

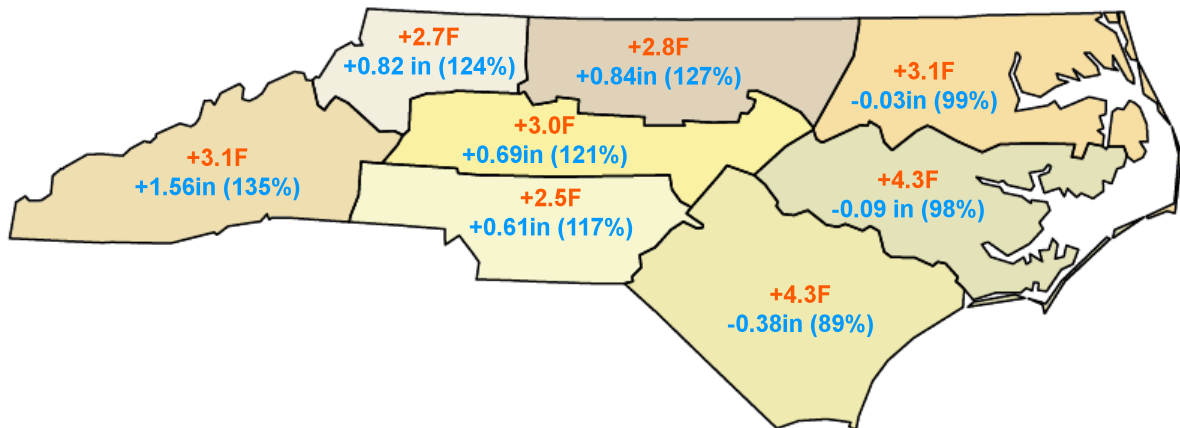
December 2008 – North Carolina

A bit warm, a bit wet

January 7, 2009

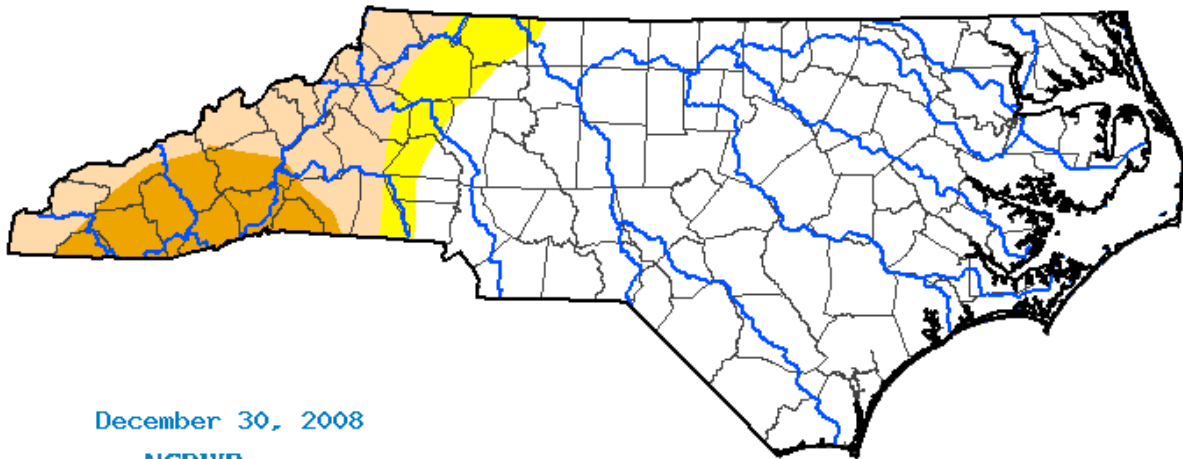
Most of North Carolina experienced a relatively warm and wet December to close 2008. Mean temperatures across the state were generally 2.5-4.5 degrees F above normal, while precipitation totals for the month were generally between 90% and 130% of normal. The warmest region was the Southern Coastal Plain, where temperatures were nearly 4.5F above normal for the month. This regional was also the driest in NC during December, with only 89% of normal precipitation (-0.38 inches from normal). The smallest departures in temperature were observed in the Southern Piedmont, where temperatures were only 2.5F above normal on average. The wettest region was the Southern Mountains, where most locations experiences several days with heavy precipitation and the regional average precipitation total was greater than 130% of normal. Fortunately, this is the region that had been experiencing the most severe drought conditions in NC, so the rainfall is a welcome promise for recharge to streams, reservoirs, and groundwater supplies.

Temperature and Precipitation by Climate Division Departures from Normal for Dec 2008 *Based on Preliminary Data*



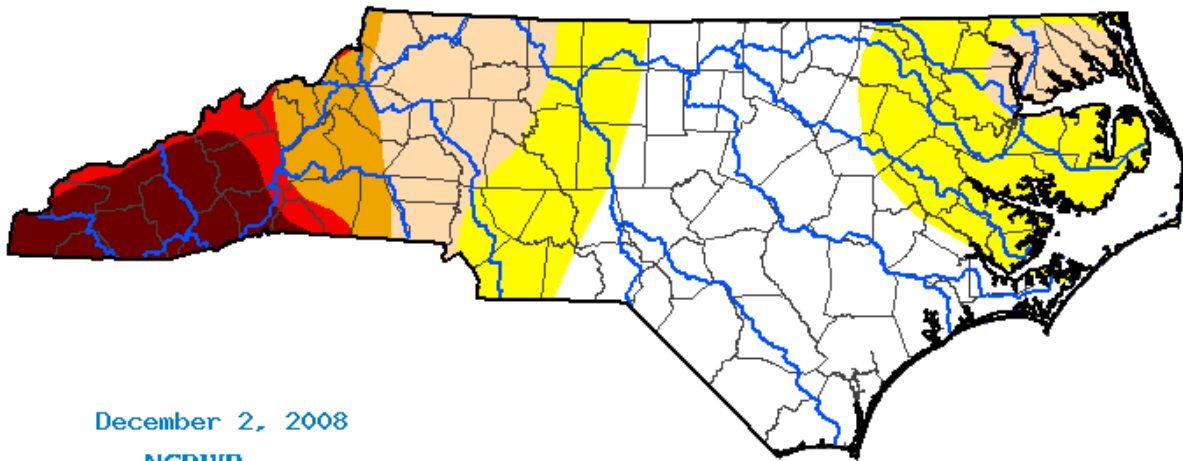
Change in US Drought Monitoring Status during Dec 2008

Provided by DENR Division of Water Resources



December 30, 2008

NCDWR



December 2, 2008

NCDWR

December rainfall brought drought relief to the entire region, but the most benefits have been observed in western NC, where exceptional D4 drought conditions improved to D2 by the end of the month. Drought impacts still experienced in western part of the state are almost exclusively limited to long-term water supplies.

