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

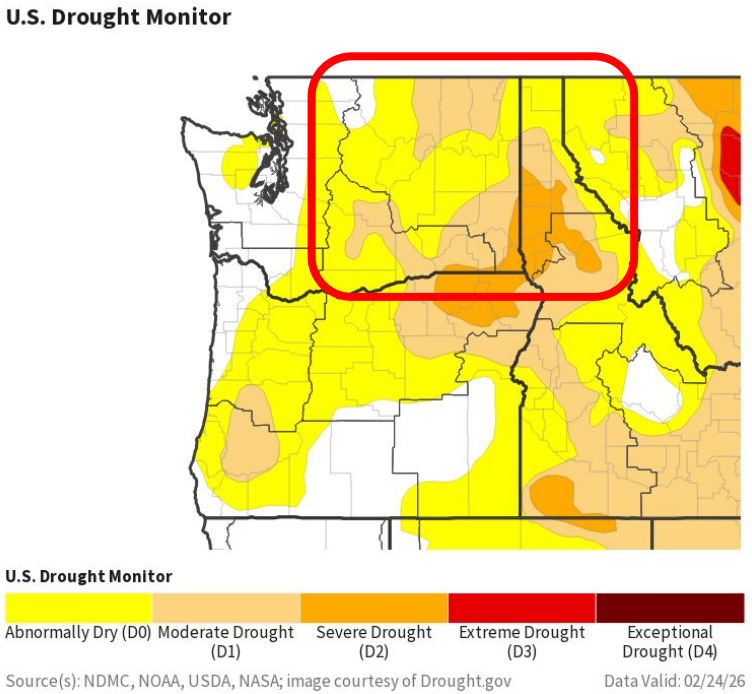
- This product will be updated late April 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/OTX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please 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

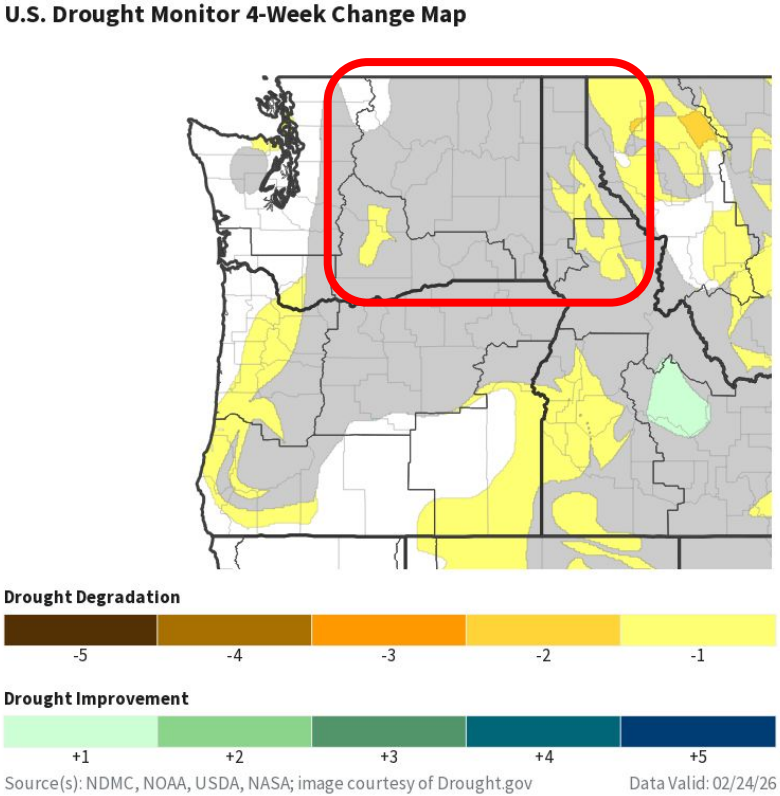
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: 0%.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: 0%.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: 12% S Idaho Panhandle and SE Washington.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: 33% Central Panhandle mountains, Washington Palouse, Okanogan highlands, and Kettle range.
  - **D0: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



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Eastern Washington and North Idaho

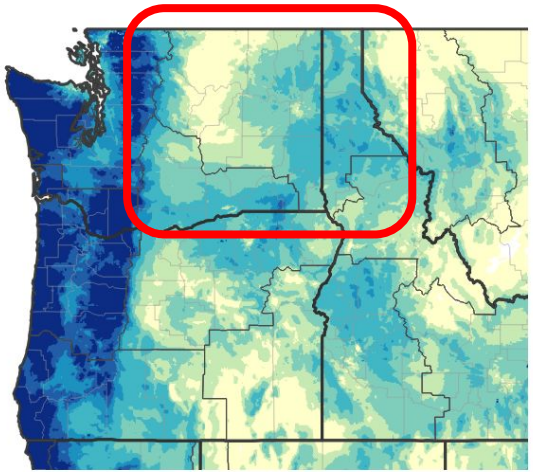
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - Drought Worsened: Shoshone, Kootenai, Benewah County.
  - No Change: No change in the rest of the Spokane Forecast Area.



