North Carolina Drought Update

Created By: North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org
NORTH CAROLINA CLIMATEOFFICE
climate.ncsu.edu @NCSCO
NC STATE

For the assessment period ending **Mar. 24, 2026**

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

The Main Takeaway

Some drought conditions slightly degraded across the Piedmont and Sandhills this week, while a few coastal areas saw minor improvements after last week's rain.

This Week's Summary

After a few wetter weeks culminating in last Monday's cold frontal passage, the past week was back on the dry side, with less than half an inch of precipitation statewide. The moisture from recent rainfall continues to keep most reservoirs near their targets, but warmer days now have plants feeling the stress, and wildfire danger has escalated amid this week's breezy weather.

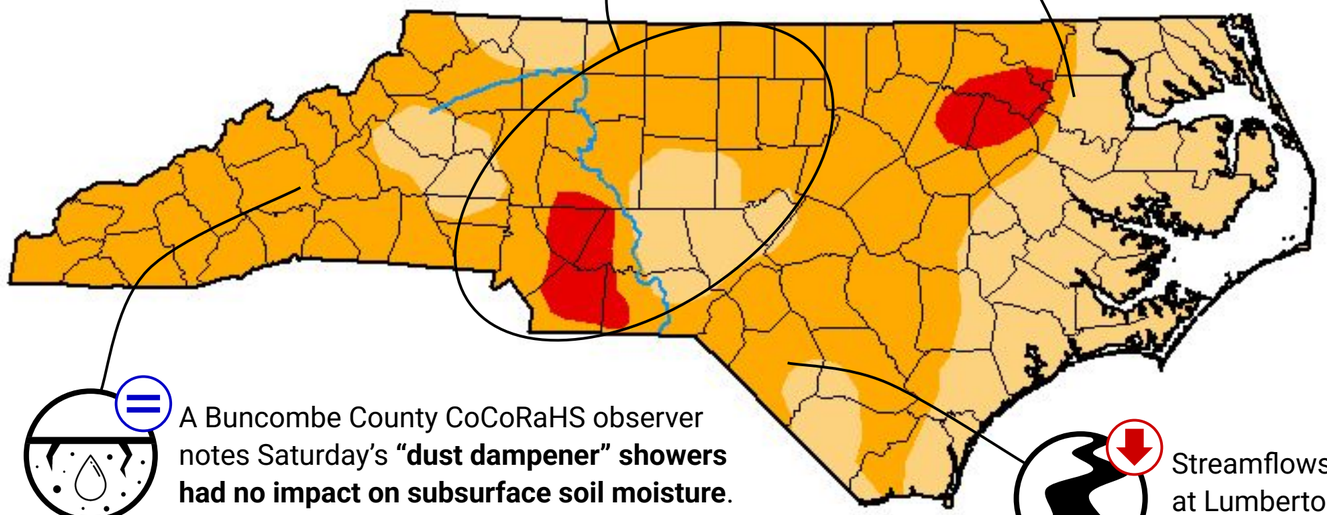
Next Week's Outlook

A cold front sagging southward on Friday should bring light rain showers, along with a significant cooldown, with weekend highs only in the upper 50s and low 60s.

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

On Tuesday, **forecasted fire danger in the western Piedmont hit Extreme levels** for the first time since March 13, 2025.

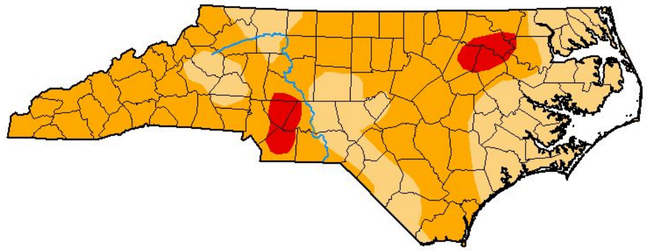
A **quick-hitting 1.40 inches of rain last Monday** kept Lewiston on pace with its normal precipitation so far in March.



A Buncombe County CoCoRaHS observer notes Saturday's **"dust dampener" showers had no impact on subsurface soil moisture**.

Streamflows on the Lumber River at Lumberton **dropped to new daily record low levels** earlier this week.

Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	0.00%	0.00%
D1: Moderate Drought	34.49%	+0.05%
D2: Severe Drought	60.81%	-0.50%
D3: Extreme Drought	4.71%	+0.46%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%