

NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE		HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA) Tulsa, Oklahoma (TSA)	
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS				REPORT FOR: MONTH September YEAR 2026	
				SIGNATURE Steven F. Piltz (Meteorologist-in-Charge)	
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283				DATE October 13, 2026	

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

☒ An "X" in the box indicates no flood stages were reached in this Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) during the month above.

September 2026 was exceptionally hot with little rain. Flash drought rapidly expanded across eastern OK and northwest AR this month. This report, past E-5 reports, and monthly hydrology and climatology summaries can be found at https://www.weather.gov/tsa/climo_summary_e5list.

Monthly Summary

Using the radar-derived estimated observed precipitation from the RFCs (Fig. 1a), rainfall totals for September 2026 ranged from 0.10" to 6" across eastern OK and northwest AR, with much of the area receiving 1"-4". These rainfall totals correspond to 2% to 170% of the normal September rainfall, with most of the area receiving 33% to 90% of normal (Fig. 1b).

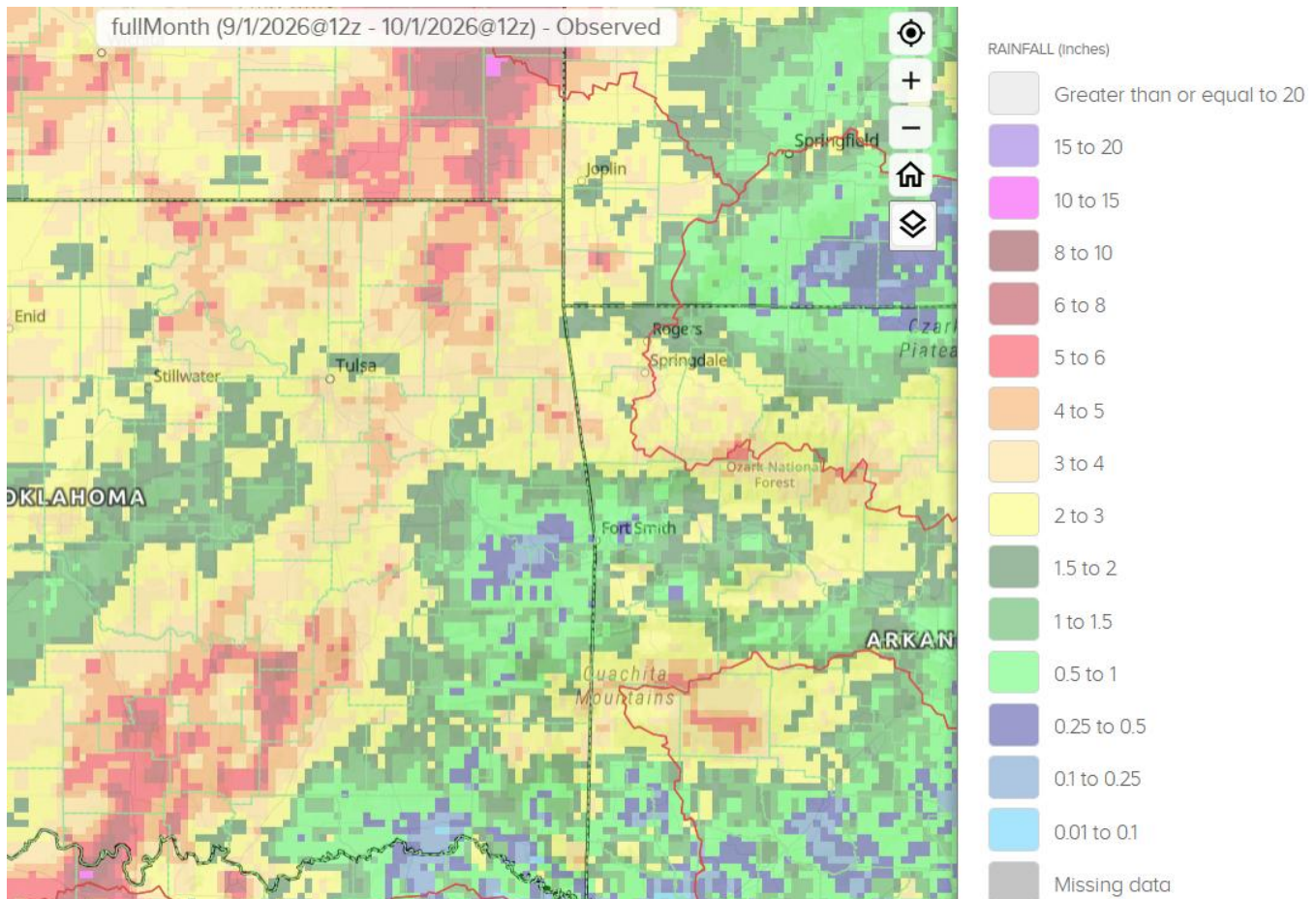


Fig. 1a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for September 2026

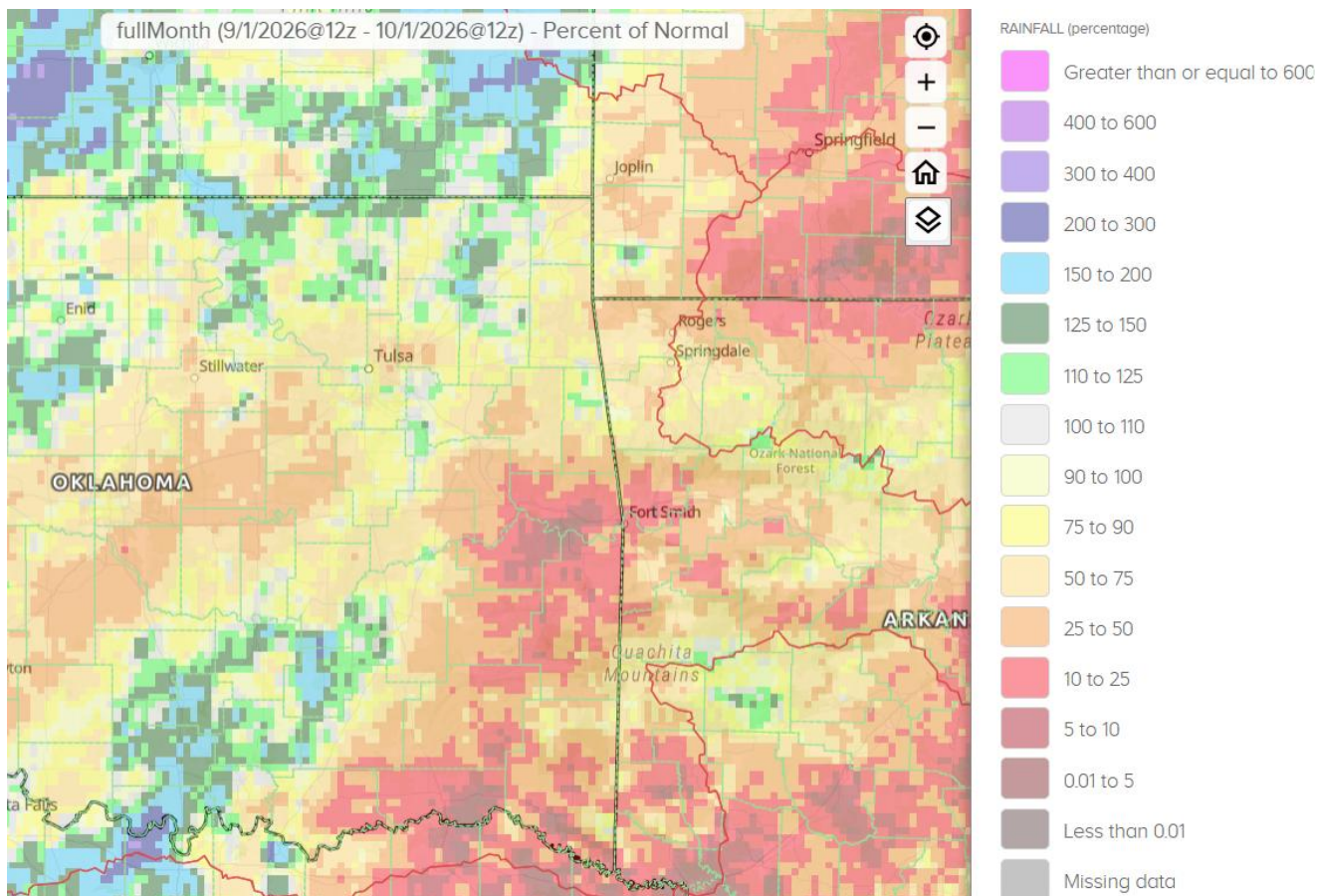


Fig. 1b. Estimated % of Normal Rainfall for September 2026

In Tulsa, OK, September 2026 ranked as the Record warmest September (84.3°F, previous record 81.9°F in 1931; since records began in 1905) and the 28th driest September (1.41"; since records began in 1888). Fort Smith, AR had the Record warmest September (85.9°F, previous record 83.4°F in 1939; since records began in 1882) and the 11th driest September (0.46"; since records began in 1882). Fayetteville, AR had the Record warmest (81.0°F, previous record 76.3°F in 2019) and the 18th driest (1.96") September since records began in 1949.

Some of the larger precipitation reports (in inches) for September 2026 included:

Ralston, OK (coop)	5.20	Vinita 4.9WNW, OK (coco)	4.91	Vinita, OK (meso)	4.47
Copan, OK (meso)	4.45	Burbank, OK (meso)	4.33	Watts 7.2WSW, OK (coco)	4.17
Wynona, OK (meso)	4.15	Greenwood 0.9S, AR (coco)	4.09	Tulsa 5.4SSE, OK (coco)	4.08

Some of the lowest precipitation reports (in inches) for September 2026 included:

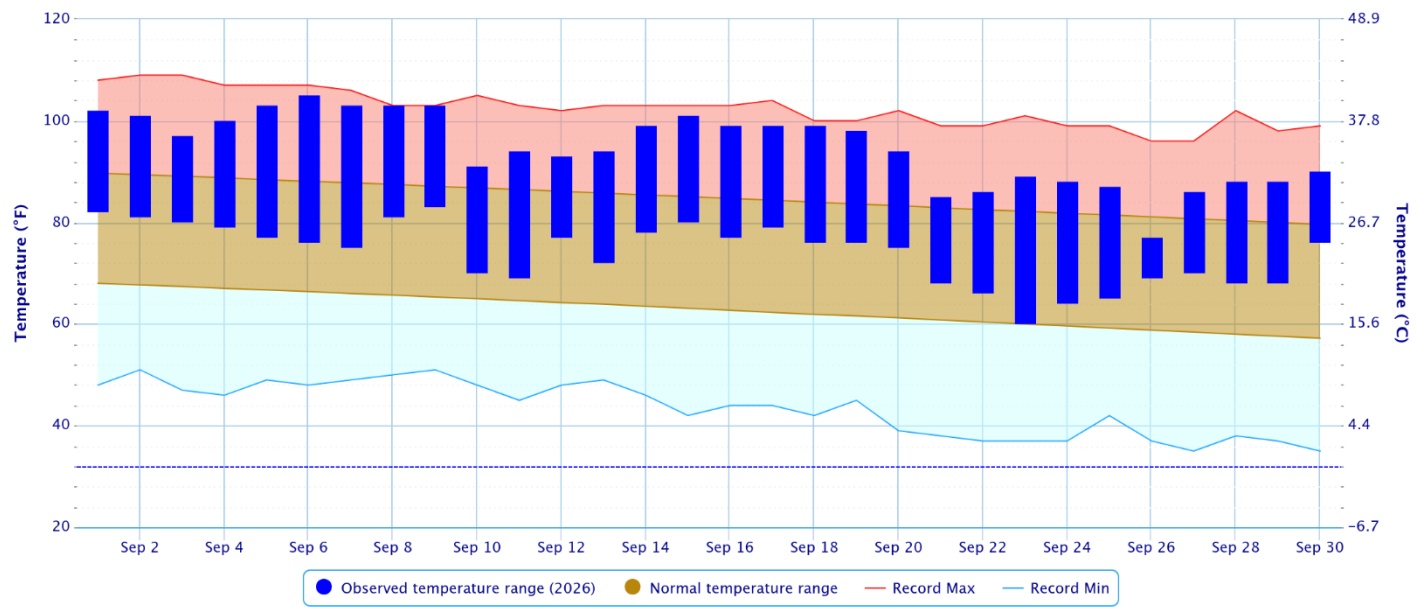
Antlers 6.3SE, OK (coco)	0.15	Antlers, OK (coop)	0.17	Cloudy, OK (meso)	0.20
Clayton, OK (meso)	0.24	Sallisaw, OK (meso)	0.28	Berryville 4.3N, AR (coco)	0.29
Talihina, OK (meso)	0.36	Stigler, OK (meso)	0.39	Hugo, OK (meso)	0.39

According to statistics from the [Oklahoma Climatological Survey](#) (OCS) Mesonet:

Rank since 1921	September 2026	Last 60 Days (Aug 2 – Sep 30)	Last 90 Days (Jul 3 – Sep 30)	Last 120 Days (Jun 3 – Sep 30)	Year-to-Date (Jan 1 – Sep 30)	Last 180 Days (Apr 4 – Sep 30)	Water Year 2026 (Oct 1, 2025 – Sep 30, 2026)
Northeast OK	42 nd driest	13 th driest	14 th driest	53 rd wettest	51 st driest	44 th wettest	38 th driest
East Central OK	21 st driest	4th driest	11 th driest	35 th driest	34 th driest	40 th driest	21 st driest
Southeast OK	8th driest	2nd driest	1st driest	31 st driest	27 th driest	42 nd driest	15 th driest
Statewide	30 th driest	9th driest	10th driest	32 nd driest	20 th driest	24 th driest	11 th driest

Daily Temperature Data – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

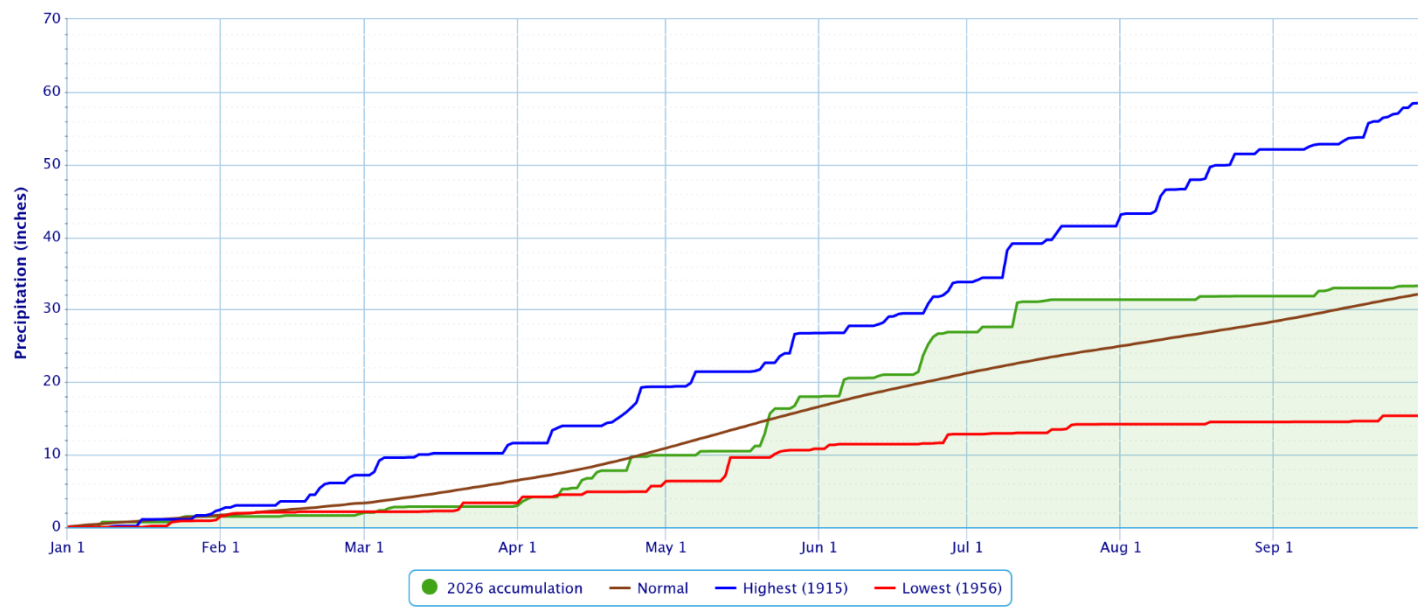
Period of Record – 1905-01-06 to 2026-10-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Precipitation – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

