

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

February 28, 2022

Synopsis

During the month of February 2022, precipitation accumulations trended more towards normal across the south-half of the province, where it's been very dry for several months. Across the north, precipitation continued to trend in the normal or above normal range.

Looking forward into March, below normal temperatures are expected to continue for at least the next two weeks. In addition precipitation patterns are expected to remain near normal. With luck warm moist air from outside the province will collide with the lingering cold air mass and deliver some much needed early spring snow storms across the southern parts of the province. While there is no specific forecast pointing to a large spring snow storm, conditions appear to be favorable for such an event to occur.

February precipitation accumulations (Map 1 and Map 2)

Most of the south-half of the province has experienced near normal precipitation accumulations through the month of February (**Map 1**). However, February is typically the driest month of the year so total accumulations are normally relatively low, with most areas across the south receiving nearly 10mm (**Map 2**).

Across the north-half of the province many lands have received near normal to above normal precipitation (**Map 1**), a continuation of a trend that generally began in November 2021.

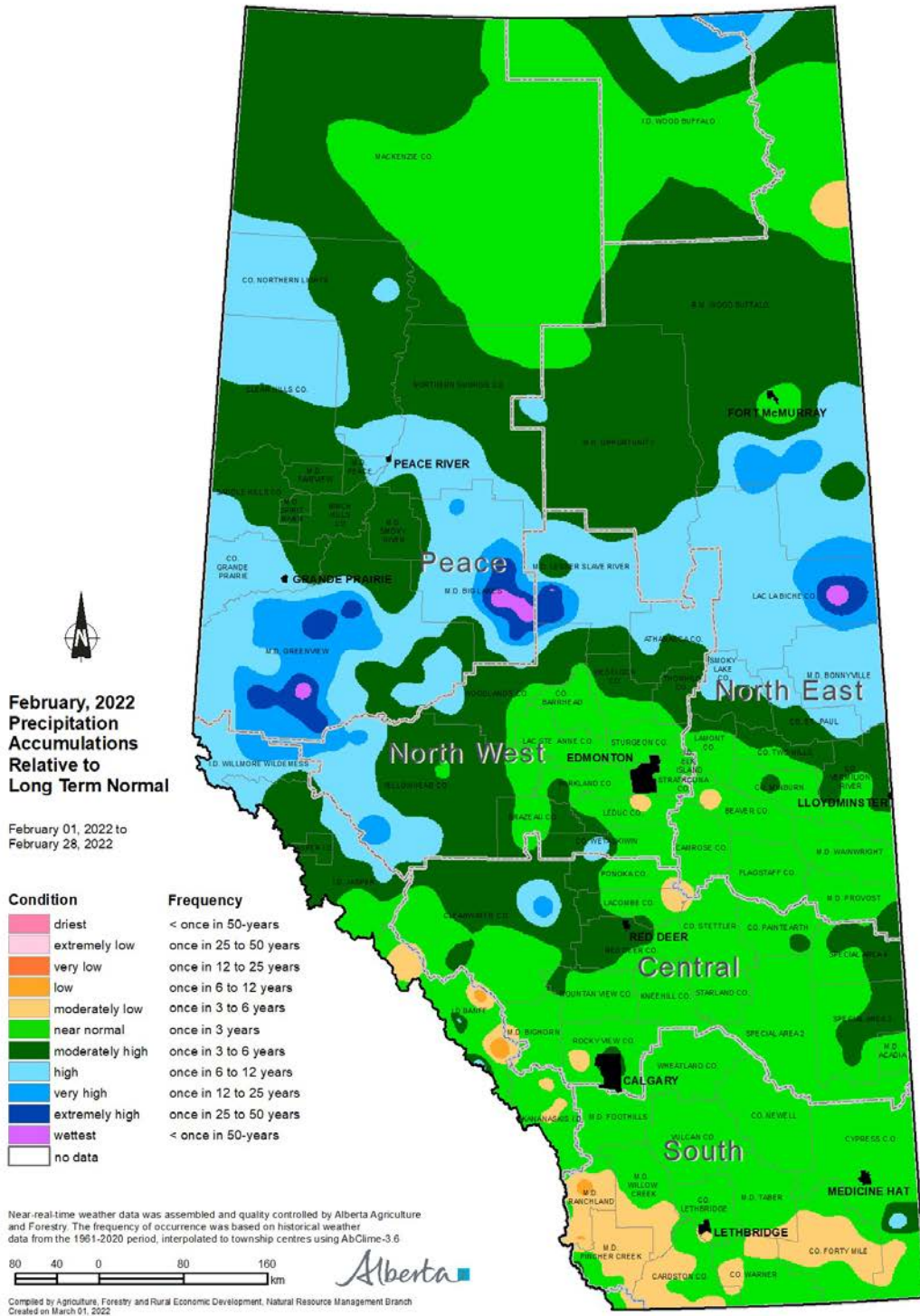
Snowpack conditions as of February 28, 2022 (Map 3, Map 4 and Map 5)

Generally south of Red Deer, snow water equivalents (SWE) in agricultural fields are estimated to contain less than 20 mm of water, if the snow were to be melted in place (**Map 3**). For central areas of the province this is well below normal, with SWE at this time of year in the Red Deer area, on average estimated to be 60 to 80 mm (**Map 4**).

For the southern parts of the Province as of writing, there was little to no snow lingering on the ground (**Map 3**) in many areas (< 10 cm deep). This is considered "normal" (**Map 5**) as snow packs here are often intermittent and in many years the ground is snow free.

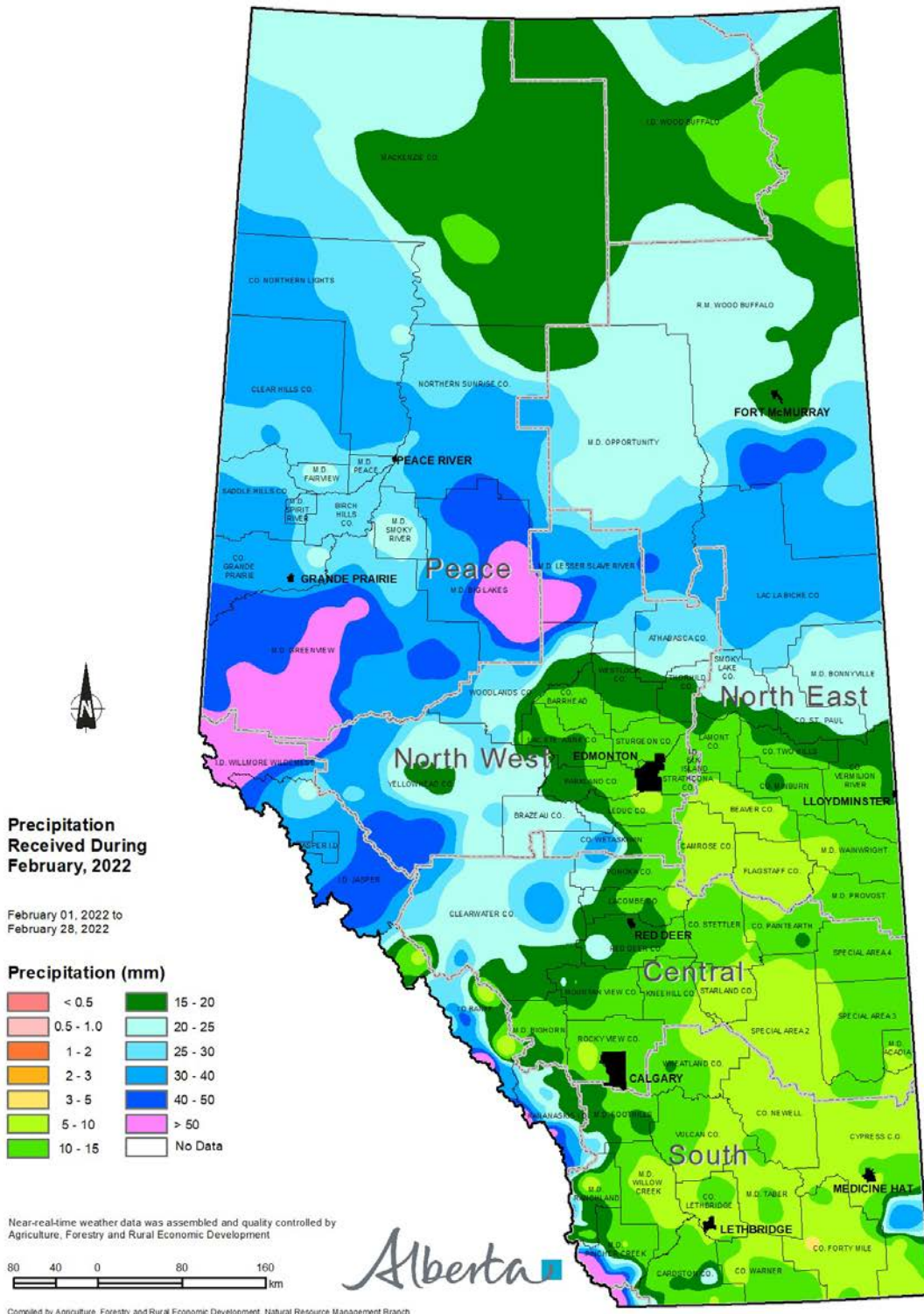
Generally north of Red Deer, SWE increases rapidly towards the Yellowhead Highway where it is estimated to be in the 60 to 125 mm range (**Map 3**). Across the north-half of the province snow packs are generally near to above normal (**Map 5**) with SWEs in many agricultural areas exceeding 80mm. This will insure at least a generous spring melt period, with a relatively slow melt being most favorable for agricultural lands.

Map 1



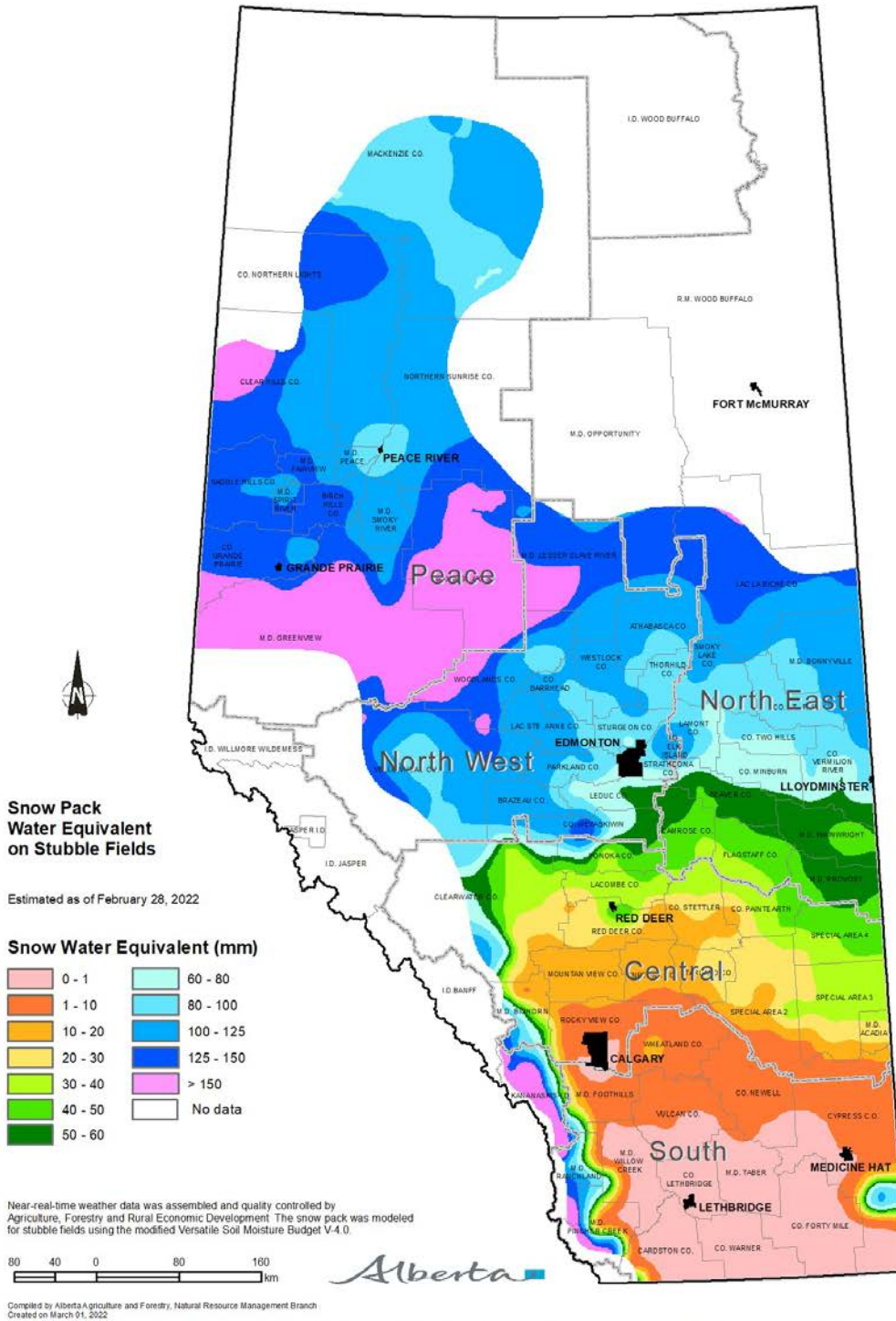
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 2



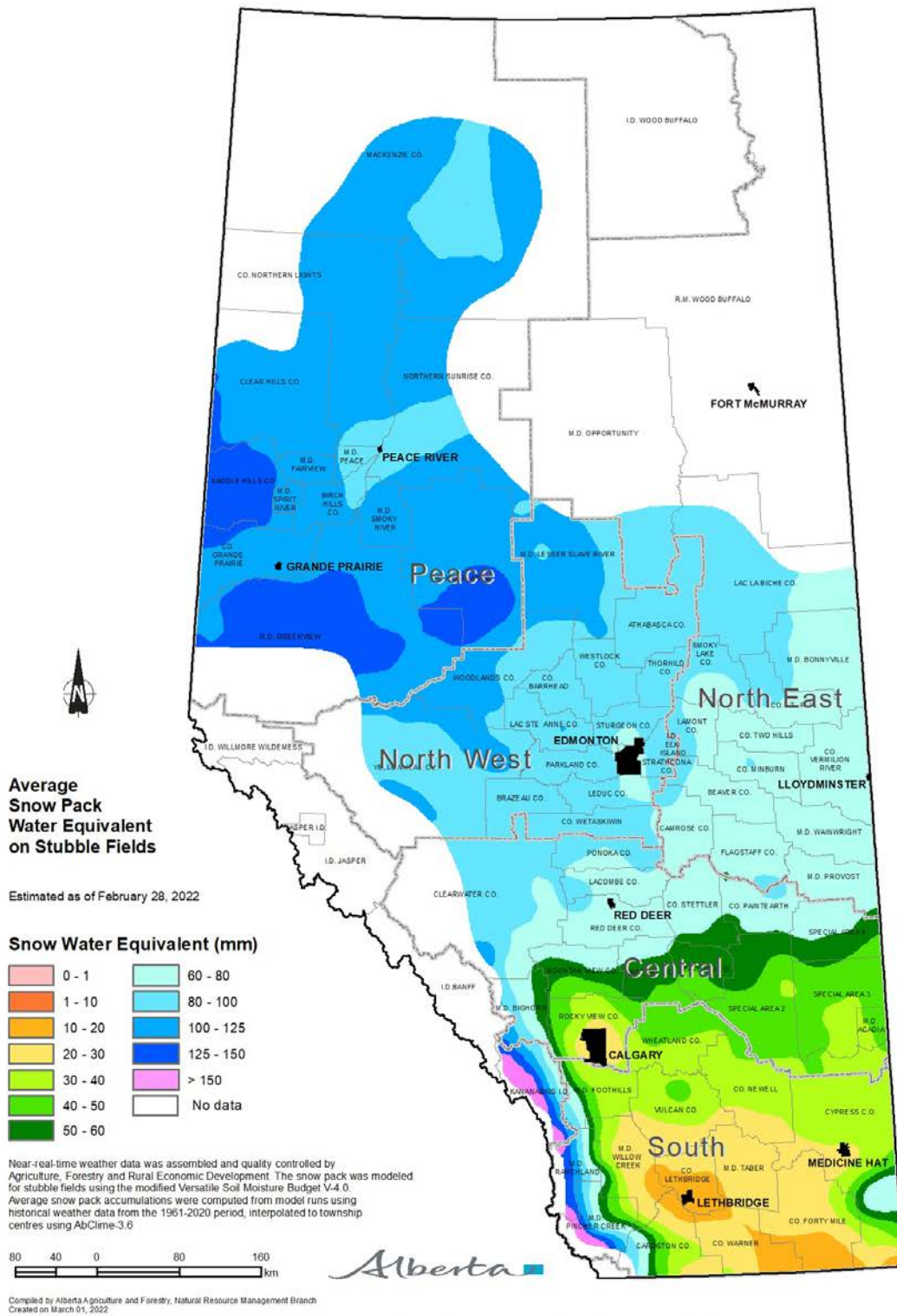
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 3



