



# 2026 Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook

National Weather Service  
WFO Indianapolis IN

February 26, 2026

Next Update: **March 12, 2026**





# Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

February 26, 2026

## Key Messages

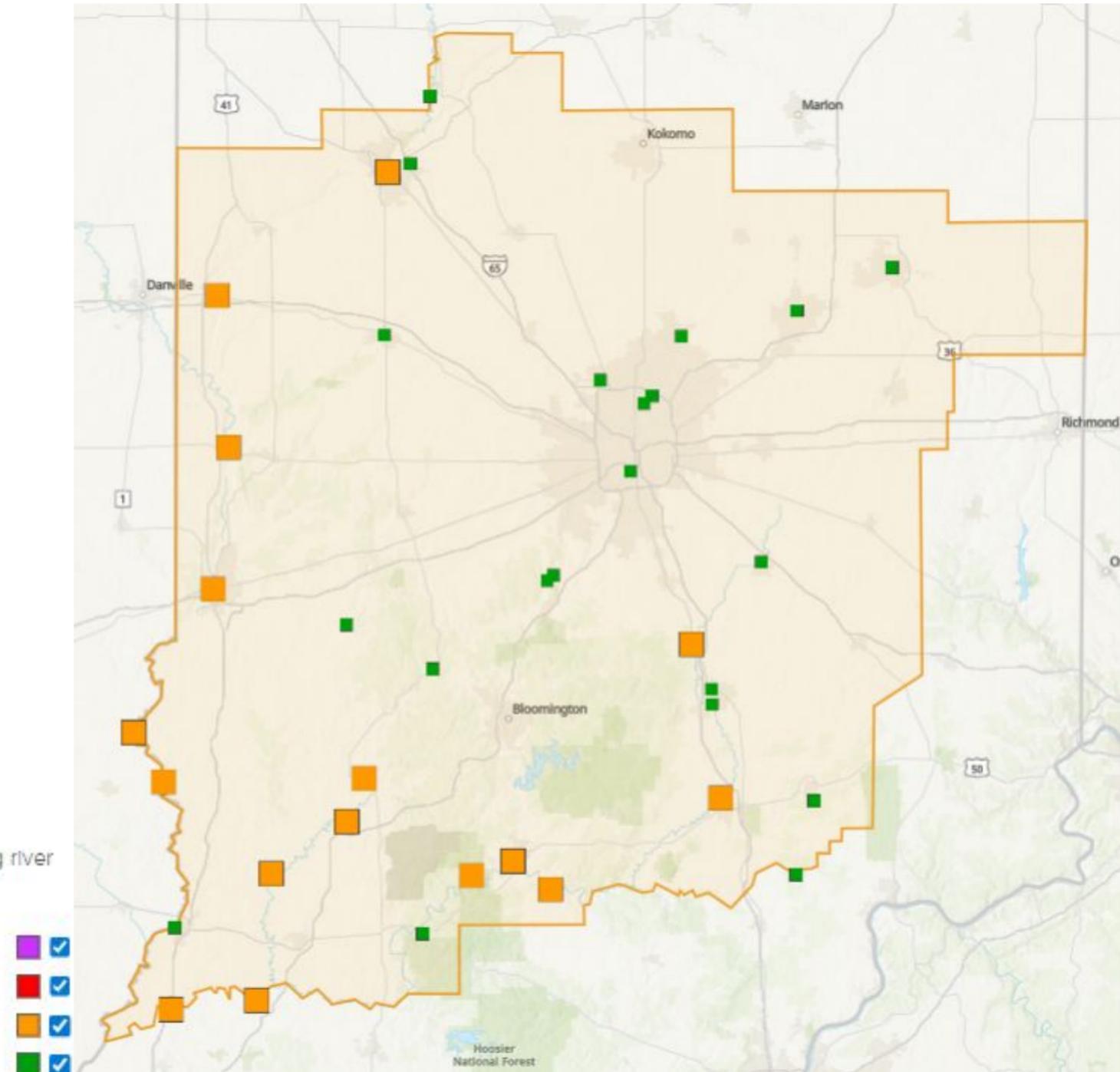
- Increasing Flood Risk by the end of next week (ramping up after March 4th)
- Overall Spring flood risk is near normal for this time of year
- Minor flooding is expected (50% chance or greater) on parts of all but the upper White
- There is a 1 in 4 chance of moderate flooding on the East Fork White and far lower White

*The frequency, intensity, and extent of spring thunderstorms and heavy rainfall will ultimately determine the final outcome for flooding*

● Long Range Flood Outlook

50% or greater chance of exceeding river flood levels:

0 > Major  
 0 > Moderate  
 16 > Minor  
 21 <= No Flooding





# Spring Flood Outlook

Key Ingredients	Antecedent Conditions	Impact to Spring Flooding
Winter Precipitation /Temperatures	Below Normal	Normal Risk
River Levels	Normal to Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Soil Moisture	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Frost Depth	Below Normal	Normal Risk
Snow Conditions / Water Equivalent	Normal	Normal Risk
Spring Weather Outlook	Normal	Greater Risk

**Overall Risk of Spring Flooding:**

**Near Normal Risk**

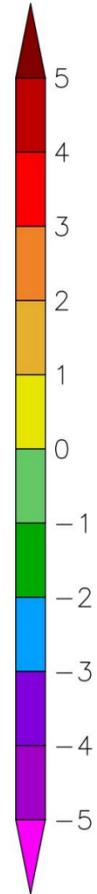
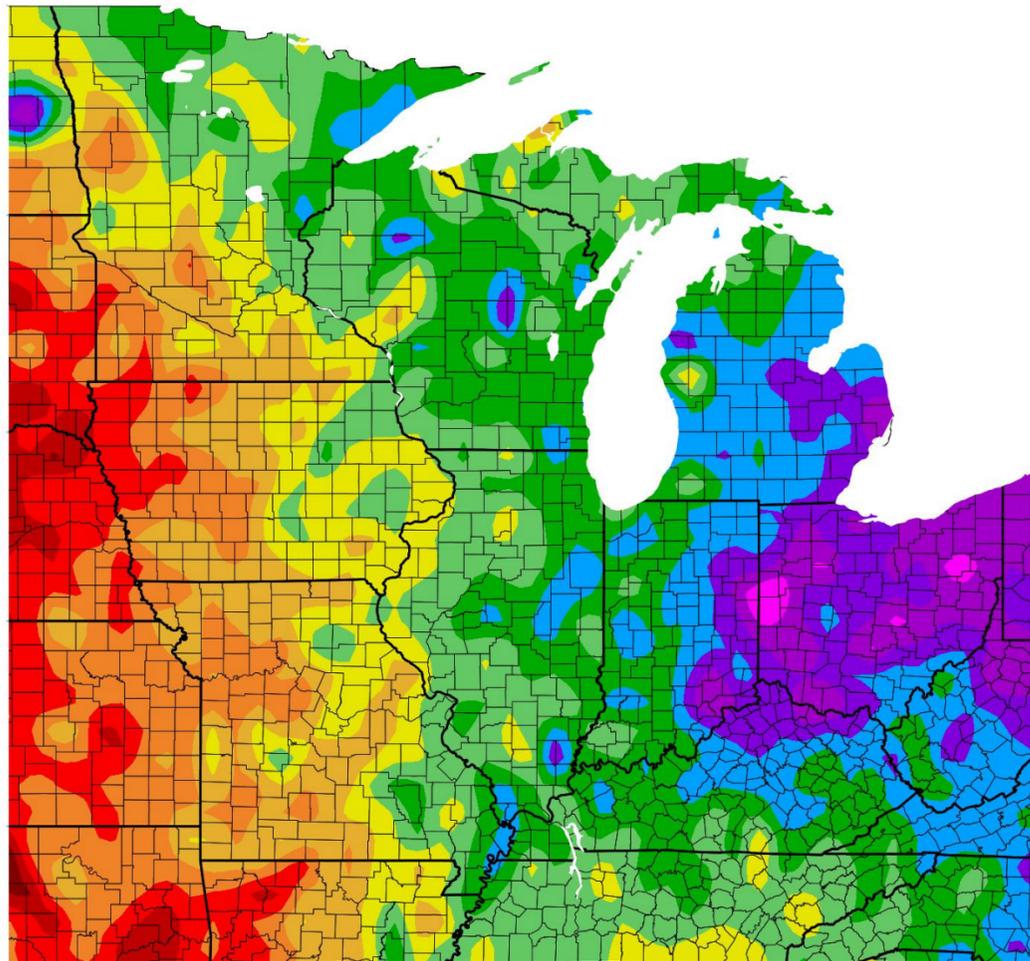
Key ingredients for river flooding in central Indiana point to a Near Normal Flood Risk for Spring 2026. Above normal precipitation will be the primary driver for Minor to Moderate flooding, while low streamflow/drought is a limiting factor.



