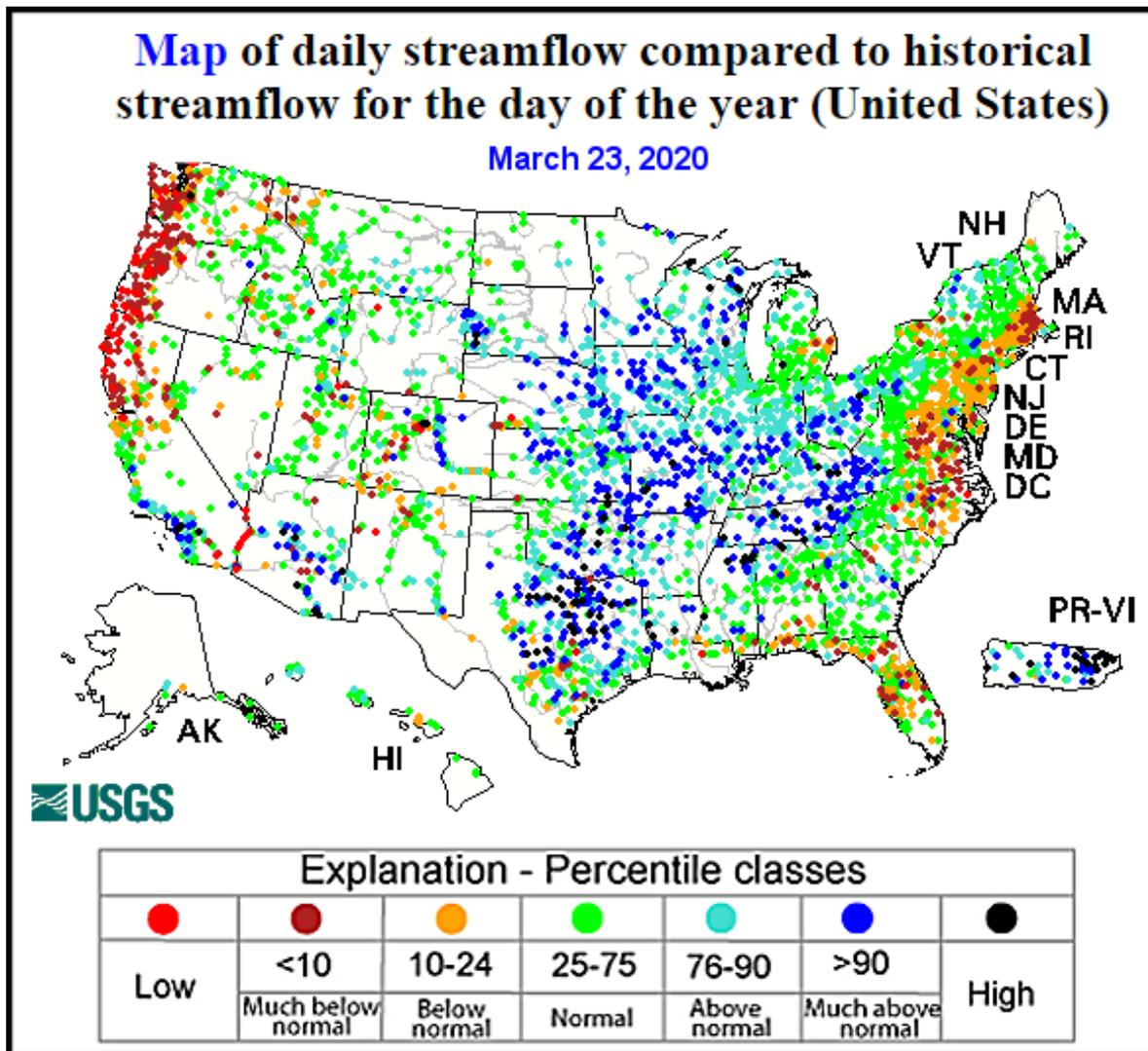


U.S. Flooding Still Unlikely To Reach Last Year's Levels

By Drew Lerner

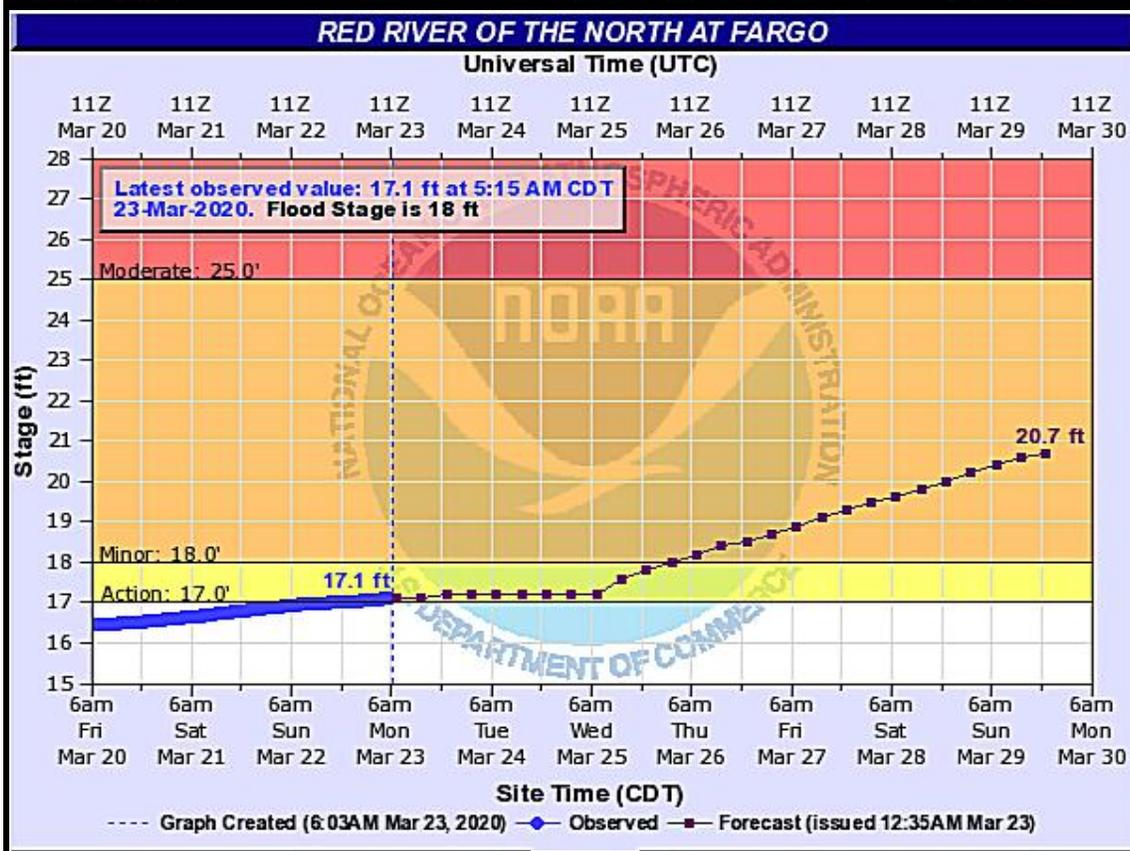
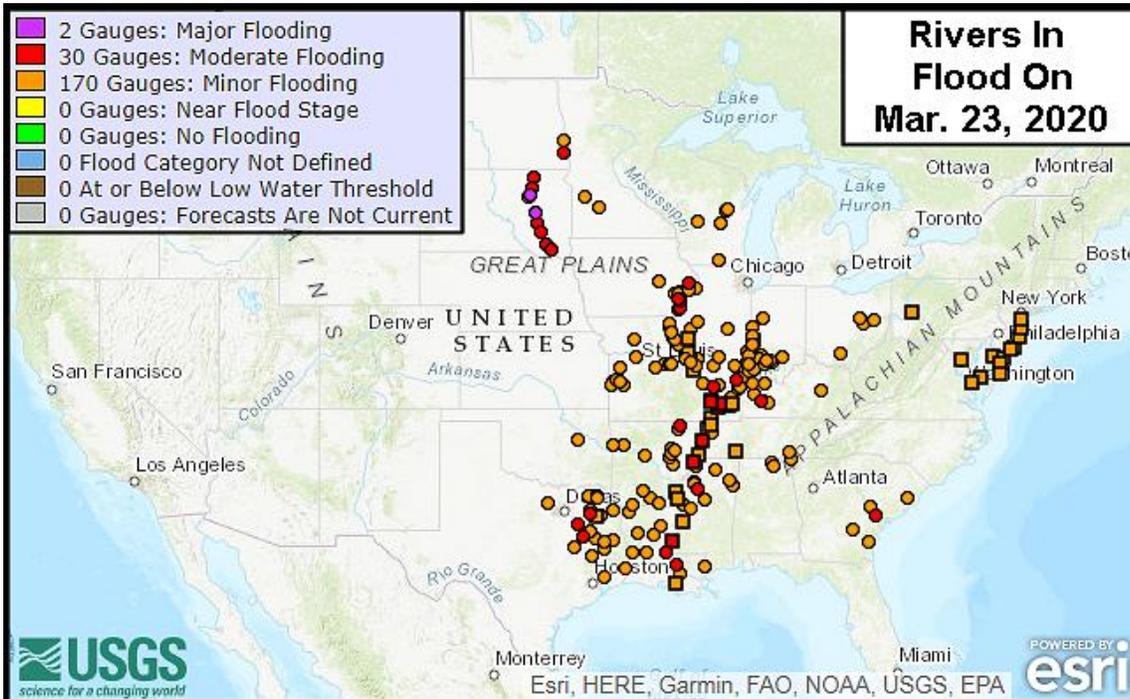
Kansas City, March 23 (World Weather Inc.) – *Flooding is underway on many rivers and streams across the eastern half of the United States today and many others are running extremely high. Another major rain event could be the tipping point to another serious flood event. However, World Weather, Inc. does not believe the potential for such an event is present this year.* Certainly areas of flooding will continue into April and the wet weather pattern present today may resume in April after a short term hiatus, but a return of the serious floods of 2019 do not seem very likely



River and stream flows are running high, in the top 10% of flows in a large part of the Midwest, eastern Great Plains and Tennessee River Basin. Some of these rivers and their tributaries are in flood and expected to experience similar conditions over the next few weeks because of significant run off underway today and additional rain that will fall in the coming week.

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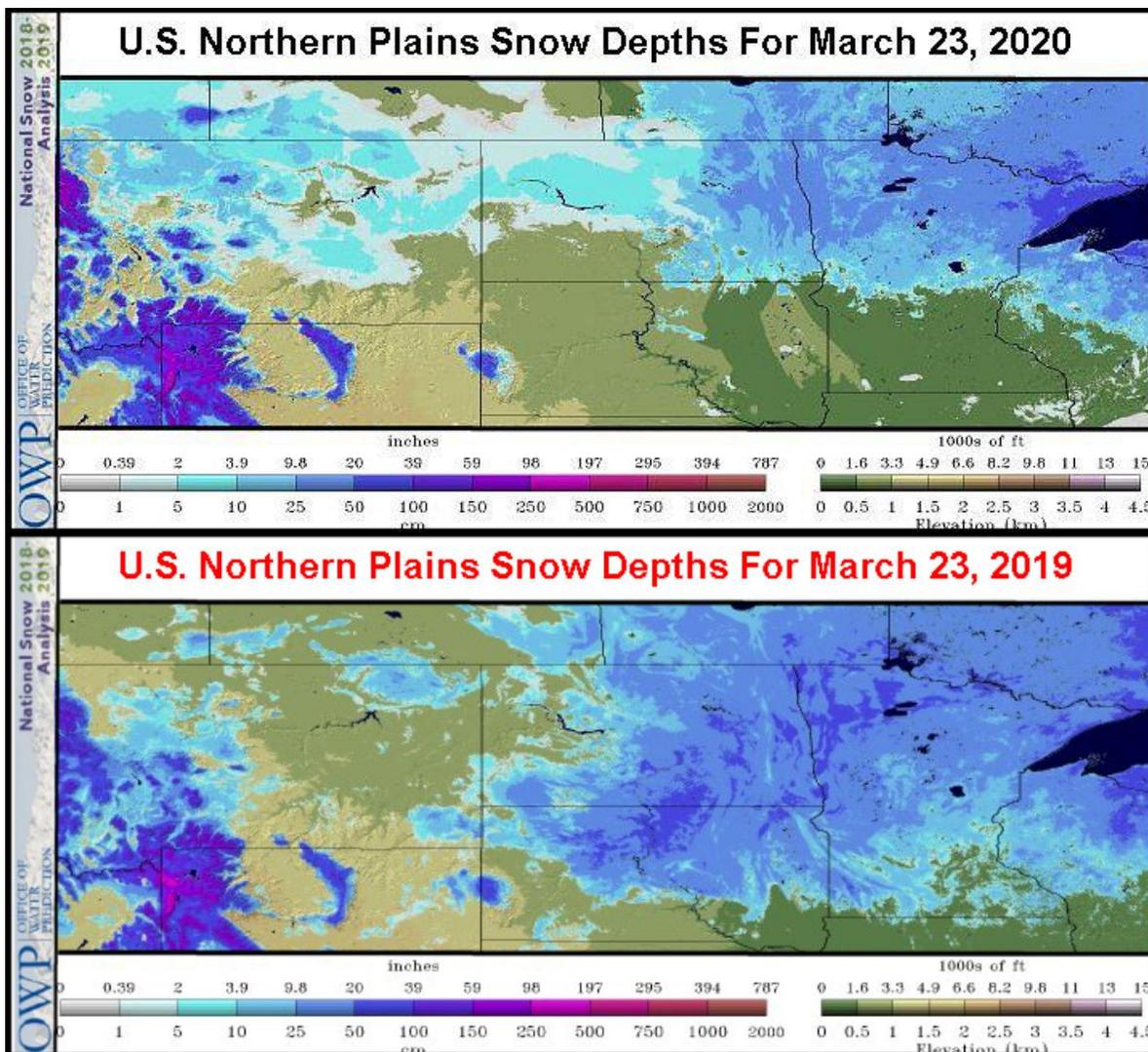
The precipitation expected over this first week of the outlook will be greatest in the central and lower Midwest and Tennessee River Basin to the northern Delta where 1.00 to 3.00 inches and local totals of 4.00 inches will fall during the period.



