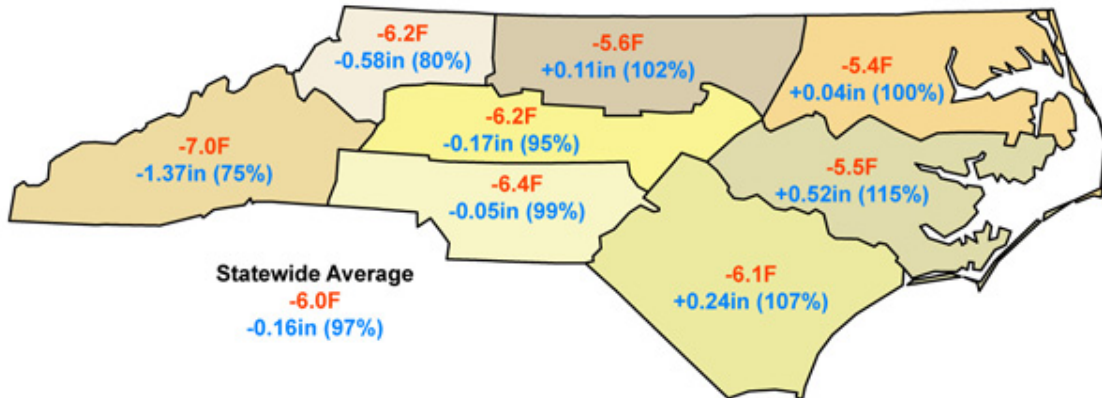


February 2010 Climate Summary - North Carolina

Ryan Boyles, State Climate Office of North Carolina

Temperature and Precipitation by Climate Division
Departures from Normal for February 2010
Based on Preliminary Data



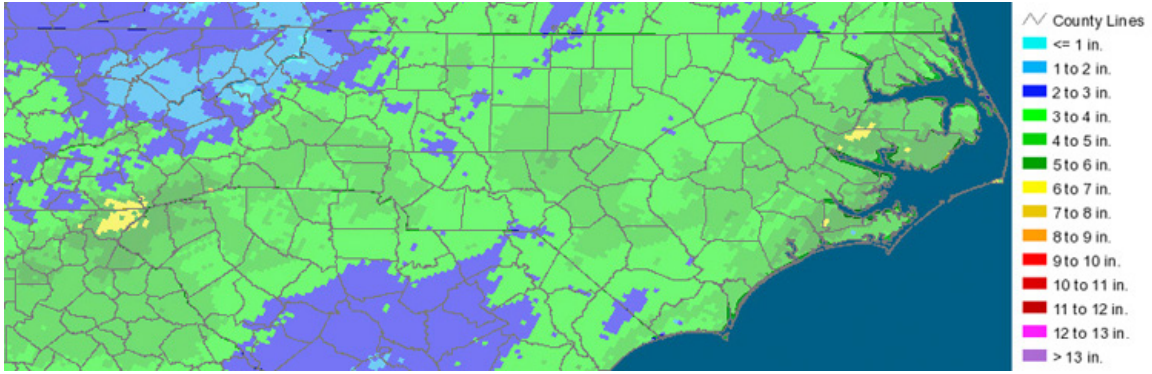
February 2010 was the coldest February in North Carolina in over 30 years. Average monthly statewide temperature was more than 6 degrees F below normal – conditions not seen since 1979. Interestingly, minimum temperatures were not very unusual, with monthly average minimums typically ranking 10-20 coldest. However, nearly every location in North Carolina had average maximum temperatures for February ranked in the top 3 coldest. All of western NC reported minimum temperatures as the #1 or #2 coldest on record. Some locations, such as Asheville, reported the coldest average maximum temperature since records began 108 years ago. Statewide, average temperatures for February 2010 ranked as the 11th coldest since 1895.

For both Asheville (Buncombe Co.) and Jefferson (Ashe Co.), this past winter December 2009 –February 2010 was the coldest on record.

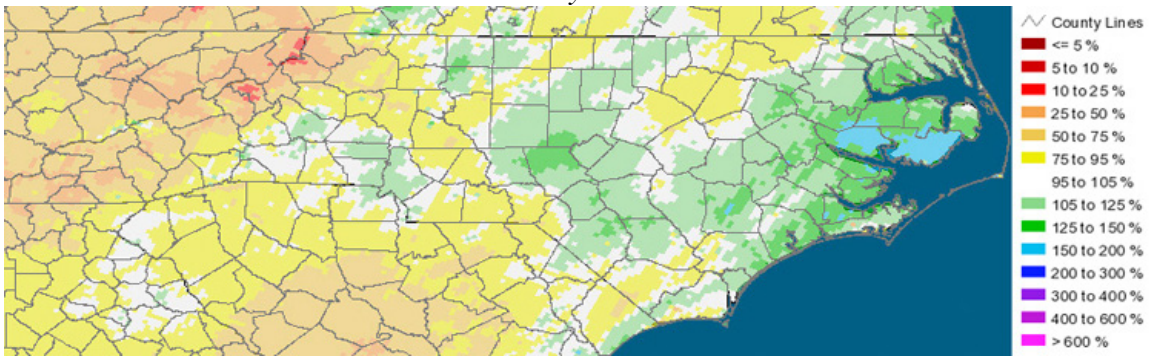
Precipitation in February 2010 was generally near normal, which is a nice break from the record-setting precipitation from the previous months. Despite only “normal” precipitation in February, many locations across the state will still end up with winter total precipitation ranking in the top 10. And most locations in western NC are experiencing snowfall amounts not experienced in 30 years.

Impacts to Water Resources

The drought conditions from recent year seem like a distant memory to many. Wet conditions continue to ensure reservoirs are full and groundwater is recharging. Drought conditions are not likely to be of any concern until late spring or early summer if NC again experiences dry weather.



Precipitation for February 2010
Based on estimates from NWS Radar
Data courtesy NWS/NCEP



Precipitation for February 2010: Percent of Normal
Based on estimates from NWS Radar
Data courtesy NWS/NCEP