



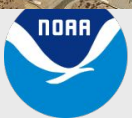
# Drought Information Statement for Northern and Eastern Maine

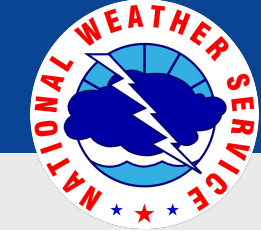
Valid May 7, 2026

Issued By: WFO Caribou, ME

- This product will be updated by May 14, 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 groundwater drought improving across much of Northern & Eastern Maine.
- Groundwater drought struggling to recover in the Central Highlands.
- We remain cautious drought could worsen again in the warm season unless precipitation continues to overperform.





# U.S. Drought Monitor

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

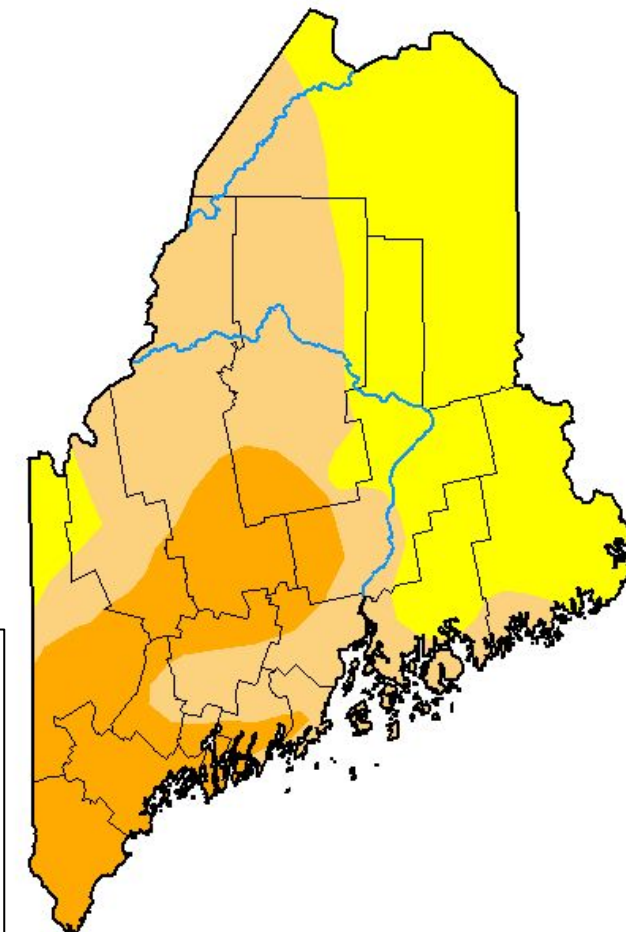
Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Maine

## ● 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, Coastal Hancock and far Southwest Washington counties.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Eastern & Northern Aroostook, Northern & Central Penobscot, Northern & Central Hancock and Much of Washington counties.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Maine

May 5, 2026  
(Released Thursday, May. 7, 2026)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### 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 <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

### Author:

Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## Percentage of Maine in Drought

- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: 39.70%
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: 37.77%
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: 22.53%
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: 0%
- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: 0%



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

National Weather Service  
Caribou, ME

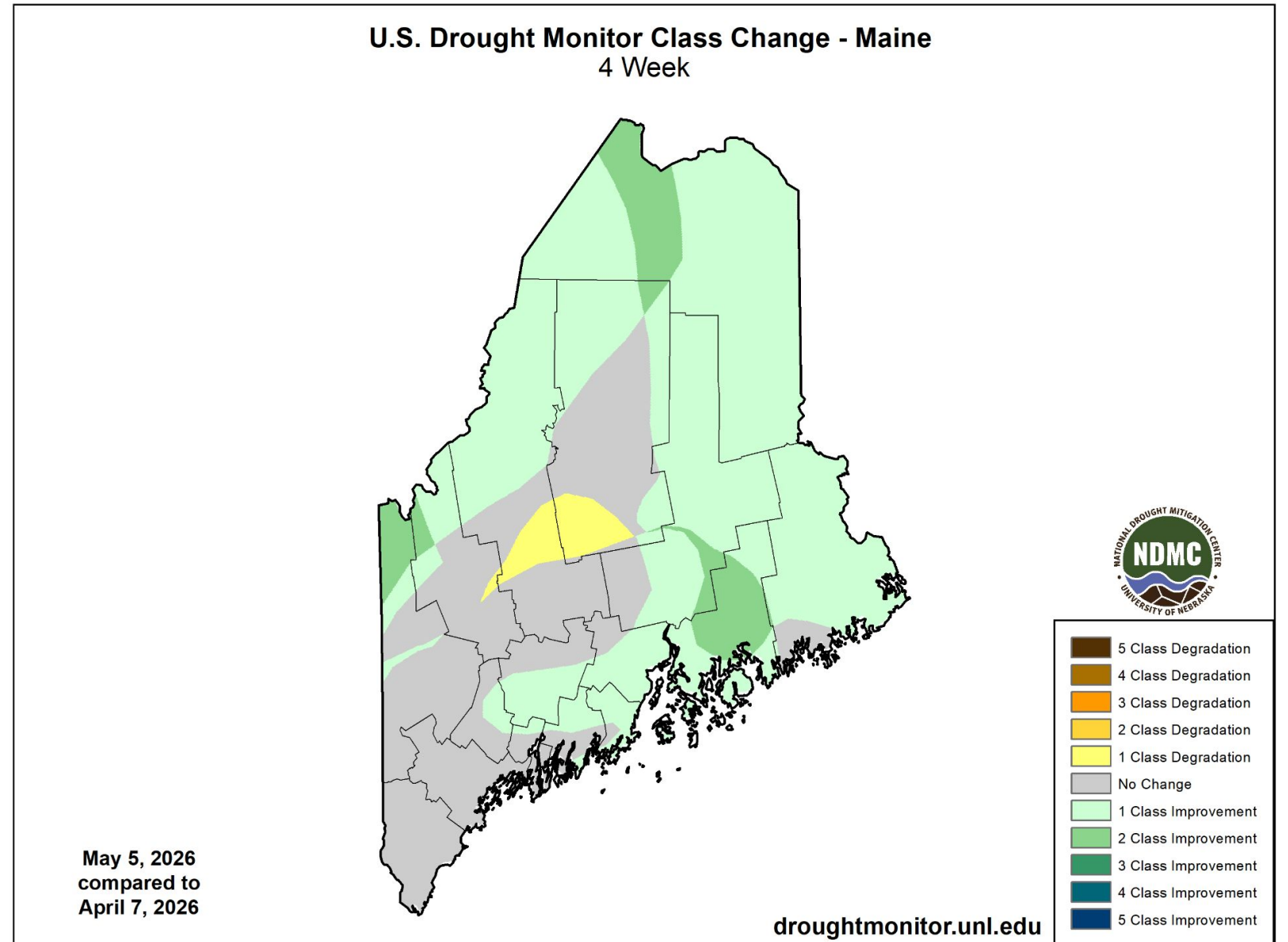


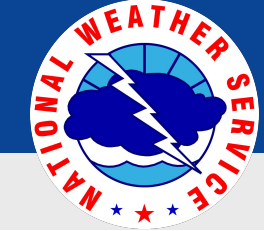
# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

May 7, 2026  
11:03 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, Far Southwest Penobscot and Far Southwest Washington Counties.





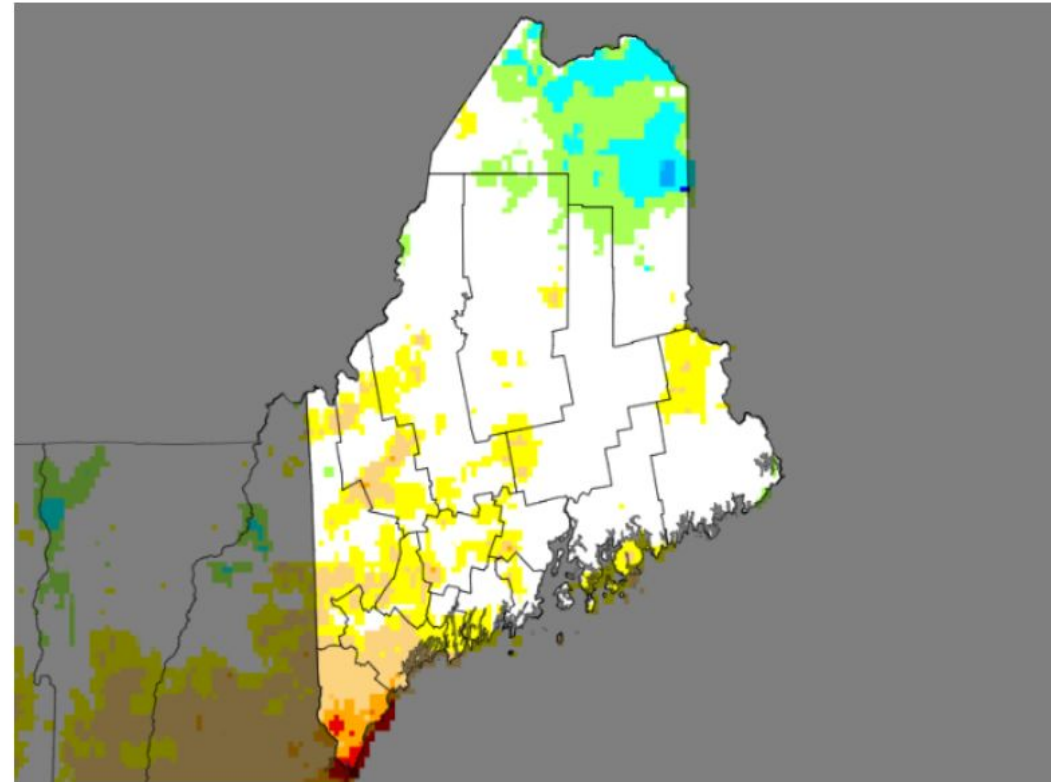
# Short & Long Term Drought Index

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

Link to the Maine [Drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov) Maps: [www.drought.gov/states/maine](http://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 improvements thanks to recent rainfall.
- 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



