

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

 NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE
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For the assessment period ending **Feb. 17, 2026**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Despite a bit of rain last weekend, longer-term deficits and lingering impacts to deeper soils and groundwater stores are keeping most of NC in Severe Drought (D2).

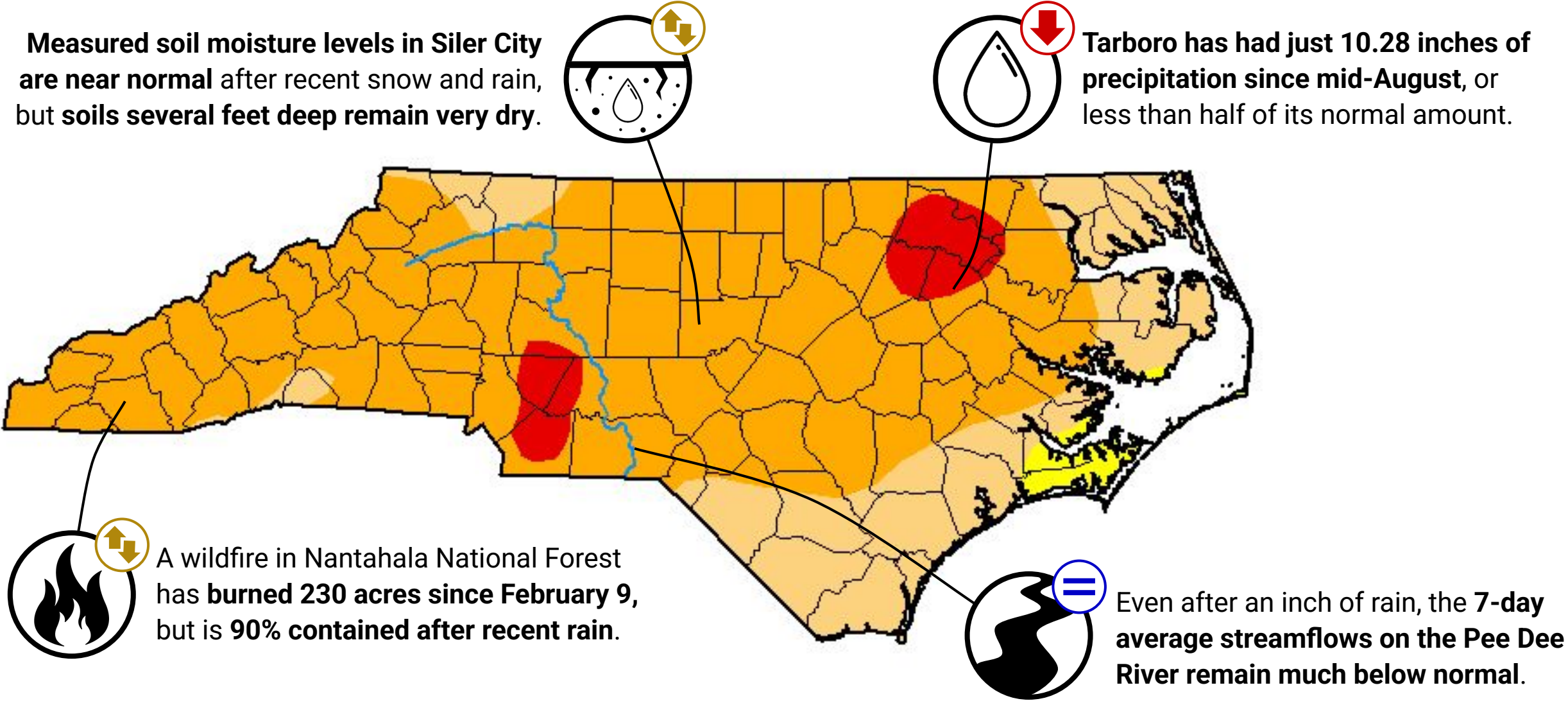
This Week's Summary

Last weekend saw the biggest rain event for parts of the Piedmont since September, but the recent rarity of events like that explain why this drought has been so tough to erase. With 1 to 1.5 inches of rain – just above our weekly average – we barely chipped away at the 2 to 4-inch deficits so far this winter, and while topsoils are squishy, our deeper soils are still extremely dry.

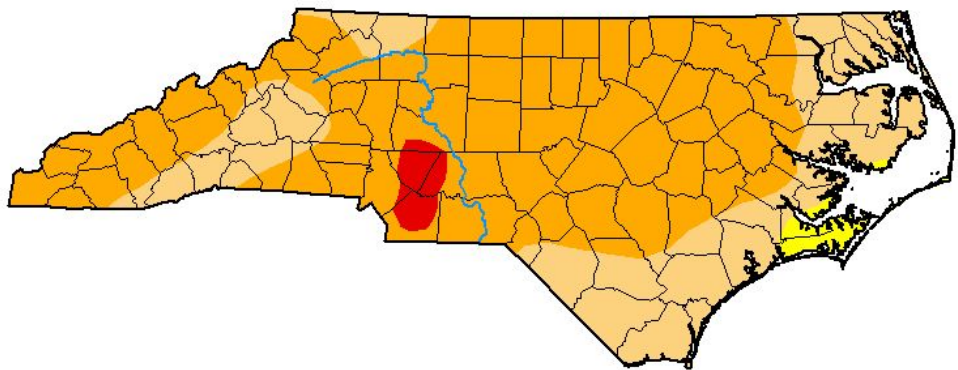
Next Week's Outlook

Rain showers are possible through the weekend as a low pressure system tracks across the state, but totals will generally be low, with an inch or less expected.

For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	1.88%	0.00%
D1: Moderate Drought	22.33%	-7.67%
D2: Severe Drought	70.58%	+4.59%
D3: Extreme Drought	5.21%	+3.08%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%