



Drought Information Statement for Central Pennsylvania

Valid **February 27, 2026**

Issued by: National Weather Service State College

Contact Information: ctp.stormreports@noaa.gov

- This next update to this Drought Information Statement will be issued by **March 13, 2026**.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/CTP/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
-
- Much of central Pennsylvania remains abnormally dry, with many areas in Moderate (D1) drought and isolated pockets of Severe (D2) drought.
 - Although some short-term improvement is possible, drought conditions are largely expected to persist across much of central Pennsylvania through the end of May 2026.

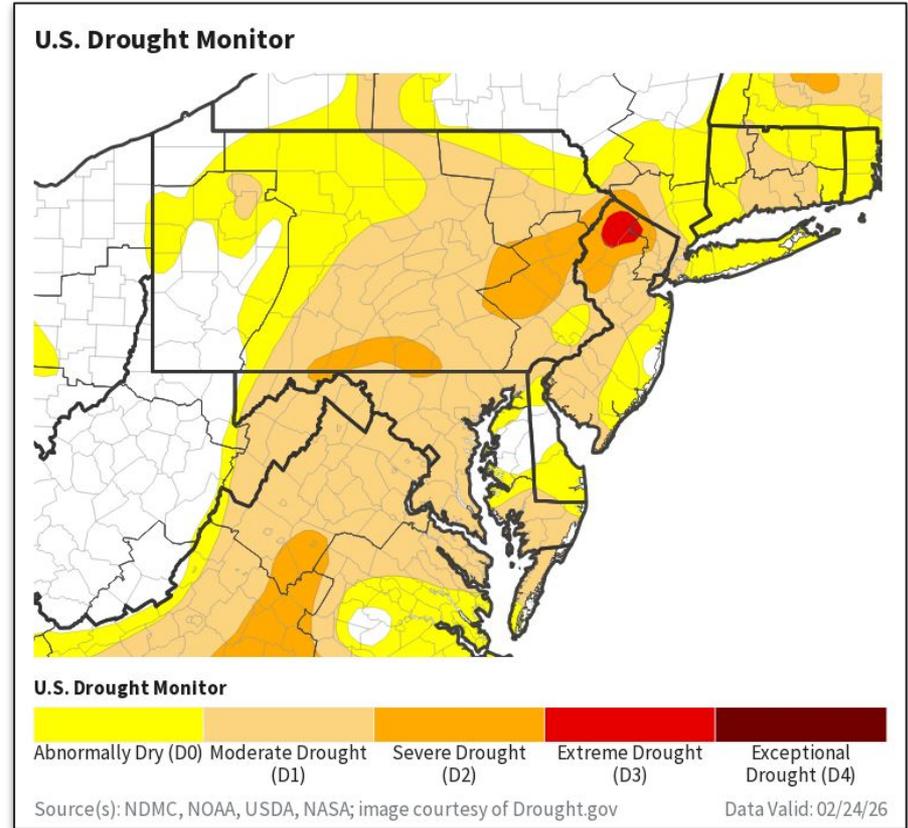




U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought Intensity and Extent for Central Pennsylvania:
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Adams, Schuylkill
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Tioga, Clinton, Lycoming, Sullivan, Centre, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Dauphin, Lebanon, Somerset, Cumberland, York, Lancaster
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Warren, McKean, Potter, Elk, Cameron, Clearfield, Cambria

