



Drought Task Force Briefing

March 5, 2025
4:11 PM

For Massachusetts

Decision Support Briefing

→ As of March 6, 2025



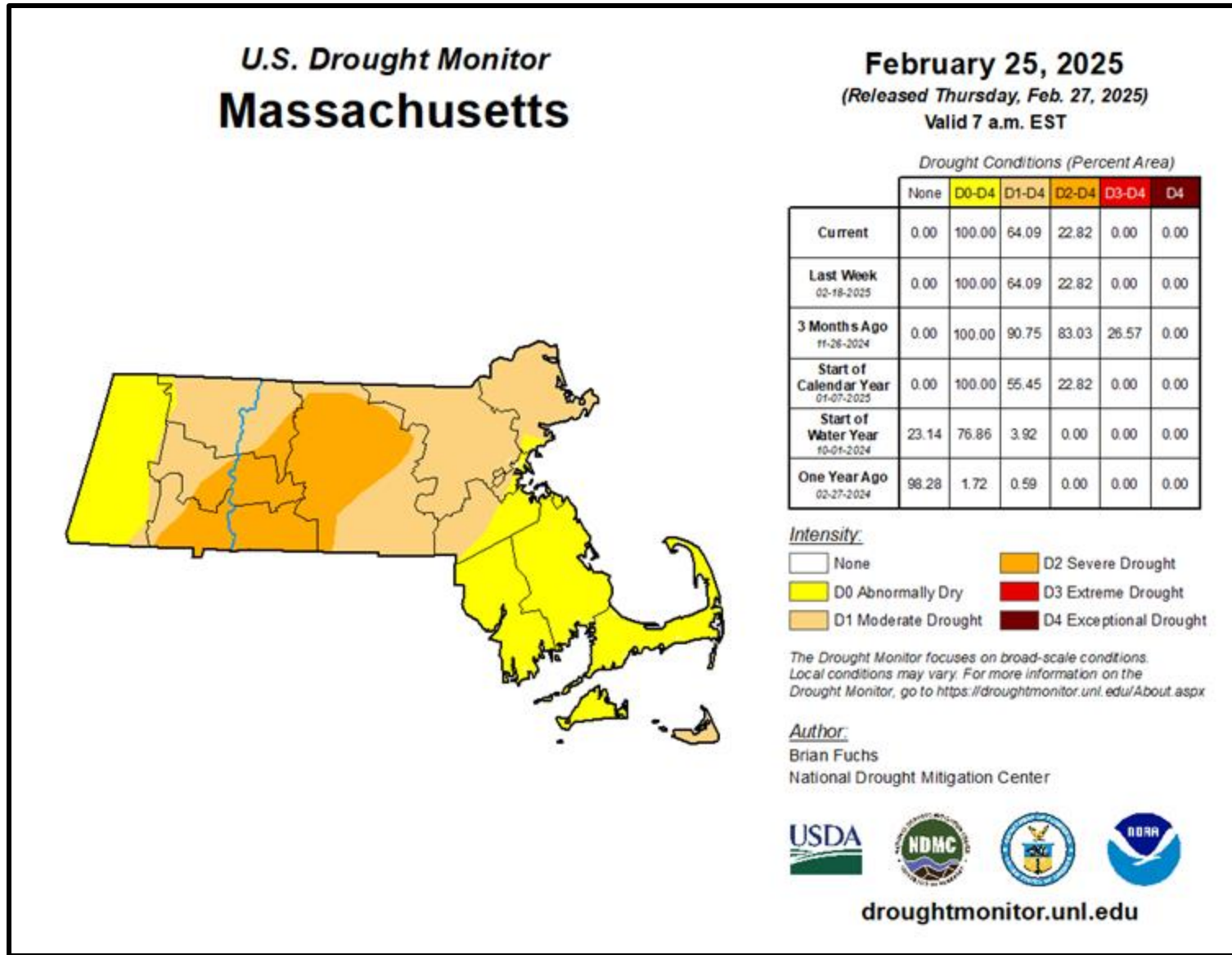
Important Updates

An increase in streamflows in February across most of the state.

→ Below to near normal snow water equivalents (SWE) observed.

→ Little change in drought conditions since last weekly update.

→ Active weather pattern continues.



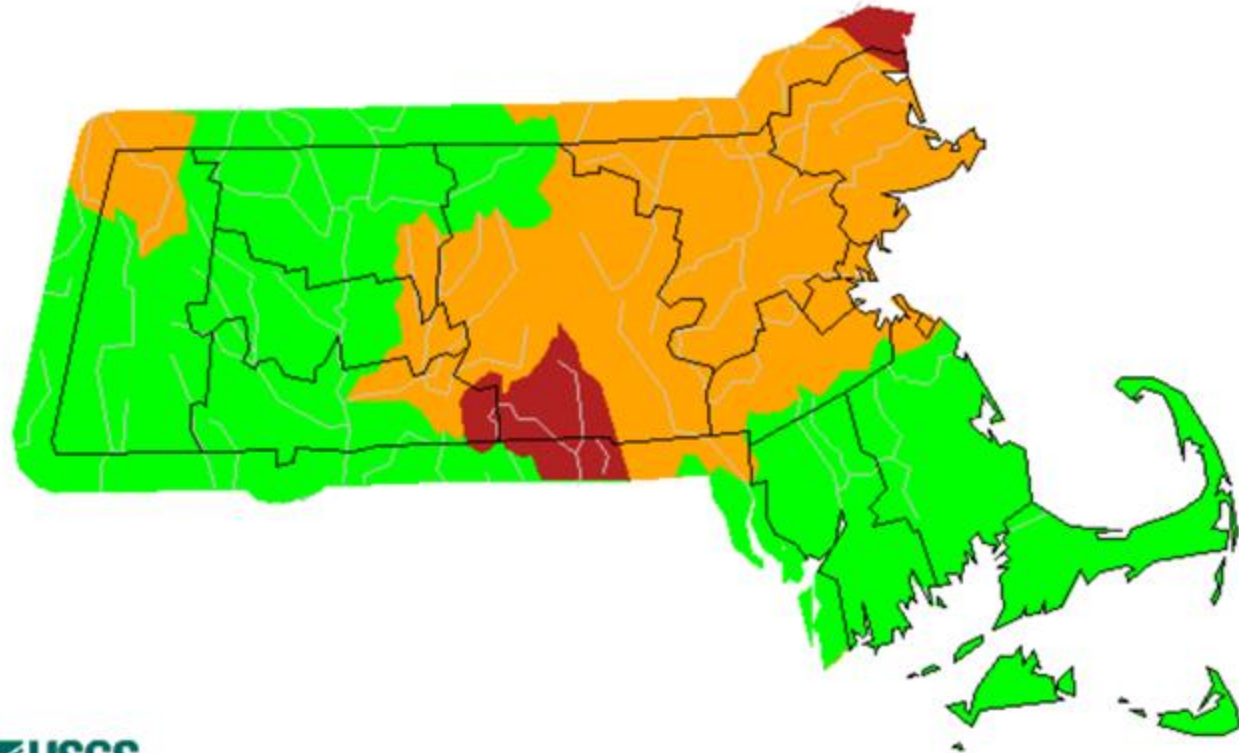


Since Our Last Briefing

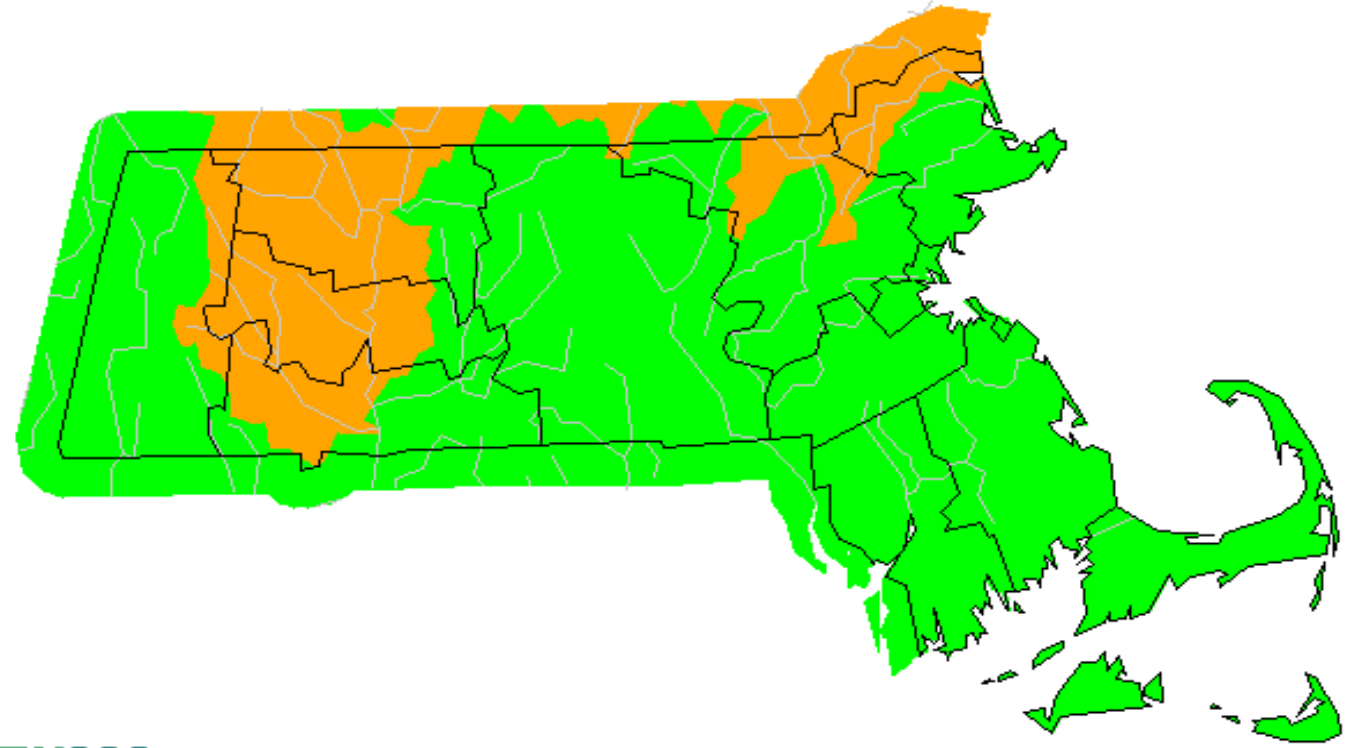
March 5, 2025
4:11 PM

- Feb 1st to 28th: Streamflows increased across central and northeastern portions of the state, and decreased some along the Connecticut River Valley.

Saturday, February 01, 2025



Friday, February 28, 2025



Explanation - Percentile classes

Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Explanation - Percentile classes

Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

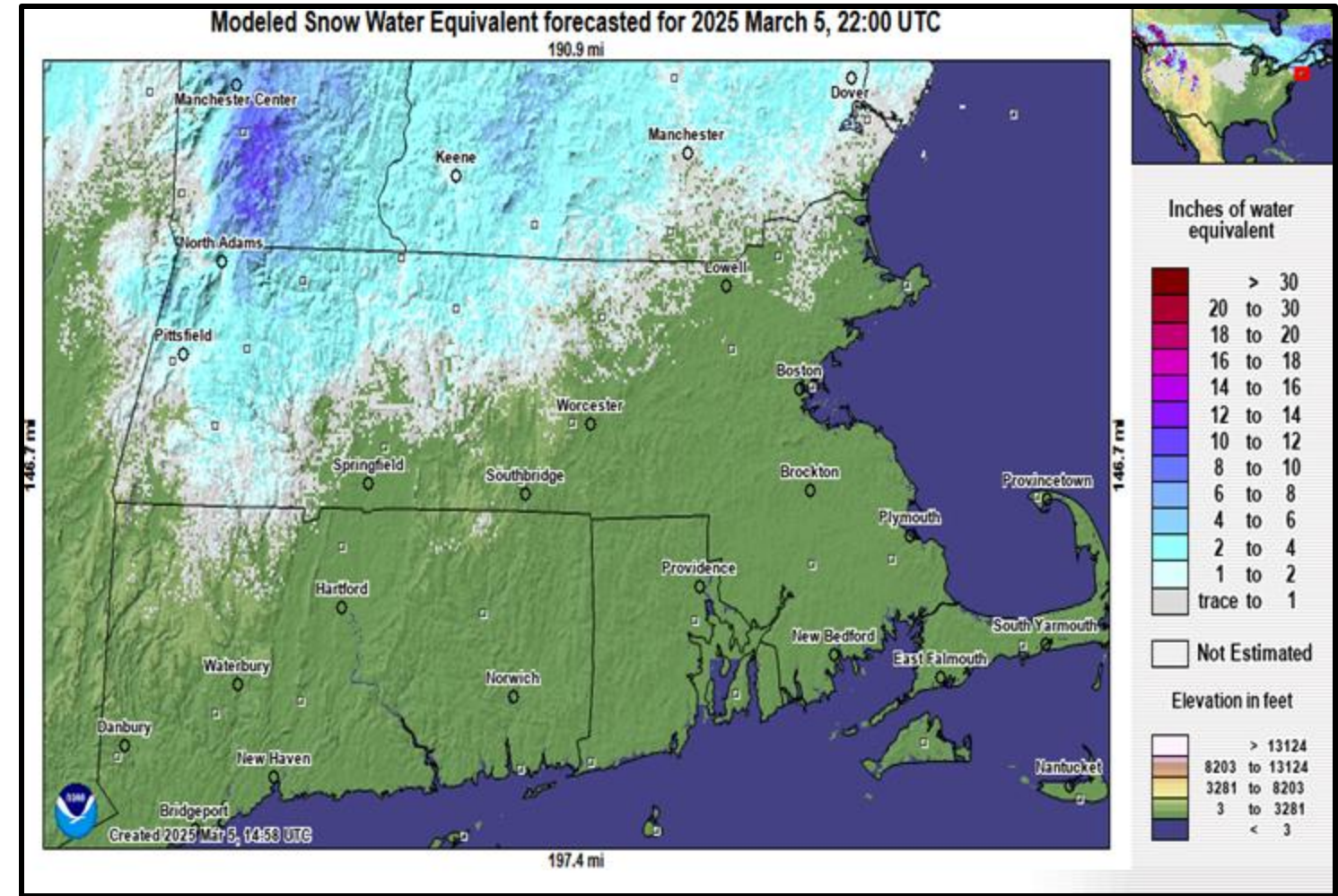
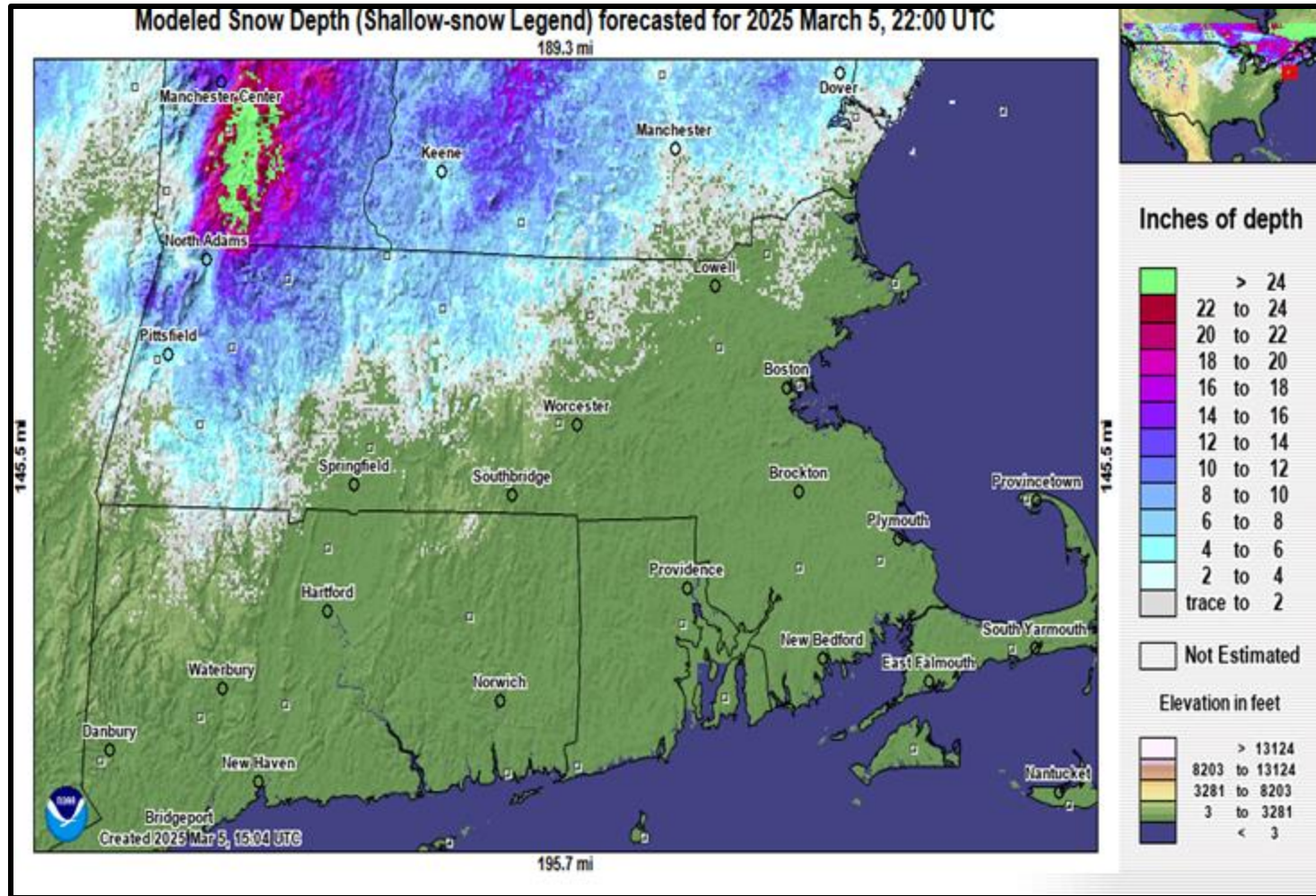




Current Snow Status

March 5, 2025
4:11 PM

- Snow cover was most prevalent March 5th across central and western portions of the state for groundwater recharge.
- Snow depths varied from 6 to 10+ inches over the high terrain of western Massachusetts and northern Worcester County and NIL to 5 inches across lower terrain areas. Greatest snow depth and snow water values: northern Berkshire and western Franklin counties.
- Snow water values were below normal to near normal, under 1.00"-2.50" lower terrain, 3.00"-5.50" high terrain.



