

## Moisture Situation Update – February 8, 2018

### Synopsis:

Throughout the second half of December and the first half of January, snow packs across the central parts of the province were well below normal, due to unusually warm weather that persisted throughout much of December. This affected a large area from about the Yellowhead Highway in the north, down to the Trans-Canada Highway in the south. In many of these areas, it was not uncommon to see large patches of bare ground visible through the dwindling November snowpack's (see map 1).

The third week in January, marked a significant shift in the weather, bringing plenty of snow for all but the east-central parts of the province (see map 2). This has led to a vast improvement in snow pack conditions, with most areas south of the Trans-Canada Highway having near normal or above normal snowpack's for this time of year (see map 3). This is good news for the south, as soil moisture reserves are currently below normal (see map 4), due to a long dry spell that began in mid-June and persisted well into October.

Throughout much of the Central areas, snow packs are still well below normal (see map 3), despite recent snows. However, soil moisture reserves tend to be near normal in these areas and there is still plenty of time to see additional snow ahead of the spring melt.

Across the northwest and northeast, snow cover is now very well established, but still below normal for this time of year (see map 3). At this point, this is good news for those areas that have well above normal soil moisture reserves (see map 4), which have persisted since fall of 2016, at times hampering field operations.

In the Peace Region, snow packs are generally near normal (see Map 3) for this time of year, albeit much deeper than the rest of the province's agricultural lands (see map 2). This bodes well for the spring, particularly across the extreme northern Peace Region, where several years of below normal precipitation has resulted in well below normal soil moisture reserves (see map 4).

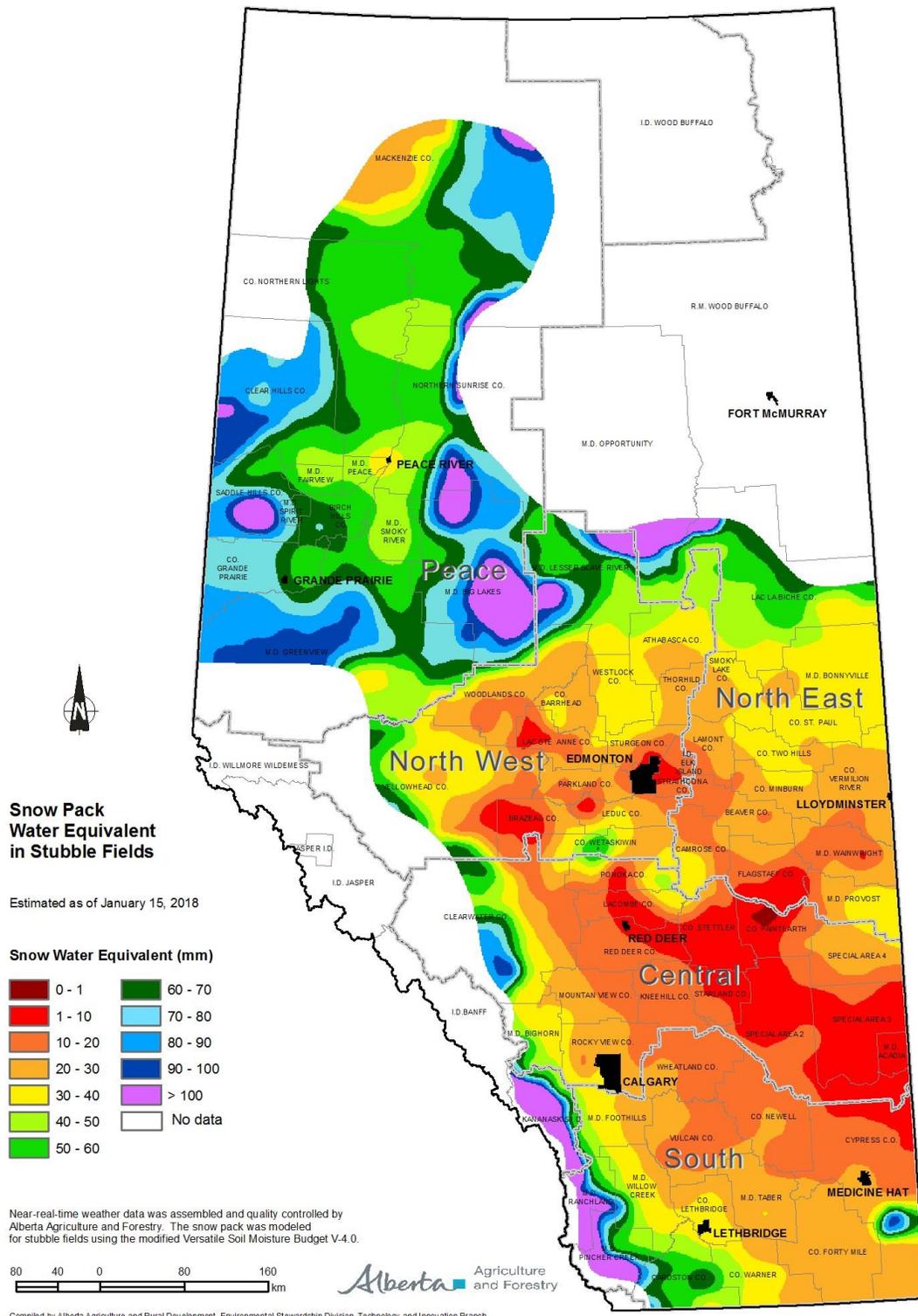
**Near-real-time hourly station** data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)

