



Monthly Outlook Update

January 2026

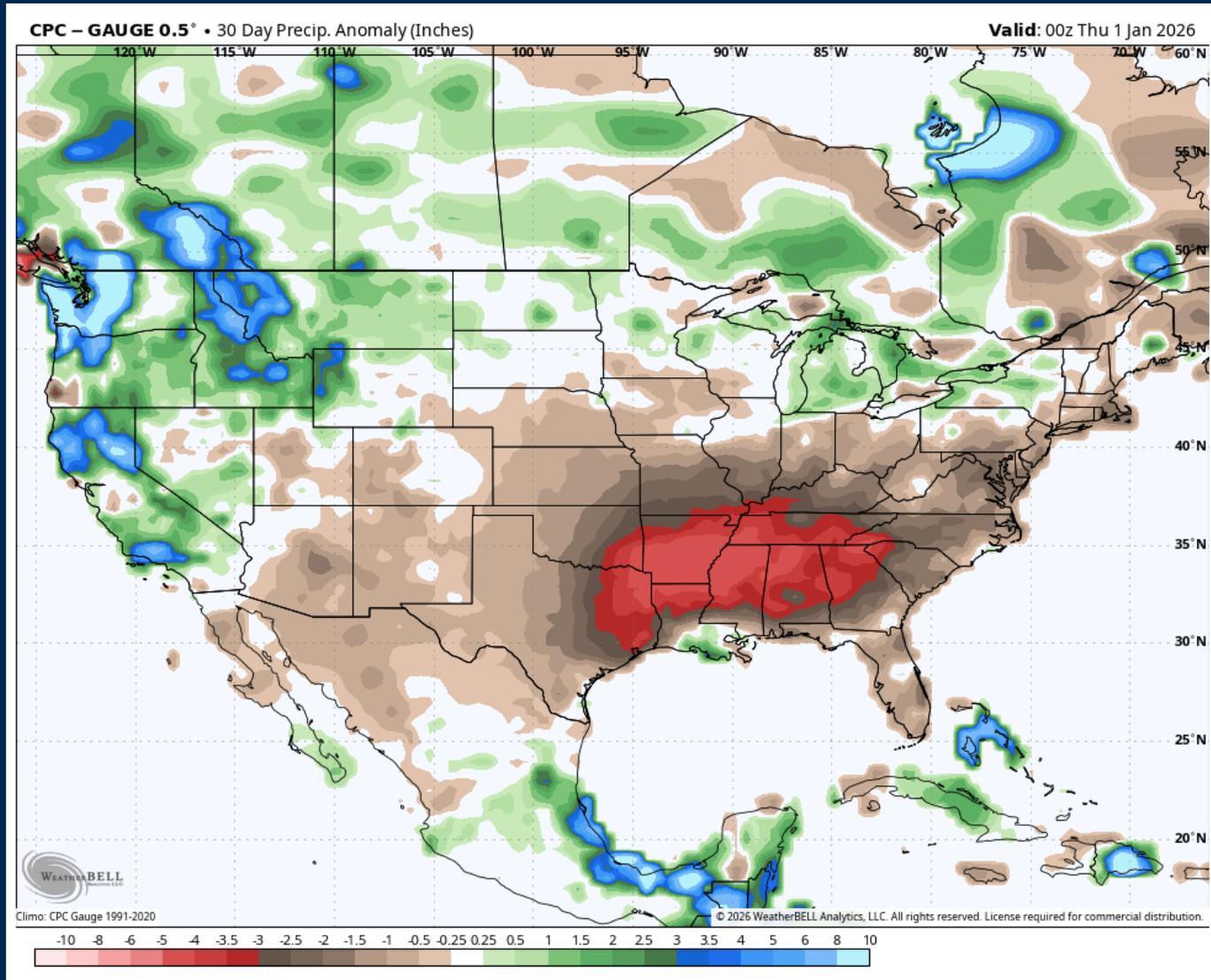
Don Day, Jr. – DayWeather, Inc.

Long Range Discussion – *January 2026*

- **Highlights – December**

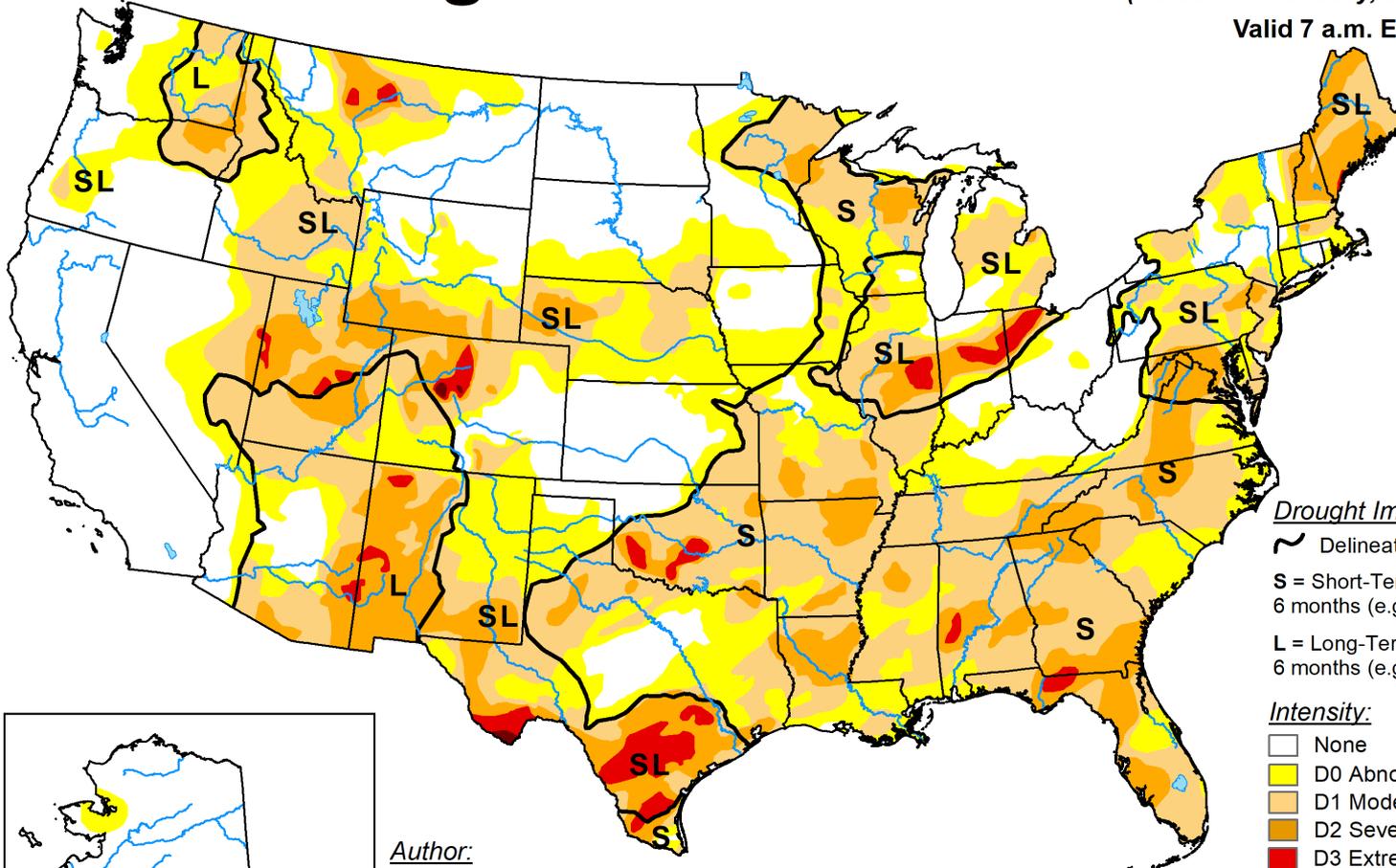
- The extremely warm and dry December in parts of the west broke many records and led to below average snowpack in some areas.
- While the Plains and east slopes of the Rockies were dry and warm, heavy precipitation fell in CA and parts of the Northern Rockies. A very unusual pattern to say the least.
- Warm and dry conditions also were noted in the south with much below normal precipitation.
- After a very cold start to December the Midwest experienced up and down temperatures during the second half of the month.
- The unusual December weather pattern was strongly influenced by two major jet stream blocking patterns in the Bering Sea (Pacific) and Greenland (Atlantic). The blocking patterns distributed temperatures and precipitation patterns to areas that were not anticipated.
- La Nina was in place, however, any major La Nina influences were dampened by the strong ocean blocking patterns.

