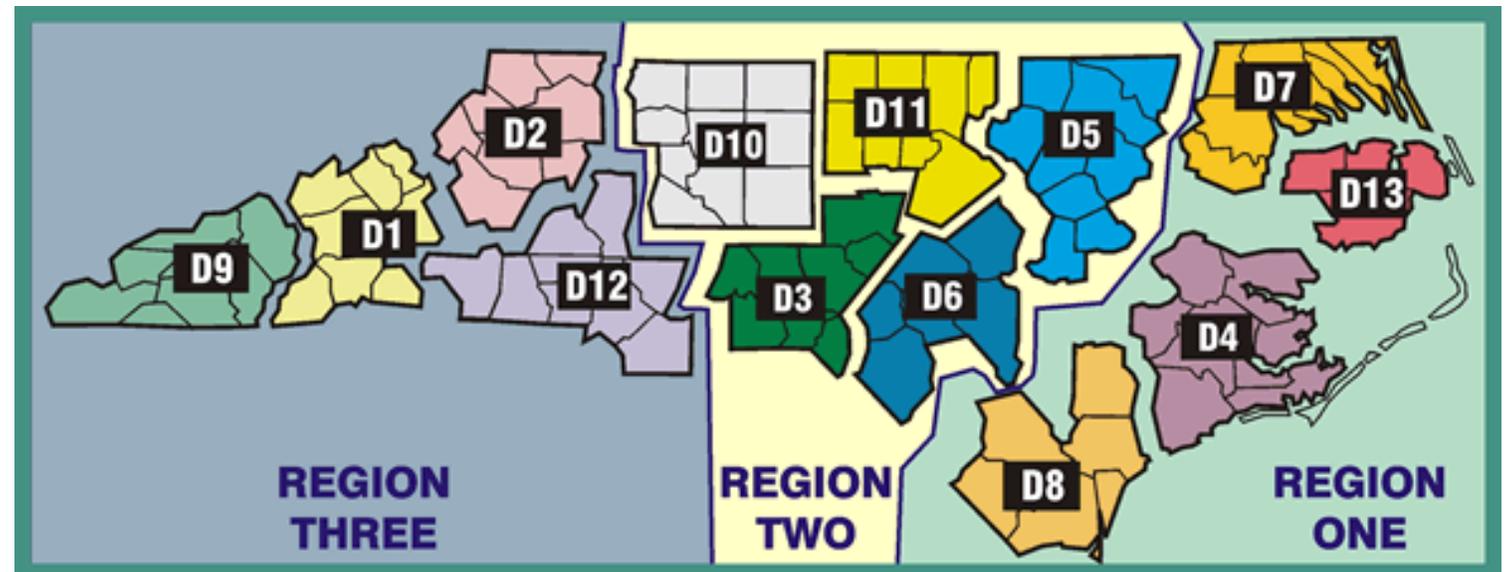
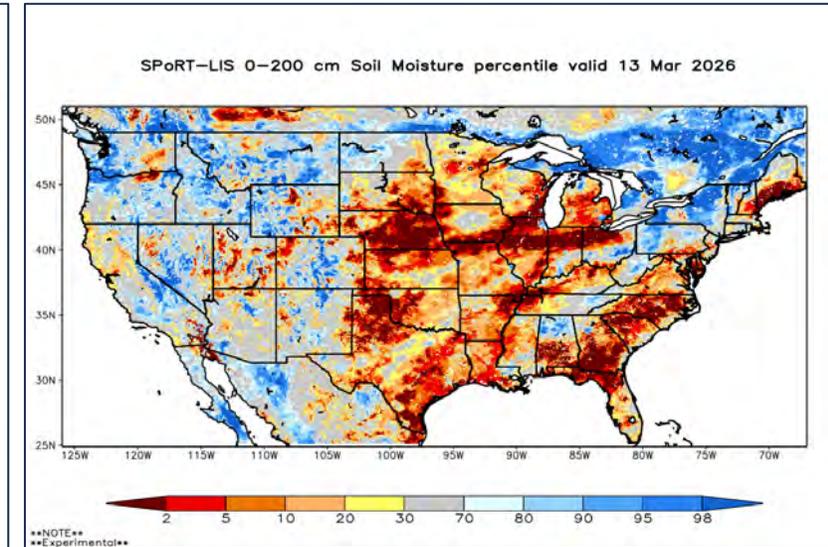
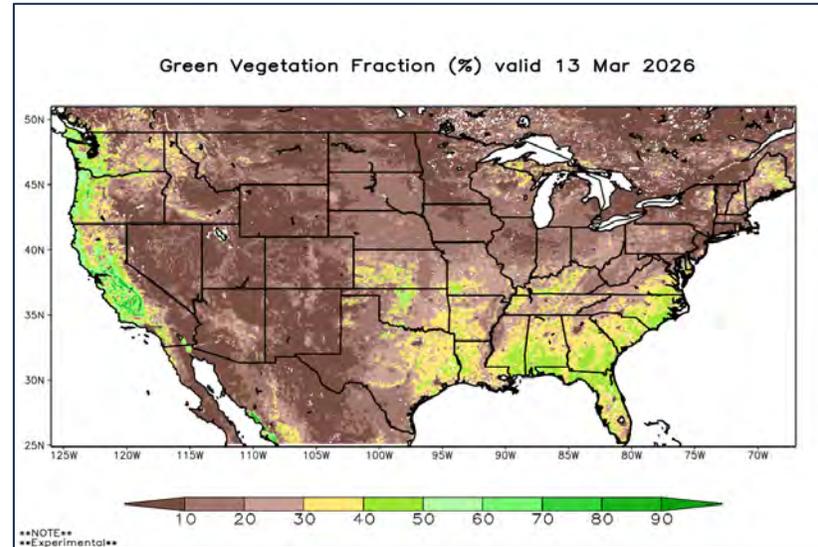


Weekly Fire Danger Assessment NCFS – All Regions



For Time Period:

Friday (3/13/26) to Thursday
(3/19/26)

Created by: Jamie Dunbar
Fire Environment Staff Forester
NC Forest Service
Created: 3/13/26

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

-
- January: 1,083 incidents for 1,964 acres
 - February: 829 incidents for 1,136 acres
 - MTD (ending 3/12): 542 incidents for 2,852 acres

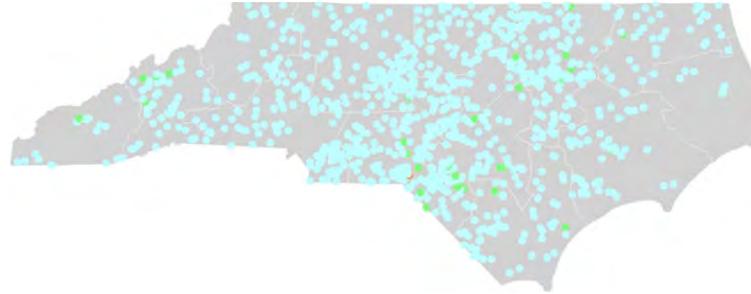
7-Day Activity: 373 incidents for 1,188 acres

All wildfire activity data is preliminary
Does not include additional federal wildfires/acres
 2016-2025 CY Average

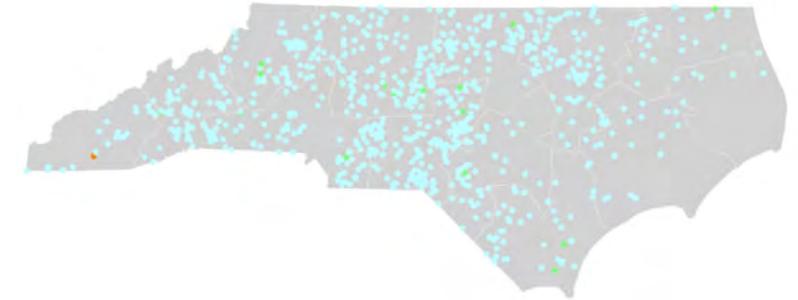
****Largest incidents by discovery date, MTD:**
 from fiResponse & preliminary reporting only

Incident Name	Discovery Date	Region	District	County	Acres
East Tower	3/4/2026	Region 1	District 13	Dare County	1410.00
TRACERS	3/11/2026	Region 2	District 3	Richmond County	220.00
Orange Skies	3/10/2026	Region 2	District 6	Robeson County	150.63
Deer pen	3/12/2026	Region 2	District 11	Granville County	63.00
Ruby Rd	3/4/2026	Region 2	District 6	Robeson County	60.00
Butterfly Man	3/10/2026	Region 2	District 6	Robeson County	59.60
Georges Branch	3/7/2026	Region 3	District 1	Buncombe County	45.00
Thomas Rd	3/11/2026	Region 2	District 11	Vance County	40.00
North Carolina 99	3/4/2026	Region 1	District 13	Washington County	35.00
Abel Rd	3/11/2026	Region 3	District 12	Gaston County	28.00
W V Thompson	3/6/2026	Region 3	District 12	Rutherford County	25.00

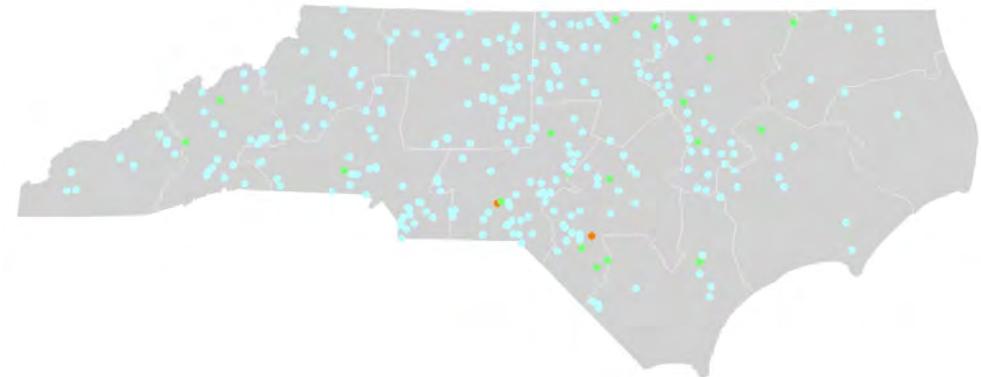
January 2026



February 2026

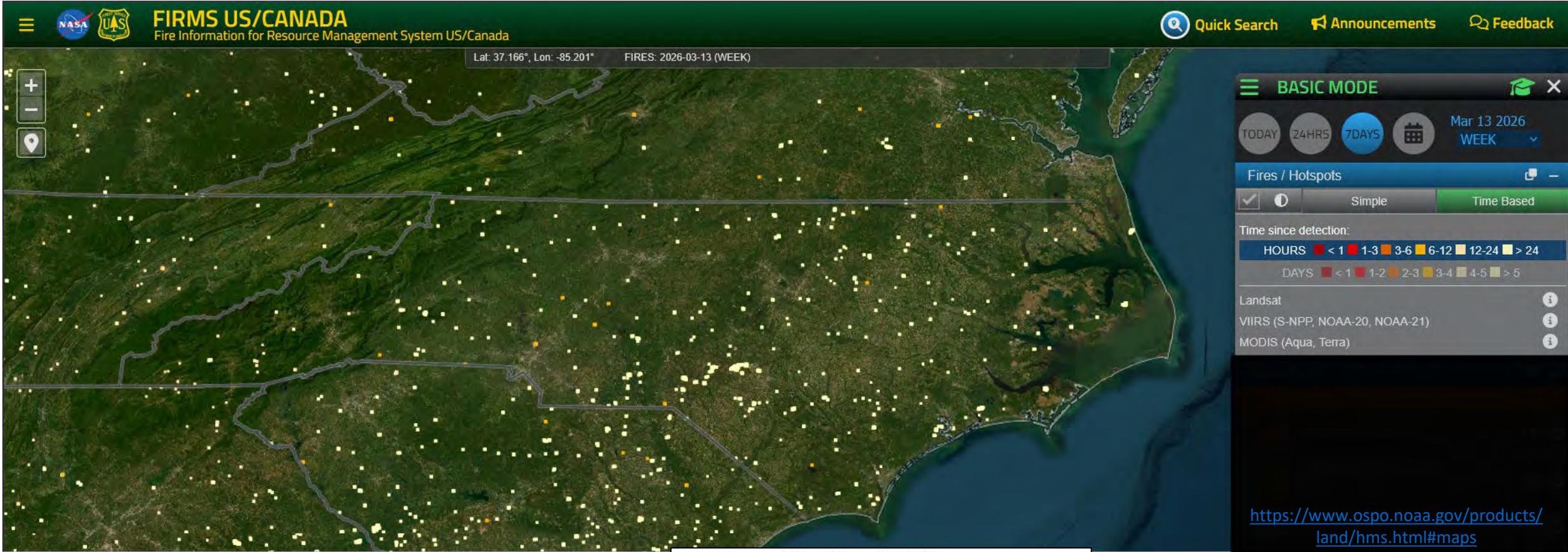


7-Day Activity (3/6 – 3/12)

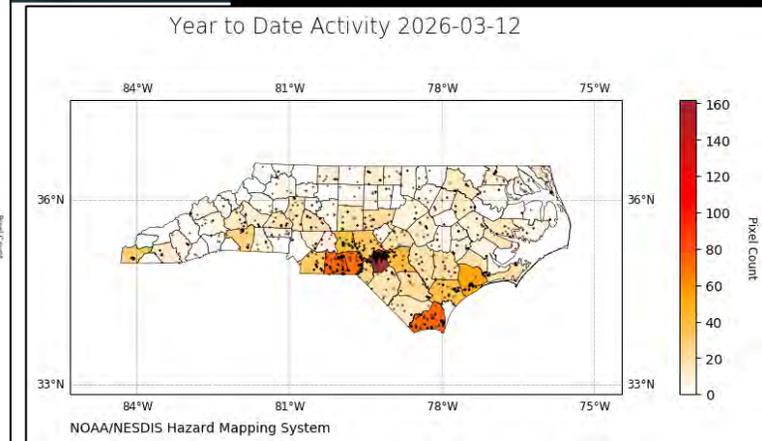
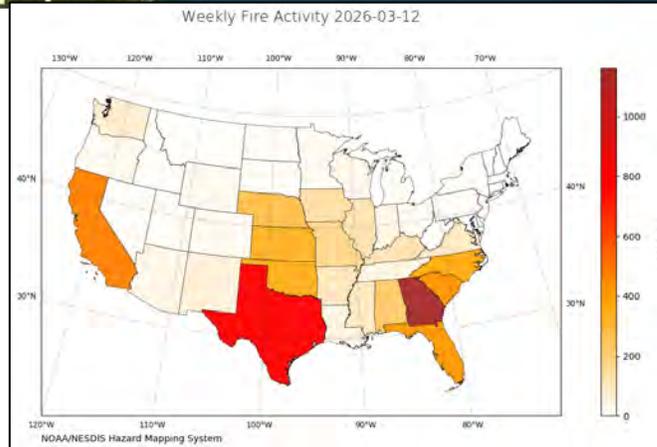


****Note: Dept. of War & other entirely federal ownership wildfires typically not shown on fiResponse, unless NCFS integrated into response.**

Weekly Heat Detects



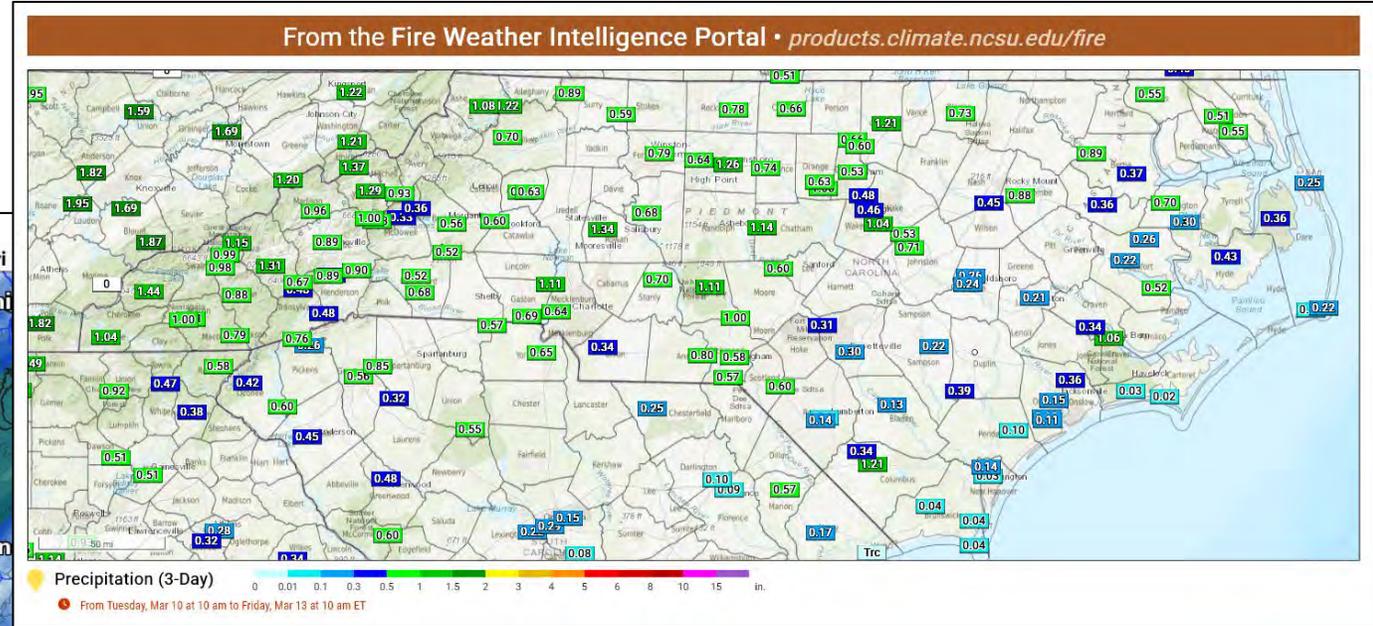
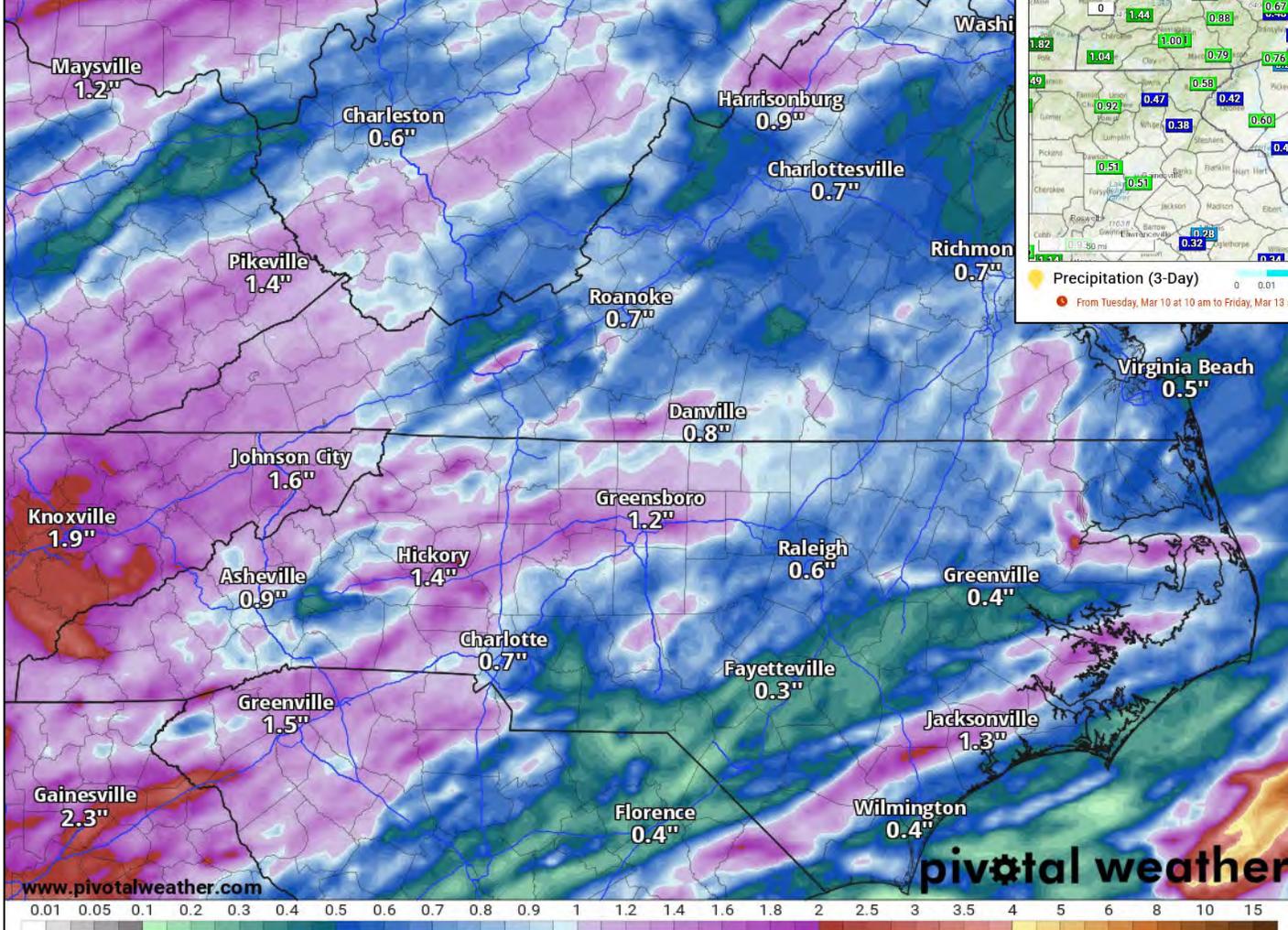
NC Map showing past week satellite detects from same source & bottom right maps display fire pixel counts. Note NC map is by CY-Year (YTD context ending on 3/12/26) . Note that cloud cover and other factors can limit detections, not all detects may be “forestry related”. Hazard Mapping System link.



