

# Region 2 Fire Danger Outlook

2/26/18

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## Weather Outlook

- High pressure will build into the area tonight and Tuesday then slide offshore Wednesday. Strong low pressure will pass north of the region late Thursday and Friday pushing a cold front through the area and bringing chances of rain for Wednesday night through Thursday night. Strong high pressure will slowly build in from the northwest next weekend. For March 6-12, there is an equal chance of **above** or **below** normal precipitation.
- Minimum RH will generally be in the upper 20s to mid-30s Tuesday, rebounding to the 60s-70s on Wednesday and Thursday, before falling back to the 30s-40s for Friday and the weekend. RH Recovery will be good to excellent through the period.
- Winds will generally be light and variable until Thursday when they will increase to 10-15 MPH from the S, the NW at 10-15 for the weekend. Mixing heights of 3,400-5,000 feet tomorrow and Thursday with transport winds E-NE at 7-15 MPH for Tuesday and SW 7-18 MPH for Wednesday.
- High temperatures will be in the upper lower 50s to mid-60s throughout the period. Lows will range from upper 20s to mid-40s for the entire region. For March 6-12, there is a 50-60% chance of **below** normal temperatures.

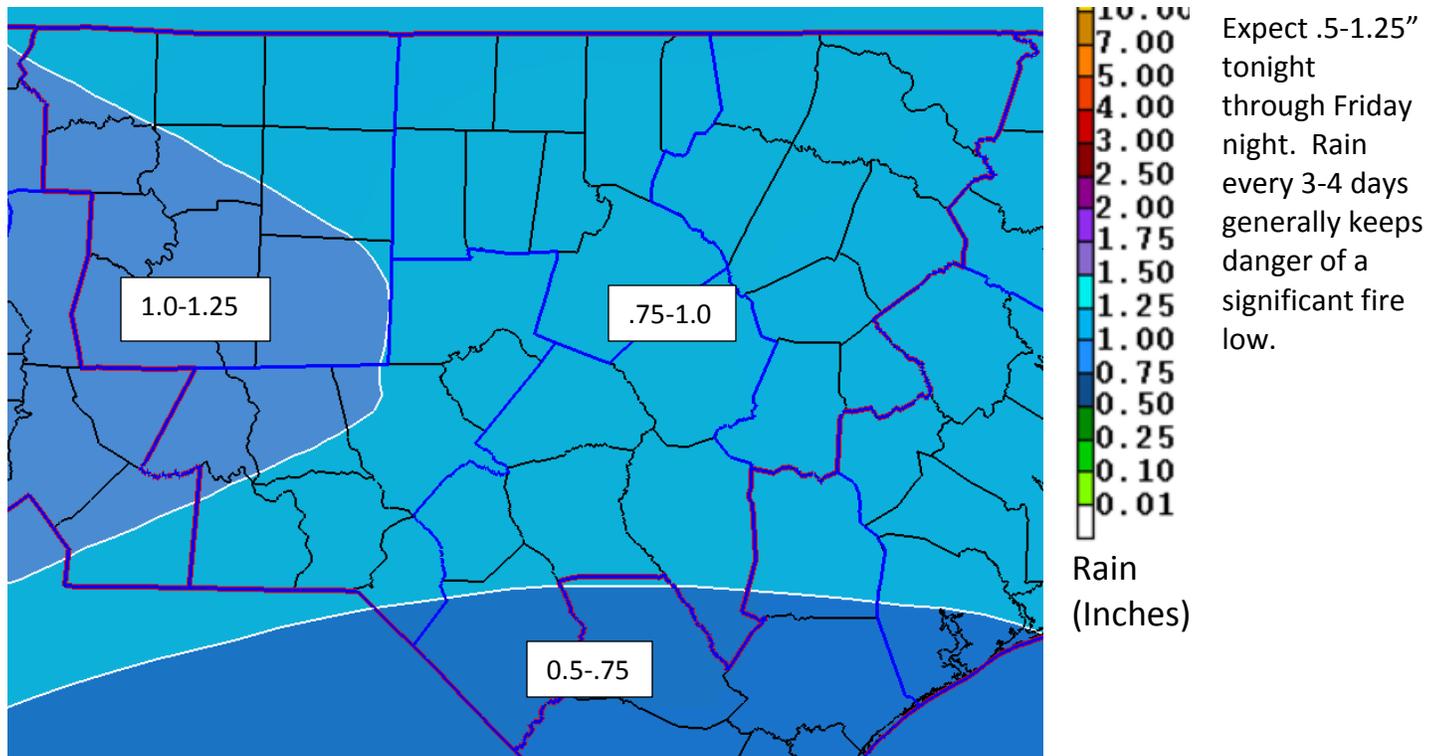
## Precipitation Estimates for February 20<sup>th</sup>, 0700 to February 26<sup>th</sup>, 0700



