



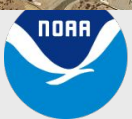
Drought Information Statement for Northern and Eastern Maine

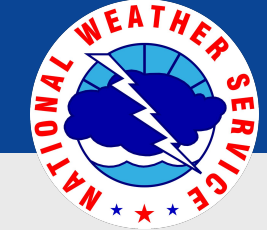
Valid April 30, 2026

Issued By: WFO Caribou, ME

- This product will be updated by May 7, 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 across Eastern & Northern Maine.
- Drought worsened slightly in portions of the Central Highlands.
- 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 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

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

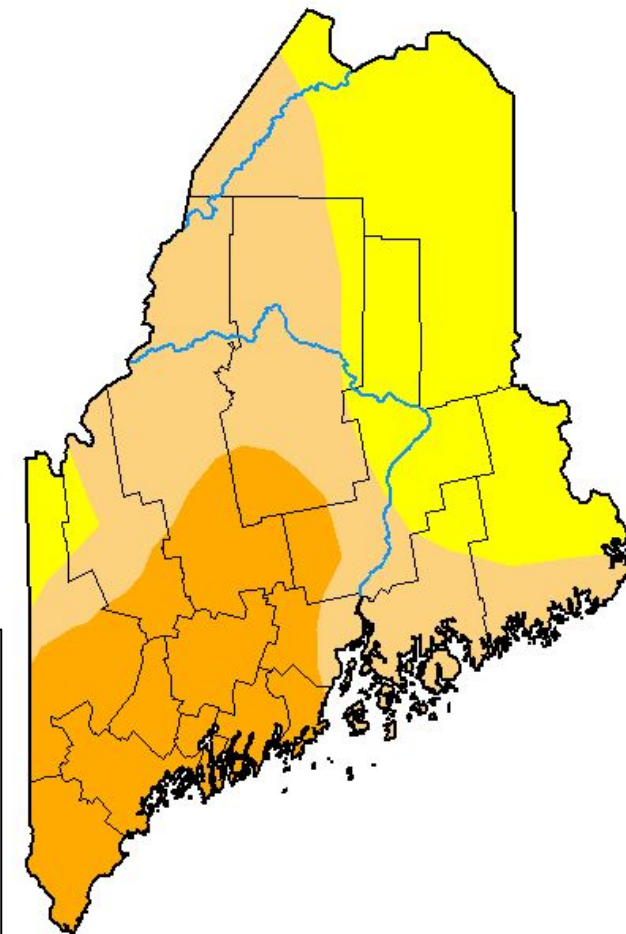
- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**

- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Far southwest Penobscot county & far Southern Piscataquis county.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Far Western Aroostook, Much of Piscataquis, Northern Somerset, Southern Penobscot, Southern & Central Hancock and Coastal Washington counties.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Eastern Aroostook, Northern & North-Central Penobscot, Northern Hancock, Northern & Central Washington counties.

Percentage of Maine in Drought

- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** 34.63%
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** 38.23%
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** 27.14%
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** 0%
- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** 0%

U.S. Drought Monitor Maine

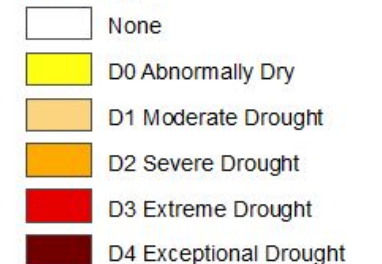


April 28, 2026

(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity:



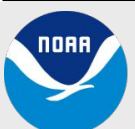
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

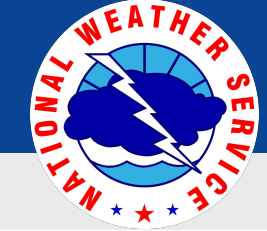


droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME

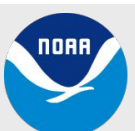
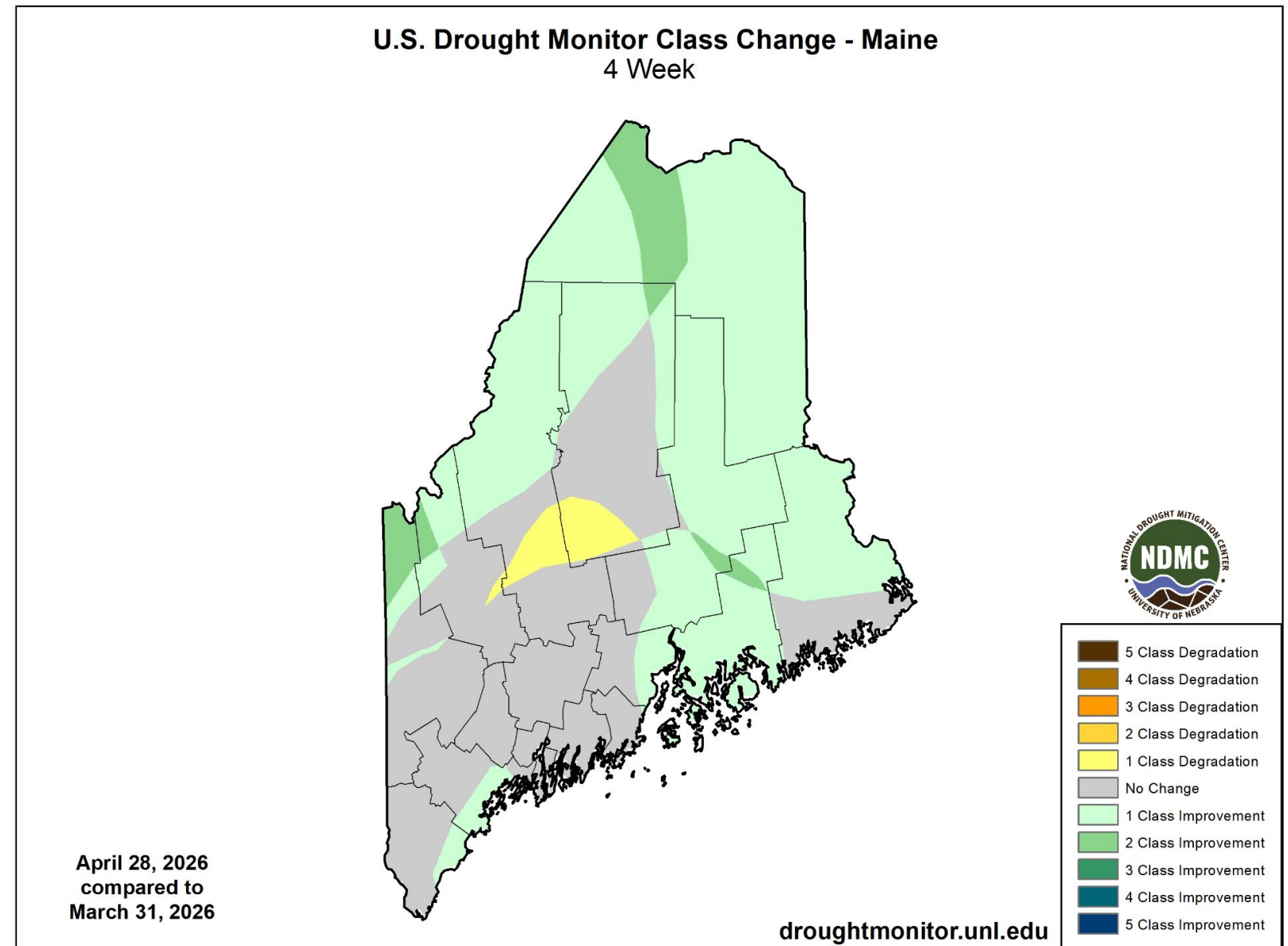


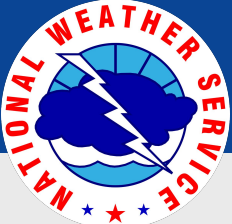
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

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

- Four week drought monitor class change:
 - **Drought Worsened:** Far Southwest Piscataquis County.
 - **Drought Improved:** Large portions of the forecast area have seen 1-2 category changes.
 - **No Change:** Portions of Piscataquis and Coastal Washington Counties.





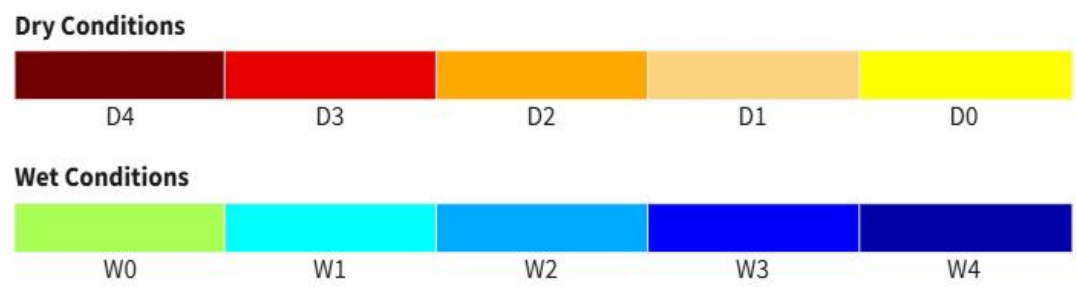
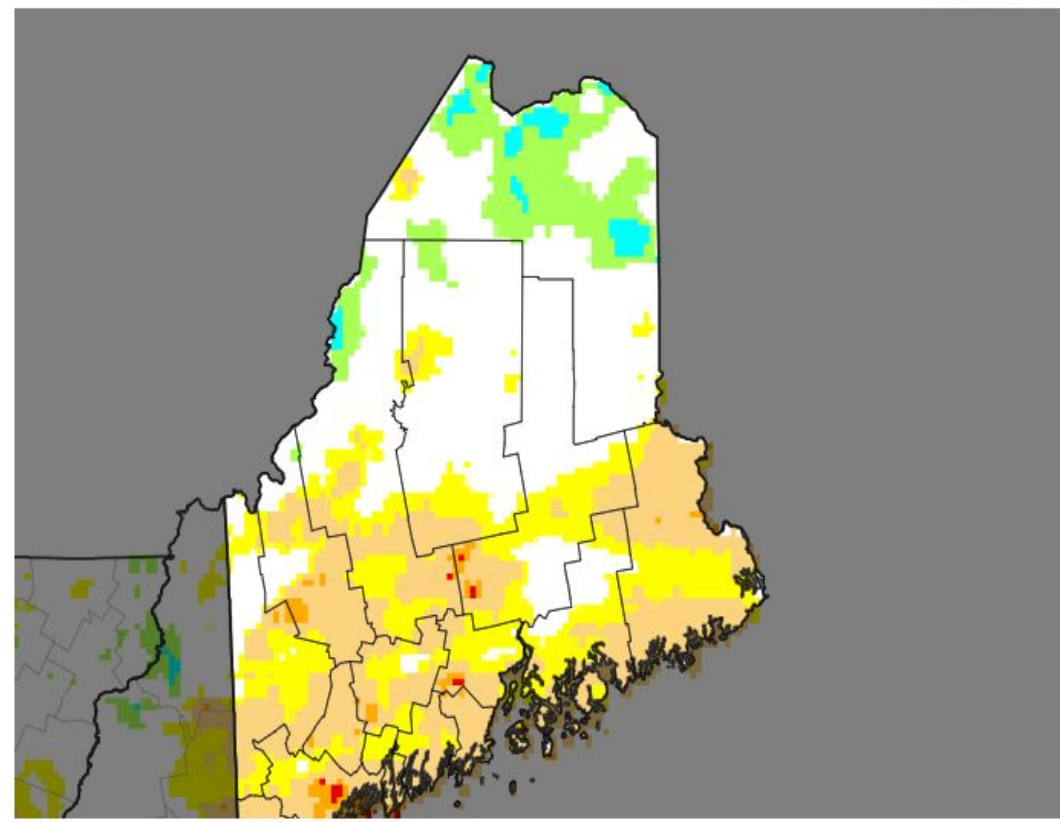
Short & Long Term Drought Index

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM 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.