Dry Conditions



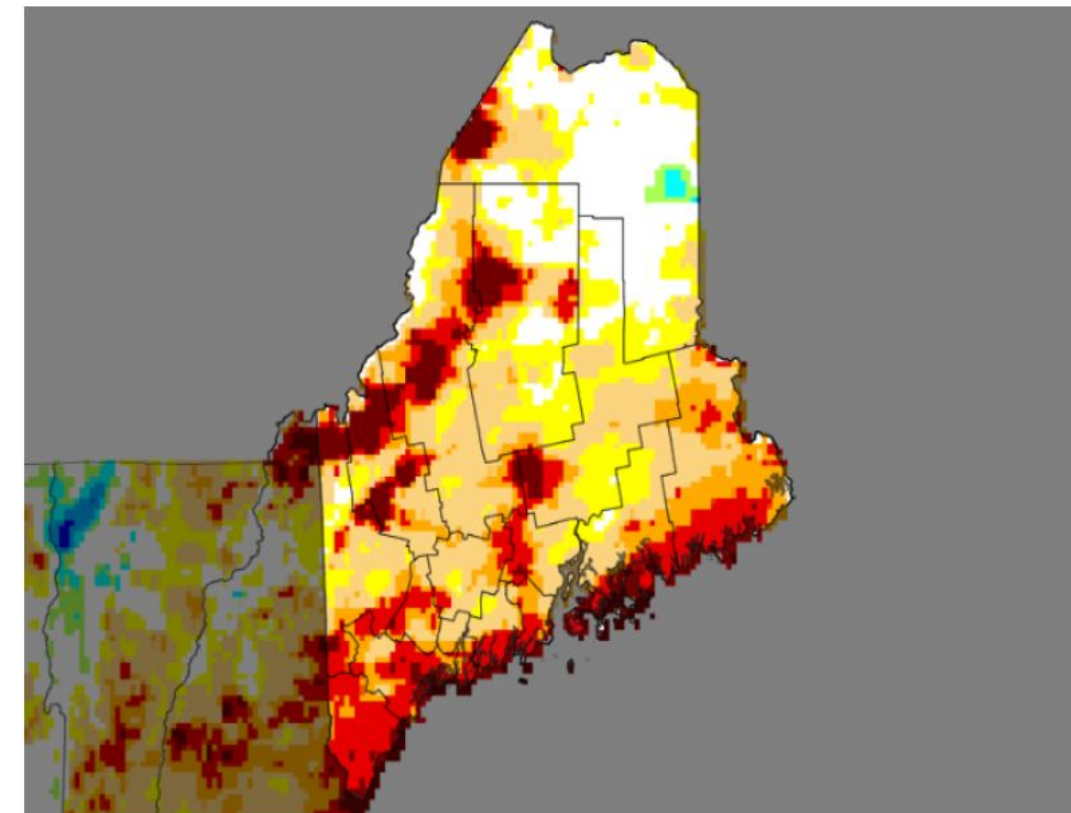
Wet Conditions



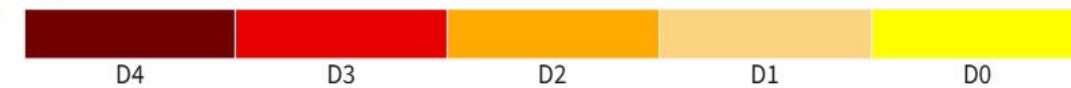
Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine  
Data Valid: 04/30/26

Drought.gov

Long-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Dry Conditions



Wet Conditions



Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine  
Data Valid: 04/30/26

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



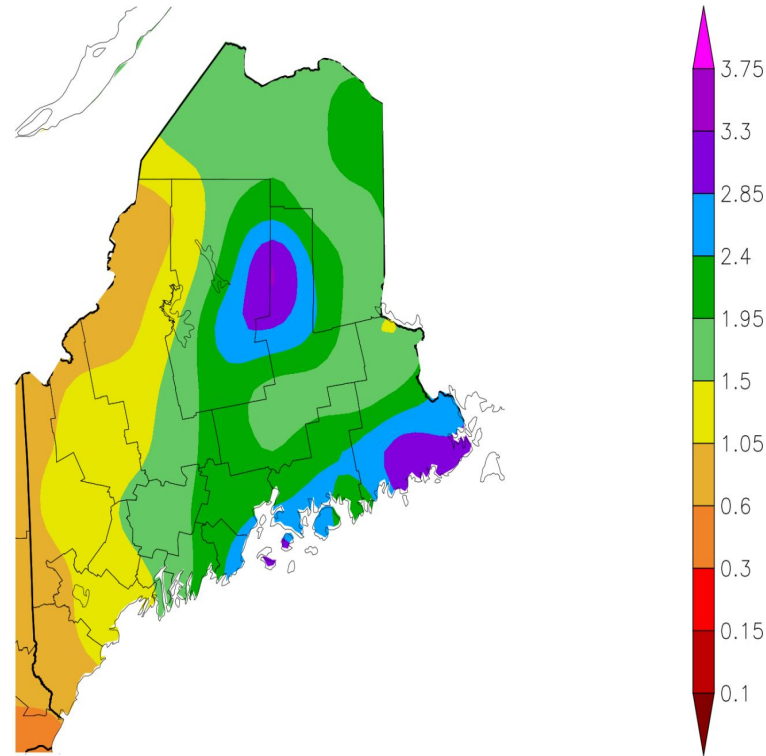
# 7 Day Precipitation

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

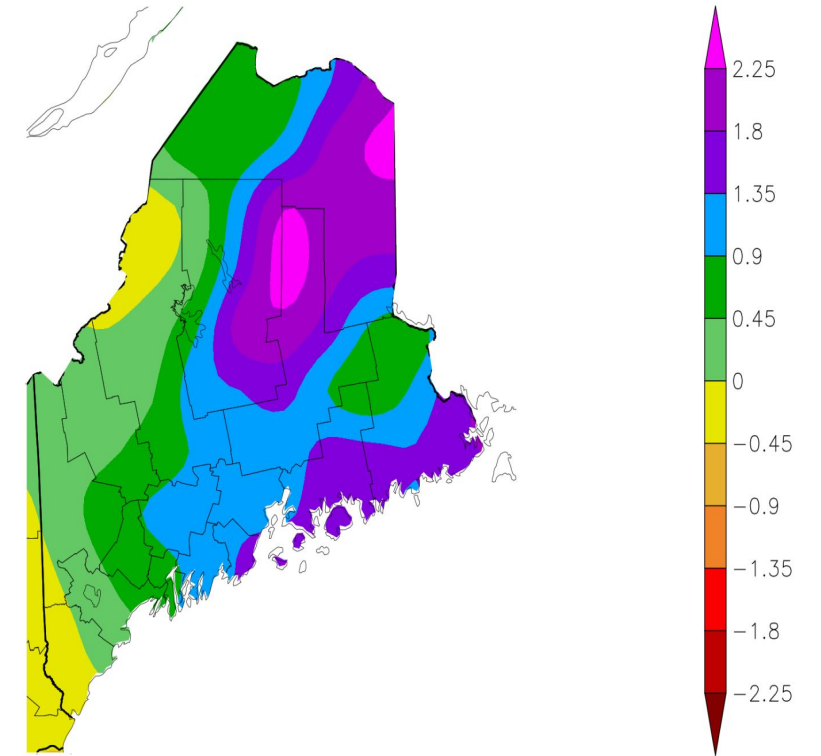
- Precipitation is above normal across much of Northern & Eastern Maine with multiple recent rainfall.
- Near normal precipitation in Northern Somerset County.

Precipitation (in)  
4/30/2026 - 5/6/2026



Generated 5/7/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
4/30/2026 - 5/6/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 5/7/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





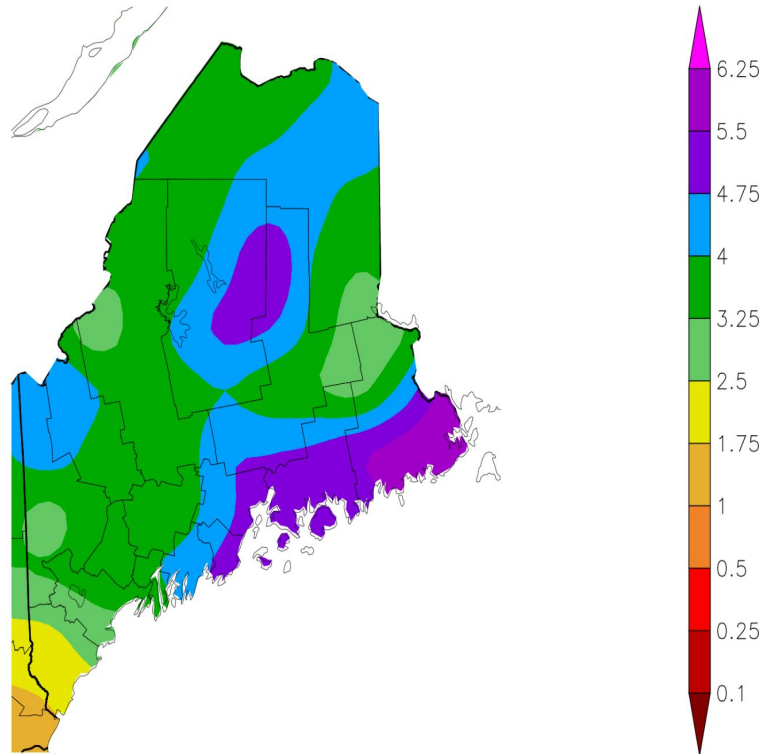
# 30 Day Precipitation

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

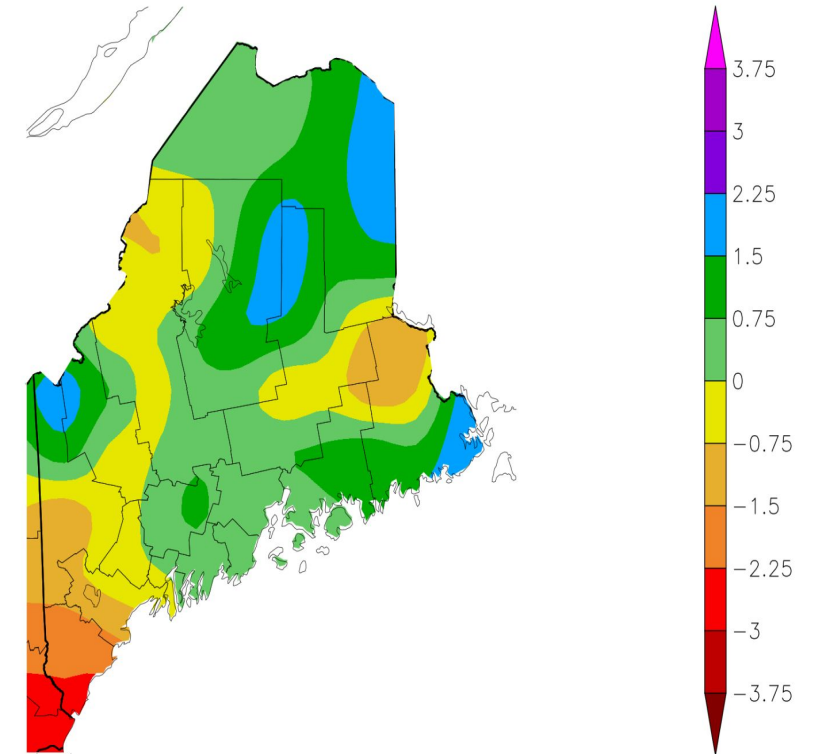
- Precipitation is above normal for much of Eastern & Northern Maine.
- Near to slightly below normal precipitation in Northern Somerset, Central Penobscot County and Northern Hancock & Washington counties.

