



RI Drought Steering Committee NWS Update

Tuesday February 11th, 2025

*Prepared by: National Weather Service Boston/Norton,
MA*

Drought Indices from RI Water 2030



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Rhode Island Water 2030
Part 3

State Guide Plan 721

Table 2, Rhode Island Drought Indices and Phases

Drought Phase	Palmer Drought Index +	Crop Moisture Index	Precipitation +	Ground Water** +	Stream flow +	Reservoirs**
Normal	-1.0 to -1.99	0.0 to -1.0	Slightly Dry	1 month below normal 1 month below normal	2 consecutive months below normal	Reservoir levels at or near normal for the time of year
Advisory	-2.0 to -2.99	-1.0 to -1.9 Abnormally Dry	2 month cumulative below 65% of normal	At least 2 out of 3 months below normal	3 consecutive months below normal	Small index Reservoirs below normal
Watch	-3.0 to -3.99	-2.0 to -2.9 Excessively Dry	1 of the following criteria met: 3 month cum. <65% or 6 month cum. <70% or 12 month cum. <70%	4-5 consecutive months below normal	At least 4 out of 5 consecutive months below normal	Medium index Reservoirs below normal
Warning	-4.0 and below	> -2.9 Severely Dry	2 out of 3 of the above criteria met: 3 month cum. <65% and 6 month cum. <65% or 6 month cum. <65% and 12 month cum. <65% or 3 month cum. <65% and 12 month cum. <65%	6-7 consecutive months below normal observation wells recording monthly record lows	At least 6 out of 7 consecutive months below normal	Large index reservoirs below normal
Emergency	-4.0 and below	> -2.9 Severely dry	Same criteria as Warning and Previous month was Warning or Emergency	>7 months below normal Observation wells recording monthly record lows	>7 months below normal	Continuation of previous month's conditions

Drought Recovery Phases



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Returning to Normal

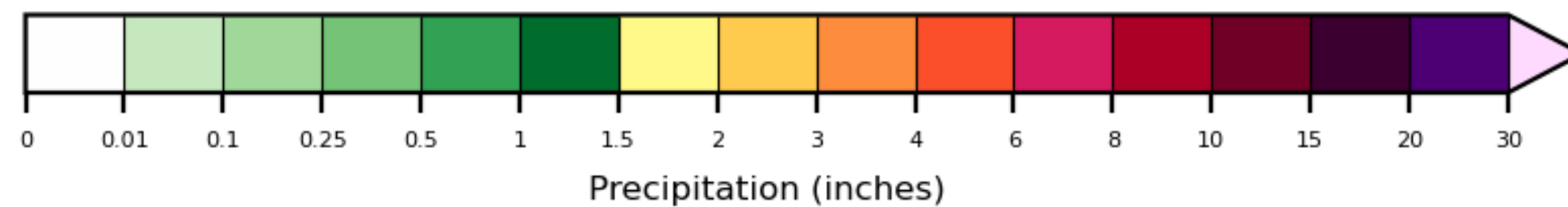
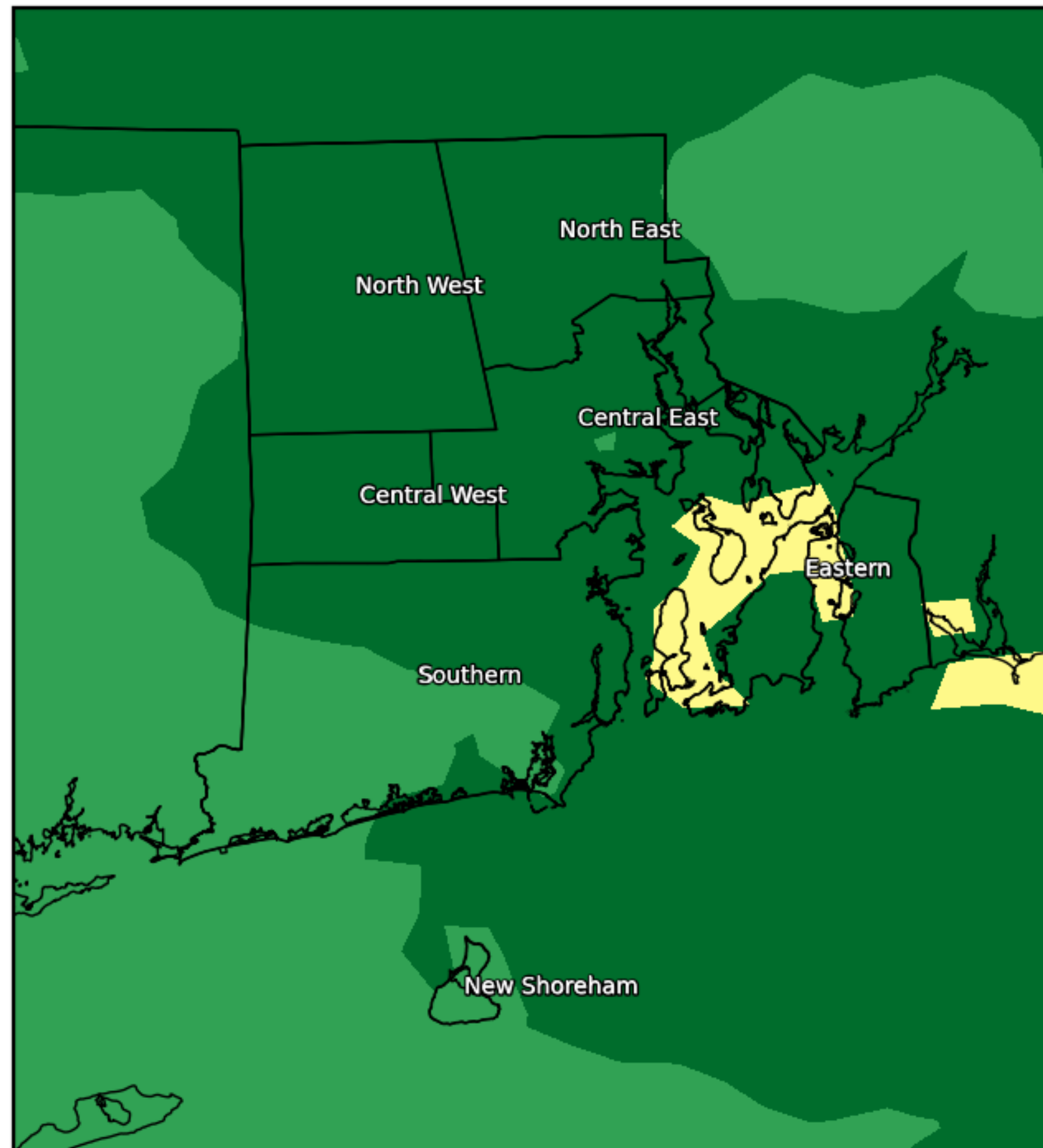
Current Drought Phase	Next Drought Phase	Reduce Drought Phase by one category
Emergency	Emergency-continued below normal conditions	Groundwater levels at or above normal and no precipitation deficit for past 3 months; and/or water resource problems which prompted the emergency have abated
Warning	Emergency-worsening conditions or continued below normal conditions	2 consecutive months of groundwater levels at or above normal and near normal precipitation for past 6 months
Watch	Warning-worsening conditions Watch continued below normal	2 consecutive months of groundwater levels at or above normal and near normal precipitation for past 6 months
Advisory	Watch-worsening conditions	2 consecutive months of groundwater levels at or above normal and near normal precipitation for past 3 months