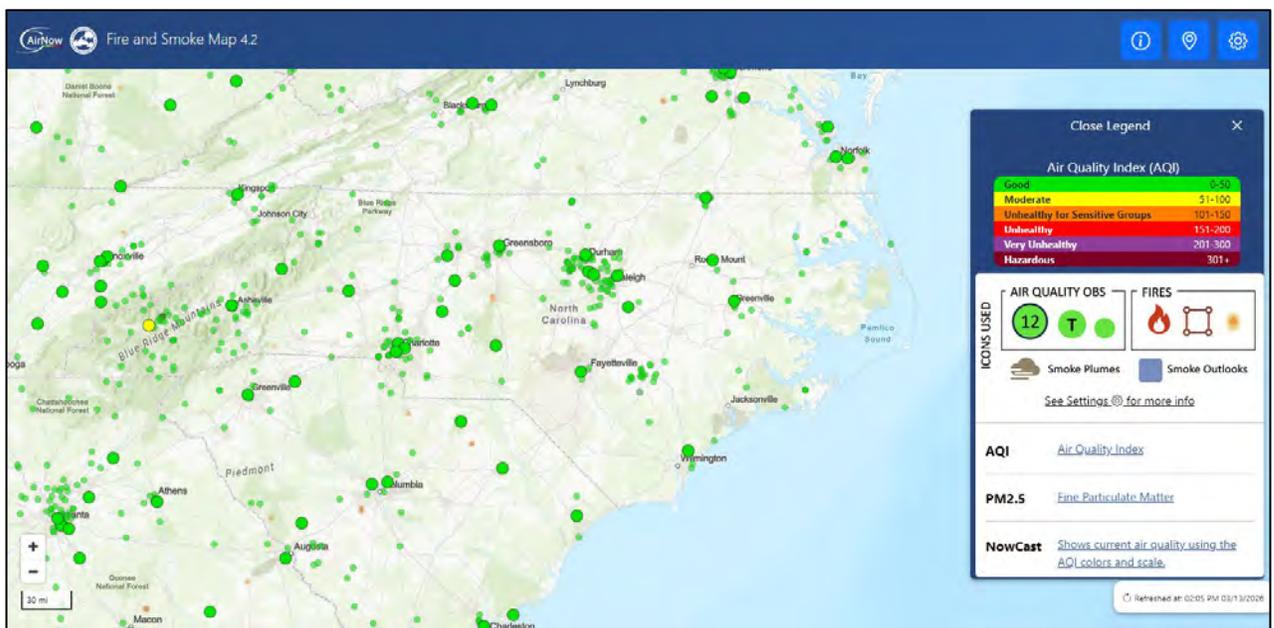
3-Day Observed Precip ending 3/13/26 at 1000

7-Day Observed Precip ending 3/13/26 at 0800

168-Hour Stage IV Precipitation Analysis (in)
Ending Friday, Mar. 13, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

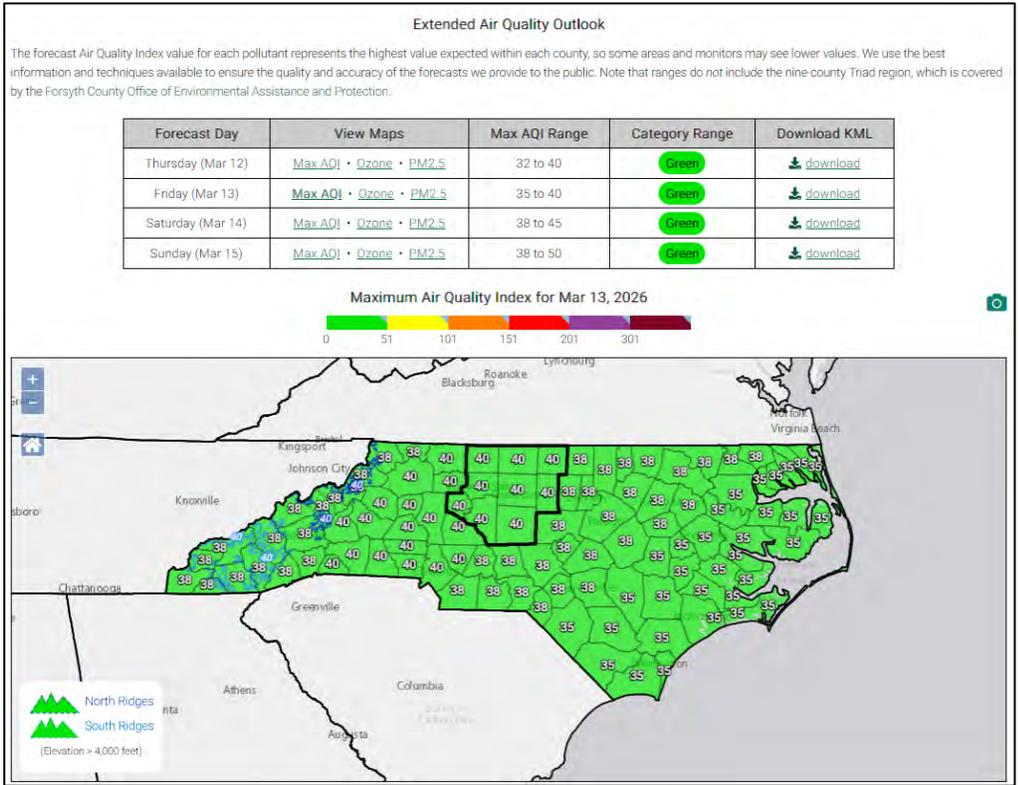


Air Quality Notes



Fire & Smoke Map heat detects from VIIRS (above). RX burning evident in the Southeast.

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



This forecast was issued on **Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 3:17 pm**. ✔ This forecast is currently valid.

Today's Air Quality Conditions

Current daily averages of fine particulates are running in Code Yellow range across the southern and eastern Piedmont as well as the Sandhills. However, hourly readings have dropped into the low Code Green range after the passage of a cold front and will remain low the rest of the day. Hourly ozone readings are in Code Green range statewide.

🔗 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

After a cold frontal passage brought northerly winds and chillier air into the state on Thursday, winds will quickly return back out of the south on Friday as a strong low pressure system passes across the Great Lakes. While it'll be a chilly morning, temperatures should rise back into the 60s for most by the afternoon with plenty of sunshine. With the airshed cleaned out by the cold front, air quality is expected to be in Code Green range statewide for both fine particulates and ozone. Temperatures in the 60s will also hinder ozone formation.

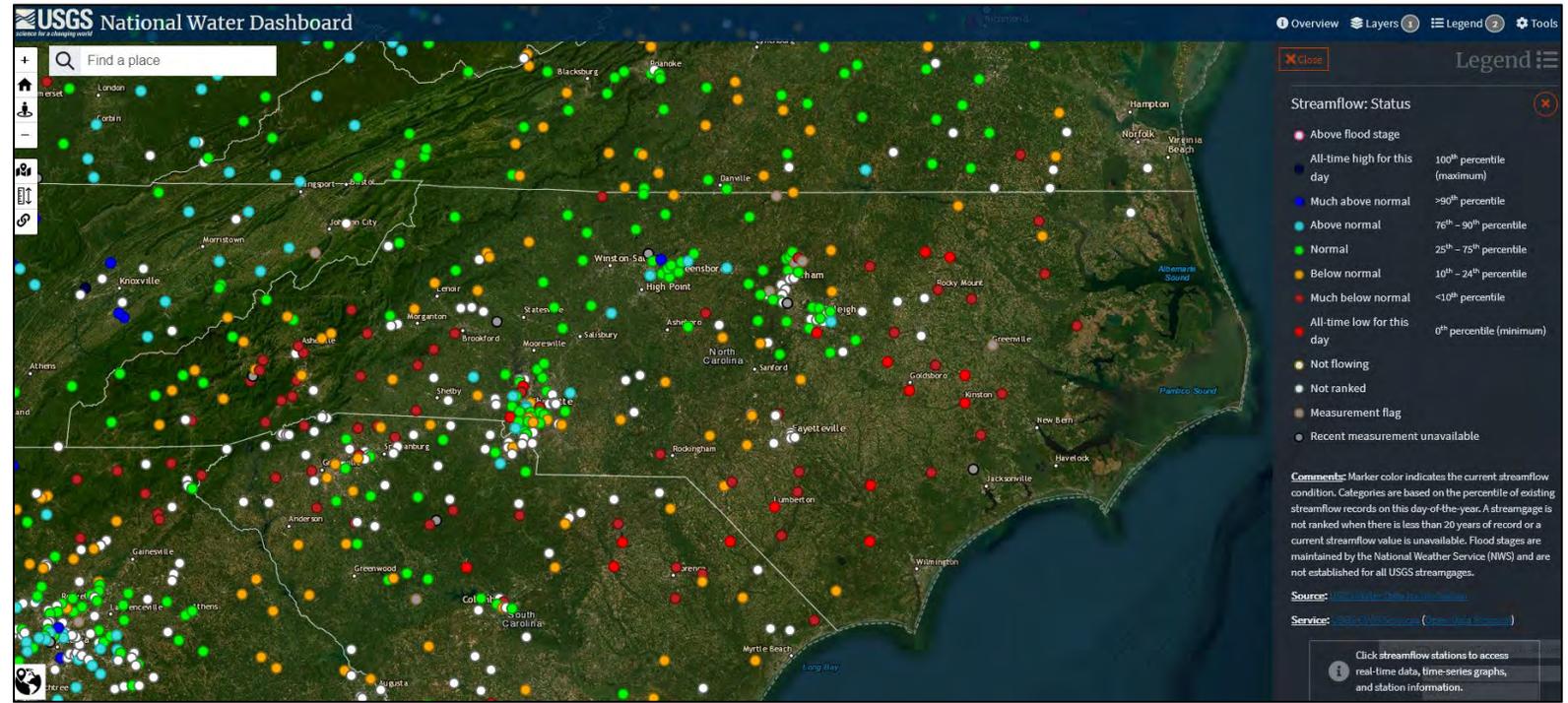
Outlook

High pressure will build in across the eastern US Saturday but will be transient, as another strong low pressure system will take shape across the Midwest by Sunday. Winds will be light on Saturday and stronger on Sunday, primarily from the southeast which will push fine particulates towards the mountains. With the airshed still fairly clean, air quality should remain in Code Green range Saturday. This southeast flow will likely lead to maritime air advecting into the state by Sunday which should continue to keep air quality in Code Green range.

Author: Jordan Root (jordan.root@deq.nc.gov) - NC Division of Air Quality

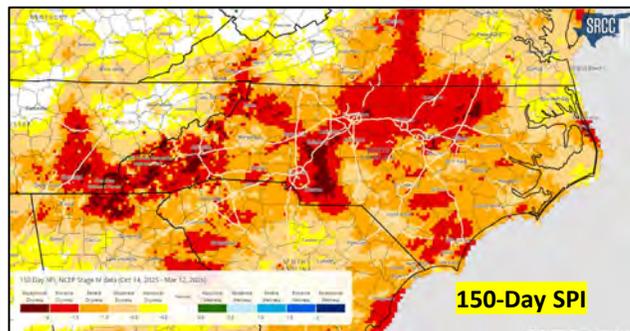
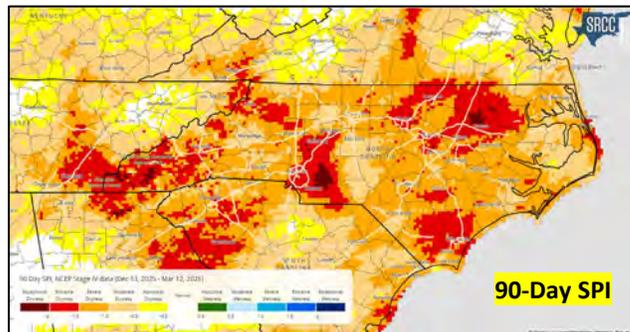
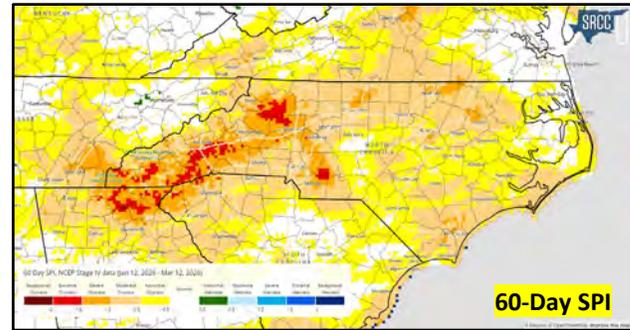
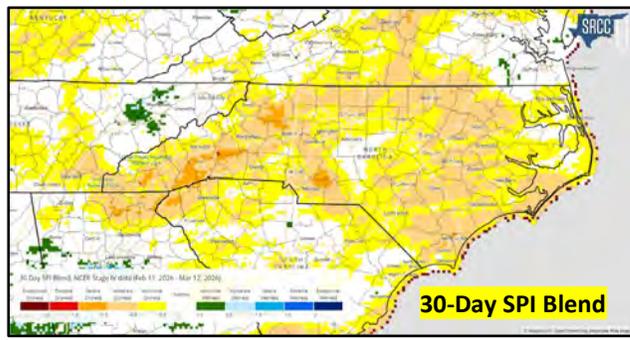
<https://airquality.climate.ncsu.edu/discussion/?view=latest>

New USGS Streamflow Map: Real-time

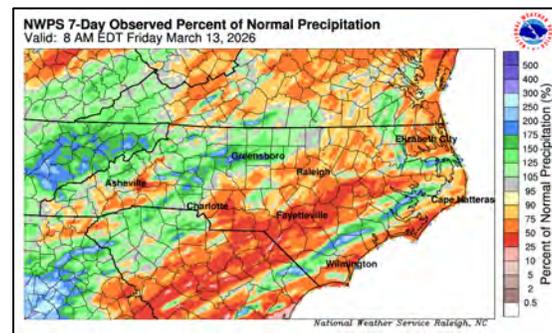


Lack of truly significant wetting rain events continue for much of the state. Longer time scale SPI products indicate either entrenched or worsening conditions. Reduction in shorter-term SPI, but remember we are still in dormant season. Precip ending yesterday may not be entirely reflected in the SPI maps to the left.

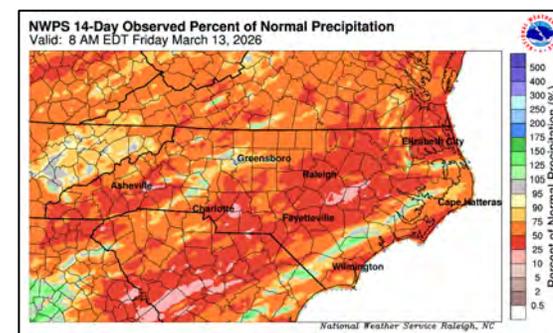
Real-time streamflow from 3/13/26 show well below normal flow conditions for many gauges in NC. There is a **short-term bump in flow** from yesterday's storms. This low-flow (especially in context of baseflow) trend continues to be very significant as we move towards the growing season/spring. Many swamps & larger canal networks remain very low compared to "normal".



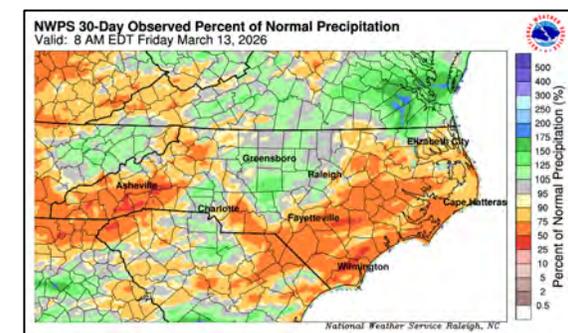
7-Day PNP



14-Day PNP

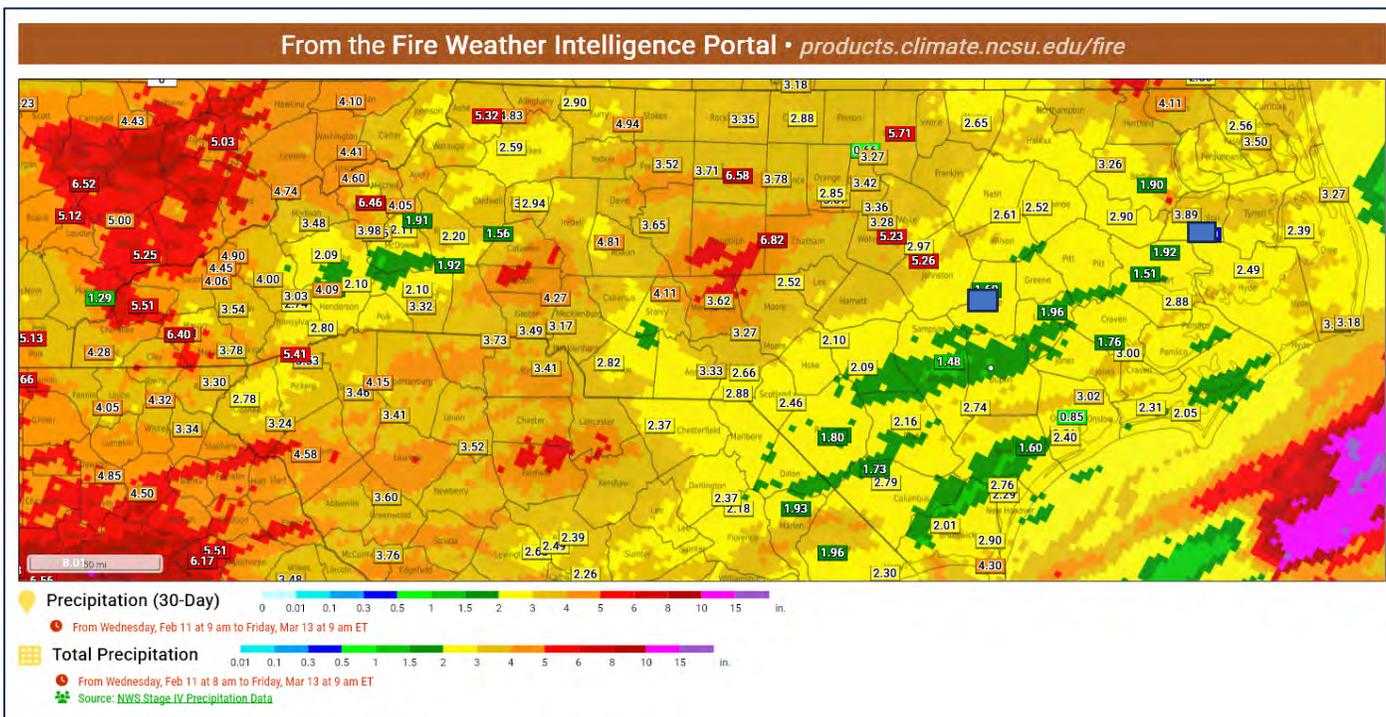


30-Day PNP

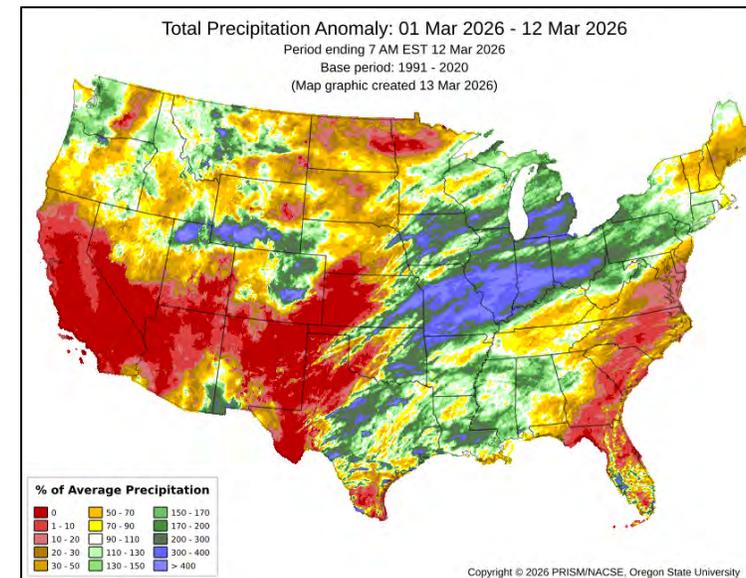


https://src.tamu.edu/water_portal/

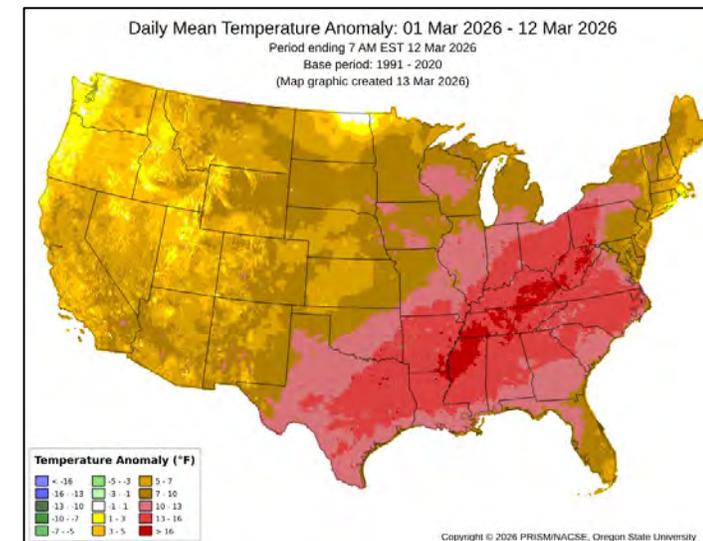
30-Day Station & Gridded Precip Totals



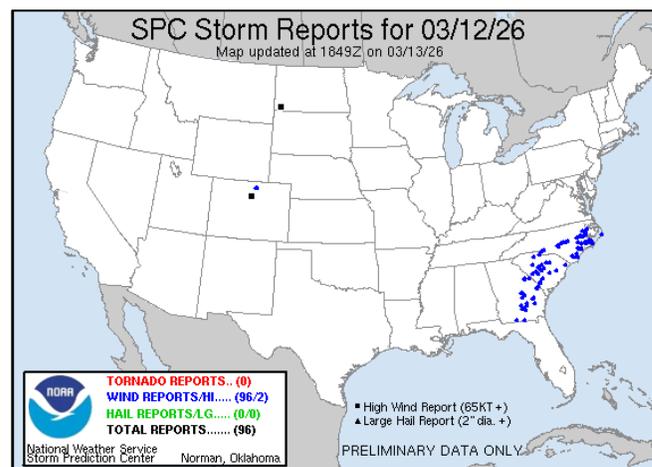
Monthly Precip Anomaly



MTD Mean Temp Anomaly



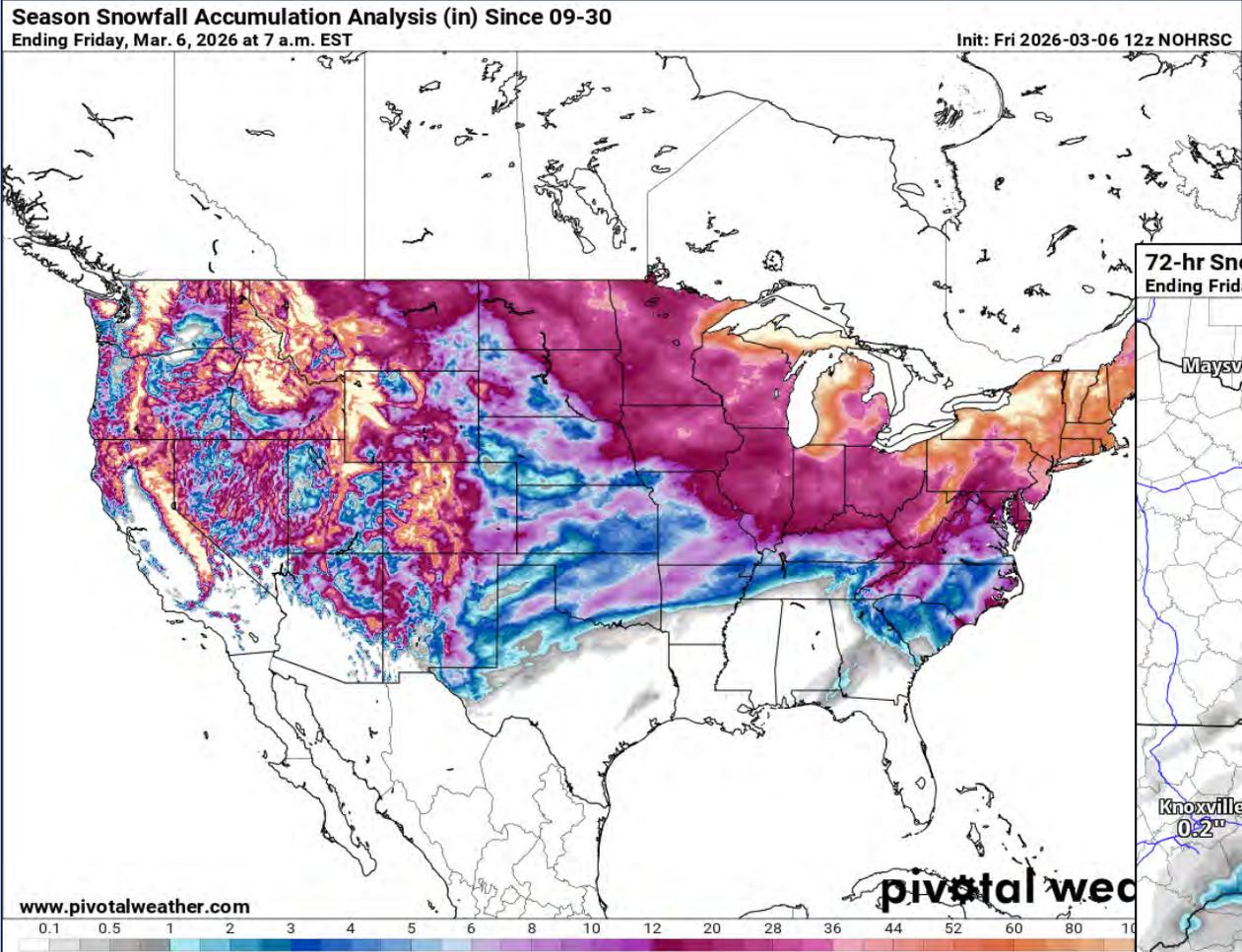
Severe Storm Reports for 3/12



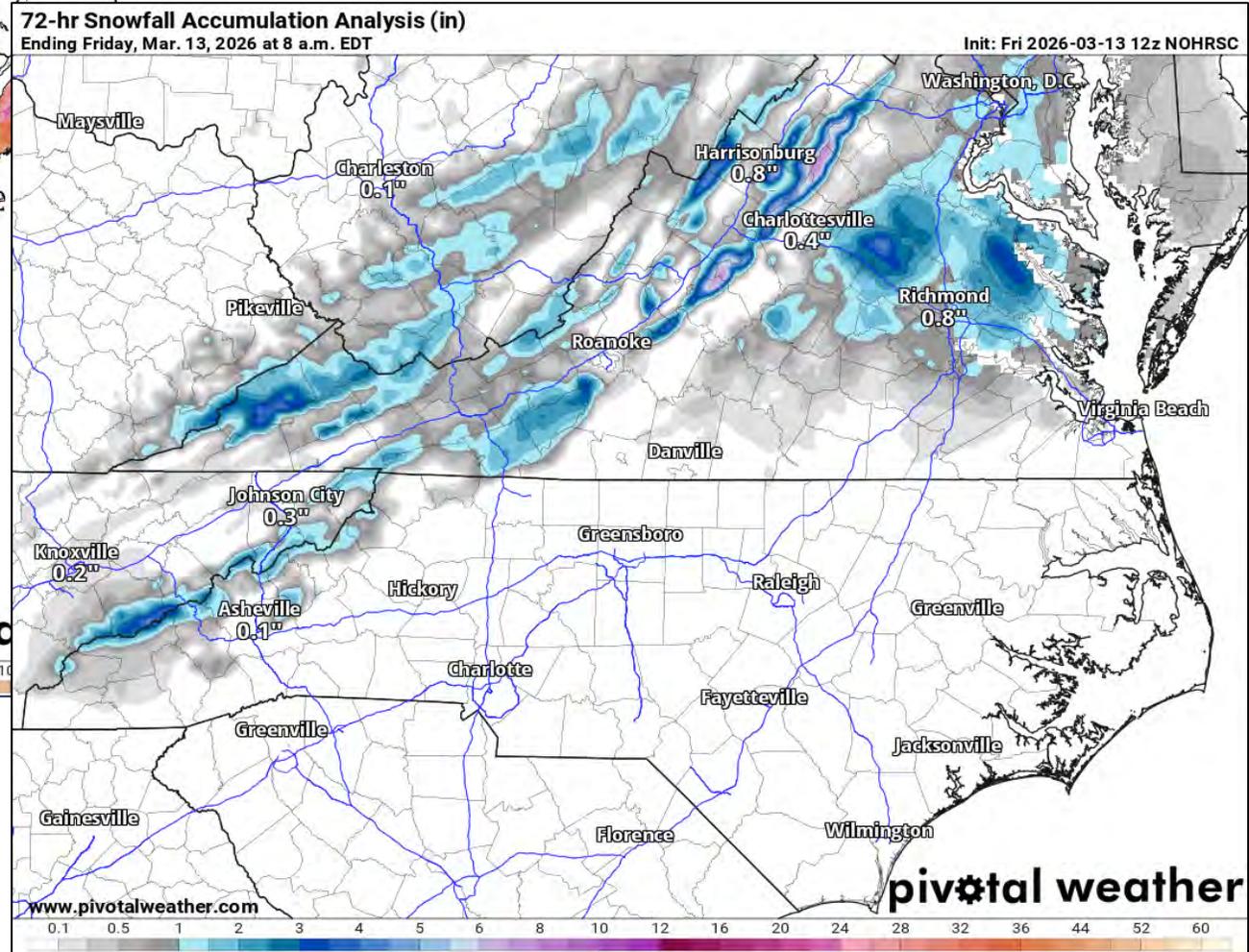
Station totals are from ASOS, RAWS, ECONet and other networks. When viewing the gridded data in conjunction with station totals, you can get a better idea of drier pockets. This takes into account overnight rainfall.

The PRISM national maps were compiled with period ending yesterday morning, so do not include most of yesterday's precip.

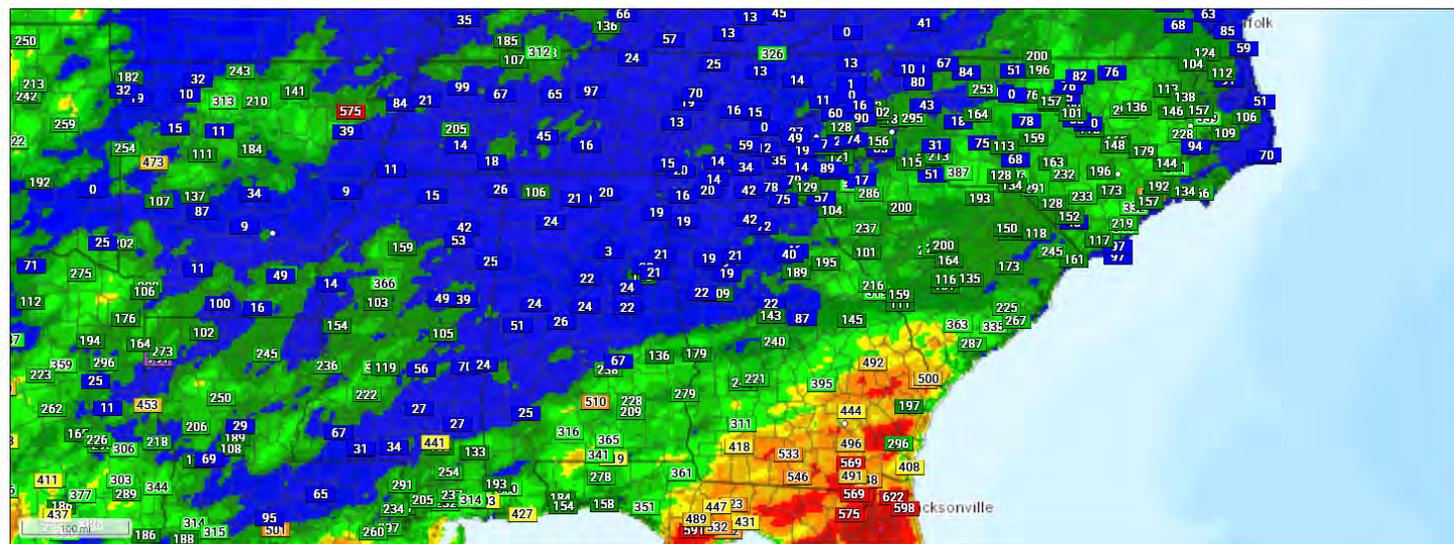
Season Total Snowfall Accumulation



3-Day Snowfall Accumulation

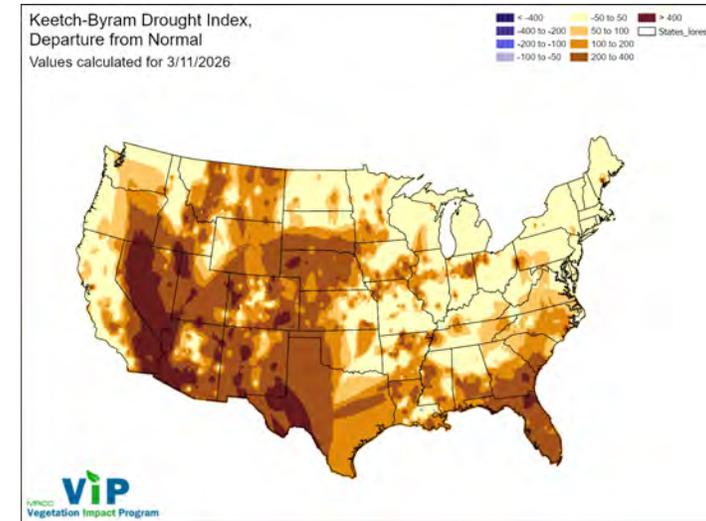
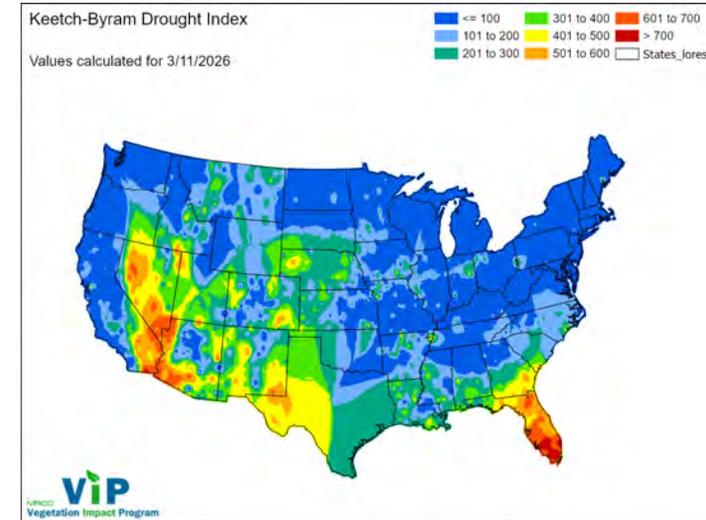


From the Fire Weather Intelligence Portal • products.climate.ncsu.edu/fire



Points from 3/13, Grid from 3/12

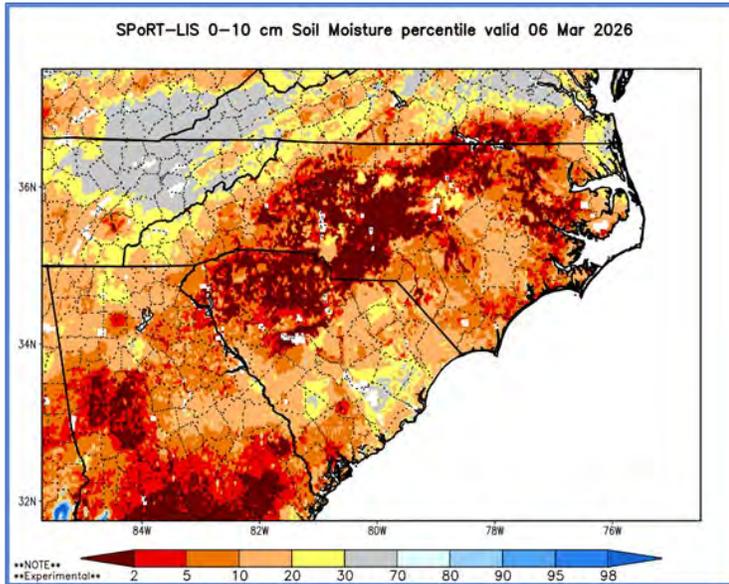
- KBDI is much less representative of the fire problem in the cold season, while max temperatures are low. A moderate rainfall can seemingly “erase” higher KBDI values, as the daily climb after the rain event is minimal (while true drought hasn’t been erased). This metric is much more useful in the growing season. The map shows the impact of recent warm weather in daily expansion of KBDI values. Expect more rapid daily climbs when daily max temps rebound.
- Intense surface fire can still occur even with low KBDI values in the dormant season. Additionally, there are multiple areas still showing values in the 300’s + on the gridded map above. The national maps to the right are calculated by MRCC, but paint a similar picture in a broader context.



<https://mrcc.purdue.edu/VIP/indexKBDI2>

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

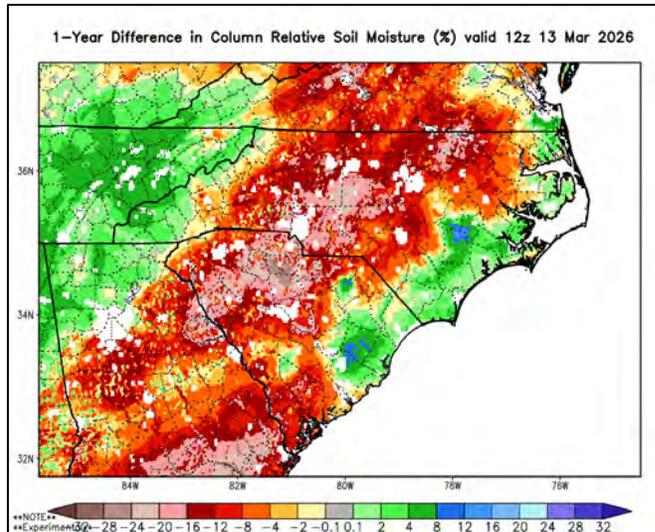
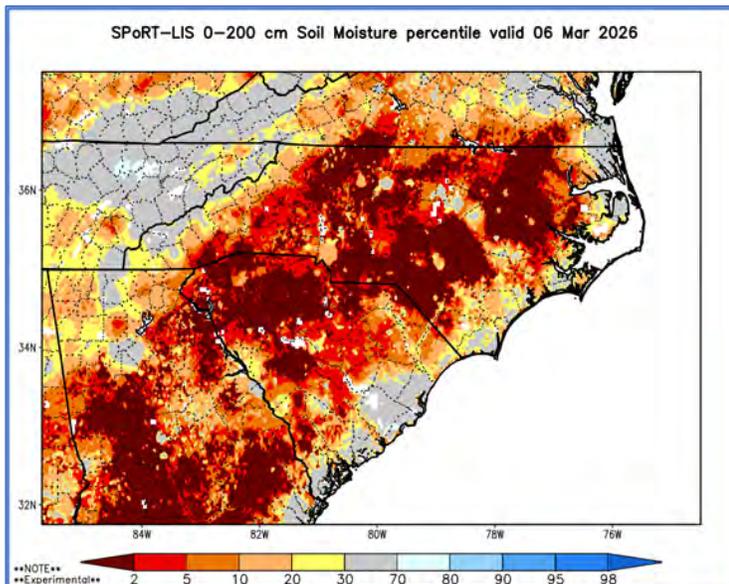
3/6/26



~ 1-Week ago Left, today on Right.
Just a model.

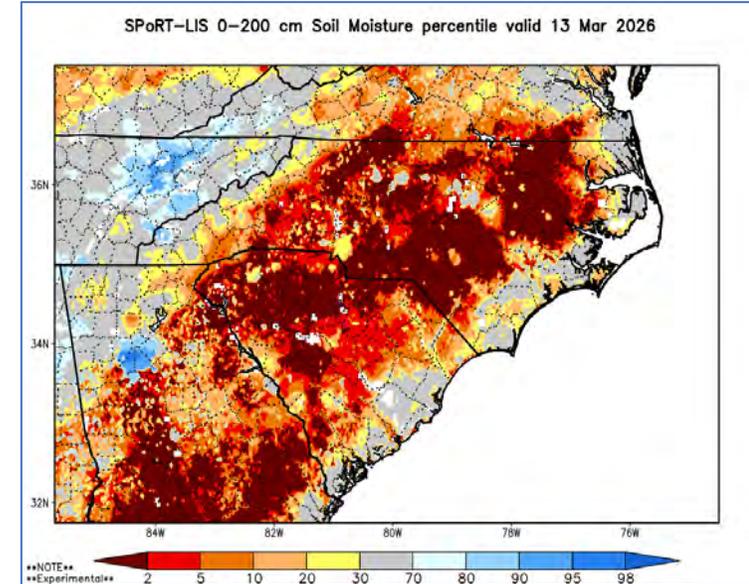
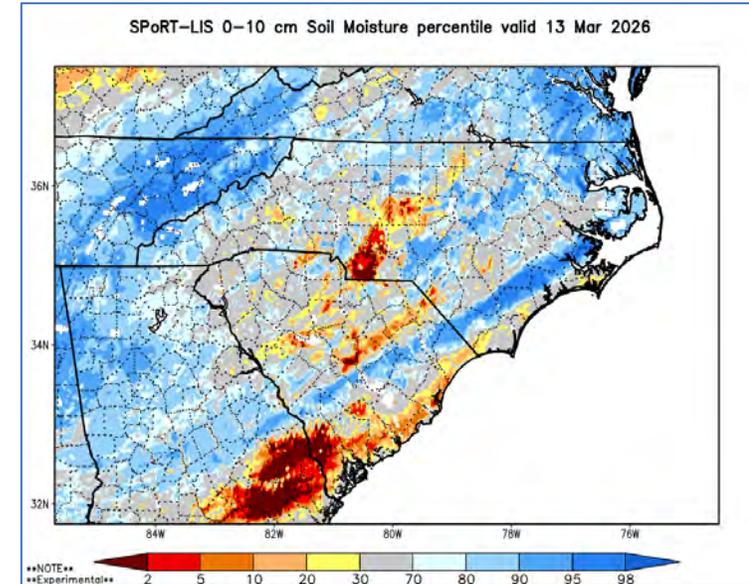
Modeled shallow-improvement as compared to last week, minimal improvement in context of total soil profile.

Note 1-year difference graphic below.



https://weather.ndc.nasa.gov/spoRT/case_studies/lis_NC.html

3/13/26



North Carolina Drought Update

Created By: North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org climate.ncsu.edu @NCSCO

For the assessment period ending **Mar. 10, 2026**
 From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Despite a dry week in many areas, drought conditions are largely unchanged, as the lingering moisture from February's rain events has stabilized most water levels.

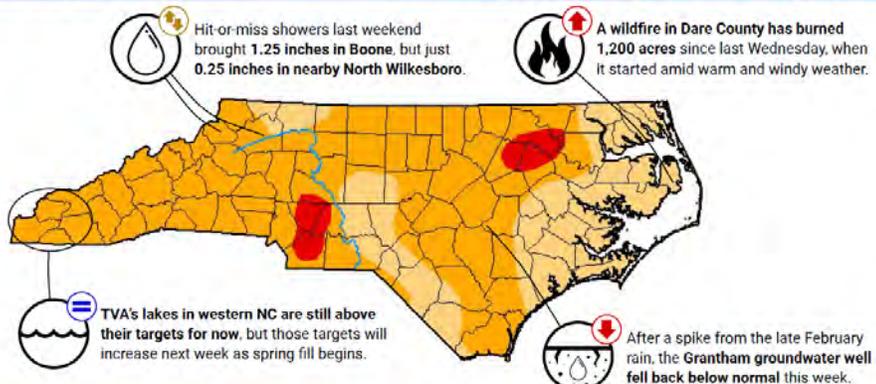
This Week's Summary

Spring has decidedly sprung, with 80-degree weather and scattered showers and storms over the past week. That rainfall pattern meant a few areas received an inch or more, but many areas missed out and had less than half an inch. The most apparent difference this week was the amount of trees budding and flowers blooming, which will increase their moisture demands.

Next Week's Outlook

A pair of cold fronts moving through on Thursday and Monday will bring more showers and thunderstorms, with weekly rainfall totals of a half inch or more likely.

For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



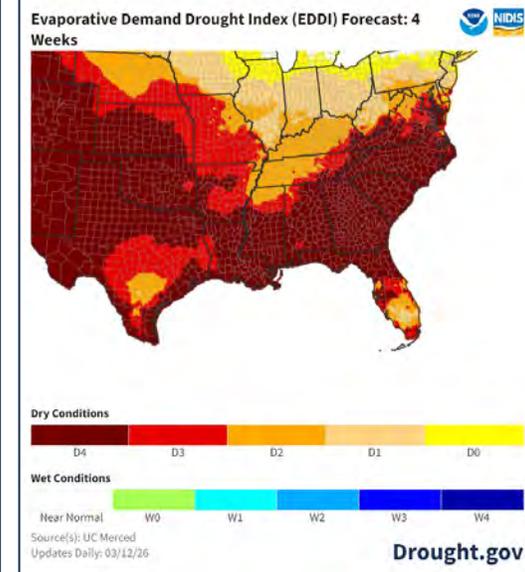
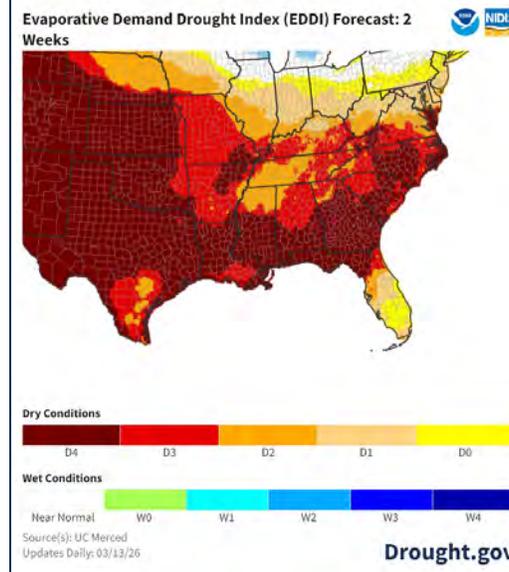
Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	0.00%	0.00%
D1: Moderate Drought	29.84%	-0.17%
D2: Severe Drought	65.91%	+0.17%
D3: Extreme Drought	4.25%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

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

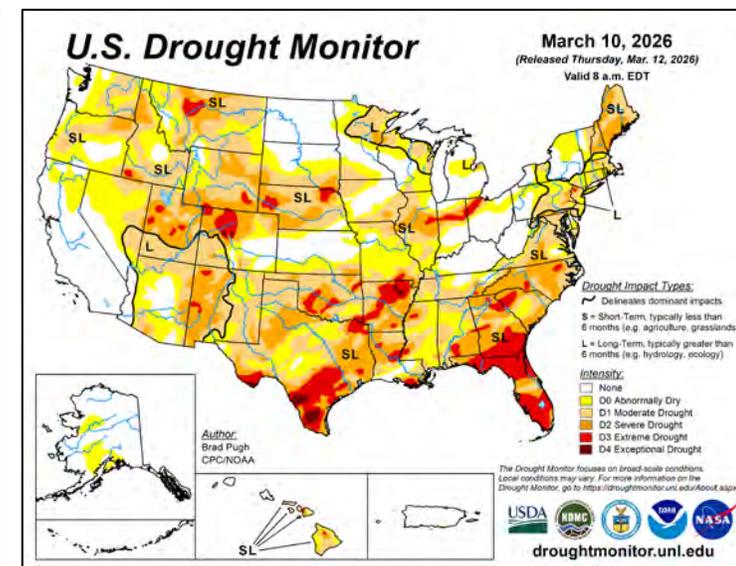
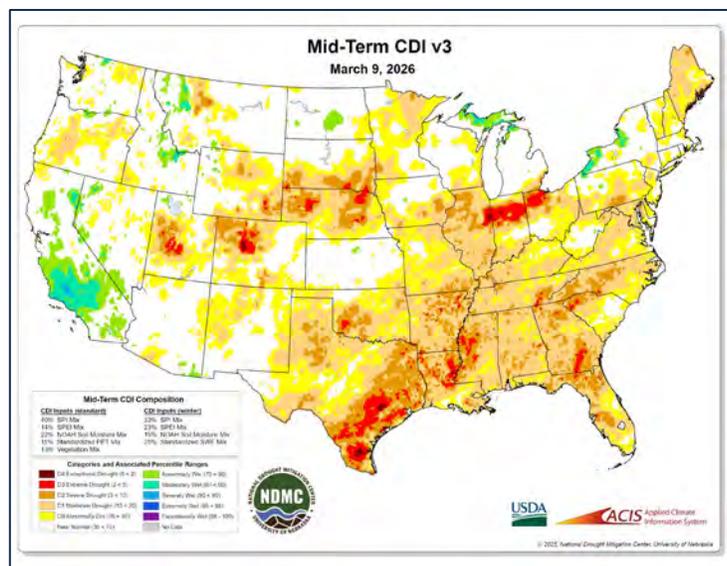


EDDI & Drought

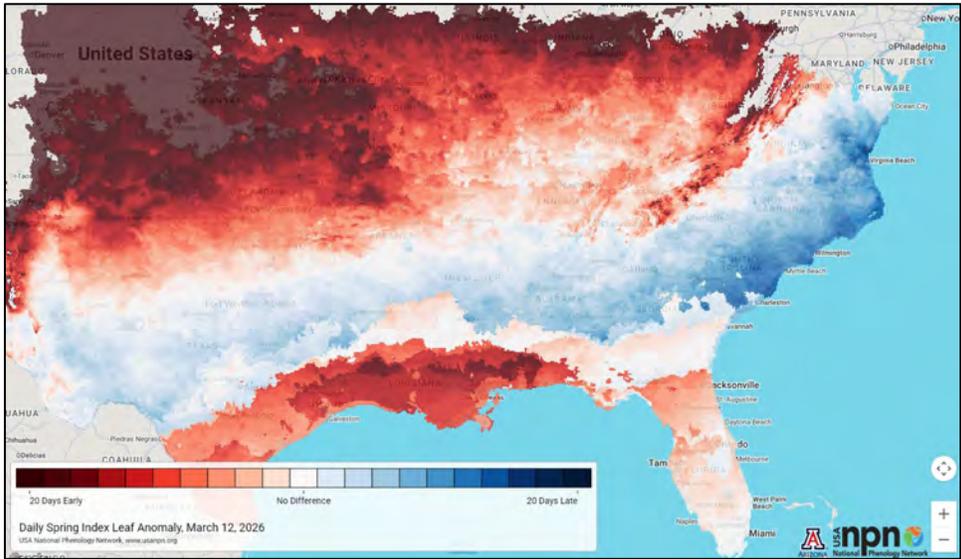
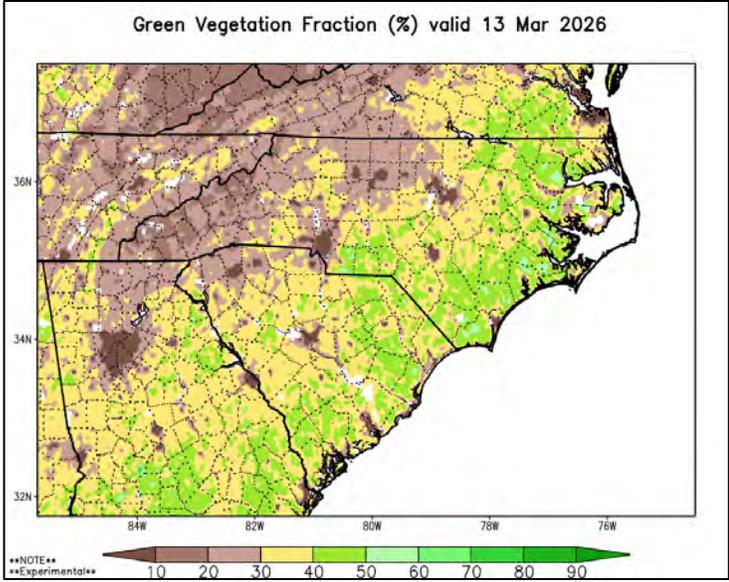
EDDI Maps - The EDDI maps at the top right illustrate modeled evaporative demand at the two-week and four-week avg level. They are trending much drier than normal for NC in the 2 & 4-week time scale. Warmth, lack of precip and dry air accelerates this index.

US Drought Monitor - Most recent USDM map release above (3/10/26). 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.

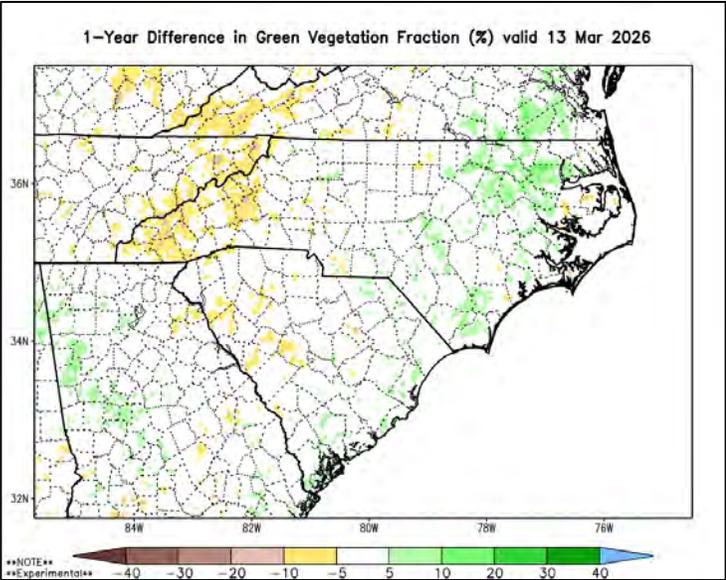
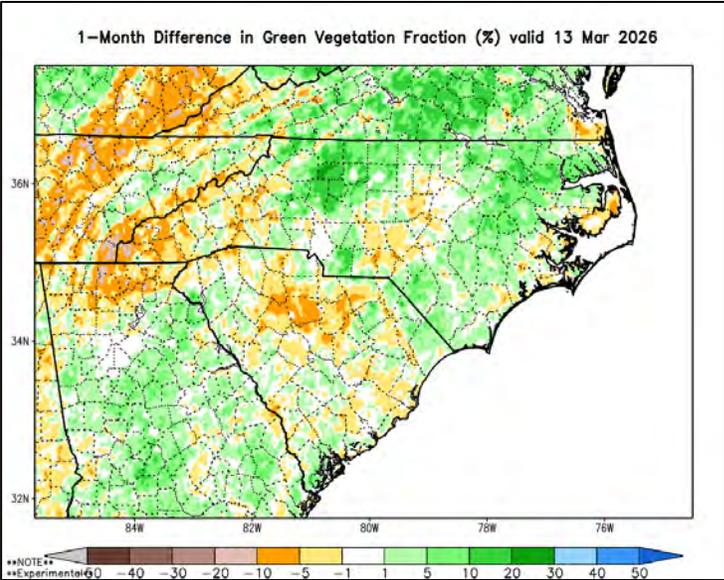
Mid-Term Composite Drought Indicator Map & Seasonal Drought Outlook - shown at right. See detailed state/regional discussions [here](#). Conditions have moderated slightly in the short-term, but are still favoring dryness as we move into Spring. *All of this is dependent upon any future storm tracks and seasonal variability.*



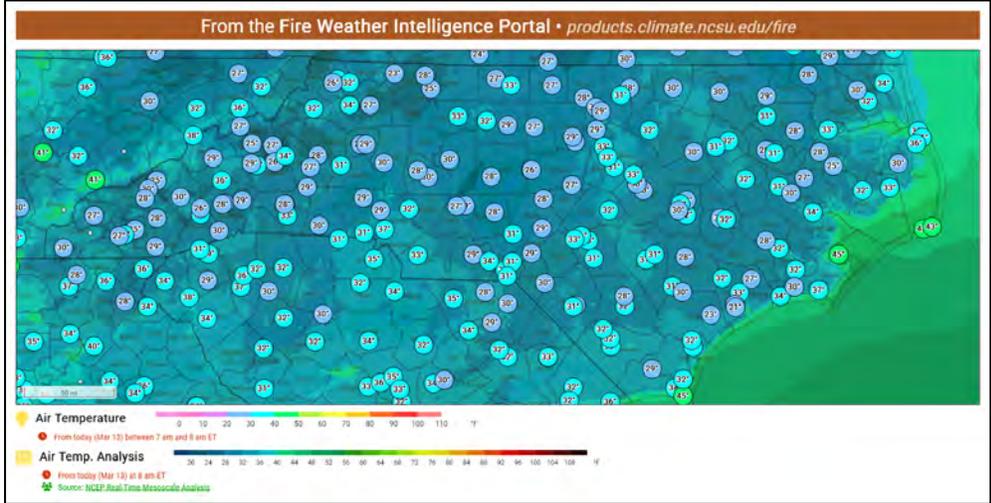
SPoRT Modeled Green Vegetation Fraction



Note areas of both increase and decrease in overall greenness. NPN map (above) shows parts of Western NC slightly above, while much of the East is 1-2 weeks behind "normal" on the Spring Index Leaf Anomaly viewer.



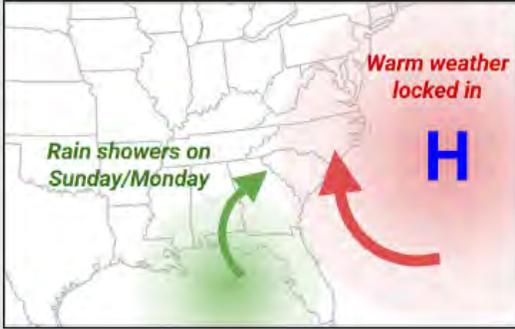
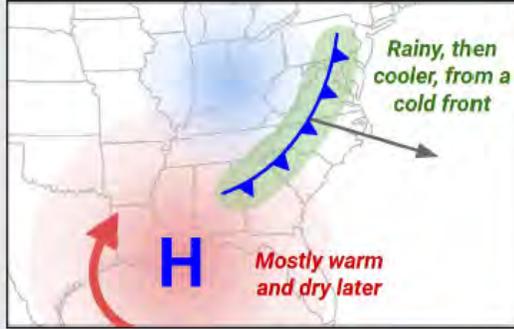
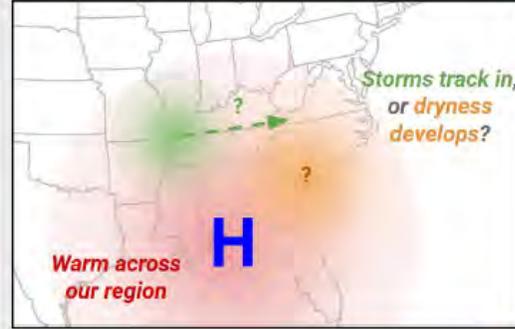
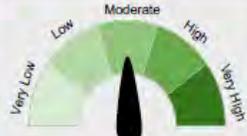
Some of this may be attributed to earlier impacts of snow/ice cover on reflectance, however it is also likely the mixed periods of extremely cold then warm average temperatures over the past few weeks have come into play. Air temps at 0800 on 3/13 show temps in 20's and lower 30's after highs in the 80's previous day (below).