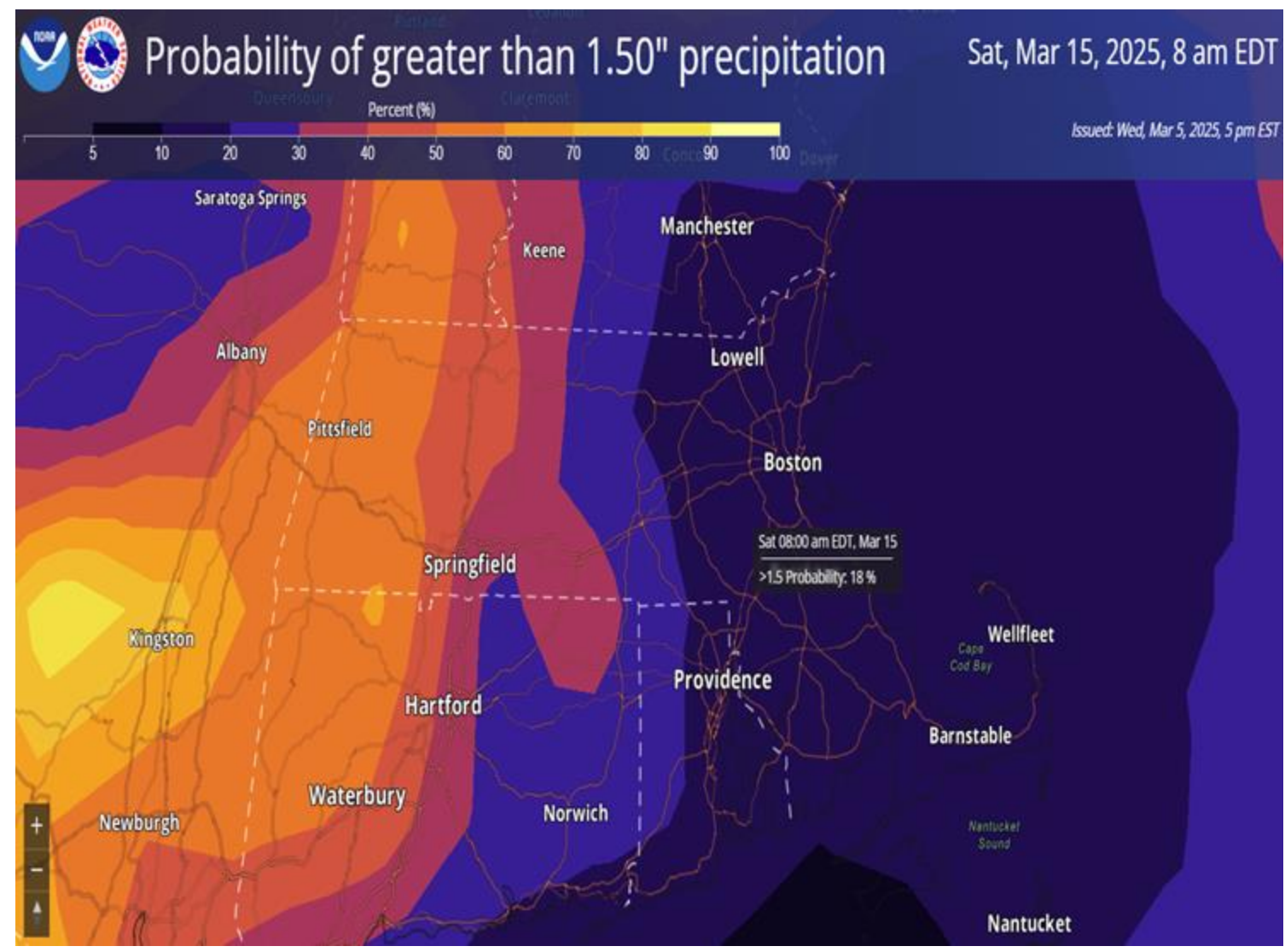
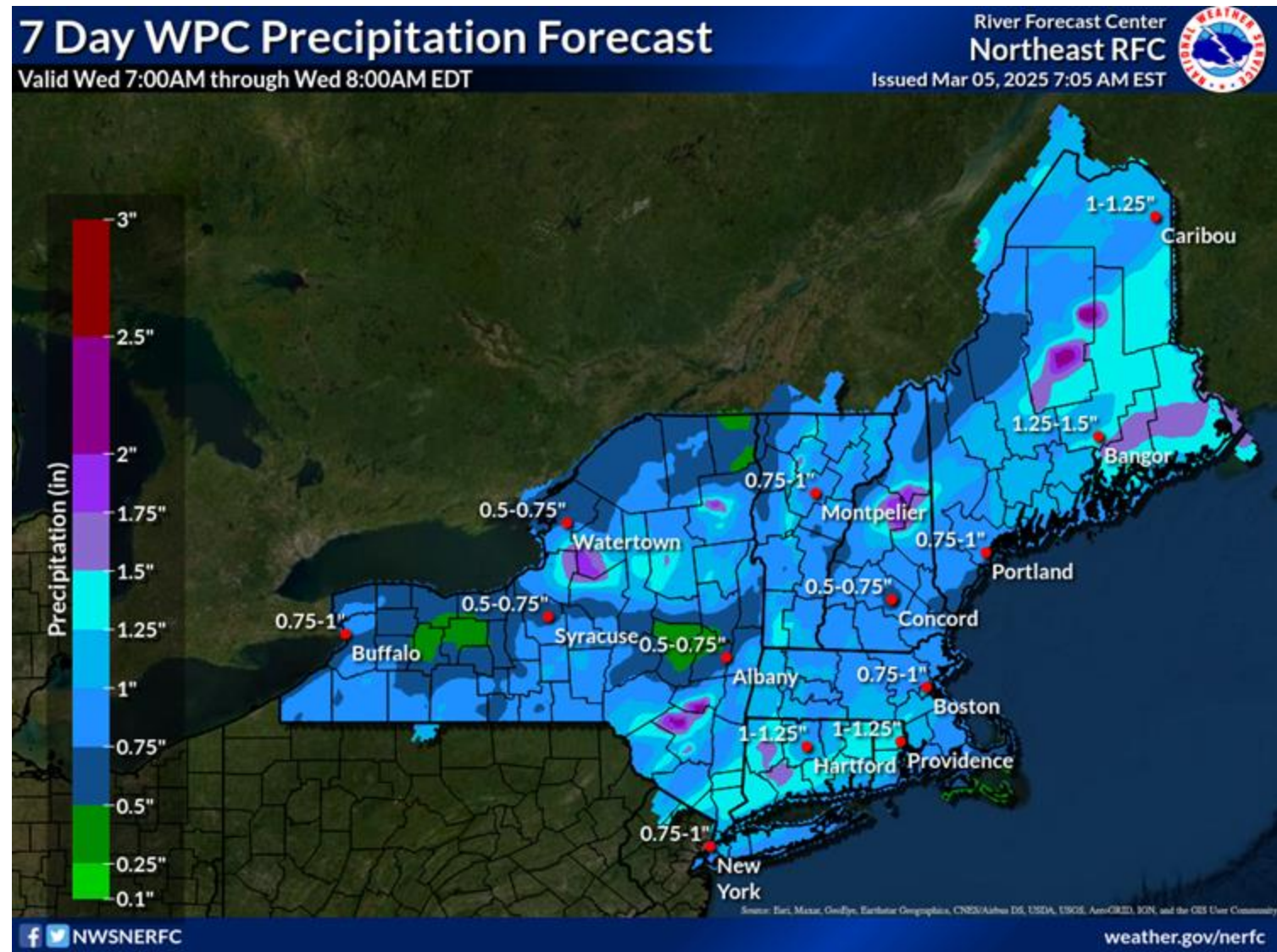


Future Precipitation Forecast & Probabilities

March 5, 2025
4:11 PM

7 Day QPF Forecast

Probability of greater than 1.50" next 10 days



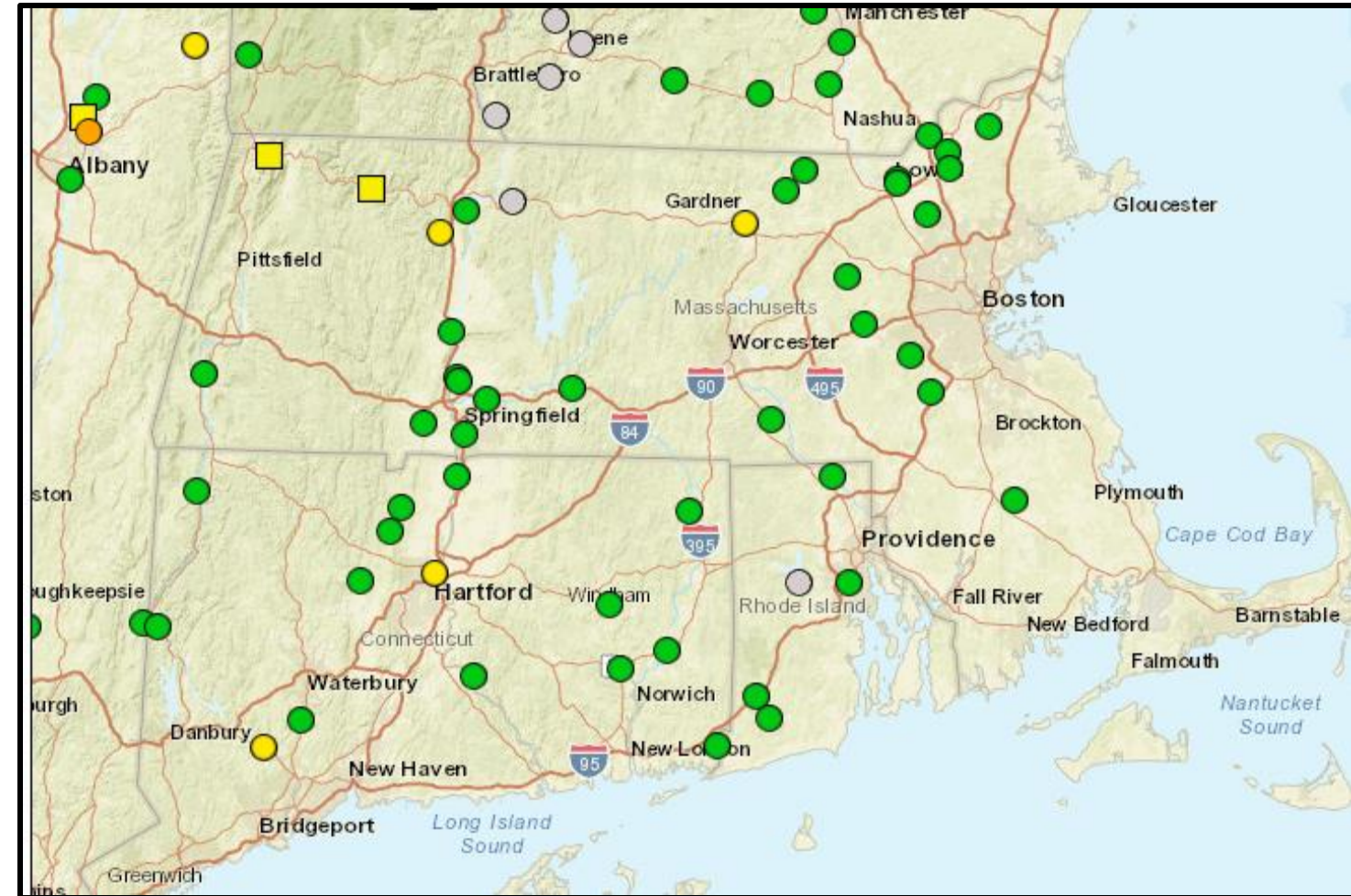


Latest River Forecasts

March 5, 2025
4:11 PM

Action level river rises forecast across northern portions of the Commonwealth.

- A 52 member ensemble run of the NAEFS for all NERFC forecast points to give us an idea of the possible range of river flows out 10 days.
- Will show results for...
 - North Nashua River at Fitchburg (FBGM3)
 - Westfield River at Westfield (WSFM3)



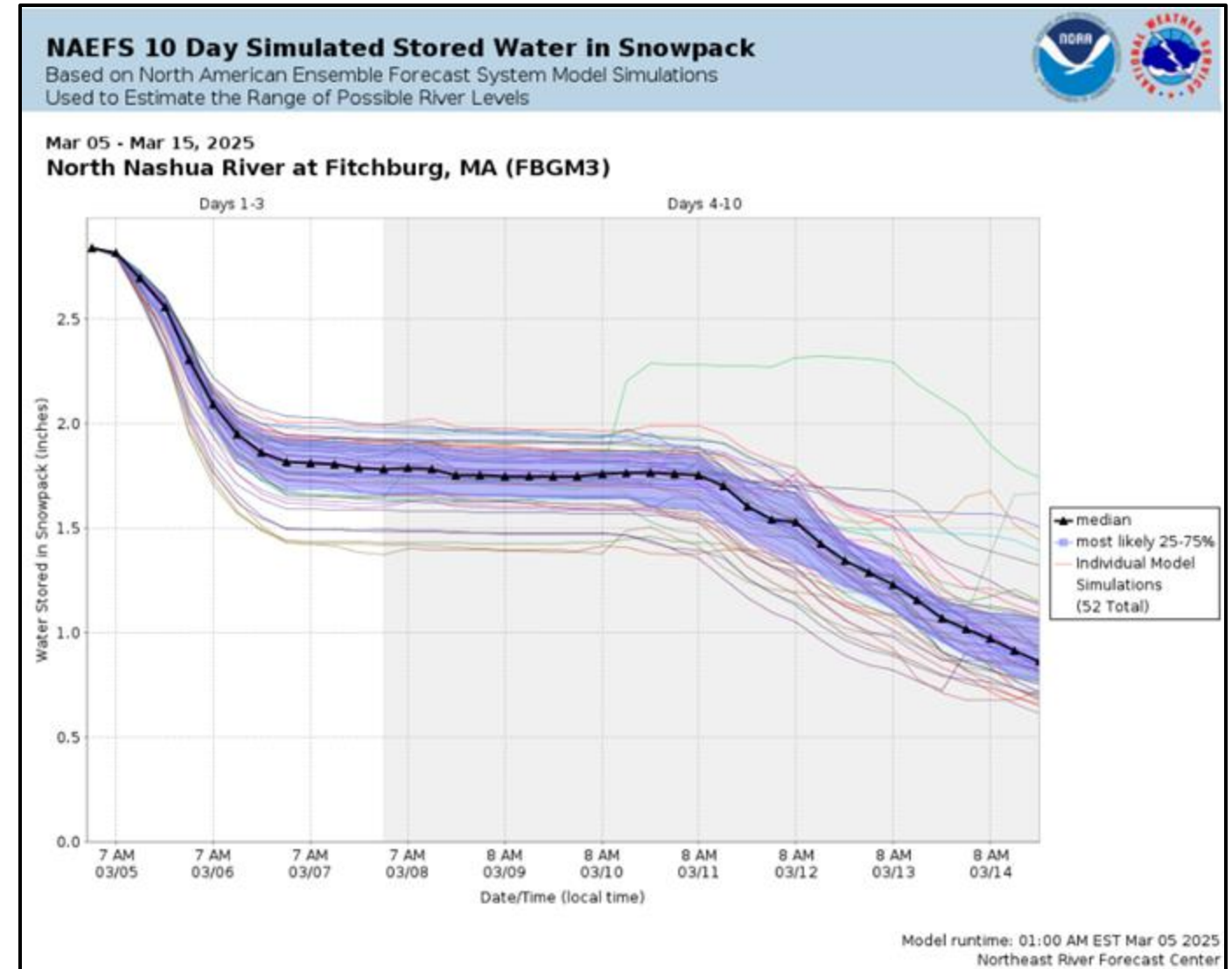
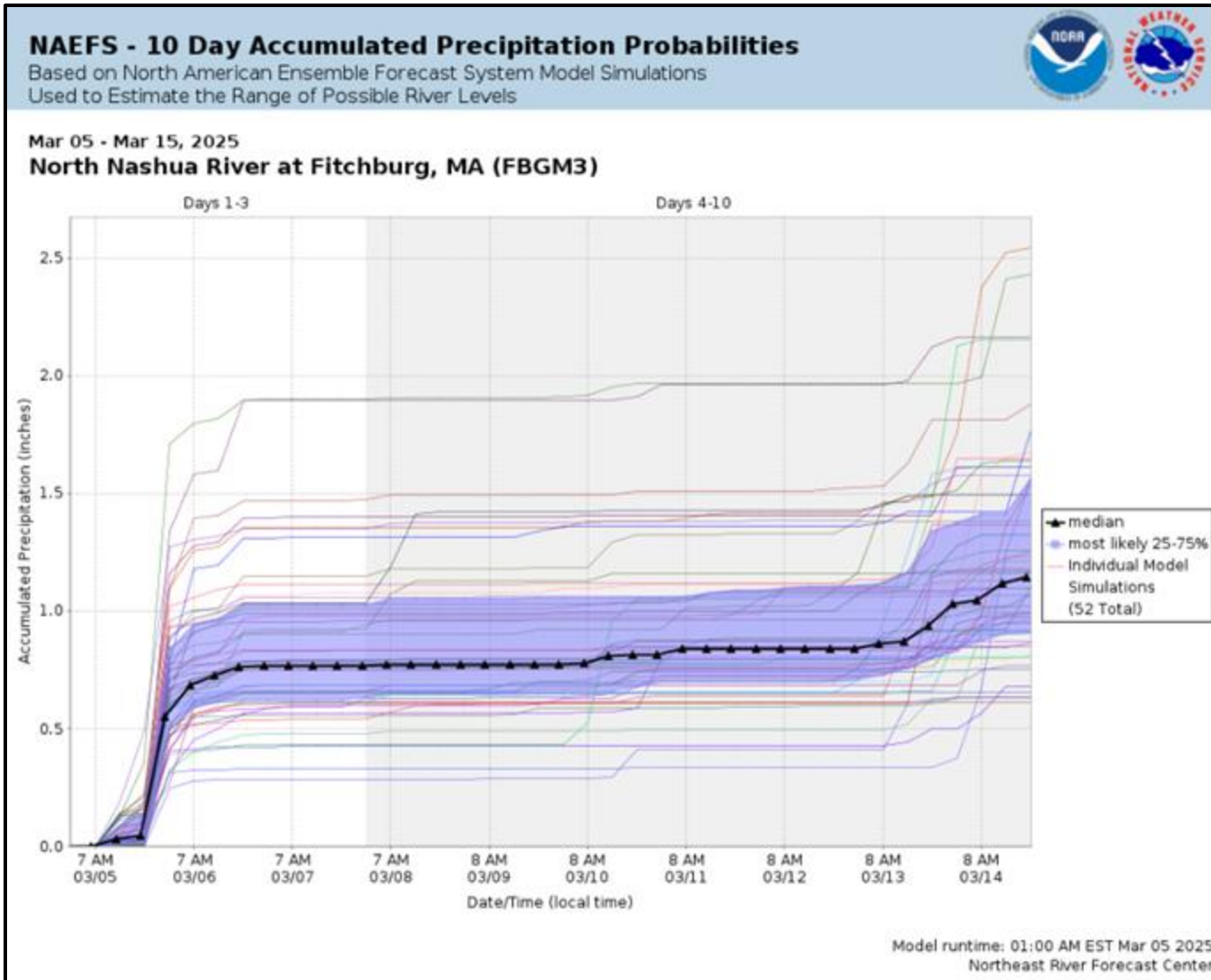
Chance of Exceedance			River Forecast Centers	
30%	Level	70%		
Yellow circle	Action	Yellow square	Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center	
Orange circle	Minor Flood	Orange square	Northeast River Forecast Center	
Red circle	Moderate Flood	Red square	Ohio River Forecast Center	
Purple circle	Major Flood	Purple square	Southeast River Forecast Center	
Green circle	= less than 30% chance of reaching Action level			
Grey circle	= no critical levels defined for this point			



NAEFS Precipitation & Simulated Snow Water

March 5, 2025
4:11 PM

North Nashua River at Fitchburg (FBGM3)



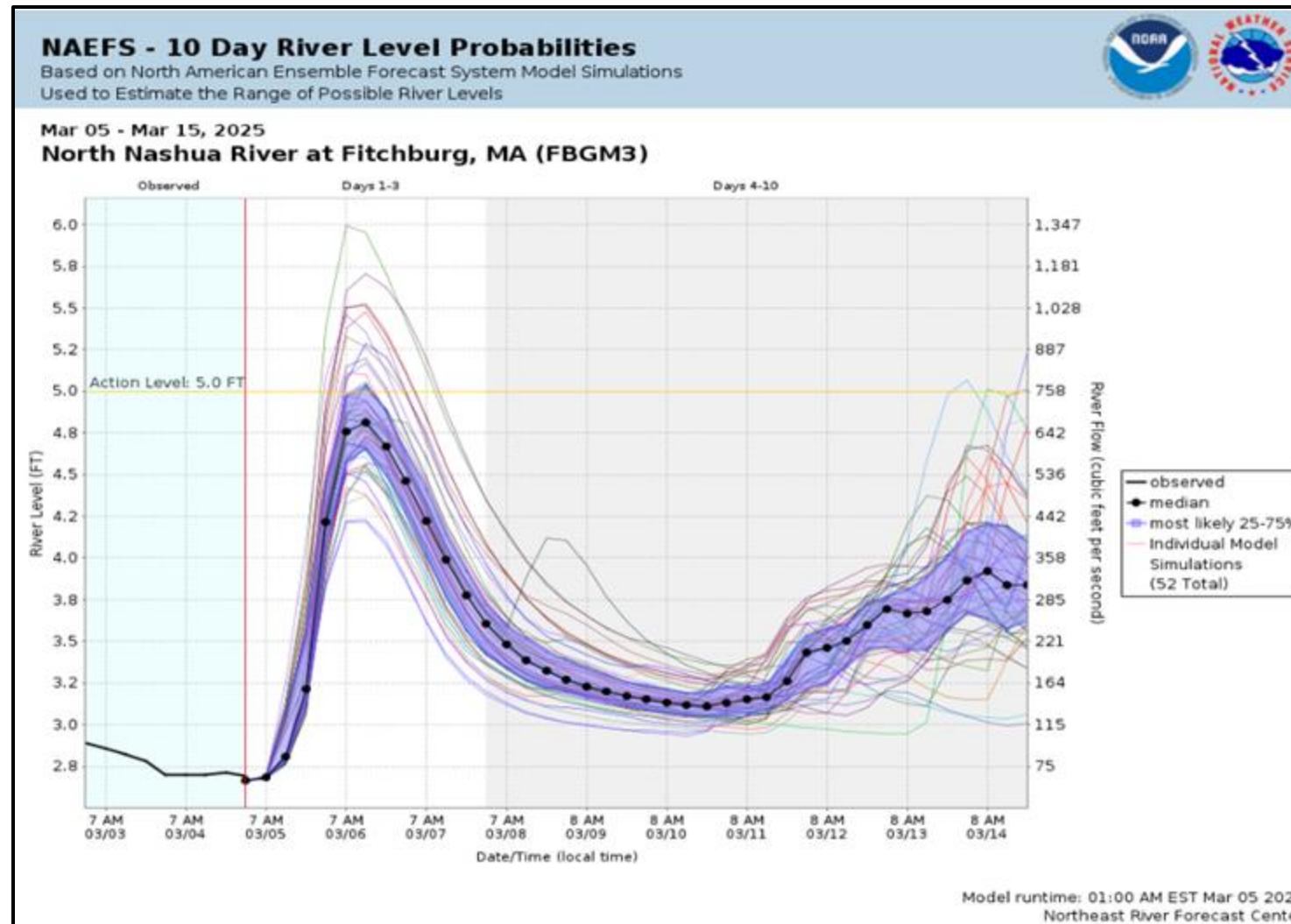
- Forecast precipitation totals including the most recent event most likely 0.50" to 1.00" near term, 0.25" to 0.50" longer term through March 14th.
- Snowmelt contribution most likely forecast values around 1.00" near term and another 1.00" longer term through March 14th.



NAEFS Simulated River Flows

March 5, 2025
4:11 PM

North Nashua River at Fitchburg (FBGM3)



- Streamflows were below the 25th percentile range on March 5th.
- Streamflows increase above the median values near term, benefiting from snowmelt and rainfall, receding, then possibly rising again near to above median values around March 13-14th.

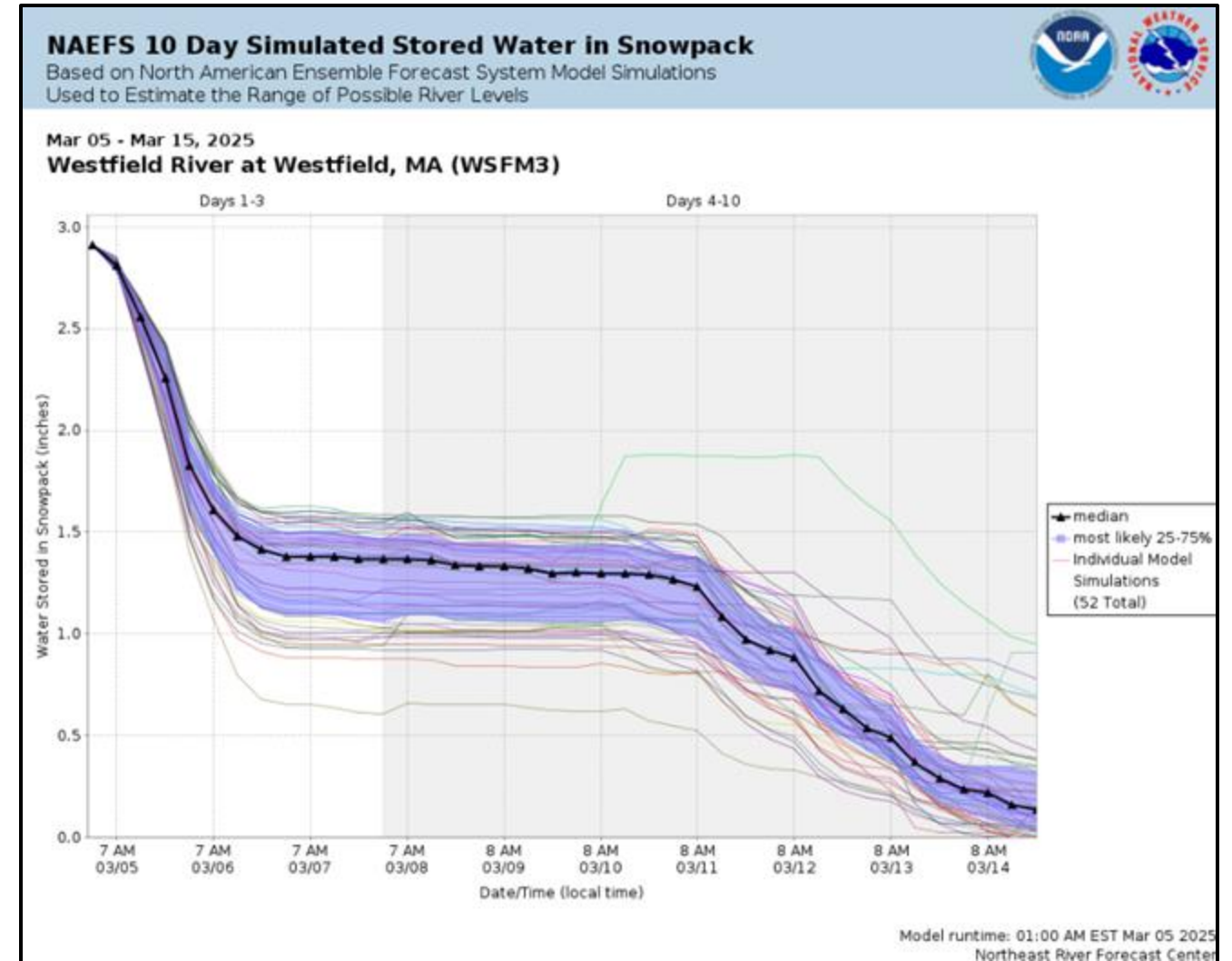
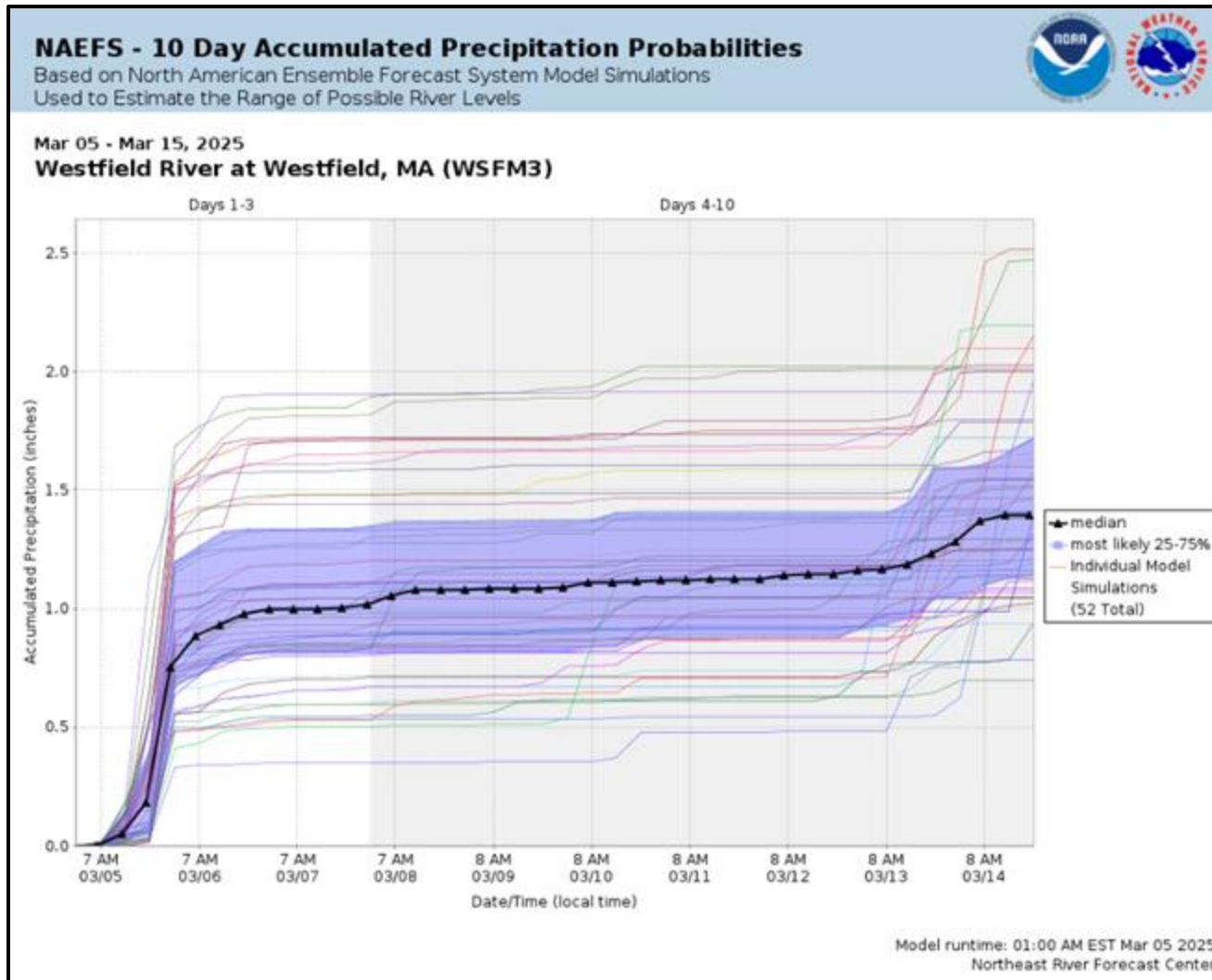




