



Spring Outlook

BC Wildfire Service Predictive Service Unit

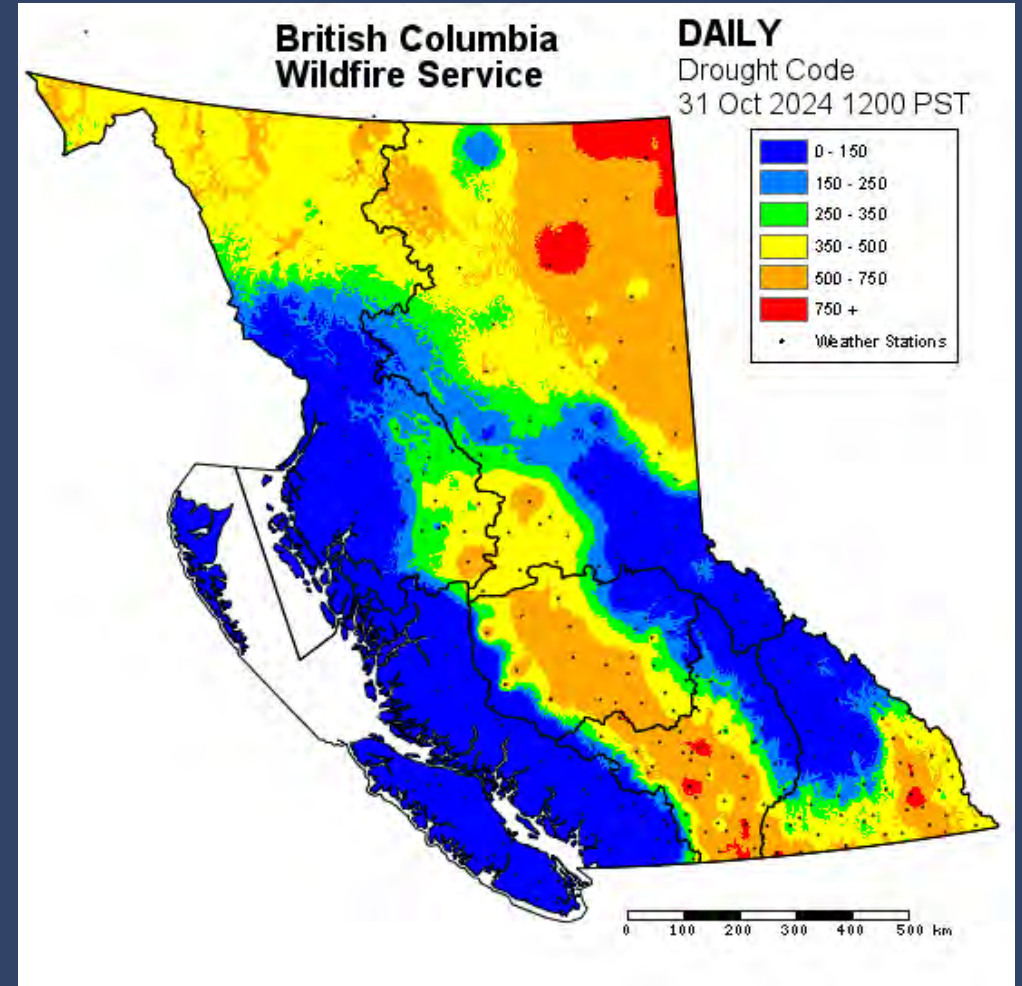
April 8, 2025



BC Wildfire
Service

Conditions at the end of 2024

- Multi-year drought conditions persisted into the fall over the Northeast corner of the province
- Several months of below-normal precipitation in the southern Nechako and Chilcotin plateau regions led to elevated Drought Codes in those areas as well
- These deep drought conditions were evidenced by fires that burned well into the fall in the northeast and in the southern Nechako region

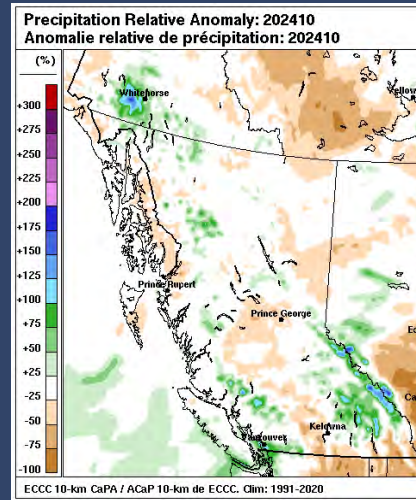


Drought Codes October 31, 2024

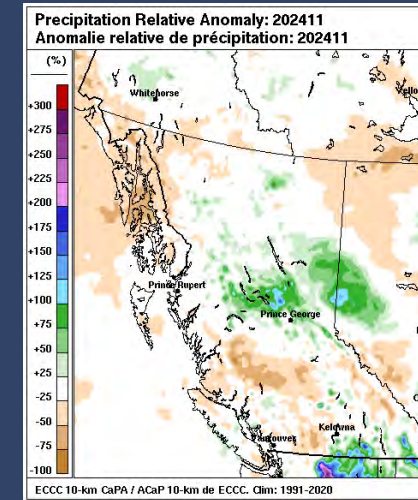
Over-winter precipitation

- Near to above-normal precipitation was recorded over central, northeastern, and southern B.C. during November and December
- Snowpack growth was limited during January and February, which saw significantly less precipitation than normal
- Precipitation returned in earnest in March across southern B.C. with 100 to 200% of normal amounts recorded

