

March 12, 2026
1:44 PM CDT

2026 Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook

National Weather Service
Green Bay

March 12, 2026



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

National Weather Service
Green Bay, WI



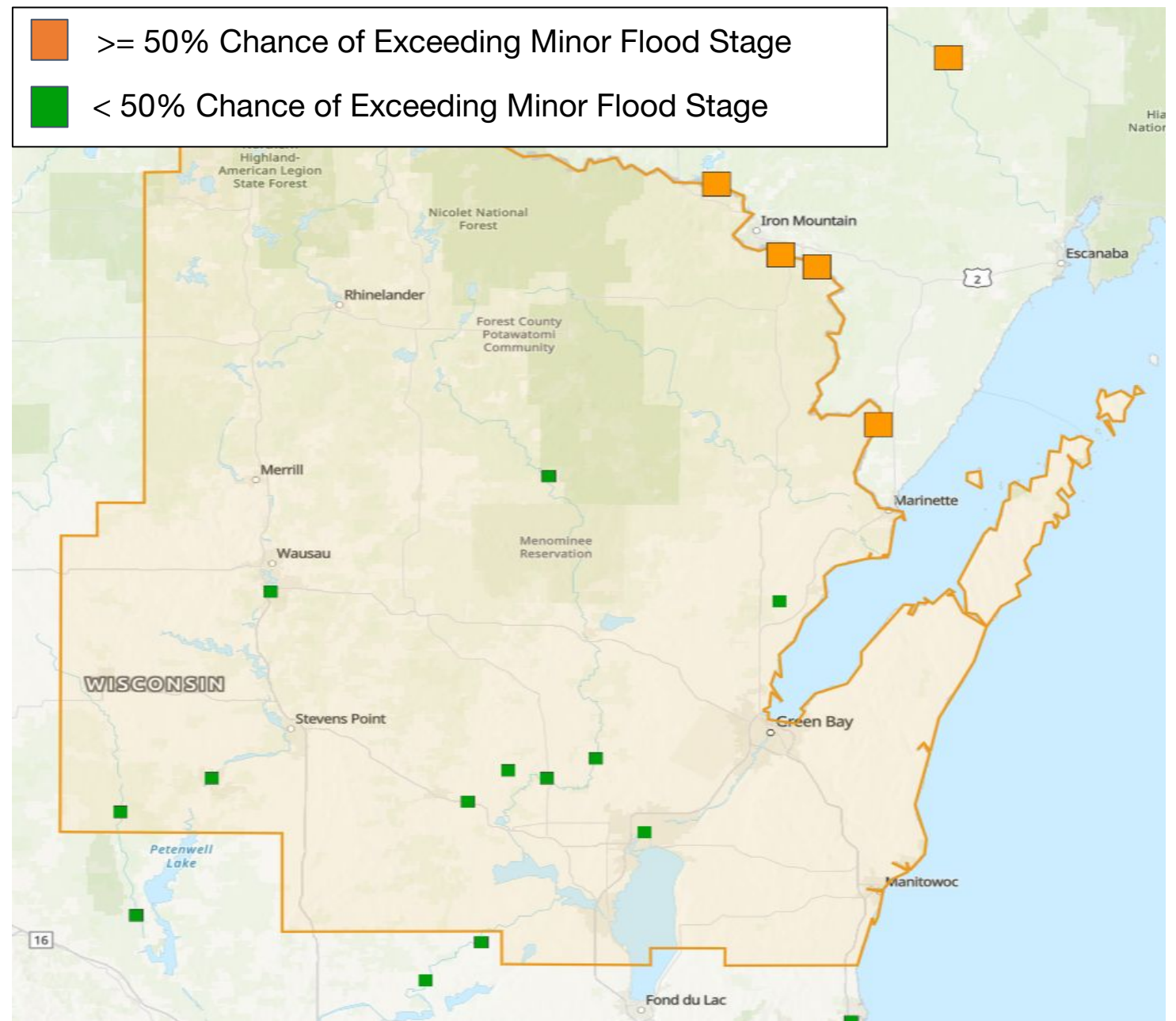
Spring Flood Outlook

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Mid March 2026 Outlook

Key Messages

- Normal to below normal risk of spring flooding. Minor flooding is likely in areas that are typically prone to flooding in the spring.
- Flood risk following individual rain or snow events (including the upcoming ones into early next week) may be increased.
- River system that has greatest risk of seeing at least widespread minor flooding is the Menominee River.
- SWE is above normal over far north-central WI, but is below normal elsewhere. Subject to change with the expected snow through the weekend.
- Precipitation and rate of snowmelt through spring will be one of the most important flood risk factors.





Spring Flood Outlook

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

Overall Risk of Spring Flooding:

Normal to Below Normal Risk

Overall, there is a normal to below normal risk of spring flooding. Minor flooding likely will occur in areas that are typically prone to flooding in the spring. *Also, flood risk following rain or snow events (including the upcoming ones through the weekend) may be increased.

At this time, due to the above average snowpack in western Upper Michigan, the only river system that is expected to see an above average risk of flooding is the Menominee River.

Risk Potential: Lesser Risk Normal Risk Greater Risk To Be Determined

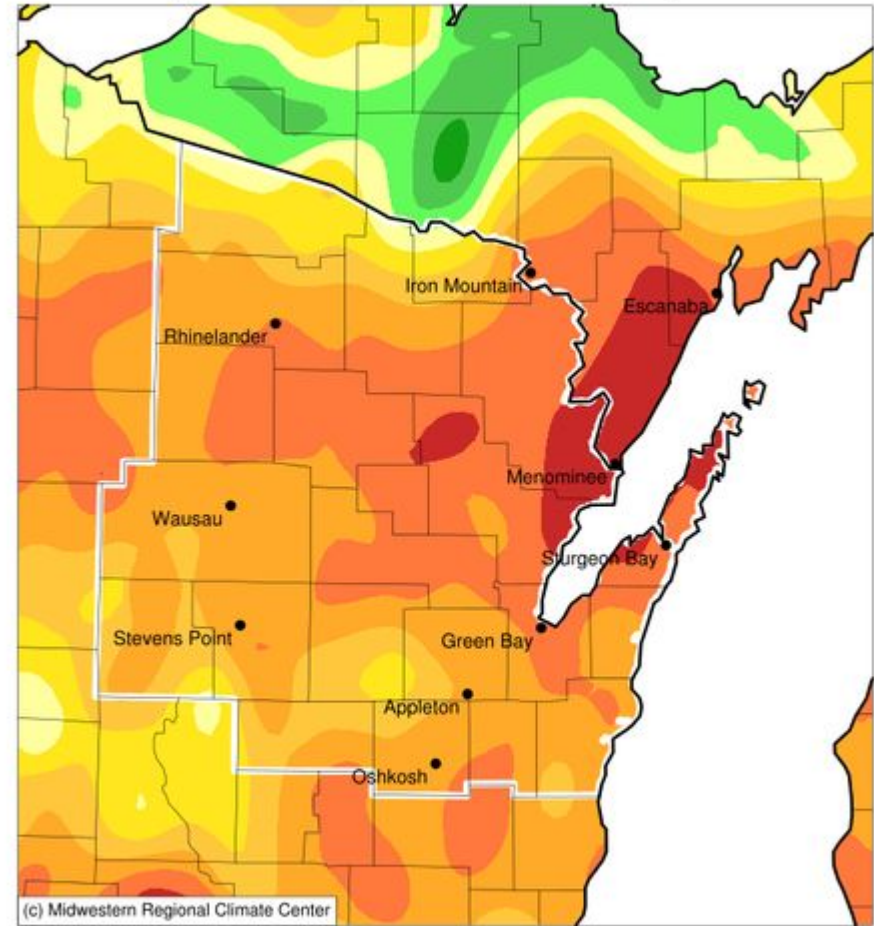


Fall and Winter Precipitation

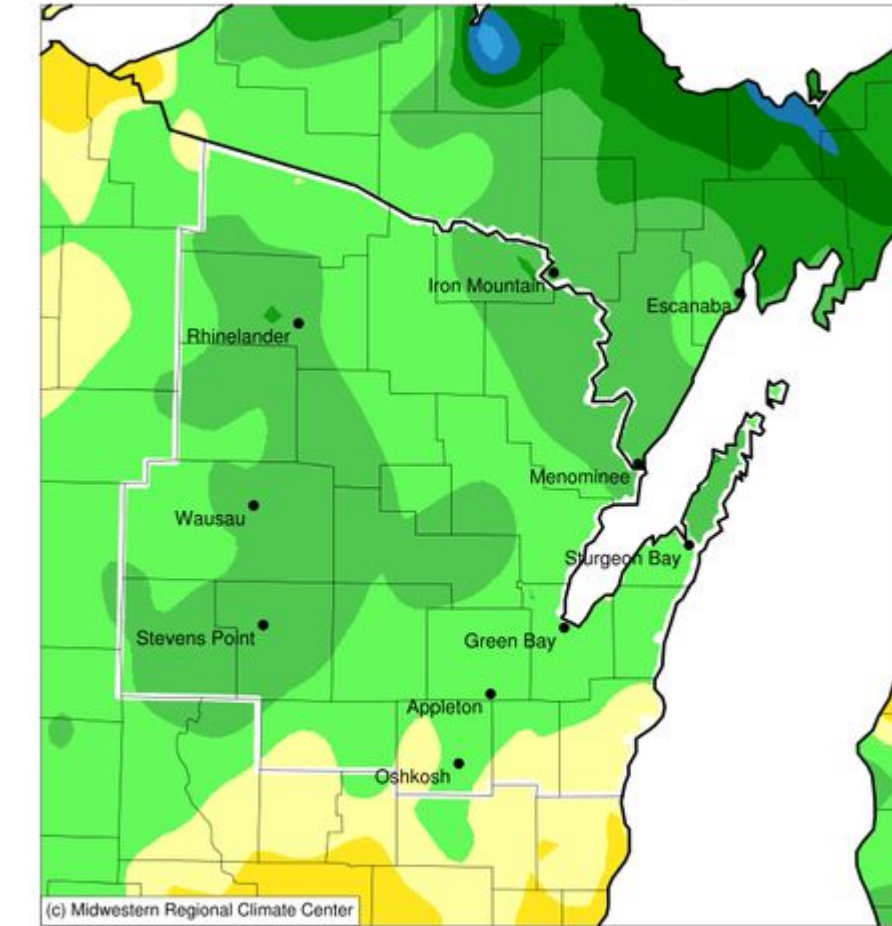
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Precipitation 9/1/25 through 11/30/25 (Left) | Precipitation 12/1/25 through 2/28/26 (Right)

