

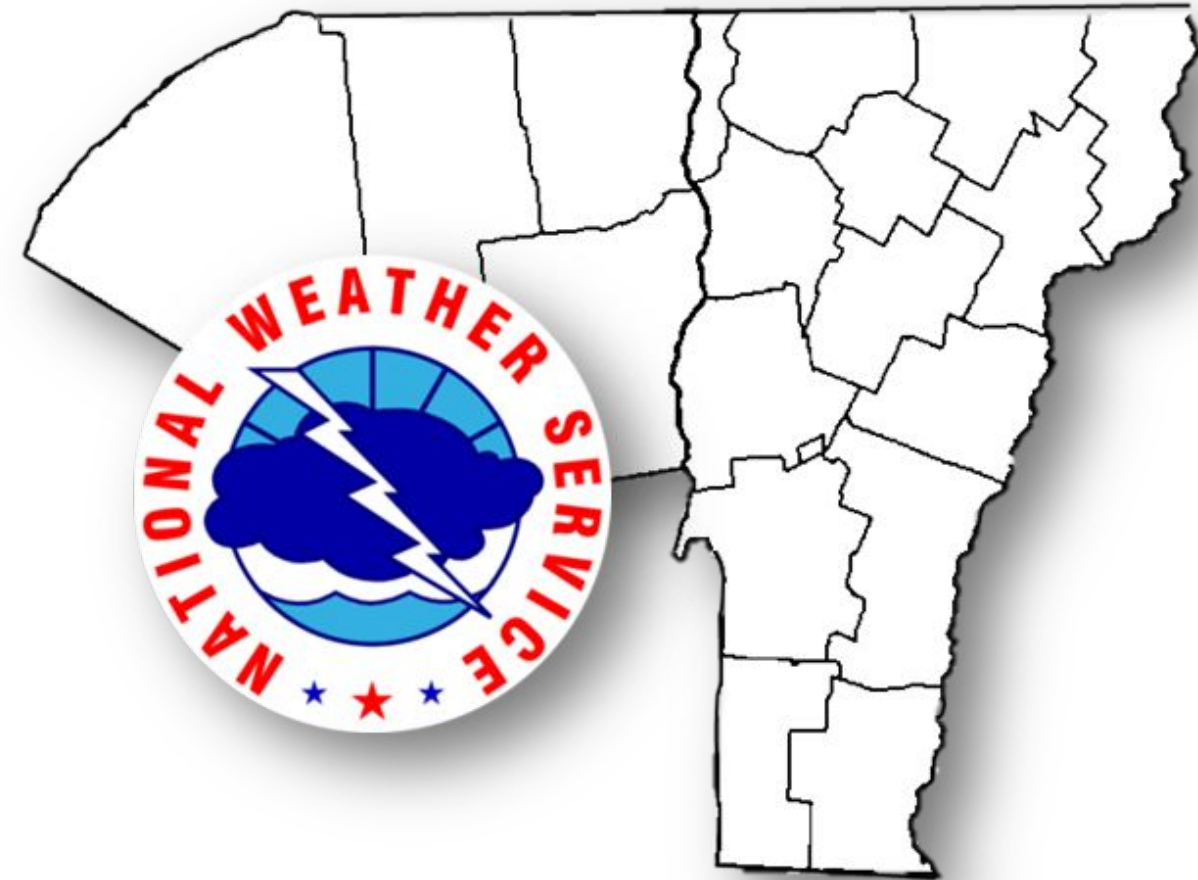


# NWS Burlington: Spring Flood Outlook

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

For northern New York and all of Vermont

**Valid: March 5 to March 19, 2026**





# Overview

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

## OVERVIEW/TAKEAWAYS:

- The open water and ice jam flood potential is **above normal** for the entire area except the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont for the next two weeks.
- Above normal seasonable temperatures and a wetter than normal mid-winter weather pattern is expected throughout the month of March, with increased chances of rainfall and thawing conditions.
- Mean snow depths and snow water equivalents are generally near to above normal across the region and are expected to show decreases across the area over the next few weeks. Excessive precipitation is not currently forecast.
- River ice coverage has remained consistent over the last few weeks with deep cold, and all rivers are partially to fully ice covered. Four ice jams are currently present and will need to be monitored due to the anticipated upcoming thaw.

## HAZARDS & IMPACTS

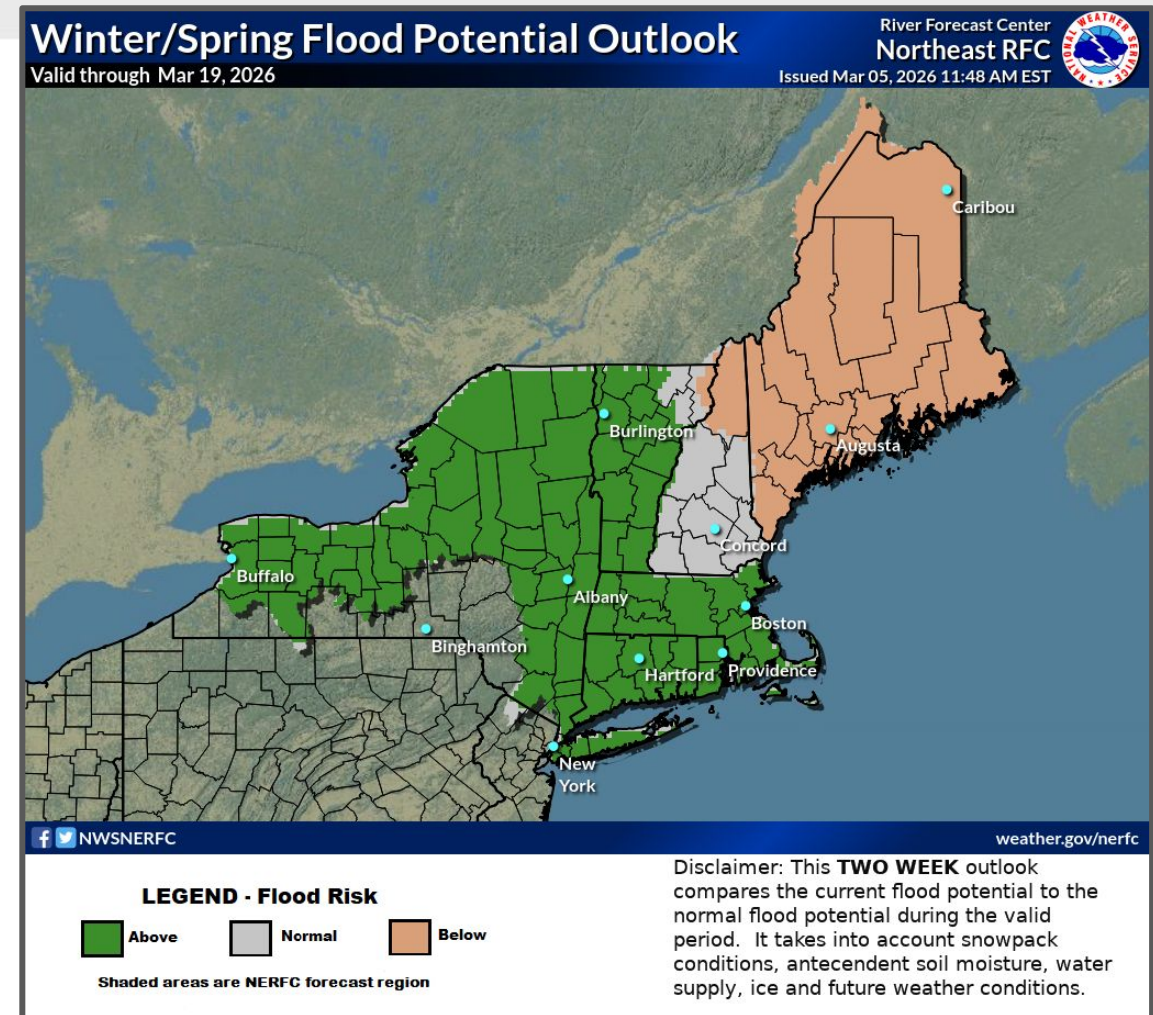
- The coverage and thickness of our river ice remains a concern as we approach possible break-ups in the coming few weeks. There are several ice jams in place that could cause issues in the near future. Longer term trends for after March show near normal temperatures and precipitation, so future conditions will be monitored as we progress forward in time.

## OUTLOOK CHALLENGES

- We expect an active weather period with above normal temperatures for most of March. Precipitation should fall mainly in the form of light to moderate rain with temperatures remaining above 32 F for multiple days and nights.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Recent precipitation:** Near normal
- **Snow cover:** Near to above normal
- **Snow water equivalent:** Near to above normal
- **River levels:** Mainly near normal
- **Soil moisture:** Near to below normal
- **Groundwater:** Generally below normal
- **Temperature outlook:** Leaning above normal for the month
- **Precipitation outlook:** Leaning near to above normal



FLOOD POTENTIAL	REGIONS
Above	Entire area except Northeast Kingdom
Normal	Most of the Northeast Kingdom
Below	Eastern Essex County, Vermont
Next Briefing	March 19, 2026



# Snowpack Data for March 4, 2026

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

Increased snowpack over the last two weeks, near to above normal across the entire region.

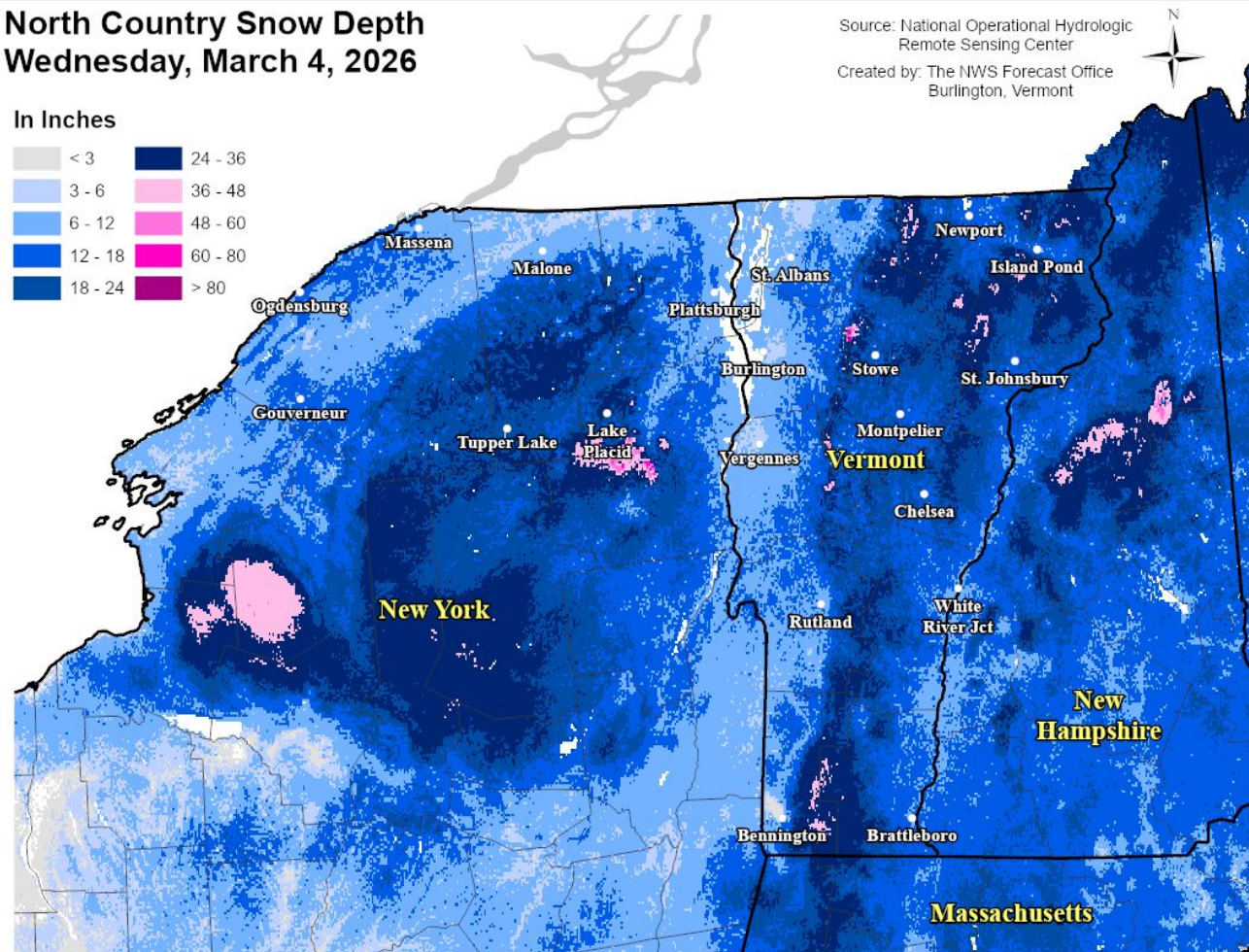
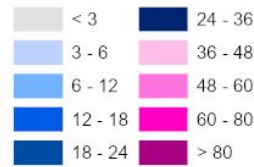
## Snow Depths

Champlain, Lower CT, and St Lawrence Valleys: ~ 6 - 16"  
Mid-terrain (1000-2500 ft): ~ 18 - 36+"  
Higher terrain and summits (>2500 ft): 3 - 6+ feet  
**Near or above normal across the entire region**

North Country Snow Depth  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Source: National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center  
Created by: The NWS Forecast Office Burlington, Vermont

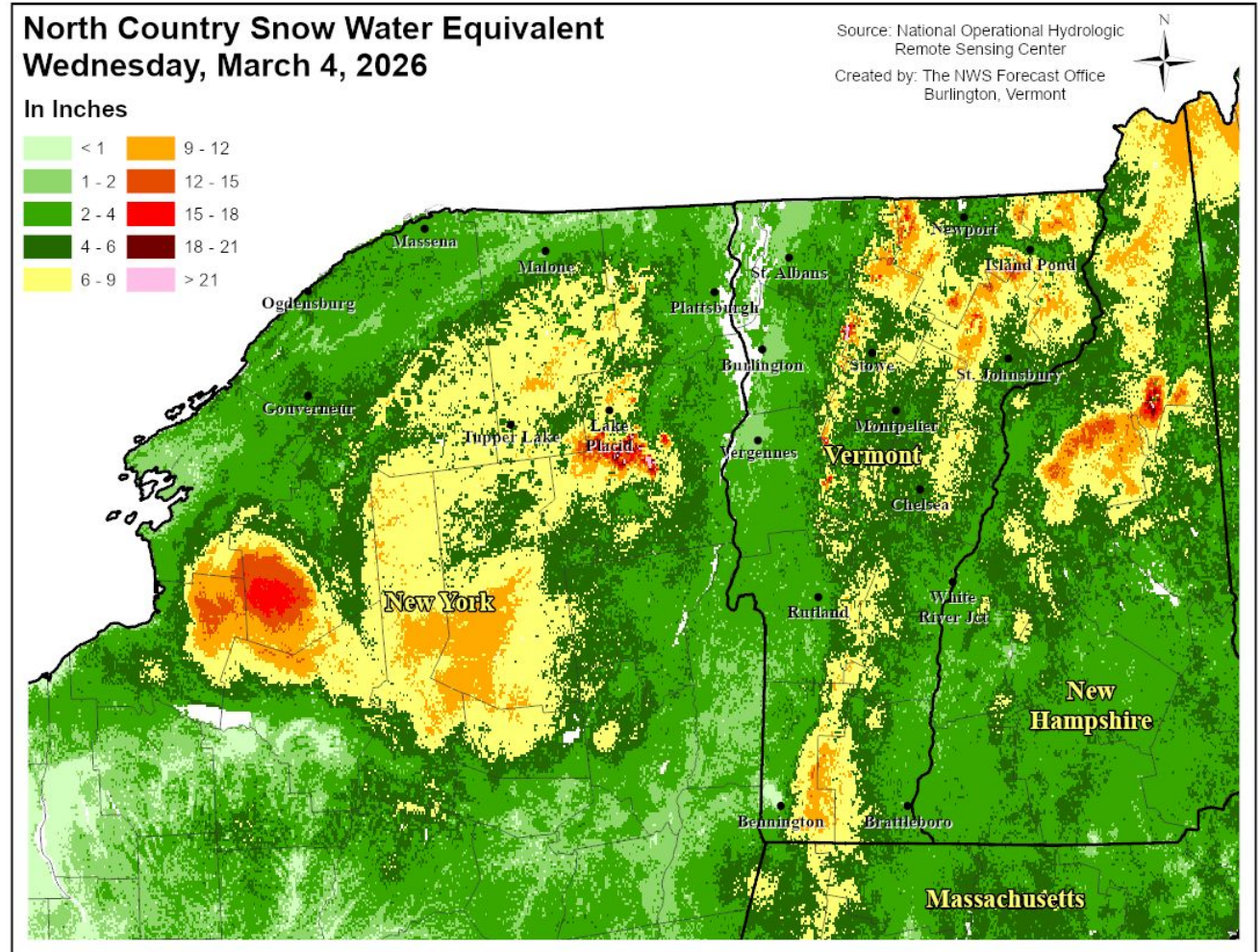
In Inches



North Country Snow Water Equivalent  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Source: National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center  
Created by: The NWS Forecast Office Burlington, Vermont

In Inches



## Water Equivalents

Champlain, Lower CT, and St Lawrence Valleys: ~1-3"  
Mid-terrain (1000-2500 ft): ~ 4 - 8"  
Higher terrain and summits (>2500 ft): ~ 10 to 16+"  
**Near to above normal across the entire region**



# River Ice Coverage

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

As of March 5, 2026

NOAA/NWS AUSABLE RIVER

03/05/2026 12:15:02 PM EST

- The potential for ice jam flooding is above normal over the next two weeks due to possible partial to full break-ups. A few ice jams are present, which will need to be monitored.
- USGS (observed) and NWS (calculated and observed) data shows all rivers are partially to fully frozen.
- Ice thickness estimated at 6-16 inches for larger, mainstem rivers, perhaps slightly greater on far northern rivers.
- Thawing will accelerate over the next couple weeks.



RPI SD CARD: 24%

East Branch of the Ausable River @ Au Sable Forks (3/5/26)





# Current Ice Jams

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

As of March 5, 2026

## Number of active ice jams

# 4

Last update: 10 seconds ago

Search...

