

*DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the weekly NC Drought Management Advisory Council Technical Team meeting held each Tuesday. Agency representatives on the Council provide their expert assessment on data and impacts. Consensus and recommendations are sent to the US Drought Monitor and are subject to change until incorporated into the final version of the USDM map issued on Thursdays.*

## **NC Drought Assessment**

### **Updated: Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

- **PERIOD**

- The NC Drought Management Advisory Council (DMAC) team discussed current conditions statewide for the 7-day period up to February 6, 2018.

- **REVIEW:**

- Precipitation – the state saw widespread rainfall on Sunday with above normal amounts falling in the Piedmont east of Greensboro and Charlotte.
- Longer-term indicators still showing deficits. Some areas had a rainfall shortfall of more than 10” since July 2017. Will take some time to make that up.
- Streamflow gages – large improvement in the 7-day values, more moderate improvements in 28-day averages
- Ground / Well water levels – some improvement from last week. Gages west of Winston-Salem and Charlotte still showing below normal conditions
- Lake / reservoir levels –strong improvement statewide, levels above guide curve for most lakes. Falls Lake is still below guide curve but rising.
- KBDI – no fire hazards at this time
- Agriculture reports – limited agriculture impacts at this time
- Soil moisture- greatly improved, from over 40 percent of state showing short to approximately 10 percent.

- **DISCUSSION**

- Recent precipitation over the past 3 weeks has led to improving conditions statewide.
- Snow/rain from mid-January removed consideration of severe drought classification.
- Rainfall from the previous week (ending Jan 30) was above average in much of the state, resulting in a one category improvement.
- Conditions in most of the state were maintained by Sunday’s rainfall, with a few minor, local improvements. As a result, there weren't any large changes in classification.

- **CONSENSUS:**

- Group decided on status quo for most of state.
- Recommend removal of D0 from portions of Caldwell, Avery, Watauga, and Burke Counties.
- Also recommend a slight westward expansion of D1 in Yadkin, Iredell, and Wilkes Counties based on 30, 60, 90, 120-day and longer timescales, looking mostly at SPEI/PNP/SPI, as well as streamflows and groundwater.
- Finally, recommend removing D1 from parts of Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly, and Randolph counties based on improvements from precipitation, also in the past 3 weeks.