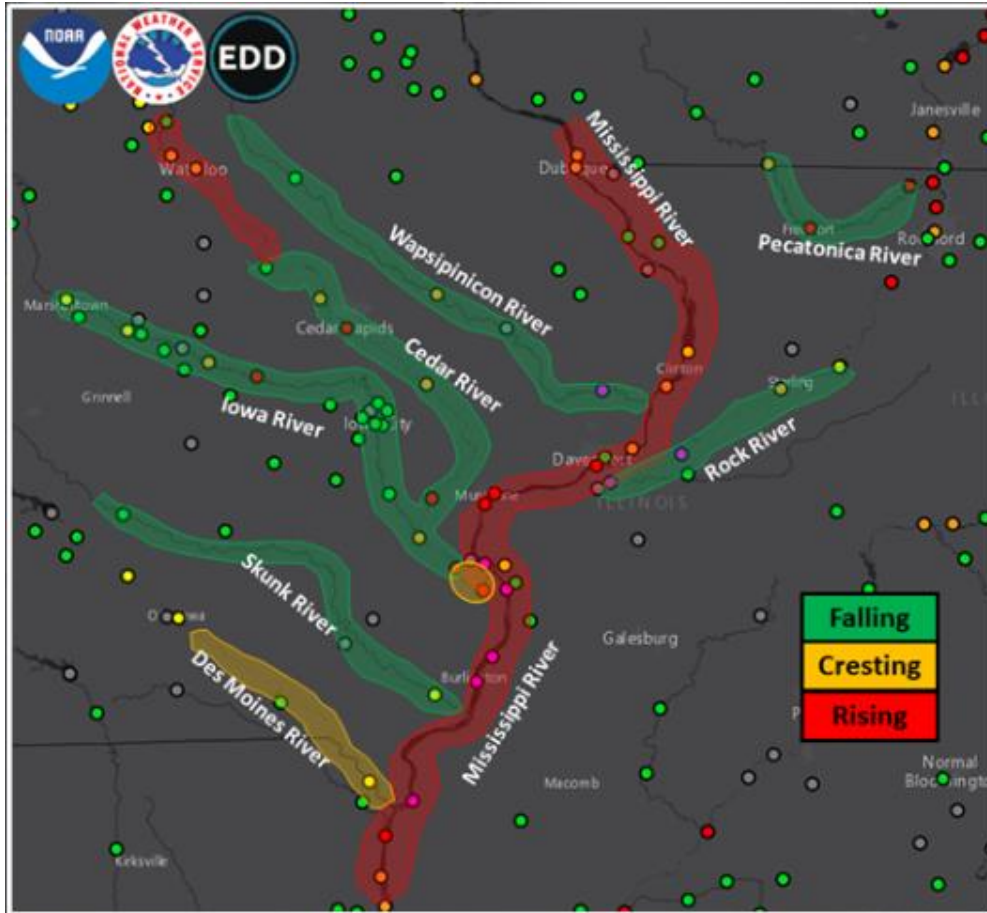




Significant River Flooding Continues Across the Area

Current River Status



Message of the Day:



- Most local rivers are seeing falling levels, however moderate to major flooding will continue on some rivers through the weekend.
- The entire reach of the Mississippi River will be rising through Sunday.
- Warm weekend temperatures are expected across the region, to drive efficient snowmelt processes across Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- The Mississippi River will likely remain high and above flood stage into May. Peak crests are expected to occur from mid to late April.

Important Forecast Changes:

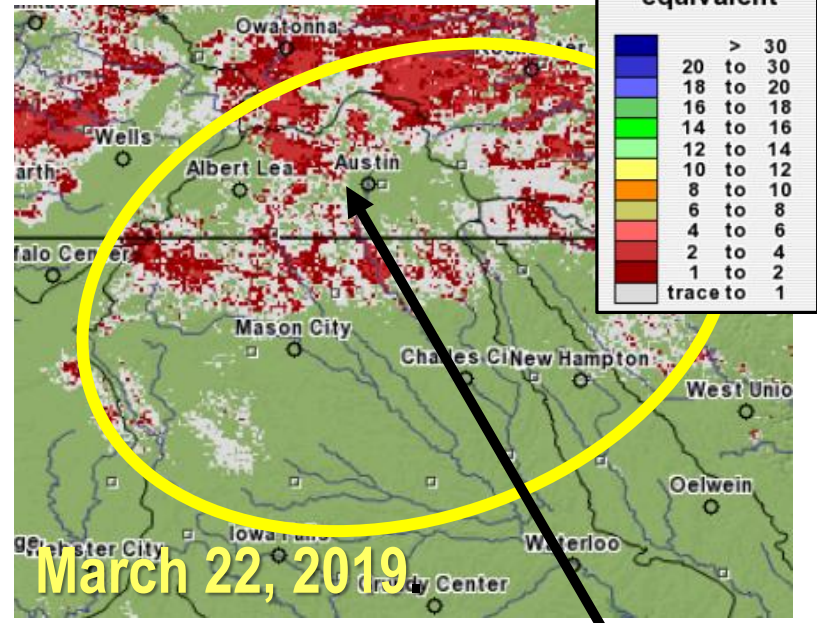
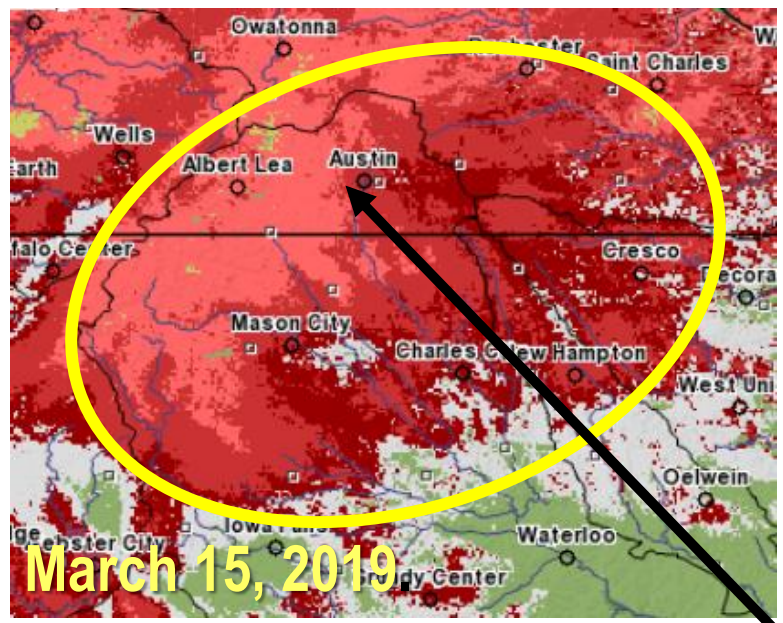


Minor crest moving down the upper Cedar River this weekend. Minimum rises will occur at Vinton, with just delayed recession from Palo downstream.

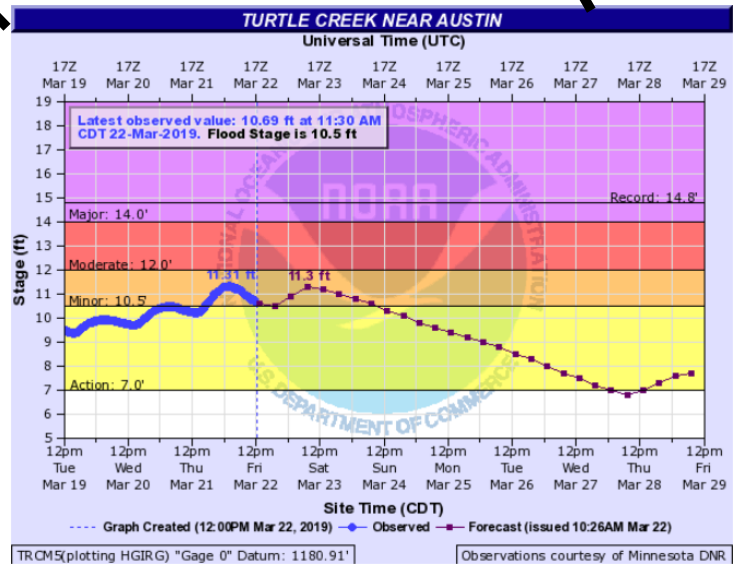


Iowa/Cedar/Wapsipinicon River Watersheds

The majority of the snowpack has melted.



This snow melted slowly as can be seen by the oscillating pattern on this hydrograph from Turtle Creek near Austin, MN. (In the Upper Cedar River Watershed)



Due to the slow melting, only minor rises will occur on the upper portions of the Iowa, Cedar, & Wapsipinicon Rivers as the remainder of the snowmelt moves through the systems. Little or no additional rises are likely to be observed in the middle or lower portions of the watersheds.



