

# Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

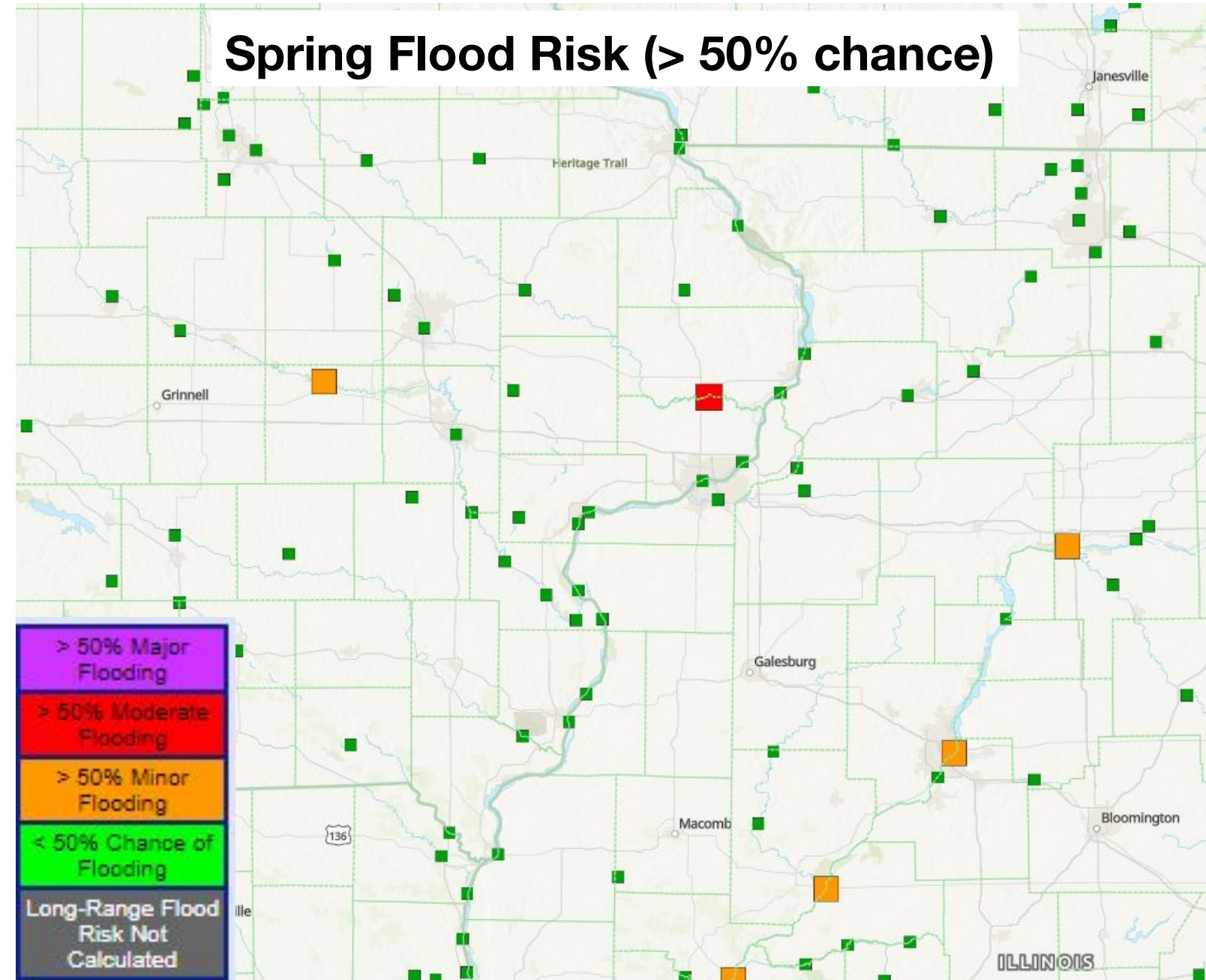
February 12, 2026

1:42 PM

Mid-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 and frost melt, 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

- First issuance

## Next Scheduled Update

- February 26, 2026





# Spring Flood Outlook

February 12, 2026  
1:42 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	Near/Above Normal	Greater Risk
Soil Moisture	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Frost Depth	Above Normal	Greater 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 current river ice coverage, frost depth, and any significant spring precipitation.