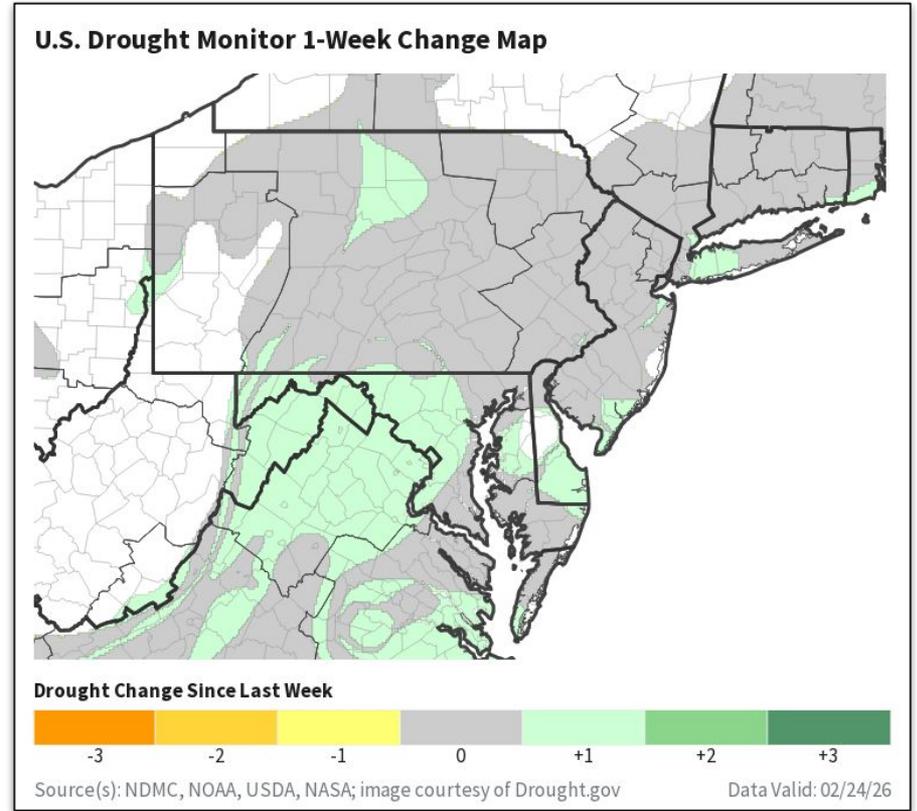




One-Week Change in Drought Intensity

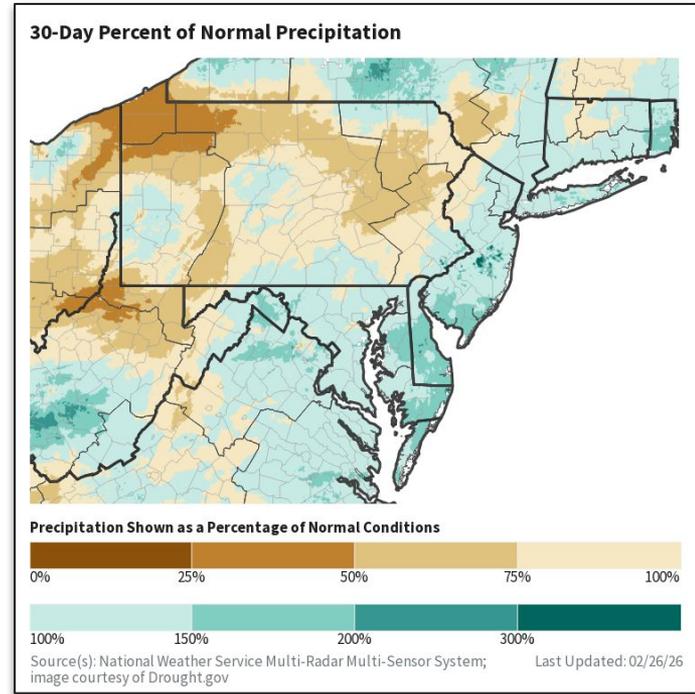
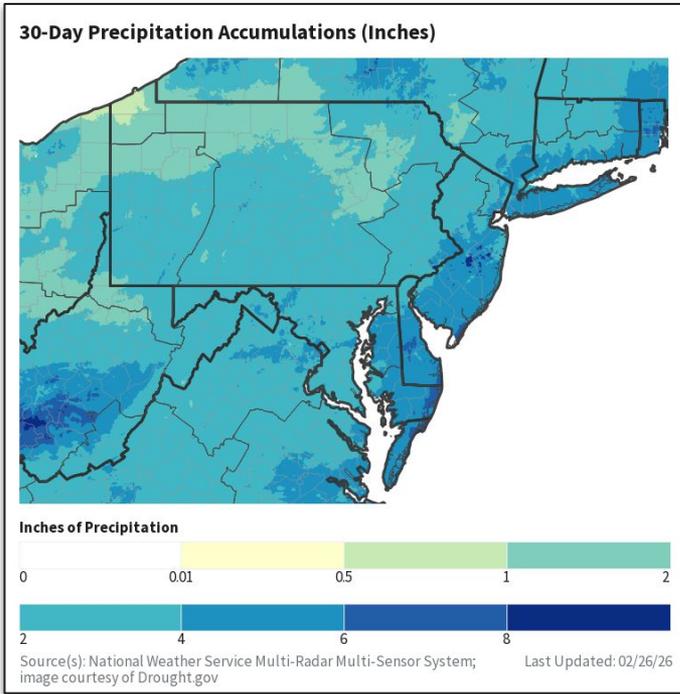
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - Some improvement was observed over the past 7 days in north-central Pennsylvania and along the Mason-Dixon line.





