

Moisture Situation Update – July 22, 2014

Synopsis:

Since the last report on July 9, 2014, soil moisture reserves have continued to diminish across the Peace Region, particularly through the dry central areas, as well as across the extreme north. Since that time, the central Peace Region has only received 1 to 5 mm of rain, with some relief coming to the north where 20 to 30 mm was recorded. Rain is needed in many parts of the Peace Region soon to alleviate growing moisture shortages.

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD)'s fire weather section is tracking a large upper low that is expected to move into the province Thursday evening, and that is forecast to bring wide spread precipitation across a large portion of the province, with the system expected to bring upwards of 50 to 75 mm of rain to the Peace Region, before moving off on Saturday. If this system develops as predicted, most areas that currently need rain stand a good chance of seeing some. Rain across some areas is expected to be at times, moderate to heavy.

12-day precipitation accumulations as of July 22, 2014 approximately 1100hrs – see map

- Since the last report, dry areas of the central Peace Region have seen less than 5 mm. While this area is relatively small, the moisture deficits here are quite significant.
- Across the dry northern parts of the Peace Region, most areas have seen upwards of 10 mm, which was likely enough to bring at least, a brief reprieve to hot, dry conditions.
- Other previously dry areas include a large area in the central part of the province, centered near the City of Camrose, where only 5 to 10 mm was recorded over the past 12 days.

Soil moisture reserves relative to long term normal, as of July 21, 2014 – see map

- Soil moisture reserves continue to be estimated to be at 1 in 50 year lows through the central and northern parts of the Peace Region.
- Elsewhere several parts of the province are grading down to one in 6 to 12 year lows, but these areas have generally been getting adequate precipitation to sustain good crop growth.
- With Thursday's expected arrival of a large upper low in the province, wide spread rains are may change the situation significantly.

Interesting Facts

- Hot weather persisted across the province last week with 229 of the 387 stations tracked by ACIS recording over 30C.
- The highest temperature, 35.2C, was recorded at the Drumheller East station on July 17th.

Additional maps can be found at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps

Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

Note: Data has about a two hour lag and is displayed in MST (add one hour for daylight savings time)

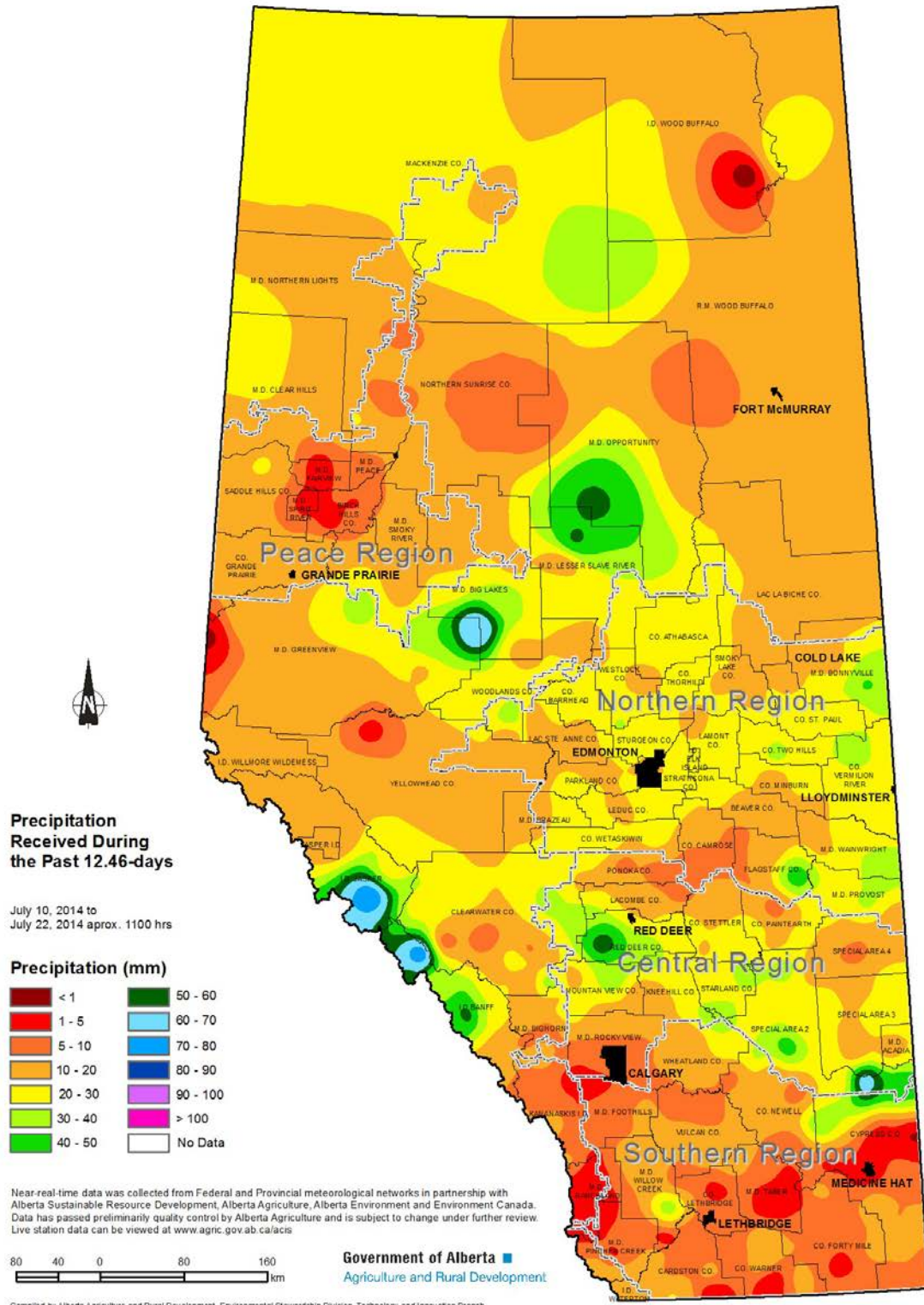
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