



# Drought Information Statement for NE Minnesota & NW Wisconsin

Valid February 28, 2024

Issued By: NWS Duluth

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated March 15, 2024 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/DLH/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

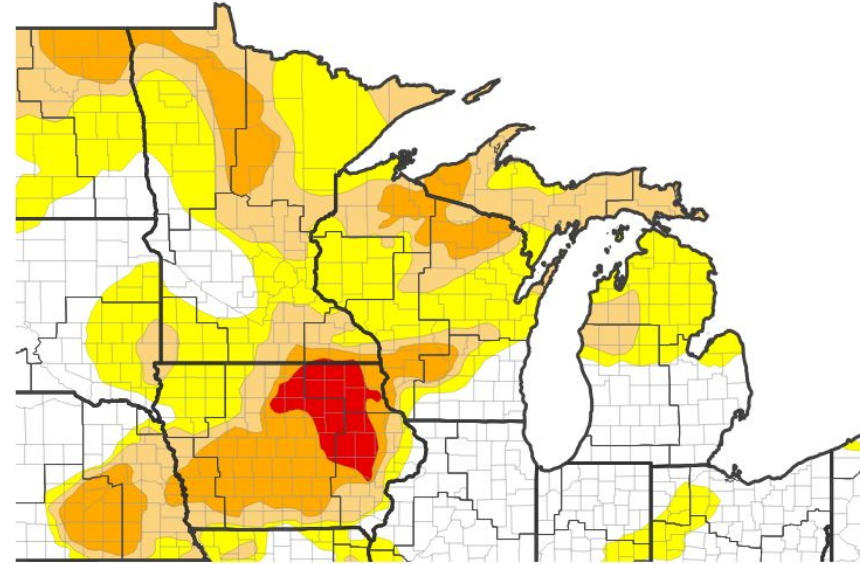




# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin

- Drought conditions persist across Northland.
- Drought intensity and extent
  - D2 (Severe Drought): North-Central Minnesota around the Brainerd Lakes and Walker, and northwest Wisconsin especially in Ashland/Iron Counties
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Most of north-central Minnesota, the tip of the Minnesota Arrowhead, and nearly all of northwest Wisconsin
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Most of the Minnesota Arrowhead and Northern Douglas/Bayfield Counties in northwest Wisconsin



U.S. Drought Monitor

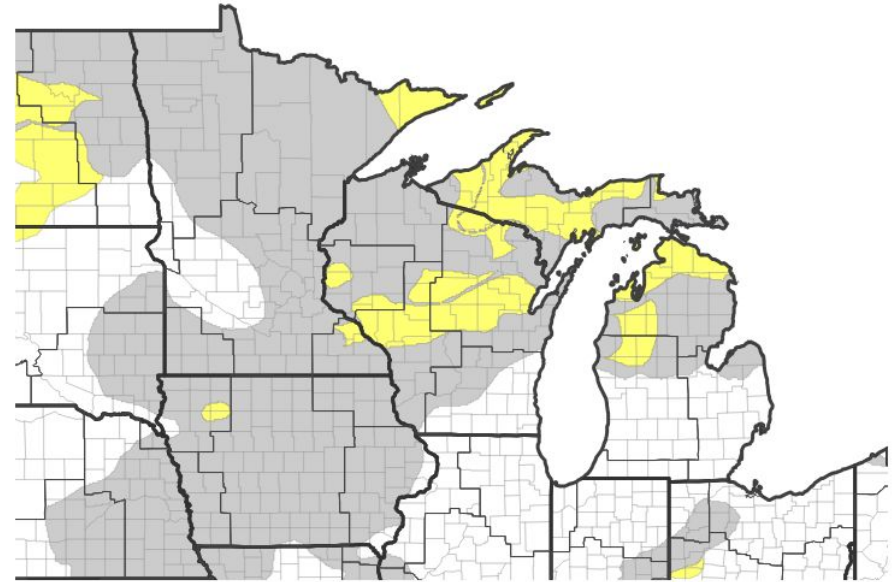




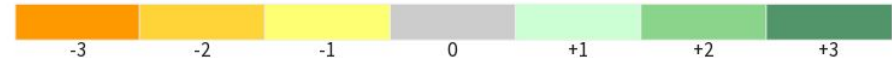
# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Tip of the Minnesota Arrowhead
  - No Change: Everywhere else across the region
  - Drought Improved: Nowhere