December Precipitation Anomaly



U.S. Drought Monitor

January 6, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

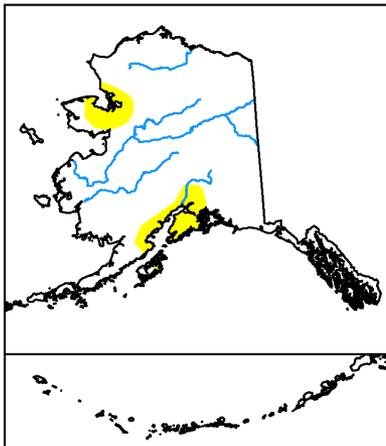


Drought Impact Types:

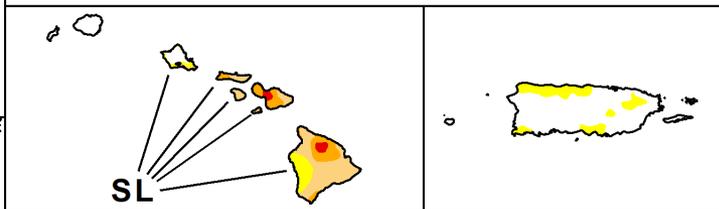
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought



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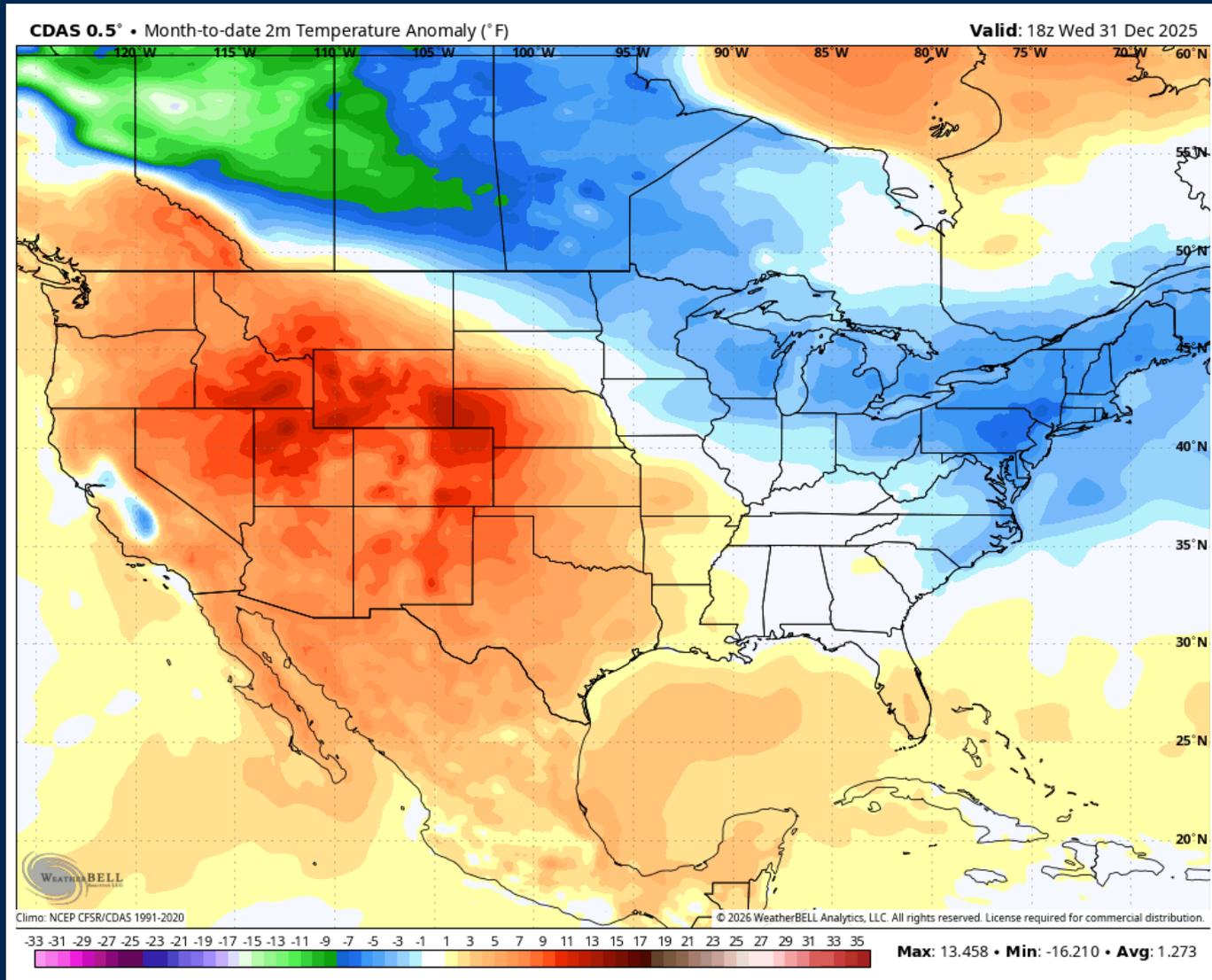


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

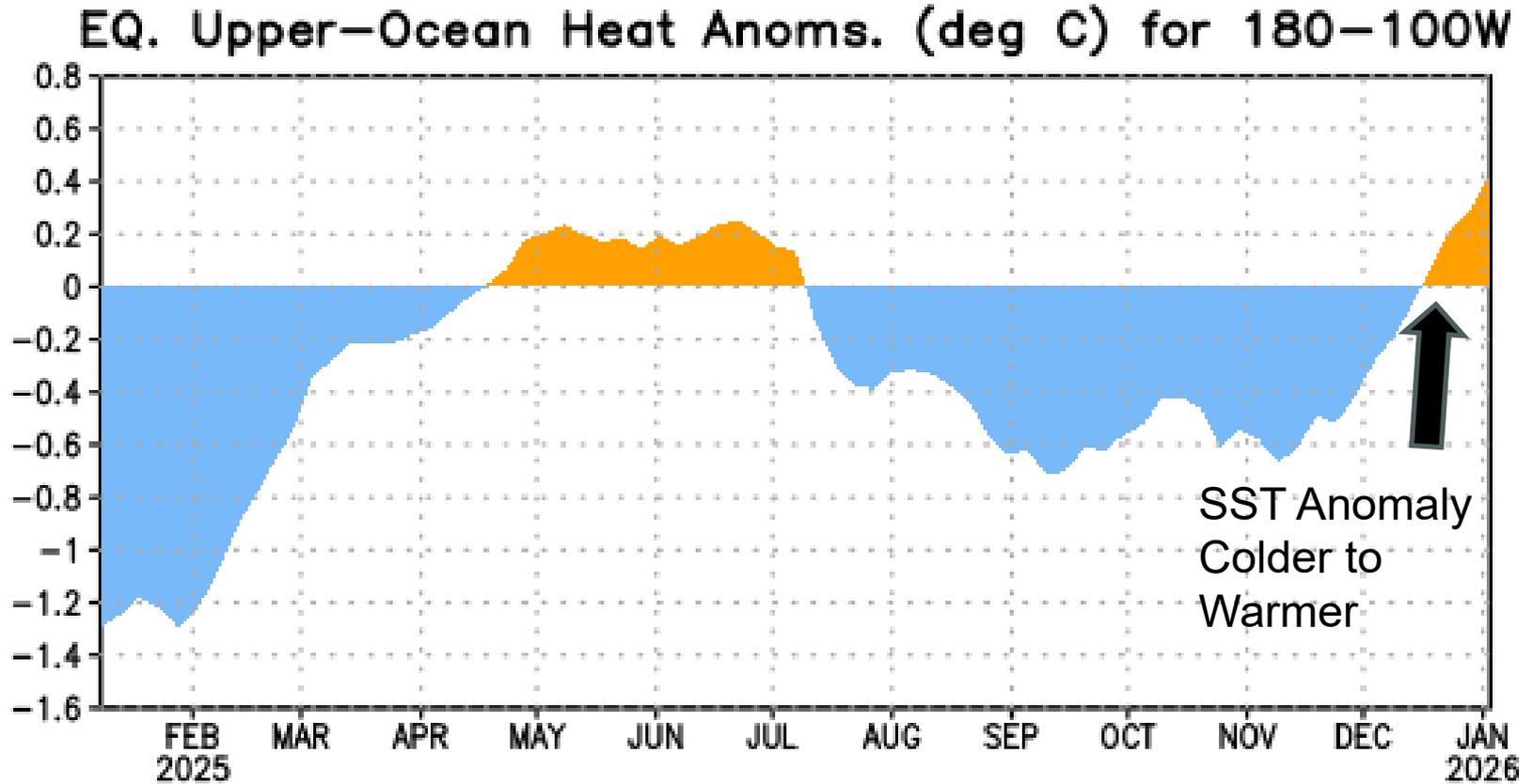
December Temperature Anomaly



Long Range Highlights

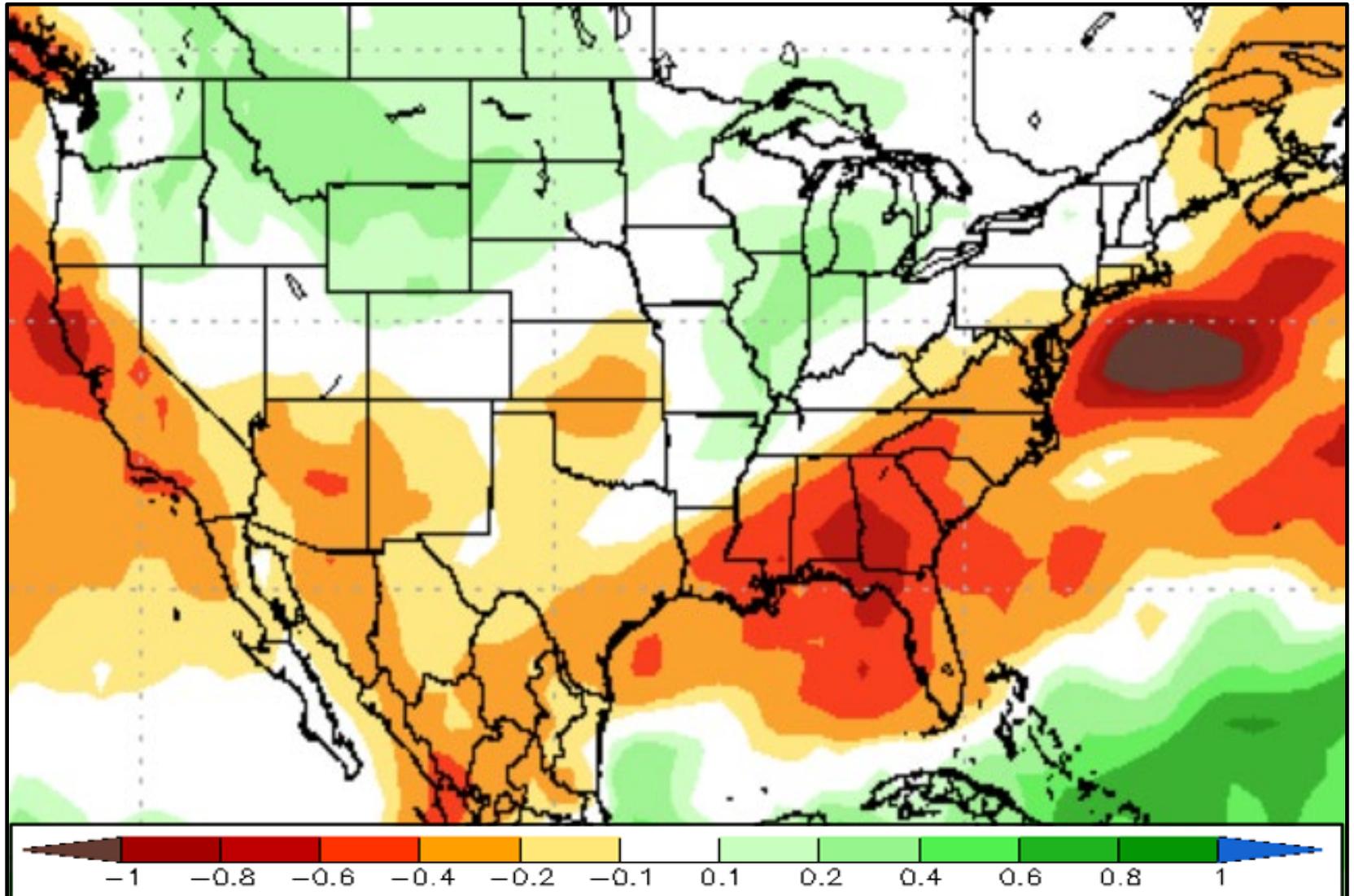
- The Pacific and Atlantic blocking patterns have eroded. This should lead to a more “active” and changeable weather pattern for second half of winter.
- La Nina is collapsing rapidly, and ENSO neutral will likely develop in February/March and possible weak El Nino by summer. The last time La Nina collapsed in winter to ENSO neutral by spring was in the 2022–23 winter season.
- The removal of the ocean blocks and the weakening La Nina may lead to a colder February across a large part of USA with increasing storminess.

