\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 Feb. YEAR 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 03/09/2019

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).

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

River Conditions for February 2020

Summary…

…Wettest Winter on record at Columbia…
…4th Wettest Winter on record at Augusta…

The trend of above normal temperatures and precipitation continued through February. Rainfall average from 5 to 10 inches across the Midlands and Central Savannah River area for February. The heaviest rain fell across the Savannah River Basin. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees above normal. This led to Minor to Moderate river flooding on many of the area rivers during much of the month.

Precipitation

The total precipitation at Columbia Metro Airport was 5.48 inches. The total precipitation from December through February was 20.63 inches. The total precipitation at Augusta Bush Field was 7.17 inches. The total precipitation from December through February was 19.85 inches. Precipitation records for Columbia began in 1878. Precipitation records for Augusta began in 1871.

Here are a few reports from NWS Coop Stations:

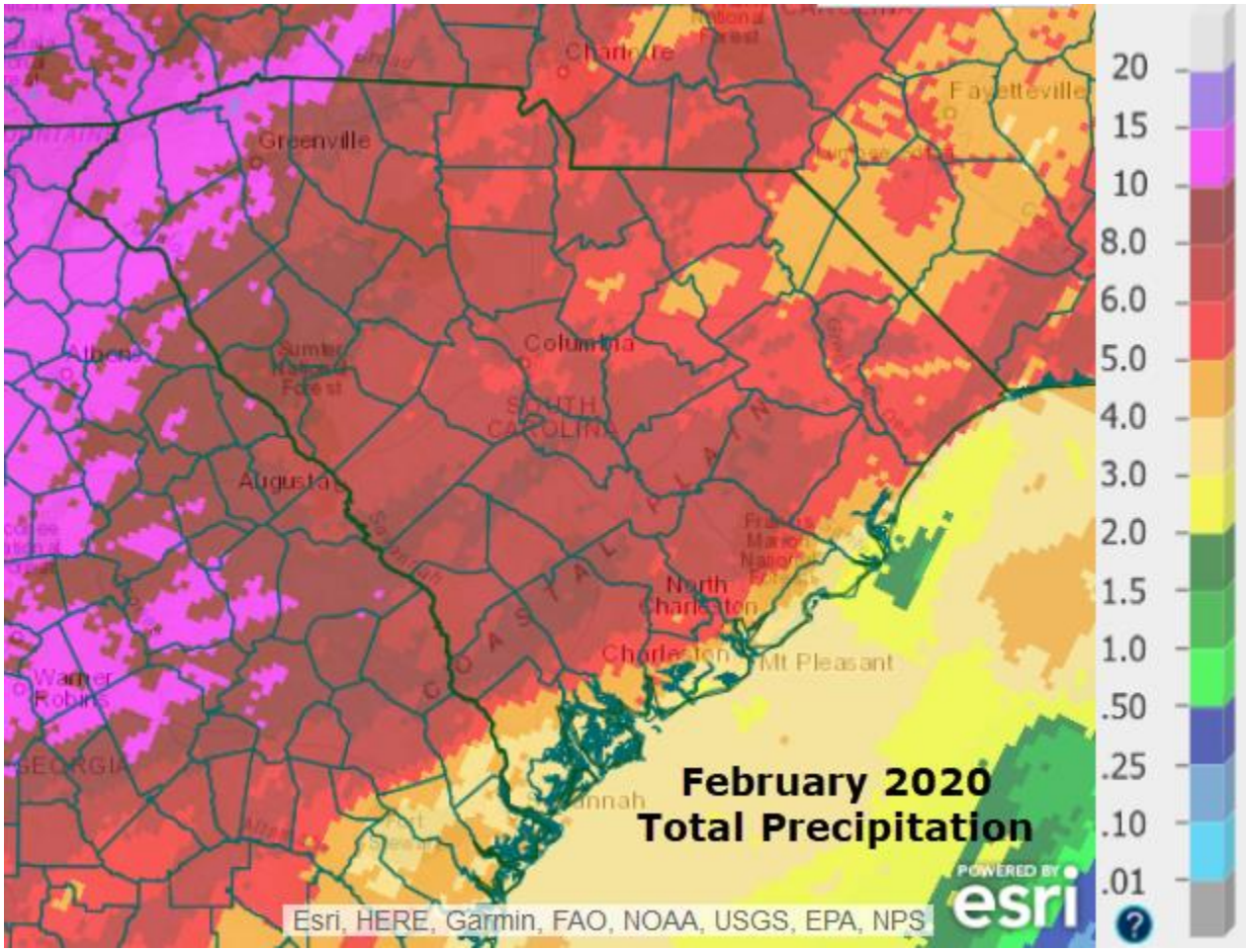
Waynesboro (WYNG1) – 10.79 inches
Lincolnton (LNCG1) – 9.71 inches
Lincolnton 4.4 S (LNCG2) – 9.57 inches
Barnwell 5 ENE (BNLS1) – 9.45 inches
Midville (MIDG1) – 9.35 inches
Clarks Hill (CHDS1) – 8.83 inches
Newberry WKDK (NWYS1) – 8.65 inches
Lake Greenwood (CHPS1) – 8.58 inches
Little Mountain (LIMS1) – 8.11 inches
Holly Hill (HHLS1) – 7.97 inches

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

SC-MC-5 McCormick 2.3 W – 9.88 inches
SC-BM-1 Denmark 2.8 WNW – 9.28 inches
SC-CA-1 St. Matthews 3.2 NE – 8.82 inches
SC-NW-18 Newberry 2.9 S – 8.80 inches
SC-OR-17 Orangeburg 3.2 NW – 8.58 inches

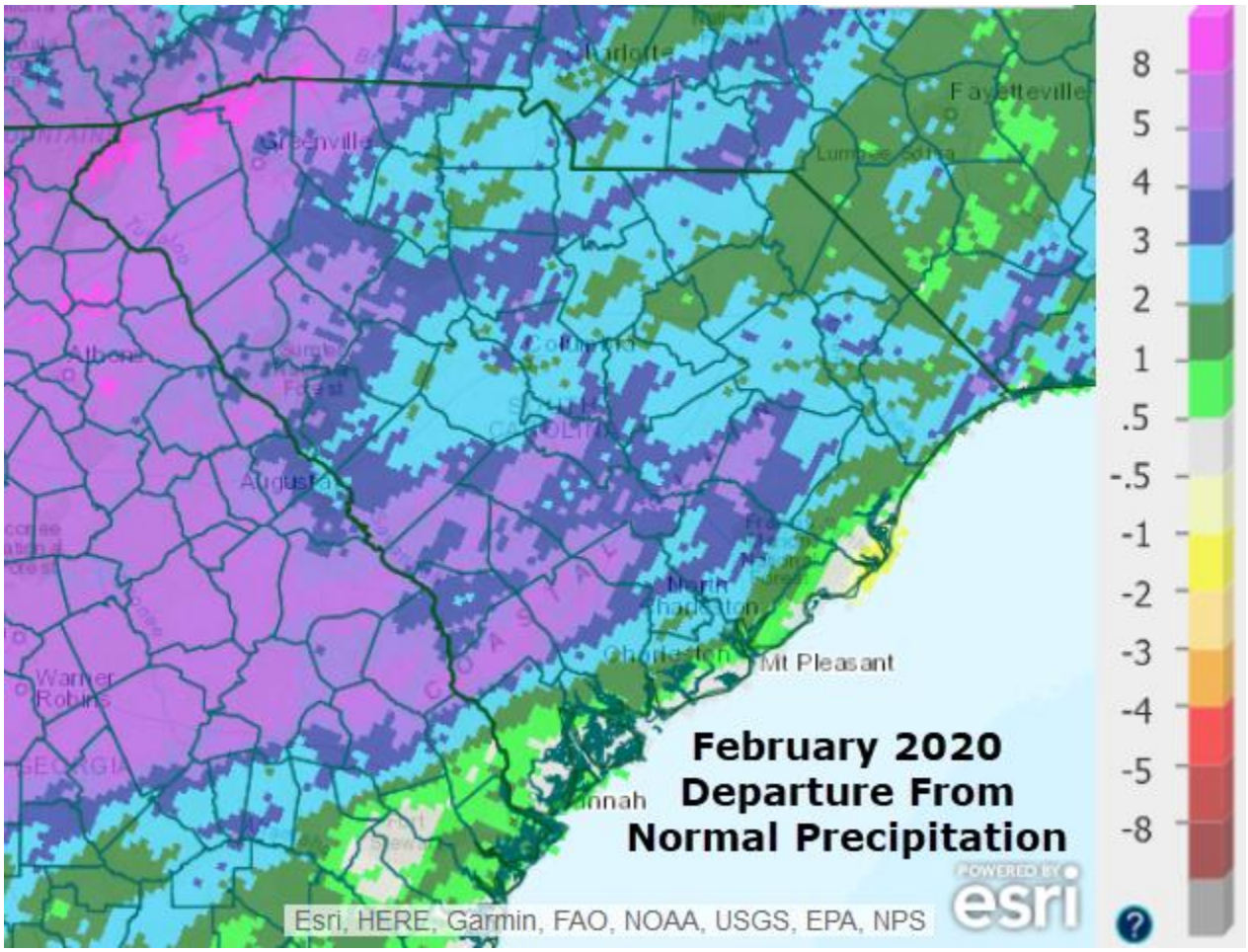
GA-MD-5 Thomson 2.6 S – 9.15 inches
GA-BK-9 S. Augusta 4.2 S – 8.45 inches
GA-CU-14 Grovetown 4.5 NNW – 8.26 inches
GA-LC-2 Tignall 10.2 NE – 7.84 inches
GA-RC-12 Augusta 4.2 N – 6.81 inches

(Please see the precipitation maps below).



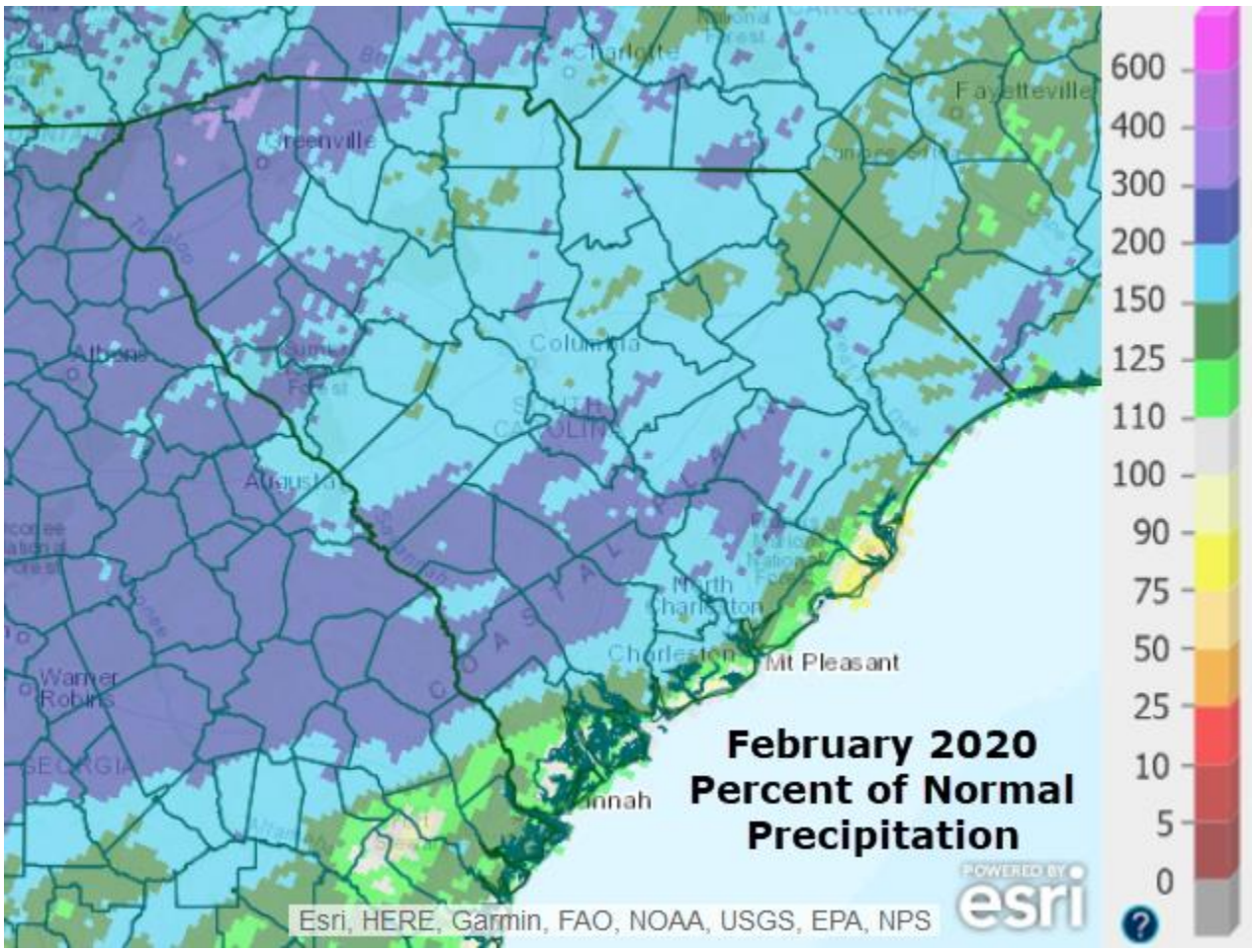
February 2020 Total Precipitation (inches)

Source: Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, NWS



February 2020 Precipitation Departure from Normal (inches)

Source: Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, NWS



February 2020 Percent of Normal Precipitation

Source: Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, NWS

February 2020 precipitation at observation sites was as follows:

Station	Rainfall	Normal	Departure From Normal
Augusta (AGS)	7.17	3.92	+3.25
Augusta (DNL)	6.34	4.03	+2.31
Columbia (CAE)	5.48	3.61	+1.87
Columbia (CUB)	4.70	3.65	+1.05
Orangeburg (OGB)	5.42	3.59	+1.83

River/Flood Conditions (February)

Rainfall was much above normal across the Carolinas and Georgia. This produced river flooding across much of the Midlands and Central Savannah River Area during much of the month of February.

Enoree River at Whitmire (FS = 25.0 Feet):
The river crested at 31.21 feet, producing minor flooding, on the afternoon of the 8th.

The North Fork of the Edisto River at Orangeburg (FS = 8.0 Feet):
The river crested at 9.25 feet, producing minor flooding, during the early morning hours of the 8th.

The river crested at 8.06 feet, producing minor flooding, during the evening hours of the 12th.

The river crested at 8.23 feet, producing minor flooding, during the late evening hours of the 21st.

Stevens Creek at Modoc (FS = 19.0 Feet):
Stevens Creek crested at 34.57 feet, producing moderate flooding, during the afternoon of the 7th. Major Flood Stage is 35.0 feet. This was the 6th highest crest on record. Records go back to 1940.

Stevens Creek crested at 19.44 feet, producing minor flooding, during the afternoon hours of the 21st.

The Great Pee Dee River at Cheraw (FS = 30.0 Feet):
The river crested at 42.50 feet, producing major flooding, during the morning hours of the 8th. Major Flood Stage is 42.0 feet. It was the 9th highest crest on record. Records go back to 1864.

The Congaree River at Columbia (FS = 19.0 Feet):
The river crested at 29.19 feet, producing moderating flooding, during the early morning hours of the 9th. Major Flood Stage is 30.0 feet. This was the 10th highest crest on record. The last time the river was this high was during the historic flooding of October 2015, when the river crested at 31.81 feet.

The Congaree River at Carolina Eastman (FS = 115 Feet):
The river crested at 126.40 feet, producing major flooding, on the late morning hours of the 9th. This was the 4th highest crest on record, just below the 3rd highest crest associated with the historic October 2015 flood event. The river crested at 126.90 back in October 2015. Records go back to 1971.

The river crested at 117.60 feet, producing minor flooding, during the afternoon hours of the 23rd.

The river crested at 116.20 feet, producing minor flooding, during the evening hours of the 27th.

The river crested at 115.10 feet, producing minor flooding, during the late evening hours of the 28th.

The Congaree River at Gadsden-Congaree National Park (FS = 15.0 Feet):
The river crested at 19.54 feet, producing moderate flooding, during the evening hours of the 10th. This is the 2nd highest crest recorded. The only higher crest was associated with the record flooding of October 2015, when the river crested at 19.83 feet. Records go back to 1983.

The river crested at 16.63 feet, producing minor flooding on the early morning hours of the 23rd.

