



RI Drought Steering Committee NWS Update

Wednesday May 14th, 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



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

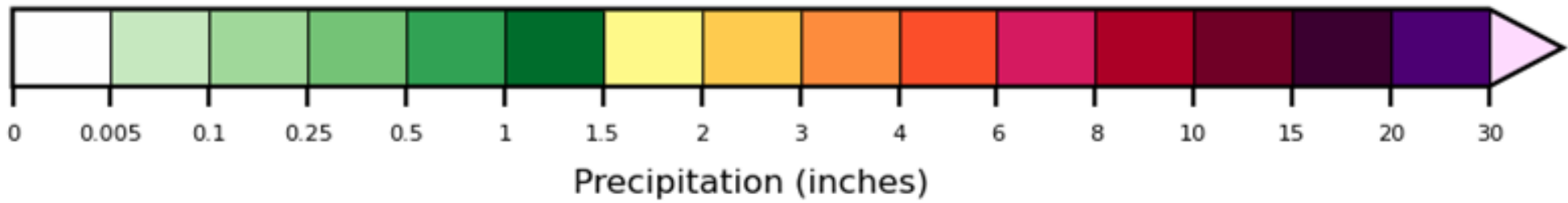
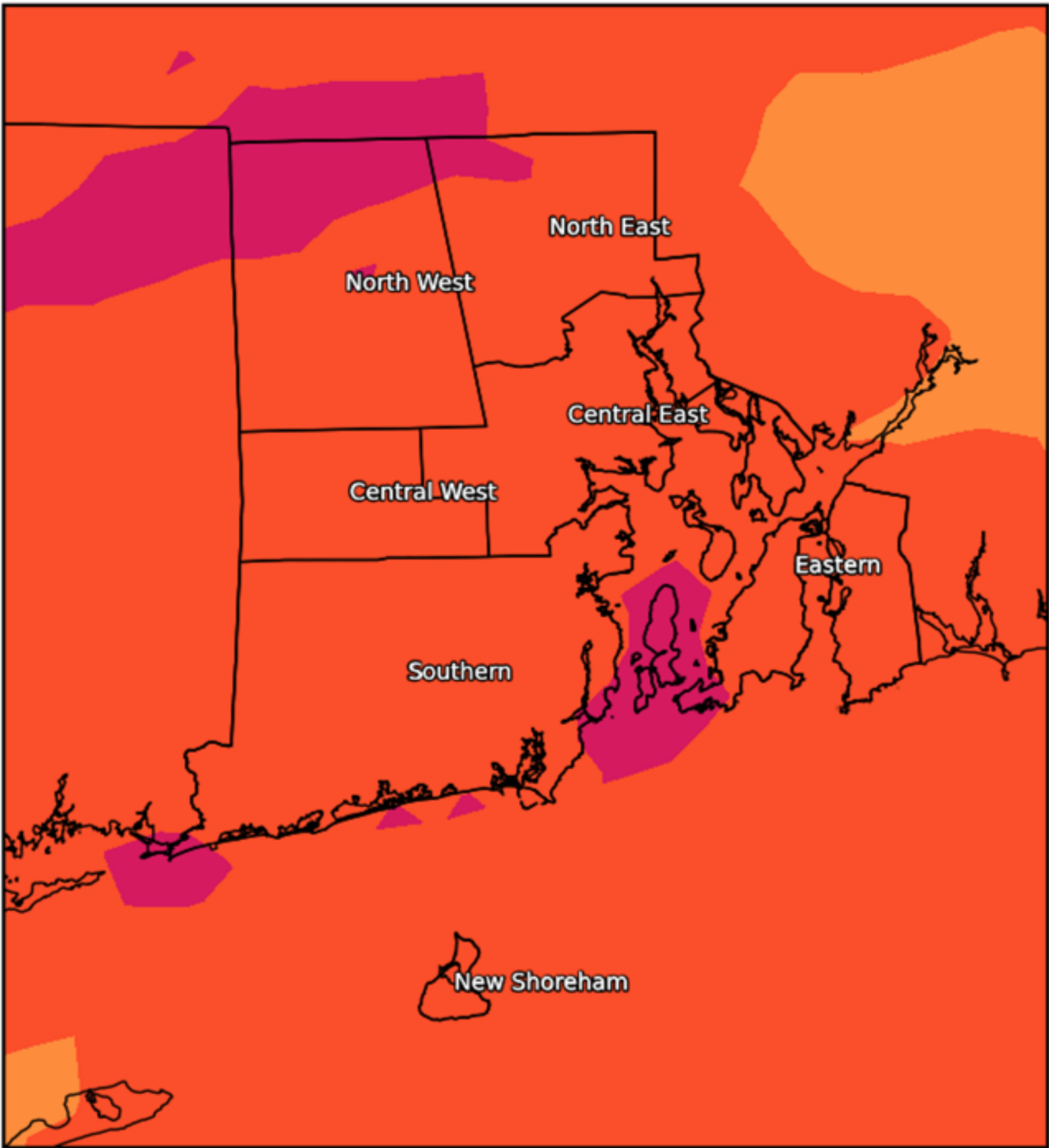
April 2025 Rainfall and Departure

Includes May 1st Observation

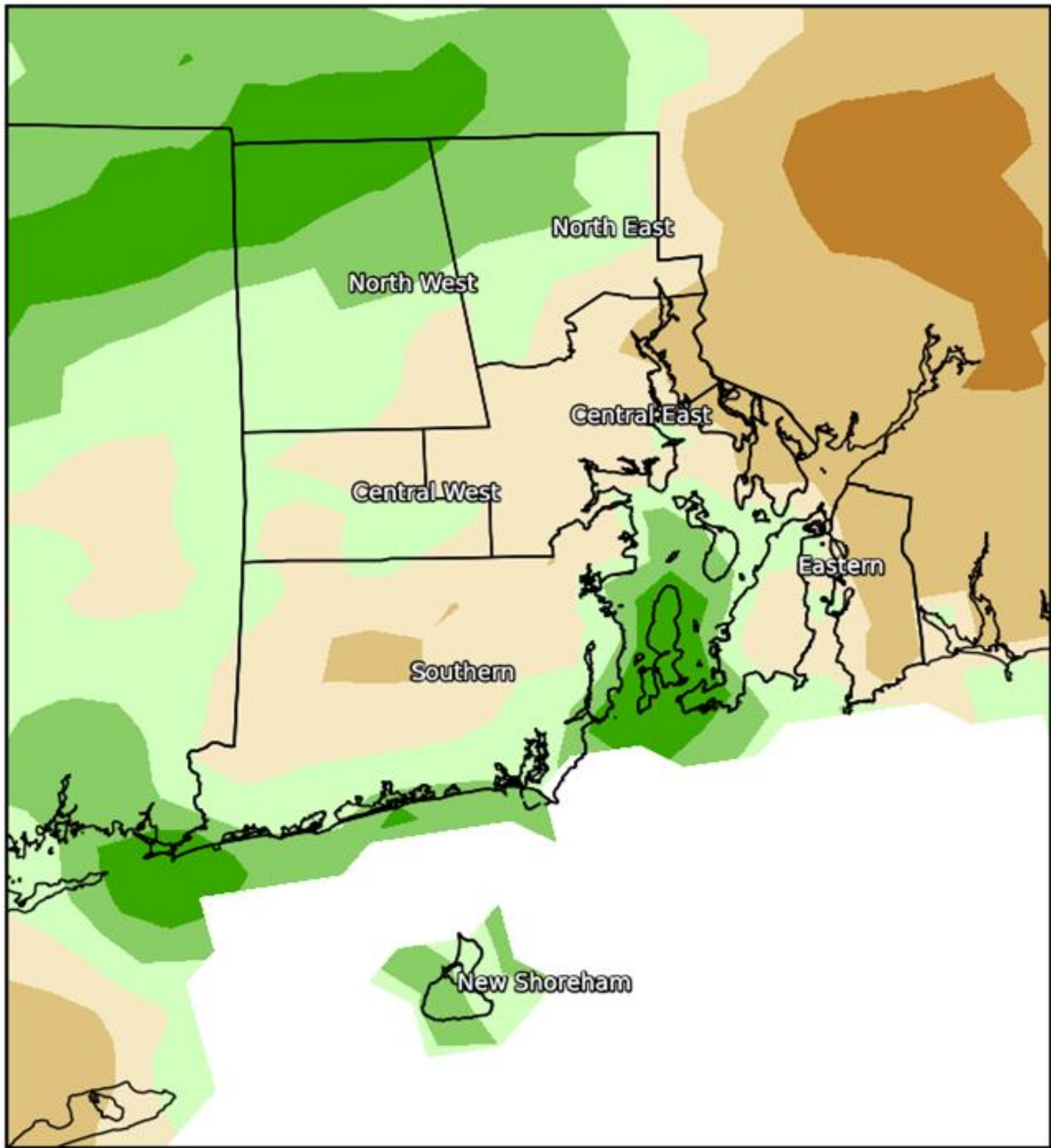


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Accumulated Precipitation (inches)
April 01, 2025 to May 01, 2025



Precipitation Departure from Normal (inches)
April 01, 2025 to May 01, 2025



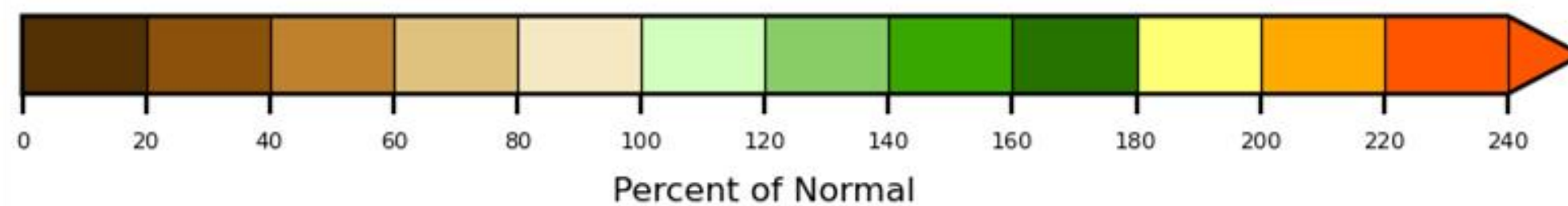
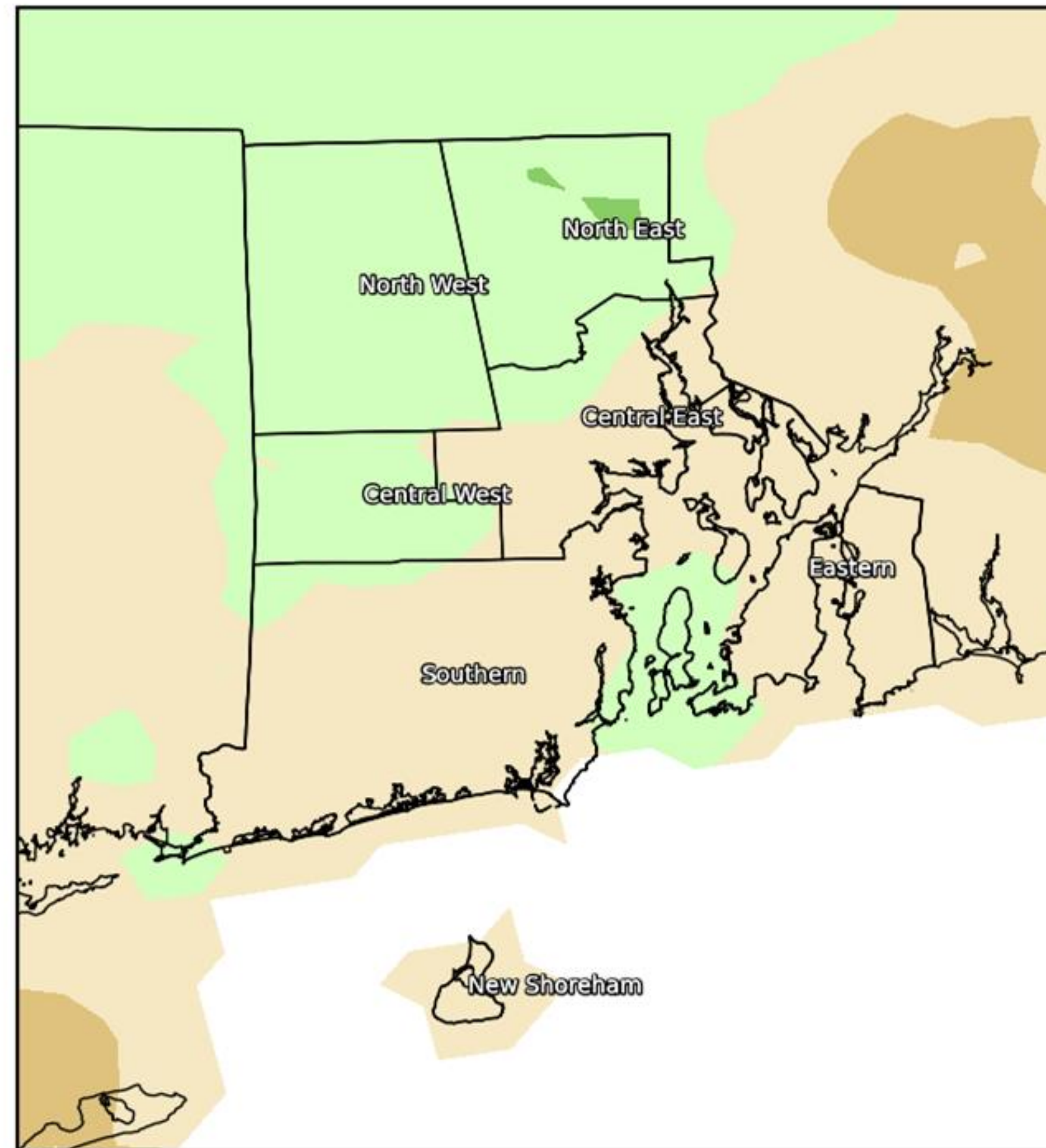
Feb-Apr and Nov-Apr Percent of Normal

Includes May 1st Observation

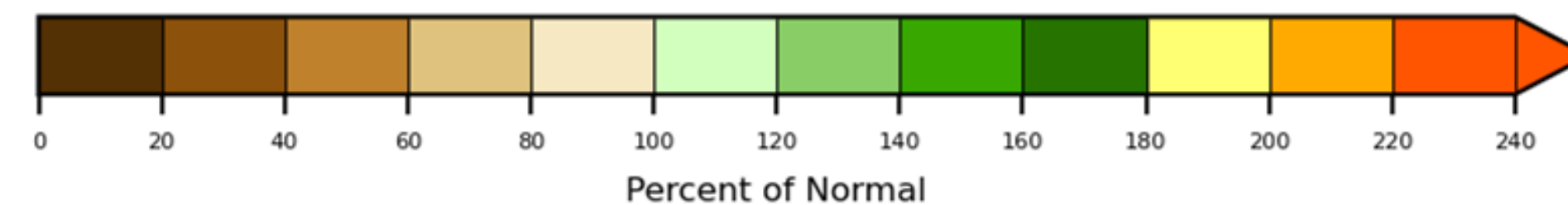
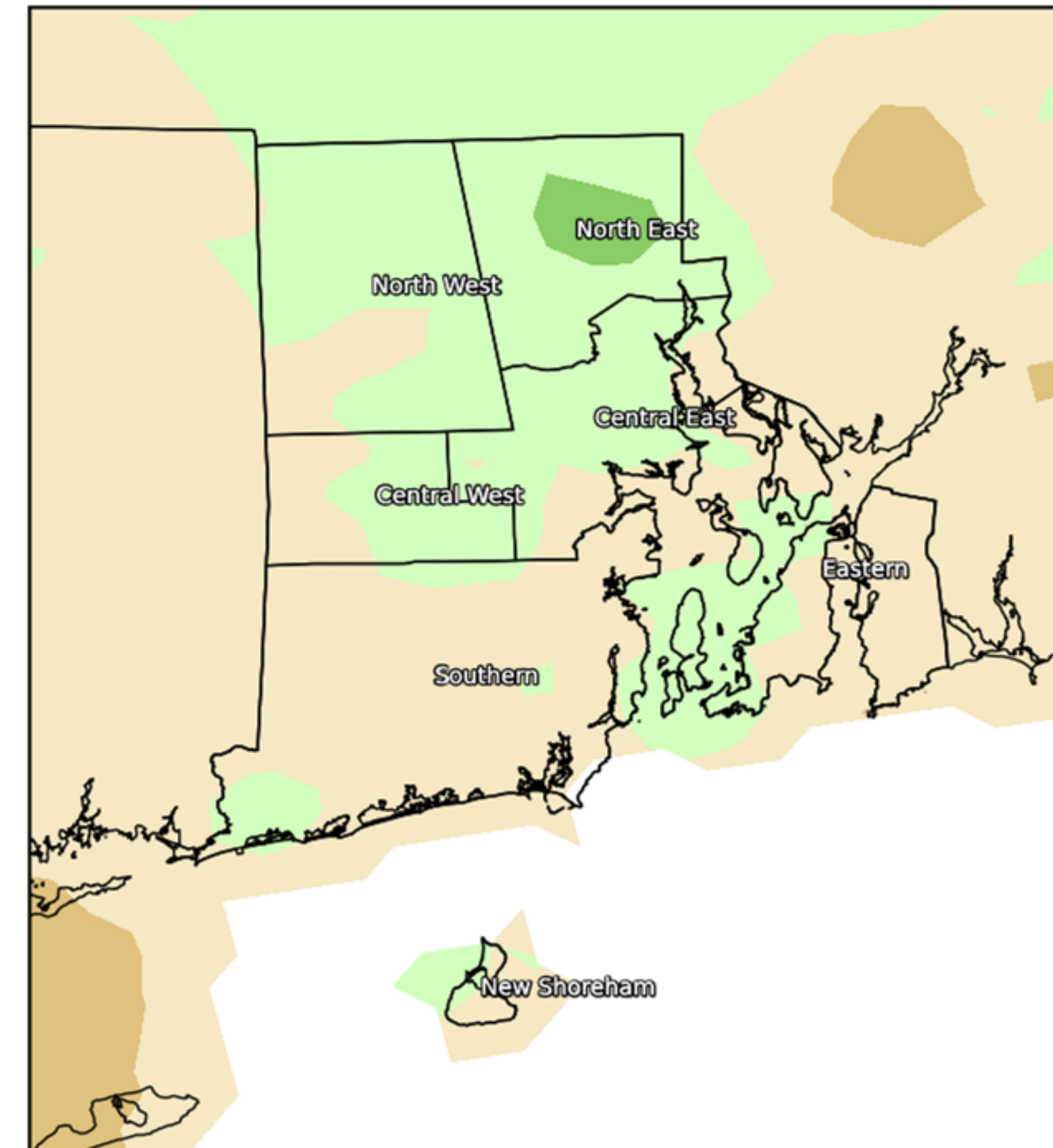


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Precipitation Percent of Normal
February 01, 2025 to May 01, 2025



Precipitation Percent of Normal
November 01, 2024 to May 01, 2025



Rainfall Percent by Region Last 6 Months



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	NOV Percent	DEC Percent	JAN Percent	FEB Percent	MAR Percent	APR Percent	6 Month Percent NOV-APR
Northwest	63	114	35	72	87	88	78
Northeast	66	127	41	105	93	82	86
Central West	77	181	32	63	81	77	88
Central East	59	138	38	101	88	75	84
Eastern	59	128	39	103	77	86	82
Southern	76	143	38	103	88	84	90
New Shoreham	48	93	24	72	58	65	61
RI Average	65	132	35	88	82	80	81

- **Need 3 consecutive months of near normal (65%+) precipitation to come out of drought**
- **5/7 regions now have three consecutive months above normal (65%+)**
- **Central West missed the mark by only having 63% of normal in Feb**
- **New Shoreham 2 of last 3 months near normal**

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

CUMULATIVE AVERAGES



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Drought Phase
Normal
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

	2 Months Mar-Apr	3 Months Feb-Apr	6 Months Nov – Apr	12 Months May-Apr
Northwest	87	83	78	79
Northeast	88	92	86	81
Central West	79	75	88	104
Central East	82	87	84	89
Eastern	81	87	82	89
Southern	86	91	90	97
New Shoreham	61	65	61	65
RI Average	84	68	70	88

- **New Shoreham only region meeting any drought criteria**
 - **Drought Advisory: 2 month cum. <65%**

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

CUMULATIVE AVERAGES



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Drought Phase
Normal
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

	2 Months Mar-Apr	3 Months Feb-Apr	6 Months Nov – Apr	12 Months May-Apr
Northwest	-1.28	-2.36	-6.25	-11.05
Northeast	-1.18	-1.01	-3.70	-9.83
Central West	-2.06	-3.38	-3.21	1.98
Central East	-1.76	-1.73	-4.23	-5.46
Eastern	-1.75	-1.65	-4.47	-5.42
Southern	-1.31	-1.19	-2.62	-1.44
New Shoreham	-3.52	-4.53	-9.91	-17.08
RI Average	-1.84	-2.26	-4.91	-6.9

- **New Shoreham only region meeting any drought criteria**
 - **Drought Advisory: 2 month cum. <65%**

7 Day Rain Forecast

Valid 7AM Tue 05/13 – 7AM Tue 05/20

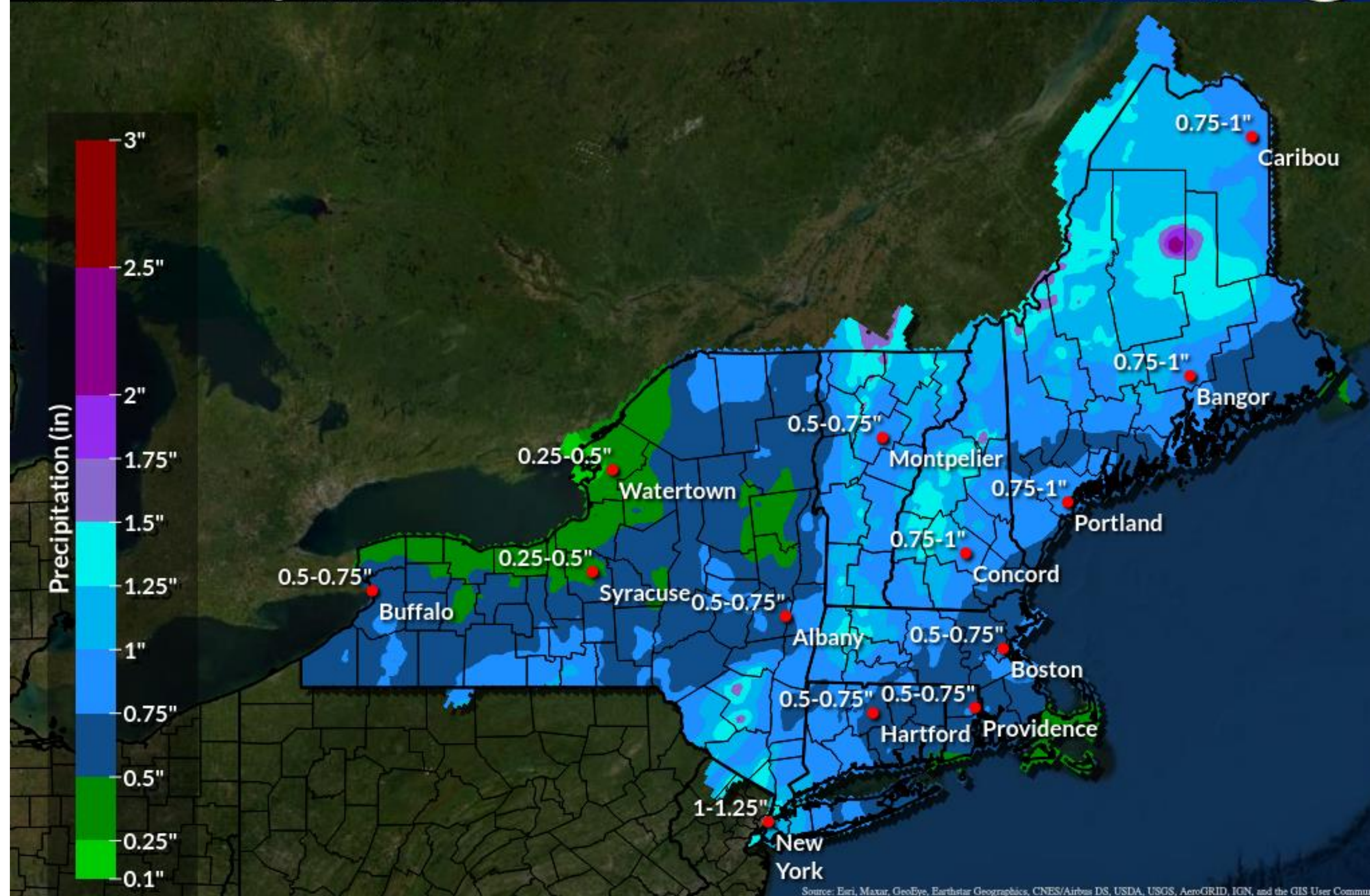


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7 Day WPC Precipitation Forecast

Valid Tue 8:00AM through Tue 8:00AM EDT

River Forecast Center
Northeast RFC
Issued May 13, 2025 8:05 AM EDT



f NWSNERFC

weather.gov/nerfc

Details

- ***0.5-0.75"* of rainfall possible through next Tuesday**
- ***Generally Unsettled Weather through Early Next Week***
- ***Friday night/Saturday morning offers best opportunity for precipitation***

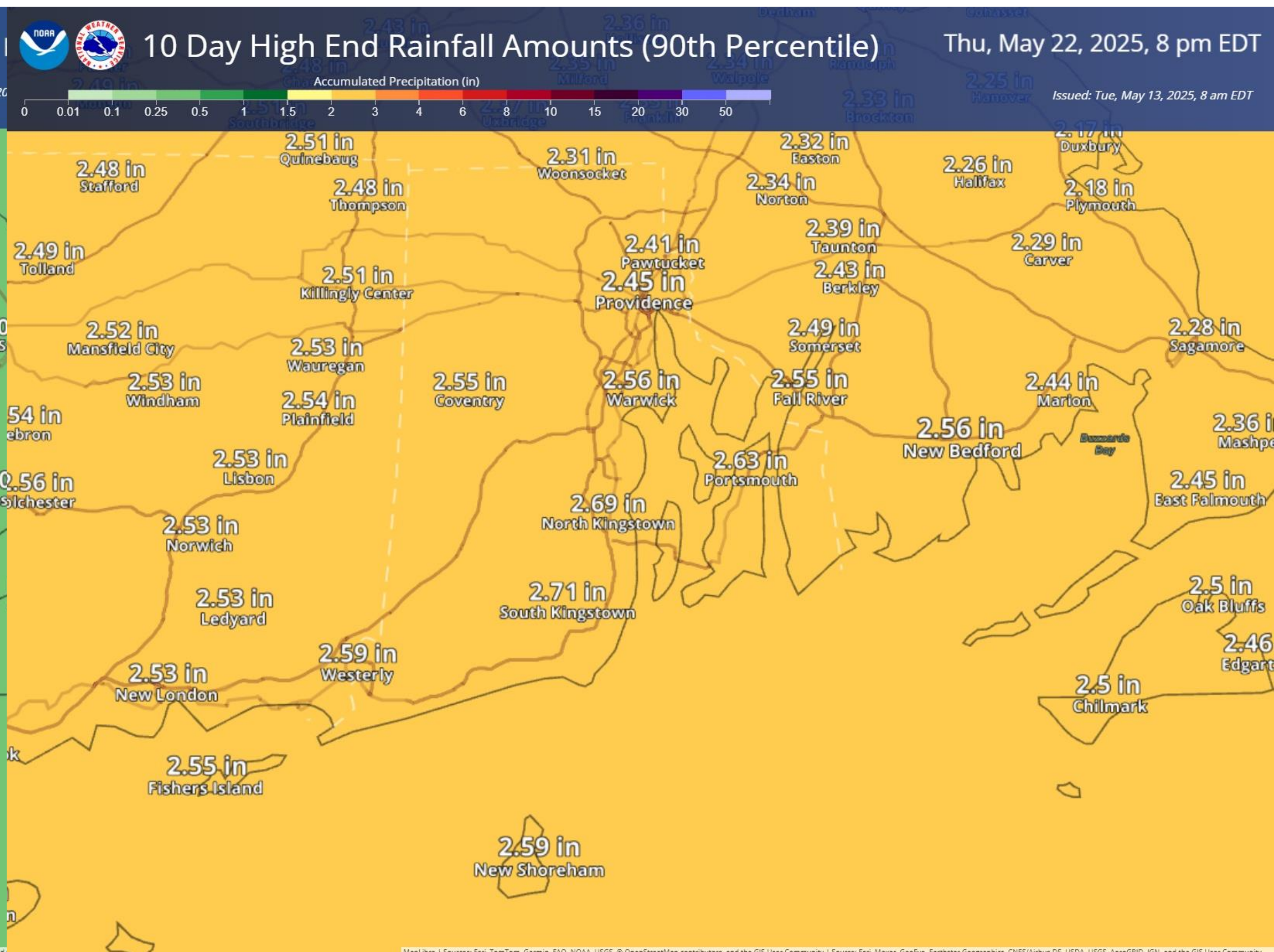
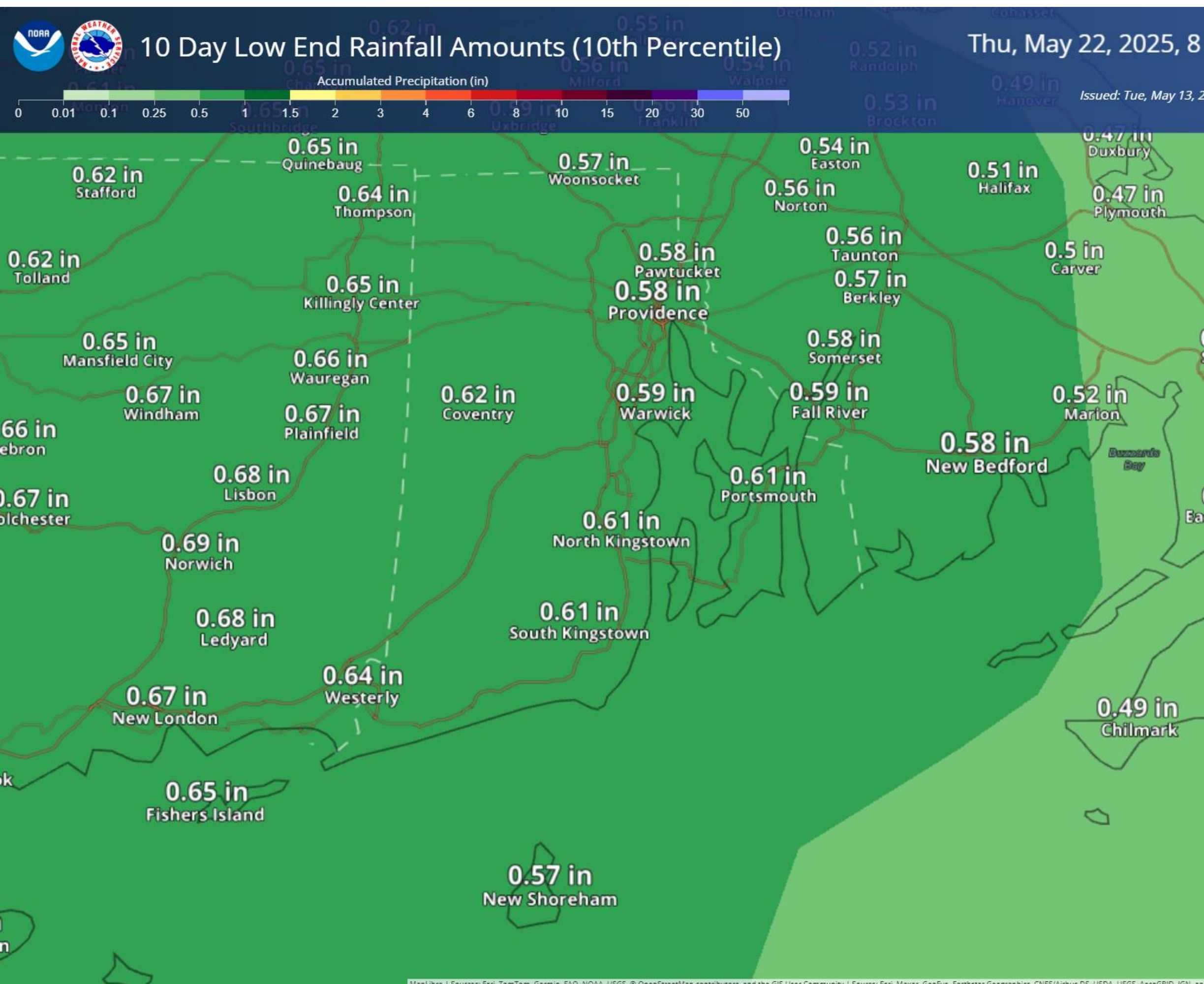
10 Day Probabilistic Rain Forecast

Valid 7AM Tue 05/13 – 7AM Fri 05/23



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May Precipitation To Date

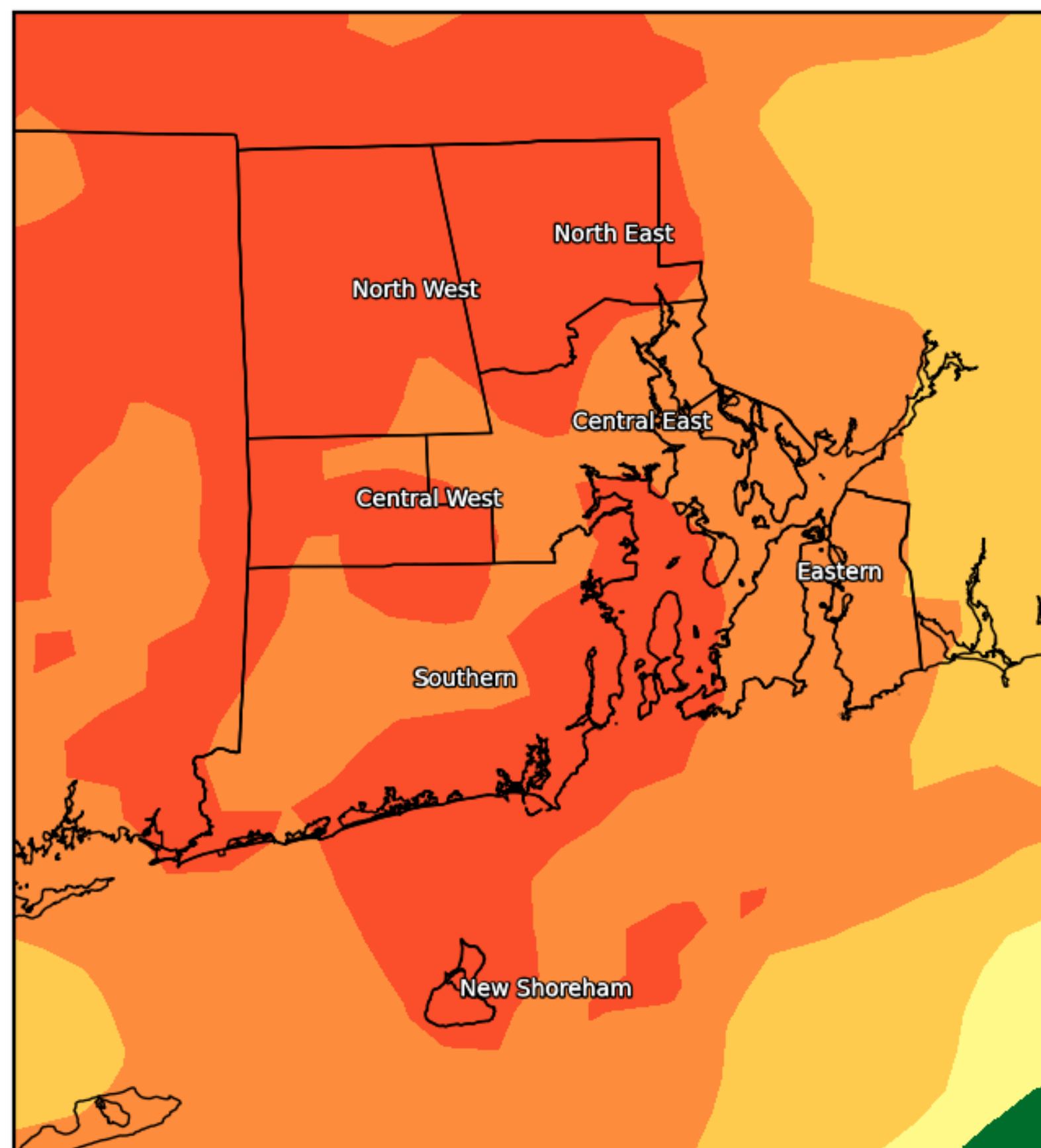
05/01-05/12



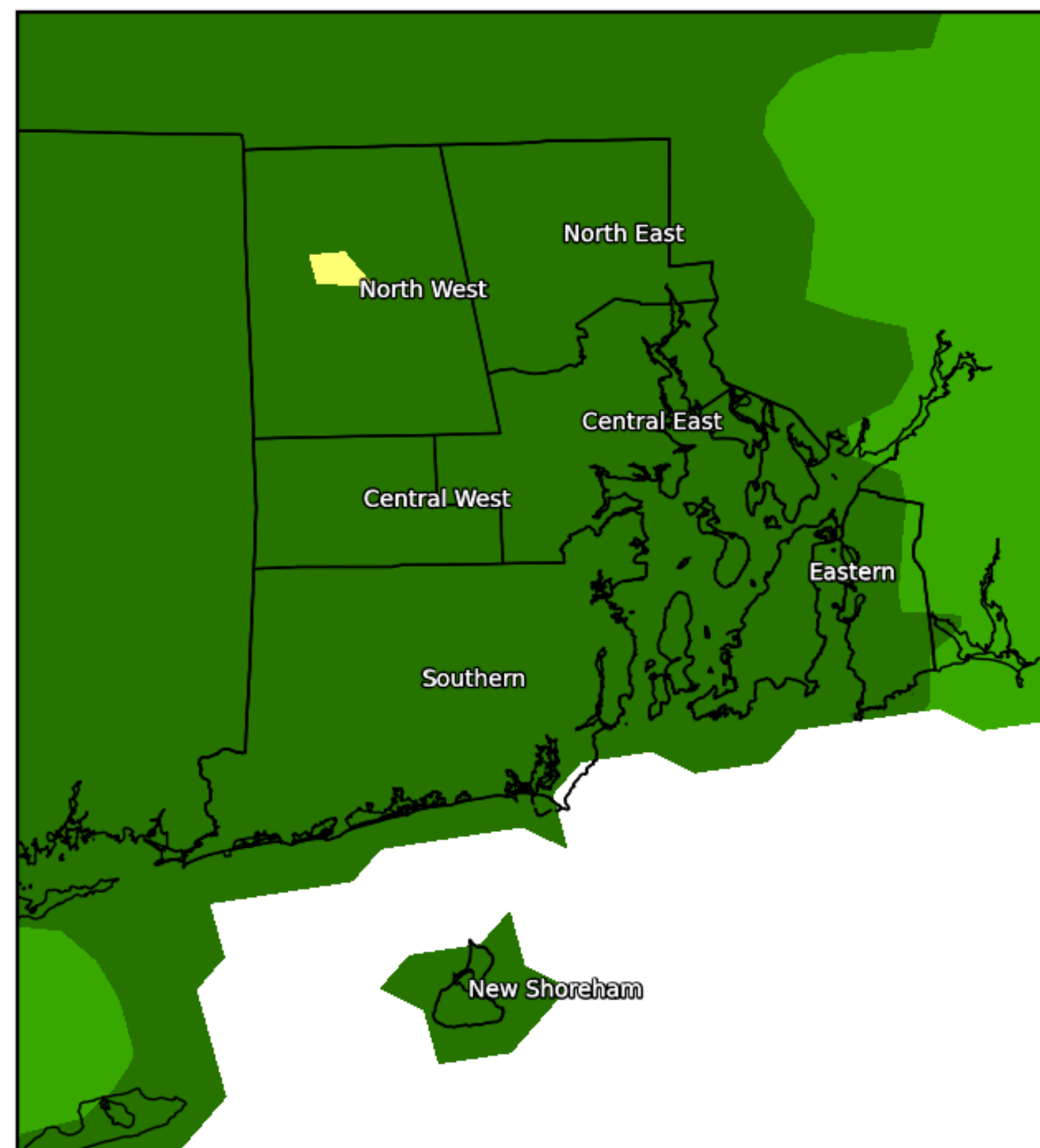
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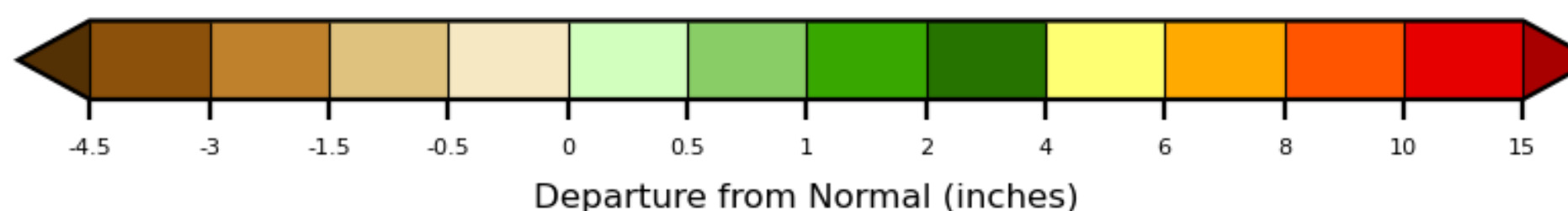
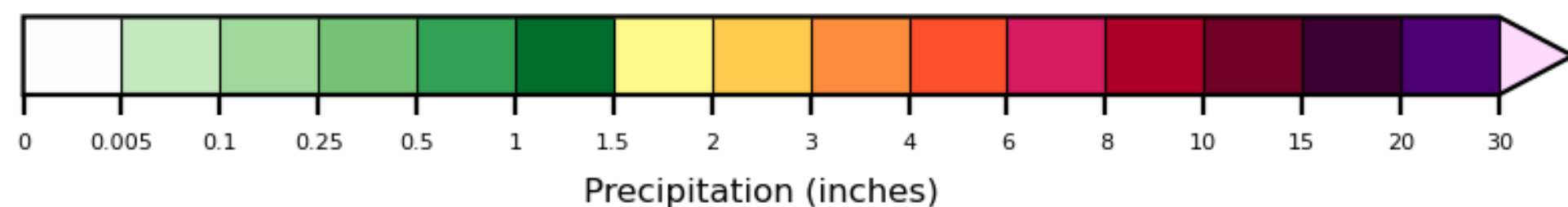
Accumulated Precipitation (inches)
May 01, 2025 to May 12, 2025



Precipitation Departure from Normal (inches)
May 01, 2025 to May 12, 2025



- ***3-5'' of Rain in May So Far***
- ***2'' Above Normal Through ~2 Weeks of May***



CPC 8-14 Day Outlook

May 20-May 26 2025

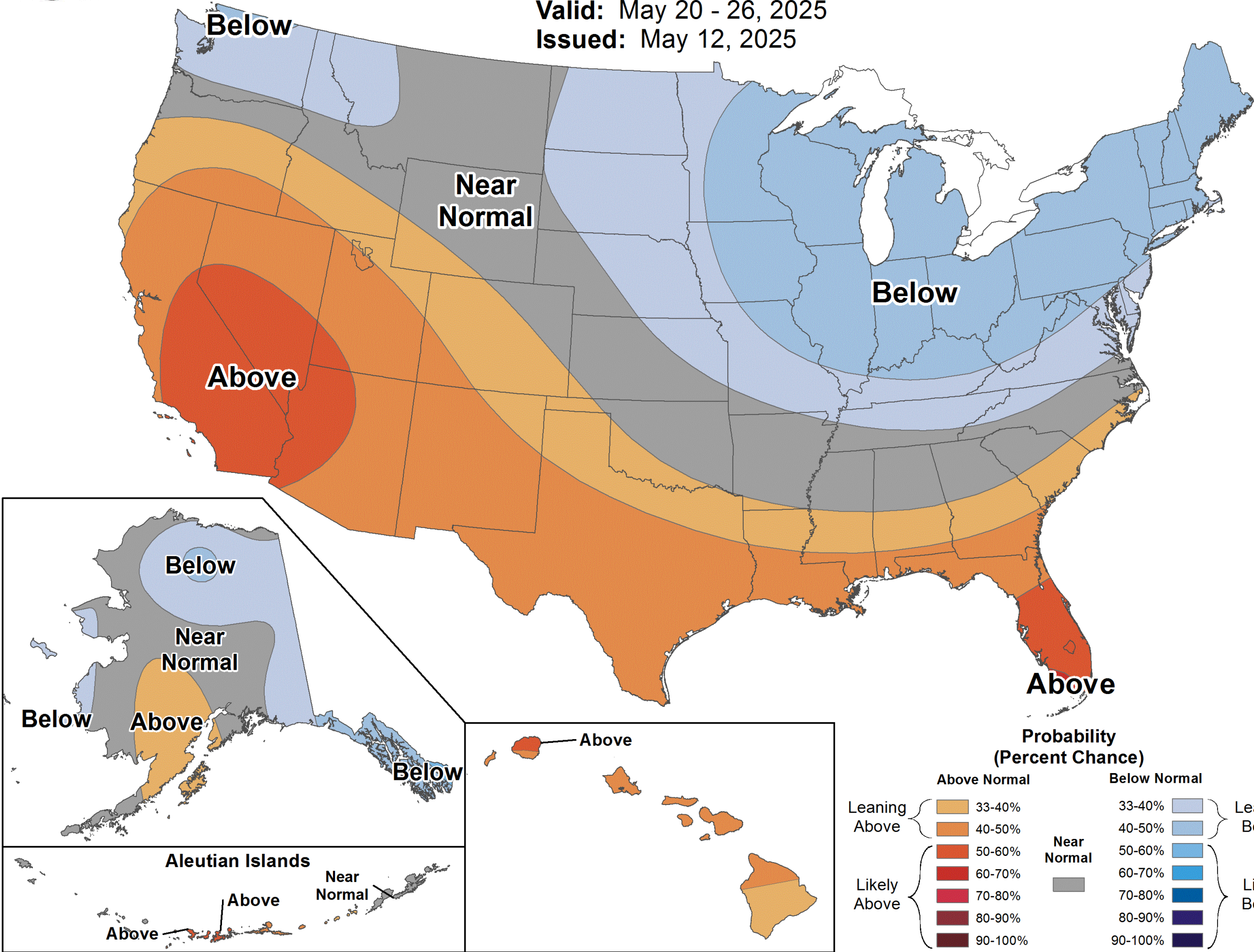


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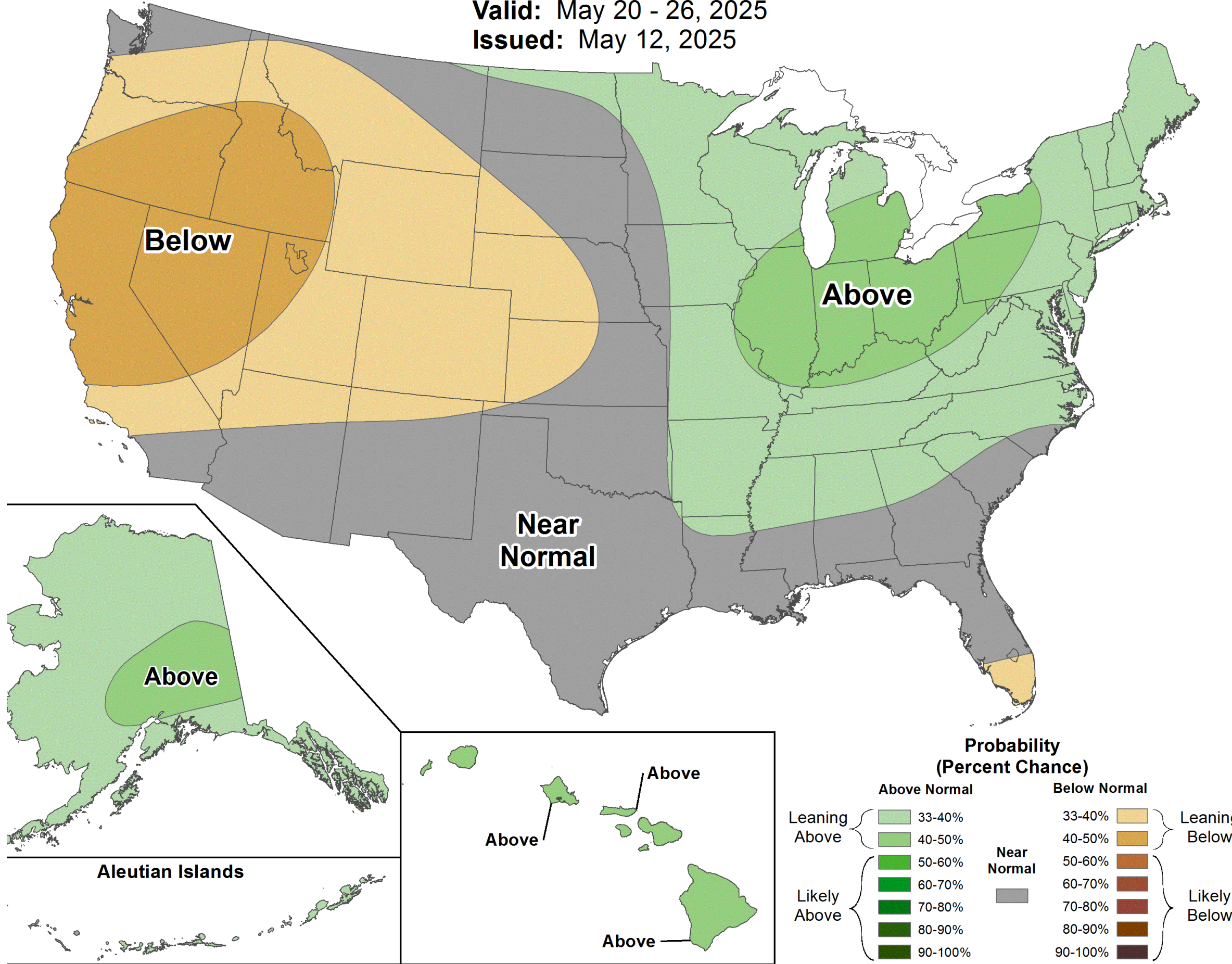
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: May 20 - 26, 2025
Issued: May 12, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May 20 - 26, 2025
Issued: May 12, 2025



CPC 3-4 Week Outlook

May 24- June 6, 2025



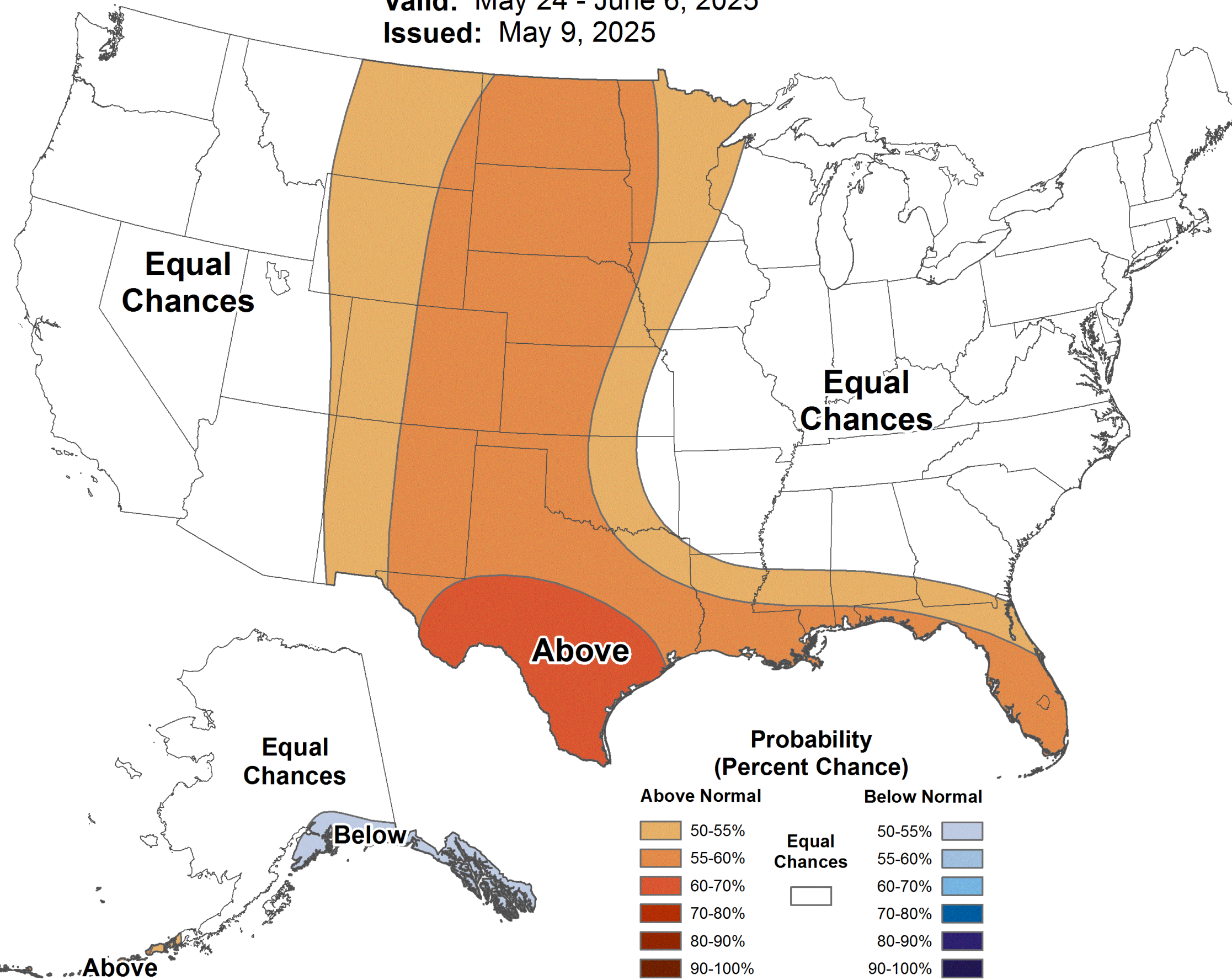
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Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook



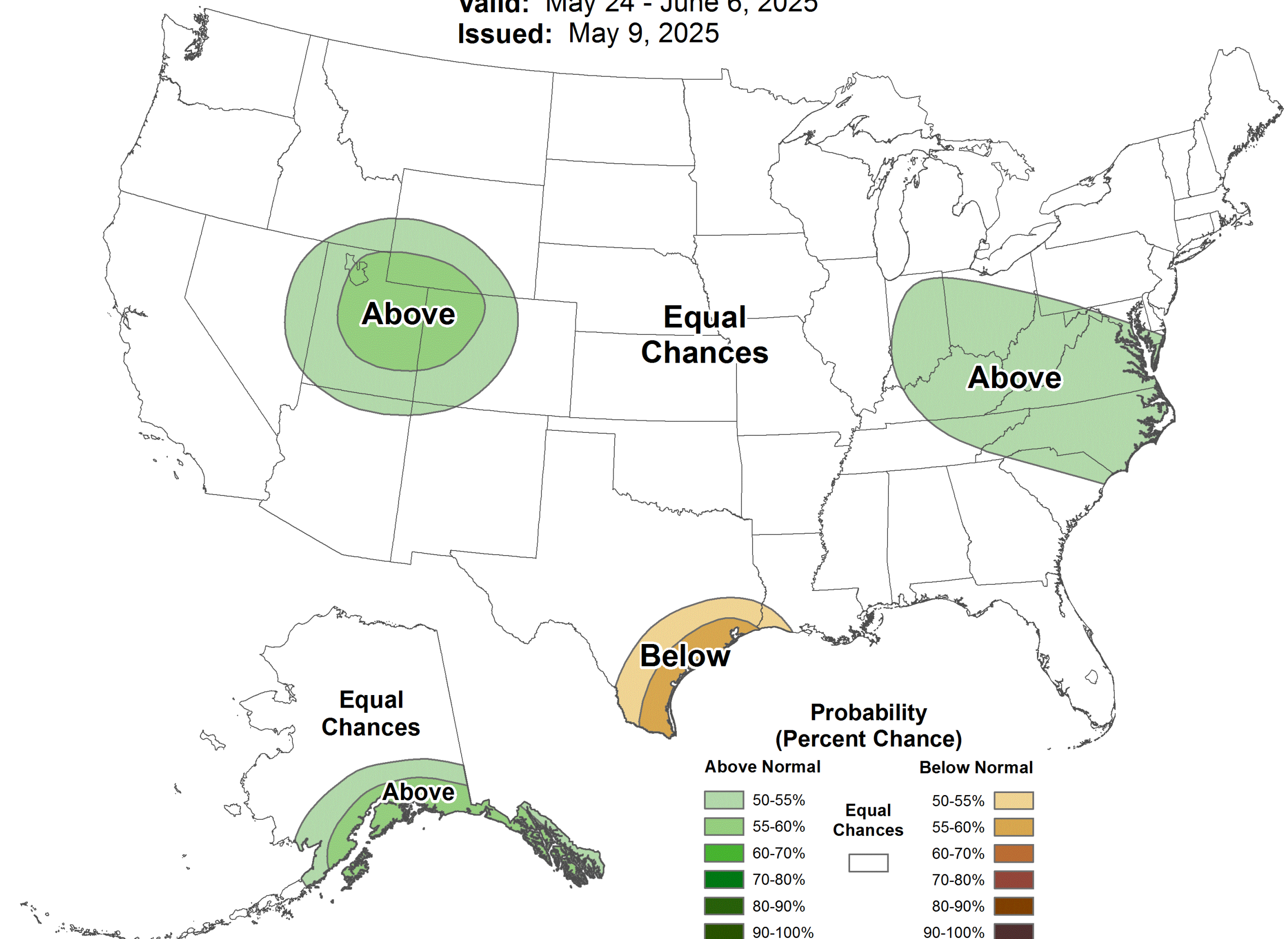
Valid: May 24 - June 6, 2025
Issued: May 9, 2025



Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook



Valid: May 24 - June 6, 2025
Issued: May 9, 2025



CPC Outlook for Jun/July/August



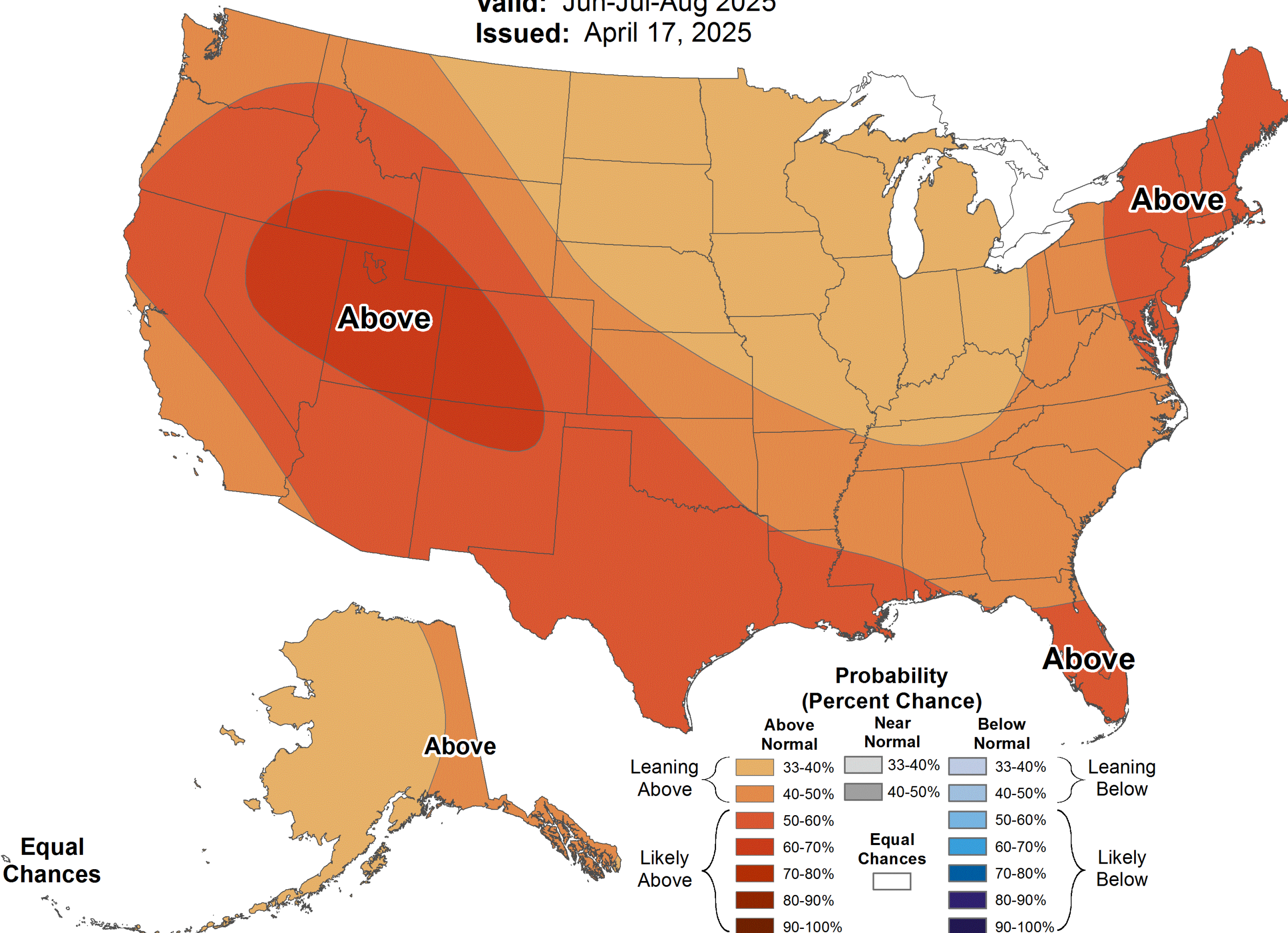
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Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Jun-Jul-Aug 2025
Issued: April 17, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Jun-Jul-Aug 2025
Issued: April 17, 2025

