

FEBRUARY 2015

Weather Digest

Weather Summary

Significant Events

Special Features

**Temperature &
Precipitation**

Severe Weather

February 2015 Weather Summary

February turned out to be quite a warm month. The average temperature at El Paso International Airport was 3 degrees above normal. Many other sites around the Borderland also enjoyed average monthly temperatures of 3 to 5 degrees above normal. Much of the area was below normal with rainfall, except most of Sierra County and the Tularosa Basin of Otero County.

As mentioned above, February was a warm month, dominated in several stretches by an Eastern Pacific ridge of high pressure. This ridge moved over the Inter-Mountain West from about February 6th through 10th, resulting in high temperatures about 15 degrees above normal. Another strong ridge developed over the west coast of the U.S. from about February 14th through 20th, for yet another stretch of high temperatures 10 to 15 degrees above normal.

Despite the overall warmth of the month, there were several incidents of cold arctic fronts moving in from the east. One cold front moved in on the 11th, dropping temperatures some 20 degrees over two days. It also creating strong winds, especially along the west slopes of area mountains. Another stronger cold front pushed in on the 22nd and 23rd, cooling temperatures around 30 degrees.

Some excitement came to the area on the early morning of the 25th, when a rocket was launched from White Sands Missile Range. Numerous public sightings of the launch were reported, as the rocket left a visible redish glow behind it as it ascended into the atmosphere.

Mountain snowfalls fairly uniform Gila/Sacramento Mtns 2/01/2015

*****STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL*****

LOCATION	STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL /INCHES/	TIME/DATE OF MEASUREMENT	COMMENTS
NEW MEXICO			
...OTERO COUNTY...			
SUNSPOT HIGHWAY	5.0	851 AM 1/31	PUBLIC
SUNSPOT	3.8	700 AM 2/01	COCORAHS
CLOUDCROFT	0.6	700 AM 1/31	COCORAHS
...GRANT COUNTY...			
SIGNAL PEAK	5.0	700 AM 2/01	ELEV 8360 FT SNOTEL
MCKNIGHT CABIN	4.0	700 AM 2/01	ELEV 9250 FT SNOTEL

February 8 saw 5 new Max Temp records in the Borderland !

LOCATION	HIGH	OLD RECORD	COMMENTS
NEW MEXICO			
...DONA ANA COUNTY... NWS SANTA TERESA	76	73 IN 2007	COOP
...GRANT COUNTY... REDROCK	77	76 IN 1963	COOP
...LUNA COUNTY... DEMING AIRPORT	76	76 IN 1963 (TIED)	ASOS
...OTERO COUNTY... CLOUDCROFT	58	57 IN 2006	COOP
TEXAS			
...EL PASO COUNTY... EL PASO INTL AIRPORT	79	78 IN 1957	ASOS

February 22 and 23 was quite windy across the Borderland !

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*****PEAK WIND GUST*****
LOCATION                MAX WIND      TIME/DATE     COMMENTS
                      GUST          OF
                      MPH           MEASUREMENT

NEW MEXICO

...DONA ANA COUNTY...
SUNLAND PARK 1 E      56    500 AM  2/23    ELEV 3760 FT NMED
SANTA TERESA 5 SW     48    200 AM  2/23    ELEV 4100 FT NMED
WSMR MAIN POST 18 NE  46    540 PM  2/22    ELEV 3951 FT WSMR
SANTA TERESA 5 WNW    45    317 PM  2/22    ELEV 4115 FT RSOIS
NORTHRUP STRIP 11 SW  43    125 PM  2/22    ELEV 4321 FT WSMR
NORTHRUP STRIP       41    420 PM  2/22    ELEV 3907 FT WSMR
SUNLAND PARK         41    900 PM  2/22    ELEV 3860 FT NMED

...HIDALGO COUNTY...
RODEO 3 SE           40    158 PM  2/22    ELEV 4241 FT WXUND

...OTERO COUNTY...
SUNSPOT 1 S          45    459 AM  2/23    ELEV 9190 FT WXUND
SUNSPOT              40    435 AM  2/23    ELEV 9255 FT WSMR
OROGRANDE 4 NW       40    245 PM  2/22    ELEV 4183 FT WSMR

...SIERRA COUNTY...
SALINAS PEAK         49    200 AM  2/23    ELEV 8933 FT WSMR

TEXAS

...EL PASO COUNTY...
EL PASO 6 NNW        62    456 AM  2/23    ELEV 4500 FT CWOP
EL PASO 9 NNW        54    721 AM  2/23    ELEV 4480 FT AWS
EL PASO 5 NNW        53    315 AM  2/23    ELEV 4401 FT WXUND
EL PASO 7 NNW        49    831 PM  2/22    ELEV 4686 FT WXUND
EL PASO 7 NNW        47    249 AM  2/23    ELEV 4370 FT CWOP
EL PASO 8 NW         41    800 PM  2/22    ELEV 4101 FT TCEQ

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FEBRUARY 2015...THE FOG AND SNOW CONTINUE

**Las Cruces
Feb 1**



**El Paso
Feb 23**



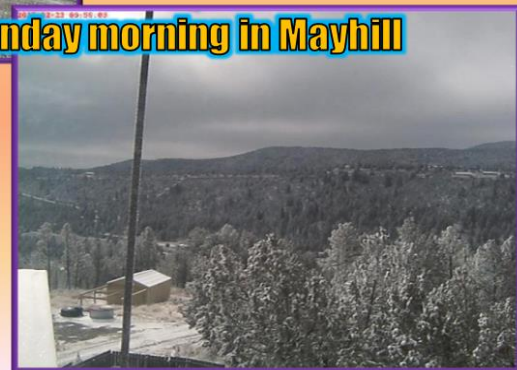
**T or C
Feb 23**



**Mayhill
Feb 23**



Scenic winter Monday morning in Mayhill





Fog Bank Las Cruces Feb 1

© CloudcroftWeather.com Tue Feb 24, 2015 07:31:05 PM

Cloudcroft 730 PM Feb 24



Not weather related but.....

**Rocket launch
WSMR Feb 25**



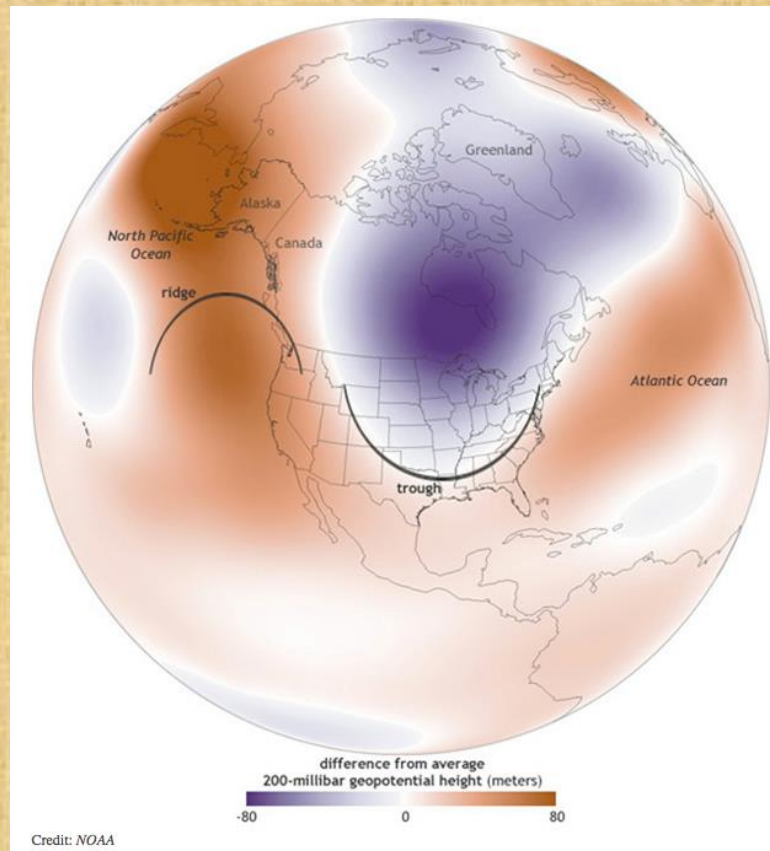
**Rocket launch
WSMR Feb 25**



**Rocket launch
WSMR Feb 25**



February saw a mean upper level ridge of high pressure over the western United States with a deep trough over the northern and central United States which let Polar fronts push into the Borderland at least 4 times in February. Despite these fronts the February mean temperature was still 2.9 degrees F above normal

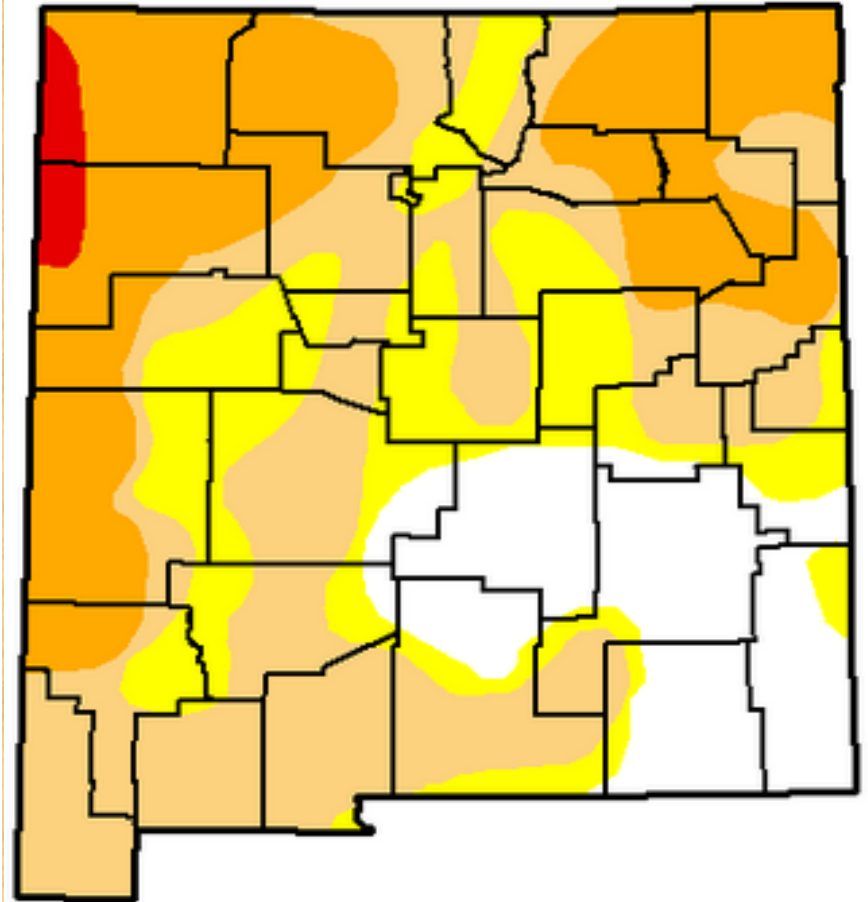
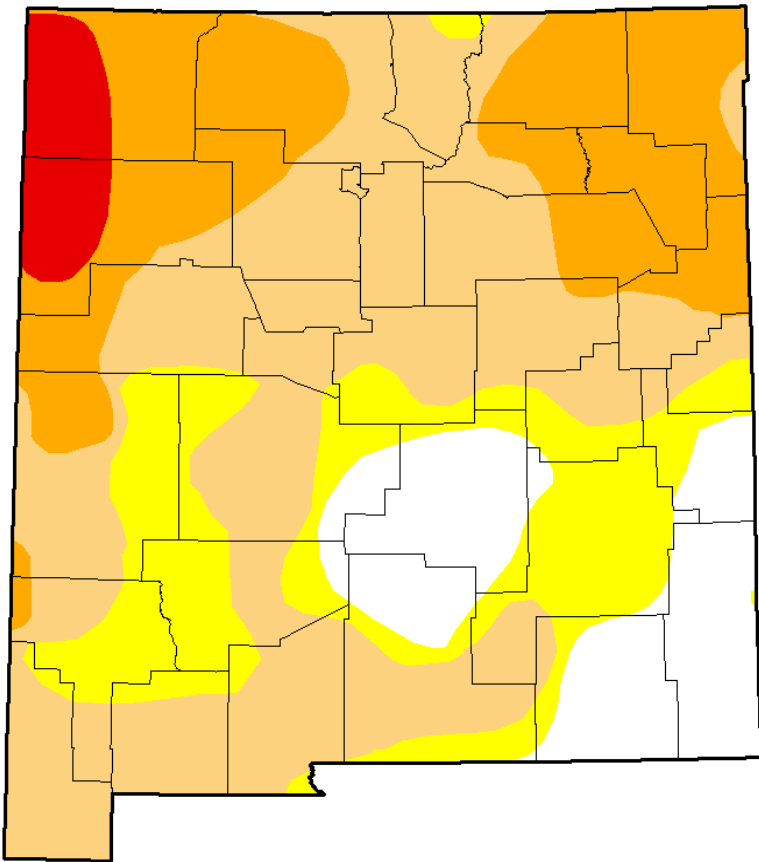


Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

- Abnormally Dry – D0
- Moderate Drought – D1
- Severe Drought – D2
- Extreme Drought – D3
- Exceptional – D4






