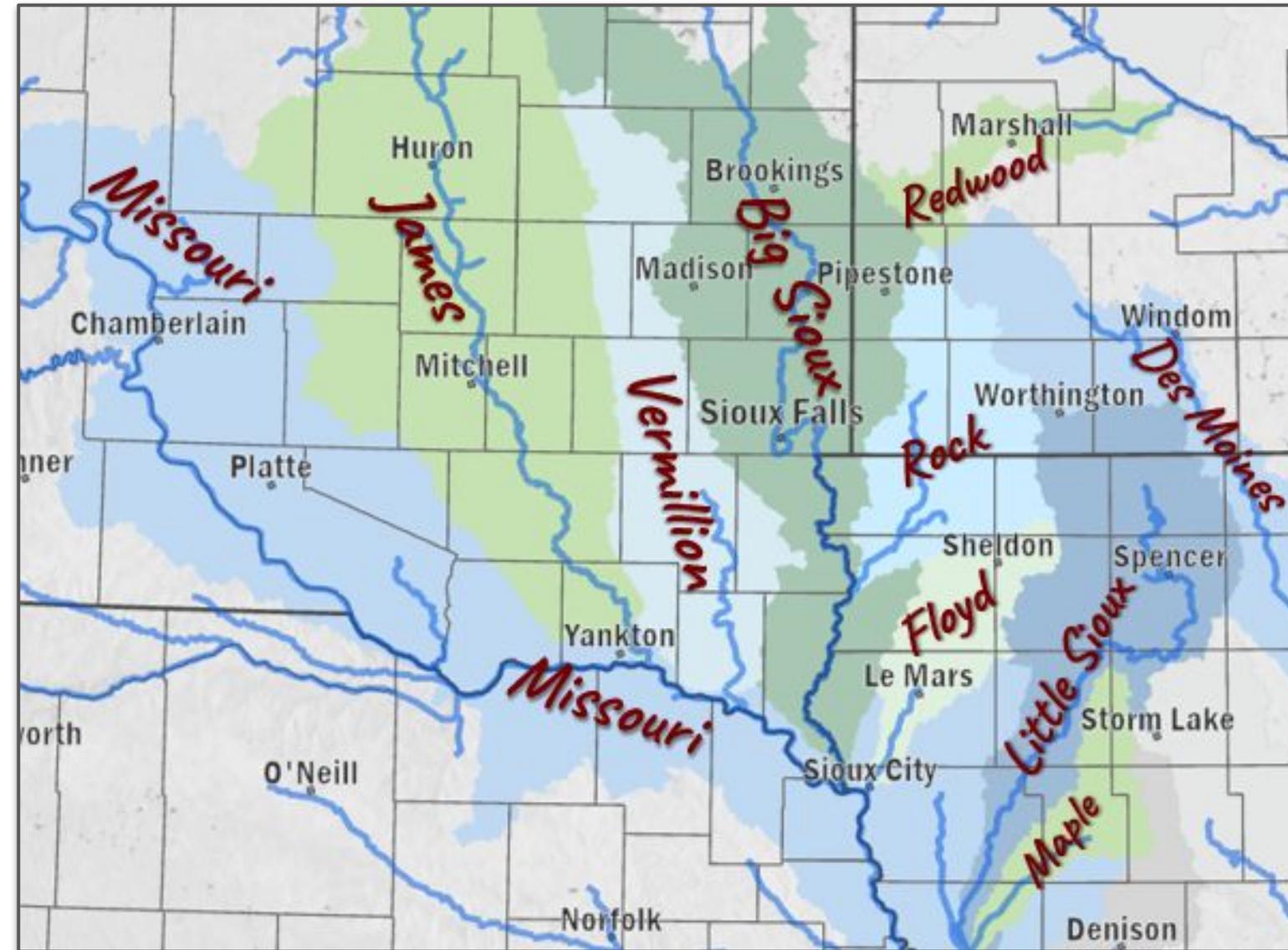




2026 Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlook

National Weather Service
Sioux Falls, SD

March 12, 2026





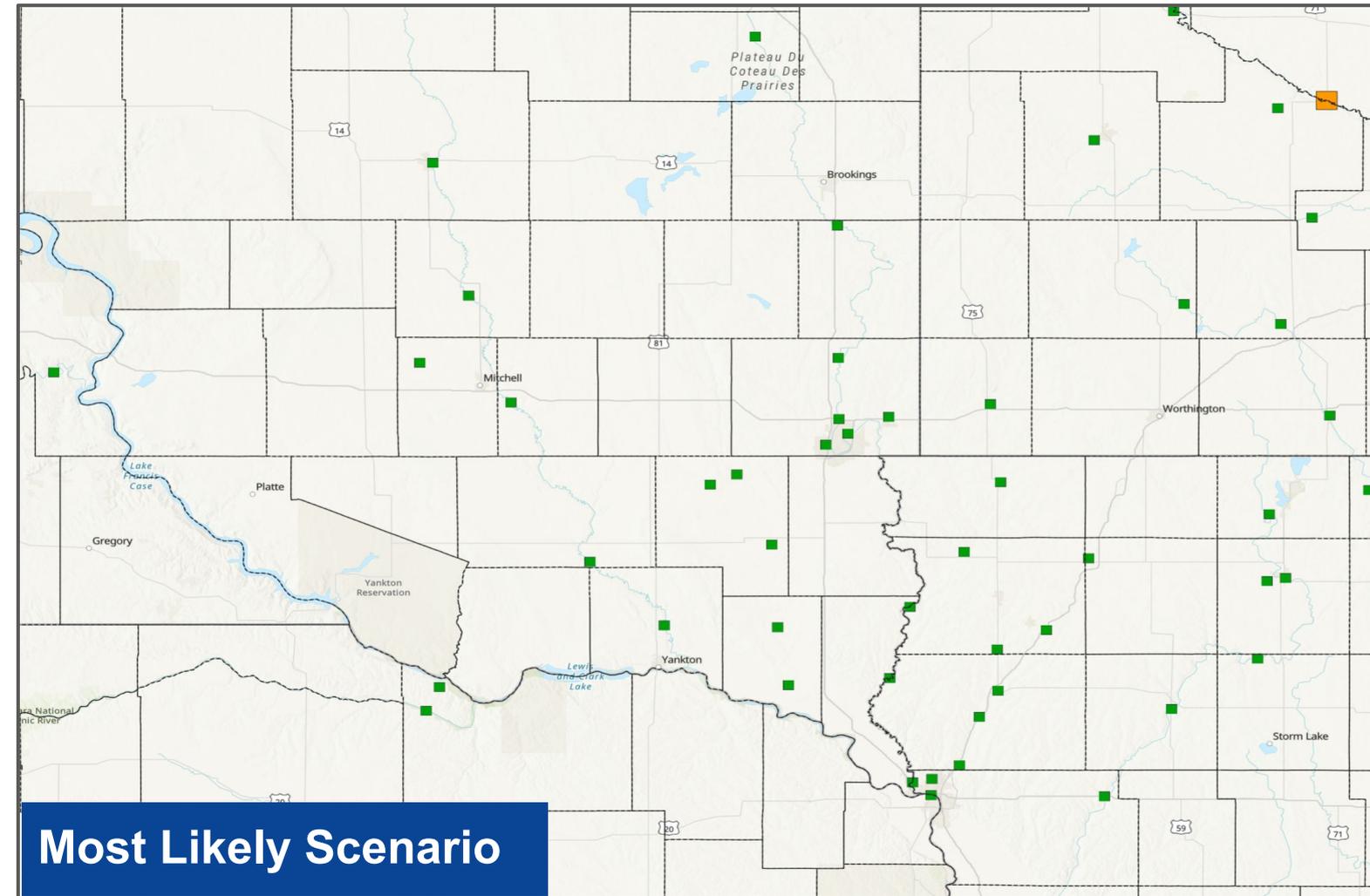
Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT

Issued March 12, 2026 - Valid March 15th through June 13th

Key Messages

- Spring river flood risk is **below normal** over the next 90 days.
- Typical spring snowmelt flood factors have largely been removed.
 - Some ground frost remains north of I-90 and would leave some risk of enhanced runoff.
 - Precipitation chances over the next 7 days are not expected to have a significant impact on the flood risk probabilities.
- Drought is ongoing and may persist.
- Future precipitation would be the primary driver should any flood risk ultimately develop.
 - *Reminder: Recent significant flood events across the state have been a result of early summer heavy rainfall events, not spring snowmelt.*



50% or Greater of Exceeding the Following Flood Levels:

- Major
- Moderate
- Minor
- No Flooding Expected





Spring Flood Outlook

March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT

Key Ingredients	Antecedent Conditions	Impact to Spring Flooding
River Levels	Near to Below Normal	Lesser Risk
River Ice Conditions	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Soil Moisture	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Frost Depth	Near to Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Snow Conditions / Water Equivalent	Below Normal	Lesser Risk
Spring Weather Outlook	Near Normal	Normal Risk

Overall Risk of Spring Flooding:

Lesser Risk

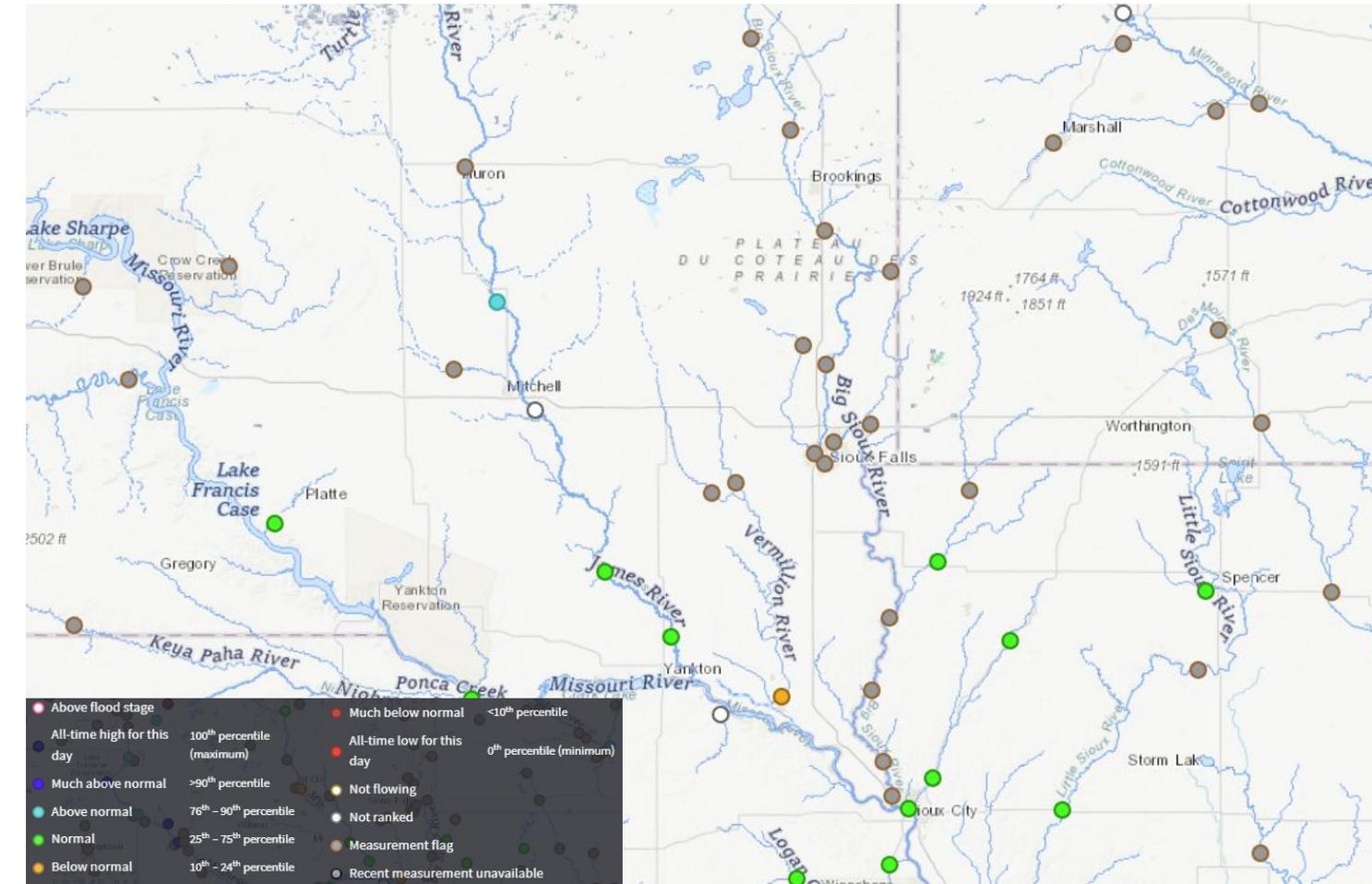
Typical spring flood factors have largely been removed, resulting in a **BELOW NORMAL** river flood risk for the next 90 days. Some ground frost remains and would leave some risk for enhanced runoff until fully removed for the season. Future precipitation will likely be the primary driver of any flood risk, should one ultimately develop.

Risk Potential: Lesser Risk Normal Risk Greater Risk To Be Determined



River Levels

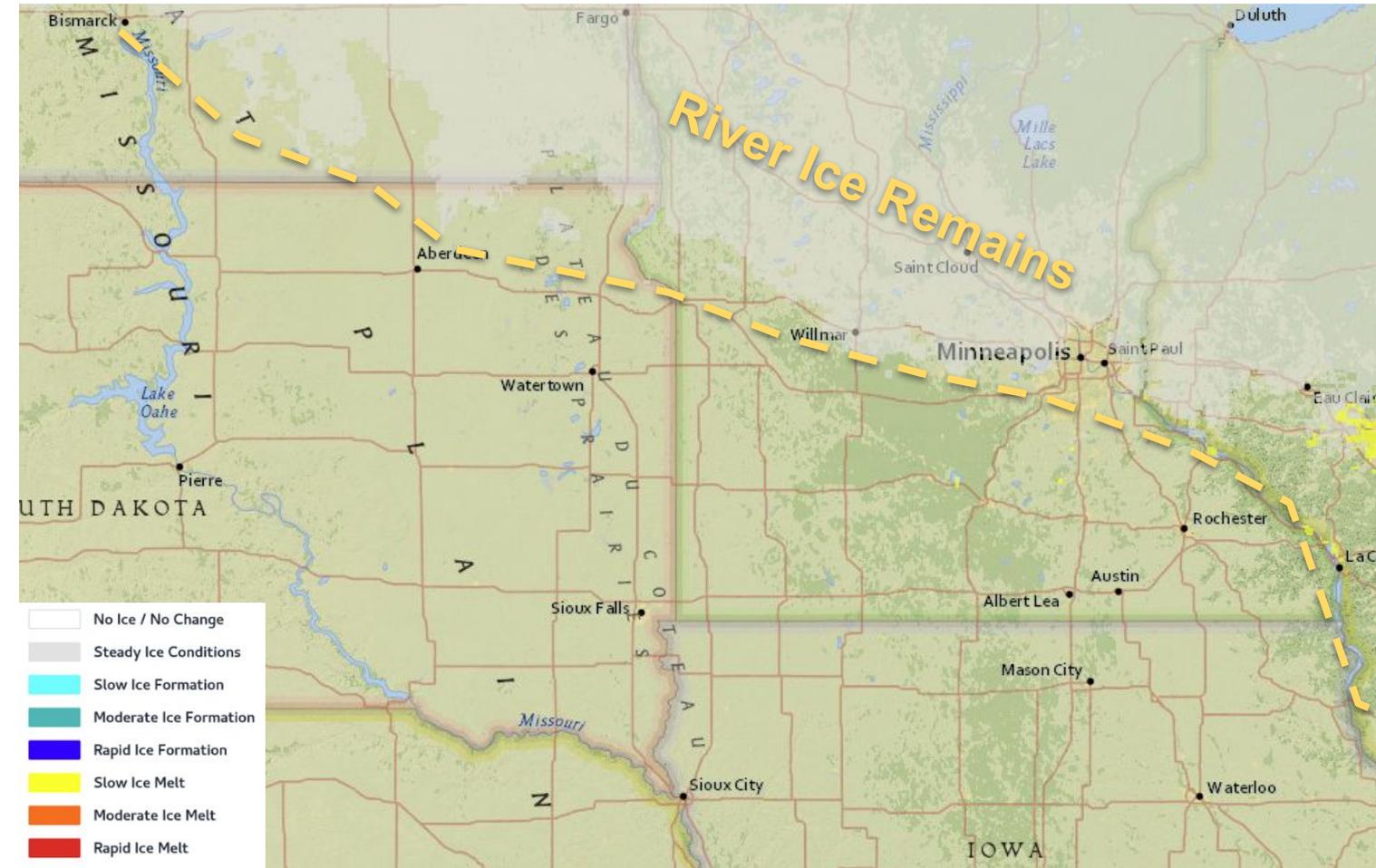
March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT



Current River Levels Compared to Normal

[USGS National Water Dashboard](#)

- River and stream levels across the area are generally running near to below their seasonal normals.



River Ice Outlook

[National Water Center Winter Desk](#)

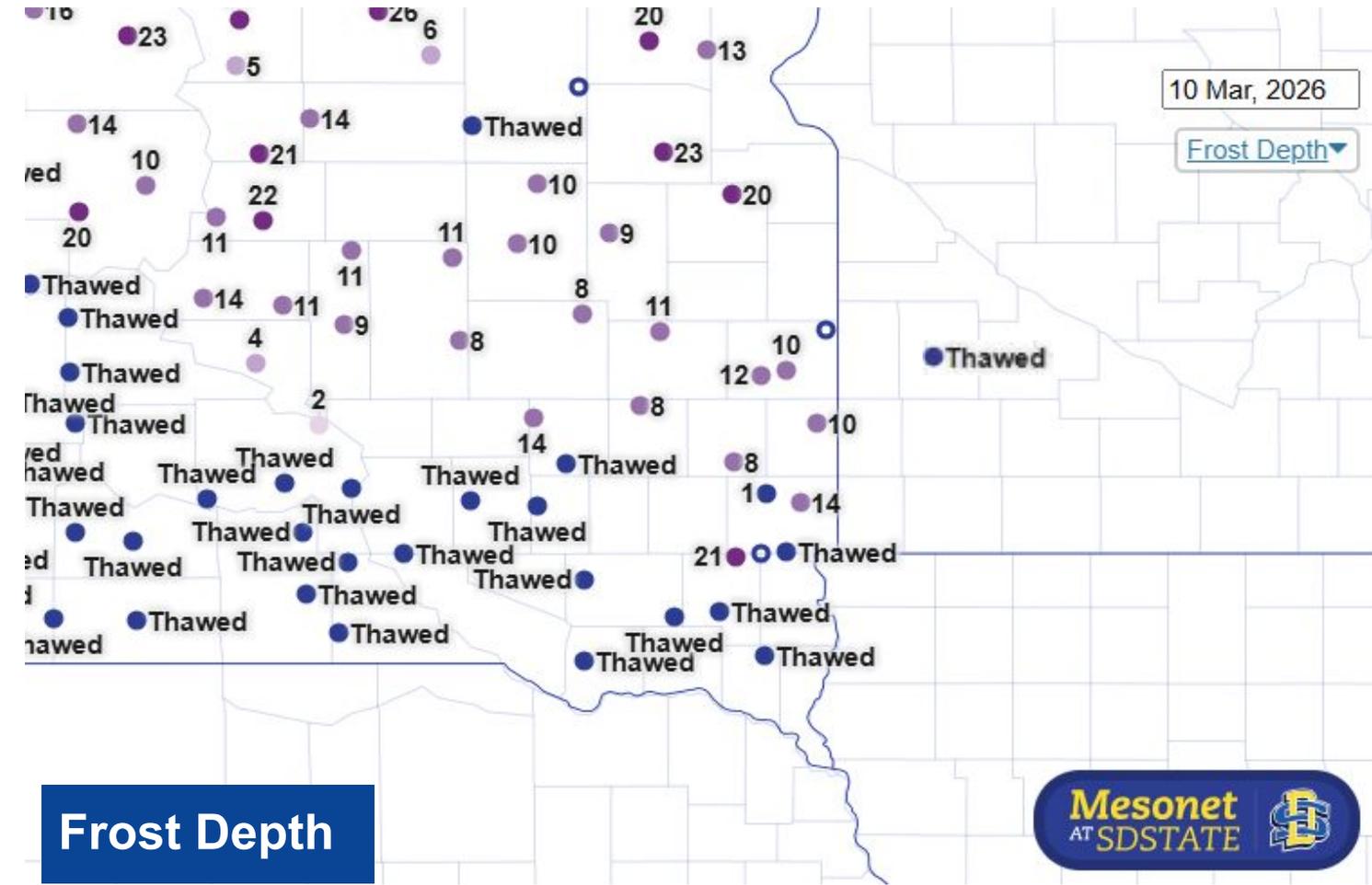
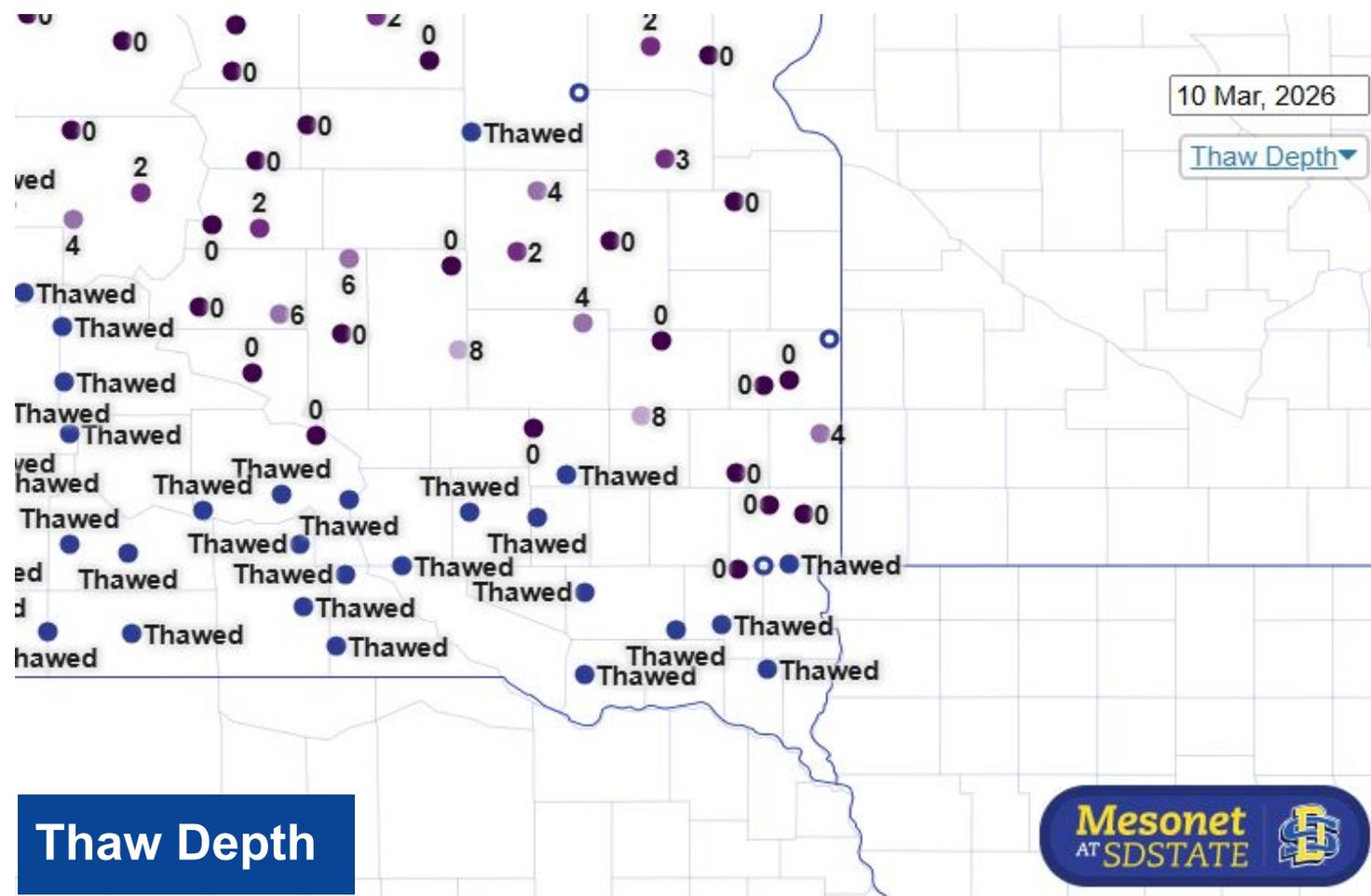
- River ice has largely been removed and is not expected to pose a risk going forward.





Soil Temperature and Frost Depth

March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT



Images Via: [South Dakota State Mesonet](#)

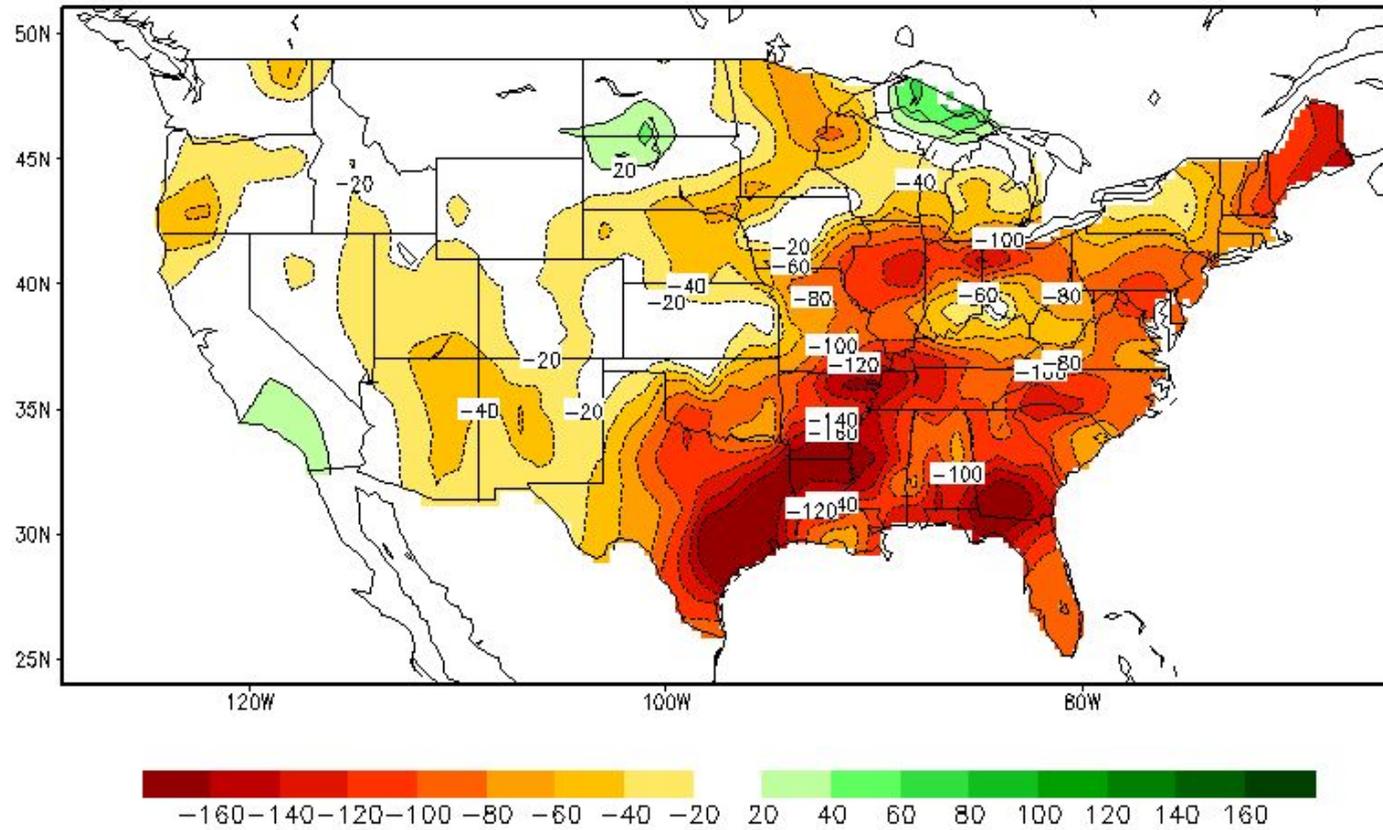
- Ground frost has been removed in areas south of I-90 and is quickly thawing elsewhere.
- Should a more significant precipitation event occur prior to frost removal, enhanced runoff would be possible over areas with frozen ground.



Soil Moisture

March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)
MAR 10, 2026

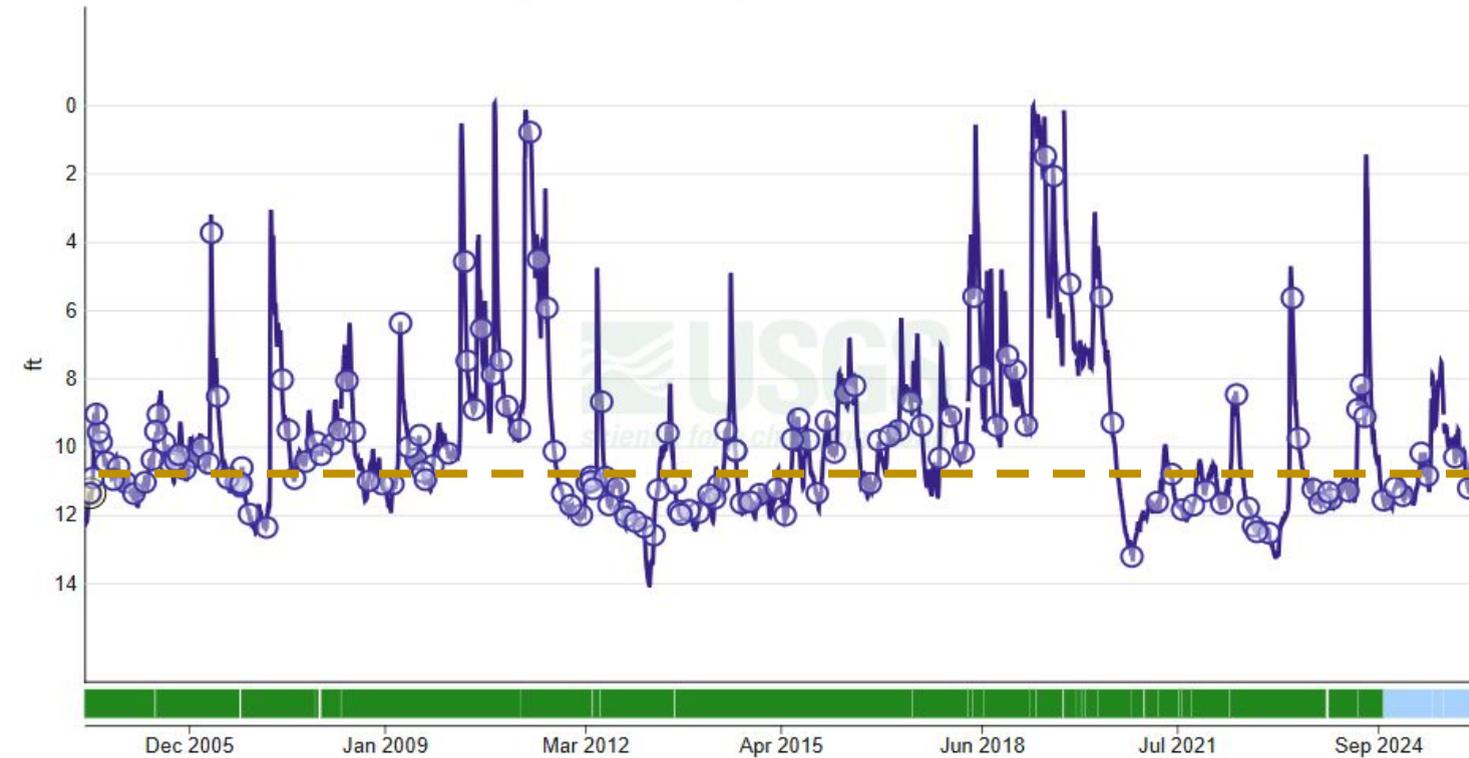


Soil Moisture Anomaly
Climate Prediction Center

- Soil moisture across the immediate area is generally below normal.

Renner GW Well NO.2 Near Renner, SD - USGS-433726096444501

- using custom time span -
April 9, 2004 - March 7, 2026
Depth to water level, feet below land surface



Renner Groundwater Well
United States Geological Survey

- Groundwater well depths generally reside near baseline levels for pre-spring recharge.





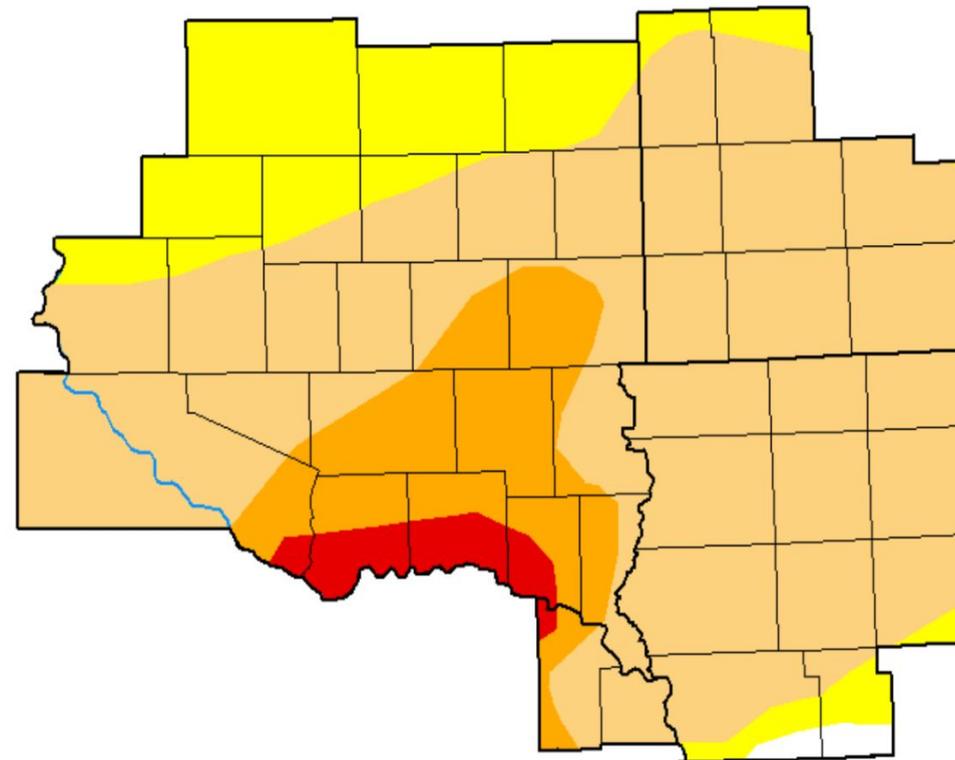
Latest Drought Conditions

March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT

- Abnormal Dry (D0) to Moderate Drought (D1) conditions are currently in place across the immediate region with localized Severe Drought (D2) conditions also noted.
- Current outlooks favor at least some drought status remaining into the the start of the growing season, particularly for locations south of I-90.

U.S. Drought Monitor Sioux Falls, SD WFO

March 10, 2026
(Released Thursday, Mar. 12, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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

National Weather Service
Sioux Falls, SD

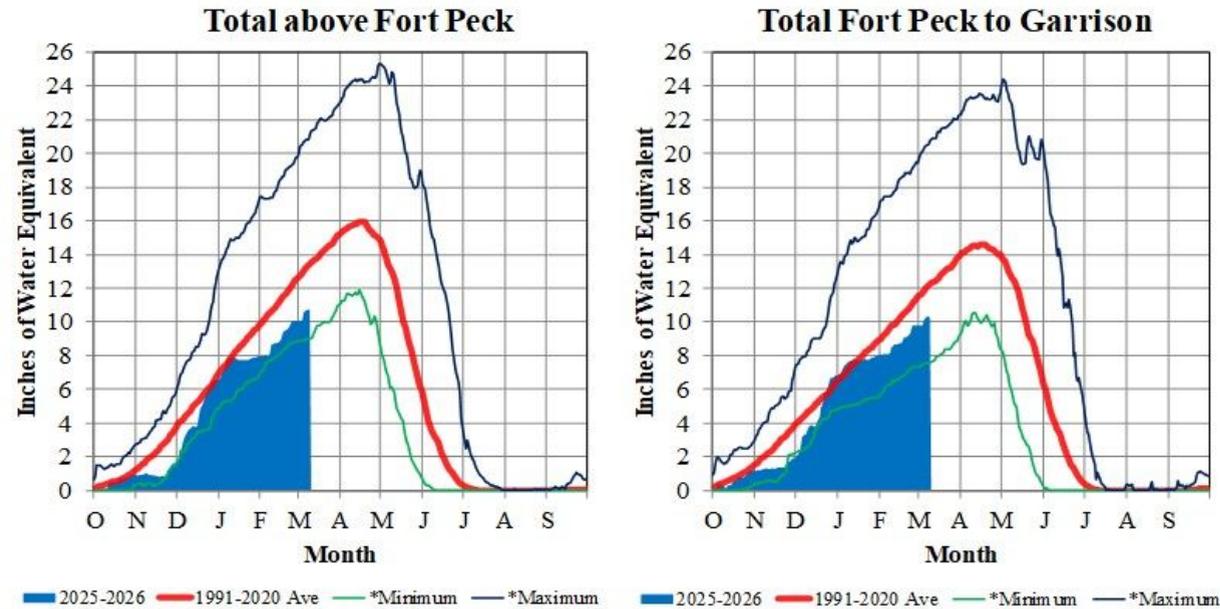


Missouri River Basin Status

March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT

Missouri River Basin – Mountain Snowpack Water Content 2025-2026 with comparison plots from recent high and low years

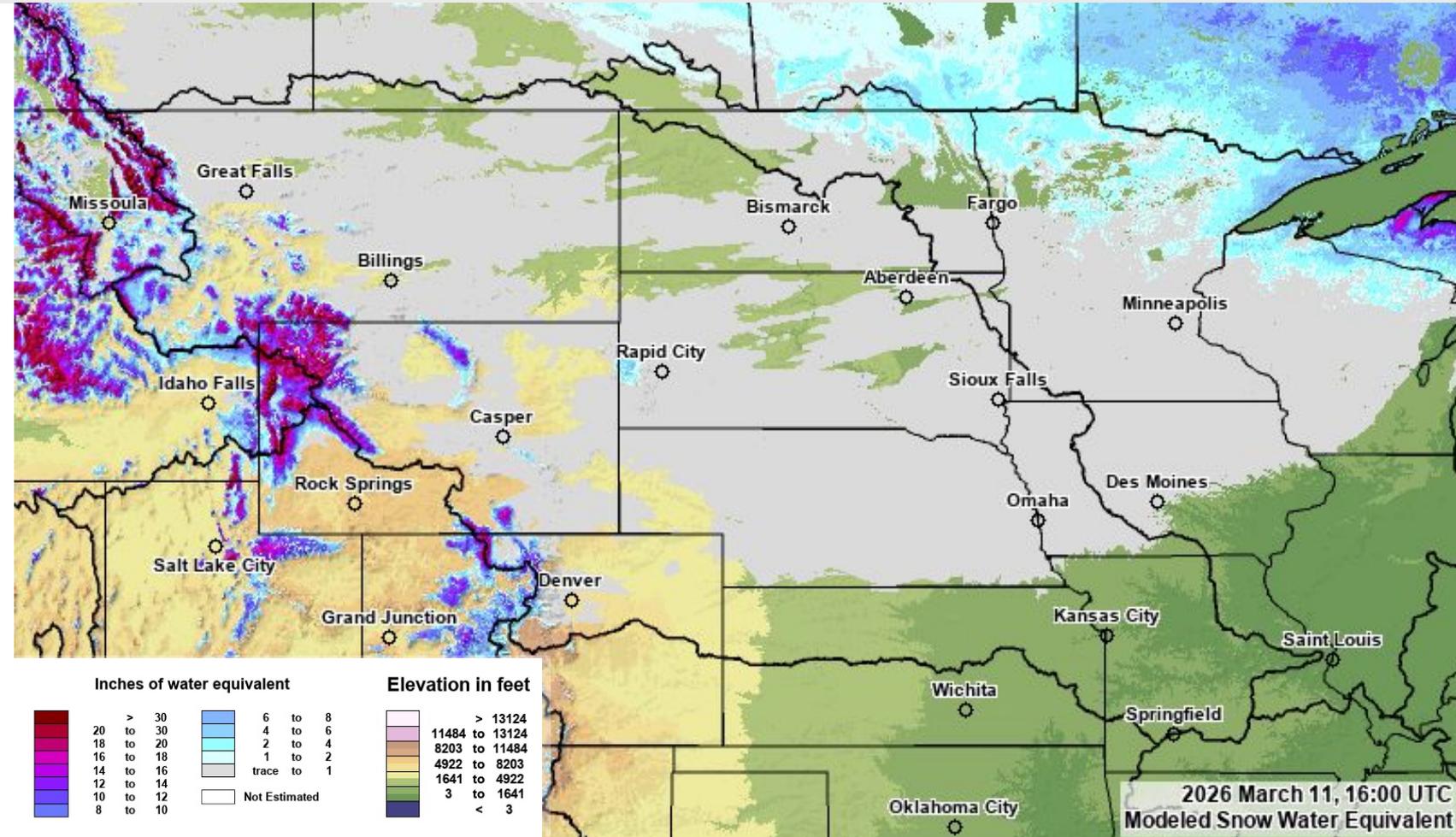
9-Mar-2026



On March 9, 2026 the mountain Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in the "Total above Fort Peck" reach is 10.7" and 80% of the (1991-2020) average. The mountain SWE in the "Fort Peck to Garrison" reach is 10.2" and 84% 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.



Missouri River Basin Snowpack

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Missouri River Basin Snow Water Equivalent

[NOHRSC](#)

- Snowpack across the broader Missouri River basin is either non-existent or below normal. Current snowpack above both Fort Peck and Garrison are both only 80-85% of normal.





Spring Weather Outlook

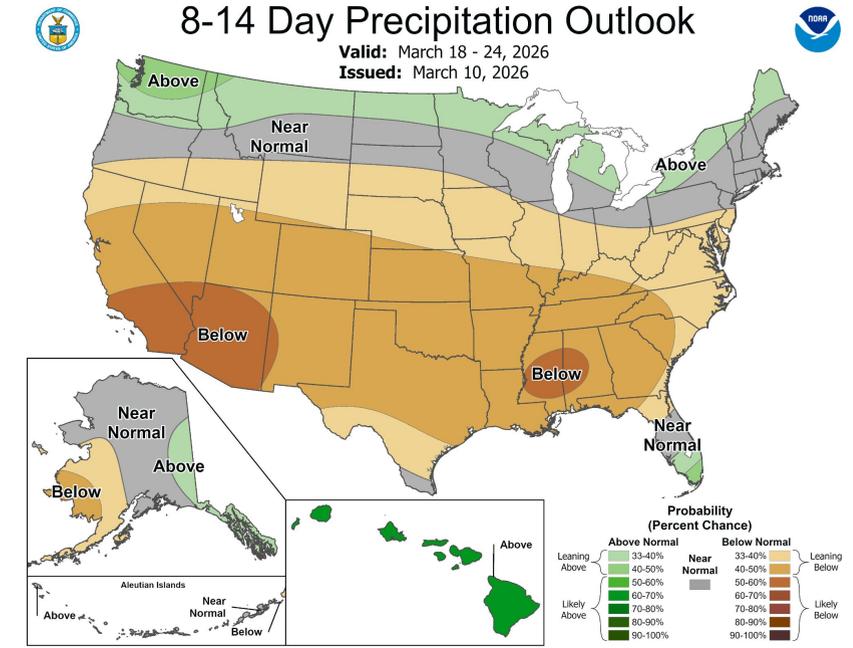
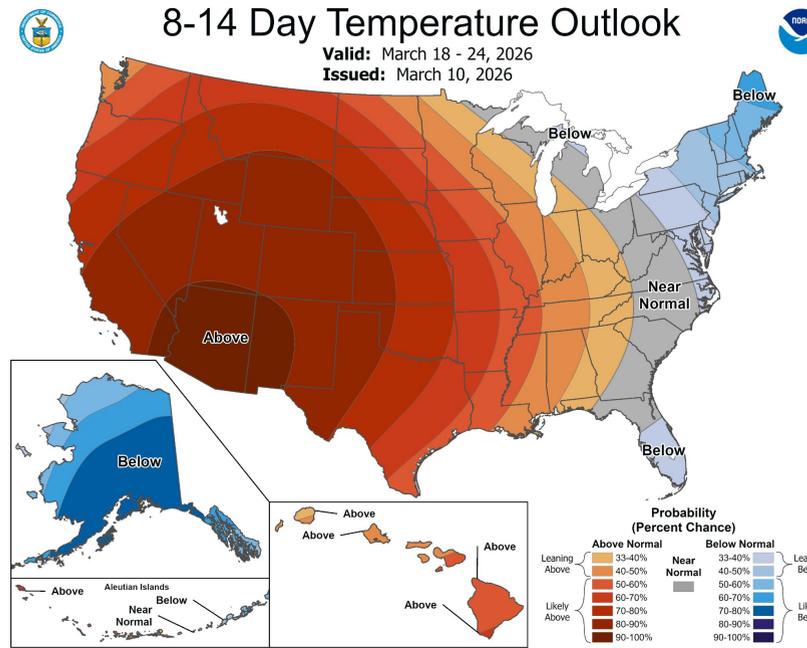
March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT

These are general outlooks that depict broad trends for the weeks and months ahead

- Precipitation chances exist over the next 7 days but are not expected to significantly alter the current river flood outlook conditions.

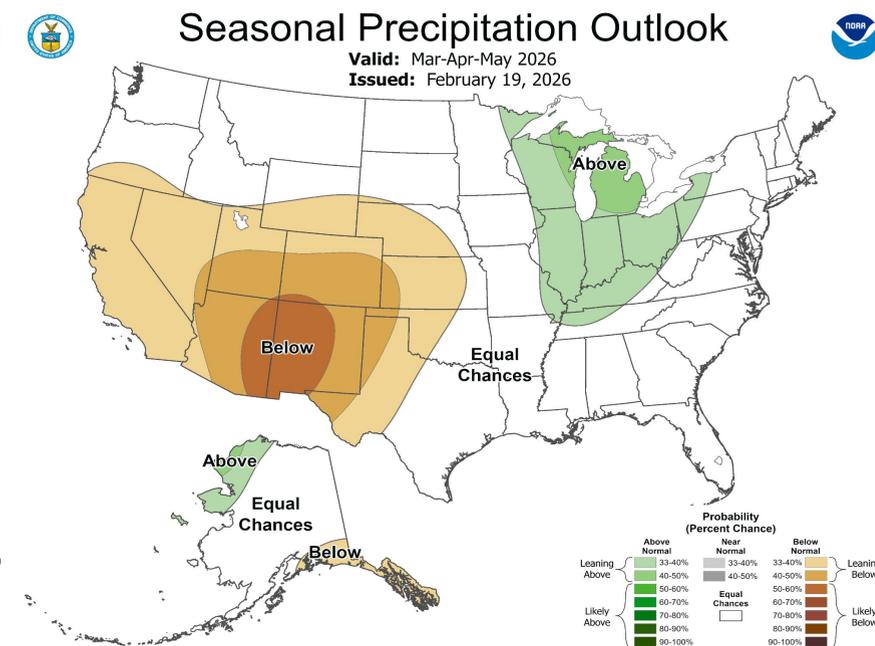
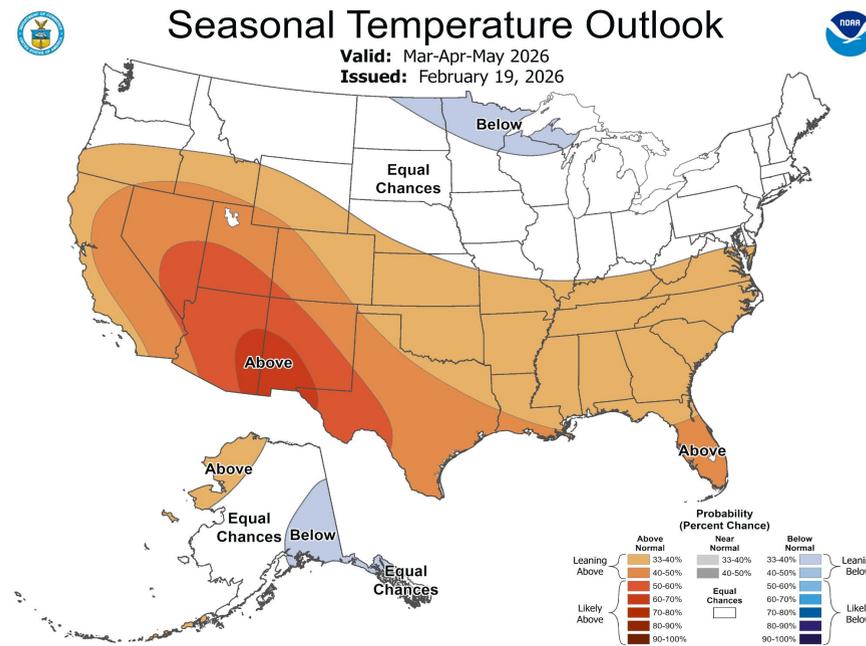
Days 8-14 Outlook

- Temperature outlooks favor above normal temperatures.
- Near to below normal precipitation is currently expected.



Seasonal Outlook

- La Nina conditions are fading with Neutral conditions expected going through spring.
- There are no strong signals for temperature or precipitation odds through May in our area.

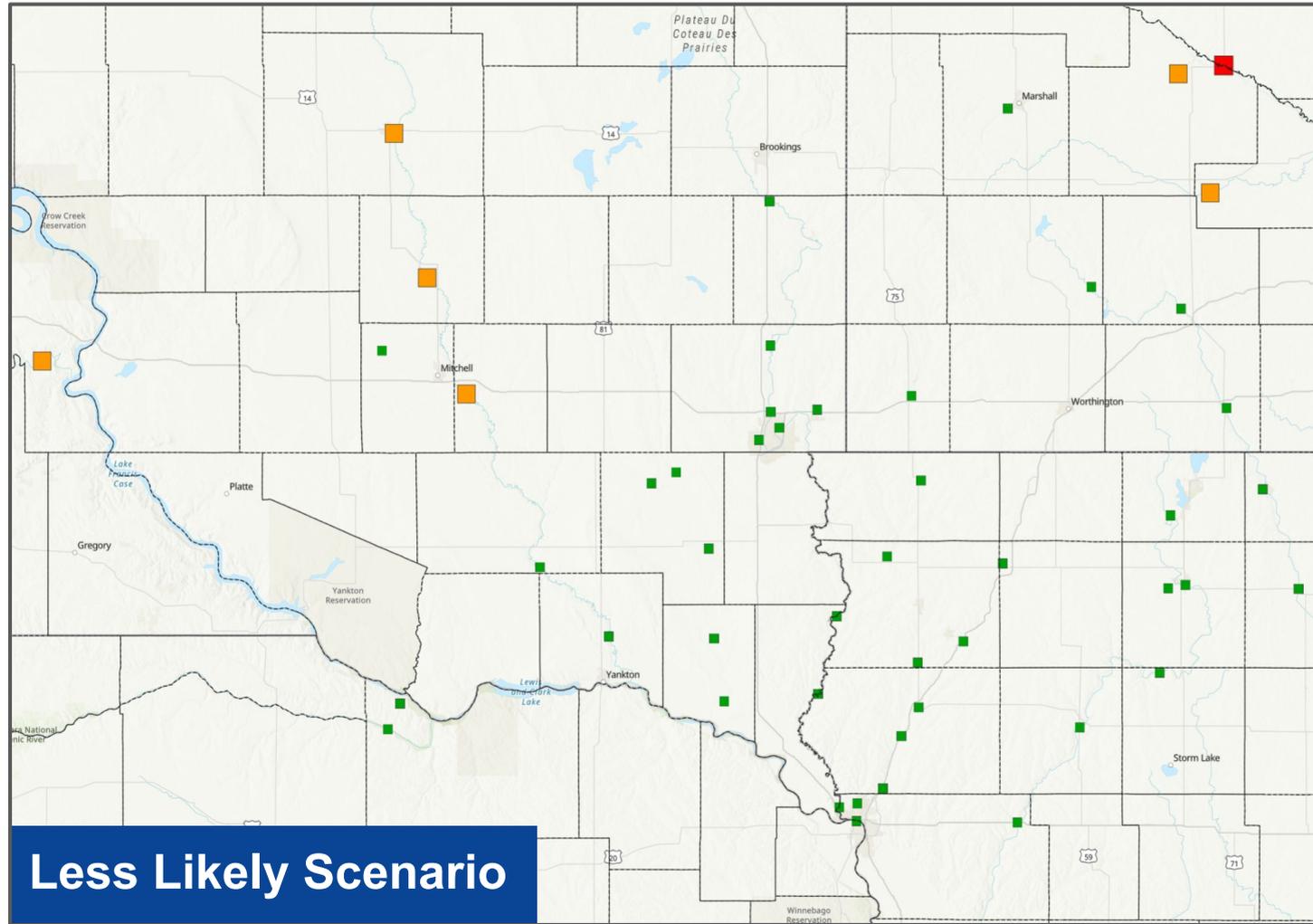




Long Range Flood Outlook

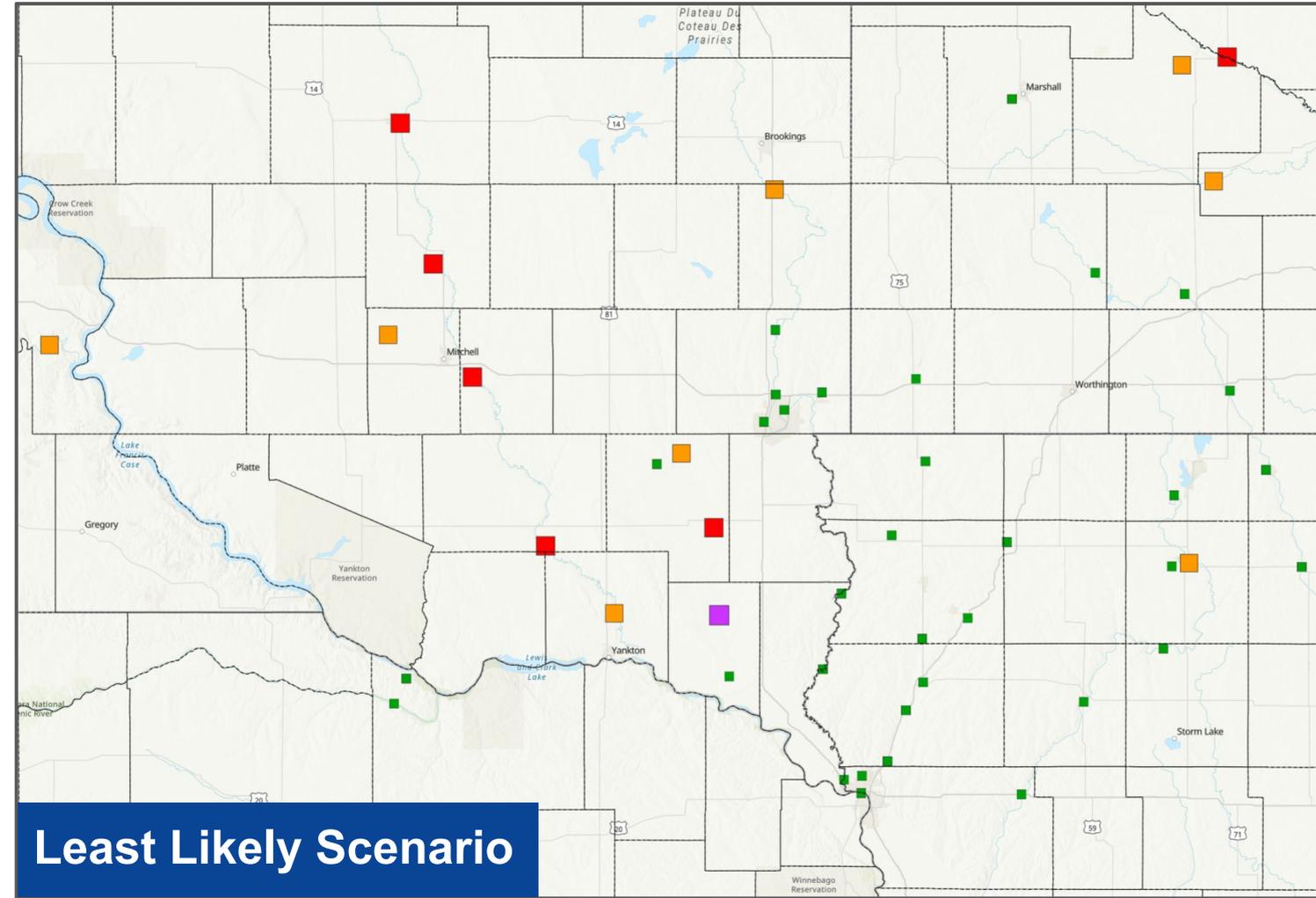
March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT

Most Likely Scenario = No Flooding. Lower Probability Scenarios Highlight James and Vermillion



25% or Greater of Exceeding the Following Flood Levels:

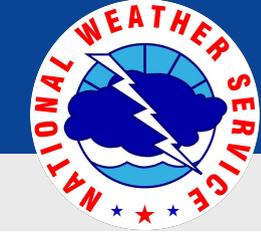
- Major
- Moderate
- Minor
- No Flooding Expected



10% or Greater of Exceeding the Following Flood Levels:

- Major
- Moderate
- Minor
- No Flooding Expected





Spring Flood & Water Resources Outlook

March 12, 2026
9:04 AM CDT

Issued March 12, 2026 - Valid March 15th through June 13th

Key Messages

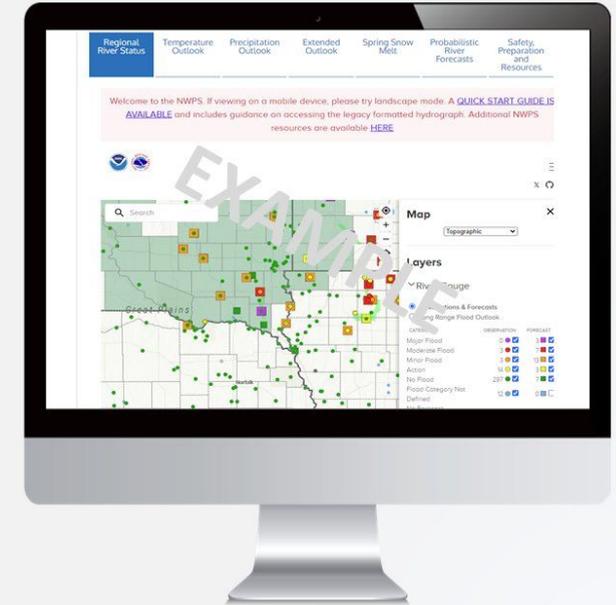
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 - *Reminder: Recent significant flood events across the state have been a result of early summer heavy rainfall events, not spring snowmelt.*

FLOOD RESOURCE WEBPAGE

For Southeast South Dakota, Northwest Iowa, Southwest Minnesota and far Northeast Nebraska

[WEATHER.GOV/FSD/FLOODING](https://www.weather.gov/fsd/flooding)

- Observed & Forecast River Stages
- River Stage Probabilities
- Temperature & Precipitation Outlook
- Snow Cover Information
- Flooding Resources, Road Closures and Safety Information



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
WEATHER.GOV/SIOUXFALLS

Additional Resources

[NWS Sioux Falls Website](#)

[Flood Safety Information](#)

[NWS Sioux Falls Flood Resource Page](#)

[USGS National Water Dashboard](#)

[National Water Prediction Services](#)

[USACE Missouri River Water Management Division](#)

[NWS Sioux Falls Drought Resource Page](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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National Weather Service
Sioux Falls, SD