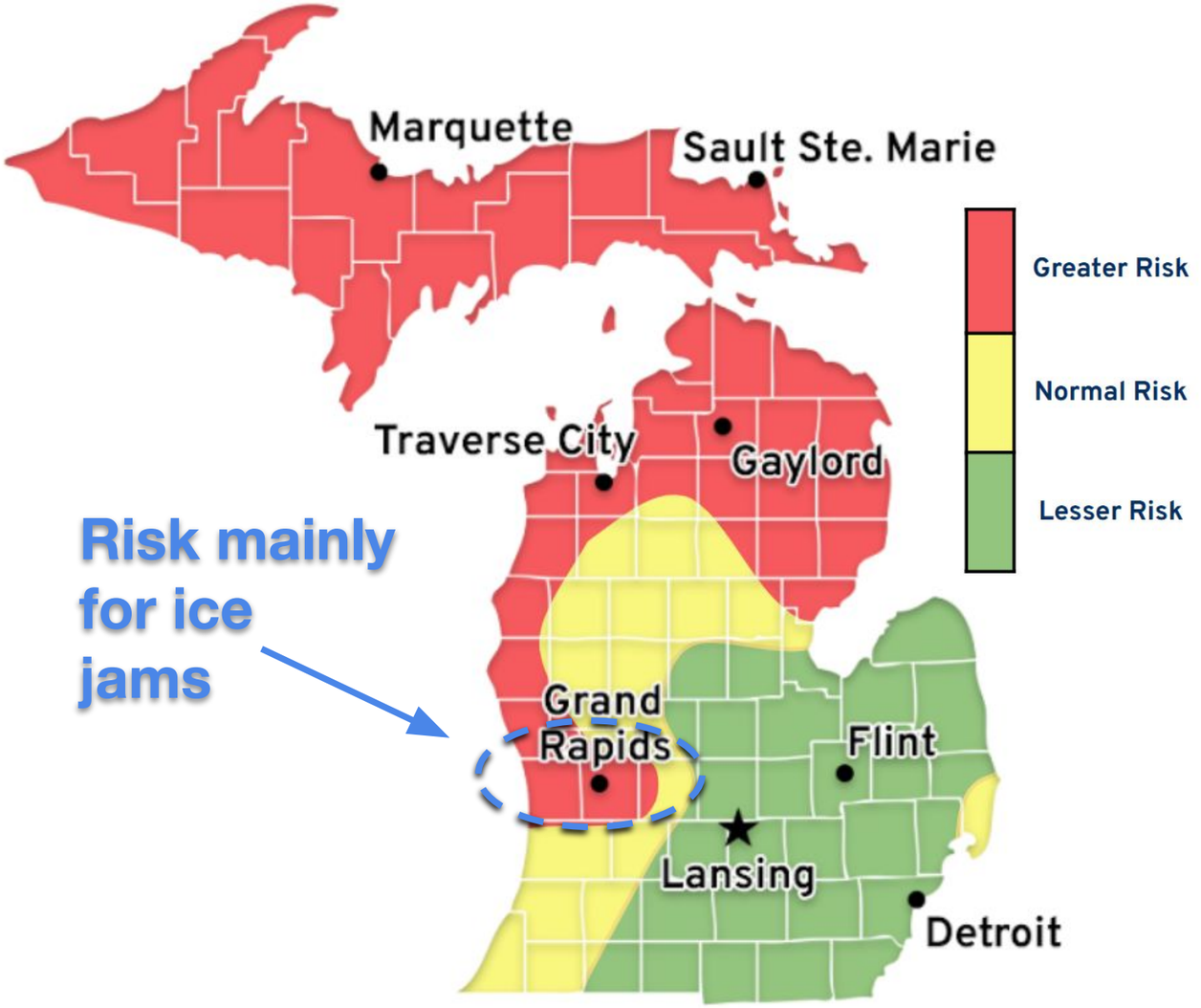


Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

Early February 2026 Update

Key Messages

- Spring flood risk is *higher than normal* across much of Michigan
- Near to Above-Average snowpack and average amounts of frozen ground could lead to significant runoff
- Likely thicker river ice than usual right now, could lead to ice jams if spring happens fast
- **Precipitation and rate of snowmelt through spring while the ground is still frozen will be one of the most important flood risk factors**



