



# Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid May 7, 2026

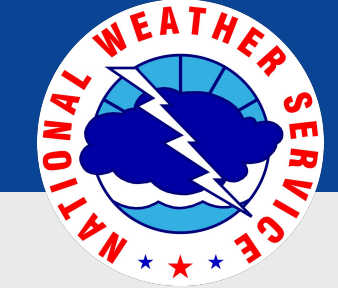
Issued By: NWS Birmingham, AL

Contact Information: [sr-bmx.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-bmx.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated only if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/bmx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS WORSEEN OVER CENTRAL ALABAMA WITH A SLIGHT EXPANSION OF D3 IN THE SOUTH.





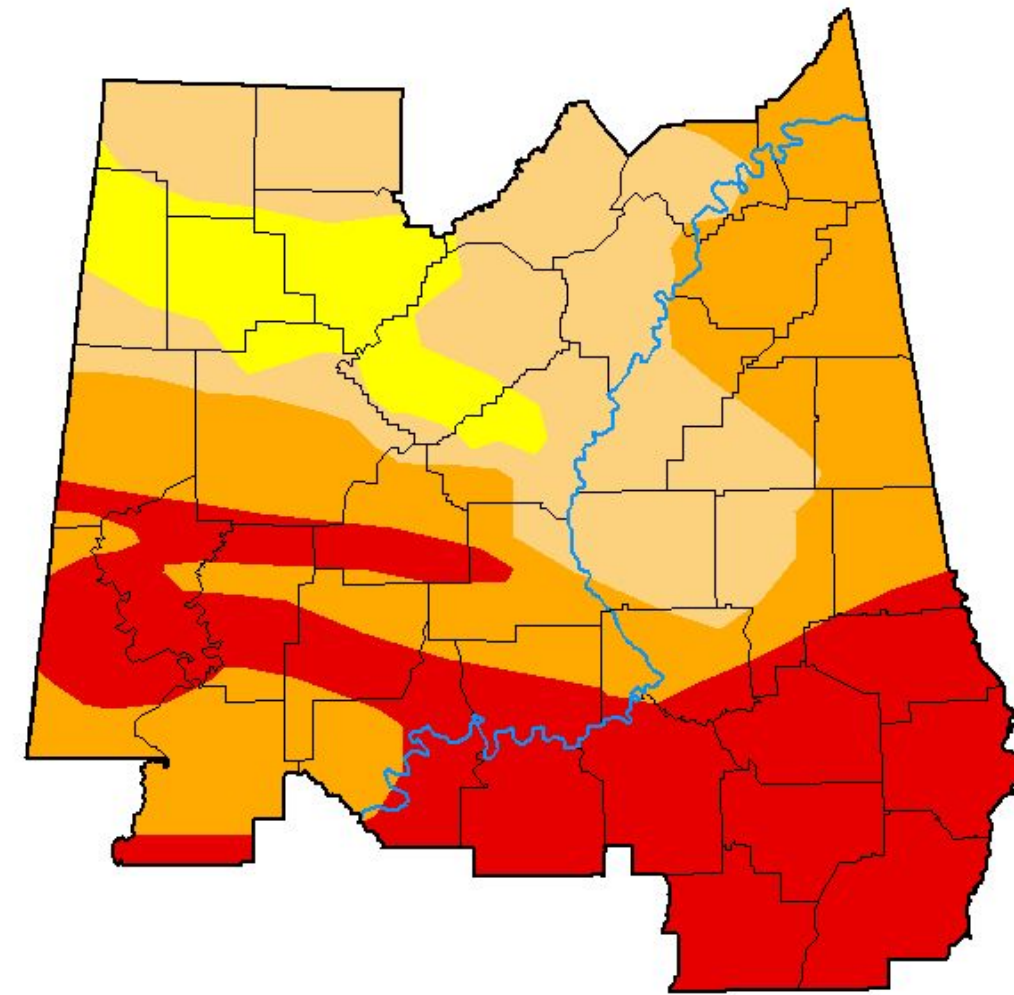
# U.S. Drought Monitor

May 7, 2026  
9:11 AM CDT

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for central Alabama

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
  - D3 Extreme Drought: Numerous counties across the southern half of the county warning area experiencing extreme drought conditions.
  - D2 and D1 Severe/Moderate Drought: The rest of the area is experiencing either severe or moderate drought.
  - D0 Abnormally Dry: All of Central Alabama

## U.S. Drought Monitor Birmingham, AL WFO



**May 5, 2026**  
(Released Thursday, May 7, 2026)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	91.42	66.03	33.45	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 04-28-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	79.55	43.92	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 02-03-2026	25.80	74.20	28.51	20.06	2.99	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-06-2026	0.00	100.00	97.13	35.80	3.95	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-30-2025	0.24	99.76	51.39	19.71	2.30	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 05-06-2025	99.45	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

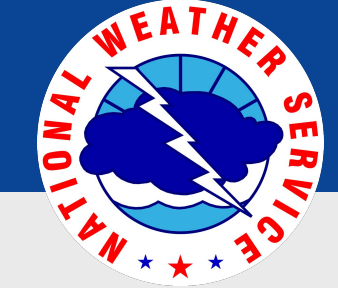
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

**Author:**

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

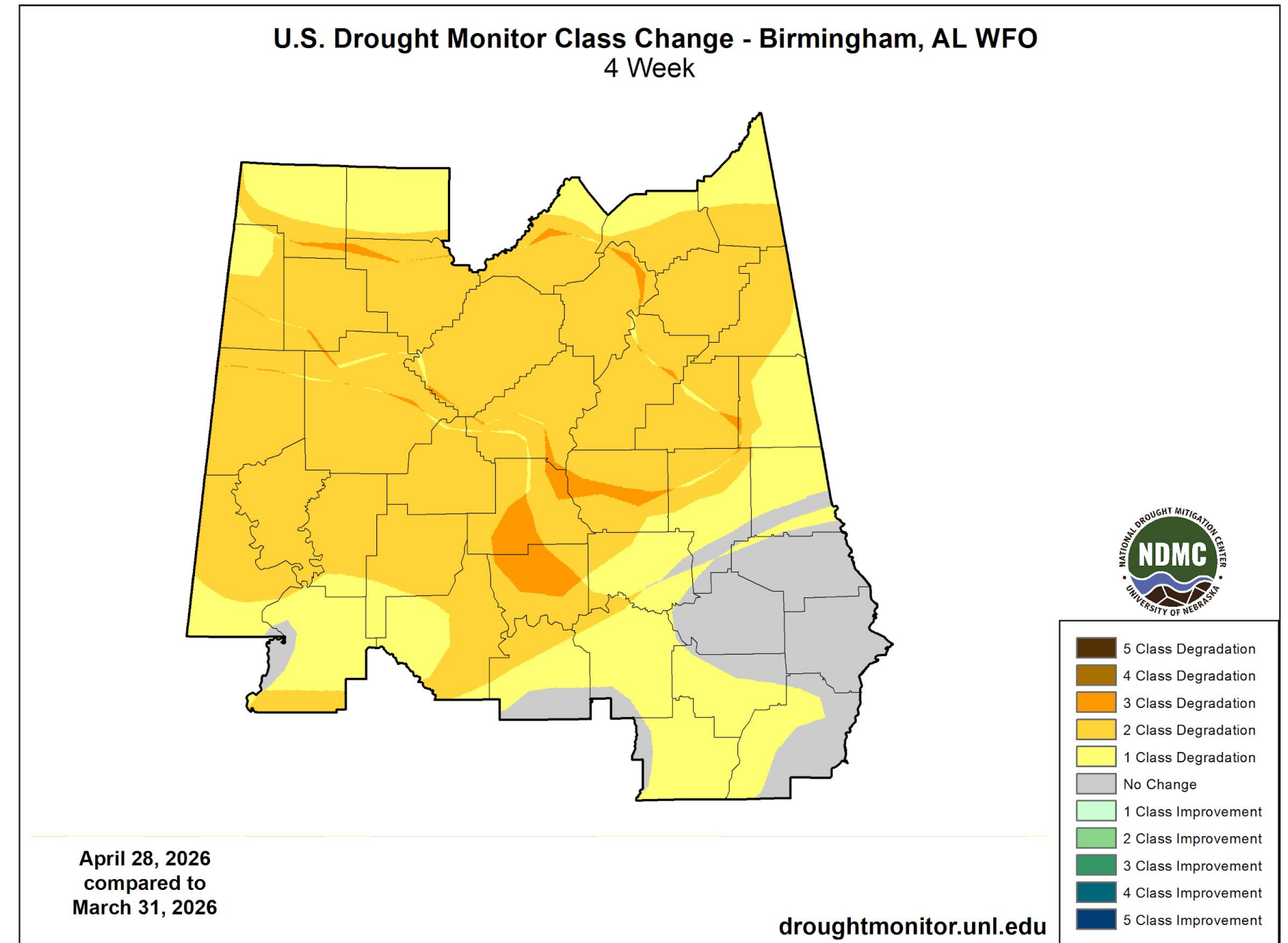


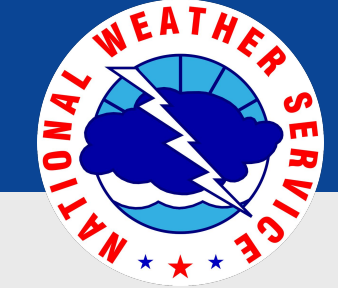
# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for central Alabama

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Almost the entire area had at least a 1 category change toward worse drought conditions. There were a few slivers of 2 class changes.
  - No Change and Drought Improvement: There were no areas of improvement with this update and only a few locations with no change.



