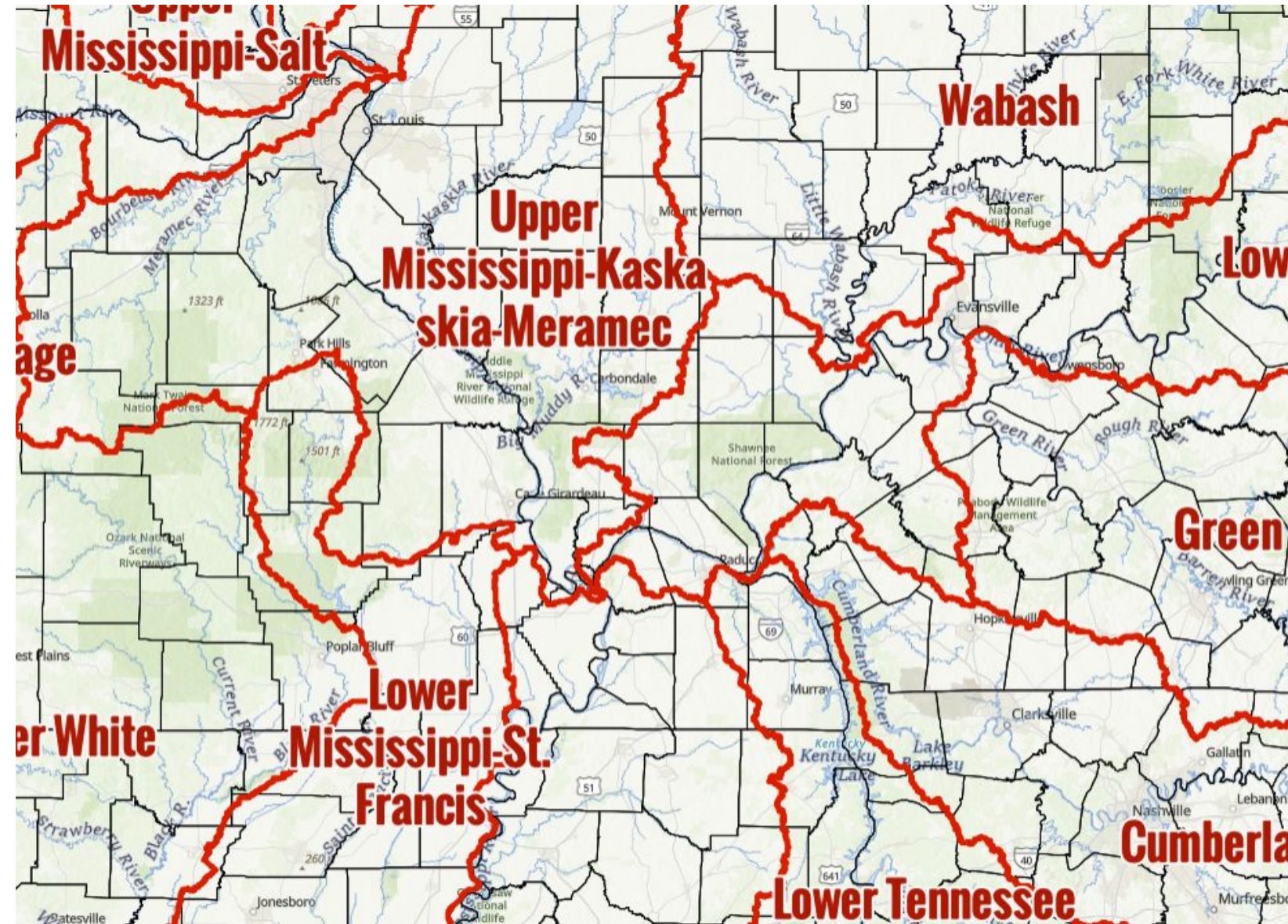


March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

2026 Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook

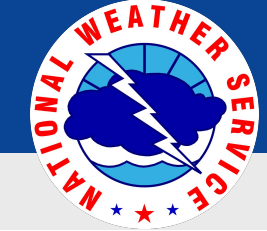
National Weather Service
Paducah, KY

March 12, 2026



National Oceanic and
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U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Paducah, KY



Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

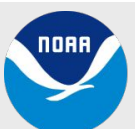
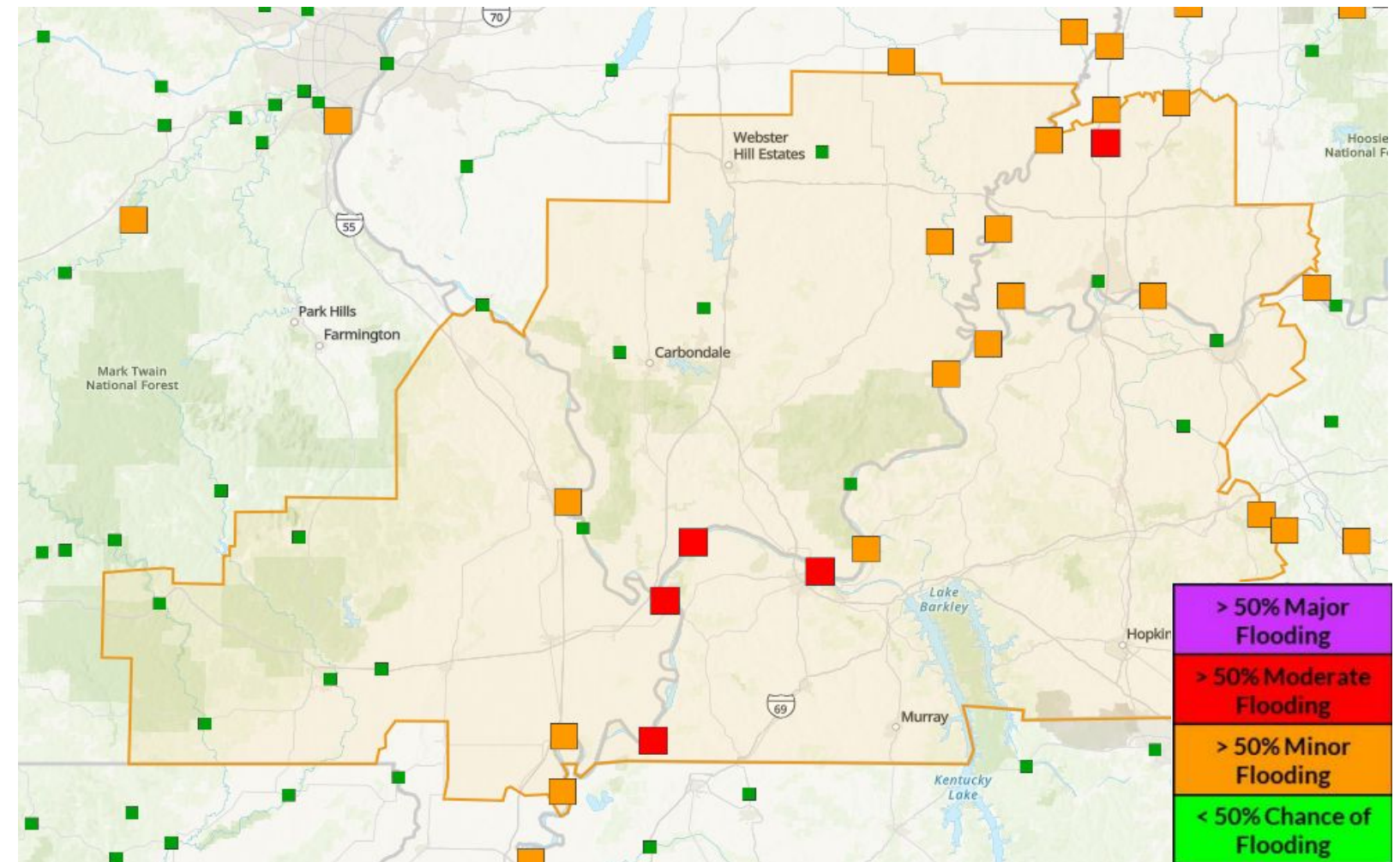
March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

March 12th, 2026

Key Messages

- For the Wabash and Ohio rivers, spring flood risk is near normal. Minor flooding is expected, and isolated moderate flooding is possible.
- For the Mississippi and local tributaries, spring flood risk is near to below normal. Minor and isolated moderate to major flooding is possible.
- CPC outlooks favor a wetter than normal and warmer than normal pattern through May.
- Rainfall and thunderstorms will be the primary drivers of flooding.