Drought Change Since Last Week

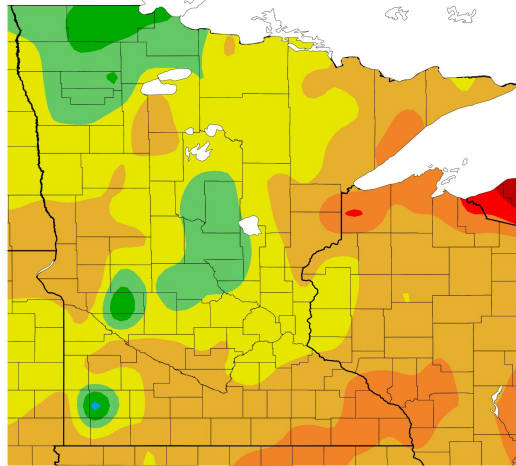




# Precipitation

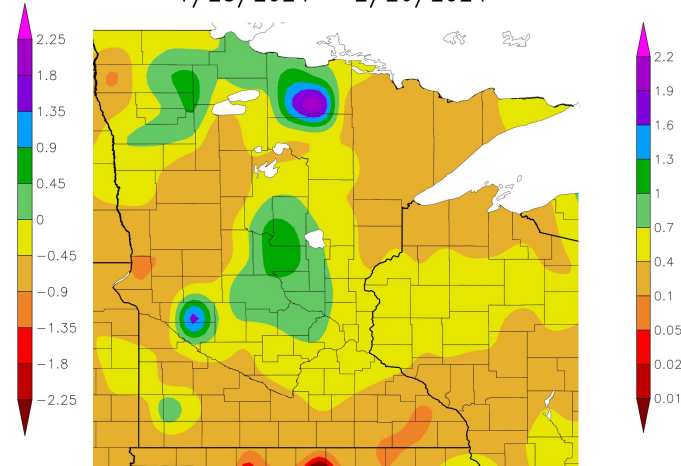
- Regional precipitation in the past month has been slightly above normal around the Brainerd Lakes.
- The rest of the region has observed below normal precipitation.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
1/28/2024 – 2/26/2024



Generated 2/27/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Precipitation (in)  
1/28/2024 – 2/26/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 24 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers 24 at HPRCC using provisional data.

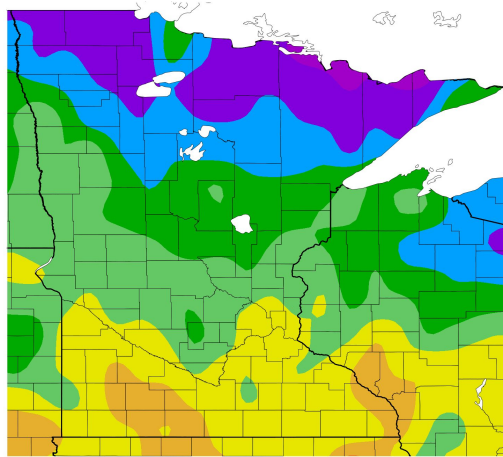




# Temperature

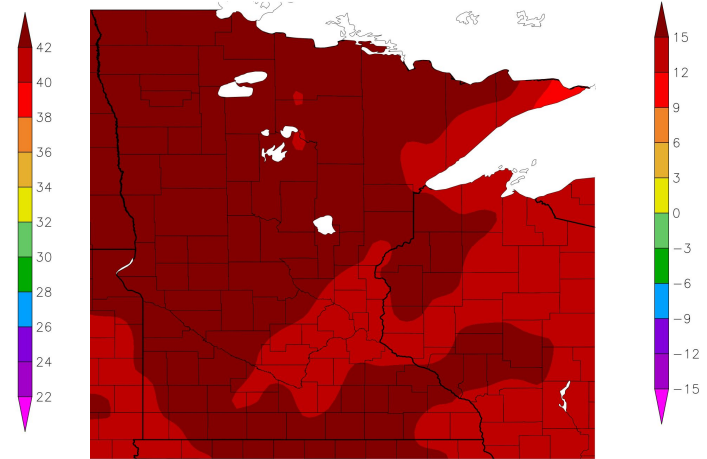
- Temperatures have been around 10+ degrees above normal across the Northland through the past month on average.

Temperature (F)  
1/28/2024 – 2/26/2024



Generated 2/27/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
1/28/2024 – 2/26/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers <sup>324</sup> at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows are generally running normal around the region.

## Agricultural Impacts

- No recent reports.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger is low across most of northern Minnesota, moderate for southern St. Louis County, Carlton County, and Aitkin County, and high in the Brainerd Lakes and all of northwest Wisconsin. Significant Wildland Fire Potential is above normal for this Spring.

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

- None reported.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streams that aren't frozen over are running generally around normal across the region.

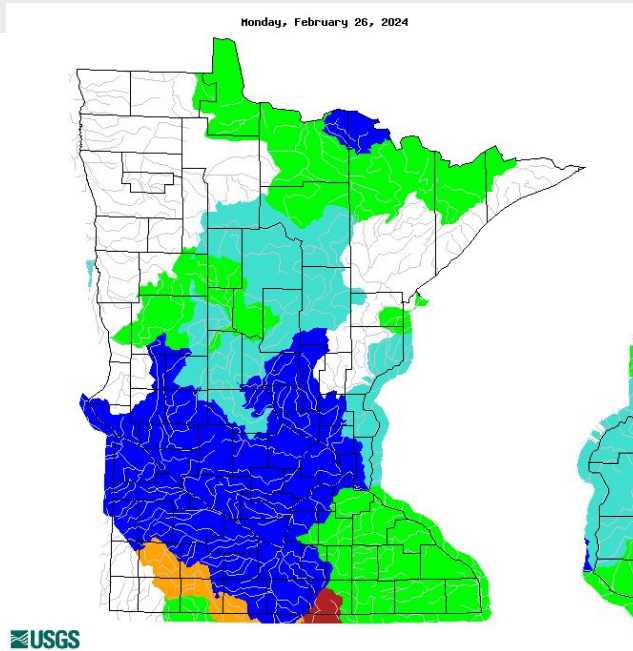
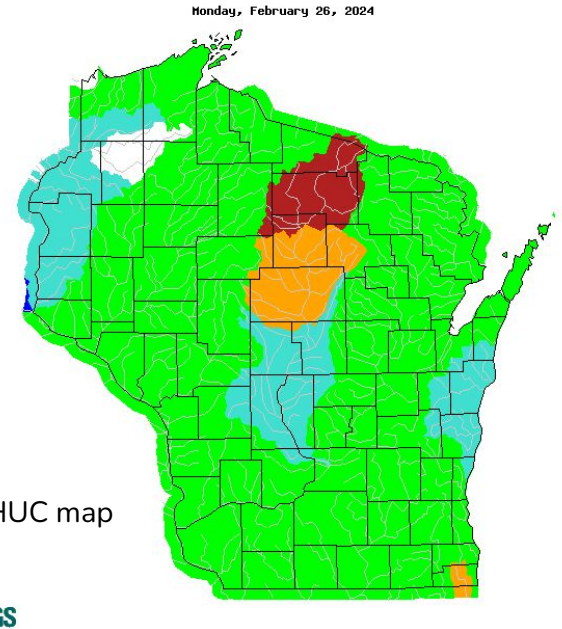