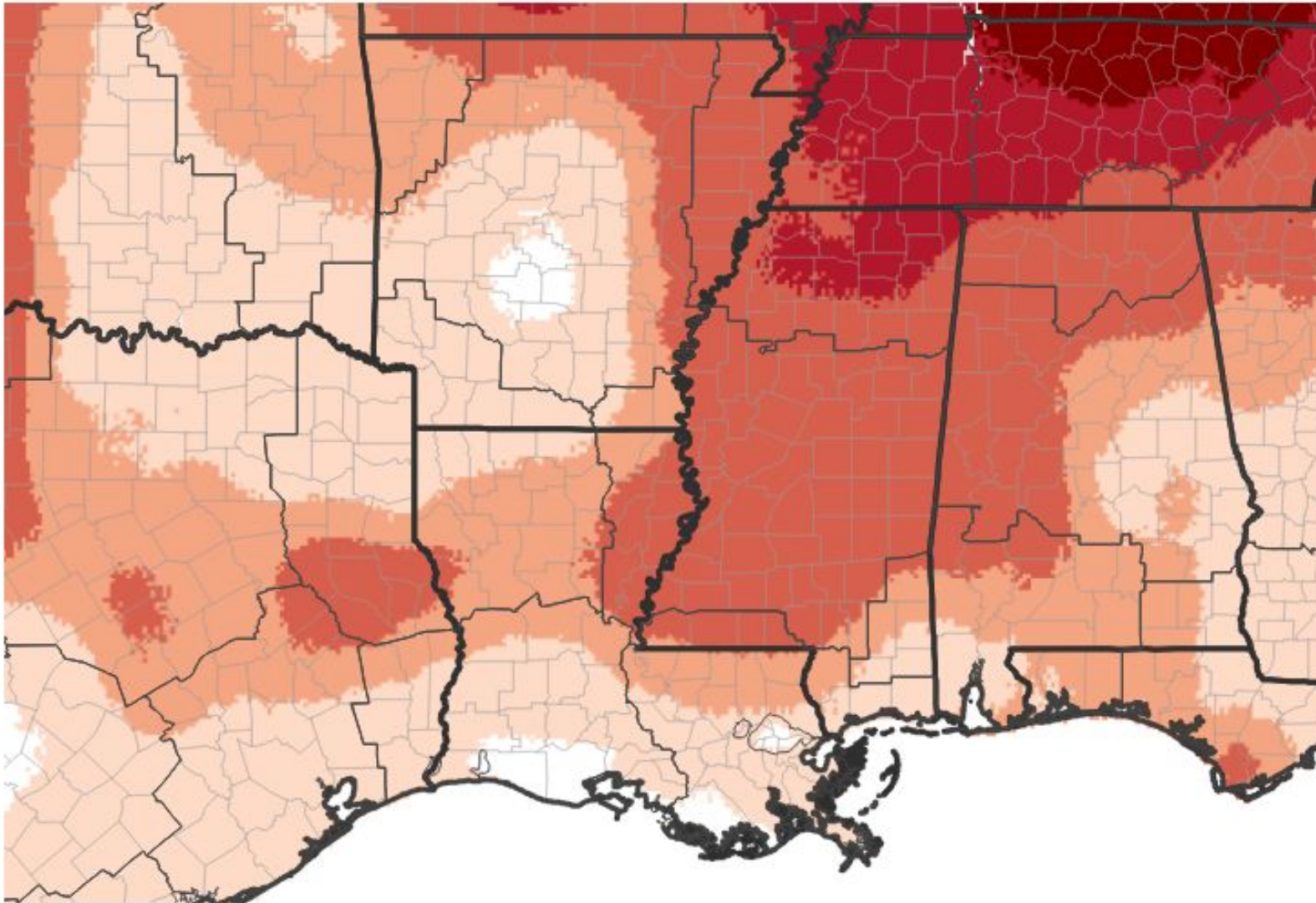


# Temperatures

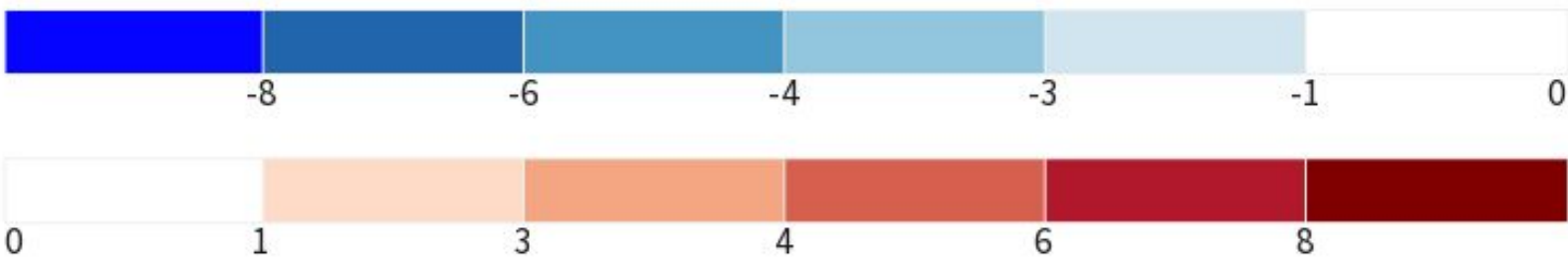
May 7, 2026  
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7 and 30 Day Anomalies

## 7-Day Temperature Anomaly



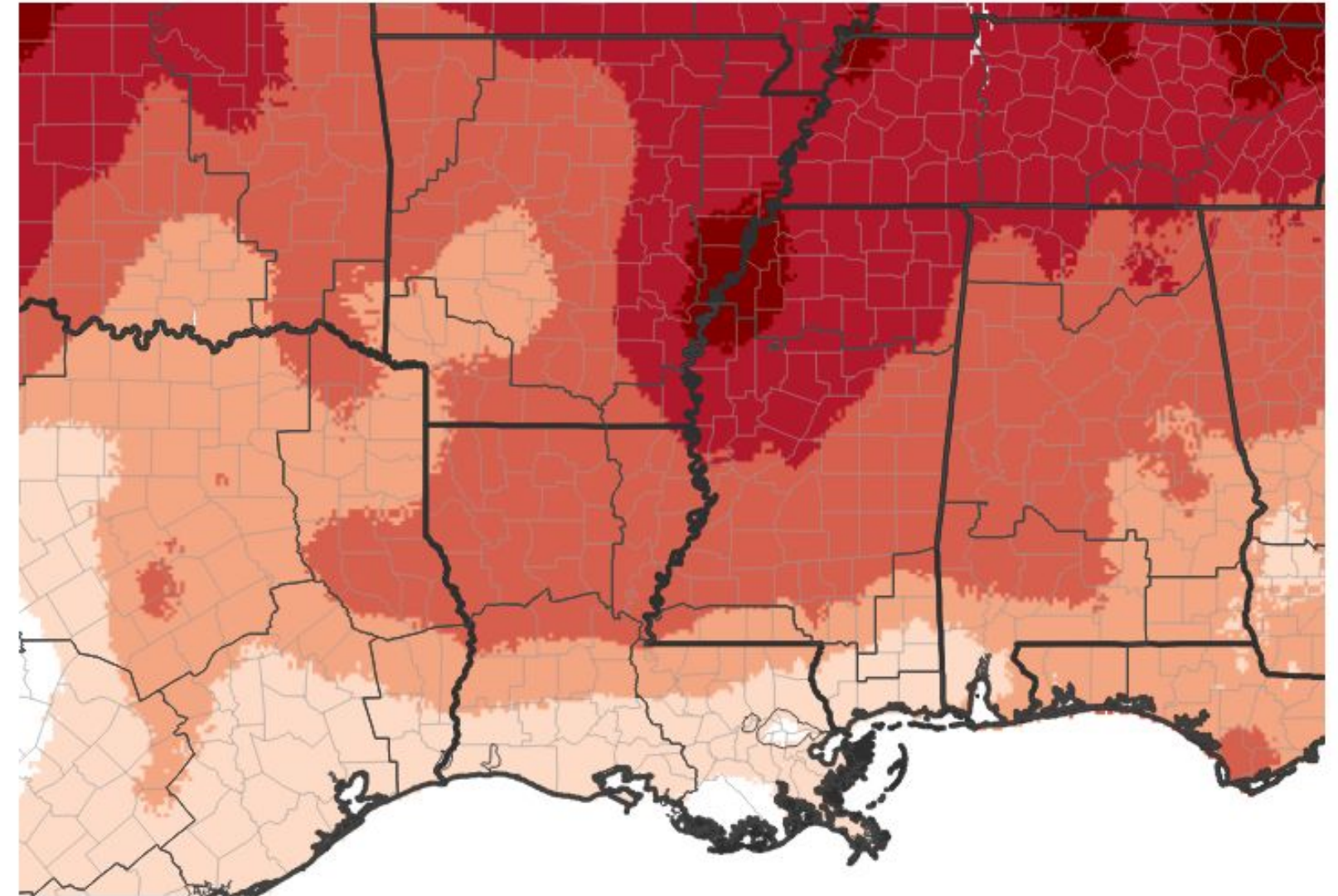
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