>50% Chance of Exceedance through May



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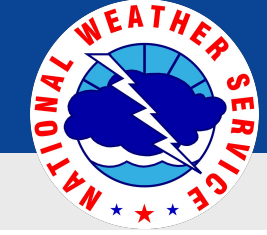
Spring Flood Outlook

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

Key Ingredients	Antecedent Conditions	Impact to Spring Flooding	Overall Risk of Spring Flooding:
Winter Precipitation /Temperatures	Below Normal	Normal Risk	Lesser Risk to Normal Risk The overall flood risk is near normal for much of the area, especially the Wabash and Ohio River and its tributaries. Near to below normal risk exists for the Mississippi river and its tributaries. Above normal precipitation will be the main driver for flooding this spring.
River Levels	Normal	Normal Risk	
Soil Moisture	Below Normal	Lesser Risk	
Spring Weather Outlook	Above Normal	Greater Risk	



Risk Potential:	Lesser Risk	Normal Risk	Greater Risk	To Be Determined
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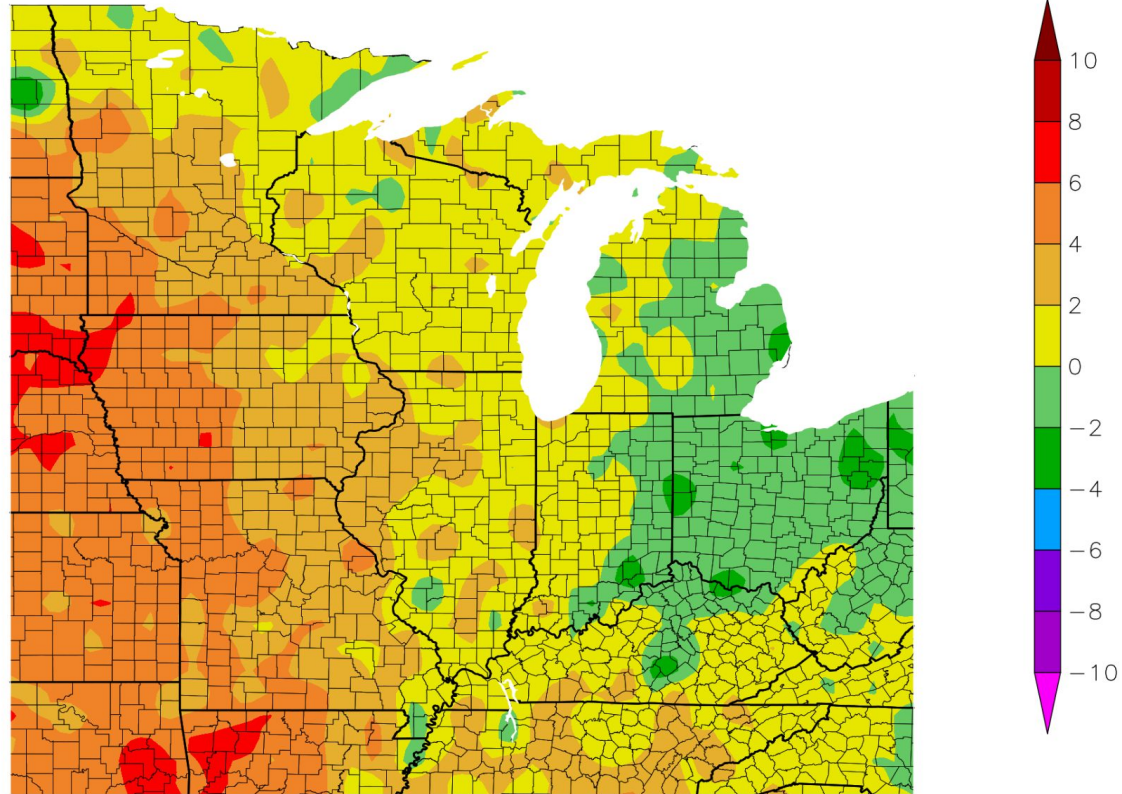


Winter Precipitation and Temperature

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

90 Day Departures from Normal

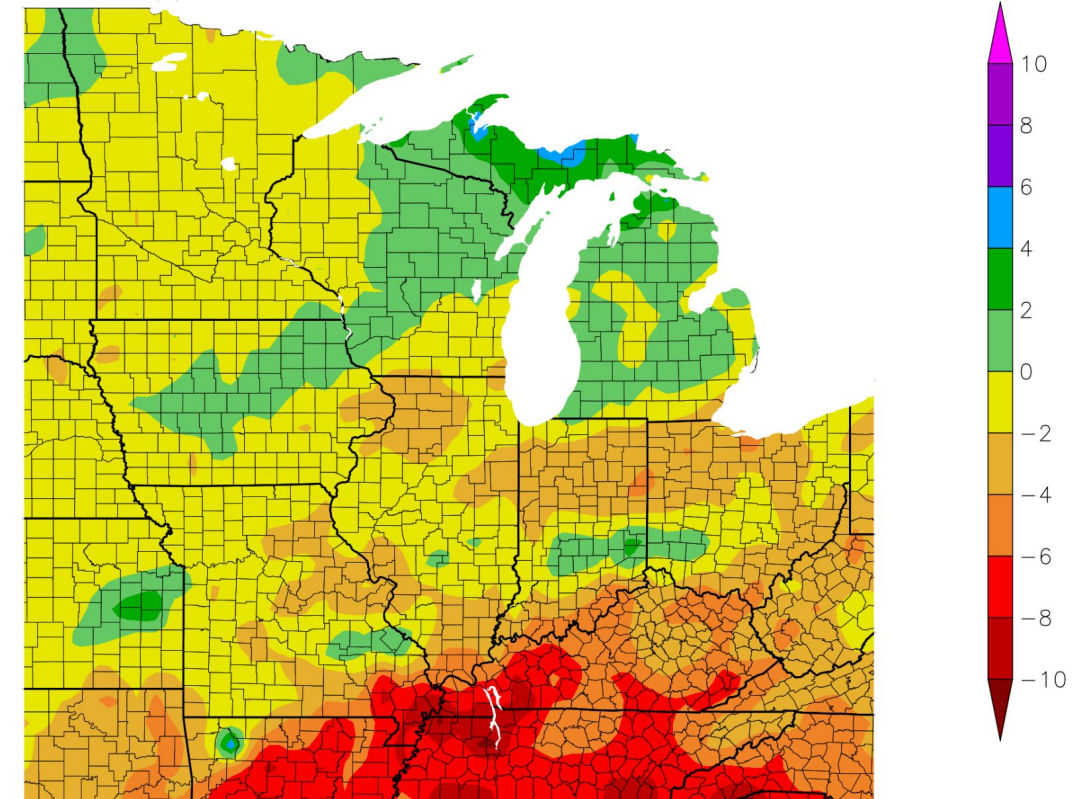
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/11/2025 – 3/10/2026



Generated 3/11/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

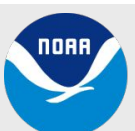
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
12/11/2025 – 3/10/2026



Generated 3/11/2026 using provisional data.