NEW What Has Changed

- This is the first of three total spring flood outlooks

Next Scheduled Update

- February 26, 2026

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Gaylord, MI

Spring Flood Outlook

Key Ingredients	Antecedent Conditions	Impact to Spring Flooding
Winter Weather	Colder and Snowier	Greater Risk
River Levels	Normal	Normal Risk
River Ice Conditions	Above Normal	Greater Risk
Soil Moisture	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Frost Depth	Near/Above Normal	Greater Risk
Snow Conditions / Water Equivalent	Near/Above Normal	Greater Risk
Spring Weather Outlook	Normal	Normal Risk

Overall Risk of Spring Flooding:

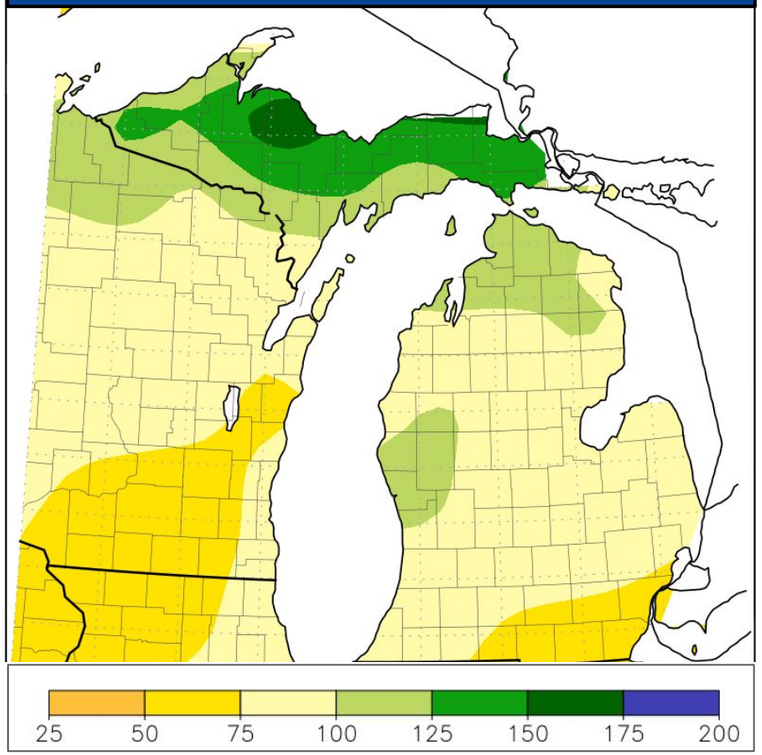
Greater Risk

A generally colder and snowier than normal winter is increasing the chances of spring flooding across Michigan. In addition, extensive river ice is increasing the chances of breakup ice jams. The Lower Peninsula still has some drier soils left from fall drought, which lowers risks. As always, the single most important factor for spring flooding are the Spring Weather conditions, with heavy spring rains required to cause significant flooding.

Winter Precipitation and Temperature

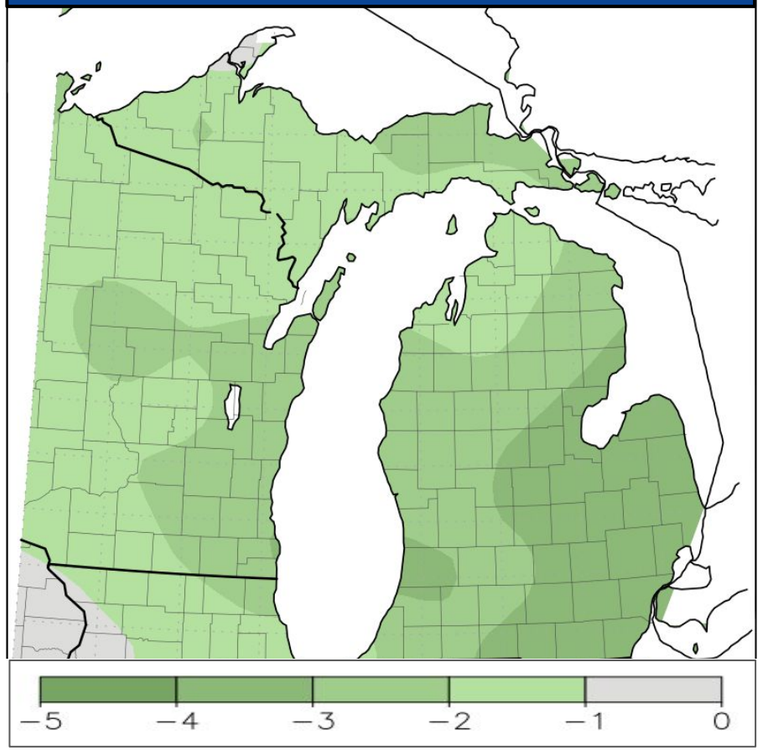
Conditions Compared to Normal, Nov 1 - Feb 11