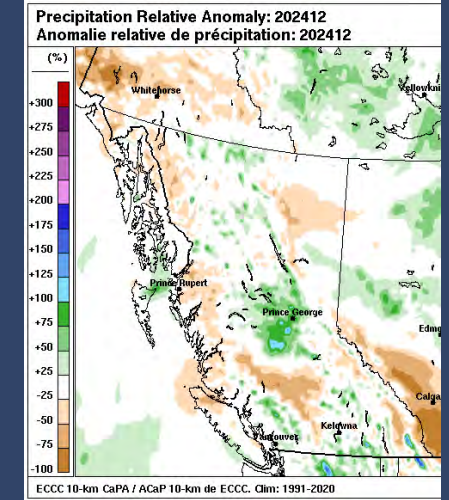
Monthly % of normal precipitation



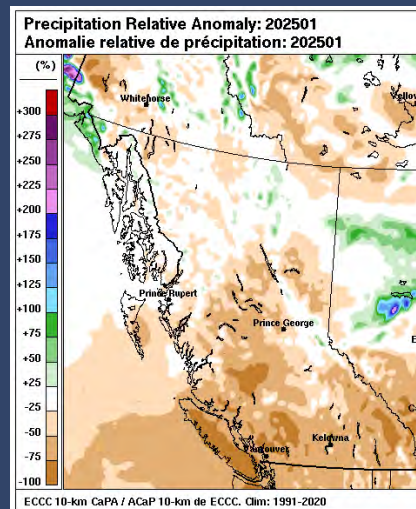
October 2024



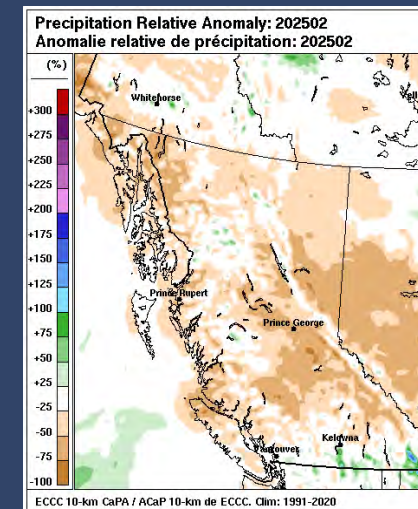
November 2024



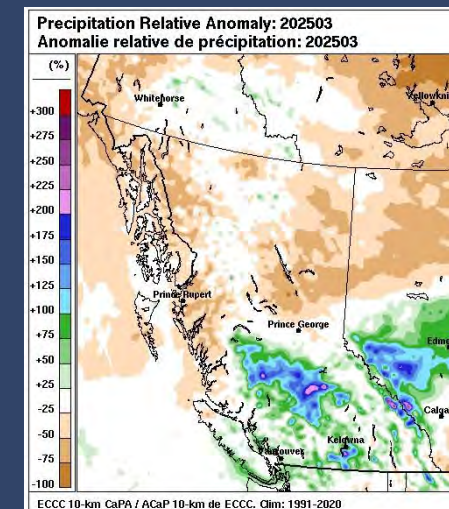
December 2024



January 2025



February 2025

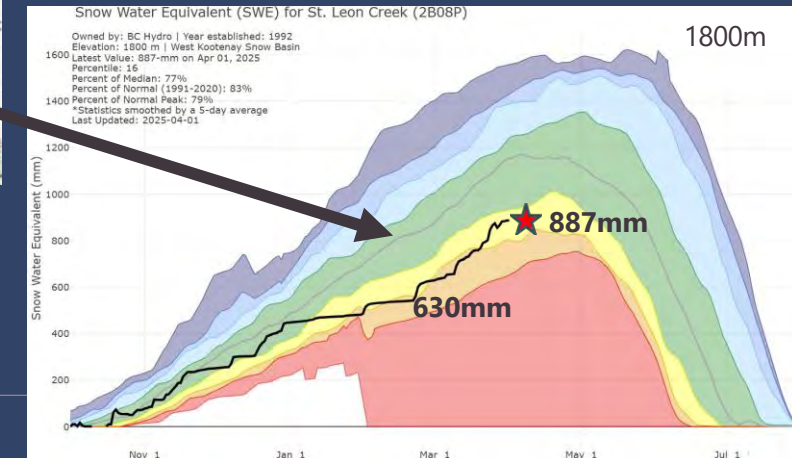
