



Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

May 2, 2024

Synopsis

Since the last formal report (April 26, 2024), a fair amount of precipitation in the form of snow, sleet, and rain covered the province amounting to more than 50 mm in some areas of the mountain and foothill regions and far Northwest corner of our province (**Map 1**). The Northeast and South of the Peace experience a range of 20-50 mm, and most of Alberta saw at least 10 mm over this time period as well. The Northern East and West reaches remain dry, receiving less than 5 mm over the last 7 days.

Precipitation Trends

Over the past 60-days, provincial precipitation relative to long term normal is for the most part near normal (**Map 2**). There are still areas that remain low in the M.D. of Bonnyville and County of Grande Prairie. Precipitation received over the last 60-days has been concentrated in the mountain and foothill regions, resulting in more than 150 mm in the M.D. of Bighorn, Kananaskis I.D., M.D. of Ranchland, and M.D. of Pincher Creek. The majority of Alberta saw less than 50 mm on average (**Map 3**).

Observing the 180-day normal precipitation map, it is evident the province is still dealing with moderately low to some of the driest conditions for the past 50 years. It appears the Central and South parts of Alberta are currently at near normal (**Map 4**). We are all anticipating the return of the wet season that will bring the rest of the province some much needed moisture.

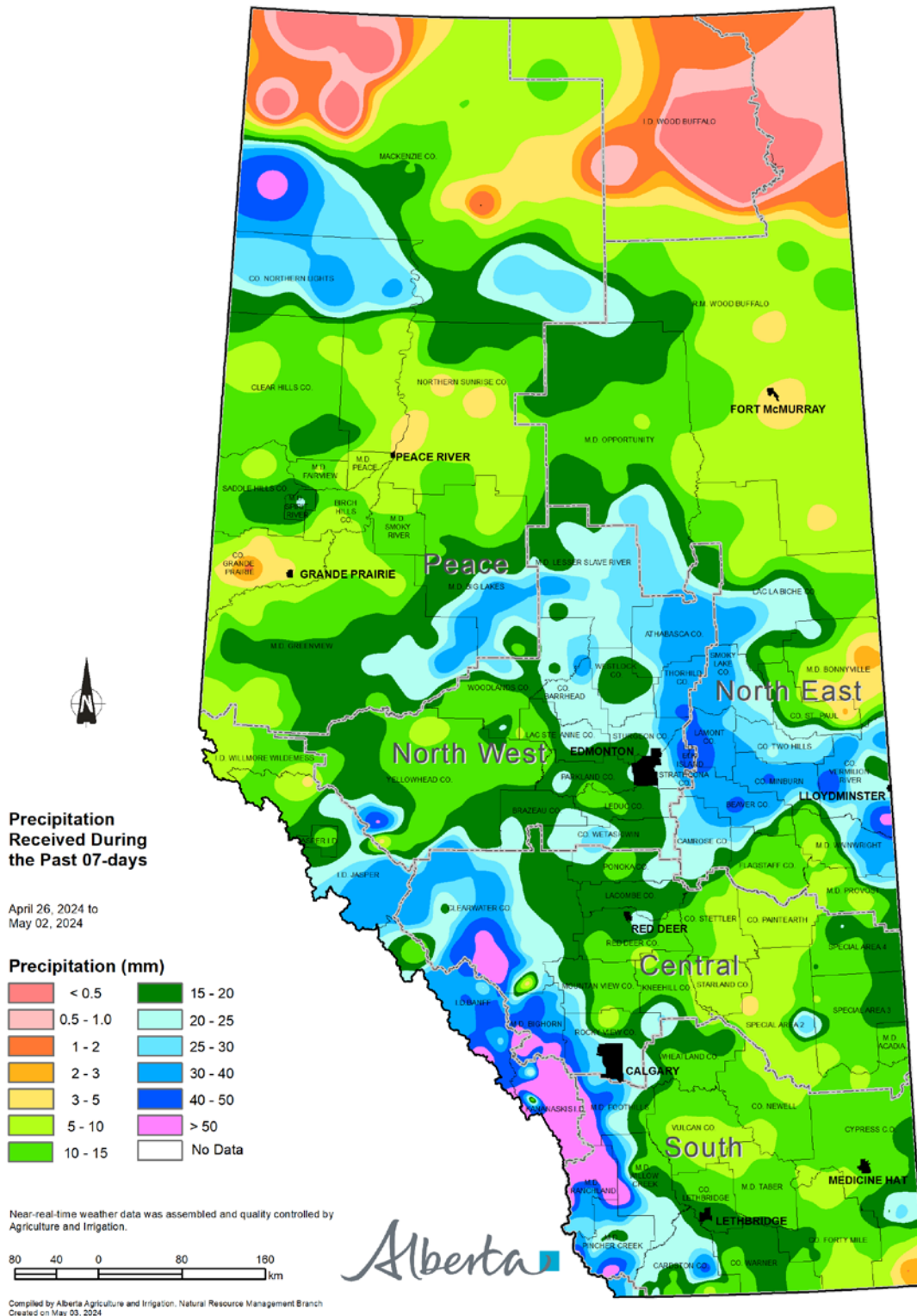
Soil Moisture Reserves

It is evident in the departure from normal, soil moisture (**Map 5**) is lacking in the Northern areas of the province, as well as the Northeastern and Central, reminding us of the dry conditions from the previous growing season. Currently soil moisture reserves in the agricultural areas are varied with the South and Southern Peace at near normal to high in the M.D. of Big Lakes. The Northeast and Northern Peace regions are drier than the rest of the province (**Map 6**). The majority of the Northwest and South are in better shape with near normal to high moisture reserves at this time.

Perspective

Precipitation is expected to fall over Alberta during the beginning of next week. As most Albertans are aware, this time of year can be unpredictable; snow, sleet, and rain can make an appearance and sometimes even all on the same day. Check in on your local forecasts regularly using the [Alberta Climate Information Service](#) using your desktop or smart handheld device.

Map 1



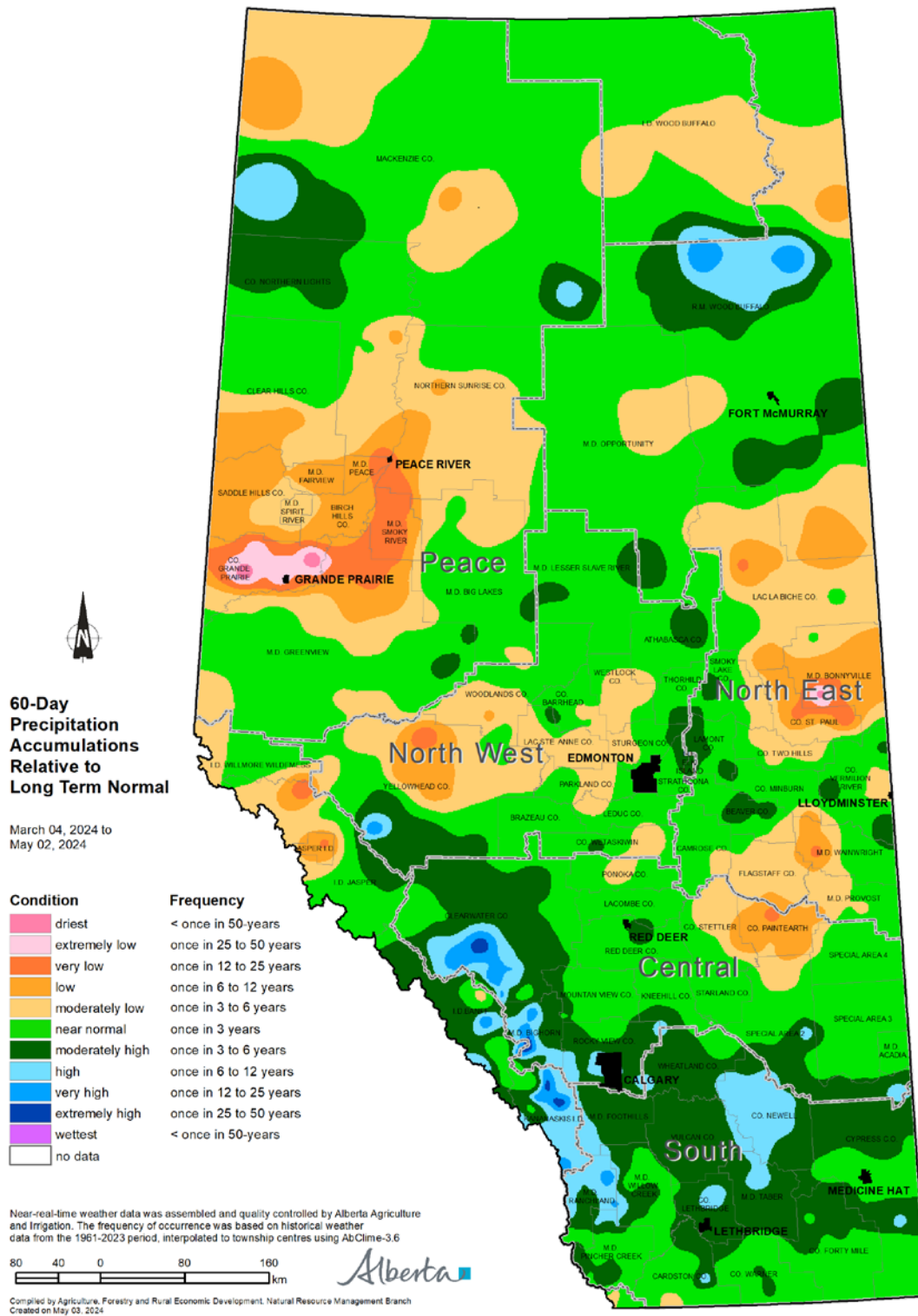
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Map 2



