



Winter/Spring Flood Outlook #1

January 5, 2026
3:59 AM

Northern & Eastern Maine

Valid Jan 5th - Jan 22nd

OVERVIEW:

- The Flood Outlook due to Natural Flows is **Normal** for Northern and Eastern Maine
- The Flood Outlook due to Ice Jams is **Normal** for Northern and Eastern Maine

SNOWPACK (SD) & SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT (SWE)

“T” = Trace

- **Northern Basins:** SDs generally 7-13” w/ isolated up to 15”. SWEs 1.2-2.0” w/ isolated higher amounts up to 3” at higher terrain.
- **Central Highlands, Moosehead & Baxter Regions:** SDs 5-15” w/ isolated higher amounts. Chimney Pond (Baxter SP @ 2971ft) SD is 24”. SWEs generally 0.5-1.5” with higher amounts >3” at highest terrain.
- **Downeast to Bangor Basins:** SDs generally 2-9” with SWEs 0.3-1.0”.

RIVER ICE

- **Northern Basins:** Nearly 100% ice cover in the St. John & Aroostook Basins. Previous break up on Meduxnekeag River is refreezing in place. Estimated ice thickness 6-9” with isolated 10-12” on the St. John & Aroostook. Ice is grey ice.
- **Central Highlands, Moosehead & Baxter Regions:** 65-85% cover in the Penobscot & Piscataquis Basins with exception near & downstream of dam/mill discharges. Ice thickness 2-5” with isolated up to 8” thick in head ponds of dams.
- **Downeast to Bangor Basins:** 30-60% cover. Generally zero to few inches thick. Highest ice coverage in upper stretches of St. Croix & Narraguagus Rivers.

PRECIPITATION & TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

- **Temperatures:** Below Normal. **Precipitation:** Near Normal.
- **Pattern:** Initially a large shift in the weather pattern as large ridging develops off the SE US coast which turns things warmer. The northern jet remains active and amplified with several rounds of systems possible. Strong signals in the long range modeling shows a return to much colder weather in the second half of this outlook.

RIVER FLOW STATUS

- Flows are Below Normal to Near Normal. Will continue to remain steady.

FROST DEPTH

- Northern Basins: 9-14” Deep, Central Basins: 5-9” Deep & Downeast: 3-6” Deep

GROUNDWATER

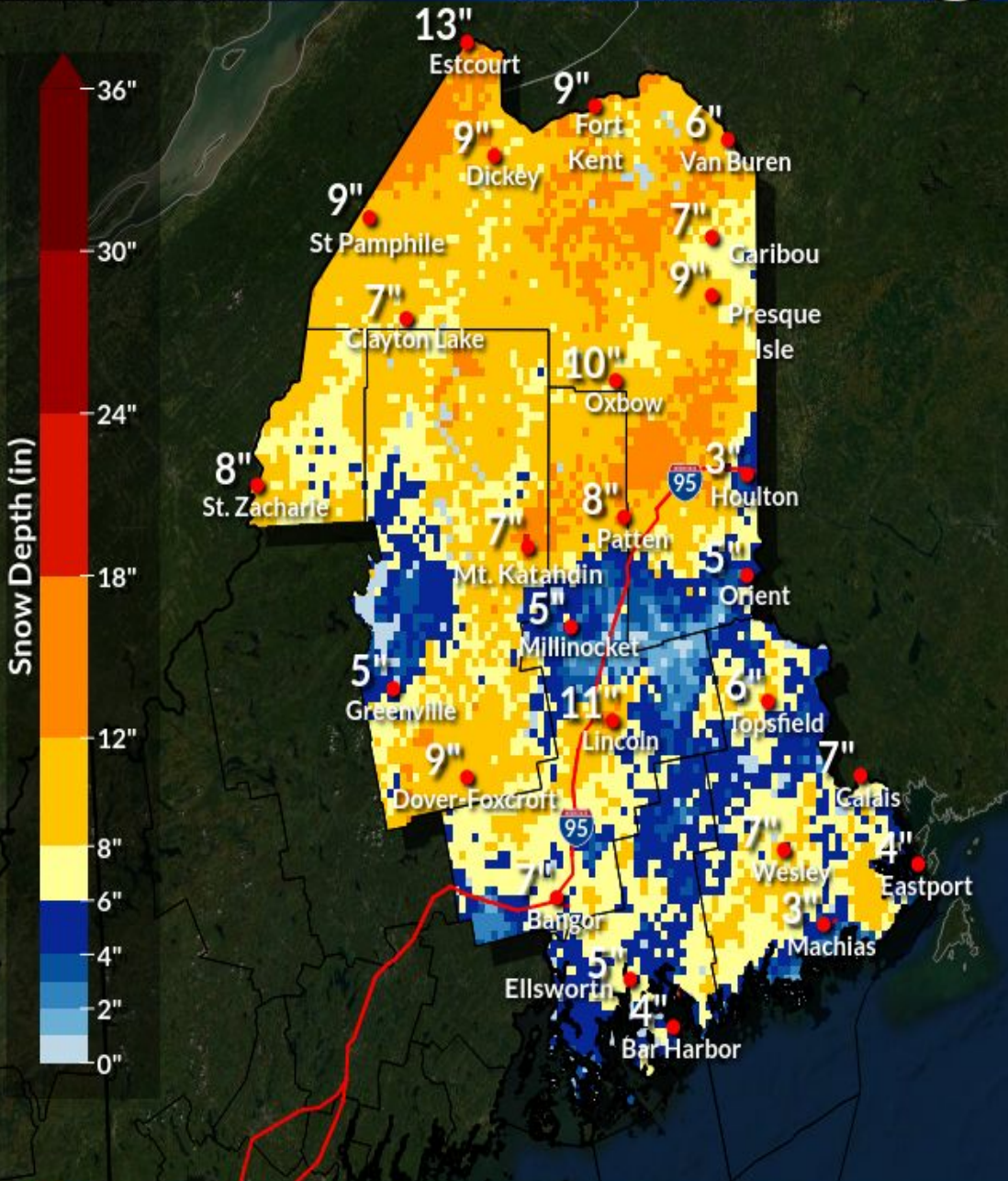
- Below Normal due to ongoing Moderate to Severe Drought.

