



Drought Information Statement for southeast Mississippi, southwest Alabama, and the western Florida Panhandle

Valid: April 16, 2026

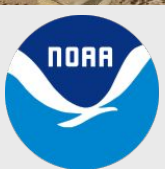
Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

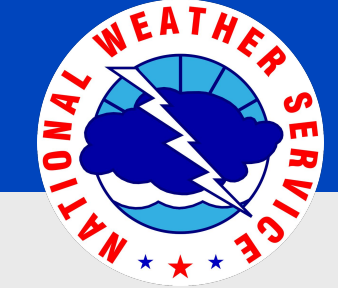
Contact Information: sr-mob.webmaster@noaa.gov

- *This product will be updated **May 14, 2026** (or sooner) if drought conditions change significantly*
- All currently available products: drought.gov/drought-information-statements
- Previous local statements: weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement
- Regional Drought Status Updates: <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates>

DROUGHT WORSENS. WILDFIRE DANGER CONTINUES TO INCREASE.

- *Nearly 30% of the local area now impacted by extreme drought while nearly 85% of the local area in severe drought.*





U.S. Drought Monitor

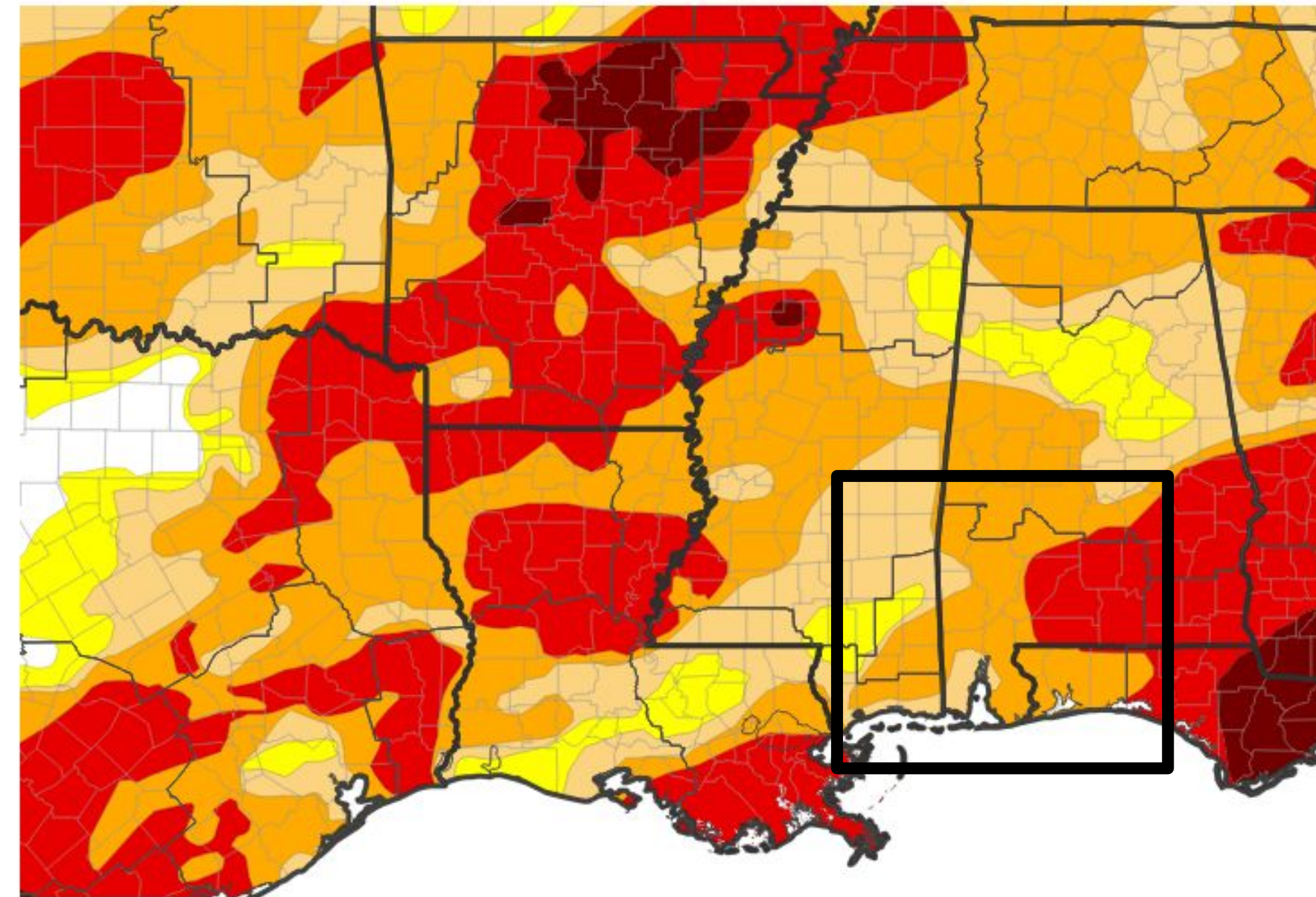
April 16, 2026
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Latest [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Southeast US and central Gulf Coast

Drought Intensity and Extent:

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: East of a line from Pine Apple to Claiborne to Flomaton Alabama.
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Much of the remainder of Southwest Alabama and all of the northwest Florida Panhandle. Southeast of a line from Leakesville to Wiggins in southeast Mississippi.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Waynesboro to State Line Mississippi to Millry Alabama.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Clara to New Augusta Mississippi.

U.S. Drought Monitor



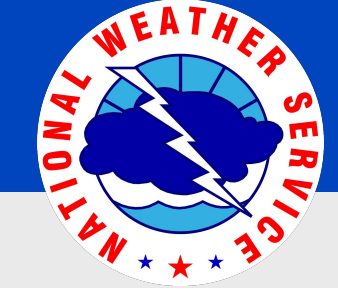
U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/14/26





