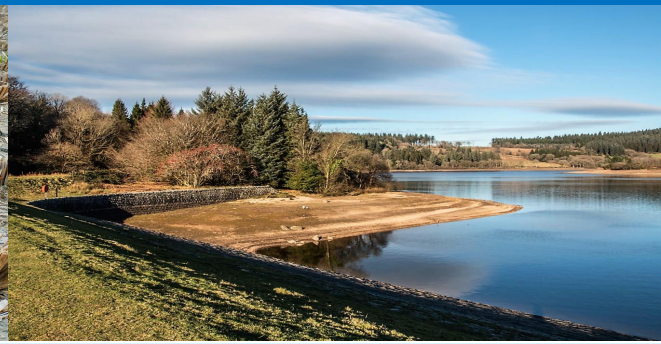
Drought Information Statement for NE Minnesota & NW Wisconsin

Valid March 14, 2024

Issued By: NWS Duluth

Contact Information:

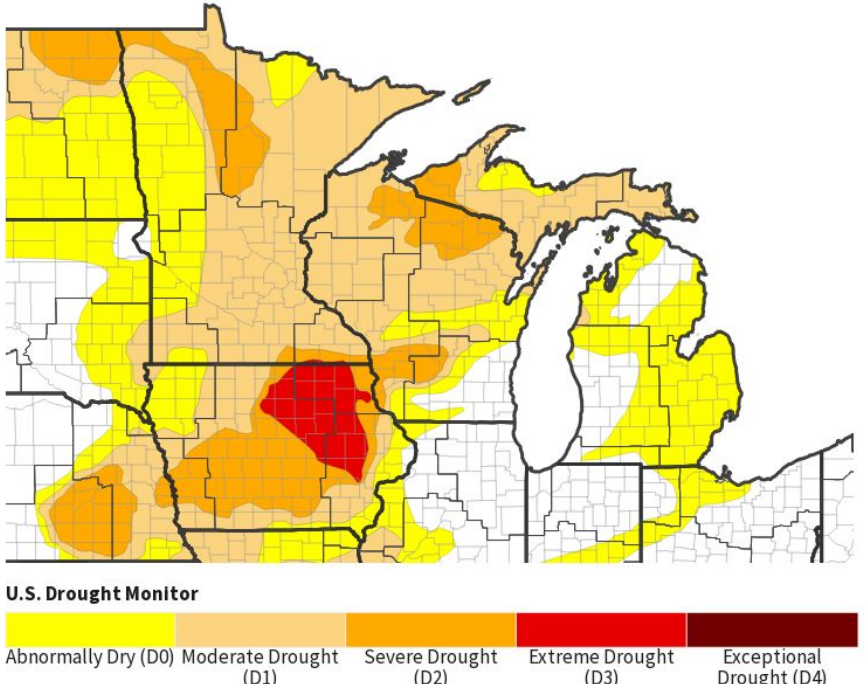
- This product will be updated March 29, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/DLH/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.



U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin

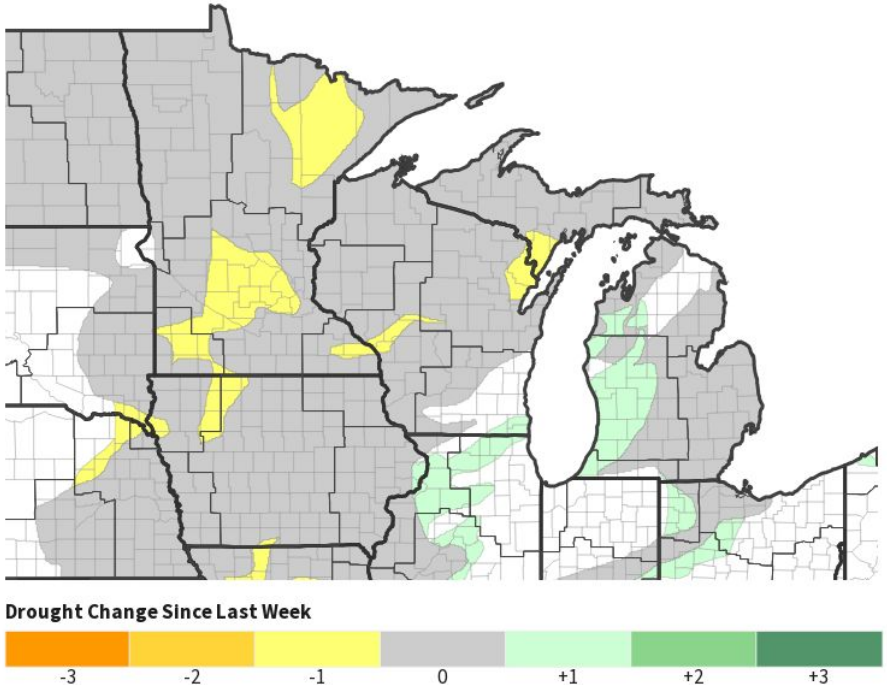
- Drought conditions persist across Northland.
- Drought intensity and extent
  - D2 (Severe Drought): North-Central Minnesota around the Brainerd Lakes and Walker, and portions of northwest Wisconsin especially in Ashland/Iron Counties.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Most of north-central and northeast Minnesota, much of northwest Wisconsin.
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Small area along the International Border in NE Koochiching and NW St. Louis Counties.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin

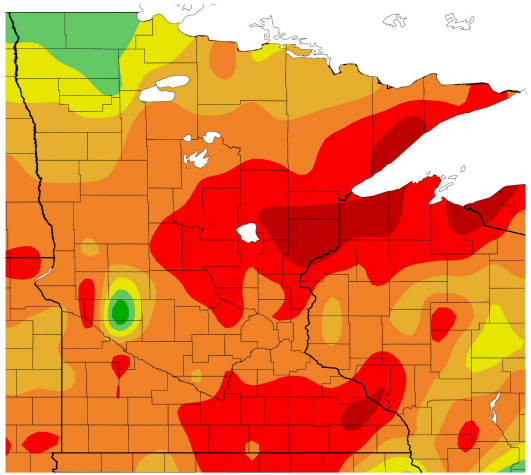
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Northeast Minnesota along and around the Iron Range.
  - No Change: Everywhere else across the region
  - Drought Improved: NA



Precipitation

- Regional precipitation in the past month has been below normal.
- Areas from the Brainerd Lakes to the Twin Ports and up the North and South Shores have seen the largest departures from normal with near zero amounts of precipitation.
- **Snowfall has been at record low levels with snowpack water historically low.**

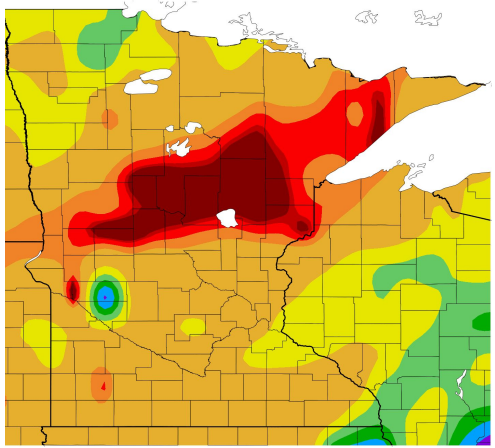
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
2/15/2024 – 3/15/2024



Generated 3/16/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Precipitation (in)
2/15/2024 – 3/15/2024

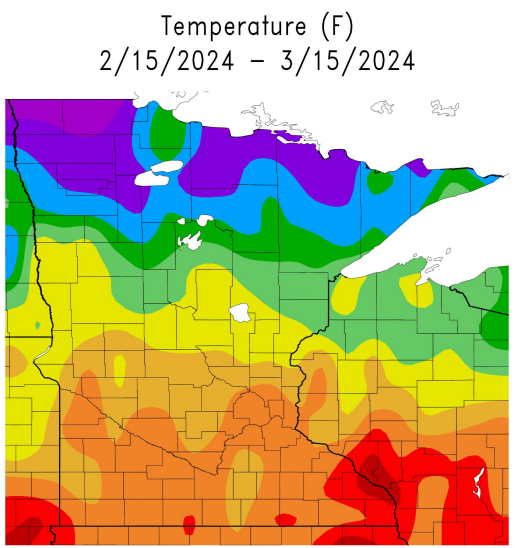


24 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Cente

Temperature

- Temperatures have been around 10+ degrees above normal across the Northland through the past month on average.
- Most days have seen highs above freezing with period of overnight lows also above freezing.



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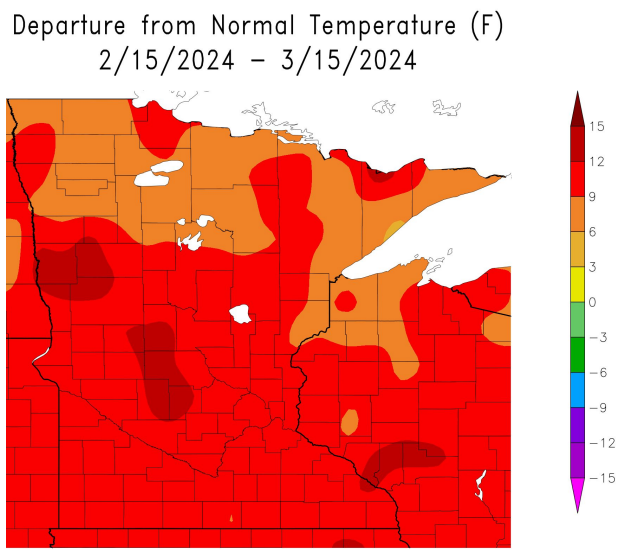


024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

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 to below normal around the region. Snowpack water is at historically low levels. Ice out on inland lakes and rivers is happening much earlier than normal.

Agricultural Impacts

- No recent reports.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger has been increasing across NW WI and NE MN. Significant Wildland Fire Potential is above normal for this Spring. Burning restrictions are being imposed in some areas.

Other Impacts

- A record-low snow winter led to large economic losses for areas that rely on winter tourism to sustain them through their slow seasons. Many winter events, such as ski and sled dog races, and snowmobile events, were canceled.

Mitigation Actions

- None reported.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

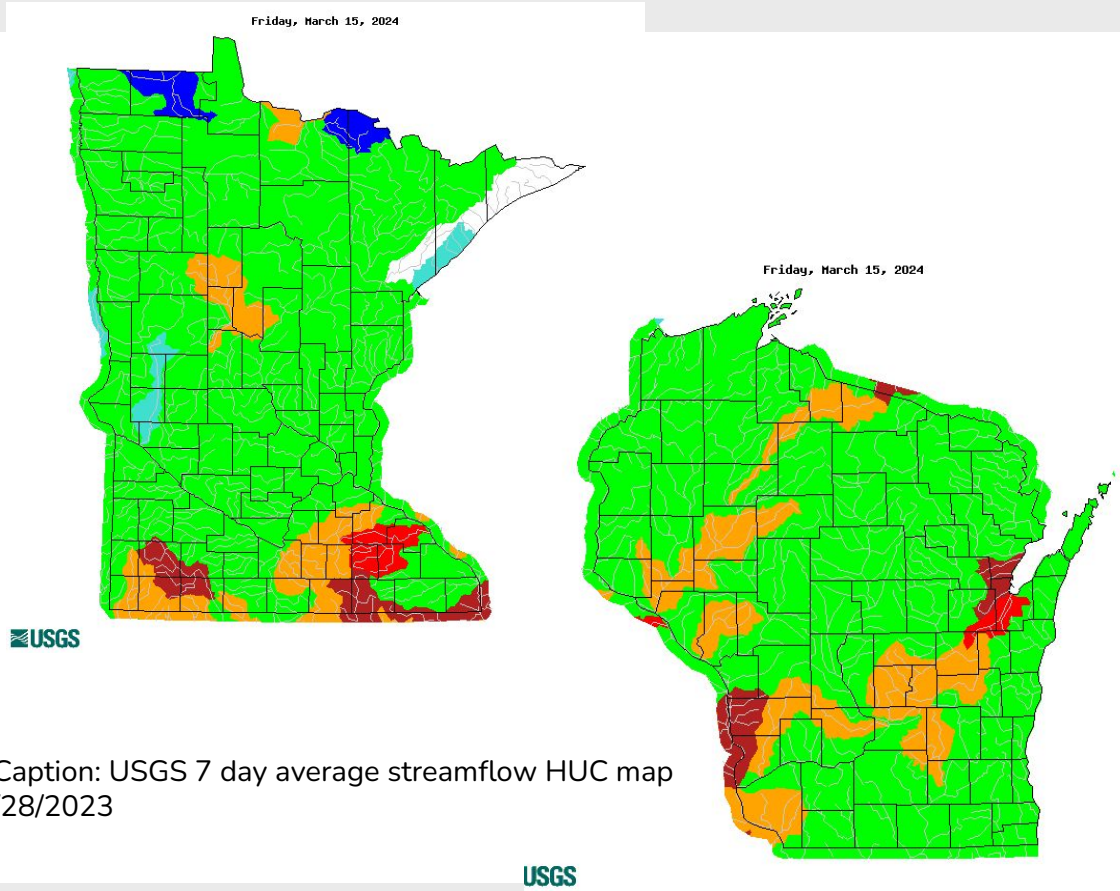
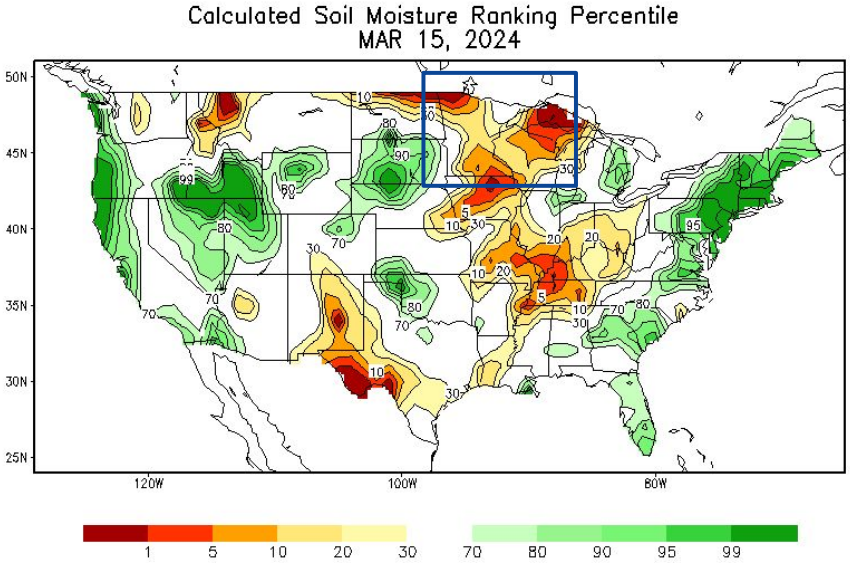
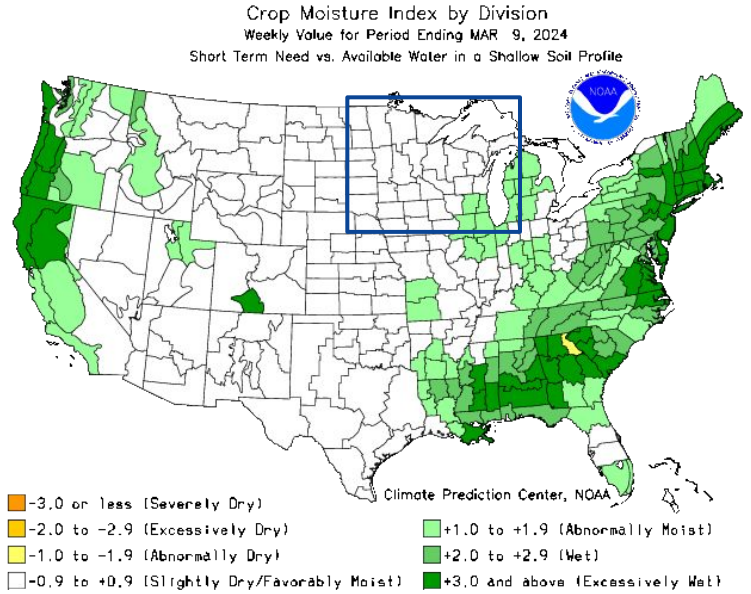


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 2/28/2023

Agricultural Impacts

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

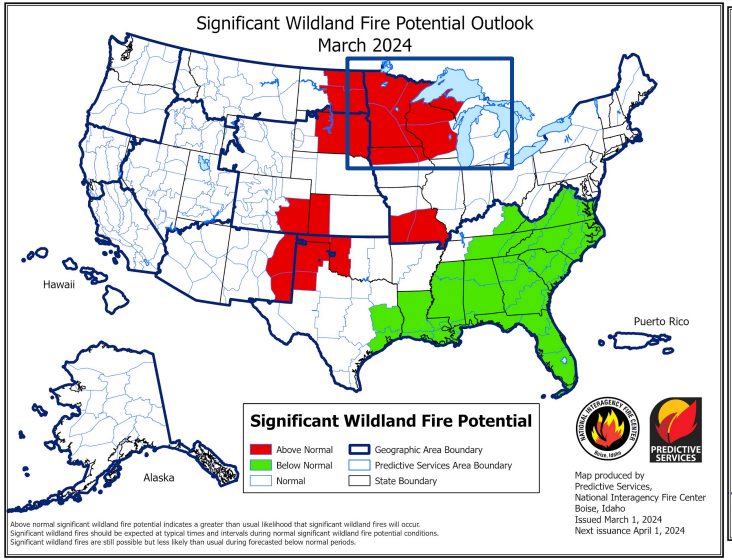


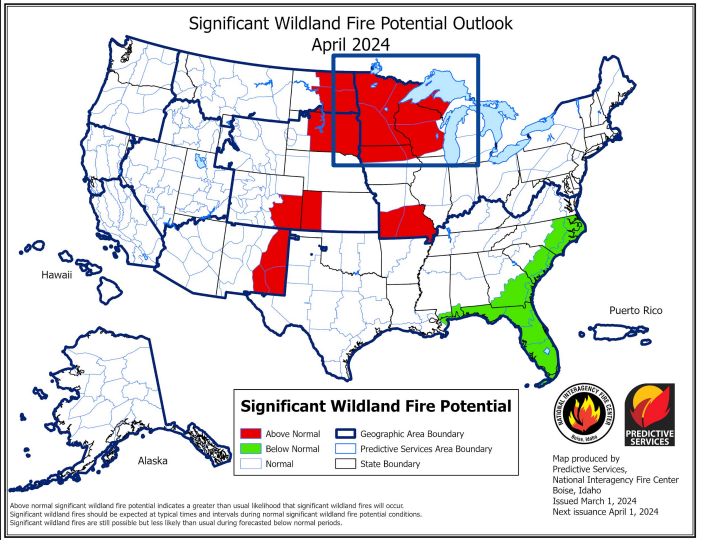


Fire Hazard Impacts

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.



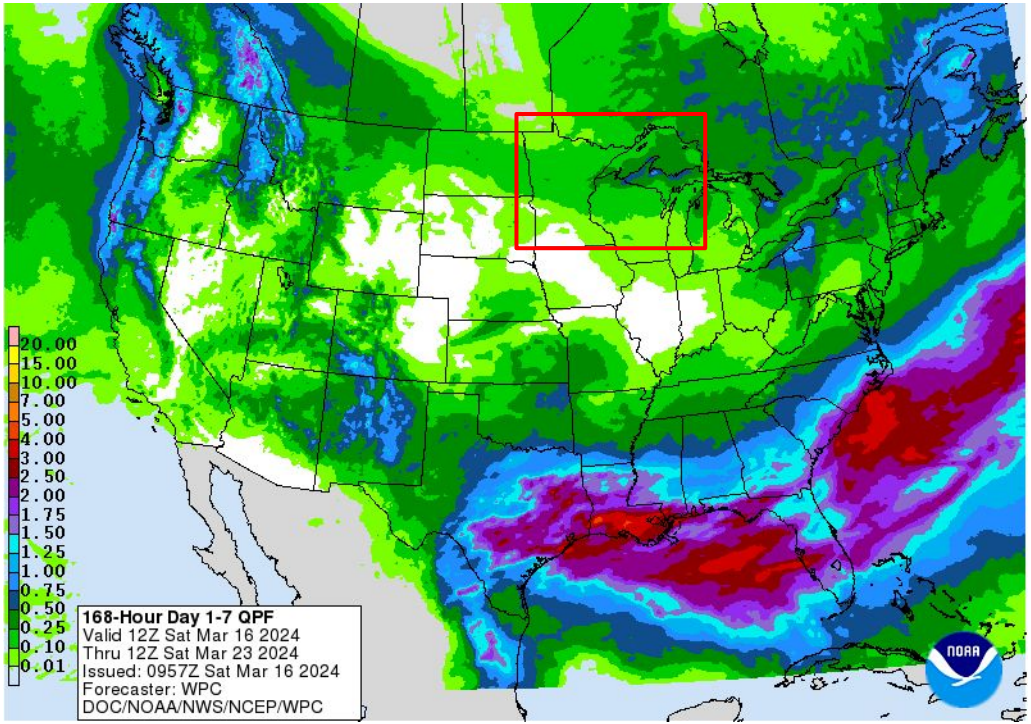


Latest MN burn ban and fire danger information available here.

Latest WI burn ban and fire danger information available here.

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

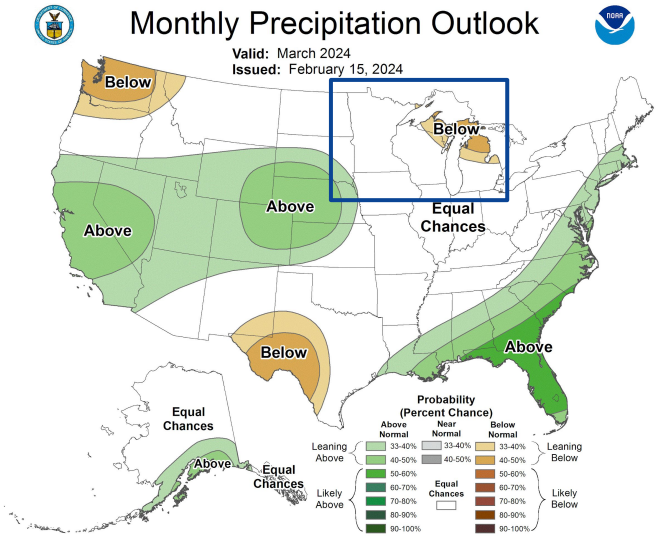
- Some precipitation is possible over the next week across much of Northern Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin.
- Highest amounts along the South Shore where lake effect snow is possible.

