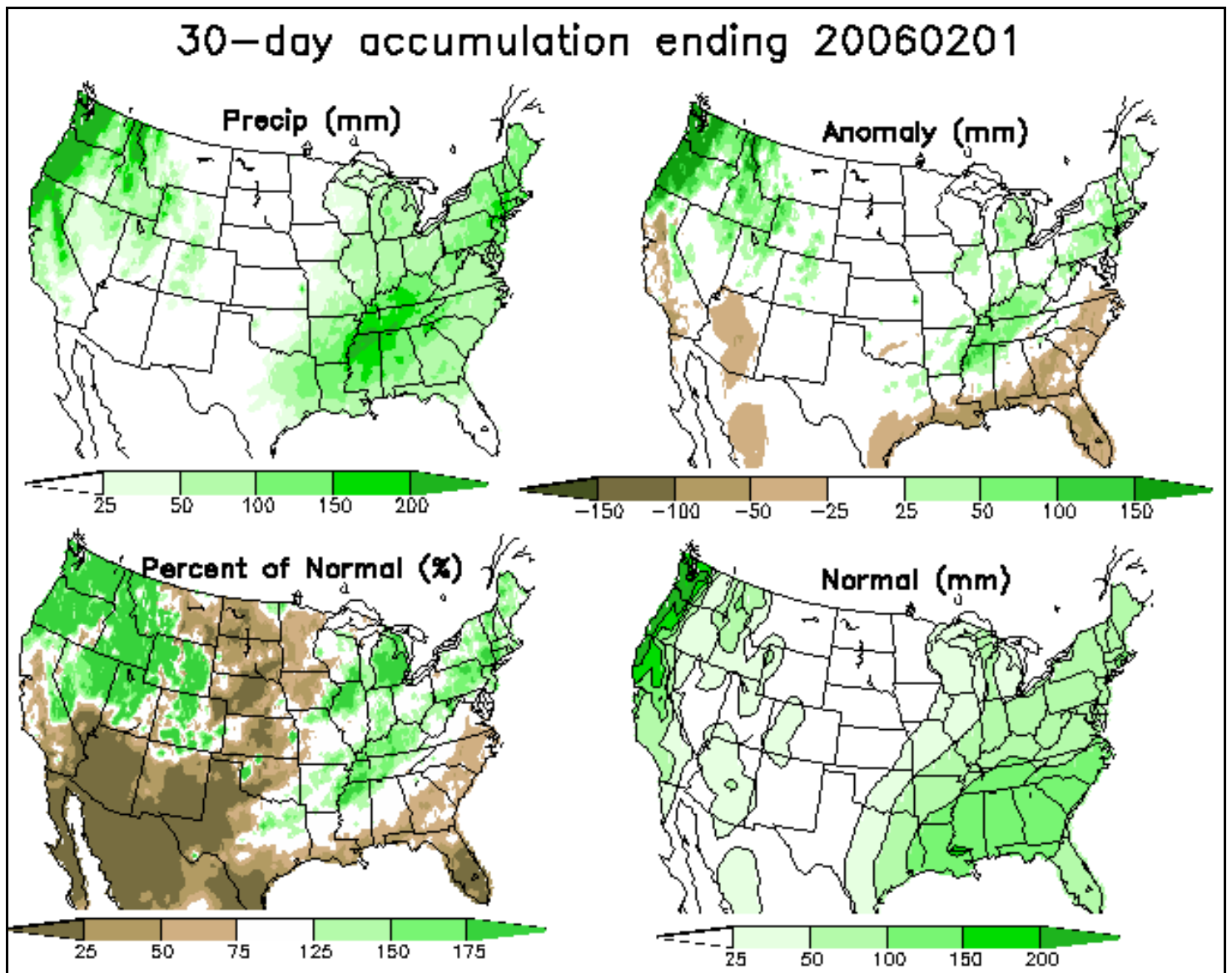


## **Eastern Area February 2006 Fire Weather/Fire Danger Outlook**

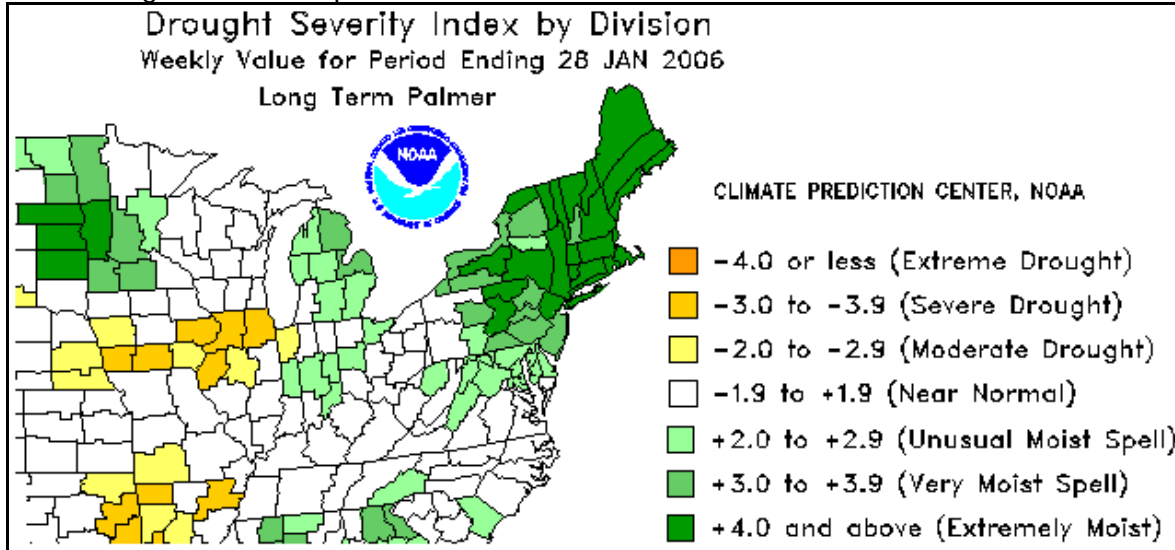
The following outlook was made with the most recent weather and climate data available at the beginning of February 2006. It is a general report intended to provide fire management personnel with an area wide outlook for February of 2006. Due to the variability in the data and weather computer model limitations