



South Thompson
March 4th, 2022



Wildfire Seasonal Outlook Update

Updated March 7th, 2022

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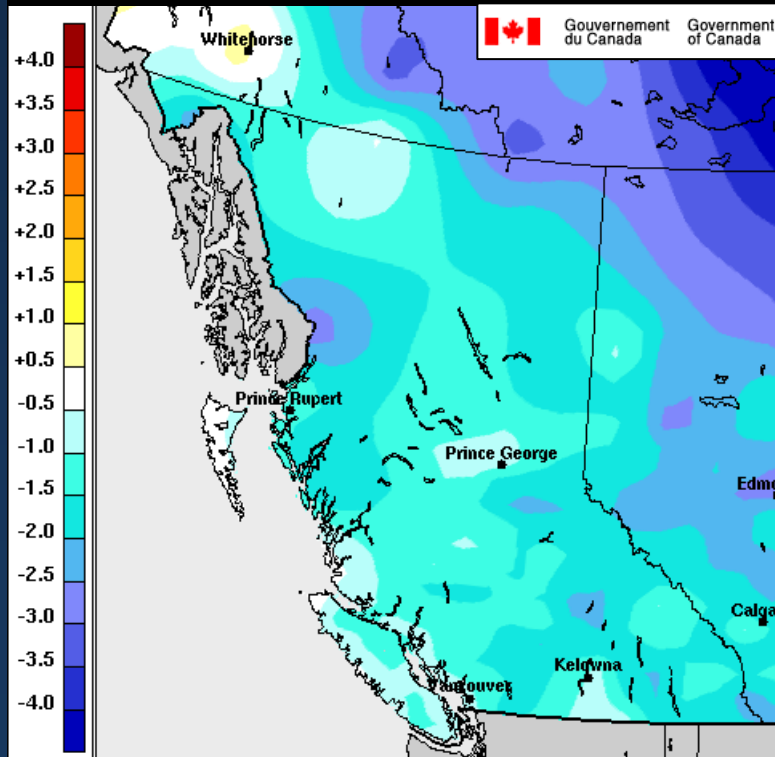
Winter Climate Statistics

From Environment and Climate Change Canada



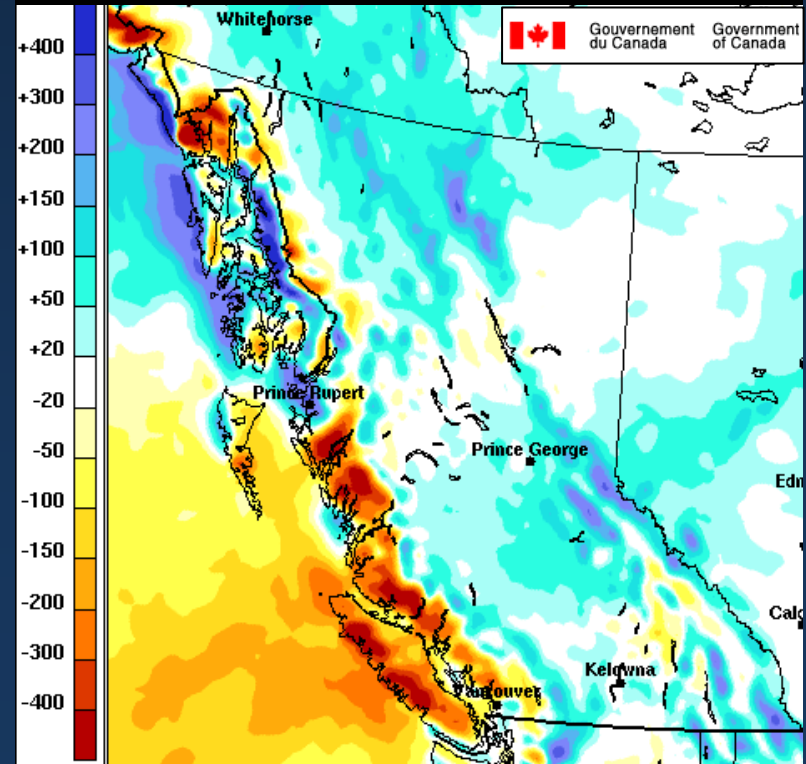
Conditions through meteorological winter (Dec-Jan-Feb) were significantly colder than normal for much of the province. Precipitation wise, northern and interior regions of BC experienced a wetter than normal weather pattern while Coastal communities were significantly drier than normal.

