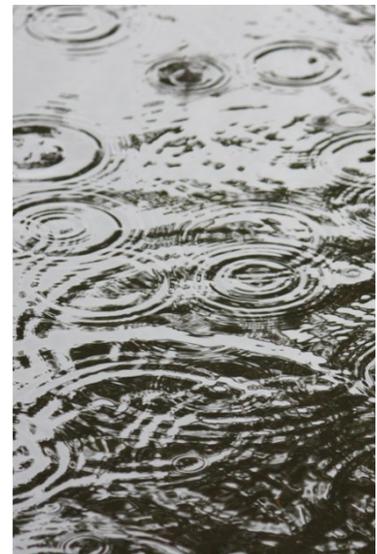


Hydrologic Conditions



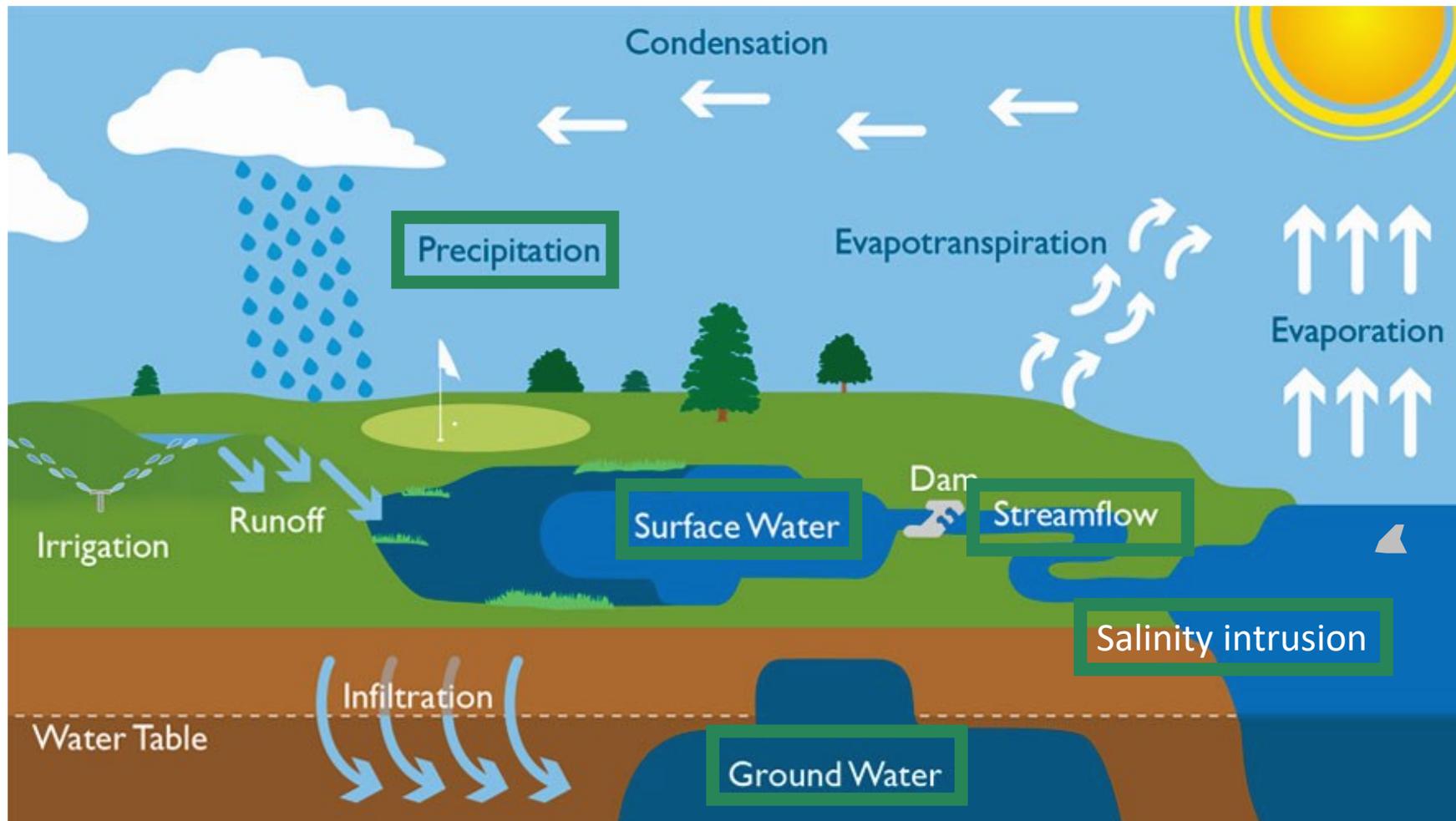
Amy Shallcross
Manager, Water Resource Operations
Sara Sayed
Water Resource Scientist

March 4th, 2026
DRBC 1Q Commission Meeting



The Hydrologic Cycle

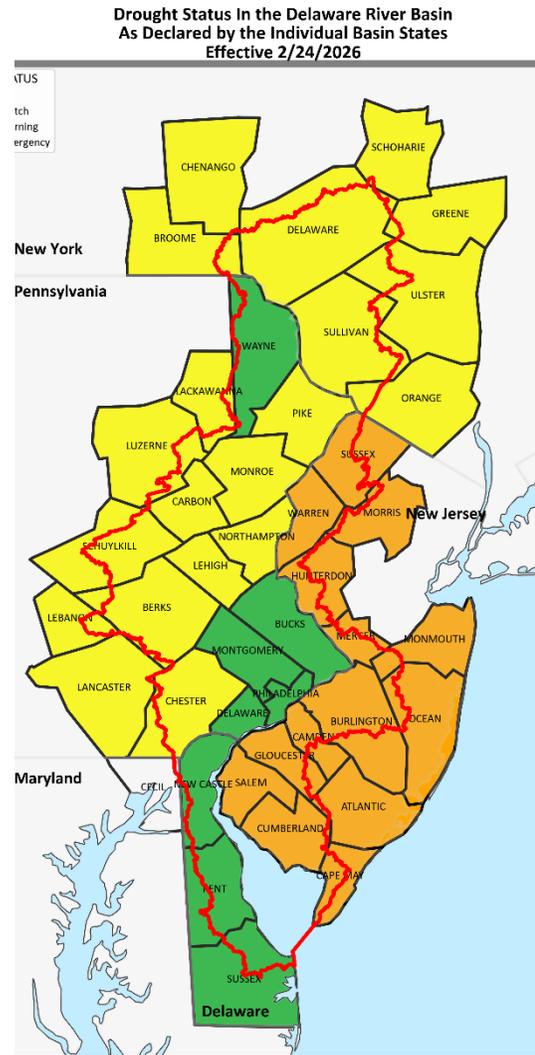
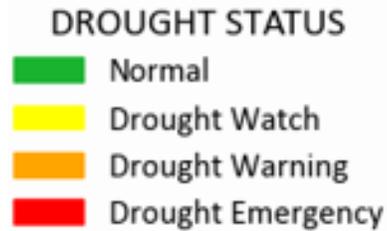
Water moves around the earth through air, soil, and over land.



Graphic courtesy of Pike County Soil Conservation District

State Drought Status

Dry conditions resulted in drought watches and warnings in PA, NJ and NY.



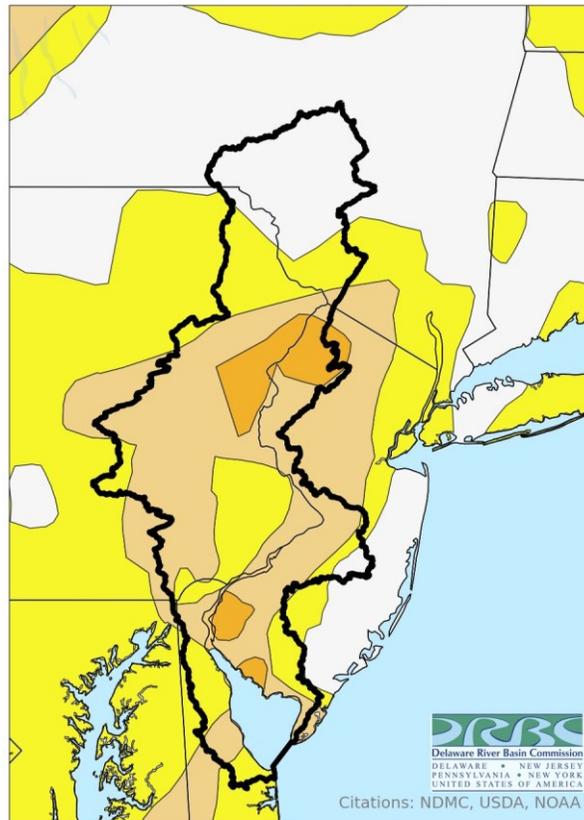
- DRBC flow operations are **normal**
- NY: Drought Watch as of December 2025
- NJ: Statewide drought warning as of December 2025
- PA: Drought Watch in all DRB counties except 5
- DE: Normal

As of 2/24/2026

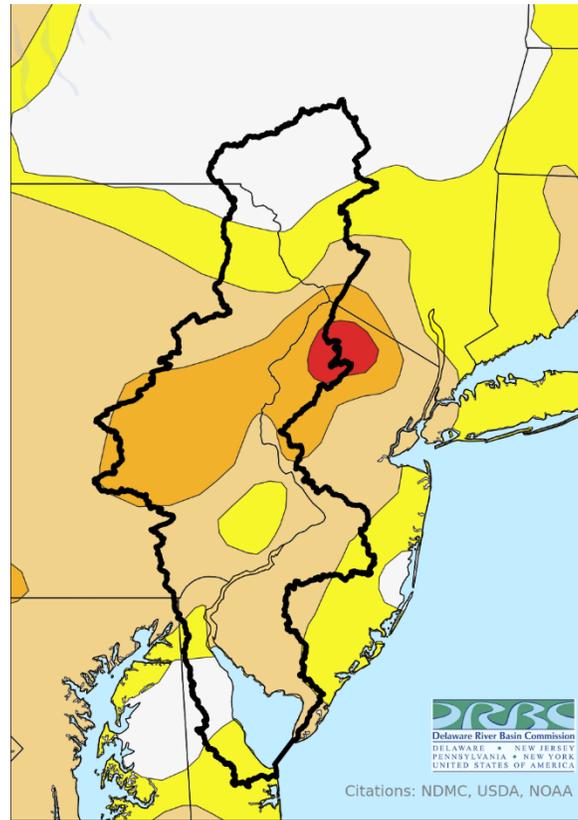
Drought Monitor

Basin drought conditions vary with normal conditions in NY and DE and severe drought in the middle.

December 2, 2025



February 24, 2026



The drought monitor considers:

- Precipitation
- Streamflow
- reservoir levels
- temperature
- evaporative demand
- soil moisture
- vegetation health.

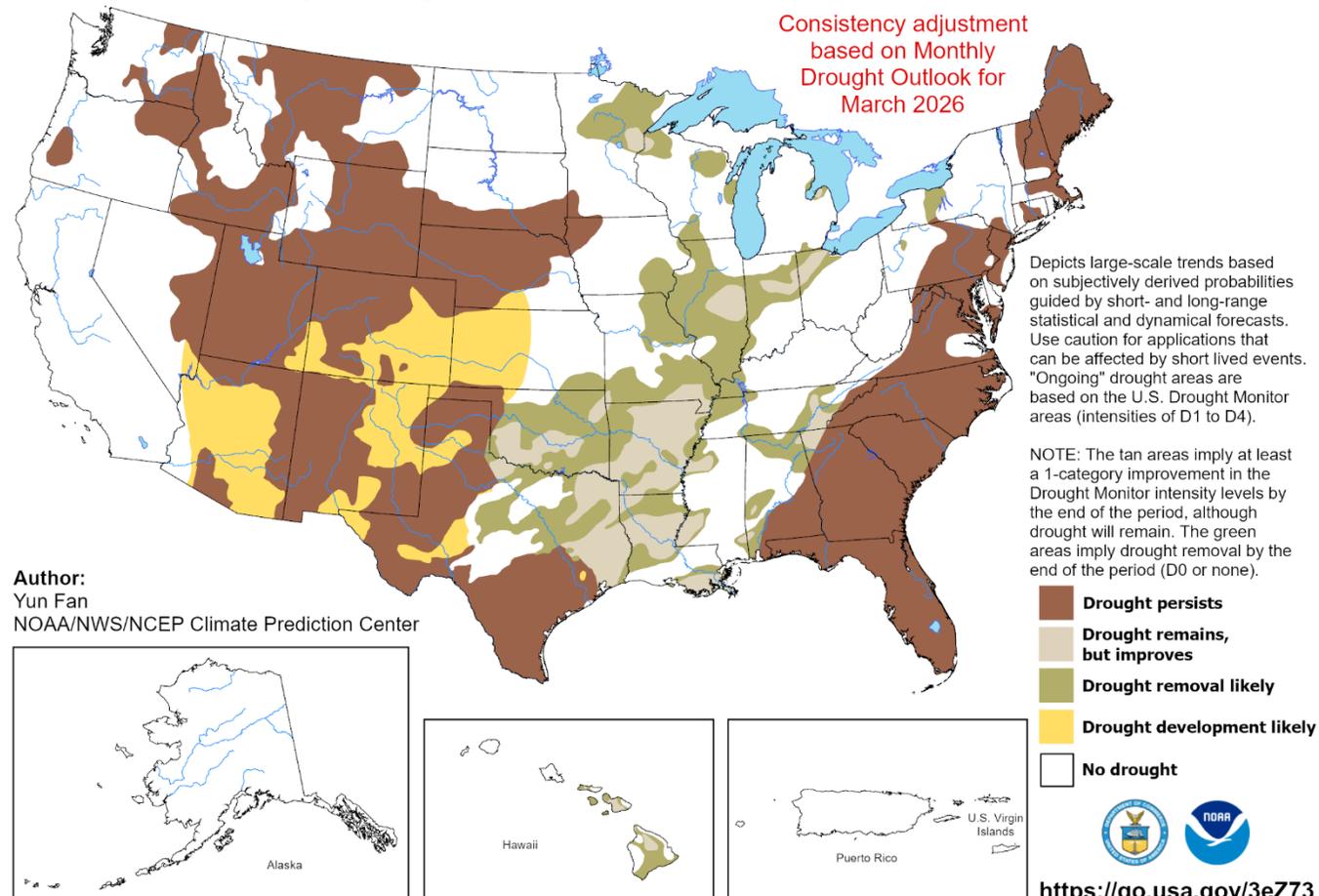
- Basin Boundary
- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought

NOAA Seasonal Drought Outlook: December 1– February 28, 2025

Drought conditions are expected to persist over the next 3 months.

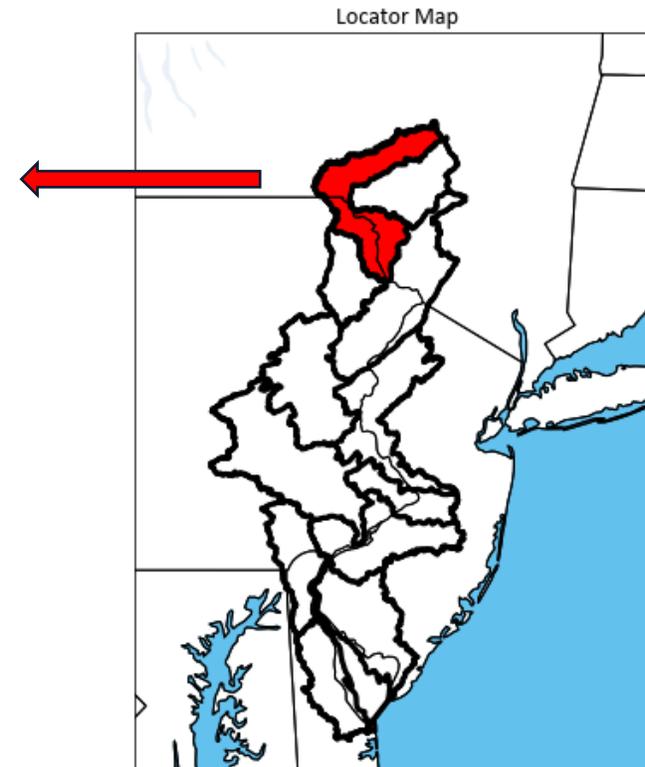
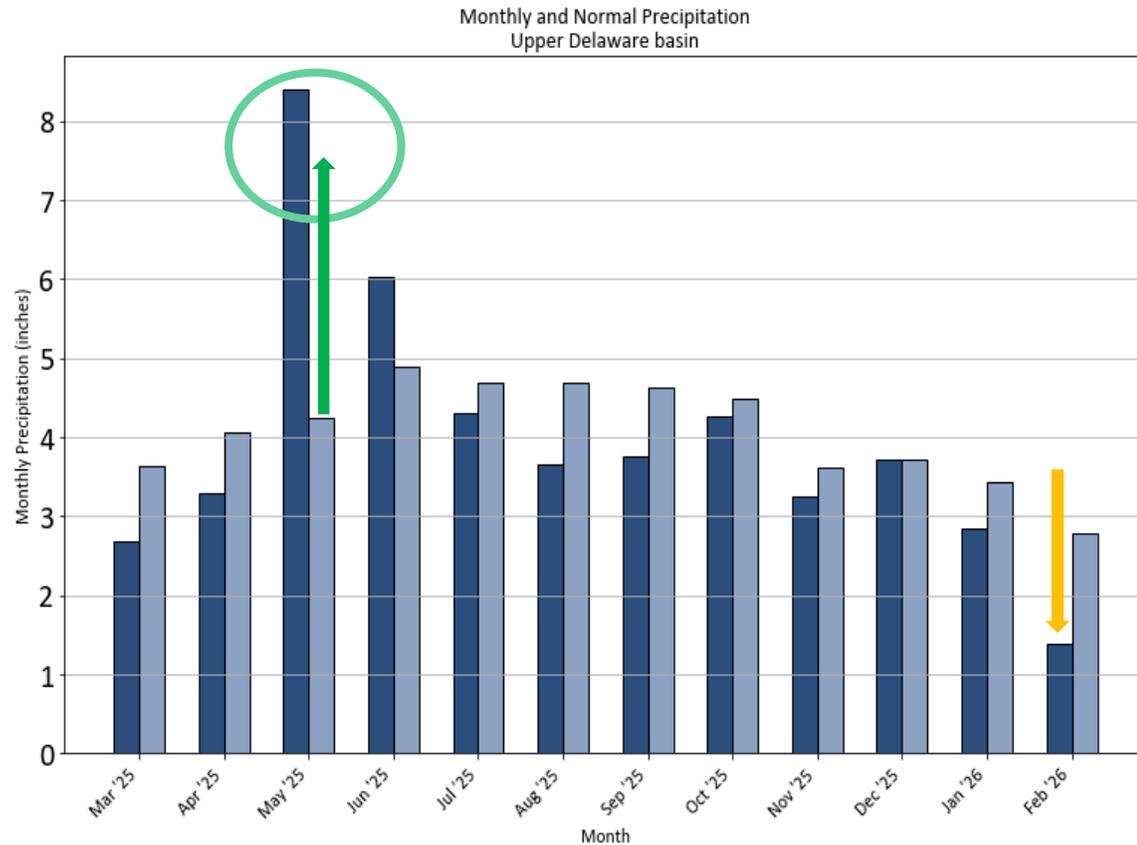
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 1 - May 31, 2026
Released February 28, 2026



Upper Basin Precipitation - March 2025 to February 2026 (past 365 days)

Precipitation is below normal for 7 of the past 12 months.



Source: ACIS, USGS HUC: 02040101
Monthly Normal is based of 4 stations in the Upper Delaware basin

■ Monthly Observed Precipitation
■ Monthly Normal (1991 - 2020)

Data Source: ACIS

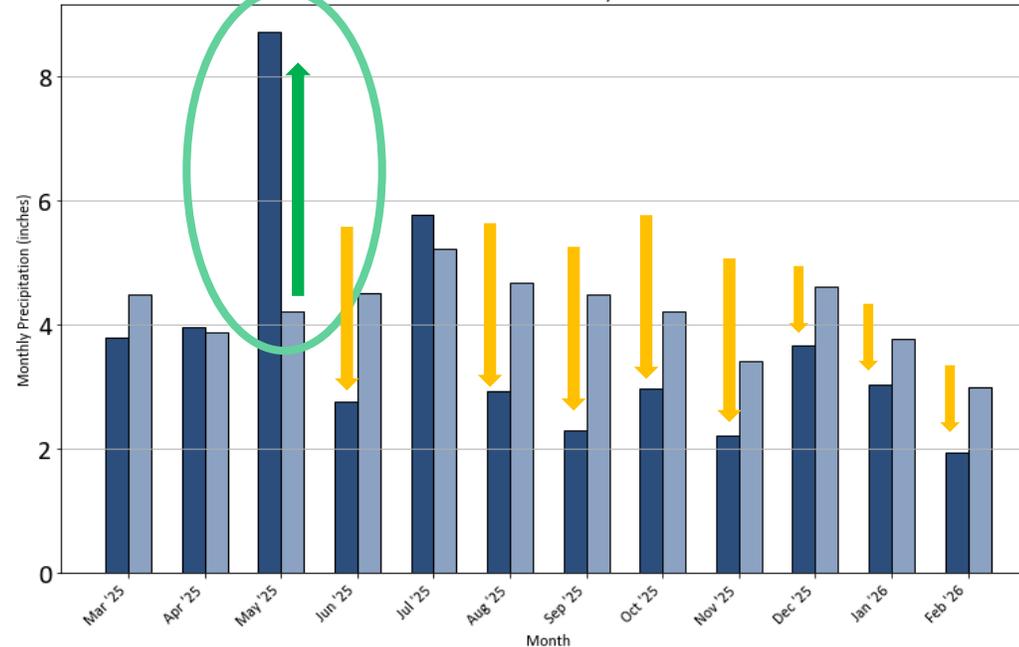
Mid-Basin Precipitation - March 2025 to February 2026 (past 365 days)

Precipitation has been below normal the last 7 months.

Locator Map



Monthly and Normal Precipitation
Crosswicks-Neshaminy basin



Source: ACIS, USGS HUC: 02040201
Monthly Normal is based of 5 stations in the
Crosswicks-Neshaminy basin