Precipitation (in)  
4/7/2026 - 5/6/2026



Generated 5/7/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
4/7/2026 - 5/6/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 5/7/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



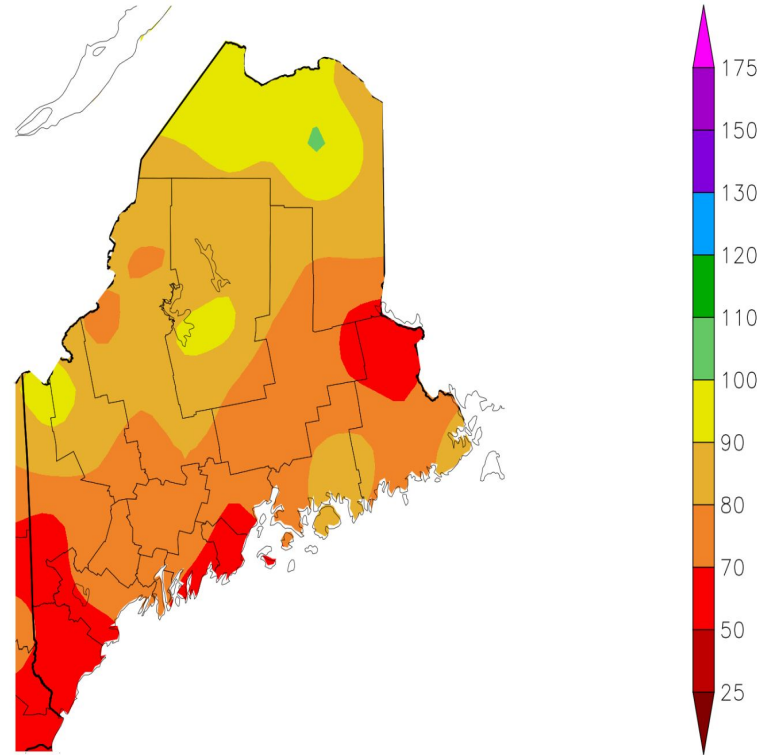


# Precipitation Deficits

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

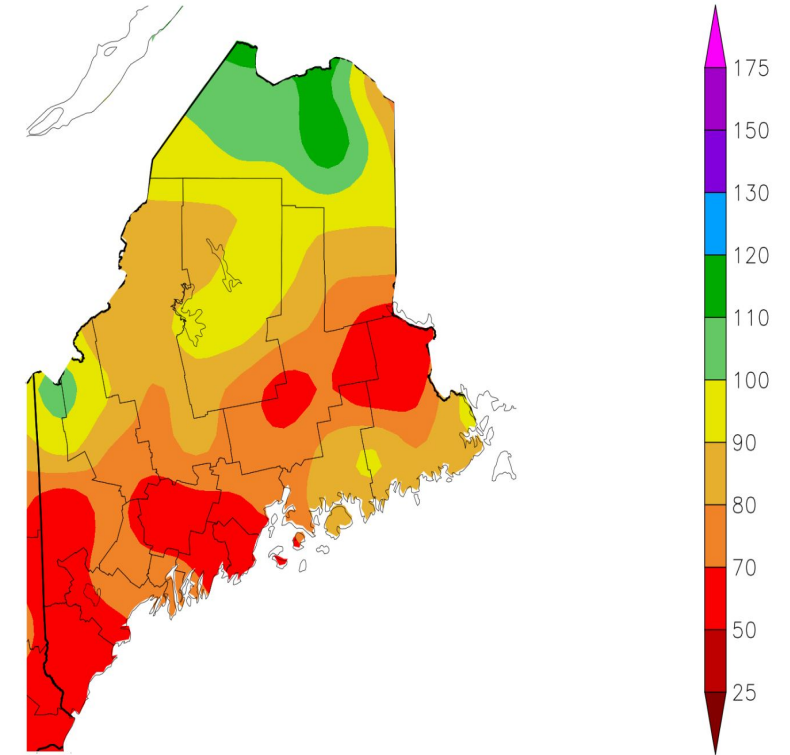
- Increased precipitation across Northern Maine is improving rainfall deficits since last year.
- Significant deficits remain across much of Northern & Eastern Maine which are prolonging the ongoing drought.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
10/1/2025 – 5/6/2026



Generated 5/7/2026 using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
1/1/2026 – 5/6/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 5/7/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





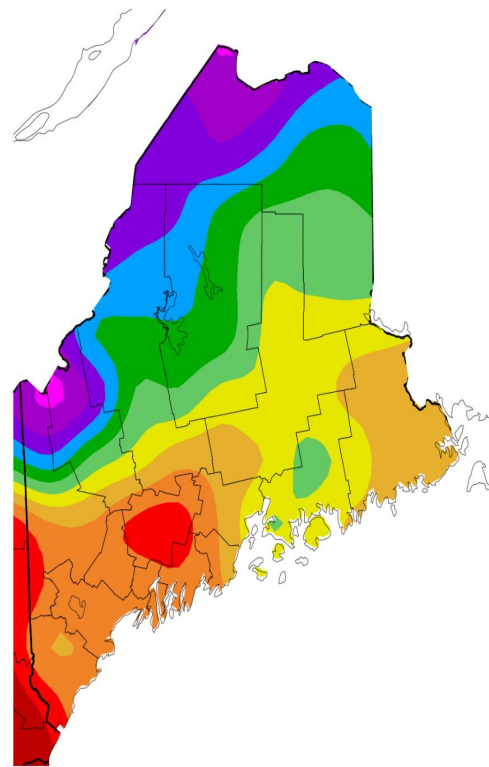
# 30 Day Temperatures

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

Link to [Northeast Regional Climate Center](#)

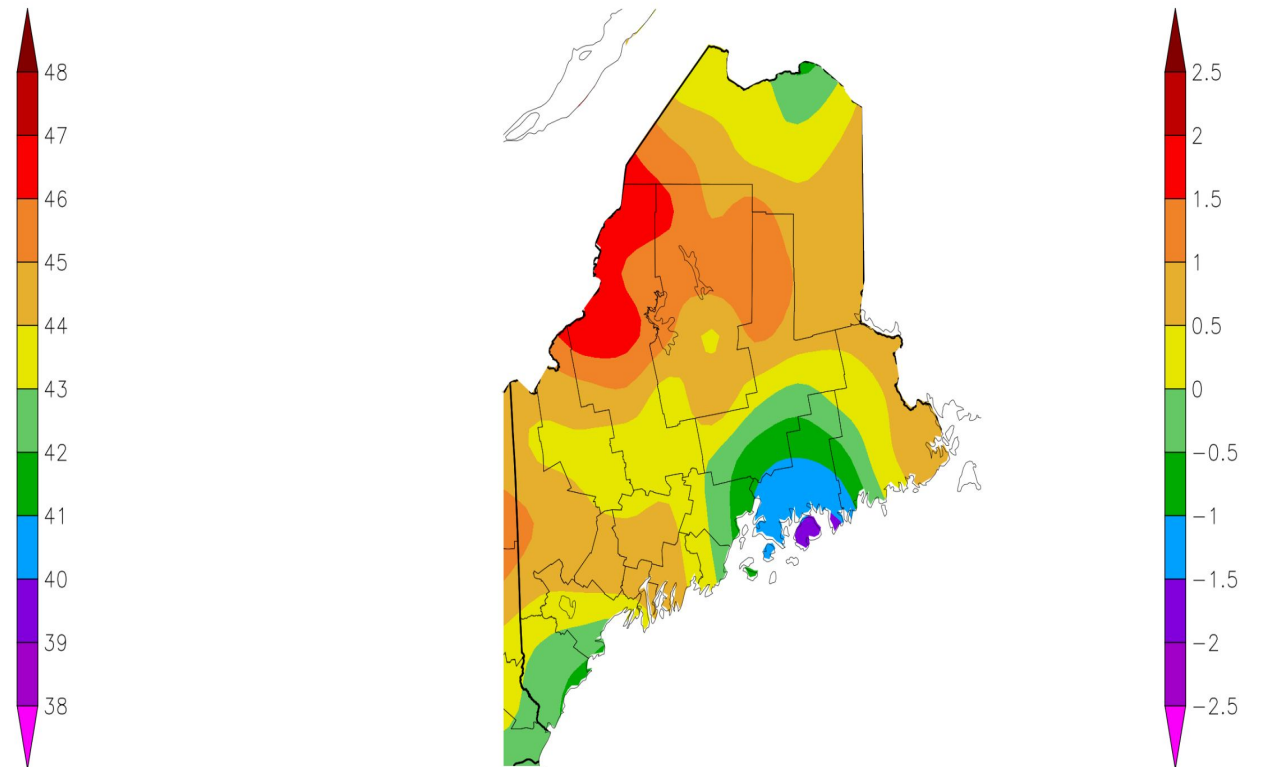
- 30 Day Temperatures have been running 1-2 degrees above normal across much of Eastern/Northern Maine.
- Temperatures near to slightly below normal in the Eastern St. John Valley and portions of Hancock County up to Bangor Region.

Temperature (F)  
4/7/2026 - 5/6/2026



Generated 5/7/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
4/7/2026 - 5/6/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 5/7/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



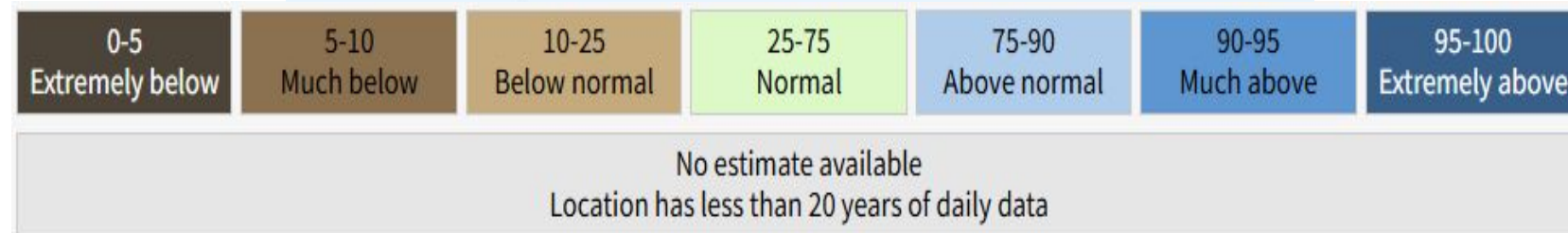
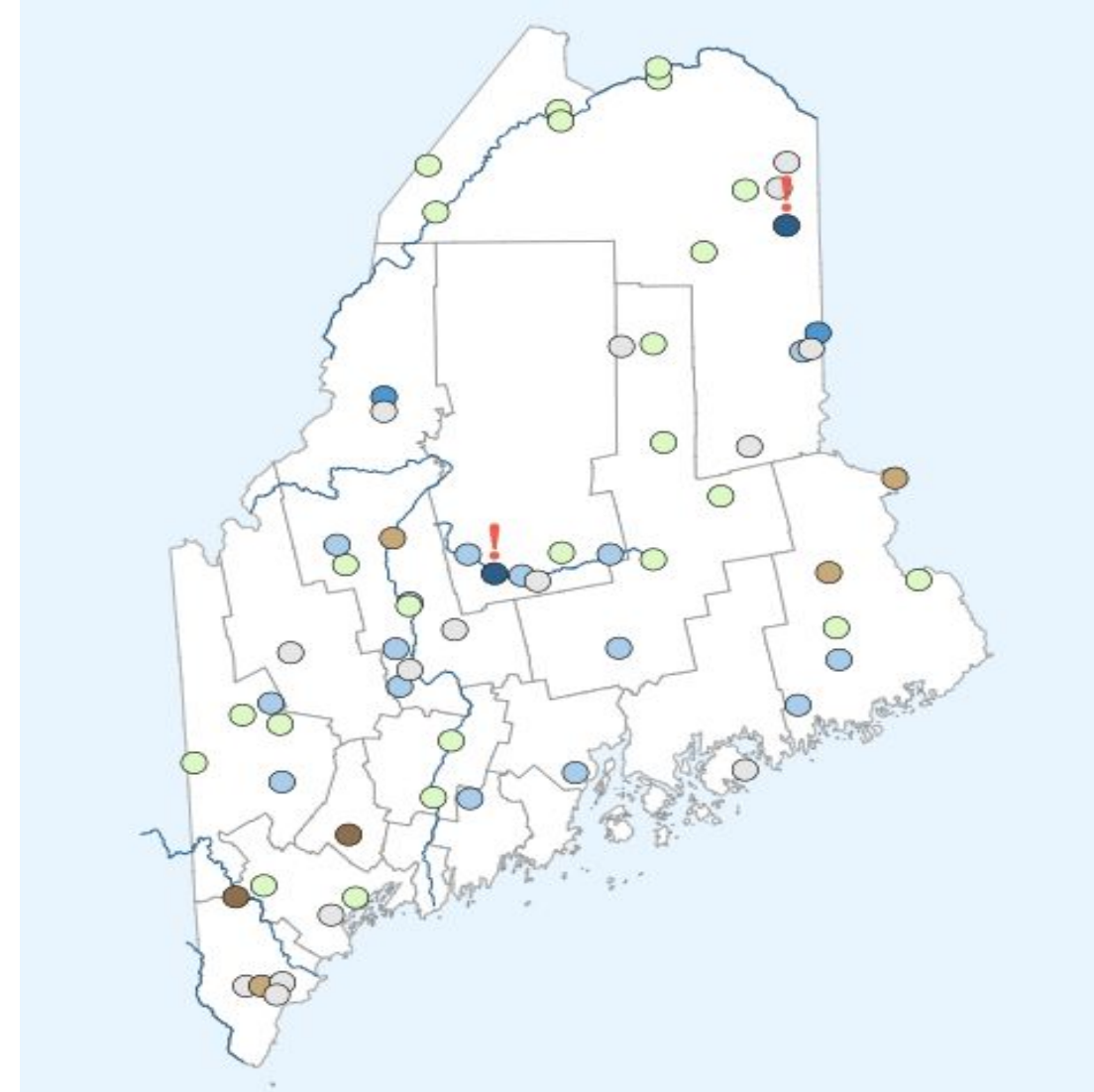


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

USGS State of Maine Dashboard: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/state/maine/>

- **Northern Basins:**
  - Normal flows
- **Central Highlands, Moosehead & Baxter Regions:**
  - Normal to Slightly Above Normal
- **Downeast to Bangor Basins:**
  - Normal to Slightly Above Normal except St. Croix Basin which is below normal.
- **Areawide Trends:**
  - Expect flows to rise slowly with recent widespread rainfall.