Temperature anomaly (°C)
Dec-Jan-Feb 2022



Proxy derived from ECCC NWP model data / Proxi dérivé de données de modèle

Precipitation anomaly (mm)
Dec-Jan-Feb 2022



ECCC 10-km CaPA / ACaP 10-km de ECCC. Clim: 1991-2020

Accumulated Precipitation Nov-Feb

From Environment and Climate Change Canada



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Total Precip Sept 2021 - Feb 2022			
Climate Region Name	Station Name	% of Normal	Concern
Southeast Vancouver Island	CHEMAINUS	136%	Too Wet
Southeast Vancouver Island	SHAWNIGAN LAKE	133%	Too Wet
Southeast Vancouver Island	VICTORIA INTL A	132%	Too Wet
Southeast Vancouver Island	VICTORIA UNIVERSITY CS	166%	Way Too Wet
East Vancouver Island	CAMPBELL RIVER A	107%	
East Vancouver Island	CHATHAM POINT	120%	
East Vancouver Island	COMOX A	114%	
East Vancouver Island	ENTRANCE ISLAND	144%	Too Wet
East Vancouver Island	NANAIMO A	123%	
West Vancouver Island	CAPE BEALE LIGHT	145%	Too Wet
West Vancouver Island	ESTEVAN POINT	115%	
South Coast	GIBSONS GOWER POINT	128%	
South Coast	MERRY ISLAND LIGHTSTATION	144%	Too Wet
South Coast	POWELL RIVER A	123%	
South Coast	SQUAMISH AIRPORT	145%	Too Wet
Haida Gwaii	LANGARA	85%	
North Coast	ADDENBROKE ISLAND	95%	
North Coast	BELLA COOLA AIRPORT	116%	
North Coast	BONILLA ISLAND	114%	
North Coast	DRYAD POINT	99%	
North Coast	GREEN ISLAND	116%	
North Coast	IVORY ISLAND	93%	
North Coast	KITIMAT FOREST AVE	95%	
North Coast	PRINCE RUPERT	113%	
North Coast	TRIPLE ISLAND	88%	
Coast Mountains	PEMBERTON AIRPORT CS	143%	Too Wet
Coast Mountains	TATLAYOKO LAKE RCS	87%	

Total Precip Sept 2021 - Feb 2022			
Upper Fraser RB	FORT ST JAMES AUTO	91%	
Upper Fraser RB	PRINCE GEORGE AIRPORT AUTO	88%	
Upper Fraser RB	SPOKIN LAKE 4E	135%	Too Wet
Upper Fraser RB	WILLIAMS LAKE A	121%	
Lower Fraser RB	ABBOTSFORD A	133%	Too Wet
Lower Fraser RB	DELTA TSAWWASSEN BEACH	152%	Way Too Wet
Lower Fraser RB	FORT LANGLEY TELEGRAPH TRAIL	125%	
Lower Fraser RB	MISSION WEST ABBEY	136%	Too Wet
Lower Fraser RB	PORT MOODY GLENAYRE	142%	Too Wet
Lower Fraser RB	RICHMOND DALLYN 2	126%	
Lower Fraser RB	VANCOUVER INTL A	118%	
Middle Fraser RB	HOPE AIRPORT	133%	Too Wet
Middle Fraser RB	HOPE SLIDE	164%	Way Too Wet
Middle Fraser RB	LYTTON RCS	154%	Way Too Wet
Okanagan RB	KELOWNA UBCO	91%	
Okanagan RB	OKANAGAN CENTRE	148%	Too Wet
Okanagan RB	OSOYOOS CS	106%	
Okanagan RB	PENTICTON A	110%	
Okanagan RB	PRINCETON CS	149%	Too Wet
Okanagan RB	SUMMERLAND CS	120%	
Okanagan RB	VERNON AUTO	102%	
East Kootenay Basin	CRANBROOK AIRPORT AUTO	104%	
East Kootenay Basin	SPARWOOD CS	123%	
Thompson RB	BLUE RIVER A	131%	Too Wet
Thompson RB	BLUE RIVER CS	146%	Too Wet
Thompson RB	KAMLOOPS AUT	91%	
Thompson RB	SALMON ARM CS	81%	
North Columbia RB	REVELSTOKE AIRPORT AUTO	144%	Too Wet
Peace RB	CHETWYND A	93%	
Peace RB	FORT ST JOHN AIRPORT	85%	
Liard RB	FORT NELSON	140%	Too Wet

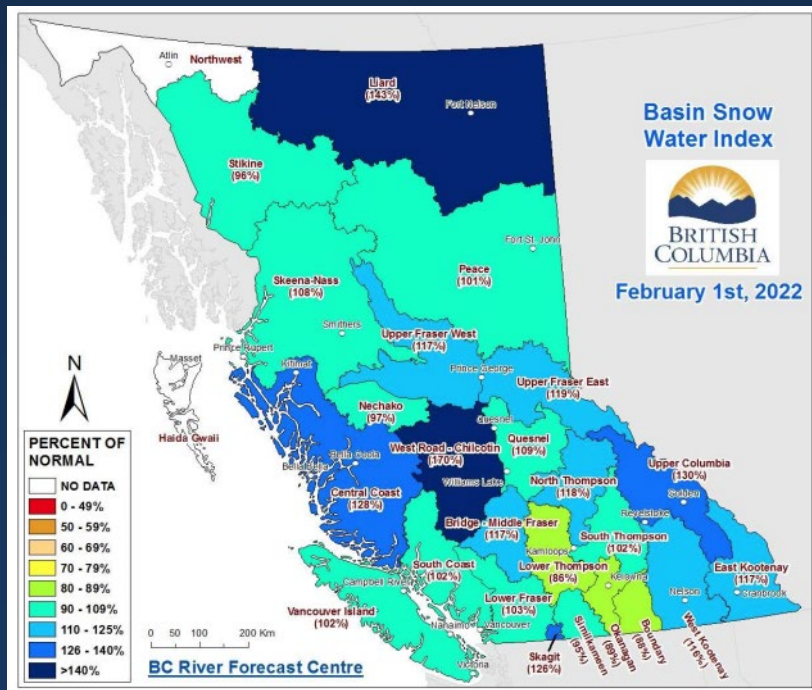
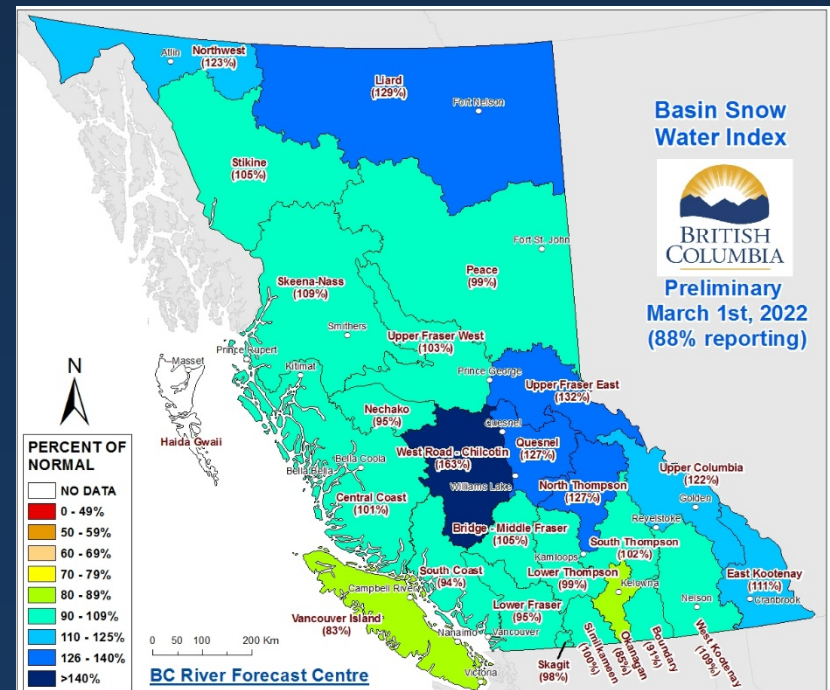
Over the longer November through February timeframe, many stations were wetter than normal however it remains to be confirmed whether the added precipitation will be sufficient to alleviate end of summer drought conditions.

BC River Forecast Centre Basin Snow Water Index Maps



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- A storm track across the center of the province favored an increase in snow depth over the Chilcotin, North Thompson, Quesnel and Upper Fraser – East basins though February. Most other basins remain near historical averages.
- Vancouver Island and the Okanagan have the lowest snow basin indices compared to historical average thereby decreasing the chances of effective recharge during spring melt.
- While deeper snowpacks generally increase the chances of fuel moisture recharge at mid and upper elevation, the amount of sublimation versus melt will dictate how much moisture enters the ground, particularly at valley bottoms.



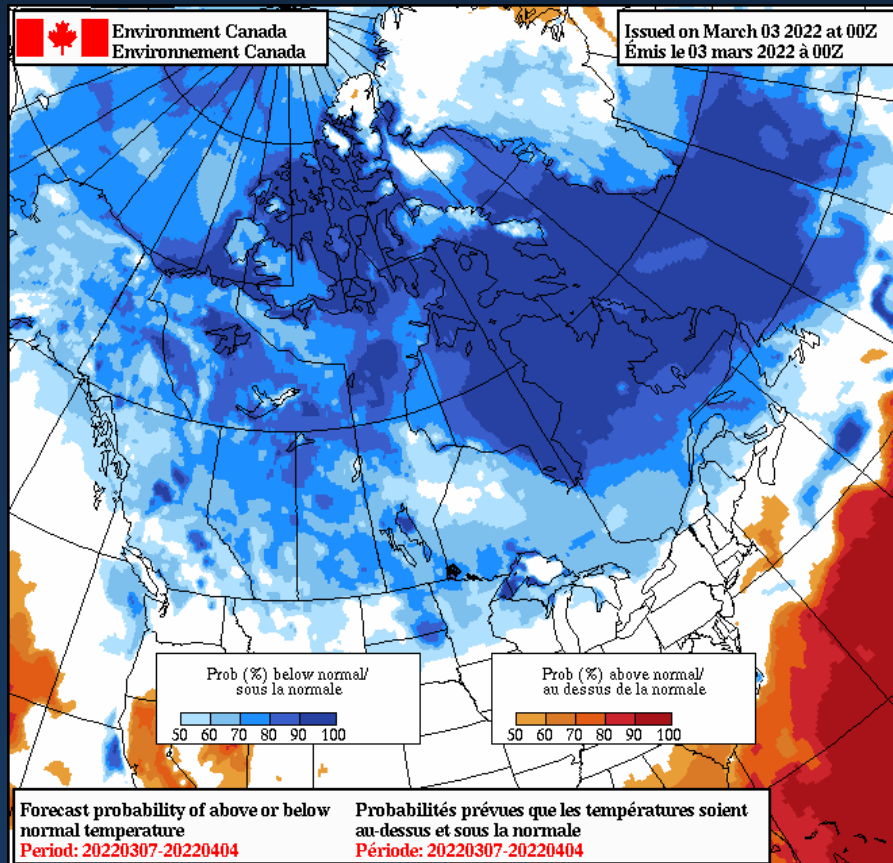
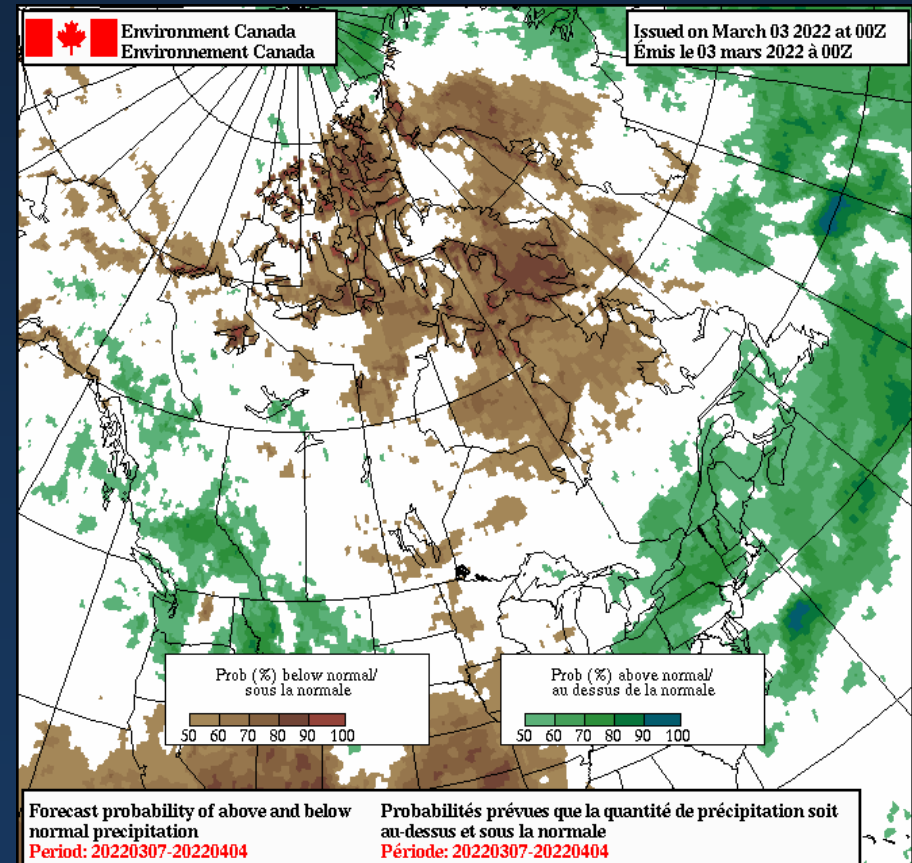
Forecast (next 4 weeks)

March 7 – April 4



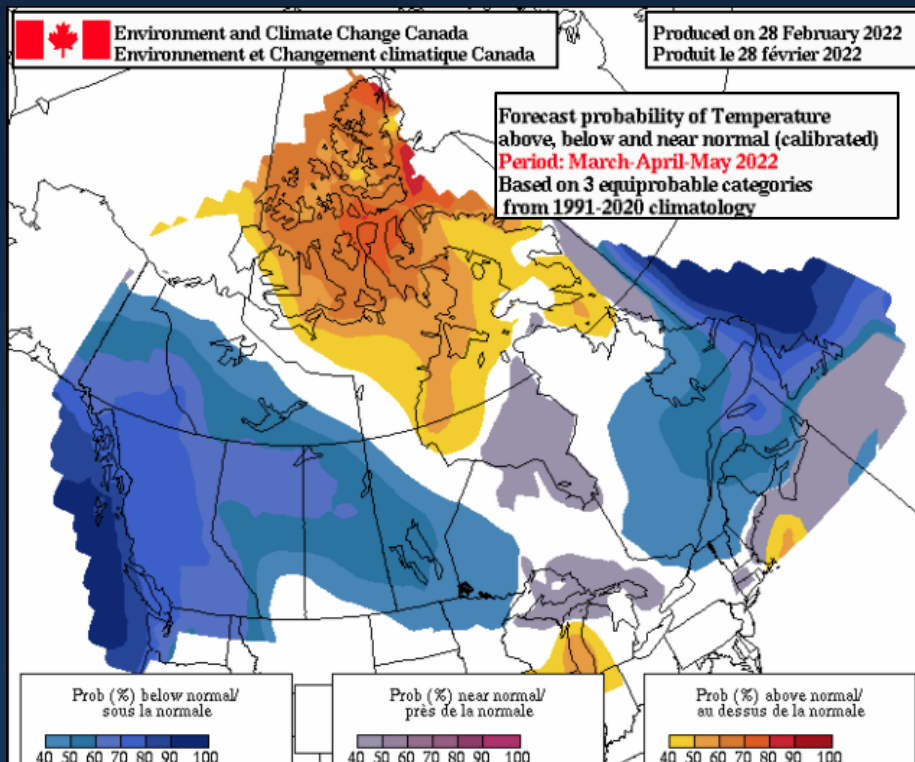
Temperature – There is a signal for cooler than normal temperatures across the majority of BC

