

Moisture Situation Update – November 12, 2018

Synopsis:

This year the winter snowpack has arrived right on schedule with most lands seeing persistent snow accumulations during the first week of November. Currently, most areas between the town of Peace River and Red Deer have full snow cover, with depths typically ranging from 10-15 cm, up to nearly 60 cm along the north side of the Swan Hills, which includes the town of High Prairie (**see map 1**).

Prior to freeze-up, unusually cool and wet fall weather persisted through September and the first half of October, allowing soil moisture reserves to return to at least near normal across most of the provinces agricultural areas (**see map 2**). However, some dry areas still do exist through parts of Southern Alberta, a small area west of Olds and also throughout the northern tip of the Peace Region.

Looking back since the start of September, precipitation has been highly variable with less than 20 mm falling across the northern Peace Region, and only 20-30 mm through parts of the County of Newell (**map 3**). This stands in sharp contrast to a large area that includes lands ranging from Grande Prairie in the north all the way down to Red Deer in the south, stretching eastward over to the Saskatchewan border., where precipitation accumulations to date exceed 80 mm, with some pockets receiving over 100mm. These areas now have adequate soil moisture reserves going into next year's cropping season.

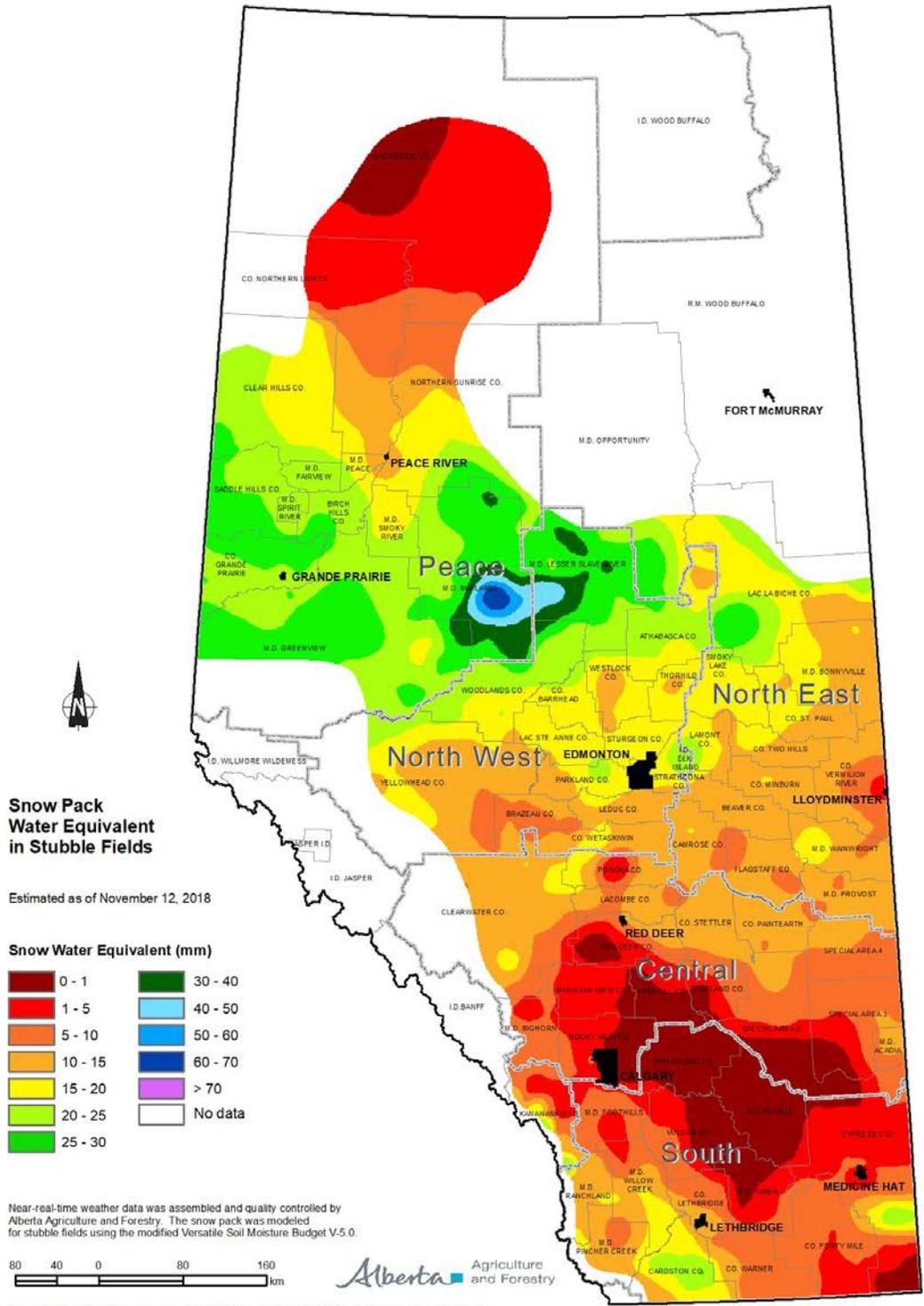
Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

Note: Data has about a two-hour lag and is displayed in MST.

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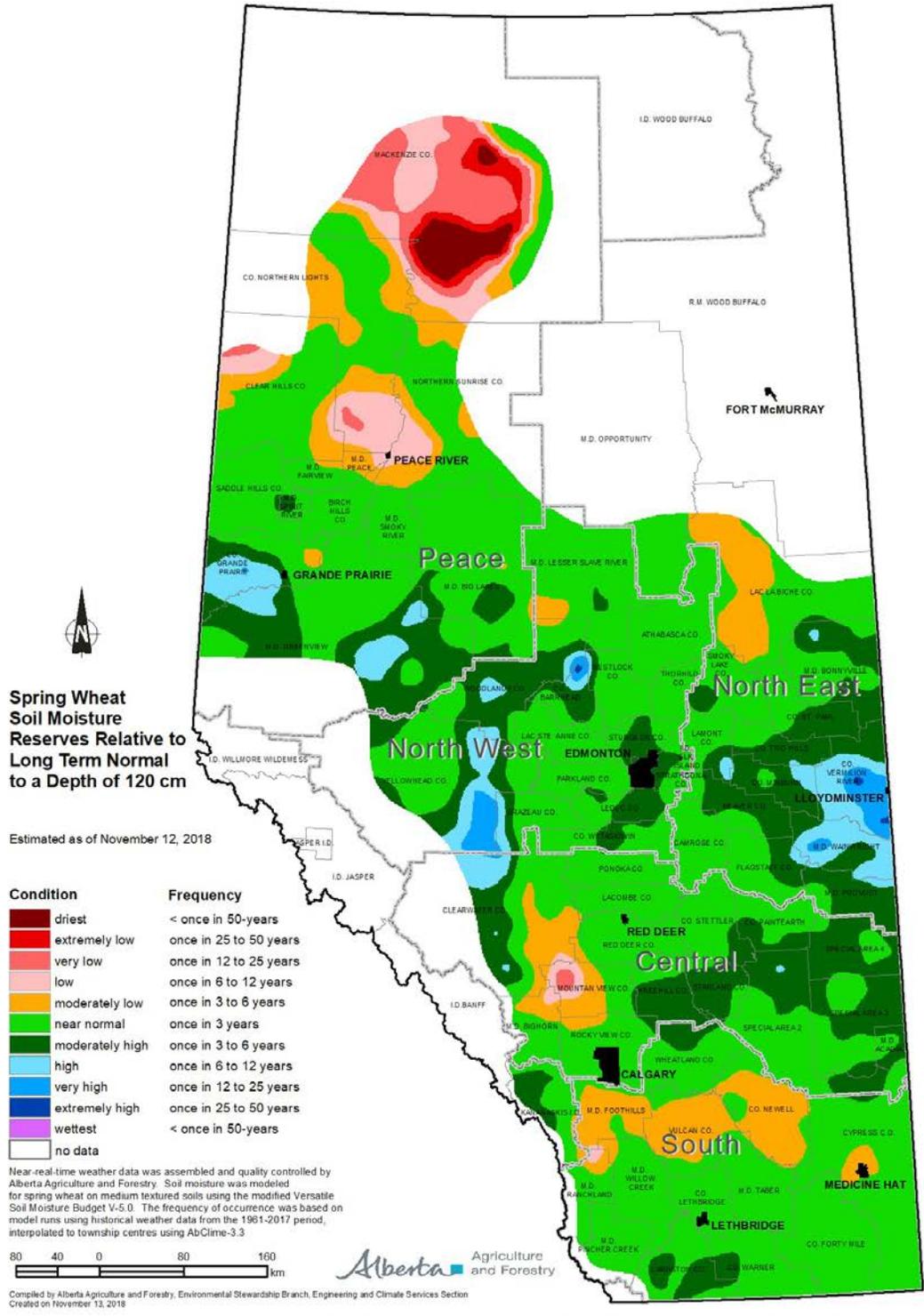
Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

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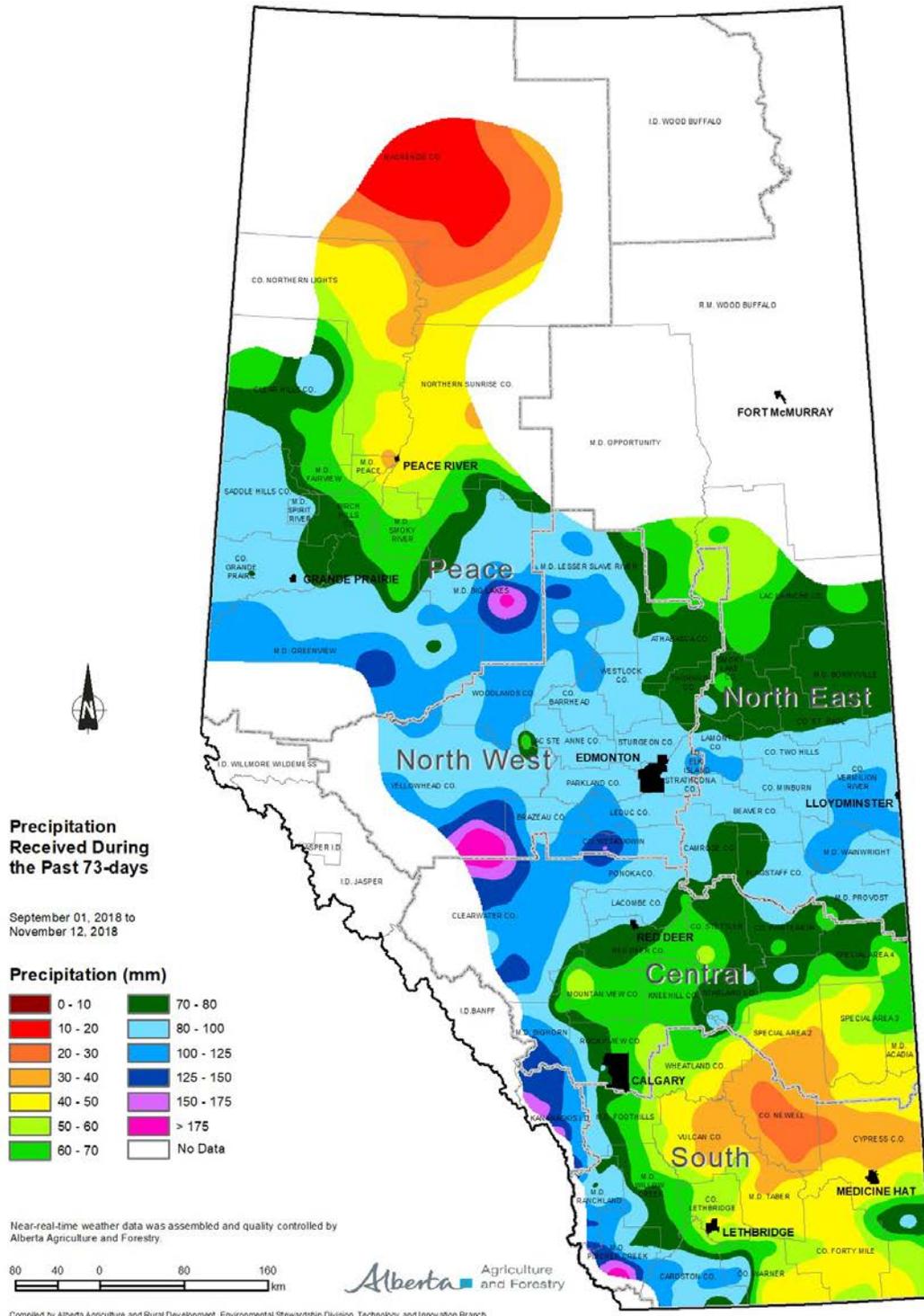
Map 2



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Map 3



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