

The Pennsylvania Observer

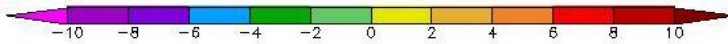
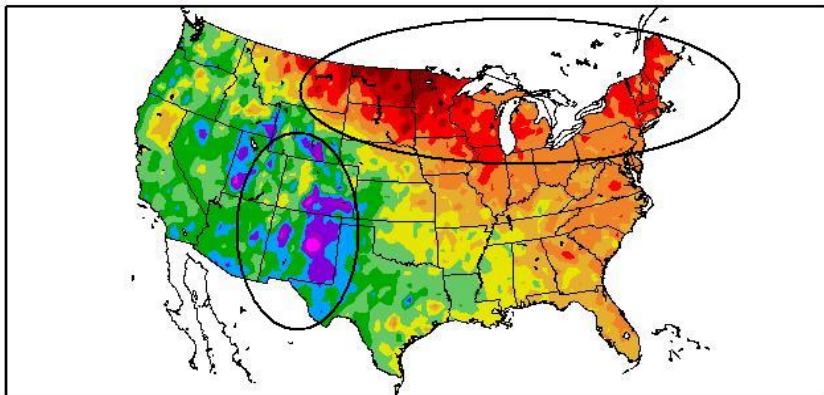


LONG RANGE OUTLOOK

By: Paul Knight

As December was closing, the temperature and precipitation anomalies were well established across the nation as seen below:

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2011 – 12/28/2011

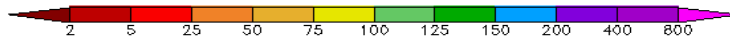
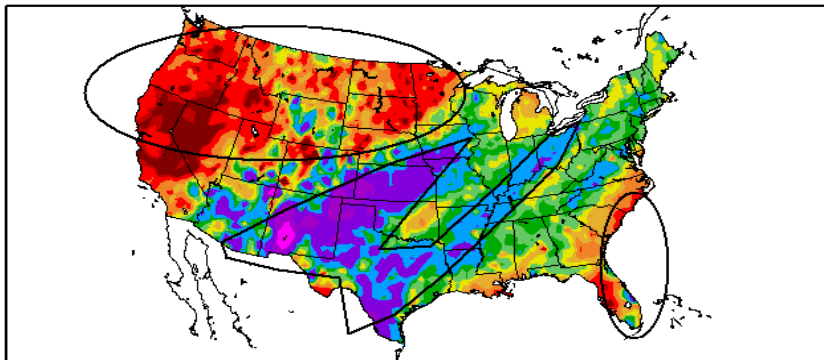


Generated 12/29/2011 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Unusual warmth was noted from Montana to Maine and chill in the southern Rockies.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
12/1/2011 - 12/28/2011

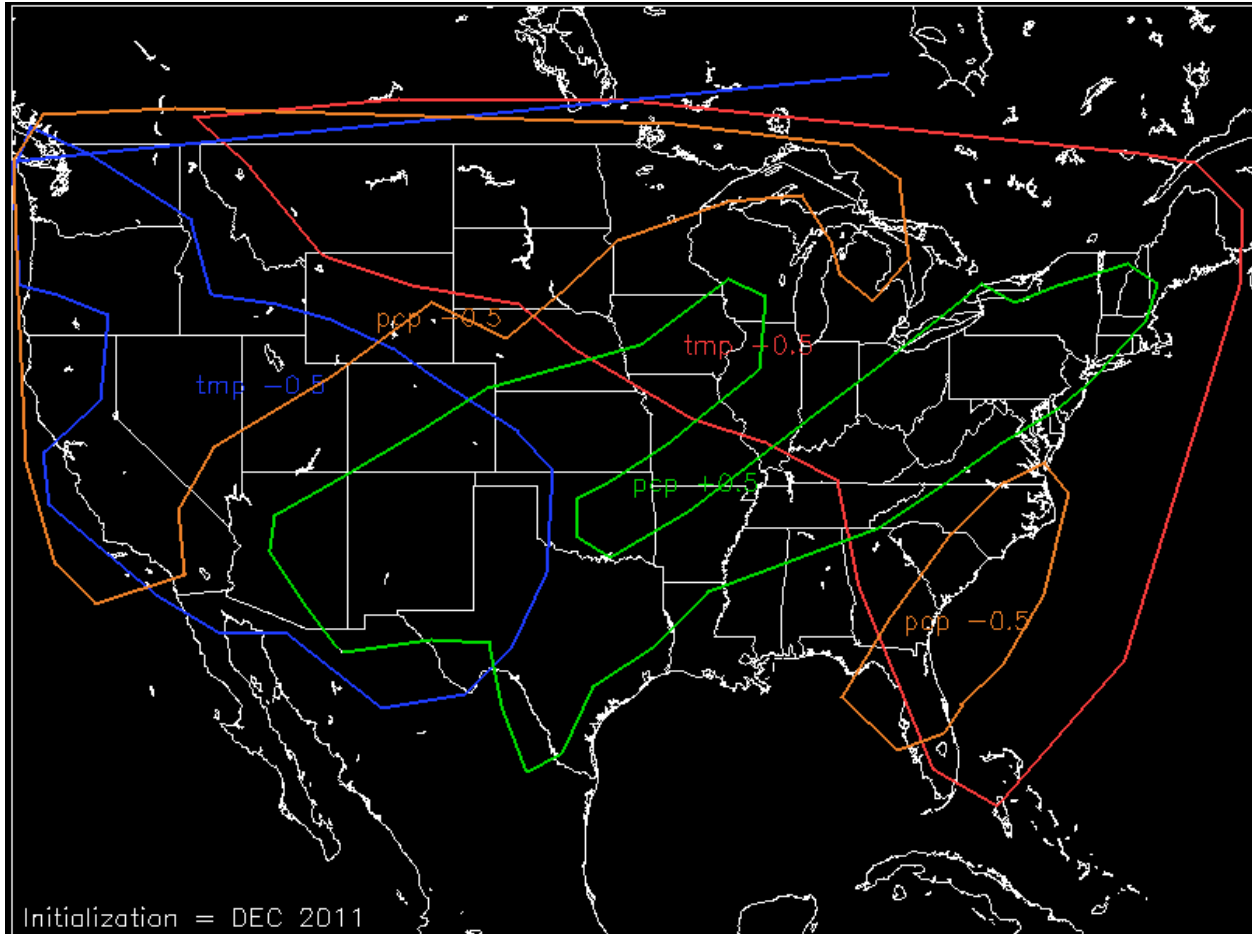


Generated 12/29/2011 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

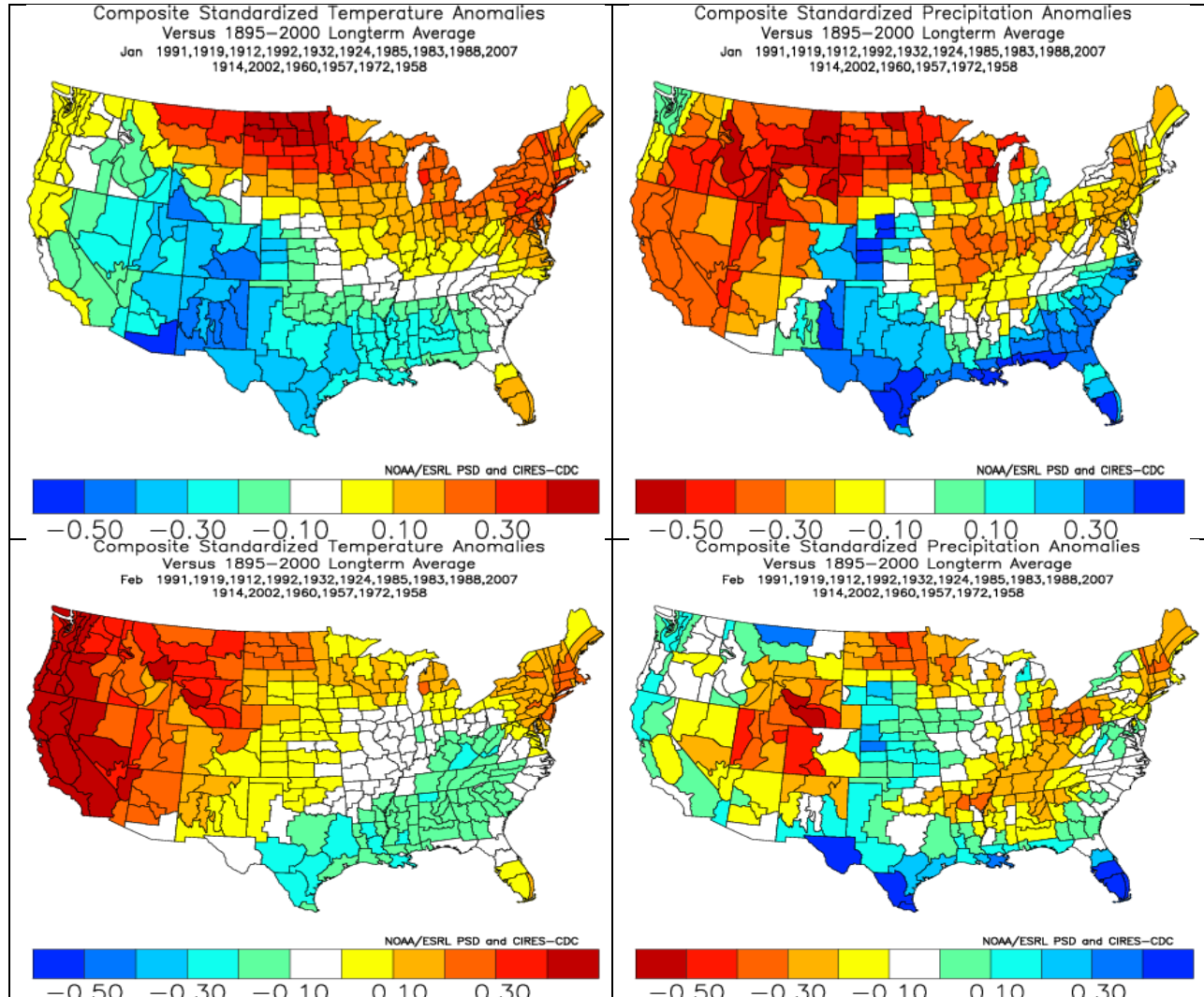
Very dry weather dominated from California to Minnesota, while it was moist from New Mexico to the southern Great Lakes and interior Northeast.

When these anomalous temperature and precipitation regions are matched with the 345 climate divisions with December data for the past 117 years, the following years show some commonality.



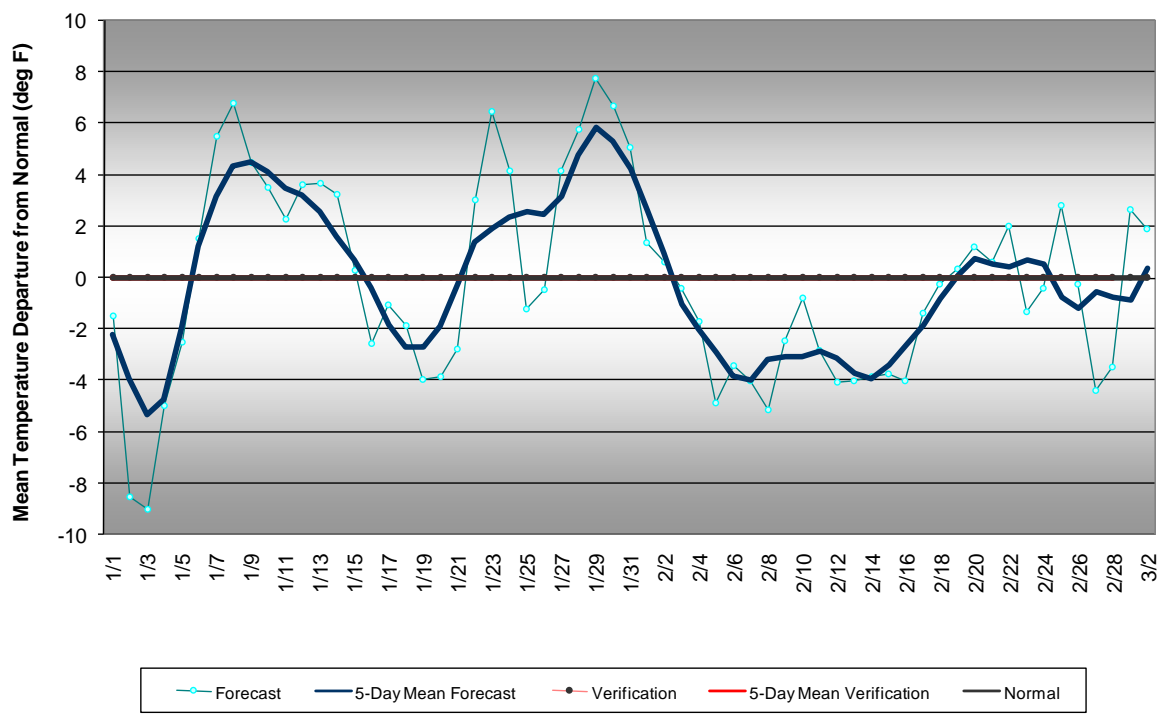
Year1990matches50.00%AnomRegions61.97%ClimateDivs
Year1918matches25.00%AnomRegions61.54%ClimateDivs
Year1911matches25.00%AnomRegions60.04%ClimateDivs
Year1991matches37.50%AnomRegions59.40%ClimateDivs
Year1931matches25.00%AnomRegions59.40%ClimateDivs
Year1923matches25.00%AnomRegions58.33%ClimateDivs
Year1984matches37.50%AnomRegions54.70%ClimateDivs
Year1982matches25.00%AnomRegions54.70%ClimateDivs
Year1987matches25.00%AnomRegions53.63%ClimateDivs
Year2006matches12.50%AnomRegions53.63%ClimateDivs
Year1913matches25.00%AnomRegions50.64%ClimateDivs
Year2001matches25.00%AnomRegions49.36%ClimateDivs
Year1959matches12.50%AnomRegions47.65%ClimateDivs
Year1956matches25.00%AnomRegions47.44%ClimateDivs
Year1971matches25.00%AnomRegions47.22%ClimateDivs
Year1957matches12.50%AnomRegions46.79%ClimateDivs

When compositing all the years for the following Jan-Feb (next year), these are the anomalies noted for temperature (left) and precipitation (right):

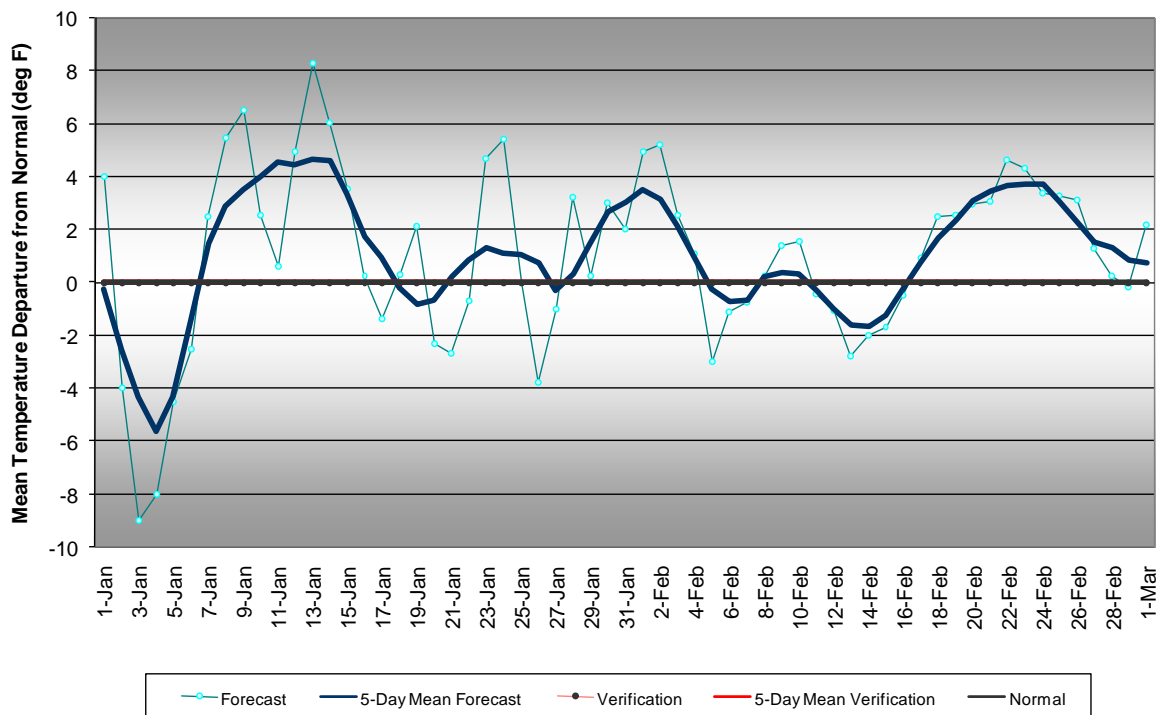


Summary: The expected anomalies during January look very similar to December, especially with regard to temperature. There appears to be a significant shift during February as mild conditions return to the Rockies and colder air moves into the South. According to these analogs, February may be a more wintry month in Pennsylvania than January.

Western Pennsylvania Temperature Forecast January - February 2012



Central Pennsylvania Temperature Forecast January - February 2012



Eastern Pennsylvania Temperature Forecast January - February 2012