Precipitation – Wetter than normal conditions are likely through March for the southern half of the province.



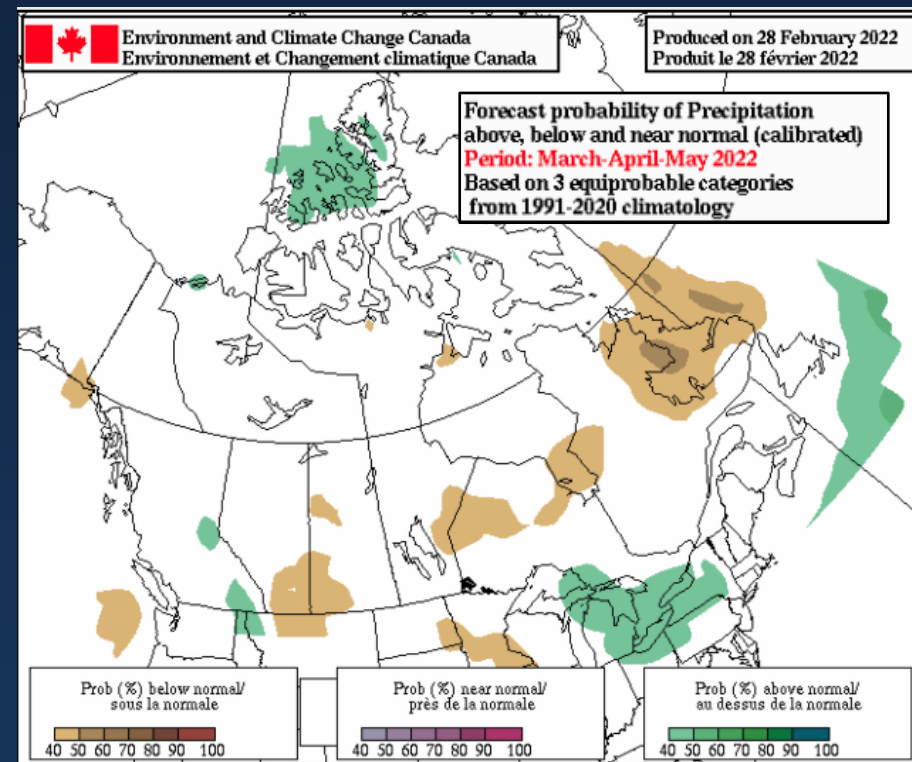
The cool and wet outlook decrease the likelihood of escape early season grass fires over southern half of BC.

Forecast (Seasonal) Outlook – March-April-May



Temperature – Strong probabilities of a colder than normal spring.

