

# SEASONAL OUTLOOK

## Eastern Area



*Issued: February 2, 2009*

*Valid for: Feb-Apr 2009*

### Weather Discussion

So far this winter, precipitation has been near to slightly above normal across much of the Eastern Area. 90 day accumulated precipitation anomalies through February 1, 2009 indicated near to slightly above normal amounts occurred across the majority of the Eastern Area. 30 day accumulated amounts showed areas of below normal amounts across the Great Lakes. The most widespread negative precipitation 30 Day anomalies were indicated across the west central Big Rivers.

30 and 90 Day mean temperature anomalies ending February 1, 2009 were below normal across much of the Eastern Area.

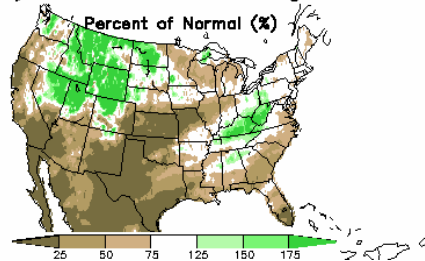
30 and 90 day forecasts at the end of January 2009 indicate a trend towards above normal temperatures across the southern tier of the Eastern Area with above normal precipitation across the southern Big Rivers eastward into the southeastern Mid-Atlantic States.

### Summary

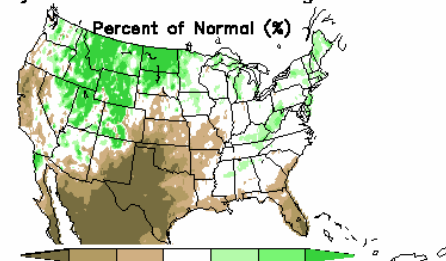
- Below normal temperatures and near to above normal precipitation occurred through first part of the 2008-09 winter.
- Drought conditions across parts of the southern Mid-Atlantic States should continue to improve through the rest of the winter months.
- Most areas should see normal significant fire potential across the Eastern Area through the rest of the winter and into the spring months of 2009. However, significant fire potential may develop across the north central Great Lakes and southwest Big Rivers if forecast near to above normal precipitation amounts do not occur.



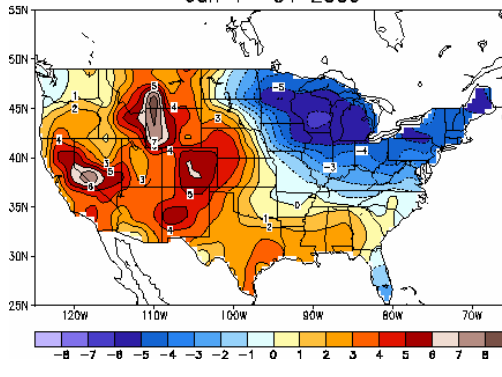
30-day accumulation ending 20090201



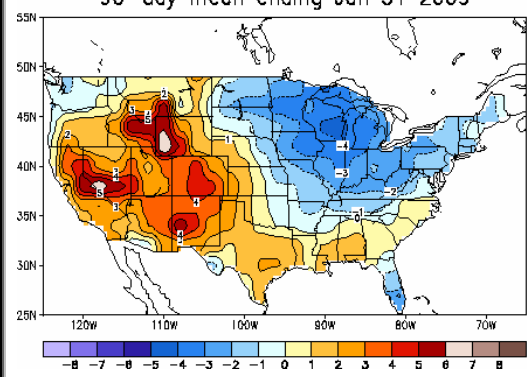
90-day accumulation ending 20090201



Mean Temp (F) Anomaly Jan 1 - 31 2009



Mean Temp (F) Anomaly 90-day mean ending Jan 31 2009

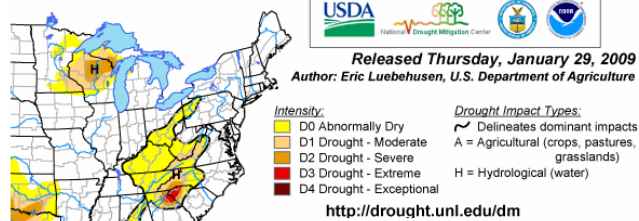


## U.S. Drought Monitor

January 27, 2009  
Valid 8 a.m. EST

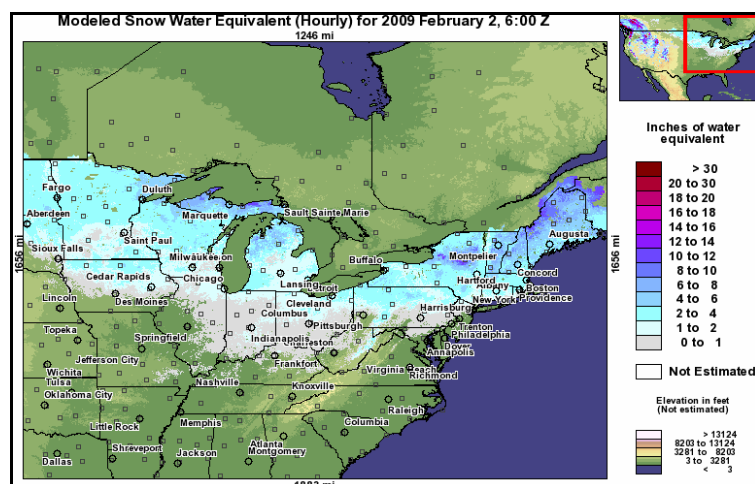
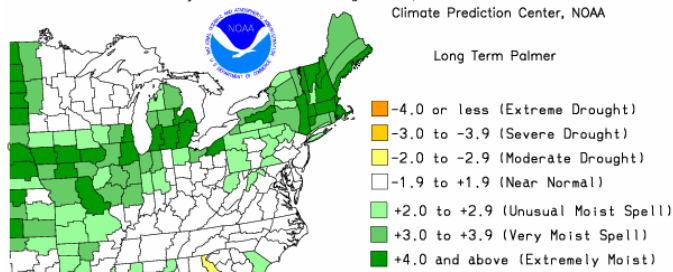


Released Thursday, January 29, 2009  
Author: Eric Luebbehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture



Drought Severity Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending JAN 24, 2009

Climate Prediction Center, NOAA



## Fuels and Drought

Fuel moistures leading into the spring 2009 Fire Season are expected to be near or above near normal levels across the majority of the Eastern Area. The exceptions may be the southwestern Big Rivers and north central Great Lakes where long to medium drought conditions are in place.

Above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation is forecast across the southern tier of the Eastern Area into the early spring of 2009. This may alleviate some of the short term drought which has developed over portions of the southern Big Rivers since November 2008. However, the southwestern portions of Missouri are forecast to be out of the main track of precipitation events this spring.

The drought conditions across the north central Great Lakes are also forecast to improve through the rest of the winter months. Snowfall and snow depths will need to be monitored across this area leading into the spring fire season of 2009. The onset of the spring season across the northern tier is dependent on the snow depths in place as well as late winter



**Eastern Area Predictive Services**  
Steve Marien: Fire Weather Program Manager  
Trudy Fagre: Intelligence Coordinator

E-Mail:  
Stephen\_Marien@nps.gov  
tfagre@fs.fed.us

Phone:  
612-713-7300

Fax:  
612-713-7317