

# Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington and North Idaho

## Valid February 27, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Spokane, WA

Contact Information: [w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated late April 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/OTX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
- Drought conditions persist across the Inland Northwest
    - Despite winter precipitation, drought improvements are modest over the past two months due to warmer conditions and a lack of mid-level snowpack accumulation.
    - Severe drought conditions continue to be observed in southeastern Washington and the southern Idaho Panhandle.



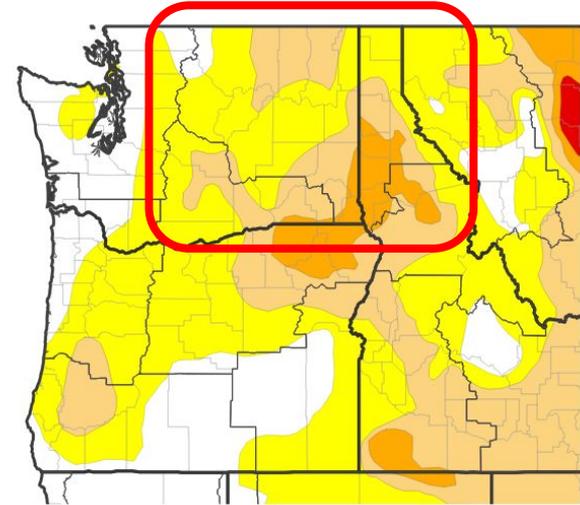


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Eastern Washington and North Idaho

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** 0%.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** 0%.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** 12% S Idaho Panhandle and SE Washington.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** 33% Central Panhandle mountains, Washington Palouse, Okanogan highlands, and Kettle range.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** 52% most of the inland northwest not in another category.
  - No drought: 3% near the north Cascade crest.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

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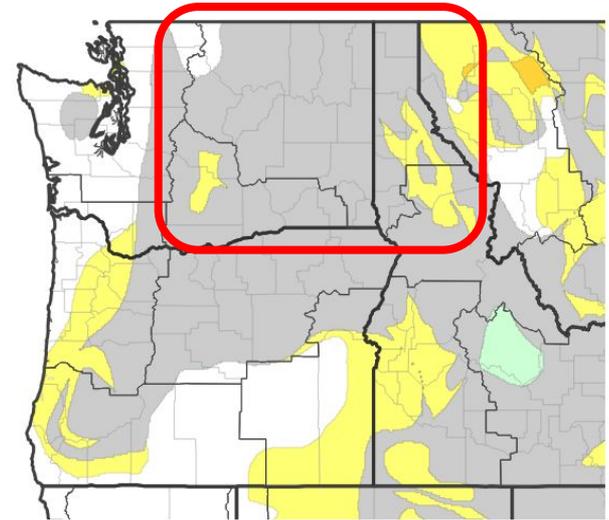


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Eastern Washington and North Idaho

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - Drought Worsened: Shoshone, Kootenai, Benewah County.
  - No Change: No change in the rest of the Spokane Forecast Area.

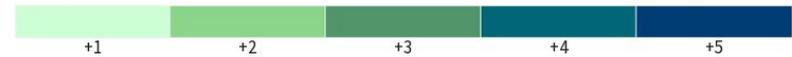
U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



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

Data Valid: 02/24/26

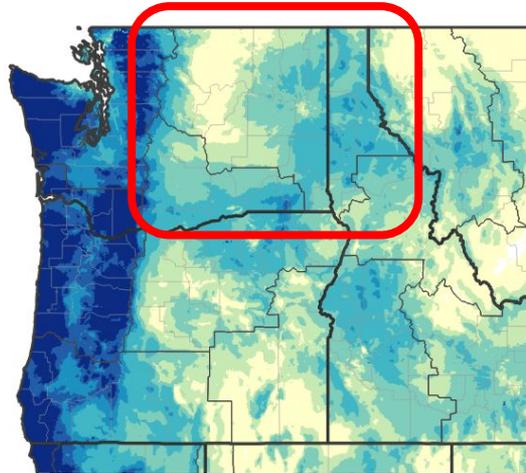




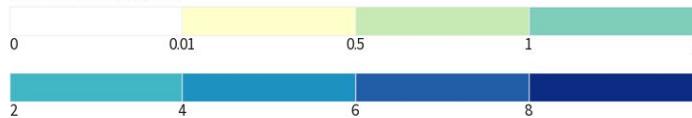
# Precipitation

- Last 30 days has been drier than normal especially in the mountainous regions of the Spokane forecast area.
- North Cascades are seeing the greatest deficits below 25% of normal.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



