



2025 Spring Flood Outlook #1

February 13, 2025

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NWS Hastings Hydrologic Area: Central/South Central Nebraska and North Central Kansas



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Hastings, NE



Spring Flood Outlook - Overview

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Spring Flood Risk Across Central/South Central NE and North Central KS is Generally: Below Normal (Overall) to Near-To-Below Normal (shorter term ice jam risk)

- Local area snowpack is currently fairly minimal (mainly 2-5” depth...0.10-0.40” liquid content)
- Mountain snowpack in the North/South Platte River Basins is near to below normal with plenty of storage space in some reservoirs upstream of our area such as Lake McConaughy
- Soil moisture is overall drier than normal and should be capable of absorbing plenty of moisture once the ground thaws...thus limiting spring flood potential
- Current streamflow on most of our rivers is averaging near normal to below normal
- The CPC longer range precipitation outlook (March-May) indicates a mix of “equal chances” in our area along with a slight lean toward below normal precip (*no clear above normal indicators*)
- Shorter-term possible ice jam risk late Feb-early March: Ongoing/upcoming very cold temperatures especially next 7-10 days will grow ice, with expectation of a late-Feb warm-up causing some melt/ice movement.
- *NOTE: Isolated flooding is still possible even in dry years and when the overall flood risk is low.*





Spring Flood Outlook - Risk Factors

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Central/South Central Nebraska and North Central Kansas

Overall Spring Flood Risk

**** Below Normal (except near-to-below short term ice jam potential) ****

Contributing Factors	Shorter Term: Late Feb-early March	Longer Term: Late March - May
Local Area Snowpack	Low	Low
Mountain Snowpack	Low	Low
River Ice/Frozen Ground	Low-to-Elevated	Low
Soil Moisture	Low	Low
Streamflow	Low	Low
Precipitation Outlook	Low	Low

Bottom Line Up Front

- **Below Normal OVERALL Spring Flood Risk:** Biggest factors are drought/drier soil and seasonal precipitation not forecast to be above normal.
- **Near-to-Below Normal Shorter Term Ice Jam Flood Risk (Platte/Loup Rivers):** Ongoing/upcoming very cold temperatures especially next 7-10 days will grow ice, with expectation of a late-Feb warm-up causing some melt/ice movement.
- **Streamflow:** Our main rivers are mostly running with below to near normal flow.
- **Precipitation Outlooks:** CPC indicates a mix of "equal chances" and a slight lean toward below normal precip March-May

Impact Level

Low

Elevated

Significant



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Regional Snowpack

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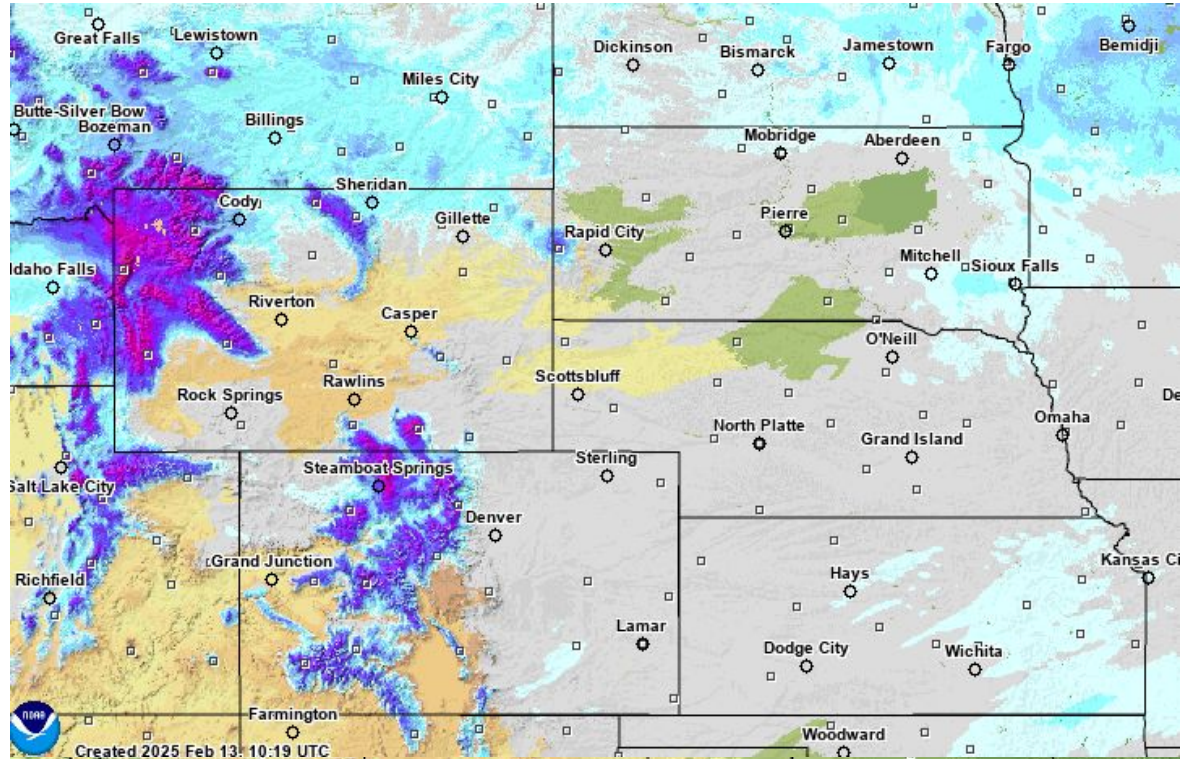
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Fairly shallow in/near our region