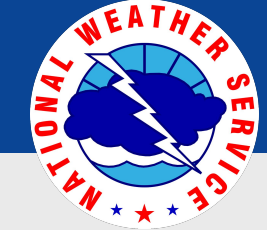
ACIS Web Services

- Temperatures remained near normal with cooler temperatures to the east and warmer to the west
- Precipitation was below normal across much of the region



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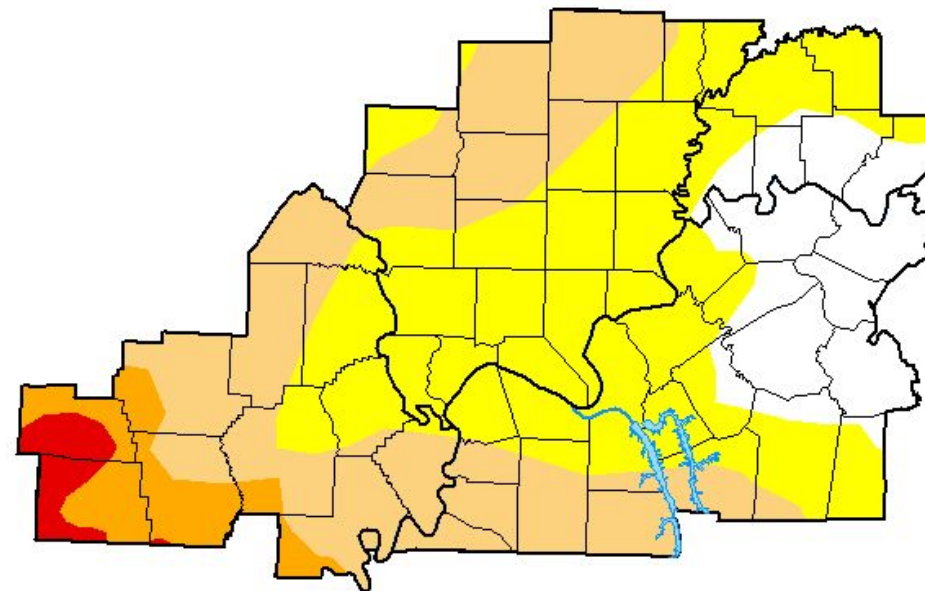
Latest Drought Conditions

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

Map shows the U.S. Drought Monitor conditions across the Paducah forecast area.

- Recent rainfall has led to drought improvements across the eastern two-thirds of the area.
- Drought continues across southeast Missouri, portions of western Kentucky and southern Illinois. The worst drought conditions are in southeast Missouri.

U.S. Drought Monitor Paducah, KY WFO



March 10, 2026

(Released Thursday, Mar. 12, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	15.87	84.13	40.62	8.27	2.17	0.00
Last Week 03-03-2026	2.36	97.64	80.23	27.55	2.17	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-09-2025	80.00	20.00	7.69	1.81	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.12	99.88	44.17	8.48	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	1.25	98.75	76.42	25.05	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 03-11-2025	99.06	0.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

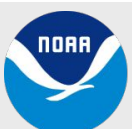
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA

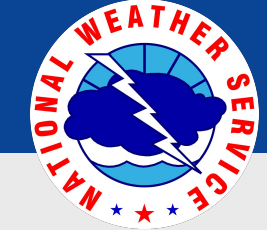


droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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Paducah, KY

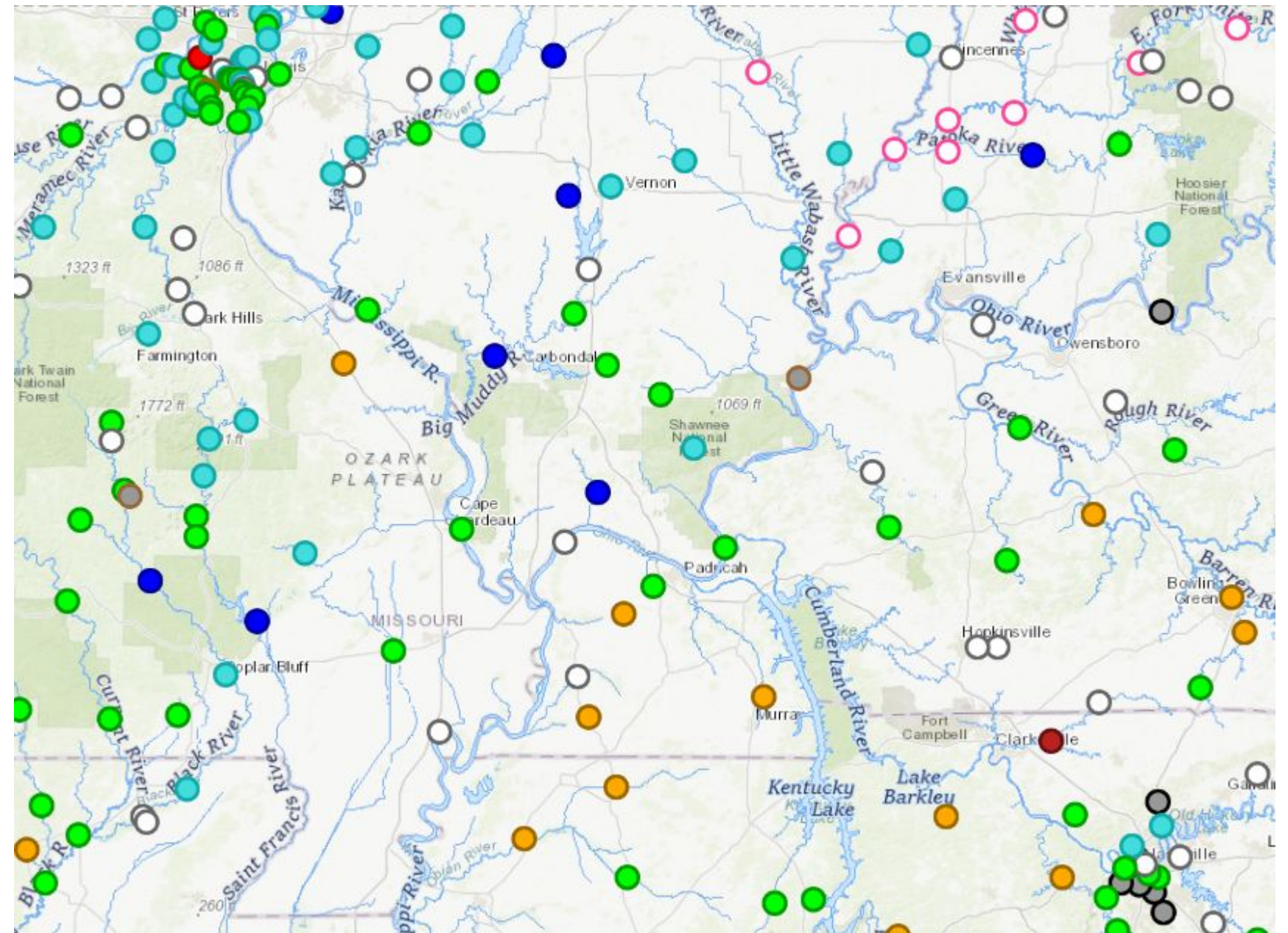


River Levels

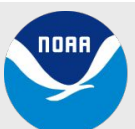
Streamflow

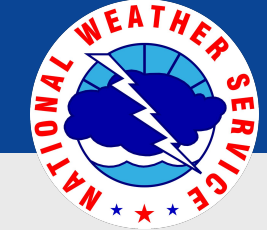
March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

- River levels have returned to near normal for much of the region due to recent rainfall
- In southern Illinois, and southwest Indiana streamflow is above normal due to recent heavy rainfall.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

