



Drought Information Statement

For East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Southwest North Carolina

Valid February 19, 2026

Issued By: WFO Morristown, TN

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

- This product will be updated in the next week 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/mrx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





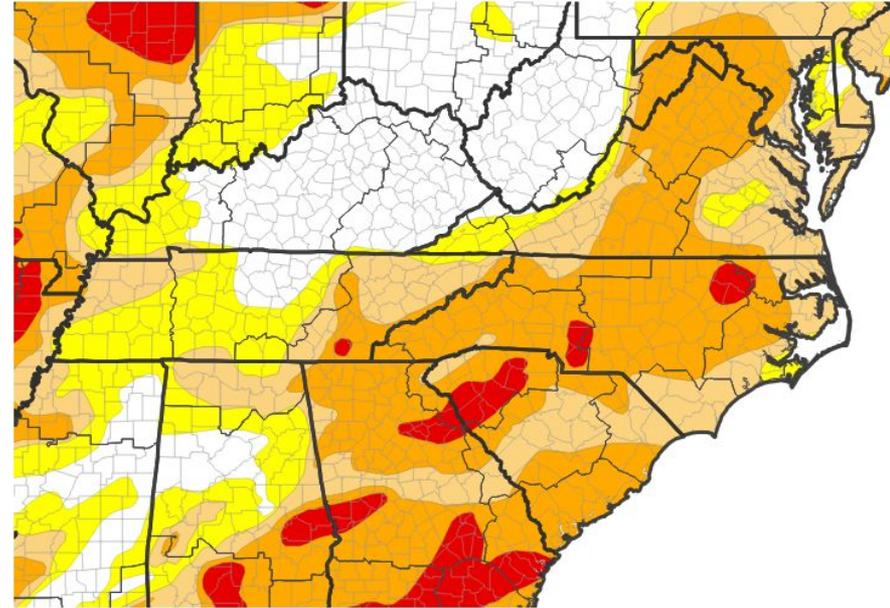
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the NWS Morristown CWA

- **Drought intensity and Extent**

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Area in and around Bradley County
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Rest of southern Valley, mountains, and part of the Plateau
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Most remaining areas of East Tennessee
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Most of southwest Virginia

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 02/17/26



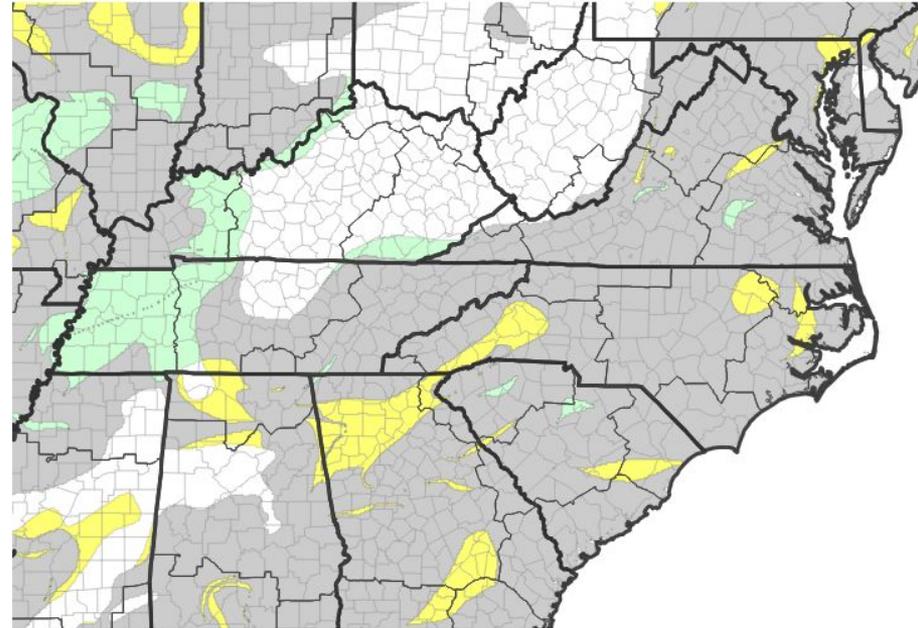


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map for the Southern Appalachians

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened:** None.
 - **No Change:** Most areas
 - **Drought Improved:** None.