Key Messages

→ Only fairly shallow snow depth within/near our forecast area

→ Mainly no more than 2-5" snow...water equivalent 0.10-0.40"





2024-25 Seasonal Snow-To-Date

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All but far southeast areas still “well behind schedule”...despite recent Feb. 11-12 snow

As of Feb 12, 2025:

Grand Island

Seasonal Snow (since fall 2024):

Current 8.0”
Normal 18.5”
Departure -10.5”

Grand Island

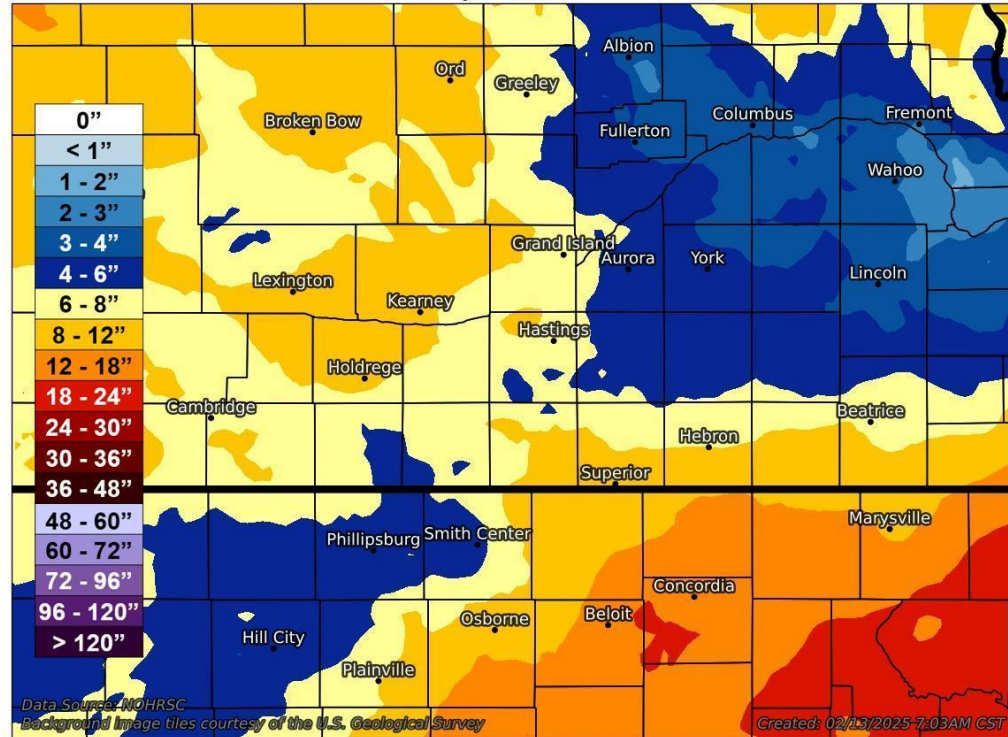
Liquid Equivalent Precipitation:

Since December 1, 2024
(meteorological winter)
Liquid 0.85”
Normal 1.77”
Departure -0.92”



Season Total Snow

As of: February 12, 2025 - 6AM CST





Precipitation Trends Last 90 Days

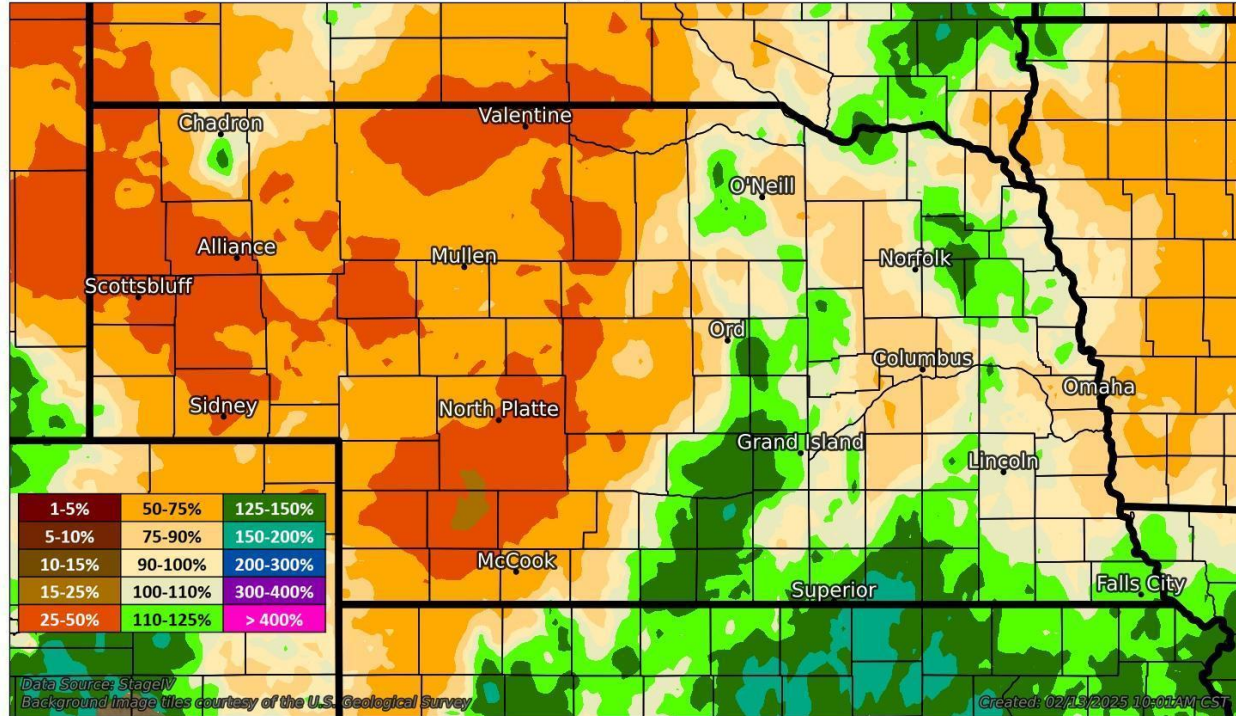
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Mix of Above/Below Normal...BUT Still Some Influence From a Wet November



90-Day Precip Percent

As of: February 13, 2025 - 6AM CST



Key Messages

- Precipitation % of normal last 90 days
- Mix of above/below normal in our forecast area
- **HOWEVER**, some of the above normal areas still being influenced by a wet November (*well below normal for many since then*)

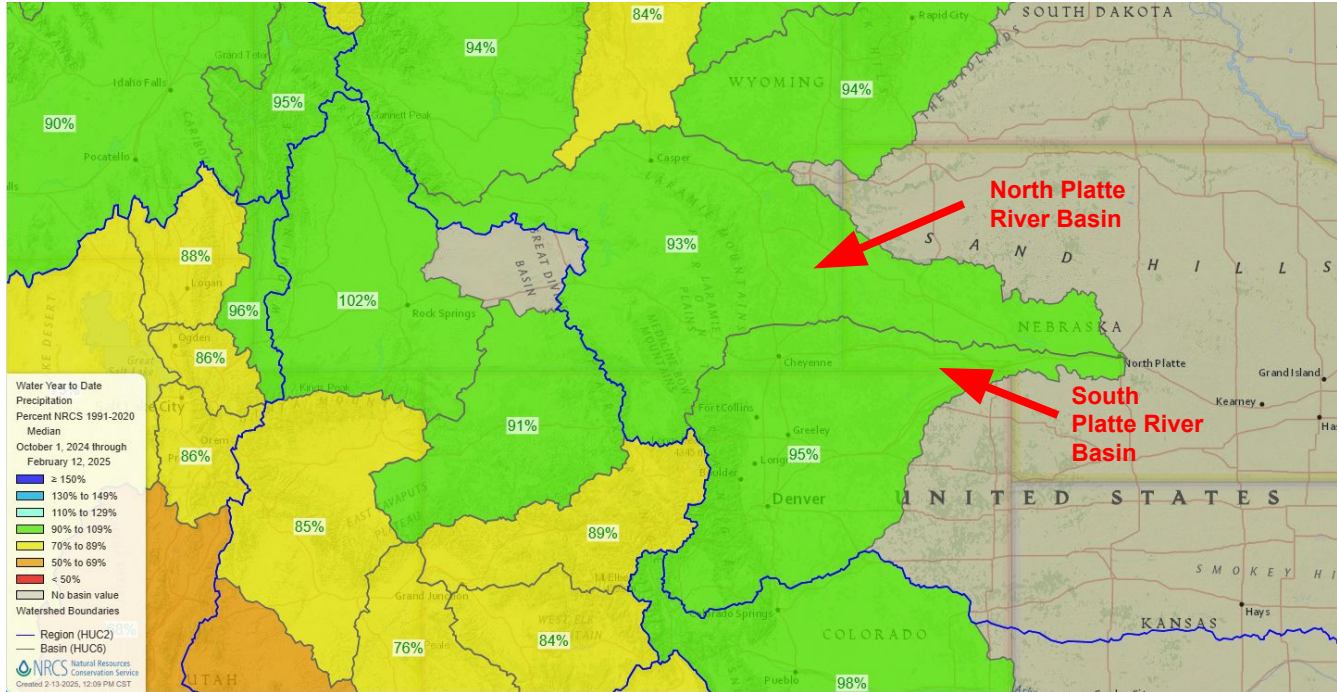




Western Moisture/Snowpack

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Near-to-Slightly Below Normal Water Year Precipitation in Basins That “Feed” Platte River



Location	Today (Feet above Sea Level)	1 Week Ago	1 Month Ago	1 Year Ago
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Lake McConaughy	3,236.6 = 1,012,800ac-ft (58.1% capacity)	3,236.5	3,236.2	3,239.5
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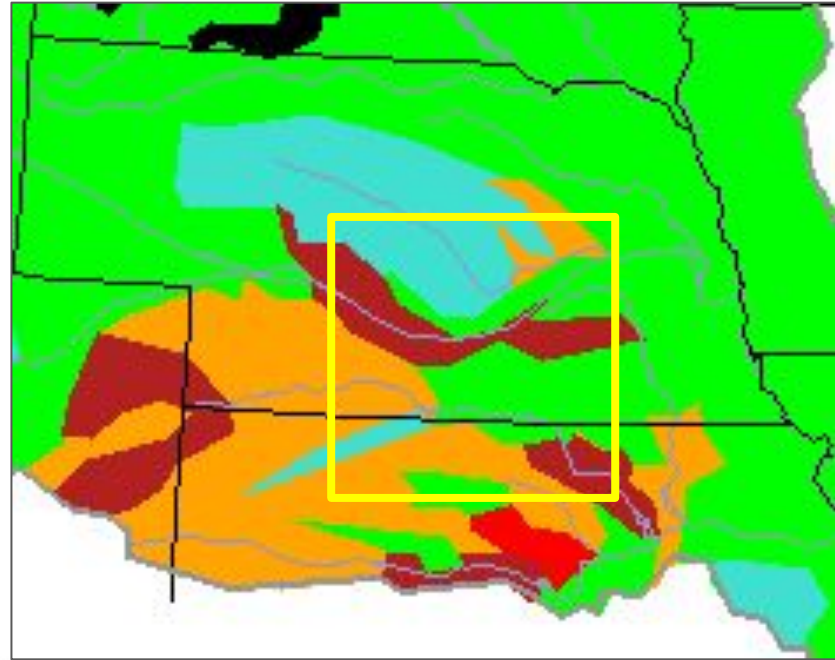
7-Day Average Streamflow

