Spring Flood Outlook

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ The overall spring flood threat is **Below-Normal**

➔ Due to limited snowpack and ongoing drought there is a below normal threat for flooding along the Missouri River.

Important Information

➔ The region lost its snowpack the first and second weeks of February.

➔ Area rivers lost their ice the first week of February.

➔ This is the final update.

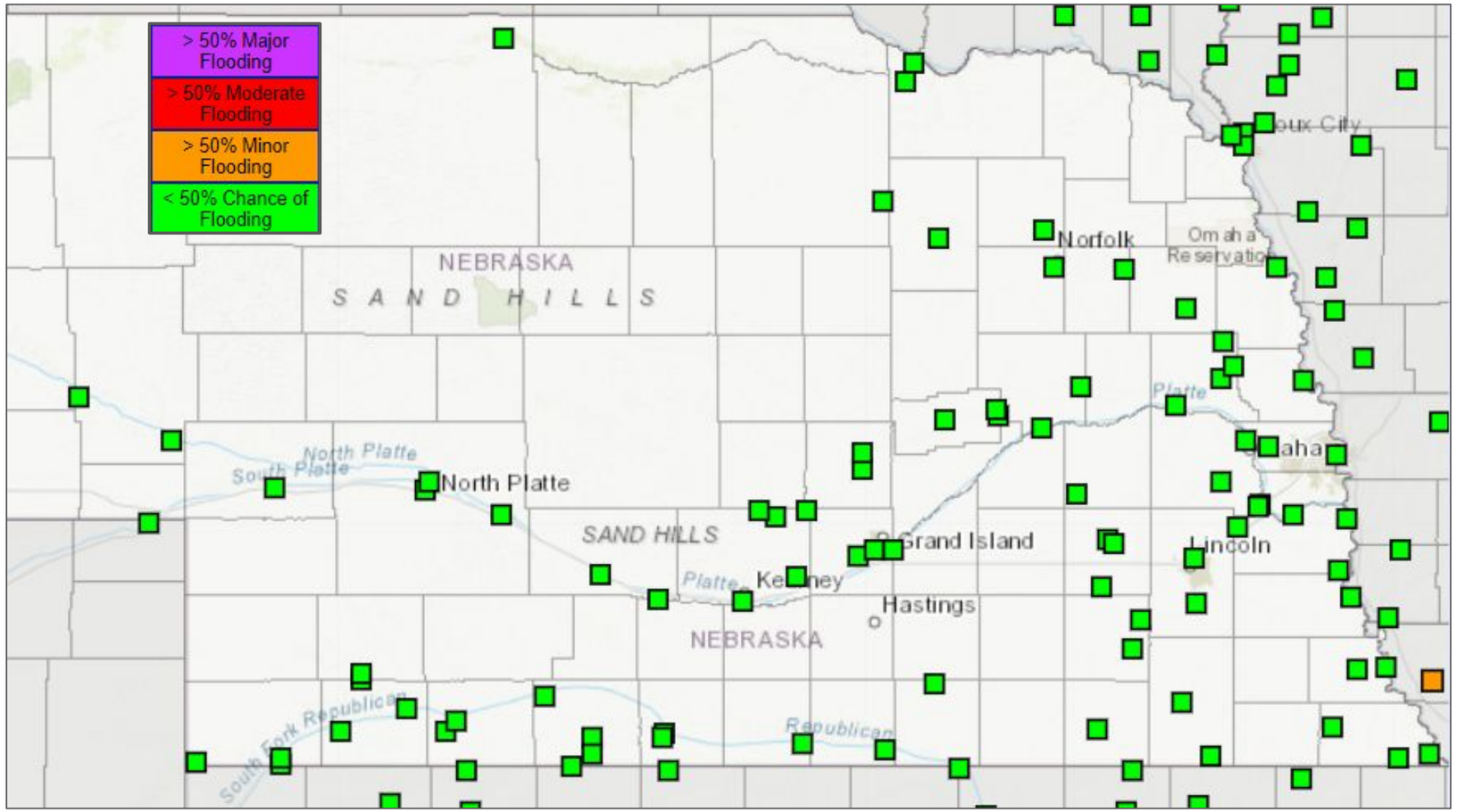
Spring Flood Outlook (Nebraska)

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ The overall spring flood threat for Nebraska is **Below-Normal**

➔ Based on current conditions, there are no areas of concern in Nebraska.



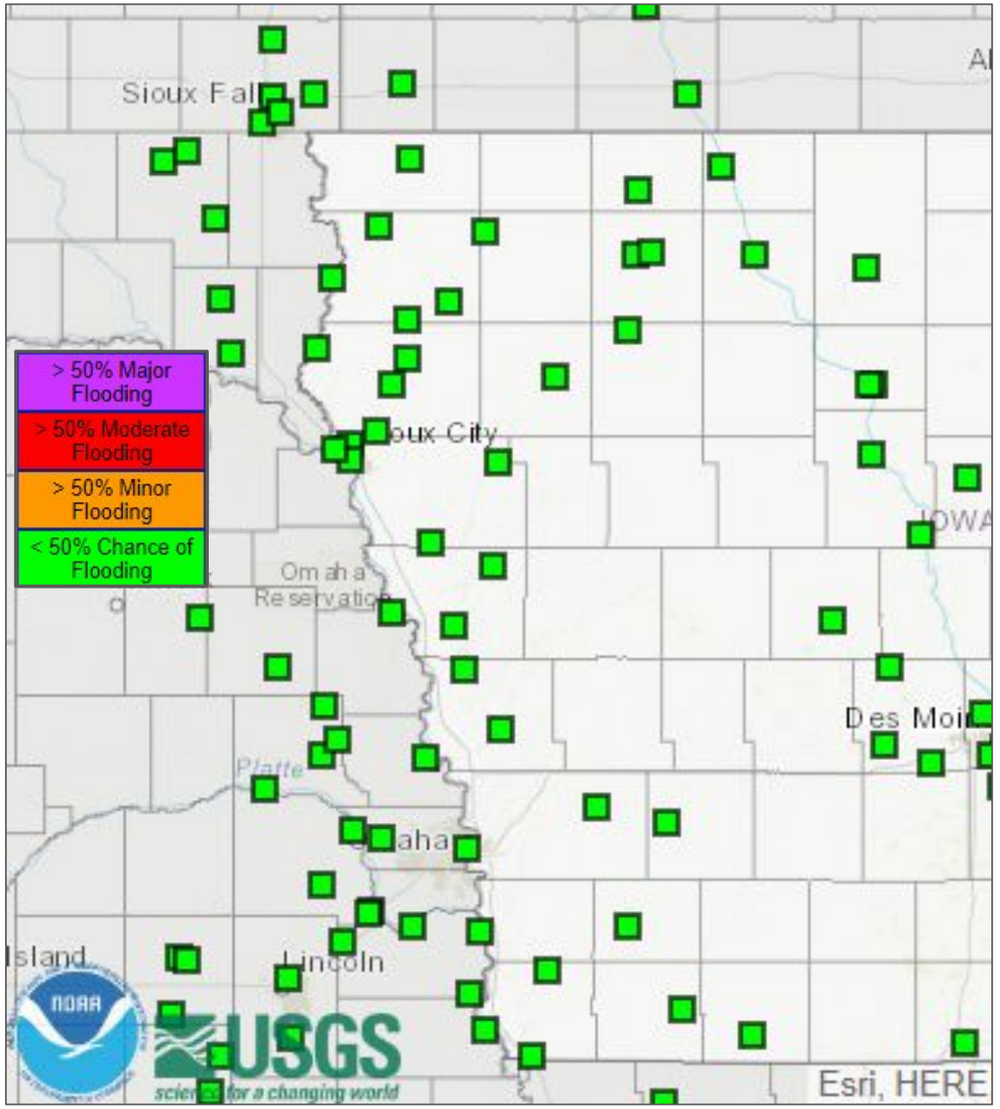
Spring Flood Outlook (Iowa)