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

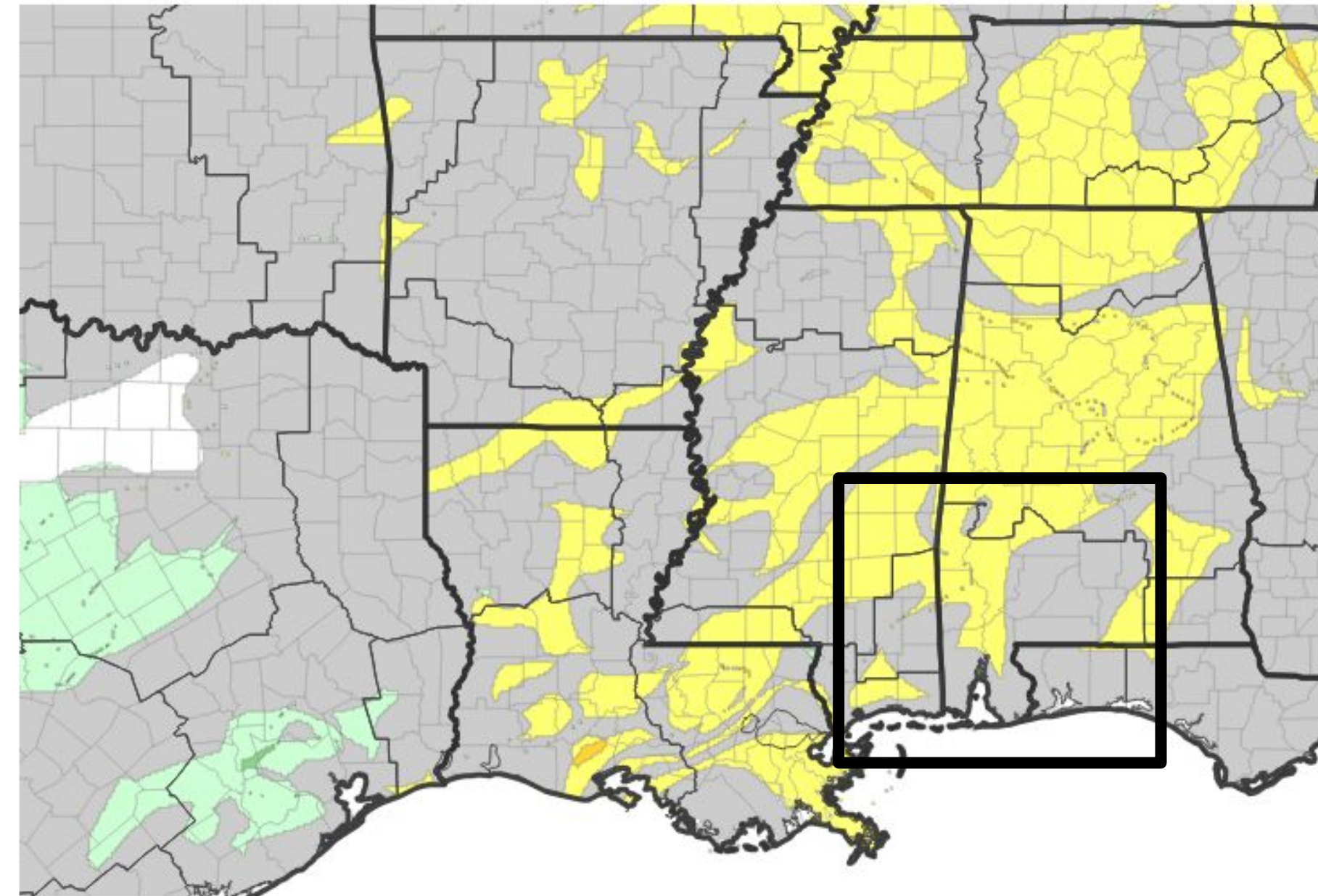
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Latest [1-week change map](#) for the Southeast US and central Gulf Coast

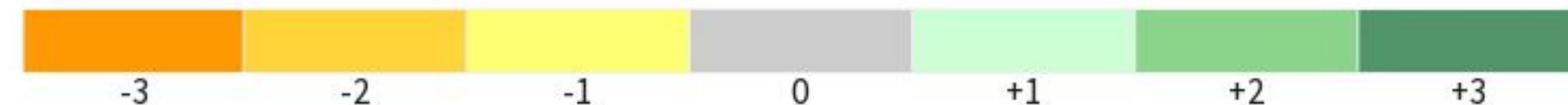
One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:

- **Drought Worsened:** Over the Tombigbee, Tensaw, and Mobile River Valley areas. Portions of south central Alabama and interior southeast Mississippi.
- **No Change:** The remainder of the local area.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



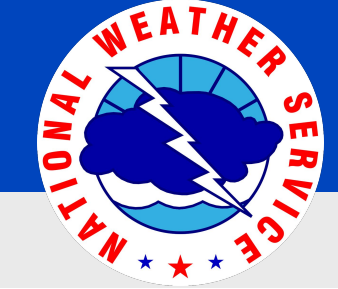
Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 04/14/26