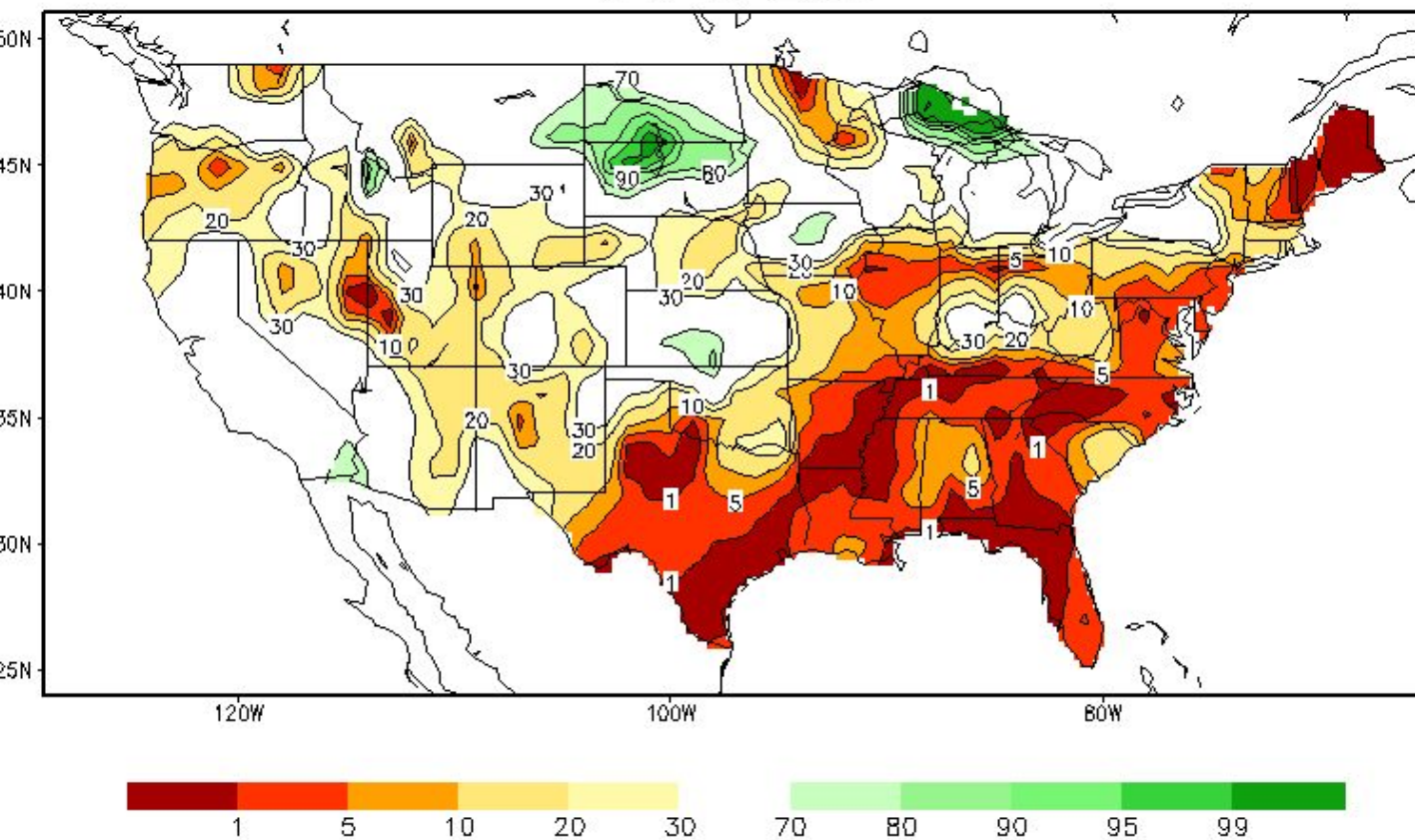




Soil Moisture and Frost Depth

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

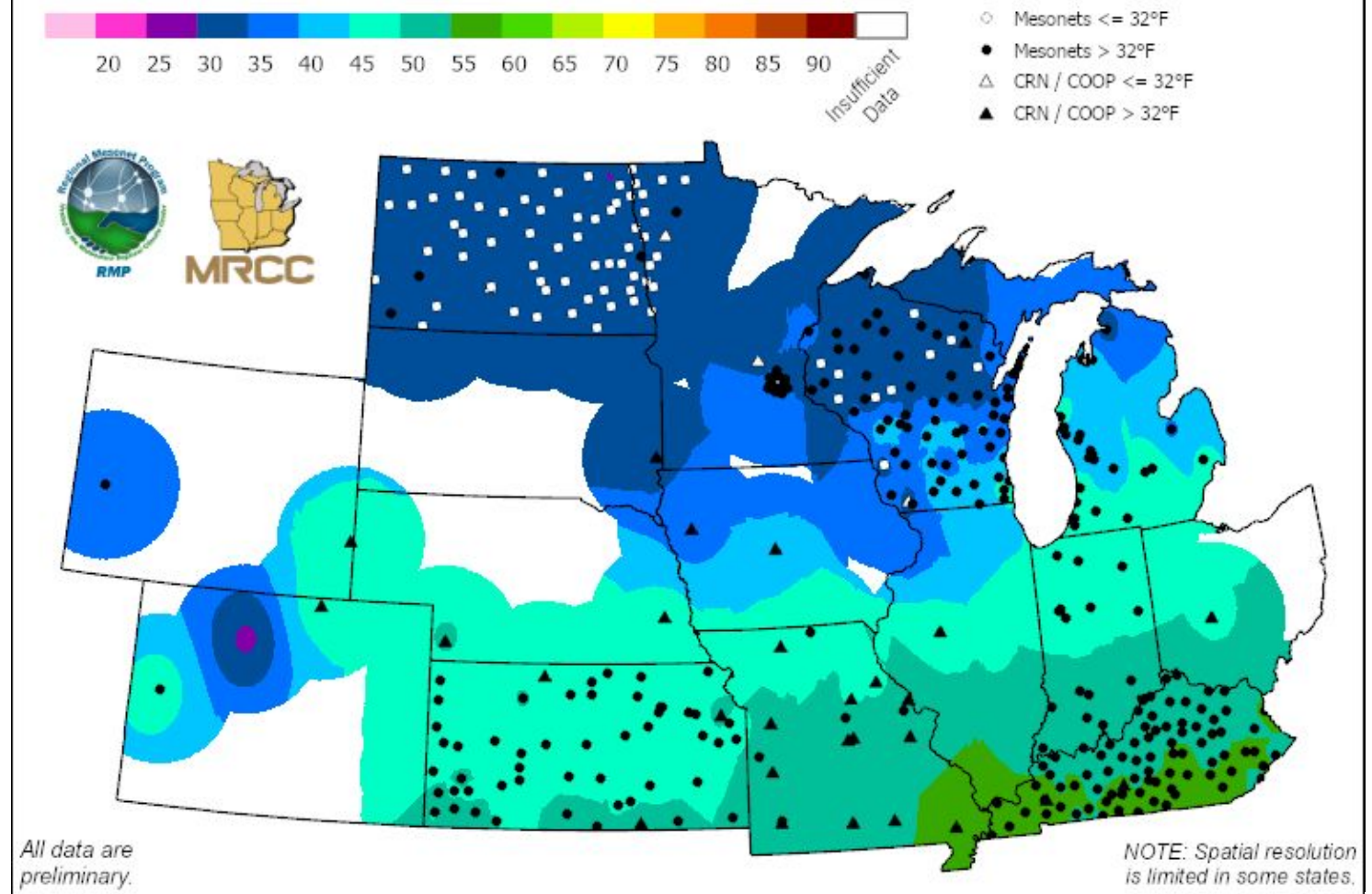
Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAR 10, 2026



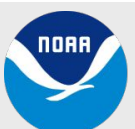
- Drier than Normal soil

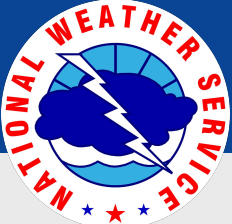
4" Soil Temperature (°F) (Sod)

