



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

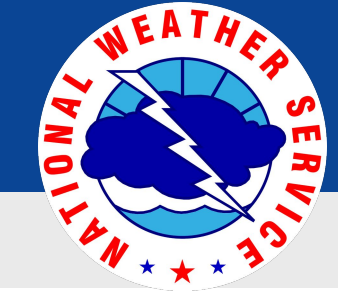
Valid May 28, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Tallahassee, FL

Contact Information: kelly.godsey@noaa.gov; cameron.young@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated June 5, 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.
- **Much needed rainfall brings noticeable drought improvement to much of the region. However, extreme to exceptional drought continues in some areas.**
- The drought is long term in character with hydrologic impacts persisting even with recent rains. Rivers have improved, along with ponds and lakes, mainly in Southeast Alabama.
- Further improvement is expected in the coming weeks as the summer rainy season continues to provide abundant precipitation each week.





U.S. Drought Monitor

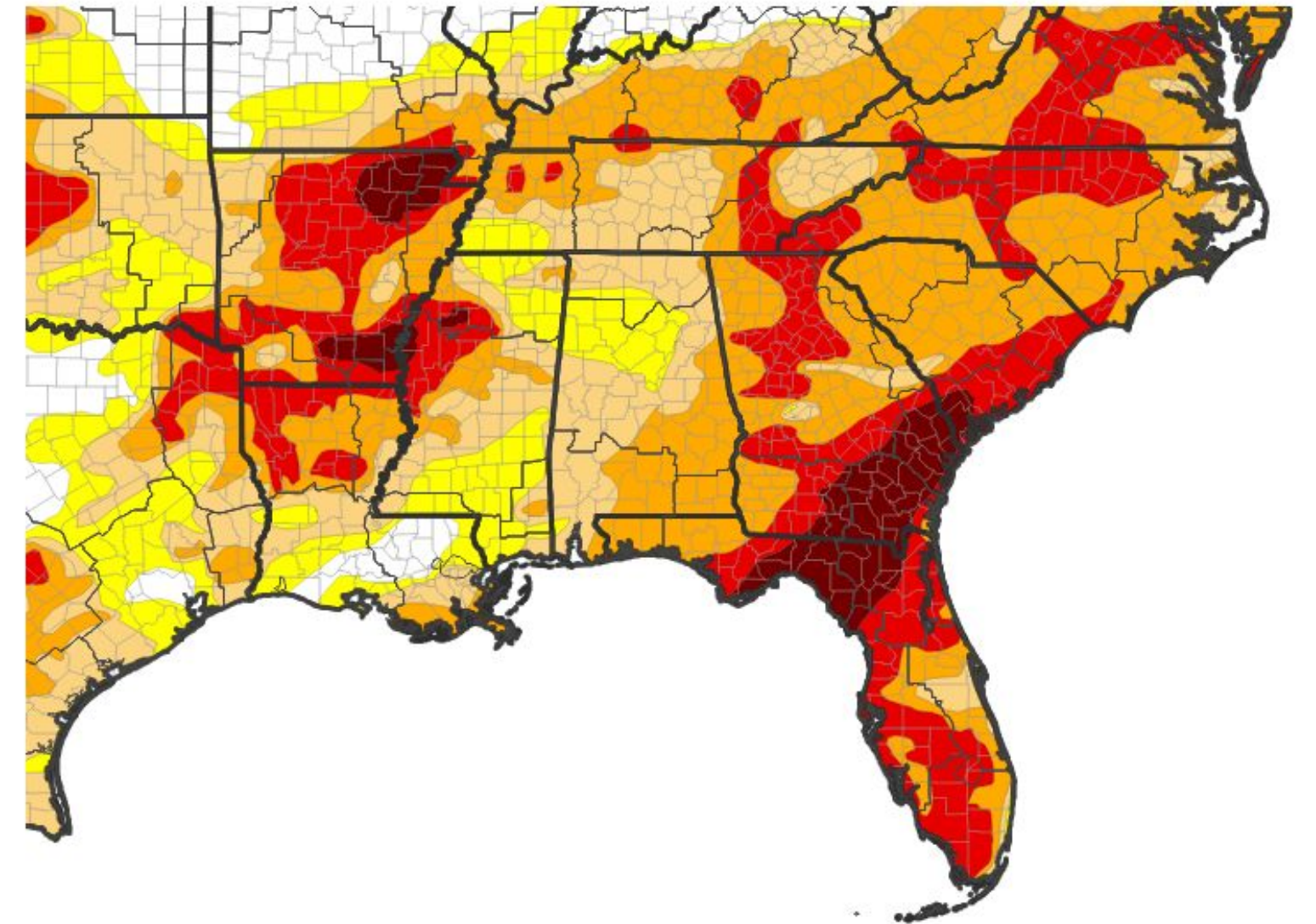
Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- Another week of heavy rainfall across much of the region greatly reduced drought severity and led to improvement in the overall drought across the region. Rainfall after 8 am ET Tuesday was not included in this depiction, but it will be accounted for in next week's drought map.

Drought intensity and Extent:

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):**
 - In Georgia: Generally east of a line from Thomas County to Ben Hill County.
 - In Florida: From Franklin County to Eastern Leon County eastward to the Suwannee River.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):**
 - In Florida: Western Leon County to Bay County
 - In Georgia: From Grady County north to Lee County and eastward to the D4 drought area.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):**
 - In Florida: The Florida Panhandle except Bay, Calhoun, and Gulf Counties.
 - In Alabama: All of Southeast Alabama.

U.S. Drought Monitor

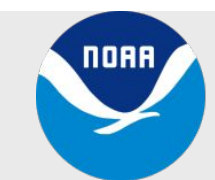


U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/26/26



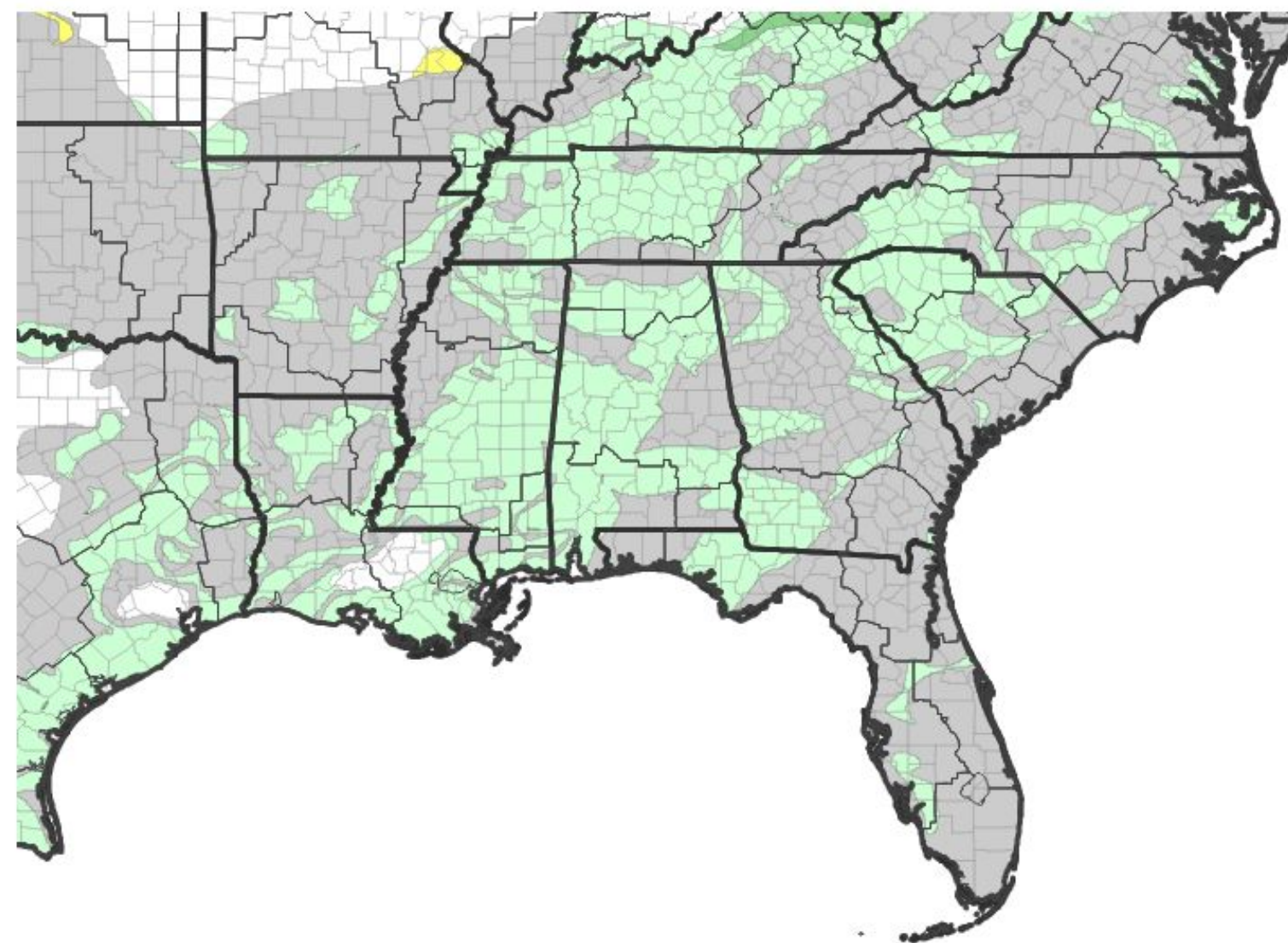


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

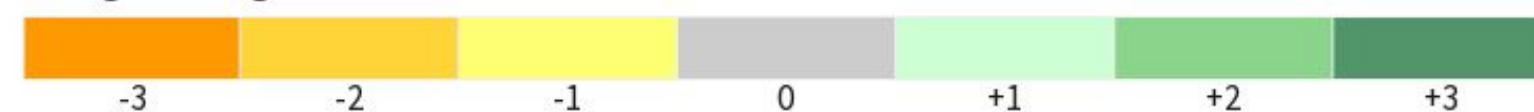
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- Copious amounts of rain this week occurred across South Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and portions of Southwest Georgia. This led to improvement in drought intensity, with a one category improvement for many areas. Lighter rainfall occurred in the Suwannee River basin, so no improvement occurred this week.
- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **1 Category Improvement**
 - Dale and Henry Counties.
 - Much of the Florida Panhandle
 - Western Florida Big Bend, mainly west of Tallahassee.
 - Southwest Georgia generally along and west of the US-319 corridor.
 - **No change**
 - Remainder of the area

