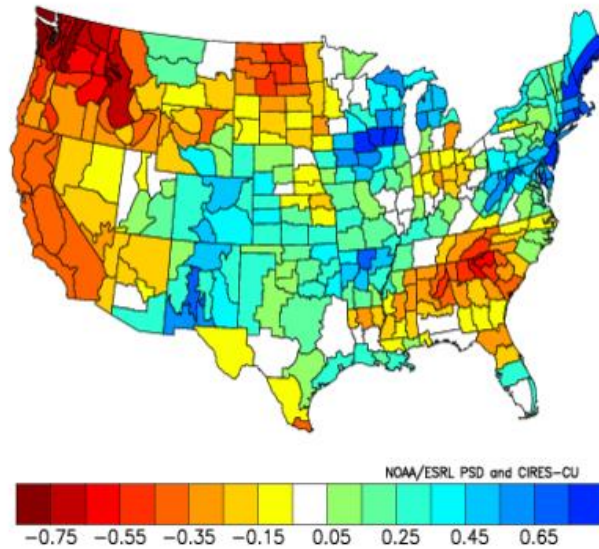


FEATURED CLIMATE HIGHLIGHT

By: Benjamin Luton

Composite Standardized Precipitation Anomalies
Apr 2007,2009,2004,1902,2008,1909,1942,1951,1913,1973
Versus 1895–2000 Longterm Average



This is a plot of the composite standardized precipitation anomalies for the United States in April versus the 1895 -2000 long-term average, using the ten years with similar January temperatures as 2014 in the winter wheat belt. January 2014 ranked 59th coldest in the winter wheat belt since records began. According to the plot, the West coast is projected to be much drier than average, most notably in Washington and Idaho for the month of April. The southeast is also predicted to be drier than average when there have been similar January temperatures as this year. However, New England is projected to be wetter than average in April, especially along the coast. Finally, the Great Plains seem to experience average precipitation amounts. The amount of precipitation does not deviate +/- 0.75 inches from the April average anywhere in the US, so April 2014 should be a relatively normal year for precipitation in the contiguous United States.