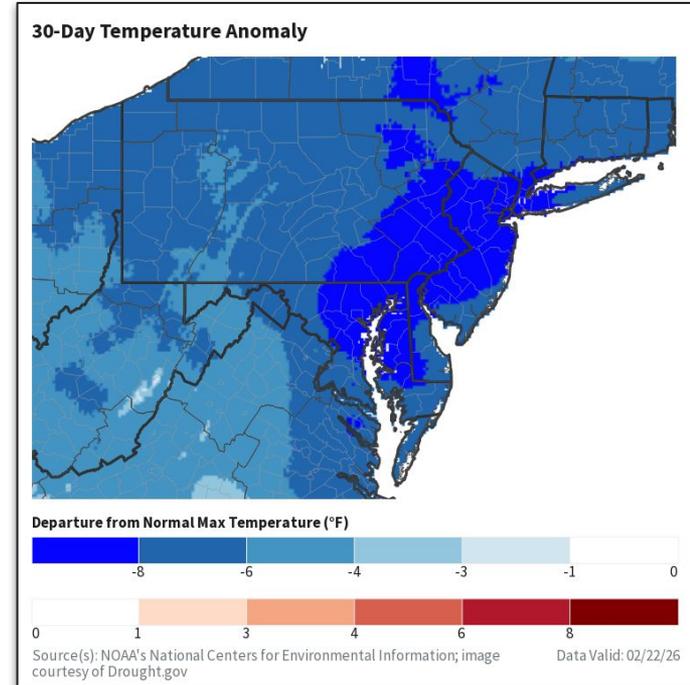
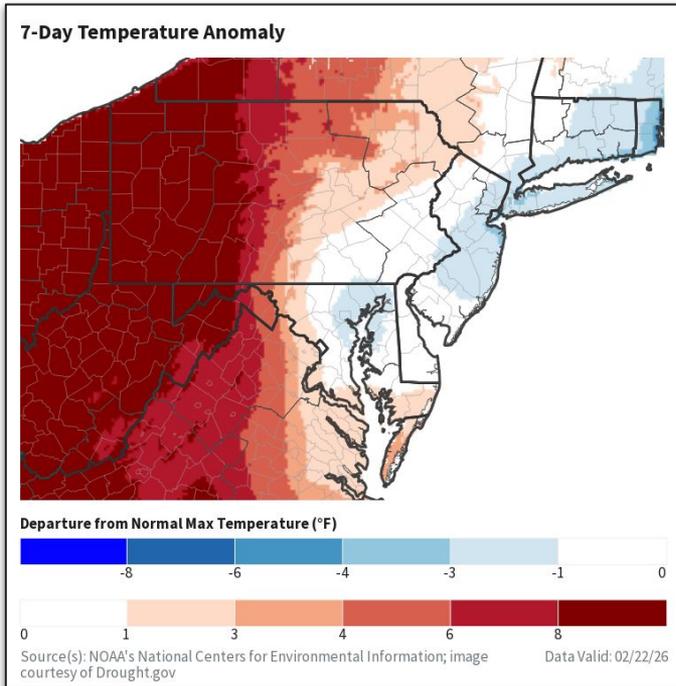
30-Day Precipitation and Percent of Normal



- 30-day precipitation was generally below average across central Pennsylvania.



7-Day & 30-Day Temperature Anomalies



- 7-day temperature anomalies were generally above to well above average, while 30-day temperature anomalies were below to well below average.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Much of the ice on central Pennsylvania’s waterways has begun to melt or move, with some ice jam issues observed..

