



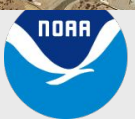
Drought Information Statement for Northern and Eastern Maine

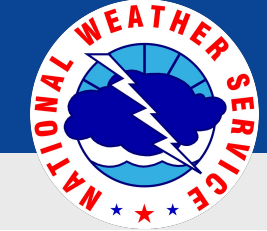
Valid April 23, 2026

Issued By: WFO Caribou, ME

- This product will be updated by April 30, 2026 or sooner, if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/car/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/car> for regional drought status updates.

- Maine's drought improving slowly thanks to recent rainfall & ground frost thawing.
- The short-term recovery in streamflow and groundwater is far from a reversal of long term drought trend.
- Despite any minor improvements to drought classifications this spring, the outlooks suggest that the overall drought trajectory could worsen again in the warm season unless precipitation overperforms.





U.S. Drought Monitor

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

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

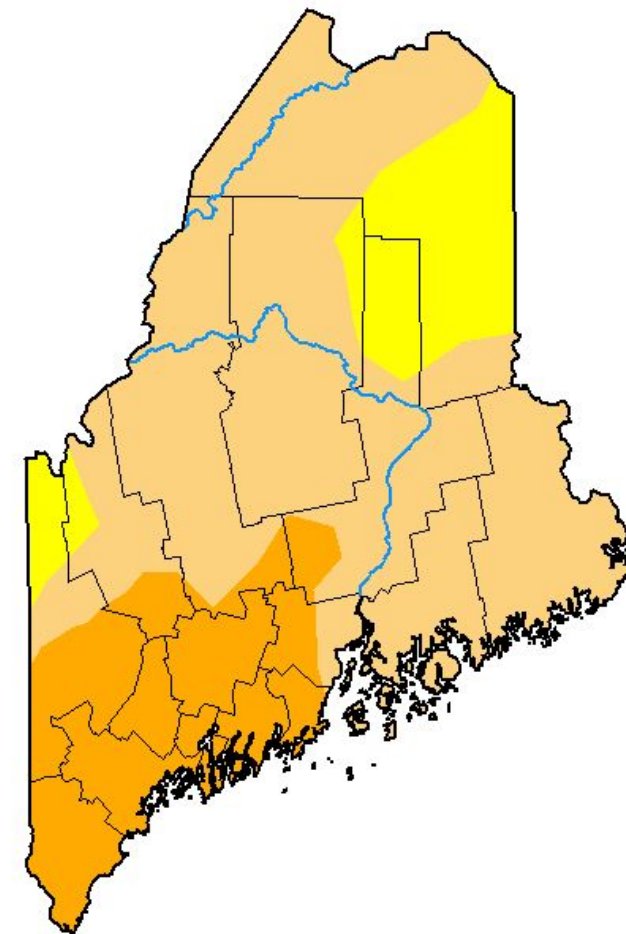
- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**

- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Far southwest Penobscot County.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** All of Hancock & Washington counties. Southern and central Penobscot, far southern & western Aroostook, much of Piscataquis and northern Somerset counties.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Eastern Aroostook, northern Penobscot and far northeast Piscataquis counties.

Percentage of Maine in Drought

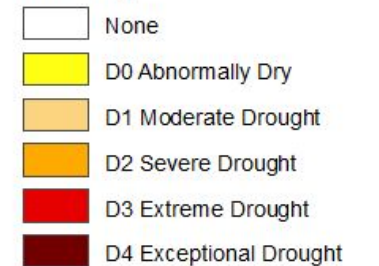
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** 14.11%
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** 63.85%
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** 22.04%
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** 0%
- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** 0%

U.S. Drought Monitor Maine



April 21, 2026
(Released Thursday, Apr. 23, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity:



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

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

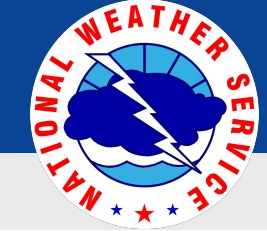


droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME

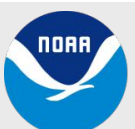
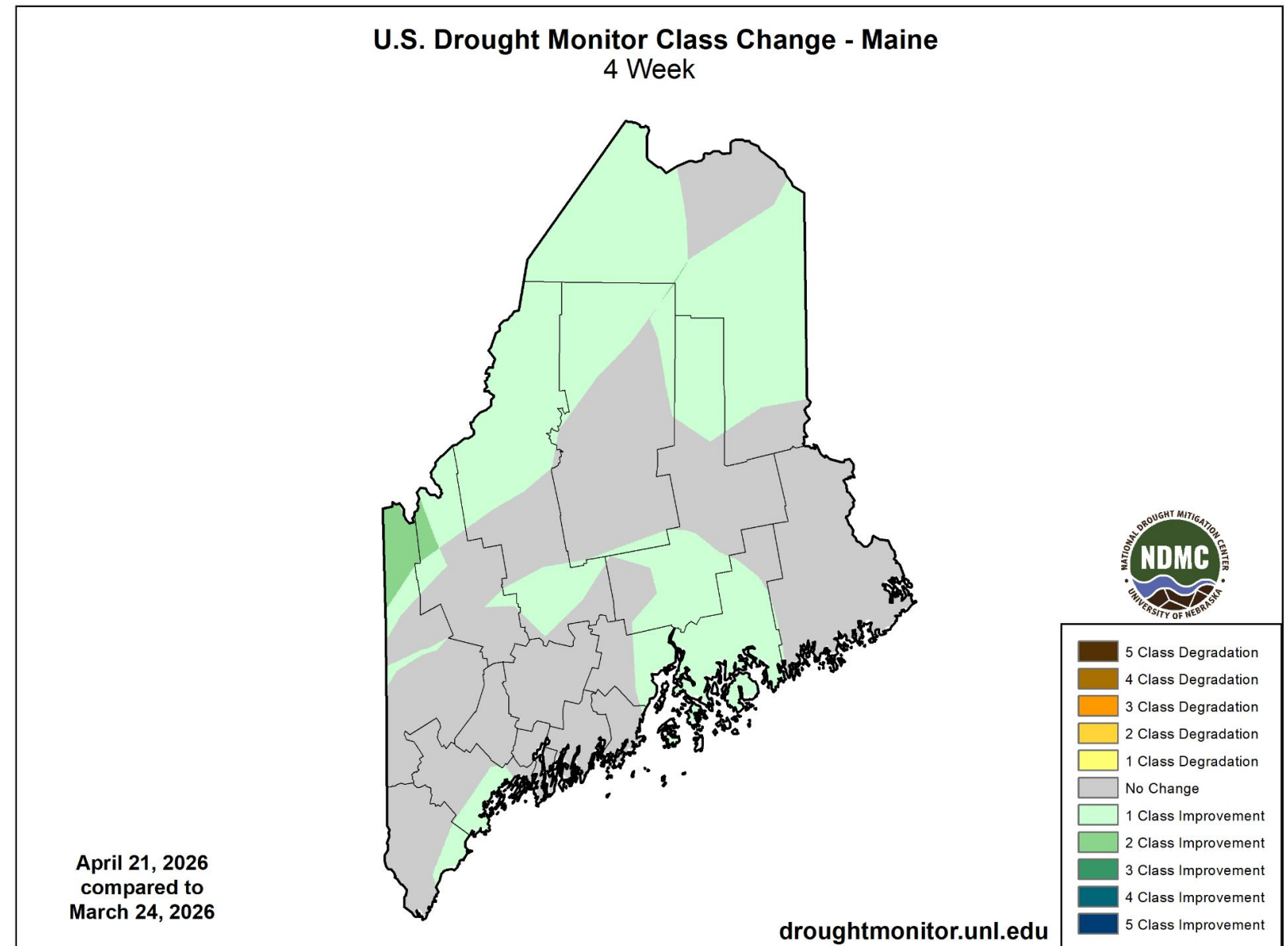


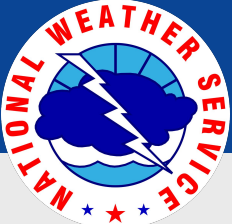
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

Link to the latest [1-month change map](#) for Northeast U.S.

- Four week drought monitor class change:
 - **Drought Worsened:** No Areas.
 - **Drought Improved:** Much of Northern Maine, Southern Penobscot county and much of Hancock county.
 - **No Change:** Eastern St. John Valley, Much of Piscataquis county, Central Penobscot county, all of Washington county.





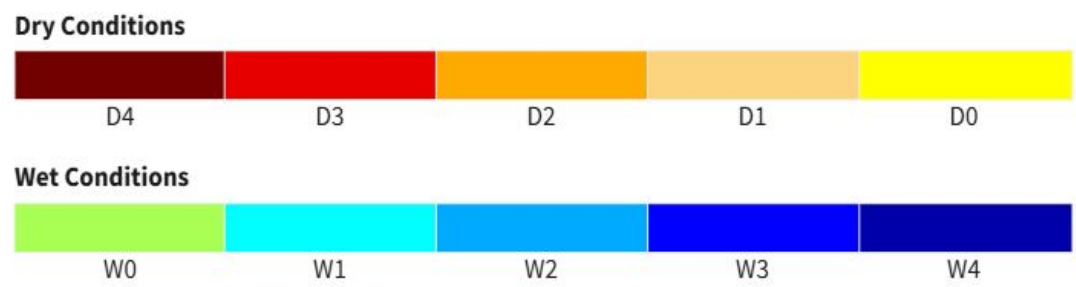
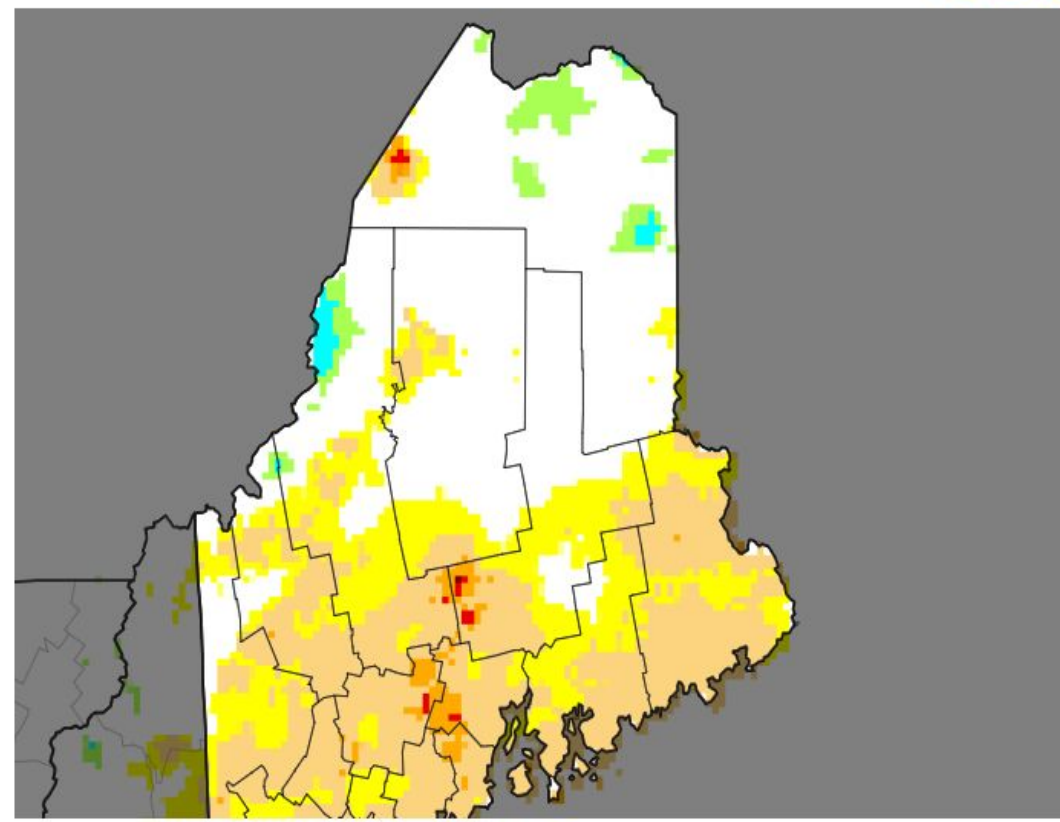
Short & Long Term Drought Index

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

Link to the Maine [Drought.gov](https://www.drought.gov) Maps: www.drought.gov/states/maine

- The Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index (MIDI) estimates current short-term drought conditions by combining several indicators of drought into a single, map from changes in precipitation and moisture over the past 3 months.
- Short term drought conditions indicate improvements based on spring recharge.
- The Long-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index (MIDI) estimates current long-term drought conditions by combining several indicators of drought into a single, map from changes in precipitation and moisture over the past 5 years.