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ The overall spring flood threat for western Iowa is **<u>Below-Normal</u>**

➔ Based on current conditions, there are no areas of concern in western Iowa.



Spring Flood Outlook

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Flood Risk Contribution Factor	Contribution to Flood Risk
Snowpack (North and South Dakota)	None
Snowpack (Nebraska and Iowa)	None
Snowpack (Missouri River headwaters)	Low
Snowpack (Platte River headwaters)	Normal
Soil Moisture	Low
Frost Depth	None
River Ice Thickness	None
Precipitation Outlook	Elevated

Most flood indicators point to a below normal risk for Spring flooding.

Spring Flood Outlook

March 14, 2024
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River Basin	Flood Risk
Niobrara River	Below-Normal
Missouri River (below Sioux City to Platte River)	Below-Normal
Missouri River (below the Platte River)	Below-Normal
Platte River	Below-Normal
Elkhorn River	Below-Normal
Big Blue River	Below-Normal
Salt Creek	Below-Normal
Wahoo Creek	Below-Normal
Nishnabotna River	Below-Normal

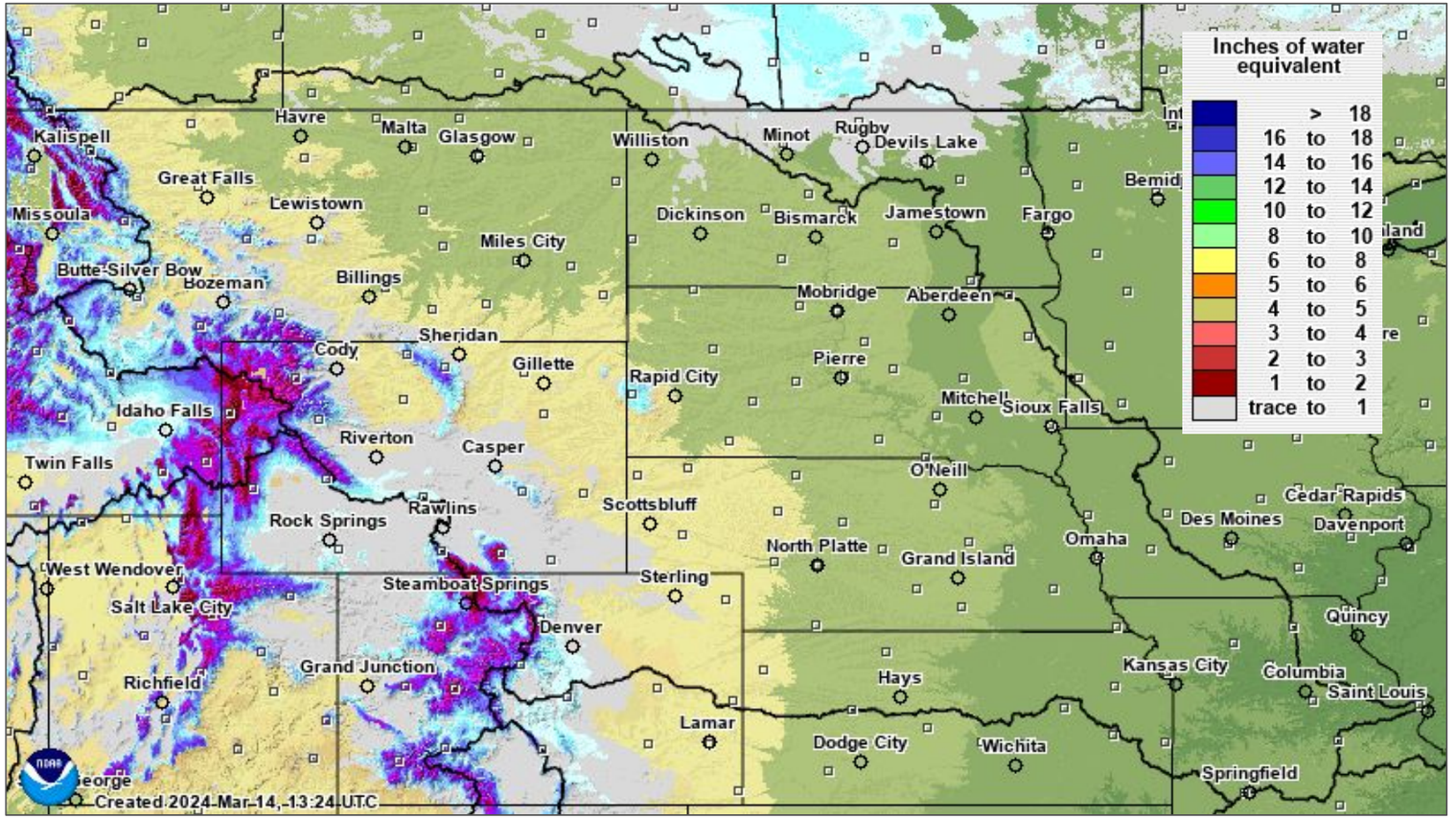
Basin-wide Snowpack

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ Almost no snow to speak of away from the mountains.

➔ The Plains snowpack is minimal.



Winter Precipitation

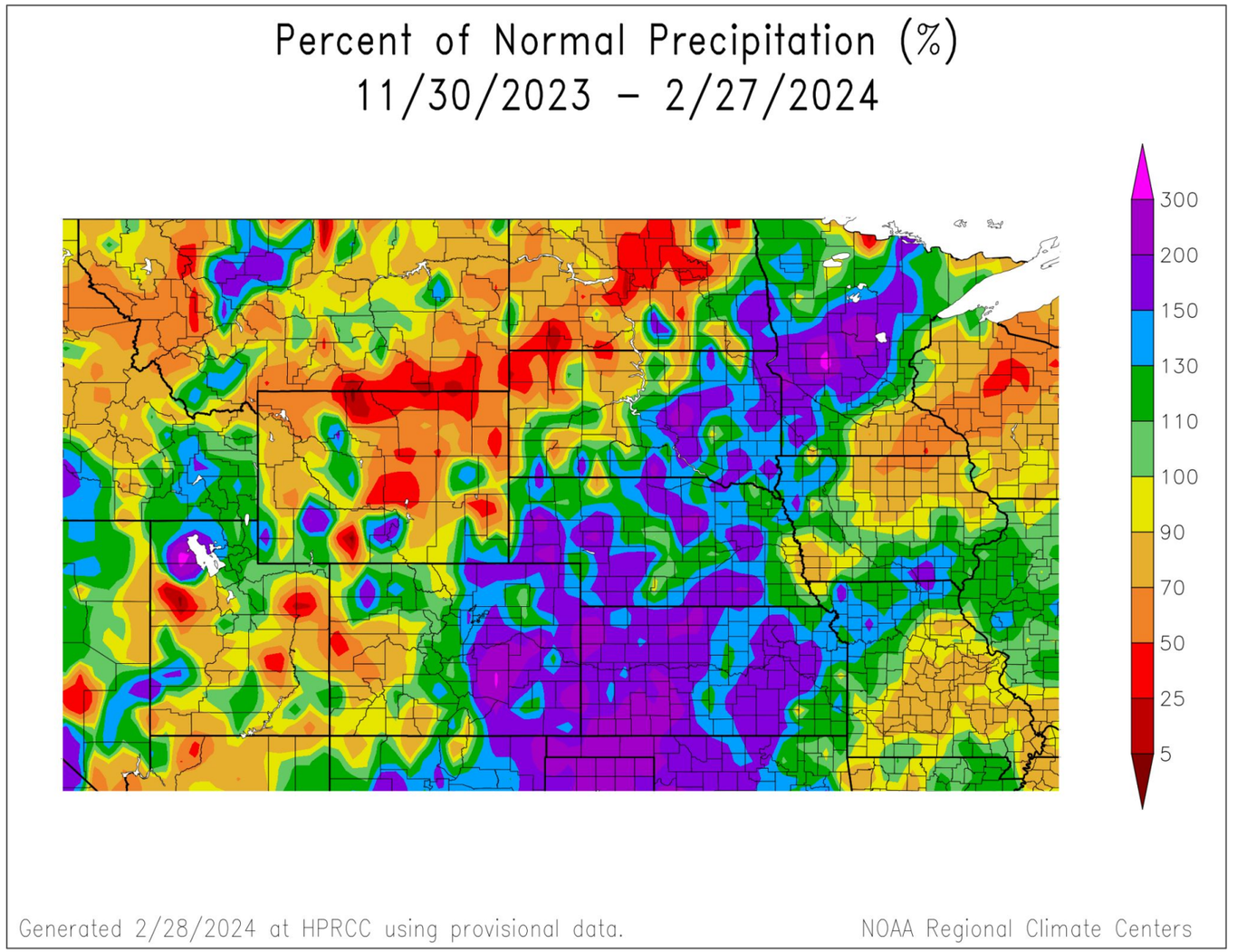
March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ Precipitation this winter has been above normal for much of the mid-to-lower Missouri River basin.

➔ This winter precipitation helped improve soil moisture conditions.

➔ Mountain precipitation has been well below-normal.



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center

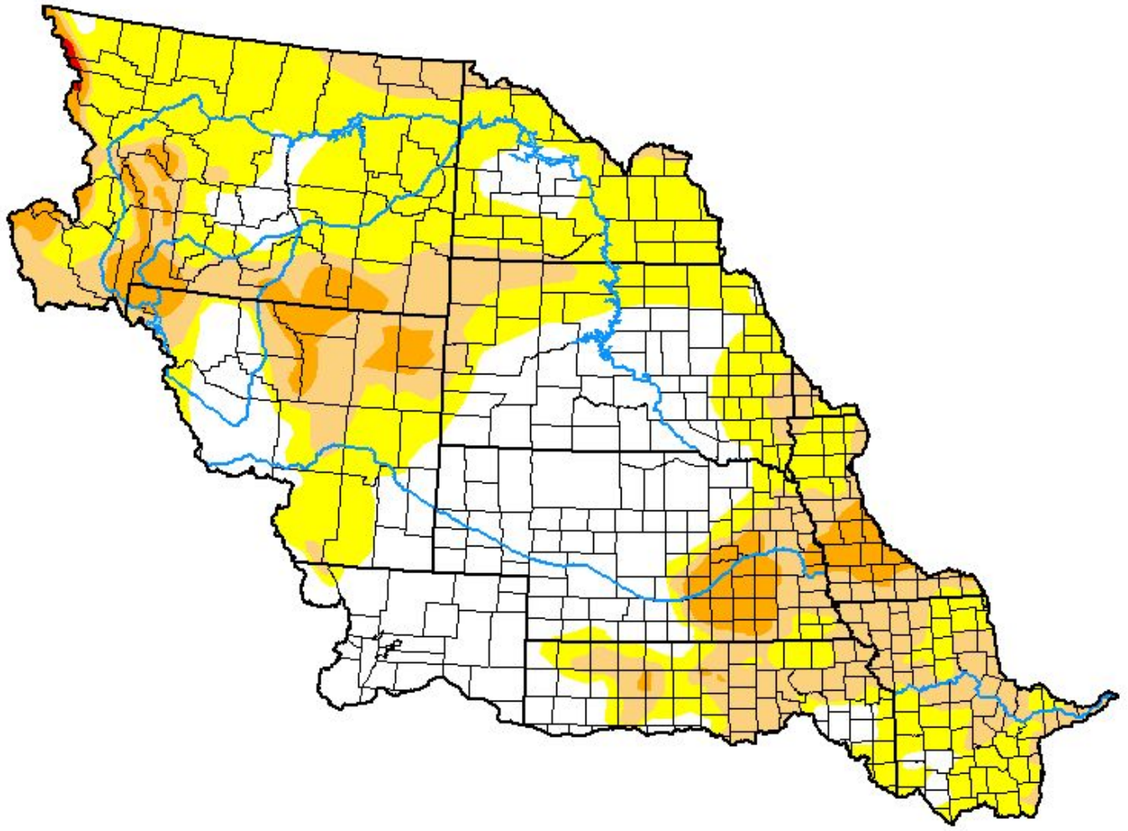
Drought Status Today

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ The primary drought areas are southwest Montana and into eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

➔ But overall, the status has improved in recent weeks.



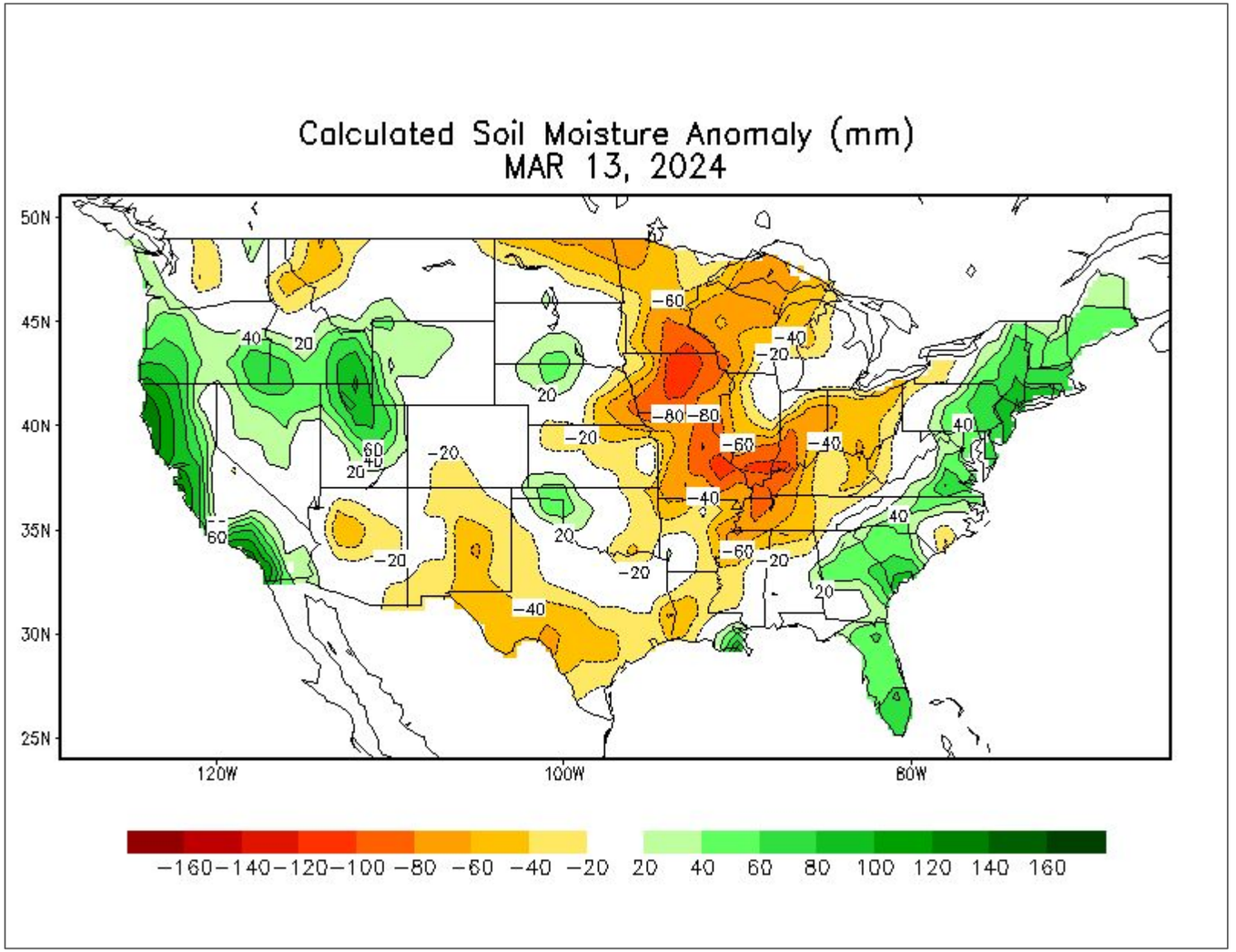
Soil Moisture

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ Soil moisture across the region is near-to-below normal.

➔ The driest areas are in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

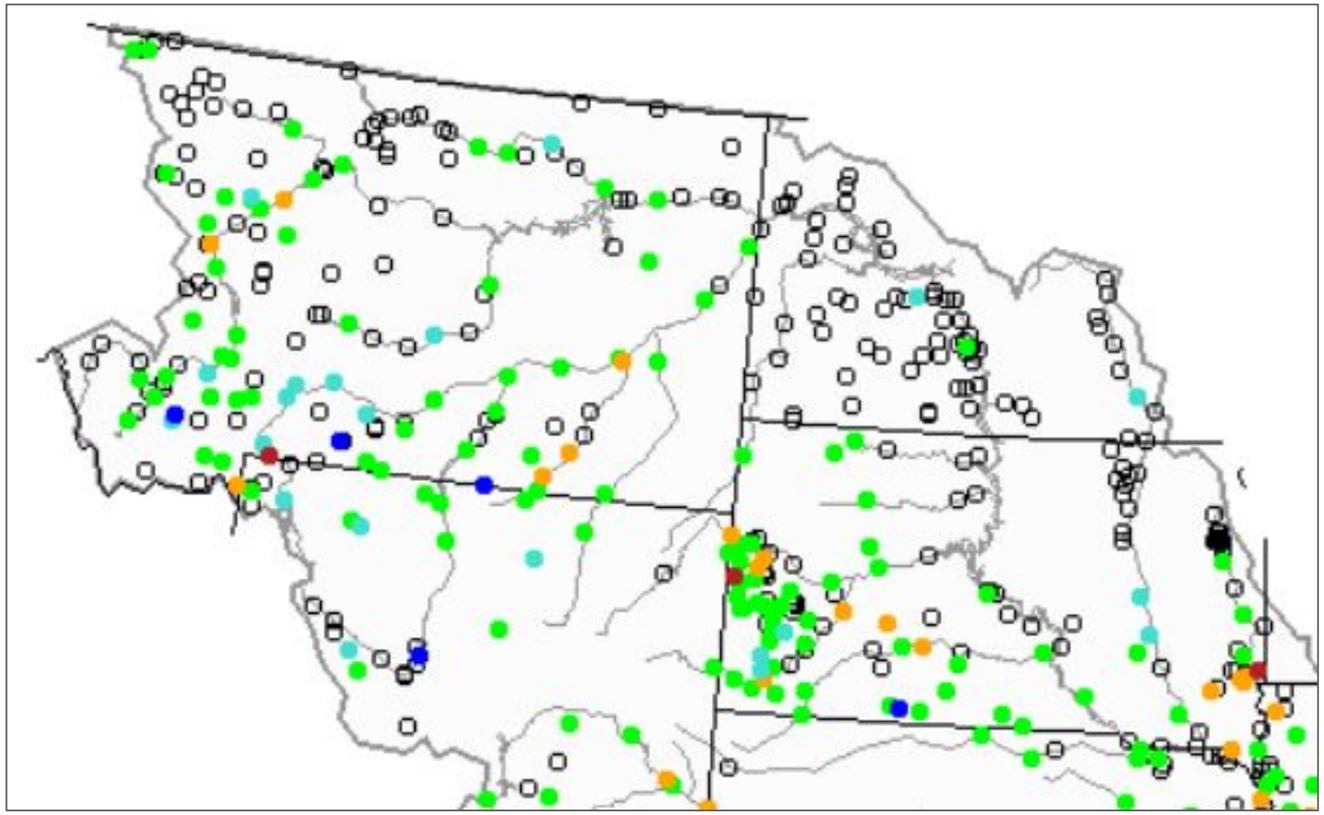


Current Streamflow (Upper Basin)

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ Most rivers are currently near-to-above normal in the upper basin, though many rivers remain ice affected (not ranked).



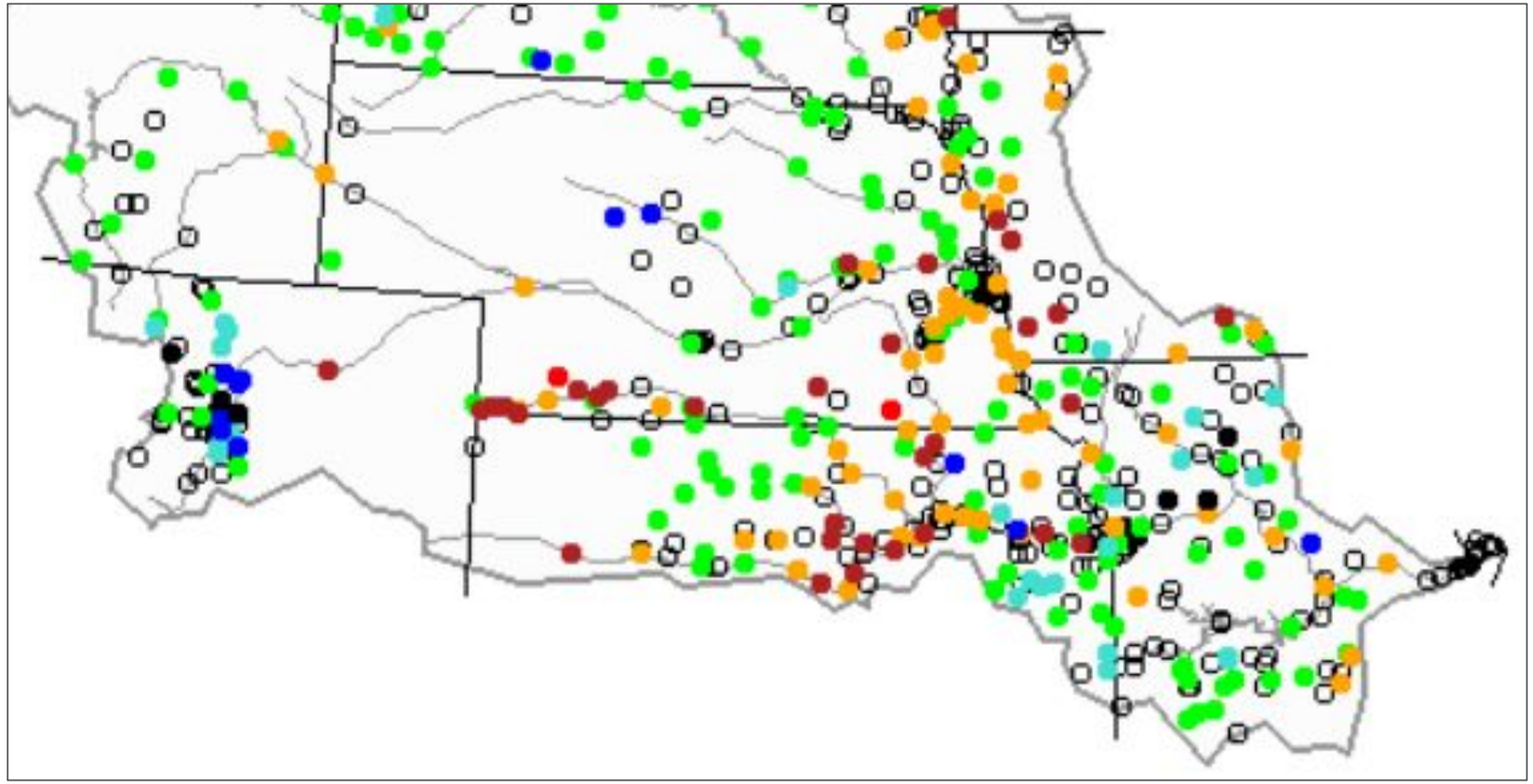
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Current Streamflow (Lower Basin)

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ Most rivers are currently near-to-below normal in the lower basin.



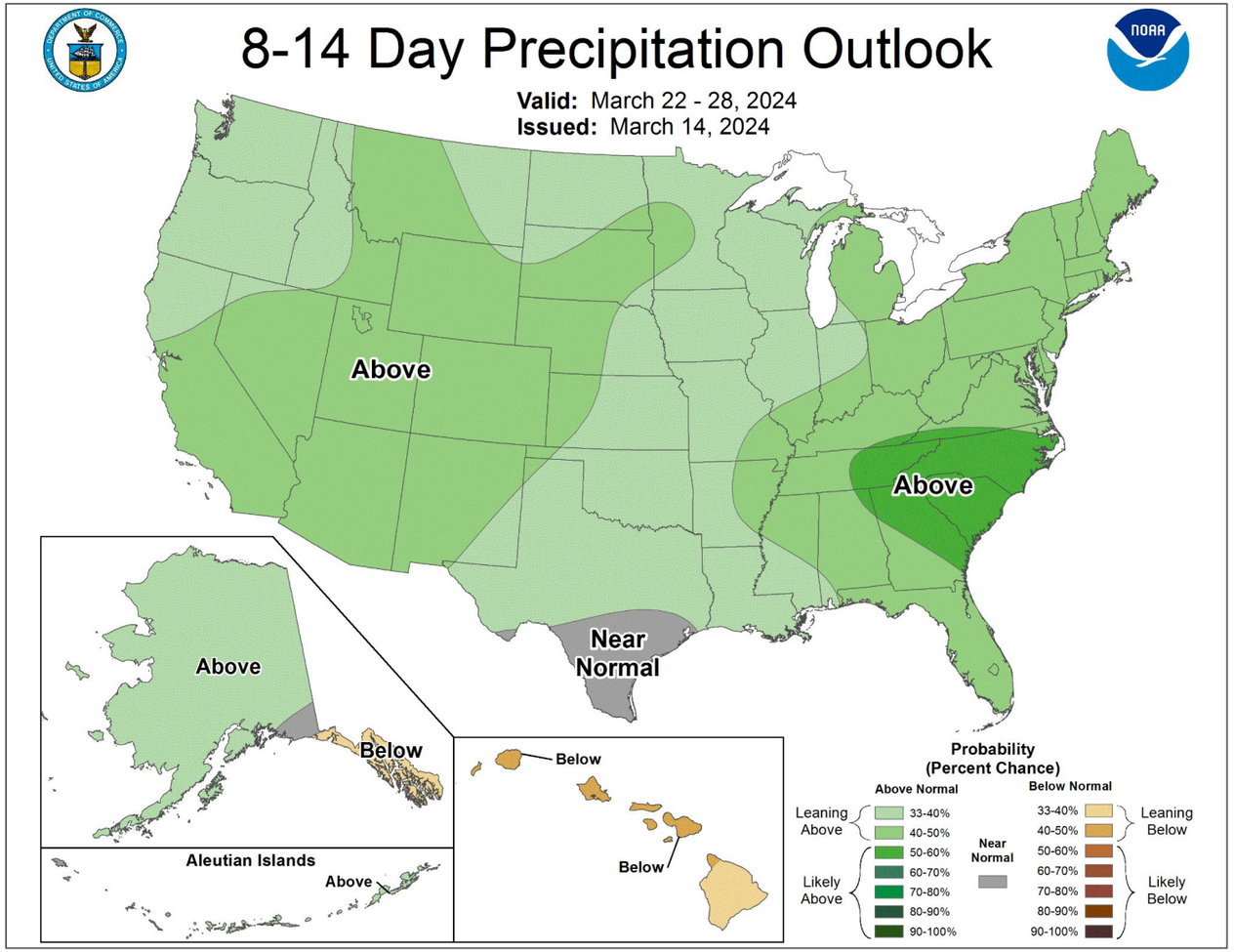
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Precipitation Outlook (rest of March)

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ Above-normal precipitation is favored for the Missouri River basin.

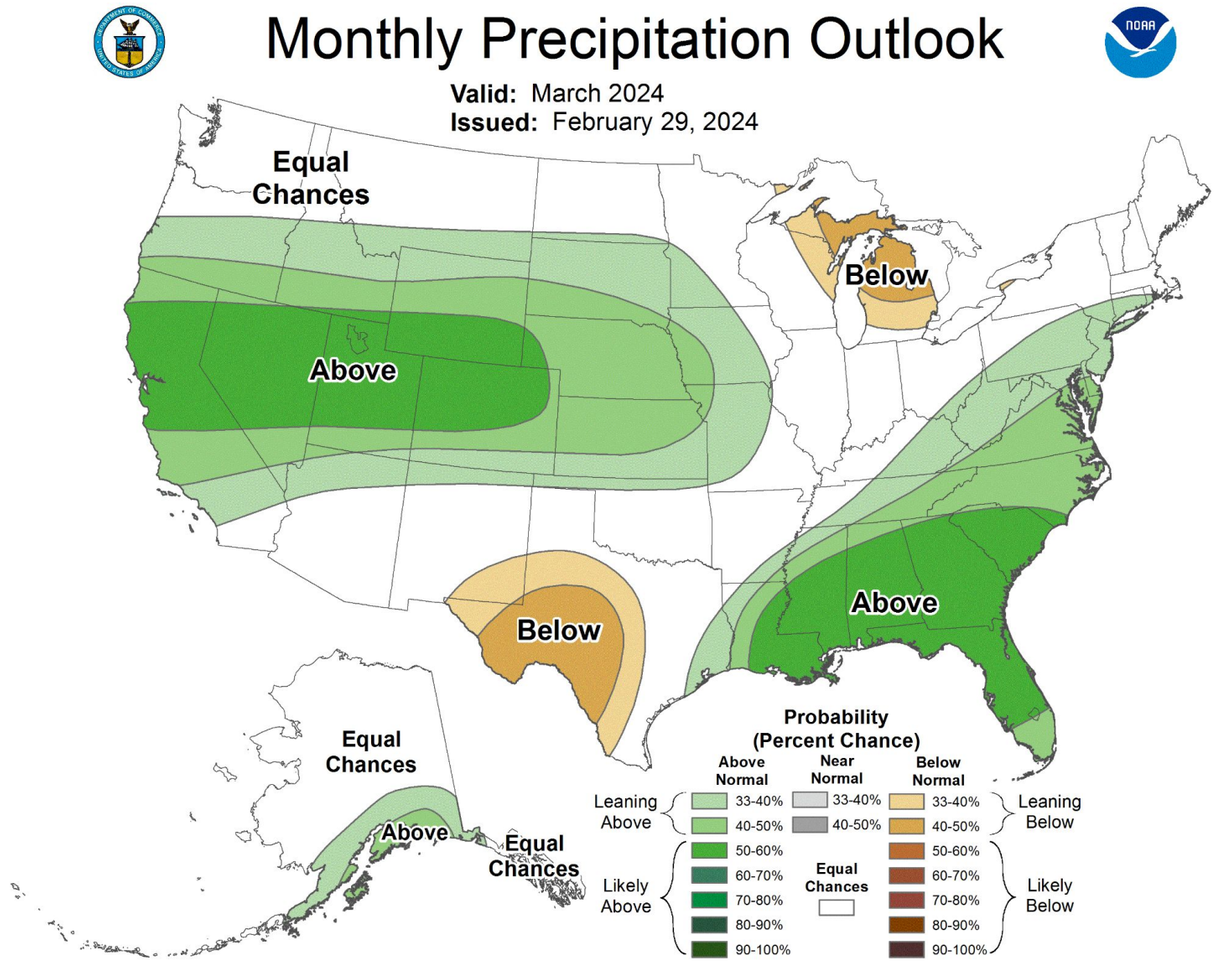


Precipitation Outlook (for March)

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ For March there is an increased probability of above-normal precipitation for much of central Plains.

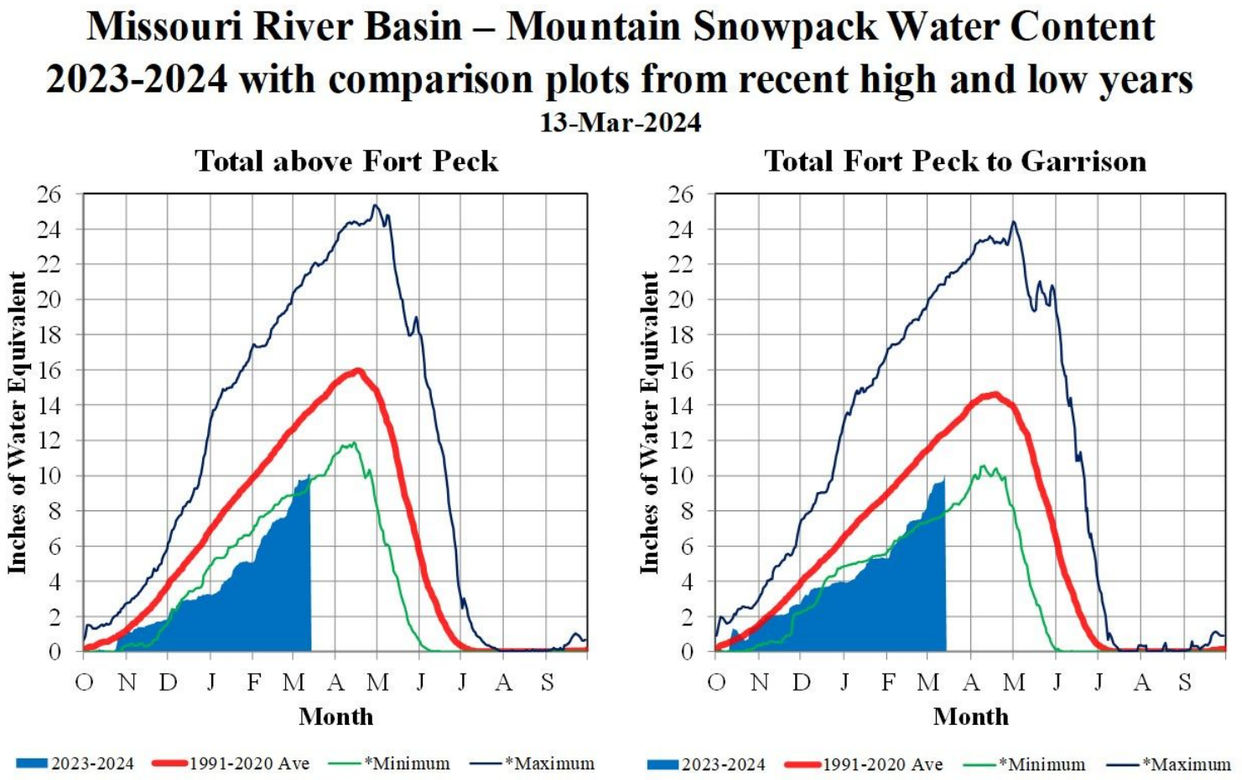


Mountain Snowpack (Missouri River)

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

- ➔ For this time of year the snowpack in the Missouri River headwaters is below average.
- ➔ Above Fort Peck, the water content is 10.1 inches, which is 74% of average.
- ➔ Between Fort Peck and Garrison, the water content of the snow is 10.1, which is 81% of average.
- ➔ The normal peak snowpack date is typically around April 15th.



On March 13, 2024 the mountain Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in the "Total above Fort Peck" reach is 10.1" and 74% of the (1991-2020) average. The mountain SWE in the "Fort Peck to Garrison" reach is 10.1" and 81% of the (1991-2020) average. The normal peak for both reaches occurs near April 17.

*Refers to the minimum or maximum SWE in the basin for that day in the historical years 1991-2020.

Provisional data. Subject to revision.

Mountain Snowpack (Platte River)

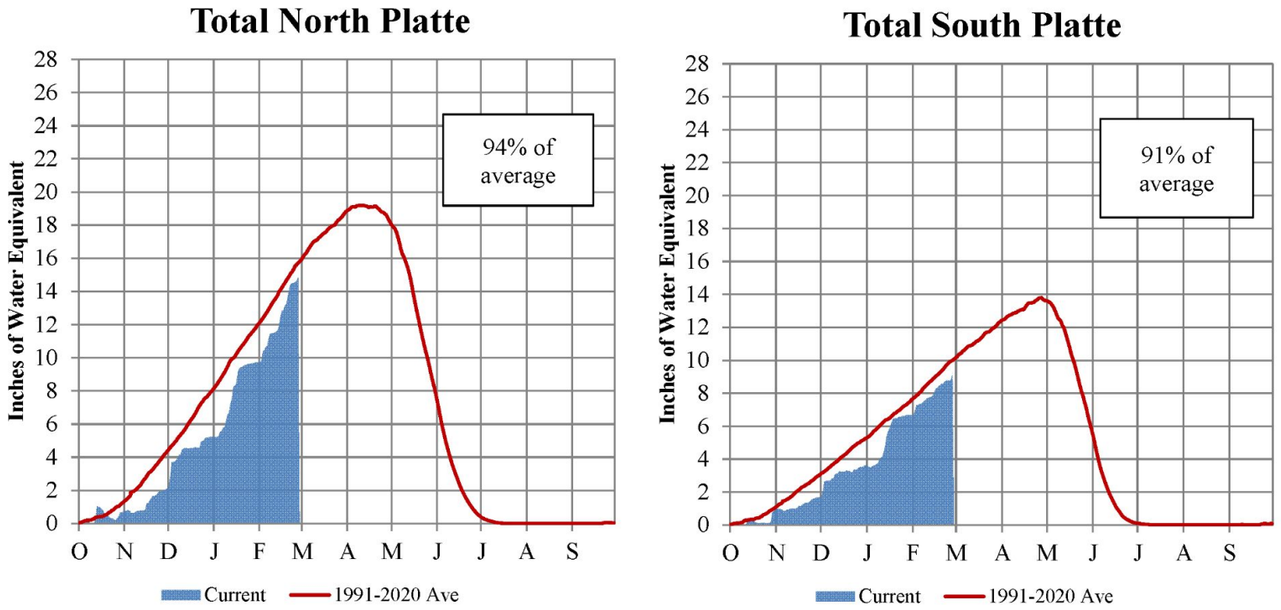
March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

Key Messages

➔ Snow conditions in the Platte River headwaters are near average.