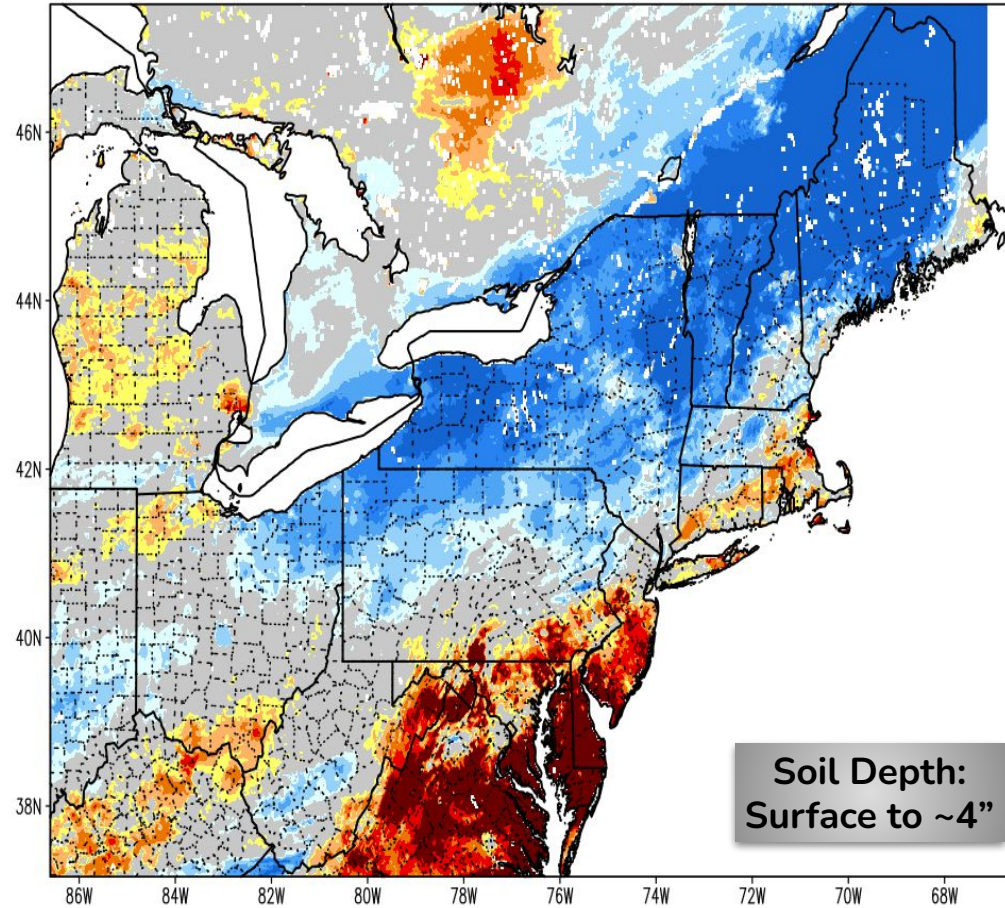


# Groundwater Impacts

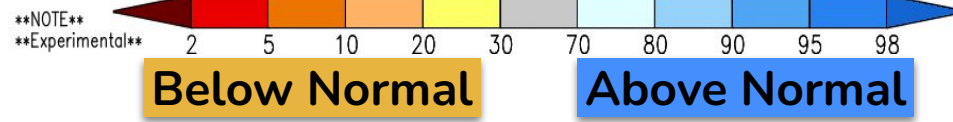
May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

- Near surface soil moisture across much of Maine has improved significantly thanks to recent rains.
- Deeper soil moisture down to near 40” has significantly improved with most soils above normal. Rainfall before “green up” is allowing for improvement.

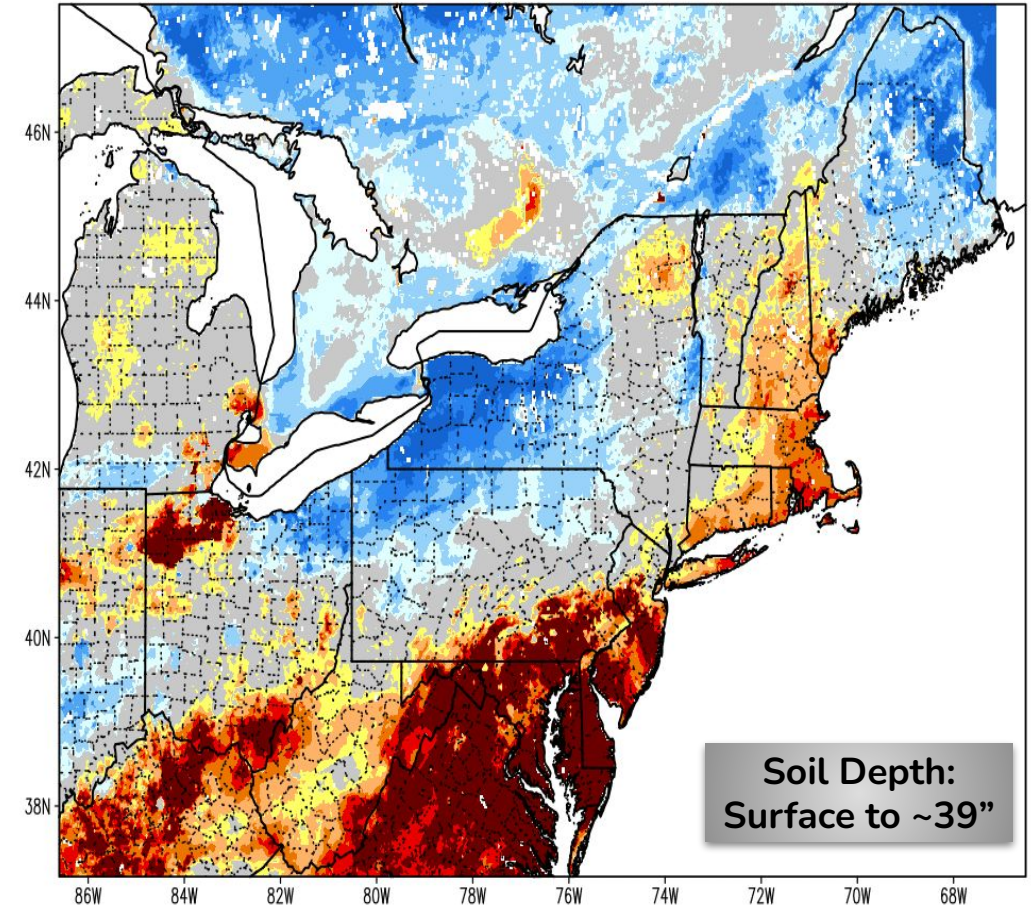
SPoRT-LIS 0-10 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 07 May 2026



Soil Depth:  
Surface to ~4”



SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 07 May 2026



Soil Depth:  
Surface to ~39”

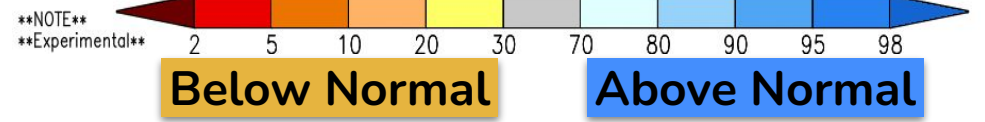


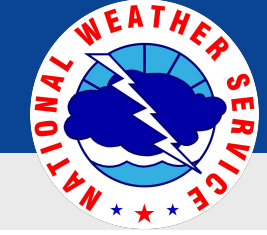
Image Captions:

National Water Model

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

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



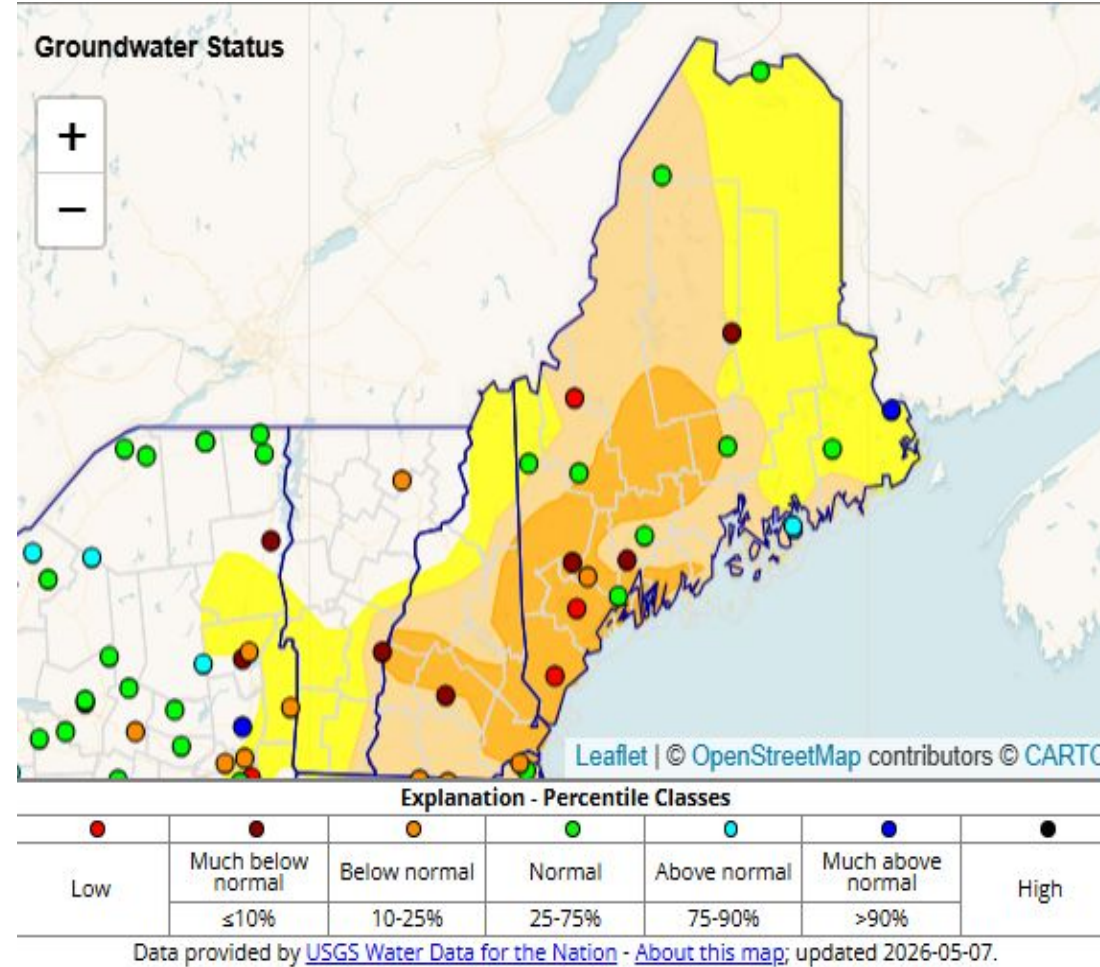


# Groundwater

May 7, 2026  
11:03 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, portions of the Central Highlands, Baxter Region into Bangor Region.
- Significant groundwater improvements have taken place across the North Woods, Much of Aroostook County into the Eastern Downeast.



