



The Month in Review: February 2021
National Weather Service
Charleston, WV

Photo courtesy of the National
Weather Service Charleston, WV

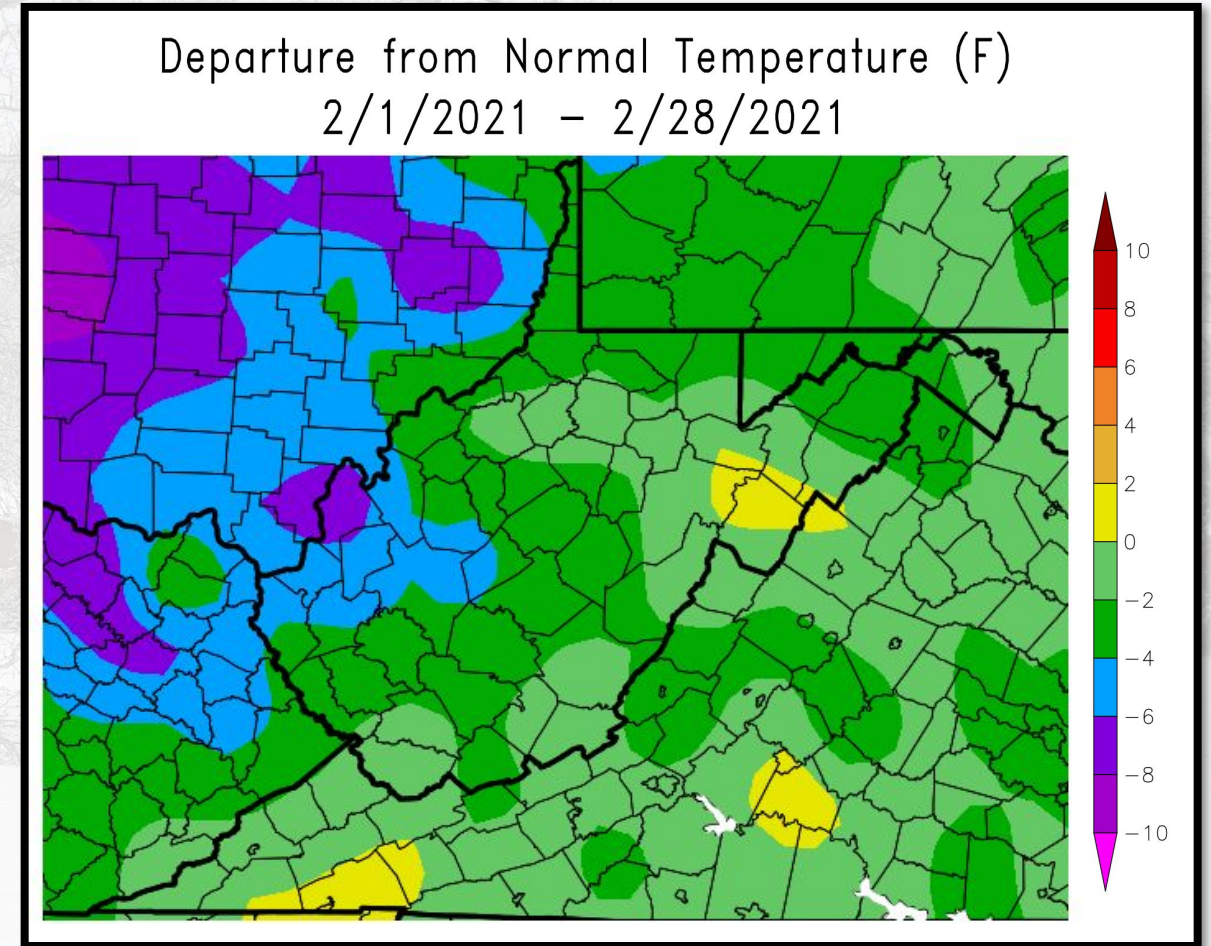
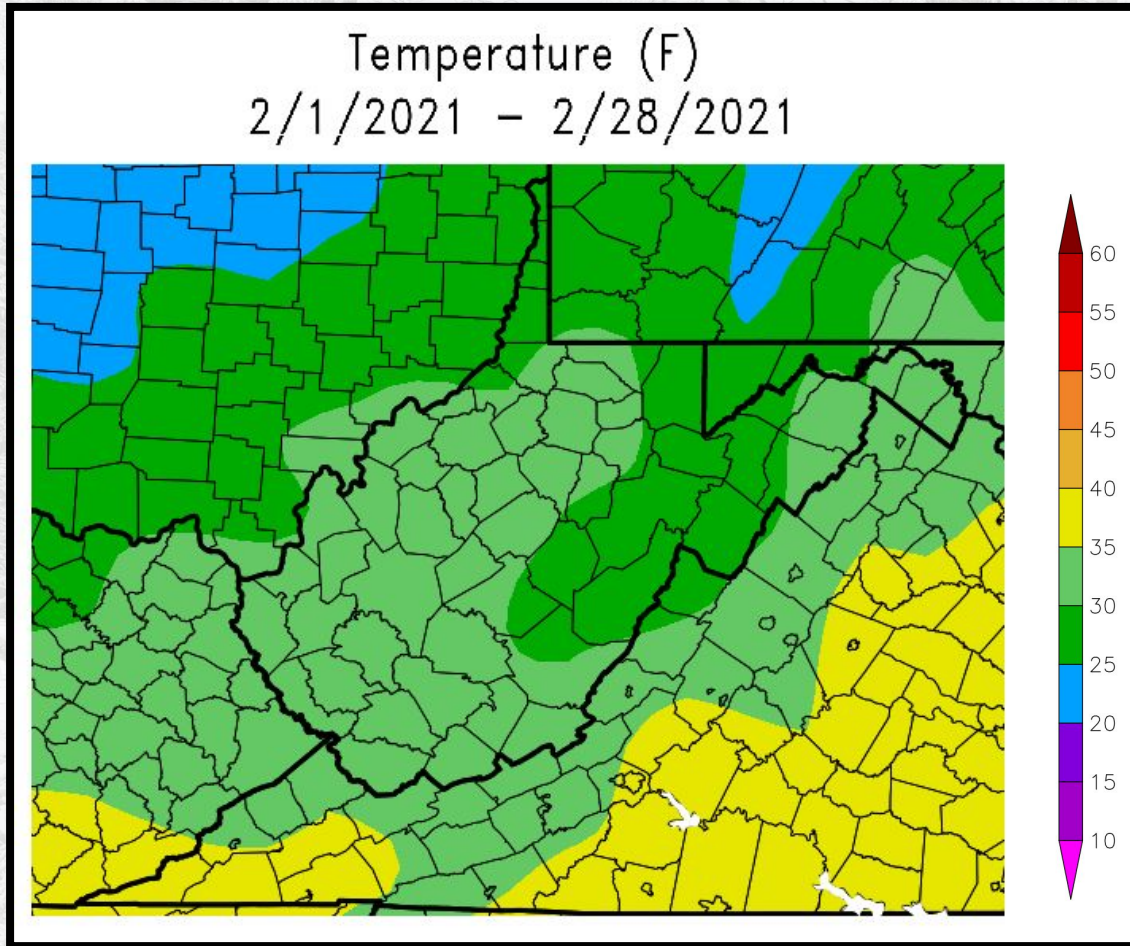
February 2021 Climate Summary

February was characterized by below normal temperatures across the region. Precipitation totals varied significantly from north to south, with well above normal precipitation to the south, and slightly below normal precipitation for the far northern portions of the area. The month was particularly snowy for portions of Southeast Ohio, with well above normal snow totals for the month.

February was very active weather-wise for the area, with multiple high impact storms affecting the region. This included a widespread winter storm at the beginning of the month, along with three significant winter storms in the course of a week near mid-month. These storms included significant freezing rain, which led to tree damage and extended power outages in some areas. The month concluded with an extended period of rainfall, heavy at times, which led to moderate river flooding on some local rivers across the region.

