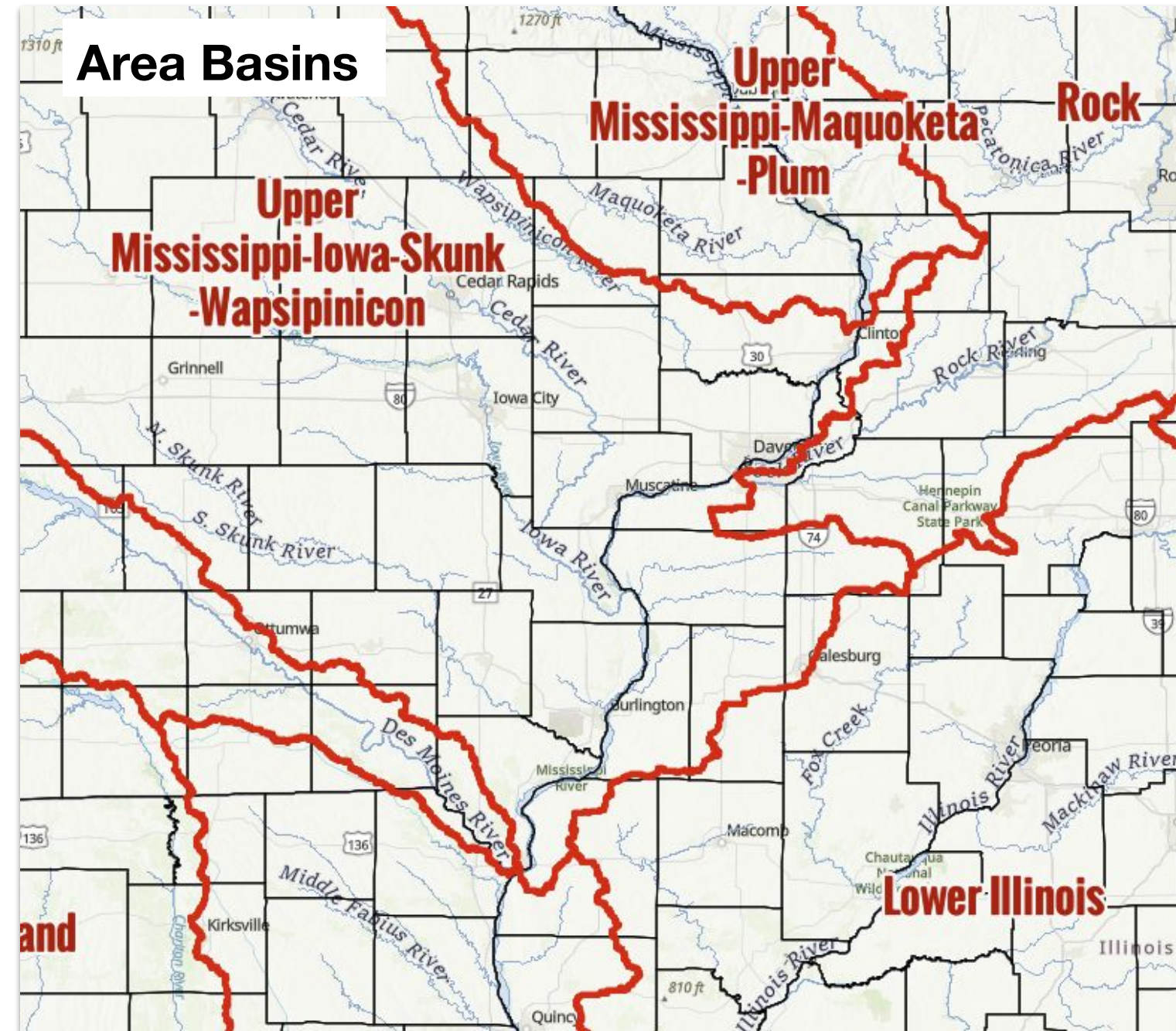


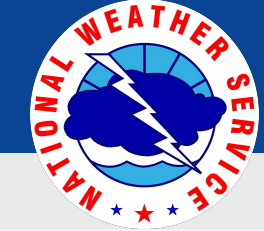
2026 Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook

National Weather Service
Quad Cities IA/IL

February 26, 2026

Next Update: **March 12, 2026**





Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

February 26, 2026
12:53 PM

Late February 2026 Issuance

Key Messages

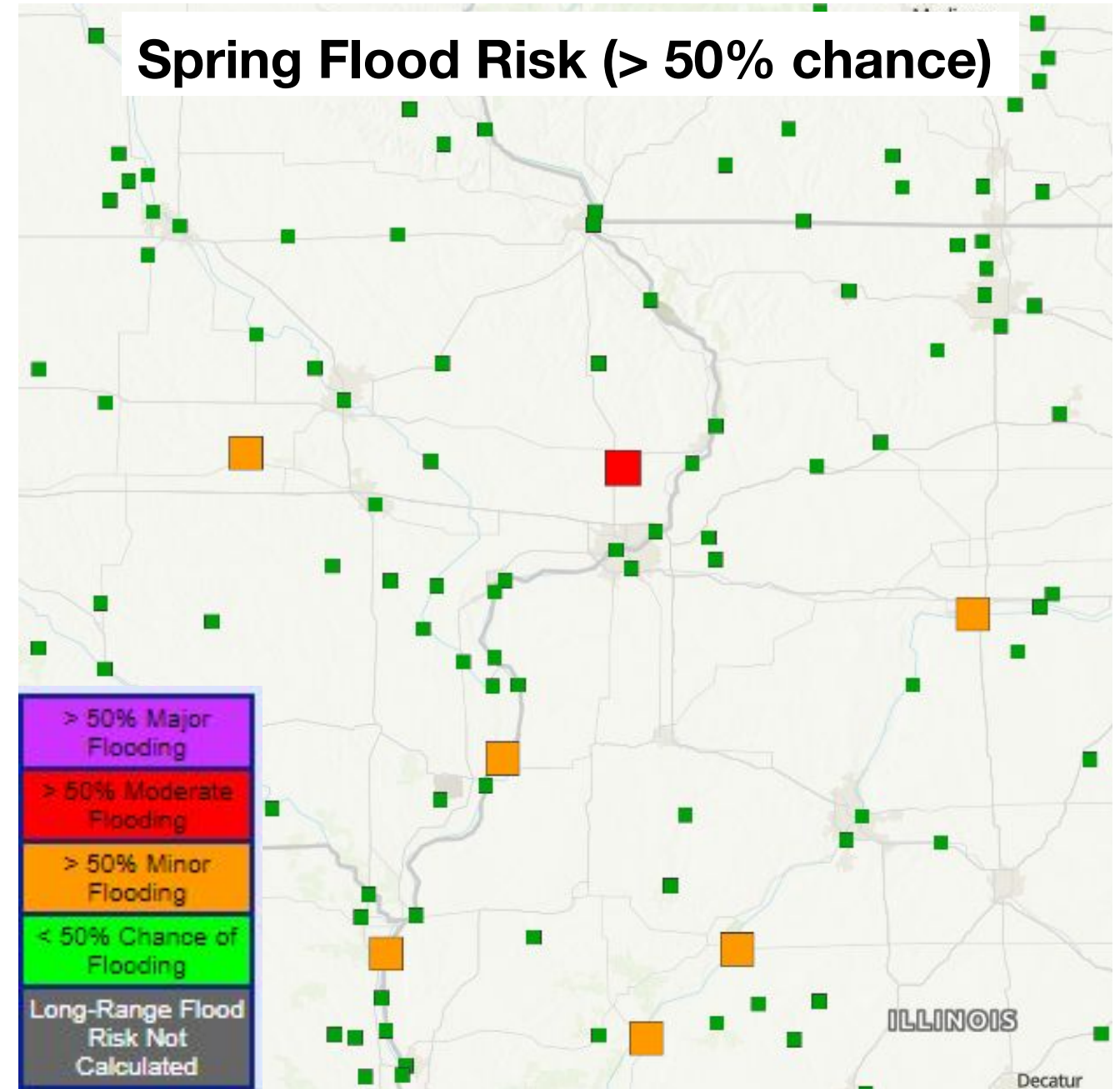
- The spring flood risk is below normal for the Mississippi River and near to below normal for tributary rivers across NWS Quad Cities' HSA
- **The rate of the snowmelt, frost thaw, additional snowfall and heavy spring rains will be the main factors in whether or not spring flooding occurs, and how severe it would be**

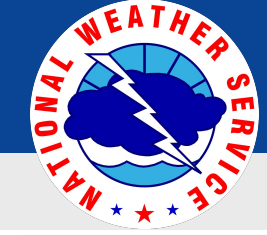
NEW What Has Changed

- River ice has melted, greatly reducing the ice jam threat for the remainder of the season

Next Scheduled Update

- March 12, 2026





Spring Flood Outlook

February 26, 2026
12:53 PM CST

Key Ingredients	Antecedent Conditions	Impact to Spring Flooding
Winter Precipitation /Temperatures	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
River Levels	Near/Below Normal	Normal Risk
River Ice Conditions	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Soil Moisture	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Frost Depth	Near Normal	Normal Risk
Snow Conditions / Water Equivalent	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Rate of Snowmelt	TBD	TBD
Spring Weather Outlook	Near/Above Normal	Normal Risk

Overall Risk of Spring Flooding:

Lesser Risk

Most factors that contribute to flooding, including soil moisture and snowpack, point to a decreased threat of spring flooding. The main factors of concern for spring flood potential revolve around the frost depth and any significant spring precipitation.



