



Drought Information Statement for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

Valid February 5, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Tallahassee, FL

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- This product will be updated Thursday, February 12, 2026
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/TAE/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

- **Extreme Drought Expands Across the Region.**
- The entire region remains in Severe Drought (D2) or worse for another week.
- Drought characteristics remain largely long term impacts as rivers, streams, and ponds are at exceptionally low levels for this time of year.
- Despite rainfall on Wednesday, no significant improvement to the drought is expected in next week's drought monitor.



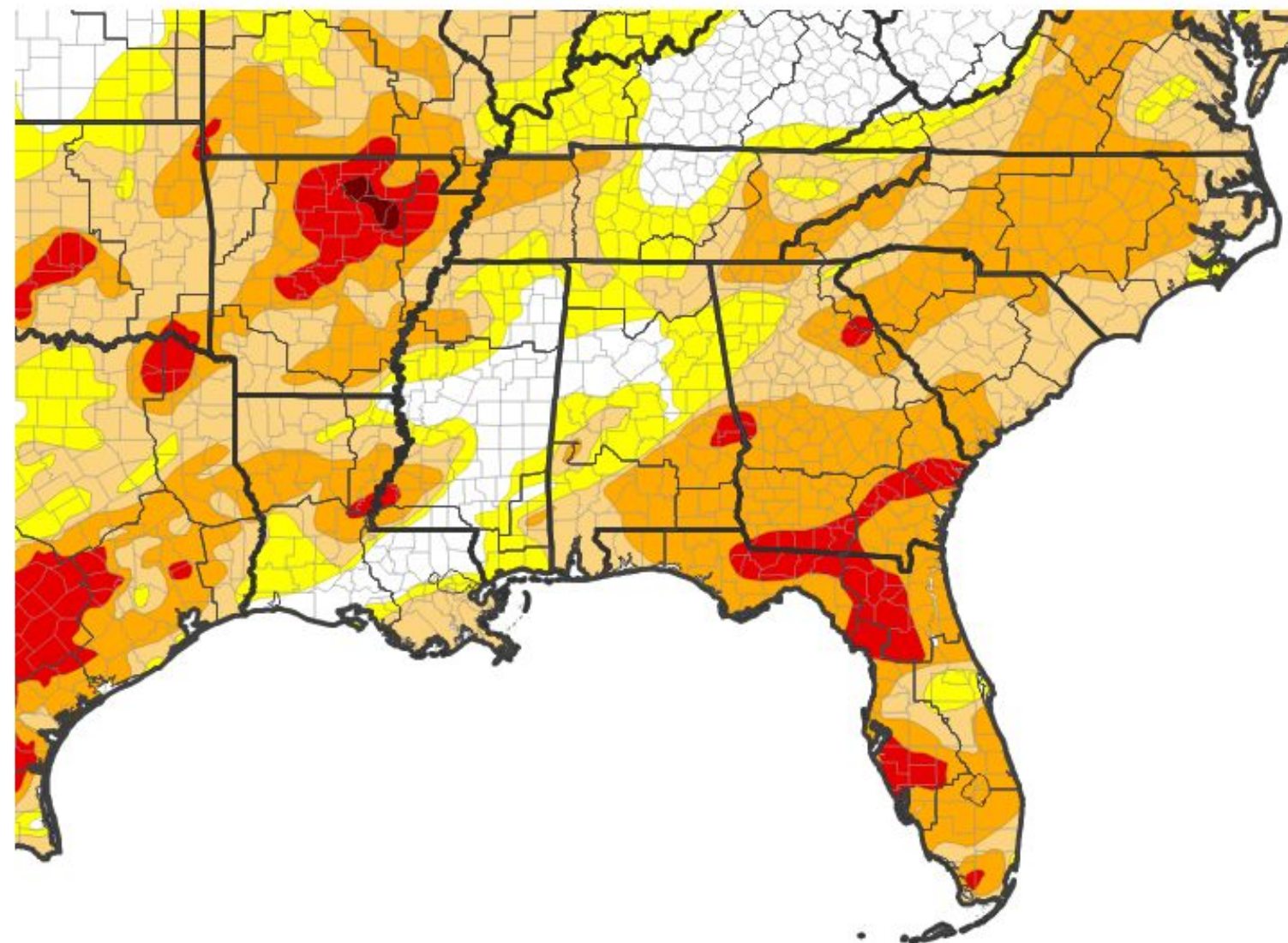


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- The drought monitor is based on rainfall observed through 7 am ET Tuesday, so while rainfall on Wednesday was welcome, that rain was not considered in this week's drought map.
- Wednesday's rainfall amounts were not sufficient to lead to any drought improvement next week as they were at or below weekly rainfall normals.
- The drought worsened this week with D3 (Extreme Drought) now covering much of inland North Florida and South Central Georgia.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** In South Georgia: counties along the Florida border to Lowndes County plus Lanier County and portions of Cook and Berrien Counties. In Florida, Eastern Jackson and Eastern Calhoun, Northern Liberty, Gadsden, Leon, inland Jefferson, Madison, Eastern Lafayette and Eastern Dixie Counties.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** The remainder of the region.

U.S. Drought Monitor

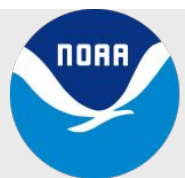


U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 02/03/26



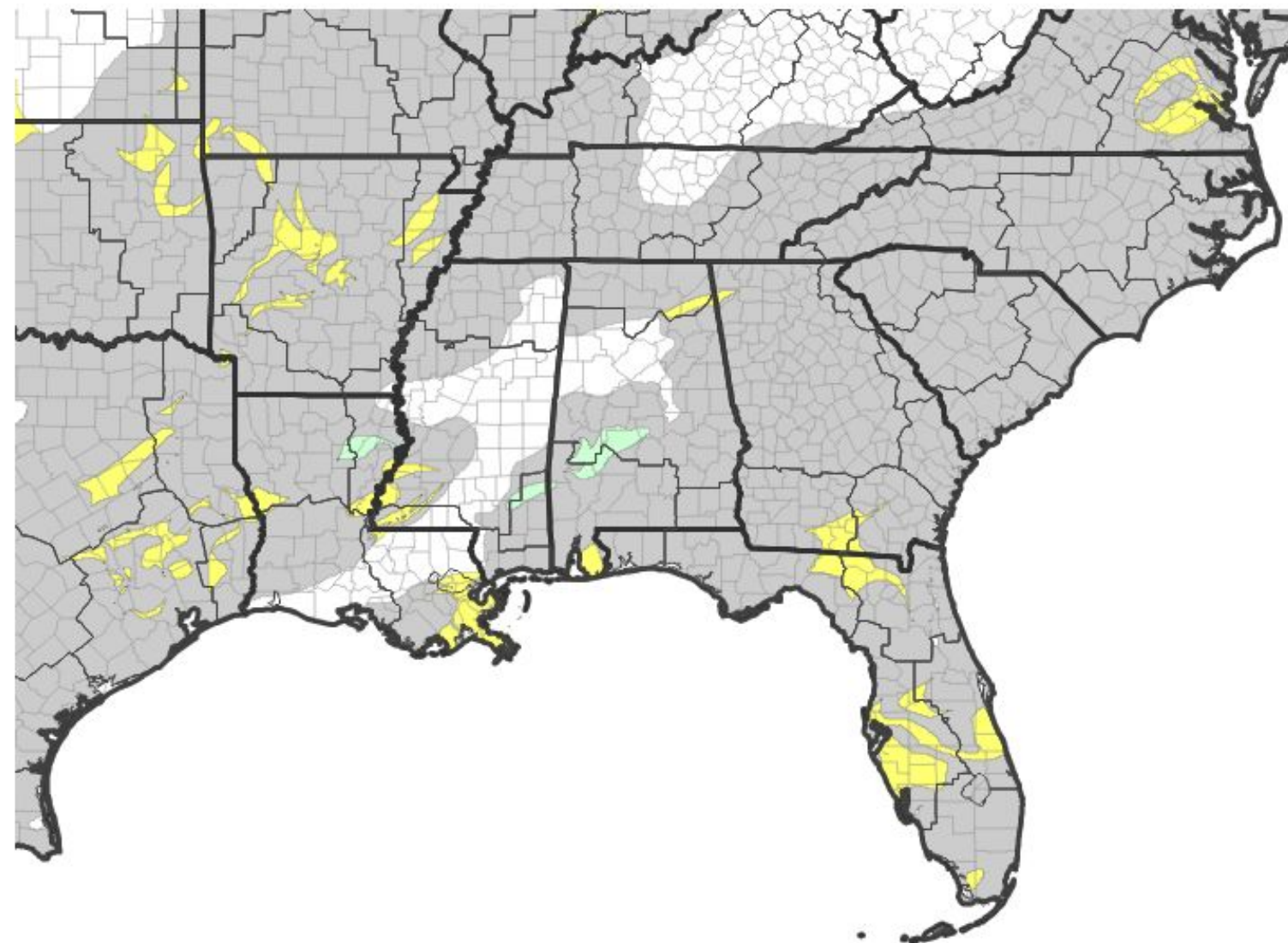


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

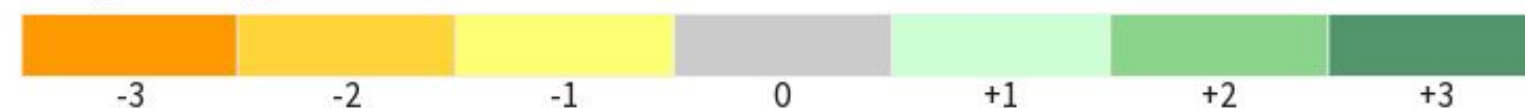
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- Drought degradation was analyzed in portions of South Central Georgia as well as inland parts of the Florida Big Bend.
- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **1 category degradation:** In Florida, Madison County. In Georgia, Brooks, Lowndes, Lanier, and portions of Cook and Berrien Counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map