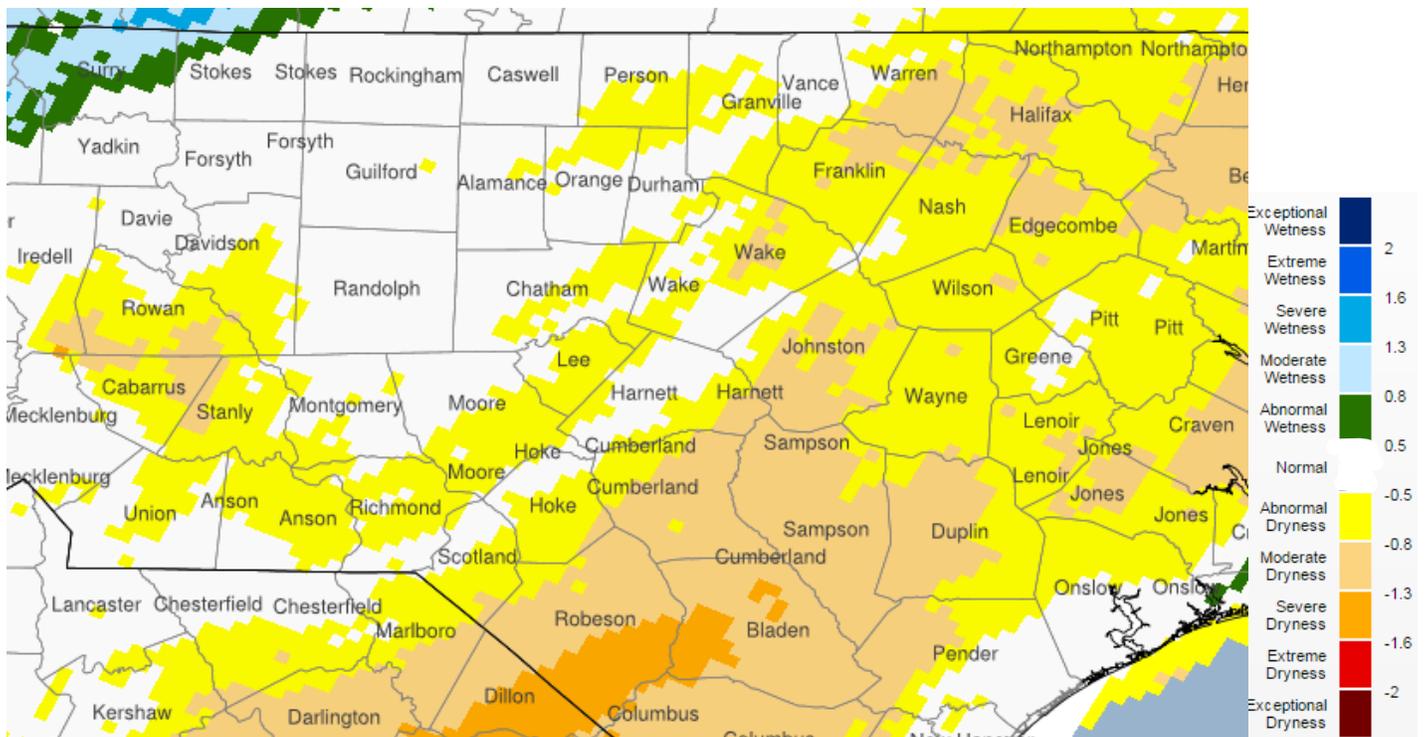
Much of the region has had no rain in the past 7 days.