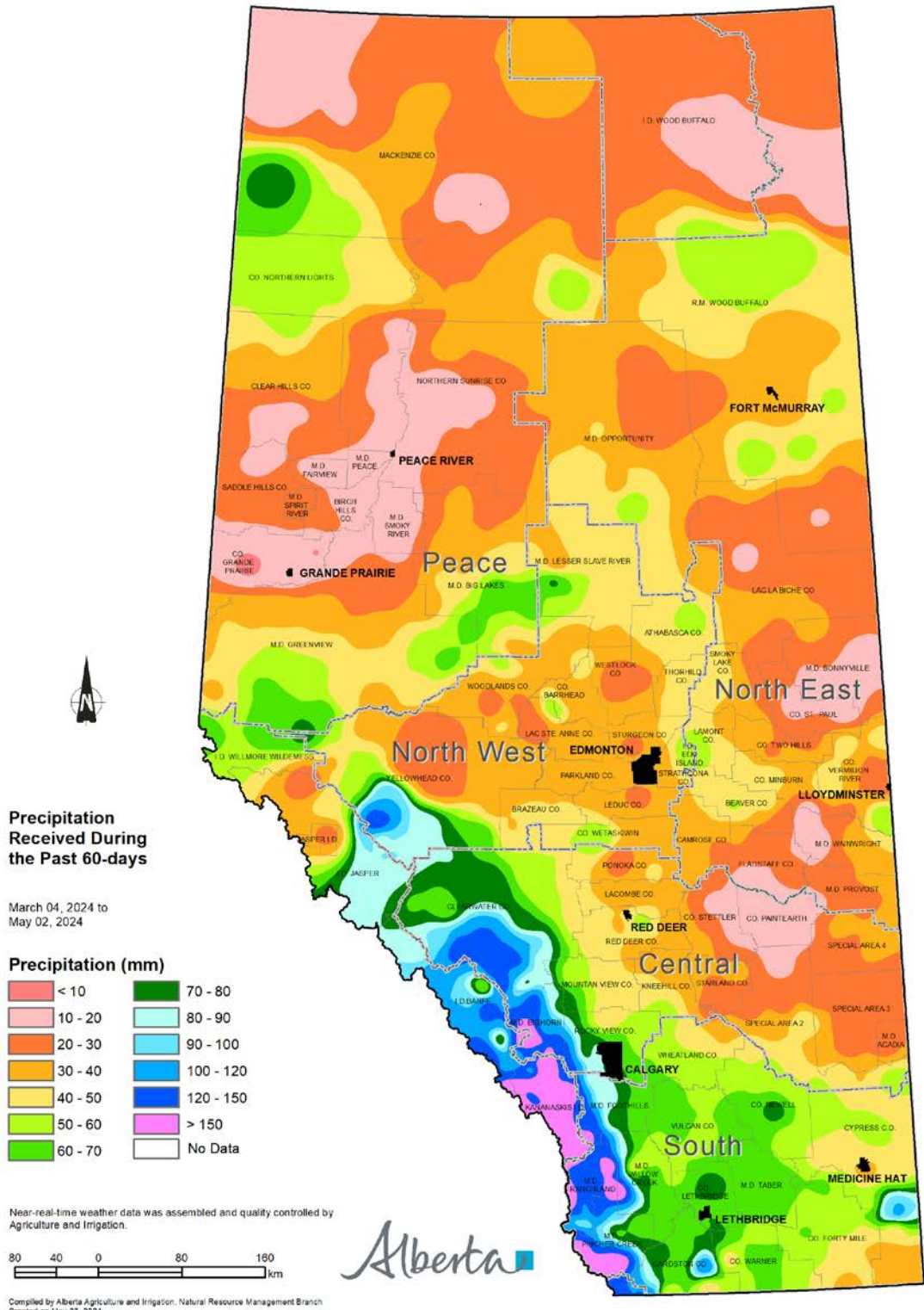
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Map 3