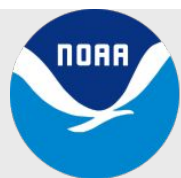


Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 02/03/26



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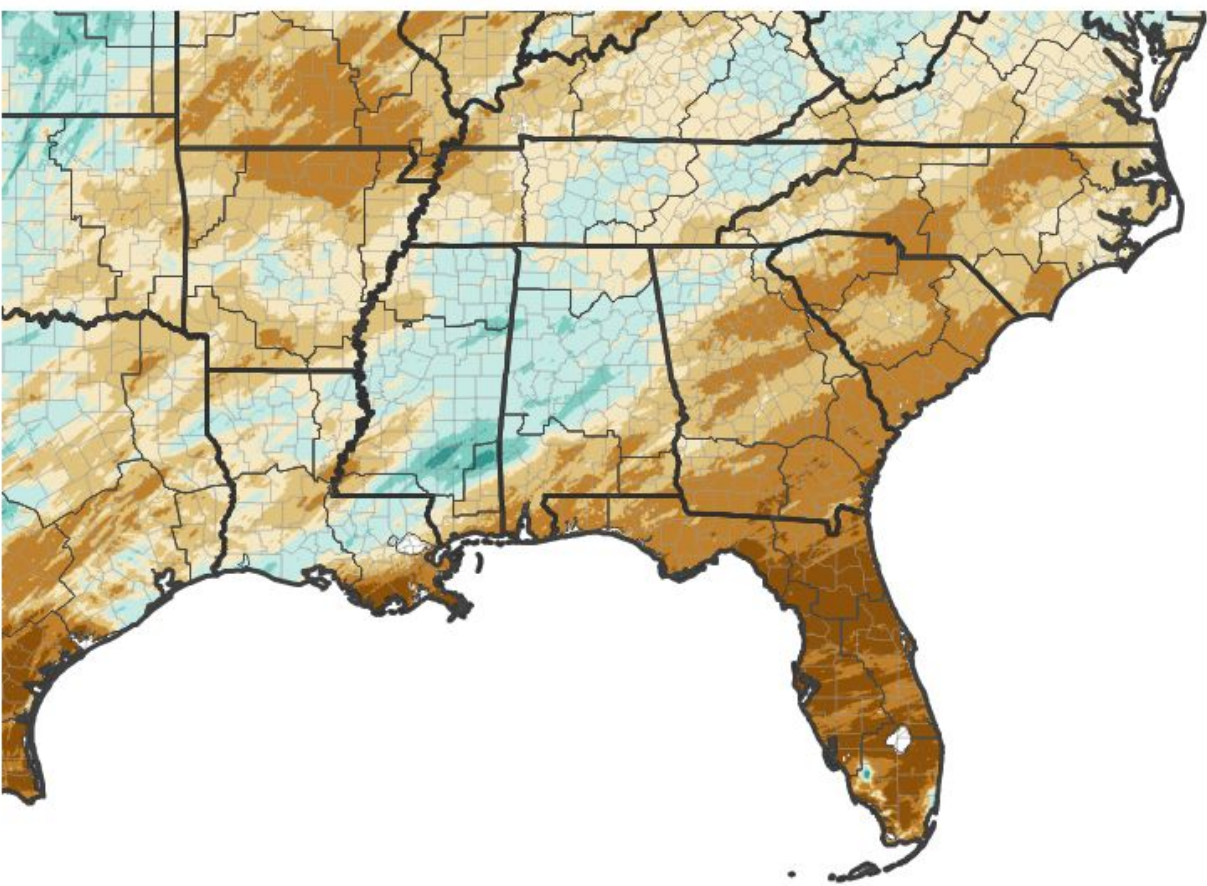
Precipitation

Note: Precipitation after 7 AM EST/6 AM CST Tuesday is incorporated in next week’s Drought Monitor

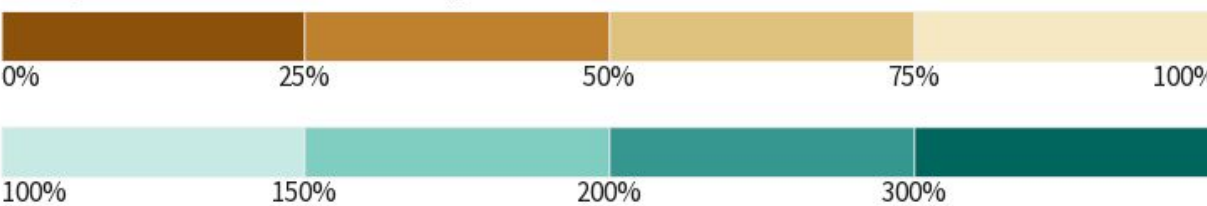
	Last 30 Days		Last 90 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
DeFuniak Springs*	2.86"	55.3%	8.32"	57.0%
Panama City ECP	2.72"	58.8%	11.51"	87.1%
Dothan	3.65"	77.5%	7.72"	57.6%
Marianna	2.39"	58.9%	8.62"	69.3%
Apalachicola	1.56"	38.8%	5.65"	50.1%
Georgetown**	3.38"	72.8%	7.34"	53.2%
Dawson**	3.86"	82.7%	8.55"	64.0%
Arlington**	3.13"	66.9%	8.47"	64.3%
Albany	2.50"	61.2%	7.95"	69.2%
Cairo**	2.23"	49.2%	8.16"	68.0%
Tallahassee	1.55"	35.9%	6.87"	58.3%
Moultrie**	1.60"	35.6%	5.50"	49.3%
Monticello*	1.88"	41.1%	7.28"	62.1%
Ty Ty**	3.13"	71.9%	7.57"	65.4%
Alapaha**	1.74"	40.3%	6.25"	56.7%
Valdosta	1.27"	34.3%	5.36"	56.7%
Perry***	1.12"	25.6%	5.23"	51.7%
Mayo*	1.32"	30.7%	6.72"	66.5%

Rainfall totals through February 4, 2026. Non-NWS Data Courtesy:
*University of Florida - Florida Automated Weather Network
**University of Georgia Weather Network
***Suwannee River Water Management District
Climatology for non-NWS stations is estimated using PRISM data.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