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture conditions remain abnormally dry across south-central Pennsylvania, with near to above average soil moisture observed across north-central Pennsylvania and the western highlands. See slide 8 for details on regional soil moisture.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The significant wildfire potential outlook remains near average across Pennsylvania for March 2026. See slide 9 for a map and details.

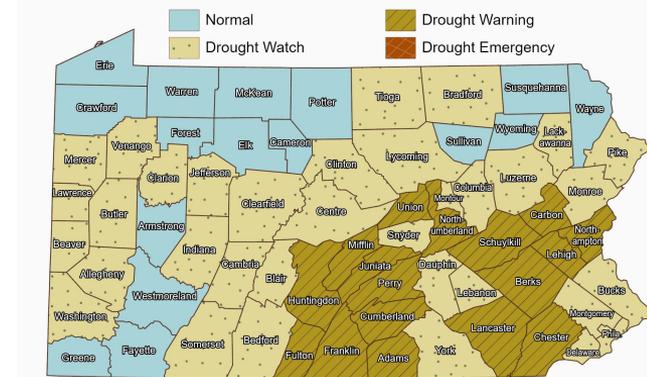
Other Impacts

- As of February 2, 2026, there were no county burn bans in effect across Pennsylvania.

Mitigation Actions

- There are both voluntary and mandatory water restrictions in place for some communities across central Pennsylvania. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Latest PA drought designations:



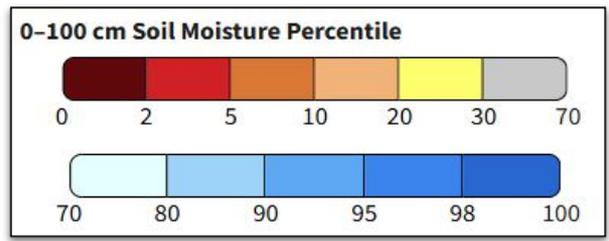
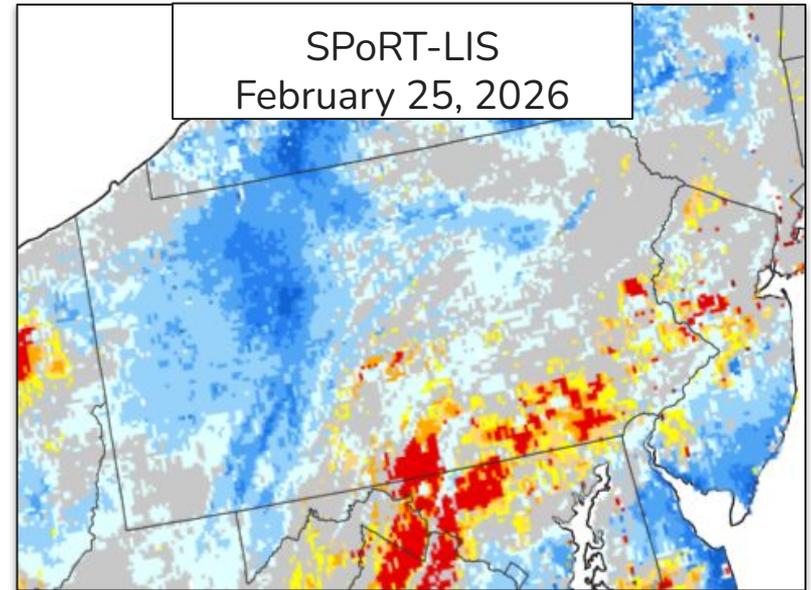
The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a Drought Watches and Warnings for several central Pennsylvania counties. (The NWS does not declare Drought Watches or Warnings.)