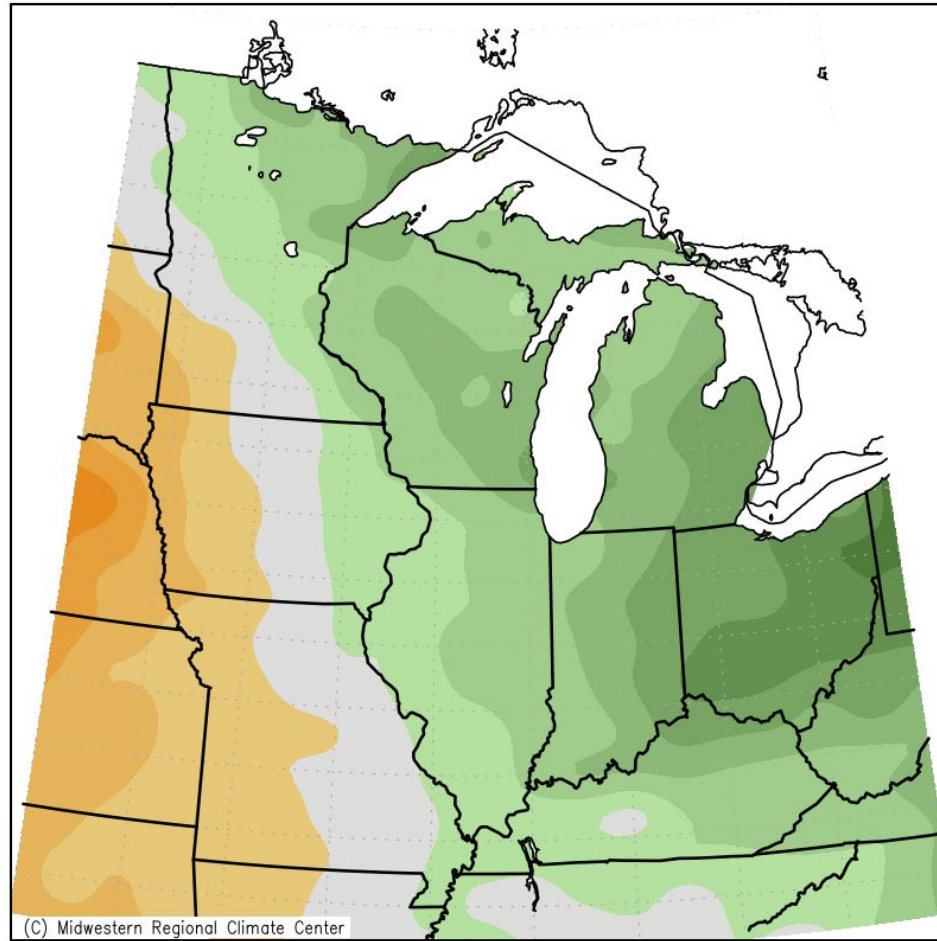
# Winter Precipitation and Temperature

February 12, 2026  
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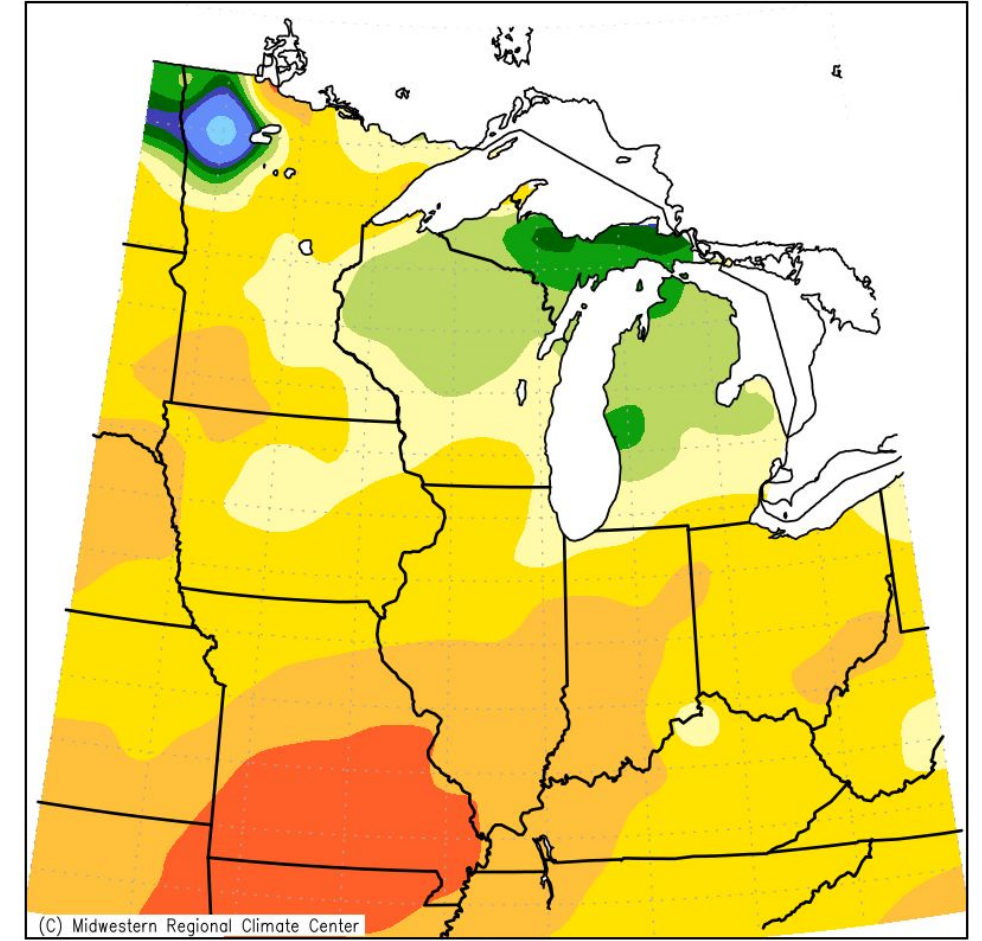
Maps show winter precipitation and temperature compared to normal

- Temperatures slightly below average across area with precipitation 50 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 11, 2026



Accumulated Precipitation: Percent of Mean  
December 1, 2025 to February 11, 2026



