

Climate Review for the month of March 2012

Presented by:
BelMel Publishing

Summary

March was an extremely warm month as above normal ridging dominated across the eastern half of the country, with maximum averaged temperatures in the upper 60s to lower 70s and average lows ranged in the upper 40s to lower 50s. March was 6 to 9 degrees above normal (average temperature). A great portion of our COOP and ASOS sites have broken several high temperature records during March. Unfortunately, I can not say the same for precipitation, as inland counties had above normal precipitation versus the coastal area, but overall precipitation continues to be below normal for the CWA for the year to date. Drought Conditions in the coastal plains area and along Highway 64 conditions have improved from D1 (Moderate Drought) to D0 (Abnormally Dry).

La Niña conditions continued to weaken during March as water temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific continued to increase. The Niño index in March was -0.6°C for the Niño 3.4 region which according to CPC this is considered to be a weak La Niña.

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	70.8	na	53.2	na
Cape Hatteras	68.2	60.2	53.5	44.5
New Bern	72.7	64.3	49.5	42.1
Greenville	72.4	63.3	49.1	40.3
Kinston AG	74.3	67.8	51.4	40.6
Williamston	71.1	63.0	48.6	41.0
Plymouth	72.4	65.4	48.9	40.6
Aurora	70.7	63.2	50.9	40.8
Bayboro	71.6	66.0	47.1	41.2

The CWA was 6 to 9 degrees above normal temperature (average) for the month of March.

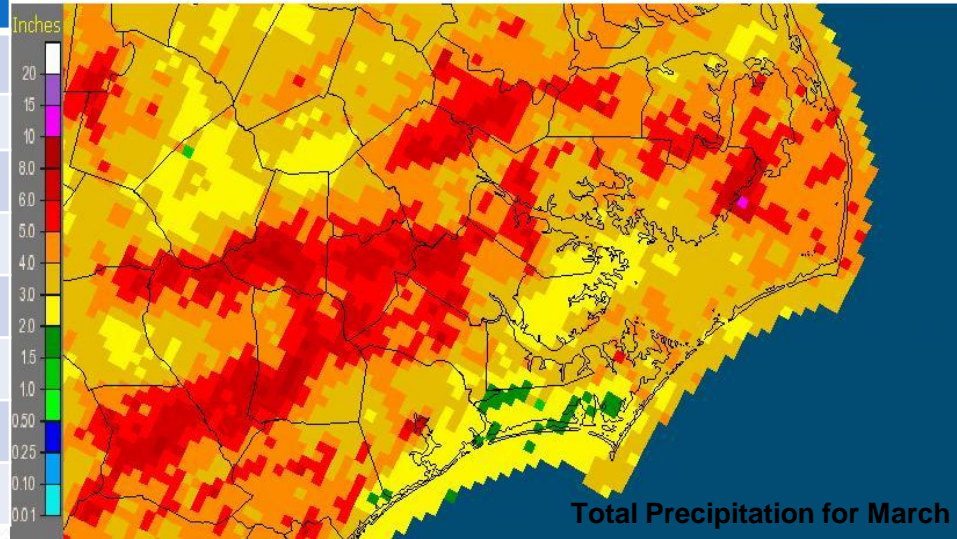
Max and Min Temperature within our CWA

	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	85	33
Cape Hatteras	79	38
New Bern	84	31
Greenville	84	27
Kinston AG	83	27
Williamston	84	29
Plymouth	83	27
Aurora	84	35
Bayboro	83	32

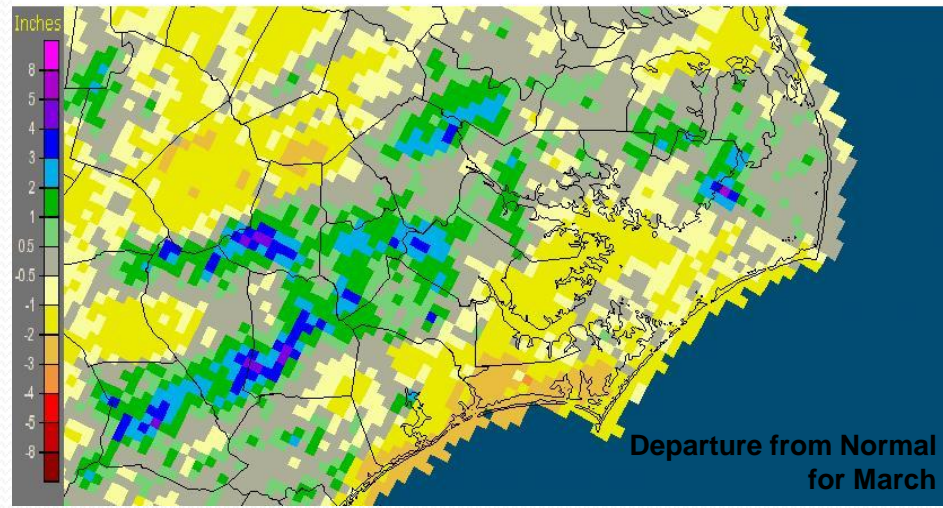
March's Rain versus Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Differences
Beaufort	2.57	na	na
Cape Hatteras	4.13	4.95	-0.82
New Bern	3.13	4.49	-1.36
Greenville	7.15	4.07	3.08
Kinston AG	4.34	4.4	-0.06
Williamston	4.06	4.33	-0.27
Plymouth	4.39	4.72	-0.33
Bayboro	2.94	4.08	-1.14

Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): March, 2012 Monthly Observed Precipitation
Valid at 4/1/2012 1200 UTC- Created 4/9/12 22:53 UTC



Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): March, 2012 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 4/1/2012 1200 UTC- Created 4/9/12 22:56 UTC

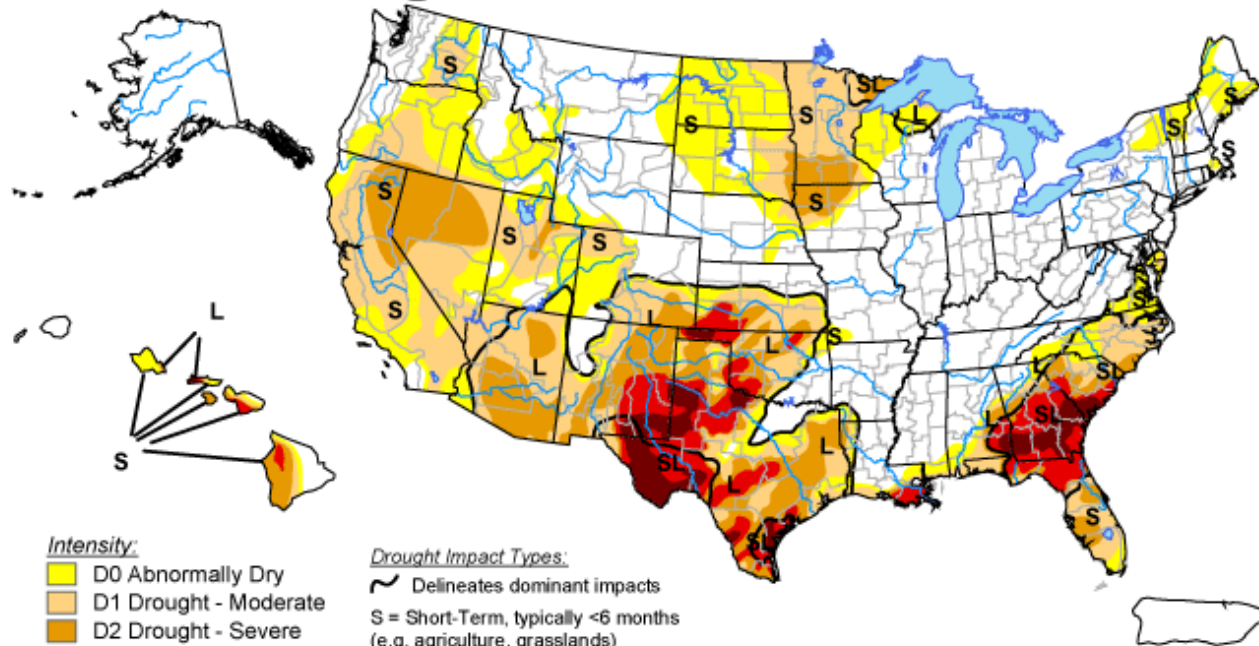


Precipitation throughout Eastern NC was not so even distributed during the month of March. Inland counties received above normal precipitation, while the coastal area was below normal.

U.S. Drought Monitor

February 28, 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.

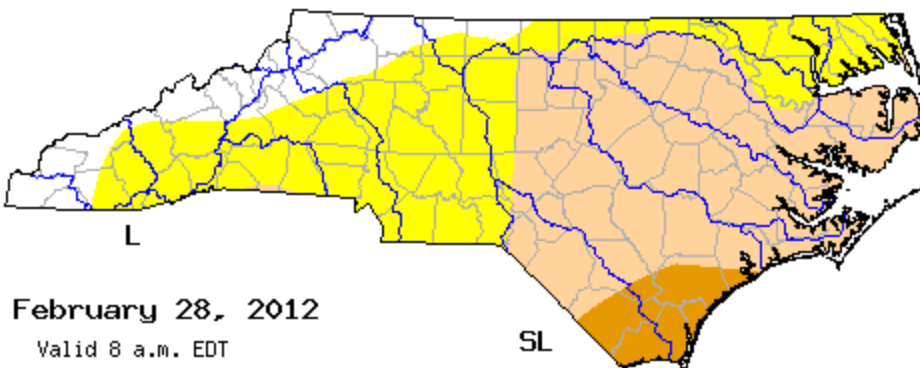


Released Thursday, March 1, 2012

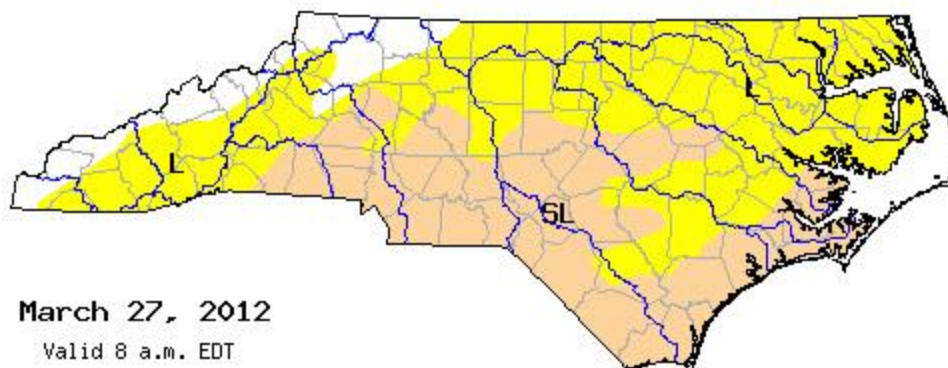
Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

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

Before



Now



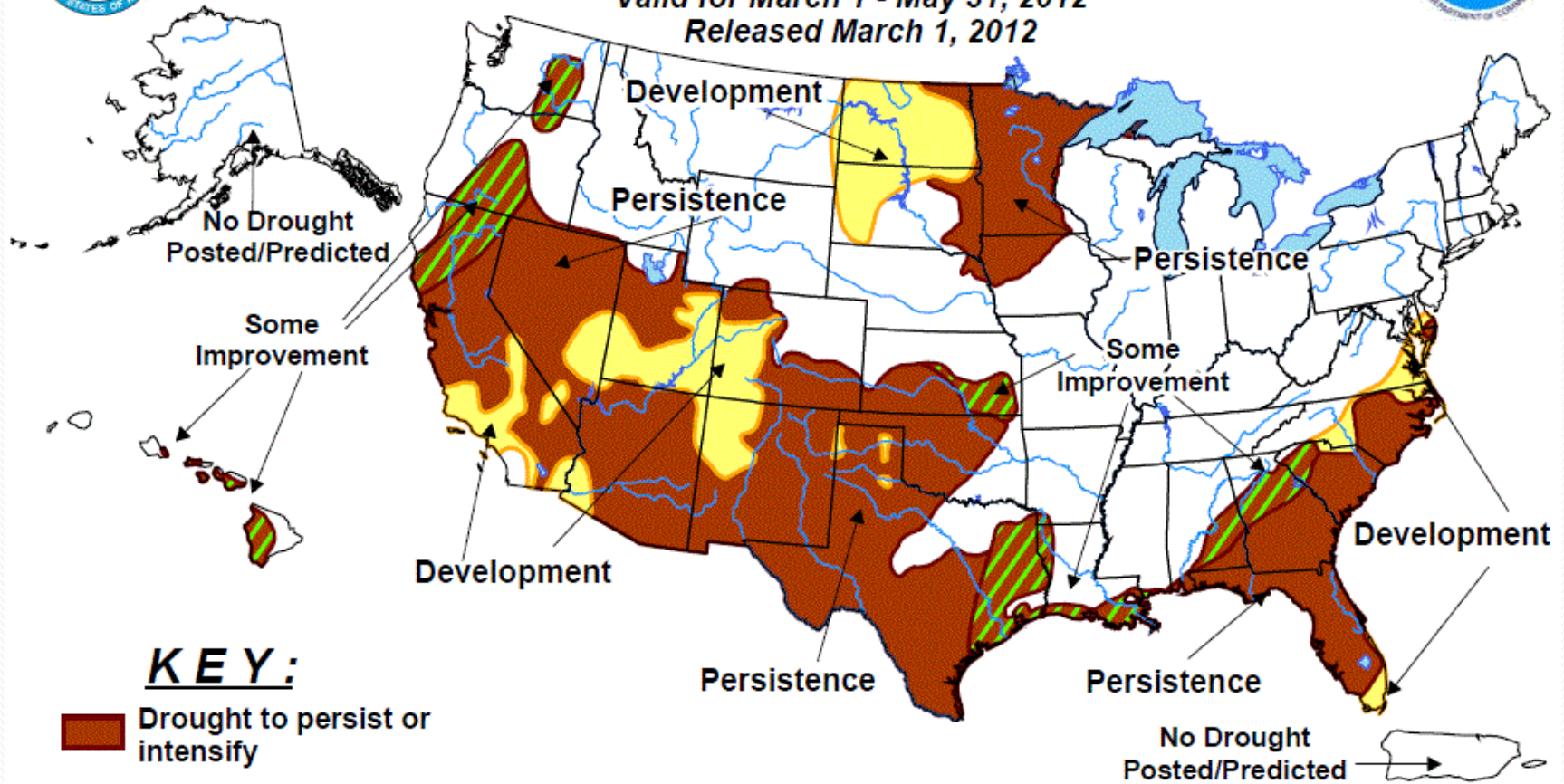
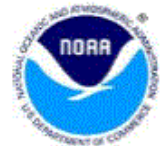


U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook





Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 1 - May 31, 2012

Released March 1, 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.