### Salmon at Whippleville

Date: 2026-01-27

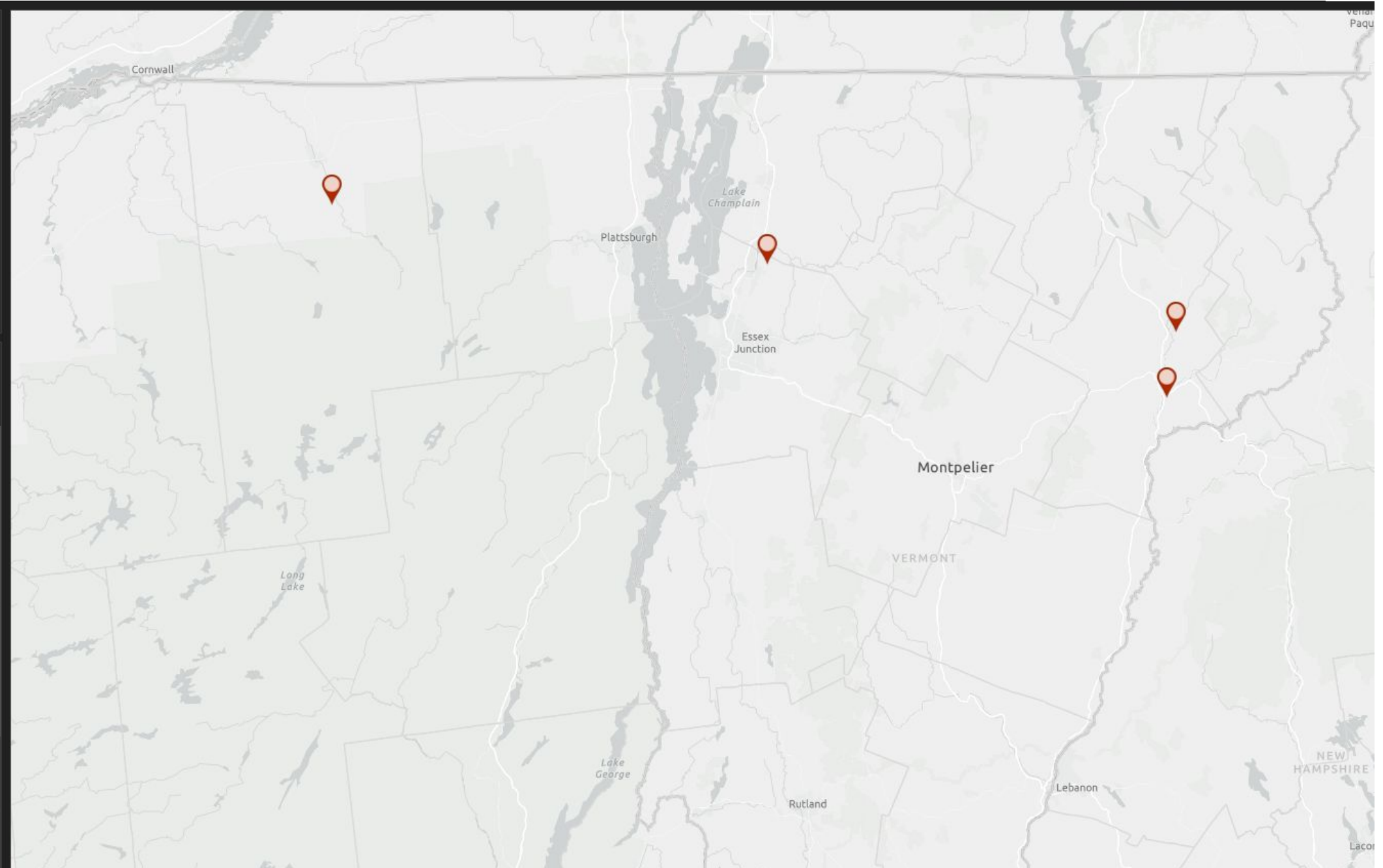
Description: Large ice jam on the Salmon River south of Malone, NY near the hamlet of Whippleville. Specifically, this along a bend in the river just north of the Kimpton Bridge and is approximately 1/4 mile long. No flooding is occurring, but county EM has brought in excavators to help alleviate/clear ice and is concerned as this is a large jam. Drones were also flown over the jam, but not sure if imagery is available.

### Confluence of Passumpsic and Moose Rivers at Saint Johnsbury

Date: 2026-01-12

Description: Jam is located at the confluence of the Passumpsic and Moose Rivers in St. Johnsbury, and likely formed during the ice breakup event of Dec 18-20, 2025. This is a common location for jams to form as there are significant shoals at this location. Water is finding a way around the jam, but the quantity of jumbled and/or rafted ice will need to be monitored during ice breakup later this winter/spring.

### East Branch of Passumpsic River at Lyndonville





# Ice Jam - Lyndonville, Vermont

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

As of March 5, 2026

## Lyndonville, VT Ice Jam

- Small jam at Lily Pond Rd. on E. Branch of Passumpsic R.
- No immediate concerns
- This is a frequent location for ice to jam up
- During ice jam break up, ice often jams up further downstream at Route 114/US 5 juncture, and this has caused issues in the past





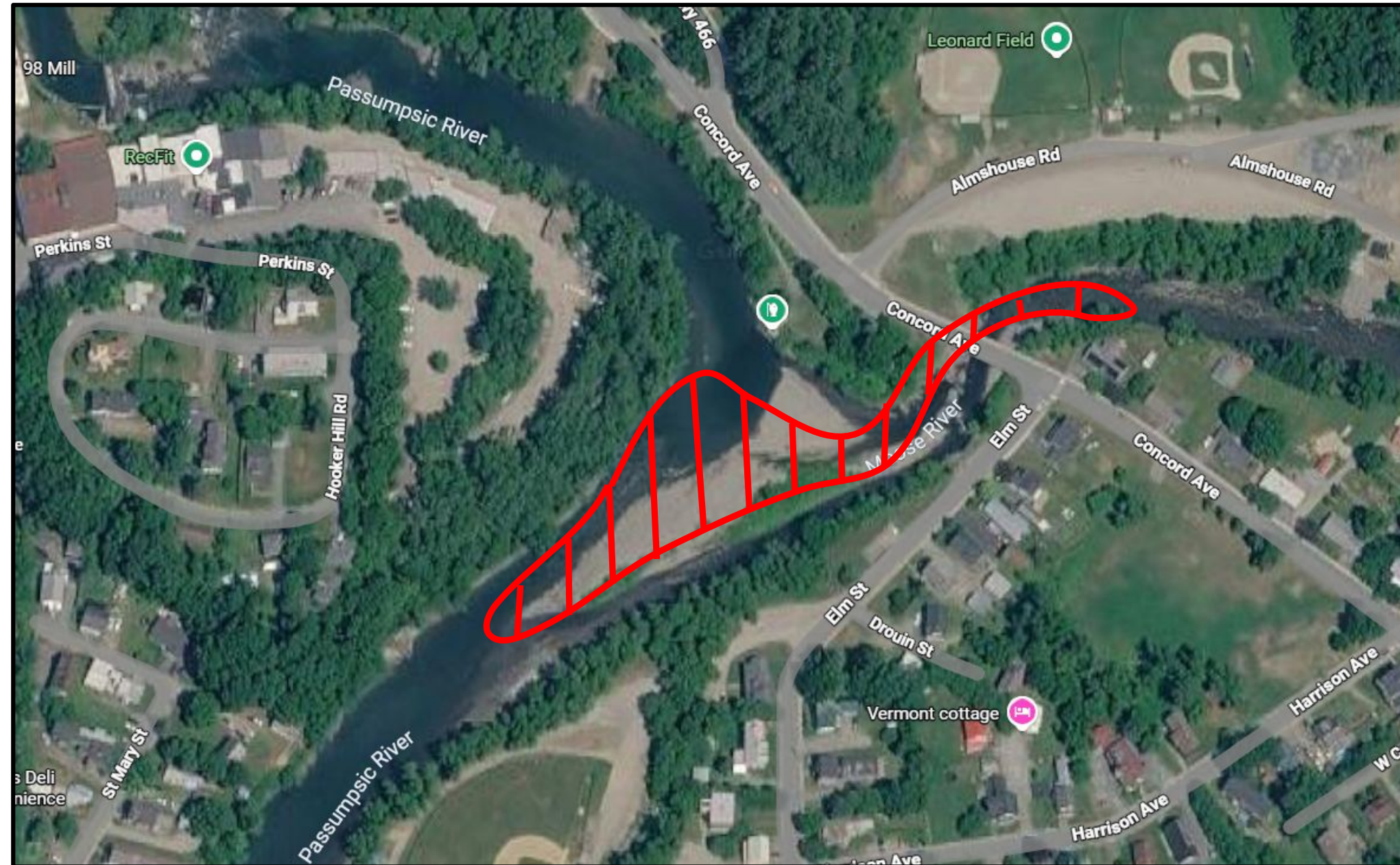
# Ice Jam - St. Johnsbury, Vermont

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

As of March 5, 2026

## St. Johnsbury, VT Ice Jam

- Moderately sized jam at Moose/Passumpsic R. confluence
- No immediate concerns
- This is a favored ice jam location where ice grounds on the natural shoals at this location
  - This ice can lead to high water issues at a few homes along adjacent areas on Elm St. during breakup





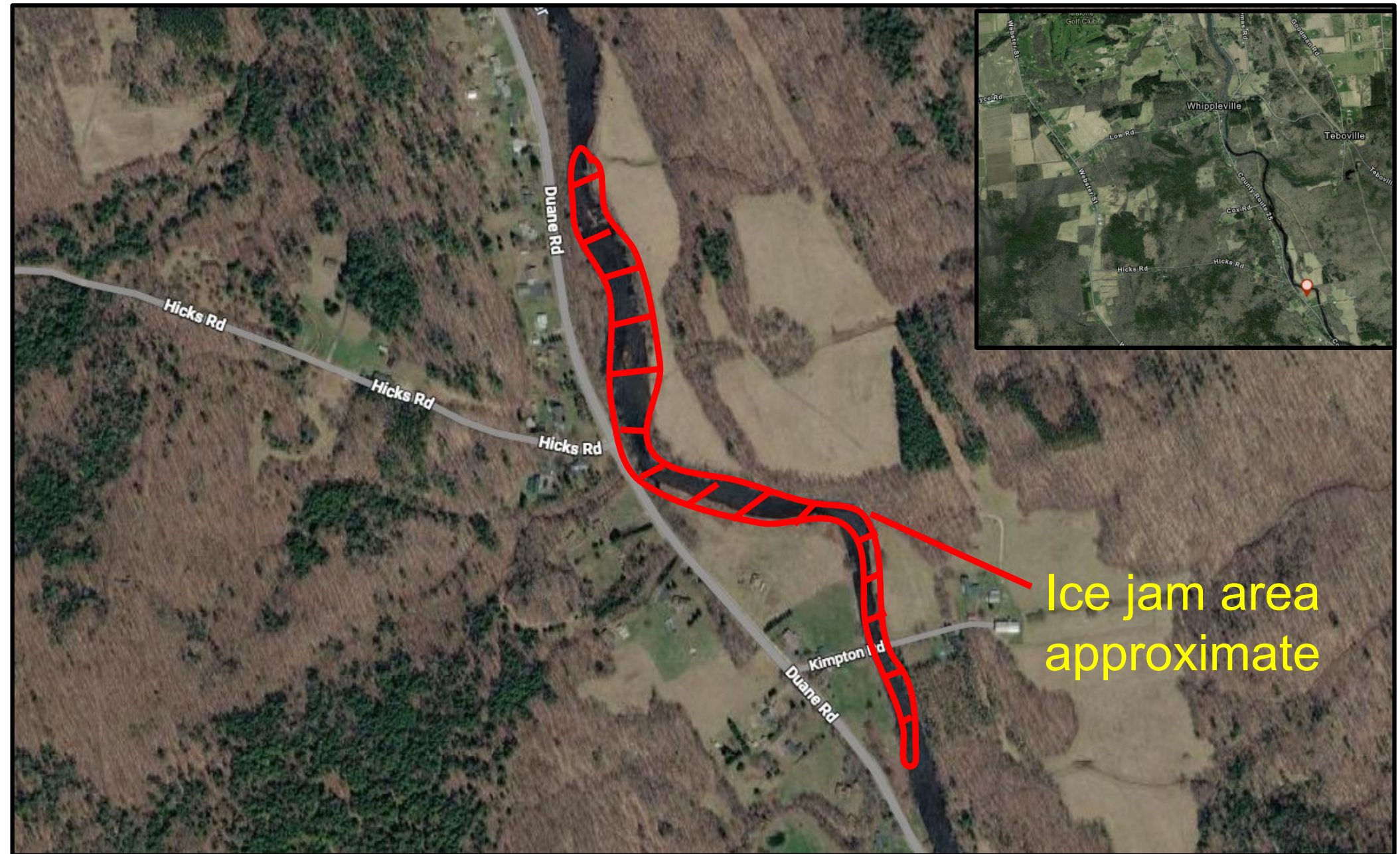
# Ice Jam - Whippleville, New York

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

As of March 5, 2026

## Whippleville, NY Ice Jam

- Moderately sized jam on the Salmon R. at the Kimpton Bridge ~ 1 mile south of Whippleville
- Concerns from Franklin Co. EM for potential flooding as this is a prone area for jams
- Active monitoring continues
- Homes on east bank of river on Duane Rd. are most susceptible

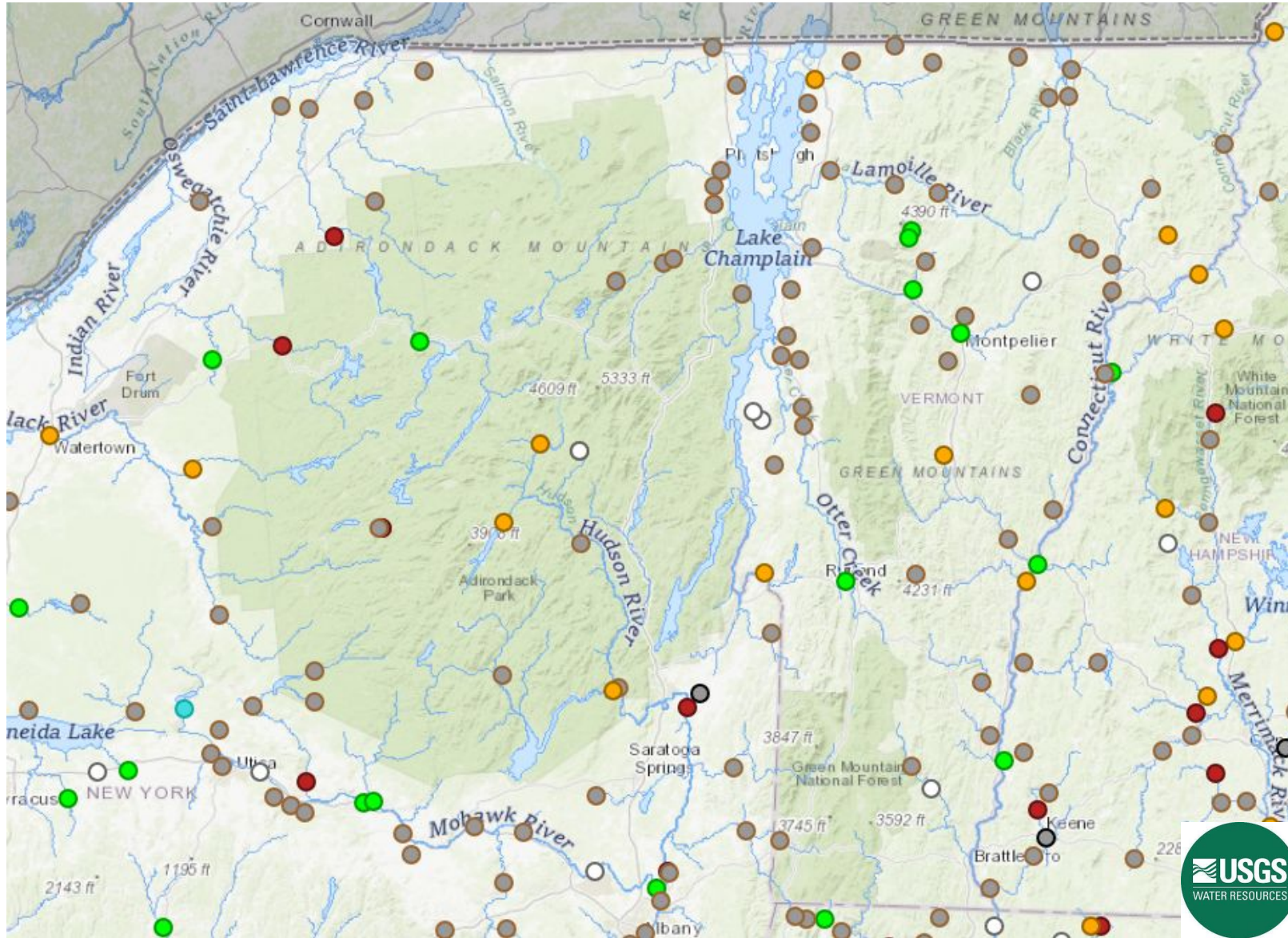




# Current Streamflow across VT and NY

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

As of March 5, 2026



**Streamflow: Status**

- Above flood stage
- All-time high for this day
- Much above normal
- Above normal
- Normal
- Below normal
- Much below normal
- All-time low for this day
- Not flowing
- Not ranked
- Measurement flag
- Recent measurement unavailable

**Comments:** Marker color indicates the current streamflow condition. Categories are based on the percentile of existing streamflow records on this day-of-the-year. A streamgauge is not ranked when there is less than 20 years of record or a current streamflow value is unavailable. Flood stages are maintained by the National Weather Service (NWS) and are not established for all USGS streamgages.

**Source:** [USGS Water Data for the Nation](#)

**Service:** [USGS CWIS Services \(Open Data Protocol\)](#)

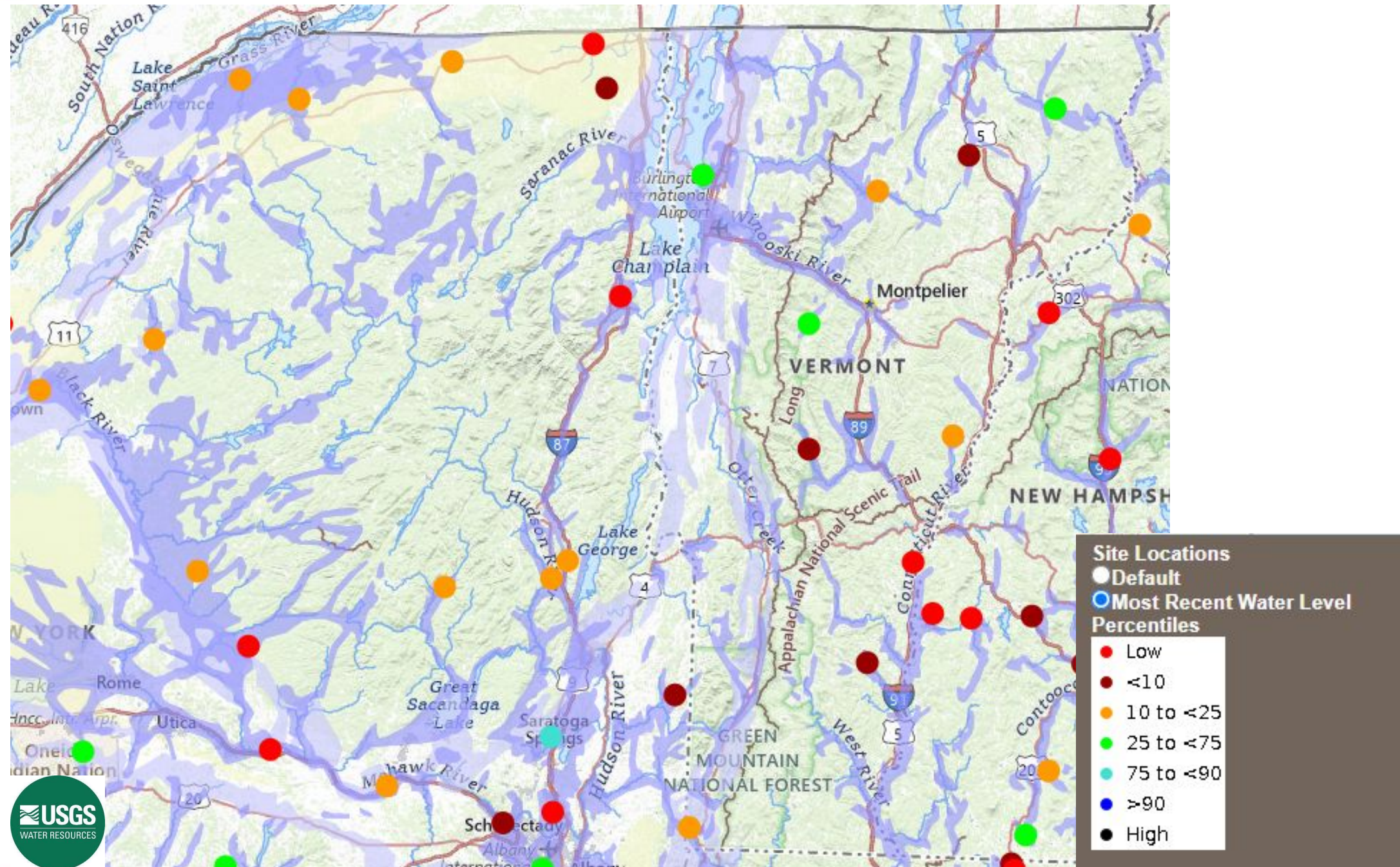
- Mainly near to below normal values where reliable data exists (courtesy [USGS Water Dashboard](#))
- Below normal readings mainly in northeastern and southern VT where lingering drought persists.



# Groundwater Conditions across VT and NY

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

As of March 5, 2026



- Currently a mix of above and below normal levels for our area (courtesy [USGS via the National Ground-Water Monitoring Network](#))
- A slight decrease in groundwater conditions has been observed given majority of recent precipitation is locked up in the current snowpack.





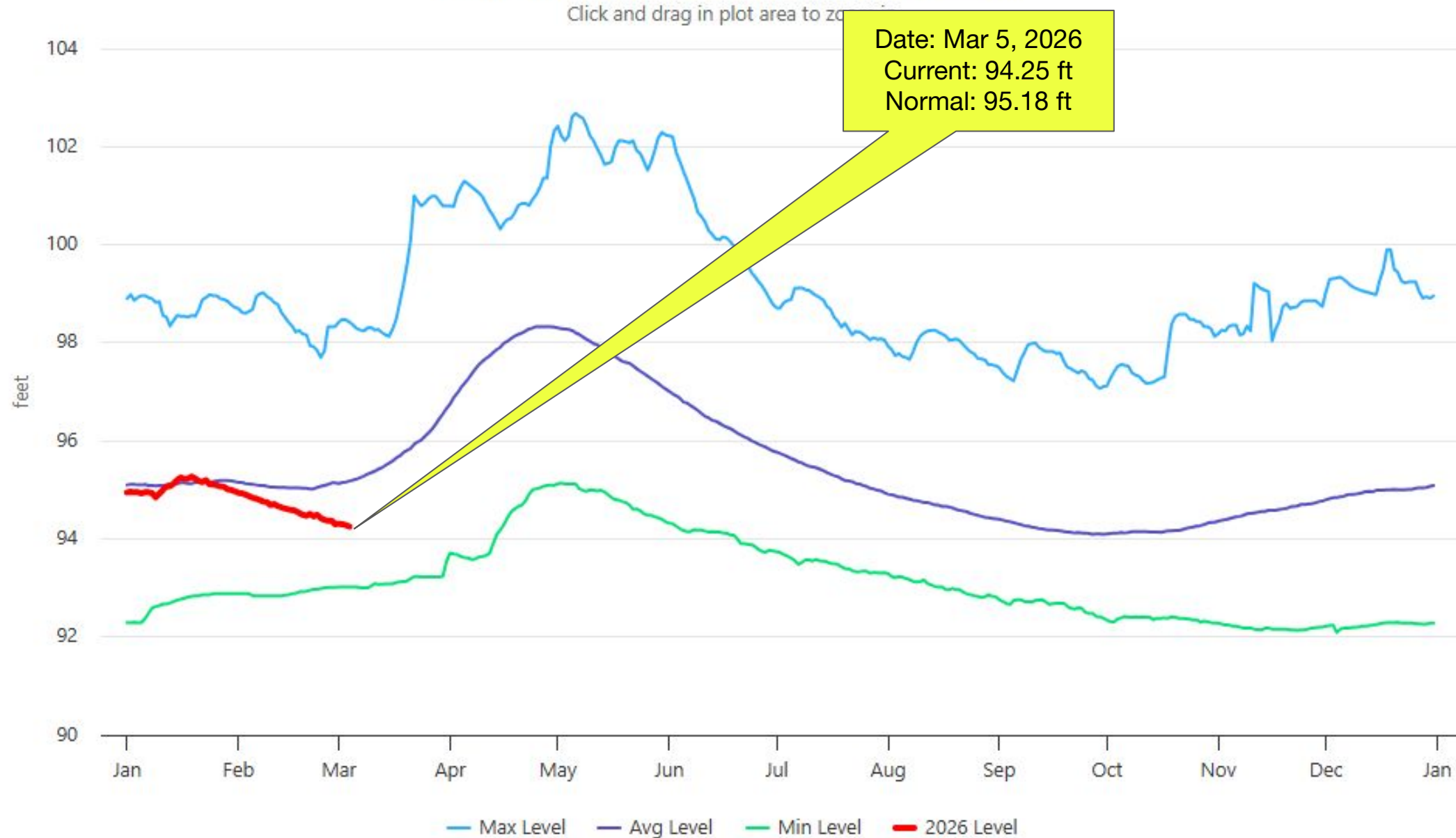
# Lake Champlain

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

## Level and overview

- No immediate concerns with current levels slightly below normal.
- Future levels heavily reliant on future precipitation and snowmelt.

### Lake Champlain Extremes and 2026 Level





# 8-14 Day Outlooks

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

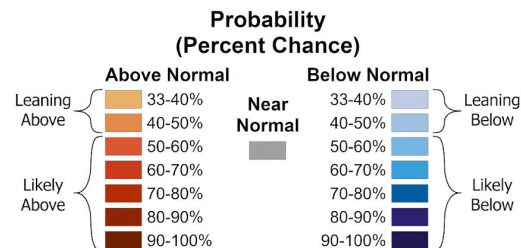
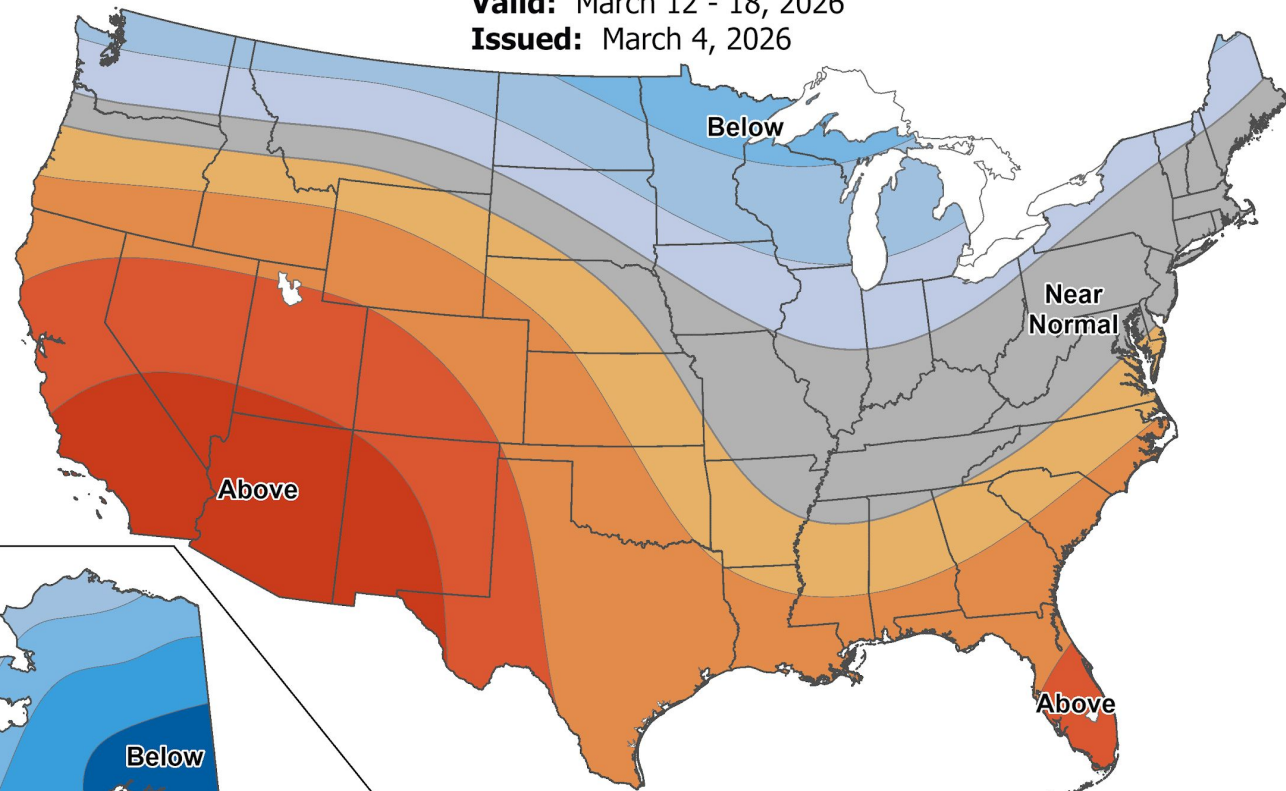
Normal March Temperatures: **Highs:** Mid 30s to low 40s **Lows:** Teens to low 20s