24-Hour Period Through 3/9/2026



- 4" Soil Temps Above Freezing



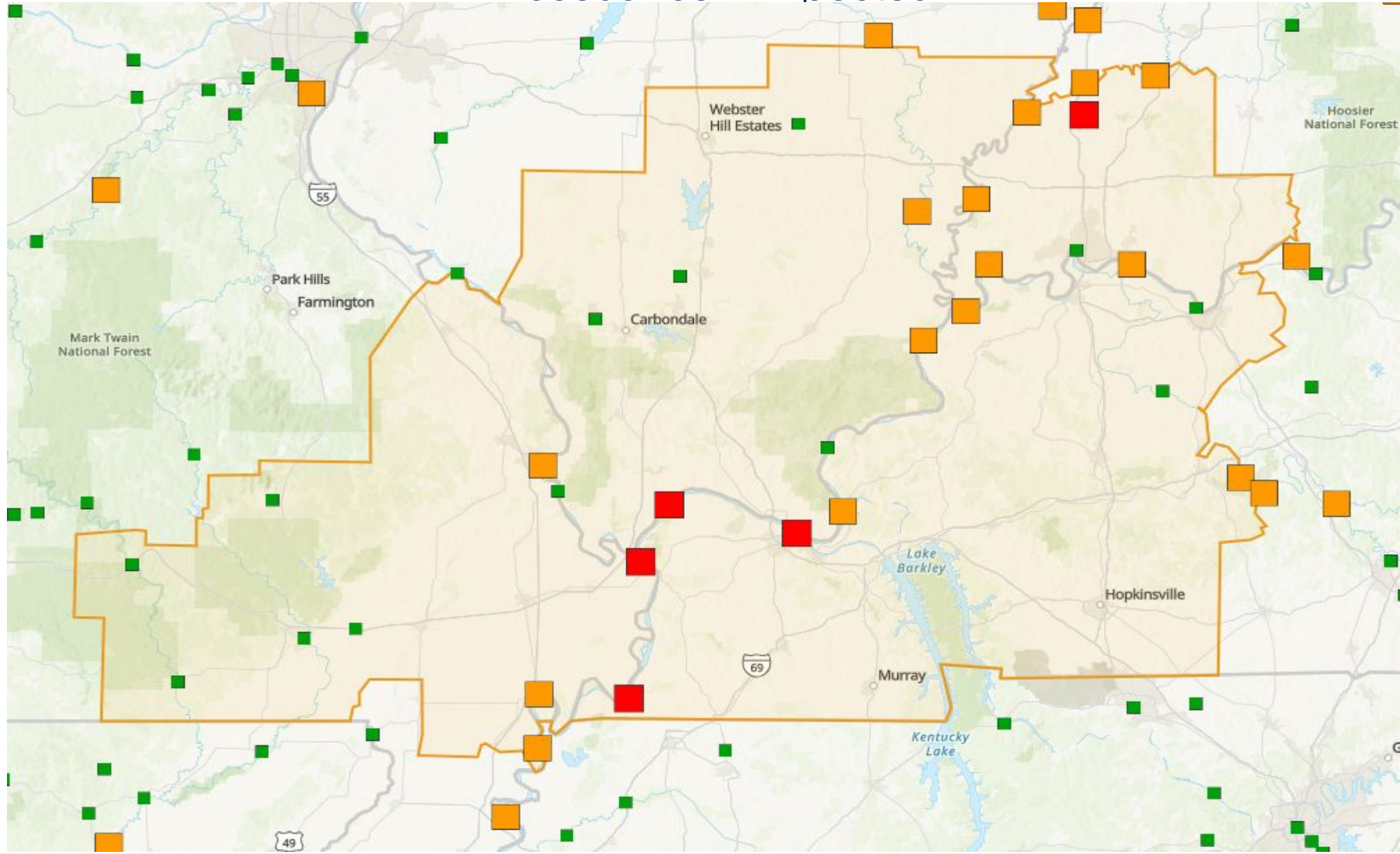


Long Range Flood Outlook

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

Probability Range of Flood Outcomes

>50% Chance of
Exceedance - Expected

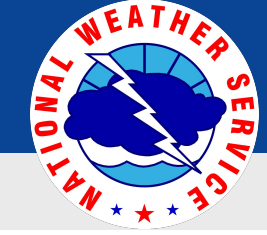


- Major Flooding
- Moderate Flooding
- Minor Flooding
- Near Flood Stage
- No Flooding



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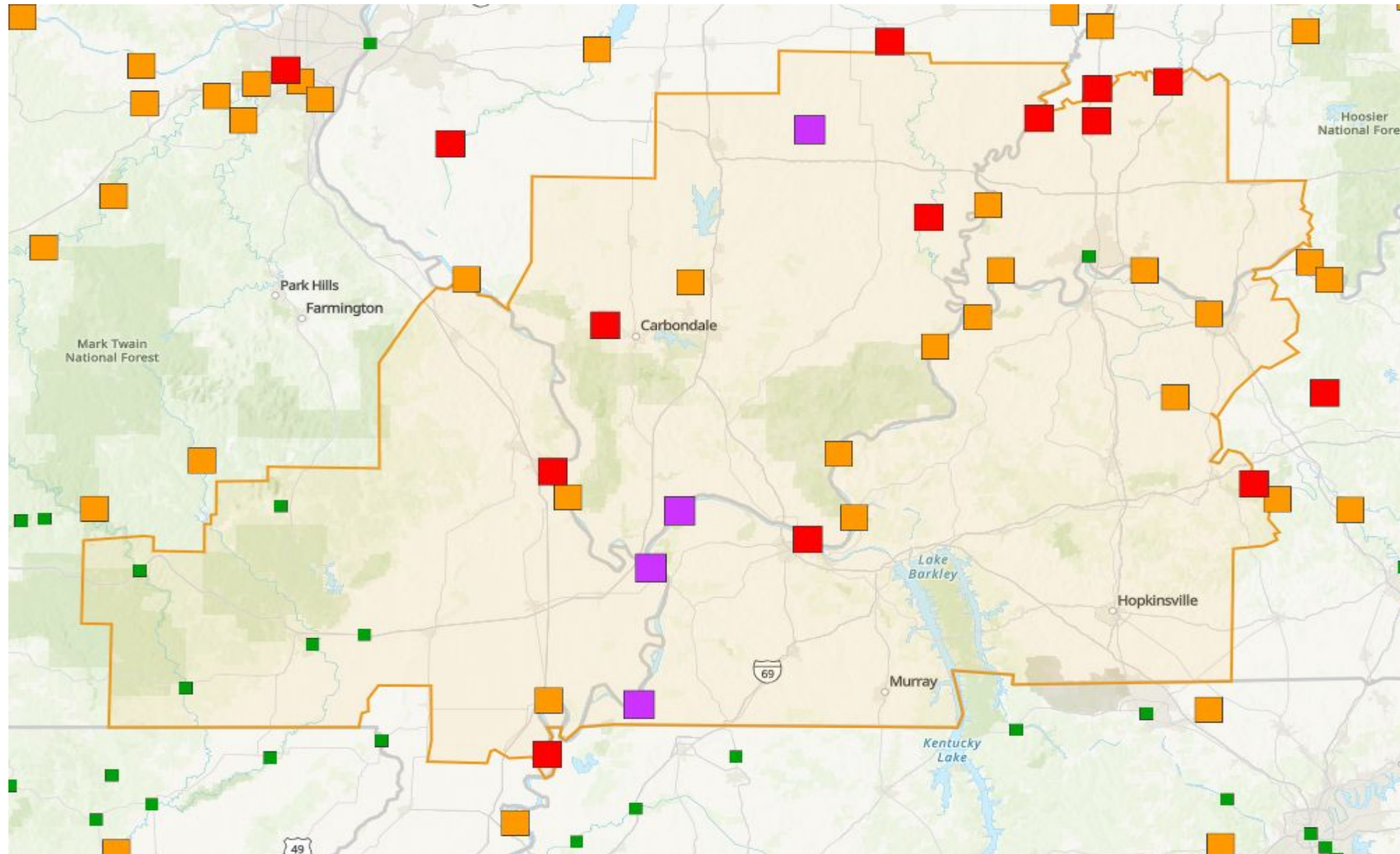


Long Range Flood Outlook

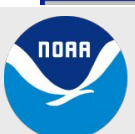
March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