Precipitation



Wetter than normal, especially U.P. and northern Lower

Temperature



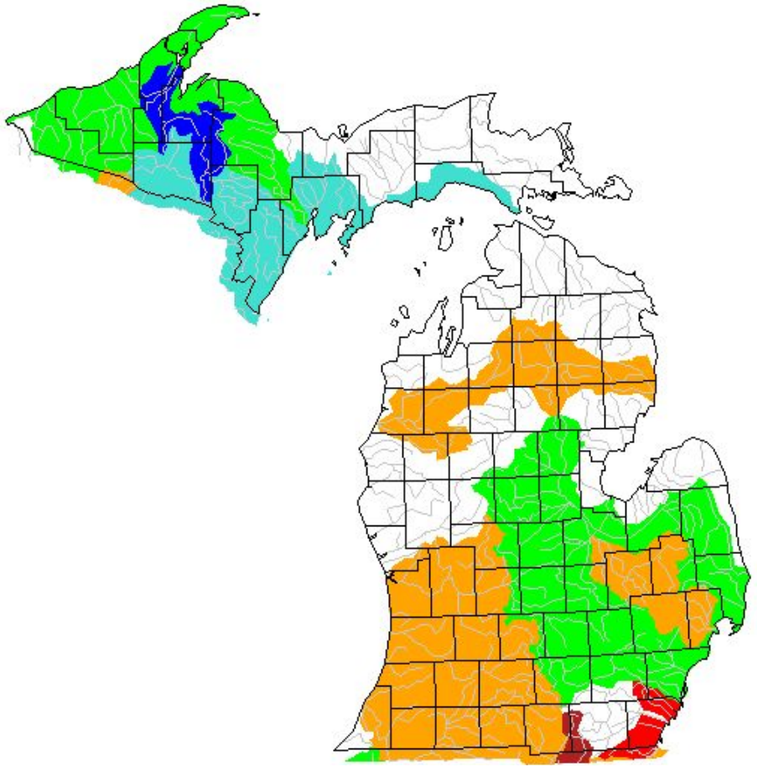
Colder than normal winter across the state

River Levels

Map shows 7-Day Average Streamflows

- Water levels are near to slightly below normal in most areas as snowmelt has not yet begun
- This means there is still a good amount of room in the rivers for future runoff