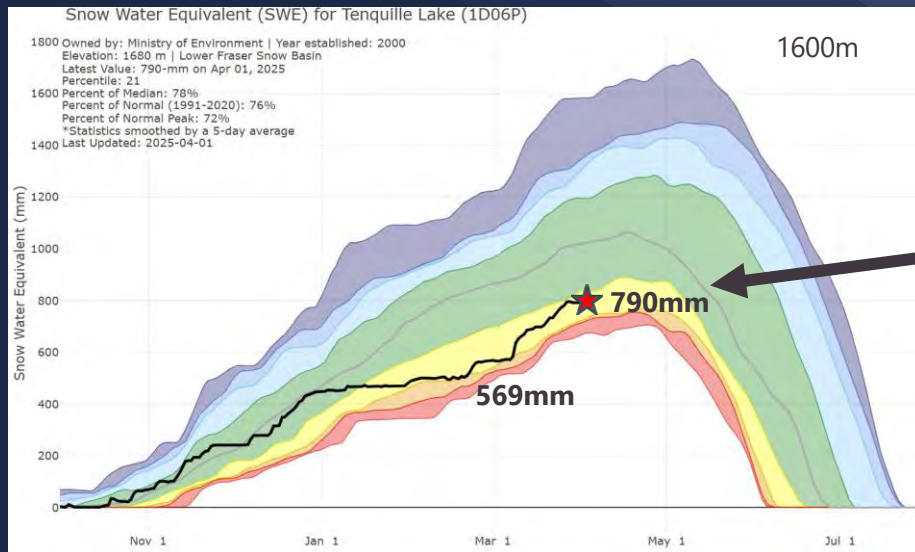
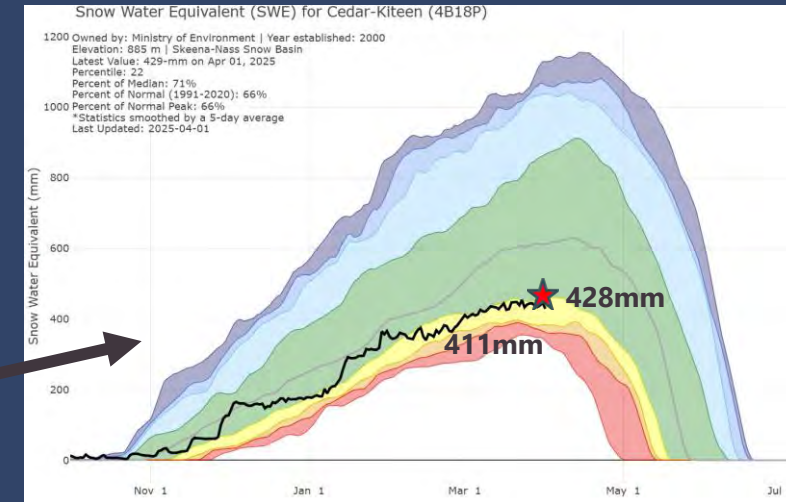
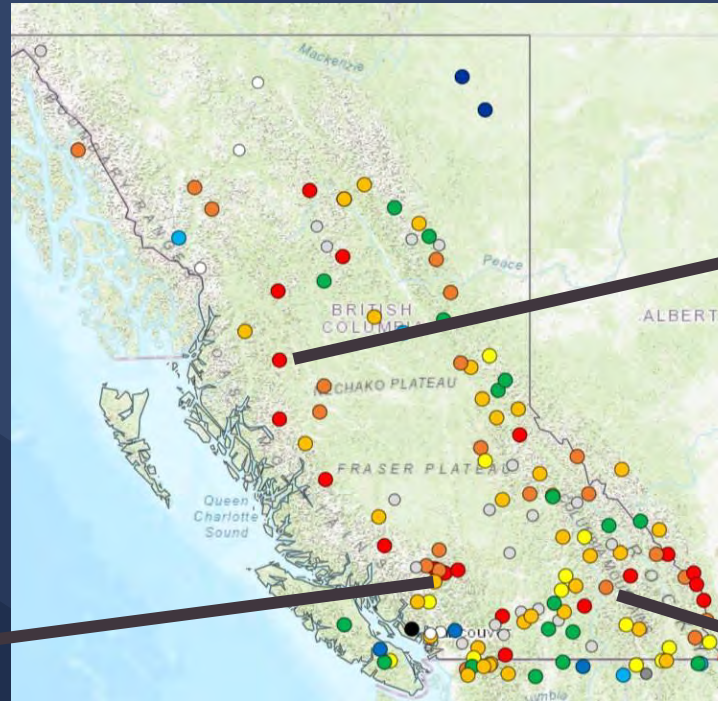


March 2025

Recent changes in snowpacks

- A cool, wet pattern across southern B.C. in March contributed to significant snowfall accumulations in the mountains
- Mountain ranges across the north saw limited accumulations

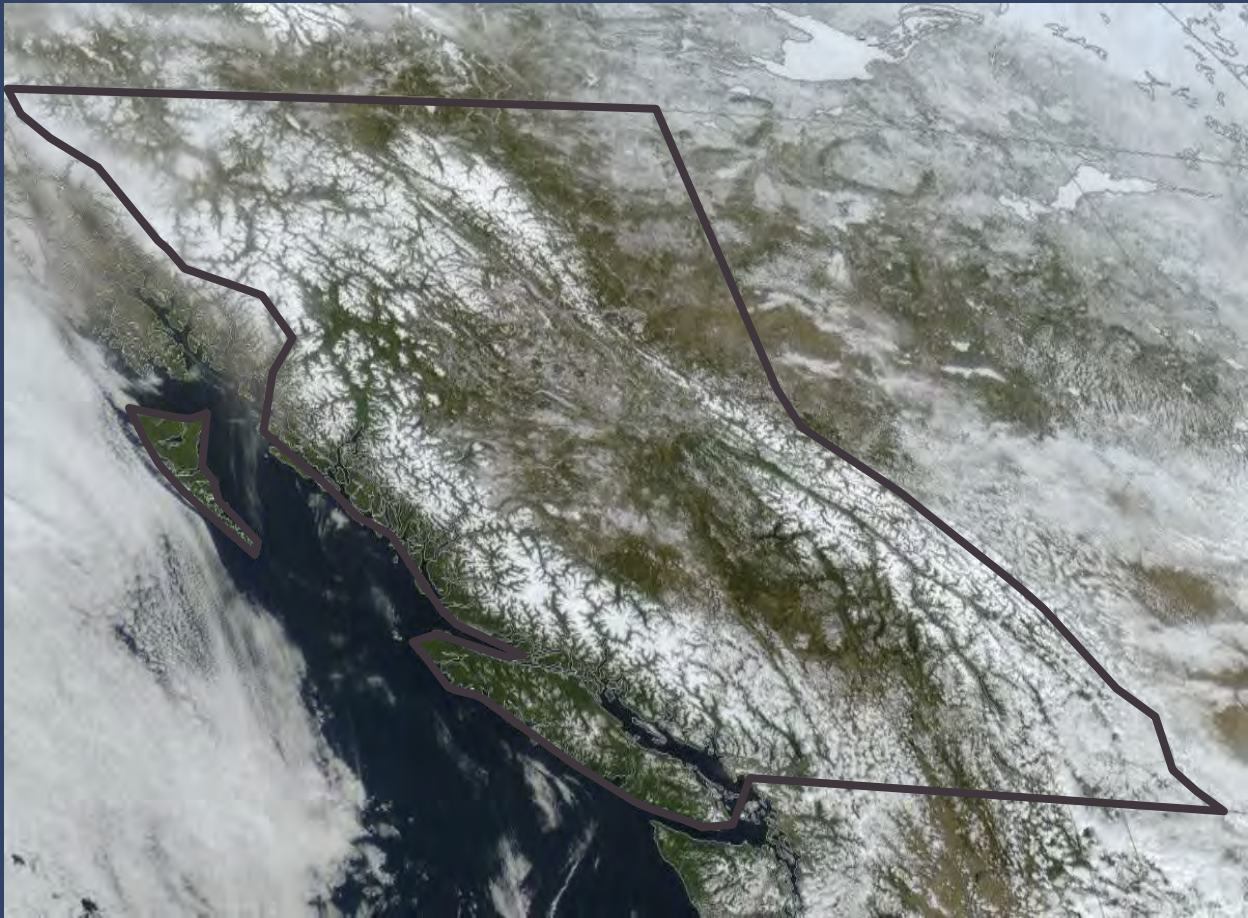
885m



Snow-free

Satellite estimates of vegetated landcover snow-free as of April 4, 2025.

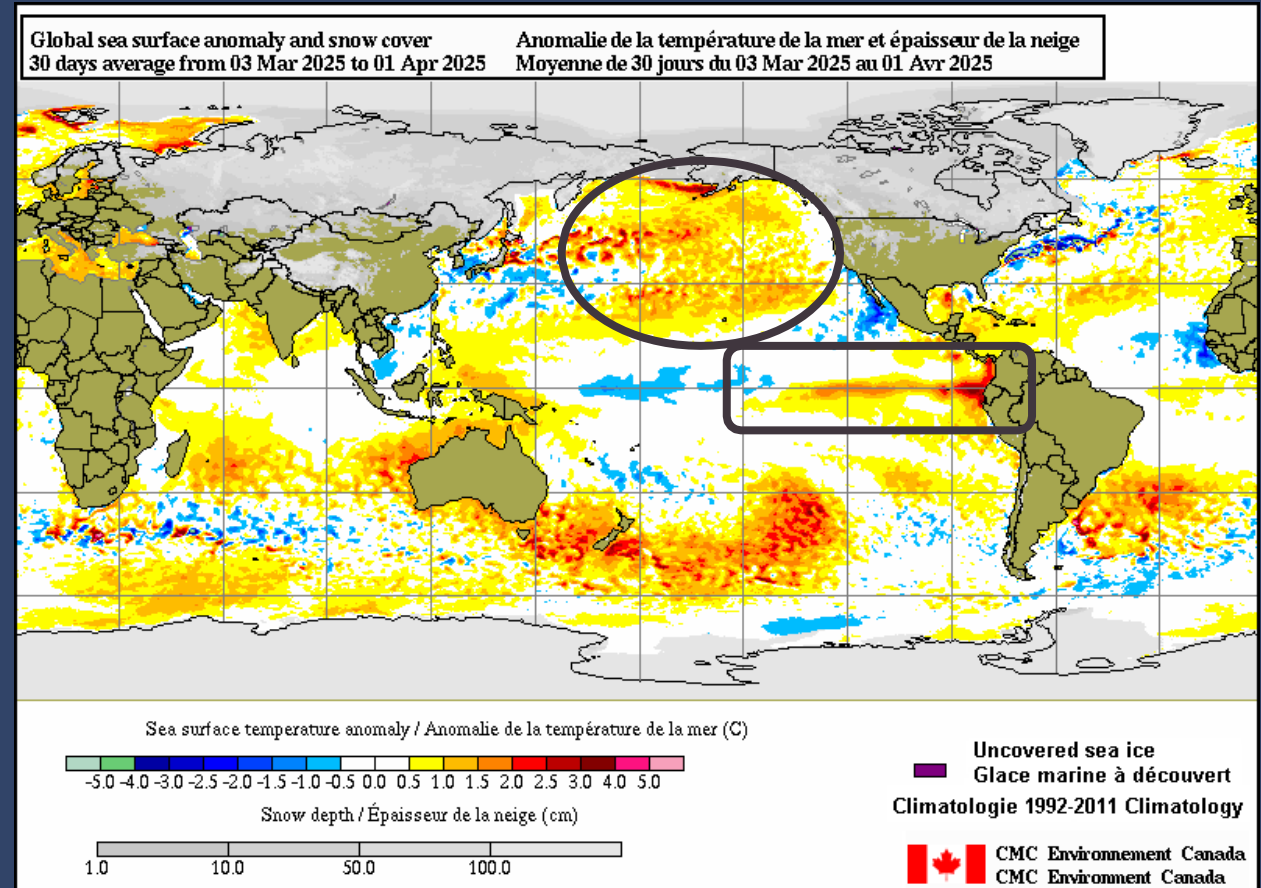
Fire Centre	Snow Free (%)
Coastal	62
Kamloops	42
Cariboo	37
Southeast	25
Northwest	12
Prince George	7



High-resolution satellite image April 3, 2025

Current Sea Surface Temperatures

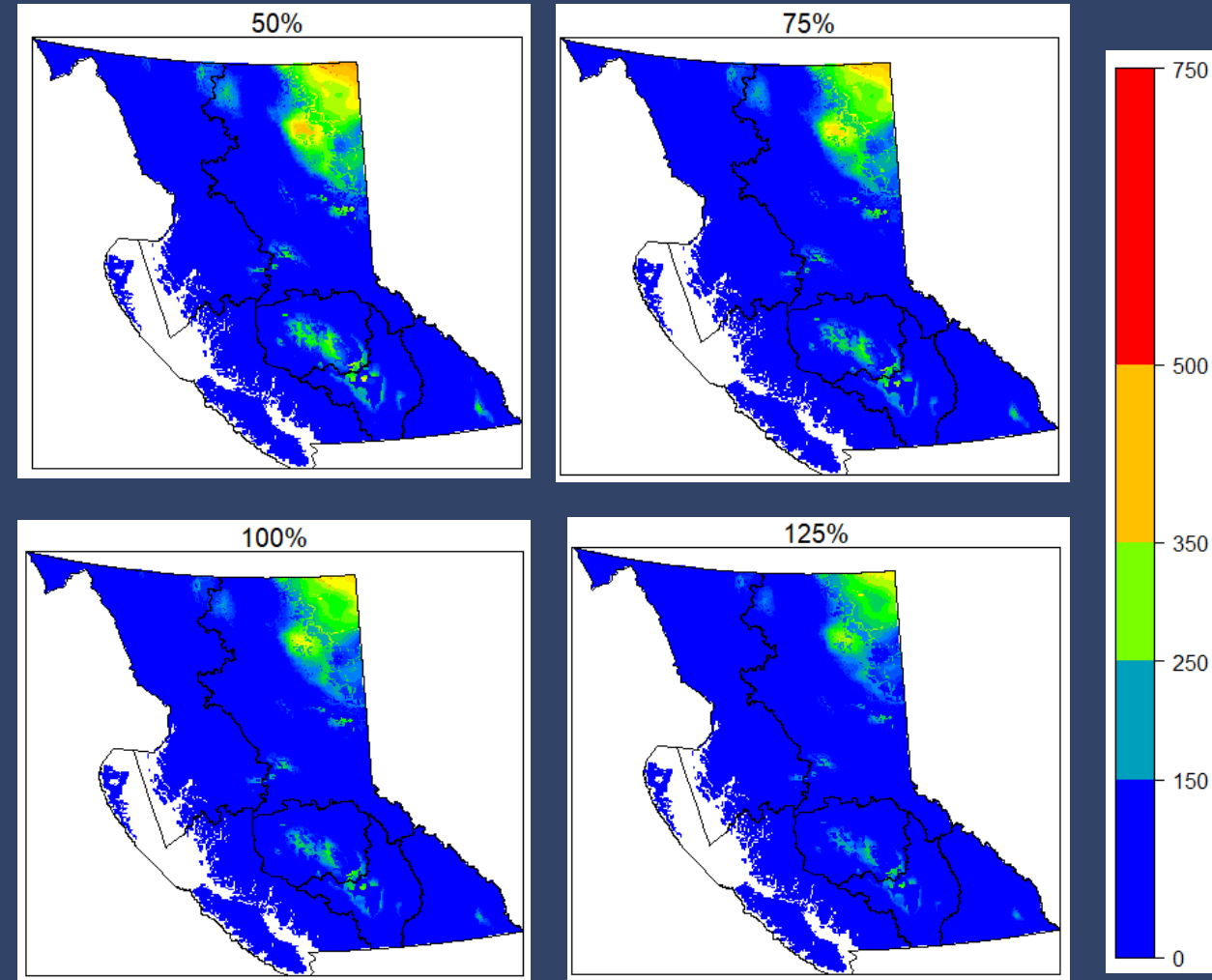
- The weak La Niña conditions along the equatorial Pacific have faded
- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are trending towards neutral
- A warm anomaly is present over the northeastern Pacific
- The warmer than normal sea conditions offshore are contributing to a warmer than normal outlook for spring 2025 in B.C.



Current Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies March 3 – April 1, 2025

Start-up Conditions

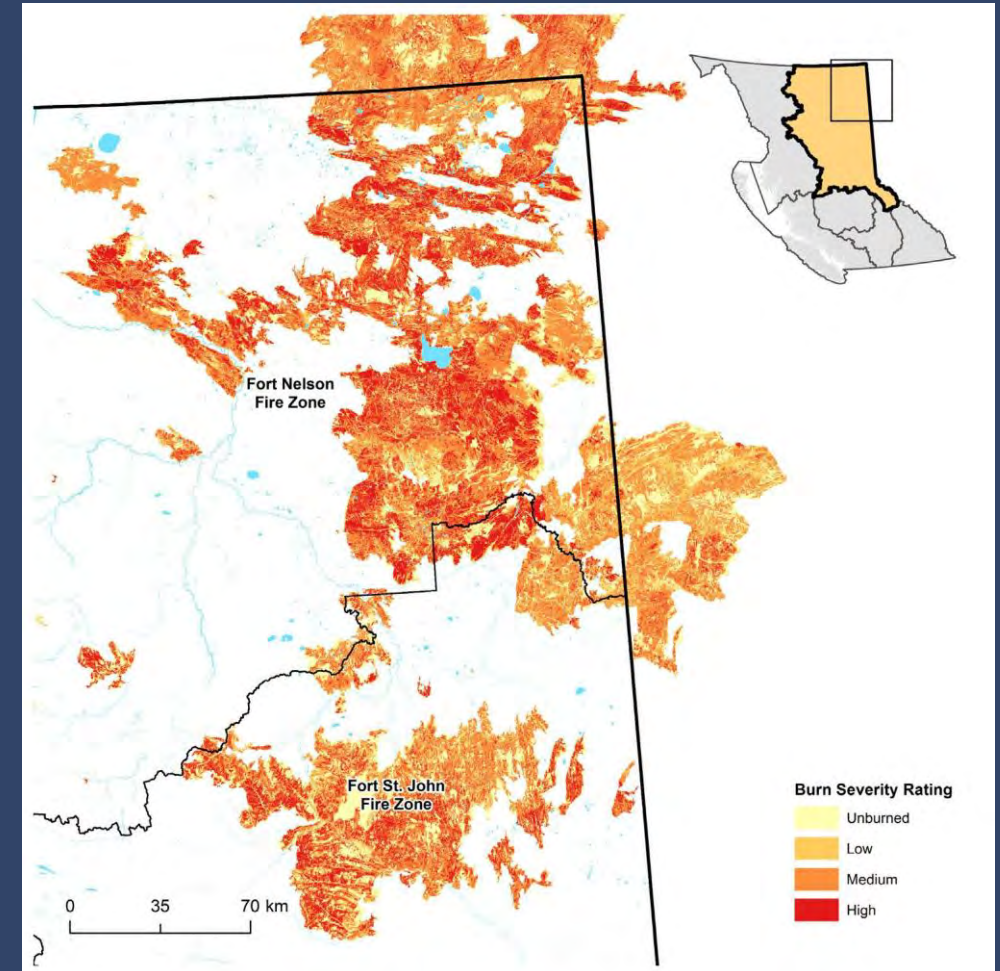
- Coastal and Southern B.C. are expected to see above-normal precipitation through mid April, which will further help to relieve drought conditions in those regions
- Even with normal spring precipitation, we anticipate that the Northeast and portions of the southern Nechako region will carry elevated Drought Code values into spring 2025



Projected May 1, 2025 Drought Code start up values
under various spring precipitation scenarios

Disturbance footprint in Northeast

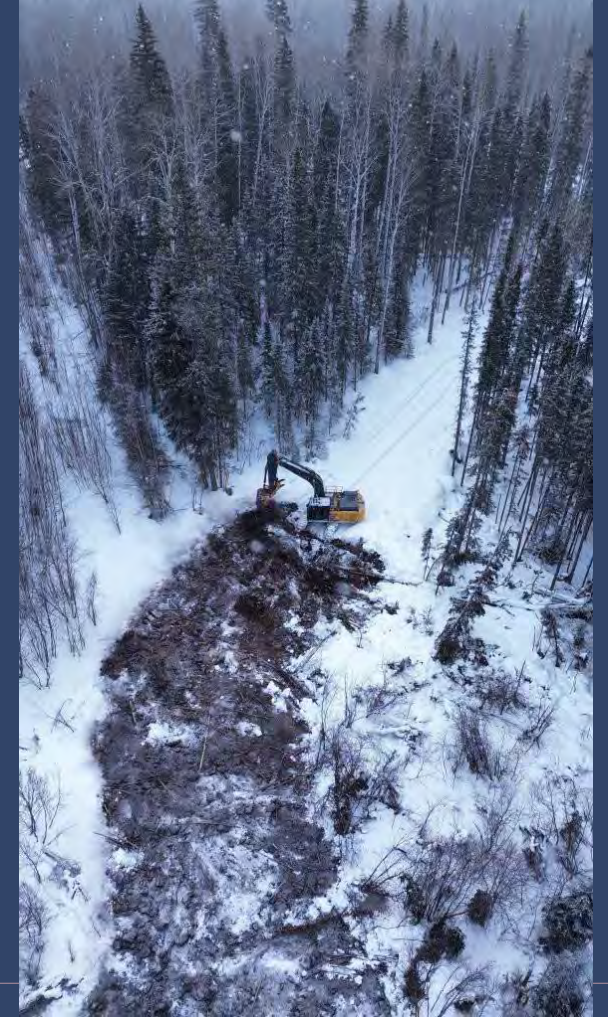
- After two highly impactful seasons in the Northeast, the wildfire disturbance footprint is significant
 - Much of the area under elevated drought this spring has already burned
 - The northeast disturbance footprint will counteract drought and help to reduce the potential for large fire spread
 - Re-burn is still possible in areas with significant dead and downed timber or where burn severity was low