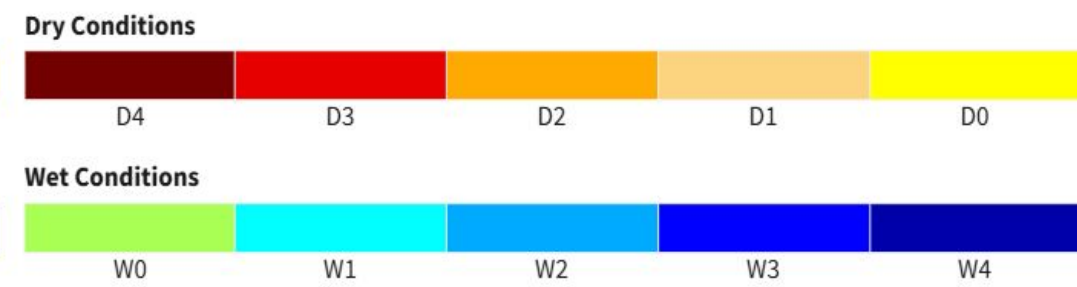
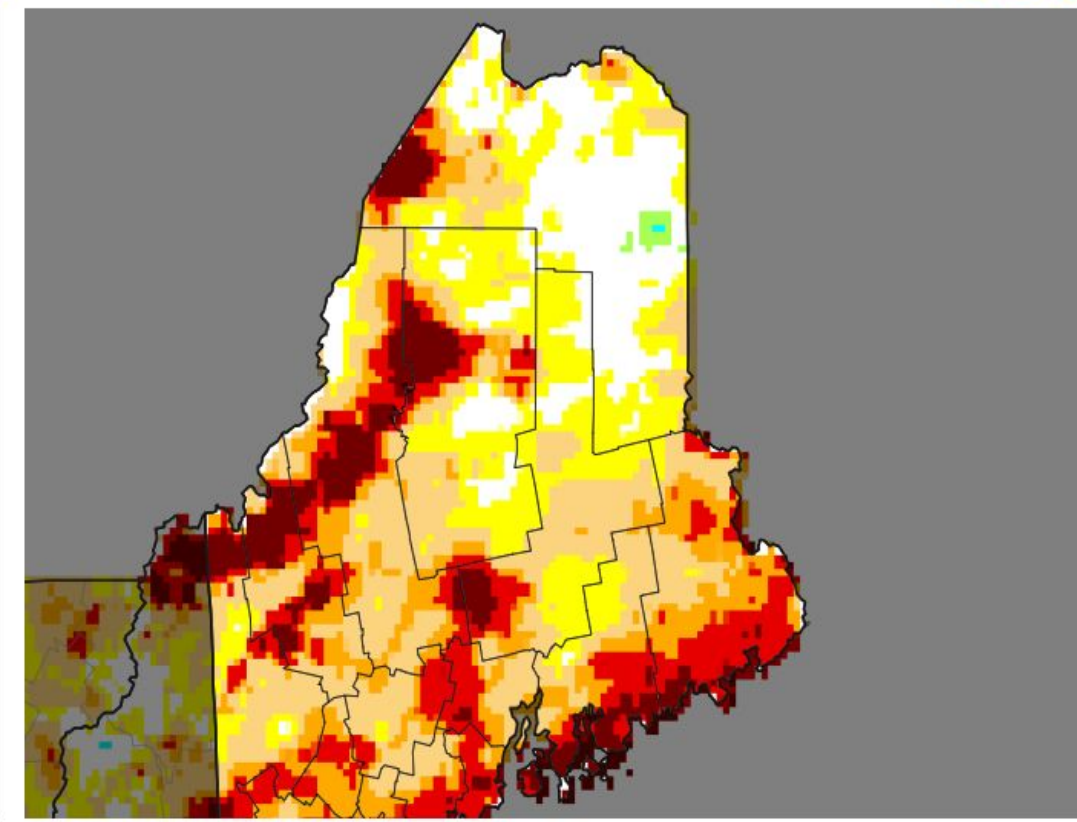
Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 04/15/26

Drought.gov

Long-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 04/15/26

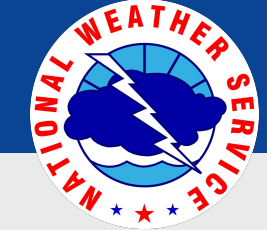
Drought.gov



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

This experimental map is based on methodology from the NOAA National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME



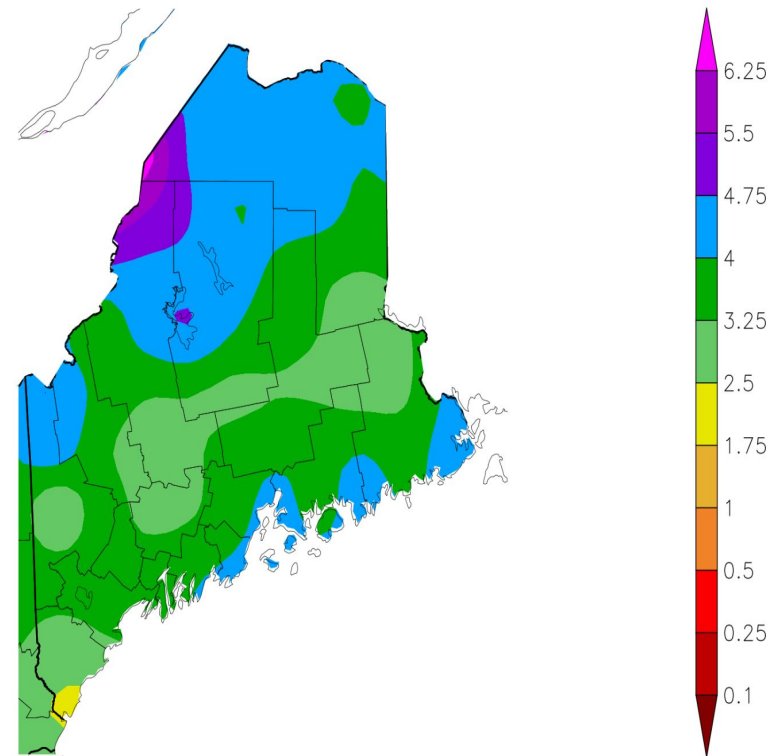
30 Day Precipitation

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

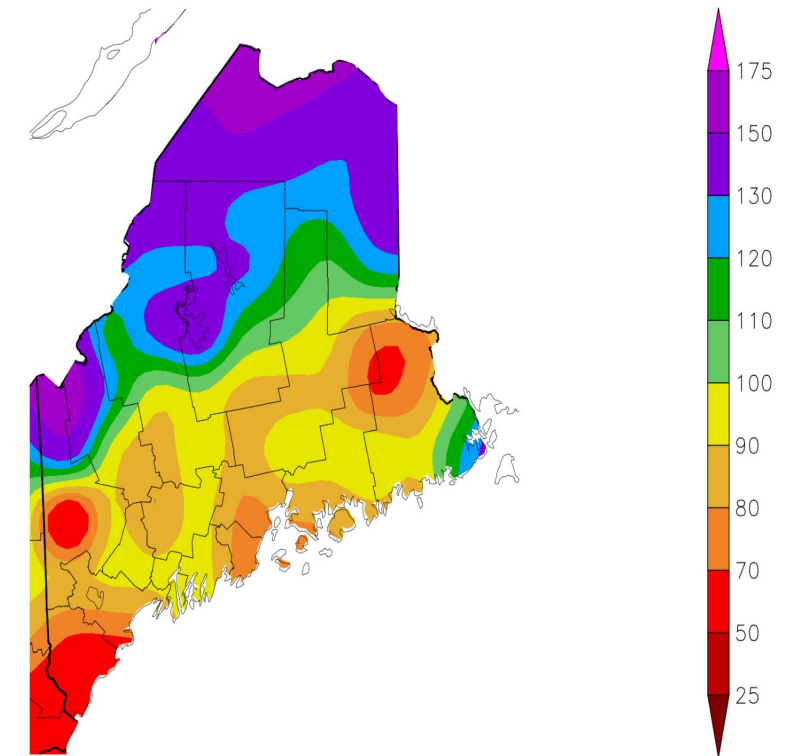
- Precipitation has been near to above normal across Northern Maine to Moosehead Region.
- Below normal precipitation for southern Central Highlands, Greater Bangor region, Downeast into far Southern Aroostook county.

Precipitation (in)
3/24/2026 – 4/22/2026



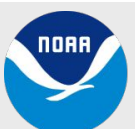
Generated 4/23/2026 using provisional data.

