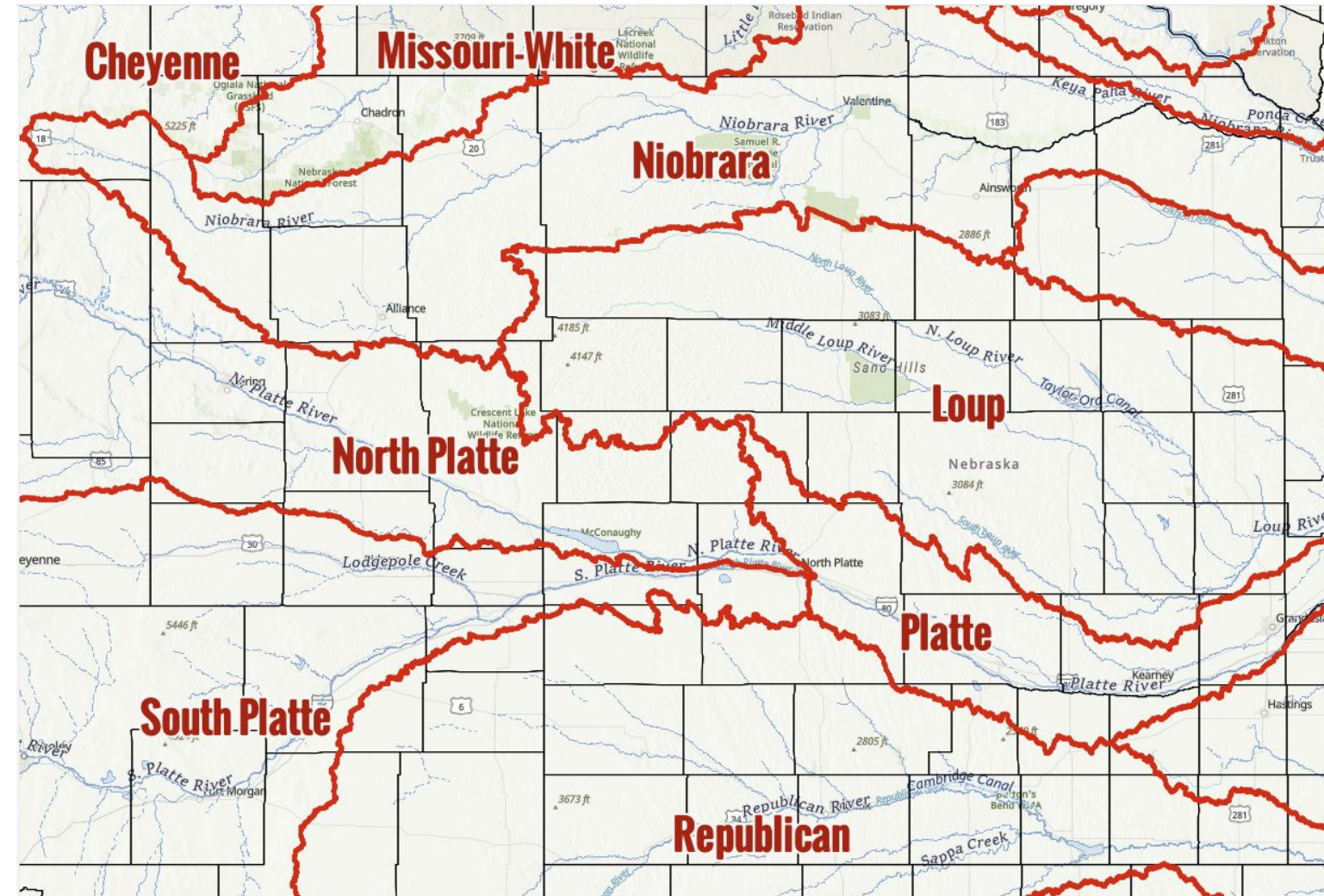
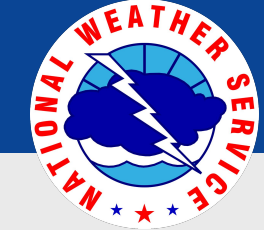


2026 Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook

National Weather Service
North Platte

March 12, 2026





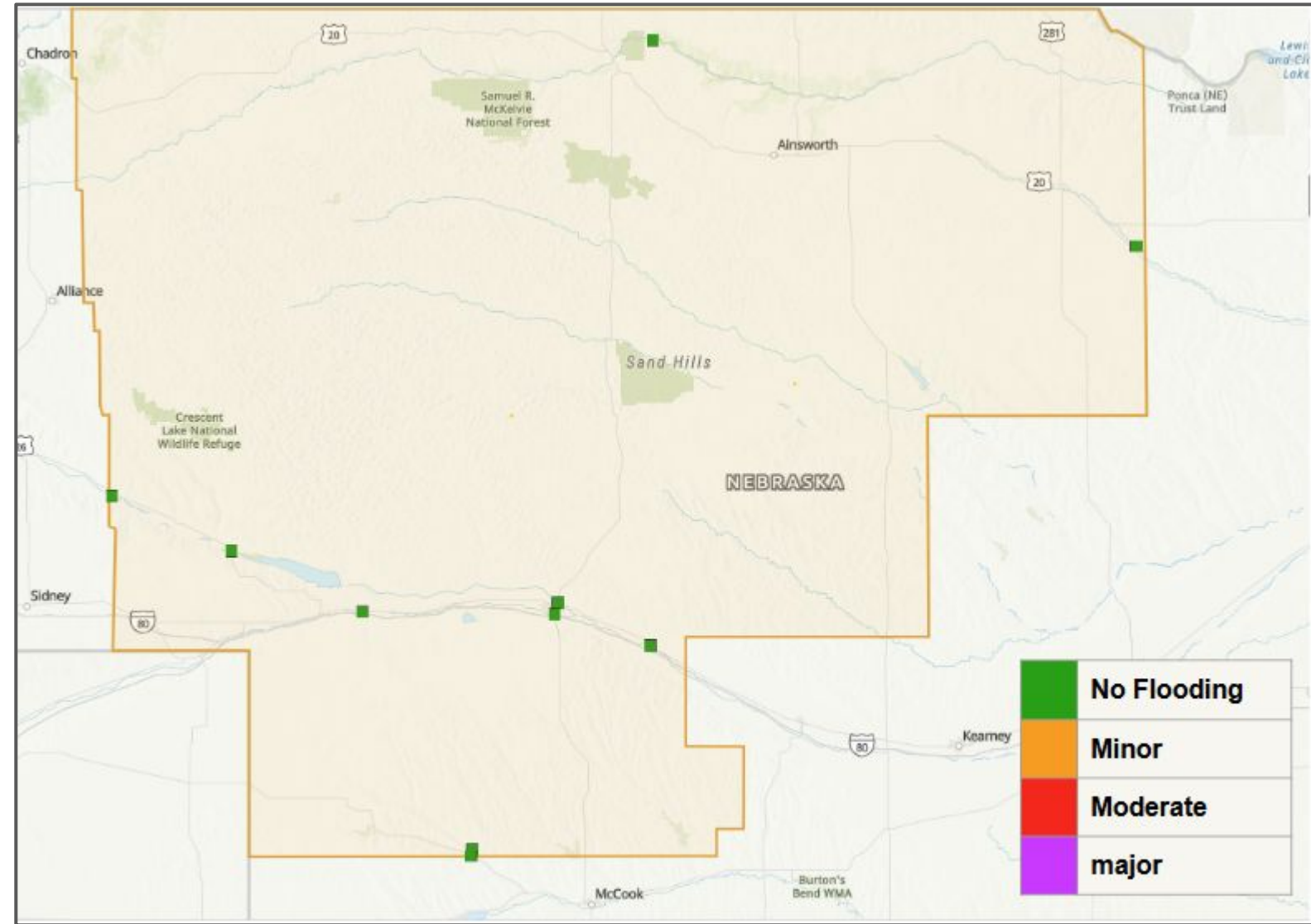
Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

March 12, 2026
8:38 AM CDT

March 12, 2026

Key Messages

- Spring flood risk is below normal
- Factors related to the risk: below normal winter precipitation, no snowpack, and streamflows near normal to much below normal
- Soil moisture continues to remain in a significant deficit as drought conditions continue for all of western and north central Nebraska





Spring Flood Outlook

March 12, 2026
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Key Ingredients	Antecedent Conditions	Impact to Spring Flooding
Winter Precipitation	Much Below Normal	Lesser Risk
River Levels	Near Normal/Much Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Soil Moisture	Much Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Spring Weather Outlook	Below Normal	Lesser Risk

Overall Risk of Spring Flooding:

Lesser Risk

Current hydrologic conditions are not expected to be a significant contributing factor for spring flooding.

- Winter season precipitation was much below normal
- Streamflows are near normal to much below normal
- Soil moisture remains in significant deficit
- No snowpack present

Flooding will be largely driven by springtime rains...CPC projects below normal precipitation being slightly favored



Risk Potential:

Lesser Risk	Normal Risk	Greater Risk	To Be Determined
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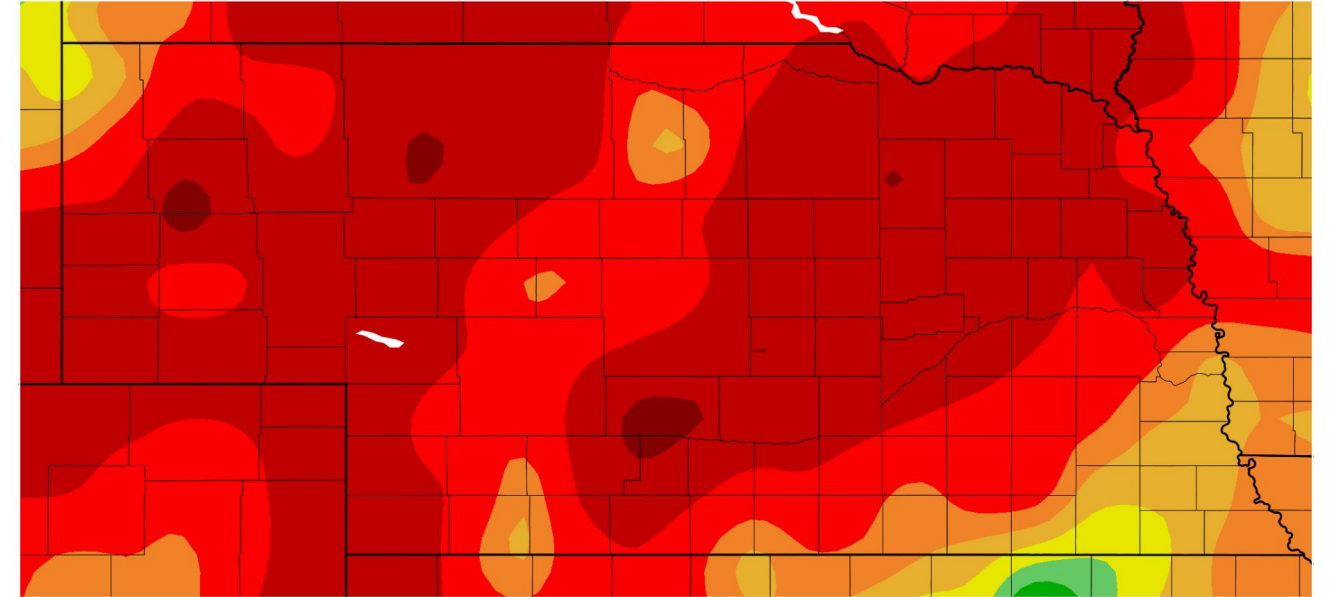
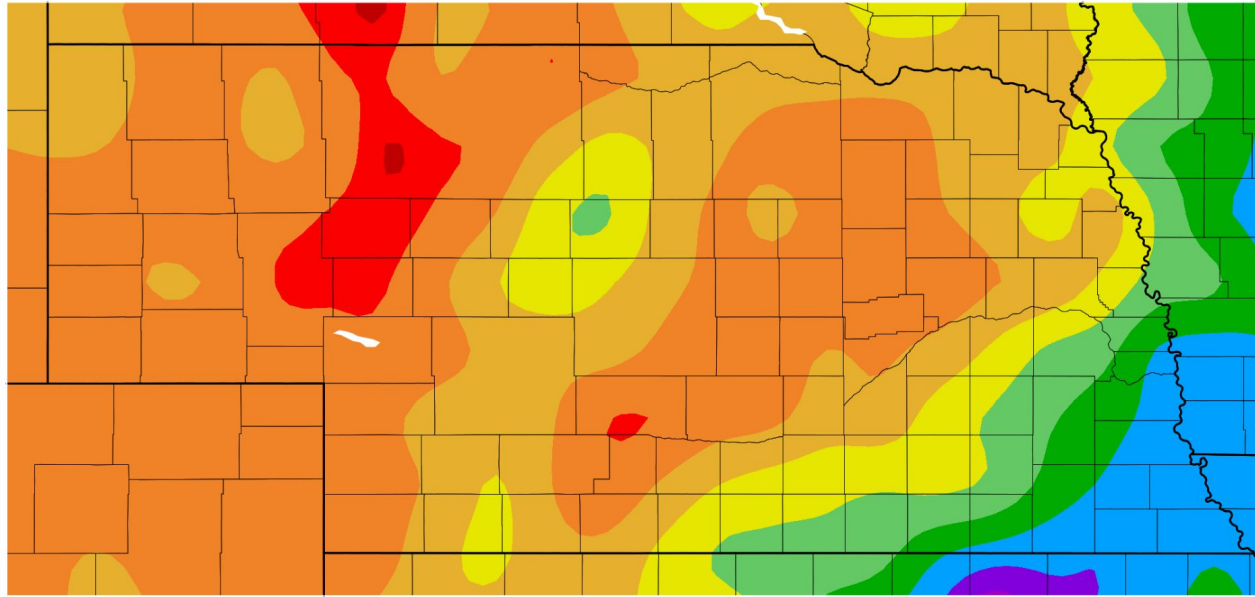
Winter Precipitation