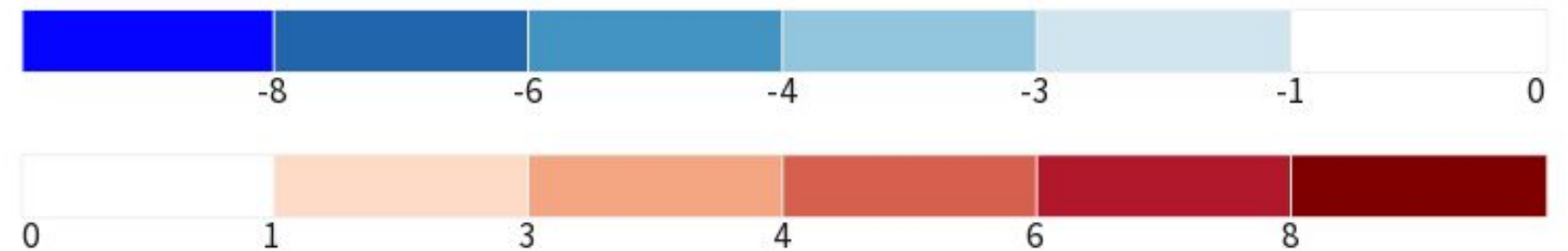
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/29/26

## 30-Day Temperature Anomaly



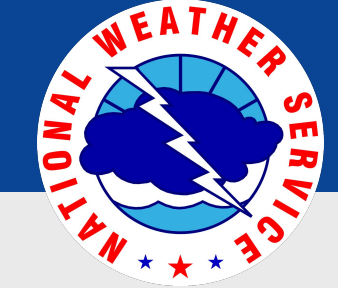
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/29/26





# Summary of Impacts

May 7, 2026  
9:11 AM CDT

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Following a few days of wetting rains, streamflows are generally running at normal to above normal levels with some below normal in the southeast.

## Agricultural Impacts

- In January, the USDA designated 19 Alabama counties as primary natural disaster areas due to the drought conditions impacting row-crop yields and forage availability. Planting in some areas is being delayed.
- Much of Alabama's pasture and rangeland is rated in "poor" or "very poor" conditions.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- There has been an increased amount of wildfire activity across Central Alabama within the last month and the statewide fire alert remains in effect at this time.

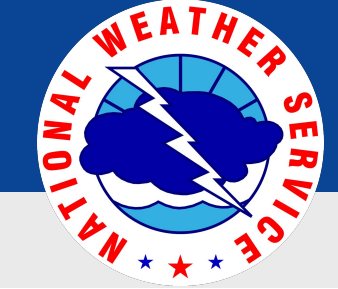
## Other Impacts

- None

## Drought Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

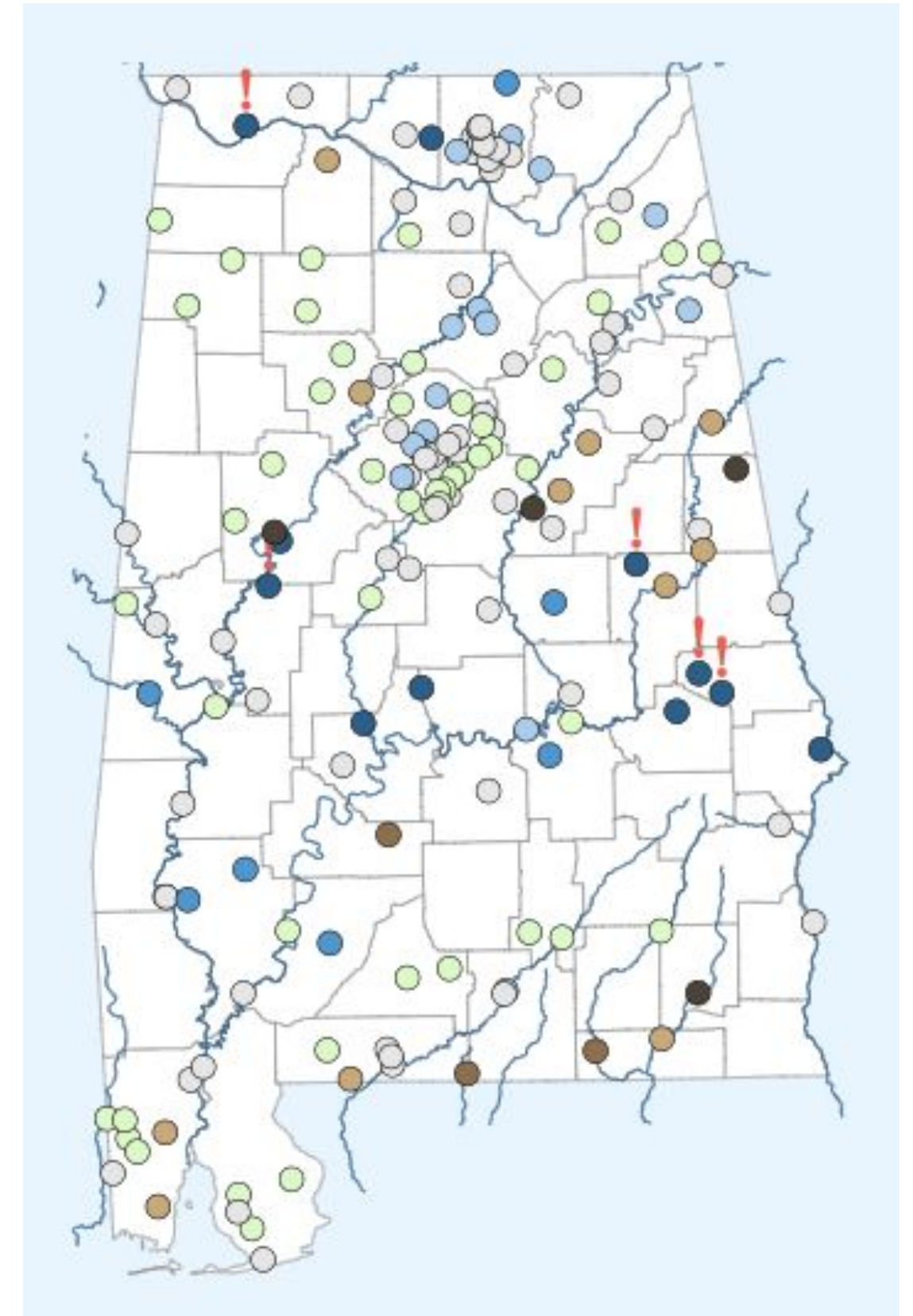




# Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

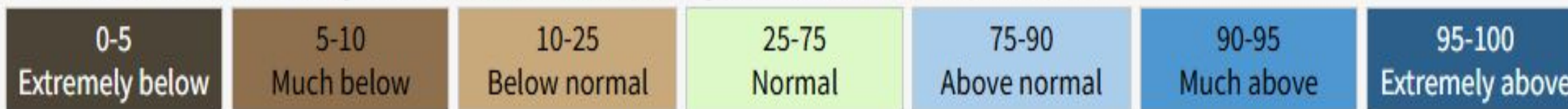
May 7, 2026  
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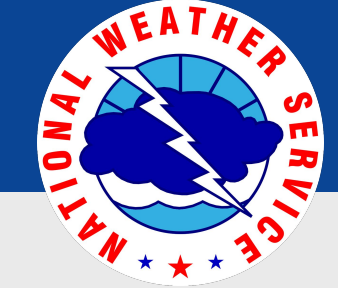
- Previous days rain has left many streamflows running above normal. Below normal streamflows continue in the southeast.
- Some navigation issues are expected for barge traffic on the lower Alabama River.
- Additional information can be found here:
  - <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/state/Alabama/>



