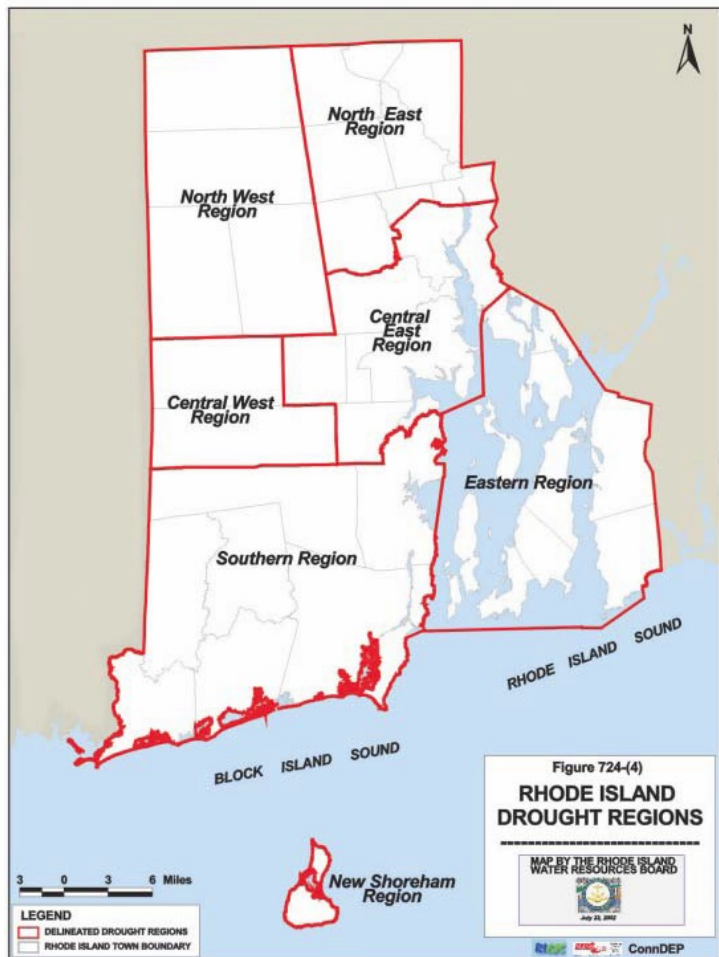


# RHODE ISLAND DROUGHT STEERING COMMITTEE

April 12, 2012



# Precipitation



Feb-Mar	Percent	Normal
Northwest	30	9.41
Northeast	30	8.57
Central West	32	8.76
Central East	34	8.30
Eastern	33	9.45
Southern	33	9.34
New Shoreham	34	9.34

