



# DROUGHT CONDITIONS

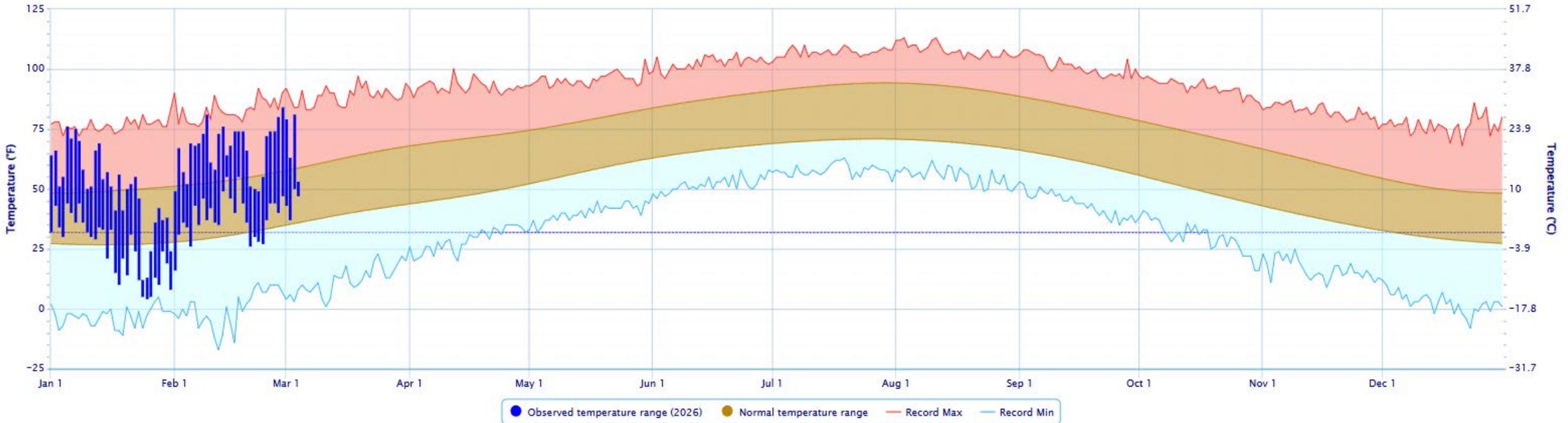
## IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

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MARCH 2026

# TEMPERATURE PLOT FOR OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - 2026

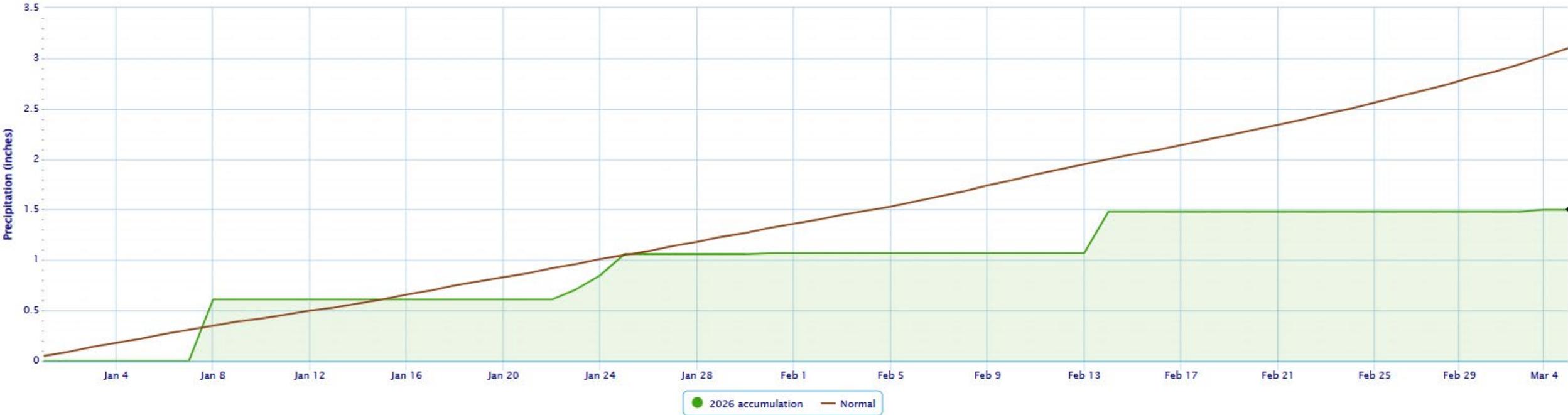


Powered by ACIS

## MONTHLY TEMPERATURE TREND:

February broke records with its warm weather – driving fires and drought throughout the state

# TEMPERATURE PLOT FOR OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - 2026



Powered by ACIS

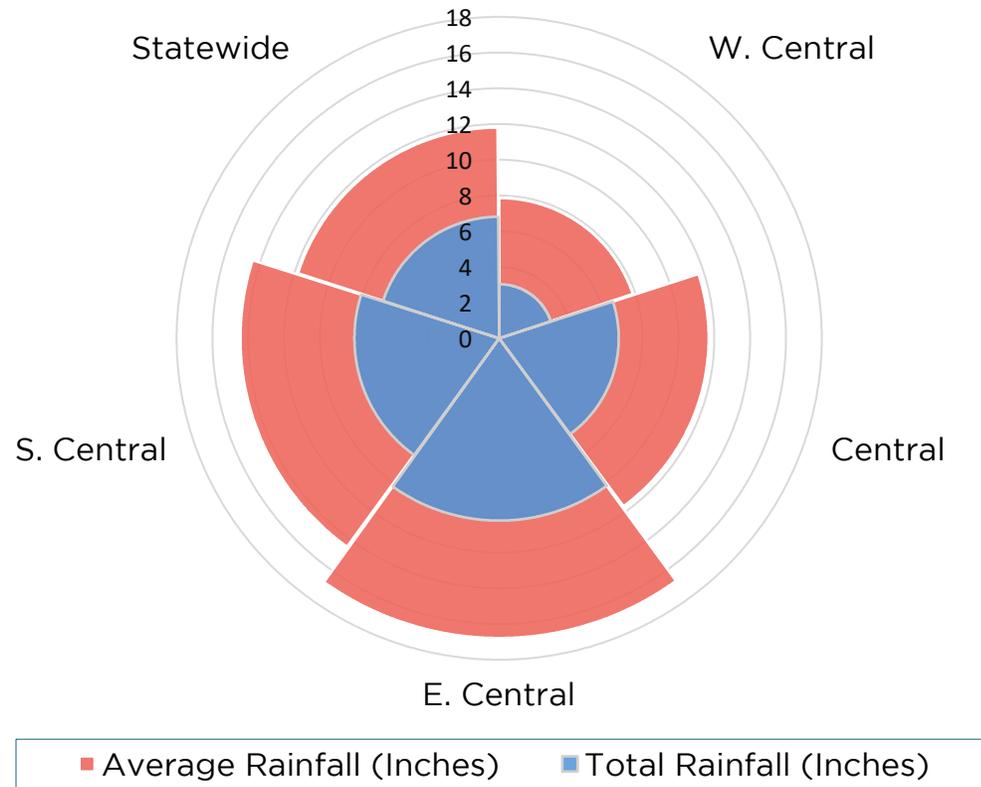
## MONTHLY PRECIPITATION TREND:

February's warm temperatures came with lower-than-average precipitation, mostly coming from a single storm