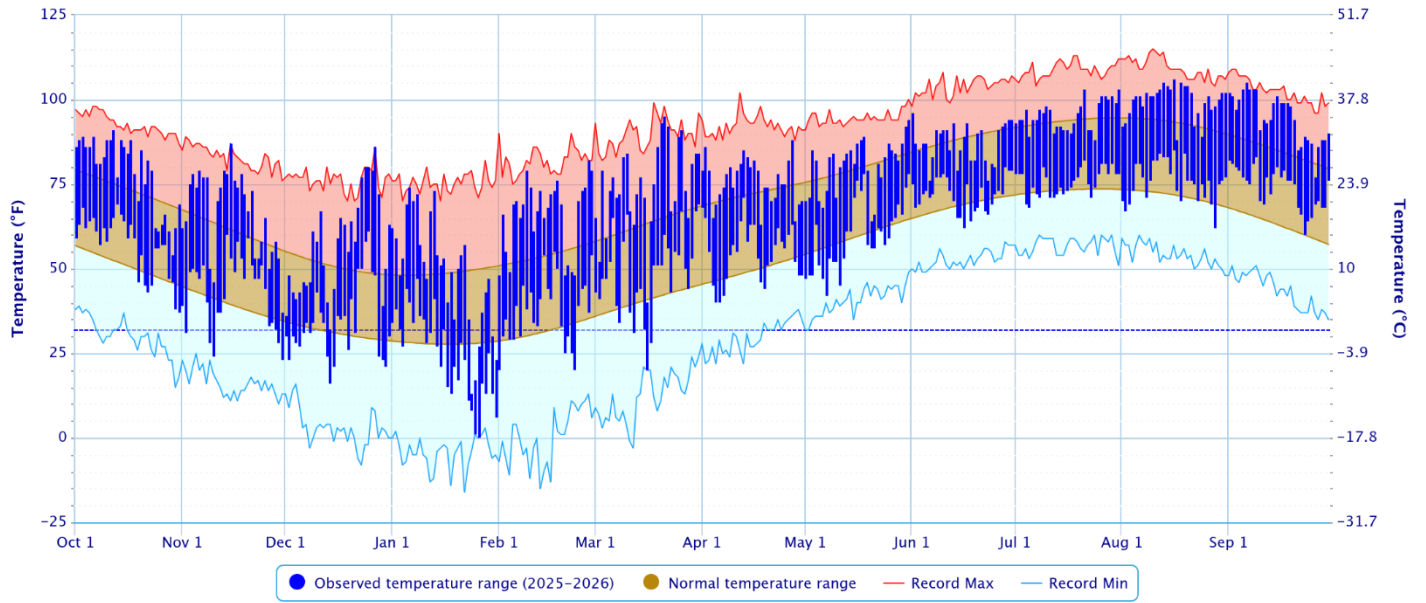
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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Daily Temperature Data – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

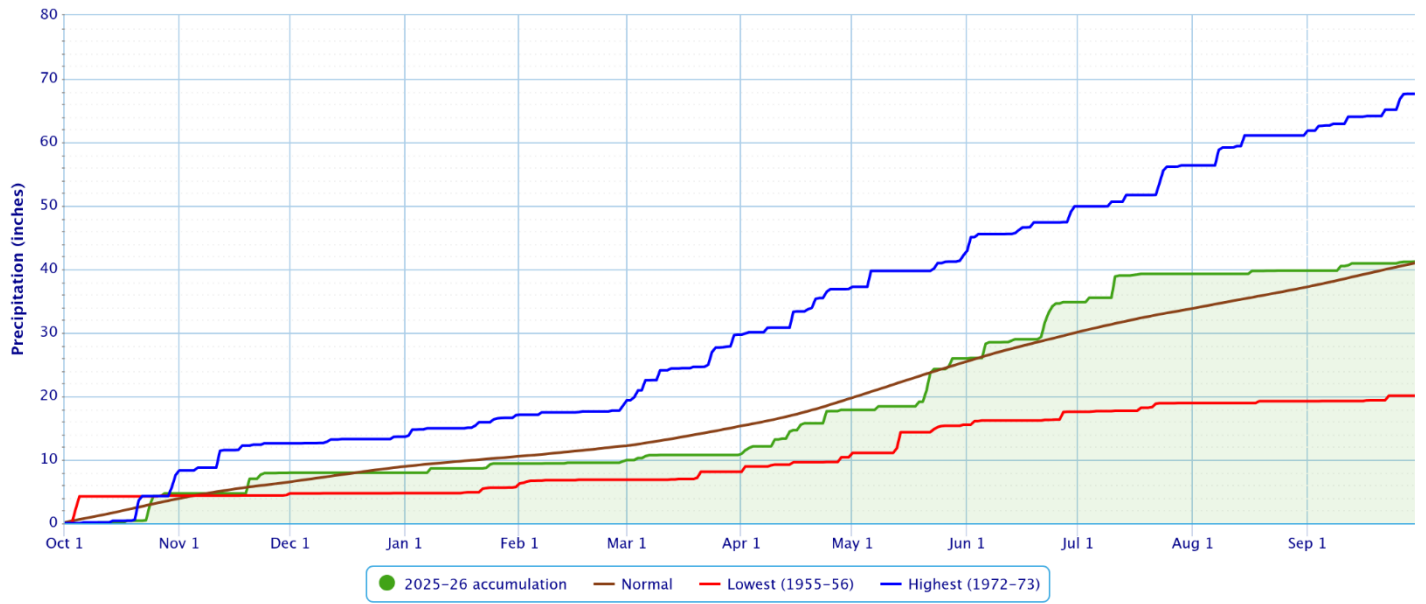
Period of Record – 1905-01-06 to 2026-10-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Accumulated Precipitation – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

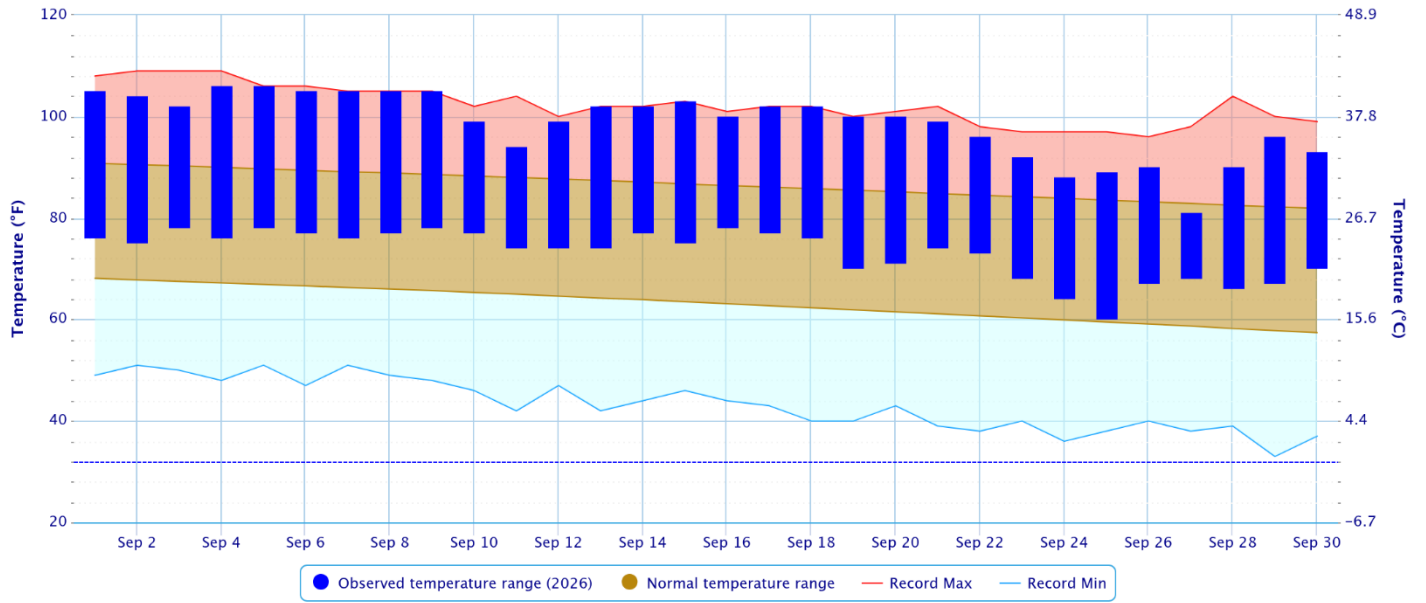
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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Daily Temperature Data – Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

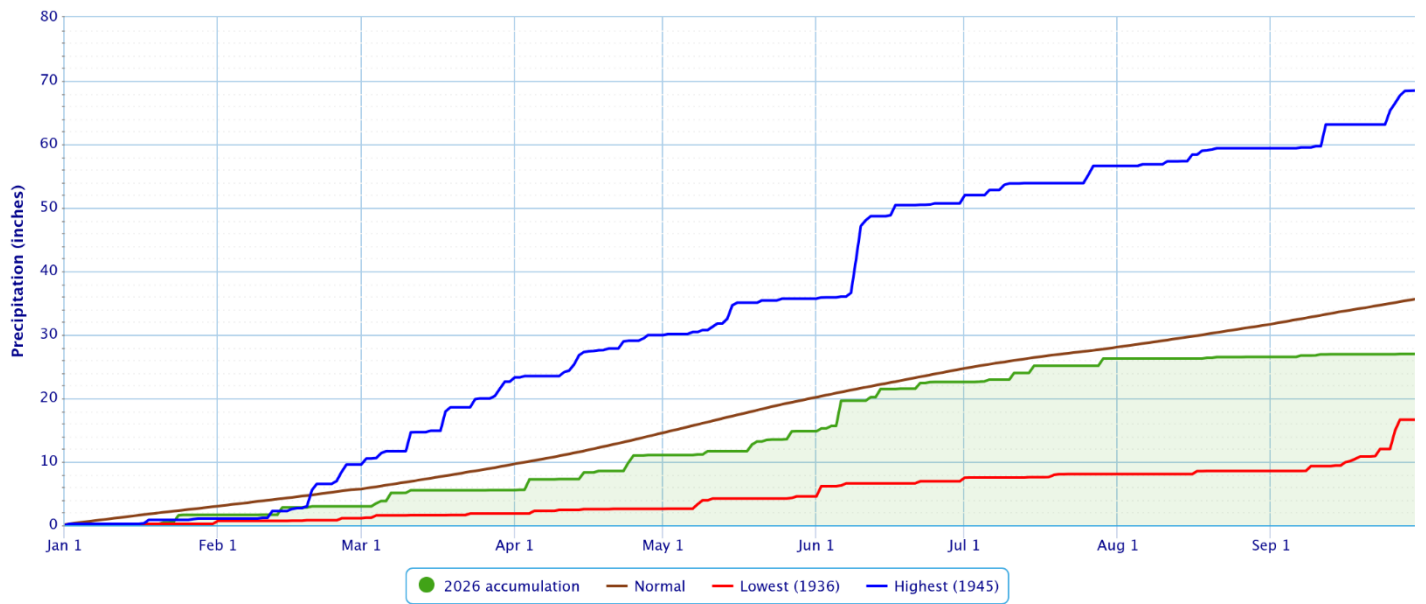
Period of Record – 1882–06–01 to 2026–10–04. Normals period: 1991–2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Accumulated Precipitation – Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

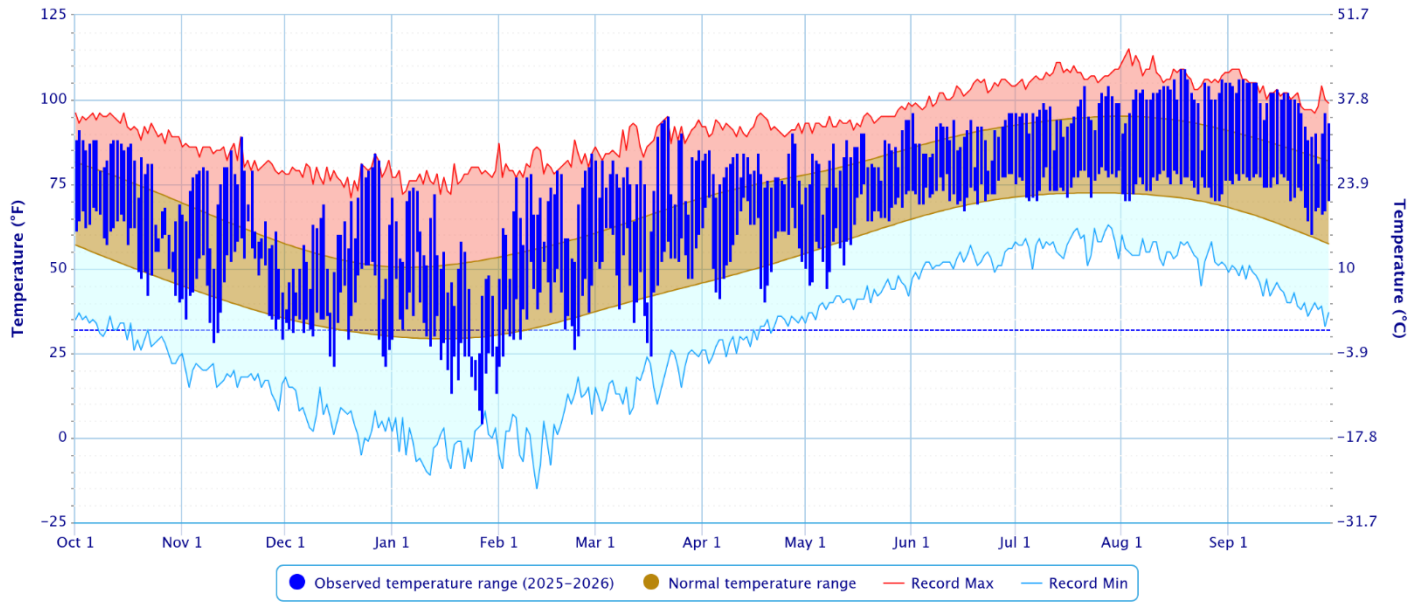
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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Daily Temperature Data – Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

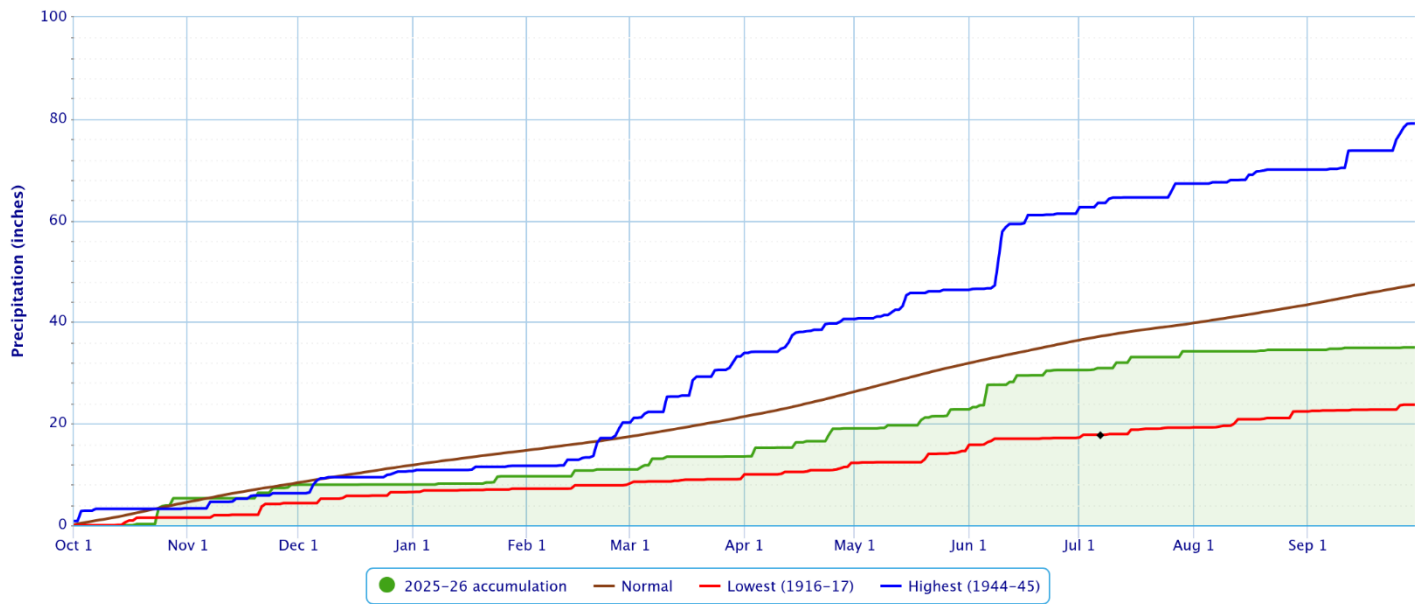
Period of Record – 1882-06-01 to 2026-10-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Accumulated Precipitation – Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