March 12, 2026
8:38 AM CDT

Maps show precipitation and percent of normal precipitation since Oct. 1st, 2025

Precipitation (in)
10/1/2025 - 3/10/2026

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2025 - 3/10/2026



Generated 3/11/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Generated 3/11/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- Precipitation since Oct. 1st, 2025 was roughly 25% to 70% of normal across western and north central Nebraska.





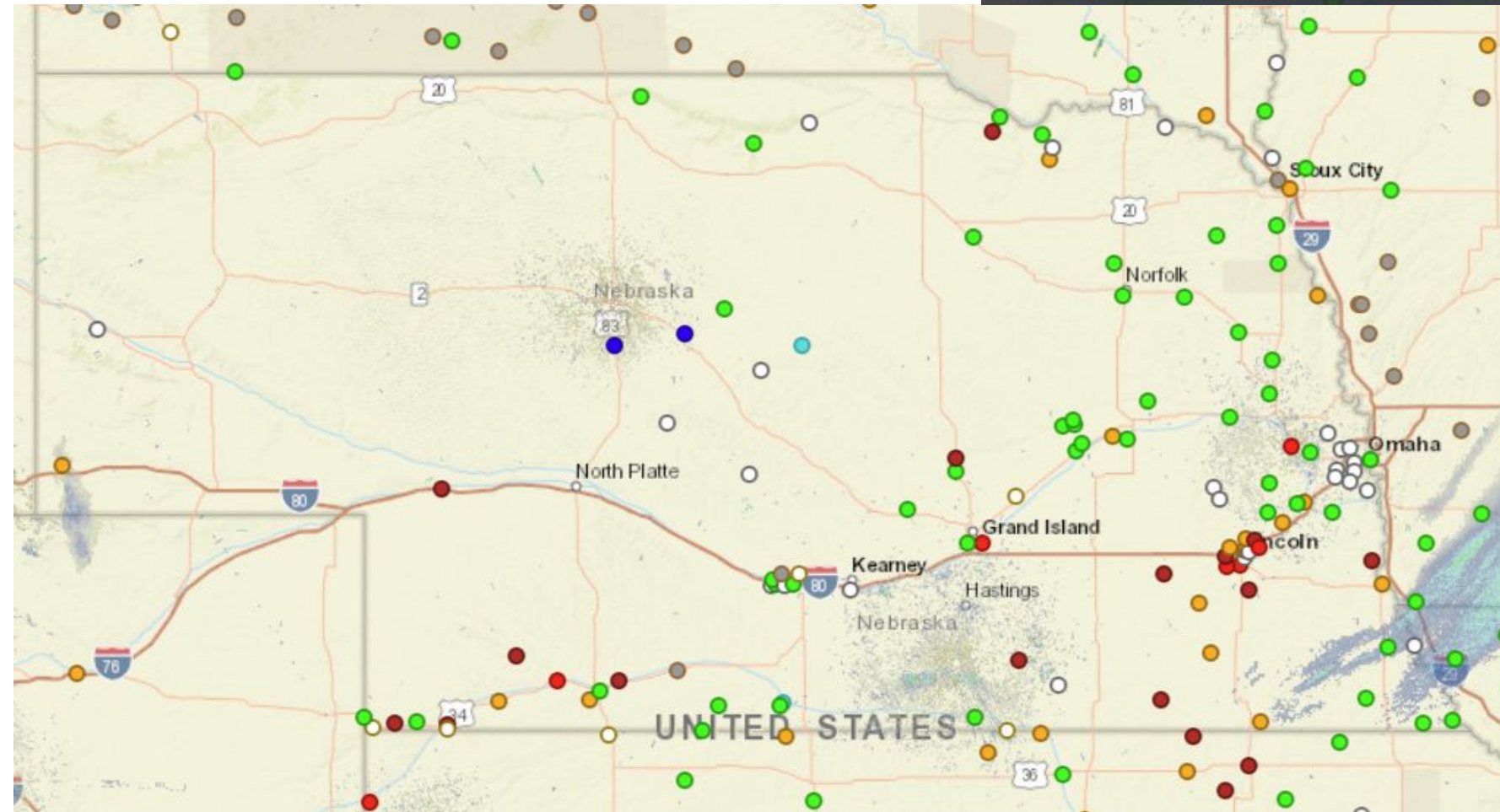
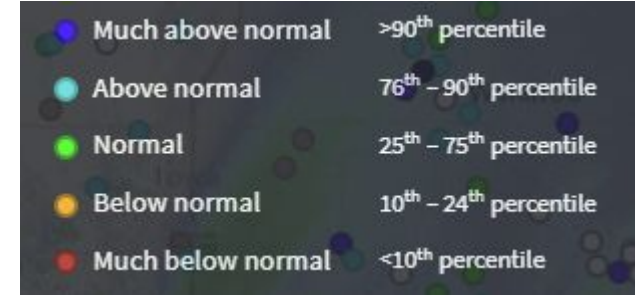
River Levels

