



# Drought Information Statement for Southeast TX and Southwest LA

Valid February, 19, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lake Charles, LA

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated March, 5, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/LCH/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS OVER MOST OF THE AREA CONTINUE TO WORSEN



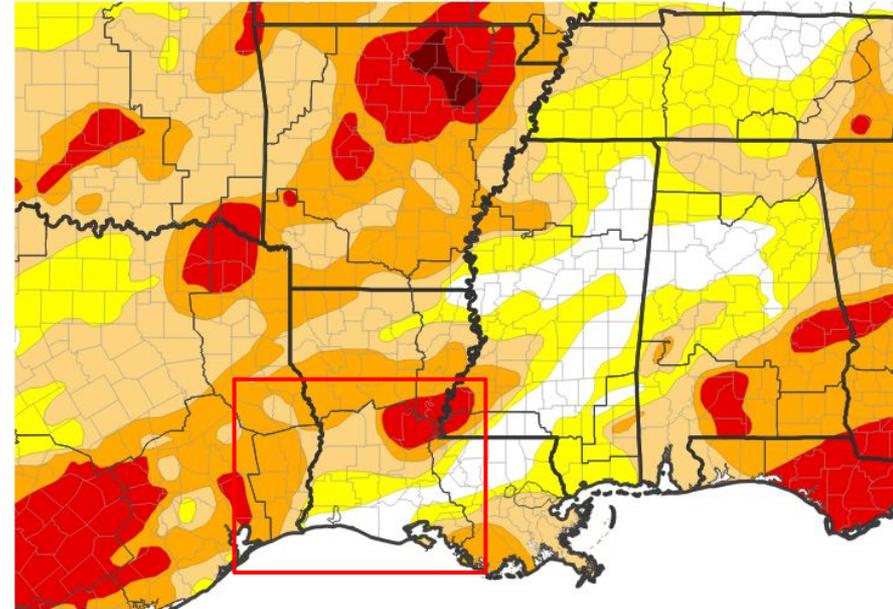


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Portions Central Louisiana.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Most of Southeast Texas and Portions of Central Louisiana.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Much of Central Louisiana
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Much of Southwest Louisiana and extreme south central Louisiana.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/17/26



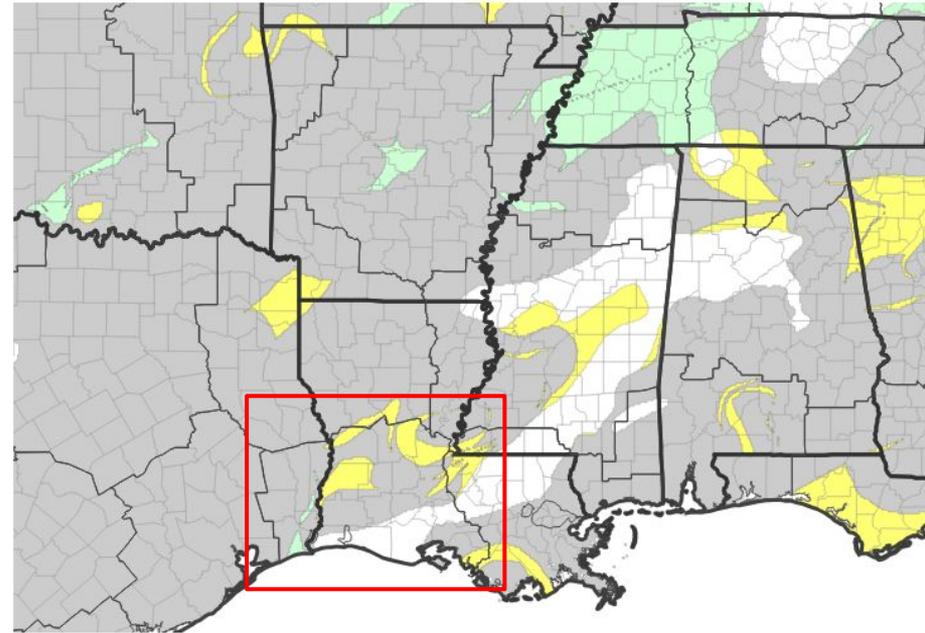


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

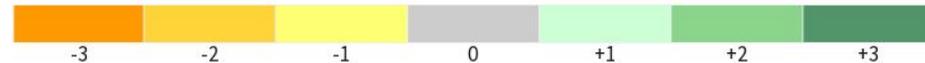
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#)

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: For many areas in Central Louisiana and extreme south central Louisiana.
  - No Change: over most of the area.
  - Drought Improved: slightly over portions of Jefferson County.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/17/26



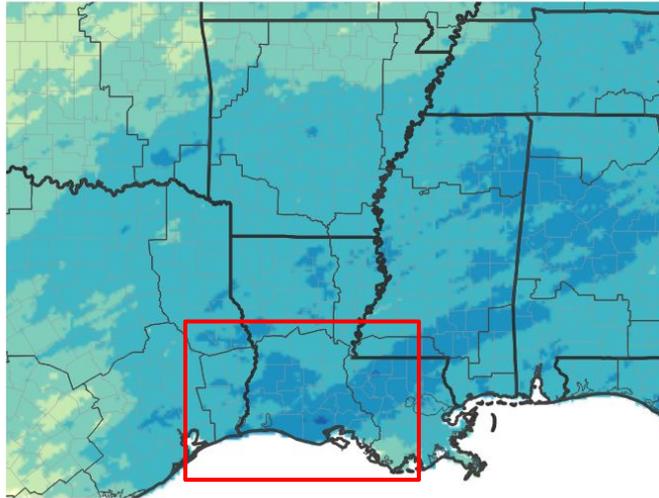


# Precipitation

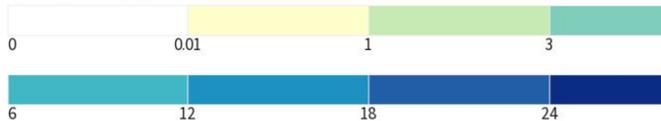
For the past 90 days

- With the exception of Vermilion and extreme eastern portions of Cameron Parishes precipitation continues to below normal over the past 90 days.

NWPS 90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

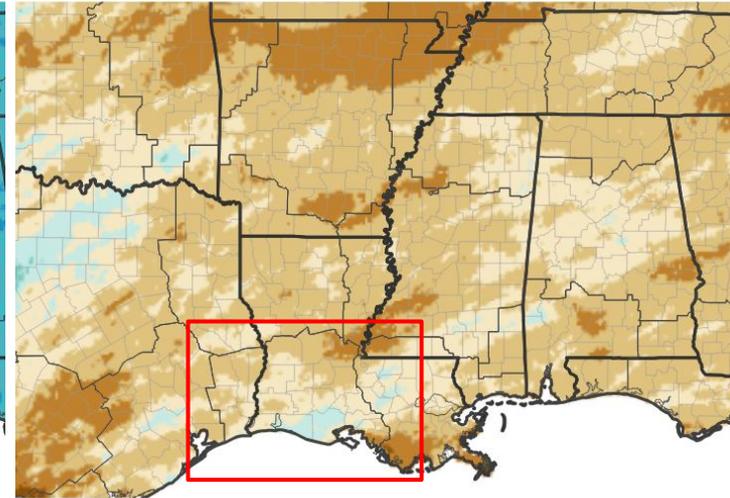


Inches of Precipitation

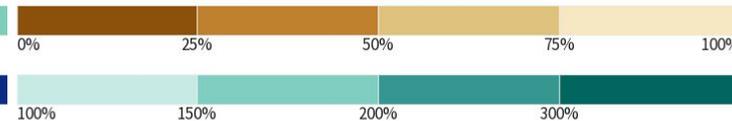


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

90-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Data Valid: Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 02/18/26