Images courtesy of MRCC





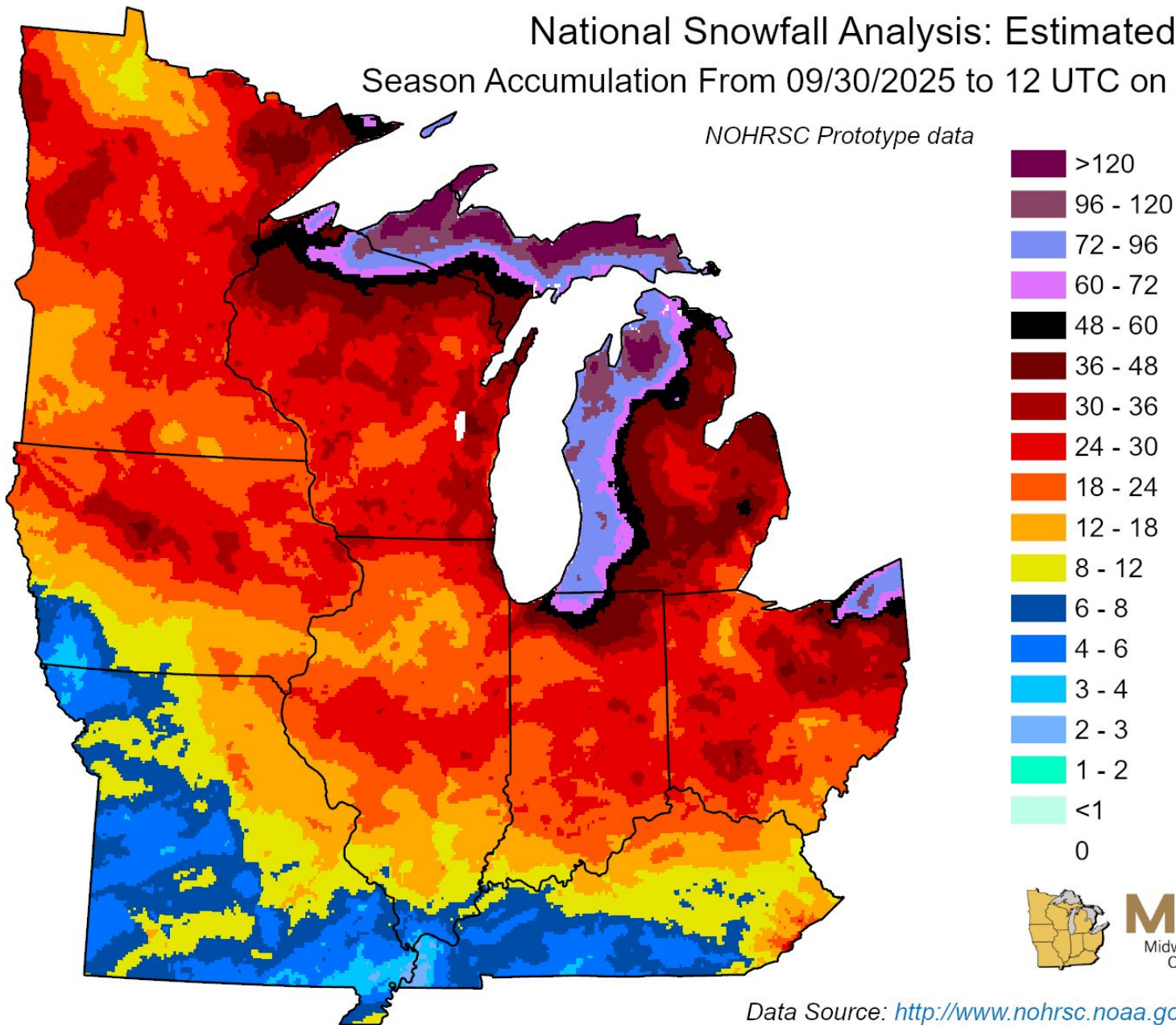
# Seasonal Snowfall

February 12, 2026  
1:42 PM CST

Maps show seasonal snowfall and seasonal comparison to normal

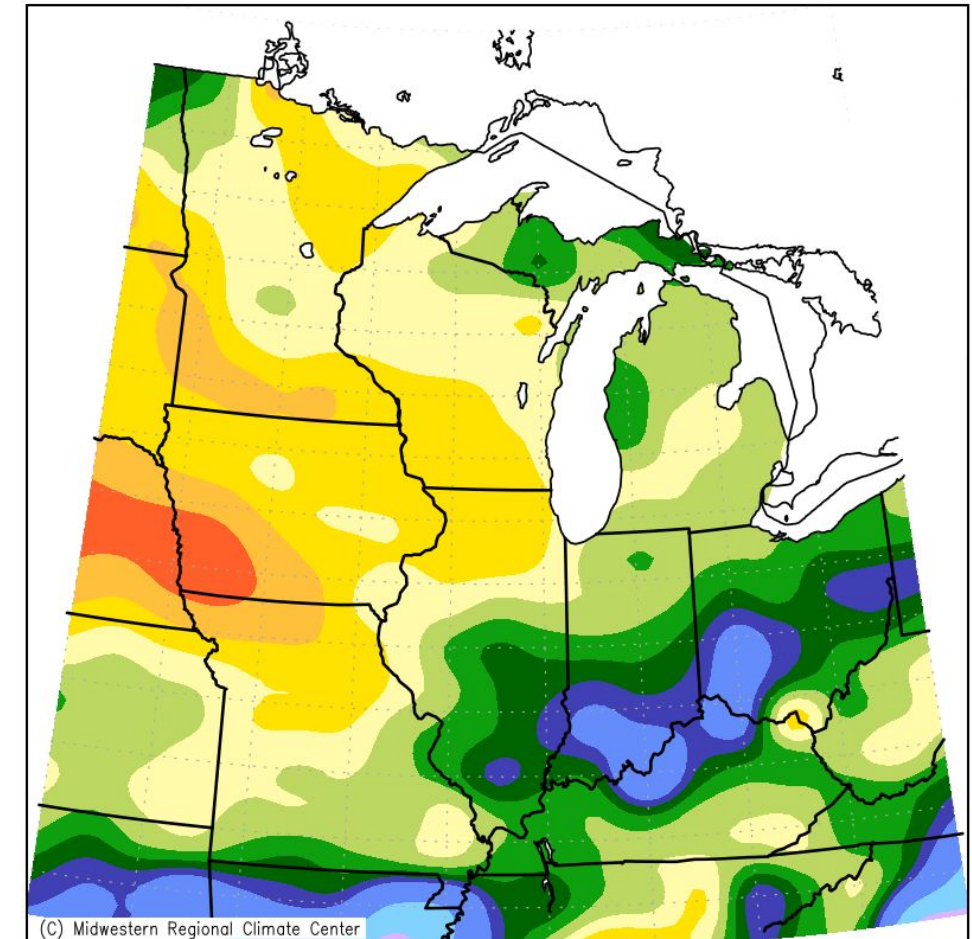
National Snowfall Analysis: Estimated (inches)  
Season Accumulation From 09/30/2025 to 12 UTC on 2/11/2026

NOHRSC Prototype data



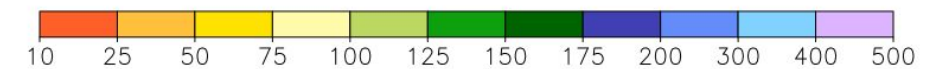
Data Source: [http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/snowfall\\_v2](http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/snowfall_v2)

Accumulated Snowfall: Percent of Mean  
December 1, 2025 to February 11, 2026



(C) Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Mean period is 1991-2020.