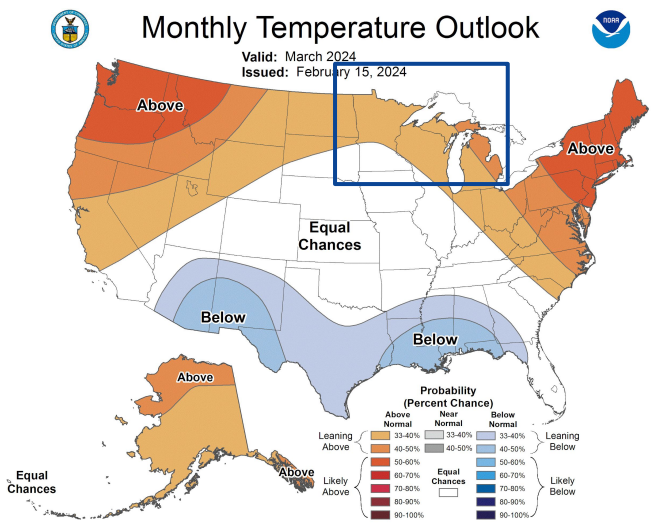


Long-Range Outlooks

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.

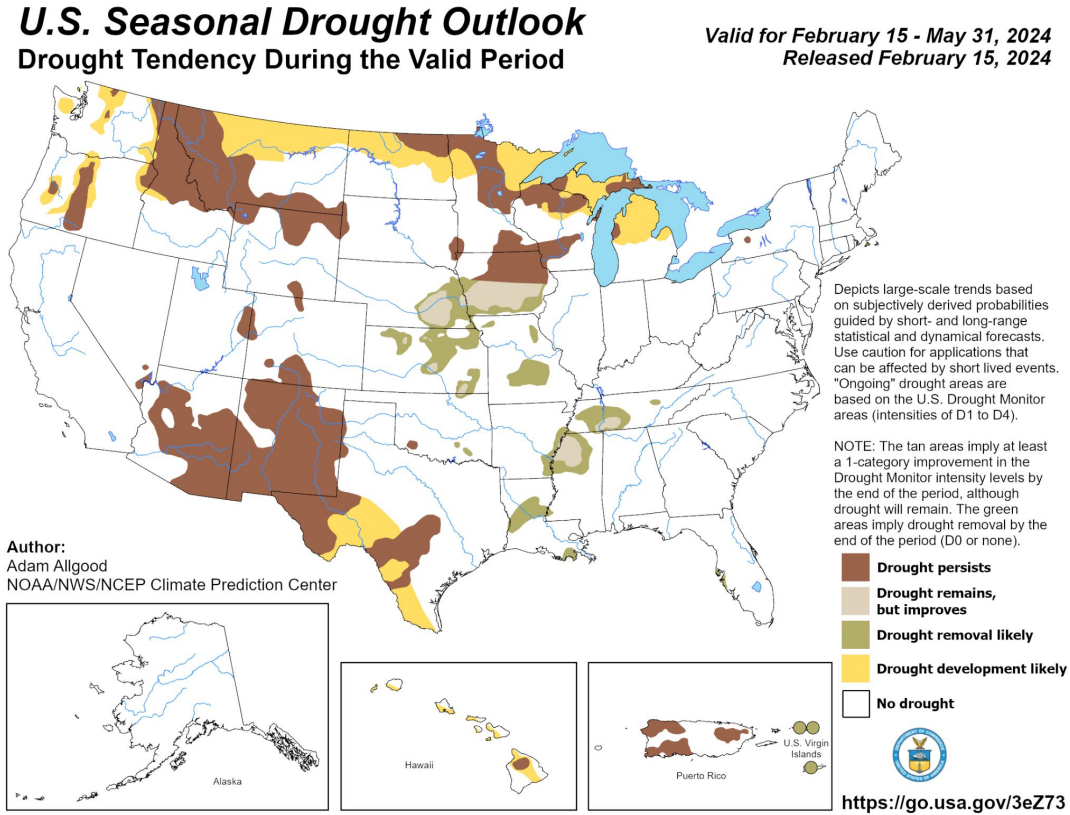




Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Areas that are currently experiencing drought may see drought persist or worsen over the next three months.
- Drought development is likely in the next three month in northeast Minnesota as well as parts of northwest Wisconsin.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook