

# North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina  
Drought Management Advisory Council

[www.ncdrought.org](http://www.ncdrought.org)

NORTH CAROLINA  
CLIMATE OFFICE

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NC STATE

For the assessment period ending **Mar. 4, 2025**

From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

## The Main Takeaway

Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) have expanded along our southern tier of counties, reflecting recent dryness and impacts such as widespread wildfires.

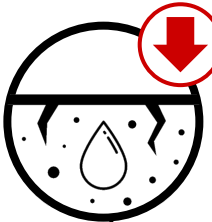
## This Week's Summary

It's officially climatological spring now, and the recovery and recharge we hoped to see this winter was lacking in many areas. Some farm ponds never fully filled up, stream levels remain low, and dry soils and dormant vegetation led to an explosive start to the spring fire season last week, with more than 3,600 acres burned on state and private lands, per the NC Forest Service.

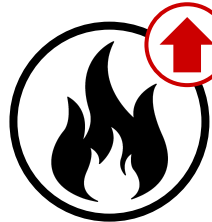
## Seasonal Perspective

The last time this much of the state was in drought in the first week of March was in 2011, which also saw an active fire season through the summer along the coast.

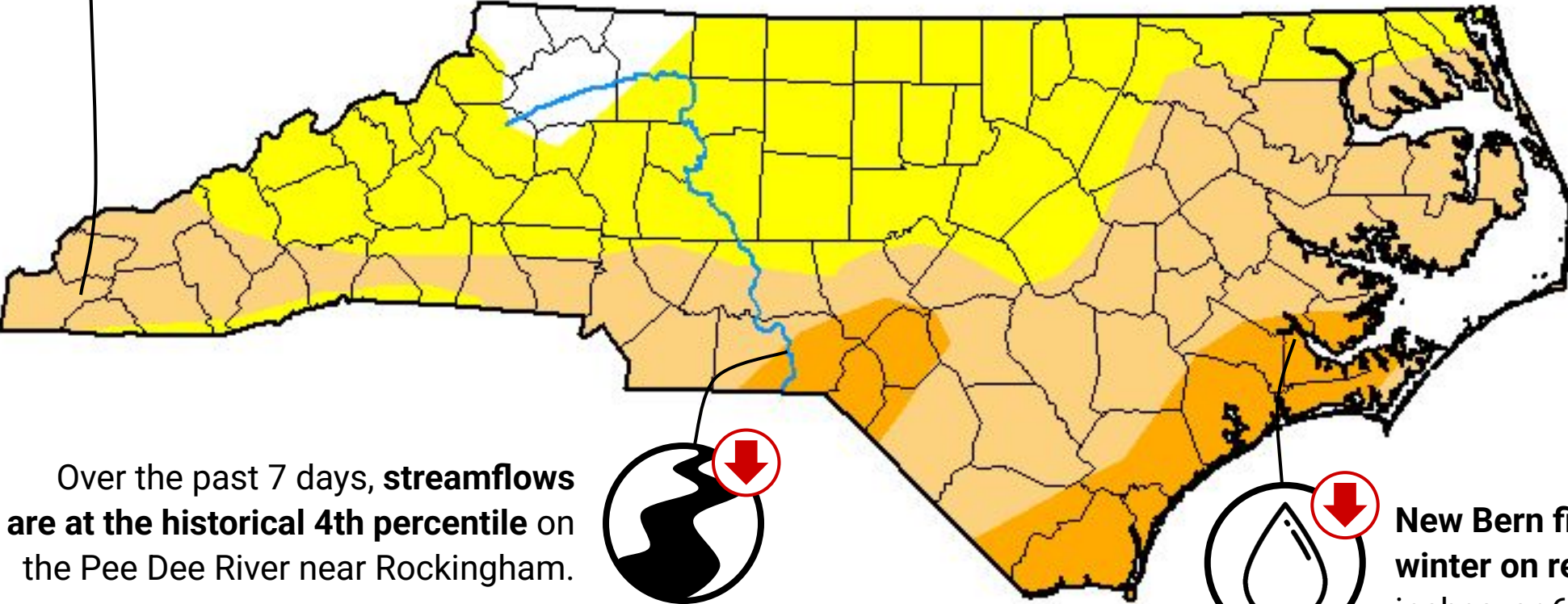
For your local drought status, visit [www.ncdrought.org](http://www.ncdrought.org)



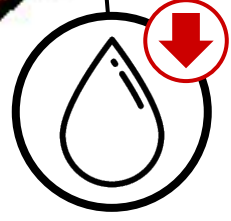
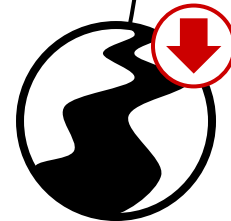
**Groundwater levels in Cherokee County are below normal again**, declining quickly after the last rain event in mid-February.



Low humidity, gusty winds, and dry fuels helped spread **about 250 wildfires burning nearly 1,800 acres last Saturday alone.**

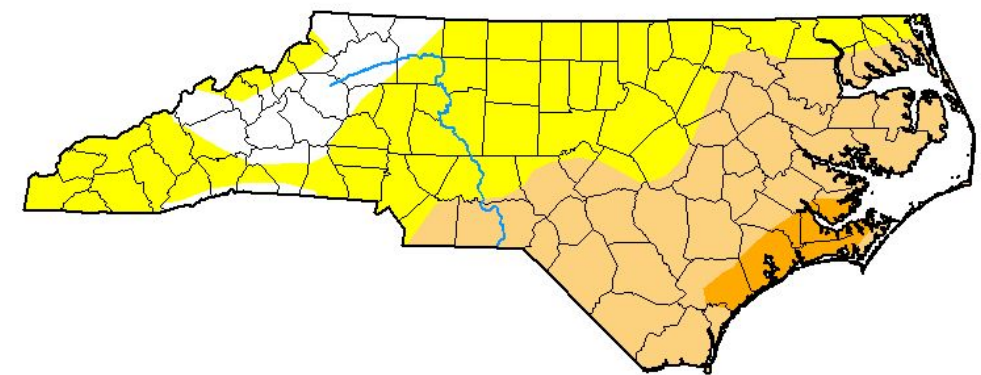


Over the past 7 days, **streamflows are at the historical 4th percentile** on the Pee Dee River near Rockingham.



**New Bern finished with its driest winter on record**, measuring 4.06 inches, or 6.78 inches below normal.

## Last Week's Drought Status



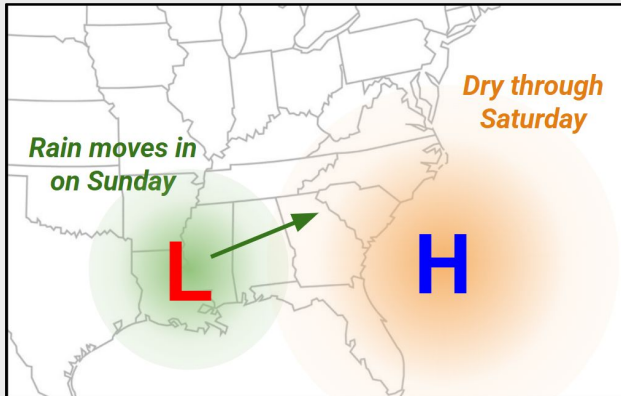
## Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	41.39%	-4.47%
D1: Moderate Drought	43.36%	+4.31%
D2: Severe Drought	11.36%	+7.28%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

# Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

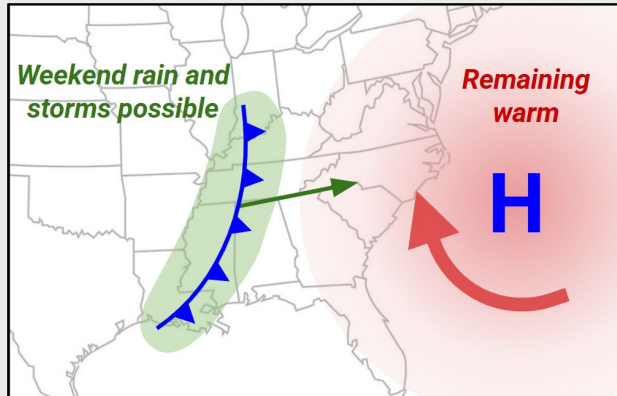
## Week 1:

March 6 to 12, 2025



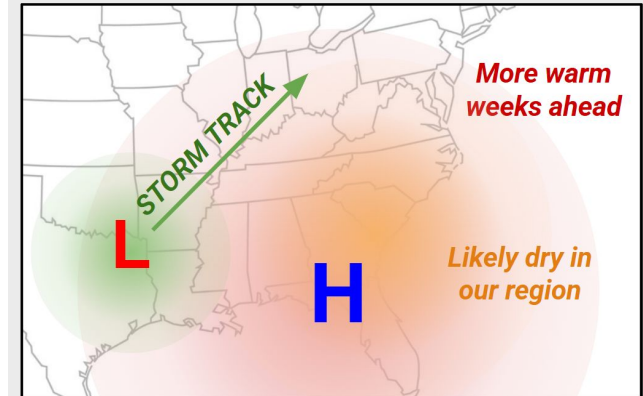
## Week 2:

March 13 to 19, 2025

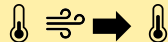


## Weeks 3-4:

Mar. 20 to Apr. 2, 2025



### Windy, then Warmer



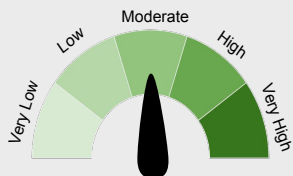
After Wednesday's cold frontal passage, we'll see cooler highs in the 50s on Thursday and gusty winds that could whip up any still-burning wildfires. Winds should slacken by Friday, and high temperatures will warm back into the 60s or 70s by early next week.

### A Rainy Sunday



High pressure over the Southeast will keep us dry to begin this week, with rain chances returning by early Sunday morning as a low-pressure system skirts to our south. Current forecasts show light rainfall totals of a tenth of an inch to half an inch from that event.

### Forecast Confidence



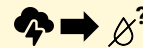
Recent model runs have disagreed about the track of the weekend storm system, which could bring less rain if it stays farther south.

### Warmth Continues Mid-Month



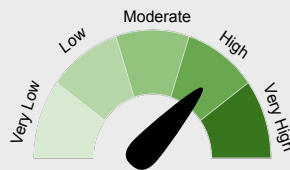
High pressure off our east coast should make for overall warm weather this week, along with higher humidity due to the southwesterly wind flow off the Atlantic. A weekend cold front could bring a brief cooldown, but temperatures should rebound quickly.

### Showers and Storms Arrive



The best chance of widespread rain and possibly strong thunderstorms should come next weekend as a cold front moves in from the west. More rain is possible at other times this week, but based on current guidance, it may be light or more localized.

### Forecast Confidence



Models are in strong agreement about the warm pattern plus the potential for severe storms in parts of the eastern US this week.

### A Warm End to March



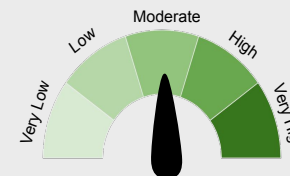
High pressure building over the Southeast should keep us warm through the end of March, with some forecasts showing our average temperatures running 4 to 8 degrees above normal. Our normal highs at this time of year range from the mid to upper 60s.

### Dry and Favorable for Fire



With high pressure over our region, the predominant storm track is likely to shift to our north and west, keeping most rain-making systems away. The return of a drier pattern may favor more wildfire activity as we enter the typical heart of the spring fire season.

### Forecast Confidence



There is good agreement about the large-scale pattern late in the month, which favors warm and dry weather for North Carolina.