Agricultural Conditions

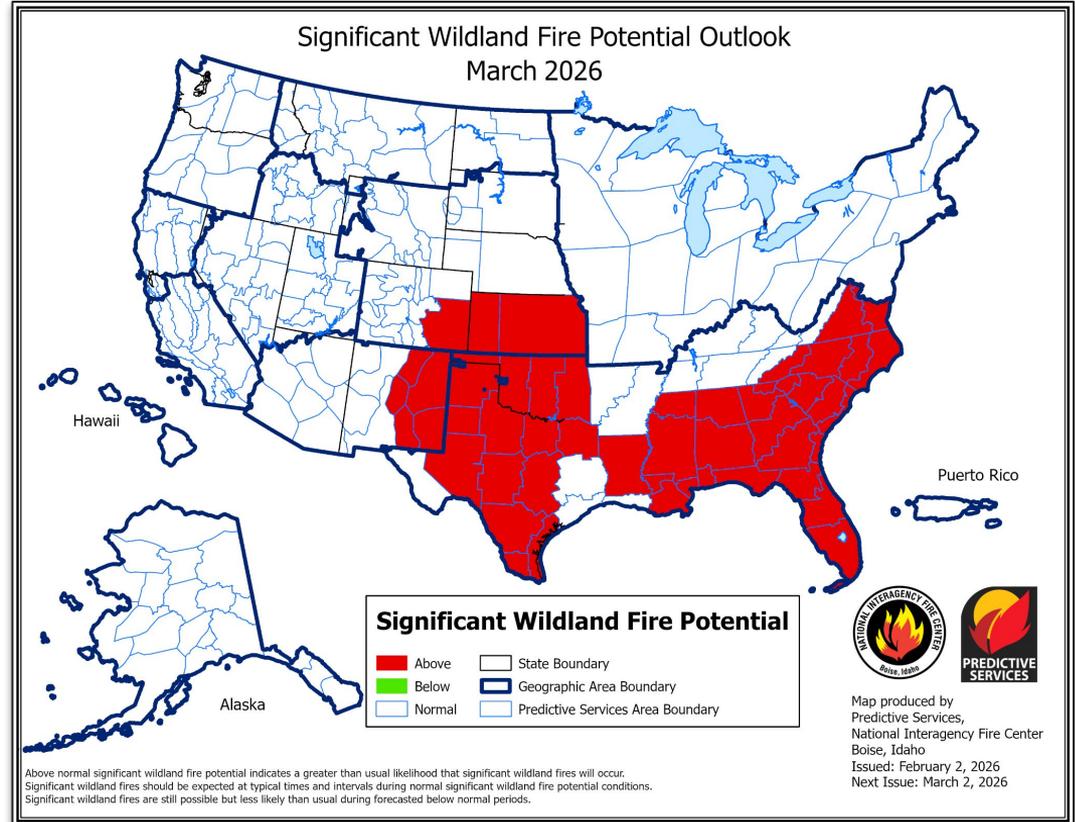
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Fire Hazard Impacts

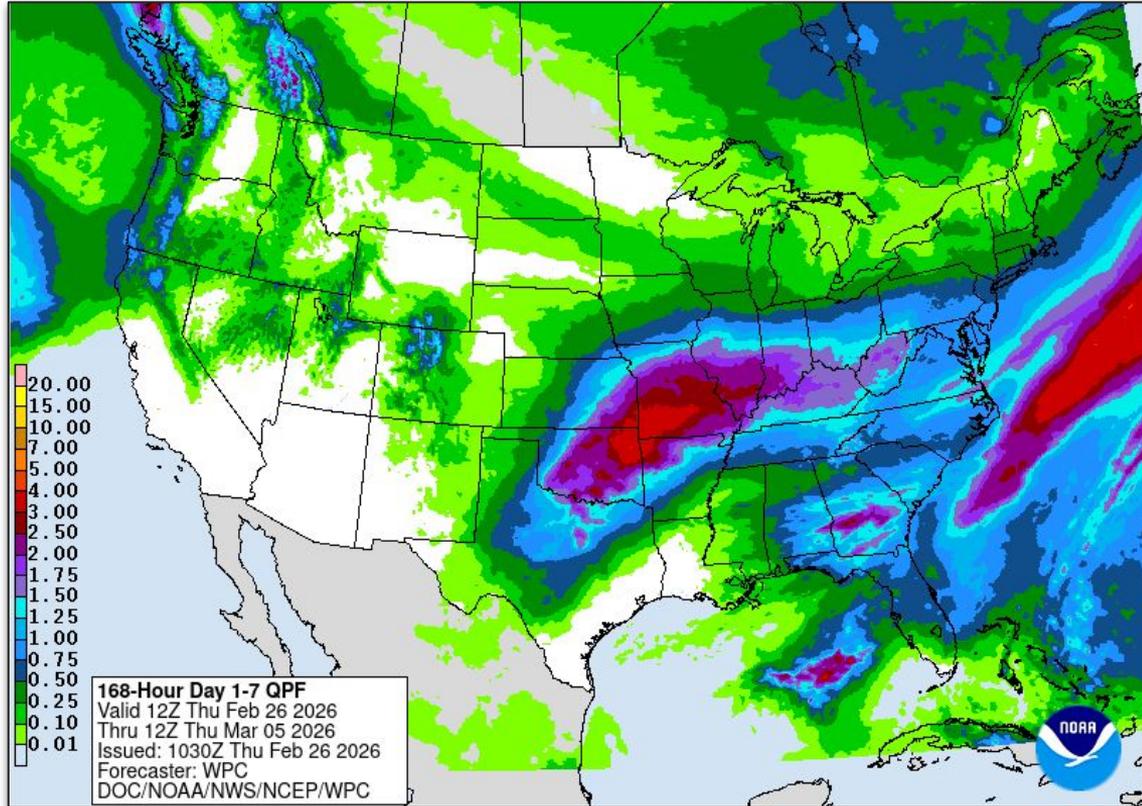
- The significant wildfire potential outlook remains near average across Pennsylvania for March 2026.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

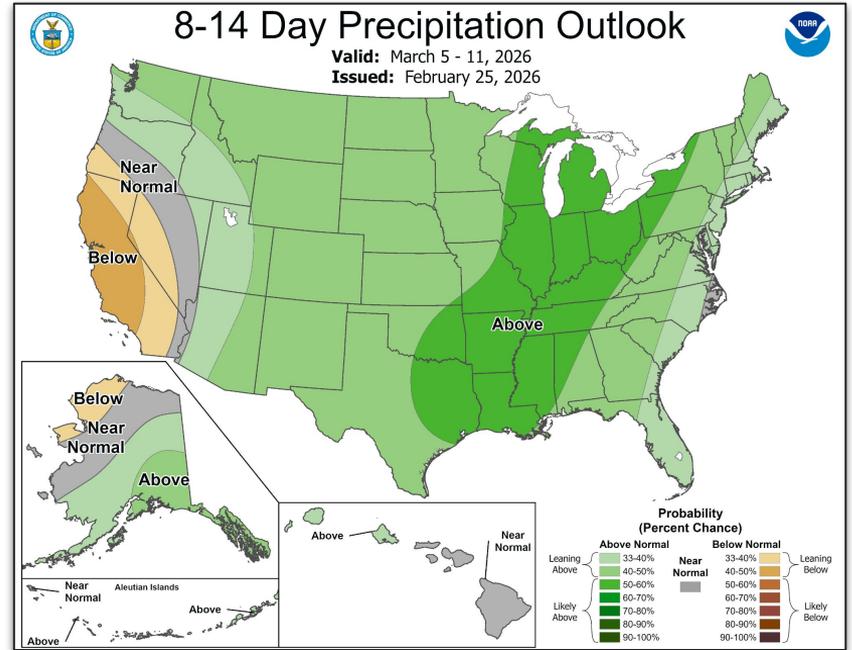
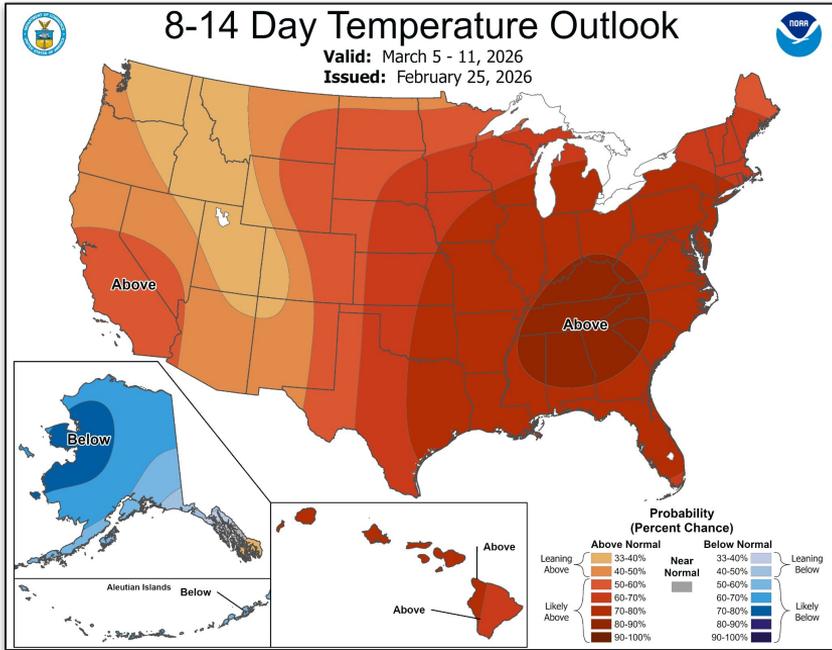
- 7-day liquid-equivalent precipitation ranges from a quarter to a half an inch across far northern Pennsylvania to three quarters to one inch across southern Pennsylvania.