State Climate Office: Short-Range Monthly Outlook for NC

Released **3/5/26**
Location: <https://climate.ncsu.edu/fire/outlooks/>

Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

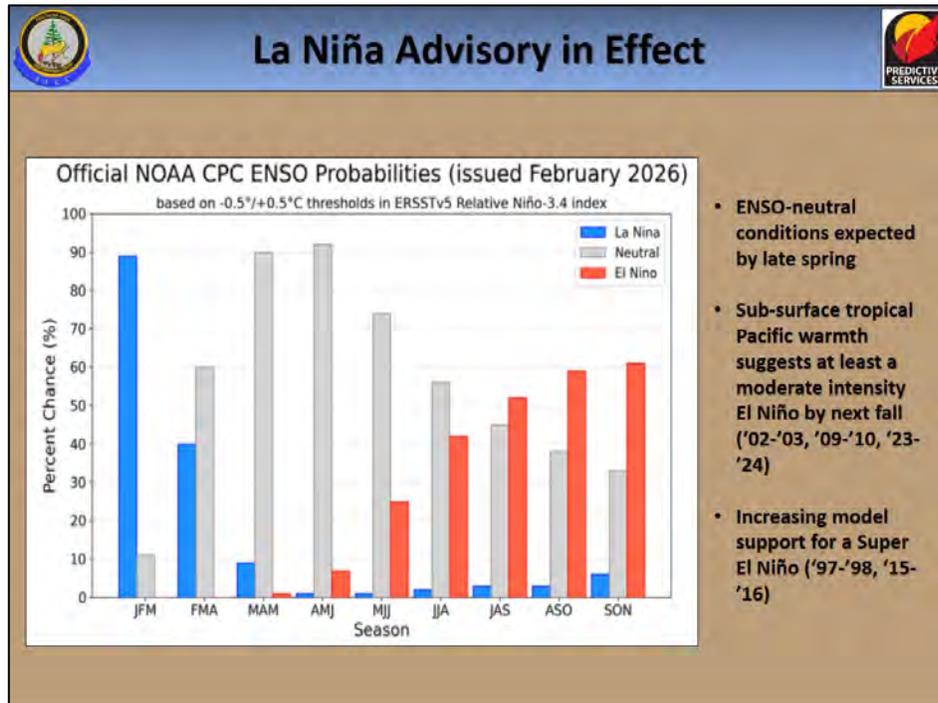
Week 1: March 5 to 11, 2026	Week 2: March 12 to 18, 2026	Weeks 3-4: Mar. 19 to Apr. 1, 2026
		
<p>Warm All Week 🌡️</p> <p>A summer-like weather pattern featuring high pressure off our coastline will cause unseasonably warm temperatures, with highs in the upper 70s to low 80s and lows in the upper 50s to low 60s. Those are 15 to 20 degrees above normal for early March.</p>	<p>A Quick Cooldown 🌡️ 🌬️ 🔥 ➡️ 🌡️</p> <p>A cold frontal passage should usher in some cooler air by next Friday, along with drier air and wind that could increase fire danger. By later in the week, our temperatures should bounce back above normal as upper-level high pressure strengthens to our south.</p>	<p>Staying Warm 🌡️</p> <p>Persistent upper-level high pressure over the Southeast US and mid-Atlantic regions should keep our temperatures above normal through late March. Note that freeze events are still common through mid-April, so we're not out of winter's woods yet.</p>
<p>Spring Showers Begin ☁️ ➡️ 💧</p> <p>A warm, southerly flow around the offshore high pressure system will bring in Gulf moisture to fuel isolated showers, with the highest rain chances on Sunday and Monday. Most areas can expect rainfall totals of around half an inch over the entire week.</p>	<p>Frontal Rain Likely 💧 ➡️ ☁️</p> <p>The best rain chances this week should come from the initial cold front, with current forecasts showing totals of a half-inch to an inch. After that, expect mostly dry weather to wrap up the weekend with a few scattered showers possible later in the week.</p>	<p>On the Edge of Rainfall ☁️? 💧?</p> <p>Our late-month rain chances will depend on where the storm track sets up. A lingering La Niña-like track to our north would keep us drier and encourage an active spring fire season, while a southward track could bring regular rainfall events, like in February.</p>
Forecast Confidence	Forecast Confidence	Forecast Confidence
 <p>Record warmth is highly likely this week, but there is a bit of uncertainty about how widespread weekend rain showers might be.</p>	 <p>Small model differences in the timing of the cold frontal passage and another possible cooldown later in the week add uncertainty.</p>	 <p>Confidence in the warm temperatures is offset by the knife-edge uncertainty about our precipitation pattern in Weeks 3 and 4.</p>
<p>This infographic is based on forecast and outlook guidance from the National Weather Service. For more information, visit www.weather.gov.</p> 	<p>Author: Corey Davis (NCSCO) cndavis@ncsu.edu</p>	

ENSO Notes from the CPC (3/12/26 Update)

ENSO Alert System Status: **La Niña Advisory / El Niño Watch**

A transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral is expected in the next month, with ENSO-neutral favored through May-July 2026 (55% chance). In June-August 2026, El Niño is likely to emerge (62% chance) and persist through at least the end of 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°C (line shown in green) for 3 consecutive months. For El Niño, the departure must be at least 0.5°C above average for 3 consecutive months.



From SA Fire Environment Briefing 3/6/26

Historical El Niño and La Niña Episodes Based on the RONI computed using ERSST.v5

Recent Pacific warm (red) and cold (blue) periods based on a threshold of $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ for the Relative Oceanic Niño Index (RONI) [ERSST.v5 SST anomalies]. For historical purposes, periods of below and above normal SSTs are colored in blue and red when the threshold is met for a minimum of 5 consecutive overlapping seasons.

The RONI is one measure of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, and other indices can confirm whether features consistent with a coupled ocean-atmosphere phenomenon accompanied these periods. The complete table going back to DJF 1950 can be found [here](#).

Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2014	-0.5	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.6
2015	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.4
2016	2.2	1.8	1.3	0.5	-0.1	-0.6	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.0
2017	-0.7	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.5	-0.7	-1.0	-1.1	-1.3
2018	-1.1	-1.0	-0.9	-0.7	-0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.7
2019	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
2020	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.5	-1.4
2021	-1.2	-1.0	-1.0	-0.8	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.9	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2
2022	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3	-1.3	-1.2	-1.0	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.0	-1.0
2023	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5
2024	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1
2025	-1.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0
2026	-0.9											

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

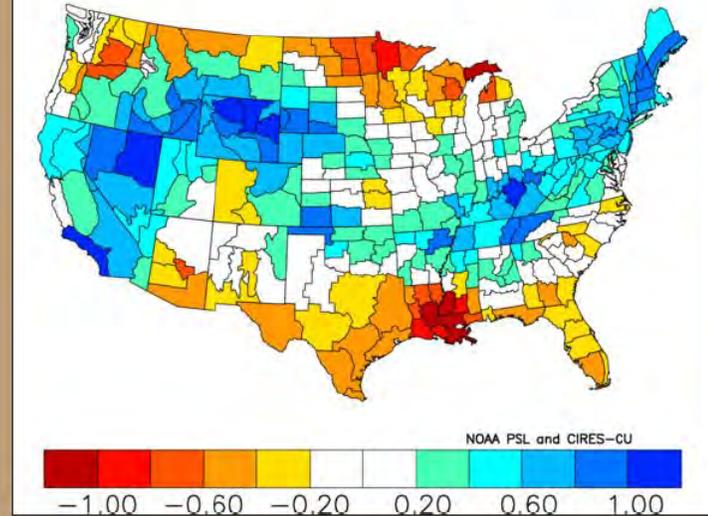
The North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) average, including the NCEP CFSv2 (Fig. 6), points toward ENSO-neutral through the late Northern Hemisphere Spring 2026, with a transition to El Niño thereafter. Even though model forecasts are relatively less accurate this time of year, the increasing odds of El Niño are supported by the large amount of heat in the subsurface ocean and the expected weakening of the low-level trade winds. If El Niño forms, the potential strength remains very uncertain, with a 1-in-3 chance that it would be "strong" during October-December 2026 (Niño-3.4 $+1.5\text{C}$). In summary, a transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral is expected in the next month, with ENSO-neutral favored through May-July 2026 (55% chance). In June-August 2026, El Niño is likely to emerge (62% chance) and persist through at least the end of 2026 (Fig. 7).



Quick Thoughts on Summer

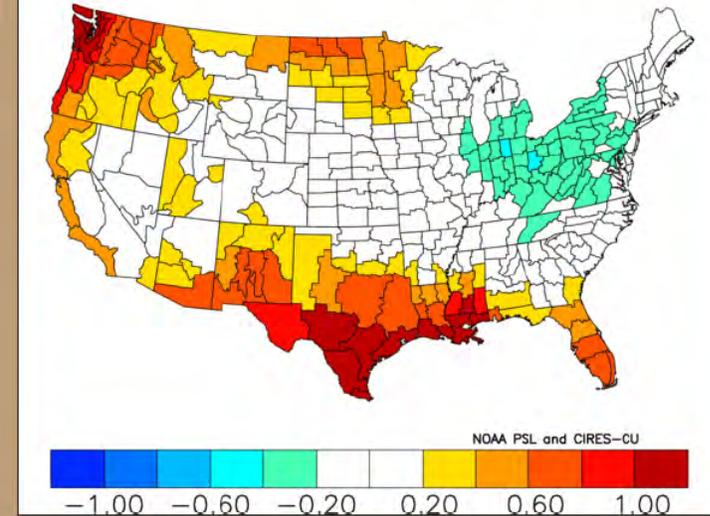
Niña to Niño Precipitation Analogs

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Standardized Precipitation Anomalies
Jun to Sep 2023,2018,2015,2009,1997
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



Niña to Niño Temperature Analogs

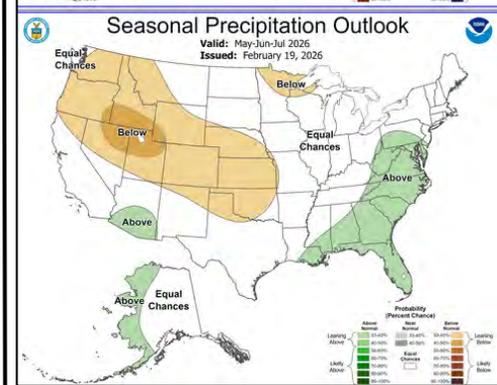
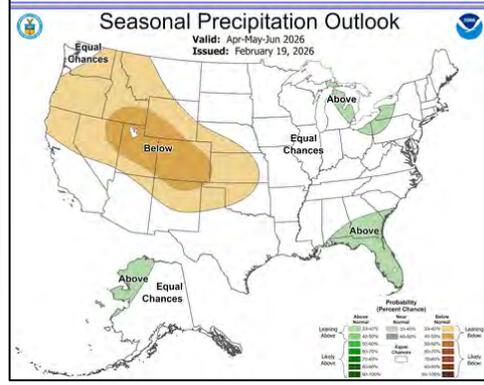
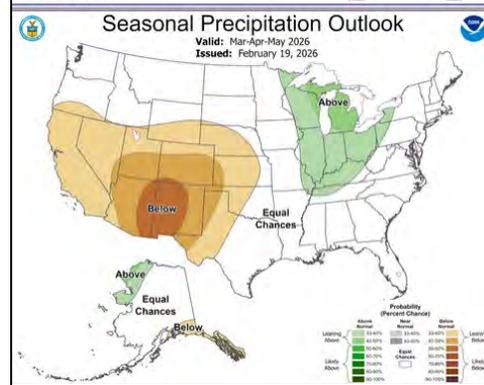
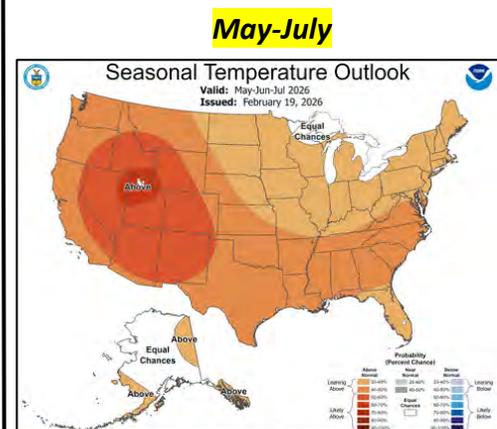
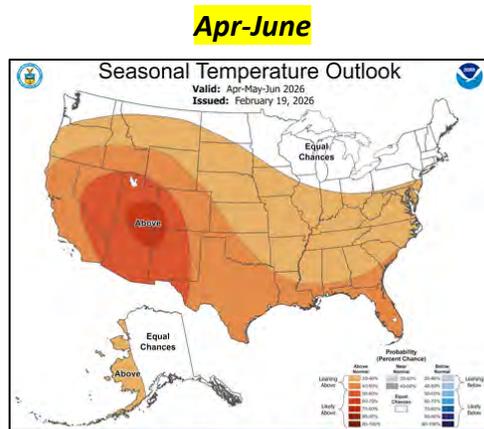
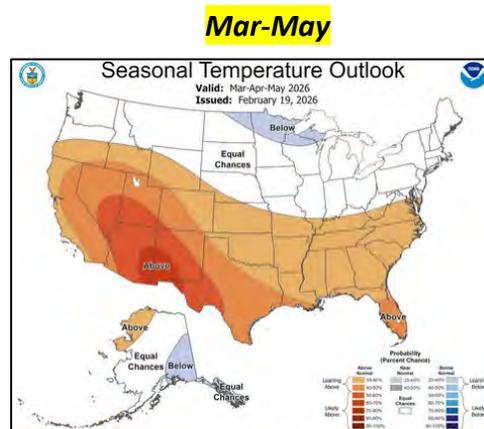
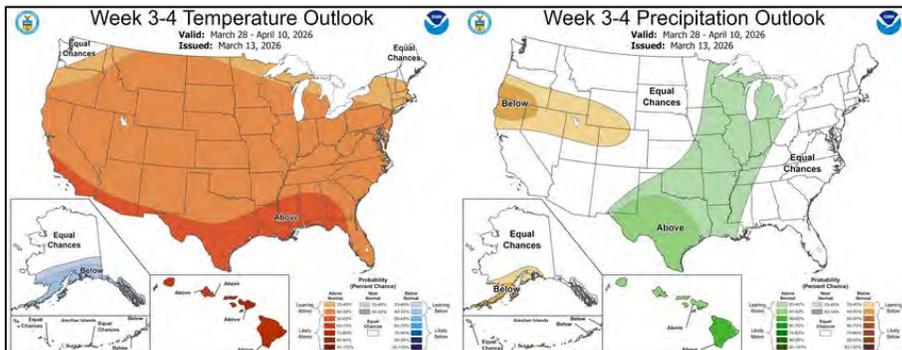
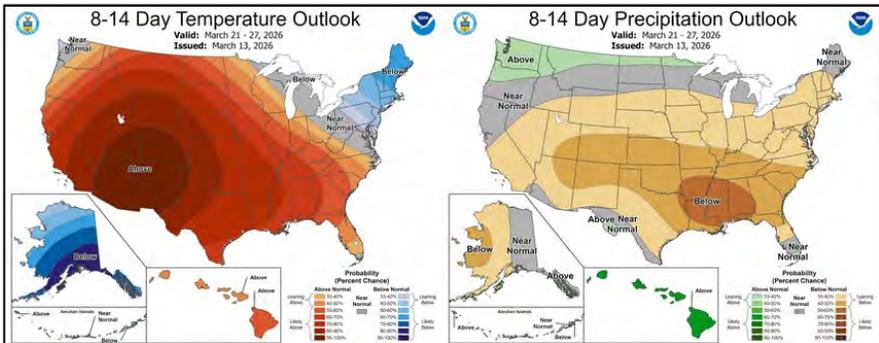
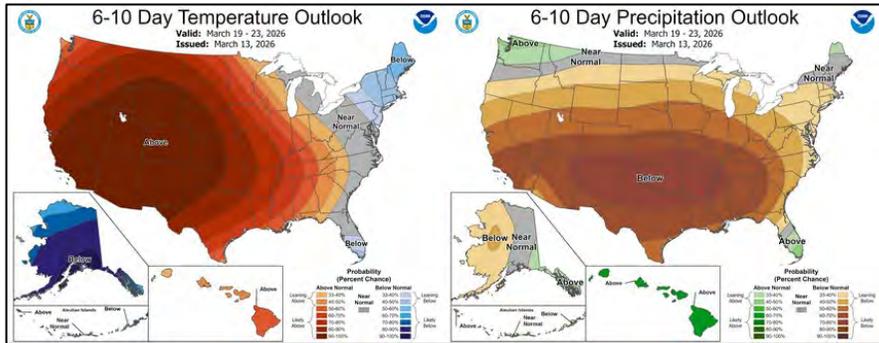
NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Standardized Temperature Anomalies
Jun to Sep 2023,2018,2015,2009,1997
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



- **Analogs for June to September, based on quick ENSO transitions from La Niña to El Niño**
- **Strong signal for hot and dry conditions resulting in flash drought for the Gulf states**
- **Potentially wetter and milder across the northern tier**
- **El Niño usually increases shear over the Atlantic basin, but as in 2023, if Atlantic waters are also unusually warm, it could be a busier hurricane season**

Temp & Precip Outlook

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



Last Updated by CPC on February 19th

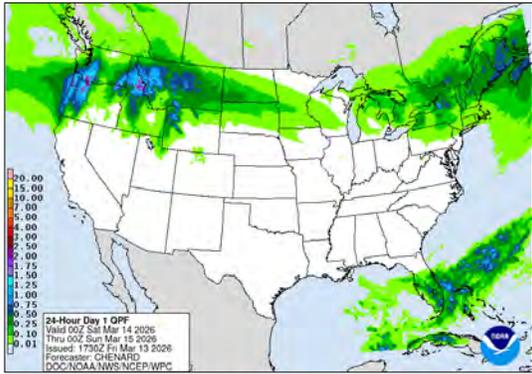
Source: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/fxus05.html

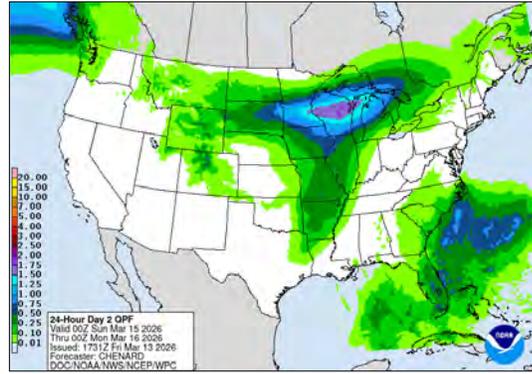
Quantitative Precipitation Forecast, 7-Day

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

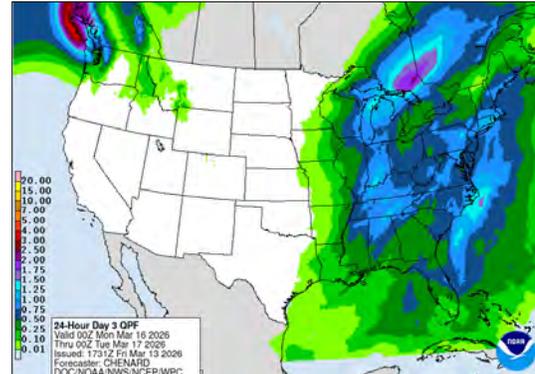
Day - 1



Day - 2



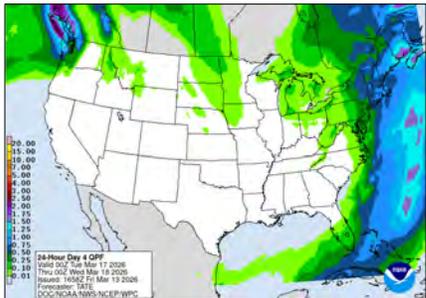
Day - 3



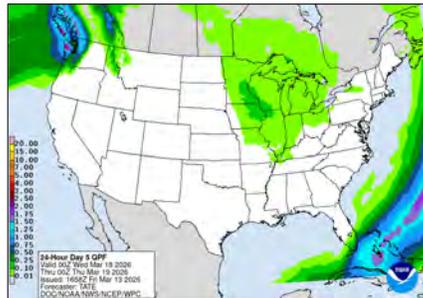
Zoom - Days 1 - 7 QPF



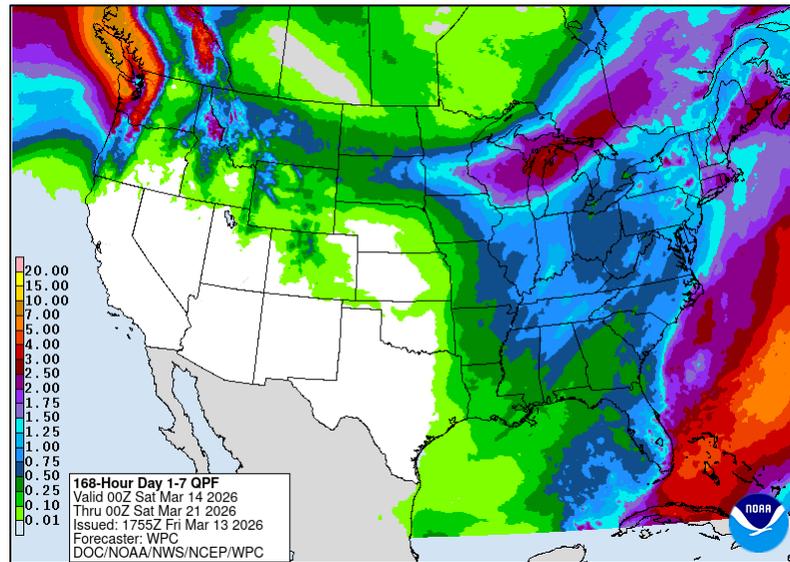
Day - 4



Day - 5



Days 1 - 7 QPF



Day - 6



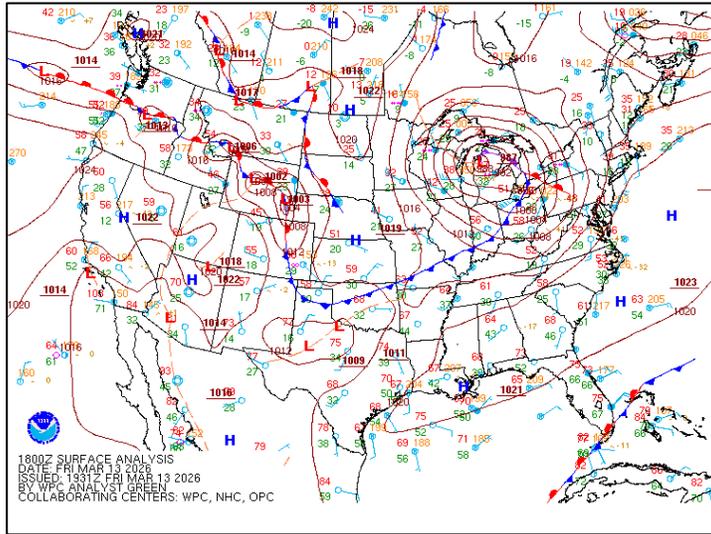
Day - 7



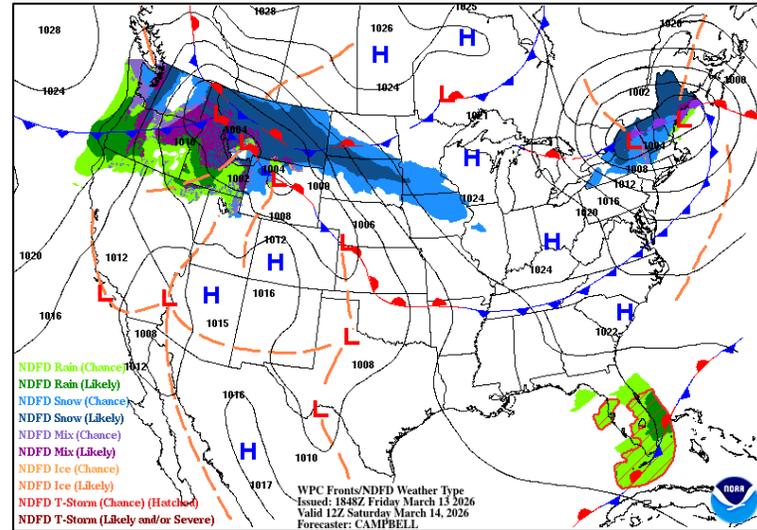
Precip amounts later in forecast period are generally much more uncertain, likely to shift or trend lower for NC.

WPC Forecasted Surface Fronts & Sea-Level Pressures

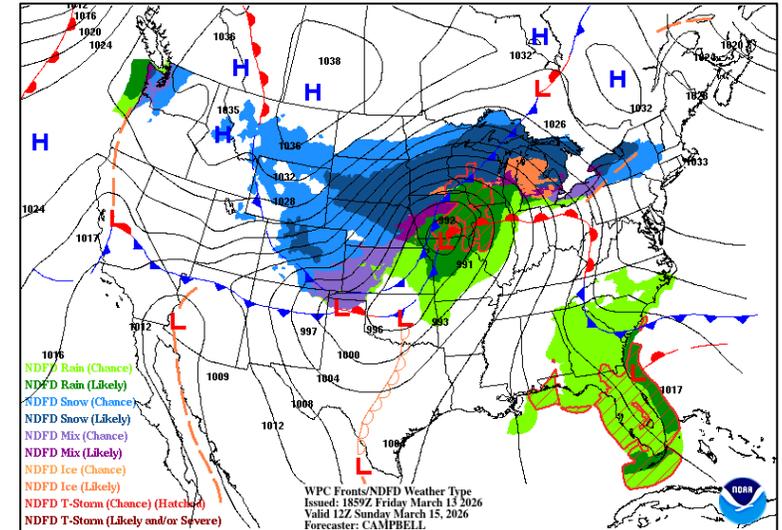
Day-1 @ 18Z Surface Analysis



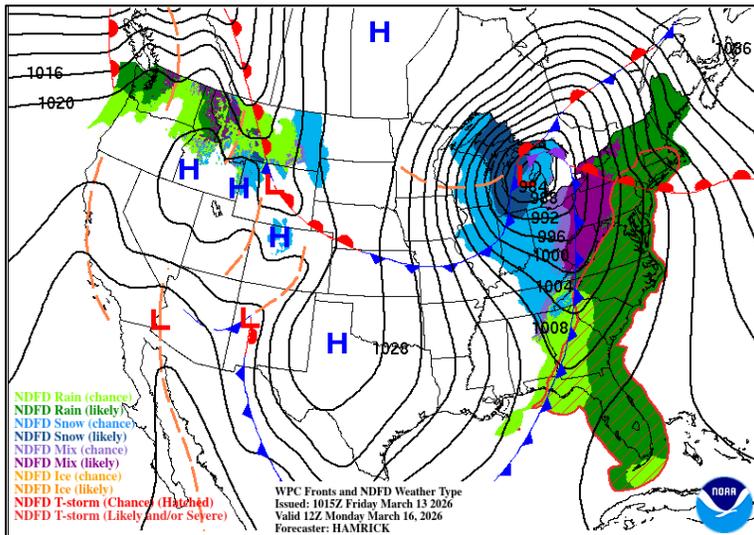
Day 2 - @ 12Z (0700 EST)



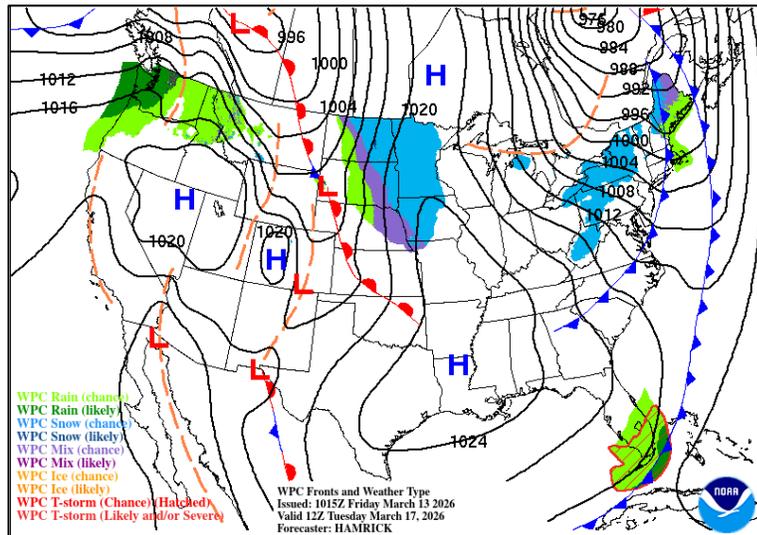
Day 3 @ 12Z (0700 EST)



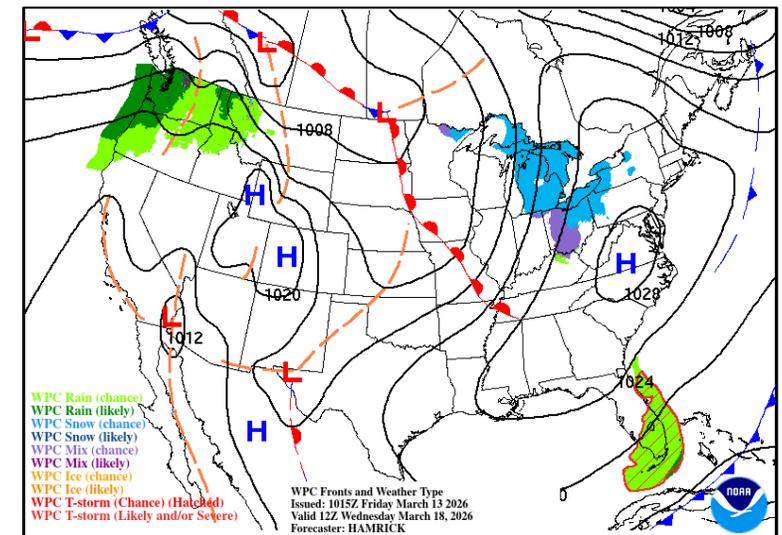
Day 4 @ 12Z (0700 EST)



Day 5 @ 12Z (0700 EST)

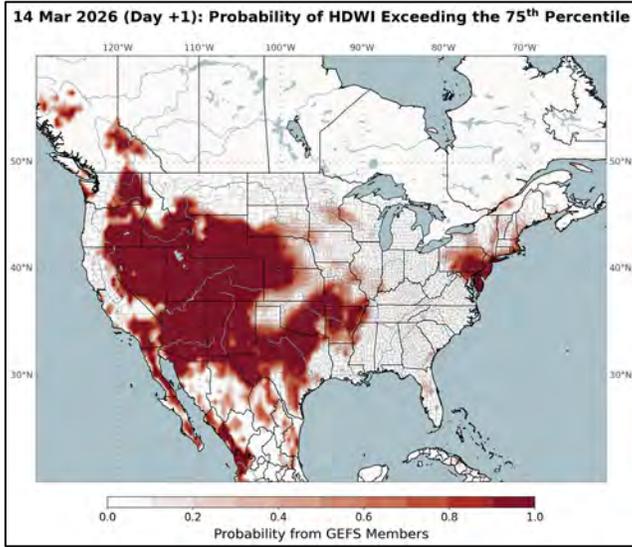


Day 6 @ 12Z (0700 EST)

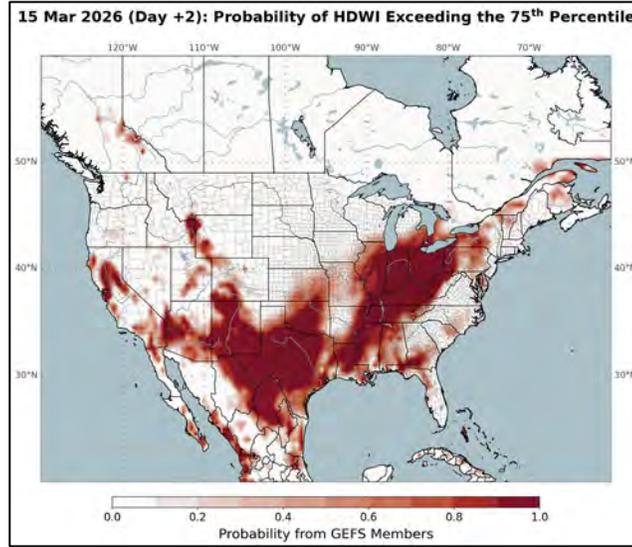


Hot-Dry-Windy Index (HDW)

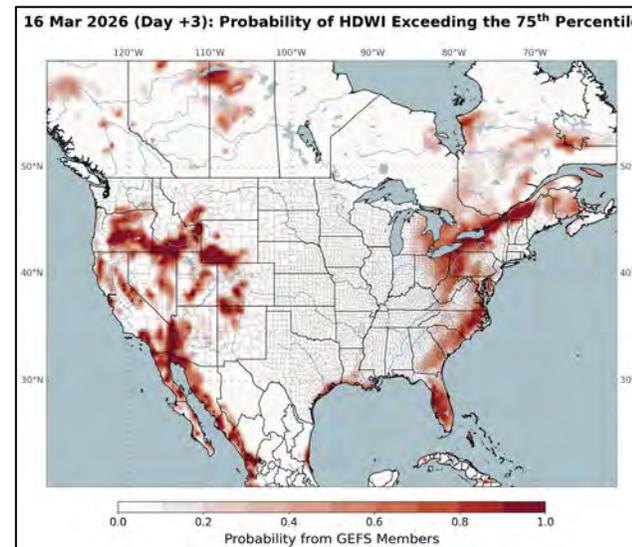
Saturday > 75th Percentile



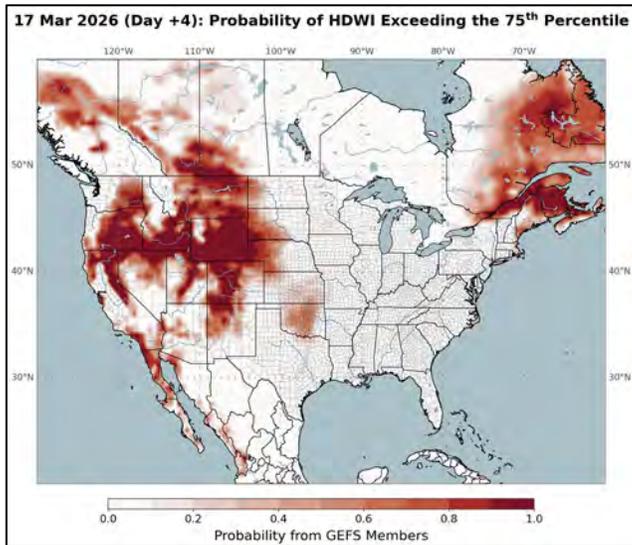
Sunday > 75th Percentile



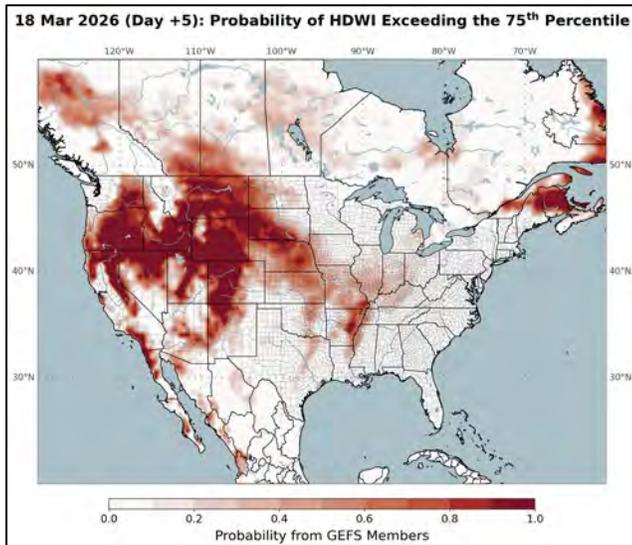
Monday > 75th Percentile



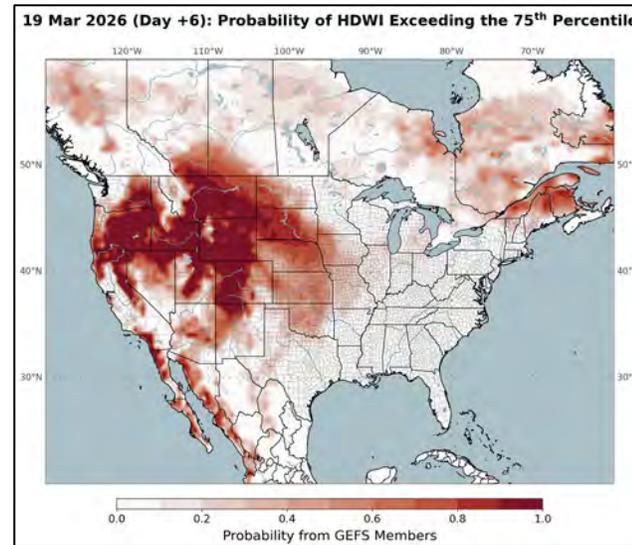
Tuesday > 75th Percentile



Wednesday > 75th Percentile

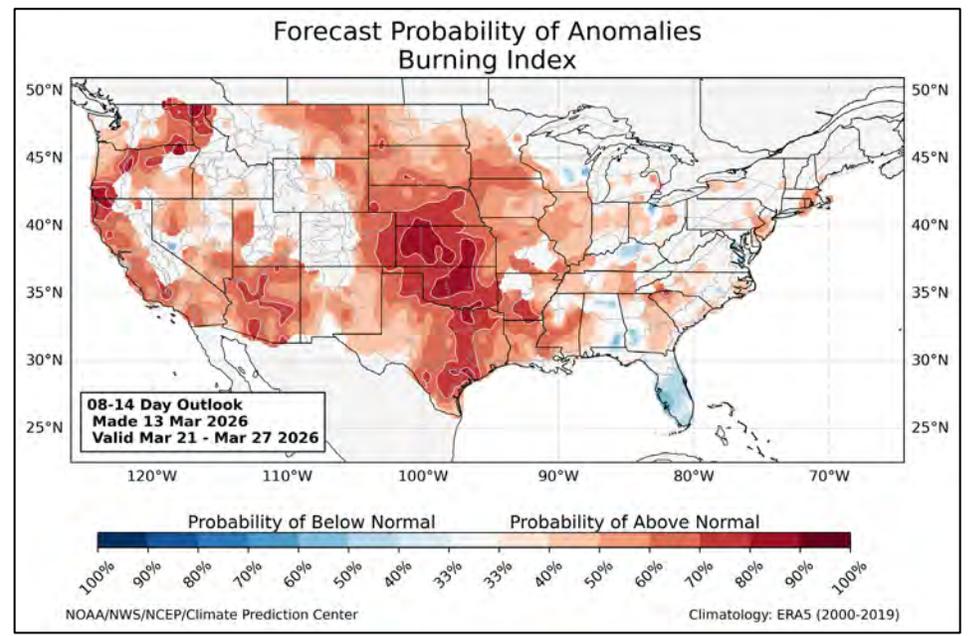
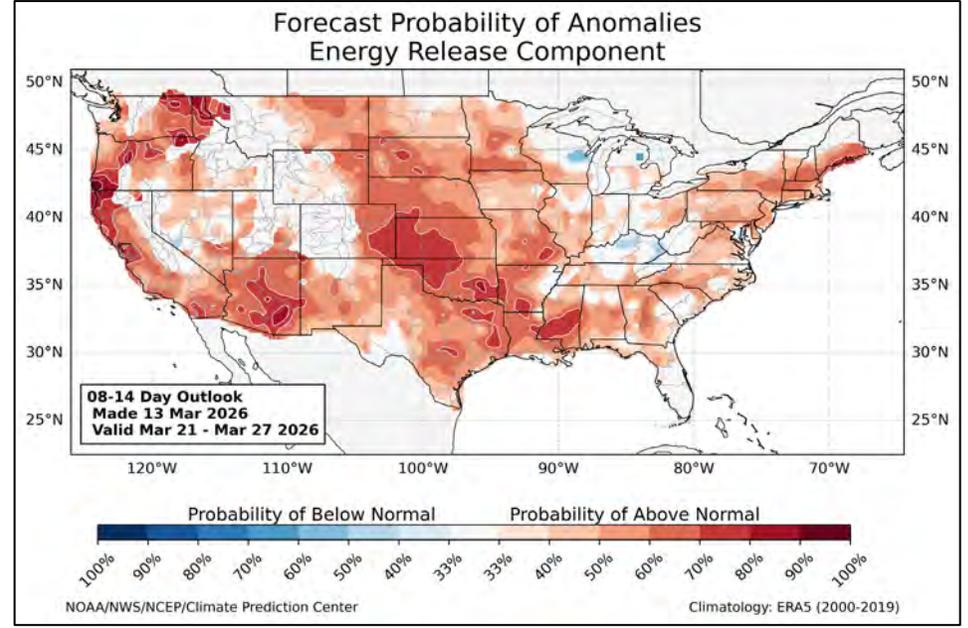
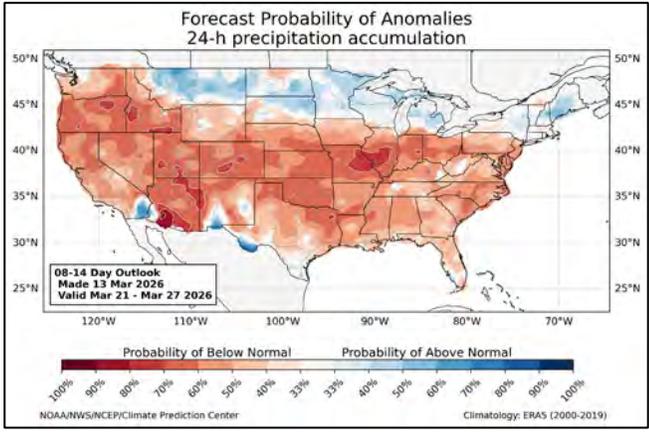
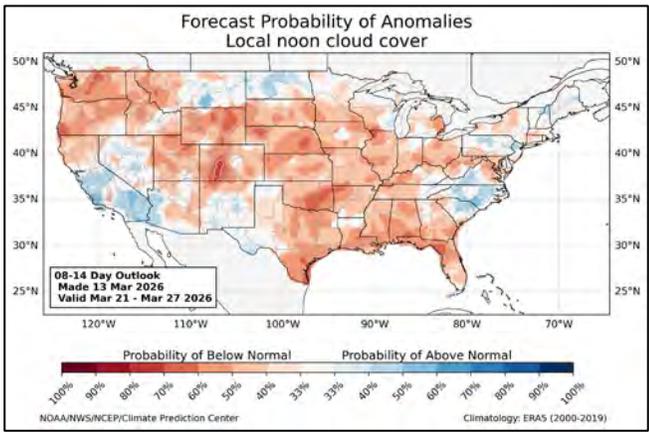
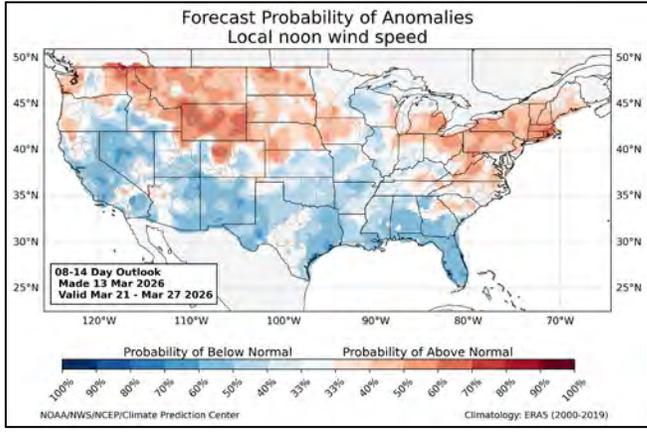
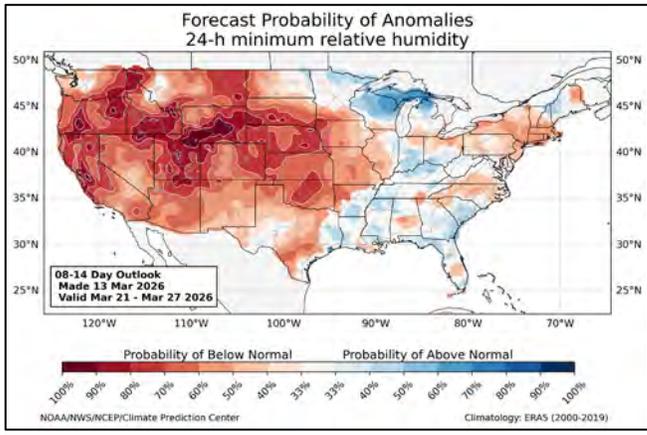
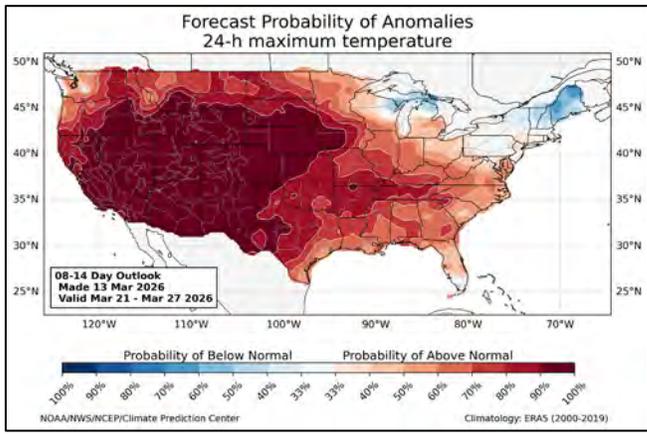


Thursday > 75th Percentile



- 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: 3/21 - 3/27



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

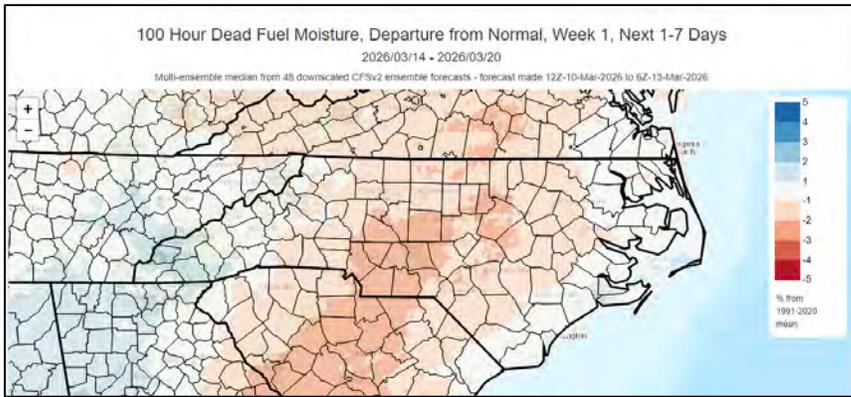
Favoring warmer than normal temps, and less precip. Model then applies those weather variables to show potential for elevated BI & ERC at week two for much of the SE. Remember to apply this in seasonal context.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/xtremes/fire-weather/cpc_wk2fw_index.html

Modeled Departure from Normal by Week: 100-hr Fuels

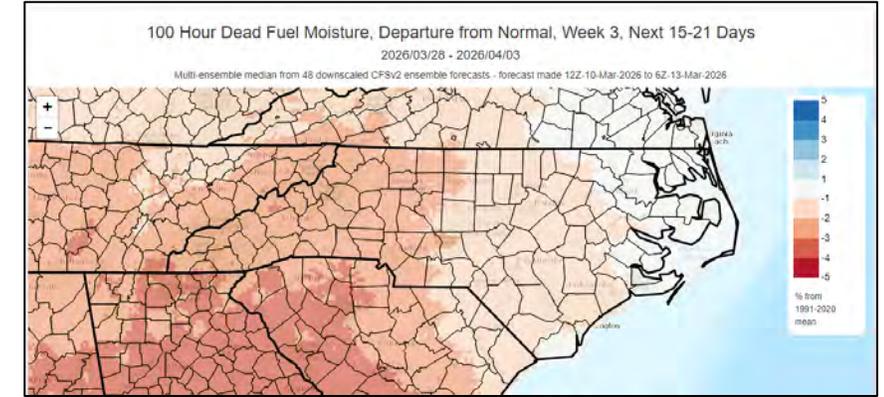
Output relies on experimental forecast outputs and is subject to change

Week-1



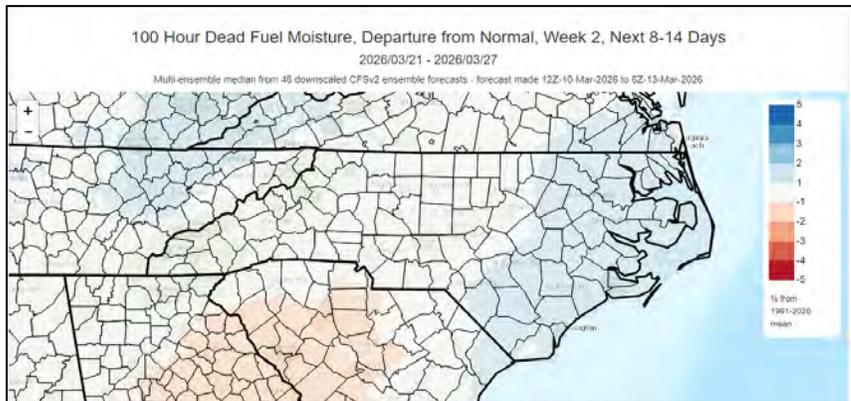
This output can provide insight into general drying trends and potential impacts to overall fire danger, especially prior to full green-up or in drought conditions. Outputs relate to interactions of warmer/colder temps, moist/dry air masses, precip amt/duration, wind and overnight RH recovery trends.

Week-3



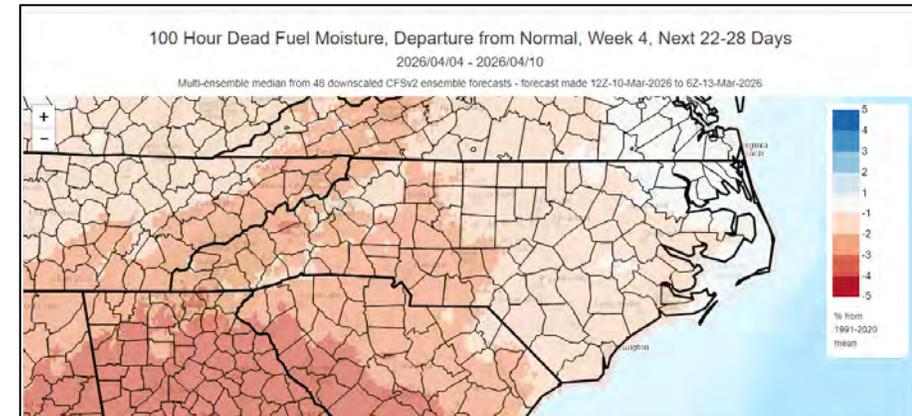
Note that modeled impacts of warmer/drier conditions (lower % mc or “worse”) are focused most intensely on Weeks 1, 3, and 4.

Week-2



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 Thursday & Friday

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

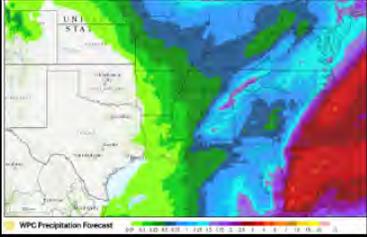


SACC Daily Outlook



Thursday, March 12, 2026

Forecast Precipitation the Next Week



WPC Precipitation Forecast

- Precipitation amounts over 1" are possible this morning in the eastern Appalachians to GA and northwest FL, but most areas farther east will see light amounts, with a few spots missing out on wetting rain, especially over the FL peninsula.
- As the front stalls near South FL into early next week, increasing showers and thunderstorms will be likely; weekly totals there could locally be as high as 3-5" with mostly lower amounts; dry weather should return there by the middle of next week.
- The next front moving in on Sunday and exiting the East Coast Monday could bring some 0.5-1.5" rainfall totals to the Mid-Mississippi and Tennessee Valleys, with generally lower amounts farther east, except perhaps near the coastal Carolinas, where moisture will be more prevalent ahead of the front; severe storms will be likely along the front Sunday into Monday, bringing widespread wind damage and the potential for a tornado outbreak.
- Other than the potential for some of these thunderstorms to graze eastern OK and TX into AR and LA Sunday, most of the western half of the region will be dry for the foreseeable future.

Brief Shot of Arctic Air Next Week



Arctic Air Forecast

- Conditions behind the cold front passing Sunday into Monday will turn abnormally cold for a few days; temperature anomalies Tuesday are depicted.
- With the rapid onset of green-up over the last couple of weeks, there will be a risk for a killing freeze, generally over the Appalachians and Piedmont – gusty winds may accompany the cold temperatures in the mountains Tuesday morning, leading to wind chills near zero; lighter winds are expected Wednesday morning in the Appalachians.
- Frost is possible in parts of the interior Gulf coastal plain Tuesday and eastern coastal plain Wednesday.
- After some colder weather Sunday into Monday in OK and TX, much warmer weather will begin to return to the region by Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Dry air will accompany this cold spell, leading to quick drying of fire fuels in the region.

Week Two Outlook



8-14 Day Outlook

- An historic heat wave in the West during the week ahead is likely to spread east into the Southern Area late next week into much of the rest of March.
- Above normal temperatures are favored in most of the geographic area, likely reaching into the eastern states later in the period.
- Highs well into the 90s will expand across the Plains, with some unusual 100-degree readings possible.
- Dry desert air will likely affect the Plains during this period, while most of the eastern states will also see a continued drying trend.
- Precipitation is at least slightly favored to be below average in most of the geographic area, with lower confidence near the Rio Grande in TX, the FL peninsula and northern VA.
- Fuels will continue to dry out quickly in most areas, and fire activity will increase accordingly.

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

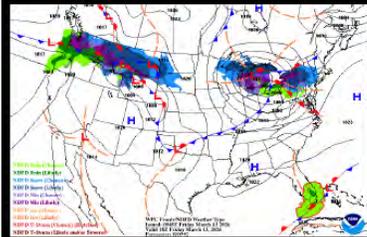


SACC Daily Outlook



Friday, March 13, 2026

Today's Weather Outlook at 1pm EDT



Today's Weather Outlook

- High pressure sitting over the northern Gulf coast will help to keep a large portion of the Southern Area dry today.
- A stalled front, just south of FL, will keep a potential for showers and thunderstorms in the forecast for South FL and the FL Keys.
- A cold front is forecast to move into OK and the TX Panhandle from the north this morning then slowly drifts south and sees a portion of the front stall as a weak surface low over Central TX has an opposing southerly flow into OK and a northerly flow drops the front further south, into West TX bringing a very dry air mass into West TX.

Watches, Warnings and Advisories as of 8 am EDT This Morning



Watches, Warnings and Advisories

- There is a Fire Weather Watch for portions of the Trans-Pecos near El Paso, TX for today.
- There are Wind Advisories in effect for Central and western KY as well as the northern mountains in VA for today.
- There are isolated Flood Warnings in effect in LA, AR, MS, and AL for river flooding.
- Frost Advisories in AL and GA are set to expire at this morning.

Precipitation from 8am EDT Thursday Through 8am EDT Friday



Precipitation Outlook

- Some rain fell over the Southern Area in the Appalachians and areas east of the mountains, plus the eastern half of GA and FL.
- Amounts varied greatly across this area, with anywhere from a trace up to around an inch.

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



SACC Daily Outlook



Friday, March 13, 2026

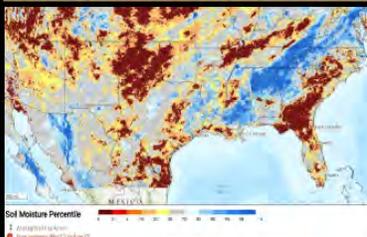
SPC's Fire Weather Outlook Today and Tomorrow



SPC's Fire Weather Outlook

- The Storm Prediction Center has an area of **Elevated** concern in the TX and OK Panhandles, as well as a portion of the Trans-Pecos today.

NASA SPoRT 0-40 cm Soil Moisture Percentage as of March 12, 2026, at 8pm EDT



NASA SPoRT Soil Moisture

- The Southern Area is seeing large areas of both very dry and near or at 100% of soil moisture.
- The driest areas are in the TX/OK Panhandles, West/Central OK, portions of South and Central TX, NE AR, South GA, North FL, West TN, KY, SC, and NC.
- The wettest areas are in southern MS, northern AL, East TN, the NC Mts, and VA.

8 to 14 Day Outlook



8-14 Day Outlook

- The Climate Prediction Center is forecasting much of the Southern Area to have the chances favor above normal temperatures, with the potential increasing from east to west.
- They are also forecasting precipitation to be below normal for most of the Southern Area, although the potential is not as high as it is for the temperatures.
- There are a couple of small areas showing a potential for near or above normal precipitation in South TX and South FL.

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

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook: *Updated 3/2/26*

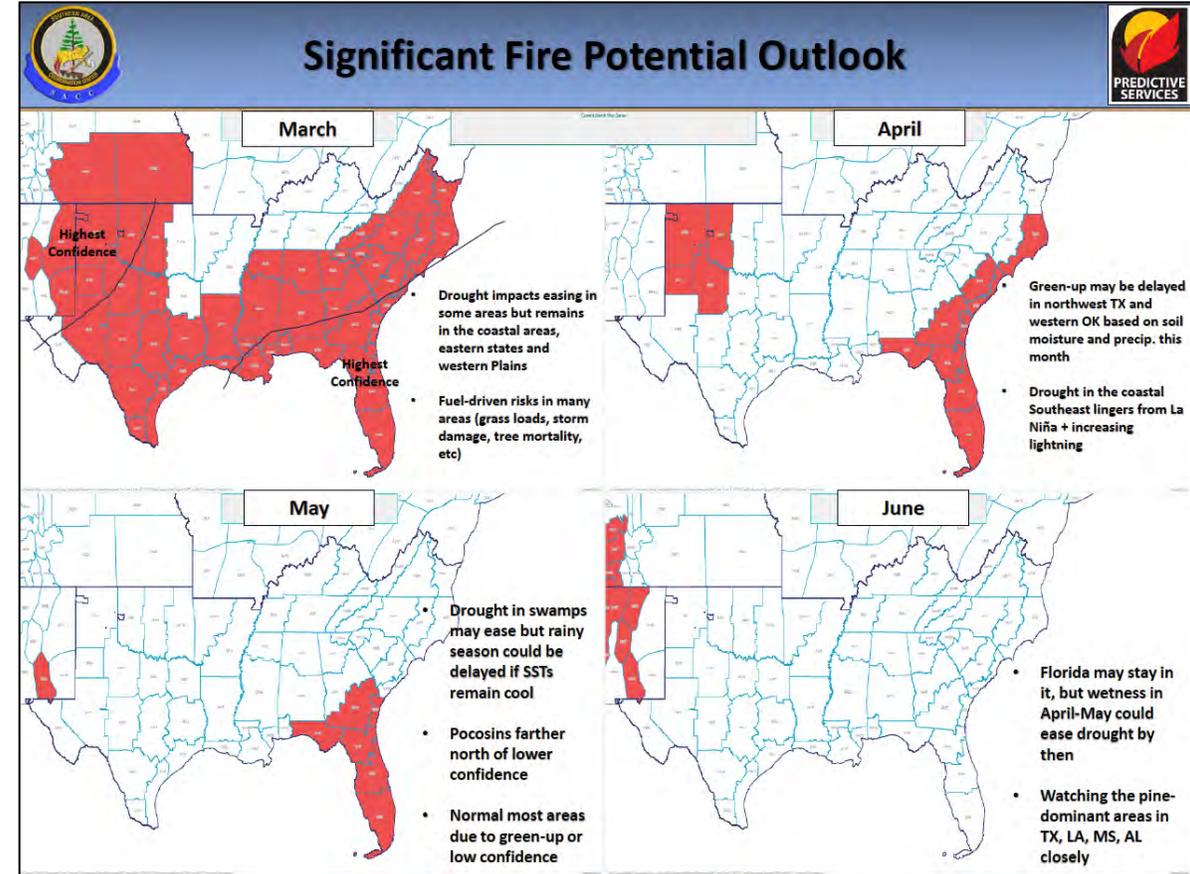
March



April



From SA Fire Environment Briefing 3/6/26



May



June



**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 – Spring 2026 Wildfire Risk Assessment

Southern Area Wildfire Risk Assessment

Spring 2026

Southern Area Decision Support Group

Issued: March 2, 2026



Please review the SA Wildfire Risk Assessment for Spring 2026 – it discusses overall regional concerns as well as fire effective weather patterns.

Take special note of “Appendix B – Critical Fire Weather and Environmental Conditions” starting on page 27. This is useful for anytime of year.



1

https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/resources/predictive/SASpringRiskAssessment_2026_final.pdf

Spring Assessment released
3/2/26

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.



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

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/predictive/outlooks/MountainWavesFactSheet.pdf>

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%



Fog Risk

- Current weather conditions have been favoring development of dense fog in many locations. These conditions can also enhance risk of smoke induced fog.
- Potential for “Smoke Induced Fog” or “Superfog” should be considered, along with mitigation measures, during both wildfire and prescribed fire incidents as we move towards Spring Greenup and soil moisture drawdown. Especially those areas with heavy duff, organic soils, and atypical amounts of heavy down & dead materials.
- Refer to the following links:
 - [Southern Fire Exchange Superfog Publication](#)
 - [NWCG - Smoke and Roadway Safety Pocket Card](#)
 - [NWCG – Smoke and Roadway Safety Guide](#)



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).
 - Fire Danger Outputs from these newly added stations have stabilized & are included in FWIP
 - ASOS stations have been removed from SIG groups & previous ECONet Stations have been added back to SIG groups.

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

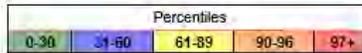
- Weather and fire occurrence data (2010–2024) have been processed to establish initial working breakpoints for FEMS/V4 outputs for North Carolina.
- Interim analysis has been completed – now driving fire danger products (e.g., adjective ratings and hazard levels) utilizing FM-Z and the 2010-2024 period 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 90th 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 97th 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:

Updated 3/12/26

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	Dare Bomb Range, Elizabeth City, Fairfield, Greens Cross, Pocosin Lakes NWR	0
Southern Coastal Plain	Beaufort, CL1 Sandy Run, 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**, Warrenton	0
Sand Hills	Fort Bragg, Horseshoe House, Rockingham, Sandhills RS**	0
Western Piedmont	Caswell Game Land, Duke Forest, Lexington, Mt Island Lake	0
Blue Ridge Escarpment	North Cove Pinnacle, Raven Knob, Redezvous Mtn, Rutherford Co Hq, Taylorsville (Lenior)	0
Central Mountains	Davidson River, Guion Farms, Mtn Hort RS**, Seven Mile Ridge	0
Northern Highlands	Busick, Jessen Station, Upper Mtn RS**	0
Southern Highlands	Highlands, Jackson County, Locust Gap, Tusquitee	0

- Period of Record Issues remain with all ECONet Stations and some Satellite RAWS.
- **ECONet Stations have been added to FEMS & are now back in SIG groups, as noted above.**
- **Red Colored Stations** = Added Satellite RAWS, ** Denoted Stations = ECONet Stations added back to SIG on 3/12/26,

Fire Weather Intelligence Portal – Current Links & Notes

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 have been implemented effective 3/12/26. The new versions automatically replaced the older versions.

- [Public Facing Fire Danger Page & Fire Danger Digest Table](#)
(NC ratings based on ERC-Z analysis)
- [Station Viewer Portal](#)
(Past, Current, Forecast Conditions Tab)
*HOURLY Station Fire Danger Observations have been added on the PAST and CURRENT Conditions Tabs, as of 3/6/26
- [Hazard Assessment Tool](#)
(based on ERC-Z/BI-Z or ERC-Z/IC-Z depending on FDRA)
- [FEMS Forecast NFDRS Indices by Station](#)
- [FEMS Observed NFDRS Indices by Station](#)
- [Quality Control Viewer Tool](#)
- [Summary Site – Supplemental Tools](#)

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

Examples of Changes to FWIP – [Daily Summary Tool](#) (Observed and Forecasts)

Daily Summary Tool

State: North Carolina

Station Grouping: By District By FDRA

Data Type: Observations Forecasts

Analysis Date: Mar 13, 2026

Load Options

Daily Summary for North Carolina: Estimates on March 13, 2026

The tables below include this day's summary of fire danger estimates and weather observations, grouped by Fire Danger Rating Area.

Data Notes

- 🕒 **Time Period:** All data begins at midnight local time today. The latest observation time is shown in the table header for each region.
- ⚠️ **Today's Data:** These estimates may not reflect the maximum daily fire danger if those conditions haven't occurred yet.
- 📄 **Fuel Model:** Fire danger data uses the default fuel model for each station's Fire Danger Rating Area.
- 📊 **Percentiles:** For SIG stations in this state's Fire Danger Rating Areas, fire danger and fuel moisture data points are labeled and color-coded with the corresponding percentile, based on all historical days between 2010 and 2024.
- 📅 **Statistics:** For SIG stations in this state's Fire Danger Rating Areas, fire danger data is labeled with corresponding historical percentiles and KBDI departures from monthly normals. This is based on FDRA-averaged data between 2010 and 2024.

Jump to FDRA: Go

Blue Ridge Escarpment

Permalink
Download Data
Screenshot

Station Details			Fire Danger and Fuel Moisture Data								Weather Data				
FEMS ID	NAME/NETWORK	MOD	MAX BI	MAX ERC	MAX IC	MAX SC	KBDI	MIN 1HR	MIN 10HR	MIN 100HR	MIN 1000H	MAX TEMP	MIN RHUM	MAX GUST	TOTAL PRCP
314301	North Cove Pinn... ▲ RAWS ★ SIG Station Last FEMS Ob: 3 pm	Z	35.8 53%	46.0 54%	11.9 64%	4.7 55%	102 +58	9.1% 38%	13.6% 65%	18.9% 73%	20.2% 65%	56°F (3 pm)	32% (3 pm)	16 MPH (11 AM)	0.00 IN.
316302	Rutherford Coun... ▲ RAWS ★ SIG Station Last FEMS Ob: 4 pm	Z	58.9 97%	44.2 48%	21.7 91%	15.2 99%	156 +112	8.7% 38%	14.5% 65%	19.5% 73%	20.4% 65%	61°F (3 pm)	28% (3 pm)	27 MPH (2 pm)	0.00 IN.
312001	Rendezvous Mtn... ▲ RAWS ★ SIG Station Last FEMS Ob: 4 pm	Z	72.2 100%	51.6 69%	27.0 96%	19.4 100%	80 +38	8.4% 25%	13.2% 55%	17.2% 48%	19.2% 51%	57°F (3 pm)	30% (3 pm)	29 MPH (11 AM)	0.00 IN.
313601	Taylorsville (1... ▲ RAWS ★ SIG Station Last FEMS Ob: 4 pm	Z	54.8 94%	42.7 46%	20.5 89%	12.8 97%	43 -1	8.8% 38%	14.7% 71%	19.7% 81%	20.8% 81%	58°F (4 pm)	31% (4 pm)	25 MPH (3 pm)	0.00 IN.
310301	Raven Knob (sur... ▲ RAWS ★ SIG Station Last FEMS Ob: 3 pm	Z	40.6 70%	43.4 46%	13.9 72%	6.6 75%	67 +23	9.1% 38%	15.7% 77%	19.2% 73%	19.7% 65%	56°F (2 pm)	29% (2 pm)	23 MPH (2 pm)	0.00 IN.
55522342	Pilot Mountain ▲ RAWS Last FEMS Ob: 4 pm	Z	46.4 (3 pm)	42.7 (4 pm)	14.7 (4 pm)	9.5 (3 pm)	84	9.3% (4 pm)	15.2% (4 pm)	19.0% (11 AM)	20.8% (4 pm)	59°F (3 pm)	29% (1 pm)	21 MPH (2 pm)	0.00 IN.
55522637	Hickory Regiona... → ASOS Last FEMS Ob: 4 pm	Z	65.2 (4 pm)	46.5 (4 pm)	23.3 (4 pm)	17.2 (4 pm)	295	9.0% (4 pm)	14.3% (4 pm)	19.2% (1 AM)	18.6% (2 pm)	58°F (3 pm)	32% (3 pm)	29 MPH (2 pm)	0.00 IN.

- Summary at Bottom of Page (either by FDRA or by District)
- Make sure to read descriptions at top of page, as there are slight differences between forecast, observed, etc.

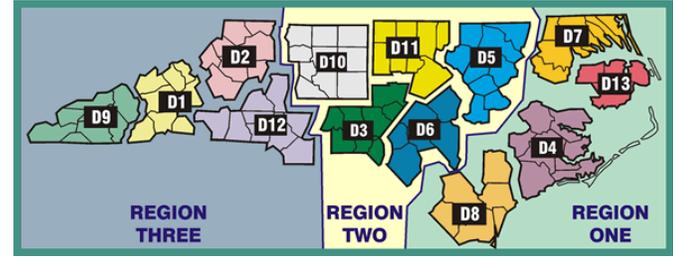
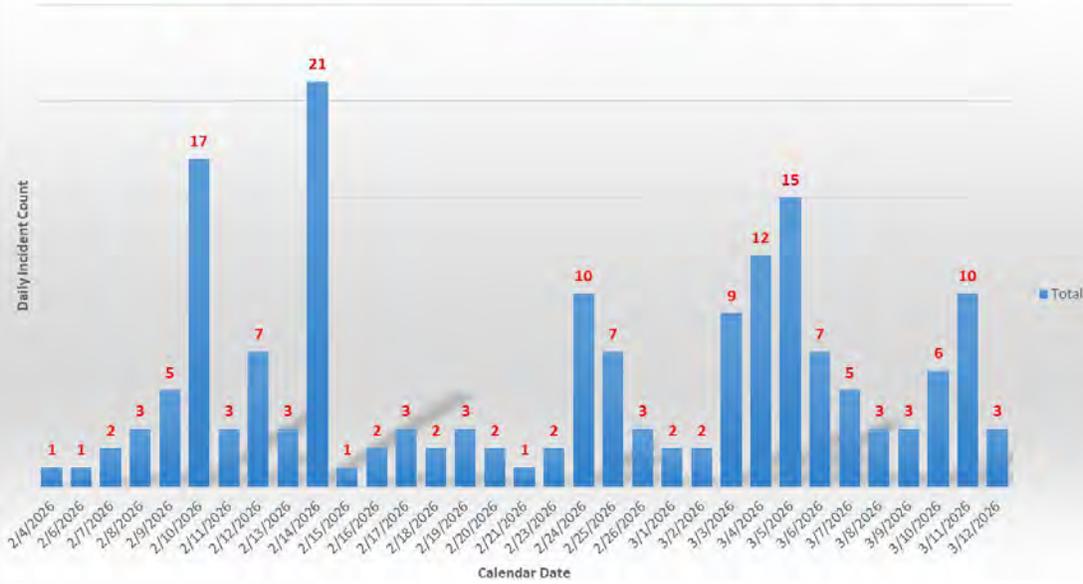
Summary by Region

Permalink
Download Data
Screenshot

Note: FDRA averages include **only the SIG stations** in each region with data available today

Region Details			Fire Danger and Fuel Moisture Averages								Weather Averages				
FDRA	NUM STN	MOD	MAX BI	MAX ERC	MAX IC	MAX SC	KBDI	MIN 1HR	MIN 10HR	MIN 100HR	MIN 1000H	MAX TEMP	MIN RHUM	MAX GUST	TOTAL PRCP
Southern Highlands	4	Z	38.4 63%	40.3 50%	15.3 82%	6.9 74%	20 -3	8.6% 39%	14.2% 62%	21.6% 88%	21.9% 82%	59°F	27%	15 MPH	0.00 IN.
Central Mountains	4	Z	38.0 74%	41.8 54%	13.3 78%	6.1 80%	81 +30	9.1% 28%	14.8% 63%	20.0% 75%	20.9% 71%	57°F	30%	17 MPH	0.00 IN.
Northern Highlands	3	Z	50.9 97%	38.5 58%	12.6 84%	15.9 100%	33 +17	10.8% 39%	15.7% 62%	19.7% 69%	21.0% 64%	58°F	28%	17 MPH	0.00 IN.
Blue Ridge Escarpment	5	Z	52.4 90%	45.6 54%	19.0 86%	11.7 90%	90 +45	8.8% 38%	14.3% 65%	18.9% 75%	20.0% 65%	58°F	30%	24 MPH	0.00 IN.
Western Piedmont	4	Z	49.2 81%	41.4 38%	15.0 66%	11.1 90%	137 +90	9.0% 59%	16.1% 80%	18.6% 72%	20.3% 63%	58°F	28%	23 MPH	0.00 IN.
Sandhills	4	Z	48.8 77%	42.2 40%	15.9 64%	10.6 90%	184 +56	9.5% 50%	16.3% 81%	18.9% 71%	19.8% 66%	60°F	29%	22 MPH	0.00 IN.
Eastern Piedmont	5	Z	59.9 93%	35.9 29%	16.2 72%	20.2 99%	92 +48	10.5% 53%	17.5% 85%	20.0% 82%	20.8% 82%	57°F	31%	20 MPH	0.01 IN.
Southern Coast	8	Z	38.5 61%	40.0 48%	10.8 57%	7.1 71%	158 +49	10.3% 47%	16.0% 74%	19.7% 74%	20.2% 52%	61°F	38%	16 MPH	0.00 IN.
Northern Coast	5	Z	43.5 66%	37.7 44%	12.5 62%	9.4 75%	165 +105	10.3% 41%	17.7% 84%	19.7% 75%	20.2% 54%	58°F	32%	18 MPH	0.00 IN.

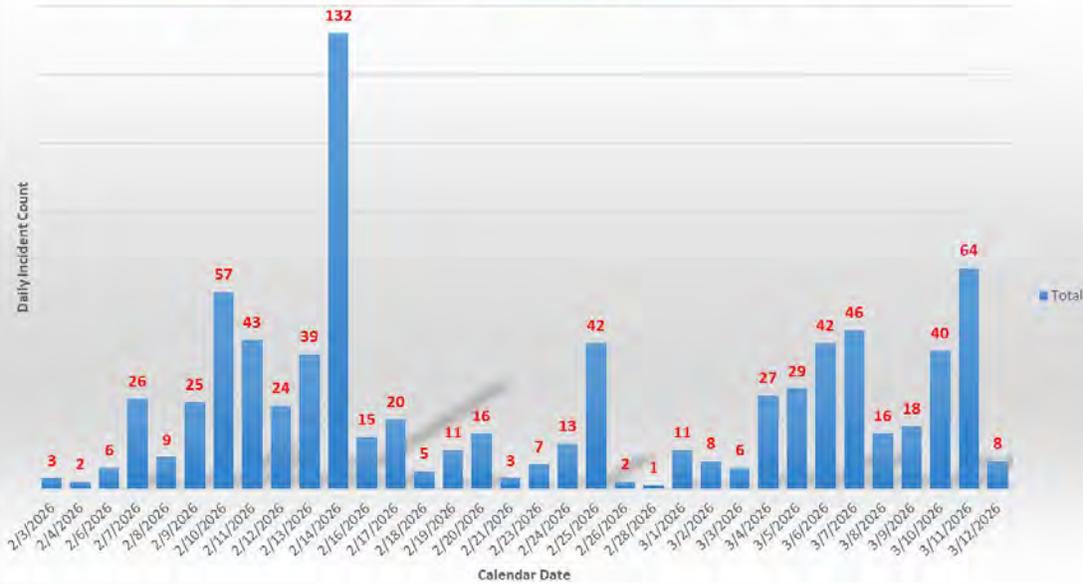
R1 fiResponse Incidents by Discovery Date (2/1 - 3/12, 2026)



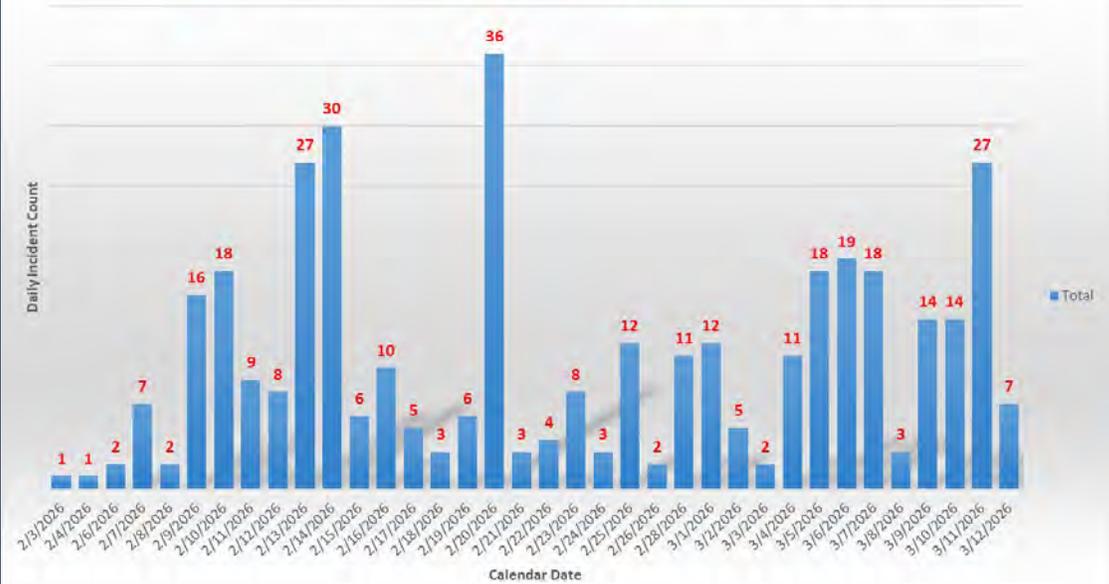
Distribution of fiResponse Incidents by Region & Daily Count from 2/1 to 3/12, 2026

Data is preliminary and subject to change

R2 fiResponse Incidents by Discovery Date (2/1 - 3/12, 2026)



R3 fiResponse Incidents by Discovery Date (2/1 - 3/12, 2026)



Overall Trends & Notes

- We've seen the pattern of very cold switch to very warm – leading to the start of greenup & a bump in overall Initial Attack (see previous slide) when fire effective weather aligned with dormant fuels.
- Overall, Difficulty of Control hasn't yet rebounded due to reasonable overnight recoveries and rounds of moisture that have helped maintain the shallow duff and larger dead fuel moistures (however limited).
- After the next significant frontal passage and short cold snap - the CPC is now favoring an extended period of above normal temperatures, and well below normal precip at both the 6-10 and 8-14 day periods for most of country. Weeks 3-4 are still favoring above average temps with equal chances of below or above precip for NC.
- The coming cold snap will be accompanied by dry air & likely lead to quick drying of fine fuels & generally, more poor overnight recoveries leading to declines in 10's and 100's. The expected warmup coming after several days of cold/dry air may help lead towards a significant bump in overall IA related to fuel dryness and typical progression of Spring Fire Season.
- We are still 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).
- Although dormancy is beginning to break in the typical early species, we are still many weeks away from effective canopy closure/wind interception/temperature moderation. Road shoulder/yard greening of cool season grasses is occurring in many areas, but may be negatively impacted by last night's drop in temps and the next round of frost/freeze risks. (Same issue for newly emerged shoots/leaves on other early tree & shrub species)

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

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						
	FRI MAR 6	SAT MAR 7	SUN MAR 8	MON MAR 9	TUE MAR 10	WED MAR 11	THU MAR 12	FRI MAR 13	SAT MAR 14	SUN MAR 15	MON MAR 16	TUE MAR 17	WED MAR 18	THU MAR 19
	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Extreme	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Southern Highlands	M	L	L	M	L	M	L	M	H	M	L	L	M	M
Central Mountains	M	M	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	M	M
Northern Highlands	M	M	L	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	L	M	M	L
Blue Ridge	M	M	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	M	M
Western Piedmont	M	M	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	M
Sandhills	M	M	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	M
Eastern Piedmont	M	M	L	M	L	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	M
Southern Coast	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	M	M
Northern Coast	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	L	L	M

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						
	FRI MAR 6	SAT MAR 7	SUN MAR 8	MON MAR 9	TUE MAR 10	WED MAR 11	THU MAR 12	FRI MAR 13	SAT MAR 14	SUN MAR 15	MON MAR 16	TUE MAR 17	WED MAR 18	THU MAR 19
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Southern Highlands	2	1	1	2	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	3	2	1
Central Mountains	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	1
Northern Highlands	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	1
Blue Ridge	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
Western Piedmont	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	2
Sandhills	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Eastern Piedmont	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2
Southern Coast	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	2
Northern Coast	2	2	1	1	2	3	1	3	2	2	1	1	1	1

- *Reminder of intermittent issues with FEMS data processing since 2/21.
- *Planned partial FEMS/WXx outage on Saturday Morning, ending around 1300.
- *Changes in actual precipitation amounts, min/max rh's and other weather variables have significant impact on the model as you go further out in forecast period.