

# October 2020 Weather Digest



# October 2020 Weather Summary

As has been very popular in 2020, October was yet another very dry month as the La Nina weather pattern continues to strengthen. Average temperatures for the month were also well above normal, and if not for a late month sharp cold frontal passage, this October would have easily been the all time warmest October on record. For the first 26 days of the month no significant weather occurred other than very warm temperatures. Then on the 27th, a very strong cold front with Canadian air, dropped west across the Borderland. This dropped temperatures some 30 to 40 degrees from the previous day, and turned scattered showers into snow most areas. Most of the desert locations recorded from one to three inches of snow, while about 3 to 6 inches fell in the mountains. The snows that fell across the desert locations were very close to the earliest measurable snow ever reported at those sites. The front also brought gusty winds with it, with many locations reporting wind gusts in the 30s and 40s mph.

With much below normal precipitation, the drought conditions across the area continued to worsen. Much of the area from Otero and El Paso Counties west to Sierra and Luna Counties were around 25-50% of normal while Hidalgo, Grant and Hudspeth Counties ranged from about 10-25% of normal.

# October 2020 Weather Summary, cont'd

**Drought conditions across the area fell mostly in the severe to extreme category, and with the La Nina getting stronger, we can probably expect the drought conditions to continue through at least the end of winter, and probably worsen.**

**Looking ahead to November, we continue to cool down as the average high temperature in El Paso cools from 72 degrees on the first to 60 degrees on the 30th. Daylight shrinks from 10 hours, 53 minutes on the first, to 10 hours, 14 minutes on the last day of the month. In lunar news, the full moon will be on November 30th, while the new moon will be on the 14th. In fact this will be a super new moon, which means it is at its closet point in its orbit around Earth. Of course you can't see the new moon, so there is not much enjoyment to a super new moon.**

**Oct 26 Lake Mescalero Snow**



2020-10-26 07:31:24 US/Mountain

**Oct 27 Ski Apache Snow**



2020-10-27 07:47:05

**Oct 27 Pinos Altos Snow**



Looking NE from Pinos Altos NM el 7000ft

**Oct 27 Hillsboro Snow**



**Oct 27 El Paso Snow**



**Oct 27 El Paso Snow**



**Oct 27 Las Cruces Snow**



2020-10-27 07:46:33  
NMCC-SKH

**Oct 27 Las Cruces Snow**



**Oct 27 Lordsburg Snow**



SE

# **ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Advisory**

## **ENSO Alert System**

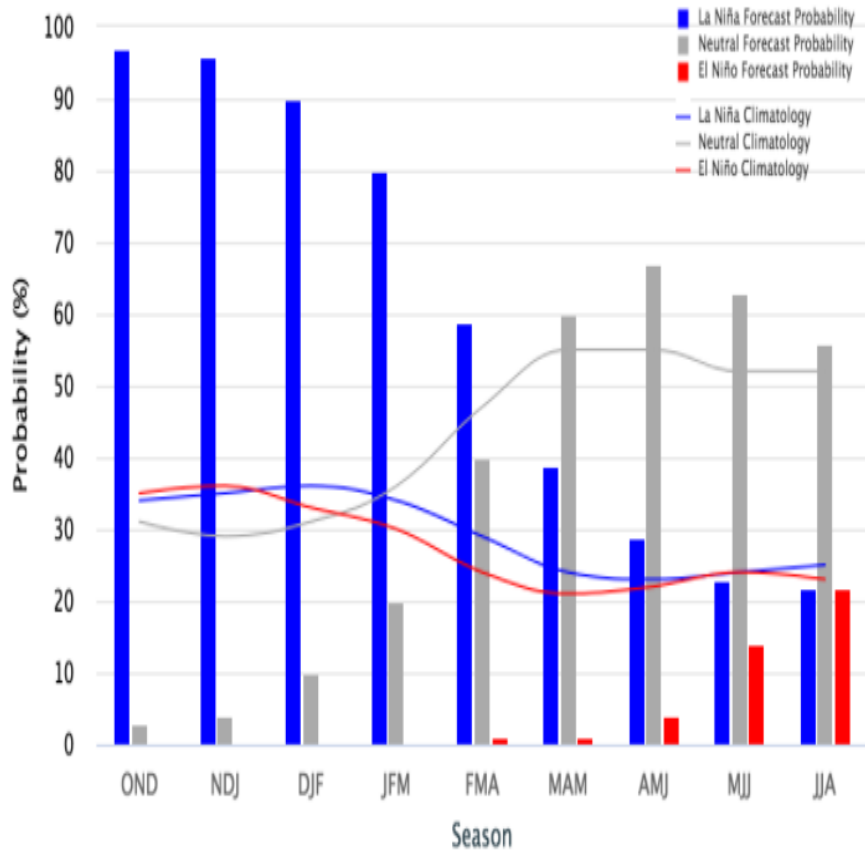
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

# ENSO Forecast

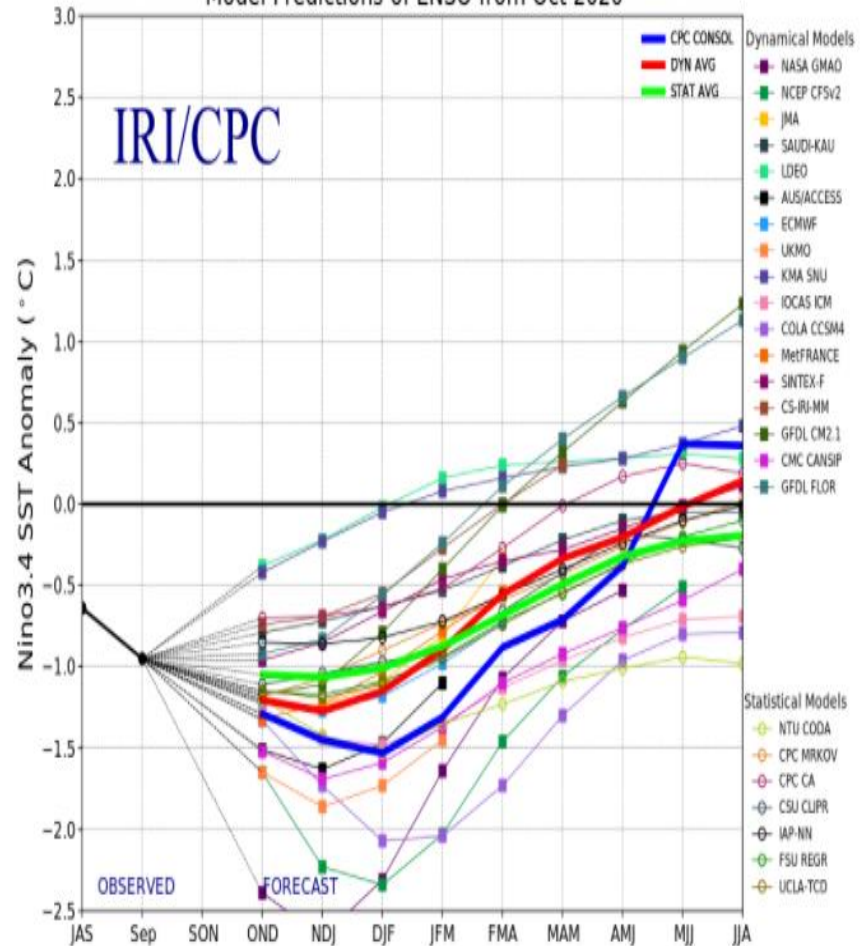
ENSO is now in a moderate La Niña phase; likely to persist through at least late winter.

Mid-October 2020 IRI/CPC Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly  
Neutral ENSO: -0.5 °C to 0.5 °C

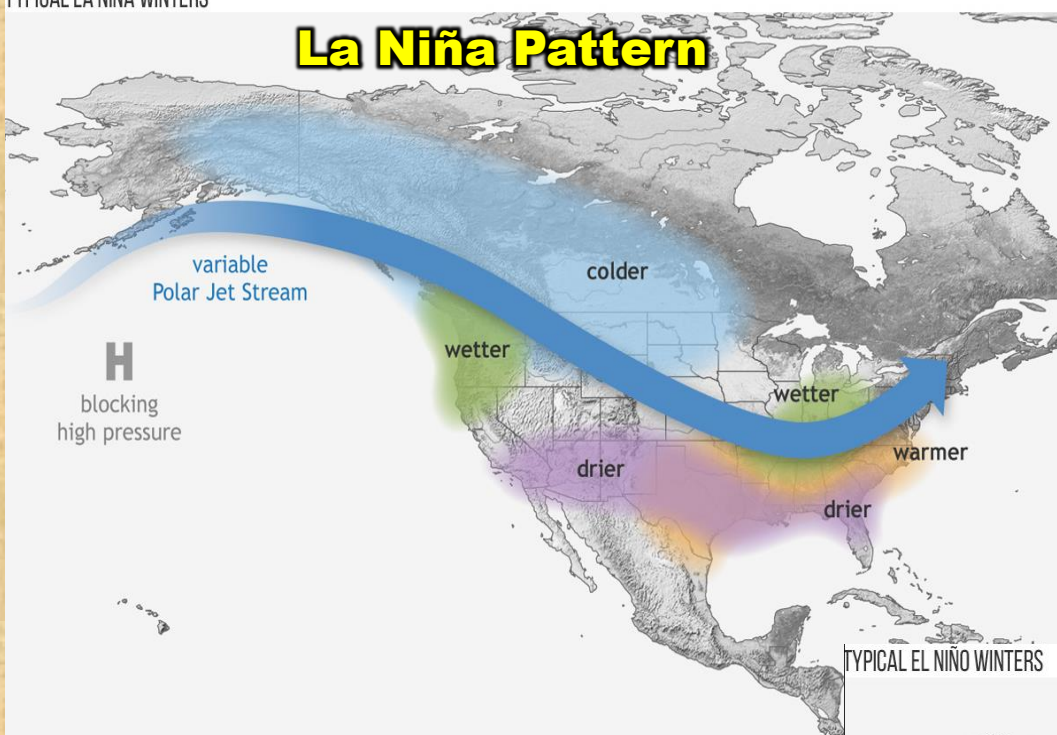


Model Predictions of ENSO from Oct 2020



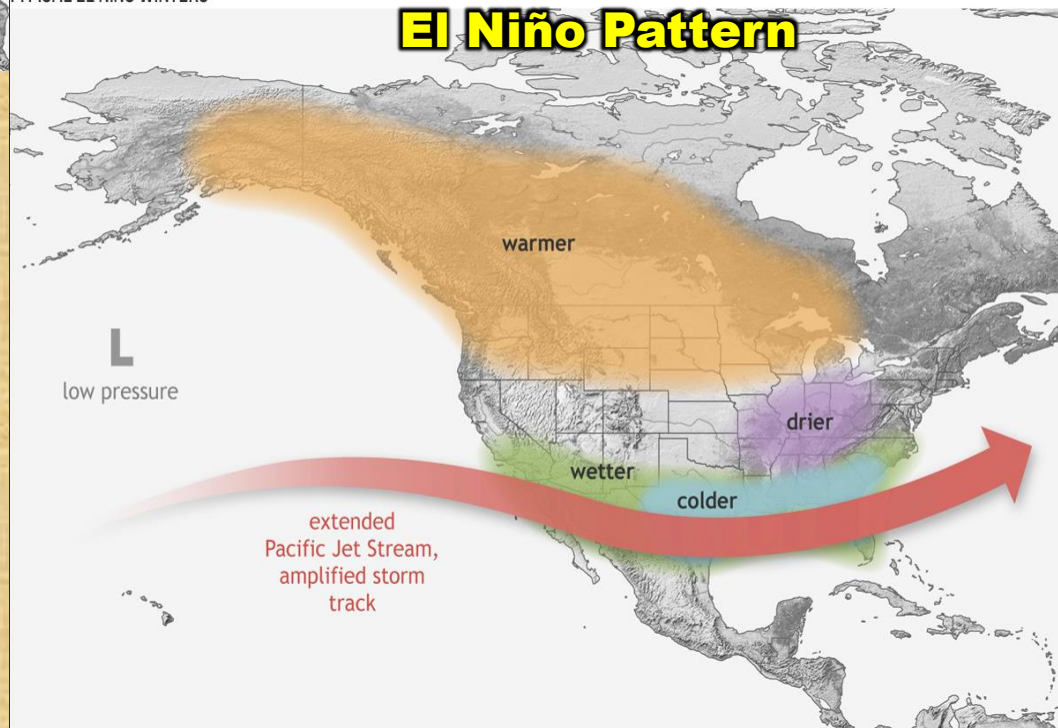


# La Niña Pattern



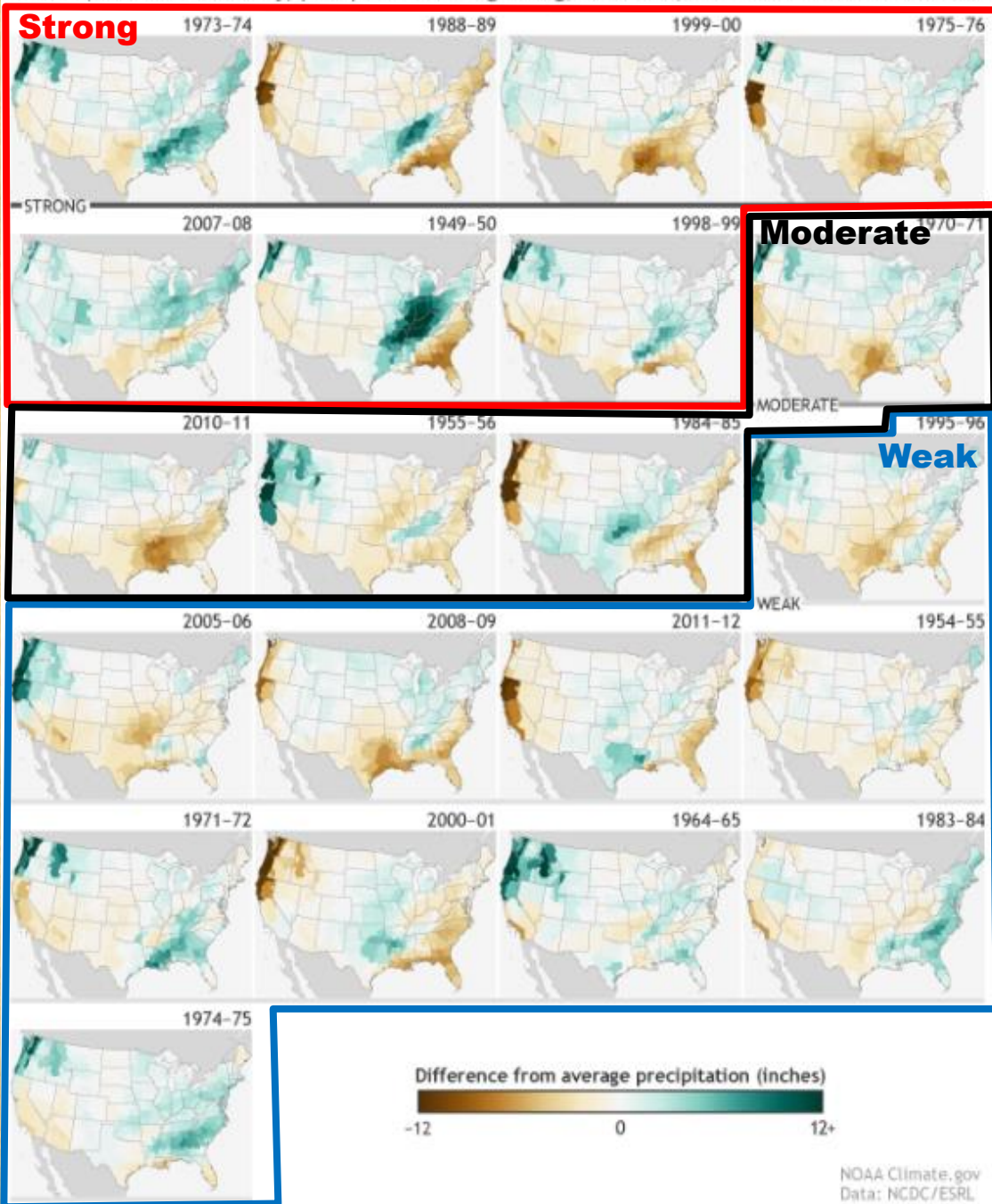
We are heading into a weak to moderate La Niña for much of this winter. As the pattern shows, a ridge of high pressure tends to build off the west coast of the U.S., blocking most of our Pacific winter storm systems. These storms tend to end up moving across the northern Plains and down to the southeastern part of the country. Of course it is important to remember that these patterns are only what typically happens and are not guaranteed to occur.

# El Niño Pattern



With El Niño, we often see the opposite pattern where the eastern Pacific ridge of high pressure is often weak or non-existent, allowing winter storms to sweep across the southern U.S. This typically will give the southwestern U.S. above normal precipitation.

Winter (December-February) precipitation during strong, moderate, and weak La Niñas since 1950



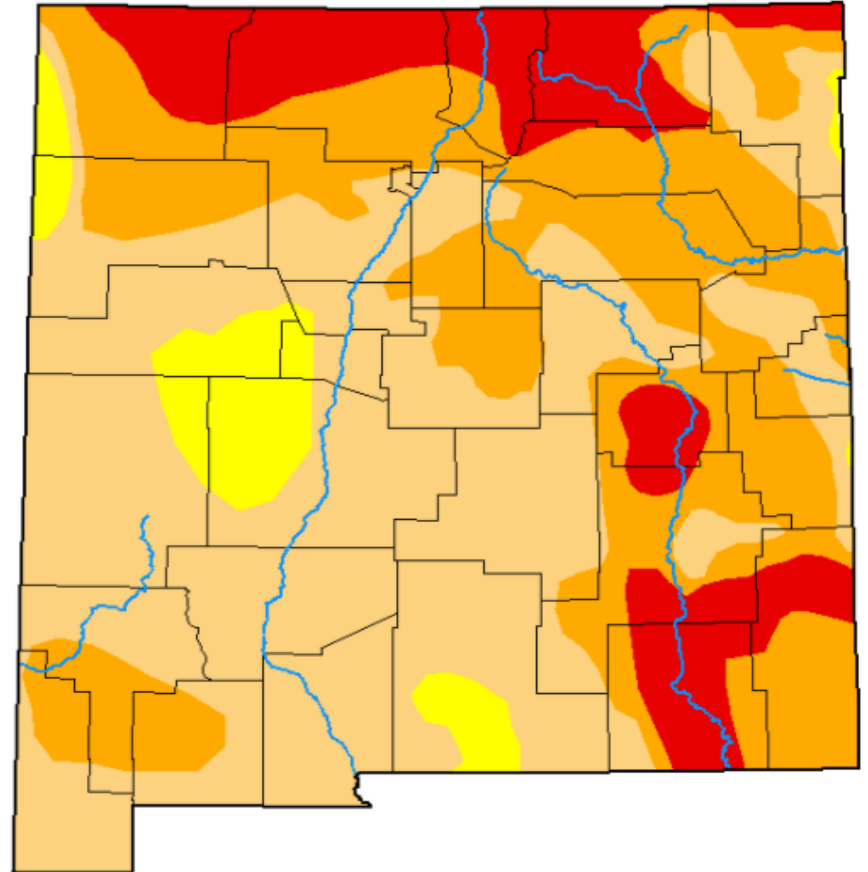
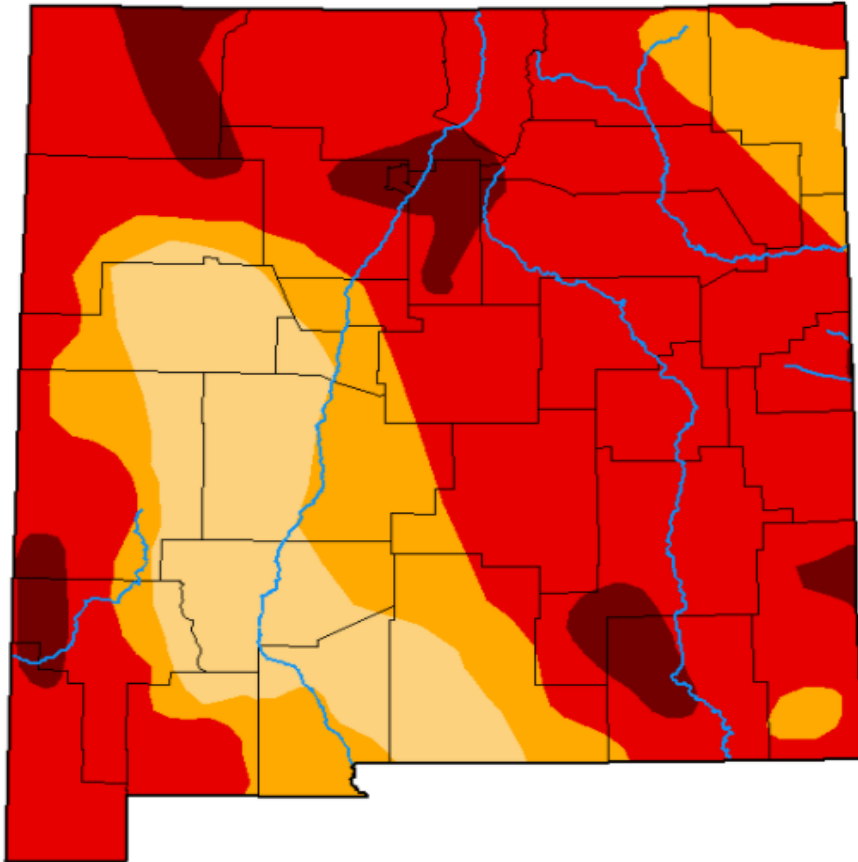
Examples of the numerous La Niña winters since 1950. These maps depict the departure from normal precipitation amounts for a winter.

# Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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