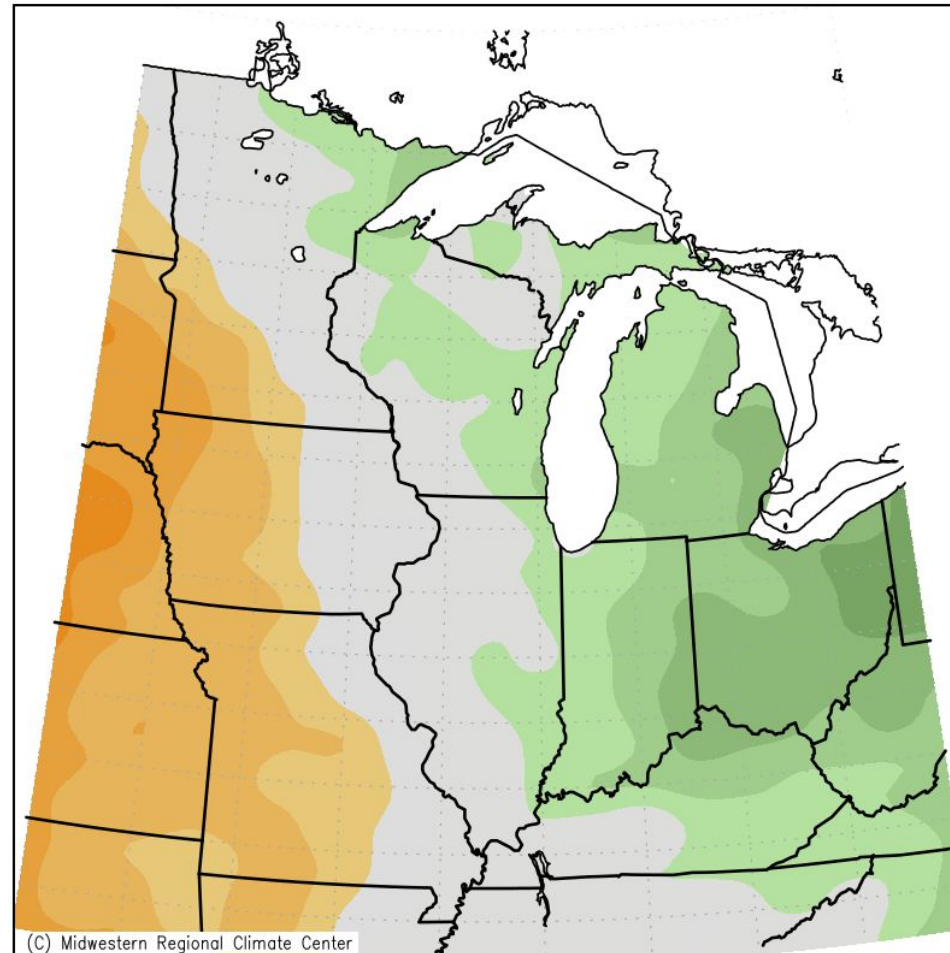
Winter Precipitation and Temperature

February 26, 2026
12:53 PM CST

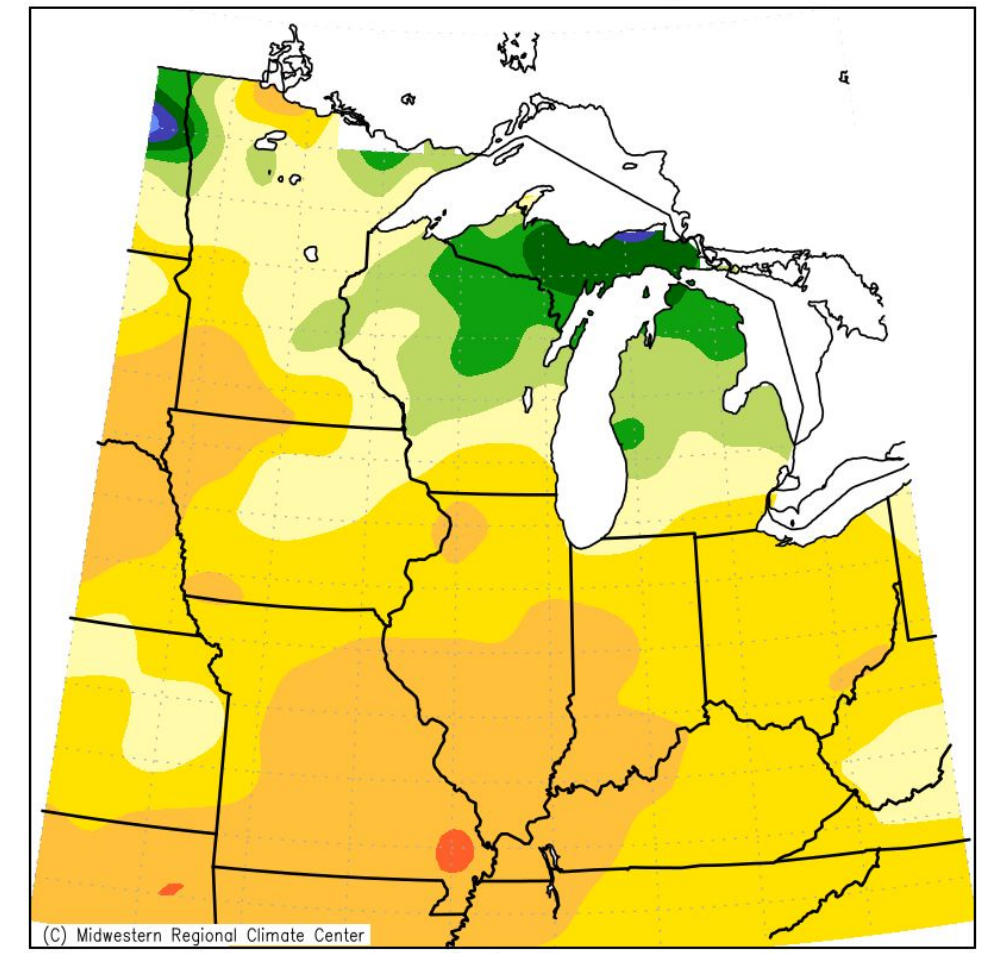
Maps show winter precipitation and temperature compared to normal

- Temperatures near average across area
- Precipitation generally 25 to 75% of normal through the winter
- Regional and local observed precipitation lowers the overall risk for flooding

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
December 1, 2025 to February 25, 2026