SPoRT-LIS 0-200 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 07 May 2026

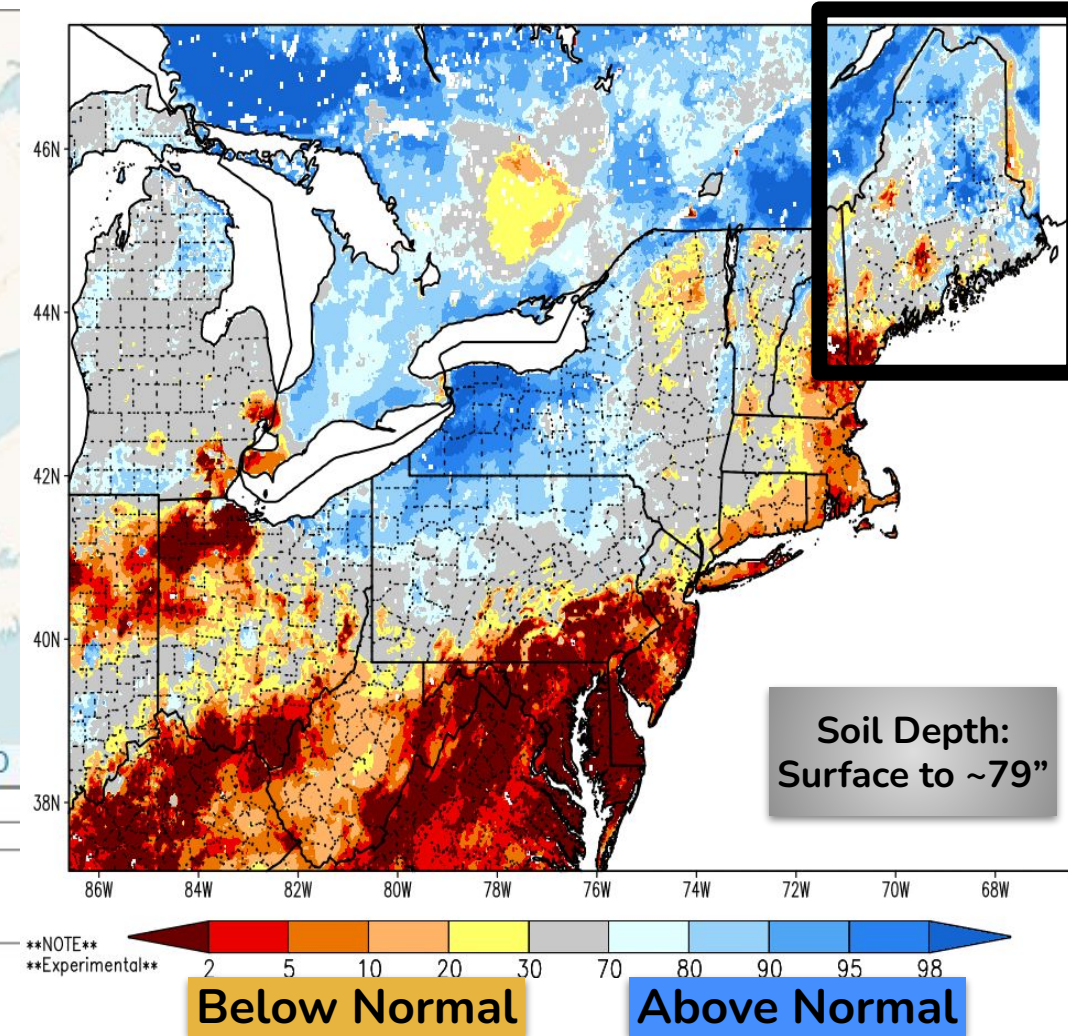
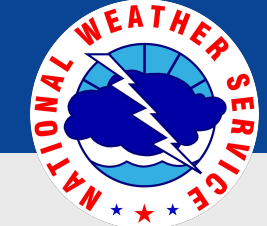


Image Captions:  
[USGS Groundwater Gauge Status](#)  
[Soil Moisture Percentile 0-200cm Depth](#)

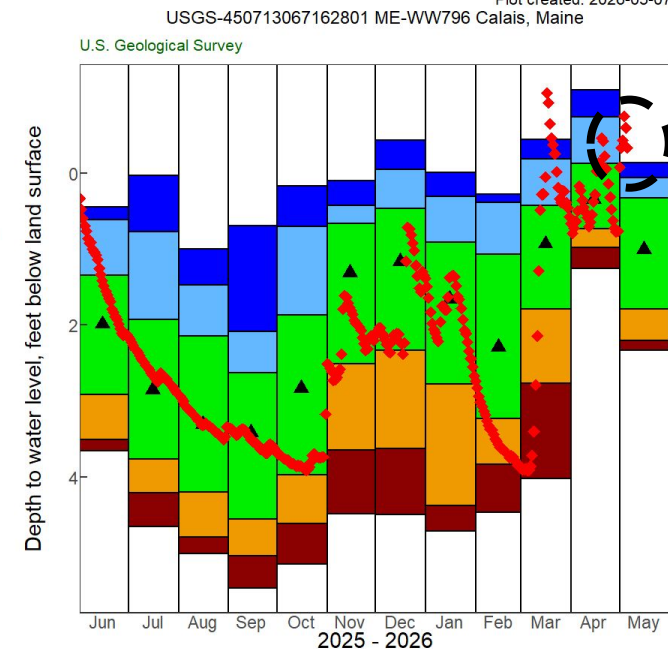
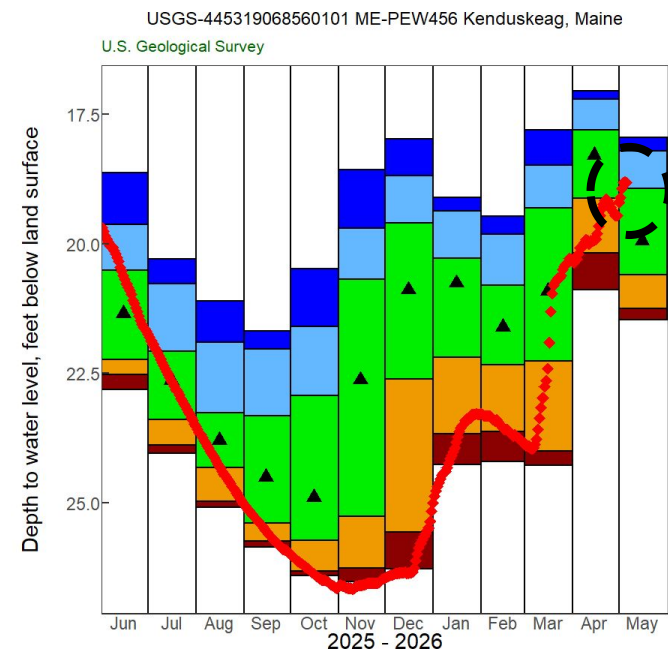
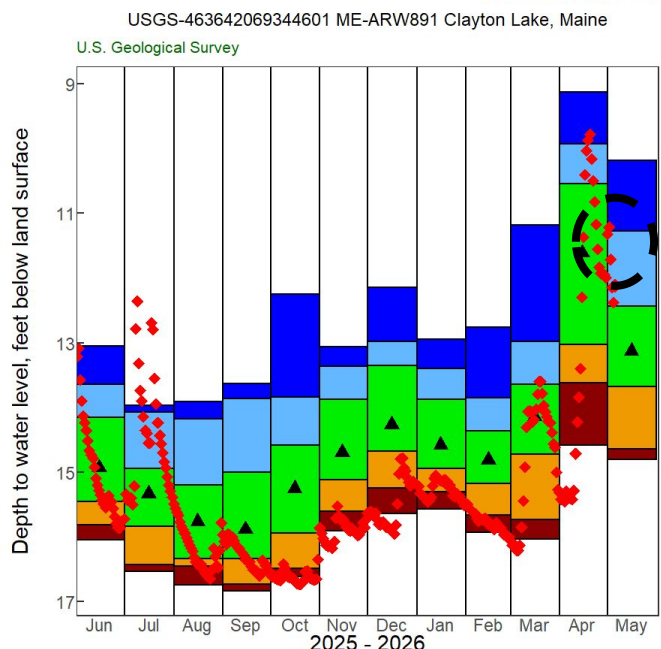
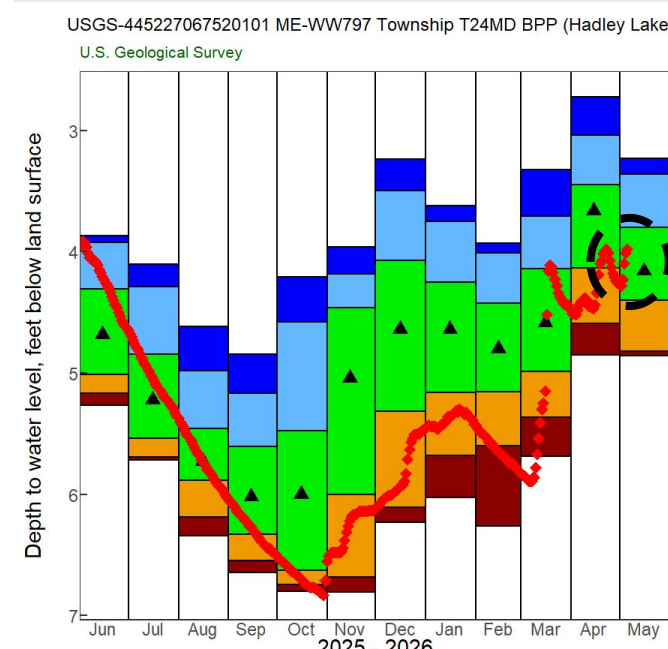
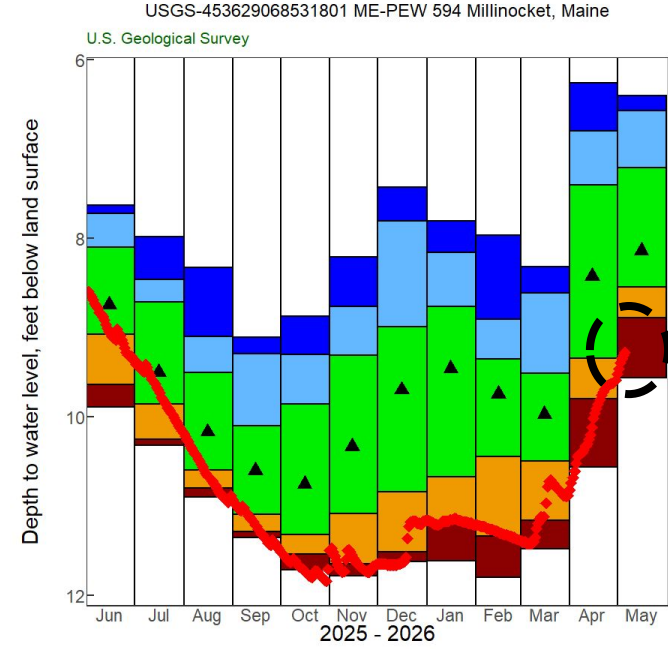
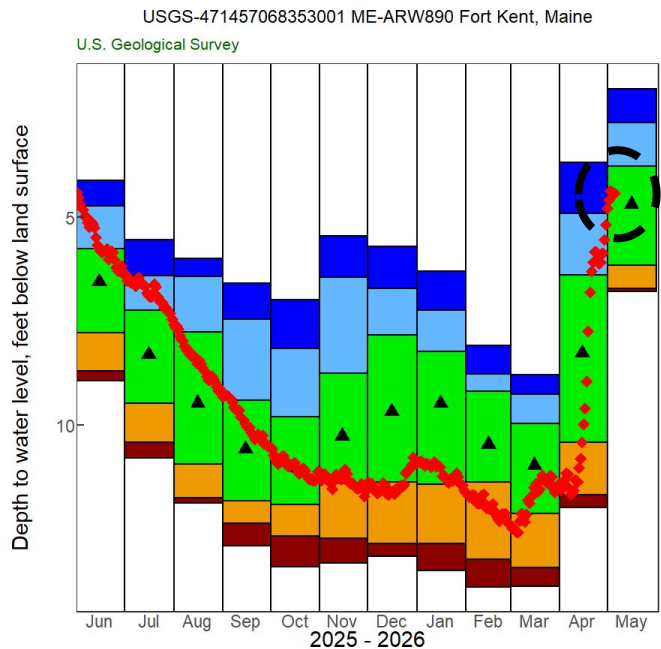




