

NWS Form E-5 (04-2006) (PRES. BY NWS Instruction 10-924)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA) Columbia, SC
MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR: MONTH YEAR Jan. 2020
TO: Hydrologic Information Center, W/OS31 NOAA's National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE Leonard Vaughan DATE 02/12/2019
<i>When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions below the small box, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).</i>		

☐ An X inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.

River Conditions for January 2020

Summary

The month of January continued the trend of above normal temperatures along with above normal rainfall. Rainfall averaged from 2 to 6 inches across the Midlands and Central Savannah River area for January. The heaviest rain fell in the Upstate, where some places received more than 10 inches. This led to Minor to Moderate river flooding across many of the area rivers during the early to middle portion of the month.

Precipitation

The total precipitation at Columbia Metro Airport was 5.84 inches. The total precipitation at Augusta Bush Field was 4.56 inches. Precipitation records for Columbia began in 1878. Precipitation records for Augusta began in 1871.

Here are a few reports from NWS Coop Stations:

Lugoff 2 NE (LUGS1) – 6.95 inches

Newberry WKDK (NWYS1) – 6.62 inches

Lake Greenwood (CHPS1) – 6.53 inches

North 5 NE (NRTS1) – 6.25 inches

Columbia Univ. of South Carolina (USCS1) – 6.12 inches

Here are a few reports from the CoCoRaHS (Community, Collaborative, Rain, Hail and Snow Network) observers in South Carolina and Georgia.

SC-KR-14 Lugoff 2.2 NNW – 8.50 inches

SC-RC-62 Columbia 7.4 N – 7.64 inches

SC-NW-13 Newberry 1.0 N – 7.49 inches

SC-OR-35 North 5.1 NE – 7.38 inches

SC-MC-8 McCormick 0.5 NW – 7.02 inches

GA-LC-2 Tignall 10.2 NE – 7.71 inches

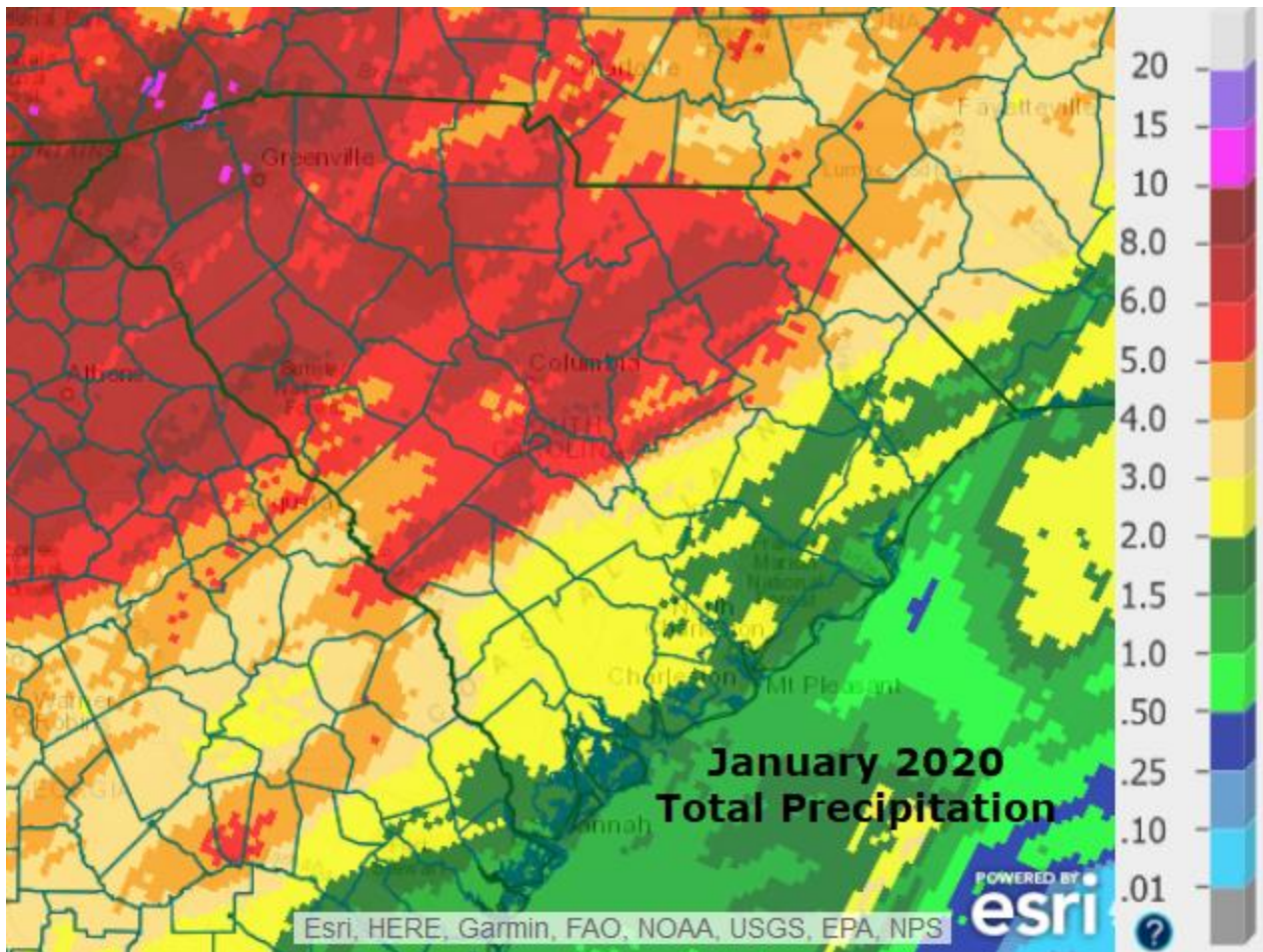
GA-CU-3 Evans 2.1 NNW – 6.01 inches

