

Climate Review for the month of January 2012

Presented by:
BelMel Publishing

Summary

Mild and dry conditions continued into the month of January. Even with a positive PNA for most of the month, and then the AO went negative by the end of the month, our CWA was still 3 to 5 degrees above normal for temperatures. The average maximum temperature ranged between 56-61 degrees and min temperature ranged 39-43 degrees. The MHX CWA continued to be below normal, with most of the CWA averaging about 2 inches. There were a few locations around the Outer Banks area, especially Cape Hatteras, that averaged between 3 to 5 inches of rain. Cape Hatteras broke a 24-hr precipitation total record of 3.08 inches on January 12 (previous record of 1.62 inches back in 1980).

La Niña conditions continued to dominate across the United States. The Niño index in January was -1.1°C for the Niño 3.4 region which this is considered to be a moderate La Niña. It appears that La Niña has peaked, but can not confirm until February. Both the Northerly and Southerly Jets (200mb) continued to have a typical La Niña pattern. The U.S. Drought conditions across our CWA continued to be D1 (Abnormally Dry) and dry conditions are expected to persist.

DISCLAIMER from Bel: The climate data provided are preliminary and have not undergone final quality control by NCDC. Therefore...this data is subject to revision.

Average Temperatures within our CWA

	Avg_Max	Avg_Max Normal	Avg_Min	Avg_Min Normal
Beaufort	58.8	na	39.4	na
Cape Hatteras	58.8	53.6	42.9	38.6
New Bern	60.3	54.4	36.8	33.9
Greenville	58.1	51.6	35.8	31.3
Kinston AG	60.6	55.9	39.1	33.2
Williamston	56.0	52.0	34.5	31.9
Plymouth	58.0	54.0	36.3	33.1
Aurora	57.4	53.2	38.5	31.4
Bayboro	59.2	55.6	36.9	33.8

The CWA was 3 to 5 degrees above normal temperature (average) for the month.

Max and Min Temperature within our CWA

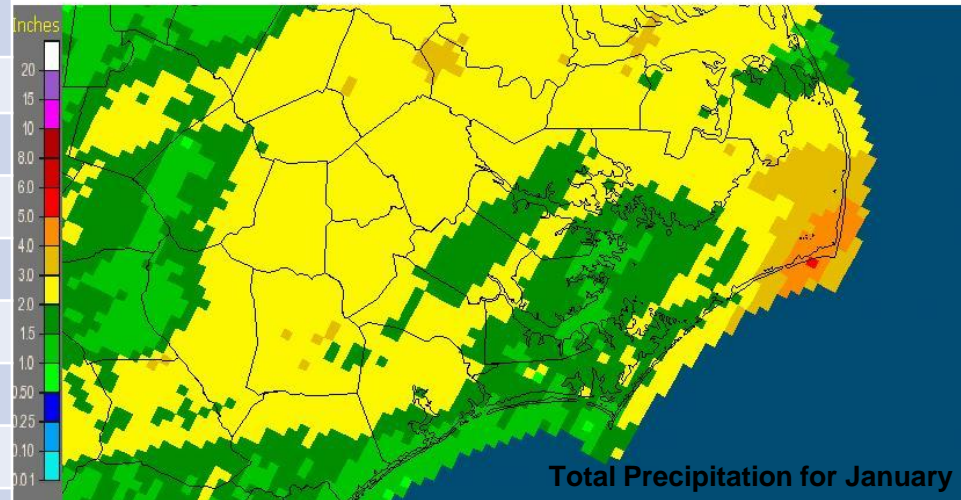
	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	69	23
Cape Hatteras	71	28
New Bern	74	19
Greenville	71	16
Kinston AG	71	18
Williamston	68	20
Plymouth	68	17
Aurora	69	22
Bayboro	71	24

Mild max temperatures throughout the month, but the coldest temperatures occurred on the 4th.