Depth of Colder La Nina SST Changing



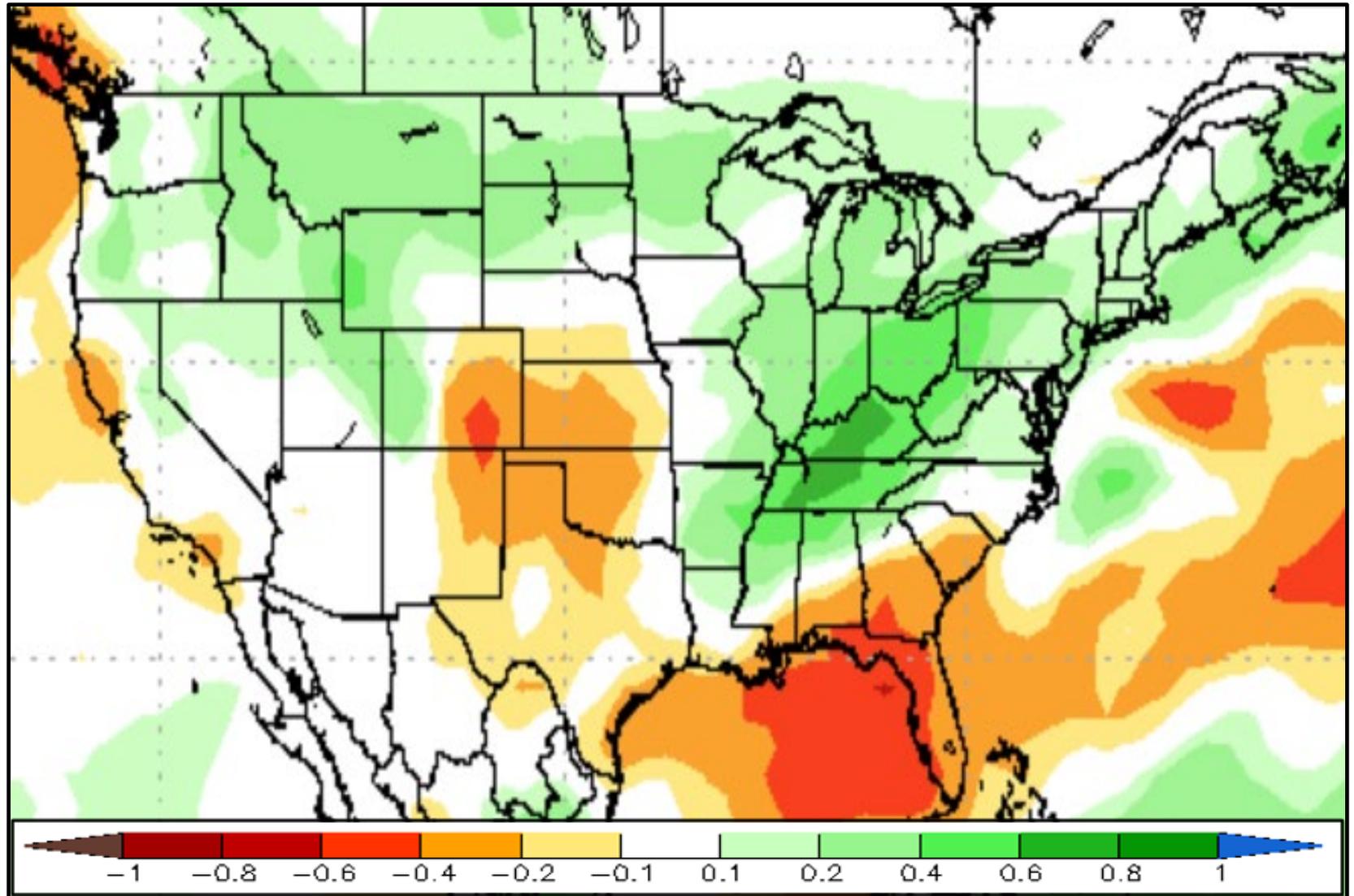
Long Range Forecast

NMME Precipitation Forecast – February 2026 as of 1/9/2026



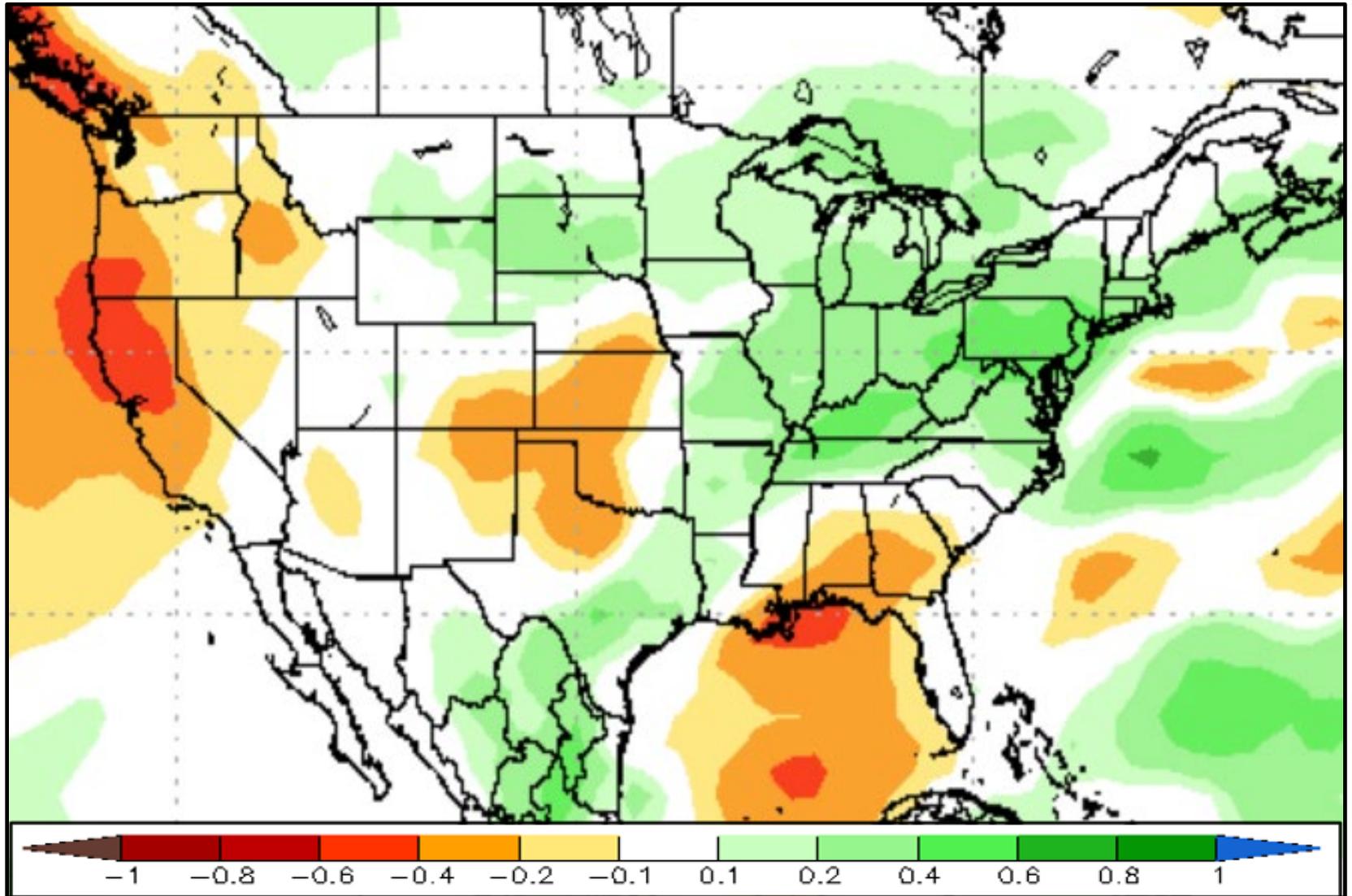
Long Range Forecast

NMME Precipitation Forecast – March 2026 as of 1/9/2026



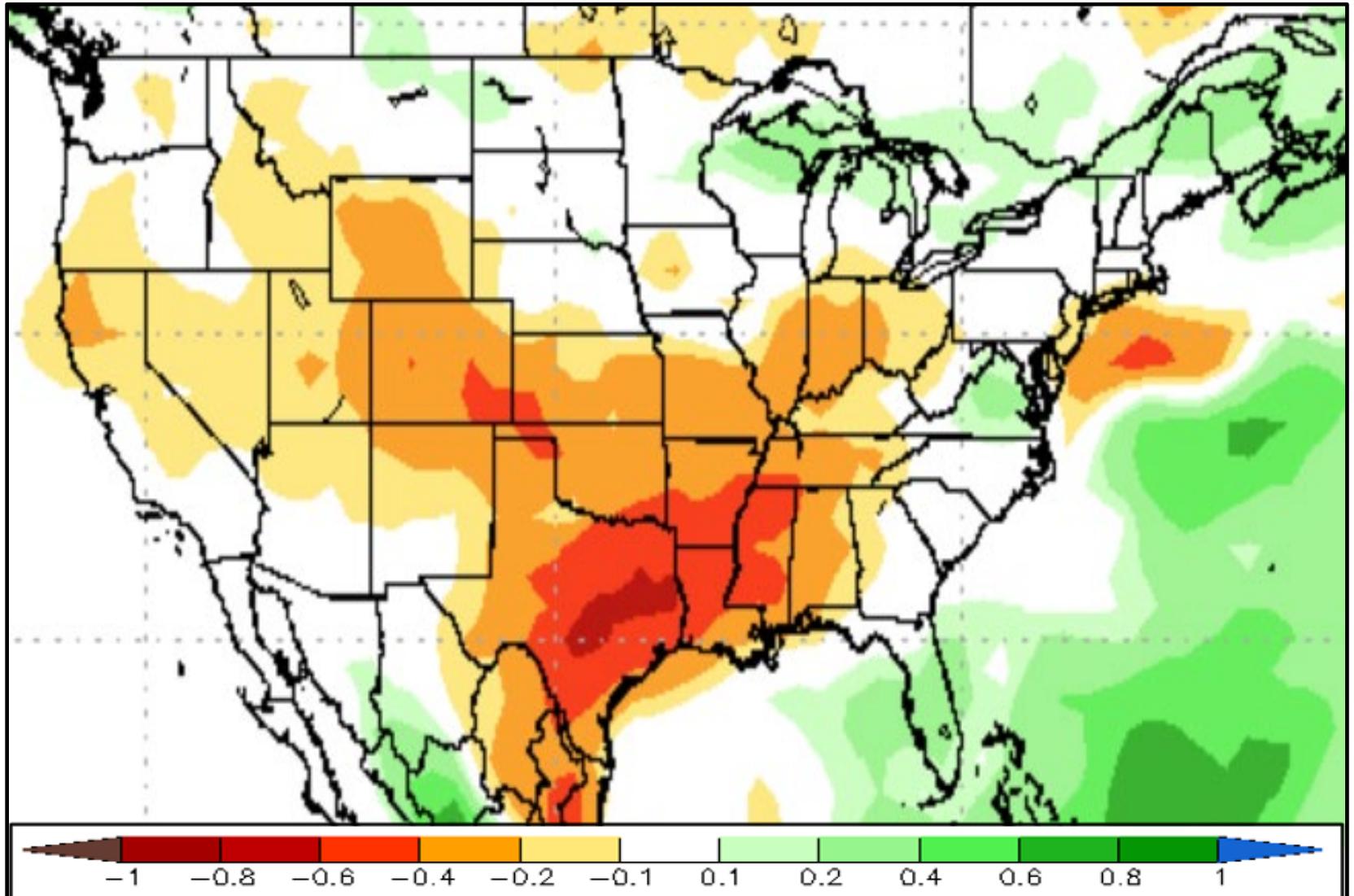
Long Range Forecast

NMME Precipitation Forecast – April 2026 as of 1/9/2026



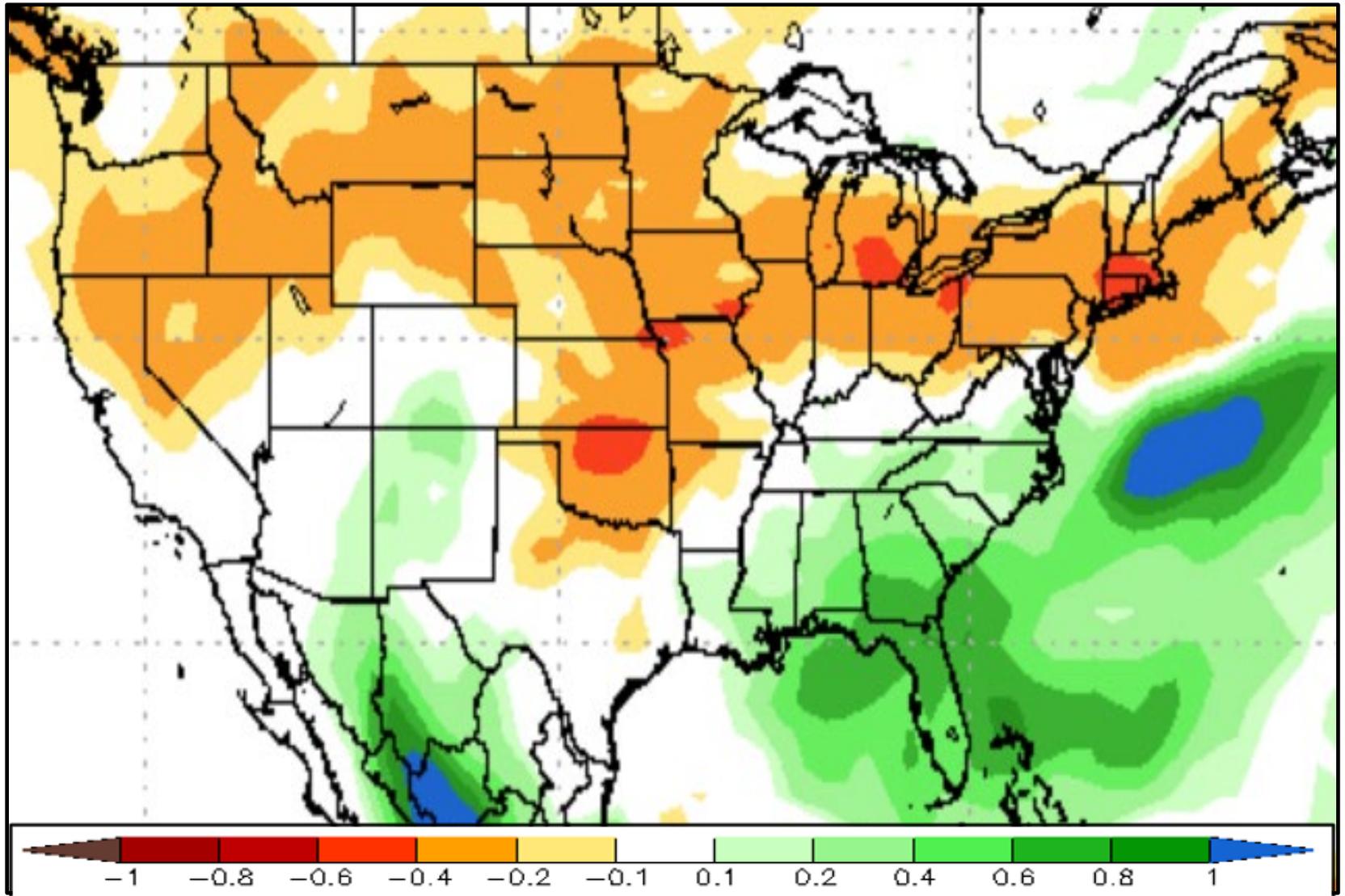
Long Range Forecast

NMME Precipitation Forecast – May 2026 as of 1/9/2026



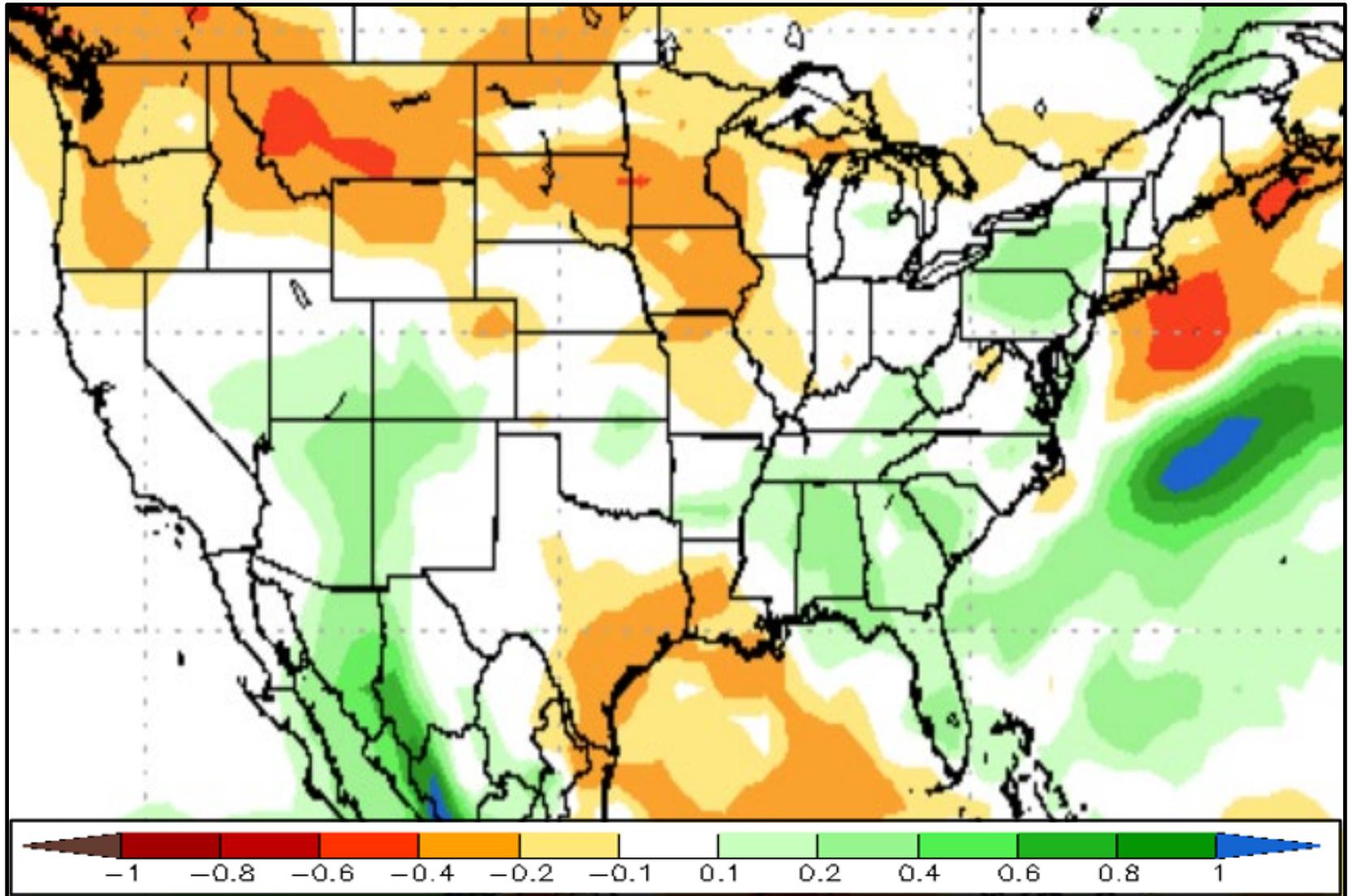
Long Range Forecast

NMME Precipitation Forecast – June 2026 as of 1/9/2026



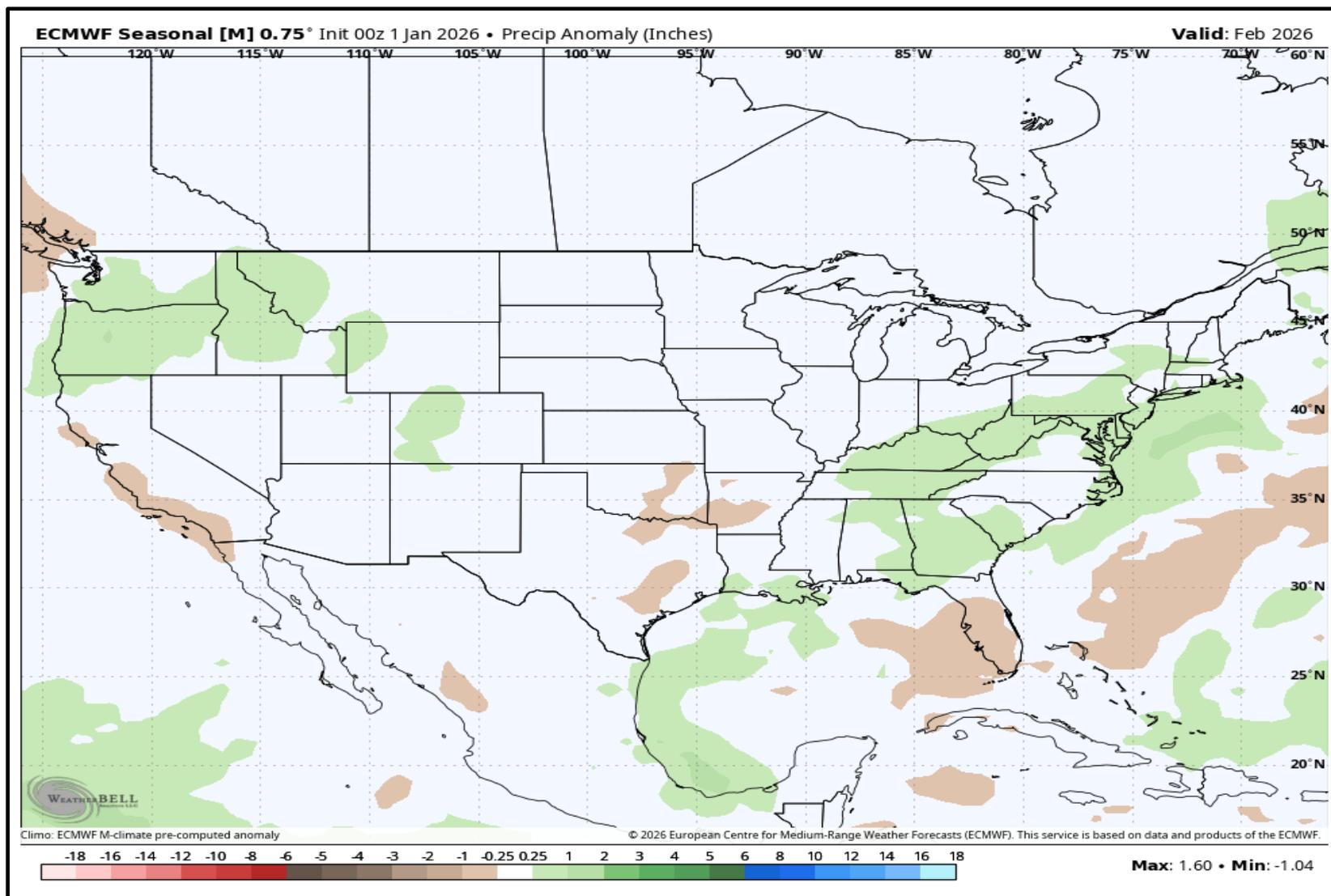
Long Range Forecast

NMME Precipitation Forecast – July 2026 as of 1/9/2026



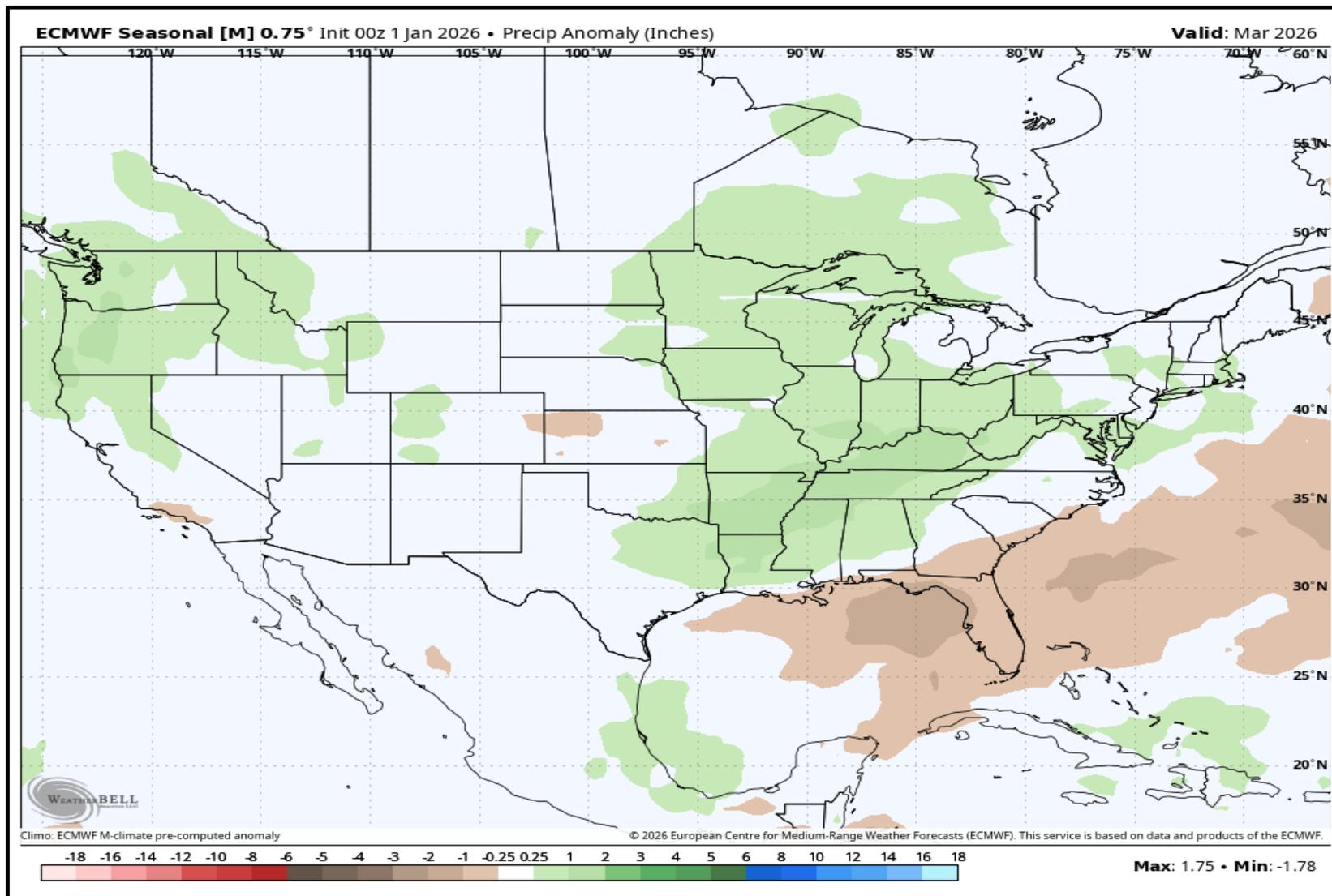
Long Range Forecast

Euro Model Precipitation Forecast – February 2026 as of 1/5/2026



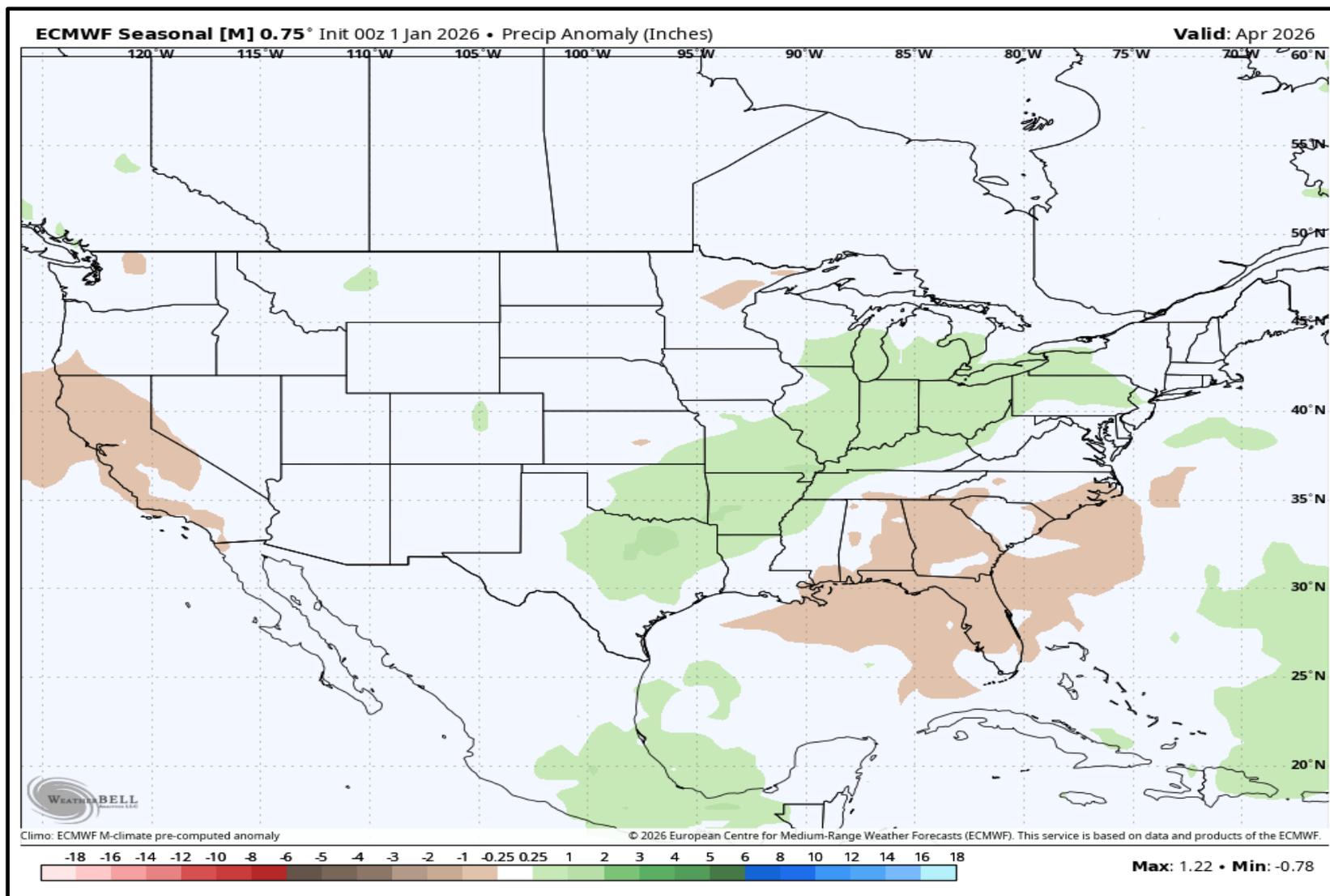
Long Range Forecast

Euro Model Precipitation Forecast – March 2026 as of 1/5/2026



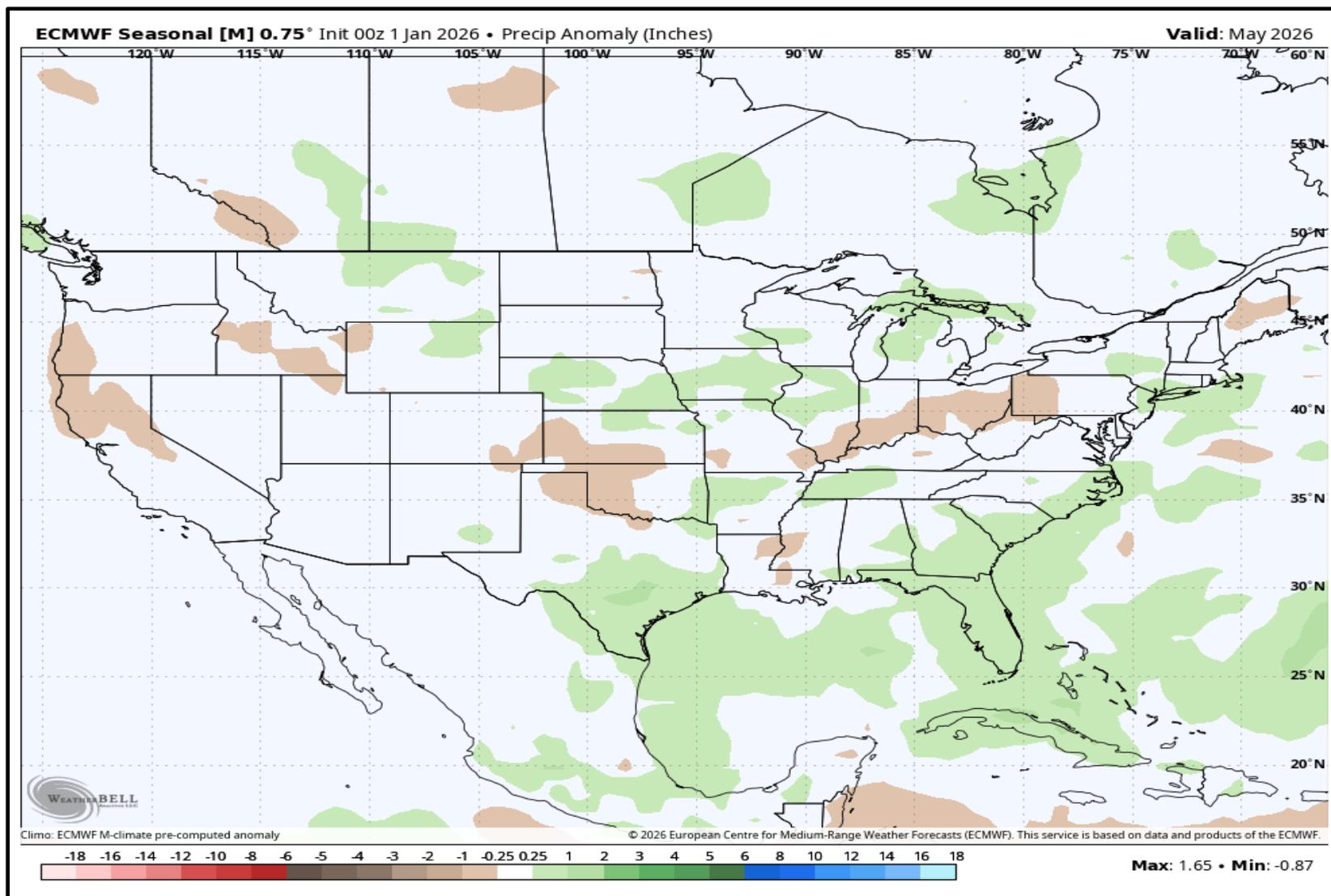
Long Range Forecast

Euro Model Precipitation Forecast – April 2026 as of 1/5/2026



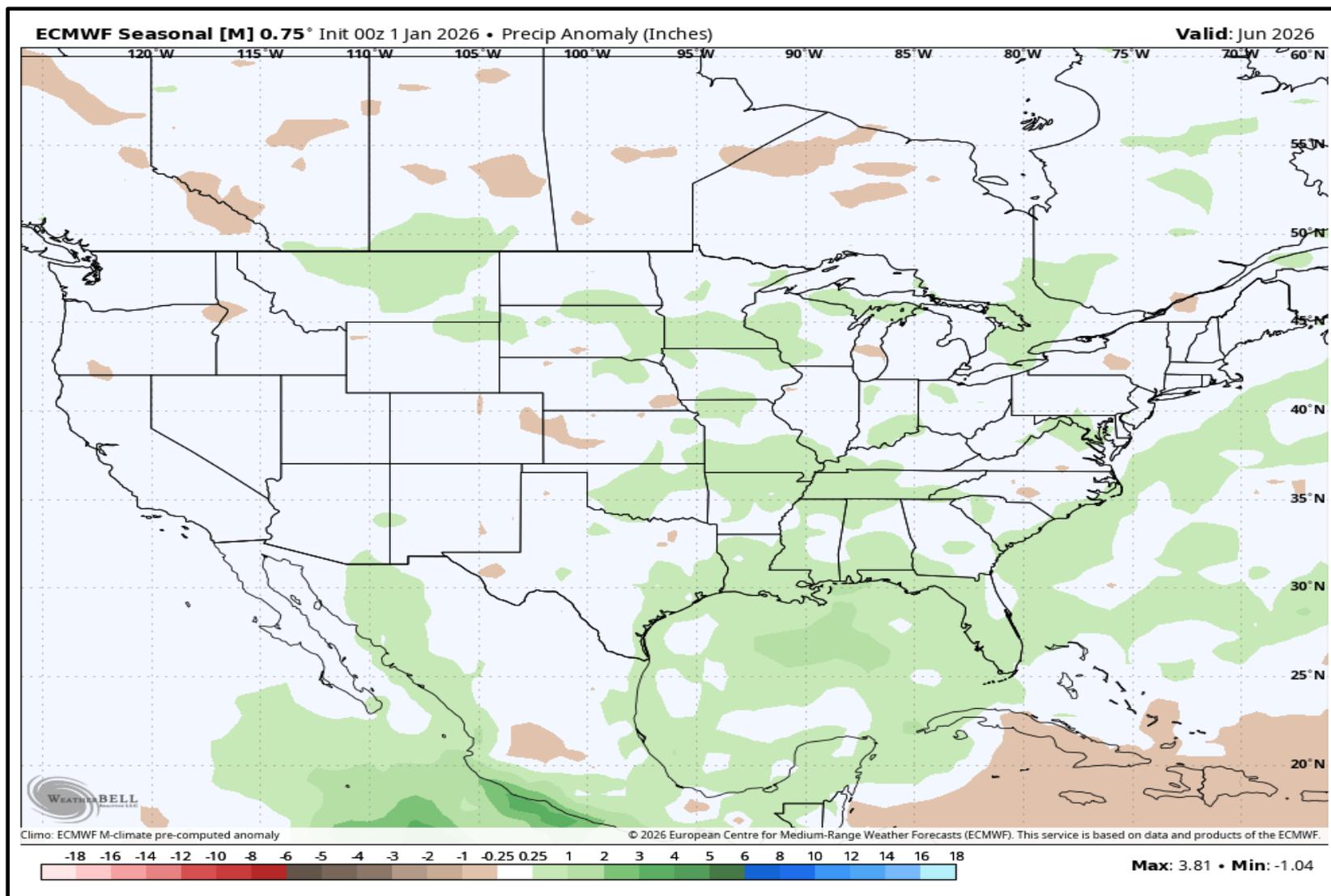
Long Range Forecast

Euro Model Precipitation Forecast – May 2026 as of 1/5/2026



Long Range Forecast

Euro Model Precipitation Forecast – June 2026 as of 1/5/2026



Long Range Forecast

Euro Model Precipitation Forecast – July 2026 as of 1/5/2026