Images courtesy of MRCC



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

National Weather Service  
Quad Cities, IA/IL



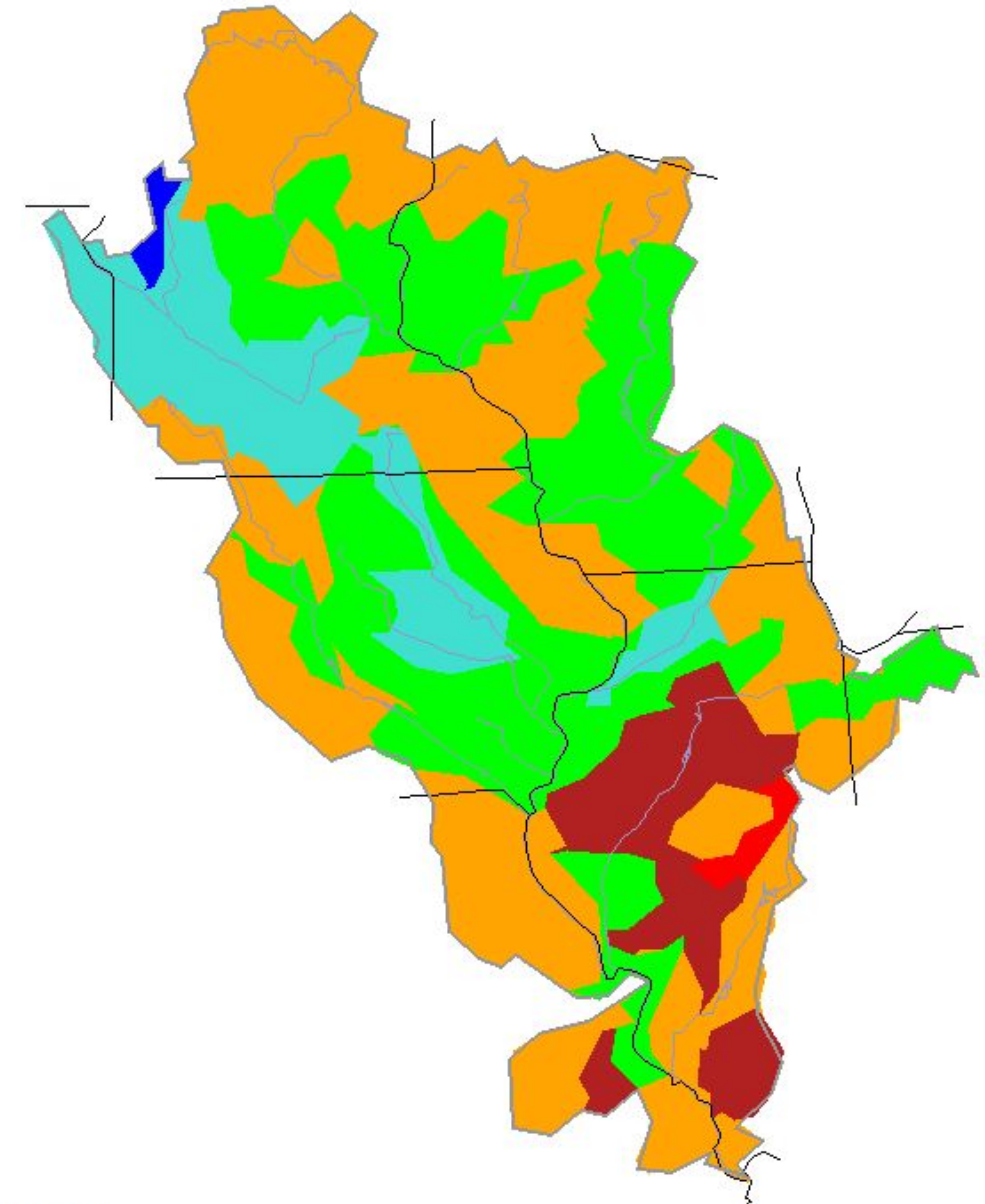
# River Levels

February 12, 2026  
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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

Wednesday, February 11, 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		



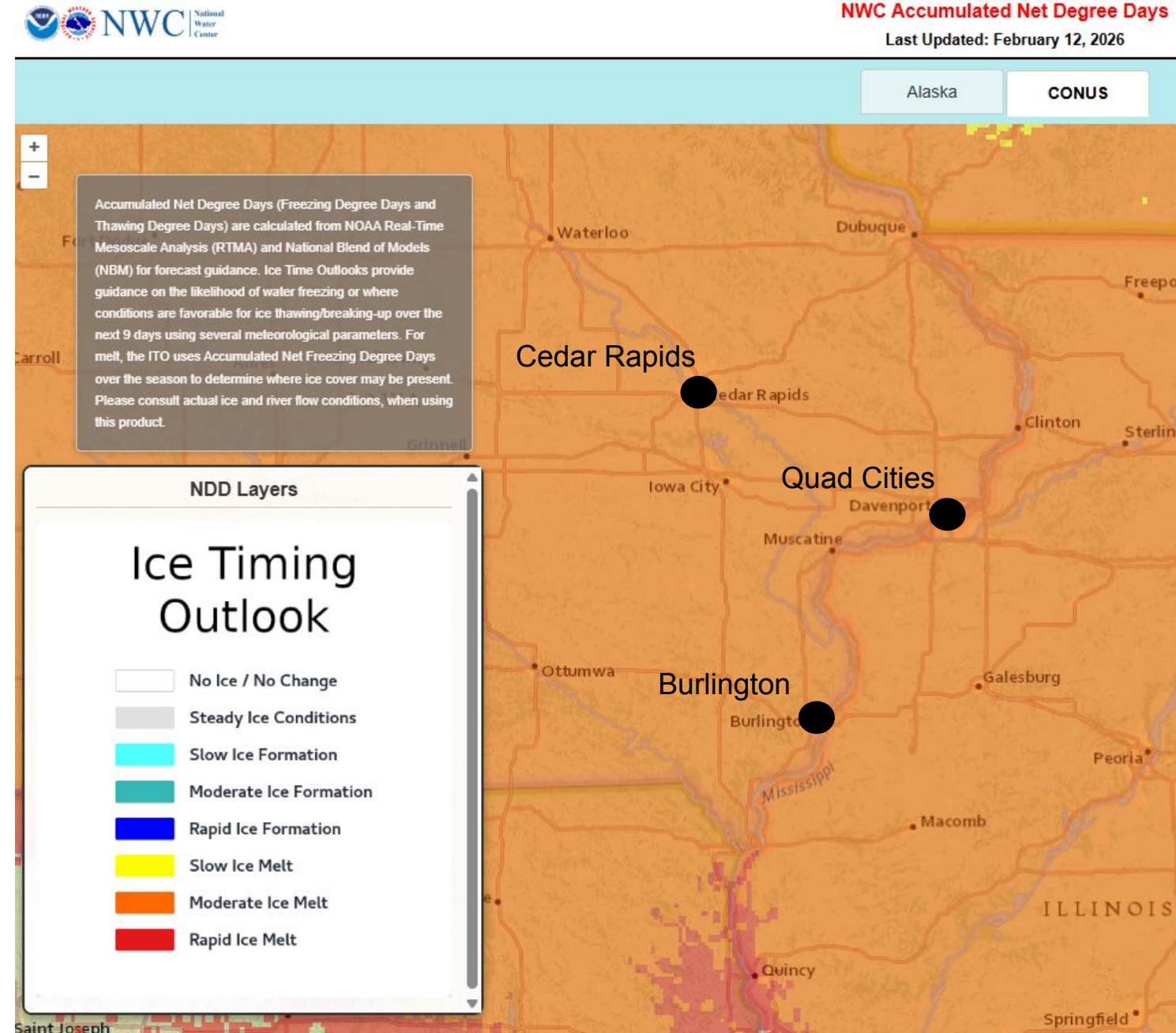


# River Ice Conditions

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Map shows the ice timing outlook for Feb 15-17

- There is ice cover on all area rivers
  - Many have long stretches of 75-100% ice coverage with some stretches of open water mainly downstream of dams
- There is some concern for ice jams on some tributary waters
  - Main factor that would increase ice jam threat is heavy rainfall during ongoing ice melt
- Moderate ice melt indicated for short period in mid-Feb could lead to increased ice jam potential