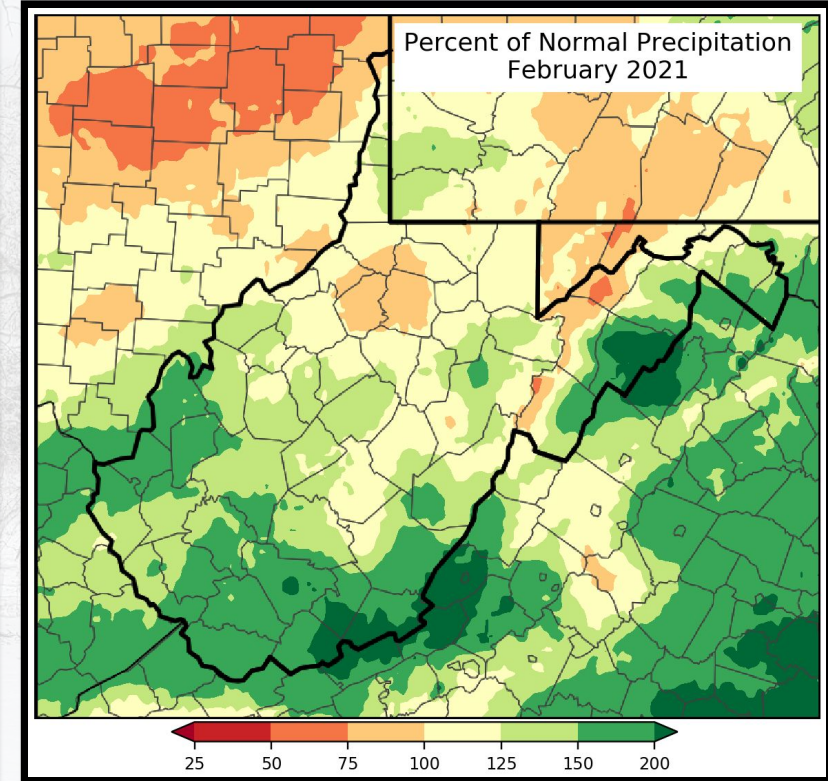
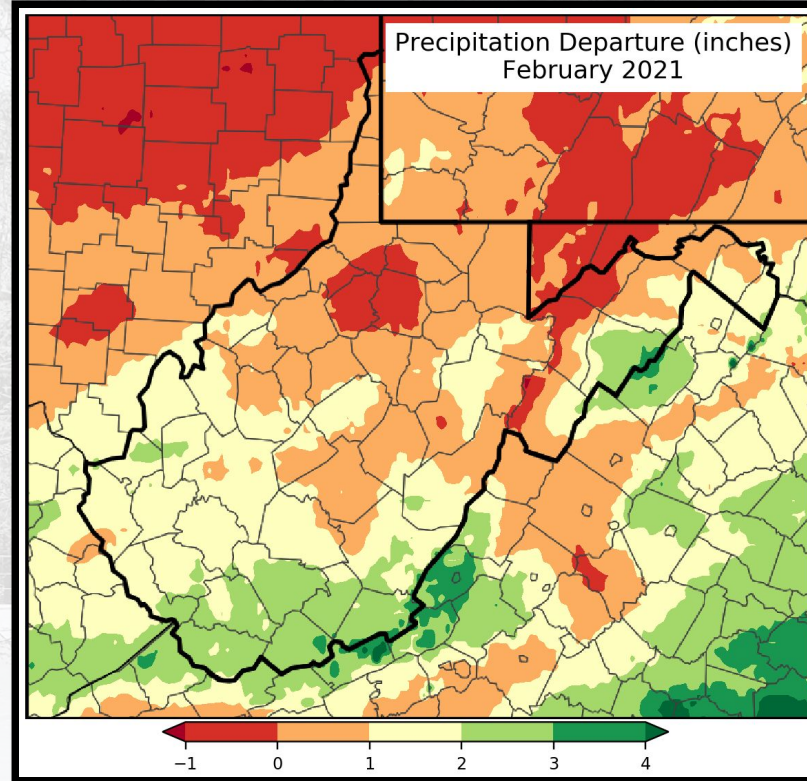
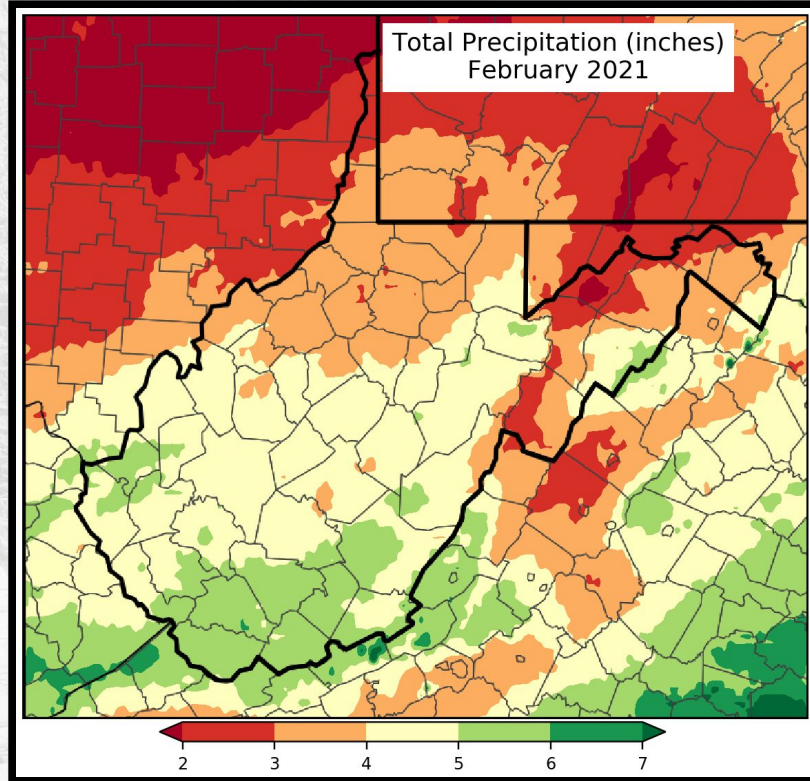
Event summaries for these storms will be provided, along with temperature/precipitation departures for the month. A record events list for the month of February is also included. In addition, temperature/precipitation statistics for meteorological winter will be included in this edition.

February Monthly Average Temperature/Departure



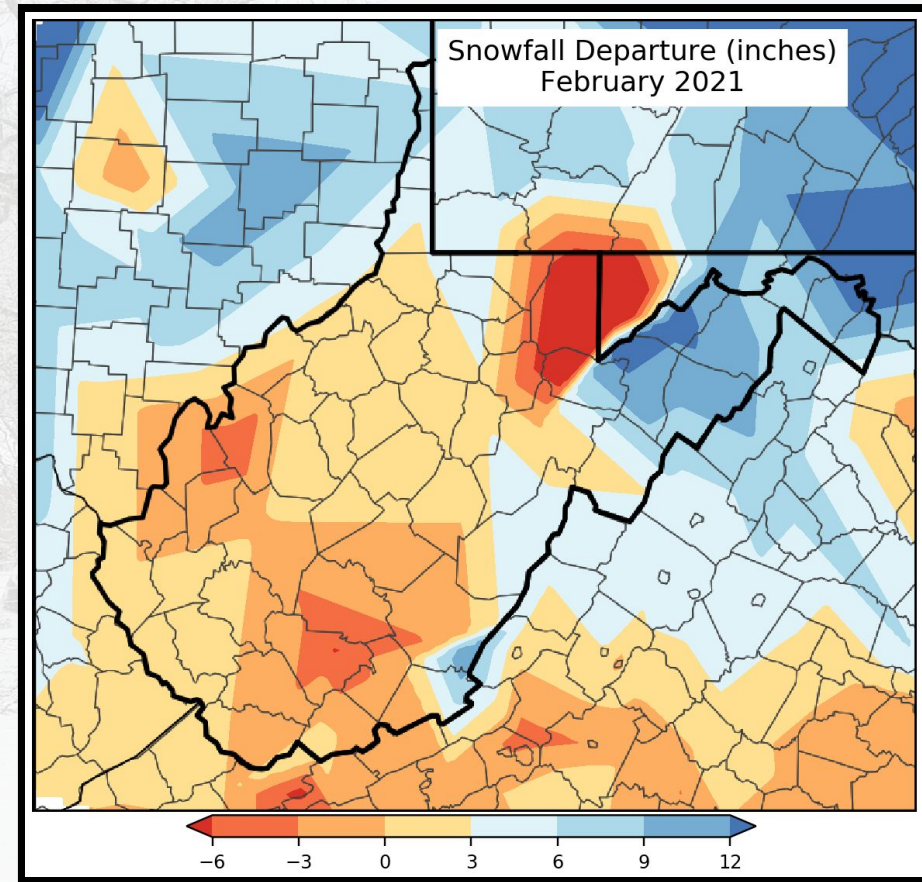
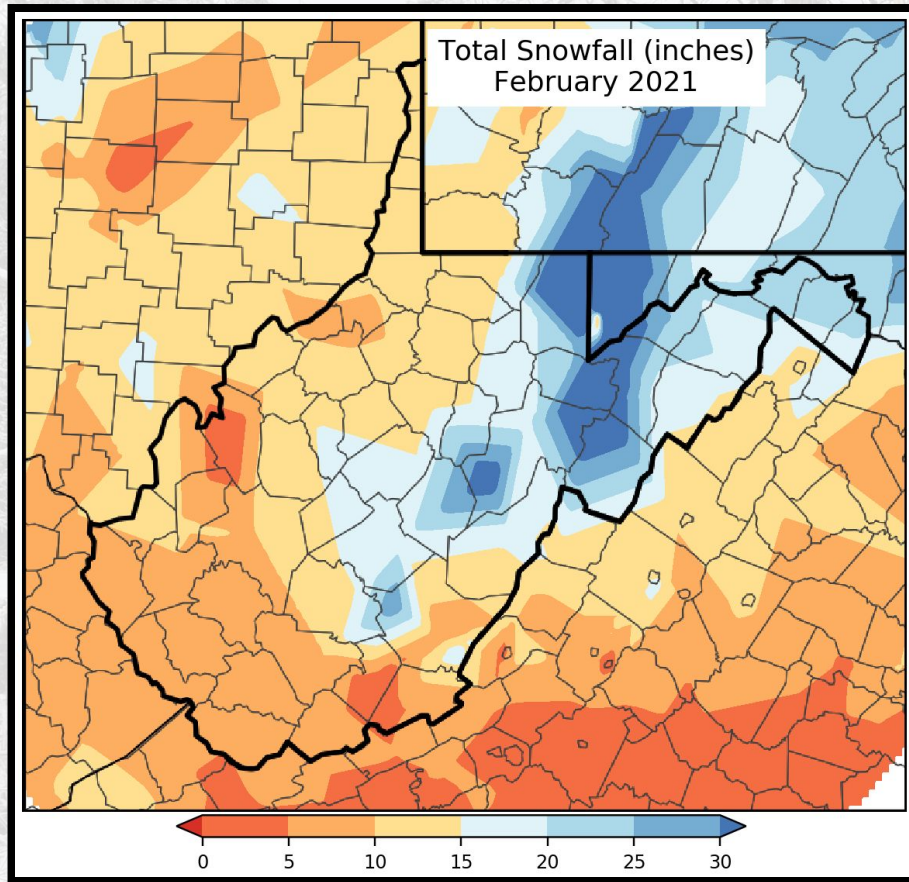
By and large, most of the region had below normal temperatures. The month did feature a wide distribution however, with temperature departures ranging from slightly above normal in the far eastern portion of the area, to over 6 degrees below normal in parts of far Northwestern West Virginia and Southeast Ohio.