# Groundwater Gage Plots

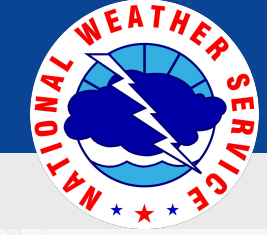
May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

USGS Groundwater Levels in New England: [https://newengland.water.usgs.gov/web\\_app/GWW/GWW.html](https://newengland.water.usgs.gov/web_app/GWW/GWW.html)



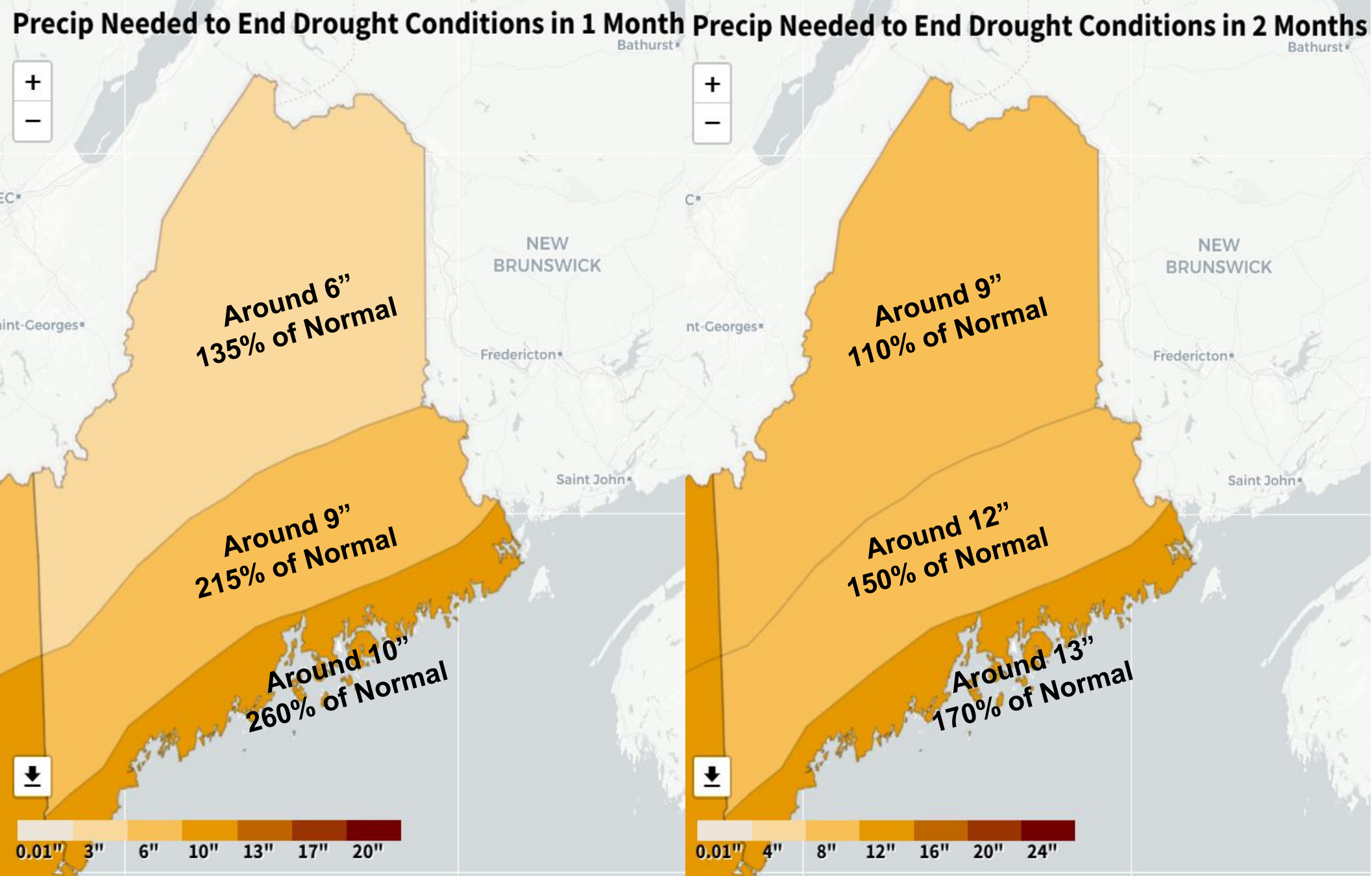
Significant groundwater improvements at most locations. There remains much below normal conditions across the Central Highlands but the recharge is continuing (positive sign).





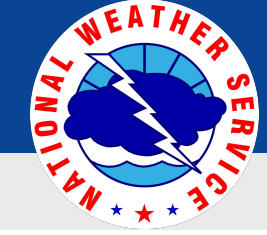
# Rainfall Needed to “End the Drought”

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT



- Steady, light-rain events with high absorption rates are ideal.
- These values have fallen significantly due to recent rainfall before “green up”.





# Fire Hazard Impacts

May 7, 2026  
11:03 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.

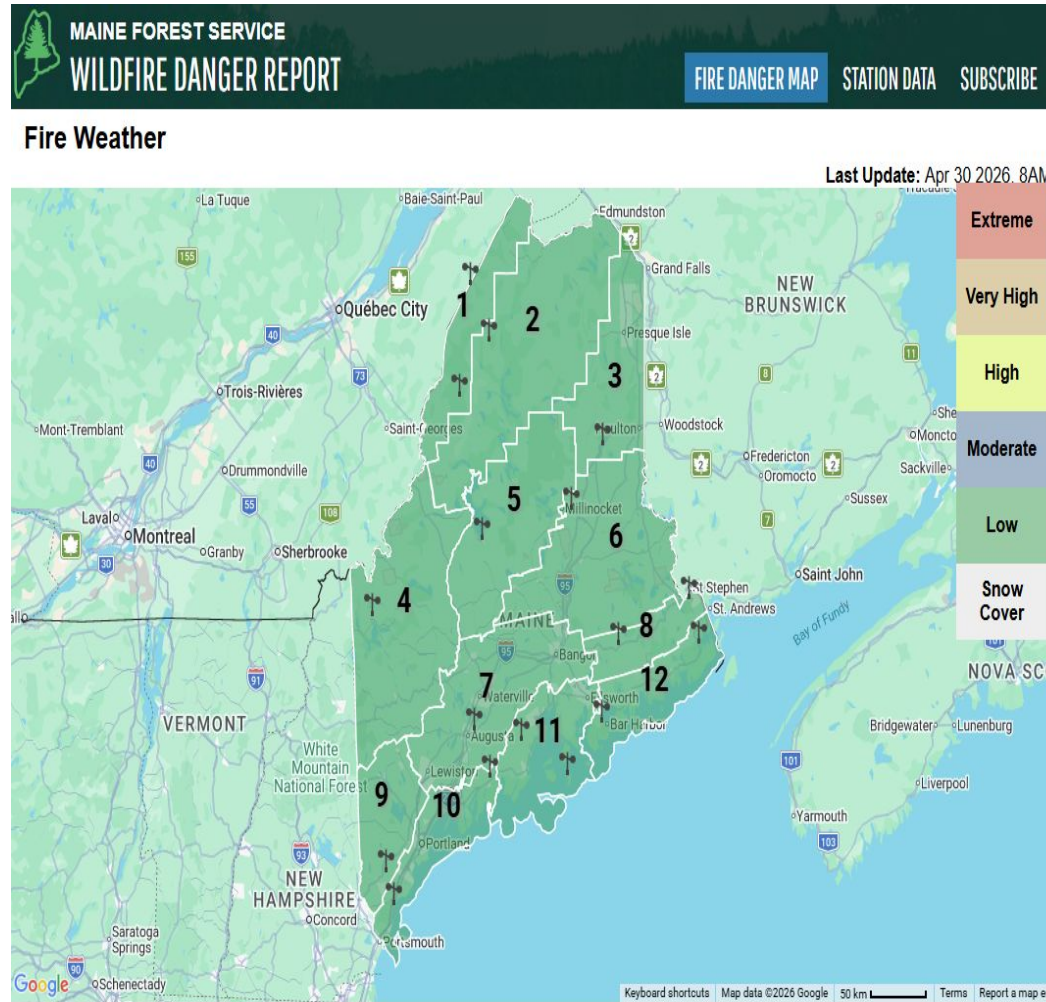


Image Captions:  
[Maine Wildfire Danger Report](#)