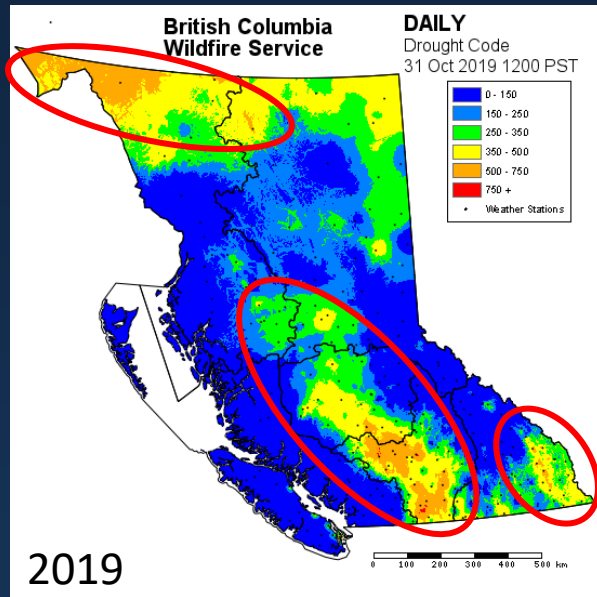
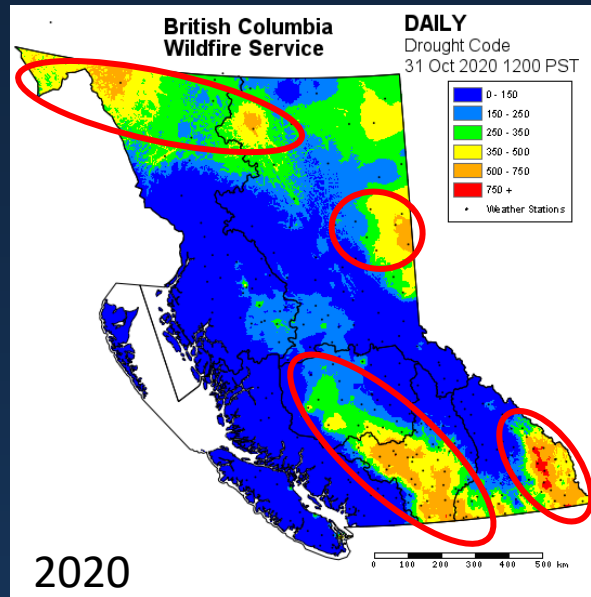
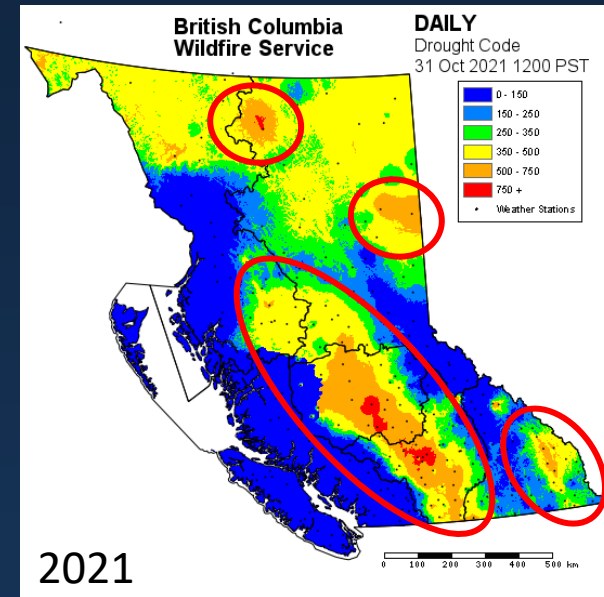
*Historical skill: correct 60-70% of the time



Precipitation - Weak probabilities of wetter than normal spring along portions of the Kootenays and Robson, otherwise no clear signal.

*Historical skill: only correct 30-40% of the time

Historical Fuel Dryness Drought Codes through Recent years

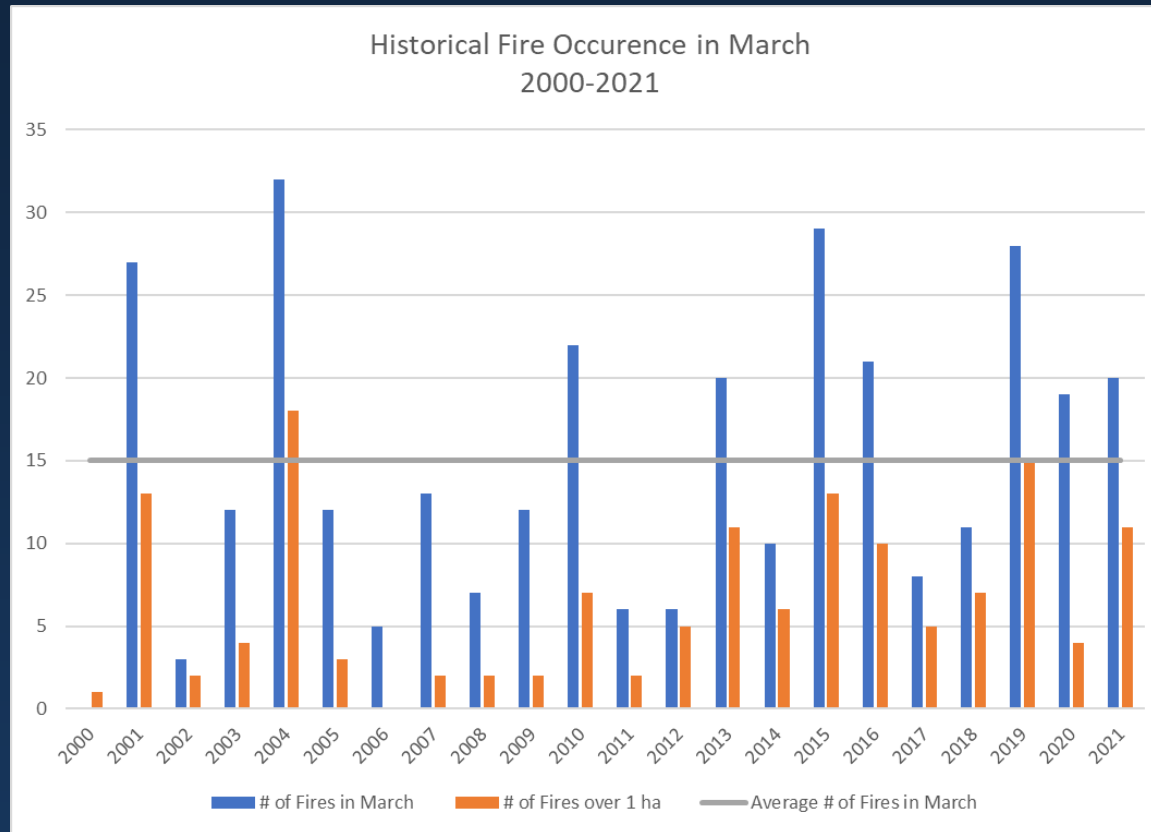


- Despite the wetter than normal conditions observed this winter, certain regions have shown consistent drought conditions through the past several summers. These areas will likely continue to carry extended drought as we enter wildfire season 2022.

Historical Early Season Fire Occurrence



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- From 2000 to 2021, there has been an average of 15 wildfires during the month of March.
- The majority of early season wildfires occur in cured grass and were confined to the Kamloops Fire Centre.
- Given the cool and wet outlook, we anticipate below average early season wildfire activity.

Summary



- Provincially, as of early March, not all stations are snow free and few are reporting Fire Weather Indices.
- Certain areas of the Province including the Cariboo, South Thompson, Okanagan and east Kootenays will likely preserve prolonged drought conditions despite above normal winter precipitation.
- Despite the cooler than normal outlook, early season fires are driven by high winds (+15 km/h), a few dry days and fine fuel. Watch for the potential lack of spring precipitation that would increase the potential for fire activity.
- Focus is currently on cured grass fuel in valley bottoms and lower elevations and prescribed burns opportunities.
- Field verification of indices for weather station start-ups are encouraged, as well as monitoring and reporting of grass curing conditions.

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