



# Winter and Spring Bi-Weekly Flood Potential Outlook

February 18, 2026

6:08 AM

Valid Period: Through March 5

## OVERVIEW:

- The *short term flood risk* remains **Low** through early March for Maine and New Hampshire
- The *long term spring flood outlook* remains **Low** for natural flow due to abundant storage capacity from drought
- Above normal river ice coverage raises concerns for mid to late season ice jam flooding

- Snowpack conditions are trending below-normal for this time of year

### SNOWPACK

SD=Snow Depth  
SWE=Snow Water Equivalent

Region	Feb 17, 2026 SD	Feb 17, 2026 SWE	Seasonal Benchmark SWE
Mountains & Headwaters	12-36"	4-11"	8-15" (75%)
Foothills and Interior	8-15"	2-3"	4-8" (75%)
Coastal	6-12"	2-2.5"	2-4" (75-100%)

### RIVER ICE & ICE JAM RISK

- All rivers have extensive ice coverage, with openings near dams and high flow areas
- Most rivers and streams currently maintain ample capacity to handle rising water levels before reaching critical flood stages
  - **Low** Short Term Flood Threat: No signals for significant runoff events necessary to break-up and move ice, nor enough warming for significant thermal weakening
  - **Increasing** Long Term Flood Threat: The potential for significant jams ice jams is above normal given the extent and depth of ice across the region

### DROUGHT

- Drought has resulted in below normal streamflows providing more channel capacity for runoff
- Soils are primed for soaking in melt at a more efficient rate than normal

### PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

- An arctic blast is expected over the weekend, with snow accumulations mainly along coastal NH
- Next week there will be a moderating back to seasonable temperatures, allowing some compaction and warming of the snowpack
- Long Term outlooks favor above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation

### Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Normal

February 17, 2026