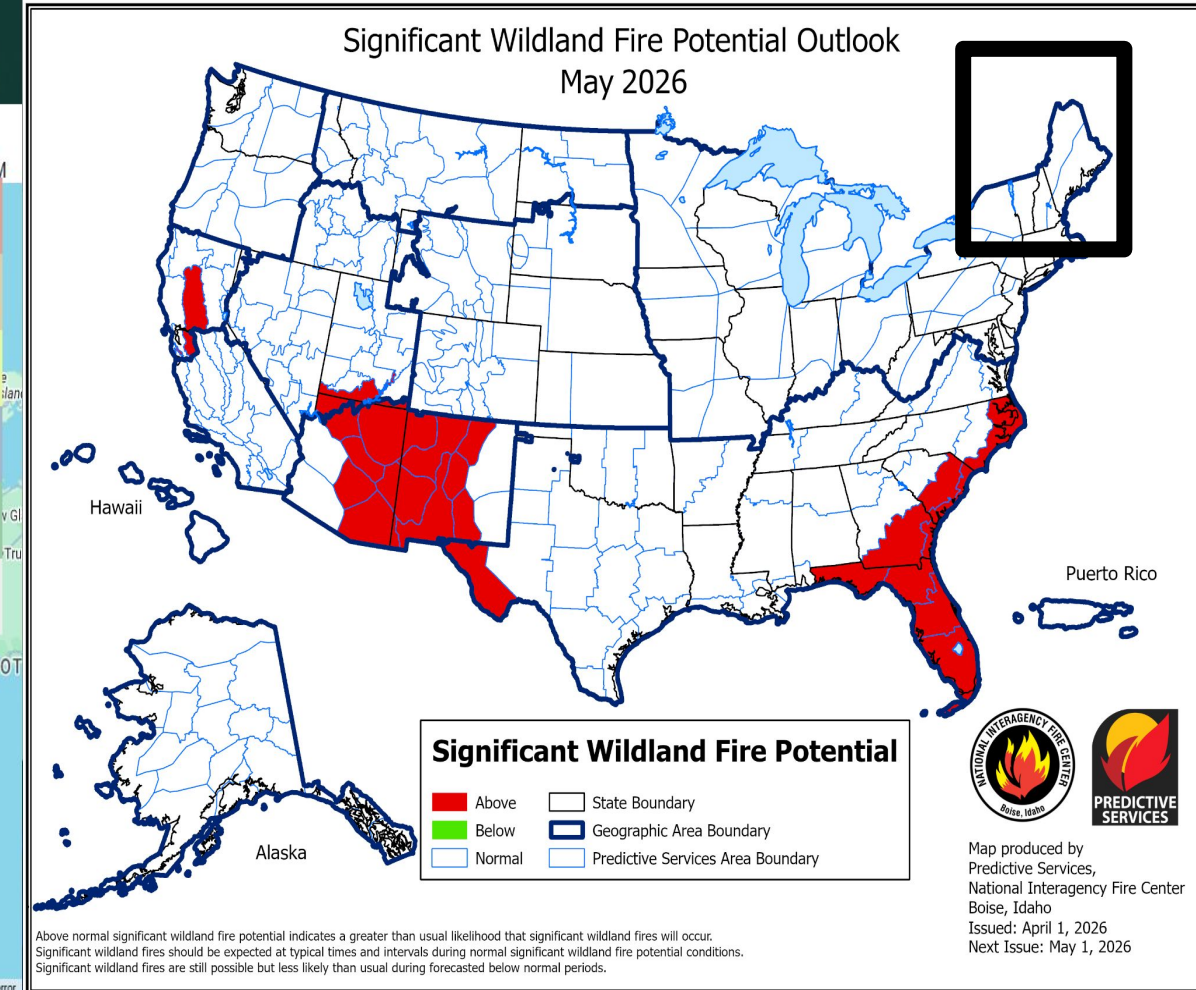
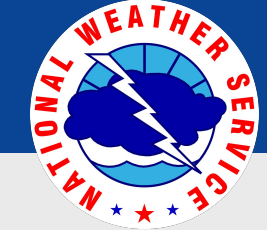


Image Captions:  
[NICC November 2025 Significant Fire Potential](#)





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

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

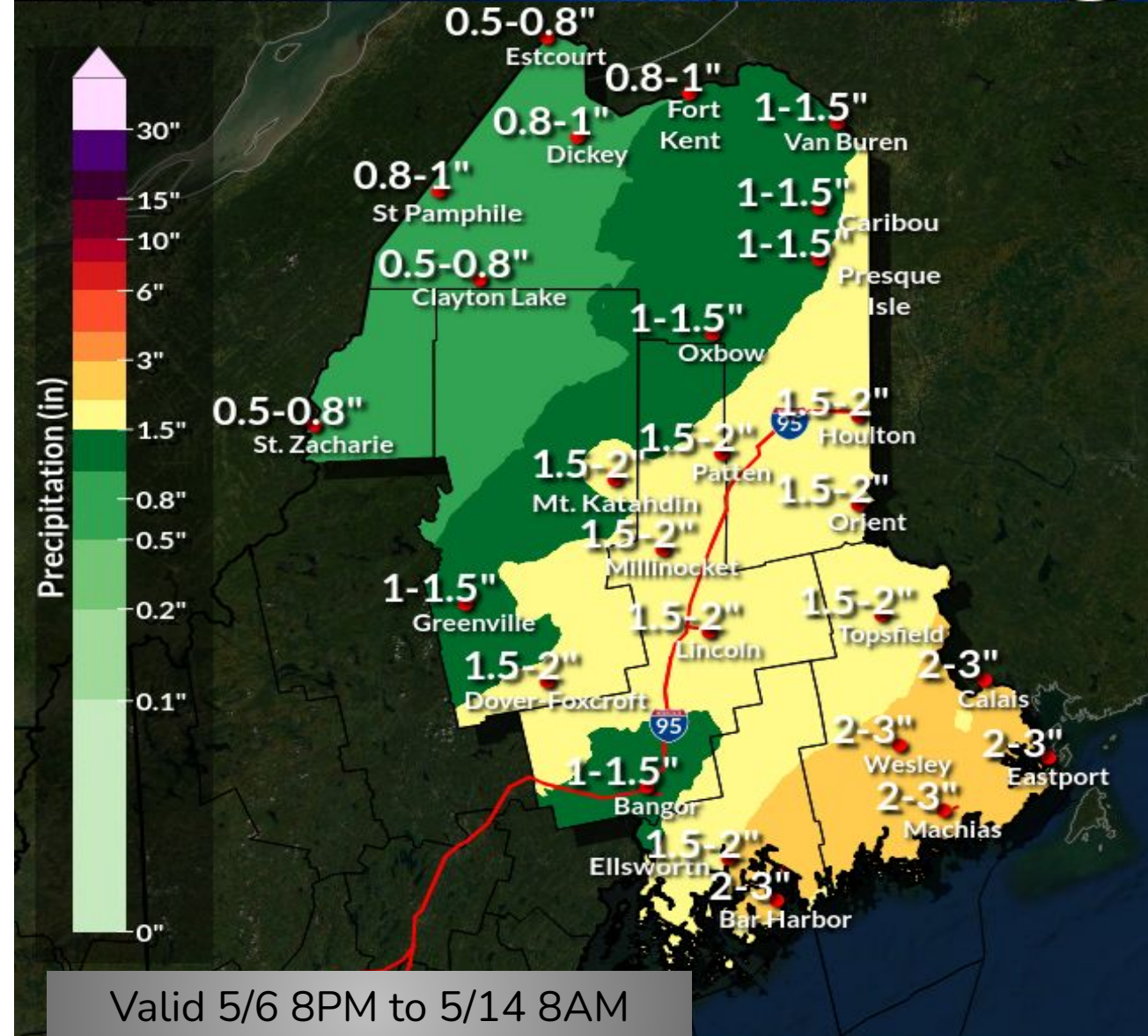
## WPC 7 Day QPF Forecast

Weather Forecast Office  
Caribou, ME



Wed 8:00PM to Thu 8:00AM EDT

Issued May 07, 2026 4:28 AM EDT



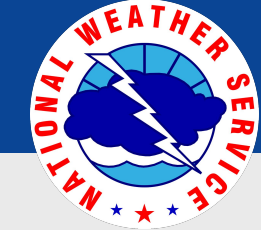
NWSCaribou

[weather.gov/car](http://weather.gov/car)



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

National Weather Service  
Caribou, ME



# Long Range Outlooks (May)

May 7, 2026  
11:03 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.

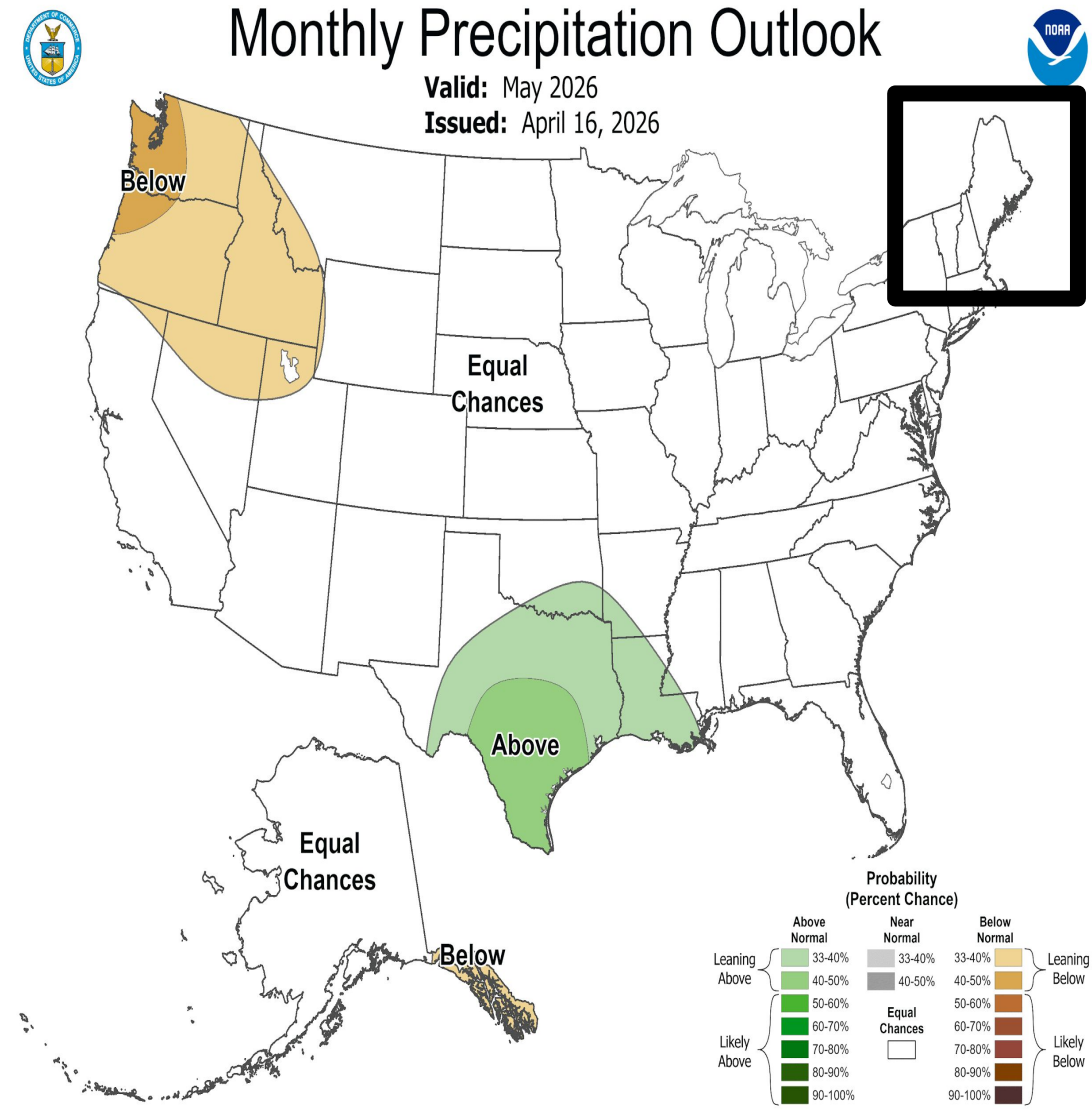
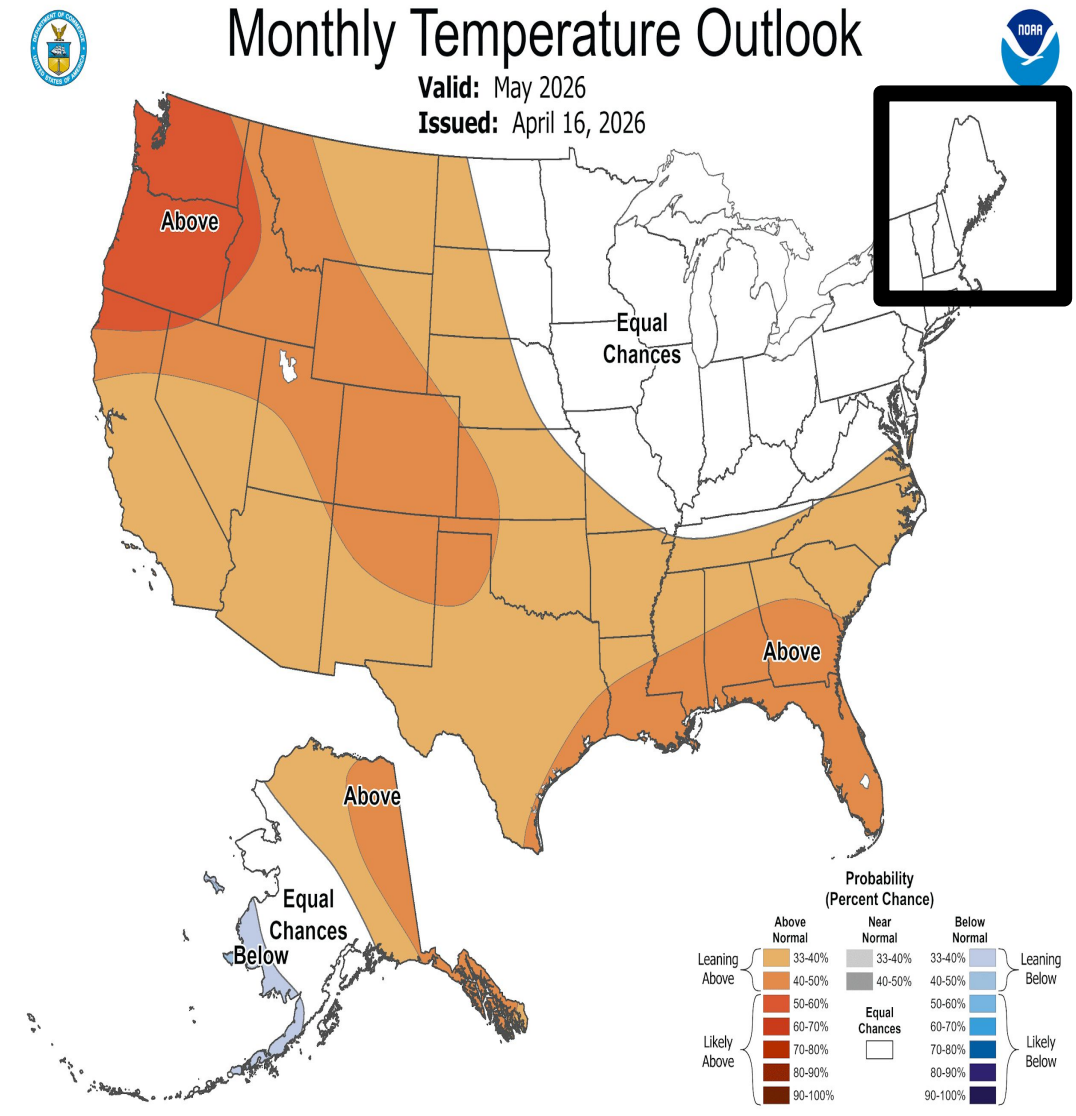
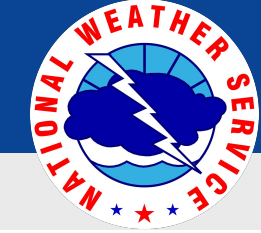


