DROUGHT CONDITIONS

IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

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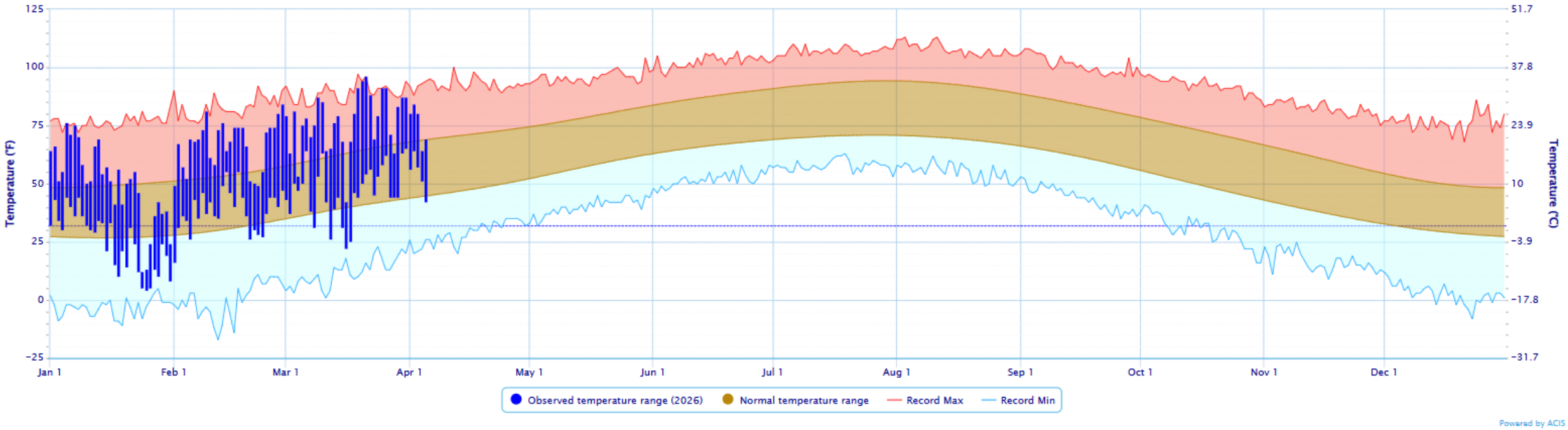
APRIL 2026

TEMPERATURE PLOT FOR OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - 2026

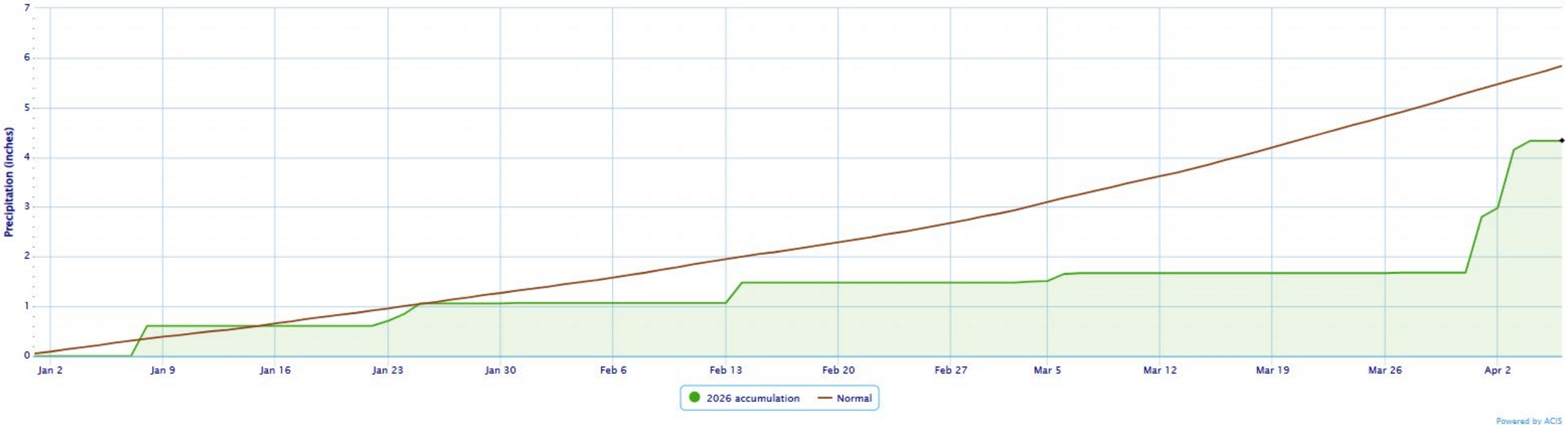


MONTHLY TEMPERATURE TREND:

March brought more record-breaking heat – with the highest temperatures just shy of 100°F

http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/

PRECIPITATION PLOT FOR OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - 2026



MONTHLY PRECIPITATION TREND:

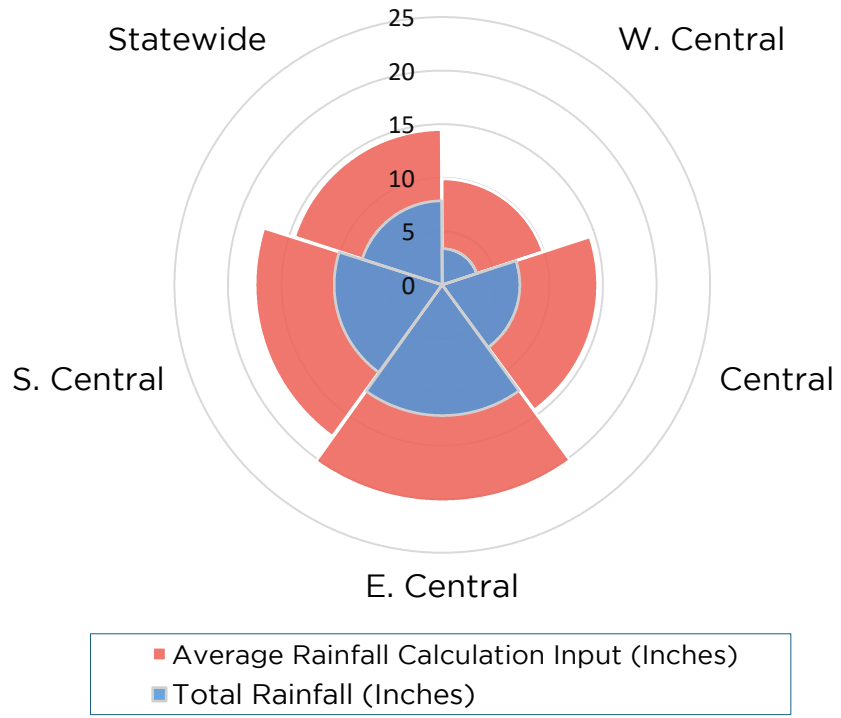
March received only 0.20 inches of rain – but April is looking much more promising

http://xmacis.rcc-acis.org/

WATER YEAR RAINFALL SUMMARY

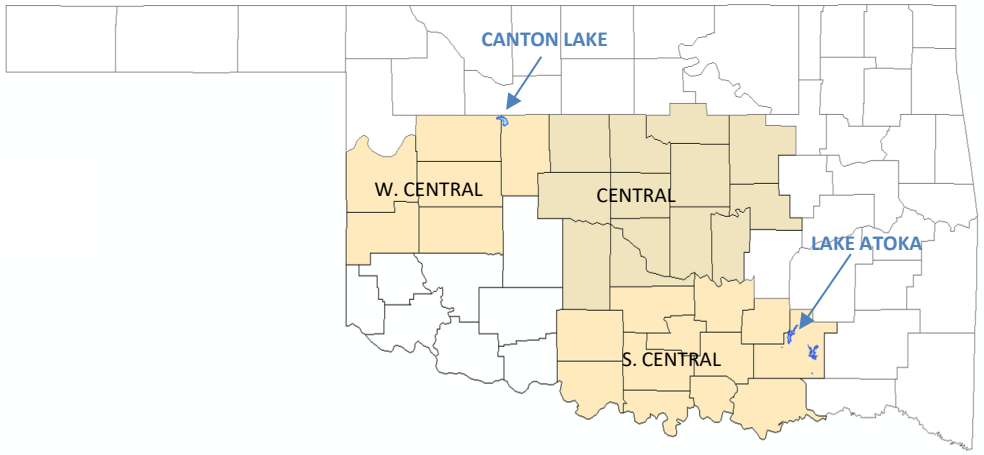
WATER YEAR RAINFALL SUMMARY

Oct 1, 2025 - Apr 1, 2026



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA TAKEAWAY:

