# Oklahoma Water Resources Bulletin & Summary of Current Conditions



#### July 7, 2011

### PRECIPITATION

| Statewide Precipitation |   |                                      |                      |                 |                               |  |                      |                 |  |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|--|
|                         | Warm Growing Season<br>March 1 – July 4, 2011 |                                      |                      |                 |                               | Last 365 Days<br>July 5, 2010 – July 4, 2011 |                      |                 |  |
| CLIMATE<br>DIVISION     | Total<br>Rainfall<br>(inches)                 | DEPARTURE<br>FROM NORMAL<br>(INCHES) | Percent<br>Of Normal | Rank Since 1921 | Total<br>Rainfall<br>(inches) | DEPARTURE FROM<br>NORMAL<br>(INCHES)         | PERCENT<br>OF NORMAL | Rank Since 1921 |  |
| Panhandle               | 2.58"   | -7.53"                               | 26%                  | 1st driest      | 12.34"                        | -8.76"                                       | 59%                  | 5th driest      |  |
| North Central           | 7.04"   | -7.64"                               | 48%                  | 4th driest      | 19.91"                        | -11.74"                                      | 63%                  | 5th driest      |  |
| Northeast               | 15.34"  | -2.83"                               | 84%                  | 26th driest     | 34.70"                        | -7.27"                                       | 83%                  | 26th driest     |  |
| West Central            | 4.44"   | -9.59"                               | 32%                  | 1st driest      | 16.06"                        | -13.03"                                      | 55%                  | 2nd driest      |  |
| Central                 | 9.38"   | -7.92"                               | 54%                  | 5th driest      | 22.74"                        | -15.25"                                      | 60%                  | 2nd driest      |  |
| East Central            | 18.26"  | -1.29"                               | 93%                  | 42nd wettest    | 38.45"                        | -7.64"                                       | 83%                  | 28th driest     |  |
| Southwest               | 5.07"   | -9.27"                               | 35%                  | 1st driest      | 19.24"                        | -11.56"                                      | 62%                  | 4th driest      |  |
| South Central           | 8.53"   | -9.35"                               | 48%                  | 2nd driest      | 25.74"                        | -15.22"                                      | 63%                  | 5th driest      |  |
| Southeast               | 18.01"  | -2.48"                               | 88%                  | 31st driest     | 37.35"                        | -13.59"                                      | 73%                  | 8th driest      |  |
| Statewide               | 9.80"   | -6.50"                               | 60%                  | 5th driest      | 25.06"                        | -11.63"                                      | 68%                  | 5th driest      |  |





## SOIL MOISTURE



<sup>1</sup> 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. [1.0-0.8 = Enhanced Growth; 0.8-0.5 = Limited Growth; 0.5-0.3 = Plants Wilting; 0.3-0.1 = Plants Dying; <0.1 = Barren Soil.]

| DROUGHT INDICES                            |                  |             |       |          |  |                   |                   |                |  |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------|----------|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Palmer Drought Severity Index <sup>1</sup> |                  |             |       |          | Standardized Precipitation Index <sup>2</sup><br>Through June 2011 |                   |                   |                |  |
| CLIMATE<br>DIVISION                        | CURRENT STATUS   | VALUE CHANG |       | CHANGE   | 2 4401171  |                   |                   |                |  |
|  | 7/2/2011         | 7/2         | 6/4   | IN VALUE | 3-MONIH  | o-MONIH           | 9- <i>I</i> MONIH | 12-WONTH       |  |
| Northwest                                  | EXTREME DROUGHT  | -4.49       | -3.05 | -1.44    | EXTREMELY DRY  | EXCEPTIONALLY DRY | VERY DRY          | VERY DRY       |  |
| North Central                              | MODERATE DROUGHT | -2.84       | -1.66 | -1.18    | VERY DRY   | VERY DRY          | VERY DRY          | MODERATELY DRY |  |
| Northeast                                  | MILD DROUGHT     | -1.73       | 1.48  | -3.21    | NEAR NORMAL  | NEAR NORMAL       | MODERATELY DRY    | NEAR NORMAL    |  |
| West Central                               | EXTREME DROUGHT  | -4.18       | -2.76 | -1.42    | EXTREMELY DRY  | EXTREMELY DRY     | EXTREMELY DRY     | VERY DRY       |  |
| Central                                    | SEVERE DROUGHT   | -3.81       | -1.88 | -1.93    | MODERATELY DRY   | VERY DRY          | VERY DRY          | VERY DRY       |  |
| East Central                               | MILD DROUGHT     | -1.93       | 2.29  | -4.22    | NEAR NORMAL  | NEAR NORMAL       | VERY DRY          | MODERATELY DRY |  |
| Southwest                                  | EXTREME DROUGHT  | -4.90       | -3.35 | -1.55    | VERY DRY   | EXTREMELY DRY     | EXTREMELY DRY     | MODERATELY DRY |  |
| South Central                              | EXTREME DROUGHT  | -4.05       | -2.34 | -1.71    | VERY DRY   | EXTREMELY DRY     | EXTREMELY DRY     | VERY DRY       |  |
| Southeast                                  | MODERATE DROUGHT | -2.53       | 1.28  | -3.81    | NEAR NORMAL  | MODERATELY DRY    | VERY DRY          | VERY DRY       |  |

• All nine climate divisions are currently experiencing drought conditions, according to the PDSI. The Southwest, Northwest, West Central and South Central climate divisions are in extreme drought.

• All nine climate divisions have undergone PDSI moisture decreases since June 4.

• All climate divisions are experiencing near long-term dry conditions, according to the SPI.

#### Keetch-Byram Drought Fire Index<sup>3</sup>

| ONET<br>ON | COUNTY  | Climate<br>Division | CURRENT VALUE<br>7/4/2011 | • Stations currently at an above $600 (  u _V 4) = 27$                                     |
|------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Altus      | Jackson | Southwest           | 771                       | • Stations currently at of above 000 (July 4) = $27$<br>• Stations above 600 on June 6 = 6 |
| Grandfield | Tillman | Southwest           | 745                       |  |
| Arnett     | Ellis   | Panhandle           | 713                       |  |



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 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.



#### Regional Drought Summary & Outlook

#### U.S. Drought Monitor July 5, 2011 lid 7 a.m. EST Oklahoma ent Areal 00.00 93.77 44.18 0.00 60.75 Current 32 7/ Last Week 75.59 55.96 41.22 32.5 0.13 99.87 5/28/2011 m 3 Months Ago 04/05/2011 map 3.53 96.47 92.57 72.31 24.38 0.00 Start of Calendar Ye 13.82 86.18 47.90 1.50 0.00 0.00 Start of Water Yea 9/28/2010 m 66.28 0.00 33.72 4.21 0.00 0.00 Dne Year A 14.08 3.21 0.00 0.00 85.92 0.00 Intensity: D0 Abnom D3 Drought - Extrem D4 Drought - Exceptiona D1 Drought - Mode D2 Drought - Severe The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions USDA 449 ( ど) 🕙 Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements Released Thursday, July 7, 2011 Richard Heim, NOAA/NESDIS/National Climatic Data Center http://drought.unl.edu/dm U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period Valid July 7, 2011 - September 30, 2011 Released July 7, 2011 No Drought Some Posted/F 0 Improvement KEY: Persistence Drought to persist or No Drought Posted/Predicted ntensify 5. Drought ongoing, some pipels large-scale trends based on subjectively sufficient of the stand-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 scalarlo for applications - such as cryps - that can be affected by such events. Angoing 'dought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity), weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvem reas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor Intensity levels, at 6 not necessarily imply drought elimination. mprovement Drought likely to improve mnacts ease Drought development likely

July 5 – The latest U.S. Drought Monitor reports that strong high pressure in the upper levels of the atmosphere dominated the southern U.S. during the week. Tropical Storm Arlene rain brushed deep south Texas and monsoon showers picked up over parts of the southwest. Most of the southern Plains continued hot and dry, with much above-normal temperatures spreading across the central half of the country. Improvement of the D3 and D4 areas occurred over southern Texas where a month's worth of rain fell this week, especially in the Brownsville area. But conditions deteriorated elsewhere in Texas with D4 expanding to cover all of the panhandle as well as expanding in Harrison and Bosque counties, and D3 expanding in central Texas. In Oklahoma, the D0 hole was filled in over Garfield County, D1 expanded across eastern Oklahoma and adjoining southwest Arkansas, and D2-D3 expanded in south central to Southeast Oklahoma. D0 expanded in southeast Kansas where rainfall has been below normal and temperatures above normal for the last 1 to 4 weeks.

According to the latest Drought Outlook (June 2), ENSOneutral conditions developed during the first part of June, but in the wake of the 2010-2011 La Nina, widespread drought developed and persisted across the southern tier of the U.S. Significantly, over 65 percent of the current drought areas are extreme or exceptional, with many areas experiencing record precipitation deficits. A dry climatology and expected abovemedian temperatures during the summer months across the southern Plains and lower Mississippi Valley limits opportunities for drought reduction there, with further development possible across portions of Texas and Arkansas where abnormal dryness is already present.

### **CROP REPORT**

July 5, 2011 – Oklahoma received no relief from the stifling hot weather as average high temperatures ranged from 98 to 103 degrees. Oklahoma City tied the record for the most triple-digit June highs as the temperature reached 103 degrees on Monday. Additionally, Monday also marked the 27th day that Oklahoma City reached or exceeded 90 degrees during June, tying a 100-year old record. Burn bans were issued for Oklahoma, Cleveland, and Canadian Counties with extreme fire danger conditions possible in those areas. The U.S. Drought Monitor continued to show about one-third of the state experiencing D-4 or exceptional drought conditions. There was minimal rainfall during the week. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were dismal and continue to suffer from the extreme heat. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly short to very short, with the majority of the state rated very short. There were 6.5 days suitable for field work.

Virtually all harvest of the state's small grain crops was completed. Wheat ground plowed reached 60 percent complete by Sunday, up 16 points from the previous week and 19 points ahead of normal. Plowing of rye ground reached 58 percent complete, up 12 points from the previous week. Ninety-five percent of oats were harvested by Sunday, while 52 percent of the ground had been plowed, nine points ahead of normal.

Drought conditions continued to take a toll on most of the state's row crops with conditions rated mostly in the fair to poor range. Corn silking reached 69 percent complete by week's end. Sorghum planting was virtually complete, while 83 percent had emerged with nine percent of the crop heading. Planting of soybeans was also virtually complete, while 89 percent had emerged and nine percent was blooming. Peanuts emerged reached 94 percent complete and 29 percent were pegging by week's end, 19 points behind the five-year average. Cotton emerged reached 73 percent complete by Sunday while cotton squaring was seven percent complete, both behind the five-year average. By week's end, 80 percent of the watermelon crop was setting fruit, two points ahead of normal.

Second cuttings of alfalfa reached 77 percent complete and third cuttings reached seven percent complete. First cuttings of other hay reached 71 percent complete, on target with the five-year average. Conditions for all hay were rated mostly in the poor to very poor range. Hay supplies for the season were rated below average for 83 percent of the state. Pasture and range conditions were rated mostly poor to very poor. Despite the extremely hot weather, livestock conditions were rated mostly fair to good. Cattle have very little pasture to graze and pond levels are very low.



# **R**ESERVOIR **S**TORAGE

- 24 reservoirs are currently operating at less than full capacity (compared to 15 four weeks ago).
- 28 reservoirs have experienced lake level decreases.

|                   | Storage in Sele          | cted Oklahc           | oma Lakes &          | Reservoirs             |               |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
|                   |                          | July 5, 20            | 011                  |                        |               |
|                   | Normal Pool<br>Elevation | Previous<br>Flevation | Current<br>Elevation | Change in<br>Flevation | Current Flood |
| lake or Reservoir | Lievanon                 | 6/7/2011              | 7/5/2011             | Lievanon               | connorsionage |
|                   | (feet)                   | (feet)                | (feet)               | (feet)                 | (acre-feet)   |
| North Central     |                          |                       |                      |                        |               |
| Fort Supply       | 2004.00                  | 2003.99               | 2003.51              | (0.48)                 | (835)         |
| Great Salt Plains | 1125.00                  | 1124.81               | 1124.39              | (0.42)                 | (4,541)       |
| Kaw*              | 1013.00                  | 1011.02               | 1011.83              | 0.81                   | (21,491)      |
| Northeast         |                          |                       |                      |                        |               |
| Birch             | 750.50                   | 749.88                | 748.79               | (1.09)                 | (1,906)       |
| Copan             | 710.00                   | 710.87                | 710.34               | (0.53)                 | 1,549         |
| Fort Gibson       | 554.00                   | 559.90                | 553.05               | (6.85)                 | (17,765)      |
| Grand*            | 744.00                   | 744.06                | 744.06               | 0.00                   | 2,760         |
| Hudson            | 619.00                   | 619.86                | 619.70               | (0.16)                 | 7,735         |
| Hulah             | 733.00                   | 733.23                | 733.44               | 0.21                   | 1,440         |
| Keystone*         | 723.00                   | 724.31                | 721.45               | (2.86)                 | (25,863)      |
| Oologah*          | 638.00                   | 641.00                | 638.17               | (2.83)                 | 5,379         |
| Skiatook          | 714.00                   | 708.46                | 707.08               | (1.38)                 | (67,247)      |
| West Central      |                          |                       |                      |                        |               |
| Canton            | 1615.40                  | 1612.96               | 1611.01              | (1.95)                 | (31,938)      |
| Foss              | 1642.00                  | 1639.78               | 1639.00              | (0.78)                 | (19,470)      |
| Central           |                          |                       |                      |                        |               |
| Arcadia           | 1006.00                  | 1006.00               | 1005.57              | (0.43)                 | (765)         |
| Heyburn           | 761.50                   | 761.59                | 760.93               | (0.66)                 | (355)         |
| Thunderbird       | 1039.00                  | 1037.48               | 1036.57              | (0.91)                 | (14,165)      |
| East Central      |                          |                       |                      |                        |               |
| Eufaula*          | 585.00                   | 587.21                | 584.63               | (2.58)                 | (34,308)      |
| Tenkiller         | 632.00                   | 635.24                | 632.46               | (2.78)                 | 6,026         |
| Southwest         |                          |                       |                      |                        |               |
| Fort Cobb         | 1342.00                  | 1341.78               | 1340.83              | (0.95)                 | (4,323)       |
| Lugert-Altus      | 1559.00                  | 1543.65               | 1537.09              | (6.56)                 | (96,567)      |
| Tom Steed         | 1411.00                  | 1407.64               | 1406.60              | (1.04)                 | (25,443)      |
| South Central     |                          |                       |                      |                        |               |
| Arbuckle          | 872.00                   | 870.81                | 869.66               | (1.15)                 | (5,355)       |
| McGee Creek**     | 175.90                   | 176.11                | 175.87               | (0.24)                 | (364)         |
| Texoma*           | 619.00                   | 615.98                | 614.48               | (1.50)                 | (332,914)     |
| Waurika*          | 951.40                   | 950.26                | 949.42               | (0.84)                 | (19,115)      |
| Southeast         |                          |                       |                      |                        |               |
| Broken Bow*       | 602.50                   | 602.93                | 601.13               | (1.80)                 | (19,908)      |
| Hugo*             | 407.20                   | 407.84                | 406.52               | (1.32)                 | (10,260)      |
| Pine Creek*       | 433.00                   | 433.07                | 431.57               | (1.50)                 | (3,831)       |
| Sardis            | 599.00                   | 598.98                | 598.43               | (0.55)                 | (7,632)       |
| Wister            | 478.00                   | 480.15                | 478.50               | (1.65)                 | 3,164         |

\* indicates seasonal pool operation

\*\* elevation in meters

negative numbers in red, parentheses



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.