Oklahoma Water Resources Bulletin & Summary of Current Conditions



April 22, 2010

PRECIPITATION

Statewide Precipitation										
	Warm Growing Season March 1 – April 19, 2010					Last 365 Days April 20, 2009 – April 19, 2010				
CLIMATE DIVISION	Total Rainfall (inches)	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL (INCHES)	Percent Of Normal	Rank Since 1921	Total Rainfall (inches)	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL (INCHES)	PERCENT OF NORMAL	Rank Since 1921		
Panhandle	3.34"	+0.54"	119%	15th wettest	17.75"	-3.35"	84%	32nd driest		
North Central	3.09"	-1.46"	68%	42nd driest	28.34"	-3.31"	90%	42nd driest		
Northeast	4.74"	-1.46"	76%	45th wettest	44.56"	+2.59"	106%	26th wettest		
West Central	2.96"	-1.09"	73%	43rd driest	29.28"	+0.19"	101%	26th wettest		
Central	4.09"	-1.38"	75%	39th driest	39.62"	+1.63"	104%	20th wettest		
East Central	4.69"	-2.14"	69%	33rd driest	48.83"	+2.74"	106%	22nd wettest		
Southwest	3.20"	-0.75"	81%	44th wettest	32.35"	+1.55"	105%	21st wettest		
South Central	5.17"	-0.76"	87%	34th wettest	50.93"	+9.97"	124%	3rd wettest		
Southeast	4.85"	-2.47"	66%	24th driest	65.51"	+14.57"	129%	3rd wettest		
Statewide	4.04"	-1.20"	77%	40th driest	39.47"	+2.78"	108%	18th wettest		





SOIL MOISTURE

Fractional Water Index¹ April 19, 2010 25 CM (~10 INCHES)



¹ The Fractional Water Index ranges from very dry soil having a value of 0 to soil at field capacity illustrated by a value of 1. Specifically, 1.0 to 0.8 equals Enhanced Growth, 0.8 to 0.5 equals Limited Growth, 0.5 to 0.3 equals Plants Wilting, 0.3 to 0.1 equals Plants Dying, and less than 0.1 equals Barren Soil.

DROUGHT INDICES										
Palmer Drought Severity Index ¹					Standardized Precipitation Index ² Through March 2010					
CLIMATE DIVISION	CURRENT STATUS	VALUE		CHANGE	2 100170			10 Монти		
	4/17/2010	4/17	3/20	IN VALUE	3-MONIH	o-MONIH	9-1MONTH	12-1WONIH		
Northwest	MOIST SPELL	1.96	1.12	0.84	MODERATELY WET	MODERATELY WET	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL		
North Central	UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL	2.44	2.99	-0.55	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL		
Northeast	MOIST SPELL	1.54	2.40	-0.86	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY WET	MODERATELY WET		
West Central	UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL	2.59	2.48	0.11	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY WET	NEAR NORMAL		
Central	UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL	2.59	3.24	-0.65	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY WET	NEAR NORMAL		
East Central	INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL	0.76	2.44	-1.68	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL		
Southwest	UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL	2.15	2.09	0.06	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL		
South Central	UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL	2.41	3.02	-0.61	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY WET	VERY WET		
Southeast	UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL	2.35	3.84	-1.49	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY WET	VERY WET	VERY WET		

• No climate divisions are currently experiencing drought conditions, according to the PDSI.

• Six climate divisions have undergone PDSI moisture decreases since March 20.

• No climate divisions are experiencing near long-term dry conditions, according to the SPI.

Keetch-Byram Drought Fire Index ³								
Mesonet Station	COUNTY	CLIMATE DIVISION	CURRENT VALUE 4/19/2010	_	Stations currently at or above 600 (April 19) = 0 Stations above 600 on March $22 = 0$			
Buffalo	Harper	Northwest	440	•				
May Ranch	Woods	North Central	362	-				
Freedom	Woodward	North Central	284					



¹ The Palmer Drought Severity Index, the first comprehensive drought index developed in the United States, is calculated based on precipitation, temperature, and soil moisture. Though widely used by government agencies and states to trigger drought relief programs, the PDSI may underestimate or overestimate the severity of ongoing dry periods.

² The Standardized Precipitation Index, more sensitive than the PDSI, provides a comparison of precipitation over a specified period with precipitation totals from that same period for all years included in the historical record. The 3-month SPI provides a seasonal estimation of precipitation while the 6-month SPI can be very effective in showing precipitation over distinct seasons.

³ The Keetch-Byram Drought Index measures the state of near-surface soil moisture (within the uppermost eight inches of soil) as well as the amount of fuel available for fires. KBDI values of 600 and above are often associated with more severe drought and increased wildfire occurrence.

Weather/Drought Forecast

8- to 14-Day Outlook April 27 – May 3, 2010



Precipitation

Regional Drought Summary & Outlook



April 20—The latest U.S. Drought Monitor reports that little to no rain fell across southern Arkansas, western Mississippi, southeastern Alabama, and northeastern Louisiana during the past week. Although the winter months were quite wet, this spring has brought minimal rainfall to this area. This dryness, in addition to stream flows below the 10th percentile (current, 7-, 14-, and 28-days), led to the creation of a moderate drought (D1A) area over northeastern Louisiana, and expansion of D0 conditions across extreme southeastern Texas, northern Mississippi, northern and southern portions of Alabama, and west Florida. With the growing season well underway, planted crops will soon require moisture for germination and establishment. In the south-central Plains, widespread rainfall amounts of 1 to 3 inches in western Oklahoma resulted in the removal of much of the D0 area introduced there last week. Only a small area of abnormally dry conditions (D0(H)) remains in southwestern Oklahoma, to reflect watershed/irrigation issues related to Lugert-Altus Reservoir, especially for Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa and western Tillman Counties. Rainfall amounts up to an inch fell across south-central Kansas, which help to offset the meager 60-day precipitation (25 to 50 percent of normal). Due to recent precipitation, the small D0 areas in far western, and extreme north-central Texas were eliminated.

According to the Drought Outlook (April 15), during April, moderate to severe hydrological drought has persisted across the northern Rockies and the upper Midwest, although precipitation is expected through much of the remainder of April for the northern Rockies. Drought persistence is forecast for Idaho and western Montana due to forecasts of poor streamflows and soil moisture values into the May - July season. Some improvement is indicated in southwest Wyoming with improvement indicated for northern Colorado, due to more favorable forecasts of soil moisture combined with slightly more favored prospects for precipitation through the latter part of April into May. Drought persistence is forecast for the Great Basin and northeast Arizona as this region begins to enter the climatological dry season.

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CROP REPORT

April 19, 2010 – Warm, windy weather dominated the early part of the week for much of the state. Several days of clear weather allowed for substantial field work as producers were busy cultivating ground and planting summer crops. Friday brought three days of welcomed rain for many areas. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions continued to be favorable, with the majority rated in the surplus to adequate range. Despite the rainy weekend, sunshine early in the week allowed for 5.2 days suitable for field work.

Small grain conditions continued to rate mostly in the good to fair range, with 14 percent of wheat and 15 percent of rye rated excellent. The weekend rains provided a healthy boost to the wheat crop; improvements were noticeable in the color and appearance of the crop. Wheat jointing reached 85 percent complete by week's end, nine points ahead of last year but nine points behind normal. Rye jointing has neared completion at 94 percent, seven points ahead of the five year average. Oat jointing jumped 27 points to reach 55 percent complete by Sunday, seven points ahead of normal.

Favorable conditions during the week allowed for heavy field work as seedbed preparations and some planting continued. Corn seedbed preparations have reached 76 percent complete, up nine points from the previous week. Over one-third of the state's corn was planted by week's end, jumping 19 points from the previous week but still four points behind the five-year average. Nearly half of the sorghum seedbeds were prepared, up 18 points from the week prior and six points ahead of normal. Soybean seedbed preparation increased 12 points to reach 44 percent complete by week's end, but remained behind the five-year average by five points. A small portion of the sorghum and soybean crops were planted by week's end. Peanut seedbed preparations reached 68 percent complete, up seven points from the previous week and well ahead of normal. Cotton seedbed preparation jumped 13 points to reach 70 percent complete, one point ahead of the five-year average.

Pasture and range conditions rated mostly in the good to fair range. Warm season grasses rebounded with the moisture. Livestock conditions rated mostly in the good to fair range.



RESERVOIR **S**TORAGE

• 9 reservoirs are currently operating at less than full capacity (compared to 5 four weeks ago).

• 18 reservoirs have experienced lake level decreases.

Storage in Selected Oklahoma Lakes & Reservoirs April 20, 2010									
	Normal Pool Elevation	Previous Elevation	Current Elevation	Change in Elevation	Current Flood Control Storage				
Lake or Reservoir	(foot)	03/23/2010 (foot)	04/20/2010 (foot)	(feet)	(acro foot)				
North Central			(leel)	(leel)	(dcle-leel)				
Fort Supply	2004.00	2004.00	2004.47	0.47	882				
Great Salt Plains	1125.00	1125.38	1125.37	(0.01)	3,105				
Kaw*	1010.00	1009.17	1009.96	0.79	(664)				
Northeast									
Birch	750.50	751.46	750.85	(0.61)	401				
Copan	710.00	711.29	710.21	(1.08)	1,192				
Fort Gibson	554.00	555.04	552.77	(2.27)	(22,840)				
Grand*	742.00	742.40	742.06	(0.34)	2,640				
Hudson	619.00	620.23	619.59	(0.64)	6,520				
Hulah	733.00	735.19	734.02	(1.17)	6,289				
Keystone*	723.00	724.05	724.09	0.04	19,450				
Oologah*	638.00	641.32	637.60	(3.72)	(12,083)				
Skiatook	714.00	714.76	714.25	(0.51)	2,735				
West Central									
Canton	1615.40	1614.77	1615.60	0.83	1,587				
Foss	1642.00	1641.91	1641.70	(0.21)	(2,004)				
Central									
Arcadia	1006.00	1006.44	1007.25	0.81	2,340				
Heyburn	761.50	763.39	762.23	(1.16)	704				
Thunderbird	1039.00	1039.34	1039.88	0.54	5,368				
East Central									
Eufaula*	585.00	586.20	585.57	(0.63)	55,045				
Tenkiller	632.00	633.48	632.30	(1.18)	3,930				
Southwest									
Fort Cobb	1342.00	1342.42	1342.25	(0.17)	973				
Lugert-Altus	1559.00	1544.19	1546.08	1.89	(65,882)				
Tom Steed	1411.00	1407.52	1407.29	(0.23)	(21,753)				
South Central									
Arbuckle	872.00	872.82	873.18	0.36	2,817				
McGee Creek**	175.90	176.14	176.19	0.05	3,692				
Texoma*	615.00	616.31	614.98	(1.33)	(1,375)				
Waurika*	951.40	951.74	952.09	0.35	7,028				
Southeast									
Broken Bow*	600.40	598.41	599.22	0.81	(17,282)				
Hugo*	406.00	405.80	406.35	0.55	4,951				
Pine Creek*	442.50	439.81	441.28	1.47	(5,624)				
Sardis	599.00	599.65	599.13	(0.52)	1,803				
Wister	478.00	480.27	478.24	(2.03)	1,519				

* indicates seasonal pool operation ** el

** elevation in meters

negative numbers in red, parentheses

STREAMFLOW CONDITIONS



Water Bulletin information/data courtesy of National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center, Oklahoma Climatological Survey, State Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Western Drought Coordination Council, and National Drought Mitigation Center. For more information, visit www.owrb.ok.gov and www.mesonet.org.