March 12, 2026
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Map showing USGS streamflows

- River levels are mostly normal across the Sandhills, to much below normal across the South Platte River and Republican River basins across southwestern Nebraska.
- Due to the low streamflows, rivers will have increased capacity to better handle localized rainfall runoff as we head into this spring.

USGS Streamflows





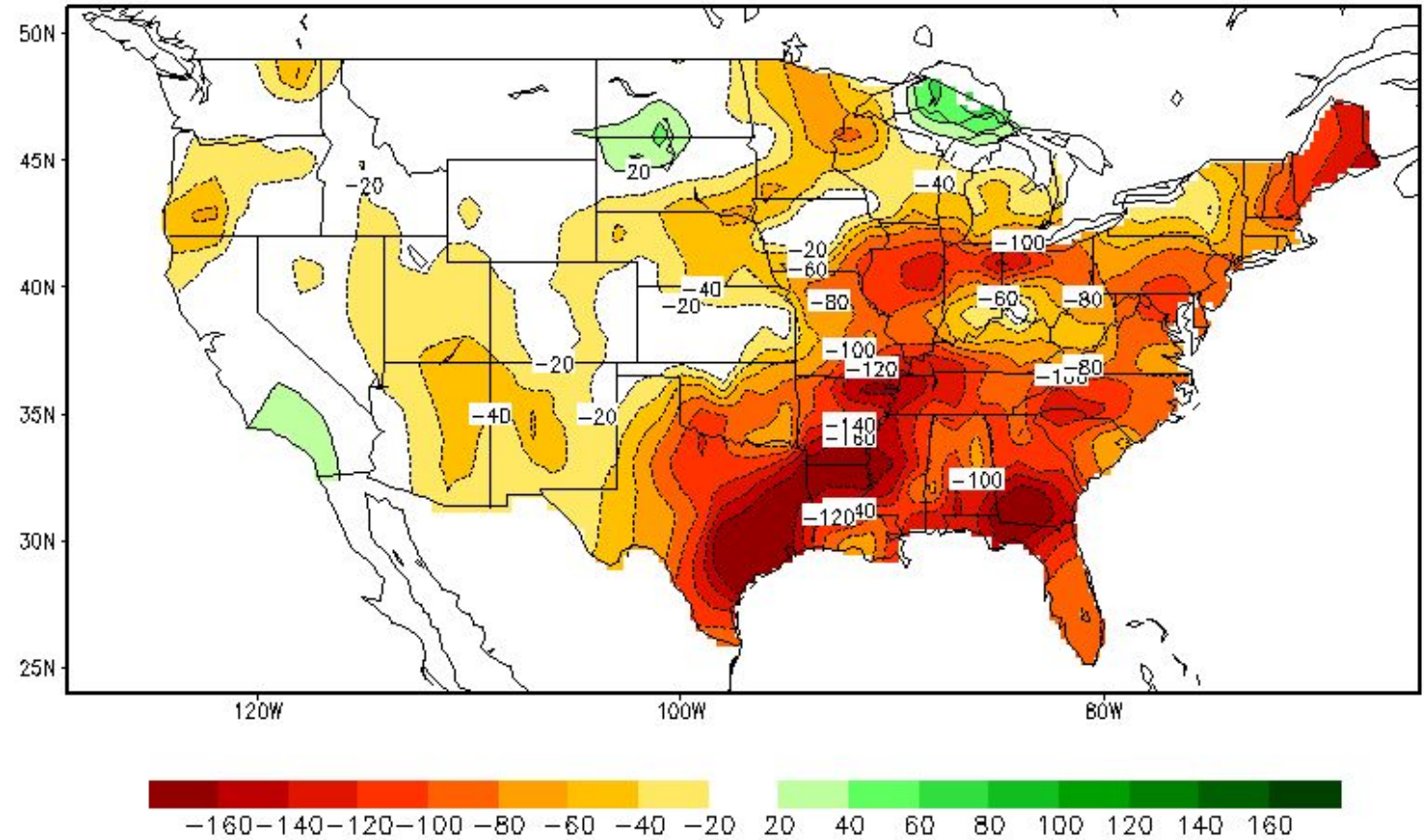
Soil Moisture

March 12, 2026
8:38 AM CDT

Map showing soil moisture anomalies

- Soil moisture anomalies range from 25 to 50 mm below normal
- These values are 1 to around 2 inches below normal
- The very dry soils will have appreciable capacity for water infiltration and storage as we head into spring.