GA-MD-1 Thomson 2.5 S – 5.60 inches

GA-BK-1 Waynesboro 3.3 SW – 5.40 inches

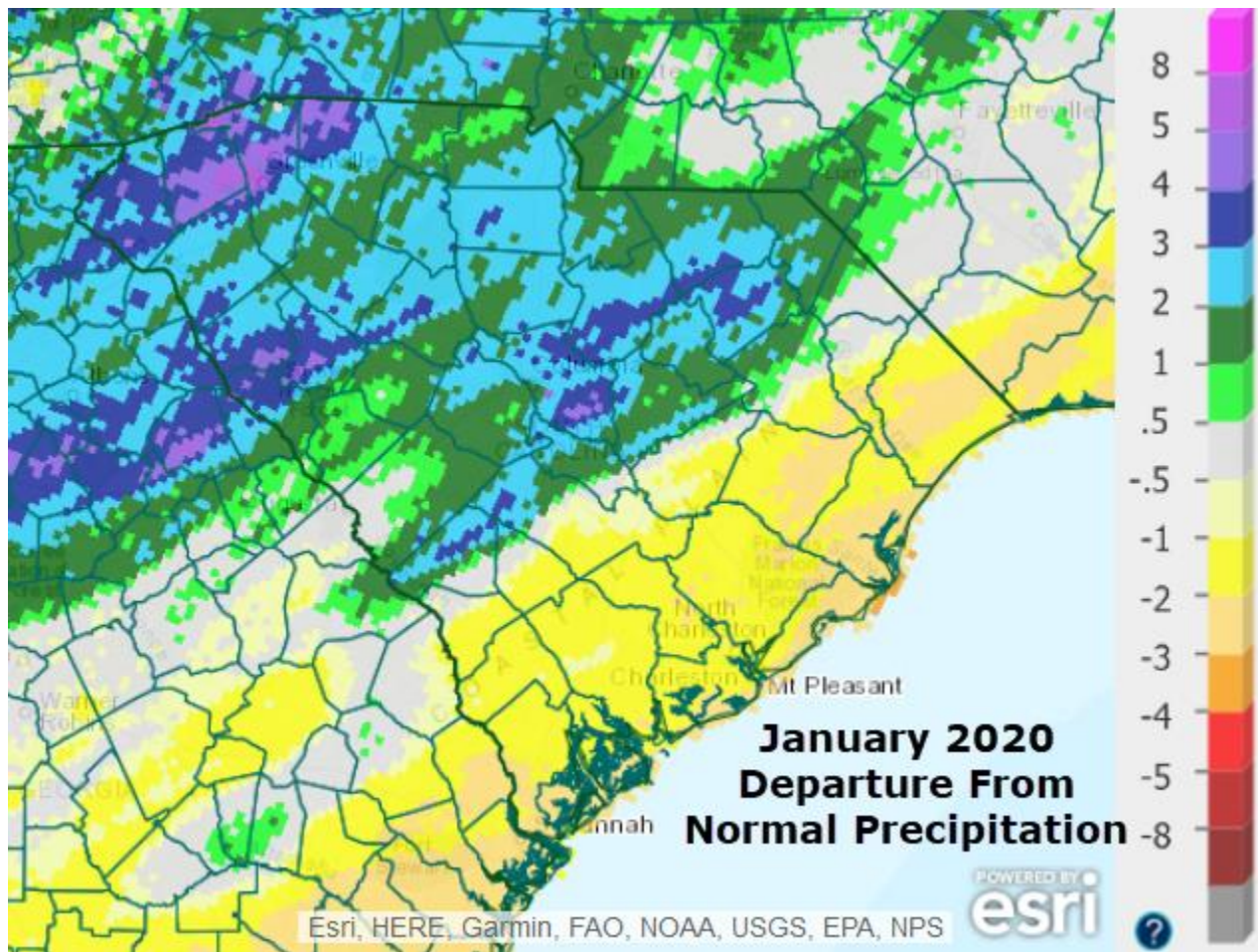
GA-RC-12 Augusta 4.2 W – 4.54 inches

(Please see the precipitation maps below).



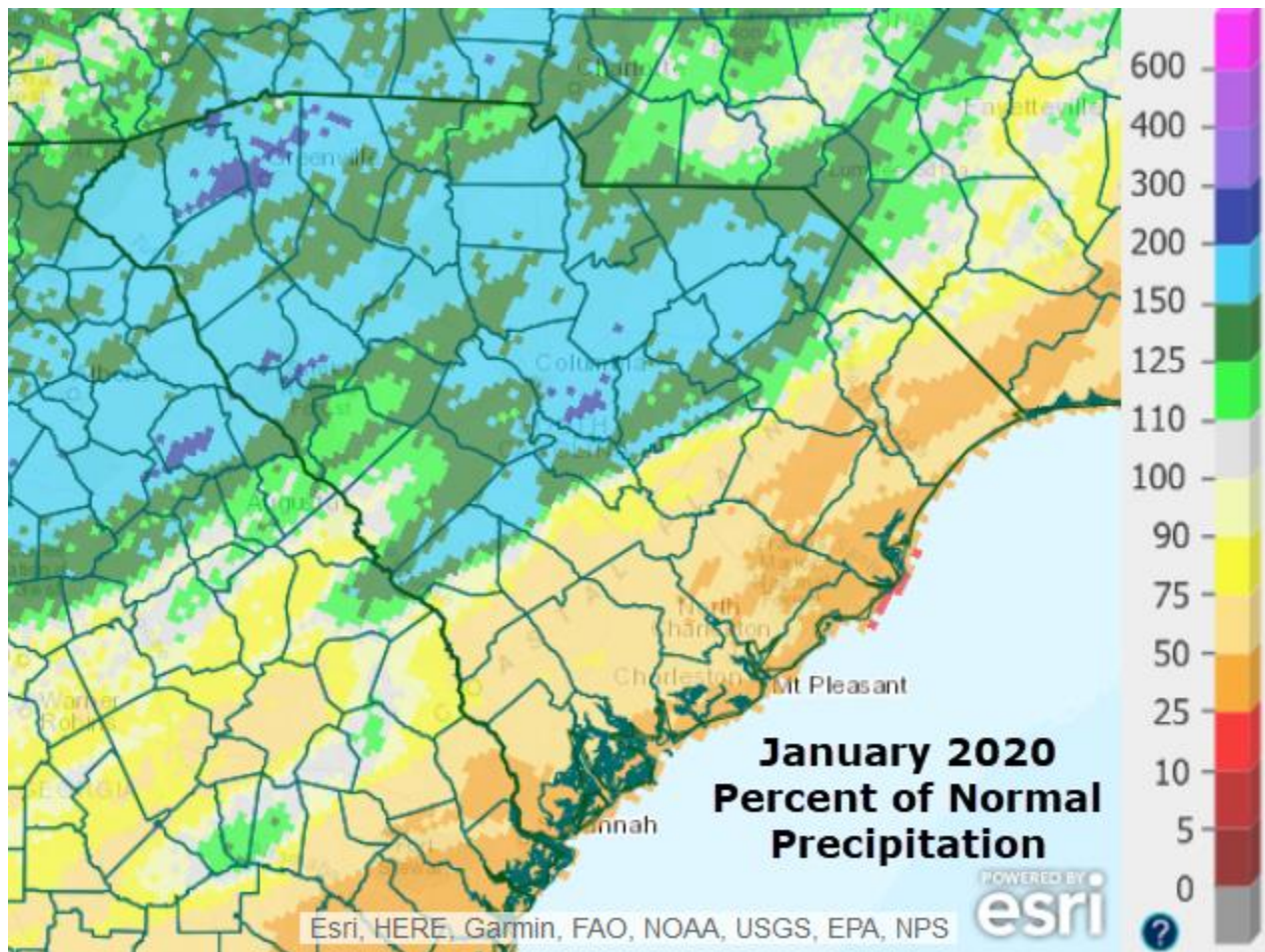
January 2020 Total Precipitation (inches)

Source: Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, NWS



January 2020 Precipitation Departure from Normal (inches)

Source: Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, NWS



January 2020 Percent of Normal Precipitation

Source: Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, NWS

January 2020 precipitation at observation sites was as follows:

Station	Rainfall	Normal	Departure From Normal
Augusta (AGS)	4.56	3.91	+0.65
Augusta (DNL)	4.19	4.21	-0.02
Columbia (CAE)	5.84	3.58	+2.26
Columbia (CUB)	5.80	3.63	+2.17
Orangeburg (OGB)	3.13	3.98	-0.85

River/Flood Conditions (January)

Rainfall was much above normal across the headwaters of the area rivers. Rainfall was above normal to near normal across much of the Midlands and CSRA. This produced river flooding across much of the Midlands and Central Savannah River Area during the first half of January. The Congaree River at Carolina Eastman crested at 117.45 feet on the evening of the 5th producing minor flooding. The river fell below flood stage over the next 36 hours only to rise again and crest at 115.4 feet on the evening of the 7th. Flood Stage is 115.0 feet. The Congaree River at Gadsden-Congaree National Park crested at 16.23 feet on the evening of the 6th producing minor flooding. Flood stage is 15.0 feet. The North Fork of the Edisto River at Orangeburg crested at 8.97 feet on the overnight hours of the 15th producing minor flooding. Flood stage is 8.0 feet. The Congaree River at Carolina Eastman crested during the morning hours of the 15th producing moderate flooding. The Congaree River at Gadsden-Congaree National Park crested at

17.39 feet on the late evening of the 15th producing minor flooding. Stevens Creek at Modoc crested at 19.78 feet on the late evening hours of the 14th producing minor flooding. Flood Stage is 19.0 feet. The Great Pee Dee River at Cheraw crested at 30.30 feet on the afternoon of the 15th producing minor flooding. Flood Stage is 30 feet.

The Congaree River at Columbia reached Advisory Stage three times during the month of January. Advisory Stage at Columbia is 10.0 feet. The river crested at 11.53 feet on the afternoon of the 5th. The river fell then rose again cresting at 11.64 feet on the afternoon of the 6th. The river crested for a third time on the evening of the 14th at 15.36 feet. At these stages the river inundates portions of the West Columbia-Cayce Riverwalk.

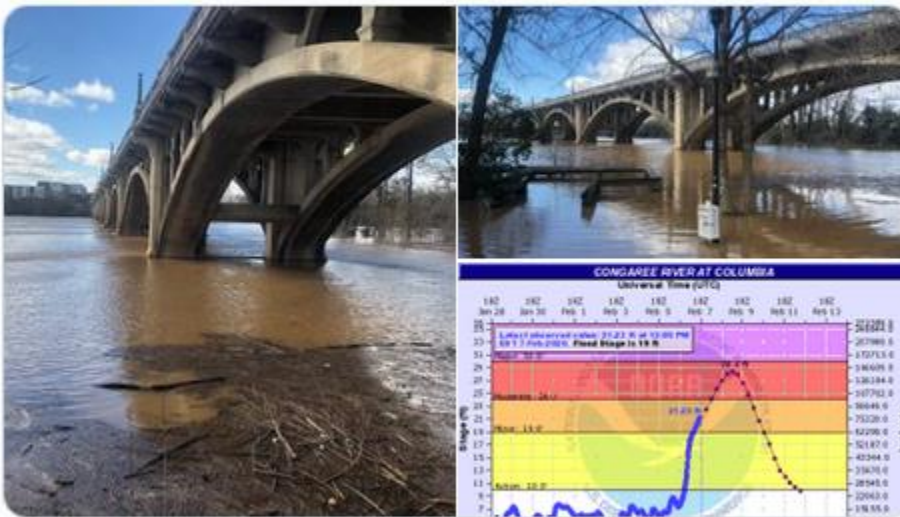
Here are a few new stories, Facebook posts and Twitter posts about the impact of the flooding during January. Courtesy of the Congaree Riverkeeper, Congaree National Park, Chasing Snapshots and Leonard Vaughan



Congaree Riverkeeper @concareervrkpr · Feb 7

The rivers are running HIGH, and there's more water on the way. 🌊📈

The Congaree River at Columbia is currently at 21.23 ft (76,800 cfs) and is expected to crest Sunday morning just above 28 feet, which is moderate flood stage.



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[Show this thread](#)



Chasing Snapshots @JStewie85 · Jan 7



Slowly working toward my goal to visit each **National Park**. Unexpectedly got to check another one off the list yesterday while returning home from vacation with a stop at **Congaree National Park**. Beautiful park, easy to access, and exceeded my expectations! Have you ever been?

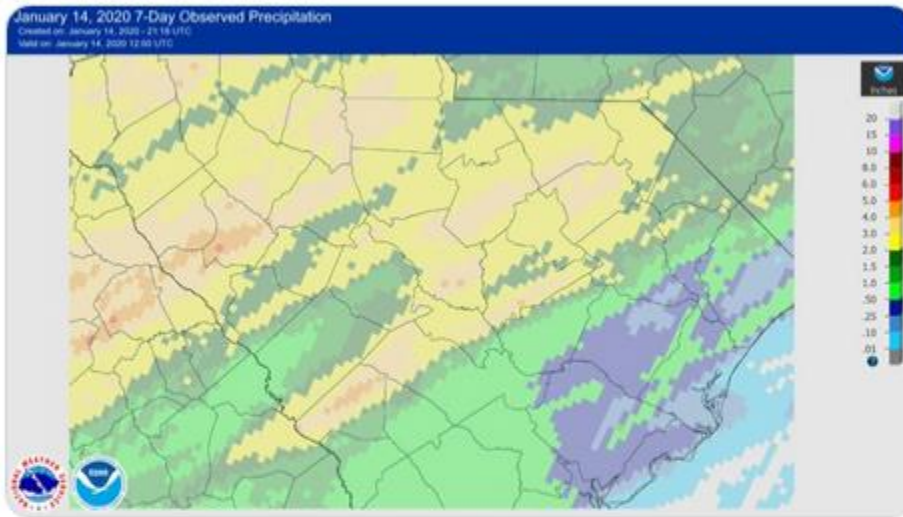




Congaree Riverkeeper @congreervrkpr · Jan 14

Over the last several days the Midlands & the upper parts of our watersheds have received several inches of rain. River levels are on the rise as that water works its way down the basins. 🌧️ 🌊 📈

You can see river levels & flood forecasts across SC here: water.weather.gov/ahps/region.ph...



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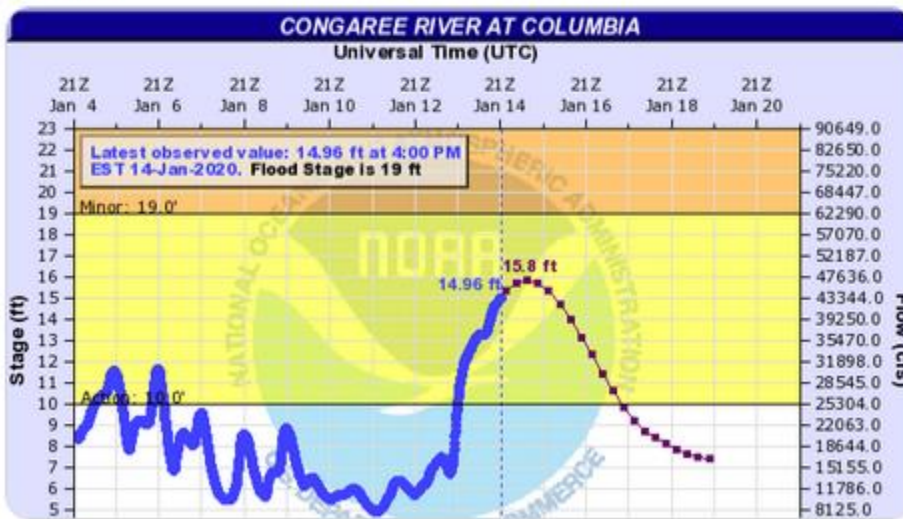


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Congaree Riverkeeper @congreervrkpr · Jan 14

The Congaree River at Columbia is currently at 14.96 ft (43,100 cfs), and is expected to crest at 15.8 ft tomorrow. While this is below the official flood stage, there will still be flooding along much of the Cayce and West Columbia Riverwalk.



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Congaree National Park

January 15 at 5:13 PM · 🌐



Thanks to our volunteer Jessica for sharing this video she took this afternoon (near the Weston Lake Overlook).



1,559 Views

Jessica Nielsen ▶ Congaree National Park

January 15 at 4:51 PM

Took a walk on the elevated boardwalk around 3 today! Water levels are really high today, and rising!



You and 77 others

5 Comments 6 Shares

😲 Wow

💬 Comment

➦ Share





City of West Columbia
Bridging Past, Present and Future

**Riverwalk
CLOSED
Beyond this
Point Due
to Flooding**





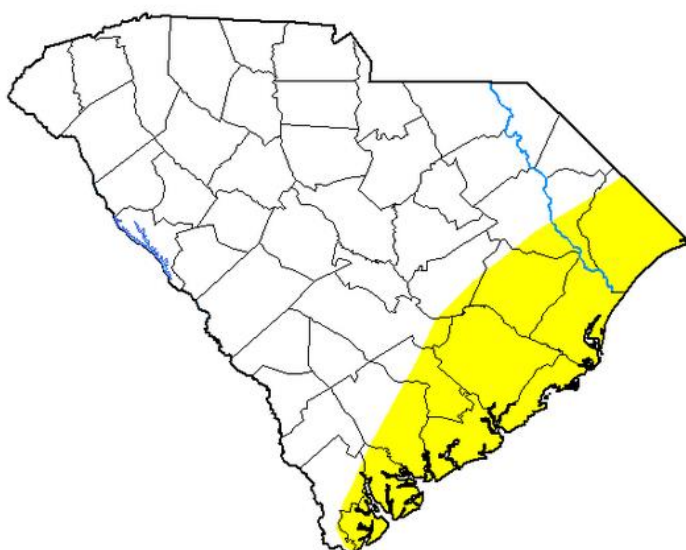
Drought Conditions

The much above rainfall during the month of December removed all areas of drought from the Midlands and Central Savannah River Area. This trend of no drought continued for much of January, but below normal rain fell across the Coastal Plain by the middle of the month. An area of D0, Abnormally Dry, developed along and east of the I-95 corridor.

(Please see the maps below).

U.S. Drought Monitor South Carolina

January 28, 2020
(Released Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	76.53	23.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-21-2020	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-29-2019	22.38	77.62	61.46	29.19	3.24	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	22.06	77.94	48.67	20.47	1.77	0.00
One Year Ago 01-29-2019	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>

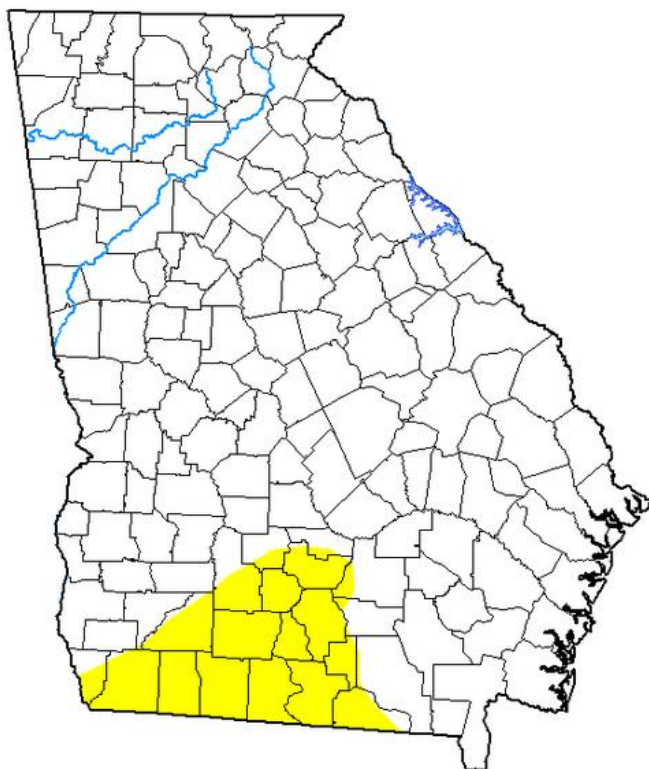
Author:

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Georgia



January 28, 2020
(Released Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	89.44	10.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>01-21-2020</i>	93.99	6.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>10-29-2019</i>	3.89	96.11	81.67	28.98	2.35	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2019</i>	96.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10-01-2019</i>	0.00	100.00	61.58	28.35	4.49	0.00
One Year Ago <i>01-29-2019</i>	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

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Author:

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA

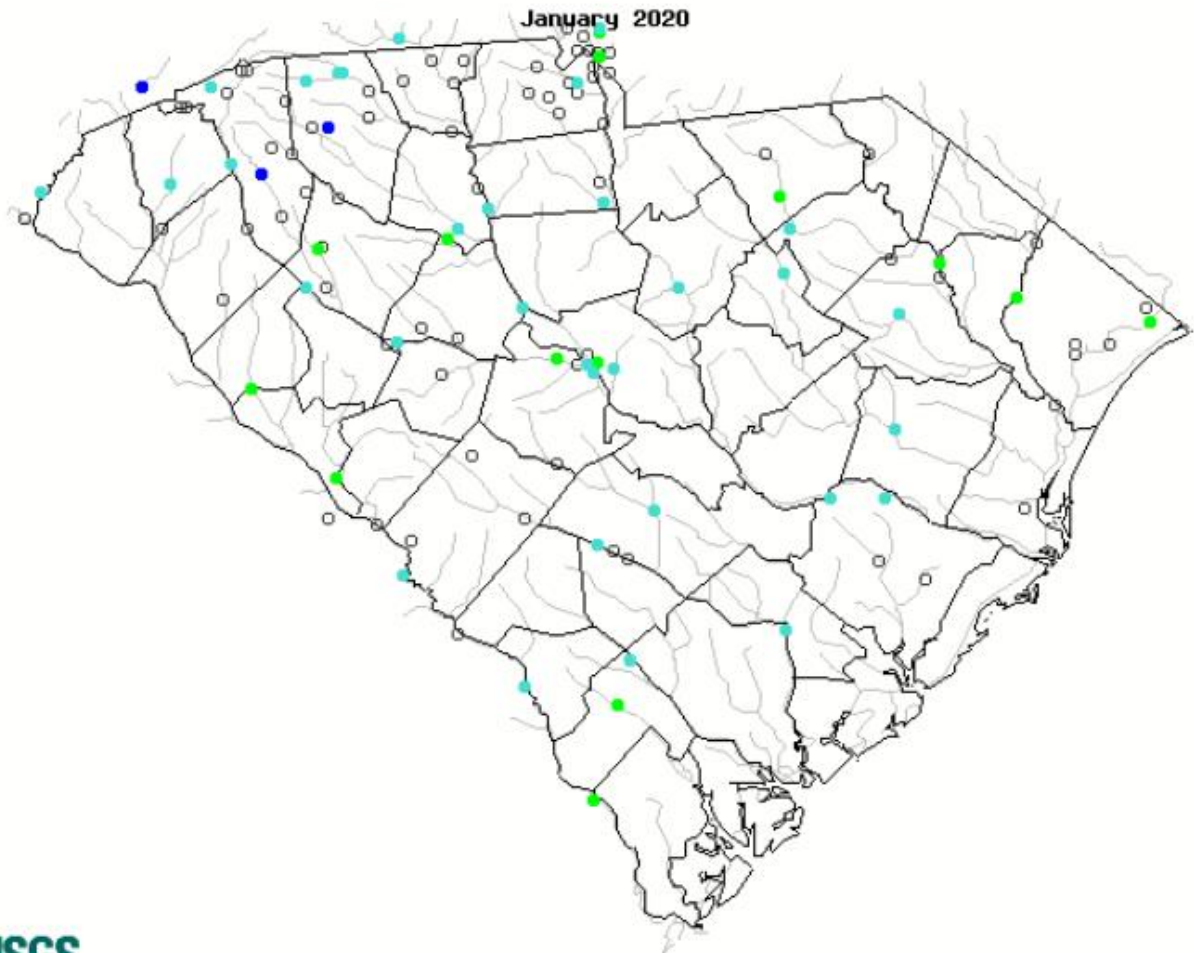


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Streamflow Conditions

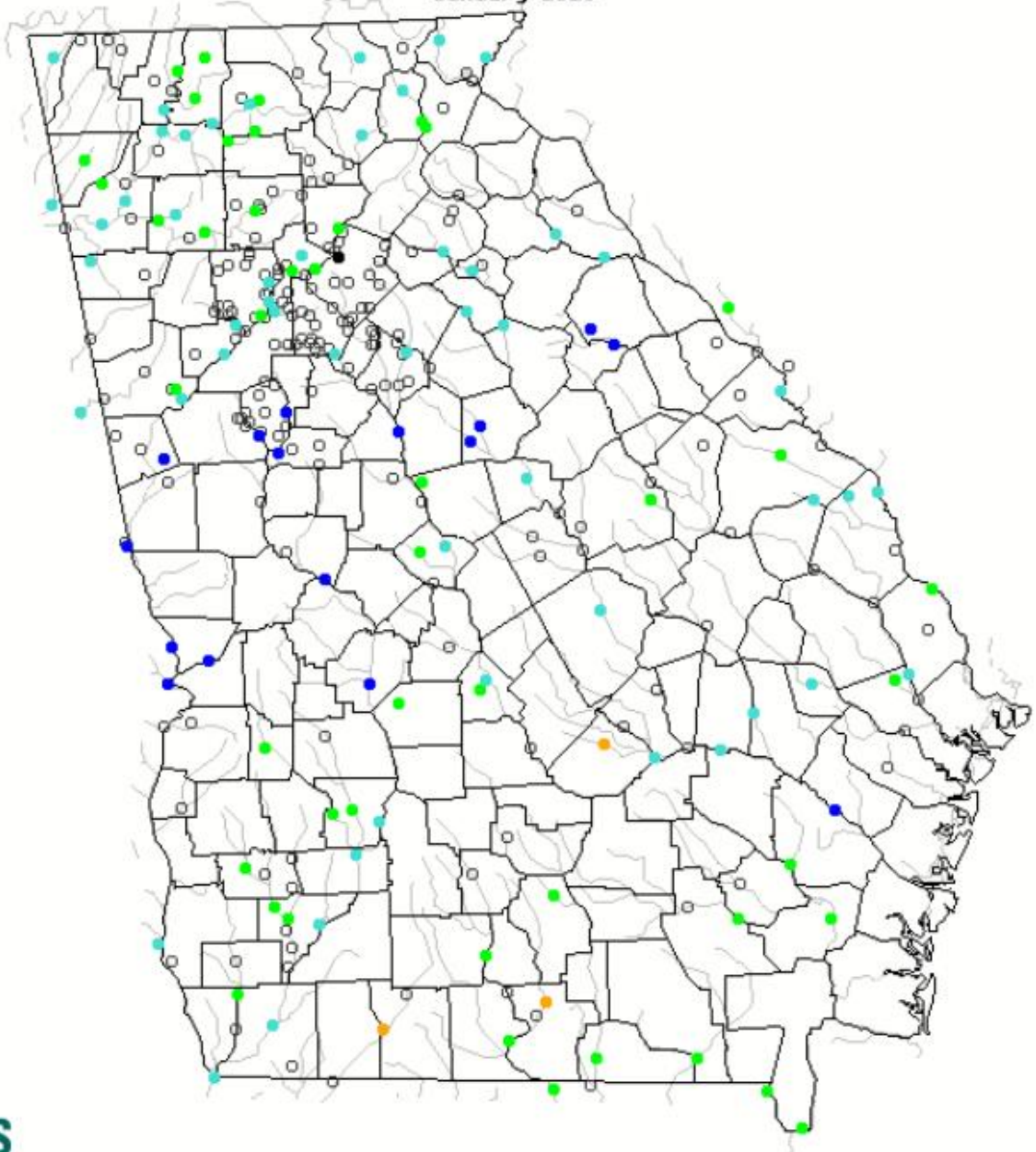
Monthly average stream flows for January across the Midlands and Central Savannah River Area showed all of the major rivers and streams in good shape. Above Normal flows were noted along the N. Fork of the Edisto River, Wateree River, Broad River, Santee River, Lynches River and Savannah River. Normal flows were noted along Stevens Creek and the Saluda River.

Stream Flow Compared to Historical Stream Flow for the Month



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

January 2020



Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

Temperatures

January 2019 temperatures were above normal for the month.

The monthly average temperature at Columbia (CAE) was 51.1 degrees. This value was 6.3 degrees above the normal of 44.8 degrees. The highest temperature during the month was 77 degrees reached on the 3rd. The lowest temperature was 25 degrees that occurred on the 22nd.

The average temperature for the month at Augusta (AGS) was 52.7 degrees. This value was 7.3 degrees above the normal of 45.4 degrees. The highest temperature during the month was 82 degrees reached on the 3rd. The lowest temperature was 26 degrees that occurred on the 21st and 22nd.

The average temperature for the month at Orangeburg (OGB) was 52.4 degrees. This value was 6.5 degrees above the normal of 45.9 degrees. The highest temperature during the month was 77 degrees reached on the 3rd and 14th. The lowest temperature was 27 degrees that occurred on the 21st.

Hydrological Products

The following products were issued during January 2020.

DGT	Drought Statements	0
ESF	Hydrologic Outlooks	0
FFA	Flash Flood Watches	0
FFS	Flash Flood Statements	0
FFW	Flash Flood Warnings	0
FLS	Flood Statements	54
FLW	Flood Warnings	11
FLS	Areal Flood Advisories	2