## Current condition estimate

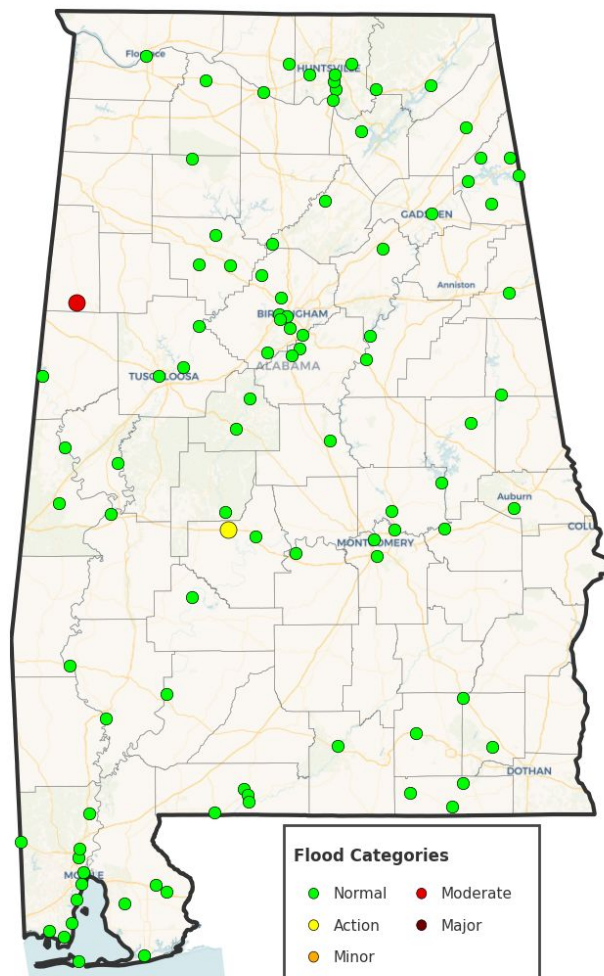
The condition estimate is based on the latest continuous data value recorded in relation to historic daily averages expressed as percentiles. The percentiles show how a value relates to all the other values for a given day of the year and indicate what percentage of days have an average (mean) value less than the latest recorded value. Extreme conditions are indicated when the latest continuous data value is outside of the percentile range of historic daily averages, meaning current conditions are above the highest or below the lowest daily average ever recorded for this day of the year.





# Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

May 7, 2026  
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**Statewide Summary**

**Observed Stages**

Total Gauges: 95  
 Major Flooding: 0  
 Moderate Flooding: 1  
 Minor Flooding: 0  
 Action Stage: 1

**Rivers In Flood:**  
 Cahaba River, Luxapallila Creek

**Gauges In Flood**

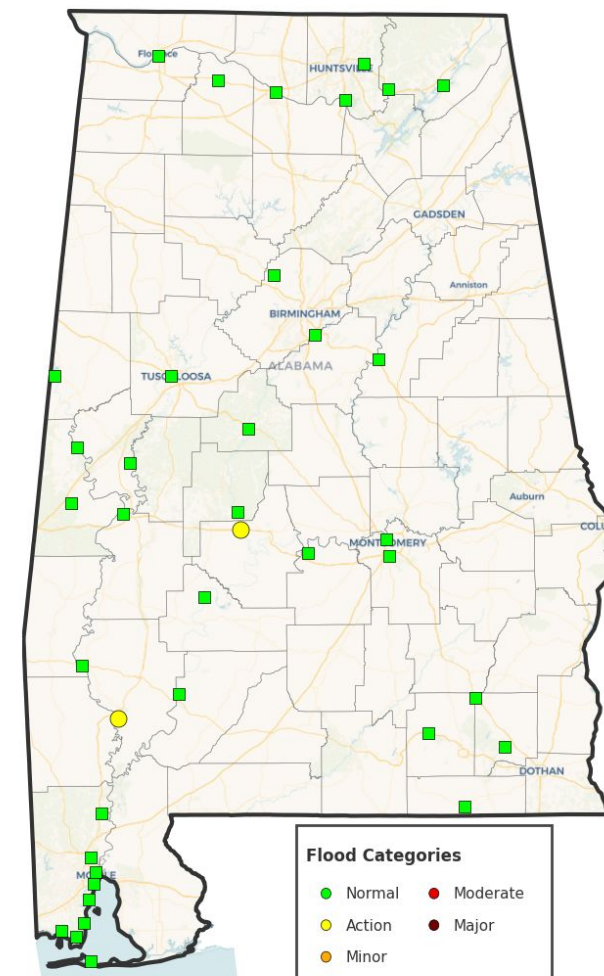
MLLA1 Luxapallila Creek At Millport  
 MNJA1 Cahaba River At Marion Junction

**Flood Categories**

● Normal    ● Moderate  
 ● Action    ● Major  
 ● Minor

Data Updated: 05/07/2026 13:15 Z

Latest observed river conditions



**Statewide Summary**

**Forecast Crests**

Total Gauges: 39  
 Major Flooding: 0  
 Moderate Flooding: 0  
 Minor Flooding: 0  
 Action Stage: 2

**Rivers In Flood:**  
 Cahaba River, Tombigbee River

**Gauges In Flood**

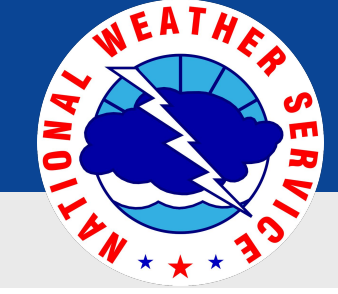
LRYA1 Tombigbee River Near Leroy  
 MNJA1 Cahaba River At Marion Junction