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

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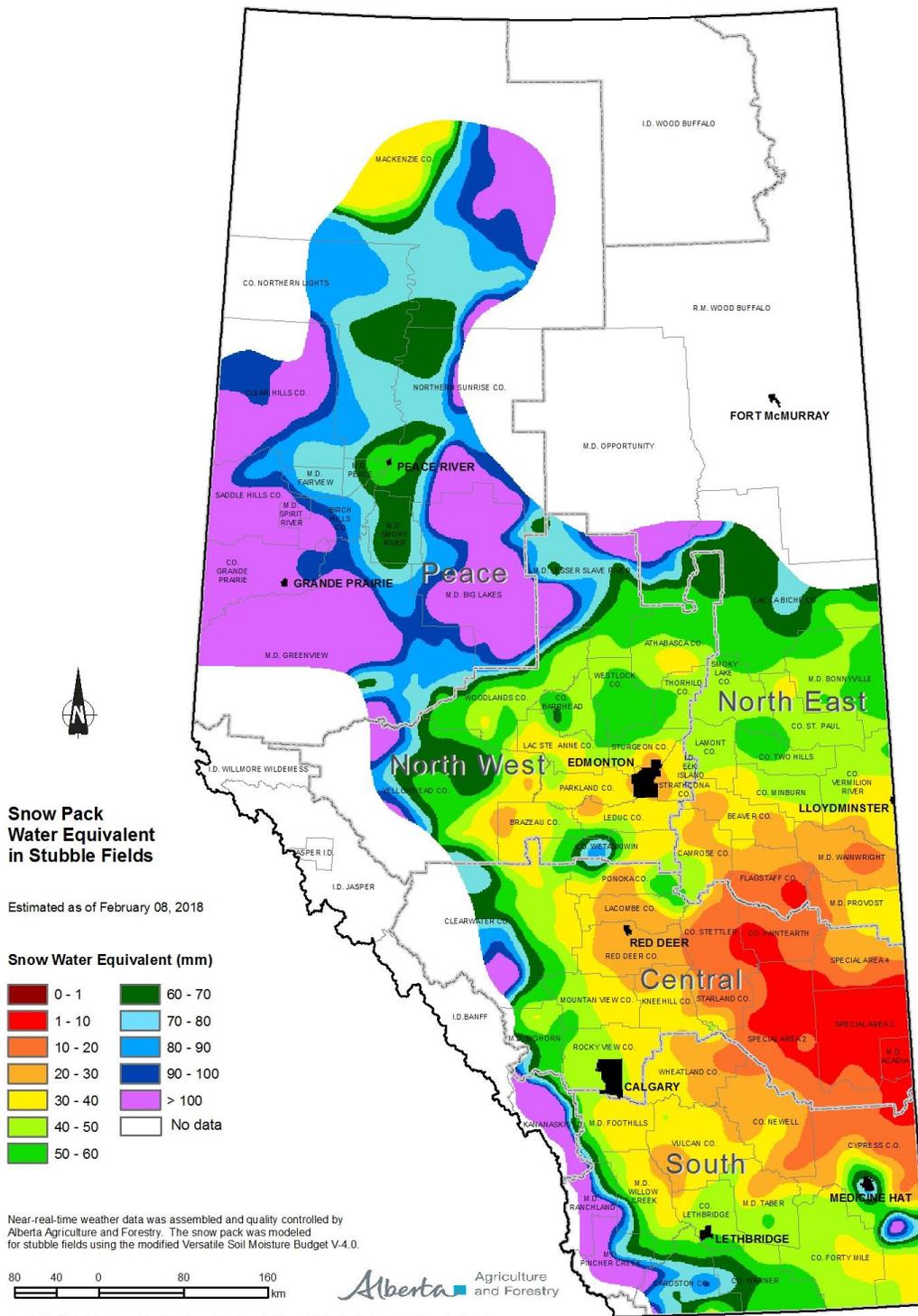
## Map 1



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

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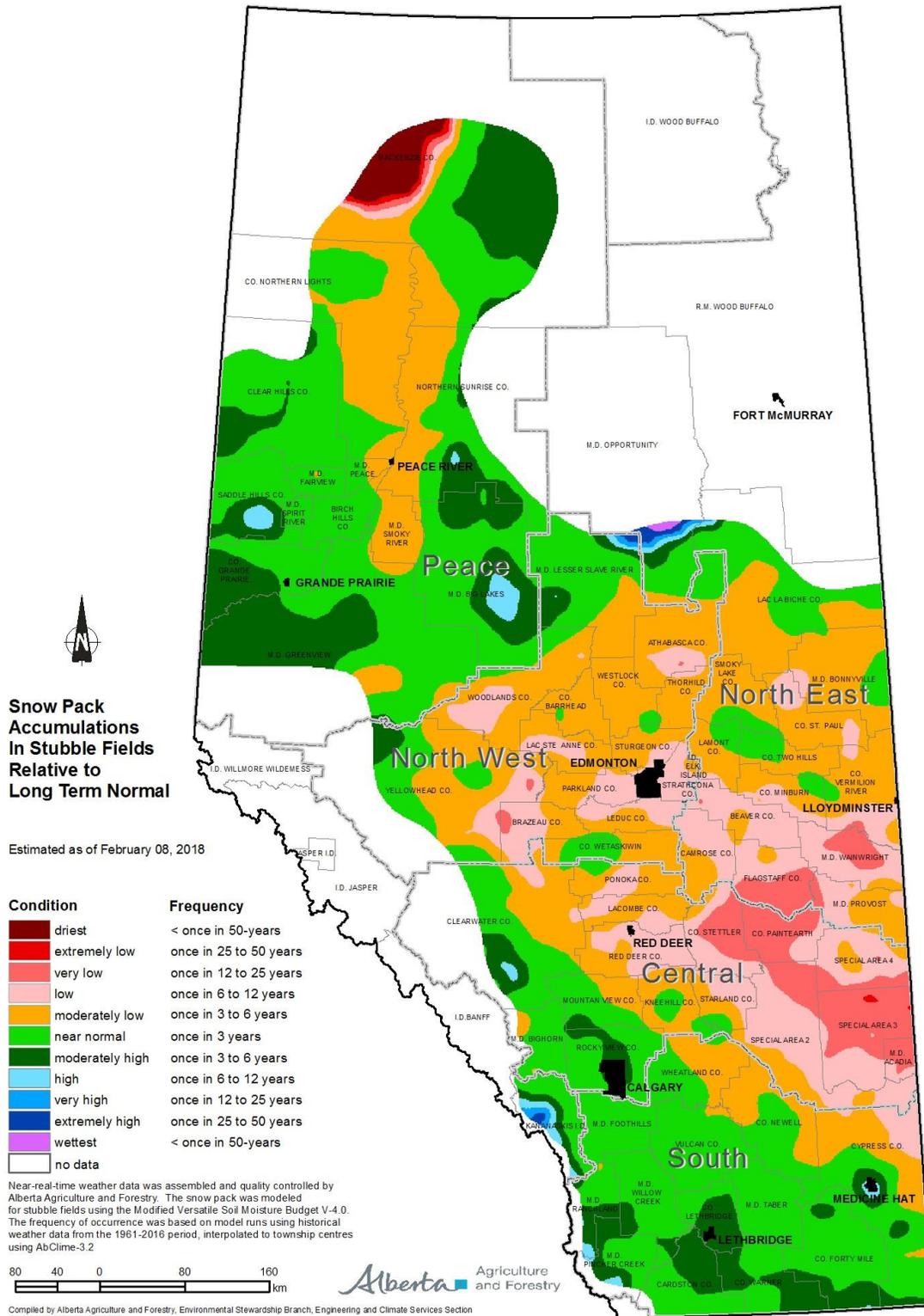
## Map 2



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## Map 3



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Map 4