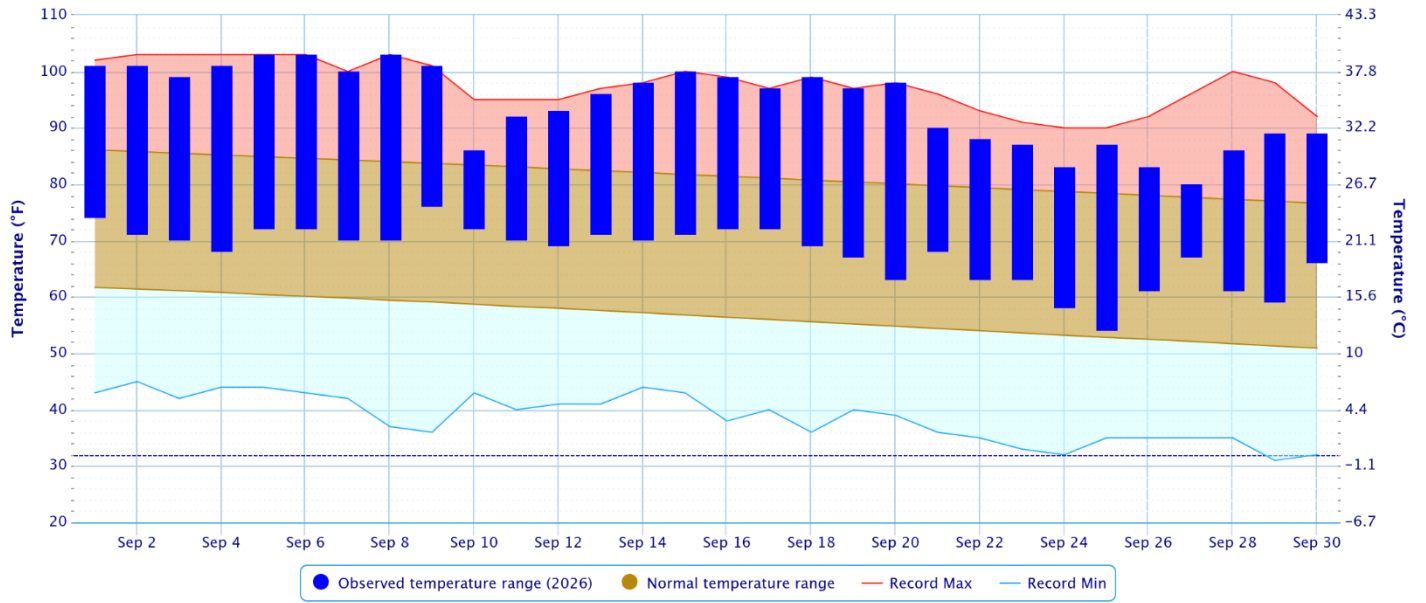
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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Daily Temperature Data – FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

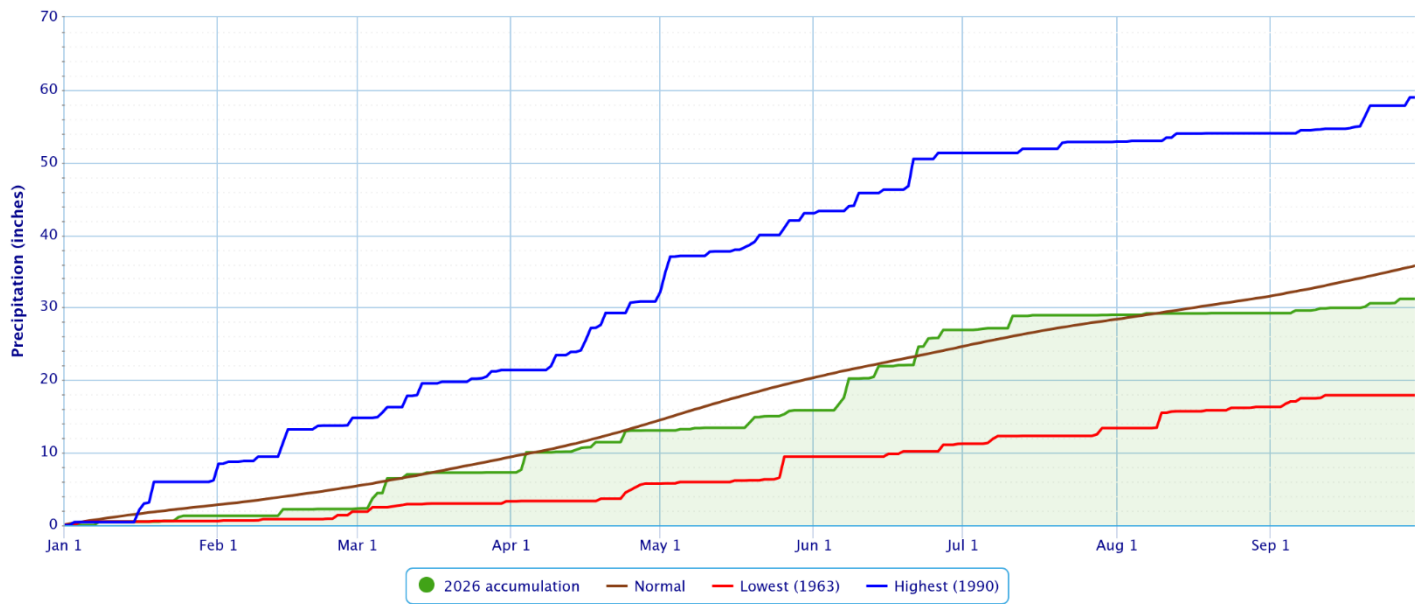
Period of Record – 1949–07–14 to 2026–10–04. Normals period: 1991–2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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Accumulated Precipitation – FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

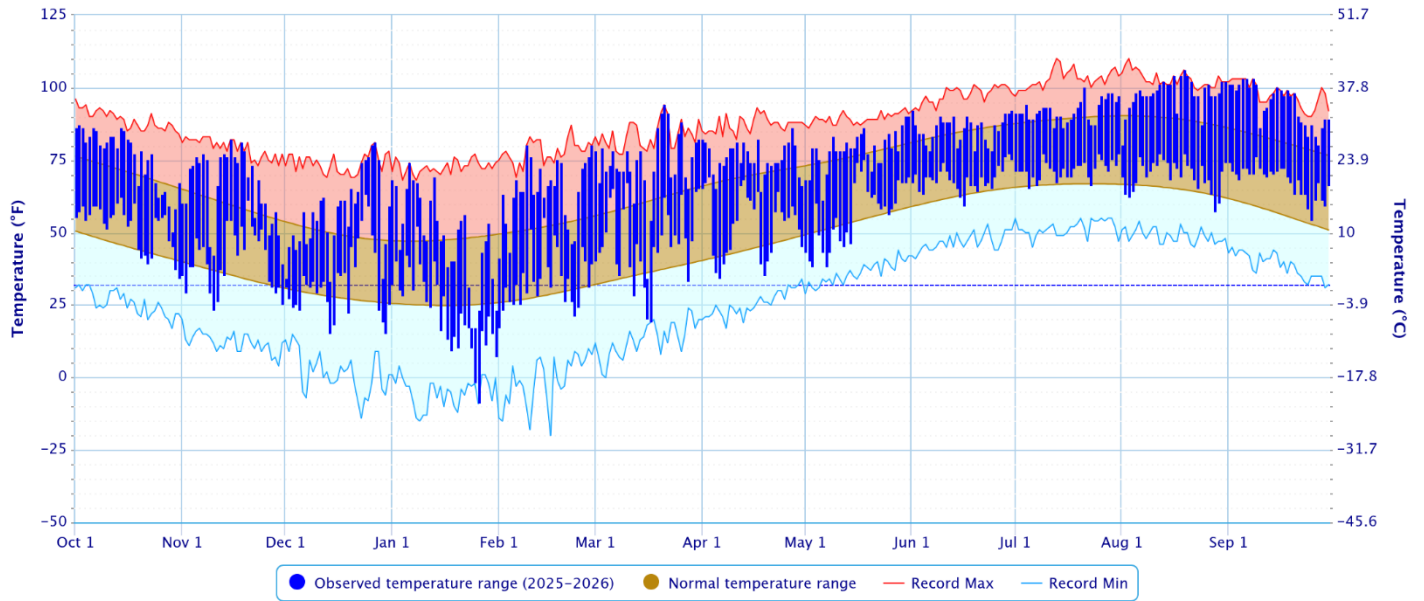
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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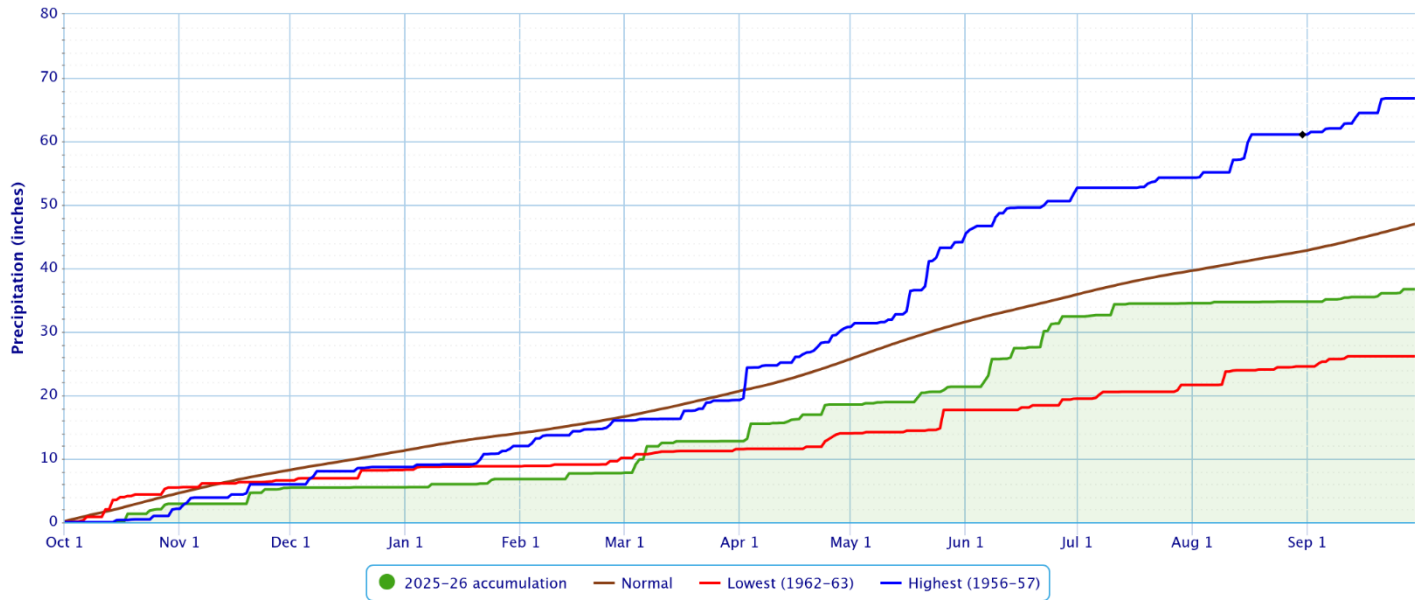
Daily Temperature Data – FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

Period of Record – 1949-07-14 to 2026-10-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



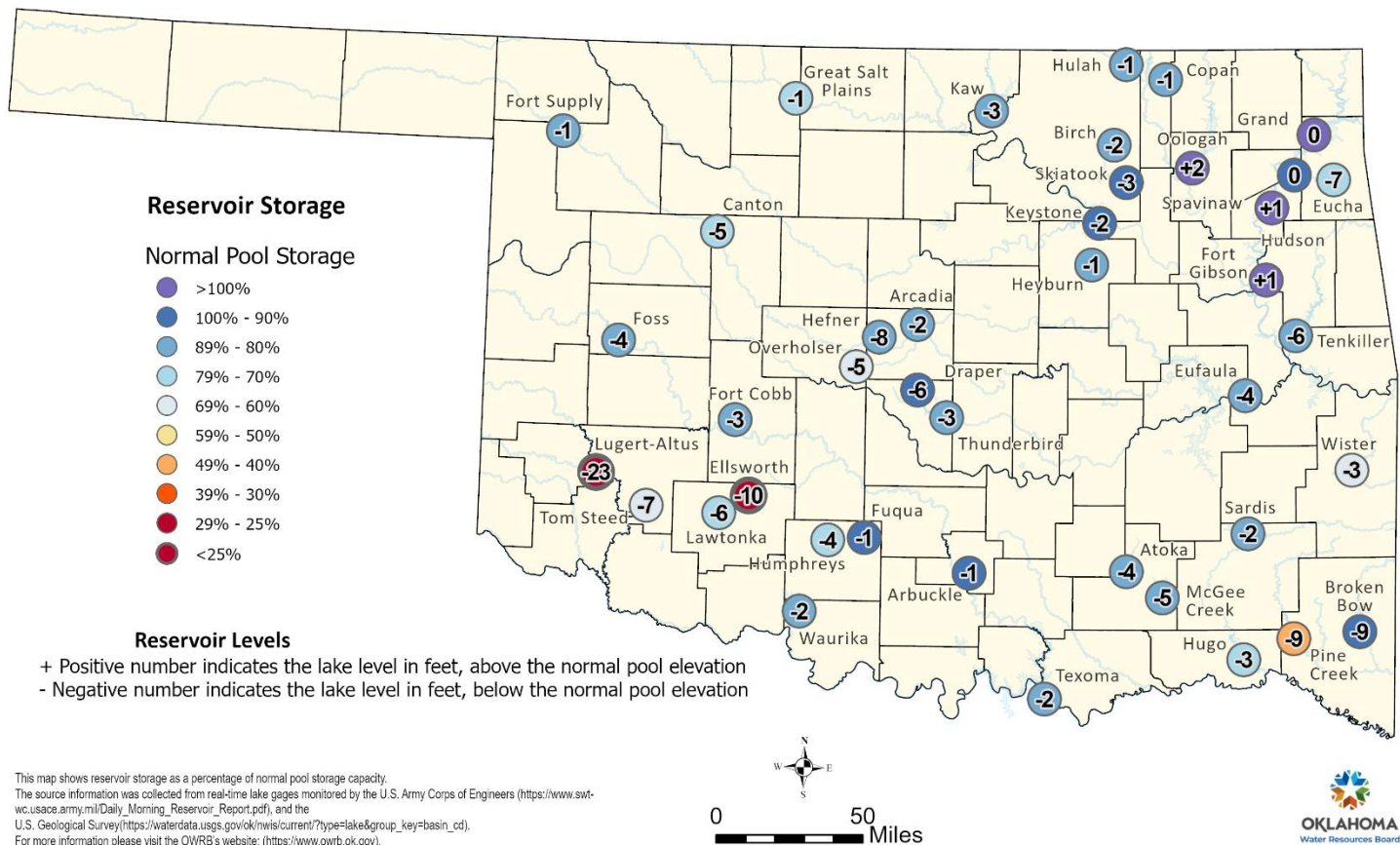
Accumulated Precipitation – FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Reservoirs

Oklahoma Reservoir Levels and Storage as of 9/29/2026



According to the USACE, a couple of lakes in the HSA were above 3% of the top of their conservation pools as of 10/01/2026: Oologah Lake 7% and Hudson Lake 5%. Several lakes were below 3% of the top of their conservation pools: Hugo Lake 67%, Wister Lake 68%, Heyburn Lake 71%, Eufaula Lake 75%, Beaver Lake 79%, Tenkiller Lake 80%, Kaw Lake 85%, Keystone Lake 86%, Birch Lake 86%, Copan Lake 89%, Hulah Lake 90%, Sardis Lake 91%, and Skiatook Lake 92%.

Drought

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) (USDM) from September 29, 2026 (Figs. 2, 3), Exceptional (D4) Drought conditions had developed in portions of Pushmataha and Choctaw Counties in southeast OK, and Benton, Crawford, and Sebastian Counties in northwest AR. Extreme (D3) Drought conditions expanded in portions of Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Delaware, Adair, Sequoyah, Muskogee, McIntosh, Haskell, Le Flore, Latimer, Pittsburg, Okfuskee, Creek, and Pushmataha Counties in eastern OK, and Benton, Washington, Crawford, Sebastian, Carroll, Madison, and Franklin Counties in northwest AR. Severe (D2) Drought conditions existed in portions of Ottawa, Delaware, Mayes, Rogers, Craig, Nowata, Washington, Osage, Pawnee, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pittsburg, McIntosh, Muskogee, Wagoner, Cherokee, Adair, Le Flore, Latimer, and Pushmataha Counties in eastern OK, and Carroll and Madison Counties in northwest AR. Moderate (D1) Drought conditions were present in a portion of Osage, Pawnee, Tulsa, Washington, Rogers, and Creek Counties in eastern OK. All of eastern OK and northwest AR were experiencing drought conditions; therefore, there are no areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) but not in drought conditions.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

September 29, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.82	92.40	55.43	24.39
Last Week 09-22-2026	0.00	100.00	99.82	88.42	52.12	20.79
3 Months Ago 06-30-2026	35.42	64.58	43.81	36.05	16.40	1.75
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	19.15	80.85	72.77	19.38	6.92	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	64.08	35.92	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-30-2025	64.08	35.92	4.86	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>

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NASA/MSFC/UAH



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

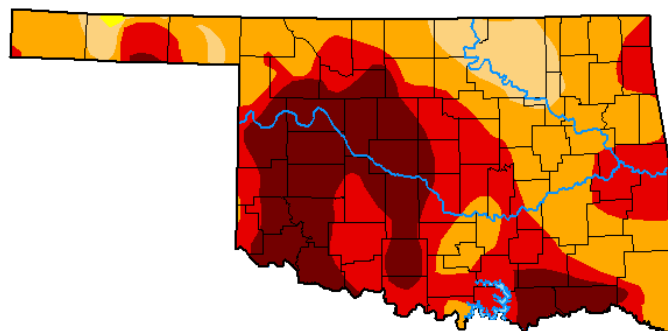


Fig. 2. Drought Monitor for Oklahoma

U.S. Drought Monitor Arkansas

September 29, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	96.39	88.59	39.33	2.27
Last Week 09-22-2026	0.00	100.00	92.24	73.76	29.96	2.27
3 Months Ago 06-30-2026	9.10	90.90	71.00	34.92	14.72	3.93
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.00	100.00	91.34	21.84	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	19.70	80.30	48.43	20.14	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-30-2025	19.70	80.30	48.43	20.14	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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

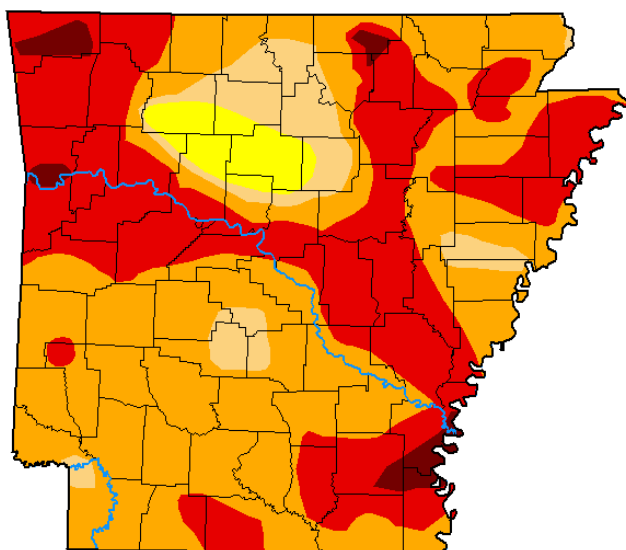


Fig. 3. Drought Monitor for Arkansas

Unusual Heat

- September 2026 was the warmest September on record for Tulsa, OK; Fort Smith, AR; Fayetteville, AR; and the State of OK (82.8°F, which is 9.9°F above normal, previous record 80.1°F in 1931).
- Tulsa, OK set a new record warm minimum temperature in the month of September with 83°F on 9/09/2026 (previous record 82°F on 9/01/2026, 9/01/2011, 9/03/1995, 9/02/1936).
- Fayetteville, AR tied the record warm maximum temperature in the month of September with 103°F on Sep 5, 6, and 8, 2026, joining 9/02/2000, 9/03/2000, and 9/04/1998.
- Fort Smith, AR had a record number of days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ in September, with 17 days in September 2026 (previous record 12 days in September 1939). There were 49 days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ for Summer 2026, ranking as 3rd the greatest number of days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ tying with 2011 (record is 54 days in Summer 1954).
- Fort Smith, AR had the 2nd highest number of consecutive days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ with 19 consecutive days ending 8/22/2026 and the 4th highest number of consecutive days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ with 16 days ending 9/09/2026, tying with 9/04/2000, 8/18/1956, and 8/23/1936.
- Fayetteville, AR had had a record number of days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ in September, with 9 days in September 2026 (previous record 3 days in September 1998 and 2000). There were 23 days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ for Summer 2026, ranking as 2nd the greatest number of days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ (record is 30 days in Summer 1954).
- Tulsa, OK had the 2nd highest number of days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ in September, with 9 days in September 2026, tying with 1912 and 1925 (record is 10 days in September 1939). There were 35 days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ for Summer 2026, ranking as 13th the greatest number of days $\geq 100^\circ\text{F}$ tying with 1916 (record is 65 days in Summer 1936).
- Numerous daily warm maximum temperatures, daily warm minimum temperatures, and daily warm mean temperatures were set across eastern OK and northwest AR.

Water Year 2026 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026) Summary

Using the radar-derived estimated observed precipitation from the RFCs (Fig. 4a), rainfall totals for Water Year 2026 ranged from 25" to 63" across eastern OK and northwest AR, with much of the area receiving 30"-40". These rainfall totals correspond to 55% to 135% of the normal Water Year rainfall with most of the area receiving 75% to 90% of normal (Fig. 4b).

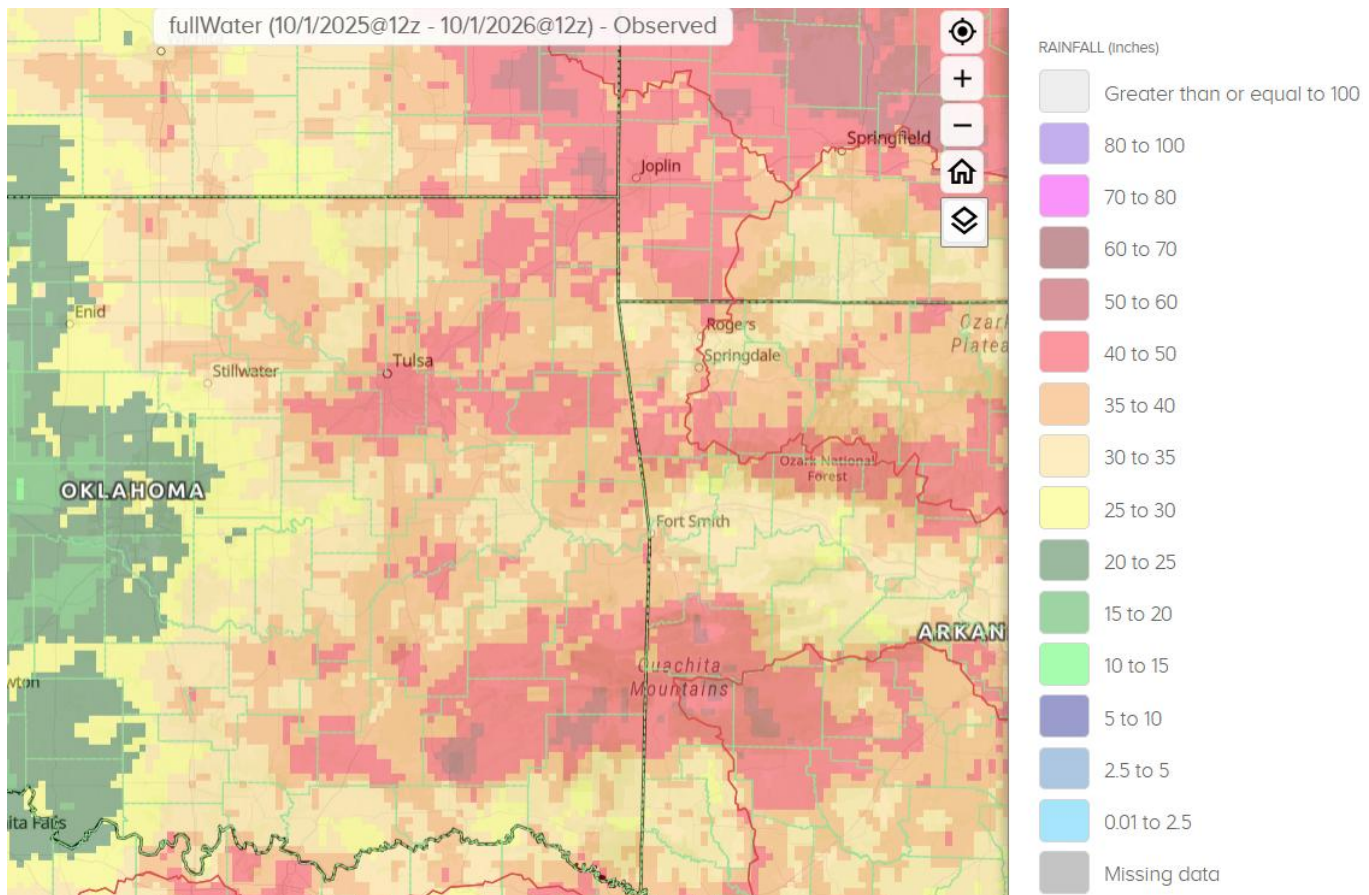


Fig. 4a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for Water Year 2026

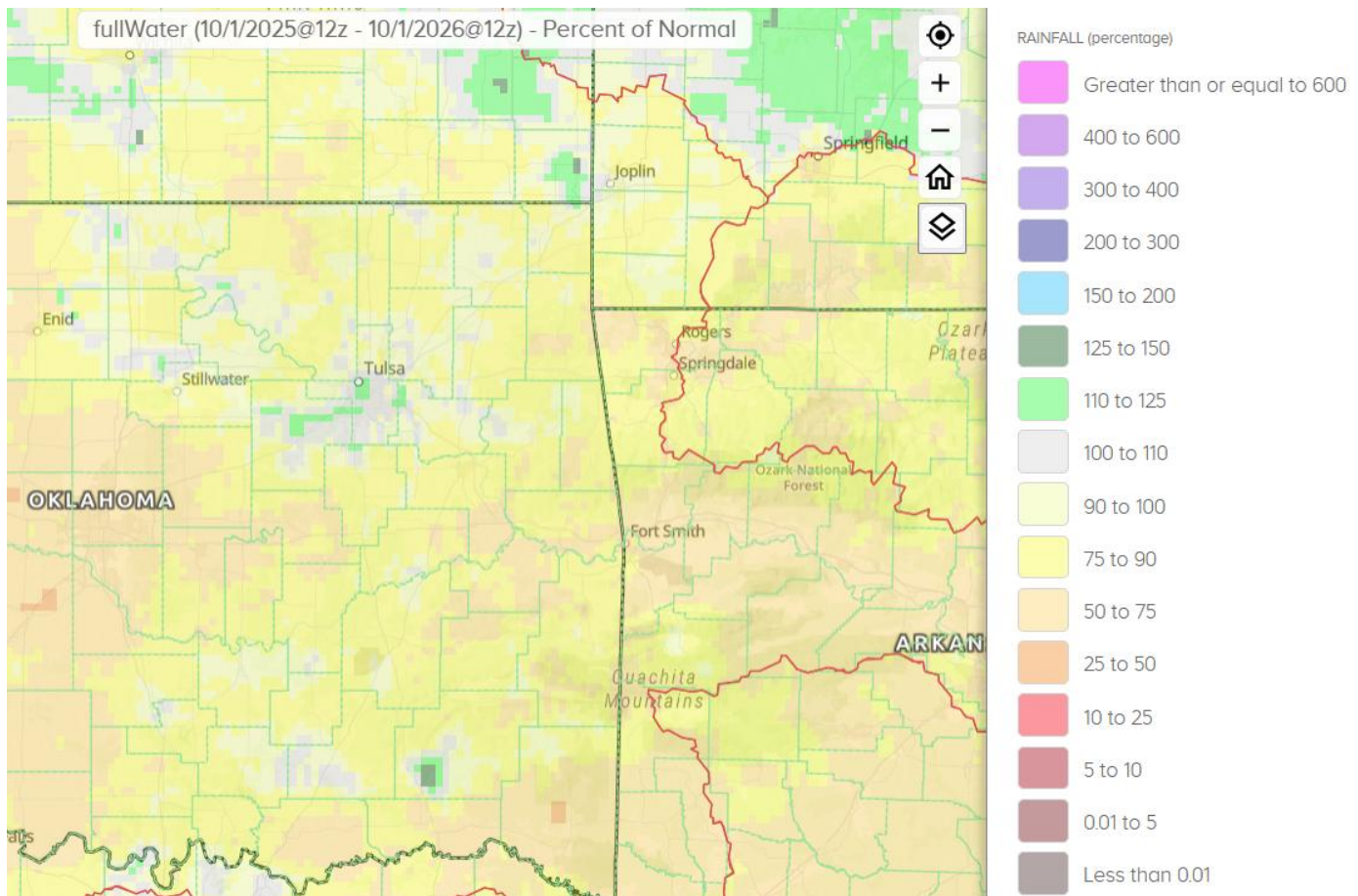


Fig. 4b. Estimated % of Normal Rainfall for Water Year 2026

Some of the larger precipitation reports (in inches) for Water Year 2026 included:

Kingston 2S, AR (coop)	49.29	Tulsa 3.4W, OK (coco)	48.15	Tulsa 5.4SSE, OK (coco)	48.04
Broken Arrow 2.2SW, OK (coco)	45.85	Miami 3.7ENE, OK (coco)	45.11	Glenpool 0.6S, OK (coco)	44.98
Winslow 7NE, AR (coop)	44.85	Drumright 0.6SW, OK (coco)	43.72	Jenks Riverside Arpt, OK (ASOS)	43.57

Some of the lowest precipitation reports (in inches) for Water Year 2026 included:

Fayetteville 4.2NW, AR (coco)	32.78	Centerton 1.0E, AR (coco)	32.97	Fort Smith, AR (ASOS)	34.98
Bentonville 1.6NE, AR (coco)	35.74	Fayetteville, AR (ASOS)	36.69	Greenwood 0.9S, AR (coco)	37.46
Collinsville 2.1WSW, OK (coco)	37.46	Huntsville 10N, AR (coop)	38.55	Inola 3.3SSE, OK (coco)	39.77

Outlooks

The [Climate Prediction Center](#) (CPC) outlook for October 2026 (issued September 30, 2026) indicates an equal chance for above, near, and below normal temperatures across eastern OK and northwest AR. This outlook also indicates an enhanced chance for above median precipitation from southeast into central OK, and an equal chance for above, near, and below median precipitation across northeast OK and northwest AR. This outlook was based on dynamical and statistical model output, ENSO state, and long-term trends.

For the 3-month period October-November-December 2026, CPC is forecasting an enhanced chance for above median precipitation and an equal chance for above, near, or below normal temperatures (outlook issued September 17, 2026). This outlook is based on long-term trends and ENSO state, and incorporates a suite of statistical and dynamical forecast tools. Despite the strength of this El Niño, its influence on temperatures is seen more strongly during the winter versus the fall. The expected strength of this El Niño should overwhelm contributions from the Arctic Oscillation (AO) and North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). However, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) could have an influence over the weather pattern in the U.S. The PDO is in its negative phase, which is deconstructive with El Niño. The past 3 very strong El Niño episodes were during the positive phase of the PDO, which is constructive with El Niño. According to CPC on October 8, "El Niño continues to strengthen, with a strong-to-very strong El Niño likely through January-March 2027 (remaining greater than an 83% chance)." Strong El Niño conditions were observed in September.