Probability Range of Flood Outcomes

>25% Chance of
Exceedance - Possible

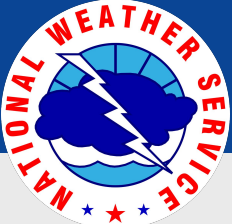


Major Flooding
Moderate Flooding
Minor Flooding
Near Flood Stage
No Flooding



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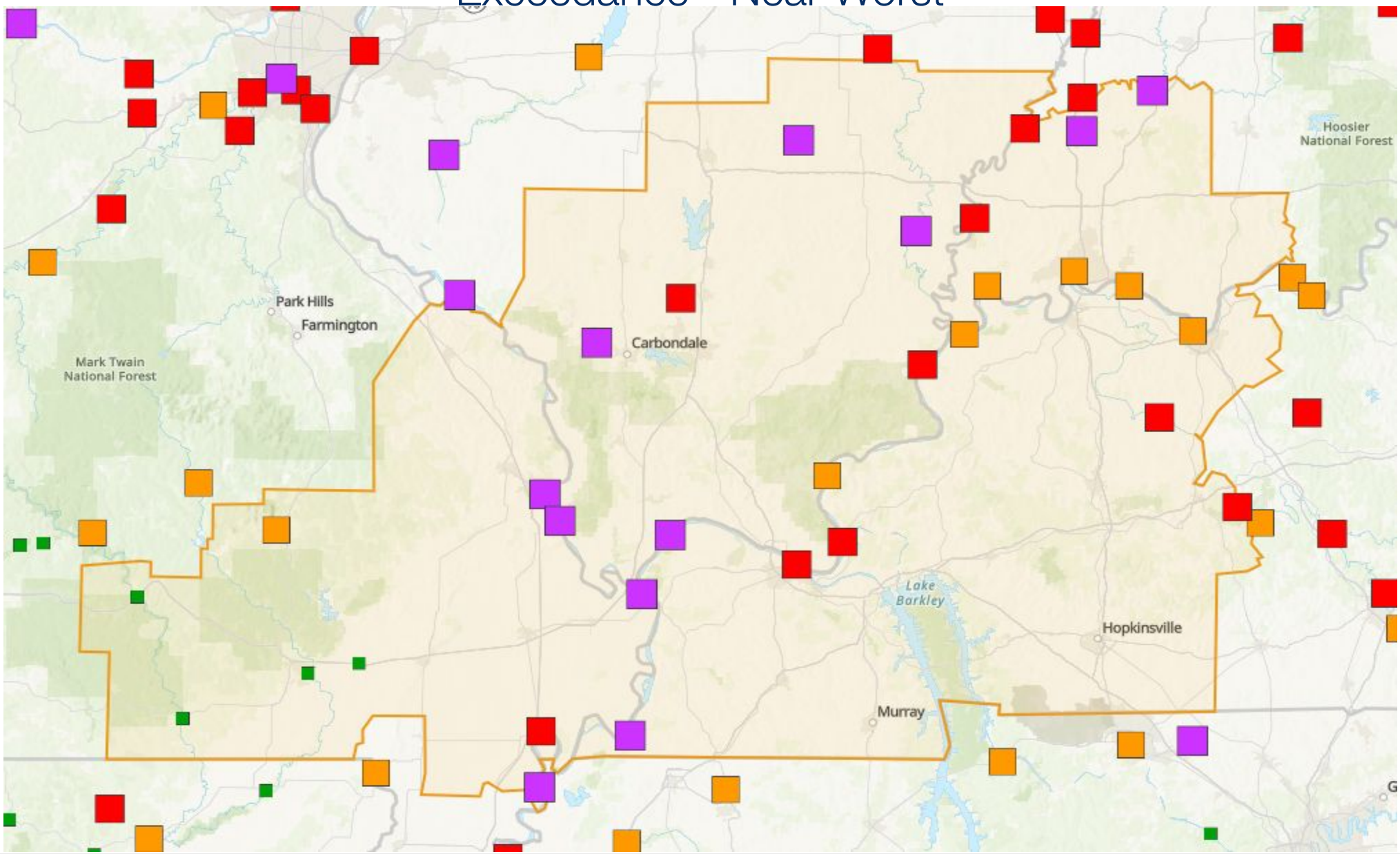


Long Range Flood Outlook

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

Probability Range of Flood Outcomes

>10% Chance of
Exceedance - Near Worst

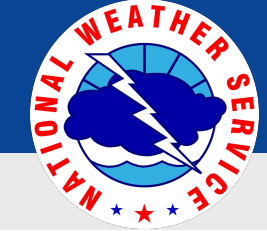


- Major Flooding
- Moderate Flooding
- Minor Flooding
- Near Flood Stage
- No Flooding



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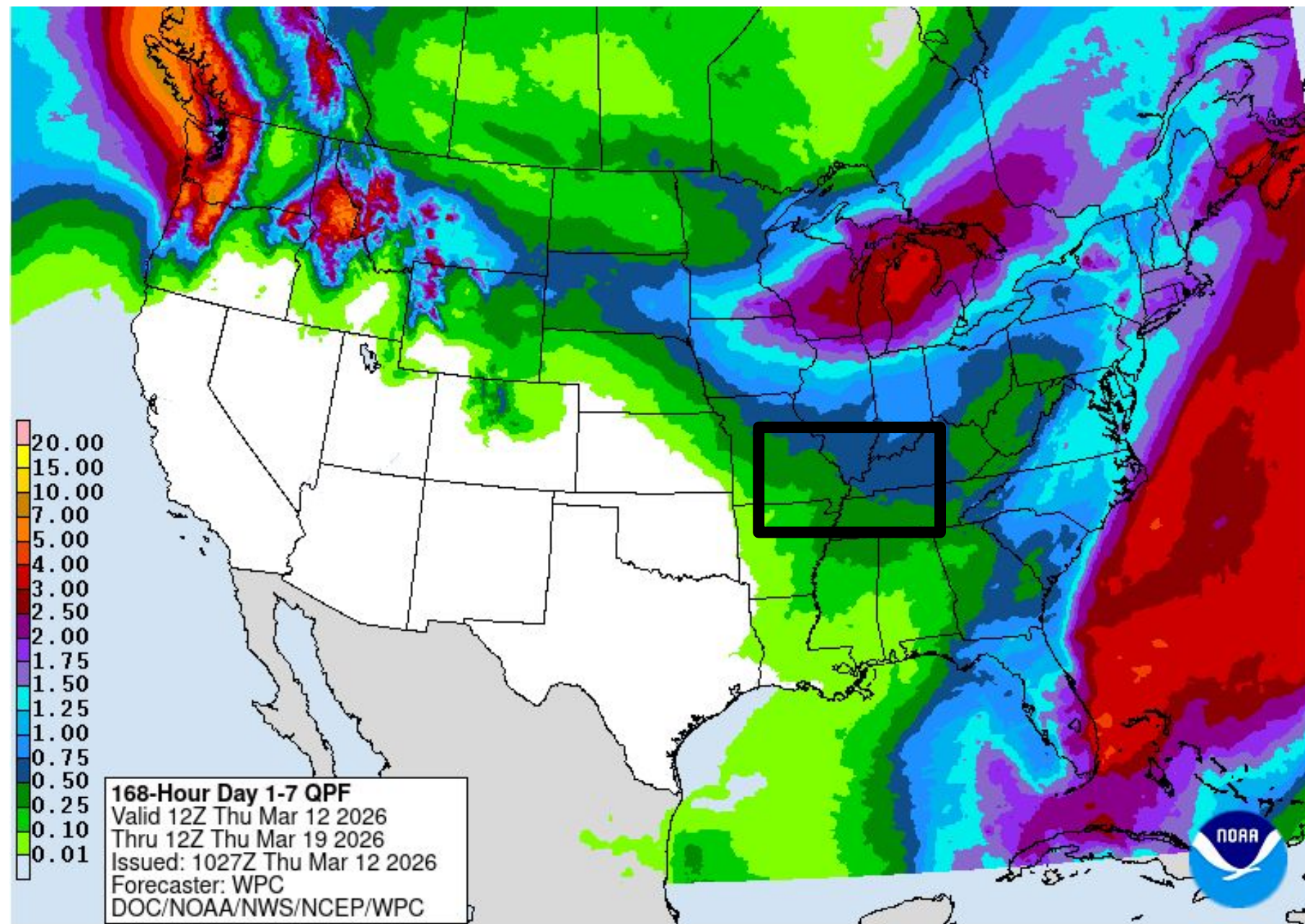
National Weather Service
Paducah, KY