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 2/28/2023

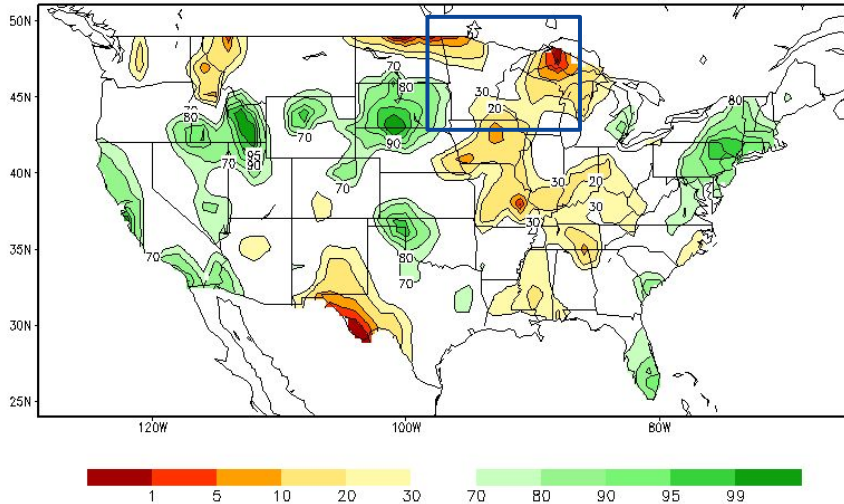




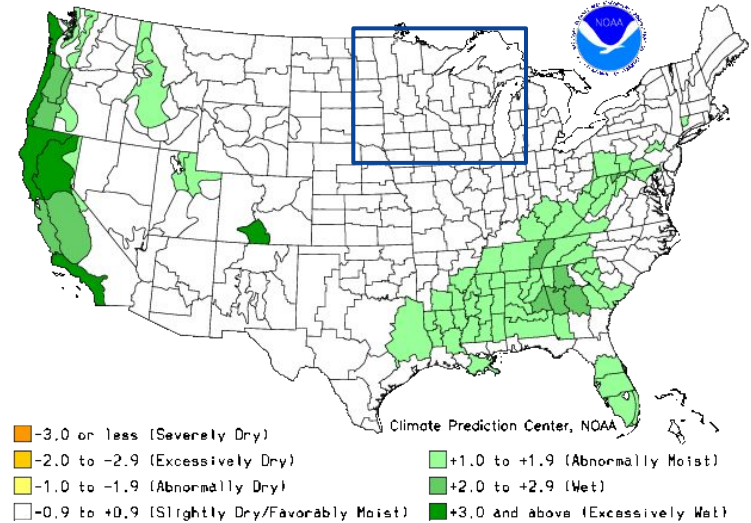
# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is generally around average to slightly below average around the region.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
FEB 26, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending FEB 24, 2024  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



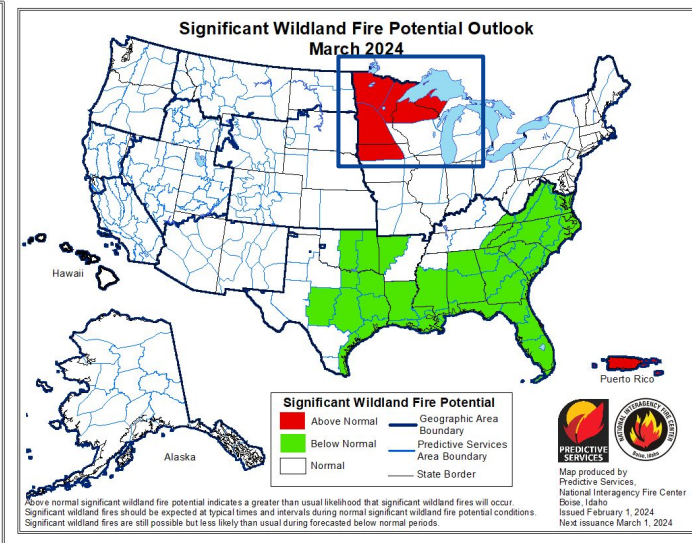
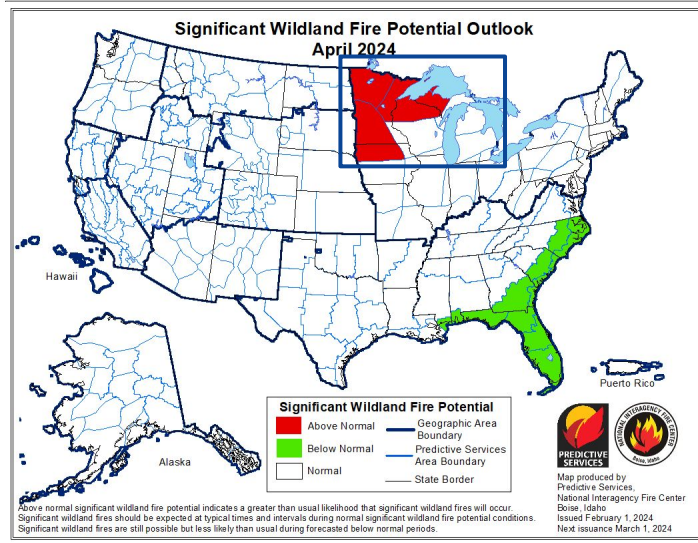




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Fire danger has increased due to below average precipitation and very warm temperatures over the past month. Significant Wildland Fire Potential is above normal for this Spring.