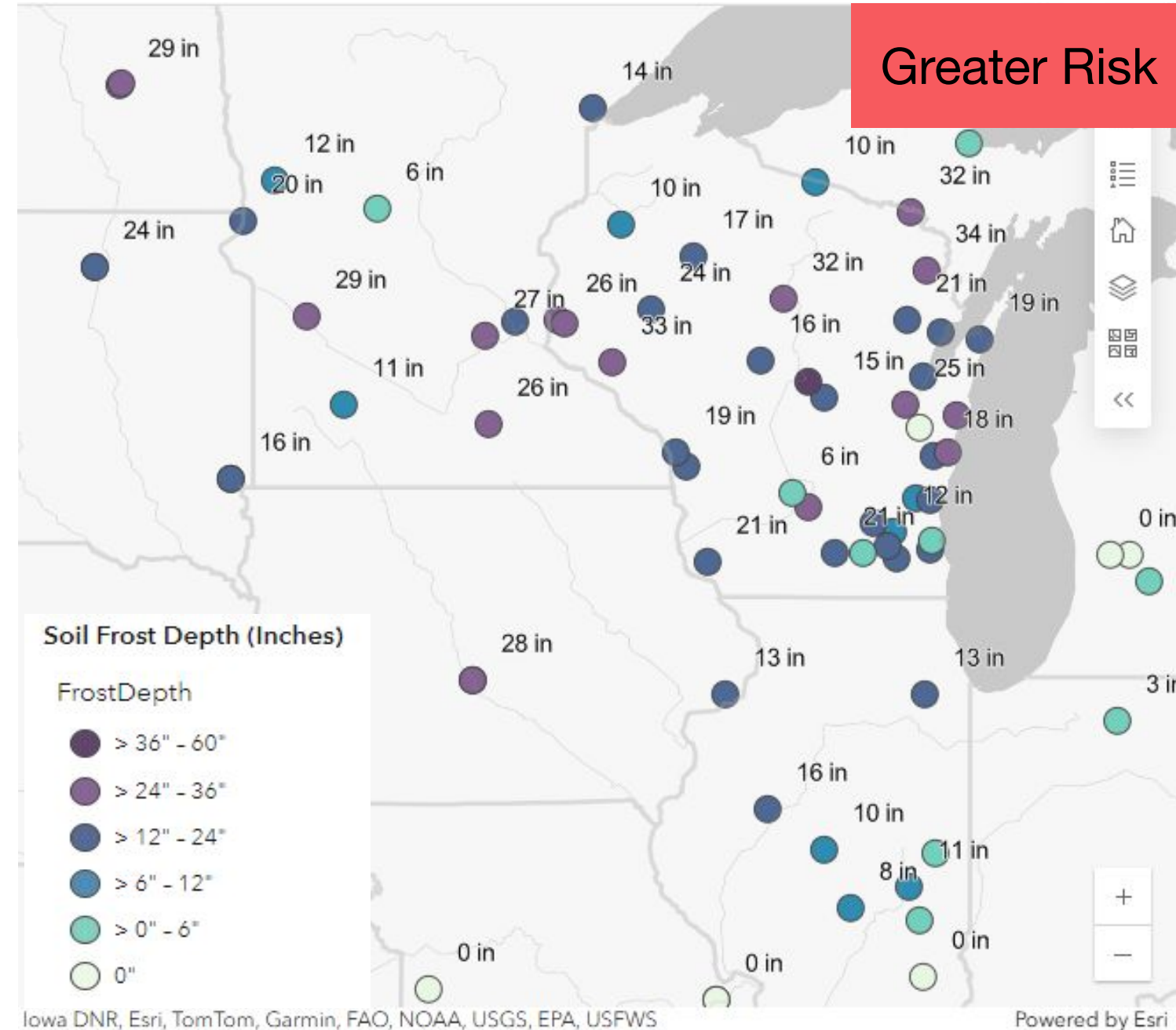
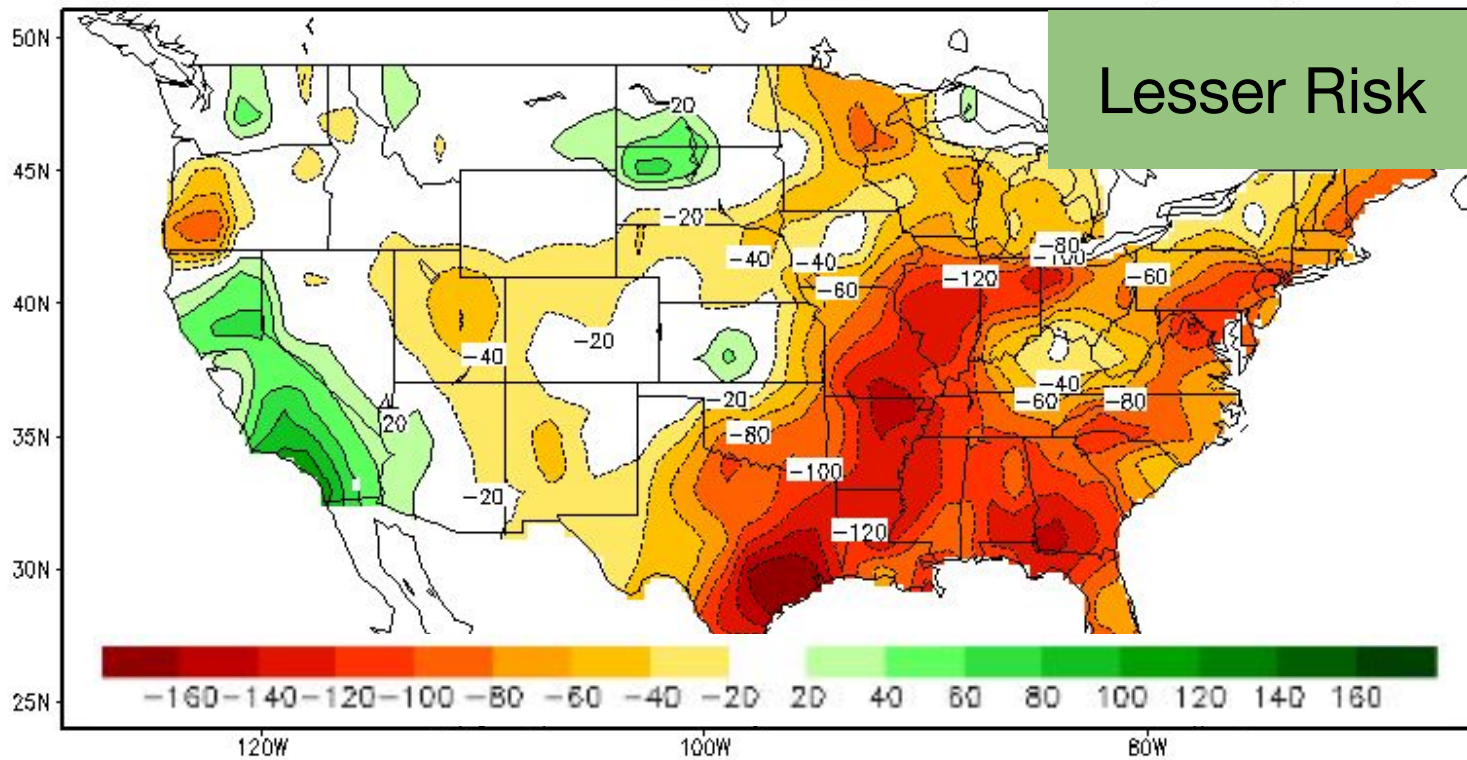
# Soil Moisture and Frost Depth

