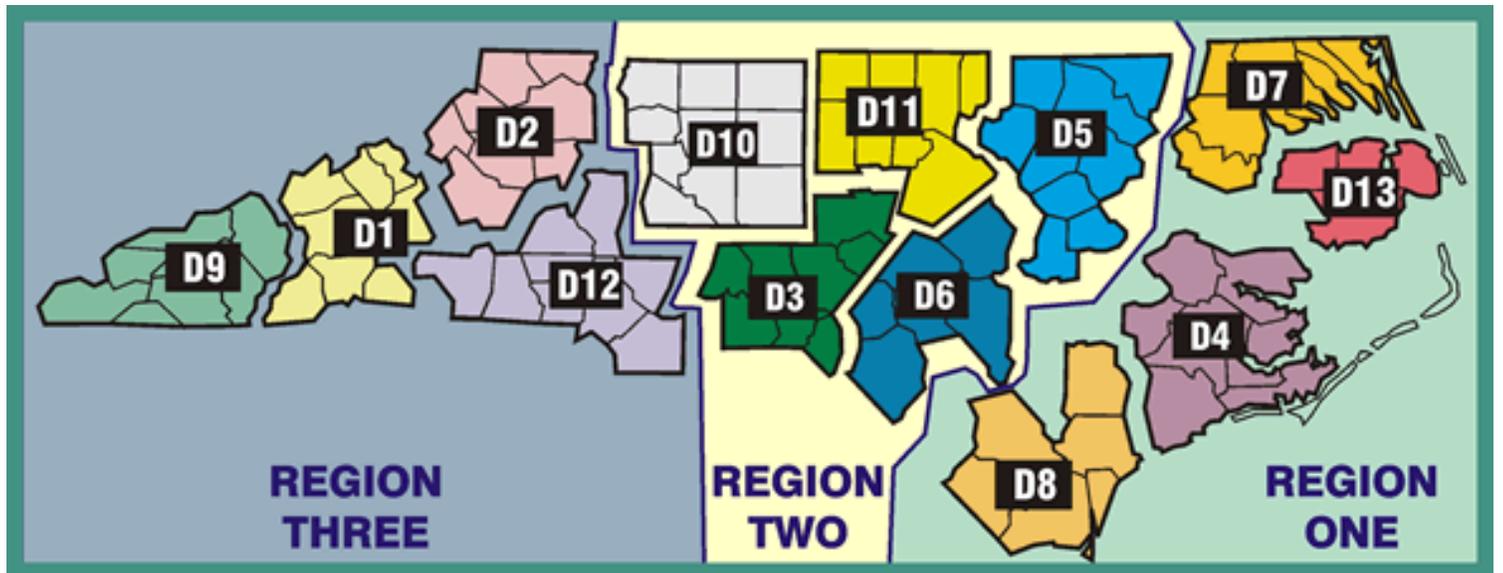
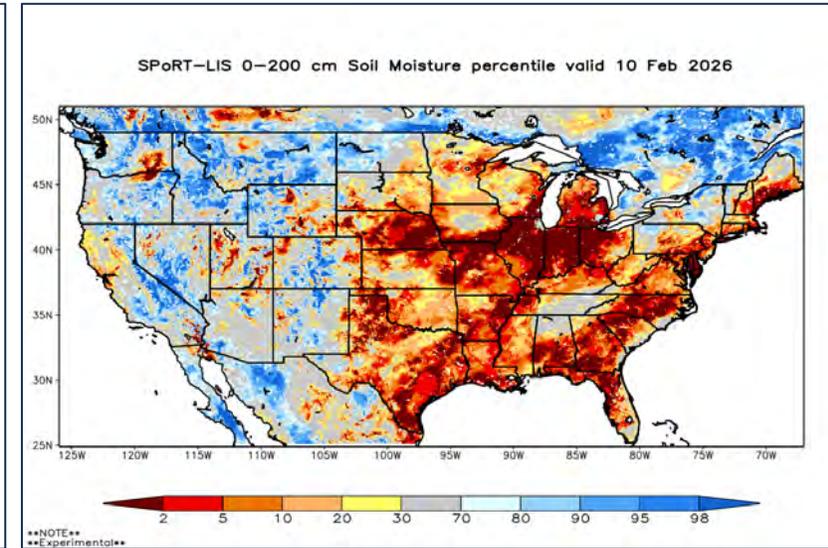
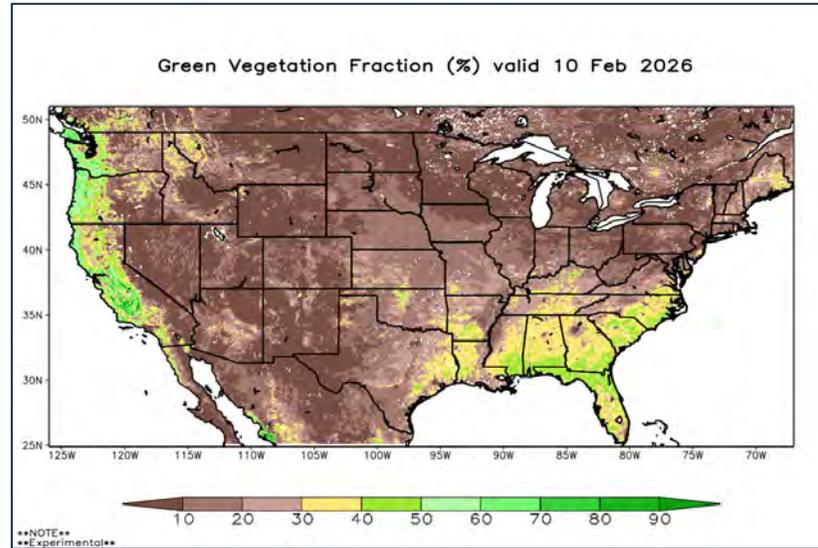


February - 2026

# Monthly Fire Danger Assessment NCFS – All Regions



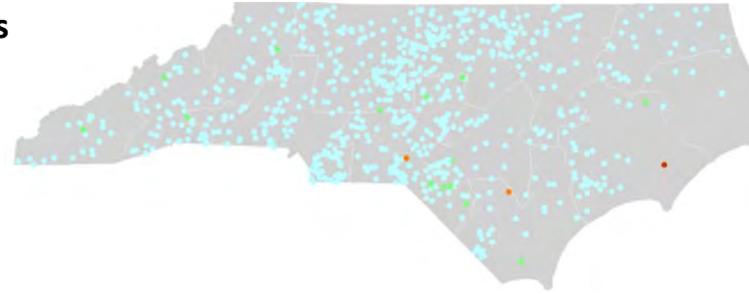
Date: February 10, 2026

Created by: Jamie Dunbar  
Fire Environment Staff Forester  
NC Forest Service

## Statewide Wildfire Context

- January: 10-yr avg is 339 fires for 702 acres
- \*February: 10-yr avg is 639 fires for 1,683 acres**
- March: 10-yr avg is 1,009 fires for 6,401 acres
- April: 10-yr avg is 627 fires for 6,803 acres
- May: 10-yr avg is 283 fires for 1,298 acres
- June: 10-yr avg is 231 fires for 2,383 acres
- July: 10-yr avg is 182 fires for 551 acres
- August: 10-yr avg is 126 fires for 420 acres
- September: 10-yr avg is 194 fires for 422 acres
- October: 10-yr avg is 265 fires for 1,996 acres
- November: 10-yr avg is 534 fires for 6,173 acres
- December: 10-yr avg is 372 fires for 733 acres

December 2025



January 2026



- 
- December: 790 incidents for 1,591 acres
  - January: 1,083 incidents for 1,964 acres
  - MTD: 95 incidents for 126.2 acres

\*All wildfire activity data is preliminary\*

Does not include additional federal wildfires/acres

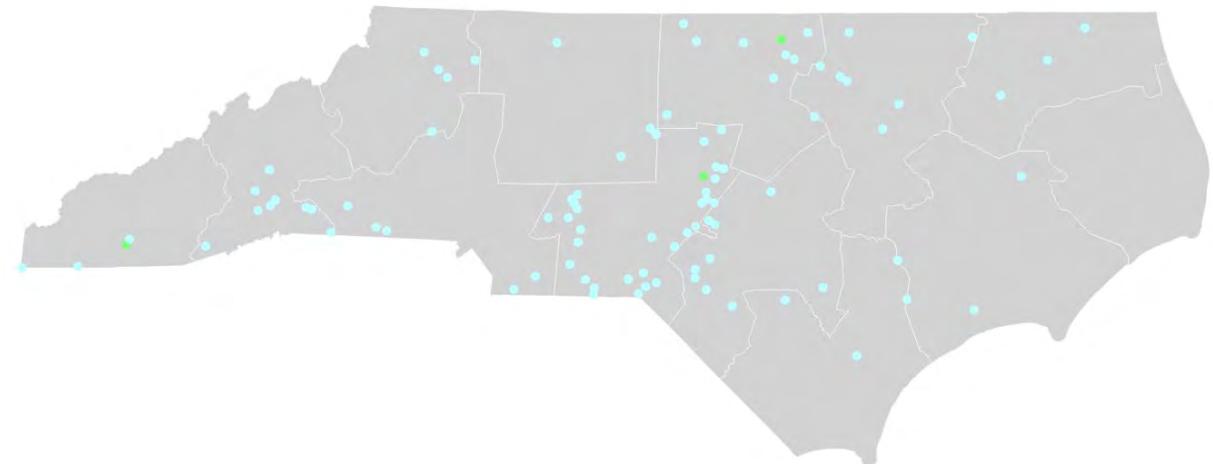
2016-2025 CY Average

---

**\*\*Largest incidents by discovery date, MTD:**  
\*from fiResponse & preliminary reporting only\*

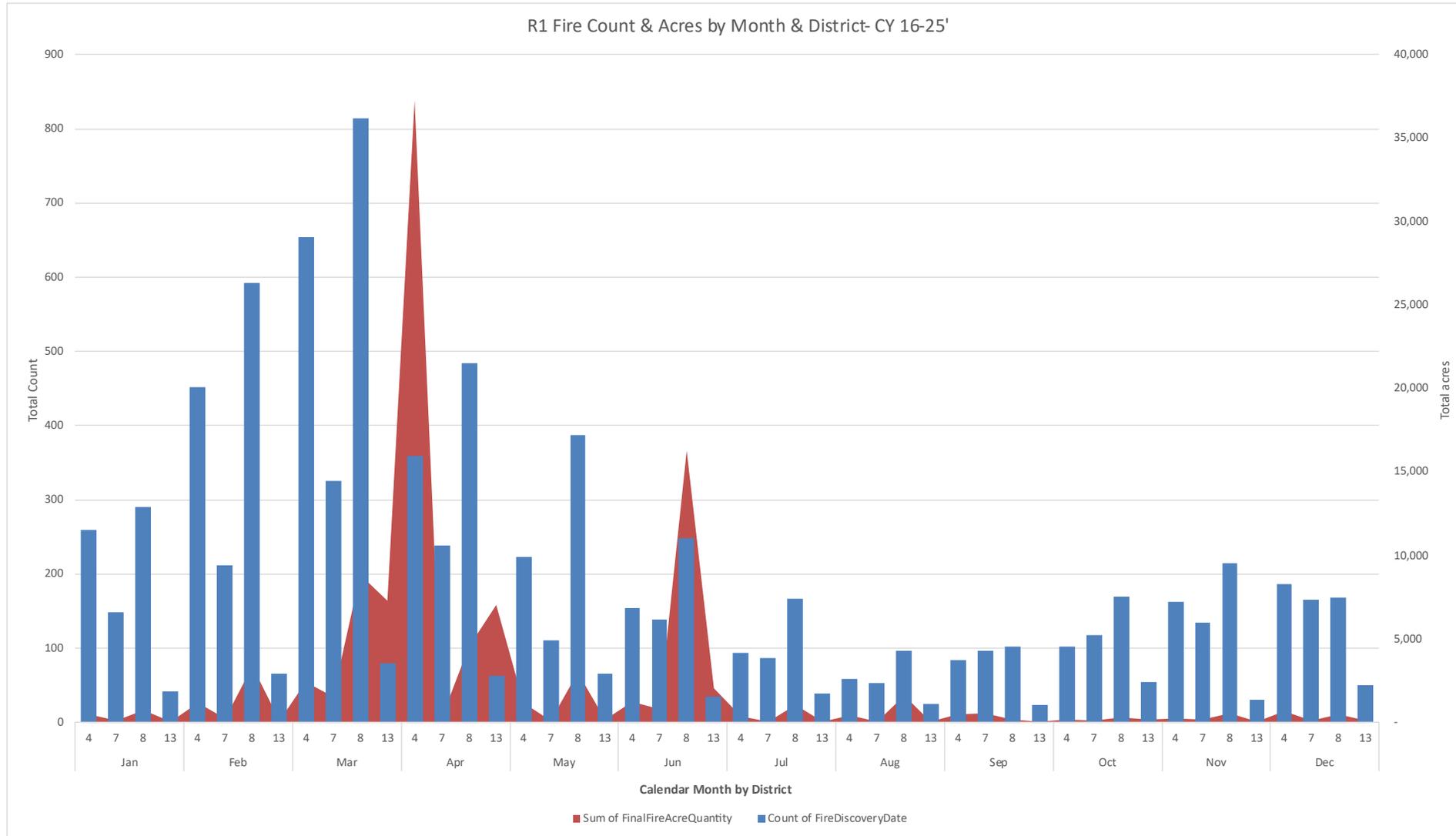
Incident Name	Discovery Date	Region	District	County	Acres
Lewis Rd	2/9/2026	Region 2	District 11	Granville County	30.00
Winding Stairs Alpha Fire	2/9/2026	Region 3	District 9	Macon County	20.00
Brown Rd Power Line	2/8/2026	Region 2	District 3	Lee County	10.30
Wedgewood Pile	2/7/2026	Region 2	District 3	Anson County	6.00
Ellis Pasture	2/8/2026	Region 2	District 6	Harnett County	4.46
Colby	2/7/2026	Region 2	District 5	Northampton County	4.00
Happy Home Road	2/9/2026	Region 1	District 7	Chowan County	4.00
Bladen County - 12282 North Carolin	2/6/2026	Region 1	District 8	Bladen County	3.99
Corinth Bridge	2/7/2026	Region 2	District 3	Chatham County	3.50
Balfour Rd	2/7/2026	Region 2	District 6	Hoke County	2.16
Onslow County - 174 April Lane	2/8/2026	Region 1	District 4	Onslow County	2.00

February MTD (2/1 – 2/9)



**\*\*Note:** DOD & other entirely federal ownership wildfires typically not shown on fiResponse

## Distribution of R1 Fires & Acres by Month from 2016-2025



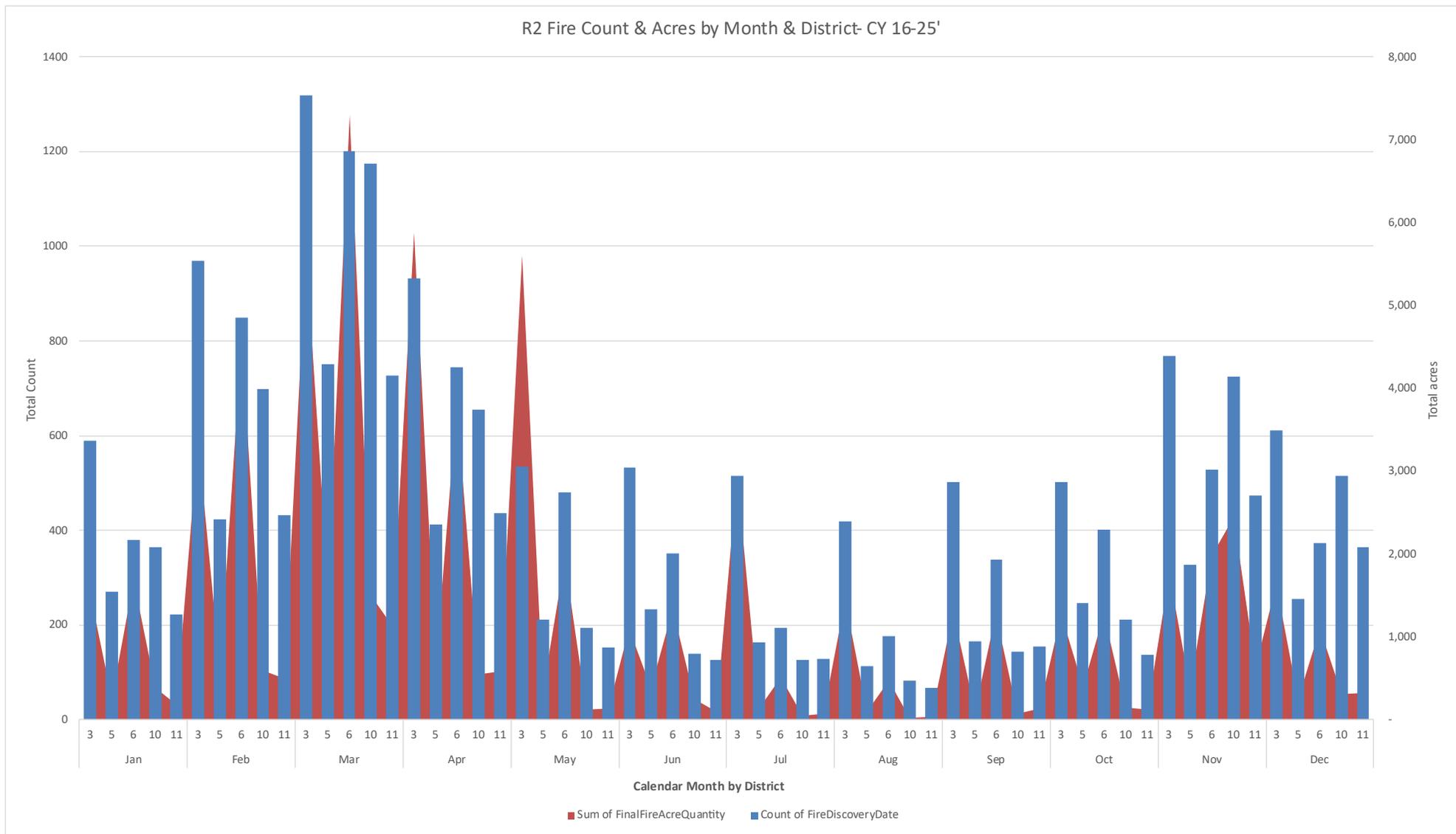
Cause: All Cause Codes, Statewide, NCFS Reported Fires Only. \*\*Preliminary Data from NASF Report Extract\*\*

Calendar Year	Fire Count (Discovery Date)	Total Acres (Discovery Date)
2016	558	9,974.5
2017	918	4,185.9
2018	664	2,127.7
2019	939	3,329.0
2020	469	4,057.5
2021	966	3,036.4
2022	1,394	10,088.1
2023	929	57,138.5
2024	865	7,109.3
2025	1,217	6,931.2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,919</b>	<b>107,978.2</b>
10yr Avg	892	10,798

### Peak Fire Count vs. Peak Acres (by Discovery Date)

- Fuel Dormancy?
- Live Fuel Volatility?
- Human Factor?
- Drought Influences?

## Distribution of R2 Fires & Acres by Month from 2016-2025



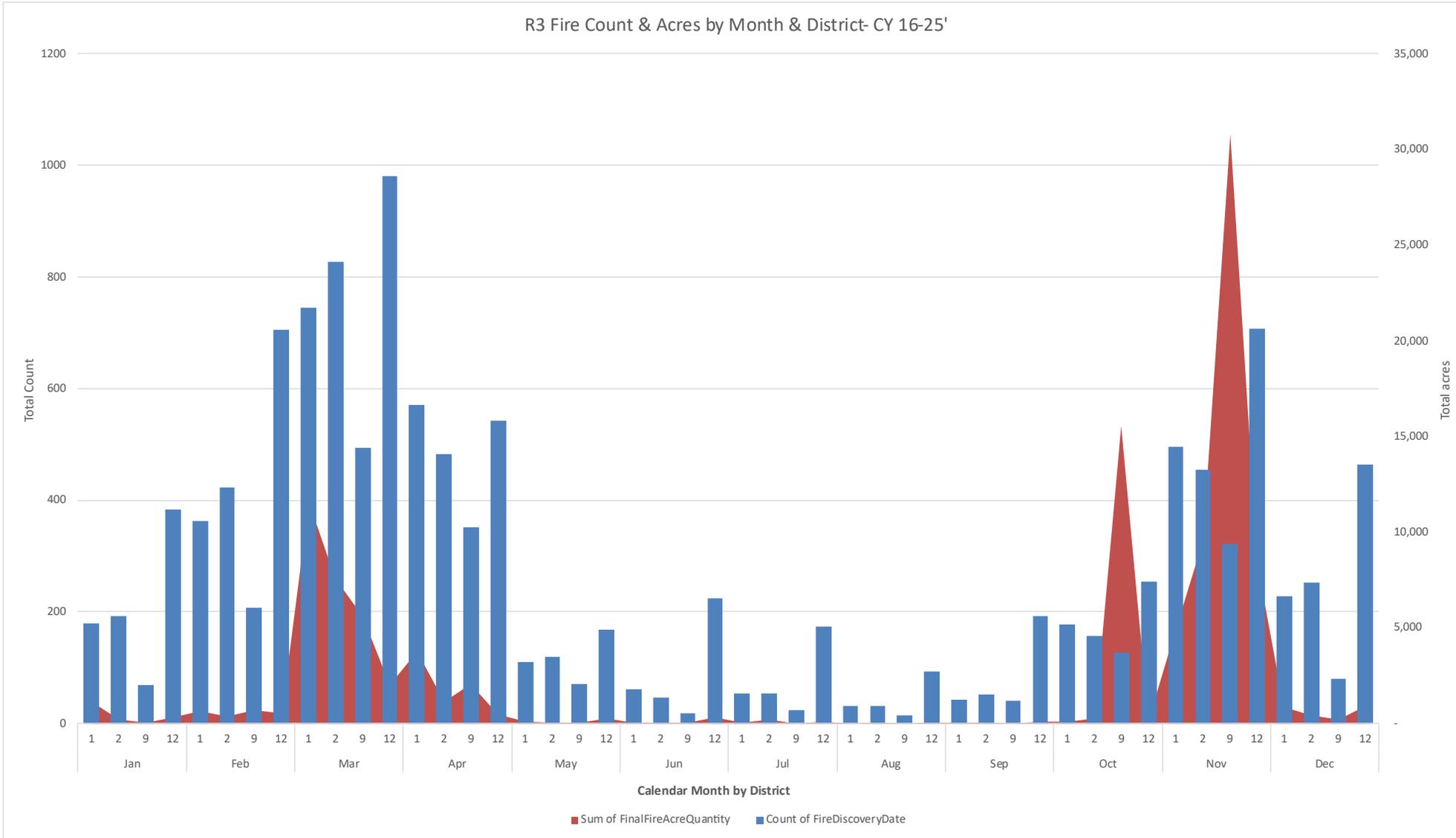
Calendar Year	Fire Count (Discovery Date)	Total Acres (Discovery Date)
2016	1,971	5,081.0
2017	2,895	9,042.8
2018	2,089	7,848.7
2019	2,092	4,708.2
2020	1,162	2,687.4
2021	2,955	9,915.6
2022	3,560	12,206.0
2023	2,926	9,575.9
2024	2,602	5,856.2
2025	3,980	9,372.2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26,232</b>	<b>76,294.1</b>
10yr Avg	2,623	7,629

### Peak Fire Count vs. Peak Acres (by Discovery Date)

- Fuel Dormancy?
- Live Fuel Volatility?
- Human Factor?
- Drought Influences?

Cause: All Cause Codes, Statewide, NCFs Reported Fires Only. \*\*Preliminary Data from NASF Report Extract\*\*

## Distribution of R3 Fires & Acres by Month from 2016-2025



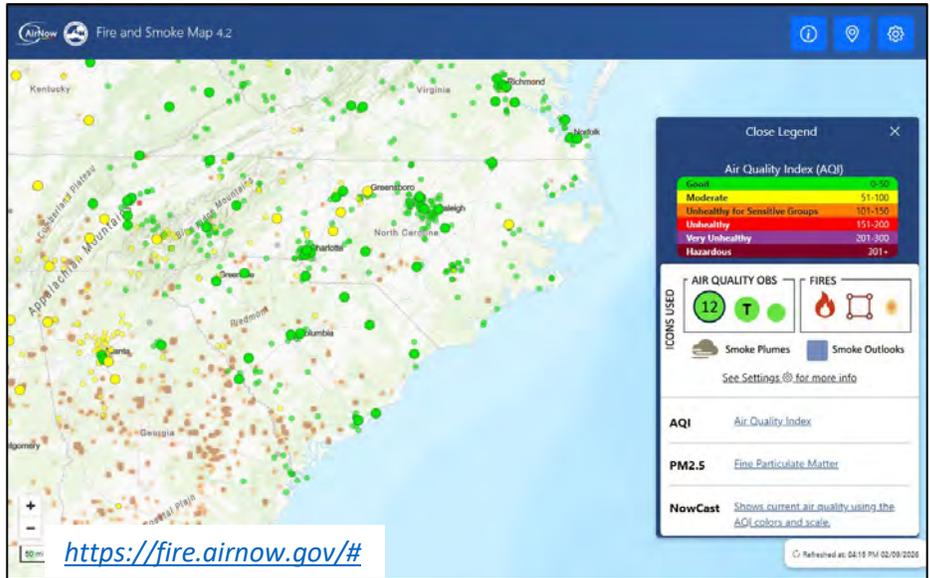
Calendar Year	Fire Count (Discovery Date)	Total Acres (Discovery Date)
2016	1,650	62,650.7
2017	1,286	7,163.0
2018	841	1,016.4
2019	882	755.3
2020	777	943.2
2021	1,169	1,929.2
2022	1,425	3,476.8
2023	1,653	9,517.0
2024	1,356	4,338.7
2025	1,813	19,580.3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12,852</b>	<b>111,370.7</b>
10yr Avg	1,285	11,137

### Peak Fire Count vs. Peak Acres (by Discovery Date)

- Fuel Dormancy?
- Live Fuel Volatility?
- Human Factor?
- Drought Influences?

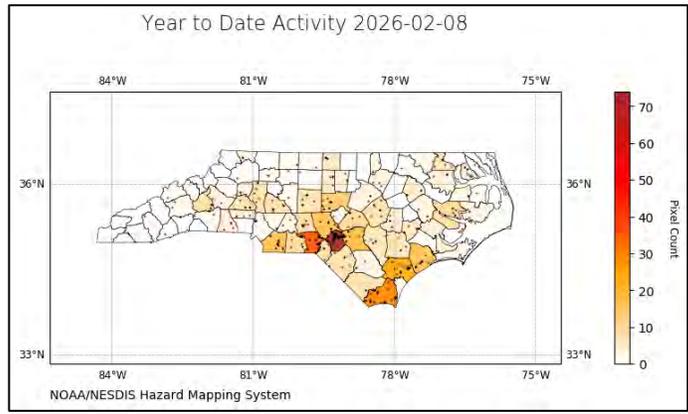
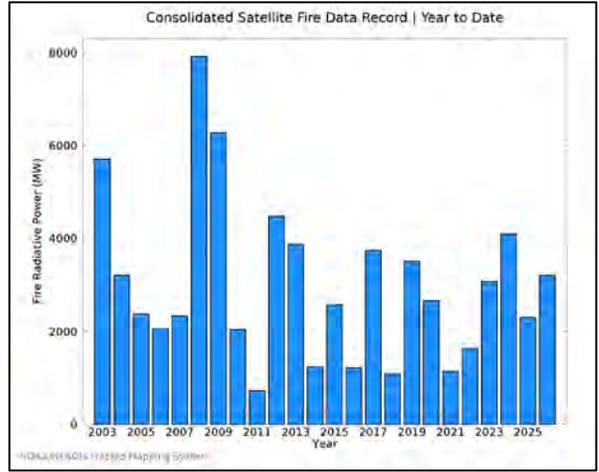
Cause: All Cause Codes, Statewide, NCFS Reported Fires Only. \*\*Preliminary Data from NASF Report Extract\*\*

# Air Quality Notes



<https://fire.airnow.gov/#>

Fire & Smoke Map heat detects from VIIRS (above). RX burning evident in the Southeast. NC Map showing past week satellite detects from same source & bottom table compares combined statewide fire radiative power by CY-Year (YTD context ending on 2/8/26). Note that cloud cover and other factors can limit detections, not all detects may be "forestry related". Hazard Mapping System link below, center.



<https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/products/land/hms.html#maps>

### Extended Air Quality Outlook

The forecast Air Quality Index value for each pollutant represents the highest value expected within each county, so some areas and monitors may see lower values. We use the best information and techniques available to ensure the quality and accuracy of the forecasts we provide to the public. Note that ranges do not include the nine-county Triad region, which is covered by the Forsyth County Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection.

Forecast Day	View Maps	Max AQI Range	Category Range	Download KML
Monday (Feb 9)	<a href="#">Max AQI</a> • <a href="#">PM2.5</a>	43 to 50	Green	<a href="#">download</a>
Tuesday (Feb 10)	<a href="#">Max AQI</a> • <a href="#">PM2.5</a>	50 to 62	Green to Yellow	<a href="#">download</a>
Wednesday (Feb 11)	<a href="#">Max AQI</a> • <a href="#">PM2.5</a>	40 to 48	Green	<a href="#">download</a>
Thursday (Feb 12)	<a href="#">Max AQI</a> • <a href="#">PM2.5</a>	40 to 48	Green	<a href="#">download</a>

### Maximum Air Quality Index for Feb 10, 2026

This forecast was issued on **Monday, February 9, 2026 at 1:35 pm**. ✔ This forecast is currently valid.

#### Today's Air Quality Conditions

Daily average PM2.5 concentrations are in the low Code Yellow range in some parts of the Piedmont this afternoon with Green conditions being observed elsewhere.

✔ For a display of the most recent Air Quality Index (AQI) conditions throughout the day, visit the [Ambient Information Reporter \(AIR\) tool](#).

#### General Forecast Discussion

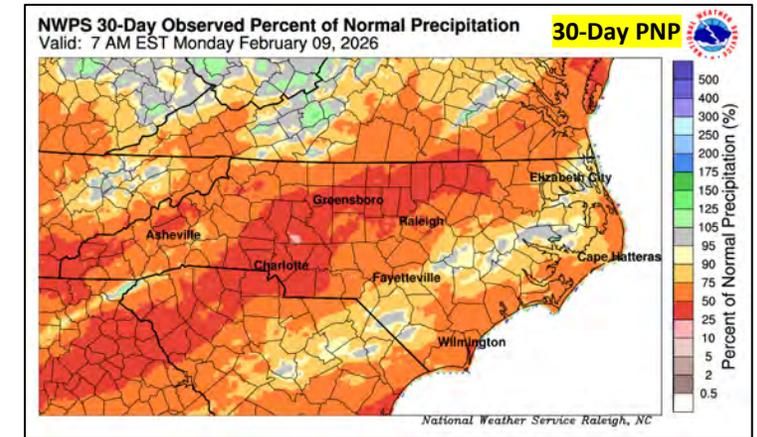
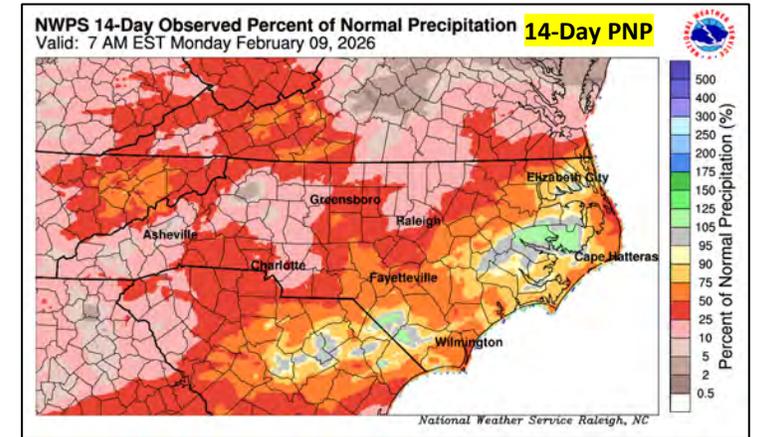
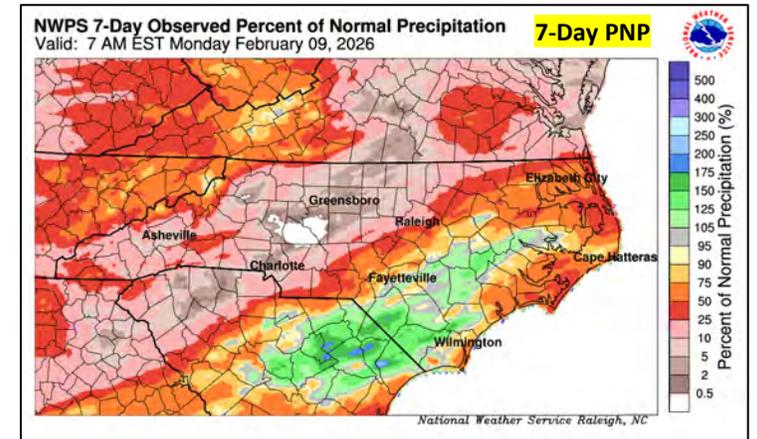
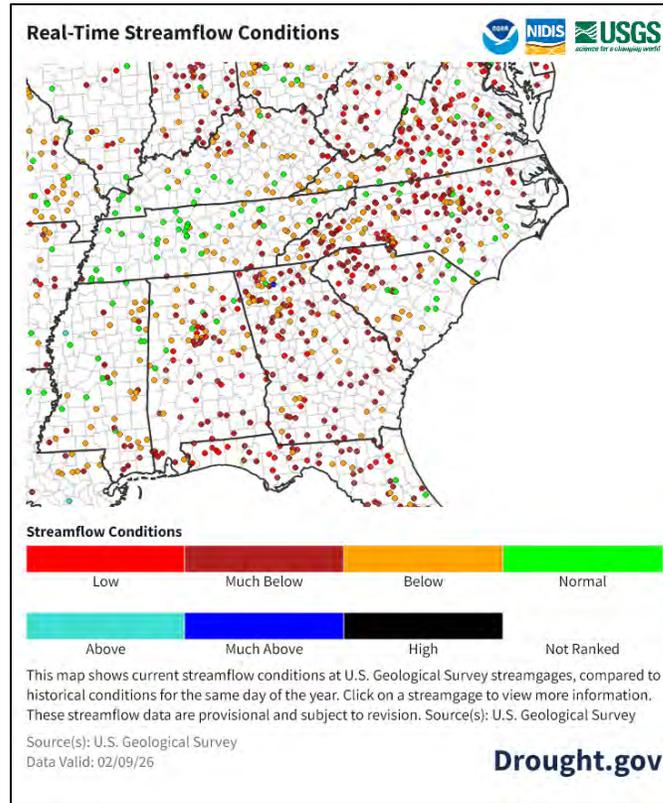
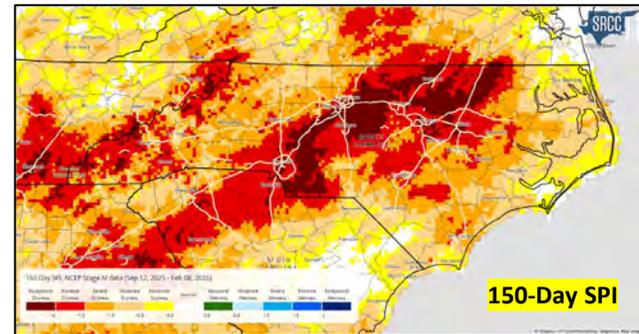
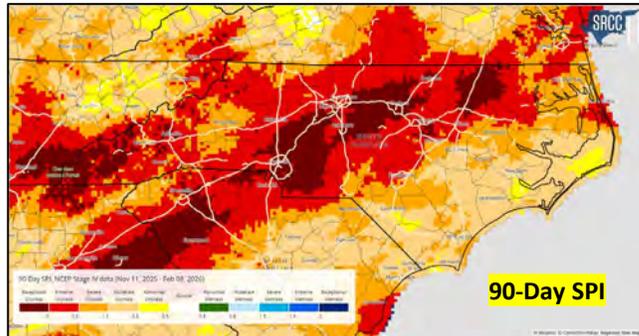
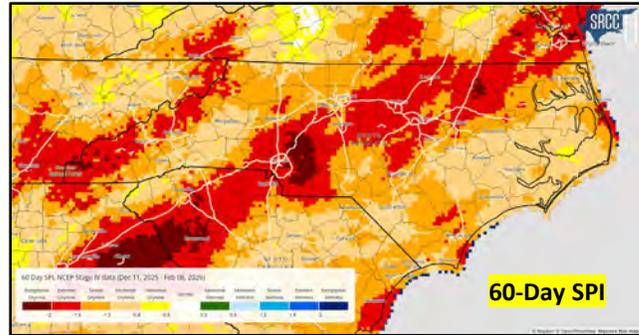
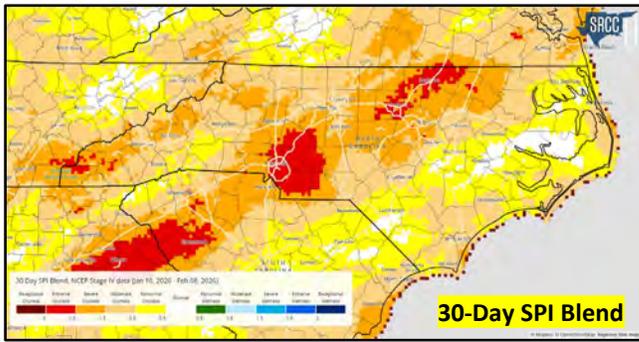
Statewide moderate PM2.5 levels are expected on Tuesday under lingering high pressure, centered offshore but extending across the southeastern US. Widespread burning continues to our south, and strong southwesterly return flow around the high will transport that polluted air mass across North Carolina.

#### Outlook

A cold front trailing low pressure over the northeastern US will sweep through from northwest to southeast on Wednesday and clear out the airshed. High pressure will begin to build back in again on Thursday, with a corresponding gradual rise in PM2.5 concentrations back to the upper Code Green range.

Author: [Sara Kreuser](#) ([sara.kreuser@ideq.nc.gov](mailto:sara.kreuser@ideq.nc.gov)) - NC Division of Air Quality

<https://airquality.climate.ncsu.edu/discussion/?view=latest>



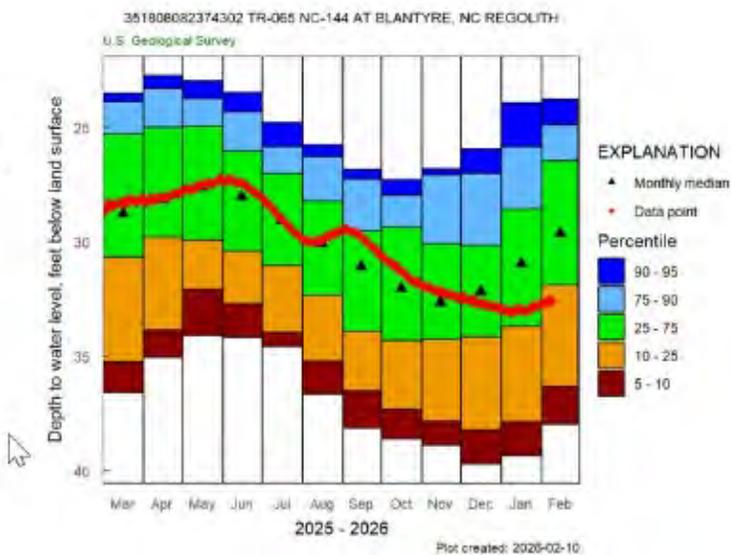
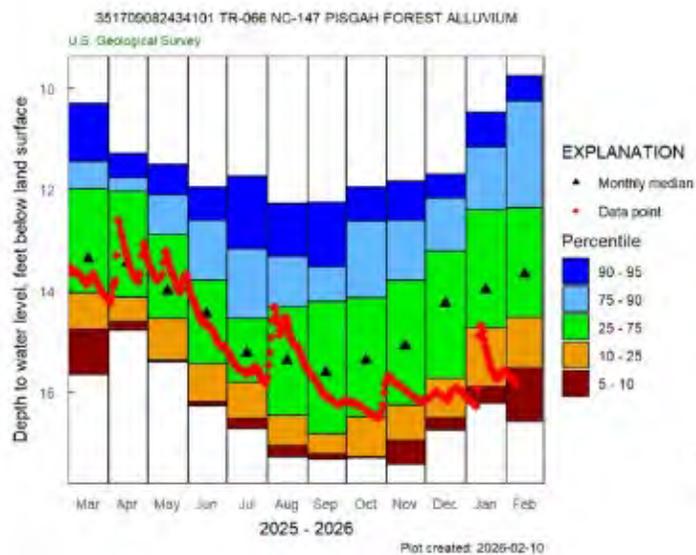
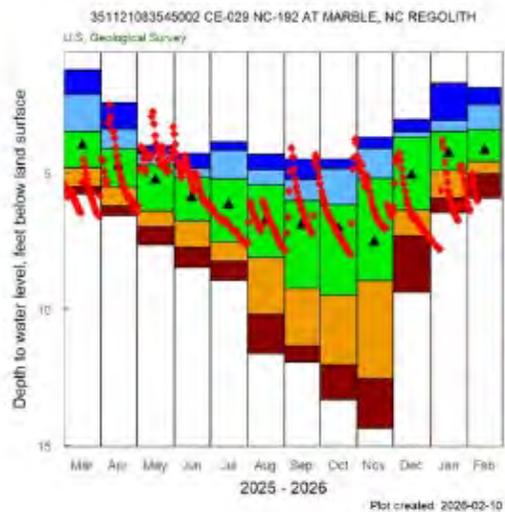
Lack of truly significant wetting rain events continue for much of the state. Both short and longer time scale SPI products indicate worsening conditions.

Recent snow was very “dry” with a ratio approaching 15:1 to 20:1, meaning a 12” snowfall yielded well less than 1” of precip, even if frozen soils/runoff or sublimation didn’t reduce potential absorption.

Real-time streamflow from 2/8/26 show well below normal flow conditions for most gauges in the SE US. There is a short-term bump in flow from the recent rain event in the D8 area (see 7-day PNP map on top right). This low-flow trend is very significant as we move towards the growing season/spring. Swamps & larger canal networks remain very low compared to “normal” as a visual indicator.

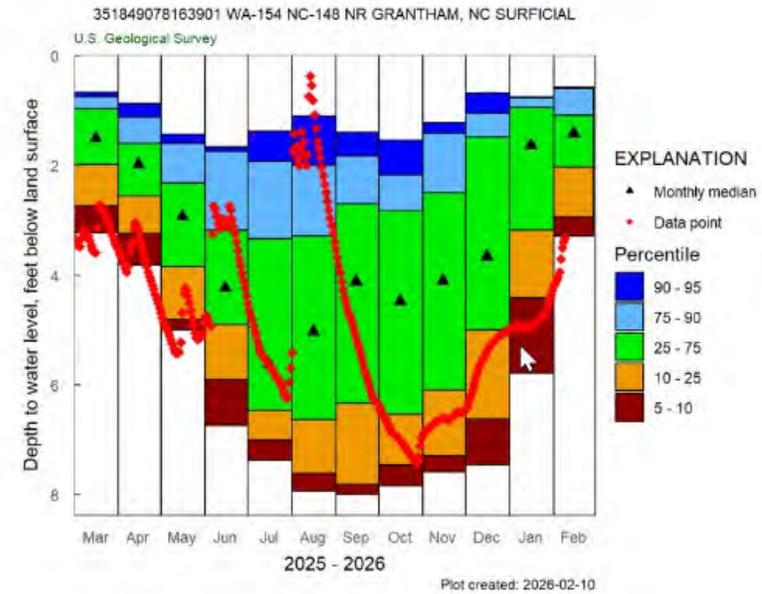
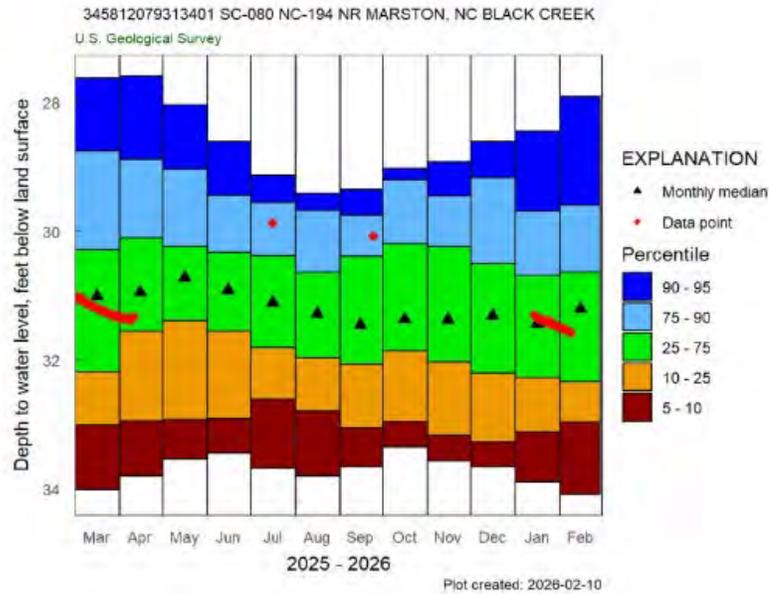
# Mountains

Graph of groundwater levels during the past year and monthly period of record statistics.



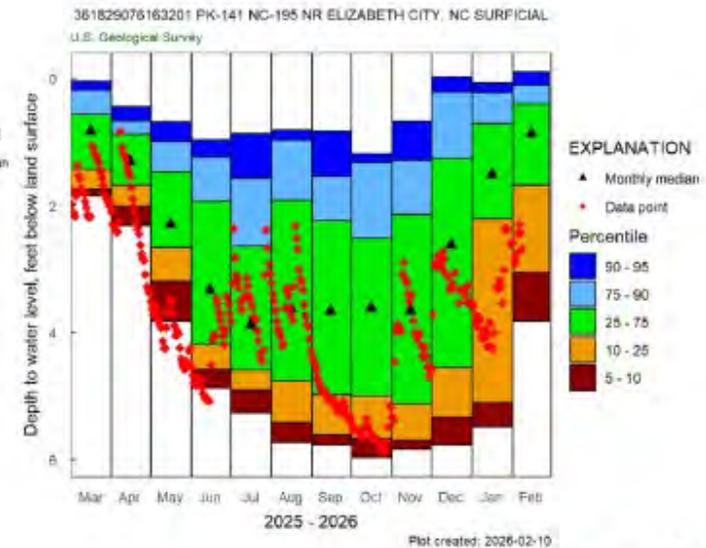
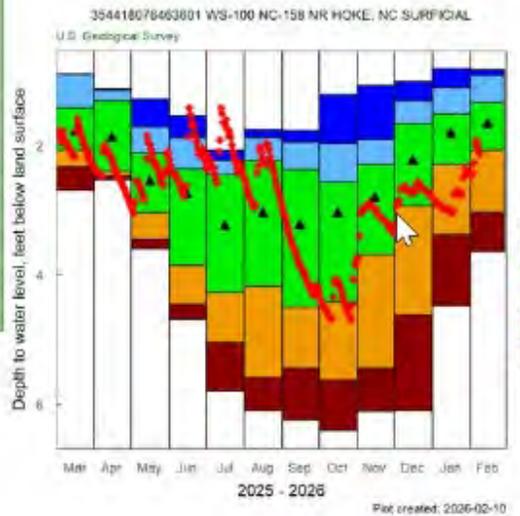
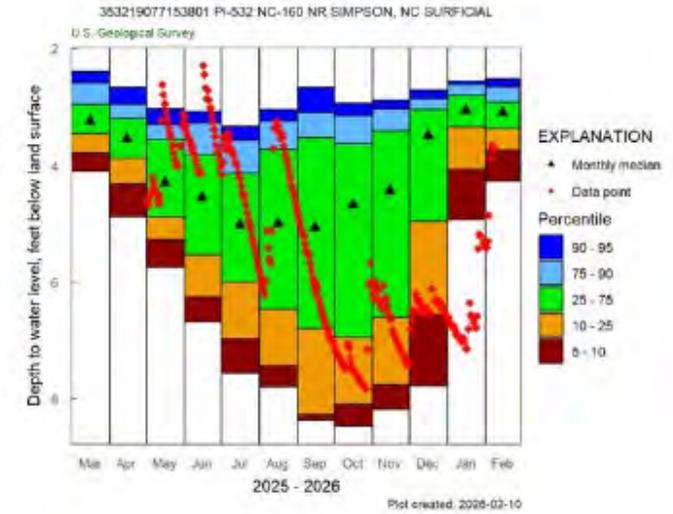
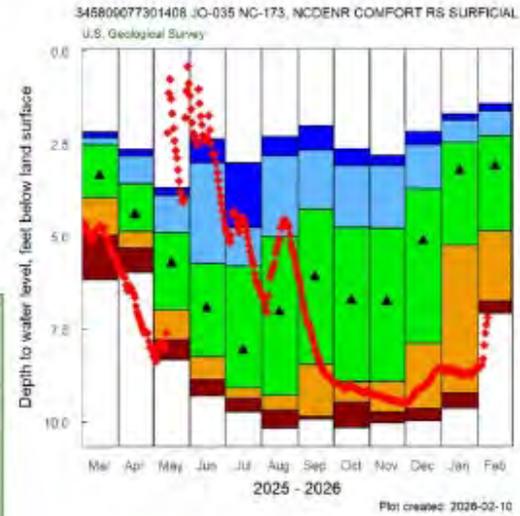
# Piedmont/Coastal Plain

Graph of groundwater levels during the past year and monthly period of record statistics.

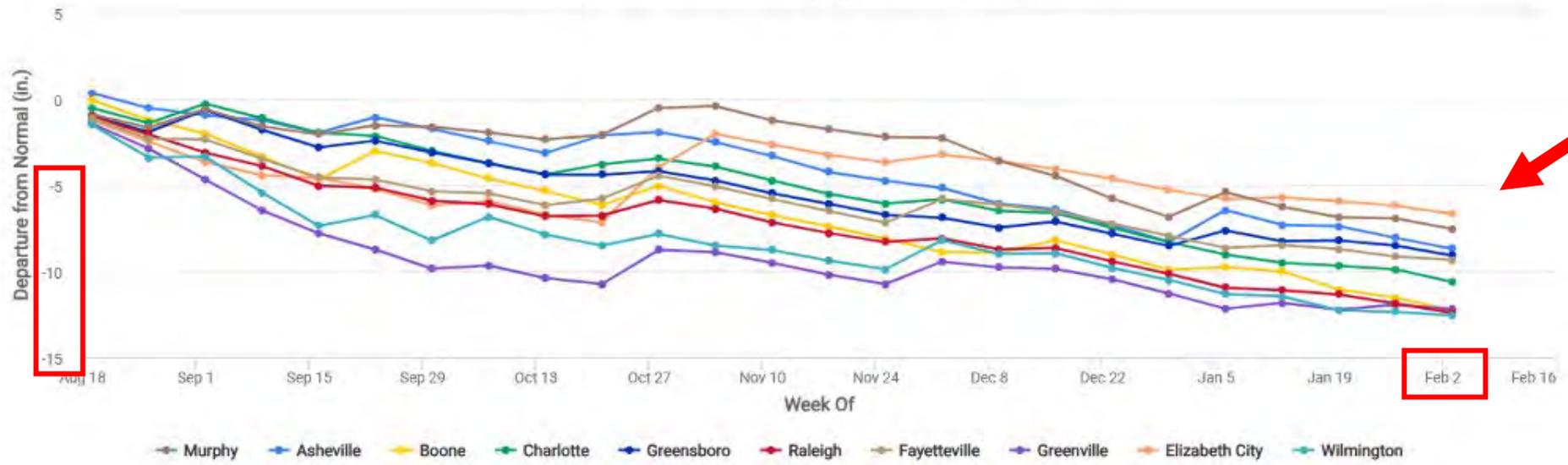


# Coastal Plain

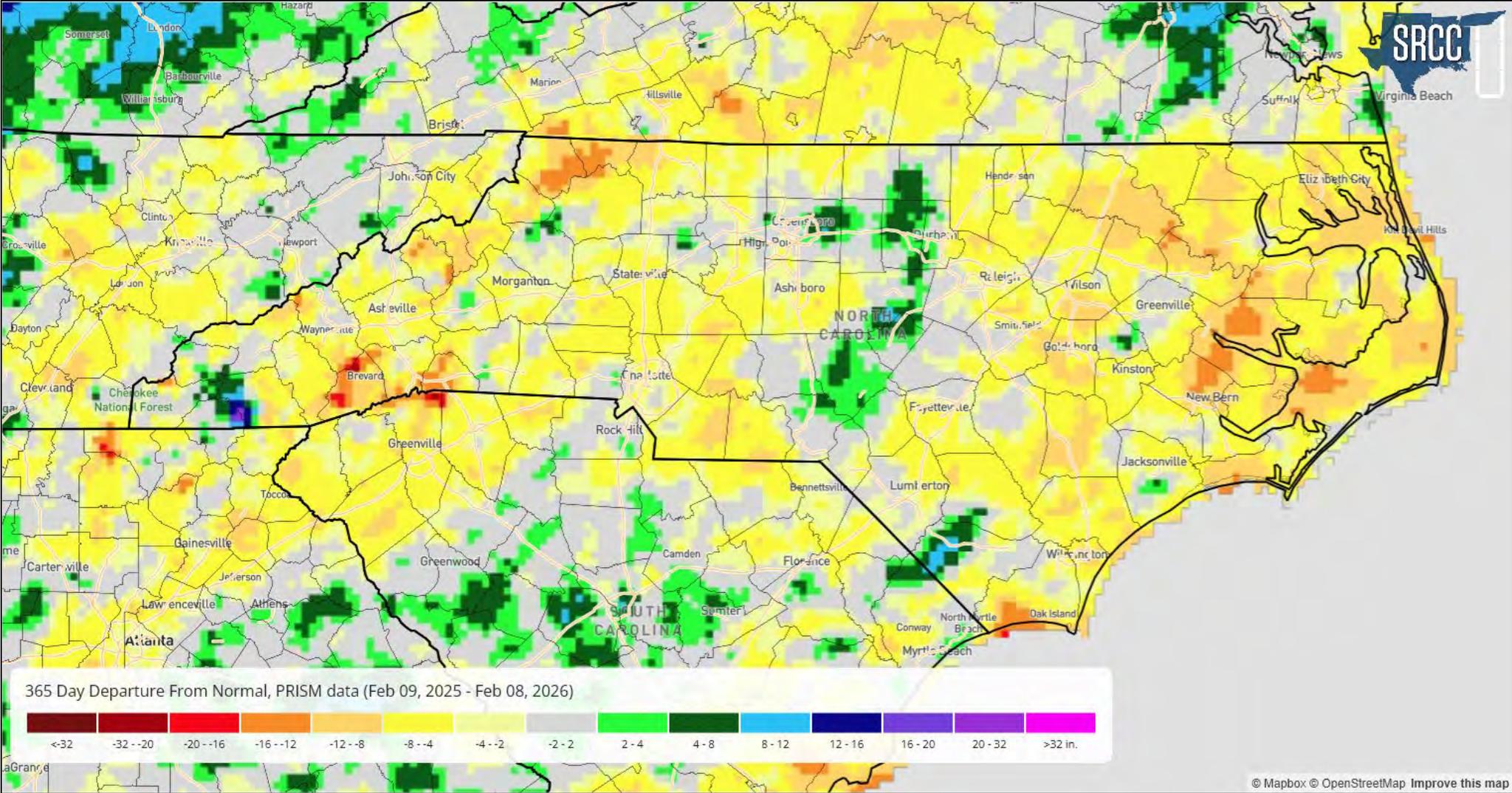
Graph of groundwater levels during the past year and monthly period of record statistics.



### Precipitation Deficits: Aug. 2025 to present

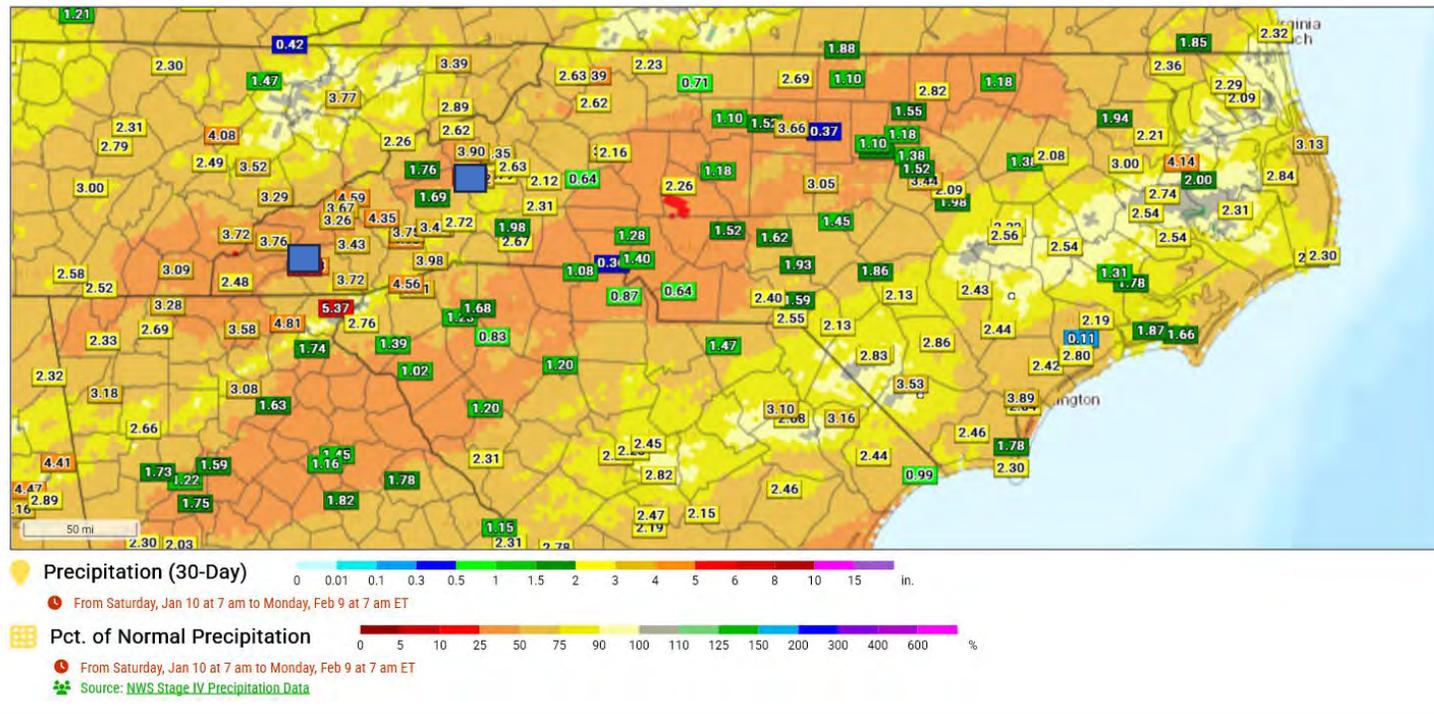


1-Yr Departure from Normal (in.)

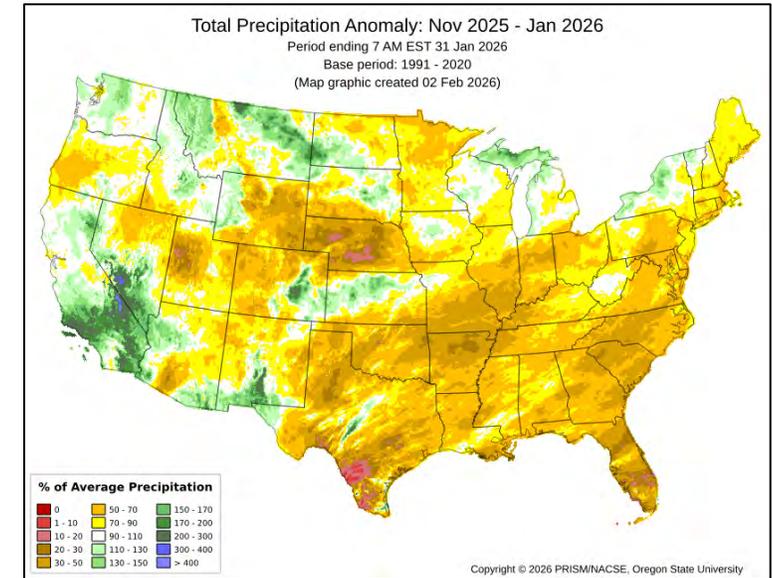


Note darker orange shading is 12-16" behind at 12-mo time scale.

# From the Fire Weather Intelligence Portal 30-Day Station Total Precip & 30-Day PNP



## Quarterly Precip Anomaly

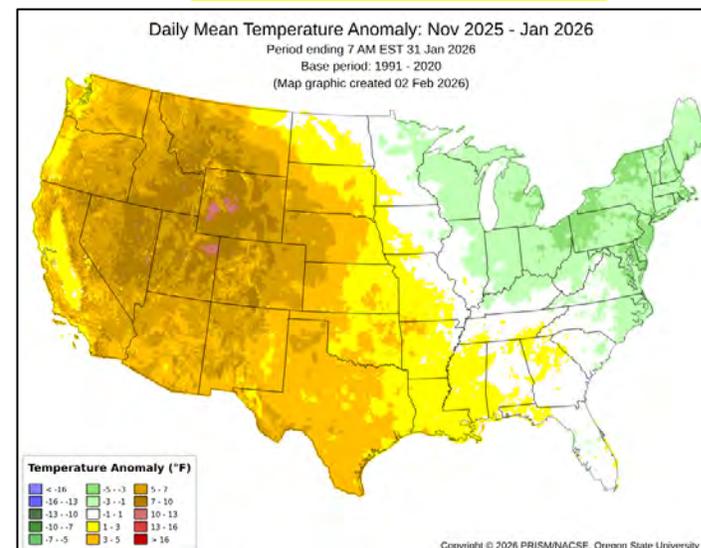


Station totals are from ASOS, RAWS, ECONet and other networks. Some of the extreme low and high totals are likely erroneous based on clogs, blowing snow not melting, ice coating, etc.

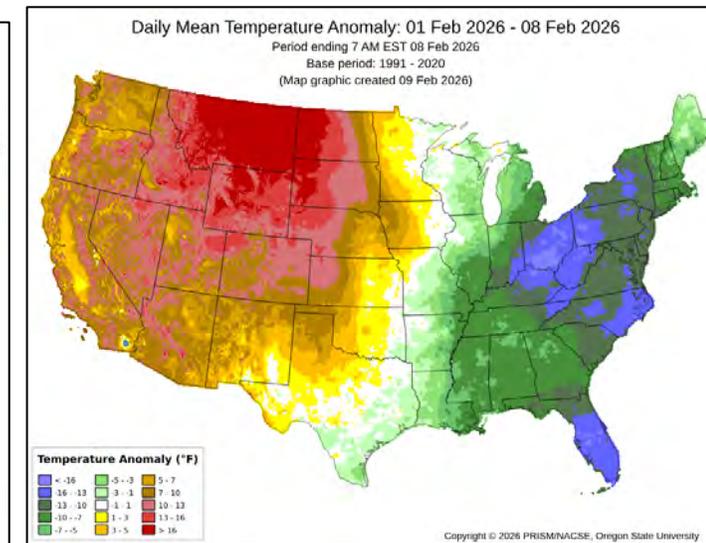
However, when viewing the gridded data in conjunction with station totals, you can get an idea of the limited impact the recent rain is having, even at the shorter 30-day timeframe.

Much colder than average temps in recent weeks have helped offset some of the drought impacts to the overall fire environment manifesting in late December/early January. This will change as we return to normal/above normal temps.

## Quarterly Mean Temp Anomaly

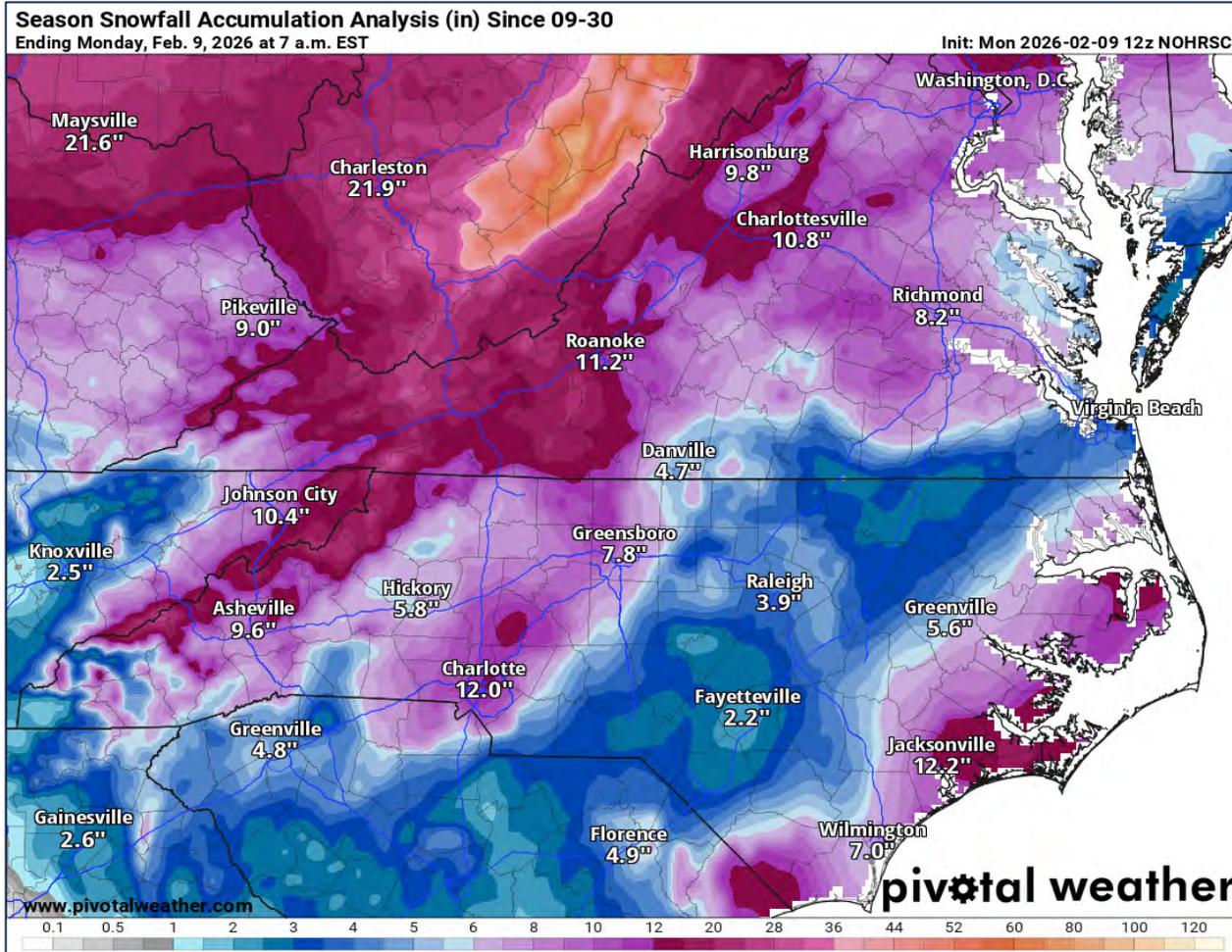


## MTD Mean Temp Anomaly



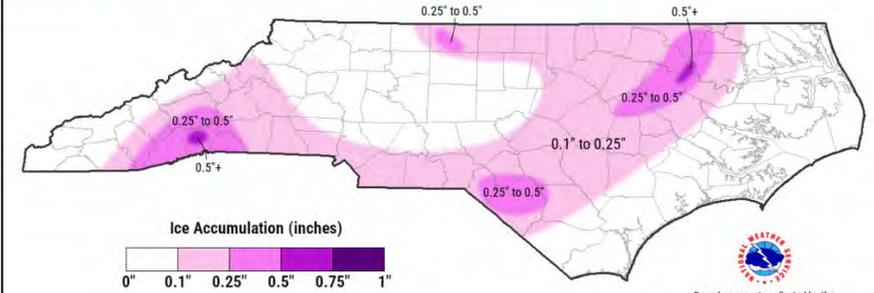
# Recent Events:

## Season Total Snowfall Accumulation



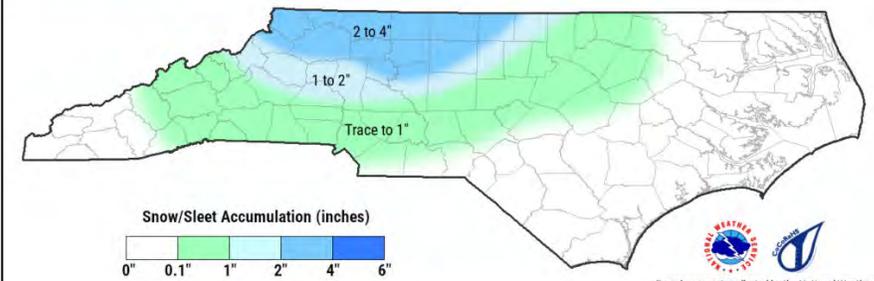
### Ice Accumulation

January 24-25, 2026



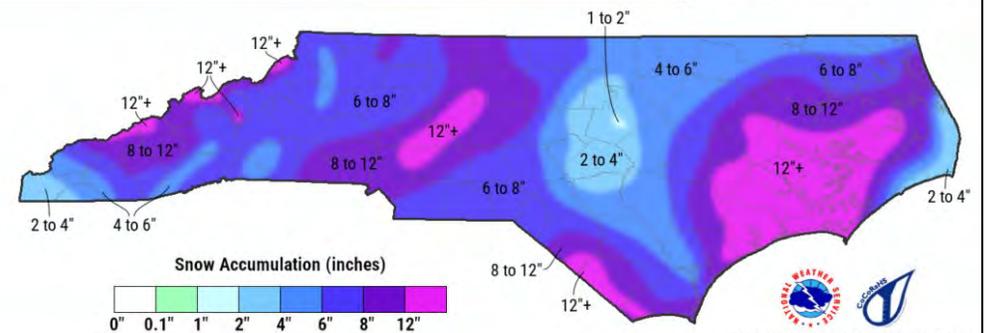
### Total Snow and Sleet

January 24-25, 2026



### Total Snowfall

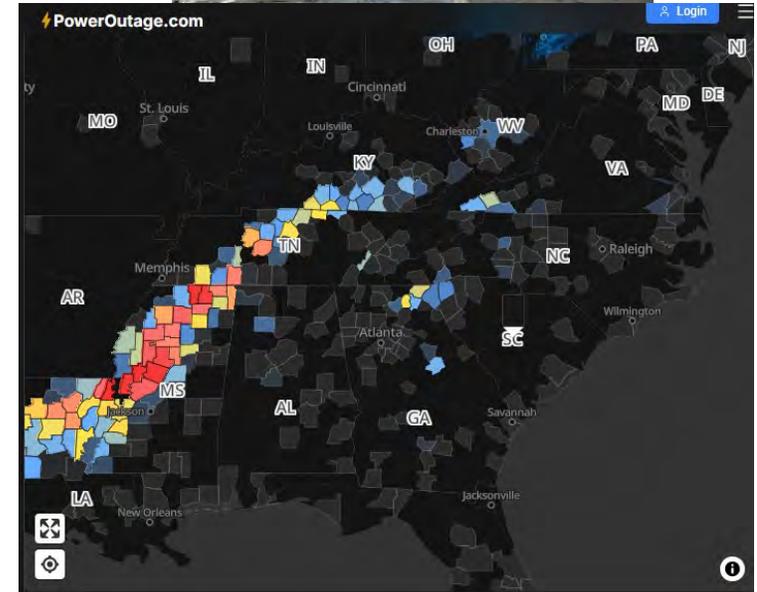
Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, 2026



Significant Ice Storm Impacts in many portions of the Southeast, see Power Outage Map immediately after the January 23-26 storm. Implications for Spring and beyond in context of Southern Area Resource availability. Outage map a reasonable indicator of likely tree/forest damage.

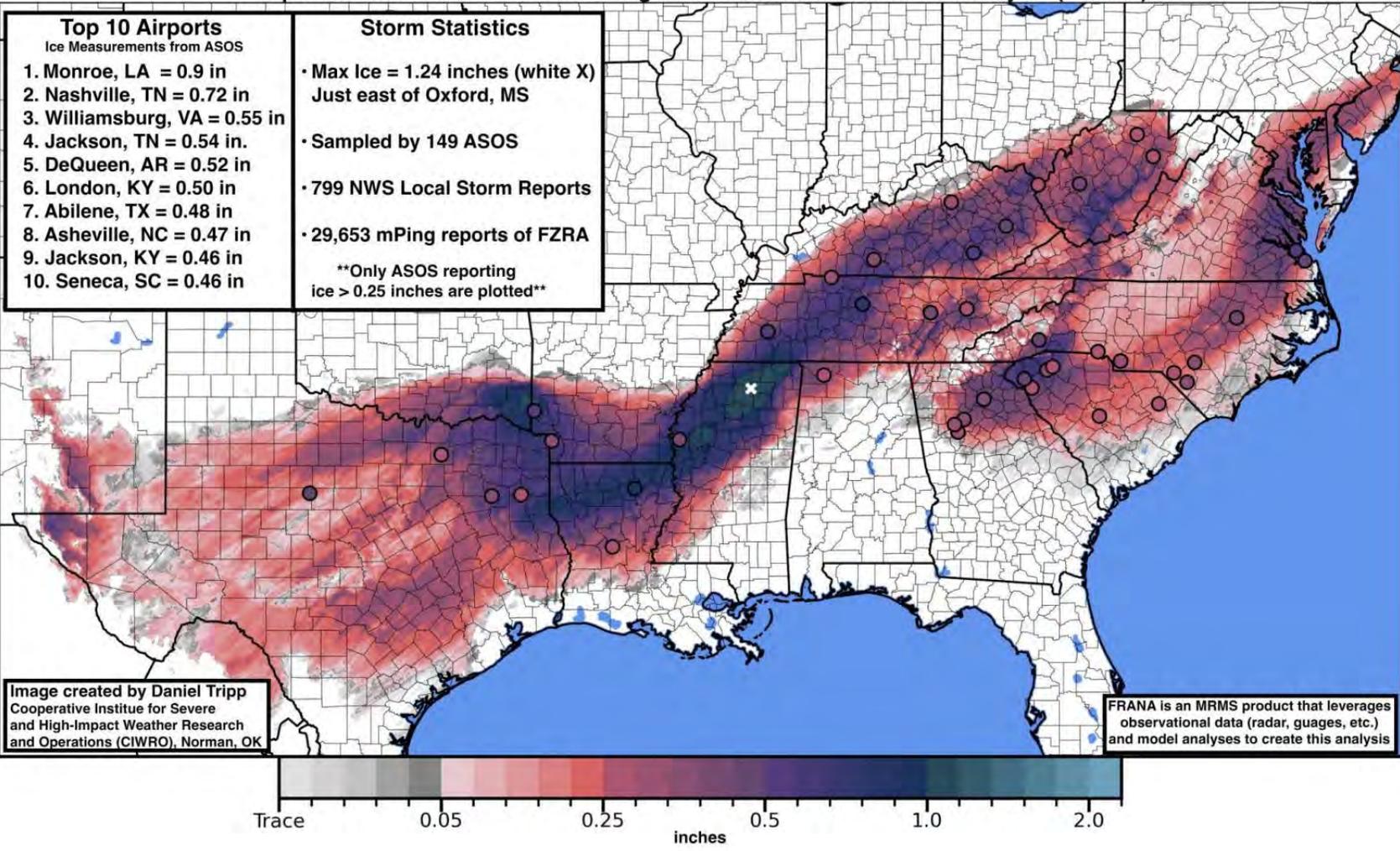


NWS Page (MS Example via MDOT)  
[https://www.weather.gov/jan/20260123\\_winter](https://www.weather.gov/jan/20260123_winter)



# January 23-26, 2026 Storm Total Ice Accumulation

\*\*\*Experimental data from the Freezing Rain Accumulation National Analysis (FRANA)\*\*\*



- Top 10 Airports**  
Ice Measurements from ASOS
1. Monroe, LA = 0.9 in
  2. Nashville, TN = 0.72 in
  3. Williamsburg, VA = 0.55 in
  4. Jackson, TN = 0.54 in
  5. DeQueen, AR = 0.52 in
  6. London, KY = 0.50 in
  7. Abilene, TX = 0.48 in
  8. Asheville, NC = 0.47 in
  9. Jackson, KY = 0.46 in
  10. Seneca, SC = 0.46 in

- Storm Statistics**
- Max Ice = 1.24 inches (white X)  
Just east of Oxford, MS
  - Sampled by 149 ASOS
  - 799 NWS Local Storm Reports
  - 29,653 mPing reports of FZRA
- \*\*Only ASOS reporting  
ice > 0.25 inches are plotted\*\***

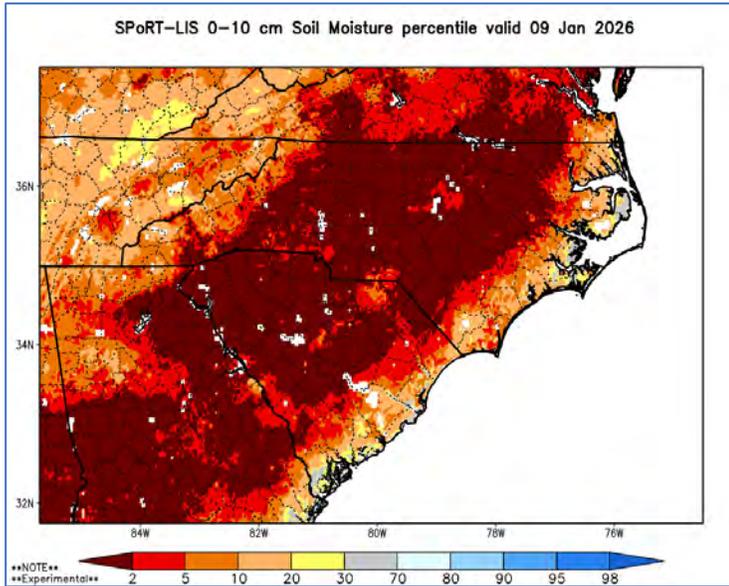
Image created by Daniel Tripp  
Cooperative Institute for Severe  
and High-Impact Weather Research  
and Operations (CIWRO), Norman, OK

FRANA is an MRMS product that leverages  
observational data (radar, guages, etc.)  
and model analyses to create this analysis



# SPoRT Modeled Soil Moisture Percentiles for ~4" and ~72" profile.

1/9/26

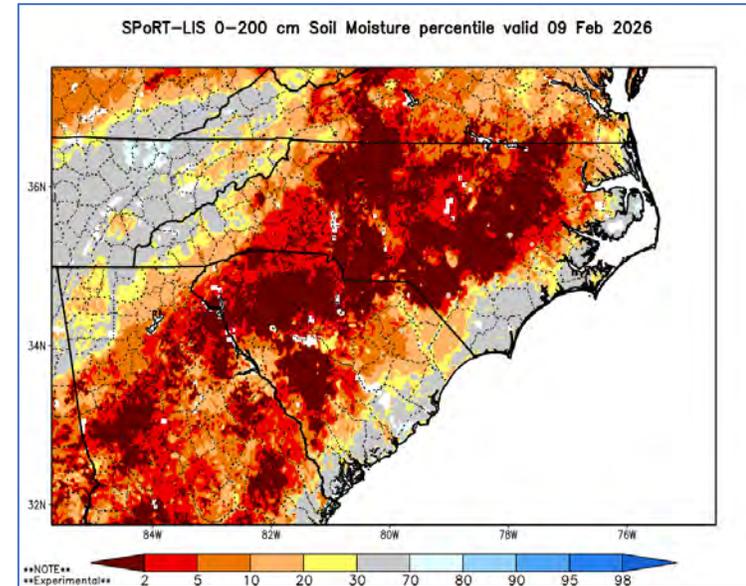
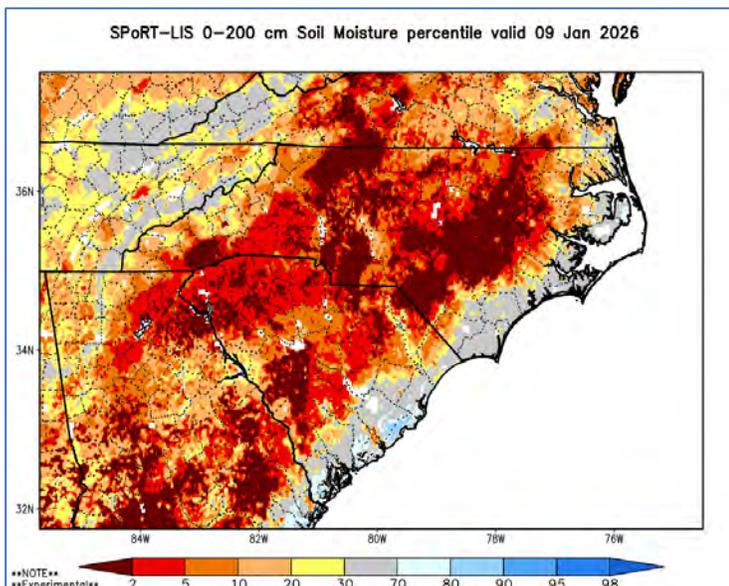
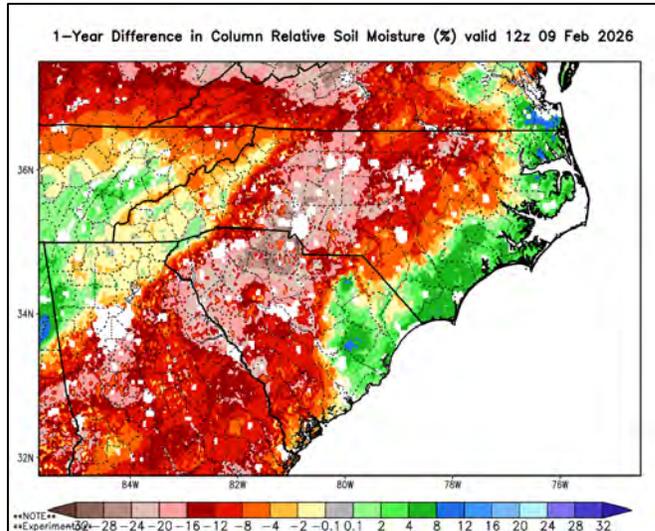
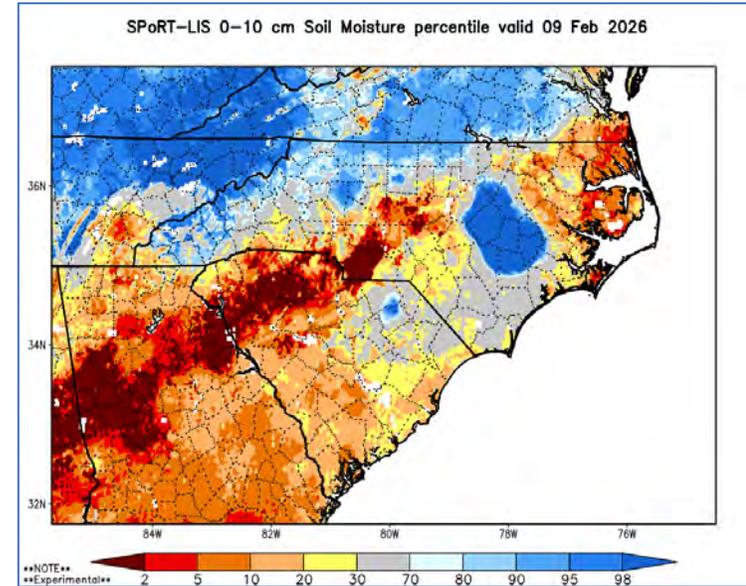


~ 30-days ago Left, today on Right.  
Just a model.

Shallow modeled improvement for some areas,  
but no significant change overall in context of full  
soil profile.

Note 1-year difference graphic below.

2/9/26



[https://weather.ndc.nasa.gov/spo-rt/case\\_studies/lis\\_NC.html](https://weather.ndc.nasa.gov/spo-rt/case_studies/lis_NC.html)

# North Carolina Drought Update

Created By: North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council  
[www.ncdrought.org](http://www.ncdrought.org)  
 NC STATE  
[climate.ncsu.edu](http://climate.ncsu.edu) @NCSCO

For the assessment period ending **Feb. 3, 2026**  
 From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

## The Main Takeaway

While most of the state saw significant snow last week, low liquid totals and a slow snow melt have prevented any immediate improvements on this week's map.

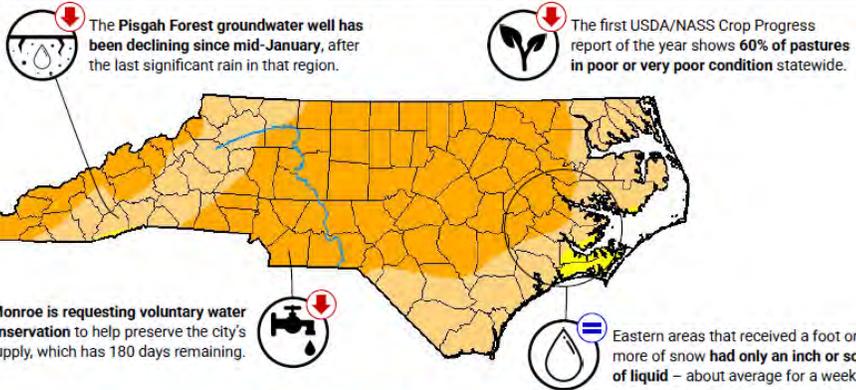
## This Week's Summary

Despite seeing the biggest snow in decades in parts of the state, it has had little to no impact on our drought situation so far. Cold temperatures since the storm have delayed the snow melt, and due to the frozen ground, some snow is sublimating – or converting from ice to vapor – rather than soaking into the soil. That means lakes and streams haven't seen any boost yet.

## Current Precipitation Deficits

Since November 1, most of the state is more than 4 inches below normal, including a 6.55-inch deficit in Charlotte for its driest Nov/Dec/Jan period on record.

For your local drought status, visit [www.ncdrought.org](http://www.ncdrought.org)



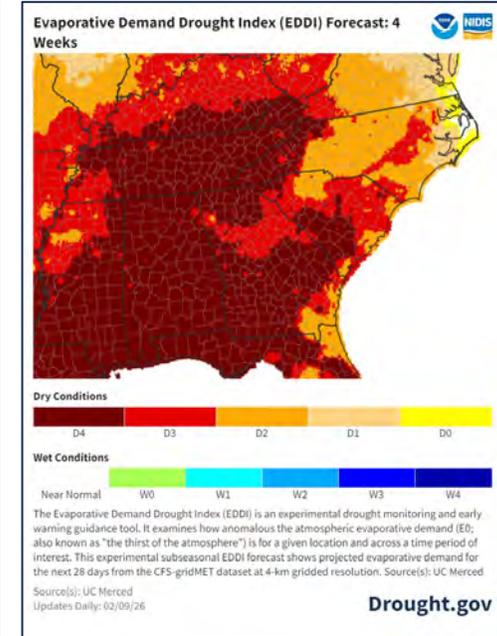
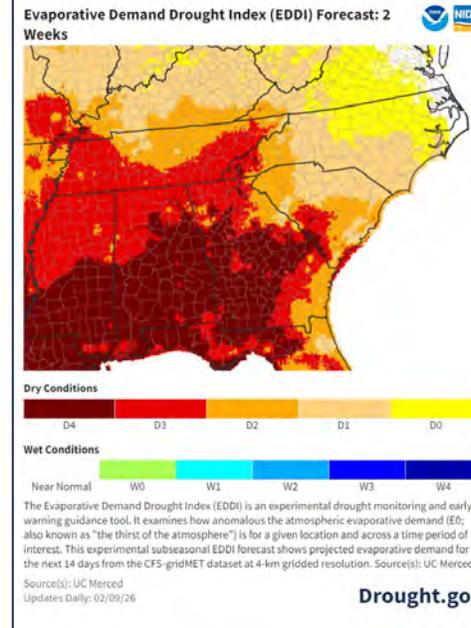
## Last Week's Drought Status



## Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	2.04%	0.00%
D1: Moderate Drought	35.71%	0.00%
D2: Severe Drought	62.25%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

<https://www.drought.gov/data-maps-tools/evaporative-demand-drought-index-eddi-subseasonal-forecasts>

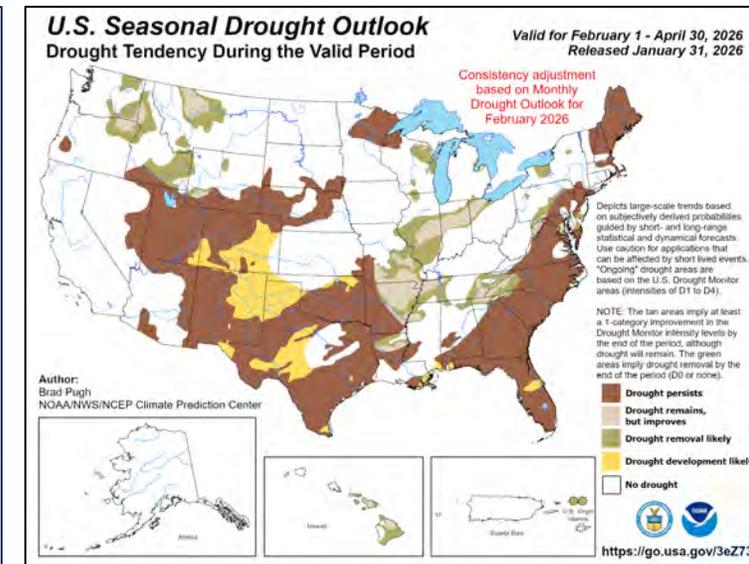
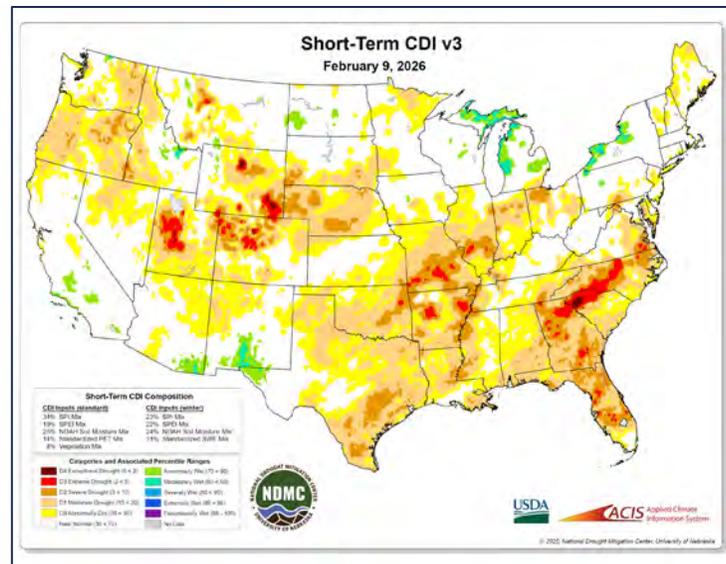


## EDDI & Drought

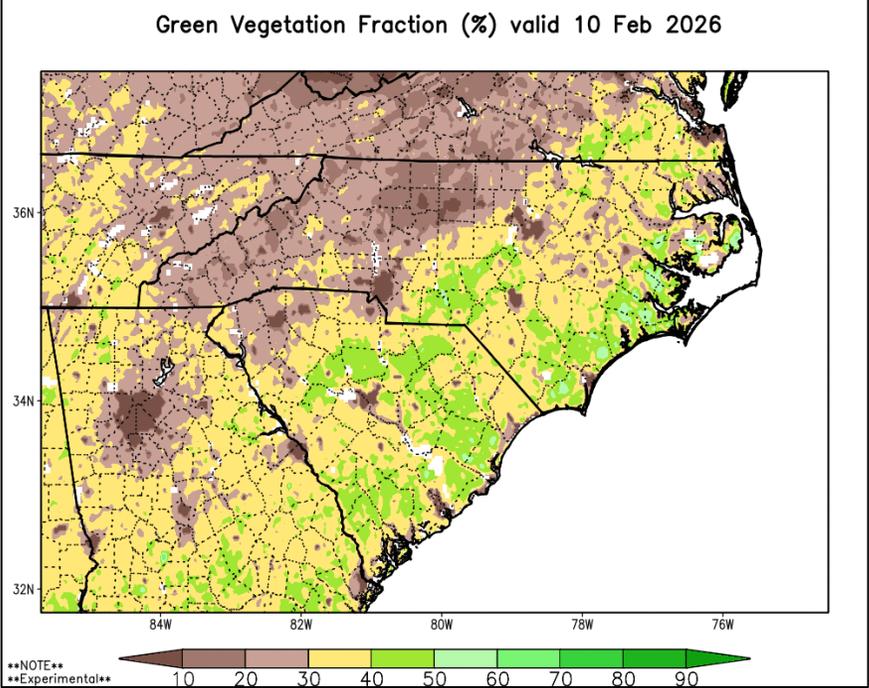
**EDDI Maps** - The EDDI maps at the top right illustrate modeled evaporative demand at the two-week and four-week avg level. They are trending much drier than normal for NC in the 4-week time scale. Warmth, lack of precip and dry air accelerates this index.

**US Drought Monitor** – Most recent USDM map release above (2/3/26). Model spread is significant with La Nina related winter pattern impacting the SE. Rapid drought intensification continues to be possible as we move into the growing season, should rainfall deficits remain significant.

**Short-Term Composite Drought Indicator Map & Seasonal Drought Outlook** - shown at right. See detailed state/regional discussions [here](#). Conditions are favoring persisting dryness in current areas of drought and expanding overall dryness as we continue through winter. *All of this is dependent upon any future storm tracks and seasonal variability we see moving through Winter.*

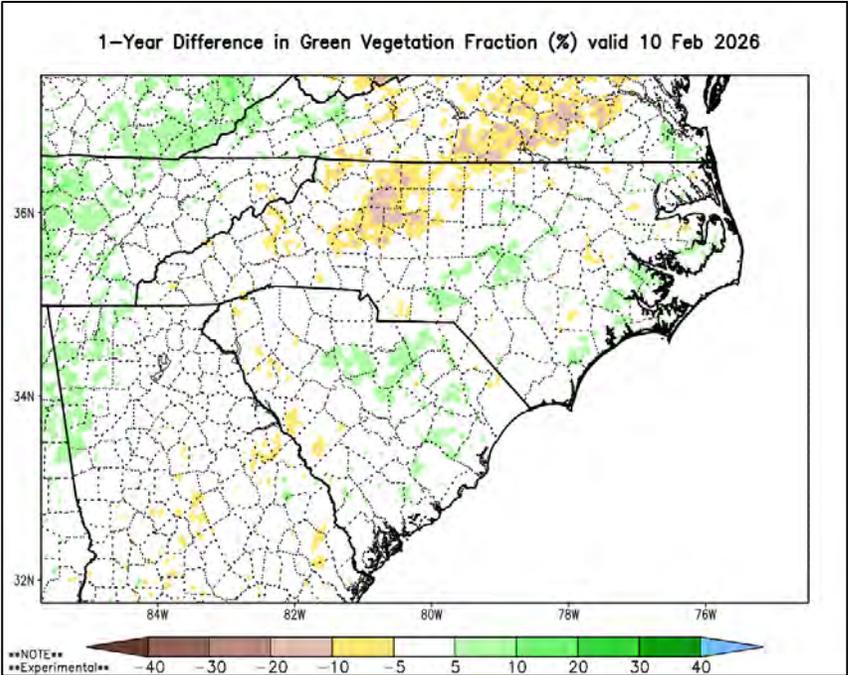
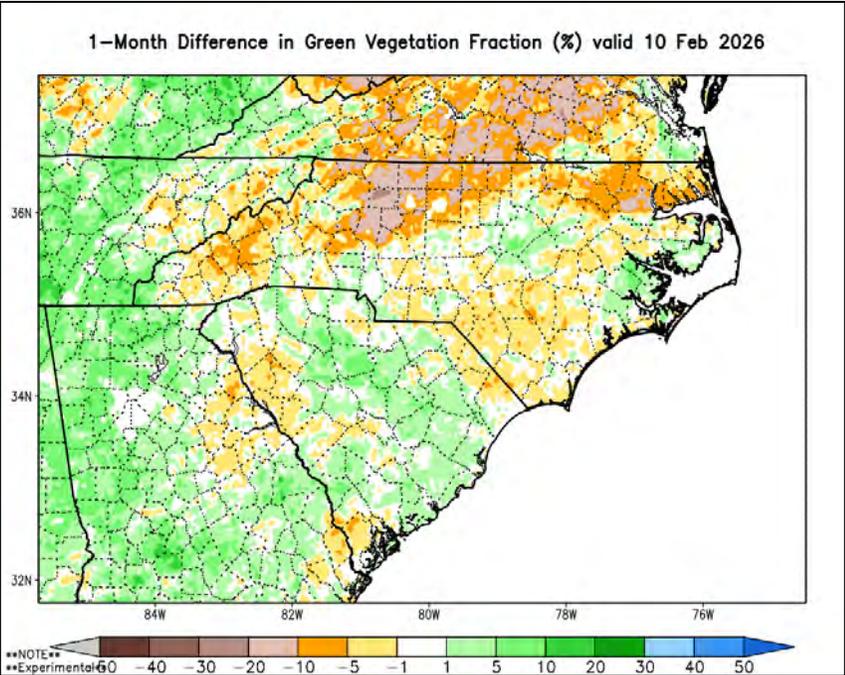


# SPoRT Modeled Green Vegetation Fraction



Note the decrease in overall greenness.

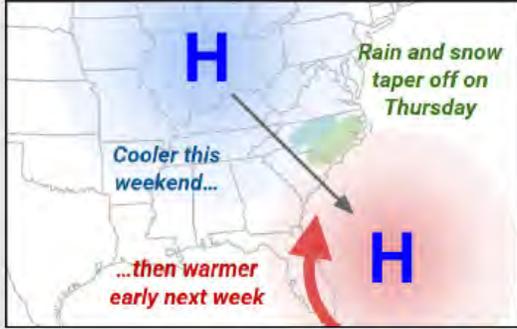
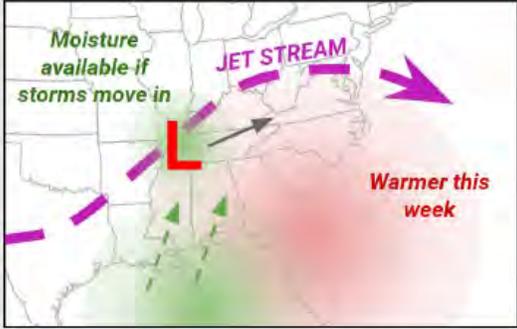
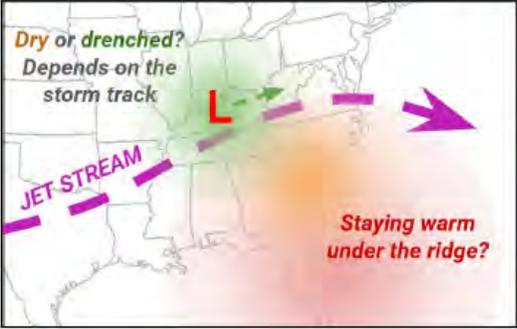
Some of this may be attributed to impacts of snow/ice cover on reflectance, however it is also likely the extremely cold average temperatures over the past few weeks have come into play.



# State Climate Office: Short-Range Monthly Outlook for NC

Released **2/5/26**  
Location: <https://climate.ncsu.edu/fire/outlooks/>

## Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

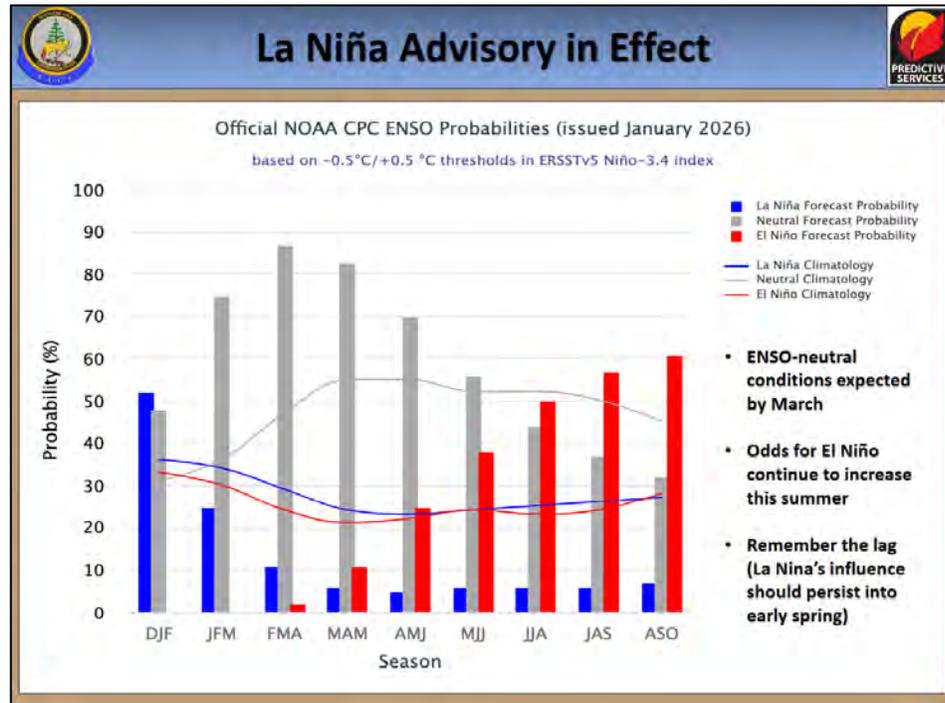
<b>Week 1:</b> February 5 to 11, 2026	<b>Week 2:</b> February 12 to 18, 2026	<b>Weeks 3-4:</b> Feb. 19 to Mar. 4, 2026
		
<p><b>Another Weekend Chill</b> 🌡️ ➡️ 🌡️ ➡️ 🌡️</p> <p>After a brief warm-up into the upper 40s on Friday, the next Arctic high pressure system will dive south, cooling us off again this weekend. Once that high shifts offshore, our temperatures will rebound, with highs approaching 60°F by Tuesday and Wednesday.</p>	<p><b>A Warming Trend</b> 🌡️ ➡️ 🌡️</p> <p>Jet stream ridging is expected to build over the eastern US through mid-February, finally breaking our cold pattern after almost a month. Although some seasonably cold nights will still be possible, our warmest afternoons could reach well into the 60s.</p>	<p><b>Spring Arrives Early?</b> 🌡️</p> <p>The late-month forecasts have shifted over the past week, initially showing cooler weather but now favoring ongoing warmth. For now, a continued ridging pattern over the Southeast US is most likely, which would keep our temperatures above normal.</p>
<p><b>Dry Weather Returns</b> ☔ ➡️ ☔ ➡️ ☔?</p> <p>After any lingering rain and snow showers dissipate on Thursday morning, we will enter a dry pattern this weekend as high pressure passes overhead. The warmer southwesterly flow returning early next week could fuel scattered rain showers by Wednesday.</p>	<p><b>Tracking Possible Rainfall</b> ☔? ☔?</p> <p>While the upper-level high pressure or ridging pattern over us should still favor dry weather for most of the week, recent forecasts have shown a potential rain chance from a storm system tracking across the Appalachians and pulling in moisture out of the Gulf.</p>	<p><b>A Razor's Edge Rainfall Outlook</b> ☔? ☔?</p> <p>As in Week 2, our precipitation chances in late February and early March will likely come down to how far south the storm track dips. If those storms stay to the north, we'll be mostly dry. However, any southward shift could lead to better rain chances.</p>
<b>Forecast Confidence</b>	<b>Forecast Confidence</b>	<b>Forecast Confidence</b>
 <p>While we could see some slick spots on Thursday morning, impacts should be minimal after that with high confidence in a quiet week.</p>	 <p>With lots of uncertainty about the strength and duration of this ridge, or where the storm track will set up, confidence is low.</p>	 <p>Still-evolving forecasts for the large-scale patterns have big implications for our temperatures and precipitation by late month.</p>
<p>This infographic is based on forecast and outlook guidance from the National Weather Service. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.weather.gov">www.weather.gov</a>.</p> 	<p>Author: Corey Davis (NCSCO) cndavis@ncsu.edu</p>	<p>Supported by:</p> 

# ENSO Notes from the CPC (1/8/26 Update)

## ENSO Alert System Status: [La Niña Advisory](#)

La Niña persists, followed by a 75% chance of a transition to ENSO-neutral during January-March 2026. ENSO-neutral is likely through at least Northern Hemisphere late spring 2026.

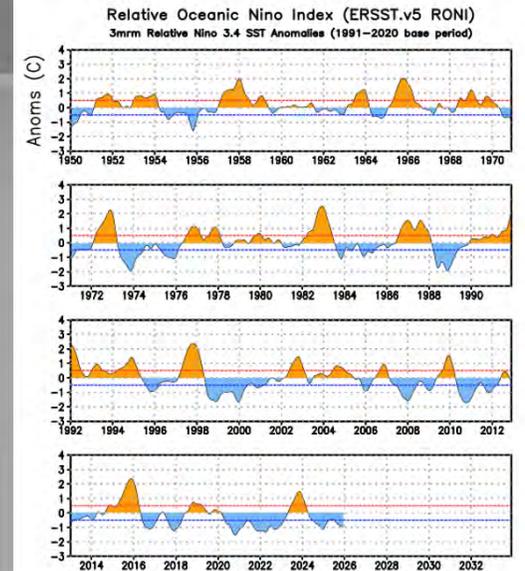
ENSO, or El Niño Southern Oscillation, is a fluctuation in the sea surface temperature (SST) in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Research has shown that even slight changes in the SST, particularly in area 3.4, can influence weather in North America. Generally, when SSTs are lower than normal, known as La Niña, NC has drier than normal conditions and can have more fire occurrence. However, La Niña also can lead to more tropical activity. El Niño, on the other hand, usually means wetter weather for NC, but less opportunity for tropical landfalls due to increased wind shear. In order to declare a La Niña, the departure from average SST must be at least  $-0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  (line shown in green) for 3 consecutive months. For El Niño, the departure must be at least  $0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  above average for 3 consecutive months.



From SA Fire Environment Briefing 2/6/26

## RONI ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ): Evolution since 1950

The most recent RONI value (November 2025 - January 2026) is  $-1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

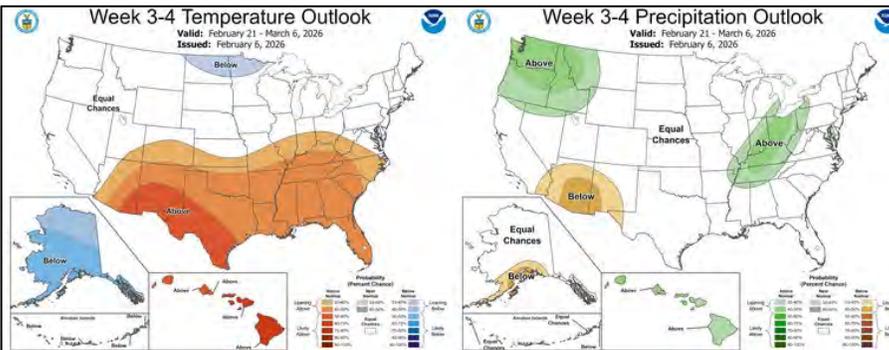
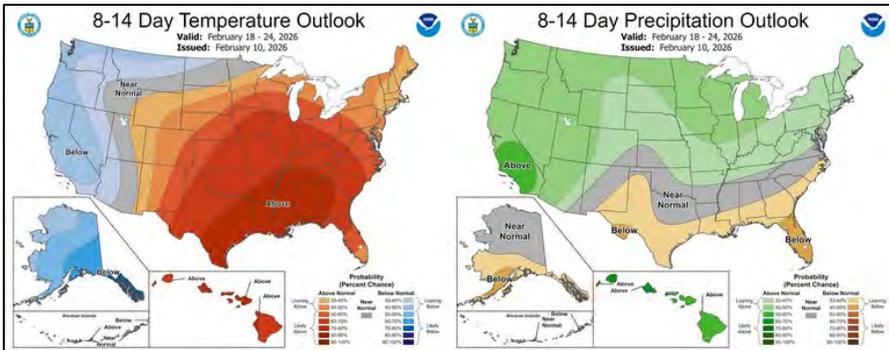
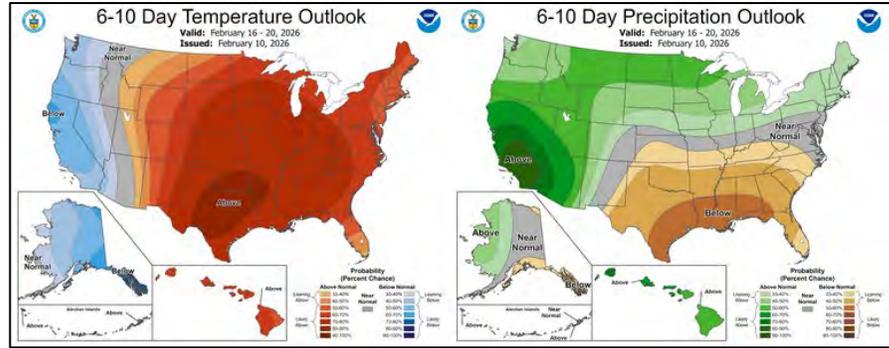


From the most recent CPC Diagnostic Discussion ([ENSO Diagnostics Discussion](#)):

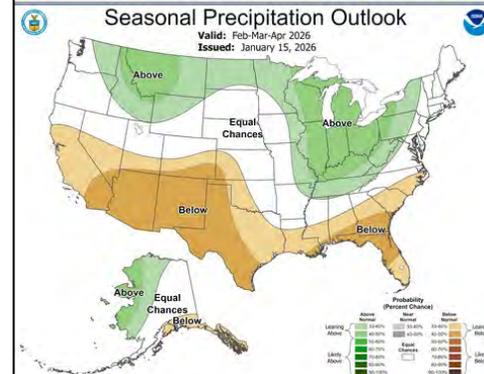
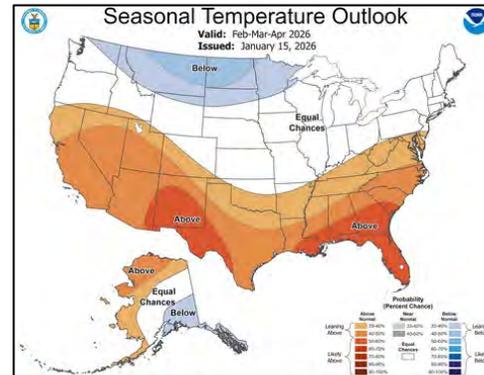
The IRI multi-model predictions indicate ENSO-neutral will emerge during January-March (JFM) 2026 [Fig. 6]. In conjunction with the North American Multi-Model Ensemble, the team favors ENSO-neutral to develop during JFM 2026. Even after equatorial Pacific SSTs transition to ENSO-neutral, La Niña may still have some lingering influence through the early Northern Hemisphere spring 2026 (e.g., CPC's seasonal outlooks). For longer forecast horizons, there are growing chances of El Niño, though there remains uncertainty given the lower accuracy of model forecasts through the spring. In summary, La Niña persists, followed by a 75% chance of a transition to ENSO-neutral during January-March 2026. ENSO-neutral is likely through at least Northern Hemisphere late spring 2026 [Fig. 7].

# Temp & Precip Outlook

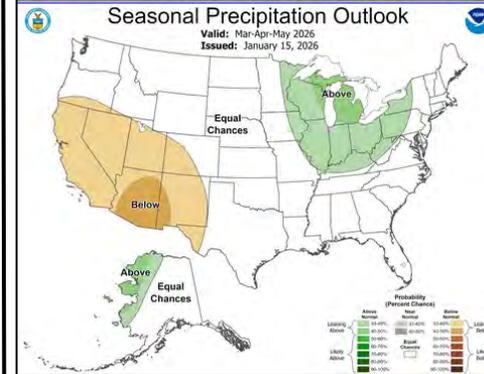
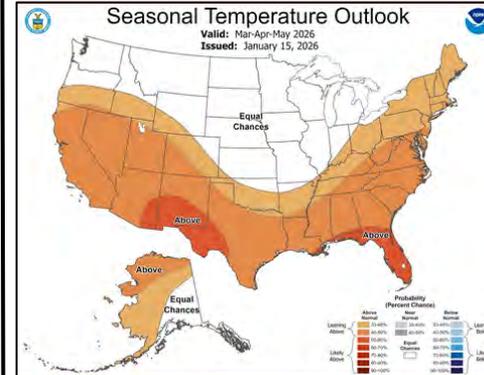
6-10 Day, 8-14 Day, Weeks 3-4, Seasonal (F/M/A, M/A/M, A/M/J)



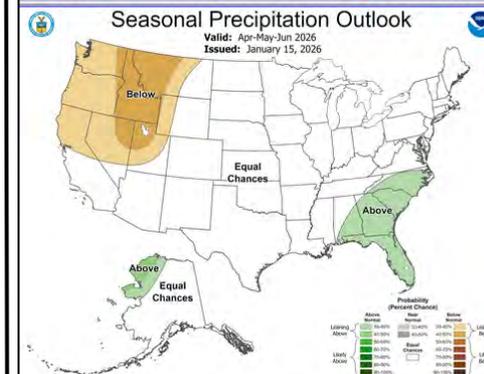
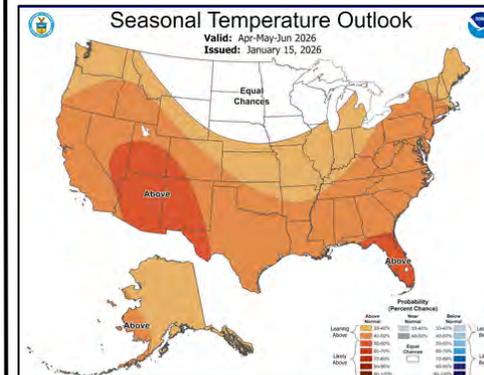
**Feb-Apr**



**Mar-May**



**Apr-June**



**Last Updated by CPC on January 15<sup>th</sup>**

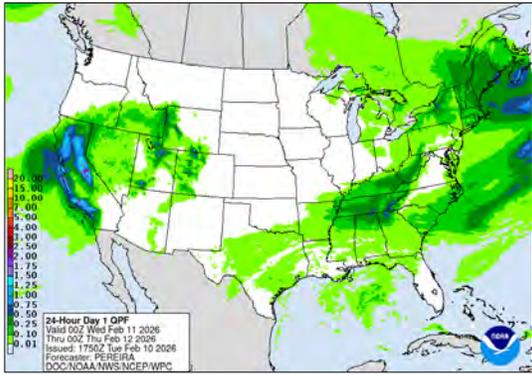
Source: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/fxus05.html](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/fxus05.html)

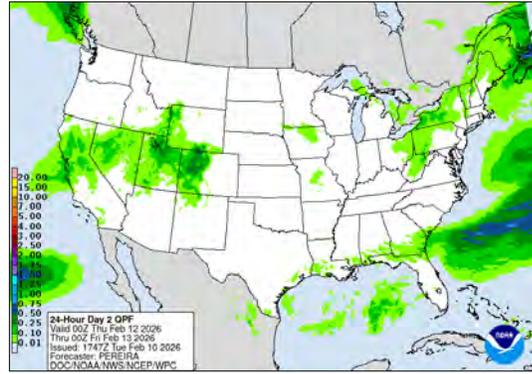
# Quantitative Precipitation Forecast, 7-Day

Location: <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/#>

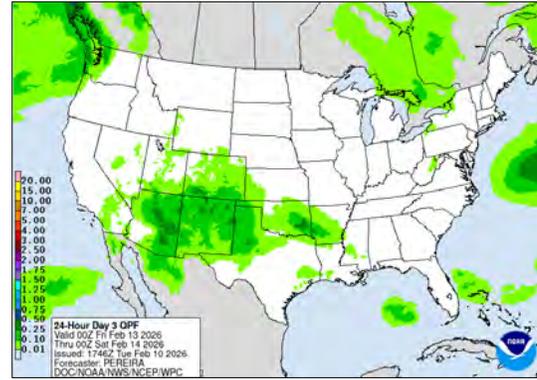
Day - 1



Day - 2



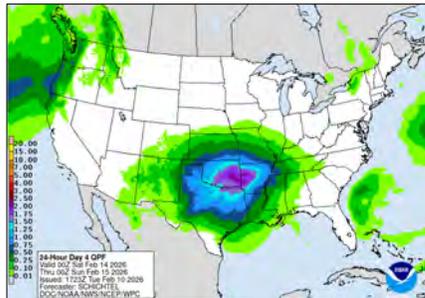
Day - 3



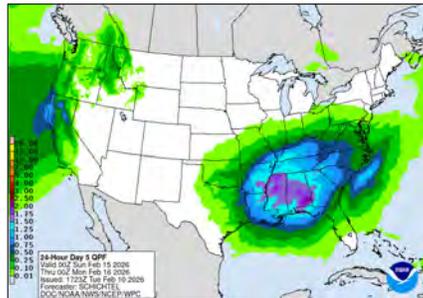
Zoom - Days 1 - 7 QPF



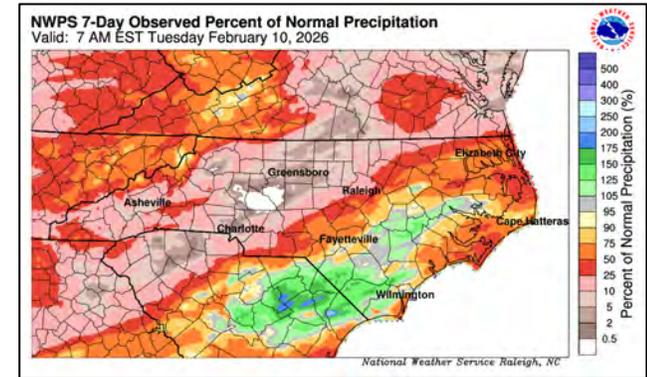
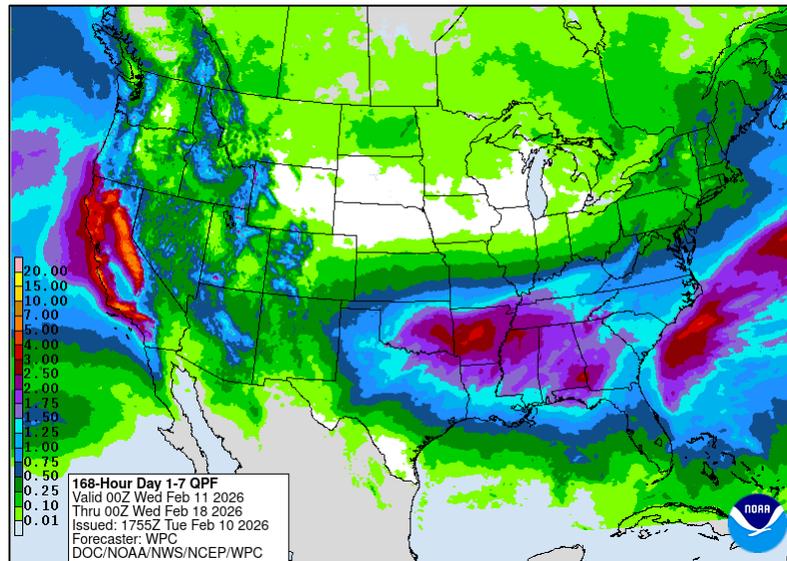
Day - 4



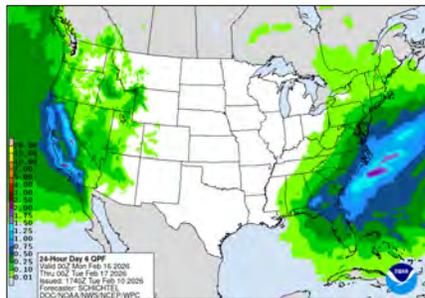
Day - 5



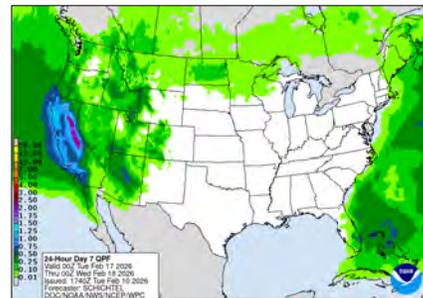
Days 1 - 7 QPF



Day - 6



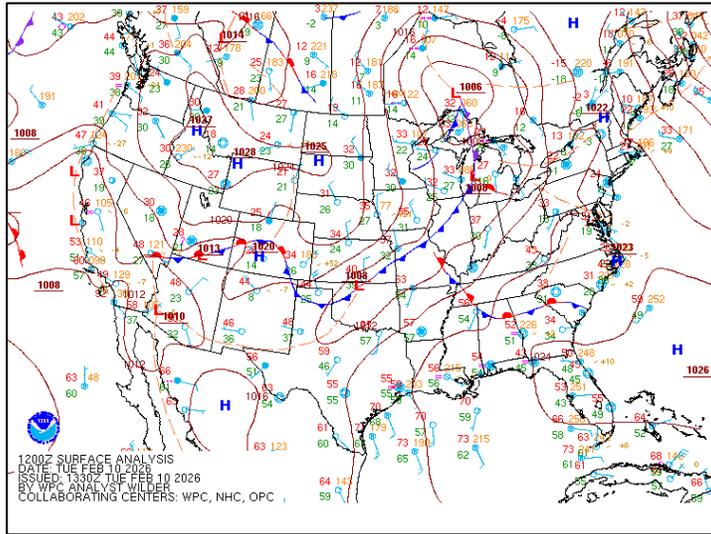
Day - 7



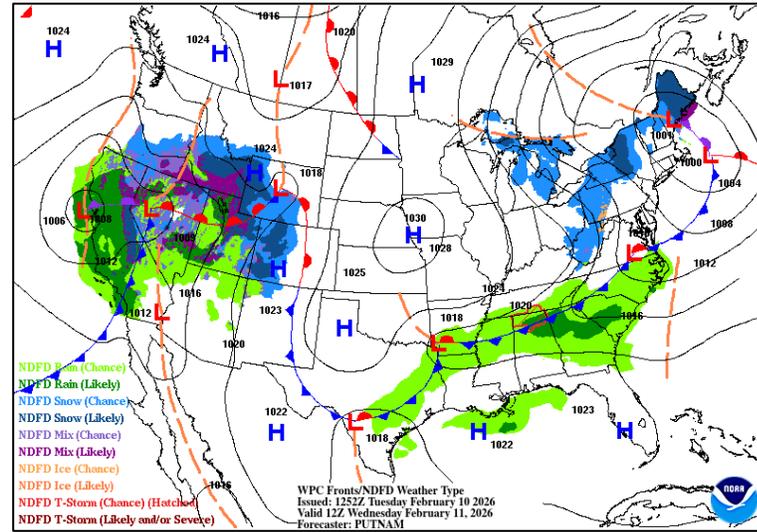
Precip amounts at days 5-6 continue to trend down for NC.

# WPC Forecasted Surface Fronts & Sea-Level Pressures

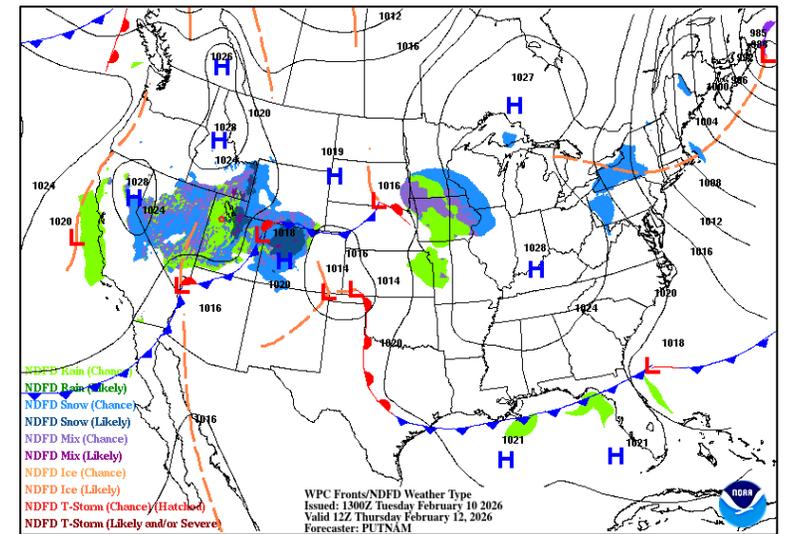
Day-1 @ 12Z Surface Analysis



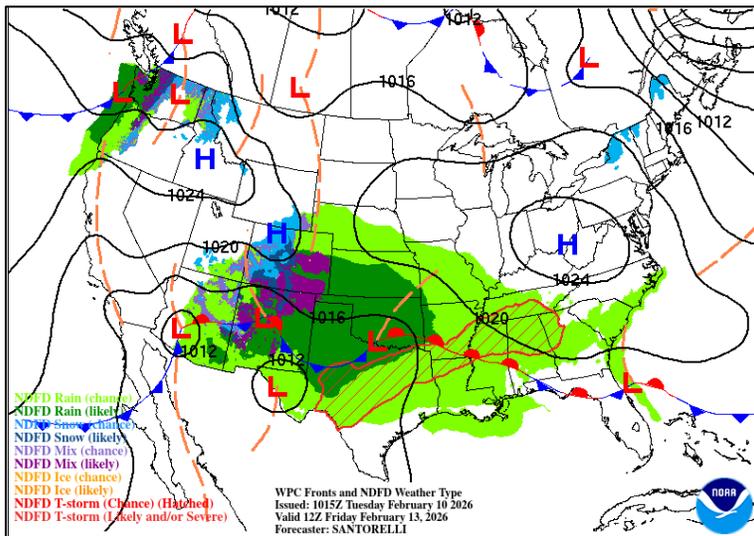
Day 2 - @ 12Z (0700 EST)



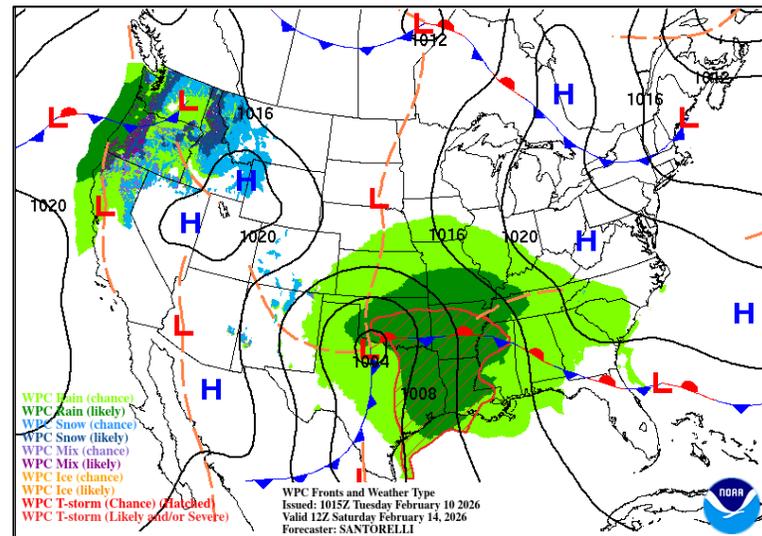
Day 3 @ 12Z (0700 EST)



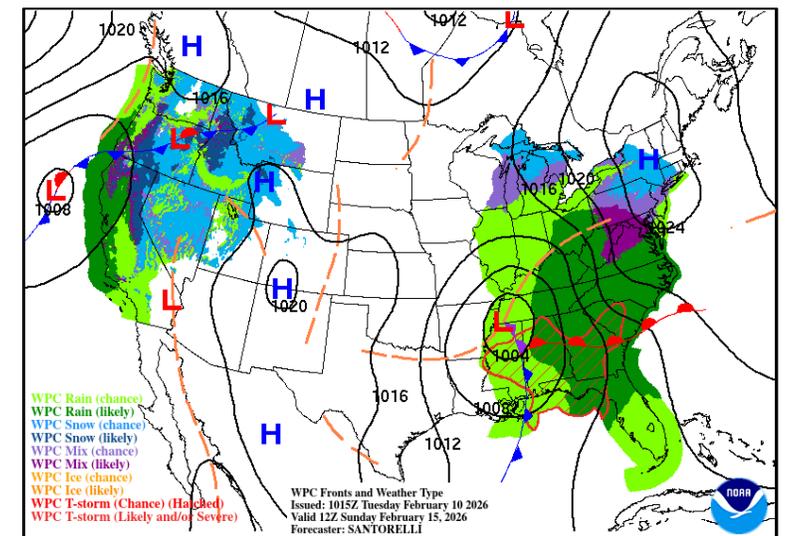
Day 4 @ 12Z (0700 EST)



Day 5 @ 12Z (0700 EST)

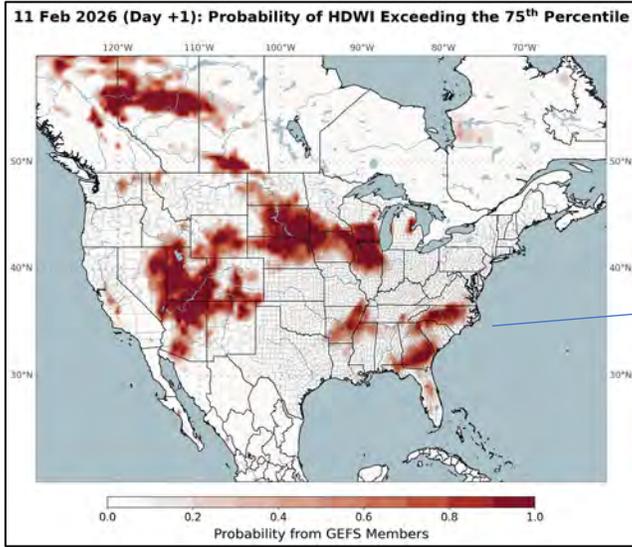


Day 6 @ 12Z (0700 EST)

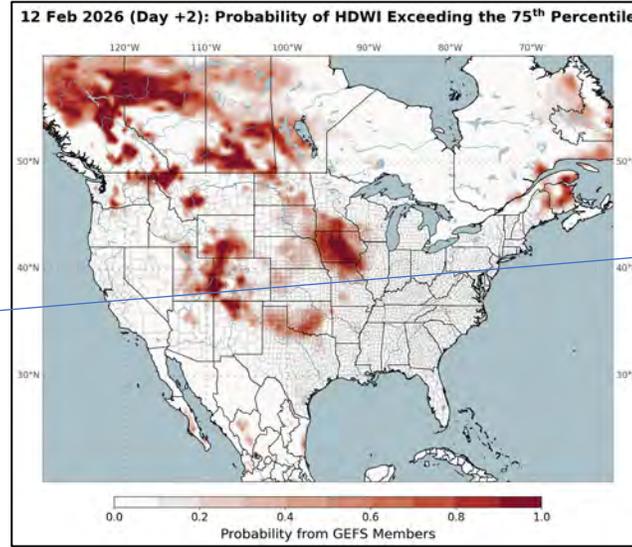


# Hot-Dry-Windy Index (HDW)

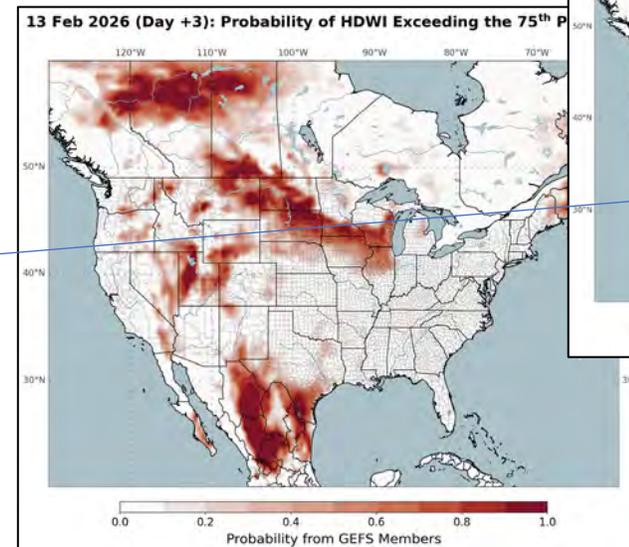
Wednesday > 75<sup>th</sup> Percentile



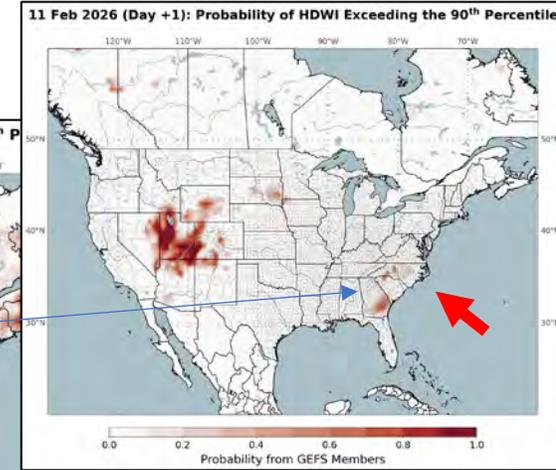
Thursday > 75<sup>th</sup> Percentile



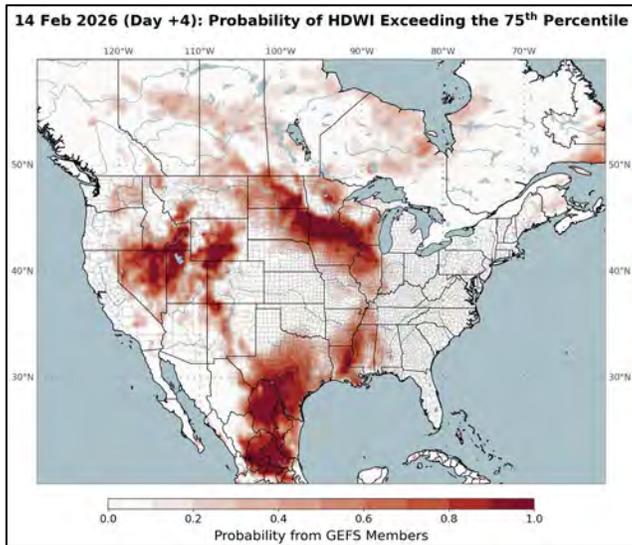
Friday > 75<sup>th</sup> Percentile



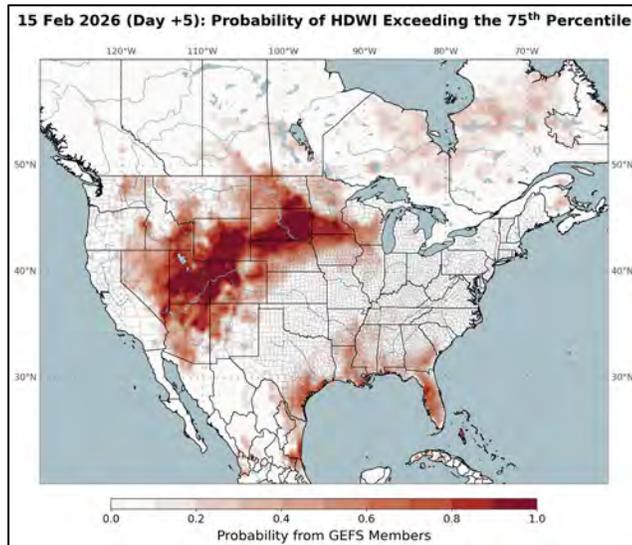
Wednesday > 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile



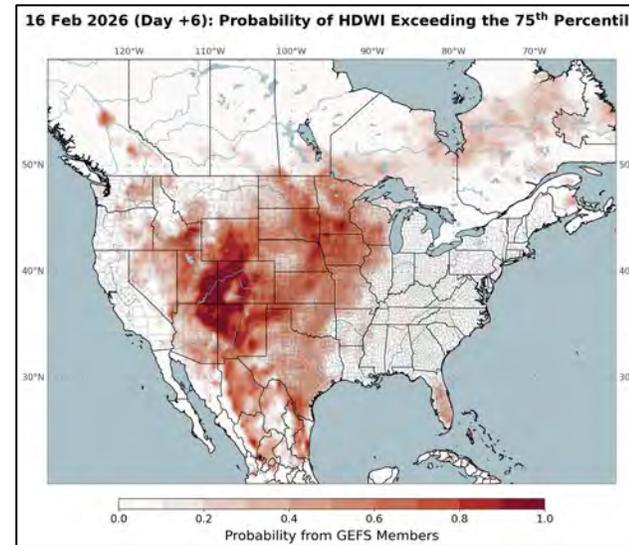
Saturday > 75<sup>th</sup> Percentile



Sunday > 75<sup>th</sup> Percentile

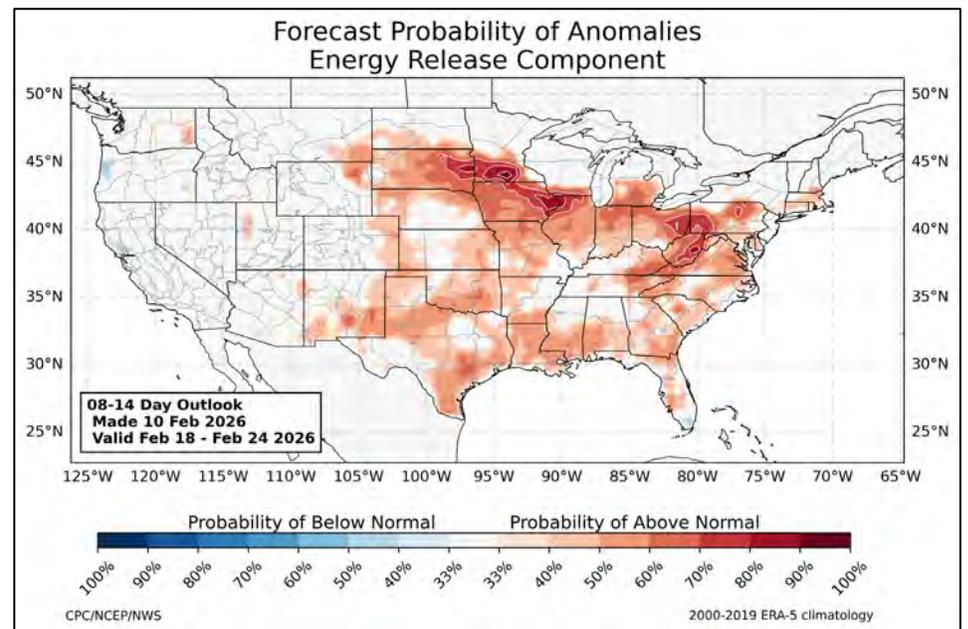
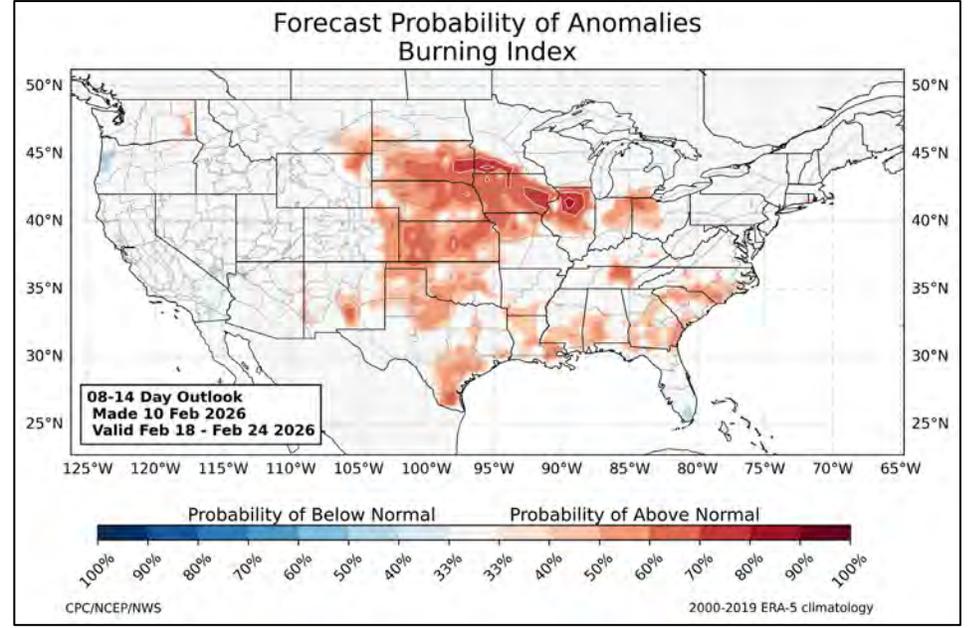
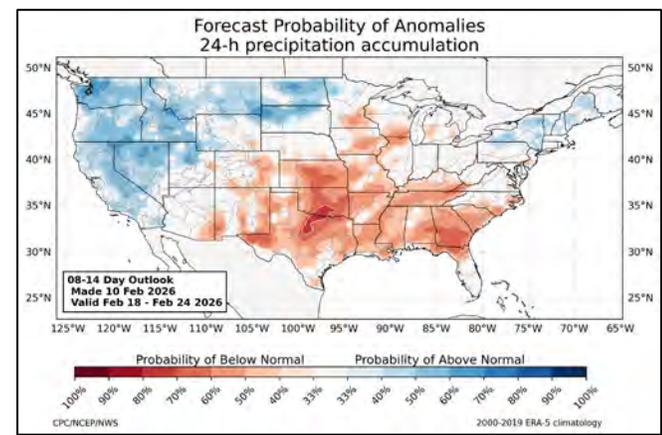
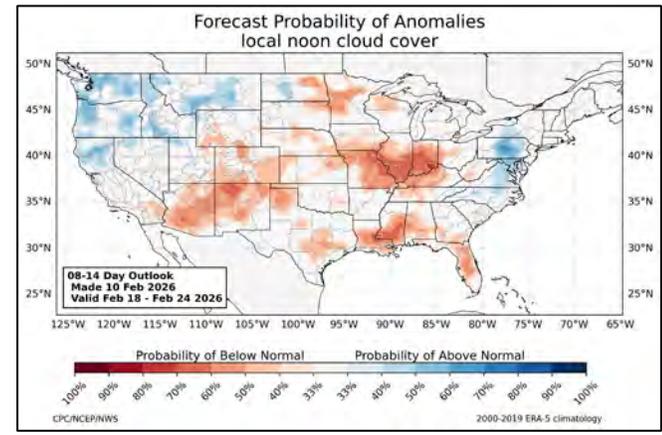
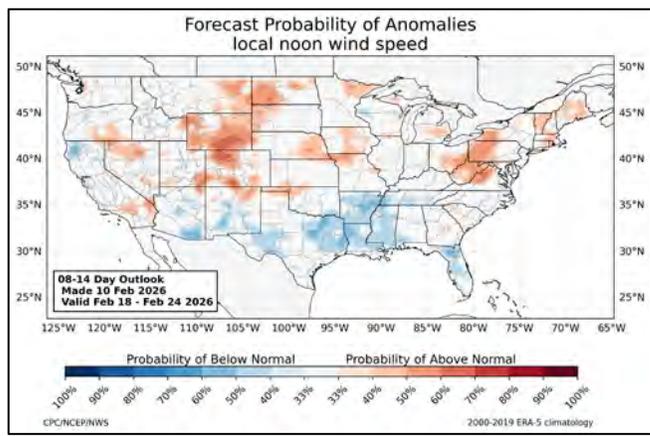
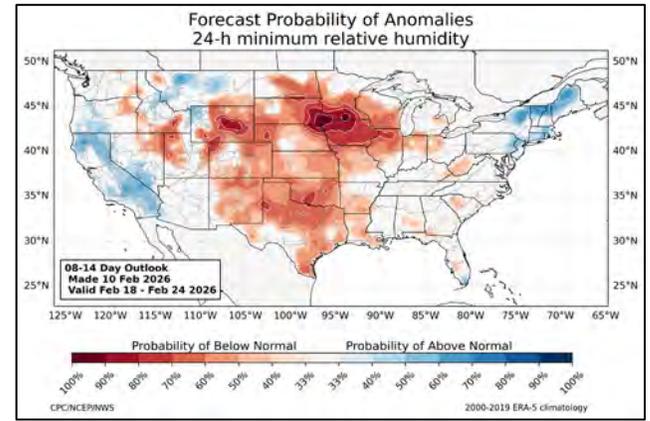
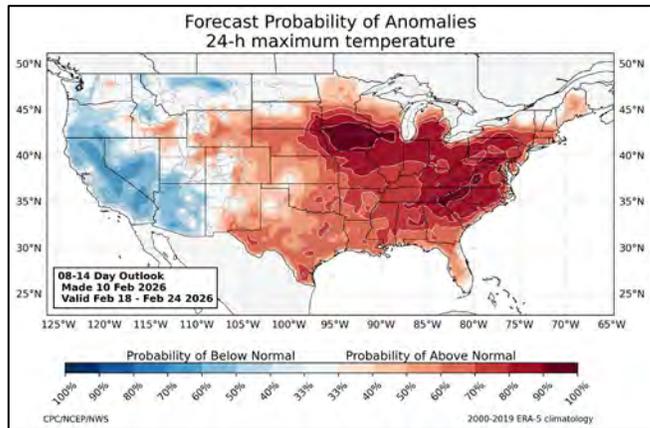


Monday > 75<sup>th</sup> Percentile



- Another visualization tool to pick up on broader weather, but with \*limitations
- Only uses Max VPD (atmospheric moisture & temp) & Max Wind Speed to generate outputs
- Coarse Resolution - 0.5 Degree Grid
- No Account of Local Fuel Conditions and Topo

# Week Two Forecast Anomalies: 2/18 - 2/24



*Important to note that there is significant forecast uncertainty as you go further out in time.*

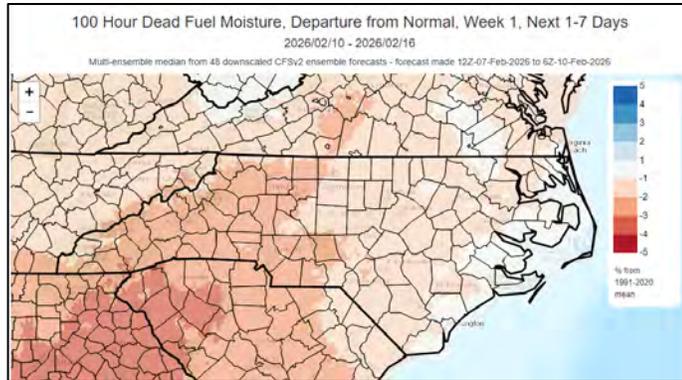
*Favoring warmer than normal temps, less precip. Model then applies those weather variables to show potential for above normal BI & ERC at week two for much of state. Remember to apply this in seasonal context (Dormancy/Spring Coming).*

[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/xtremes/fire-weather/cpc\\_wk2fw\\_index.html](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/xtremes/fire-weather/cpc_wk2fw_index.html)

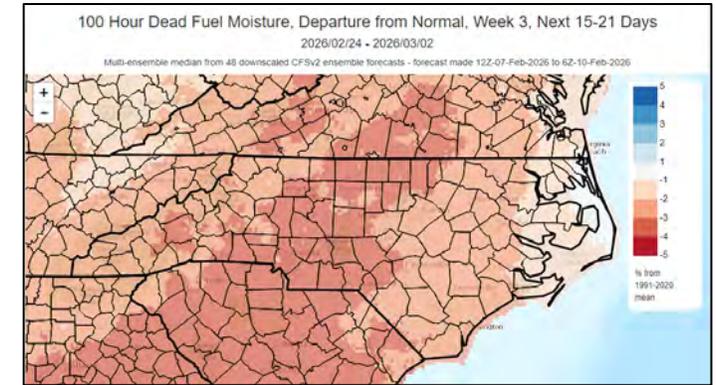
# Modeled Departure from Normal by Week: 100-hr Fuels

*Output relies on experimental forecast outputs and is subject to change*

## Week-1

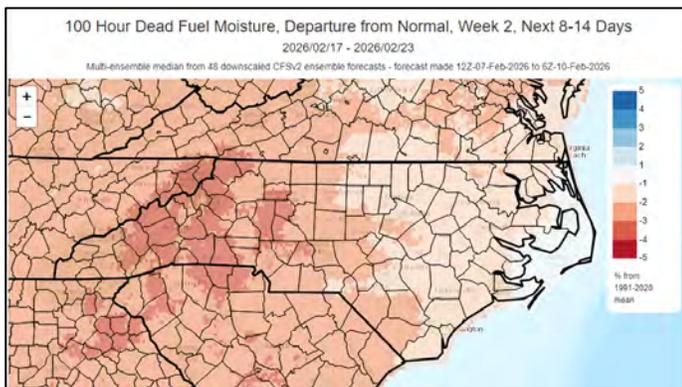


## Week-3



This output can provide insight into general drying trends and potential impacts to overall fire danger, especially prior to full green-up or in drought conditions. Outputs relate to interactions of warmer/colder temps, moist/dry air masses, precip amt/duration, wind and overnight RH recovery trends.

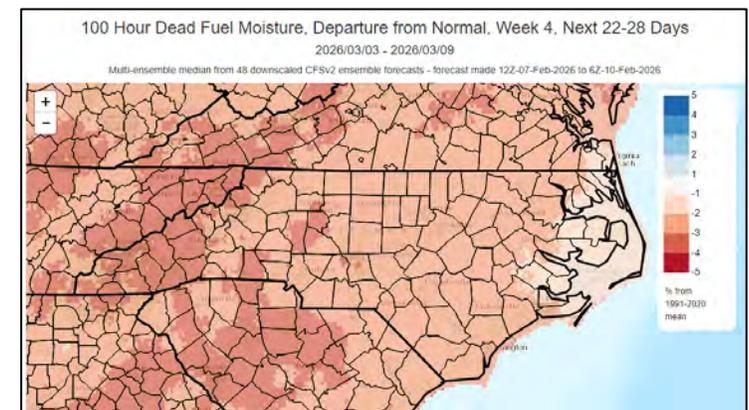
## Week-2



Note that modeled impacts of warmer/drier conditions (lower % mc or “worse”) is focused most intensely on Western & Central NC for Weeks 1-4.

*Important to note that there is significant forecast uncertainty as you go further out in time, especially relating to any potential storm tracks.*

## Week-4



# SACC Daily Outlook, Selected Snips from Tuesday – 2/10

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/predictive/sacc-daily-outlook.pdf>

## SACC Daily Outlook

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

---

### Watches, Warnings and Advisories

- Dense Fog Advisory** this morning in TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, FL
- Wind Advisory** this morning in western OK
- Coastal Flood Advisory** in PR, St. Thomas, St. John

---

### Today's Weather Outlook

- Light rain showers will accompany a weak upper-level storm system and cold front moving across the Plains today
- Dry, breezy and cooler weather will follow the front into northern and western OK and northwest TX, while very warm weather will expand ahead of the front from the rest of TX into the eastern states
- Most of the Southeast will turn more humid after several very dry days, but the FL peninsula into southeast GA will see the return of low RH values this afternoon
- An overall increase in winds today ahead of the cold front could allow for more favorable burning conditions as smoke dispersion increases, but the risk for escapes may also trend up
- Patchy dense fog will return to the Gulf Coast and Southeast tonight, while rain showers expand towards the Tennessee Valley and parts of the southern Appalachians

---

### Days Since Wetting Precipitation

- The darker green areas from the Gulf Coast to the Southeast and parts of the Appalachians have seen wetting precipitation within the past week, while the surrounding areas from most of the Plains into the Mid Mississippi Valley and scattered areas of the eastern states have not seen at least a quarter inch of liquid equivalent precipitation in ~15-20 days
- Drier areas are found across southeast GA into the FL peninsula, with South FL seeing spots of dry conditions extending from 60-120+ days
- Similarly, much of South TX into southwestern parts of the Lone Star State have been dry for several months
- Although some snow occurred in late January, the panhandles into northwest OK saw a dry and fluffy snow – precipitation amounts of at least a quarter inch have not occurred there in 30-80+ days
- Unfortunately, the driest parts of the region are most likely to miss appreciable rainfall as storminess returns Friday into the weekend

Please contact your local National Weather Service office for spot forecasts and the latest watches and warnings.

## SACC Daily Outlook

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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### Significant Fire Potential Outlook Today

- Moderate significant fire potential in eastern north TX will be tied to lingering dry fuels and SW wind gusts of 20-30 mph, which may lead to escapes; RH will hold above 45%
- Coastal South TX will see S/SE wind gusts of 25-40 mph, with inland RH as low as 35-40%
- Northern and western OK into northwest TX will see the strongest post-frontal winds this morning, with gusts locally near 40 mph; RH will be no lower than 30% this afternoon as winds ease
- The rest of southeast TX into the Lower Mississippi Valley and Southeast will see stronger SW winds today, which may lead to escaped burns or wildfires; gusts will range from 20-35 mph in TX, LA MS to 35-25 mph farther east; RH in FL and southern GA will be as low as 35-35%, with much more humid weather farther north and west
- The Winding Stair Fire in southwestern NC has been active on GOES imagery all night and will see occasional downslope wind gusts from the SW as high as 20-30 mph; around a quarter inch of rain is possible overnight

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### Significant Fire Potential Outlook Wednesday

- An early morning "dry cold front will bring much drier air into the Carolinas and north GA tomorrow, along with gusty NW downslope winds; look for RH as low as 10-25% and gusts from 20-35 mph, locally over 40 mph in western NC; significant growth is possible on the Winding Stair Fire if wetting rain misses it tonight
- Pre-frontal humid but windy conditions will affect southeast AL into central and southern GA and the northern half of FL; W wind gusts of 20-35 mph will be common, locally stronger near isolated showers along the front
- Eastern and coastal TX will see lighter winds with RH from 25-40%
- The High Plains will see dry return flow, with warmer temperatures and RH as low as 20-30%; S wind gusts will reach 20-35 mph in the afternoon, highest along the NM border

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### Significant Fire Potential Outlook Thursday

- Fuels will trend drier in most of the Southern Plains and Mississippi Valley Thursday, while S wind gusts will reach 20-35 mph in OK and in parts of western and southern TX
- Very dry air and critically dry fuels will encompass areas in the Southeast and southern Appalachians that miss rain tonight, with RH Thursday as low as 10-25% from northern FL into MS, AL, GA, and the Carolinas; some wind gusts of 15-25 mph will affect the East Coast, FL peninsula and mountains of GA, SC and NC
- Winds will generally be light in the rest of the region

National 7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook High Risk Trigger Definitions

## SACC Daily Outlook

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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### Forecast Precipitation the Next Week

- There are still a wide variety of potential storm tracks Friday into the weekend that will affect rainfall and potential wintry precipitation Friday into this weekend
- Confidence is highest in a soaking rainfall from central and eastern OK into north TX, AR, northern parts of MS and AL, in addition to the Appalachians and Piedmont
- Rainfall could be more scattered or generally lower for the High Plains, West TX and the entire coastal plain
- Where thunderstorms are more scattered, lightning ignitions are possible, some of which could emerge in a drier air mass behind the front Sunday into early next week
- Severe thunderstorms will be possible beginning in the Plains Friday and spreading east into the Lower Mississippi Valley and Southeast Sunday – a significant outbreak appears unlikely

---

### Winter Storm Impact Potential this Weekend

- Cold air wedged into areas east of the Appalachians this weekend could allow for a wintry mix, heavy snow and/or freezing rain across VA and NC late Saturday night into Sunday night
- Confidence is highest in at least minor winter storm impacts over the mountains of VA, where some models depict a heavy, wet snowfall of at least 6"
- Some freezing rain could affect the Blue Ridge Escarpment or adjacent Piedmont for a time, extending from western and northern NC into southern VA
- Confidence in the details will increase as models solidify the expected storm track later in the week, and warmer or colder solutions remain a possibility

---

### Week Two Burning Indices

- Rainfall Friday into the weekend may be critical to mitigate wildfire risks across the Southern Plains during the week two period
- A pattern favoring multiple dry, warm and windy days appears likely to set up, with the highest confidence in potentially critical fire weather Tuesday through Thursday next week across the High Plains – the top CPC analog for week two includes the early March 2017 period that produced multiple megafires in TX, OK and KS ([Link](#))
- Forecasted burning indices (legacy model G, relative to a moving climatology) are forecasted with high confidence to be above the 90th percentile over the OK and TX panhandles, in addition to southwest and southern TX
- Portions of the coastal Southeast may also see anomalous burning indices during this period, with the highest confidence over South FL

Please contact your local National Weather Service office for spot forecasts and the latest watches and warnings.

Wednesday's fire environment is somewhat challenging to model - based on localized factors such as remaining/melting snow & ice cover, existing drought & storm damage impacts, how much precip may occur with the frontal passage, etc.

# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook: *Updated 2/2/26*

## February



## March



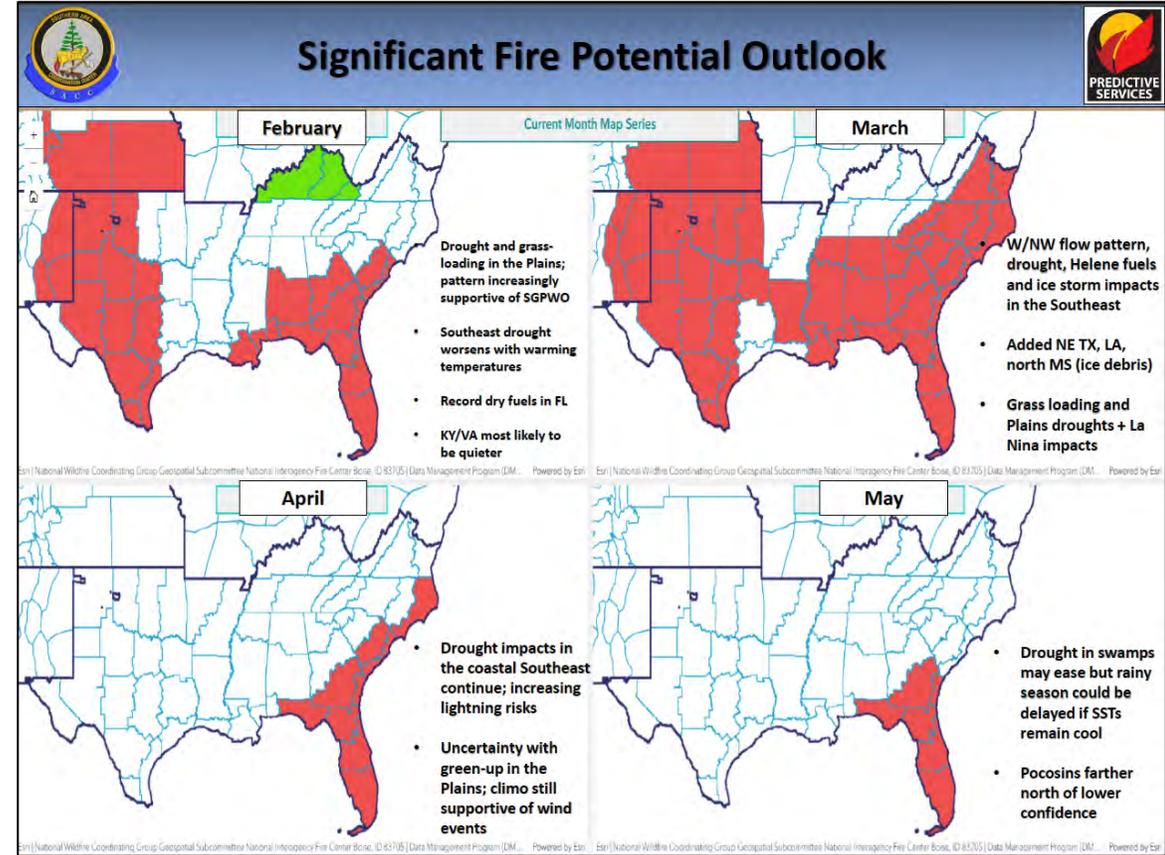
## April



## May

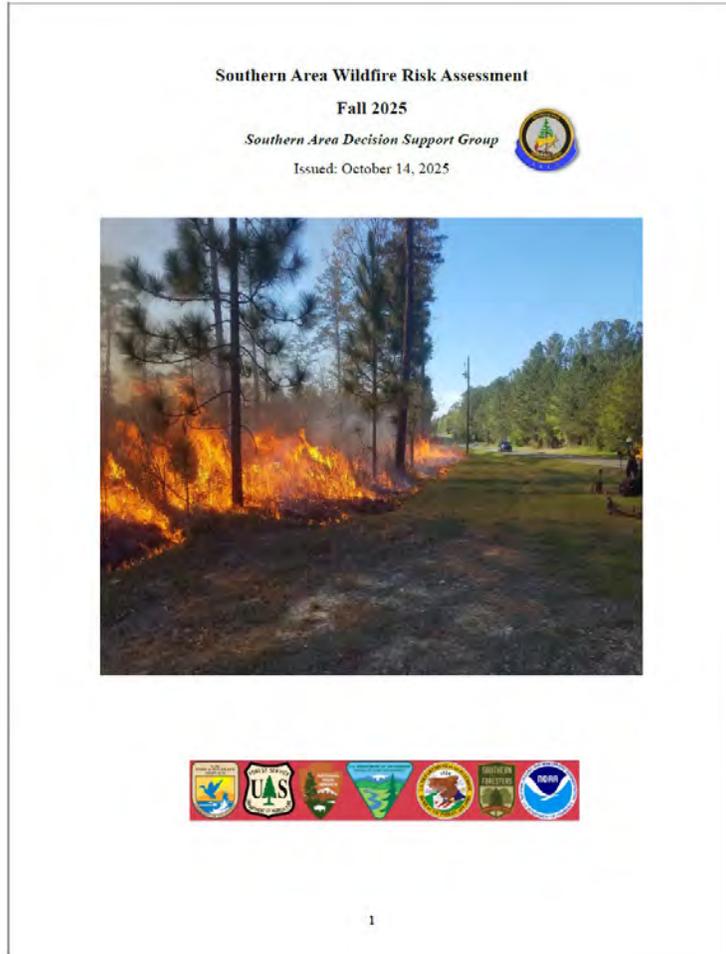


From SA Fire Environment Briefing 2/6/26



*\*A significant fire is one that requires resources from outside the district (other than aviation). IA potential is based more on shorter term weather factors. Just a few days of dry weather can increase IA activity considerably as we have consistently seen from year to year.*

# Southern Area – Fall 2025 Wildfire Risk Assessment



Please review the SA Wildfire Risk Assessment for Fall 2025 – it discusses overall regional concerns as well as fire effective weather patterns.

Take special note of “Appendix A – Critical Fire Weather and Environmental Conditions” starting on page 58. This is useful for anytime of year.

Spring Assessment  
coming around 3/1/26

## Southern Area – Mountain Wave Wind Event Note

### MOUNTAIN WAVE WIND EVENTS

Mountain waves occur amid stable air masses with strong temperature inversions near mountainous terrain and are most common through late fall and winter in the Appalachians. They may occur near any elevated terrain in the geographic area, as long as the wind direction aloft lies within 30 degrees of being perpendicular to a ridge line. The southern Appalachians traditionally experience them in pre-frontal environments, often at night, as warm and moist Atlantic or Gulf air surges northwards or northwestwards ahead of an approaching low pressure system and its cold front. The most common weather pattern associated with them features a strong low pressure system moving through the Ohio Valley or Great Lakes.

**Indicators and Watchouts:**

- Roll clouds aligned with ridgeline topography
- National Weather Service high wind warnings associated with pre-frontal (southeast) or post-frontal (northwest) winds
- Highly localized
- Not possible to forecast due to model and data limitations
- Higher winds often accompanied by much drier air mass
- Expect erratic fire behavior and rapid fire growth

Although their footprint is often quite narrow, extreme winds in excess of hurricane-force (80 – 100 mph) can occur on the lee or downwind side of ridges, with a rapid and unexpected shift in wind direction also a distinct possibility. Humid and cool conditions may be suddenly interrupted as drier air aloft accelerates towards the ground, resulting in extreme winds and a sudden decrease in relative humidity. Areas downwind of steep gradients in terrain are most susceptible. The east side of the Appalachians can see mountain wave events that lead to enhanced winds and subsidence in post-frontal environments as well. In addition to enhancing fire weather and potentially leading to extreme fire behavior, mountain waves can contribute to new ignitions from downed power lines and restrict air ops due to potential IFR conditions and severe to extreme turbulence.

Wave actions imparted by the air flow over terrain

#### CHIMNEY TOPS 2 FIRE

- Date: November 28, 2016
- Location: GSMNP, Sevier County, TN
- Persistent severe drought conditions
- 87 mph wind gusts due to Mountain Wave Wind Event recorded
- Fire growth from 35 acres to 17,000 acres in 24 hours
- 14 deaths
- 2,501 structures impacted

# Helene Fuels Note:

- Remember the “[Fuels and Fire Management Considerations for Hurricane Damaged Areas](#)” document is available as a potential aid.

## Fuels and Fire Management Considerations for Hurricane Helene Damaged Areas

### Executive Summary

Hurricane Helene has caused significant disruption to forested landscapes, resulting in widespread debris accumulation and altered fuel structure across the southeast particularly in the Southern Appalachians of southwest Virginia, western North Carolina, northeast Tennessee, northeast Georgia as well as the Piedmont of South Carolina, central Georgia and north Florida. The storm's high winds broke or toppled trees, and created extensive blowdown zones, transitioning fuel conditions from lighter models, such as grass and leaf litter, to heavy slash and debris typical of Fuel Models 12, 13, SB2, and SB3. This shift in fuel types presents substantial challenges for wildfire suppression efforts. The increased resistance to control, difficult access, and elevated potential for extreme fire behavior necessitates strategic adaptation of suppression tactics. The storm's aftermath has also introduced the need to reconcile older fire line production rates with the Scott and Burgan 40 fuel models used for modern fire behavior predictions, as the line production data for these newer models remains undeveloped. This report explores these challenges, provides practical insights for resource deployment, and outlines strategies for managing this complex landscape. The effects of Helene will be felt for some time. In a 2005 risk assessment for Hurricane Katrina, it was reported by the Mississippi Forestry Commission that debris from Hurricane Camille which struck in 1969 was still preventing access to certain areas.

This document provides fuel loading and modeling guidance, fire behavior expectations, and fire management considerations for both wildfire response and prescribed fire implementation for each of the hurricane damage severity categories described below:

Damage Severity	% of overstory altered/damaged
Catastrophic	>50%
Severe	34-50%
Moderate	26-33%
Light	<25%



# FEMS Reminders

## Weather Stations

- State Mesonet Stations (e.g., NC ECONet) have been added as of 1/29/26, but lack a historical period of record.  
Several North Carolina FDRAs rely on stations from our SCO mesonet (ECONet).  
The model will take at least 45 days to stabilize for the newly added stations, not including KBDI calculations, so expect initial differences between RAWs and ECONet Stations.  
Fire danger outputs for these stations will be added to the main FWIP map viewer once they stabilize.
- ASOS and AWOS stations are also utilized in FEMS; however, these stations (e.g., RDU Airport) also have no prior period of record & tend to be somewhat windier than missing ECONet Stations (example Asheville Regional Airport and RDU ASOS).

## Live Fuel Moisture (LFM) Model

- Currently set to a national preliminary standard in FEMS.
- Four main drivers are used: Day Length, Minimum Temperature, Vapor Pressure Deficit, and Running Total Precipitation.
- The GSI-derived LFM Model standard settings create fundamental limitations that directly affect FM-V, FM-W, and FM-X.
- National standard settings do not allow regional adjustments for local growing conditions. This will evolve over time as bugs are addressed, stations are added, and further analysis is completed. **Not an issue as we are still in dormancy, values default to minimum until Spring – will be addressed as soon as regional adjustments go online.**

## Data and Modeling Updates

- FF+ Databases have been recalculated to align with new FEMS standards (see earlier documentation).
- For this interim update of the NC FDOP's data, Fuel Model - Z has been used, due to the known LFM limitations in the initial FEMS rollout.
- A reevaluation will be necessary as additional alternate gateway station types are integrated & regional GSI calibrations are carried out.

## FDOP Revision Status

- NC FDOP updates were started but then paused to allow time for FEMS development through early summer 2025.
- This pause has been recommended nationwide to ensure consistency as development progresses.
- Interim breakpoints and model combinations have been established, with a complete revision needed once FEMS is adjusted further (earlier topics).

## Overall

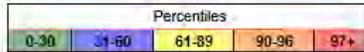
- Weather and fire occurrence data (2010–2024) have been processed to establish initial working breakpoints for FEMS/V4 outputs for North Carolina.
- Interim analysis has been completed – now driving fire danger products (e.g., adjective ratings and hazard levels) utilizing FM-Z and the 2010-2024 period of record.
- Remember to discontinue use of old NC Forest Service generated Pocket Cards from prior to the FEMS transition on 10/1/25.**
- Replacement guidance material has been previously released (11/13/25).

Work at the national, regional, state, and FDRA levels will continue as FEMS is updated following rollout. [FEMS link](#)

### Firefighter's Guide to Percentiles and Thresholds

Percentiles and thresholds are used to help us measure the significance of National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) outputs as they relate to levels of fire risk, fuel conditions and fire danger. Have you ever asked a firefighter the question "How are your fires burning?" and you get a response something like "Real hot"? The definition of "Real hot" will vary depending upon whom you ask. One objective of this guide is to define the NFDRS and fire weather thresholds that relate to problematic fire behavior.

*Percentiles* are based on a scale of 0-100. We use percentiles to sort and rank a collection of data. *Thresholds* are the actual values of NFDRS indices (ERC, BI, KBDI), weather observations (RH, windspeed) or fuel moistures (1-hr, 1000-hr) that mark the change from one category to another. As an example, the North Cove Pinnacle RAWS has calculated the burning index (BI) every day over 14 years for a total of 5169 observations. In sorting through these 5169 BI observations, we find that only 10% of these BI observations have a BI value of 122 or greater. The BI of 122 is the threshold. BI values greater than or equal to the threshold of 122 exceed the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. We found that only 3% of the observations occur above the BI value of 153. Crossing the threshold of a 153 BI ranks in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile.



Whether we are looking at fuel moistures, BI, KBDI or ERC, we generally make the same associations when rating the percentiles. At the low end of the scale in the green and blues we see normal to below normal conditions. Initial attack should be successful with few complexities. At the upper end of the scale in the orange and reds we see unusual or rare conditions, and we would expect to see complex fires where initial attack may often fail. So, the difficult category to describe and thus maybe the most important category for initial attack is the middle or transition zone in the yellow. Somewhere in the yellow, fires transition from normal to problematic.

#### Fire Danger Rating Areas

The underlying philosophy for determination of our Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs) is that they represent areas where the weather reporting stations (RAWS) tend to react similarly to daily weather regimes

and exhibit similar fluctuations in fire danger and climate. Nine FDRAs were delineated in North Carolina. Fire weather thresholds, fuel moisture thresholds and NFDRS thresholds have been developed for each FDRA and are unique to the designated FDRA. Threshold values developed from one FDRA should not be used in another FDRA.



## Interim GUIDANCE Documents

# -NCFS- NFDRS PRIMER & FIRE DANGER RATING AREA CRITICAL THRESHOLDS

11/7/25 Update

Analysis Notes

CY 2010-2024 Weather Obs and Fires.  
Based upon FEMS National Standards as of 10/1/25 & Use of Daily Extremes.

## FEMS - Fire Danger Rating Area Summaries:

Analysis Settings				Matrix Combinations	
FDRA	Time Range	Daily Extremes	FM	Staffing/Hazard Level	Adjective Rating
Northern Coastal Plain	2010-2024	Y	Z	ERC/BI	ERC
Southern Coastal Plain	2010-2024	Y	Z	ERC/BI	ERC
Eastern Piedmont	2010-2024	Y	Z	ERC/BI	ERC
Sand Hills	2010-2024	Y	Z	ERC/BI	ERC
Western Piedmont	2010-2024	Y	Z	ERC/BI	ERC
Blue Ridge Escarpment	2010-2024	Y	Z	ERC/IC	ERC
Central Mountains	2010-2024	Y	Z	ERC/IC	ERC
Northern Highlands	2010-2024	Y	Z	ERC/BI	ERC
Southern Highlands	2010-2024	Y	Z	ERC/IC	ERC

FDRA	Special Interest Group Stations (SIG Stations)	Missing SIG Stations
Northern Coastal Plain	<b>Dare Bomb Range</b> , Elizabeth City, Fairfield, Greens Cross, Pocosin Lakes NWR	0
Southern Coastal Plain	Beaufort, <b>CL1 Sandy Run</b> , New Bern, Turnbull Creek, Hofmann, Whiteville, Sunny Point, Finch's Station	0
Eastern Piedmont	Central Crops RS**, Lake Wheeler**, Oxford Tob RS**, Upper Coastal RS**, <b>Warrenton</b> , ASOS RDU AP, ASOS RM-Wilson AP	4
Sand Hills	Fort Bragg, <b>Horseshoe House</b> , Rockingham, Sandhills RS**, ASOS Laurinburg-Maxton AP	1
Western Piedmont	<b>Caswell Game Land</b> , Duke Forest, Lexington, Mt Island Lake	0
Blue Ridge Escarpment	North Cove Pinnacle, <b>Raven Knob</b> , Redezvous Mtn, Rutherford Co Hq, <b>Taylorsville (Lenior)</b>	0
Central Mountains	Davidson River, <b>Guion Farms</b> , Mtn Hort RS**, Seven Mile Ridge, ASOS Asheville Regional AP	1
Northern Highlands	Busick, <b>Jessen Station</b> , Upper Mtn RS**, Laurel Springs*	2
Southern Highlands	Highlands, <b>Jackson County</b> , Locust Gap, Tusquitee	0

- Period of Record Issues, ASOS Airport Stations added as a stop-gap.
- East Piedmont and Northern Highlands most impacted.
- **Red Colored Stations** = Added Satellite RAWS, **Blue Colored Stations** = ASOS Stations, \*\* Denoted Stations = ECONet Stations Missing from SIG, \* Denoted Station = Historical/Inactive Station

# Fire Weather Intelligence Portal – Current Links

The interim breakpoints and percentiles based on FEMS implementation have been applied to the FWIP for North Carolina FDRAs. Content continues to be added and tools updated. Updated versions of the Hazard Assessment Tool, Adjective Fire Danger Rating Tool, and Daily Forecast/Observed Indices by Station are coming soon. The new versions will automatically replace the older versions, with no need for updating URLs.

- [Public Facing Fire Danger Page](#)  
(NC ratings based on ERC-Z analysis)
- [Station Viewer Portal](#)  
(Past, Current, Forecast Conditions Tab)
- [Hazard Assessment Tool](#)  
(based on ERC-Z/BI-Z or ERC-Z/IC-Z depending on FDRA)
- [FEMS Forecast NFDRS Indices by Station](#)  
(displays values for hour of forecasted max/min extreme of calendar day, switches to the next day's forecast after ~1500, reminder that ECONet stations are still not available)
- [FEMS Observed NFDRS Indices by Station](#)  
(displays values for hour of observed max/min extreme as it is hit during the current calendar day, reminder that ECONet stations are still not available)
- [Station Status Tool](#)
- [Quality Control Viewer Tool](#)

The [Weekly Outlook Tool](#) is still offline – being revised to conform to new analysis/FEMS integration.

# Snow Flag Reminders:

- Forecasted Snow flags (diamond icon in FEMS) are nationally automated and updated once daily around **1600z**.
- Snow flags are **not part of the NOAA forecast**.
- There are no local edits; daily observations (circular icon in FEMS) become available after midnight.
- The system isn't perfect, but provides uniformity across agencies & geographic areas. Further adjustments are likely as we move through the first year of FEMS to deal with model latency, triggering thresholds, etc.

Flags set to "Yes" influence both fuel moisture conditions & fire danger outputs – muting daily fire danger.

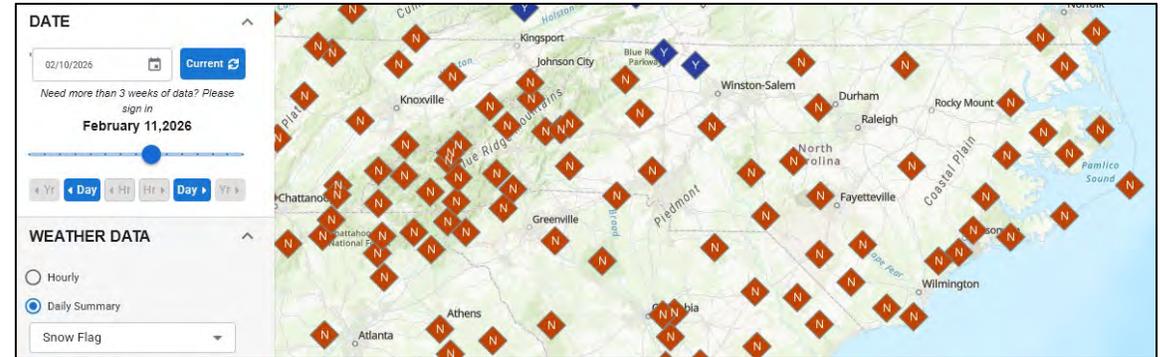
- As an example – the snip below shows three stations in District 2, in various phases of modeled snow/ice melt.
  - Rendezvous Mtn. is still shown as being snow flagged "Yes" today, hence "0" indices and high dead fuel moistures.
  - North Cove Pinnacle was snow flagged "Yes" yesterday, and switched to "No" today, beginning drying processes today.
  - Taylorsville was last snow flagged "Yes" on 2/6, drying since that time.

DIST	FDRA	FEMS_ID	STATION_NAME	NFDR_DATE	MODEL	BI	ERC	IC	SC	KBDI	1HR	10HR	100HR	1000HR	HRB	WOODY
District 2	Blue Ridge	314301	North Cove Pinnacle (fr1)	2026-02-10	Z	28.08 at 2 PM 26.1%	26.77 at 2 PM 17.7%	5.62 at 2 PM 31.7%	5.83 at 1 PM 66.5%	1	12.98 at 2 PM 74.8%	19.74 at 2 PM 89.3%	22.98 at 2 PM 94.3%	20.6 at 2 PM 80.7%	30 at 12 AM 41.9%	60 at 12 AM 42.0%
District 2	Blue Ridge	312001	Rendezvous Mtn.	2026-02-10	Z	0 at 12 AM 2.7%	0 at 12 AM 1.7%	0 at 12 AM 6.2%	0 at 12 AM 3.5%	1	32.64 at 12 AM 99.9%	25.24 at 12 AM 97.0%	23.05 at 12 AM 94.3%	20.65 at 12 AM 80.7%	30 at 12 AM 41.9%	60 at 12 AM 42.0%
District 2	Blue Ridge	313601	Taylorsville (lenoir)	2026-02-10	Z	43.07 at 3 PM 74.6%	48.9 at 3 PM 61.4%	15.18 at 3 PM 75.7%	6.65 at 3 PM 75.1%	18	9.04 at 3 PM 38.2%	11.4 at 3 PM 28.8%	19.33 at 3 PM 72.5%	20.57 at 12 AM 80.7%	30 at 12 AM 41.9%	60 at 12 AM 42.0%

2/10 Forecast



2/11 Forecast



## Daily Adjective Rating Outputs for each FDRA (ERC from FM-Z) (Observed on Left, Forecast on Right)

FDRA	Recent Data Calculated from hourly estimates								Forecast Data Calculated using hourly forecasts							
	TUE FEB 3	WED FEB 4	THU FEB 5	FRI FEB 6	SAT FEB 7	SUN FEB 8	MON FEB 9	TUE FEB 10	WED FEB 11	THU FEB 12	FRI FEB 13	SAT FEB 14	SUN FEB 15	MON FEB 16		
	Southern Highlands	L	L	L	L	L	M	H	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	
Central Mountains	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	H	M	M	L	L		
Northern Highlands	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	L	L		
Blue Ridge	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	L	L		
Western Piedmont	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	L	L		
Sandhills	L	L	L	M	M	M	H	M	M	M	M	M	L	L		
Eastern Piedmont	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	L		
Southern Coast	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L		
Northern Coast	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	L		

## Hazard Matrix Outputs for each FDRA (FM-Z)

Current Statewide Hazard Summary for NC														
Click on any daily Hazard Level to view the calculation details for that FDRA.														
FDRA	Recent Hazard Levels Based on the final forecasts for each date							Forecasted Hazard Levels Based on the latest forecasts						
	TUE FEB 3	WED FEB 4	THU FEB 5	FRI FEB 6	SAT FEB 7	SUN FEB 8	MON FEB 9	TUE FEB 10	WED FEB 11	THU FEB 12	FRI FEB 13	SAT FEB 14	SUN FEB 15	MON FEB 16
	Southern Highlands	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Central Mountains	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	1
Northern Highlands	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Blue Ridge	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Western Piedmont	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Sandhills	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Eastern Piedmont	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Southern Coast	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Northern Coast	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1

The FDRA SIG Averages are applied to generate Percentiles and Color Coding For "All-Days" using new period of record (2010-2024) for SIG stations. Values are based on FEMS processor outputs.

Daily forecast outputs are subject to significant change over time, as they are derived from gridded weather forecast data + actual observed conditions.

Snow Flag "Yes" Condition State is influencing the forecasted Hazard Level & Adjective Rating – causing forecast and observed fire danger to be understated in some instances. See previous slide's FEMS maps.

This situation should quickly adjust over the next day or so, as flag conditions move back to "No" & the model adjusts.

Fcst. Daily Min. DFM (1-Hr) Pctl. for FDRAs in North Carolina							
FDRA	Tue Feb 10	Wed Feb 11	Thu Feb 12	Fri Feb 13	Sat Feb 14	Sun Feb 15	Mon Feb 16
Southern Highlands	60.3%	38.7%	16.3%	51.3%	73.9%	100.0%	87.8%
Central Mountains	40.3%	40.3%	17.5%	51.4%	73.2%	98.3%	91.8%
Northern Highlands	48.9%	38.6%	19.1%	48.9%	63.9%	99.9%	89.3%
Blue Ridge	79.0%	74.8%	68.8%	61.2%	68.8%	100.0%	68.8%
Western Piedmont	82.6%	68.1%	46.1%	68.1%	74.2%	99.3%	78.5%
Sandhills	70.5%	49.8%	35.2%	61.9%	70.5%	100.0%	84.9%
Eastern Piedmont	53.0%	37.8%	37.8%	53.0%	64.3%	90.1%	83.6%
Southern Coast	68.3%	68.3%	31.2%	59.4%	68.3%	97.5%	95.1%
Northern Coast	71.6%	71.6%	54.2%	64.4%	64.4%	92.7%	95.1%

Fcst. Daily Min. DFM (10-Hr) Pctl. for FDRAs in North Carolina							
FDRA	Tue Feb 10	Wed Feb 11	Thu Feb 12	Fri Feb 13	Sat Feb 14	Sun Feb 15	Mon Feb 16
Southern Highlands	46.6%	65.8%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	99.6%	84.2%
Central Mountains	33.2%	56.4%	19.1%	19.1%	33.2%	98.9%	87.1%
Northern Highlands	56.1%	62.4%	25.1%	25.1%	25.1%	99.4%	85.7%
Blue Ridge	65.1%	65.1%	55.4%	28.8%	28.8%	98.7%	71.5%
Western Piedmont	75.0%	58.8%	30.1%	30.1%	30.1%	96.6%	86.6%
Sandhills	32.7%	59.1%	32.7%	32.7%	32.7%	96.4%	91.3%
Eastern Piedmont	56.4%	42.5%	26.3%	26.3%	26.3%	26.3%	92.7%
Southern Coast	30.9%	73.7%	30.9%	30.9%	30.9%	73.7%	99.3%
Northern Coast	56.8%	66.7%	44.5%	30.8%	30.8%	30.8%	99.1%

Fcst. Daily Min. DFM (100-Hr) Pctl. for FDRAs in North Carolina							
FDRA	Tue Feb 10	Wed Feb 11	Thu Feb 12	Fri Feb 13	Sat Feb 14	Sun Feb 15	Mon Feb 16
Southern Highlands	73.5%	73.5%	73.5%	63.7%	50.9%	50.9%	92.2%
Central Mountains	65.1%	65.1%	52.6%	38.2%	38.2%	38.2%	82.6%
Northern Highlands	85.8%	85.8%	77.8%	57.3%	57.3%	57.3%	85.8%
Blue Ridge	81.1%	72.5%	61.5%	48.1%	48.1%	48.1%	91.4%
Western Piedmont	87.8%	81.0%	72.3%	49.2%	49.2%	49.2%	92.7%
Sandhills	47.8%	47.8%	47.8%	33.2%	33.2%	33.2%	91.2%
Eastern Piedmont	88.5%	81.7%	59.5%	44.5%	44.5%	44.5%	81.7%
Southern Coast	49.3%	49.3%	49.3%	35.1%	35.1%	35.1%	96.4%
Northern Coast	75.3%	75.3%	64.4%	51.3%	37.2%	37.2%	75.3%

Fcst. Daily Min. DFM (1000-Hr) Pctl. for FDRAs in North Carolina							
FDRA	Tue Feb 10	Wed Feb 11	Thu Feb 12	Fri Feb 13	Sat Feb 14	Sun Feb 15	Mon Feb 16
Southern Highlands	82.0%	82.0%	82.0%	82.0%	69.0%	82.0%	69.0%
Central Mountains	70.6%	57.0%	57.0%	57.0%	57.0%	57.0%	57.0%
Northern Highlands	63.5%	79.6%	79.6%	79.6%	79.6%	79.6%	79.6%
Blue Ridge	65.5%	65.5%	65.5%	65.5%	65.5%	65.5%	65.5%
Western Piedmont	79.7%	79.7%	79.7%	65.2%	65.2%	65.2%	65.2%
Sandhills	51.5%	51.5%	51.5%	51.5%	51.5%	51.5%	51.5%
Eastern Piedmont	68.0%	82.0%	82.0%	68.0%	68.0%	68.0%	68.0%
Southern Coast	52.0%	52.0%	52.0%	35.4%	35.4%	35.4%	52.0%
Northern Coast	69.6%	69.6%	69.6%	54.4%	54.4%	54.4%	54.4%

# Overall Trends & Notes

- The past several weeks have trended significantly colder than normal, with multiple unsettled weather events. This pattern temporarily suppressed conditions experienced during December and early January, which included heavier IA, increased mop-up activity, and more prescribed fire escape responses across the state. Forecasting significant weather events (rainfall and snowfall amounts) has been very challenging in this pattern and is expected to remain difficult more than a week or so out (example being the downward trend in QPF).
- Extremely cold temperatures over the last couple of weeks likely reset any early green-up occurring across the Southeast U.S. One example includes freezing conditions observed in portions of the Everglades, not experienced to this extent since approximately 2010. Models now favor a return to warmer conditions. It is likely we will see problematic episodes of fire effective weather overlapping receptive fuel conditions during late February and March, potentially resembling some of the Spring 2025 weather events experienced across the Plains and Eastern U.S.
- Significant ice storm damage has occurred across portions of Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, and surrounding areas. Curing of broken pine tops and smaller diameter live fuels typically requires only a few weeks once temperatures rise above freezing. This will likely increase fuel loading and control difficulty during Spring 2026, while larger downed material may limit trafficability. These impacts could also affect regional resource availability across the Southern Area.
- Much of the Western U.S. snowpack at mid-elevations continues to trend well below average. It is somewhat unlikely that sufficient late-season accumulation will occur to substantially improve snowmelt duration and yields, which has implications for the Summer fire season.  
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- Recent snow and rainfall have been beneficial for shallow duff moisture. However, even if a statewide one-inch or greater precipitation event occurs within the Day 5–6 forecast period, the state remains several inches below normal from a hydrologic perspective. Many swamps, bays, and pocosin drainage systems are showing signs of low overall water levels, which aligns with declining streamflow observations and shallow well monitoring data. Reservoir inflow and outflow levels remain generally low across the state, although no mandatory water use restrictions have been implemented at this time. South Georgia and much of Florida are also well below average in precipitation, streamflow, and groundwater levels, suggesting potential for a very active Spring and early Summer fire season.
- We are gaining ~1-2 minutes a day of extra daylight, increasing sun angle and additional heating/drying potential as we move towards Summer. Extra warmth will aid in better atmospheric mixing, preheating & drying of dead fuels, initiation of greenup, extend burn periods, etc. (in context of typical Spring Fire Season timing).
- As previously noted, the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) is less reflective of actual fuel and moisture conditions during the cold season due to model limitations. This can create a perception of reduced concern following modest Fall/Winter rain events. However, areas still exhibiting KBDI values above 300 are likely indicative of missed precipitation and residual carryover dryness from late summer and fall.
- Even with increased shallow duff and soil moisture, surface fire potential will remain a concern due to fluffy pine and hardwood litter, particularly where interactions occur with Hurricane Helene or other storm and insect damage footprints. Recent winter storm events have produced high snow-to-liquid ratio snowfall, consisting of lighter, less compacting snow. As a result, litter compaction benefits were limited in most areas. Locations that received heavier sleet accumulation likely experienced greater litter compaction. Similar reports from Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas indicate limited compaction within areas with exceptionally high rangeland grass loading following multiple cold snow (higher ratio) events.  
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- Careful monitoring of post-burn prescribed fire units and wildfire footprints overlapping areas of abnormal dryness and low soil moisture will be critical as we move through the dormant burn season, particularly if drying conditions reinvigorate fire behavior when aligned with favorable fire weather.
- Recent compression of burn windows due to snow, moisture, and cold weather may increase the risk of air quality impacts across the Southeast and may also result in more intense prescribed fires. This concern is especially relevant in longleaf pine ecosystems, where bud elongation is expected soon.