Accumulated Precipitation: Percent of Mean
December 1, 2025 to February 25, 2026



Images courtesy of MRCC





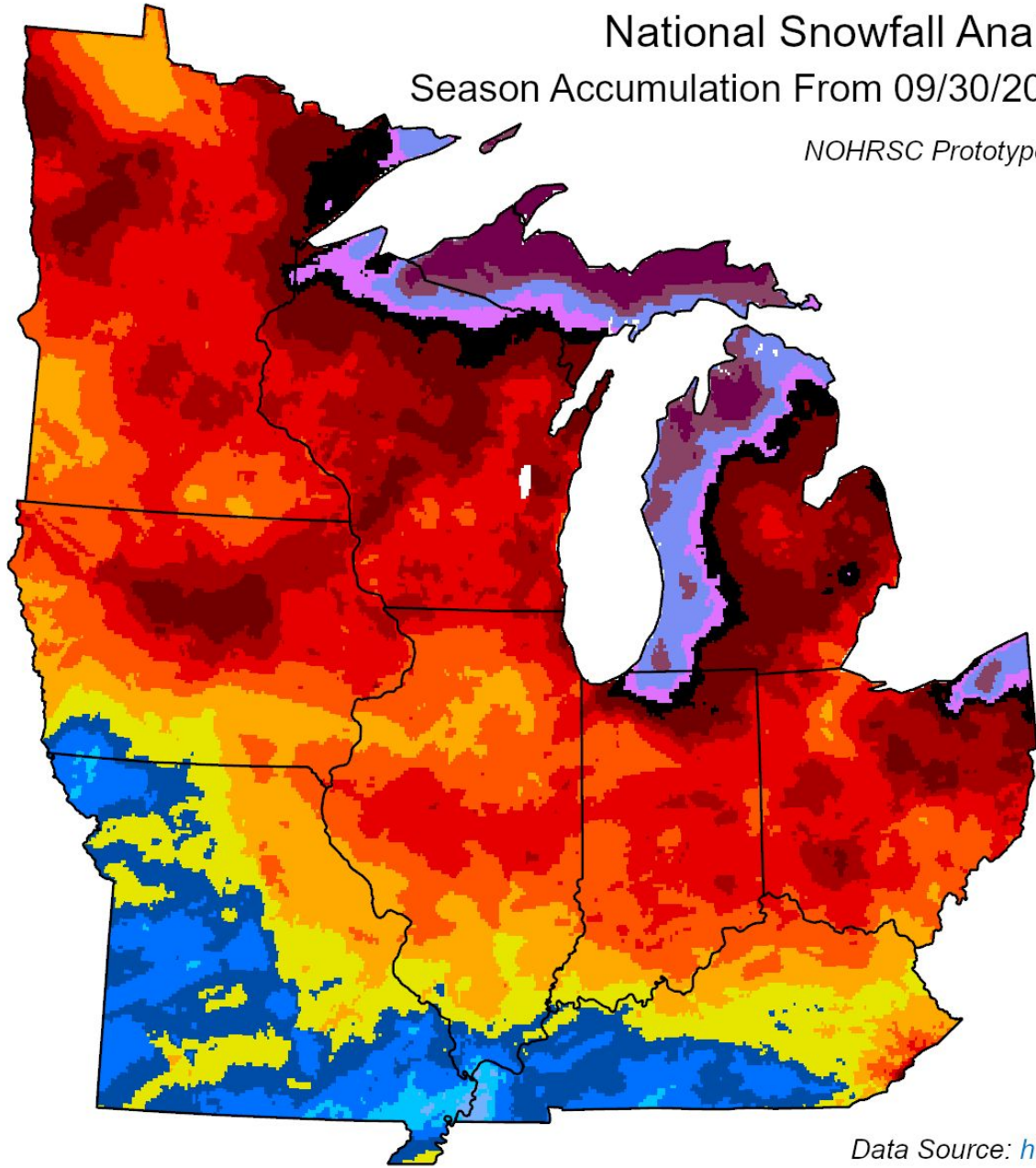
Seasonal Snowfall

February 26, 2026
12:53 PM CST

Maps show seasonal snowfall and seasonal comparison to normal

National Snowfall Analysis: Estimated (inches)
Season Accumulation From 09/30/2025 to 12 UTC on 2/25/2026

NOHRSC Prototype data

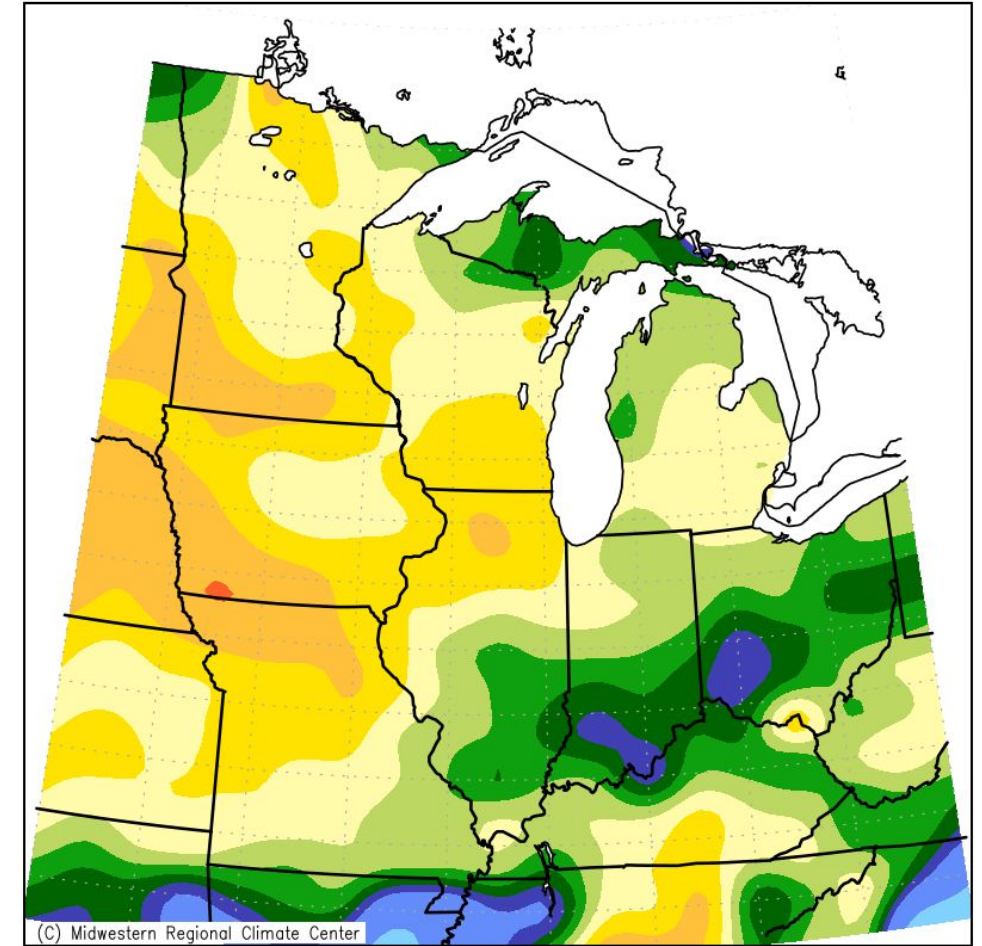


- >120
- 96 - 120
- 72 - 96
- 60 - 72
- 48 - 60
- 36 - 48
- 30 - 36
- 24 - 30
- 18 - 24
- 12 - 18
- 8 - 12
- 6 - 8
- 4 - 6
- 3 - 4
- 2 - 3
- 1 - 2
- <1
- 0



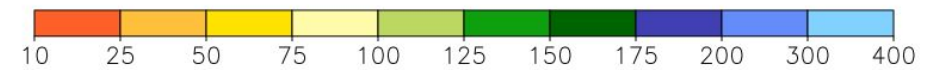
Data Source: http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/snowfall_v2

Accumulated Snowfall: Percent of Mean
December 1, 2025 to February 25, 2026



(C) Midwest Regional Climate Center

Mean period is 1991-2020.