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

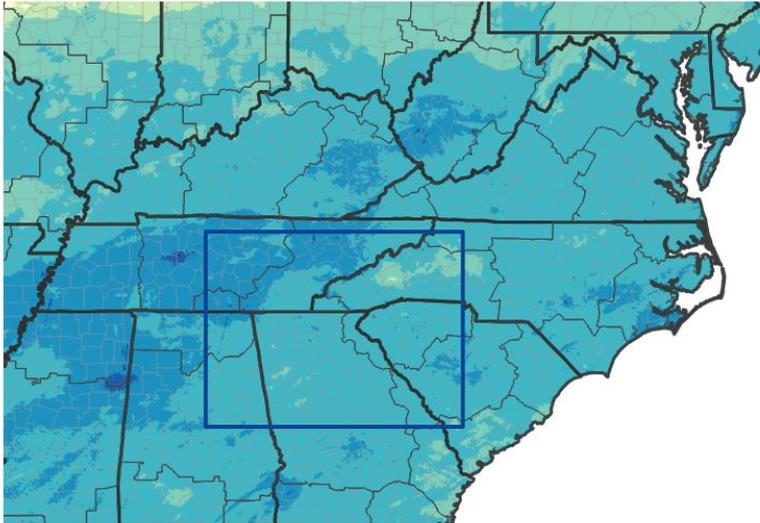




Precipitation

- Precipitation has been below normal

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

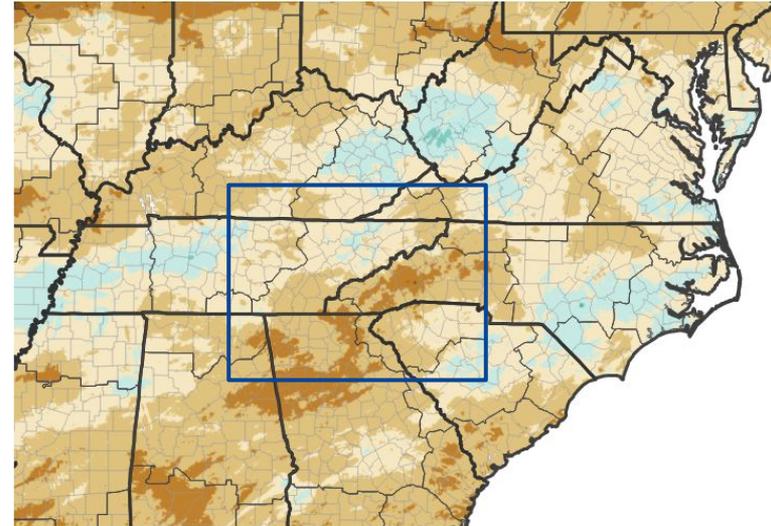


Inches of Precipitation

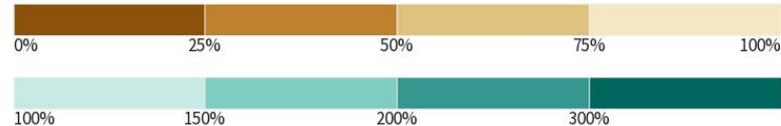


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/19/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/19/26

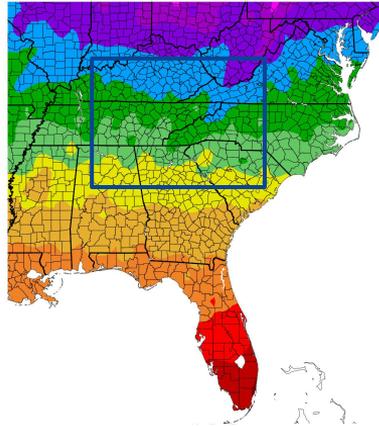




Temperature

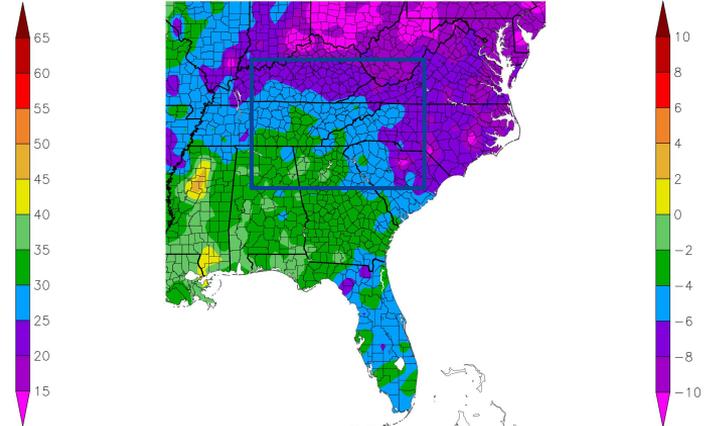
- Temperatures have been below normal the past 4 weeks.