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals
September 01, 2025 to November 30, 2025



Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals
December 01, 2025 to February 28, 2026



- Precipitation well below normal for Fall
- Precipitation normal to above normal for Winter





March Precipitation and Departures

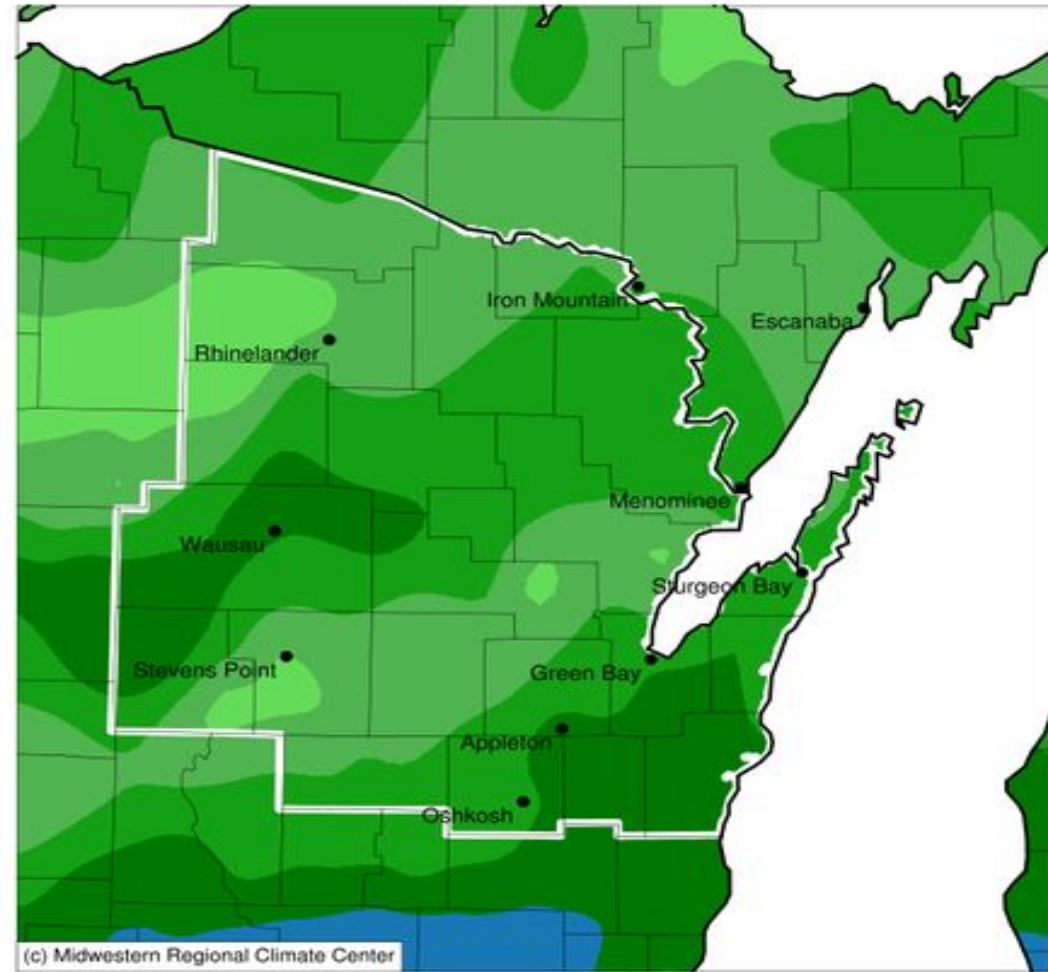
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Precipitation 3/1/26 to 3/11/26 (Left) | Precipitation Departure 3/1/26 to 3/11/26 (Right)

- Above normal precipitation for first part of March.
- Precipitation thus far mainly in the form of rain, melted snow, except far northern WI.
- Additional snow and mixed precipitation for rest of the month, most especially into early next week.

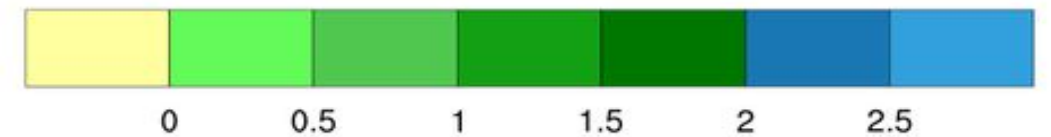
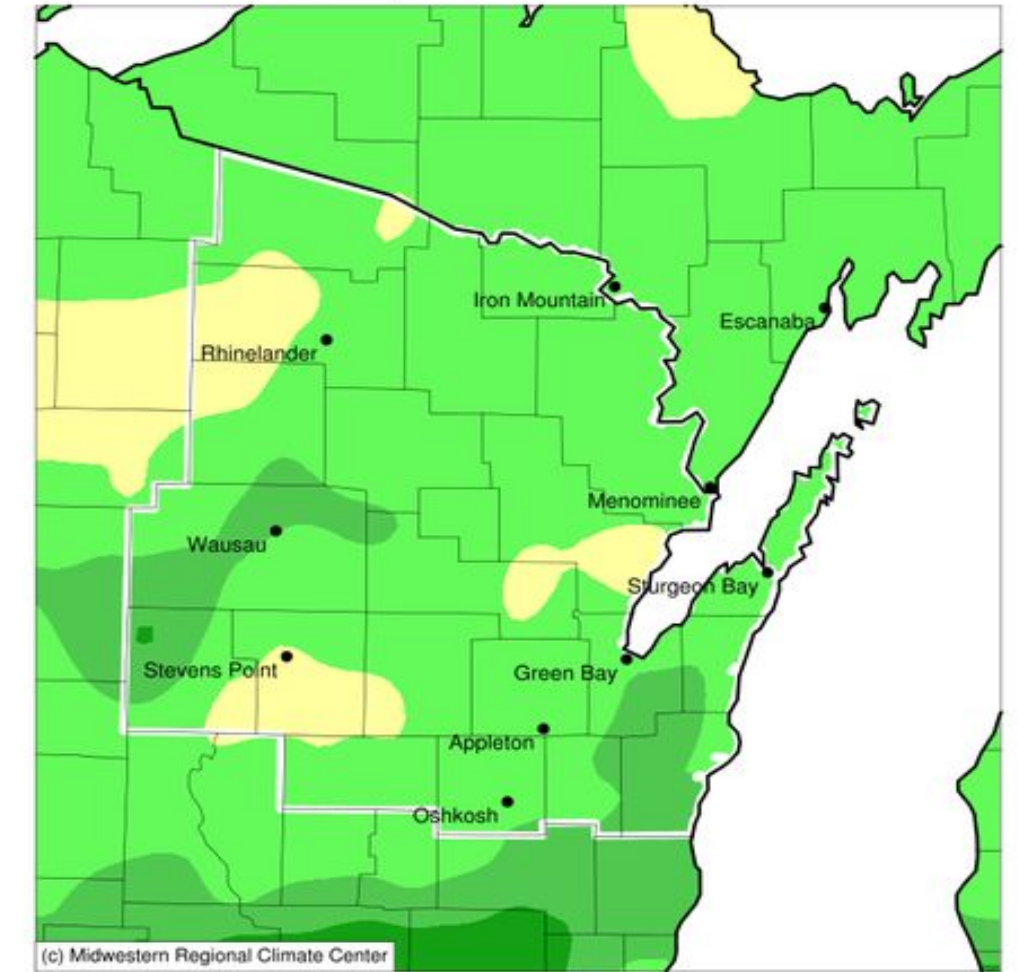
Accumulated Precipitation (in)