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

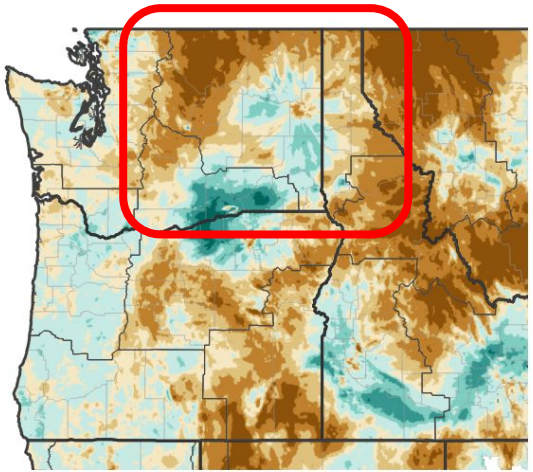
0 | 0.01 | 0.5 | 1 | 2

2 | 4 | 6 | 8

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

0% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100%

100% | 150% | 200% | 300%

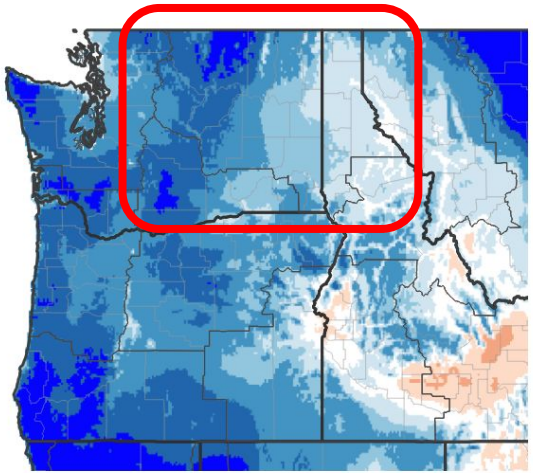
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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)

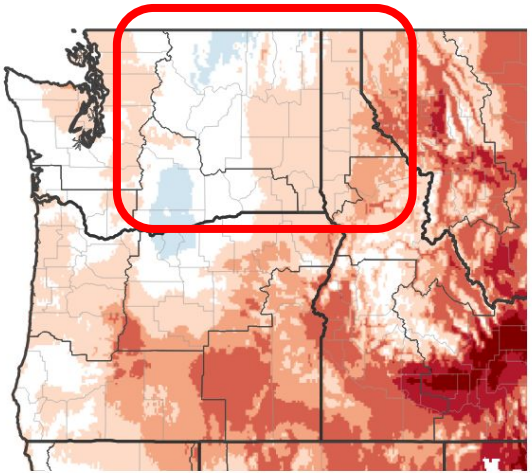
-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

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)

-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

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

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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

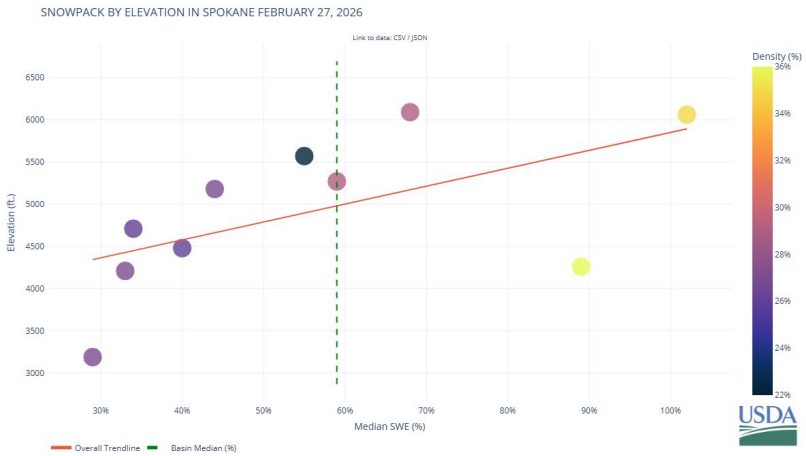
- With one to two months left of the typical accumulation season, the snow deficit could play a major role in deteriorating water supply conditions over the summer if trends continue.