Burn severity in the Prince George Fire Centre

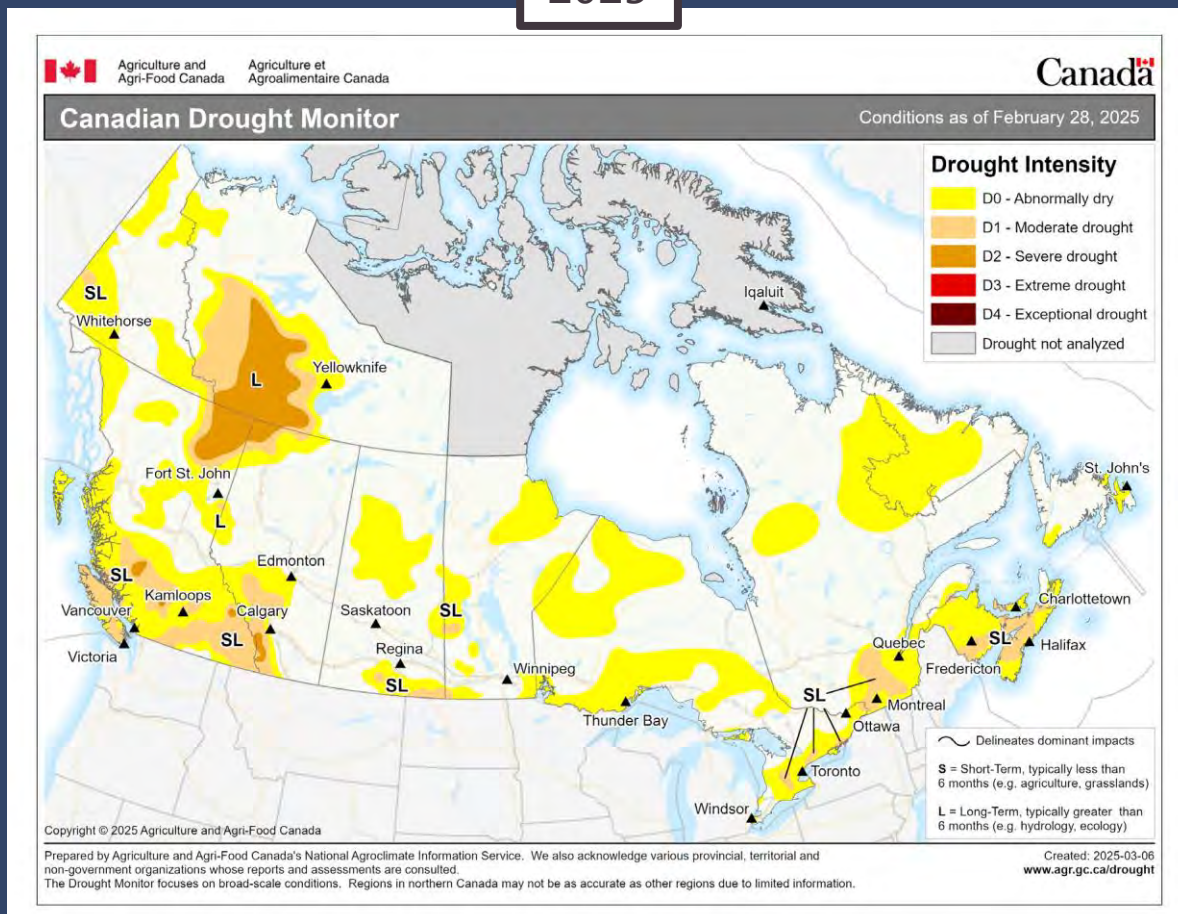
Overwinter work in the northeast

- Many of the northeast fires have burned in muskeg, a challenging and inoperable terrain during the warmer months
- The Prince George Fire Centre has taken advantage of firmer winter ground to build access trails and establish upwards of 87 km of fuel free lines
- This work is intended to reduce the potential for overwinter fires to impact nearby values this spring and aid suppression efforts

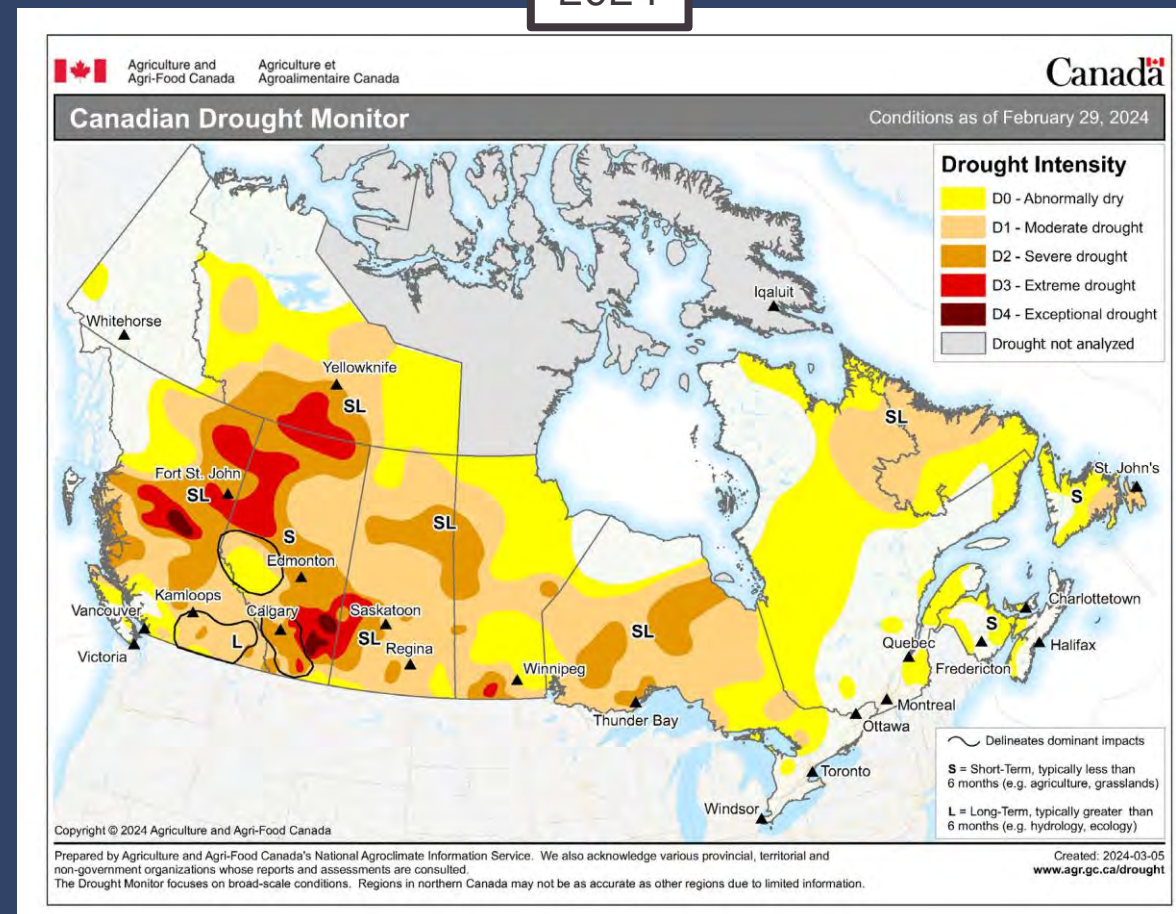


Relative drought conditions

2025

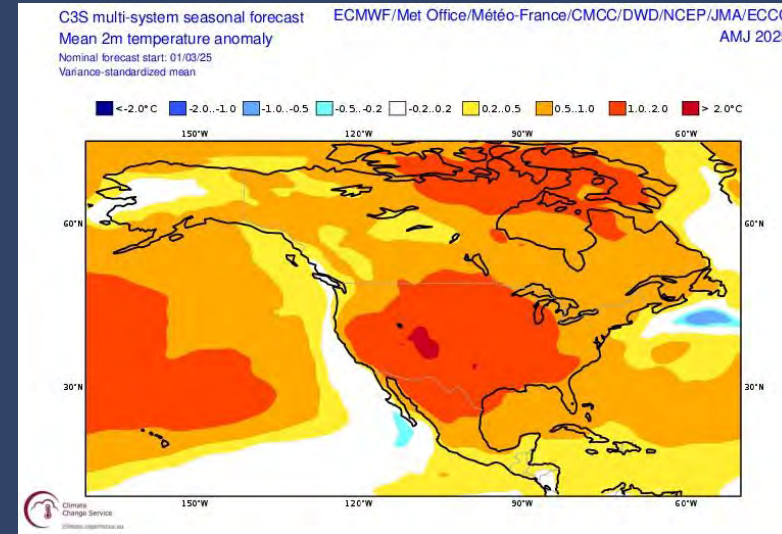


2024

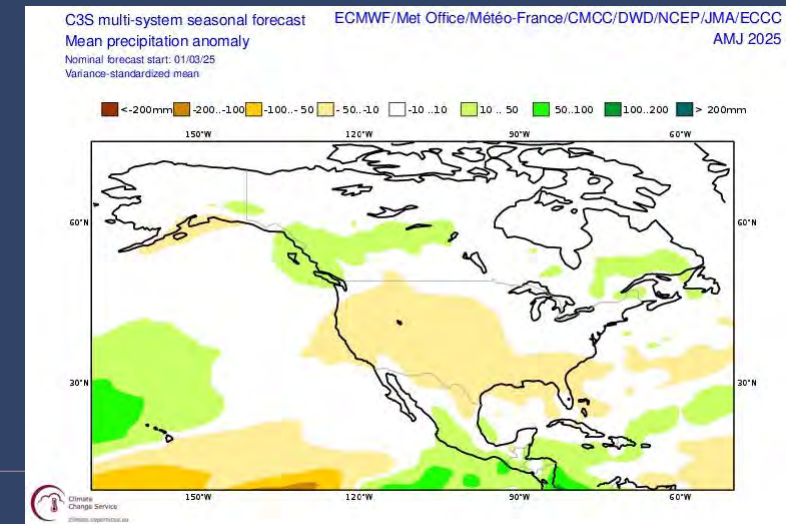


Spring Seasonal Outlook

- Long-term guidance favours warmer-than-normal temperatures into the spring
- There is a low-to-moderate signal for above-normal precipitation over coastal and through central B.C.
- Above-normal precipitation could counter warmer-than-average temperatures to delay increasing wildfire hazard over coastal and central B.C.



Temperature Outlook
Apr-May-June 2025



Precipitation Outlook
Apr-May-June 2025

2025 Spring Outlook - Key Points

- Overall, winter precipitation was less than normal for much of the province.
- The northeast remains an area of concern given the ongoing, multi-year drought conditions. Moderate drought conditions also exist in the Southern Nechako region.
- Overwinter fires will remerge with warming over the next month. BCWS has undertaken work to mitigate their spread this spring.
- A less aggressive start to fire activity is expected over southern B.C. this spring owing to recent precipitation and early green up.
- If the current trend of spring precipitation continues, drought conditions will continue to improve lessening the severity of wildfires later this summer.