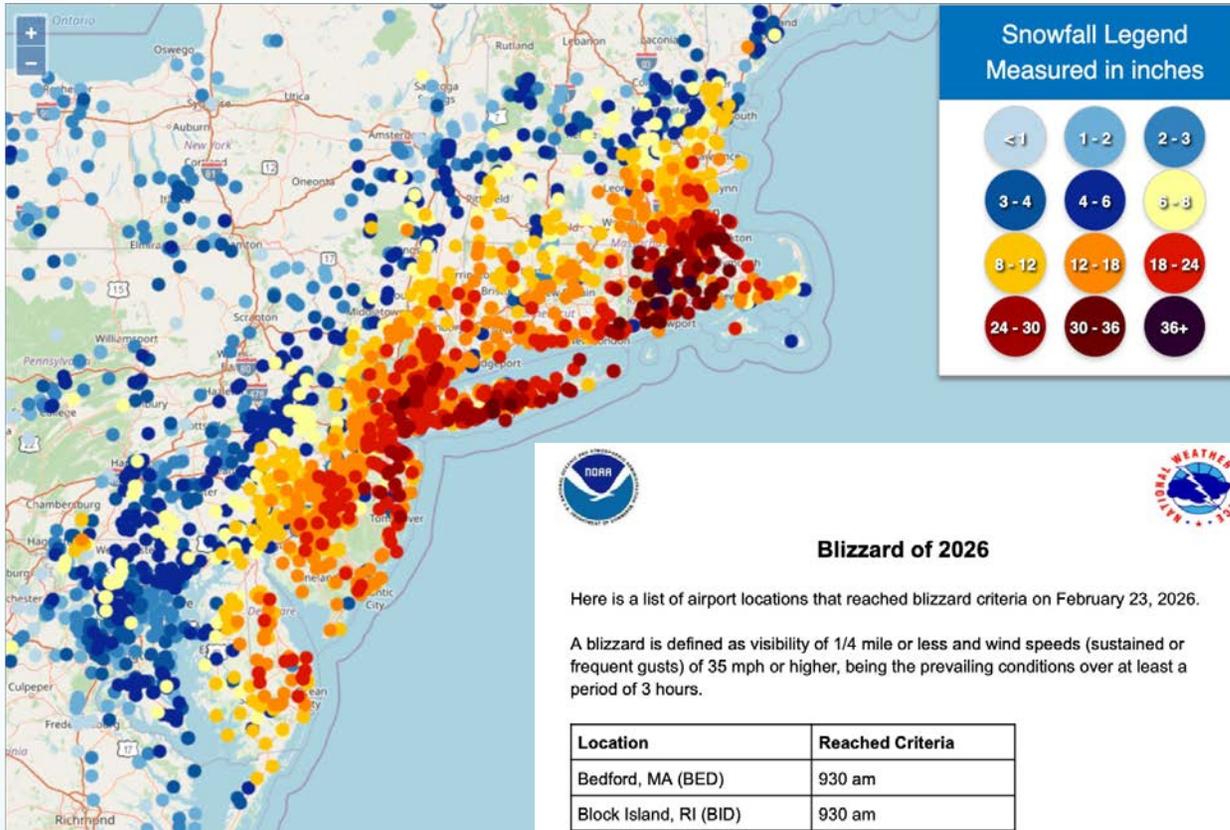


February Review & Northeast DEWS Discussion

By: Samantha Borisoff, Climatologist
Northeast Regional Climate Center



February 22-23 Blizzard



Credit: NOAA

Blizzard of 2026

Here is a list of airport locations that reached blizzard criteria on February 23, 2026.

A blizzard is defined as visibility of 1/4 mile or less and wind speeds (sustained or frequent gusts) of 35 mph or higher, being the prevailing conditions over at least a period of 3 hours.

Location	Reached Criteria
Bedford, MA (BED)	930 am
Block Island, RI (BID)	930 am
Boston, MA (BOS)	920 am
Beverly, MA (BVY)	915 am
Chatham, MA (CQX)	925 am
Falmouth, MA (FMH)	500 am
Hyannis, MA (HYA)	820 am
Martha's Vineyard, MA (MVY)	1000 am
New Bedford, MA (EWB)	1035 am
Norwood, MA (OWD)	820 am
Providence, RI (PVD)	825 am
Smithfield, RI (SFZ)	830 am
Newport, RI (UUU)	750 am
Westerly, RI (WST)	730 am
Worcester, MA (ORH)	545 am

Credit: NWS BOX



Location	Feb 22-23, 2026 Snowfall (in.)	Rank for February (snowiest)	Rank for All Months (snowiest)
Providence, RI	37.9	1	1
Islip, NY	29.1	1	1
Newark, NJ	27.2	1	2
LaGuardia Airport, NY	23.4	2	5
Kennedy Airport, NY	20.1	6	9
Bridgeport, CT	20.0	2	2
Central Park, NY	19.7	5	11
Boston, MA	17.1	13	
Atlantic City, NJ	16.9	5	7
Worcester, MA	16.2	17	
Philadelphia, PA	14.0	10	

Location	Feb 23, 2026 Snowfall (in.)	Rank for February (snowiest)	Rank for All Months (snowiest)
Providence, RI	35.5	1	1
Islip, NY	19.6	1	3
Boston, MA	17.1	5	9
Newark, NJ	17.1	5	9
LaGuardia Airport, NY	15.3	4	8
Bridgeport, CT	15.0	5	8
Worcester, MA	13.9	14	
Kennedy Airport, NY	13.6	6	8
Central Park, NY	10.9	14	
Atlantic City, NJ	10.0	8	18

All data are preliminary

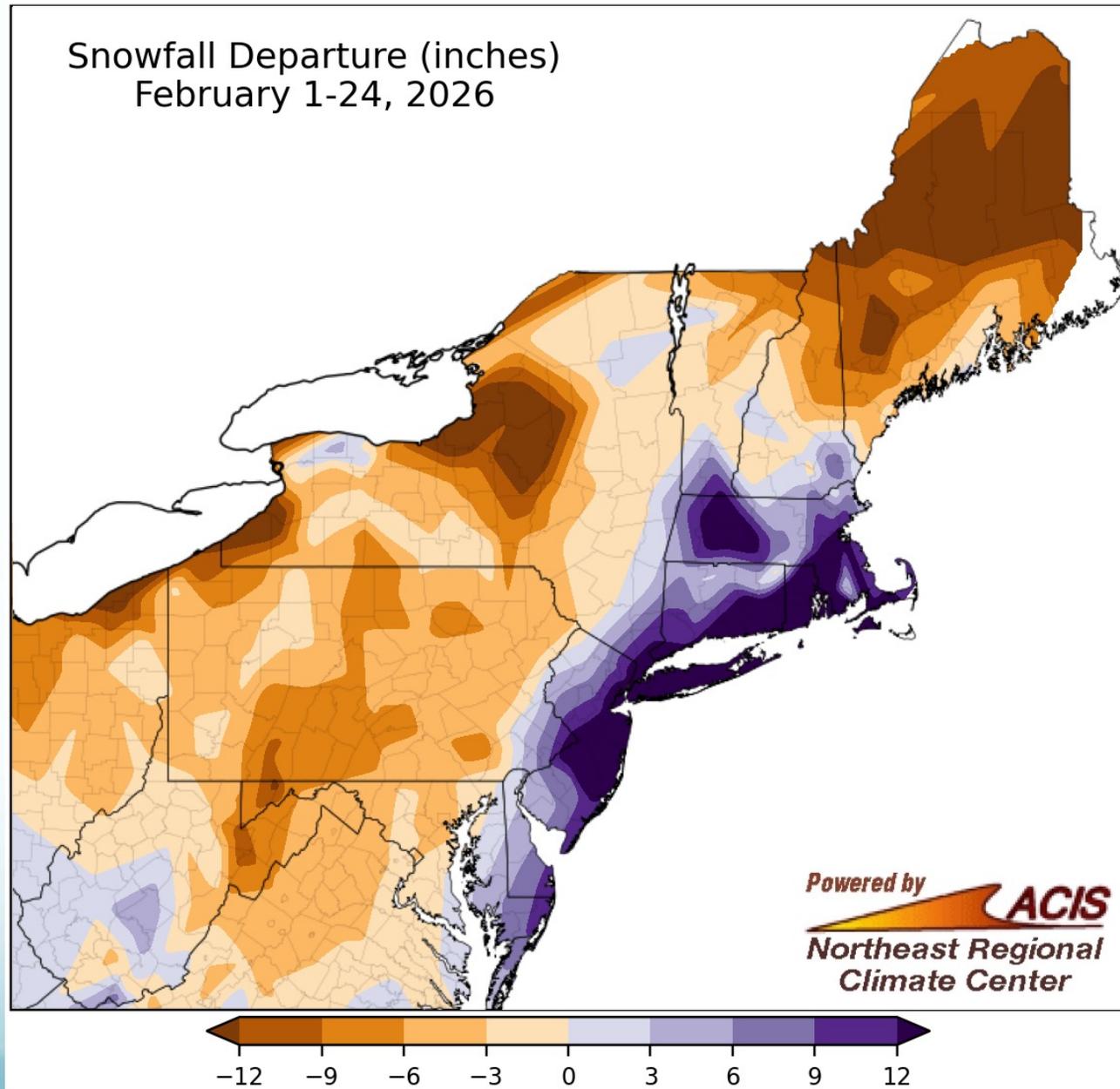
Possible state records go through a verification process

February Snowfall

Location	February 1-23, 2026 Snowfall (in.)	Rank for February (snowiest)	Rank for All Months (snowiest)
Providence, RI	42.2	1	1
Islip, NY	32.1	1	2
Newark, NJ	28.2	6	9
Boston, MA	26.3	14	
LaGuardia Airport, NY	24.5	6	10
Kennedy Airport, NY	22.4	7	9
Bridgeport, CT	21.4	9	15
Central Park, NY	20.9	16	
Atlantic City, NJ	17.2	6	11
Philadelphia, PA	14.3	15	

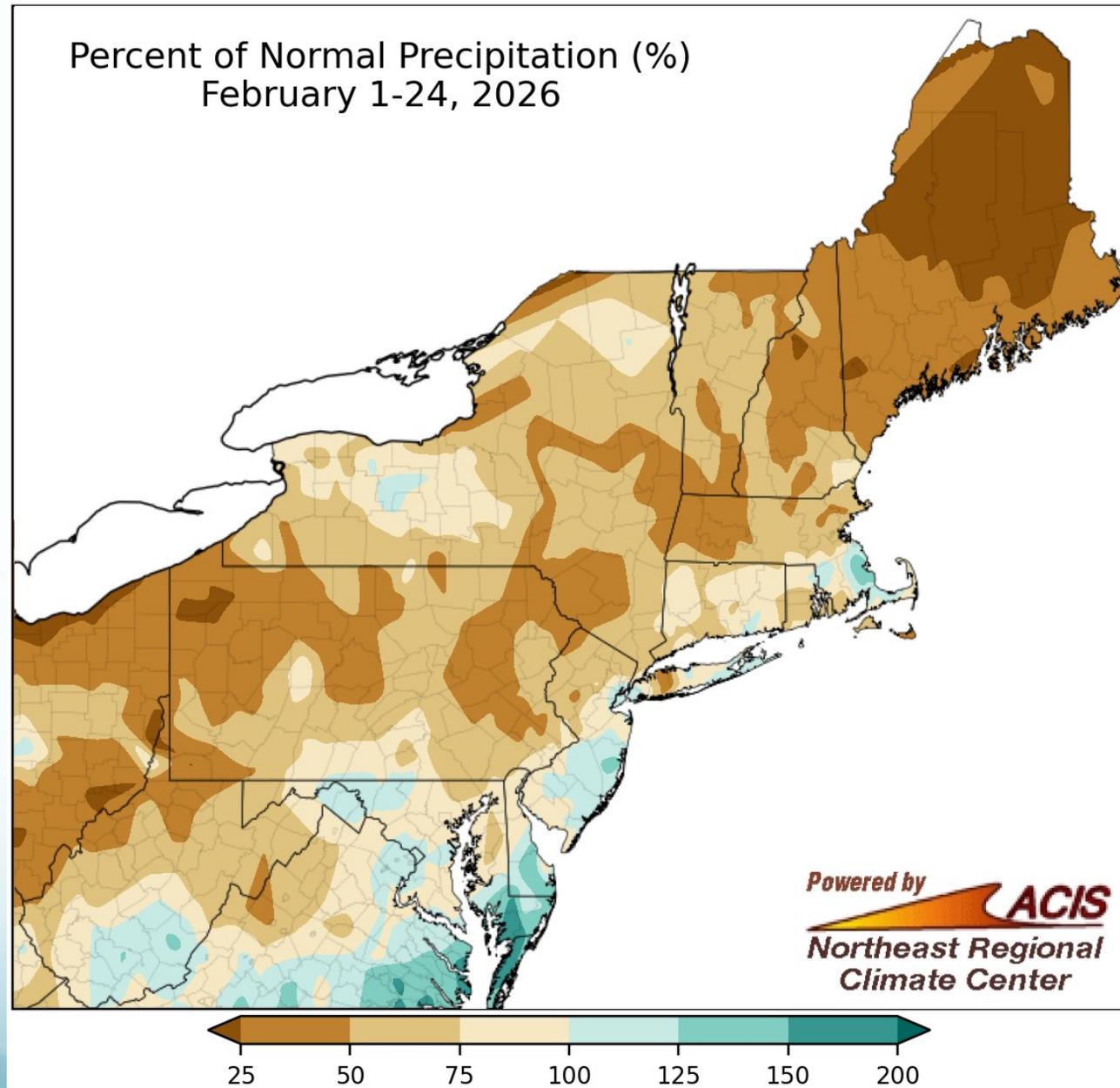


February Snowfall



From more than 12" below normal to more than 12" above normal

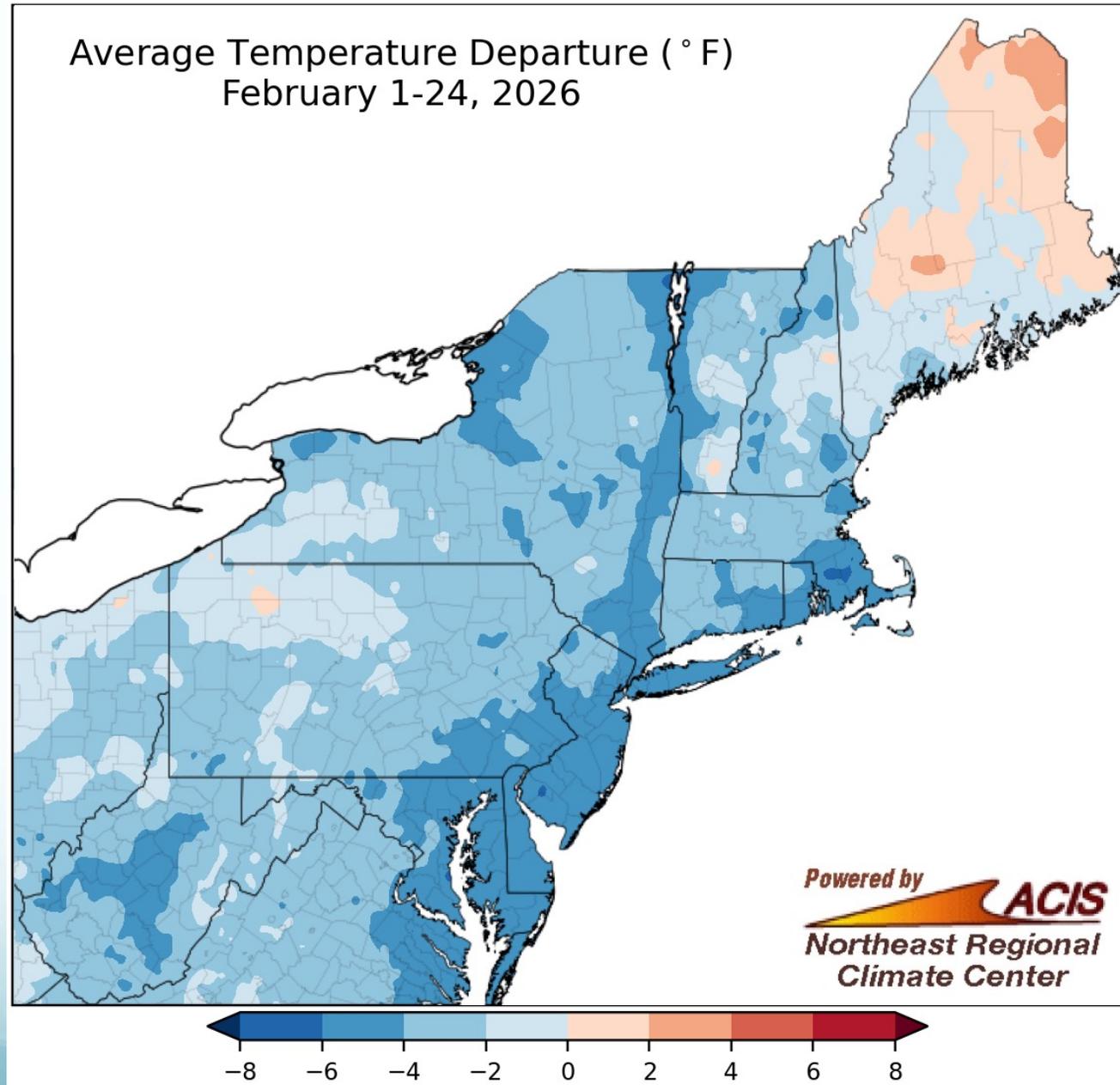
February Precipitation



From less than 25% of normal to 200% of normal

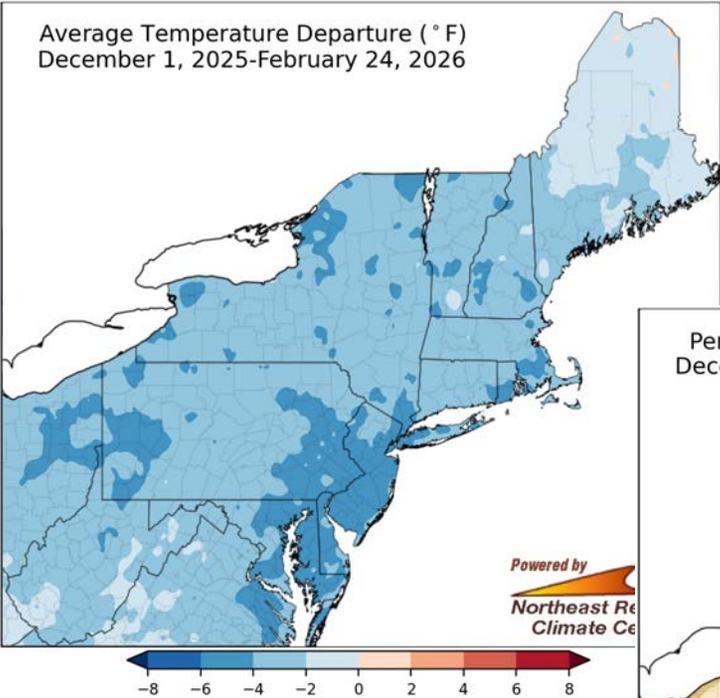


February Temperatures

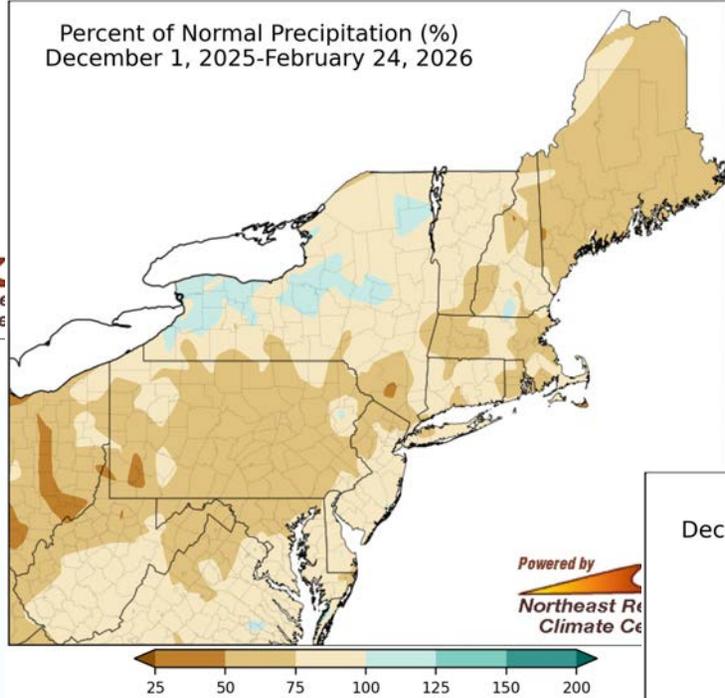


From 6°F below normal to 4°F above normal

Winter Conditions

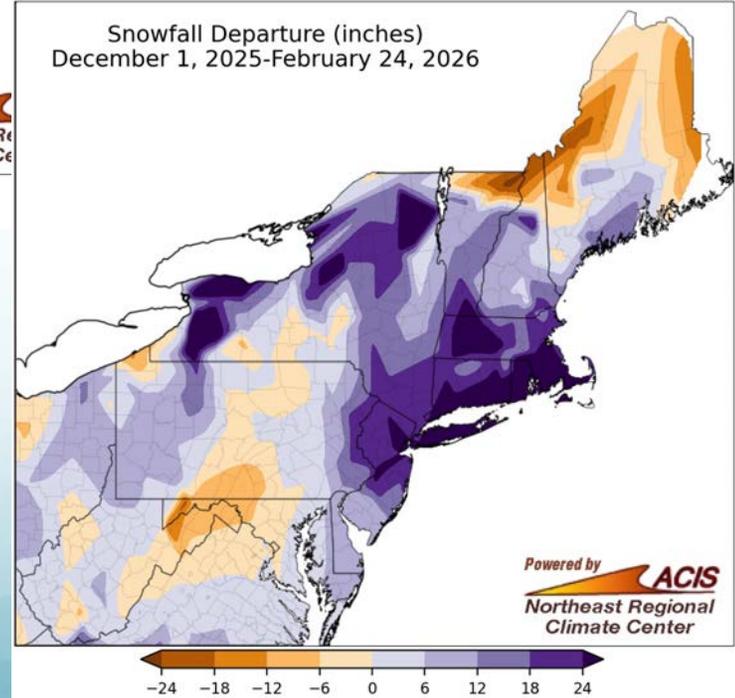


As much as 6°F colder than normal



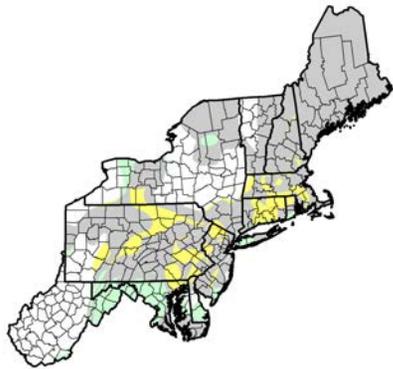
From less than 50% of normal to 125% of normal

From 18" below normal to more than 24" above normal



Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Northeast Climate Region 4 Week

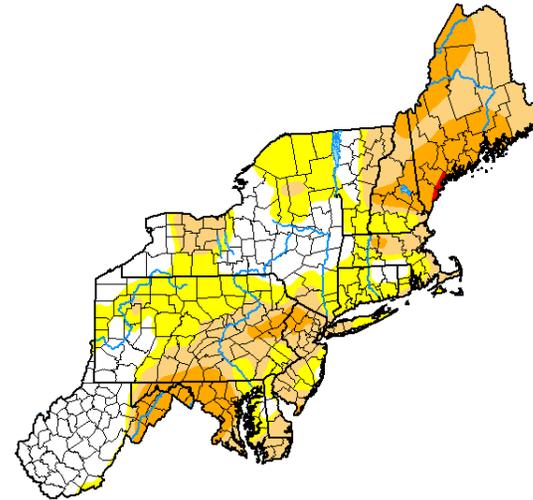


February 24, 2026
compared to
January 27, 2026

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



U.S. Drought Monitor Northeast



January 27, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	28.45	28.39	26.60	16.36	0.20	0.00
Last Week <small>01-20-2026</small>	27.52	29.20	26.72	16.36	0.20	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>10-28-2025</small>	6.63	28.03	31.04	22.85	11.45	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-06-2026</small>	24.63	28.38	28.46	18.33	0.20	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-30-2025</small>	7.86	42.89	23.79	18.78	6.67	0.00
One Year Ago <small>01-28-2025</small>	27.00	39.10	22.64	9.90	1.37	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>

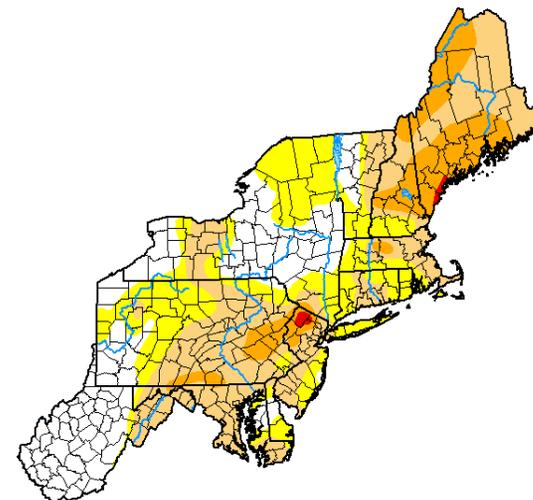
Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Northeast



February 24, 2026
(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	27.80	25.37	32.87	13.53	0.42	0.00
Last Week <small>02-17-2026</small>	27.00	23.63	31.52	17.42	0.42	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>11-25-2025</small>	25.19	34.88	23.89	15.55	0.49	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-06-2026</small>	24.63	28.38	28.46	18.33	0.20	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-30-2025</small>	7.86	42.89	23.79	18.78	6.67	0.00
One Year Ago <small>02-25-2025</small>	32.97	35.90	21.88	8.39	0.86	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>

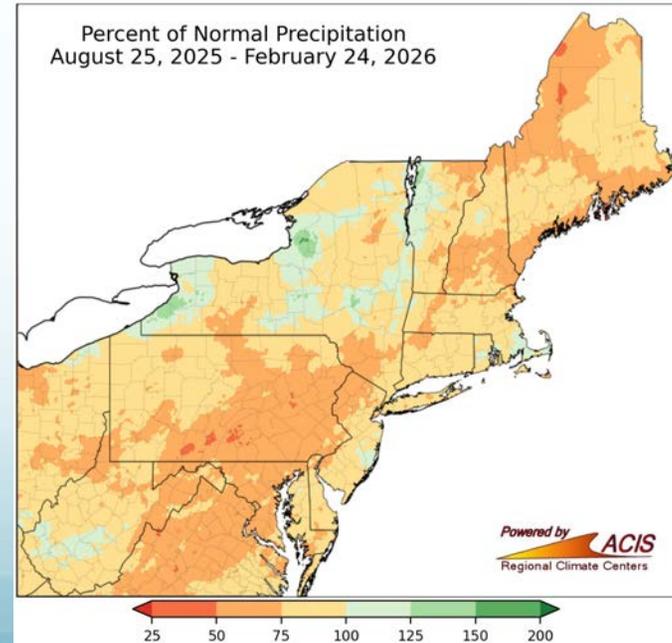
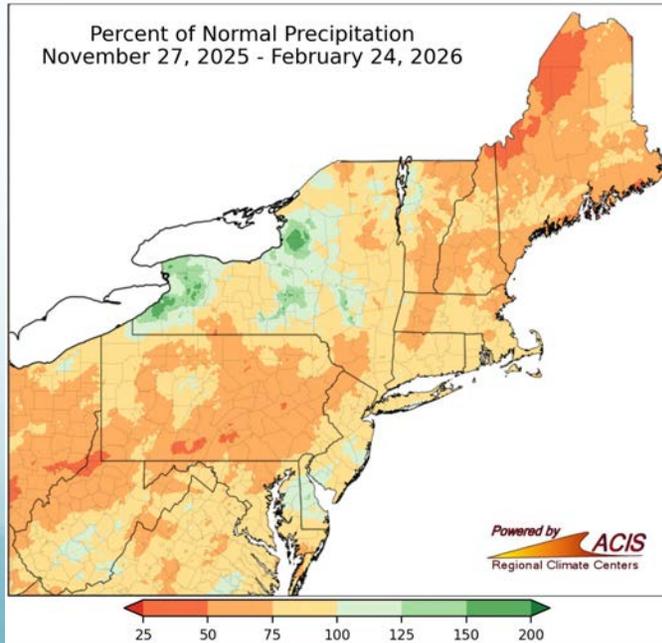
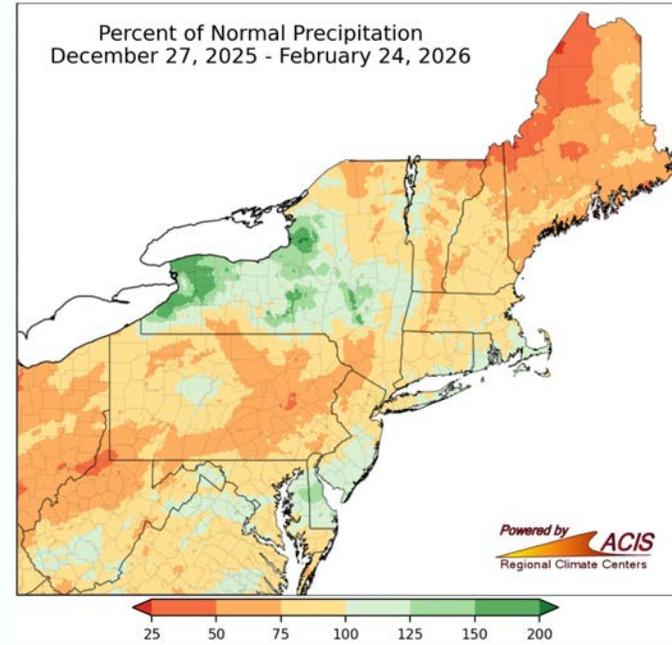
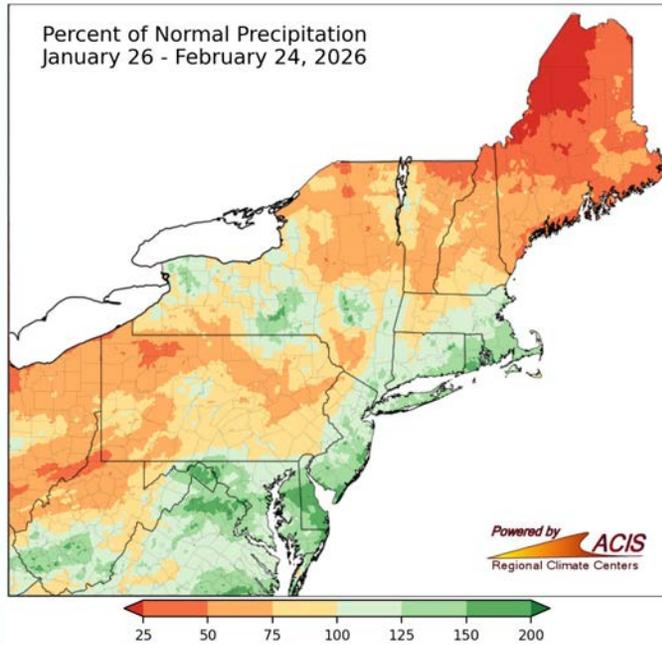
Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

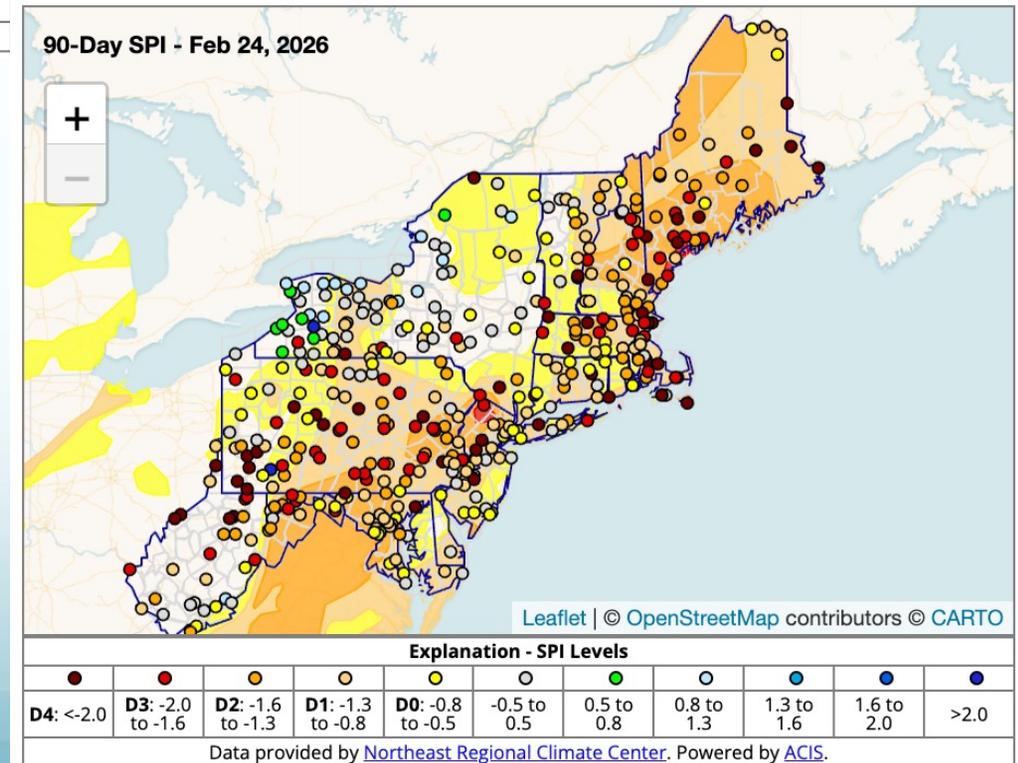
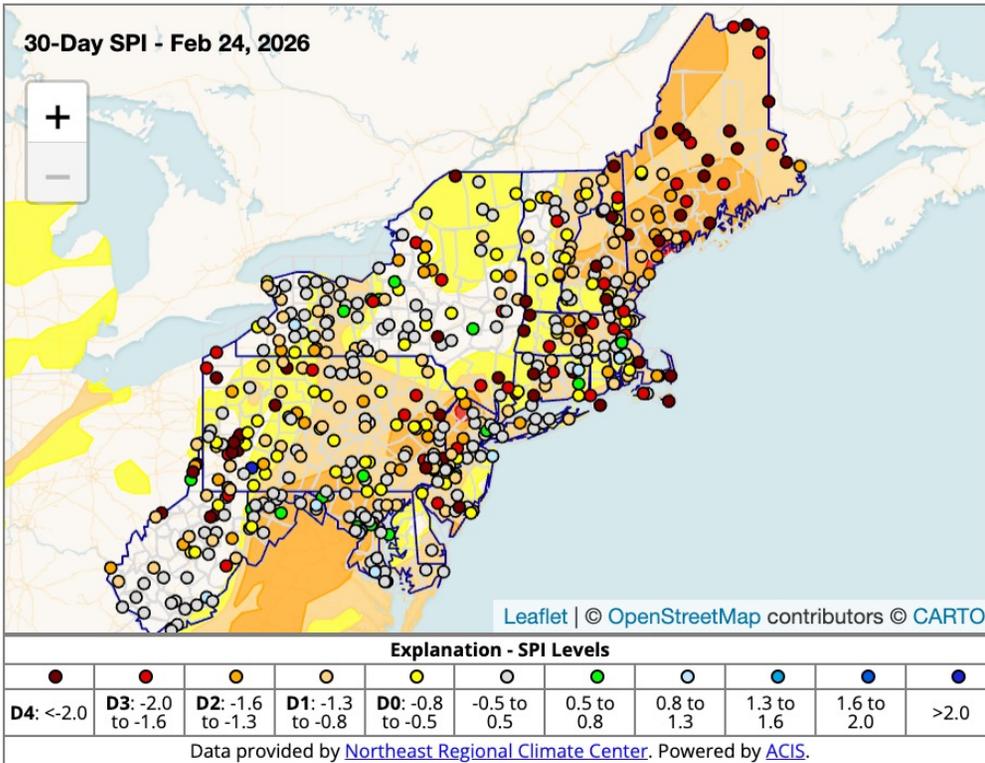


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Precipitation



Standardized Precipitation Index



Precipitation

Accumulated Precipitation Departure from Normal

Green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



(Click to hide/show lines)

- Rochester Area, NY (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
- New York-Central Park Area, NY (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
- Portland Area, ME (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
- Allentown Area, PA (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
- Sterling-Dulles Airport Area, VA (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt

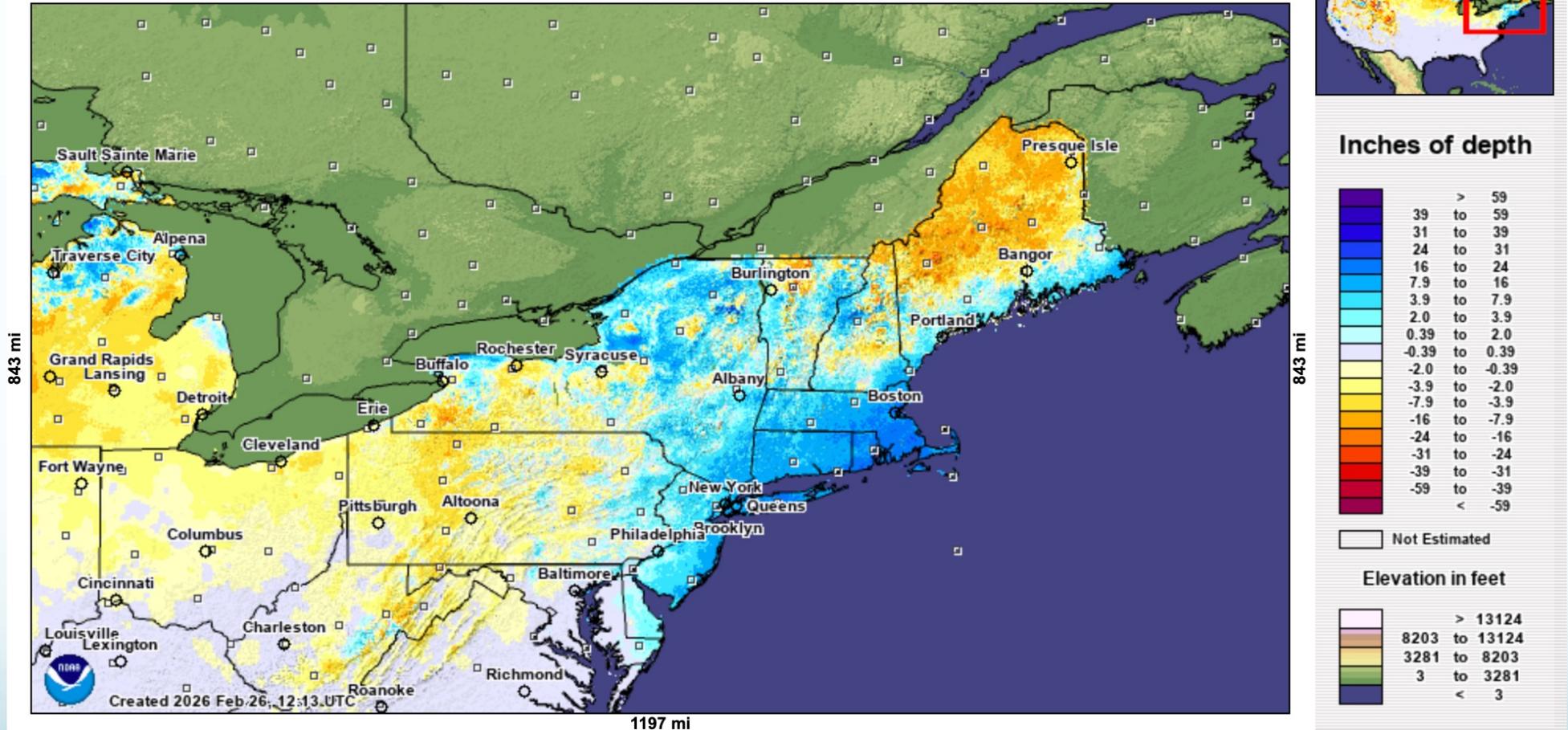
Powered by ACIS



Snow Depth

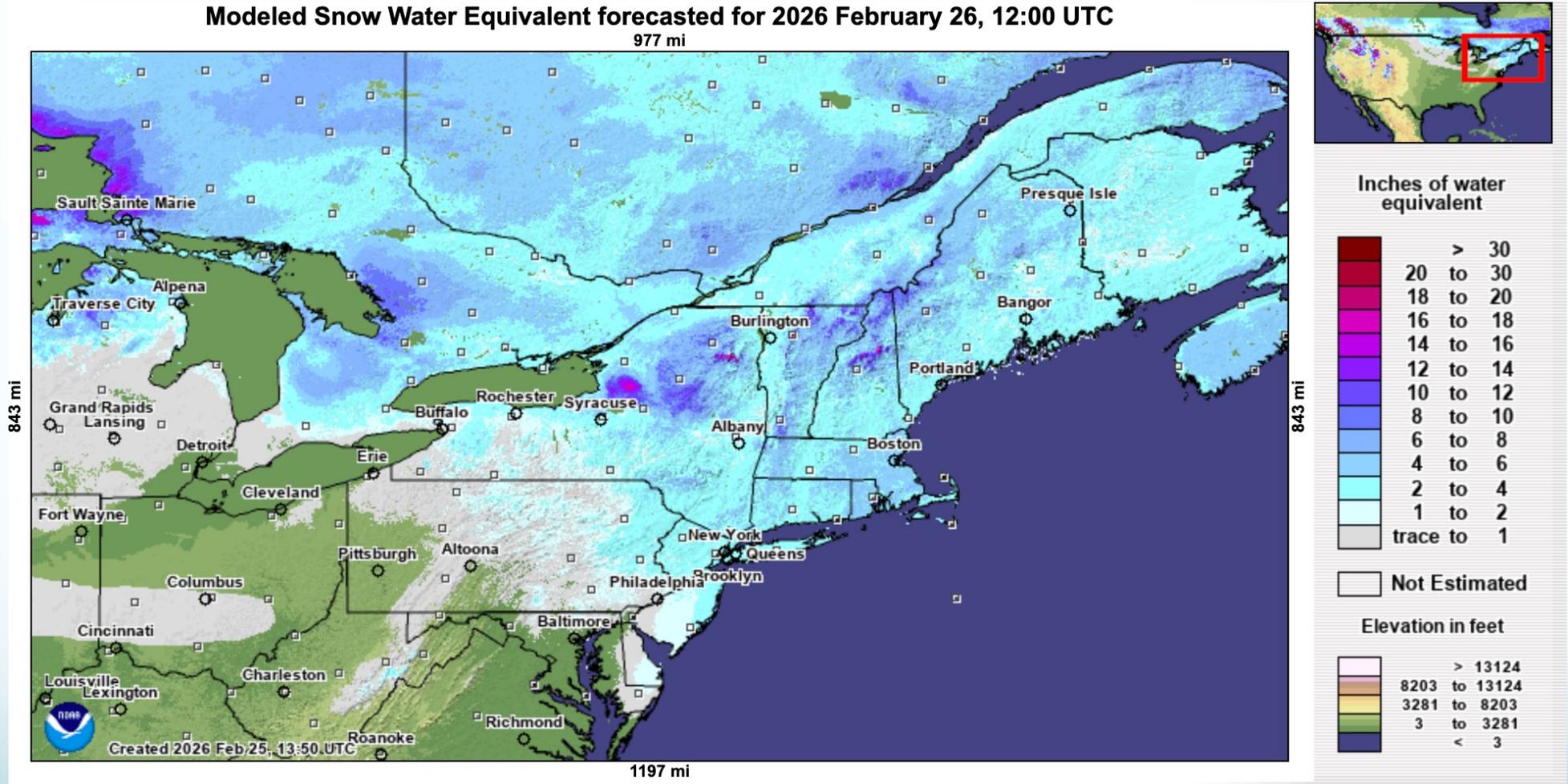
Modeled Snow Depth Departure from Normal (Daily) for 2026 February 26, 6:00 UTC

977 mi



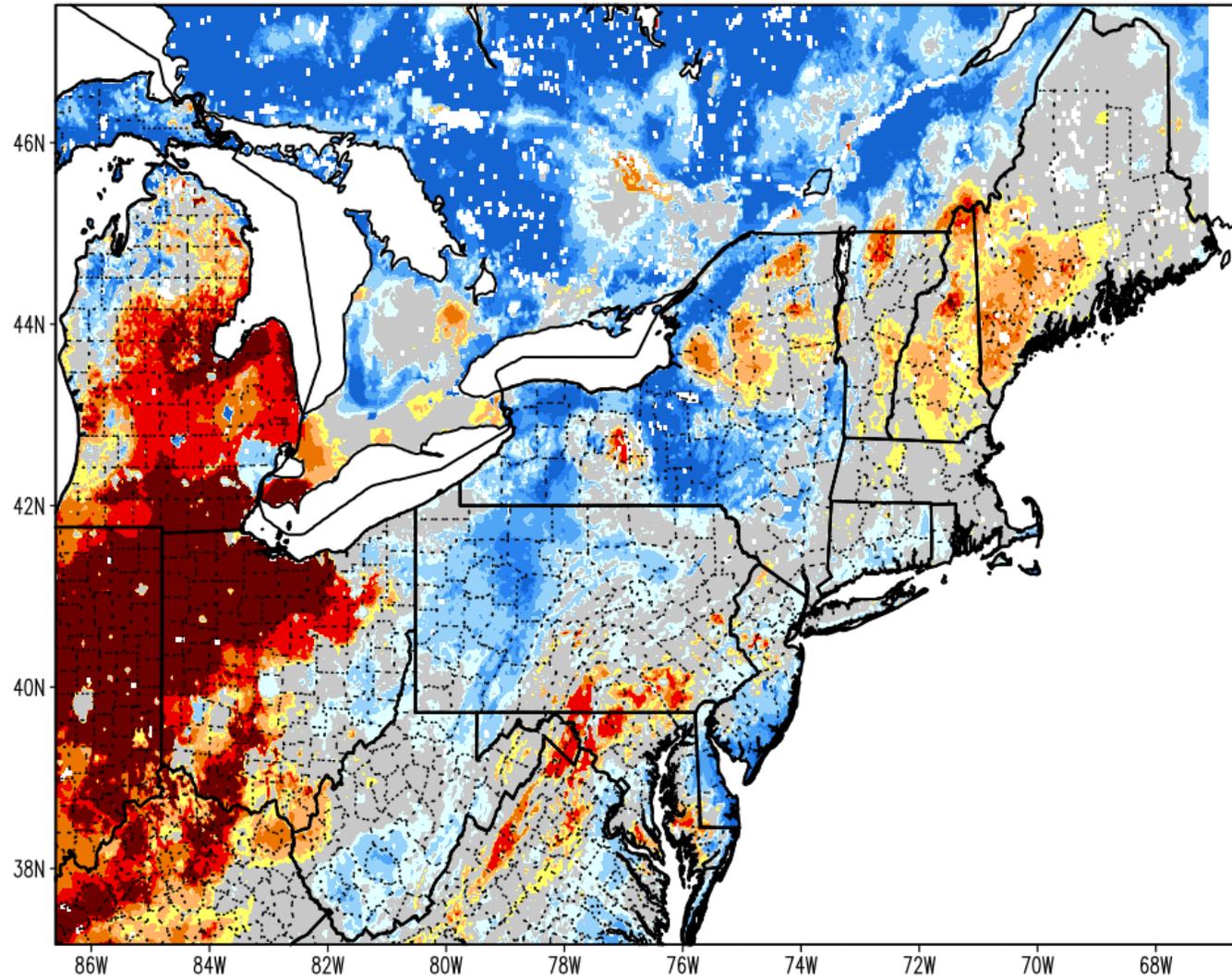
Snow Water Equivalent

Modeled Snow Water Equivalent forecasted for 2026 February 26, 12:00 UTC



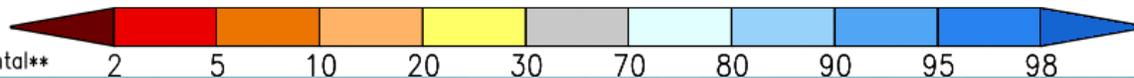
Soil Moisture

SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 26 Feb 2026

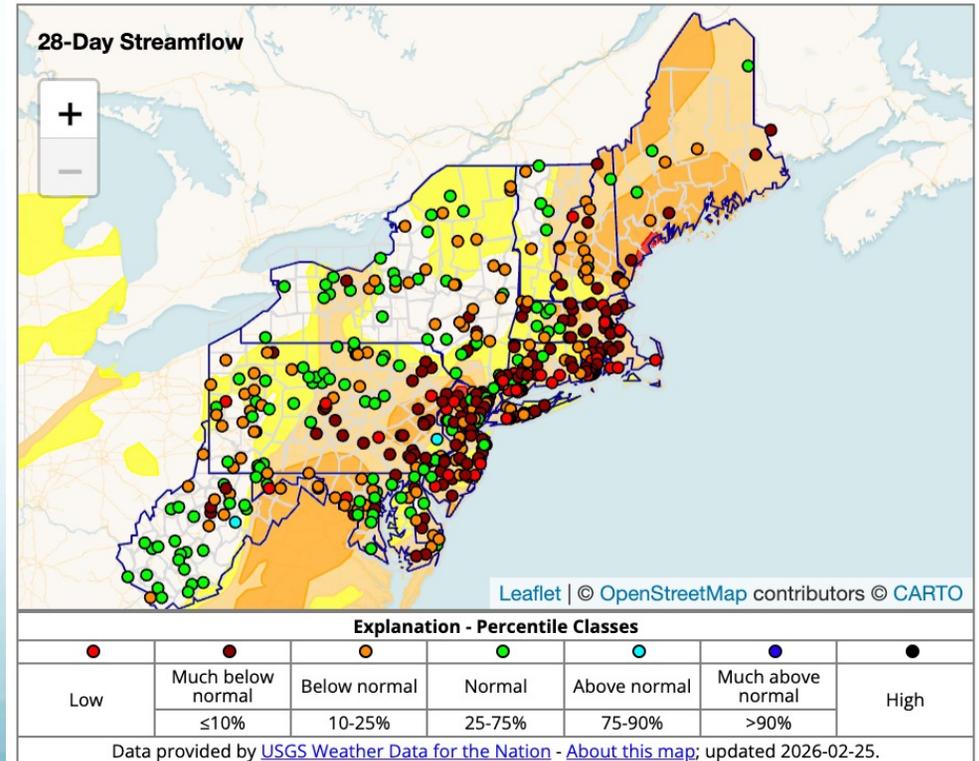
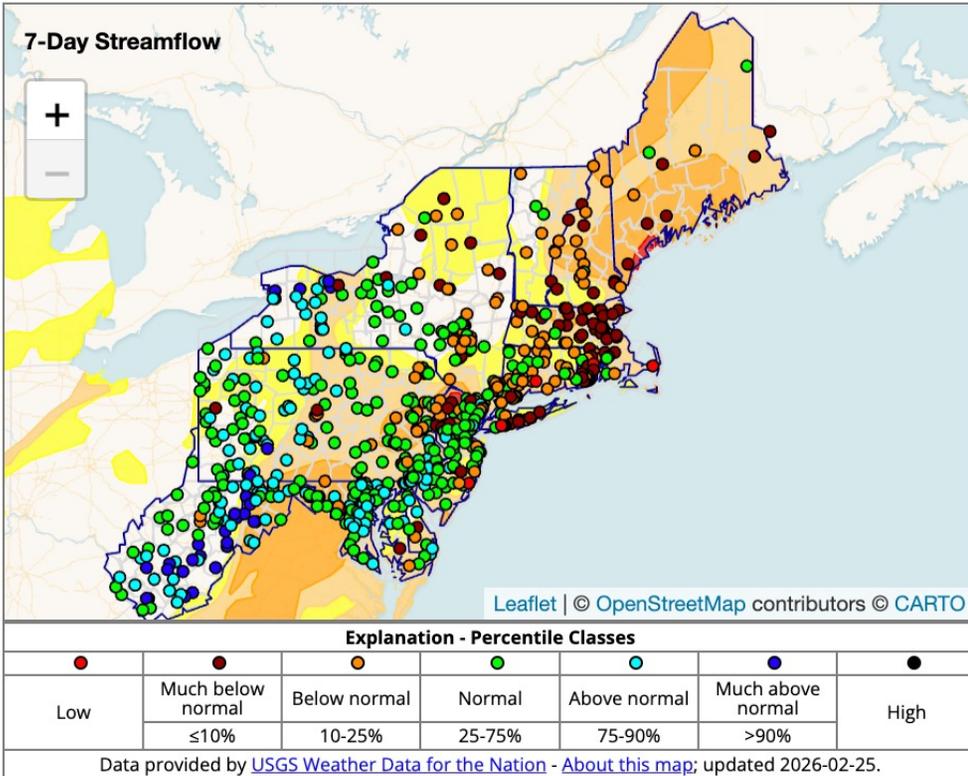


****NOTE****

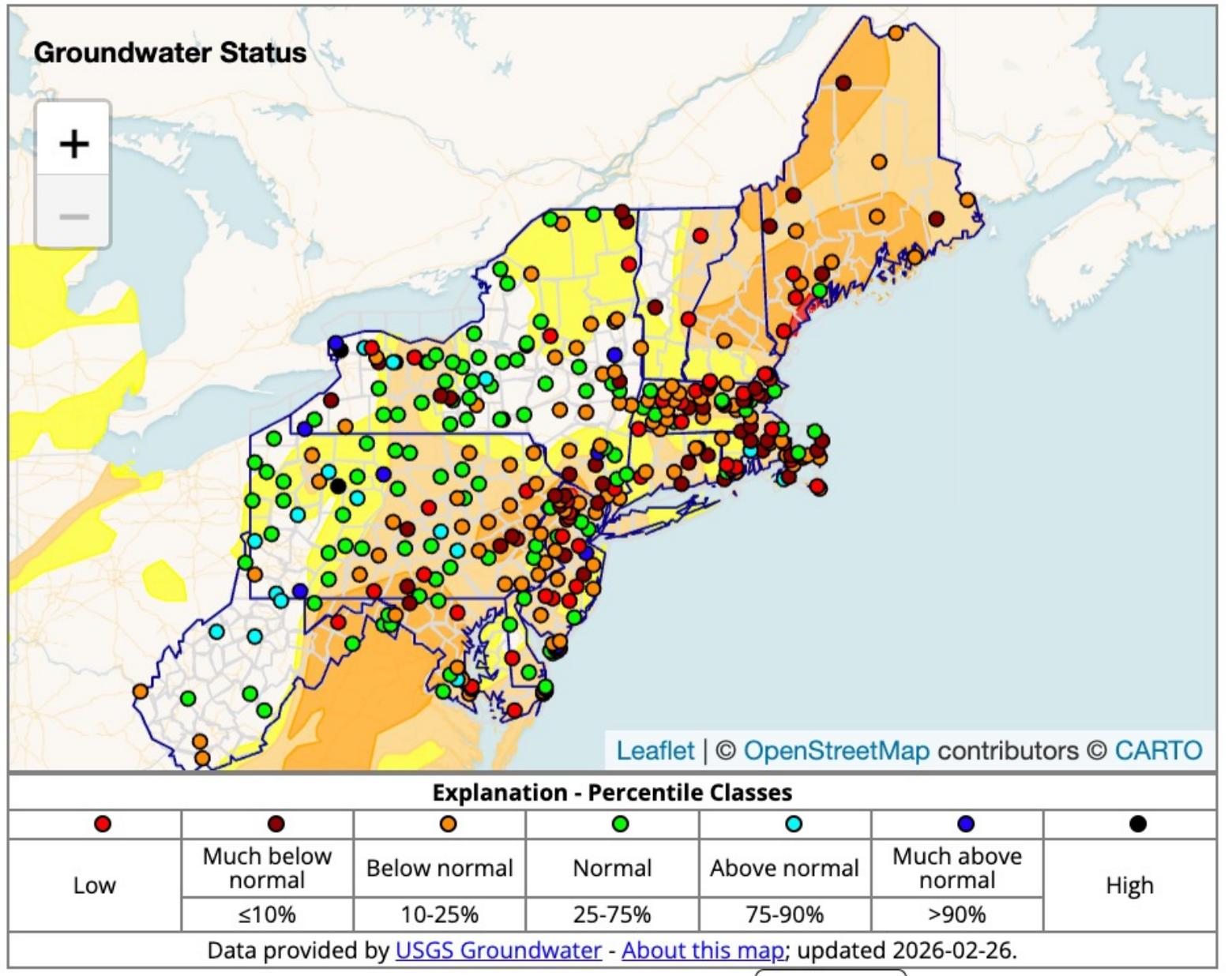
****Experimental****



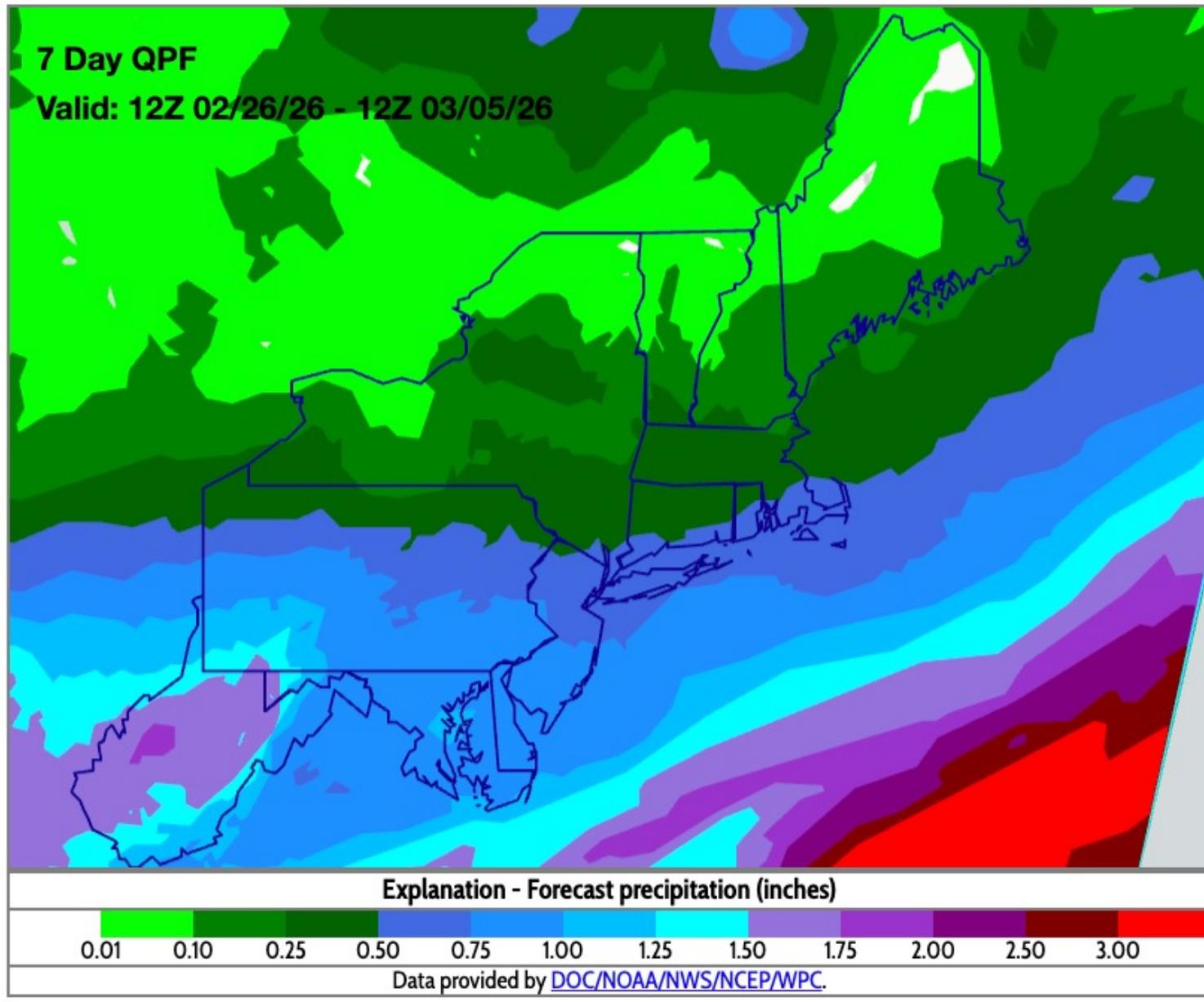
Streamflow



Groundwater

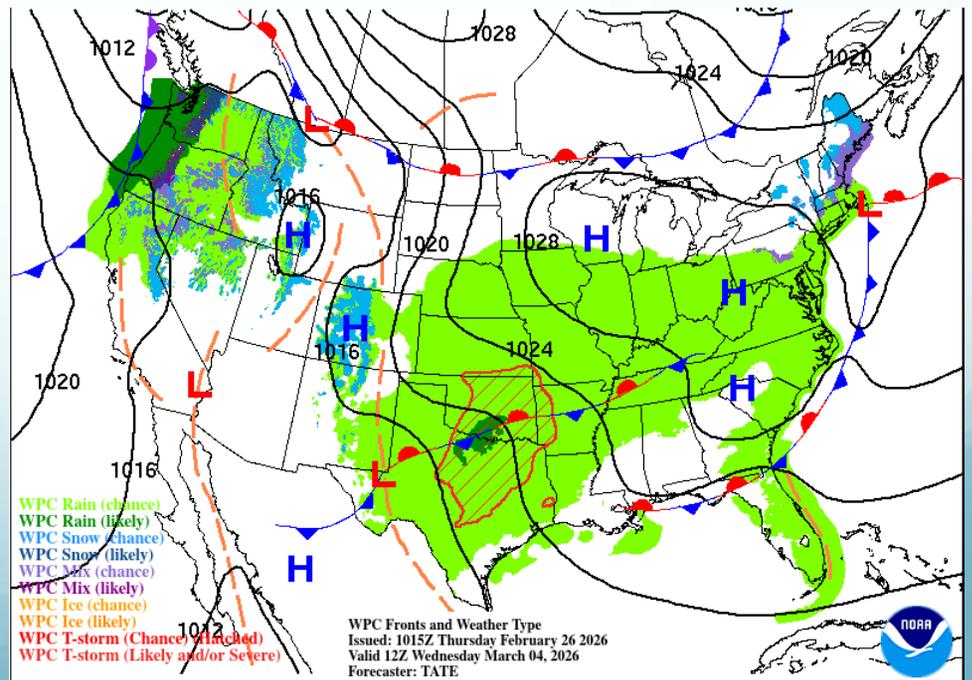
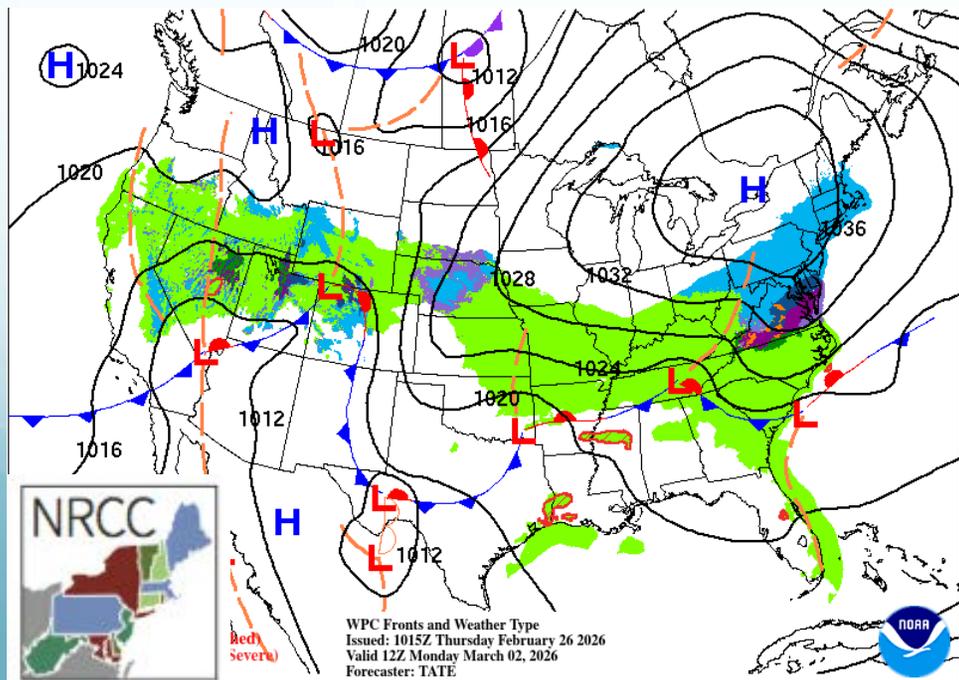
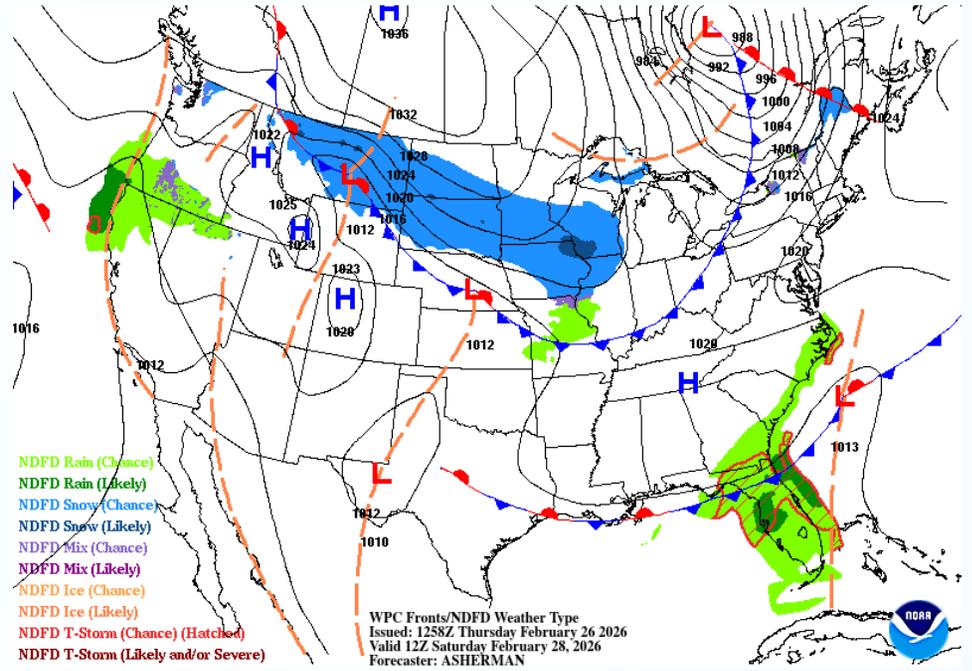
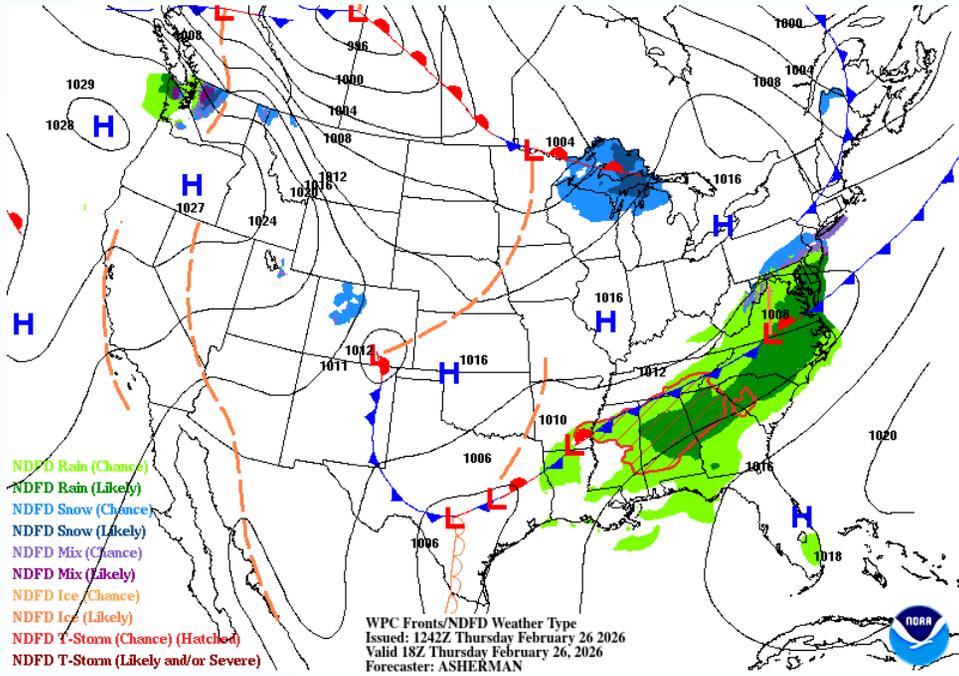


Precipitation Forecast

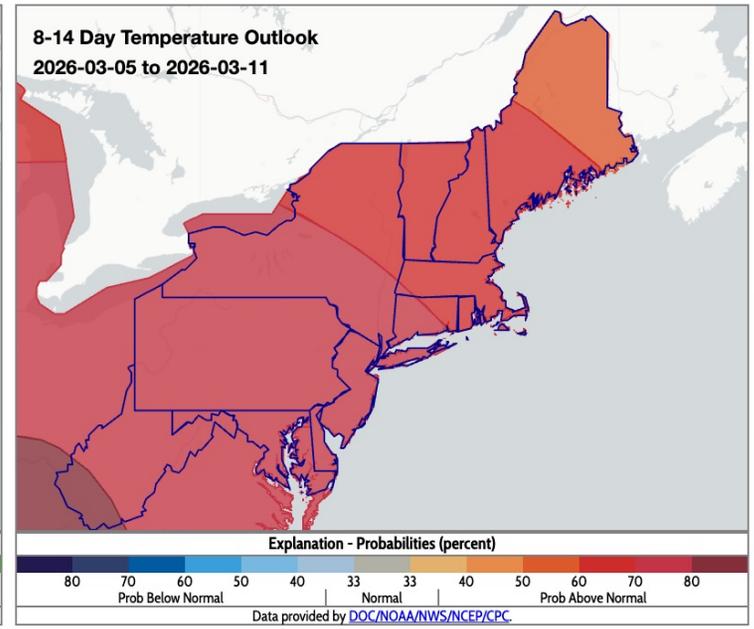
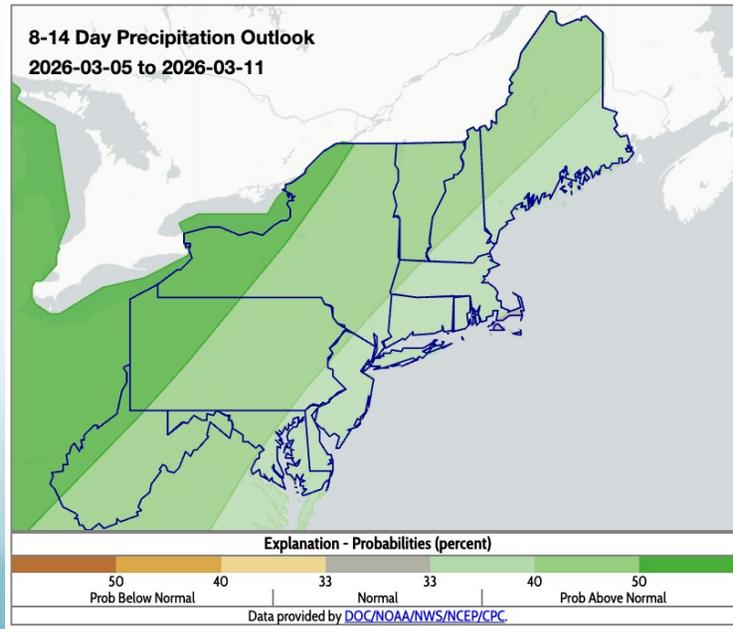
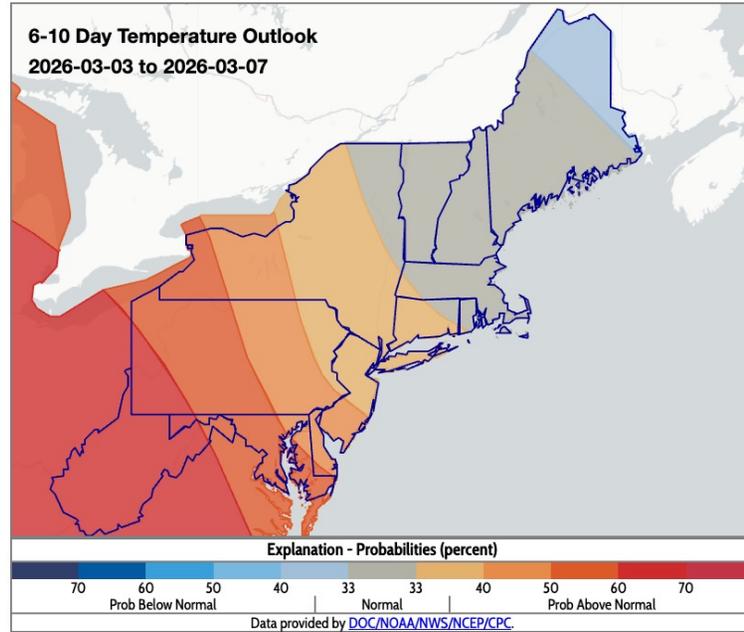
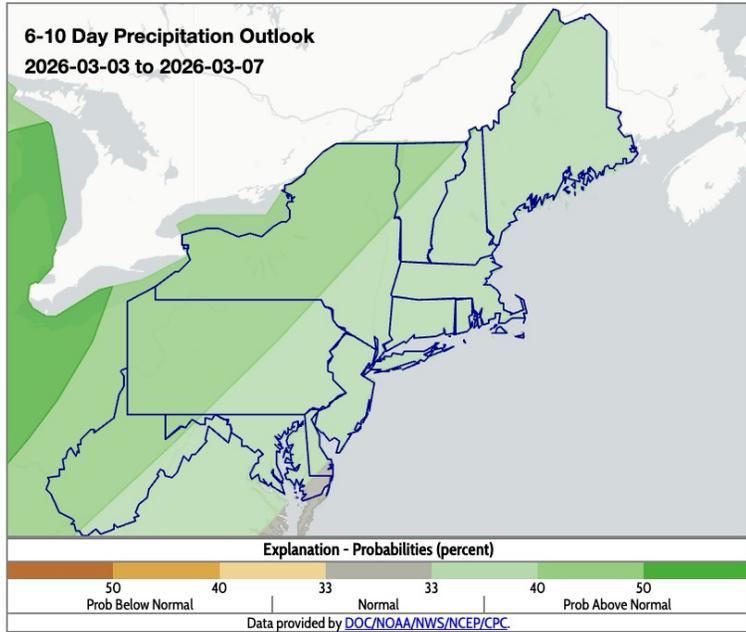


“Normal” precipitation for this period is about 0.50” to 1.00”

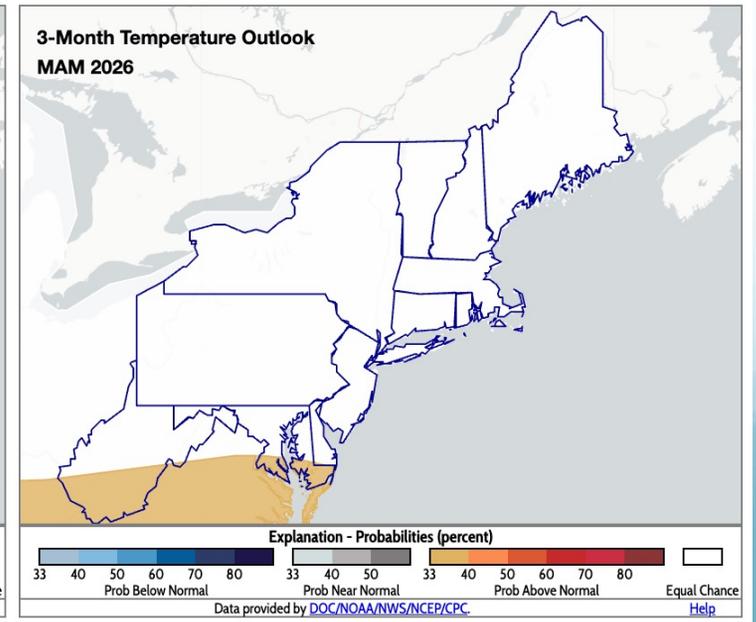
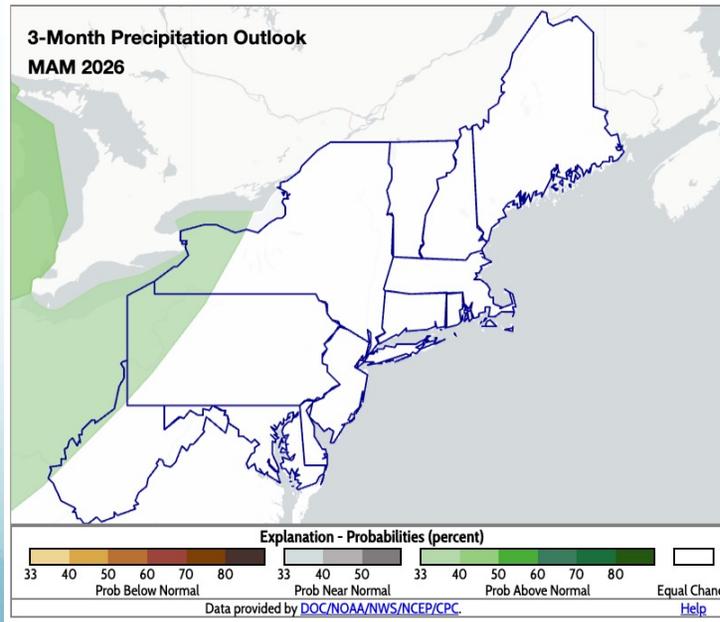
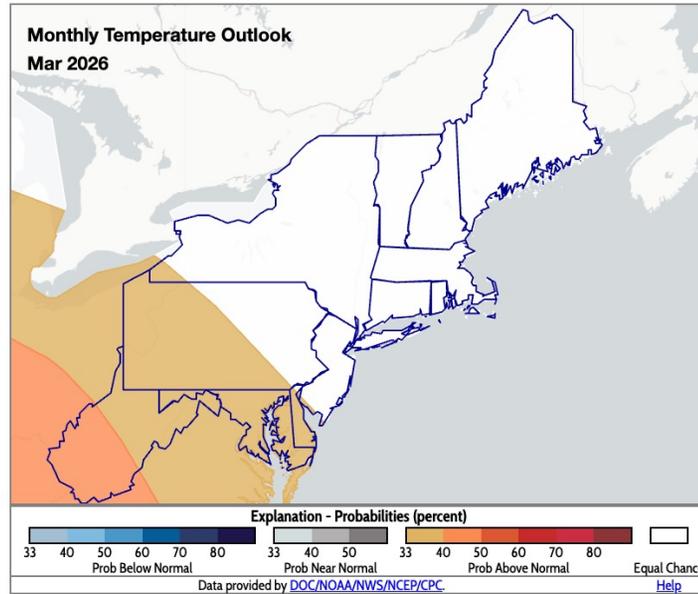
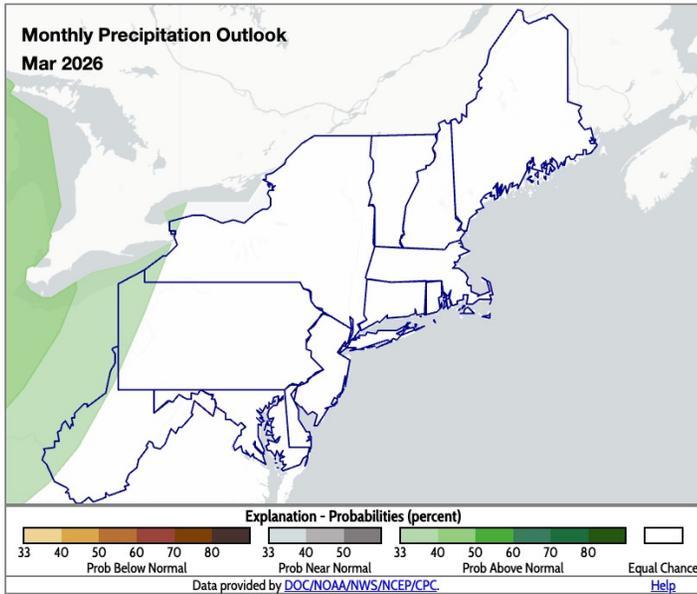
Forecast Maps



Short-term Outlooks



Monthly & 3-Month Outlooks



Key Points for February



Record-setting blizzard in some coastal areas –
Above-normal snowfall for February in these spots



February - **below-normal snowfall** for most areas
Winter - **above-normal snowfall** for many areas



Precipitation was generally **below or near normal** during February and winter



Temperatures were generally **colder than normal** during February and winter



Mix of **deterioration and improvement** in drought conditions –
Possible improvement with snowmelt



Wetter and warmer than normal weather for many short term –
Longer term favors **wet or warm weather** for only a few areas



Contact Information

- nrcc@cornell.edu

Upcoming Webinars

- Thursday, March 26 at 9:30am EDT
 - Spring Flooding Outlook
- Thursday, April 30 at 9:30am EDT
 - Forest Climate Indicators Tool
- Thursday, May 28 at 9:30am EDT
 - TBD



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