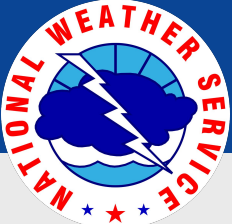
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
3/24/2026 – 4/22/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 4/23/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



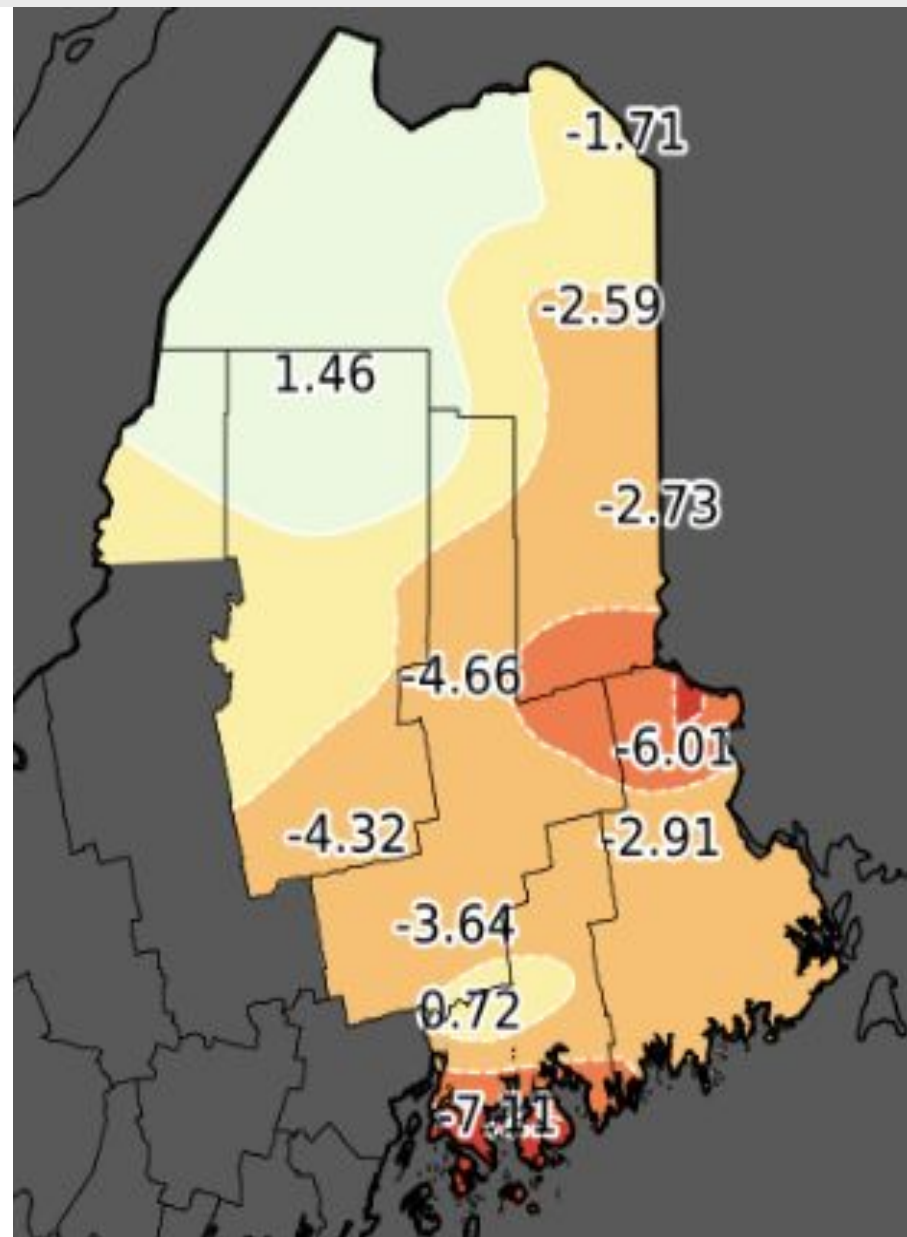


Precipitation Deficits

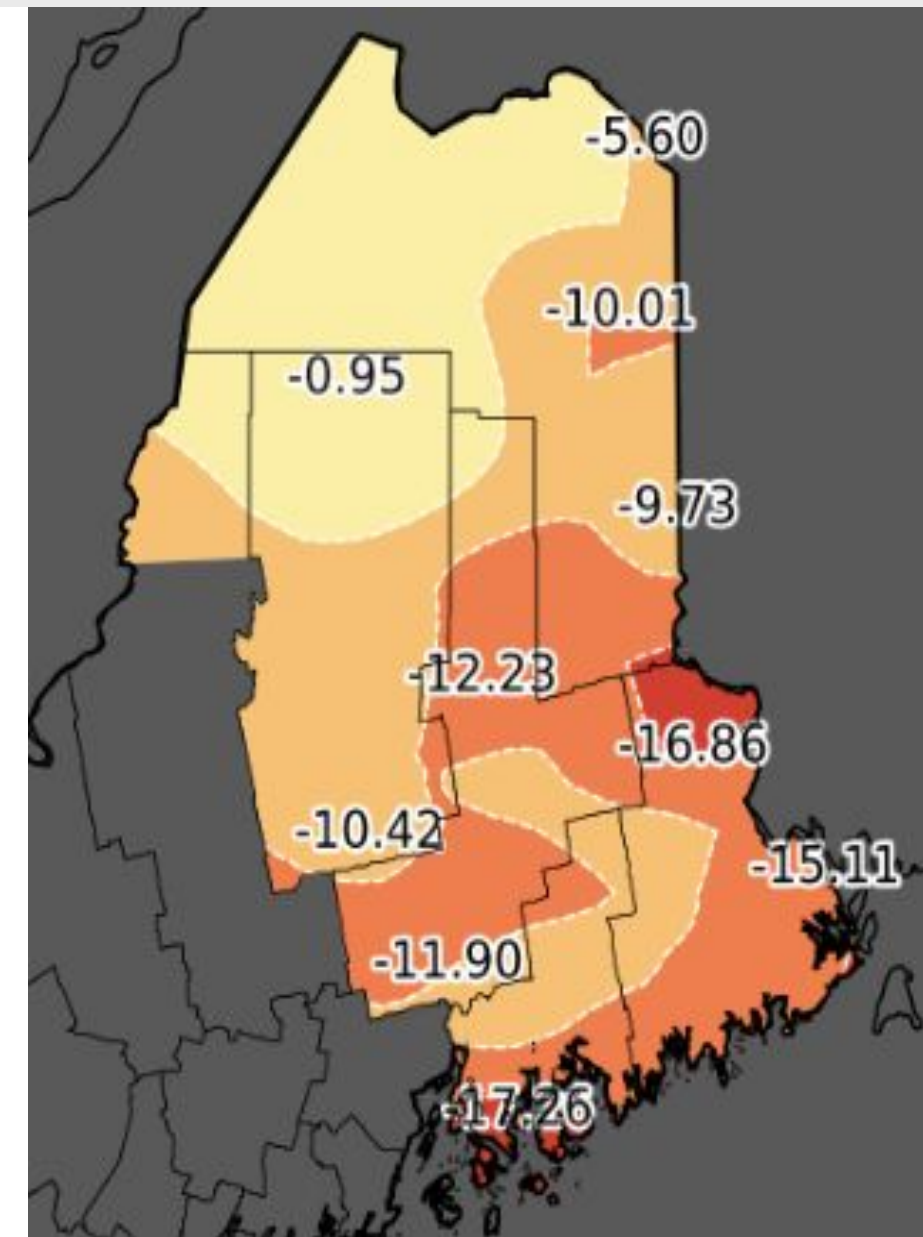
April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

Link to [Iowa State University IEM](#)

- Prolonged precipitation deficits for a year across much of the area. Worst deficits are in the St. Croix River Basin.
- Continued significant deficits since January 1, 2026.
- Significant improvements across portions of the North Woods and western St. John Valley.

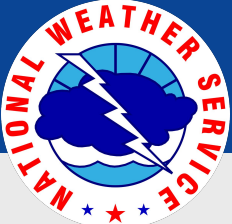


Since January 1, 2026



Since June 1, 2025



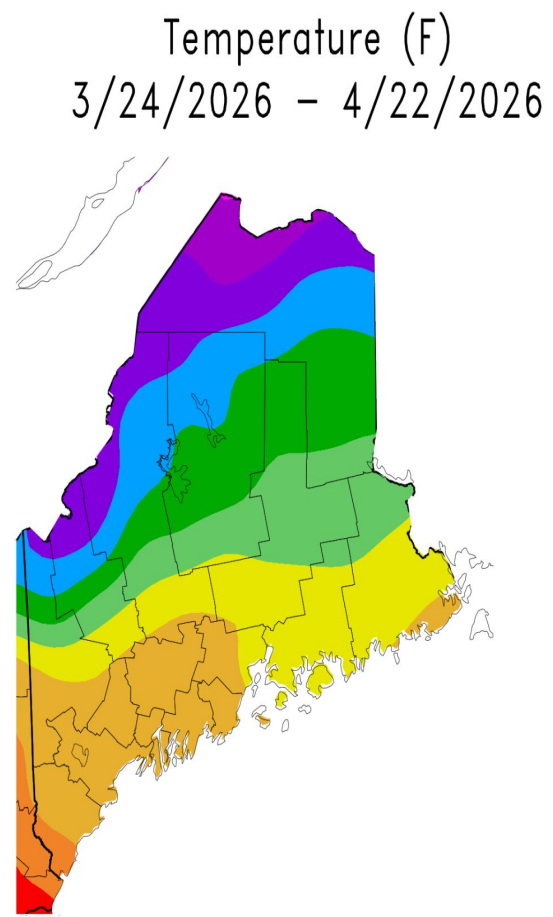


30 Day Temperatures

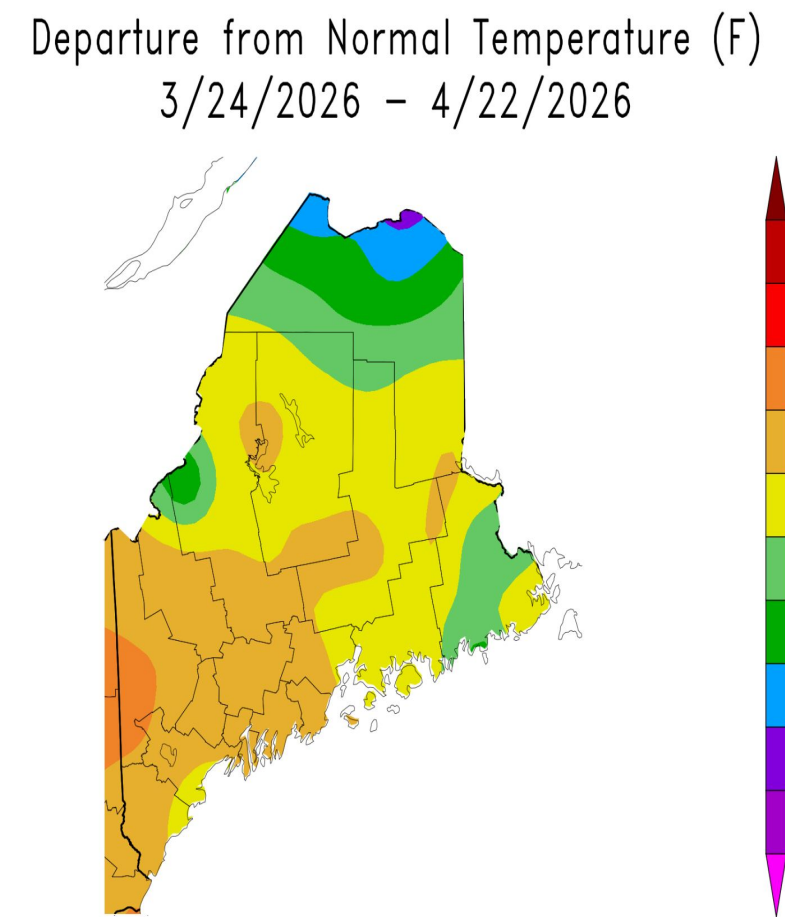
April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

- 30 Day Temperatures have been running 1-3 degrees below normal across Northern Maine.
- Temperatures generally near normal to 2 degrees above normal for the rest of Central & Downeast Maine.
- Average temperatures have been above 32°F for all areas except far Northern Maine.



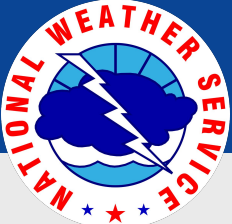
Generated 4/23/2026 using provisional data.



ACIS Web Services Generated 4/23/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





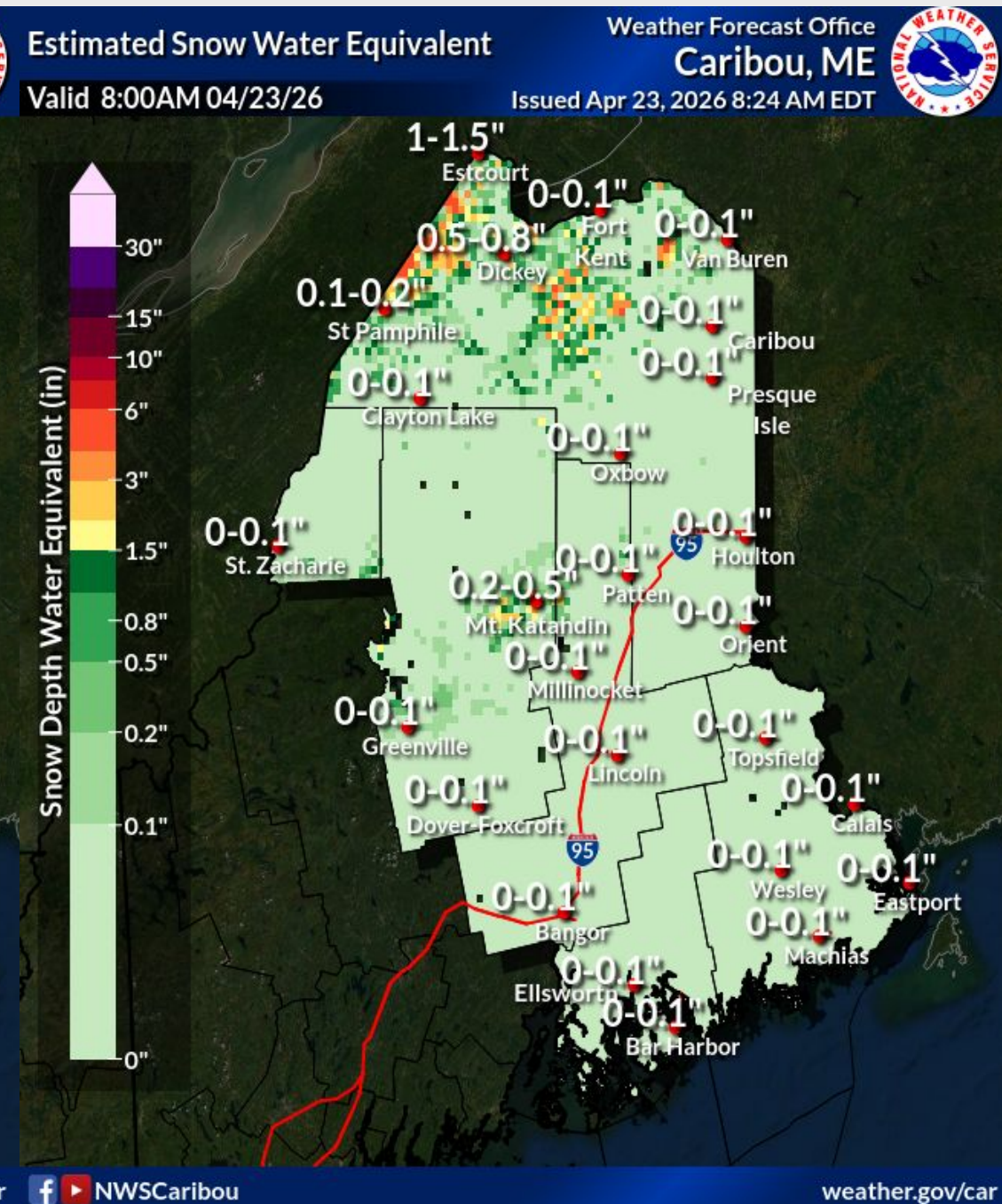
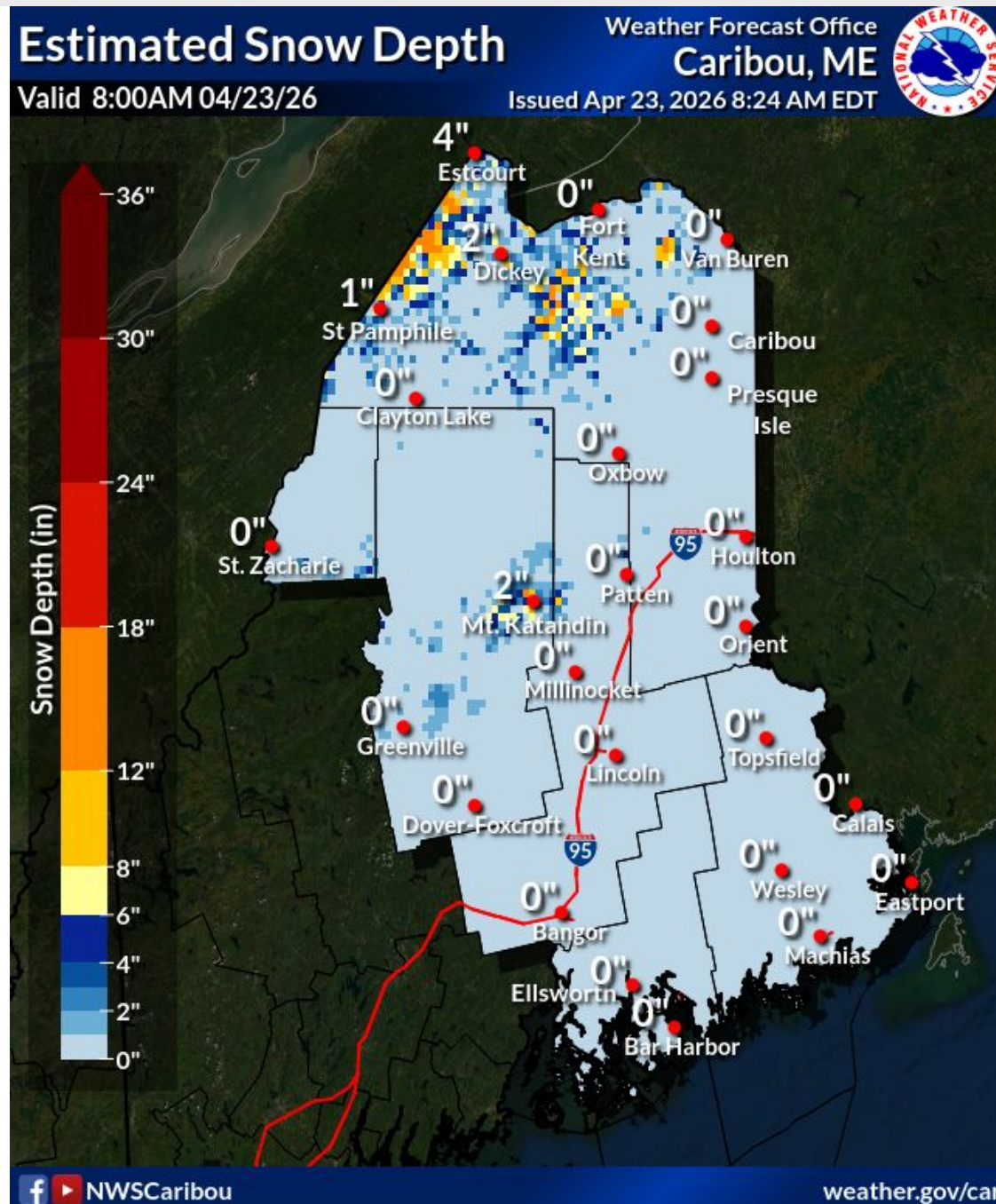
Snowpack & Snow Water Equivalent

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

Link to [National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center \(NOHRSC\)](#)

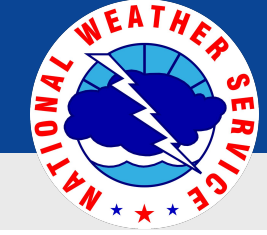
- Remaining snow is mainly in cold forested areas of Northern Maine, St. John River basin and higher elevations of Baxter State Park.

Snowpack & snow water equivalent is below normal across the entire area.



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

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME



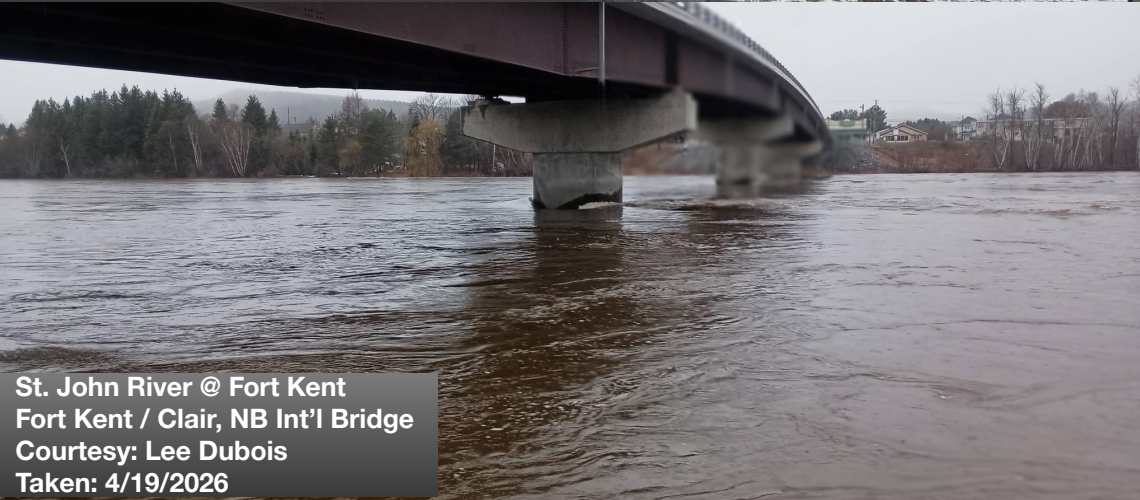
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

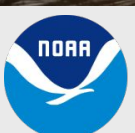
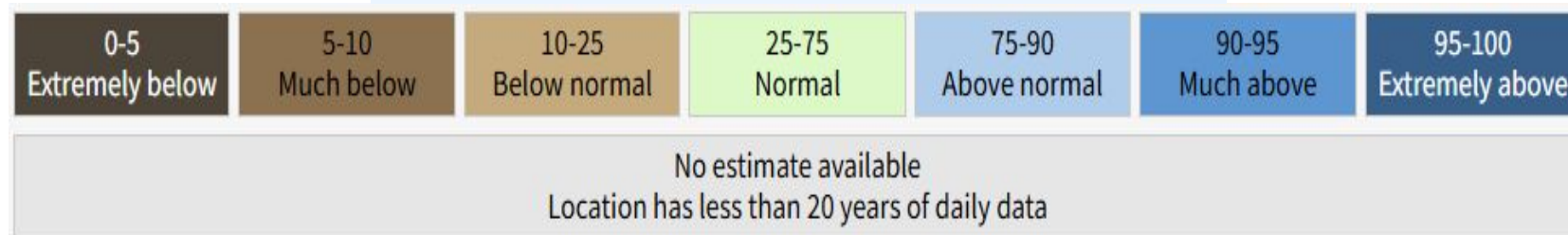
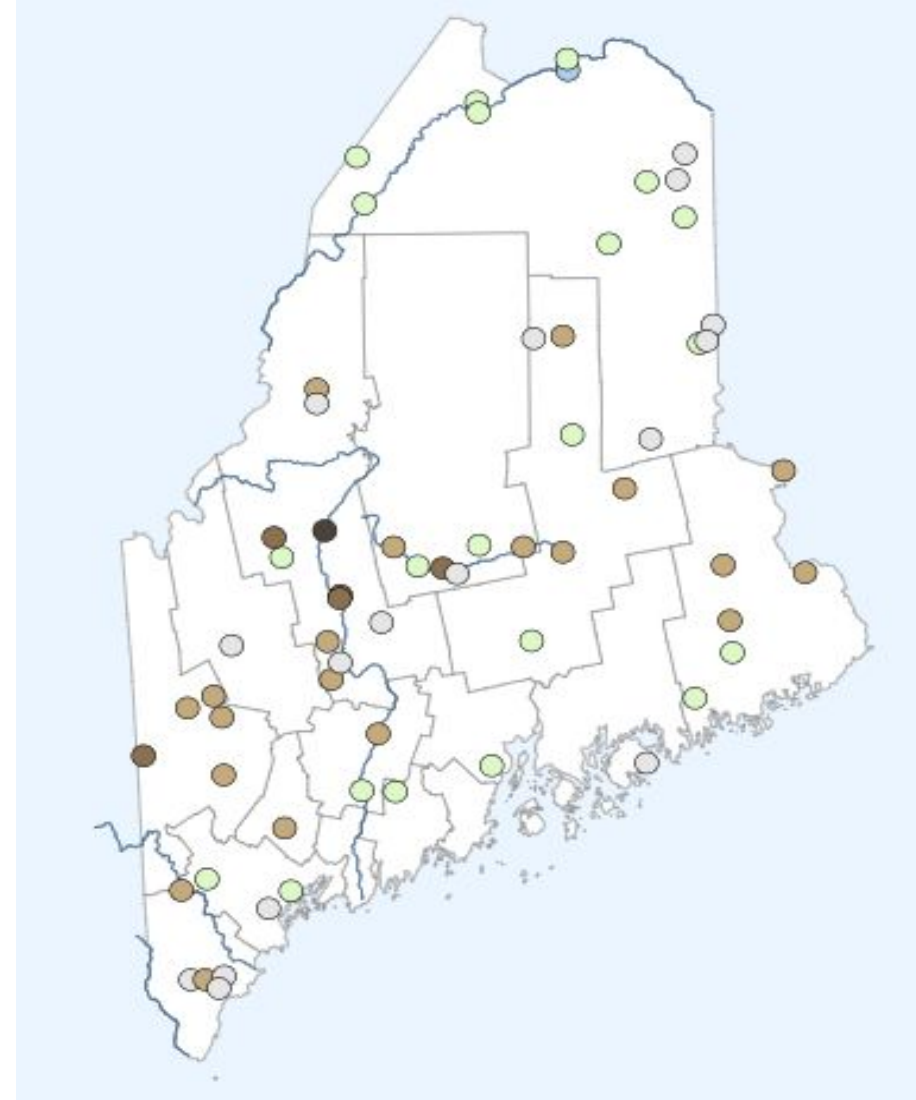
- **Northern Basins:** Normal to Above Normal.
- **Central Highlands, Moosehead & Baxter Regions:** Below Normal.
- **Downeast to Bangor Basins:** Below Normal.
- **Areawide Trends:** Expect flows to continue slowly fall.



St. John River @ Fort Kent Riverside Park
Courtesy: Fort Kent Parks & Rec Dept
Taken: 4/19/2026

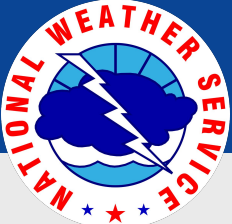


St. John River @ Fort Kent
Fort Kent / Clair, NB Int'l Bridge
Courtesy: Lee Dubois
Taken: 4/19/2026



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

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME



Groundwater

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

The short-term recovery in groundwater is a temporary fluctuation rather than a reversal of the long term drought trend.

- The prolonged drought has left moisture deficit in the deeper soils across Central Highlands, Bangor Region, Downeast and portions of Eastern Aroostook County.
- Across the far north as the frost fully thaws, capillary action will draw moisture downward from the topsoil to fill these deeper voids, essentially robbing the surface layer of its recent gains.

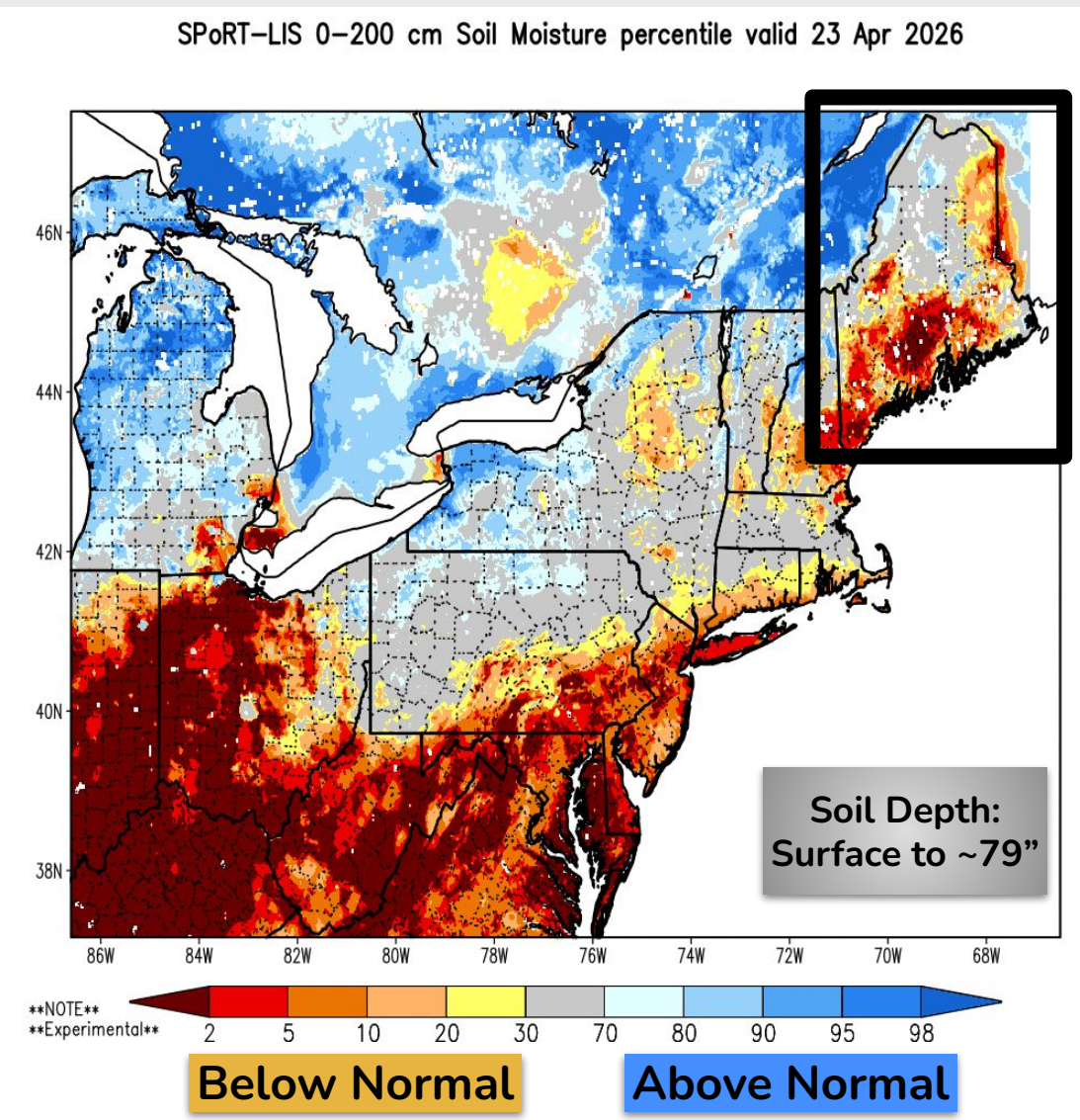
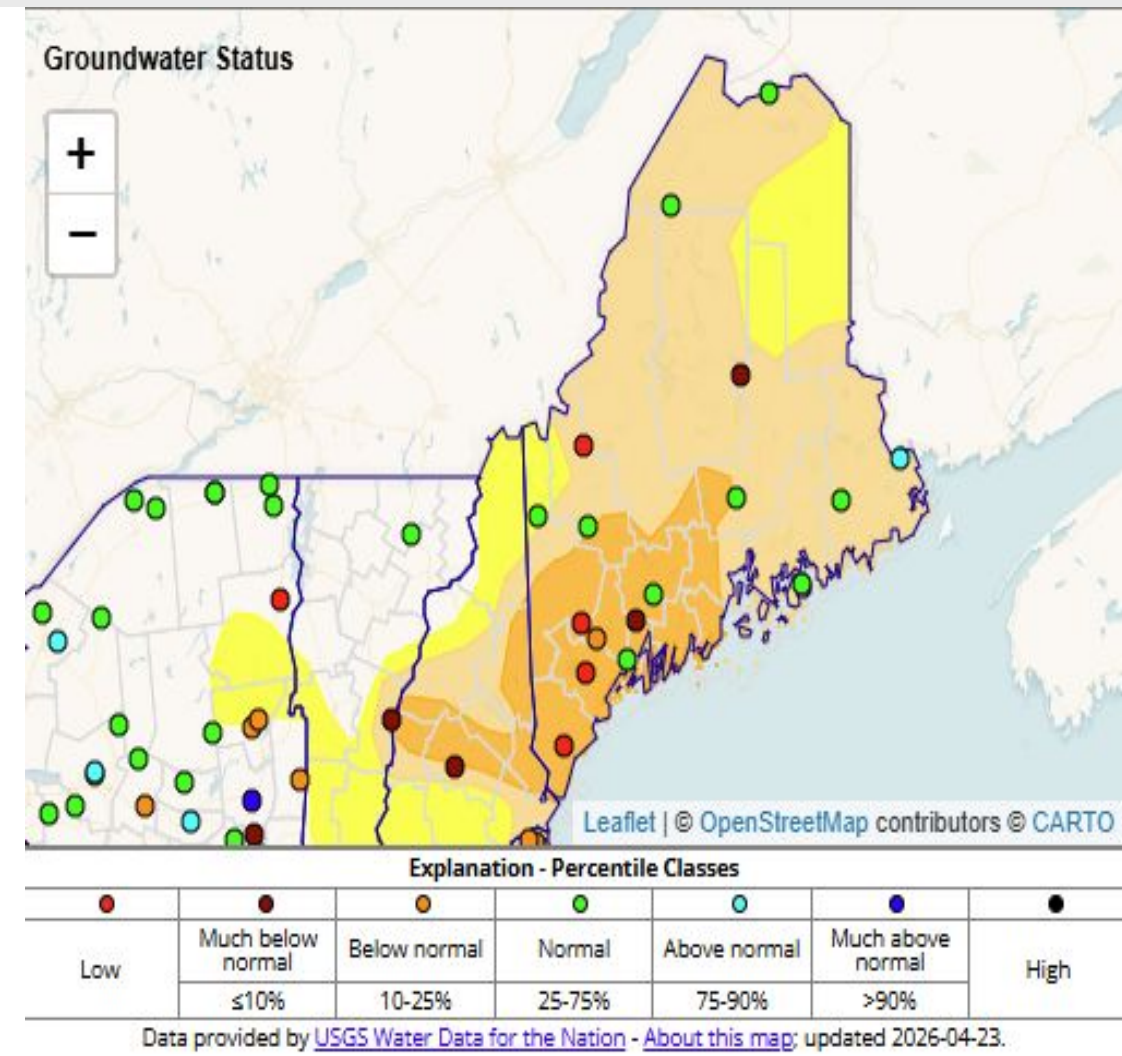
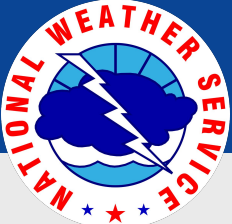


Image Captions:
[USGS Groundwater Gauge Status](#)
[Soil Moisture Percentile 0-200cm Depth](#)

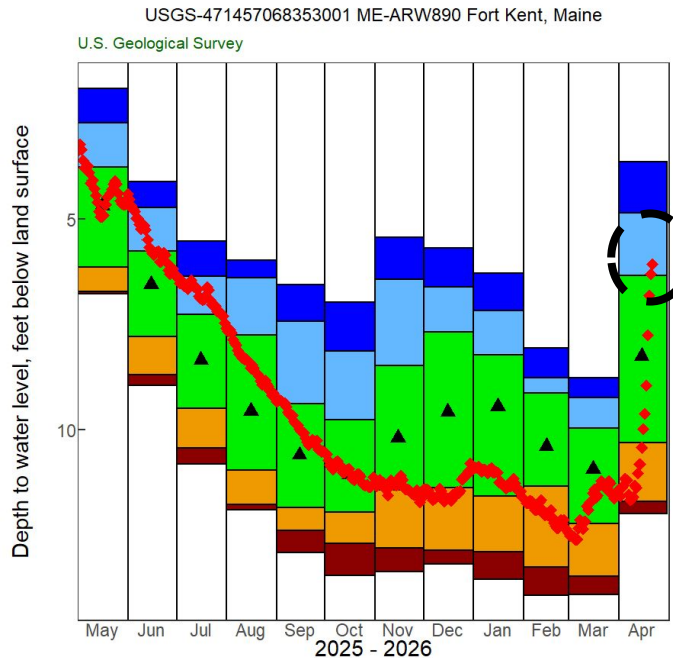




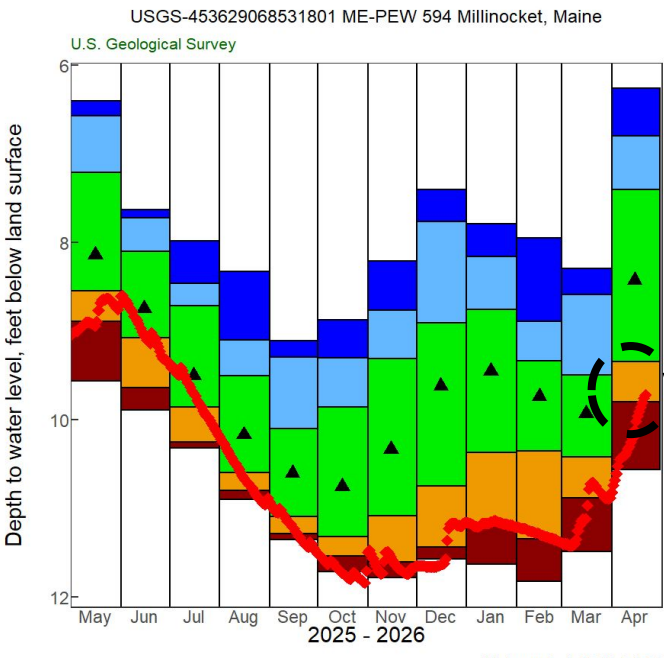
Groundwater Gage Plots

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

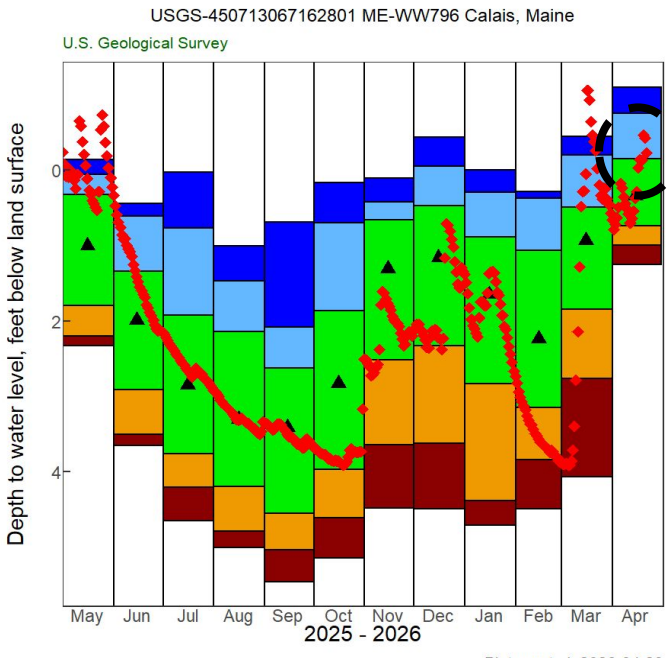
USGS Groundwater Levels in New England: https://newengland.water.usgs.gov/web_app/GWW/GWW.html



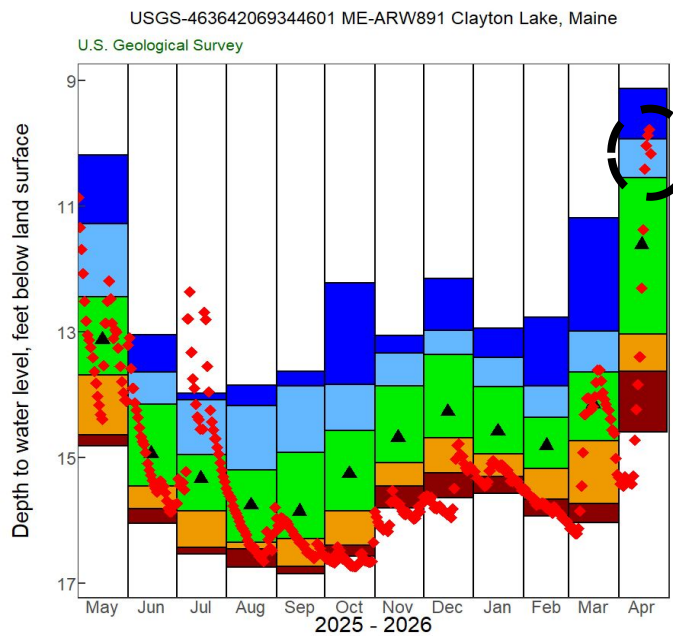
Plot created: 2026-04-23



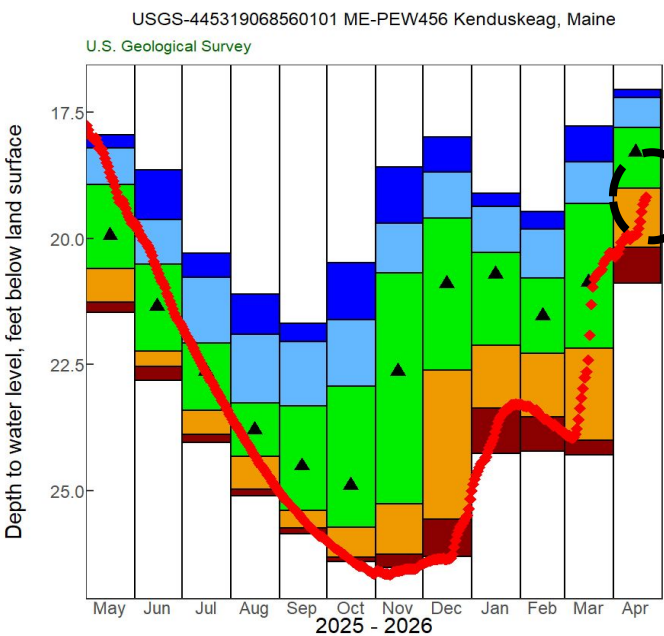
Plot created: 2026-04-23



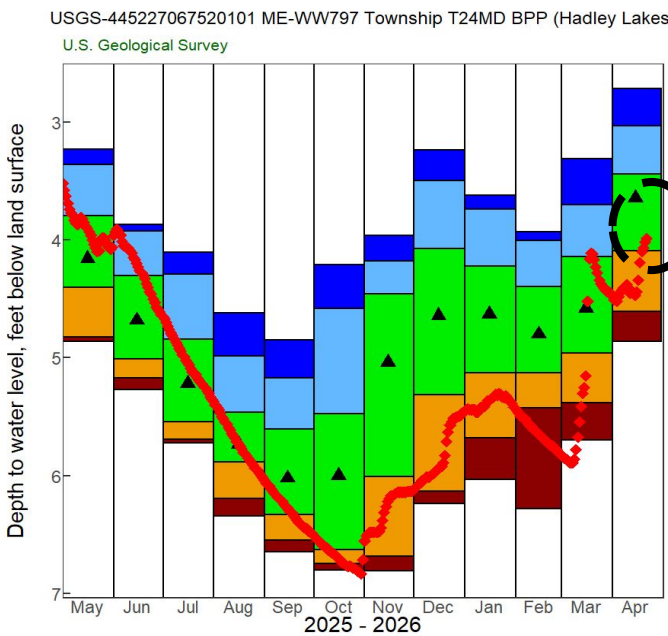
Plot created: 2026-04-23



Plot created: 2026-04-23



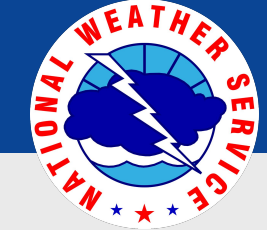
Plot created: 2026-04-23



Plot created: 2026-04-23

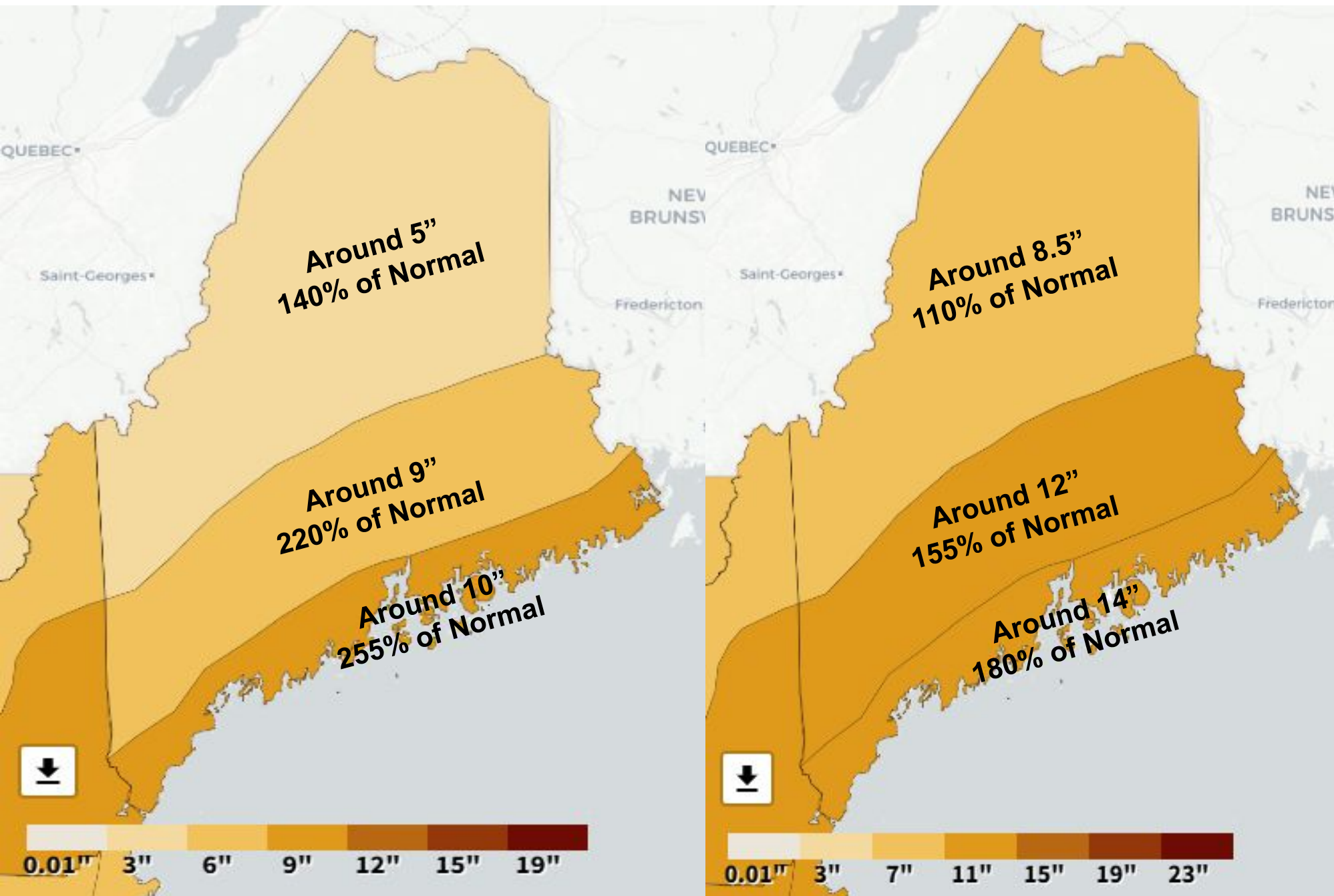
Significant groundwater improvements at many locations. There remains below normal conditions across the Central Highlands and Bangor Region. Will need to monitor as we approach “green up”.



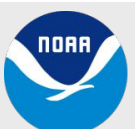


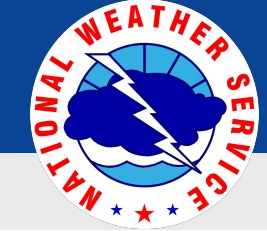
Rainfall Needed to “End the Drought”

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT



- Steady, light-rain events with high absorption rates are ideal
- Ground frost remains in the northernmost regions of the forecast area. Thawing will continue with the increasing sun angle and warm daytime temperatures.
- These values slowly continue to fall which is a sign of improvement.





Summary of Impacts

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- The majority of the streamflows across the area remain “near normal” to “below normal” ([USGS](#))
- Lakes & ponds, although ice covered in northern areas, are ranging from above normal to below normal water levels.

Dry Drinking Water Wells

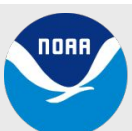
- No new dry well reports in April, will monitor as we approach “green up”.
- Maine EMA Dry Well Survey: <https://maine-dry-well-survey-maine.hub.arcgis.com/>

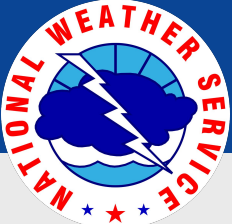
Mitigation Actions

- Conserve water and follow directions from local officials.

Flood Threats

- Flood Threat remains below normal across all of Northern and Eastern Maine with near normal to below normal flows. See the latest Winter/Spring Flood Outlook [Here](#).





Long Range Outlooks (May)

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

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

Main Takeaways for April:

- No significant signal for above/below normal temperatures in the state.
- No significant signal for above/below normal precipitation in the state.

Pattern Outlook

- ENSO Neutral conditions in place with an El Niño expected to develop as we approach Meteorological Summer. We continue to monitor shorter term subseasonal patterns that control the forecast. May remains a transitional season so no significant signals for precipitation and temperatures.

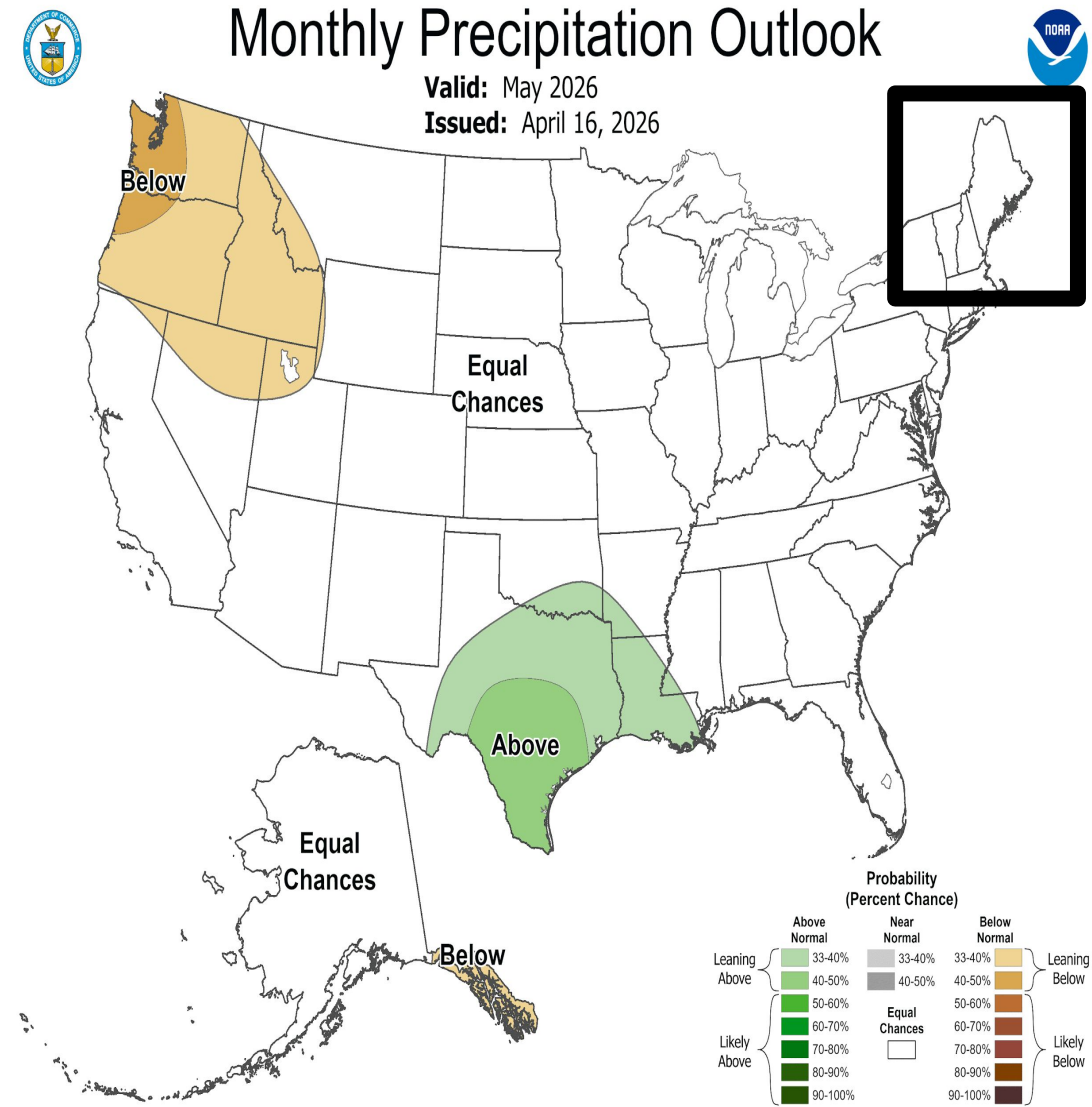
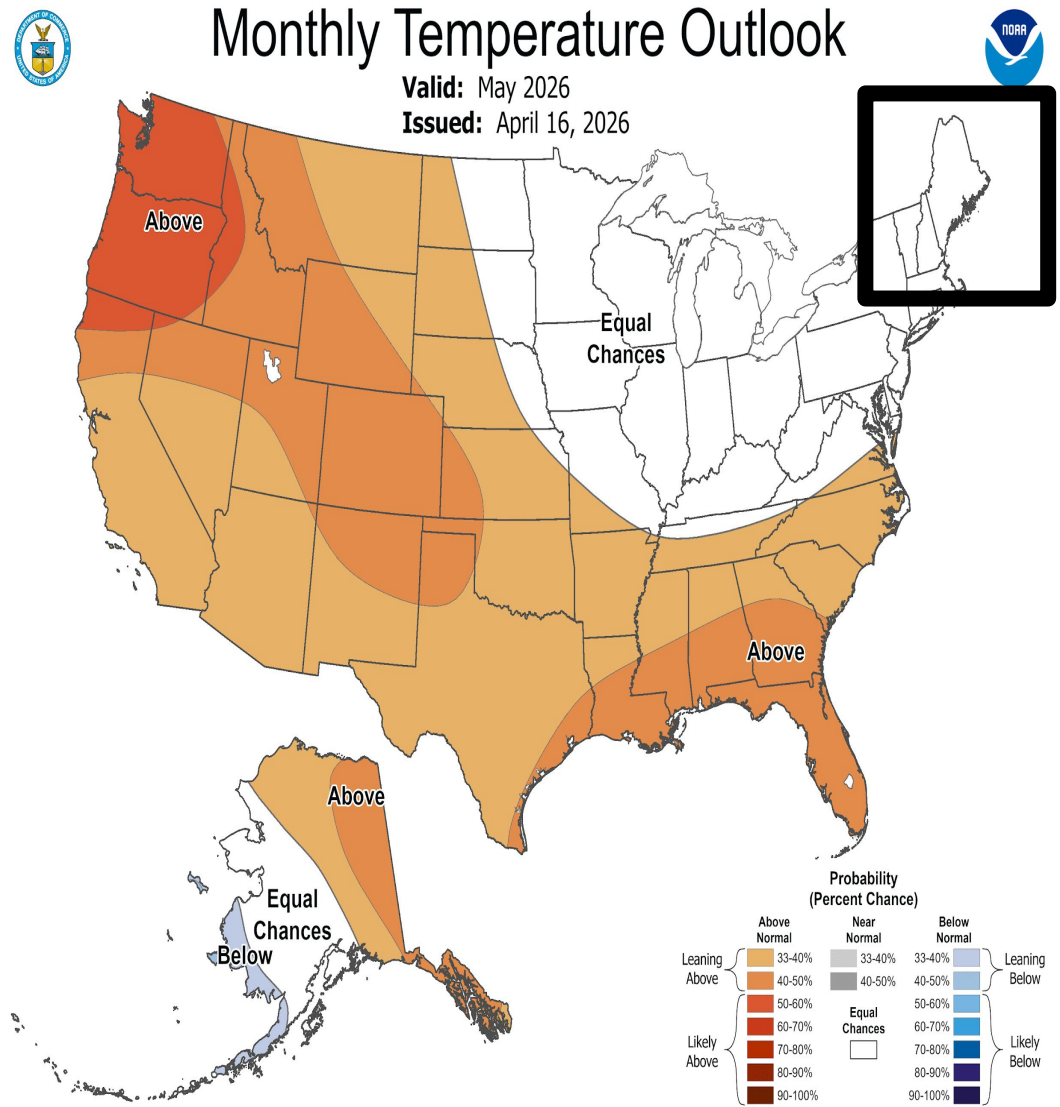
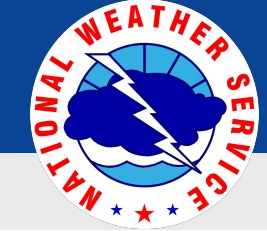


Image Captions:
Left - [Climate Prediction Center 1 Month Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 1 Month Precipitation Outlook.](#)
Valid Apr 16, 2026





Long Range Outlooks (May-July)

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

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

Main Takeaways for Feb-Apr:

- Weak signal for above normal temperatures in the state.
- No significant signal for above/below normal precipitation in the state.