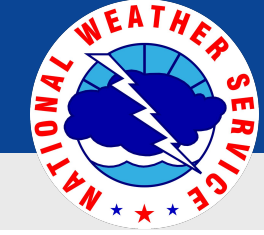
March 01, 2026 to March 11, 2026



Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals

March 01, 2026 to March 11, 2026



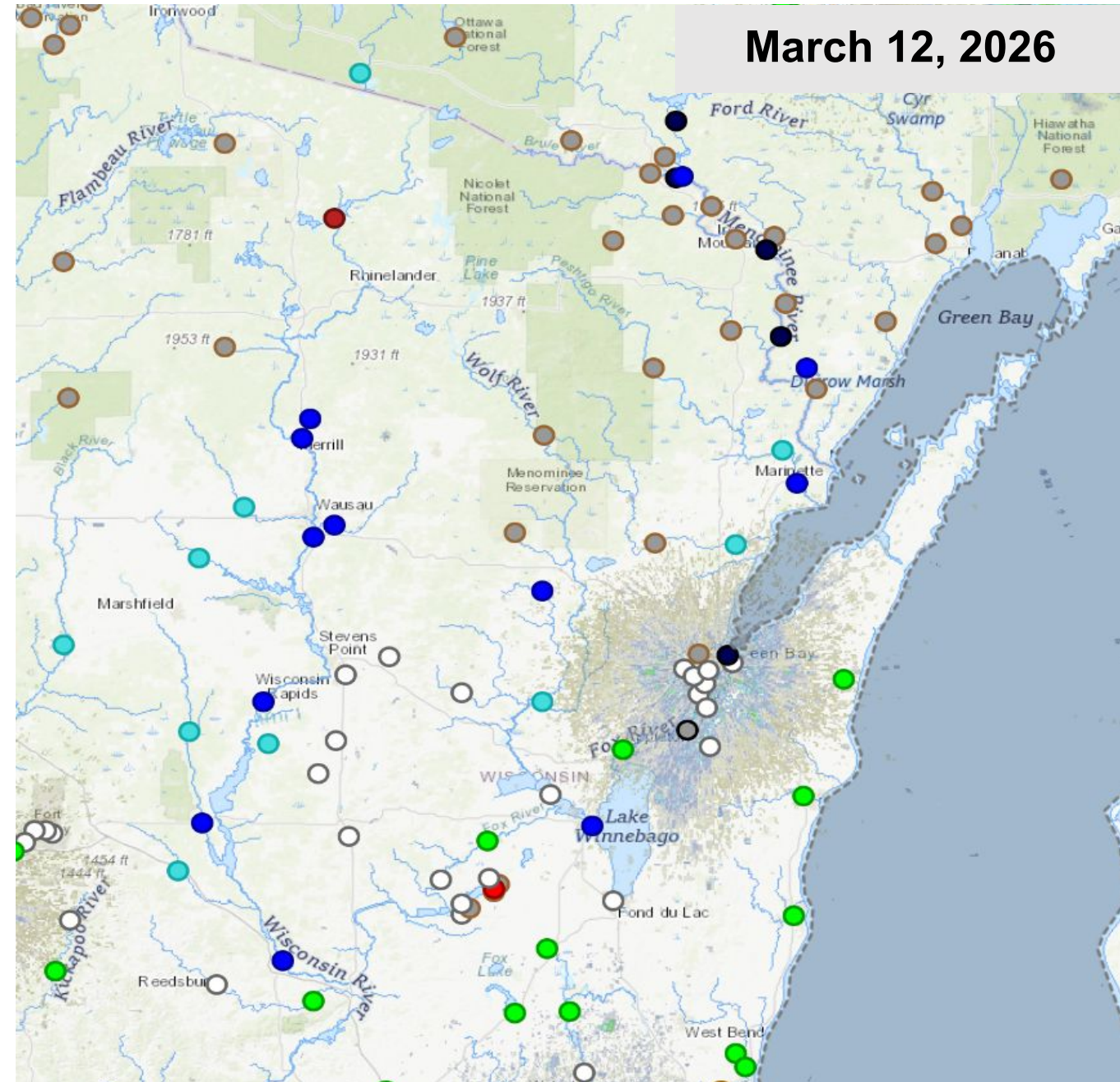
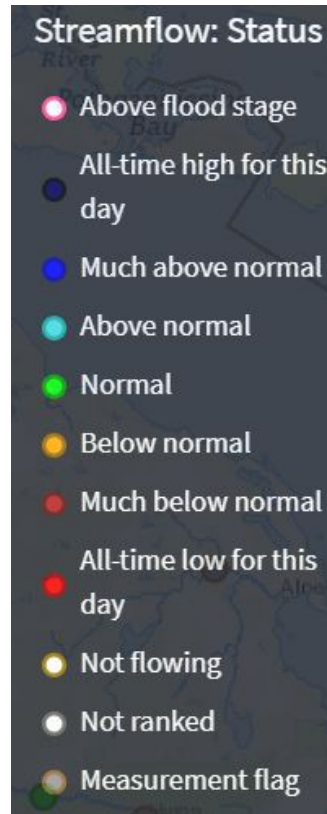


River Levels and River Ice

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Map shows streamflow status from USGS on 3/12/26

- Overall river flows have risen to normal to above normal
- Wisconsin and Menominee River are above normal
- Ice is decreasing on rivers with recent warmer temperatures and rain.
 - Rivers that still have some ice are indicated by measurement flag on the image to the right
- Overall, the risk for localized ice jam flooding has decreased compared to last few weeks.



[Link: https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/](https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/)





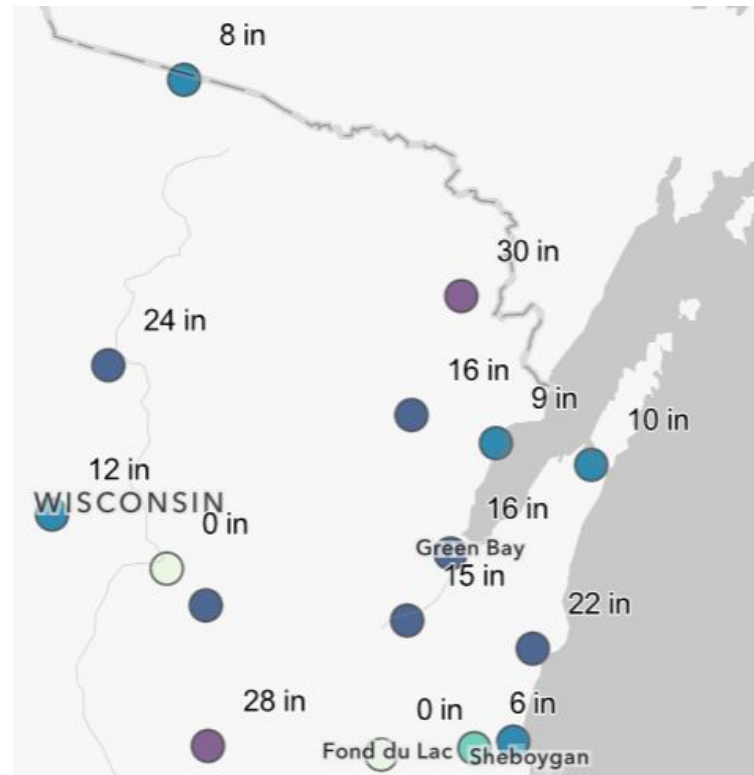
Soil Moisture and Frost Depth

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Frost Depth - 3/12/26 (Left) | Soil Moisture Percentile - 3/10/26 (Right)

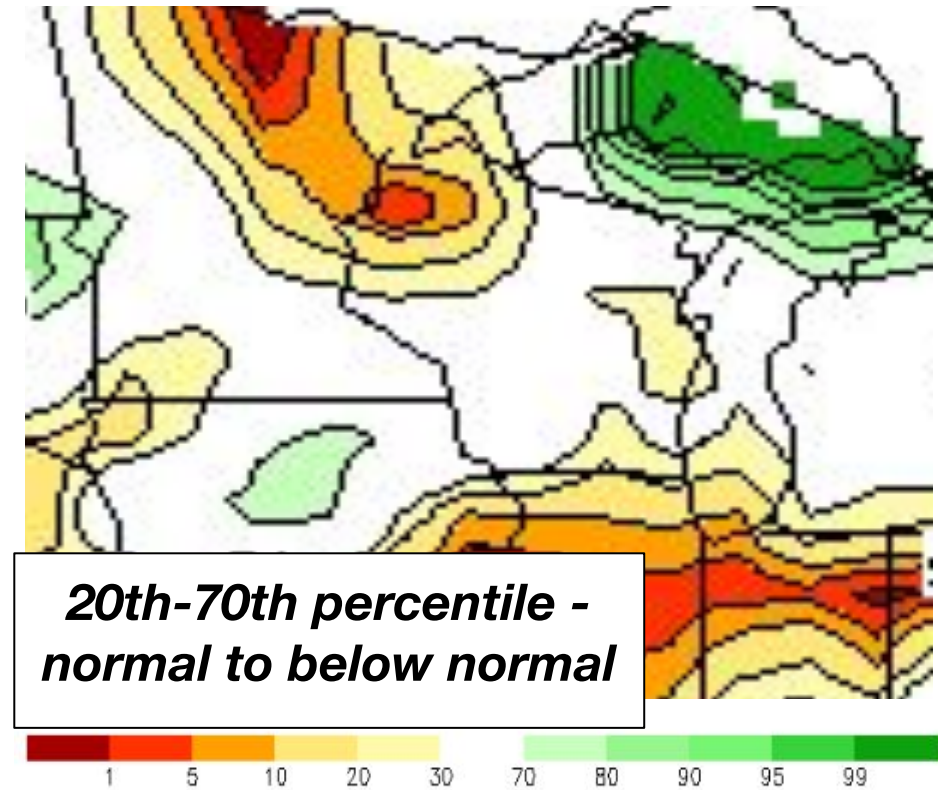
- Soil moisture remains normal to below normal. Recent precipitation has resulted in slightly more soil moisture than early this year.
- Frost depth varies from 8 to 30 inches. Normal to above normal.
- Lower soil moisture will allow for infiltration of spring rain and melting snow, as long as surface temperatures (2") are above freezing.

Frost Depth



https://www.weather.gov/ncrfc/lmi_frostdepthmap

Soil moisture ranking percentile



https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Soilmst_Monitoring/US/Soilmst/Soilmst.shtml



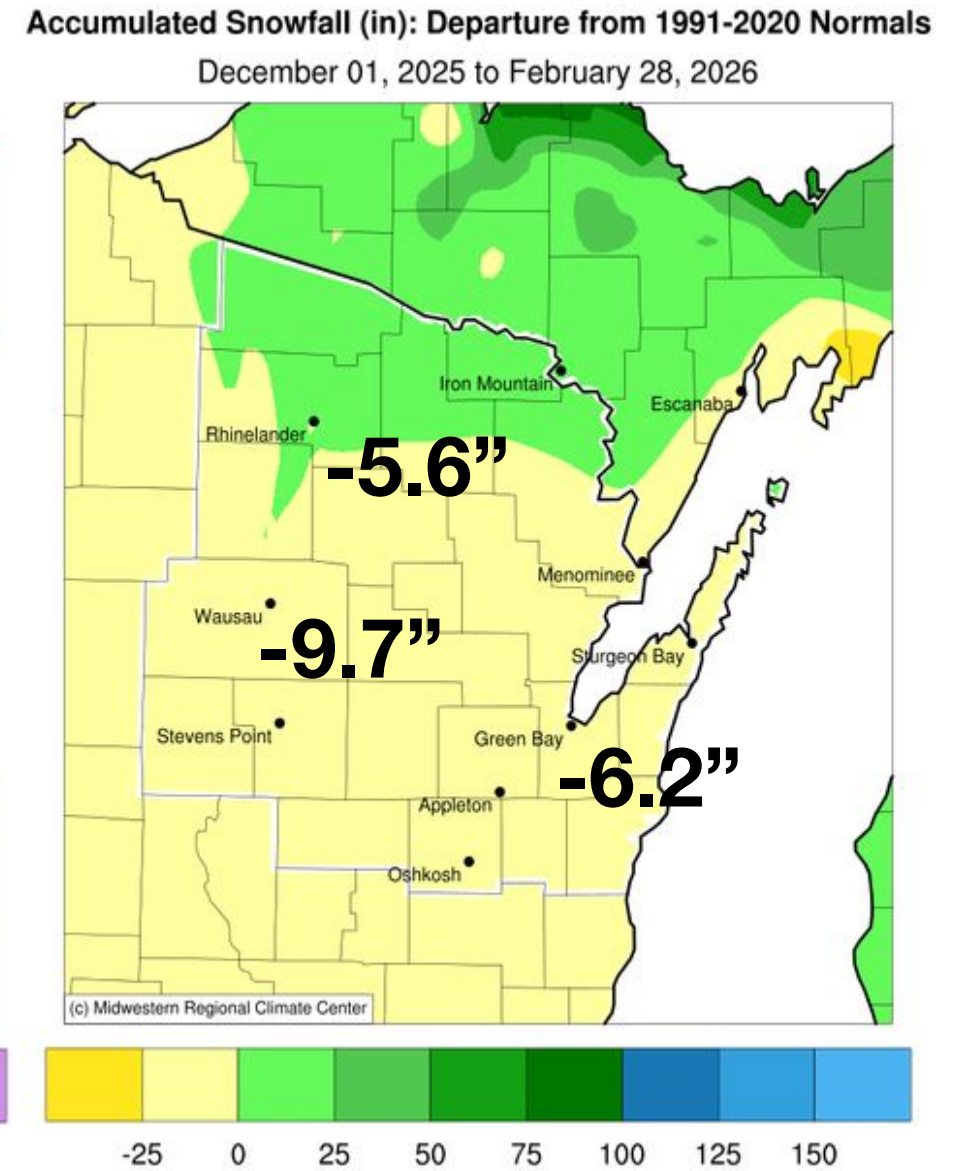
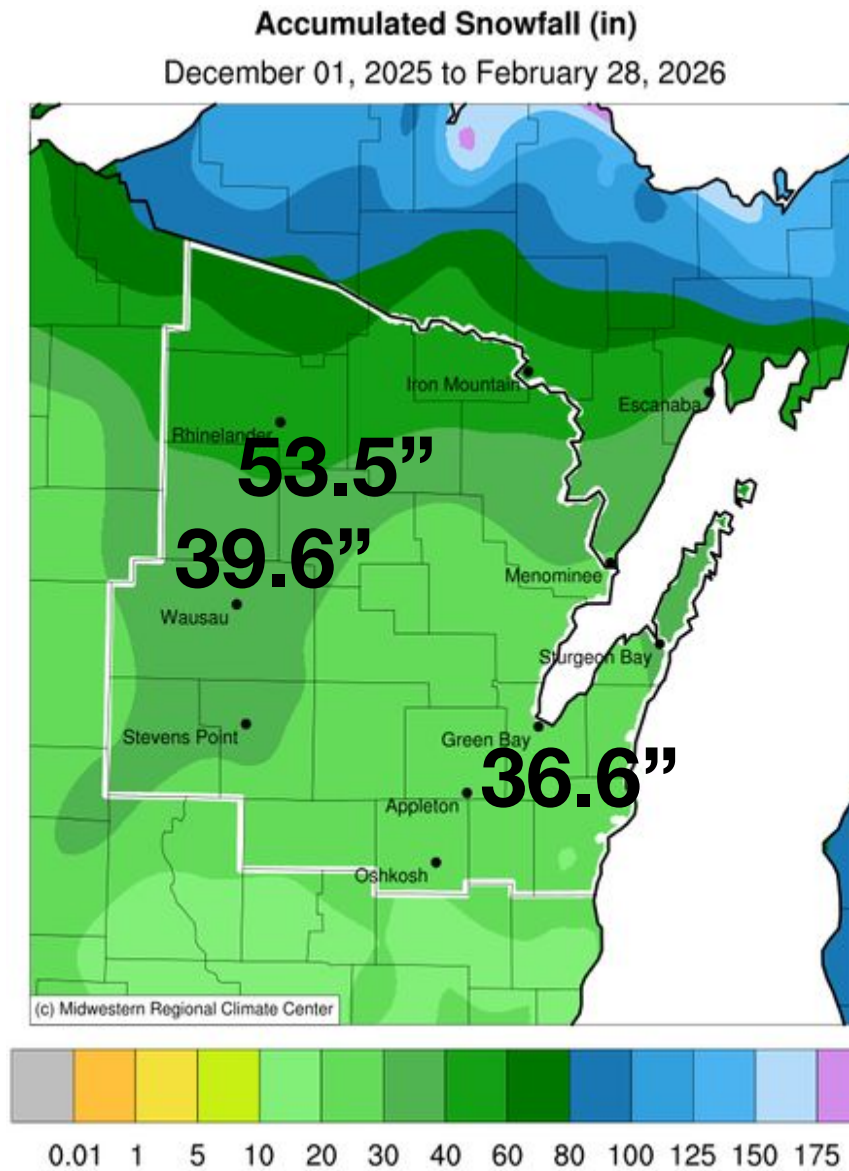


Winter Snow Conditions

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Snowfall 12/1/25 - 2/28/26 (left) | Snowfall Departure 12/1/25 - 2/28/26 (right)

- Winter snowfall ended up below normal, except near Upper Michigan border due to lake effect snow off Lake Superior.
- Portions of area have dropped to 10 to 20" below normal.
- Note: Does not include potential for snow tonight through the upcoming weekend.