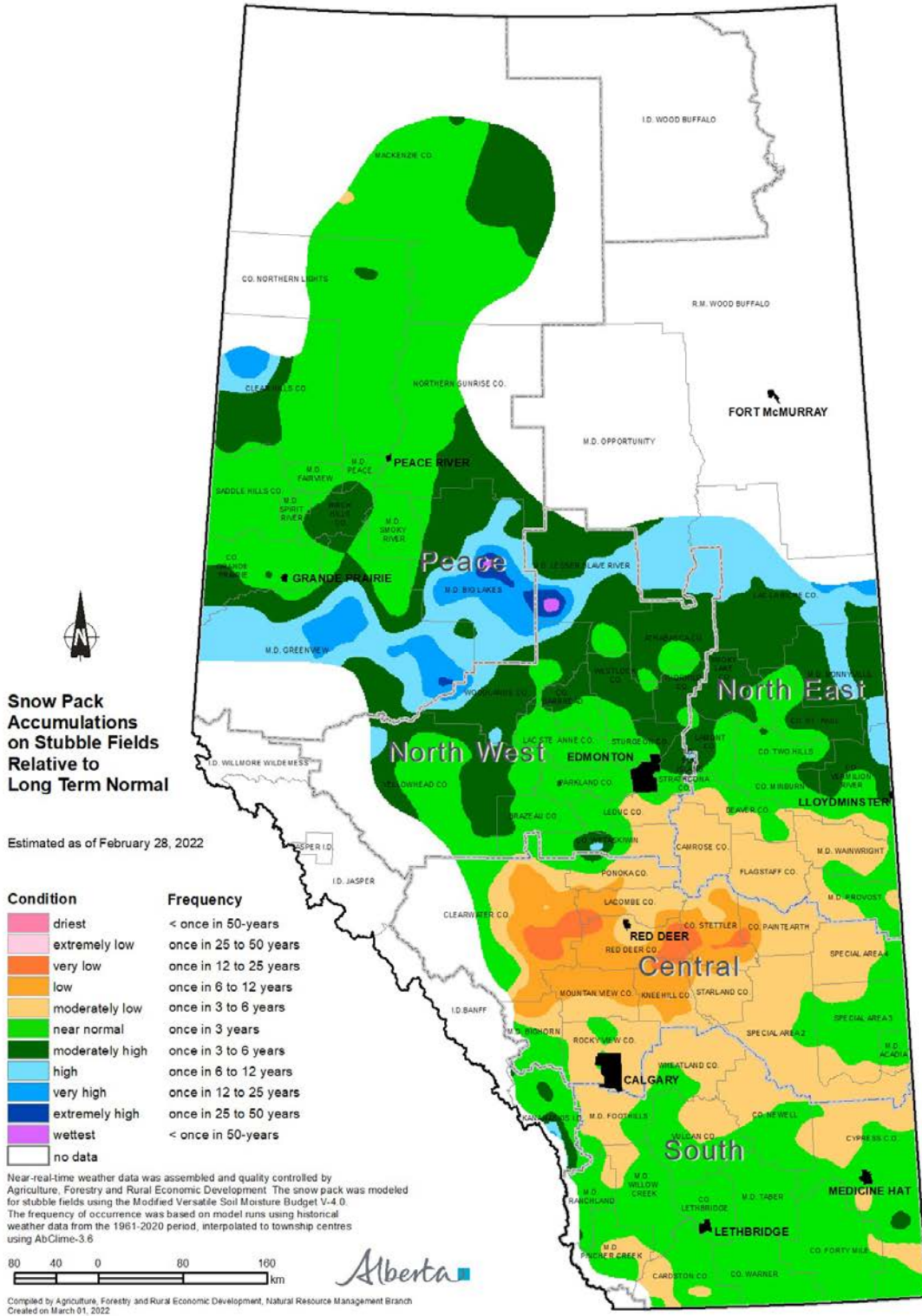
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 4



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 5



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data