February 12, 2026  
1:42 PM CST

Maps show January soil moisture anomaly and current frost depth across the region

- Soil moisture is mainly below normal
- Frost depth is above normal
- Low soil moisture provides capacity for additional moisture after the ground thaws

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)  
JAN, 2026





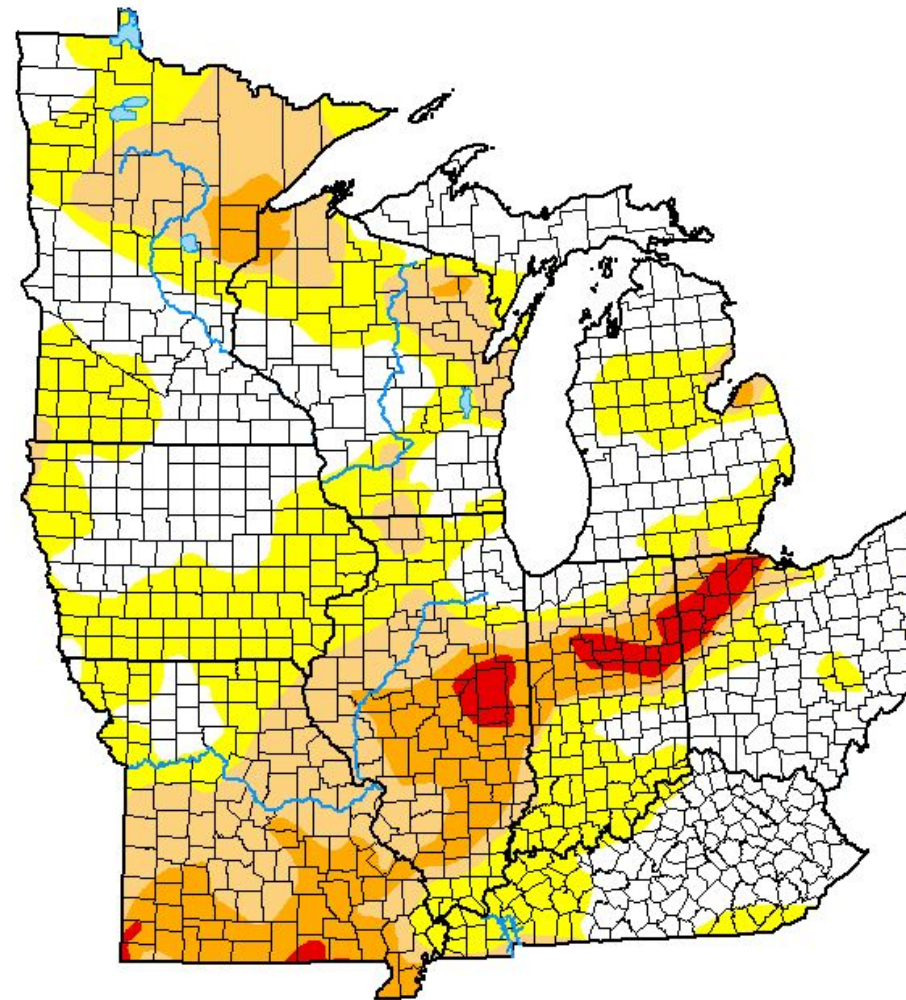
# Latest Drought Conditions

February 12, 2026  
1:42 PM CST

Map shows the drought status across the Midwest

- Much of the area is abnormally dry with portions of northwest and north central Illinois in D1 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

## U.S. Drought Monitor Midwest



February 10, 2026  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	37.66	62.34	31.21	12.29	2.15	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 02-03-2026	40.02	59.98	28.10	9.48	2.13	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 11-11-2025	36.37	63.63	35.18	10.83	1.43	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-06-2026	28.39	71.61	36.73	8.95	1.94	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-30-2025	34.12	65.88	34.69	10.17	0.37	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 02-11-2025	34.55	65.45	31.62	2.46	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Lindsay Johnson  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