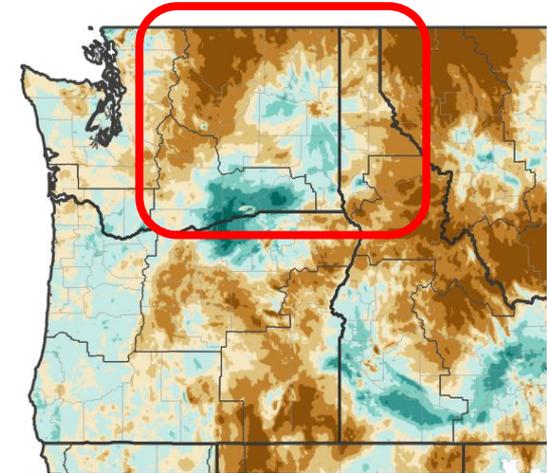
Inches of Precipitation



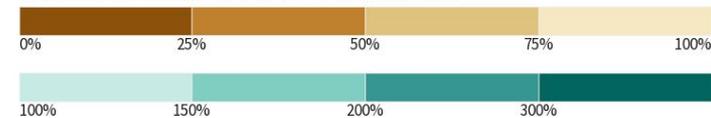
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/27/26

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: 02/27/26

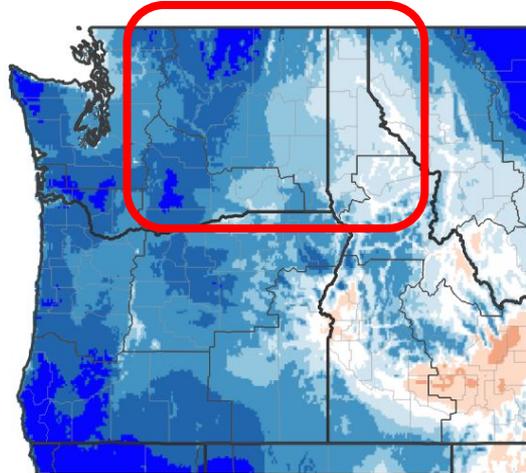




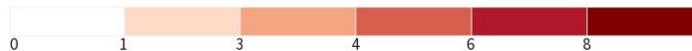
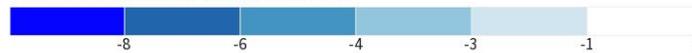
# Temperature

- Over the last week temperatures have been below normal especially in central WA.
- In the last 30 days temperatures are near normal to slightly above normal trending west to east.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



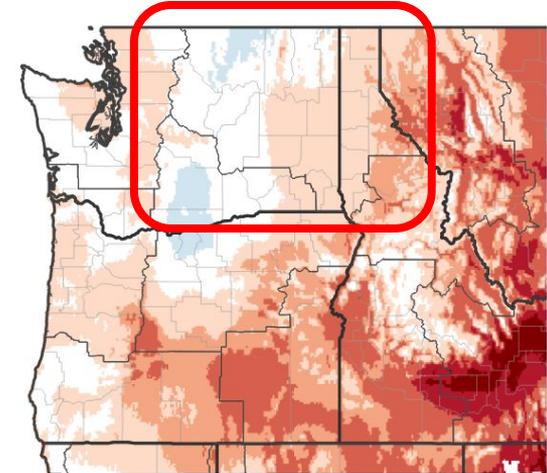
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



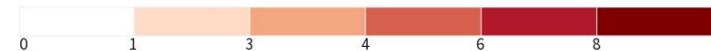
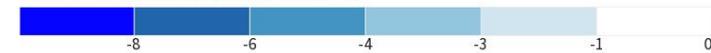
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/23/26

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: 02/23/26





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Water supply outlook remains below normal eastern Washington and north Idaho ([NWS NWRFC](#)).
- Water supply outlook is more optimistic on the east side of the North Cascades and the Columbia River.

## Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Other Impacts

- With one to two months left of the typical accumulation season, the snow deficit could play a major role in deteriorating water supply conditions over the summer if trends continue.

