

# Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

## July 6, 2022

### Synopsis

Since the last report issued on June 29, 2022, precipitation has been highly variable across the province. A large area that includes Edmonton and Red Deer received well over 40 mm. Across the Southern Region most lands received over 20 mm. Throughout much of the Peace Region conditions have remained on the dry side with many locales receiving less than 5 mm. Similarly across the Special Areas, conditions have remained dry with several stations recording less than 5 mm. (**Map 1**)

### Precipitation since June 1 2022

June rains brought an abrupt and welcome end to the drought conditions experienced throughout most of 2021.

Most of the province's growing areas have now received well over 75 mm since June 1<sup>st</sup>, with a large swath of land west of Red Deer reporting well over 200 mm (**Map 2**). For most lands, from the Yellowhead Highway down to the US border, weather this wet (over this time frame) is seen less than once in 6-12 years, with some lands in the once in 50-year category (**Map 3**).

In sharp contrast, conditions are beginning to dry out across much of the Peace Region, following a relatively wet start to the growing season (**Map 4**), which had many fearing the wet conditions would persist.

Since June 1<sup>st</sup>, many lands across the Peace Region have received between 40 and 60 mm (**Map 2**). This is enough to sustain growth, but rain will be needed soon in some areas to ensure that moisture does not become a limiting factor to plant growth. Similarly, parts of the Special Areas are also in need of moisture, with 75 mm falling since June 1 on very dry soils. While rainfall has been adequate and meaningful in this area, soil moisture reserves are low and plants will be very reliant on continued rain in the days ahead.

### 90 and 15-day temperature trends

So far this year has been characterized as having consistently below average temperatures, with most agricultural areas experiencing temperatures this cool on average, at least less than 1 in 6 years (**Map 5**). During May, cool weather helped to reduce moisture stress on young plants in the face of very dry conditions lingering from 2021;

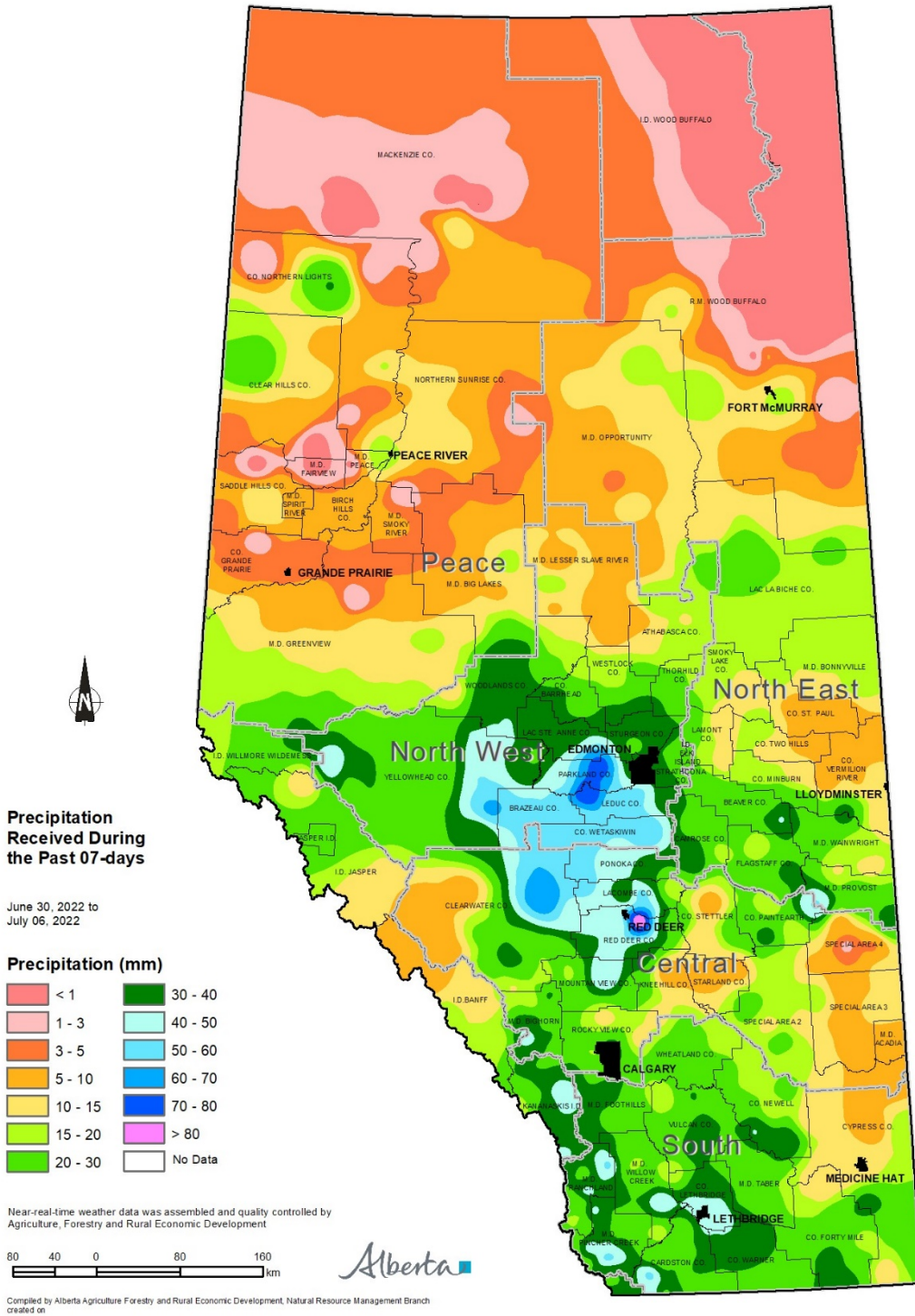
however, ample moisture has now fallen across most areas and warm weather will be needed in the weeks ahead to achieve optimal growth and speed maturity ahead of fall frosts. Unfortunately, in the wake of the much needed rains, the cool trend has continued over the past two weeks (**Map 6**).

### Perspective

There is still lots of time ahead of fall frosts to have weather related problems for this year's crop; however, for the most part, moisture is currently adequate throughout the provinces growing areas and is now trending towards excessive through large parts of west central Alberta. Despite moderately dry conditions in the Peace Region and through parts of the Special Areas, 2022 has been a good year for growing crops, so far. In fact, the last [crop report](#) issued on June 27<sup>th</sup>, has ranked 2022 near the 5 and 10-year averages for this time of year, rating 75.2% of Alberta's crops as "good" to "excellent".

As July and August unfold, warm weather and near normal rainfall will help ensure that crop growth remains on track.. With adequate moisture in the ground in many areas, most crops are now able to withstand some short duration dry spells.

# Map 1



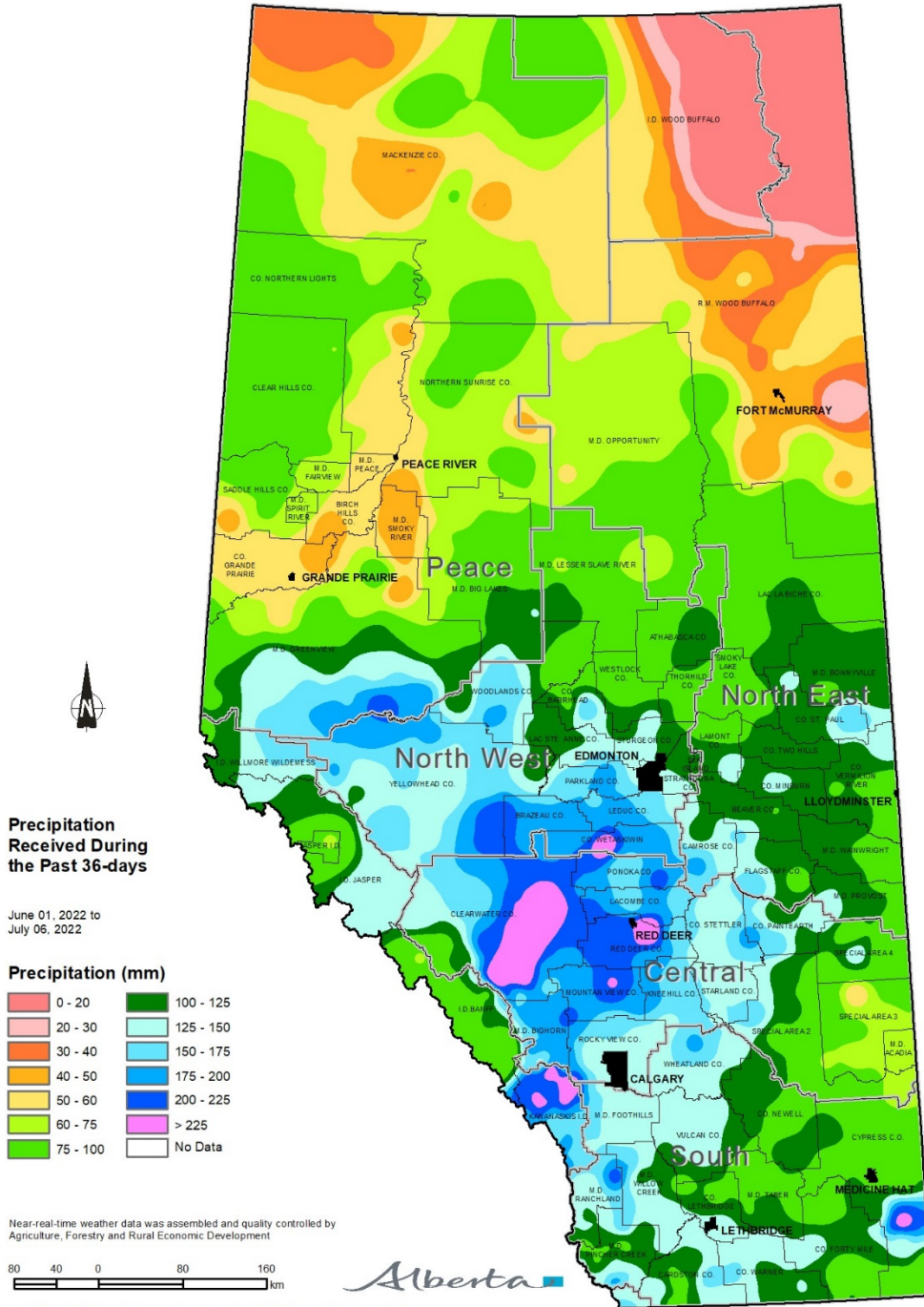
Visit [weatherdata.ca](https://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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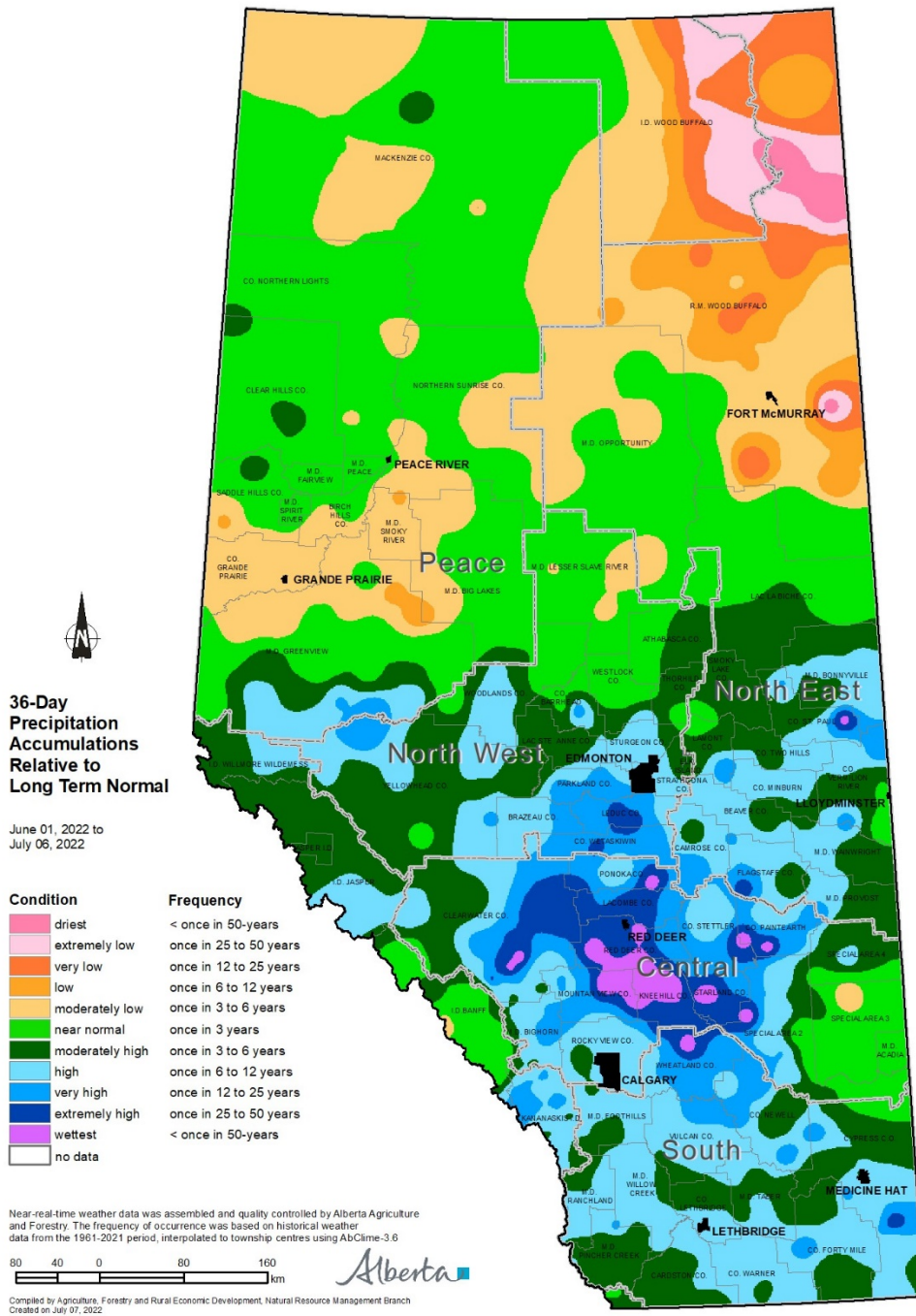
# Map 2



Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

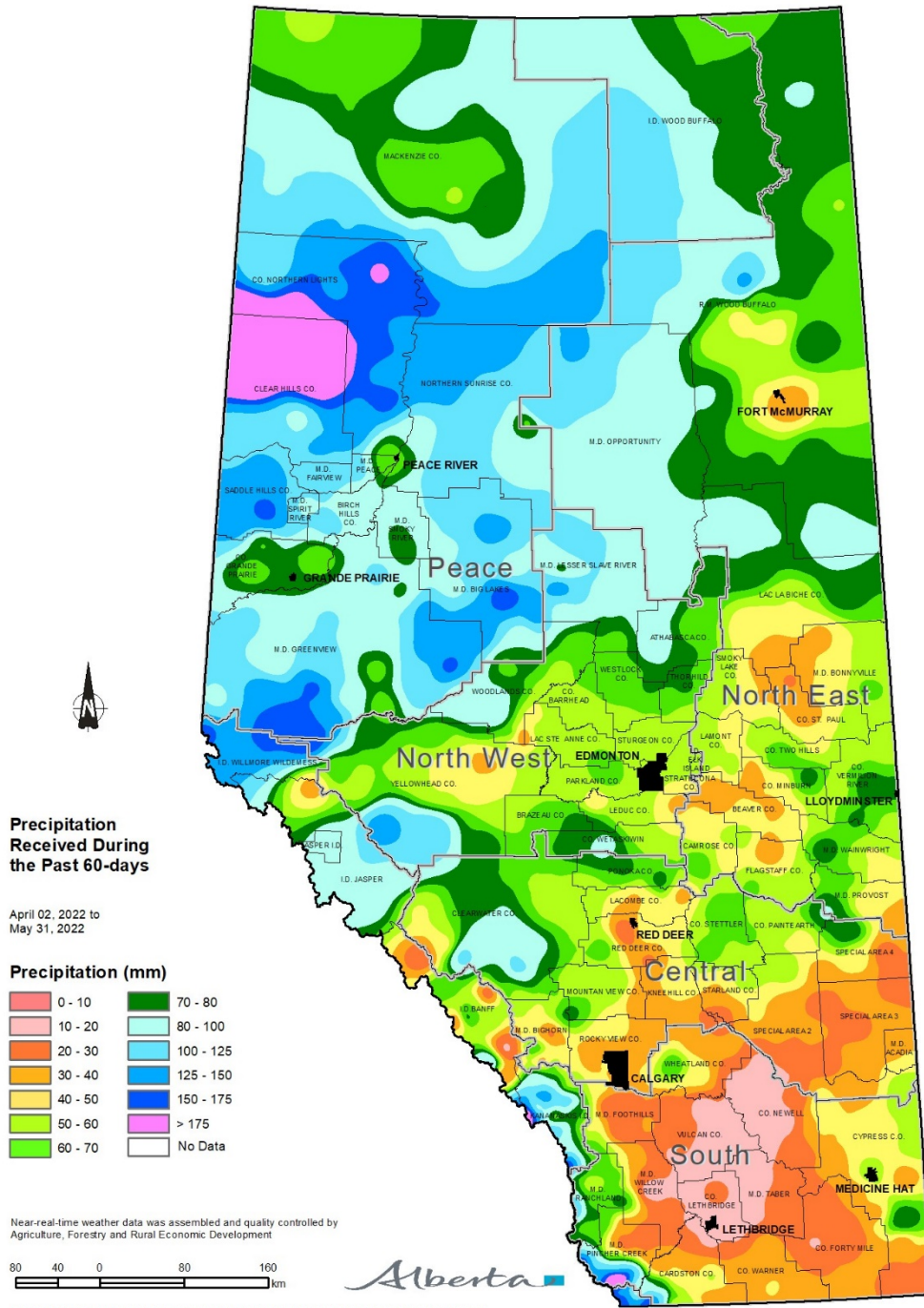


# Map 3



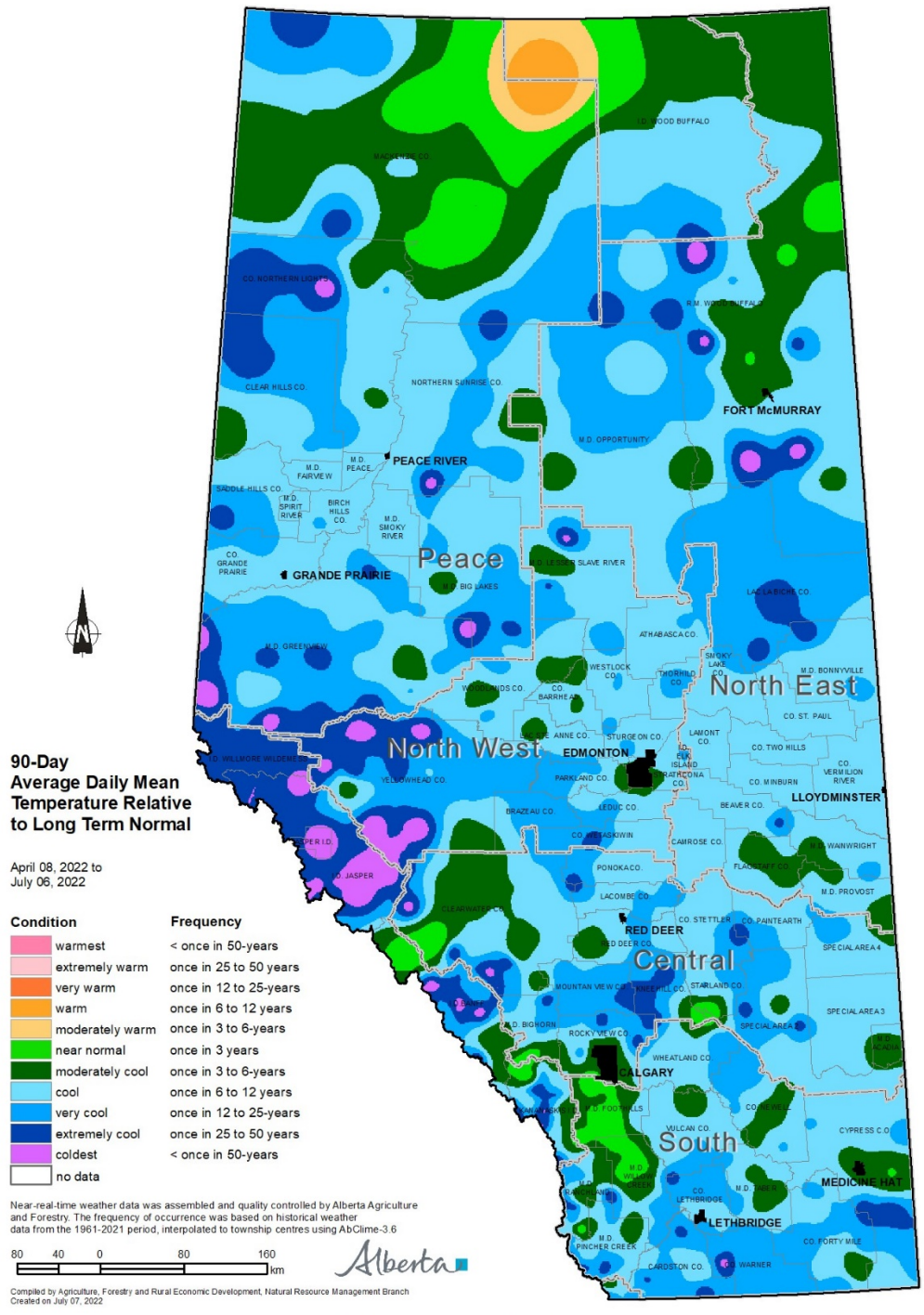
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# Map 4



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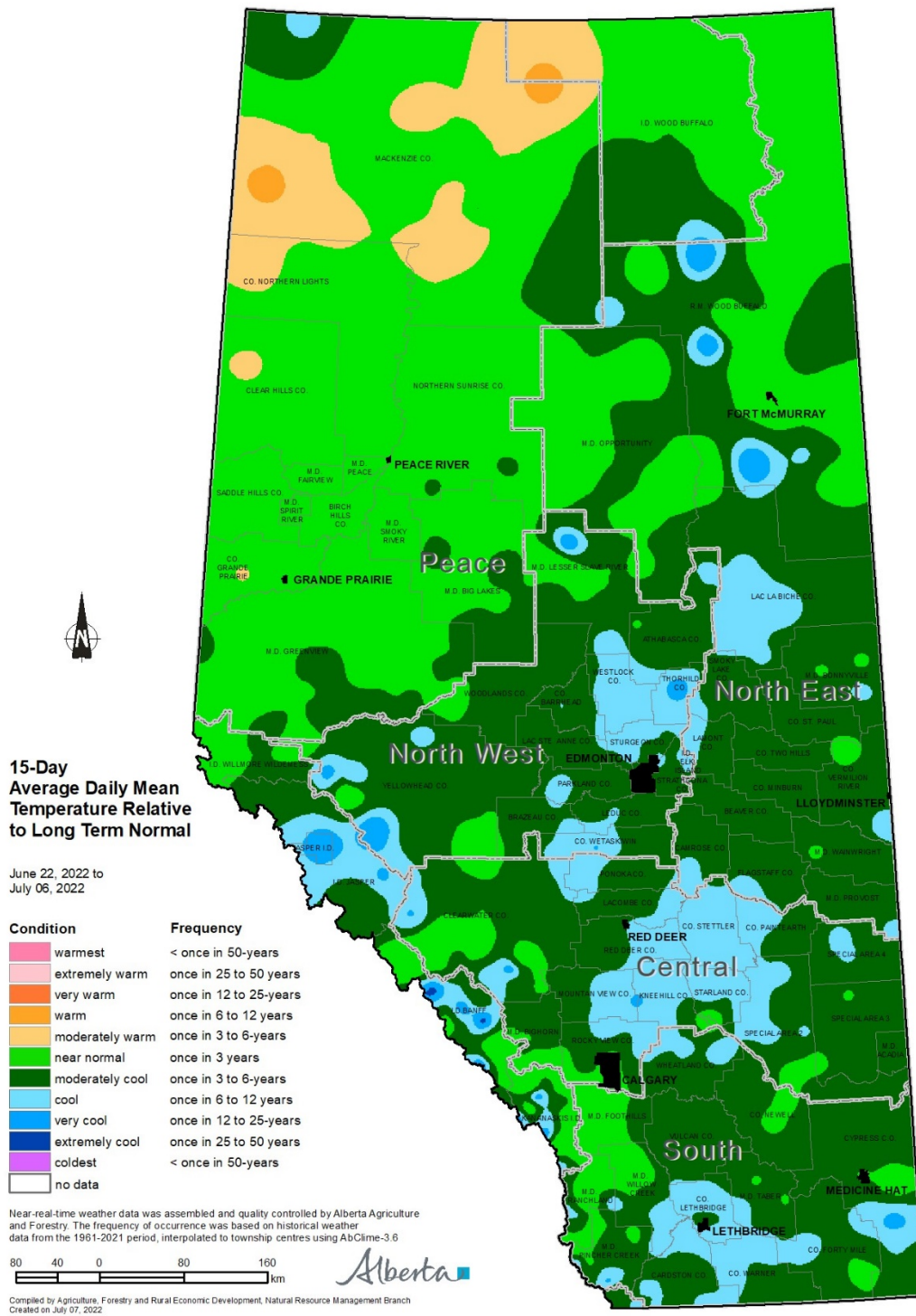
# Map 5



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# Map 6



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