beyond two weeks, it is important for the local fire manager to know their own area of responsibility and to base their actions on those conditions.

The graphics below display historical accumulated precipitation data over the 30 days through February 1, 2006. Below each graphic is a key displaying the color corresponding to precipitation amounts in millimeters (25.4mm=1.0 inch).

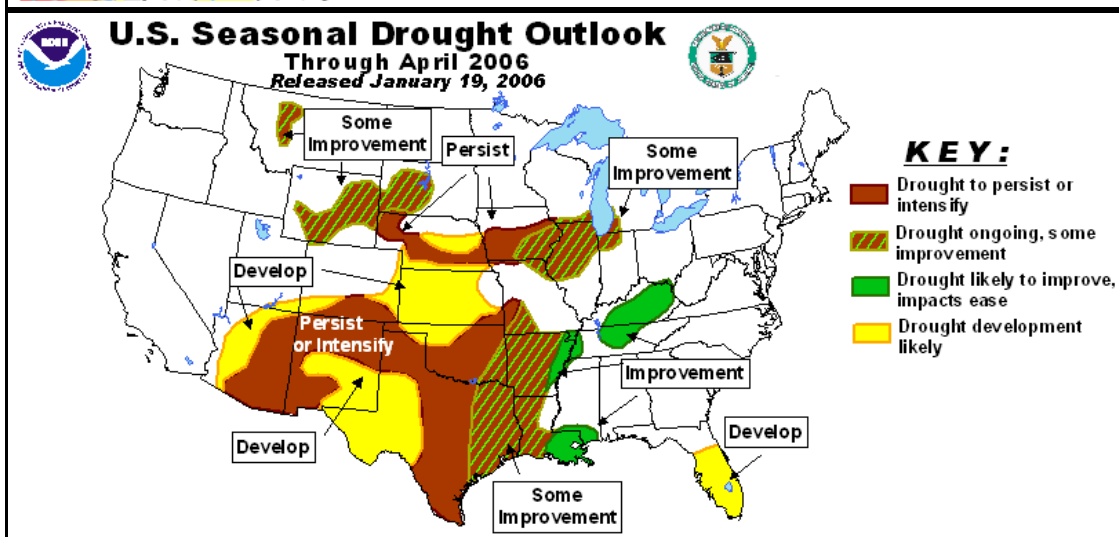
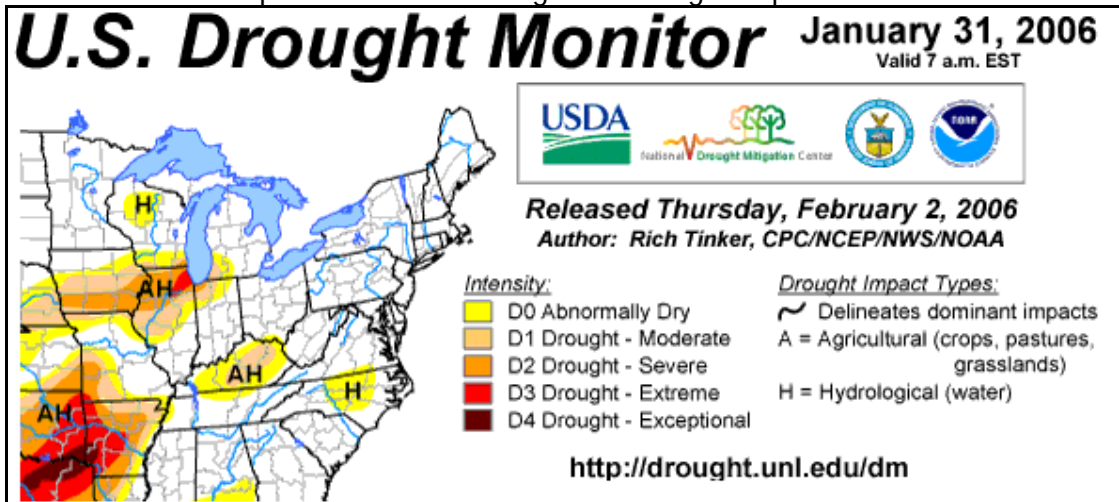


