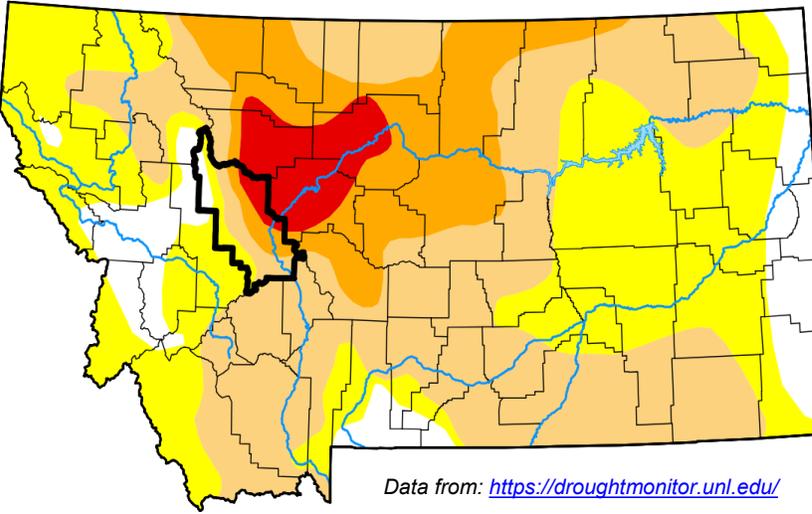


UPPER MISSOURI WATER SUPPLY REPORT

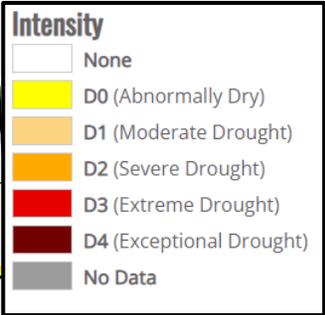
MARCH 2, 2026



The Montana Department of
**Natural Resources
& Conservation**



2026-02-26



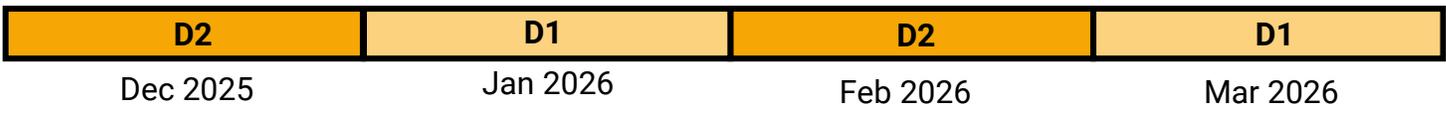
Data from: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

OVERALL DROUGHT

- Drought conditions moved towards **D1** from D2, however **D3** has increased by **11%**.
- May not yet reflect current conditions

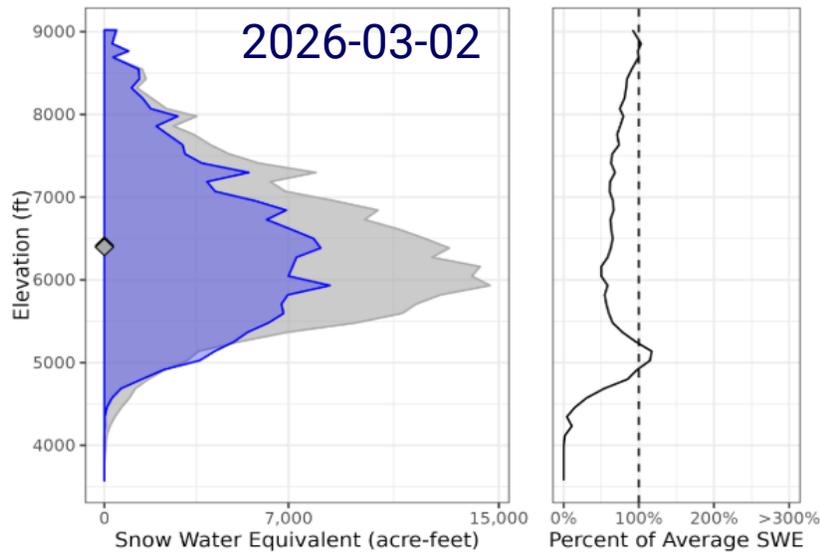
RESERVOIR STORAGE

- Canyon Ferry is **76%** full, **97%** of the 30-yr average.
- Minimal change



SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION

- Snowpack across four SNOTEL sites in the Upper Missouri increased to the **30th percentile** relative to the 1991-2020 period. But this increase is driven by **Nevada Ridge (77%)**, while **Tizer (0%)** is at an all-time low.
- Below-average snowpack across all elevations. Especially at low elevations due to above-average air temps.
- February precip was above typical range (**0.61 inches**; AgriMet) driven by two events.

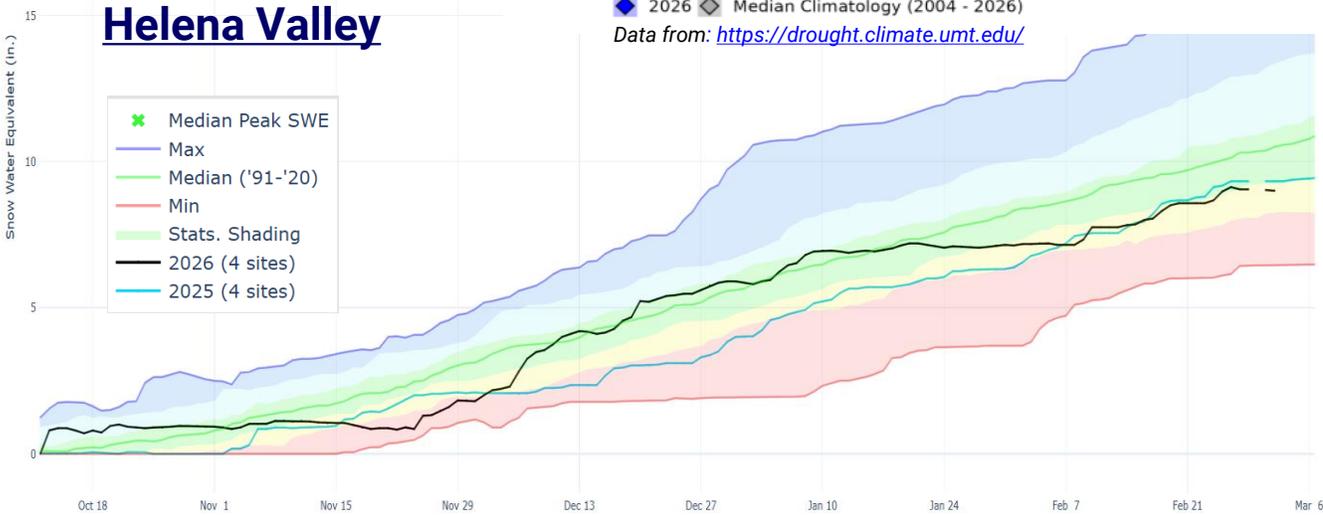


◆ 2026 ◊ Median Climatology (2004 - 2026)
Data from: <https://drought.climate.umt.edu/>

4 Sites: (Percentile)
Boulder Mountain: **19%**
Frohner Meadow: **11%**
Nevada Ridge: **77%**
Tizer Basin: **0%**

SWE represents the total water volume available in the snowpack

Helena Valley



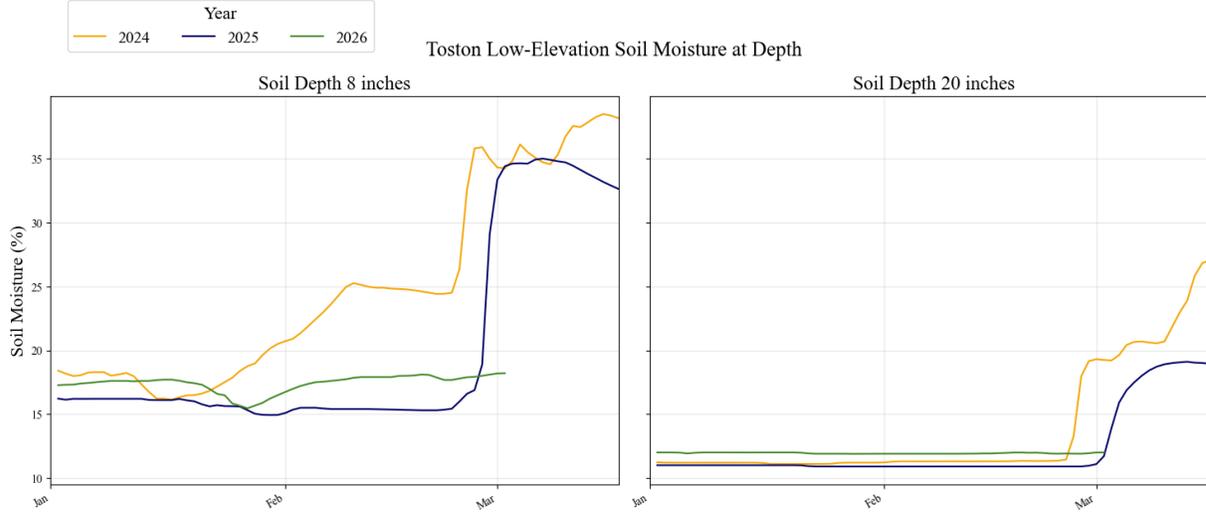
Data from: <https://nwcc-apps.sc.egov.usda.gov/basin-plots/#MT>

STREAMFLOW

- Streamflow at Prickly Pear Creek remains below the **25th percentile**
- No values were reported for Tenmile Creek due to ice effect, which is typical for this year.

Data from: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/06061500/#dataTypeId=continuous-00060-0&startDT=2024-01-01&endDT=2025-06-09>

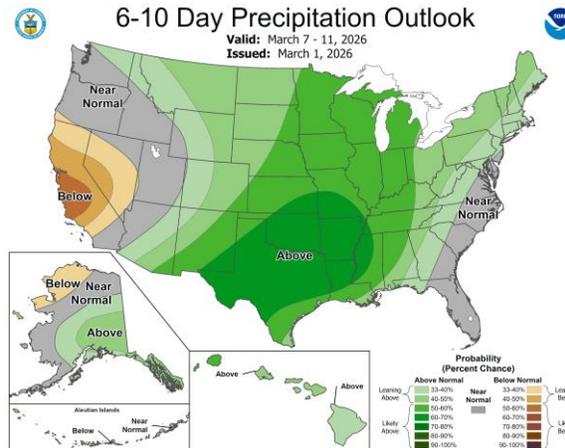
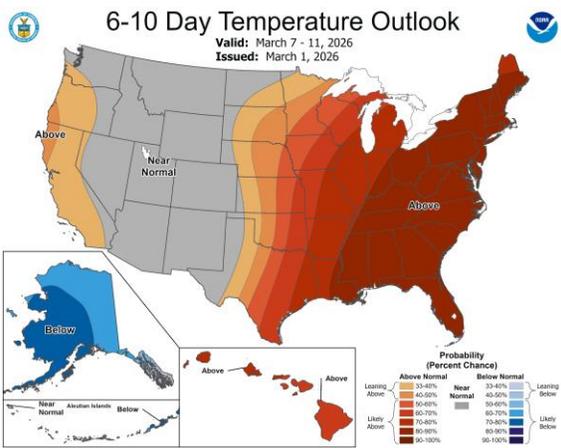
SOIL MOISTURE



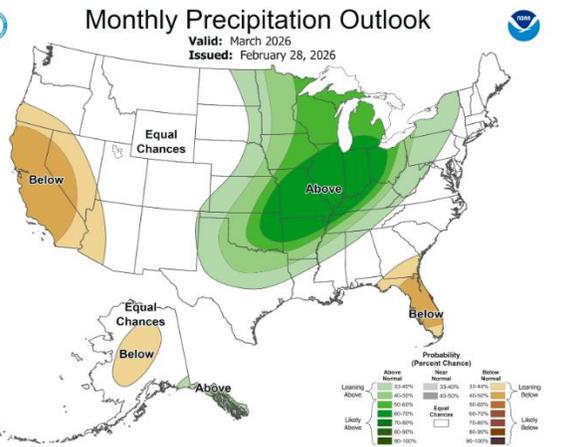
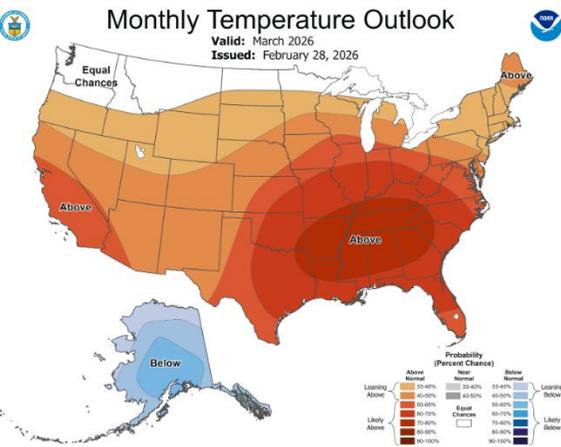
Data from: <https://climate.umd.edu/mesonet/>

- Low-elevation soil moisture increased slightly in February due to precip, but no consistent seasonal recovery due to limited snowpack.
- Mid-elevation conditions could not be assessed due to unavailable data.

MARCH WEATHER OUTLOOK



- A low-pressure system may move through the area 3/8 to 3/10 hoping for higher elevation snowfall if temps are cold enough.



- Above-average precip is possible with the storm, but temps remain high.
- Monthly outlook suggests near-normal conditions.

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

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