Image Captions:  
Left - [Climate Prediction Center 1 Month Temperature Outlook.](#)  
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 1 Month Precipitation Outlook.](#)





# Long Range Outlooks (May-July)

May 7, 2026  
11:03 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.

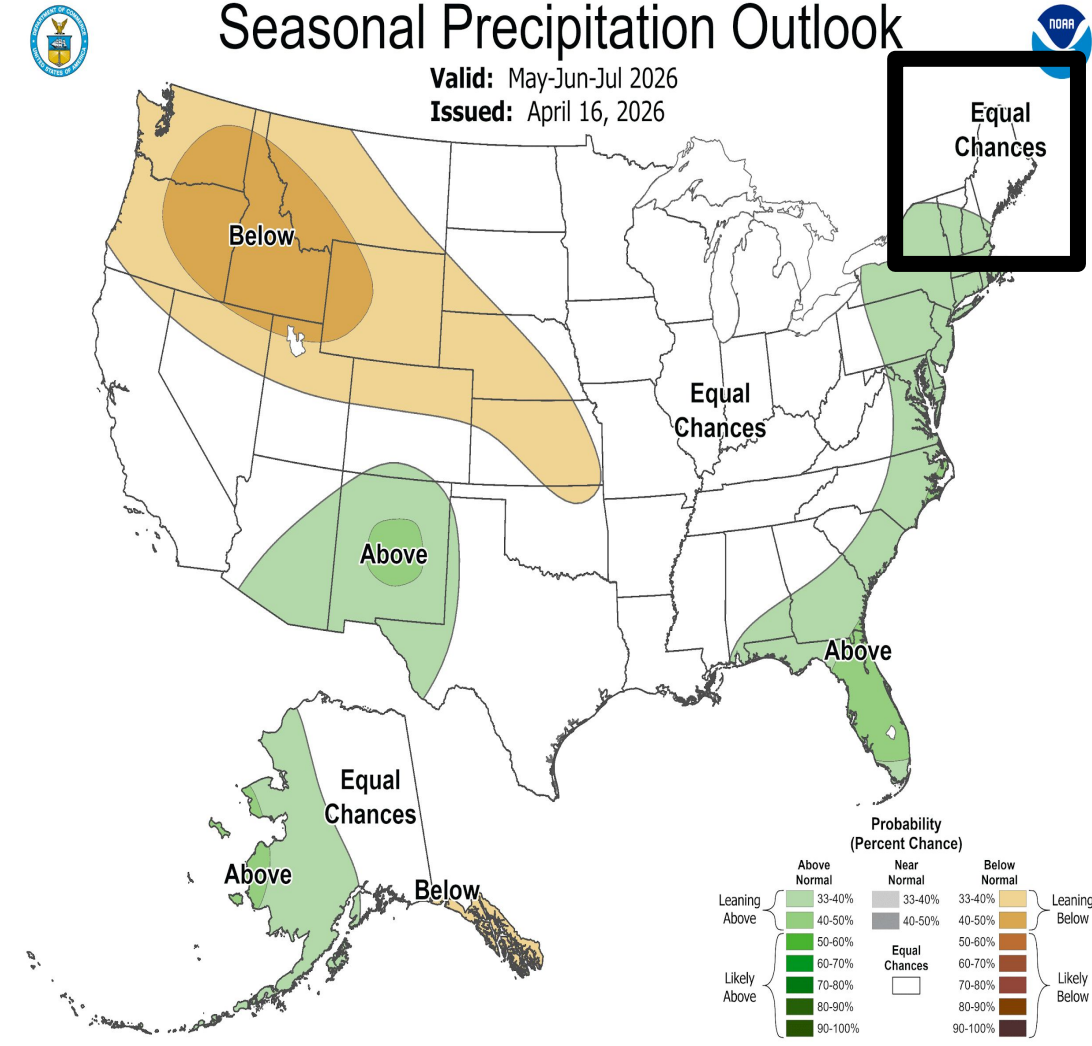
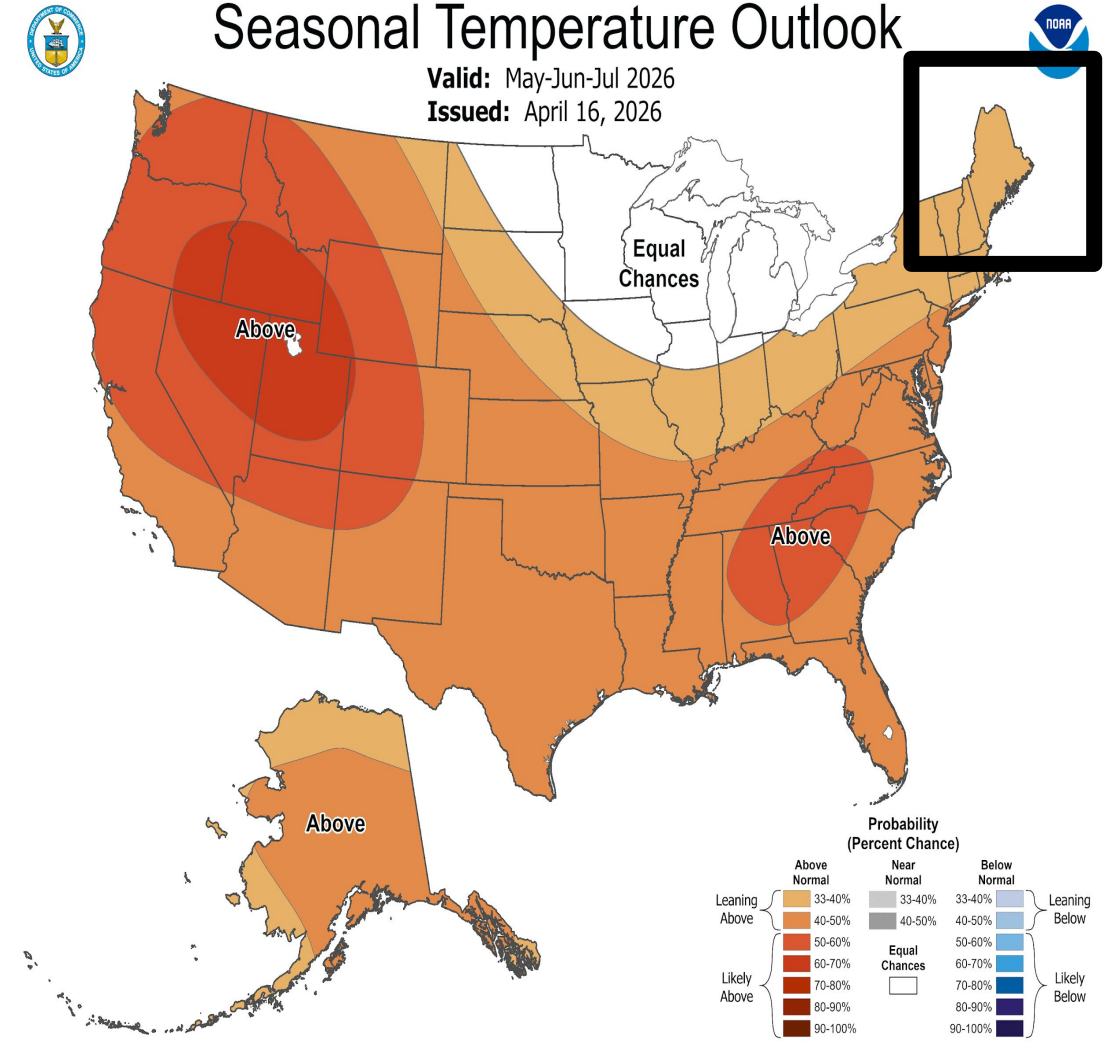
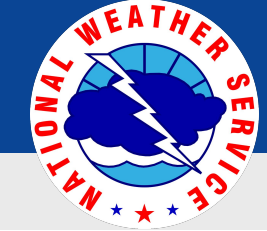


Image Captions:  
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Temperature Outlook.](#)  
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center 3 Month Precipitation Outlook.](#)

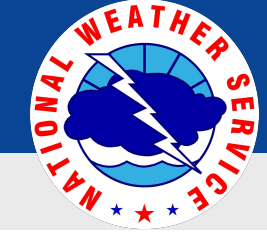


# Main Takeaways

May 7, 2026  
11:03 AM EDT

- **Bottom Line:** Categorical improvements continue through “green up” due to significant recovery in much of Eastern/Northern Maine, however long-term drought persistence in western areas of our forecast area.
  - *Full aquifer recovery is unlikely this spring in western half of the forecast area.*
  - *Full aquatic recovery is likely this spring in eastern half of the forecast area.*
- Groundwater trends continue to show significant improvement except in the Central Highlands.
- 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](http://www.weather.gov/car)

### Phone (public)

→ (207) 492-0182

### Questions? Email

→ [nws.caribou@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.caribou@noaa.gov)

→ [james.sinko@noaa.gov](mailto:james.sinko@noaa.gov) (*Hydrology Program Manager*)