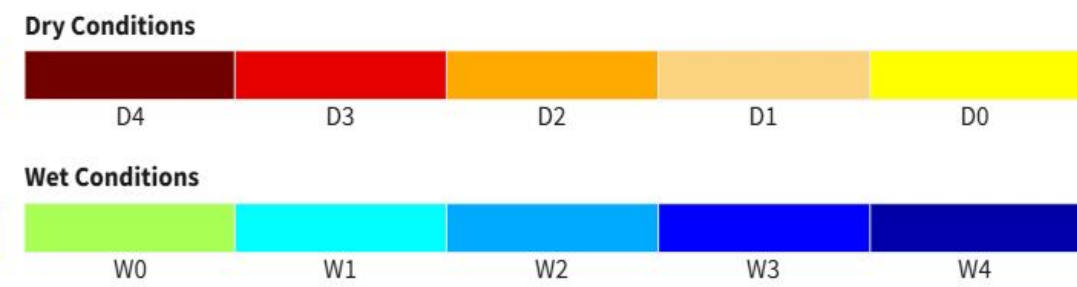
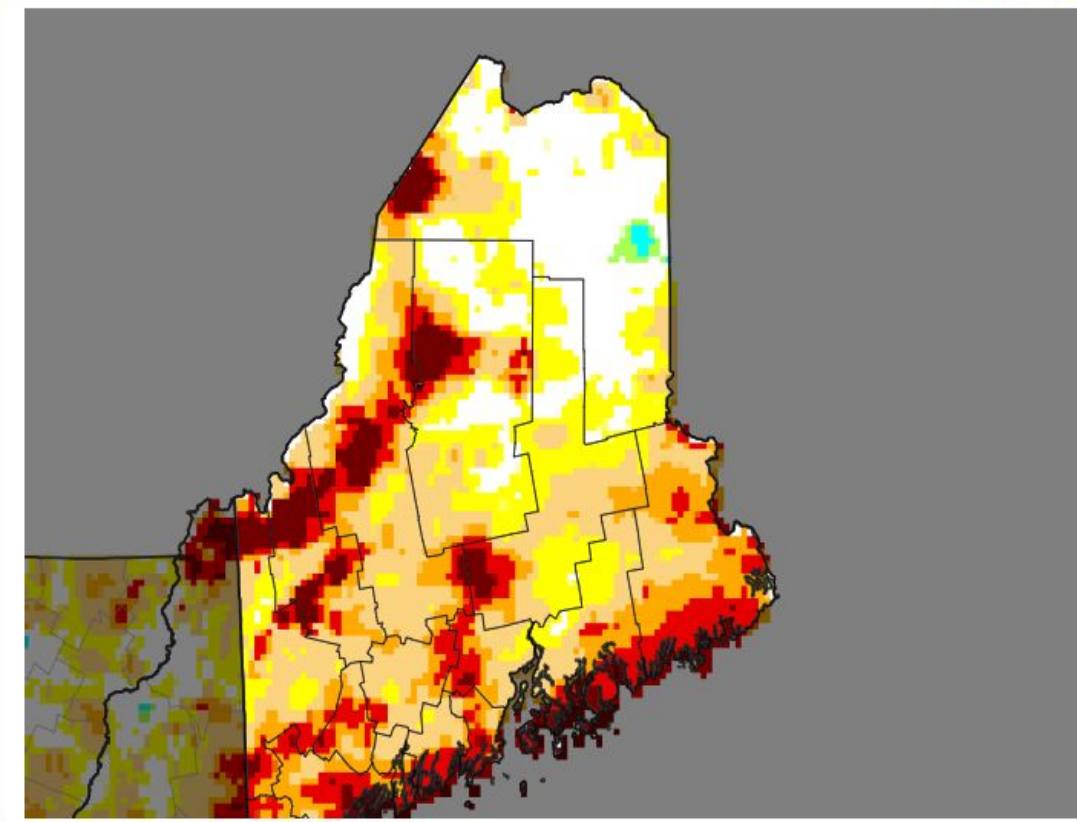
Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 04/25/26

Drought.gov

Long-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 04/25/26

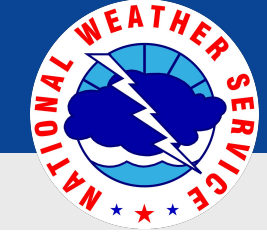
Drought.gov



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



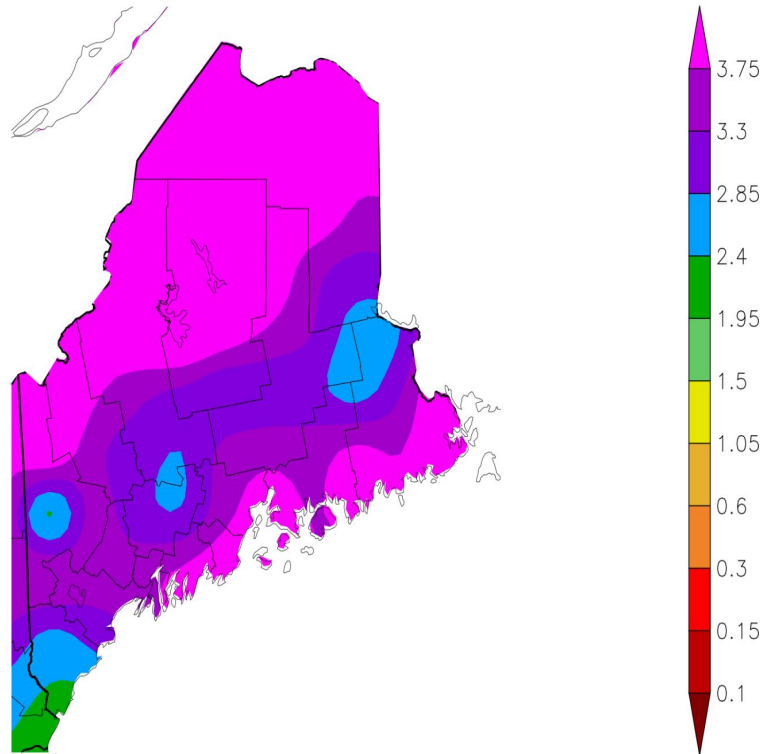
30 Day Precipitation

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

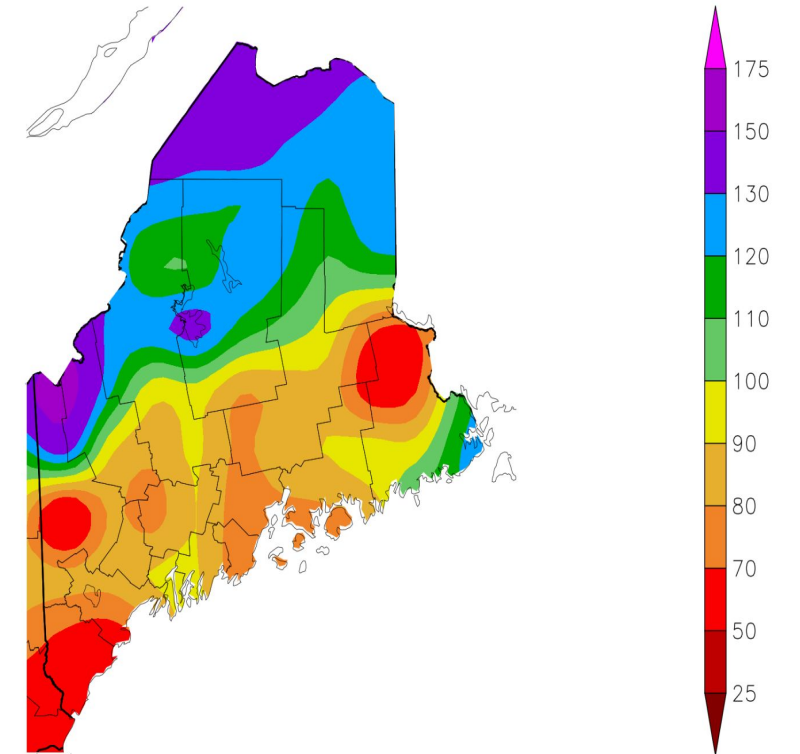
- Precipitation is above normal across Northern Maine to Moosehead Region and far Downeast Washington County.
- Below normal precipitation for southern Central Highlands, Greater Bangor region, Downeast into far Southern Aroostook county.

Precipitation (in)
3/31/2026 – 4/29/2026



Generated 4/30/2026 using provisional data.

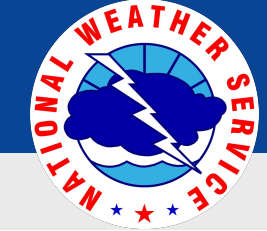
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
3/31/2026 – 4/29/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 4/30/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



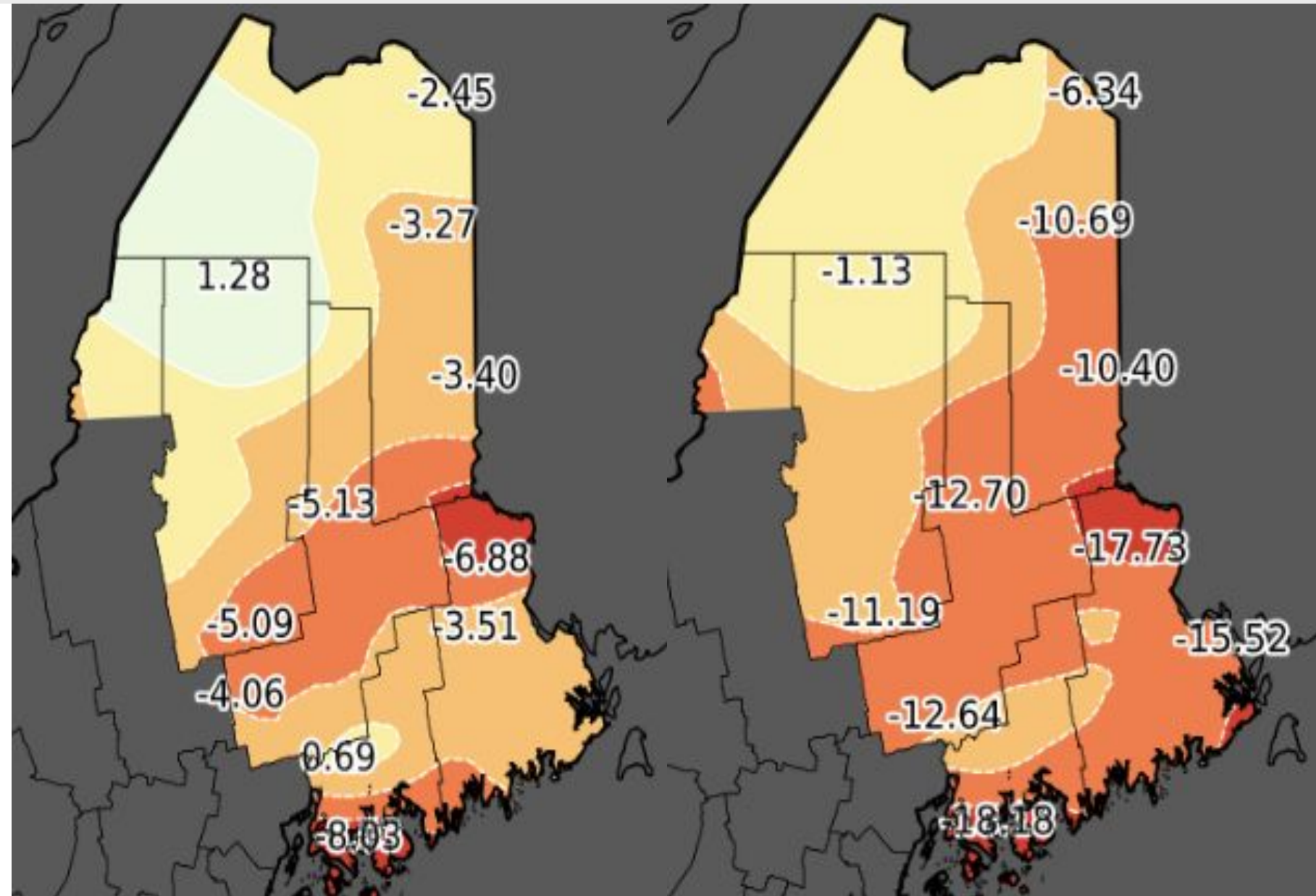


Precipitation Deficits

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

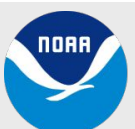
Link to [Iowa State University IEM](#)

- 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.