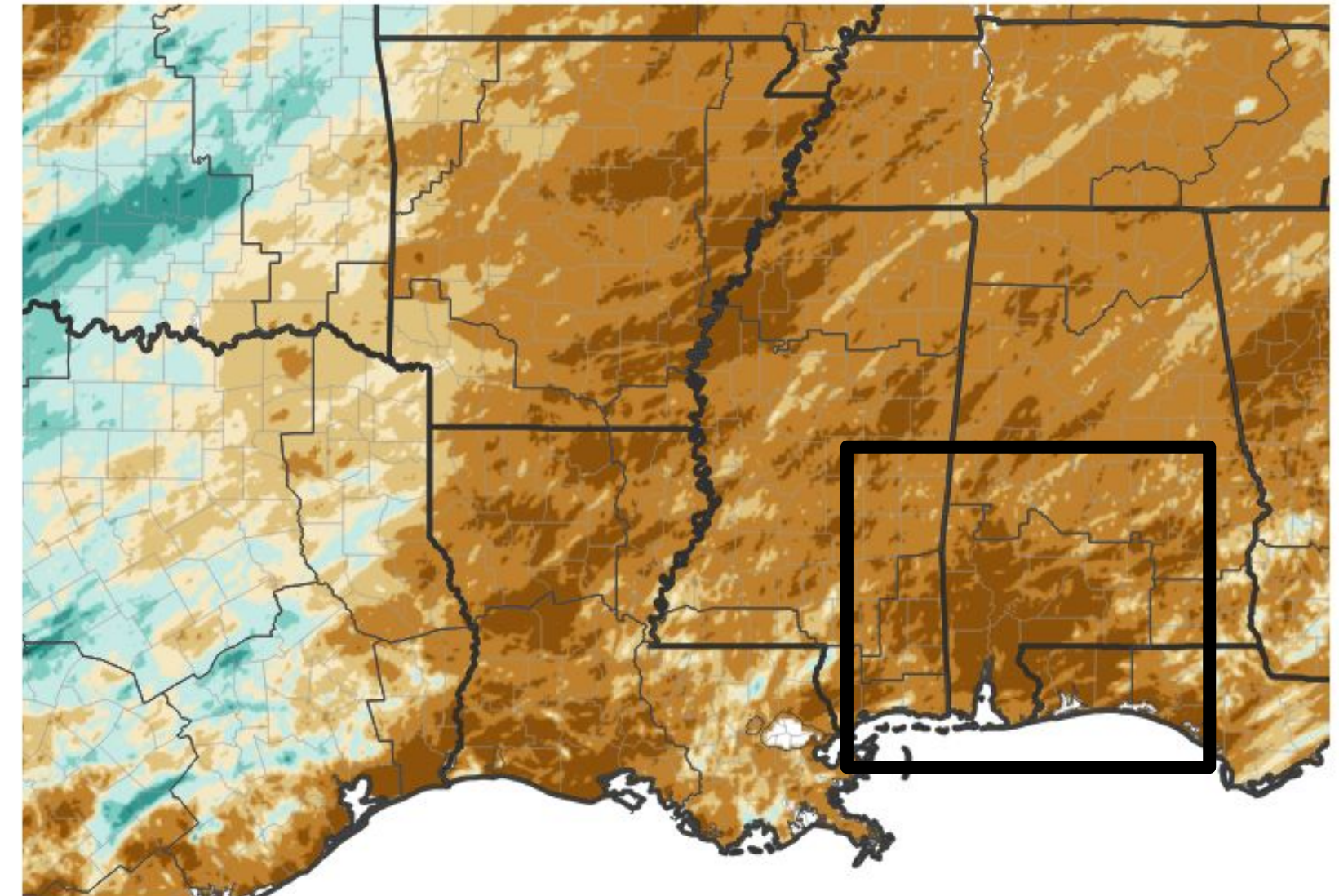
Precipitation

April 16, 2026
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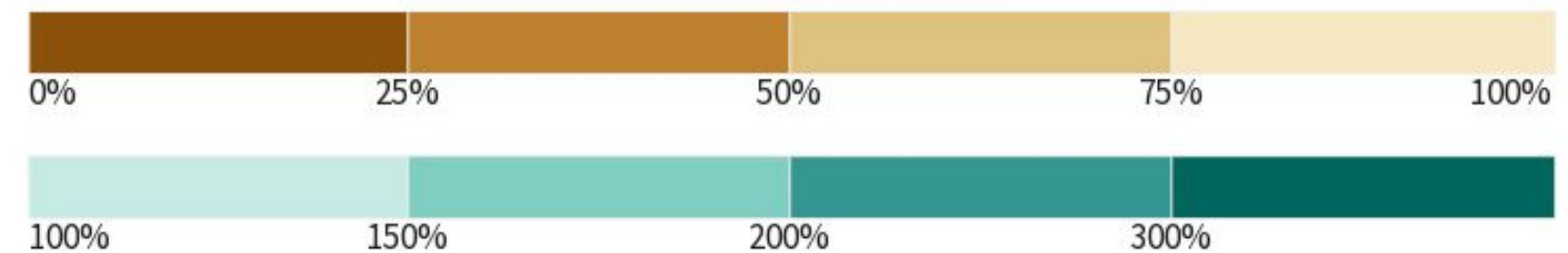
Summary of conditions and impacts:

- Over the past month, much of the local area has seen rainfall deficits degrading to 25% or less of normal for the 30-Day period.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

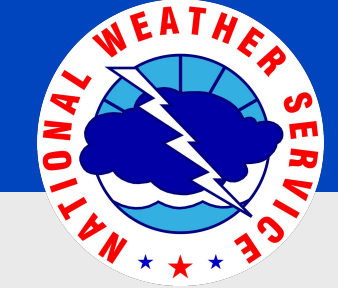


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 04/16/26
image courtesy of Drought.gov





Summary of Impacts

April 16, 2026

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See [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- The US Geological Survey (USGS) indicates stages on river and/or stream points are much below normal and in many cases at record low stages over the local area. Rivers and streams that are experiencing low water levels will likely result in what is typically deeply submerged objects being likely closer to the water's surface or in many cases completely exposed. This presents increased waterway hazards for safe recreational boating and commercial navigation. In many cases, waterways will be unnavigable due to low or record low stages.

Agricultural Impacts

- Crop condition in the driest of areas is very poor. Crop disease and insect damage elevated. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition. Hardness of ground increases difficulty of plowing, resulting in a higher frequency of plow blades becoming dull adding to the expense for change outs. Many counties declared natural disaster areas due to persistent high intensity drought.

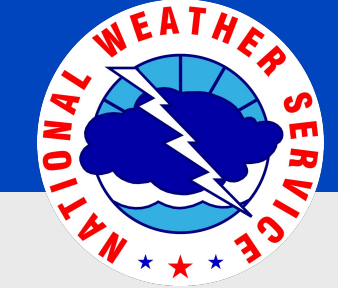
Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildland fire potential remains significant. Know the law before you burn. Anyone who burns a field, grassland, or woodland without a burn permit may be subject to significant fines or prosecution for committing a Class B misdemeanor.

Mitigation Actions

- Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged in drought areas. Please refer to your municipality and/or your water provider for mitigation information. Local water restriction ordinances may be in place.