**October 27, 2020**

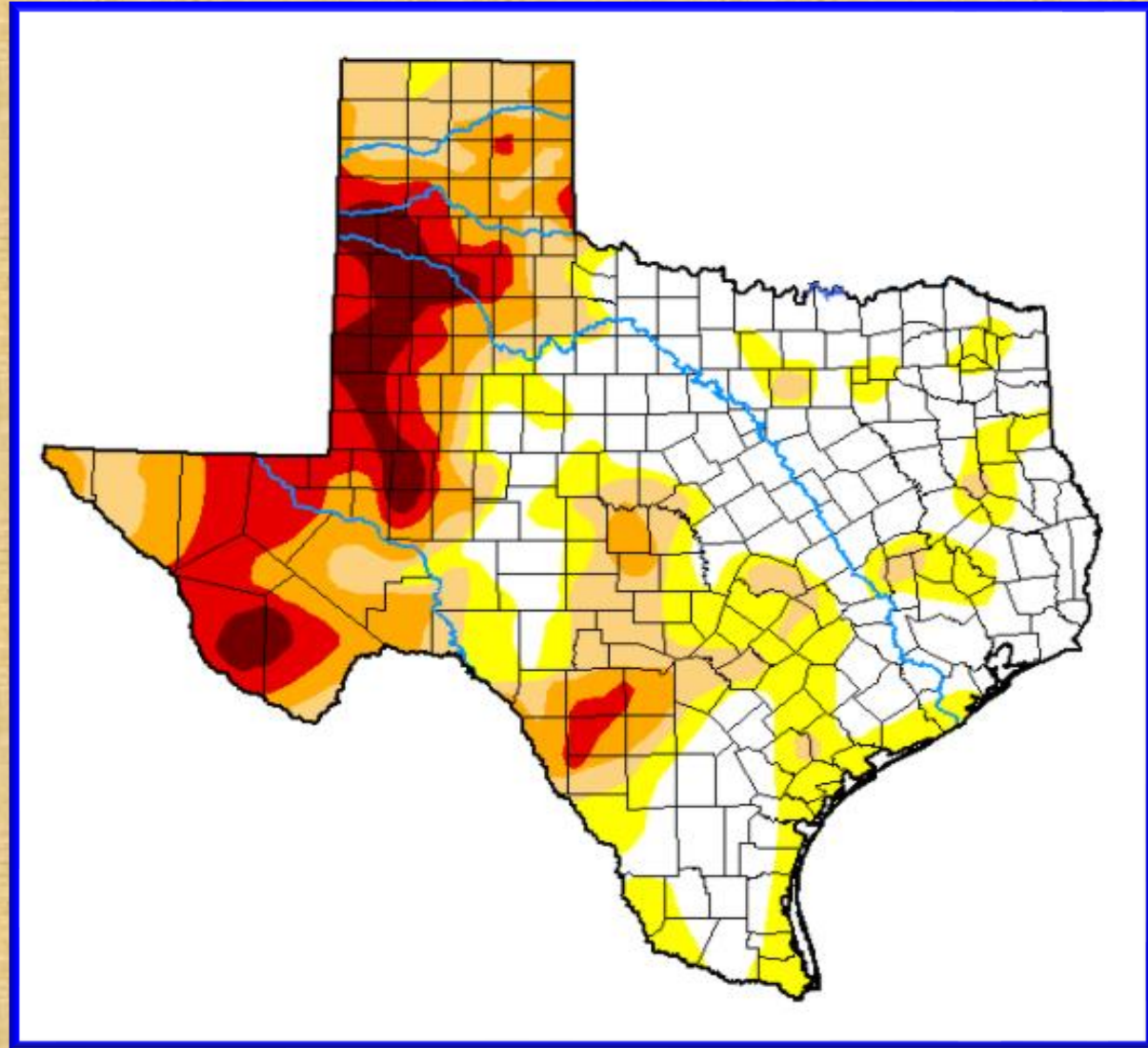
**July 28, 2020**



# Current drought conditions for Texas as of October 27, 2020

Intensity:

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

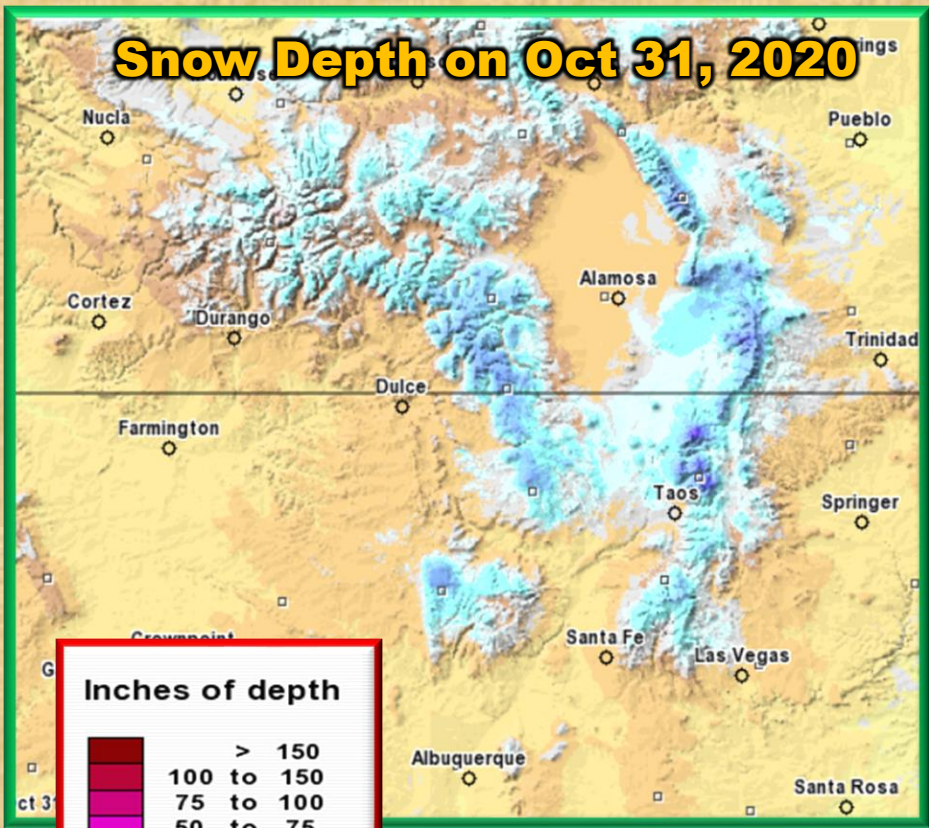


**Build your own custom slider maps here at:**

**<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ComparisonSlider.aspx>**

# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Oct 31, 2020

## First report of the season



**Inches of depth**

	> 150
	100 to 150
	75 to 100
	50 to 75
	40 to 50
	30 to 40
	20 to 30
	16 to 20
	12 to 16
	8.0 to 12
	4.0 to 8.0
	2.0 to 4.0
	trace to 2.0
	Not Estimated