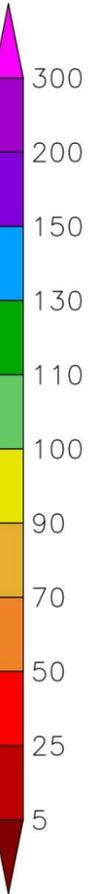
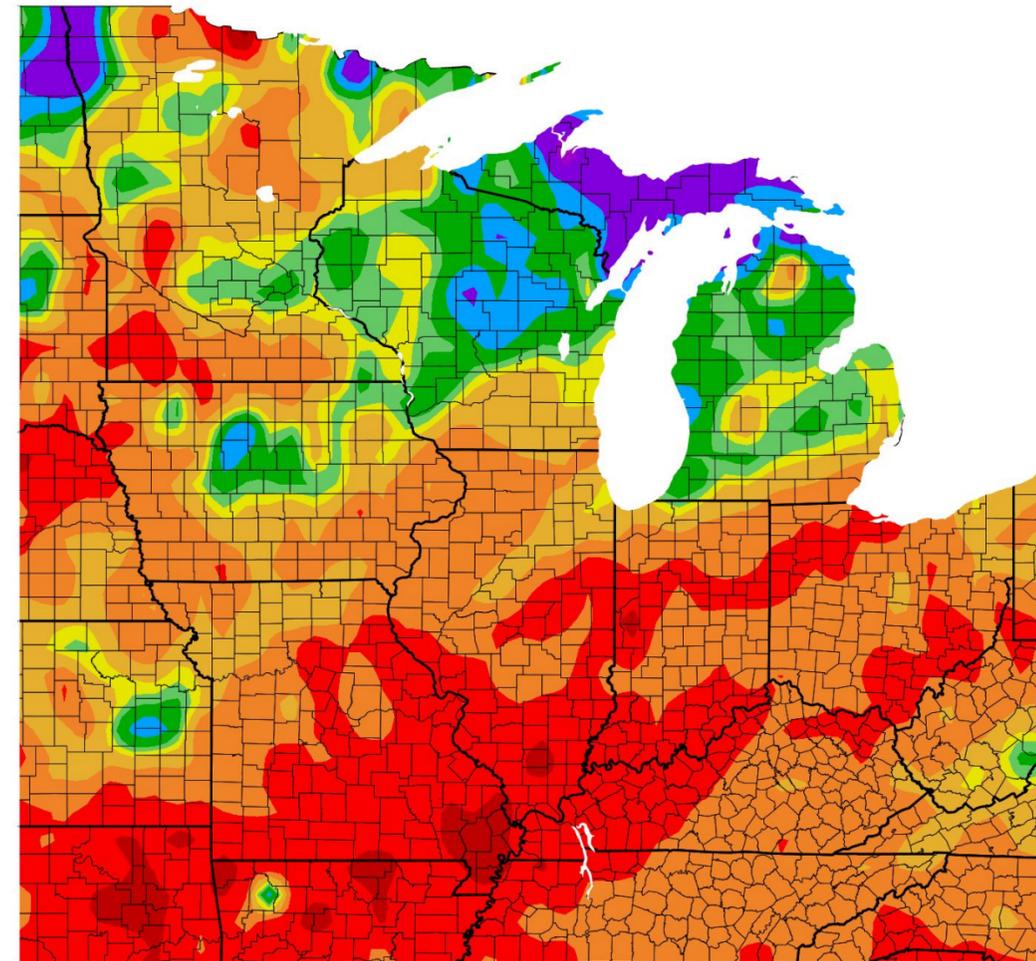
# Winter Precipitation and Temperature

## Maps show the 90 Day Departures from Normal

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
11/28/2025 – 2/25/2026



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
11/28/2025 – 2/25/2026



<https://hprcc.unl.edu/products/maps/acis/mrcc/90dTDeptMRCC.png>

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/products/maps/acis/mrcc/90dPNormMRCC.png>

Generated 2/26/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Generated 2/26/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- Colder than normal temperatures and much drier than normal precipitation lessen the flood potential





# River Levels

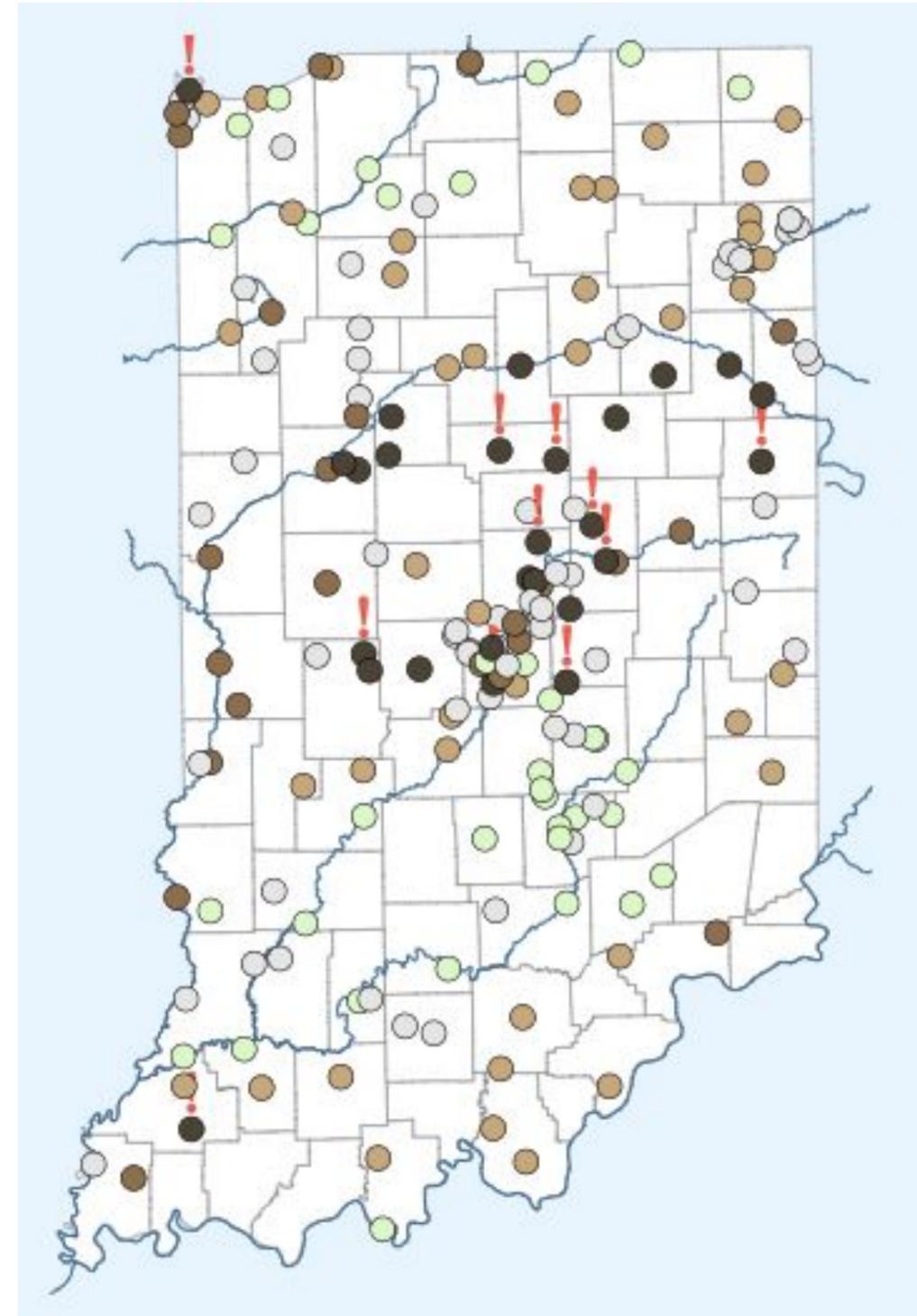
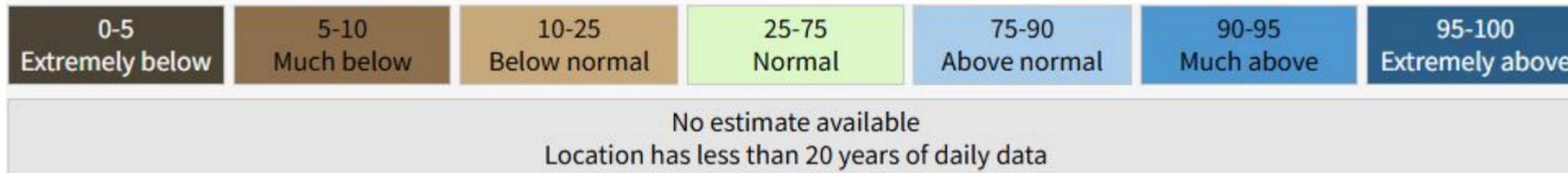
Map of latest streamflow compared to historic daily average streamflow for the day of the year

- Below normal to extremely below normal streamflow is in place over the Wabash and upper to middle White basins
- Normal streamflow is occurring in the East Fork White and lower White basins
- Low streamflows lessen the overall flood potential on the Wabash and upper to middle White

### Legend

○ Monitoring location with Discharge, cubic feet per second

! Extreme conditions



<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/state/Indiana/>





# River Ice Conditions

- River ice has melted across central and southern Indiana



USGS Webcam picture of the (now ice-free) White River at Michigan Street (February 25, 2026)

[https://apps.usgs.gov/hivis/camera/IN\\_White\\_River\\_at\\_Michigan\\_Street\\_at\\_Indianapolis](https://apps.usgs.gov/hivis/camera/IN_White_River_at_Michigan_Street_at_Indianapolis)

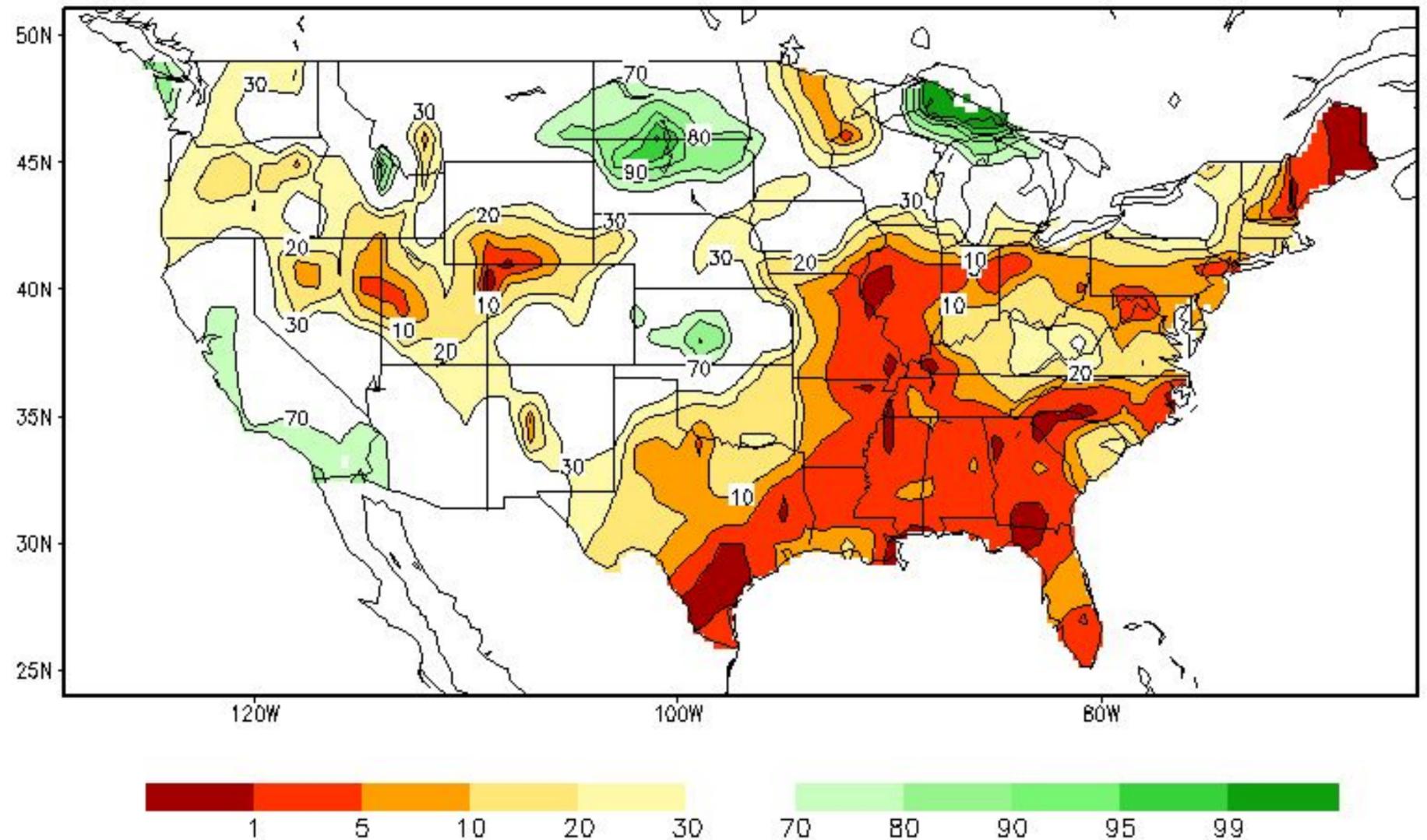


# Soil Moisture and Frost Depth

Map shows Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile

- Soil moisture is lower than the 10th percentile across much of central and northern Indiana, with an embedded swath of less than 5th percentile
- This lessens the overall flood threat
- The highest soil moisture is near the Michigan border and along the Ohio River—both are in the 10th to 20th percentiles
- There is no longer any frost depth across the area

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
FEB 24, 2026



[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Soilmst\\_Monitoring/Figures/daily/curr.w.rank.daily.gif](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Soilmst_Monitoring/Figures/daily/curr.w.rank.daily.gif)



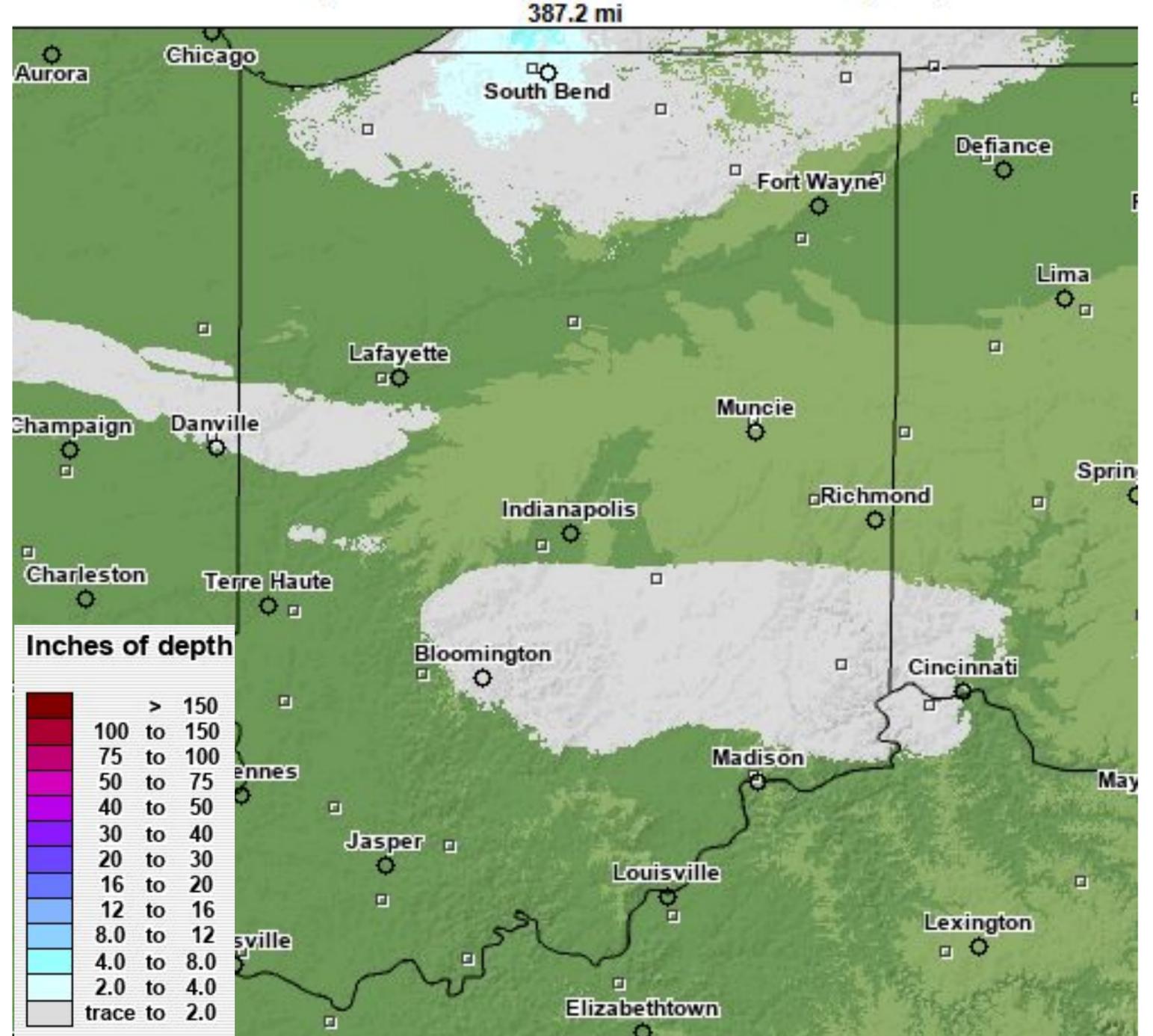


# Snow Conditions

Map shows Modeled Snow Depth from NOHRSC

- Some snowpack remains across northern Indiana
- Snow early the morning of February 26th left a swath of 1 to 3 inches generally from Bloomington, Indiana to Cincinnati, Ohio, with water amounts of less than 0.2 inches

Modeled Snow Depth forecasted for 2026 February 26, 16:00 UTC



<https://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/interactive/html/map.html>



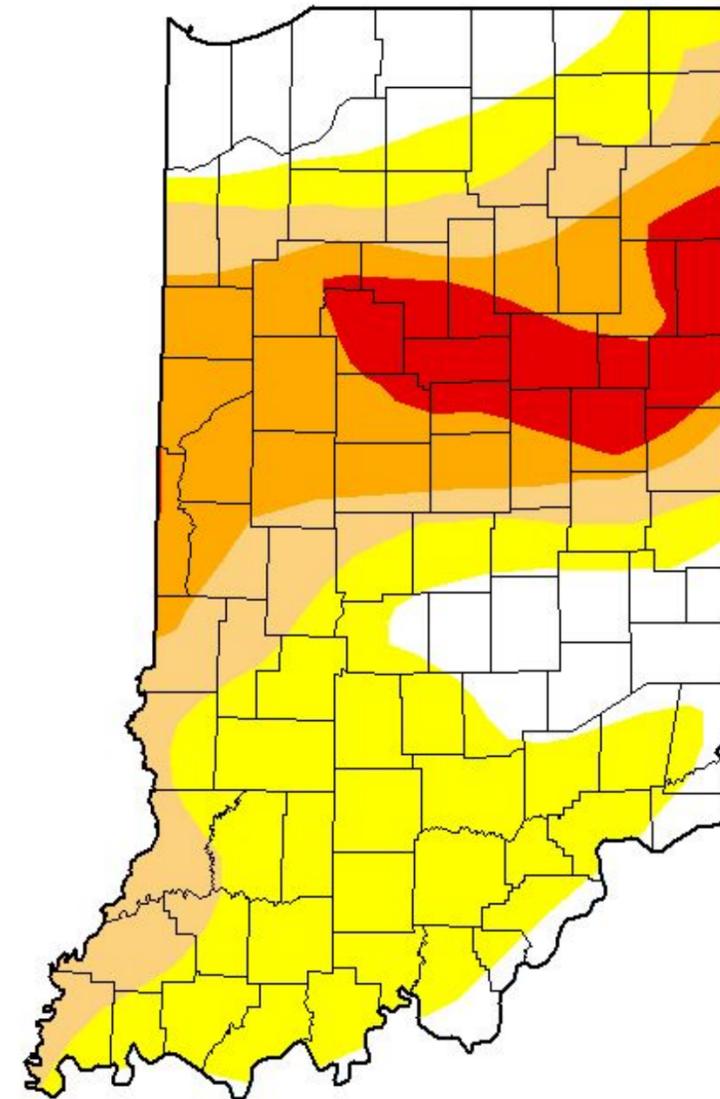


# Latest Drought Conditions

## Map shows Current U.S. Drought Monitor for Indiana

- Severe to Extreme Drought continues over much of the northern half of central Indiana
- Abnormally Dry conditions in place of much of the rest of the state
- Current drought conditions serve to lessen the overall flood threat

### U.S. Drought Monitor Indiana



**February 24, 2026**  
 (Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026)  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	19.57	80.43	43.74	26.85	9.45	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <small>02-17-2026</small>	19.59	80.41	36.84	26.85	9.45	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <small>11-25-2025</small>	48.53	51.47	36.09	16.49	5.96	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <small>01-06-2026</small>	31.38	68.62	36.17	26.30	9.40	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <small>09-30-2025</small>	7.86	92.14	52.86	13.87	1.04	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <small>02-25-2025</small>	37.50	62.50	21.53	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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:

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



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

[http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/data/png/current/current\\_in\\_trd.png](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/data/png/current/current_in_trd.png)

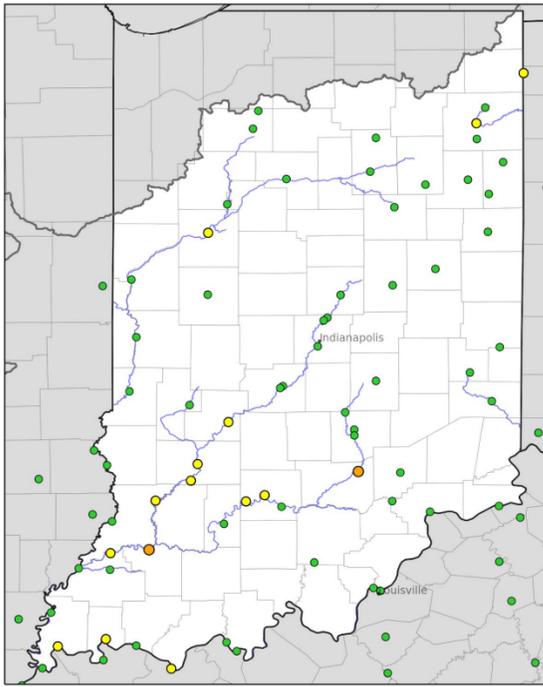


# Ten Day Flood Outlook

## 50, 30, and 10% chance exceedance levels through March 8th



50% Probability for River Levels through March 08, 2026  
State:IN



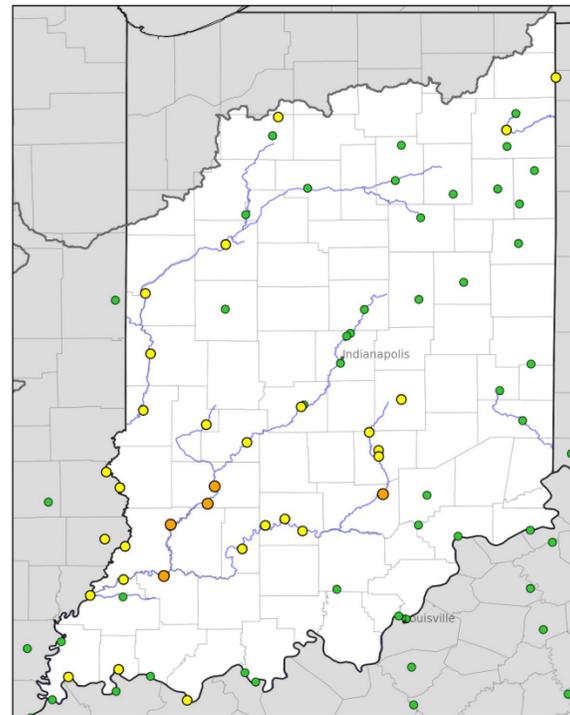
Expected



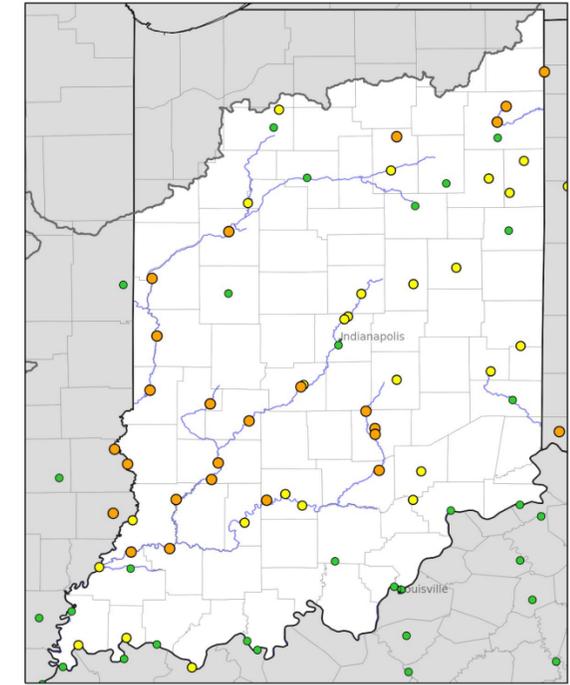
Possible



30% Probability for River Levels through March 08, 2026  
State:IN



10% Probability for River Levels through March 08, 2026  
State:IN



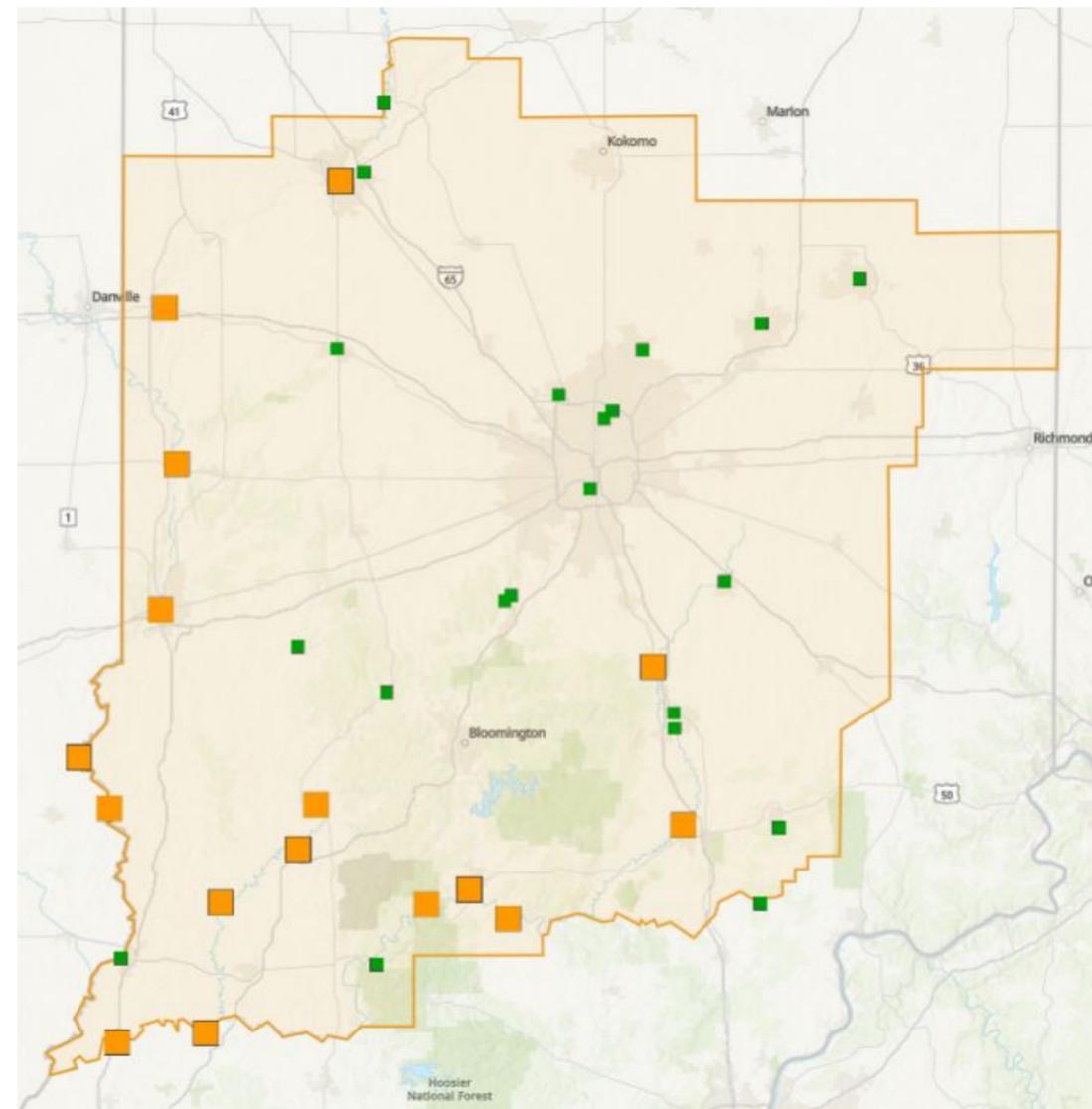
Reasonable worst case scenario





# Long Range (3 Month) Flood Outlook

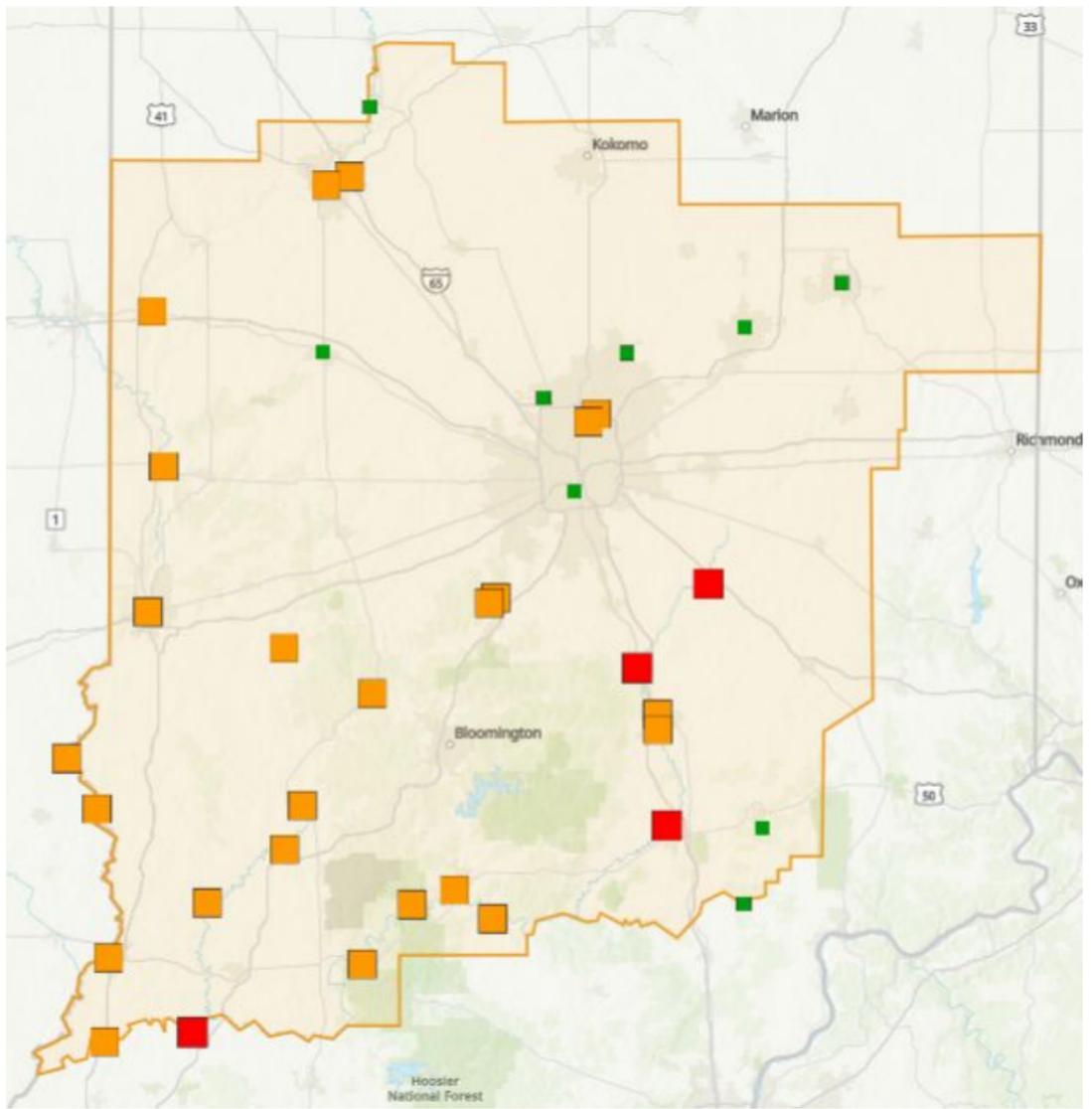
50, 25, and 10% chance exceedance levels



Long Range Flood Outlook

50% or greater chance of exceeding river flood levels:

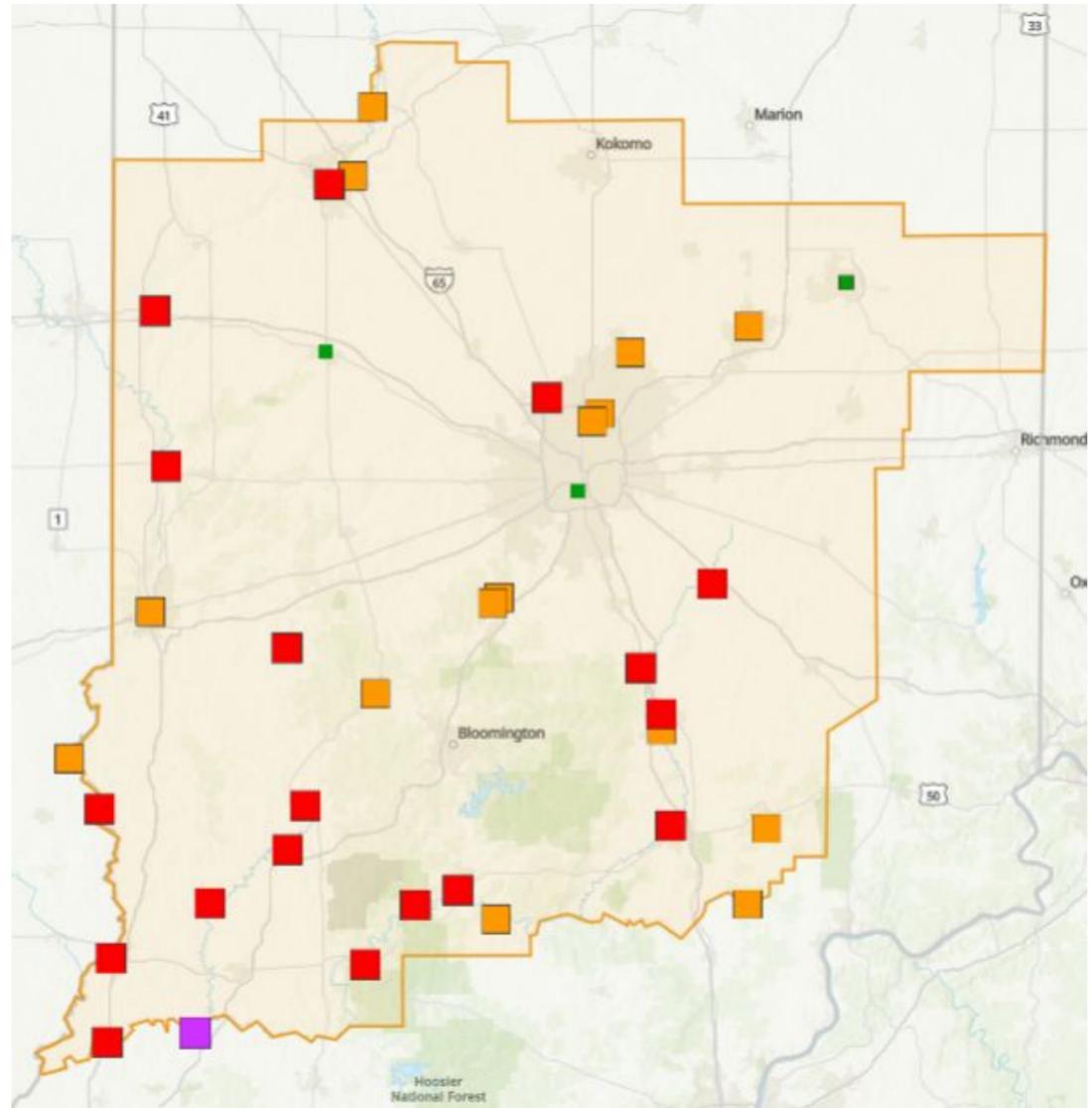
Expected



Long Range Flood Outlook

25% or greater chance of exceeding river flood levels:

Possible



Long Range Flood Outlook

10% or greater chance of exceeding river flood levels:

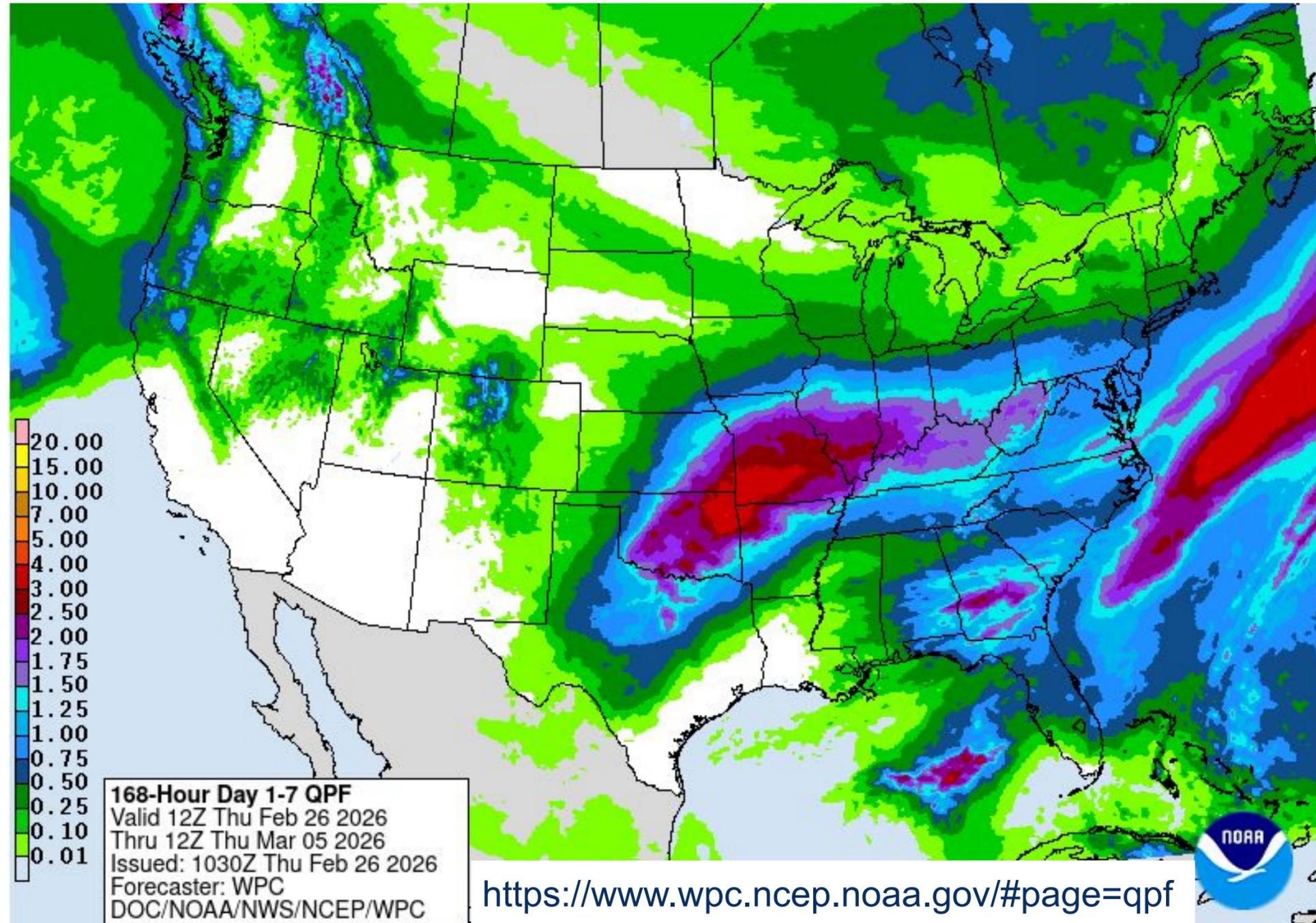
Reasonable worst case scenario



# 7 Day Weather Forecast

February 26 - March 5, 2026

- A low pressure system with a slow moving front could bring more than 2 inches of liquid precipitation March 2nd-5th across central and southern Indiana



Find a detailed forecast for any location at [weather.gov/forecastpoints](https://www.weather.gov/forecastpoints)





# 8 to 14 day Outlook

March 5 - 11, 2026



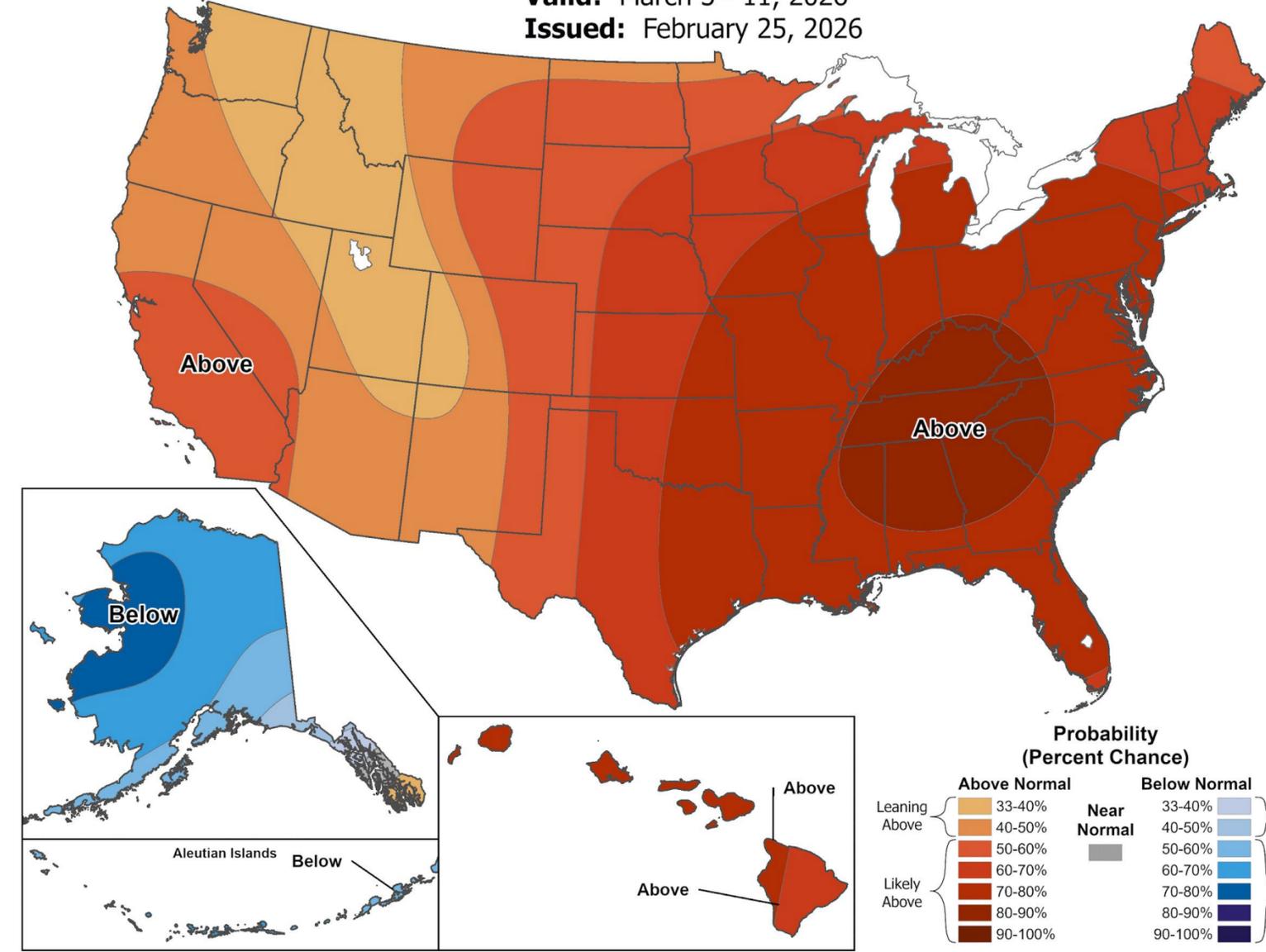
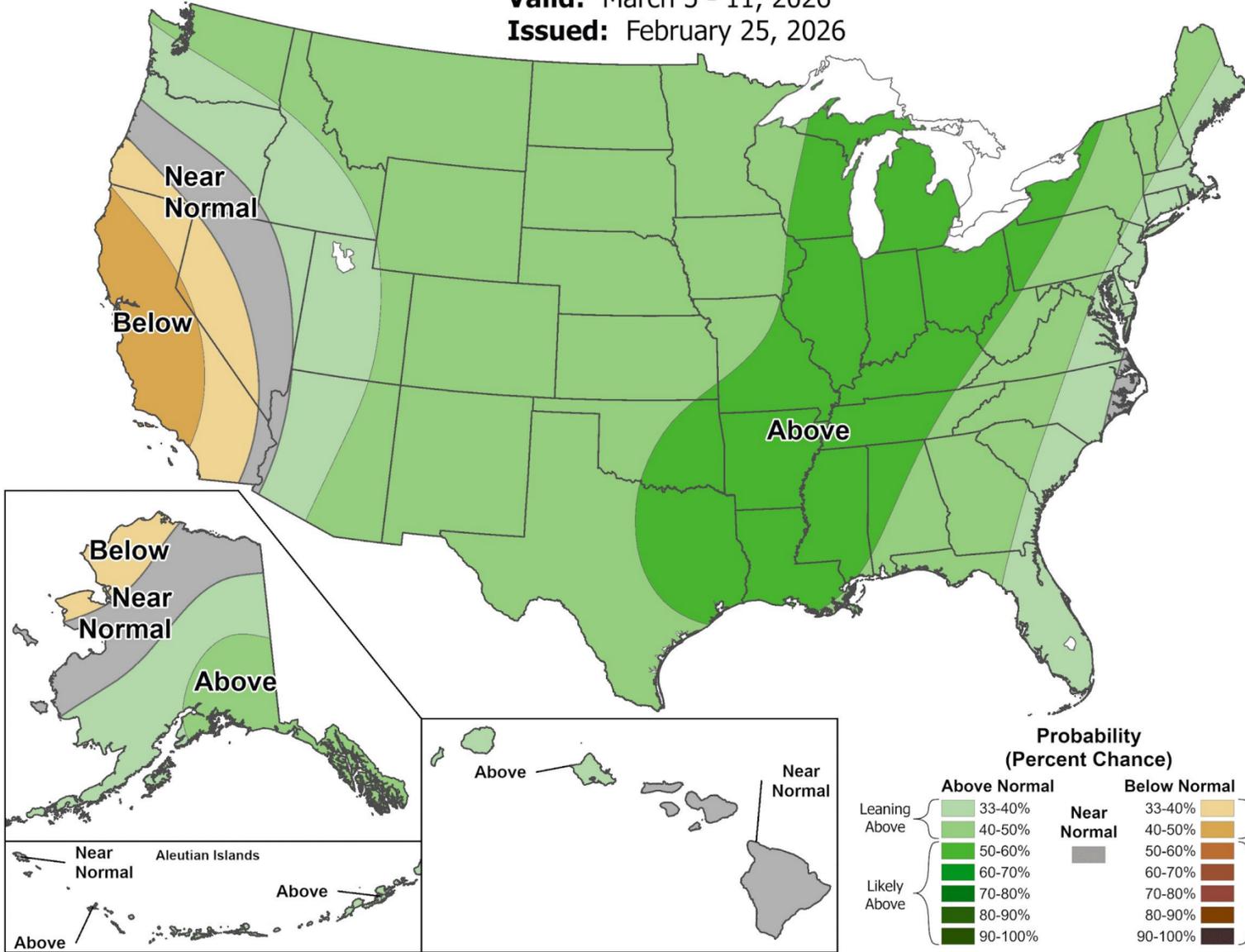
## 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: March 5 - 11, 2026  
Issued: February 25, 2026



## 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: March 5 - 11, 2026  
Issued: February 25, 2026



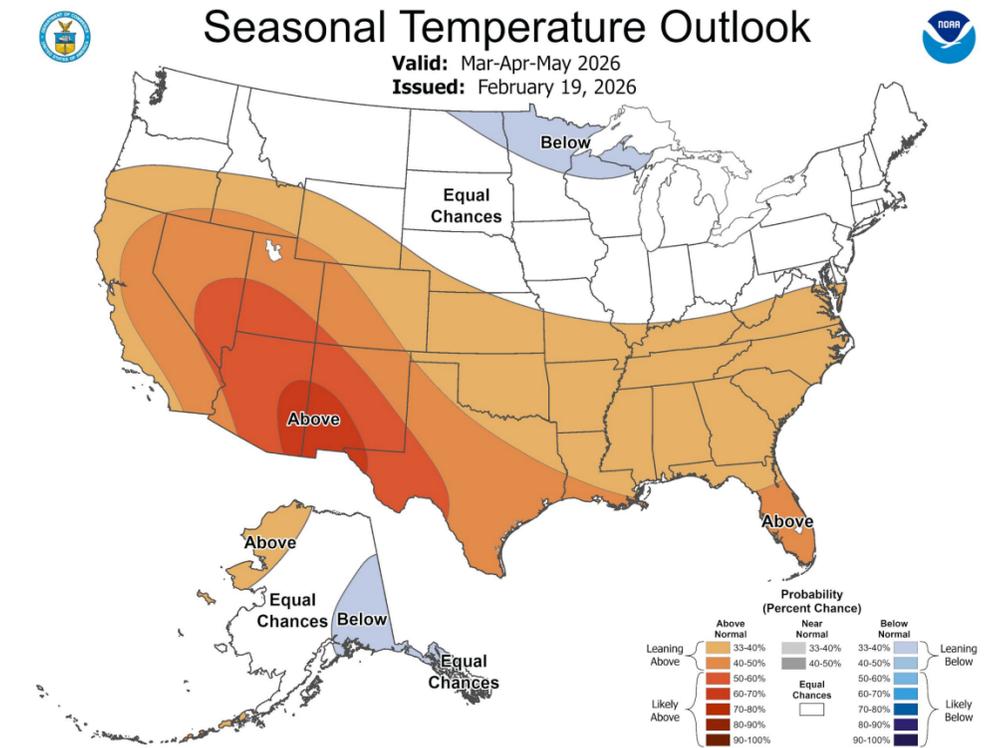
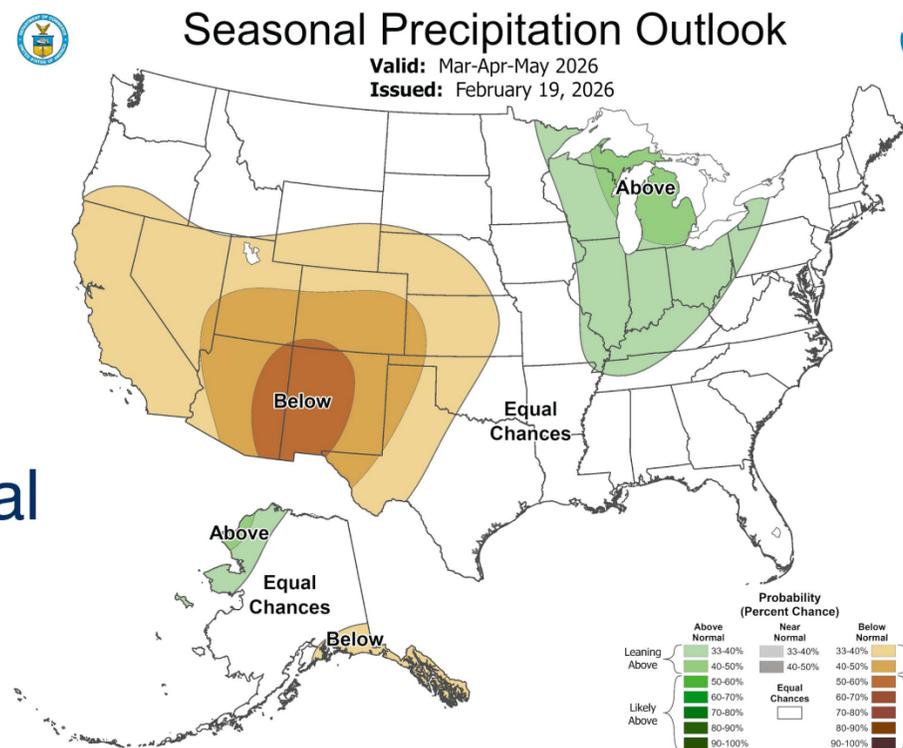
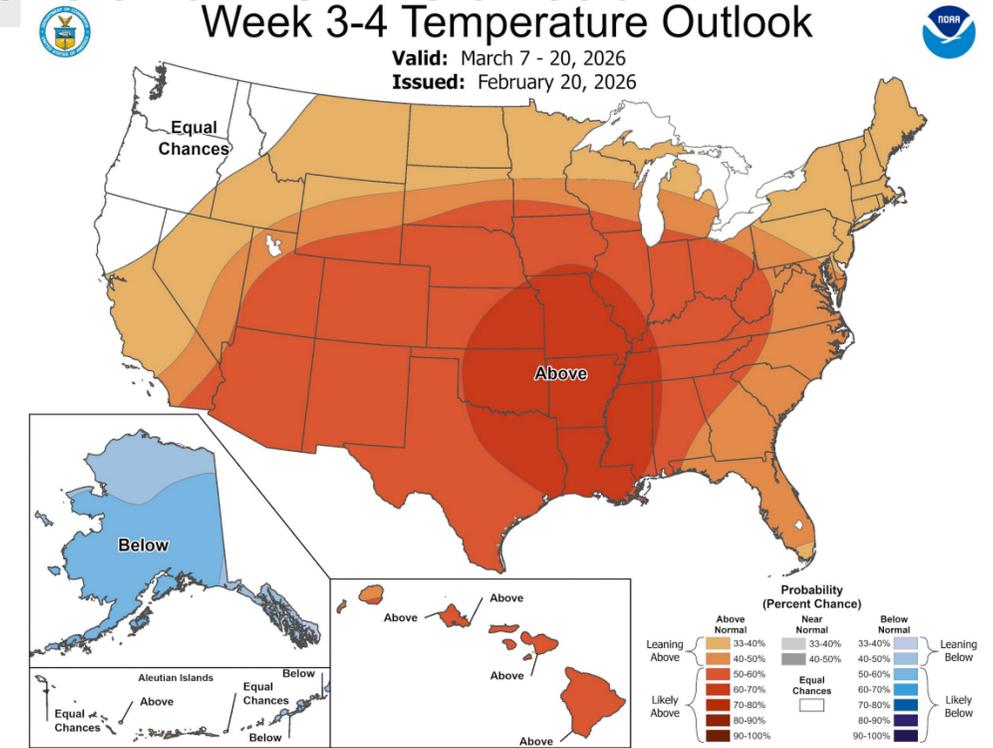
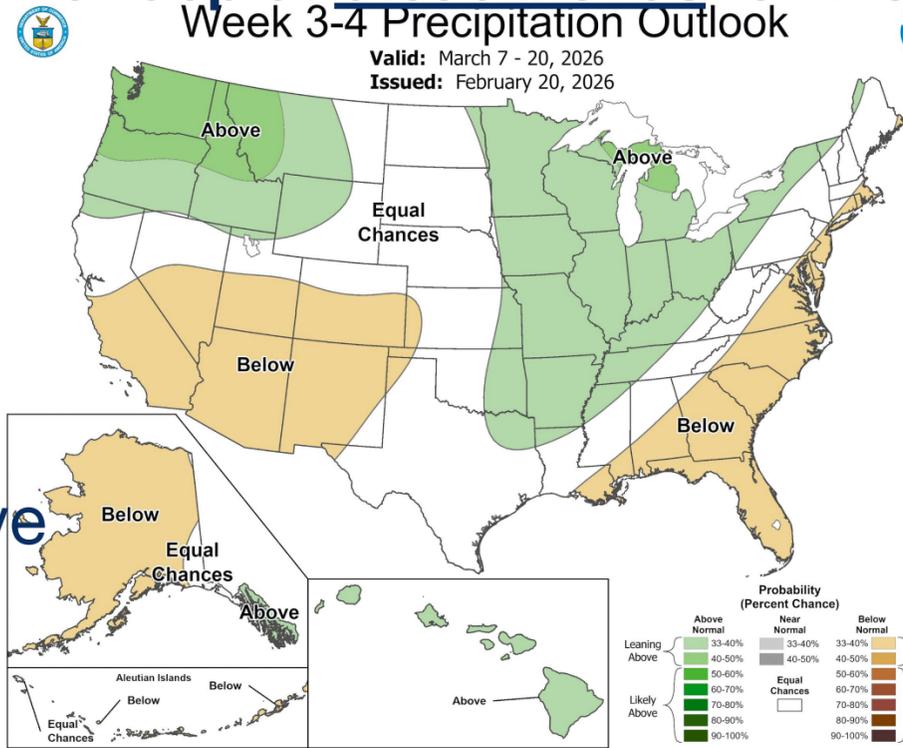
- Active pattern continues through week 2 with above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation, increasing the flood risk





# Spring Weather Outlook

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



## Weeks 3-4 Outlook

- Lean toward above normal precipitation
- Above normal temperatures likely
- Impact to Spring Flooding: Positive

## Seasonal Outlook

- Lean toward above normal precipitation
- No solid temperature signal
- Impact to Spring Flooding: Neutral to Positive





# Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

## Summary

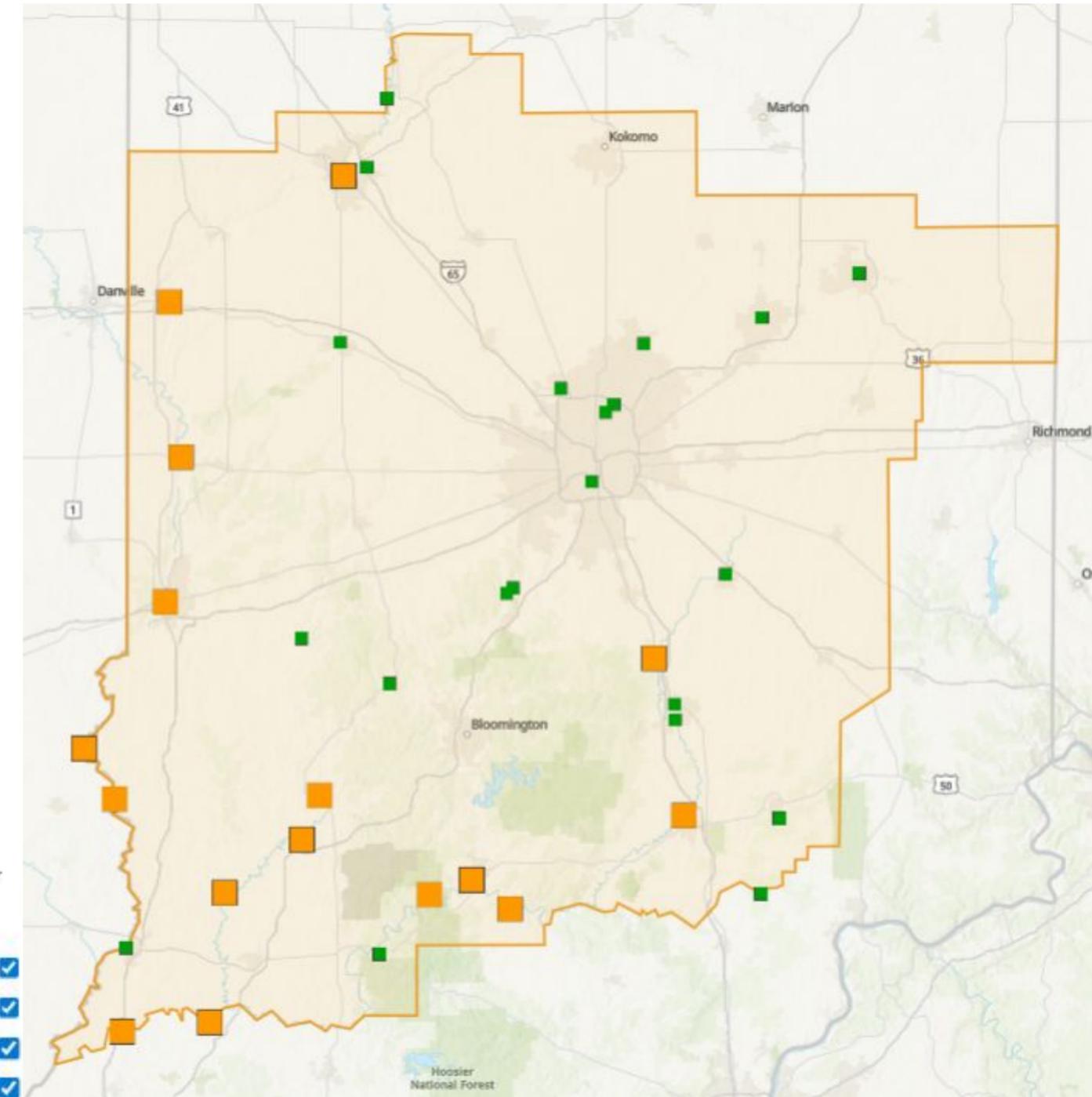
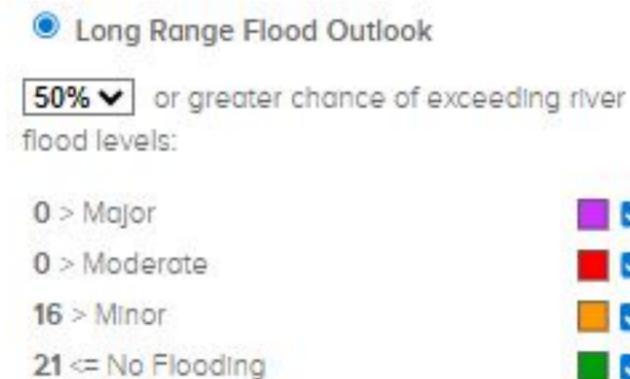
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- Overall Spring flood risk is near normal for this time of year
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- There is a 1 in 4 chance of moderate flooding on the East Fork White and far lower White

*The frequency, intensity, and extent of spring thunderstorms and heavy rainfall will ultimately determine the final outcome for flooding*

### Next Scheduled Update

- March 12, 2026





# Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

## Additional Resources

[NWS Indianapolis Website](#)

[Ohio River Forecast Center](#)

[River Observations and  
Forecasts for Central Indiana](#)

[NWS Indianapolis on  
Facebook](#)

[Forecast Points \(Hourly  
Details\)](#)

[Flood Safety Information](#)

[USGS National Water  
Dashboard](#)

[NWS Indianapolis on Twitter](#)