NOTE: The scale on the legend for this map may change from week to week. In other words, the colors may represent different rain amounts from week to week.

## Forecast Precipitation, February 26, 1900-March 3, 1900

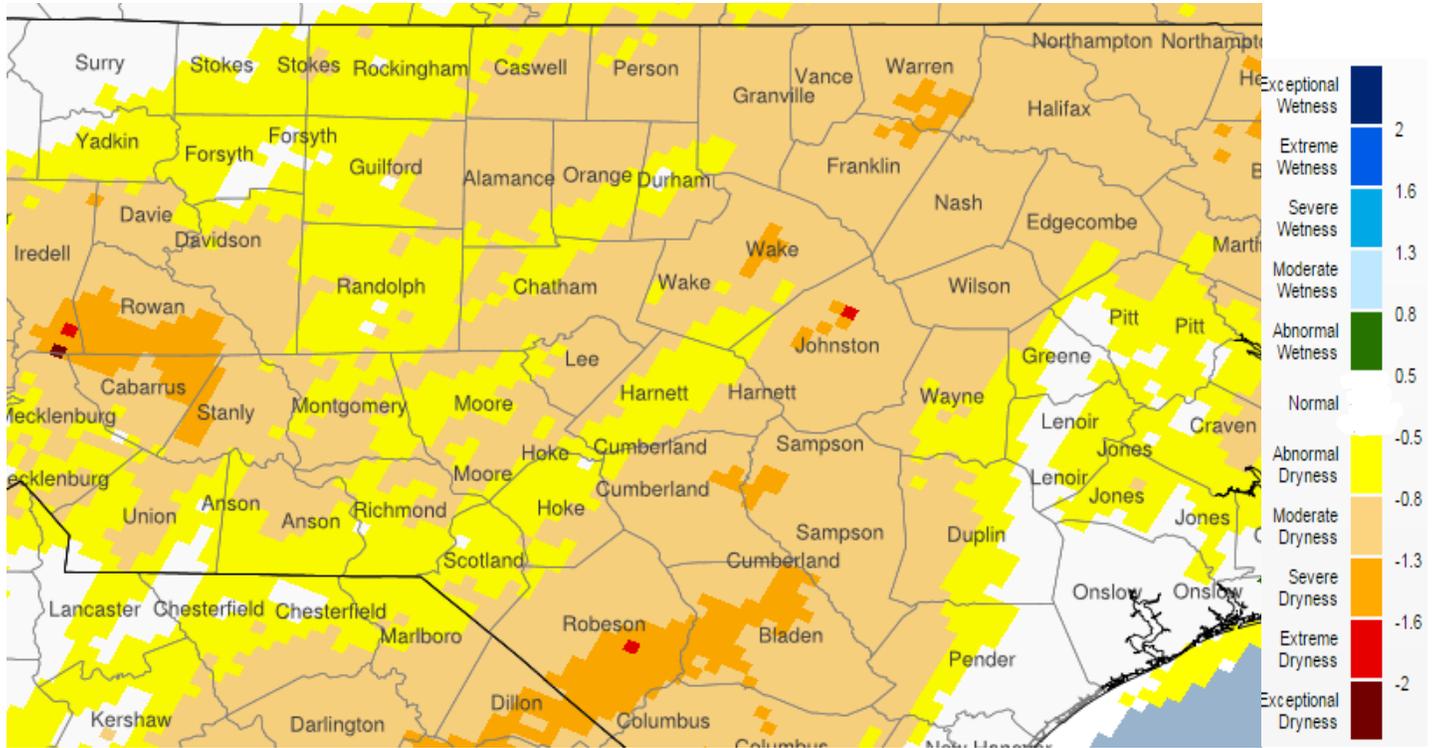


## 30 Day Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) Blend



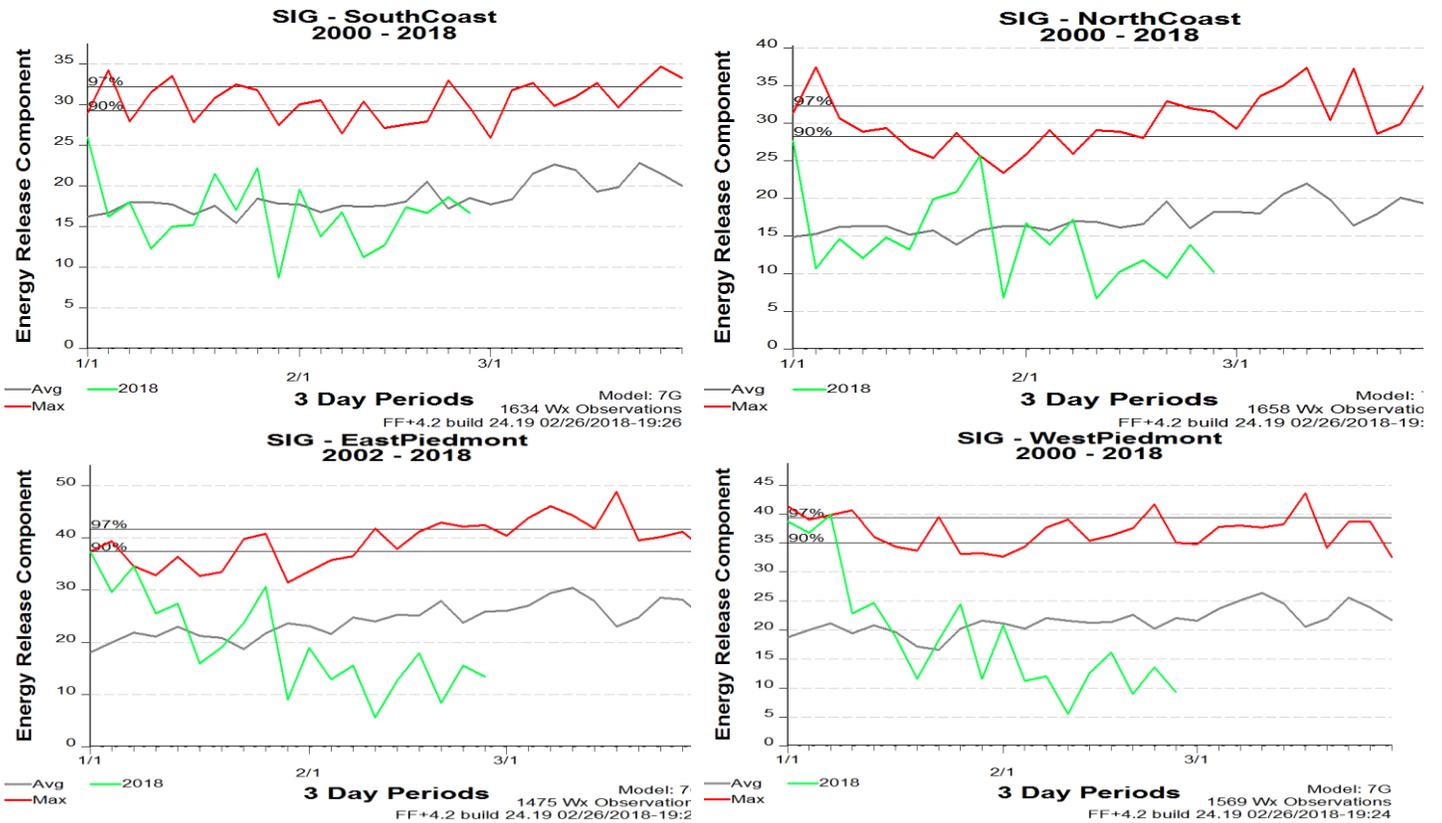
A little below normal for the southern and eastern parts of the region. The area around Rowan/Cabarrus/Stanley is in a small sliver of NC that is not covered by rainfall measuring radar. The SPI Blend is similar to the SPI, but it puts more emphasis on more recent precipitation events. For a definition of this index, go to <http://climate.ncsu.edu/water/map/>