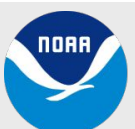
7 Day Precipitation Forecast

March 12-19, 2026

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

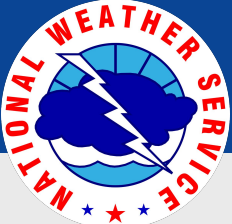


Find a detailed forecast for any location at weather.gov/forecastpoints



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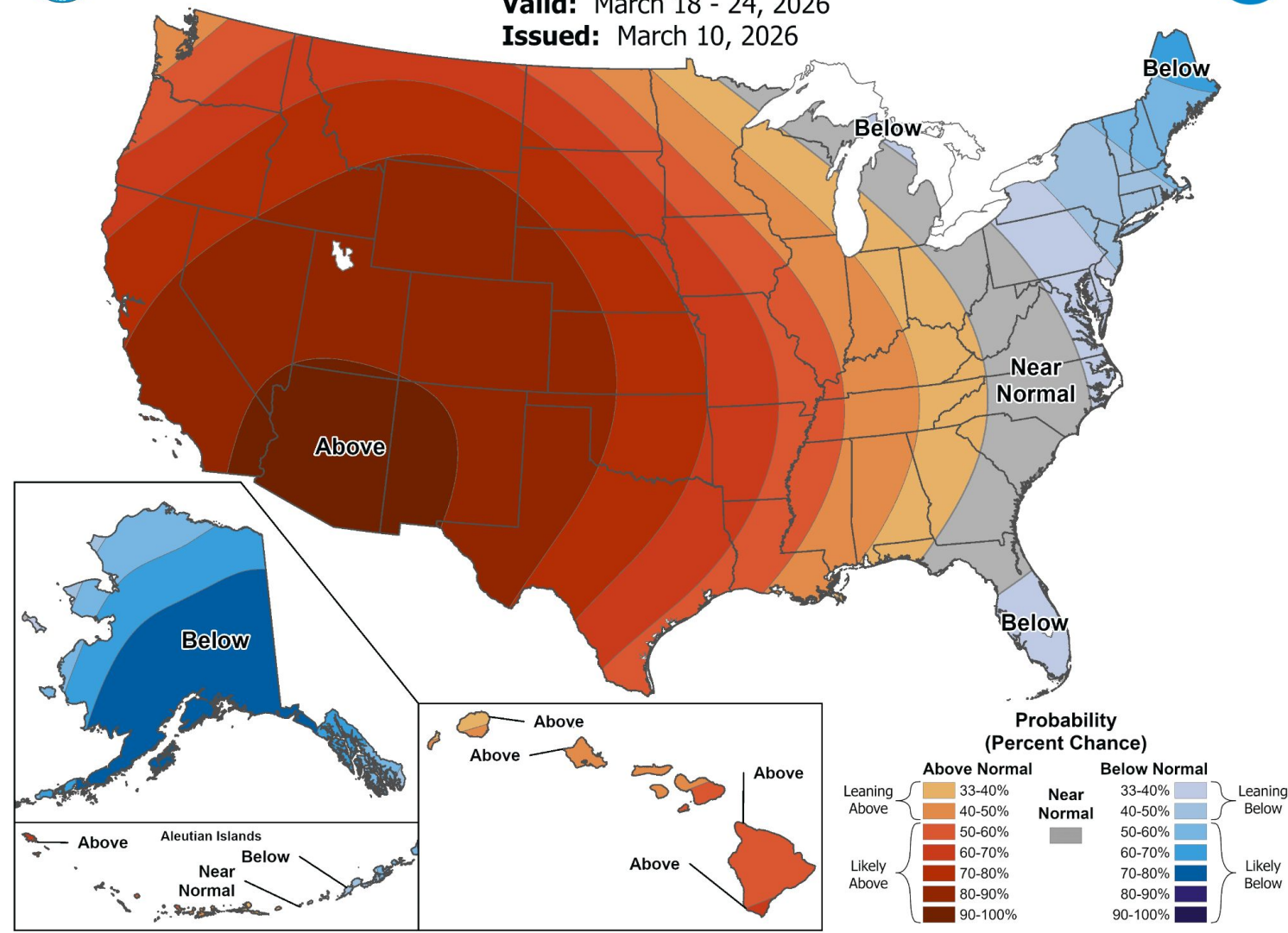
8 to 14 Day Outlook

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

March 18-24, 2026

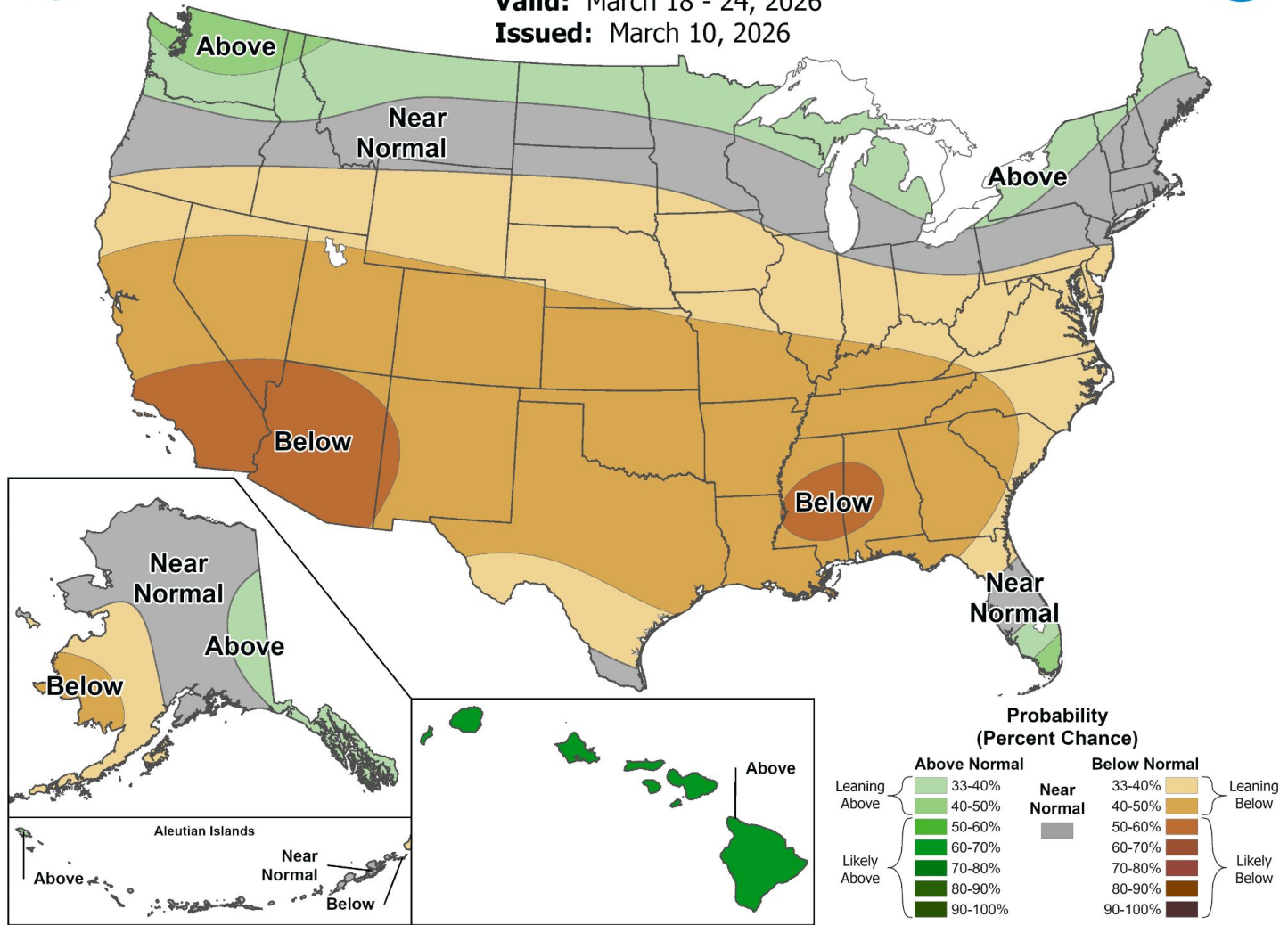
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

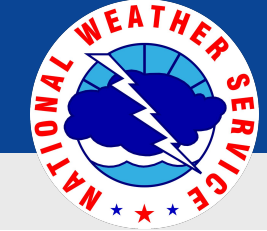
Valid: March 18 - 24, 2026
Issued: March 10, 2026



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: March 18 - 24, 2026
Issued: March 10, 2026





