



# Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid May 21, 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 REMAIN STEADY ACROSS CENTRAL ALABAMA.





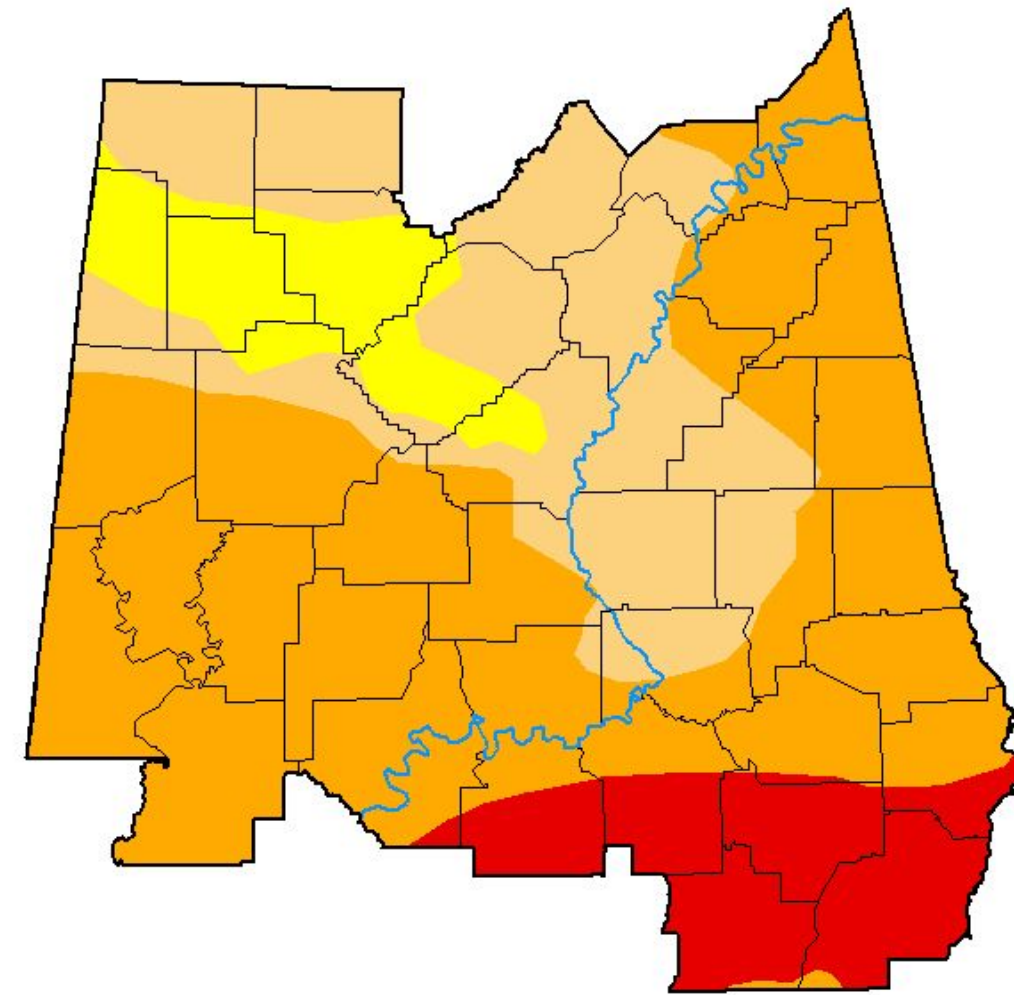
# U.S. Drought Monitor

May 21, 2026  
9:36 AM CDT

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
  - D3 Extreme Drought: A few counties in the southeast continue to have extreme drought conditions.
  - D2 and D1 Severe/Moderate Drought: Most of the remaining area is experiencing either severe or moderate drought.
  - D0 Abnormally Dry: A few counties in the northwest are now showing abnormally dry conditions.

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



May 19, 2026

(Released Thursday, May. 21, 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 | 64.60 | 11.96 | 0.00 |
| <b>Last Week</b><br>05-12-2026              | 0.00   | 100.00 | 91.42 | 64.60 | 12.29 | 0.00 |
| <b>3 Months Ago</b><br>02-17-2026           | 23.92  | 76.08  | 35.50 | 20.35 | 5.94  | 0.00 |
| <b>Start of Calendar Year</b><br>01-06-2026 | 0.00   | 100.00 | 97.13 | 35.80 | 3.95  | 0.00 |
| <b>Start of Water Year</b><br>09-30-2025    | 0.24   | 99.76  | 51.39 | 19.71 | 2.30  | 0.00 |
| <b>One Year Ago</b><br>05-20-2025           | 100.00 | 0.00   | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |

### Intensity:

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| None                | D2 Severe Drought      |
| D0 Abnormally Dry   | D3 Extreme Drought     |
| D1 Moderate 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>

