



# Drought Information Statement for Central and Southwest Kansas

Valid May, 2, 2026

Issued By: WFO Dodge City

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated monthly during episodes of D3 drought and sometimes D2.
  - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
  - Please visit [https://www.weather.gov/\[WFO\]/DroughtInformationStatement](https://www.weather.gov/[WFO]/DroughtInformationStatement) for previous statements.
  - Please visit [https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/\[link\]](https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/[link]) for regional drought status updates.
- 
- Drought has worsened across much of southwest Kansas.



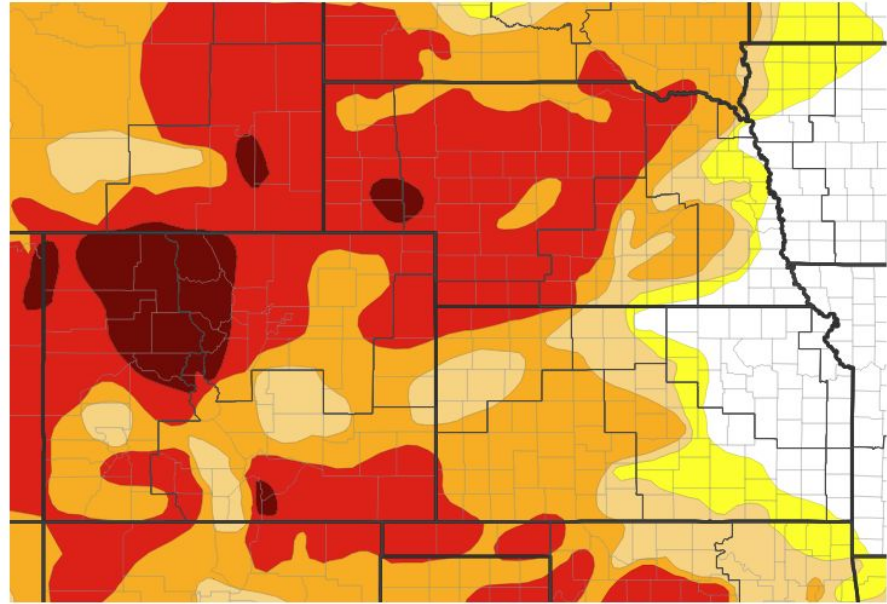


# U.S. Drought Monitor (released 30 April 2026)

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

- D2 drought has expanded across much of southwest Kansas.
- There is a small area of D3 drought along a line from Elkhart to near Liberal in far southwest Kansas.

## U.S. Drought Monitor



## U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/28/26



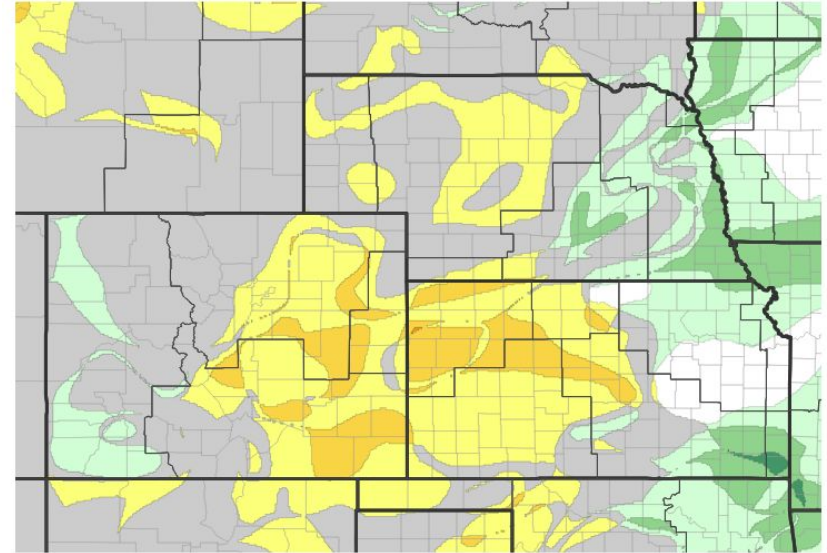


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Drought has worsened across most of central and southwest Kansas.
  - Drought Improvement: None.

