

## Extra Rainfall Makes up for Drought in High Country

Written by Adam Hicks

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Two weeks ago, heavy rains finally pulled North Carolina out of its long-tenured drought. Now, the National Drought Monitor says rainfall has evened out and the High Country is not even considered to be “abnormally dry.”

The drought monitor has several levels of drought and dryness. The most severe is an exceptional drought, followed by extreme drought, severe drought, moderate drought, and finally abnormally dry.

Last summer, many areas of the High Country were included in the extreme and severe drought categories, but after a very wet start to 2009, the area is back to normal.

According to our weather center at AM 1450 WATA, the High Country has seen about 52.5 inches of precipitation since January 1. Last year’s total was just under 71 inches.

Most of the state has followed suit as only the northeastern tip of North Carolina and a handful of counties in the southwestern region of the state are considered to be abnormally dry.

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