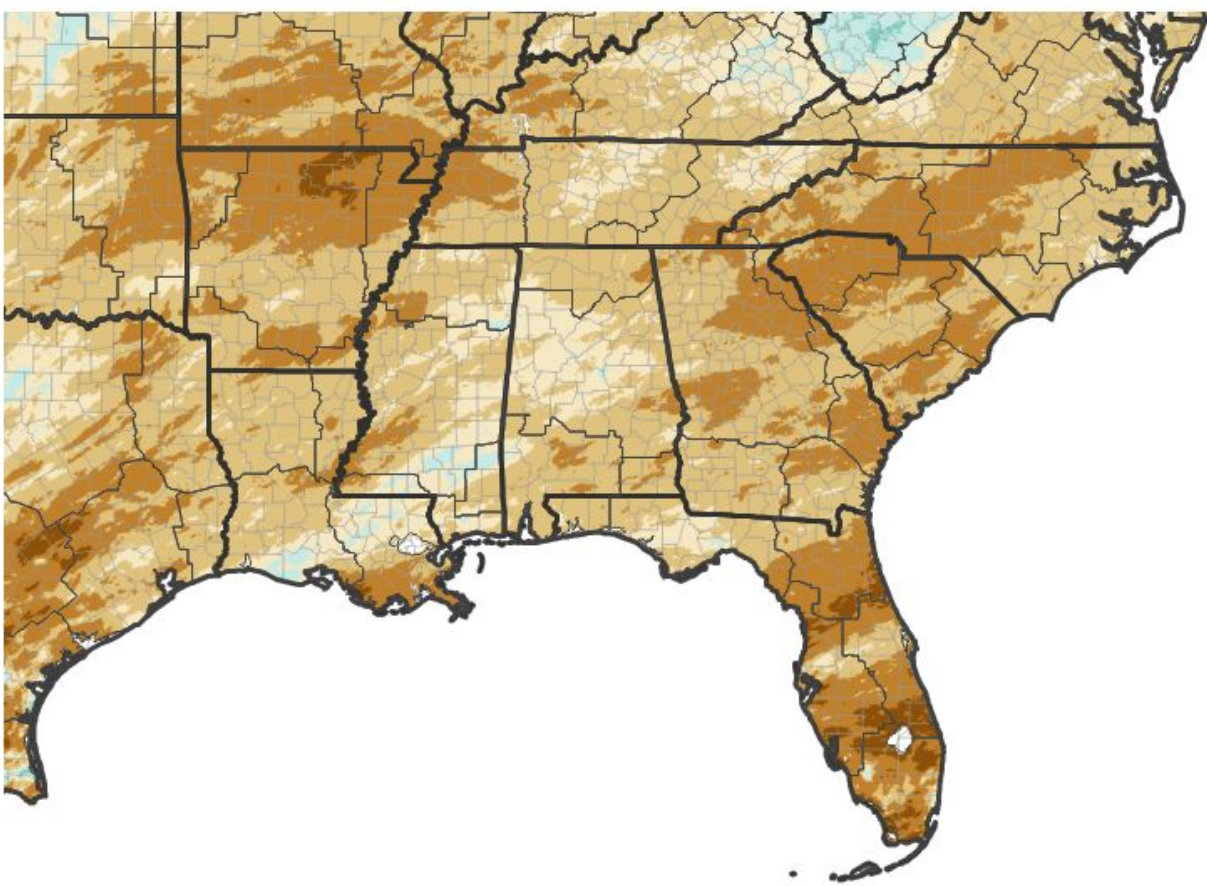


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

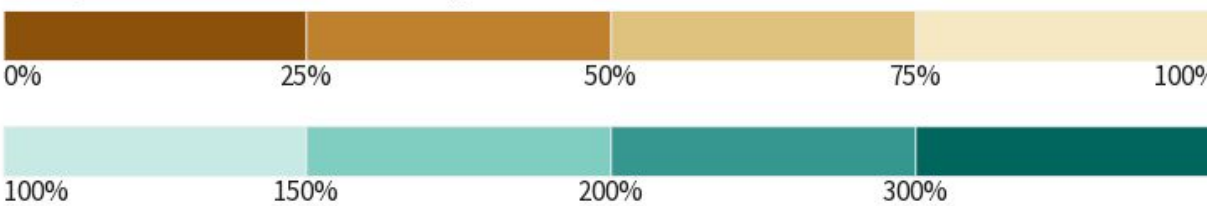


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/05/26

90-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: 02/05/26



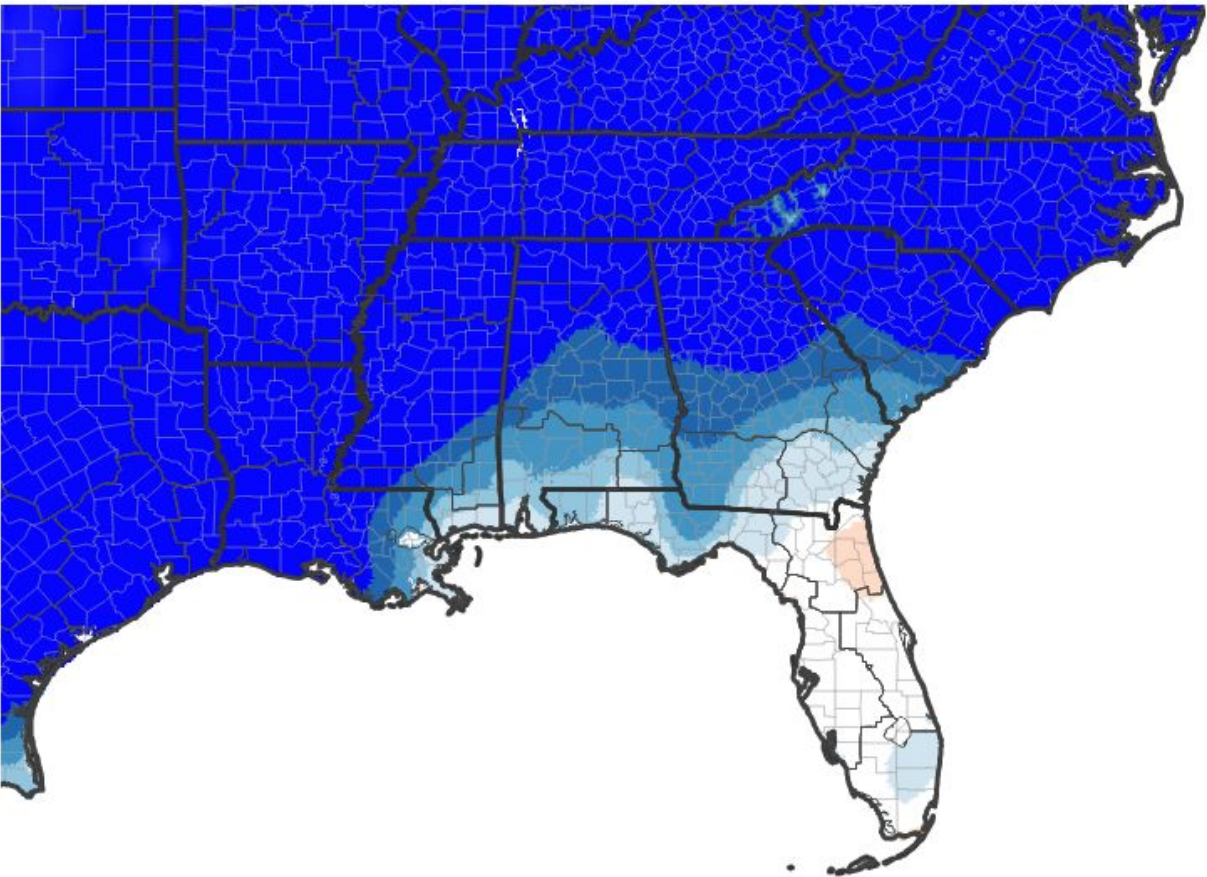


Temperature

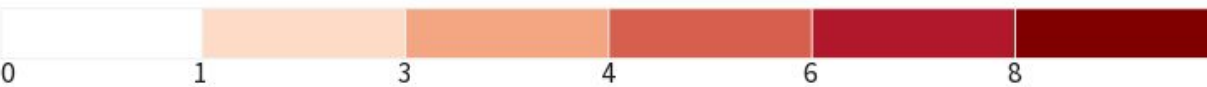
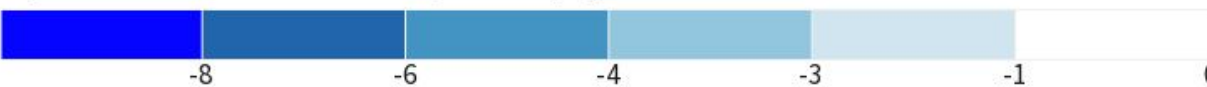
Last 30 Days		
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Tallahassee	62.6° (-1.5°)	35.6° (-5.1°)
Apalachicola	61.9° (-1.9°)	39.3° (-5.1°)
Albany	60.2° (-2.1°)	34.6° (-4.5°)
Valdosta	62.2° (-0.9°)	35.3° (-3.4°)
Marianna	61.8° (-1.4°)	36.1° (-4.7°)
Dothan	60.0° (-1.9°)	37.0° (-2.8°)

- A strong arctic airmass moved into the region over the last couple of weeks, with some of the coldest wind chills in a few years.
- The stretch of days with a hard freeze (26 degrees or lower) at Tallahassee was the tied for the longest on record (data back to 1893).

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



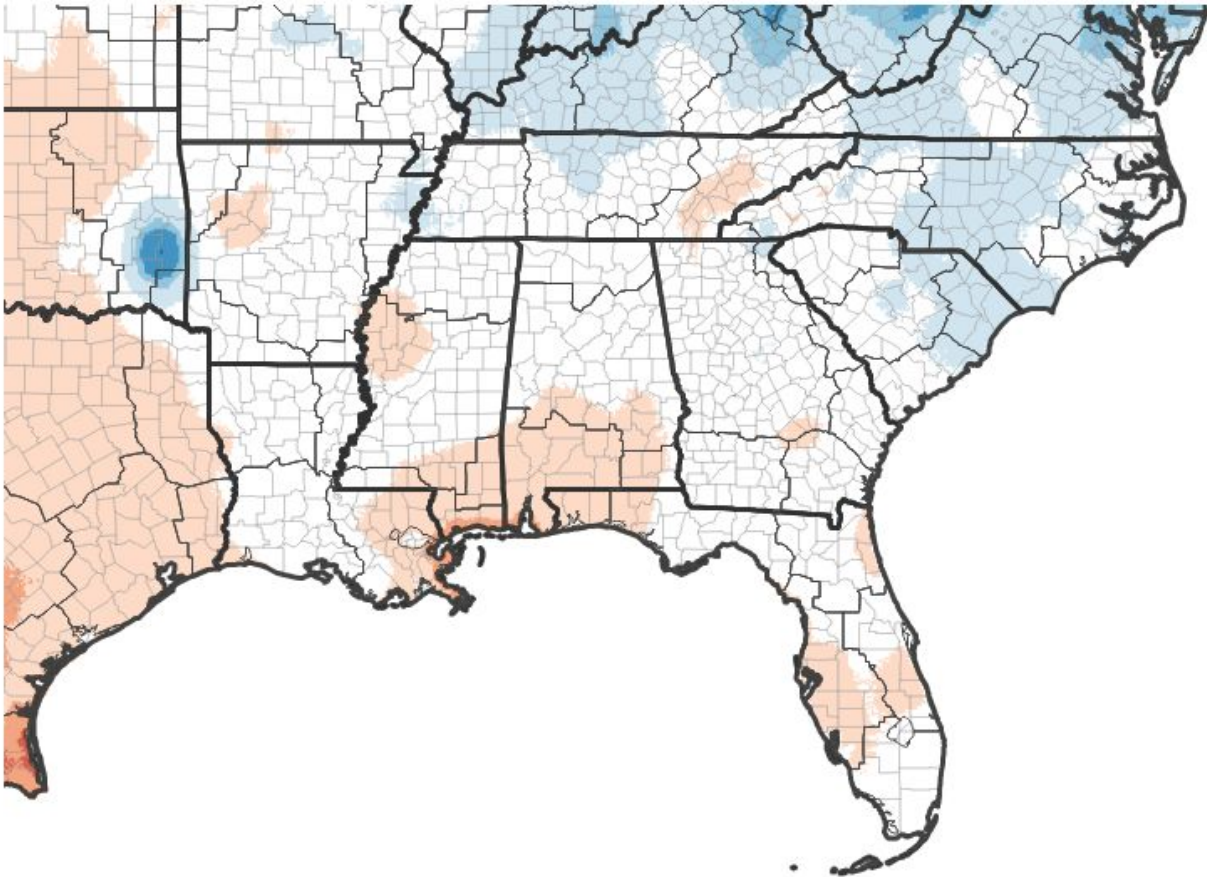
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