Estimated Snow Depth

Weather Forecast Office
Caribou, ME

Valid 7:00AM 01/04/26

Issued Jan 05, 2026 3:33 AM EST

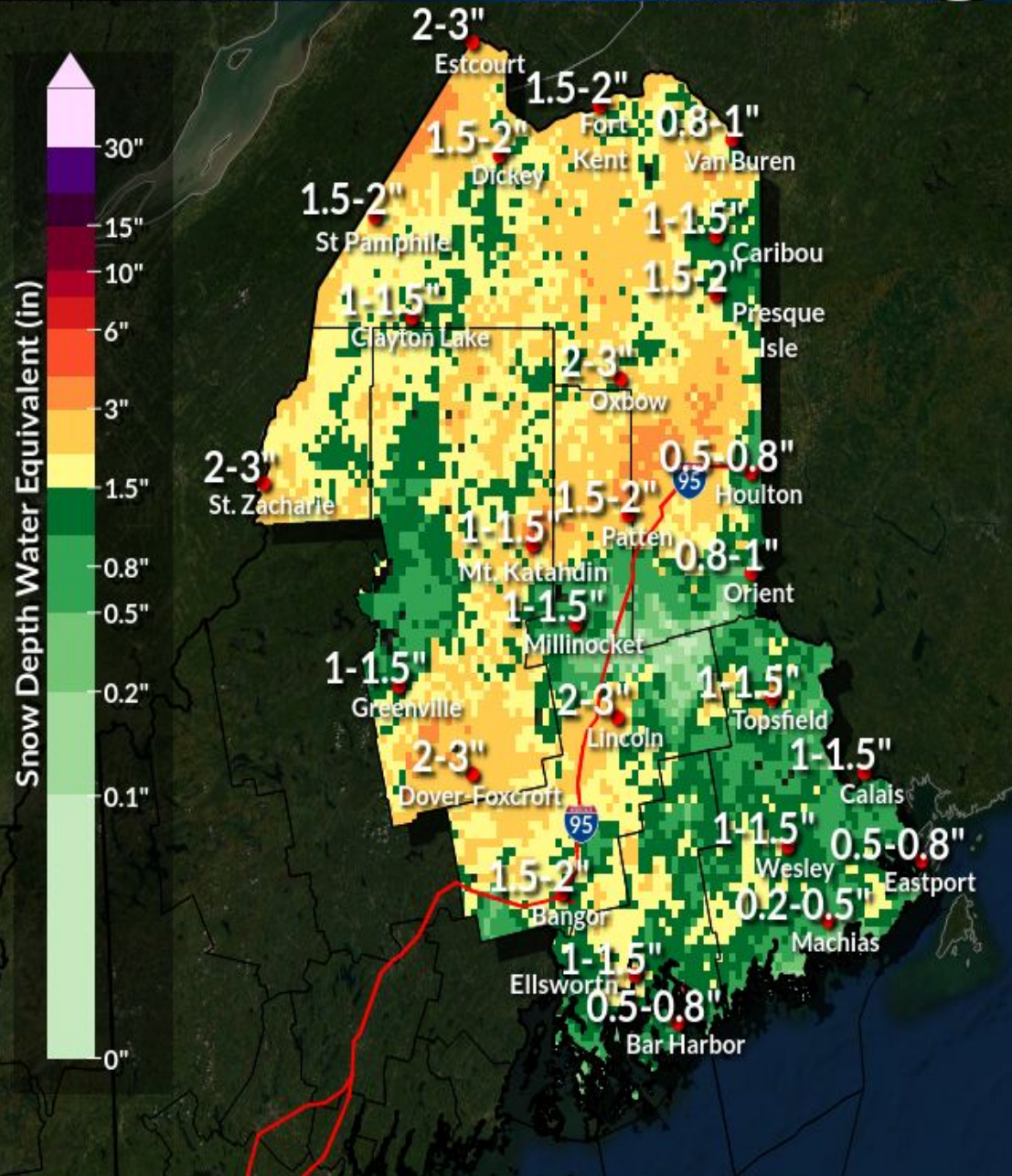


Estimated Snow Water Equivalent

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

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME