

## Moisture Situation Update – June 17, 2018

### Synopsis:

Over the past week, a major rainfall event occurred over the northern half of the province, bringing significant rain to many areas north of Edmonton. The storm was centered in the Slave Lake area with two stations reporting more than 150 mm (**see map 1**). It was also wide spread, with over 40 mm recorded across a large area from Athabasca to Fort Vermillion. Upwards of 50 mm was recorded across the northern Peace Region, an area that has generally been drier than normal since 2002.

Elsewhere across the province most lands were under the influence of strong convective thunderstorm activity resulting in wide spread hit and miss showers. Many stations received 10 to 20 mm, but there were also several widely scattered areas that received less than 10 mm. In these places rain will be needed very soon.

### Soil Moisture Reserves:

Across the Province, soil moisture reserves are highly variable ranging from one in six to 12 year highs through parts of the North West to one in 50 year lows across a large area from Airdrie to Fort Macleod (**see map 2**). In fact, many lands south of Red Deer are quite dry heading into the peak growing season and timely rains will be needed to maintain adequate crop growth.

For those areas south of a line running through about Drumheller, June rains are critical along with adequate soil moisture reserves as July typically marks the beginning of an abrupt drying trend that persists along with hot weather well into August.

### Forecast from AF's Fire Weather Meteorologists;

Expect to see hot weather over the next few days, as a weak high pressure ridge develops. Fortunately this feature is not expected to persist more than a few days. In conjunction with this, an upper low situated in Idaho will be bringing in rain for the extreme parts of southern Alberta with 10-20 mm expected over the next day or so. By Wednesday, the warm weather will give way to another low pressure system that will come in from the west. This should bring unstable conditions and widespread thunderstorm activity to most of the province as the weekend approaches.

Looking out further into next week, meteorologists do not expect to see a strong high pressure (hot and dry) system on its way to Alberta. This is good news as we are likely to see typical June weather following the passage of the current warm spell. This may be good news for those in need of moisture.

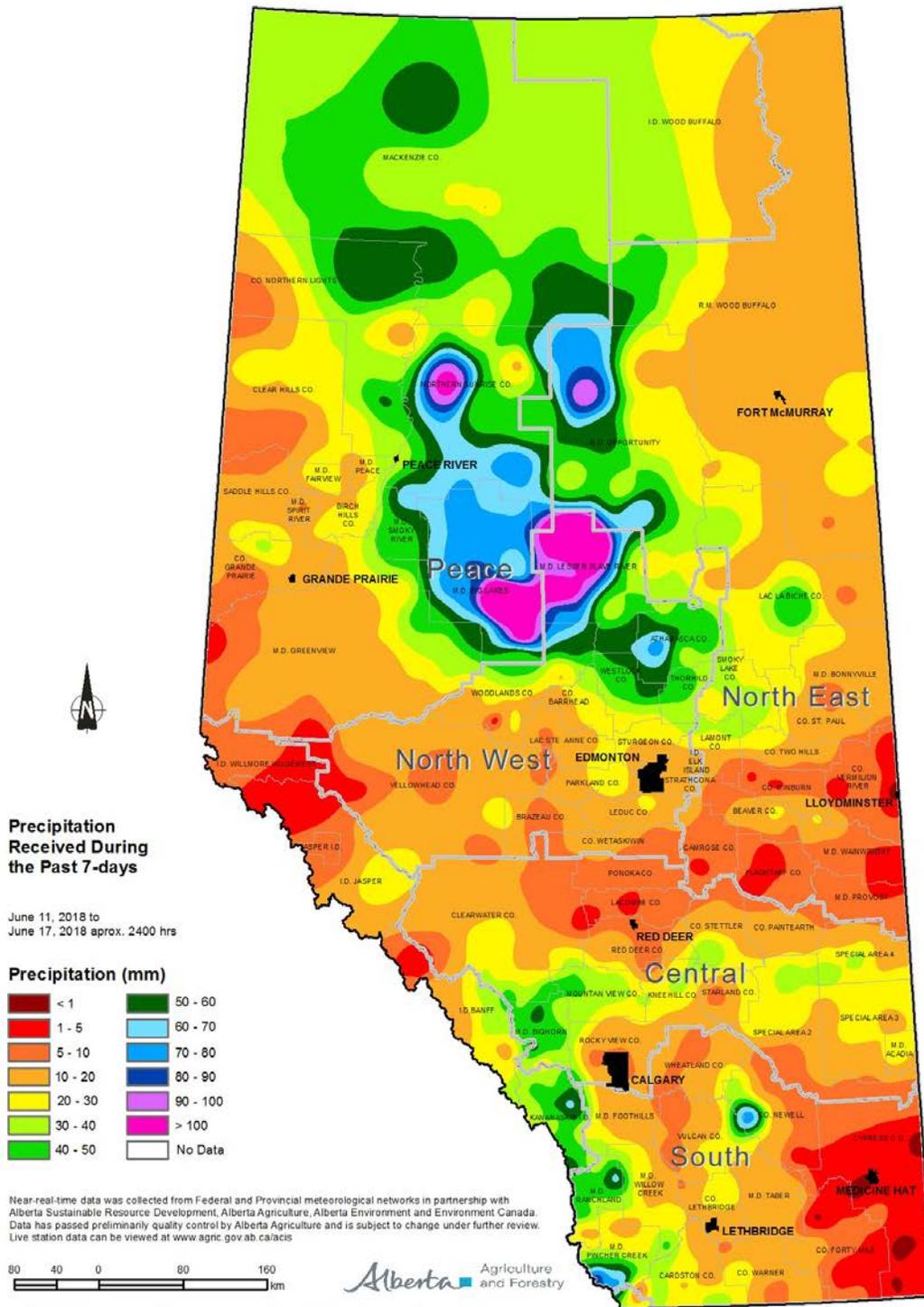
**Near-real-time hourly station** data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)

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

Ralph Wright  
Manager, Agro-meteorological Applications and Modelling Section  
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
Phone: 780-446-6831

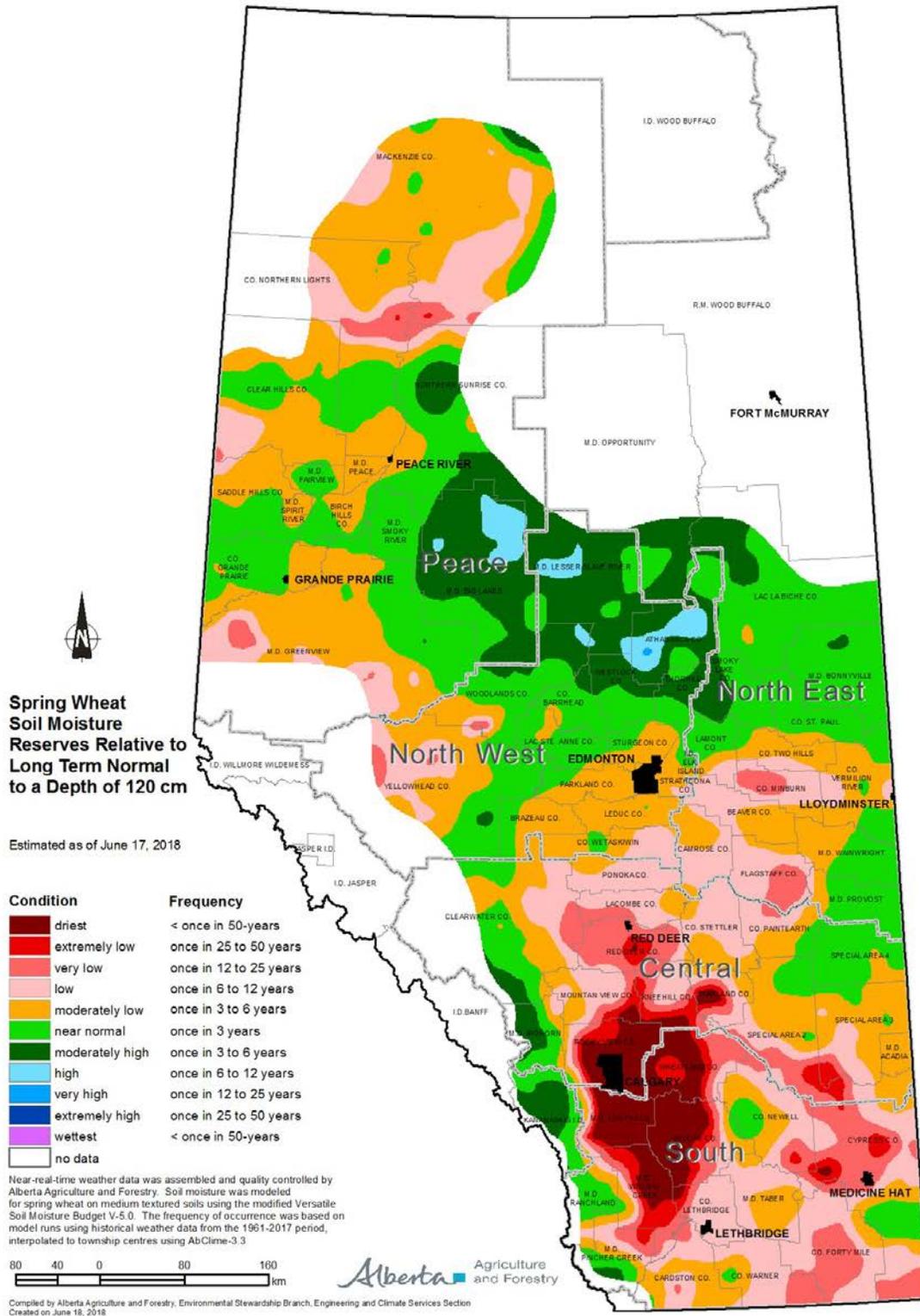
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## Map 1



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

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