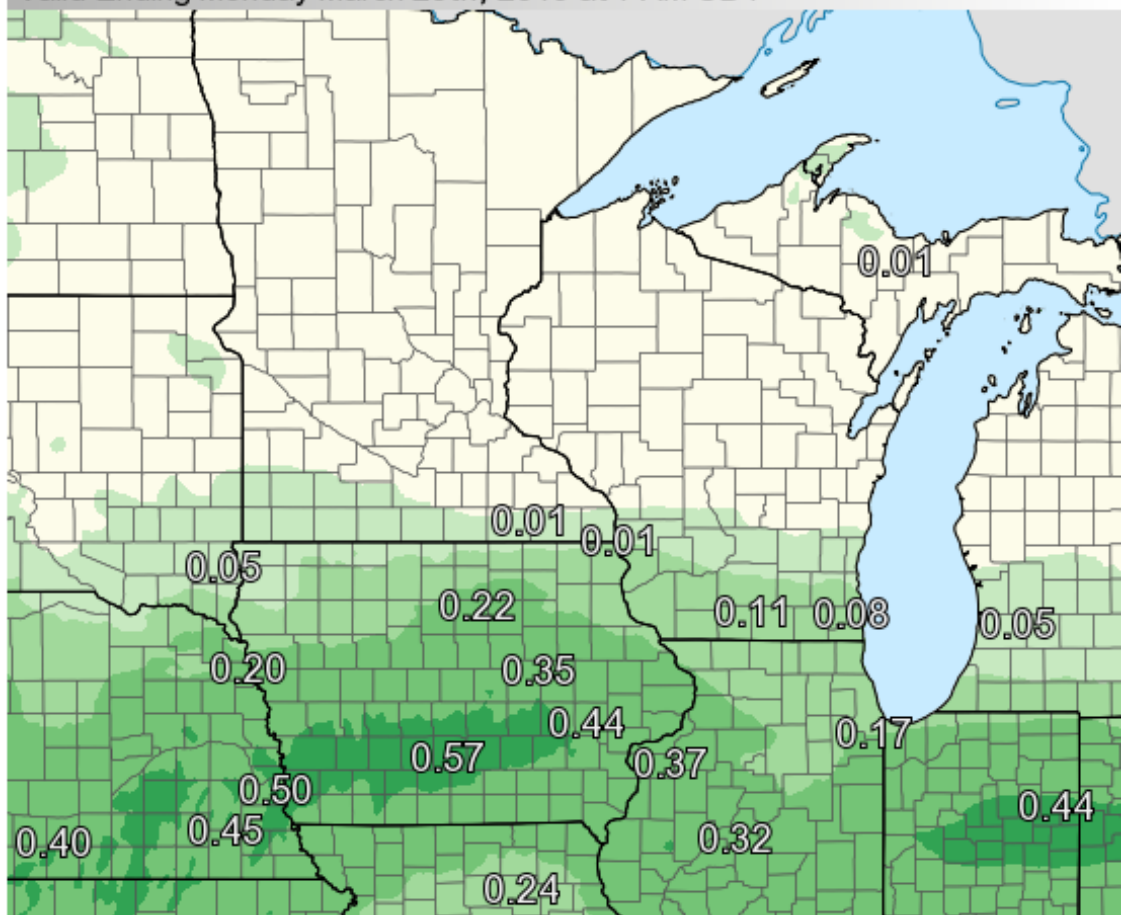
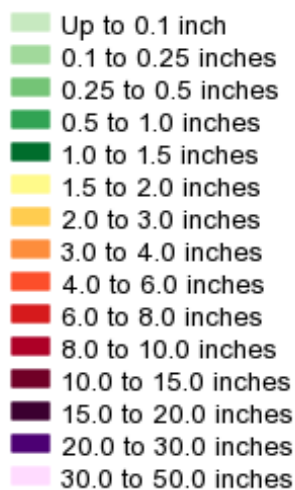
Precipitation Forecast through Sunday Night

- Rain is expected across Iowa, northern Missouri and Illinois Saturday afternoon into Sunday night.
- Significant rain amounts are not expected with totals of a 0.25 to 0.50 likely.

Forecast Precipitation

National Weather Service

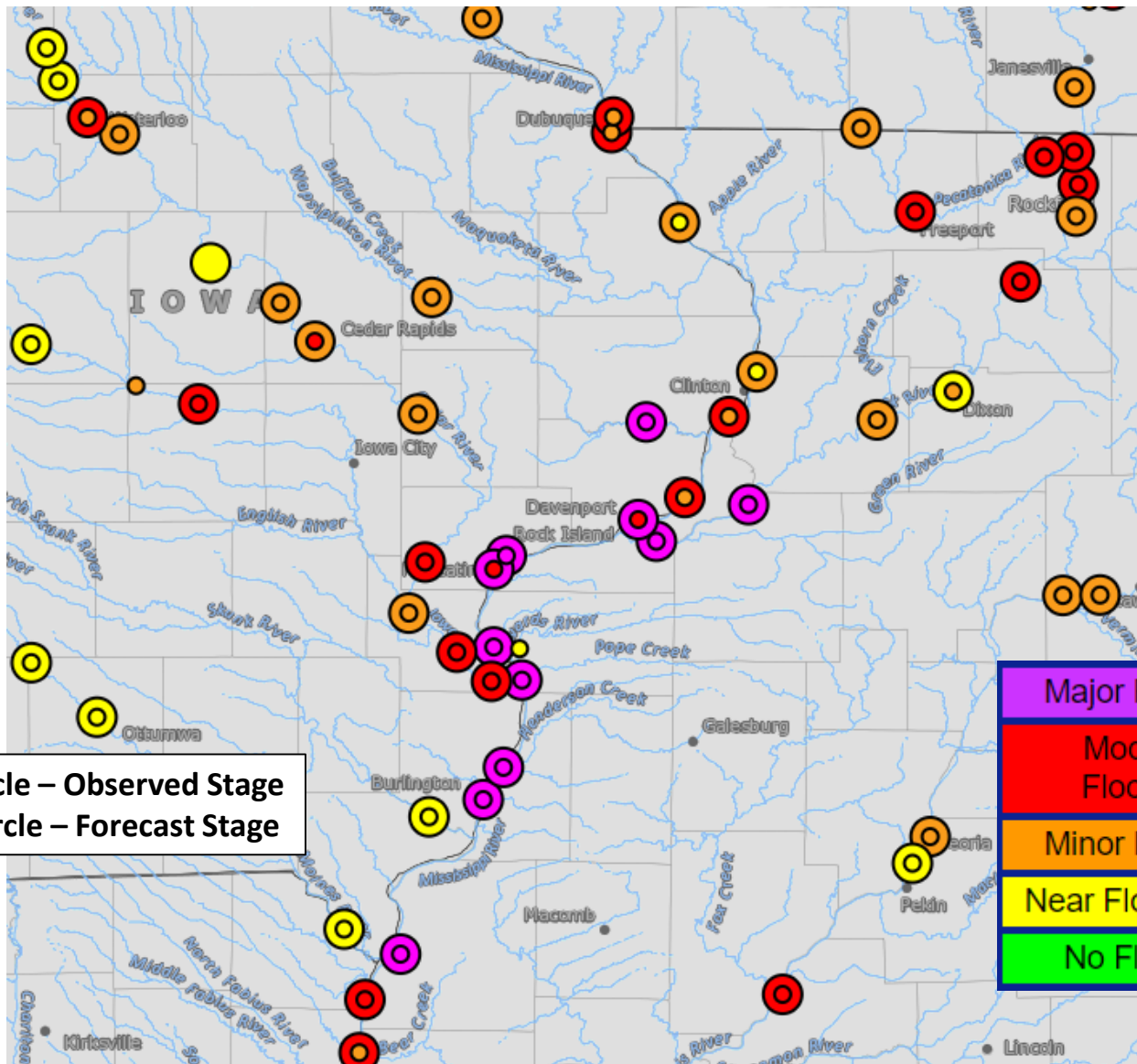
Valid Ending Monday March 25th, 2019 at 7 AM CDT



Graphic Created
March 22nd, 2019
1:23 PM CDT

- **This rain could cause some minor ponding, but significant impacts or additional river rises are not anticipated from this rainfall.**

Observed and Forecast River Levels



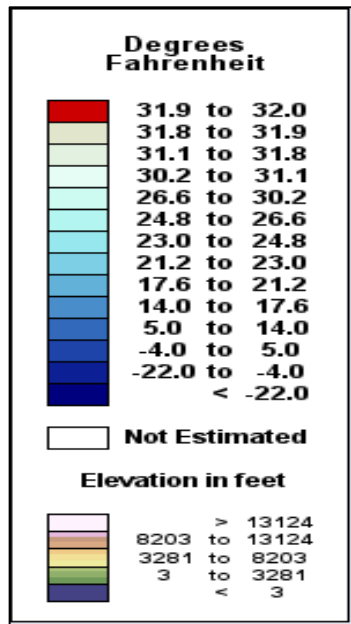
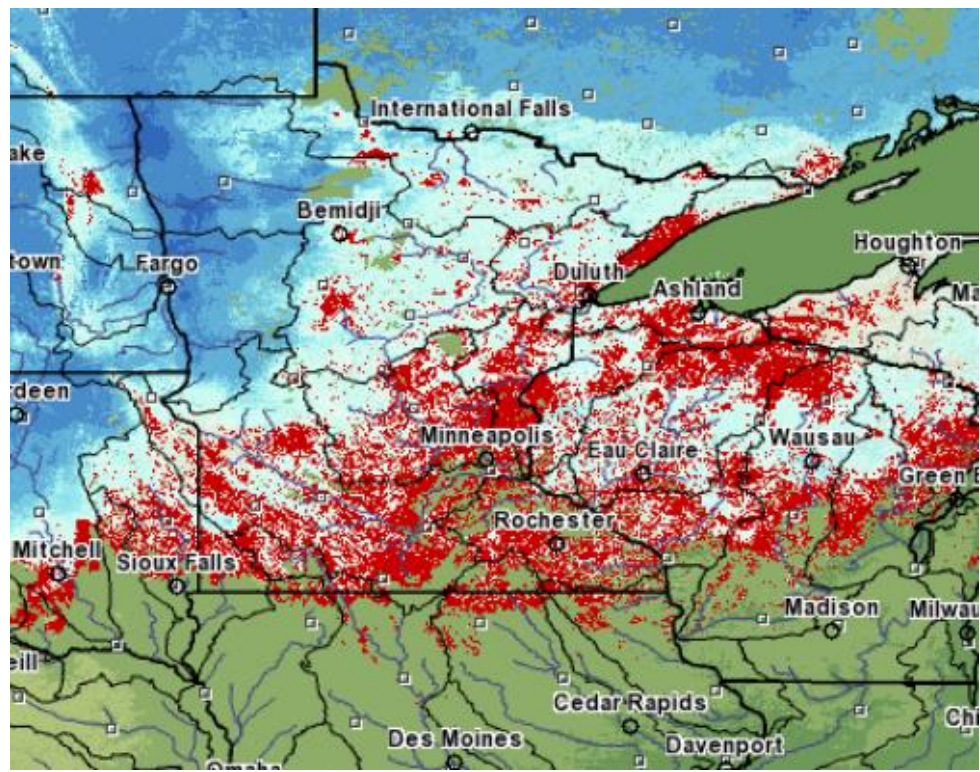
Inner Circle – Observed Stage
Outer Circle – Forecast Stage

