Oklahoma Water Resources Bulletin & Summary of Current Conditions

February 26, 2015

PRECIPITATION

Statewide Precipitation								
	Last 30 Days January 27, 2015 – February 25, 2015				Last 365 Days February 26, 2014 – February 25, 2015			
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	0.80"	+0.13"	120%	34th wettest	17.25"	-3.33"	84%	27th driest
N. Central	0.81"	-0.46"	64%	42nd driest	24.28"	-7.14"	77%	23rd driest
Northeast	1.31"	-0.75"	64%	34th driest	34.89"	-7.78"	82%	24th driest
W. Central	0.77"	-0.38"	67%	47th driest	21.22"	-7.18"	75%	13th driest
Central	1.08"	-0.76"	58%	32nd driest	29.40"	-8.23"	78%	20th driest
E. Central	1.53"	-1.10"	58%	33rd driest	38.87"	-7.27"	84%	29th driest
Southwest	0.72"	-0.72"	50%	29th driest	23.43"	-6.84"	77%	20th driest
S. Central	1.67"	-0.70"	70%	35th driest	34.02"	-6.69"	84%	32nd driest
Southeast	2.18"	-1.33"	62%	26th driest	47.91"	-2.68"	95%	41st driest
Statewide	1.20"	-0.66''	65%	31st driest	30.01"	-6.46"	82%	23rd driest



Percentage of 1981-2010 Normal Rainfall

Last 30 Days



SOIL MOISTURE

Fractional Water Index¹



¹The 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

Standardized Precipitation Index³ Palmer Drought Severity Index² Through January 2015 CLIMATE **CURRENT STATUS** VALUE CHANGE 3-MONTH 12-MONTH 24-MONTH **DIVISION** 2/21/2015 1/24 2/21 IN VALUE NEAR NORMAL -1.66 -1.59 -0.07 NEAR NORMAL NEAR NORMAL ABNORMALLY DRY Northwest NEAR NORMAL -0.62 -0.67 0.05 ABNORMALLY DRY NEAR NORMAL North Central ABNORMALLY DRY NEAR NORMAL -0.33 -0.29 -0.04 ABNORMALLY DRY MODERATELY DRY NEAR NORMAL Northeast MODERATE DROUGHT -1.73 -2.02 0.29 NEAR NORMAL ABNORMALLY DRY NEAR NORMAL West Central -0.6 -1.17 Central NEAR NORMAL 0.57 NEAR NORMAL ABNORMALLY DRY NEAR NORMAL NEAR NORMAL East Central 0.25 -0.18 0.43 NEAR NORMAL NEAR NORMAL NEAR NORMAL Southwest MODERATE DROUGHT -2.16 -2.63 0 47 NEAR NORMAL ABNORMALLY DRY ABNORMALLY DRY 0.72 South Central NEAR NORMAL 0.74 0.02 NEAR NORMAL NEAR NORMAL NEAR NORMAL Southeast NEAR NORMAL 0.7 0.03 0.67 NEAR NORMAL NEAR NORMAL NEAR NORMAL

• According to the PDSI, the West Central and Southwest climate divisions are currently experiencing moderate drought conditions, while the rest of the state is classified as near normal. All climate regions except the Northwest and Northeast regions have undergone a PDSI moisture decrease since January 24.

• According to the latest SPI, all climate regions except the South Central and Southeast regions are experiencing longer term dry conditions (through the last two years). The North Central and Northeast regions are experiencing abnormally dry conditions for the 3-month time period ending in January.

Keetch-Byram Drought Fire Index⁴

MESONET STATION	Climate Division	CURRENT VALUE 2/26/2015
Buffalo	Northwest	481
Camargo	West Central	472
Arnett	Northwest	466

Stations currently at or above 600 (February 26) = 0

Stations above 600 on January 26 = 0

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Keetch-Byram Drought Index

11:00 AM February 26, 2015 CST



²The Palmer Drought Severity Index is based upon 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.

³The 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.

⁴ 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

Seasonal Outlook



A means Above; N means Normal; B means Below; EC means Equal Chances for A, N, or B

Regional Drought Summary & Outlook

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma



http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period



February 24, 2015

(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

None D0-D4 D1-D4 D2-

98.52 65.04

75.52 59.85

73.31 58 13 20.92 4.64

1.48 98.52 65.55 48.46 27.80 5.75

1.48

24.48

25.63 74.37 62.03

8 55 91.45

0.09 99.91 62.4 28.86 13.07

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions

Valid for February 19 - May 31, 2015

cal conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary r forecast statements.

D0 Abnormally Drv

D1 Moderate Drought D2 Severe Drought

Current

Last Week

3 Months Ago

Start of alendar Ye

Start of Water Year

One Year Age

Intensity:

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

45.54 22.81 5.75

40.85

40.84

D3 Extreme Drought

D4 Exceptional Drought

D3-D4 D4

18.33 5.04

21.74 5.70

2.40

February 24—According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 2,889,630 Oklahomans are currently affected by drought (category D1-D4), up by nearly 59% since this time last month.

In the past month, the percentage of Oklahoma classified as experiencing Abnormally Dry (DO) to Extreme Drought (D3) conditions has increased by more than 4%, with the largest increase in the Extreme Drought (D3) classification. D3 was expanded in western Oklahoma across Roger Mills, Custer, Beckham, and Washita Counties. D1-D3 were expanded in north central Oklahoma. Only a small area in Southeastern Oklahoma (1.48% of the state) is classified as not experiencing abnormally dry conditions or worse.

Areas experiencing Exceptional Drought (D4) continue to include the Southwest corner of the state with a small area in northern Ellis County. Deeper soil moisture, stock ponds, rivers, and reservoirs in western Oklahoma have never fully recovered from the drought that began 4 years ago. The Washita River has been completely dry for most of the last 4 years. NASA satellite-based measurements of groundwater indicated severely dry conditions in western Oklahoma.

According to the seasonal drought outlook, from mid-February through the end of May, drought conditions are expected to persist or intensify in far western Oklahoma, including areas in the Panhandle, West Central, and Southwest regions. Drought will improve or drought removal is likely in most of the North Central, Central, and South Central regions, while the eastern half of the state is expected not to experience drought conditions during this time period.

CROP REPORT

According to the latest USDA Oklahoma Crop Weather report (February 2), all districts were below normal precipitation levels throughout January, with the North Central district experiencing the largest departure at just 64 percent of normal. Drought conditions were more extreme across the western half of the state, with areas of the Southwest and West Central districts

experiencing severe to exceptional drought. Topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions were rated mostly adequate to short.

According to the NOAA Crop Moisture Index by Division, for the period ending February 21, the entire state is classified as experiencing slightly dry/favorably moist conditions. Crop Moisture Index by Division Weekly Value for Period Ending FEB 21, 2015 Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



RESERVOIR STORAGE

Oklahoma Surface Water Resources

Reservoir Levels and Storage as of 2/23/2015