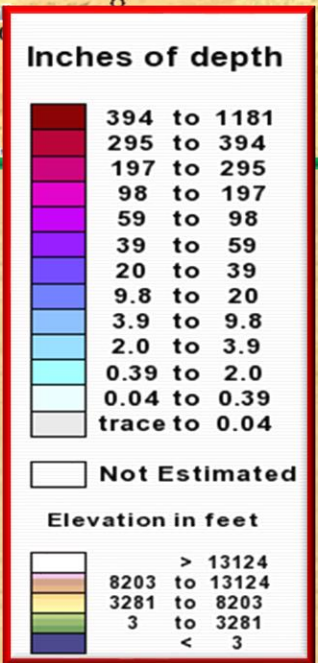
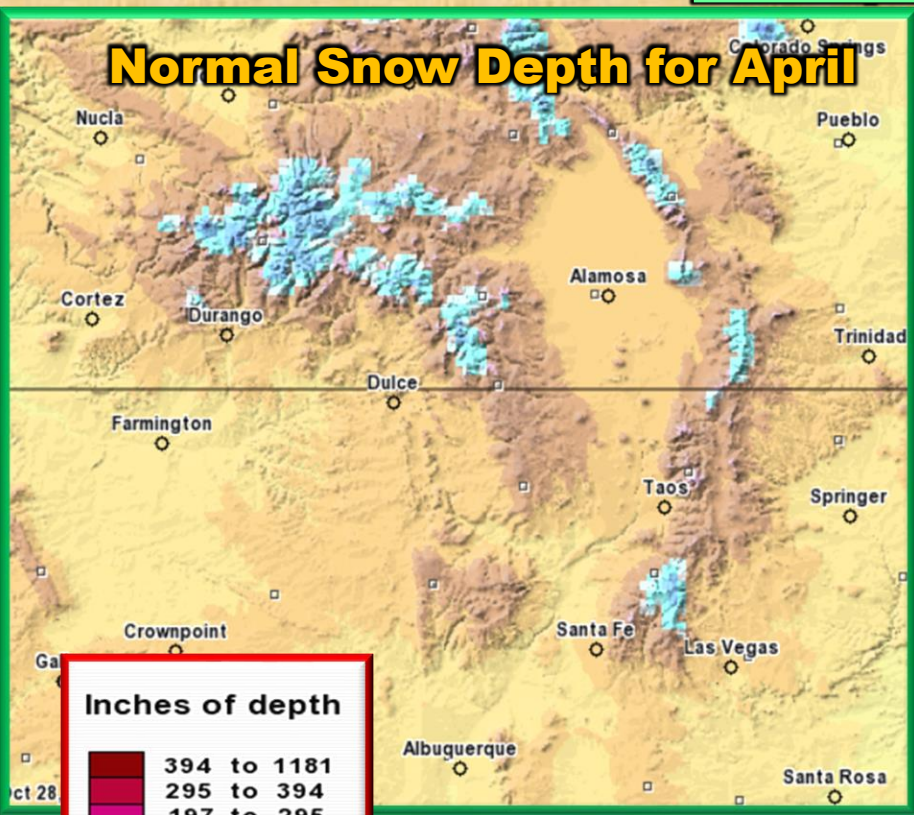
**Elevation in feet**