**TEMPERATURE:** Leaning Near or Below Normal (33-40%)

**PRECIPITATION:** Leaning Above Normal (40-50%)

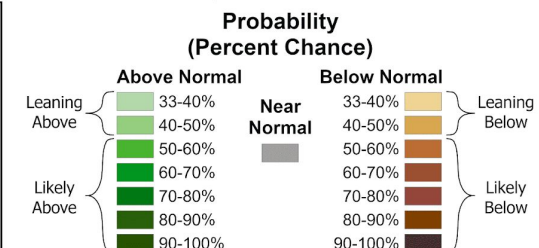
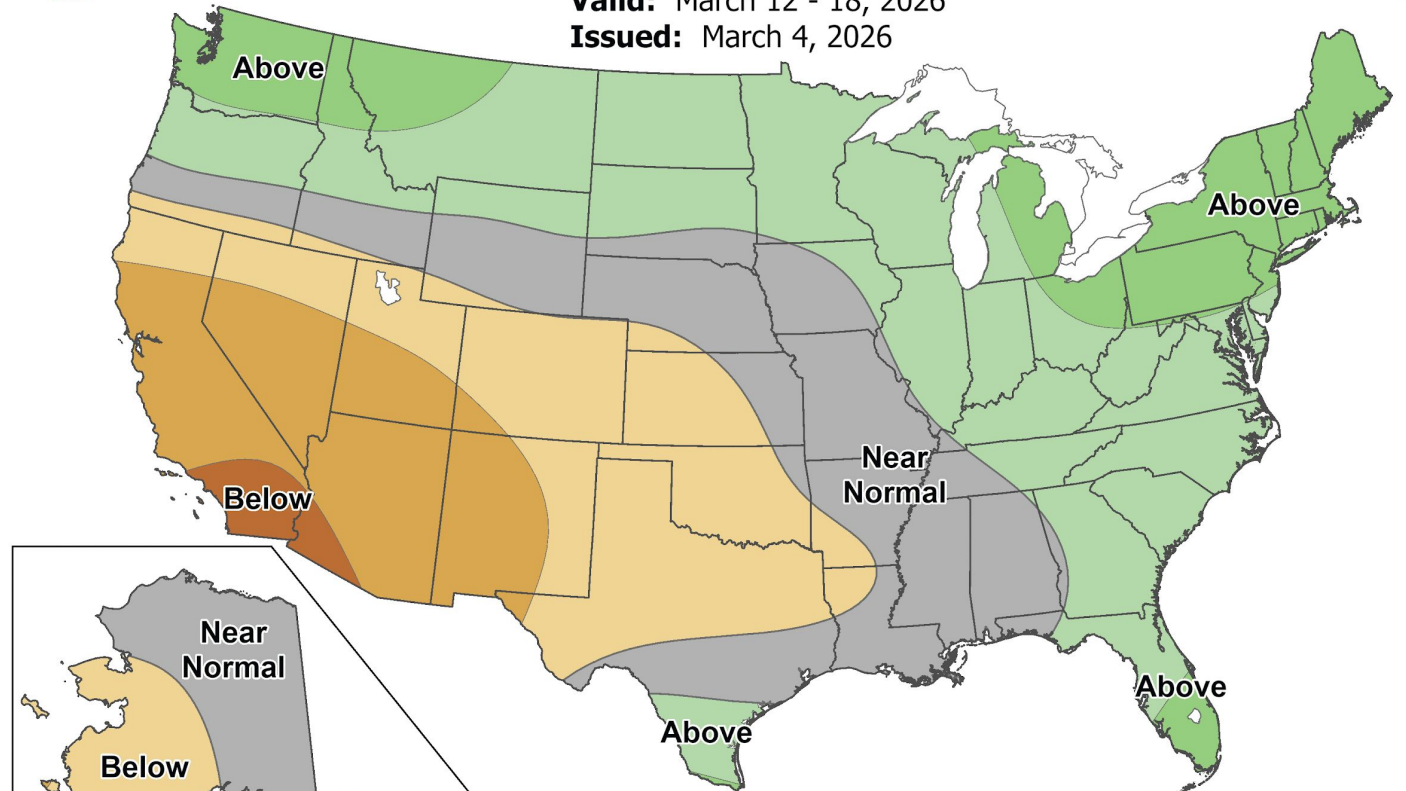
## 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: March 12 - 18, 2026  
Issued: March 4, 2026



## 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: March 12 - 18, 2026  
Issued: March 4, 2026







# Contact and Next Briefing Information

March 5, 2026  
2:00 PM

For northern New York and all of Vermont

## Contact Information

### Web

→ [weather.gov/burlington](https://weather.gov/burlington)

### Phone

→ (802) 862-2475

### Email

→ [nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov](mailto:nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov)

### Facebook

→ [www.facebook.com/NWSBurlington](https://www.facebook.com/NWSBurlington)

### X

→ [www.x.com/NWSBurlington](https://www.x.com/NWSBurlington)



## Next Briefing: Issued every two weeks

- Thursday, March 19, 2026
- Method: Sent via email by 5 pm



## Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