## **DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA:**

**2 month cumulative below 65% of normal**

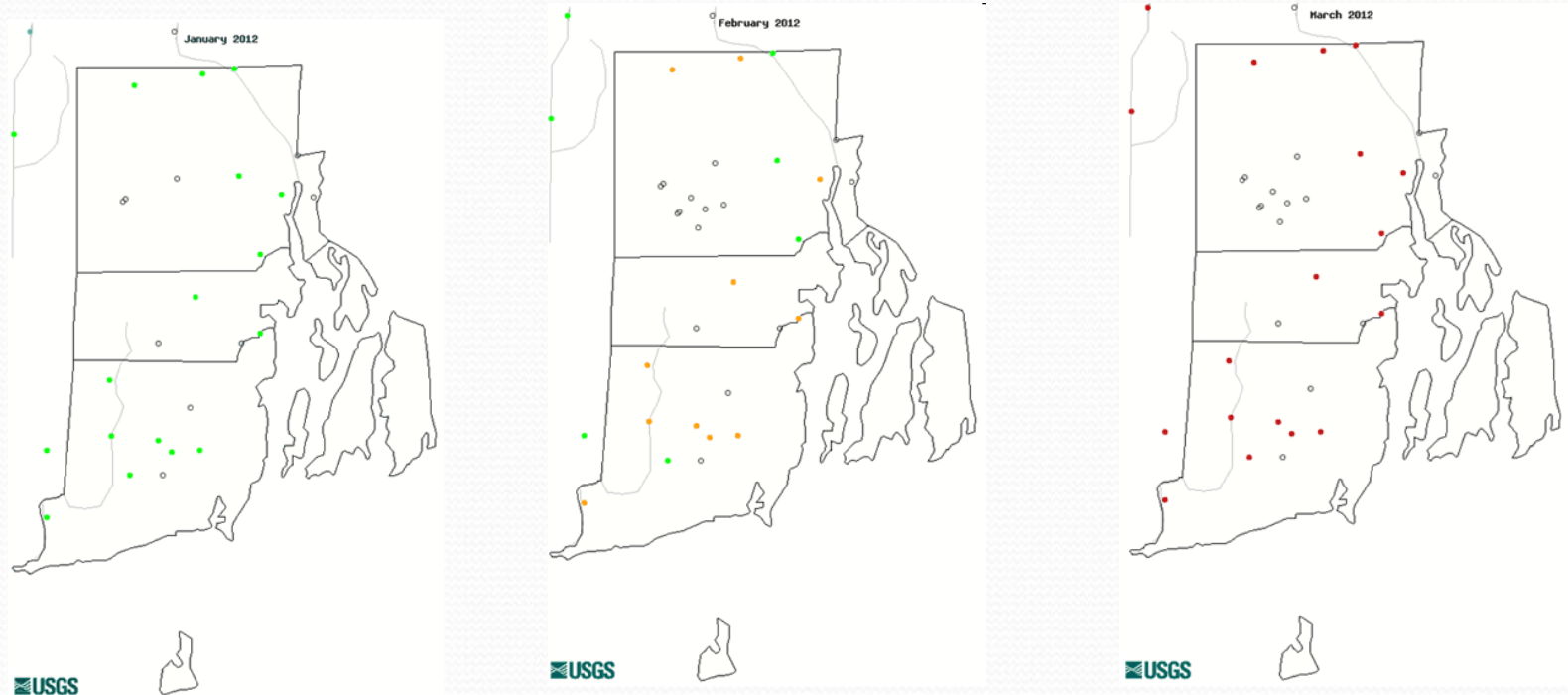
- Rainfall totals 2.8-3.2 inches
- Deficits 6-7 inches

**• MEETS DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA**





# Streamflow



## **DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA:**

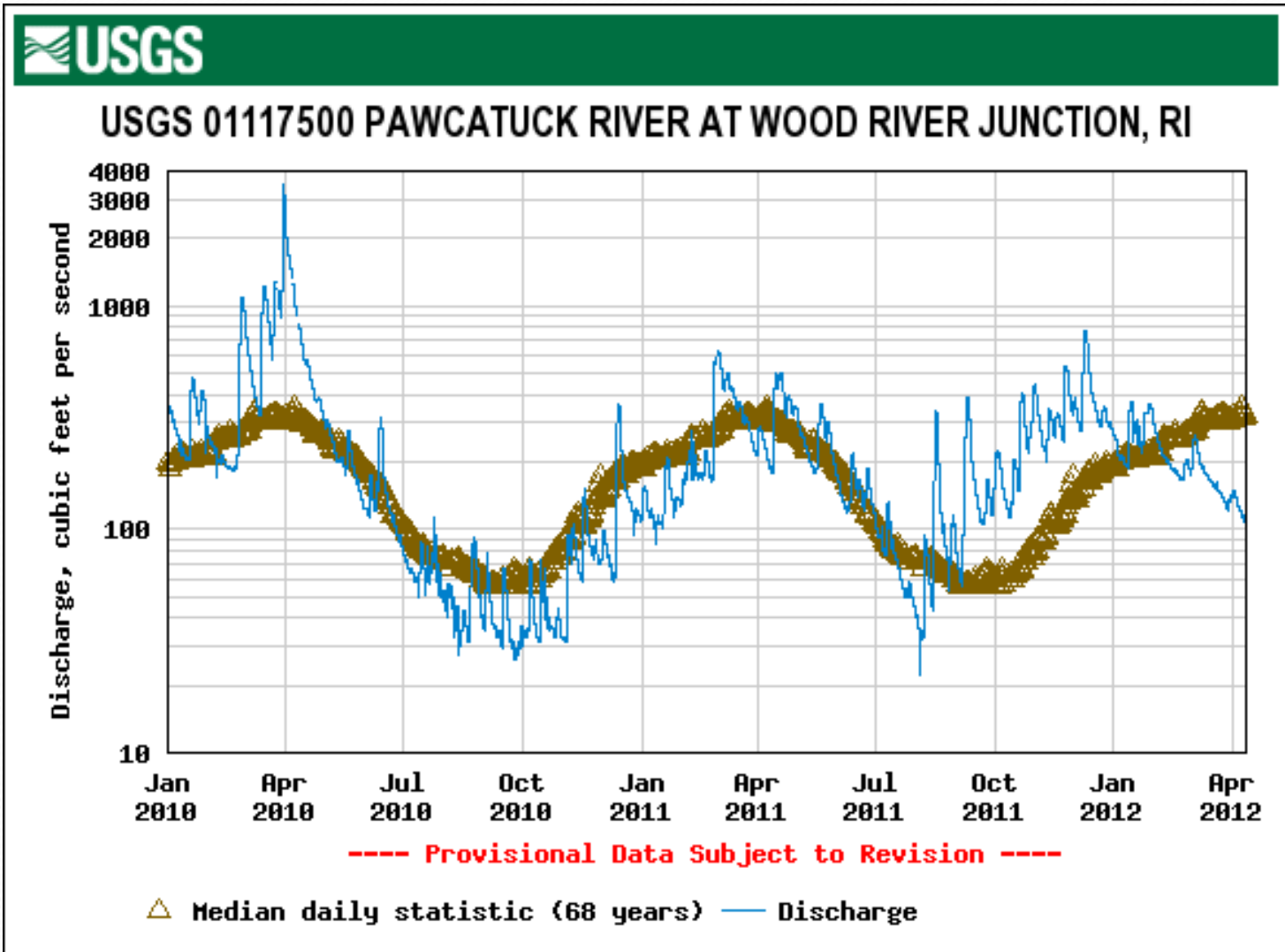
### **3 Months below Normal**

- Two months below normal through 3/31/12
- Conditions worsening through 4/11/12

• **DOES NOT MEET DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA**



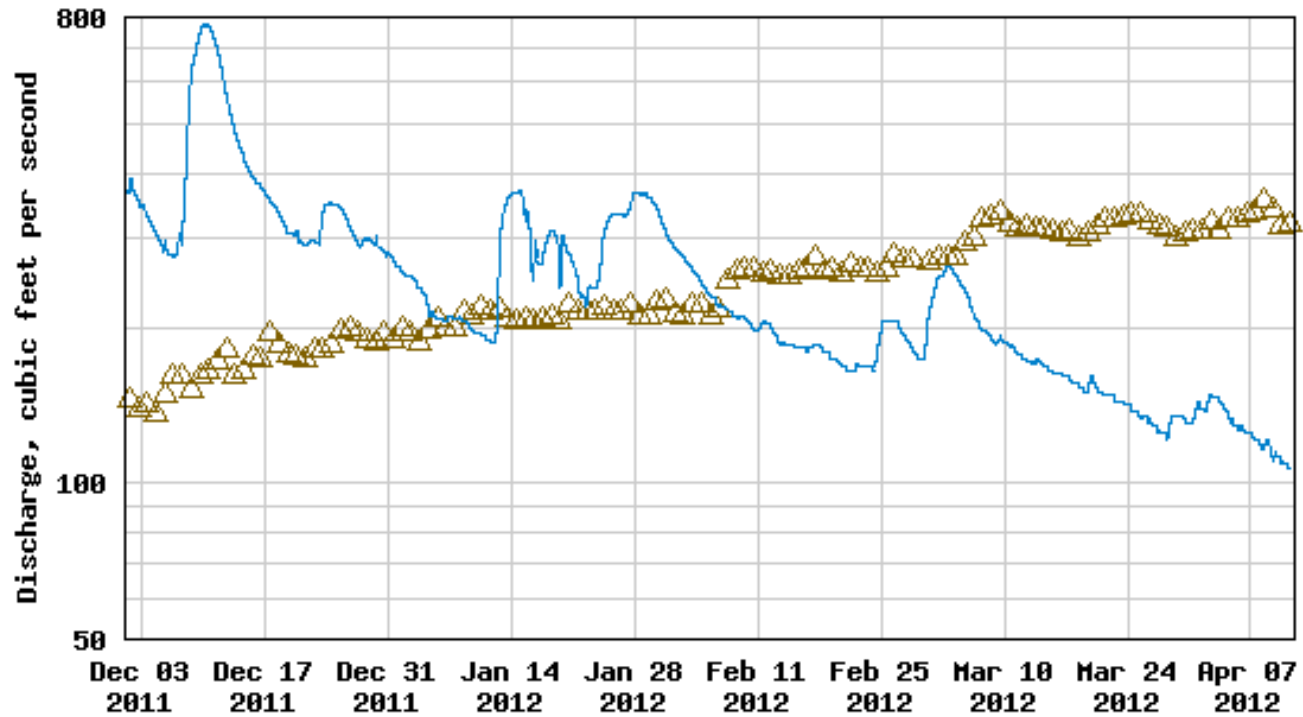
# Streamflow



# Streamflow



USGS 01117500 PAWCATUCK RIVER AT WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RI



---- Provisional Data Subject to Revision ----

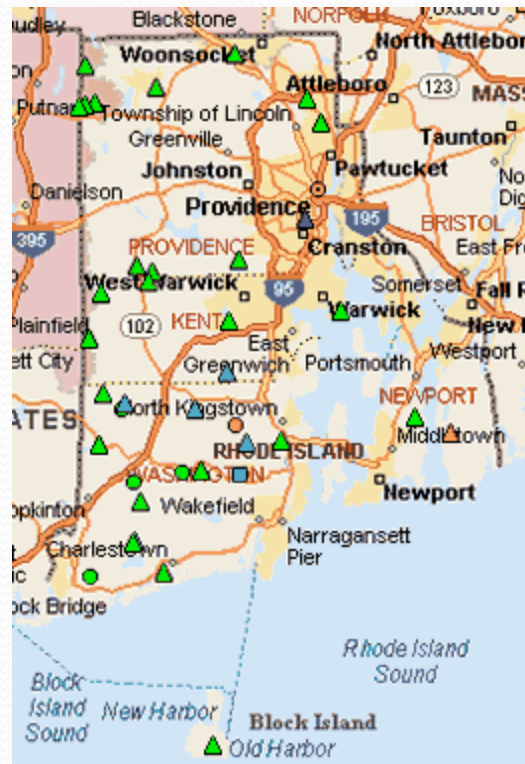
△ Median daily statistic (68 years) — Discharge



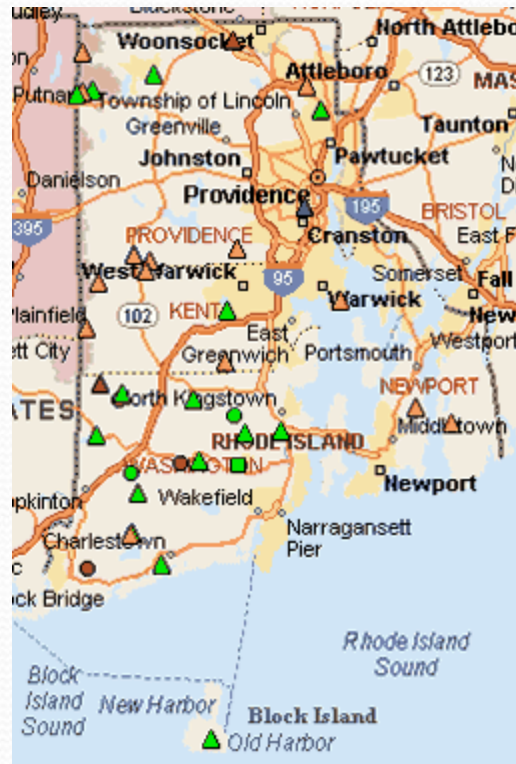


# Groundwater

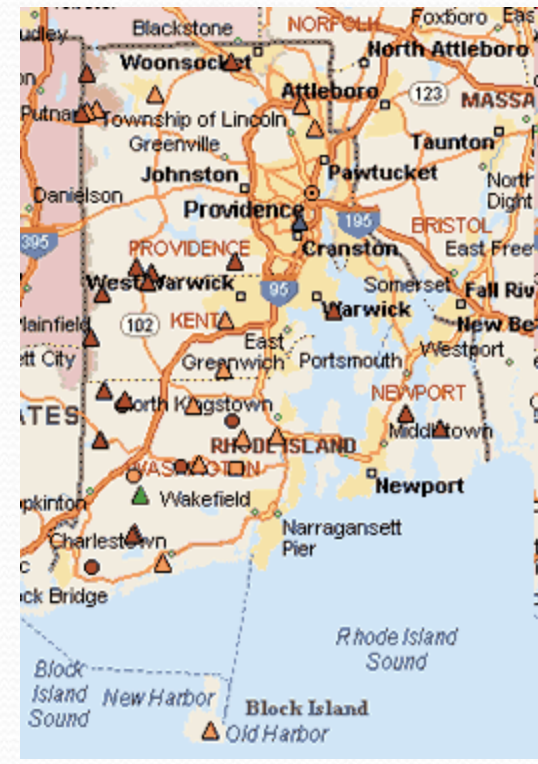
January



February



March

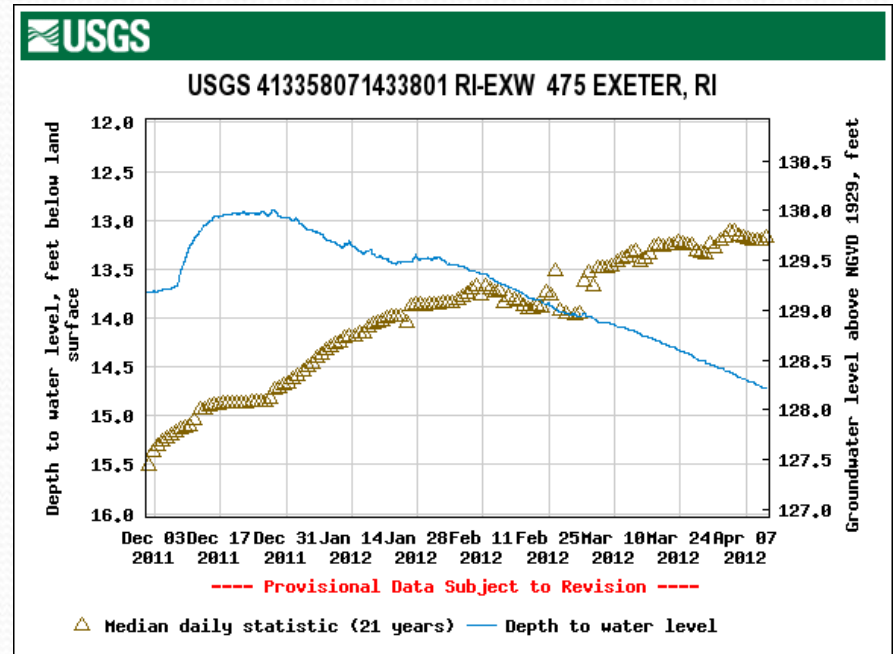
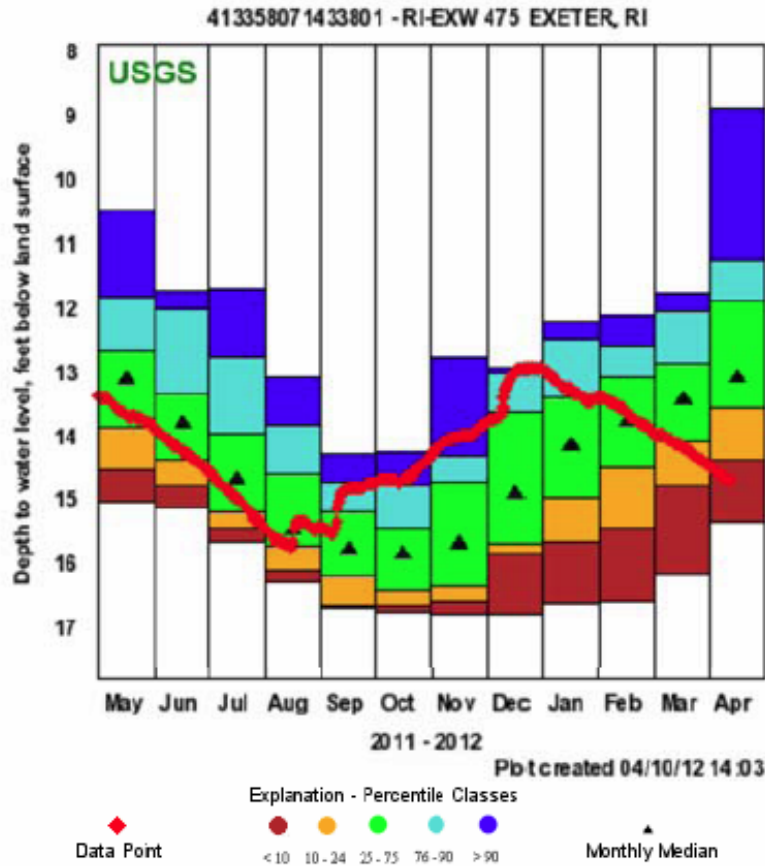


## DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA: 2 of 3 Months below normal

- 1/3 of the wells were below normal for February; nearly all were below normal for March
- Conditions worsening through 4/11/12
- **DOES NOT MEET DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA**



# Groundwater

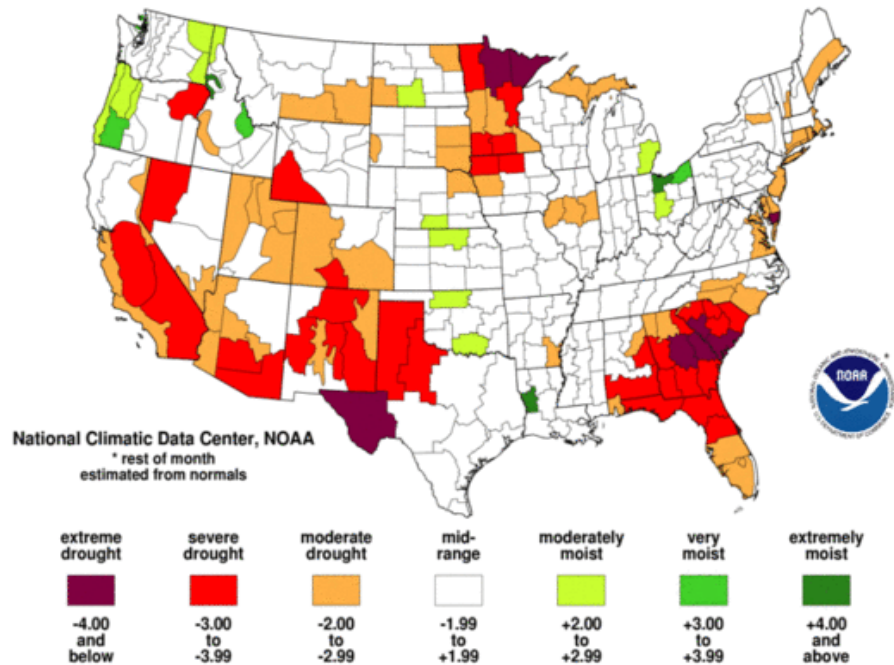




# Palmer Drought Index

Palmer Drought Index  
Long-Term (Meteorological) Conditions

April 2012: through April 7, 2012\*



## DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA:

### Moderate Drought Conditions (between -2.00 and -2.99)

- Updated PDI dropped to moderate drought range on 3/31
- Conditions worsening through 4/11/12
- **MEETS DROUGHT ADVISORY CRITERIA**





# April 1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2012 Precipitation

- Providence

- Month to date:

- 0.18"
- -1.43" from normal

- Full month normal:

- 4.36"

- Kingston

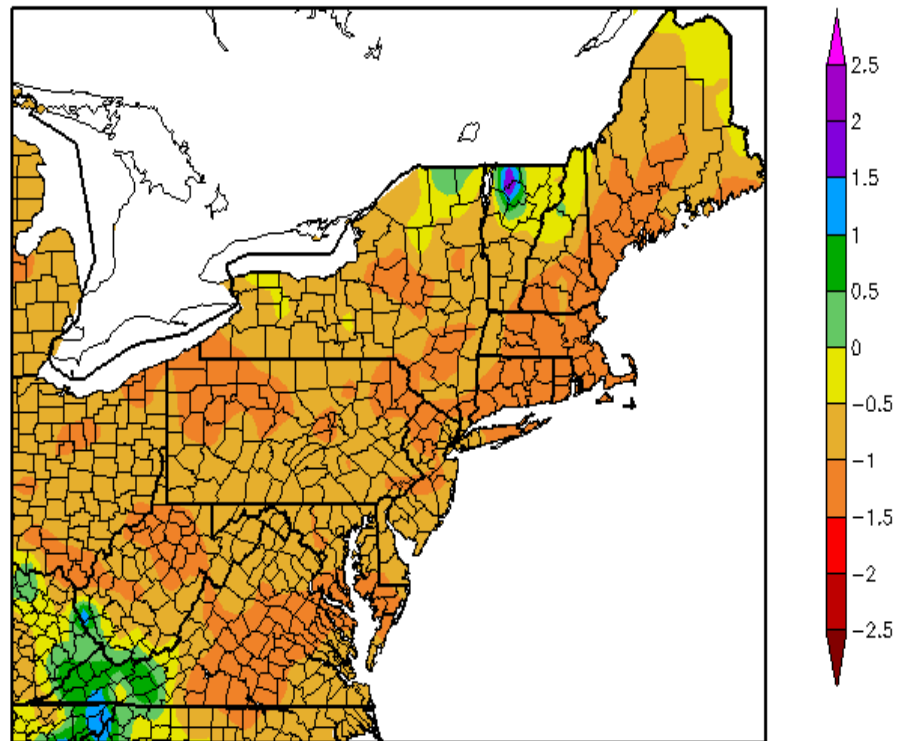
- Month to date:

- 0.28"
- -1.40" from normal

- Full month normal:

- 5.04"

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
4/1/2012 - 4/10/2012



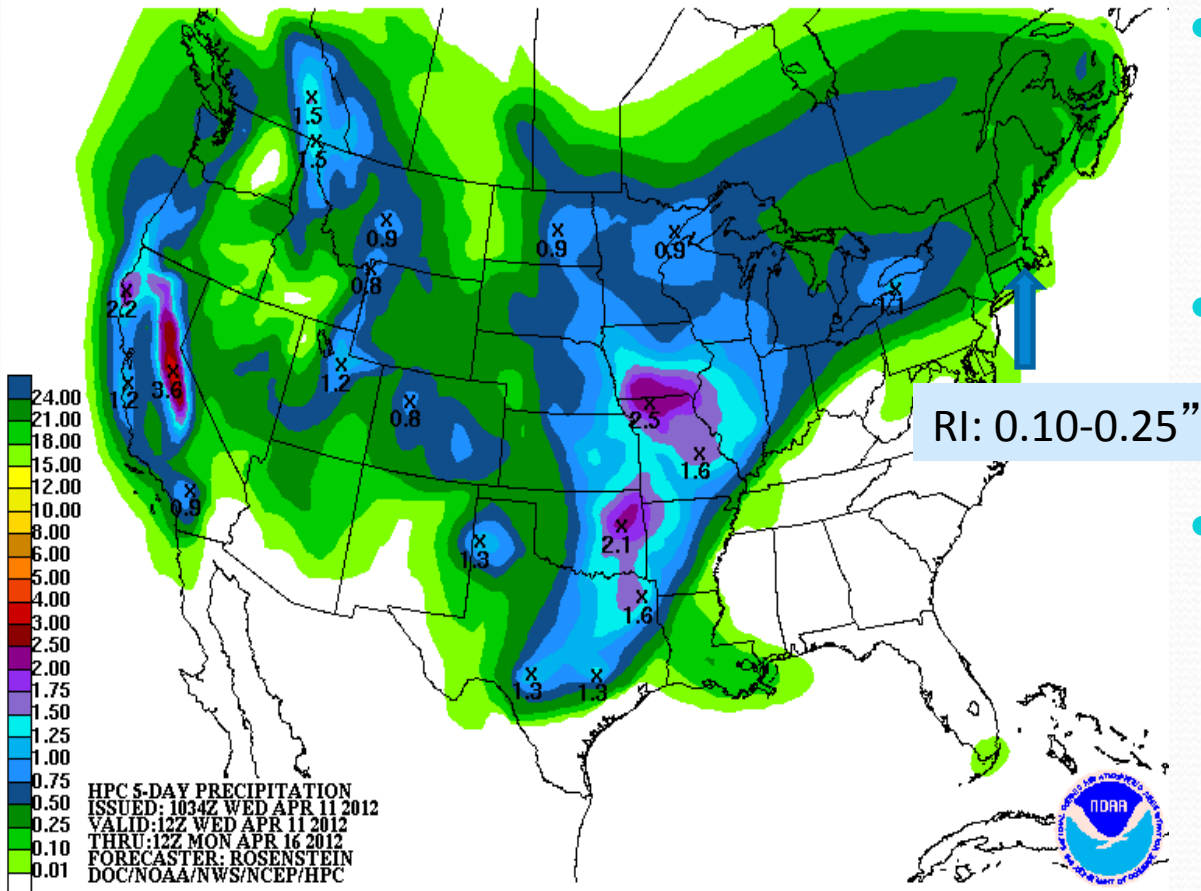
Generated 4/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers



# Forecast Through April 18th

## 5 Day Precipitation Forecast Map



- Over next several days, on and off chances for light rain
- Grand total probably 0.25" or less
- Highs above normal—mainly in 60s, except cooler coast & Block Island



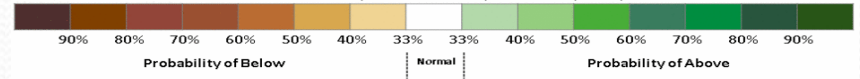
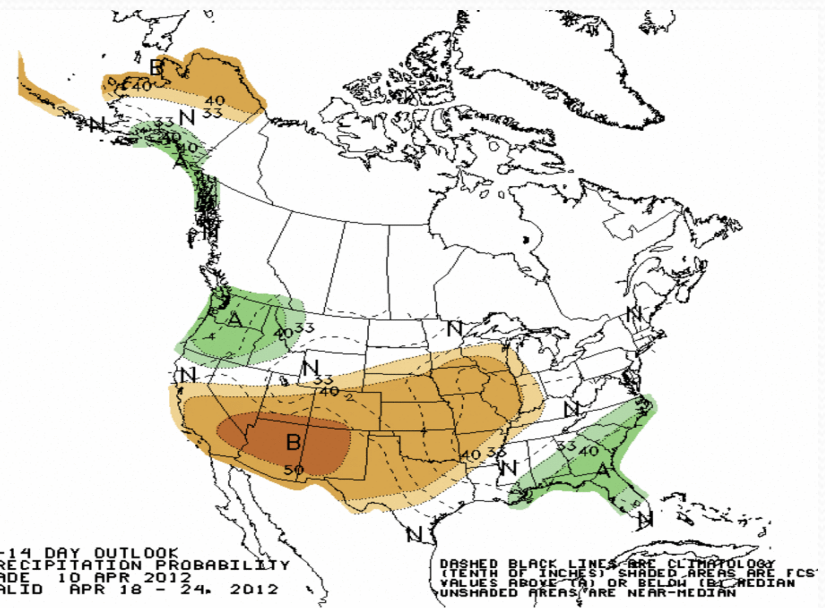
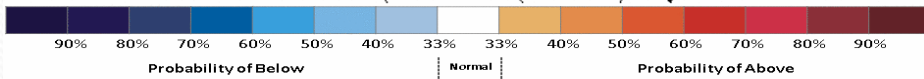
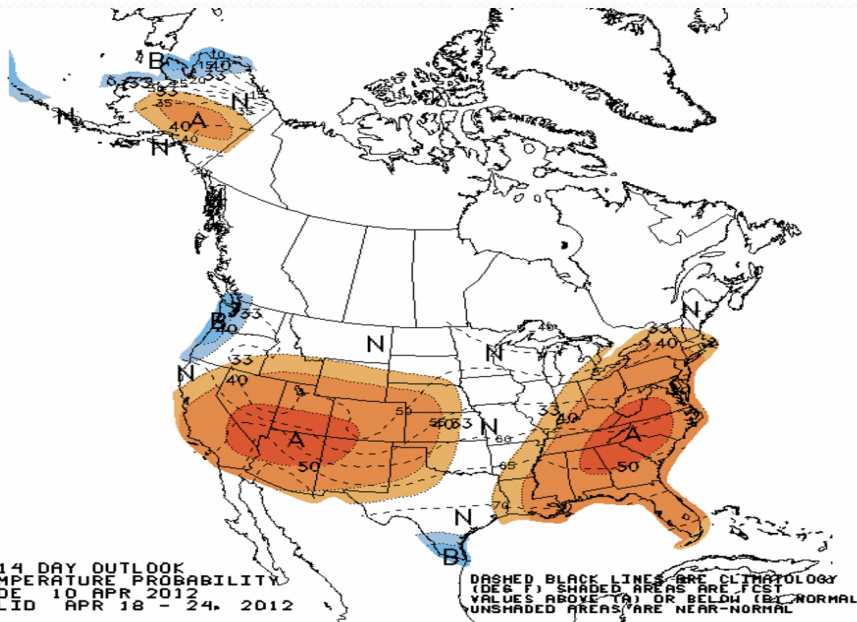


# 8 to 14 Day Outlook

## Climate Prediction Center

Temperature Probability (Apr 18-24)

Precipitation Probability



# Summary

- Meet 2 of the 4 criteria for a Drought Advisory as of 4/11. 3 of 4 required to issue Advisory
- Statewide stream flow, groundwater and precipitation data will be available and compiled during the first week of May
- Real time data, though incomplete show continuing declines in stream flow, groundwater and continued dry conditions
- 8-14 day Precipitation forecasts do not indicate significant improvement
- Given current forecasts, we will likely meet the Groundwater and Streamflow Drought Advisory “triggers” for the month of April.



# Recommendation

- WRB staff continues to closely monitor conditions
- Water Resources Board meets April 20
- Reconvene DSC on or about May 7