

Hydrologic Conditions Update

February 18, 2026

Southwest Florida
Water Management District


WATERMATTERS.ORG

Casie Cutman
Hydrologic Data Analyst
Data Collection Bureau

Rainfall Distribution

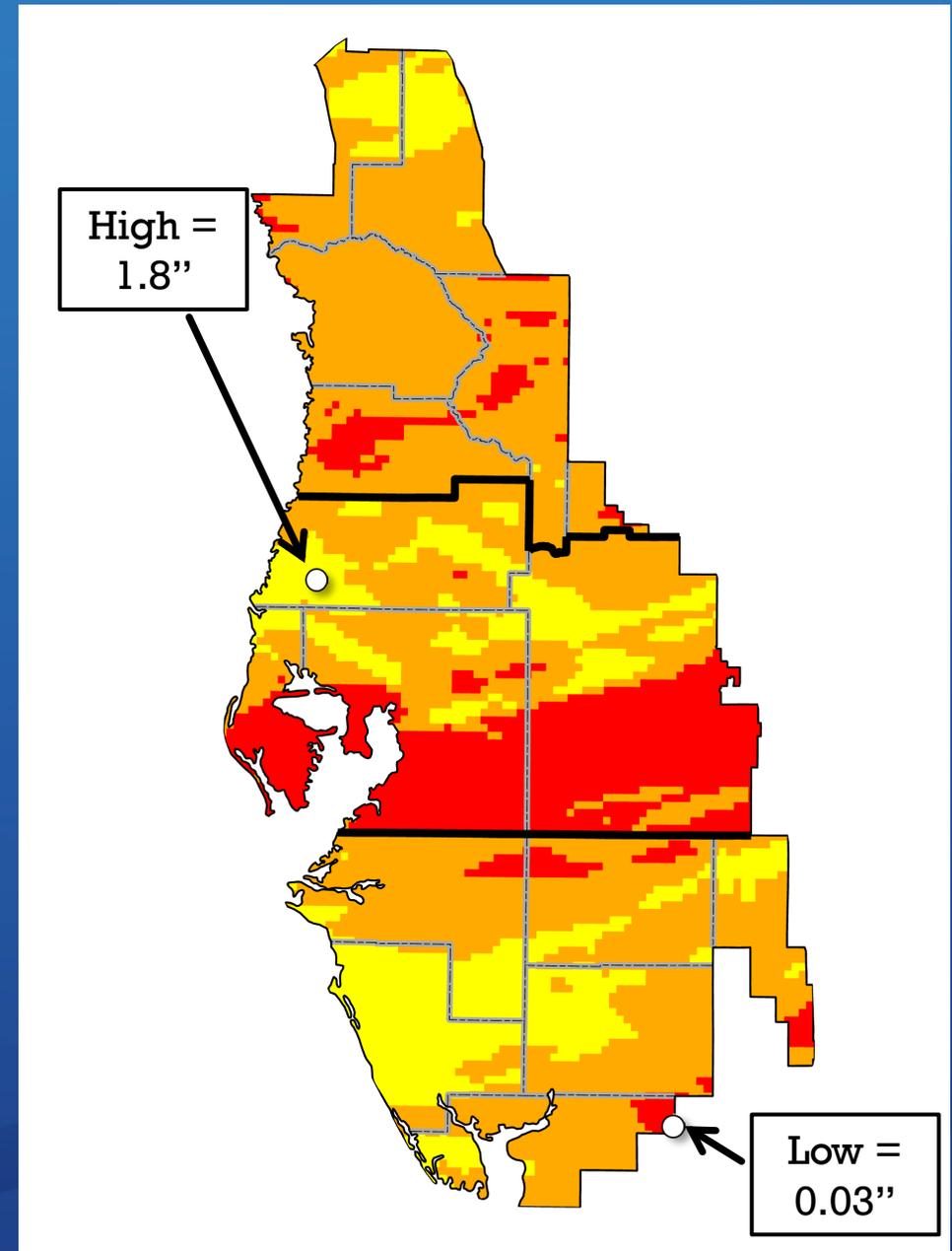
January 2026

Average Received: 0.9"

Historic Average: 2.4"

Deficit: 1.5"

<0.65"	Red	Very dry
0.65" – 0.1.16"	Orange	Drier than normal
0.17" – 3.51"	Yellow	Normal
3.52" – 4.47"	Light Green	Wetter than normal
>4.47"	Blue	Very wet



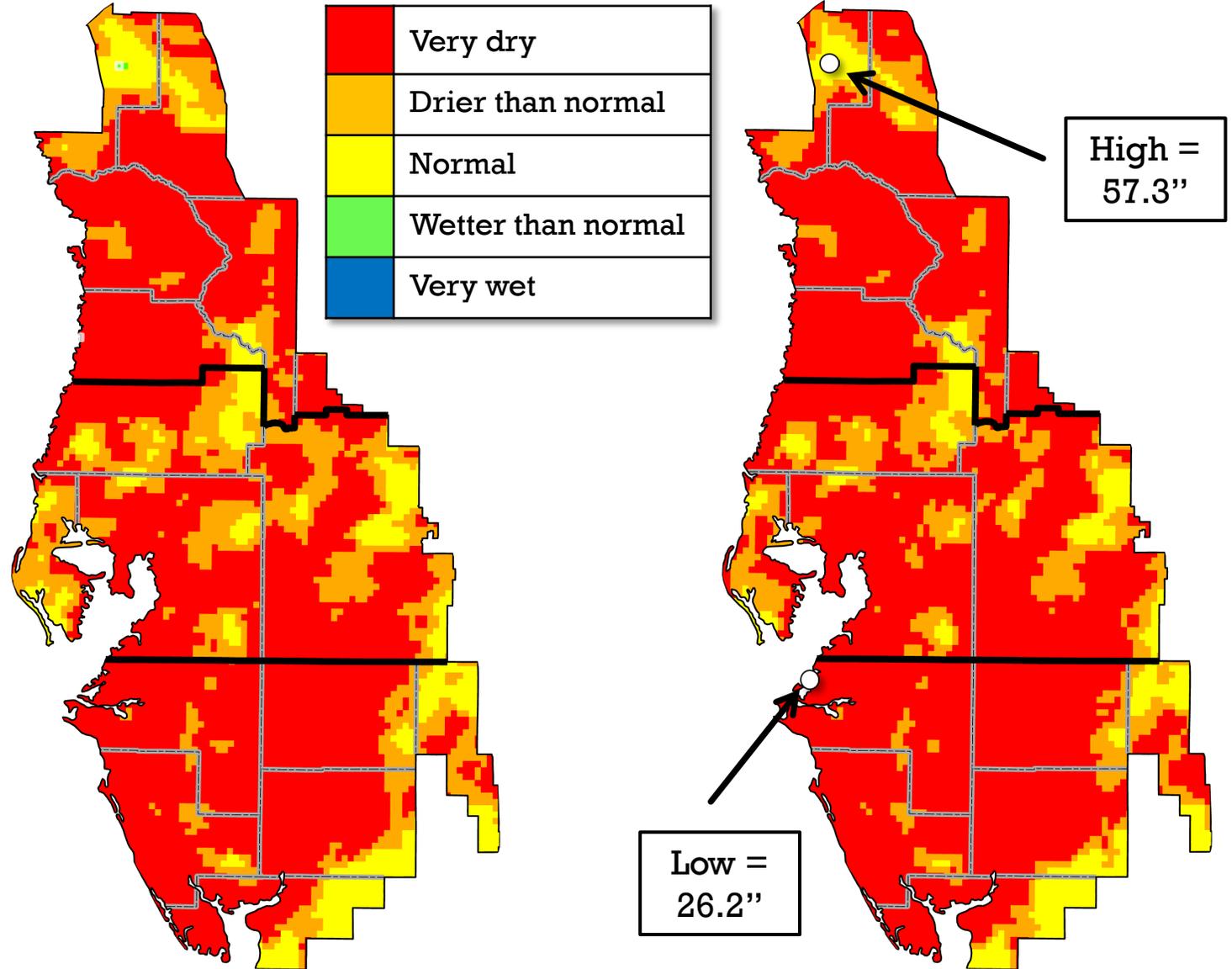
12-Month Rainfall Distribution

February 2025 –
January 2026

Average Received: 39.0"

Historic Average: 52.6"

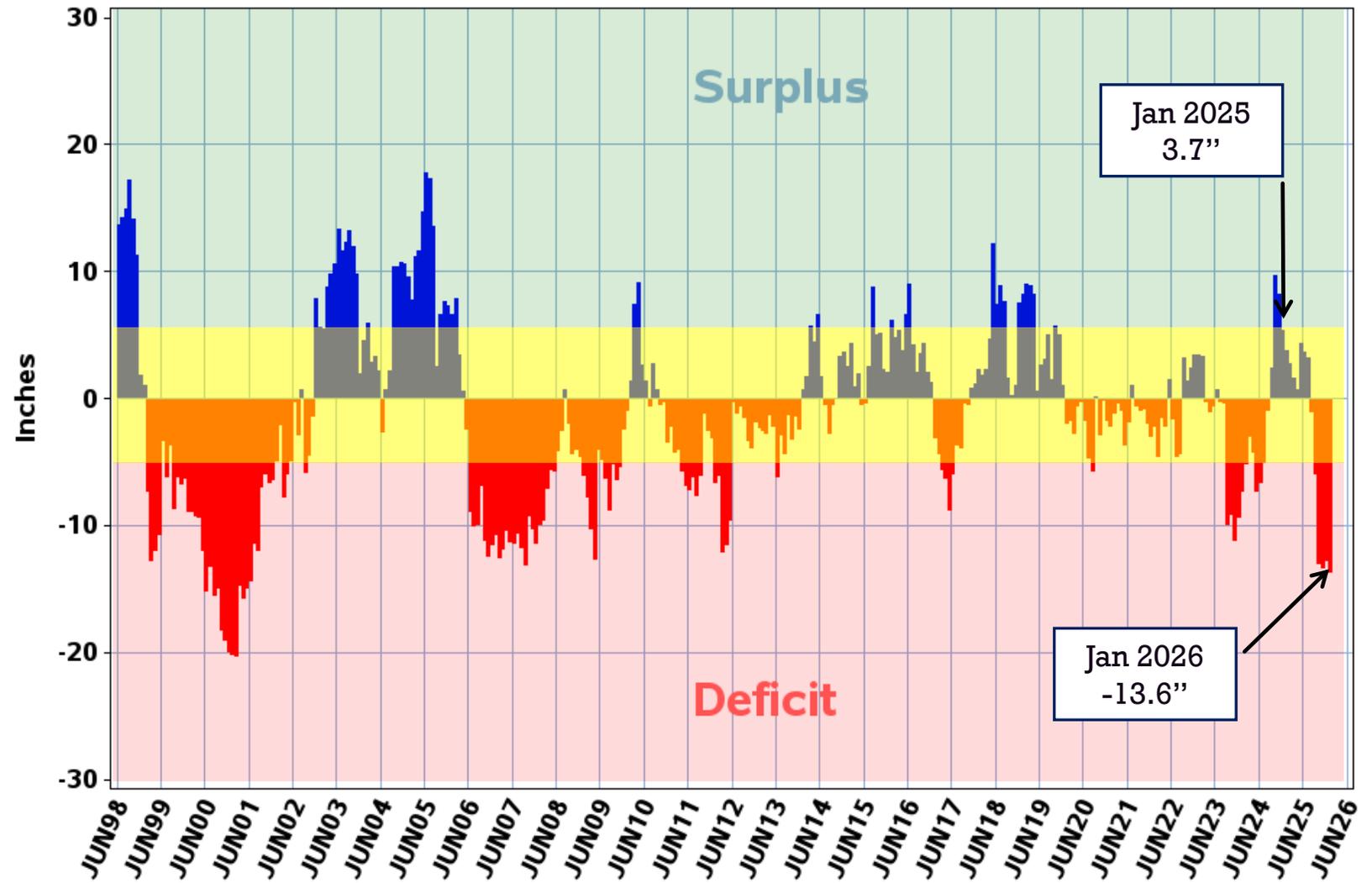
Deficit: 13.6"



January - December 2025

February 2025 – January 2026

Districtwide Rainfall: 12-Month Departure from Average



Rainfall Distribution

****Provisional Data****

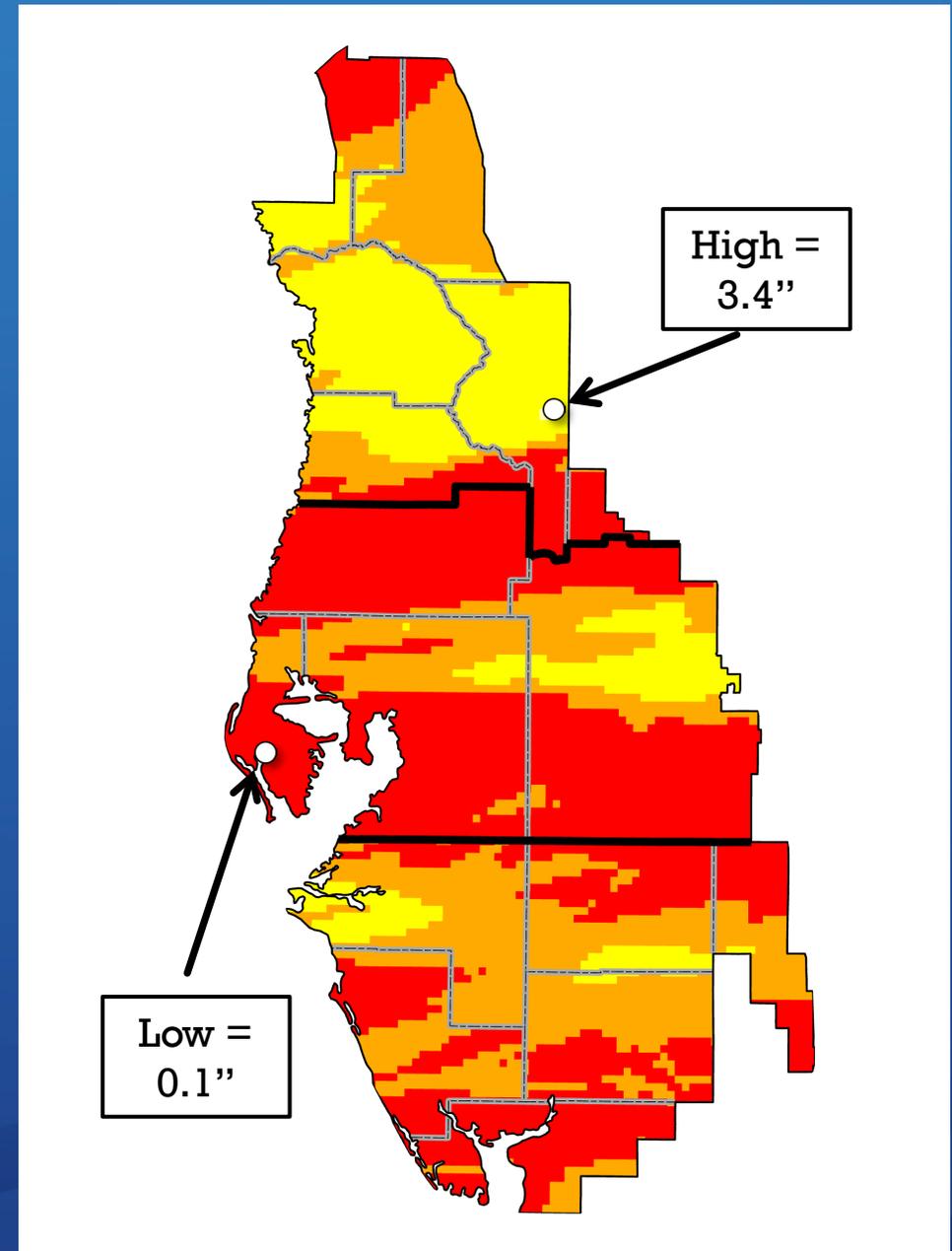
February 1-16, 2026

Average Received: 0.9"