January 2025 Rainfall and Departure

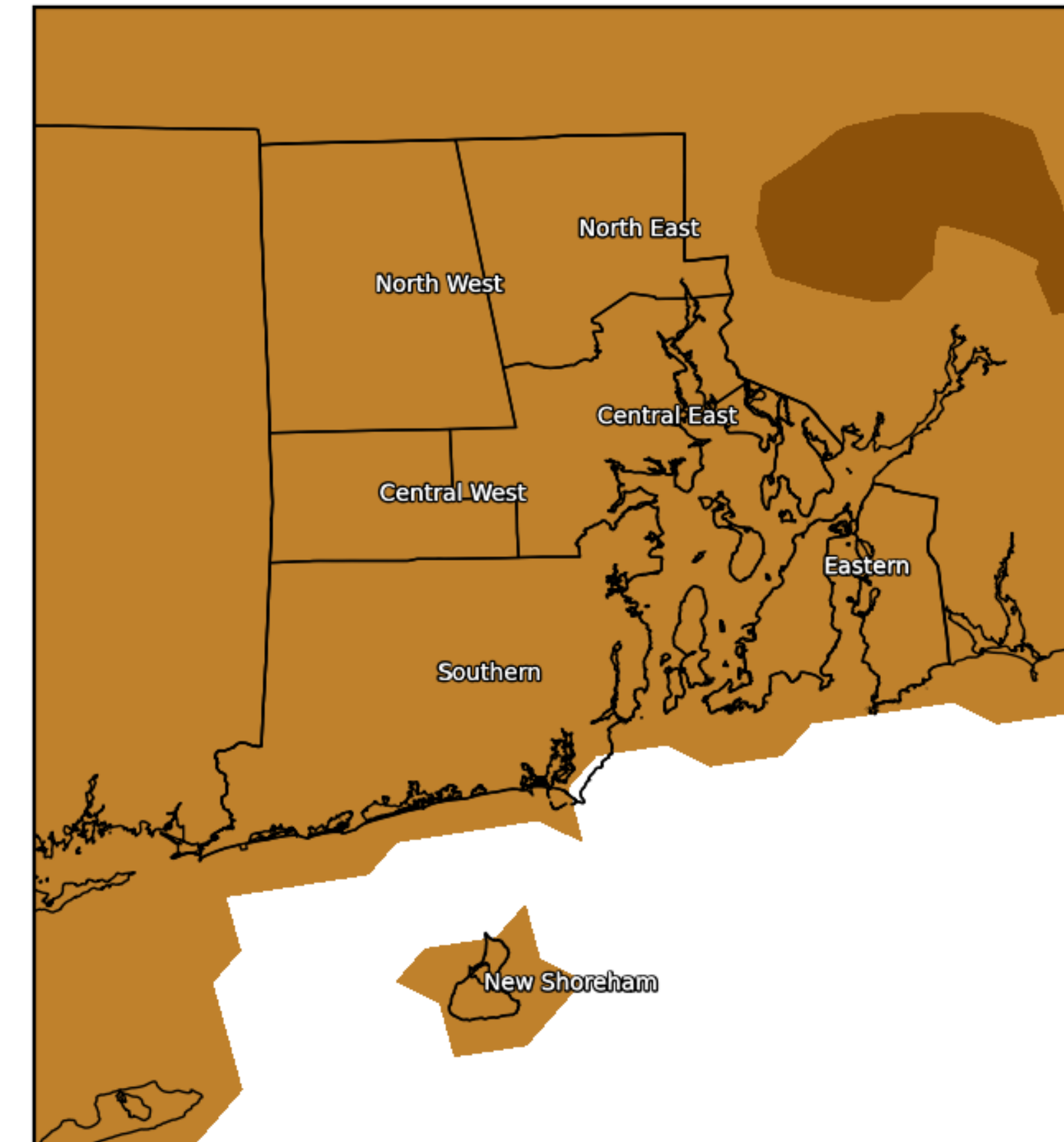


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Accumulated Precipitation (inches)
January 01, 2025 to January 31, 2025



Precipitation Departure from Normal (inches)
January 01, 2025 to January 31, 2025



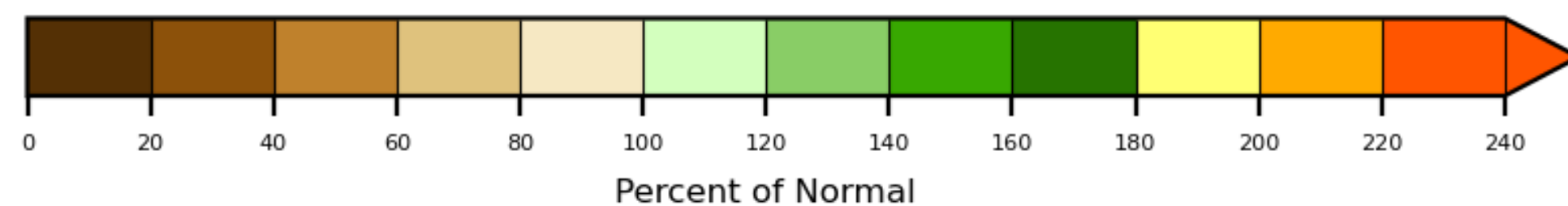
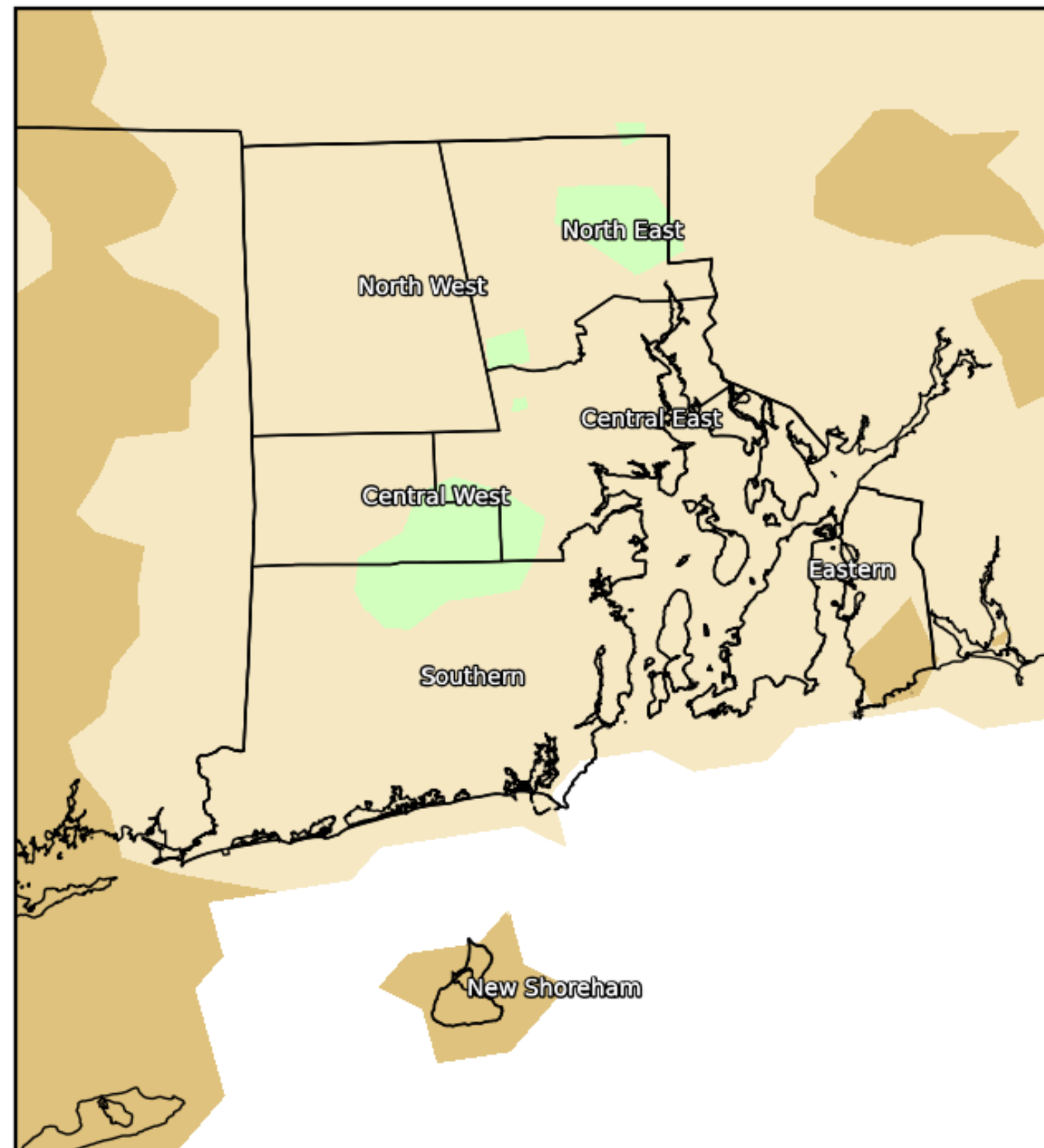
Nov-Jan and Aug-Jan Percent of Normal

Near to Below Normal

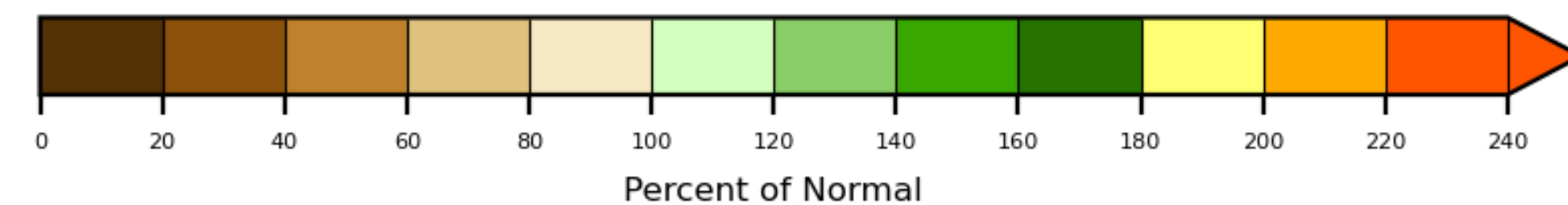
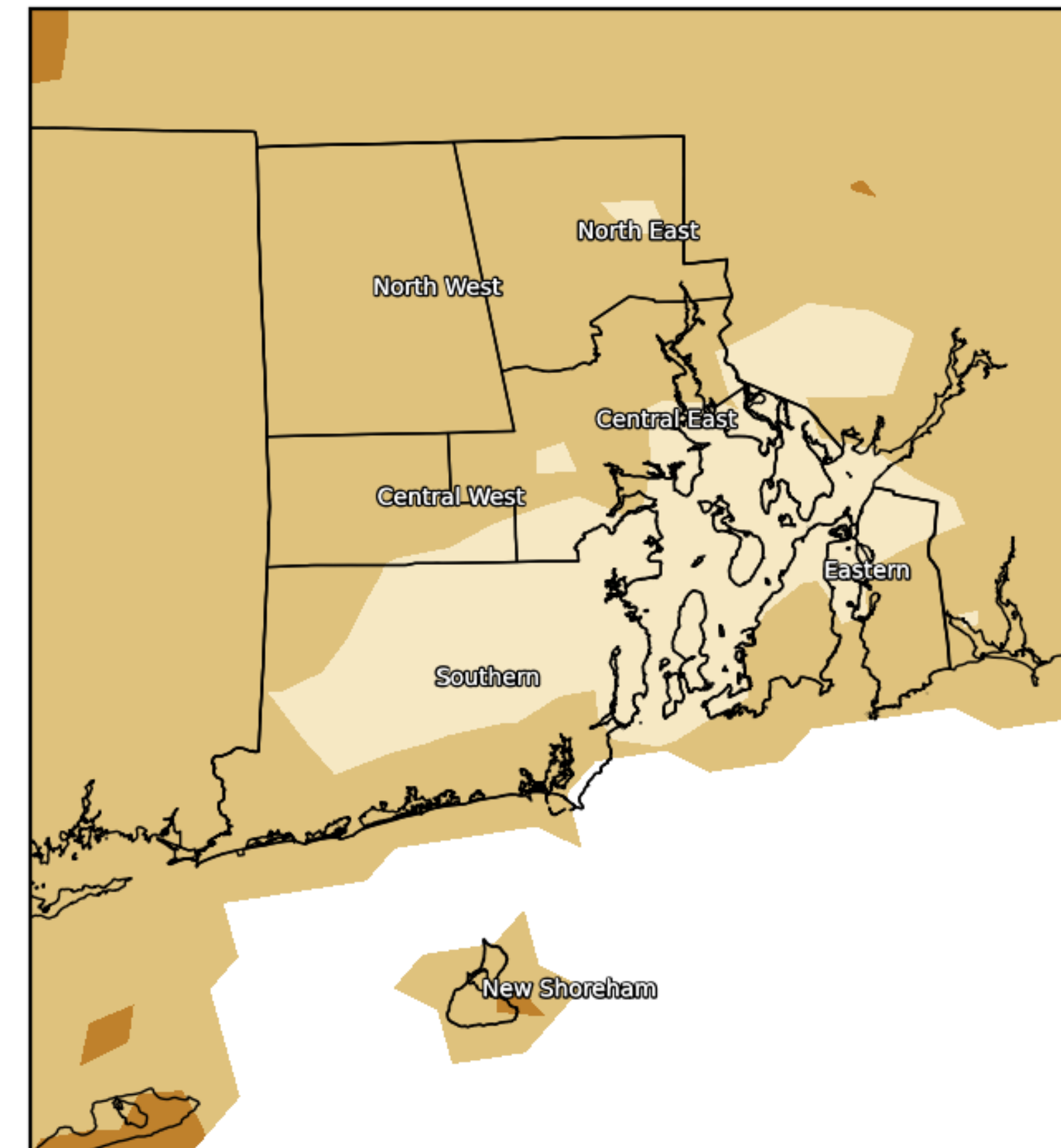


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Precipitation Percent of Normal
November 01, 2024 to January 31, 2025



Precipitation Percent of Normal
August 01, 2024 to January 31, 2025



Rainfall Percent by Region Last 6 Months



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	AUG Percent	SEP Percent	OCT Percent	NOV Percent	DEC Percent	JAN Percent	3 Month Percent (NOV- JAN)
Northwest	84	41	12	63	114	35	73
Northeast	95	46	13	66	127	41	80
Central West	91	36	24	77	181	32	101
Central East	108	47	19	59	138	38	82
Eastern	95	75	22	59	128	39	78
Southern	131	45	22	76	143	38	89
New Shoreham	104	18	18	48	93	24	57
RI Average	101	44	19	65	132	35	80

- **Need 3 consecutive months of near normal precipitation to come out of drought**
- **Nearly all regions above 65% threshold for the 3 month average due to December precipitation**
- **Three of the seven regions are at or above normal (65%) for two of the last three months.**
- **January precipitation resets criteria across the state**

Rainfall Percent: Last 2,3, 6,12 Months



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Drought Phase
Normal
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

	2 Months Dec-Jan	3 Months Nov-Jan	6 Months Aug – Jan	12 Months Feb-Jan
Northwest	77	73	59	86
Northeast	87	80	65	88
Central West	112	101	76	122
Central East	93	82	69	101
Eastern	87	78	70	98
Southern	95	89	77	106
New Shoreham	61	57	51	79
RI Average	87	80	67	97

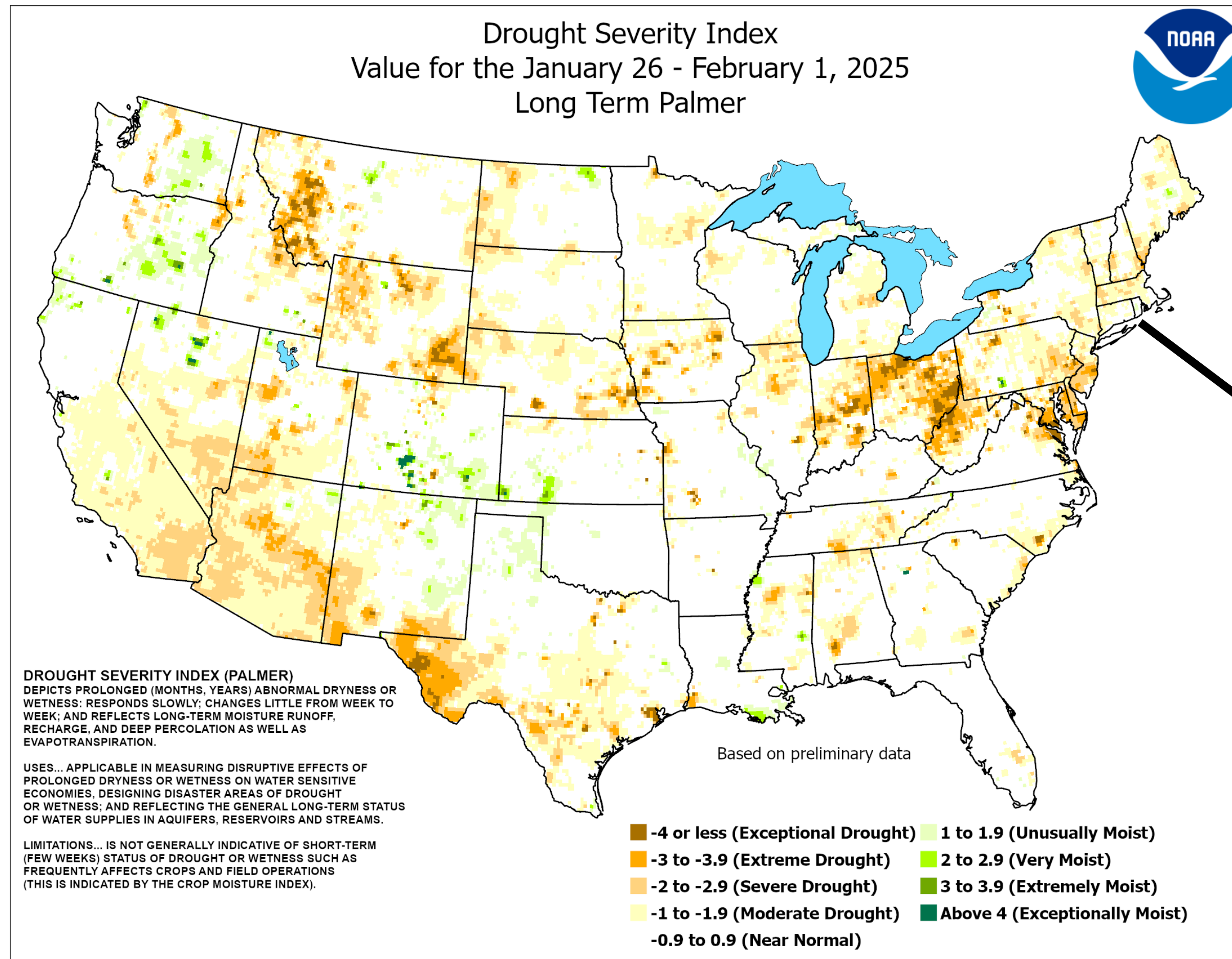
- **Dry conditions in October no longer reflected in the 3-month average**
- **Four of seven regions meeting watch criteria (3 month cum. <65 or 6 month cum. <70)**
- **New Shoreham meeting Warning Criteria (3 and 6 month cum. < 65)**
- **Six of seven regions are normal with respect to two and three month cum. averages**

Palmer Drought Severity Index

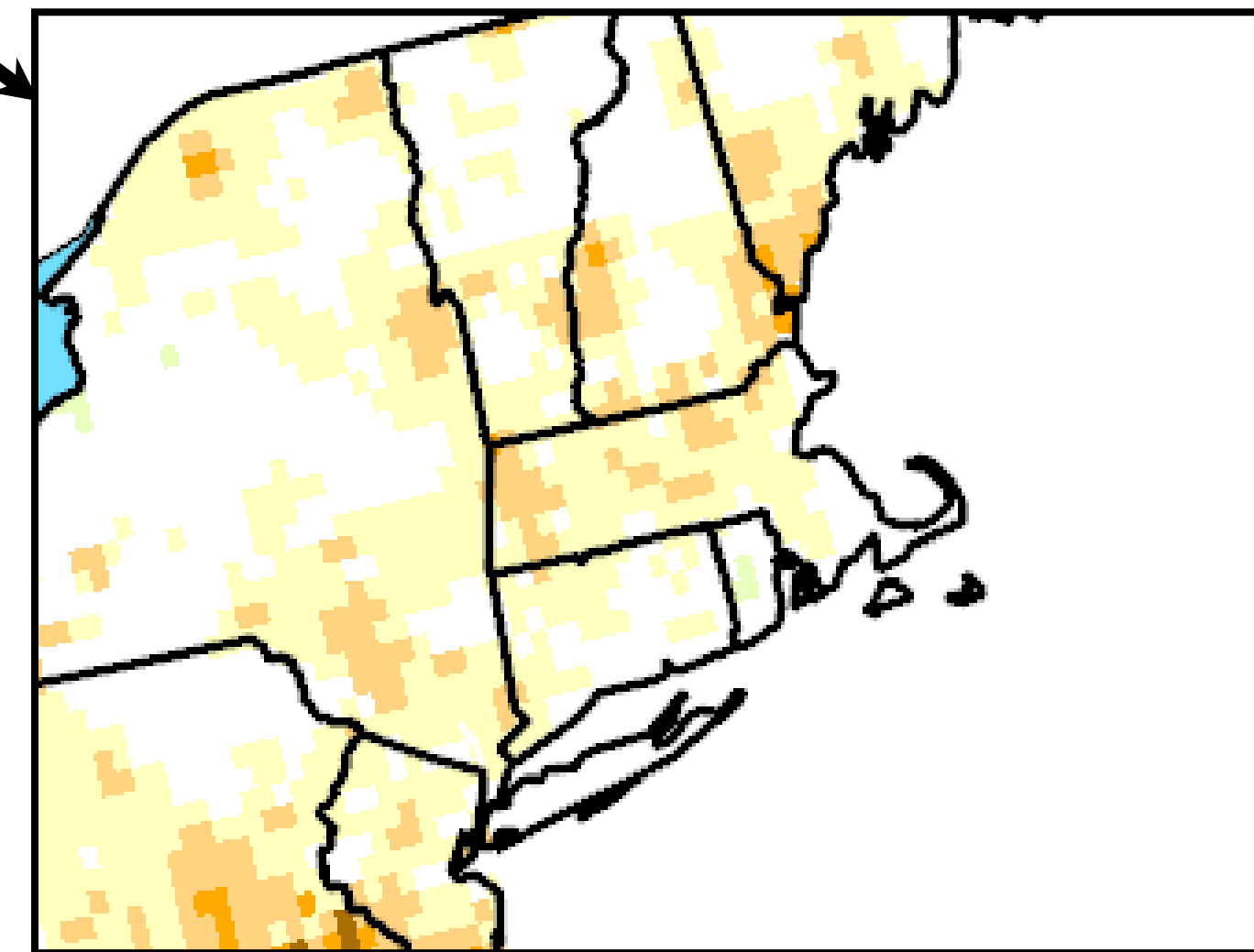
Valid through Week ending February 1st



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- PDSI for RI: -0.9 to 1.9
- Near to Above Normal



7 Day Precipitation Forecast

Valid 7AM Mon 02/10 – 7AM Mon 02/17

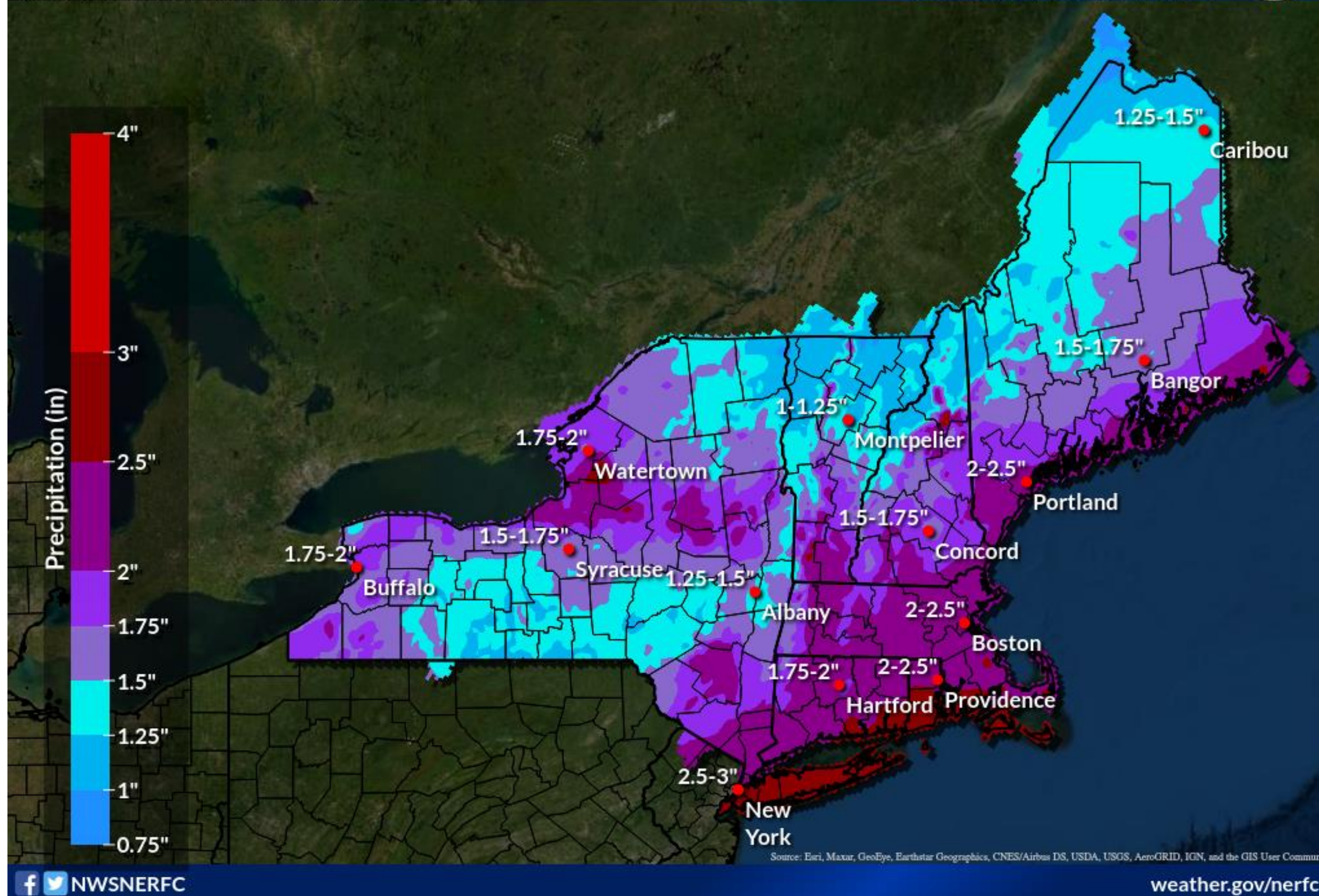


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7 Day WPC Precipitation Forecast

Valid Mon 7:00AM through Mon 7:00AM EST

River Forecast Center
Northeast RFC
Issued Feb 10, 2025 7:05 AM EST



Details

- **Active 7 days ahead with multiple opportunities for precipitation**
- **First event Wed night – Thursday**
- **Second event late Saturday through early Monday (high uncertainty)**
- **2-3" of new precip possible by next Monday**

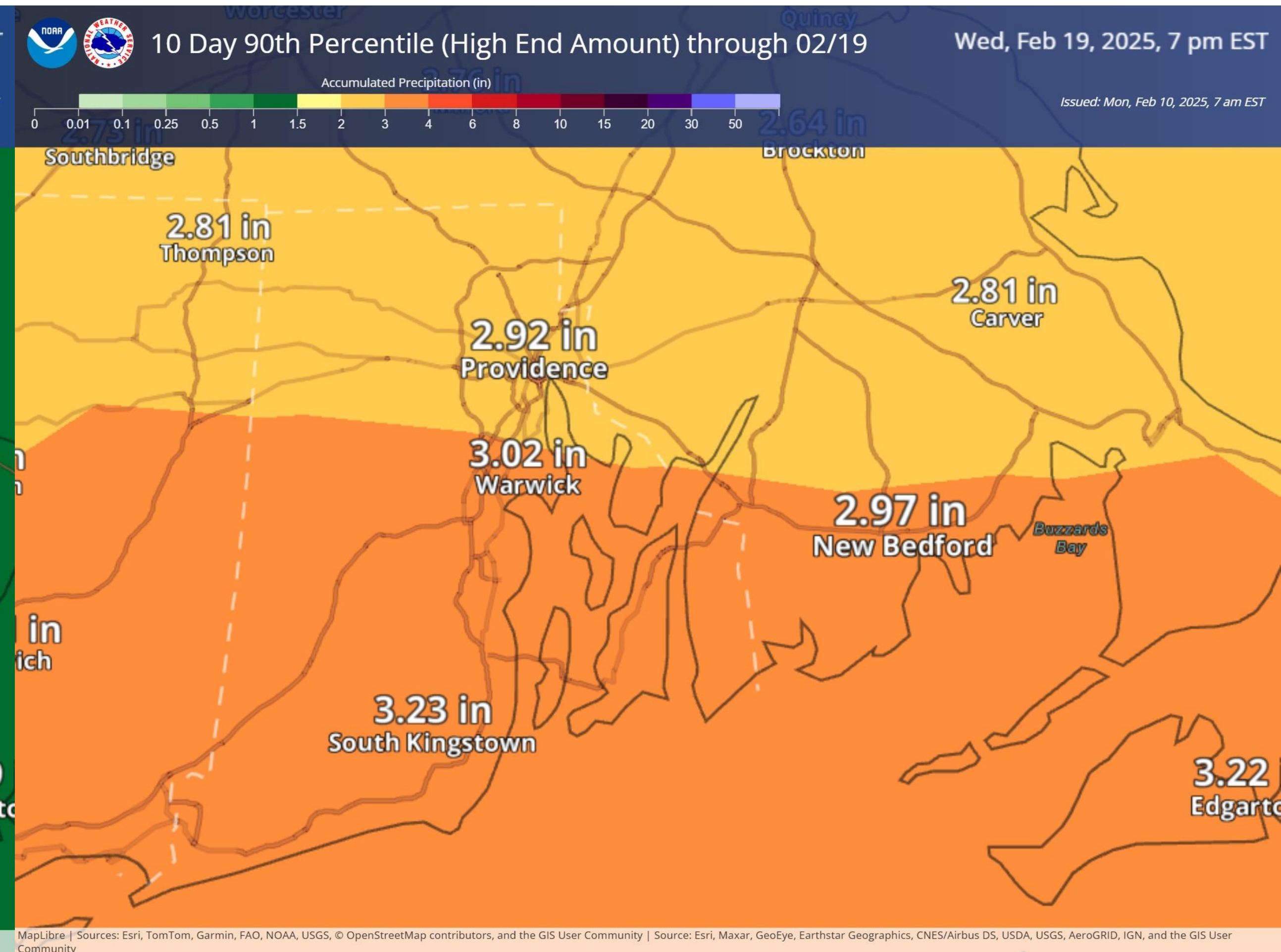
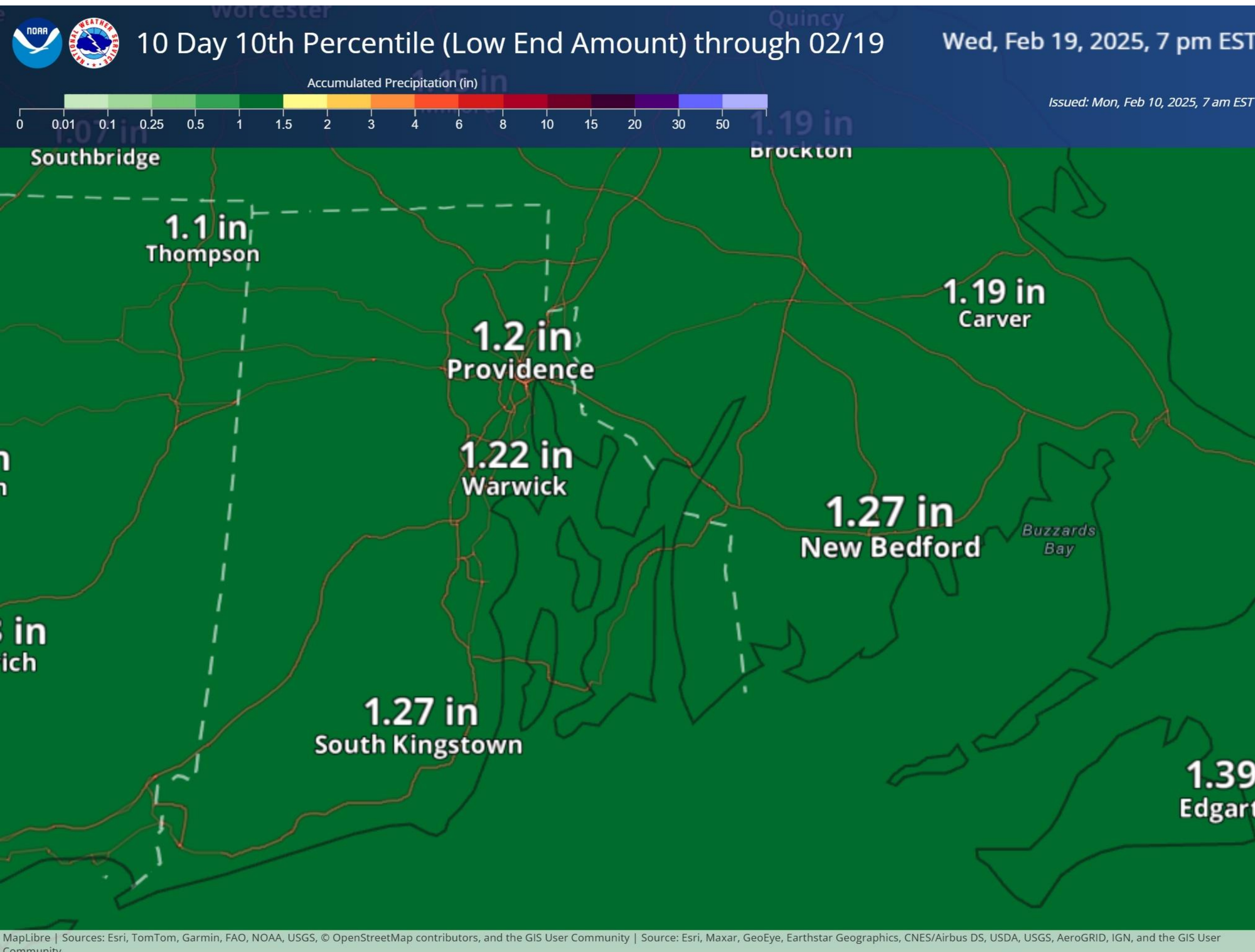
10 Day Ensemble Precipitation Forecast

Valid 7AM Mon 02/10 – 7AM Mon 02/17



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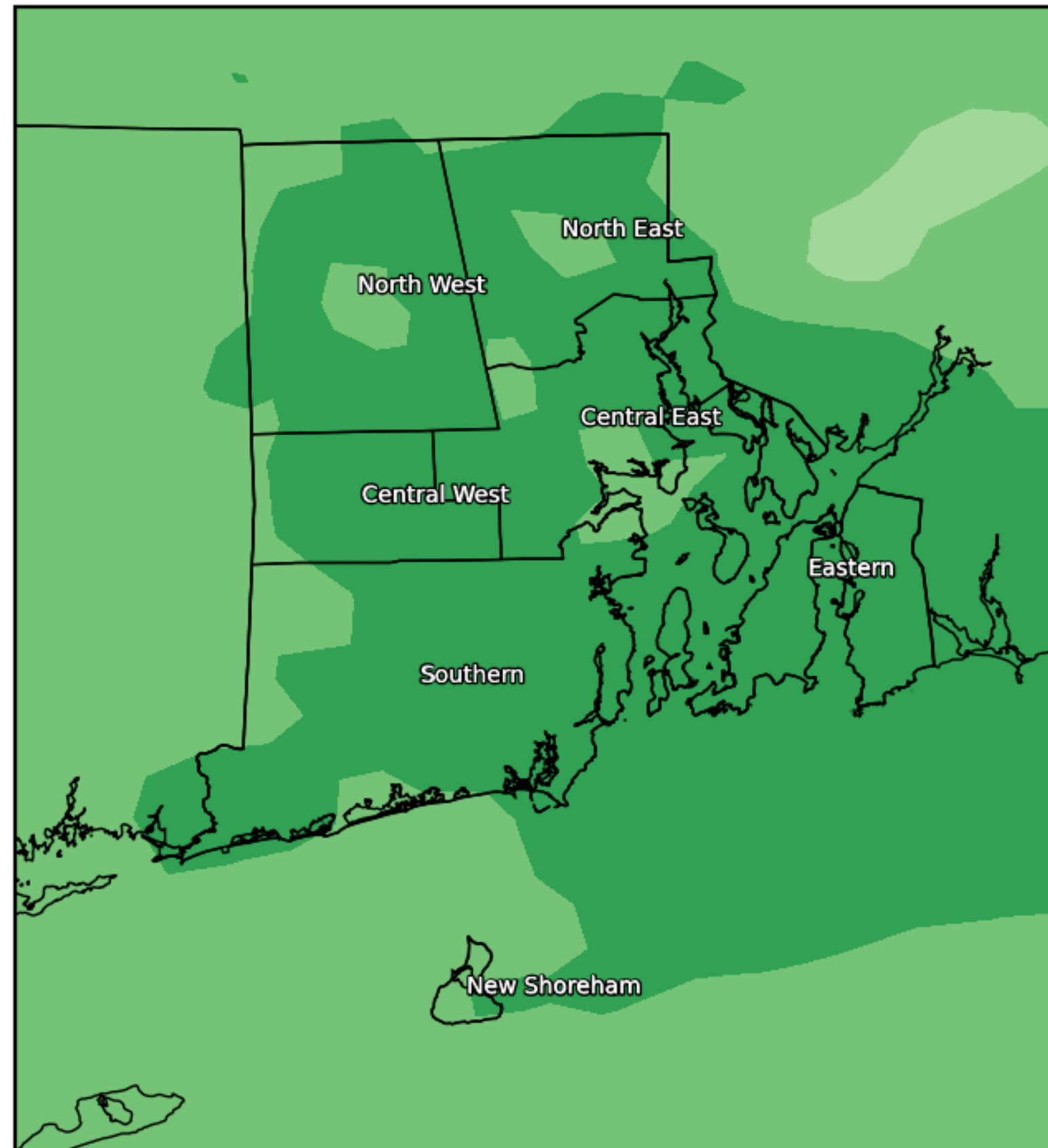
February Precipitation to Date

02/01-02/09

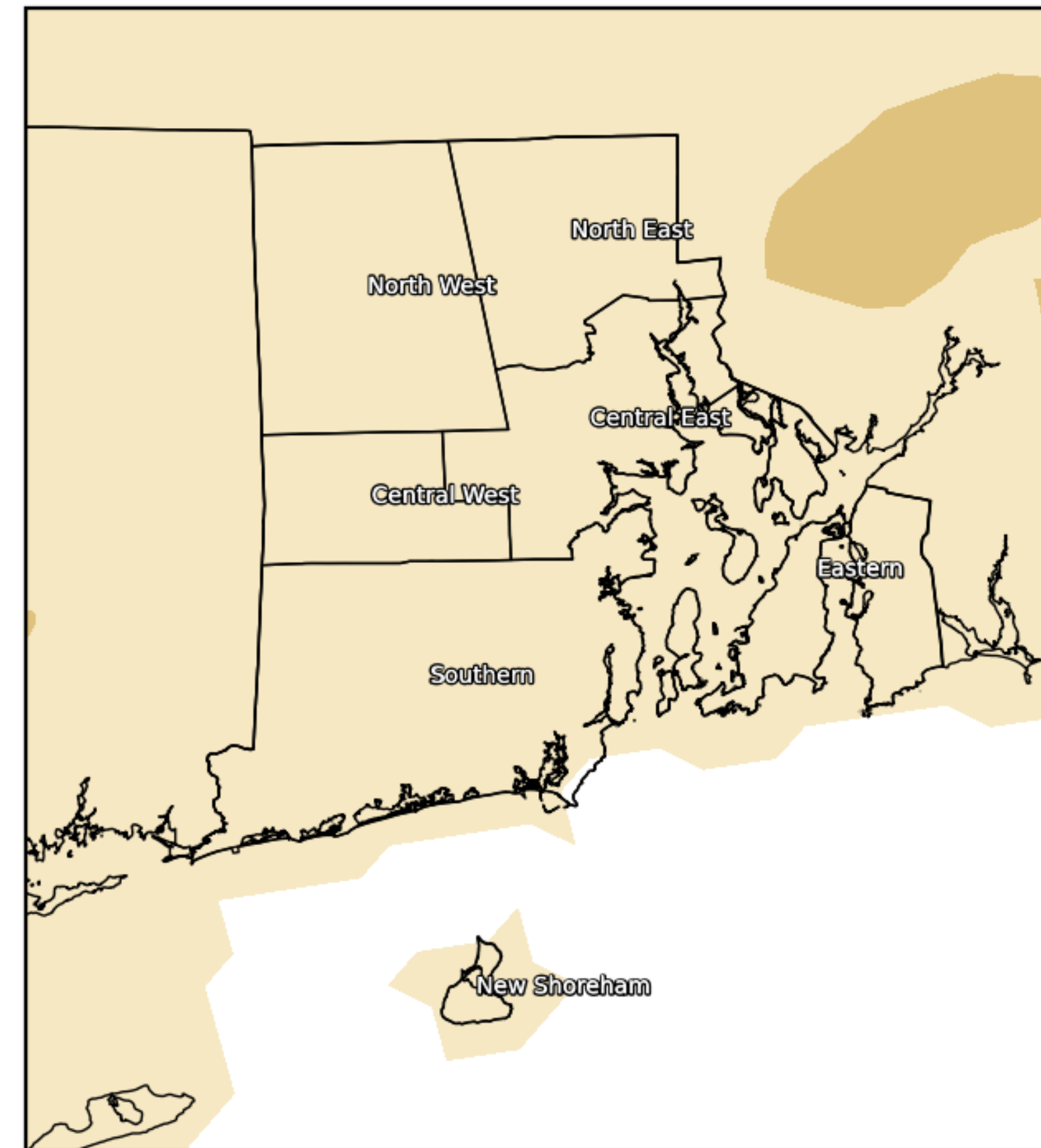


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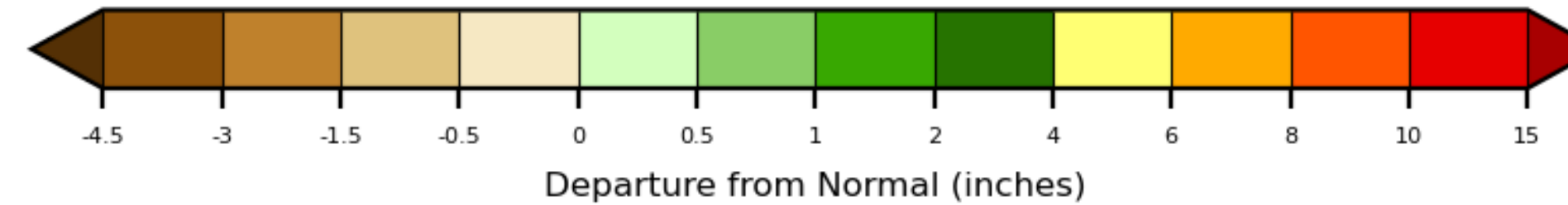
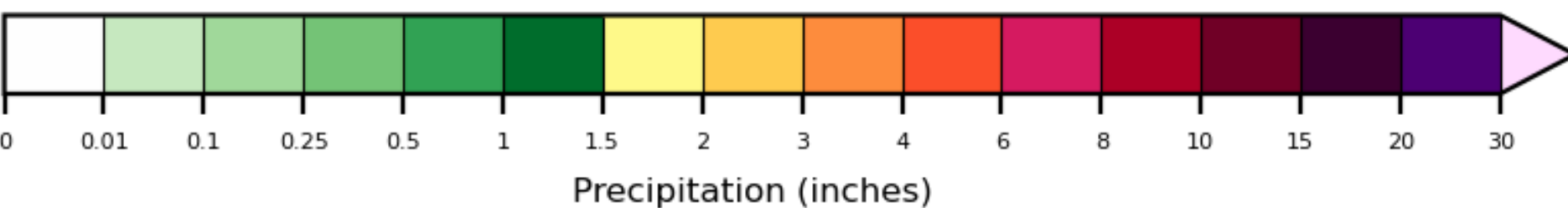
Accumulated Precipitation (inches)
February 01, 2025 to February 09, 2025



Precipitation Departure from Normal (inches)
February 01, 2025 to February 09, 2025



Near Normal



CPC 8-14 Day Outlook

February 17- February 23, 2025

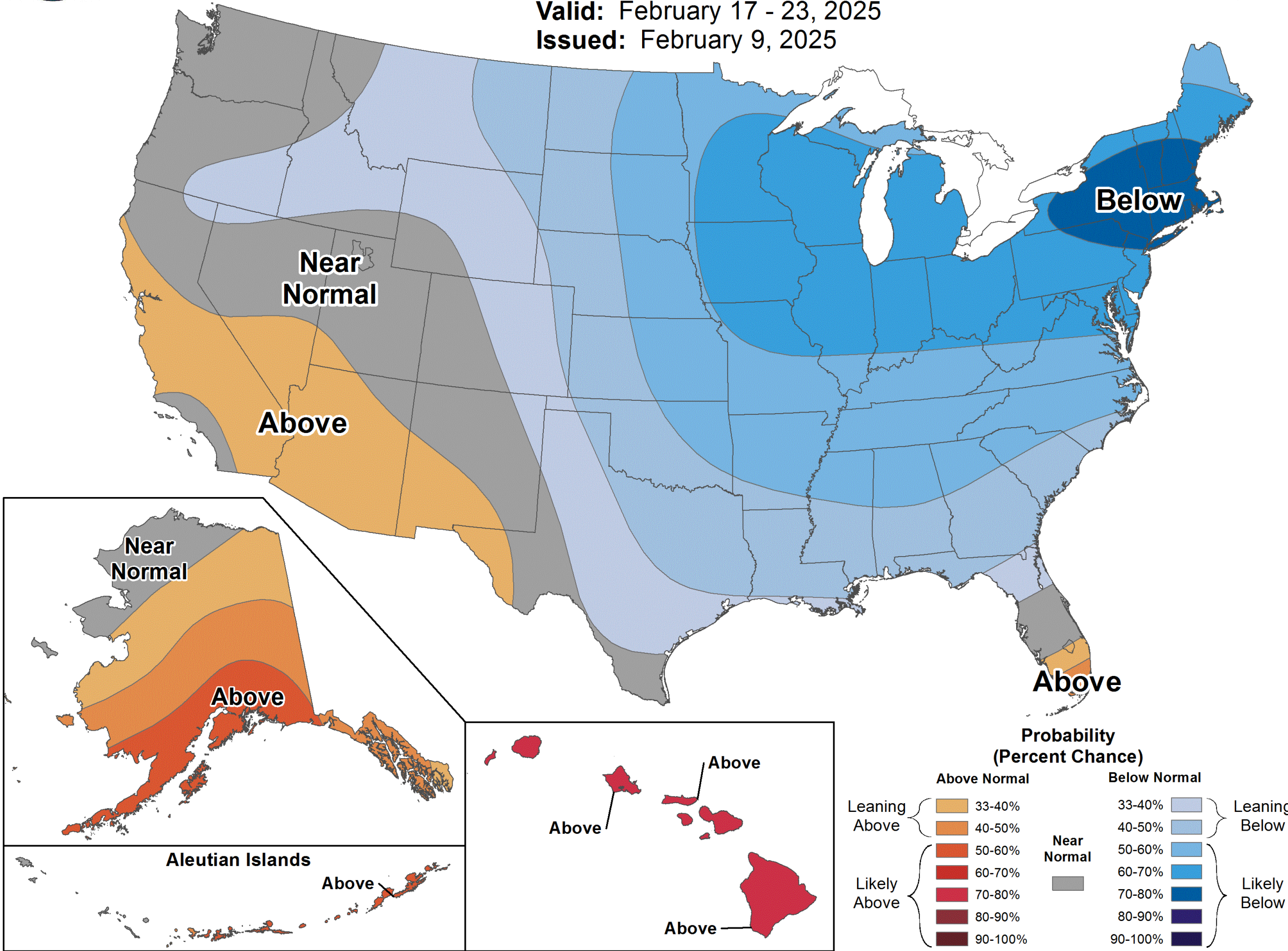


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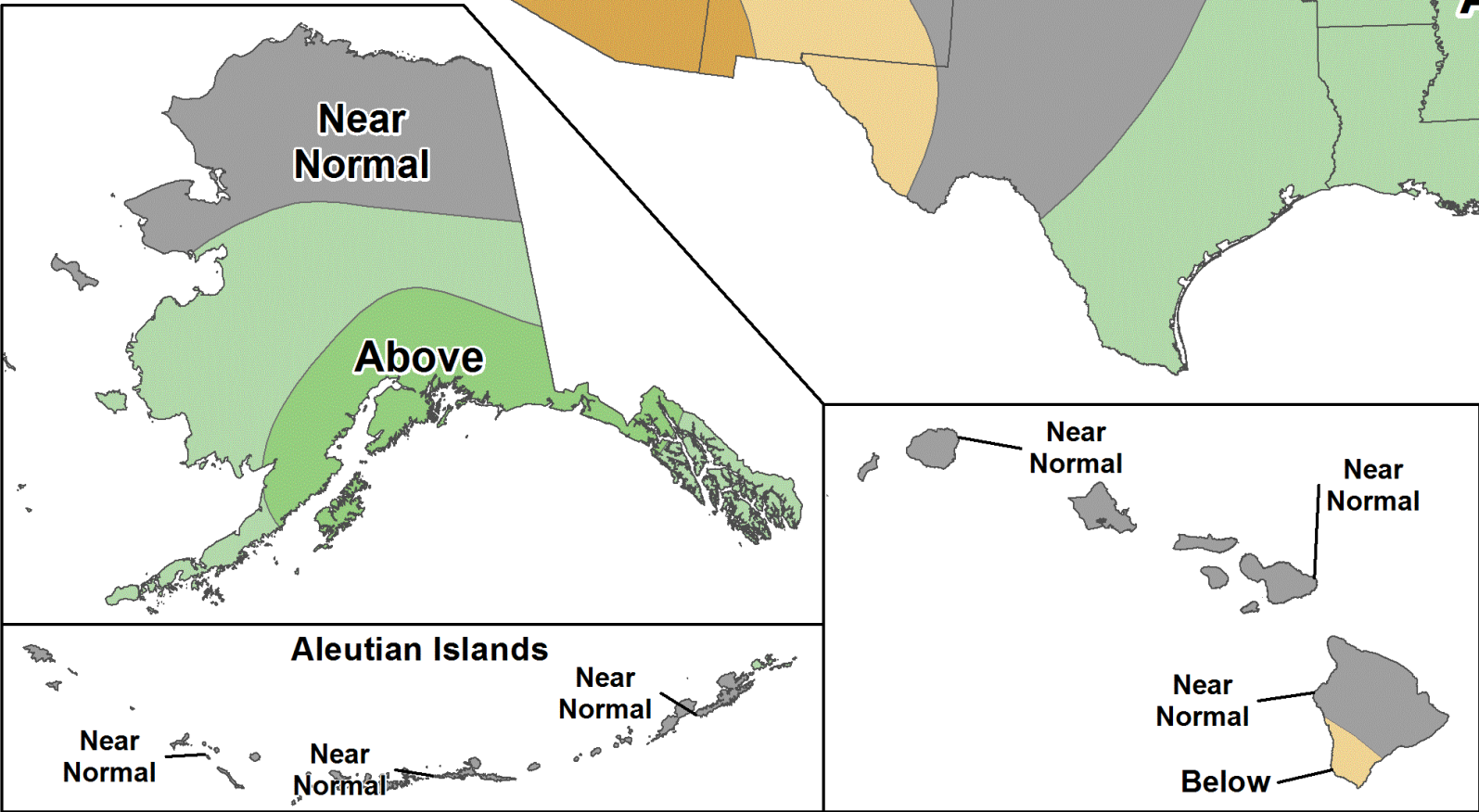
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: February 17 - 23, 2025
Issued: February 9, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: February 17 - 23, 2025
Issued: February 9, 2025



CPC 3-4 Week Outlook

February 22- March 7, 2025



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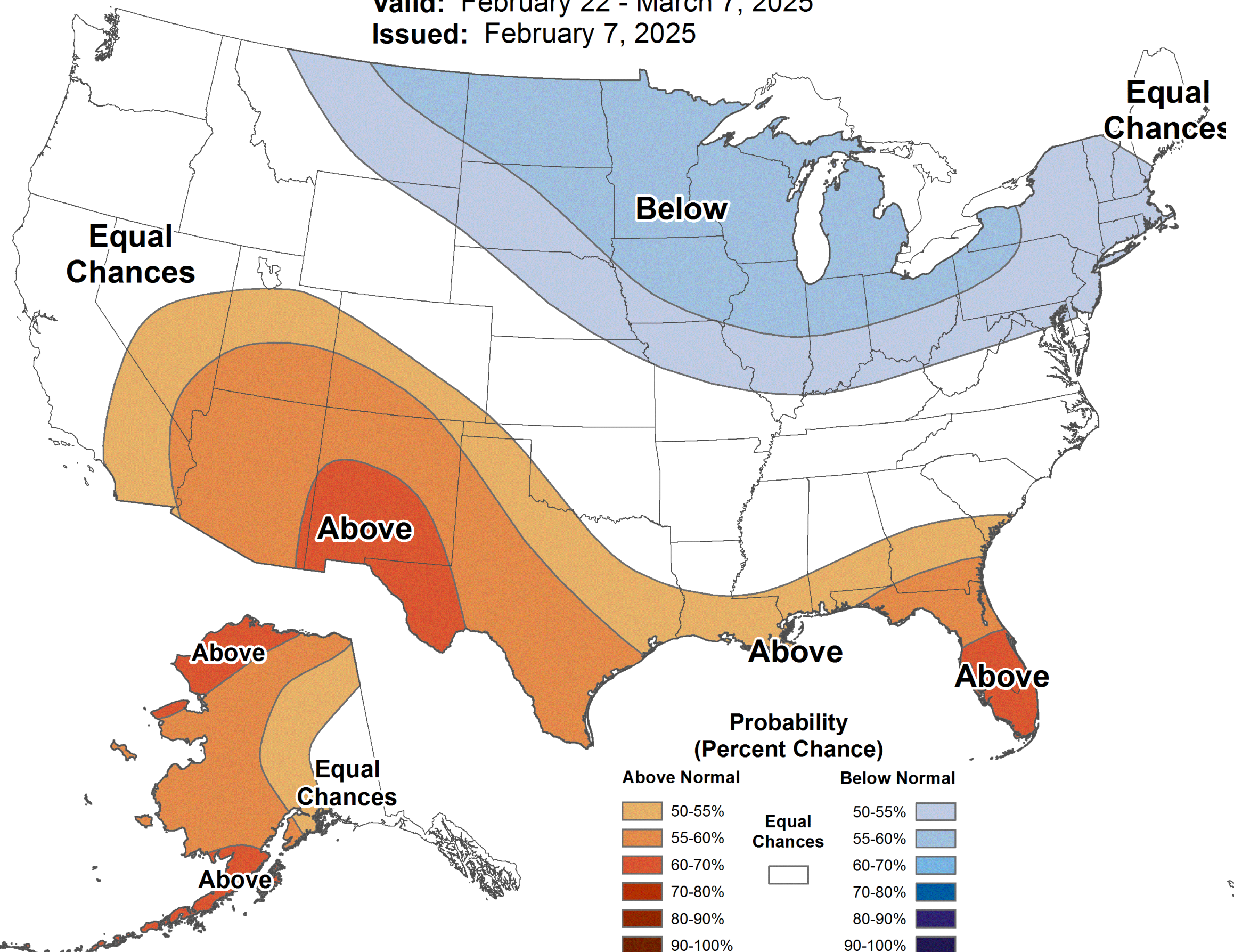


Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook



Valid: February 22 - March 7, 2025

Issued: February 7, 2025

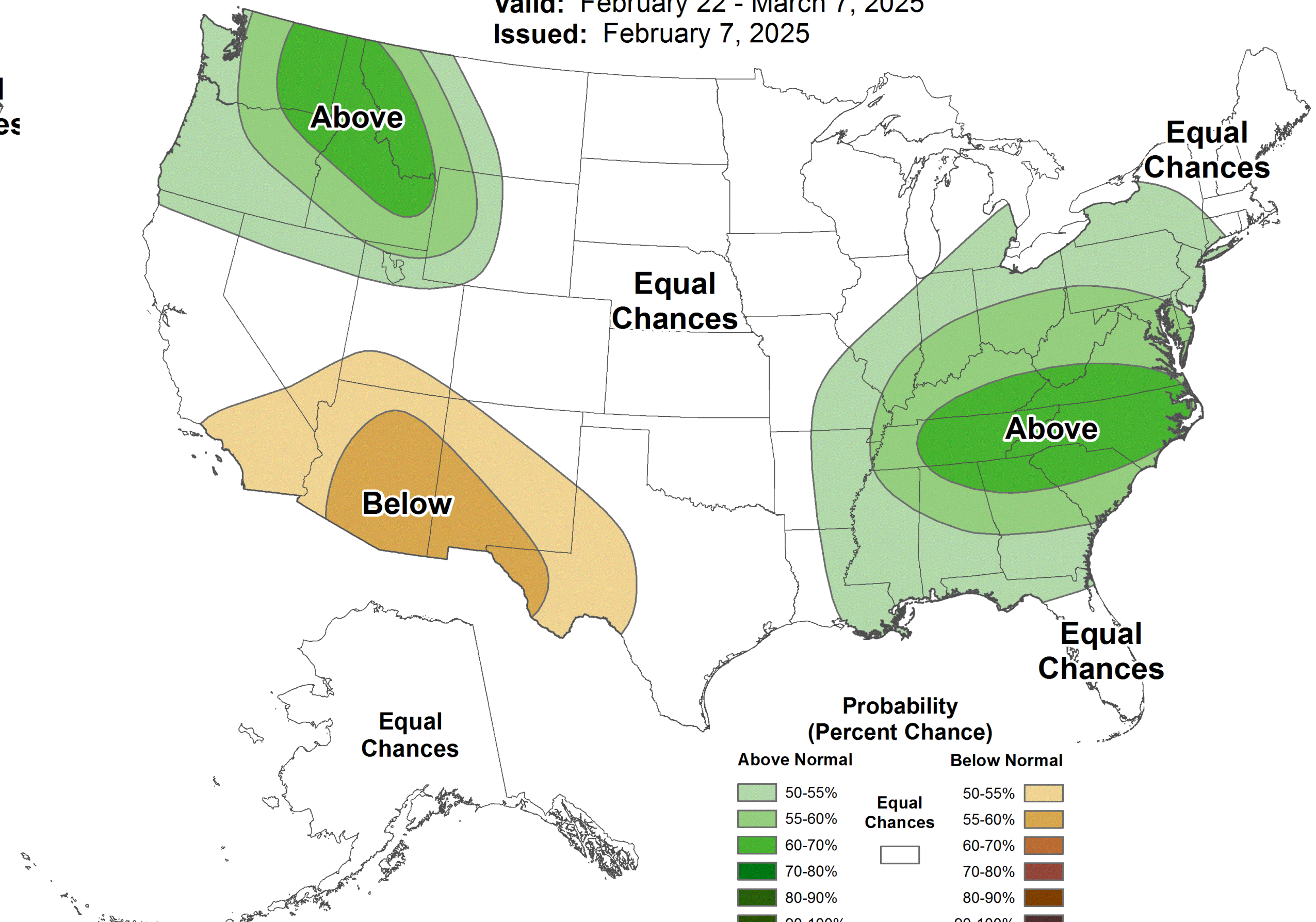


Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook



Valid: February 22 - March 7, 2025

Issued: February 7, 2025



CPC Outlook for Feb/Mar/Apr



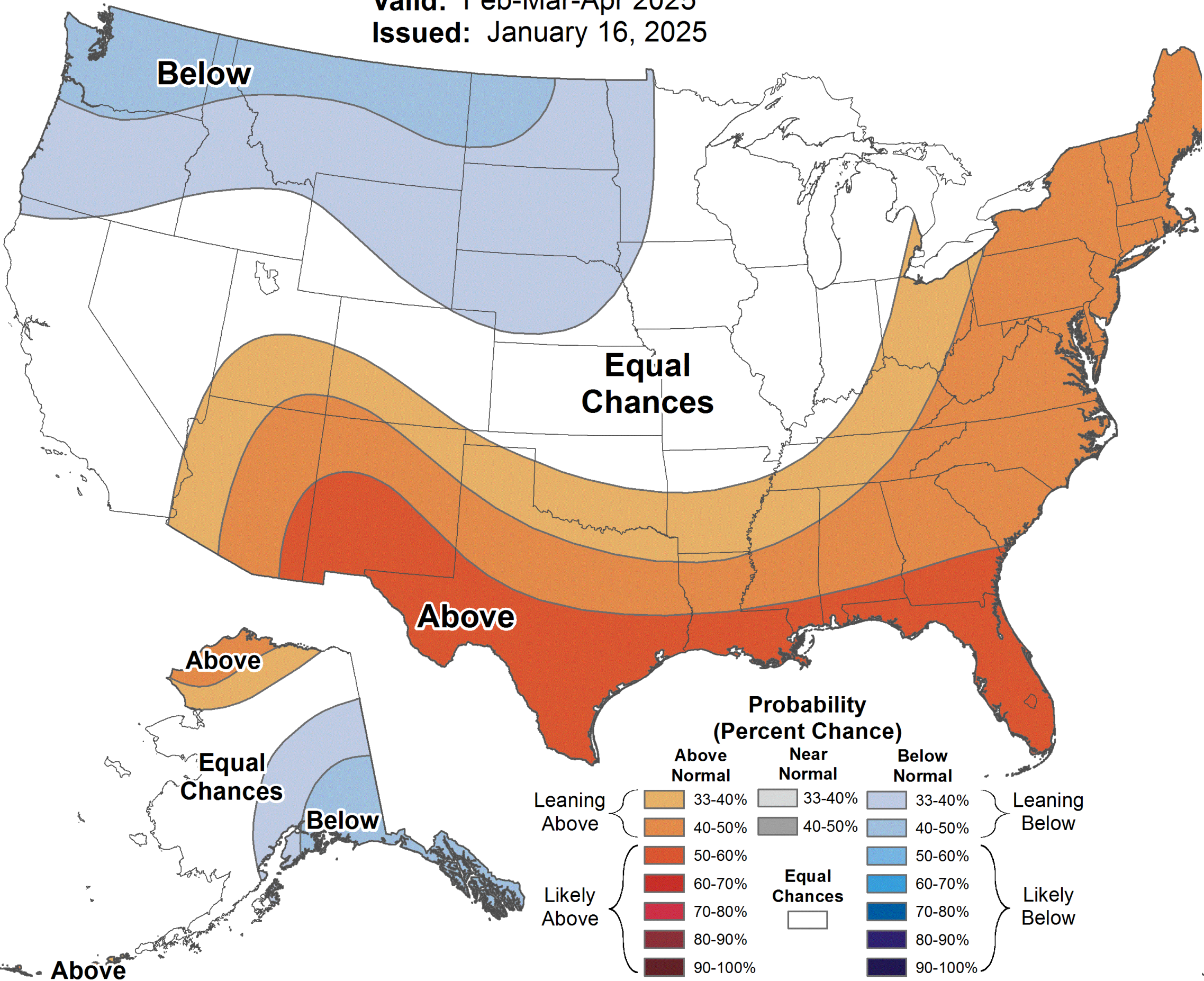
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Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2025
Issued: January 16, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2025
Issued: January 16, 2025