February Monthly Precipitation/Departure/Percent of Normal



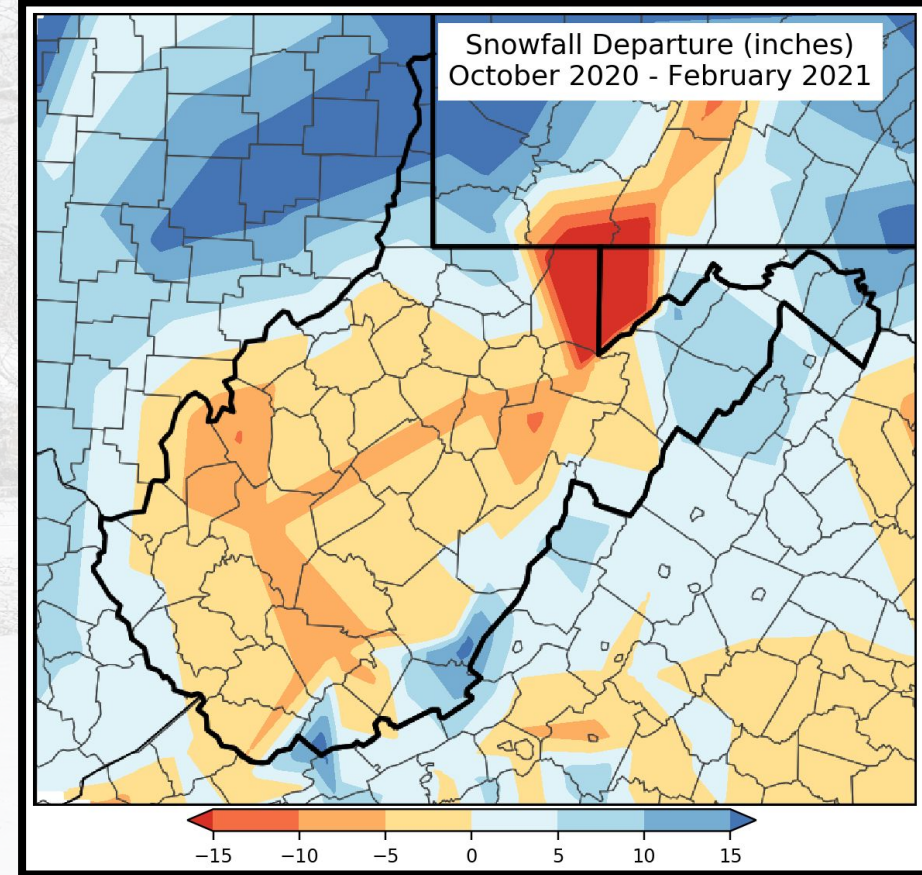
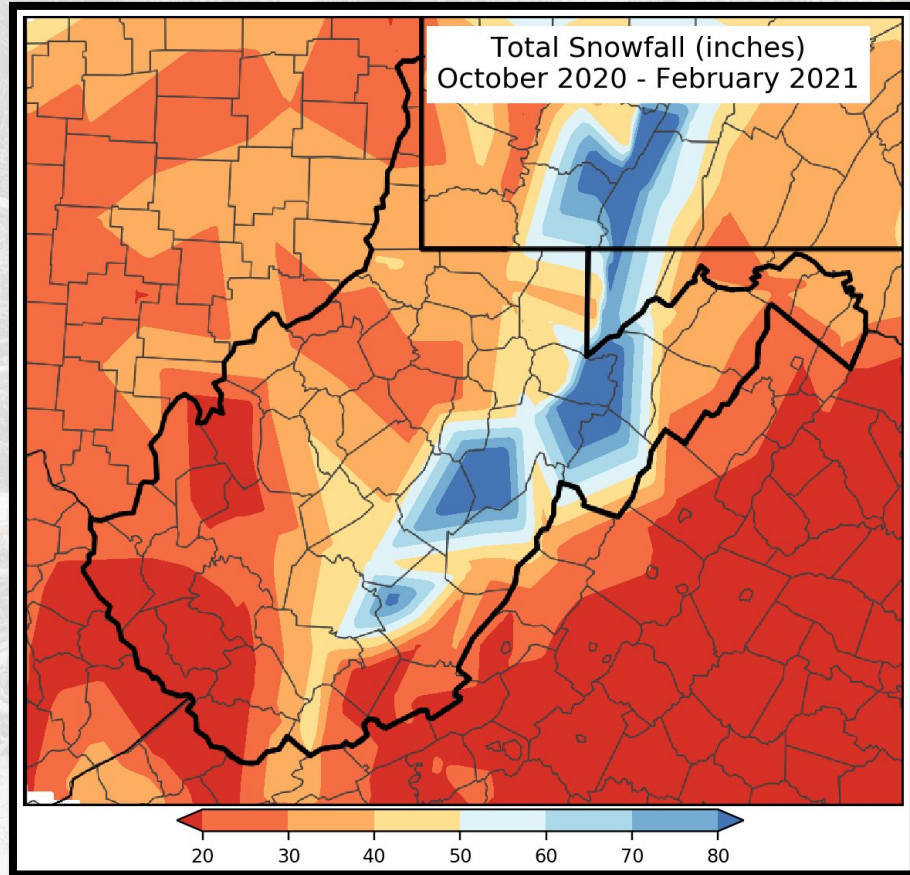
February featured a significant spread in precipitation totals from south to north across the region. Above normal precipitation was seen across most of the region, with the exception being parts of the far northern areas. Southern West Virginia received in excess of 5" for the month, or $\geq 150\%$ of normal.

February Monthly Snowfall/Departure



Locally, Southeast Ohio experienced a particularly snowy February, with portions of the area receiving 6-9" above normal for the month. Some locations near Athens, Ohio received close to 18" of snow in February.

Seasonal Snowfall to Date/Seasonal Departure (Through the end of February)



Seasonal snowfall departures vary across the region, with a large portion of West Virginia being below normal, while some neighboring areas outside of West Virginia are in a surplus for the season (e.g., Northeast Kentucky and portions of Southeast Ohio).

February Temperature Statistics for Selected Cities

	Avg Maximum Temperature	Avg Maximum Temperature Departure	Avg Minimum Temperature	Avg Minimum Temperature Departure	Average Temperature	Average Temperature Departure
Beckley	40.6	-2.5	24.8	-0.9	32.7	-1.7
Charleston	41.3	-5.3	26.8	-1.9	34.1	-3.6
Clarksburg	39.3	-3.8	24.5	-0.4	31.9	-2.1
Elkins	41.6	-1.2	22.1	0.6	31.9	-0.3
Huntington	39.3	-7.3	26.0	-2.0	32.6	-4.6
Parkersburg	39.3	-4.7	23.8	-1.9	31.5	-3.3

Abbreviations: Avg, Average

Notes: Temperatures/Departures are in degrees Fahrenheit

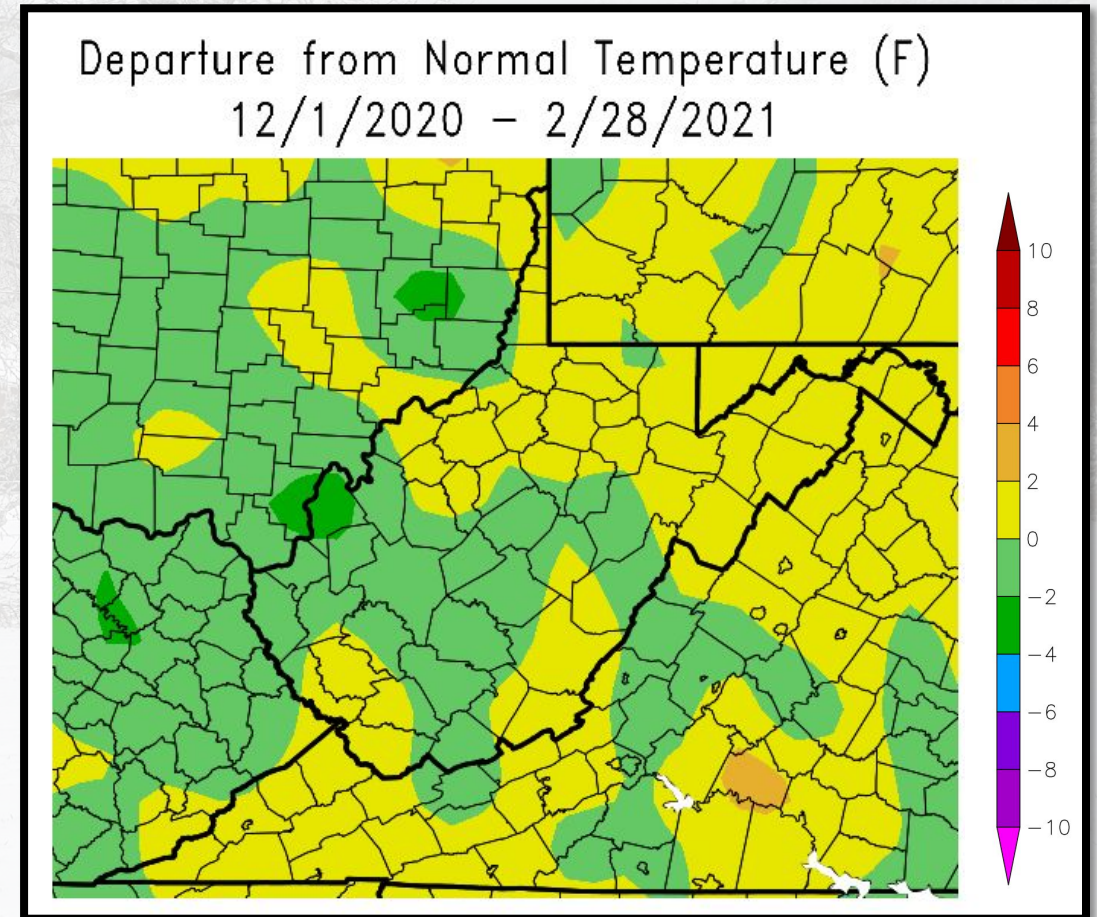
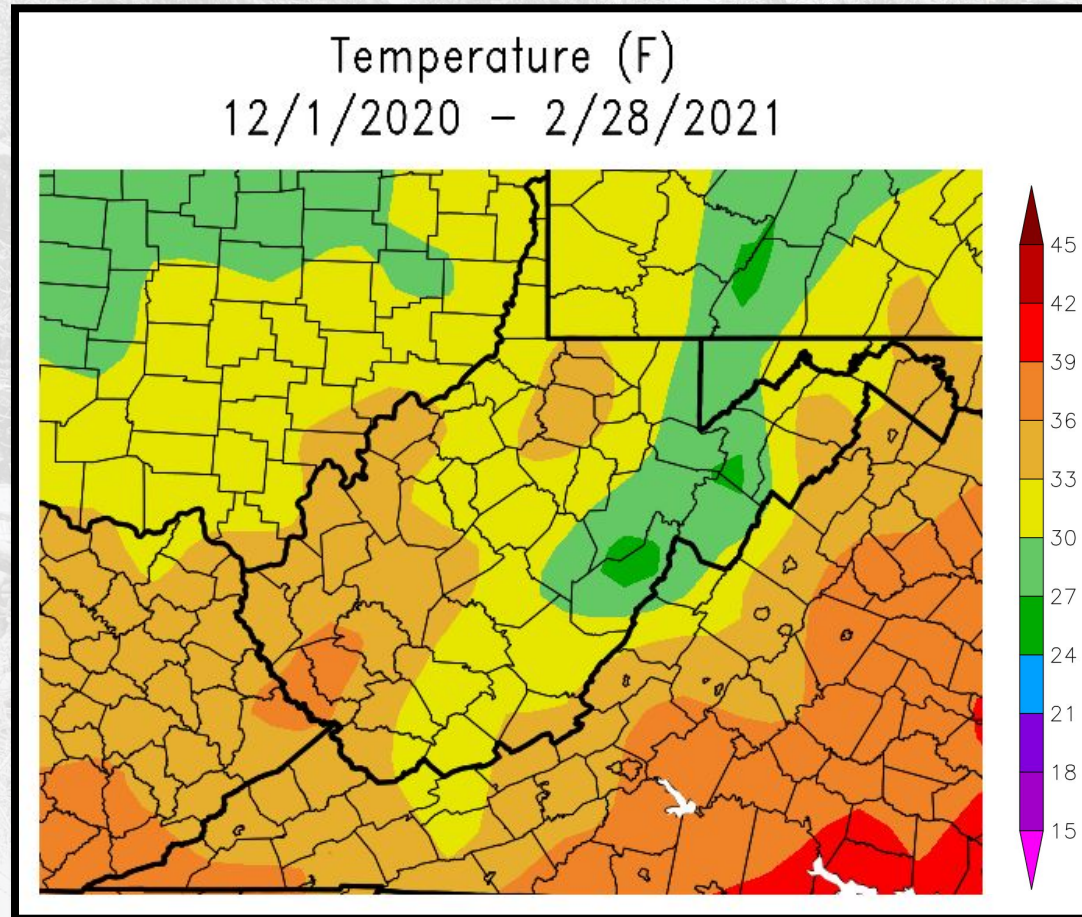
February Precipitation Statistics for Selected Cities

	Precipitation	Precipitation Departure	Snowfall	Snowfall Departure	Seasonal Snowfall	Seasonal Snowfall Dep
Beckley	5.12	2.36	10.3	-6.3	43.6	-6.9
Charleston	4.76	1.57	9.6	-0.2	23.5	-5.7
Clarksburg	2.77	-0.37	M	M	M	M
Elkins	3.97	0.87	18.6	-0.1	54.0	-11.5
Huntington	M	M	M	M	11.4	-7.5
Parkersburg	3.36	0.66	M	M	M	M

Abbreviations: Dep, Departure; M, Missing

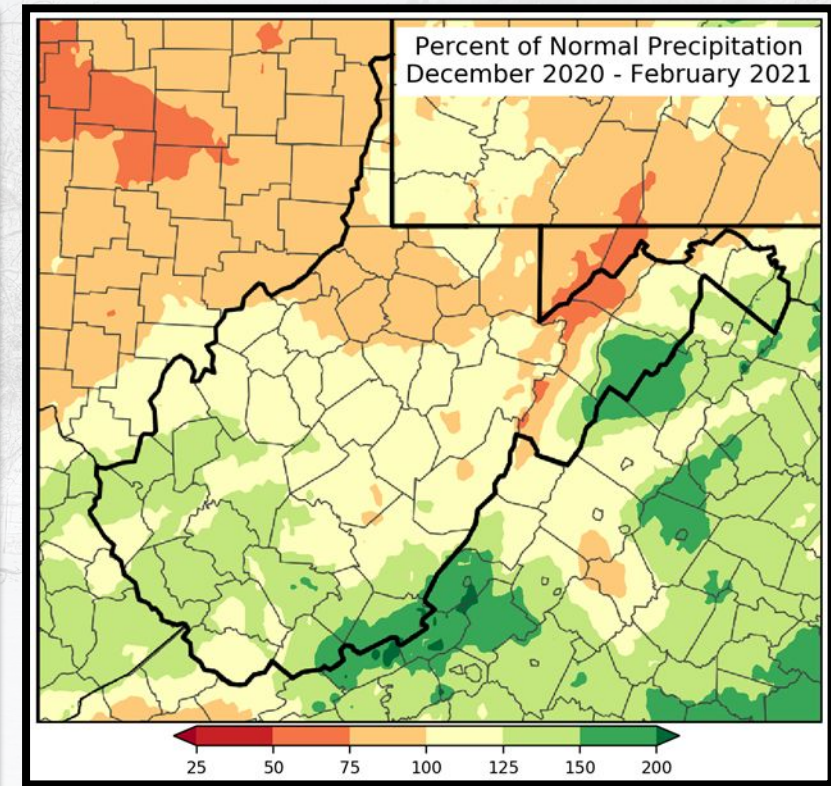
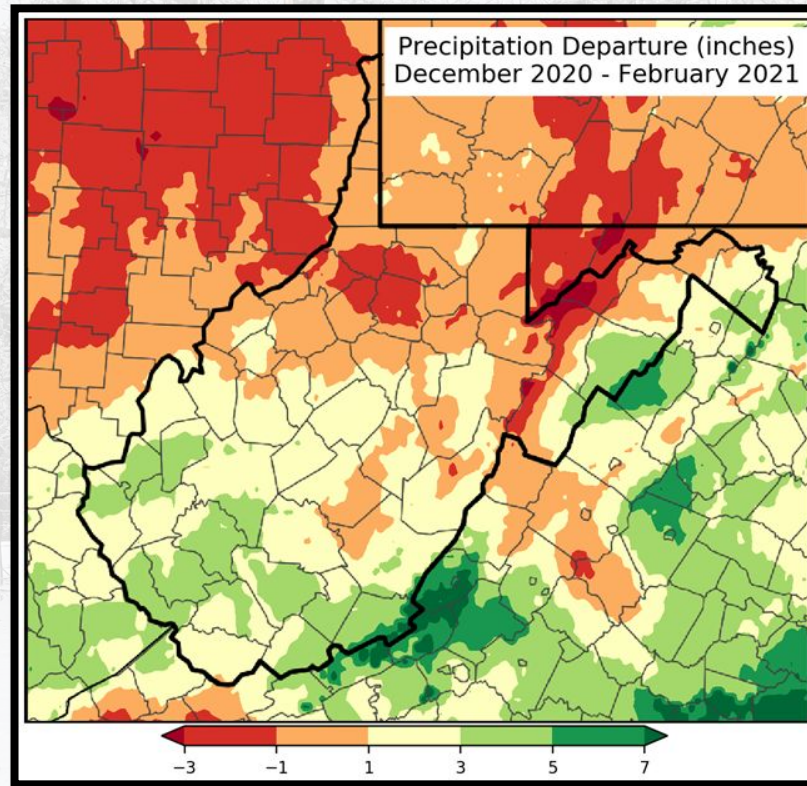
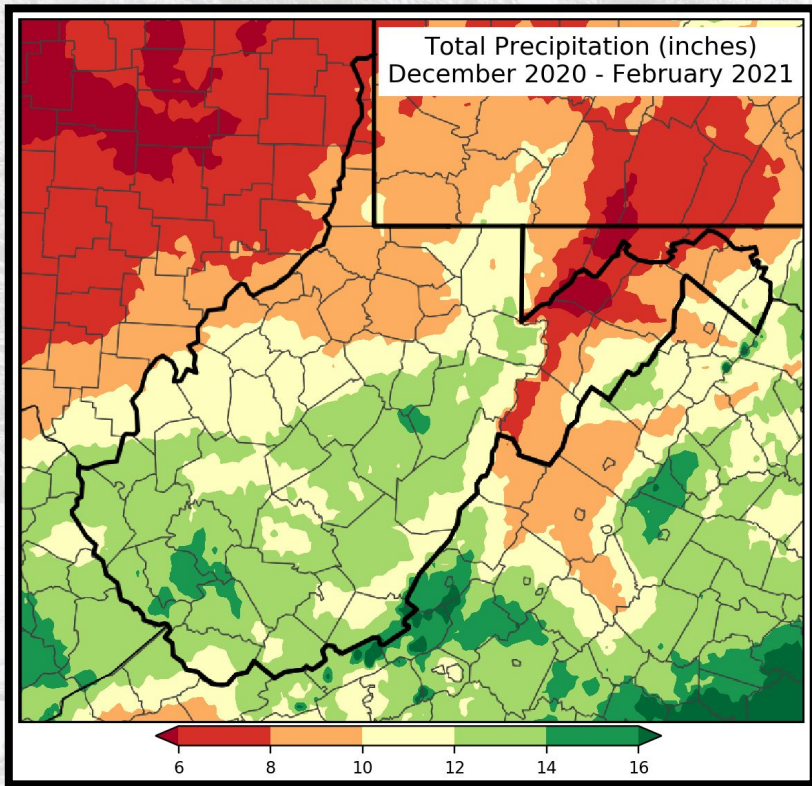
Notes: All units are in inches. Seasonal snowfall and the corresponding seasonal snowfall departures include all snowfall tallied from the first snow in the fall, through the end of February.