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



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

National Weather Service  
Birmingham, AL

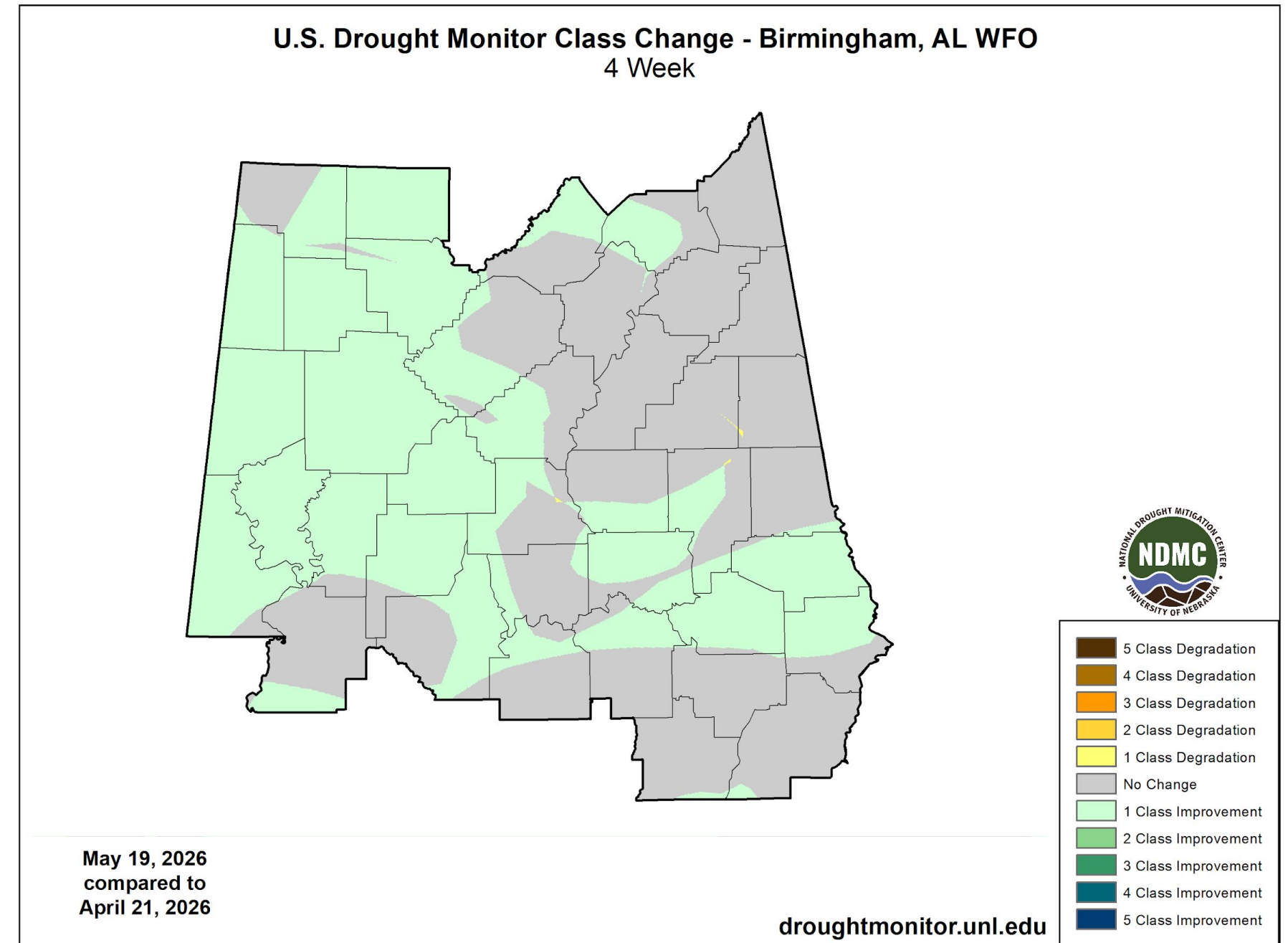


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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9:36 AM CDT

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Over the past 4 weeks, the worst of the drought locations have seen no change in status.
  - No Change and Drought Improvement: Most of the area had some minor improvement or no change within the past 4 weeks.





# Summary of Impacts

May 21, 2026  
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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Following a week of dry and hot conditions, streamflows returned to below normal levels at most locations. Ongoing rainfall is started to bump some of those values up in the northwest.

## 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 the spring in some areas was 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 two months 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.