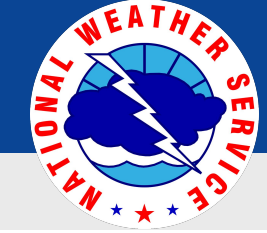
Since January 1, 2026

Since June 1, 2025



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

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME



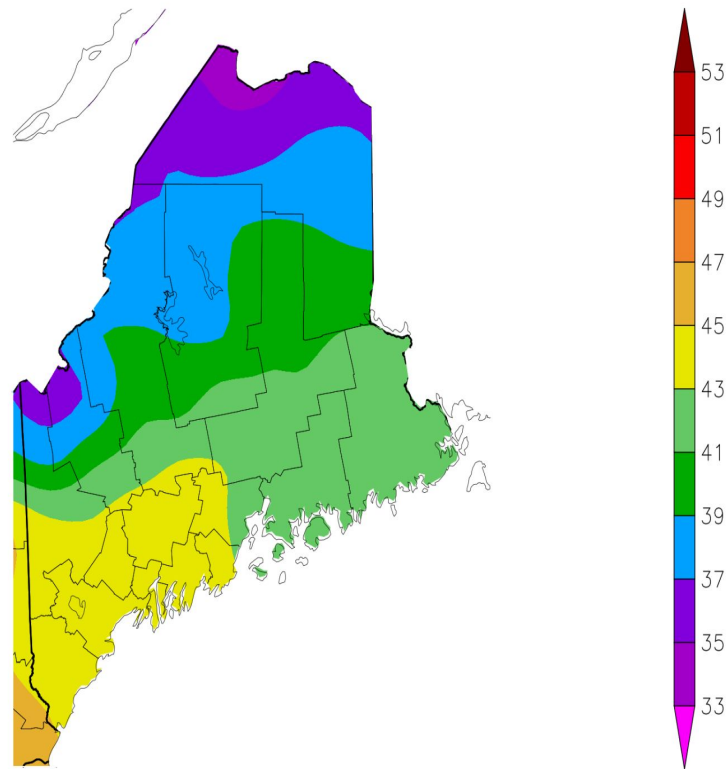
30 Day Temperatures

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

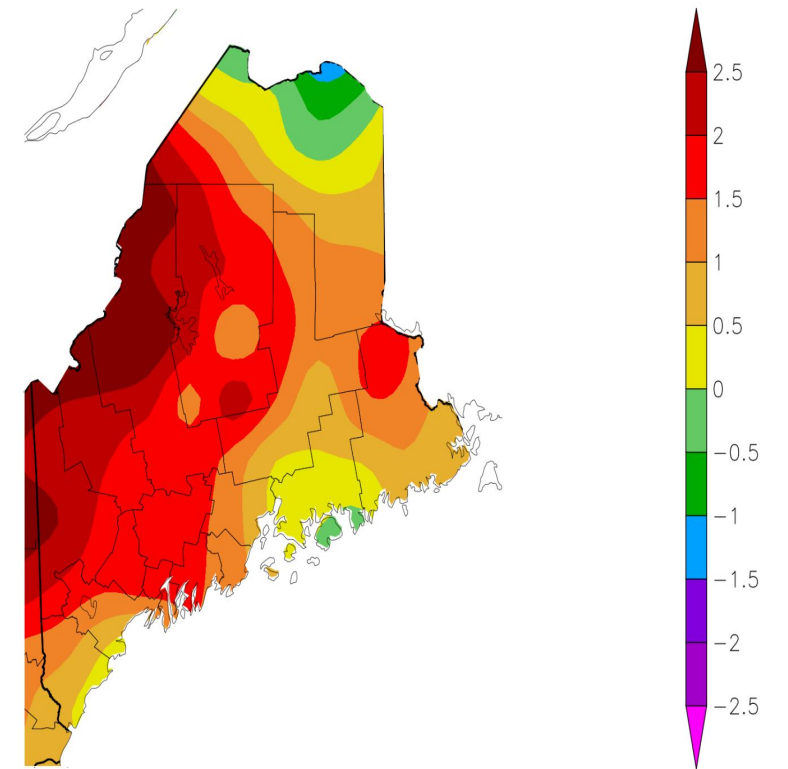
- 30 Day Temperatures have been running 1-3 degrees above normal across much of Eastern/Northern Maine.
- Temperatures near to slightly below normal in the St. John Valley.

Temperature (F)
3/31/2026 – 4/29/2026



Generated 4/30/2026 using provisional data.

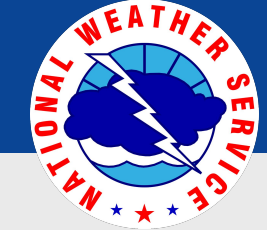
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/31/2026 – 4/29/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 4/30/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

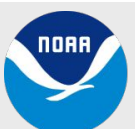
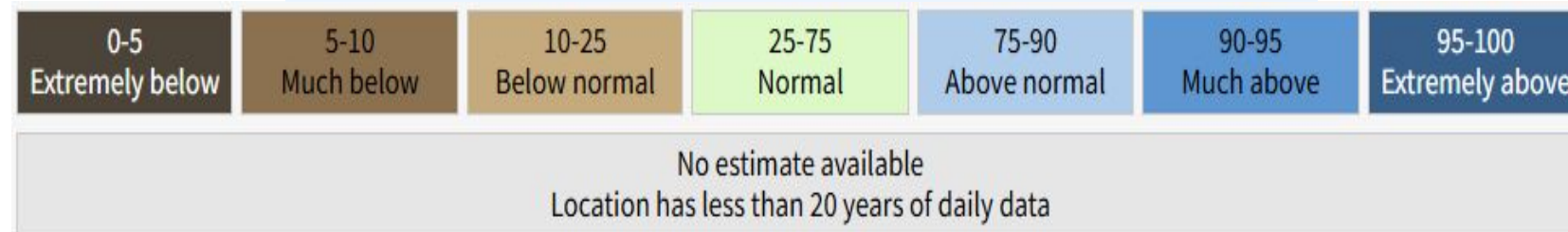
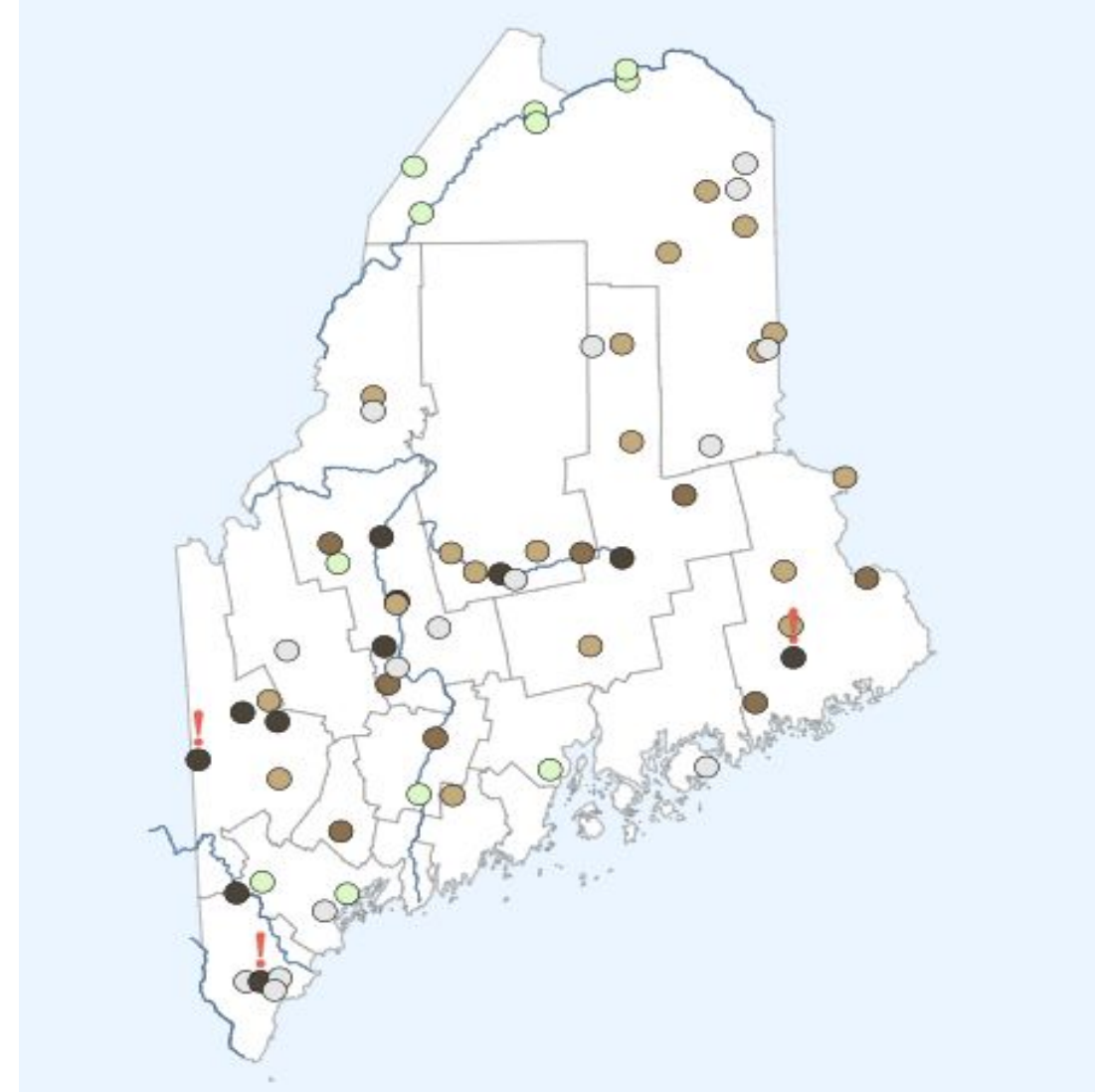


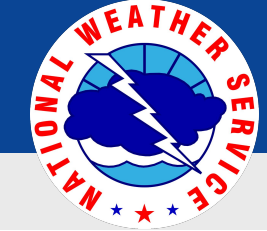


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

- **Northern Basins:**
 - Normal across St. John River Basin except Below Normal on Aroostook River & Meduxnekeag River.
- **Central Highlands, Moosehead & Baxter Regions:**
 - Below Normal to Much Below Normal.
- **Downeast to Bangor Basins:**
 - Below Normal to Much Below Normal.
- **Areawide Trends:**
 - Expect flows to rise slowly with widespread rainfall.