## Mitigation Actions

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

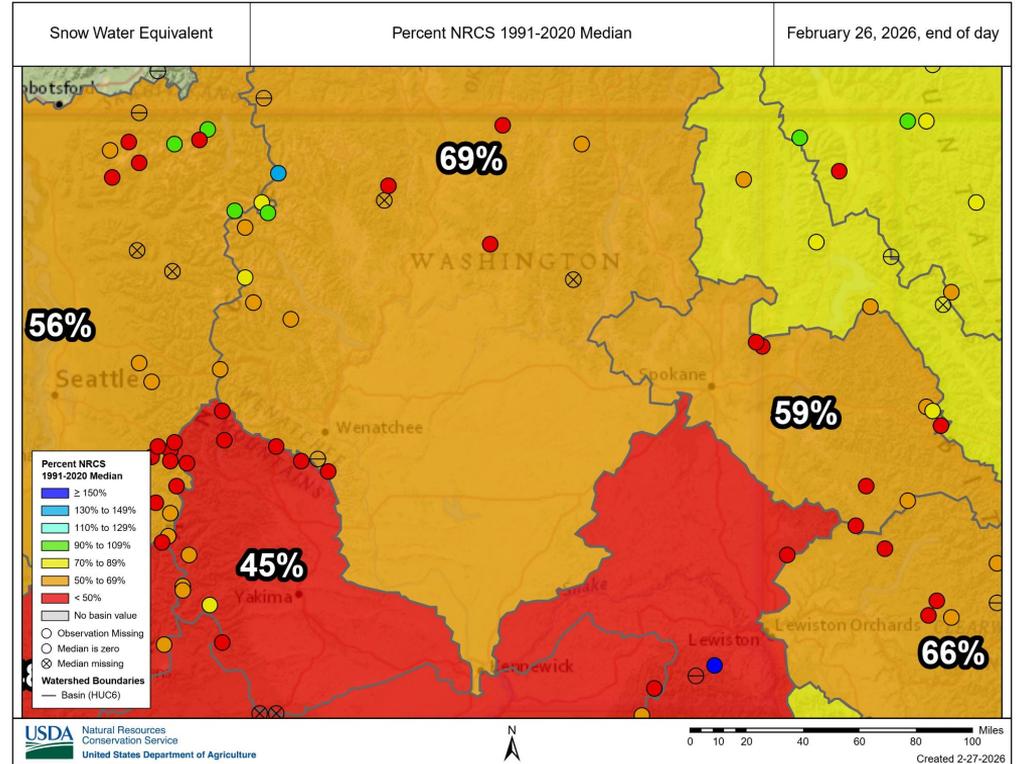
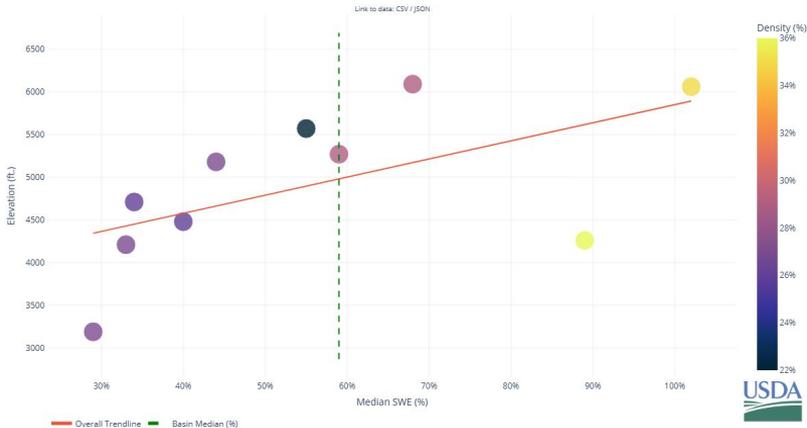




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Snow Water Equivalent is below normal across the region.
- High elevations are closer to normal above 5000 feet compared to lower elevations.