# WATER YEAR RAINFALL SUMMARY

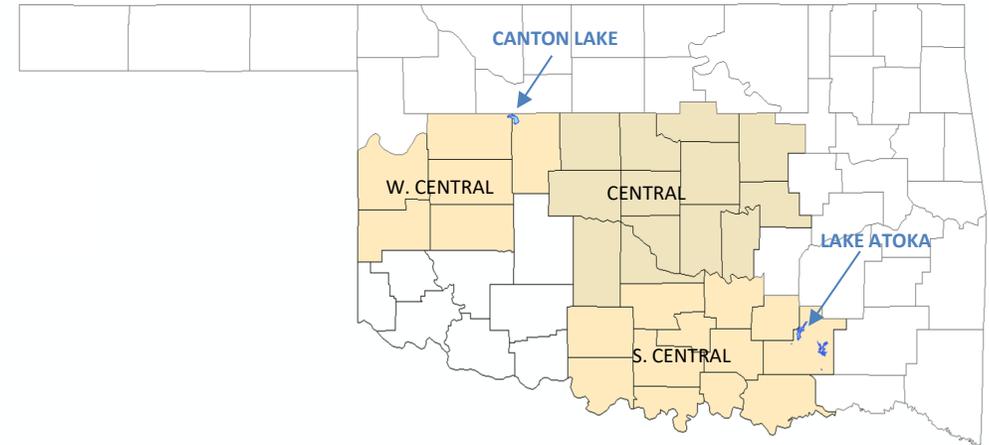


## WATER YEAR RAINFALL SUMMARY Oct 1, 2025 - Mar 4, 2026



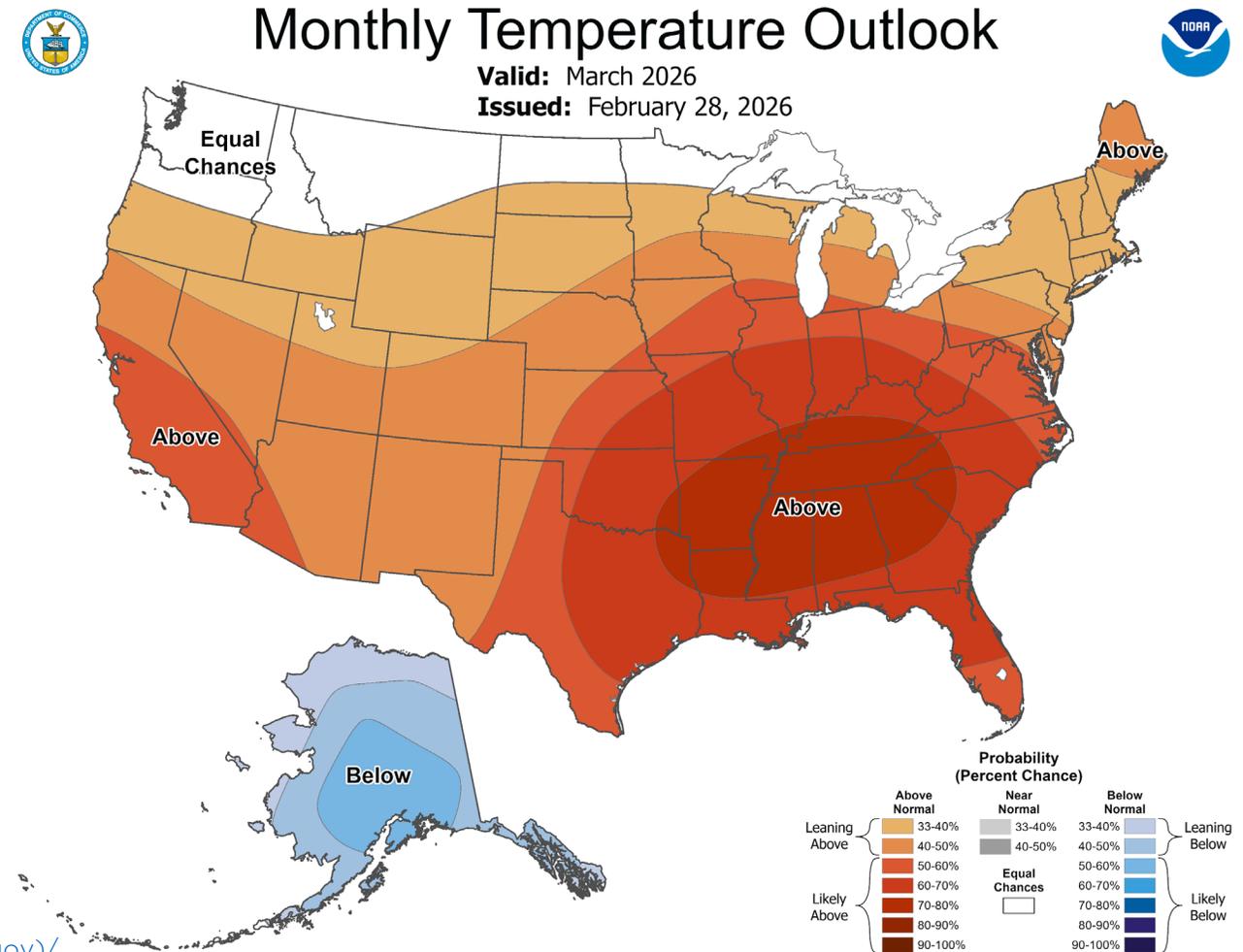
## CENTRAL OKLAHOMA TAKEAWAY:

- Total water year rainfall is nearly half the average for most areas in Central Oklahoma
- We are beginning to see the rain come back this month – but we will need another wet spring to fully catch up



## MARCH TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK:

- White areas shown as EC (Equal Chance) on these maps represent areas with no strong climate signals based on current data.
- Temperatures are predicted to remain above normal in March – meaning an uphill battle for rain to saturate soils and reach aquifers

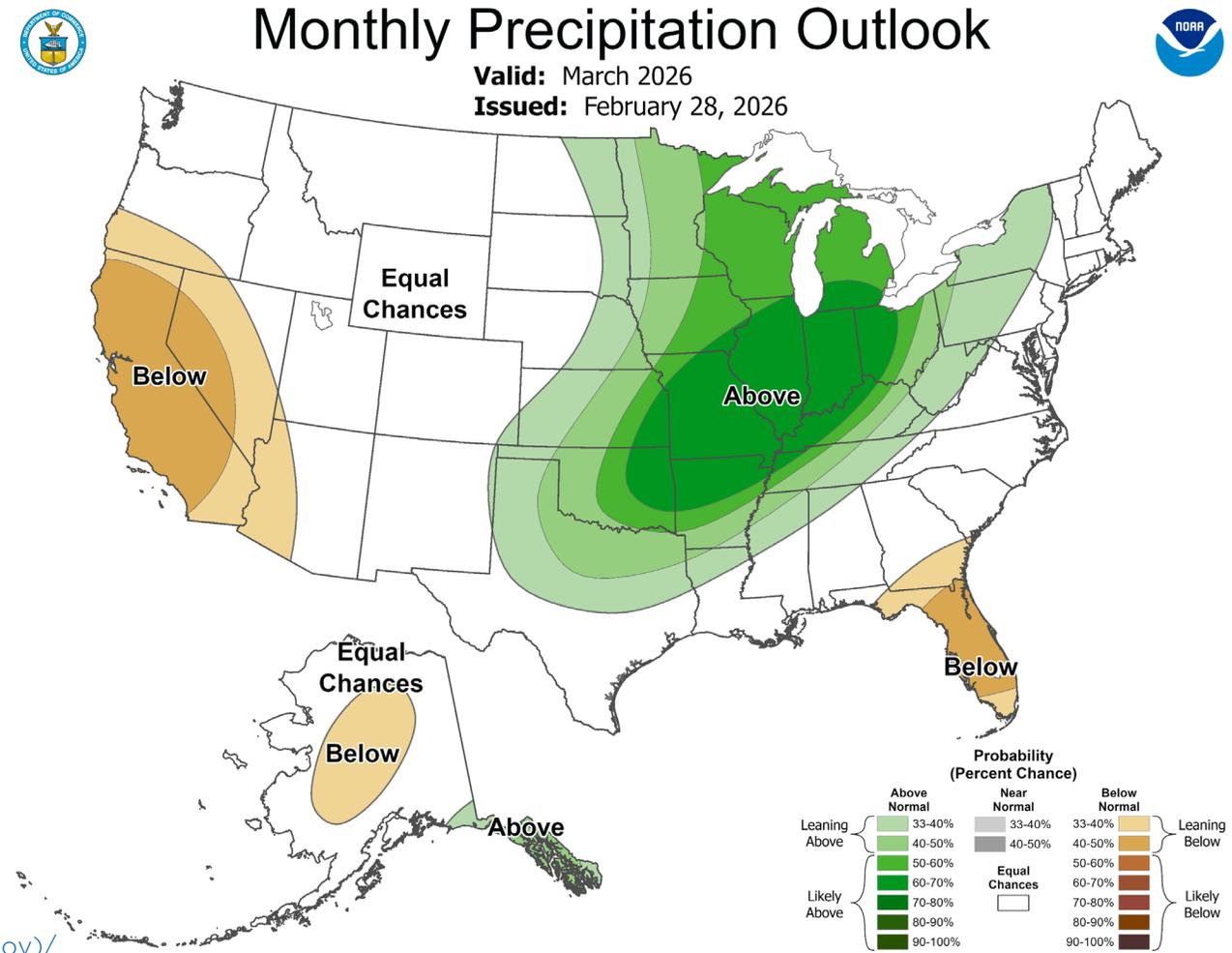


# NOAA ONE-MONTH PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

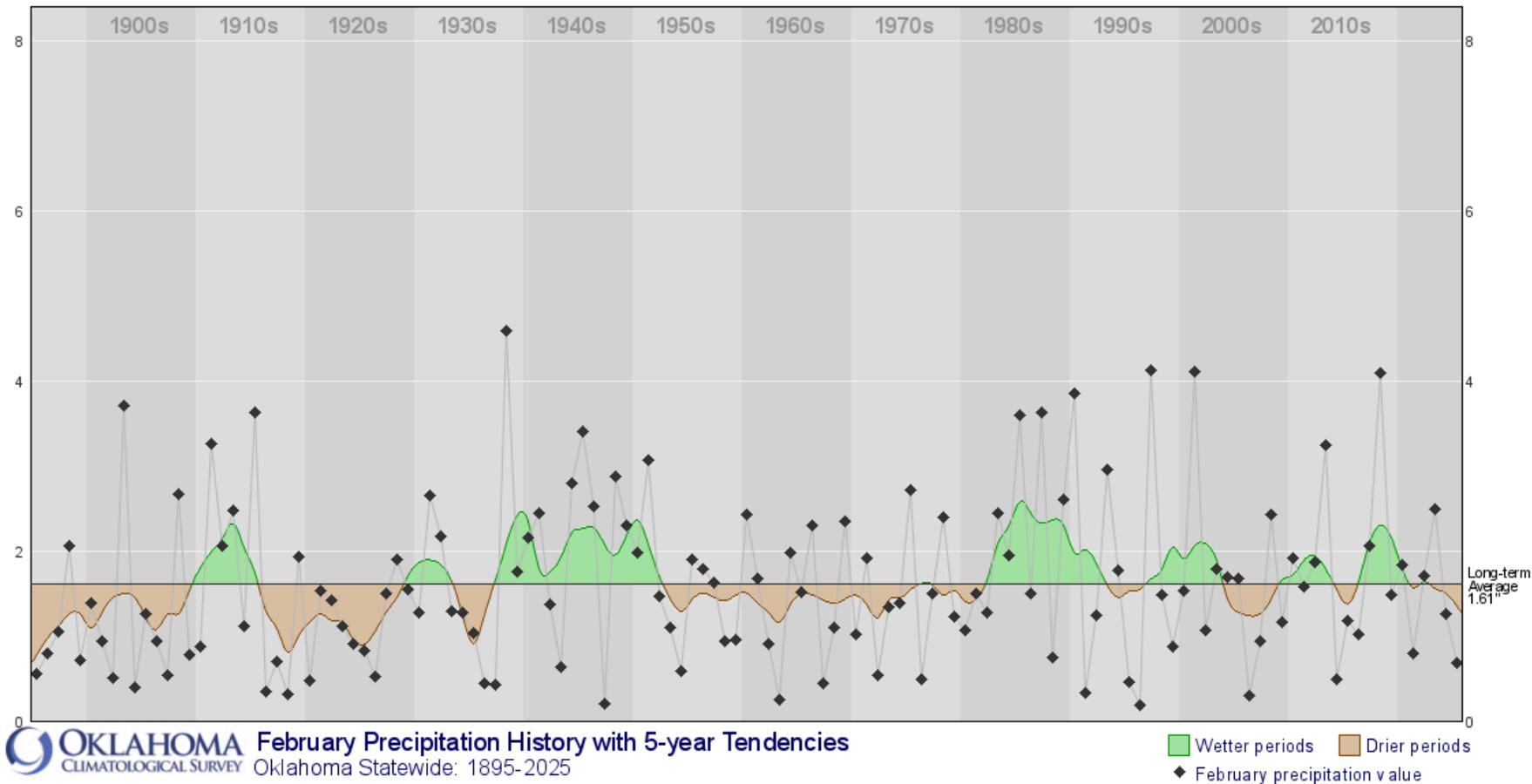


## MARCH PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK:

- White areas shown as EC (Equal Chance) on these maps represent areas with no strong climate signals based on current data.
- Oklahoma appears set to receive much needed rainfall this month – with storms already reaching some cities in the first week



# FEBRUARY PRECIPITATION HISTORY WITH 5-YEAR TENDENCIES



## HISTORICAL RAINFALL TRENDS:

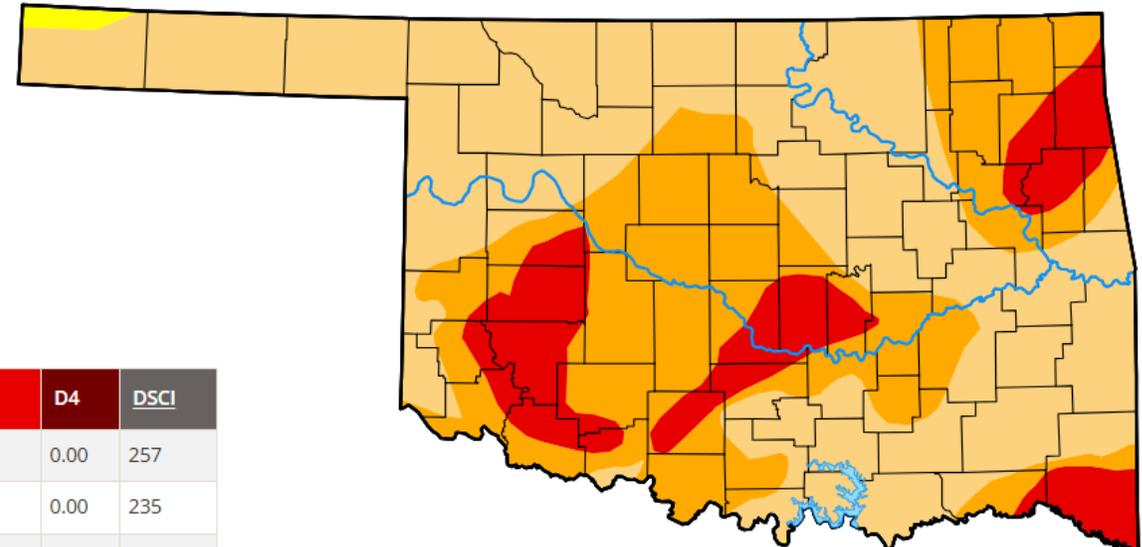
- 2026 is part of a wet cycle overall, but this February follows a growing dry pattern
- Strong rainfall in upcoming months could prevent a turn towards a new drought cycle

# U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR - OKLAHOMA



## NEARLY 4 MILLION OKLAHOMANS CURRENTLY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT:

All of Oklahoma has reached some level of drought, with severe drought expanding in the Central region



Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
Current	<a href="#">2026-03-03</a>	0.00	100.00	99.43	44.99	12.97	0.00	257
Last Week to Current	<a href="#">2026-02-24</a>	0.00	100.00	91.22	31.89	12.08	0.00	235
3 Months Ago to Current	<a href="#">2025-12-02</a>	40.80	59.20	32.11	11.11	3.48	0.00	106
Start of Calendar Year to Current	<a href="#">2025-12-30</a>	20.87	79.13	53.74	13.95	4.80	0.00	152
Start of Water Year to Current	<a href="#">2025-09-30</a>	64.08	35.92	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	41
One Year Ago to Current	<a href="#">2025-03-04</a>	19.11	80.89	25.66	0.33	0.00	0.00	107

**Estimated Population** in Drought Areas: **3,750,693**

### Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data



# U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR – NATIONWIDE MAP

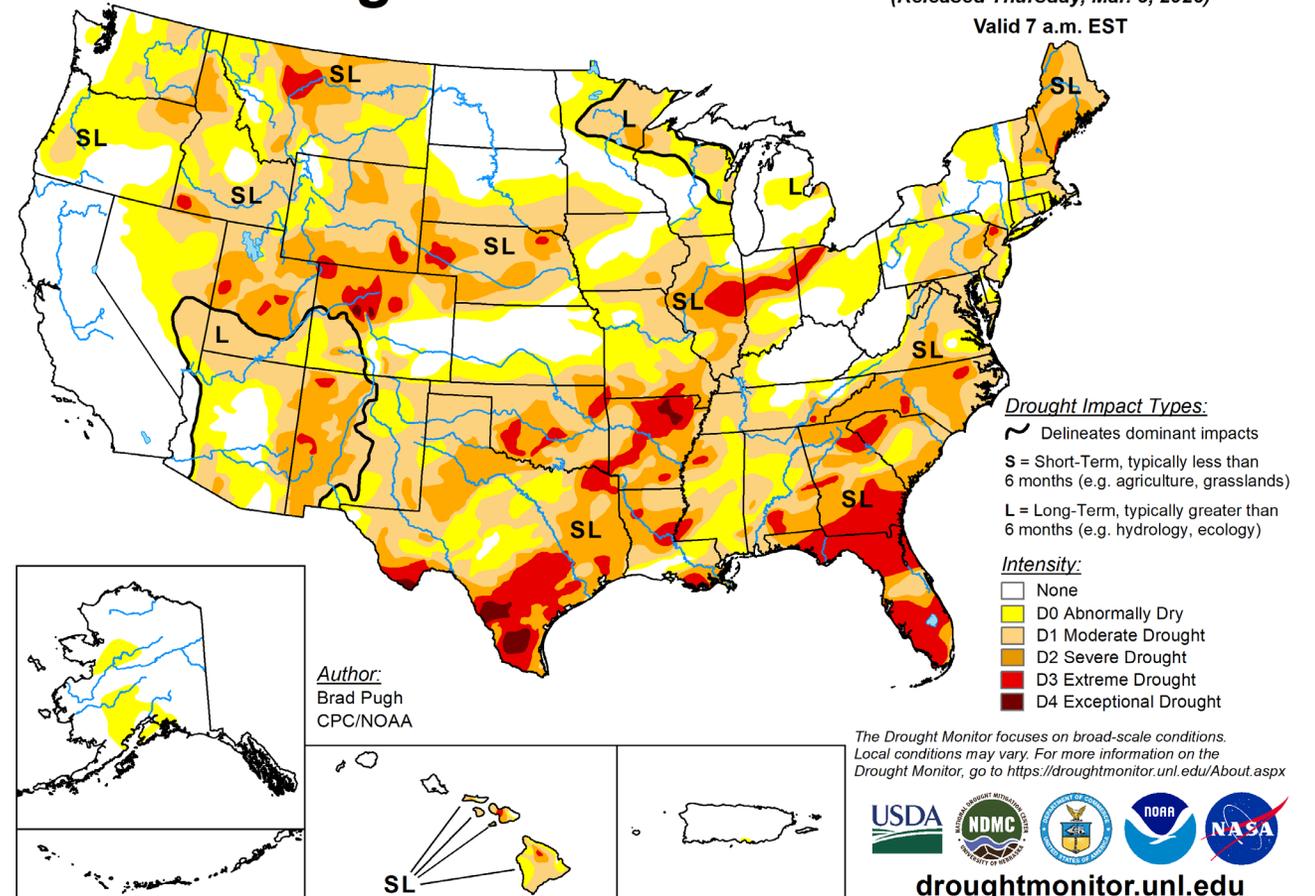


## NATIONAL DROUGHT IMPACTS:

- Oklahoma is not alone in its growing drought – almost every state facing dry conditions saw their moderate to extreme drought areas expand
- Pockets of exceptional drought are also starting to expand in three states

## U.S. Drought Monitor

March 3, 2026  
(Released Thursday, Mar. 5, 2026)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

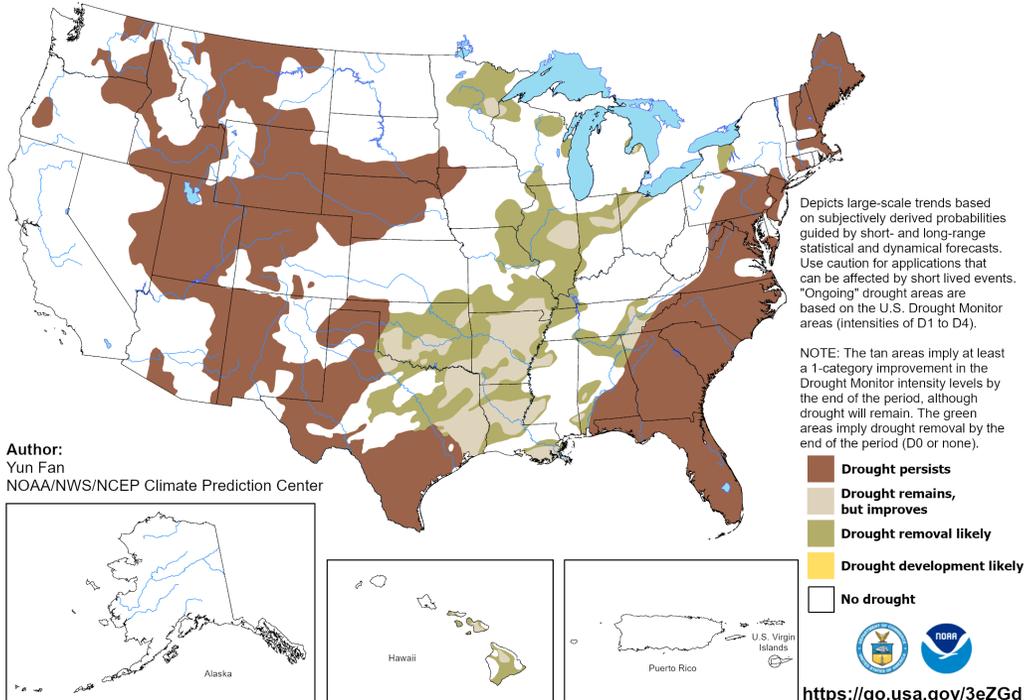


# U.S. DROUGHT OUTLOOK MAPS



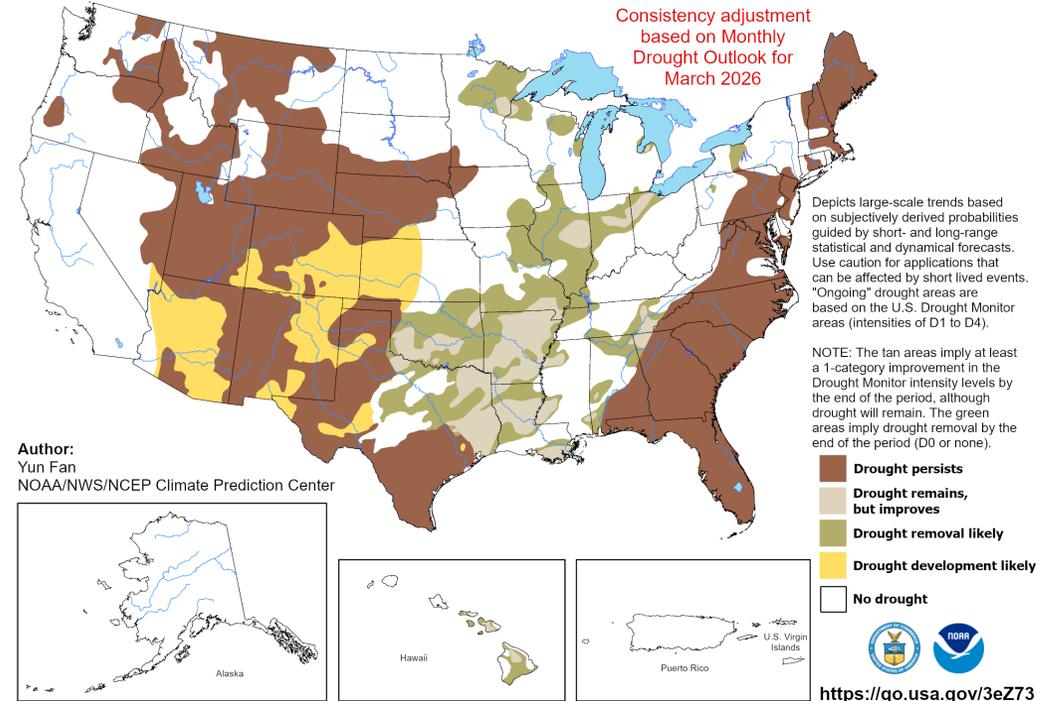
## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 2026  
Released February 28, 2026



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

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

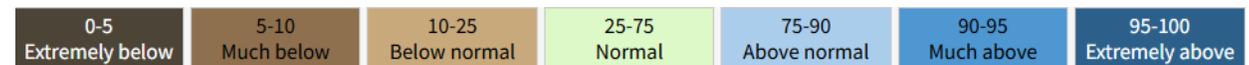
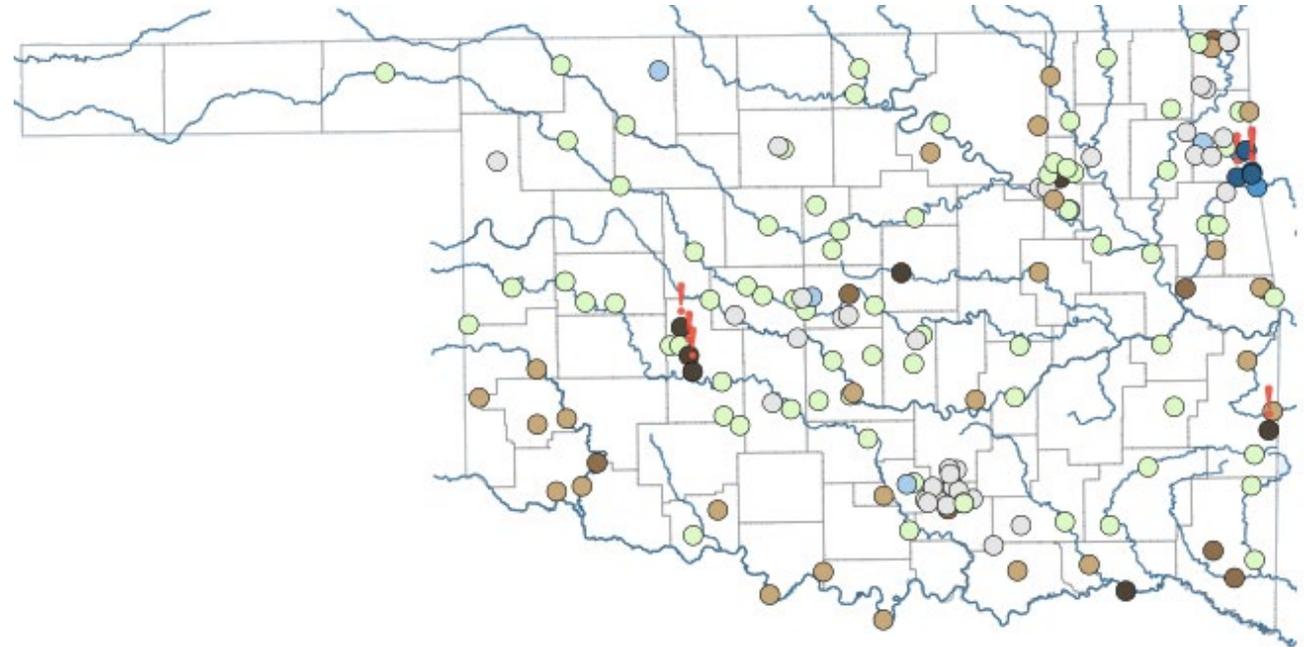


## US DROUGHT OUTLOOK SUMMARY:

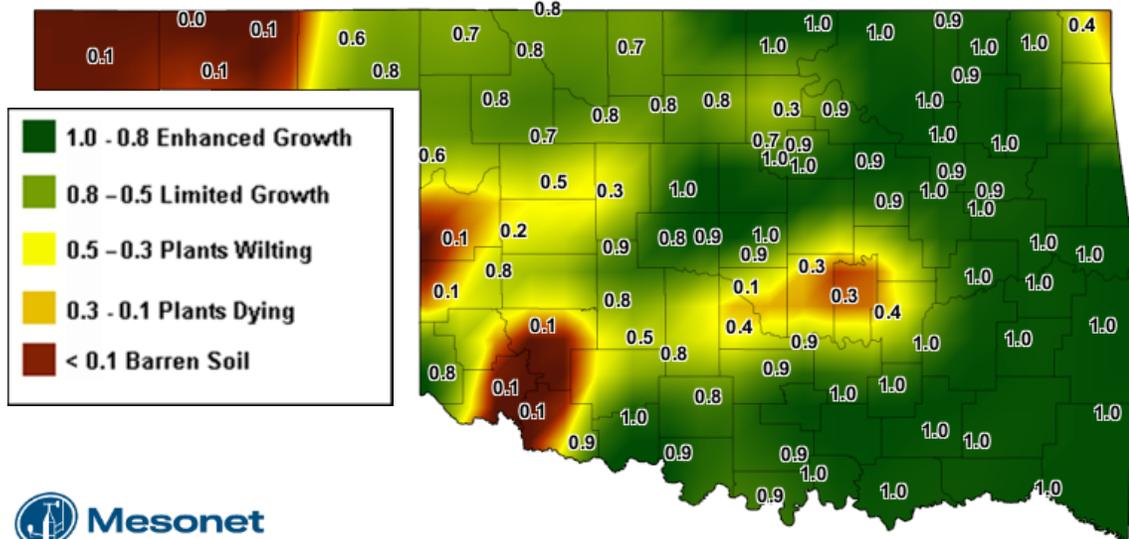
While multiple states can expect some drought relief, the Western and Mid Central U.S. may see drought expansion this season

## STREAMFLOW CONDITIONS:

- Streamflow ratings are made by comparing current readings against historic 120-day readings
- Current streamflow ratings remain normal overall, with small pockets of change in Caddo and Delaware counties
- Streamflow can appear healthy even in droughts due to having multiple supply sources



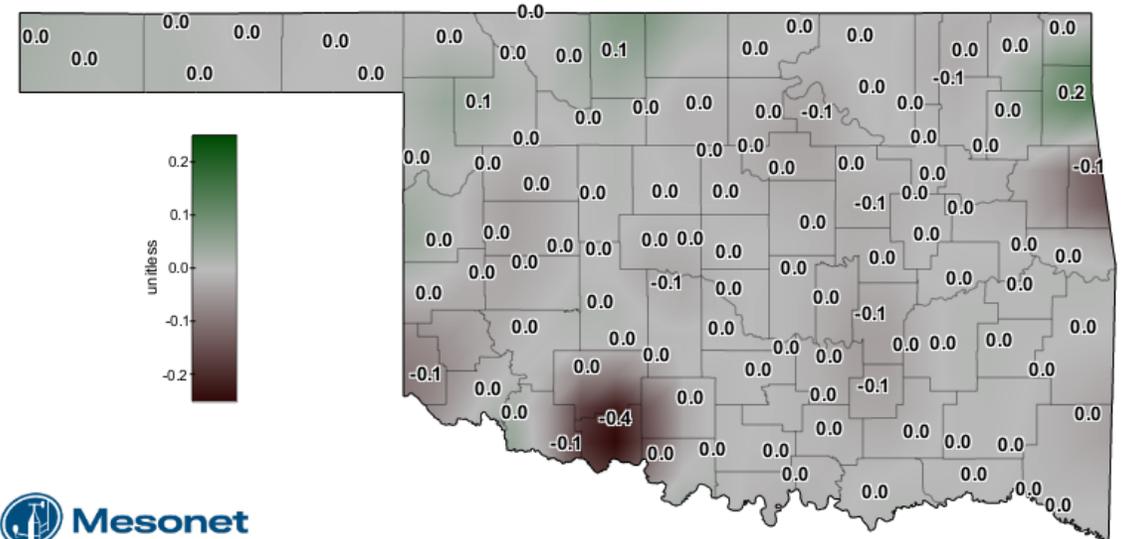
# SOIL MOISTURE MAP



1-day Average 24-inch Fractional Water Index

March 4, 2026

Created 6:30:14 AM March 5, 2026 CST. © Copyright 2026



7-day 10-inch Fractional Water Index Change

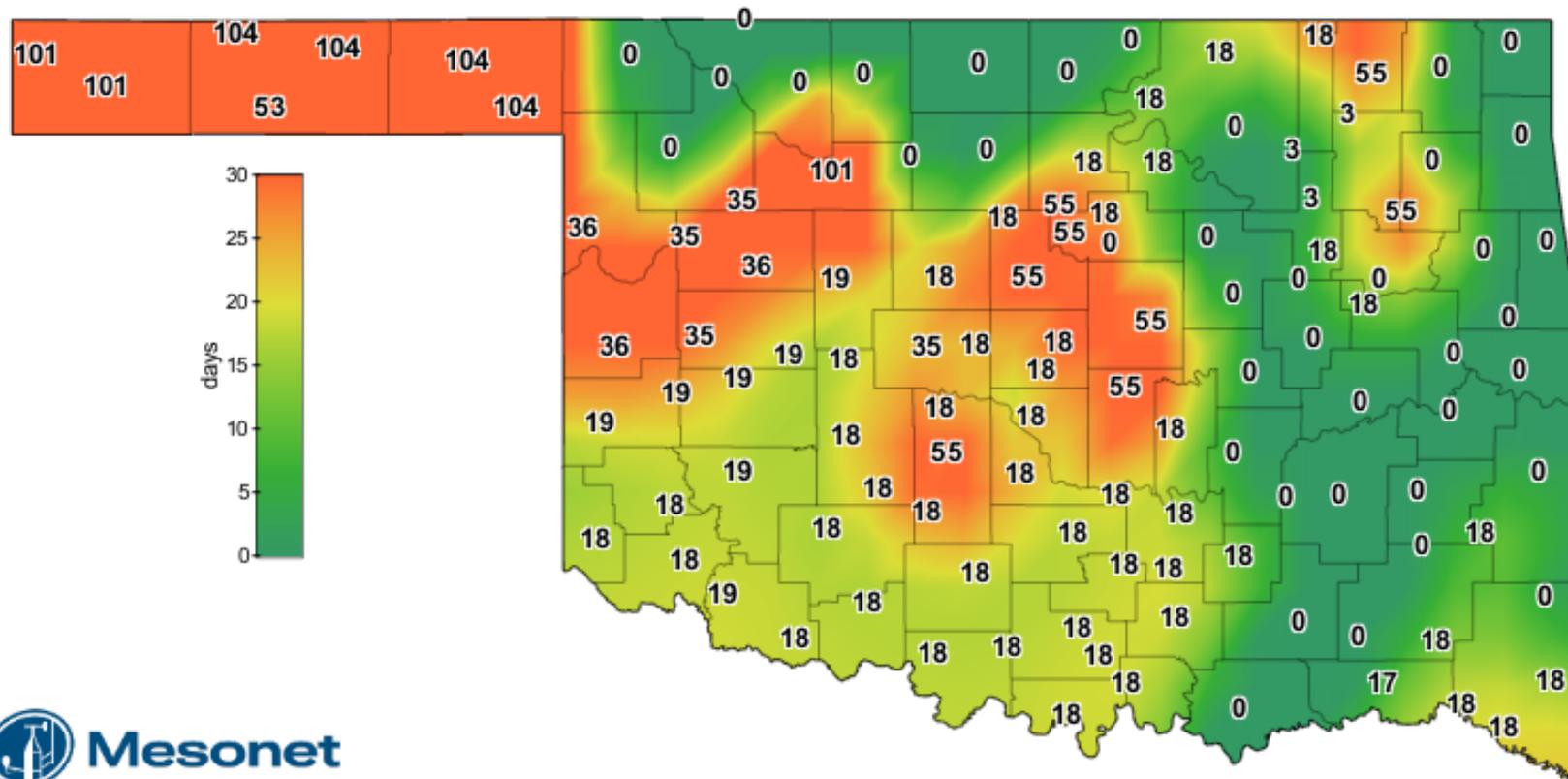
March 4, 2026

Created 5:30:01 AM March 5, 2026 CST. © Copyright 2026

## SHORT-TERM SOIL MOISTURE STATUS:

Soil conditions across much of Central and Southwestern Oklahoma are improving due to the recent rain - but more rain is needed for saturation

# DAYS SINCE LAST RAINFALL



Consecutive Days With Less Than 0.25" Rainfall

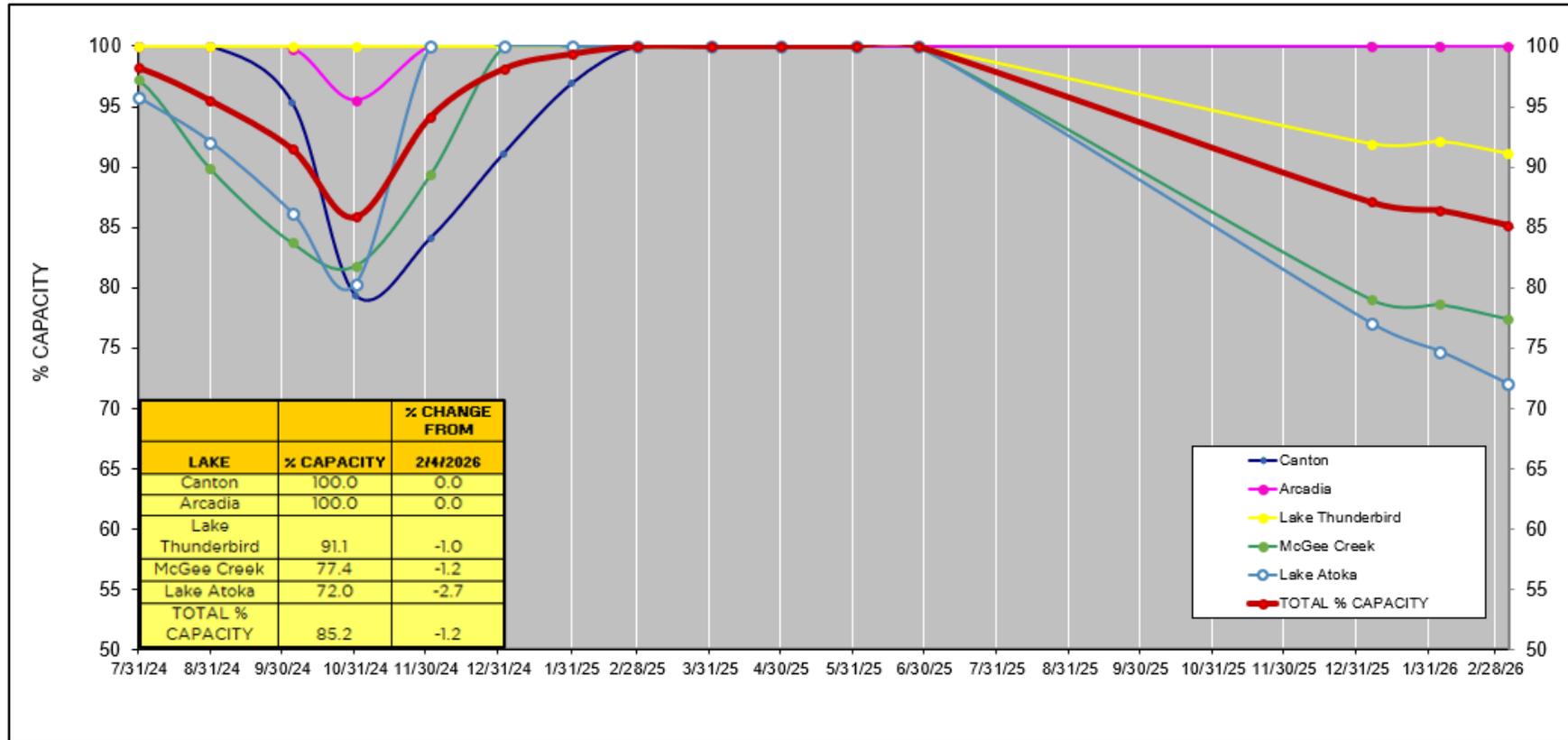
March 4, 2026

Created 7:15:03 AM March 5, 2026 CST. © Copyright 2026

## MISSED A SPOT:

- Most of Oklahoma is now seeing reprise from the extended dry spell – but the panhandle has yet to see useable rain this year
- With luck, spring showers will clear up most of our central dry spots, but the panhandle remains uncertain

# SURFACE WATER CONSERVATION CAPACITY – CENTRAL OK RESERVOIRS

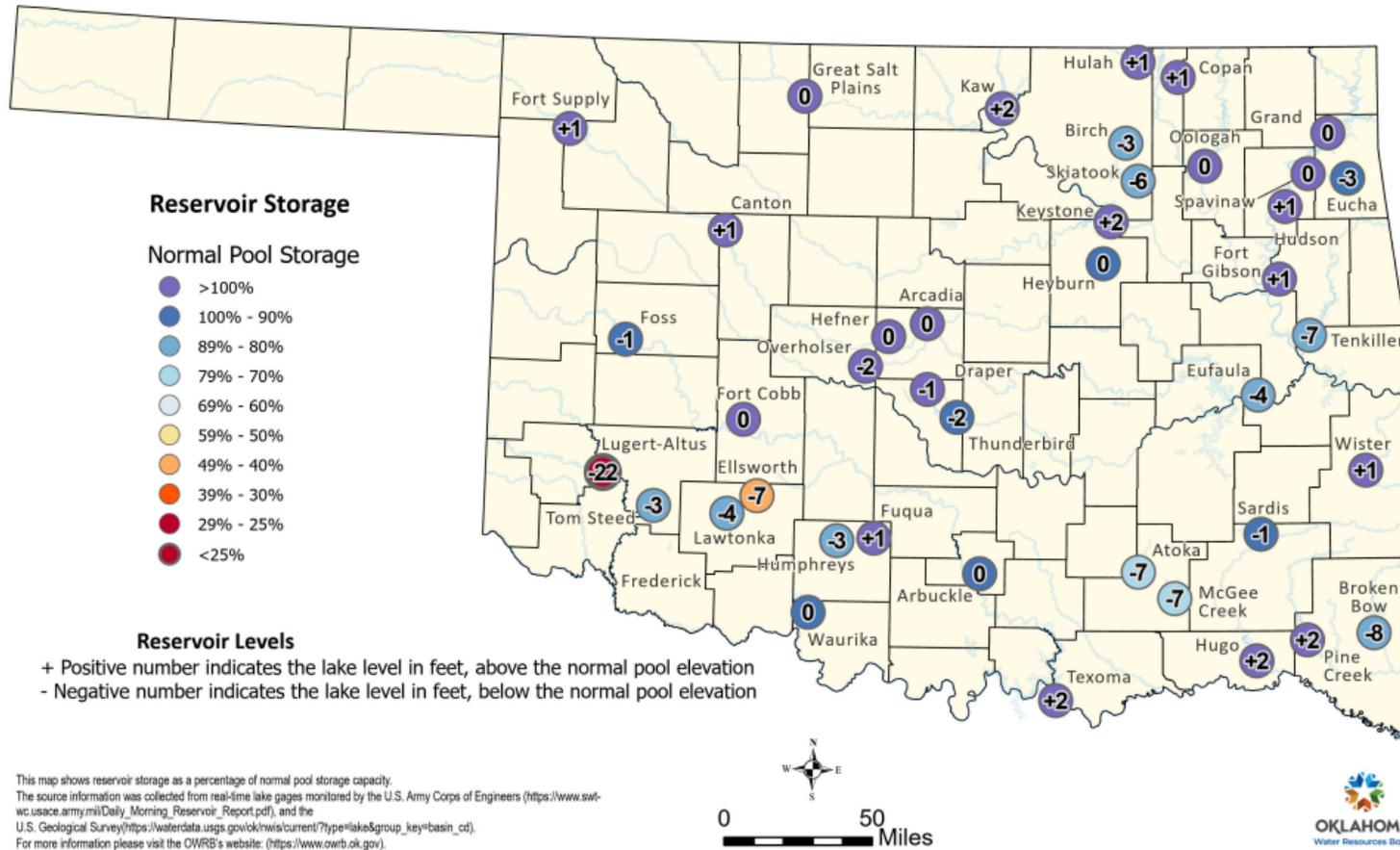


**RESERVOIR TRENDS:**  
 Canton and Arcadia reservoirs remain at full capacity, with all other reservoirs experiencing slight drops in capacity while supplementing local water supplies

# OKLAHOMA RESERVOIR LEVELS AND STORAGE



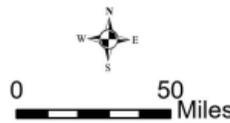
Oklahoma Reservoir Levels and Storage as of 3/3/2026



## CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Oklahoma lake levels tracked as a percentage of normal storage - levels remain largely unchanged from February

This map shows reservoir storage as a percentage of normal pool storage capacity. The source information was collected from real-time lake gages monitored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ([https://www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/Daily\\_Morning\\_Reservoir\\_Report.pdf](https://www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/Daily_Morning_Reservoir_Report.pdf)), and the U.S. Geological Survey ([https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ok/nwis/current/?type=lake&group\\_key=basin\\_cd](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ok/nwis/current/?type=lake&group_key=basin_cd)). For more information please visit the OWRB's website: (<https://www.owrb.ok.gov>).

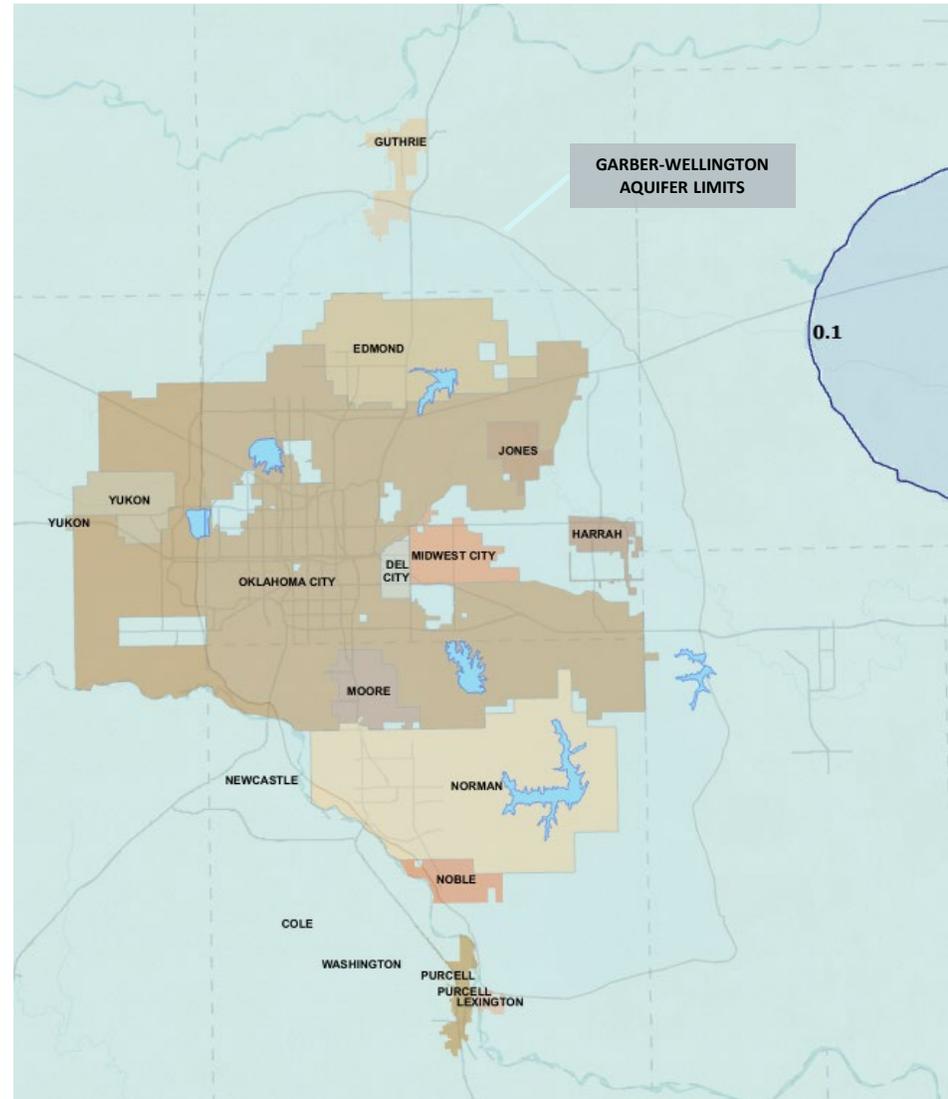


# MONTHLY AQUIFER RECHARGE

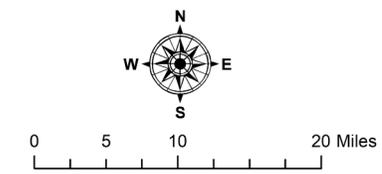
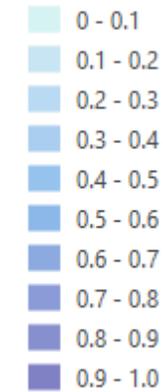


## THE DRY BEFORE THE STORMS:

- Mean aquifer recharge in February was 0.02 inches, closely resembling last year but well under the 0.24 average
- The higher-than-normal temperatures and little rainfall were both factors in weak recharge this month



Recharge in Inches

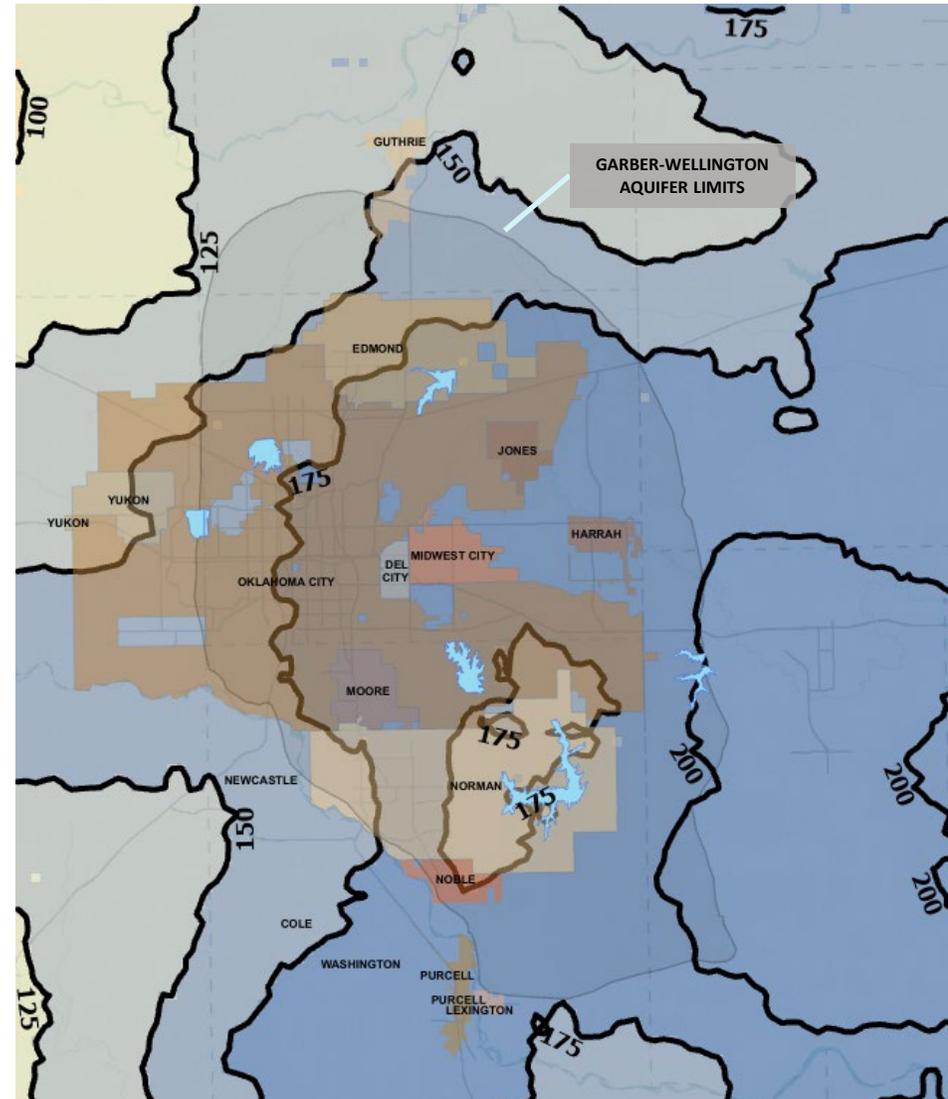


# 12 MONTH CUMULATIVE AQUIFER RECHARGE

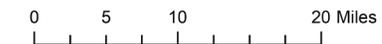
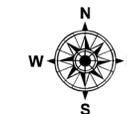
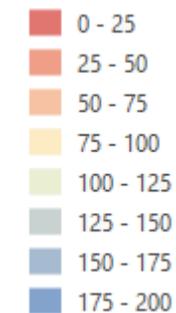


## STILL RIDING HIGH FROM 2025:

- The past few months have seen weak recharge numbers - but our 12-month totals are still strong thanks to last spring
- Ideally, another wet season will help us maintain healthy aquifer levels



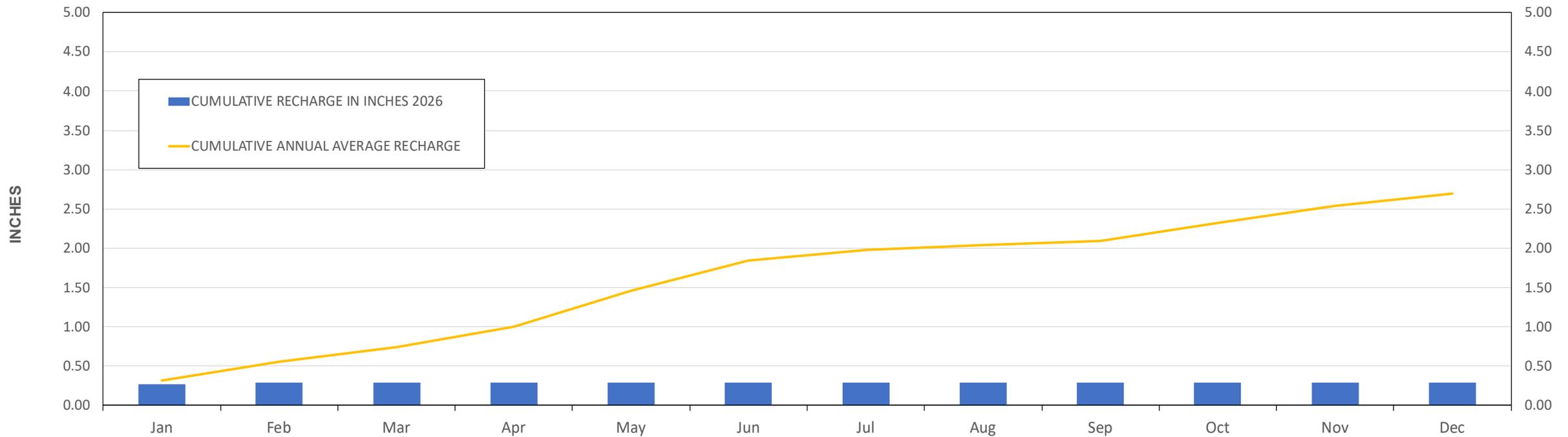
### Percent of Cumulative Recharge



# RECHARGE CHARTS: CENTRAL OKLAHOMA AQUIFER SYSTEM



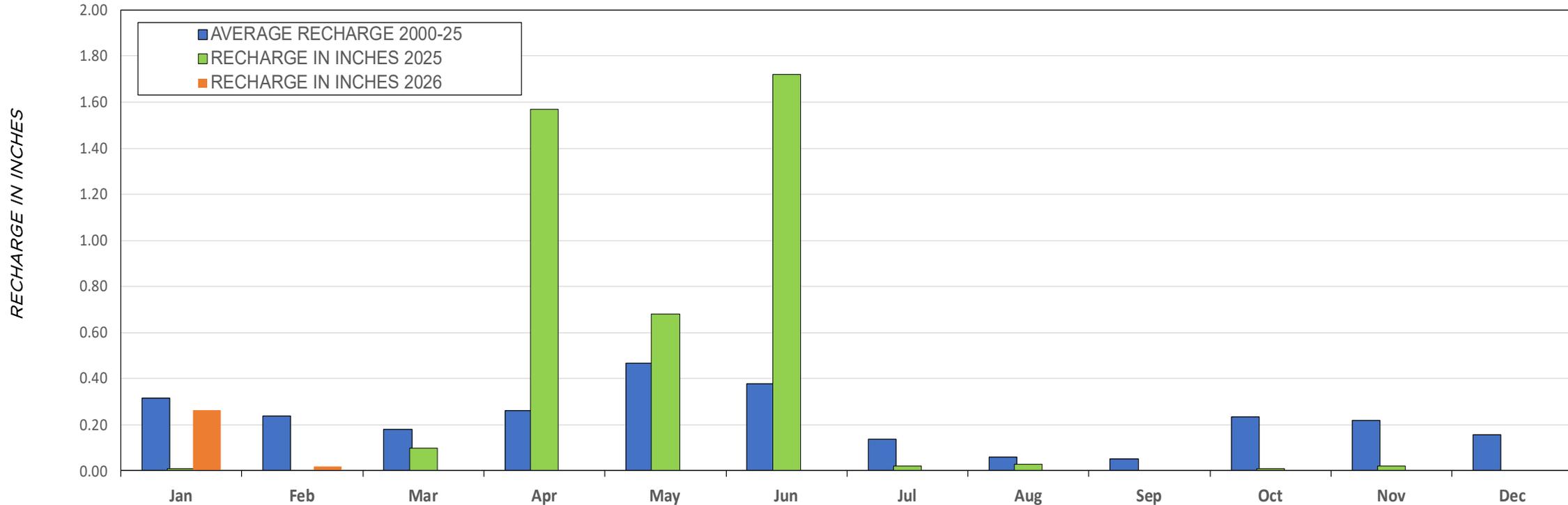
## ACCUMULATED CENTRAL OKLAHOMA AQUIFER SYSTEM RECHARGE 2026



# RECHARGE CHARTS: CENTRAL OKLAHOMA AQUIFER SYSTEM CONT.

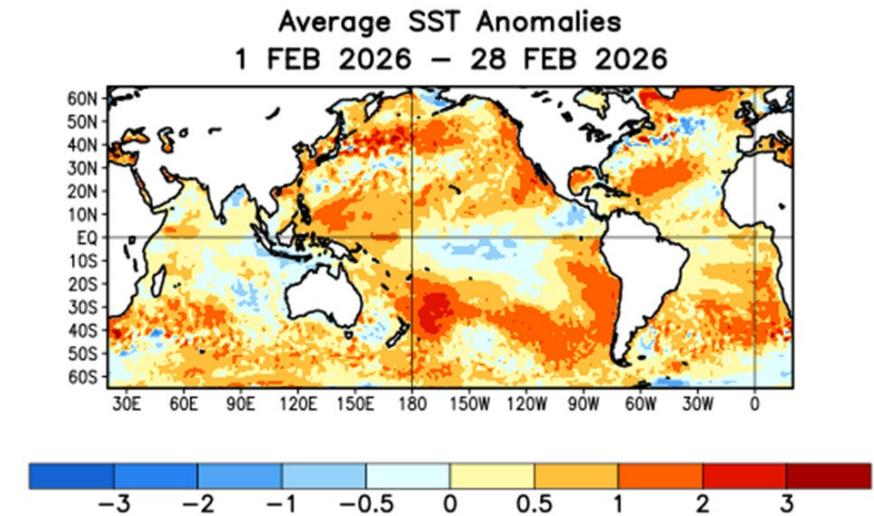
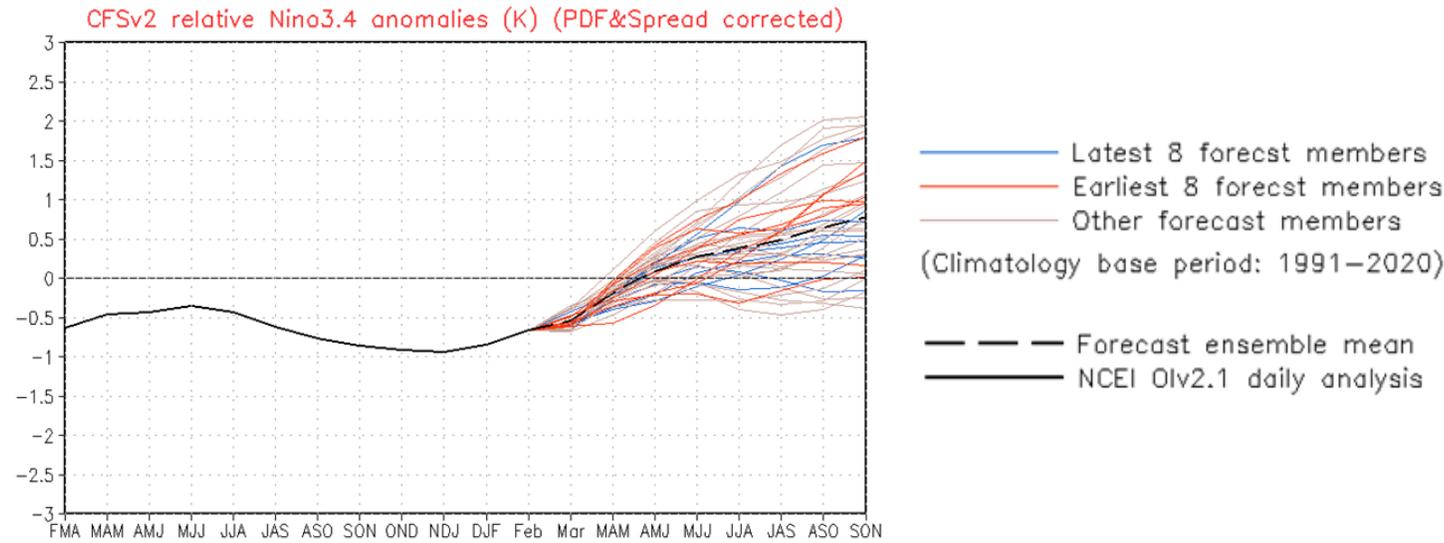


## MONTHLY AQUIFER RECHARGE 2026



Both 2025 and 2026 saw weak recharge levels compared to the 25-year average

# ENSO CYCLE – CURRENT PATTERNS AND PREDICTIONS



## CLIMATE PATTERN UPDATE (ENSO):

- Oklahoma may finally see some good rainfall as La Niña weakens and ENSO-Neutral conditions creep in
- The changing conditions may bring more than rain - in the form of severe weather and large temperature swings



- The warm February weather predictions came true, putting all of Oklahoma in some level of drought
- In addition to the warm weather, February saw very little precipitation, especially compared to average totals
- Thankfully, March rainfall has begun rolling in – a promising start to what will hopefully be another rainy spring season

# QUESTIONS?

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CENTRAL OKLAHOMA  
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