

Region 3 Fire Danger Outlook

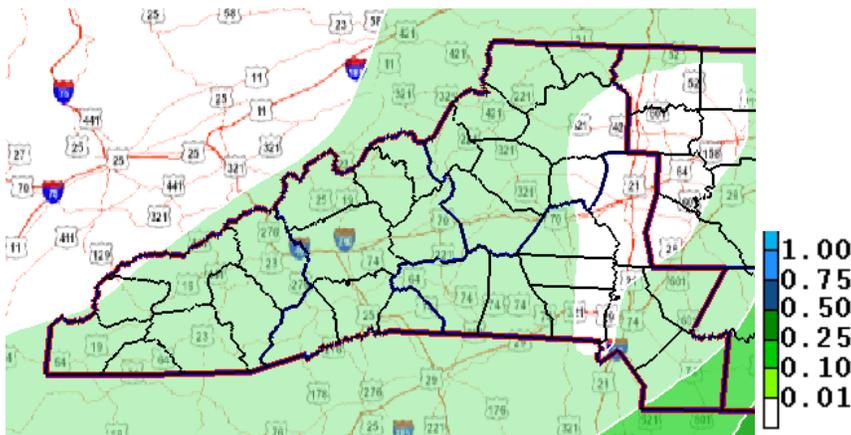
11/12/2016, 1200

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Weather Outlook

- Dry and cold high pressure will settle across the region today in the wake of a cold front. An upper level disturbance will move over the area Sunday into Monday bringing a slight chance for light precipitation to the region. One to 2 tenths of an inch may be seen east of the Blue Ridge. Another cold front is expected to move through the forecast area in the middle of this coming week, but it will likely be dry. From November 19-24, there is a **40-50% below** normal temperatures.
- Low RH's are forecast to be in the mid 20s-mid 30s today and tomorrow, increasing to mid 30s-mid 40s with the arrival of the low Sunday night through Wednesday or Thursday. After the passage of the next front, they will drop again to the mid 30s for the rest of the period. RH recovery is expected to be fair to good during this period. **Nighttime inversions coupled with cold frontal passage and smoke have been suppressing RH recovery. On 11/10, humidity at some stations was in the teens or even single digits at 0600, when they are normally at maximum levels.**
- Winds at elevation will be gusty again today. Generally, in the valleys they will be 5-10 MPH through the period. Today, mixing heights will be 4-6,000 feet range with transport winds of less than 10 MPH today. Tomorrow, mixing heights will drop significantly to 2-4,000 feet for the entire of the region, and transport winds at less than 12 MPH.
- Temperatures will be seasonable, with highs in the upper 40s to low 60s through the period and lows in the mid 20s in the northern mountains and low 30s in the southern mountains. This means a hard freeze is likely in the D-2 area, with a good frost in the remainder of the region. From November 19-24, there is a 40-50% chance of **below** normal precipitation.

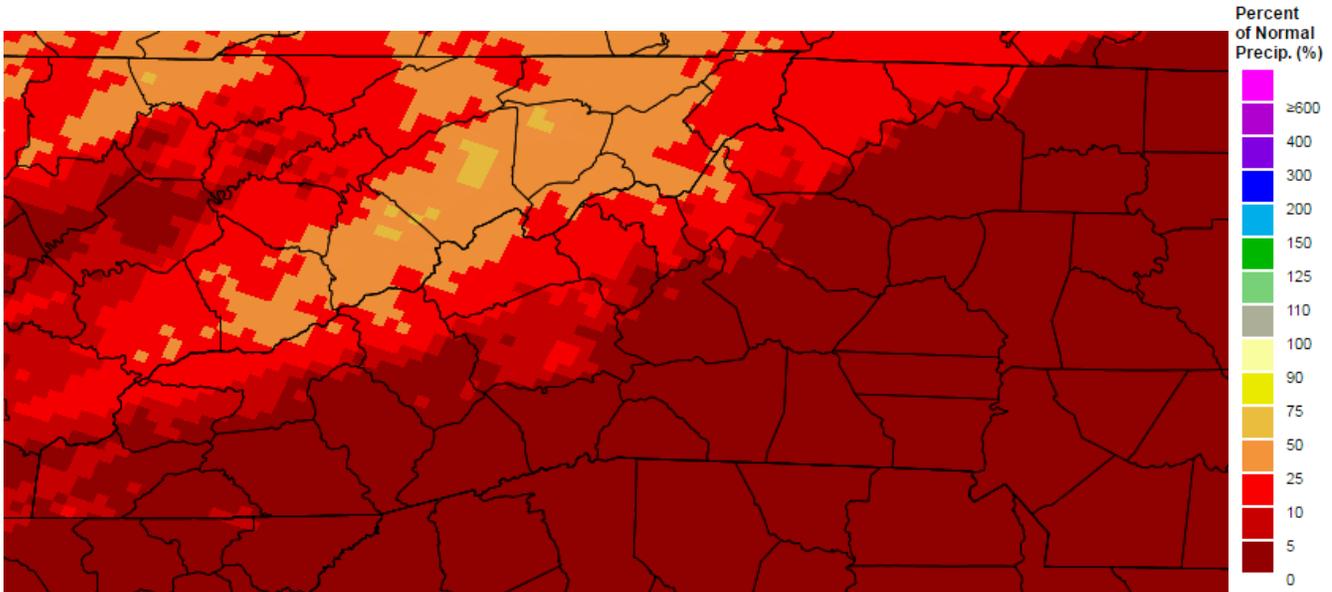
PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK, 11/13/16, 0800 to 11/14/16, 0800