Seasonal Average Temperature/Departure From 12-1-2020 to 2-28-2021



Seasonal temperatures for meteorological winter ended either slightly below or slightly above normal for much of the region, generally +/- 1 degree (F) from normal.

Seasonal Precipitation/Departure/Percent of Normal From 12-1-2020 to 2-28-2021



Seasonal precipitation for meteorological winter varied significantly from north to south, with some central/southern areas receiving nearly double that of the areas well to the north. This resulted in overall precipitation departures in the far northern areas, while central/southern areas ended with a significant surplus for the period on the order of 3-5" in spots.

Seasonal Temperature Statistics for Selected Cities From 12-1-2020 to 2-28-2021

	Avg Maximum Temperature	Avg Maximum Temperature Departure	Avg Minimum Temperature	Avg Minimum Temperature Departure	Average Temperature	Average Temperature Departure
Beckley	40.3	-1.2	25.8	0.9	33.1	-0.1
Charleston	42.9	-2.0	27.9	-0.1	35.4	-1.0
Clarksburg	40.5	-1.4	26.2	1.8	33.4	0.3
Elkins	41.0	-0.3	23.0	1.8	32.0	0.7
Huntington	42.1	-2.5	28.0	0.7	35.1	-0.9
Parkersburg	40.7	-1.6	26.3	1.0	33.5	-0.3

Abbreviations: Avg, Average

Notes: Temperatures/Departures are in degrees Fahrenheit

Seasonal Precipitation Statistics for Selected Cities From 12-1-2020 to 2-28-2021

	Precipitation	Precipitation Departure	Snowfall	Snowfall Departure
Beckley	11.92	3.35	43.5	-4.0
Charleston	11.61	2.15	23.1	-4.7
Clarksburg	8.27	-1.43	M	M
Elkins	10.68	1.09	53.7	-6.2
Huntington	6.81	-2.54	9.6	-8.5
Parkersburg	9.10	0.35	M	M

Abbreviations: M, Missing

Notes: All units are in inches.

Record Events for February

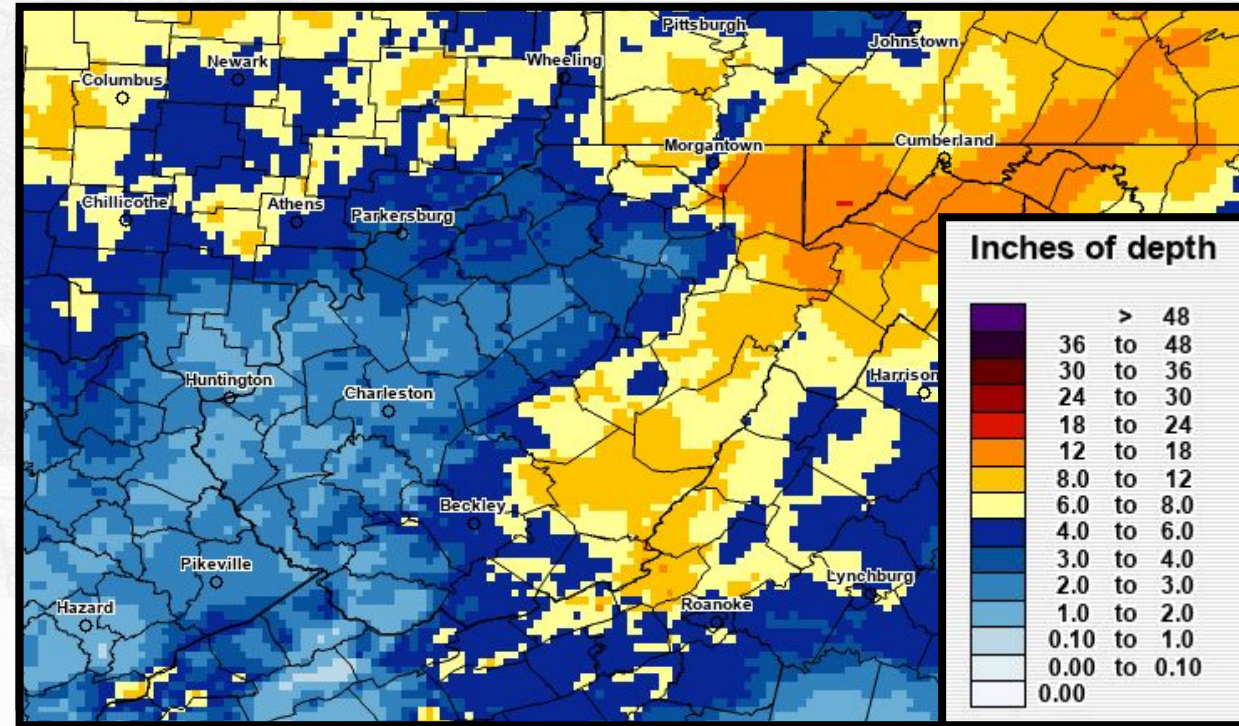
- February 18th: Record daily maximum rainfall set at Beckley, WV. A record rainfall of 1.01" was set at Beckley, breaking the old record of 0.7" set in 2000.

February Noteworthy Events

- January 30th - February 2nd Winter Storm
- February 7th Winter Storm
- February 8-9th Winter Storm
- February 10-11th Winter Storm
- February 15-16th Winter Storm
- February 17-18th Winter Storm
- February 26th - March 1st Heavy Rainfall and Flooding (Will be covered in March's edition!)

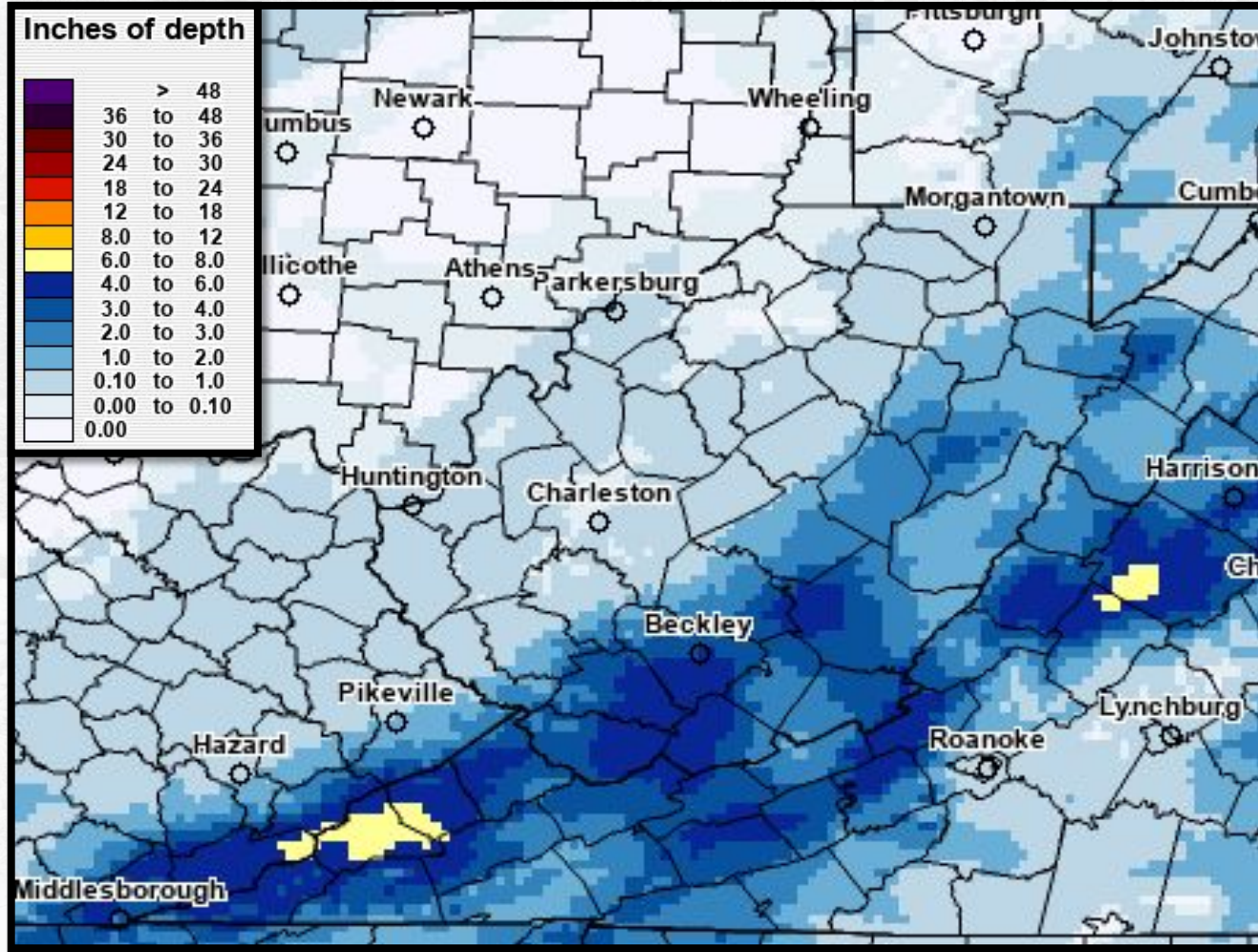
January 30th - February 2nd Winter Storm

A slow-moving winter storm began impacting our region during the evening of Saturday January 30th, with a period of heavy snow affecting most locations. The precipitation changed to rain across the lower elevations by Sunday January 31st, before changing back to snow by the morning of Monday February 1st. Snow showers then continued into the day on Tuesday February 2nd across the lower elevations. In the mountains, the precipitation remained snow for most of the event with snow showers continuing into the morning of Wednesday February 3rd. The heaviest snow totals were across portions of Southeast Ohio and the mountains of West Virginia, with amounts greater than 6" in spots. Up to 11.0" was reported in both Snowshoe and Elkins, WV. Charleston received 3.8" for the event.



72 Hour Snowfall Ending at 7 am EST February 2, covering the most significant period of snowfall for this event.

February 7th Winter Storm

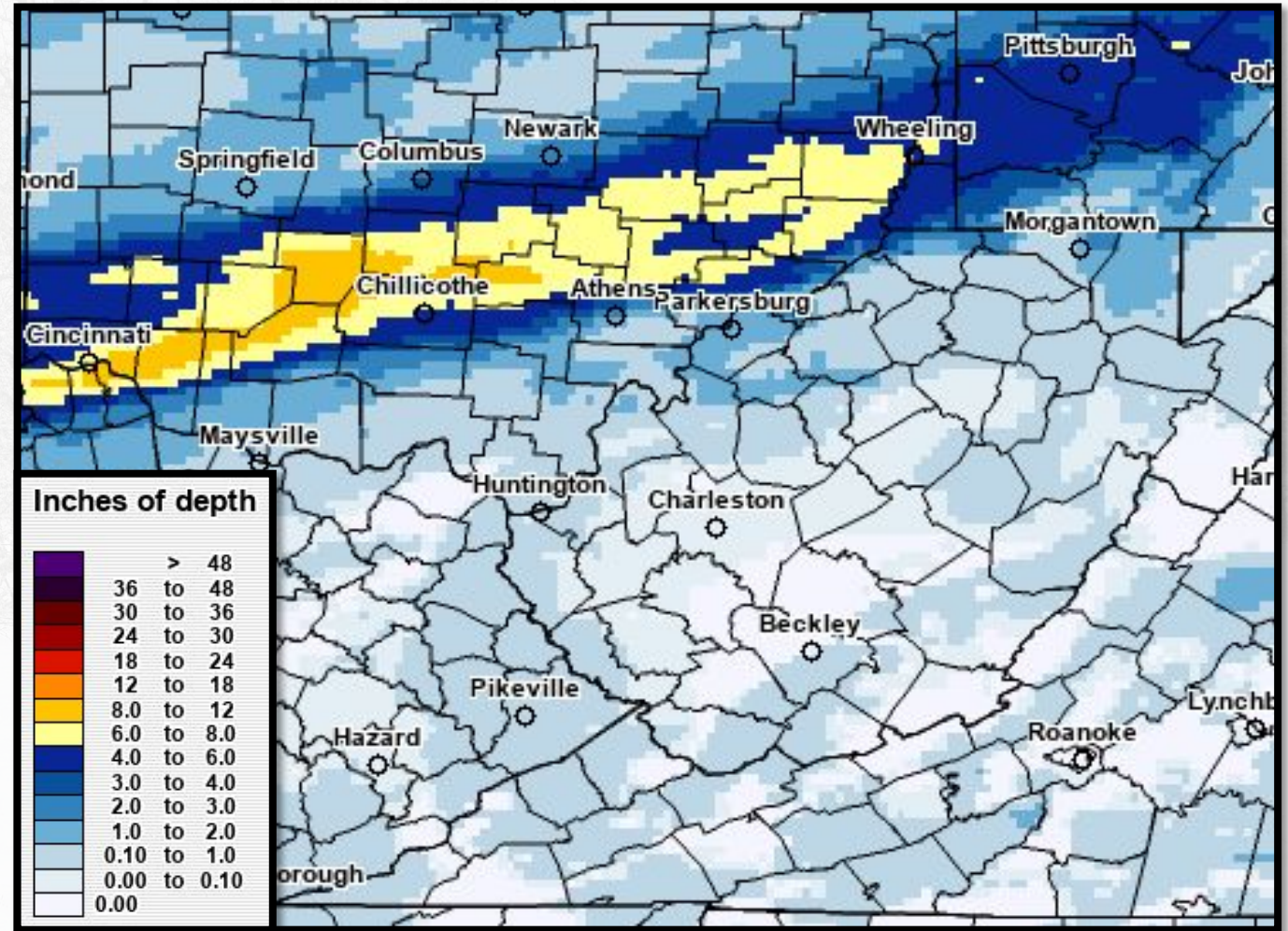


A fast-moving storm system approached the region in the early morning hours of February 7th from the southwest. Although the system would exit the region in less than 12 hours, isolated heavy snowfall totals were still reported across parts of the far southern region. Especially hard hit were the higher elevations of Dickenson County in Virginia with approximately 9" reported on Sandy Ridge and 7.6" reported 4 miles south-southeast of Nora. In West Virginia, up to 5.5" was reported in Shady Spring in Raleigh County.

48 Hour Snowfall Ending at 7 am EST February 8

February 8-9th Winter Storm

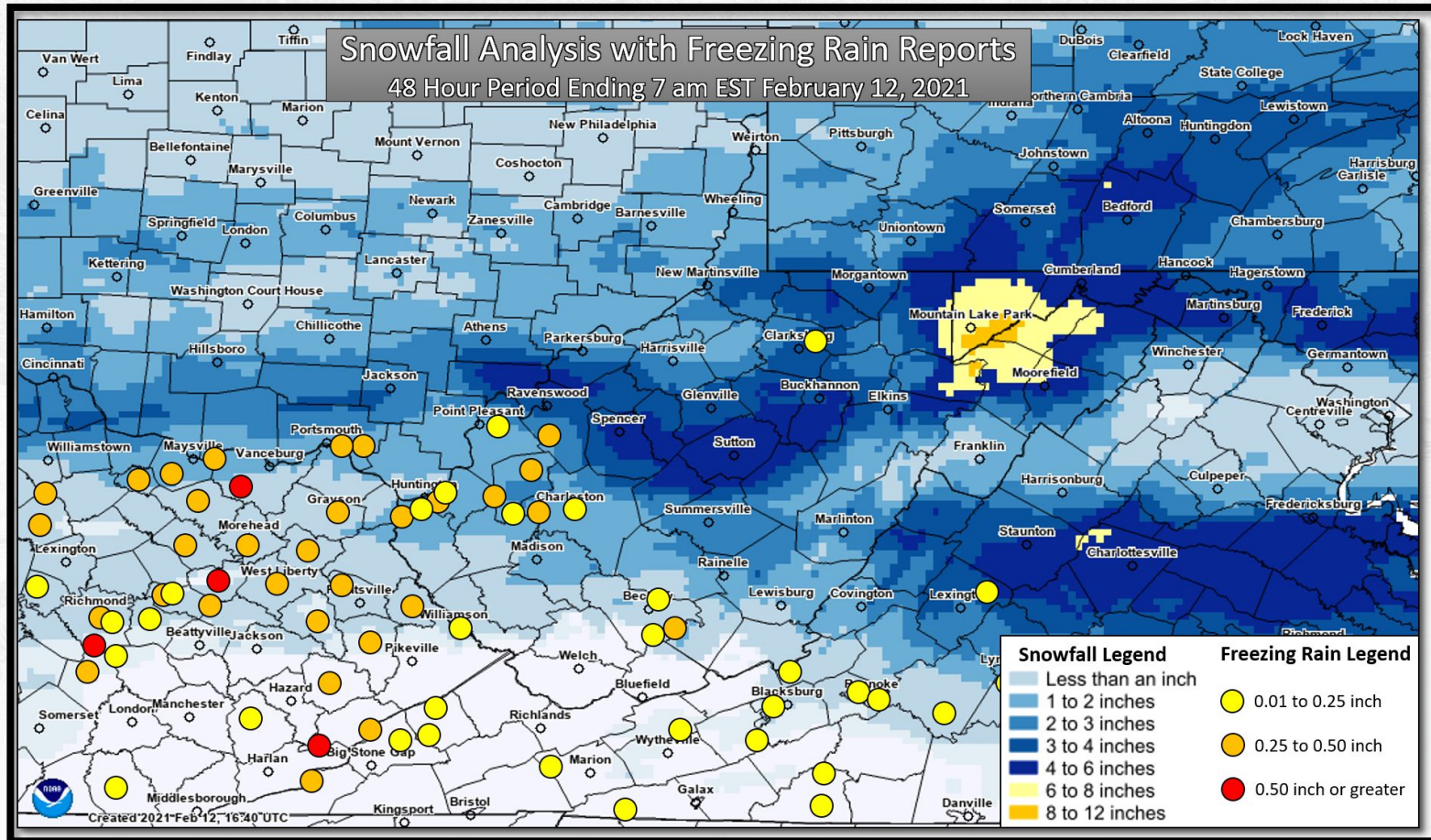
A narrow band of moderate to heavy snowfall developed across portions of Southeast Ohio to the northwest of a stationary boundary. Although this band was fairly short lived (lasting only approximately 12 hours), significant snowfall totals of 5-9" were observed in the hardest hit areas. 8.2" was observed in southwest Morgan County in Ohio (about 6 miles to the northeast of Glouster). Athens, approximately 25 miles to the south, only received 1.9". Talk about a sharp gradient!



72 Hour Snowfall Ending at 7 am EST February 10

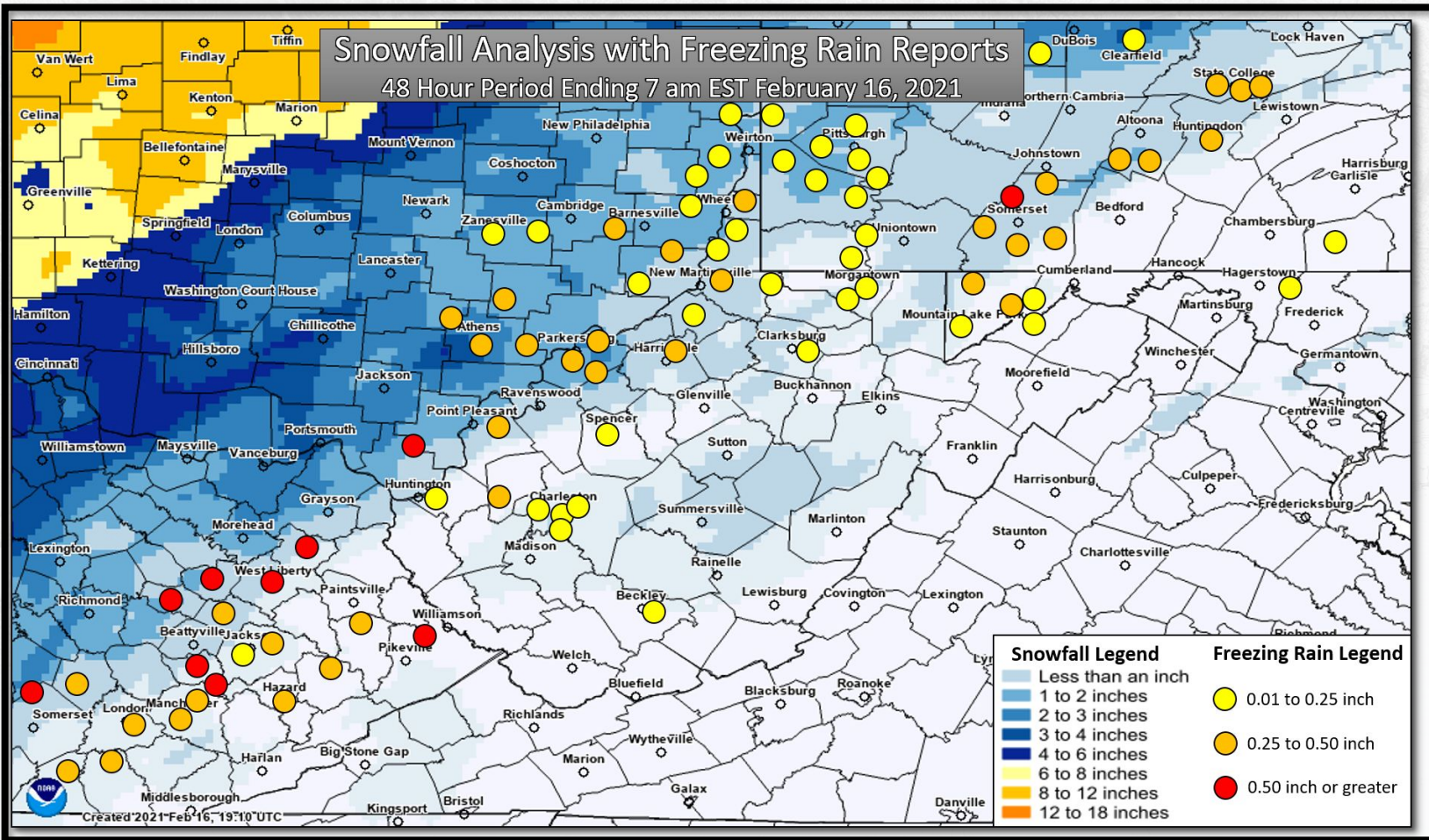
February 10-11th Winter Storm

A high impact event affected the region beginning on the morning of February 10th, as a wave of precipitation to the north of a stationary front moved into the area. This resulted in a mixed bag of winter precipitation across the area, with significant ice and snowfall accumulations. Snowfall totals of 3-6" were observed to the north and east of Charleston, with 6.0" being reported 4 miles northeast of Rock Cave, WV. Ice accumulations greater than 0.25" were observed in several locations, with up to 0.33" reported 2 miles south of Ceredo, WV. This resulted in significant tree damage across the hard hit regions, with more than 45,000 customers in West Virginia losing power (according to Appalachian Power).



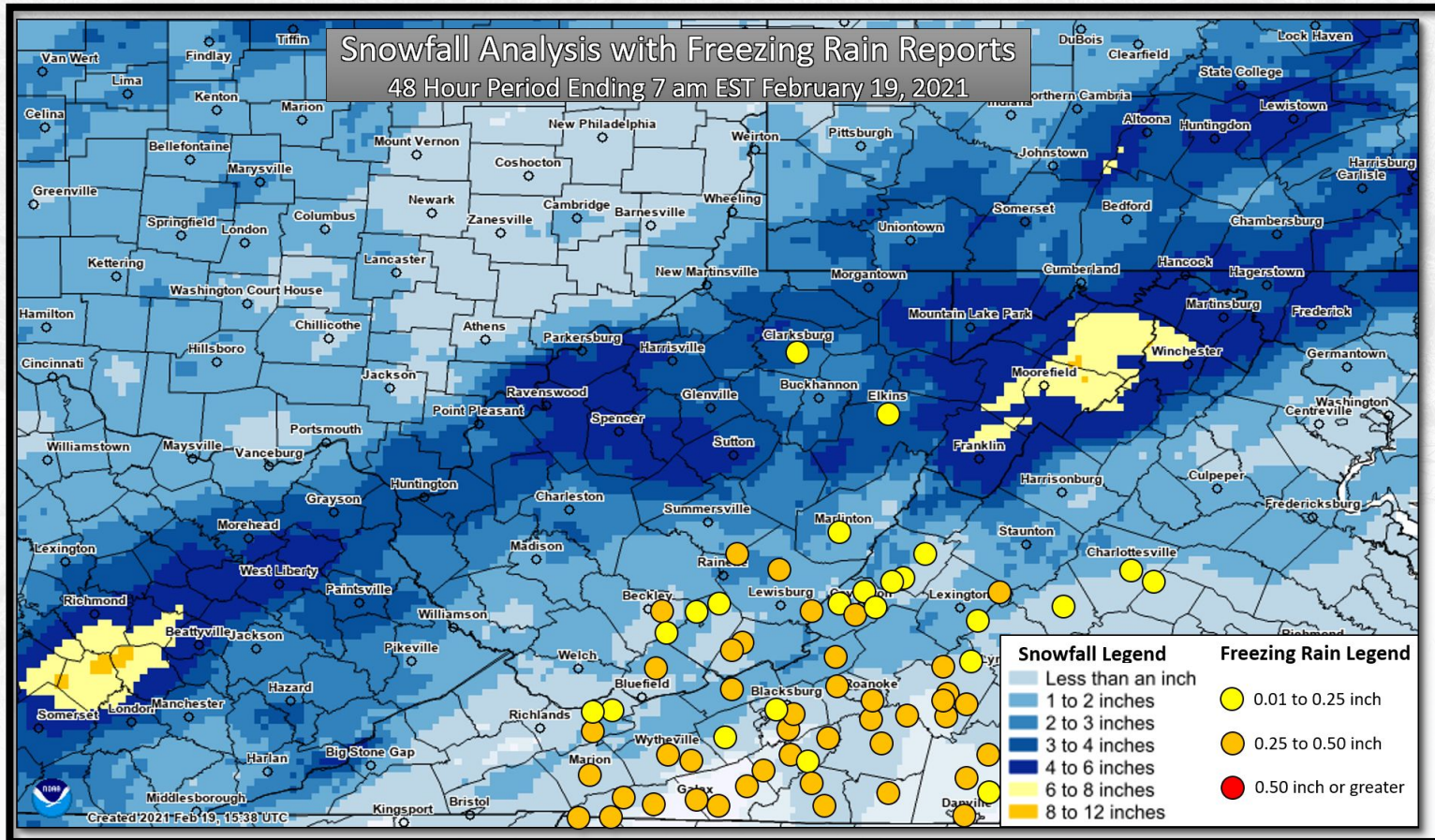
February 15-16th Winter Storm

A fast moving, yet significant winter storm moved through the area beginning on the morning of February 15th. As the system moved through, a warm nose of air moving northward resulted in a mixed bag of precipitation in the area, and even a transition to rain in some spots. While there was some snowfall associated with the system in Southeast Ohio to the tune of nearly 5.0" (just to the west of Athens), the ice accumulations from the system provided the biggest impacts across the region. This was the second significant ice event in 5 days, with up to 0.50" reported in Lawrence County (Ohio), 10 miles northeast of Lake Vesuvius. As a result, once again tree damage and power outages were significant, with 100,000 customers being reported without power in West Virginia on the morning of February 16th at the conclusion of the storm (according to poweroutage.us).