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map

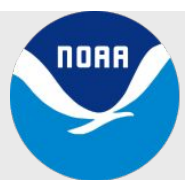


Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 05/26/26



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

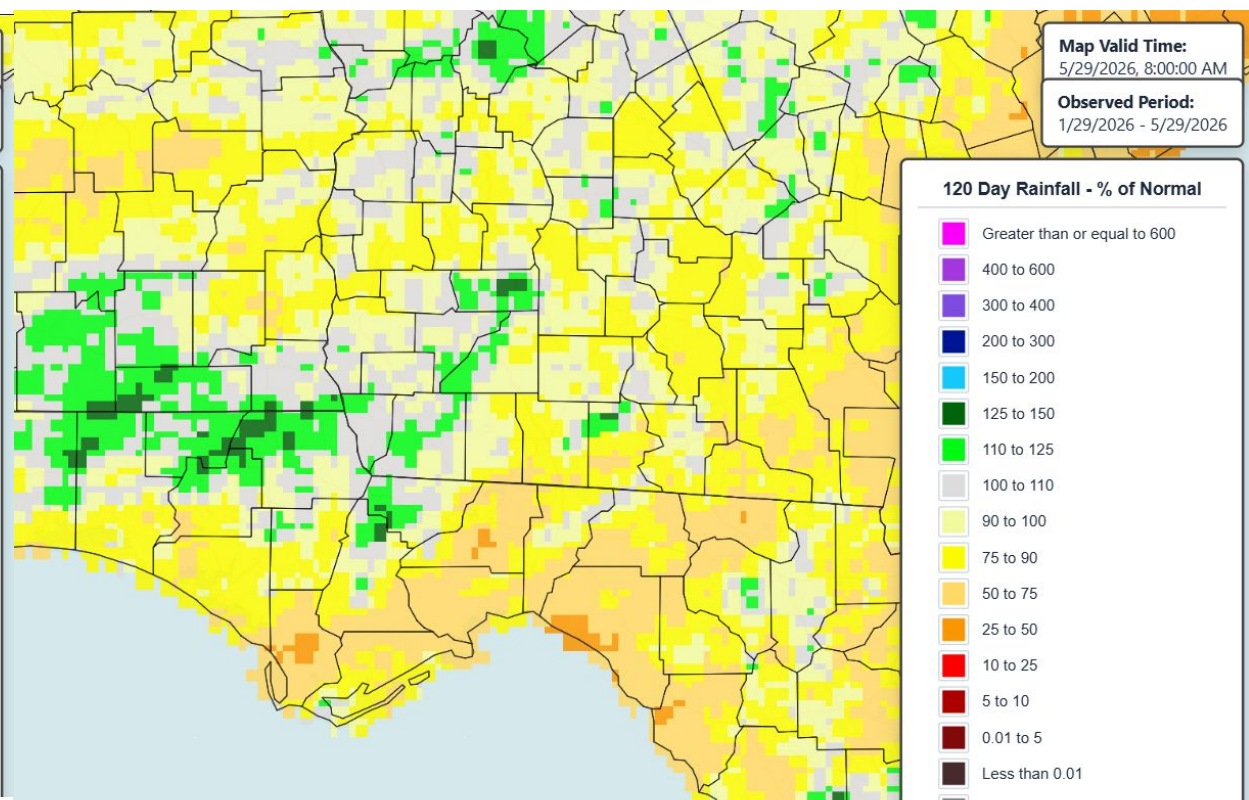
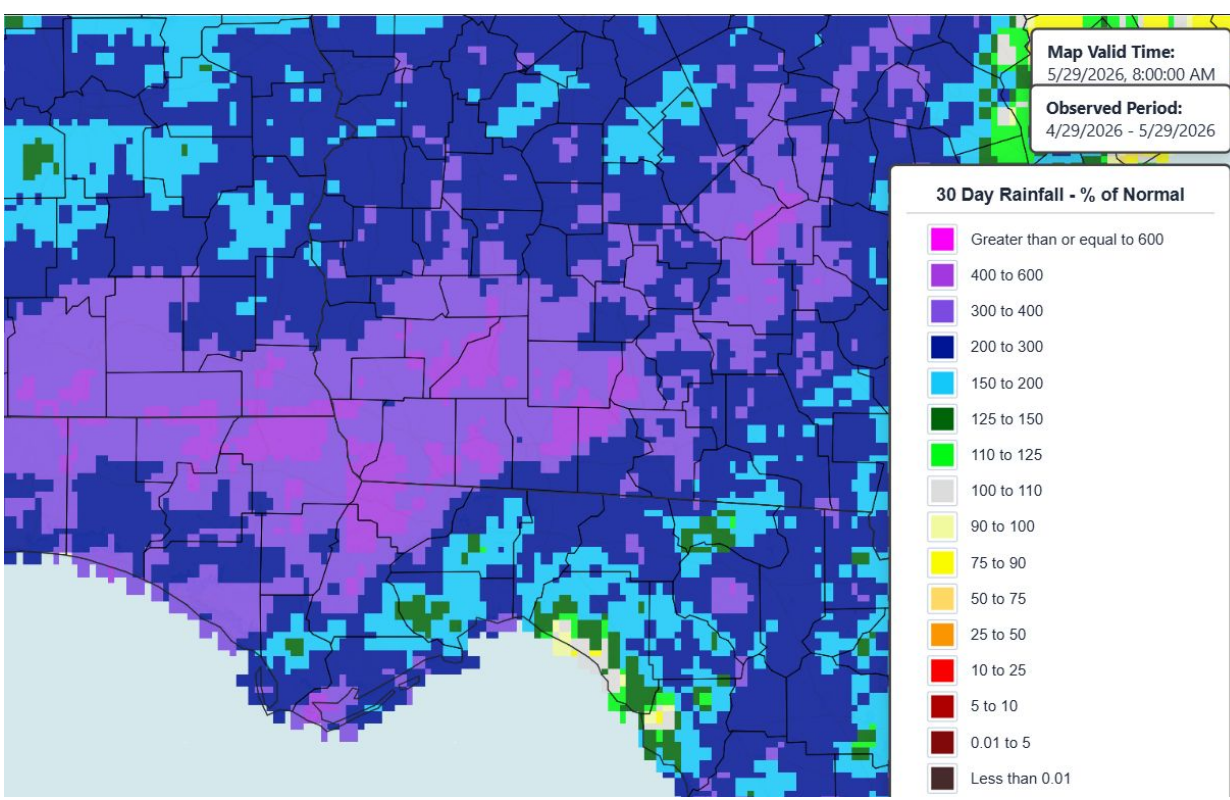
National Weather Service
Tallahassee, FL



Precipitation

Note: Precipitation after 8 AM EDT/7 AM CDT Tuesday is incorporated in next week’s Drought Monitor

	Last 30 Days		Last 120 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
DeFuniak Springs*	13.54"	341.4%	21.98"	112.1%
Panama City ECP	7.67"	257.5%	10.68"	59.1%
Dothan	7.37"	255.6%	13.77"	79.3%
Georgetown**	6.38"	207.3%	14.82"	86.0%
Dawson**	7.49"	251.0%	12.99"	76.5%
Arlington**	12.43"	420.9%	17.59"	102.9%
Albany	9.76"	409.4%	19.20"	131.8%
Cairo**	11.01"	411.0%	14.14"	87.9%
Tallahassee	4.83"	148.5%	8.83"	53.6%
Moultrie**	9.88"	374.0%	13.48"	84.7%
Monticello*	7.11"	228.3%	12.65"	78.2%
Ty Ty**	7.60"	275.6%	13.14"	84.4%
Alapaha**	8.81"	342.1%	11.54"	77.1%
Madison Blue Spring	5.53"	194.6%	9.75"	65.1%
Perry***	3.06"	94.4%	7.13"	47.9%



30 day Percent of Normal Precipitation 120 day Percent of Normal Precipitation

Near term rainfall has been plentiful, especially west of a Tallahassee to Valdosta line, which has led to improvement in drought severity. However, the Southeast Florida Big Bend and parts of South Central Georgia continue to carry long term deficits that extend even beyond 120 days, thus these areas remain in extreme to exceptional drought despite recent rains.

Rainfall totals through May 28, 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.



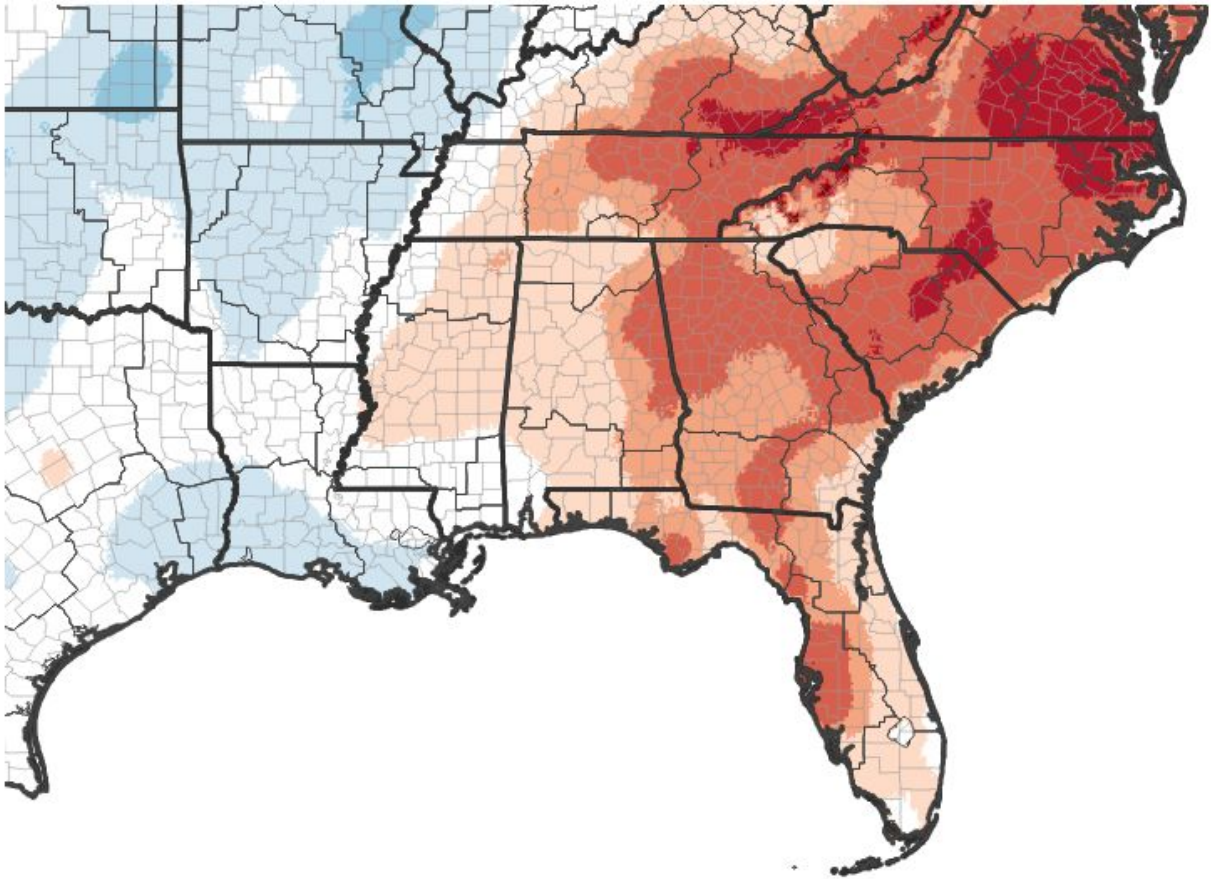


Temperature

	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Tallahassee	85.7° (-1.3°)	64.4° (+2.1°)
Albany	83.1° (-4.1°)	62.8° (+0.3°)
Marianna	83.7° (-3.5°)	63.7° (+0.1°)
Dothan	82.6° (-4.2°)	63.1° (-0.3°)

- With a lengthy stretch of cloudy and rainy weather temperatures over the last month have trended slightly below normal for daytime highs. Muggy conditions have kept overnight lows generally near to slightly above normal.
- Rainy conditions through the weekend will likely keep temperatures below normal, though warmer than normal conditions are expected by mid June.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



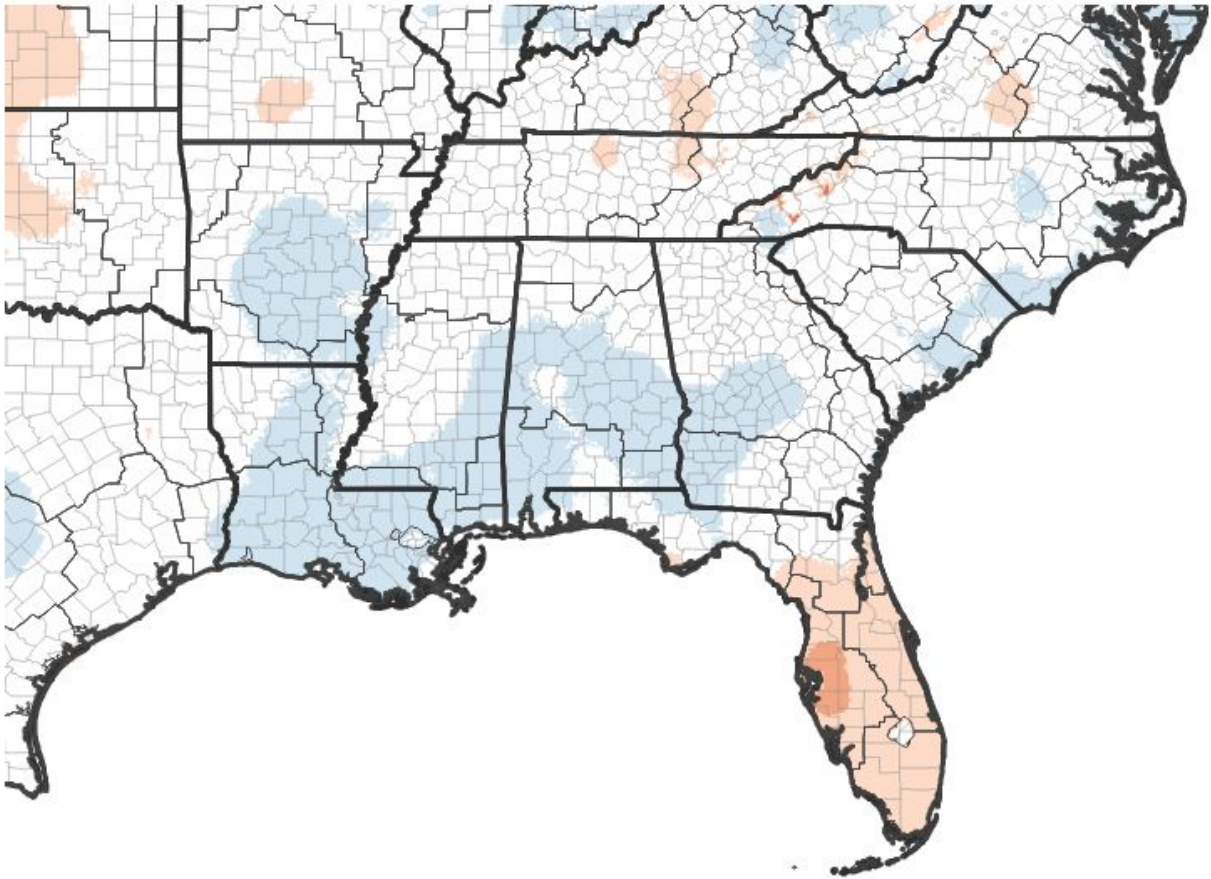
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 05/24/26

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: 05/24/26





Summary of Impacts - Southeast Alabama

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Significant streamflow improvements have occurred across Southeast Alabama within the last week. Both the Choctawhatchee River and Pea River are back within the normal range.
- Reports from Southeast Alabama indicate that holding ponds and surface water features continue to improve considerably. However, it was noted that water levels are still below normal levels.

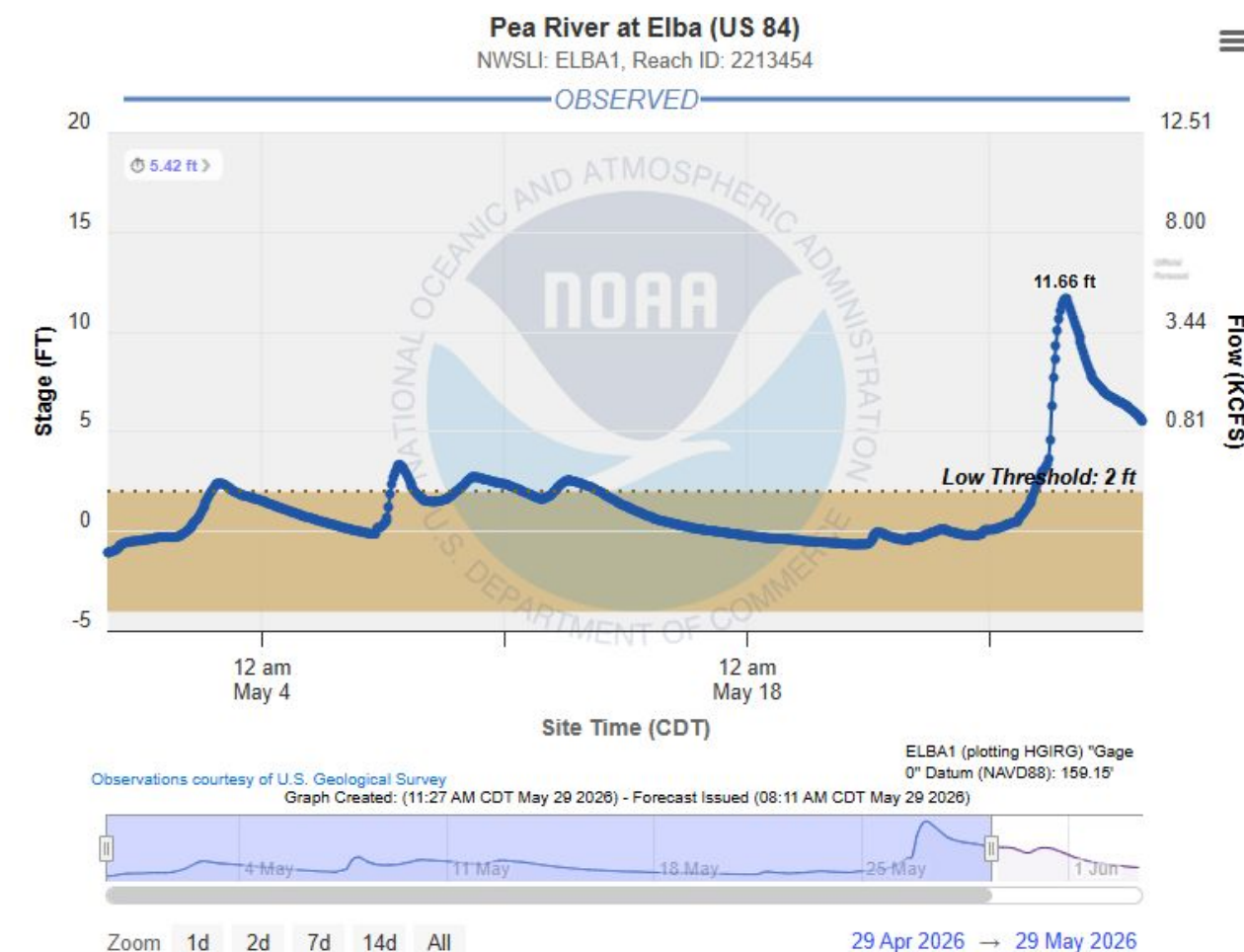
Agricultural Impacts

- Pastures continue to improve with significant improvement in growth.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values are less than 200 across the region.

Pea River at Elba over the last month shown. Rainfall recently led to a significant rise on the Pea River. Similar rises were seen on the Choctawhatchee as well. What is interesting is that just a couple of weeks ago, the Pea River at Elba was reporting negative stage numbers and is now above normal when averaged over the last 7 days.





Summary of Impacts - Southwest Georgia

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

Hydrologic Impacts

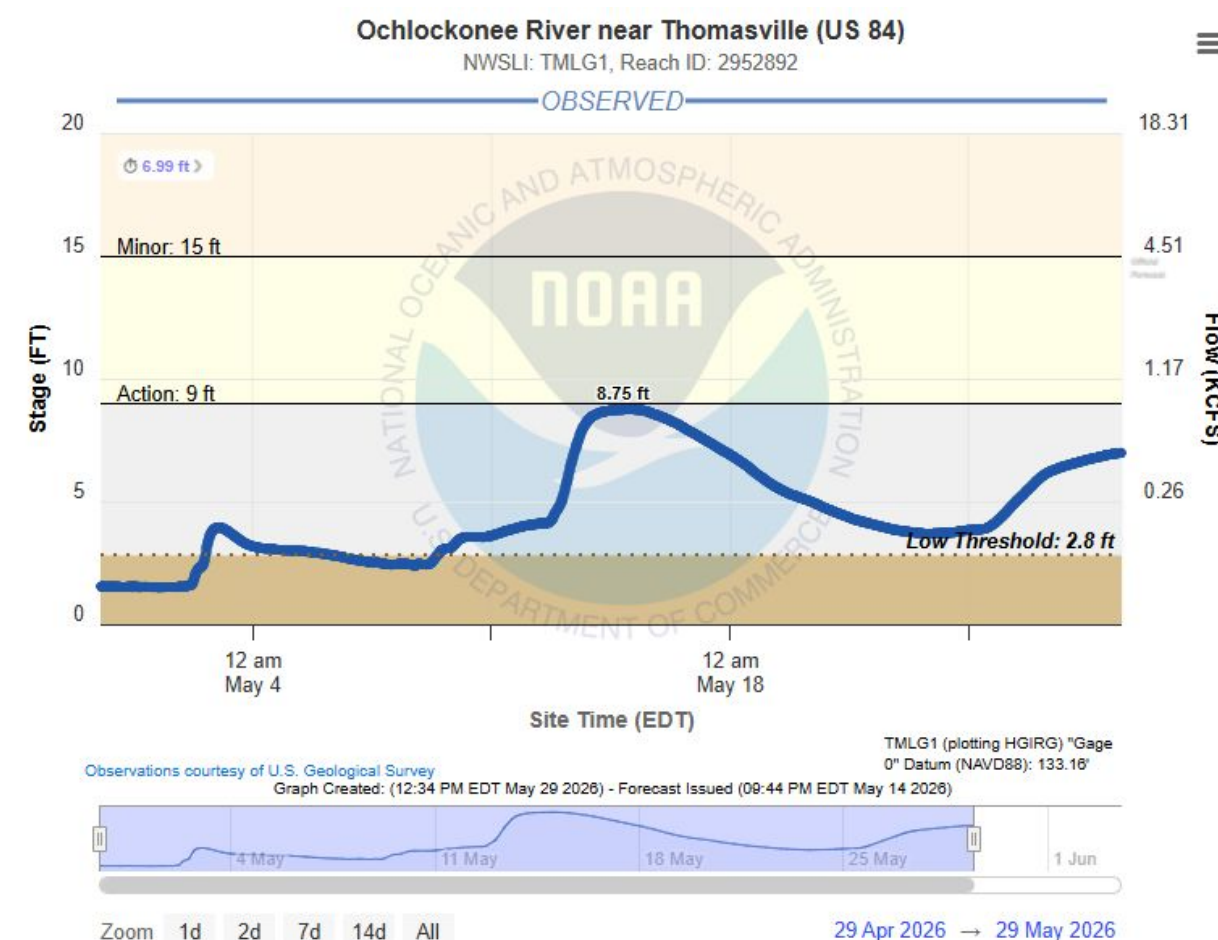
- Streamflows have improved considerably, especially along the Flint River and westward. Modest improvement is noted in streams further east toward I-75.
- Surface water levels in ponds, swamps, and lakes continue to improve, especially west of the Flint River. Further rainfall is needed to bring many of these back to normal levels, but the trend this week is definitely one of improvement.

Agricultural Impacts

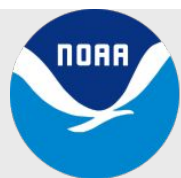
- Agricultural crops continue to improve with the added rainfall with growing and planting season of a variety of crops well underway.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values are less than 200 west of the Flint River and between 200-350 between the Flint River and I-75.
- Southern Area Coordination Center [issued a Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory](#)



Hydrograph for the Ochlockonee River near Thomasville. Recent rains, resulted in significant rises on the river. The river is at normal flows for this time of year when averaged over the last week. The continued rainfall has kept the river well above the lows seen at the end of April.





Summary of Impacts - Florida Panhandle

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

The Governor of Florida has issued a [State of Emergency](#) due to drought.

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows have improved considerably across the Florida Panhandle with some smaller streams almost reaching flood stage in the last week.
- Surface and groundwater levels are improving. However, some of the larger lakes and ponds still need more rainfall to fully recharge after the extended drought.

Agricultural Impacts

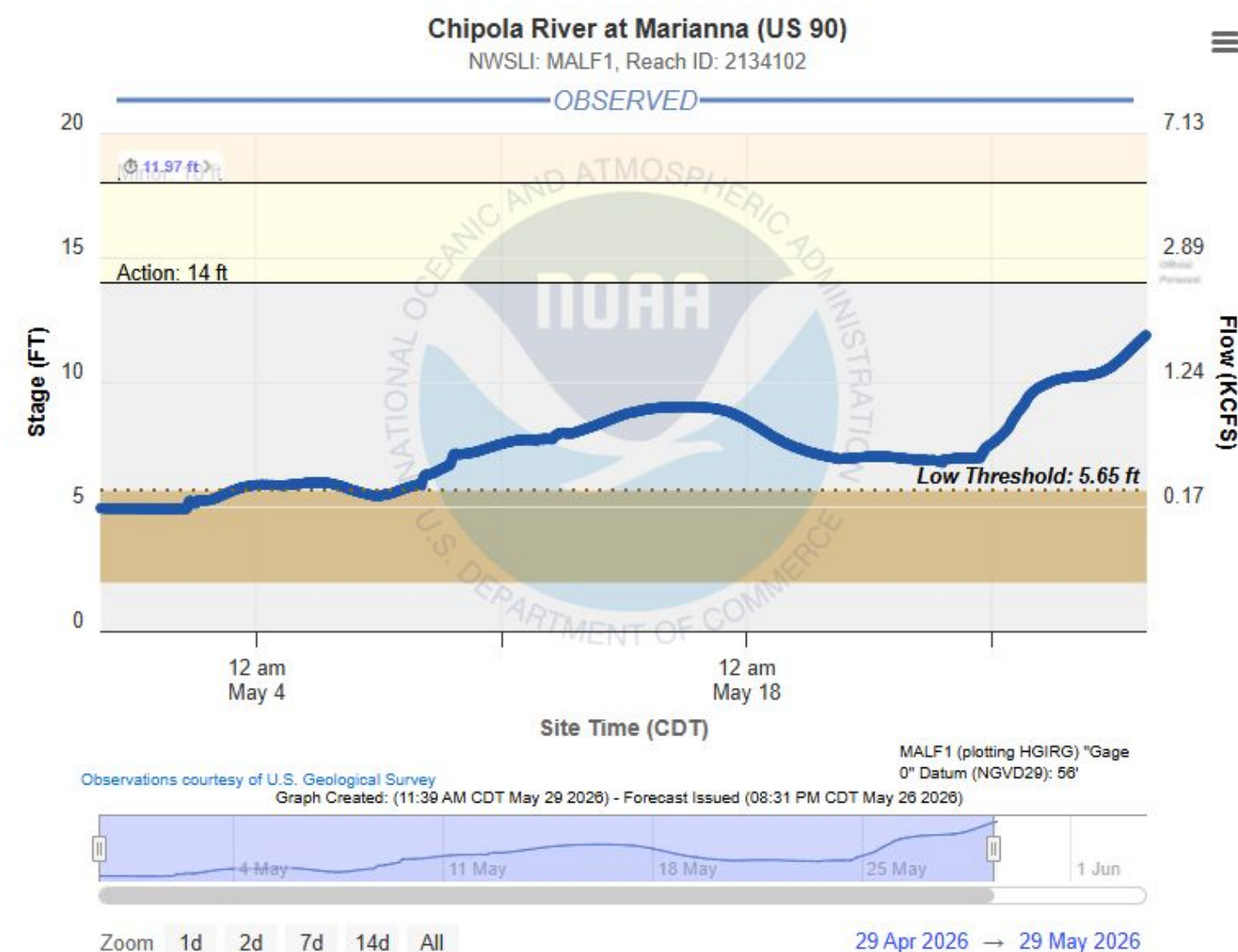
- Crops continue to improve with plentiful rain as growing and planting season continues.

Fire Hazard Impacts

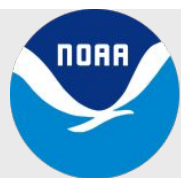
- Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values are less than 200 except in Gulf County where the KBDI is around 250
- Burn bans are in place for Gulf County.

Mitigation Actions

- Northwest Florida Water Management District has issued a [water shortage warning](#) for their watershed.



Hydrograph for the Chipola River at Marianna. Rain both in Marianna and upstream has led to steady rises with the river well above normal for this time of year. Water levels nearing 14 feet begin to impact the Florida Caverns in Marianna.





Summary of Impacts - Florida Big Bend

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

The Governor of Florida has issued a [State of Emergency](#) due to drought.

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows have improved in the Ochlockonee Basin westward. Over 10 inches of rain fell in Lake Talquin this past week resulting in significant releases downstream from the dam into the Lower Ochlockonee. However, streamflows east of Tallahassee, like the Aucilla River and Suwannee River System remain especially low for this time of year.
- Surface and groundwater levels remain very low, especially east of Tallahassee. Numerous lakes and holding ponds are nearly dry.

Agricultural Impacts

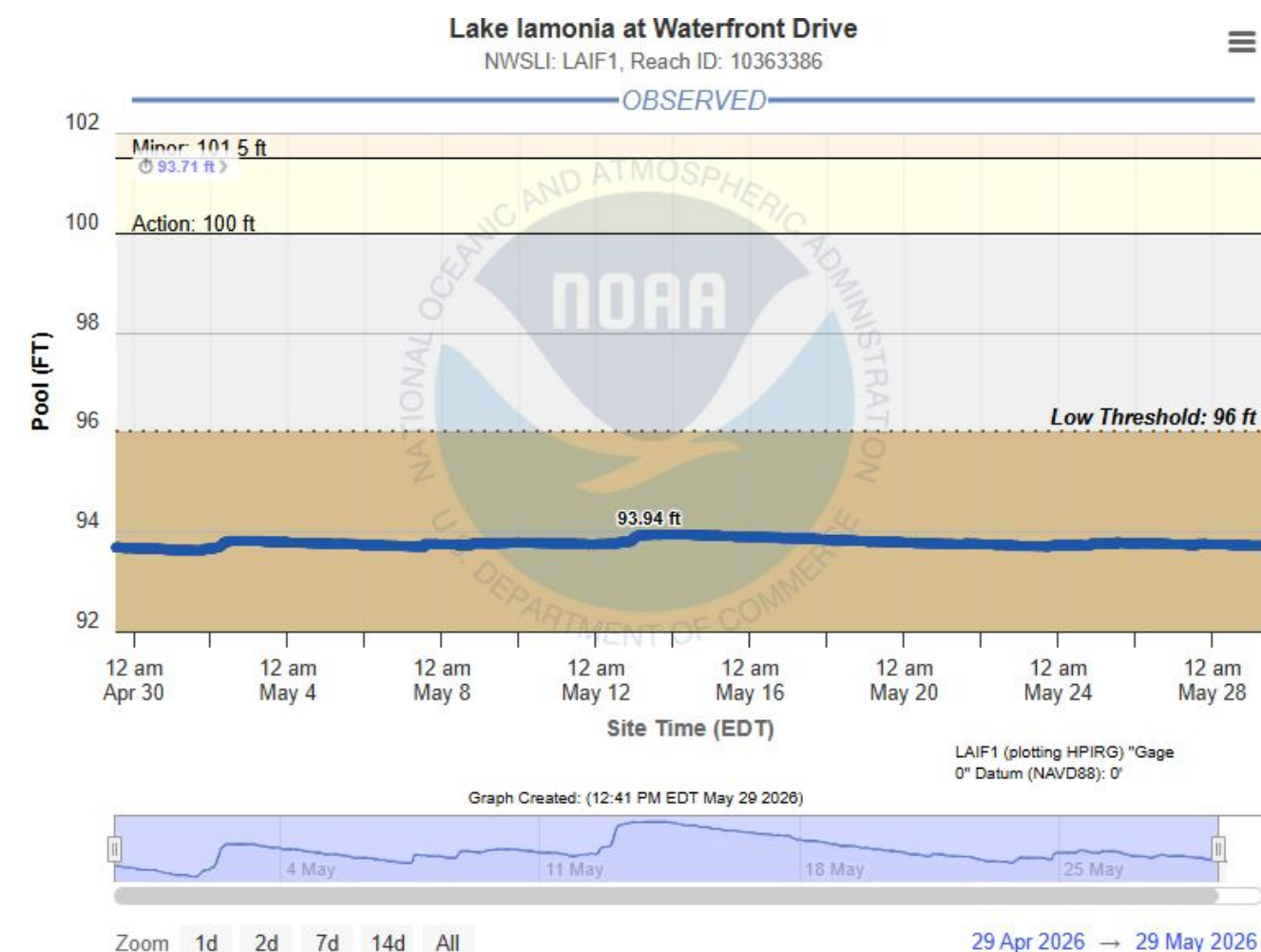
- Planting is well underway. More irrigation of crops is needed from Jefferson County eastward, however, recent rainfall has benefited crops considerably.

Fire Hazard Impacts

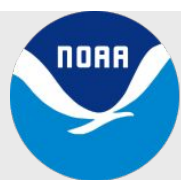
- Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values range from 200 in Gadsden County to 300-500 from Leon County to the Suwannee River with the , highest in Dixie County.
- Burn bans are in effect for Franklin County.

Mitigation Actions

- Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a [water shortage advisory](#) for their watershed.
- Southern Area Coordination Center [issued a Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory](#)



Hydrograph at Lake Iamonia in Northern Leon County. The pool elevation rose from rainfall two weeks ago, with most of the rain occurring west of Tallahassee. This shows the sharp cutoff between areas that saw significant rainfall and locations like North Leon County that haven't directly benefited from widespread rain.

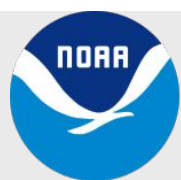
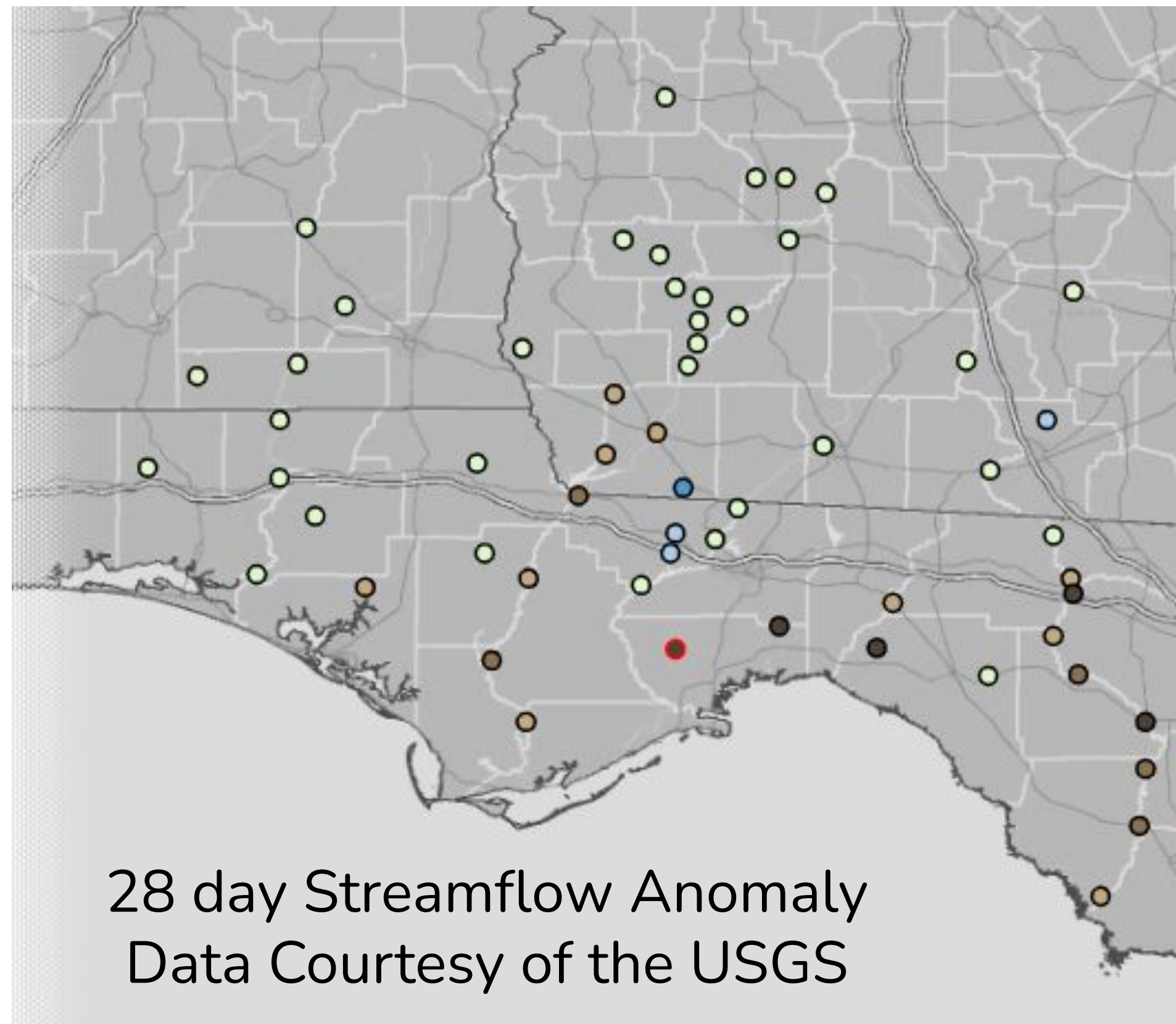




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow conditions have improved, with many locations in the normal range or better over the last 28 days.
- Recent rains have helped considerably in Southwest Georgia and Southeast Alabama. In the Southeast Florida Big Bend, rainfall was less, and as a result, streamflows remain especially low for this time of year.
- Even routed flows from upstream of the mainstem Suwannee are not sufficient to significantly improve water levels on the Suwannee River.
- In response to streamflows and groundwater conditions, Northwest Florida Water Management District has issued a [Water Shortage Warning](#), and Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a [Water Shortage Advisory](#).

Minimum
Extremely Below Normal <5th Percentile
Much Below Normal 5-10th Percentile
Below Normal 10-25th Percentile
Normal 25-75th Percentile
Above Normal 75-90th Percentile
Much Above Normal 90-95th Percentile
Extremely Above Normal 75-90th Percentile
Maximum

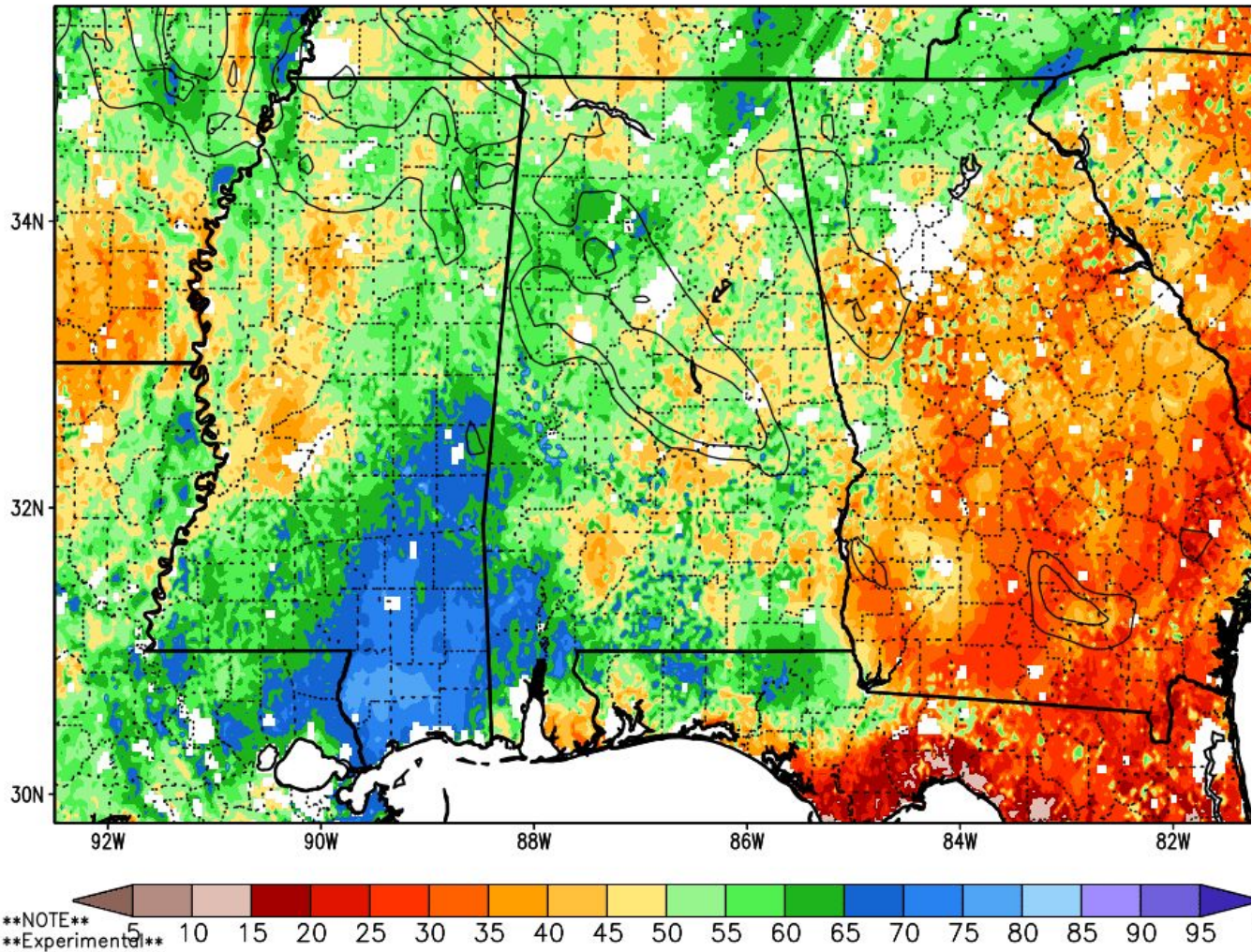




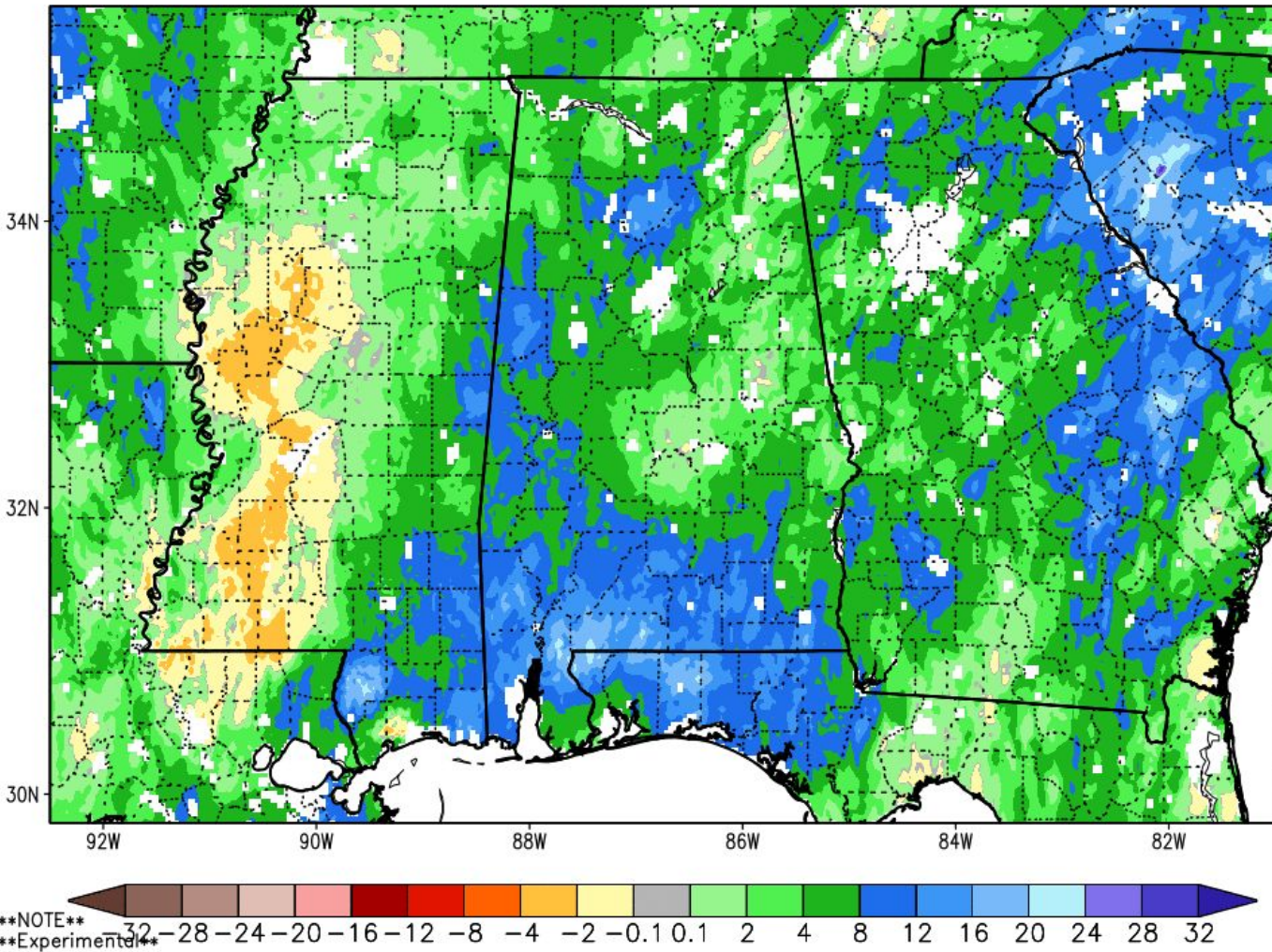
Agricultural Impacts

- Deep layer soil moisture has improved considerably across the western half of the region with recent rains.
- Even so, soil moisture remains lower than normal across much of Southwest Georgia and into the Florida Big Bend.

Column-Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 12z 29 May 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



1-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 29 May 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](#)



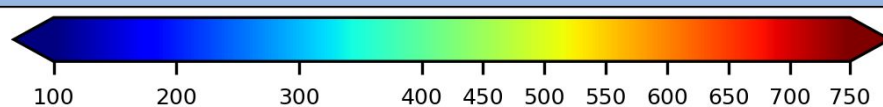
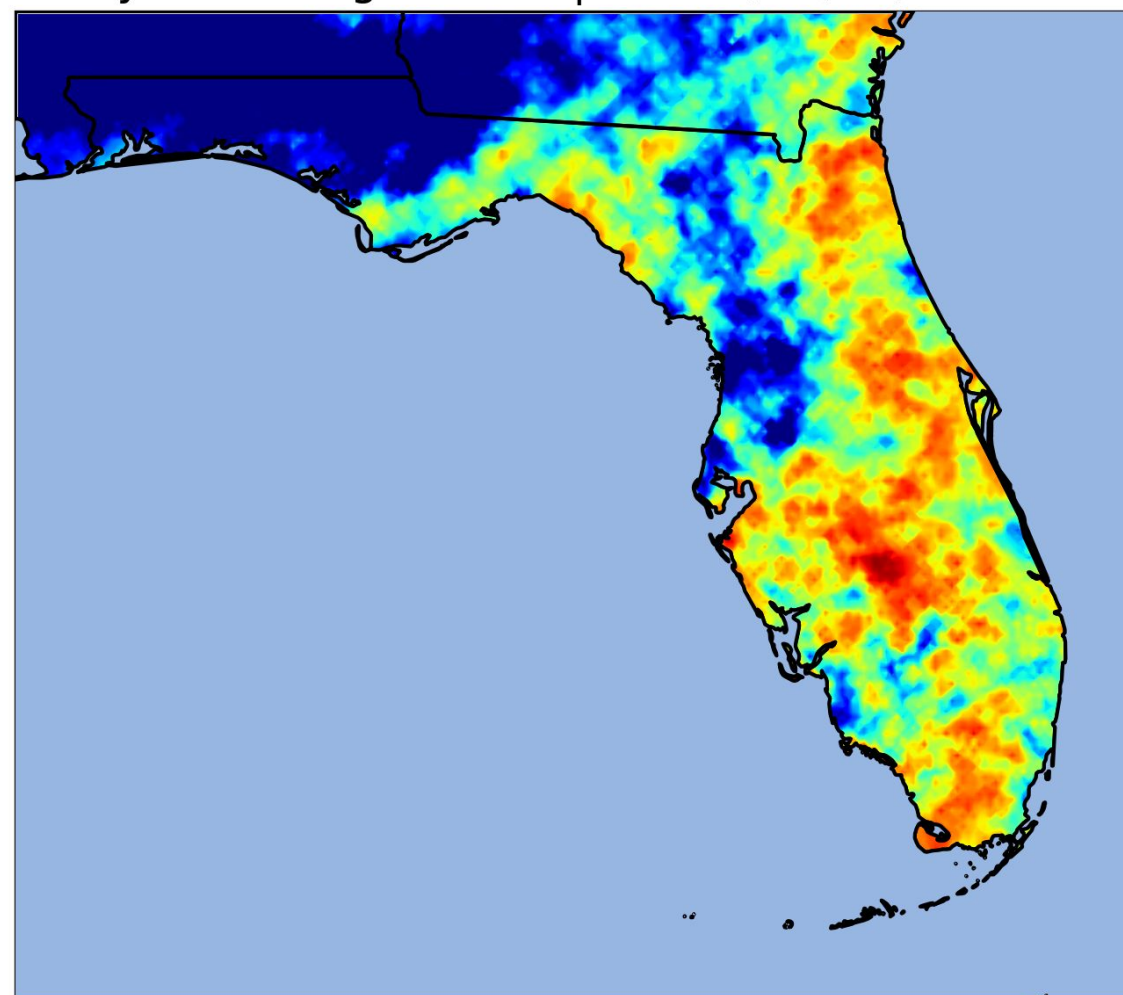


Fire Hazard Impacts

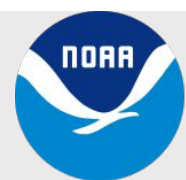
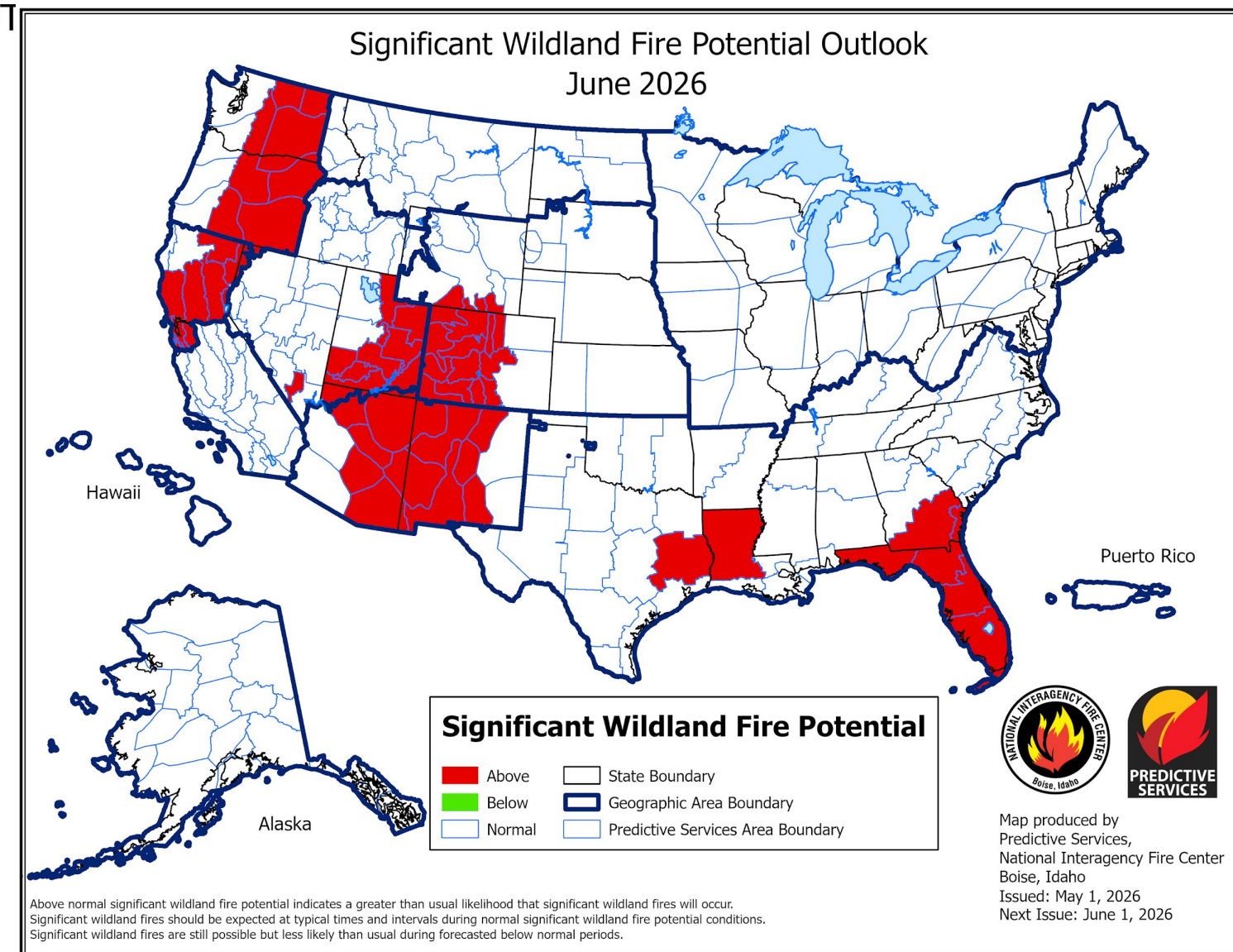
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Keetch-Byram Drought Indices have dropped significantly given recent rains, though this index is responsive to recent rain.
- Burn bans are in place for Gulf and Franklin Counties in Florida.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for June is for above normal wildfire activity in most of the region.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index | Thu 05/28/26, 02:00 PM EDT



KBDI



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

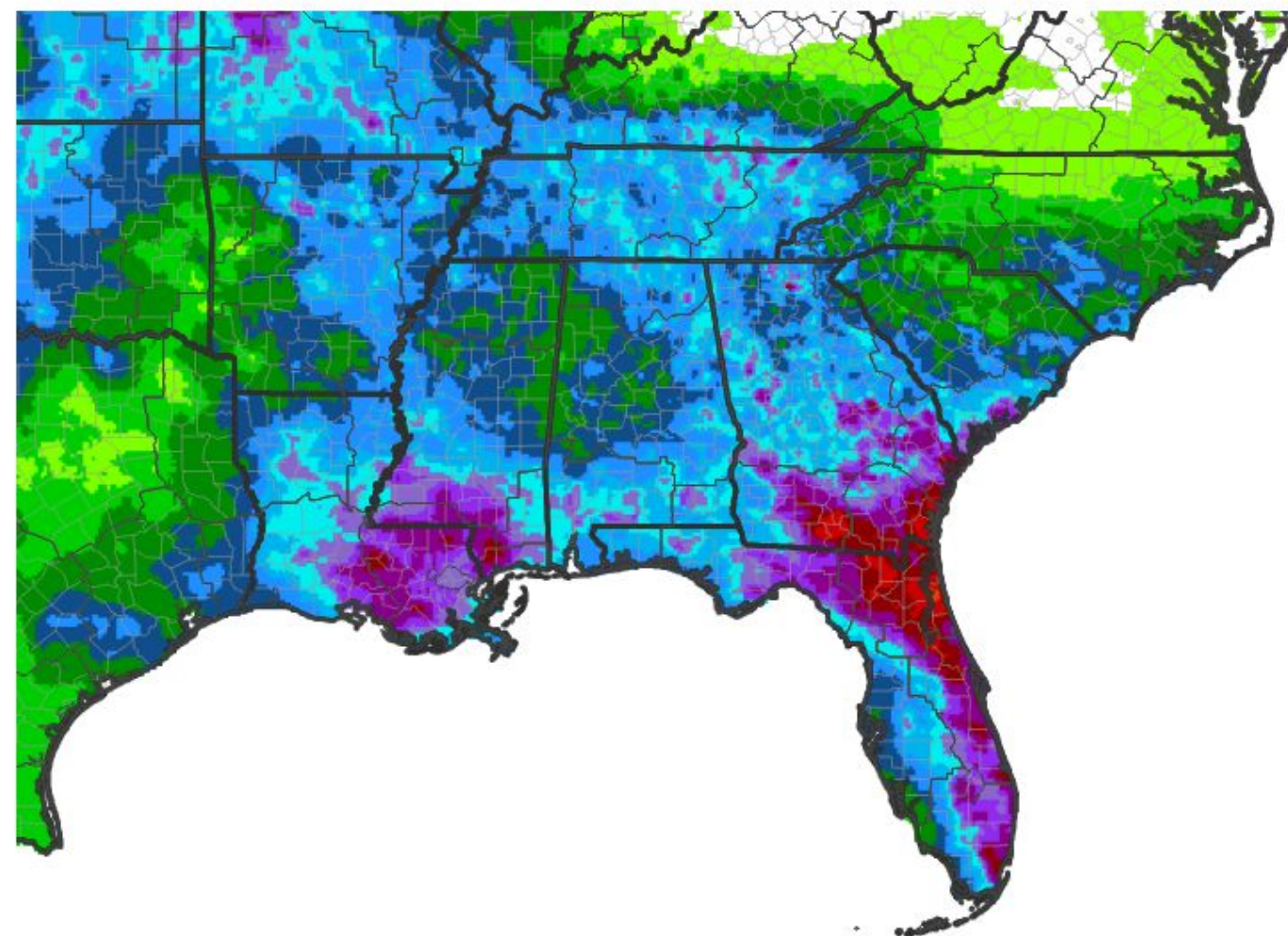
National Weather Service
Tallahassee, FL



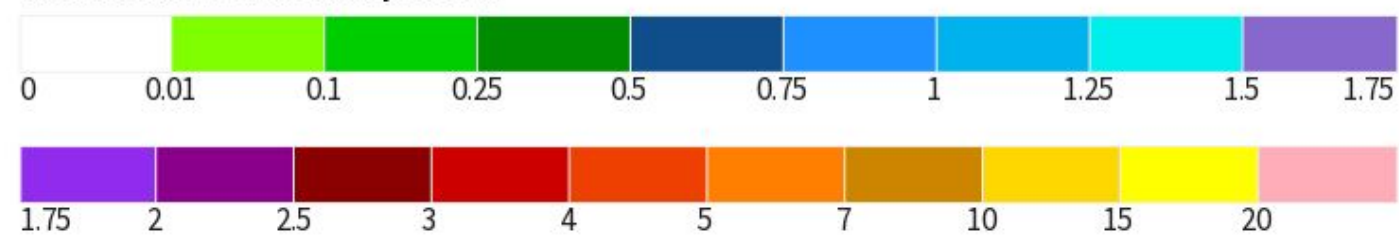
Precipitation Outlook

- A weak front will move through the region this weekend helping to focus heavier rainfall across South Central Georgia and the Florida Big Bend. Drier conditions are expected after Tuesday (6/2).
- There is a signal for above normal precipitation in the [8-14 day outlook](#) (6/5 - 6/11) with the sea breeze returning and an influx of moisture from the Gulf.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 29, 2026–June 5, 2026



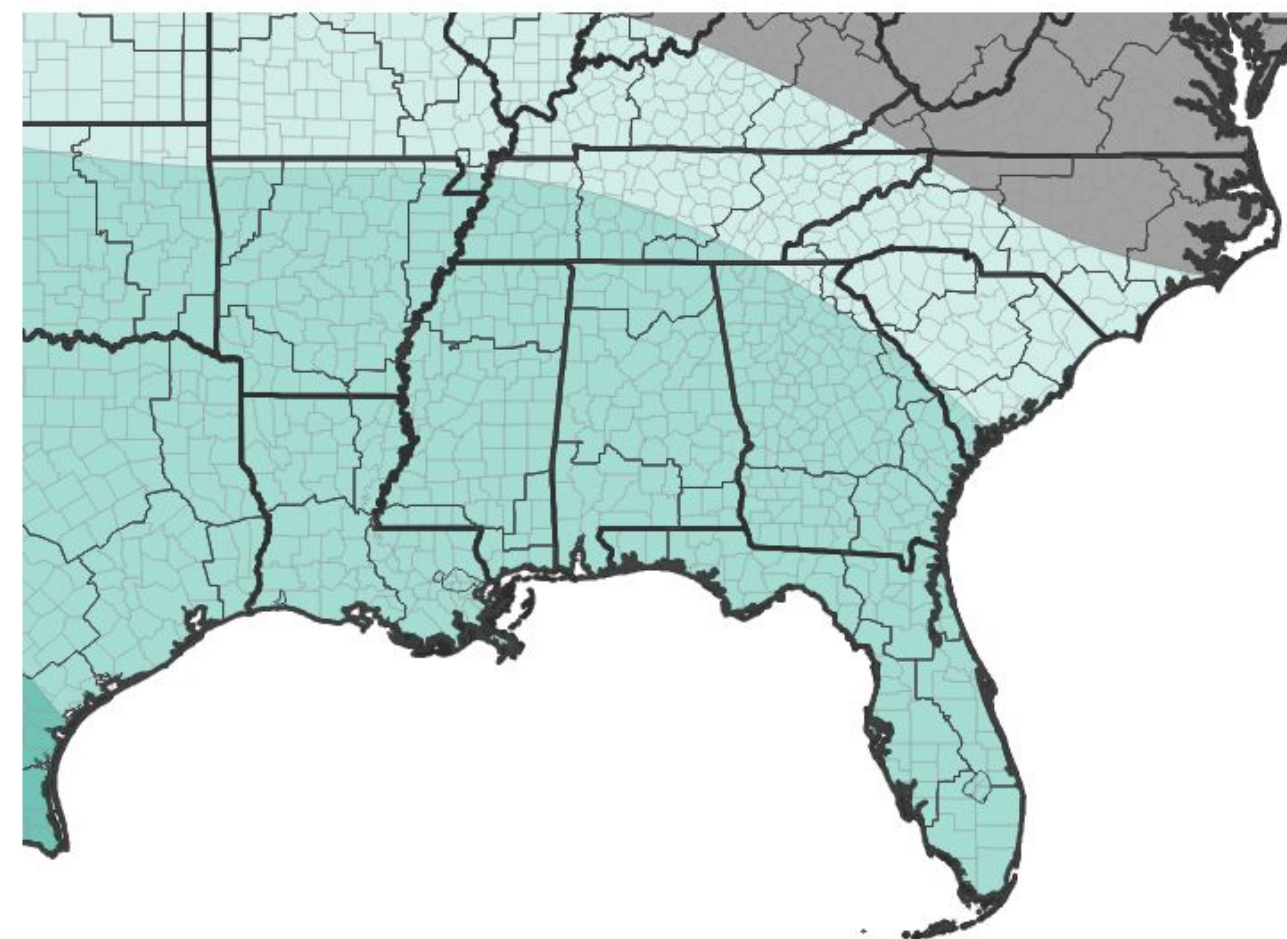
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/29/26

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for June 5, 2026–June 11, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



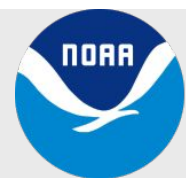
Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 05/28/26



National Oceanic and
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National Weather Service
Tallahassee, FL

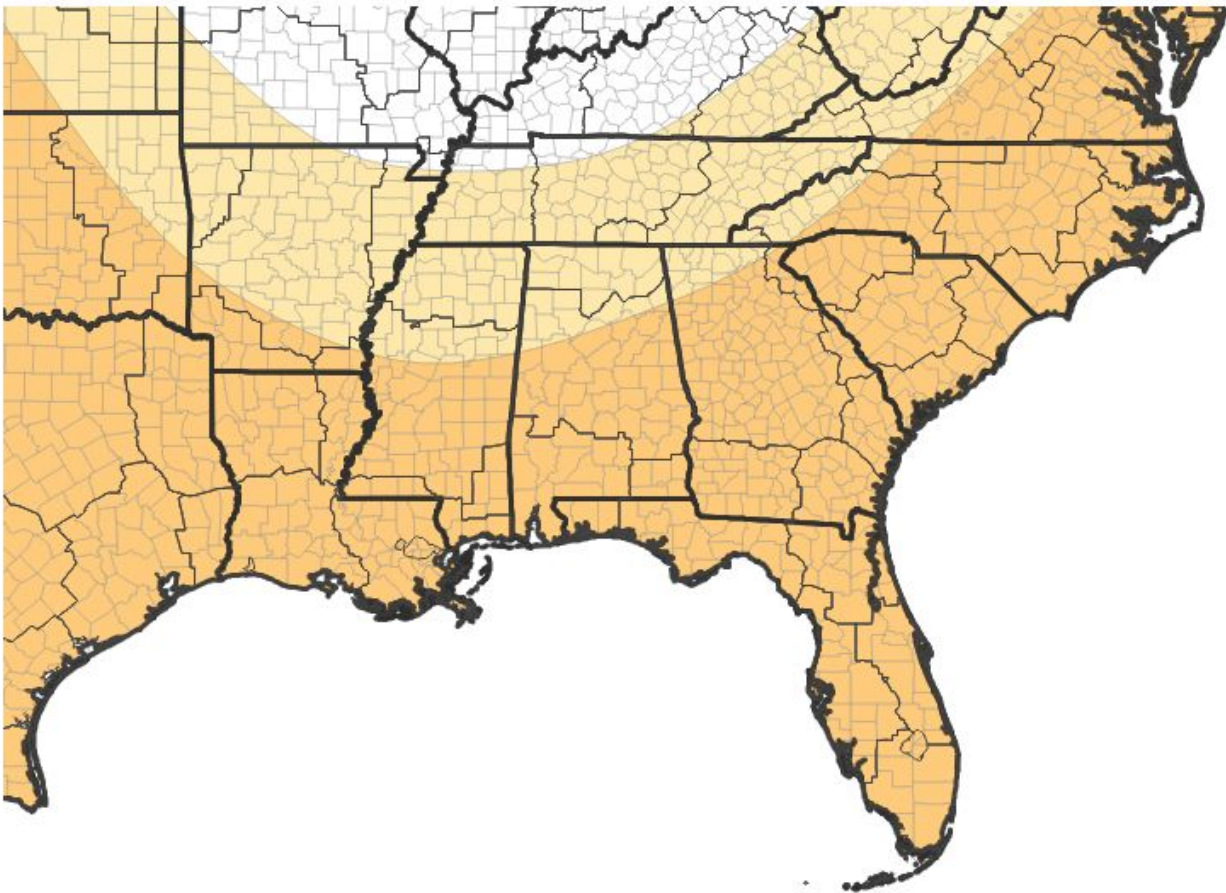


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The next 3 months favor above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.
- With sea breeze season underway, increased rain chances could bring improvements to the drought.

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2026–August 31, 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: 05/21/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2026–August 31, 2026



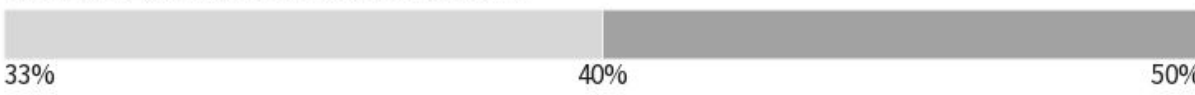
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

Average	June		July		August	
	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Tallahassee	80.8°	7.76"	82.5°	7.14"	82.4°	7.60"
Apalachicola	80.7°	5.86"	82.2°	5.74"	82.2°	7.79"
Albany	80.9°	5.06"	83.1°	5.12"	82.7°	4.83"
Valdosta	79.0°	7.08"	81.1°	5.33"	81.2°	5.11"
Marianna	81.1°	5.07"	82.7°	5.10"	82.1°	4.93"
Dothan	81.1°	5.08"	83.0°	5.95"	82.0°	6.17"



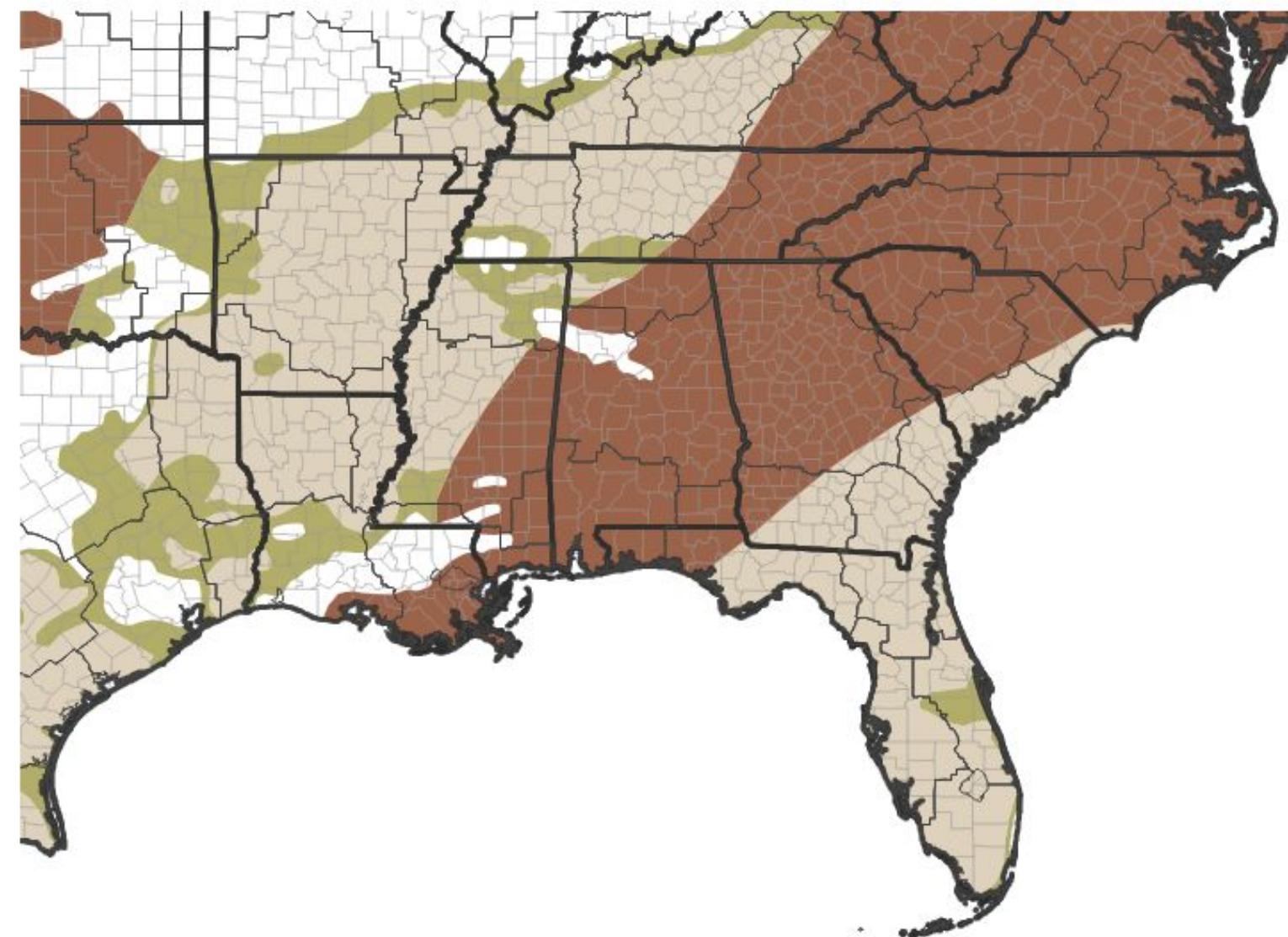


Drought Outlook

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

- With recent rainfall and expected rainy conditions over the next week, continued drought improvement is expected over the near term.
- This new three month outlook is not calling for an end of drought conditions across the region, however. Even with sea breeze season starting, it will take a considerable amount of rain over a widespread area to lead to significant improvement in the drought or even end the drought.

**Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for May 21,
2026–August 31, 2026**



Drought Is Predicted To...



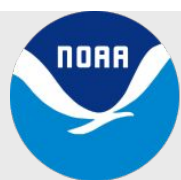
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/21/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration**

U.S. Department of Commerce

**National Weather Service
Tallahassee, FL**