This is an ensemble of models showing less than .1" of precipitation for tomorrow/tomorrow night. At least one model is showing a much better chance of rain, with up to an inch predicted.

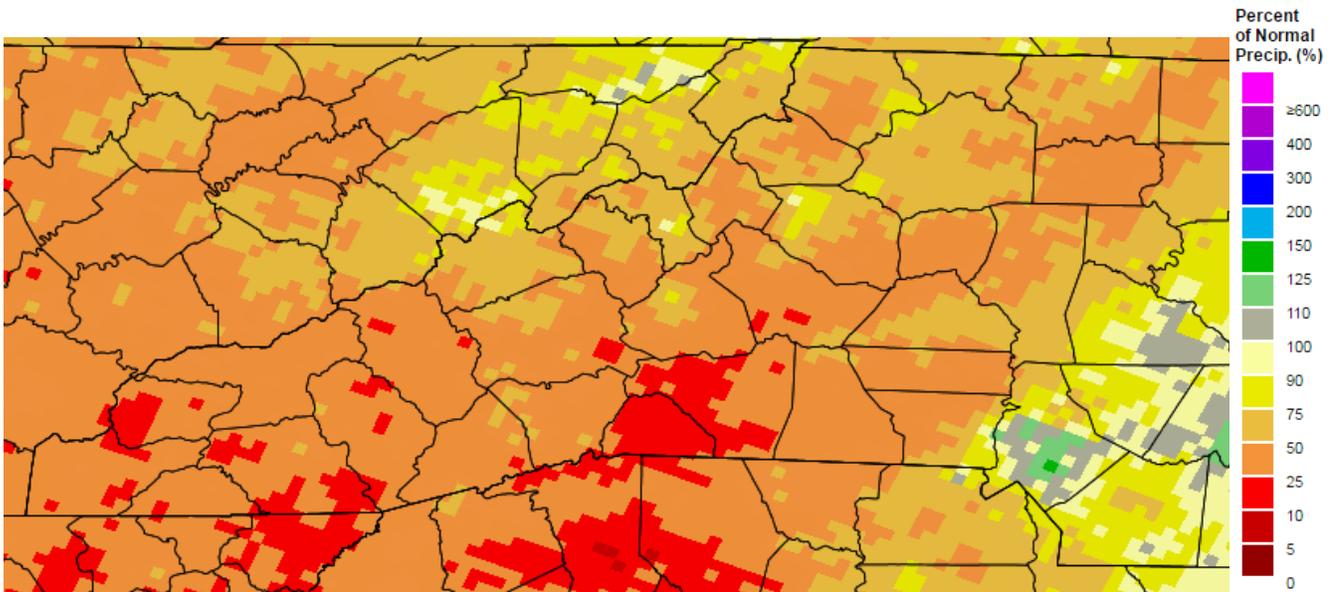
The next chance of wetting rain will be next Saturday-Sunday with the passage of a cold front. Some models are showing a chance of 1-1.5" of rain, but models a week out are not so reliable. Yesterday, the models were showing no rain from that front.

30 Day Precipitation Departure (shown as percent of normal)



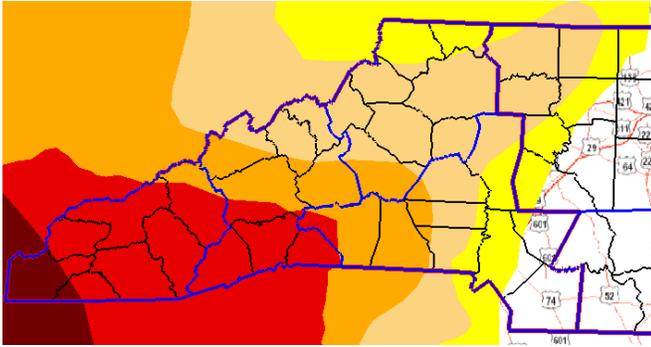
2/3 of the region have had under 5% of their monthly rainfall. We are now more than 30 days out from the Matthew effect, so even the eastern part of the region that got rain from that are in the <5% level.

90 Day Precipitation Departure (shown as percent of normal)

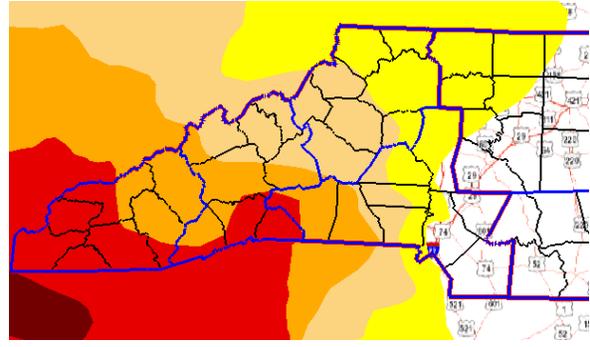


Longer term looks better due to precipitation from Matthew. All areas except the Charlotte Metro are below normal, with 10-25% where many fires are occurring.

Drought Monitor

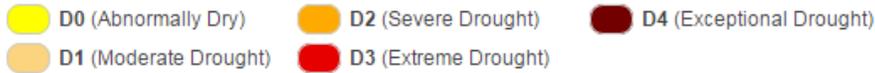


November 8th-Current



November 1-Last week

Intensity:

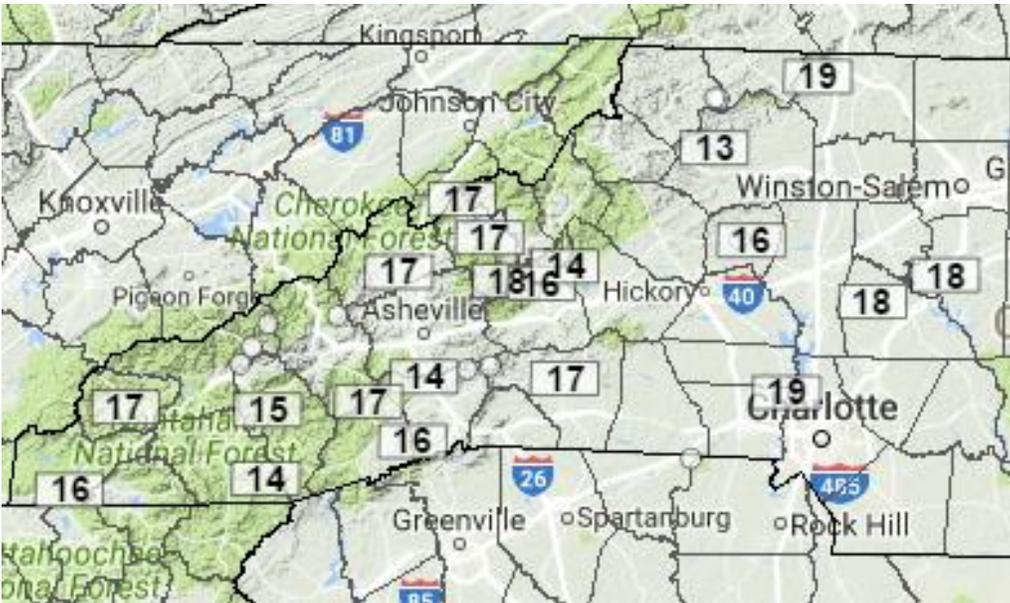


Cherokee is now D4 Exceptional Drought. Iredell, Gaston, Stokes, Wilkes and Yancey added to D1: Moderate Drought. Compare maps for other changes.

ERC

No news here. They are all at historic highs and will remain there without precipitation.