7-Day Average River Levels



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

River Ice Conditions

Map shows widespread wintry conditions across Michigan

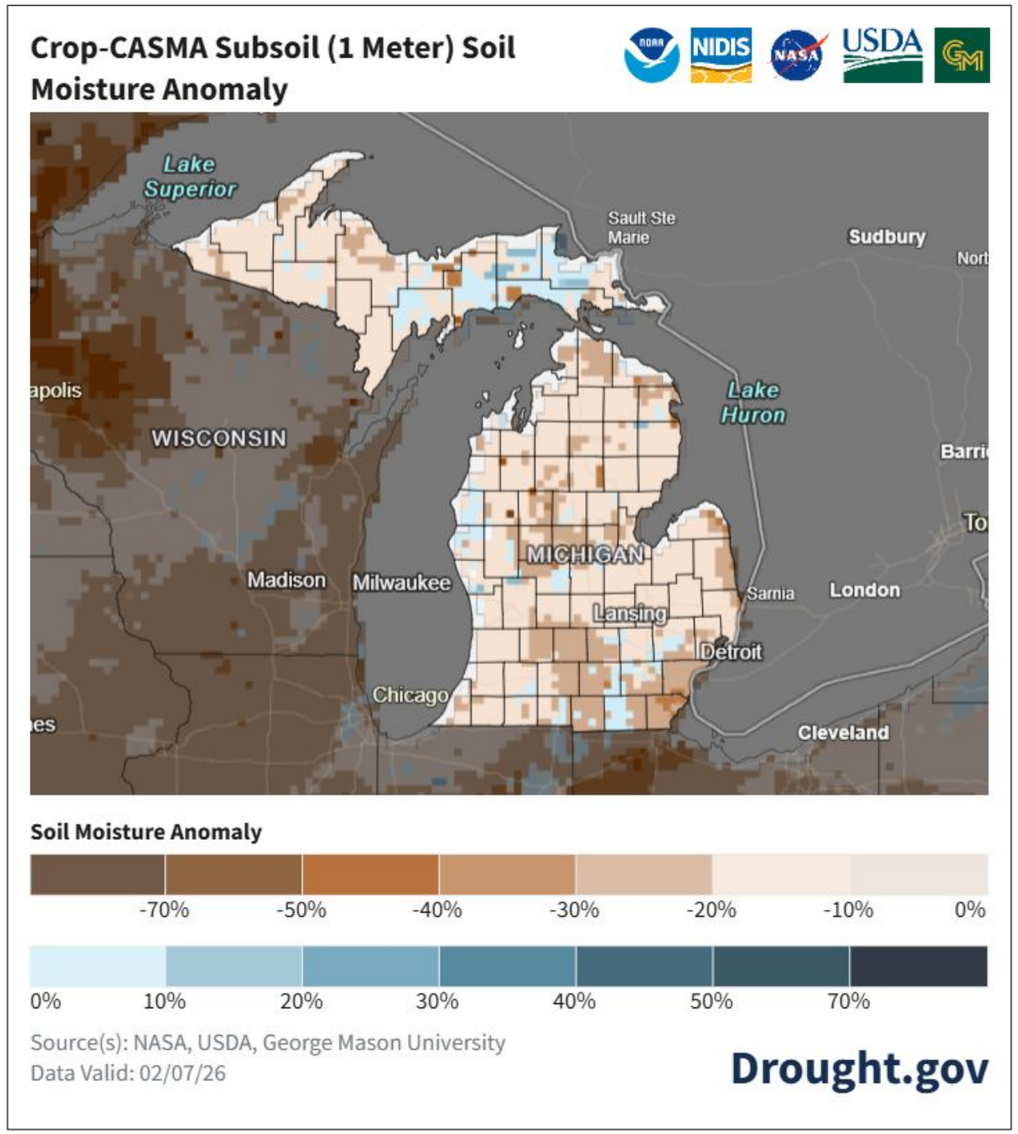
- Widespread ice coverage on rivers across most of the state
- River ice is likely thicker than it has been in several years
- If spring warm-up/rain happens suddenly, any ice jams that form could be worse than typical due to strong ice

