



# Drought Information Statement for Eastern Oklahoma and Northwestern Arkansas

## Valid February 26, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Tulsa, OK

Contact Information: [sr-tsa.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-tsa.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated April 3, 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/tsa/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
- 
- Drought conditions have worsened and are now present across all of eastern Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas
  - Extreme (D3) Drought is occurring in parts of Ottawa, Delaware, Mayes, Wagoner, Cherokee, Adair, Muskogee, and Choctaw Counties in eastern OK and Benton County in northwestern AR



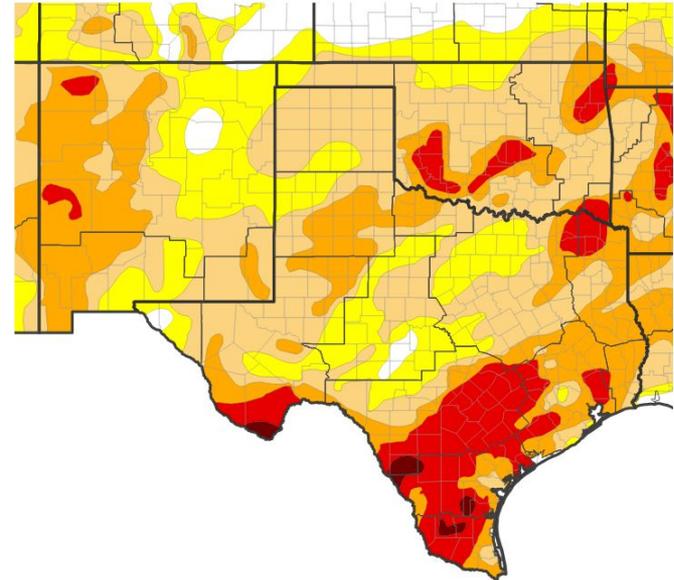


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Eastern Oklahoma and Northwestern Arkansas

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: none
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Ottawa, Delaware, Mayes, Wagoner, Cherokee, Adair, Muskogee, Choctaw, and Benton Counties
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Ottawa, Craig, Nowata, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware, Adair, Cherokee, Wagner, Muskogee, Sequoyah, McIntosh, Pittsburg, Choctaw, Pushmataha, Benton, Carroll, Washington AR, and Madison Counties
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Nowata, Washington OK, Osage, Pawnee, Creek, Tulsa, Rogers, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Okfuskee, McIntosh, Pittsburg, Haskell, Adair, Sequoyah, Le Flore, Latimer, Pushmataha, Choctaw, Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington AR, Crawford, Sebastian, and Franklin Counties
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: None

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 02/24/26

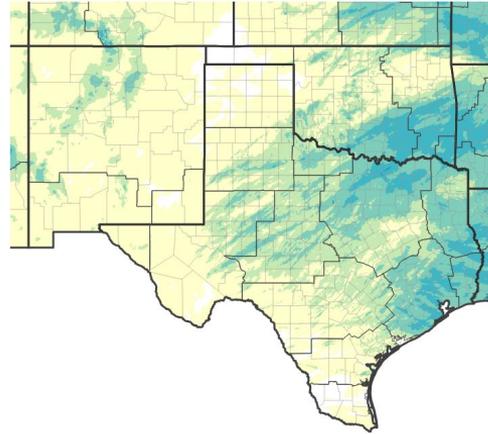




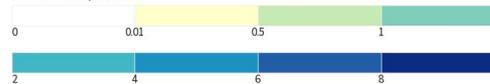
# Precipitation

- Over the last 30 days (ending at 6 am CST Feb. 26, 2026), rainfall totals have ranged from 0” to 3.8”, which corresponds to 0% to 130% of normal
  - Most of eastern OK and northwestern AR has received less than 70% of normal precipitation
  - Nearly all of northeast OK and far northwest AR has received less than 20% of normal precipitation
- Over the last 60 days (ending at 6 am CST Feb. 26, 2026), rainfall totals have ranged from 1” to 6”, which corresponds to 20%-100% of normal.
  - Much of the area has received less than 60% of normal precipitation.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

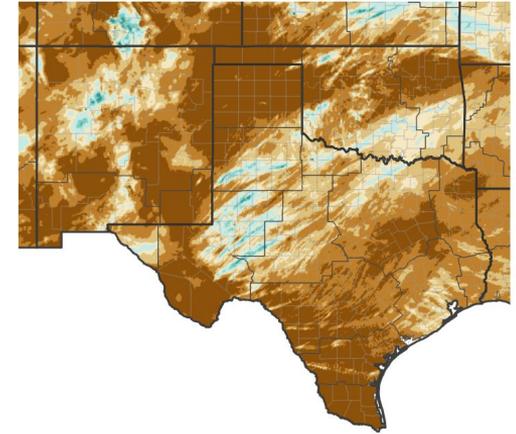


Inches of Precipitation

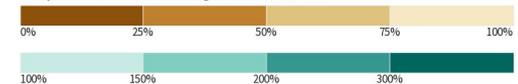


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/26/26

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: 02/26/26





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- The current streamflow in numerous rivers in the Arkansas River, Red River, and White River basins were below to much below normal as of February 26, 2026 according to the [USGS](#).
- 5 USACE reservoirs in eastern OK and northwest AR were below 3% of the top of their conservation pools as of February 26, 2026 (<https://www.swt-wc.usace.army.mil/map/>)

## Agricultural Impacts

- Poor pasture conditions and low ponds are affecting livestock (<https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx>)

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Burn bans were in effect for several counties in [northeast OK](#) and [northwest AR](#).
- Drought has led to very dry and high loading of fuels, worsening fire behavior (OK Forestry).

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

## Mitigation Actions

- None reported



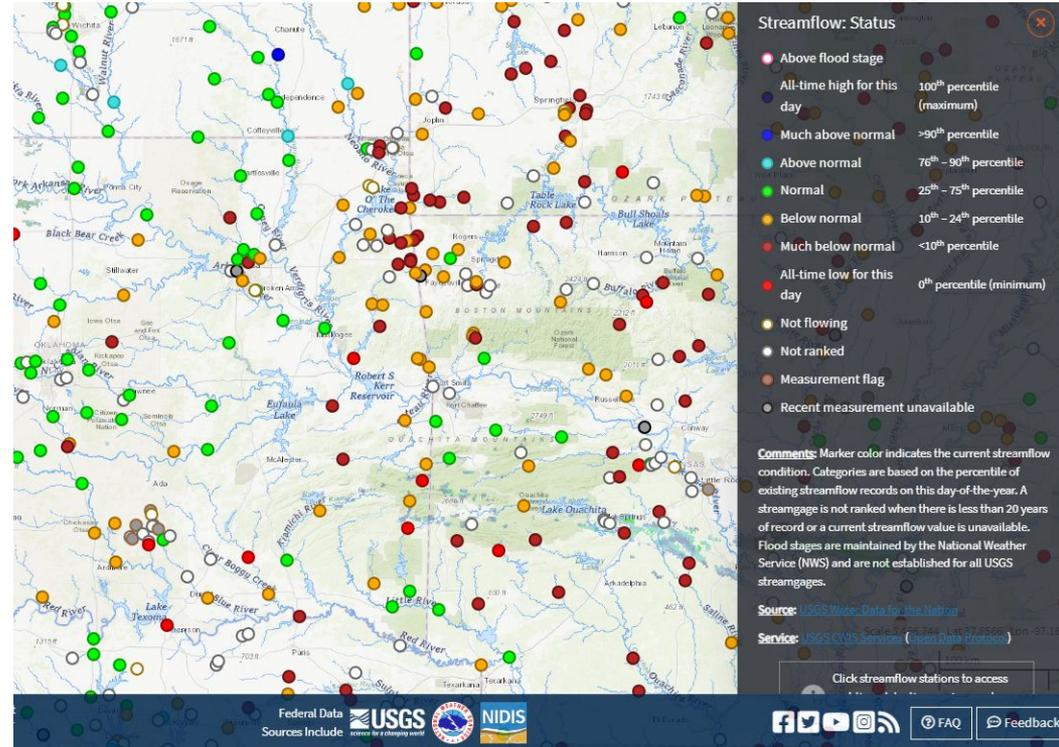


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

The 2/26/2026 USGS streamflow (image on the right) for several rivers were Below to Much Below Normal across eastern OK and northwest AR.

