

December 2016

Weather Digest



December 2016 Weather Summary

December was witness to one more month in a long line of warm, above normal temperature months this past year. The added surprise was that December also received above normal precipitation. In fact the relatively wet December managed to catch many areas back up to near normal or even above normal for the year. (See our companion 2016 yearly review—due out shortly). Things got off to a fast start, as a Pacific storm system moved through the area on the 3rd, producing some moderate amounts of rainfall over the desert and snow over the mountains. Cloudcroft saw 4 inches of snow from this system.

At mid month, the Borderland experienced one of the stronger early winter wind events in recent memory. A strong Pacific storm swept across northern New Mexico on the 16th, bringing some very strong winds to the area. Many sites around southern New Mexico and west Texas reported peak wind gusts of over 60 mph. San Augustin Pass, near Las Cruces, reported a peak wind of 110 mph (one of the top 5 winds speeds on record for that site).

Weather Summary (cont'd)

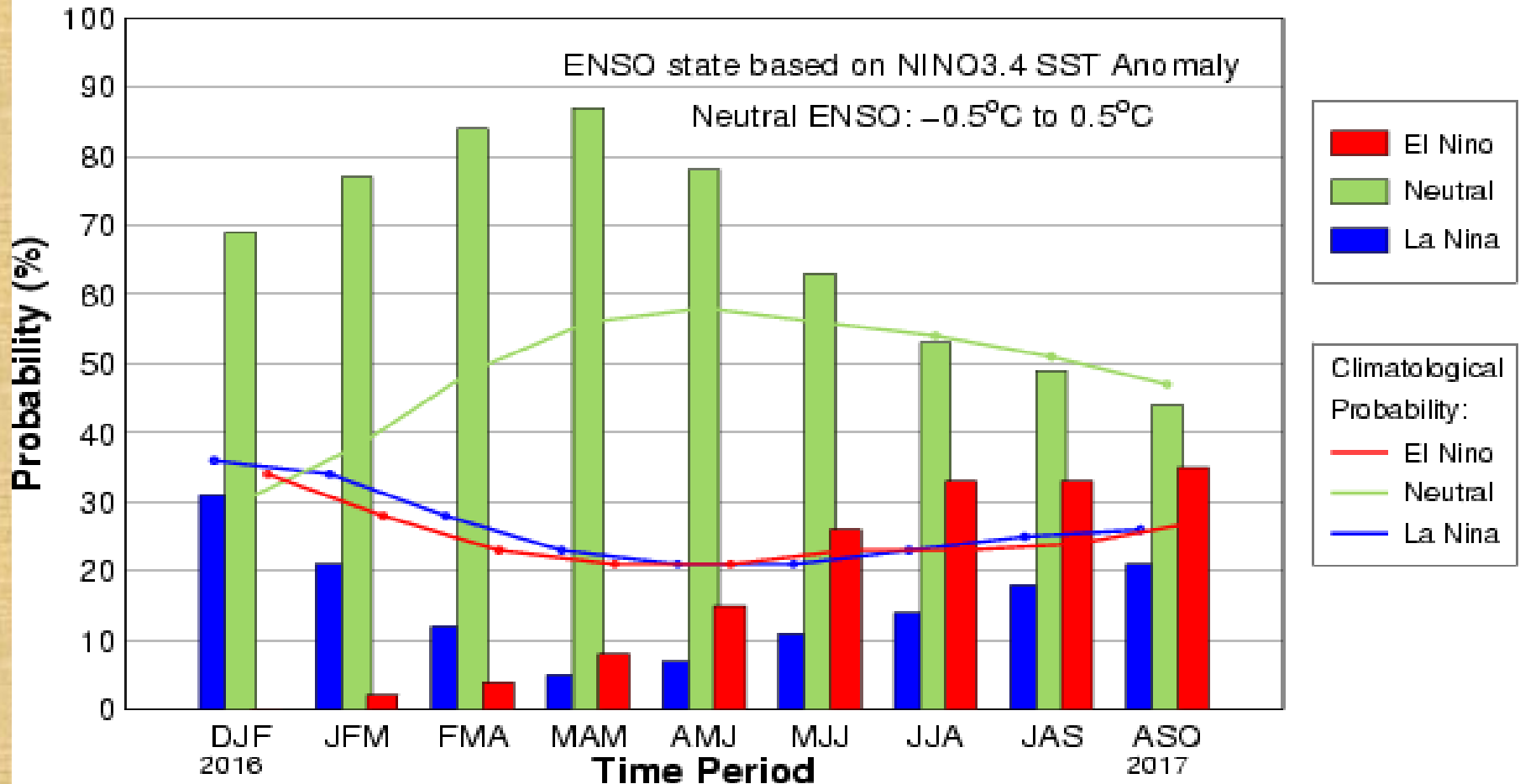
Finally on the 22nd and 23rd, another Pacific storm system moved across the area. This one was able to draw up considerable tropical moisture with it, producing heavy rainfall, and causing some flooding problems—most notably the washout of part of Highway 15 near Gila Hot Springs. The system brought so much warm air with it that even typically snowy elevations such as Cloudcroft, received all rain.

Looking ahead—with the already weak La Niña continuing to weaken, the forecast for the next several months is now looking more like a toss up as we enter a neutral ENSO phase. This basically means no strong signal one way or another as to precipitation and temperature trends.

ENSO Forecast from November through the end of summer of 2017

ENSO IS NOW IN A **WEAK LA NIÑA** EPISODE FOR THE BEGINNING OF WINTER; THEN REVERTING BACK TO **NEUTRAL** BY LATE WINTER

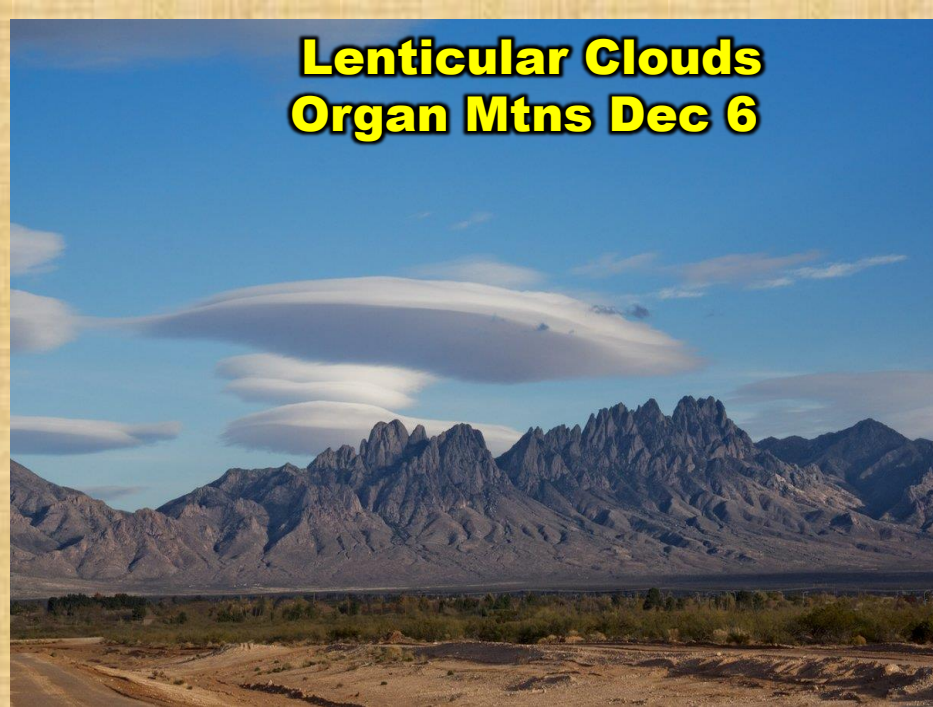
Mid-Dec IRI/CPC Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecast



Florida Mtns Dec 3



**Lenticular Clouds
Organ Mtns Dec 6**



El Paso Dec 3



Trans Mtn Pass Dec 9



A TALE OF TWO CITIES...EAST AND WEST EL PASO DEC 9 DUE TO COLD MOIST EASTERLY UPSLOPE FLOW AND THE FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS.

El Paso This Morning

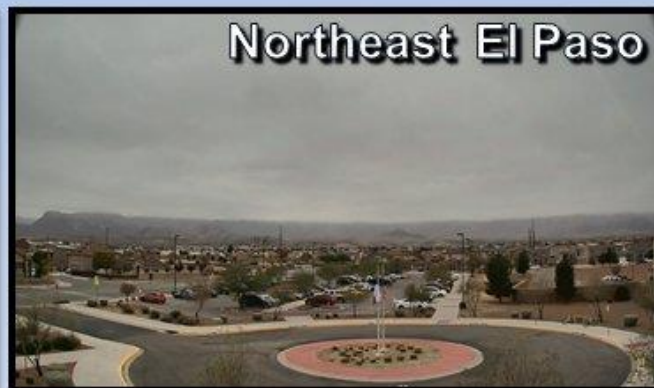
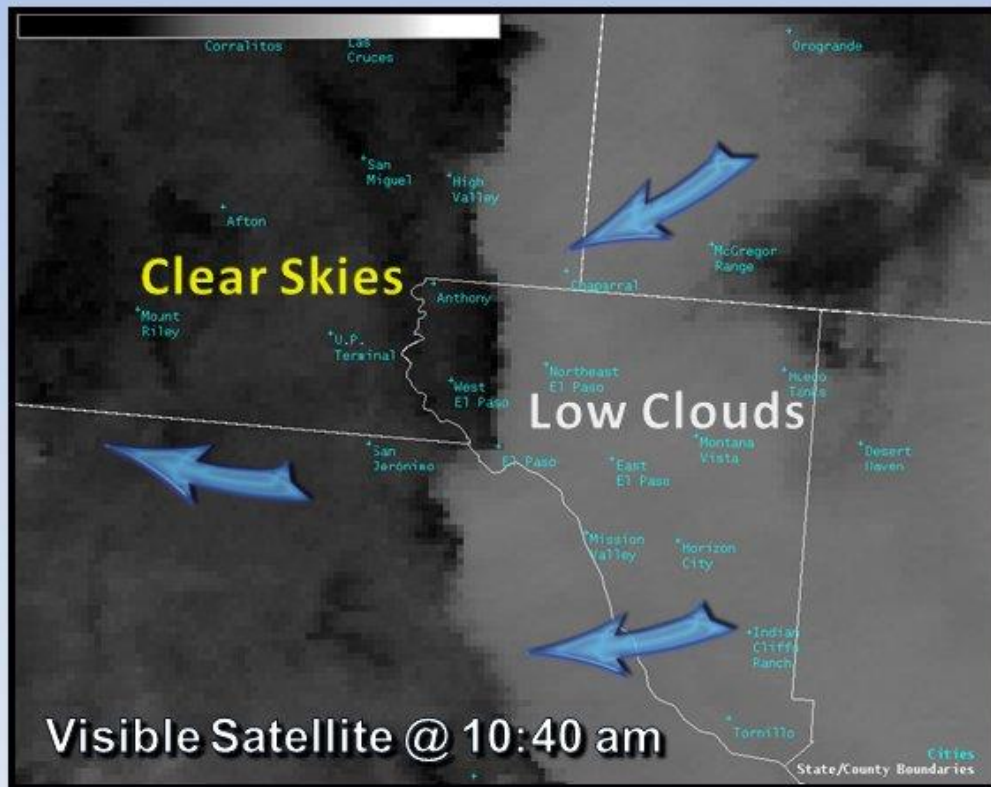
Cloudy Skies East / Sunny Skies West

Weather Forecast Office
El Paso, TX



Issued December 9, 2016 10:40 AM CDT

It has been a tale of two cities this morning in El Paso. East of the Franklin mountains, cold upslope flow has resulted in a low deck of stratus clouds. While west of the mountain, sunny skies prevail.



Vado, New Mexico Dec 17



Vado, New Mexico Dec 17



**Chaparral, New Mexico
Dec 17**



Sunrise Deming Dec 17



Cloudcroft Dec 17



© CloudcroftWebcam.com Sat Dec 17, 2016 11:28:42 AM

Cloudcroft Dec 17



**White Christmas Part 1
Silver City**



© CloudcroftWebcam.com Sun Dec 25, 2016 07:34:39 AM

**White Christmas Part 2
Cloudcroft**



El Paso Dec 17

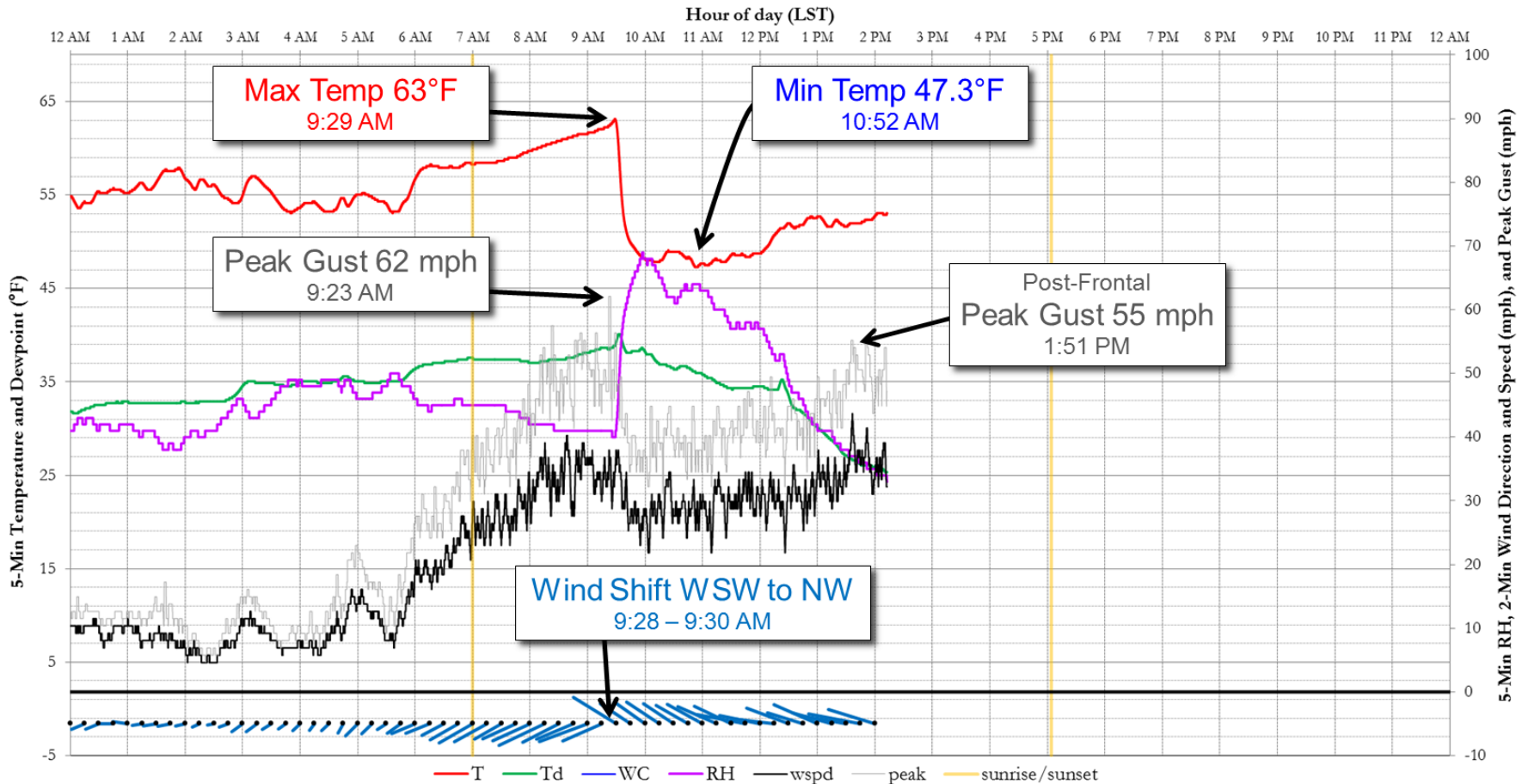


**Hwy 15 near Gila Hot Springs
Dec 23**

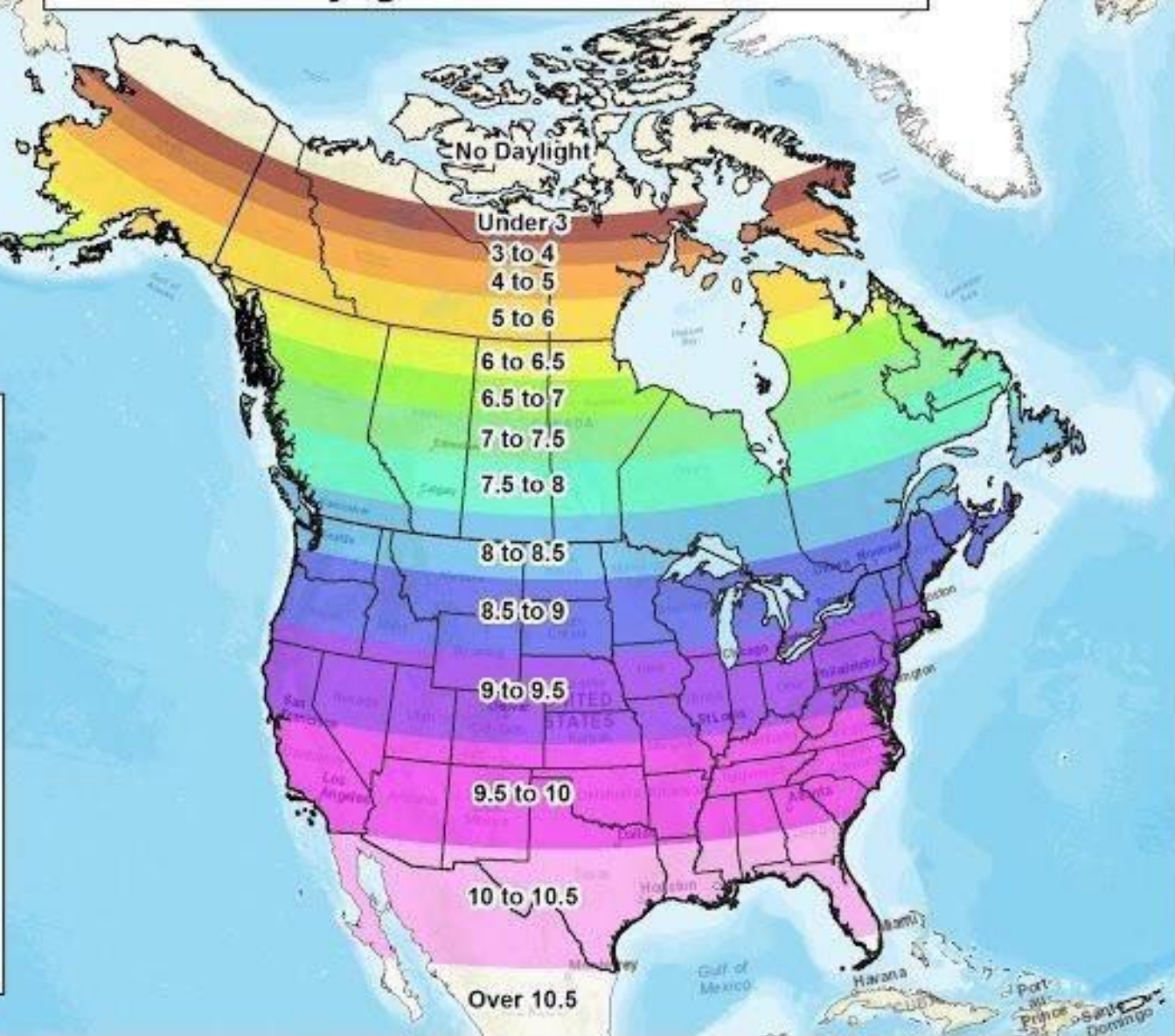
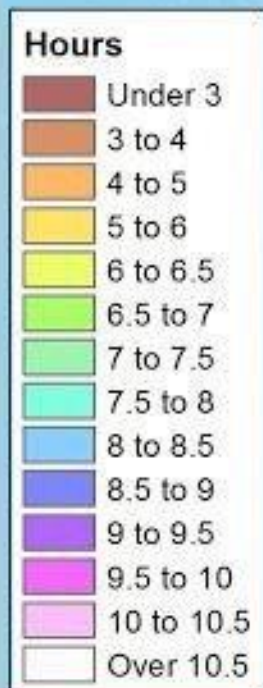


NOW THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL A TEXTBOOK COLD FRONT (MARITIME PACIFIC COLD TYPE)

WFO Santa Teresa, NM RSOIS Data (12/17/2016)



Hours of Daylight on the Winter Solstice



La Niña Advisory in effect

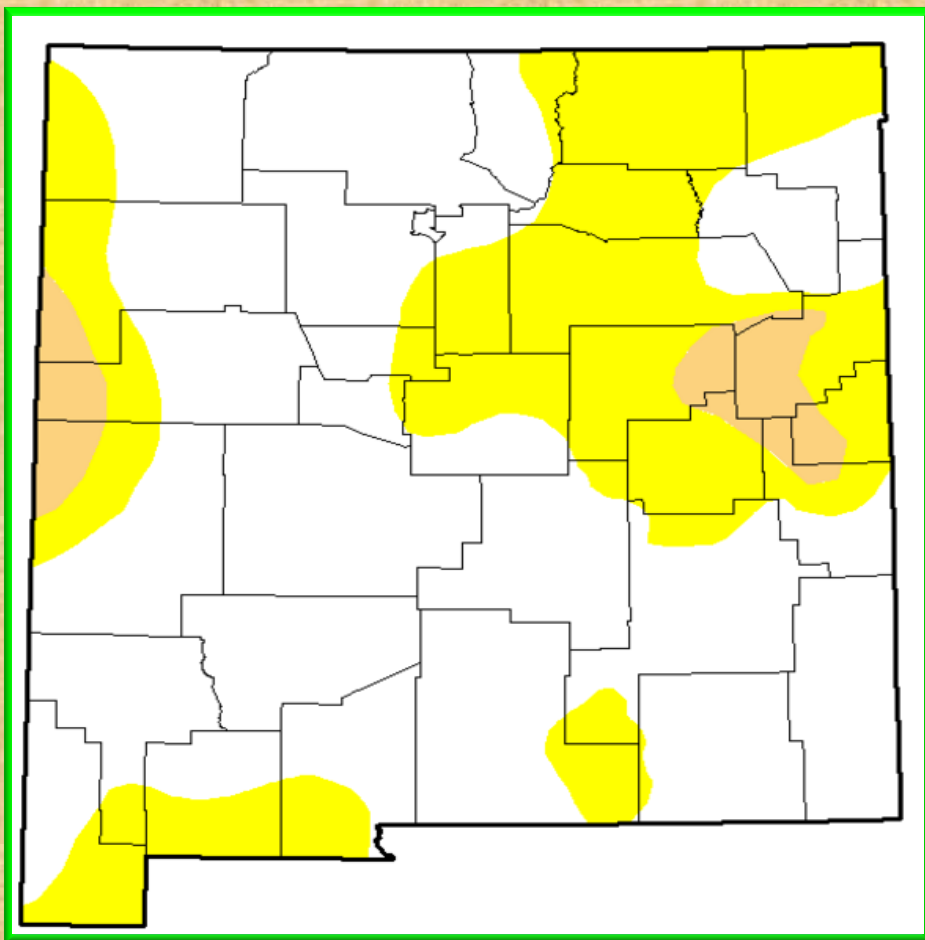
ENSO Alert System

- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

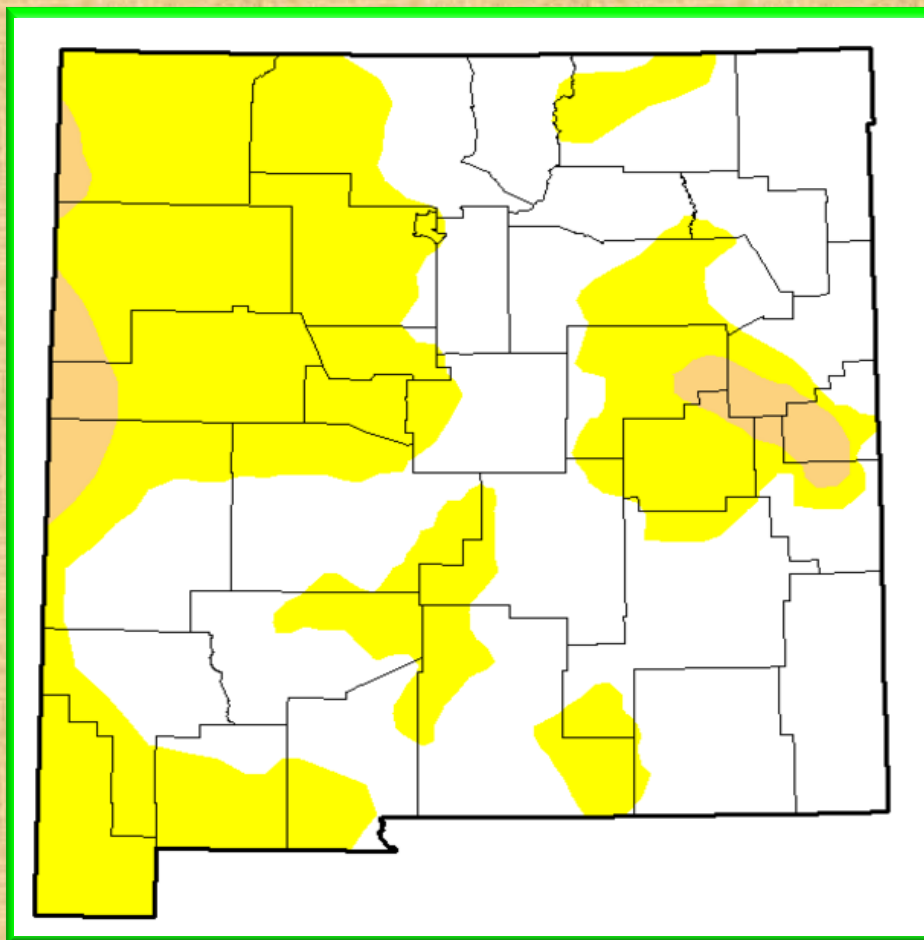
Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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

December 27, 2016








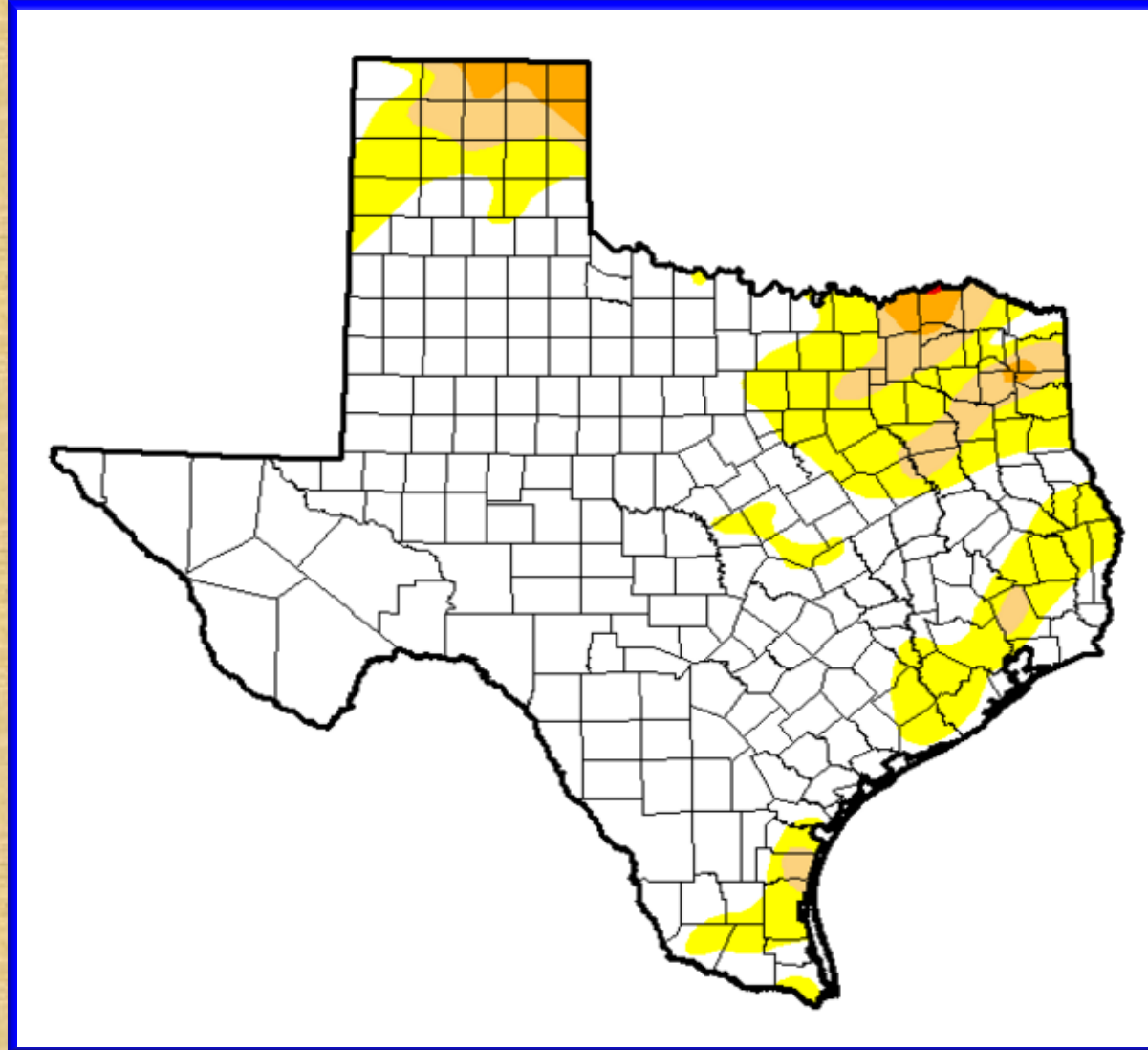
September 27, 2016



Current drought conditions for Texas as of December 27, 2016

Intensity:

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



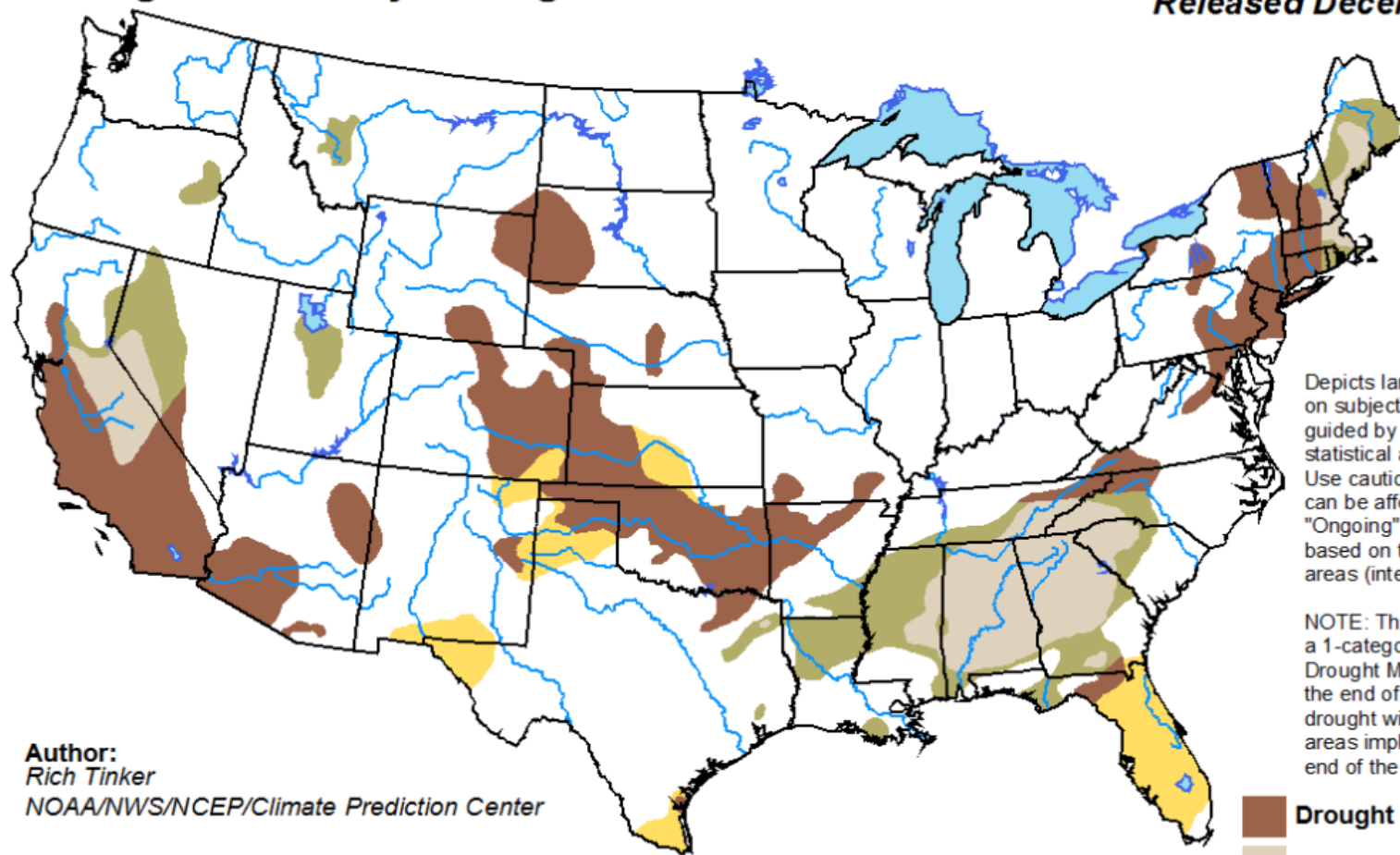
Build your own custom slider maps here at:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/MapsandData/ComparisonSlider.aspx>

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





Valid for January 2017
Released December 31, 2016

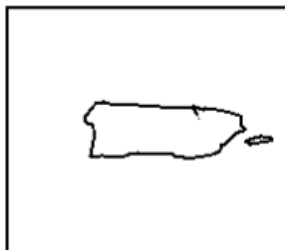
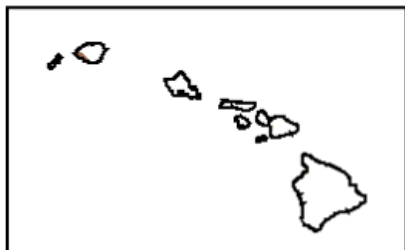


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

Author:
Rich Tinker
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

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

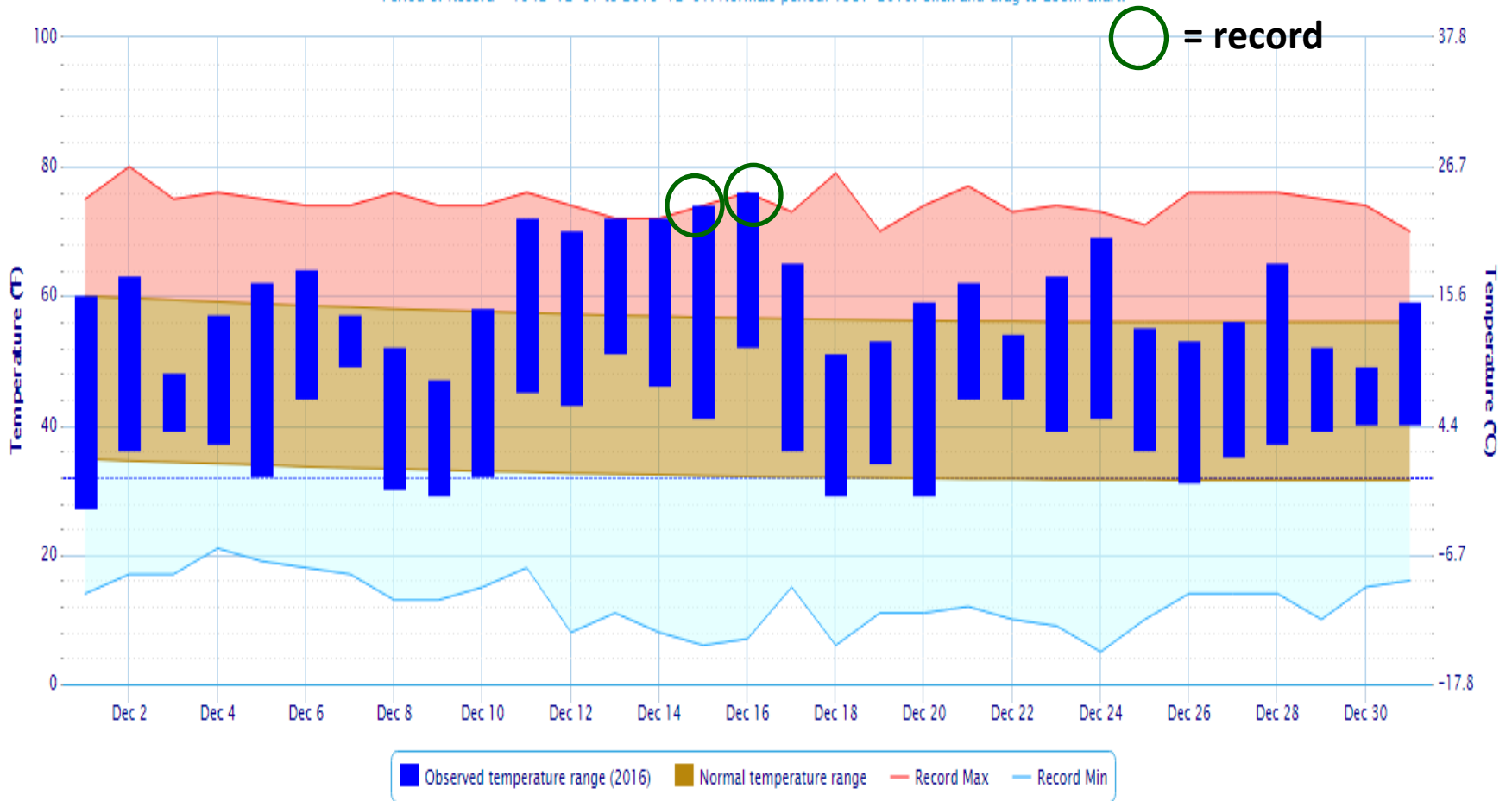


<http://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>

Daily temperature data for December 2016 in El Paso

Daily Temperature Data - EL PASO INTL AP, TX

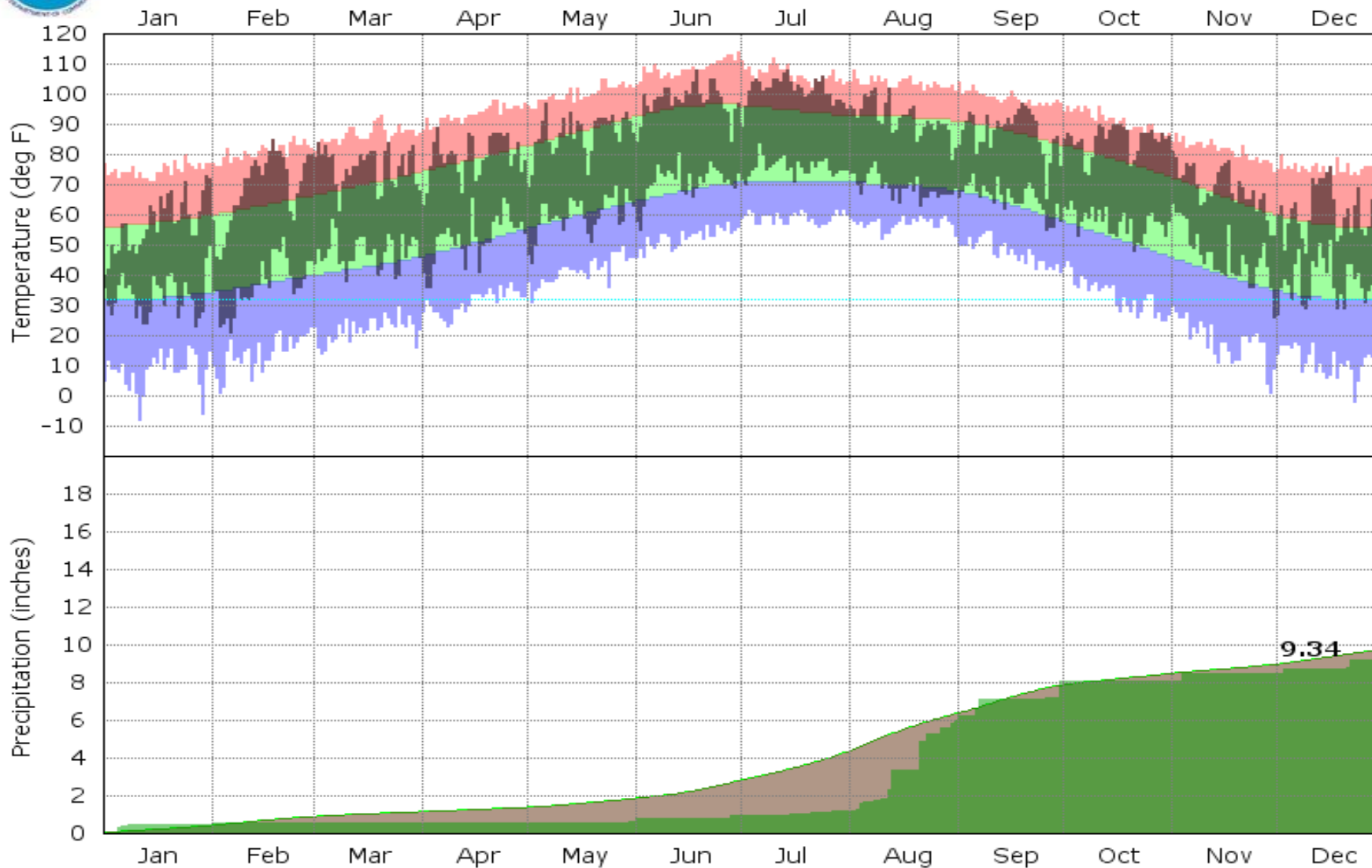
Period of Record - 1942-12-01 to 2016-12-31. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Daily temperature/precipitation data for 2016 in El Paso



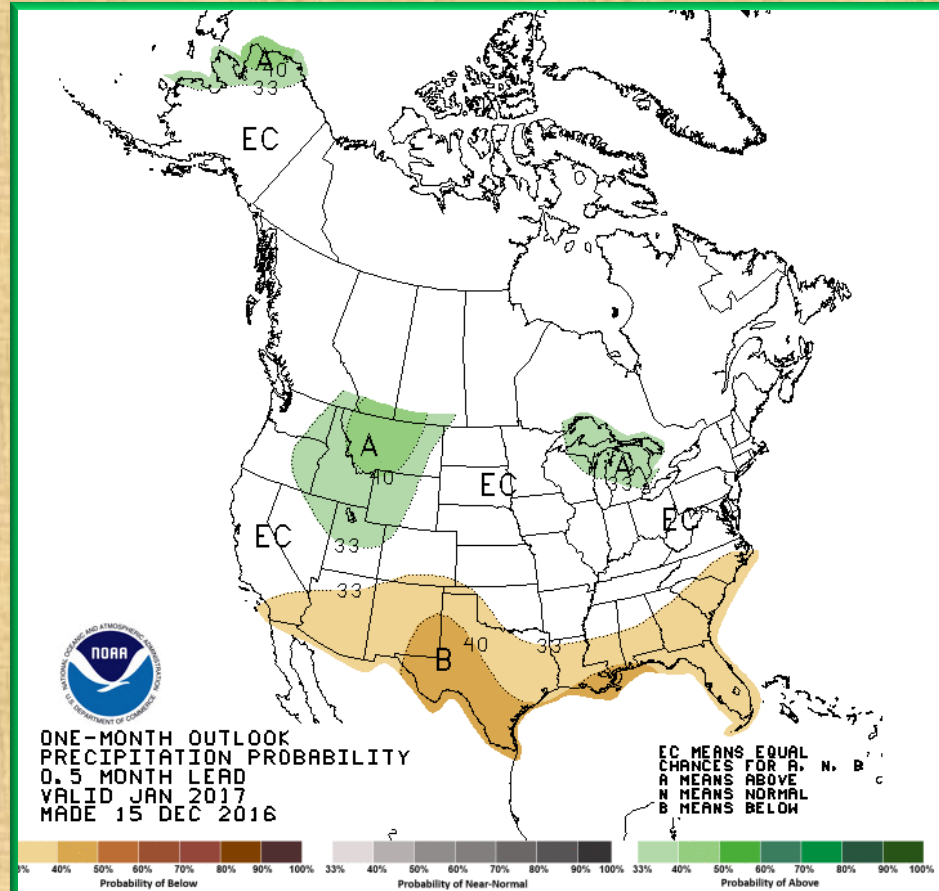
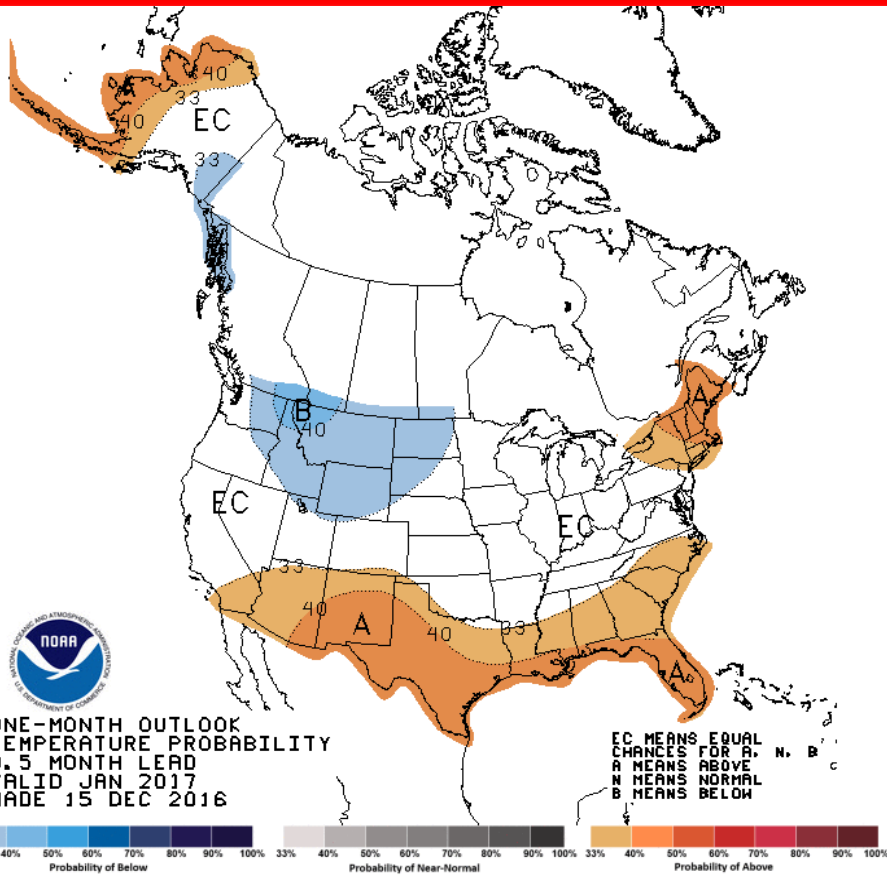
El Paso TX - 2016



Temperature and precipitation outlook for January 2017

Temperature

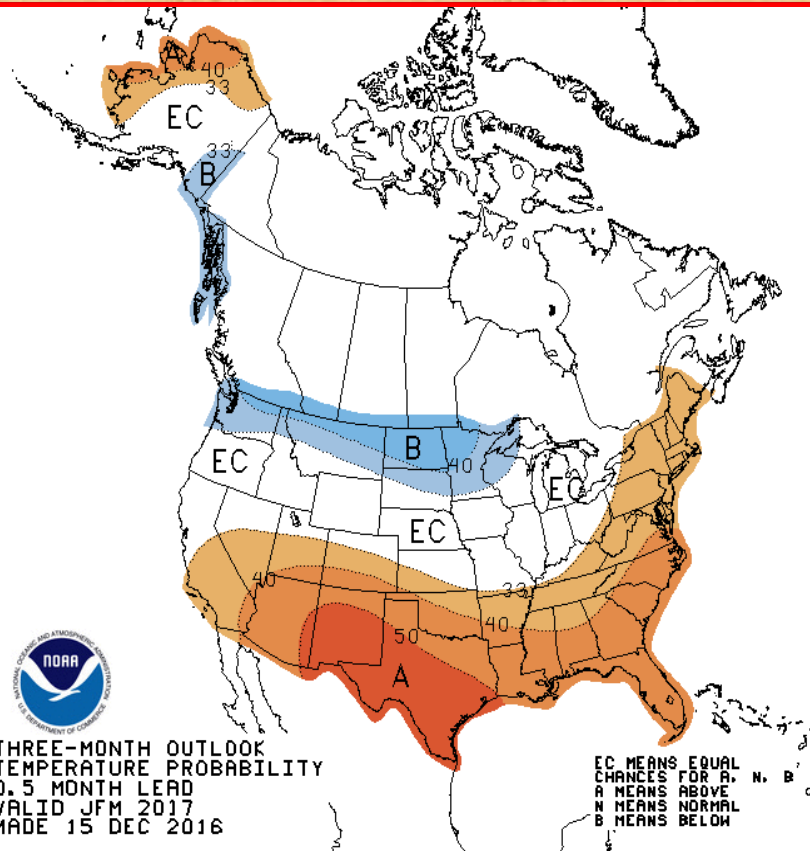
Precipitation



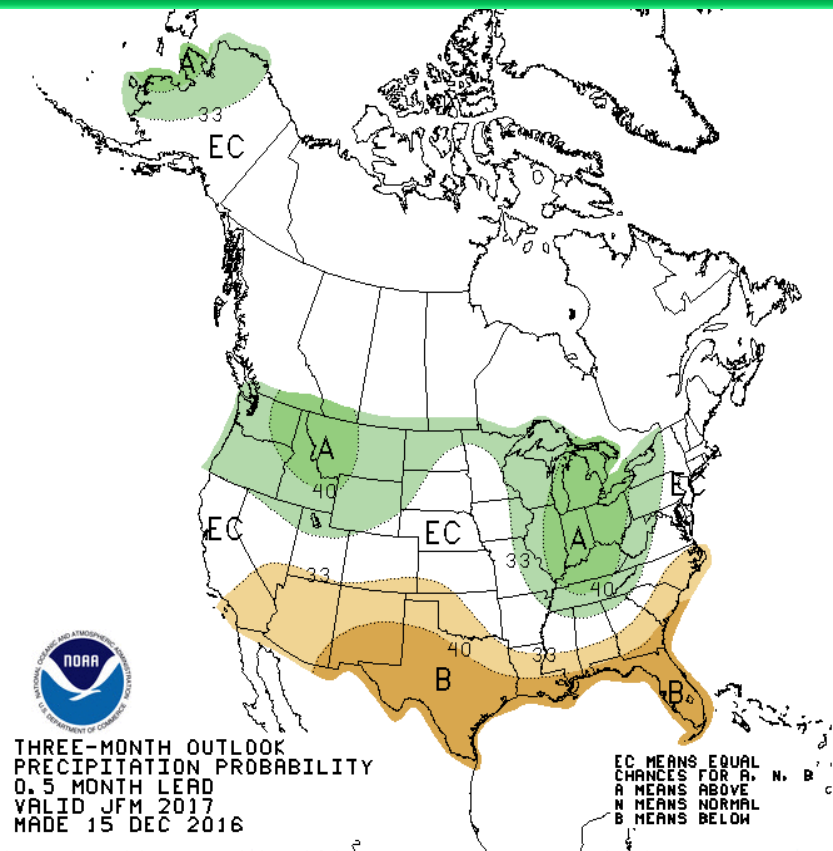
Temperature and precipitation outlook For Jan – Mar 2016

Temperature

Precipitation

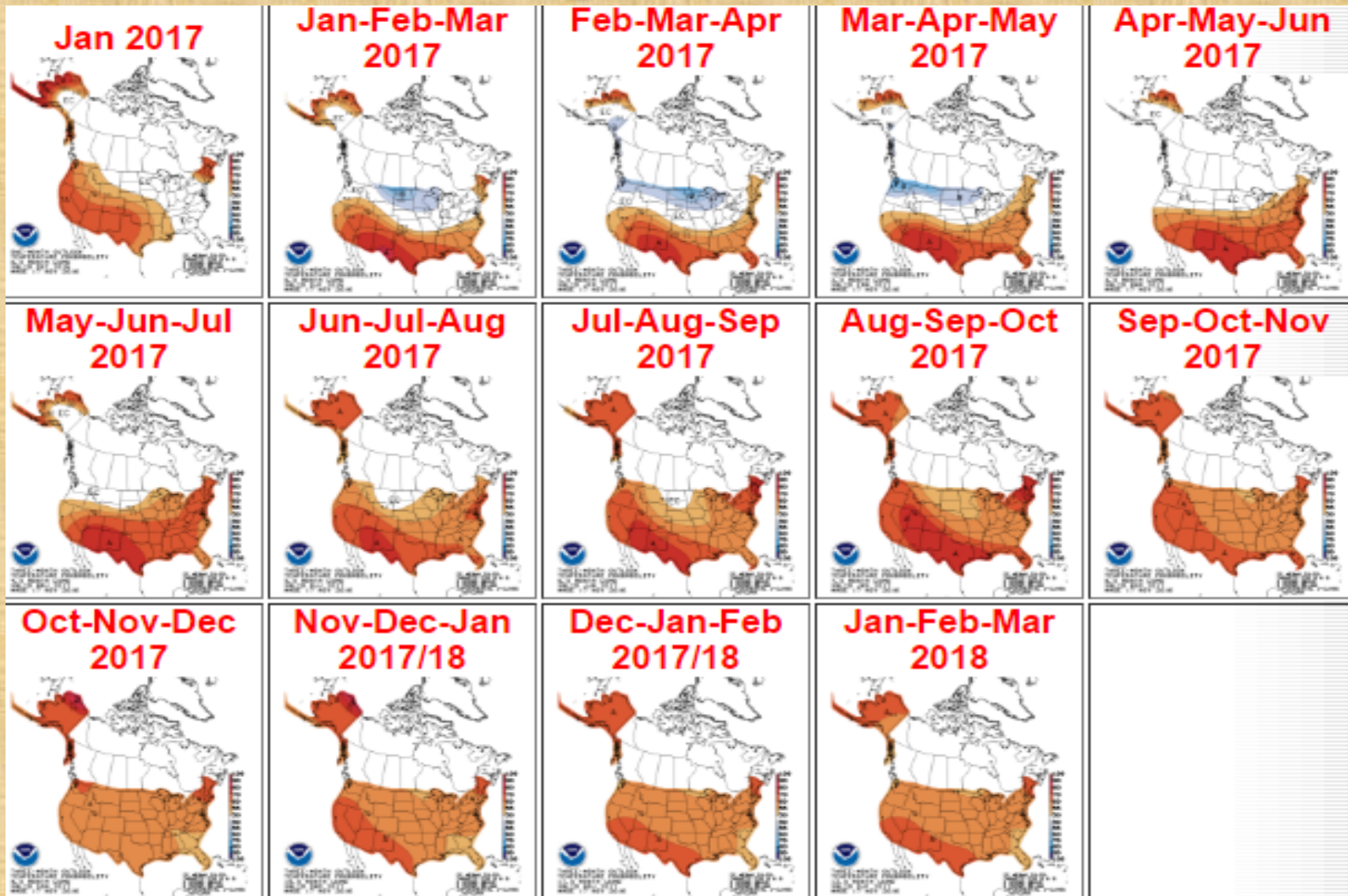


THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID JFM 2017
MADE 15 DEC 2016

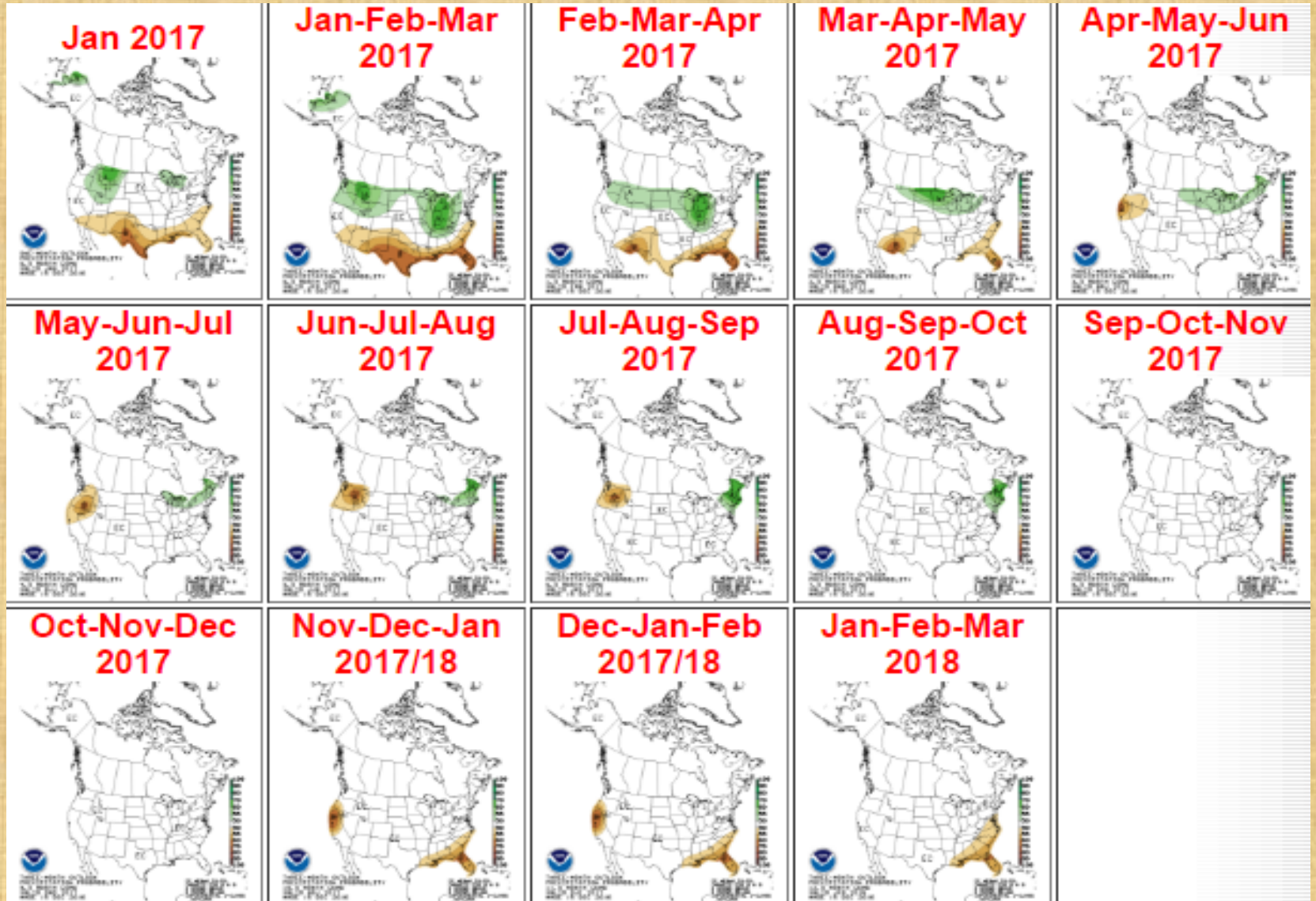


THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID JFM 2017
MADE 15 DEC 2016

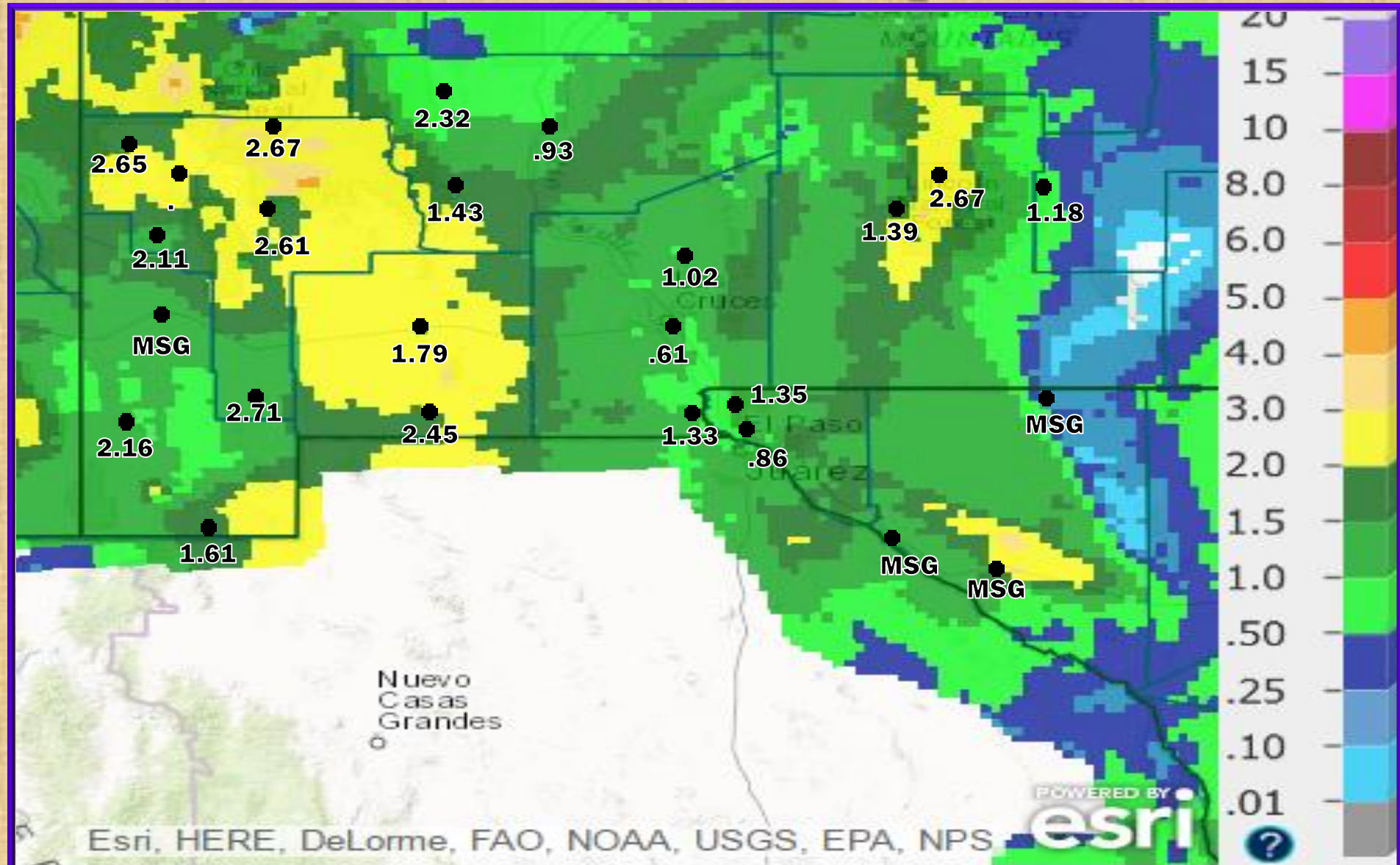
Temperature Outlook Through March 2018



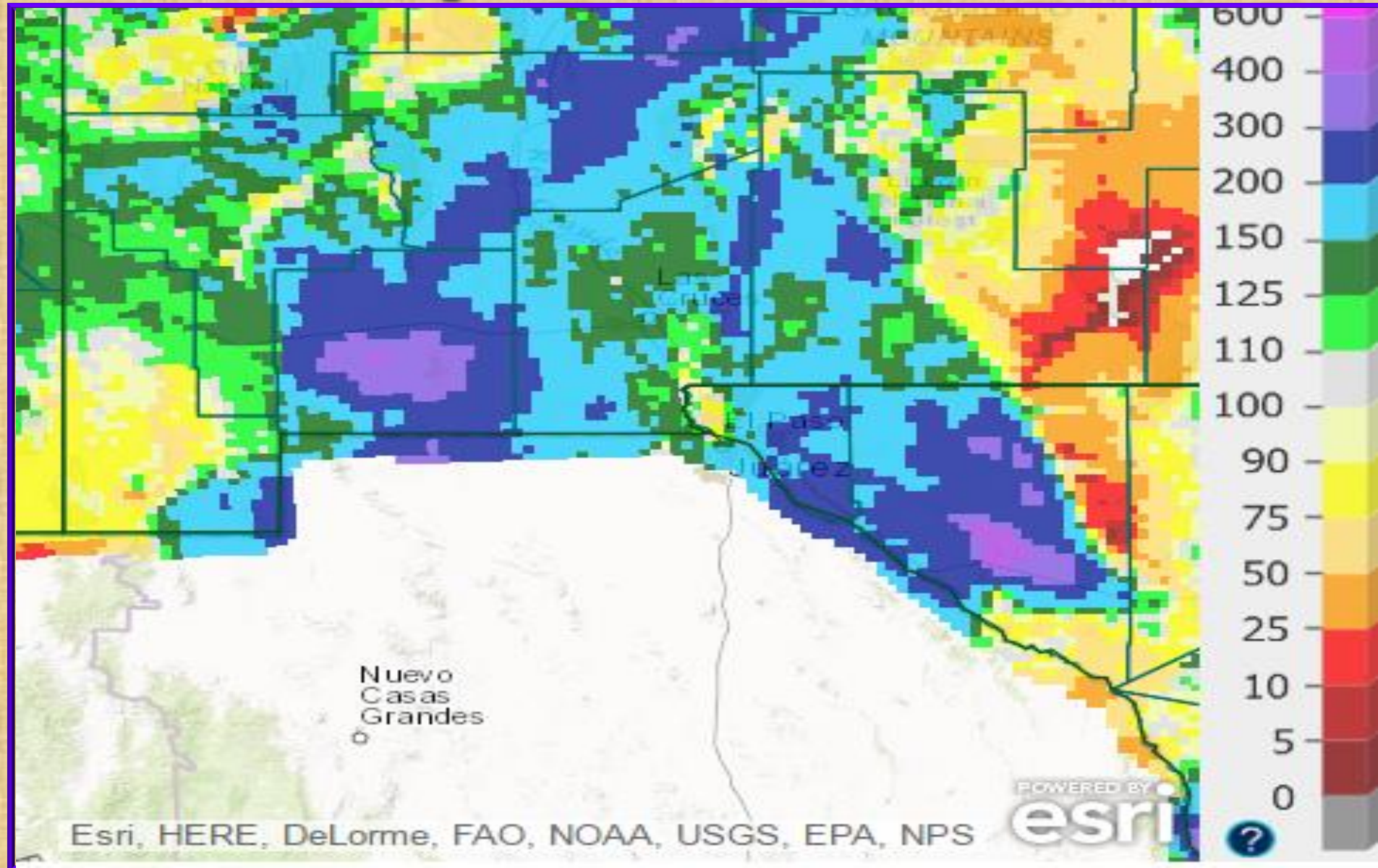
Precipitation Outlook Through March 2018



December 2016 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports

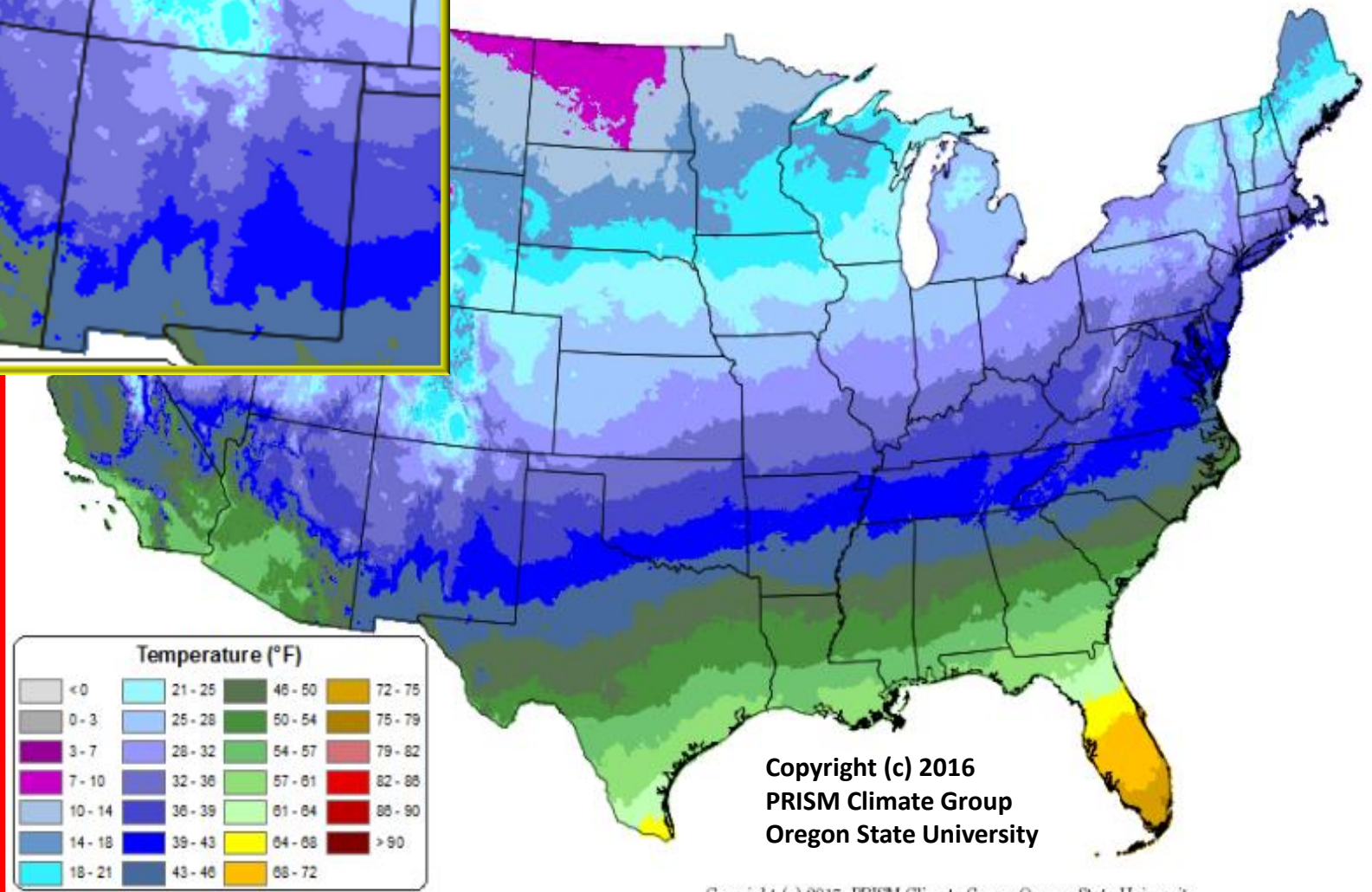
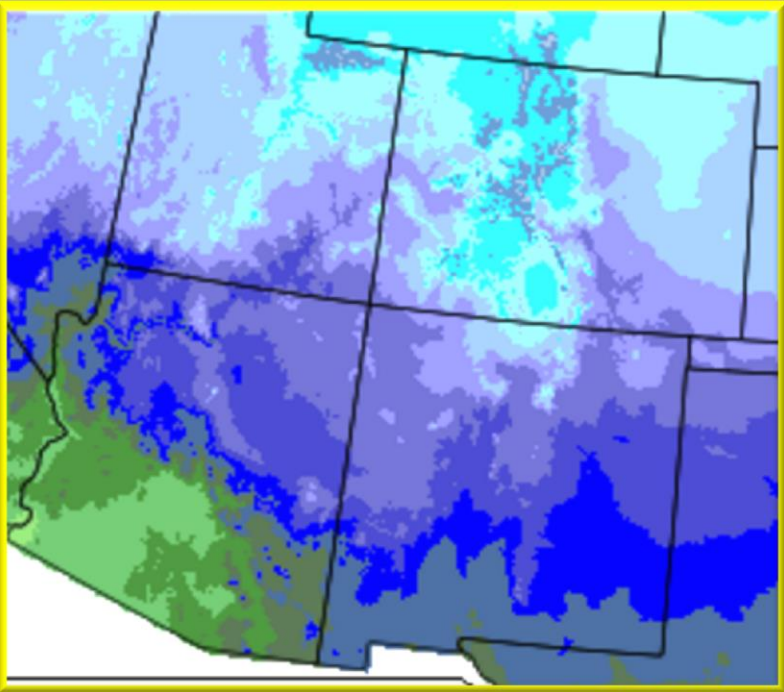


December 2016 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal



Average Daily Mean Temperature for DECEMBER 2016

Temperature: 01 December 2016 - 31 December 2016
 Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2016
 (Map created 01 Jan 2017)



Temperature (°F)			
< 0	21 - 25	46 - 50	72 - 75
0 - 3	25 - 28	50 - 54	75 - 79
3 - 7	28 - 32	54 - 57	79 - 82
7 - 10	32 - 36	57 - 61	82 - 88
10 - 14	36 - 39	61 - 64	88 - 90
14 - 18	39 - 43	64 - 68	> 90
18 - 21	43 - 46	68 - 72	

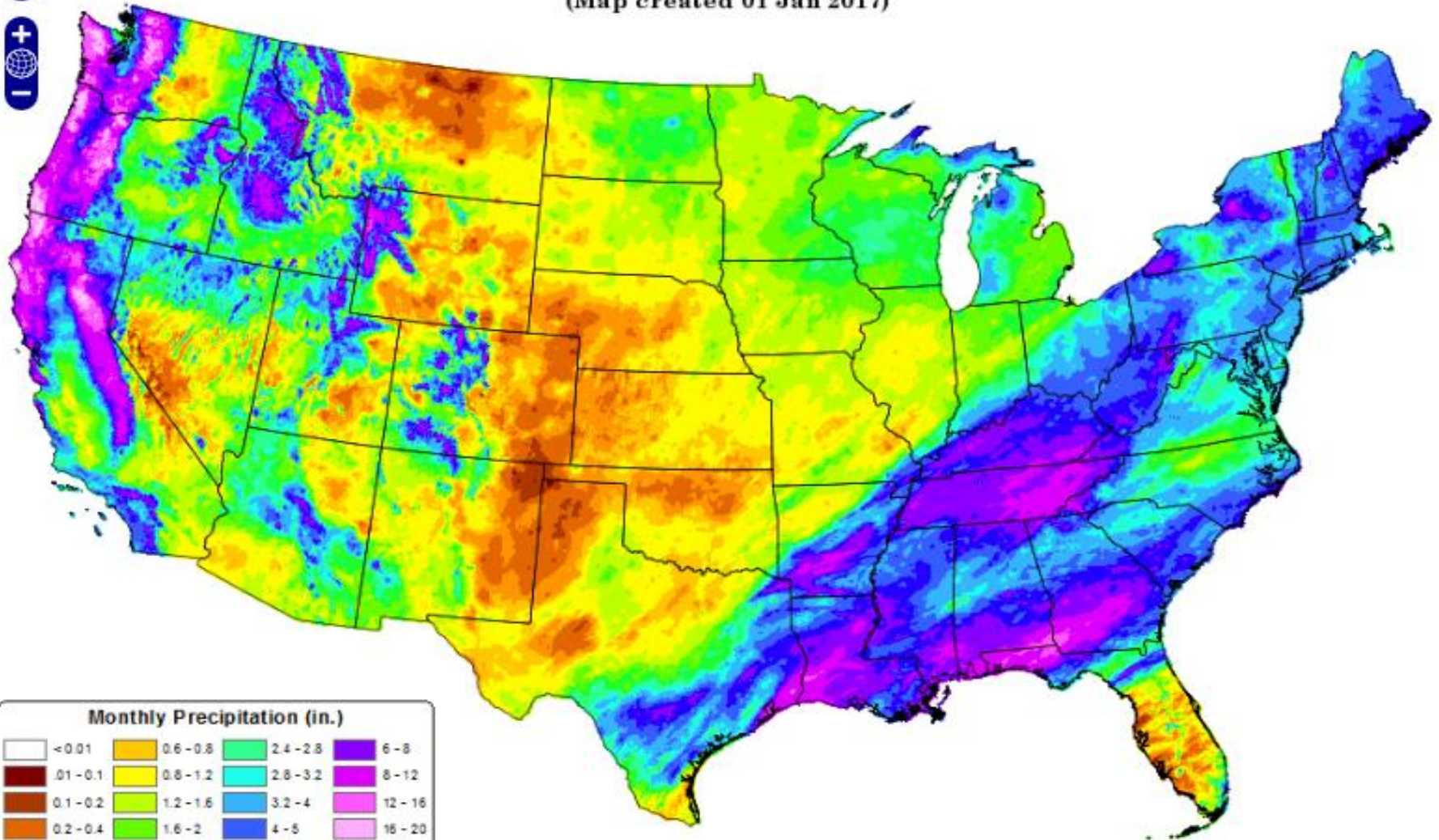
Copyright (c) 2016
 PRISM Climate Group
 Oregon State University

Total Precipitation for DECEMBER 2016

Total Precipitation: 01 December 2016 - 31 December 2016

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2016

(Map created 01 Jan 2017)



Monthly Precipitation (in.)

<math>< 0.01</math>	0.6-0.8	2.4-2.8	6-8
0.1-0.1	0.8-1.2	2.8-3.2	8-12
0.1-0.2	1.2-1.6	3.2-4	12-16
0.2-0.4	1.6-2	4-5	16-20
0.4-0.6	2-2.4	5-6	>20

Selected weather reports December 2016

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
12/03/2016 1156 AM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO CO	4.3 INCHES SNOW
12/03/2016 1201 PM	MIMBRES 7 NW-DONA ANA CO	2.4 INCHES SNOW
12/03/2016 1202 PM	LAKE VALLEY-SIERRA CO	2.0 INCHES SNOW
12/17/2016 910 AM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA CO	PEAK WIND 110 MPH
12/17/2016 215 AM	WSMR 1 SE MAIN POST-DONA ANA CO	PEAK WIND 88 MPH
12/17/2016 934 AM	HACHITA 15 SW-HIDALGO CO	PEAK WIND 81 MPH
12/17/2016 934 AM	SUNSPOT 1 S-OTERO CO	PEAK WIND 73 MPH
12/17/2016 100 PM	EL PASO 10 NE-EL PASO CO	PEAK WIND 71 MPH
12/17/2016 812 AM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO CO	PEAK WIND 67 MPH
12/17/2016 931 AM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO CO	PEAK WIND 67 MPH
12/17/2016 923 AM	SANTA TERESA 5 NW-DONA ANA CO	PEAK WIND 62 MPH
12/17/2016 906 AM	TALAVERA-DONA ANA CO	PEAK WIND 62 MPH
12/17/2016 900 AM	ASCARATE PARK-EL PASO CO	PEAK WIND 62 MPH
12/17/2016 900 AM	ROAD FORKS-HIDALGO CO	PEAK WIND 61 MPH
12/17/2016 750 AM	TULAROSA 19 NW-OTERO CO	PEAK WIND 61 MPH

Selected weather reports December 2016

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
12/17/2016 859 AM	EL PASO AIRPORT-EL PASO CO	PEAK WIND 61 MPH
12/17/2016 926 AM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA CO	PEAK WIND 61 MPH
12/17/2016 840 AM	MESCALERO 11 NE-OTERO CO	PEAK WIND 58 MPH
12/17/2016 929 AM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH CO	PEAK WIND 58 MPH
12/17/2016 627 AM	RODEO 3 NE-HIDALGO CO	PEAK WIND 58 MPH
12/17/2016 659 AM	REDROCK 12 E-GRANT CO	PEAK WIND 56 MPH
12/17/2016 935 AM	OROGRANDE 4 NW-OTERO CO	PEAK WIND 56 MPH
12/17/2016 1104 AM	DELL CITY 1 N-HUDSPETH CO	PEAK WIND 55 MPH
12/17/2016 115 PM	ALAMOGORDO AIRPORT-OTERO CO	PEAK WIND 53 MPH
12/17/2016 1247 PM	LAS CRUCES 5 NW-DONA ANA CO	PEAK WIND 53 MPH
12/17/2016 1044 AM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA CO	PEAK WIND 49 MPH
12/17/2016 455 AM	WINSTON-SIERRA CO	PEAK WIND 47 MPH



NWS El Paso is on Instagram

Follow us at:
[nwseelpaso](#)



Photo Credit: John Fausett

Local forecast by "City, St" or ZIP code
 Enter location ...
[Location Help](#)

Heavy Rain and Flash Flooding Possible Over Parts of the Eastern United States
 Heavy rainfall is expected over portions of the eastern United States through Thursday. Flooding and flash flooding will be possible in some areas. Click the "Read More" link for excessive rainfall forecasts from the Weather Prediction Center. [Read More >](#)

Customize Your Weather.gov

City, ST

Enter Your City, ST or ZIP Code

Remember Me

[Privacy Policy](#)

NWS El Paso
[Weather.gov > El Paso, TX](#)

El Paso, TX
 Weather Forecast Office

Current Hazards Current Conditions Radar Forecasts Rivers and Lakes Climate and Past Weather **Local Programs**

Today

Wednesday
 Warmer with a Few Afternoon Storms

Weather Forecast Office
El Paso, TX
 September 27, 2016 4:43 PM

Local forecast by "City, St" or ZIP code
 Enter location ...
[Location Help](#)

Heavy rain expected across the Mid-Atlantic region and central Appalachians.
 Heavy rainfall is possible over portions of the eastern United States today, with the highest risk across the Mid-Atlantic and central Appalachians. Click the "Read More" link for excessive rainfall forecasts from the Weather Prediction Center. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms are possible over portions of the Southwest and southern Rockies through Friday. [Read More >](#)

Customize Your Weather.gov

City, ST

Enter Your City, ST or ZIP Code

Remember Me

[Privacy Policy](#)

Monthly Weather Digest
[Weather.gov > El Paso, TX > Monthly Weather Digest](#)

El Paso, TX
 Weather Forecast Office

Current Hazards Current Conditions Radar Forecasts Rivers and Lakes Climate and Past Weather **Local Programs**

Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas has a variety of weather from month to month. Conditions can range from extreme drought, to heavy flooding rains, from record breaking heat to bone chilling cold. Below you will find past weather highlights from the area that the NWS office in Santa Teresa NM covers. This area includes the following counties in New Mexico: Hudspeth, Grant, Luna, Sierra, Doña Ana and Otero and the following counties in Texas: El Paso and Hudspeth.

weather.gov/epz

Don't Forget-Current and past issues of our Weather Digest are available on our website at <http://www.weather.gov/epz/>

Just click on "Local Programs>Weather Digest", then choose which month's Digest to view. Also, though discontinued, don't forget to check out our back issues of Southwest Weather Bulletin.

WEATHER DIGESTS AND BULLETINS	
Weather Digest	Southwest Weather Bulletins
January	2005 Spring Fall
February	2006 Spring Fall
March	2007 Spring Fall
April	2008 Spring Fall
May	2009 Spring Fall
June	2010 Spring Fall
July	2011 Spring Fall
August	2012 Spring Fall
September	2013 Spring Fall
October	2014 Spring Fall
November	
December	