Latest MN burn ban and fire danger information available [here.](#)

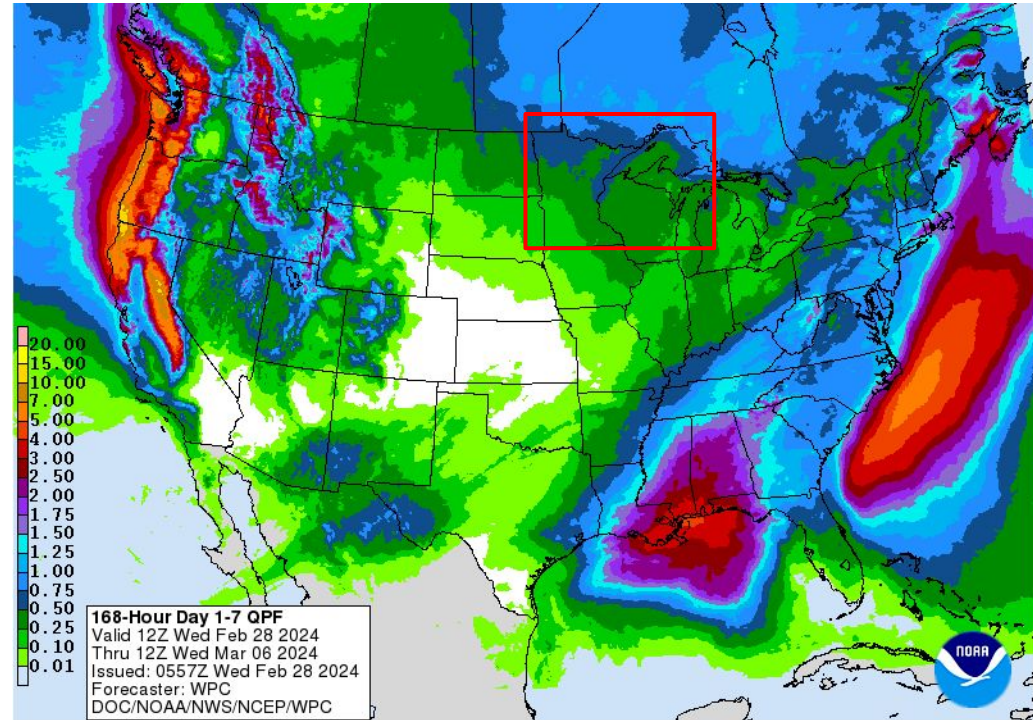
Latest WI burn ban and fire danger information available [here.](#)





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Some light to moderate amounts of precipitation are in the forecast over the next week, especially for much of northern and northeast Minnesota.
- This precipitation is likely to fall as a mix of both rain and snow.





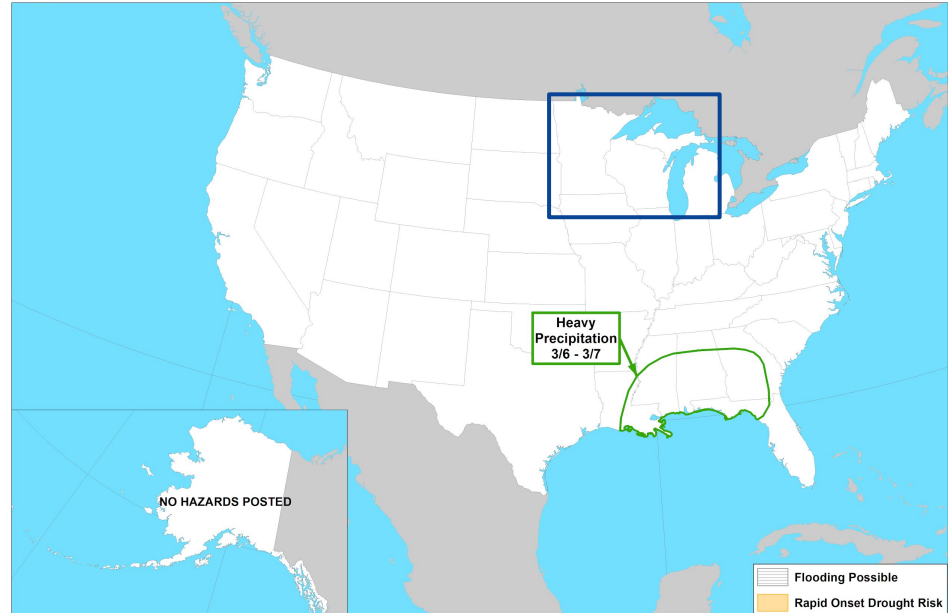
# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- No rapid onset drought expected.



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook  
Valid: 03/06/2024-03/12/2024



Climate Prediction Center  
Made: 02/27/2024 3PM EST

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[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

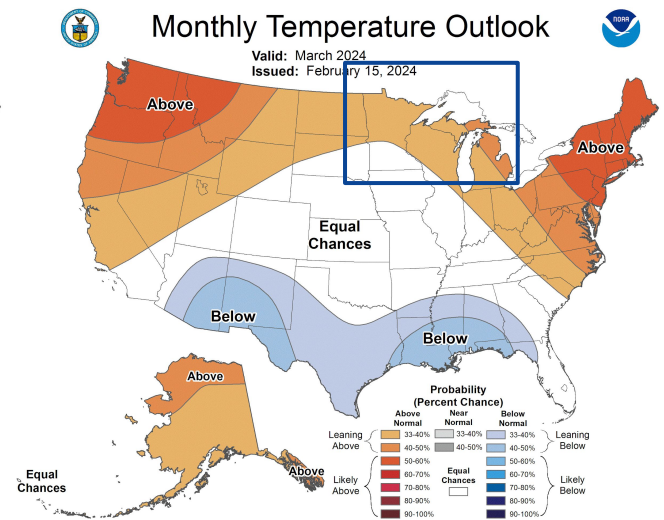
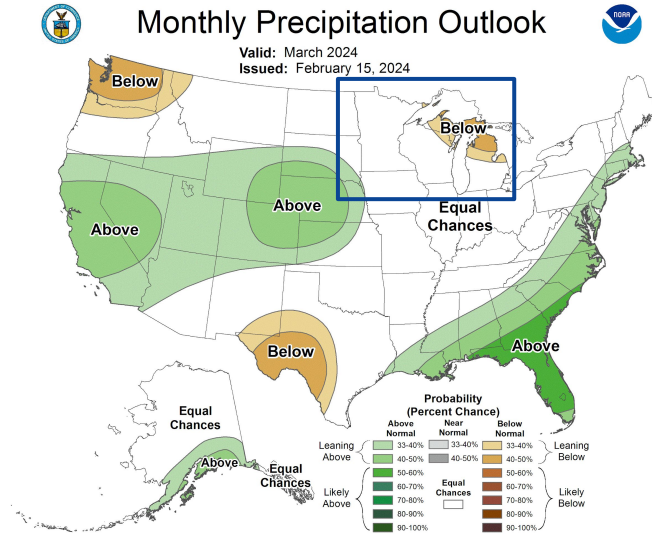




# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Chances are equal for above normal, below normal, or near normal precipitation for March.
- Above normal temperatures are slightly favored for March.





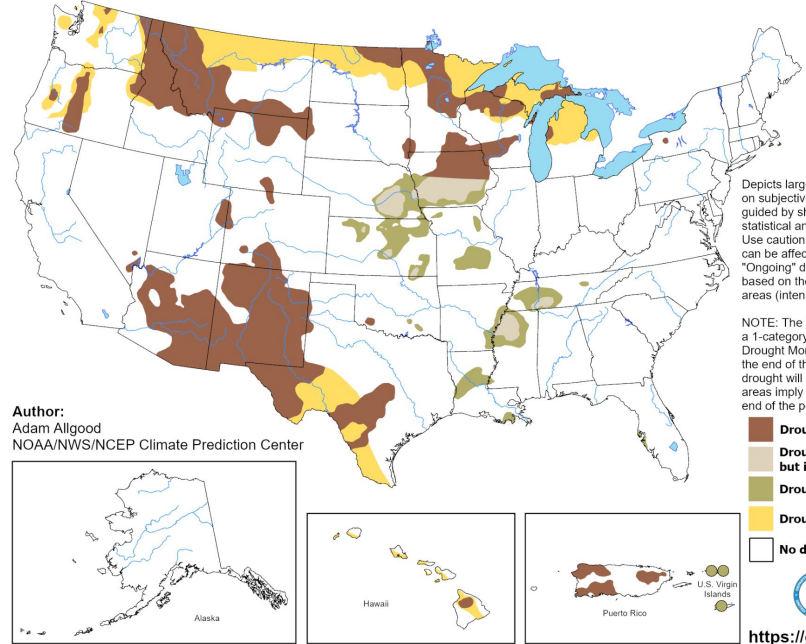
# Drought Outlook

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

- Areas that are currently experiencing drought may see drought persist over the next three months.
- Drought development is likely in the next three month in northeast Minnesota as well as parts of northwest Wisconsin that aren't already experiencing drought.

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

Valid for February 15 - May 31, 2024  
Released February 15, 2024



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).

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center

- 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  
Duluth, MN