8-14 Day Outlook

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



- The 8-14 day outlook calls for above average temperatures and precipitation across central Pennsylvania.

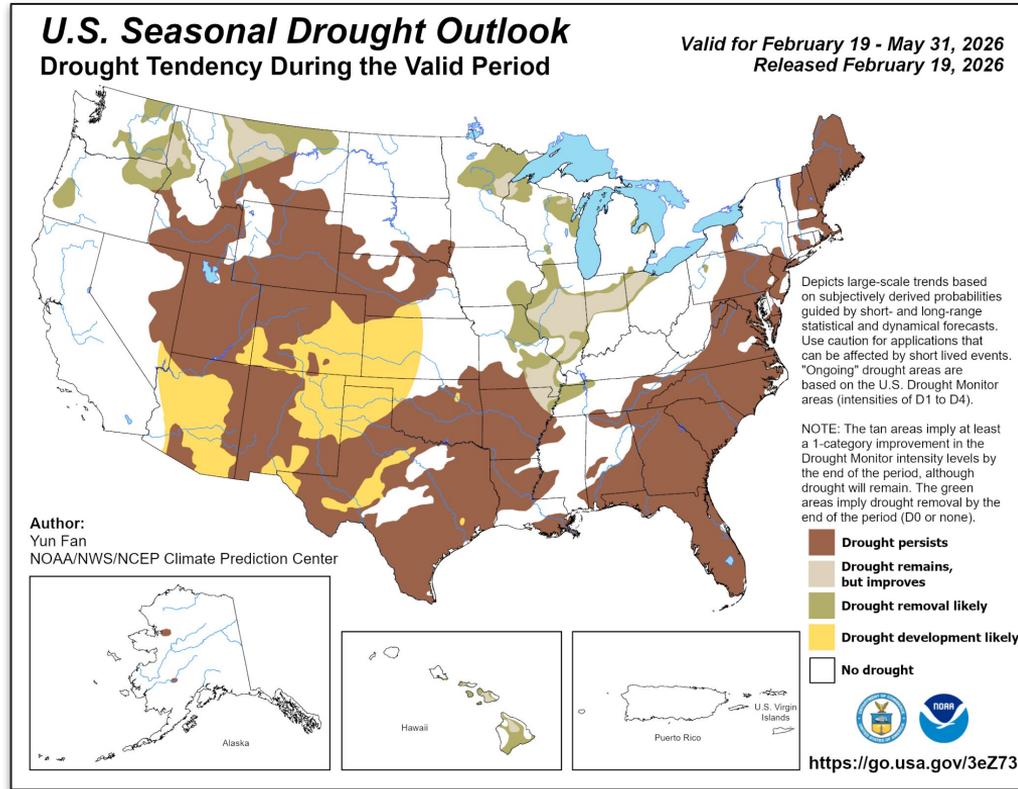




Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are largely expected to persist across much of central and eastern Pennsylvania through the end of May 2026.



Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