Pattern Outlook

- ENSO Neutral conditions in place with an El Niño expected to develop as we approach Meteorological Summer. We continue to monitor shorter term subseasonal patterns that control the forecast. May remains a transitional season so no significant signals for precipitation and temperatures.

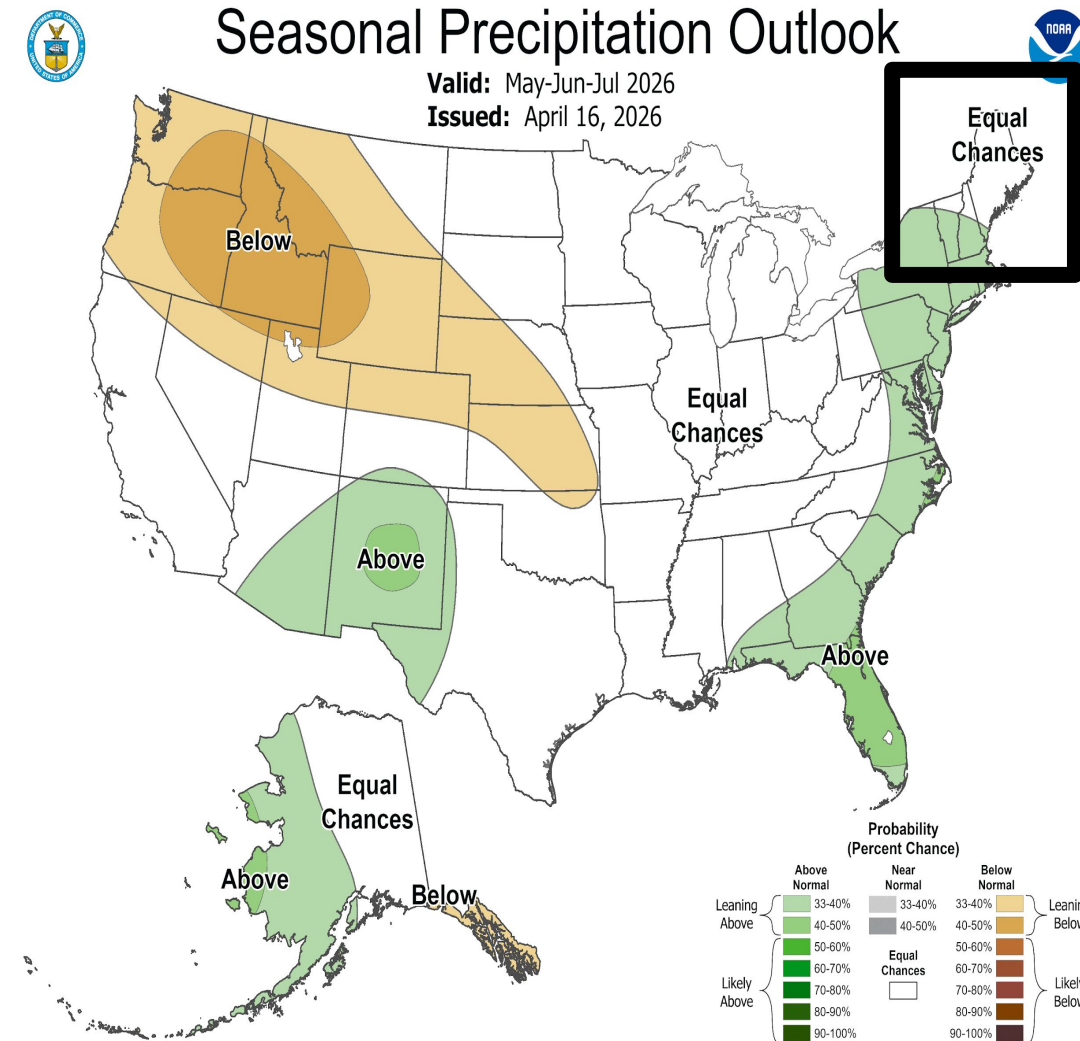
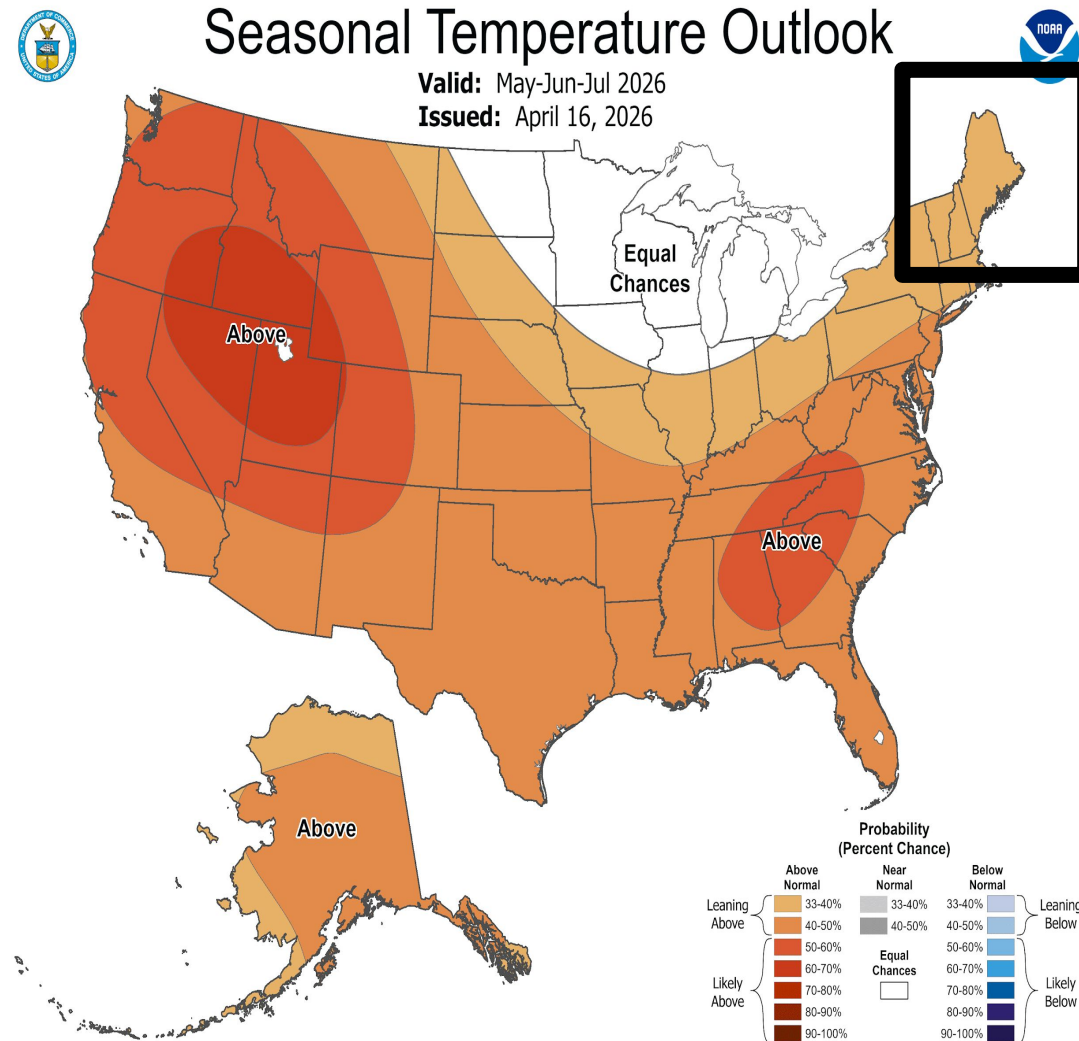
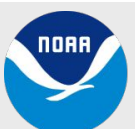
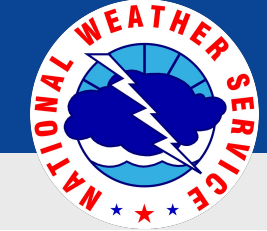


Image Captions:
Left - [Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Precipitation Outlook.](#)

Valid Mar 19, 2026.

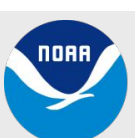


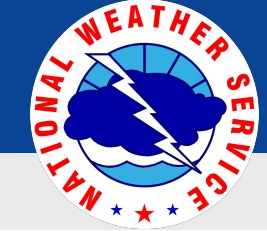


Main Takeaways

April 23, 2026
1:10 PM EDT

- **Bottom Line:** Categorical improvements may appear until green up due to surface condition recovery, however long-term drought persistence is the favored outlook for the 2026 warm season.
 - *Full aquifer recovery is unlikely this spring.*
- Groundwater trends continue to slowly improve. Recent rain and snowmelt has saturated the top layer of soil, increased streamflows and reservoir levels, and slightly buoyed shallow groundwater levels.
- Outlook: Despite these improvements in water levels, the long-term prognosis remains concerning
 - Spring recharge is on trajectory to finish below climatological normals for much of the Central Highlands to Downeast Maine, with the recharge window due to snow mostly closed due to early snow losses in the headwaters.
 - The prolonged drought has left a severe moisture deficit in the deeper soils and groundwater. As any frost fully thaws, moisture will be drawn downward from the topsoil to fill these deeper voids, essentially robbing the surface layer of its recent gains.
 - Once green-up occurs, plants will begin actively pumping water from the soil. This demand coupled with the deep-layer deficits could rapidly reduce topsoil moisture.
- Repeating wetting rains through May will be vital to sustain soil moisture, otherwise evaporative losses will dominate.
- Stakeholders should prepare for a potential flash drought scenario where topsoil moisture dissipates rapidly once the canopy fills in.
- **Long Term Drought Persistence** is expected into the warm season.





Useful Links

- <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>
- <https://www.weather.gov/car/DroughtInformationStatement>
- <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/car>
- <https://www.weather.gov/car/EMhome>
- <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Contact Information

Web

→ www.weather.gov/car

Phone (public)

→ (207) 492-0182

Questions? Email

→ nws.caribou@noaa.gov

→ james.sinko@noaa.gov (Hydrology Program Manager)