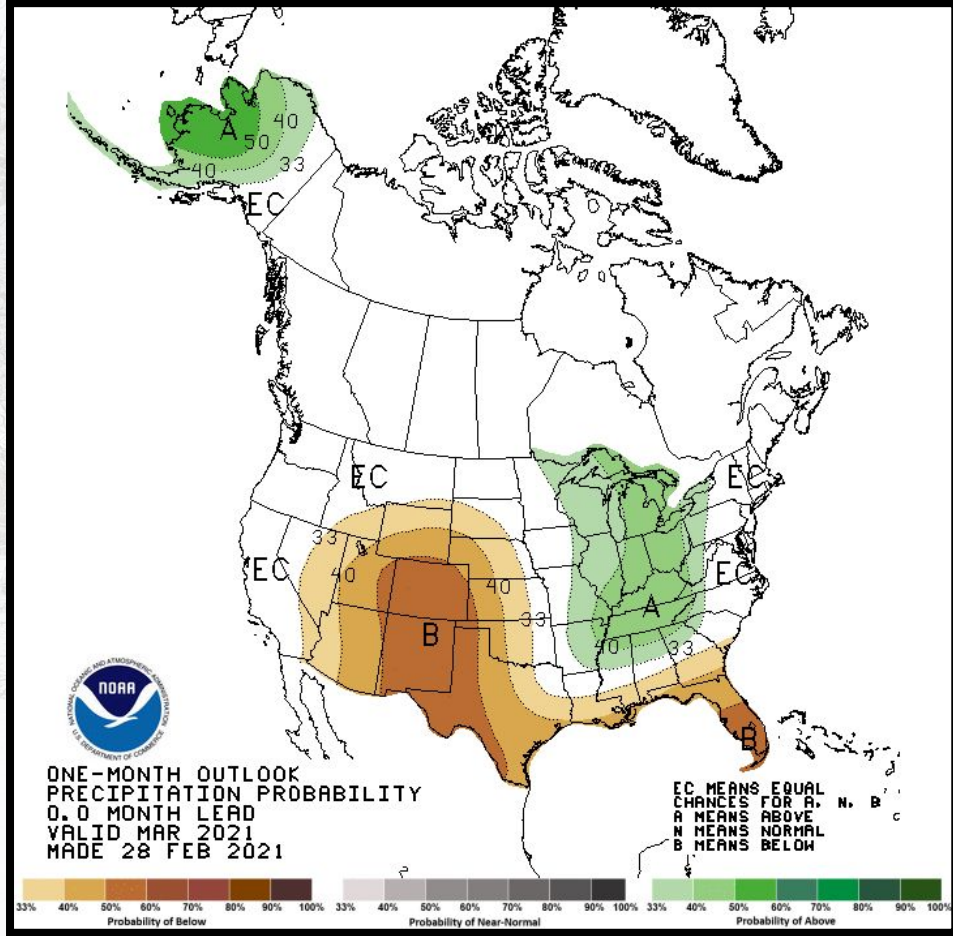
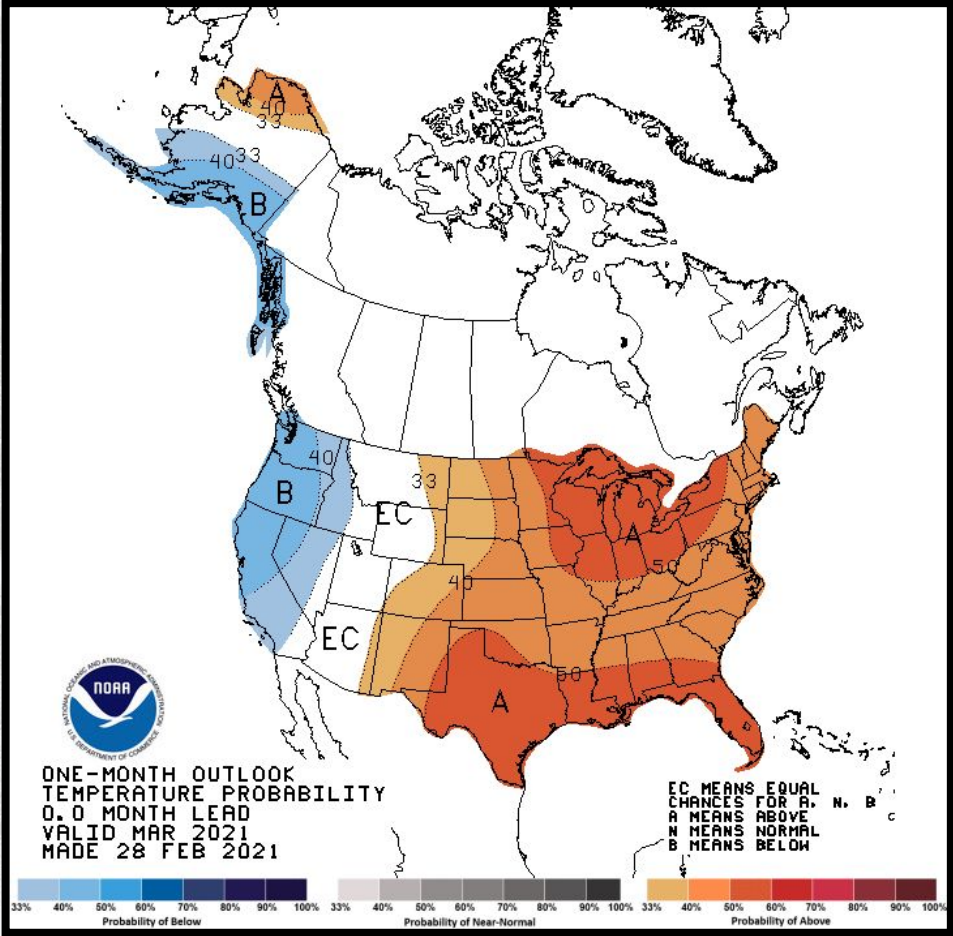


February 17-18th Winter Storm

The third significant winter storm in a week moved into the area during the late evening hours of February 17th. What began as snow, would transition to a wintry mix in some areas as the night progressed. The highest snow totals were generally in Northeastern Kentucky through Northern West Virginia, with up to 6.0" being reported in both Sutton Lake and Clarksburg, WV. Further south, 0.36" of freezing rain was reported at the Beckley Airport.

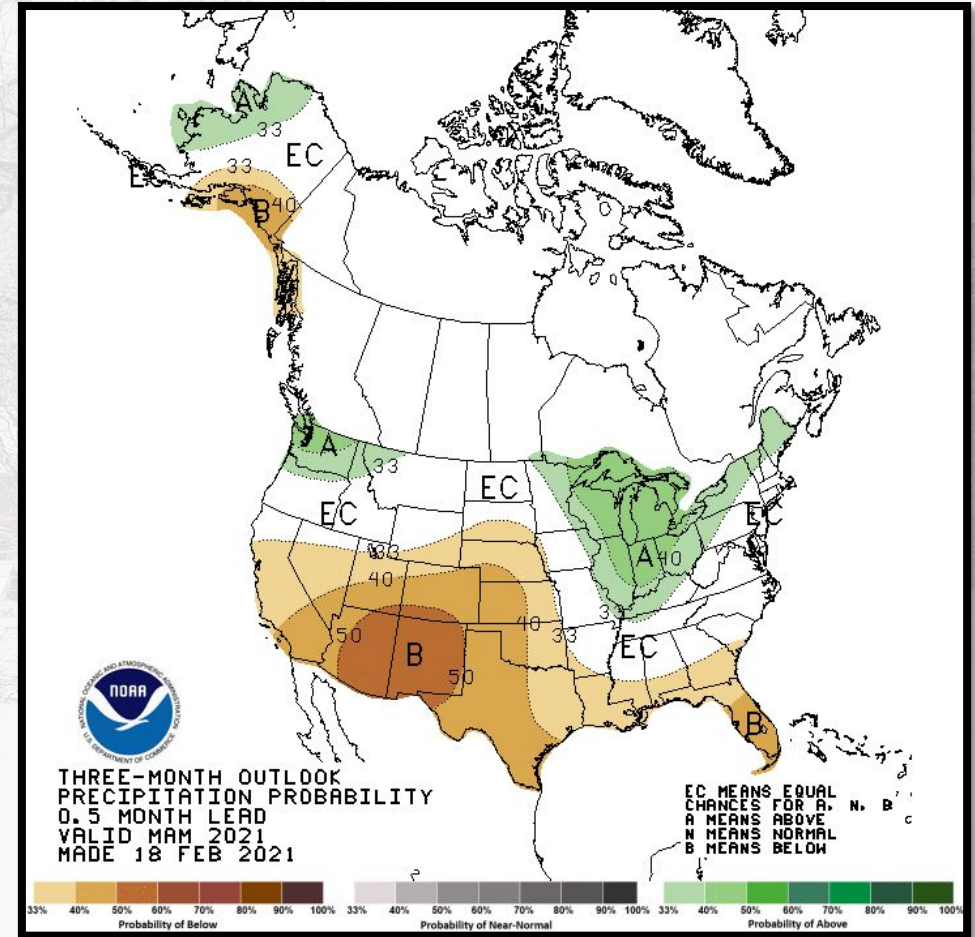
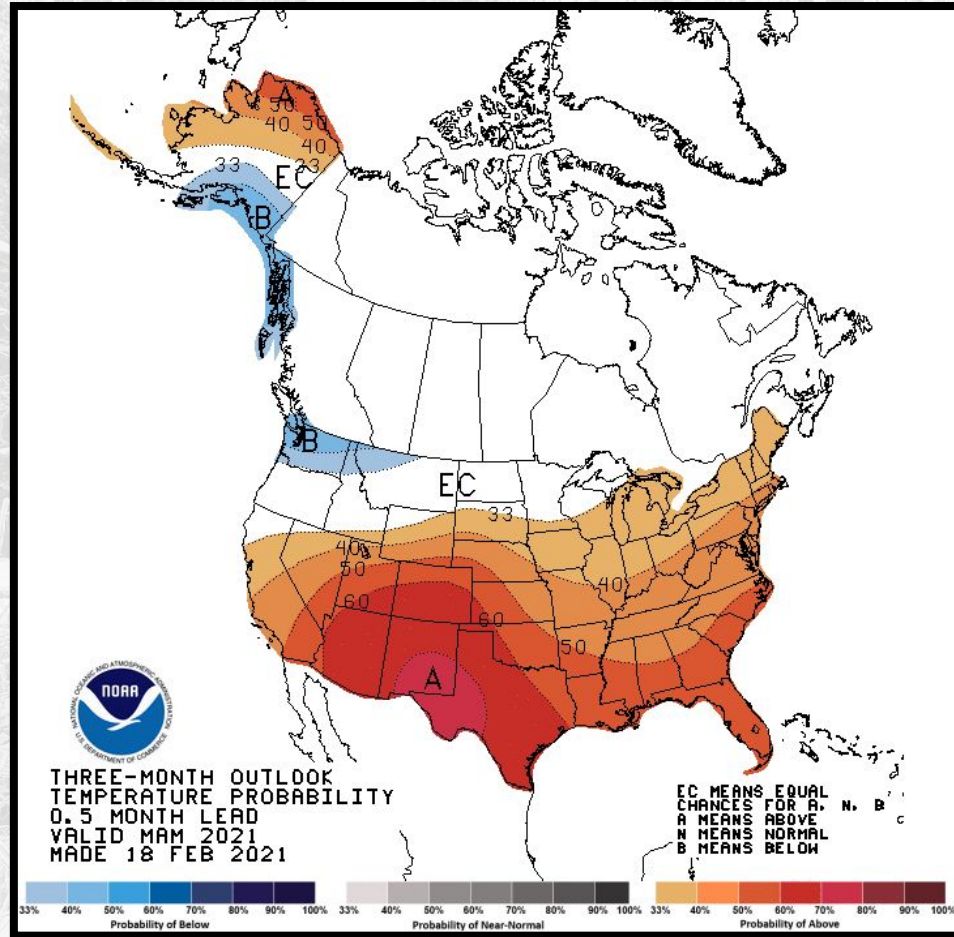


March Outlook



Climate Prediction Center One-Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the United States.

Spring Outlook



Climate Prediction Center Three-Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the United States: covering meteorological spring (March, April, and May).

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