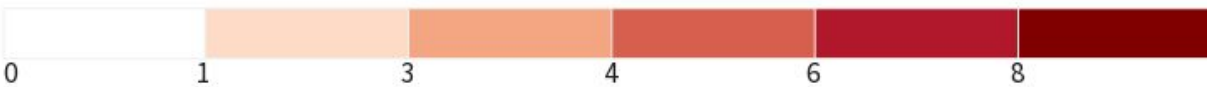
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/31/26

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: 01/31/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain exceptionally low for this time of year. Prior to Wednesday, the absence of any heavy precipitation led to streamflows continuing to drop.
- Surface/groundwater levels remain especially low for this time of year, accentuating the long term nature of this drought. There has been no change in the extreme drought area where holding ponds and small streams have very little water in them or are completely dry.

Agricultural Impacts

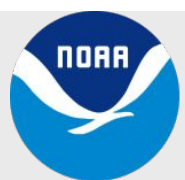
- Winter cover crops have been planted across portions of the tri-state area, but reports from multiple counties indicate that the cover crop and winter wheat are noticeably stressed or behind normal growth. Just recently, Coffee County reported that 40% of the cover crop has failed in some pastures.
- To support agricultural activities, some farms are pumping water into select holding ponds on their property to ensure at least some accessible water for herds/flocks.
- Planting season is still on schedule to begin in the coming month, but concerns exist given exceptionally low sub-surface water levels that irrigation will further stress the water table as farmers draw water from wells.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values range from 250-550 across the region, with the lowest values in the west.
- Brush fire occurrence is increasing across the entire region this week.
- Despite the recent rains, continue to exercise caution with outdoor burning.

Mitigation Actions

- Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a [water shortage advisory](#) for their watershed.

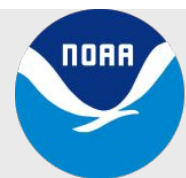
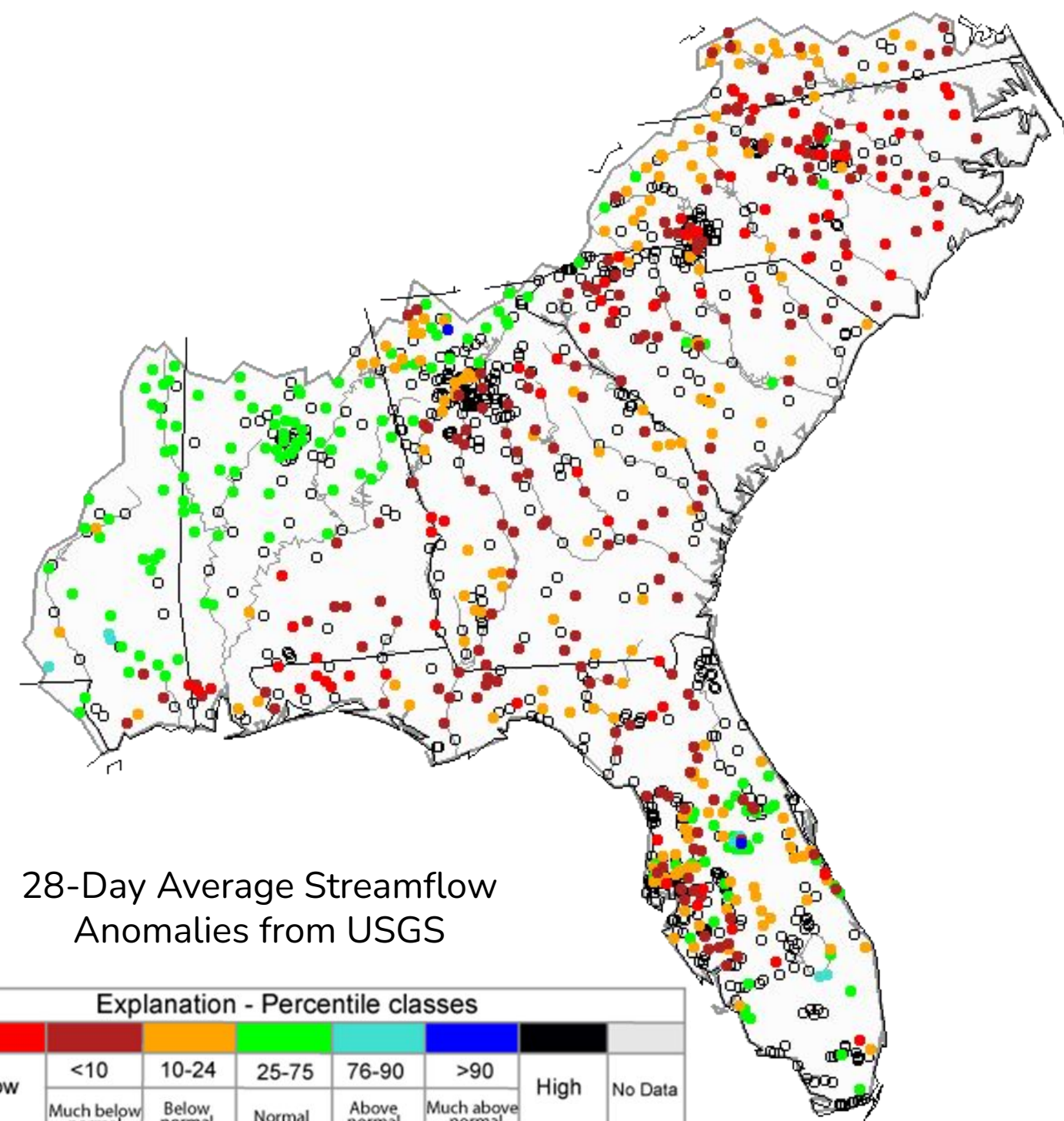


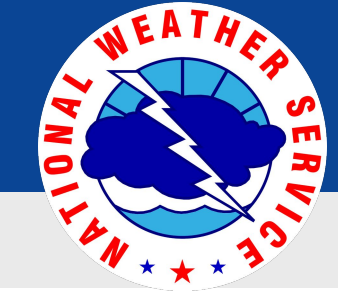


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow conditions are exceptionally low and well below normal for this time of year with a few sites nearing record low flows.
- Drought continuation/degradation this week was heavily driven by the exceptionally low streamflows. This is recharge season across the southeast, and the lack of rainfall will only worsen drought conditions in the weeks ahead.
- Some rainfall continues to help soil conditions, but the rain we've seen over the last three months has not been sufficient to recharge water levels in rivers, streams, and lakes.
- Recreational activities on area waterways are being impacted, with some smaller rivers and creeks not navigable to canoes and paddle boats.

