The Pennsylvania Observer

The Pennsylvania State CLIMATOLOGIST

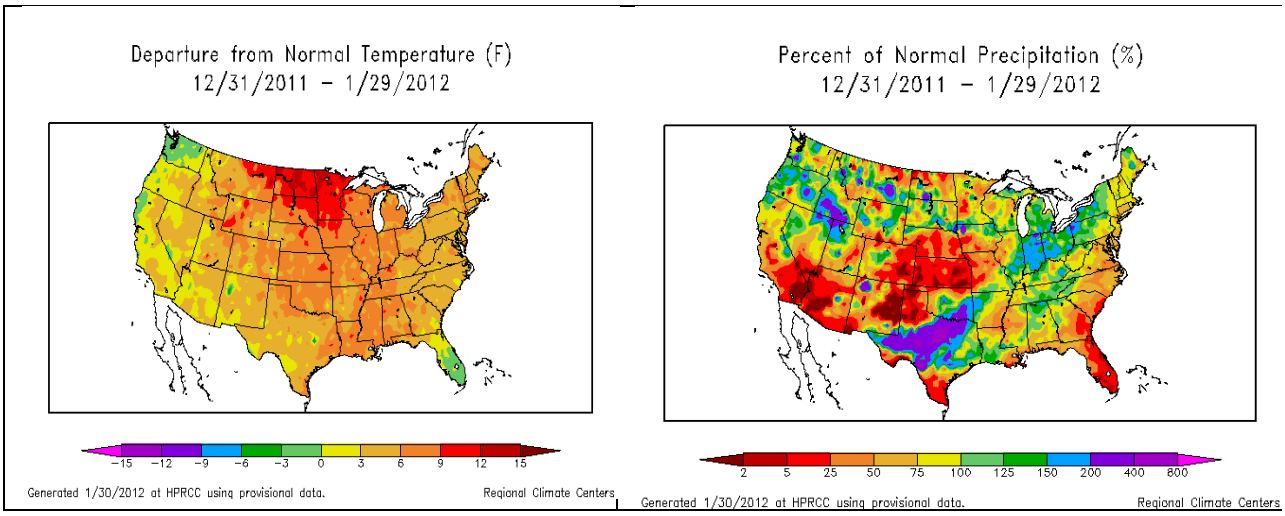
PENNSTATE

A Service to the Commonwealth
by the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences

LONG RANGE OUTLOOK

By: Randy Miller

Mild and relatively dry conditions dominated the nation during January with a wide swath of warm air from Montana to Missouri and north of Michigan being the most prominent signal. A dollop of chill was tallied in Florida and much of Washington State too. Dry conditions covered much of the southern Rockies and central Plains as well as much of the Southeast into the mid-Atlantic region. An hour-glass shaped area of moist weather extended from west Texas to Missouri and then into the eastern Great Lakes. These were the anomalies that were used to determine which past Januarys had any similarity.

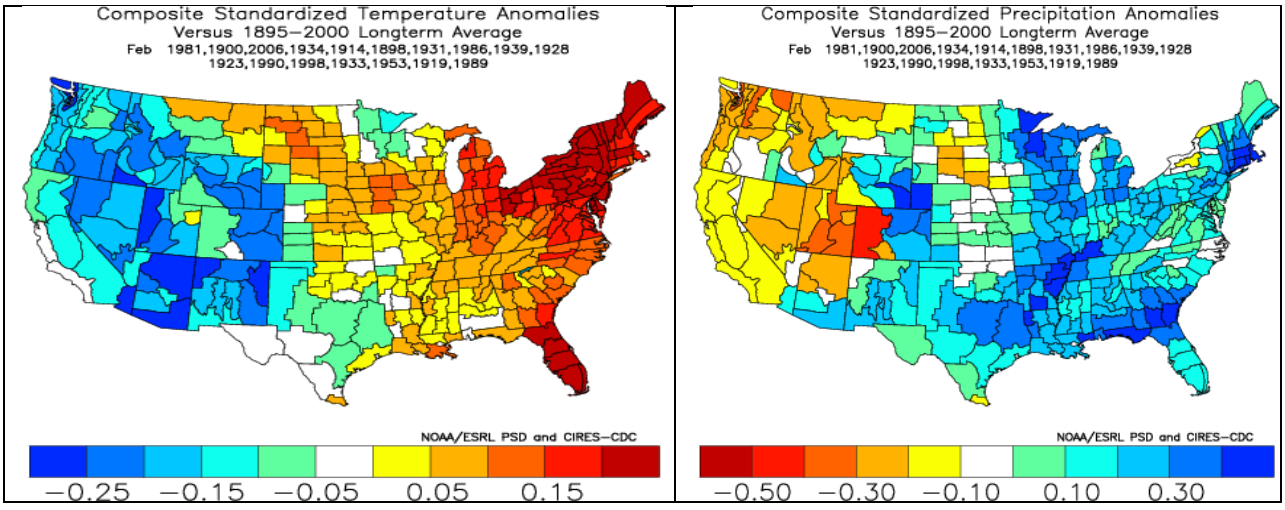


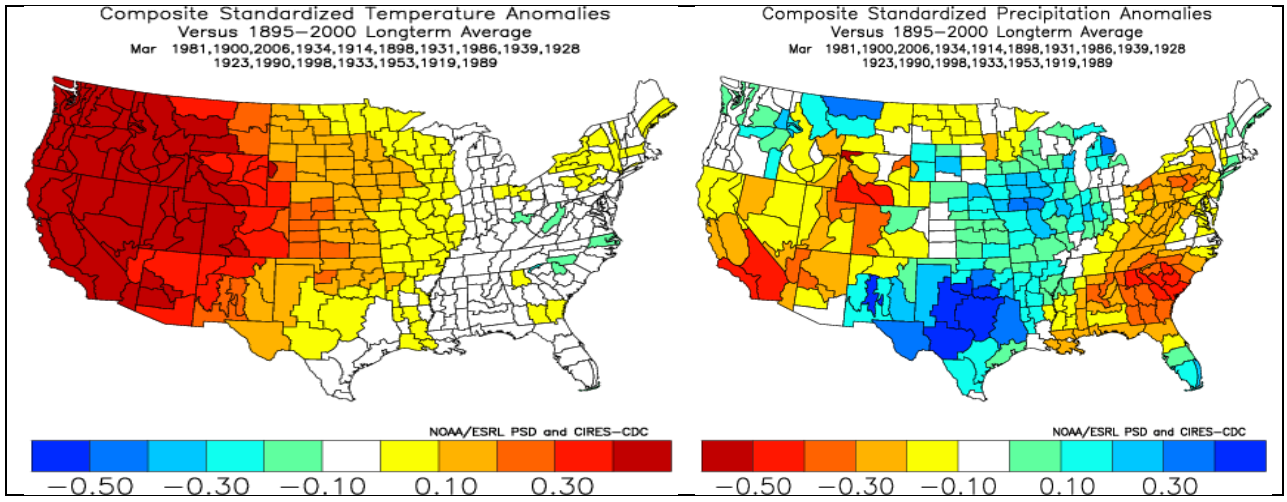
These are the years with most in common. The underlined years are those included in the graphs shown later in this forecast.

Year 1981 matches 44.44% Anom Regions 65.35% Climate Divs
Year 1900 matches 33.33% Anom Regions 65.35% Climate Divs
Year 2006 matches 22.22% Anom Regions 64.47% Climate Divs
Year 1934 matches 33.33% Anom Regions 64.04% Climate Divs
Year 1914 matches 44.44% Anom Regions 63.16% Climate Divs

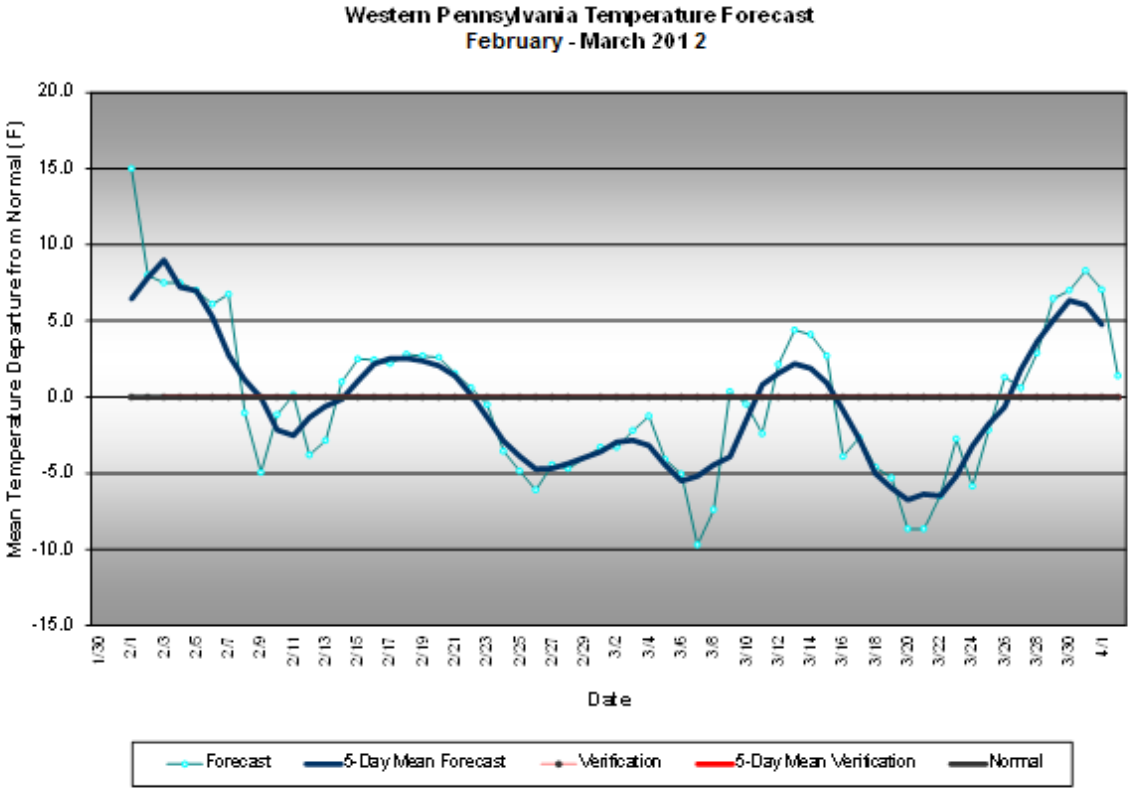
Year 1898 matches 33.33% Anom Regions 62.72% Climate Divs
Year 1931 matches 33.33% Anom Regions 61.40% Climate Divs
Year 1986 matches 33.33% Anom Regions 60.09% Climate Divs
Year 1939 matches 22.22% Anom Regions 59.21% Climate Divs
Year 1928 matches 44.44% Anom Regions 58.77% Climate Divs
Year 1923 matches 22.22% Anom Regions 57.46% Climate Divs
Year 1990 matches 11.11% Anom Regions 54.82% Climate Divs
Year 1998 matches 22.22% Anom Regions 53.51% Climate Divs
Year 1933 matches 22.22% Anom Regions 53.51% Climate Divs
Year 1953 matches 22.22% Anom Regions 53.07% Climate Divs
Year 1919 matches 22.22% Anom Regions 52.63% Climate Divs
Year 1989 matches 22.22% Anom Regions 50.88% Climate Divs

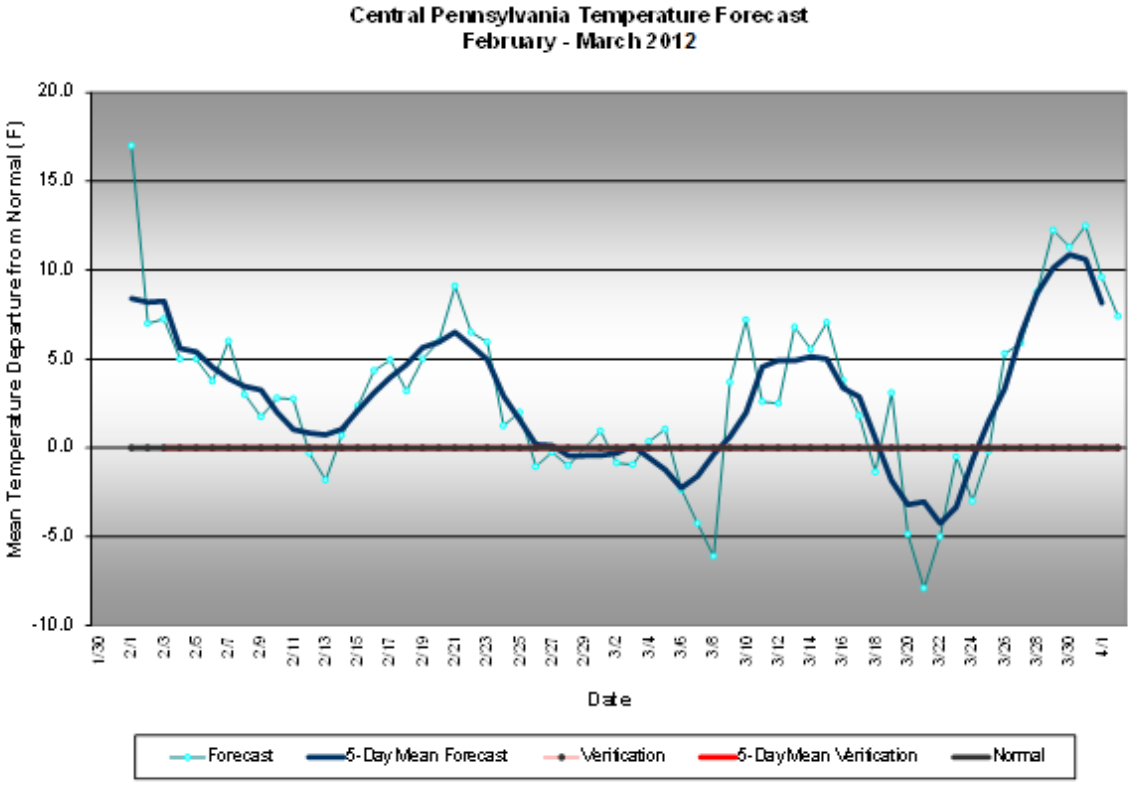
The following are the composite February and March temperature and precipitation anomalies for those years with a similar January anomaly:

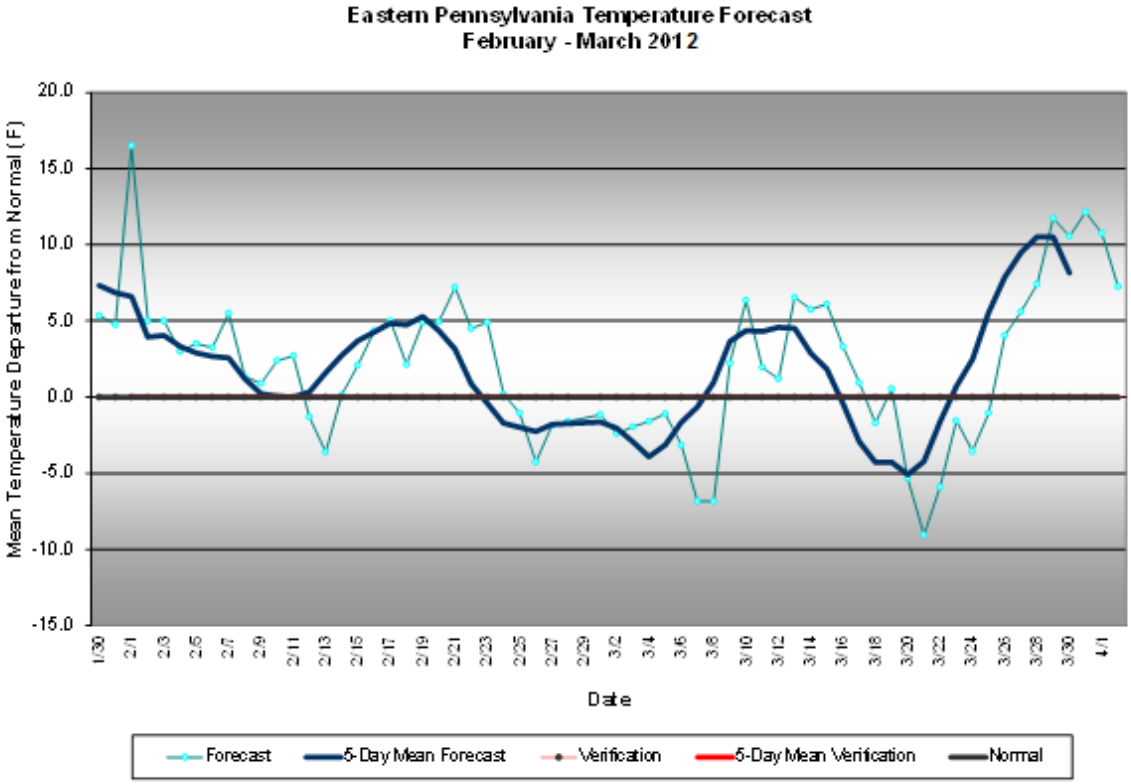




There are some indications that a significant change will occur between a mild, moist February and a somewhat cooler and dry March in Pennsylvania. The next three graphs will show the expected daily departures of temperature for the 60 days from February 1st through March 31st for three regions of PA.


Western Pennsylvania Temperature Forecast
February - March 2012
Mean Temperature Departure from Normal (F)
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
-5.0
-10.0
-15.0
1/30
2/1
2/3
2/5
2/7
2/9
2/11
2/13
2/15
2/17
2/19
2/21
2/23
2/25
2/27
2/29
3/2
3/4
3/6
3/8
3/10
3/12
3/14
3/16
3/18
3/20
3/22
3/24
3/26
3/28
3/30
4/1
Date
Forecast
5-Day Mean Forecast
Verification
5-Day Mean Verification
Normal


Central Pennsylvania Temperature Forecast
February - March 2012
Mean Temperature Departure from Normal (F)
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
-5.0
-10.0
1/30
2/1
2/3
2/5
2/7
2/9
2/11
2/13
2/15
2/17
2/19
2/21
2/23
2/25
2/27
2/29
3/2
3/4
3/6
3/8
3/10
3/12
3/14
3/16
3/18
3/20
3/22
3/24
3/26
3/28
3/30
4/1
Date
Forecast
5-Day Mean Forecast
Verification
5-Day Mean Verification
Normal


Eastern Pennsylvania Temperature Forecast
February - March 2012
Mean Temperature Departure from Normal (F)
20.0
15.0
10.0
5.0
0.0
-5.0
-10.0
-15.0
1/30
2/1
2/3
2/5
2/7
2/9
2/11
2/13
2/15
2/17
2/19
2/21
2/23
2/25
2/27
2/29
3/2
3/4
3/6
3/8
3/10
3/12
3/14
3/16
3/18
3/20
3/22
3/24
3/26
3/28
3/30
4/1
Date
Forecast
5-Day Mean Forecast
Verification
5-Day Mean Verification
Normal