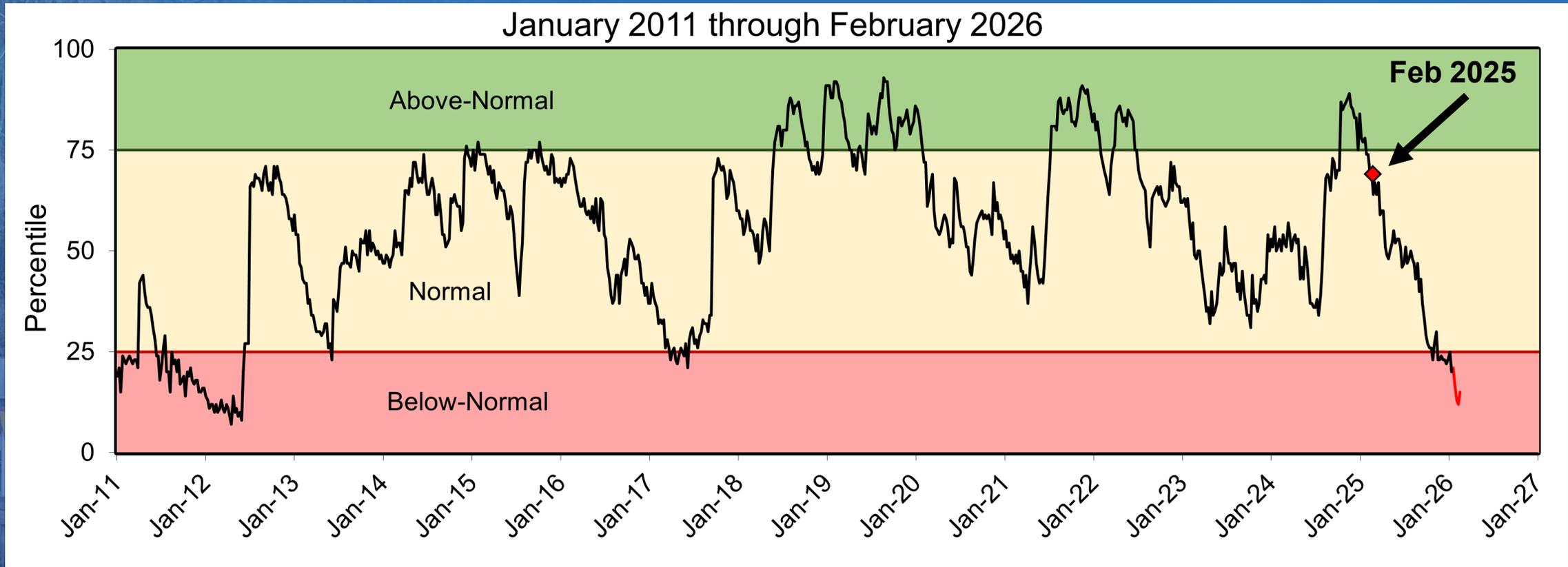
Historic Average: 2.7"

Deficit: 1.8"

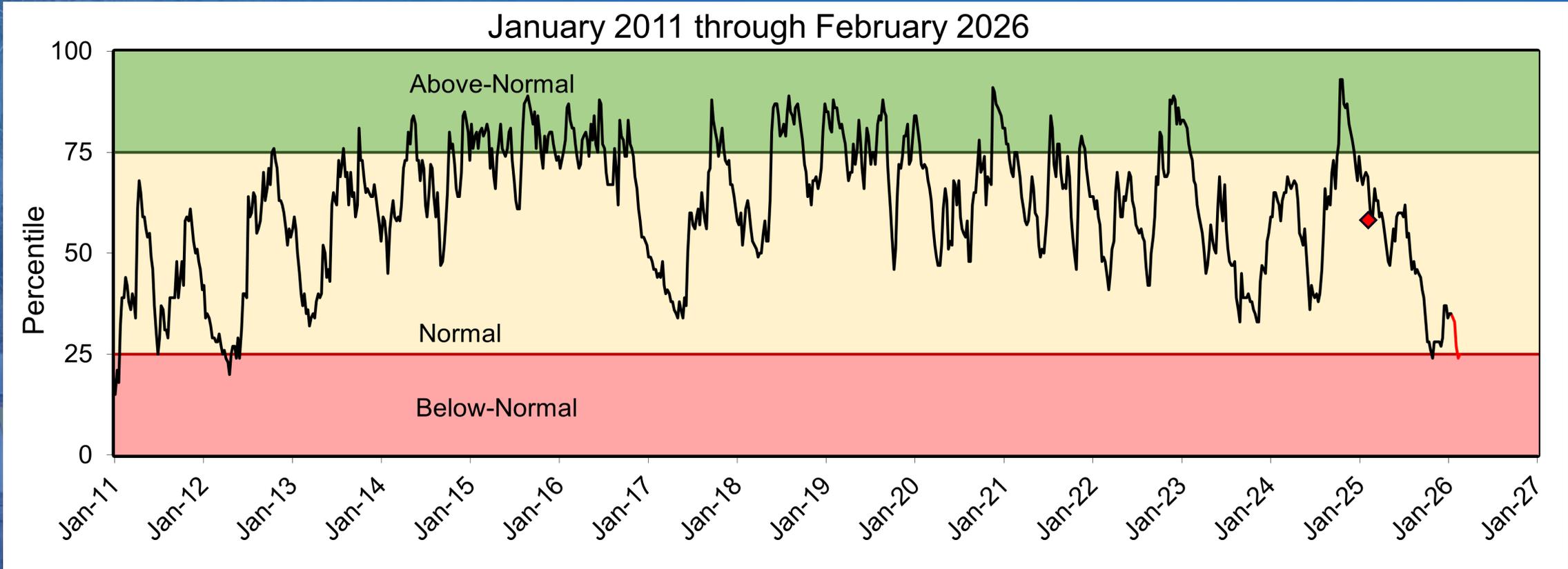
<0.78"	Red	Very dry
0.78" – 1.37"	Orange	Drier than normal
1.38" – 3.93"	Yellow	Normal
3.94" – 4.72"	Light Green	Wetter than normal
>4.72"	Blue	Very wet



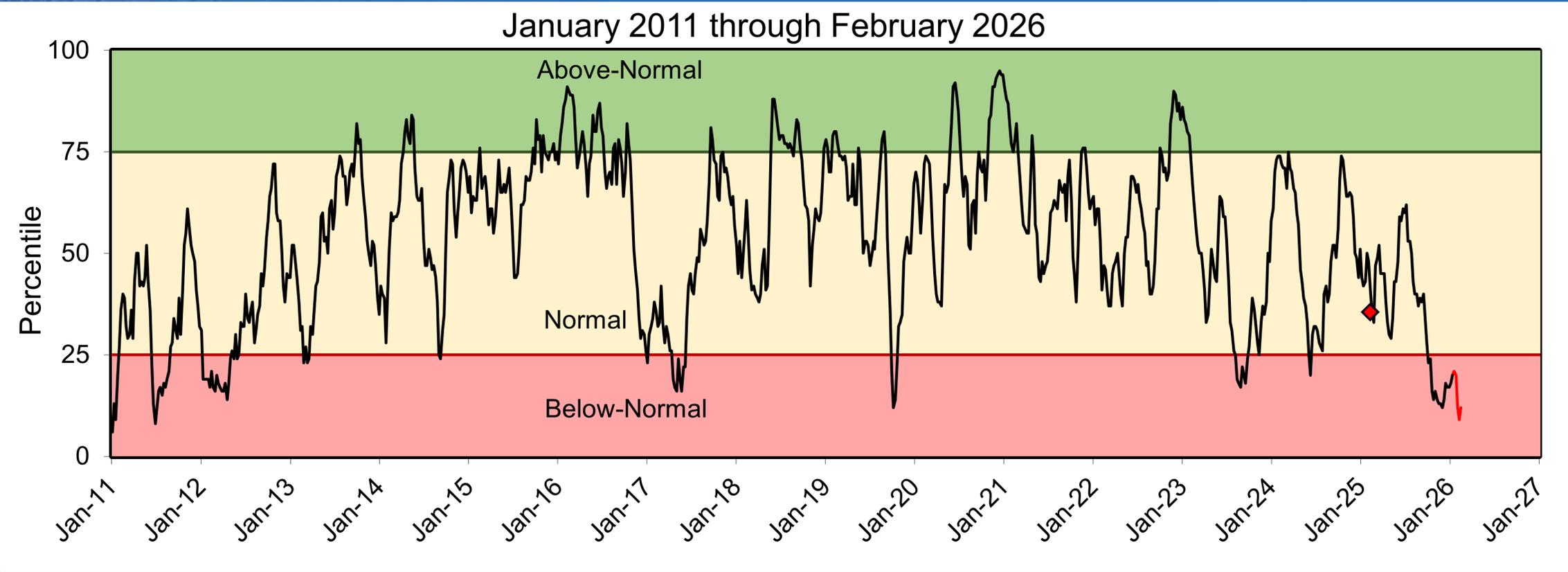
Groundwater Levels: Northern Counties



Groundwater Levels: Central Counties

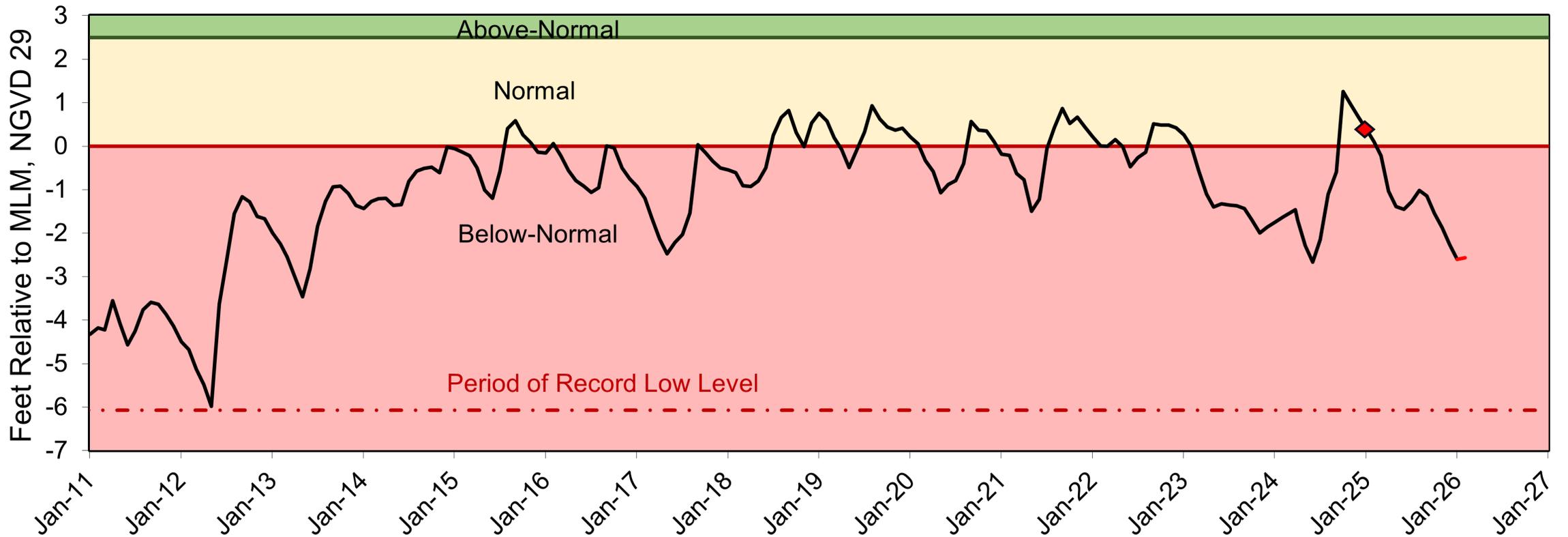


Groundwater Levels: Southern Counties



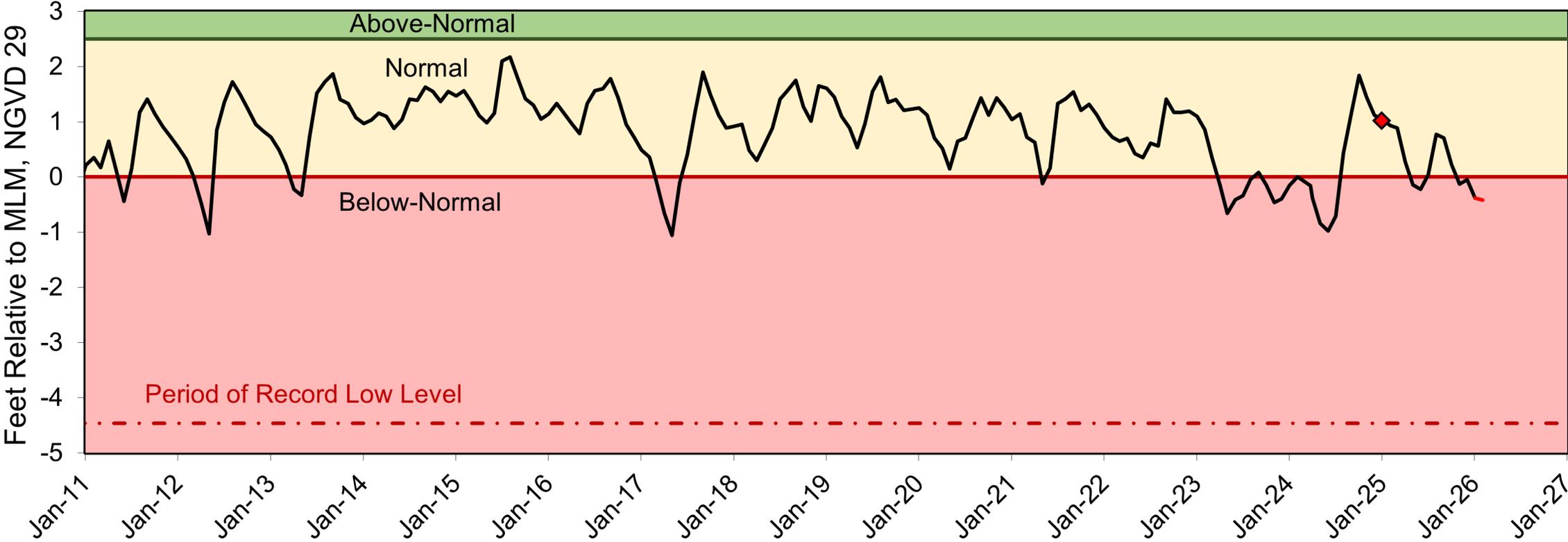
Surface Water Levels: Northern Lakes

January 2011 through February 2026

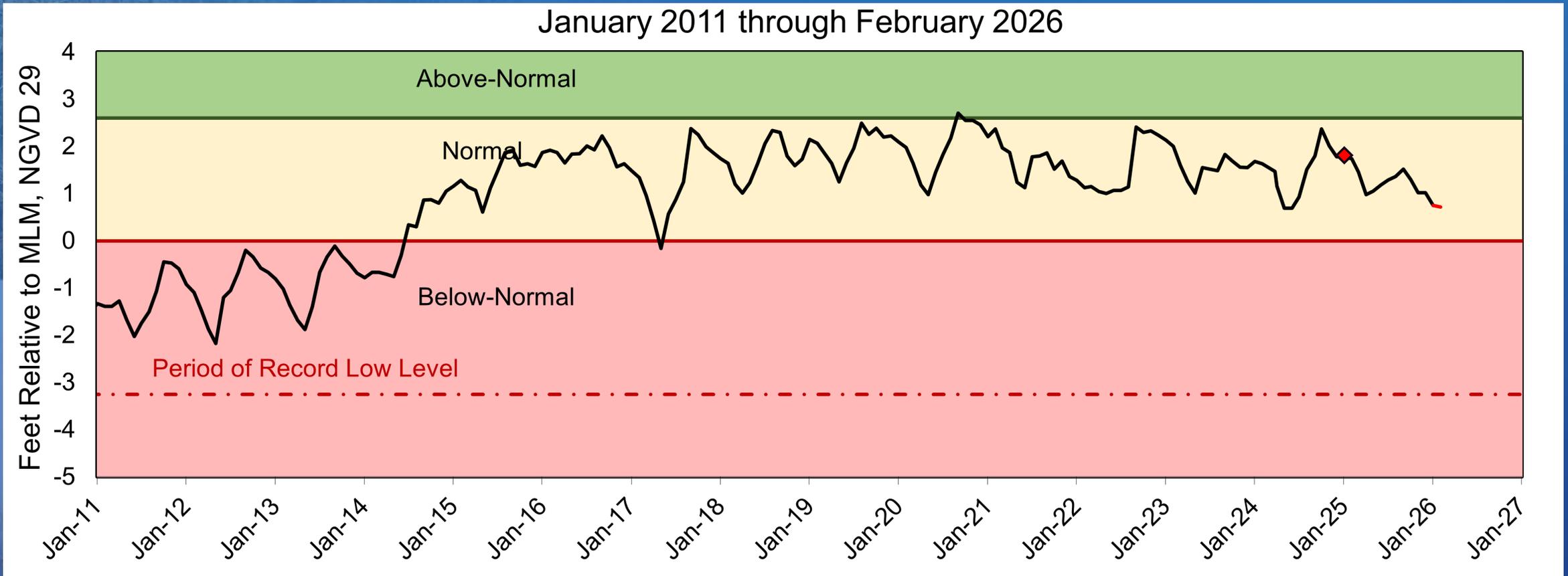


Surface Water Levels: Tampa Bay Lakes

January 2011 through February 2026

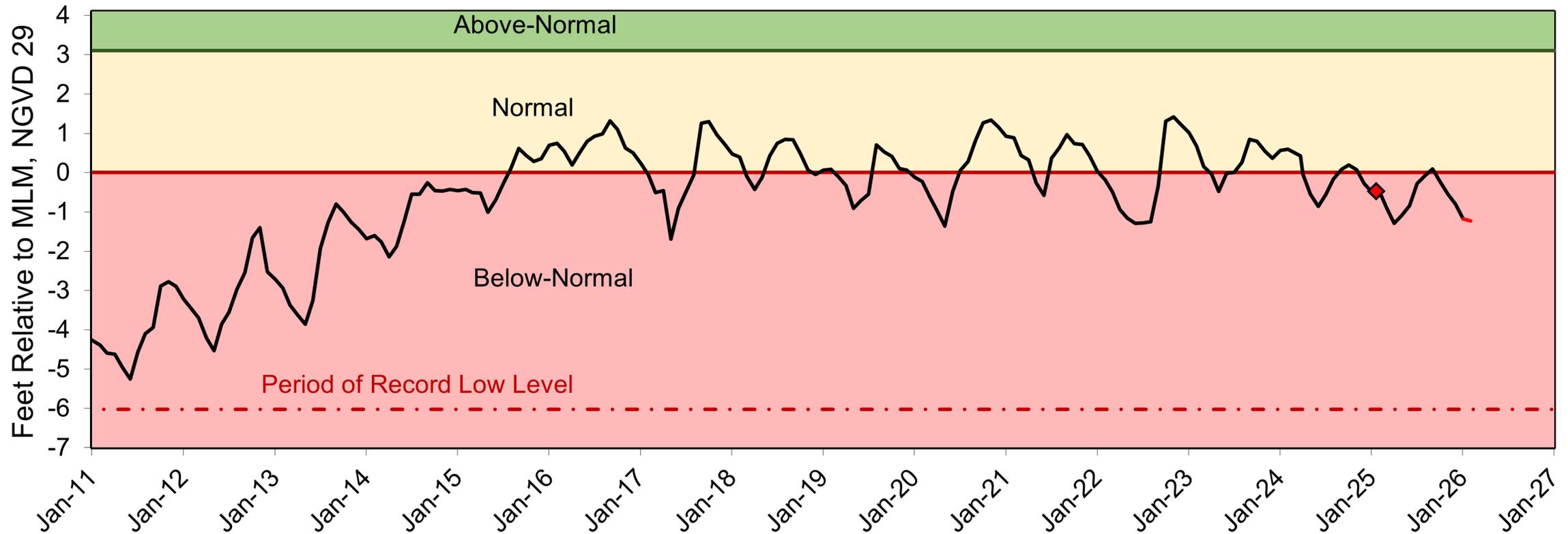


Surface Water Levels: Polk Upland Lakes

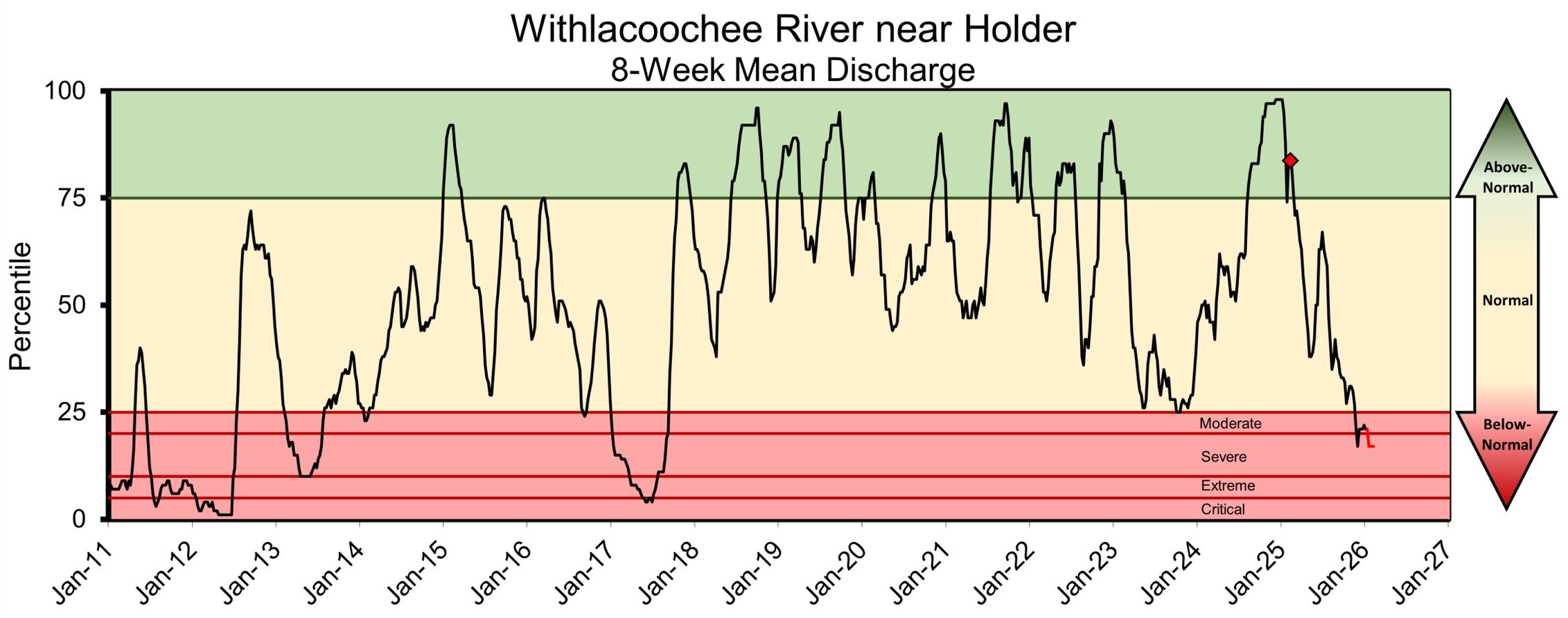


Surface Water Levels: Lake Wales Ridge Lakes

January 2011 through February 2026

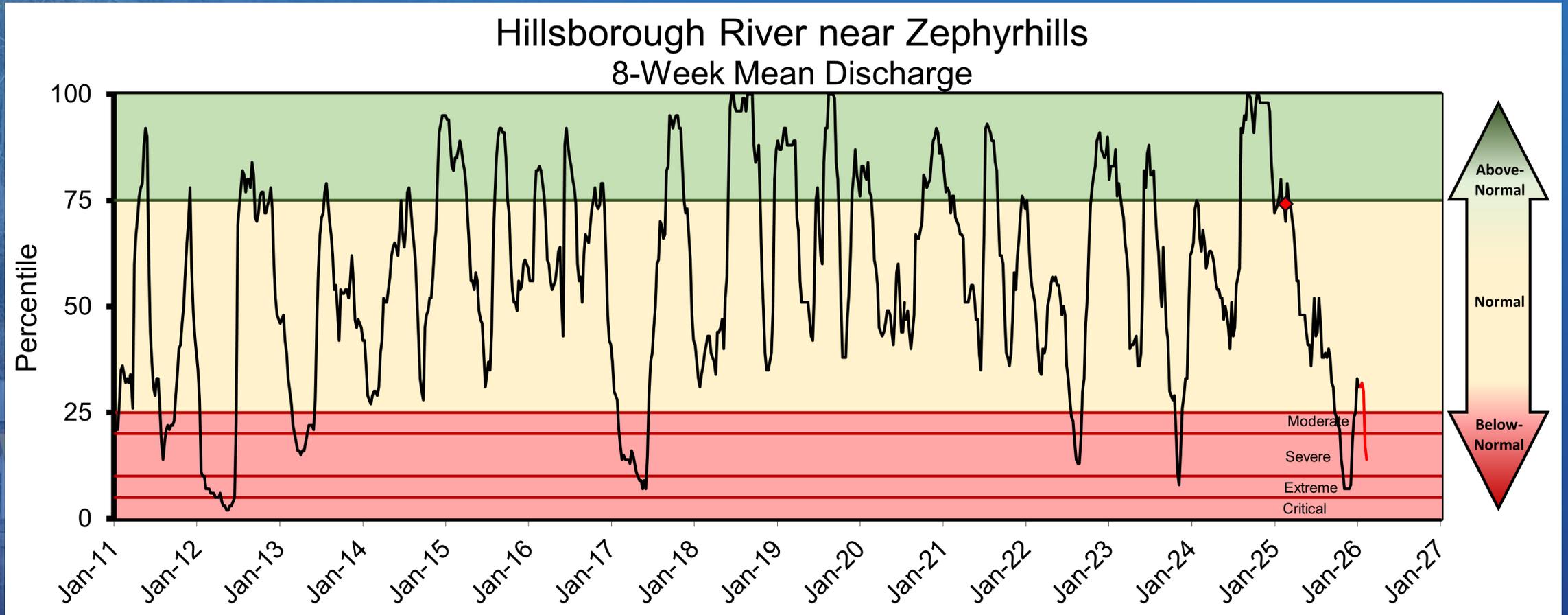


Surface Water Discharge: Withlacoochee River



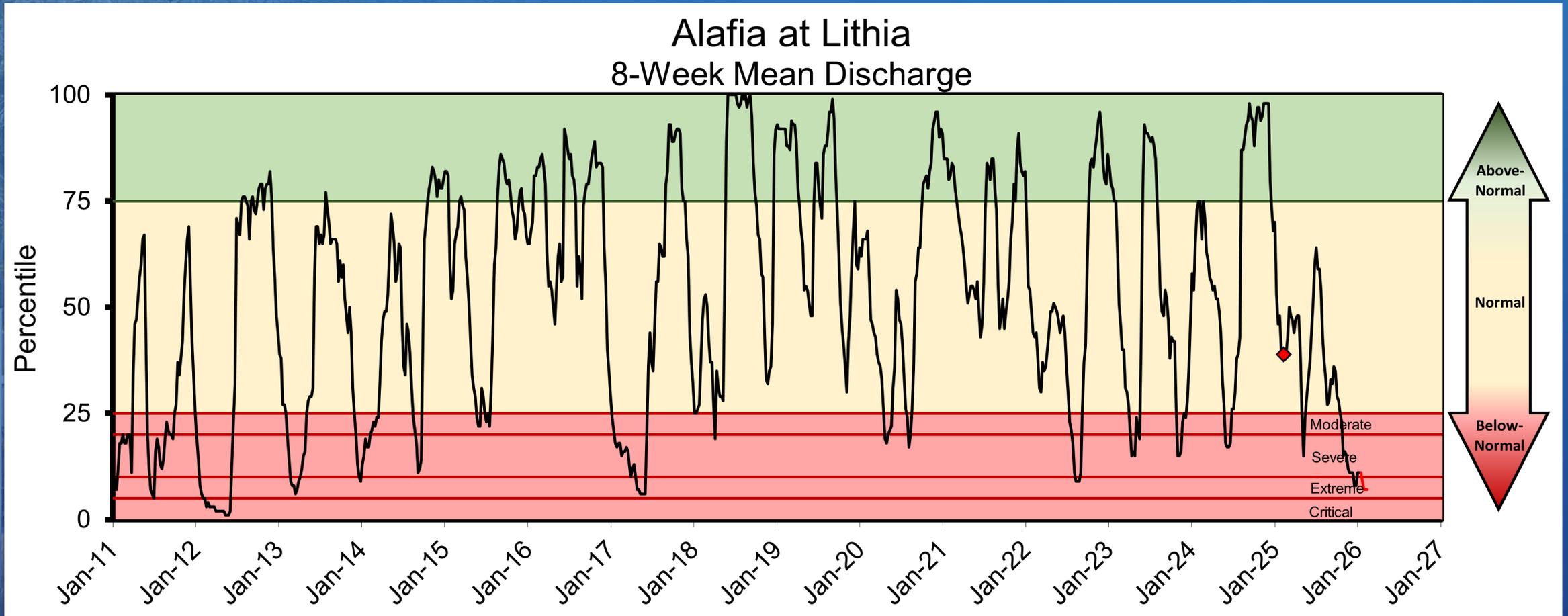
Data Source: United States Geological Survey

Surface Water Discharge: Hillsborough River



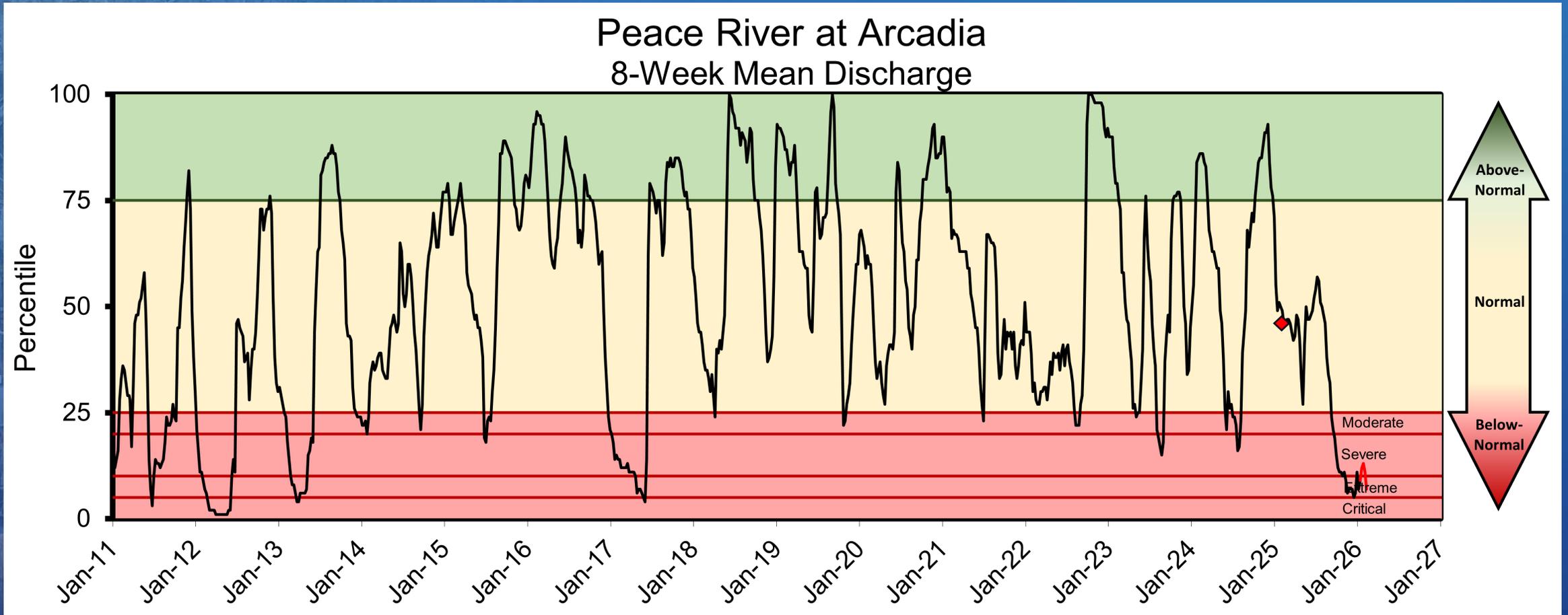
Data Source: United States Geological Survey

Surface Water Discharge: Alafia River



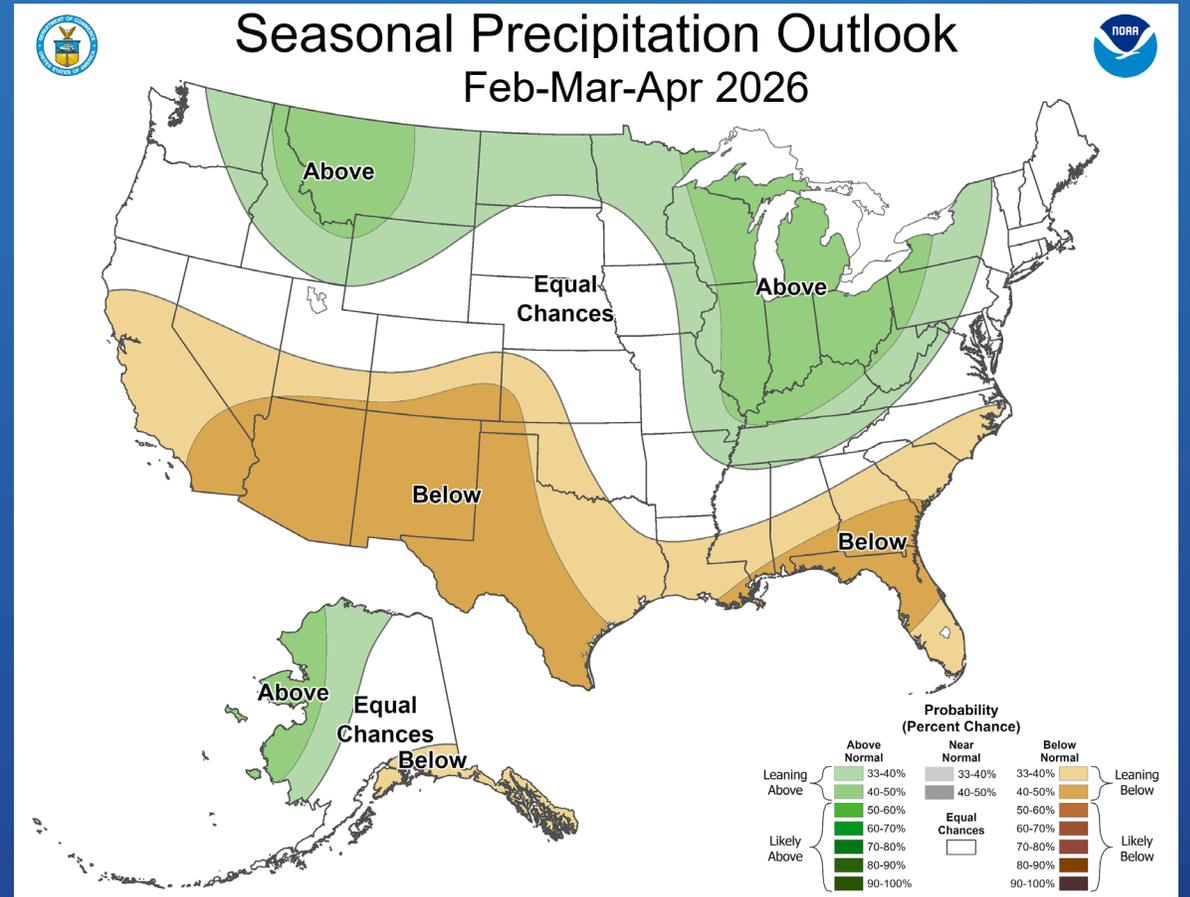
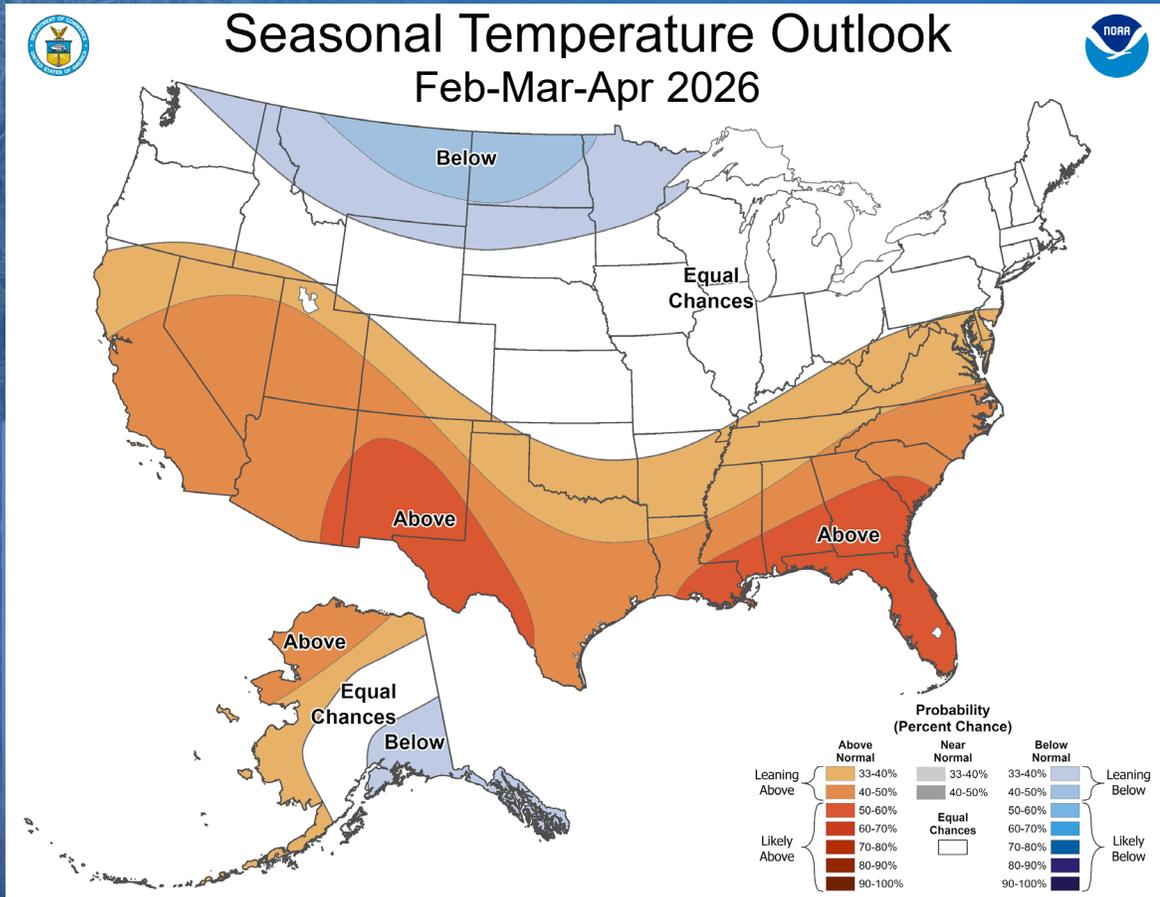
Data Source: United States Geological Survey

Surface Water Discharge: Peace River



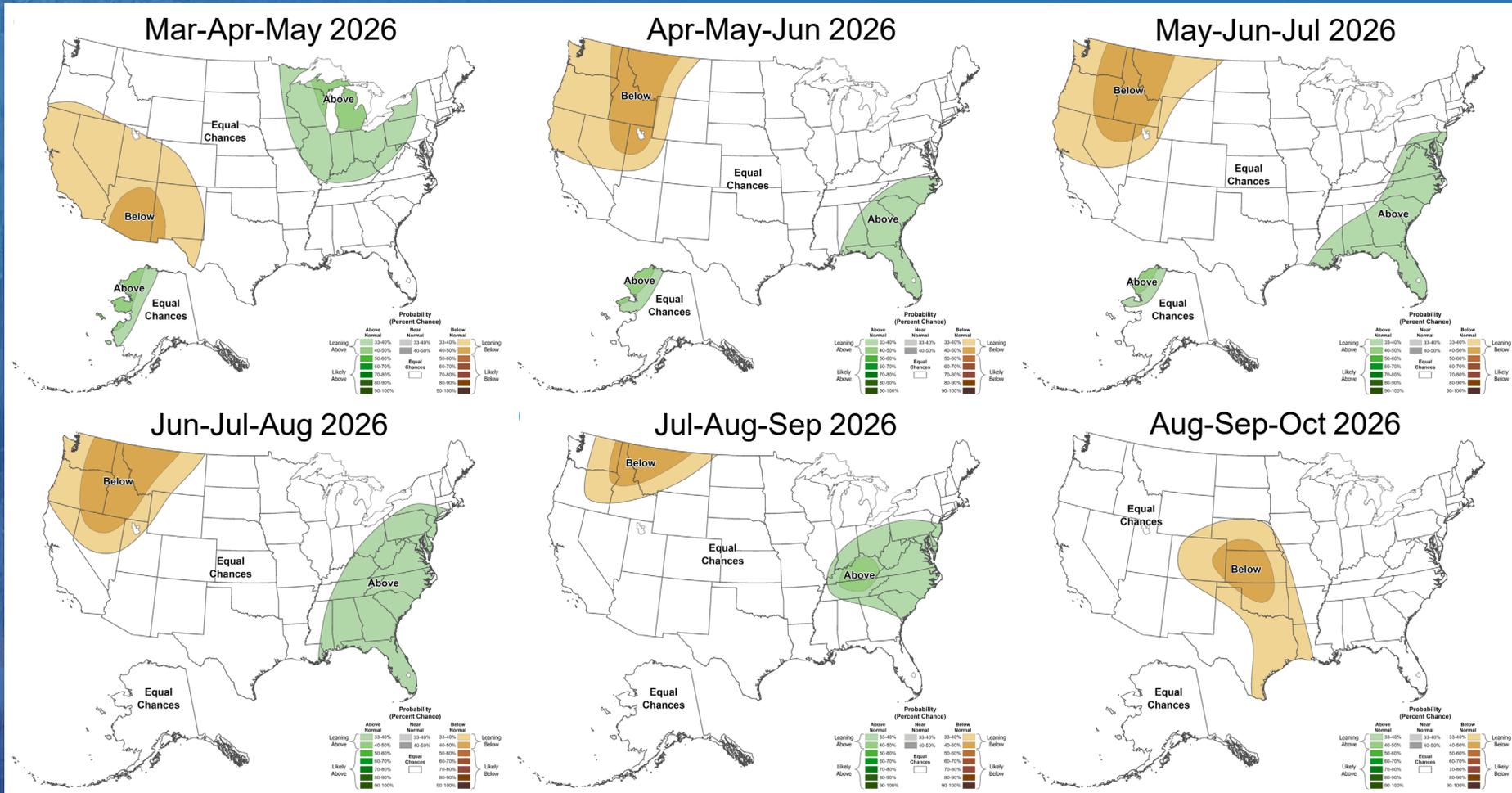
Data Source: United States Geological Survey

Near-Term Climate Forecast



Source: Climate Prediction Center

Extended Climate Forecast - Precipitation



Source: Climate Prediction Center

Summary

- January rainfall was below average.
- February rainfall is also below average, with one week left in the month and slight chances for rainfall before the end of the month.
- The 12-month rainfall total for January was below average, with a deficit of 13.6 inches.
- Hydrologic indicator responses remain mostly in the low-normal to below-normal range.



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Water Shortage Plan

- 40D-21, FAC – Plan to monitor and evaluate water conditions and procedure for declaring water shortage.
- Water shortage scorecards completed monthly (or more frequently) to assess status
- A modified Phase II Water Shortage went into effect January 27th; staff will assess the need for future recommendations based on hydrologic conditions.