mrcc.purdue.edu



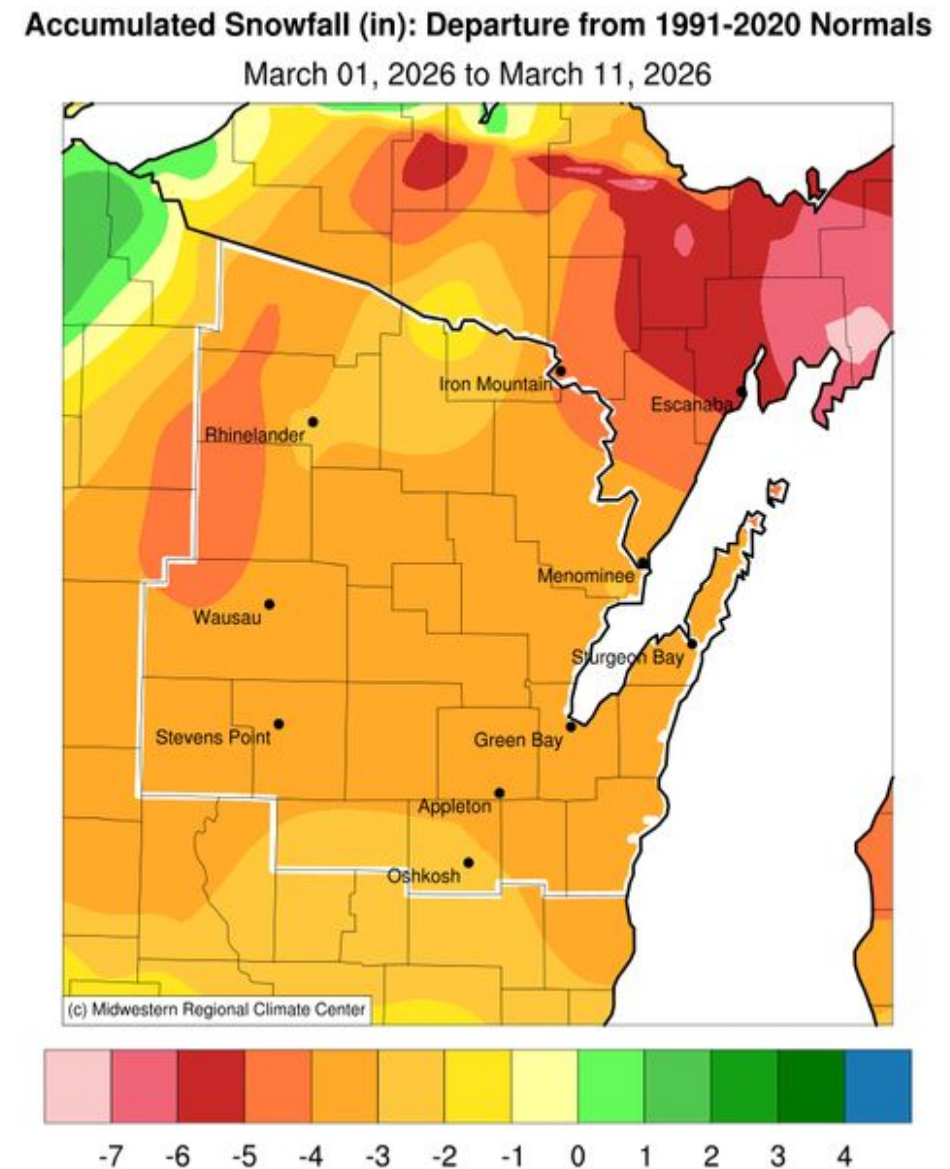
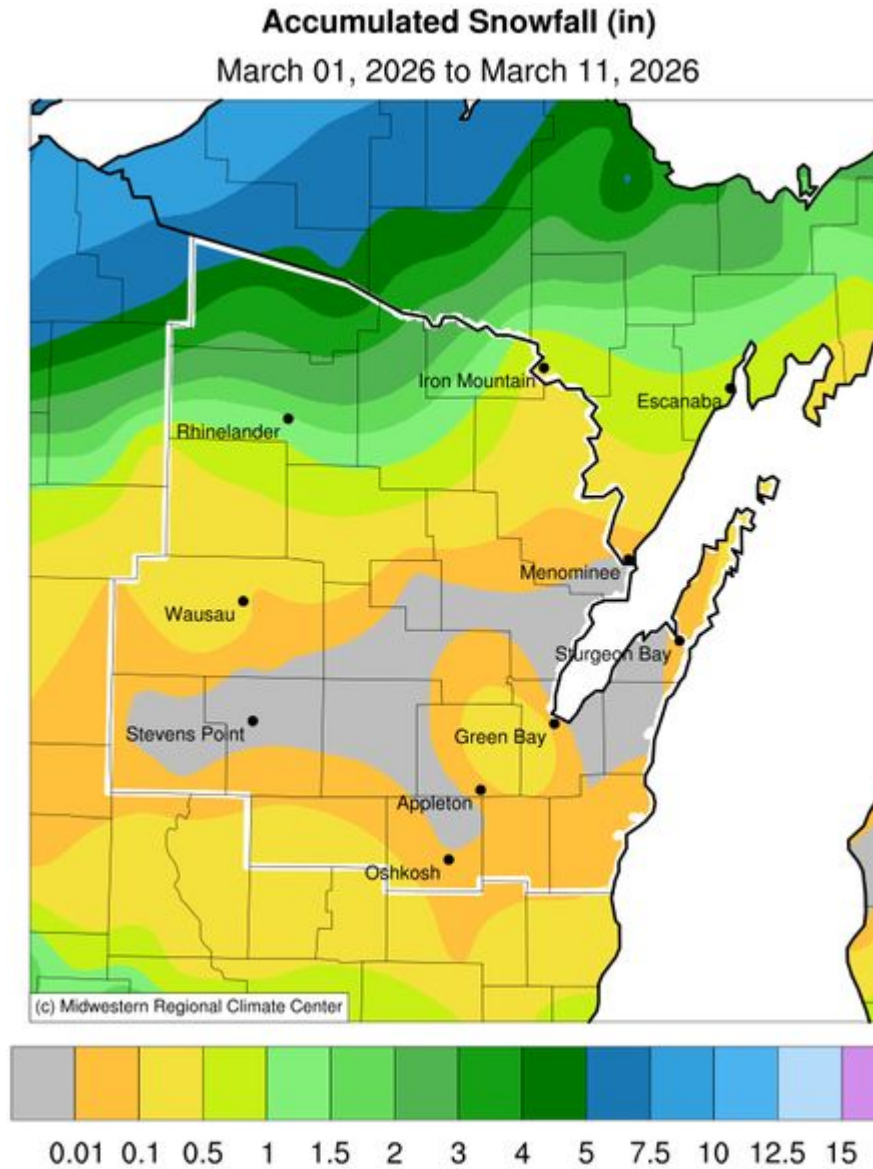


March Snow Conditions

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Snowfall 3/1/26 - 3/11/26 (left) | Snowfall Departure 3/1/26 - 3/11/26 (right)

- Most snowfall this month has occurred over north central WI.
- Snowfall has been below average for the entire area.
- Note: Does not include potential of snow into early next week.



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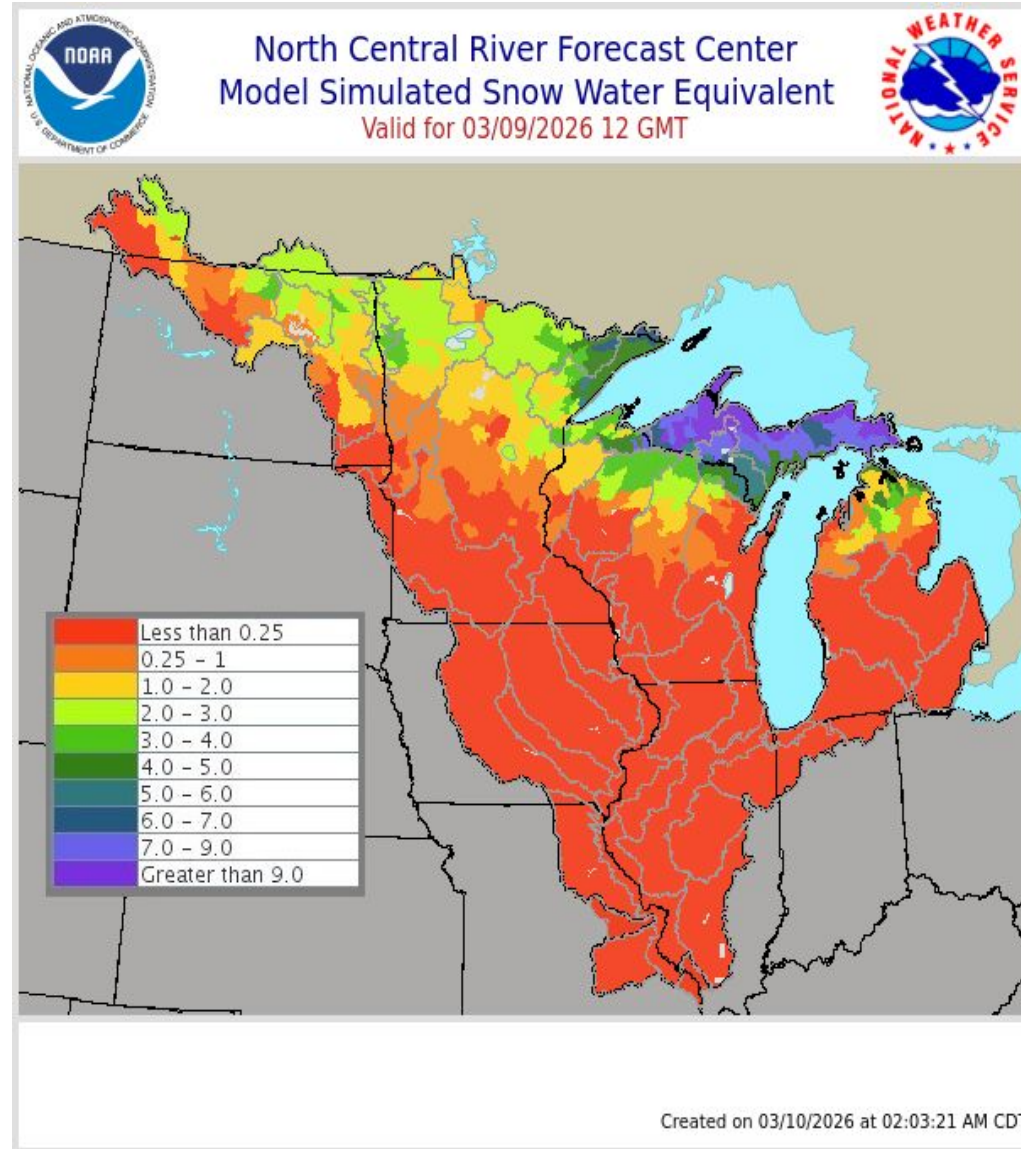


Snow Water Equivalent

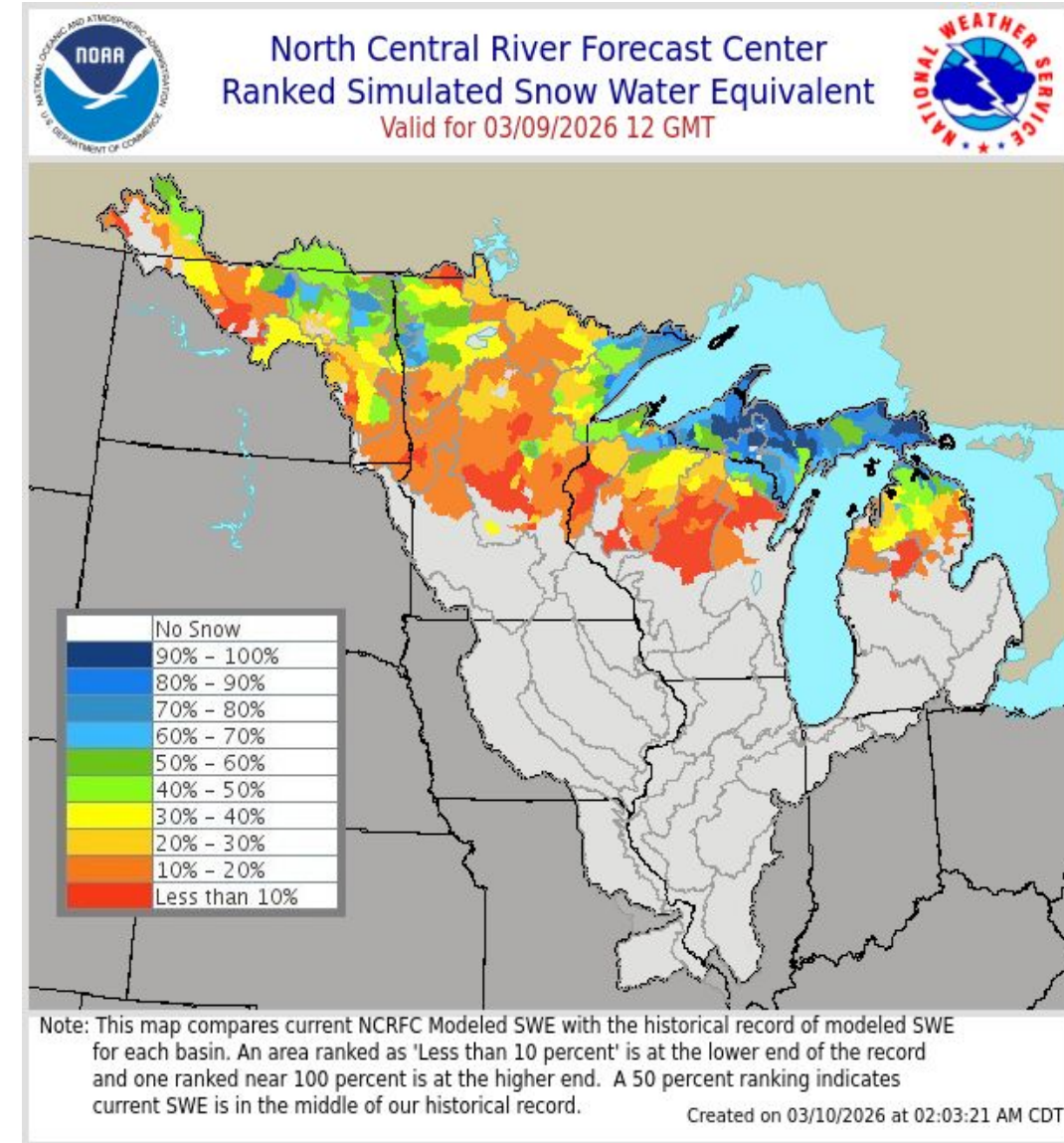
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Snow Water Equivalent (left) | Ranked Percentile Snow Water Equivalent (right)

- SWE below normal, except near the Upper Michigan border.
- The highest SWE in the region will impact the Menominee River basin.
- Elsewhere, minimal SWE values as snow has melted.
- Note: Does not include upcoming snow into early next week.

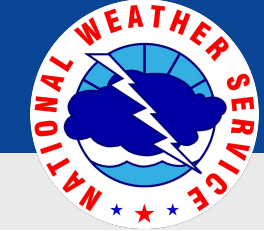


https://www.weather.gov/images/ncrfc/data/swe/SWEsim_ncrfc.png



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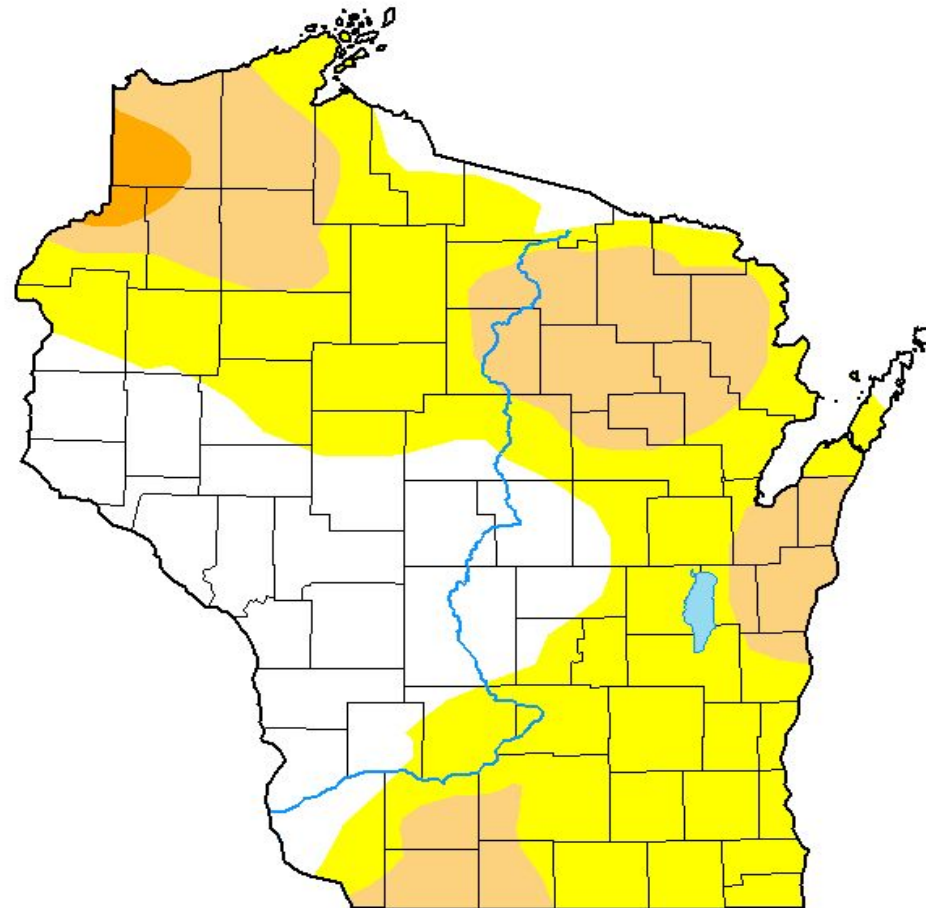
Latest Drought Conditions

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Map shows latest Drought Classification for Wisconsin (3/3/26)

- Abnormally dry to moderate drought remains over much of the area
- Slight improvement compared to last fall as severe drought classification over far northeast WI ended
- To this point, drought over the area has resulted in reduction in overall spring flood threat

U.S. Drought Monitor Wisconsin



March 10, 2026
(Released Thursday, Mar. 12, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	29.30	70.70	24.47	1.43	0.00	0.00
Last Week 03-03-2026	27.67	72.33	26.60	1.43	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-09-2025	2.45	97.55	56.47	12.63	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	2.76	97.24	53.46	12.62	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	64.44	35.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 03-11-2025	18.55	81.45	50.50	0.00	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>

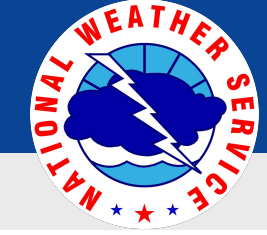
Author:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?WI>