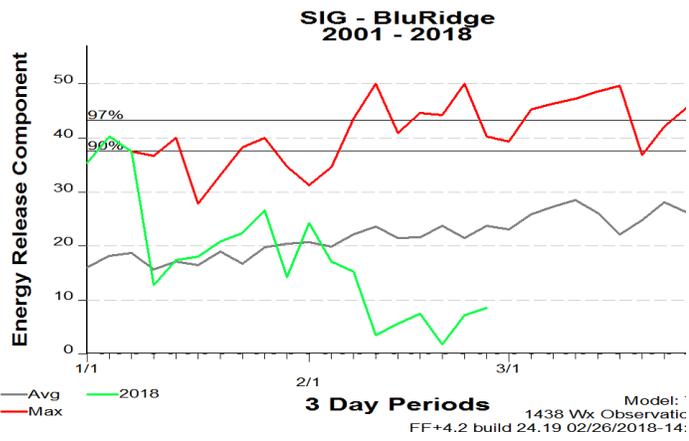
# 90 Day SPI Blend



The 90 day map shows dryness at some level covering almost the entire region.

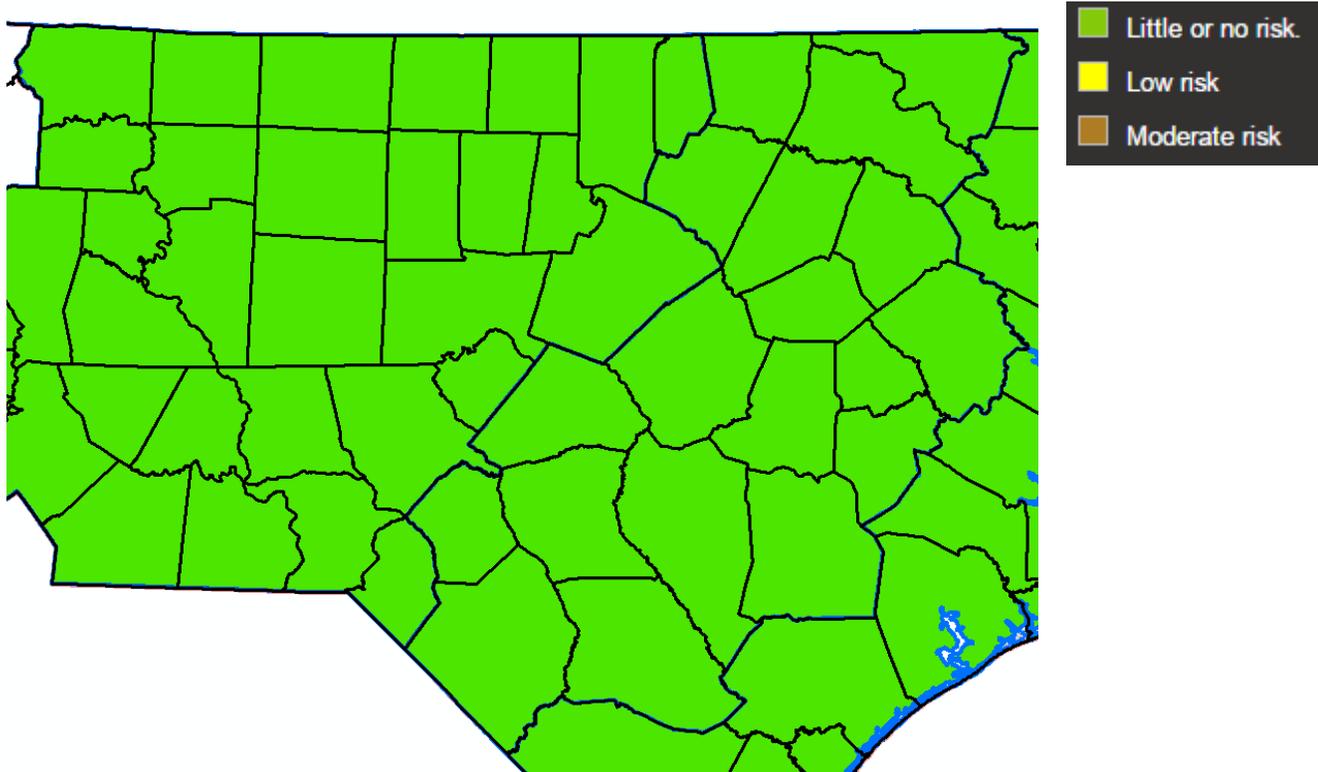
# ERC Trends





ERCs came down quickly during the early January snowstorm. The coastal FDRAs have been bouncing around normal ever since, while the others seem to have been on a relatively steady decline. Given the rain forecast for this week, they are not likely to climb much, and certainly would not become critical. If you want a closer look at any of the graphs, just click the + button on the top ribbon and scroll to the graph of interest.

## Seven Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook



Today through Sunday

# El Niño Southern Oscillation Update

## IRI/CPC Pacific Niño 3.4 SST Model Outlook

The majority of models predict La Niña to persist into Northern Hemisphere spring 2018, with a return to ENSO-neutral by summer 2018.