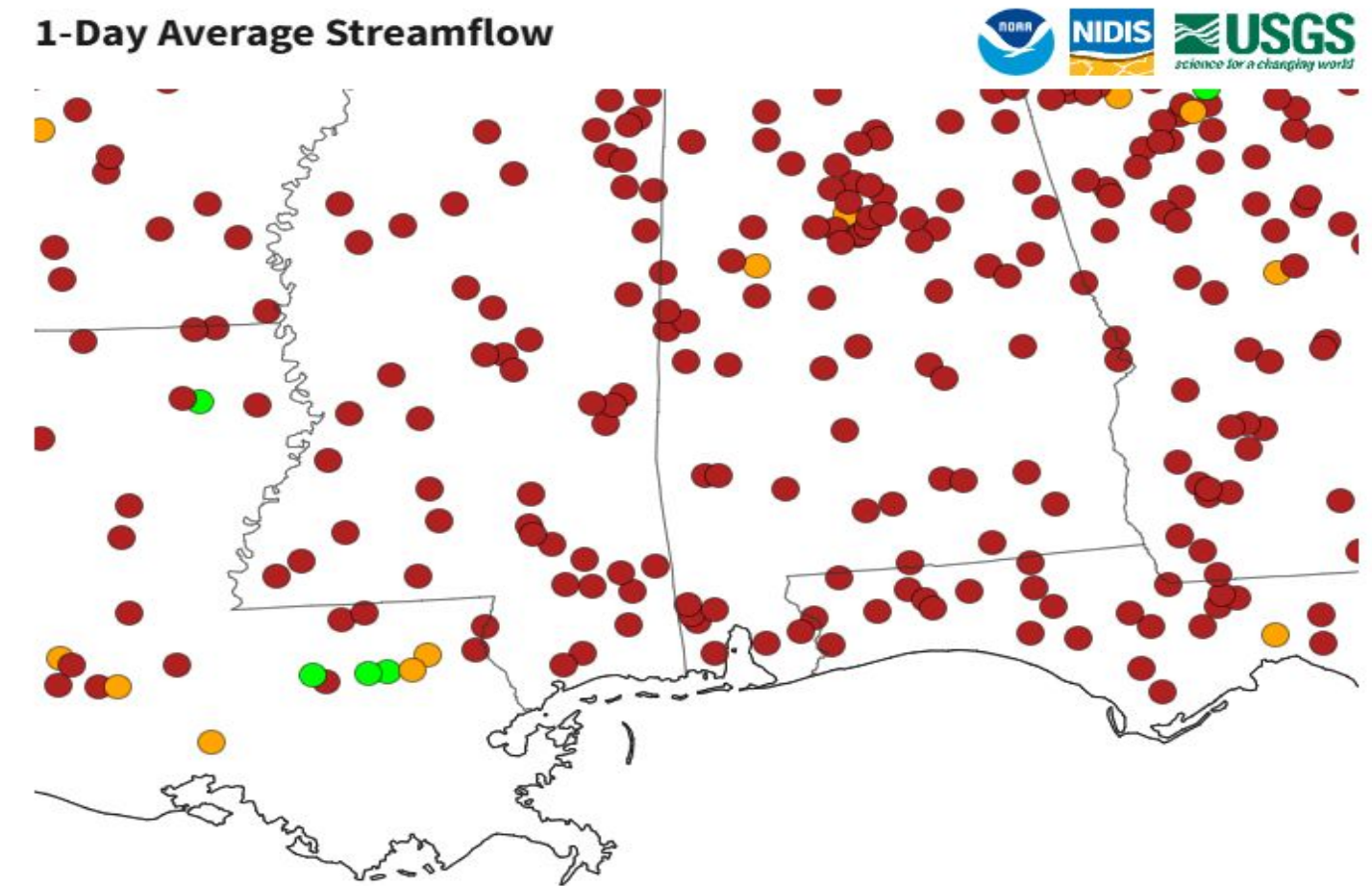
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

April 16, 2026
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Summary of conditions and impacts:

- Local waterway flows are at much below normal levels and now in many cases to record low flows.
- Rivers and streams that are experiencing low water levels will likely result in what is typically deeply submerged objects being likely closer to the water's surface or in some cases completely exposed presenting a waterway hazard for safe recreational boating and commercial navigation.
- In many cases, waterways will be unnavigable due to low or record low stages.

1-Day Average Streamflow



Streamflow Conditions

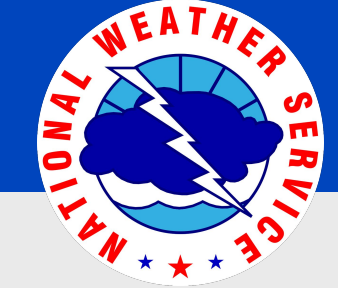


Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey
Data Valid: 04/15/26

Drought.gov

Most current stages and flow for each state's stream and river points: [Mississippi](#) and [Alabama](#) and [Florida](#)

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			



Agricultural Impacts

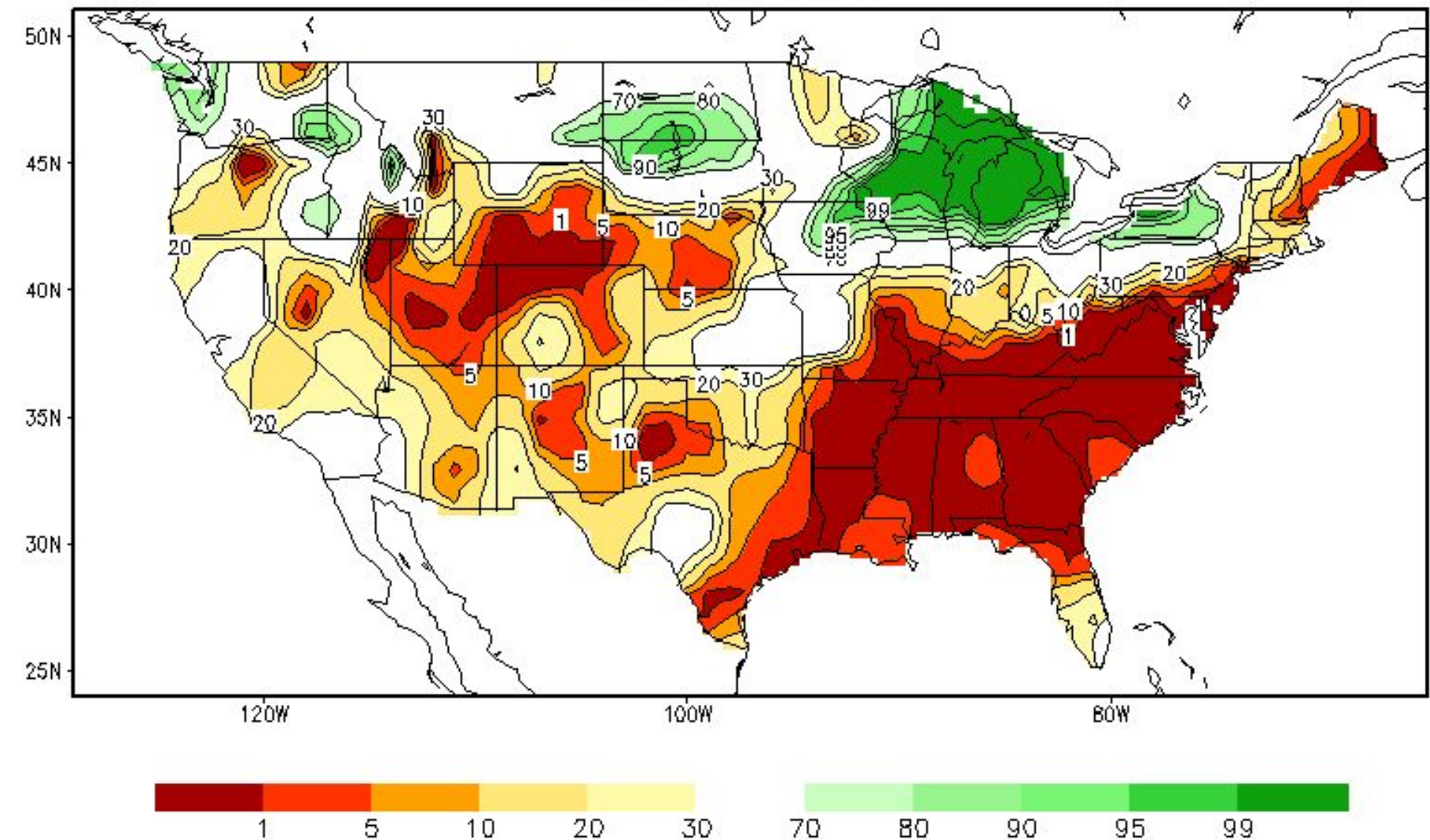
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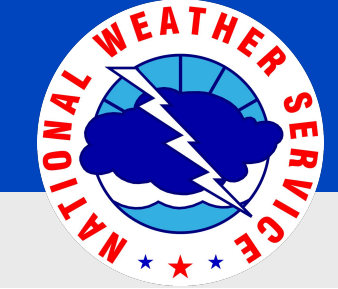
Summary of conditions and impacts:

- As of April 14th, soils are moisture starved and ranking in the very low 1 to 5 percentile over much of the southeast U.S. and Deep South.
- This leads to very poor crop health, elevated risk of disease, and insect damage.
- Supplemental feeding required to maintain livestock.
- The USDA has declared 30 counties in the state of Alabama as natural disaster areas. Declared counties are eligible for emergency funding assistance.

It is recommended that farmers reach out to local USDA office for details on available funding assistance.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
APR 15, 2026





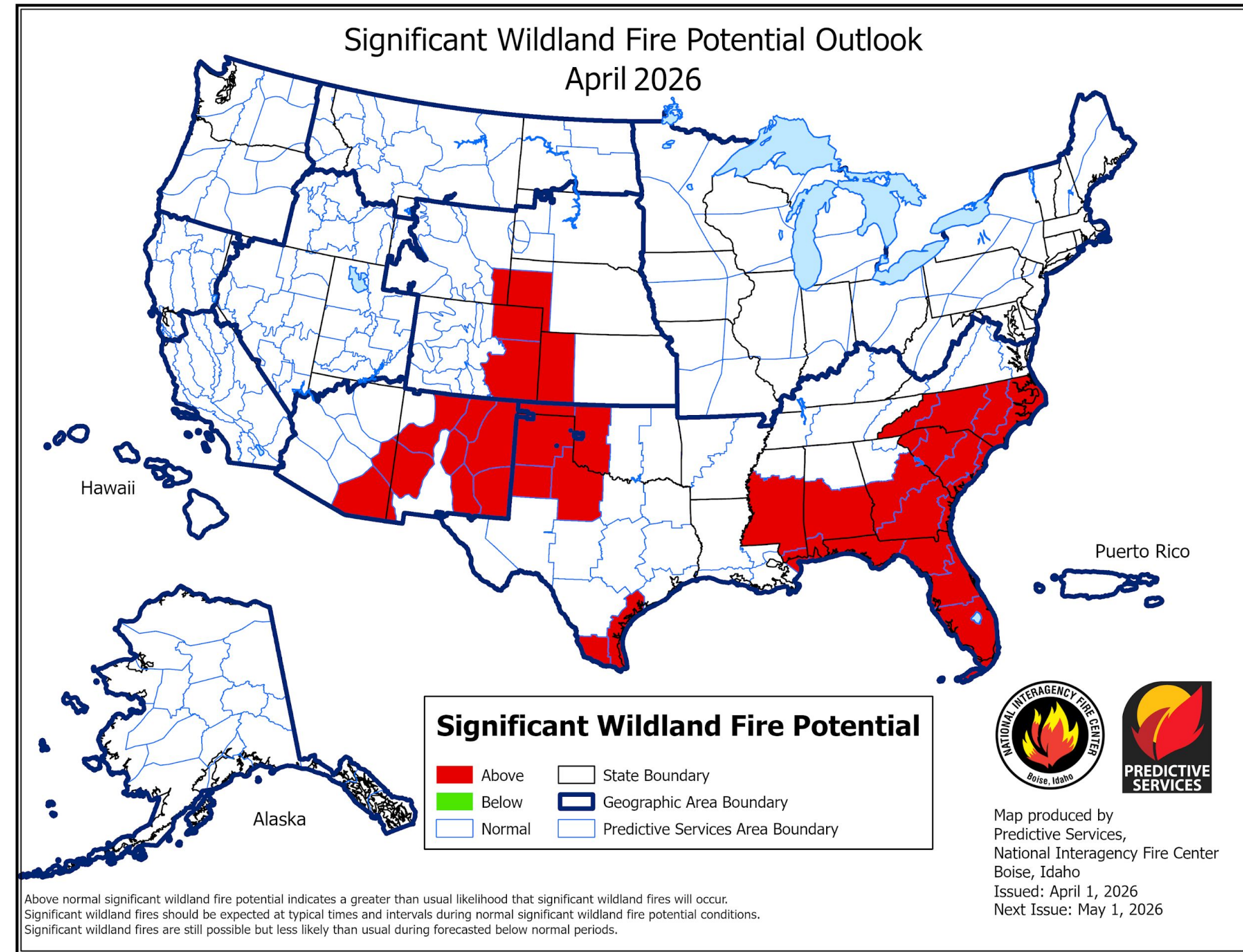
Fire Hazard Impacts

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Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center

Summary of conditions and impacts:

- The outlook for the remainder of April suggests that the Mid-Atlantic, southeast, and westward across the Lower Mississippi River Valley remains above normal potential for significant wildland fire potential.
- Know the law before burning. Anyone who burns a field, grassland, or woodland without a burn permit may be subject to significant fines or prosecution for committing a Class B misdemeanor.



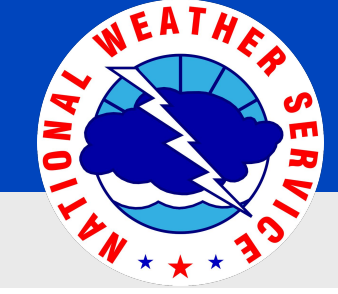
Latest Burn Bans and/or Advisories By State:

[Mississippi](#) and [Alabama](#) and [Florida](#)



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

National Weather Service
Mobile/Pensacola



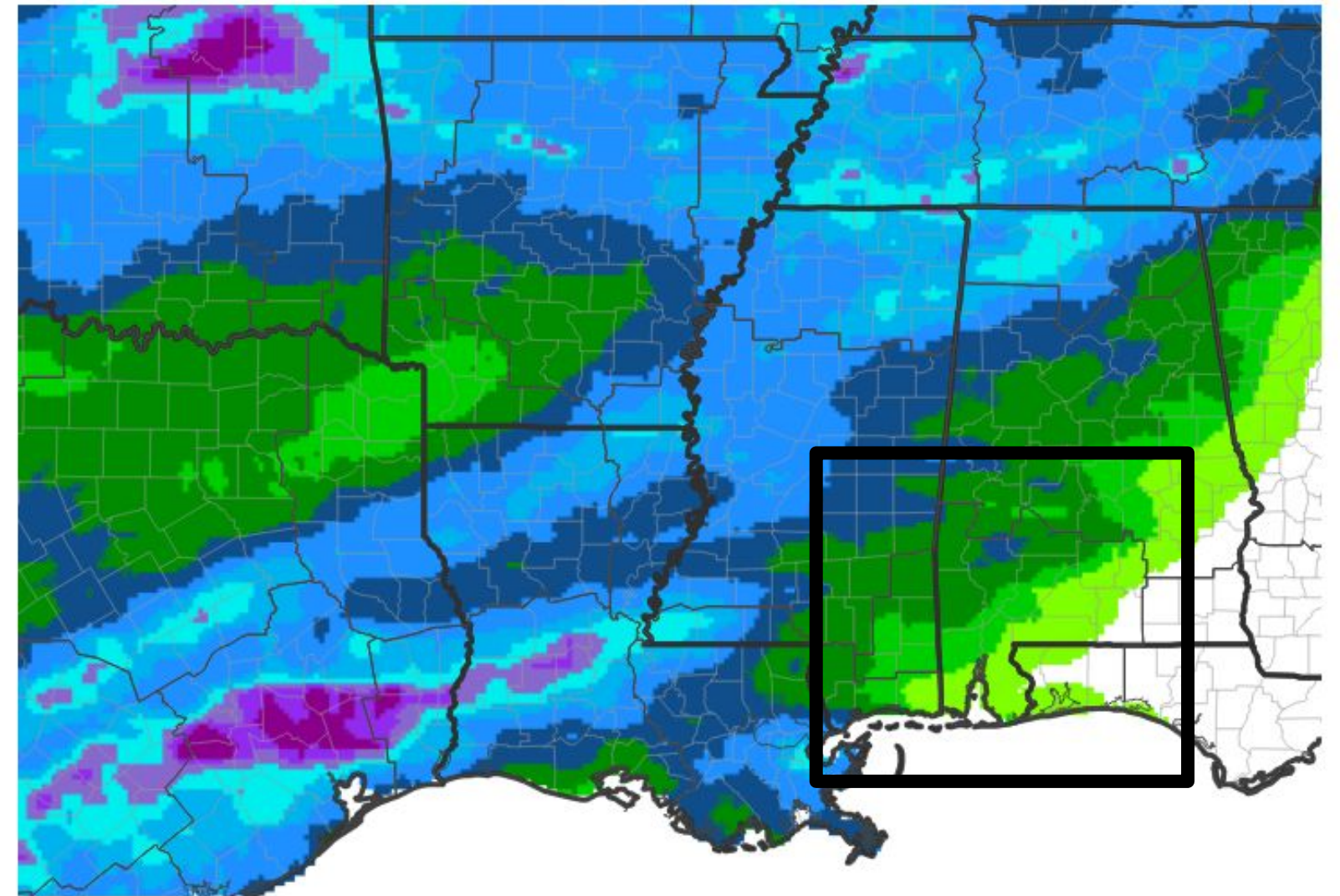
7-Day Precipitation Forecast

April 16, 2026
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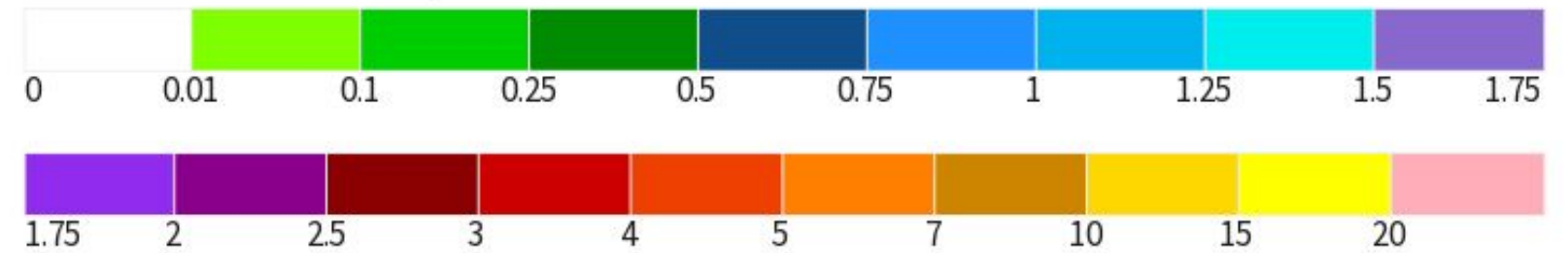
Summary of conditions and impacts:

- The bulk of the rainfall over the coming week will be to our west, focused from southeast Texas to up across the Mid-South.
- Rainfall over the local area, generally at a half inch or less through April 23rd, will do little to alleviate drought conditions.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 16, 2026–April 23, 2026



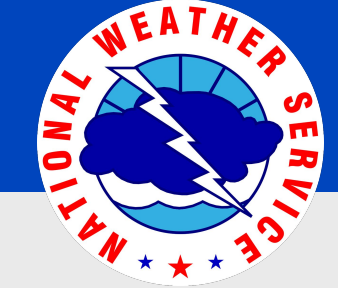
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26