Temperature (F)
1/20/2026 - 2/18/2026



Generated 2/19/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/20/2026 - 2/18/2026



ACIS Web Services 026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows are generally below normal for most places

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is below normal for agriculture.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Tennessee Forestry has reported little to no fire activity, but the fire outlook for North Carolina is above normal

Other Impacts

- Stay tuned for future updates.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Continue to abide by any local burning bans and regulations.

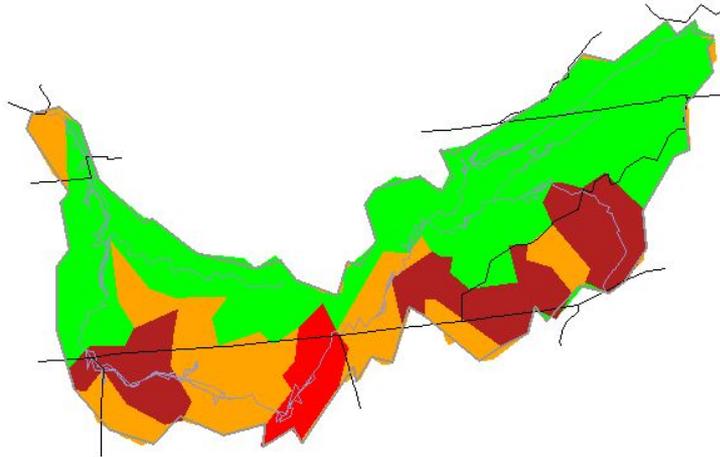




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Hednesday, February 18, 2026

- Streamflows are below to well below normal across most of the area



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		

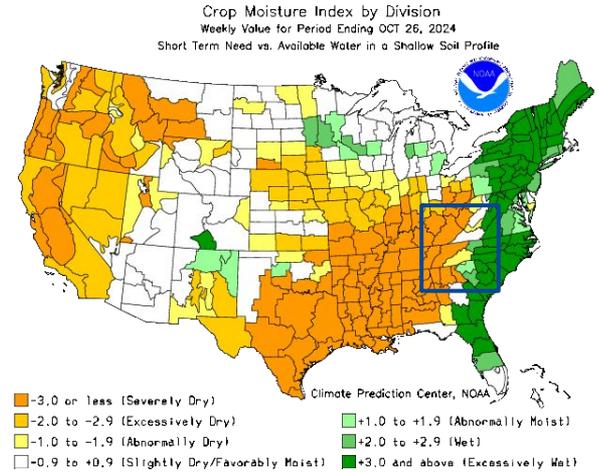
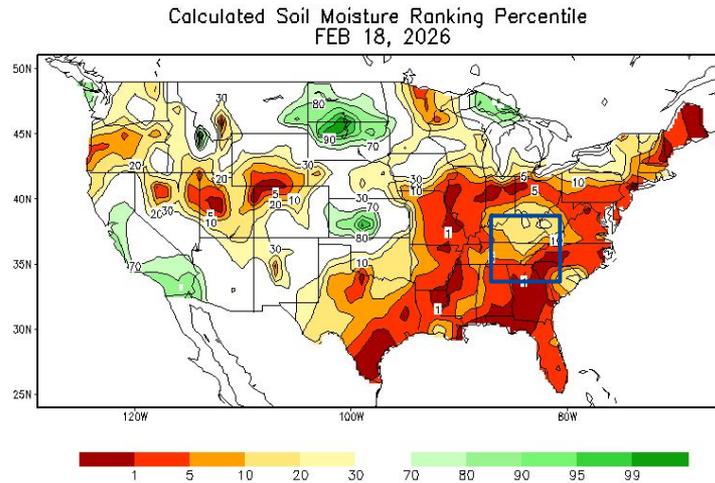
Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map.





Agricultural Impacts

- Recent dry weather has resulted in dry soil conditions across most of the region