1000 HR FM, 11/11/16, 1300

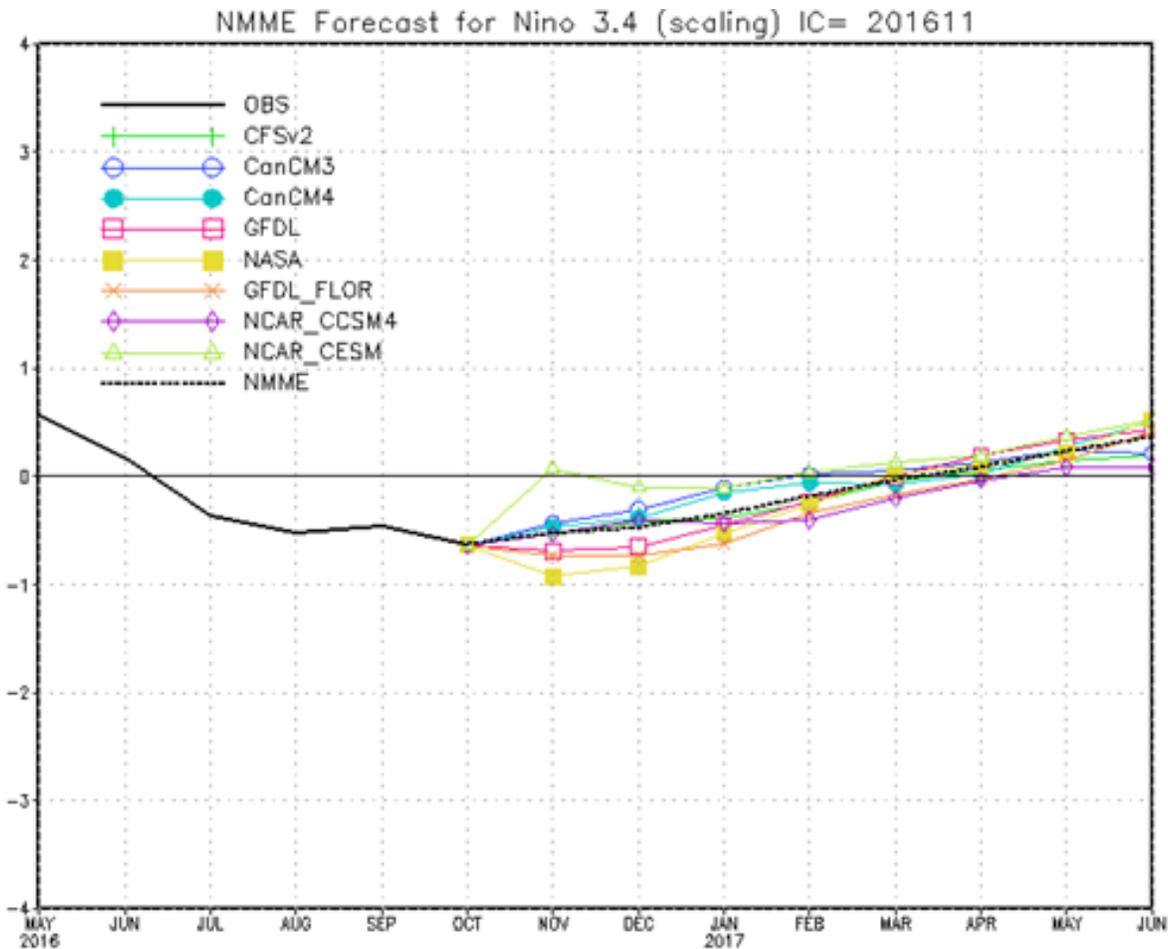


At these levels, expect full consumption of 1000 HR fuels. This have been confirmed on the ground. Dead snags and hollow “chimney” trees will also burn vigorously.

ENSO

As of November 10th, La Nina conditions are present. Forecasts give La Nina a 55% chance of continuing through February. At that point, the chance of ENSO moving back into a neutral state increases to near 60%. By the May-July time period, equal chances of El Nino and La Nina will be equal, although neutral is still predicted with a 60% chance.

We have been in neutral since late spring, and we have seen the results-below normal rainfall except from tropical events. If it weren't for the 3 tropical systems that came through in September and October, the entire state would be in nearly the same condition as R-3.



ENSO moved to neutral in April/May, but was slow to get to the -0.5 degrees C required and stay in the La Nina zone for 3 months.