SNOWPACK BY ELEVATION IN SPOKANE FEBRUARY 27, 2026



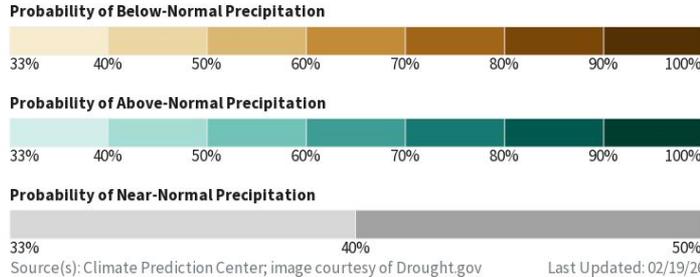
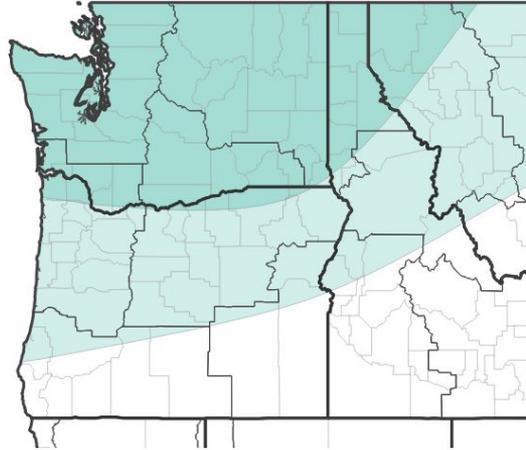


# Long-Range Outlooks

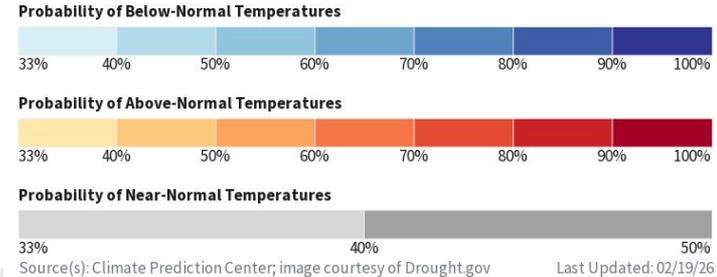
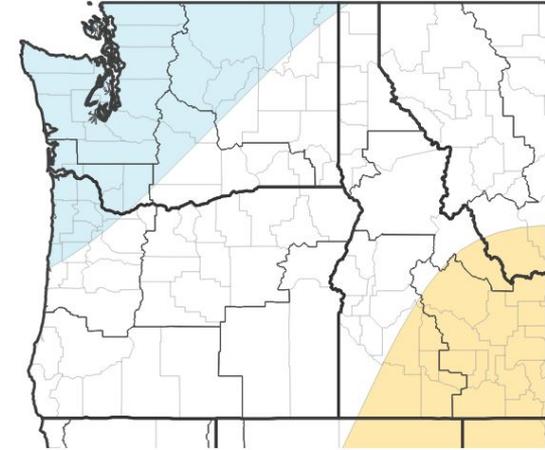
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- For March there is a 40 to 50 percent chance of above normal precipitation.
- The temperature outlook for March is near normal to slightly below normal.

**Monthly Precipitation Outlook for March 1, 2026–March 31, 2026**



**Monthly Temperature Outlook for March 1, 2026–March 31, 2026**



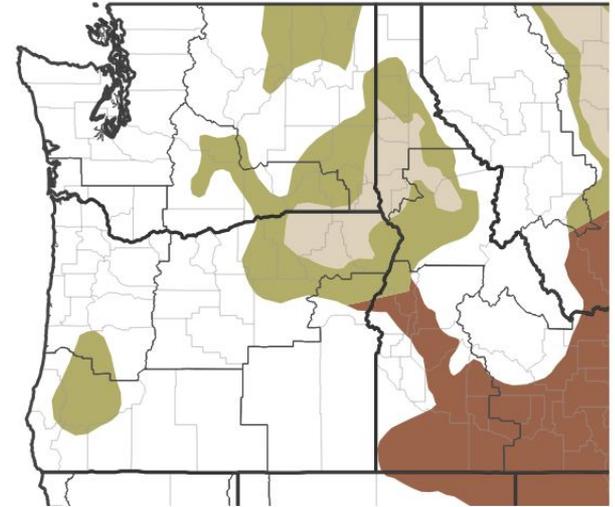


# Drought Outlook

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

- There is some optimism of improvement if the next months precipitation and temperature outlooks verify.

## 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](#)

