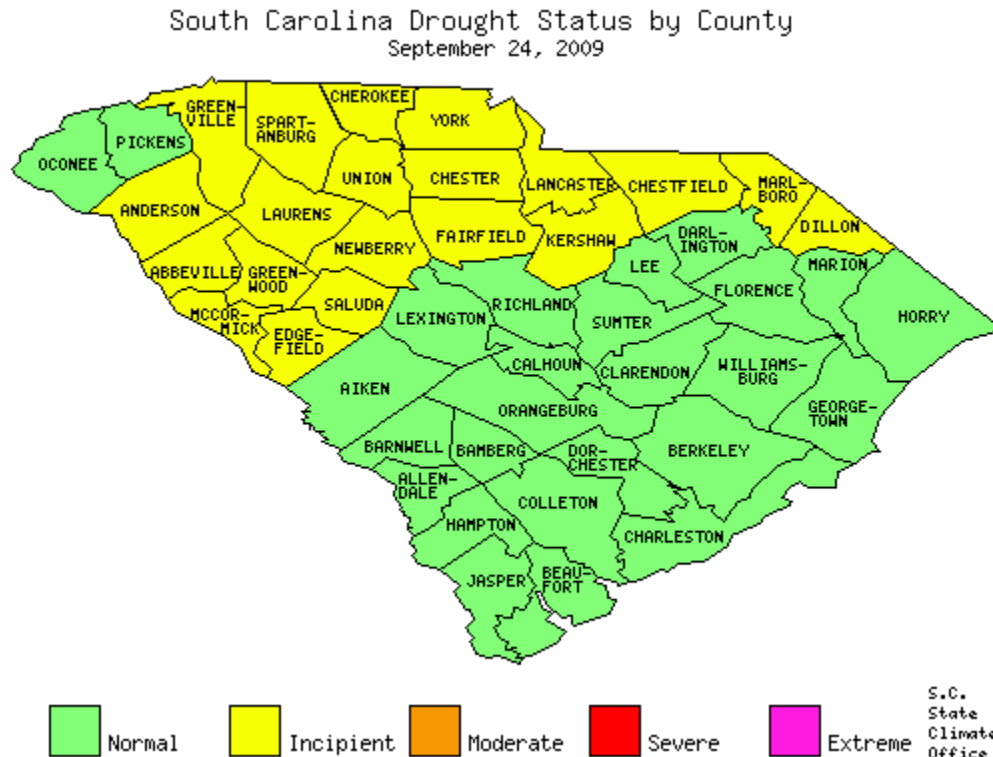


South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office 803-734-9100
SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE #09-13 DNR News 803-734-3815
September 24, 2009

INCIPIENT DROUGHT STATUS DOWNGRADED FOR OCONEE, PICKENS COUNTIES



Discussion:

Heavy rain over the last 8 days (Sept. 15-Sept. 22) led the S. C. Department of Natural Resources to downgrade the incipient drought declaration for Oconee and Pickens counties. The state agency members of the Drought Response Committee voted on Wednesday Sept. 23, 2009, to remove these counties from drought. An incipient drought was declared for 22 counties earlier this month.

Some of the excessive rainfall totals (Sept. 15-Sept. 22) that prompted the decision include:

Long Creek - 11.75"
Table Rock - 7.98"
Walhalla Hatchery (Jocassee) - 17.50"
Walhalla - 11.02"

Supplemental observations from the Community Rain Network include:

Cleveland - 8.56"

Pickens - 7.57"

Salem - 12.12"

West Union - 9.95"

According to South Carolina State Climatologist Hope Mizzell, "All the drought indices responded to the rain event. In the past week Lake Jocassee rose 9 feet, Lake Hartwell rose 3 feet, and groundwater levels returned to normal." Darryl Jones with the S.C. Forestry Commission reported that since the recent rains fire occurrence has been low in these areas and fuel moisture has recovered significantly.

Other counties such as Greenville, Anderson, and Abbeville also received significant rainfall that improved conditions, but not enough to remove the drought declaration. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources will continue to monitor conditions across the state.

South Carolina's natural resources are essential for economic development and contribute nearly \$30 billion and 230,000 jobs to the state's economy overall. Find out why "Life's Better Outdoors" at: www.dnr.sc.gov/economic/index.html.

Contact South Carolina State Climatologist Dr. Hope Mizzell in Columbia at (803) 734-9568 or e-mail at mizzellh@dnr.sc.gov for more information.

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 Table

Current Drought Status by County				
Normal	Incipient	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
County Status	County Status	County Status	County Status	County Status
ABBEVILLE Incipient	AIKEN Normal	ALLENDALE Normal	ANDERSON Incipient	BAMBERG Normal
BARNWELL Normal	BEAUFORT Normal	BERKELEY Normal	CALHOUN Normal	CHARLESTON Normal
CHEROKEE Incipient	CHESTER Incipient	CHESTERFIELD Incipient	CLARENDON Normal	COLLETON Normal
DARLINGTON Normal	DILLON Incipient	DORCHESTER Normal	EDGEFIELD Incipient	FAIRFIELD Incipient
FLORENCE Normal	GEORGETOWN Normal	GREENVILLE Incipient	GREENWOOD Incipient	HAMPTON Normal
HORRY Normal	JASPER Normal	KERSHAW Incipient	LANCASTER Incipient	LAURENS Incipient
LEE Normal	LEXINGTON Normal	MARION Normal	MARLBORO Incipient	MCCORMICK Incipient
NEWBERRY Incipient	OCONEE Normal	ORANGEBURG Normal	PICKENS Normal	RICHLAND Normal
SALUDA Incipient	SPARTANBURG Incipient	SUMTER Normal	UNION Incipient	WILLIAMSBURG Normal
YORK Incipient				