## Drought Indicator and Outlook

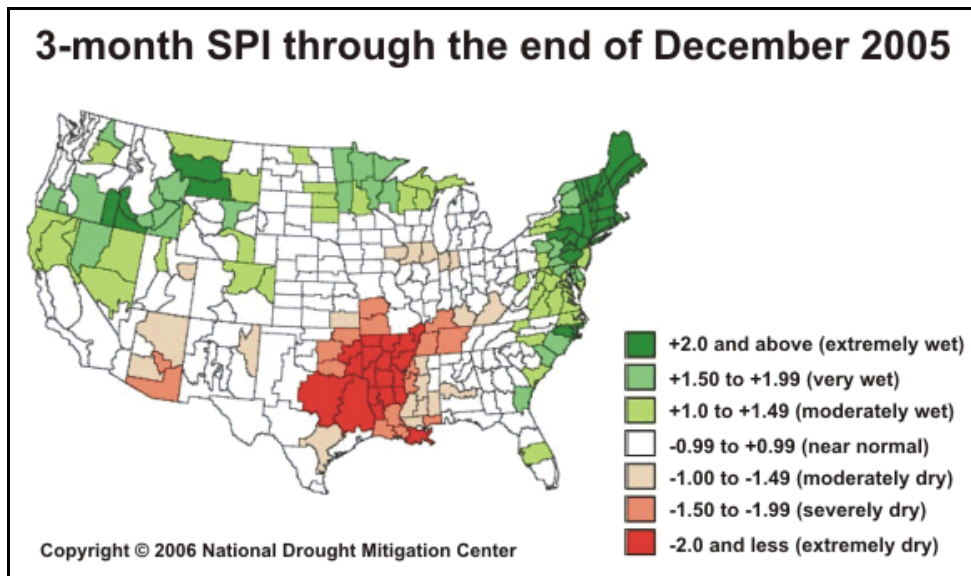
The Long Term Palmer Drought Severity Index through January 28, 2006 is displayed below. Areas colored in green indicate positive moisture anomalies.



The U.S. Drought Monitor ending January 31, 2006 is displayed below. The following colors correspond to increasing drought severity: Yellow=abnormally dry or in a drought state zero; Tan=moderate drought state of 1; Brown=severe drought state 2 ; Reddish brown=extreme drought state=3. The graphic displayed at the bottom of the page displays the U.S. Drought Outlook for the Eastern Area. The areas shaded in brown with green diagonal lines indicate areas forecast for some improvement to the long-term drought in place.

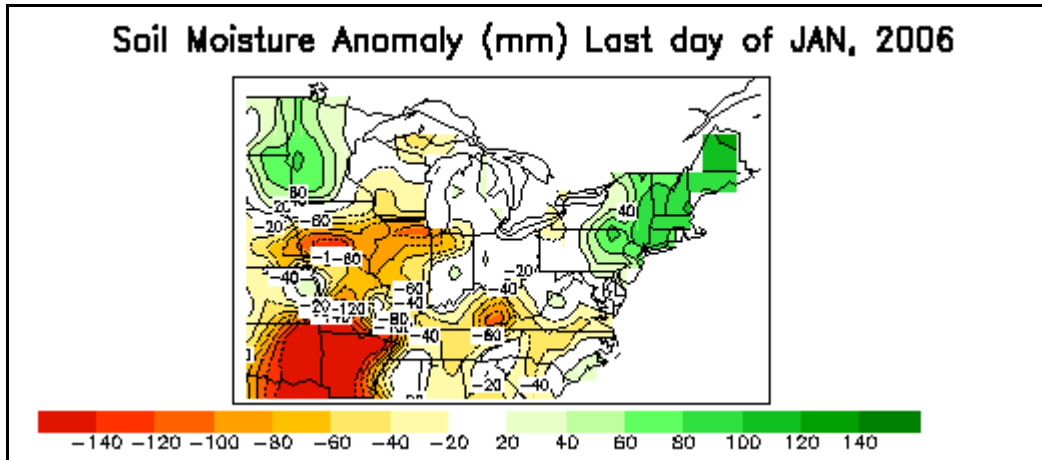


### 3 Month Standard Precipitation Index

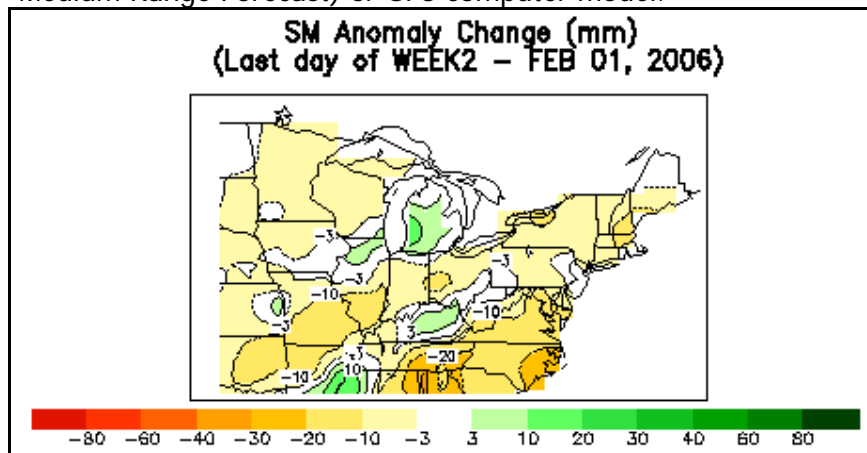


### Soil Moisture Anomalies and Outlook

The graphic below displays **soil moisture anomalies** in mm through the 30 days leading up to December 31, 2005. Soil moisture is estimated in mm by a one-layer hydrological model (Huang et al., 1996). The model takes observed precipitation and temperature and calculates soil moisture, evaporation and runoff. The potential evaporation is estimated from observed temperature. Maximum soil moisture is set to be 760mm.