- Mississippi River will be rising through the weekend
- With little or no snow left in the local watersheds, most tributary rivers will be falling through the weekend (minor rises on the upper parts of the Wapsipinicon, Cedar and Iowa Rivers)
- Major flooding is ongoing along parts of the Mississippi, Rock, and Wapsipinicon Rivers



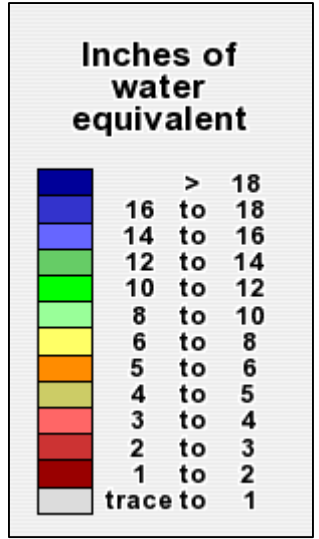
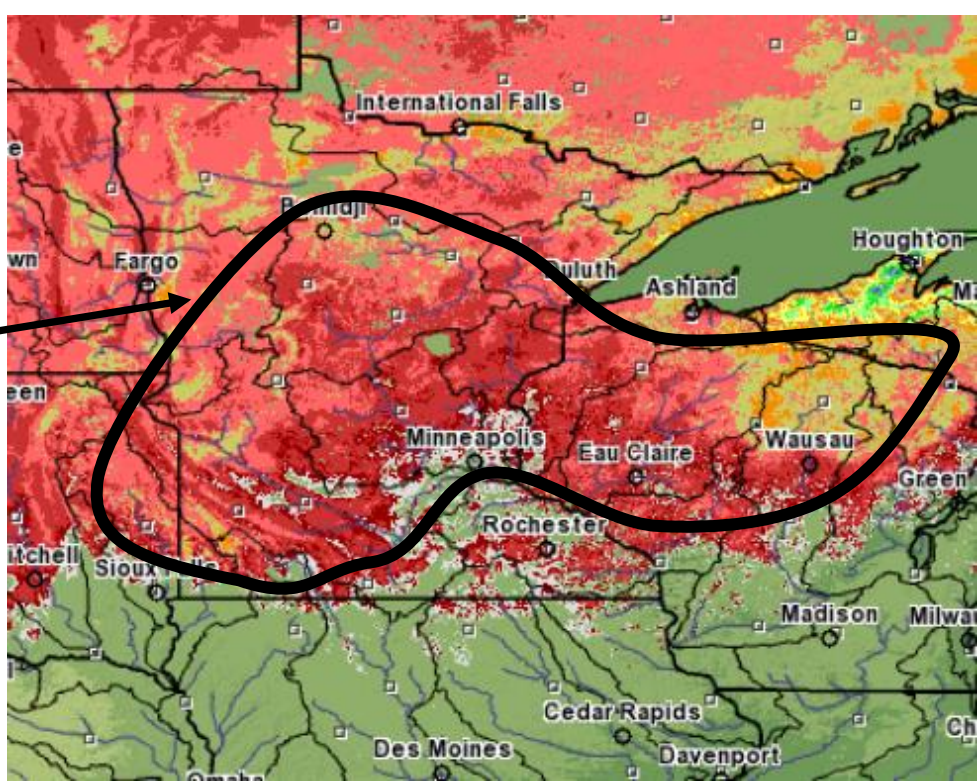
Current Snowpack Conditions

Snowpack Temperature – March 22, 2019: Afternoon



RED areas are where the snowpack is primed to see melting over the weekend.