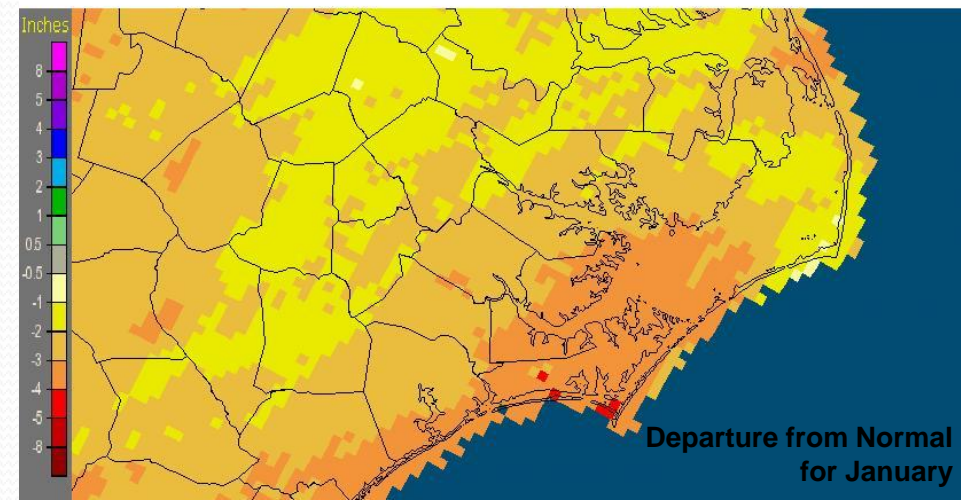
January's Rain versus Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Differences
Beaufort	2.41	na	na
Cape Hatteras	5.03	5.84	-0.81
New Bern	2.43	4.77	-2.34
Greenville	3.03	4.43	-1.4
Kinston AG	2.77	4.3	-1.53
Williamston	2.17	4.36	-2.19
Plymouth	2.65	4.54	-1.89
Aurora*	1.59	4.26	-2.67
Bayboro	2.24	4.52	-2.28

Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): January, 2012 Monthly Observed Precipitation
Valid at 2/1/2012 1200 UTC- Created 2/3/12 21:38 UTC



Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): January, 2012 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 2/1/2012 1200 UTC- Created 2/3/12 21:40 UTC

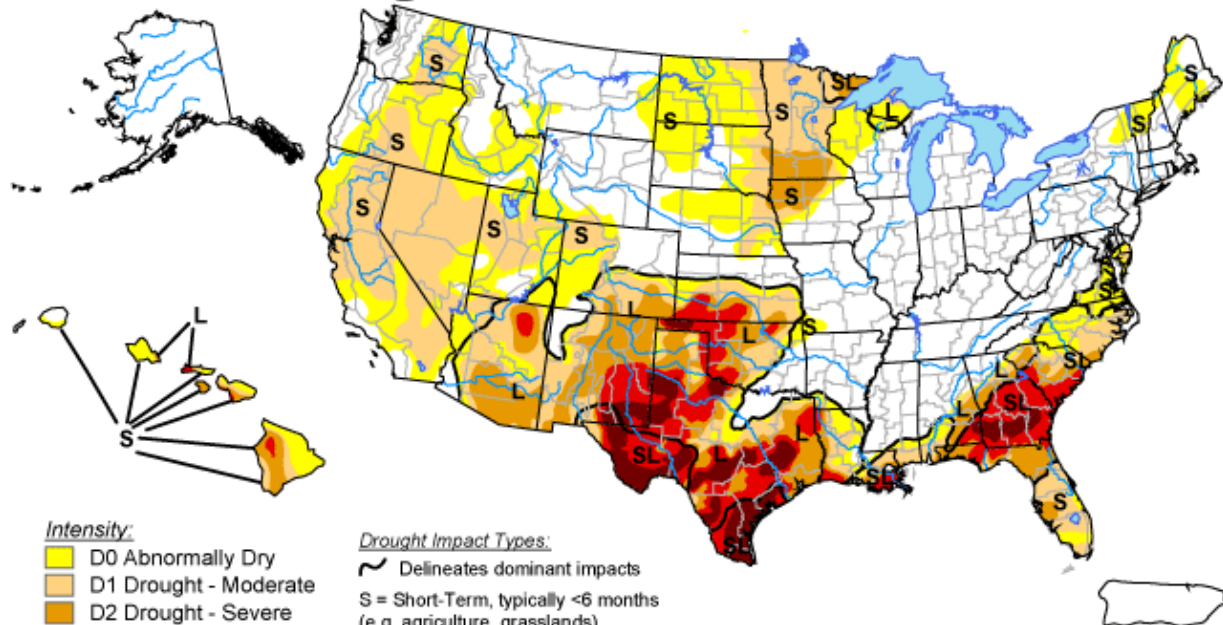


Below normal precipitation continued into January. Most of the CWA, averaged about 2 inches while the Cape Hatteras area averaged 3 to 5 inches of rain.

U.S. Drought Monitor

January 31, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



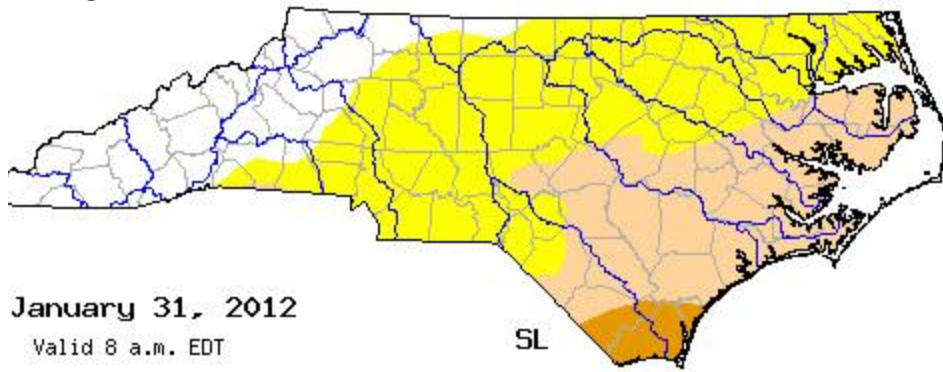
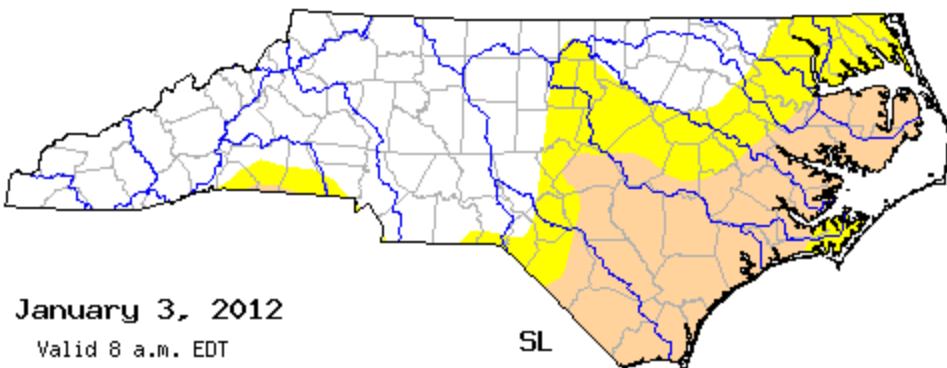
Released Thursday, February 2, 2012

Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Before

Now



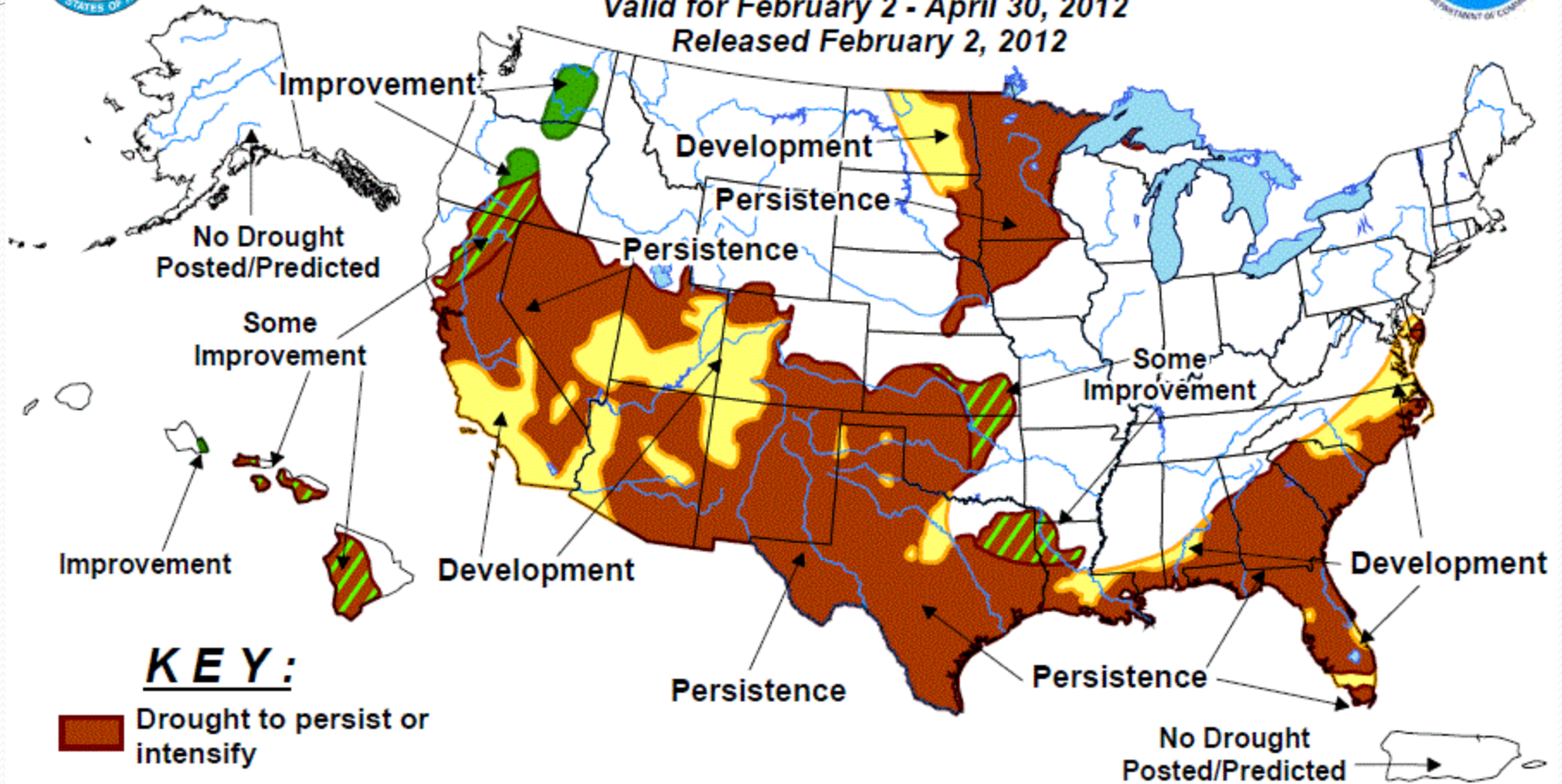


U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook





Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 2 - April 30, 2012

Released February 2, 2012



KEY:

-  Drought to persist or intensify
-  Drought ongoing, some improvement
-  Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
-  Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.