

ND State Climate Office Bi-weekly Drought Update

Greg Gust, NDDDES Meteorologist

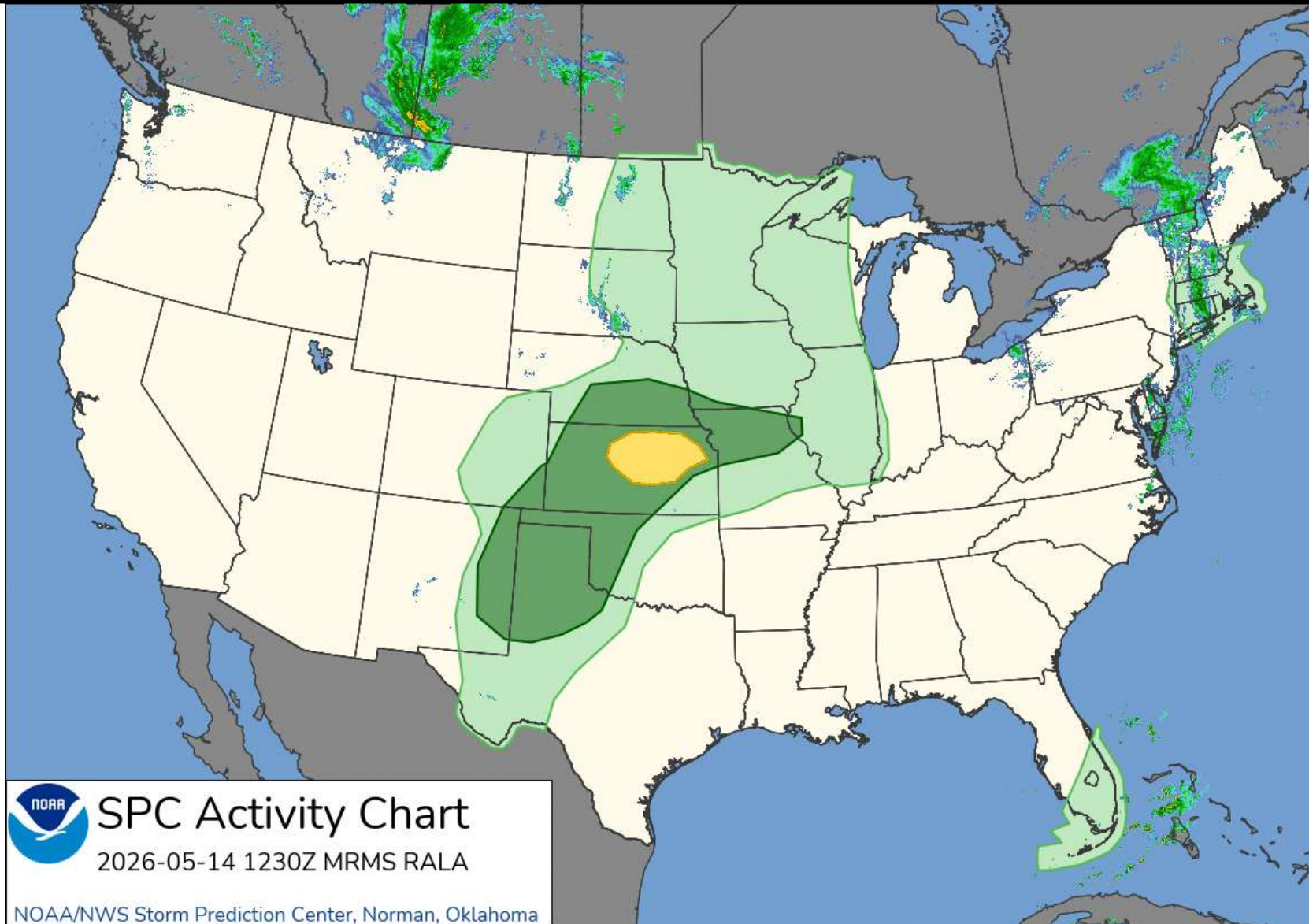
in support of

ND SCO and the ND Ag Disaster Response

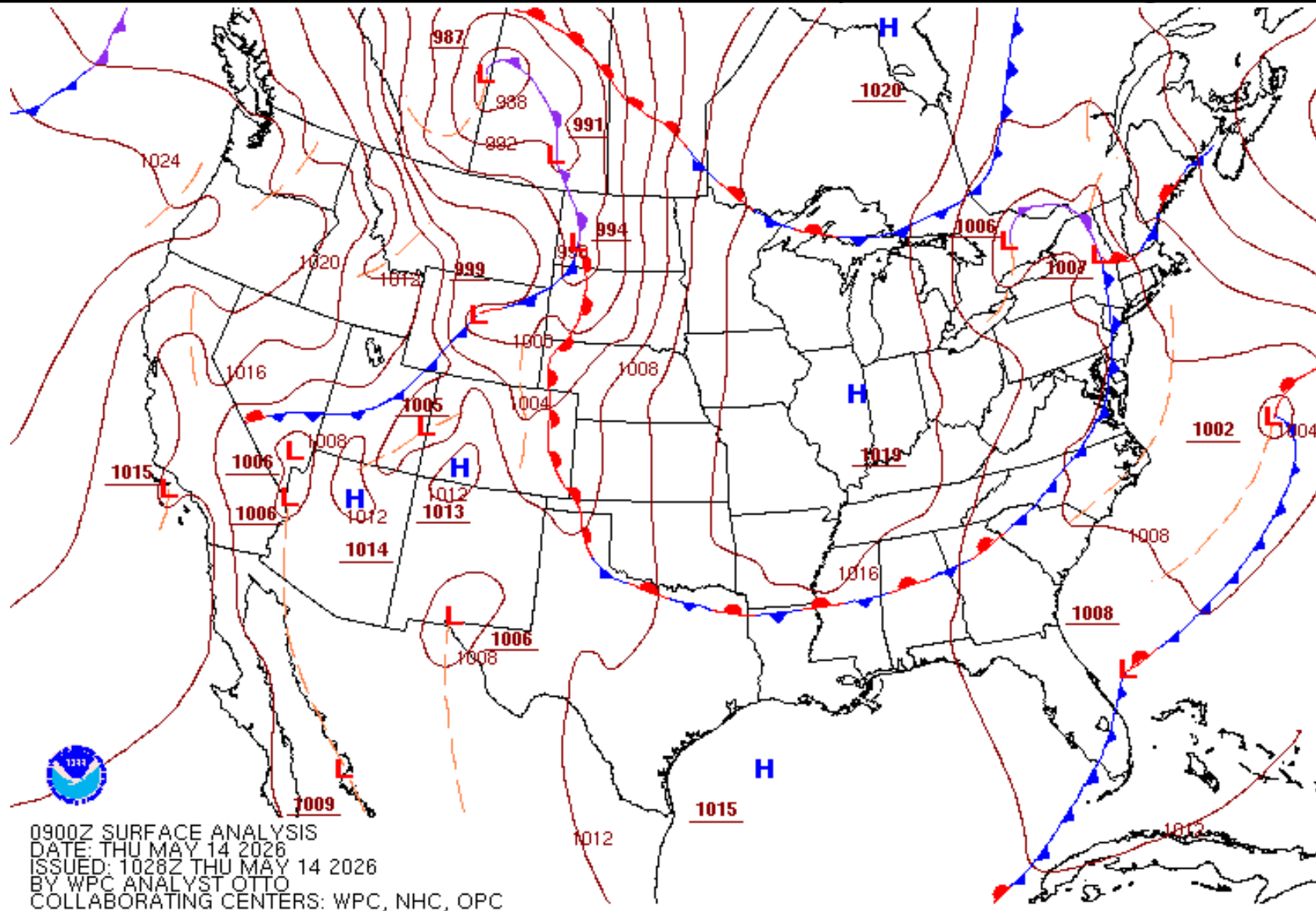
Updated on May 14, 2026



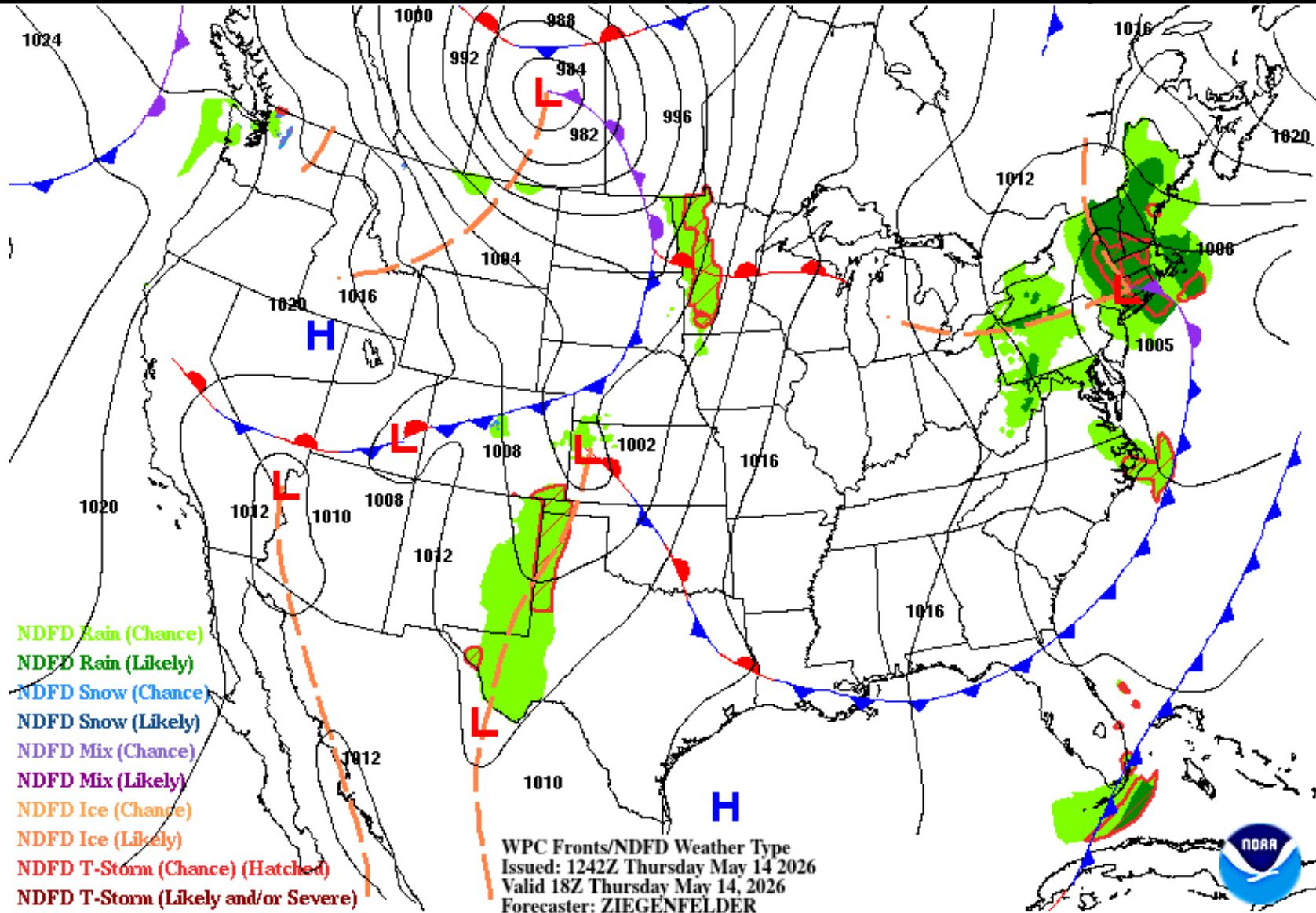
Current Conditions on Thursday Morning, May 14th



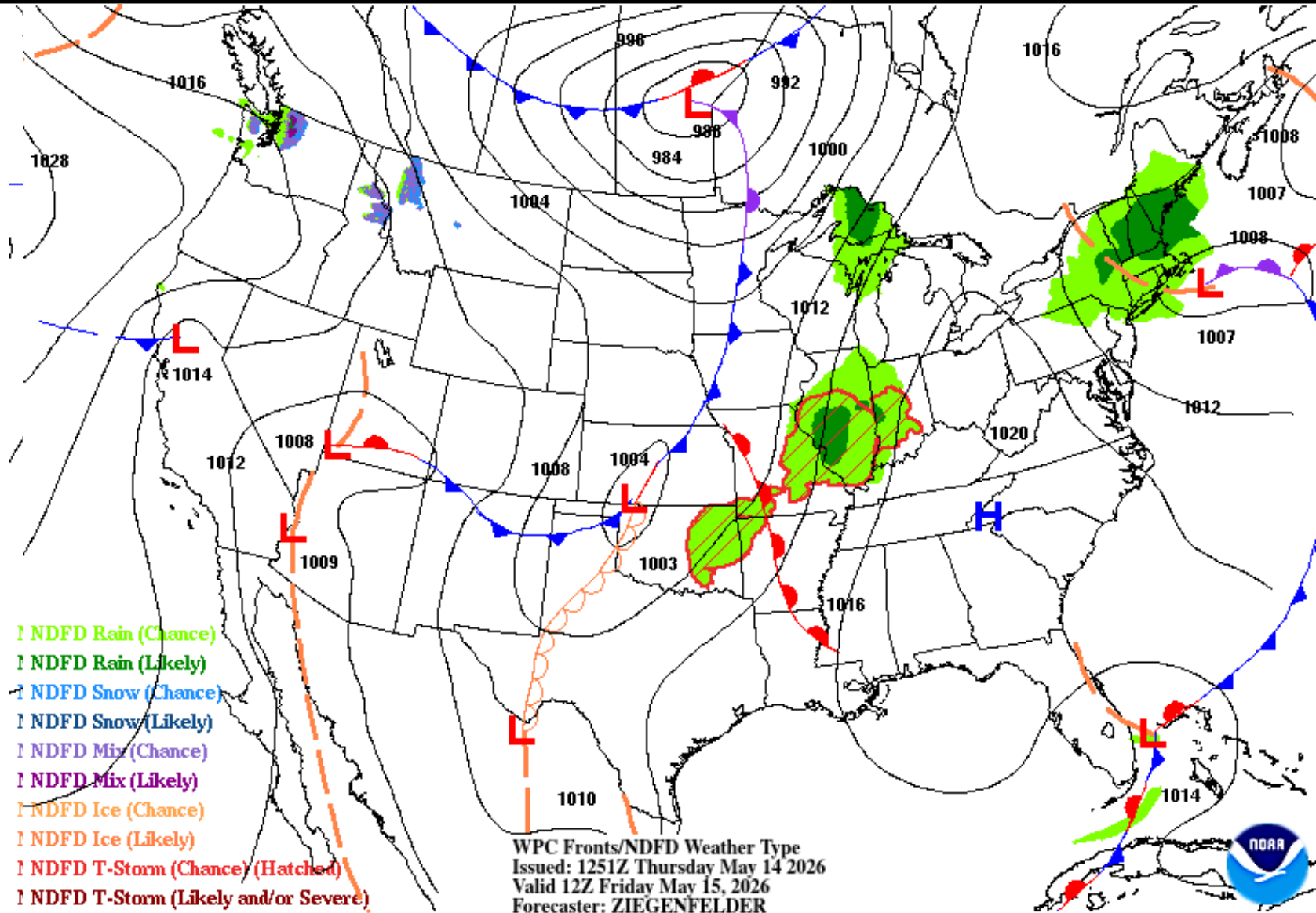
Current Conditions on Thursday Morning, May 14th



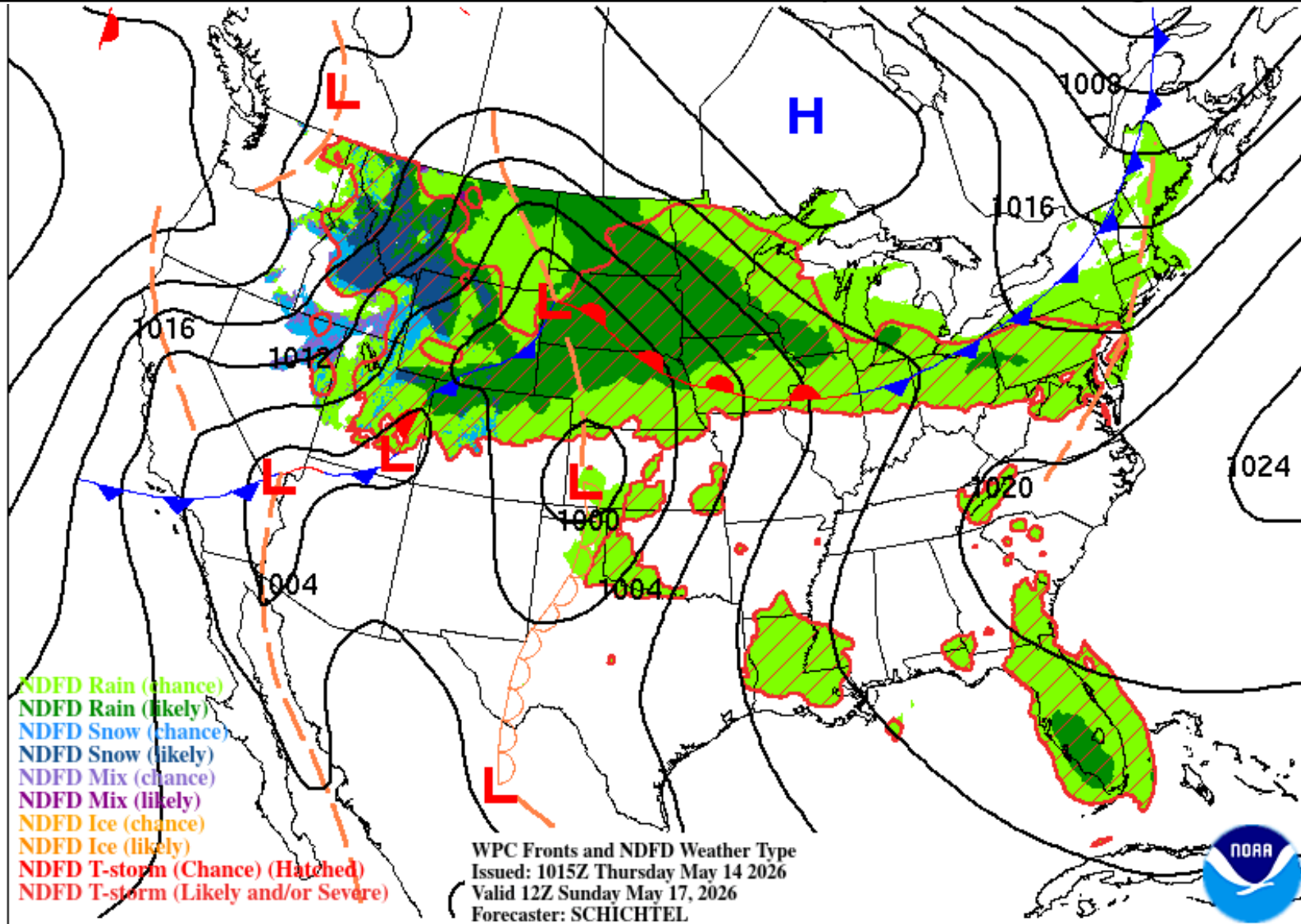
Forecast Conditions by 1pm Thursday, May 14th



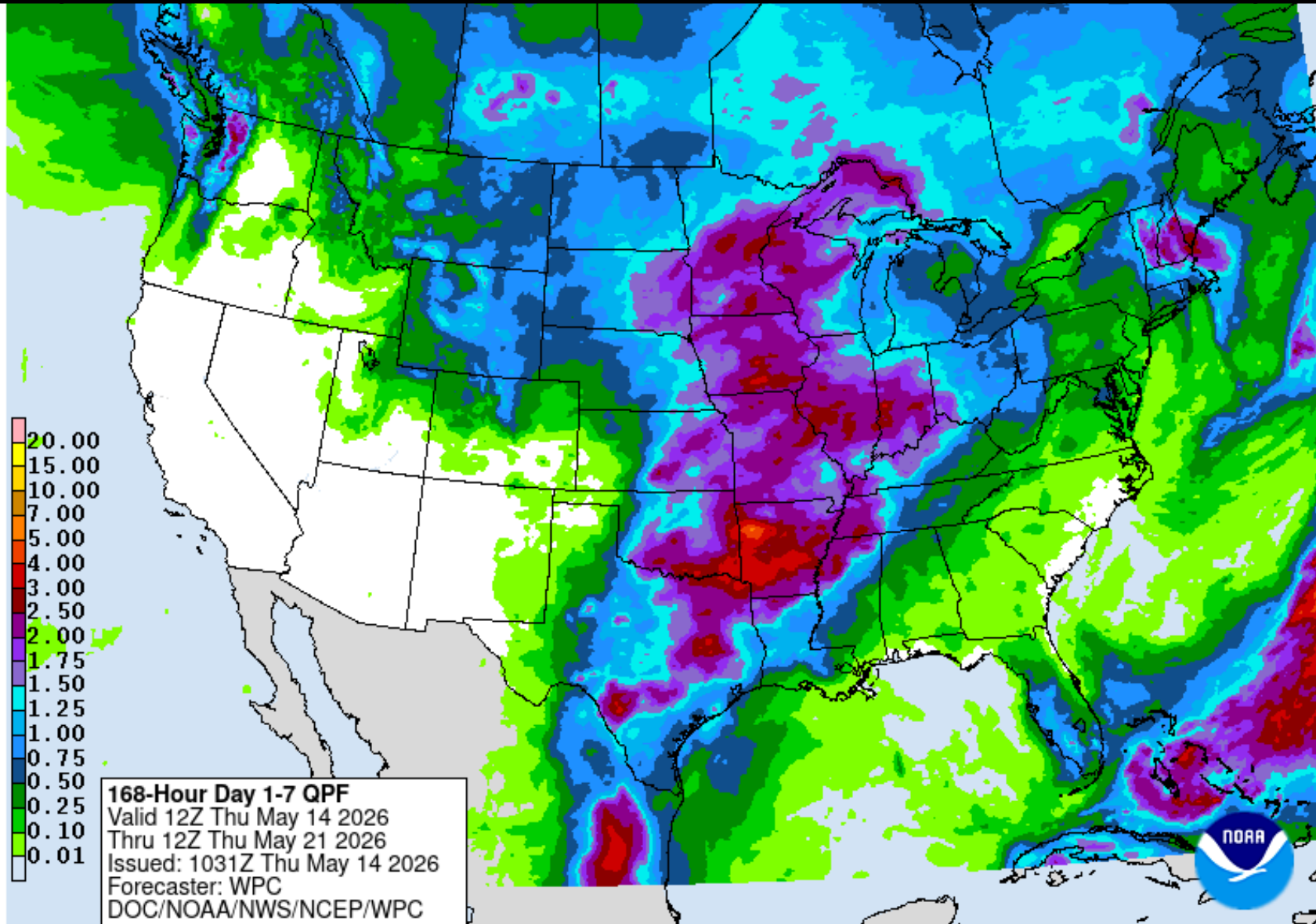
West-Northwest Winds and Wildfire Threat early Friday



Forecast Conditions for Sunday Morning, May 17th



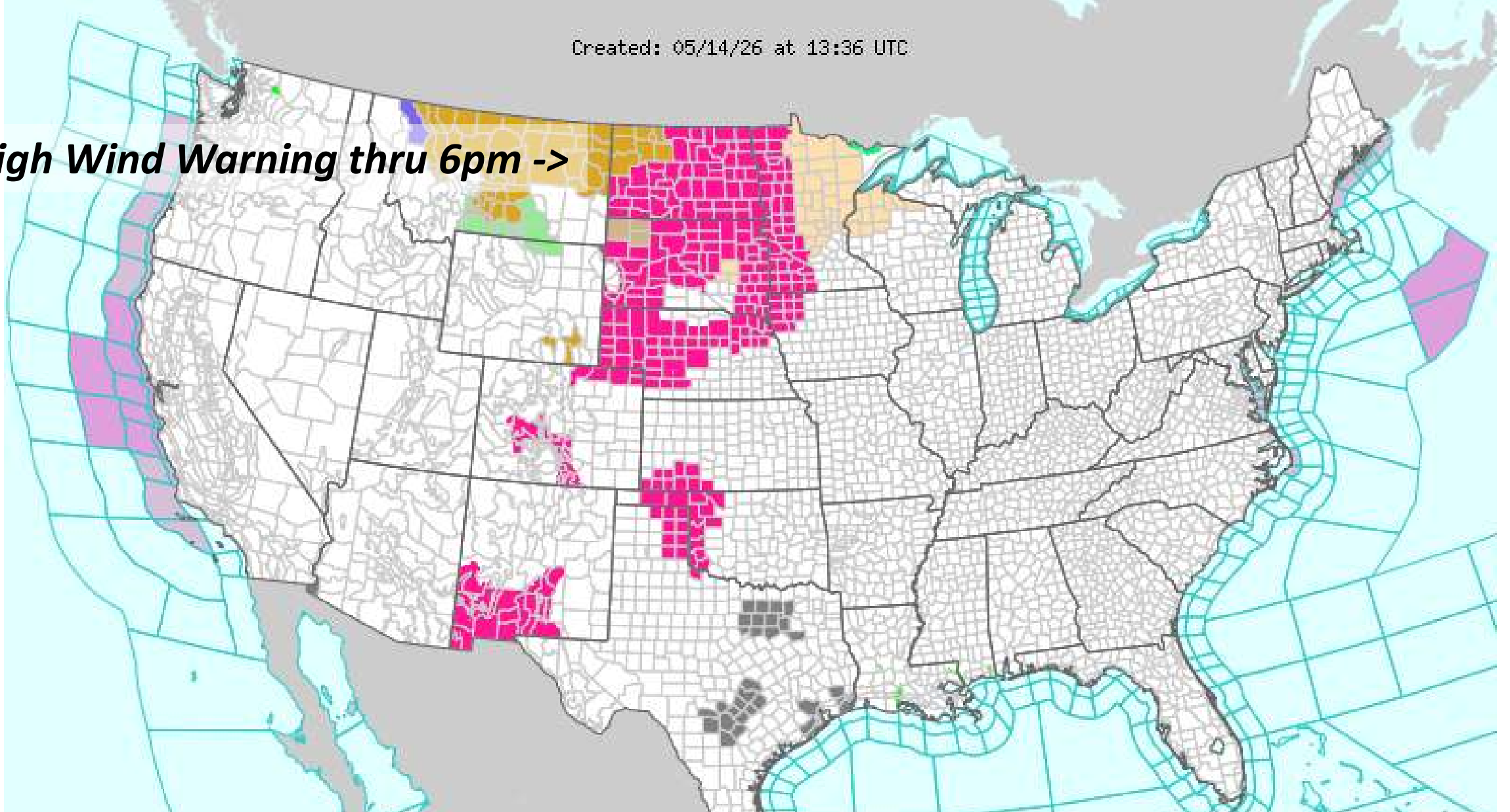
7-Day Precipitation Forecast through May 21st



Meanwhile: Red Flag Warning for the State, thru 9pm

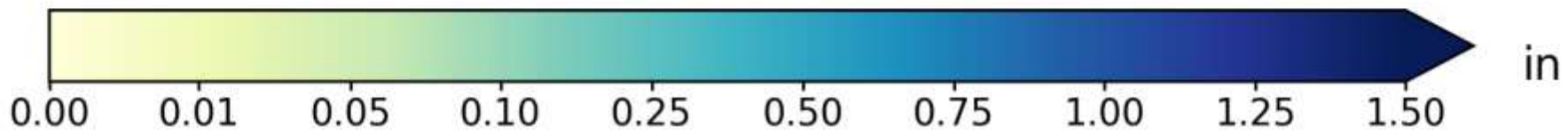
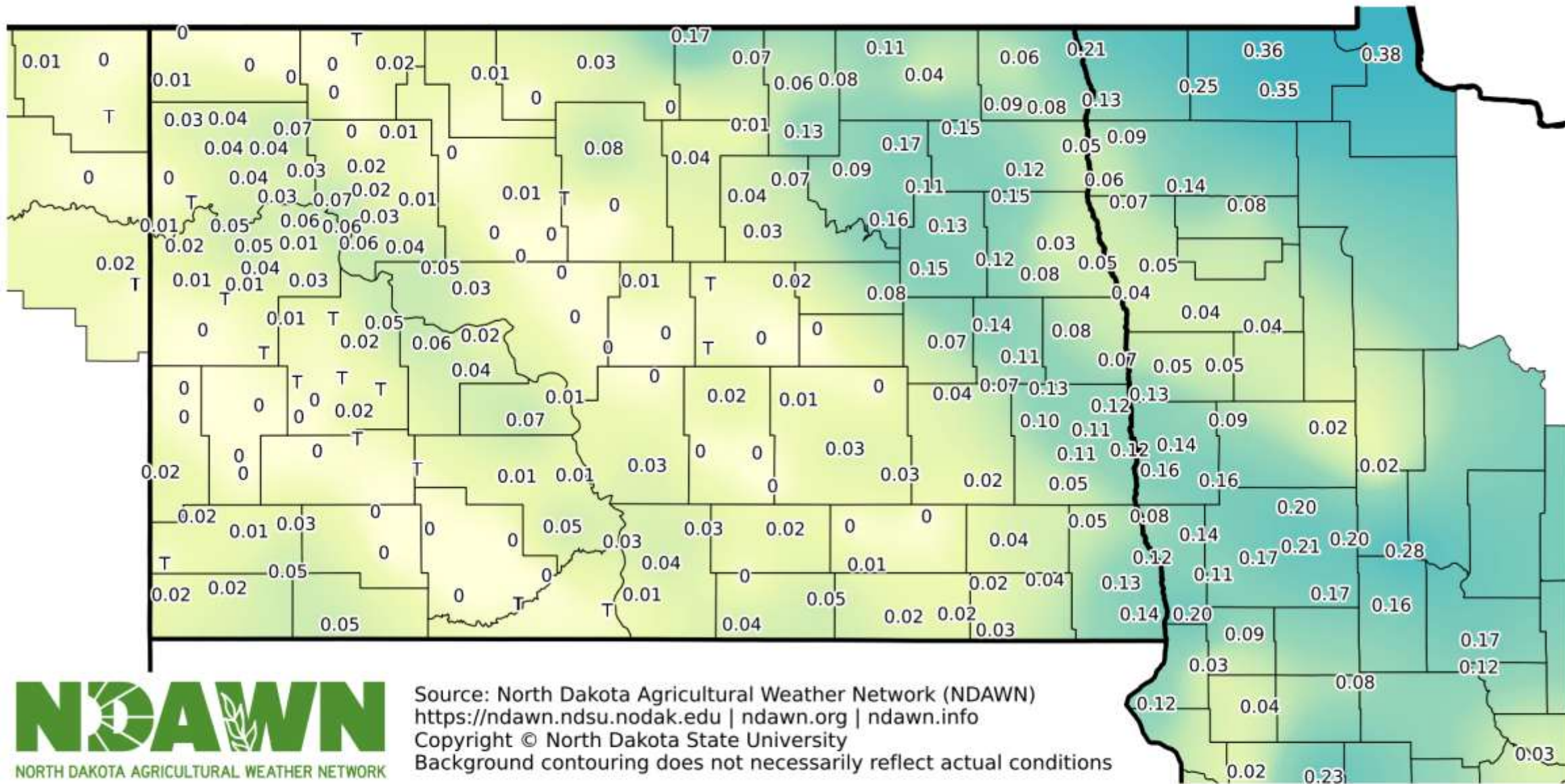
Created: 05/14/26 at 13:36 UTC

High Wind Warning thru 6pm ->



Total Precipitation - Past 14 Days (in)

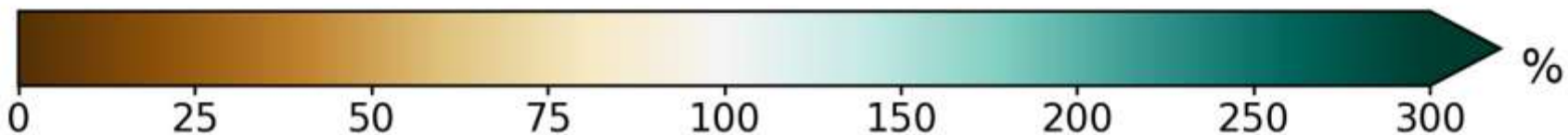
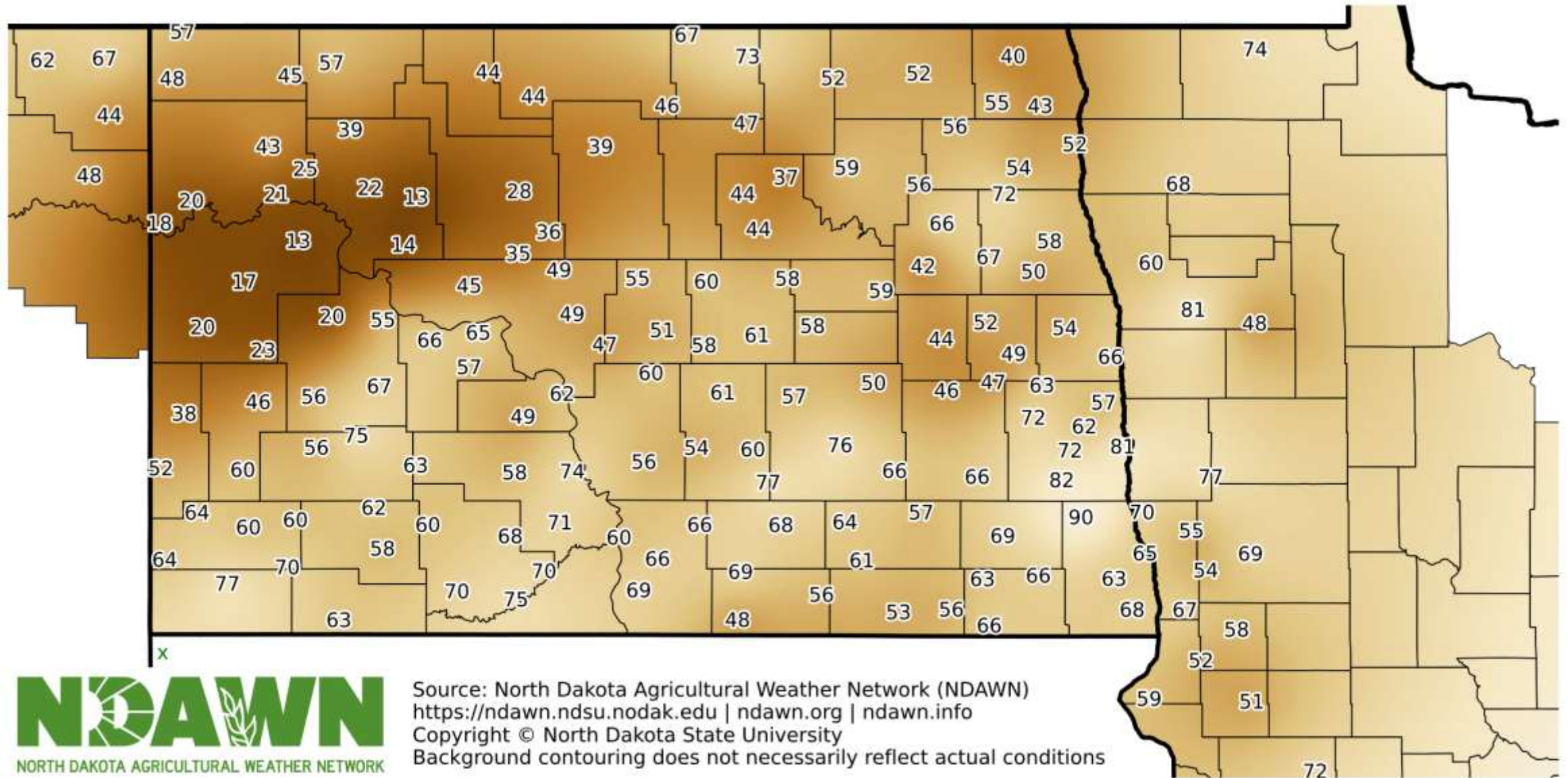
May 13 2026



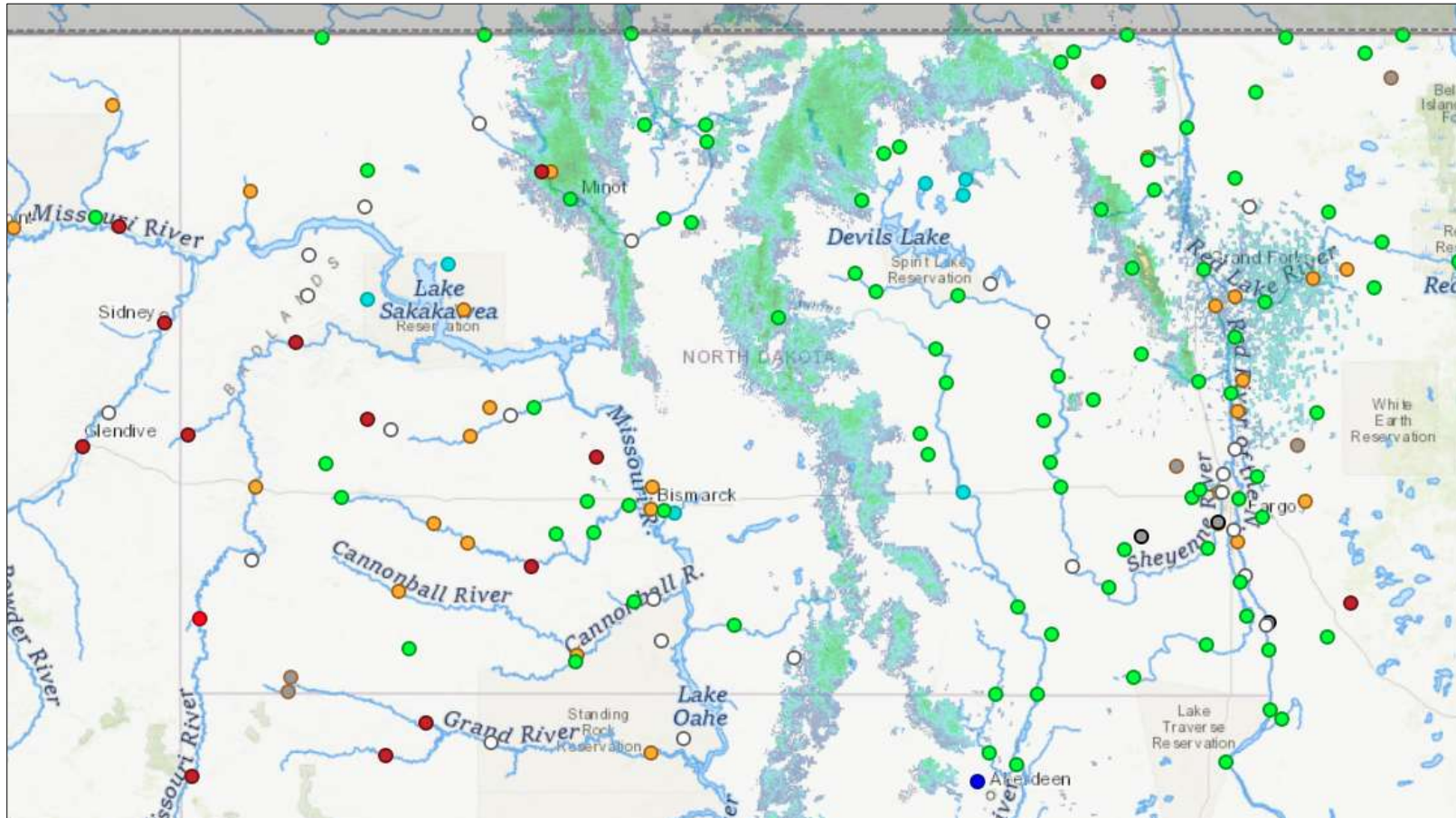
Percent of Normal Precipitation Since March 1 (%)

[Nothing since May 12th!]

May 12 2026



USGS Realtime Streamflow



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			

<https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/en/?aoi=default>

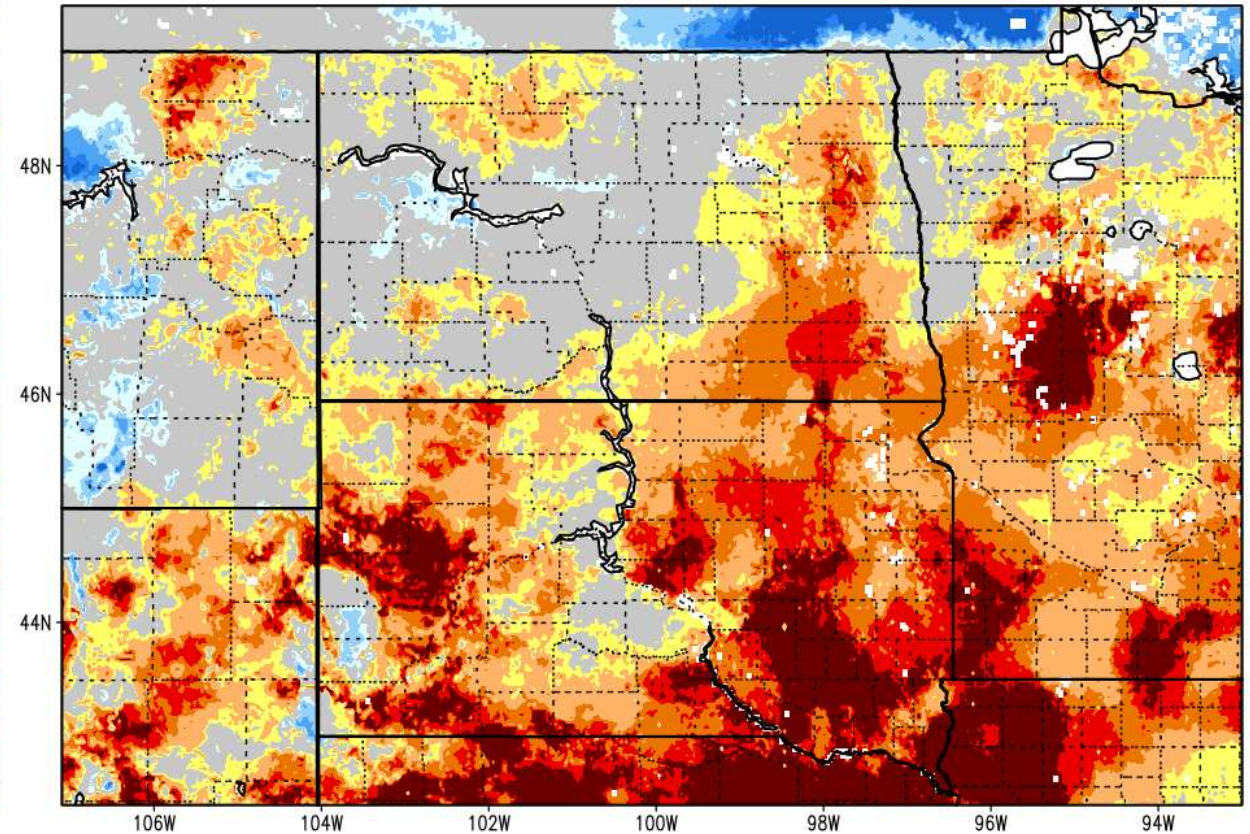
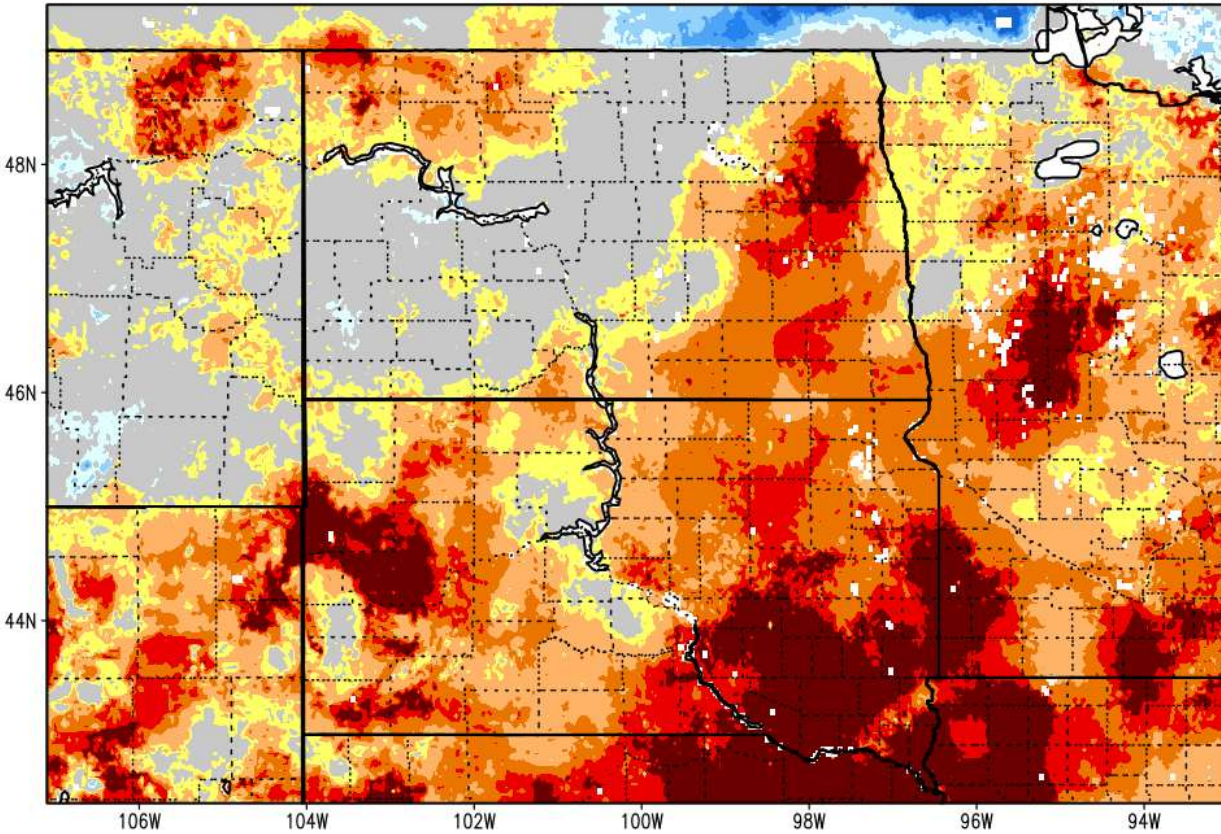
Dakotas Real-Time 3km Land Information System

SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 14 May 2026

(40 inches deep)

SPoRT-LIS 0-200 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 14 May 2026

(80 inches deep)



NOTE
Experimental

2 5 10 20 30 70 80 90 95 98

NOTE
Experimental

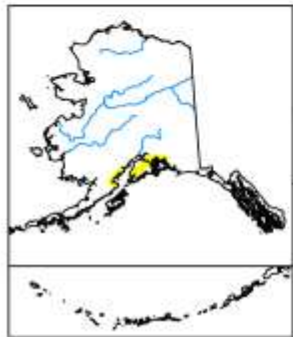
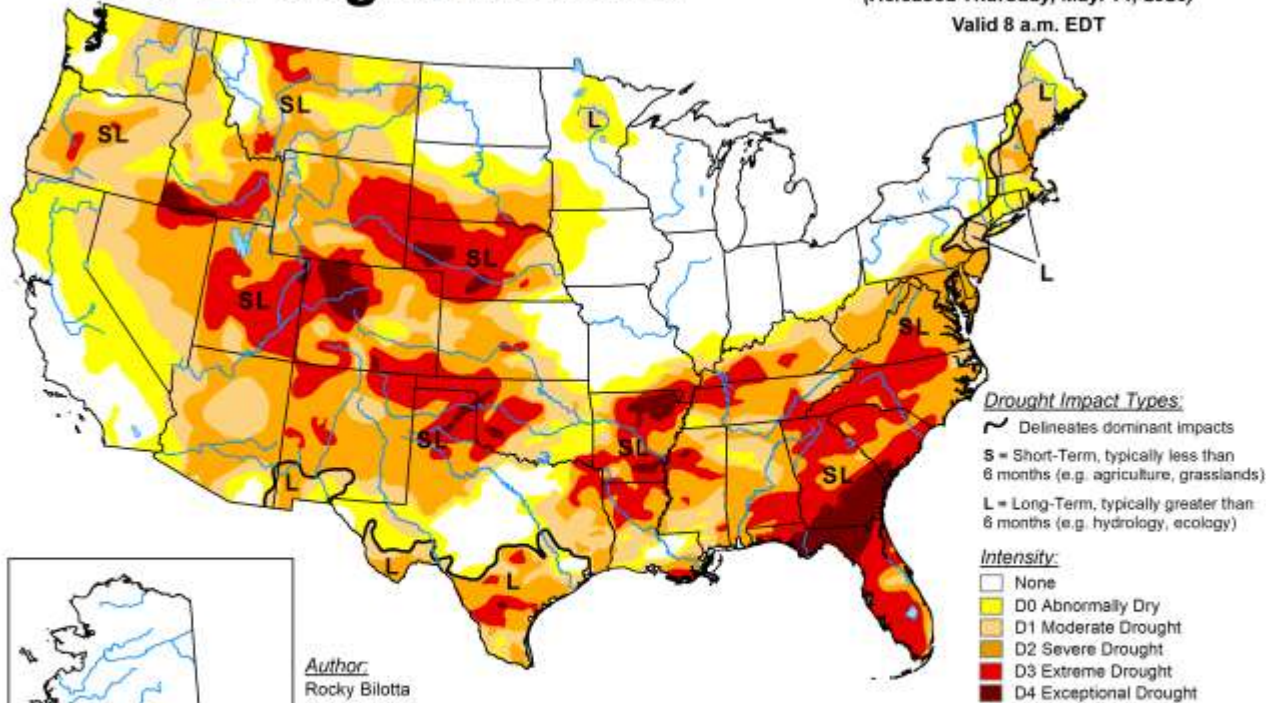
2 5 10 20 30 70 80 90 95 98

US Drought Monitor

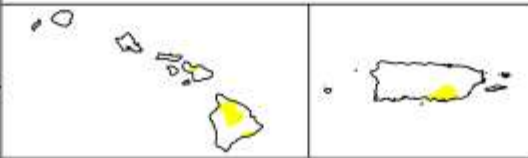
ND: Slight increase in the west.

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 12, 2026
(Released Thursday, May. 14, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Author:
Rocky Bilotta
NCEI/NOAA

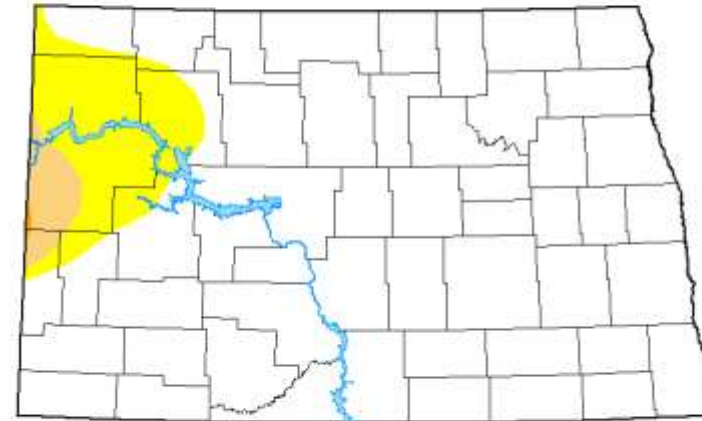


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



U.S. Drought Monitor North Dakota

May 12, 2026
(Released Thursday, May. 14, 2026)
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NCEI/NOAA



Estimated ND Population in Drought Areas: 3,926

Outlooks:

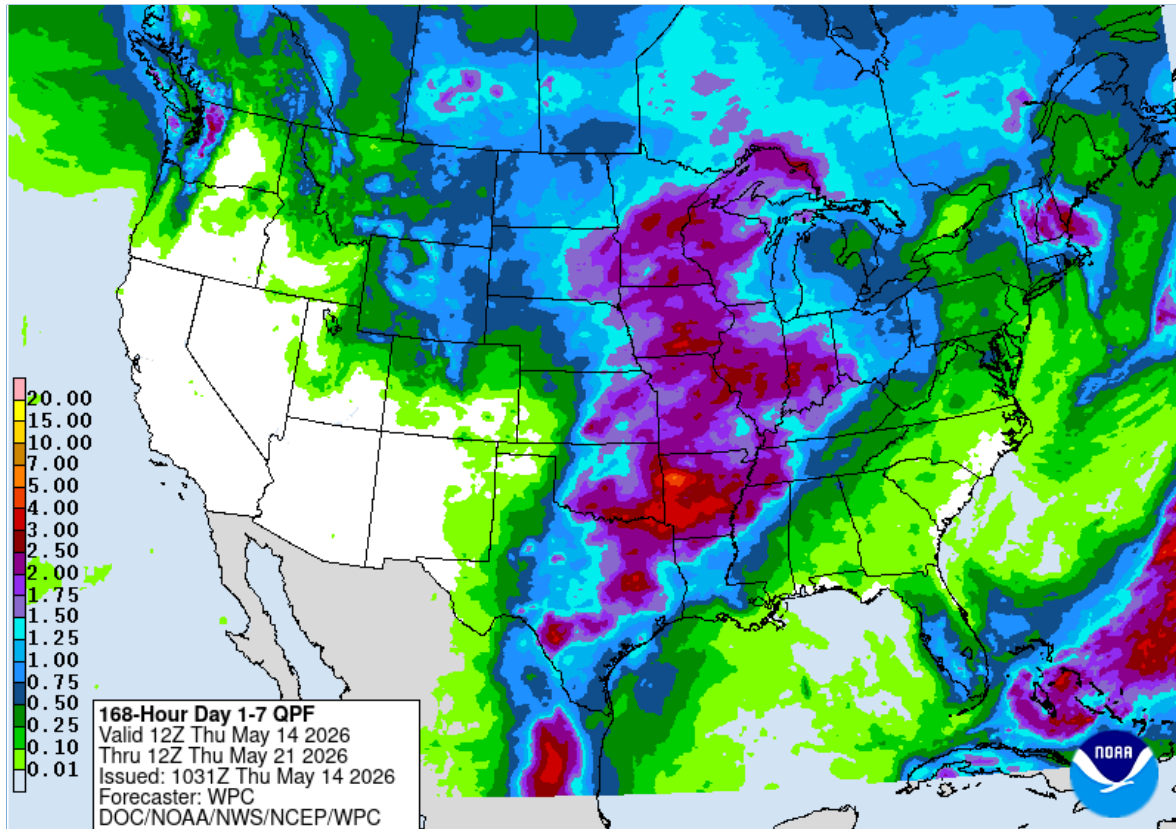
Next Week... Moist? and Mild?

Next Month... Mild but Dry

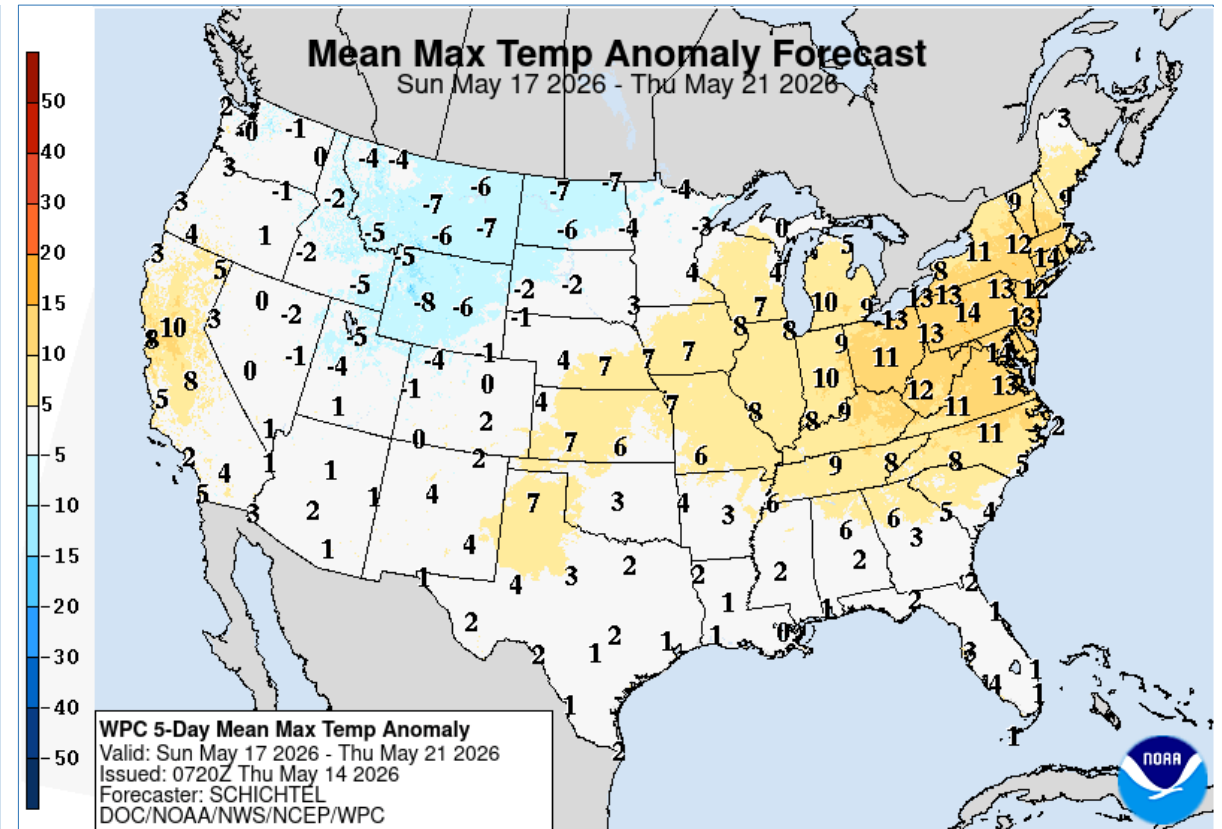
This Summer-Fall... El Niño = Warm? and Dry?

Week 1: Through May 21 (issued May 14)

Precipitation (7-day QPF):

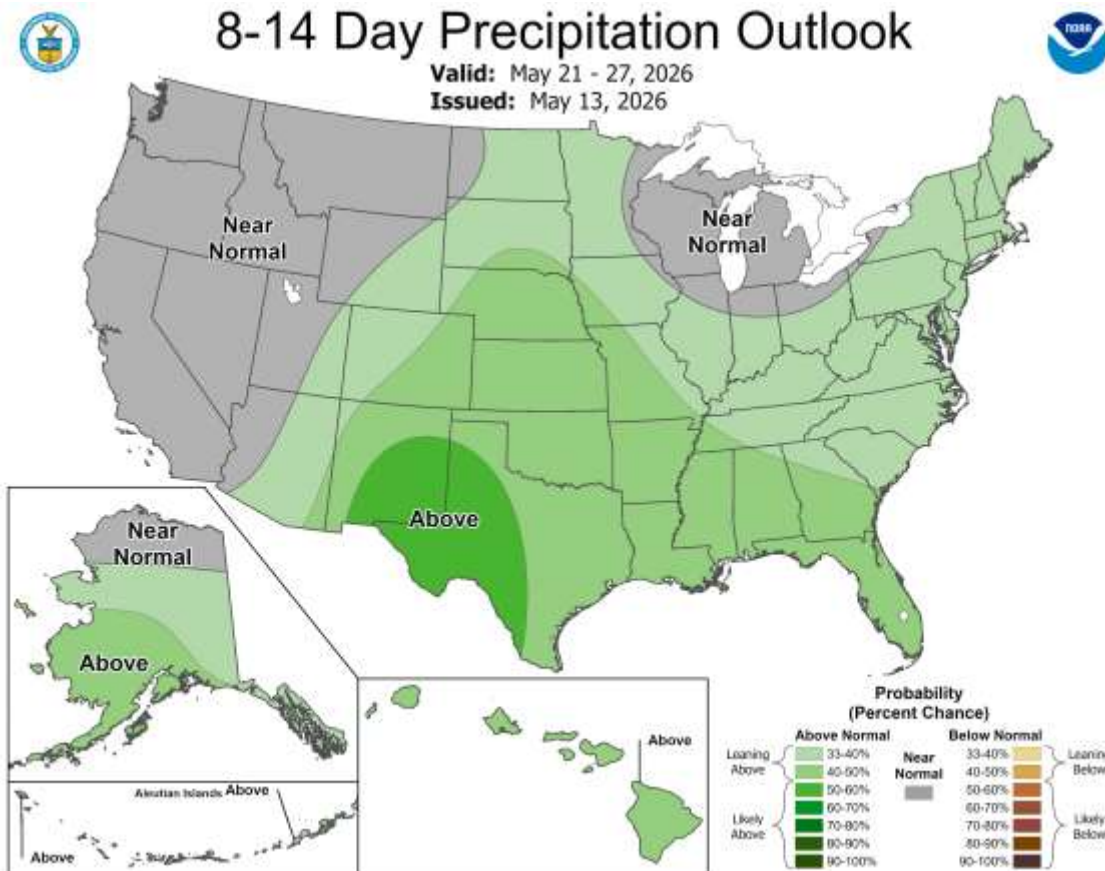


Max Temperature Anomaly (May 17 – May 21):

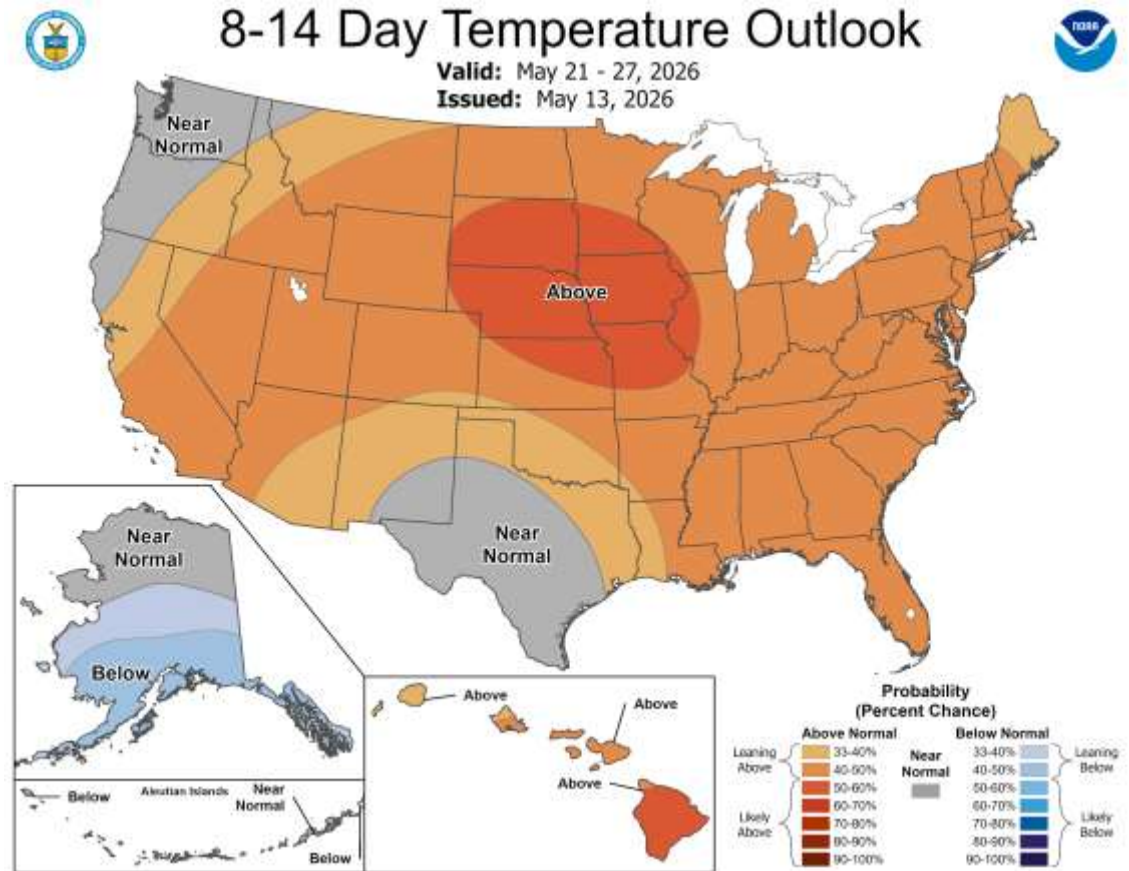


Week 2: May 21 - 27 (issued May 13)

Precipitation:

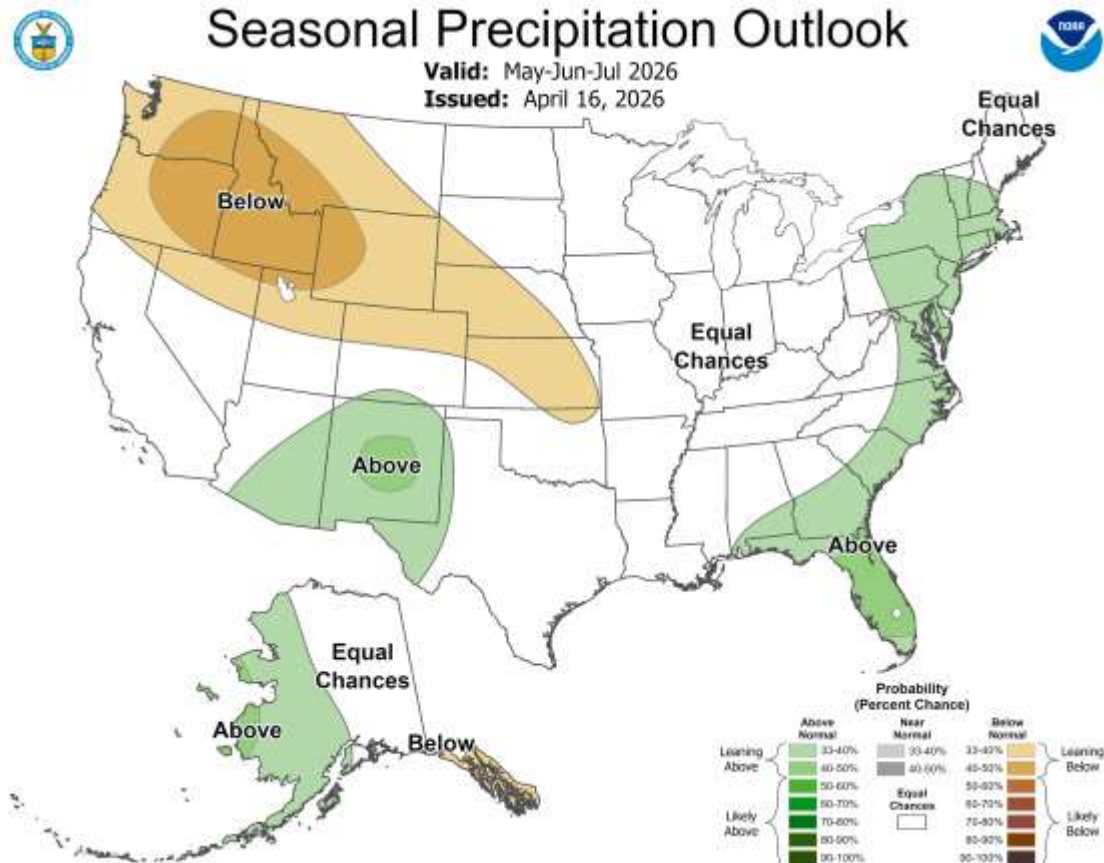


Temperature:

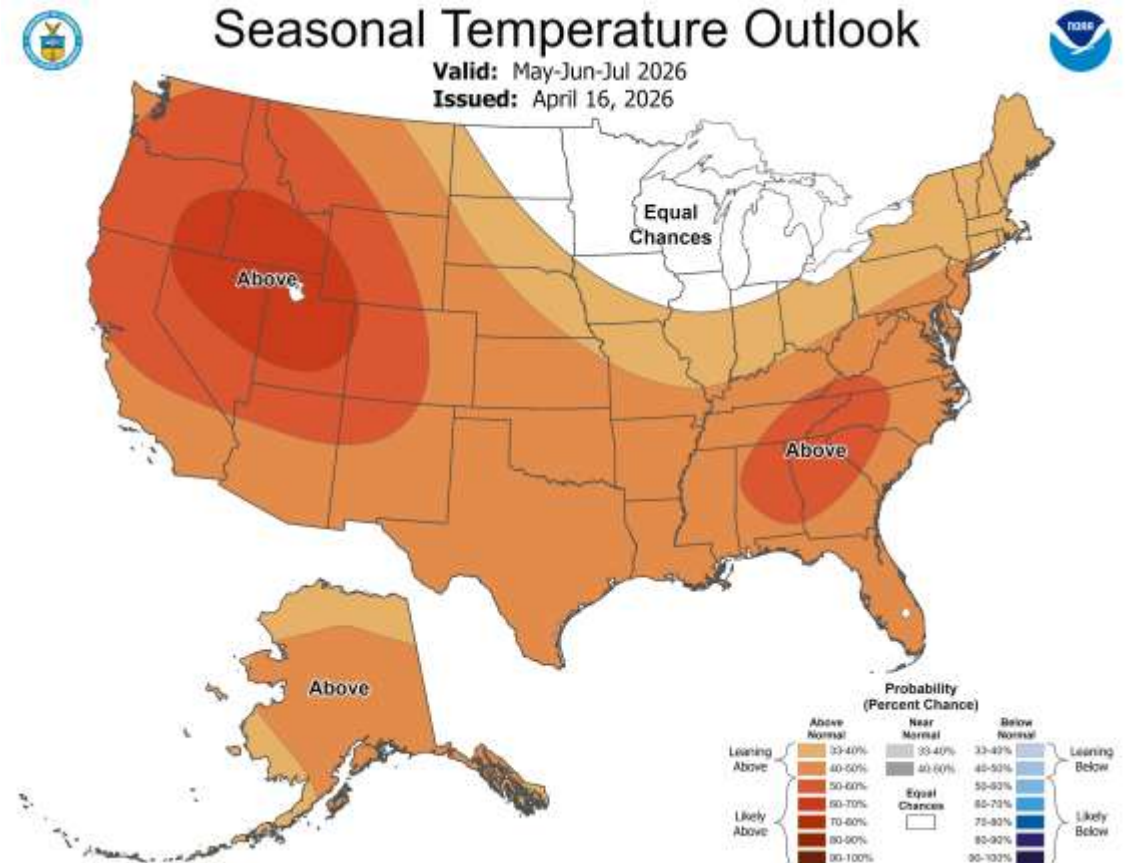


Three-Month Outlook: MJJ 2026 (Issued Apr 16)

Precipitation:

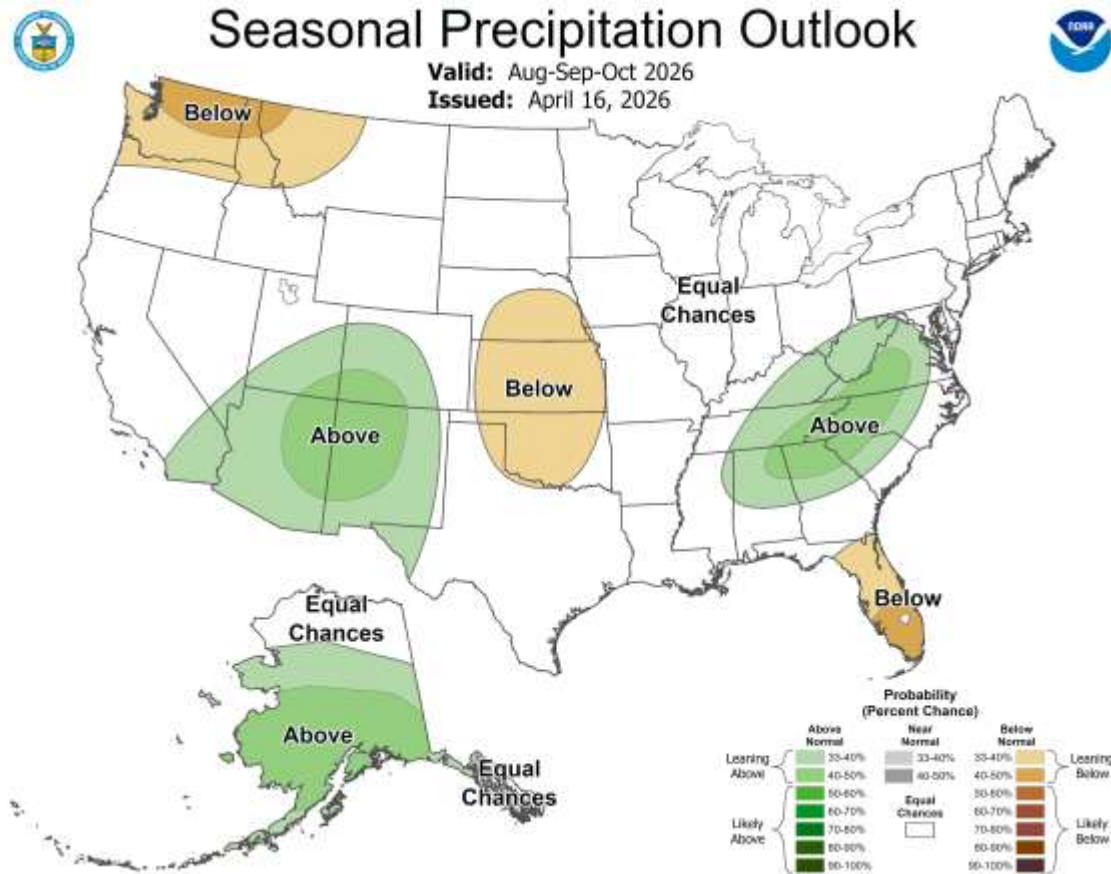


Temperature:

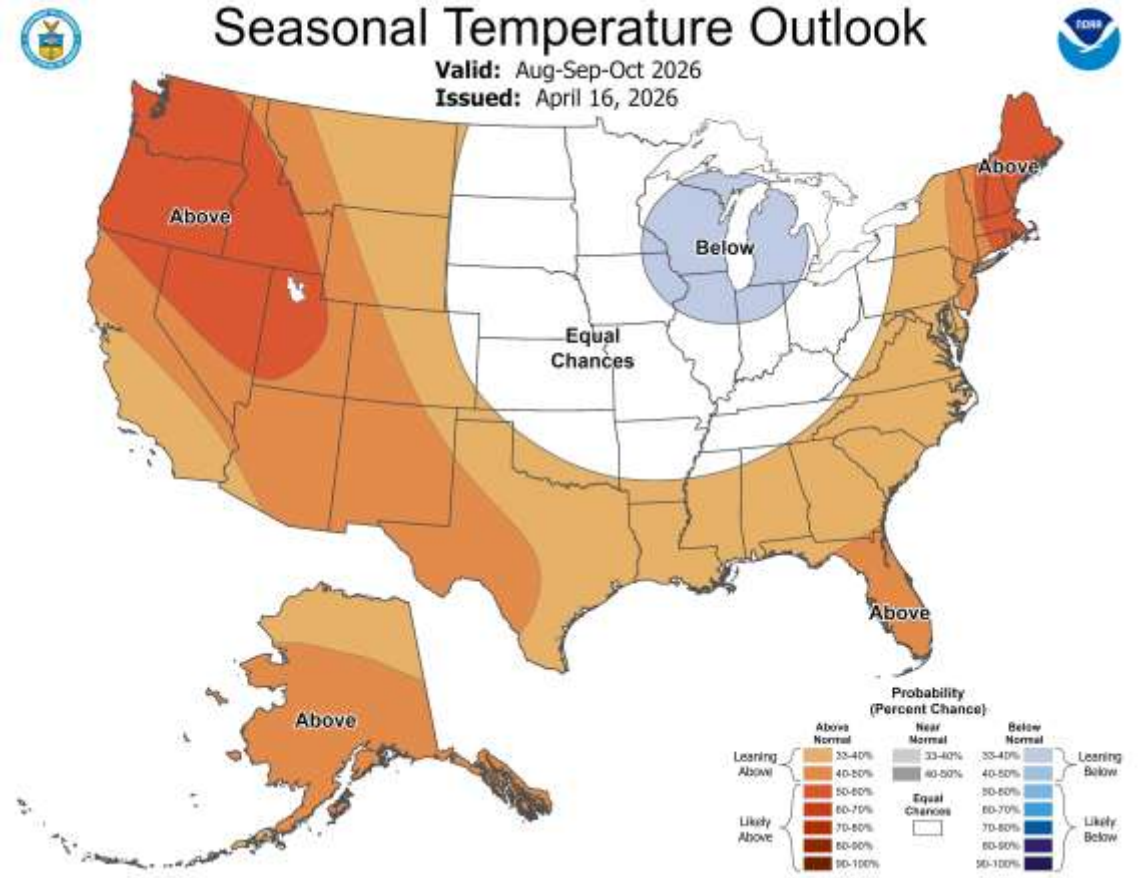


Six-Month Outlook: ASO 2026 (Issued Apr 16)

Precipitation:

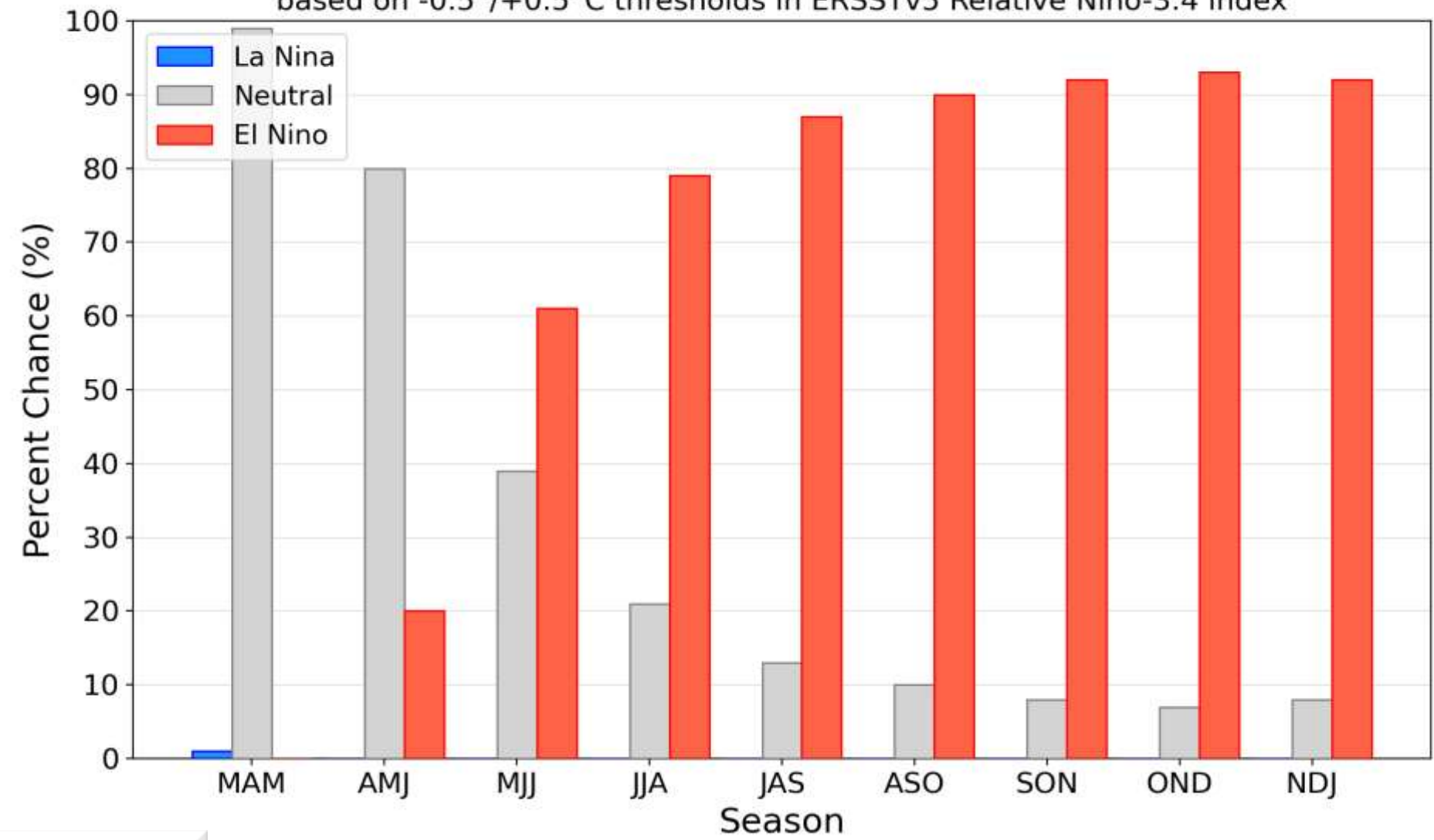


Temperature:



Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued April 2026)

based on $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ thresholds in ERSSTv5 Relative Niño-3.4 index



ENSO-neutral condition tapering off in June. El Niño favored to persist at least through the end of 2026.

Which is worse... for creating conditions for a summer drought?

Going into...

El Niño or **La Niña**?

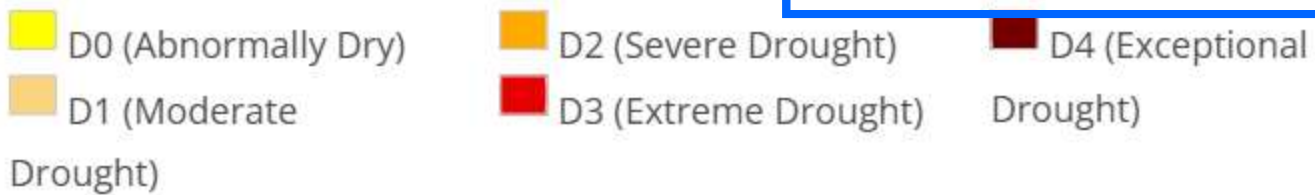
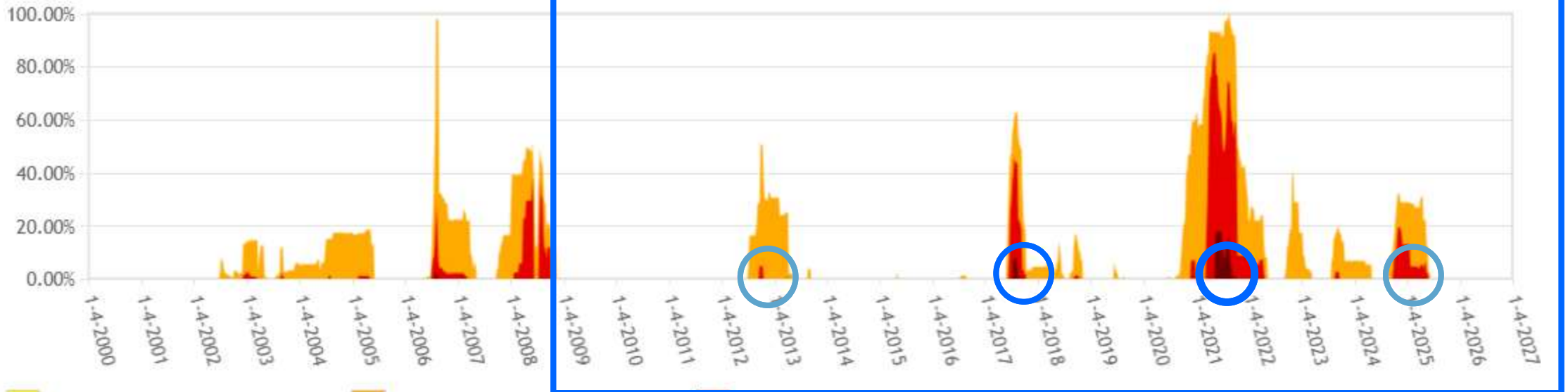
El Niño as the warm phase of the ENSO cycle.

La Niña as the cold phase.

Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2010	1.5	1.1	0.6	0.1	-0.5	-1.0	-1.3	-1.5	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.6
2011	-1.4	-1.2	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0
2012	-0.8	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	-0.1	-0.4
2013	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3
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
Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
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	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0
2026	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5									

Significant USDM *Statewide* Drought Periods

North Dakota Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



From the U.S. Drought Monitor website, <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx>, 5-13-2026



ENSO-neutral condition tapering off in June. El Niño favored to persist at least through the end of 2026.

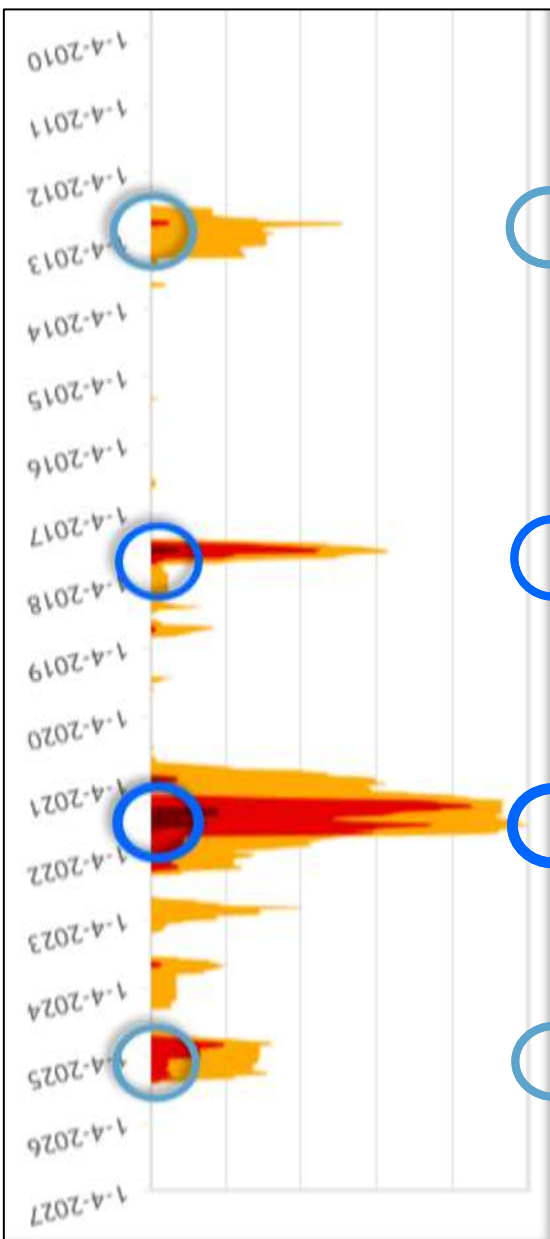
Statewide
Drought
Percent/Impact

2012
30% D2-D3

2018
50% D2-D4

2021
93% D2-D4

2025
30% D2-D3



Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2010	1.5	1.1	0.6	0.1	-0.5	-1.0	-1.3	-1.5	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	-1.6
2011	-1.4	-1.2	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0
2012	-0.8	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	-0.1	-0.4
2013	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3
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
Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
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	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0
2026	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5									

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso/roni/

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 1 - July 31, 2026
Released April 30, 2026