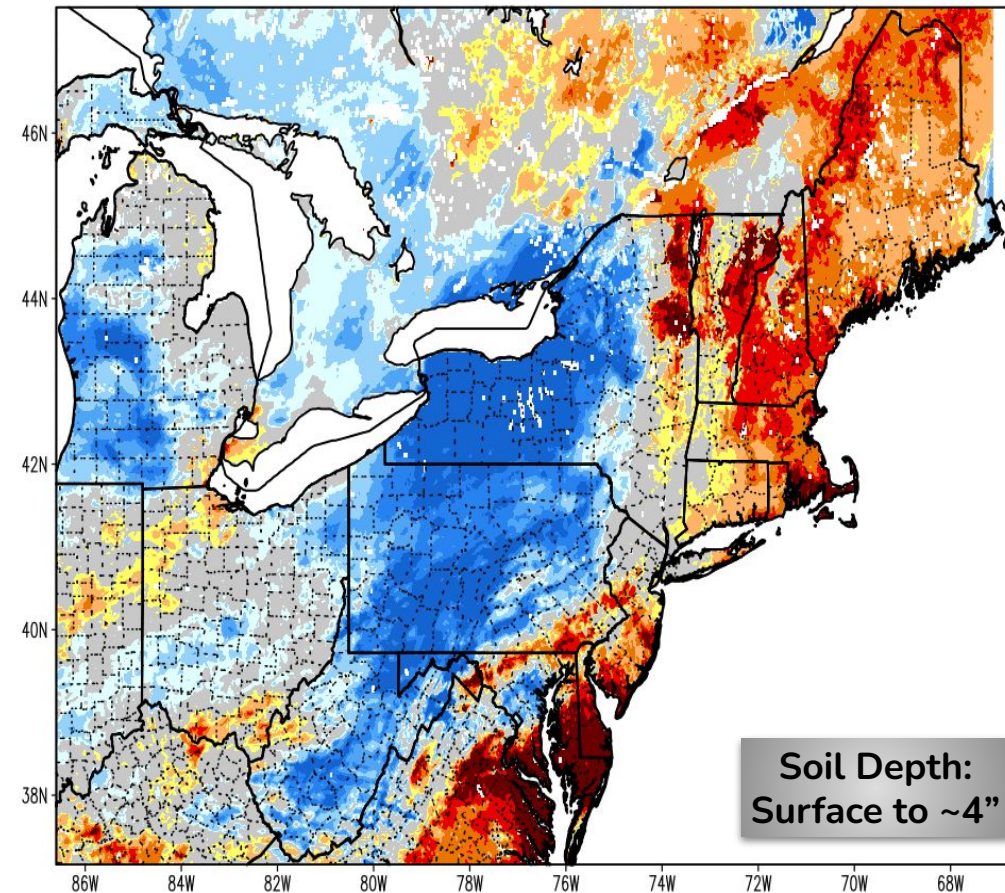


Groundwater Impacts

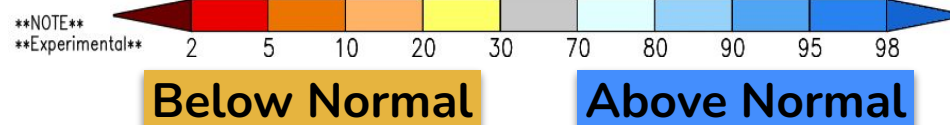
April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

- Near surface soil moisture across much of Maine has improved, but recent dry conditions have dried out the soils. This is typical until “green up” occurs.
- Deeper soil moisture down to near 40” has significantly improved.

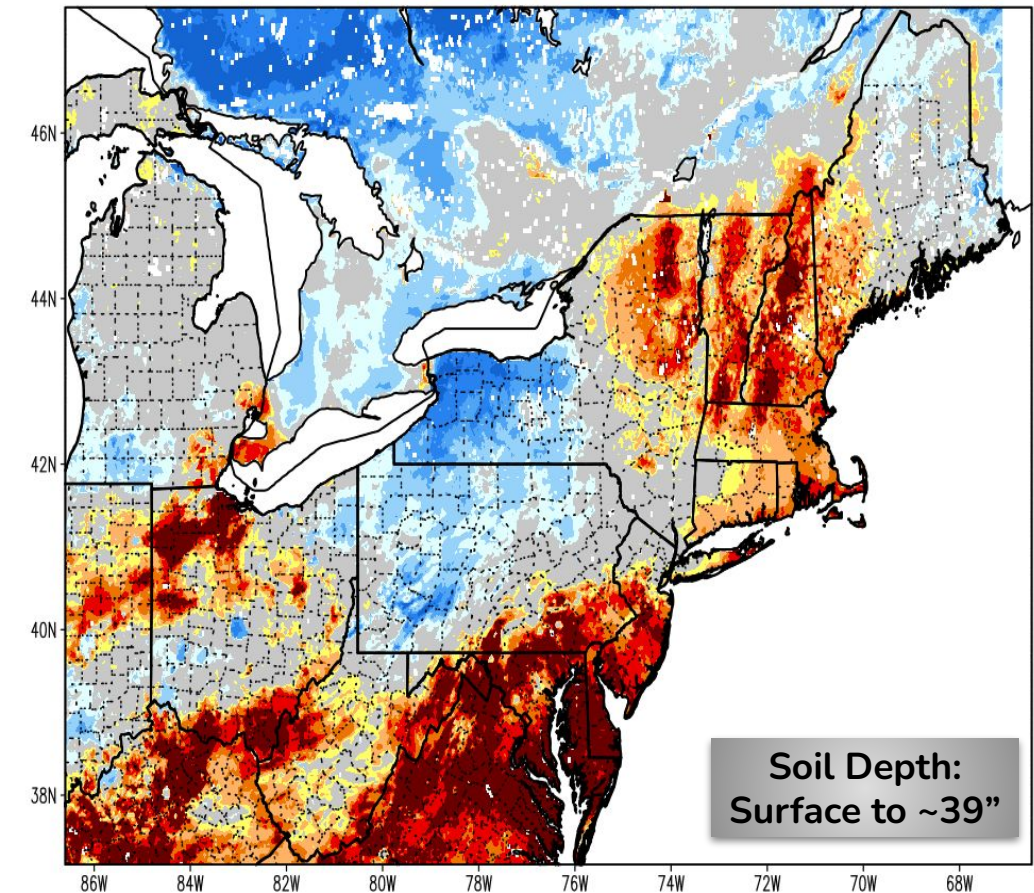
SPoRT-LIS 0–10 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 30 Apr 2026



Soil Depth:
Surface to ~4”



SPoRT-LIS 0–100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 30 Apr 2026



Soil Depth:
Surface to ~39”

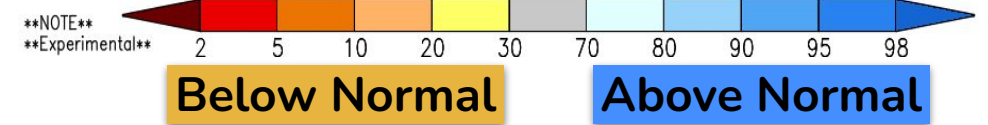
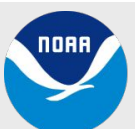


Image Captions:

National Water Model

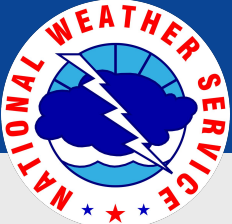
[Soil Moisture Percentile 0-10cm Depth](#)

[Soil Moisture Percentile 10-40cm Depth](#)



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

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME



Groundwater

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM 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 a moisture deficit in the deeper soils across the Moosehead Region, Central Highlands, Baxter Region, Bangor Region into portions of Eastern Maine.
- Significant groundwater improvements have taken place across the North Woods, Much of Aroostook County and interior Downeast.

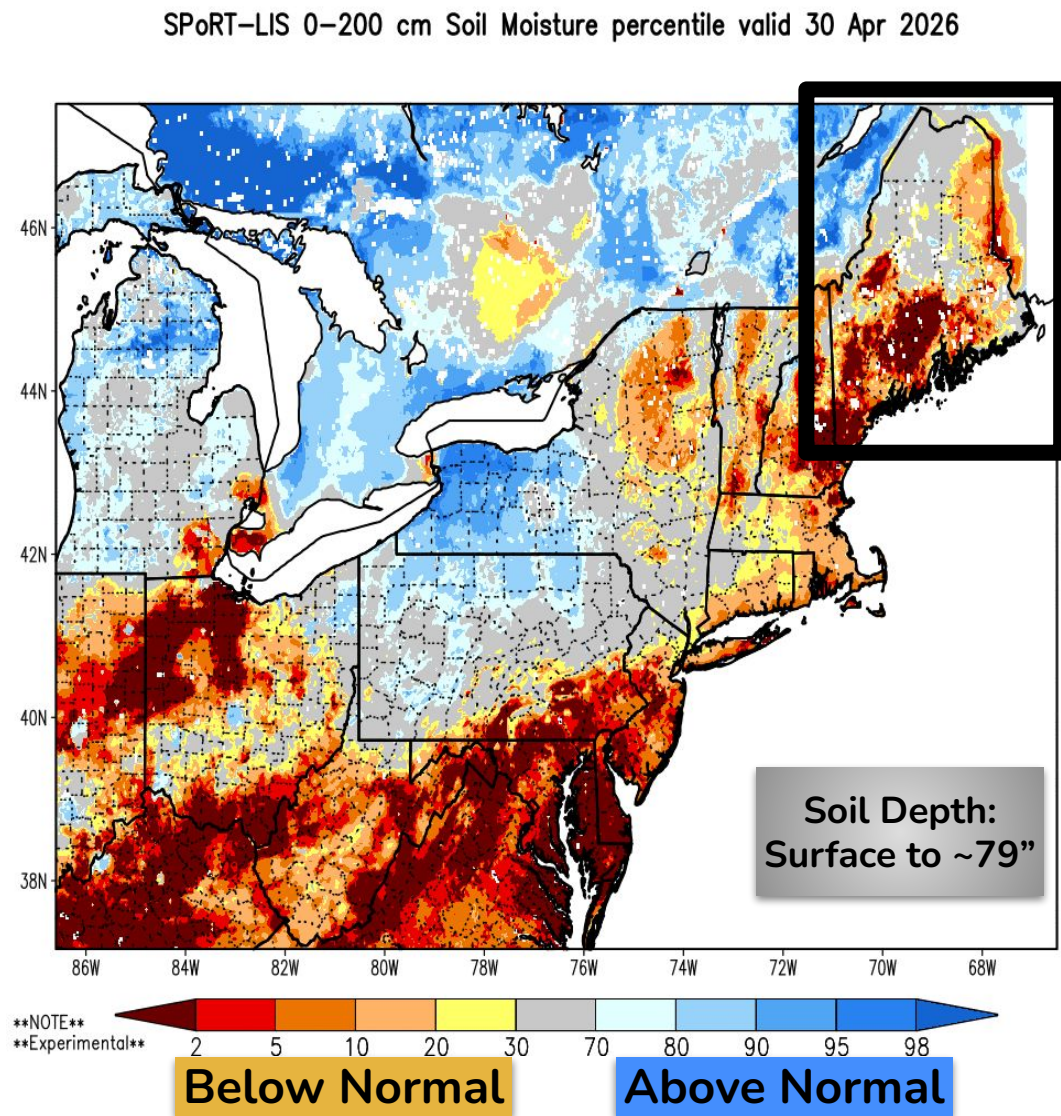
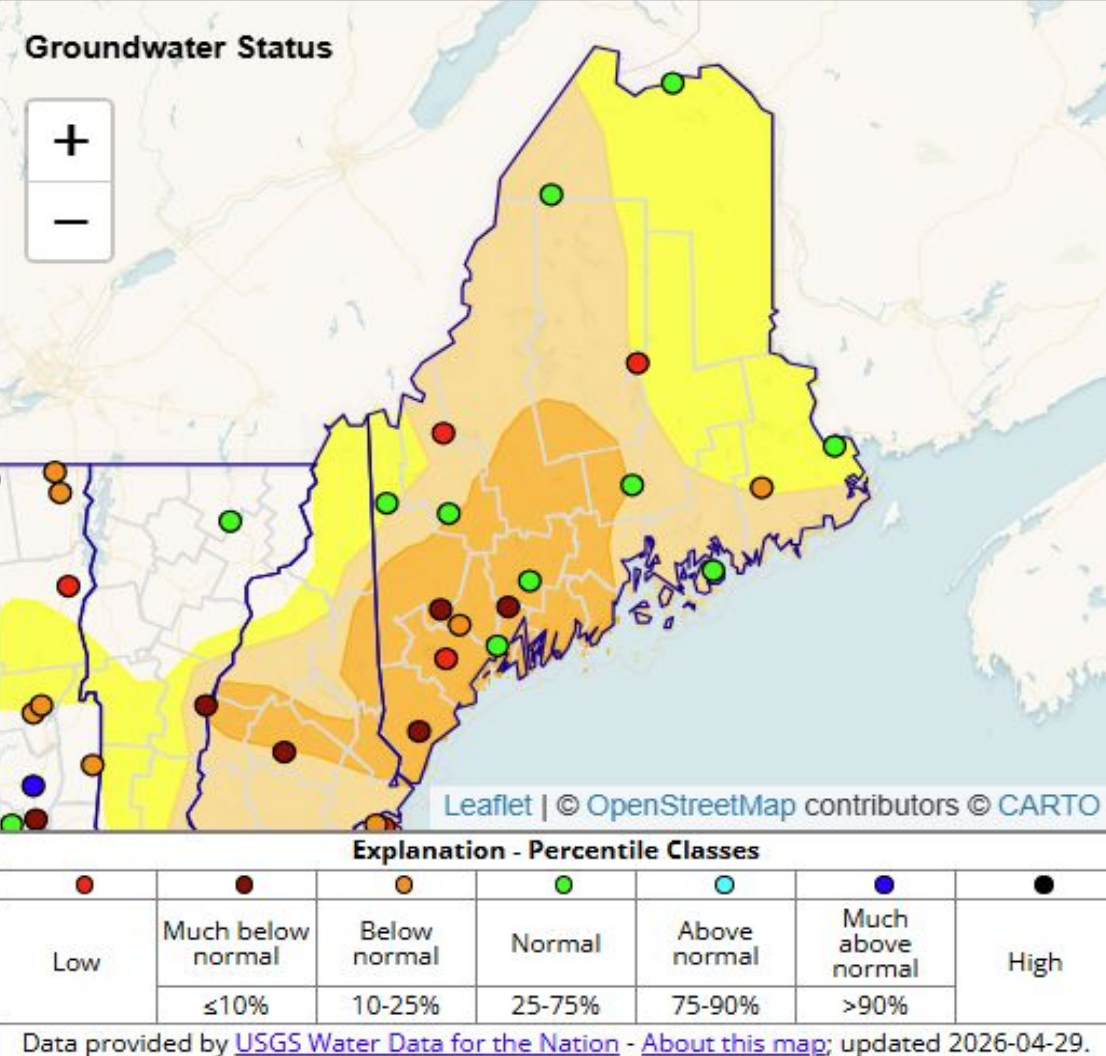
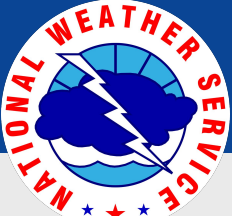


Image Captions:
[USGS Groundwater Gauge Status](#)
[Soil Moisture Percentile 0-200cm Depth](#)

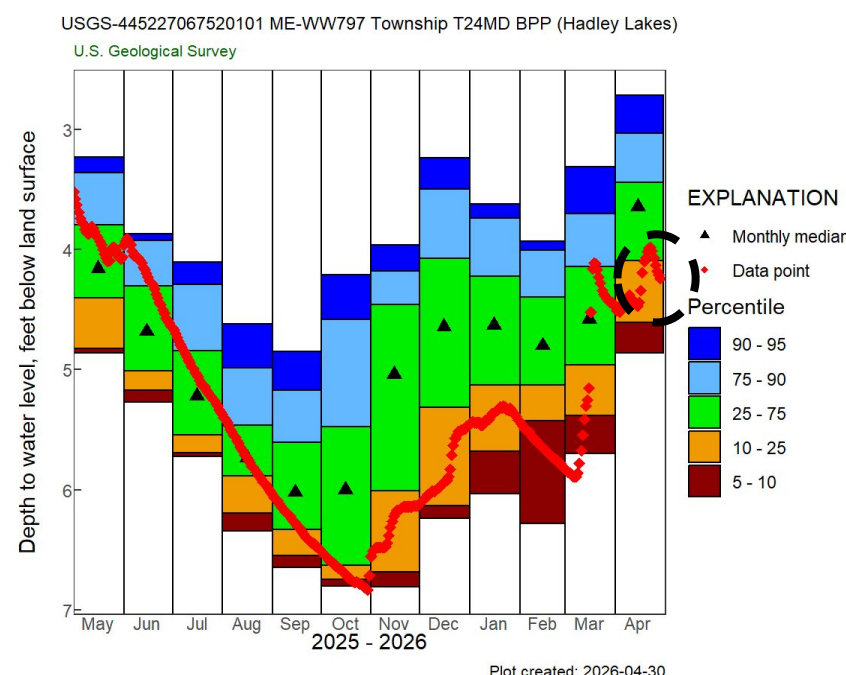
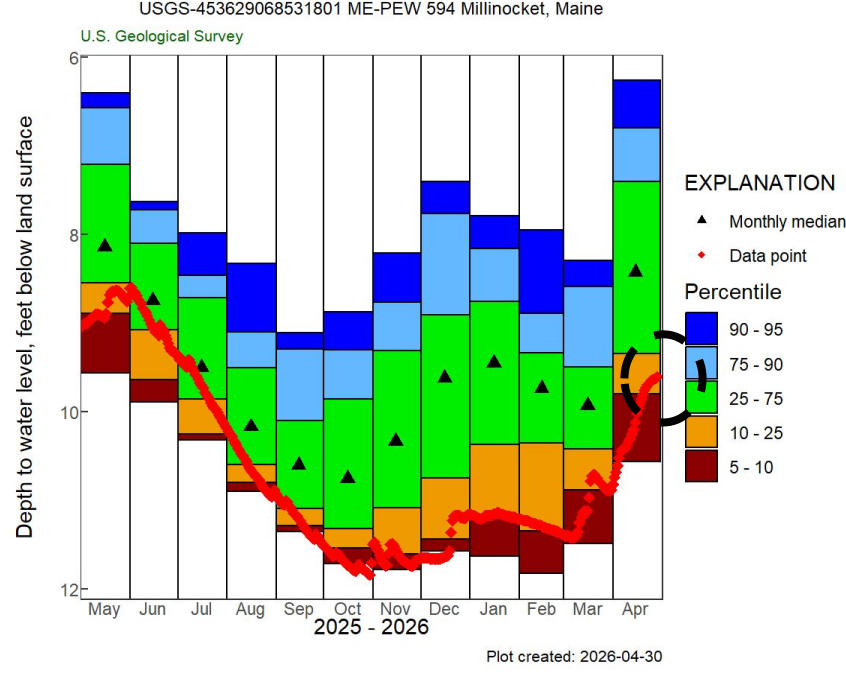
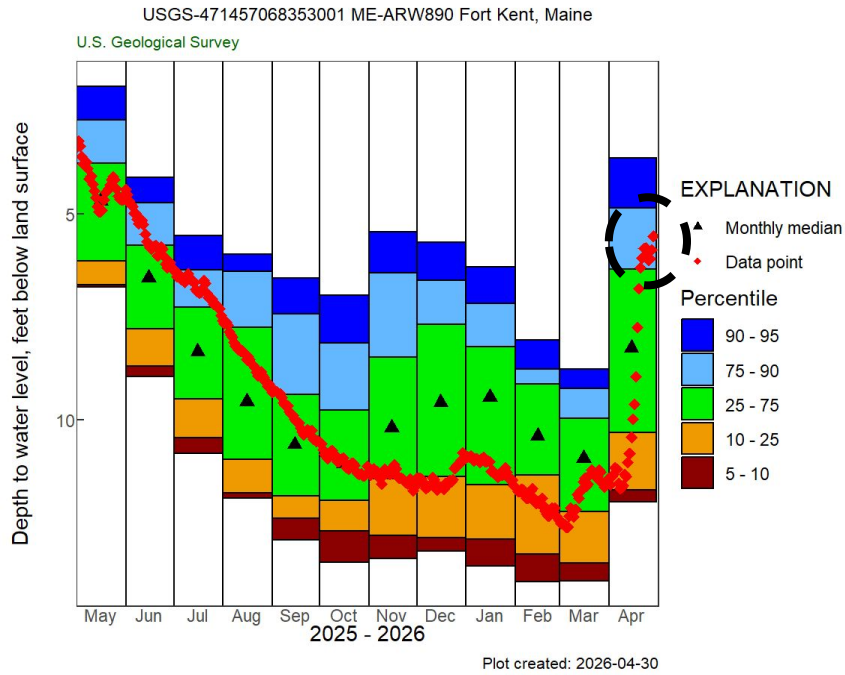




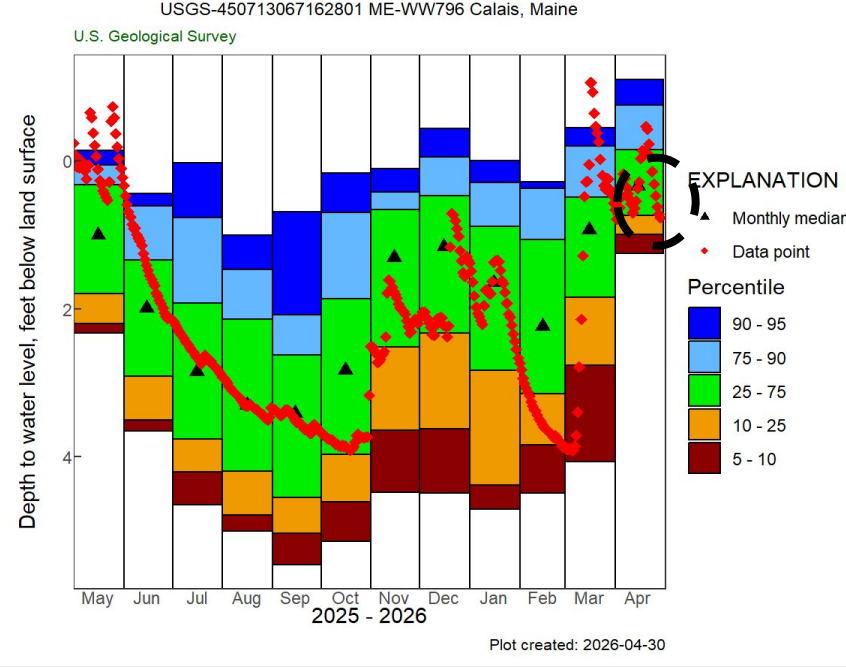
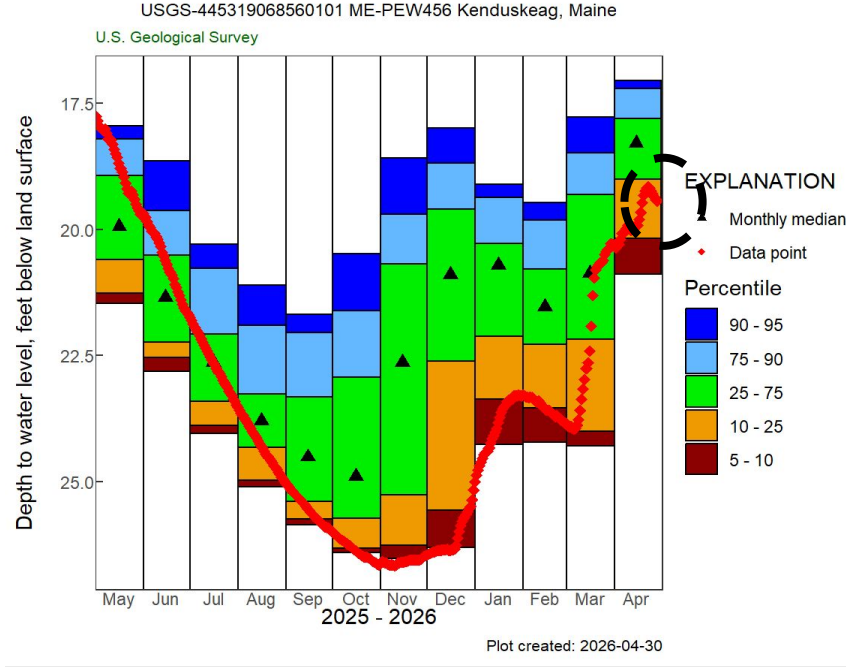
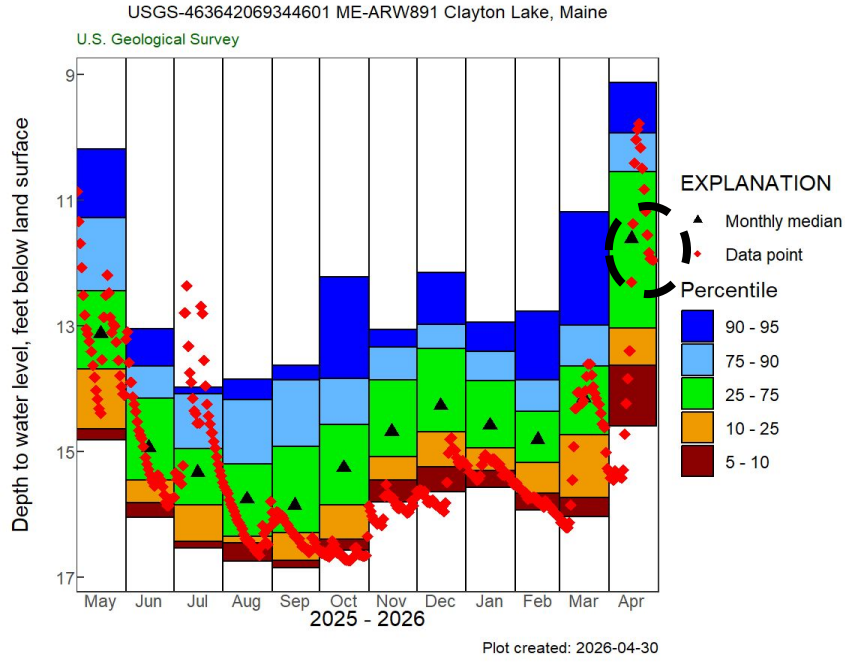
Groundwater Gage Plots

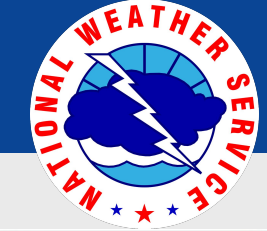
April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

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



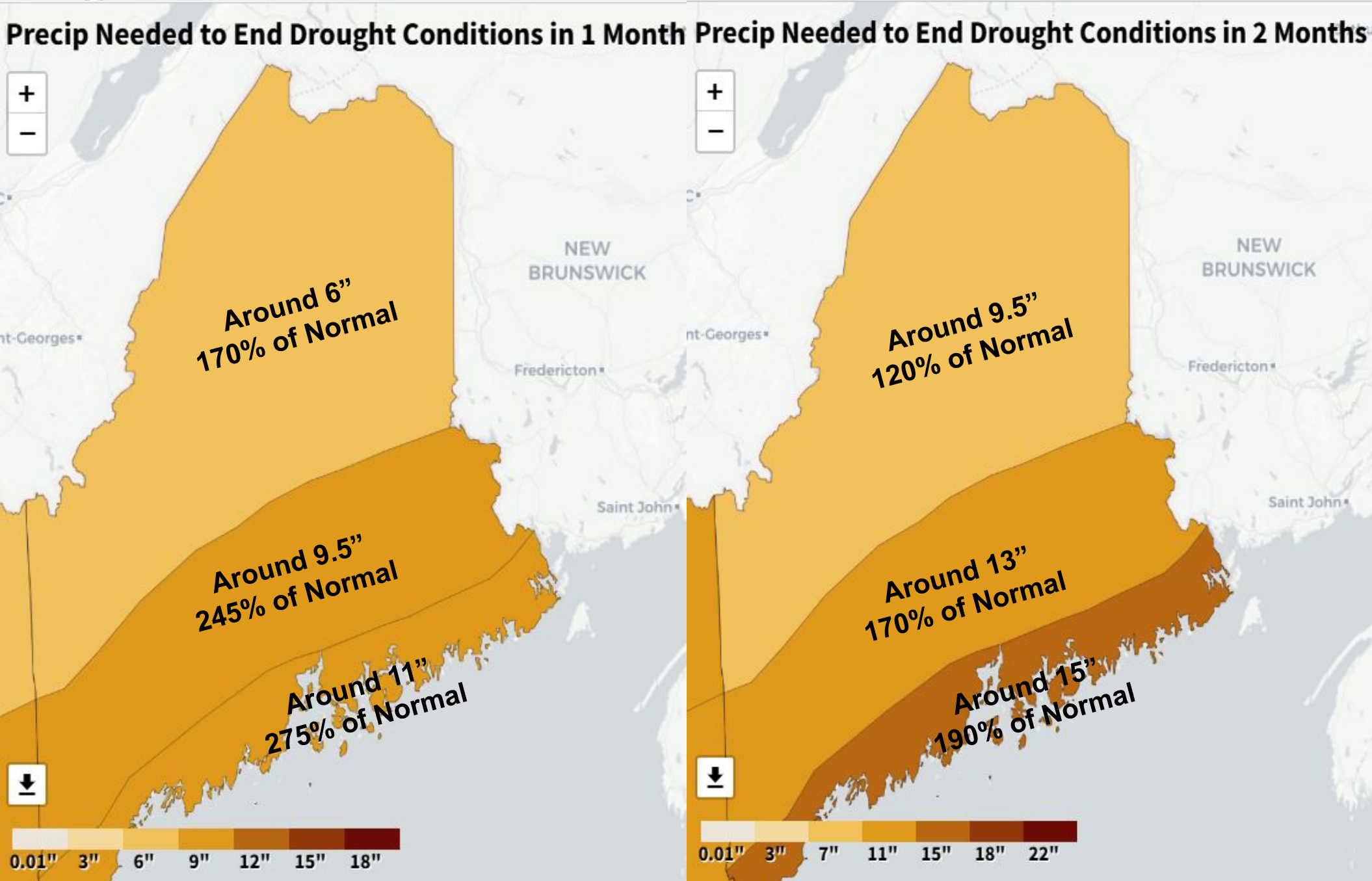
Significant groundwater improvements at many locations. There remains much below normal conditions across the Central Highlands and below normal in portions of the Downeast. Will need to monitor as “green up” occurs.





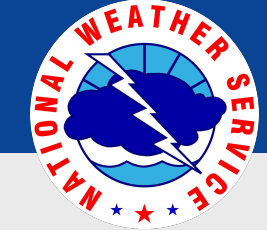
Rainfall Needed to “End the Drought”

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT



- Steady, light-rain events with high absorption rates are ideal.
- These values have ticked up slightly due to recent dry pattern during a period before “green up”.





Summary of Impacts

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM 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 have fallen to “below normal” to “much below normal” due to recent dry conditions & early spring peak flows. [\(USGS\)](#)
- Lakes & ponds, are ranging from above normal to below normal water levels depending on locations.

Fire Weather

- Wildfire activity remains elevated, and there have been a few larger fires. State-level burn bans have occurred and change with daily updates from the Maine Forest Service.

Dry Drinking Water Wells

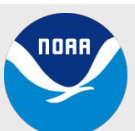
- No new dry well reports in April, will monitor as we approach “green up”.
- Maine EMA Dry Well Survey: <https://maine-dry-well-survey-maine.hub.arcgis.com/>

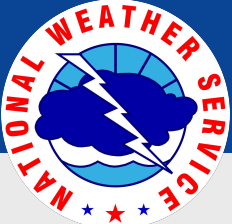
Mitigation Actions

- 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](#).





Fire Hazard Impacts

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Mostly low fire danger across the area with uptick in rainfall & cooler temperatures.
- Until “green up” occurs a few dry days can quickly create higher fire danger.

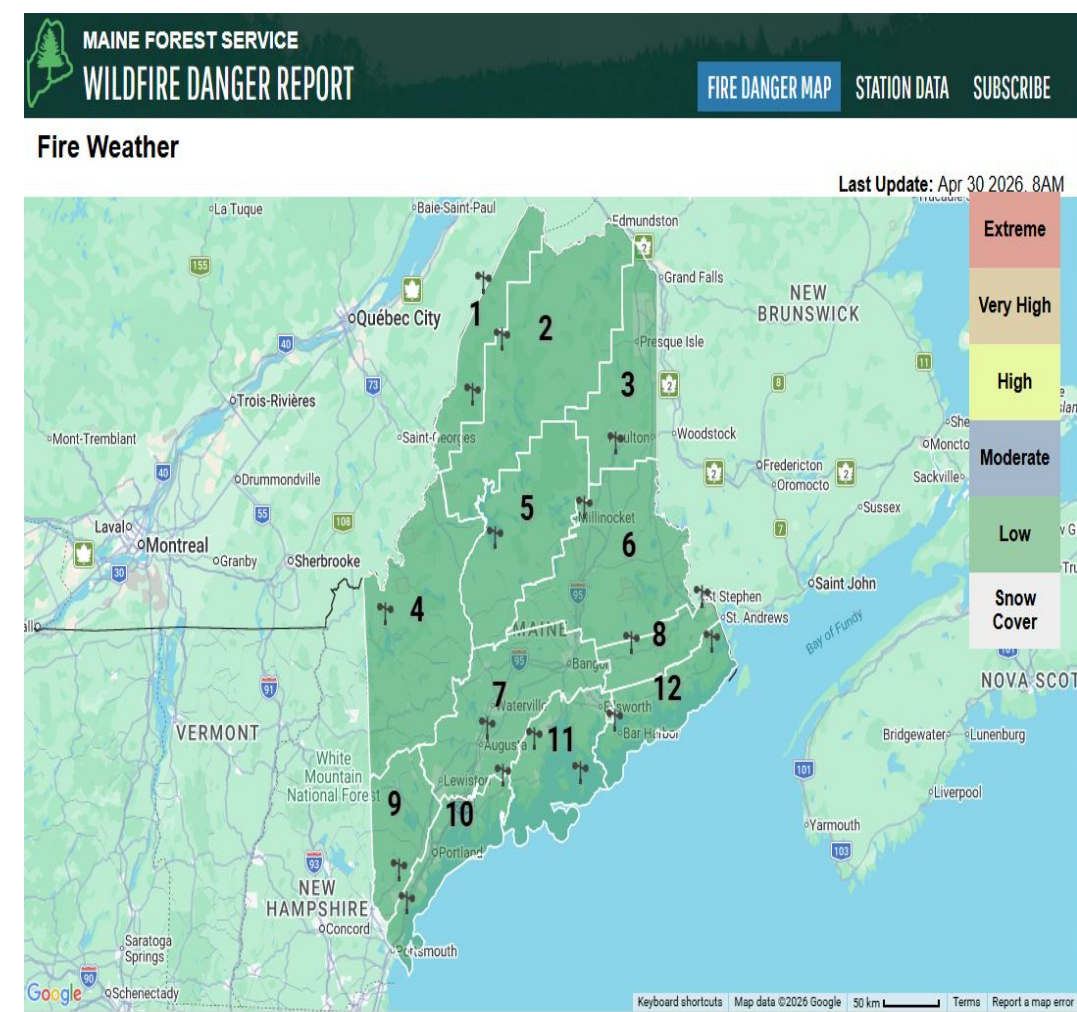


Image Captions:
[Maine Wildfire Danger Report](#)