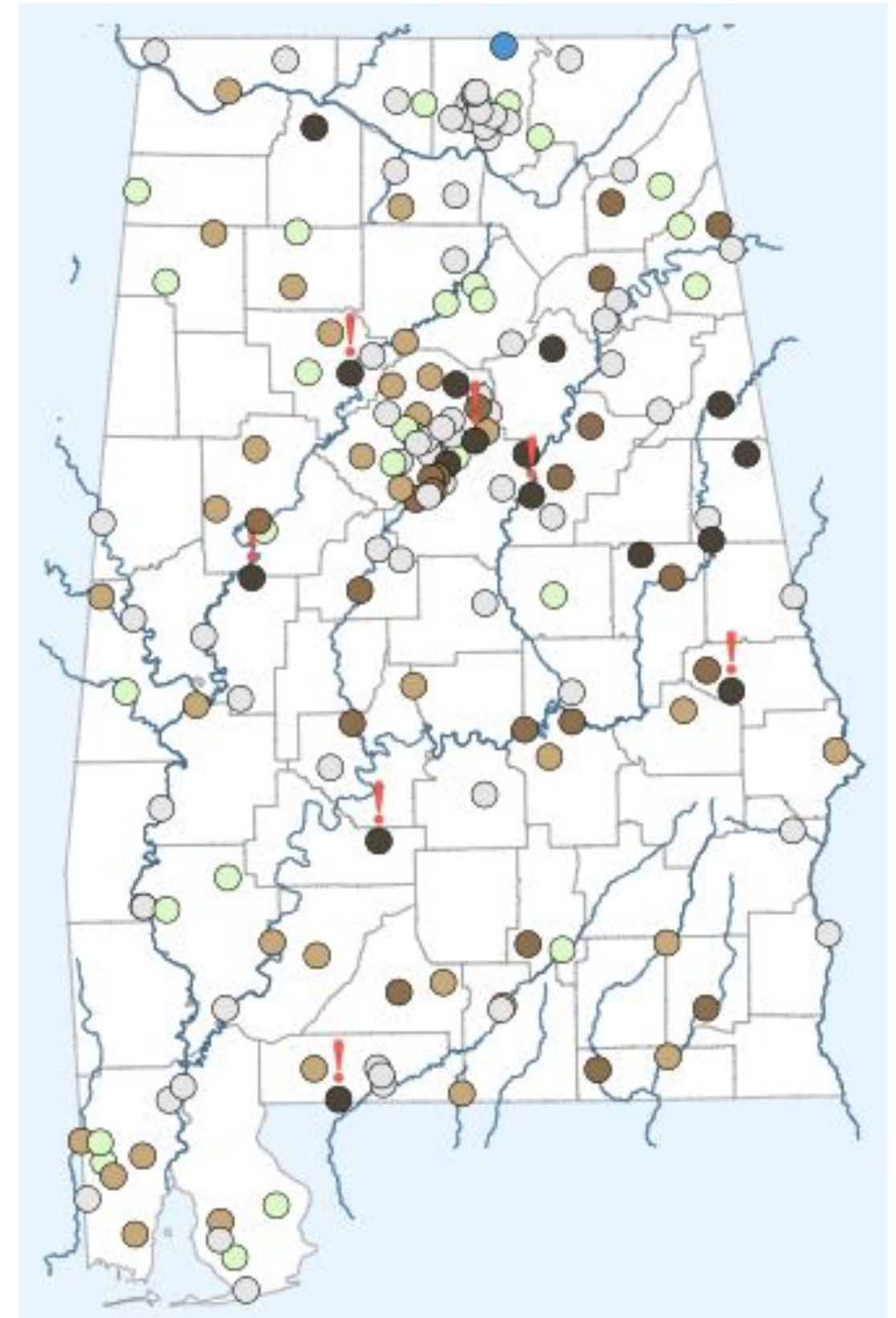




# Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

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- With most of the last week being dry, below normal streamflows have returned as temperatures rose and dry weather continued.
- Some navigation issues may be possible 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.

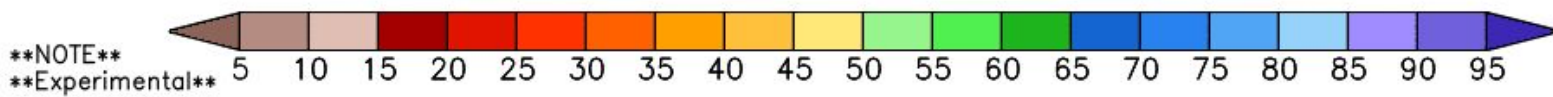
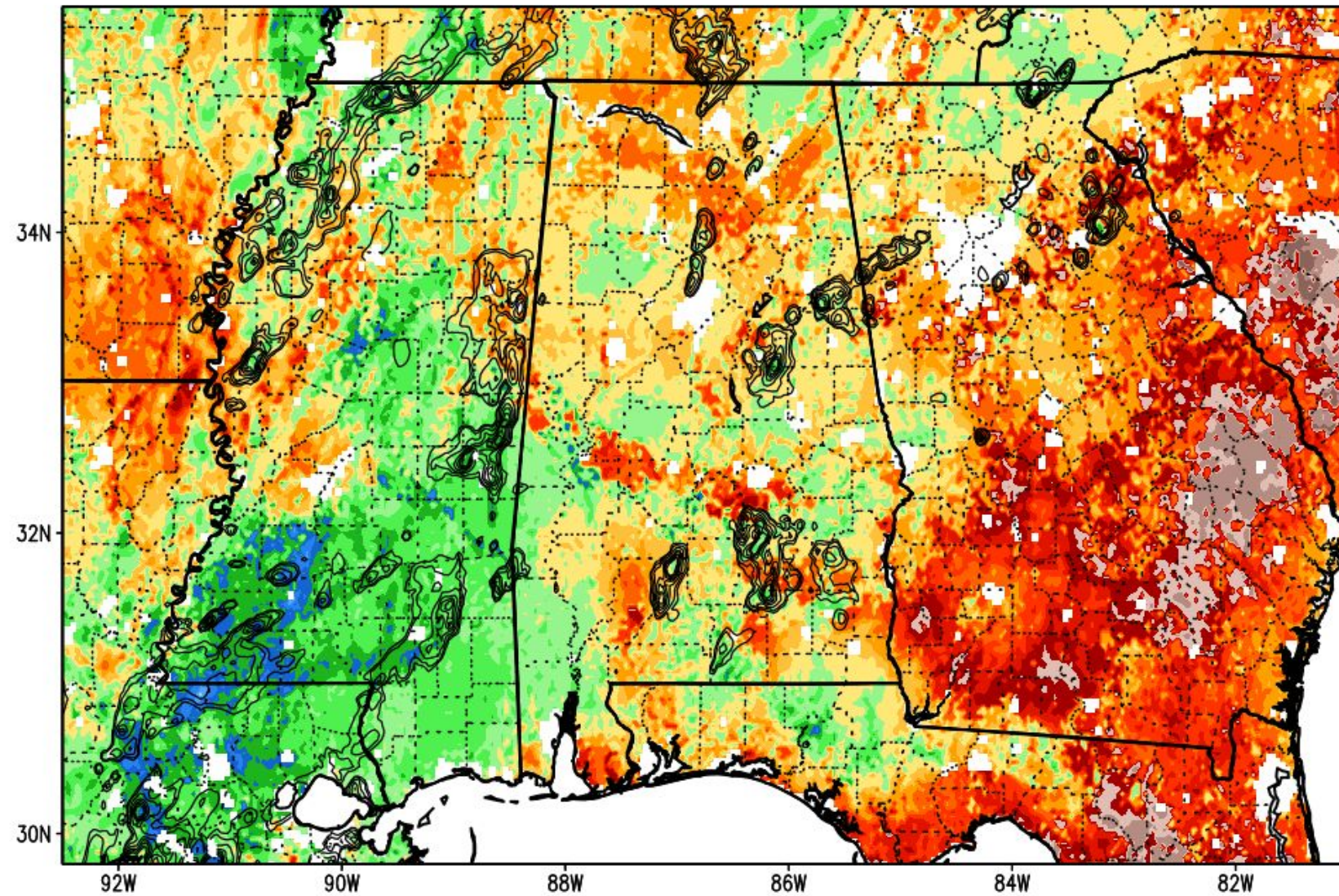
|                        |                    |                       |                 |                       |                     |                           |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 0-5<br>Extremely below | 5-10<br>Much below | 10-25<br>Below normal | 25-75<br>Normal | 75-90<br>Above normal | 90-95<br>Much above | 95-100<br>Extremely above |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|



# Agricultural Impacts

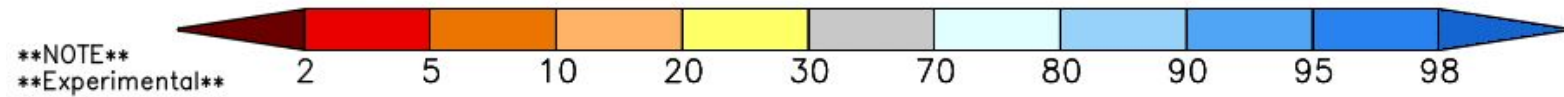
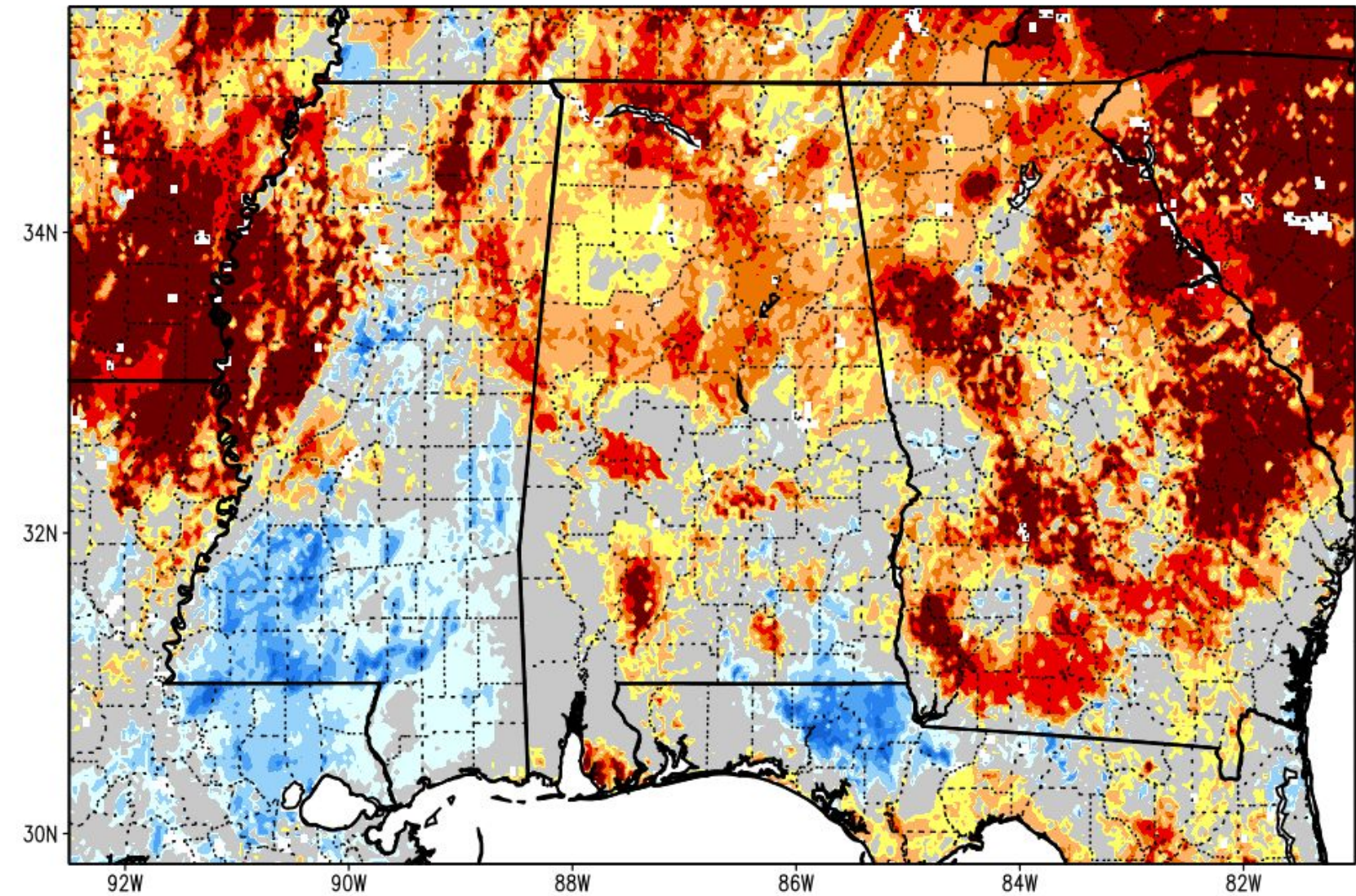
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0-100 cm Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 00z 21 May 2026  
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



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

SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 21 May 2026



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

- Very dry top soils continue over most of the area. These particular maps can change dramatically in a short amount of time during periods of peak dryness or heavy rainfall.



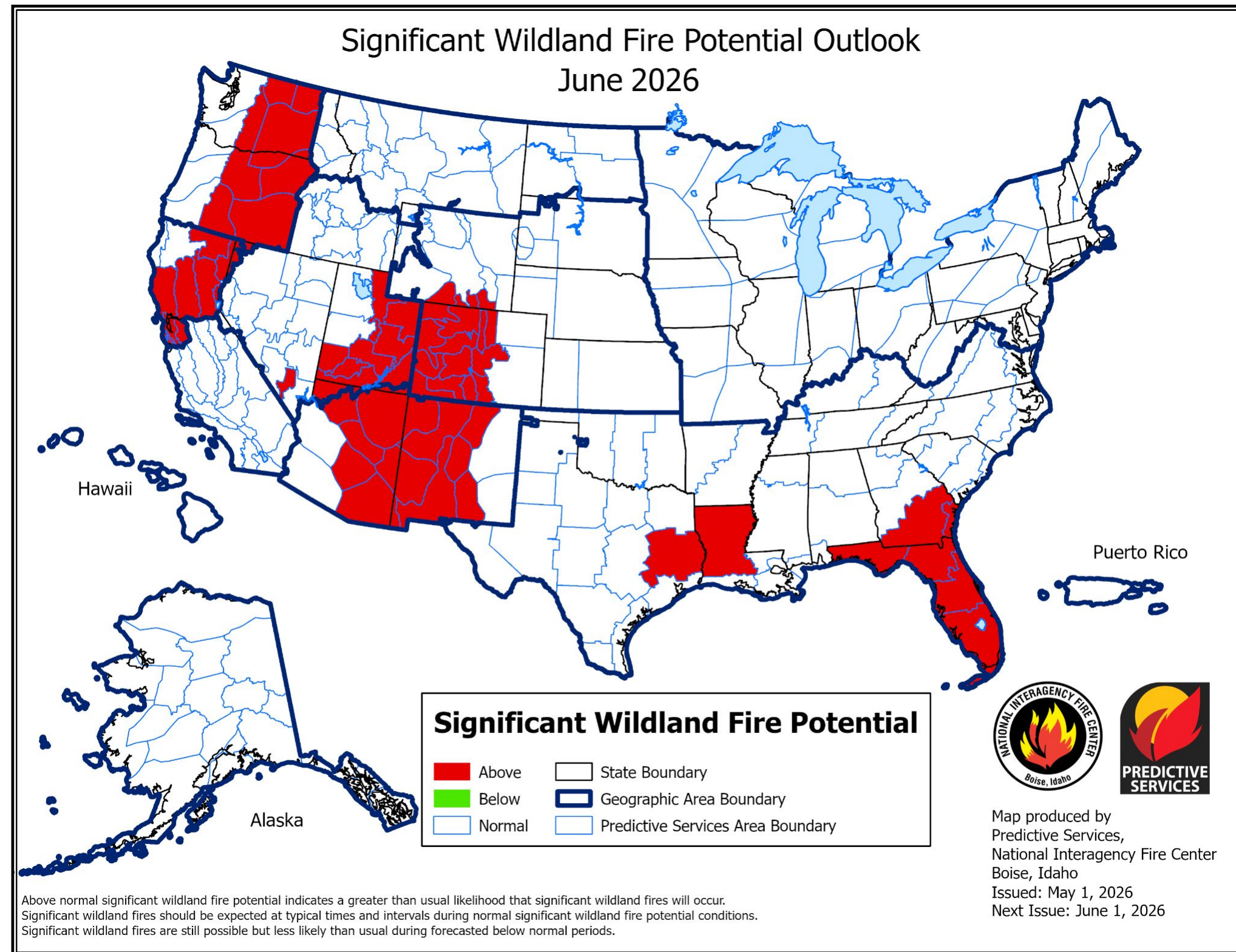


# Fire Hazard Impacts

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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 couple of months 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.
- For the upcoming month of June, the current outlook calls for a normal wildfire potential. This is a slight improvement of the month of May which had a heightened threat over the coastal counties. The next monthly update for these maps will be on June 1st and some change is possible.





# State Alerts

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- 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 and any new updates.



While the state has experienced some modest short-term improvements following early May precipitation events, severe long-term hydrologic deficits persist. The state needs sustained beneficial rainfall before meaningful recovery can take place.

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.

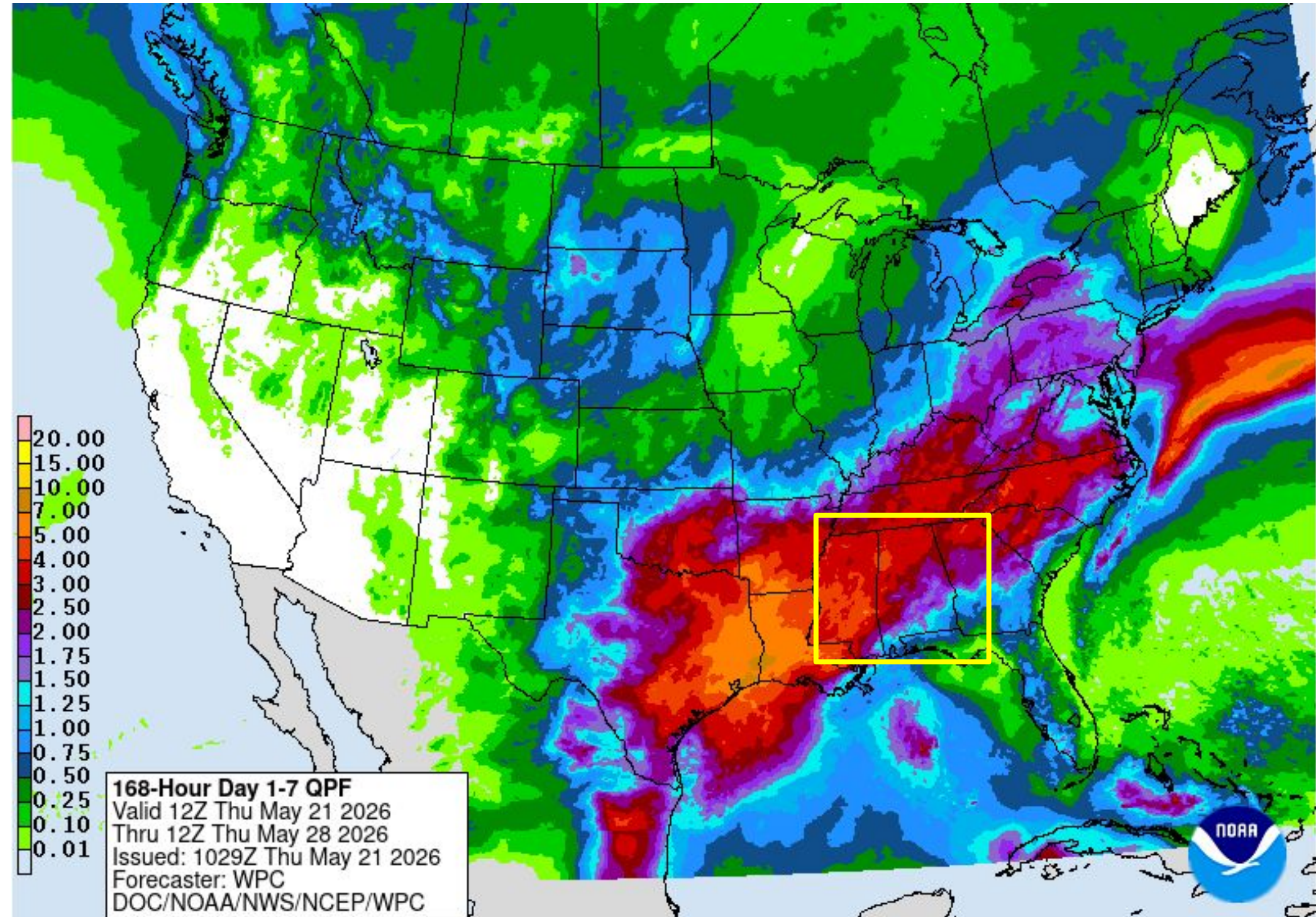
Image caption: [Alabama drought declaration map image](#)



# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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- The next 7 days will feature a wetter period for not only Central Alabama, but for most of the deep south. This will allow for some temporary improvements at a minimum, and could hopefully see a reset to the overall pattern to include daily scattered thunderstorm chances.
- Typically, Central Alabama should average around 1.00 to 1.5 inches of rainfall each week for May.