River gages with Much Below Normal (less than 10% percentile) or All-Time Low streamflows:

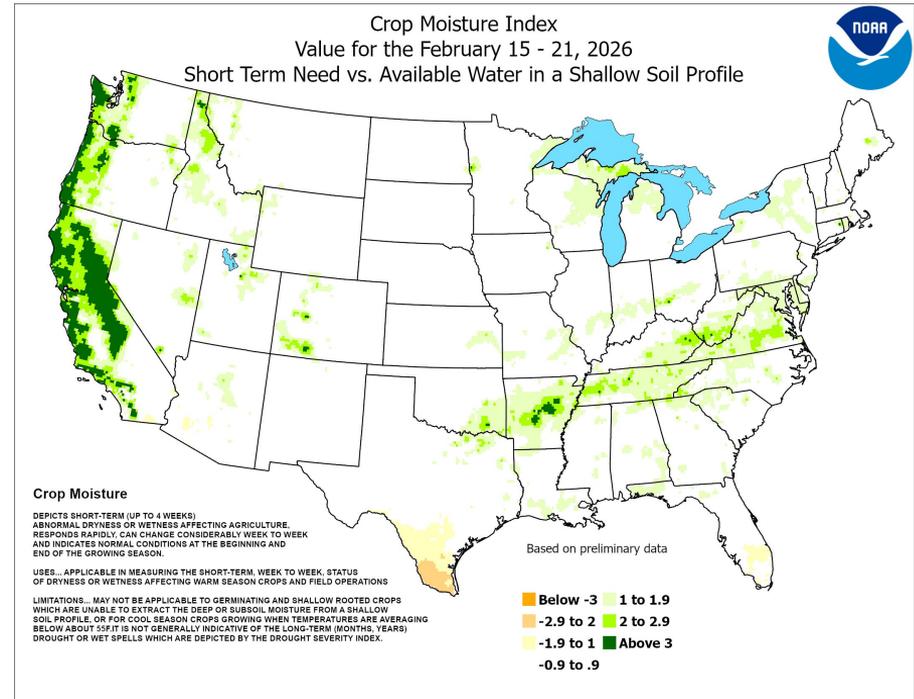
- Tar Creek near Commerce, OK and at Miami, OK
- Spavinaw Creek near Maysville, AR, Cherokee City, AR, Colcord, OK
- Beaty Creek near Jay, OK
- Flint Creek near West Siloam Springs, OK, Kansas, OK
- Sager Creek near West Siloam Springs, OK
- Illinois River near Gore, OK
- Kings River near Berryville, AR
- West Fork of the White River near Fayetteville, AR
- Bird Creek at Avant, OK
- Coal Creek at Tulsa, OK
- Caney Creek near Barber, OK
- Canadian River near Whitefield, OK
- Fourche Maline near Red Oak, OK
- Black Fork near Page, OK
- Red River at Arthur City, TX





# Agricultural Impacts

- Reports from producers in northwest AR indicate that pastures are in very poor conditions, requiring supplemental feeding for livestock.
  - Impacts include decreased stock weight and sold livestock
- These producers are also reporting less water in ponds, creeks, wells, and soil.
  - A farm in Benton County reported a near 10-year low water mark in their ponds, with the water level 24"-36" lower than normal, and the top 2" of soil are completely dry.
  - Other farms in Benton and Washington Counties in AR are also reporting 2'-4' below normal pond levels.

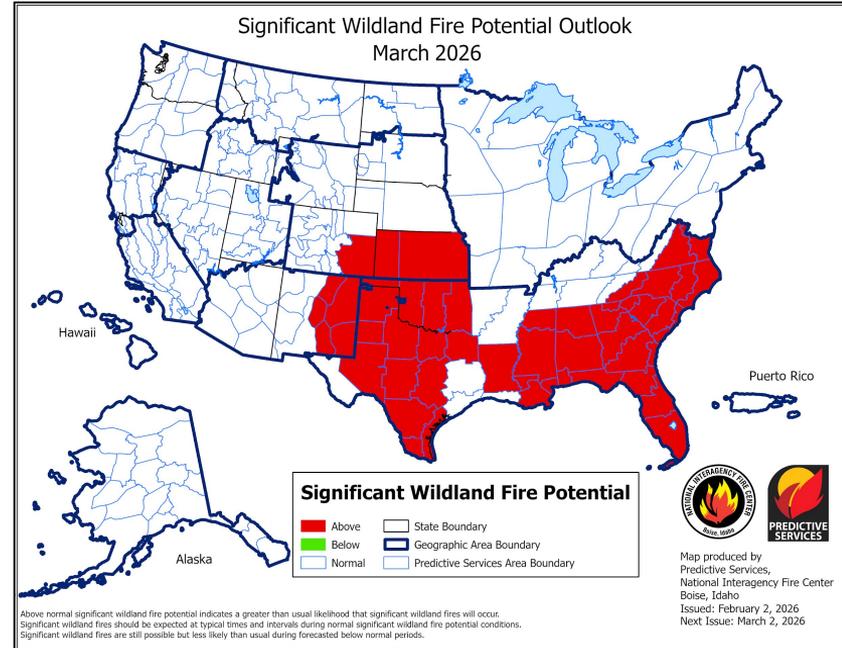




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Eastern Oklahoma Burn Bans in effect as of 2/26/26:
  - Creek, Tulsa, Rogers, Adair, Wagoner, Delaware, Cherokee, and Muskogee Counties
- Northwestern Arkansas Burn Bans in effect as of 2/26/26:
  - Washington, Madison, and Carroll Counties
- Drought has led to very dry and high loading of fuels, worsening fire behavior.
- There has been an increase in fire activity over the last week across the region due to the state of fuels and favorable fire weather conditions.

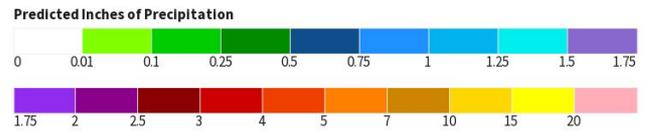
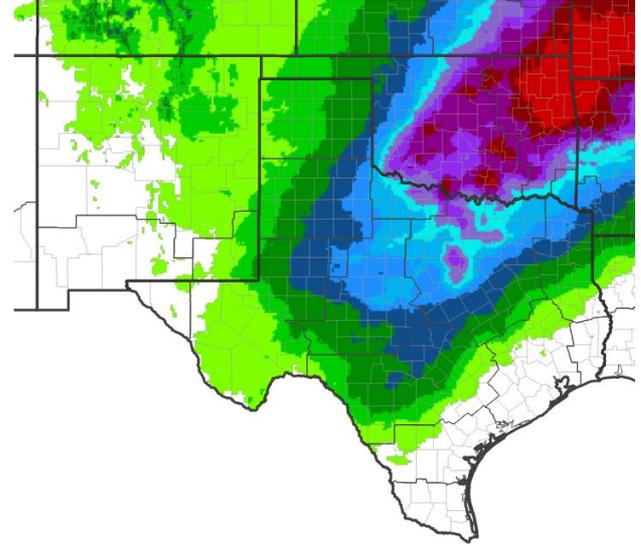




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- There is a 30%-60% chance for rain across eastern OK and northwestern AR March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.
- There is a 50%-70% chance of rain across eastern OK and northwestern AR March 4th and 5th
- 1.25" to 3.5" of total rainfall is currently forecast through March 5, 2026.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 26, 2026–March 5, 2026