Image courtesy: NOAA/NESDIS/STAR

Soil Moisture and Frost Depth

Map shows soil moisture changes from normal

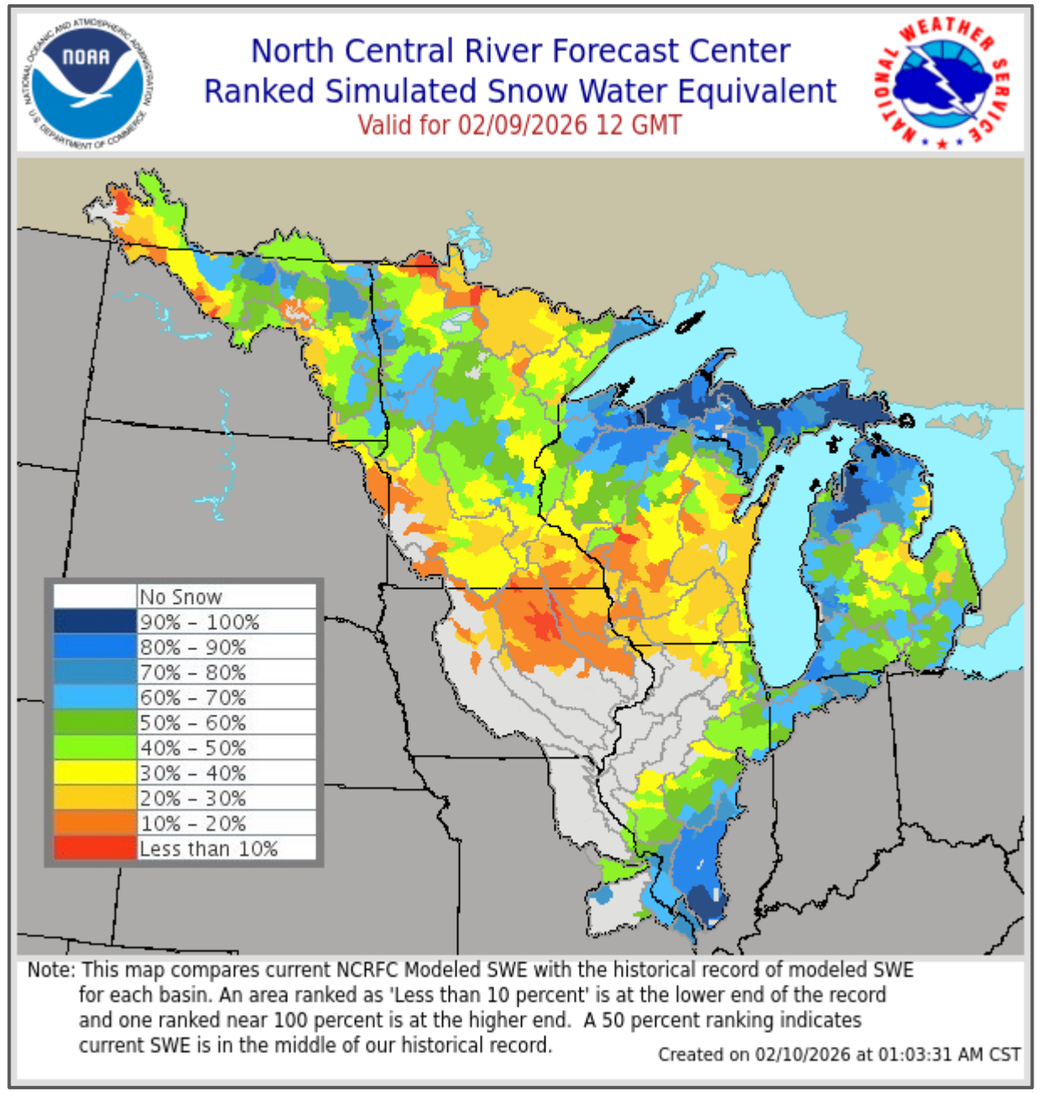
- Much of the Lower Peninsula still has drier soils than normal, as we slowly recover from drought last fall
    - Exception in the eastern U.P. where wet conditions last fall continue to keep soils a bit wetter than normal
- Ground is generally frozen 2 to 6 inches deep, which is near normal
    - Thicker frost in the U.P, likely in the 6 to 10 inch range
    - Thicker frost in Southeast Lower Peninsula
- Overall, the drier soils in the Lower Peninsula should work to lessen flood risks