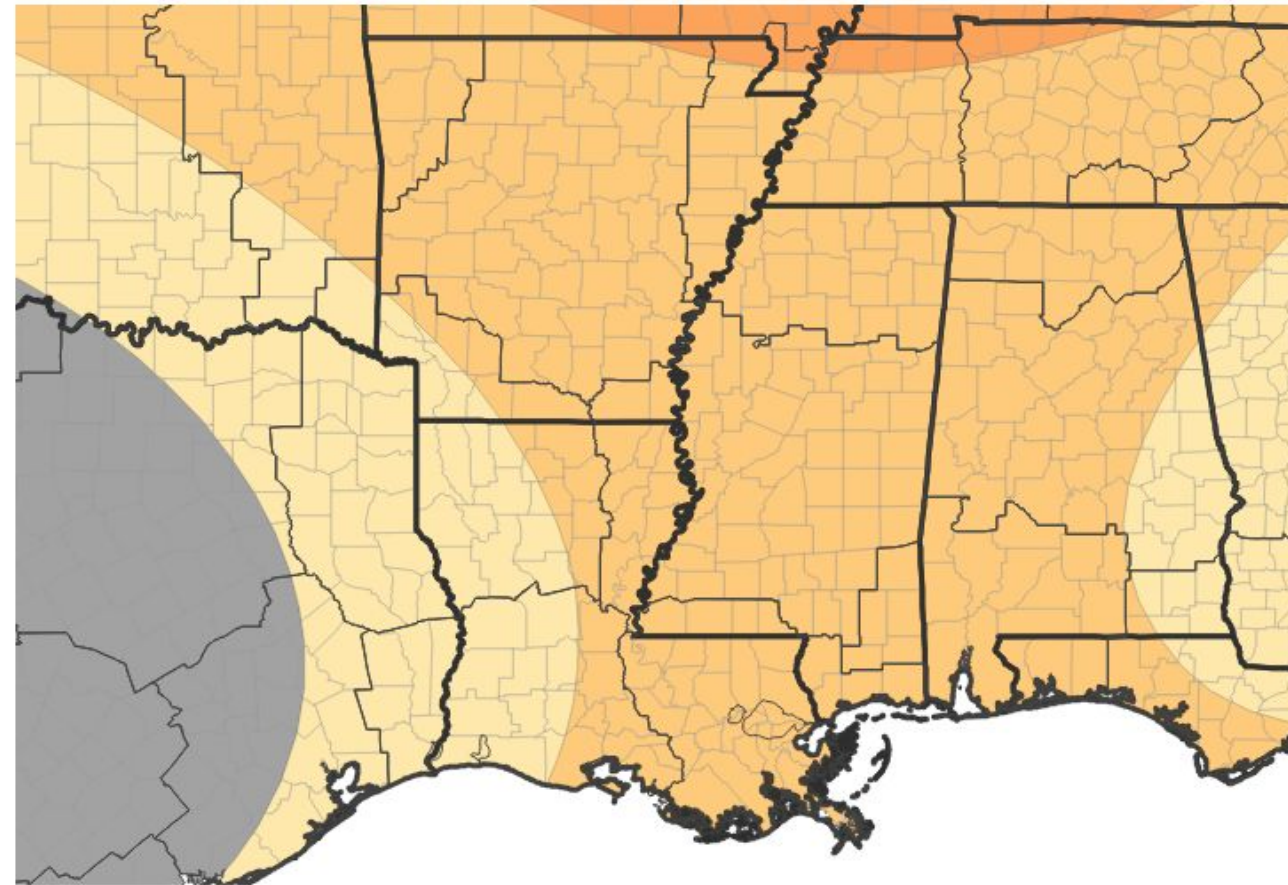
# Two Week Outlook

May 21, 2026  
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The two week outlook, beginning on May 27th and is valid through June 2nd, shows a decent chance of above average temperatures.
- Rainfall probabilities during this same time-frame are calling for a slight chance of above normal rainfall.
- Both of these patterns can be very typical for this time of year.

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for May 27, 2026–June 2, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