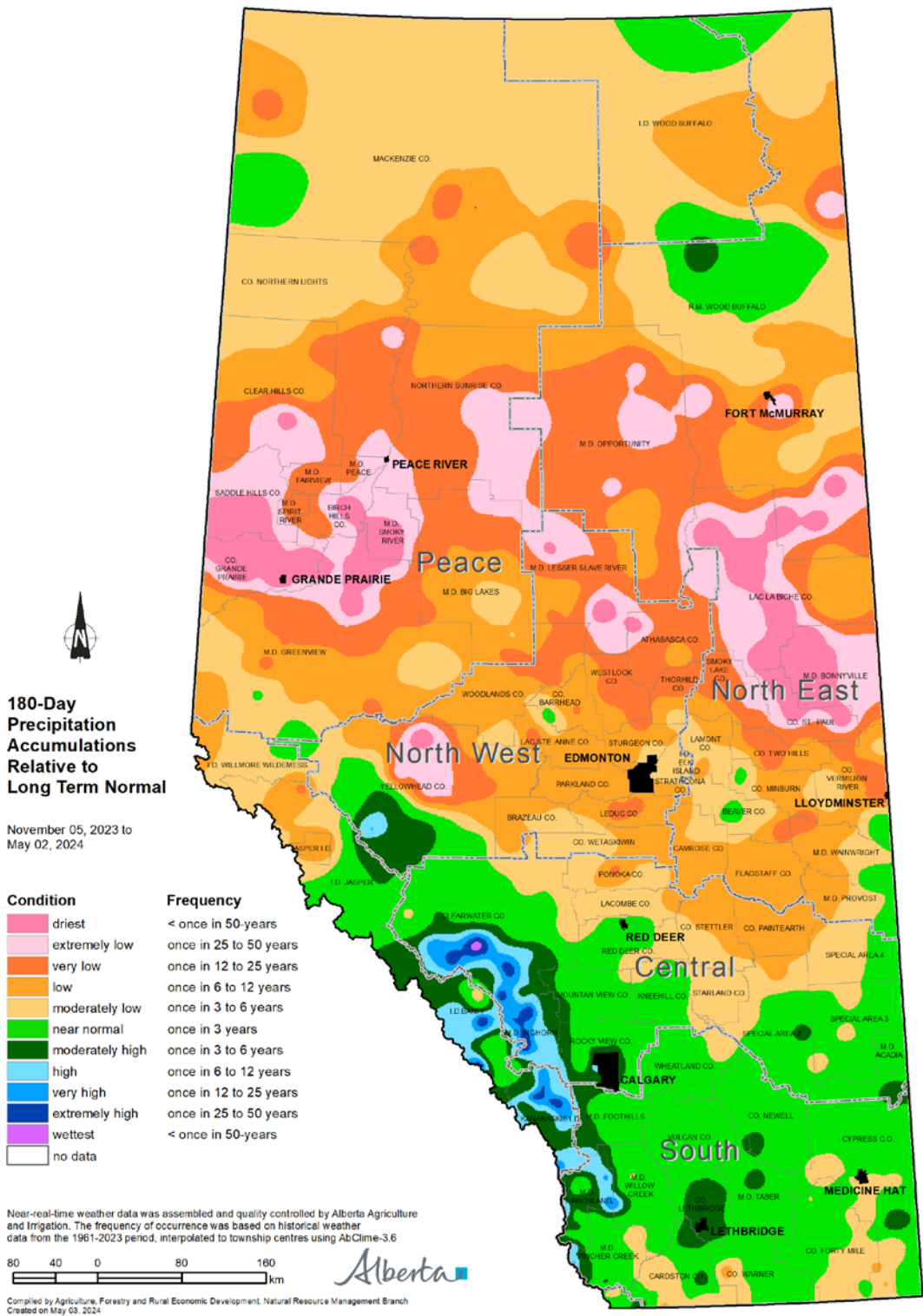
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