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/28/26

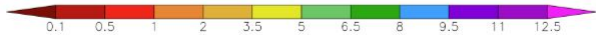
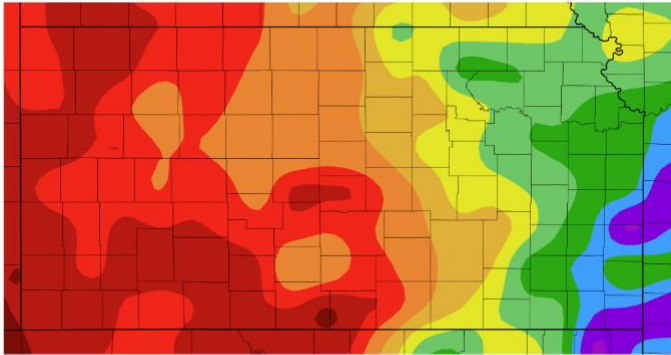




# Precipitation

- It was drier than average across central and southwest Kansas over the past month.

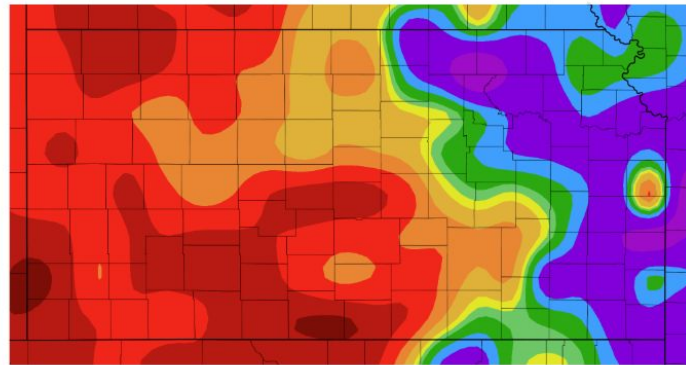
Precipitation (in)  
4/2/2026 - 5/1/2026



Generated 5/2/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
4/2/2026 - 5/1/2026



Generated 5/2/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

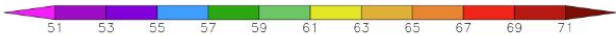
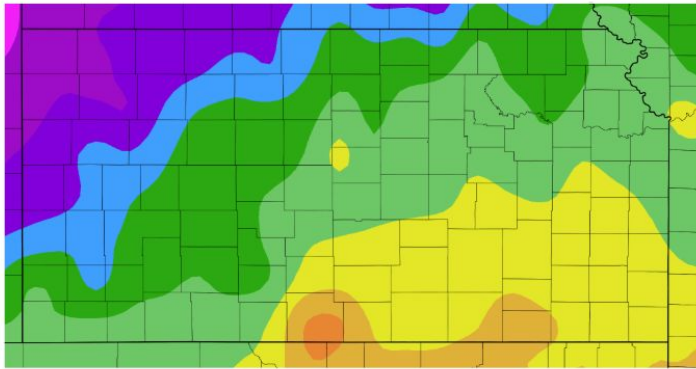




# Temperature

- Temperatures were above average over the past month.

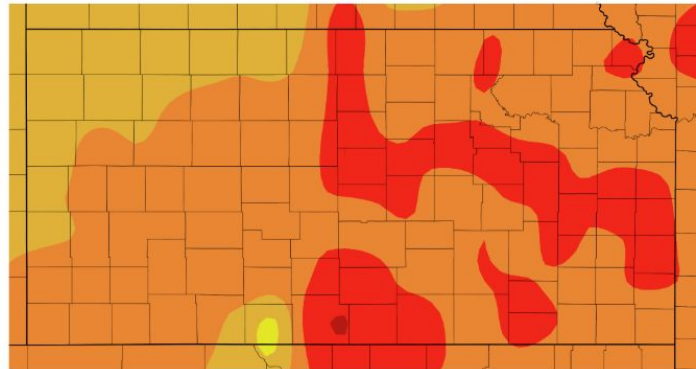
Temperature (F)  
4/2/2026 - 5/1/2026



Generated 5/2/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
4/2/2026 - 5/1/2026



Generated 5/2/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Dry land crops have suffered.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- None

## Other Impacts

- None.

## Mitigation Actions

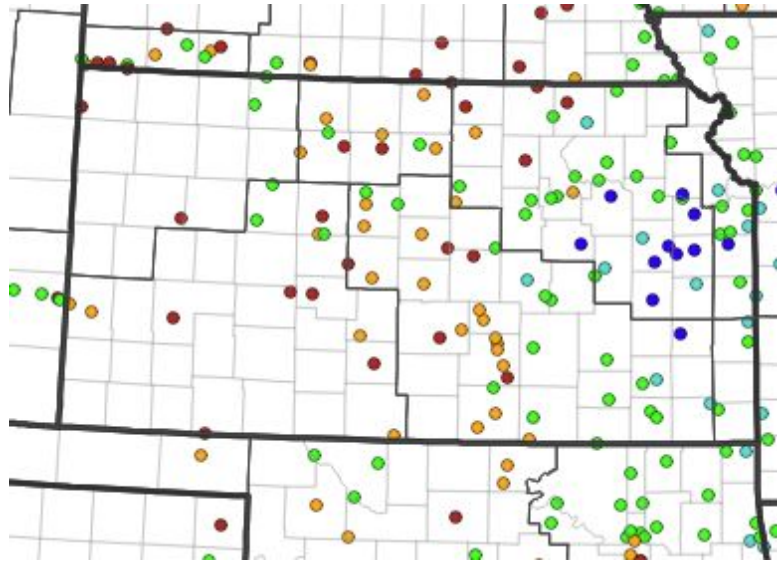
- None reported.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow is below to much below average across most of southwest Kansas.
- Streamflow is normal to below average along the I-70 corridor in central Kansas.



**Streamflow Conditions**



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/01/26

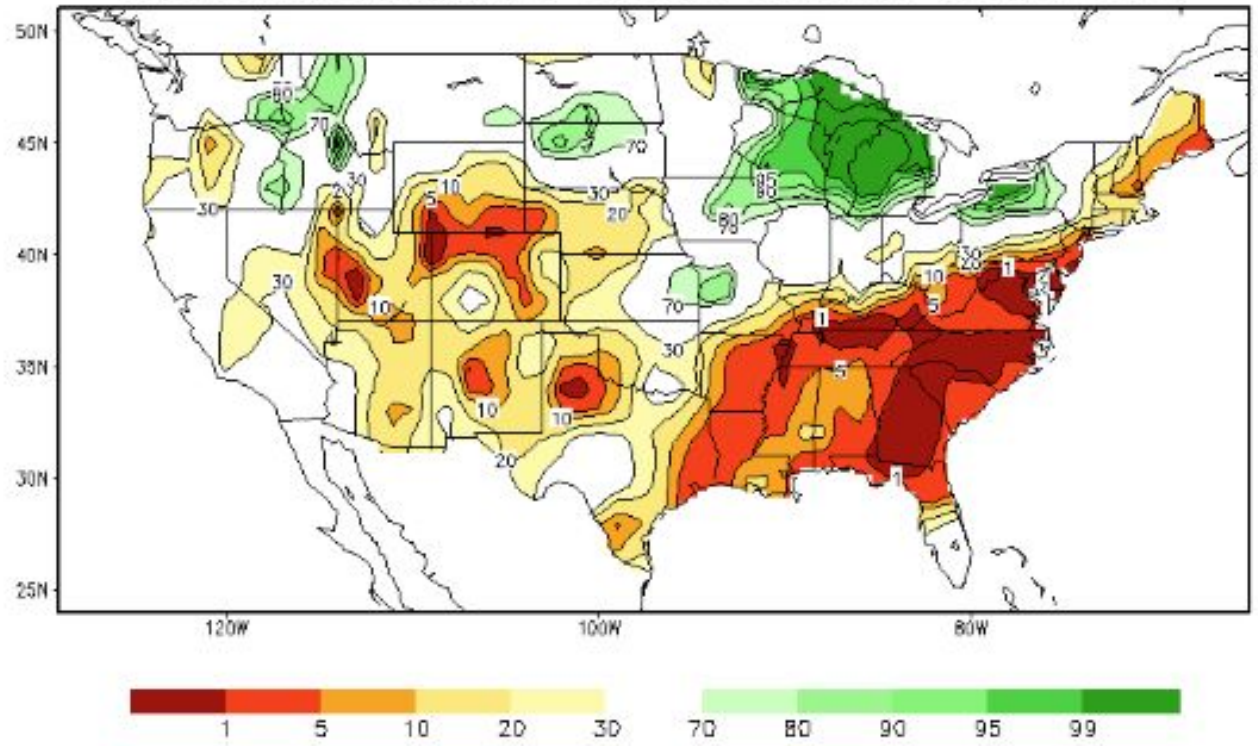




# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture values are below average across southwest Kansas.

Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile Last day of APR, 2026





# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Peak fire weather season has ended across southwest Kansas and large wildfires are relatively rare in May.
- However, due to the lack of rain over the past few weeks, locations from Dodge City south and west will still have a fire weather concern on windy and dry days until significant rains occur.

