Drought Information Statement for
Northeastern Wyoming and Western South Dakota
Valid March 20, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Rapid City, SD

Contact Information: nws.rapidcity@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated April 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/unr/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

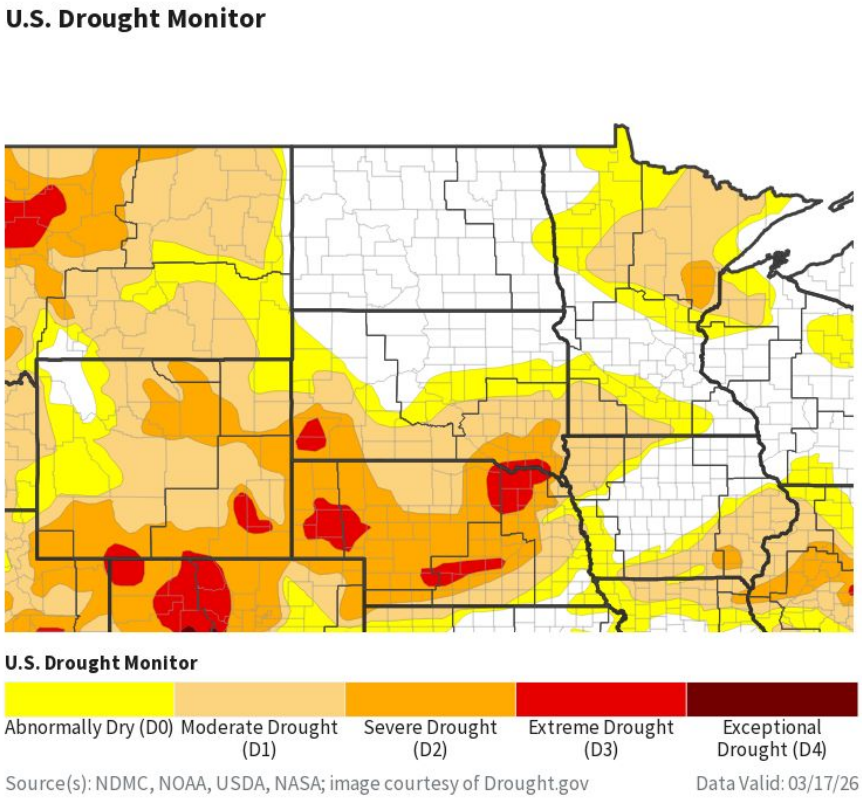
- Drought conditions continue to worsen due to dry, warm, and windy conditions.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for northeastern Wyoming and western South Dakota

Drought intensity and Extent

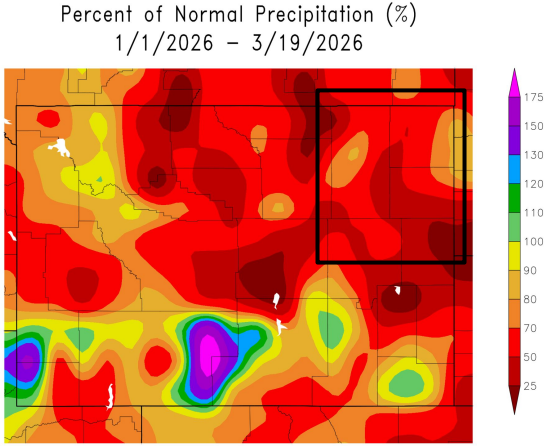
- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: not occurring
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: portions of Custer and Fall River Counties
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Southern Campbell, southern Weston, southern and western Pennington, rest of Custer and Fall River, and Oglala Lakota Counties.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Rest of Campbell, Weston and Pennington Counties as well as southern Crook, southern Lawrence, western Meade, Jackson, Bennett, Mellette, Todd, and Tripp Counties.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Rest of Crook, northern Lawrence, Butte, western and southern Harding, rest of Meade, western Haakon, and northern Jackson Counties.



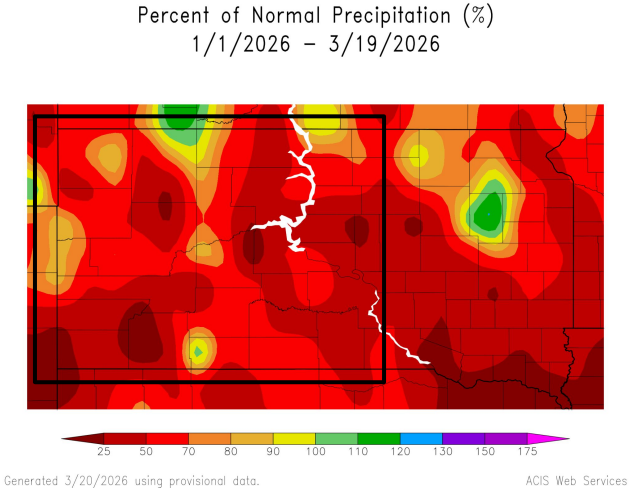
Precipitation: Percent of Normal Since January 1, 2026

- Precipitation has been much below average since January 1, 2026.
- Most locations are 1 to 2 inches below average for precipitation through mid-March.