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Flooding is already occurring in the middle and lower Mississippi River Basin and in a few other rivers and streams from eastern Texas into the eastern and northern Midwest. Some flooding has also been reported in southeastern Georgia and southern South Carolina. The most serious flooding is in eastern South Dakota along the James River where flooding has been ongoing for an extended period of time.

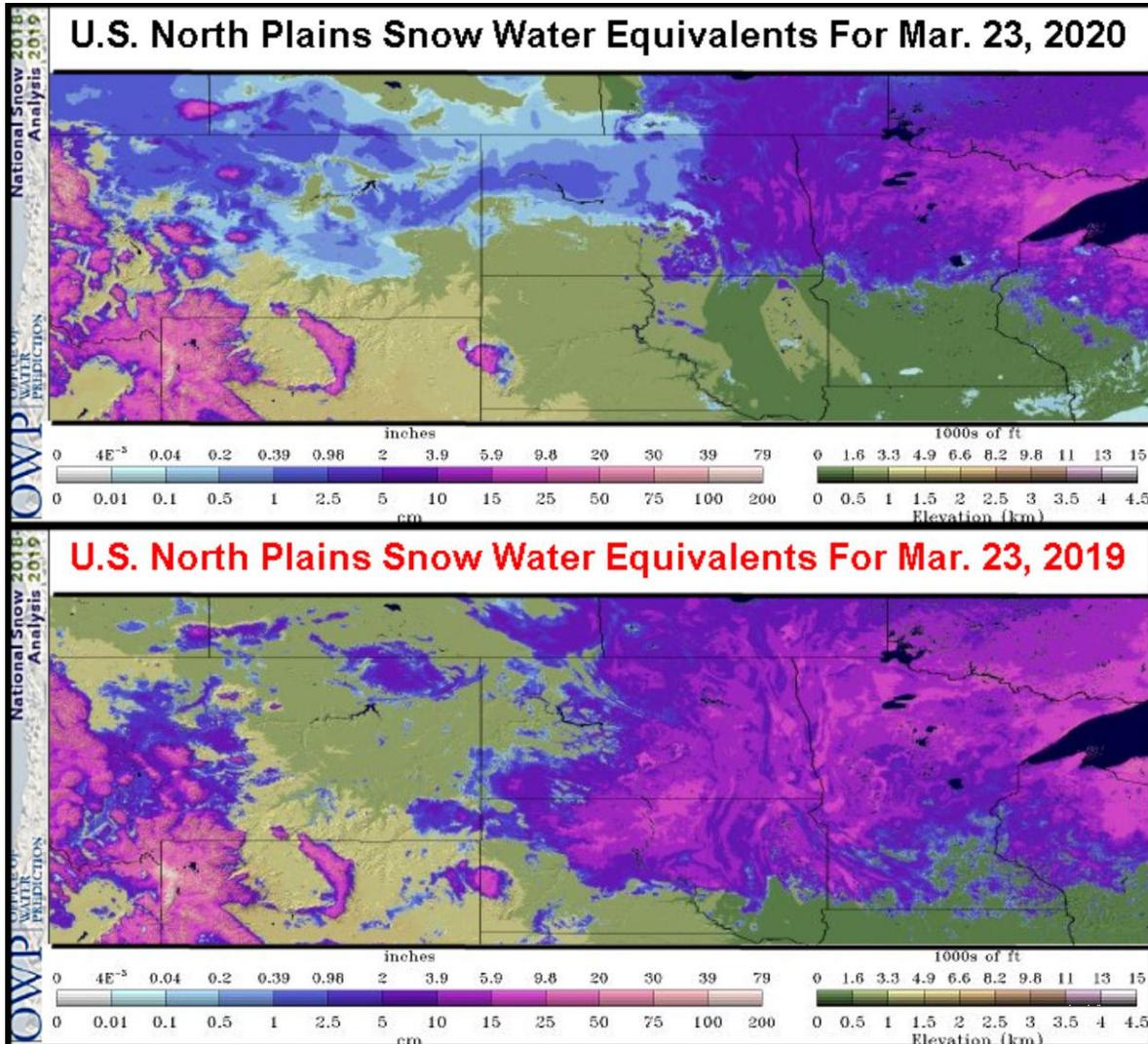
Flooding was also just beginning on the Red River of the North where a significant snowpack was expected to melt over the next few weeks. The snow melt in the Red River Basin will quickly take the river system that is already very close to flood stage in many areas (following stormy weather last autumn) and push those levels to a moderate flood. The good news for the upper Midwest and northeastern Plains is that there will be no major storm systems over the next couple of weeks that would complicate the runoff situation and induce a more serious flood.



Last year at this time flooding was ramping up in many areas and the northwestern Plains had just thawed out from under a deep snowpack and the Missouri River was rising significantly while rain was falling frequently in the Midwest and Delta – not much

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different than that of today. River Flooding will not be as serious on the Missouri River this year because much less water is draining through that system and most of the snowmelt feeding into the upper parts of the river was already impacted the river or will continue to do so for the next week or so and then be done.



Both a part of the upper Missouri and Red River Basins as well as the upper Mississippi River Basin were still deeply buried in snow last year at this time and much more moisture was about to be released into the river systems while rainy weather was occurring farther to the south. This year will be different because runoff through the upper Missouri River Valley will be greatly diminished soon and that will help to reduce the severity of flooding that occurs along the lower parts of the river. [The northern Plains and upper Midwest will also not see many large storm systems until May and will give the region a chance to melt snow and allow the moisture to runoff without being complicated by new precipitation from frequent storms.](#)

In the meantime, flooding in the lower Midwest, Delta and Tennessee River Basin remains an issue today and will become more of an issue in the coming week before conditions begin to improve into the first half of April. [Less frequent and less significant](#)

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rain is expected for no less than 10 days in early April which will be long enough for rivers and streams to fall back below flood stage. It is important to note that just because there is less precipitation does not mean there will be none. Periods of precipitation will continue, but most systems will be too light to induce new flooding. They will be a hindrance to drying down the topsoil and that could perpetuate some of planting delays. Concern will rise over the precipitation outlook a little later in April when rain frequency and intensity is likely to increase once again. There should be at least one more complex period of frequent rainfall that will impact the Midwest causing more delay to fieldwork and that should occur in the middle to latter part of the month.

It is also important to remember that seasonal warming is expected in April and May. That will help improve drying rates between precipitation events and that should get some producers into their fields a little quicker than last year.

The bottom line is that, yes, flooding and frequent rainfall will be around for a while longer, but 2020 will not be a repeat of 2019 in regard to the severity of planting delays and flooding. However, World Weather, Inc. looks for more planting delays in April and then a much improved environment during May that will allow farmers to finish much better than they started. Late planting may hurt yields, but the nation will see a better production year than last year with little doubt.

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