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As of Feb. 12

Key Messages

→ Most rivers are currently running normal-to-below normal within our forecast area



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked





Freezing Degree Days (FDD)

February 13, 2025

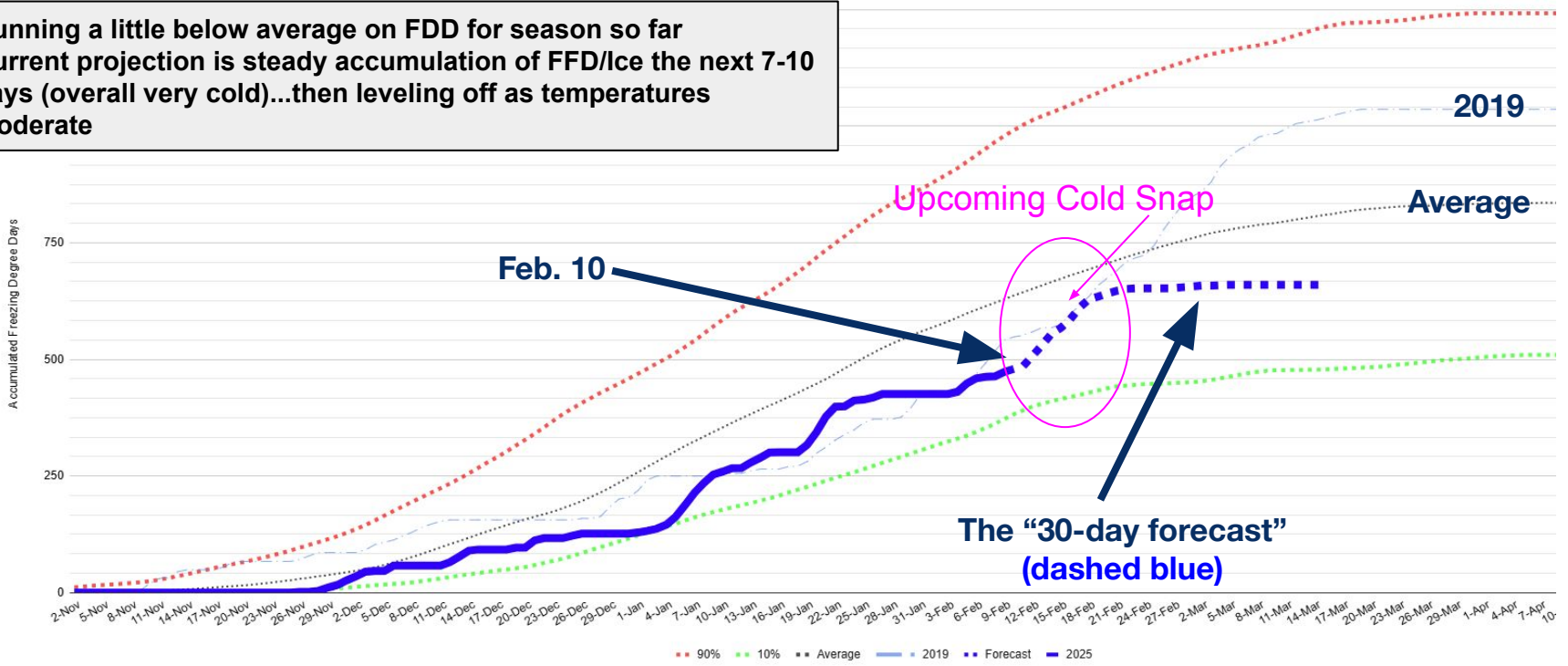
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Grand Island - Below Normal FDD Indicates Overall-Warmer Winter-So-Far

Accumulated Freezing Degree Days for Grand Island, NE

→ Running a little below average on FDD for season so far

→ Current projection is steady accumulation of FFD/Ice the next 7-10 days (overall very cold)...then leveling off as temperatures moderate