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/26/26

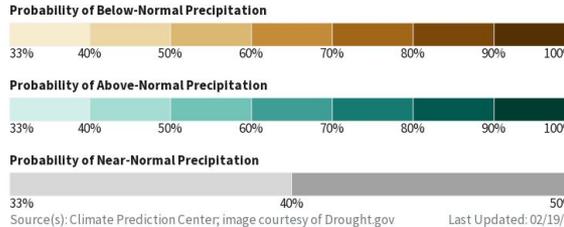
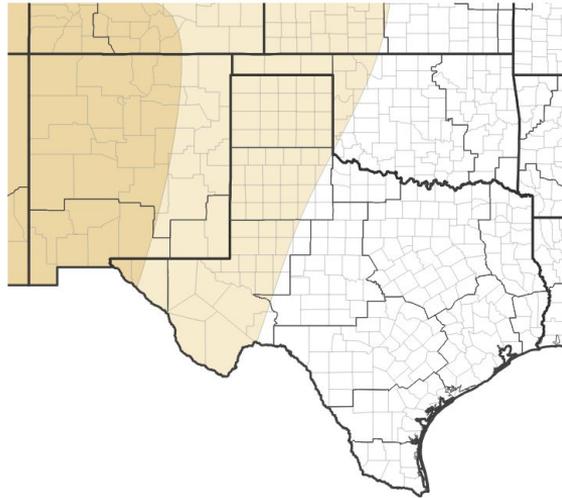


# Long-Range Outlooks

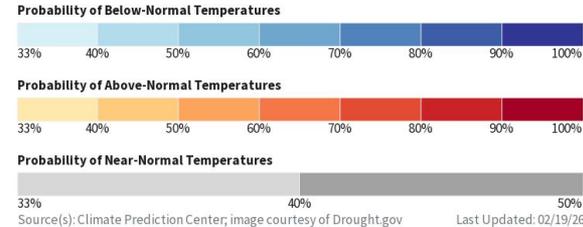
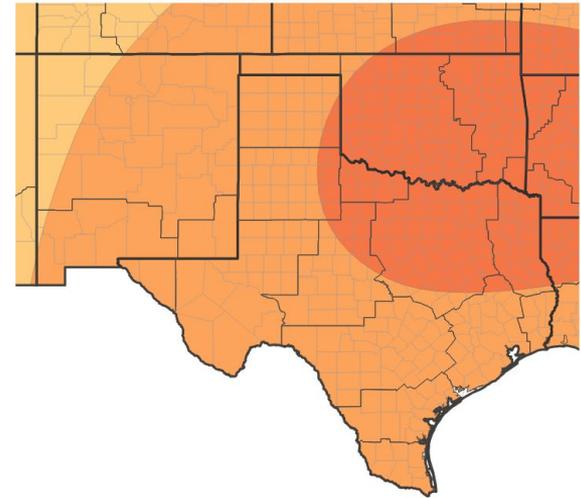
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- There is an equal chance for above, near, or below median precipitation across all of eastern OK and northwestern AR for March and for the March-May season.
- There is an enhanced chance for above normal temperatures across all of eastern OK and northwestern AR for March and for the March-May season.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for March 1, 2026-March 31, 2026



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



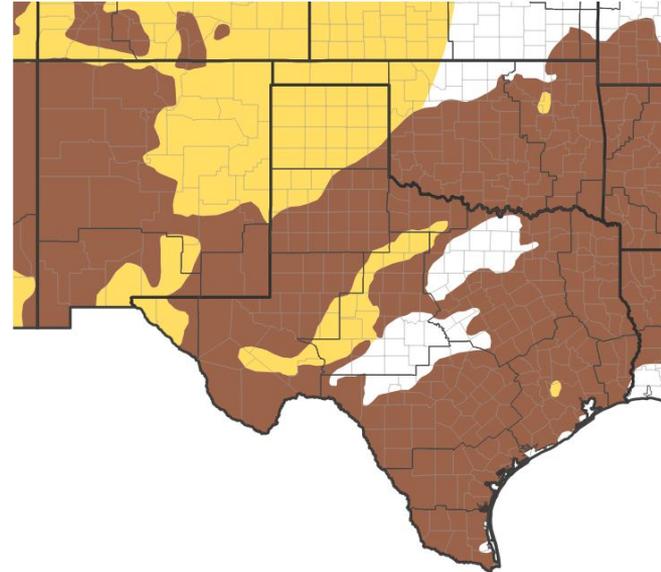


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to persist for the majority of eastern OK and northwestern AR over the next three months.

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](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Tulsa, OK