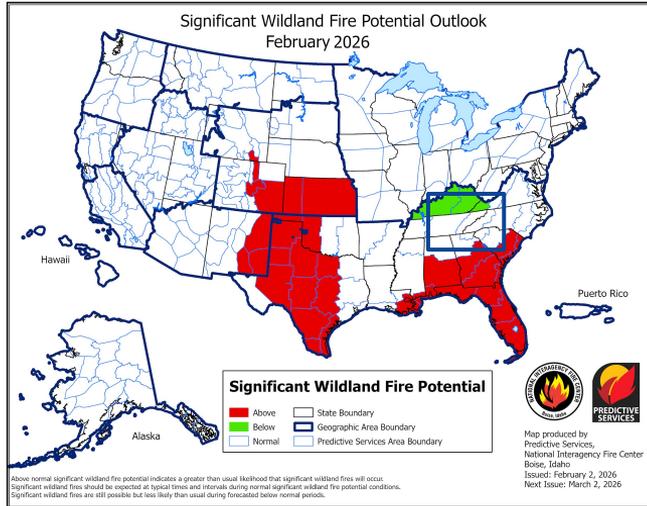
Fire Hazard Impacts

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

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

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

Latest NC Burn Ban information available [here.](#)

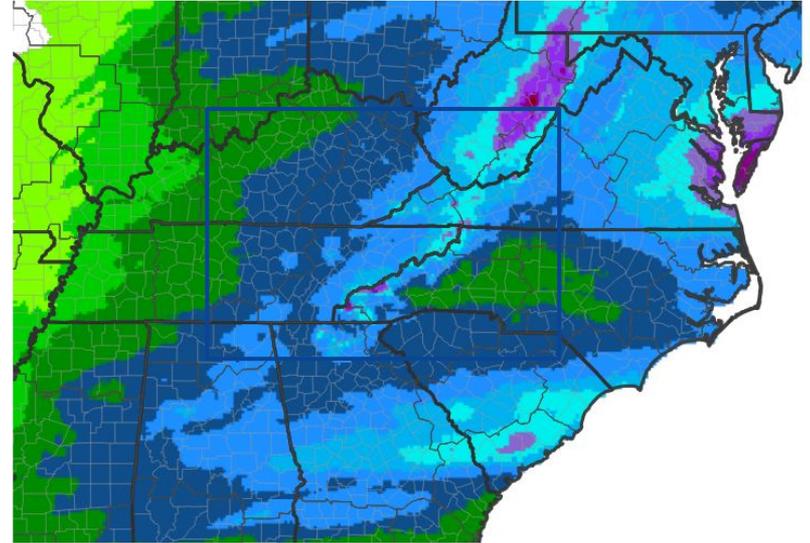




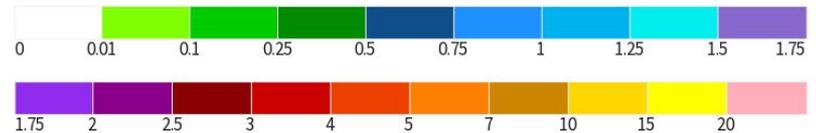
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Light to moderate rainfall is expected through next Thursday
 - Most places will see around 1” or more.

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



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 02/19/26





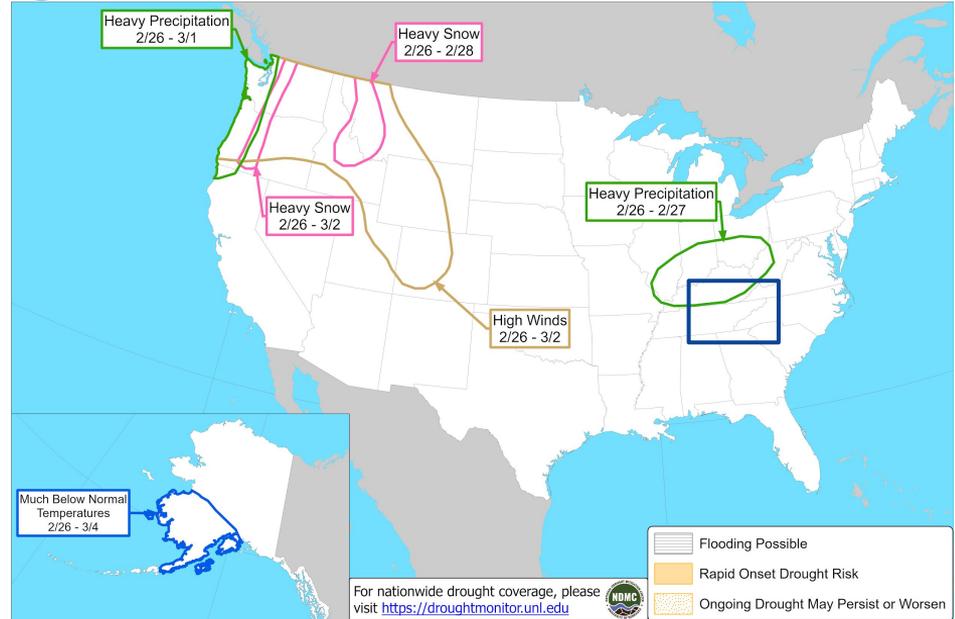
Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- No hazards in our area during Week 2
- Return of light to moderate rainfall is possible during this timeframe.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: February 26 - March 4, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: February 18, 2026 3:00 PM EST