Snow Water Equivalent

Map shows snow water amounts compared to normal

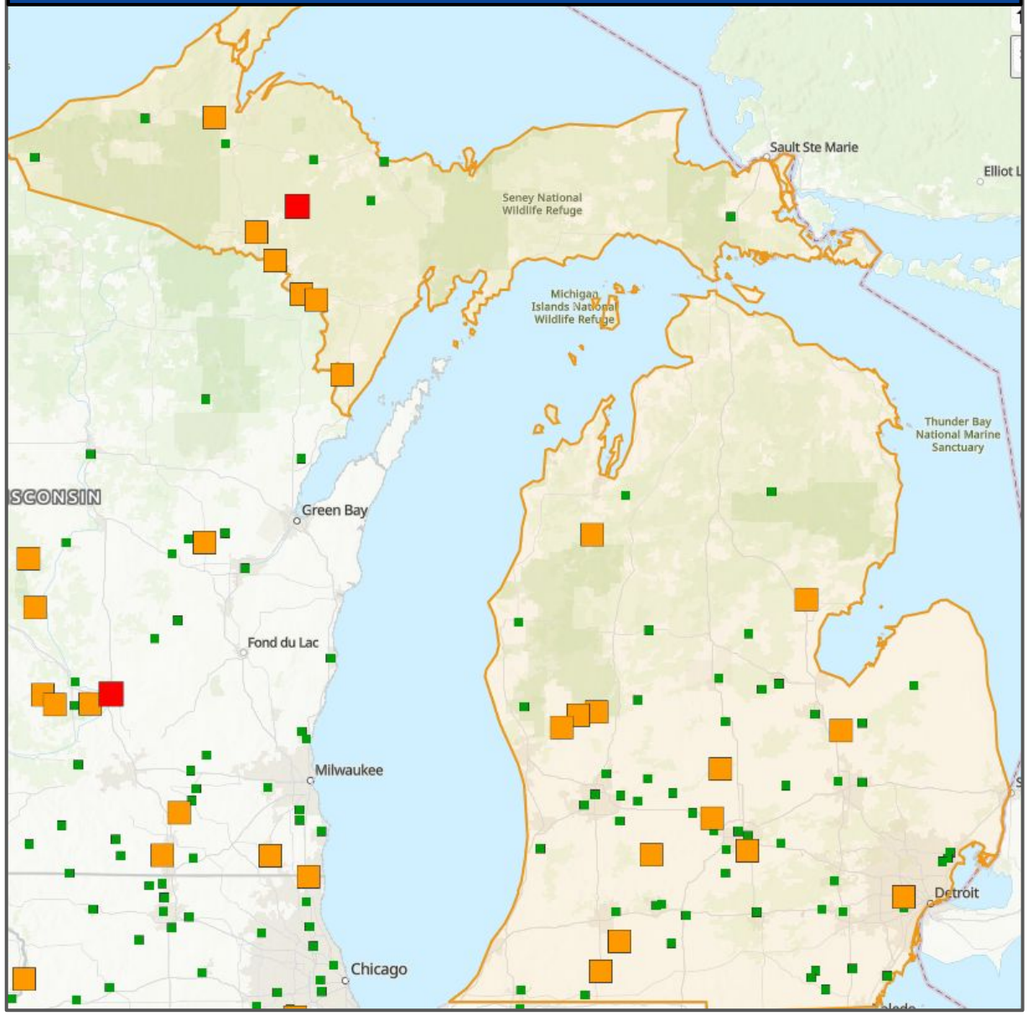
- Much more snow water than normal across the U.P. and northern Lower
    - Increases Spring Flood Risk
- Typical amounts of snow water in western Lower
- Normal to slightly below normal snow water over interior and SE Lower
    - Lowers Spring Flood Risk



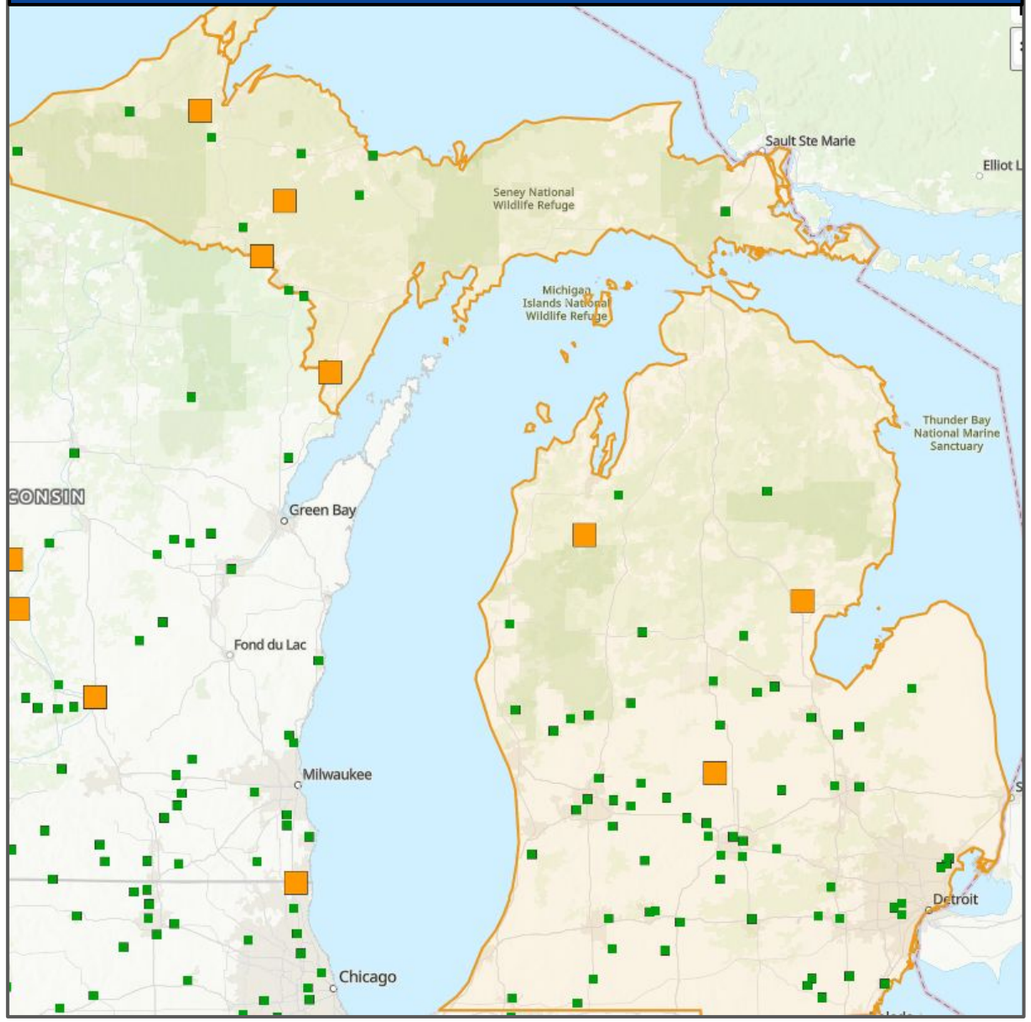
Long Range Flood Outlook

Probability of reaching/exceeding flood stages

25% Chance of Exceeding



50% Chance of Exceeding



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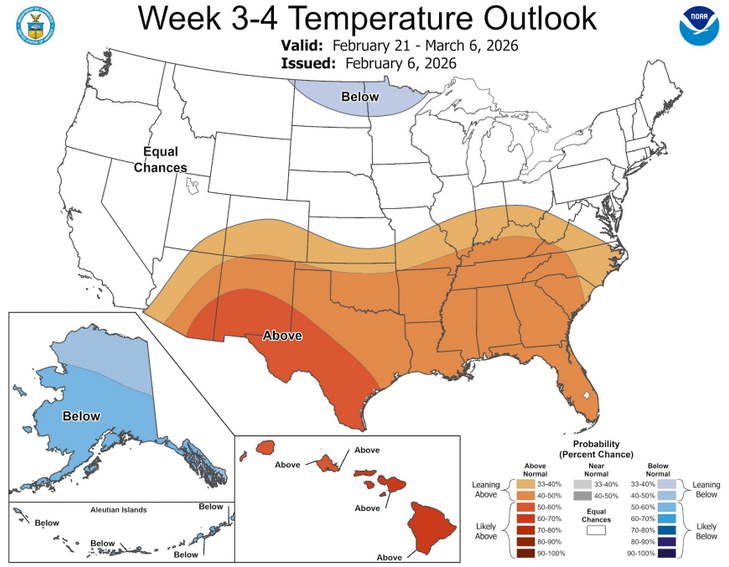
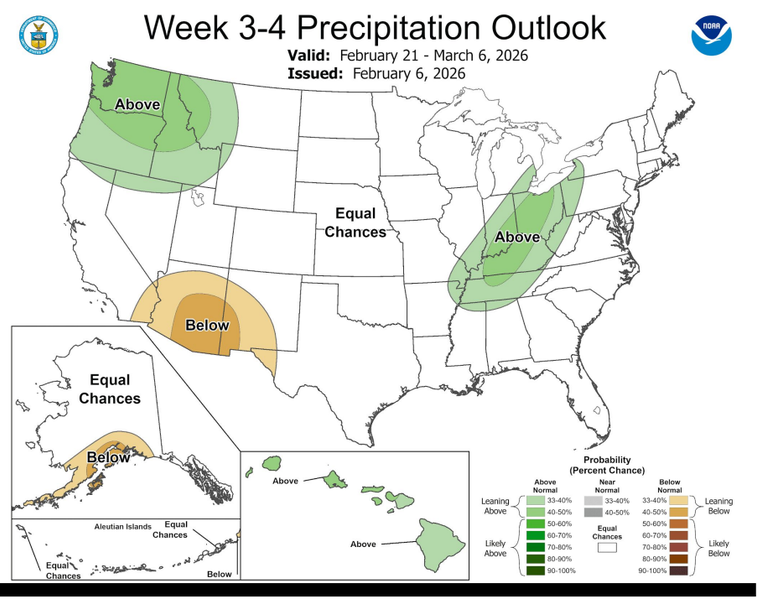
Spring Weather Outlook

These are general outlooks that depict broad trends for the weeks and months ahead

Weeks 3-4 Outlook

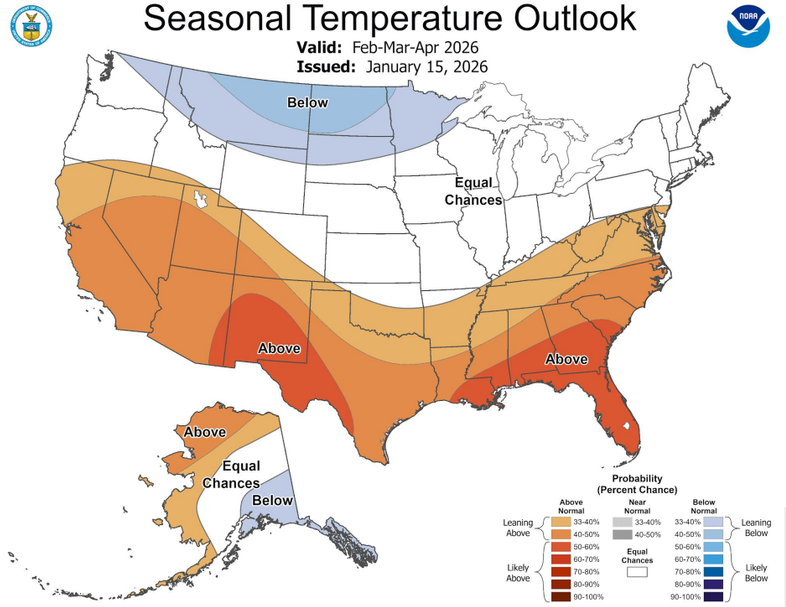
- Temperature: Equal chances for above/near/below normal
- Precip: Slight lean toward wetter than normal conditions
- Could be the beginning of a slow melt in the L.P.
- Likely no melting in U.P.

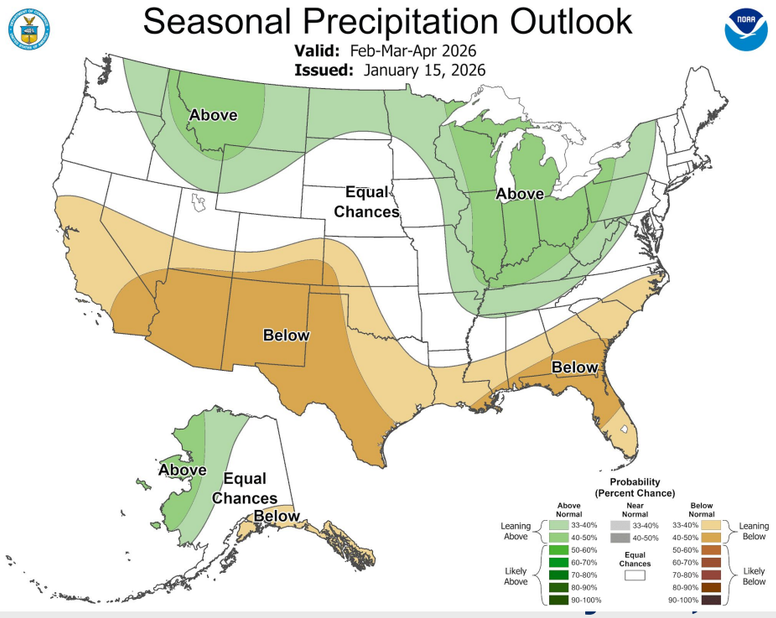




Seasonal Outlook

- Temperature: Equal chances for above/near/below normal
- Precip: Wetter than normal spring
- Possibly an increased potential for heavy spring rains (L.P.) or additional snowpack growth (U.P.)





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Additional Resources

NWS Grand Rapids

NWS Detroit/White Lake

NWS Gaylord

NWS Marquette

NWS Northern Indiana

North Central River Forecast Center

Forecast Points (Hourly Details)

Flood Safety Information

USGS National Water Dashboard

Michigan Drought Dashboard