

Melting snow threatens spring flooding in north

March 19 2009, By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID , AP Science Writer

(AP) -- The Red River of the North along the Minnesota-North Dakota border faces the nation's greatest threat of spring flooding, the government said in its weather outlook Thursday.

Warnings have already been posted in the region, the only area in the 48 contiguous states listed as a high flood threat in the new national [spring](#) outlook.

Facing above average flood threats are:

- Much of northern Minnesota, central North Dakota and northern South Dakota.
- A region extending across northern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio and the southern two-thirds of Michigan.
- New York's Mohawk River Valley and along the northern border of Massachusetts.

The melt from heavy winter snowfalls is expected to provide the [excess moisture](#) in the flood areas.

The [flood risk](#) is reported to be below average in central Wisconsin, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the Mid-Atlantic states, Florida, Louisiana, Texas and along the Mexican border and West Coast.

The only parts of the country expected to receive unusually heavy rainfall or snow this spring are Hawaii and Alaska, the [National Weather Service](#) reported.

Below normal rainfall is likely in southern Florida and a region of the West including Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, Utah, most of Washington, Montana and Colorado as well as northern California and Nevada.

The rest of the country has about even chances of wet, dry or normal [weather](#).

The [temperature outlook](#) is for cooler than normal in Hawaii, the southern two-thirds of Alaska, Washington, Montana and the northern parts of Oregon and Idaho.

The outlook is for warmer than normal spring temperatures in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and southern Utah and Colorado.

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