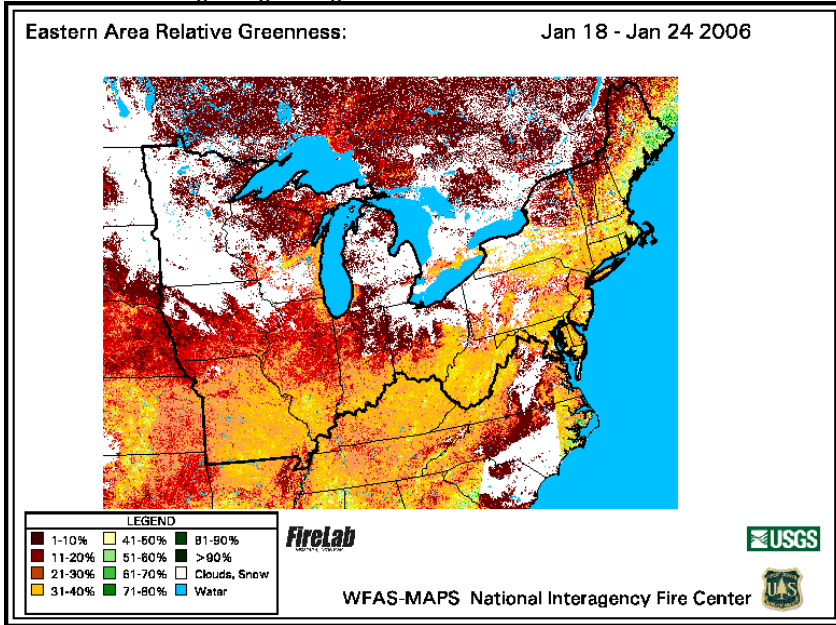


The graphic below displays the **forecast soil moisture change** (in mm) over the period from February 8, 2006 to February 15, 2006. These projections are based on output from the MRF (Medium Range Forecast) or GFS computer model.



**NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) Relative Greenness Map**

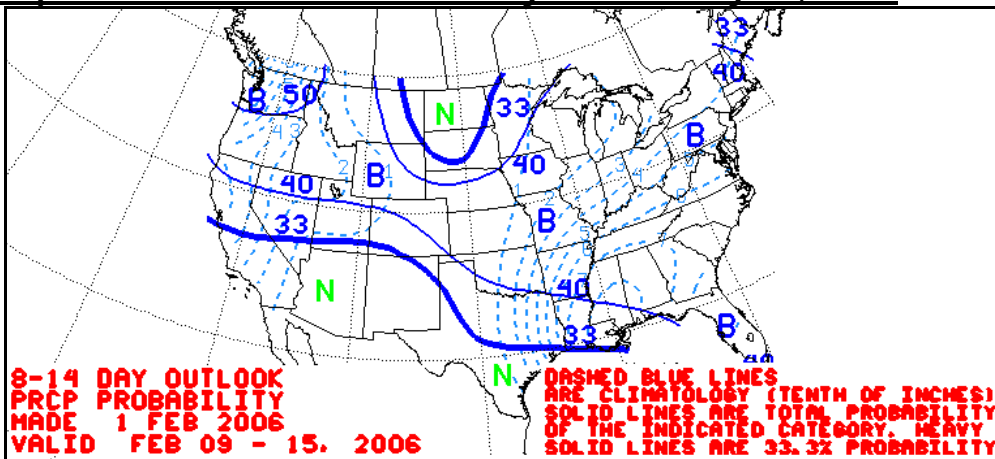
RG - Relative Greenness Maps - portray how green the vegetation is compared to how green it has been historically (1989-2003). Because each pixel is normalized to its own historical range, all areas (dry to wet) can appear fully green at some time during the growing season.



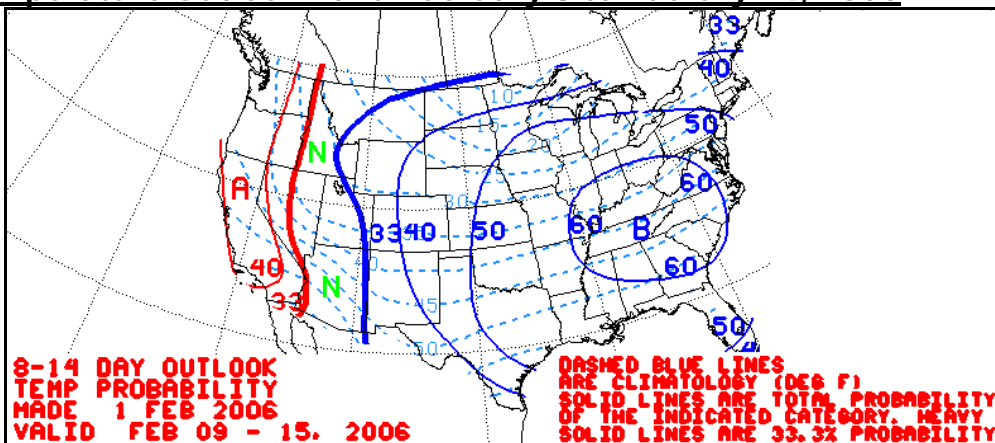
**Weather Outlook**

Climate Prediction Center's 8 to 14 Day Outlook

**Precipitation Outlook Valid February 9 to February 15, 2006**

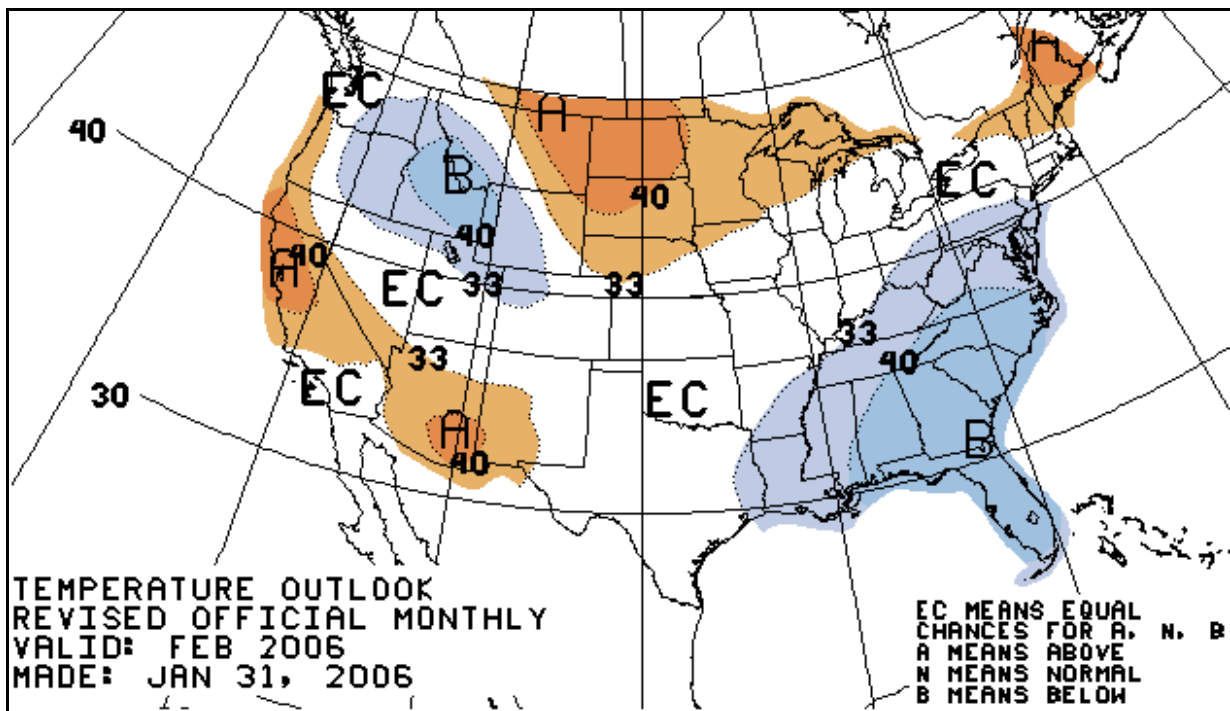
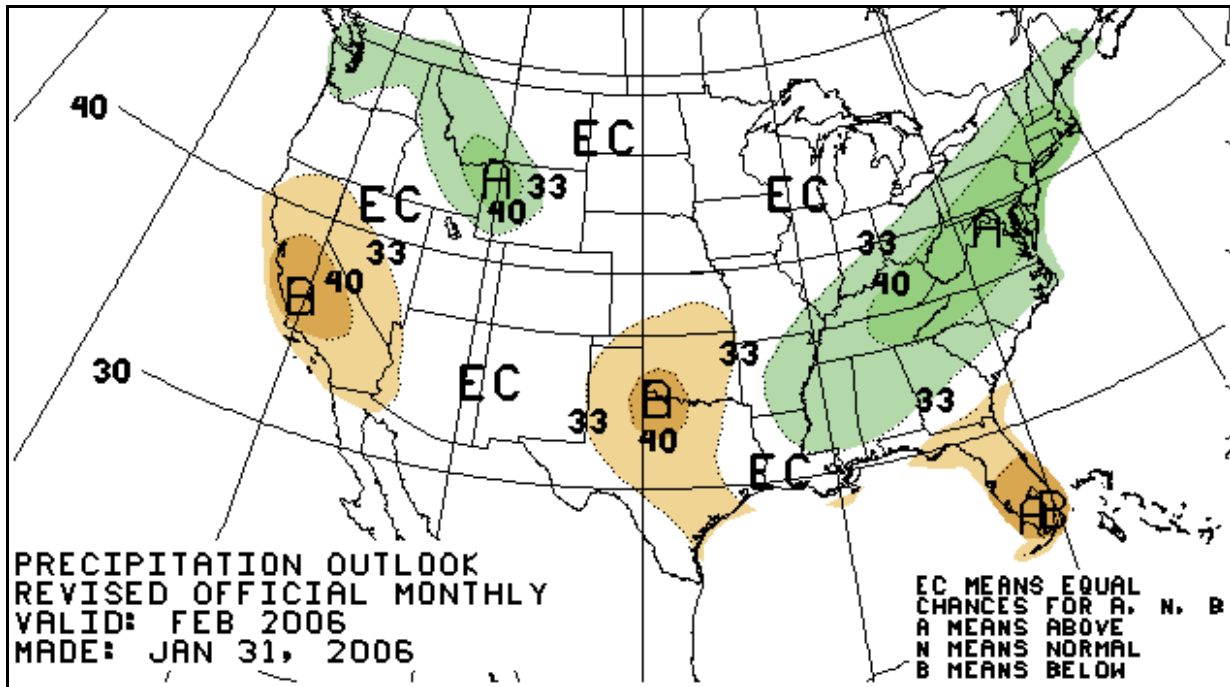