The Wateree River at Lake Wateree (FS = 100 Feet):
The pool elevation crested at 106.04 feet, producing major flooding, during the morning hours of the 9th. Major Flood Pool Elevation is 105.0 feet. This was the 2nd highest pool elevation on record. The highest was associated with Hurricane Hugo, when the pool elevation reached 107.0 feet on October 3rd, 1989.

The Wateree River at Camden (FS = 27 Feet):
The river crested at 35.23 feet, producing major flooding, during the afternoon of the 8th. Major Flood Stage is 35.0 feet. This was the 7th highest crest on record. Records go back to 1892. This crest was higher than the historic flooding of the Fall/Winter of 2015/2016.

The Saluda River at Chappells (FS = 14.0 Feet):
The river crested at 24.43 feet, producing moderate flooding, during the early morning hours of the 8th.

Here are a few News stories, Facebook posts and Twitter posts about the impact of the flooding during February. Courtesy of the Congaree Riverkeeper, Congaree National Park, WRDW, Fox 54 and the Augusta Chronicle.

Congaree National Park
February 10 at 9:41 AM ·

"How high is the water, Ranger?" Very high! The Congaree River crested earlier at 19.54 feet and is currently at 19.23 feet. Cedar Creek crested at 16.02 feet and is currently at 15.84 feet. Most of the Elevated Boardwalk is under water along with all the trails in the floodplain. Backcountry camping is not possible at this time and paddling is strongly discouraged because of the potential of strong currents and the difficulty in navigation.

You and 253 others 13 Comments 49 Shares

Wow Comment Share

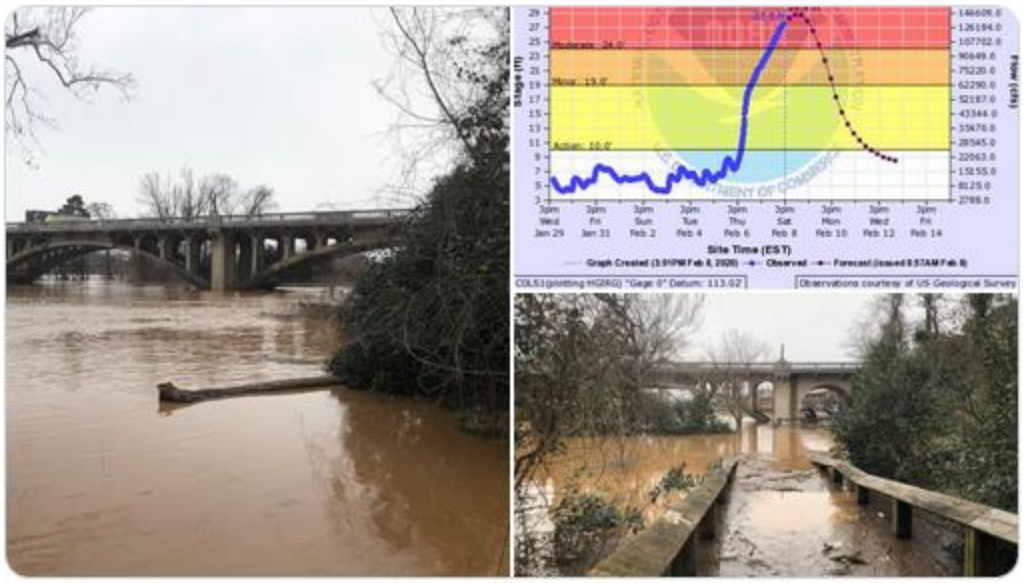
Congaree River at the West Columbia-Cayce Riverwalk – Amphitheater

Congaree River below Columbia in the Sandy Run Community

Congaree Riverkeeper
@congareervrkpr

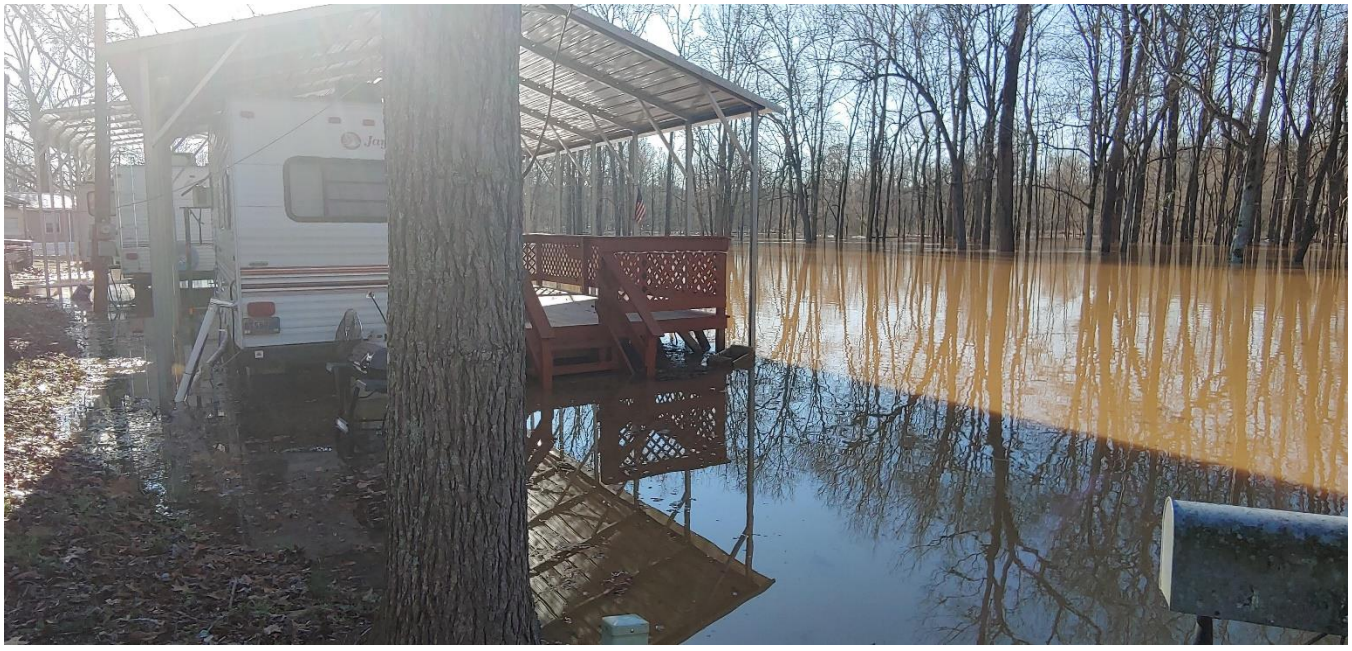
Congaree River Flooding Update 📈 🌊

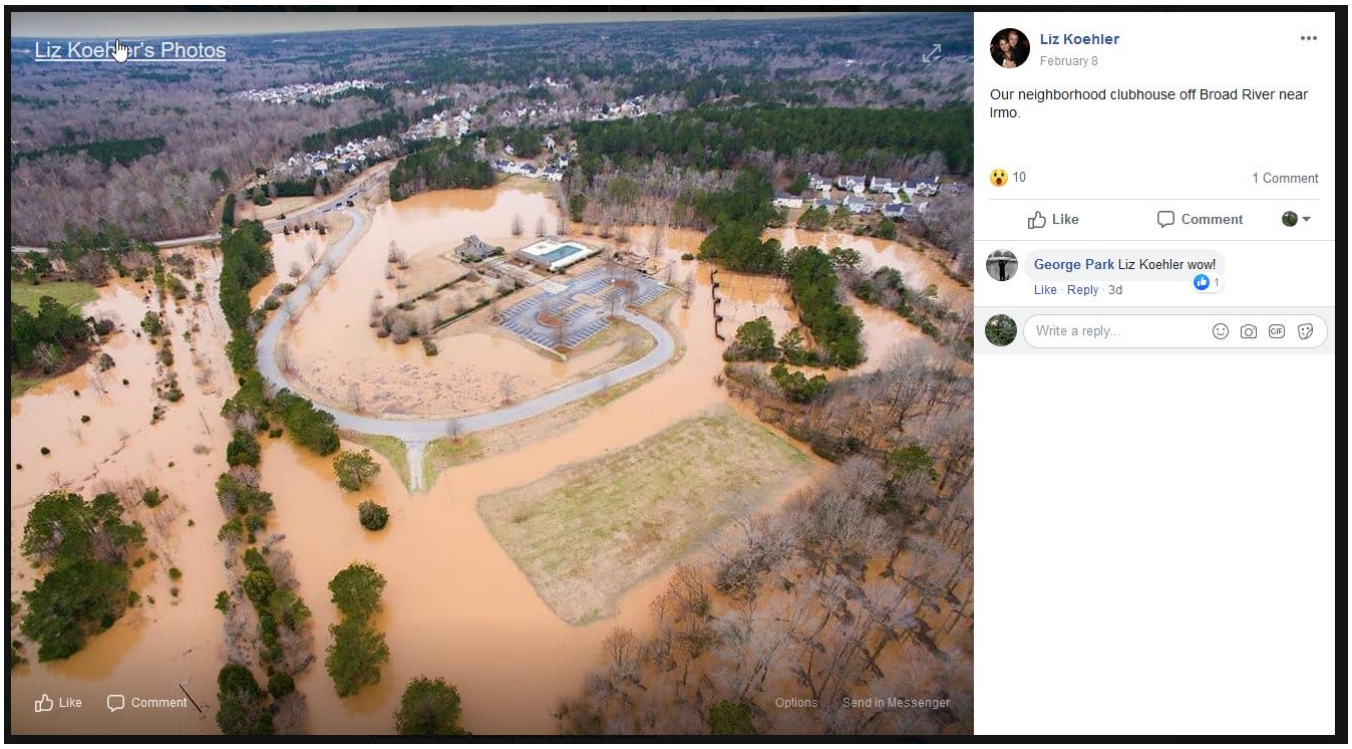
The Congaree River at Columbia is currently at 27.88 ft (135,000 cfs) and is forecast to crest at 28.8 ft late tonight or early Sunday morning. You can see the current river level and latest forecast here: water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrogra...



4:17 PM · Feb 8, 2020 from South Carolina, USA · Twitter for iPhone

Lake Wateree at Dutchman Creek near Lake Wateree State Park


Saluda River at the Saluda River Resort between Lake Greenwood and Lake Murray.



Flooding in Chestnut Hill Plantation near the Broad River.

BUY PHOTO ▲ HIDE CAPTION

A Richmond County Sheriff's Officer stands watch after the road leading to the boat ramp at the city dock flooded in Augusta, Ga., Wednesday afternoon February 19, 2020. [MICHAEL HOLAHAN/THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE] - Michael Holahan

CSRA NEWS

Flooding down the river in Burke County impacting homes

by: Renetta DuBose
Posted: Feb 17, 2020 / 06:17 PM E ST / Updated: Feb 17, 2020 / 09:38 PM E ST

GIRARD, Ga. (WJBF) – One Burke County community had to park their cars and fire up their boats to get home due to the Savannah River flooding. With more rainfall expected this week, the problems will get more than worse and they could be disastrous.

