

2026 Spring Flood Outlook

February 24, 2026

USACE St. Louis District
Flood Preparedness Meeting
Waterloo, Illinois

Mark Fuchs
Senior Service Hydrologist
National Weather Service
St. Louis, MO

NWS St. Louis



Spring Flood Outlook 2026

Bottom Line Up Front:

- **Significant (moderate or major) flooding is not likely anywhere.**
- **Mississippi River:** Minor flooding likely at Louisiana and Clarksville, but not likely elsewhere. This is a well below average risk.
- **Missouri River:** Minor flooding unlikely from Jefferson City to St. Charles. This is a well below average risk.
- **Illinois River:** Minor flooding likely by early May (below normal risk).
- **Local tributaries:** Near to below average flood risk, with flooding unlikely at all forecast points.



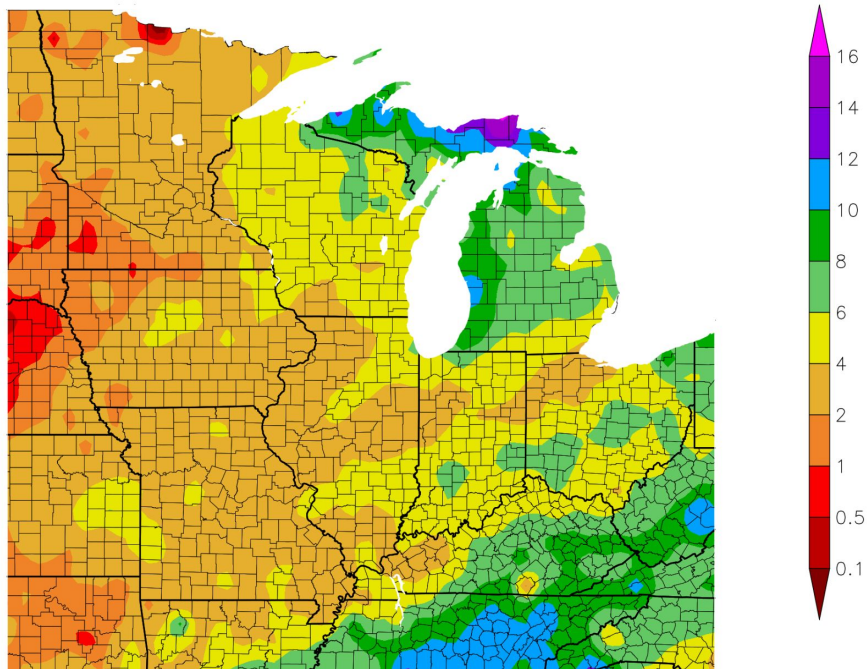
Factors we look at for spring flooding:

- Precipitation in major river basins
- Snowpack in major river basins
- Soil moisture in area basins
- Current flow in area rivers



Spring Flood Outlook 2026

Precipitation (in)
11/25/2025 - 2/22/2026



Generated 2/23/2026 using provisional data.

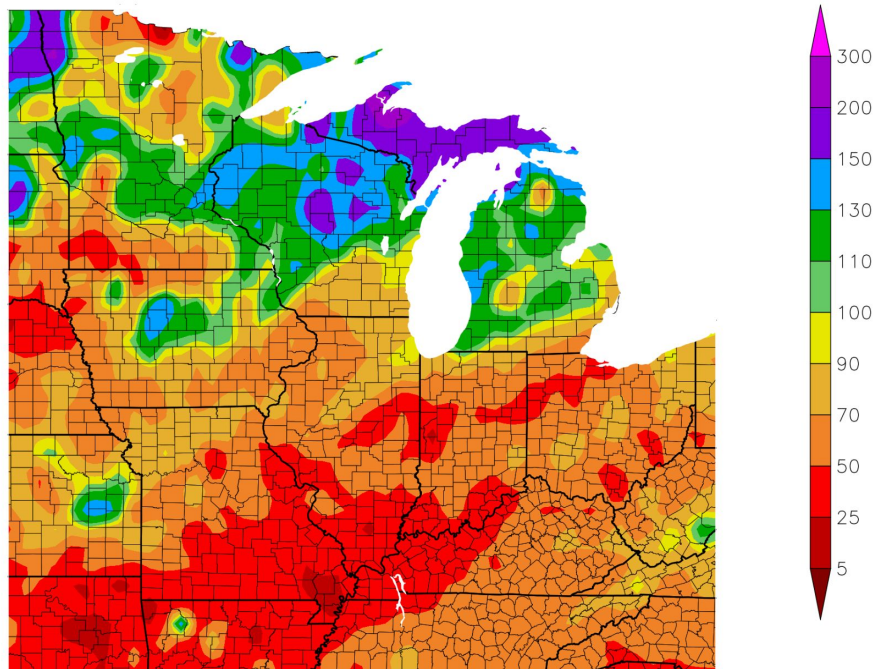
ACIS Web Services

NWS St. Louis



Spring Flood Outlook 2026

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/25/2025 – 2/22/2026



Generated 2/23/2026 using provisional data.

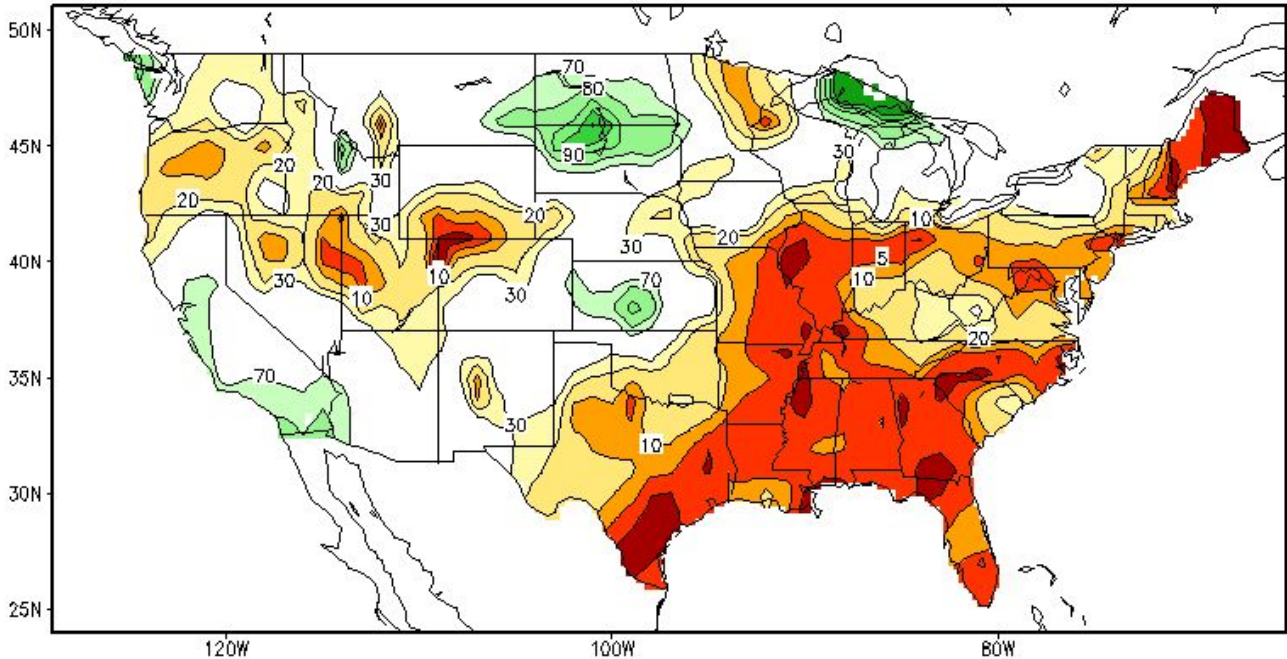
ACIS Web Services

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Spring Flood Outlook 2026 - Soil Moisture Percentiles

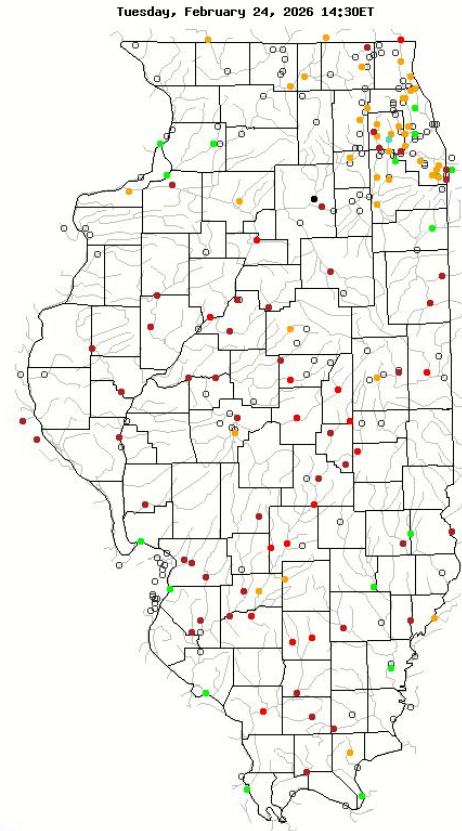
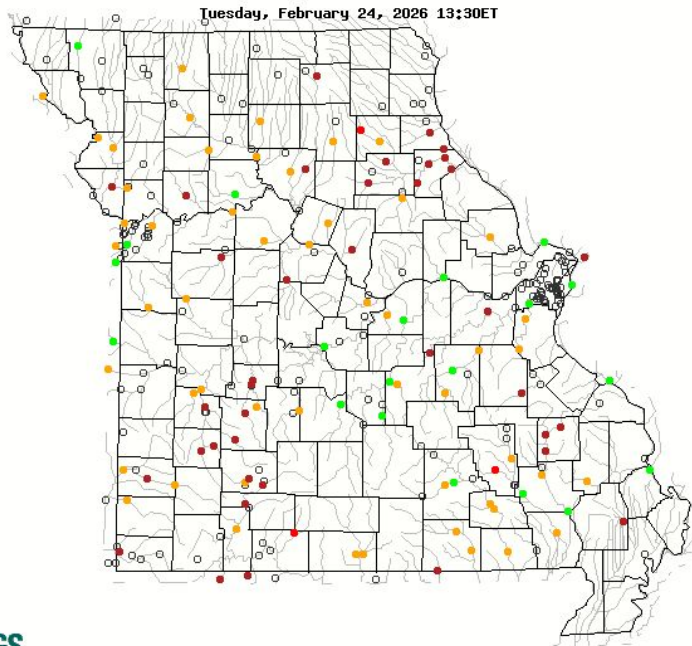
Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
FEB 23, 2026



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Spring Flood Outlook 2026 - Streamflow



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		

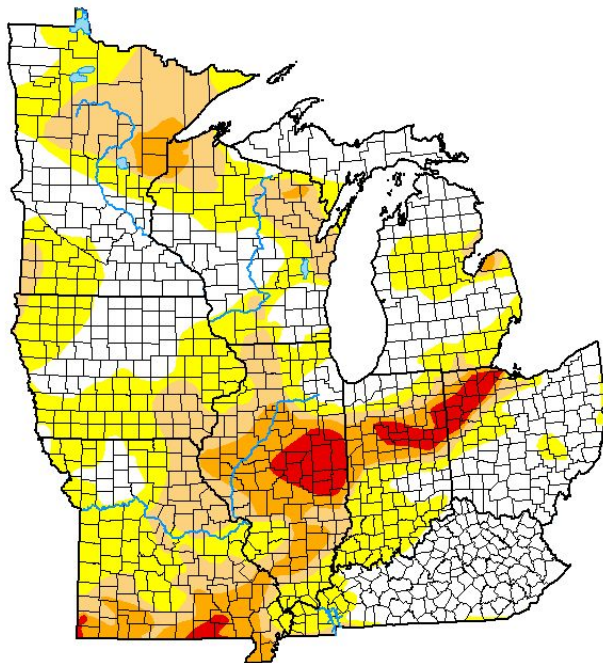


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Latest Drought Monitor - February 17, 2026

U.S. Drought Monitor Midwest



February 17, 2026

(Released Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	38.42	61.58	29.87	11.94	3.15	0.00
Last Week 02-10-2026	37.66	62.34	31.21	12.29	2.15	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-18-2025	31.07	68.93	39.37	12.93	1.64	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-05-2026	28.39	71.61	36.73	8.95	1.94	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	34.12	65.88	34.69	10.17	0.37	0.00
One Year Ago 02-18-2025	36.36	63.64	31.04	2.46	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



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>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



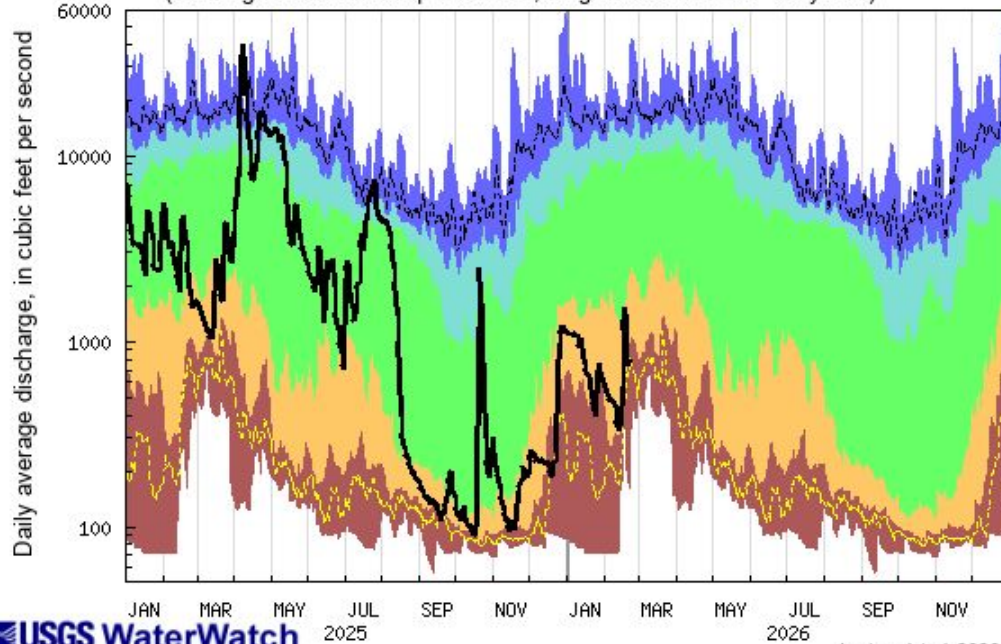
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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Kaskaskia River near Venedy Station, IL

USGS 05594100 KASKASKIA RIVER NEAR VENEDY STATION, IL
 (Drainage area: 4393 square miles, length of record: 54 - 55 years)



USGS WaterWatch

Last updated: 2026-02-23

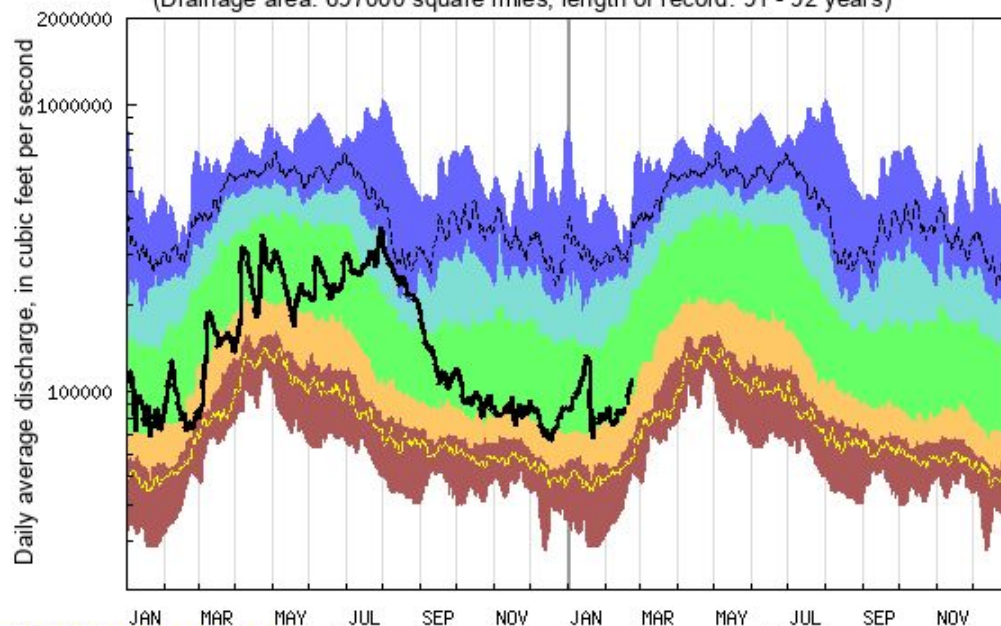
Explanation - Percentile classes						
lowest-10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile - highest
Much below Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		Flow

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Mississippi River at St. Louis, MO

USGS 07010000 Mississippi River at St. Louis, MO
 (Drainage area: 697000 square miles, length of record: 91 - 92 years)



USGS WaterWatch

Last updated: 2026-02-23

Explanation - Percentile classes

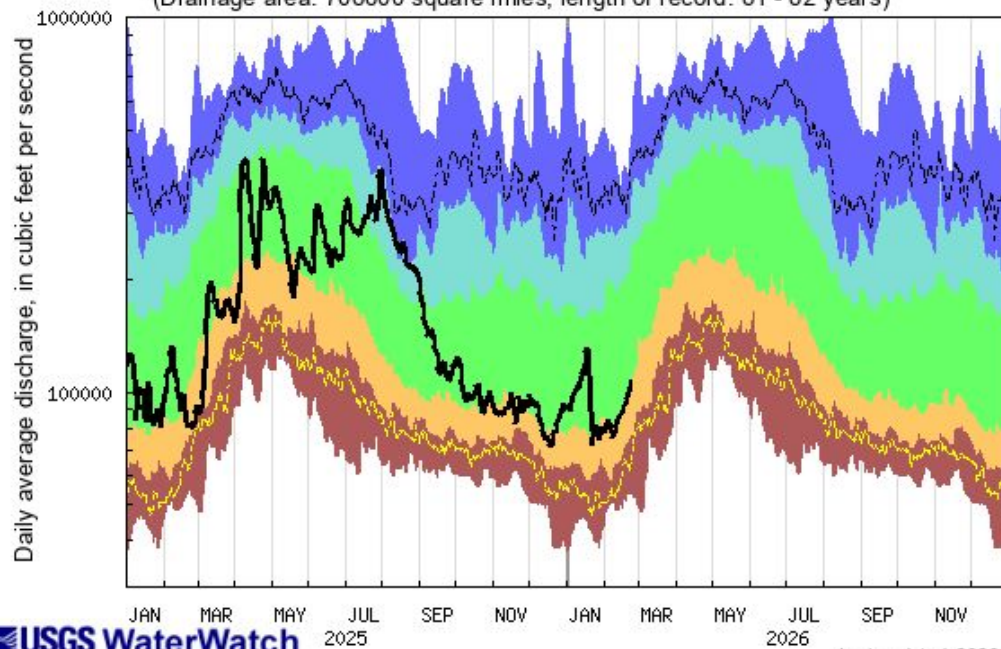
	-----				-----		
lowest-10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile - highest	Flow
	Much below Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

NWS St. Louis



Mississippi River at Chester, IL

USGS 07020500 Mississippi River at Chester, IL
 (Drainage area: 708600 square miles, length of record: 81 - 82 years)

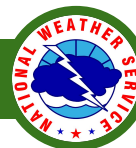


USGS WaterWatch

Last updated: 2026-02-23

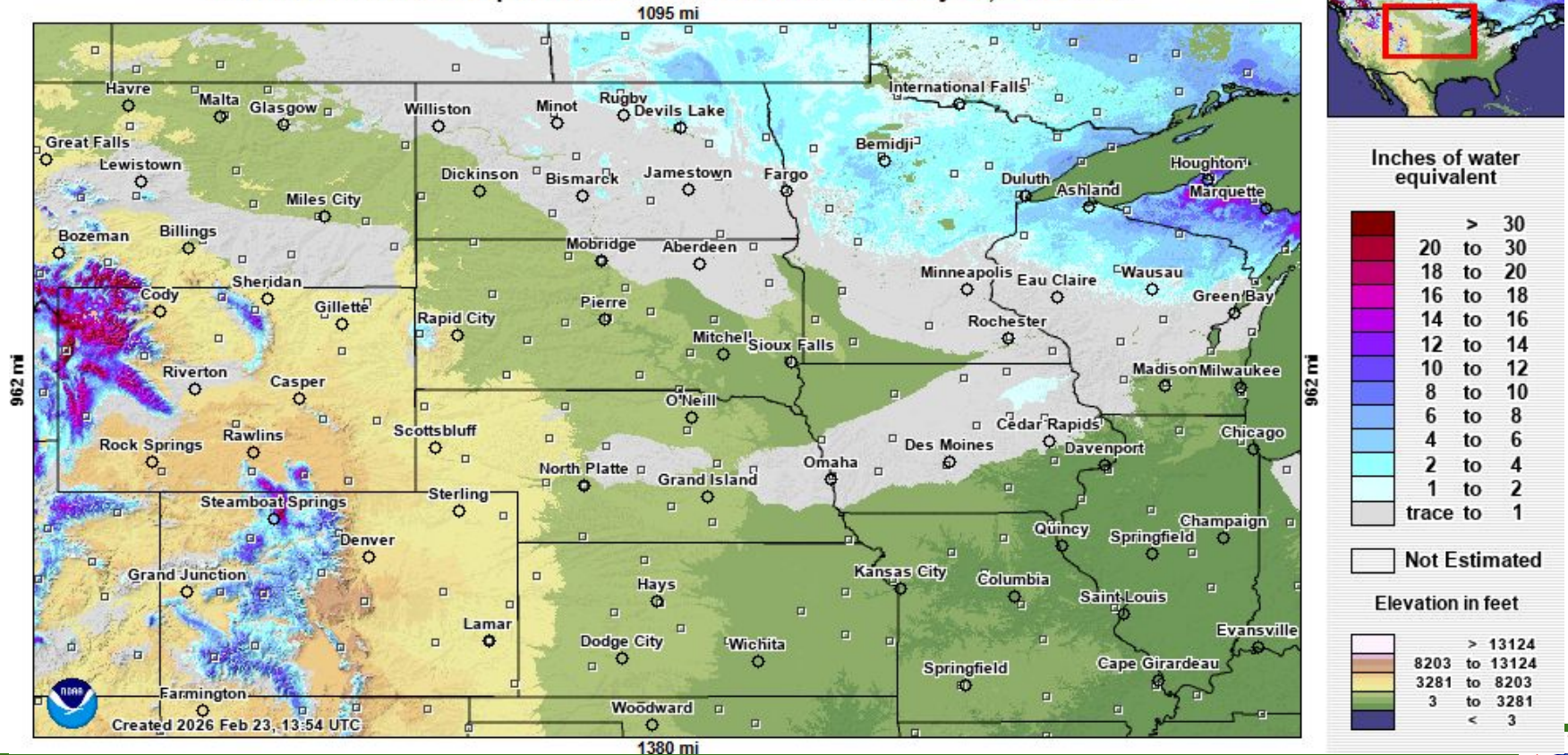
Explanation - Percentile classes						
lowest-10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile - highest
Much below Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		Flow

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Spring Flood Outlook 2026

Modeled Snow Water Equivalent forecasted for 2026 February 24, 22:00 UTC



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6-10 Day Temperature Outlook

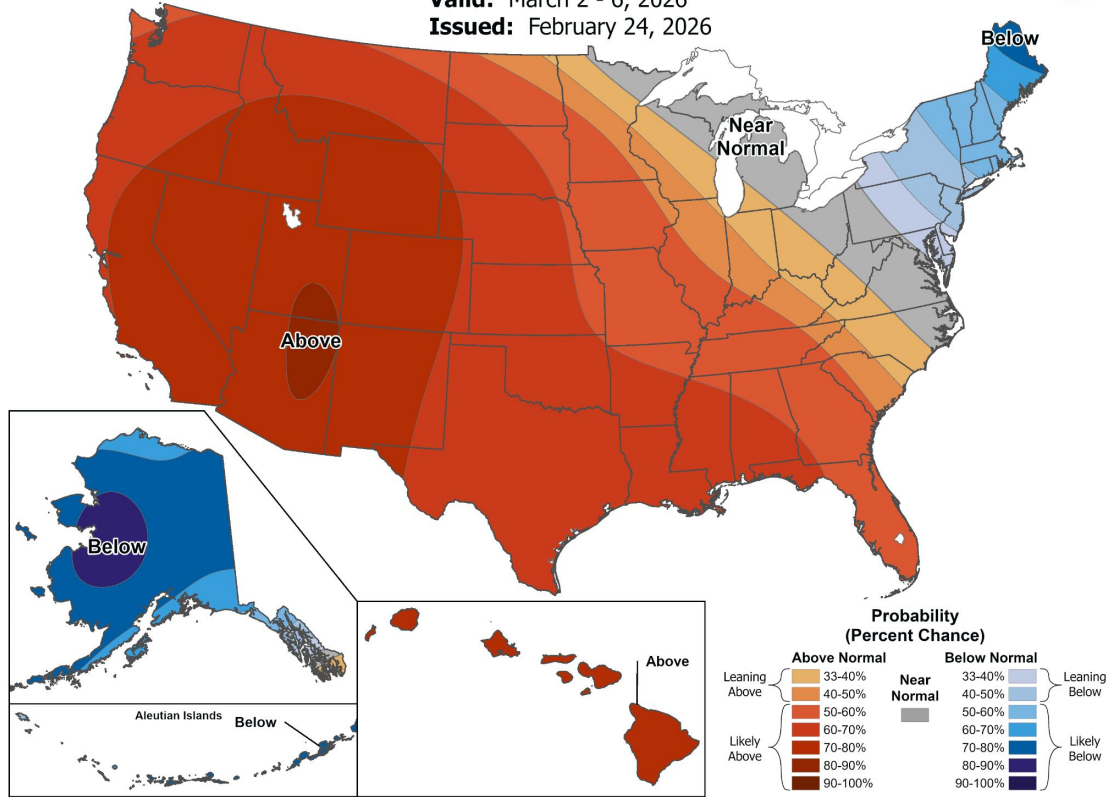


6-10 Day Temperature Outlook



Valid: March 2 - 6, 2026

Issued: February 24, 2026



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6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook

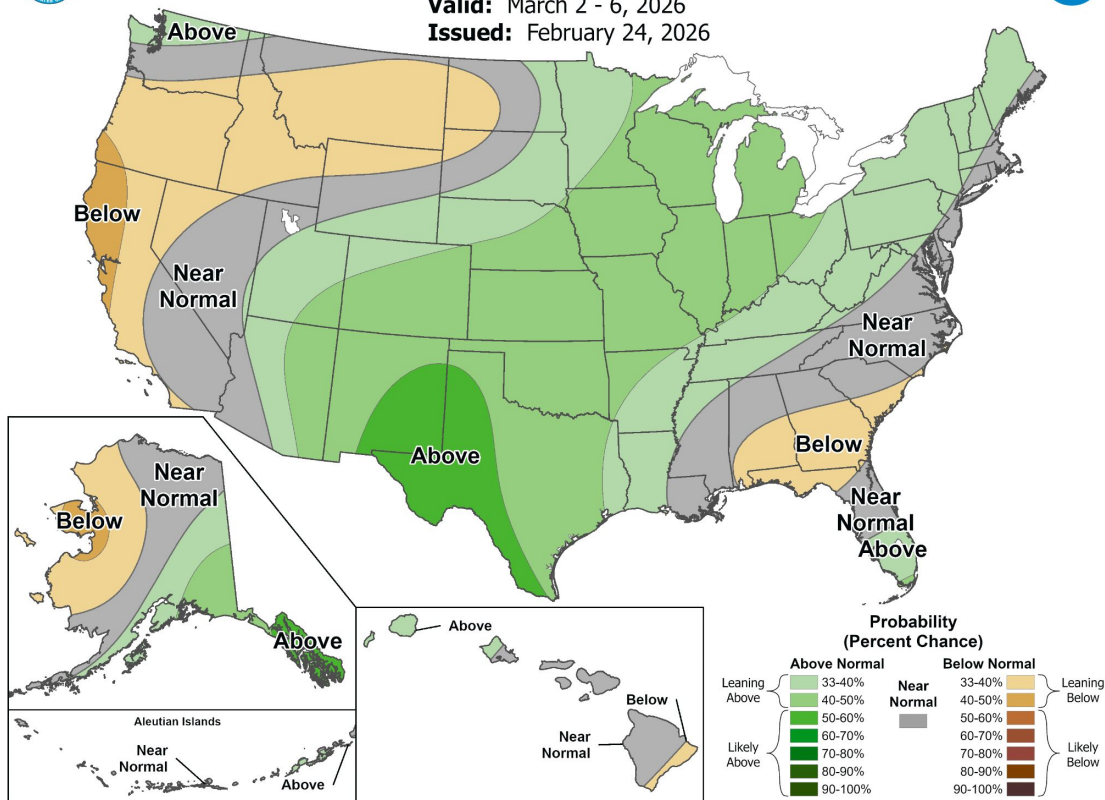


6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook



Valid: March 2 - 6, 2026

Issued: February 24, 2026



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8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

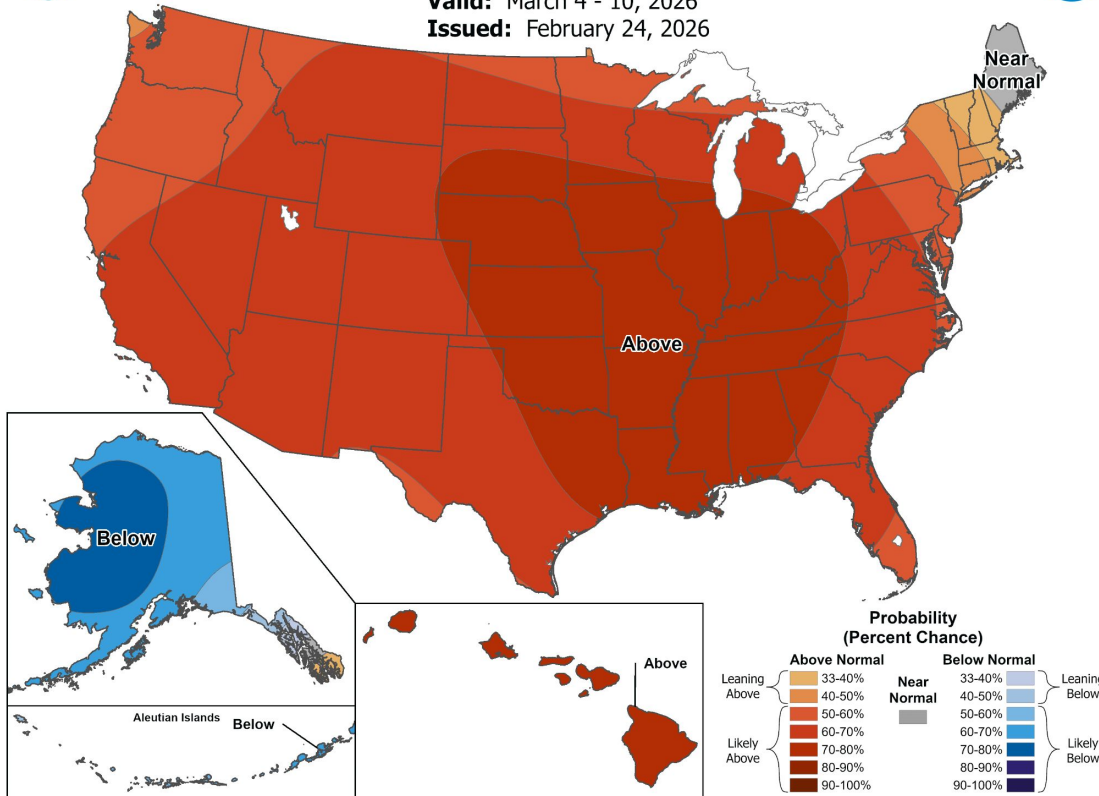


8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

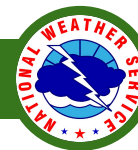


Valid: March 4 - 10, 2026

Issued: February 24, 2026



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8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

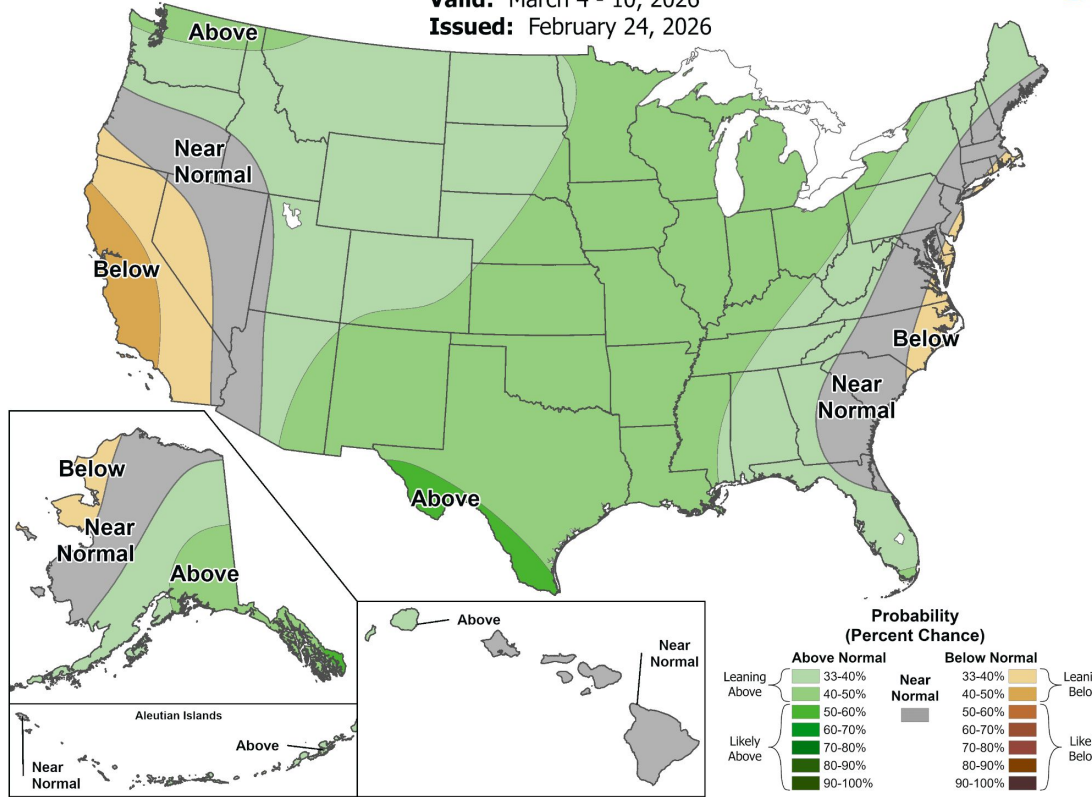


8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook



Valid: March 4 - 10, 2026

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March Temperature Outlook

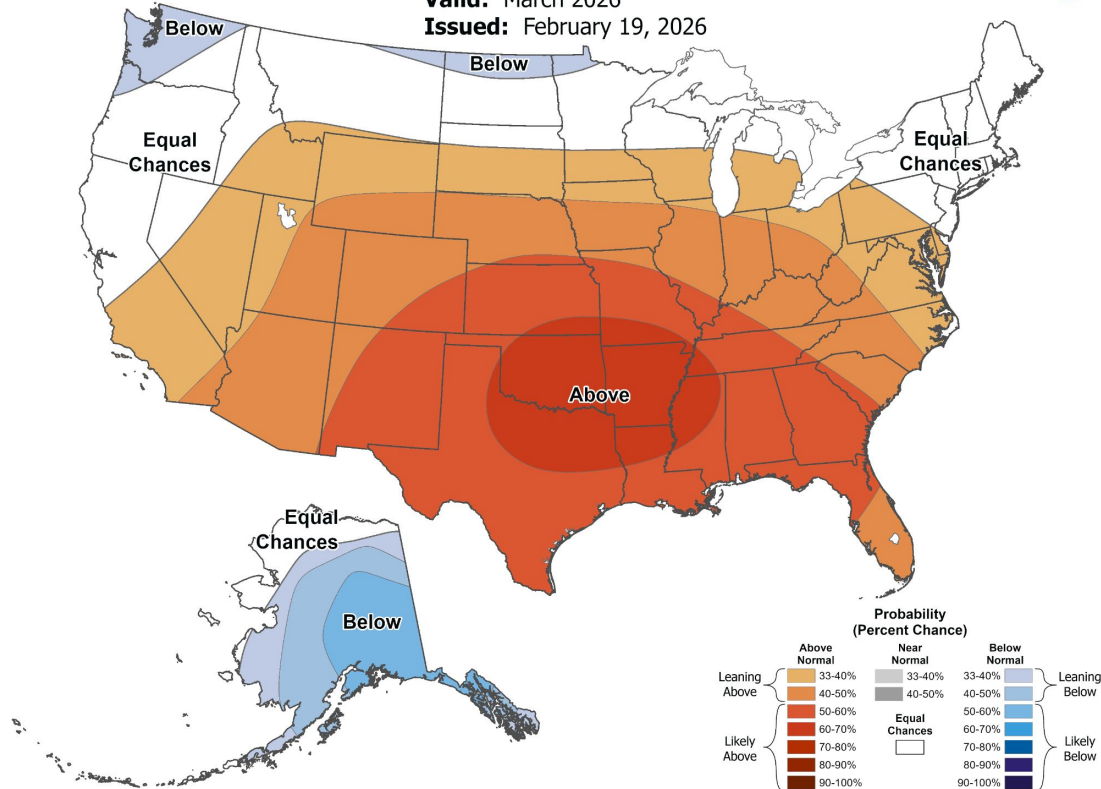


Monthly Temperature Outlook



Valid: March 2026

Issued: February 19, 2026



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March Precipitation Outlook

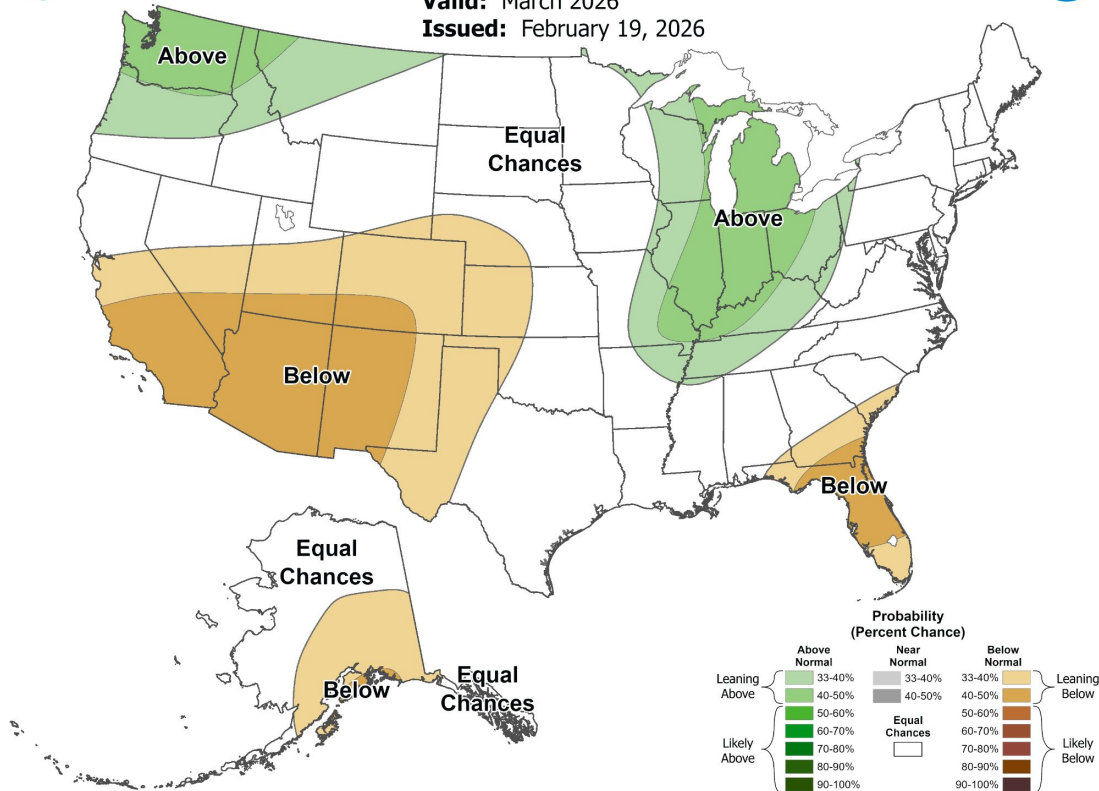


Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: March 2026

Issued: February 19, 2026



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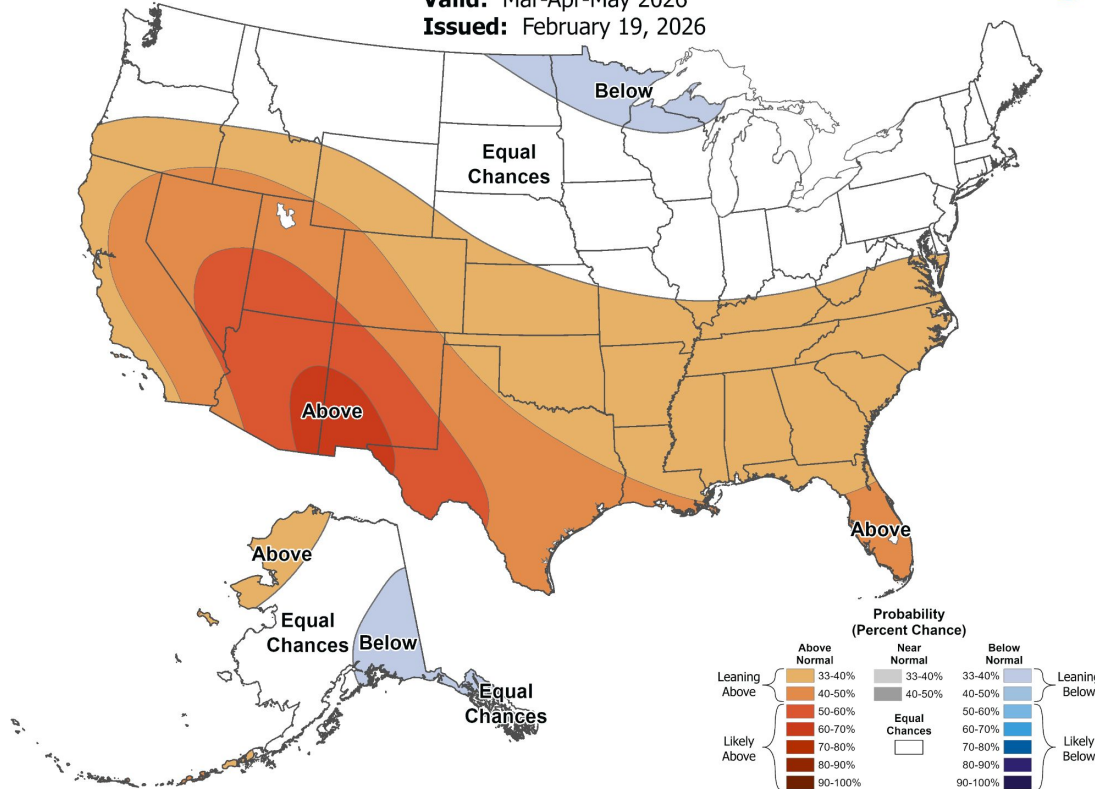
90-Day Temperature Outlook (March-May)



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2026
Issued: February 19, 2026



NWS St. Louis



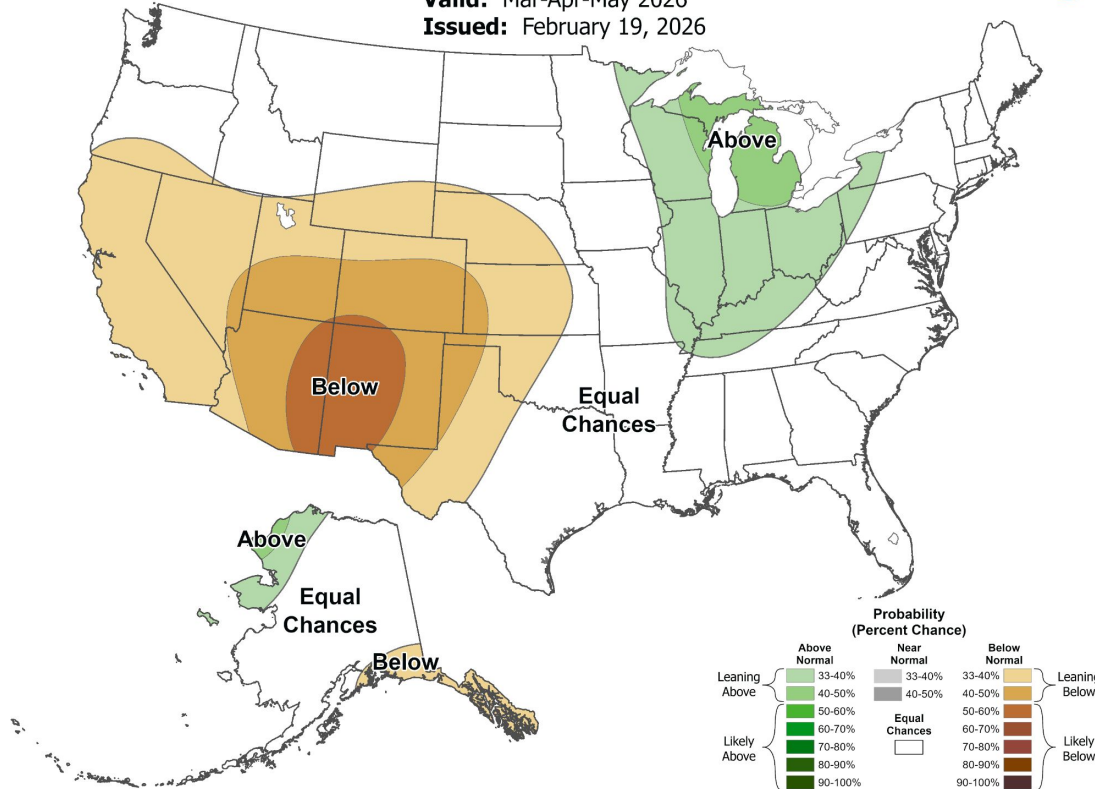
90-Day Precipitation Outlook (March-May)



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



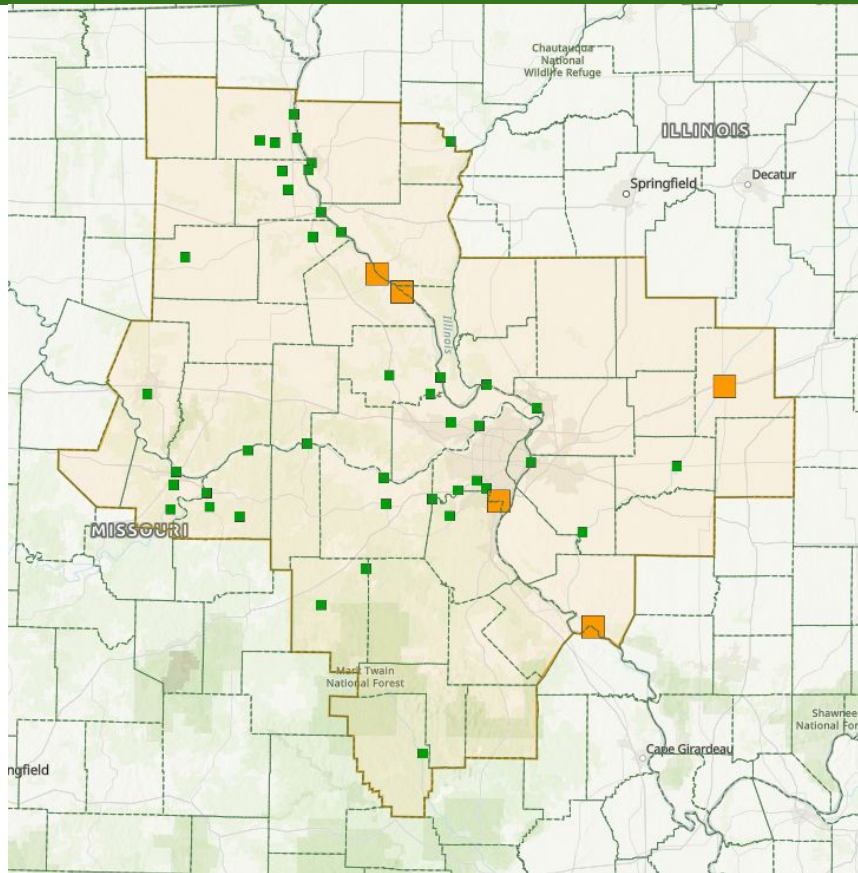
Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2026
Issued: February 19, 2026



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Spring Flood Outlook 2026



○ Observations & Forecasts

● Long Range Flood Outlook

50% or greater chance of exceeding river flood levels:

0 > Major



0 > Moderate



5 > Minor



42 <= No Flooding

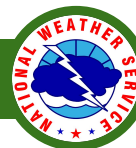


0 Unavailable



☑ Limit by boundary

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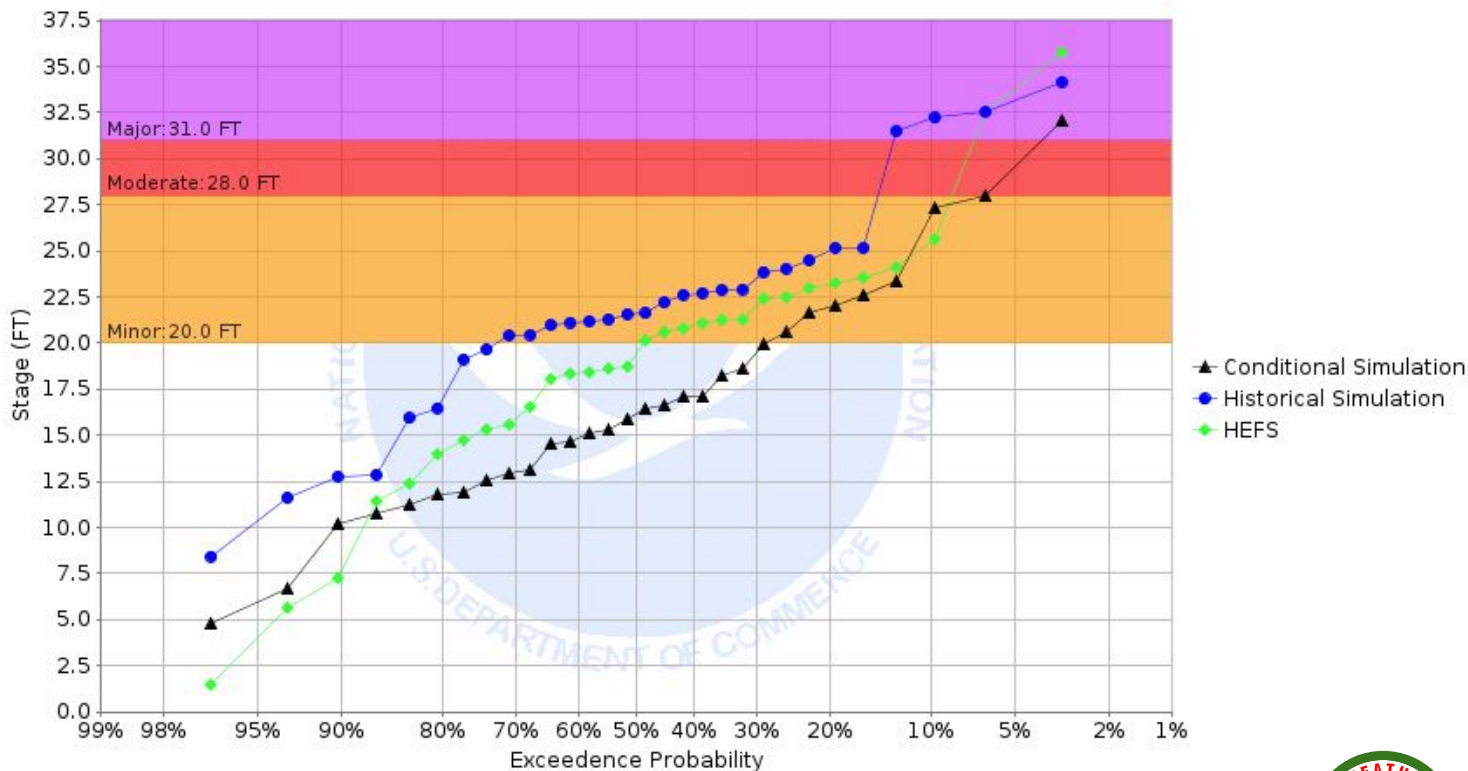


Spring Flood Outlook 2026 - Missouri River at Washington, MO

Chance of Exceeding River Stage on the MISSOURI R at WASHINGTON MO
Forecast for the period 02/15/2026 - 05/16/2026

This is a conditional simulation based on the current conditions as of 02/10/2026

- The chance of exceeding minor flood stage is 29%, which is 44% below the historical average. The new probability is unchanged.
- The chance of exceeding moderate flood stage was 6%, 9% below the historical average. The new probability is 11%, 7% below.



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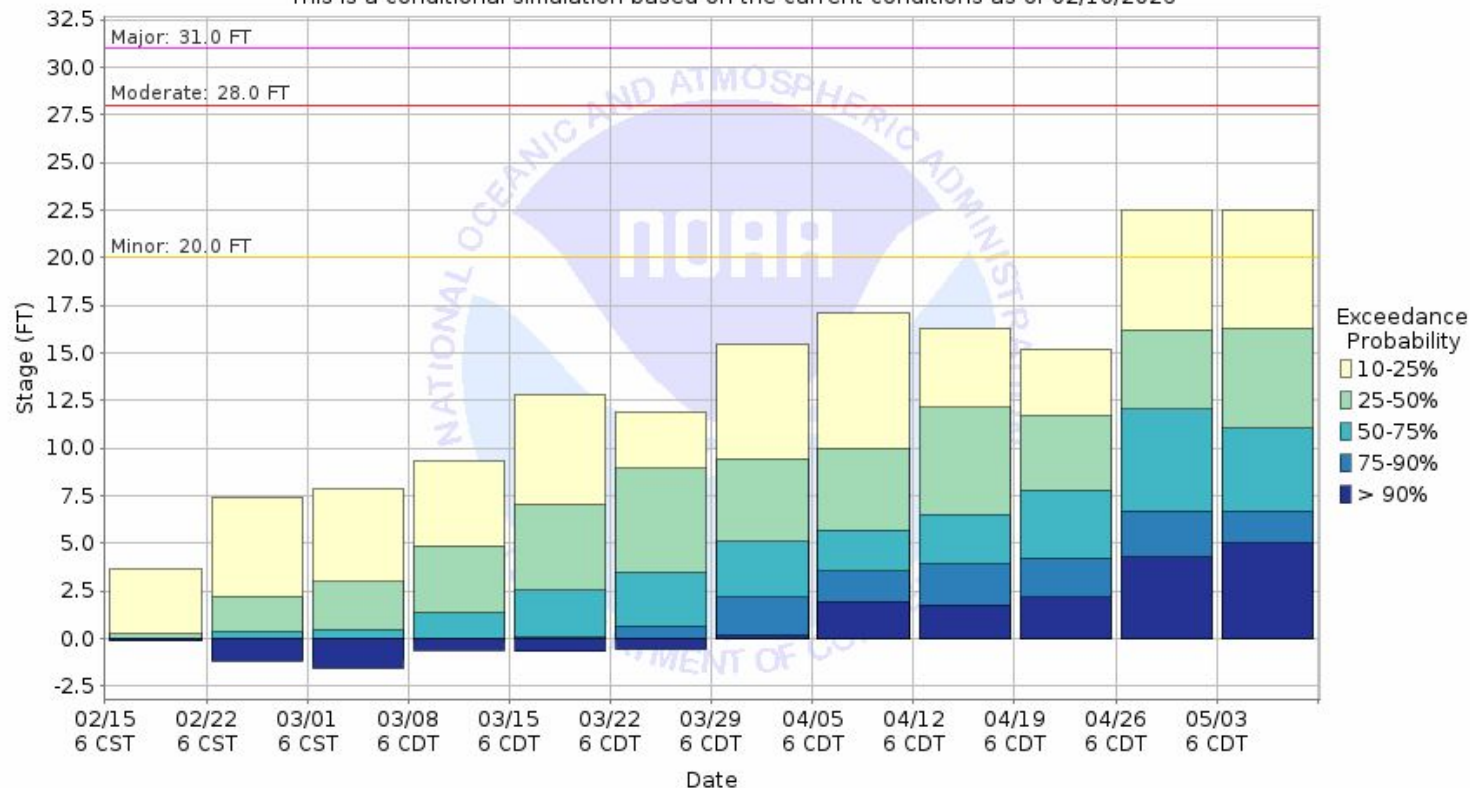


Spring Flood Outlook 2026 - Missouri River at Washington, MO

Weekly Chance of Exceeding River Stage on the MISSOURI R at WASHINGTON MO

Forecast for the period 02/15/2026 - 05/10/2026

This is a conditional simulation based on the current conditions as of 02/10/2026



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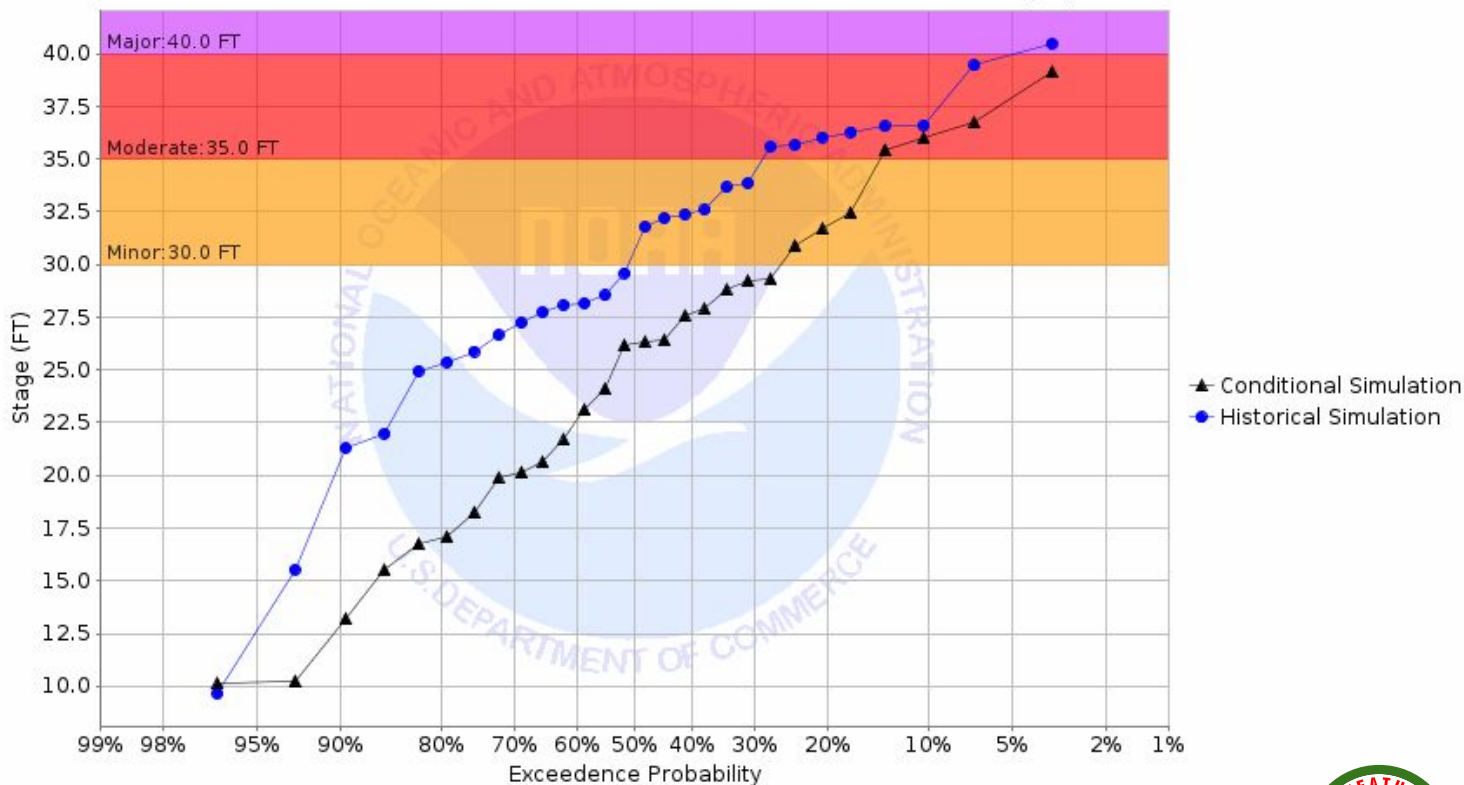
Spring Flood Outlook 2025 - Mississippi River at St. Louis, MO

Chance of Exceeding River Stage at Mississippi River at St Louis (Eads Bridge) (EADM7)

Forecast for the period 02/16/2026 - 05/17/2026

This is a conditional simulation based on the conditions as of 02/09/2026

- Like much of the upper Mississippi, the probability of minor flooding was 26%, 25% below the historical average. Today's updated probability drops to 20%, 34% below average.
- The probability of moderate flooding was 14%, which is 14% below normal. Today's probability drops to 12%, 20% below average.



NWS St. Louis

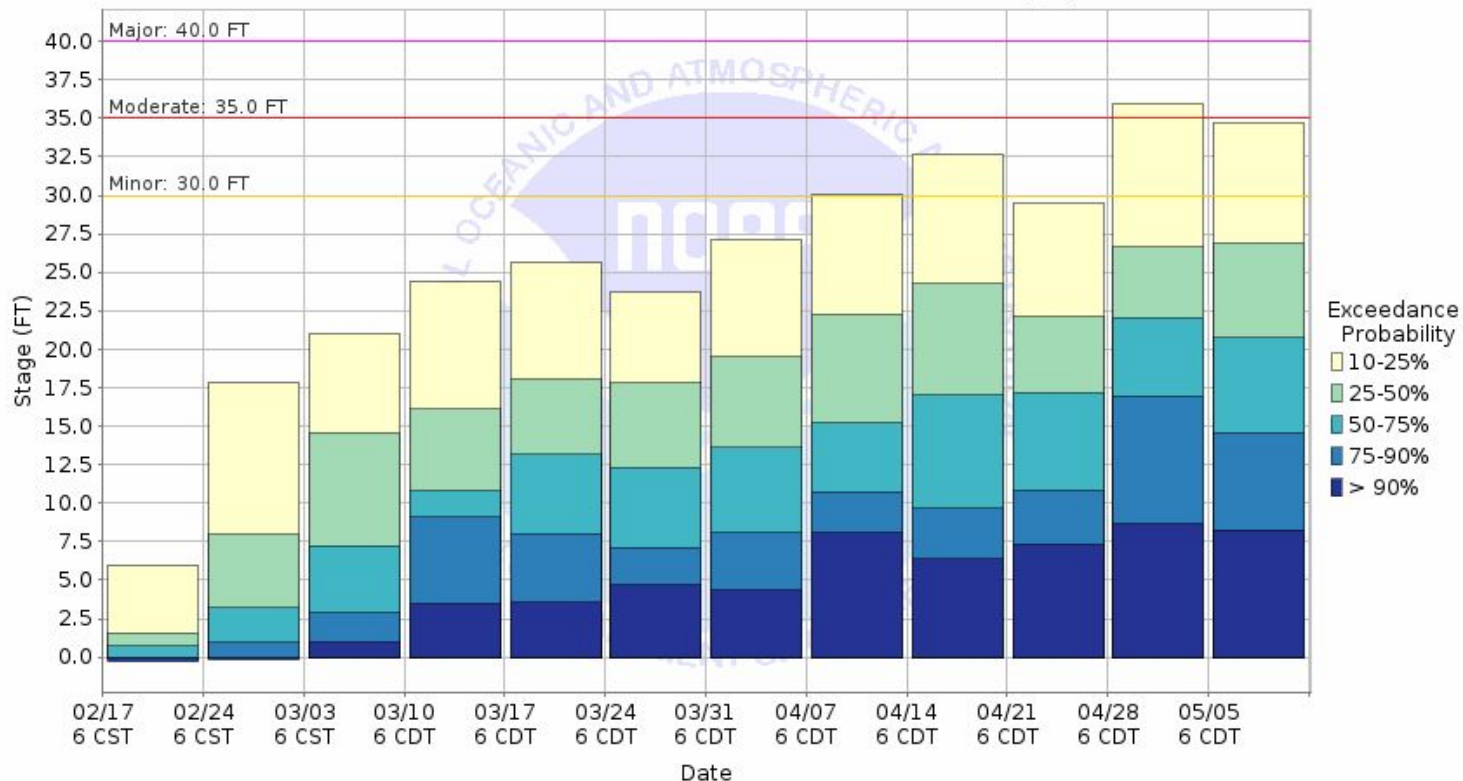


Spring Flood Outlook 2026 - Mississippi River at St. Louis, MO

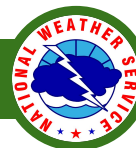
Weekly Chance of Exceeding River Stage at Mississippi River at St. Louis (Eads Bridge) (EADM7)

Forecast for the period 02/17/2025 - 05/18/2025

This is a conditional simulation based on the conditions as of 02/10/2025



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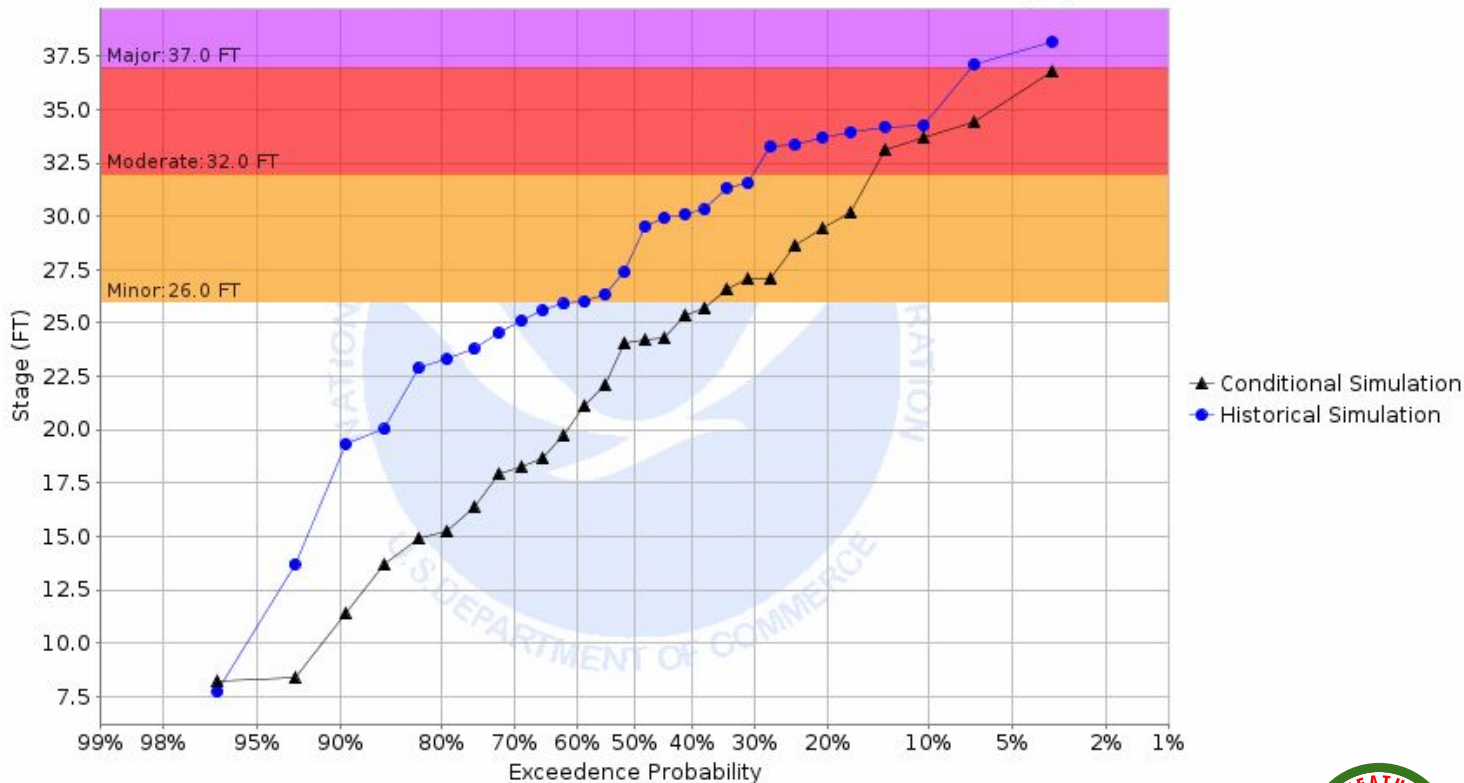
Spring Flood Outlook 2026 - Mississippi River at Herculaneum, MO

Chance of Exceeding River Stage at Mississippi River at Herculaneum 1NE (HRCM7)

Forecast for the period 02/16/2026 - 05/17/2026

This is a conditional simulation based on the conditions as of 02/09/2026

- Minor Flooding was not likely at 37%, 22% below the historical average. The new guidance today drops that probability to 30%, 29% below the historical average.
- The new chance of moderate flooding is now 13%, 21% below the historical average.



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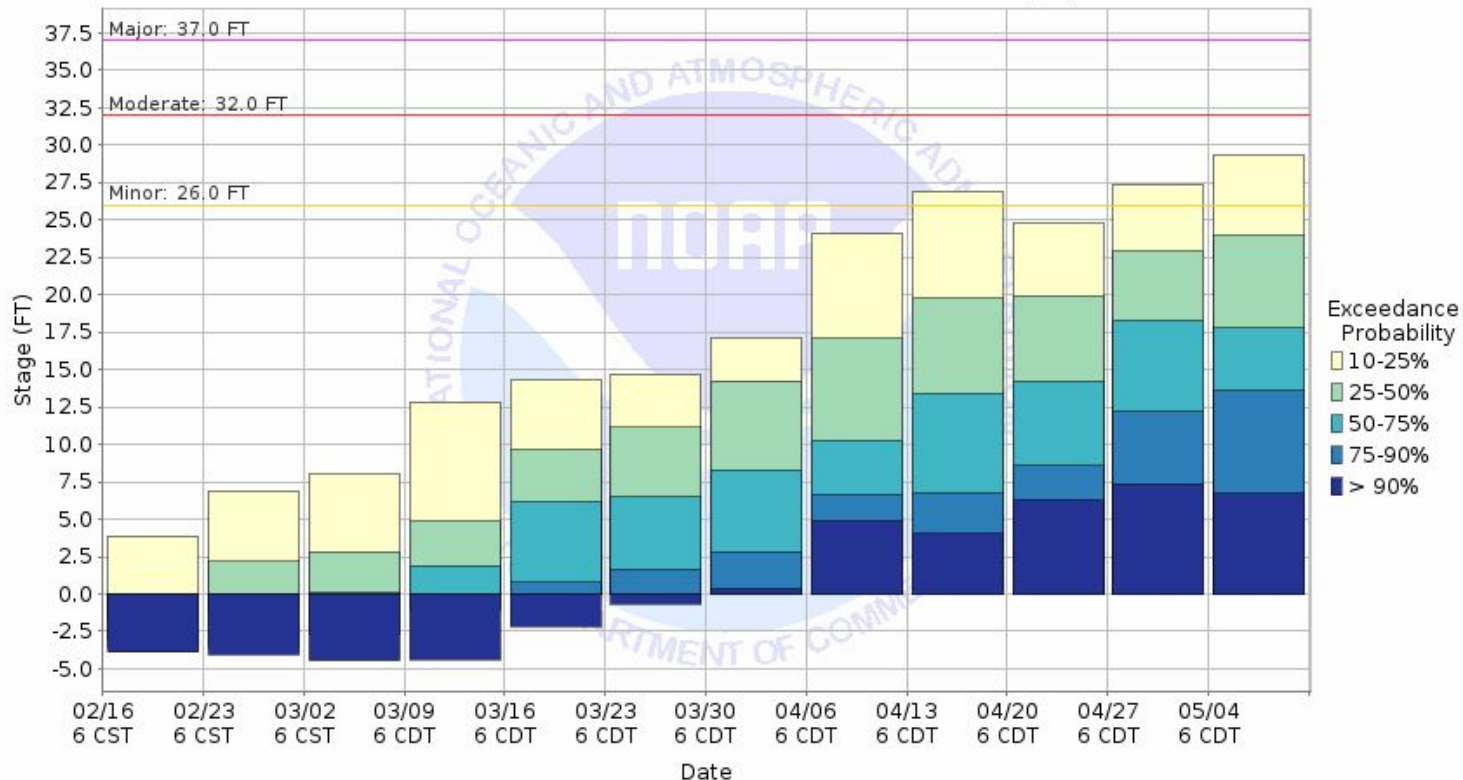


Spring Flood Outlook 2026 - Mississippi River at Herculaneum, MO

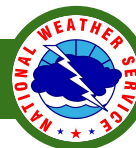
Weekly Chance of Exceeding River Stage at Mississippi River at Herculaneum 1 NE (HRCM7)

Forecast for the period 02/16/2026 - 05/17/2026

This is a conditional simulation based on the conditions as of 02/09/2026



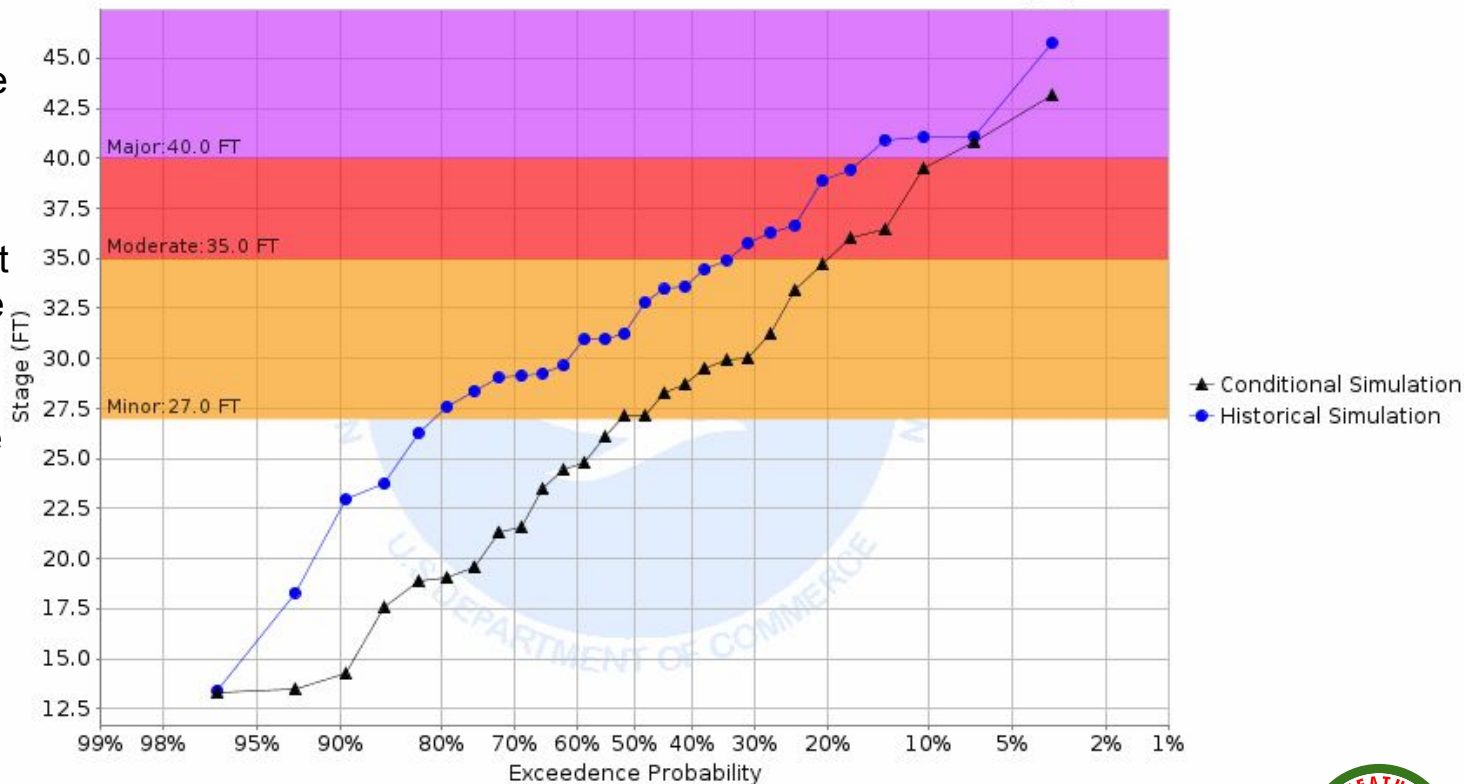
NWS St. Louis



Spring Flood Outlook 2026 - Mississippi River at Chester, IL

Chance of Exceeding River Stage at Mississippi River at Chester (CHS12)
Forecast for the period 02/16/2026 - 05/17/2026
This is a conditional simulation based on the conditions as of 02/09/2026

- Minor Flooding was likely at 52%, but that's 29% below the historical average. The new guidance indicates minor flooding is unlikely at 47%, 31% below the historical average.
- Chance of moderate flooding was 20%, 14% below the historical average. Today's guidance is 16%, 22% below average.

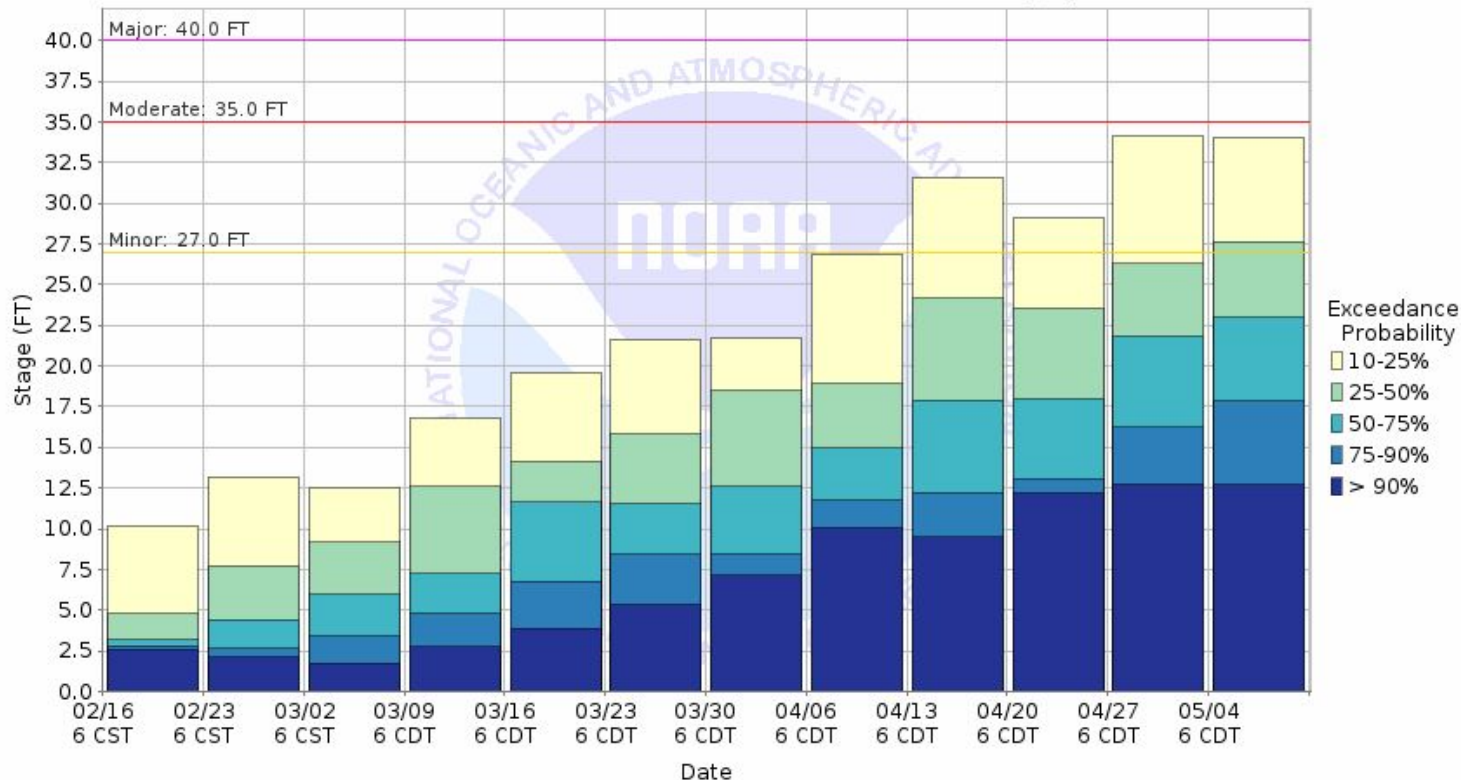


NWS St. Louis

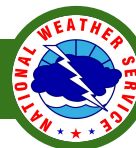


Spring Flood Outlook 2026 - Mississippi River at Chester, IL

Weekly Chance of Exceeding River Stage at Mississippi River at Chester (CHS12)
Forecast for the period 02/16/2026 - 05/17/2026
This is a conditional simulation based on the conditions as of 02/09/2026



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Near Term River Probabilities - Hydrologic Ensemble Forecast Service (HEFS)

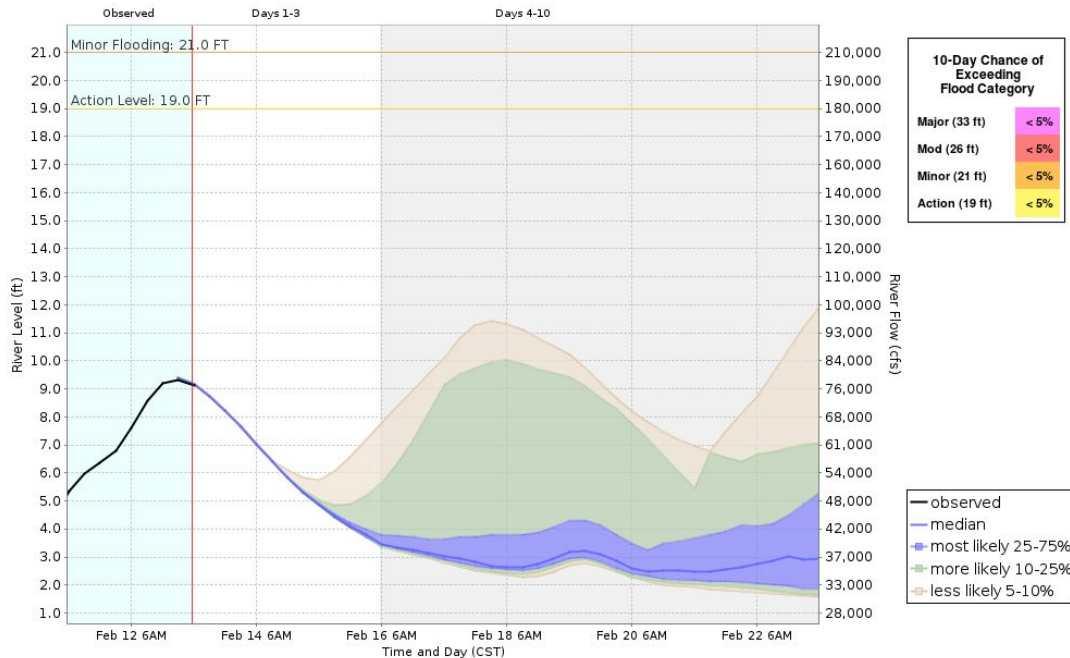
HEFS - 10 Day River Level Probabilities

Based on Hydrologic Ensemble Forecast Service Model Simulations
Used to Estimate the Range of Possible River Levels



Feb 13 - Feb 23, 2023

MISSOURI R at HERMANN MO MKC DCP

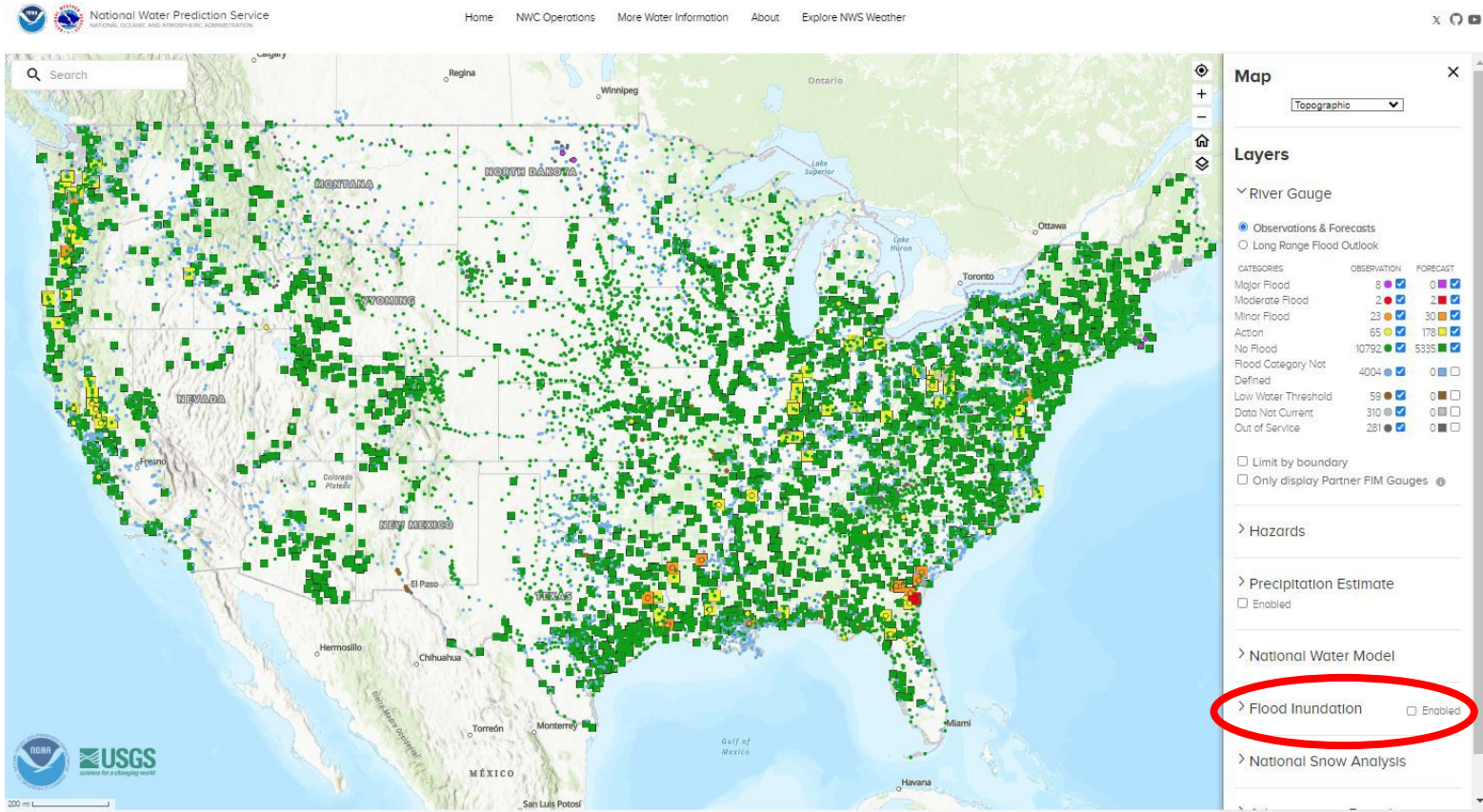


Model runtime: 05:30 AM CST Feb 13 2023
Missouri Basin River Forecast Center

NWS St. Louis



Flood Inundation Mapping Services - Went live in late September 2024

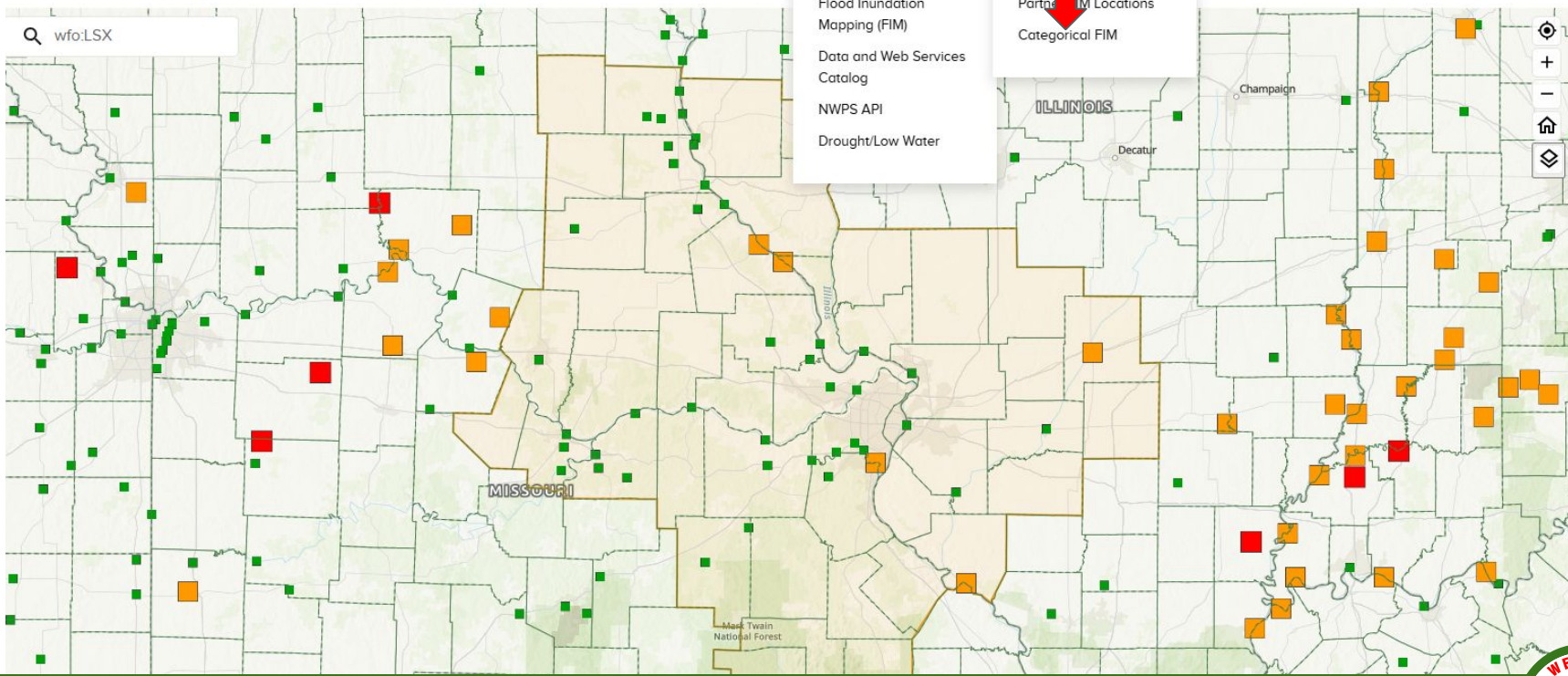


Flood Inundation Mapping Services - Categorical Flood Inundation Mapping

National Observations / St. Louis

- Precipitation Estimate
 - Flood Inundation Mapping (FIM)
 - Data and Web Services Catalog
 - NWPS API
 - Drought/Low Water
- FIM Guidance
 - Partner FIM Locations
 - Categorical FIM

Q wfo:LSX



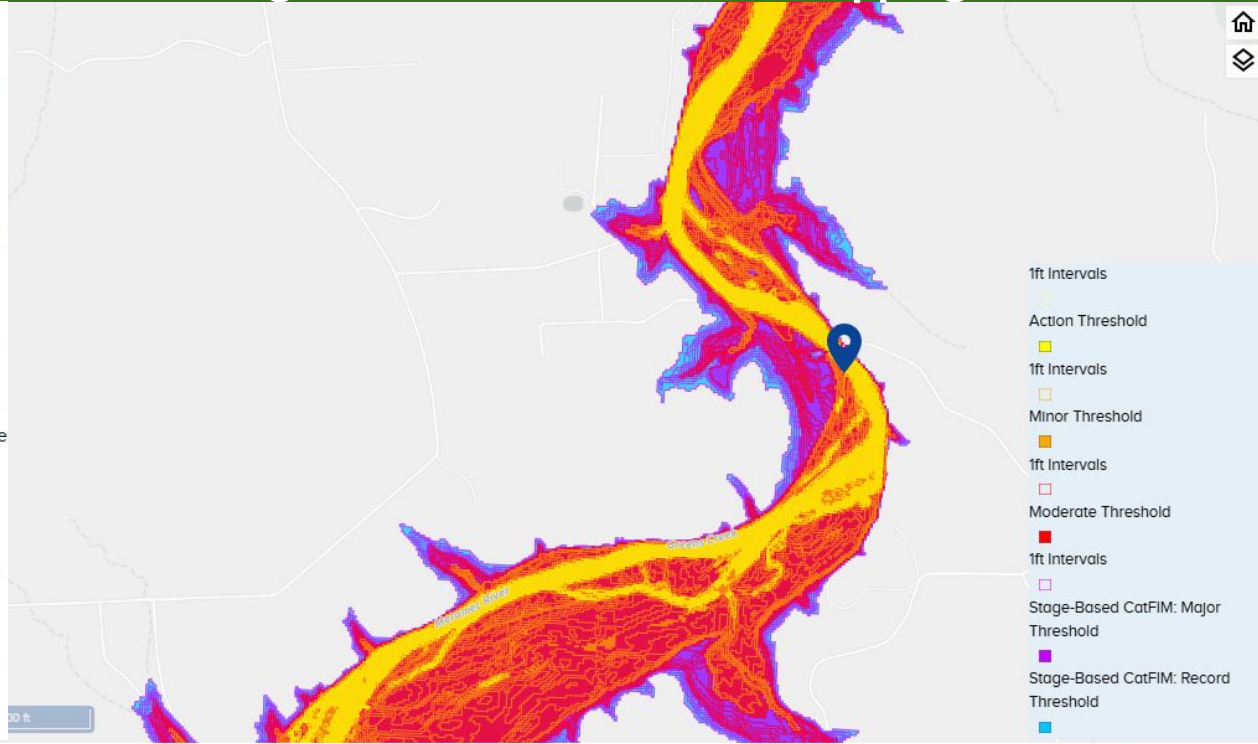
Flood Inundation Mapping Services - Categorical Flood Inundation Mapping

ST. CHARLES, MO (LSX)

- **BYRM7** - Big River at Byrnesville
- **DCWM7** - Dardenne Creek at O'Fallon
- **DESM7** - Joachim Creek at DeSoto
- **ERKM7** - Meramec River near Eureka
- **EWMM7** - Middle Fabius River near Ewing
- **EWNM7** - North Fabius River near Ewing
- **GRF12** - Mississippi River at Grafton
- **JCMM7** - Moreau River (MO) near Jefferson City
- **JFFM7** - Missouri River at Jefferson City
- **PALM7** - North River (MO) at Palmyra
- **PCFM7** - Meramec River near Pacific
- **PMZM7** - Middle Fork Salt River near Holliday
- **RIFM7** - Gasconade River near Rich Fountain
- **SEEM7** - Meramec River near Steelville
- **SLLM7** - Meramec River near Sullivan
- **STTM7** - Osage River near St. Thomas
- **TAYM7** - South Fabius River near Taylor
- **TGRM7** - Hinkson Creek at Columbia
- **TRYM7** - Cuivre River at Troy
- **UNNM7** - Bourbeuse River at Union
- **VALI2** - Illinois River at Valley City
- **VLLM7** - Meramec River at Valley Park
- **VNDI2** - Kaskaskia River at Vandalia
- **WHGM7** - Missouri River at Washington
- **WPHM7** - Maries River at Westphalia

- Action 1ft Intervals
- Stage-Based CatFIM: Action Threshold
- Minor 1ft Intervals
- Stage-Based CatFIM: Minor Threshold
- Moderate 1ft Intervals
- Stage-Based CatFIM: Moderate Threshold
- Major 1ft Intervals
- Stage-Based CatFIM: Major Threshold
- Stage-Based CatFIM: Record Threshold

- Display SLLM7 marker
 - Deactivate SLLM7 Categorical FIM (CatFIM)
- Current opacity: 72%



Value of FIM Services - Visualizations to depict impacts

Eureka High School November 8, 2024



Questions???

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