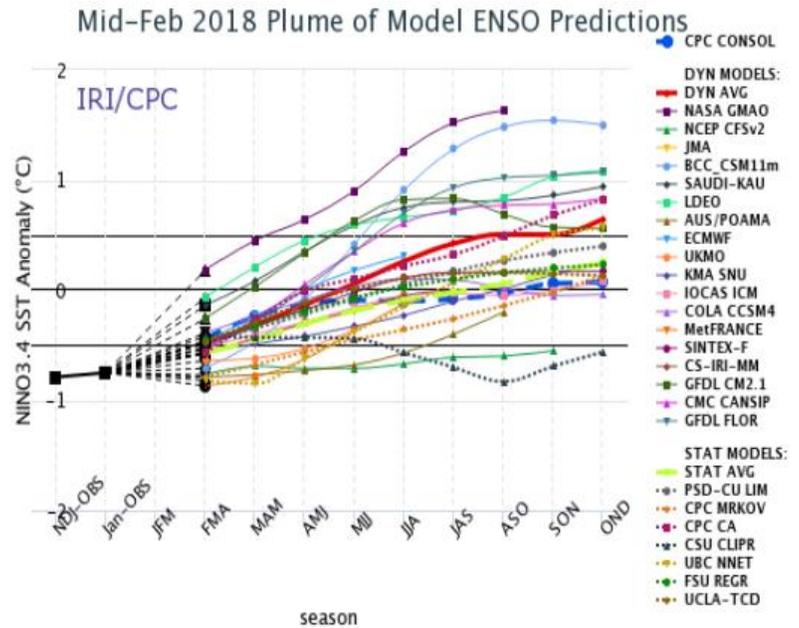


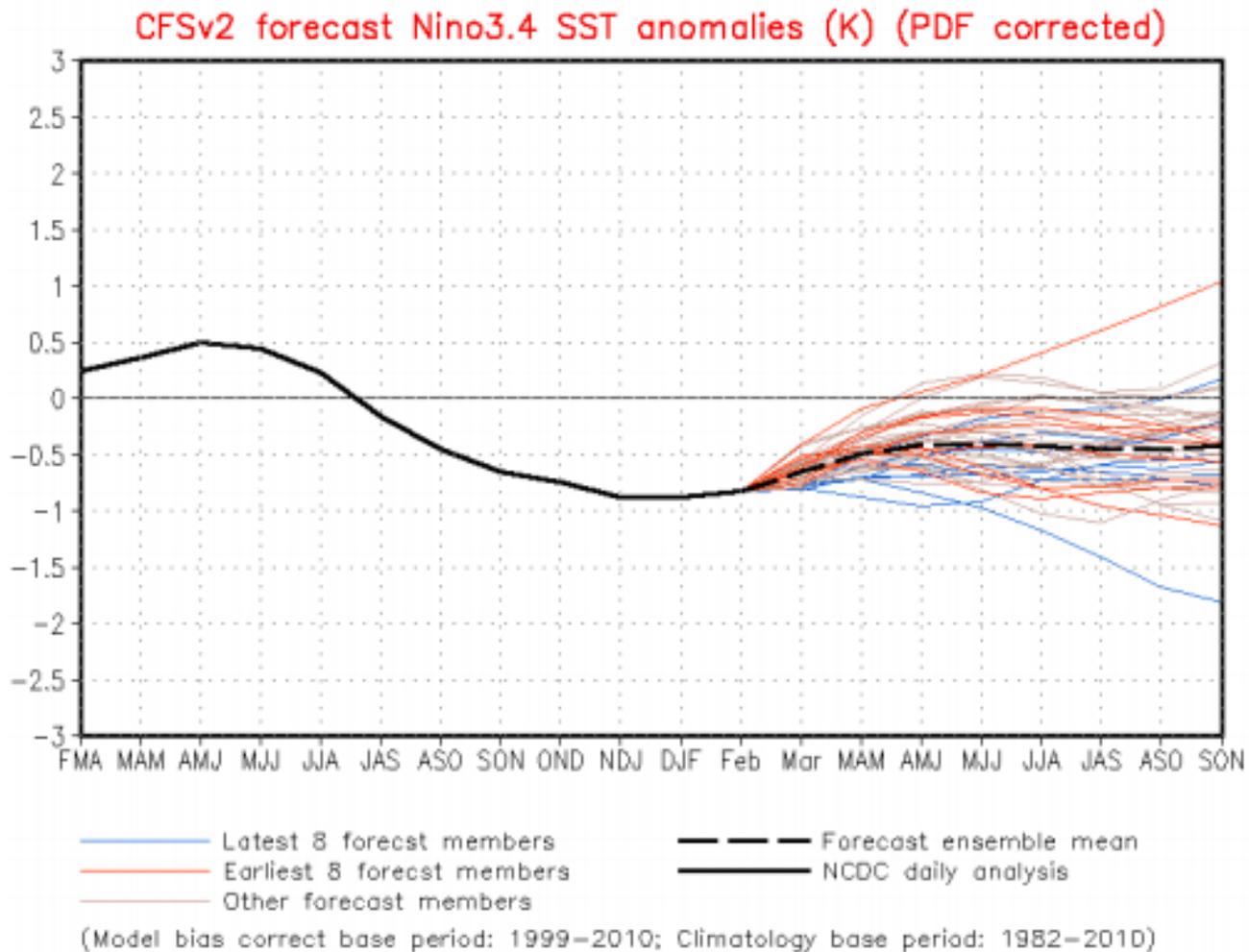
Figure provided by the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society (updated 19 February 2018).

This is a model ensemble from the IRI/CPC. It looks confusing, but the X-axis represents 3 rolling 3 month periods (Ex. MAM is March, April, May). The dark red line is the average of the dynamic models, and the yellow line is the average of the static models.

# SST Outlook: NCEP CFS.v2 Forecast (PDF corrected)

Issued: 25 February 2018

The CFS.v2 ensemble mean (black dashed line) favors borderline ENSO-neutral or La Niña conditions through the Northern Hemisphere summer 2018.



The National Center for Environmental Prediction model ensemble.

Both sets of models are predicting a move toward an ENSO neutral position, although the IRI is predicting a more aggressive move earlier in the summer. La Niña typically means warmer conditions in NC, and depending upon the location of the upper level jet and polar vortex, possibly drier than normal. ENSO neutral gives no long term guidance. General weather patterns are influenced more by short term phenomena like fronts and cyclones.