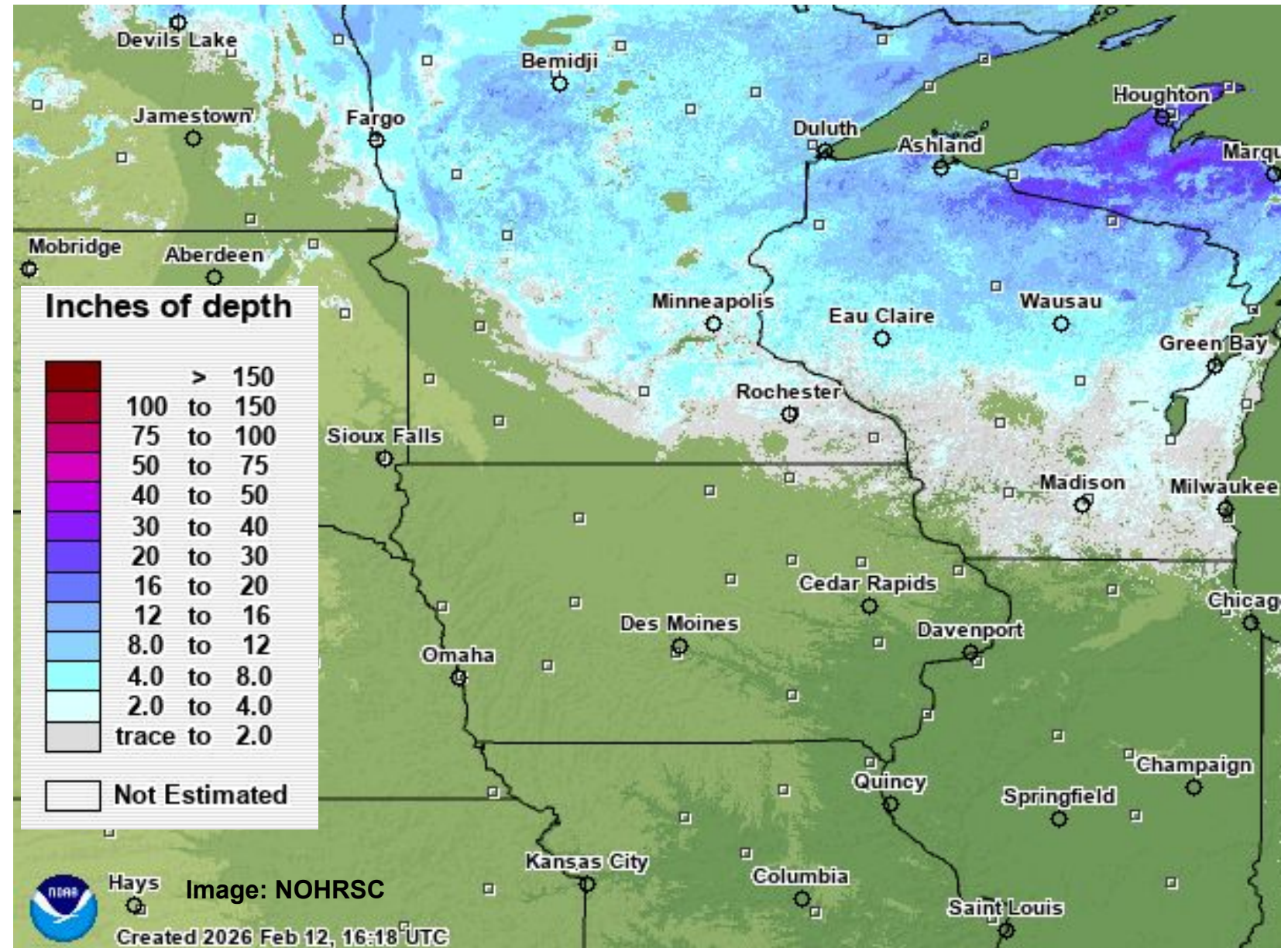


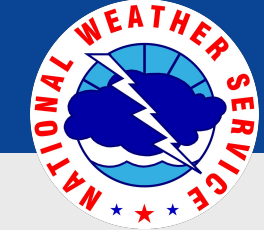
# Snow Conditions

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Map shows modeled snow depth as of Feb 12

- No snow depth across the local area
  - Most of the current snowpack is across the Upper Mississippi Valley
    - Snow water equivalent near the headwaters is around 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





