South Carolina Current Drought Status
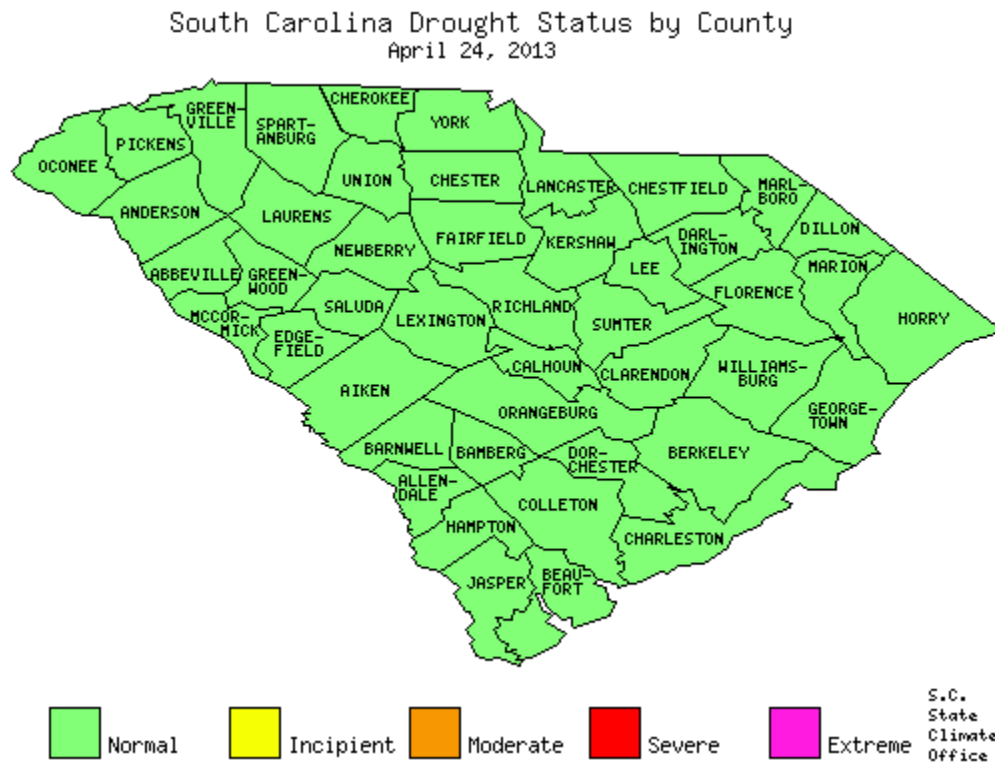
Drought officially over for all South Carolina Counties

Discussion:

The drought is officially over for all South Carolina counties according to the S.C. Drought Response Committee. The committee via a conference call meeting on April 24th downgraded the drought from moderate to no drought for 22 counties and from incipient to no drought for the remaining counties.

Chris Bickley, Executive Director, Lowcountry Council of Governments and representative from the West Drought Management Area stressed, "The Committee usually avoids downgrading the drought two levels, but in today's decision there was consistent and overwhelming support from all the drought indicators combined with a high probability for above normal precipitation in the upcoming weeks."

According to Hope Mizzell, SC State Climatologist, "Most stations across the State reported 100% to 225% of normal rainfall over the past 60 days (see table). The most important factor

ending the drought; however, has been the State's adequate rainfall for an extended 5-month period, which coincided with the hydrologic recharge season."

S.C. Observed Rainfall Summary Ending April 24, 2013

STATION NAME	RAINFALL (Inches)	% OF NORMAL	STATION NAME	RAINFALL (Inches)	% OF NORMAL
Winnsboro	7.02	88	Walhall 1.5 NW*	14.00	130
Cheraw	6.57	88	Andrews	9.04	134
Darlington	7.83	105	Brookgreen Gardens	11.69	158
Columbia Metro	8.22	105	Edisto Island	11.54	171
Anderson	9.71	106	Walterboro 1 SW	12.83	171
Saluda	8.89	106	Allendale 2 NW	13.25	181
Sumter	8.14	109	Varnville 6.7 SW*	14.85	200
Orangeburg 2	8.19	116	Charleston 6.8W*	15.37	225

* Stations from Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network

Joe Gellici, State Hydrologist, reported that normal to above-normal rainfall during the crucial recharge season has greatly improved streamflow conditions statewide. In December 2012, 12 out of 17 monitored streams were in severe or extreme drought. Only one stream at this time is in drought according to the Drought Regulations criteria and that is North Fork Edisto which is in incipient drought.

Reports from agriculture were positive with the USDA Farm Service Agency reporting only 2% of the State with inadequate soil moisture to start the growing season. The presentation from SC Forestry Commission was also encouraging with reports of below average fire activity during April and no drought-related fire control issues.

Drought Response Committee Chairman Ken Rentiers said, "The last time the State was drought-free was June 2010 with only 10 total drought-free months going back to July 2006. Drought episodes since the late 1990s have highlighted the importance of South Carolina's coordinated state and local drought response. The time and effort of each Drought Response Committee member has been vital to the process and greatly appreciated. After enduring these multi-year droughts we have learned to be vigilant and we will continue to monitor the situation closely."

DNR protects and manages South Carolina's natural resources by making wise and balanced decisions for the benefit of the state's natural resources and its people. Find out more about DNR at the DNR Web site.

Drought Status: 04-24-2013

County	Status
Abbeville	Normal
Aiken	Normal
Allendale	Normal
Anderson	Normal
Bamberg	Normal
Barnwell	Normal
Beaufort	Normal
Berkeley	Normal
Calhoun	Normal
Charleston	Normal
Cherokee	Normal
Chester	Normal
Chesterfield	Normal
Clarendon	Normal
Colleton	Normal
Darlington	Normal
Dillon	Normal
Dorchester	Normal
Edgefield	Normal
Fairfield	Normal
Florence	Normal
Georgetown	Normal
Greenville	Normal
Greenwood	Normal
Hampton	Normal
Horry	Normal
Jasper	Normal
Kershaw	Normal
Lancaster	Normal
Laurens	Normal
Lee	Normal
Lexington	Normal
Marion	Normal

County	Status
Marlboro	Normal
McCormick	Normal
Newberry	Normal
Oconee	Normal
Orangeburg	Normal
Pickens	Normal
Richland	Normal
Saluda	Normal
Spartanburg	Normal
Sumter	Normal
Union	Normal
Williamsburg	Normal
York	Normal