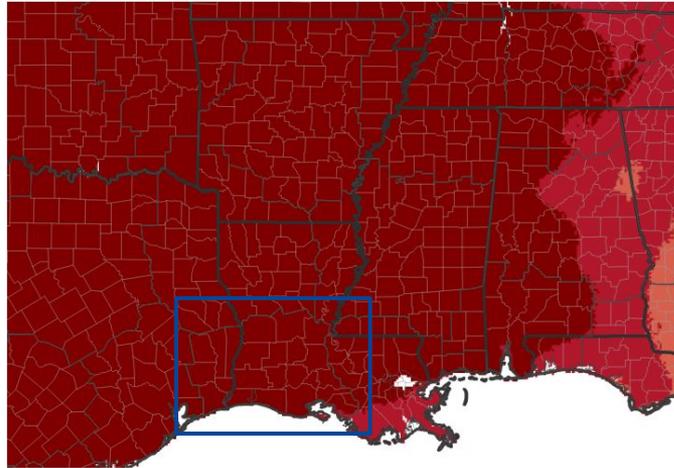


# Temperature

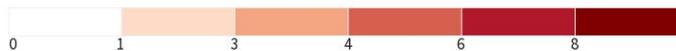
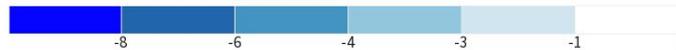
Link to [Southern Regional Climate Center](#)

- Temperatures have been much above normal the past few days with normal to slightly below normal the previous 30 days.

### 7-Day Temperature Anomaly



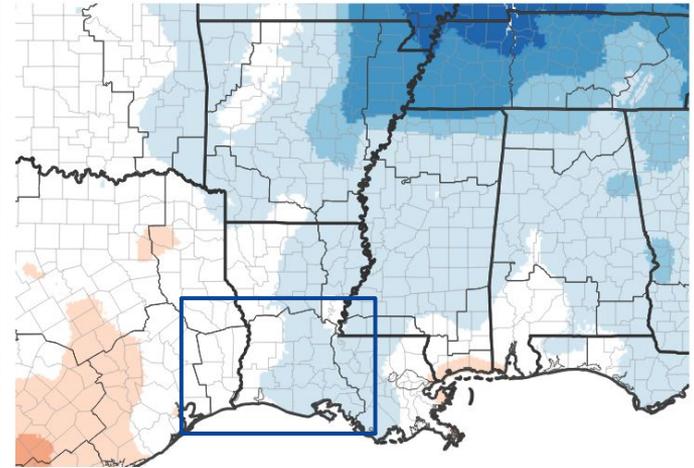
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



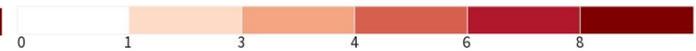
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/15/26

### 30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/15/26





# Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Observed river flows are below normal to much below normal on area river basins, especially in Central Louisiana.

## Agricultural Impacts

- No known impacts at this time

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Increased wildfire risk has been noted when coupled with low humidity and elevated winds.
- Burn bans are currently in place for Rapides and St. Landry Parishes.

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

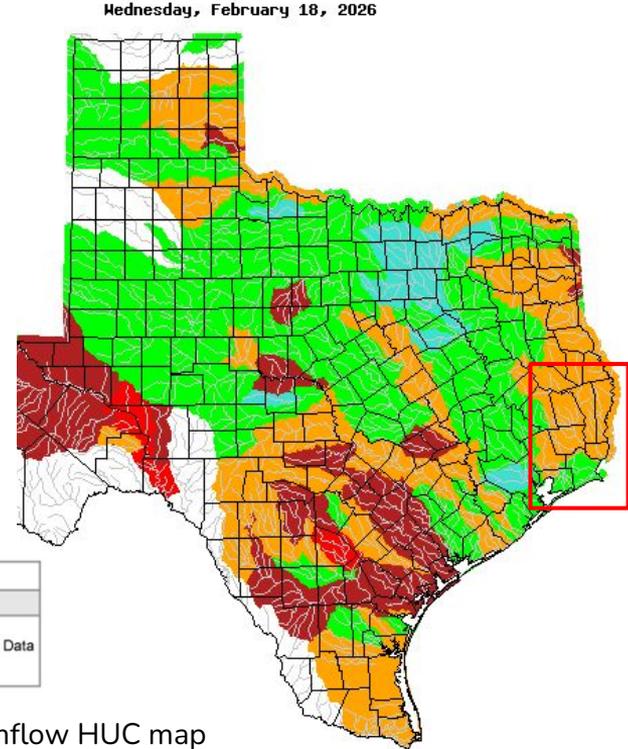
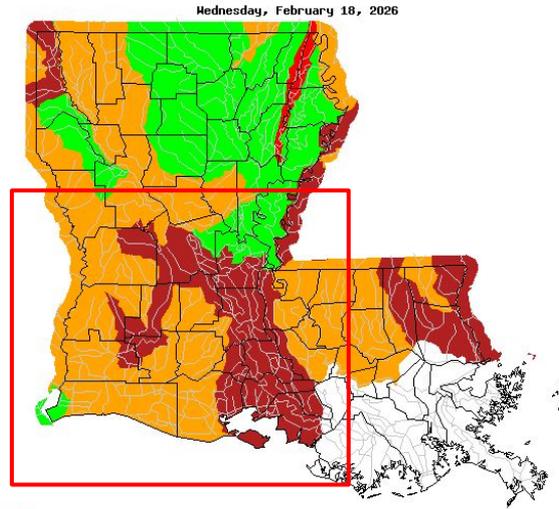
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Below to much below normal flows are observed on most river basins especially in Central Louisiana.



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			

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 01 14 2026

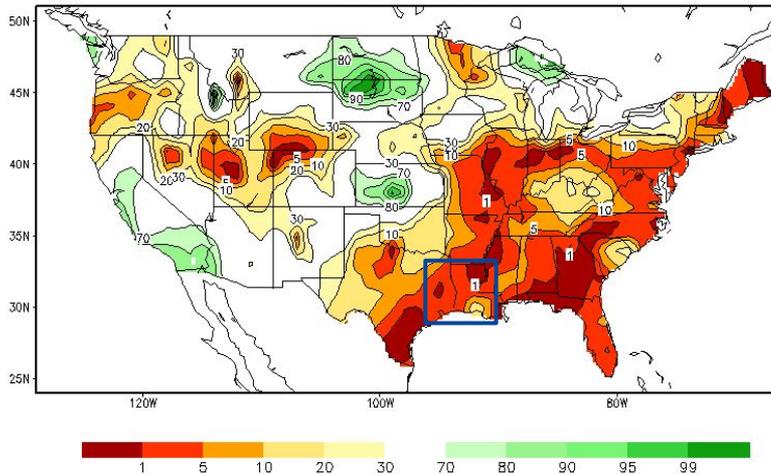




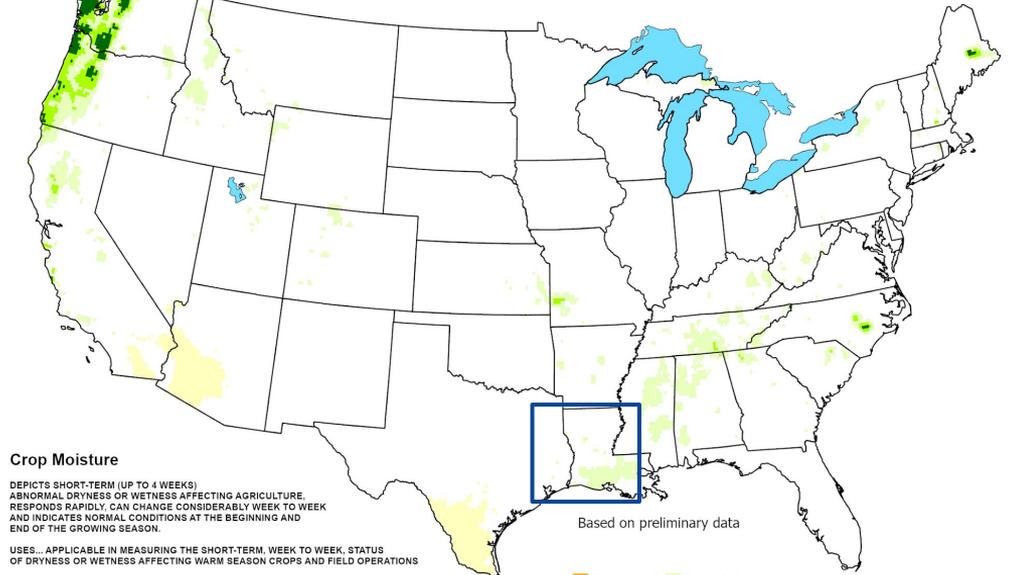
# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is below normal across the area with shallow soil moisture slightly above normal in South Central Louisiana.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
FEB 18, 2026



Crop Moisture Index  
Value for the February 8 - 14, 2026  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



### Crop Moisture

DEPICTS SHORT-TERM (UP TO 4 WEEKS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE. RESPONDS RAPIDLY CAN CHANGE CONSIDERABLY WEEK TO WEEK AND INDICATES NORMAL CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE GROWING SEASON.

USES... APPLICABLE IN MEASURING THE SHORT-TERM, WEEK TO WEEK, STATUS OF DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING WARM SEASON CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS

LIMITATIONS... MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE TO GERMINATING AND SHALLOW ROOTED CROPS WHICH ARE UNABLE TO EXTRACT THE DEEP OR SUBSOIL MOISTURE FROM A SHALLOW SOIL PROFILE OR FOR COOL SEASON CROPS GROWING WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE AVERAGING BELOW ABOUT 50°F IT IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF THE LONG-TERM (MONTHS, YEARS) DROUGHT OR WET SPELLS WHICH ARE DEPICTED BY THE DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX.

Based on preliminary data

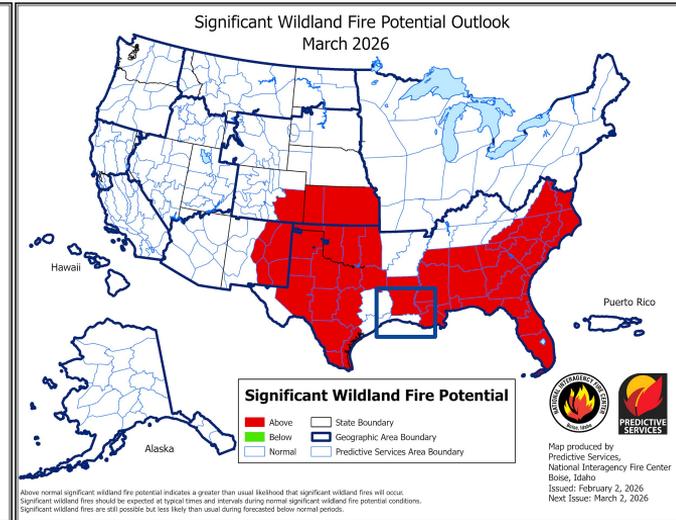
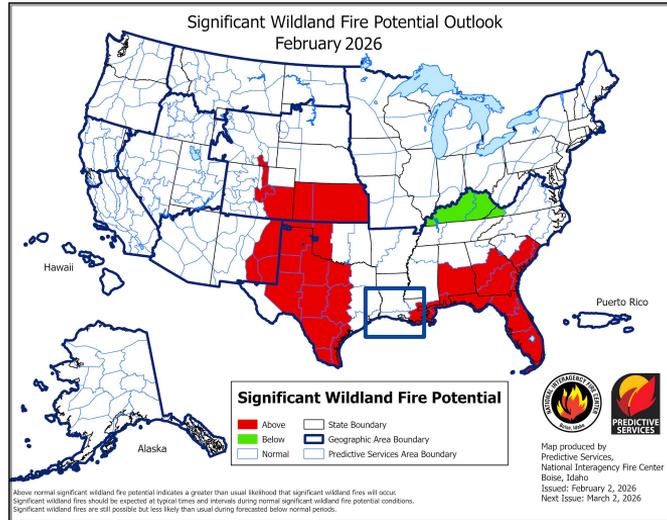




# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

- Burn Bans are currently in effect for Rapides and St. Landry Parishes.
- Wildfire conditions are expected to go above normal in March for Louisiana.



Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here](#).

Latest LA Burn Ban map available [here](#).

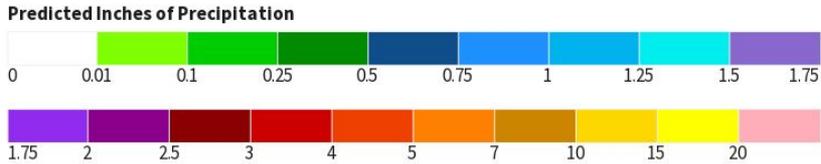
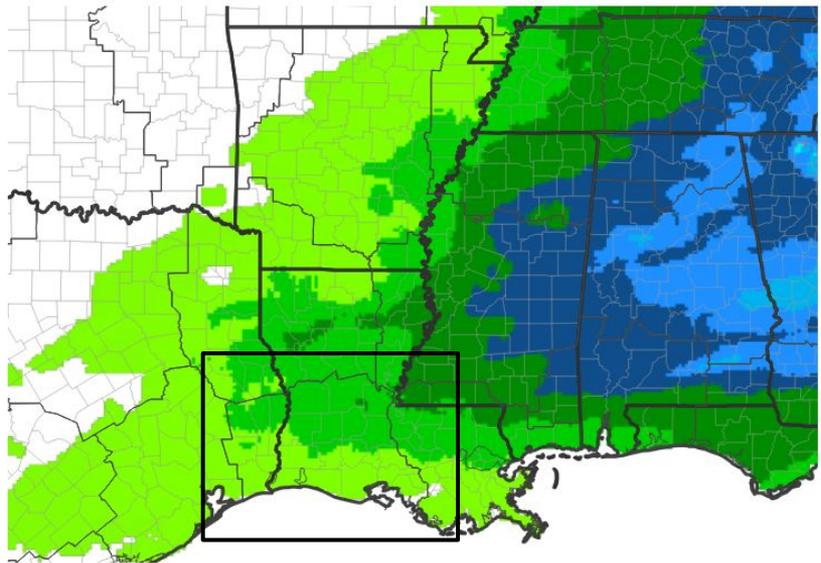




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall is expected one half an inch or less over the next 7 days.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 19, 2026–February 26, 2026



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/19/26



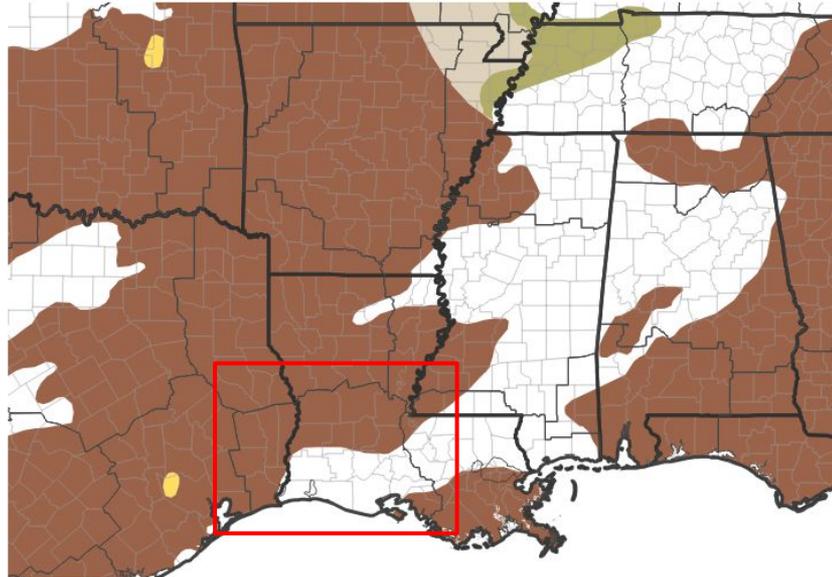


# Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across East Texas and Central Louisiana into spring.

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 19, 2026–May 31, 2026



### Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/19/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