**Temperature Outlook Valid February 8 to February 14, 2006**



Climate Prediction Center's February 2006 Precipitation and Temperature Outlooks

(B=Below Normal, A=Above Normal) (CL=Equal Chance of being above or below)



## Narrative

### Eastern Area February 2006 Fire Weather/Fire Danger Outlook

<b>Geographic Area Name</b>	Eastern Area
<b>Precipitation Outlook</b>	33 to 40 percent chance of above normal precipitation across the southeastern quarter of the Big Rivers, much of the Mid-Atlantic, and the southwestern quarter of the Northeast Compacts. Equal chance of above or below normal precipitation predicted across the remainder of the Eastern Area (EA).
<b>Temperature Outlook</b>	33 to 40 percent chance of above normal temperatures across the southeastern Great Lakes, eastern Big Rivers, entire Mid-Atlantic, and southwestern half of the Northeast Compacts. Equal chances of below or above normal temperatures predicted elsewhere.
<b>Fuels and Fire Danger Concerns</b>	<p>Much of the Eastern Area recorded much above normal temperatures through January 2006. This has created negative snow depths anomalies over much of the region. The only area at the end of January where snow depths were near or above normal was the northern half of Maine. Northern Wisconsin, northern Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan had snow cover on the ground but it was below normal levels in many of these areas. The rest of the Eastern Area was almost snow free as of January 27<sup>th</sup>. The lack of snow cover, very warm temperatures, and frequent wind events has led to above normal winter fire activity in some areas. Negative precipitation and soil moisture anomalies were the greatest across the southwestern third of Missouri, northern Illinois, eastern Iowa, far southern Wisconsin, and northwestern Indiana. 10 hour fuel moistures were as low as 7% across southwestern Missouri. Larger size fuel moistures were also the lowest at RAWS within these areas towards the end of January. The trend for above normal temperatures is predicted to persist into February 2006, especially across the central portions of the Eastern Area. While above normal fire occurrence will likely persist over much of the southern tier, the greatest threat of large or problematic fires has been highlighted over southwestern Missouri, northern Illinois, eastern Iowa, far southern Wisconsin, and northwest Indiana due to the antecedent fuel and accumulated precipitation and soil moisture anomalies, and fire danger indices.</p> <p>Eastern New England continued to be wetter than normal through January 2006. However, due to the warmer than normal temperatures there is the potential for fire activity over this region given a few days of drying. Finer fuel ignitions may be problematic during these dry periods. However, the threat for large fire activity would be lower due to the longer term wet conditions which were in place at the end of January.</p>
<b>Prescribed fire implications</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	

# Eastern Area February 2006 Large Fire Potential Map

**Red**=Above Normal Large Fire Potential  
**Green**=Below Normal Large Fire Potential  
No shading=Normal Large Fire Potential