Wednesday, February 04, 2026

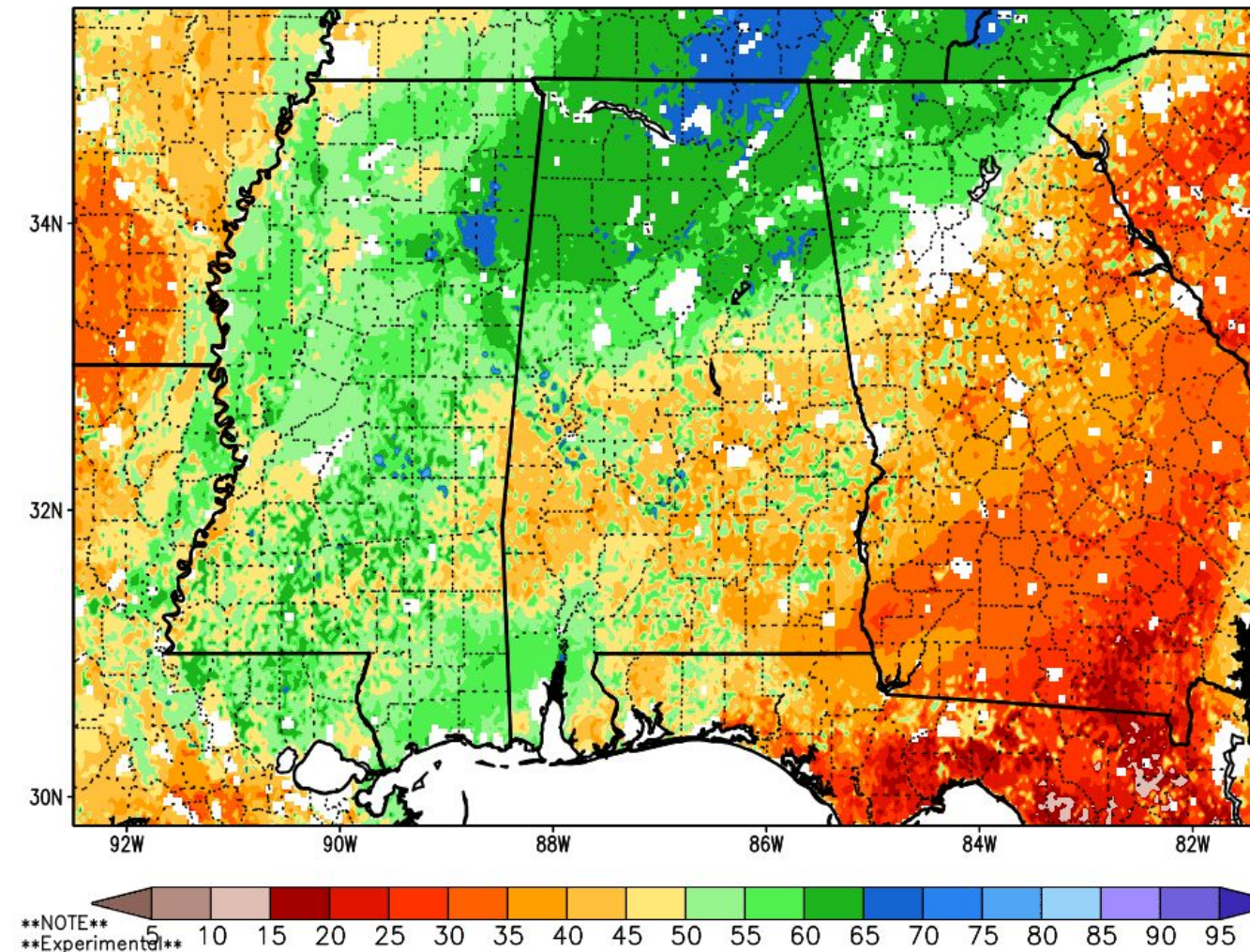




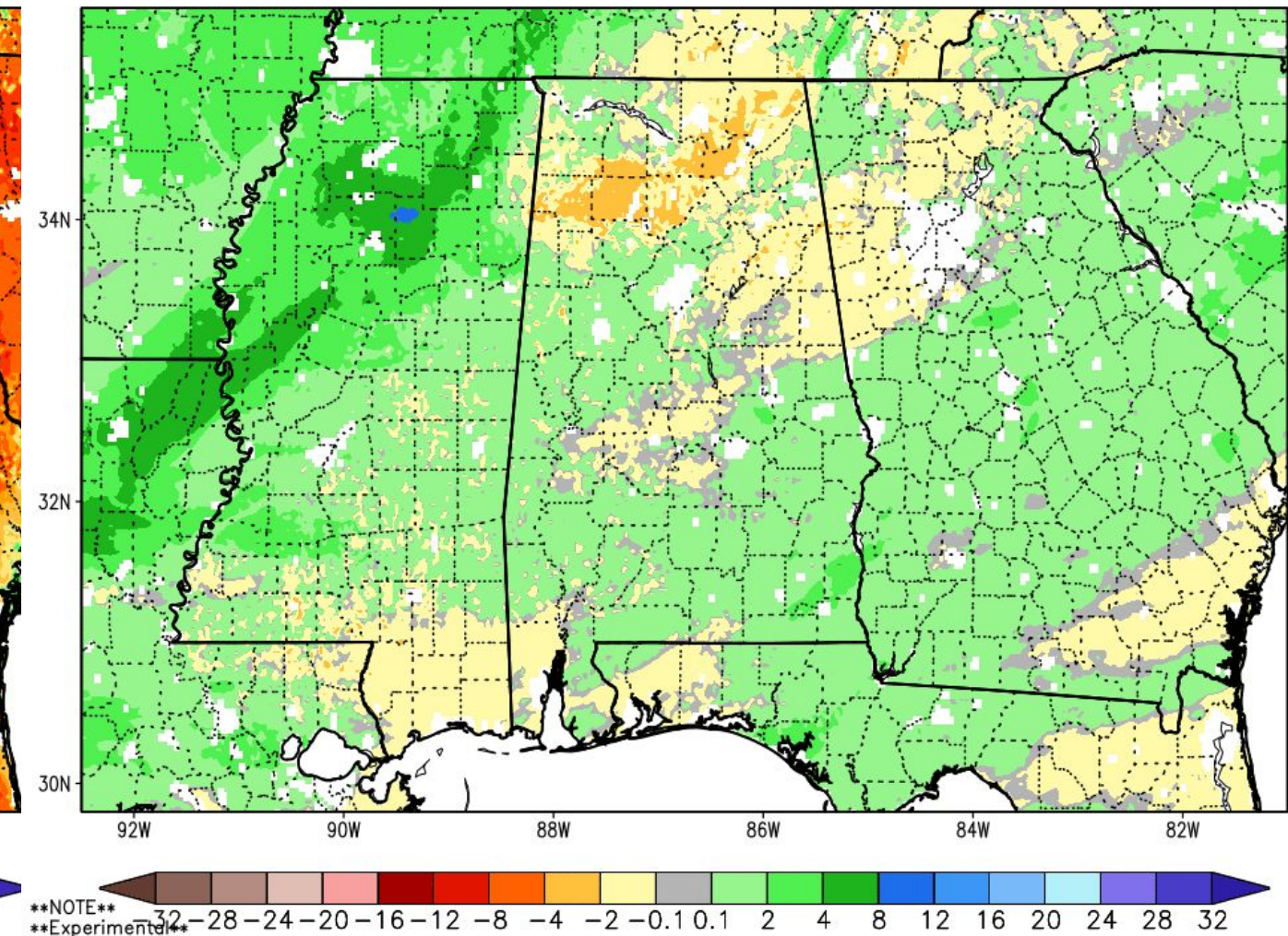
Agricultural Impacts

- Recent rainfall from Wednesday was not included in the drought monitor. It did result in some improvement in soil moisture, mainly over Southeast Alabama.
- Even so, deep layer soil moisture remains dry across the region, especially in our harder hit drought areas in South Georgia and North Florida.

Column-Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 18z 05 Feb 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



1-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 18z 05 Feb 2026



0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture & 1-week Change in 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture
Data courtesy of NASA SPoRT

2026 Crop Reports
[Alabama](#) | [Florida](#) | [Georgia](#)

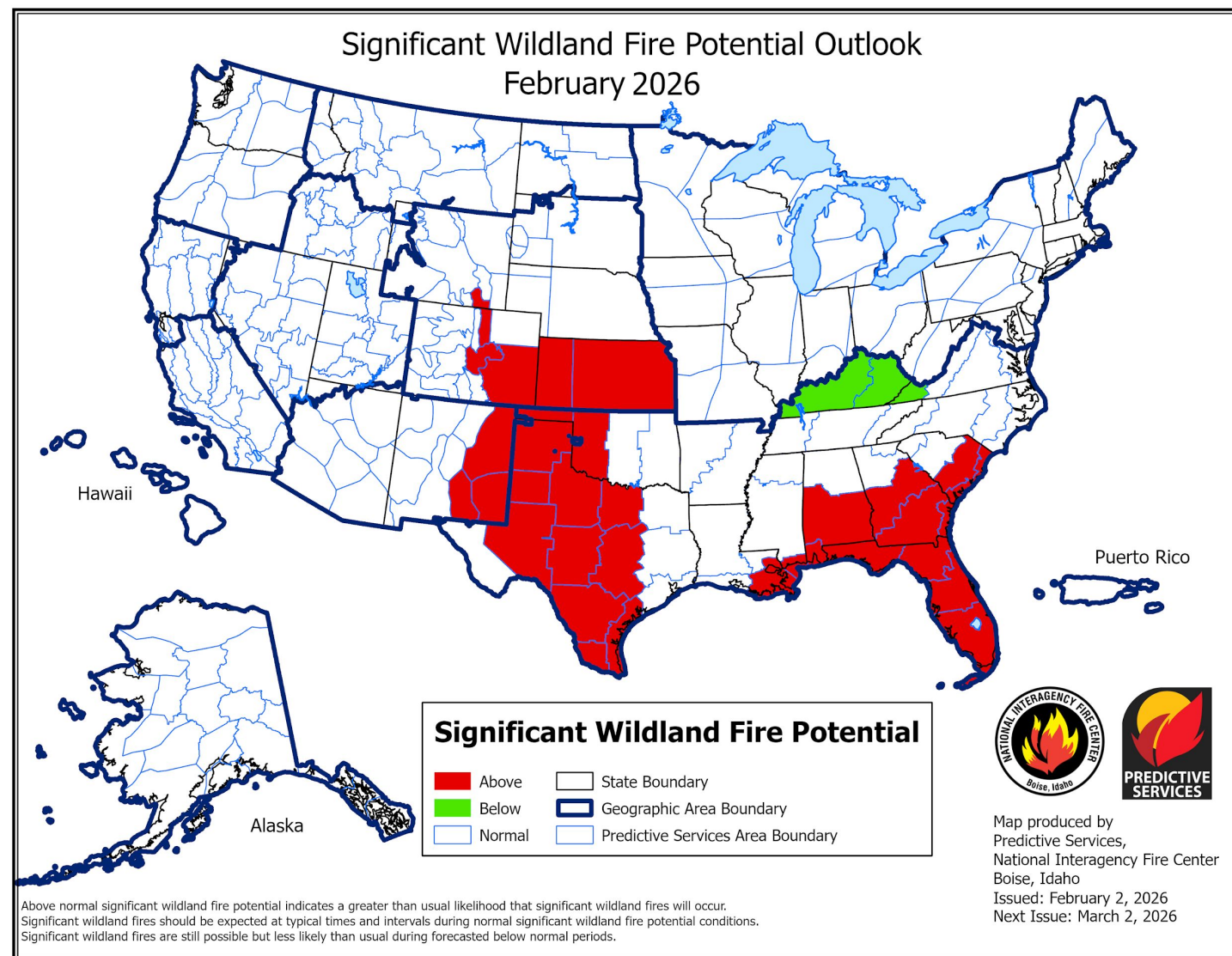
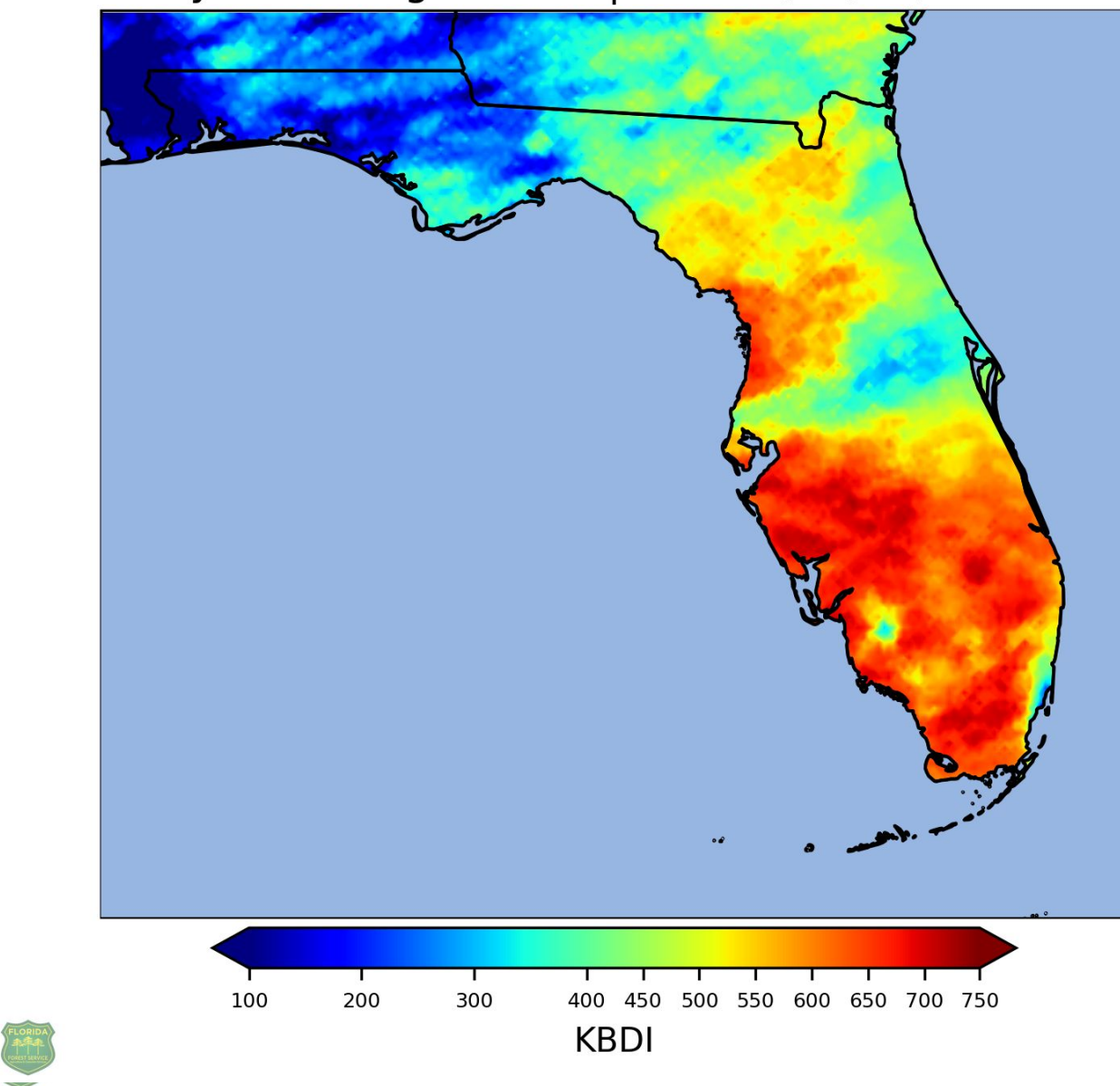


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch-Byram Drought Indices remain low in the western half of the region, however they have increased this week in the eastern part of the region.
- Brush fires are on the increase.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for February calls for above normal wildfire activity across much of the area.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index | Wed 02/04/26, 01:00 PM EST

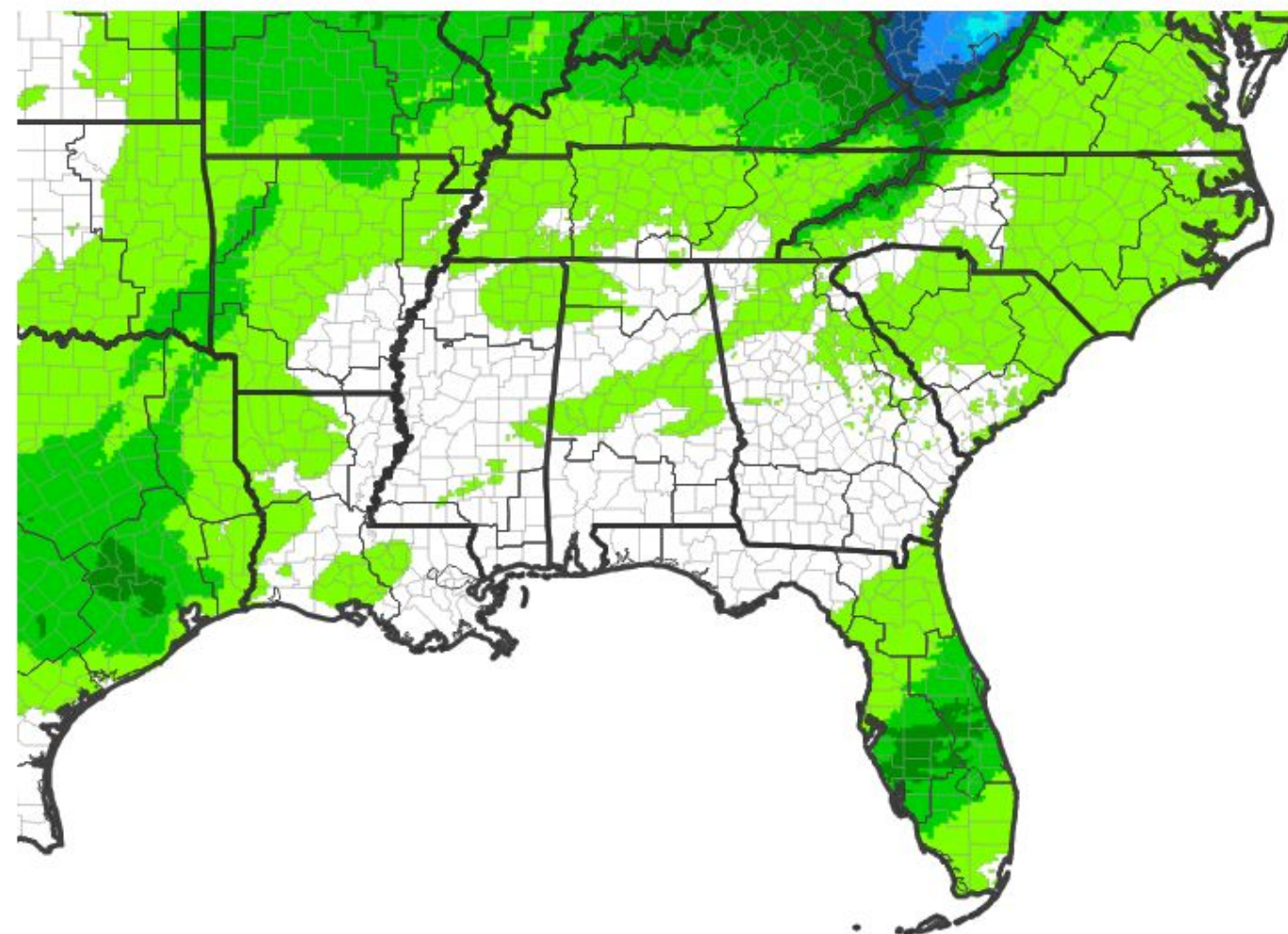




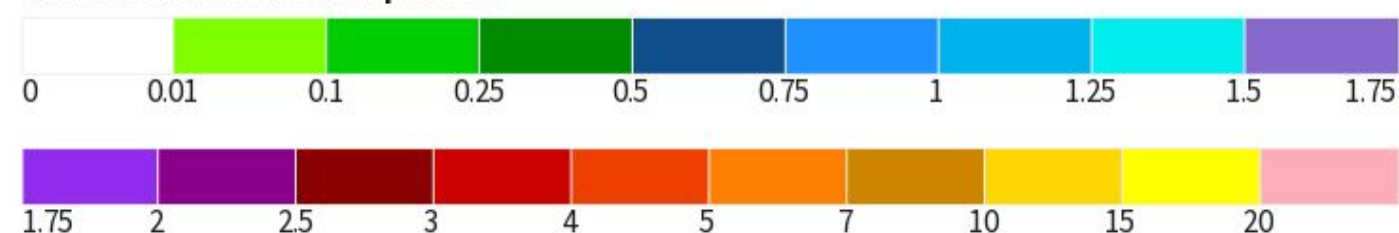
Precipitation Outlook

- In the wake of a frontal passage on Wednesday night, a dry airmass is expected to remain in place for the next week. As a result, no rainfall is expected over the next seven days.
- [8-14 day outlook](#) (2/12 - 2/18): near to slightly below normal

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 5, 2026–February 12, 2026



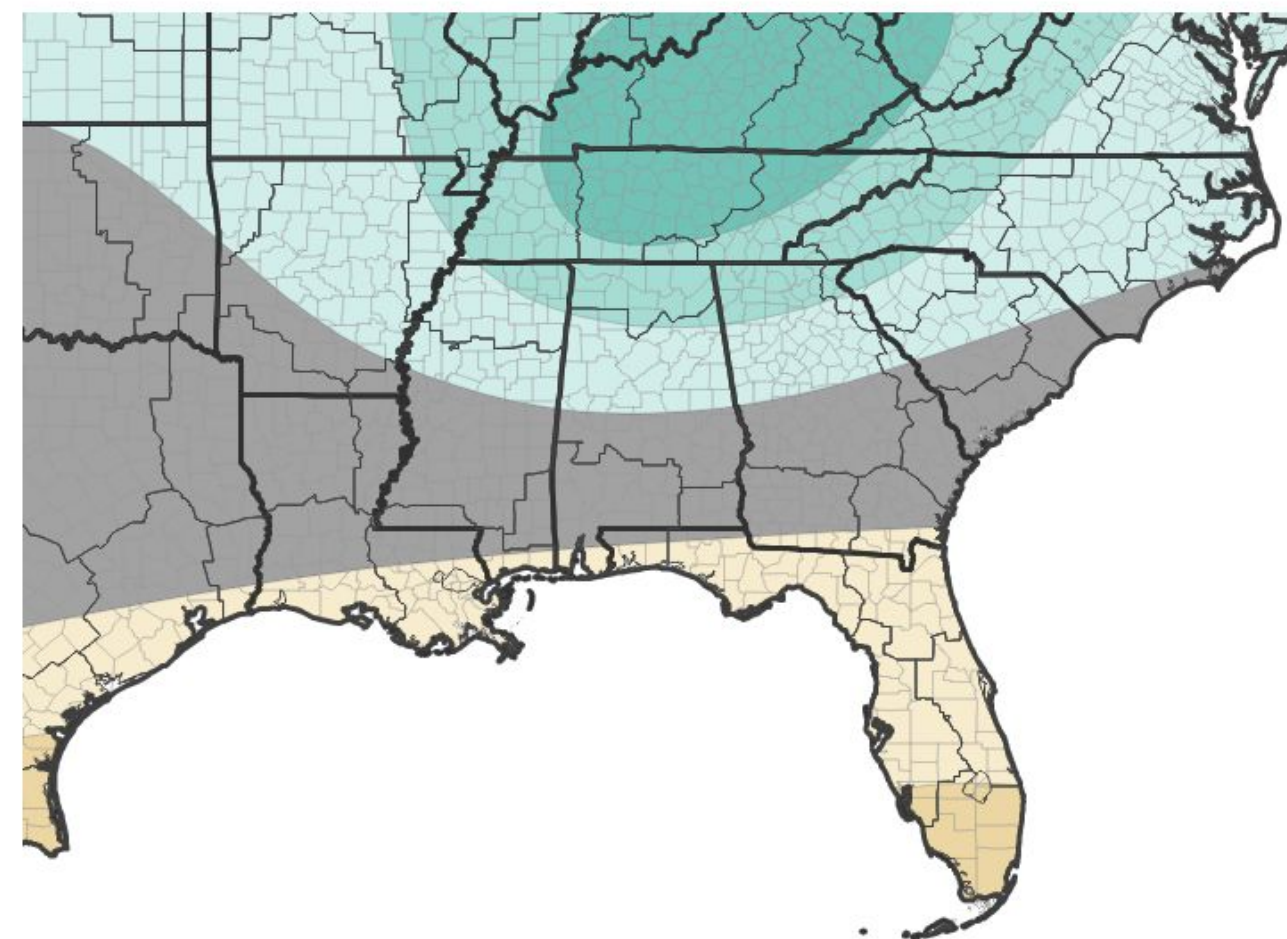
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 02/05/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for February 12, 2026–February 18, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



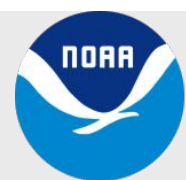
Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Near-Normal Conditions

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

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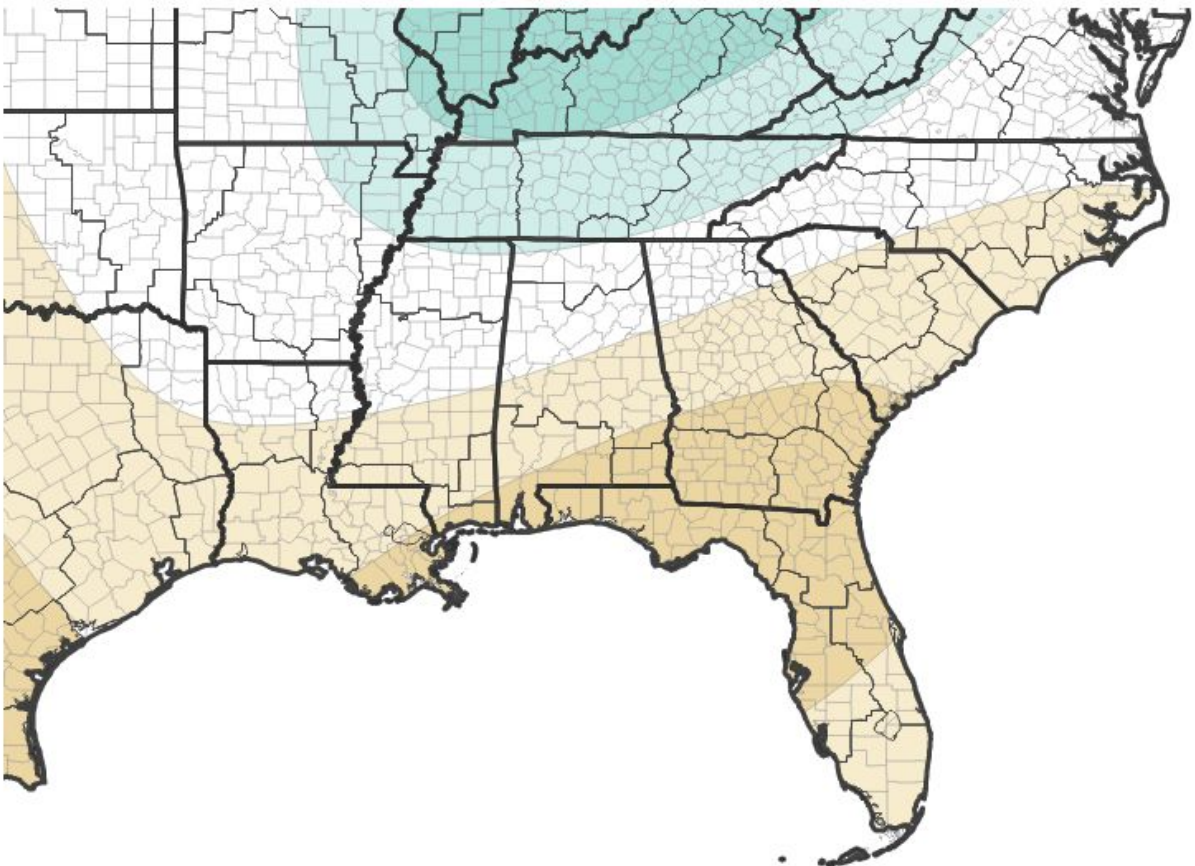
Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The next 3 months are predicted to favor much above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.
- While this outlook is very consistent with the climatological presentation of a La Nina pattern, it doesn't mean that extreme cold events won't occur, which is happening this weekend.

Average	February		March		April	
	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Tallahassee	55.6°	4.25"	61.4°	5.24"	67.3°	3.53"
Apalachicola	56.8°	4.17"	61.7°	4.34"	67.3°	2.91"
Albany	54.0°	4.01"	60.3°	4.38"	67.0°	3.67"
Valdosta	54.6°	3.31"	60.1°	3.73"	66.2°	3.66"
Marianna	55.4°	4.49"	61.5°	5.01"	67.6°	3.72"
Dothan	54.6°	4.82"	60.8°	4.72"	67.2°	4.79"

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for February 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



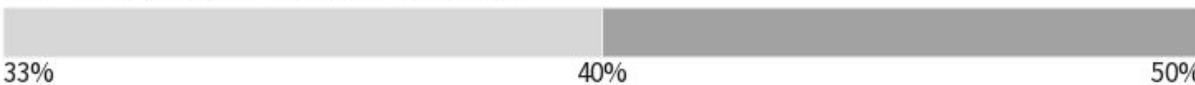
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



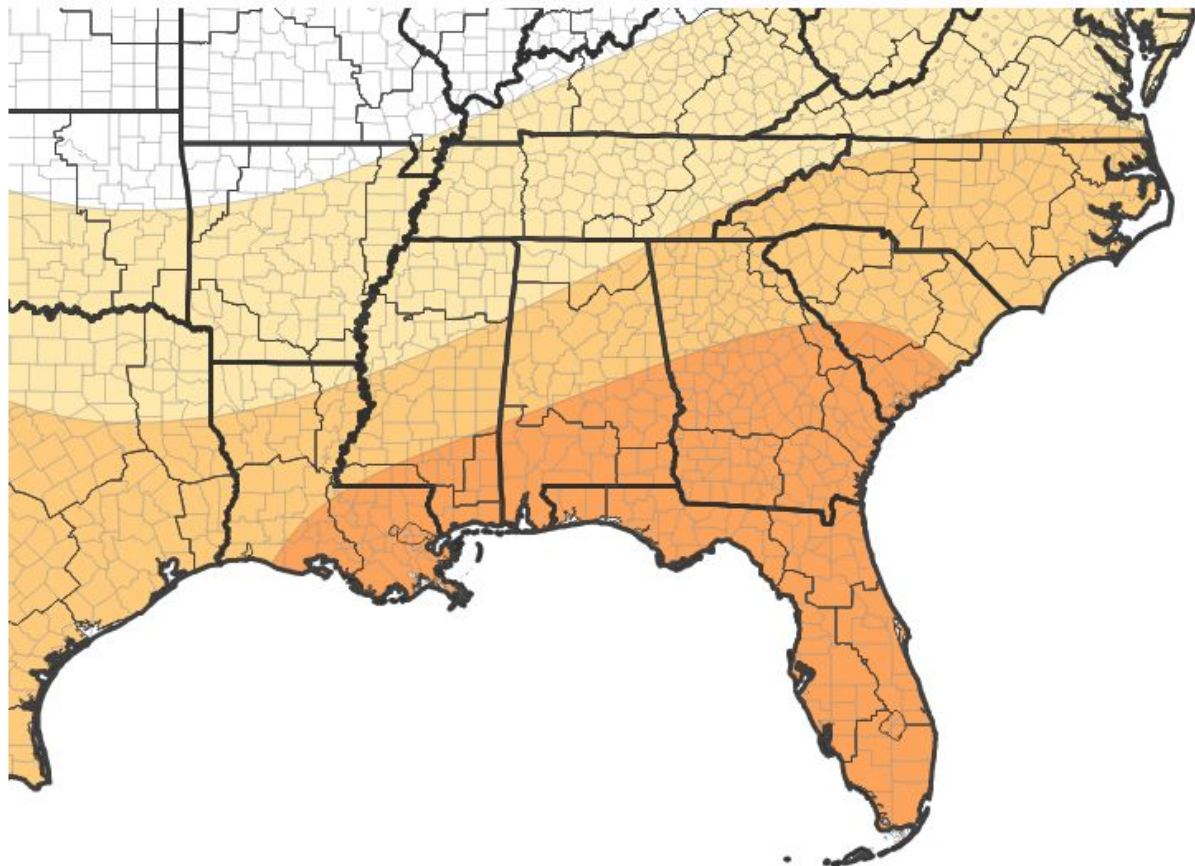
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 01/15/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for February 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



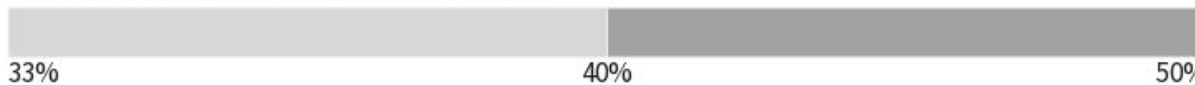
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 01/15/26



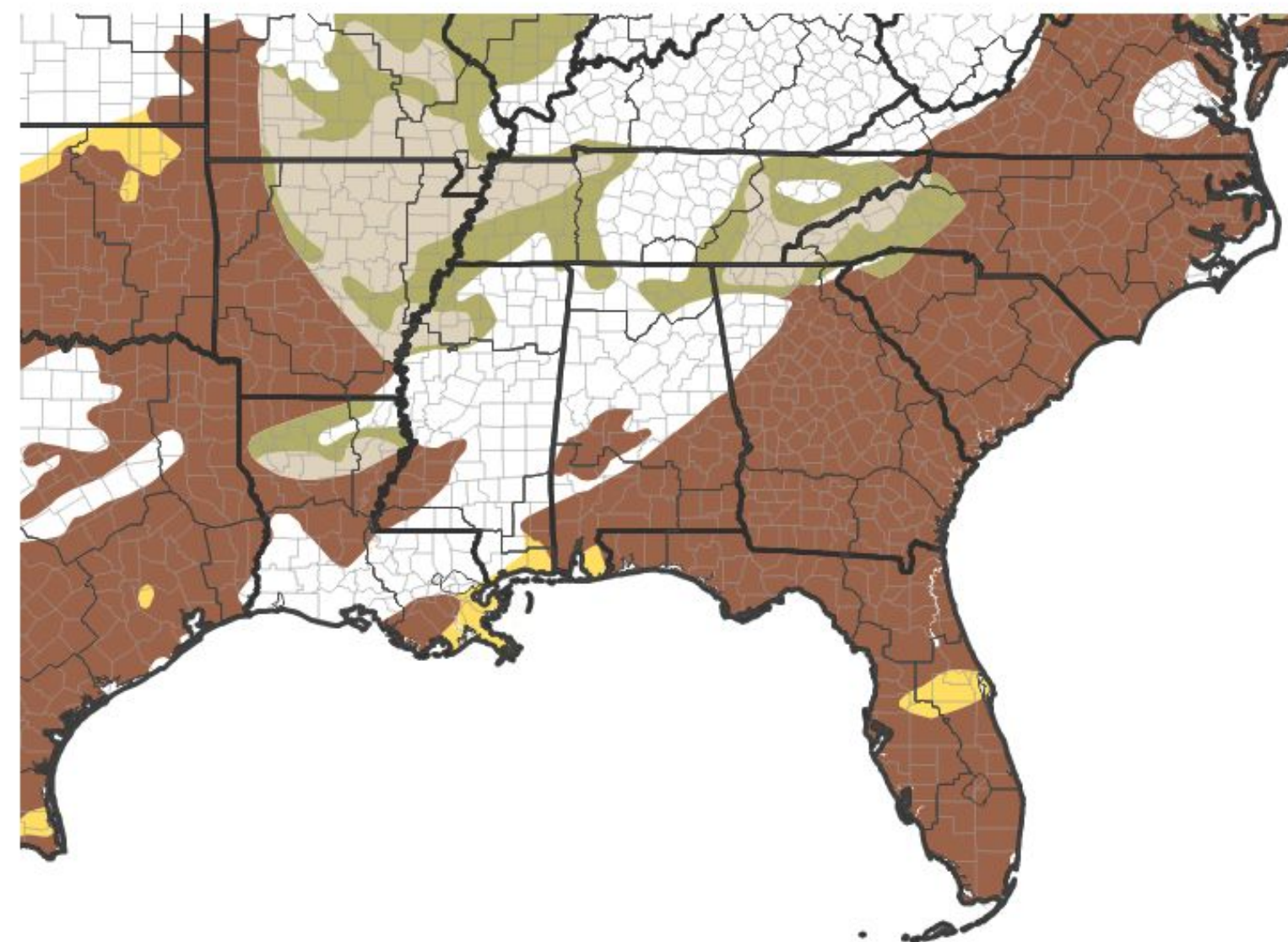


Drought Outlook

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

- Given the prediction for below normal precipitation in the months ahead, drought is expected to persist across the region over the next three months.
- Should rainfall over the next three months be much below normal, drought conditions could even worsen with time, especially heading further into February and March when planting begins and water demand increases.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for January 31, 2026–April 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



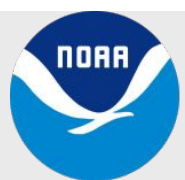
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/31/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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