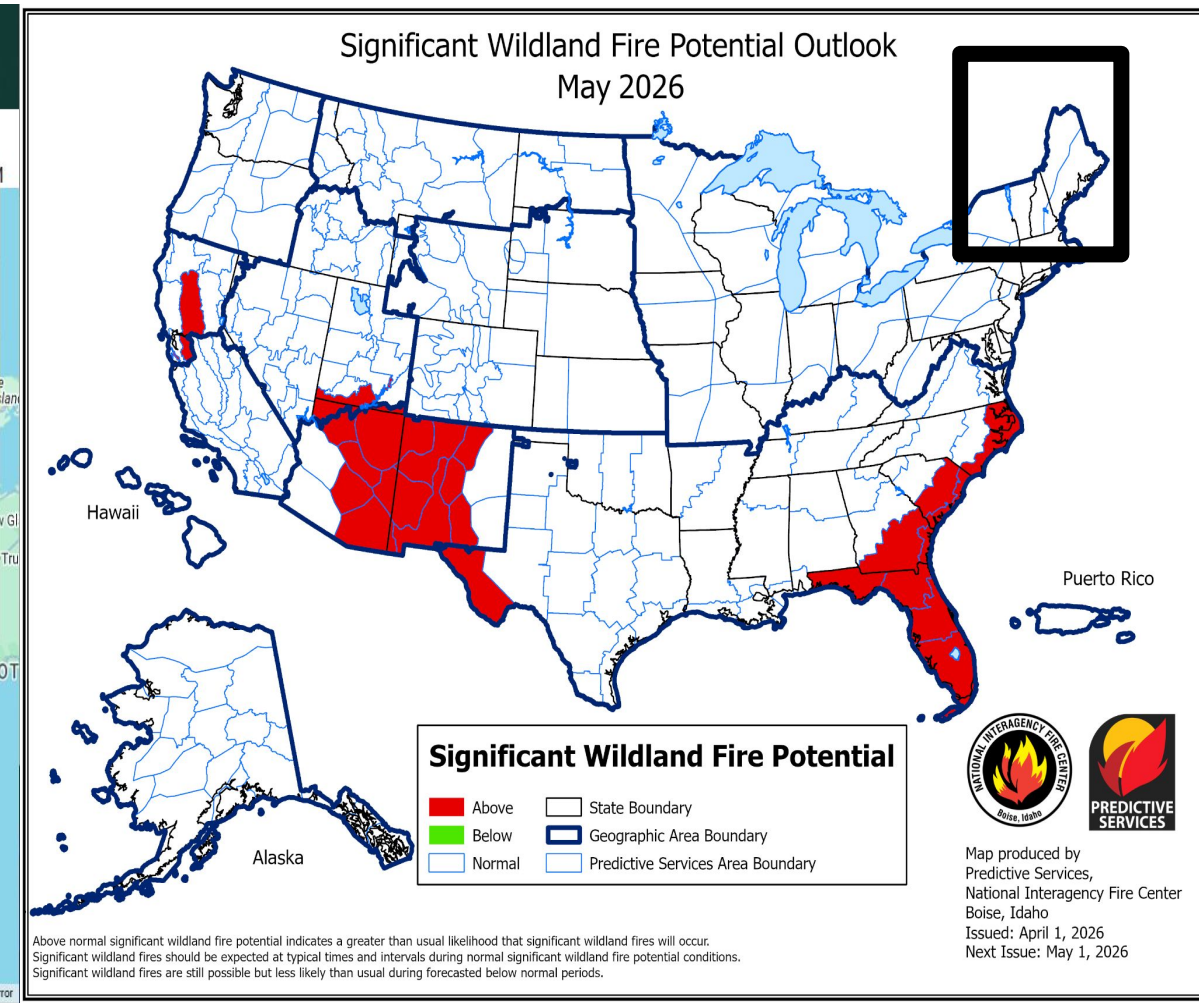
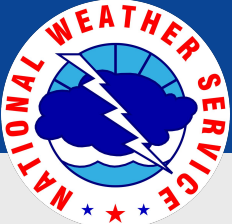


Image Captions:
[NICC November 2025 Significant Fire Potential](#)



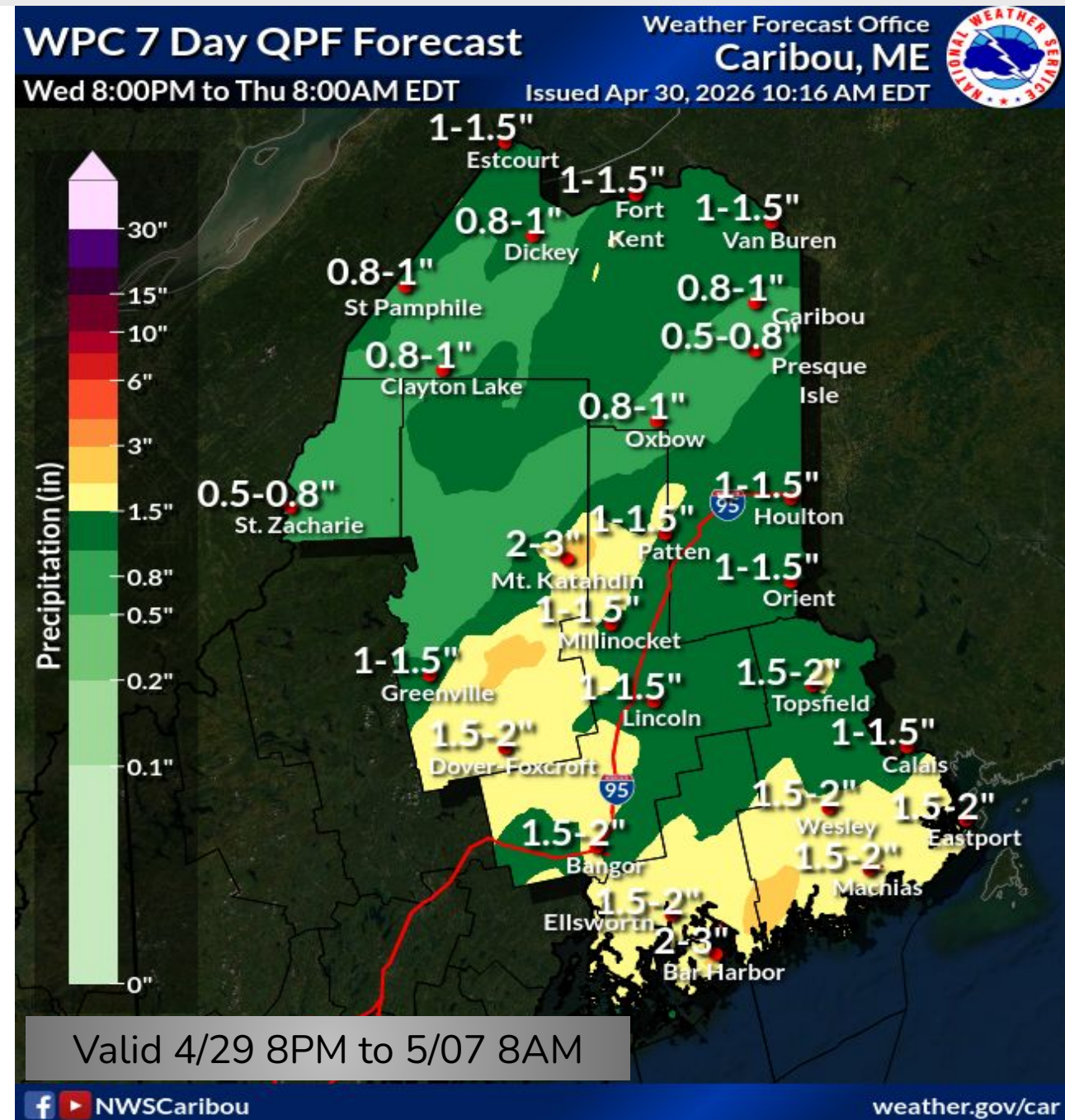


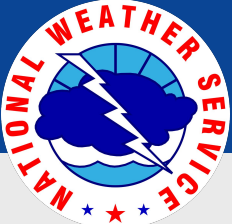
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

- Unsettled weather pattern through next week, with multiple chances rainfall which will significantly improve streamflows and groundwater conditions.

Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid 4/29 8PM to 5/07 8AM





Long Range Outlooks (May)

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

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

Main Takeaways for May:

- 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.

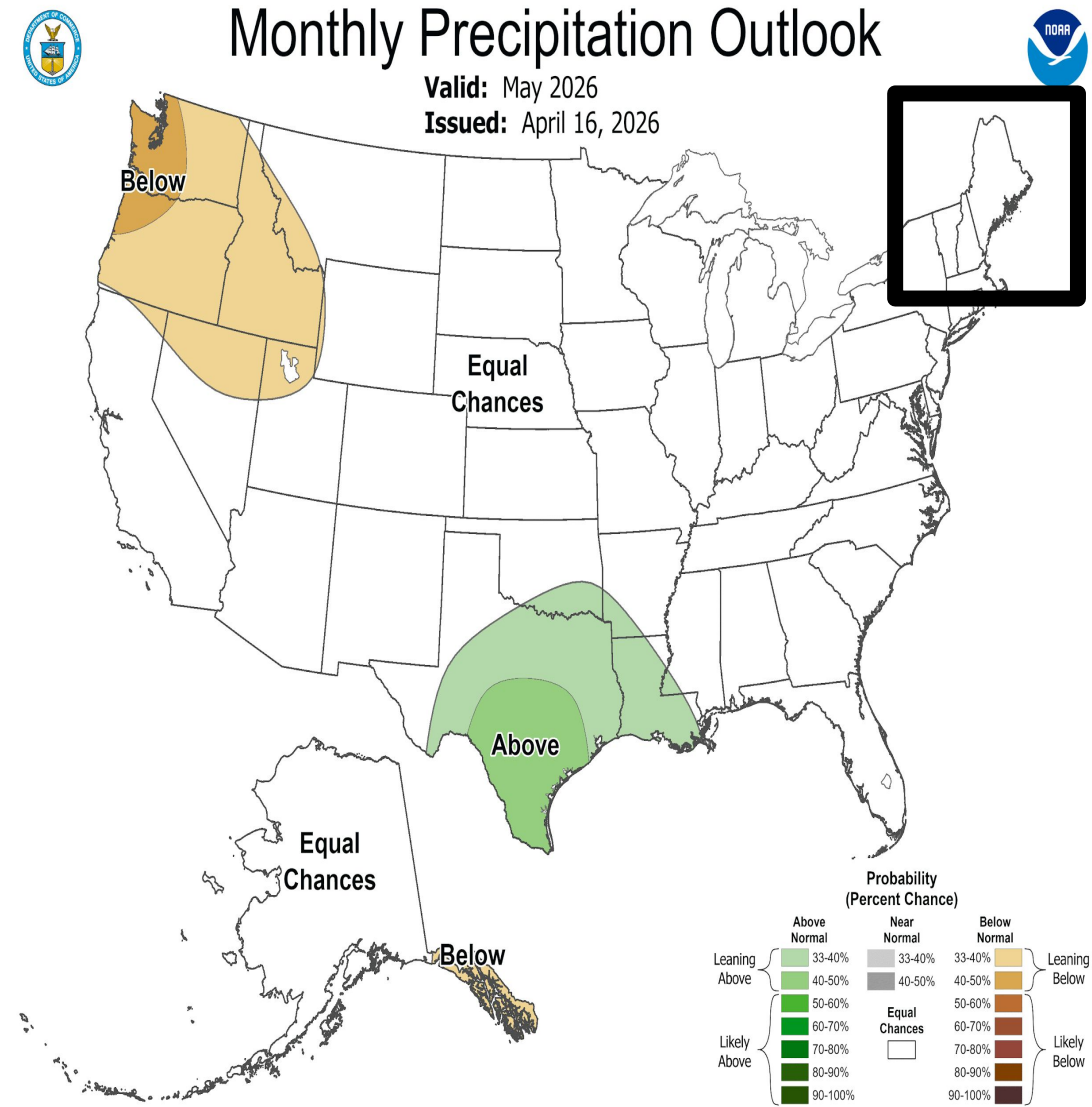
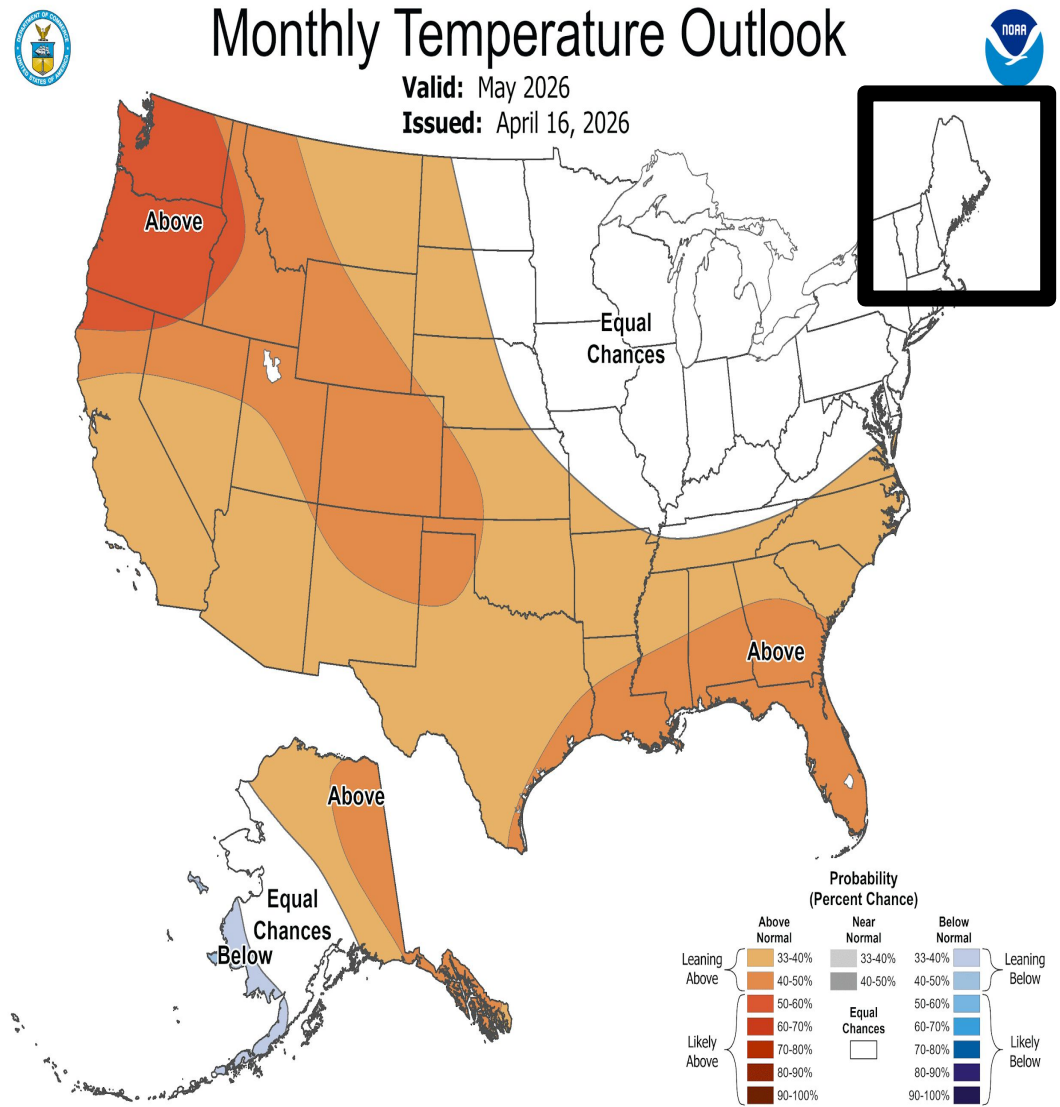
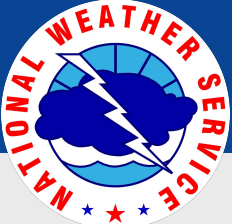


Image Captions:
Left - [Climate Prediction Center 1 Month Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 1 Month Precipitation Outlook.](#)





Long Range Outlooks (May-July)

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM EDT

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

Main Takeaways for May-July:

- 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.

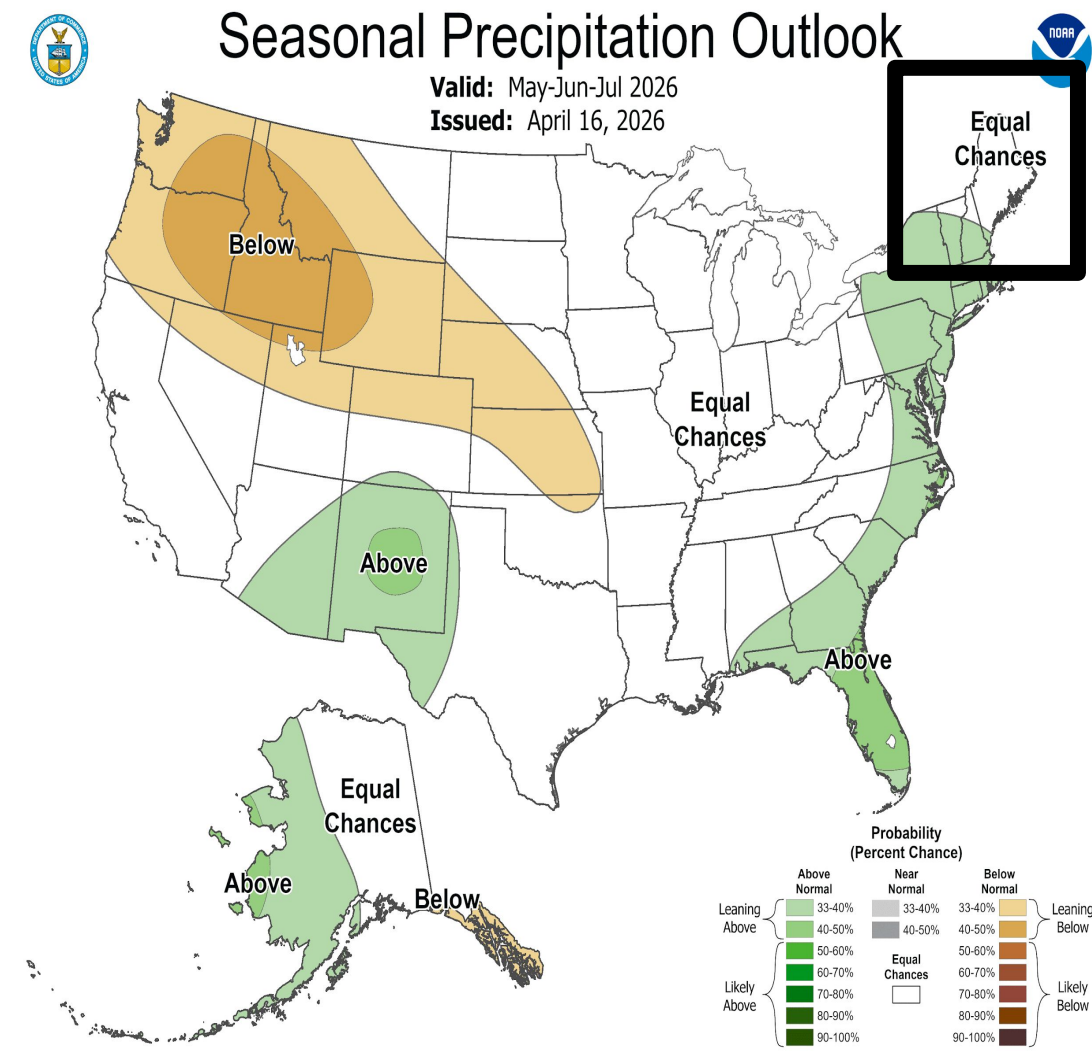
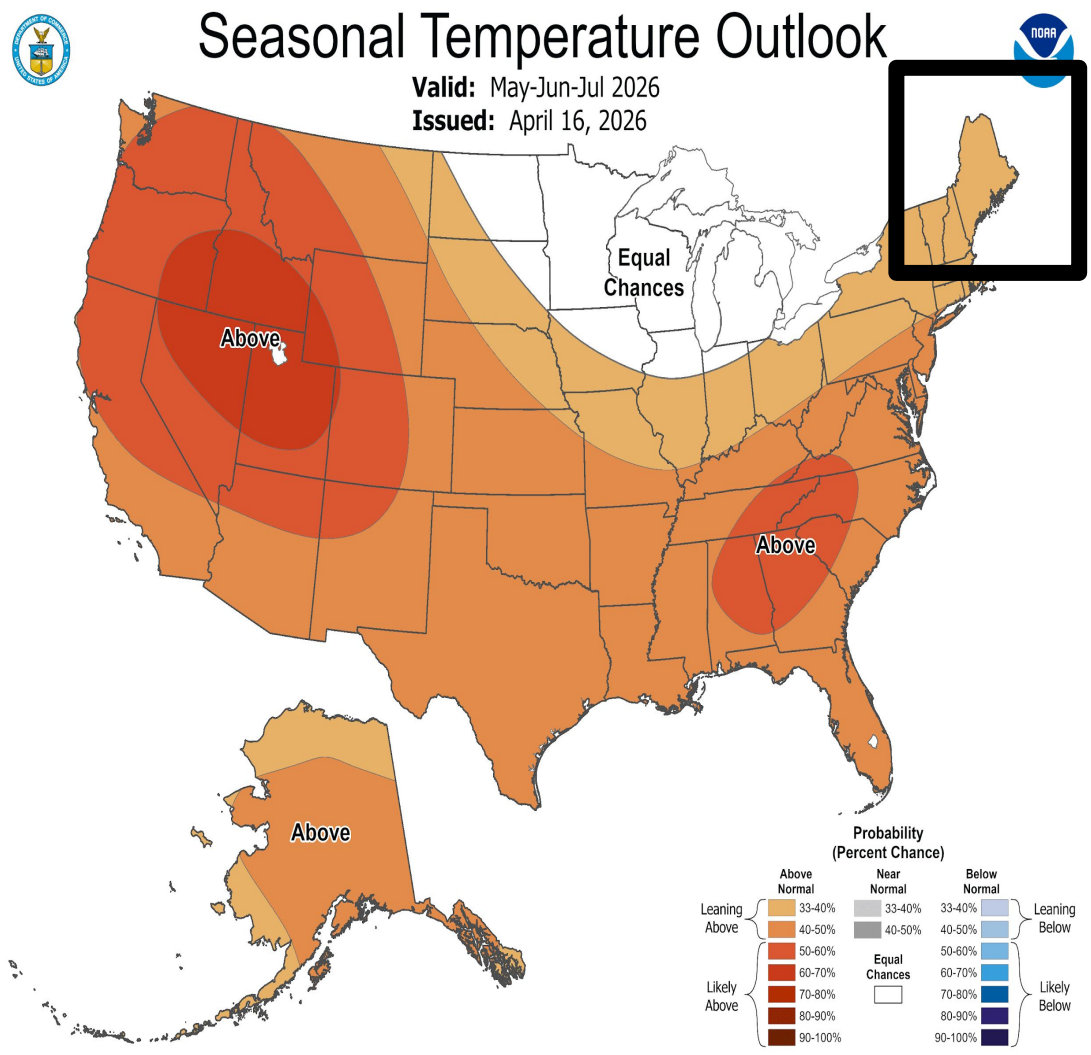
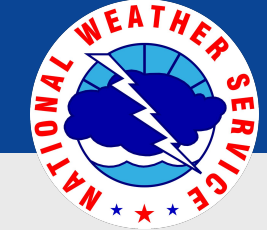


Image Captions:
Left - [Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Precipitation Outlook.](#)

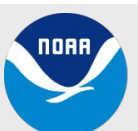


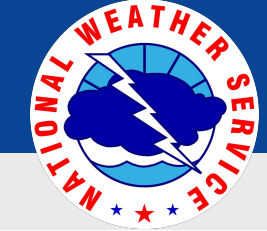


Main Takeaways

April 30, 2026
11:34 AM 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 show improvement except in the Central Highlands which resulted in category lowering.
- Outlook: Despite these improvements in water levels, the long-term prognosis remains concerning.
 - 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. Drought conditions could worsen quickly once the summer heat arrives.
- **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)*