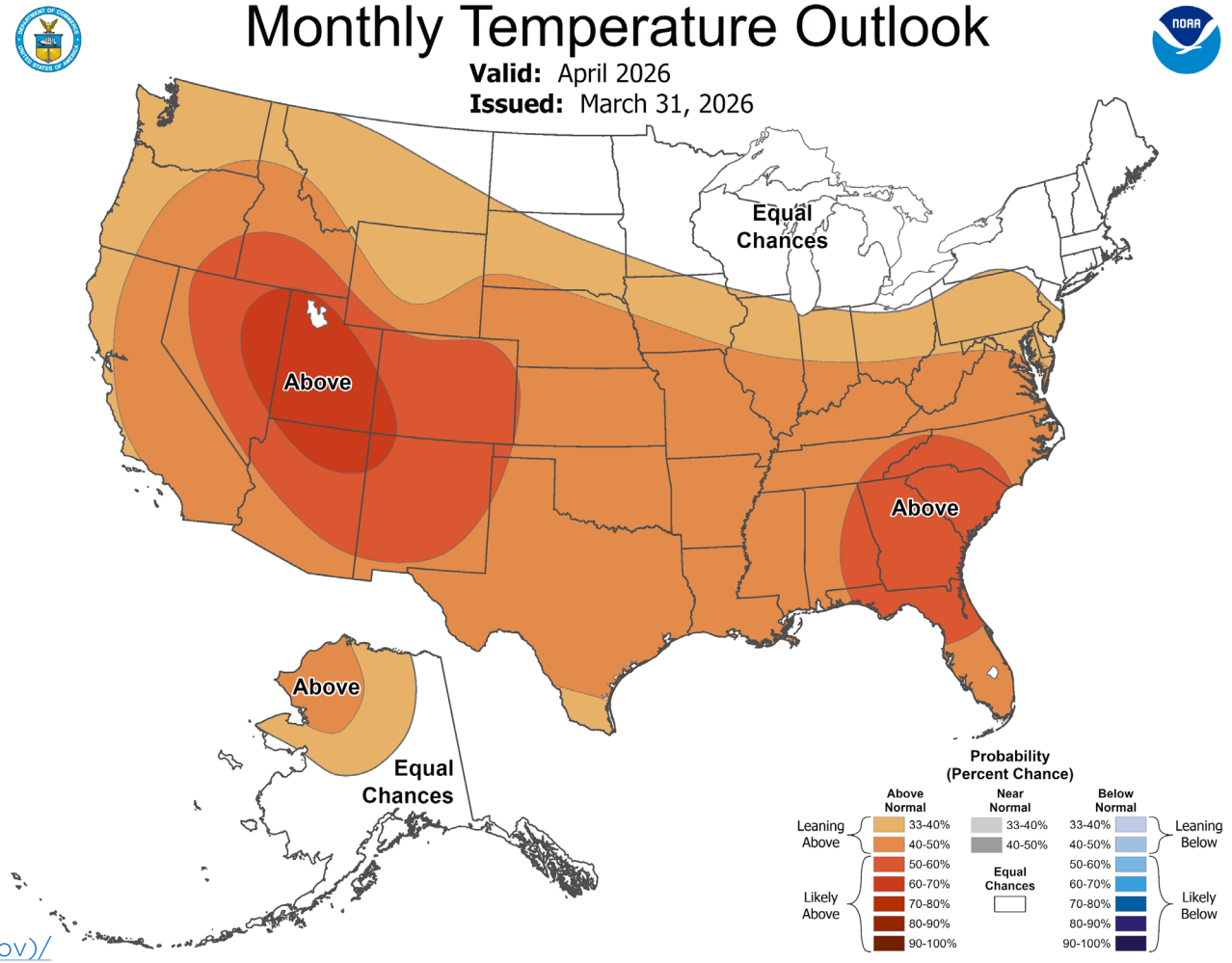
- Total water year rainfall through March was exactly 50% of normal - short by 7.26 inches
- However, thanks to the early April rains, Central OK has gone from its 9th driest water year to its 40th wettest as of April 6th.



NOAA ONE-MONTH TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

APRIL TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK:

- White areas shown as EC (Equal Chance) on these maps represent areas with no strong climate signals based on current data.
- Although not as deep in the red as March – April is expected to remain warmer than average

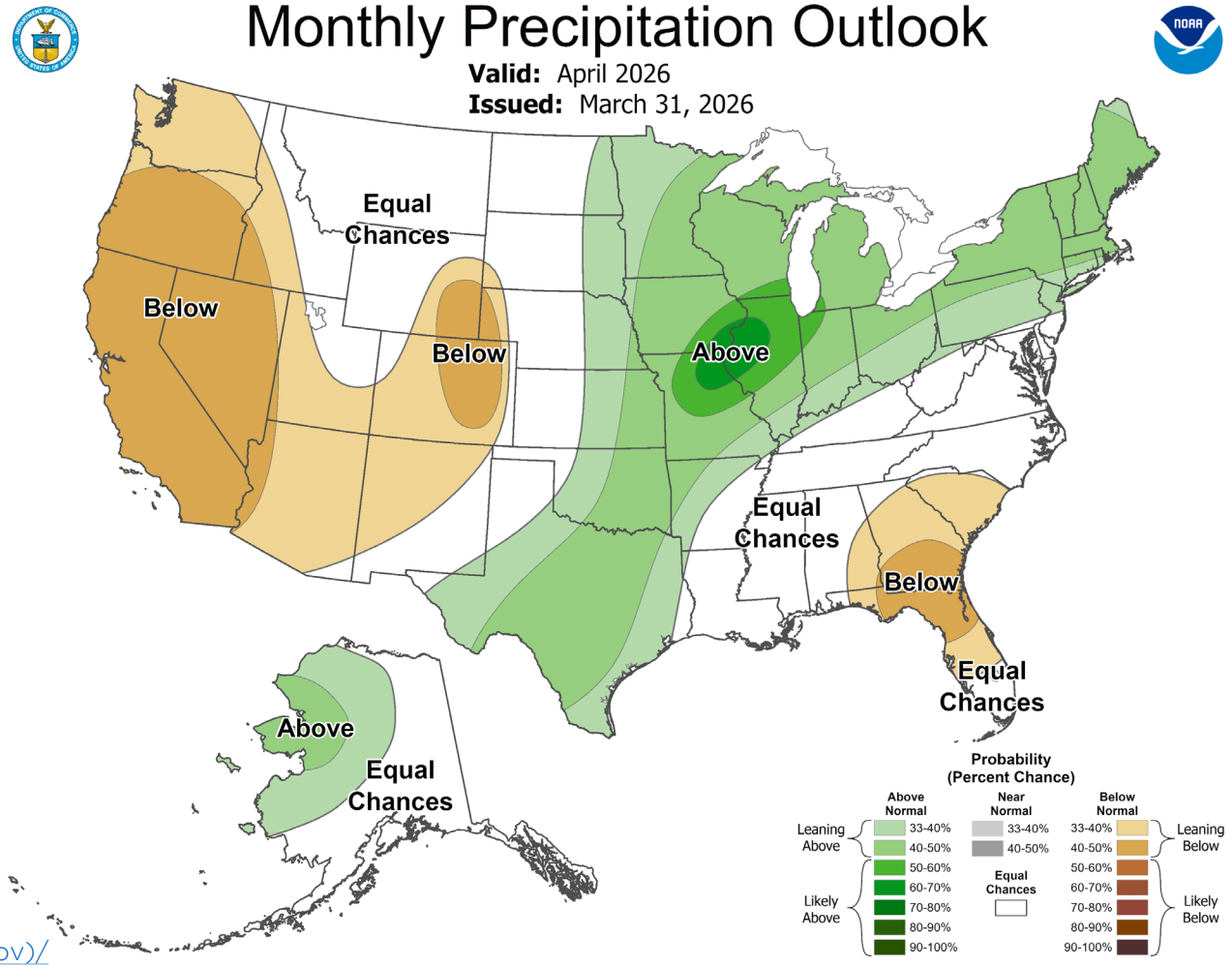


Climate Prediction Center - Updated OFFICIAL 30-Day Forecasts (noaa.gov)/

NOAA ONE-MONTH PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

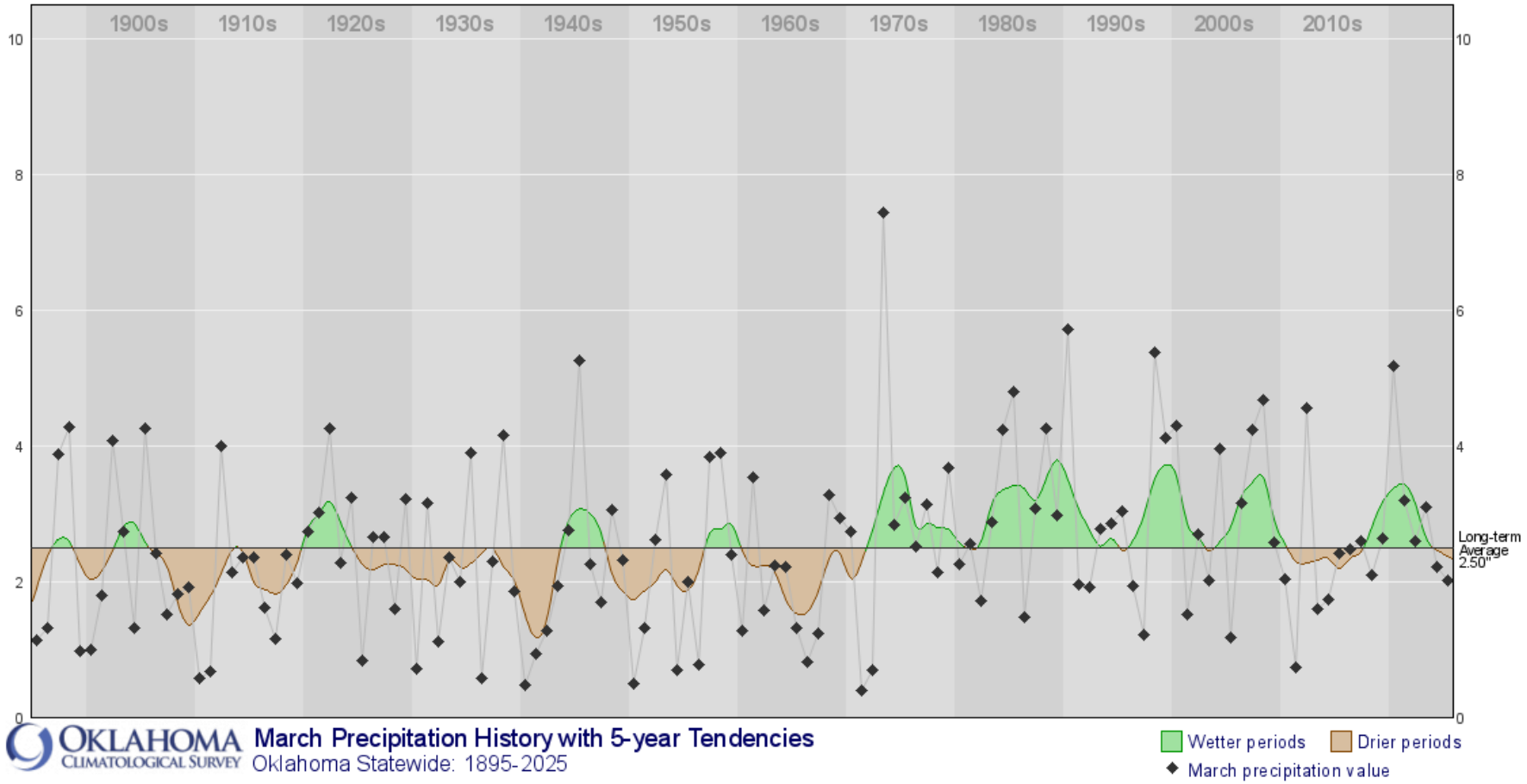
APRIL PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK:

- White areas shown as EC (Equal Chance) on these maps represent areas with no strong climate signals based on current data.
- The precipitation outlook map looks similar to last month – but April has already received nearly an inch more rain as of the 1st



Climate Prediction Center - Updated OFFICIAL 30-Day Forecasts (noaa.gov)/

MARCH PRECIPITATION HISTORY WITH 5-YEAR TENDENCIES



HISTORICAL RAINFALL TRENDS:

- This March follows the drier period from 2025 – forming what may become a longer trend
- The April data shows a growing wet pattern that we seem to be following

http://climate.ok.gov/index.php/climate/climate_trends/precipitation_history_annual_statewide/CD00/prcp/Annual/oklahoma_south-central_u.s

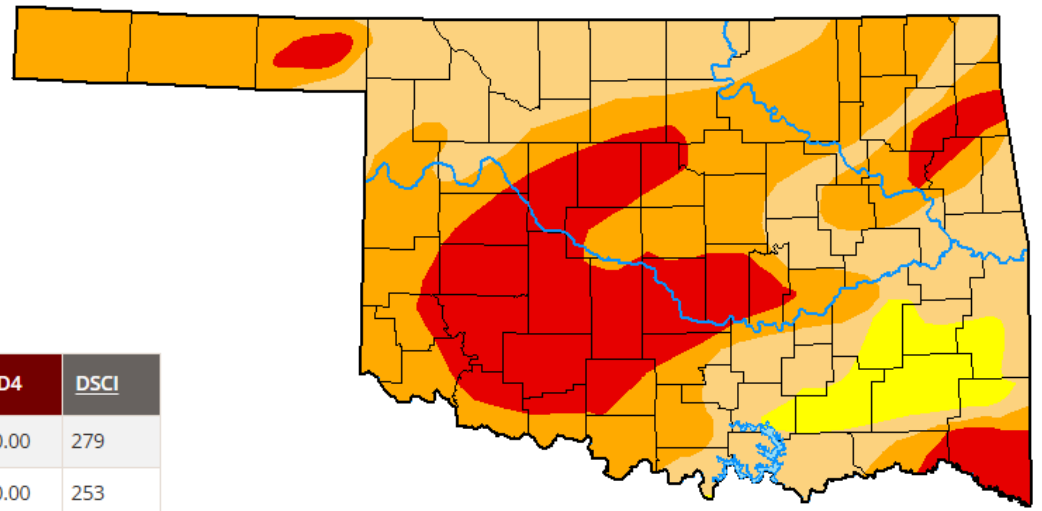
U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR - OKLAHOMA

ALL OF OKLAHOMA REMAINS IN DROUGHT:

While a small Southeastern portion of Oklahoma saw weakened drought intensity, most areas experienced worsening drought conditions

Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
Current	2026-03-24	0.00	100.00	94.29	62.17	22.49	0.00	279
Last Week to Current	2026-03-17	0.00	100.00	94.29	45.44	13.50	0.00	253
3 Months Ago to Current	2025-12-23	26.30	73.70	44.79	13.13	4.80	0.00	136
Start of Calendar Year to Current	2025-12-30	20.87	79.13	53.74	13.95	4.80	0.00	152
Start of Water Year to Current	2025-09-30	64.08	35.92	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	41
One Year Ago to Current	2025-03-25	23.05	76.95	47.52	14.10	0.00	0.00	139

Estimated Population in Drought Areas: **3,680,693**



Intensity

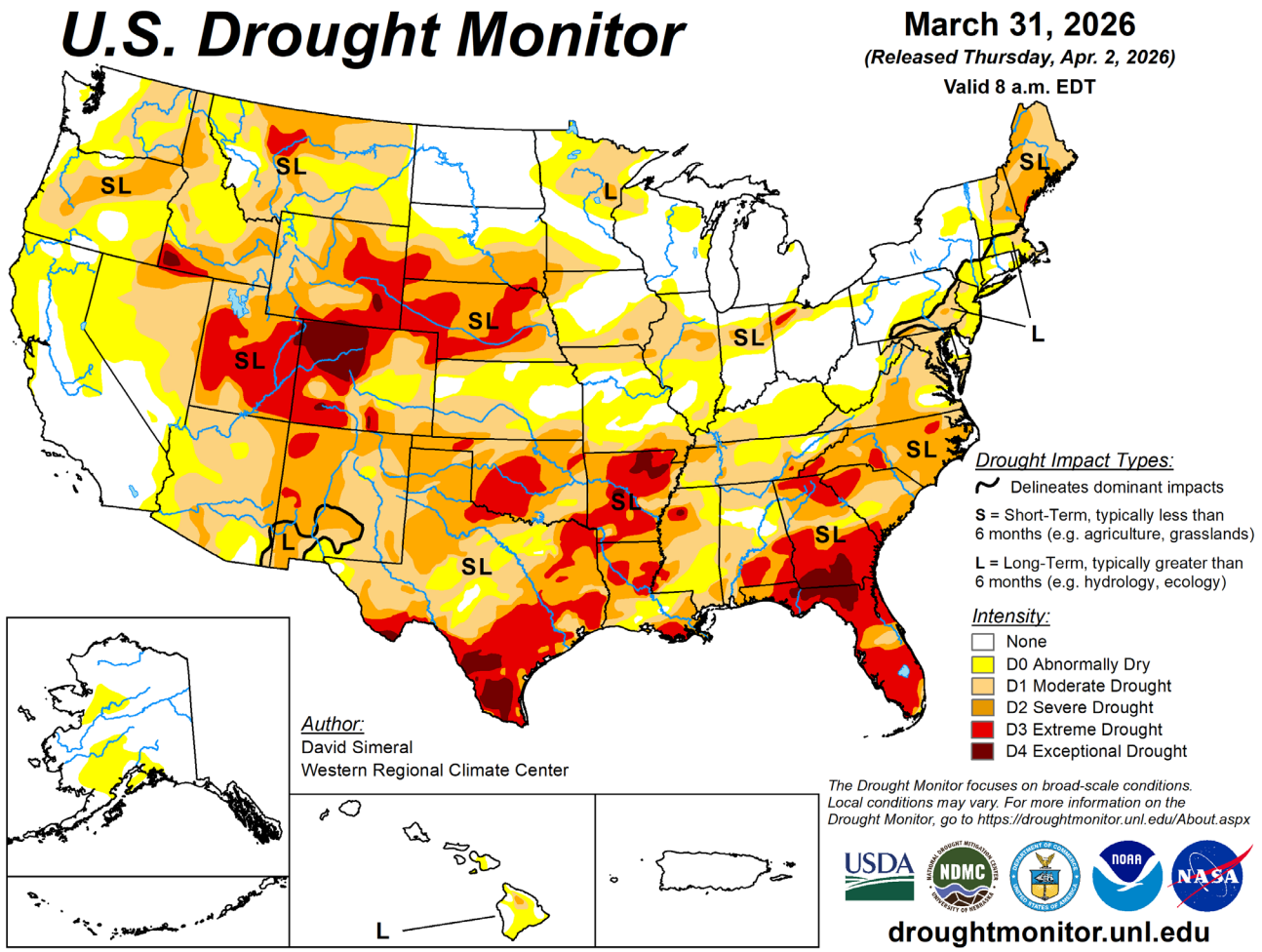
- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OK

U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR – NATIONWIDE MAP

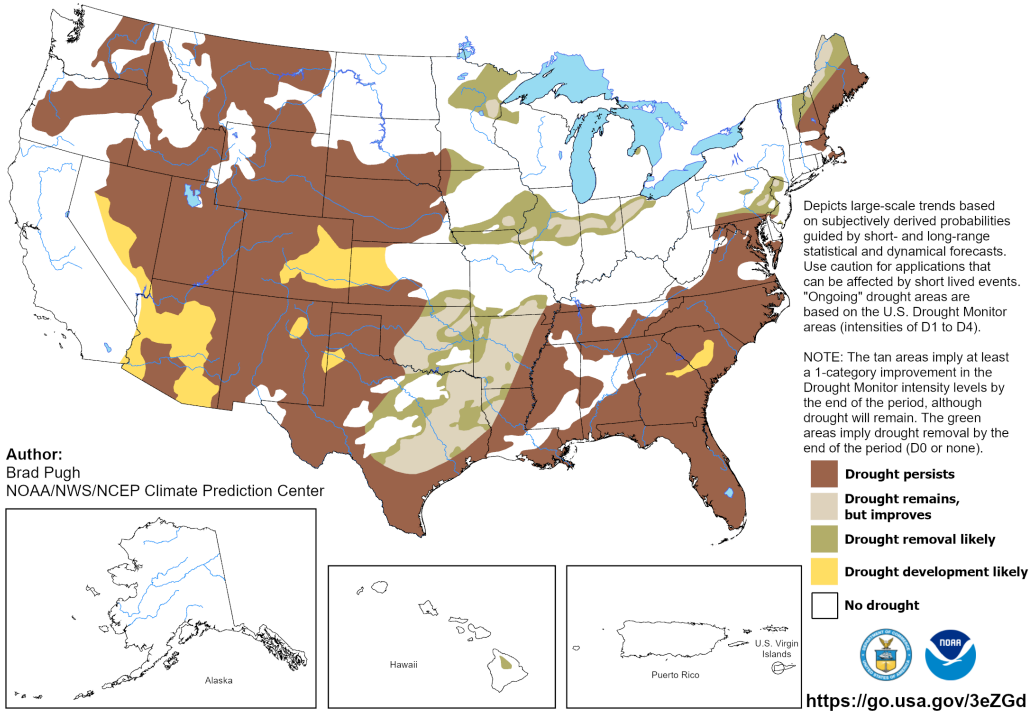
NATIONAL DROUGHT IMPACTS:

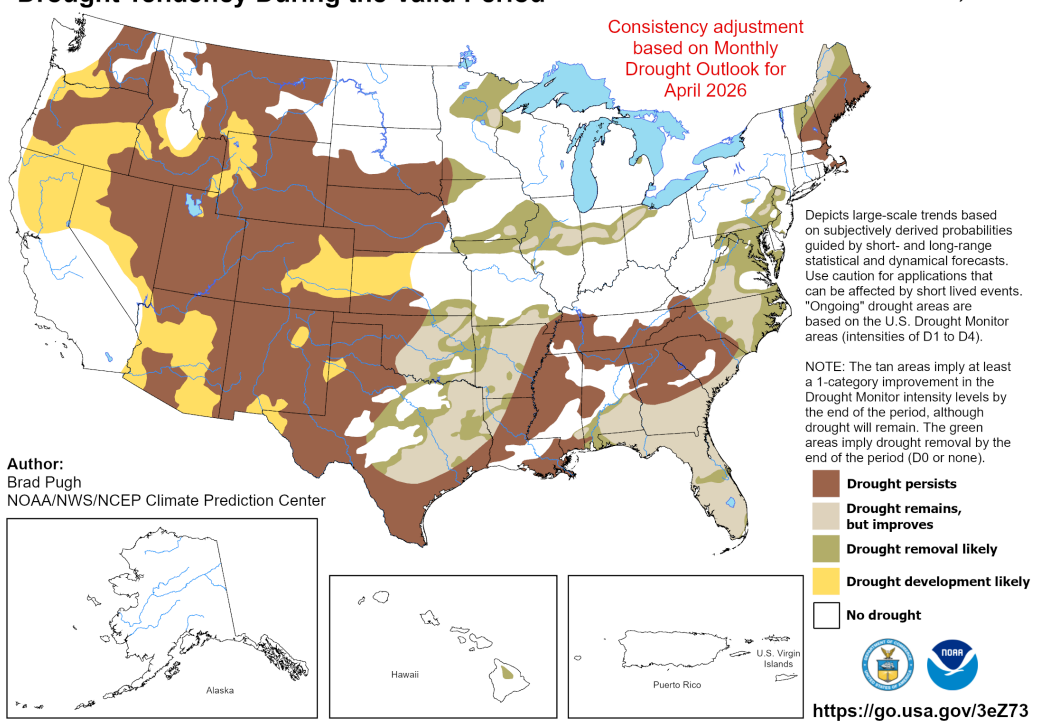
- Levels of extreme and exceptional drought have grown in multiple states
- Some states saw moderate relief – but relief is still outpaced by drought growth overall



http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. DROUGHT OUTLOOK MAPS





US DROUGHT OUTLOOK SUMMARY:

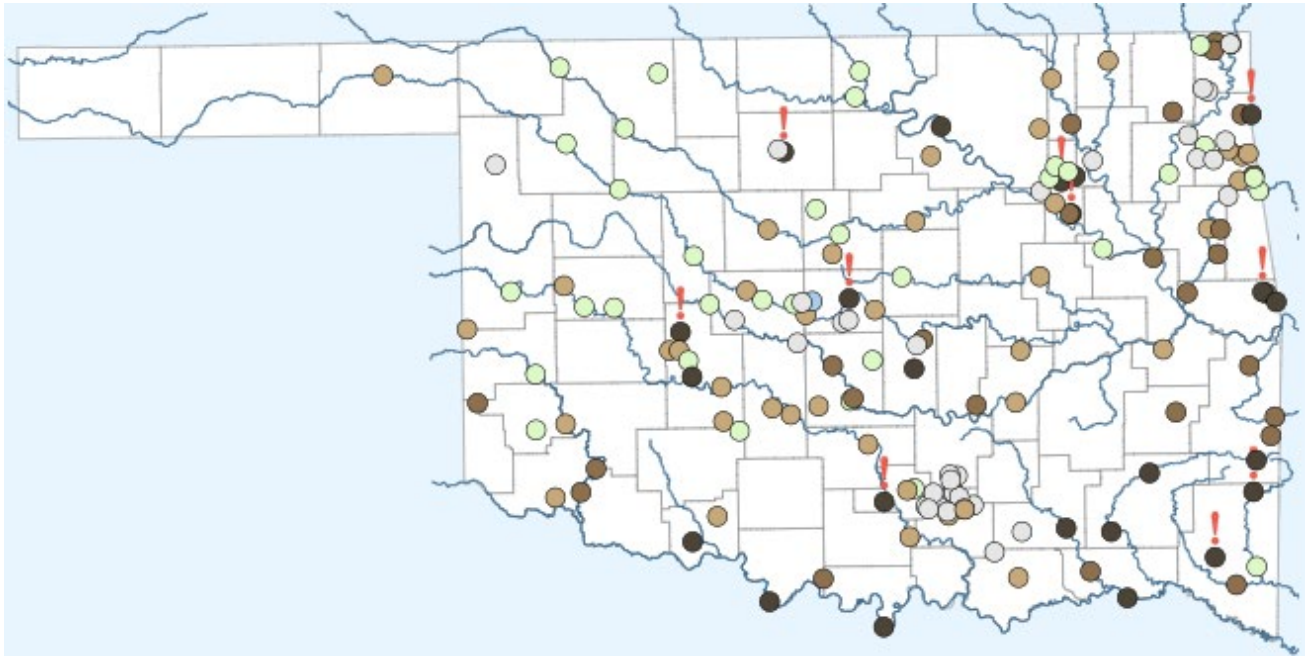
Both monthly and seasonal predictions have drought growing across most of the United States - especially in the West

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/mdo_summary.php

USGS STREAMFLOW DATA

STREAMFLOW CONDITIONS:

- Streamflow ratings are made by comparing current readings against historic 120-day readings
- Multiple sampling areas saw shifts to “below normal” and “much below” compared to February
- Areas with “extremely below” flow conditions had nearly doubled by the end of March



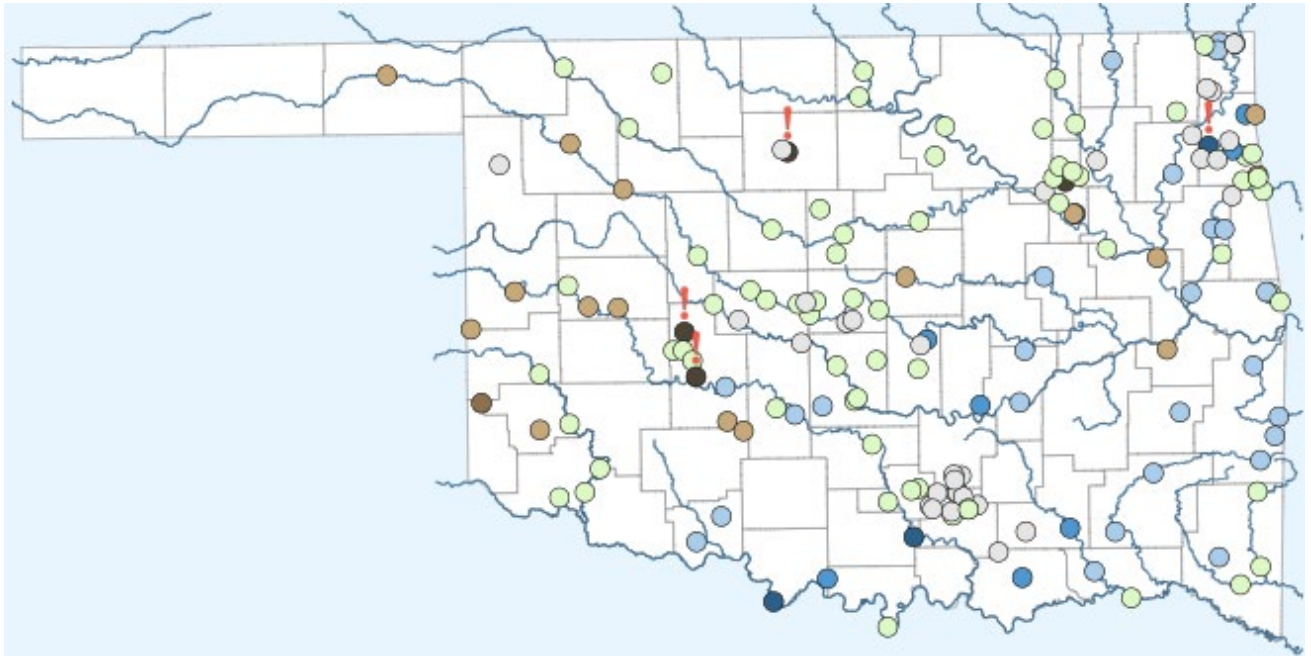
USGS
science for a changing world

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ok/nwis/rt

USGS STREAMFLOW DATA

STREAMFLOW CONDITIONS (CONTINUED):

- Fortunately, rains in the first weekend of April have nearly eradicated our below normal conditions – leaving just a few areas left



USGS
science for a changing world

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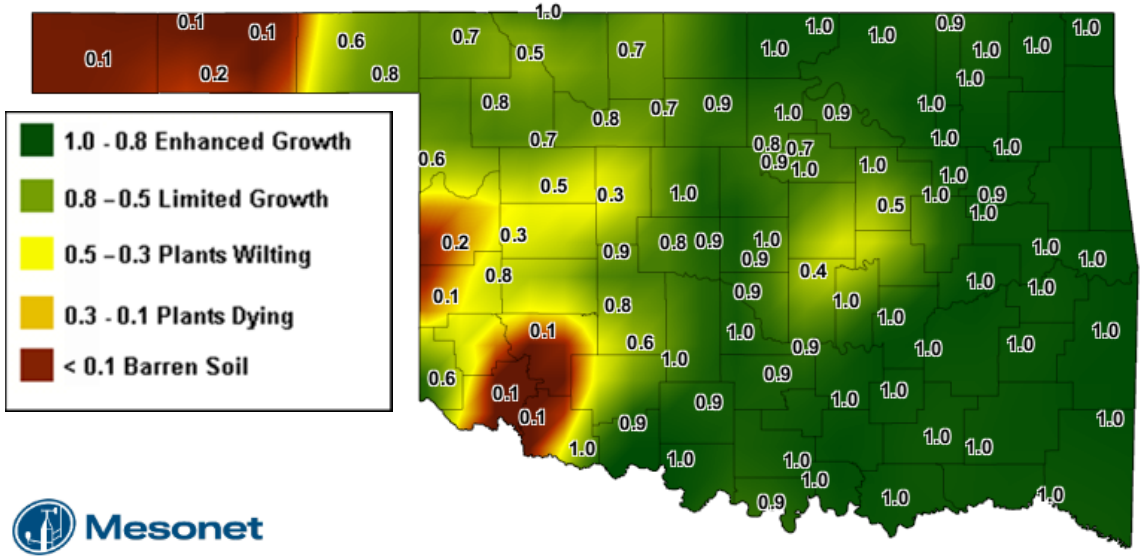
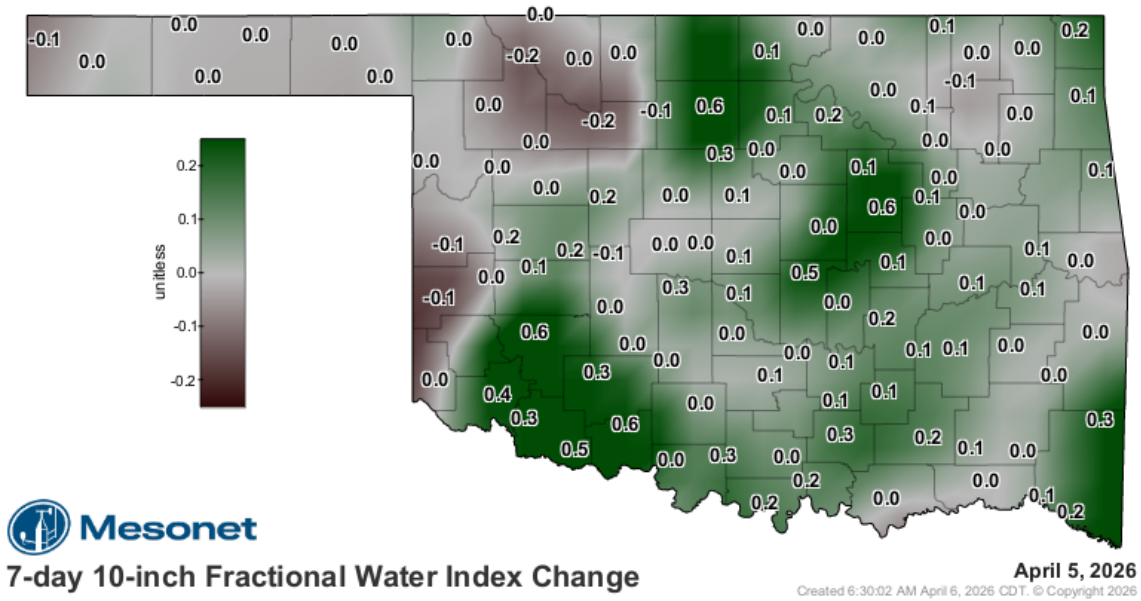
SOIL MOISTURE MAP



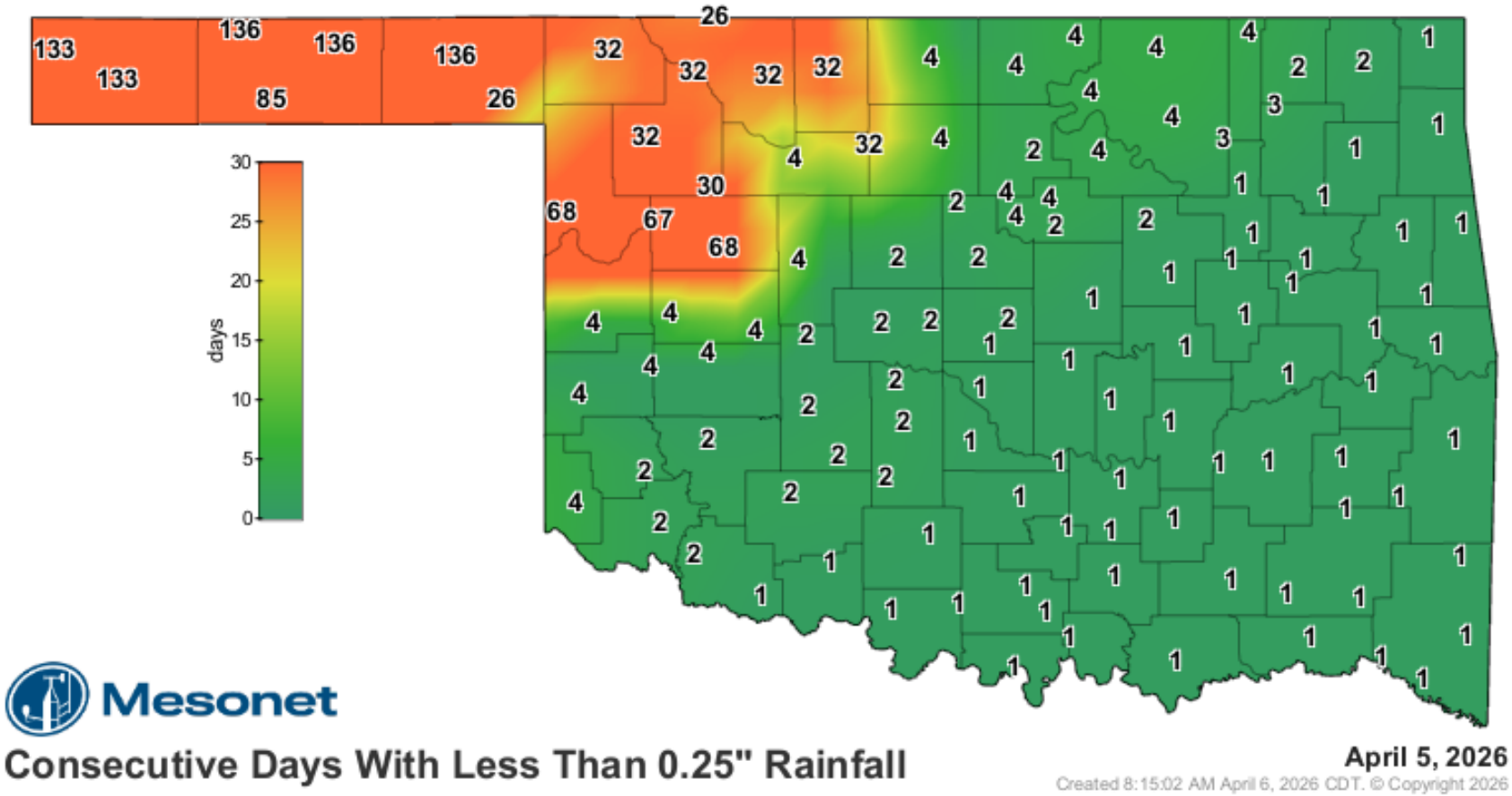


SHORT-TERM SOIL MOISTURE STATUS:

The 24-inch soil moisture map remains largely unchanged from February – but our 7-day map shows clear increases in moisture thanks to the April showers

http://www.mesonet.org/index.php/weather/map/24-inch_fractional_water_index/soil_moisture

DAYS SINCE LAST RAINFALL

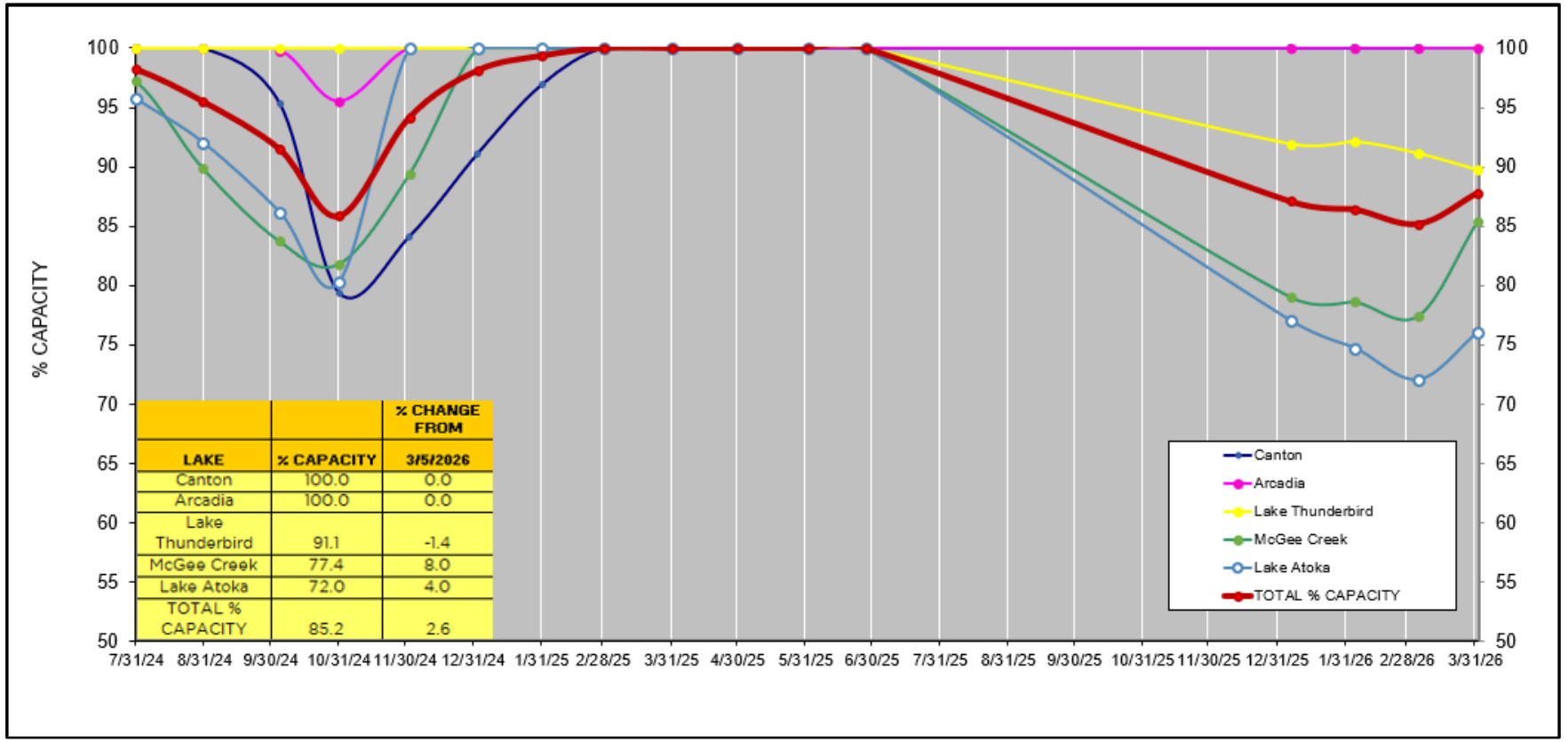


A WAVE OF RELIEF:

- Nearly all the state racked up days without rain throughout March
- April has once again changed that trajectory – with just the Northwestern and Panhandle areas remaining dry

Consecutive Days with Less Than 0.25 inches Rainfall | Mesonet

SURFACE WATER CONSERVATION CAPACITY – CENTRAL OK RESERVOIRS



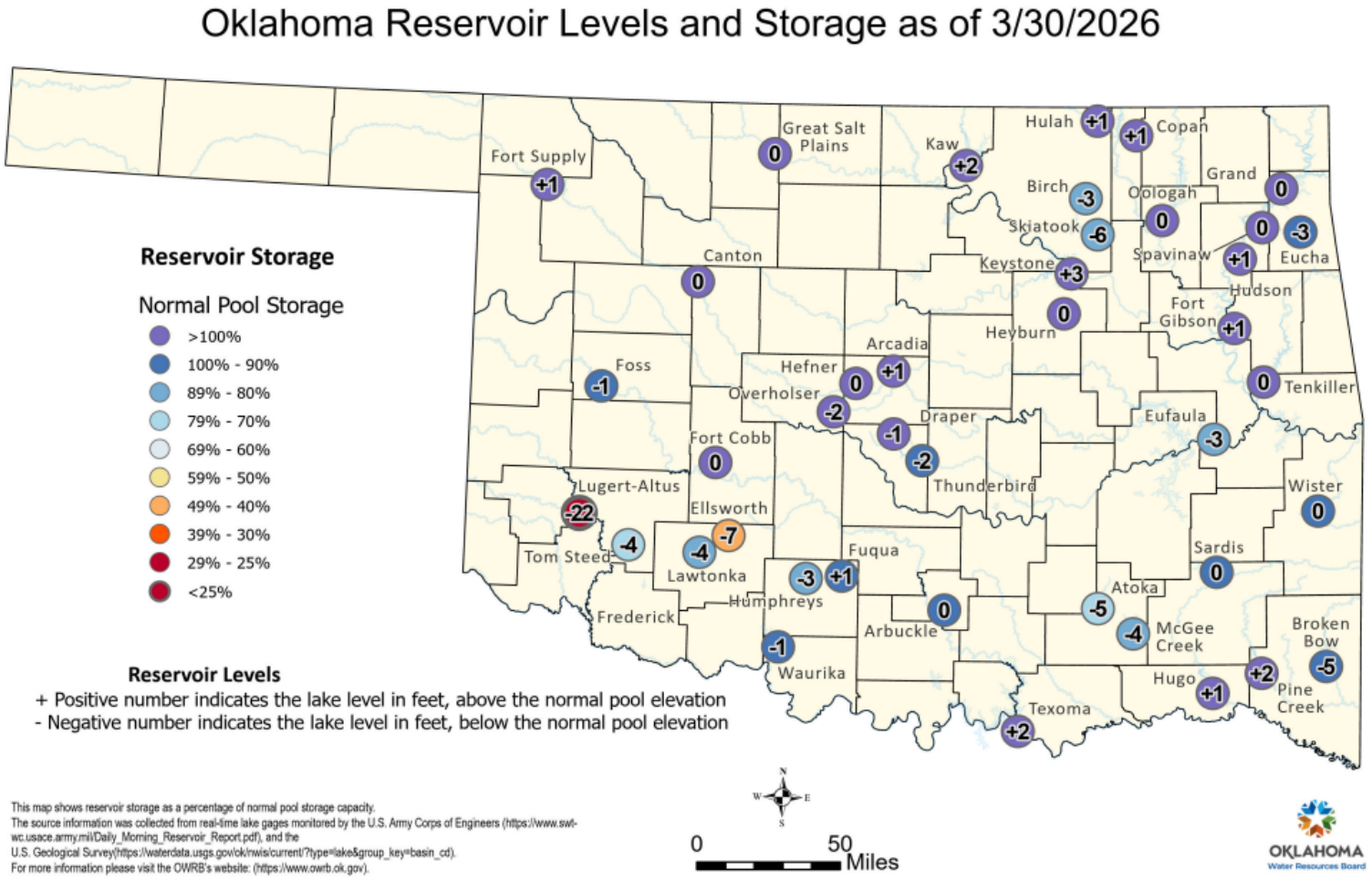
LAKE	% CAPACITY	% CHANGE FROM 3/5/2026
Canton	100.0	0.0
Arcadia	100.0	0.0
Lake Thunderbird	91.1	-1.4
McGee Creek	77.4	8.0
Lake Atoka	72.0	4.0
TOTAL % CAPACITY	85.2	2.6

RESERVOIR TRENDS:

- Central Oklahoma reservoirs began holding inflow in March – responding to increased demand during the unusually warm months

https://www.swt-wc.usace.army.mil/Daily_Morning_Reservoir_Report.pdf

OKLAHOMA RESERVOIR LEVELS AND STORAGE



CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

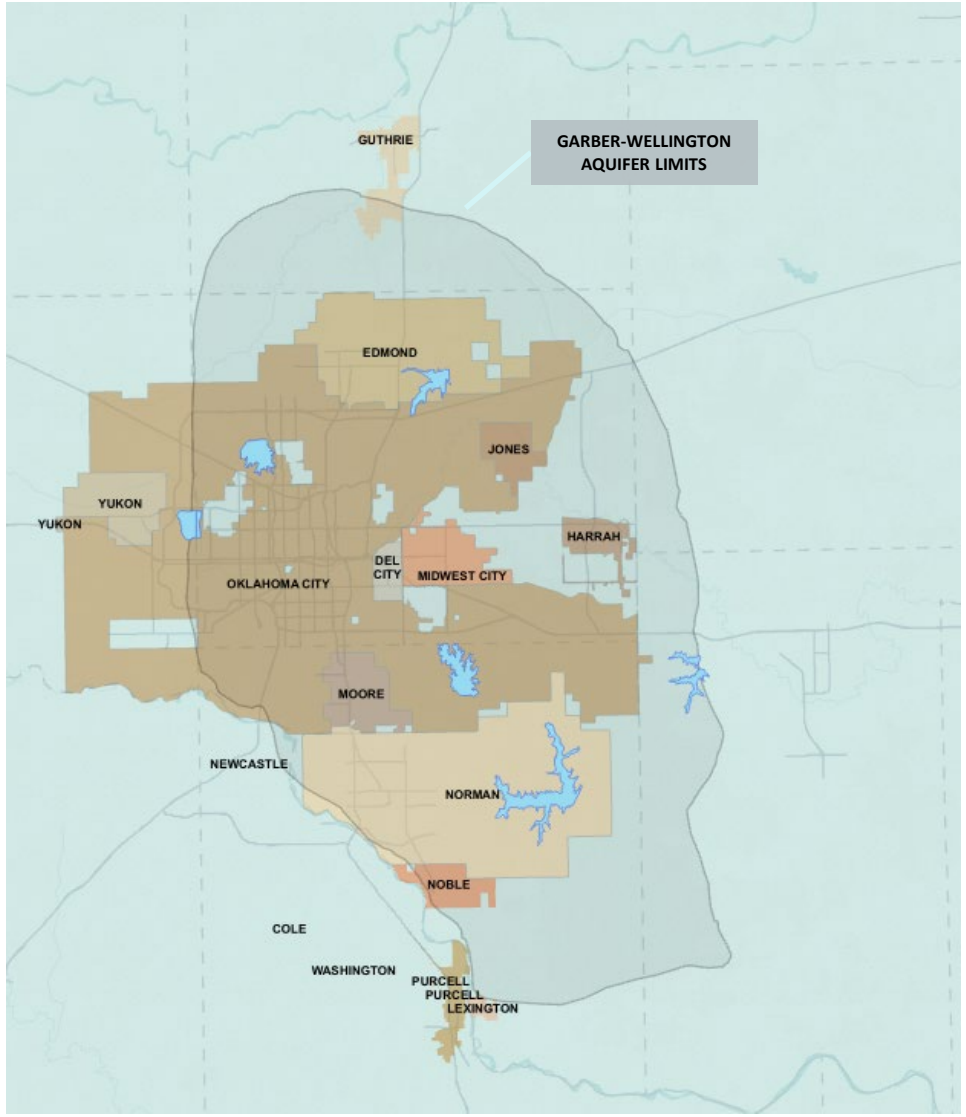
- Oklahoma lake levels tracked as a percentage of normal storage
- Levels are being carefully maintained across all regions to meet warm weather demands

https://www.owrb.ok.gov/supply/drought/Lake_Levels_files/Monthly%20Reservoir%20Storage.pdf

MONTHLY AQUIFER RECHARGE

NO MARCH RECHARGE:

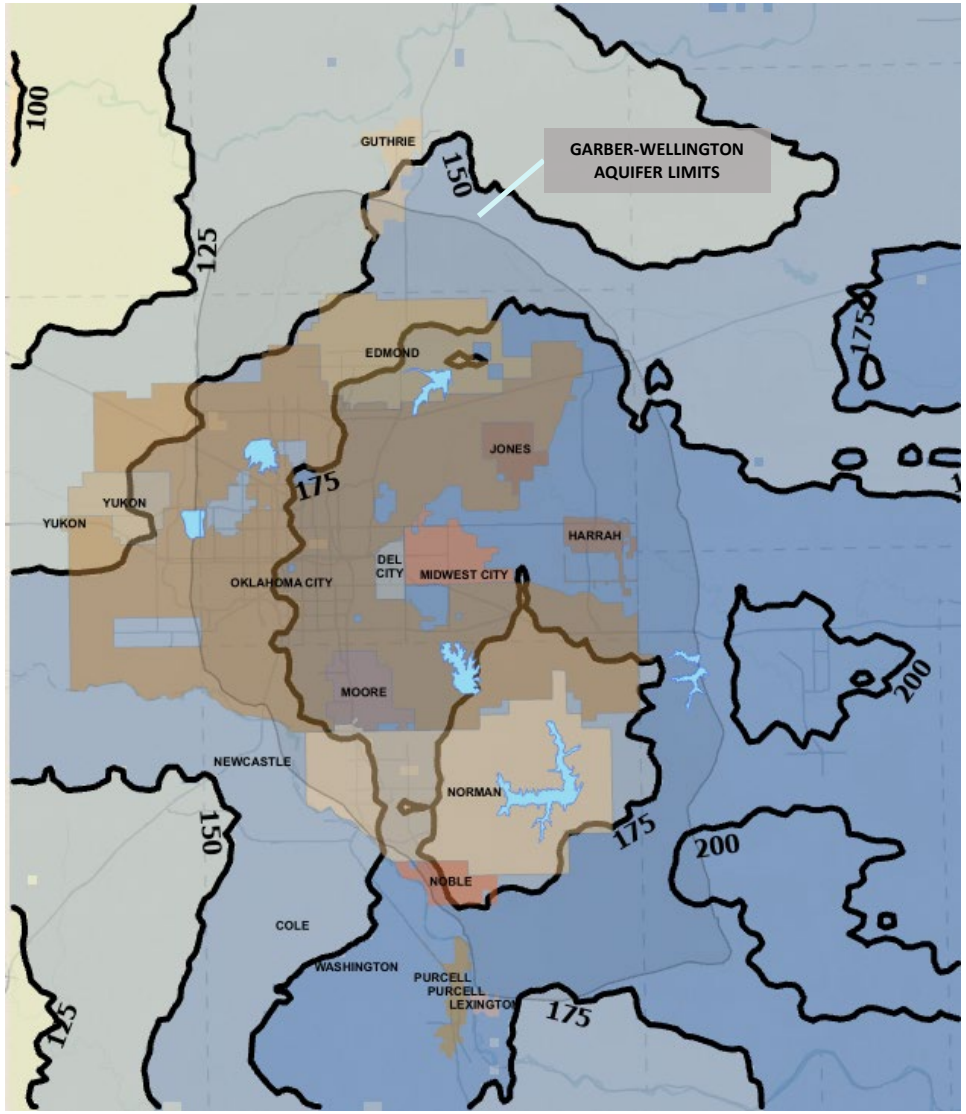
- The Garber-Wellington saw negligible recharge between the lack of rain and the hot temperatures
- On the bright side – April's recharge map will have much more color



12-MONTH CUMULATIVE AQUIFER RECHARGE

LOSING GROUND:

- As we near the 12-month mark from our big 2025 wet season - our cumulative recharge areas start shrinking on the map
- But once again - April looks like it will keep this map in the blue



Percent of Cumulative Recharge

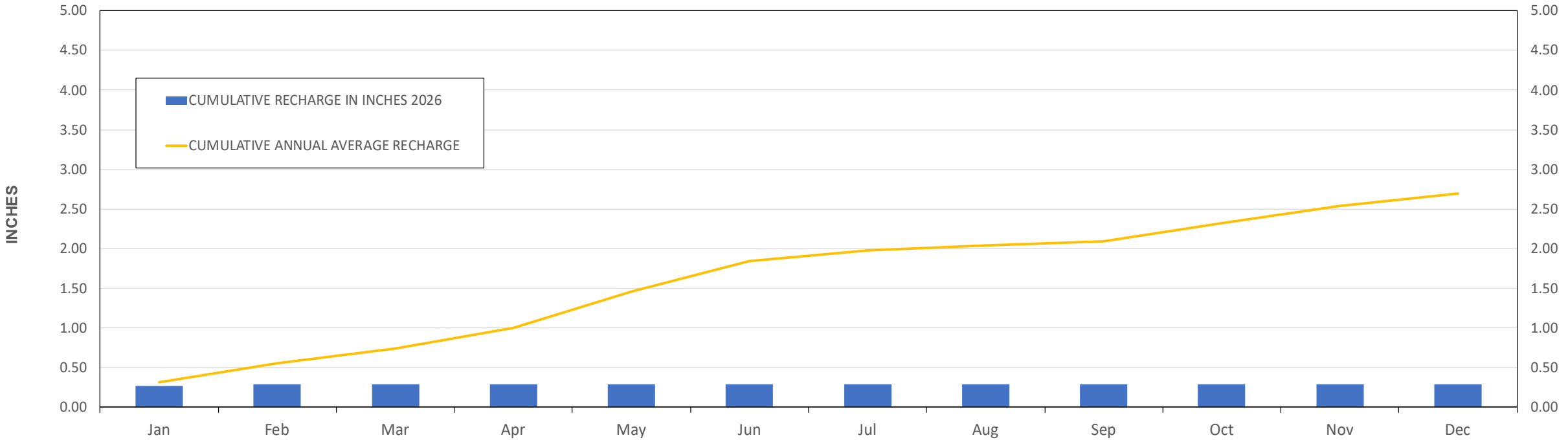
- 0 - 25
- 25 - 50
- 50 - 75
- 75 - 100
- 100 - 125
- 125 - 150
- 150 - 175
- 175 - 200

N W E S

0 5 10 20 Miles

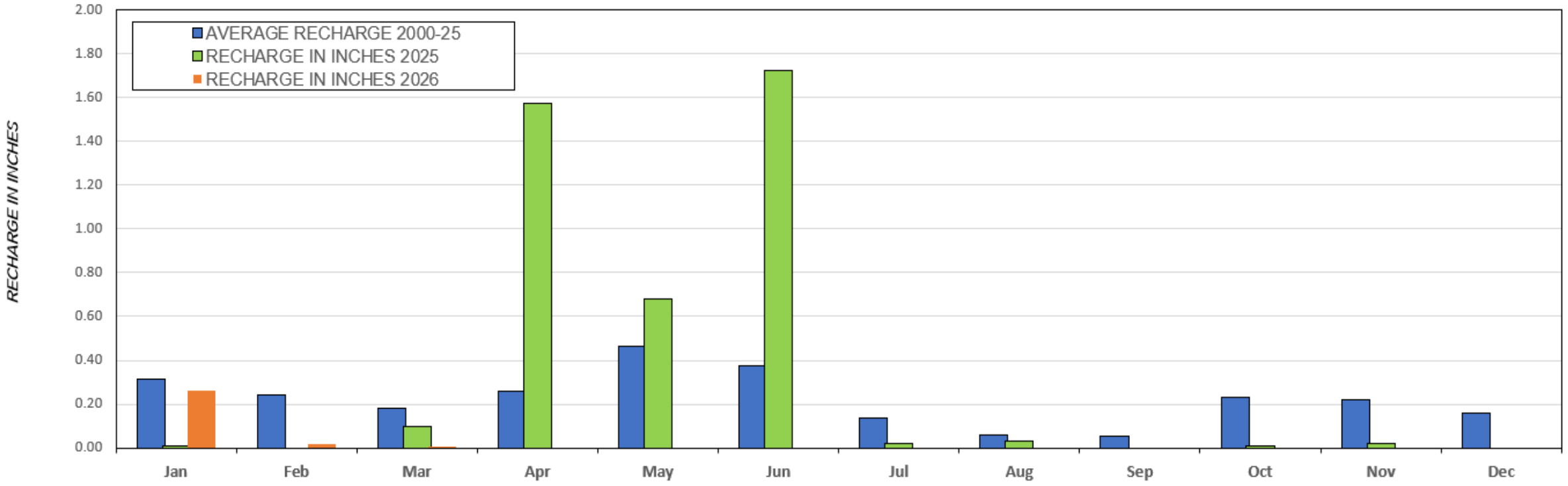
RECHARGE CHARTS:
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA AQUIFER SYSTEM

ACCUMULATED CENTRAL OKLAHOMA AQUIFER SYSTEM RECHARGE 2026



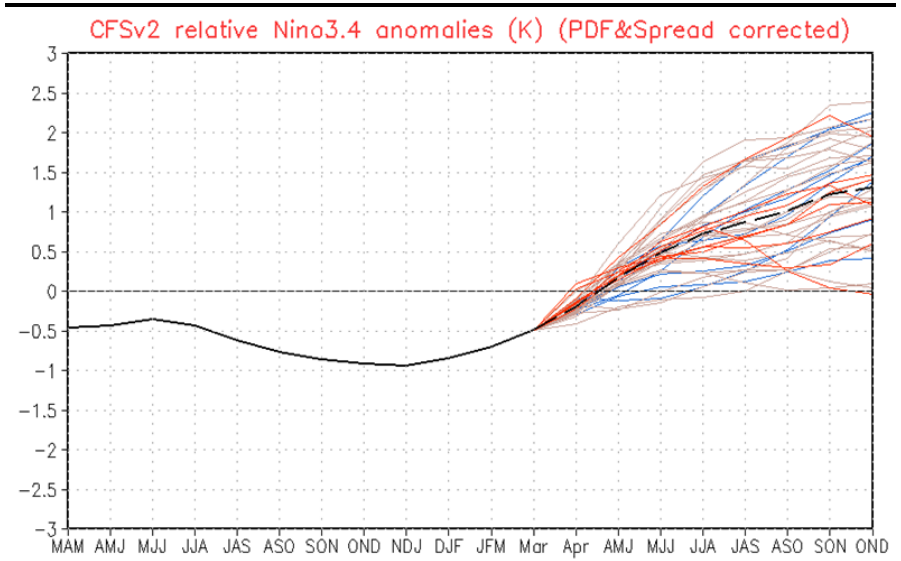
RECHARGE CHARTS: CENTRAL OKLAHOMA AQUIFER SYSTEM CONT.

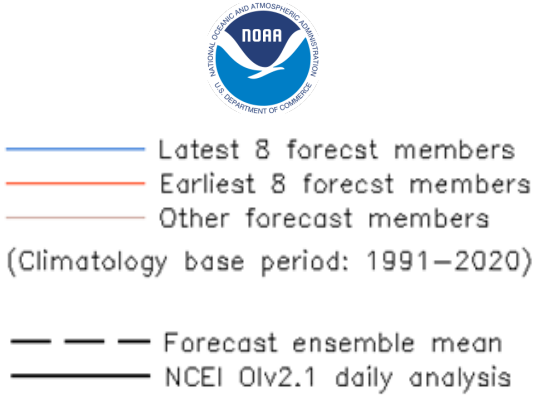
MONTHLY AQUIFER RECHARGE 2026

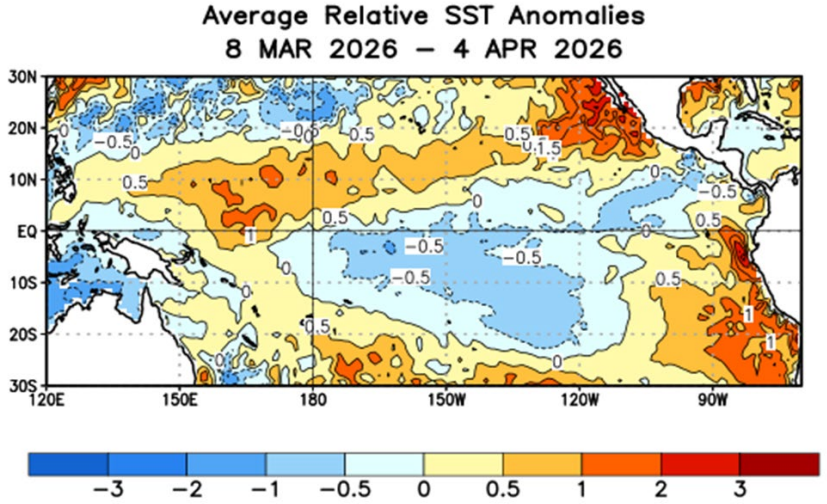


Recharge for March barely shows on the graph – but the bar will finally go up in April

ENSO CYCLE – CURRENT PATTERNS AND PREDICTIONS







CLIMATE PATTERN UPDATE (ENSO):

We saw the expected large temperature swings through March – now we're finally seeing the rain as we transition to ENSO-neutral

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.ppt

SUMMARY

- March started out promising with early rainfall - but that was all the significant rain we received for the month
- 2026 was even hotter and drier than 2025 in a continuing pattern of record-breaking drought and heat each year
- Thankfully, April has already brought some relief - and more is expected throughout the month

QUESTIONS?

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ASSOCIATION OF
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GOVERNMENTS