**Flood Categories**

● Normal    ● Moderate  
 ● Action    ● Major  
 ● Minor

Data Updated: 05/07/2026 13:15 Z

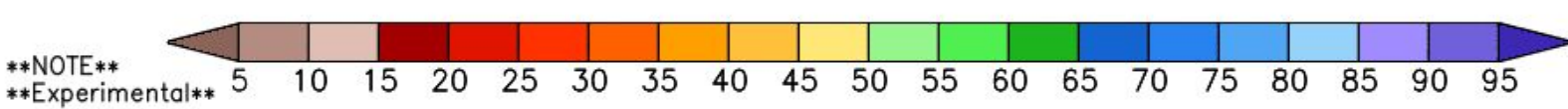
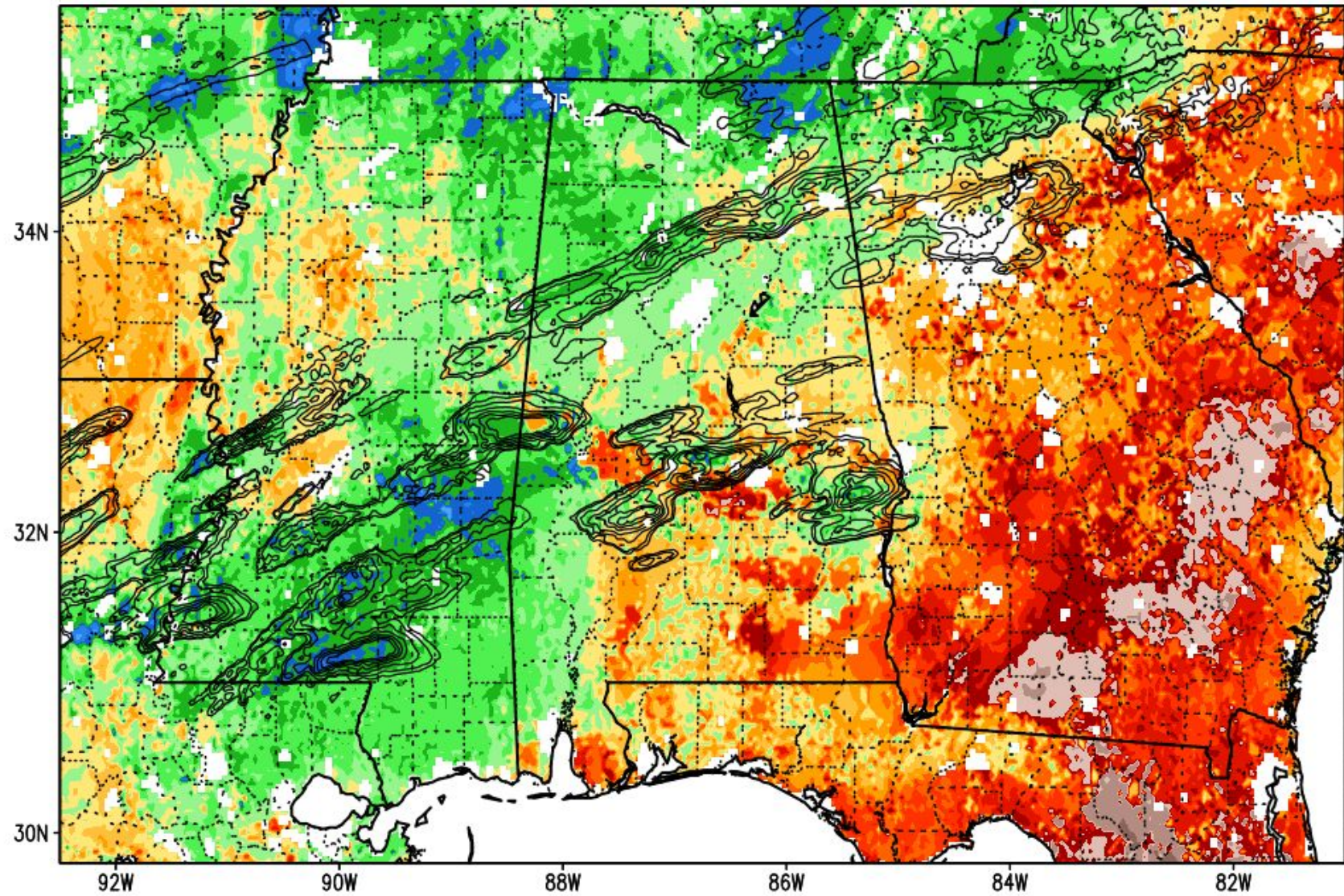
Latest river forecasts



# Agricultural Impacts

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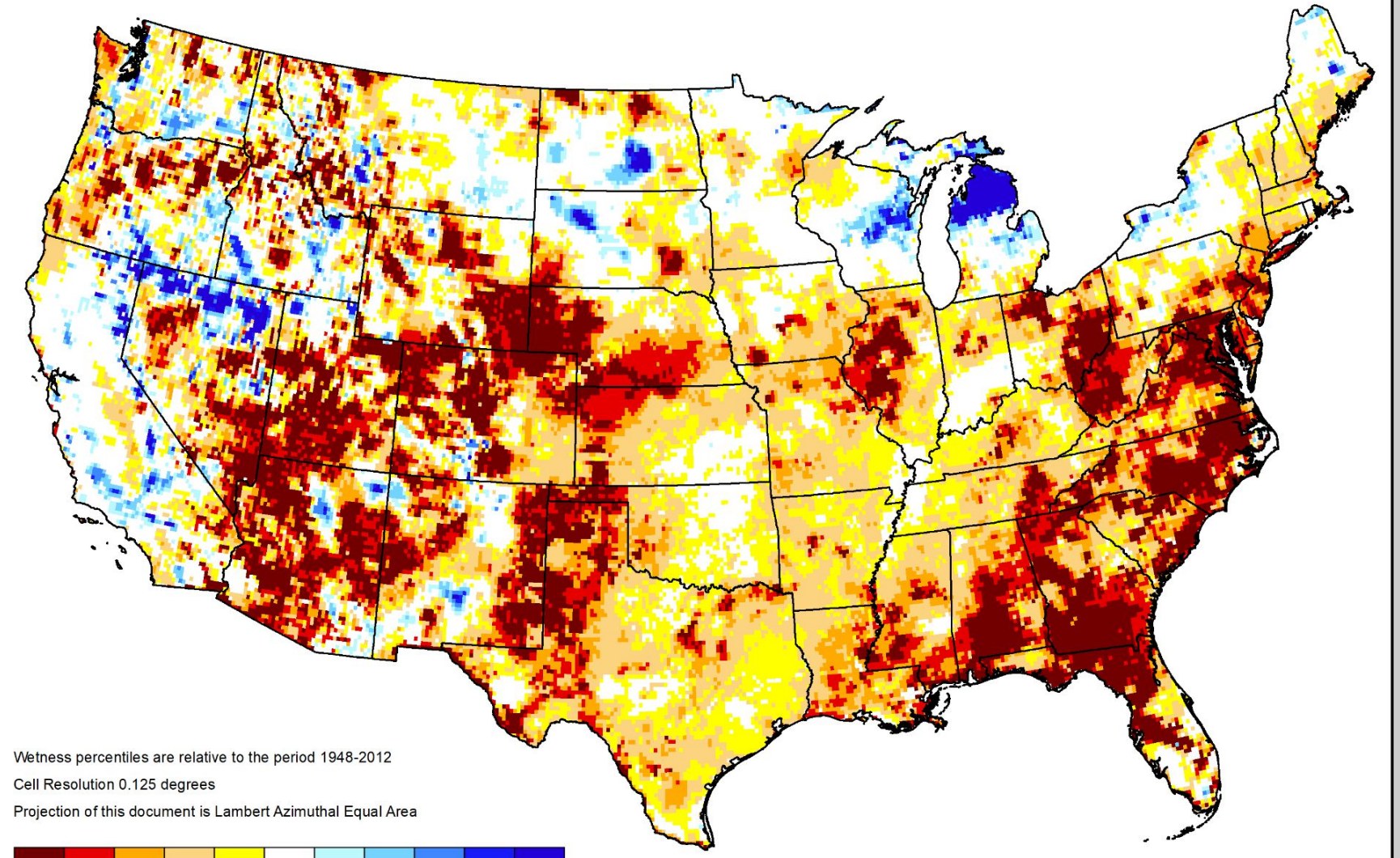
0-100 cm Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 00z 07 May 2026  
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



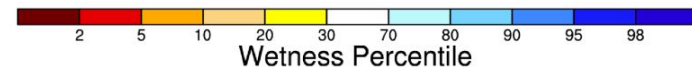
\*\*NOTE\*\*  
\*\*Experimental\*\*



GRACE-Based Shallow Groundwater Drought Indicator  
May 04, 2026



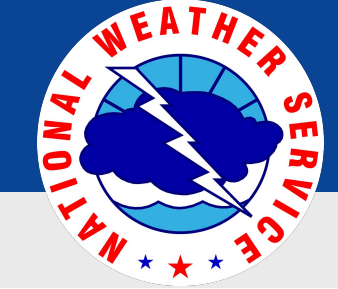
Wetness percentiles are relative to the period 1948-2012  
Cell Resolution 0.125 degrees  
Projection of this document is Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area



<https://nasagrace.unl.edu>

- Recent heavy rainfall has resulted in soil moisture improvements across most of the area except for portions of the south.



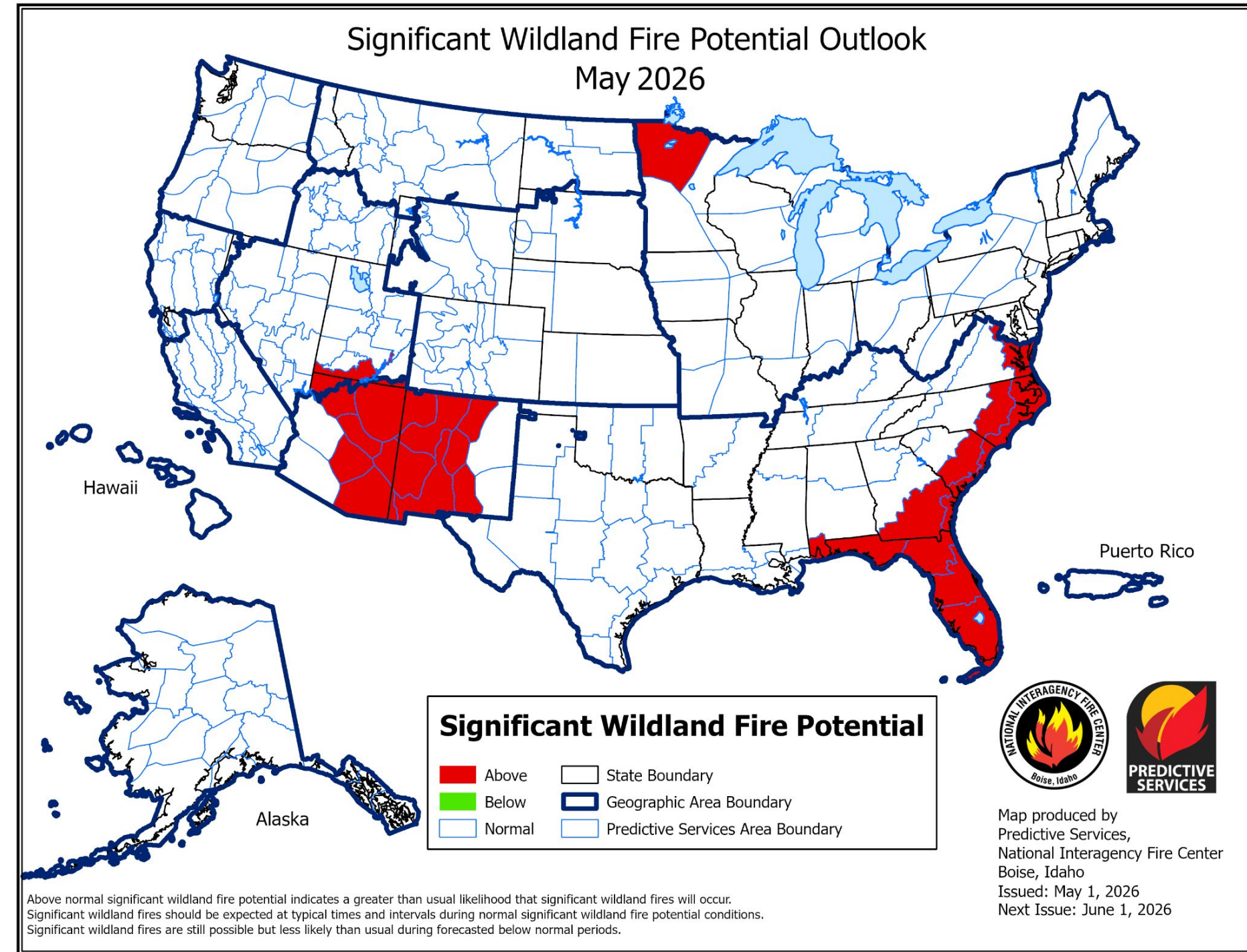


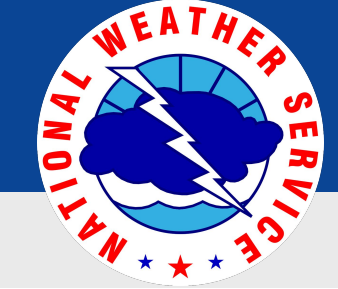
# Fire Hazard Impacts

May 7, 2026  
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Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- There have been an increase of wildfires across central Alabama over the past month due to the drought conditions.
- The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) has issued a statewide Fire Alert.
  - [Fire Alert](#)
- Several local municipalities have issued their own “no burn” notices.
- May features an above average potential for fires for coastal Alabama.



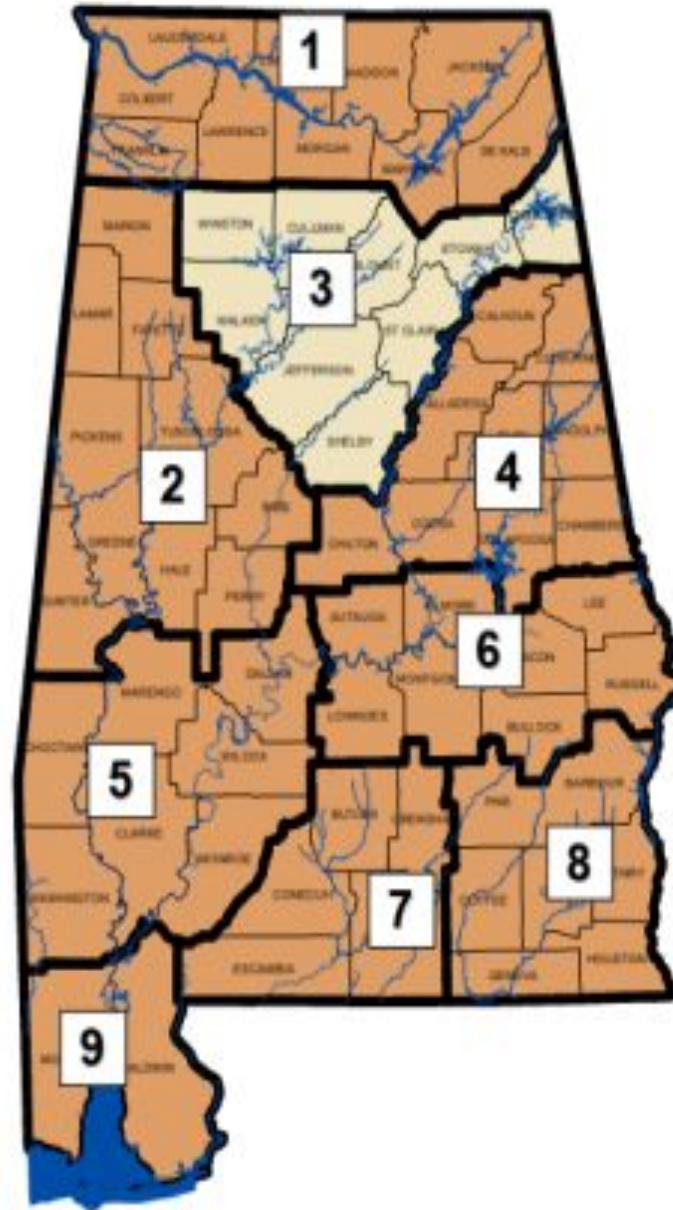


# State Alerts

May 7, 2026  
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Link to [Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

- The latest Alabama drought declaration map has all of Alabama in either an watch or warning status.
- Click the link at the bottom of the page for more information.

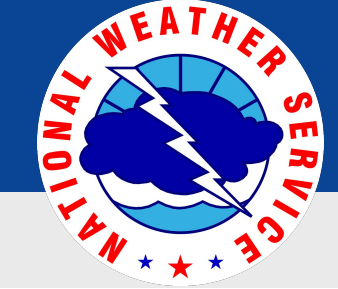


Legend
No Drought Declaration
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

Prolonged precipitation deficits along with extremely low streamflows and groundwater conditions have led to rapidly deteriorating drought conditions across the state. OWR will continue monitoring our water resources and update this Declaration as needed.

Water managers and public water system customers are encouraged to follow their local water system's recommendations regarding water use. All water users should make prudent decisions on their water use to protect available resources.

Image caption: [Alabama drought declaration map image](#)