Wyoming



South Dakota



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most streams and rivers are normal to below normal for this time of the year. Additional information from the USGS may be found here.

Agricultural Impacts

- USDA Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin can be found here.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Please visit Great Plains Fire Information for the latest fire restrictions.
- Windy days combined with dry, dead fuels will cause elevated to critical fire conditions.

Mitigation Actions

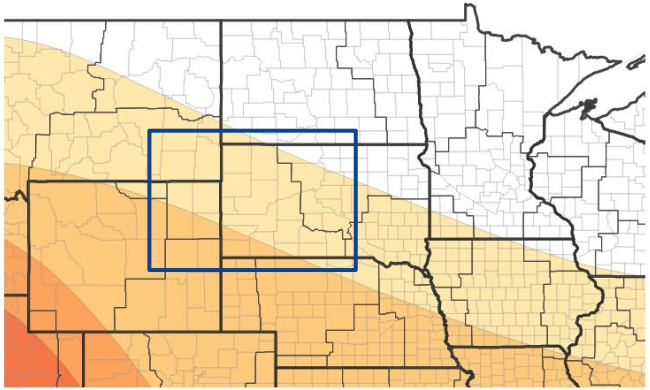
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- There is a greater chance for above average temperatures in April.
- There are equal chances for below, above and near normal precipitation in April.

Monthly Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

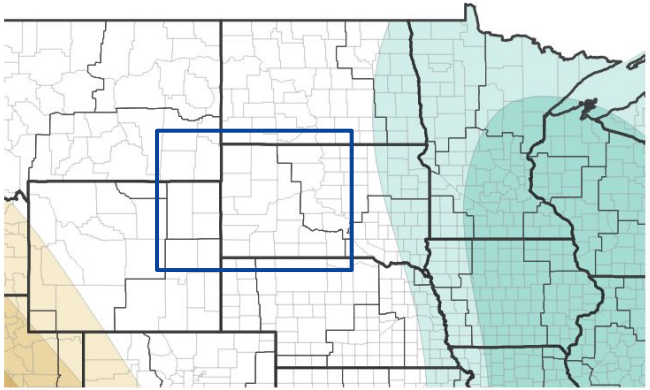
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/19/26

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

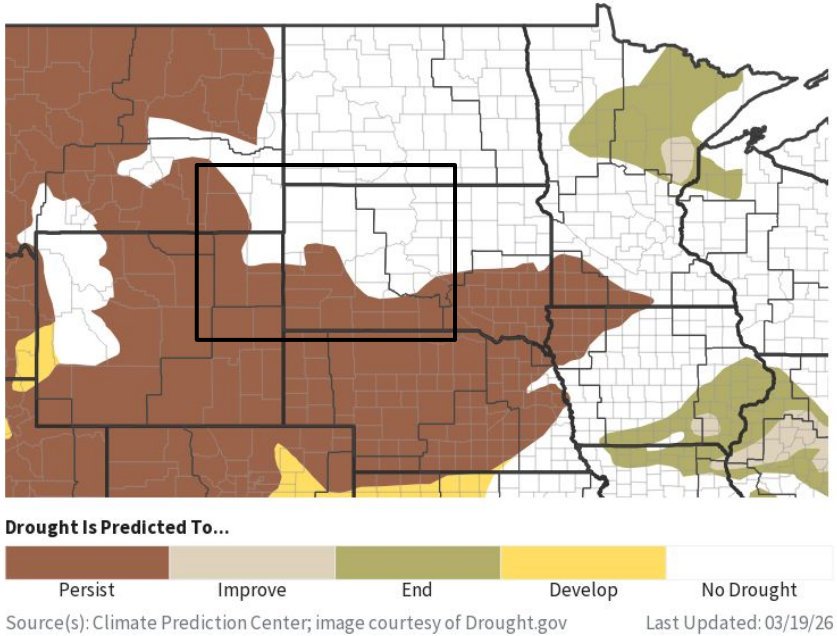
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/19/26

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Drought conditions are expected to persist into summer.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 19, 2026–June 30, 2026



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook