



# Drought Information Statement for North Louisiana, East Texas, Southwest Arkansas, and Extreme Southeast Oklahoma

Valid March 19th, 2026

Issued By: NWS Shreveport

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- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/shv/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

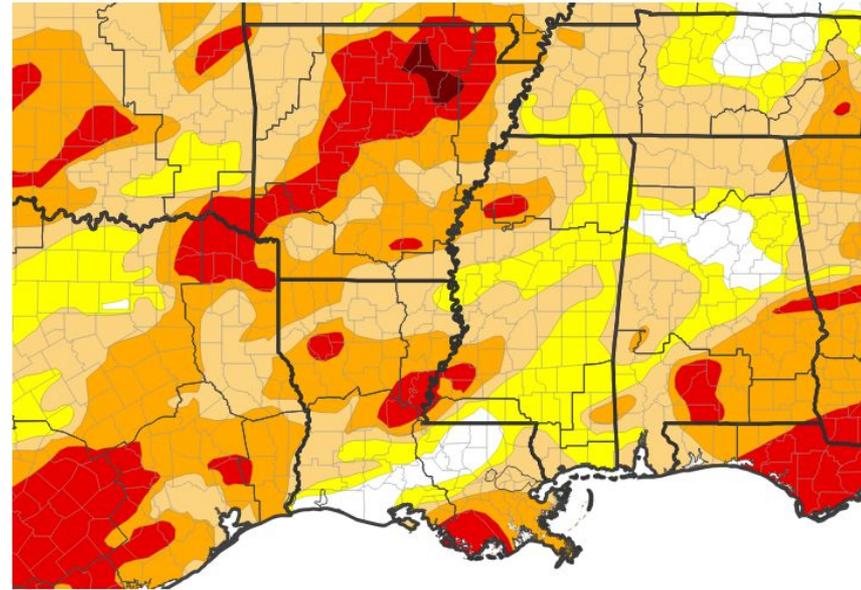




# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast OK, Southwest AR, East TX, and North LA

- Extreme (D3) drought conditions have expanded across much of extreme Northeast Texas and portions of adjacent Southwest Arkansas, and has also developed over Red River and Northern Natchitoches Parishes in Northwest Louisiana. Severe (D2) and moderate (D1) drought conditions remain in place elsewhere across the Four State Region.
- A prolonged period of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation observed since the summer of 2025 continue to contribute to drought deterioration over much of the area.



U.S. Drought Monitor

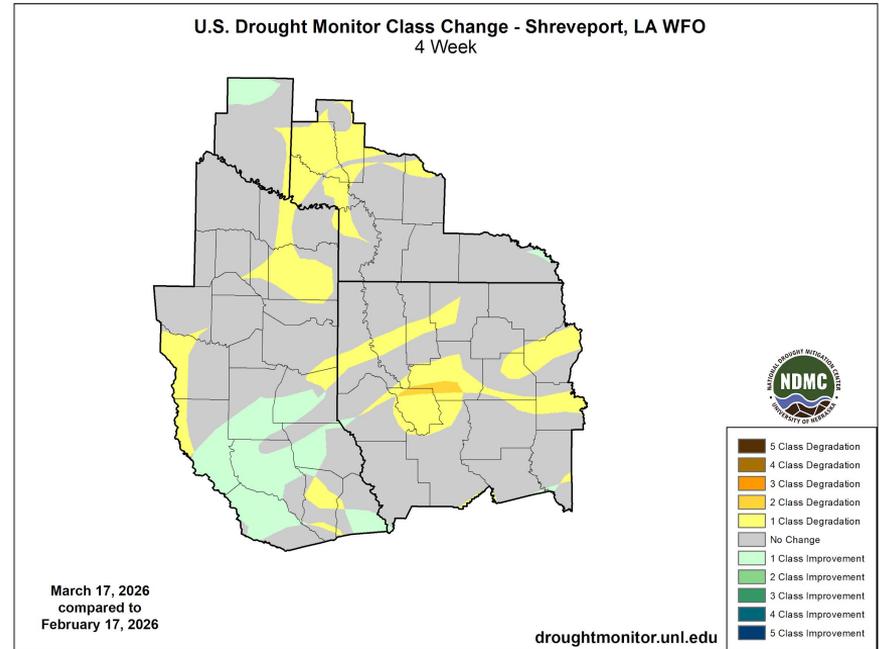




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast OK, East TX, Southwest AR, and North LA

- 4 Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures over the last month has led to a 1 category drought degradation across portions of Northeast TX, Southwest AR, and North LA.
  - Minor drought improvement has been observed in the last month over portions of Deep East TX and Northern McCurtain County OK, due to heavy rains that fell during the 2nd week of March over these areas.

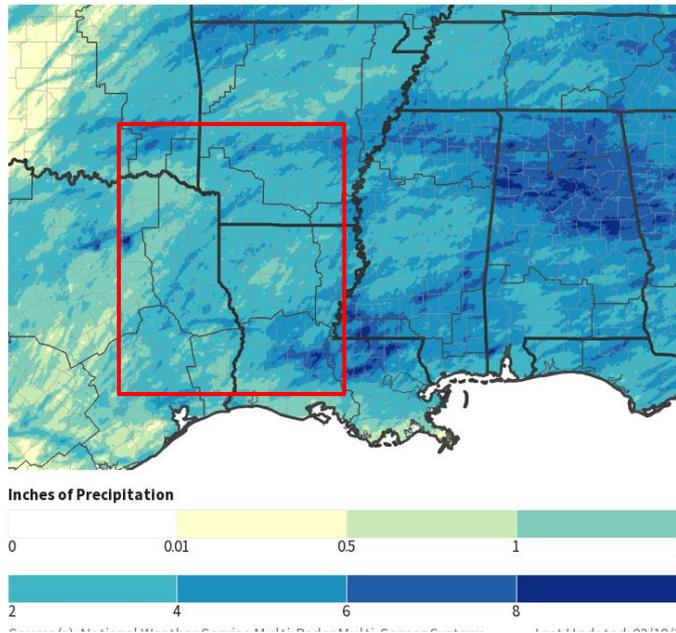




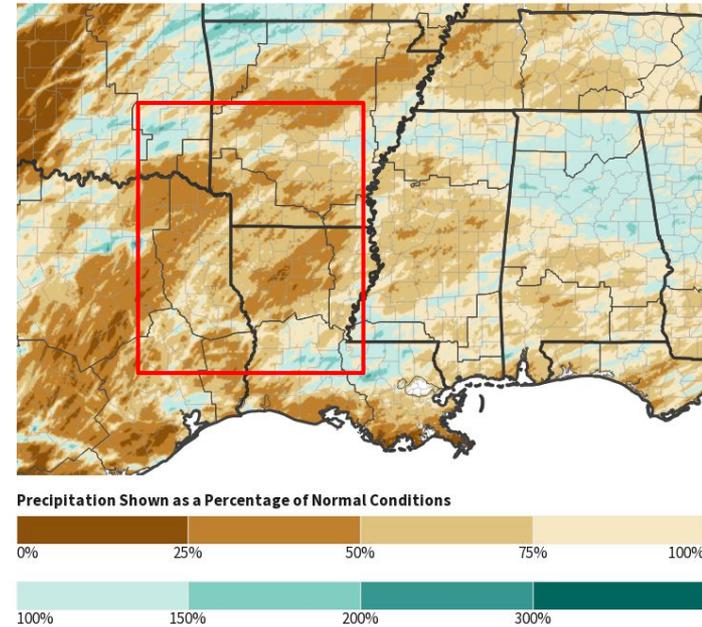
# Precipitation

- Rainfall amounts of 1.5 - 4+ inches have fallen across the area since mid-February. These totals remain below normal areawide, with the greatest deficits noted generally along and north of the I-20 corridor of East TX, Southern McCurtain County OK, portions of adjacent Southwest AR, as well as much of Northcentral and portions of Northeast LA.

### 30 Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



### 30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



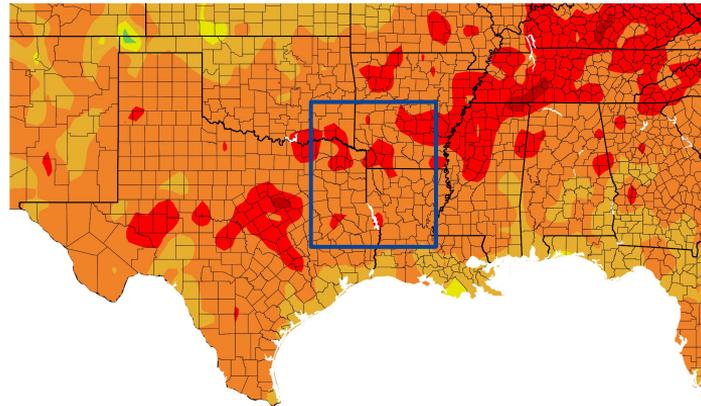


# Temperature

Imagery from the High Plains Regional Climate Center

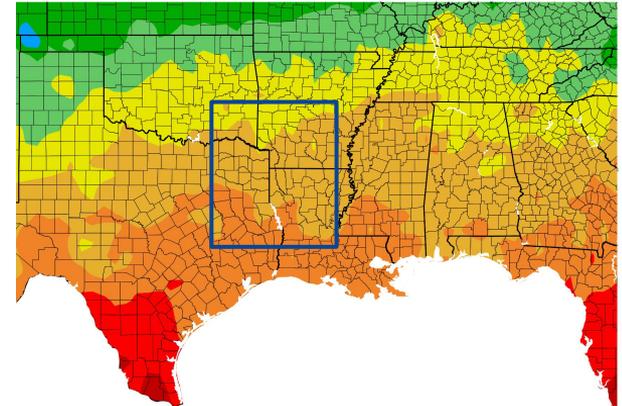
- Abnormally warm temperatures have persisted across the entire region since mid-February, with average temperatures 6-10+ degrees above normal.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/1/2026 – 3/18/2026



Generated 3/19/2026 using provisional data.

Temperature (F)  
3/1/2026 – 3/18/2026



ACIS Web Services 26 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Given that the dryness extends back into the early and mid summer months of 2025, below to much below normal streamflow continues across area rivers, bayous, and creeks. Multiple lakes also remain below normal pool stage as well.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Area pastures have produced little to no grass despite the widespread rains observed on March 11th, with a widespread freeze observed on the 17th also slowing or damaging grass growth. Stock ponds also remain very low especially across portions of Northeast Texas and West-central Louisiana. Local producers continue to provide supplemental feeding to cattle given the poor pasture conditions, with the lack of freshwater creating considerable hardships for farmers and ranchers. Thus, producers have had to sell some of their cattle herd due to the lack of food and water. The widespread wetting rains on March 11th did help improve 10-40 cm soil moisture, with improvement noted in the 40-100 cm layer as well especially over portions of Nacogdoches and Shelby Counties into portions of Northwest Louisiana, but soil moisture has already begun to dry out again given the increasing temperatures and lack of additional rains.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger is expected to remain moderate to high into next week, as much above normal temperatures (including near record high temperatures expected Friday, March 20th through Sunday, March 22nd), dry conditions, with abnormally low afternoon humidity between 30-40+%, are expected daily through the end of March. Thus, fire danger will continue to amplify through month's end.

## Mitigation Actions

- None. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.



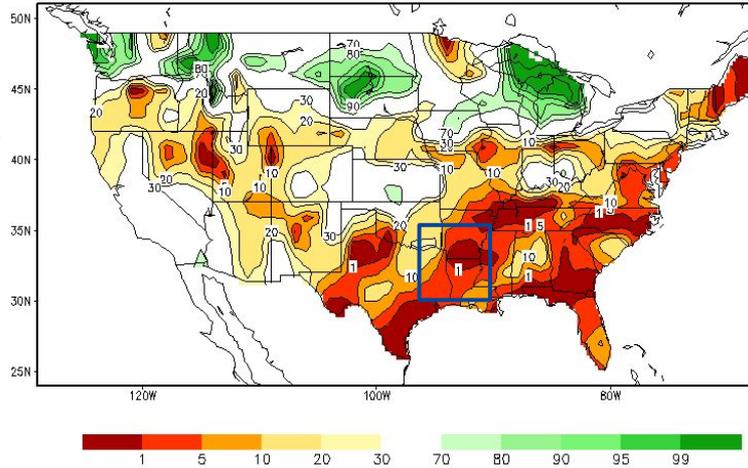


# Agricultural Impacts

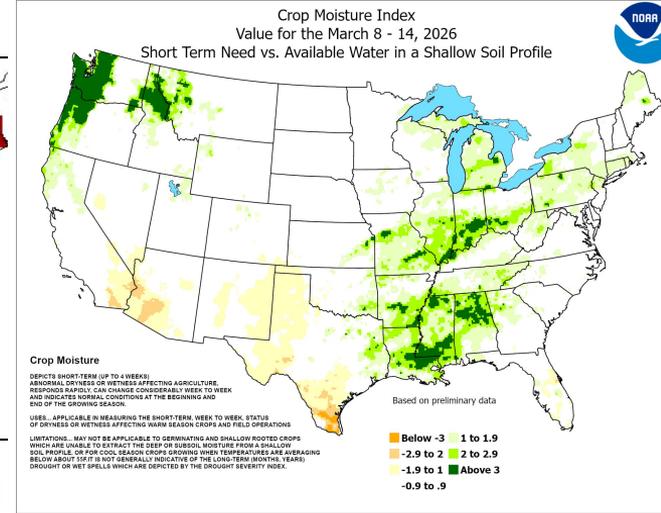
Left Image: Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile for March 18th from CPC; Right Image: Crop Moisture Index Ending March 14th from CPC.

- Topsoil moisture has begun to dry out again given the above normal temperatures and lack of wetting rains since March 11th. Areas that fared best from the recent rains (including portions of East TX, Northwest LA, and Southern AR), are still showing some very short-term wetness, but this too will diminish by the end of March as no additional rain is expected.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
MAR 18, 2026



Crop Moisture Index  
Value for the March 8 - 14, 2026  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

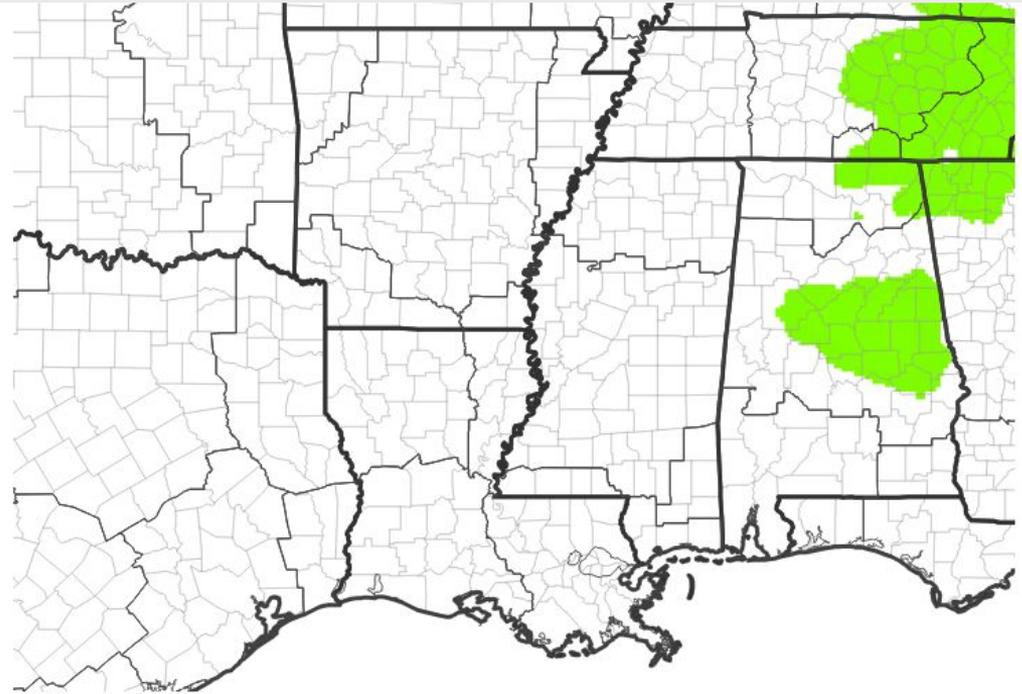




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

Imagery Below: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) Valid Friday, March 20th to Thursday, March 26th

- Expanding high pressure aloft from the Desert Southwest into the Southern Plains and Lower Mississippi Valley this weekend through the final full week of March will maintain very warm and dry conditions over all of the Four State Region.
- Near record high temperatures are expected over portions of the area Friday, March 20th through Sunday, March 22nd.



Predicted Inches of Precipitation

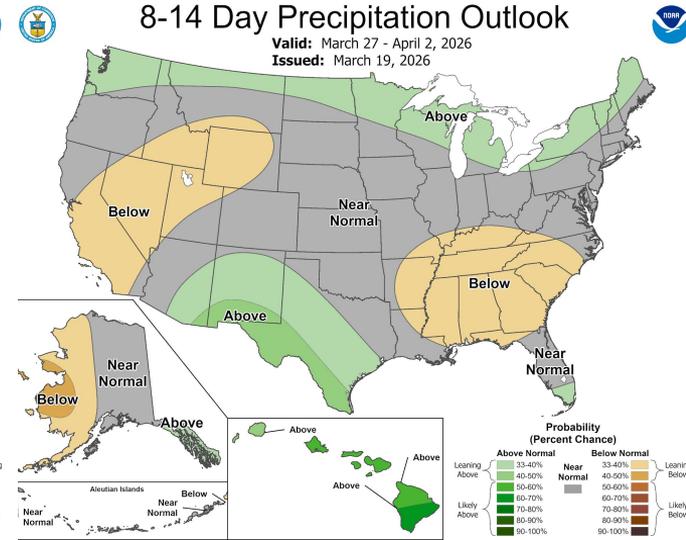
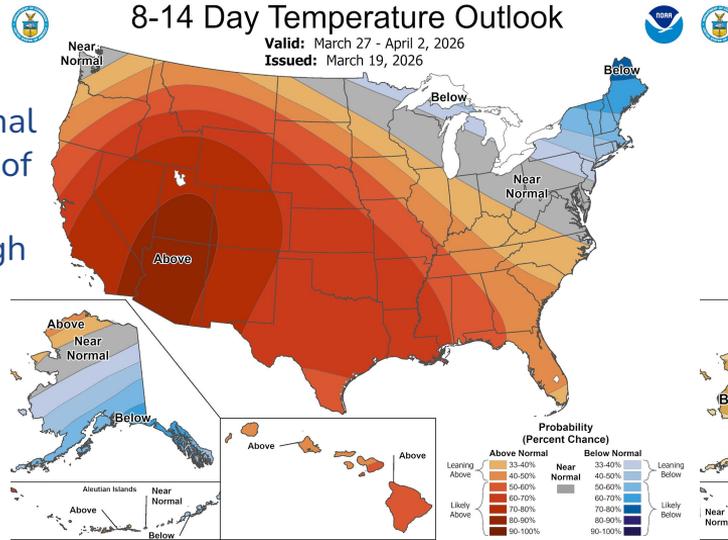




# Temperature and Rainfall Outlook Through the End of March

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

- High probabilities for above normal temperatures exist areawide through the remainder of March.
- Average to higher than normal confidence exists that much of the region will see near to below normal rainfall through the end of March.



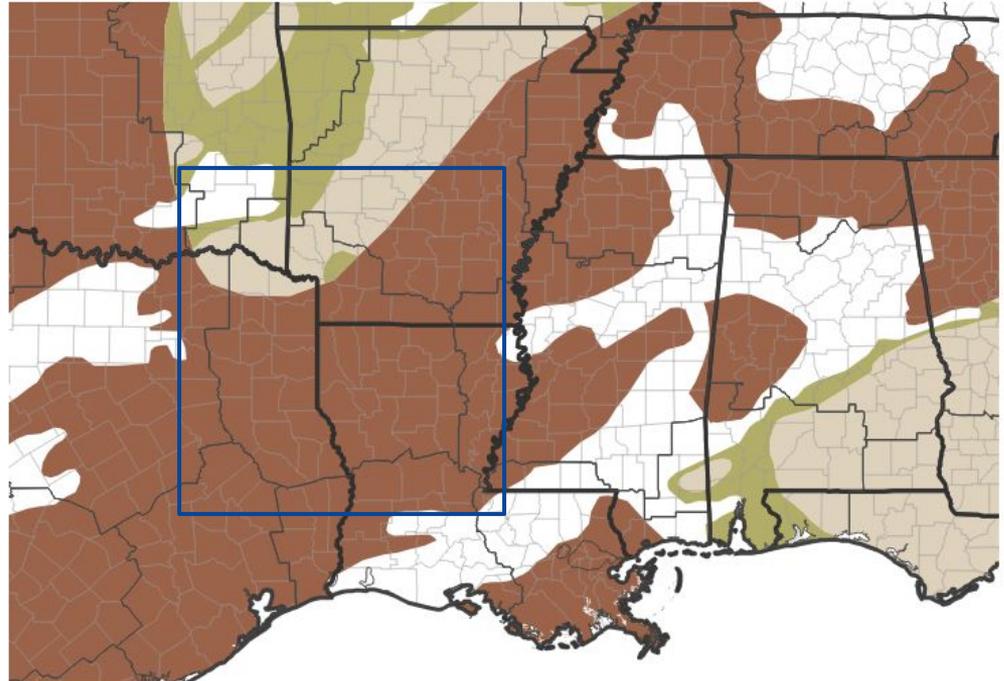


# Drought Outlook

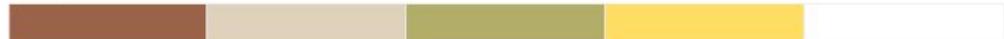
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released March 19, 2026 - Valid through June 2026

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across much of the region through the remainder of this spring.
- Some slight drought improvement may occur along the Red River Valley of Northeast TX, Southeast OK, and adjacent Southwest AR through June. However, drought should persist for these areas as well.

2026–June 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