	> 13124
	8203 to 13124
	3281 to 8203
	3 to 3281
	< 3

# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Oct 31, 2020

First report of the season

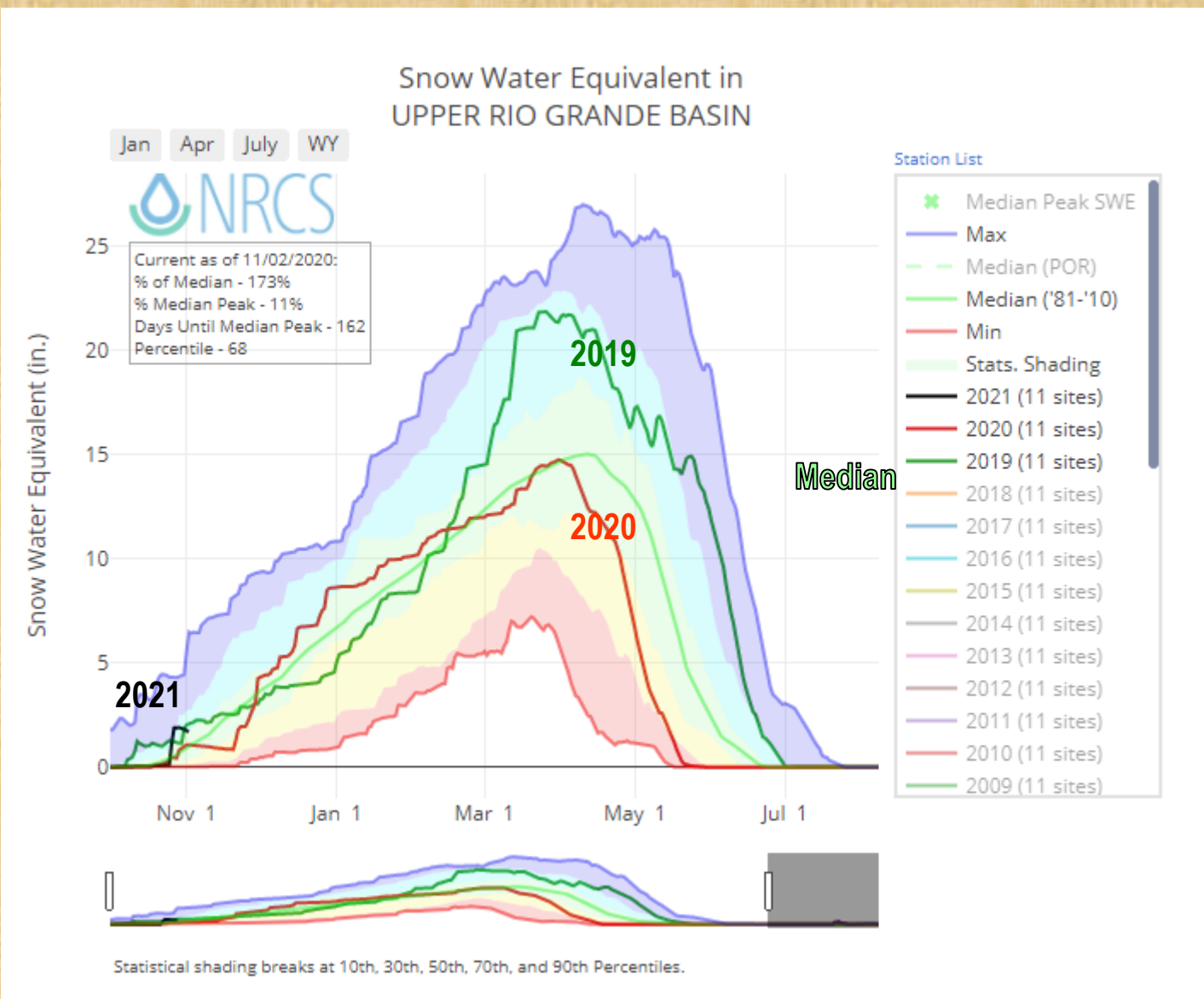
## Normal Snow Depth for April



# Snow Water Equivalent as of Nov 1, 2020

## Compare to last few years and average values

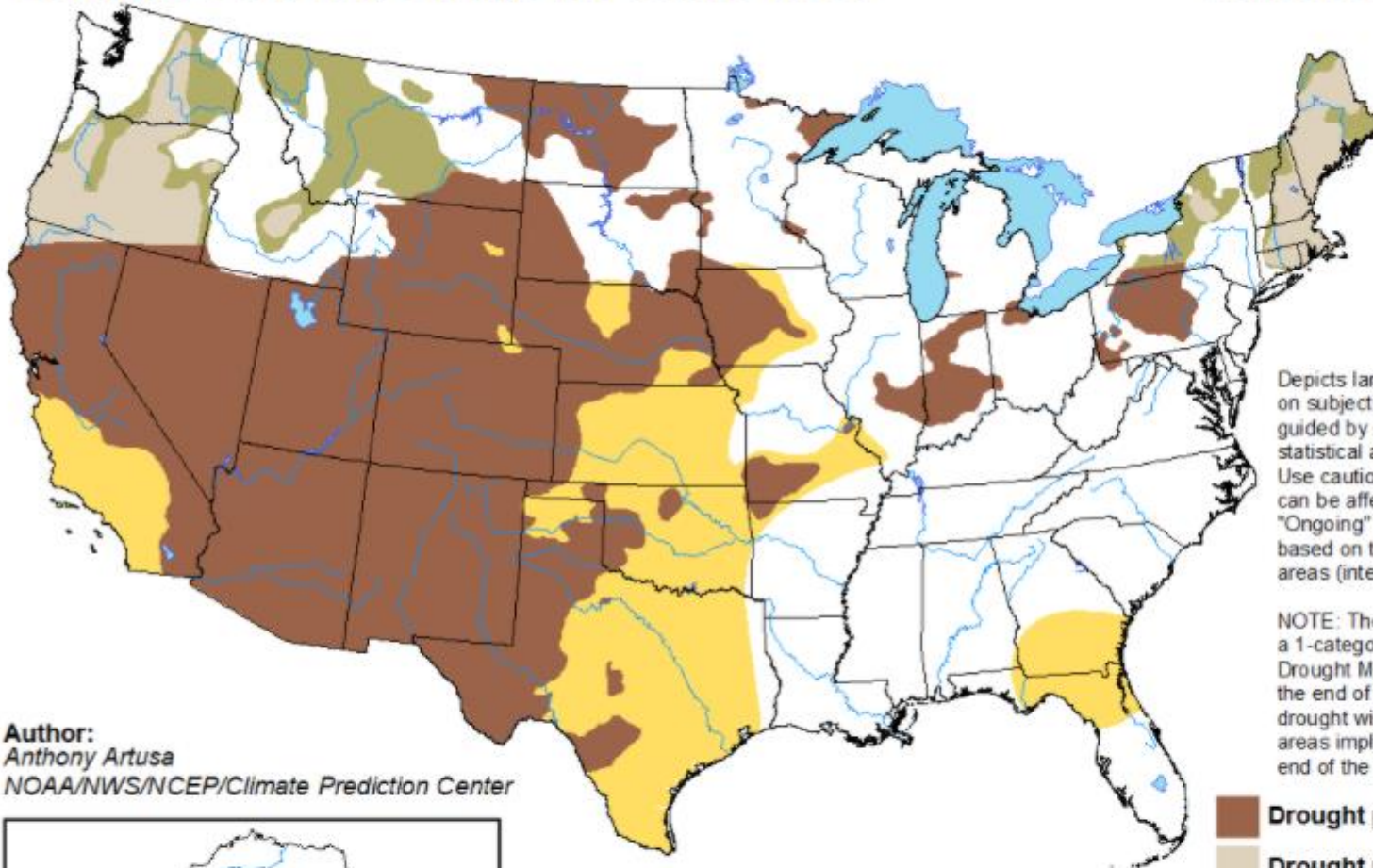
### First report of the season



# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

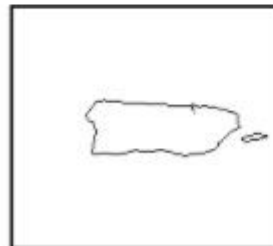
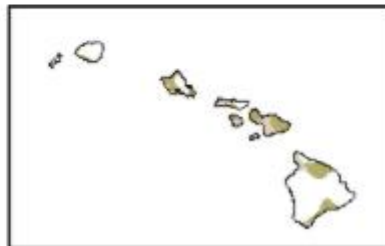
Valid for October 15, 2020 - January 31, 2021  
Released October 15, 2020



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:**  
Anthony Artusa  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