Images courtesy of MRCC





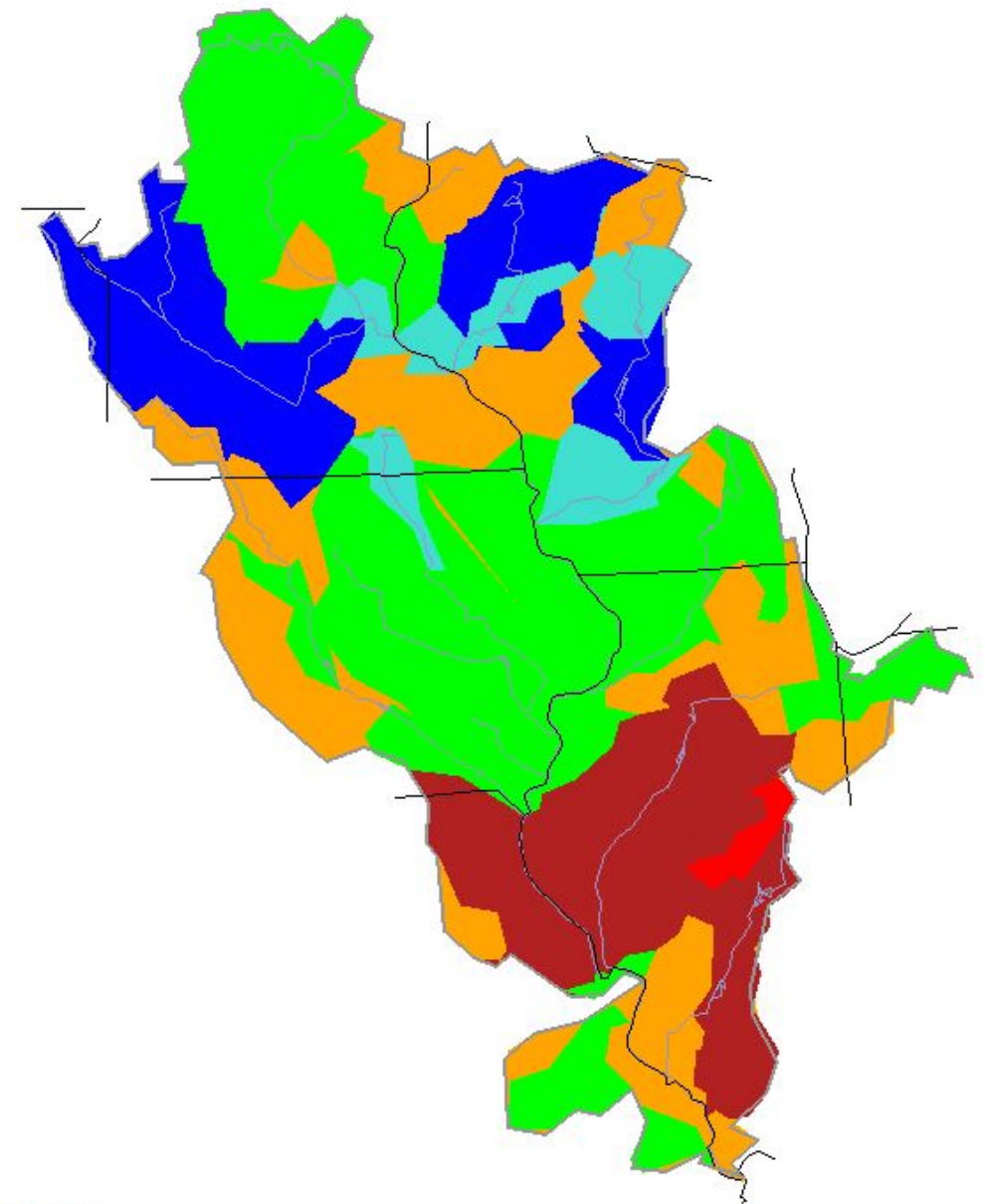
River Levels

February 26, 2026
12:53 PM CST

Map shows 7 day average streamflow

- Streamflows vary across the HSA
 - Much of the area shows below to much below normal
- Areas with below normal streamflows have more capacity to hold upcoming precipitation

Monday, February 23, 2026



Explanation - Percentile classes

Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data	
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal			





River Ice Conditions

February 26, 2026
12:53 PM CST

Images show ice free rivers as of Feb 26

- Area rivers have all become ice free in the past two weeks
- The concern for ice jams has been eliminated unless ice reforms in the coming weeks
 - Even if ice does reform it will likely be quite thin, keeping the ice jam risk low



Iowa River @ Iowa City



Rock River @ Prophetstown



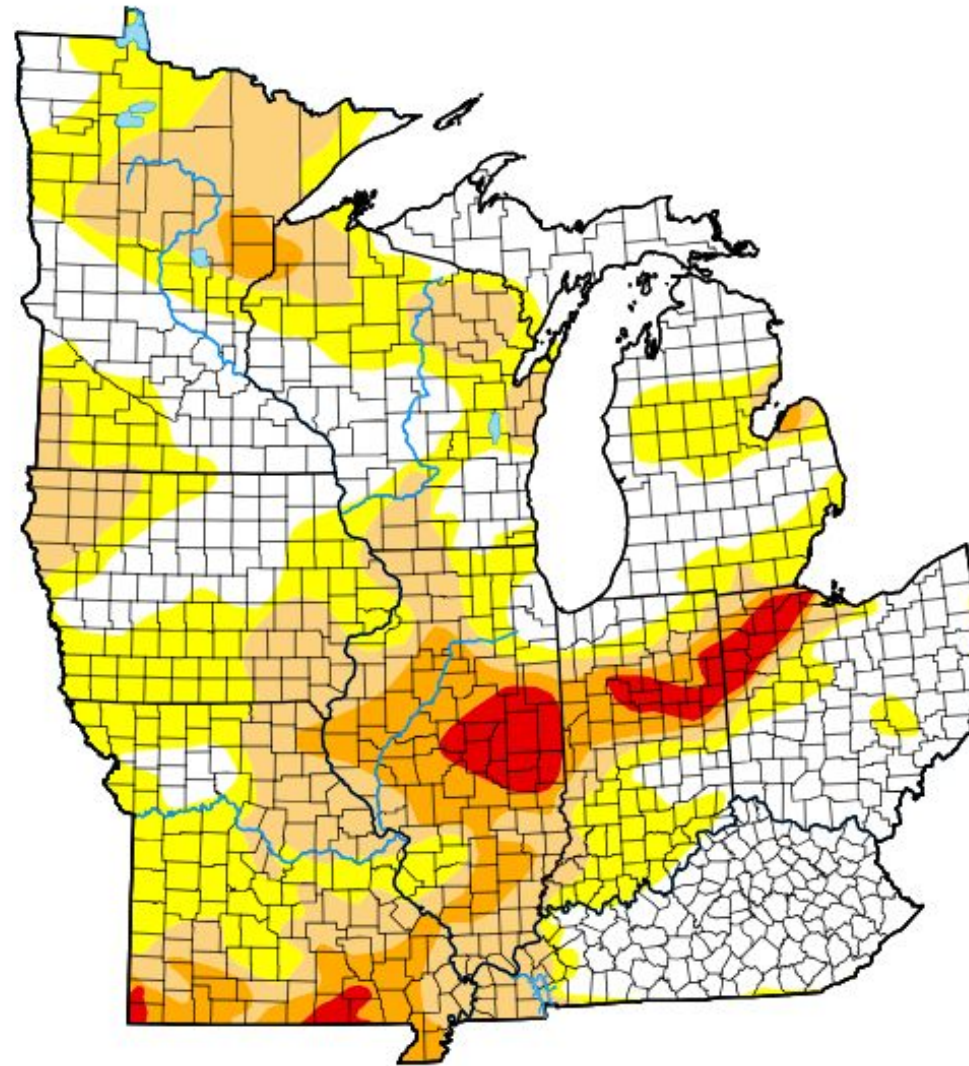


Latest Drought Conditions

February 26, 2026
12:53 PM CST

Map shows the drought status across the Midwest

- Much of the area is at least abnormally dry
 - parts of northwest and north central Illinois in D1 to D2 drought
- With drought conditions in place, streamflows are already below normal for many area rivers
- After the ground thaws, there is greater capacity for spring precipitation to infiltrate into the ground