Summary of Heavy Precipitation Events Daily quality-controlled rainfall maps can be found at: http://water.weather.gov/precip/index.php?location_type=wfo&location_name=tsa

Convection near a cold front over southern KS drifted south into northeast OK during the afternoon of the 9th, but this activity did not last long. After midnight of the 10th, additional showers and thunderstorms moved southeast out of KS into northeast OK and became more widespread along and northwest of I-44 through mid-morning as the front moved into the area. This activity then spread southeast across eastern OK and northwest AR the remainder of the morning and through the afternoon hours. Some isolated to widely scattered showers lingered through the evening hours. As a mid-level wave moved across the area, additional scattered showers and thunderstorms developed late evening in east central OK and northwest AR. This activity continued to fester through the overnight hours and slowly shifted east-southeast before exiting the area by mid-morning of the 11th. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.10" to near 4" (Figs. 5-8).

Widely scattered showers and thunderstorms moved south out of KS into northeast OK mid-morning of the 12th as a mid-level disturbance dropped southward toward the region. This activity continued to move south across eastern OK and northwest AR through the afternoon and by early evening, was affecting far southeast OK. Further north, additional thunderstorms from both KS and north central OK moved into northeast OK, bringing additional rain during the evening. These storms developed into a mesoscale convective system (MCS) over northeast OK by midnight of the 13th. This MCS trekked southeast across northeast OK and northwest AR, primarily affecting locations along and north of I-40. By sunrise, the MCS had rapidly weakened, with more isolated convection remaining through noon. Rainfall totals ranged from a few hundredths to around 3.5" (Fig. 9).

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms affected locations along and north of I-40 in northeast OK and northwest AR during the morning through early evening of the 26th as a weak vorticity maximum moved across the region. As this activity was shifting east of the area, a weak shortwave approached, bringing another round of showers and isolated thunderstorms to northeast OK during the late evening. This rain initially moved east across northeast OK, but then expanded and began moving southeast across northeast OK and northwest AR through the morning hours of the 27th. This activity continued to affect eastern OK and northwest AR through the afternoon before moving east of the area. Rainfall totals from both rounds of precipitation ranged from around 0.10" to 3.5" (Figs. 10-12).

Through 7am CDT on the 30th, the 30-day rainfall totals ranged from a few hundredths to 6", with most of the area receiving 0.5"-2.5" (Fig. 13). This corresponds to 1%-150% of the normal rainfall for this time period, with most of the area at 10%-65% of normal (Fig. 14). The 60-day rainfall totals ending at 7am CDT on the 30th ranged from 0.20"-7", with much of the region receiving 1"-4" (Fig. 15). This corresponds to 2%-90% of the normal rainfall for this 60-day period, with most of the area receiving 10%-50% of the normal rainfall amount (Fig. 16). The lack of rainfall and well-above average temperatures over the last 30-60 days resulted in a flash drought across eastern OK and northwest AR. Significant agricultural impacts were occurring, with very low ponds, dry creeks, loss of crops and forage, livestock death, and very early supplemental feeding of livestock.

Gulf moisture increased across eastern OK and northwest AR on the 30th, ahead of an approaching upper-level trough. The precipitable water values were 1.75"-2" over the region due to deep tropical moisture. An initial line of showers and thunderstorms, which developed along an enhanced moisture boundary across central OK, moved east across eastern OK during the evening hours of the 30th, and dissipated before reaching AR. Shortly after midnight, more intense and widespread showers and thunderstorms moved east into eastern OK as a 30-40 knot low-level jet ramped up. These storms continued to slowly progress eastward through the early morning hours of Oct. 1. Widespread rain continued through the morning across eastern OK, with just a few showers in northwest AR. Through 7am CDT Oct 1, rainfall totals were 0.25" to 3.5" (Figs. 17, 18). By afternoon, the rain moved into northwest AR while continuing over eastern OK; however, the heaviest rainfall during this time was across southeast OK. This activity then slowly ended from west to east through the evening hours. Scattered showers redeveloped around midnight and then affected locations from southeast OK into northwest AR through the overnight and into the early morning hours of the 2nd. Scattered rain continued through the morning, and finally came to an end across southeast OK during the afternoon. The storm total rainfall ranged from 0.25" to 5" across eastern OK and northwest AR (Figs. 19, 20). Despite the heavy rainfall, the antecedent dry conditions precluded flooding across eastern OK and northwest AR.

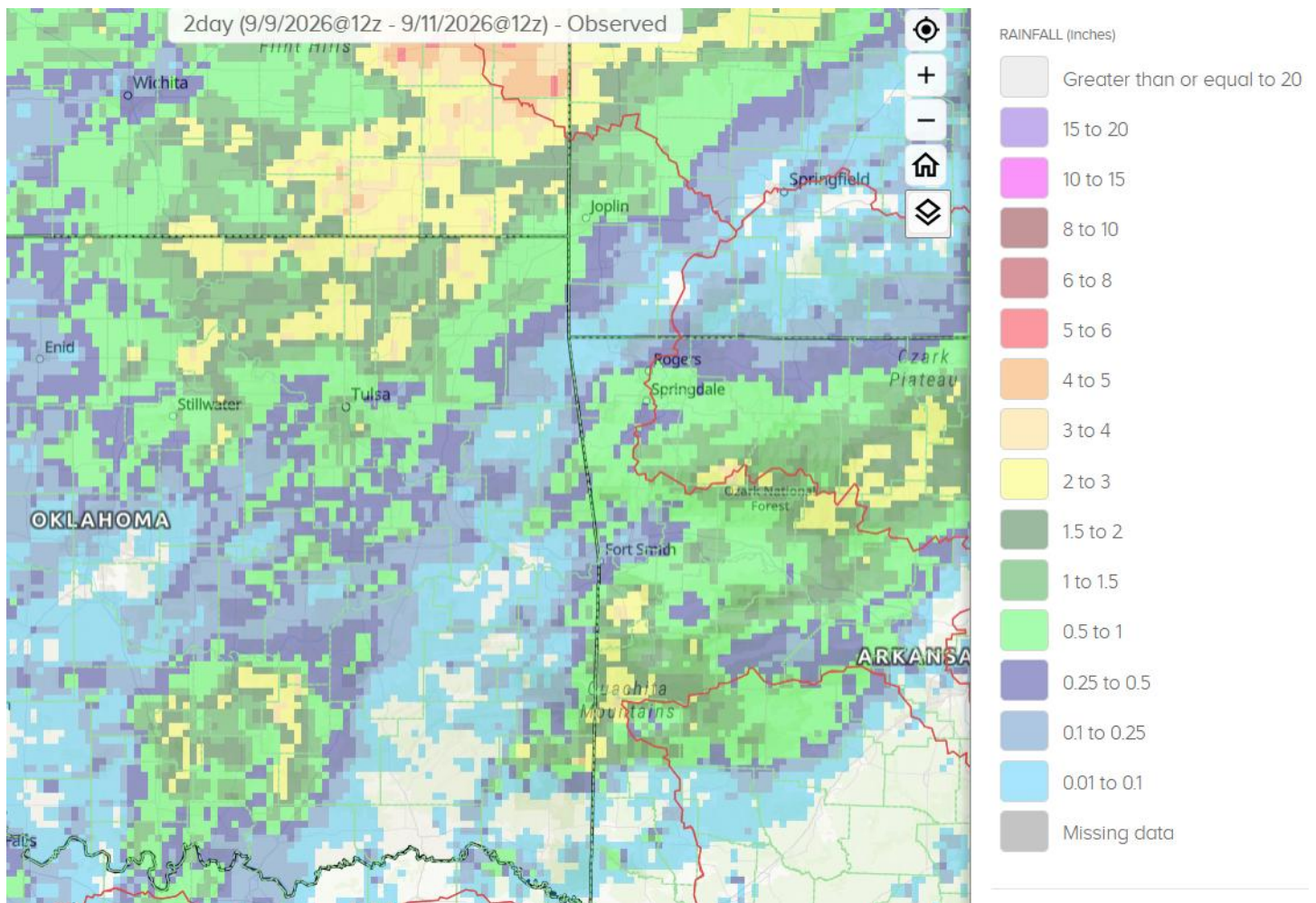


Fig. 5. 48-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/11/2026.

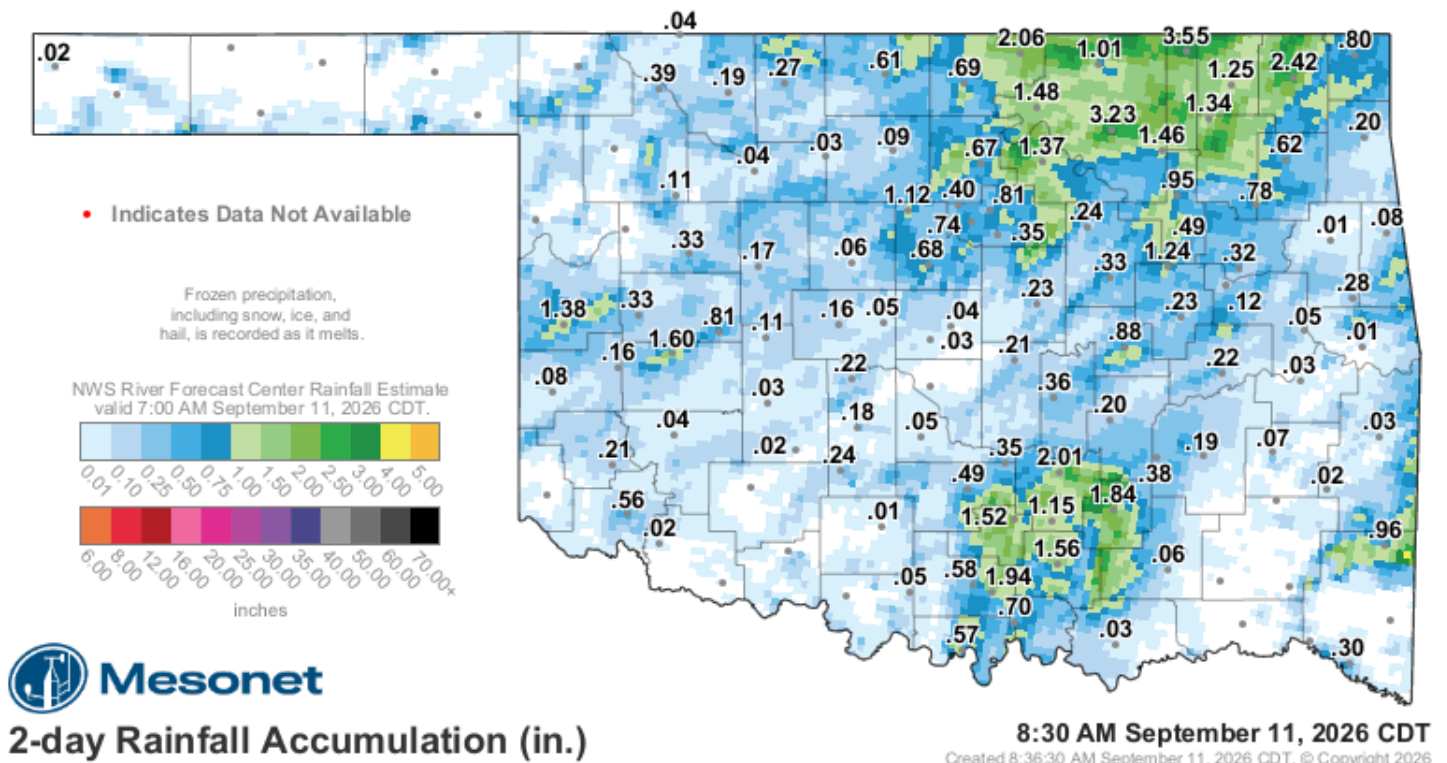


Fig. 6. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 48-hour rainfall ending at 8:30 am CDT 9/11/2026.

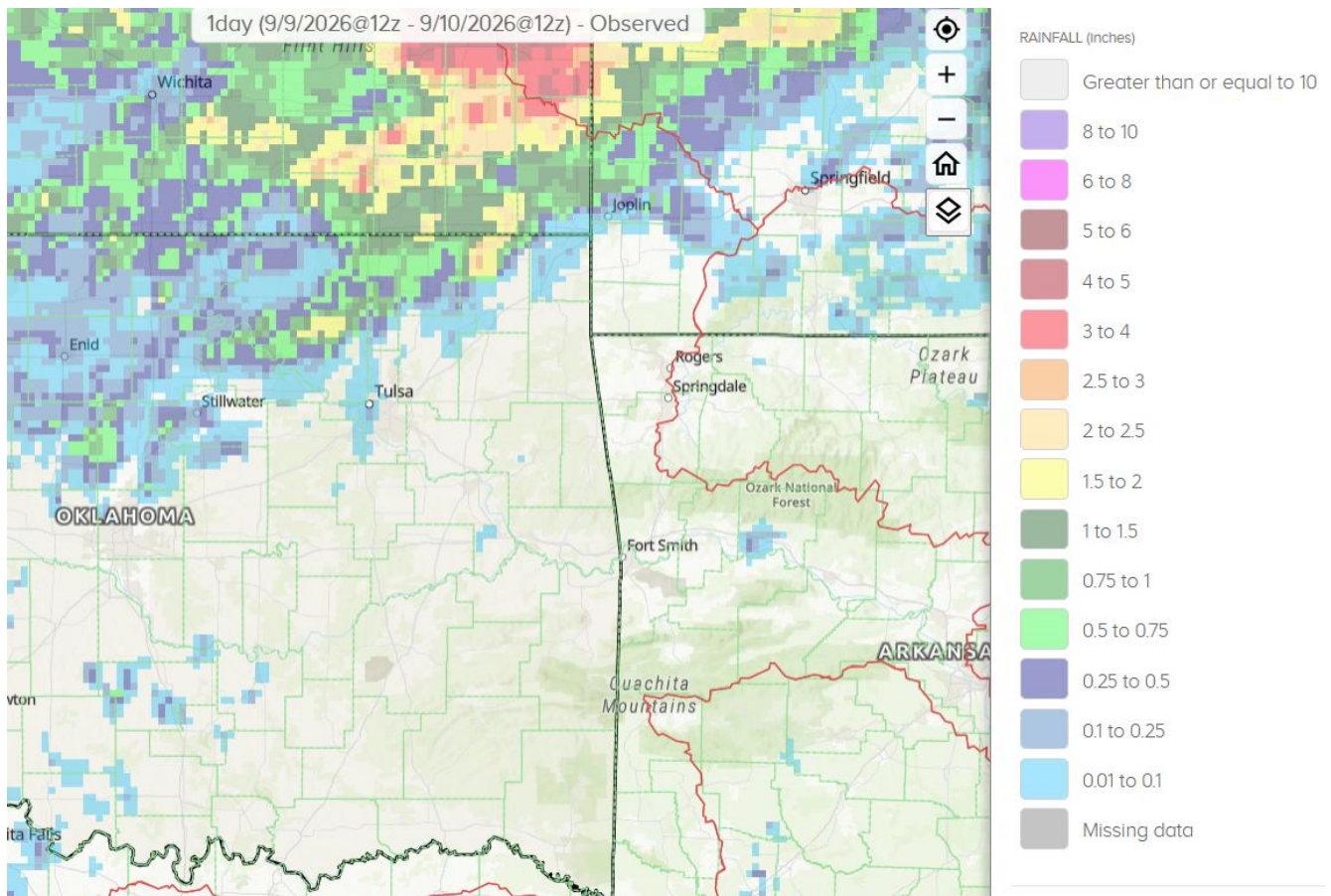


Fig. 7. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/10/2026.

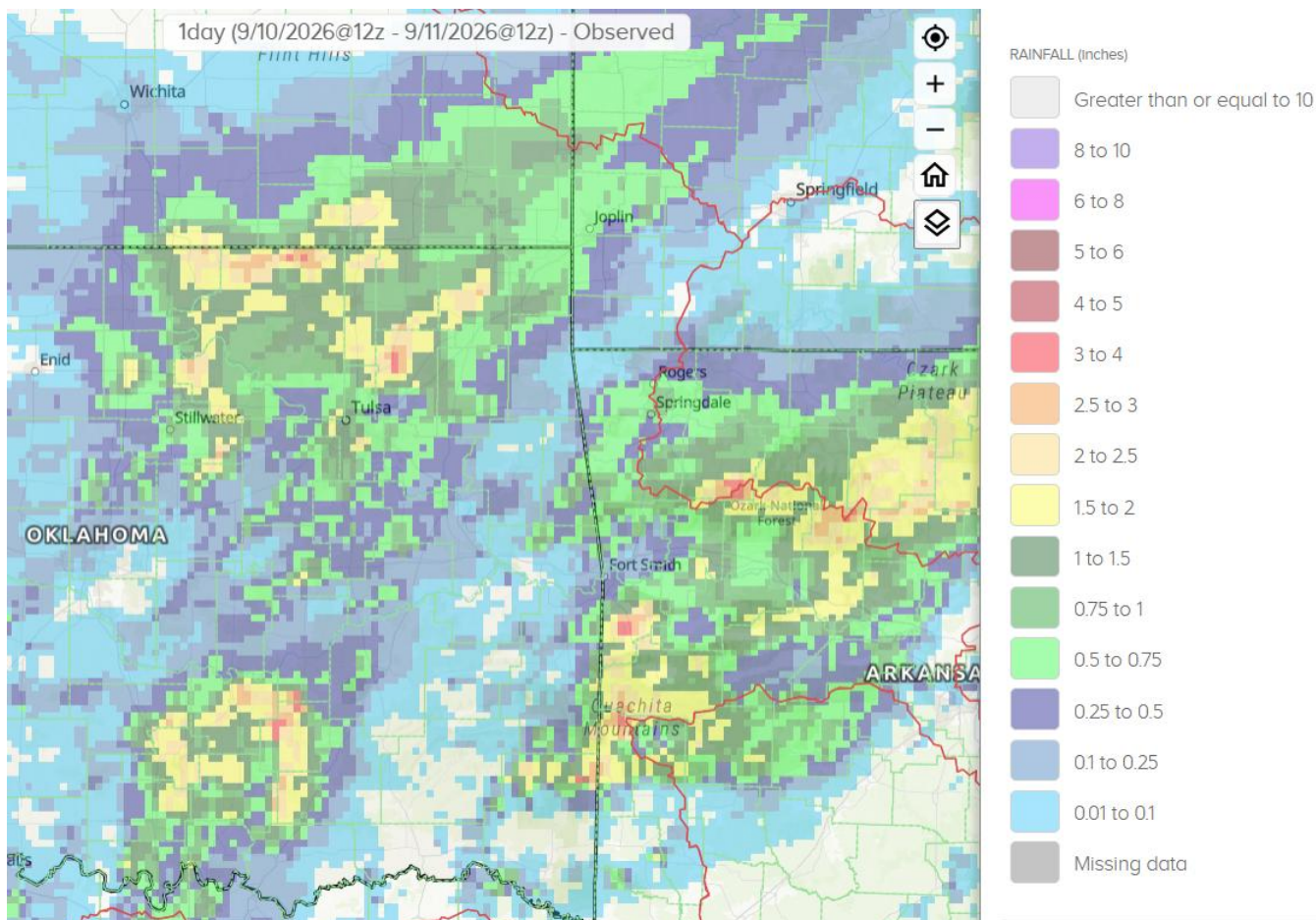


Fig. 8. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/11/2026.

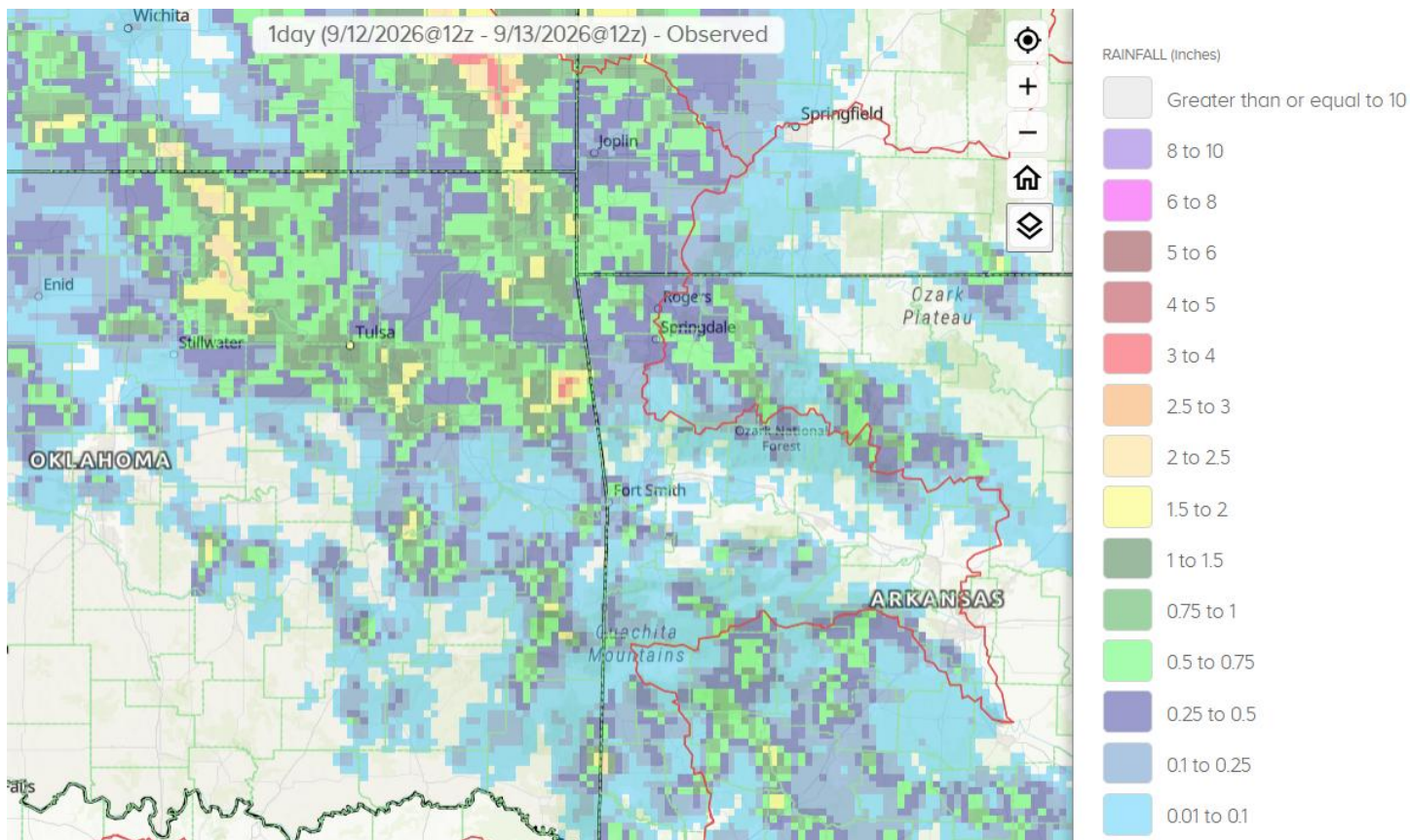


Fig. 9. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/13/2026.

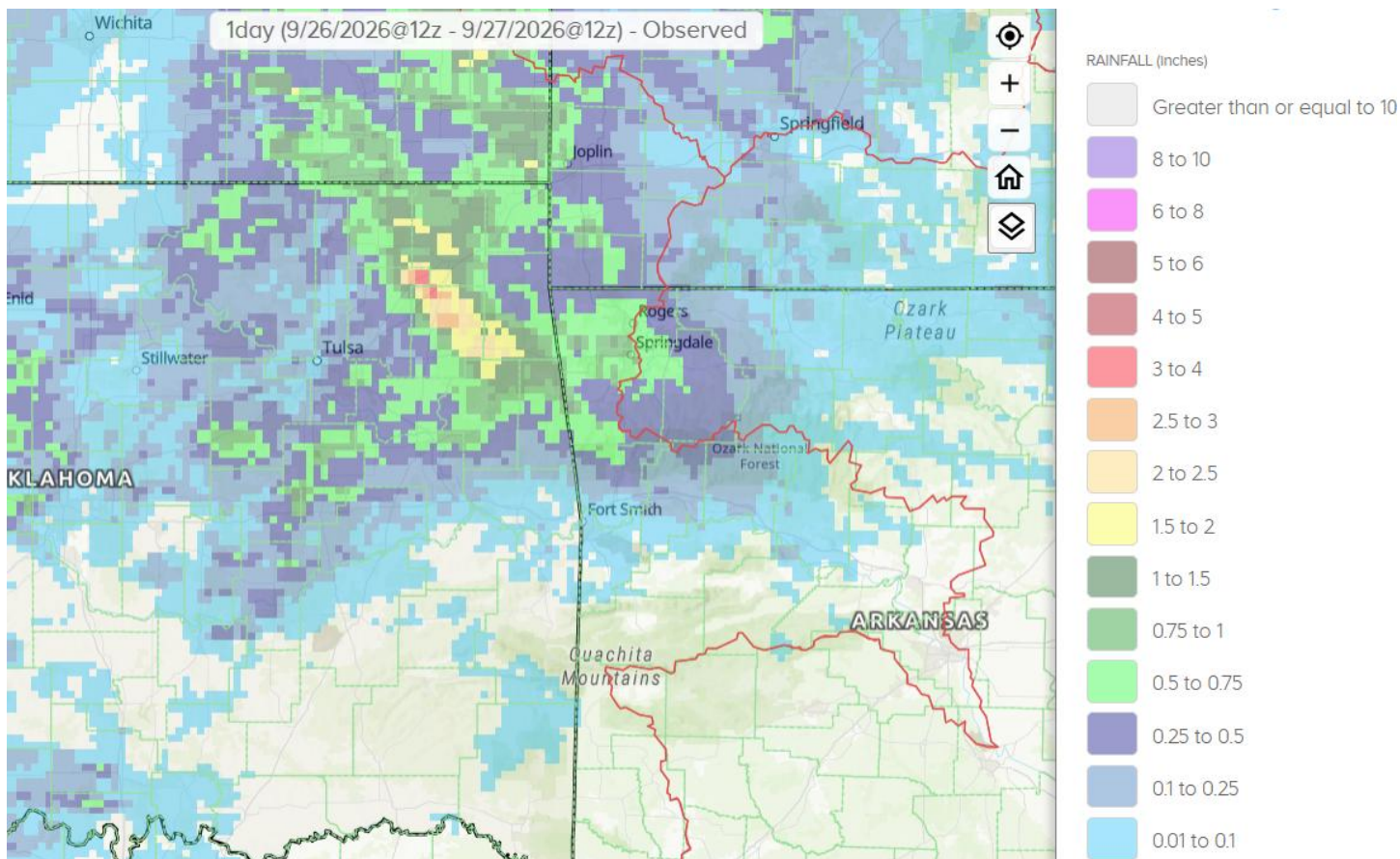


Fig. 10. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/27/2026.

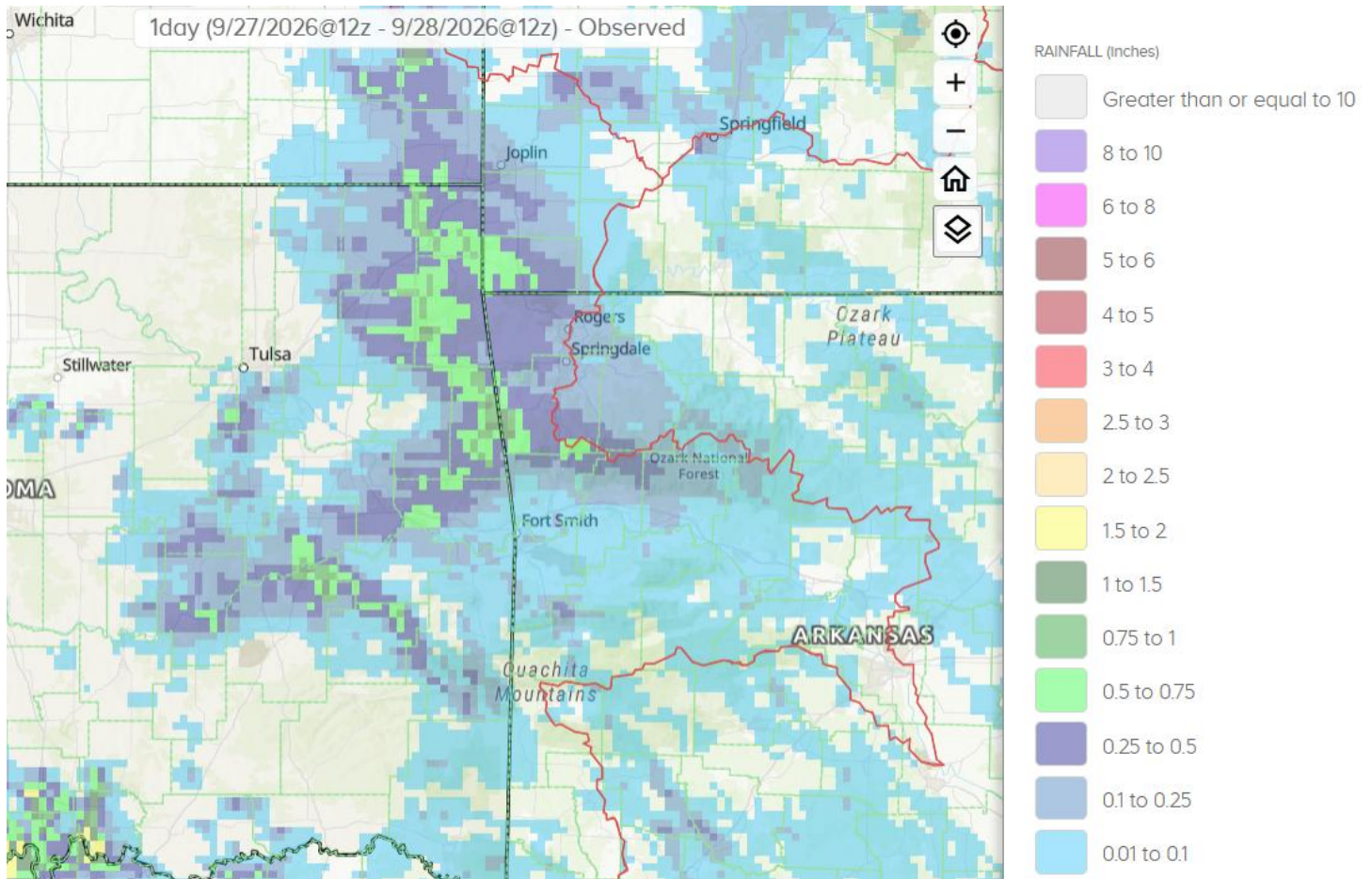


Fig. 11. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/28/2026.

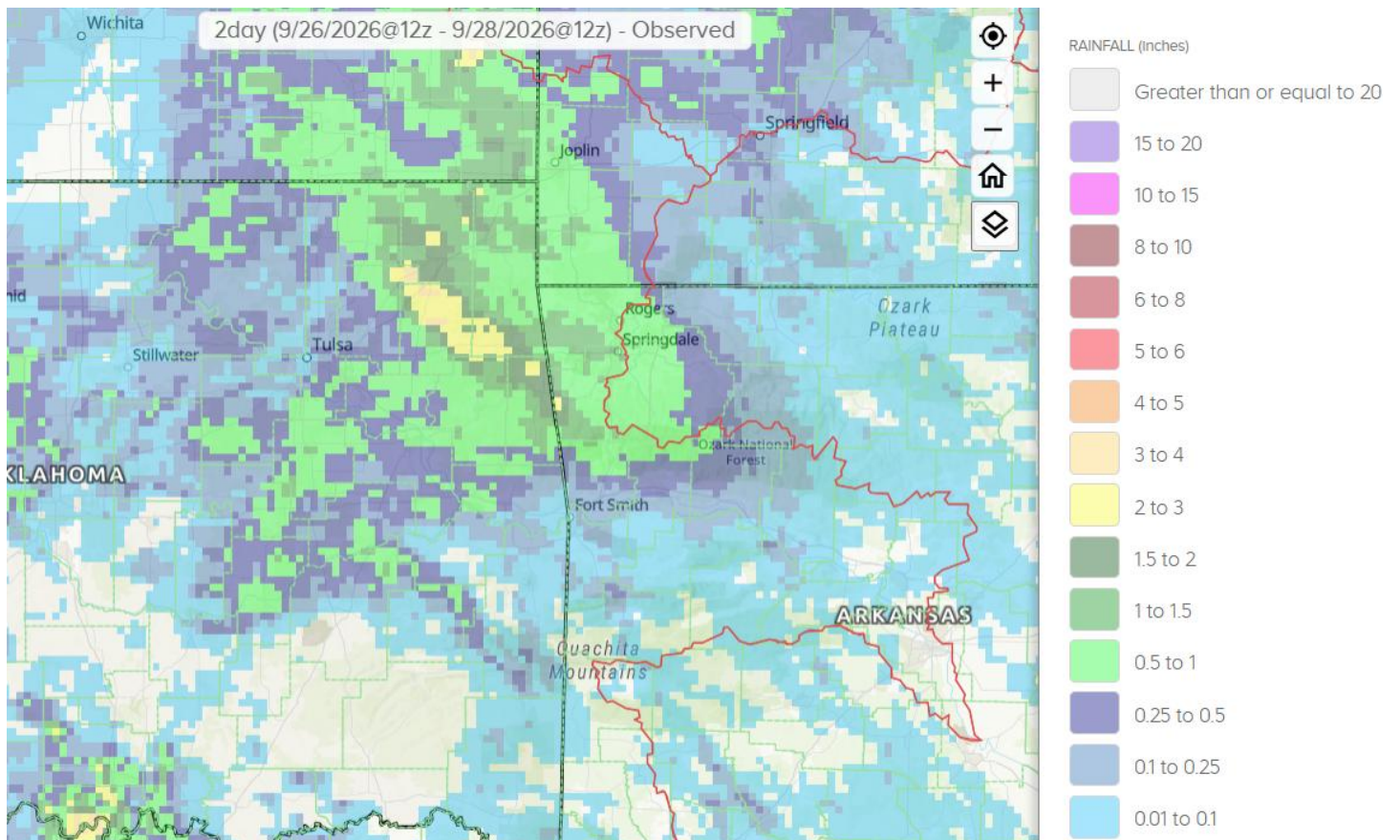


Fig. 12. 48-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/28/2026.