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www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

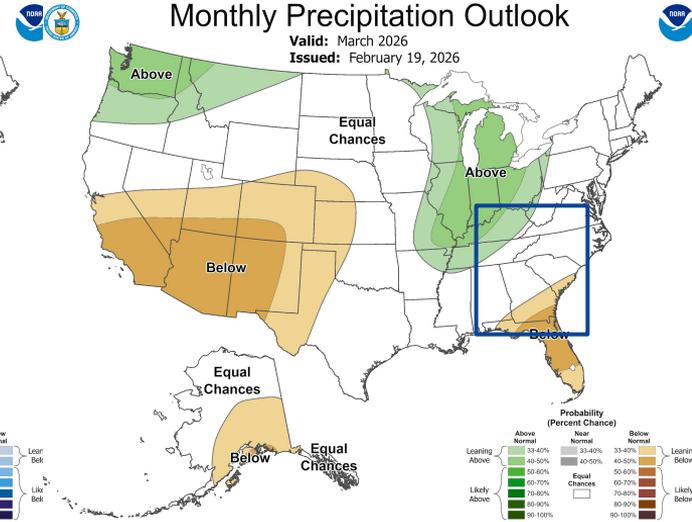
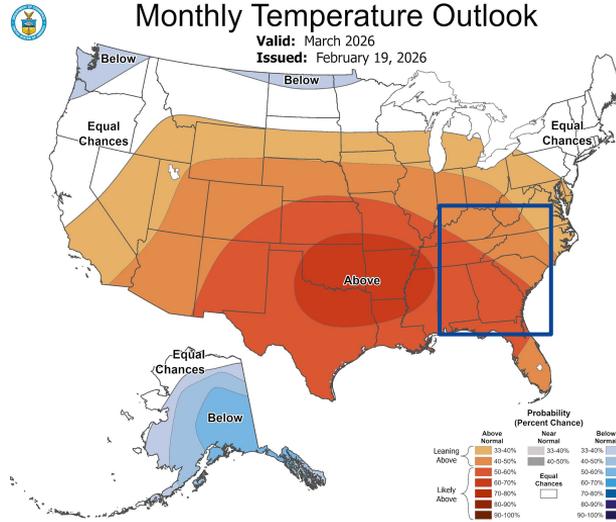
National Weather Service
Morristown, TN



Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal temperatures and above normal rainfall are slightly favored for the month of February.



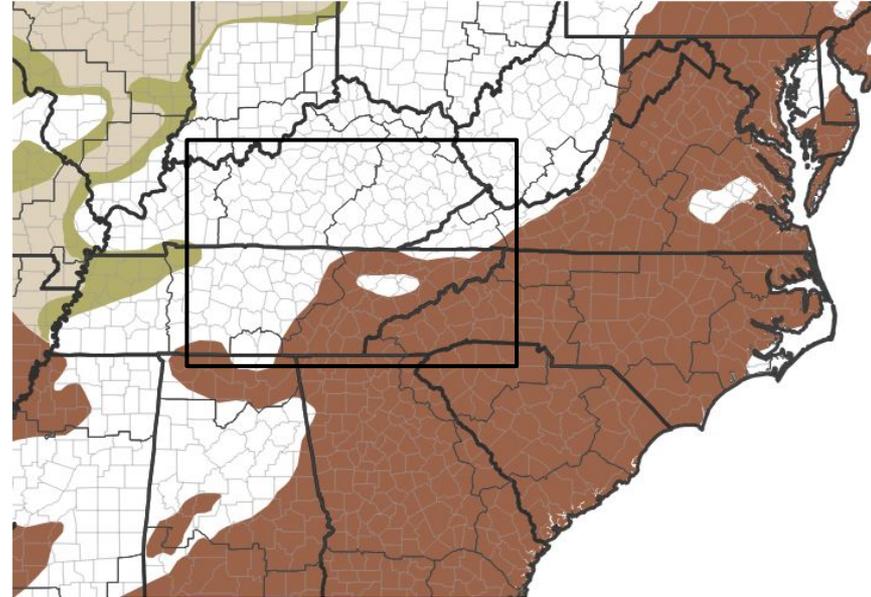


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are forecast to persist across much of the area during the next 3 months.

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](#)

