



National Weather Service Amarillo

806-335-1421

Winter 2017-18 Outlook

Winter Outlook:

ENSO Phase – Weak La Niña

Probability – 73% chance through Winter

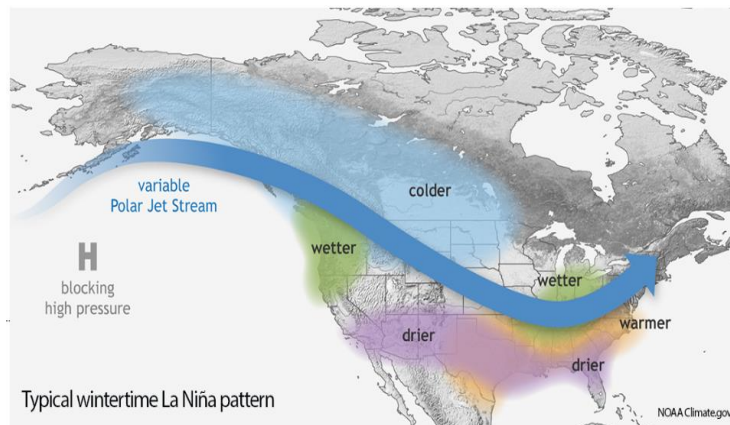
Similar Events – Winters of 1995-96, 2000-01, 2005-06, 2008-09, 2010-11, 2016-17.

Overview – A weak La Niña is now established across the central and eastern Tropical Pacific. Previous years that share a similar setup have active storm tracks being displaced mainly north of the Texas & Oklahoma Panhandles. The Climate Prediction Center has a 76% chance that this event will persist through January 2018, and an 64% chance that it will persist through March 2018. The odds favor above-average temperatures and below-average to near-normal total precipitation for the winter and spring. While temperatures will most likely average out to above normal for the entire winter season, weak La Niña episodes have produced significant arctic fronts in the past.

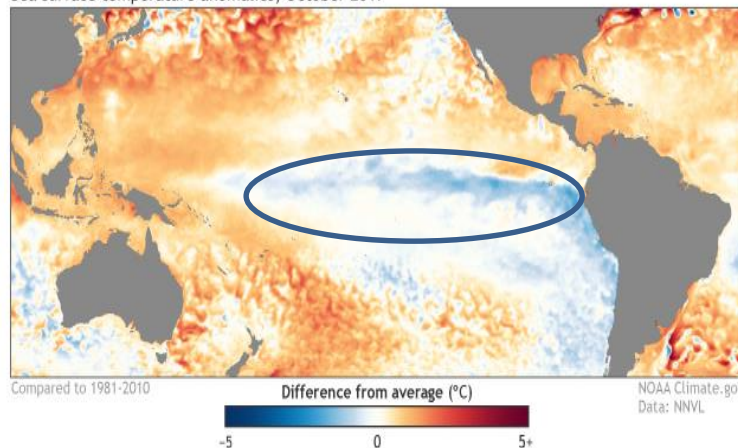
Potential Impacts:

- **Below Normal Snowfall** – Of the past 68 winters, 21 of them were characterized by La Niña. The top 2 least snowy winters in Amarillo occurred during La Niña events, but so did the snowiest, when 46.3 inches fell (2000-01). For 14 of the 21 La Niña winters, total snowfall was below average, while 5 were near average (within 3 inches of average), and 2 were above average. Most La Niña winter seasonal snowfall totals are between 9 to 18 inches, with the average being 13.5 inches (average for all years is 16.3 inches).
- **Dry Spells and Fire Weather Concerns** – While the odds only slightly tilt toward below average precipitation when averaging out the entire winter, prolonged dry spells lasting weeks is likely. This could lead to significant wildfire potential especially in late winter and spring.

Weak La Niña has arrived



Sea surface temperature anomalies, October 2017



Most likely Outcomes:

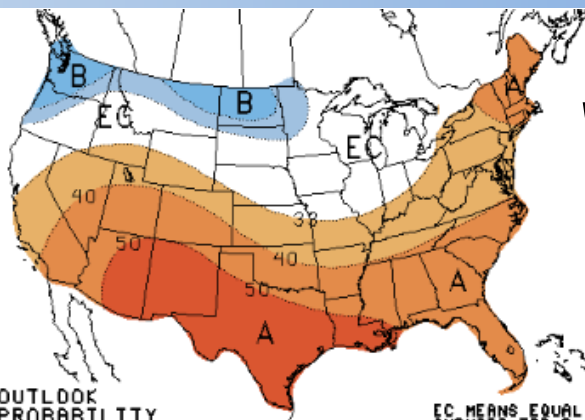
- Temperature** Above Normal
- Precipitation** Normal to Slightly Below Normal
- Fire Weather** Becoming Elevated to Critical



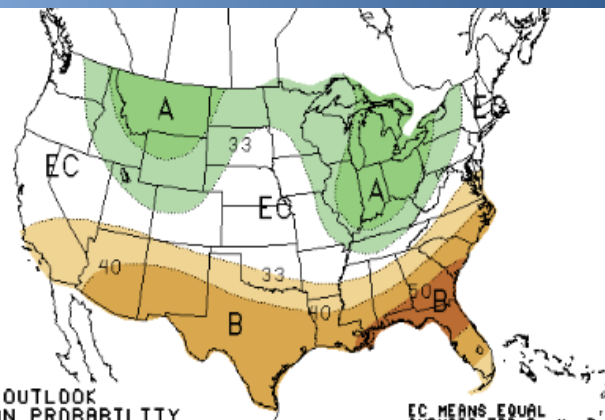
National Weather Service Amarillo

806-335-1421

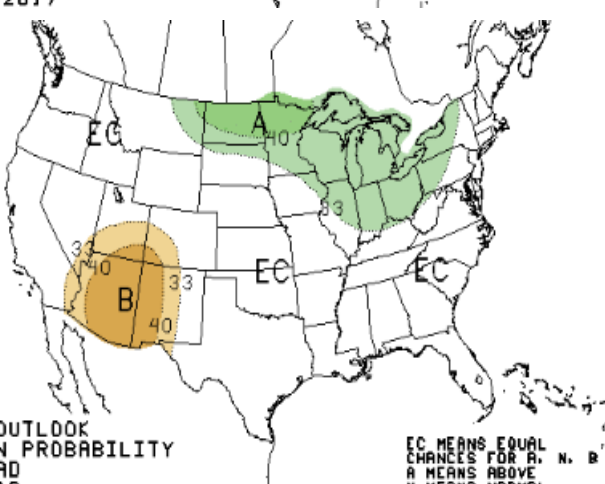
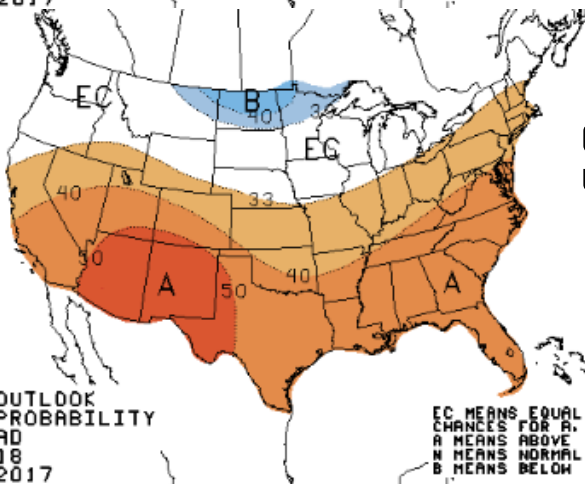
Winter 2017-18 Outlook



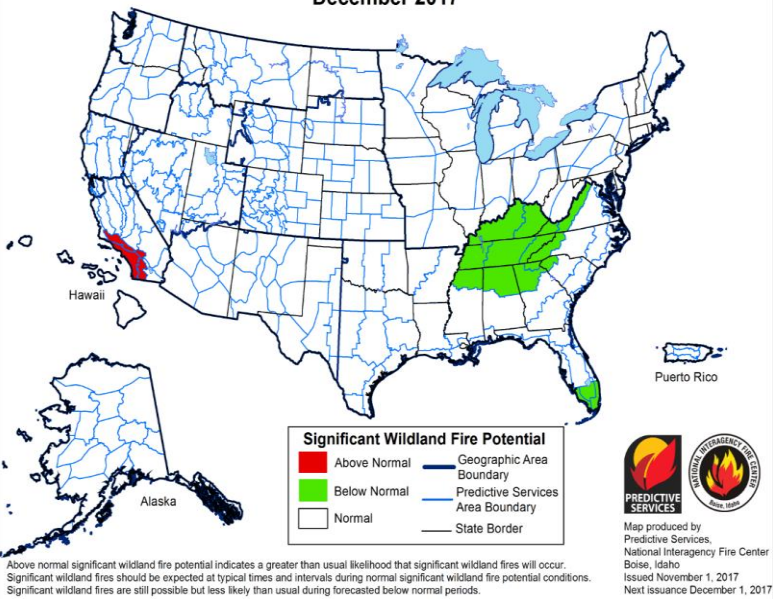
Winter



Spring



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
December 2017



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
January & February 2018