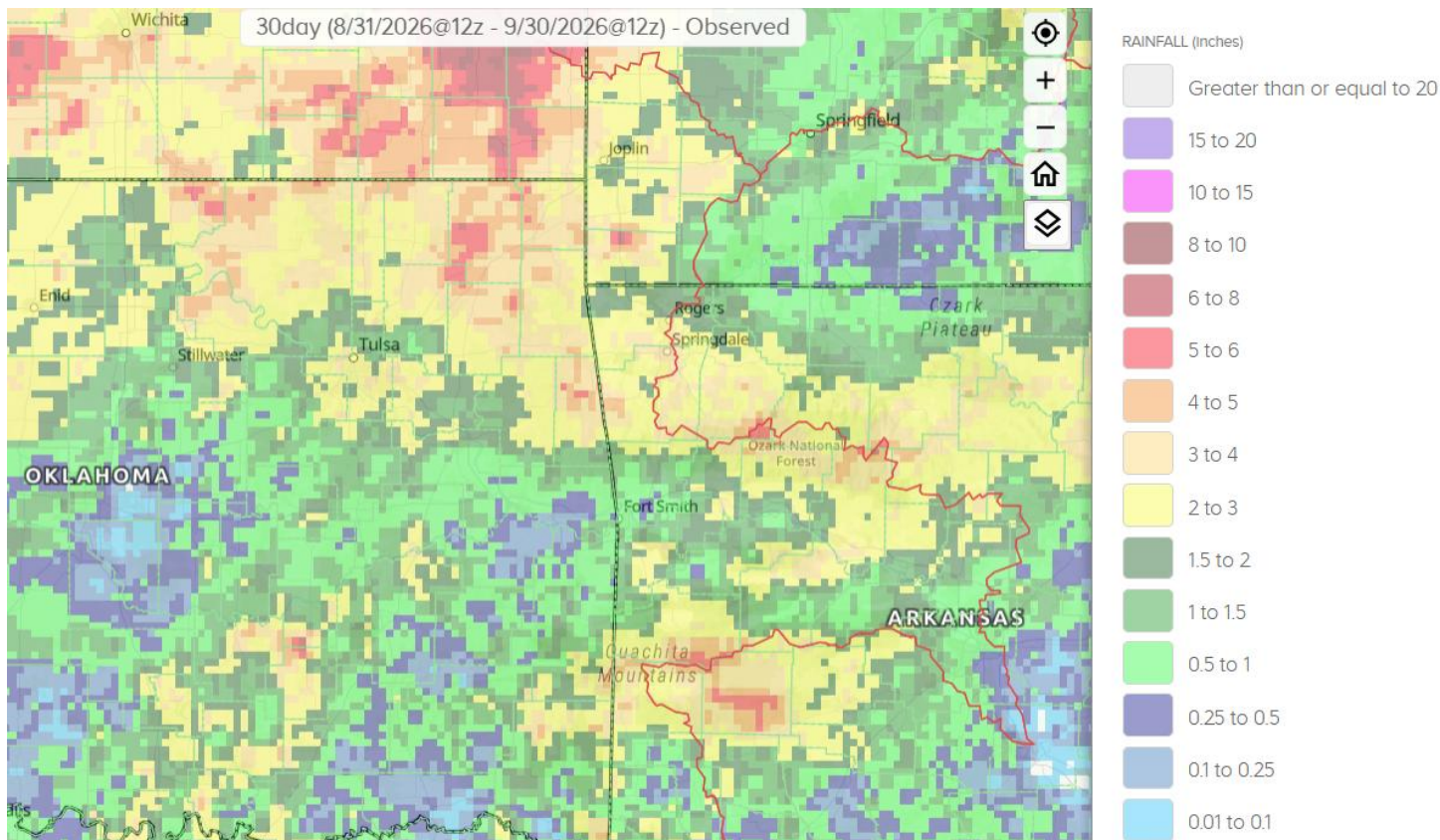


Fig. 13. 30-day Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/30/2026.

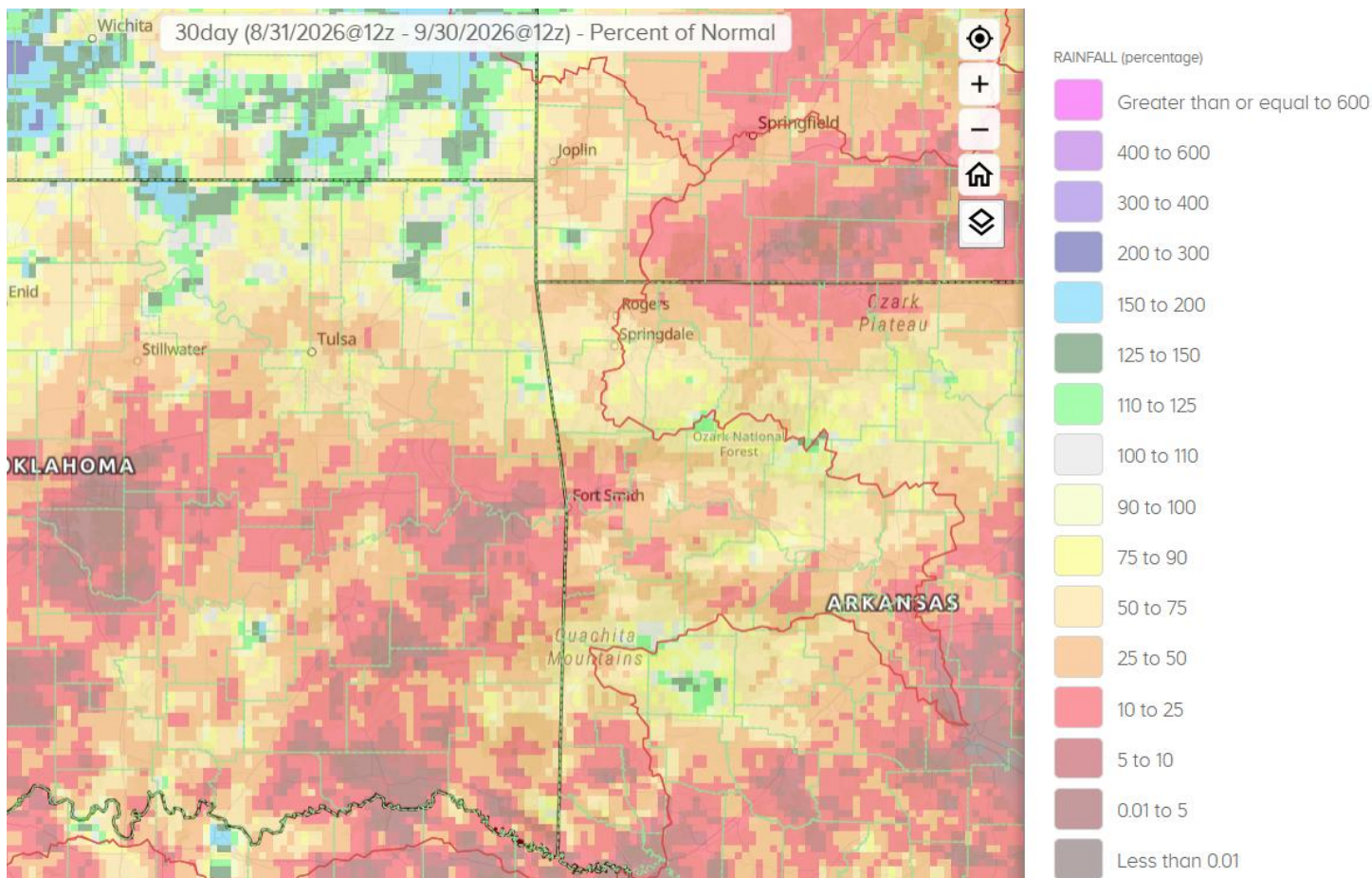


Fig. 14. 30-day Percent of Normal Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/30/2026.

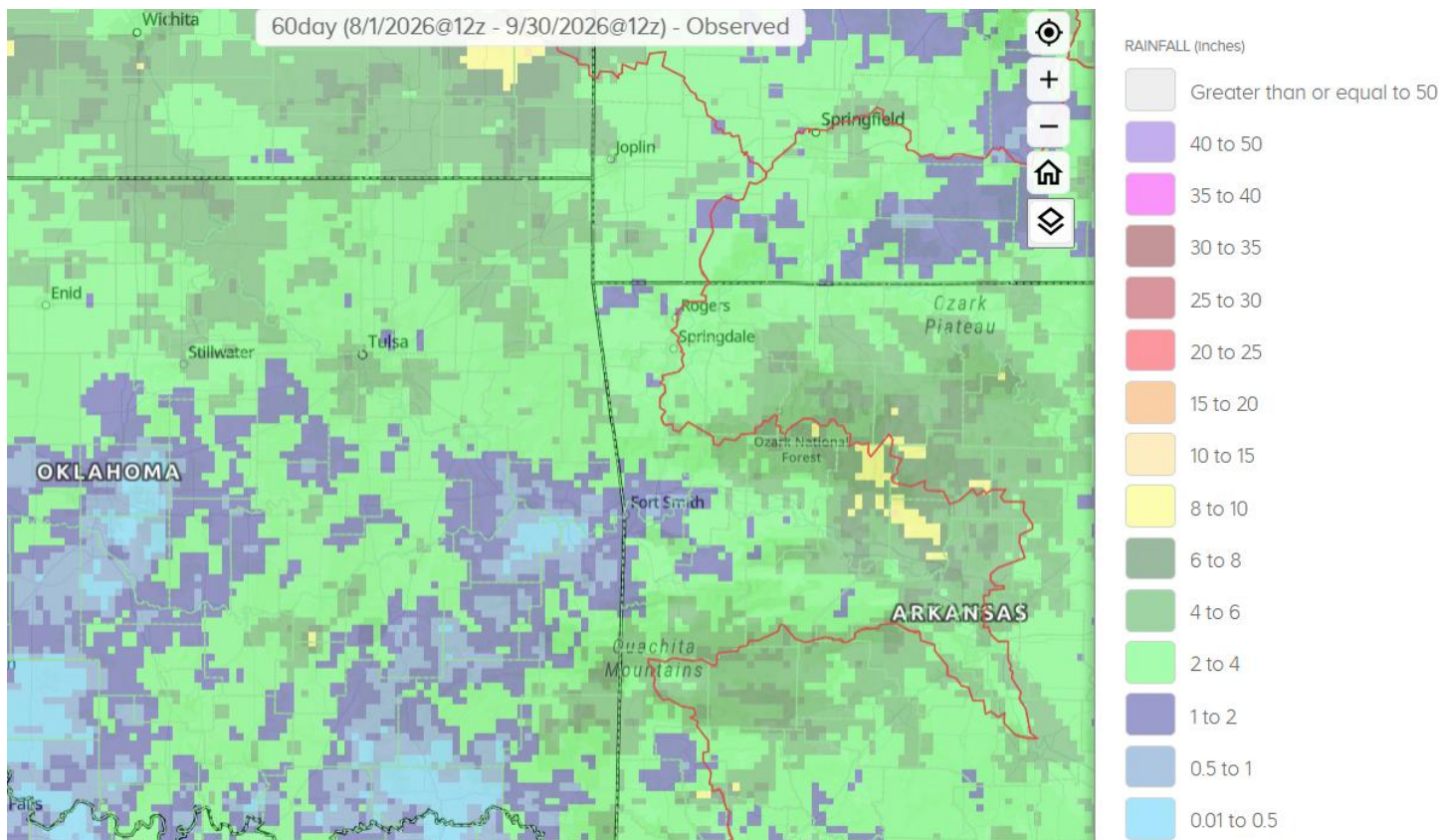


Fig. 15. 60-day Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/30/2026.

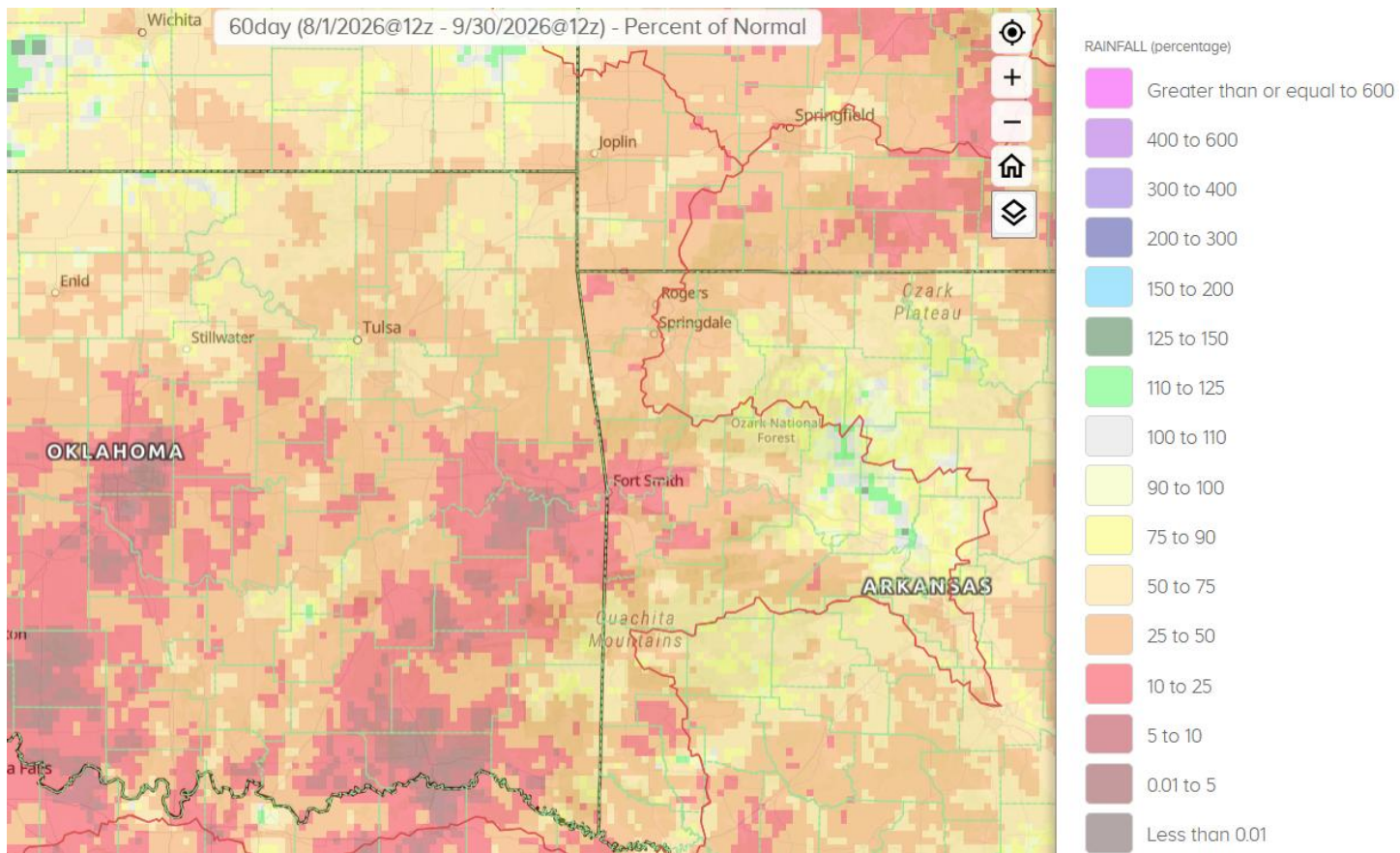


Fig. 16. 60-day Percent of Normal Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 09/30/2026.