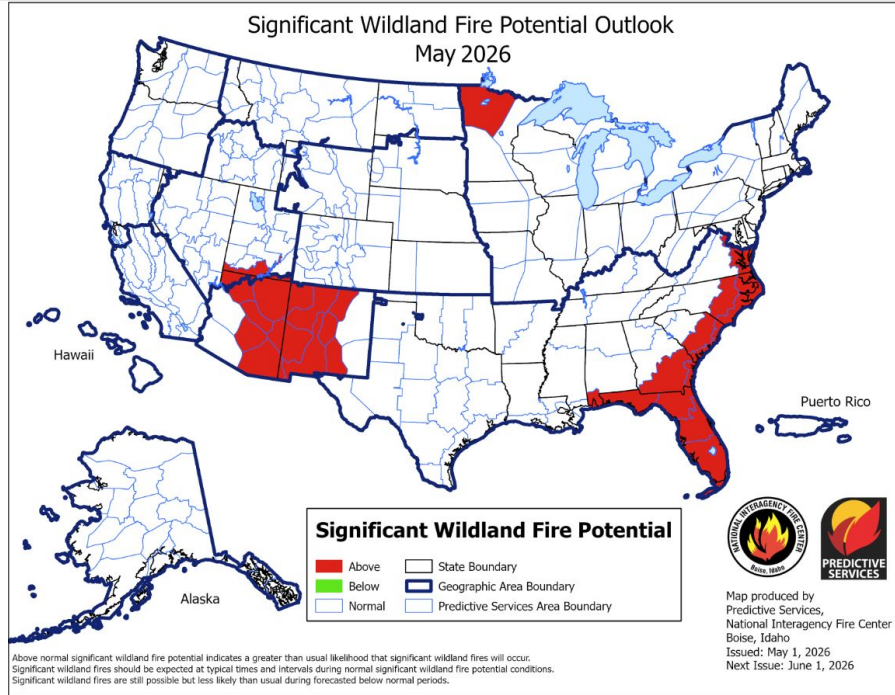


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for May 2026





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Substantial rain is predicted for the Tuesday to Wednesday time frame.
- The lowest amounts are predicted across south central Kansas with higher amounts across western Kansas.
- This will be a slow to moderate soaking rain so that runoff will be limited.