Soil Moisture Versus Normal

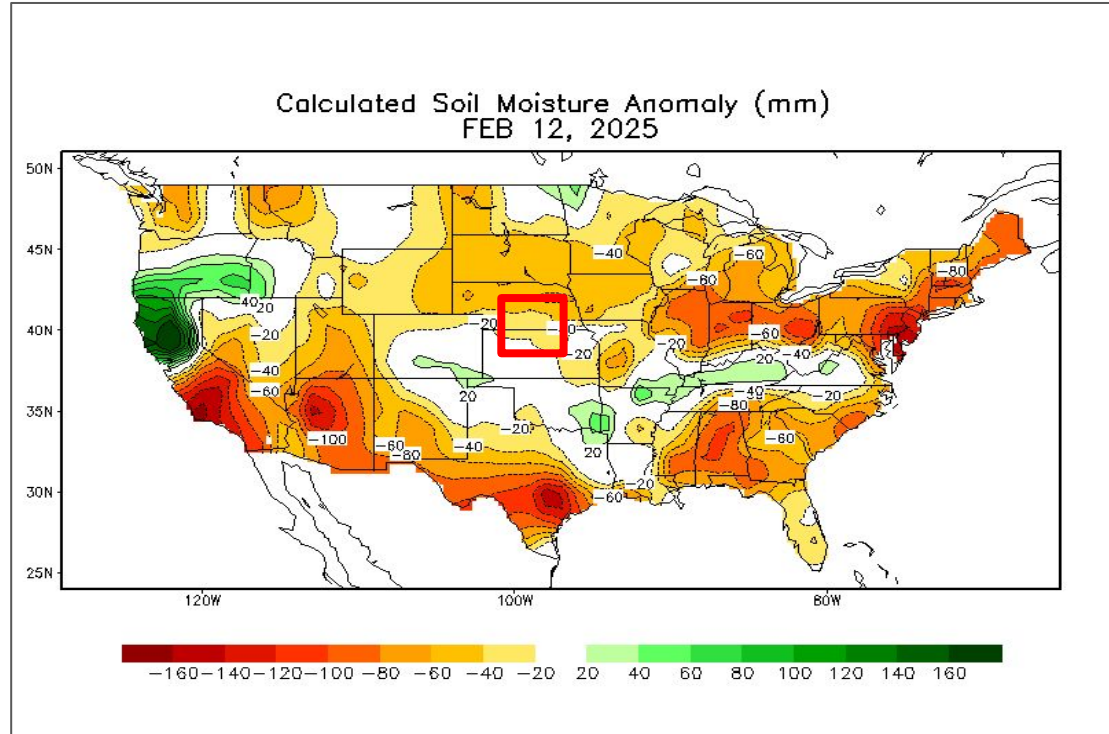
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Slightly Below Normal Prevailing Locally

Key Messages

- At least slightly below normal prevailing over our area
- Soil should be able to absorb a good deal of spring moisture once thaws



Dry

Moist





Latest U.S. Drought Monitor

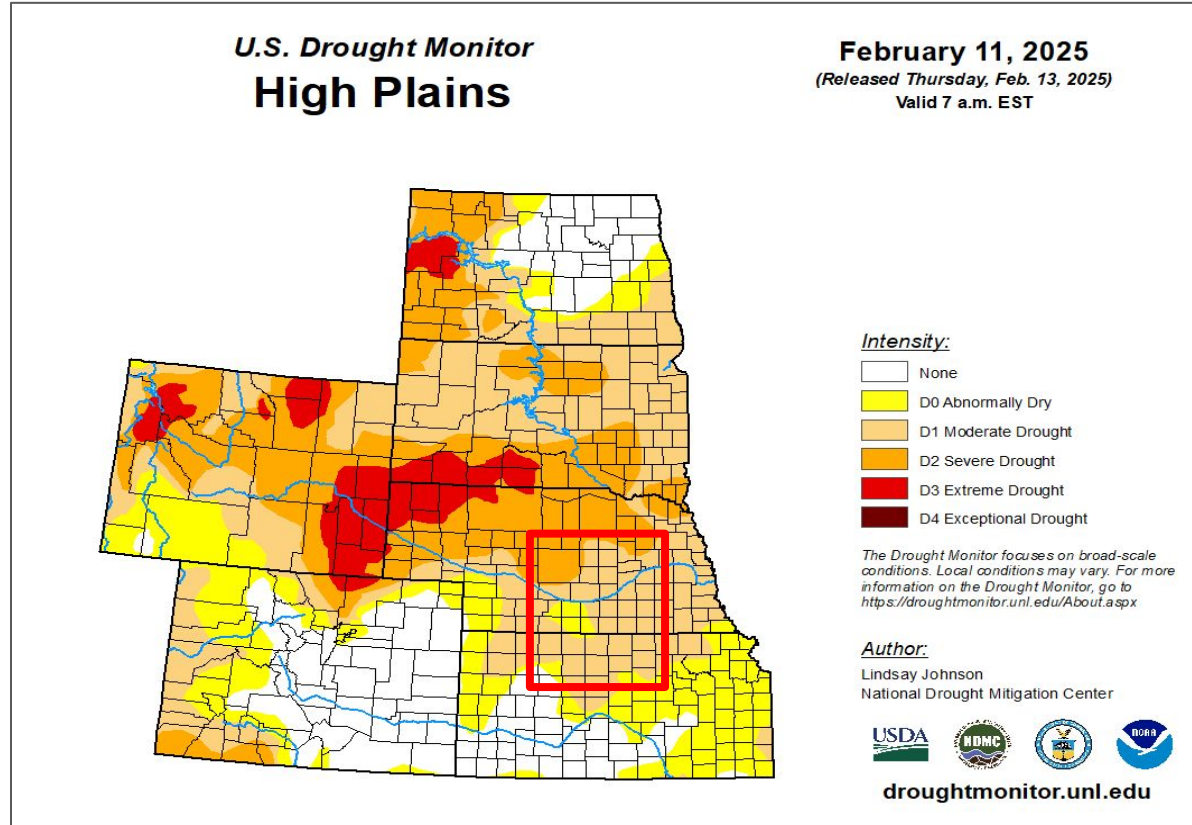
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Mostly Moderate Drought (D1) Across Our Forecast Area

Key Messages

- ➔ Mostly Moderate Drought (D1) across our forecast area
- ➔ VERY LITTLE change over the winter so far
- ➔ Soil should be able to absorb a good deal of spring moisture once thaws





6-10 Day Outlook (Feb. 18-22)

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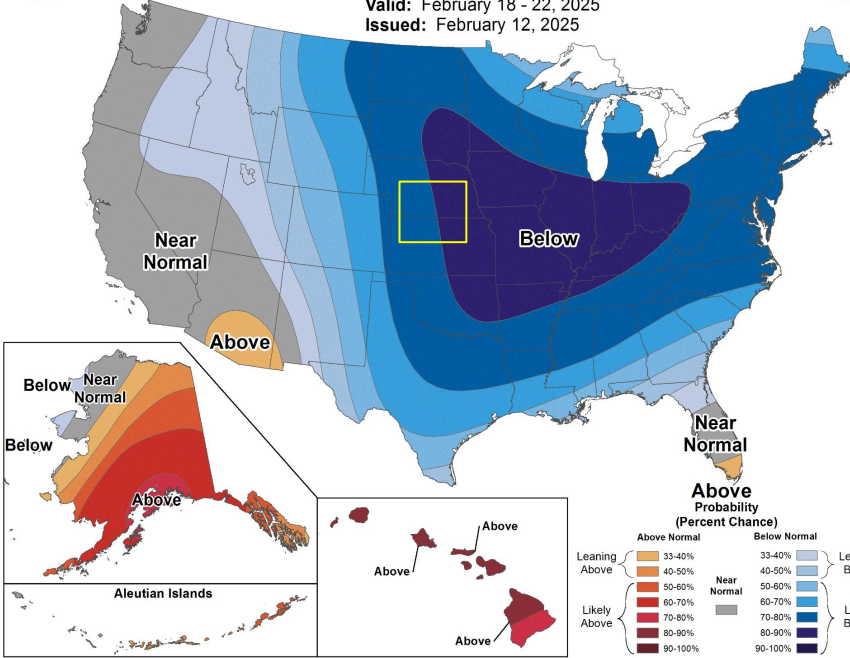
Turning Much Colder Again With Potentially More Snow Chances (especially Feb. 18-19)



6-10 Day Temperature Outlook



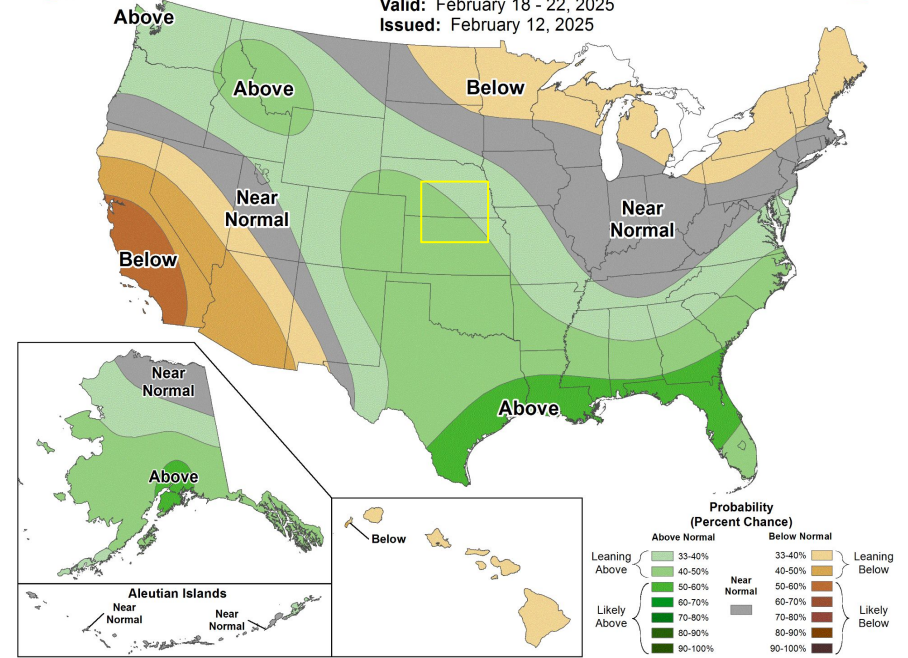
Valid: February 18 - 22, 2025
Issued: February 12, 2025



6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook



Valid: February 18 - 22, 2025
Issued: February 12, 2025





8-14 Day Outlook (Feb. 20-26)

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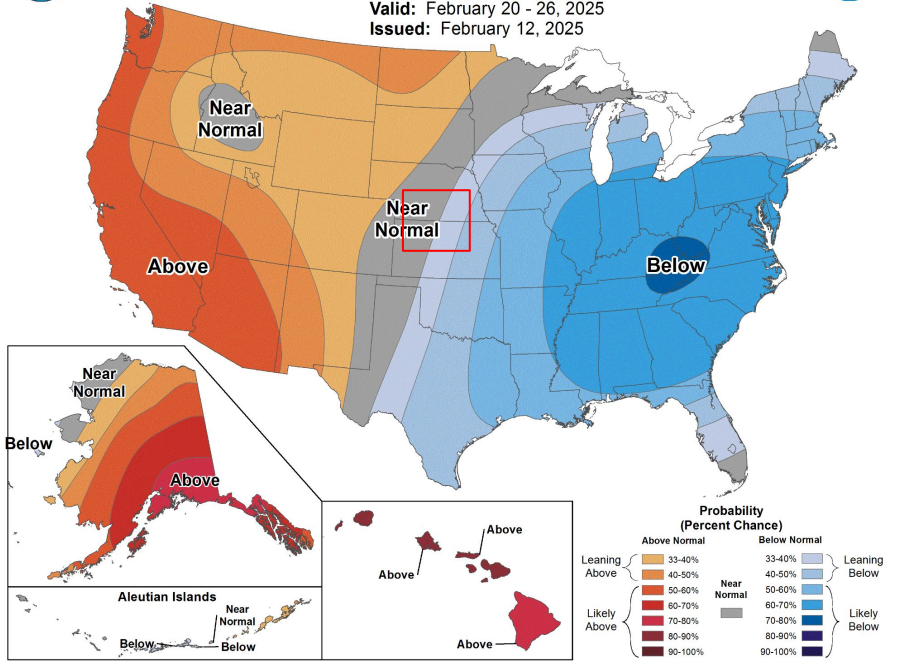
Trending Back Toward Near-Normal Temps/Overall-Drier Toward End of Month