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)
MAR 10, 2026





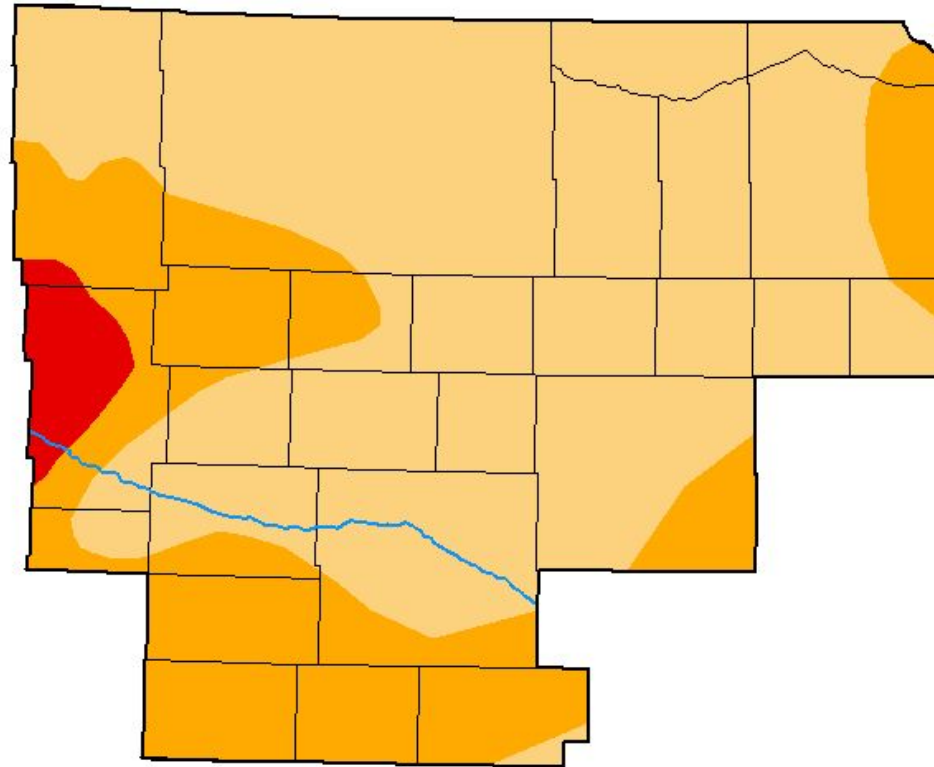
Latest Drought Conditions

March 12, 2026
8:38 AM CDT

Map shows drought conditions across western and north central Nebraska

- All of western and north central Nebraska are in Moderate to Severe Drought
- A portion of far western Nebraska is located in an Extreme Drought
- Below normal precipitation over the winter has contributed to the drought conditions, which are expected to persist into the spring
- This is expected to lessen overall flood concerns

U.S. Drought Monitor North Platte, NE WFO



March 3, 2026

(Released Thursday, Mar. 5, 2026)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	32.24	2.79	0.00
Last Week 02-24-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	25.35	2.79	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-02-2025	31.33	68.67	21.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.00	100.00	41.43	11.59	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	55.89	44.11	3.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 03-04-2025	1.18	98.82	91.56	72.59	7.16	0.00

Intensity:



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/Maps/MapArchive.aspx>



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

National Weather Service
North Platte, NE



Long Range Flood Outlook

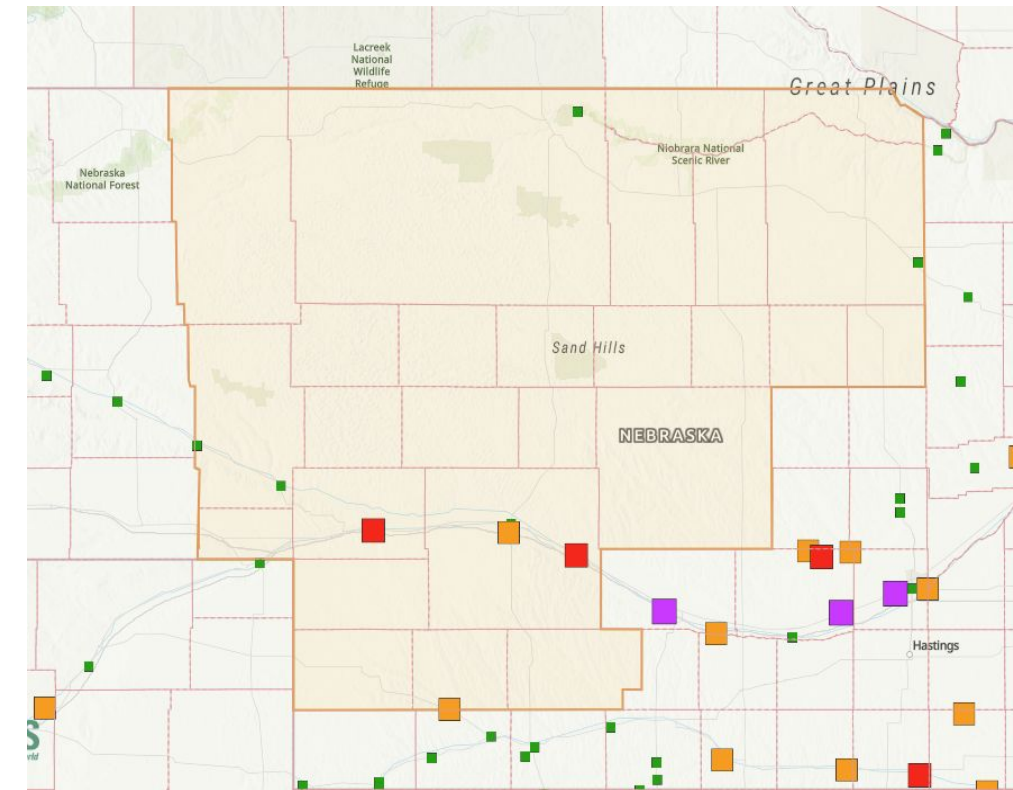
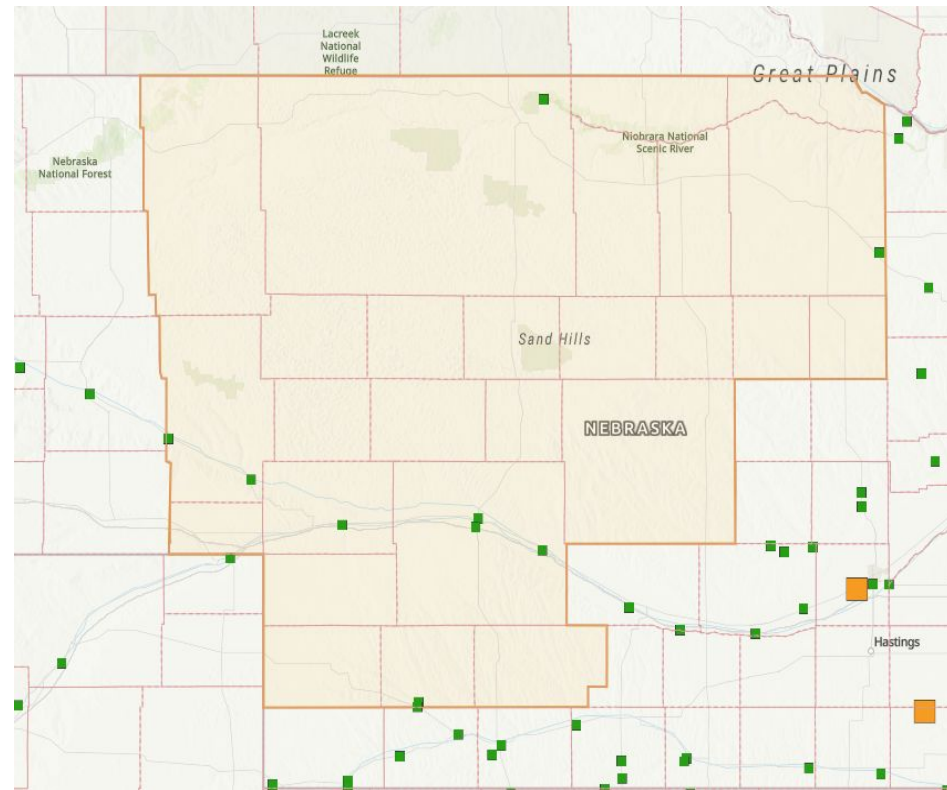
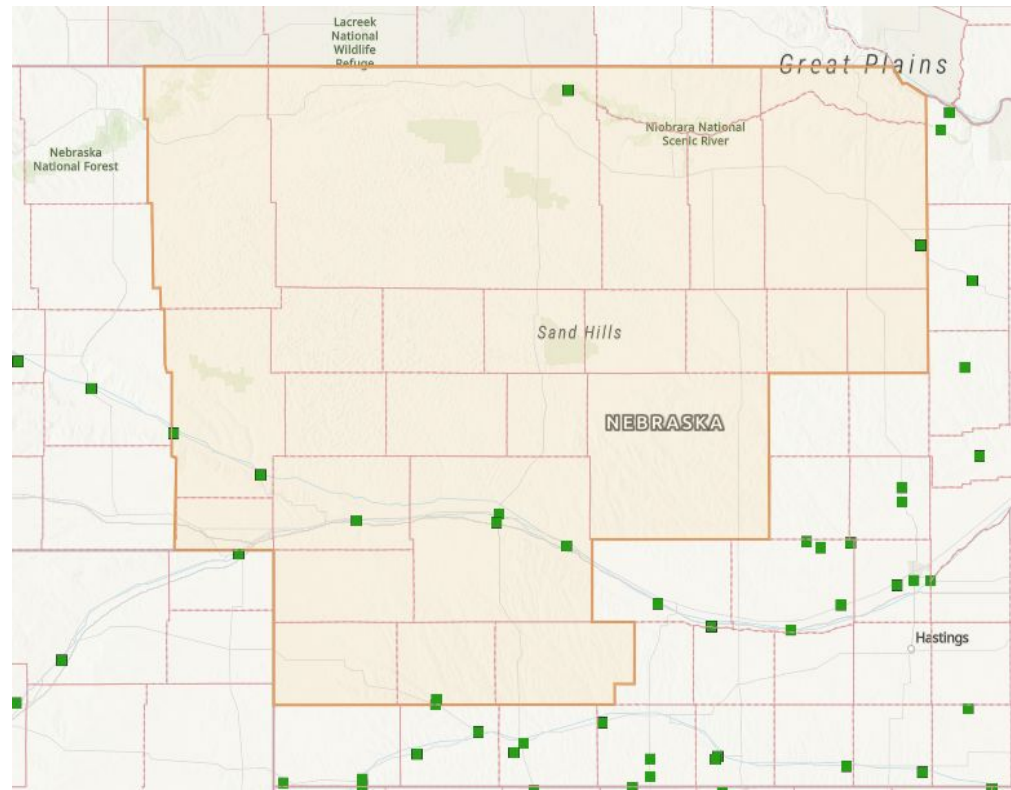
March 12, 2026
8:38 AM CDT

Probability of exceeding minor/moderate/major flood stage

Expected

Possible

Reasonable worst-case scenario



> 50% Chance of Exceedance

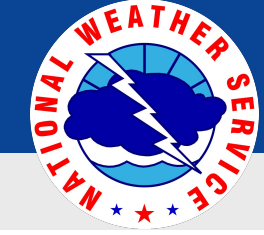


> 25% Chance of Exceedance



>10% Chance of Exceedance





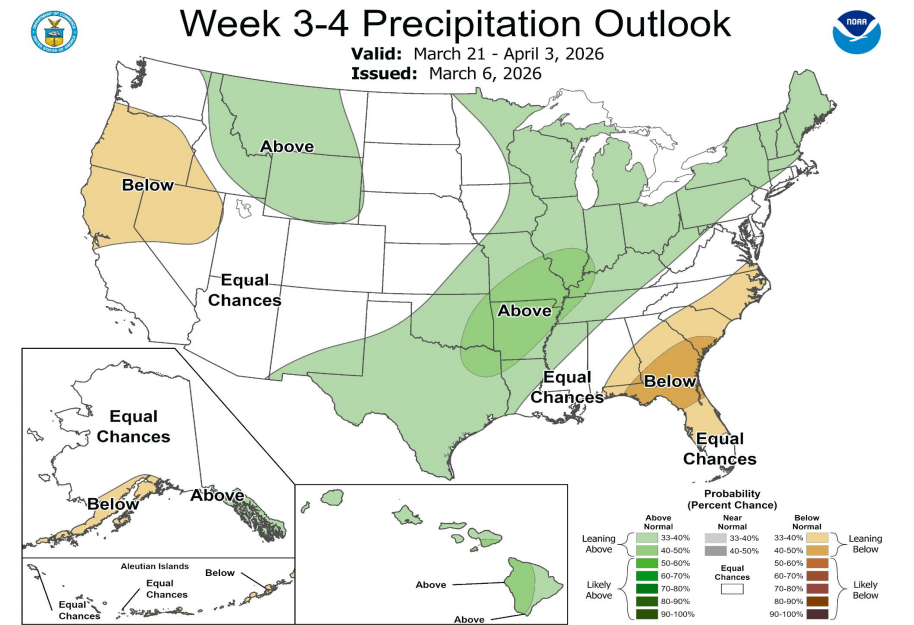
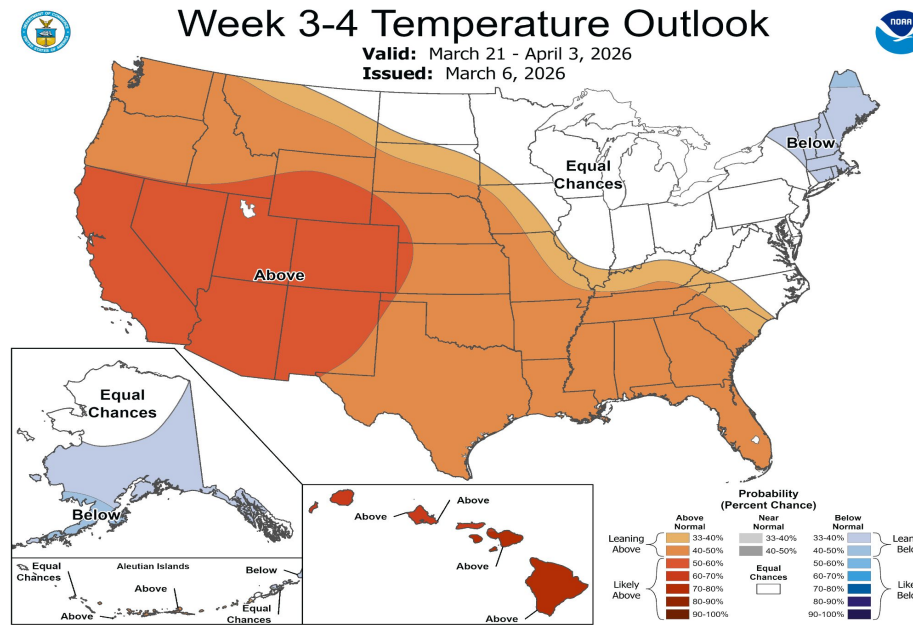
Spring Weather Outlook

March 12, 2026
8:38 AM CDT

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

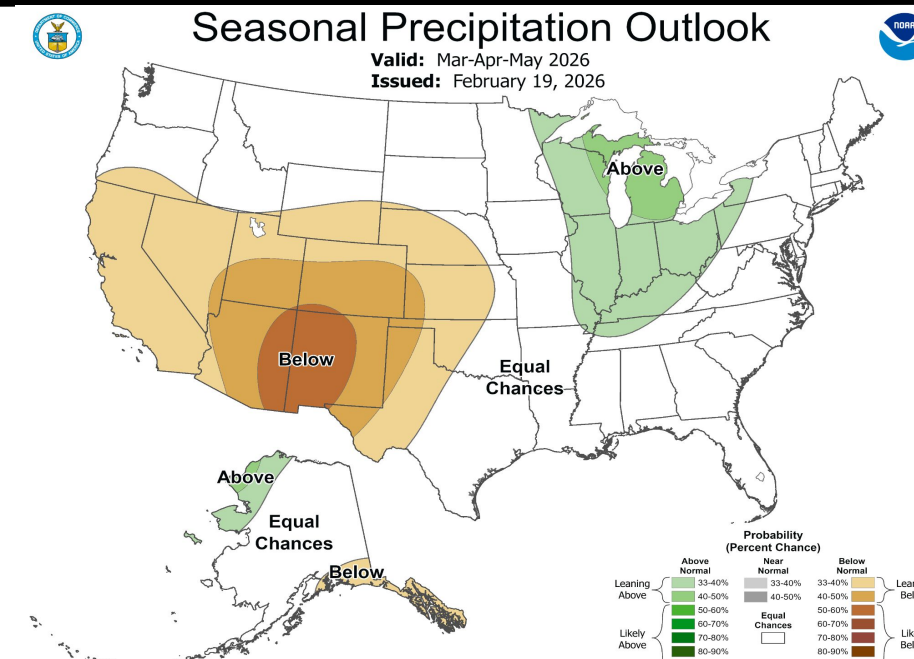
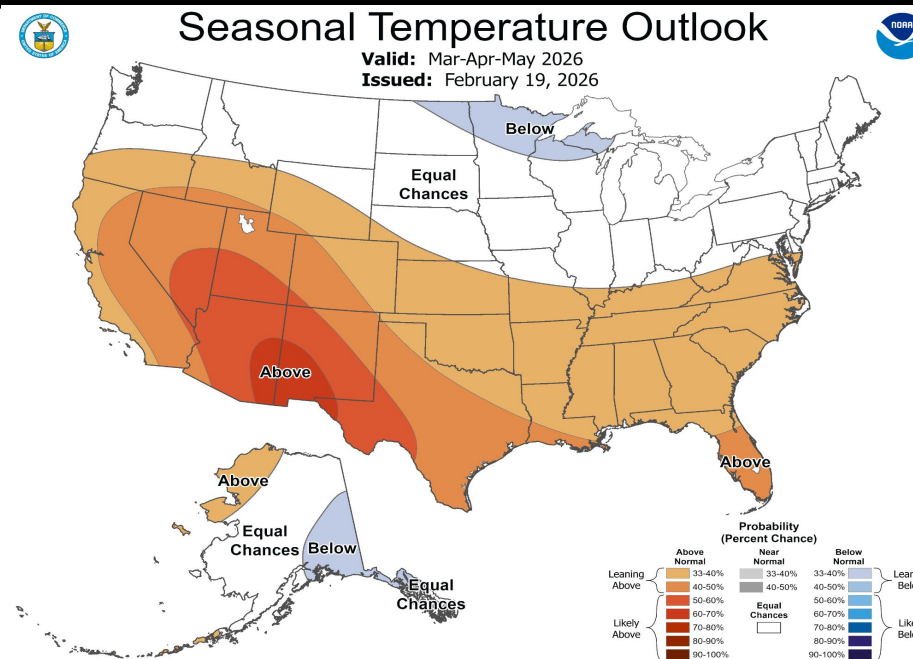
Outlook for Next Month (April)

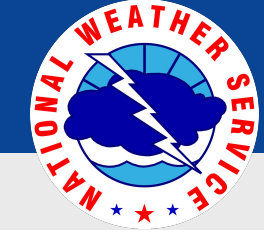
- Temperatures in April are favored to remain above normal.
- Precipitation chances are unclear, with equal chances for above or below.



Seasonal Outlook

- As we head into the spring months (through May) a lean toward above-normal temperatures are expected, especially across southwest Nebraska.
- Precipitation chances will lean below normal for the entire area.

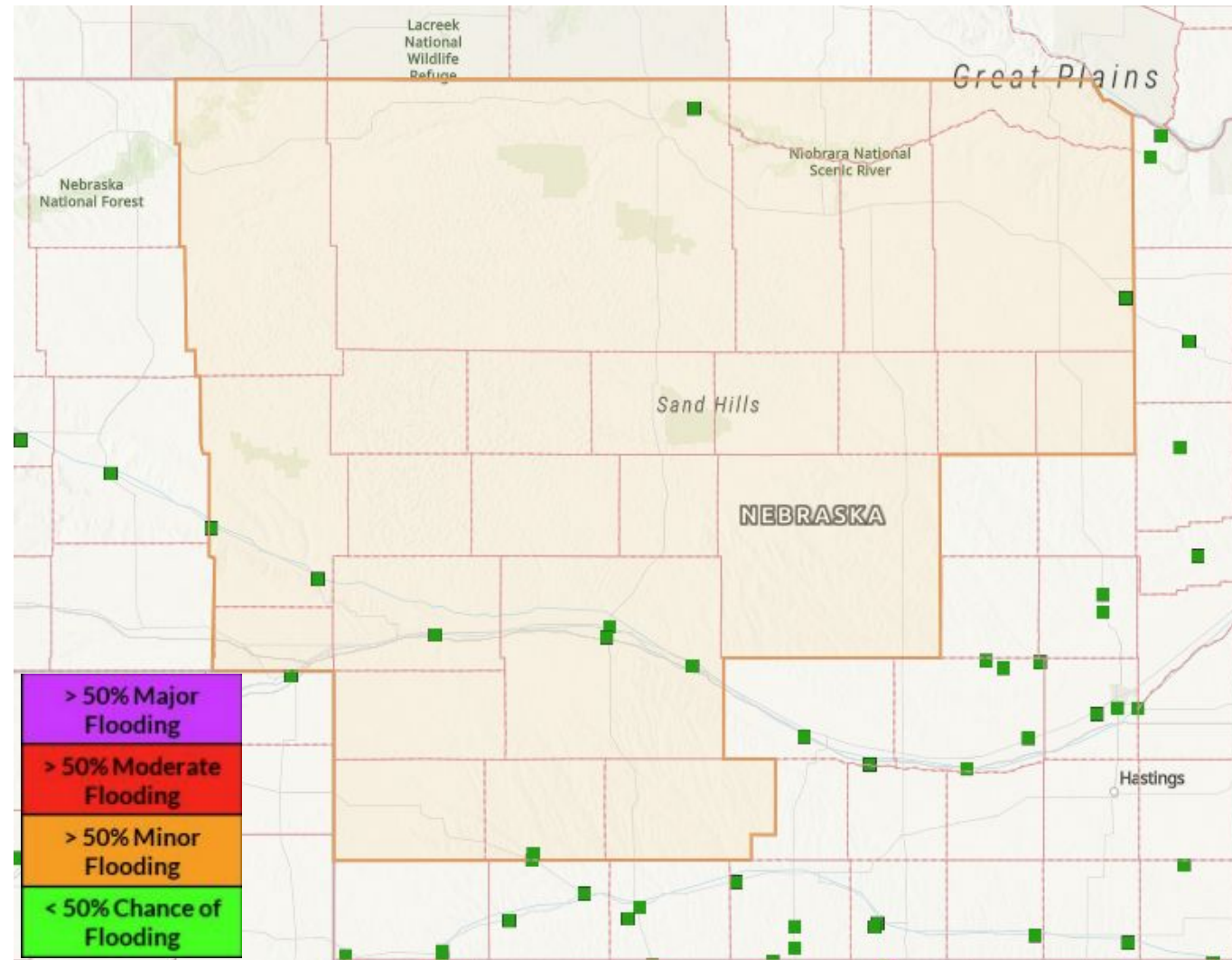




Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

March 12, 2026
8:38 AM CDT

Summary



Key Messages

Current hydrologic conditions are not expected to be a significant contributing factor for spring flooding.

- Winter season precipitation was much below normal
- Streamflows are near normal to much below normal
- Soil moisture remains in significant deficit
- Near to above normal temperatures favored and below normal precipitation favored for March through May

Any flooding will be largely driven by springtime rains...CPC projects below normal precipitation being slightly favored

Additional Resources

[NWS North Platte Website](#)

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

[Missouri Basin River Forecast Center](#)

[Flood Safety Information](#)

[River Observations and Forecasts for western and north central NE](#)

[USGS National Water Dashboard](#)

[NWS North Platte on Facebook](#)

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