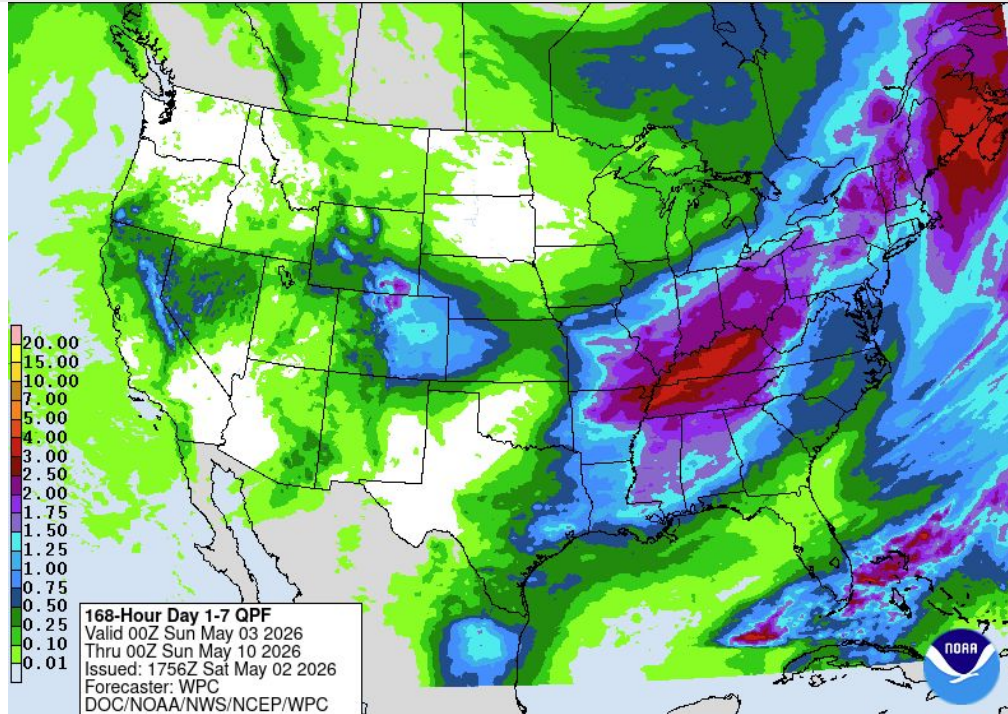


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid 7 pm May 2 to 7 pm May 9

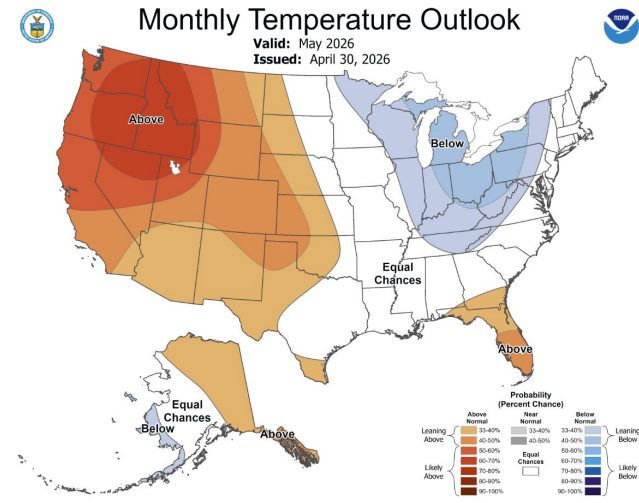
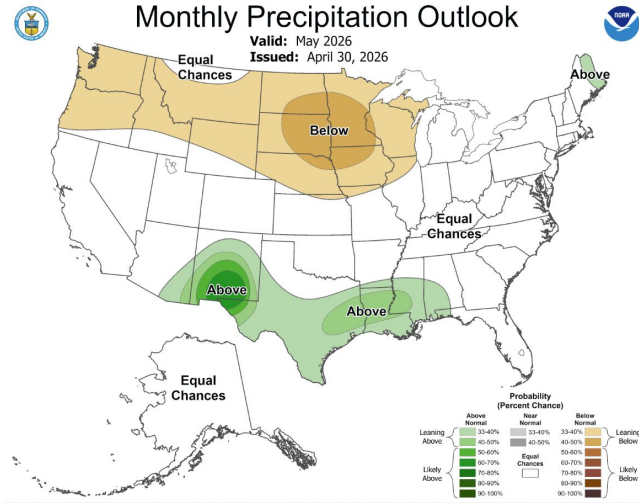




# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- There are equal chances for above and below average precipitation for May.
- Above average temperatures are expected for May.





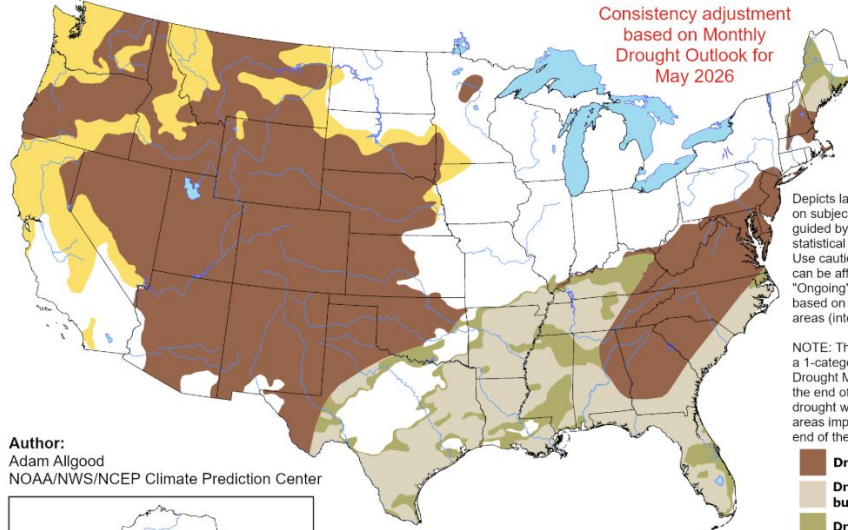
# Drought Outlook

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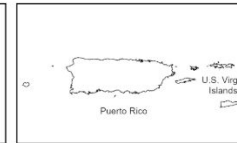
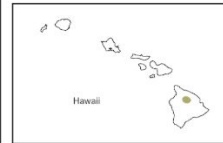
- Widespread drought is expected to persist into the summer.
- Keep in mind that seasonal predictability of precipitation is low, especially across the high plains where rains tend to be smaller in scale but intense.

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 1 - July 31, 2026  
Released April 30, 2026



Author:  
Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).  
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists**
- Drought remains, but improves**
- Drought removal likely**
- Drought development likely**
- No drought**



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Links to the latest:

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



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

National Weather Service  
[Dodge City]