8-14 Day Temperature Outlook



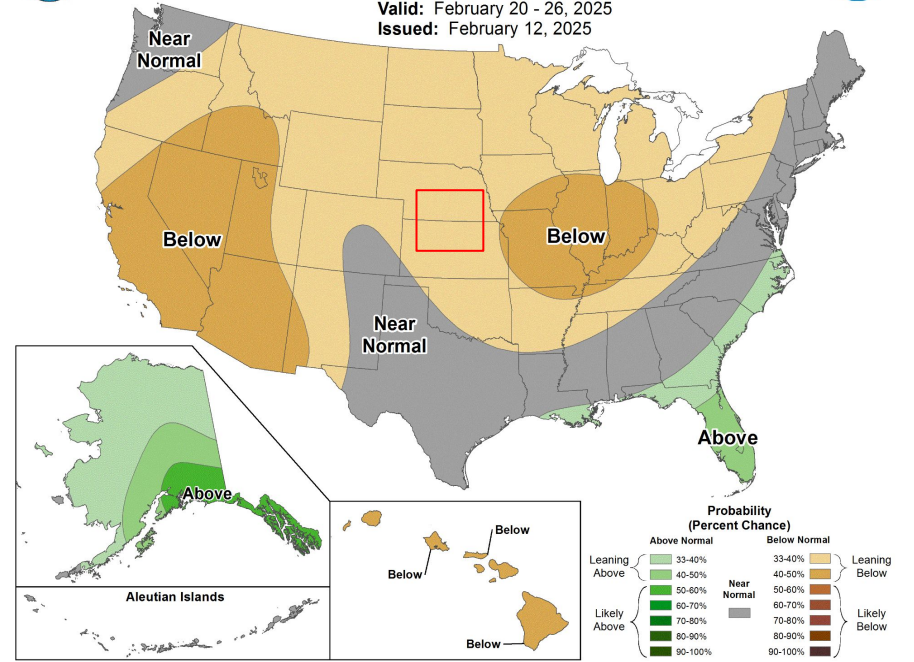
Valid: February 20 - 26, 2025
Issued: February 12, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook



Valid: February 20 - 26, 2025
Issued: February 12, 2025





February One-Month Outlook

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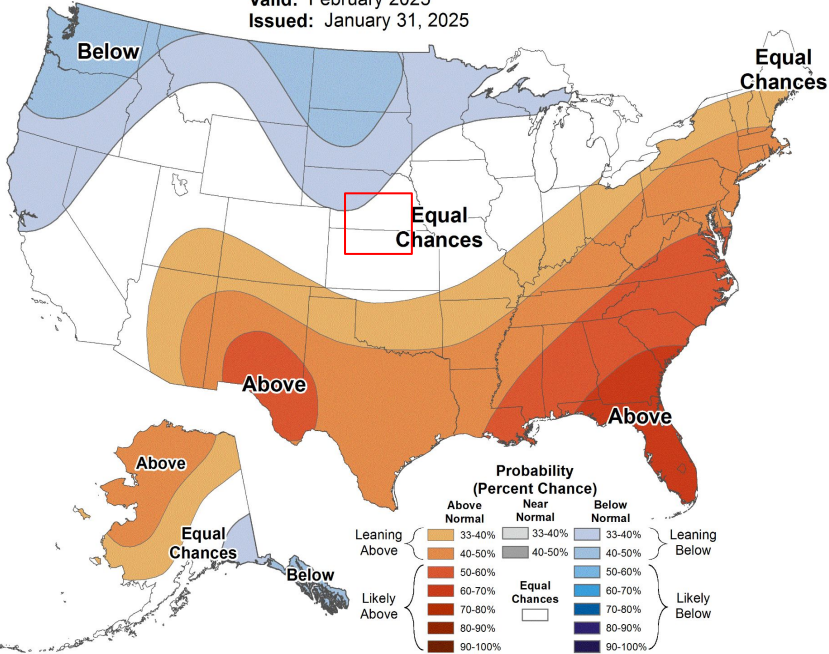
NOTE: Since this was issued two weeks ago, February temperature trend has leaned colder



Monthly Temperature Outlook



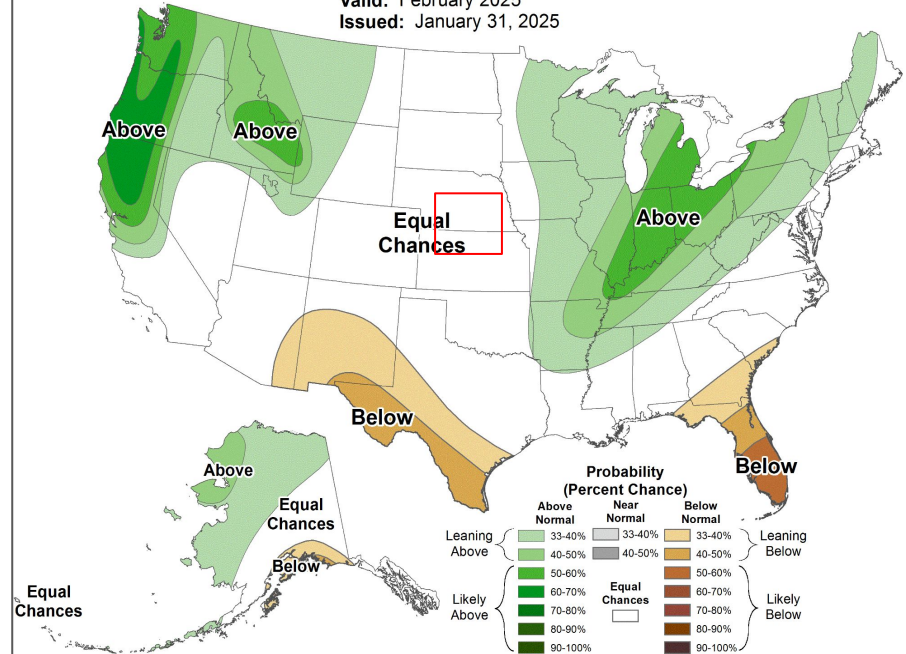
Valid: February 2025
Issued: January 31, 2025



Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: February 2025
Issued: January 31, 2025





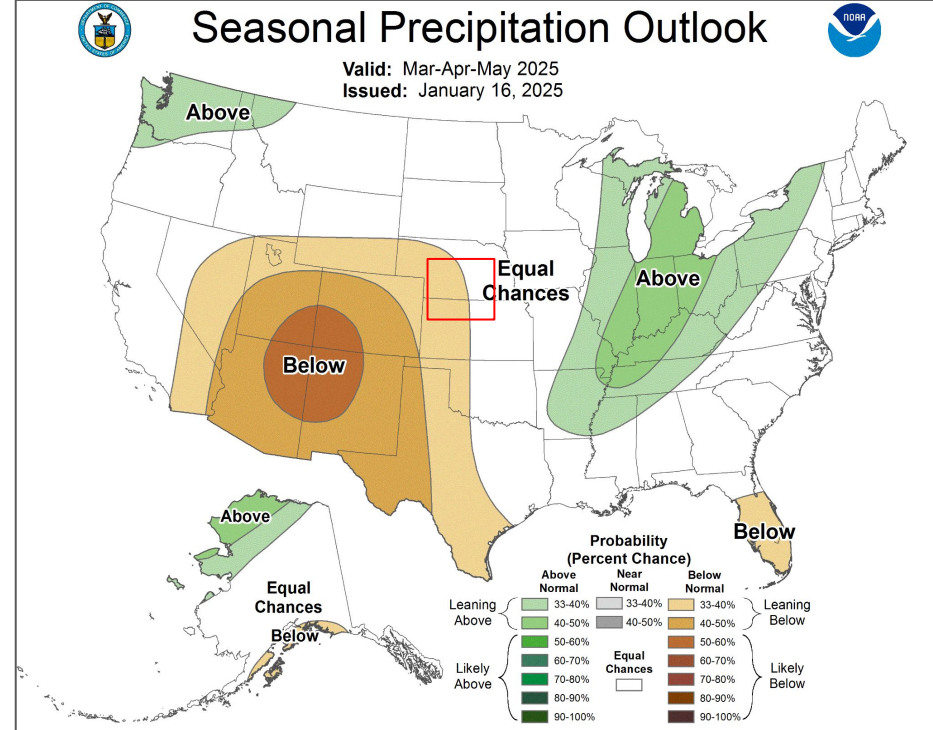
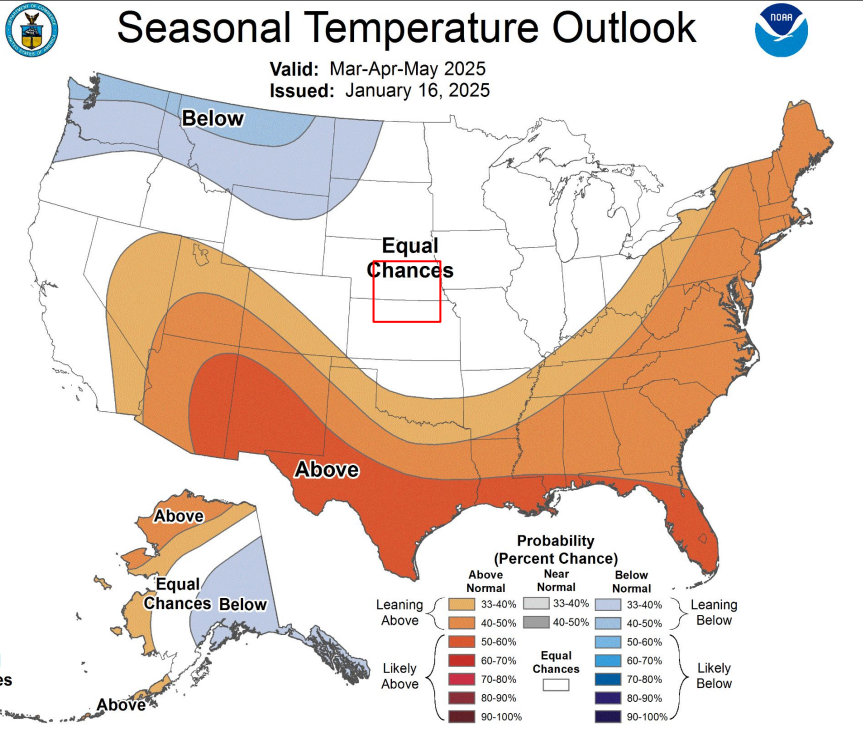
Three Month Outlook (March-May)

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No strong indicators across our region...slight lean toward below normal precip in our west

March - May

March - May





This Concludes 2025 Spring Flood Outlook #1

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NEXT ISSUANCE: Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025



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