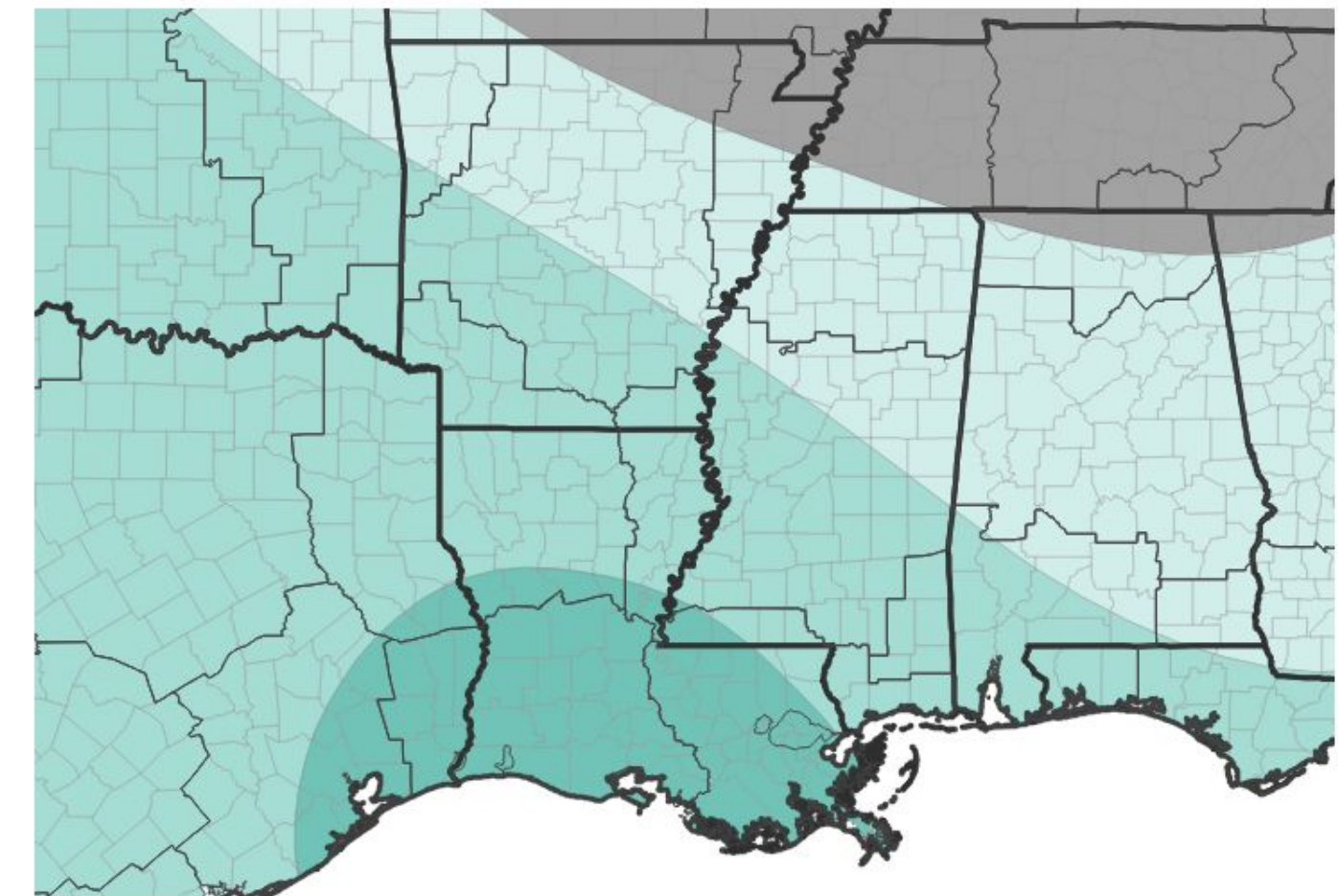


■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 05/19/26

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for May 27, 2026–June 2, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 05/19/26





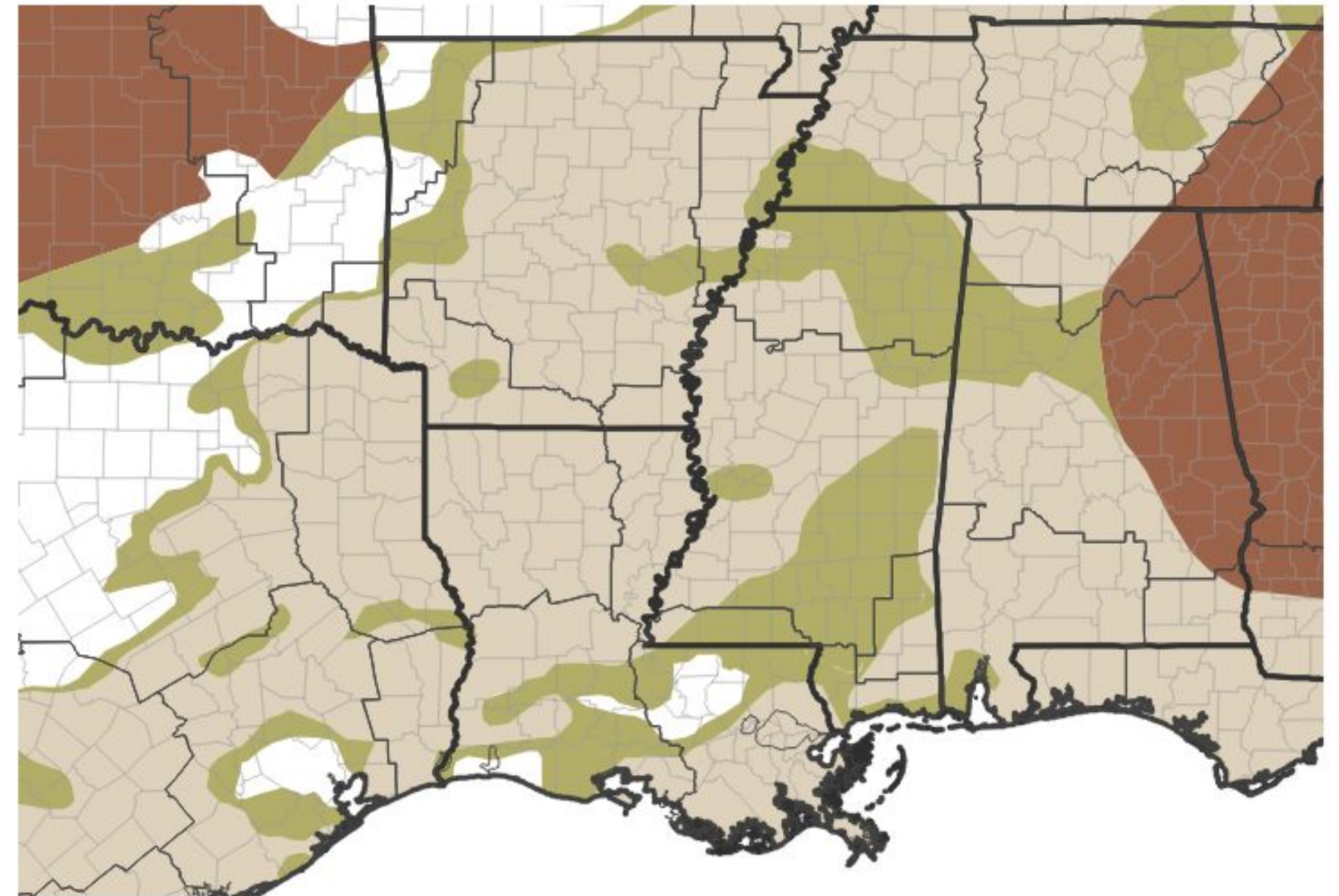
# Drought Outlook

May 21, 2026  
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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.
- This map should be updated at the end of May to show the summer forecast.

**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