NAEFS Precipitation & Simulated Snow Water

March 5, 2025
4:11 PM

Westfield River near Westfield, Ma (WSFM3)



- Forecast precipitation totals including the most recent event most likely 0.75” to 1.25” near term, 0.25” to 0.50” longer term through March 14th.
- Snowmelt contribution most likely forecast values around 1.25-1.50” near term and another 1.00-1.25” longer term through March 14th.

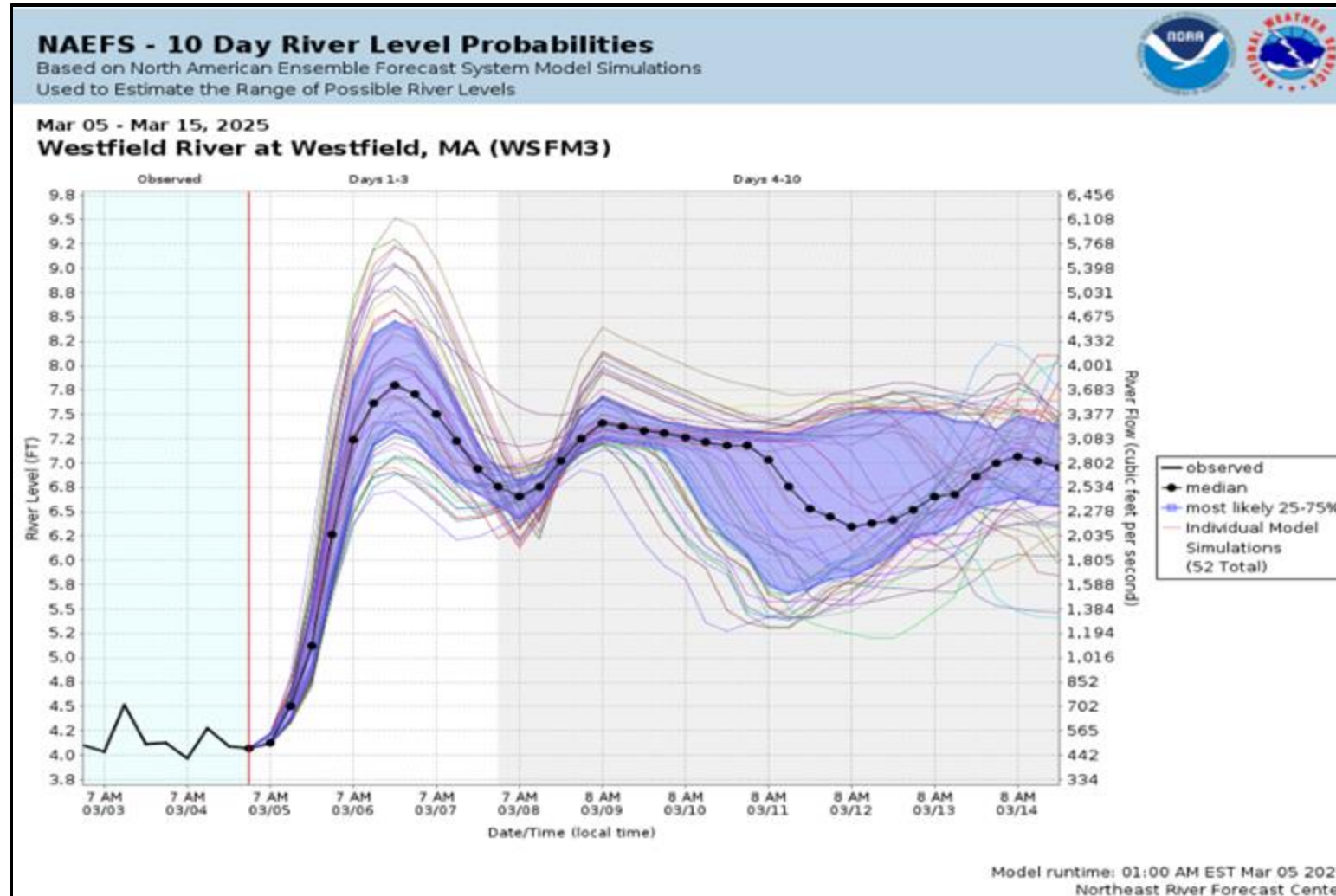




NAEFS Simulated River Flows

March 5, 2025
4:11 PM

Westfield River at Westfield Ma (WSFM3)



- Streamflows were below the 25th percentile range on March 5th.
- Streamflows increase above the median values near term, benefiting from snowmelt and rainfall, receding some then possibly rising again near to above median values around March 13-14th.



Key Messages

- **During February...observed river flows have increased across most of the Commonwealth with the exception of decreasing flows noted in the Connecticut River Valley region. Streamflows were ranging from below normal to near normal.**
- **Snow water and snow depth values were below normal across most of the state at the end of February except closer to normal across far northwestern Massachusetts.**
- **The weather pattern remains active but progressive over the next 10 days. Increasing streamflows due to combined snowmelt and precipitation runoff near term with the most notable rises across northwestern portions of the state. More gradual melt runoff is forecast longer term.**
- **No additional significant precipitation is currently forecast until perhaps March 13-14th. Thus after a brief increase in streamflows, nearly steady or decreasing streamflows are forecast to prevail approaching mid March.**