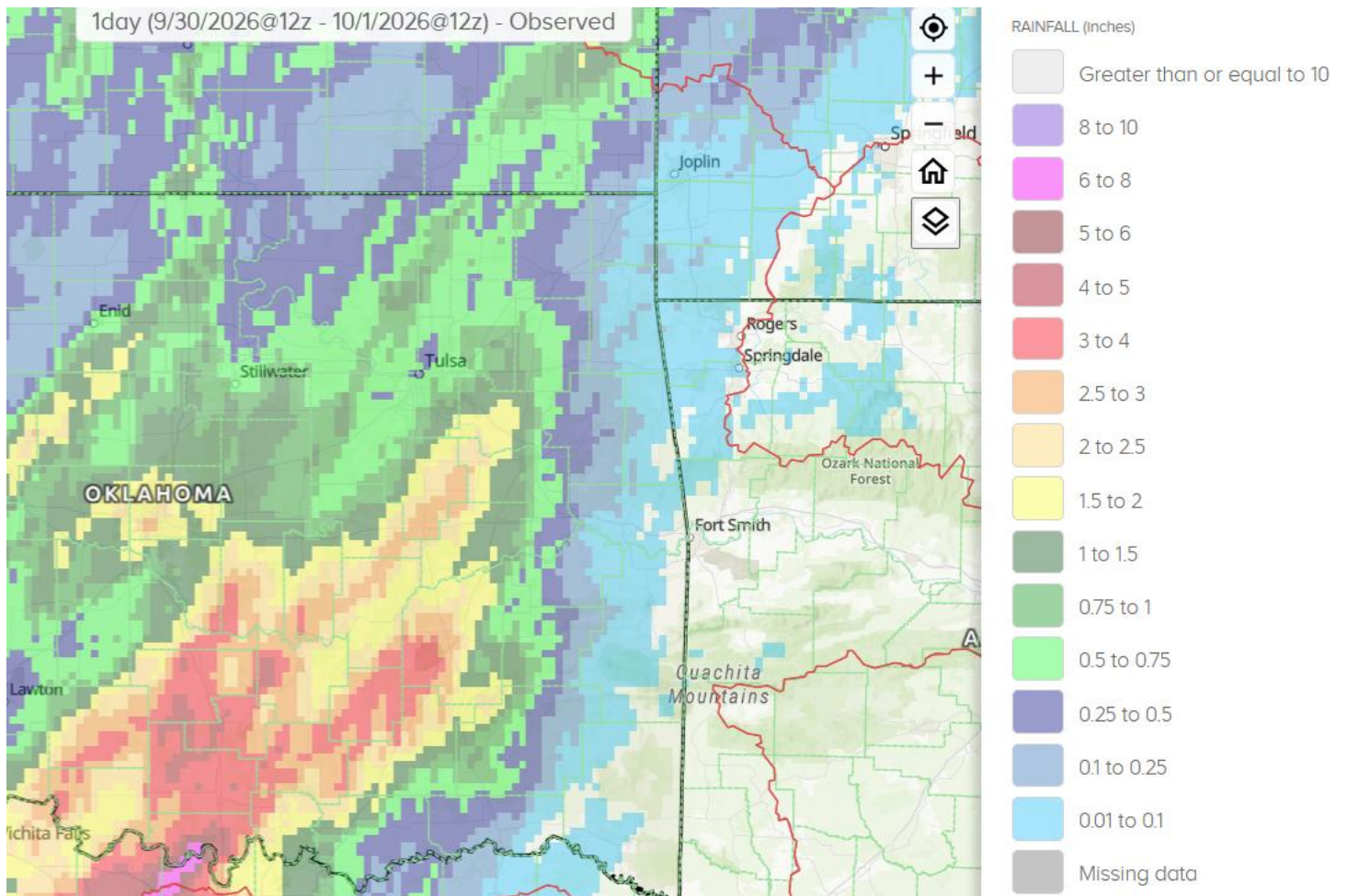
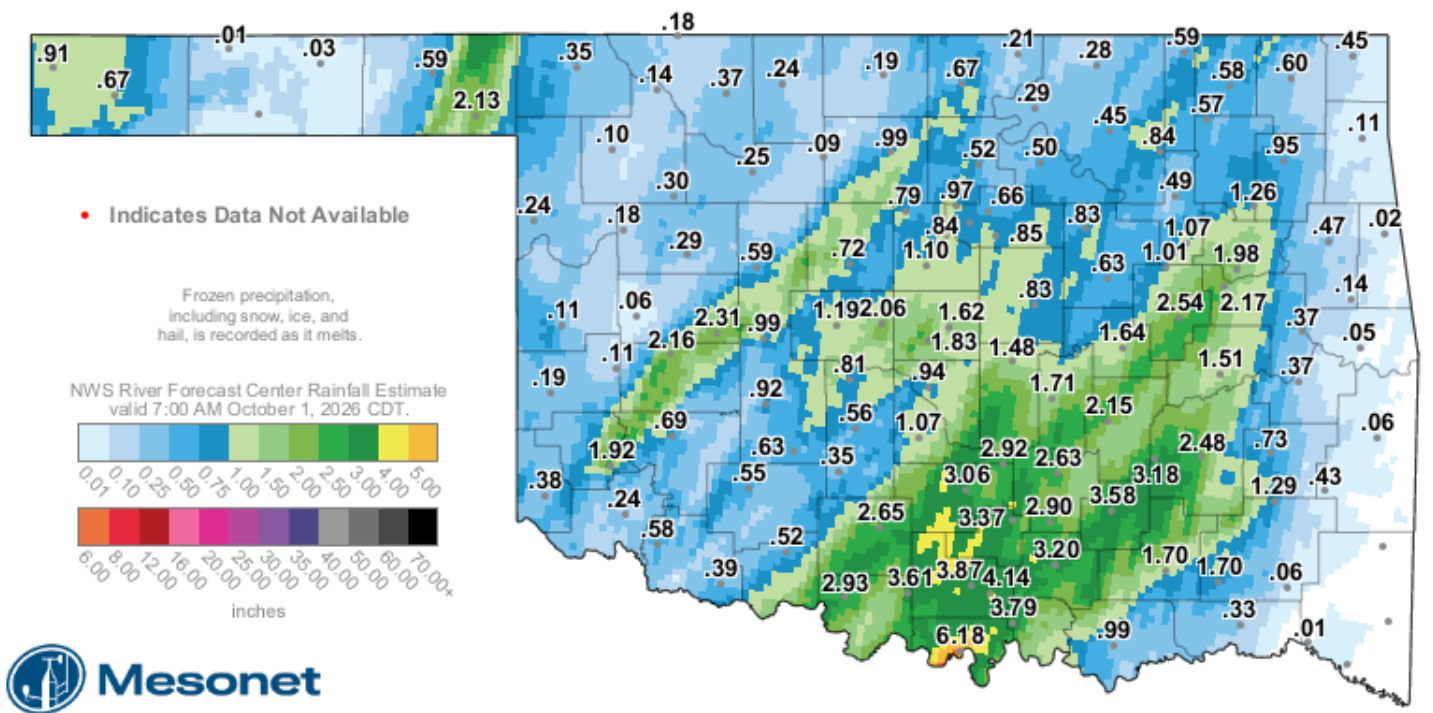


Fig. 17. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 10/01/2026.



24-hour Rainfall Accumulation (in.)

8:15 AM October 1, 2026 CDT

Created 8:21:32 AM October 1, 2026 CDT. © Copyright 2026

Fig. 18. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 8:15 am CDT 10/01/2026.

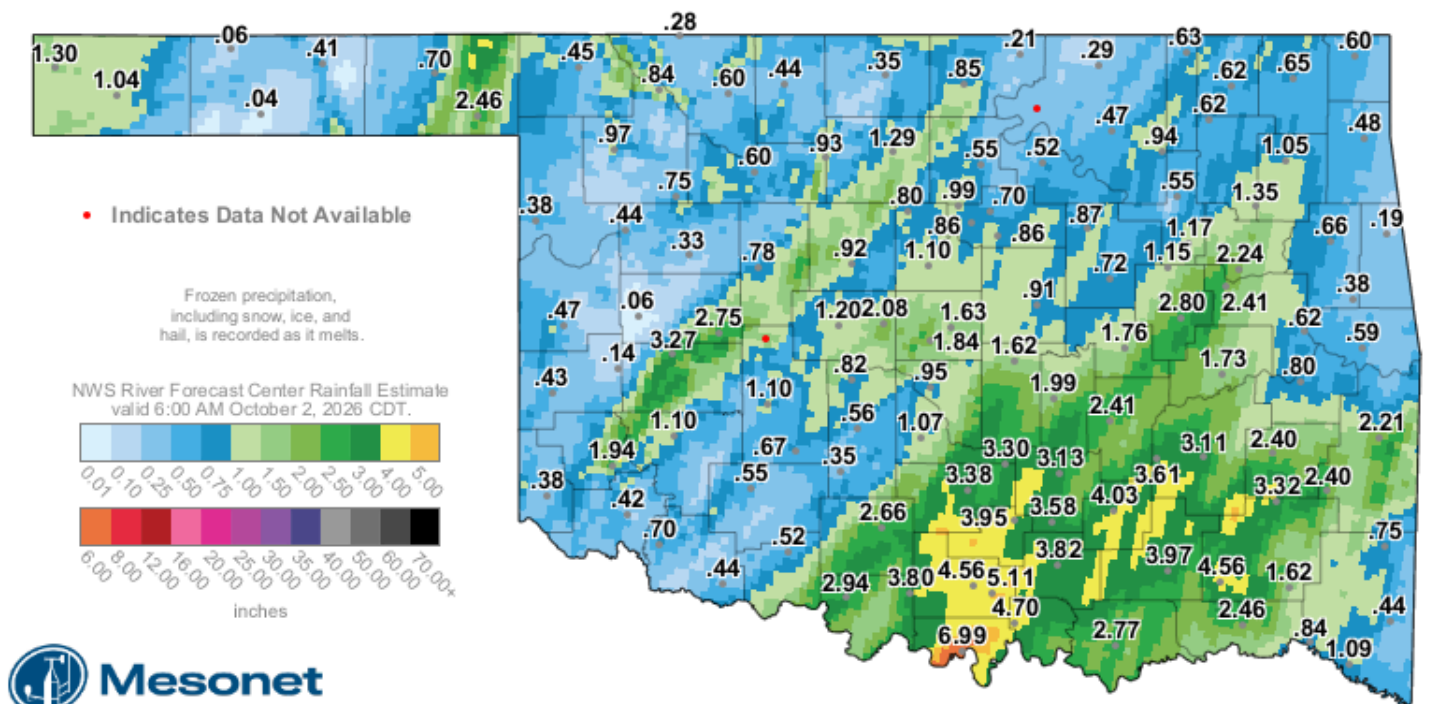


Fig. 19. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 48-hour rainfall ending at 7:20 am CDT 10/02/2026.

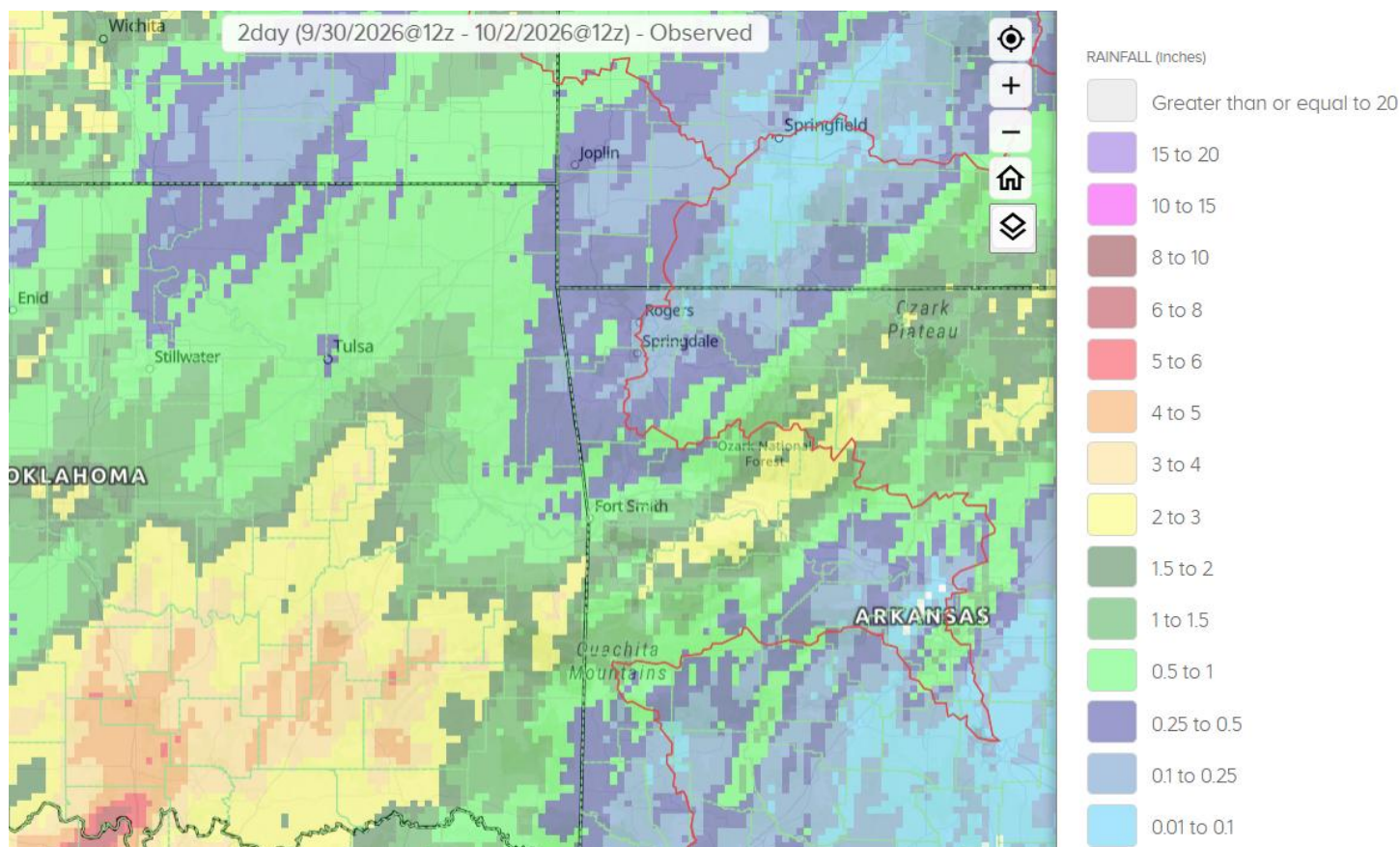


Fig. 20. 48-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 10/02/2026.

Written by:

Nicole McGavock
Service Hydrologist
WFO Tulsa

Products issued in September 2026:

- 0 Flash Flood Warnings (FFW)
- 0 Flash Flood Statements (FFS)
- 0 Flash/Areal Flood Watches (FFA) (0 Watch FFA CON/EXT/EXA/EXB/CAN)
- 2 Urban and Small Stream Advisories (FLS)
- 0 Areal Flood Warnings (FLW)
- 0 Areal Flood Statements (FLS)
- 0 River Flood Warnings (FLW) (includes category increases)
- 0 River Flood Statements (FLS)
- 0 River Flood Advisories (FLS) (0 Advisory FLS CON/EXT/CAN)
- 0 River Flood Watches (FFA) (0 Watch FFA CON/EXT/CAN)
- 0 River Statements (RVS)
- 0 Hydrologic Outlooks (ESF)
- 1 Drought Information Statements (DGT)

Preliminary Hydrographs:

None