Snow Water Equivalent – March 22, 2019



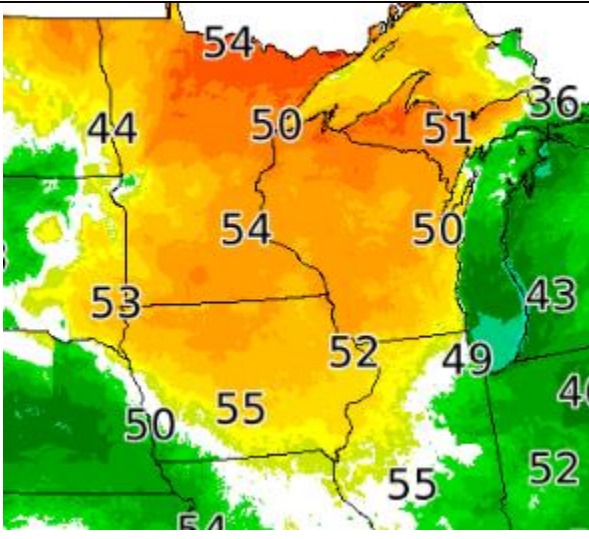
Considerable Water Equivalent Remains in the Mississippi River Watershed



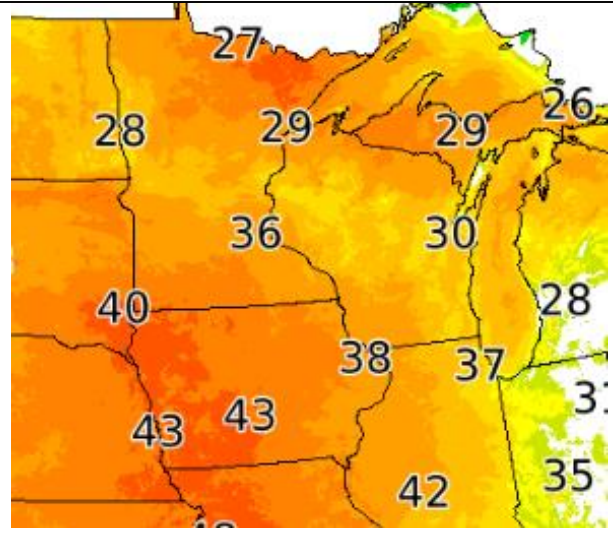
Weekend Temperatures

The most rapid snowmelt across Minnesota and Wisconsin will occur from Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. Cooler temperatures return Sunday night to slow the melting process.

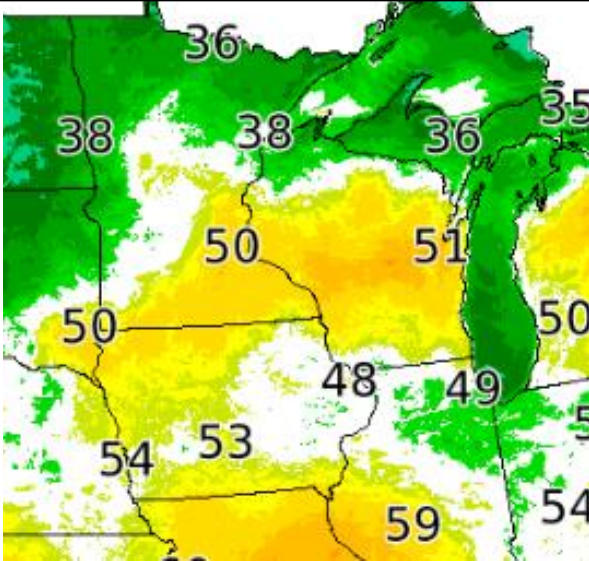
Forecast Highs for Saturday and Departure from Normal (image)



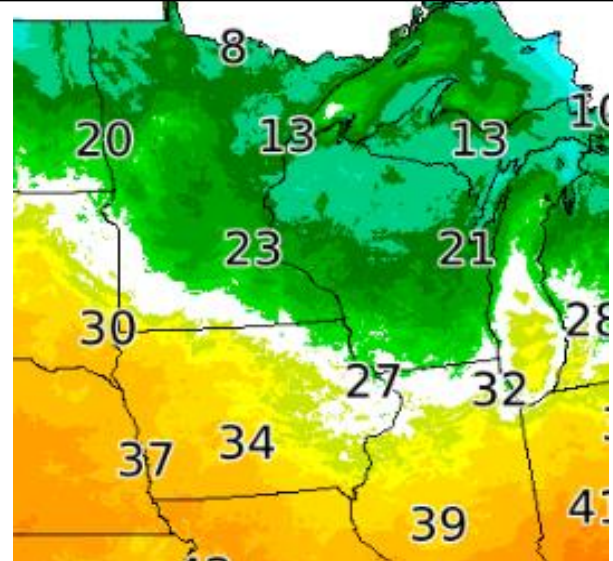
Forecast Lows for Saturday Night and Departure from Normal (image)



Forecast Highs for Sunday and Departure from Normal (image)



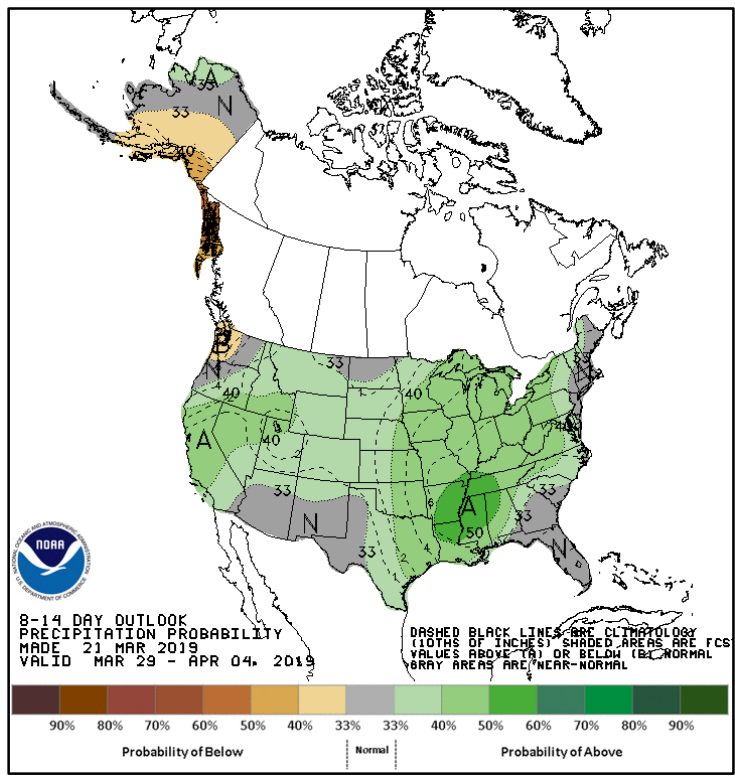
Forecast Lows for Sunday Night and Departure from Normal (image)



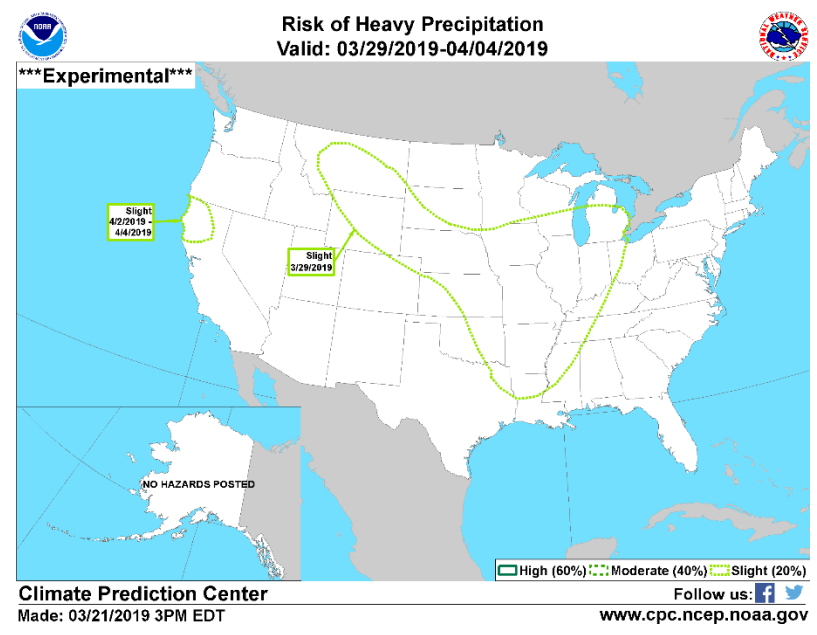


Looking Ahead: March 29th → April 4th

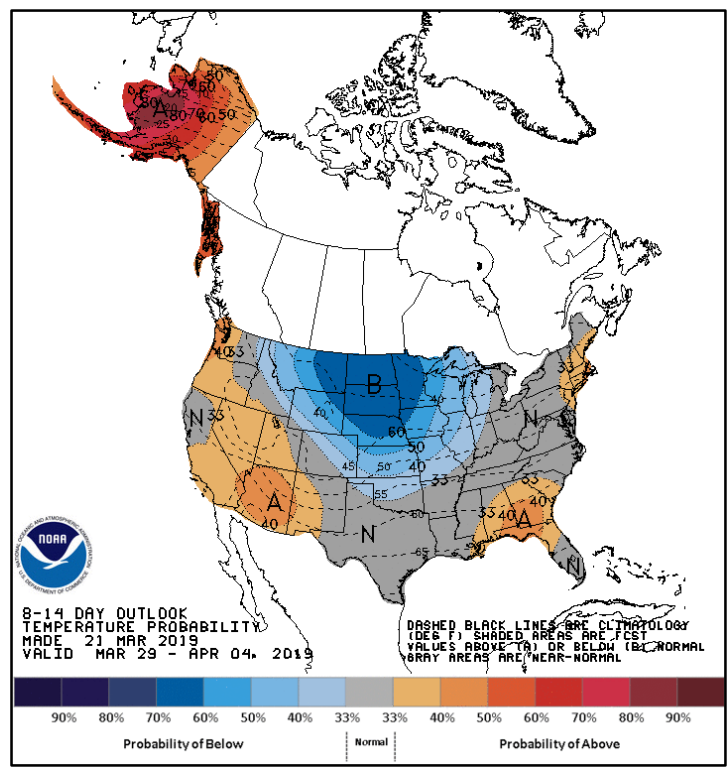
Precipitation



Risk of Heavy Precipitation



Temperatures



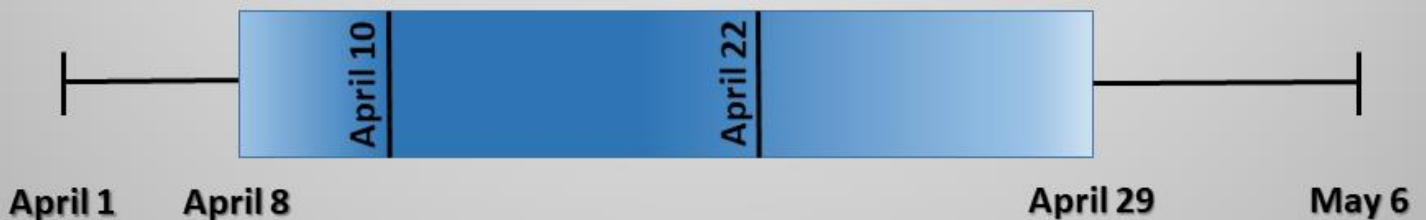
- Wetter conditions look to return for late March into the first half of April.
- There is a slight risk for heavy precipitation across the middle Mississippi River Valley
- A brief cool down is expected from March 30th to April 2nd with a potential for near to below normal temperatures. Remaining areas of snow would slow down melting rates during this time.



Mississippi Snowmelt Crest Timing

Mississippi River Peak Spring Flood Timing Dubuque, IA to Gregory Landing, MO

Highest Confidence on Peak Crests Occurring
between April 8th & April 29th



NOTE: There are outside chances of peak flows moving through earlier or later if eventual temperatures and precipitation diverge greatly from current forecasts.



Timeline is based on snowmelt only:

- Any heavy precipitation through the end of April could cause a change in the timing of the crest
- Rivers will likely remain above flood stage into May

Historical Perspective:

Major flooding will occur from snowmelt runoff alone. Heavy rains over the next month could cause rises to near or record levels.



Information Sources

Where to find information regarding the active flooding:

NWS Quad Cities WFO Forecast Discussions

(technical weather and hydrology discussion)

forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=DVN&issuedby=DVN&product=AFD

NWS Quad Cities WFO River Information Page

www.weather.gov/dvn/river_levels

- Advanced Hydrological Prediction Service (AHPS) – water.weather.gov/ahps
- North Central River Forecast Center – www.weather.gov/ncrfc
- Probabilistic Information - https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/long_range.php?wfo=dvn
- Midwest Regional Climate Center (MRCC) – <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/>
- Rock Island US Army Corps of Engineers – rivergages.com
- US Geological Survey (USGS) WaterWatch page – <http://waterwatch.usgs.gov>
- National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) – www.nohrsc.noaa.gov
- NOAA Climate Prediction Center – www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov
- NOAA Weather Prediction Center – www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov



Message of the Day:

- Moderate to major flooding will continue on some tributary rivers and the Mississippi River through the weekend
- Rises will occur along the Mississippi River through Sunday
- Warm temperatures across the upper Midwest will promote snowmelt across Minnesota and Wisconsin this weekend.
- The Mississippi River will likely remain high and above flood stage into May. Peak crests are expected to occur from mid to late April.
- Precipitation over the next month will be a factor in the eventual peak crest levels on the Mississippi River.
- Continue to monitor information from the National Weather Service in regards to timing and crest information for the Mississippi River this spring.

NWS Quad Cities WFO Forecast Discussions

(technical weather and hydrology discussion)

forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=DVN&issuedby=DVN&product=AFD

NWS Quad Cities WFO River Information Page

www.weather.gov/dvn/river_levels

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS)

<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/forecasts.php?wfo=DVN>

Find out more information on our rivers page: www.weather.gov/dvn/river_levels

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