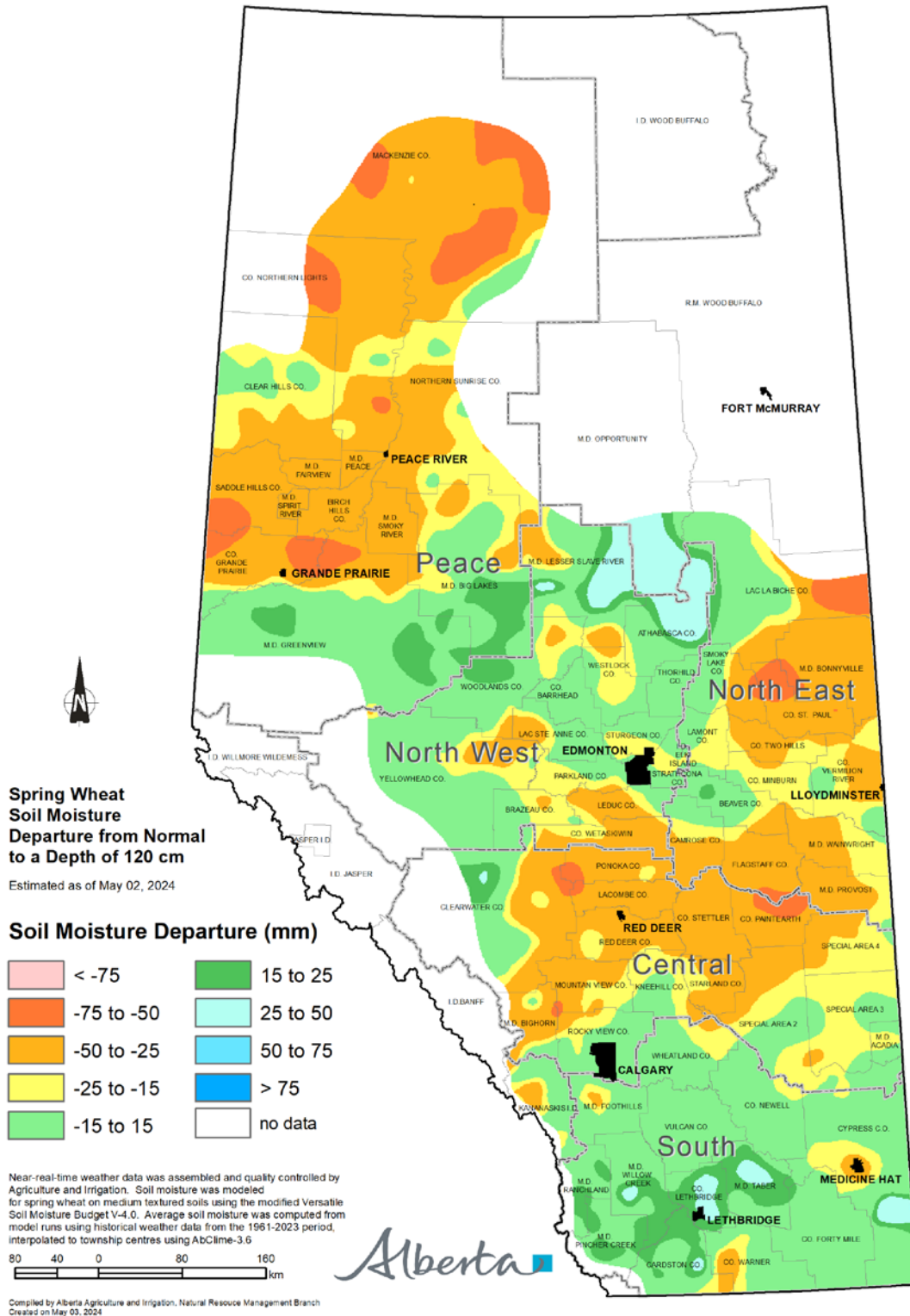