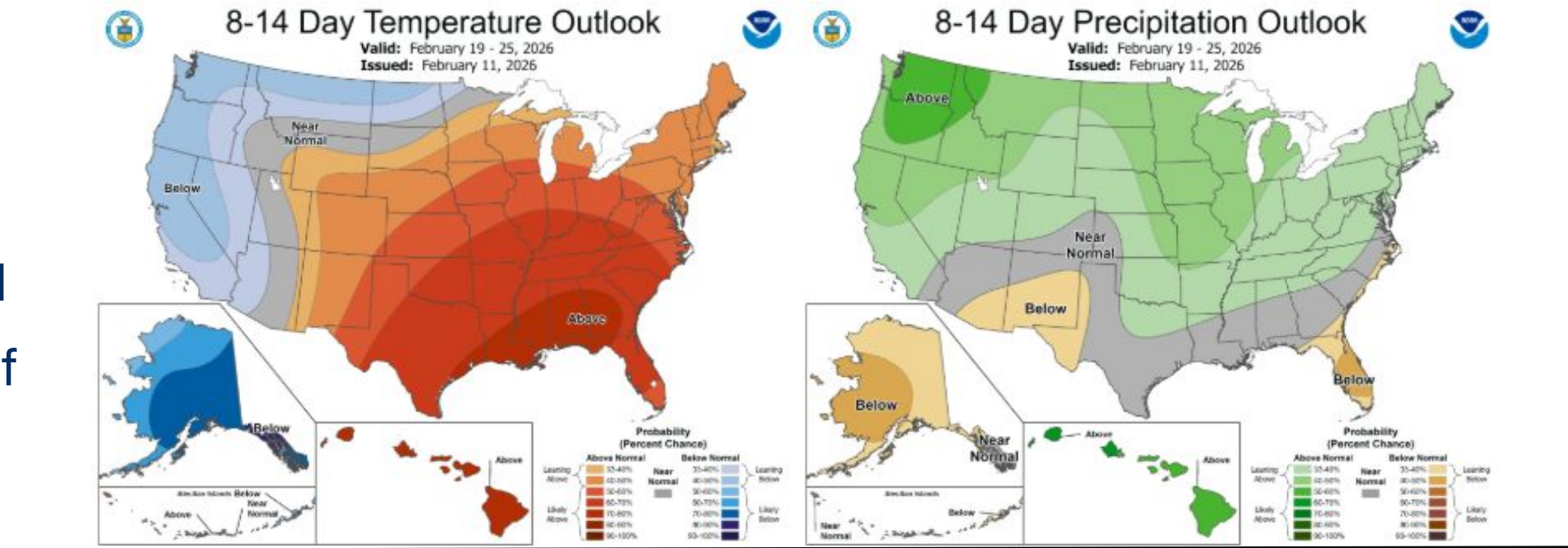
# Spring Weather Outlook

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

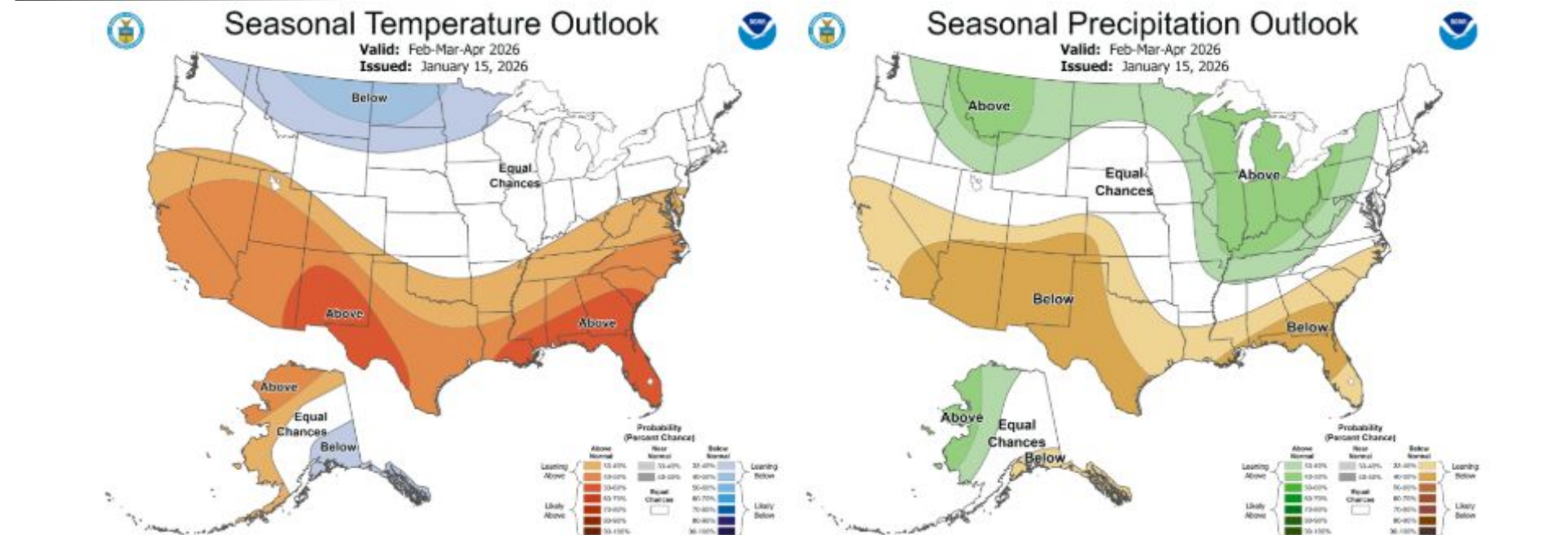
## Second Half of February Outlook

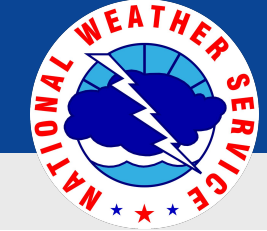
- Above normal temperatures favored
- Above normal precipitation favored
- Possible increased flood potential if above normal precipitation is realized



## Seasonal Outlook

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





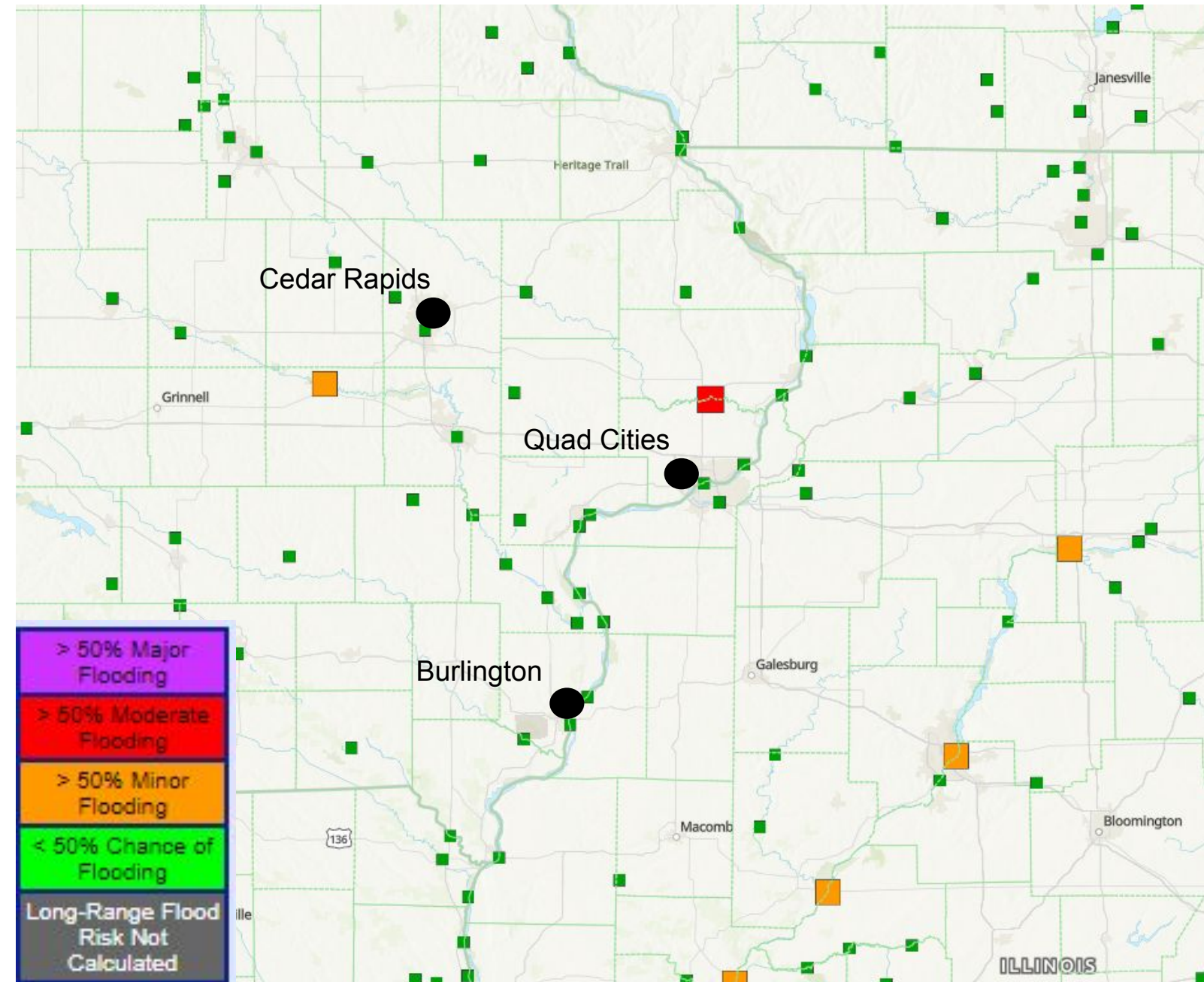
# Long Range Flood Outlook

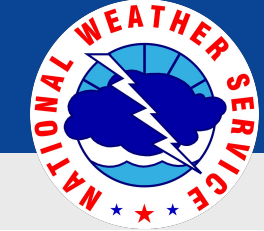
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Map shows probability of exceeding flood stage

Locations with chances for flooding:

- Around a 50% or higher chance to reach the labeled flood stage
- The Mississippi River has <50% chance for any flooding at this time
- The tributaries hold the greater chance for spring flooding, but with that said, 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 and frost melt, 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

- February 26, 2026

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## Additional Resources

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

