

<b>NWS FORM E-5</b> (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION</b> <b>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE</b>	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)	
		<b>NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LA</b>	
<b>MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS</b>		REPORT FOR:	YEAR
		<b>MONTH</b> <b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>YEAR</b> <b>2012</b>
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE	
		KENNETH GRAHAM METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE	
		DATE <b>MARCH 15, 2012</b>	

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

An X inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.

*...Copious Rainfall in February Helped with Soil Moisture Deficits...*

February 2012 began and ended with heavy rainfall over southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Though floods were widespread during the month, the impacts were generally minor. Moderate flooding developed only at Tylertown, MS, where some roads became impassable and a few evacuations were necessary.

Widespread heavy rains developed by February 5<sup>th</sup>; the greatest rainfall reported was 4.62 inches at Ponchatoula, LA. Areal rainfall totals ranged from around 1.0 inch to over 1.75 inches for the weather week. More rain developed by February 10<sup>th</sup>, though amounts were modest. Areal average rainfall totals ranged up to 0.5 inch, with the heaviest rains over east central Louisiana for the weather week ending February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Widespread, copious rainfall developed again by St. Valentine's Day and continued for several days. Low pressure off the coast pushed north around February 18<sup>th</sup> and induced strong thunderstorms. As a result of the week's storms, Mount Hermon recorded 6.46 inches; Clinton measured 5.64 inches; Butte La Rose had 5.47 inches; and Norwood received 5.41 inches. Areal rainfall averages were generally 3.0 to 4.25 inches for the weather week ending February 19<sup>th</sup>.

From February 20<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>, precipitation was light and areal average rainfall totals were around 0.02 inch. As the month ended, scattered showers produced rain totals of around 0.5 inch.

**Flooding...**

Flooding from late January ended in Louisiana by February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bogalusa and Pearl River on the Lower Pearl River. After the early heavy rains, flooding began on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Morgan City, LA on the Atchafalaya River. By February 7<sup>th</sup>, flooding redeveloped on the Lower Pearl River at Bogalusa and then redeveloped at Pearl River by February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Repeated heavy downpours from February 13<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> pushed the river levels up across the region. Though the earlier floods had ended again on the Lower Pearl River, flooding recurred at Bogalusa and Pearl River. New flooding developed on the Tickfaw River at Liverpool; on the Bogue Falaya River in downtown Covington; on the Tangipahoa River at Robert, LA and Osyka, MS; on the West Hobolochitto Creek near McNeill, MS; on the Bogue Chitto River at Tylertown, MS and Franklinton, LA; on the Amite River at Denham Springs, LA; on the Comite River at Comite, LA; and on the Biloxi River at Lyman, MS.

By February 22<sup>nd</sup>, additional flooding had developed on the Bogue Chitto River at Bush, LA; on the Amite River at Bayou Manchac Point, LA; on the Wolf River at Gulfport, MS; and on the Pascagoula River at Graham Ferry, MS. By February 25<sup>th</sup>, flooding had ended on all the waterways except the Lower Pearl River. Flooding continued at Bogalusa and Pearl River into March.

<b>Monthly Reports by Agricultural Region</b>	<b>Areal Average</b>	<b>Departure from Normal</b>
Southwest Mississippi (2 Sites)	10.32	N/A
South Central Mississippi (3 Sites)	6.02	N/A
Coastal Mississippi	5.19	-0.57
Central Louisiana (2 Sites)	6.40	+0.94
East Central Louisiana	6.62	+1.11
South Central Louisiana (6 Sites)	4.74	+0.09
Southeast Louisiana	4.86	-0.20

**Extreme Rainfall for the Month (Inches and Departure from Normal)**

Gloster, MS	11.95		Woodville, MS	8.70	+2.84
Ponchatoula, LA	9.74	+5.26	Killian, LA	8.44	
Mount Hermon, LA	8.77		Butte La Rose, LA	8.43	

**Drought...**

Copious rainfall before February 1<sup>st</sup> yielded slight improvements to the soil moisture deficiencies over some areas. Soil moisture contents improved over south-central and central Louisiana; those areas' soils became normal to abnormally dry (D0). Drought severity remained at moderate (D1) to severe (D2) levels across the remainder of the region, while extreme drought (D3) persisted over extreme southeast Louisiana. These soil conditions remained generally unchanged through mid-February.

As a result of the heavy rains, soil moisture continued to slowly rebound. By February 28<sup>th</sup>, soil contents were normal over southwestern Mississippi and the westernmost parishes. Conditions remained abnormally dry over coastal Mississippi, while soils ranged from abnormally dry to severe drought levels over the Florida Parishes and just south of Lake Pontchartrain. At the same time, extreme southeast Louisiana remained stricken by extreme drought.