Map 4

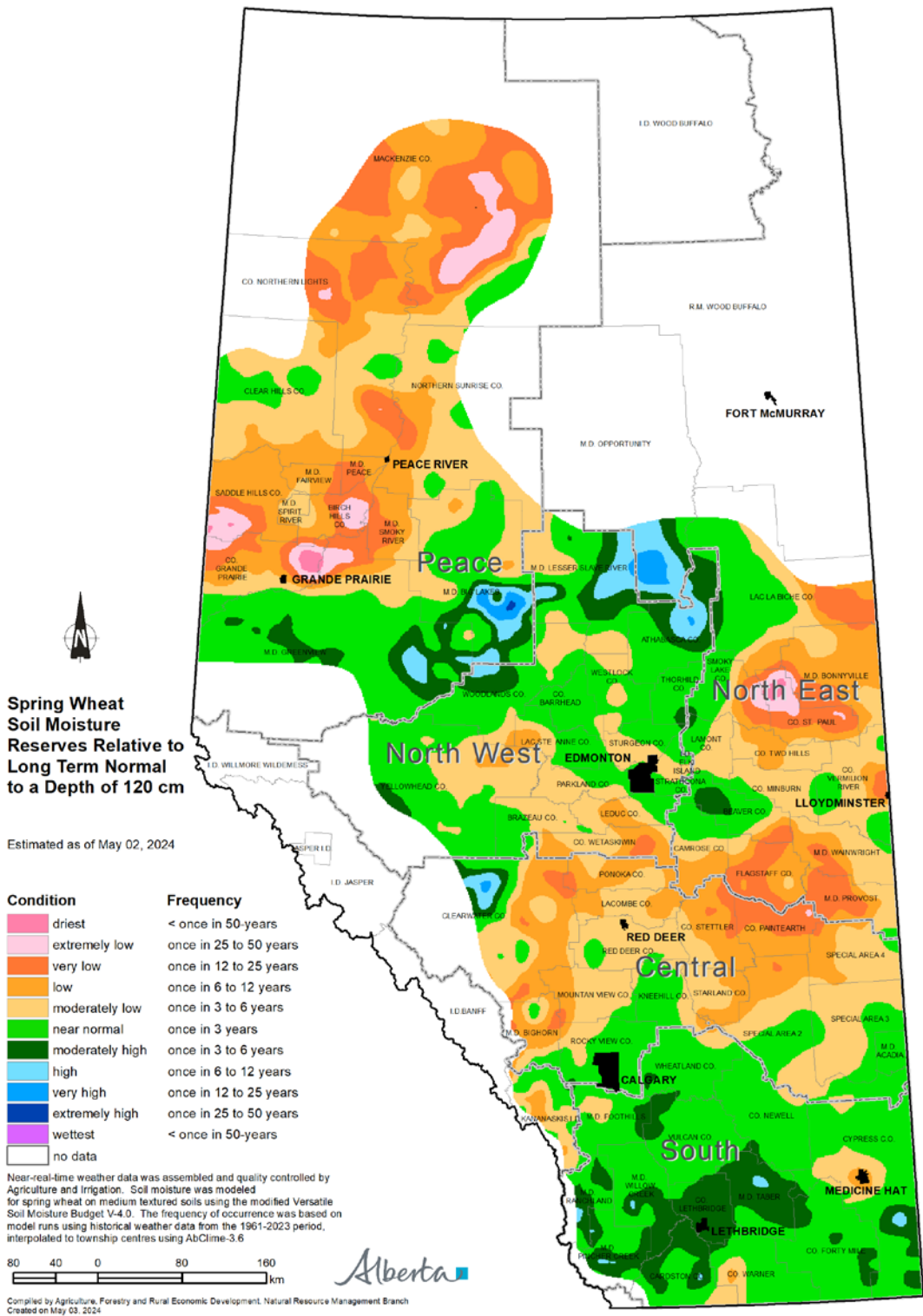


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Map 5



Map 6



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