Map released: Thurs. February 26, 2026
Data valid: February 24, 2026 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
[Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI



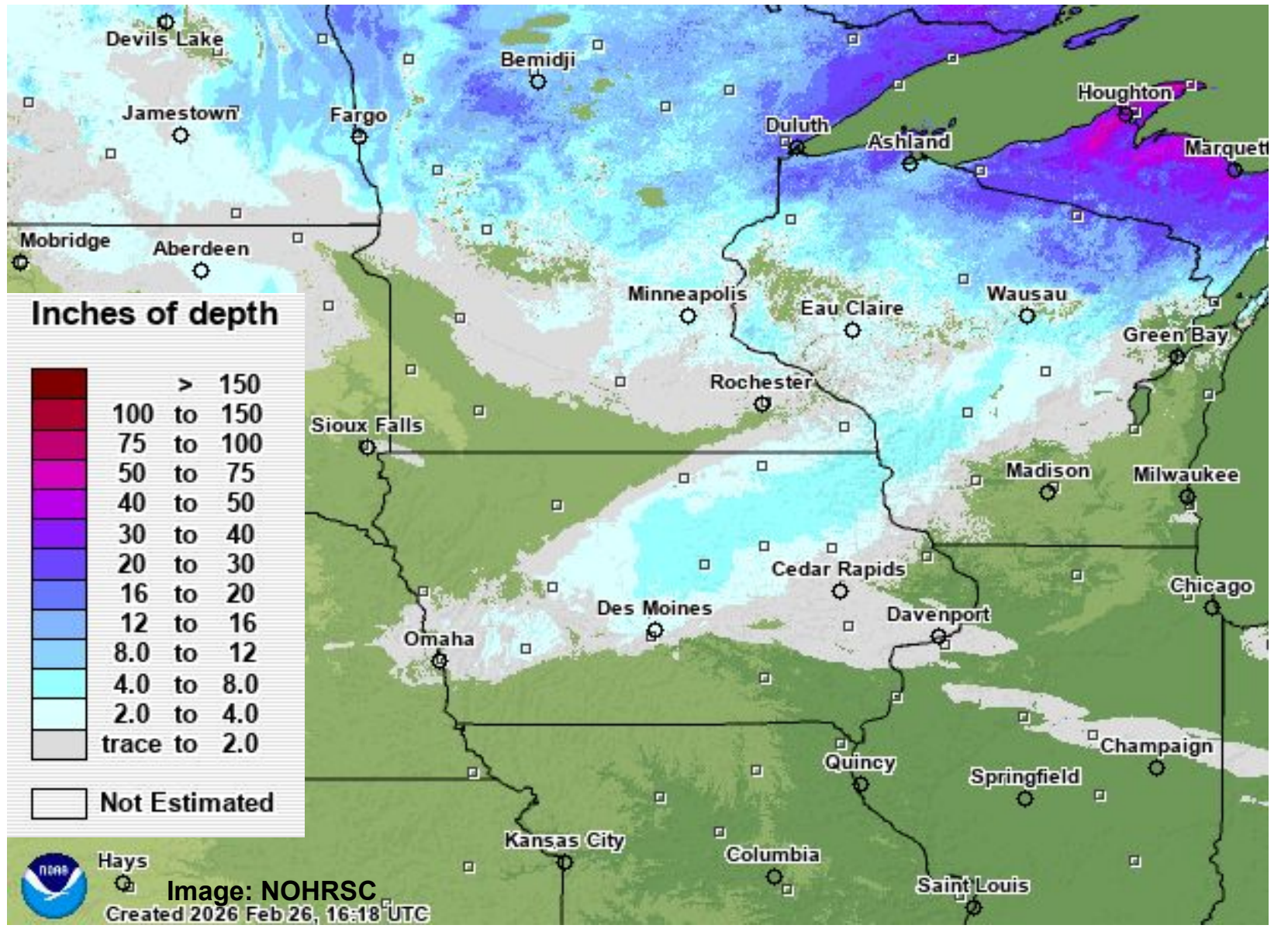


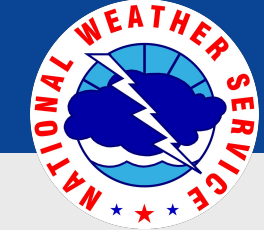
Snow Conditions

February 26, 2026
12:53 PM CST

Map shows modeled snow depth as of Feb 26

- Very little snow depth across the local area
 - Most of the current snowpack is across the Upper Mississippi Valley
 - Snow water equivalent near the headwaters is 2 to 4 inches
- Snow depth is below normal across the region due to the low precipitation through the winter
- This reduces the impact of spring snowmelt on potential flooding





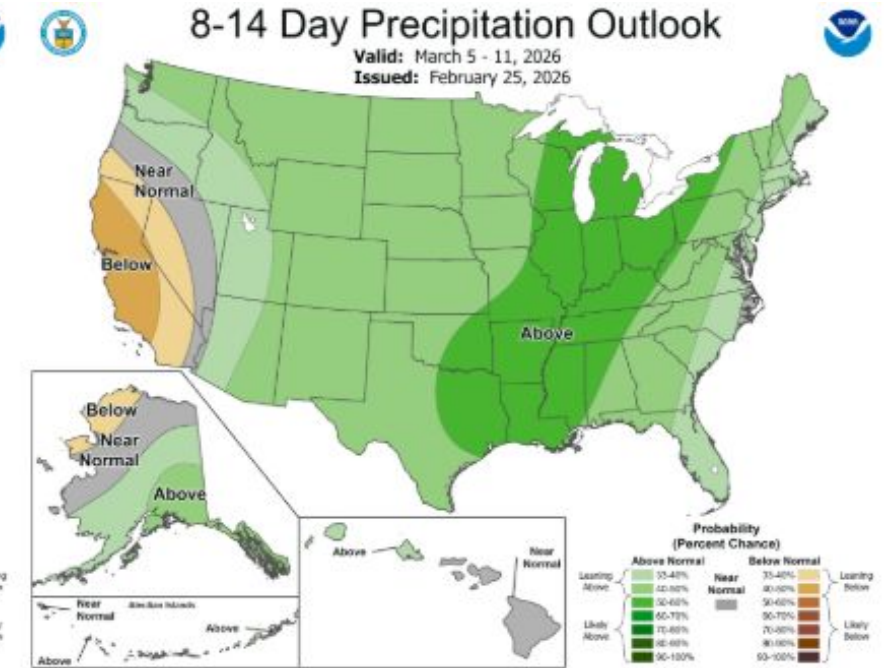
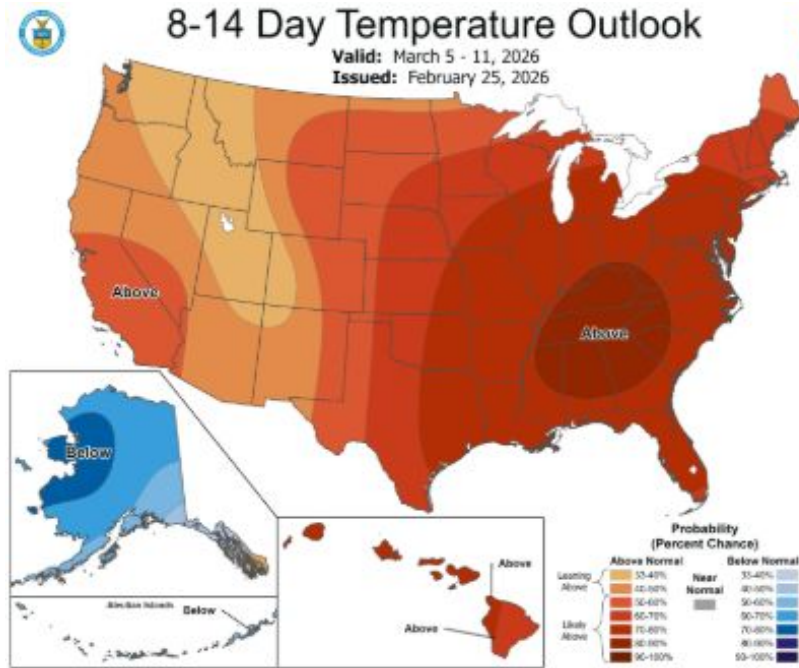
Spring Weather Outlook

February 26, 2026
12:53 PM CST

These are general outlooks that depict broad trends for the weeks and months ahead

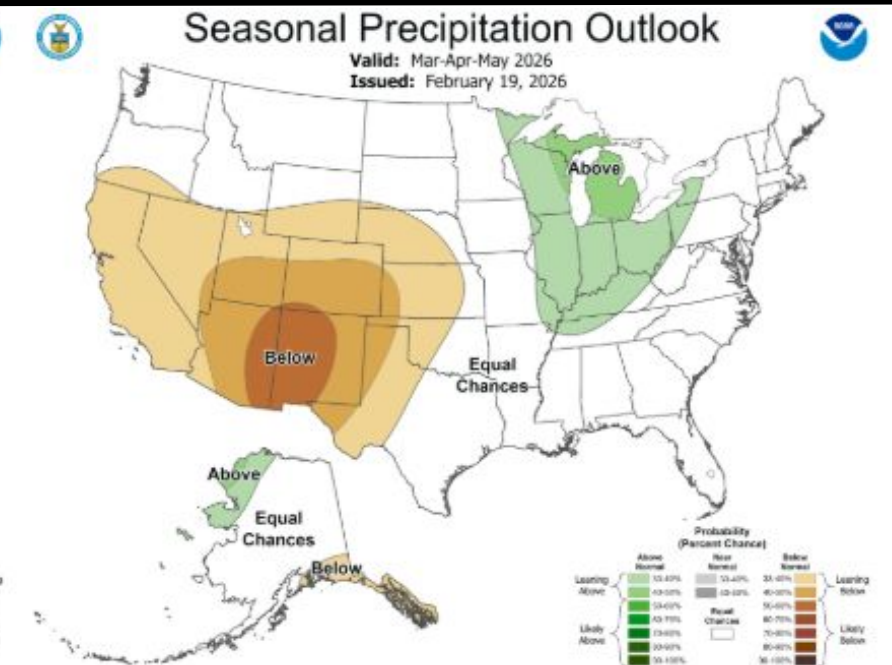
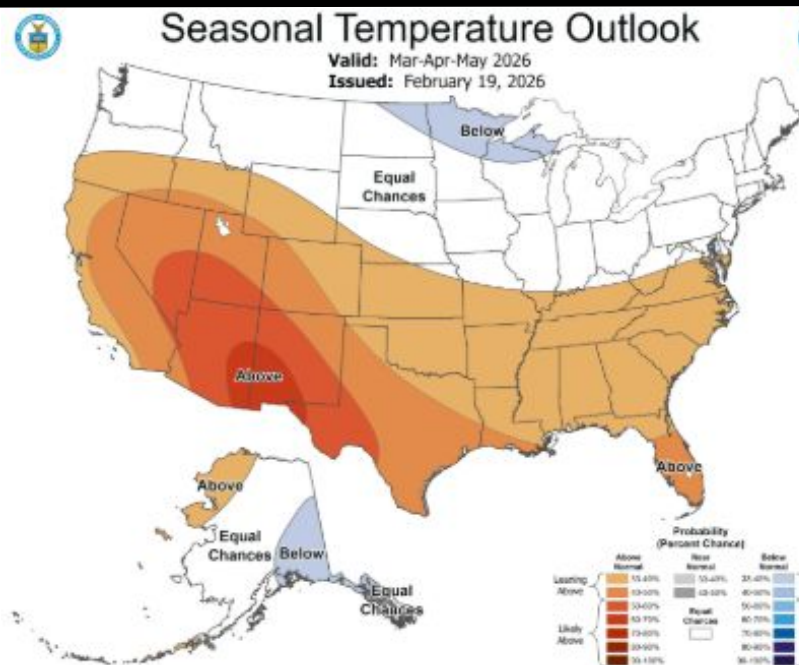
Early to Mid March Outlook

- Above normal temperatures favored
- Above normal precipitation favored
- Possible increased flood potential if above normal precipitation is realized

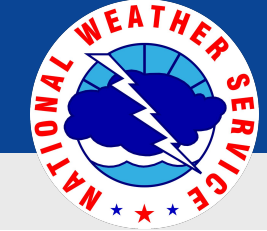


Seasonal Outlook

- Equal chances of above/normal/below temperatures through May
- Slight favoring of above normal precipitation for Illinois
- Impacts to flooding are to be determined



Lesser Risk



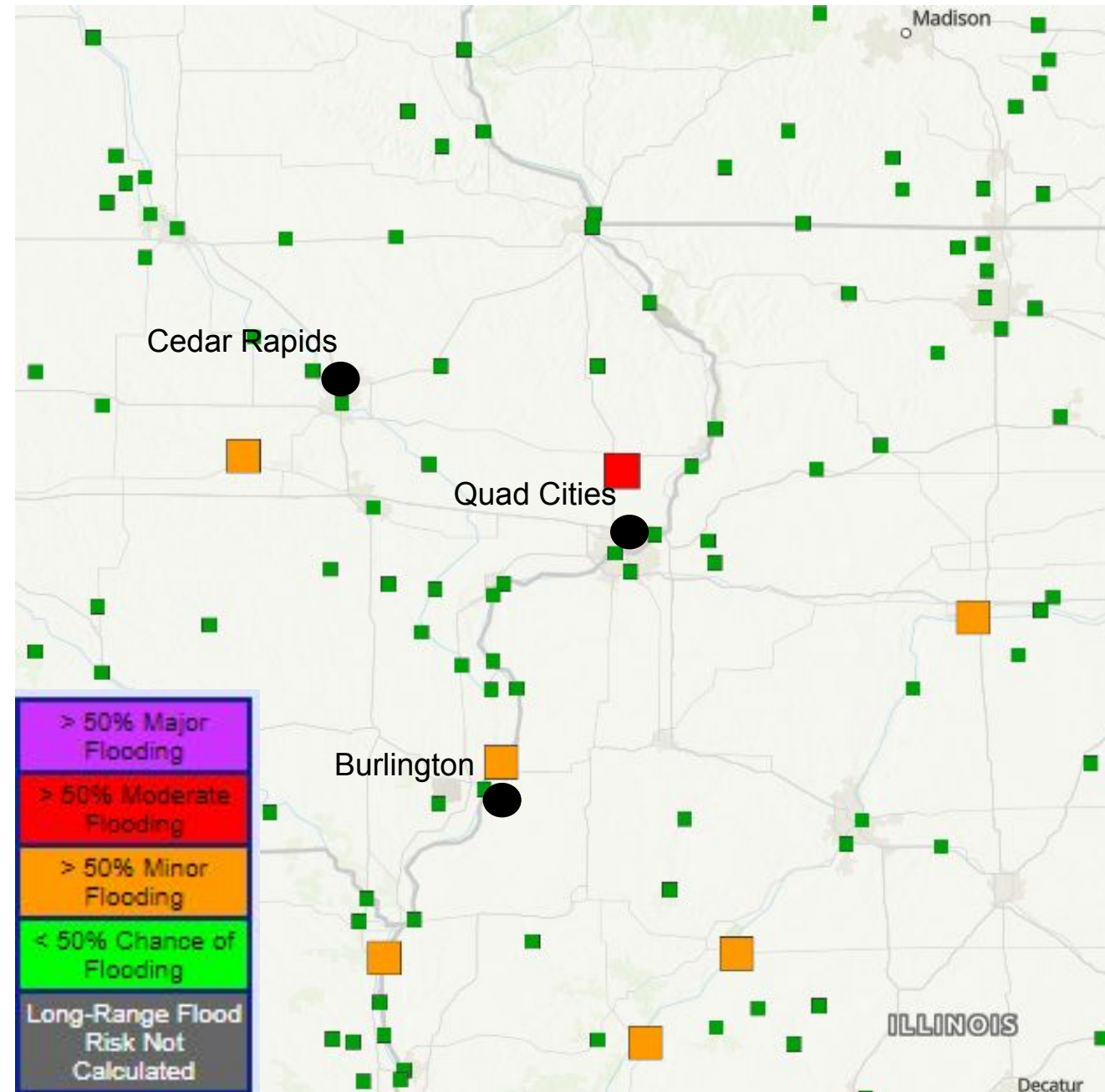
Long Range Flood Outlook

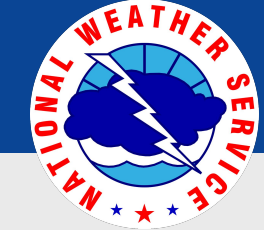
February 26, 2026
12:53 PM CST

Map shows probability of exceeding flood stage

Locations with chances for flooding:

- Around a 50% or higher chance to reach the labeled flood stage
- The Mississippi River generally has <50% chance for any flooding at this time
 - Gladstone, IL and Gregory Landing, MO have 50% chance for at least Minor Flooding this spring
- The tributaries hold the greater chance for spring flooding, but most remain below a 50% chance. The Wapsipinicon River in DeWitt and the Iowa River in Marengo currently have ~50% chance for at least Minor Flooding this spring.





Key Messages

- The spring flood risk is below normal for the Mississippi River and near to below normal for tributary rivers across NWS Quad Cities' HSA.
- The rate of the snowmelt, frost thaw, additional snowfall and heavy spring rains will be the main factors in whether or not spring flooding occurs, and how severe it would be.

Next Scheduled Update

- March 12, 2026

Mary-Beth Schreck
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NWS Quad Cities

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Additional Resources

<u>NWS Quad Cities Website</u>	<u>Probabilistic Forecast Outlook</u>
<u>North Central River Forecast Center</u>	<u>Midwest Regional Climate Center</u>
<u>River Observations and Forecasts</u>	<u>Flood Safety Information</u>
<u>NWS Quad Cities on Facebook</u>	<u>USGS National Water Dashboard</u>
<u>NWS Quad Cities on X</u>	