February 24, 2015

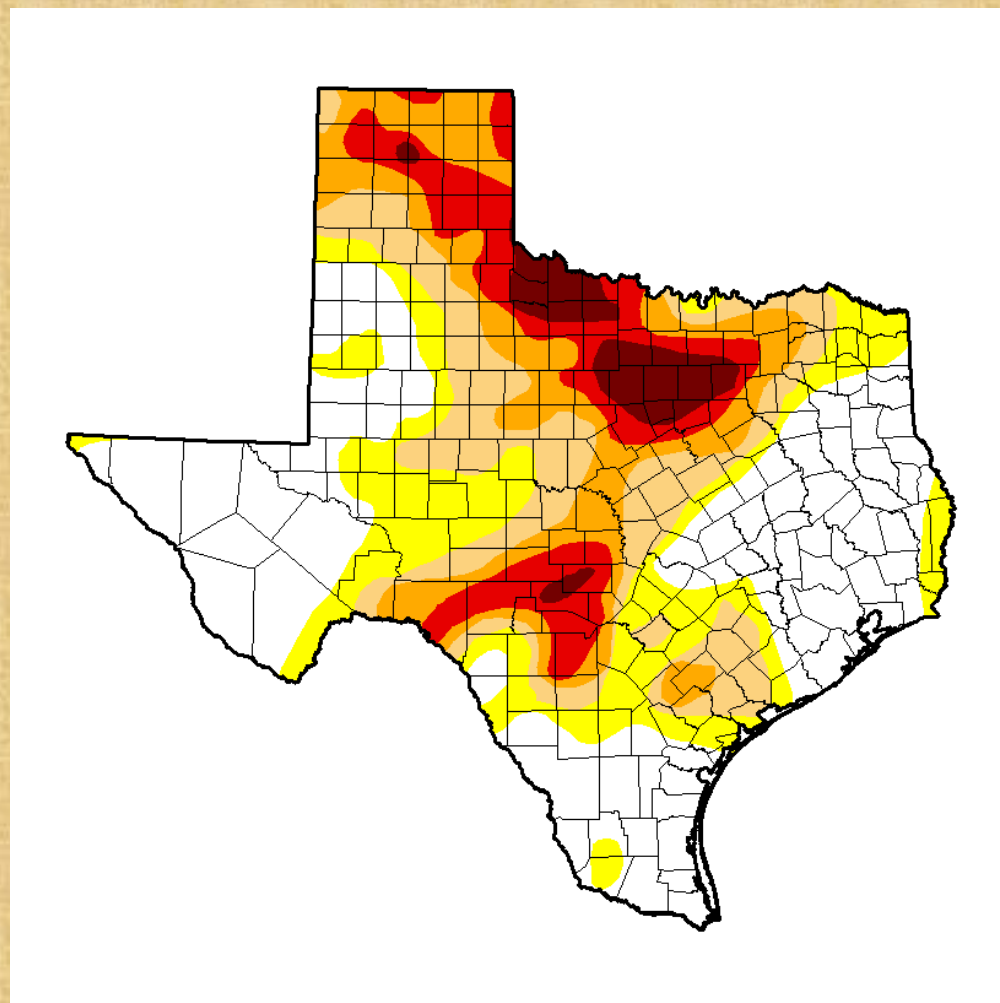
November 25, 2014



Current drought conditions for Texas as of February 24

Intensity:

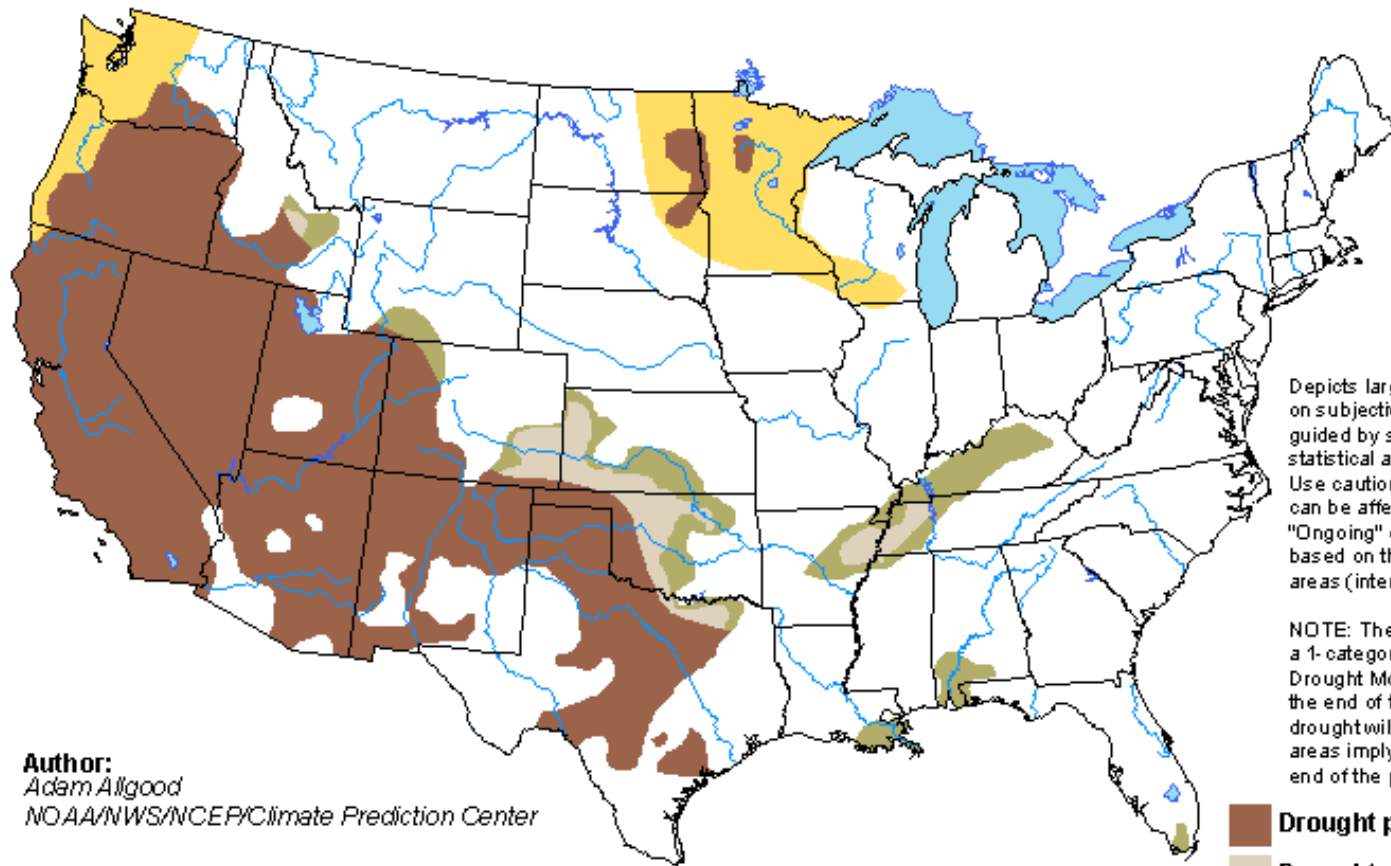
-  • D0 - Abnormally Dry
-  • D1 - Moderate Drought
-  • D2 - Severe Drought
-  • D3 - Extreme Drought
-  • D4 - Exceptional Drought



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period


Valid for February 19 - May 31, 2015
Released February 19, 2015

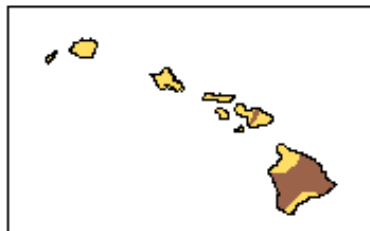
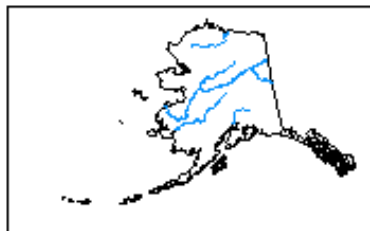


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

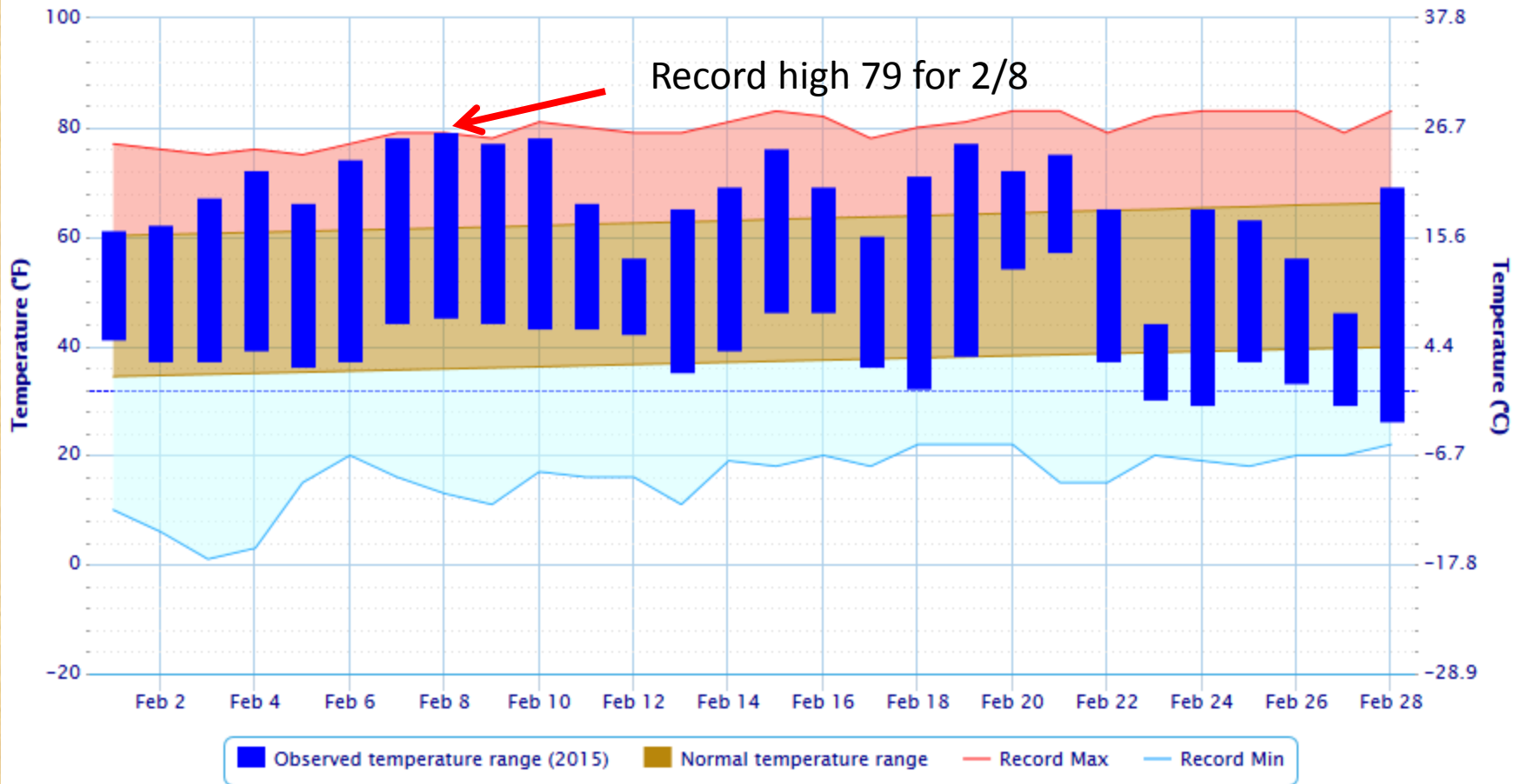
-  Drought persists/intensifies
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/hHTe>

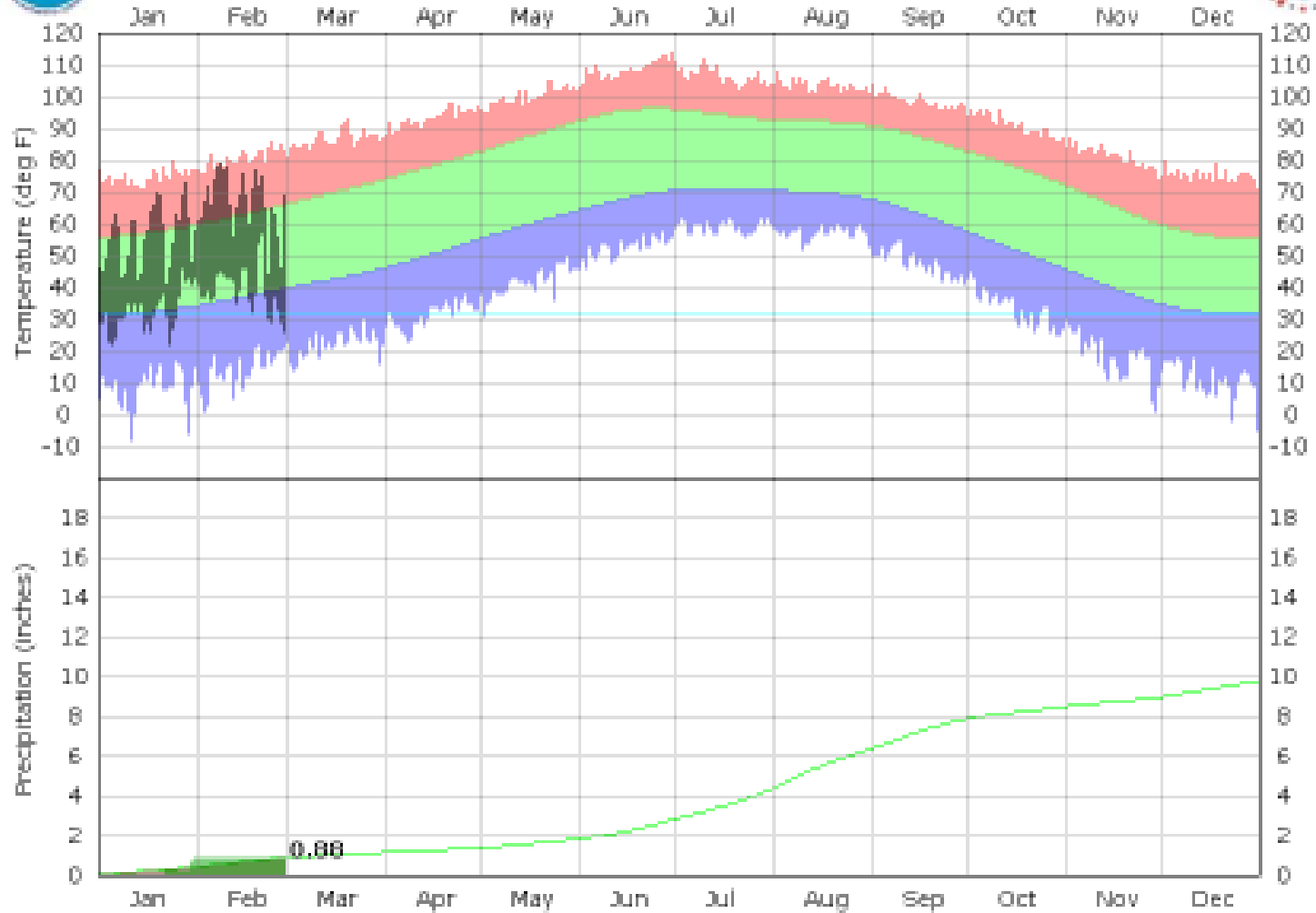
Daily Temperature Data - EL PASO INTL AP, TX

Period of Record - 1942-12-01 to 2015-02-28. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.





El Paso TX - 2015



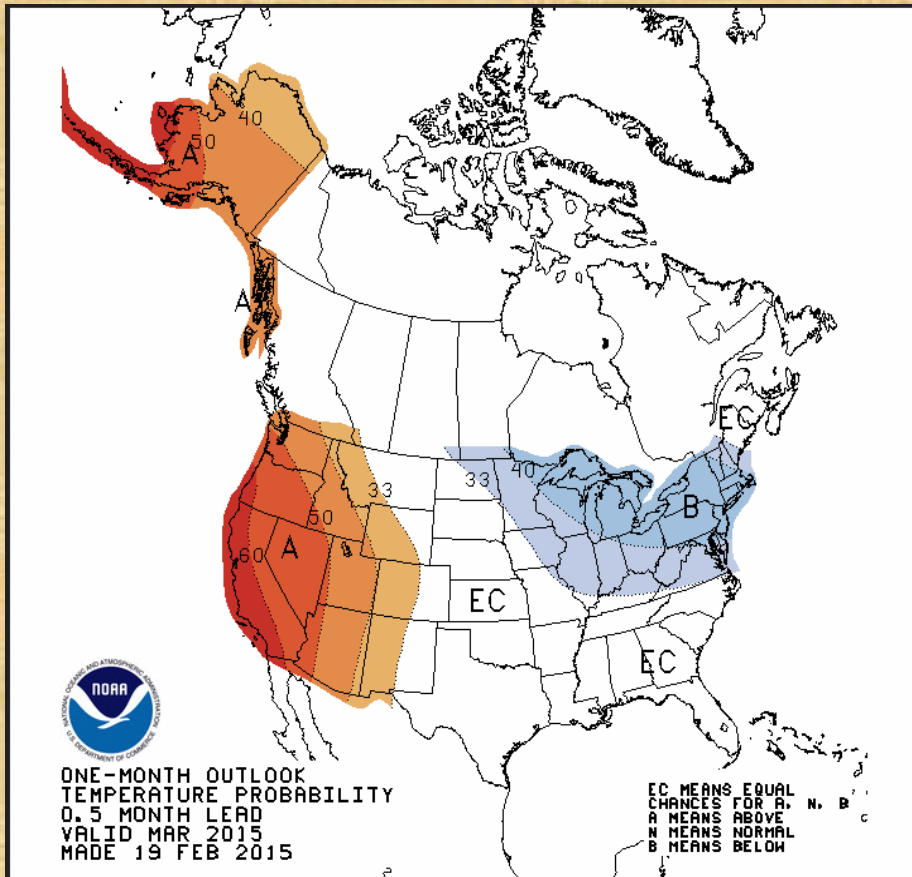
Climatological Data for El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx) - February 2015

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

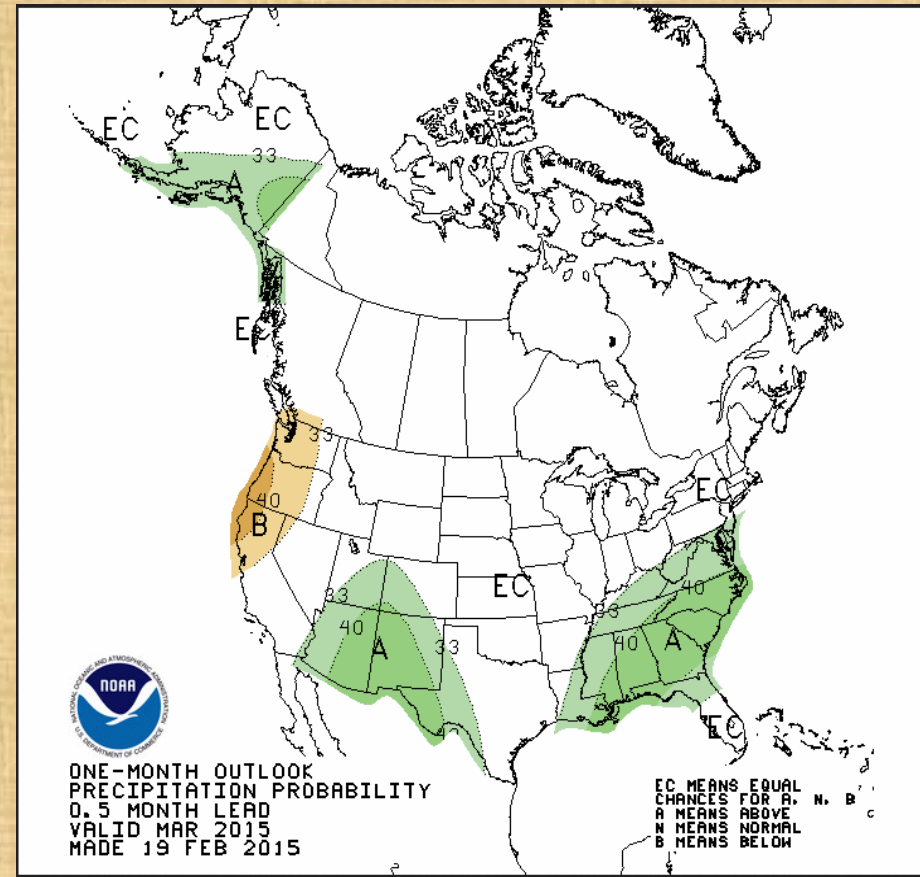
Date	Max Temperature	Min Temperature	Avg Temperature	Avg Temperature Departure	HDD	CDD	Precipitation	Snowfall	Snow Depth
2015-02-01	61	41	51.0	3.7	14	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-02	62	37	49.5	2.0	15	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-03	67	37	52.0	4.3	13	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-04	72	39	55.5	7.6	9	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-05	66	36	51.0	2.9	14	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-06	74	37	55.5	7.2	9	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-07	78	44	61.0	12.5	4	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-08	79	45	62.0	13.3	3	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-09	77	44	60.5	11.6	4	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-10	78	43	60.5	11.4	4	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-11	66	43	54.5	5.2	10	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-12	56	42	49.0	-0.5	16	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-13	65	35	50.0	0.3	15	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-14	69	39	54.0	4.0	11	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-15	76	46	61.0	10.8	4	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-16	69	46	57.5	7.1	7	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-17	60	36	48.0	-2.6	17	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-18	71	32	51.5	0.7	13	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-19	77	38	57.5	6.4	7	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-20	72	54	63.0	11.7	2	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-21	75	57	66.0	14.5	0	1	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-22	65	37	51.0	-0.7	14	0	T	0.0	0
2015-02-23	44	30	37.0	-14.9	28	0	0.01	0.0	0
2015-02-24	65	29	47.0	-5.2	18	0	0.02	0.0	0
2015-02-25	63	37	50.0	-2.4	15	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-26	56	33	44.5	-8.1	20	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-27	46	29	37.5	-15.3	27	0	0.00	0.0	0
2015-02-28	69	26	47.5	-5.5	17	0	0.00	0.0	0
Sum	1878	1092	-	-	330	1	0.03	0.0	-
Average	67.1	39.0	53.0	2.9	-	-	-	-	0.0
Normal	63.1	37.1	50.1	-	418	0	0.46	0.6	-

Temperature and precipitation outlook for March 2015

Temperature

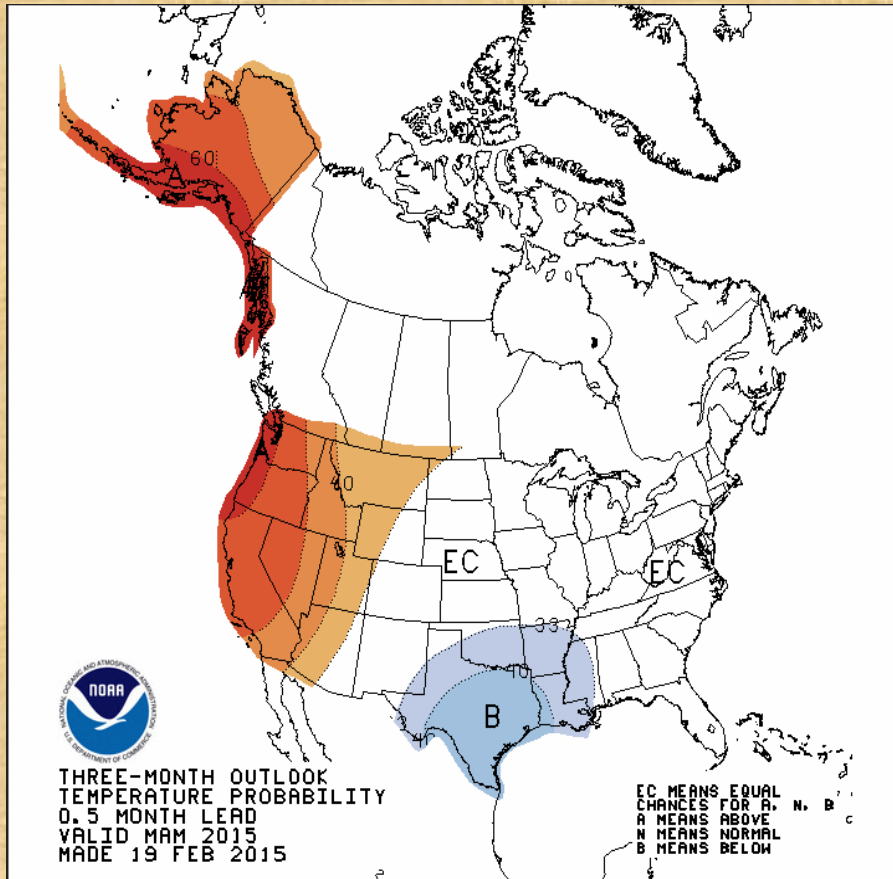


Precipitation

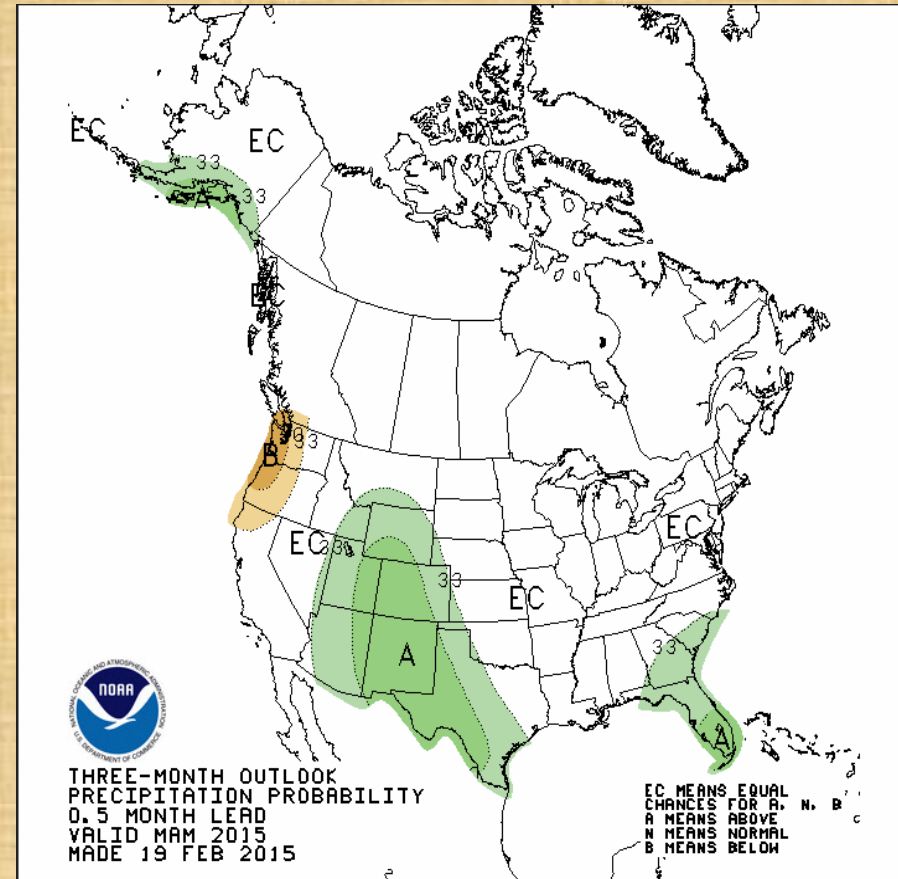


Temperature and precipitation outlook for March - May 2015

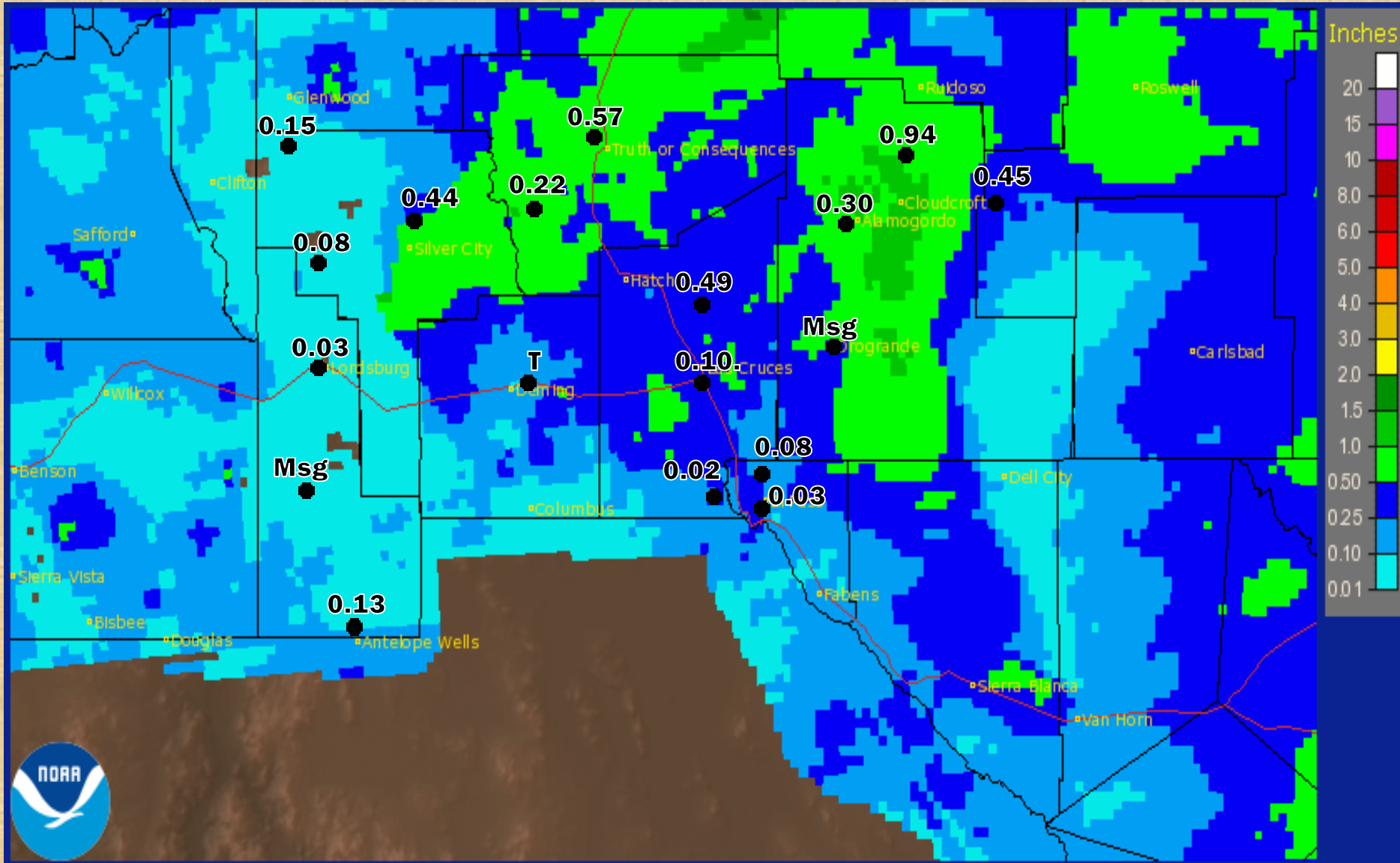
Temperature



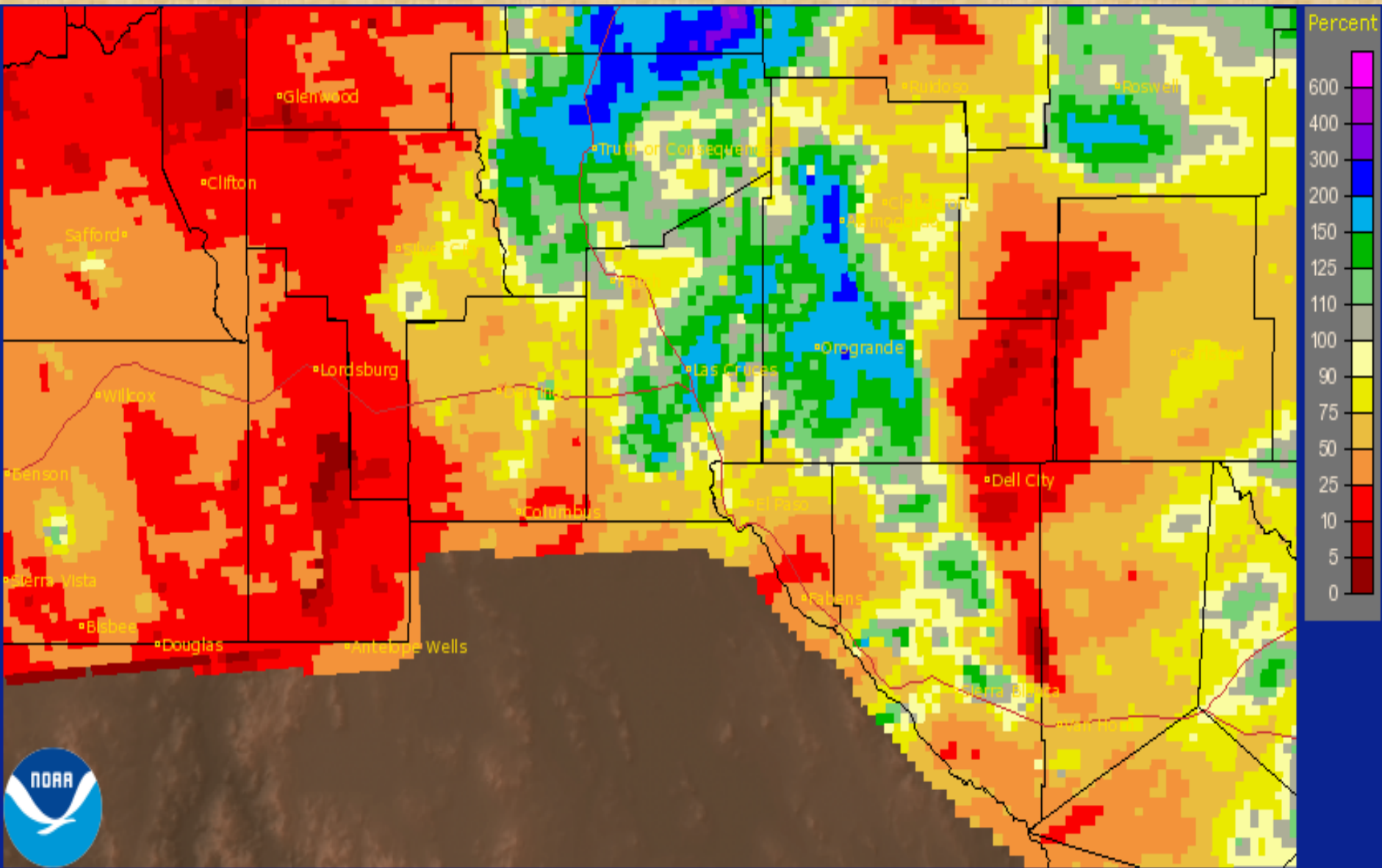
Precipitation



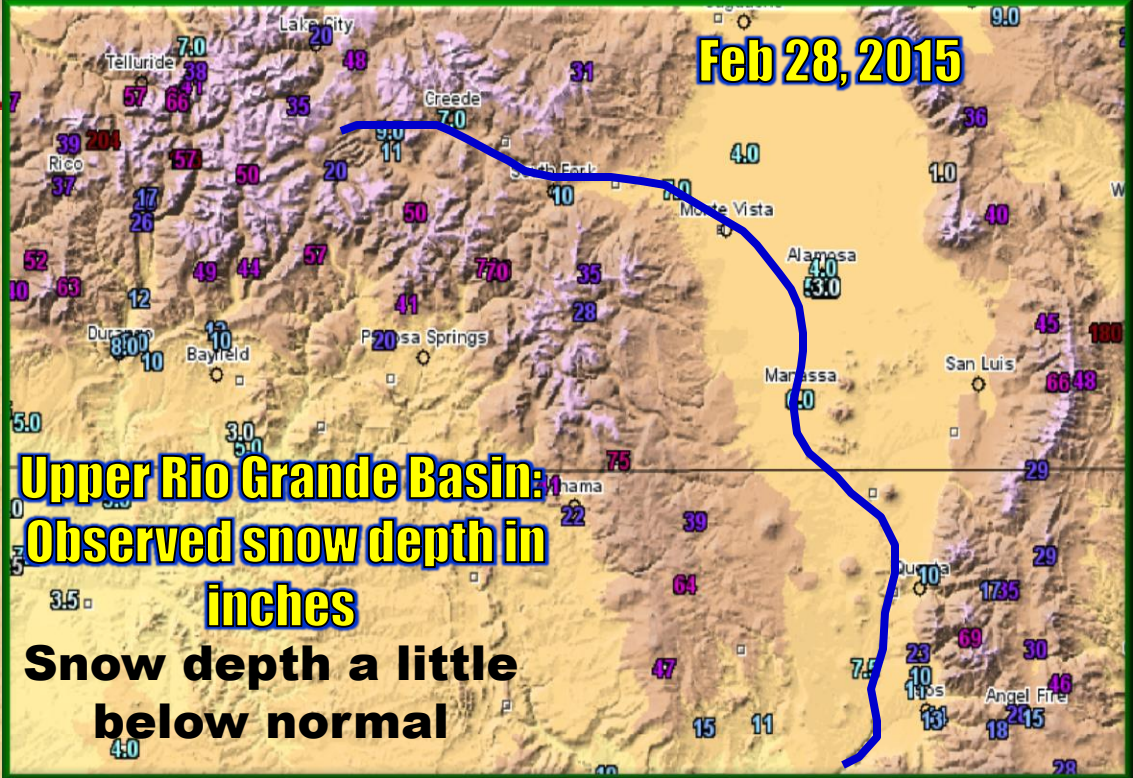
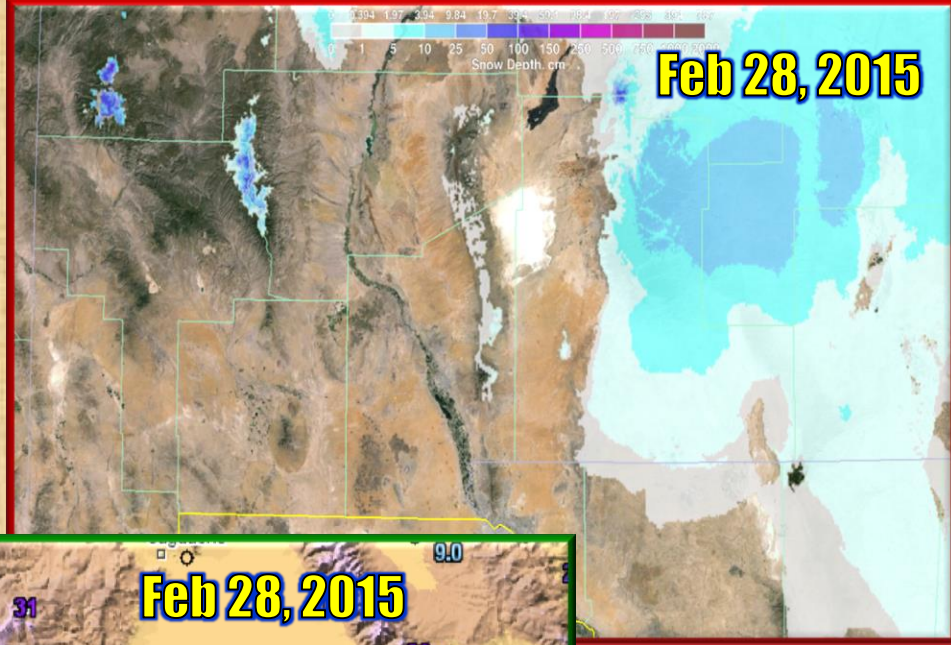
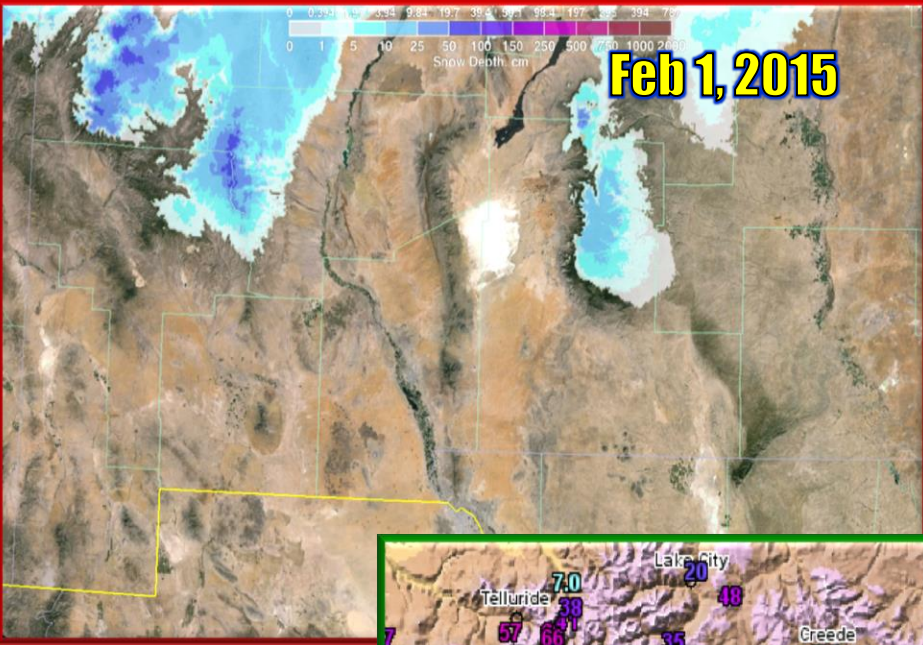
February 2015 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



February 2015 Radar Rainfall Estimate (Percent of normal)



Snow conditions across the Borderland for February



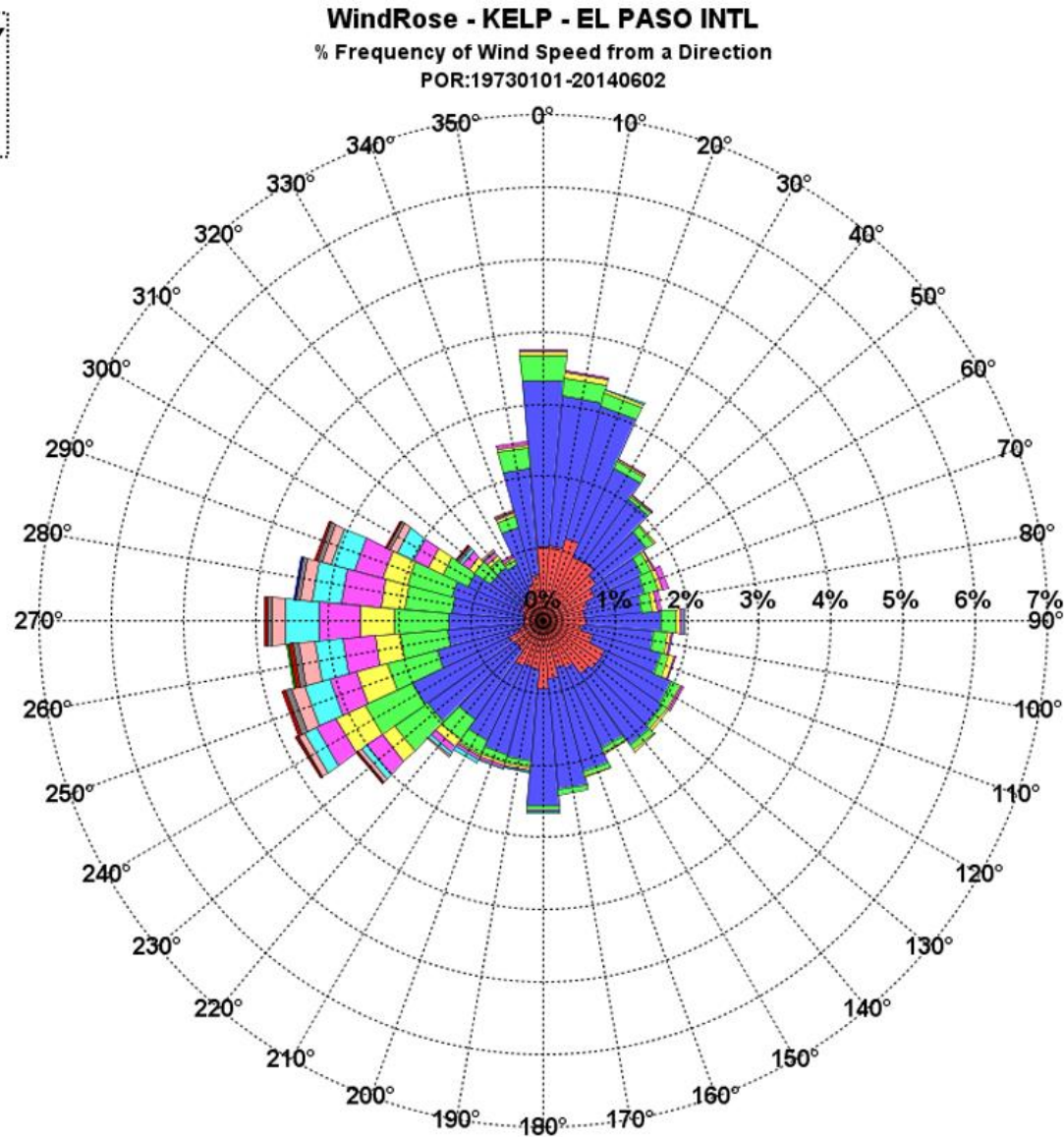
Special Features

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/epz/?n=elpwindrosedata>

Month: FEBRUARY

Calm: 10.51%

Variable: 1.83%



Selected weather reports February 2015

Date/Time	Location	Event
2/11/2015 426 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	47 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/11/2015 550 PM	RODEO 3 SE-HIDALGO	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/11/2015 721 AM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	56 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/11/2015 505 PM	SUNSPOT-OTERO	55 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/11/2015 830 AM	TULAROSA 9 W-OTERO	53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/11/2015 718 PM	EL PASO 8 NW	57 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/11/2015 222 PM	HORIZON CITY-EL PASO	47 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/22/2015 800 AM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/22/2015 900 AM	SUNLAND PARK-DONA ANA	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/22/2015 700 PM	SANTA TERESA 5SW-DONA ANA	45 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/22/2015 409 PM	EL PASO 6 NW	57 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
2/22/2015 953 AM	DELL CITY 15NE-HUDSPETH	42 MPH PEAK WIND GUST