➔ In a typical winter, snow accumulates in the Platte River headwaters through mid to late April.

Platte River Basin - Mountain Snowpack Water Content
Water Year 2023-2024
February 28, 2024



The North and South Platte River Basin mountain snowpacks normally peak near April 10 and the end of April, respectively. As of February 28, 2024, the mountain snowpack SWE in the "Total North Platte" reach is 14.8", 94% of the (1991-2020) average. The mountain snowpack SWE in the "Total South Platte" reach is 9.1", 91% of the (1991-2020) average.

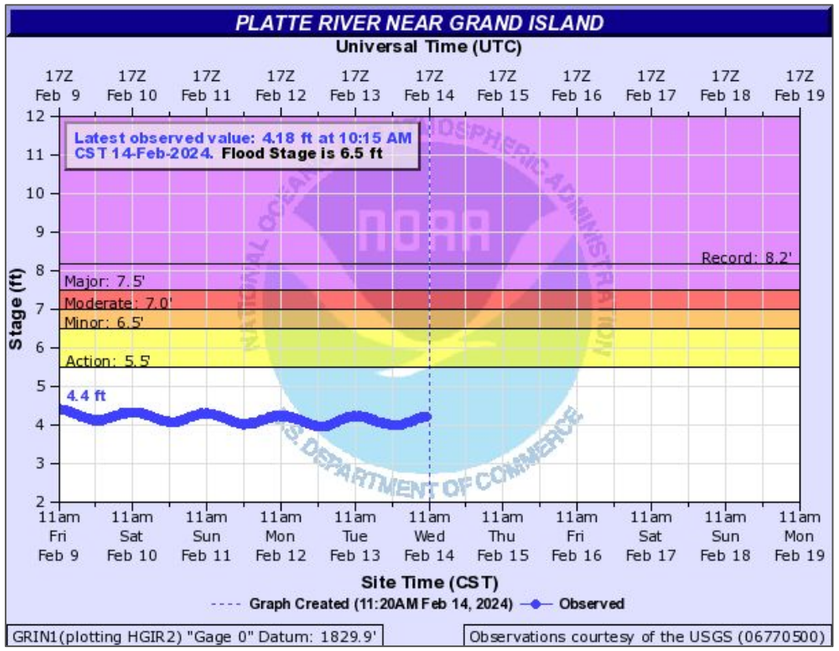
Source: USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service

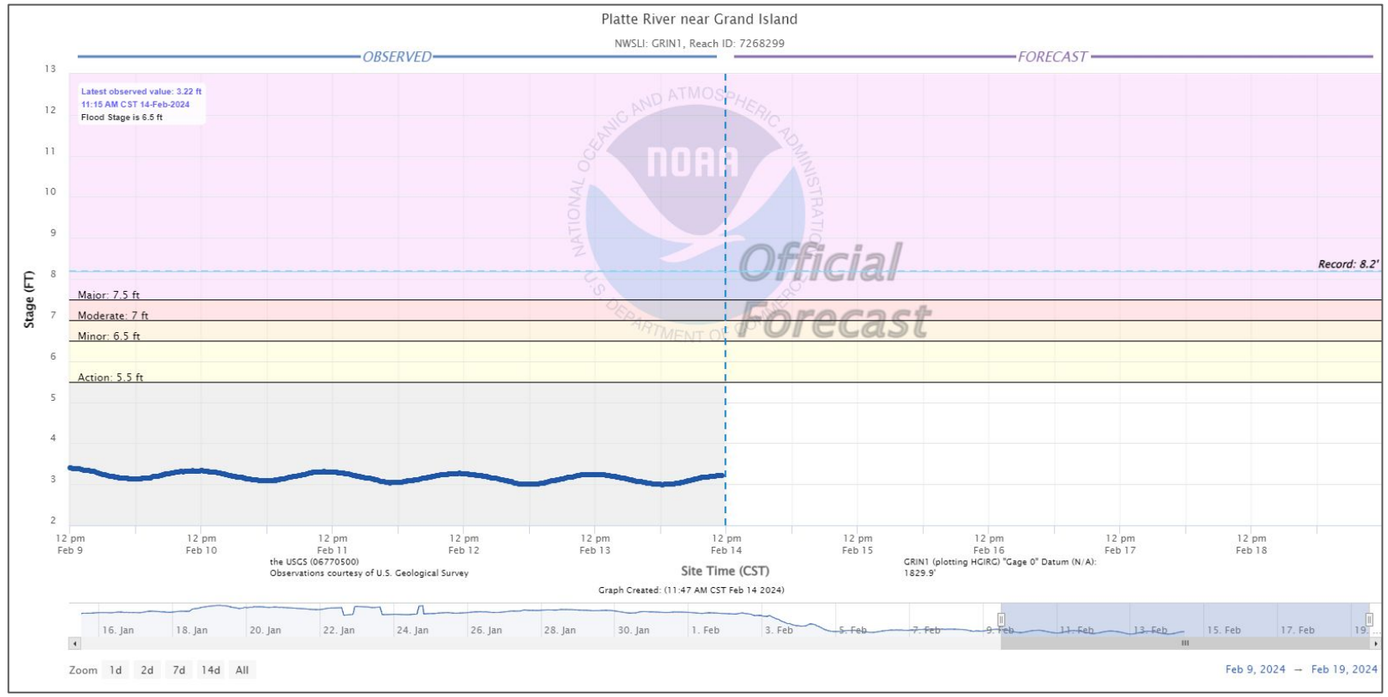
Provisional Data. Subject to Revision

Our Website is Changing!

March 14, 2024
3:00 PM

On March 27th, 2024 our river gage website will be upgraded.





[Link to new website overview]

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

National Weather Service
Omaha/Valley, NE