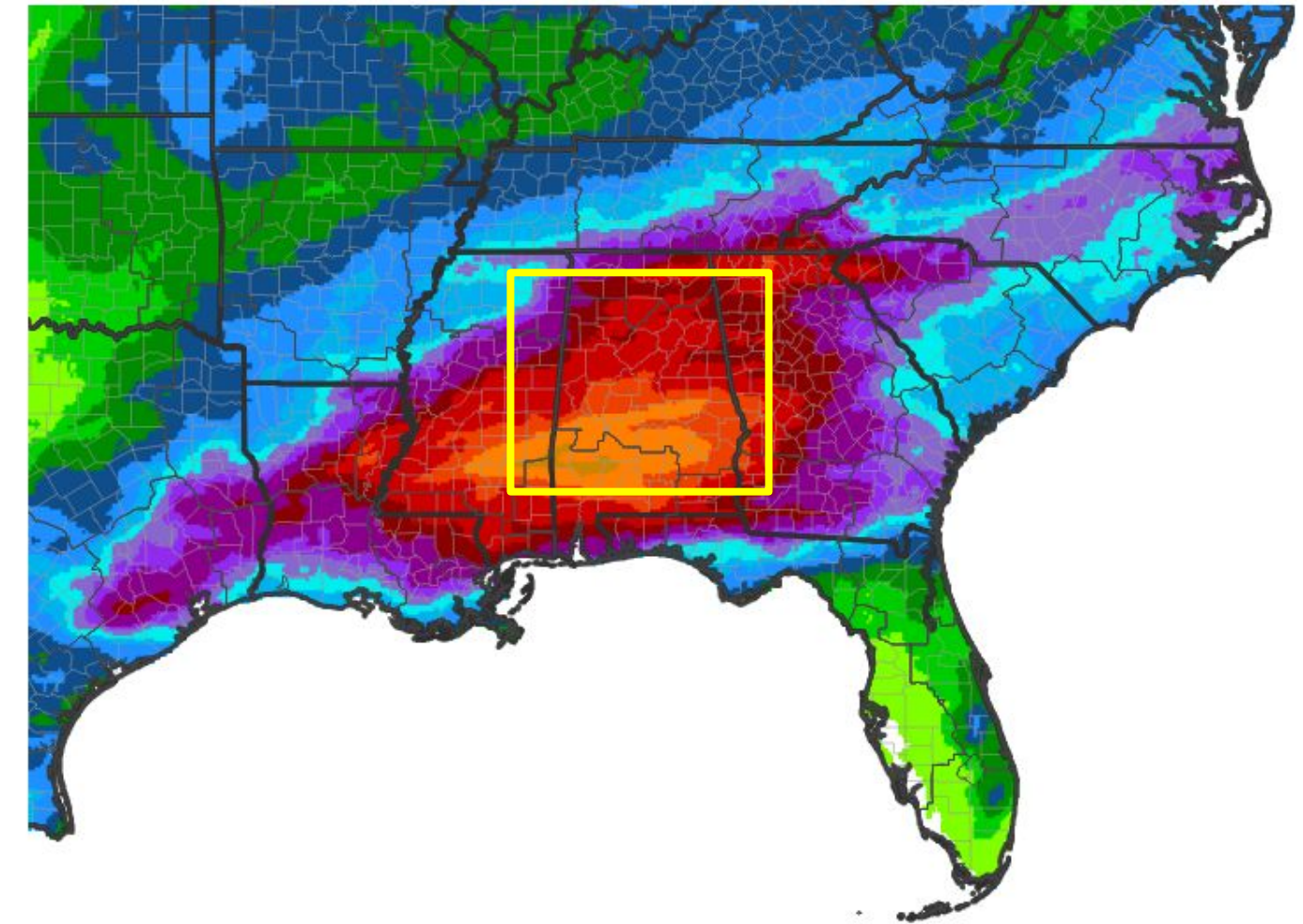


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

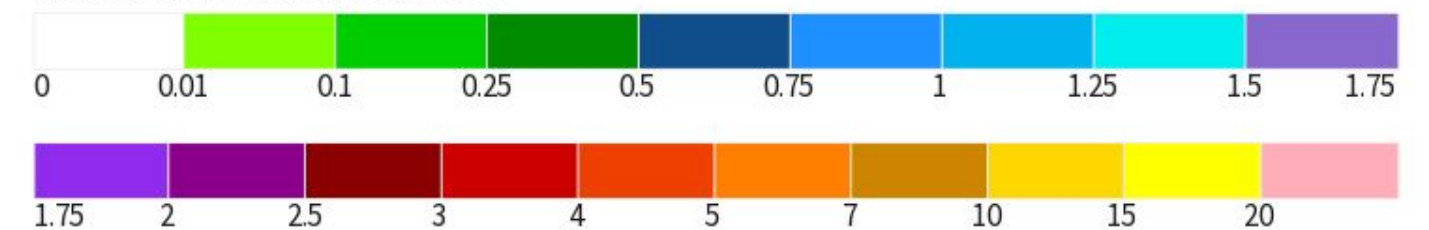
May 7, 2026  
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- The next 7 days will feature multiple rounds of additional rainfall across Central Alabama. Most of this will come over the weekend and into early next week.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 6, 2026–May 13, 2026



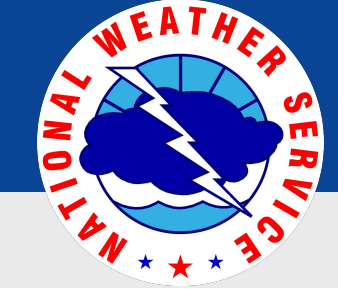
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/06/26





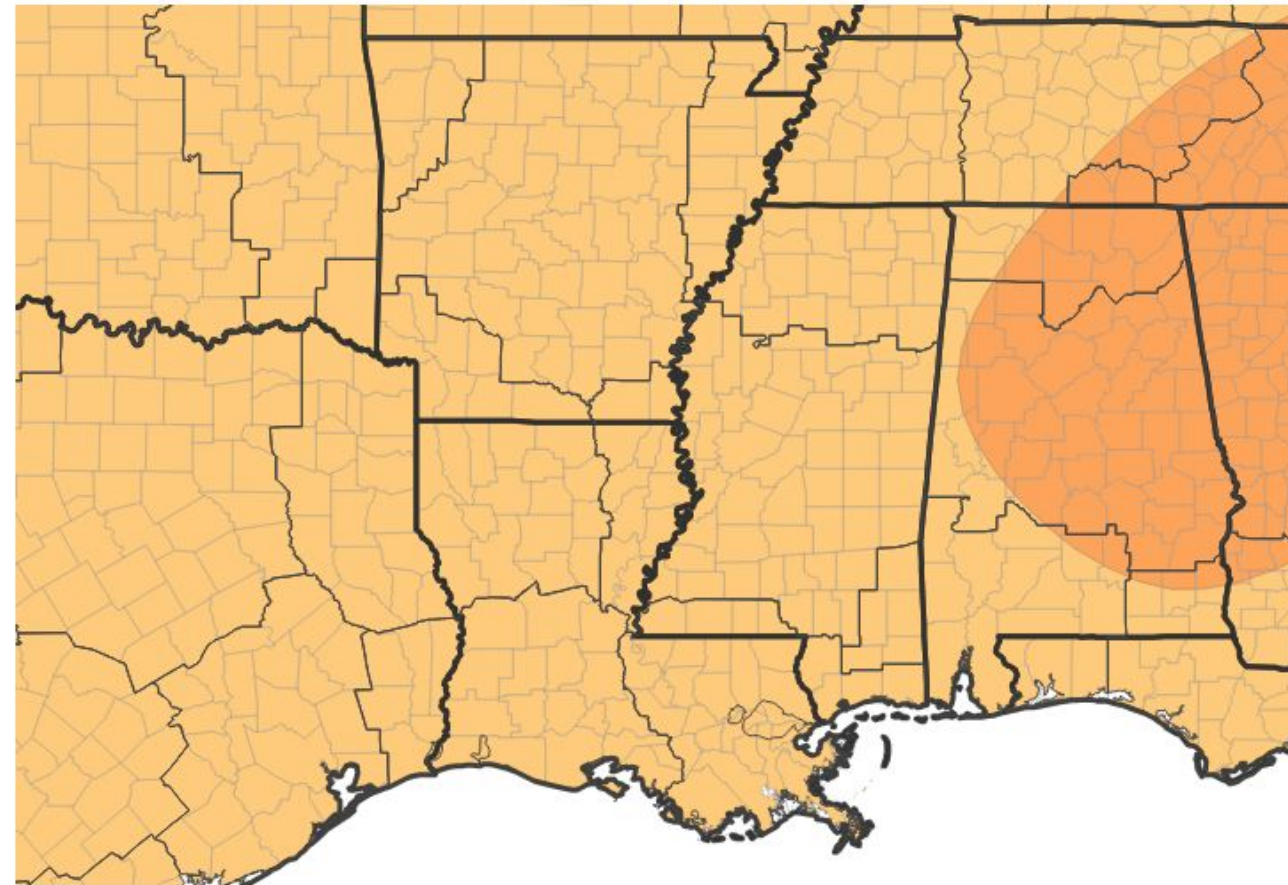
# Medium Range Outlook

May 7, 2026  
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The seasonal outlook for the next 3 month period is calling for medium chances of above average temperatures.
- Rainfall probabilities during this same time-frame are calling for near normal chances across the north with slightly higher than average chances in the south.

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



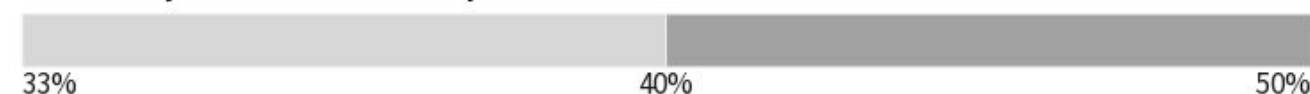
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

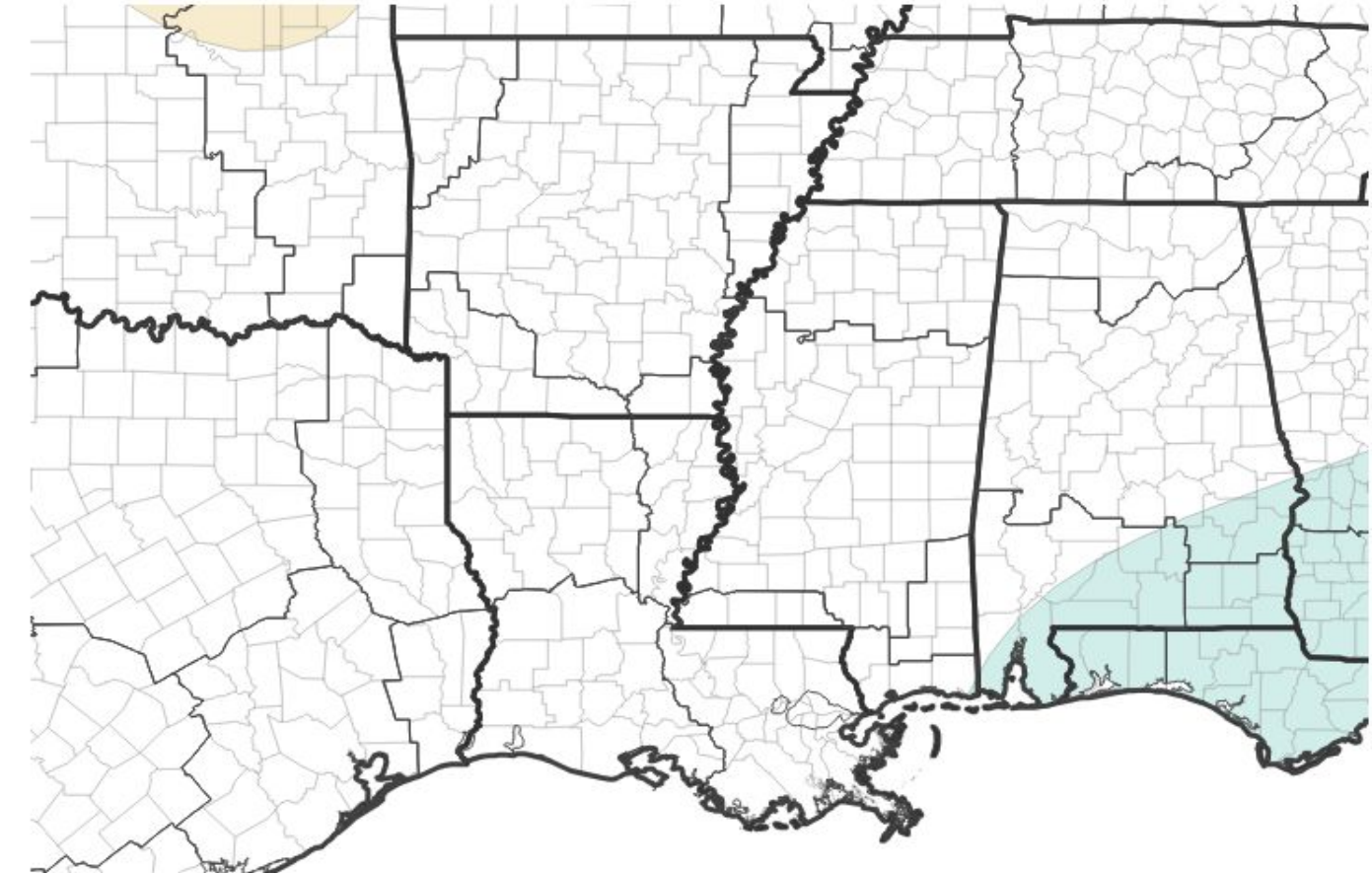


Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/16/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



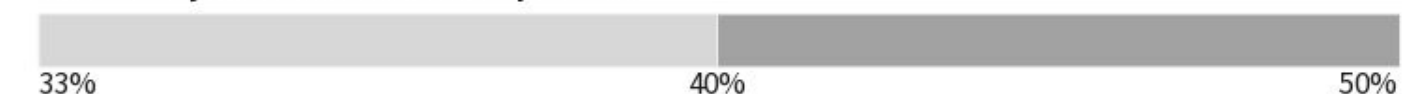
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

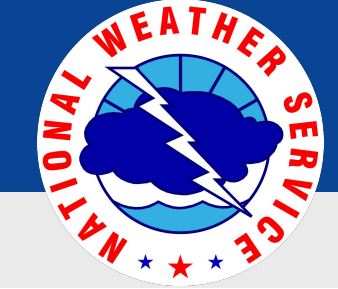


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/16/26





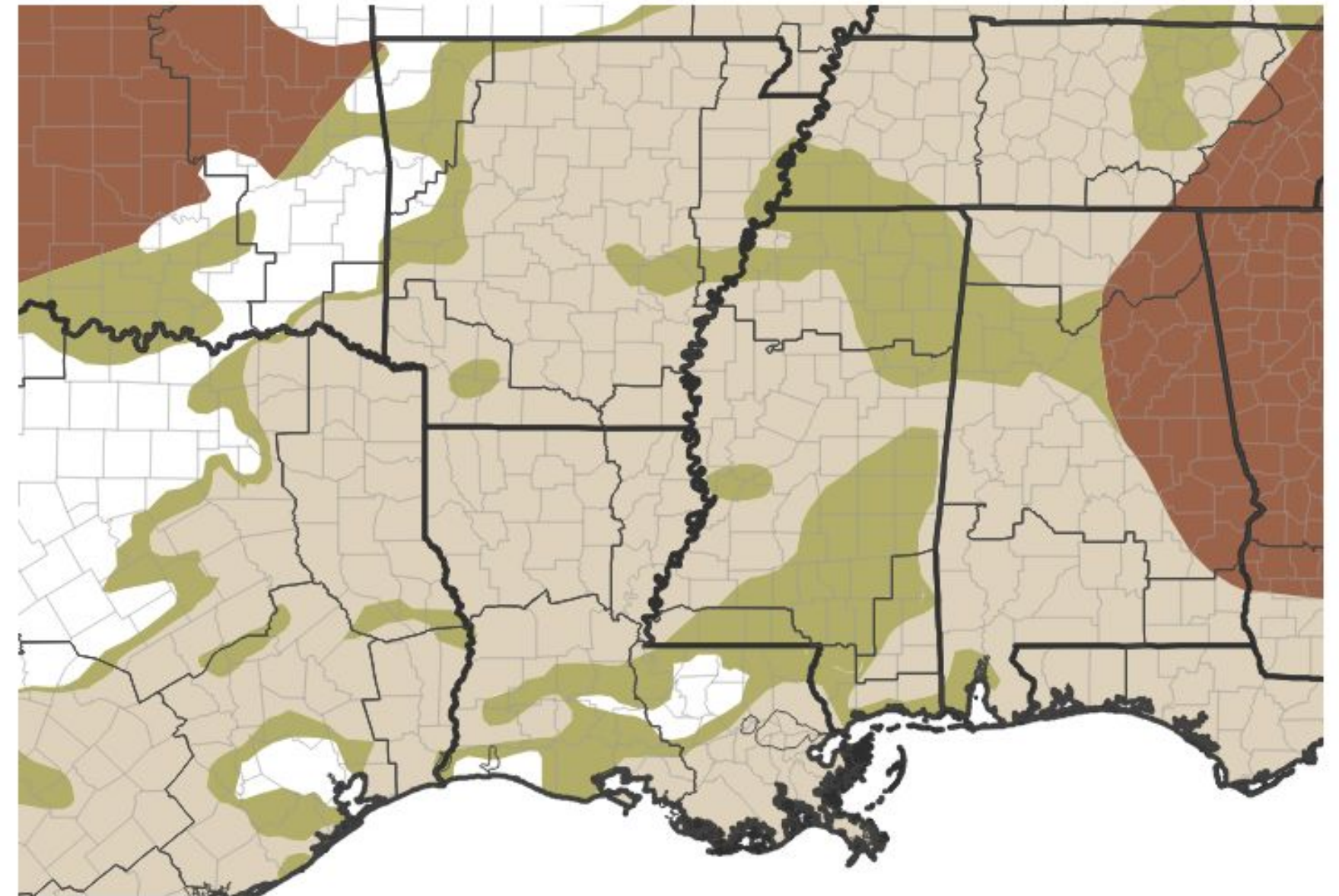
# Drought Outlook

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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The latest seasonal outlook released by the CPC on April 30th and valid through July, shows a mix of improvement and persistence across the area.

**Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 30, 2026–July 31, 2026**



**Drought Is Predicted To...**



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/30/26