Many people have already left the Stoney Bluff South Community. Water now covers a large portion of the entrance road.

"If it wasn't under water you could drive down the road," said Tina Lowery, who lives along the river.

She can't get home except by boat.

She and her husband live in the Stoney Bluff South community with at least a dozen others. All of the homes along the Savannah River are threatened by flood waters.

Lowery and her husband, who took NewsChannel 6 by their home on a boat, said they have been watching the rainfall.

Storms might be over, but flooding waters are on their way

By Sydney Heiberger | Posted: Fri 4:19 PM, Feb 07, 2020 | Updated: Sat 3:04 PM, Feb 08, 2020

Friday, Feb. 7, 2020
News 12 6 O'Clock/NBC at 7

AUGUSTA, GA (WRDW/WAGT) -- Even though major storms are over, flood waters around the region are still expected to keep rising.

(Source: WRDW)

We aren't close to being in the clear. The Army Corps of Engineers just released a warning that the Savannah River will exceed its natural capacity this evening.

At Stevens Creek, the water there reached 34 feet and will continue to rise next week as waters from northern portions of the river start to drain down into Augusta.

"All those pictures coming out of Greenwood, and Greenville, and upstate Georgia – that water is headed our way," Tonya Bonitatibus with the Savannah Riverkeeper said.

Bonitatibus says the flooding we can expect to see in the next week is a definite cause for concern.

"I'm not gonna lie – we're in a pretty scary position," Bonitatibus said.

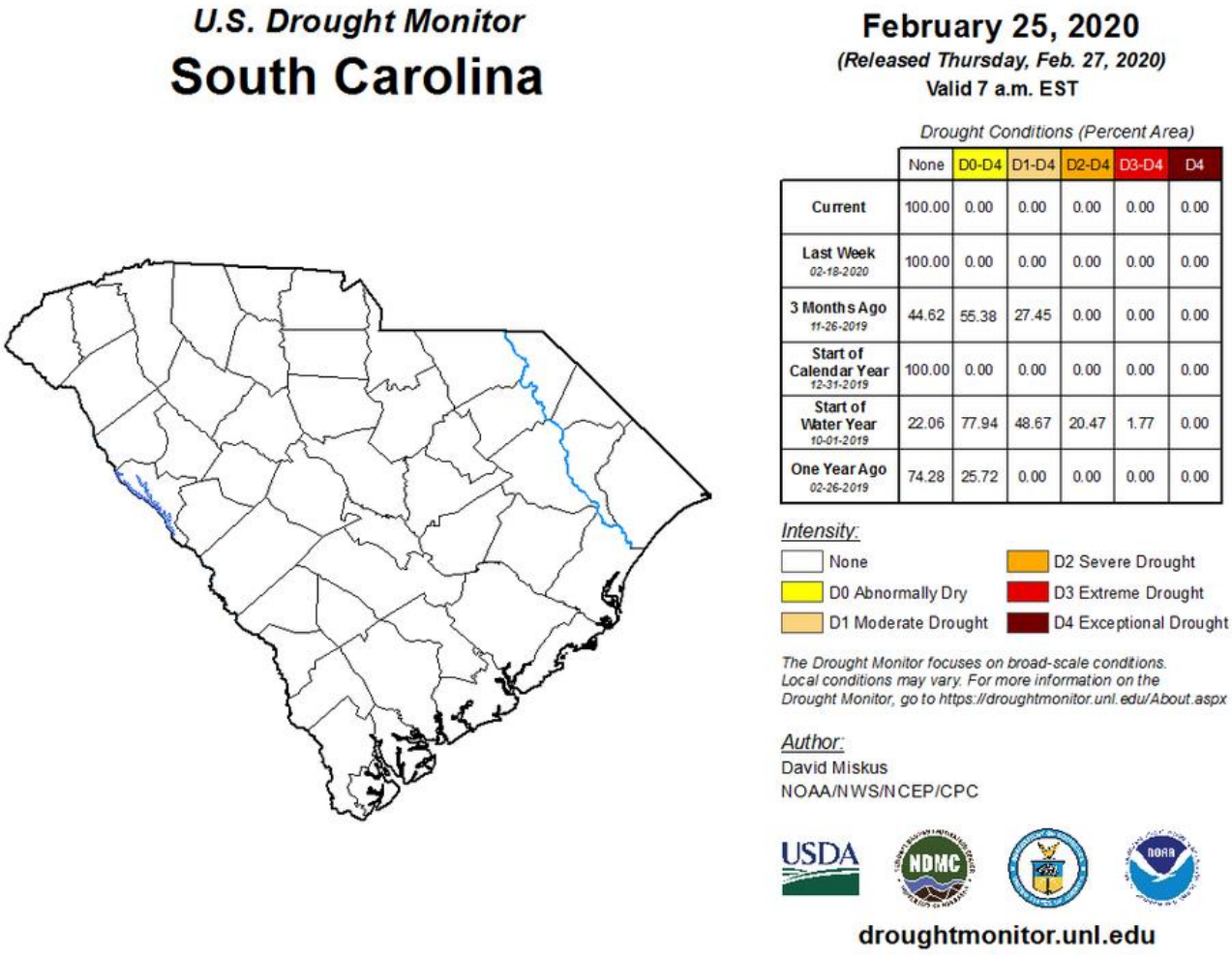
It could be on par with some of the worst flooding events in the region's history.

"If you have experienced flooding in the last 10 years, 13 years, you should expect to see flooding over the end of next week," Bonitatibus said.

Drought Conditions

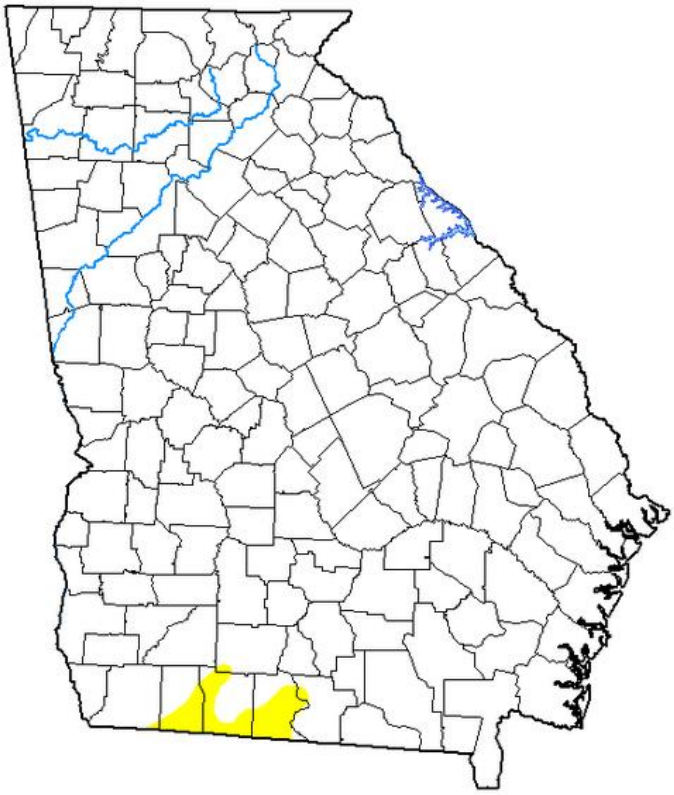
Due to the above normal rainfall during the winter season, the Midlands and Central Savannah River Area remained free from drought.

(Please see the maps below).



U.S. Drought Monitor

Georgia



February 25, 2020

(Released Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	98.51	1.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week *02-18-2020*	97.63	2.37	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago *11-26-2019*	55.92	44.08	23.08	2.20	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *12-31-2019*	96.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year *10-01-2019*	0.00	100.00	61.58	28.35	4.49	0.00
One Year Ago *02-26-2019*	98.20	1.80	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

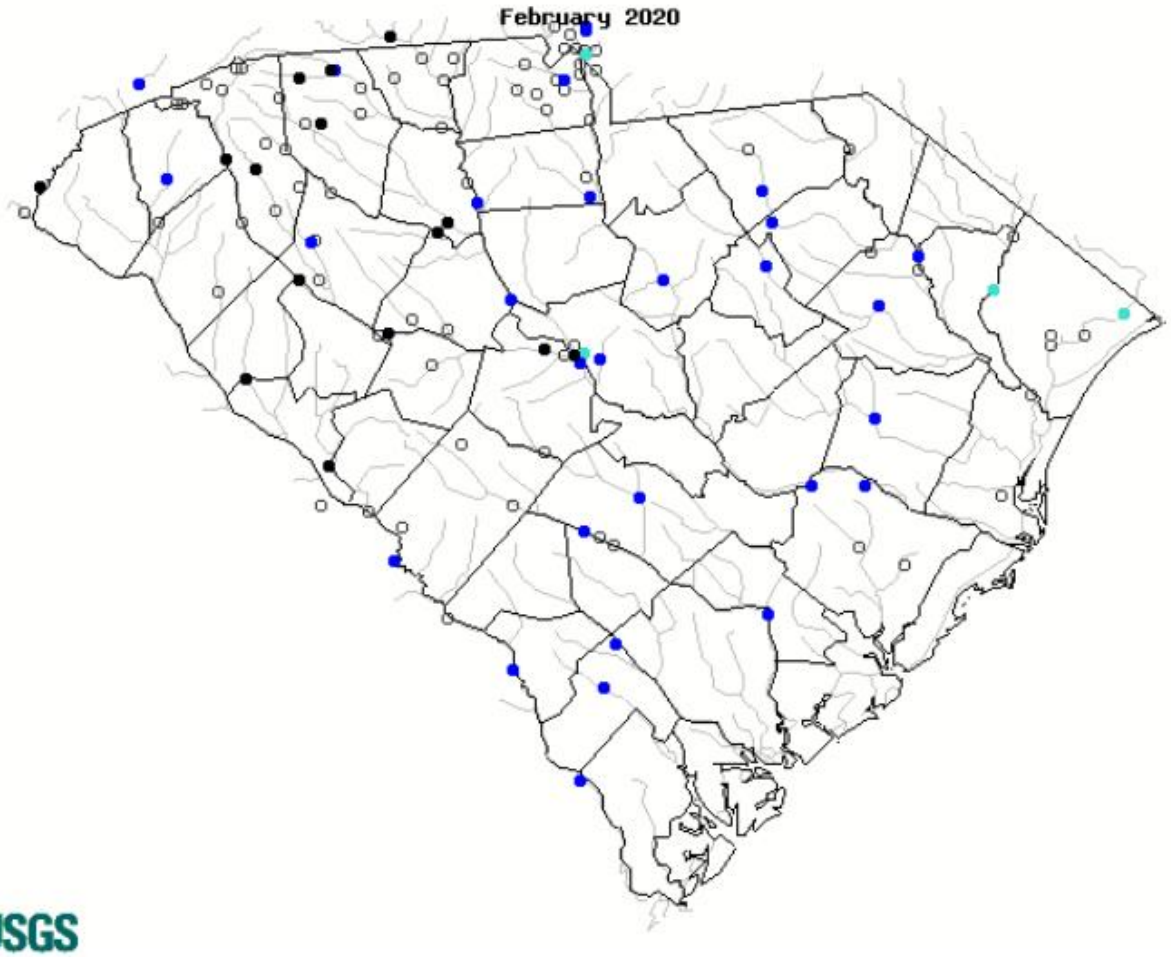
Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Streamflow Conditions

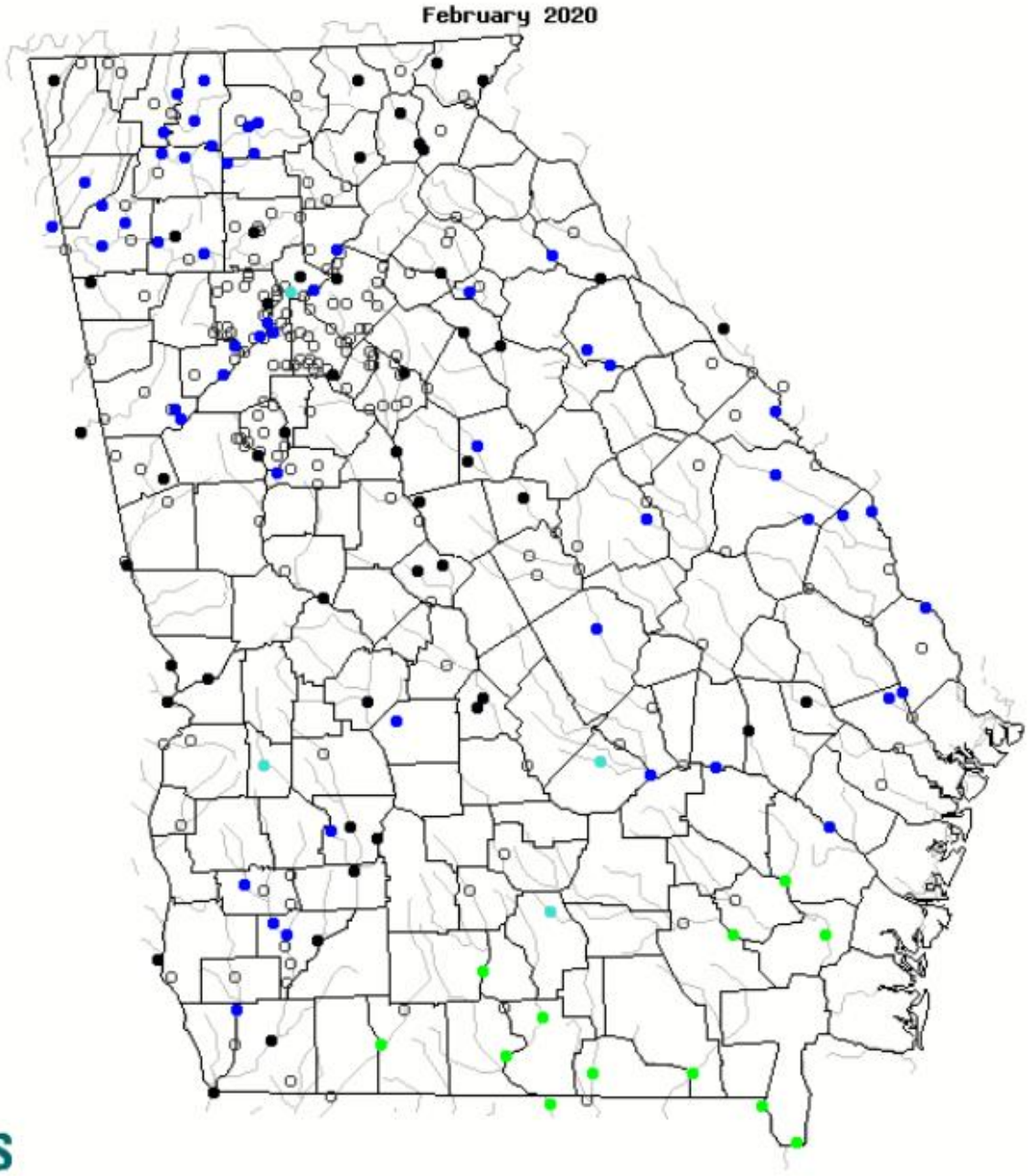
Monthly average stream flows for February across the Midlands and Central Savannah River Area showed all of the major rivers and streams ranging from Above Normal Conditions to High Condition

Stream Flow Compared to Historical Stream Flow for the Month



USGS

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



USGS

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

Temperatures

February 2020 temperatures were above normal for the month.

The monthly average temperature at Columbia (CAE) was 51.7 degrees. This value was 3.2 degrees above the normal of 48.5 degrees. The highest temperature during the month was 79 degrees reached on the 3rd. The lowest temperature was 23 degrees that occurred on the 22nd.

The average temperature for the month at Augusta (AGS) was 53.0 degrees. This value was 3.9 degrees above the normal of 49.1 degrees. The highest temperature during the month was 80 degrees reached on the 11th. The lowest temperature was 25 degrees that occurred on the 22nd.

The average temperature for the month at Orangeburg (OGB) was 52.4 degrees. This value was 2.8 degrees above the normal of 49.6 degrees. The highest temperature during the month was 79 degrees reached on the 13th. The lowest temperature was 25 degrees that occurred on the 22nd.

Hydrological Products

The following products were issued during February 2020.

DGT	Drought Statements	0
ESF	Hydrologic Outlooks	0
FFA	Flash Flood Watches	3
FFS	Flash Flood Statements	0
FFW	Flash Flood Warnings	0
FLS	Flood Statements	130
FLW	Flood Warnings	19
FLS	Areal Flood Advisories	11