Long-Range Outlooks

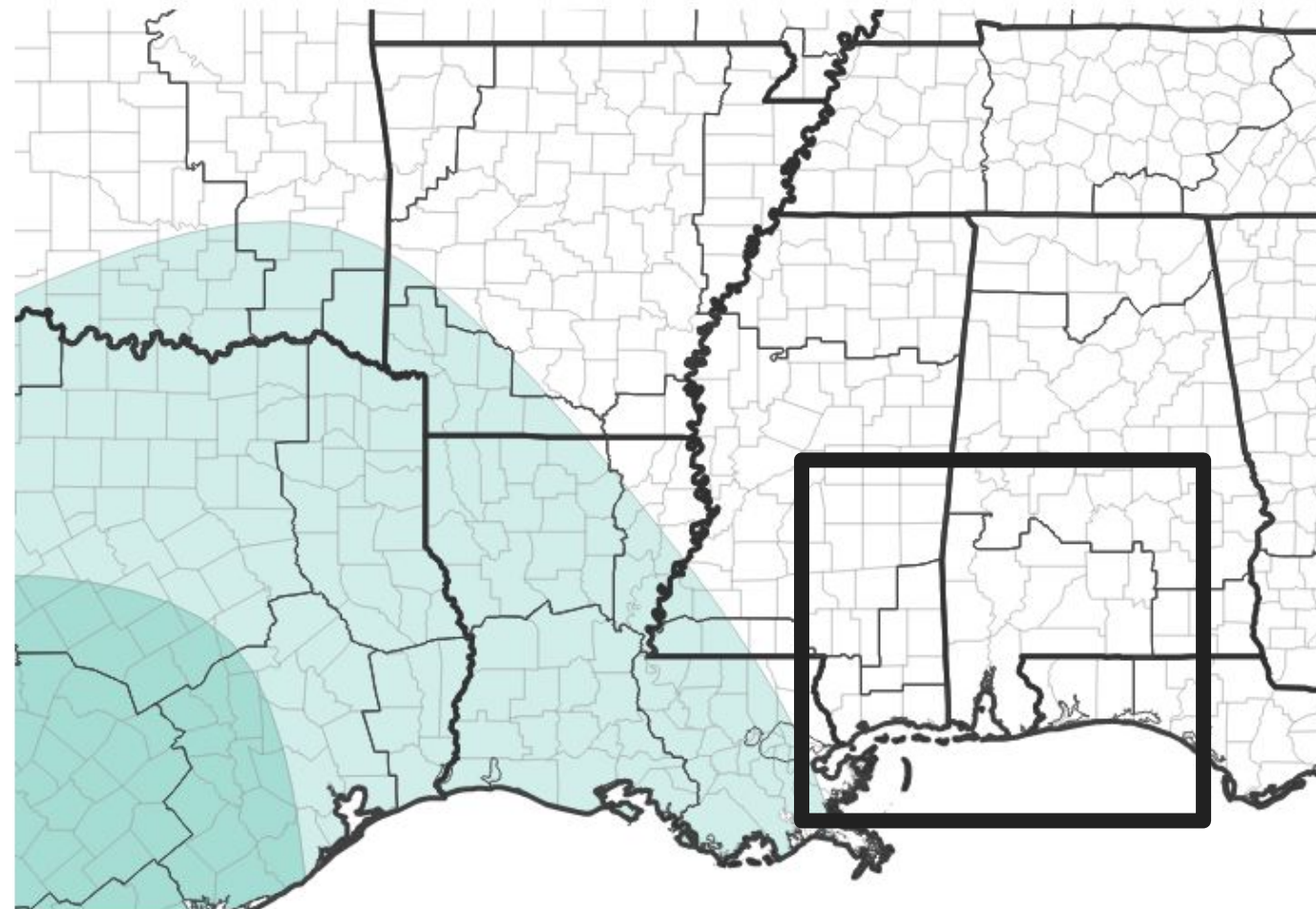
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Latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC](#) webpage

Summary of conditions and impacts:

- Looking ahead, the outlook for needed rainfall to alleviate drought conditions remains slim through the end of May.
- As we move into the early half of the summer, there are indications that rainfall may begin to lean above normal for portions of the area.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



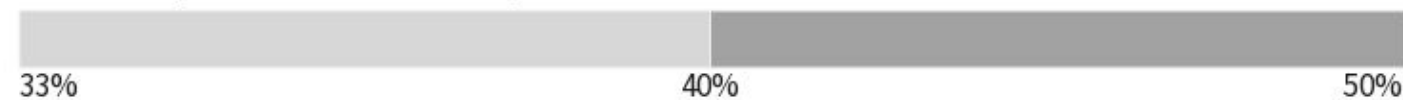
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



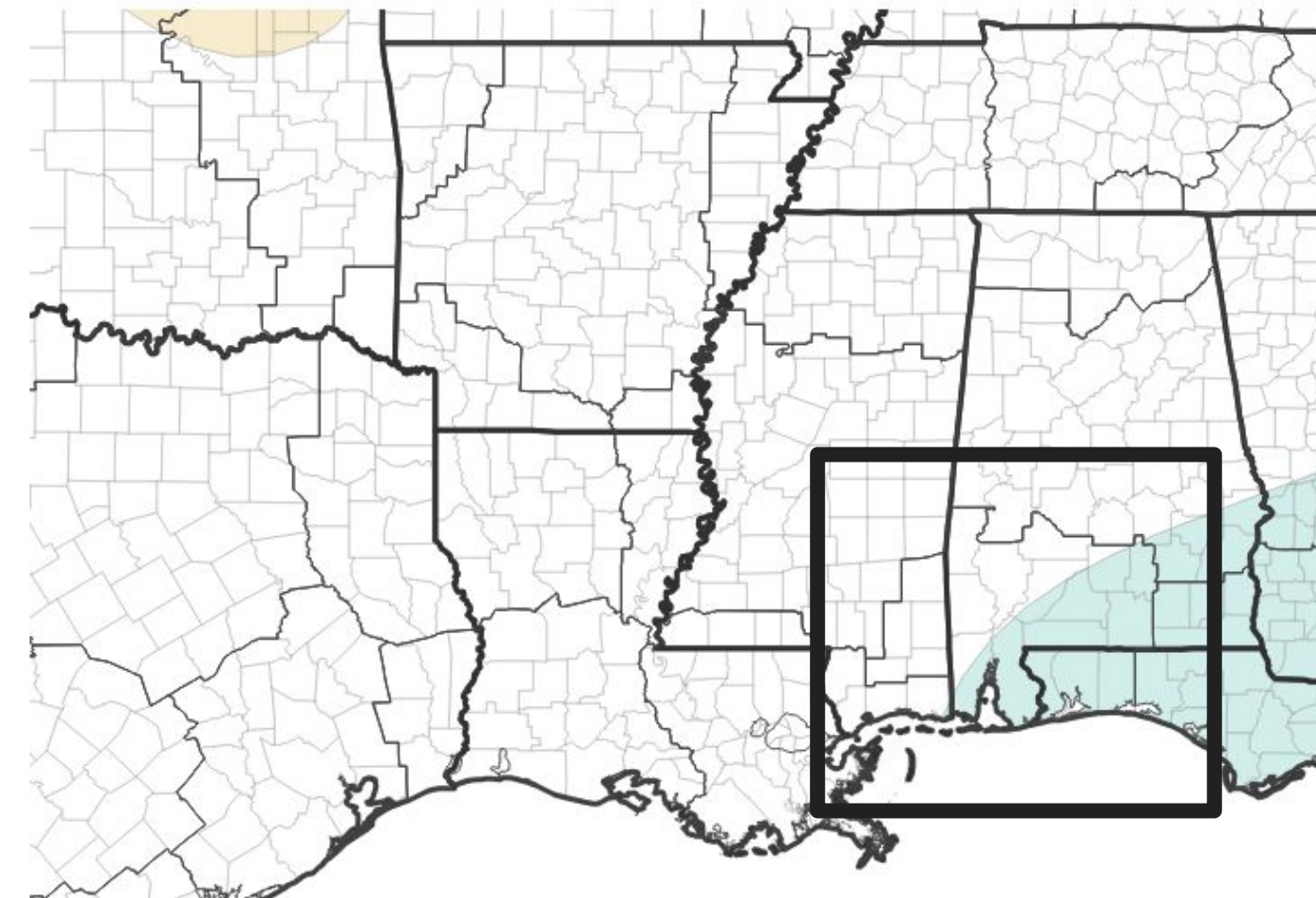
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



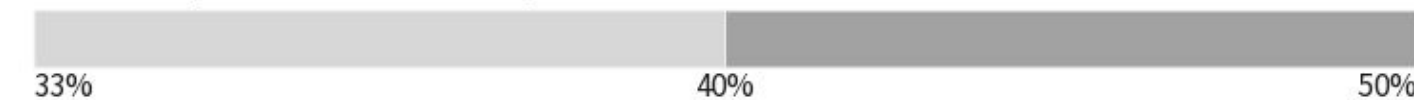
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



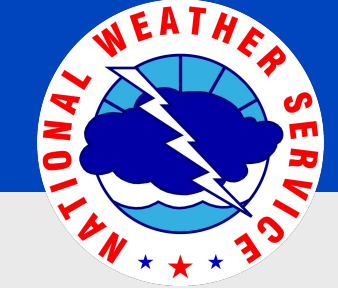
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26





Drought Outlook

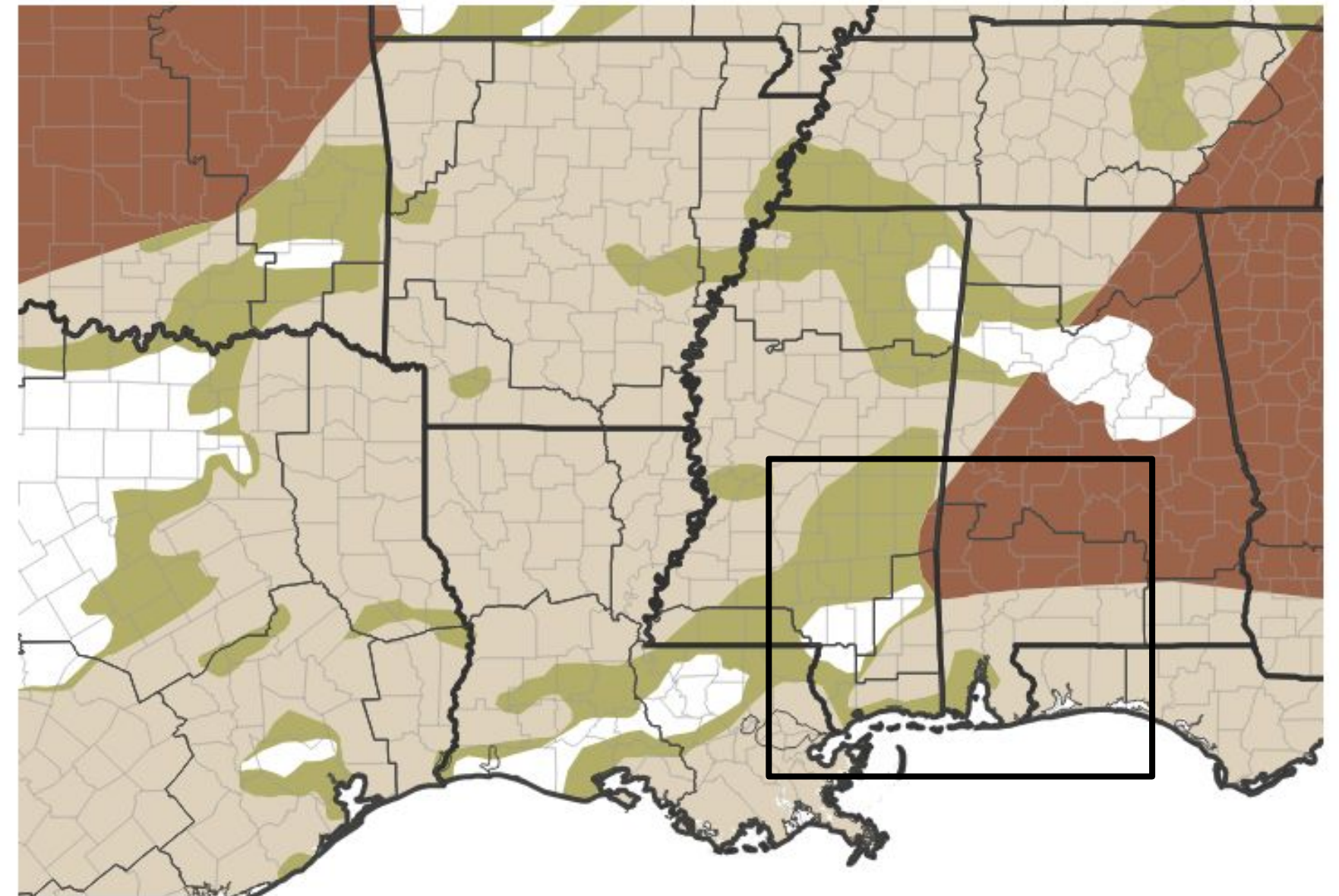
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Latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC](#) webpage

Summary of conditions and impacts:

- Drought conditions look to persist into the first half of the summer along and north of U.S. Hwy 84. South of the Hwy 84 corridor, drought may begin to loosen its grip some.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 16, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26

Latest Climate Prediction Center Drought Outlooks:

[Monthly Outlook](#) and [Seasonal Outlook](#)



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