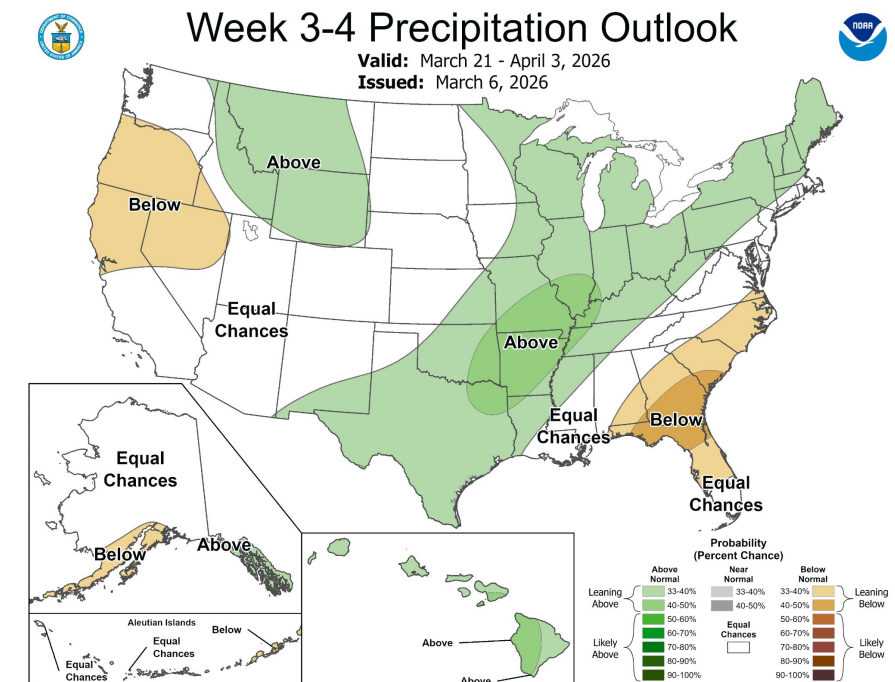
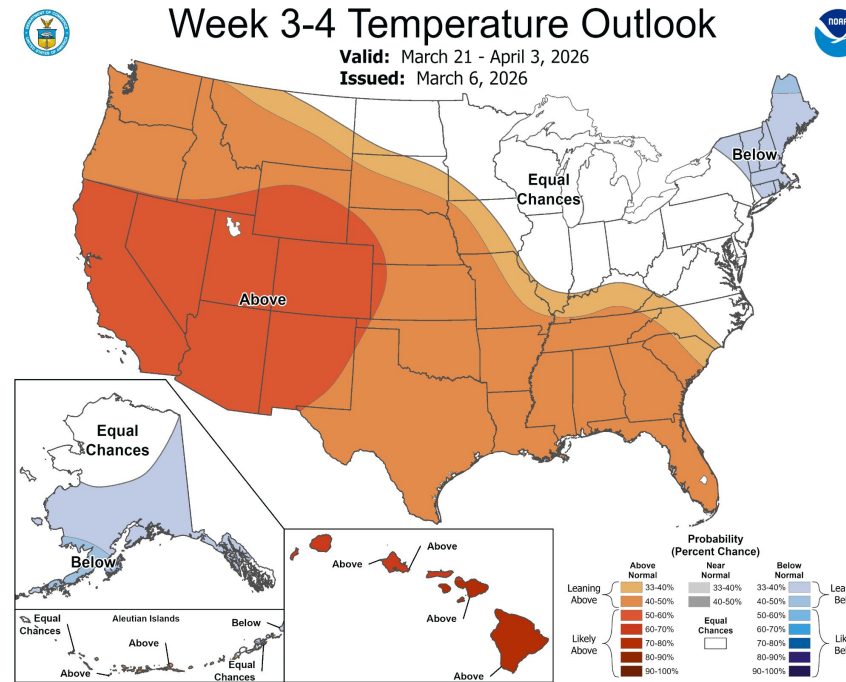
Spring Weather Outlook

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

These are general outlooks that depict broad trends for the weeks and months ahead

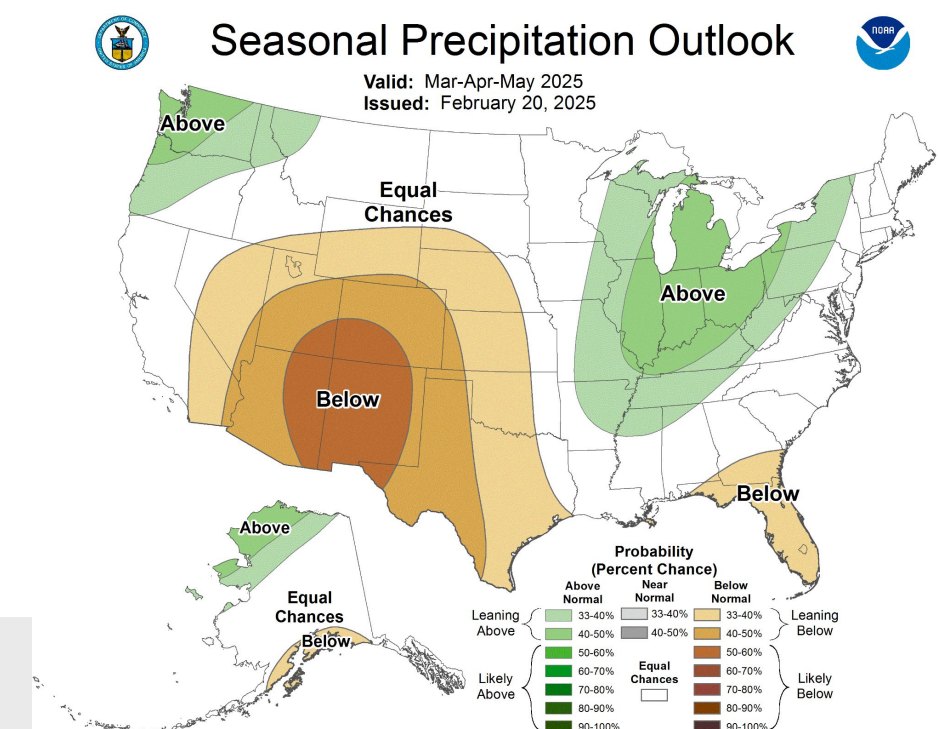
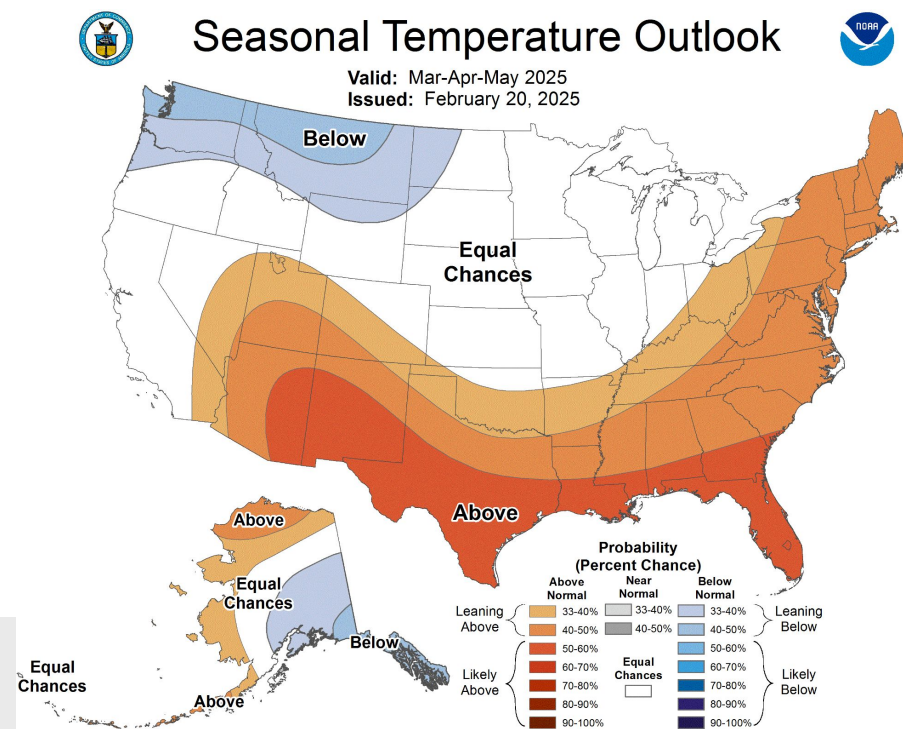
Weeks 3-4 Outlook

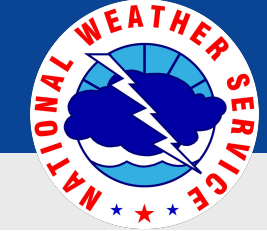
- Above normal temperatures are favored for much of the forecast area.
- Most of the area is favored to see above normal precipitation.



Seasonal Outlook

- Above normal temperatures are favored for the eastern half of the area (mainly western Kentucky) with near equal chances elsewhere.
- Above normal precipitation is favored for the area.





Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

March 12, 2026
7:41 AM CDT

Summary

- For the Mississippi and its tributaries, near to below normal flooding is expected. Minor to isolated Moderate flooding is expected. Isolated major flooding is possible.
- Near normal flood risk is expected for the Wabash and Ohio rivers. Minor flooding is expected. Isolated moderate flooding is possible.

Additional Resources

[NWS Paducah Website](#)

[Ohio River Forecast Center](#)

[Lower Mississippi River
Forecast Center](#)

[North Central River Forecast
Center](#)

[NWS Paducah on Facebook](#)

[NWS Paducah on Twitter](#)

[Forecast Points \(Hourly
Details\)](#)

[NWS Paducah Spring Flood
Page](#)

[Flood Safety Information](#)

[River Observations and
Forecasts](#)