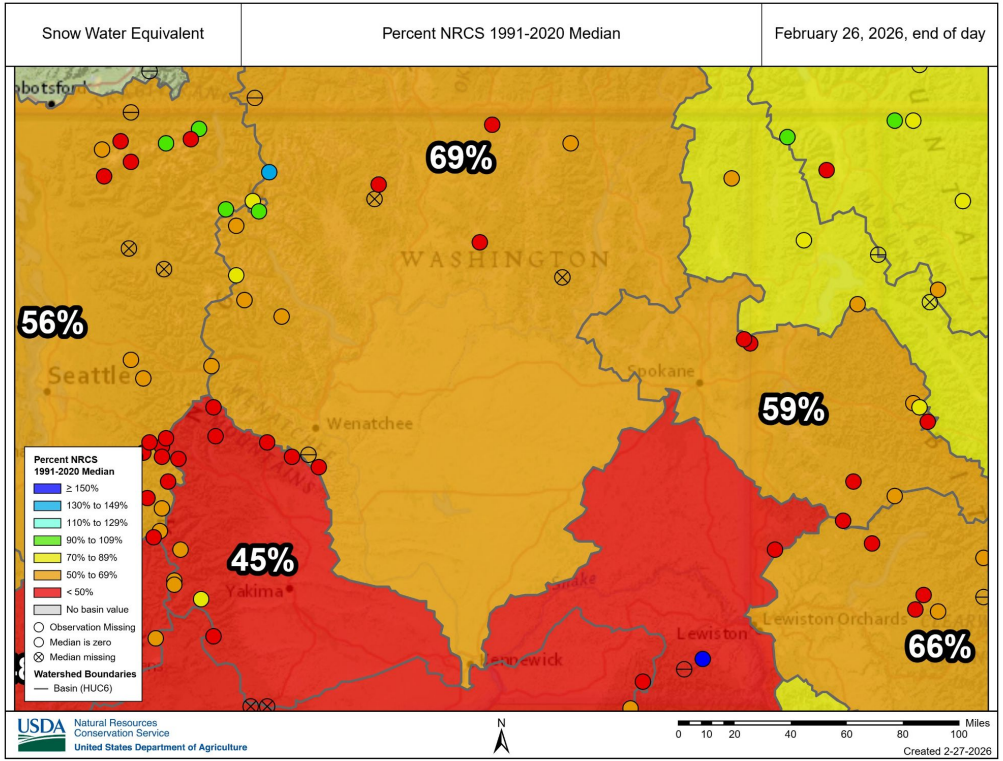
Mitigation Actions

- 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.



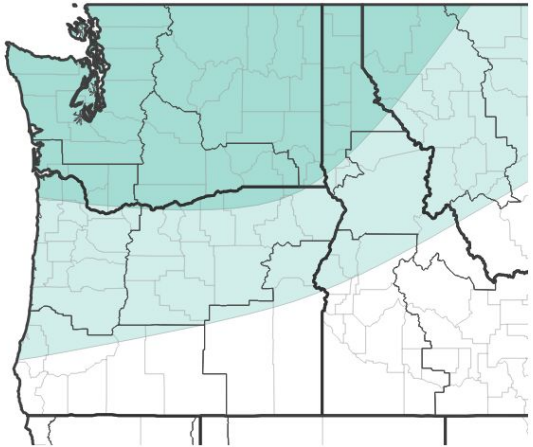


Long-Range Outlooks

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

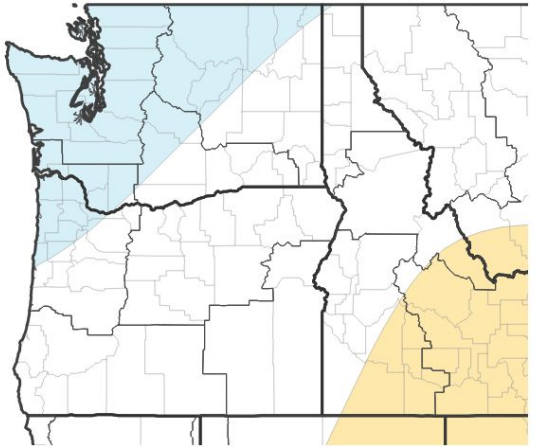
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

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

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



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

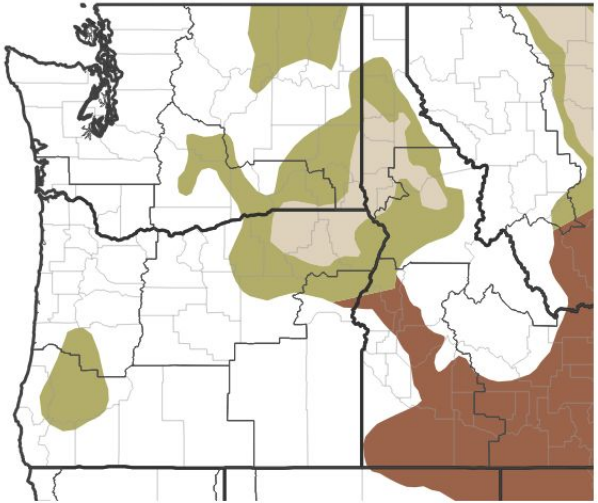
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/19/26

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- 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...

Persist | Improve | End | Develop | No Drought

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

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Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook