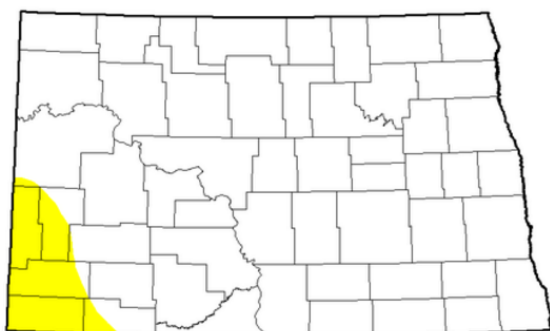


Members Voice – Billings County Drought, refinery and Little Missouri River Crossing

Road and Ground Conditions -- It's been a busy week meetings in Billings County, and spring looks like it will be an even busier time for public hearings on major projects in Billings County. Commissioner Joe Kessel said the commission has been watching the road budget but that snow removal hasn't been too large of an expense. Many of the roads in the county got much-needed gravel resurfacing last year from the Surge Fund. The good news is the snow in Billings County has relieved dry conditions.

As of February 7, 2017

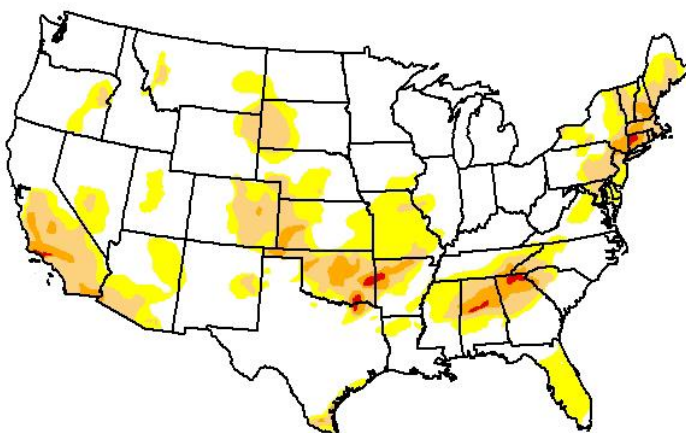
Author: David Simera, Western Regional Climate Center



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current 2/07/2017	93.81%	6.19%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Last Week 1/31/2017	93.81%	6.19%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Three Months Ago 11/08/2016	93.77%	6.23%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Start of Calendar Year 1/03/2017	93.87%	6.13%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
One Year Ago 2/09/2016	44.67%	55.33%	3.87%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

U.S. Drought Monitor Total U.S.

February 7, 2017
(Released Thursday, Feb. 9, 2017)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	72.55	27.45	11.92	2.84	0.29	0.00
Last Week 1/31/2017	71.74	28.26	12.16	3.20	0.34	0.00
3 Months Ago 11/8/2016	57.63	42.37	22.86	9.51	4.14	1.59
Start of Calendar Year 1/2/2017	59.70	40.30	18.83	7.21	2.63	0.80
Start of Water Year 9/27/2016	61.21	38.79	15.85	6.77	2.67	0.97
One Year Ago 2/9/2016	73.73	26.27	12.59	6.57	3.56	1.83

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Fairfield Bypass – The Theodore Roosevelt Expressway four-lane proposal was discussed this week and public hearings are to be scheduled. There are three alternates for the route at the town of Fairfield and public hearings this spring will continue that discussion.

Refinery -- Meridian has engaged SEH, Inc., to undertake the water availability study for the Davis Refinery at Belfield. SEH, Inc., will also perform feasibility studies of several options for both crude supply and product distribution pipelines to serve the Davis Refinery. SEH met with the Billings County Commission this week to update the board on the water permit. The hearing on the permit was on Wednesday. Billings County Auditor Marcia Lamb said the Air permit application is being rewritten, but everything seems to be “on track.”

River Crossing --After years of studies and meetings, the Little Missouri River Crossing is moving forward. KLJ met with the Billings County Commission this week to update the board on the progress. Alternate K, Option 1 is the preferred option, though all three options are still in consideration according to Jen Turnbow the Director of Environmental Services for KLJ. Alternate K, Option 1 is about 11 miles north of the South Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and about 6 miles south of the Elkhorn Ranch. After the draft Environmental Impact Study is complete this spring, public hearings will gather more information.

Little Missouri River Crossing

Environmental Impact Statement

Project No. FHO-02-04(001)

PCN 16970

Study Area Map