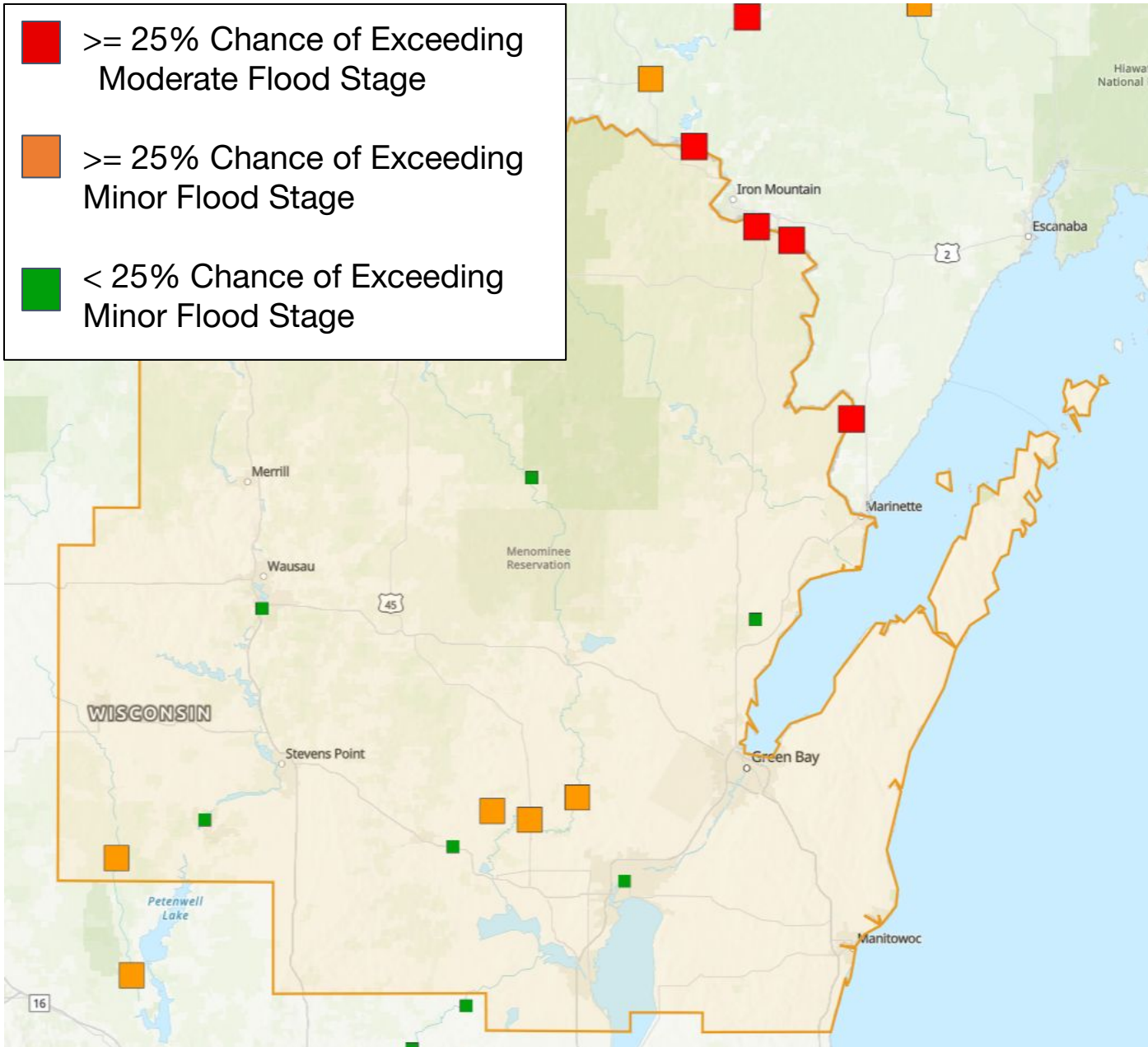


Long Range Flood Outlook

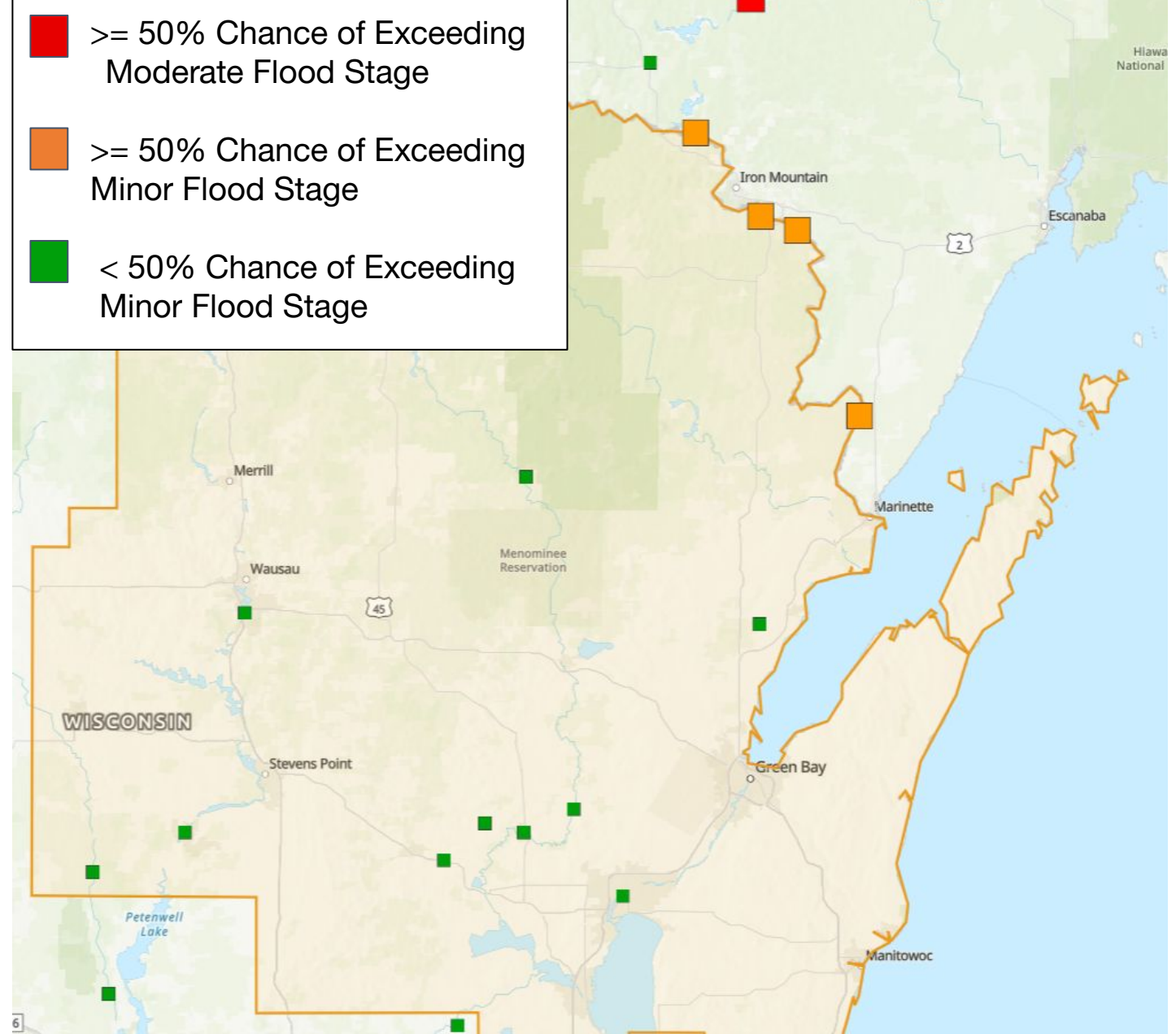
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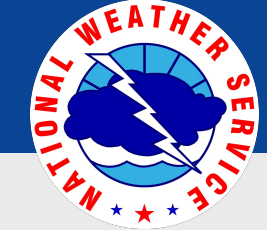
Probability of exceeding Minor/Moderate/Major Flood Stages Through May

- $\geq 25\%$ Chance of Exceeding Moderate Flood Stage
- $\geq 25\%$ Chance of Exceeding Minor Flood Stage
- $< 25\%$ Chance of Exceeding Minor Flood Stage



- $\geq 50\%$ Chance of Exceeding Moderate Flood Stage
- $\geq 50\%$ Chance of Exceeding Minor Flood Stage
- $< 50\%$ Chance of Exceeding Minor Flood Stage



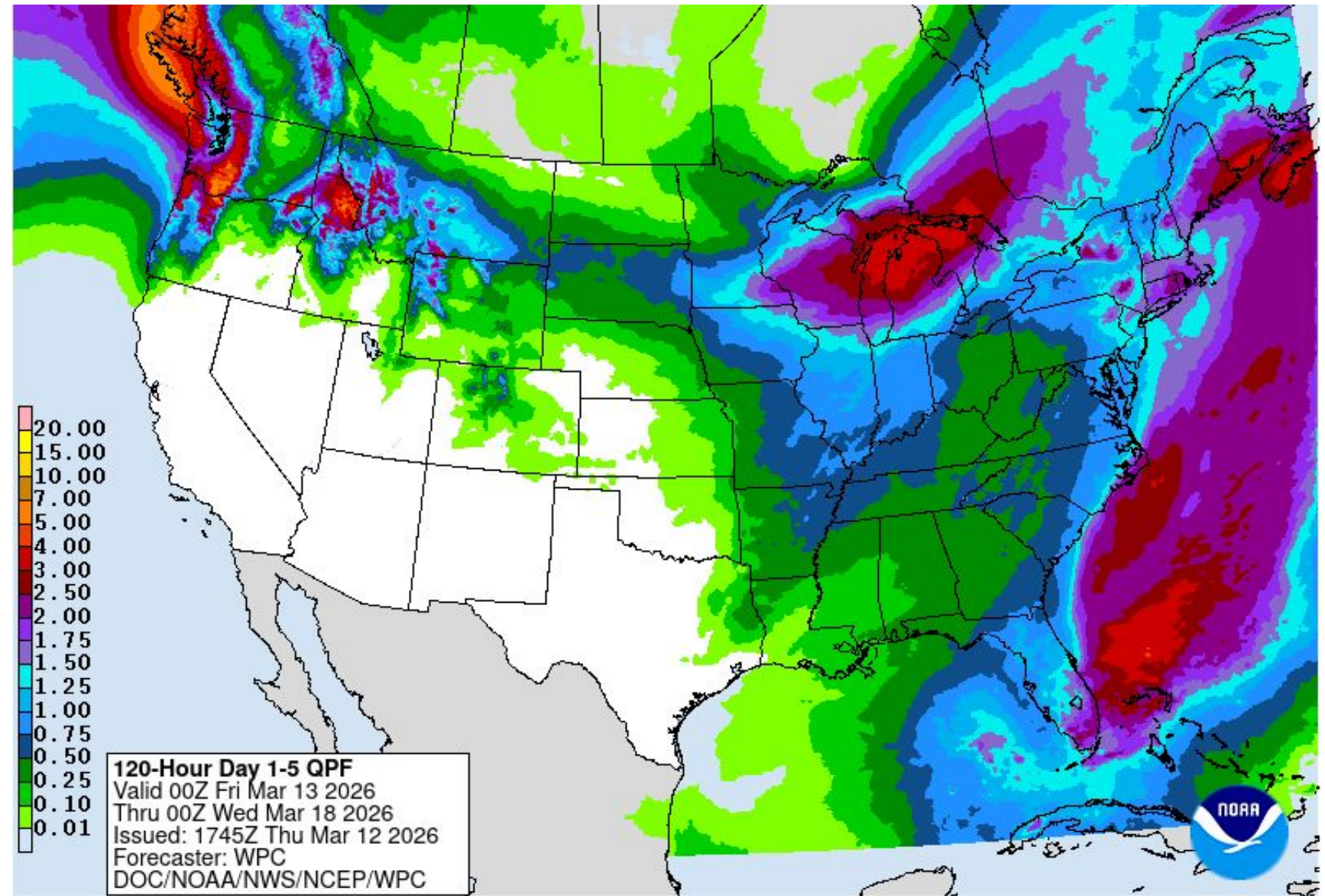


Near Term Weather Forecast

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Two large widespread systems bringing snow and mixed precipitation to WI

- Official forecast into next Tue 3/16/26 (right)
- Probability of 1" of liquid equivalent 7 am Saturday through 7 am Monday is 70-100%.
- Probability of 2" of liquid equivalent 7 am Saturday through 7 am Monday is 40-70%.
- Probability of 3" of liquid equivalent 7 am Saturday through 7 am Monday is 5-20%.
- Trend for these probabilities have steadily increased since early this week.

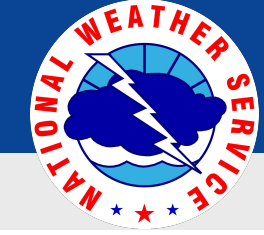


Find a detailed forecast for any location at weather.gov/forecastpoints



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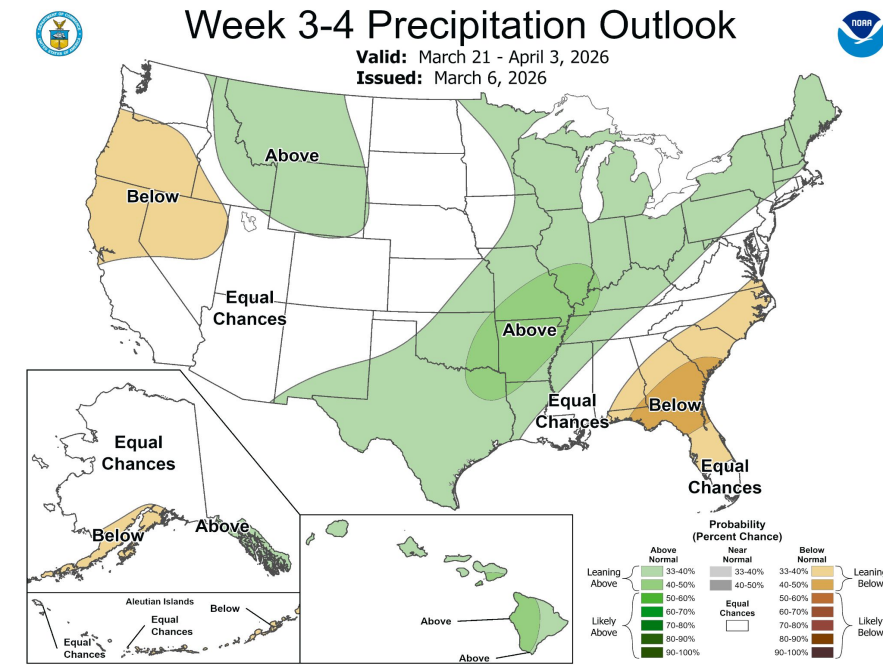
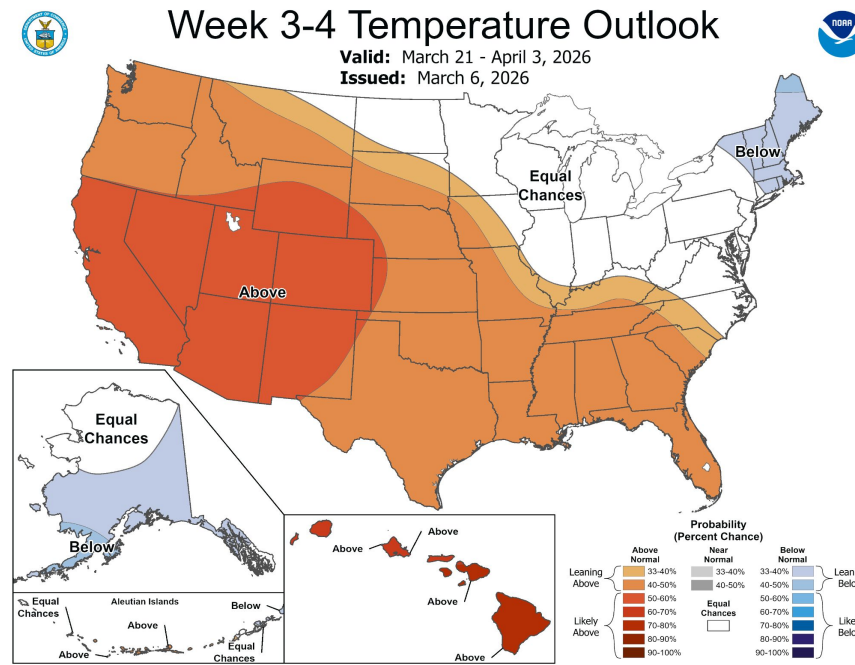
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These are general outlooks that depict broad trends for the weeks and months ahead

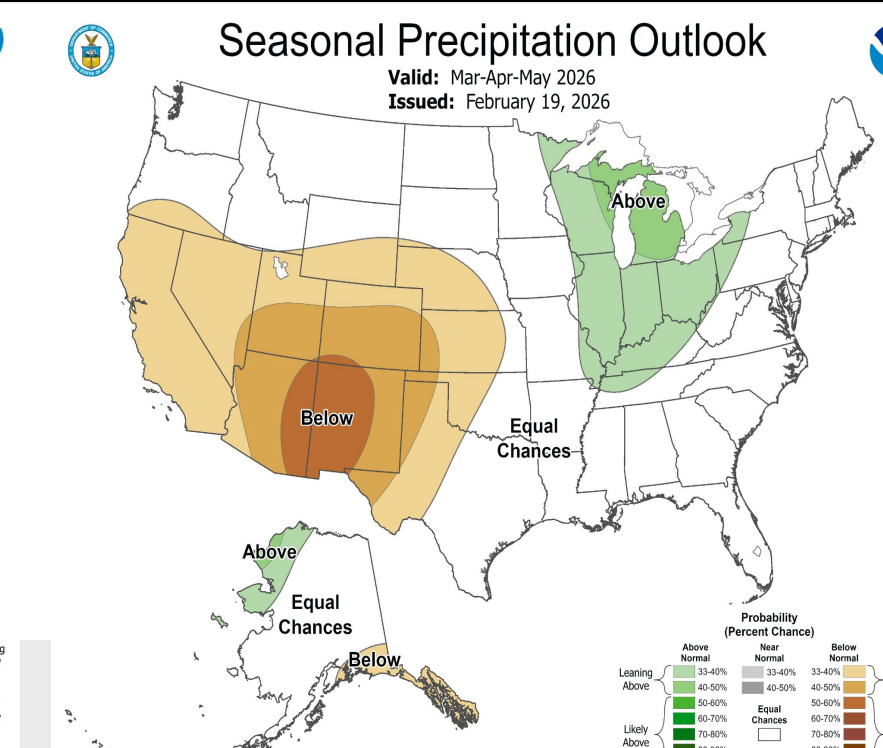
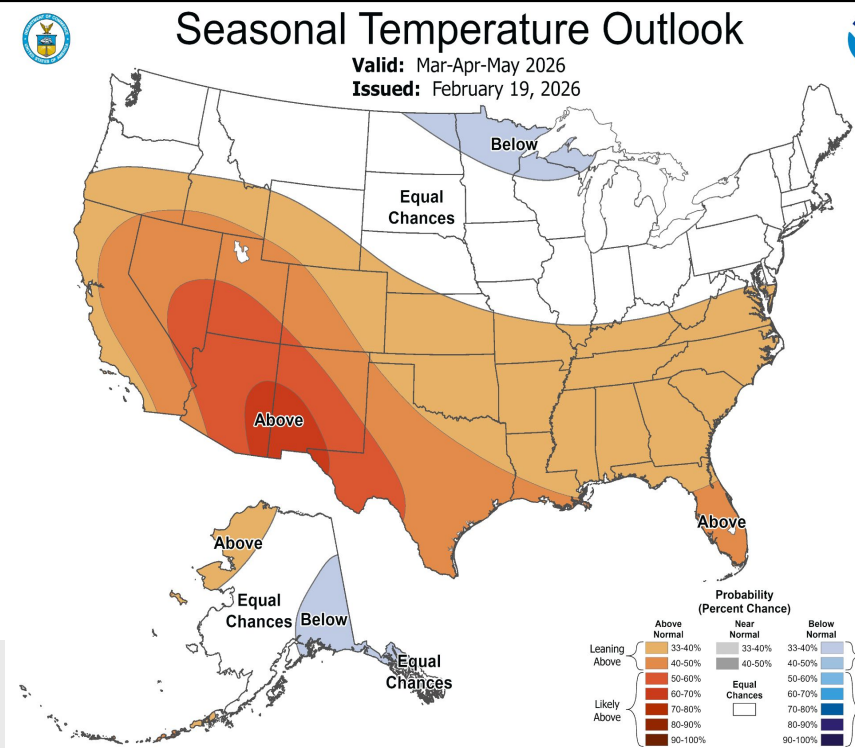
Weeks 3-4 Outlook

- Equal chances for above and below normal temperatures
- Chances for precipitation leaning above normal
- Impact to Spring Flooding: positive



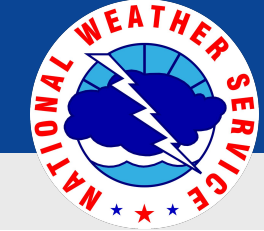
Seasonal Outlook

- Normal to slightly below normal temperatures
- Chances for precipitation leaning above normal
- Impact to Spring Flooding: Positive



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce



Key Messages

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- Flood risk following individual rain or snow events (including the upcoming ones into early next week) may be increased.
- River system that has greatest risk of seeing at least widespread minor flooding is the Menominee River.
- SWE is above normal over far north-central WI, but is below normal elsewhere. Subject to change with the expected snow through the weekend.
- Precipitation and rate of snowmelt through spring will be one of the most important flood risk factors.

Next Scheduled Update

- As needed



Additional Resources

- [NWS Green Bay Website](#)
- [North Central River Forecast Center](#)
- [River Observations and Forecasts for GRB Forecast area](#)
- [NWS Green Bay on Facebook](#)
- [NWS Green Bay on Twitter](#)

- [Forecast Points \(Hourly Details\)](#)
- [NWS Green Bay Spring Flood Page](#)
- [Flood Safety Information](#)
- [USGS National Water Dashboard](#)