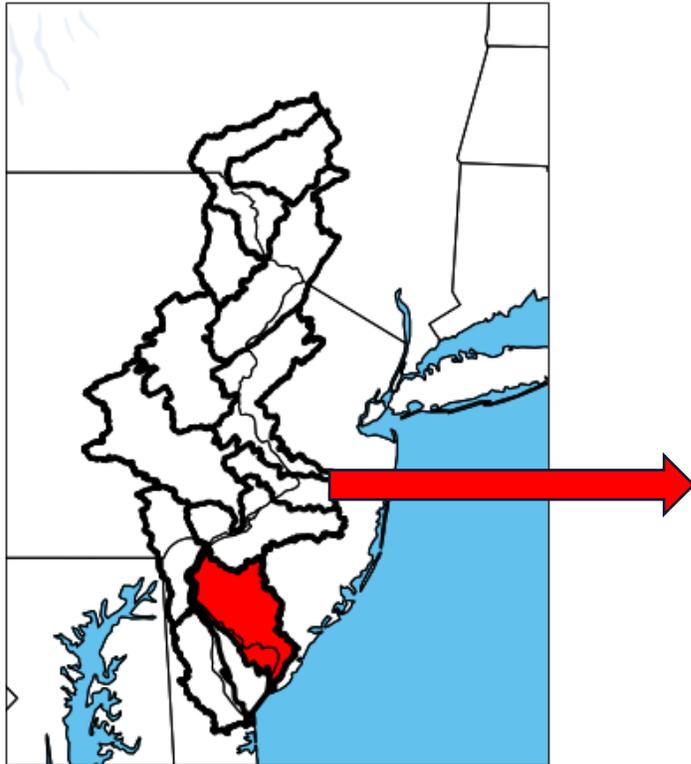


Data Source: ACIS

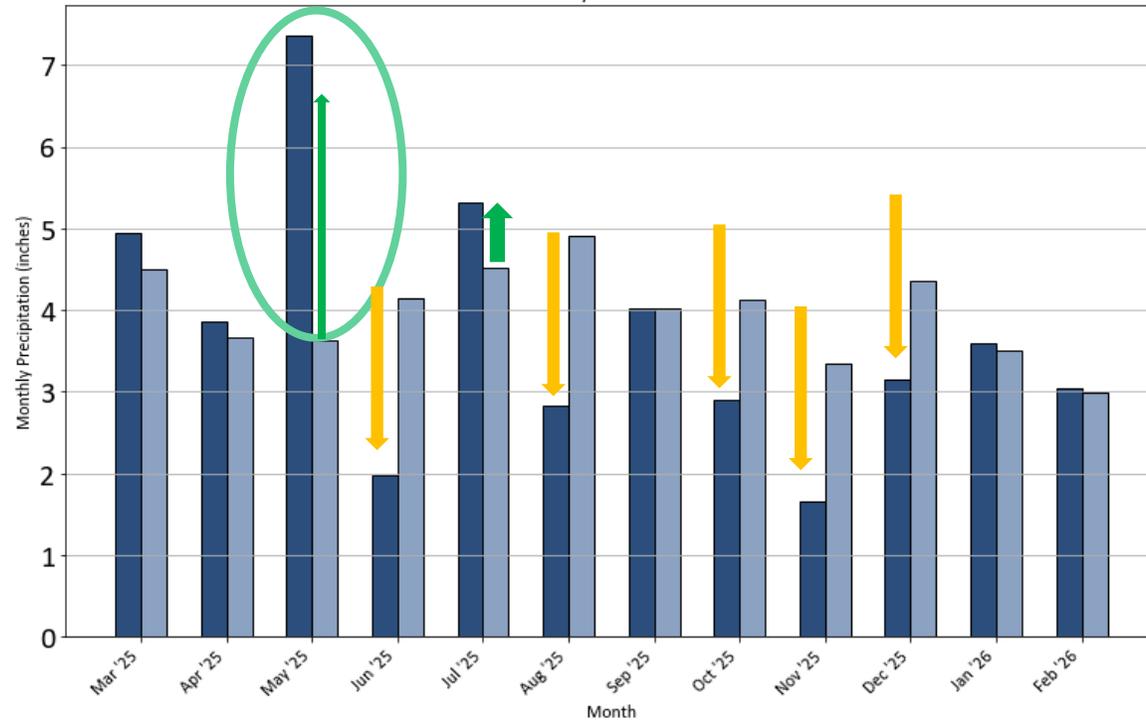
Lower Basin Precipitation between March 2025 to February 2026 (past 365 days)

Precipitation has been running average to slightly the last 7 months.

Locator Map



Monthly and Normal Precipitation
Cohansey-Maurice basin



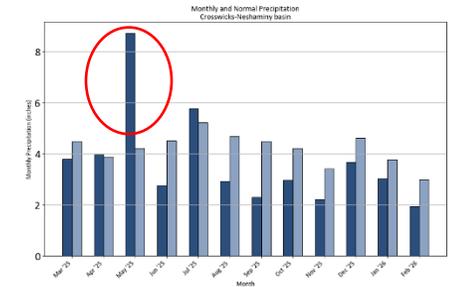
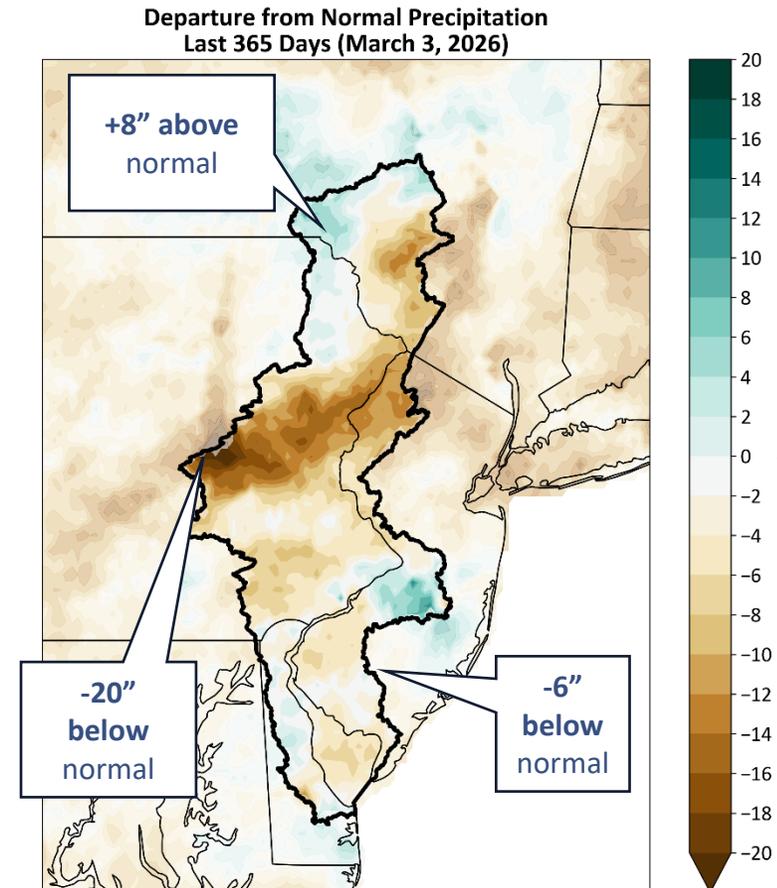
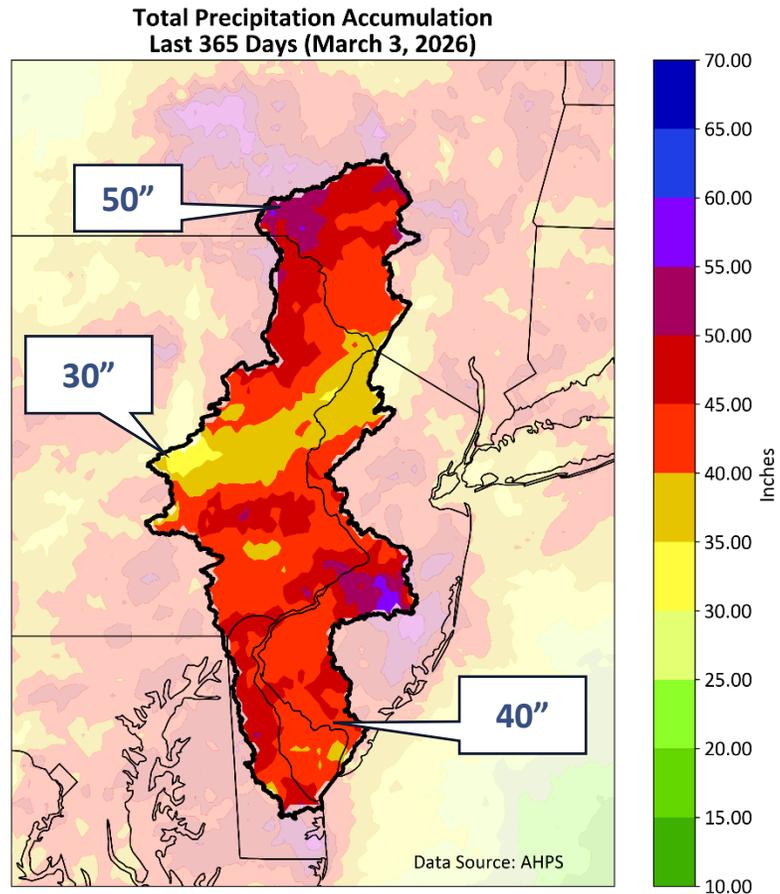
Source: ACIS, USGS HUC: 02040206
Monthly Normal is based of 3 stations in the
Cohansey-Maurice basin

■ Monthly Observed Precipitation
■ Monthly Normal (1991 - 2020)

Data Source: ACIS

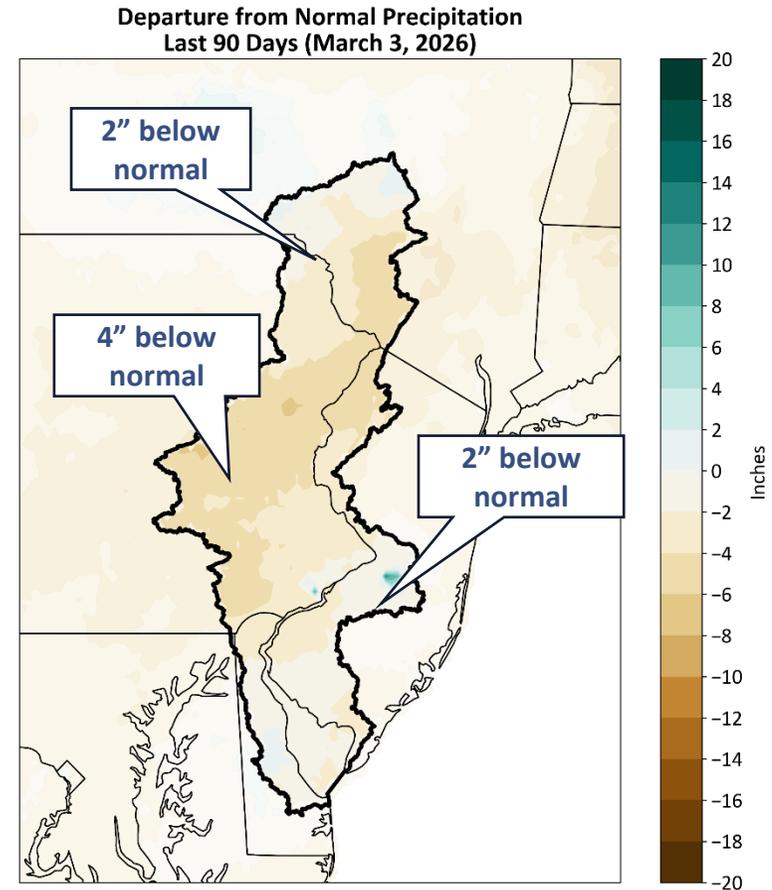
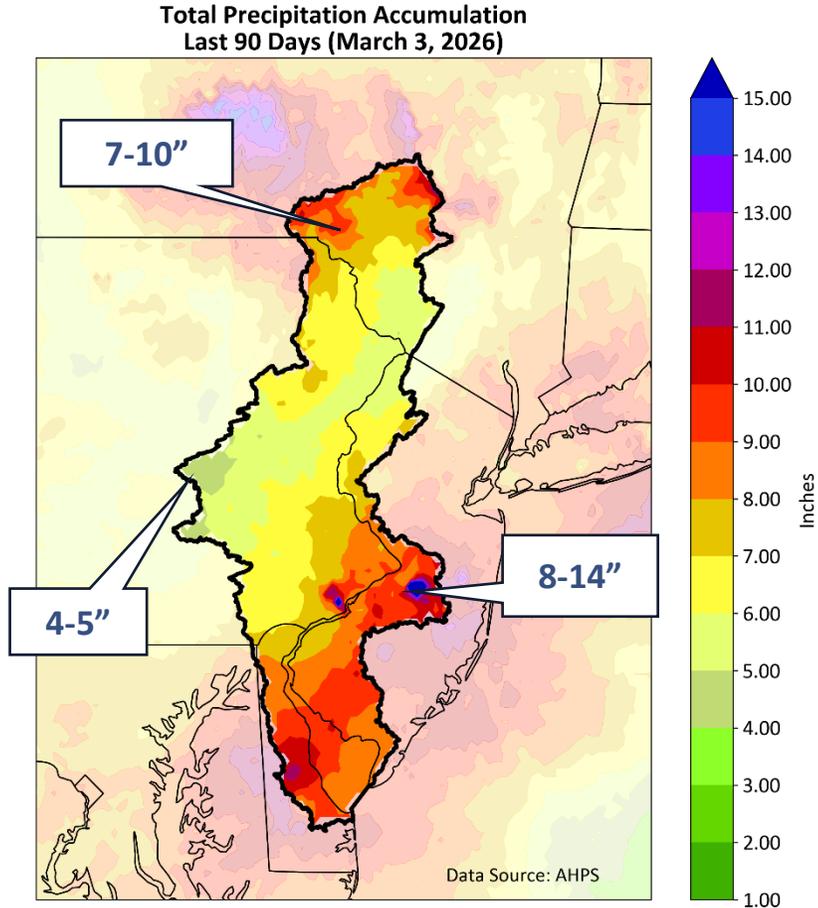
Accumulated Precipitation (past 365 days)

The past 365 days had below normal precipitation in most areas



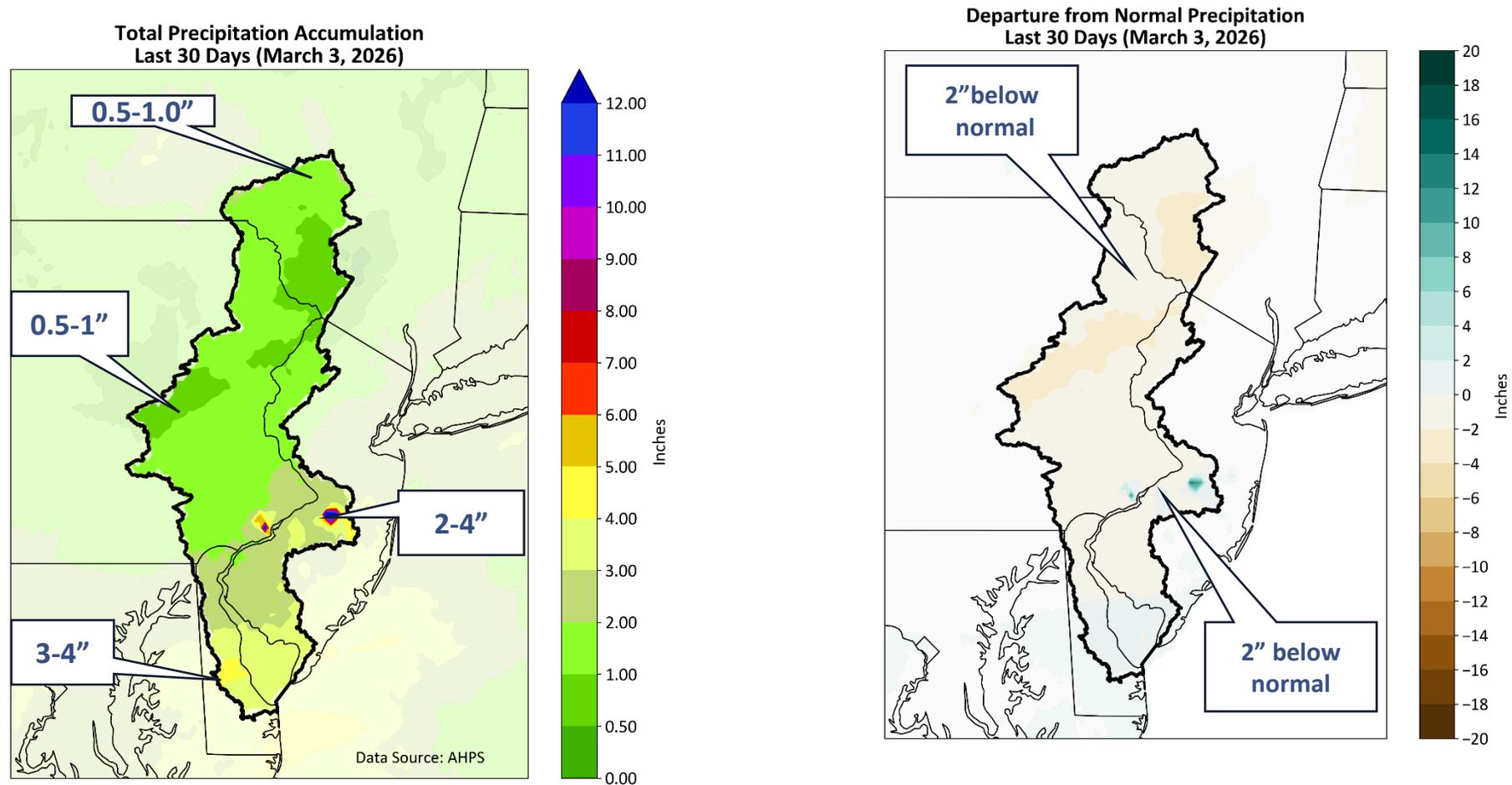
Accumulated Precipitation (past 90 days)

The last three months indicate the lack of winter precipitation.



Cumulative Precipitation – Last 30 days

Slightly below normal throughout the basin the last 30 days.



Data Source: NOAA

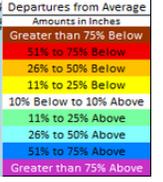
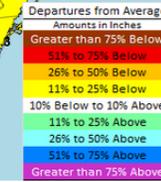
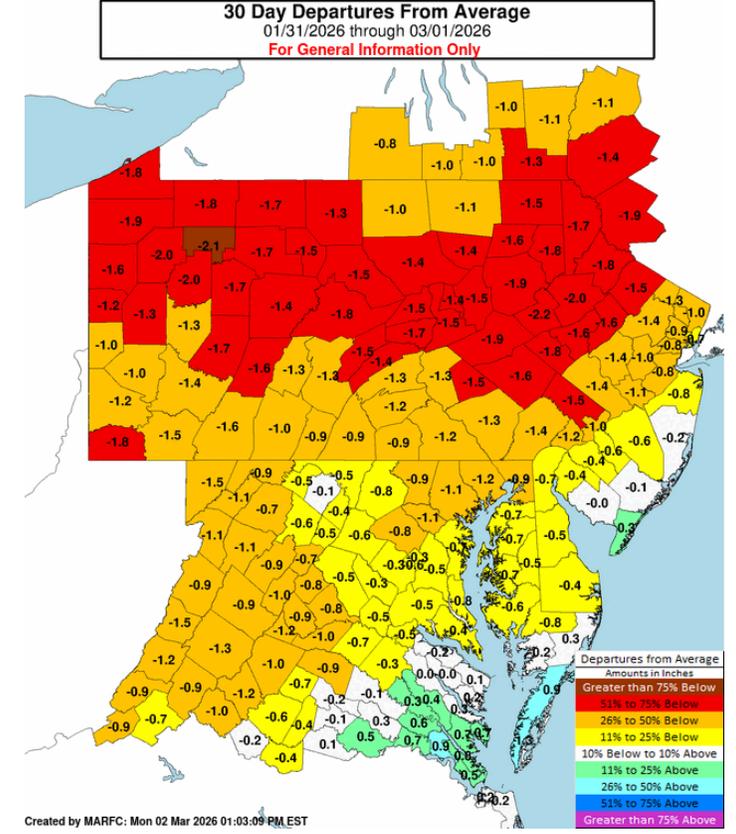
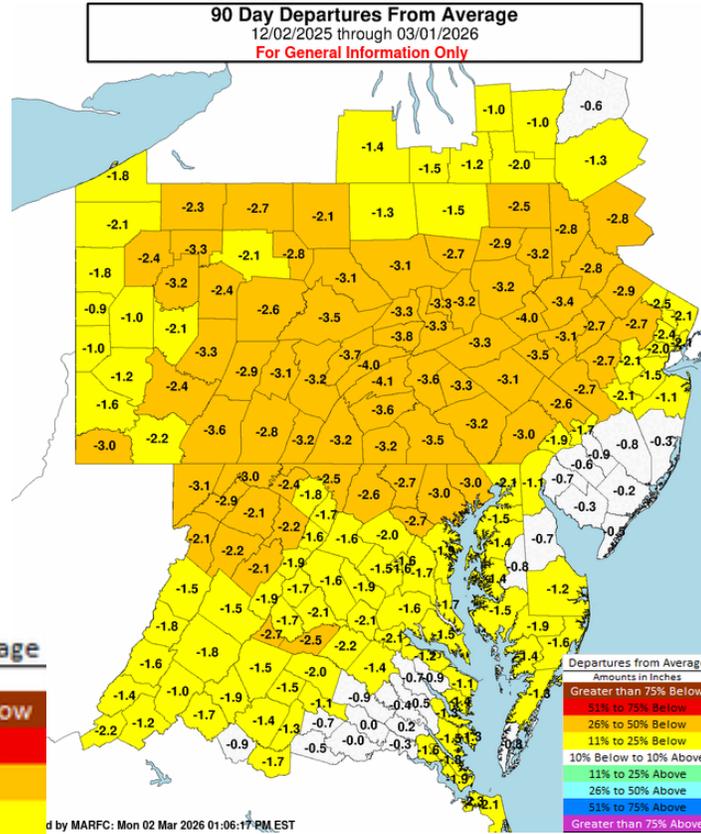
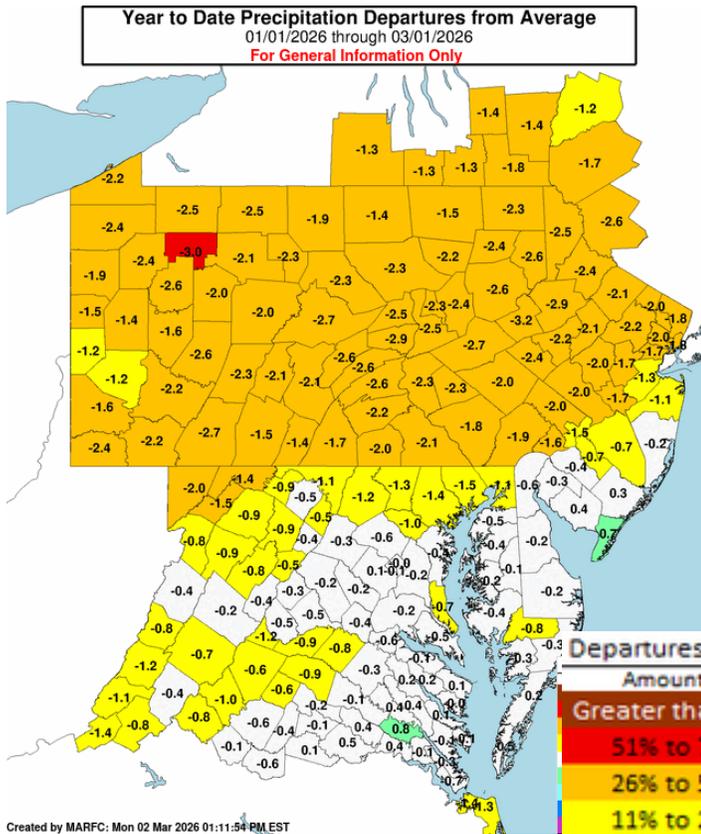
Precipitation Departures Summarized by County

Dry conditions continue to persist over the last quarter.

Year-to-date

90-day

30-day

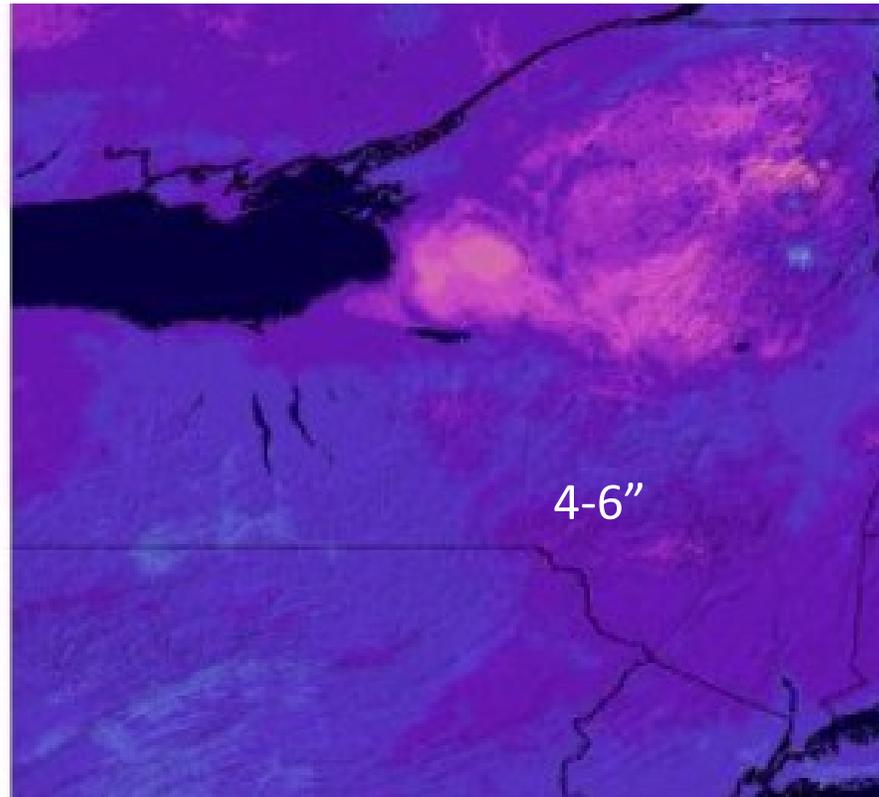


Reference date: March 3, 2026

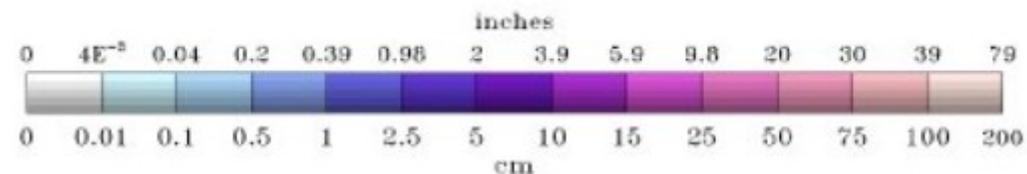
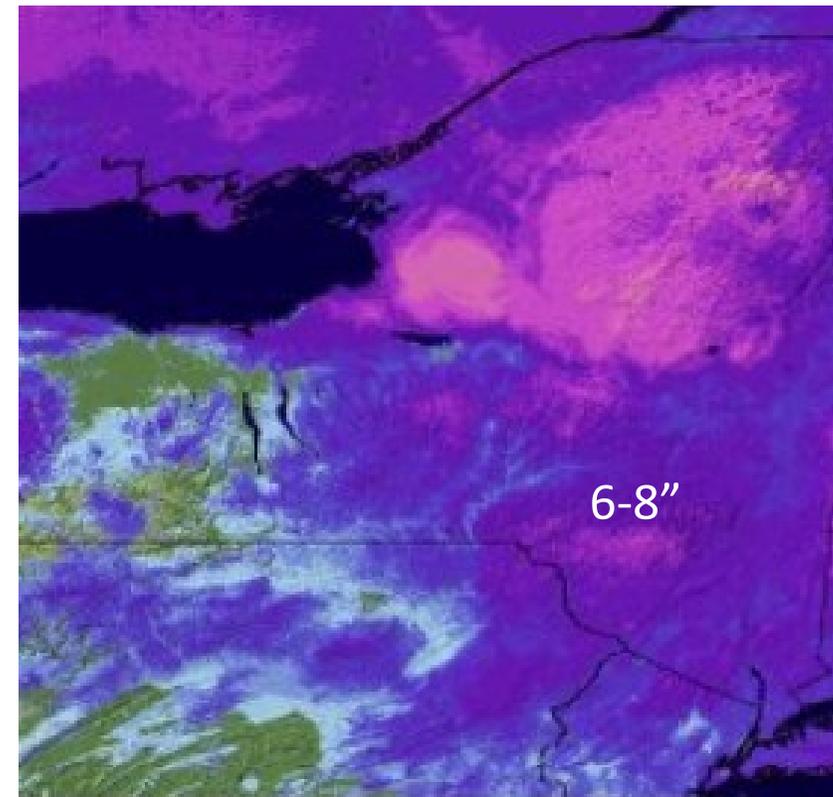
Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)

One inch of precipitation is 10 inches of snow

February 4, 2026



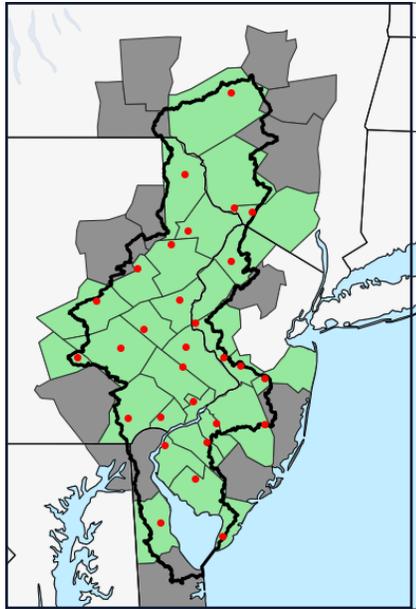
March 4, 2026



Groundwater Levels

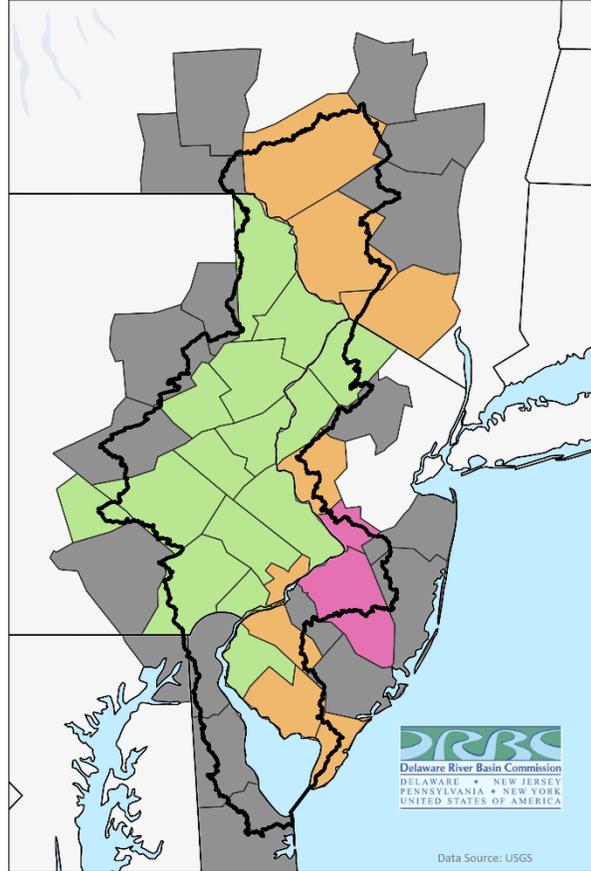
Groundwater levels show trends of persistent lack of precipitation.

Reference Wells

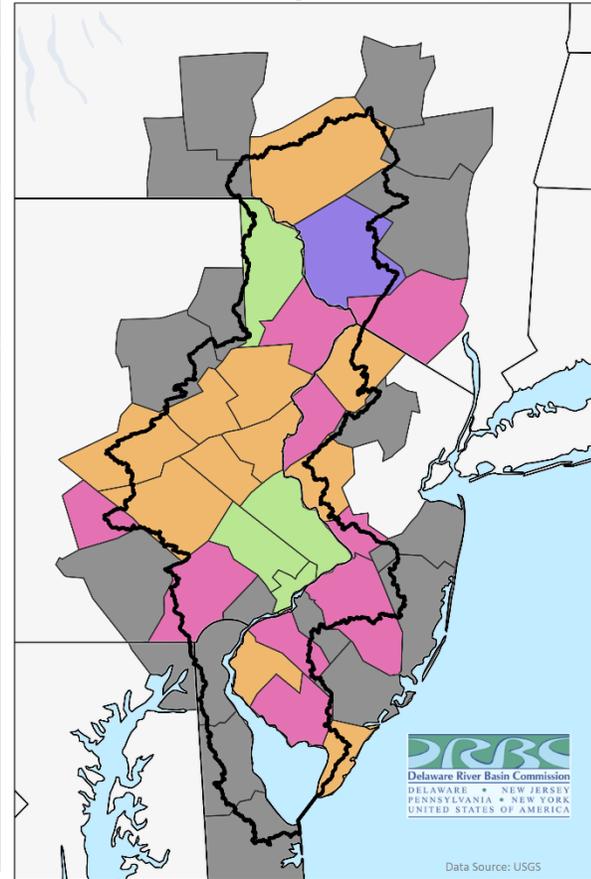


- Basin Boundary
- Well Location
- County contains well
- No well available within DRB

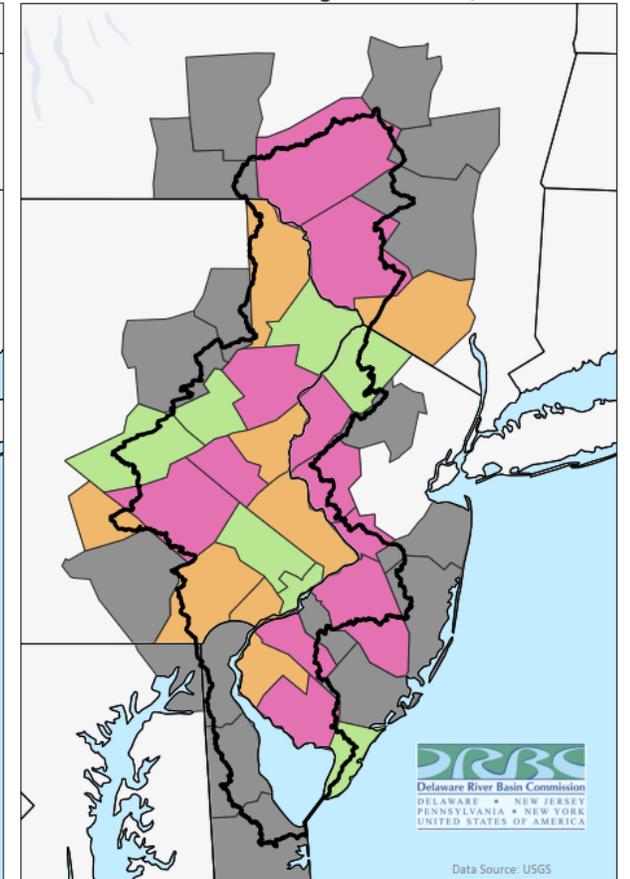
Groundwater Ranking on September 08, 2025



Groundwater Ranking on December 08, 2025



Groundwater Ranking on March 02, 2026



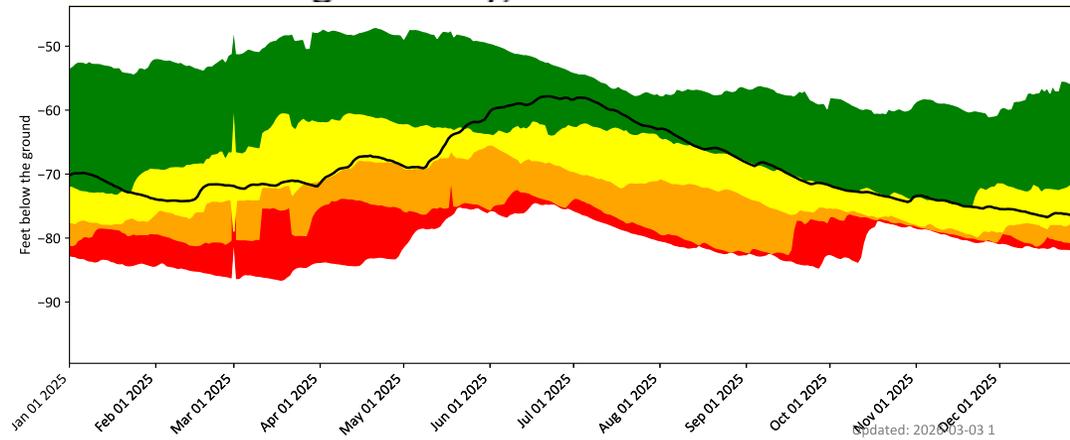
- Basin Boundary
- Much Above Normal
- Below Normal
- Above Normal
- Much Below Normal
- Normal
- Data unavailable

September 8th, 2025, through March 3, 2026

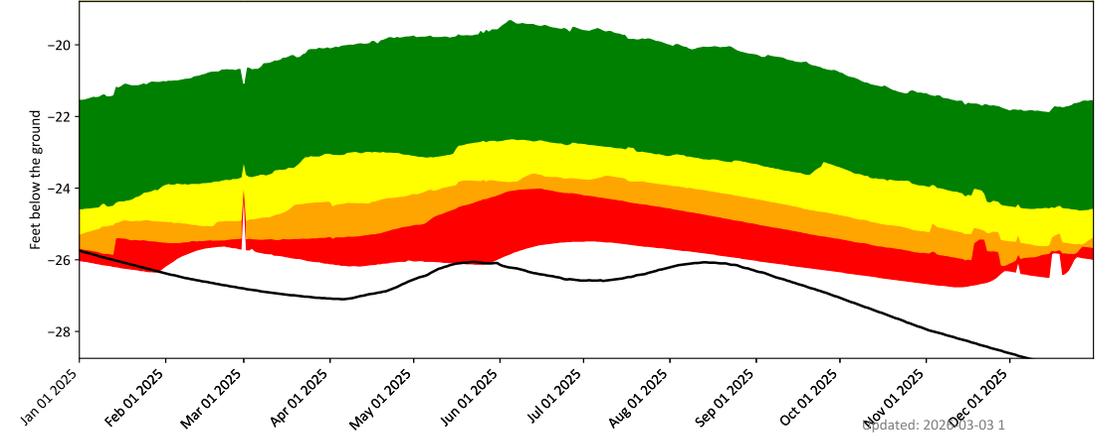
Groundwater Levels

Groundwater levels reflect the current drought watch and warning conditions.

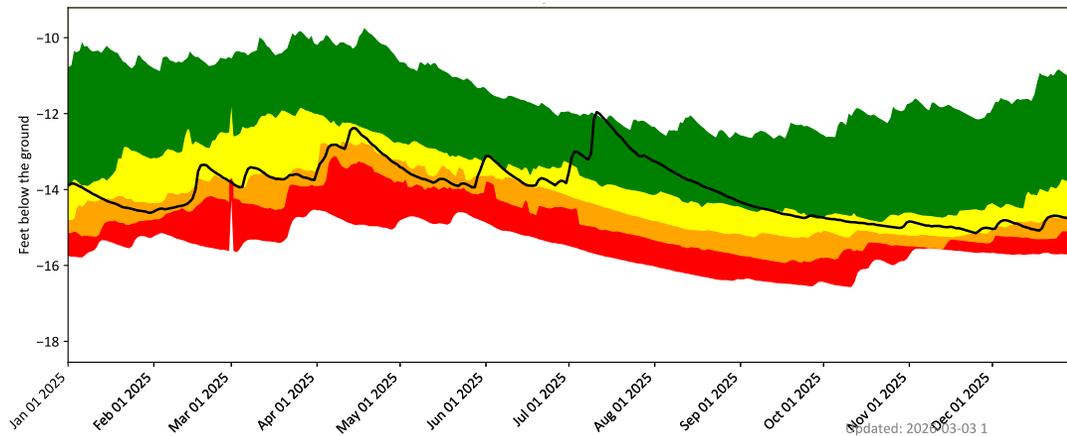
Lehigh County, PA Observation Well



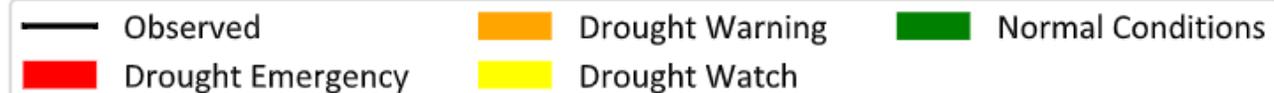
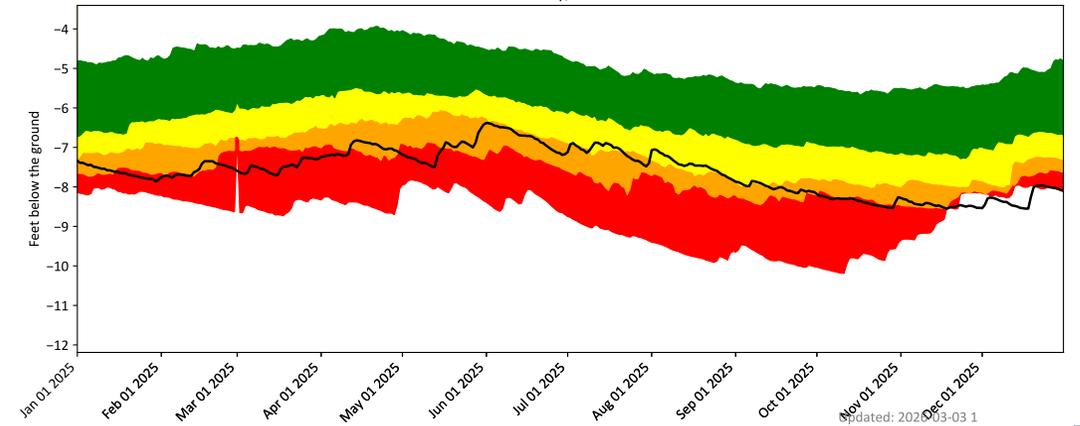
Burlington County, NJ Observation Well



Chester County, PA Observation Well



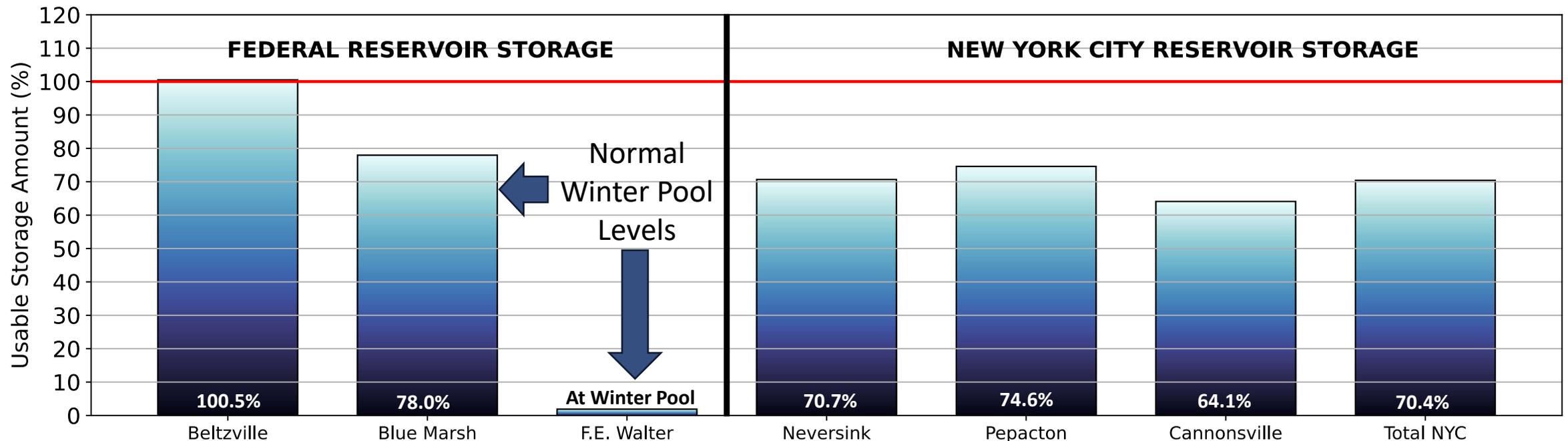
Cumberland County, NJ Observation Well



Last updated on March 3, 2026

Reservoir Storage for Flow Management

Lower basin storage is “full”

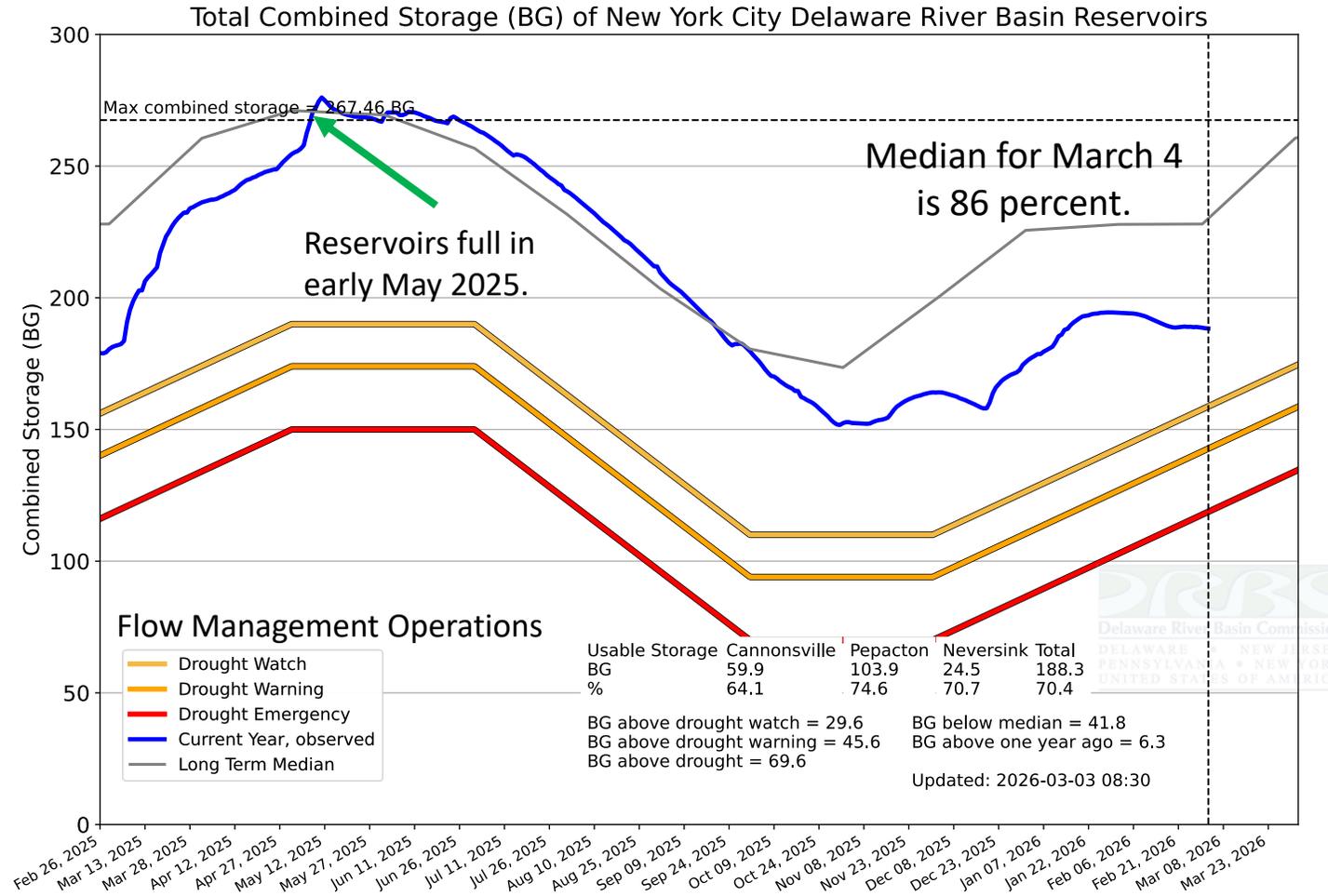


Reference date: March 3, 2026

Releases from Lower and Upper Basin Reservoirs are used to meet flow objectives.

New York City Reservoir Storage

Combined storage in NYC Reservoirs is 70 percent, but near normal with snowpack.



As of 2/18, the snowpack contained 40 BG

Instantaneous Streamflow for March 4, 2026

Most tributaries flows are below normal to much below normal.

Flow Conditions on average:

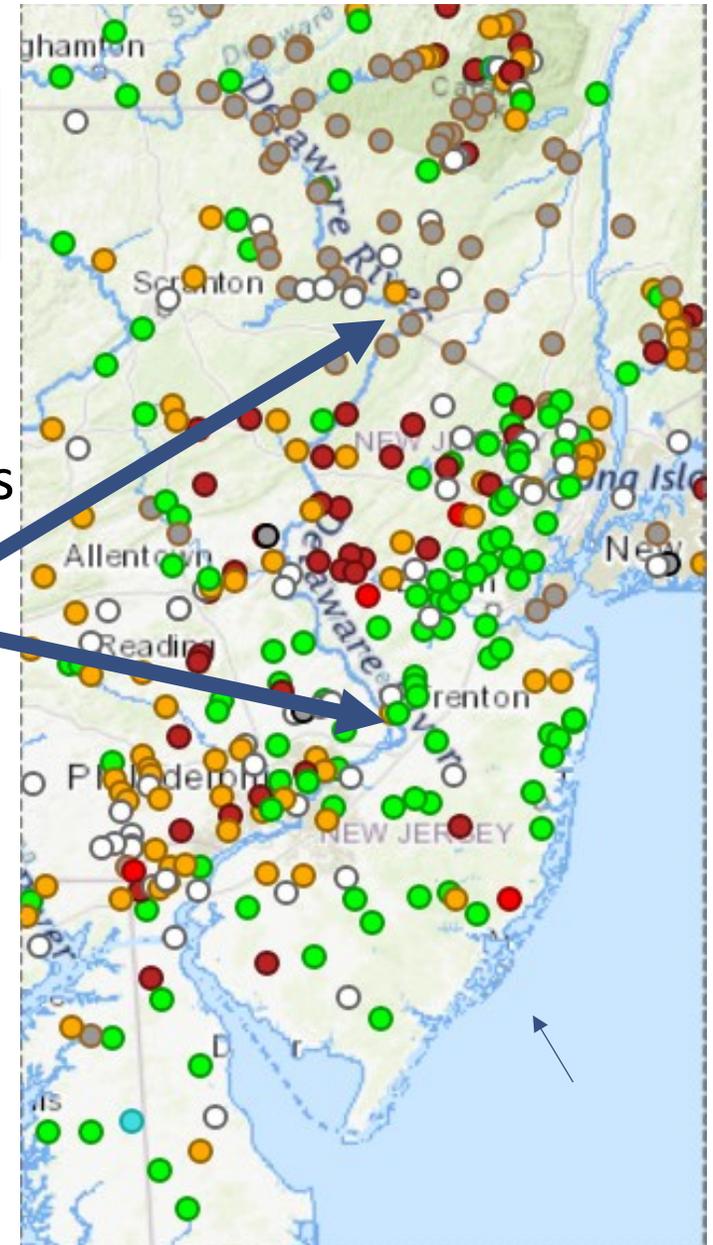
Upper Basin: Below Normal (impacted by ice)

Central Basin: Below normal

Lower Basin: Below normal

Flow Objectives at Montague and Trenton

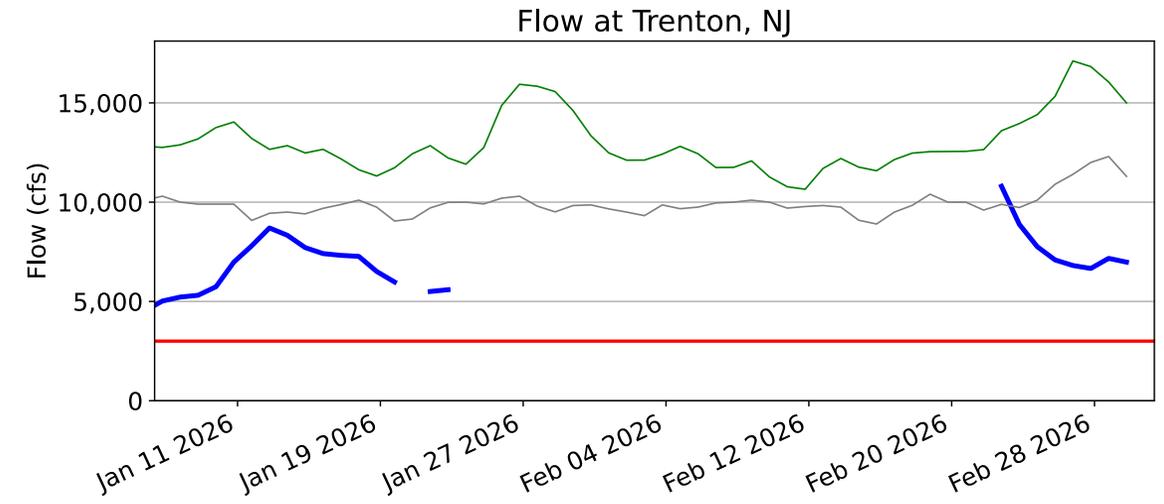
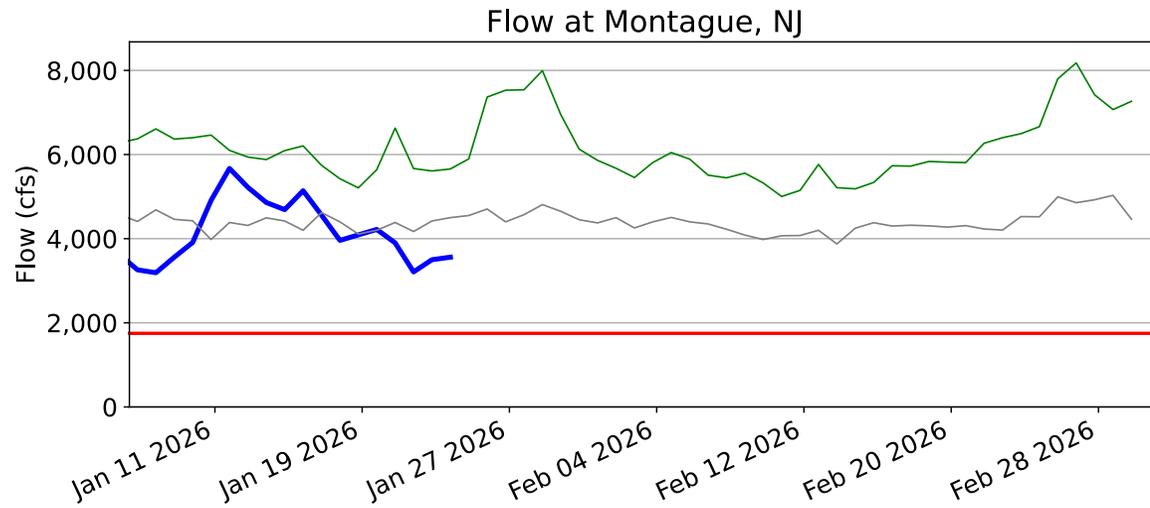
Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		



Mainstem Streamflow Conditions along Delaware River

Flows at Montague and Trenton below normal but above the flow objectives

Note: Missing data reflect the period when the gages were affected by ice.



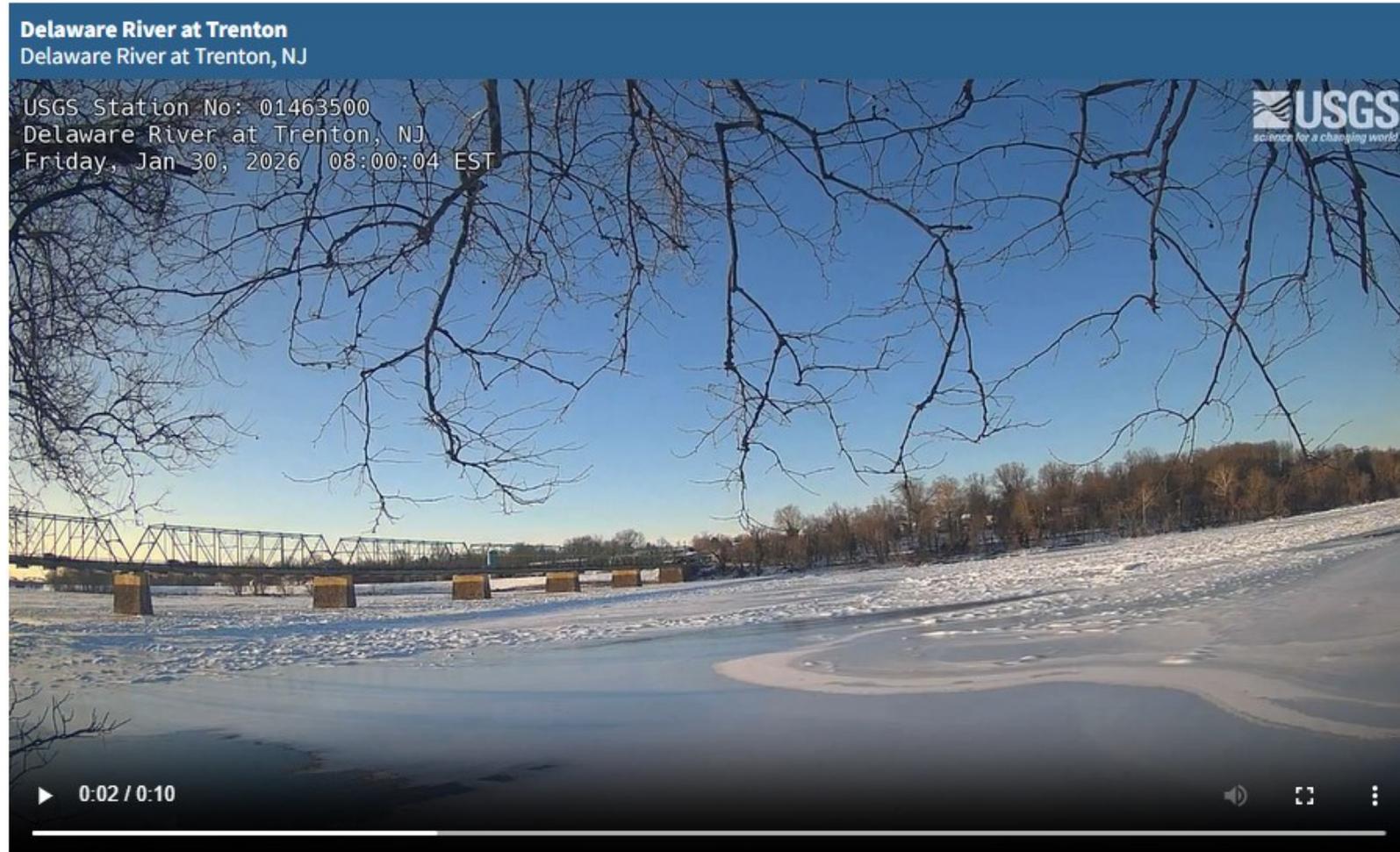
Ice Accumulation

The river was covered with ice from the headwaters to the Bay.



Credit: CISA, NOAA

GeoColor



Delaware River at Trenton
Delaware River at Trenton, NJ

USGS Station No: 01463500
Delaware River at Trenton, NJ
Friday, Jan 30, 2026 08:00:04 EST

USGS
science for a changing world

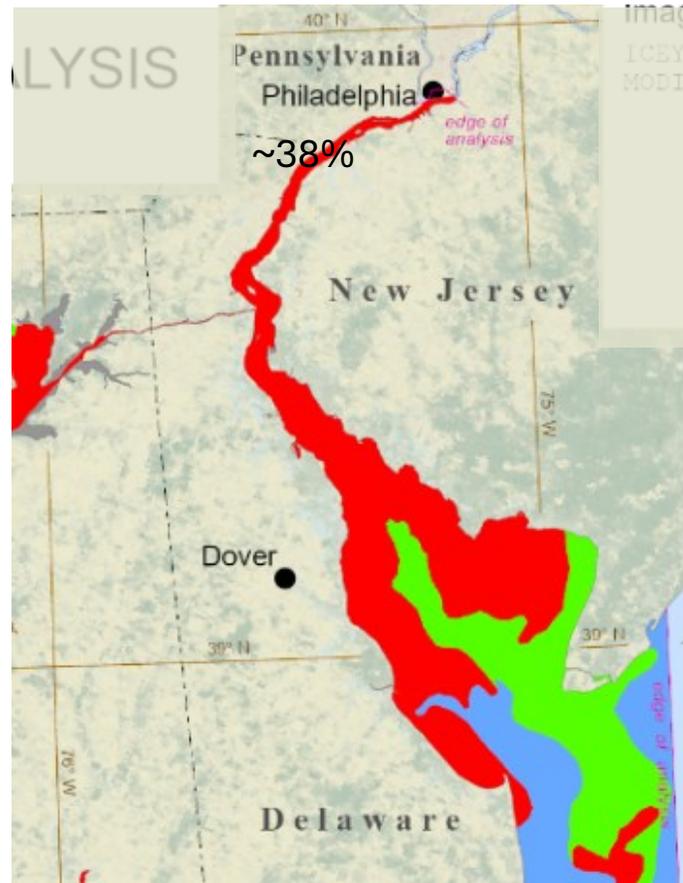
▶ 0:02 / 0:10

🔊 🗄️ ⋮

Ice Concentration Analysis

Ice has melted in the Estuary and tidal river with warmer weather.

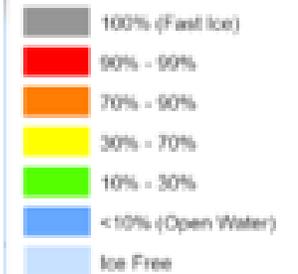
February 10, 2026



March 2, 2026



Total Ice Concentration



projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
central meridian: 80° west
standard parallels: 40° 17' north



USNIC

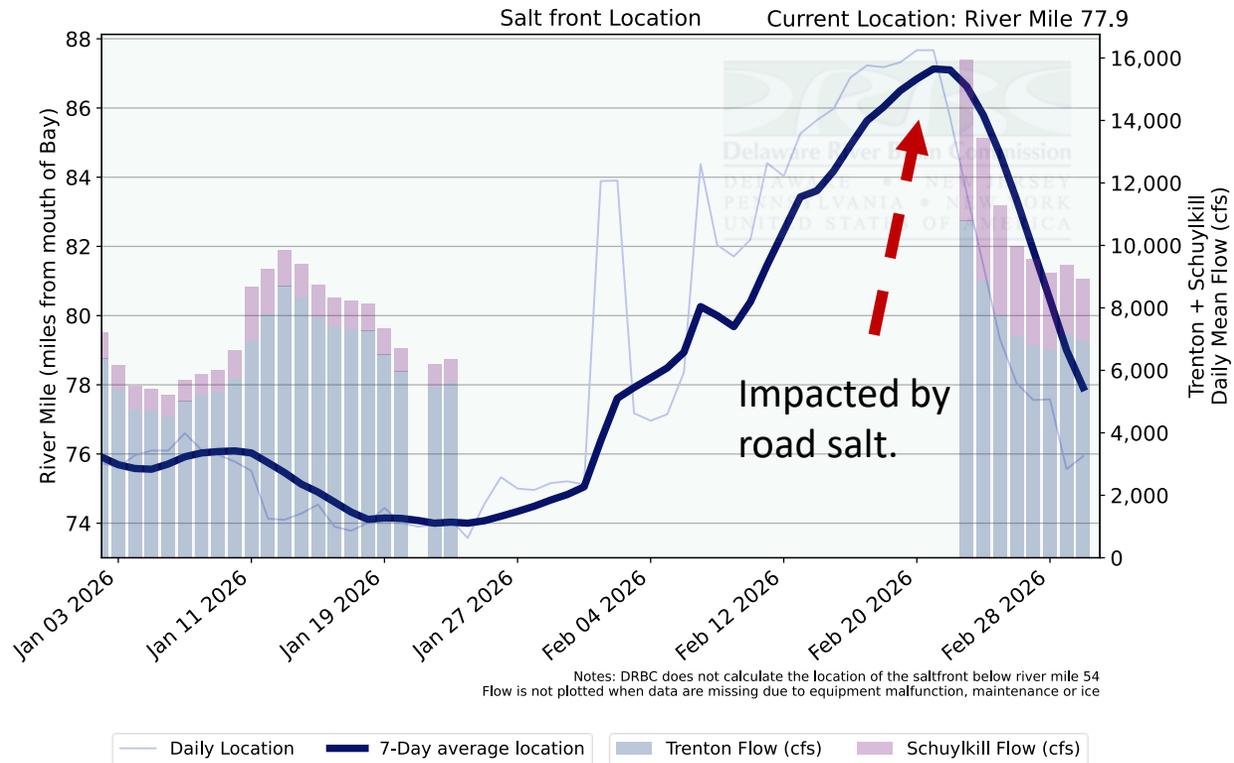
US National Ice Center
4211 Sulland Road
NOAA Satellite Operations Facility
Washington, DC 20395

tel: 301.817.3311
www.natice.noaa.gov

USNIC CDO 301-817-3975
NIC_ANALYST@NOAA.GOV

Salt Front Location

Salt front is returning to its normal range after road salt impacts.

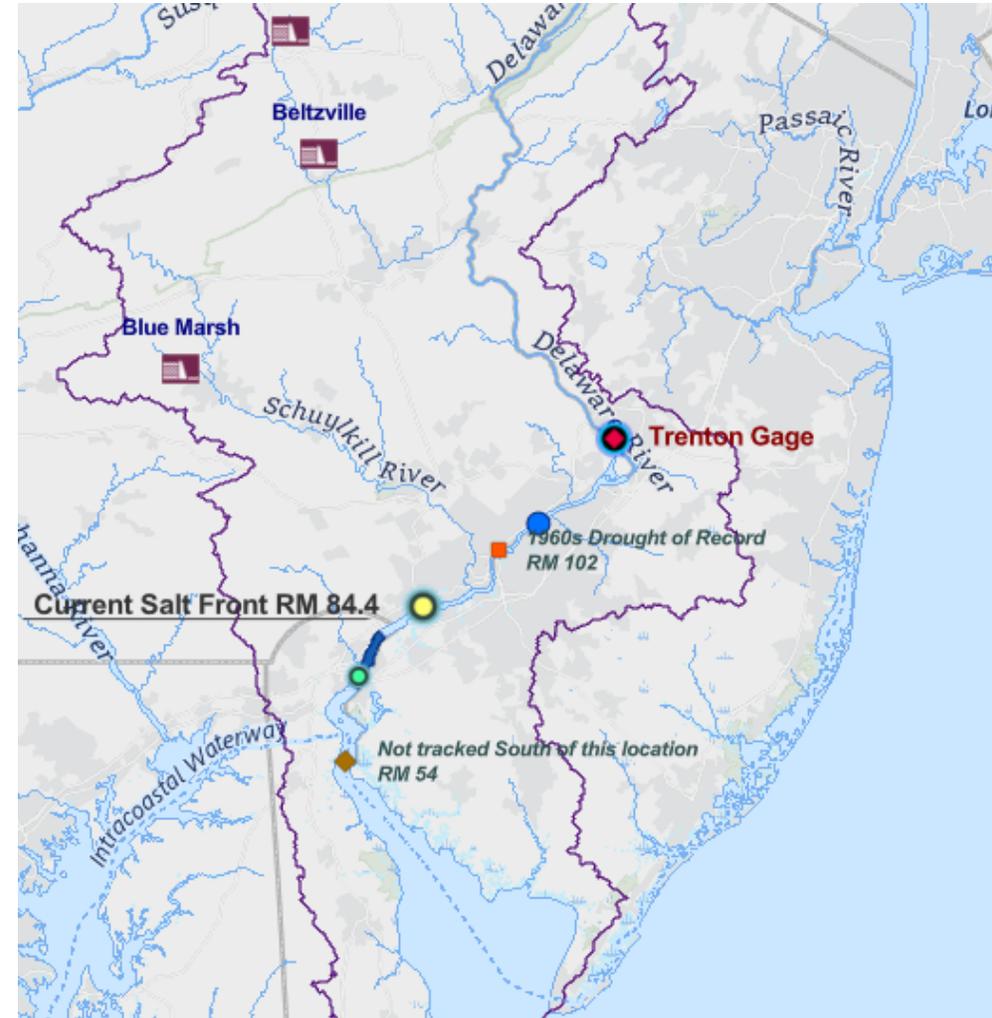


Updated: 2026-03-03 11:36

SALT FRONT (river mile)	This Week: 77.9	Last Week: 85.8	March Median: 70
--------------------------------	-----------------	-----------------	------------------

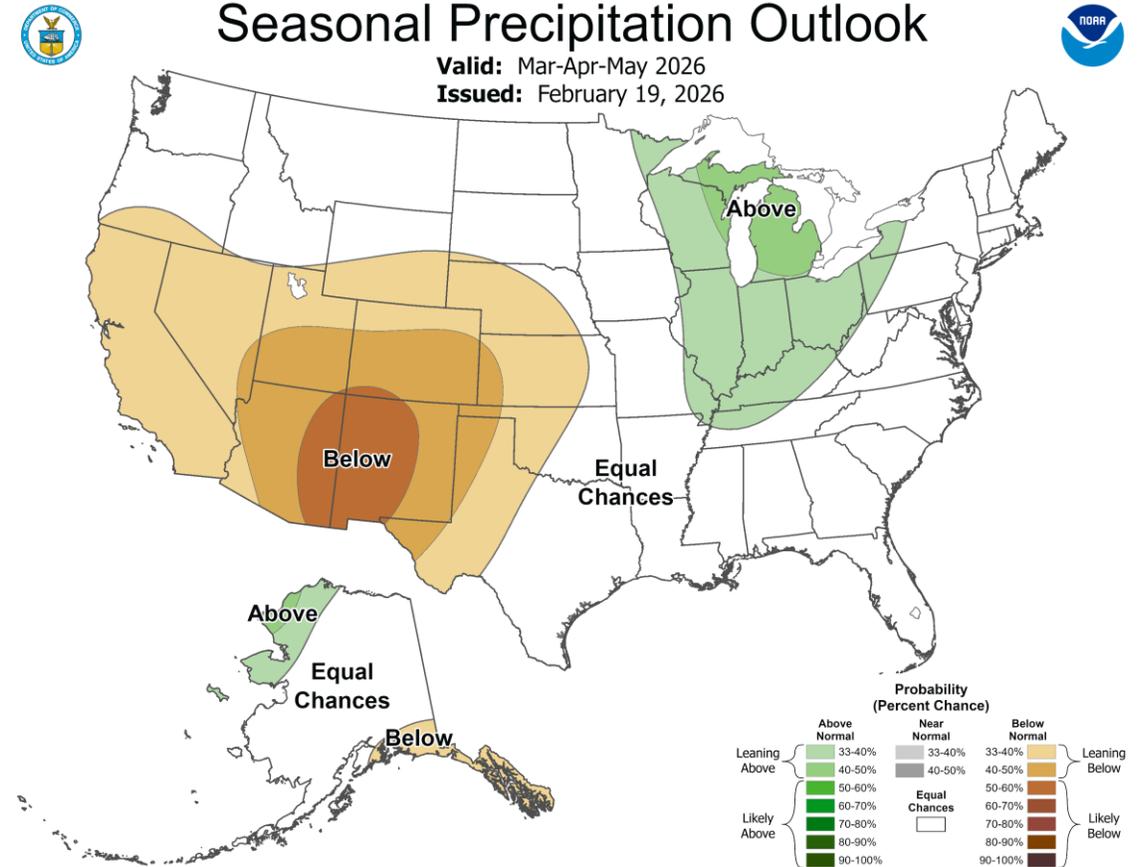
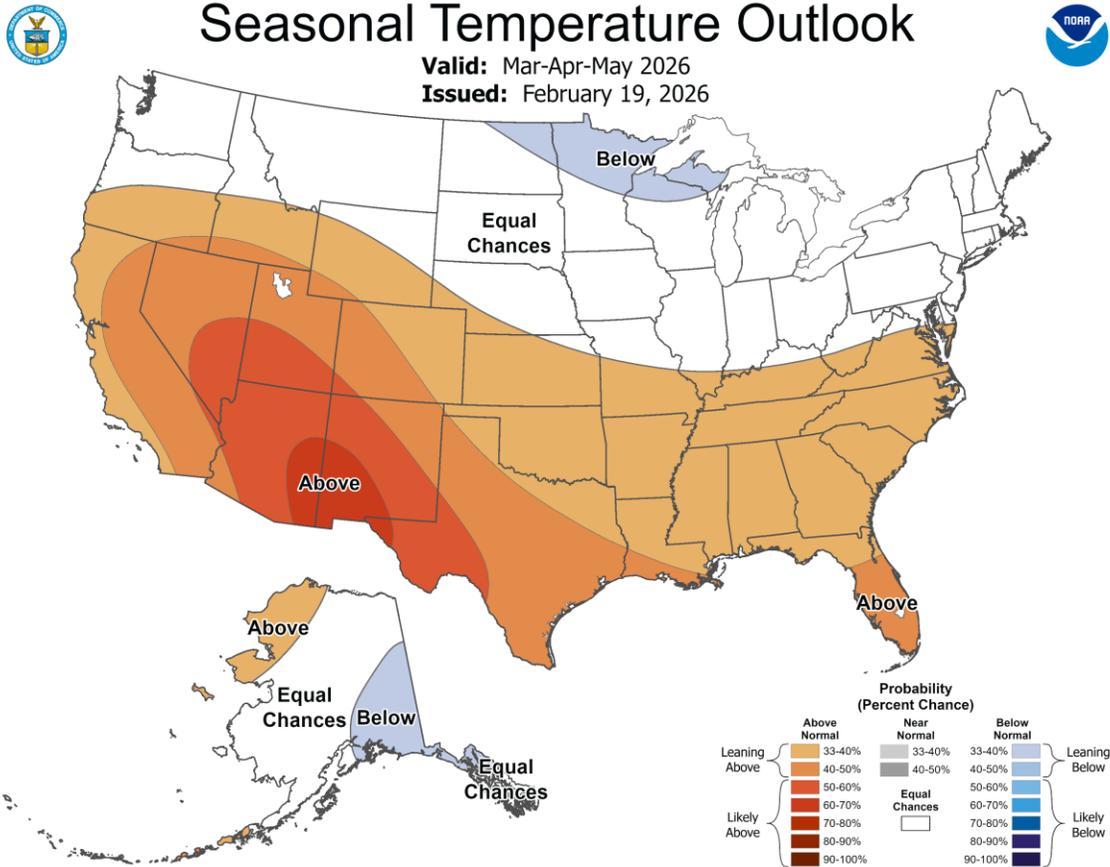
March 3, 2026

DRBC hydrosnap.drbc.net



NOAA Seasonal Outlook – Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26

Spring is forecast is non-committal.



Hydrologic conditions summary

- Drought conditions are expected to persist over the next three months.
- Precipitation, streamflow, and groundwater levels are below normal.
- The estimated salt front location was affected by road salt.

Enjoy spring!