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

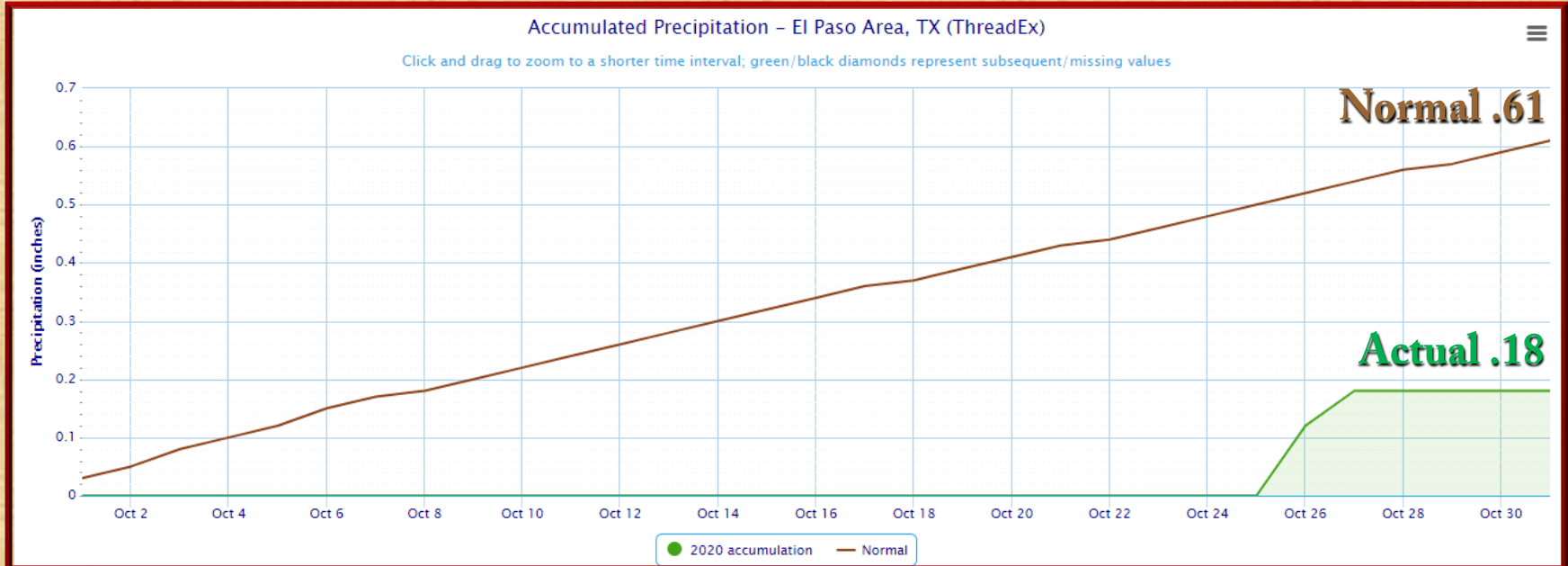
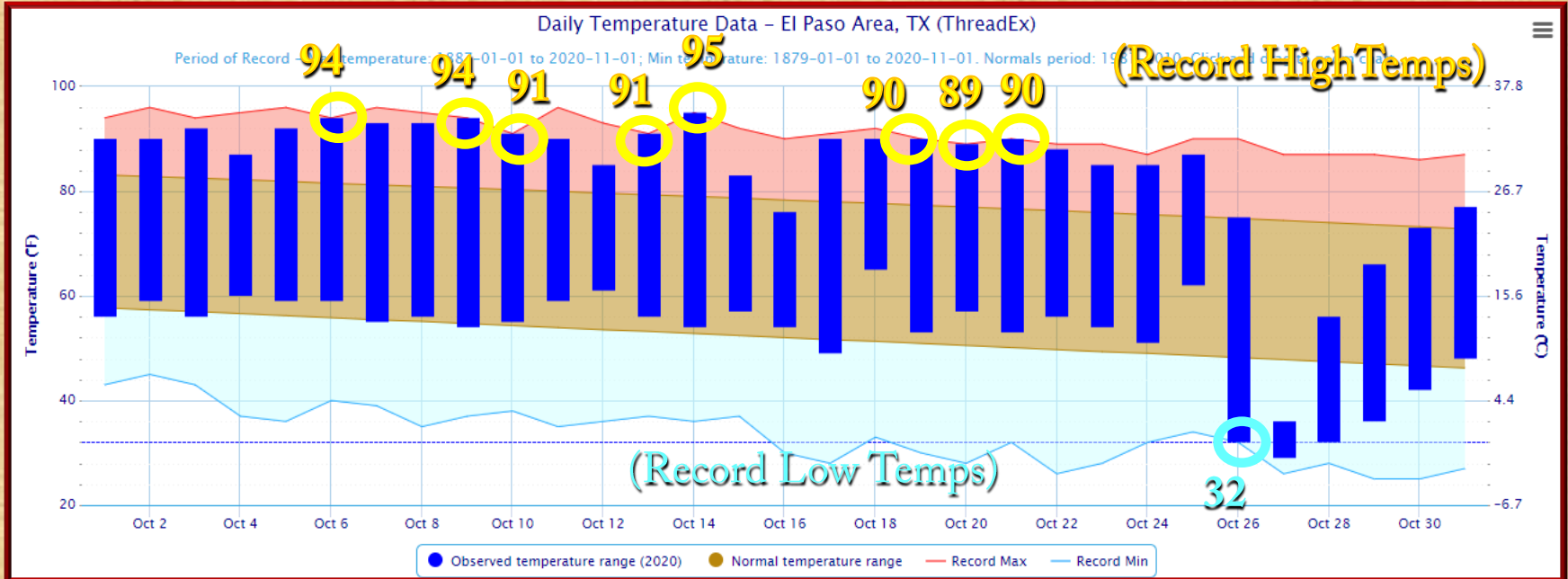


<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>



# Temperature and precipitation data for October 2020 in El Paso

○ = record



# 2020 Year to Date: Temperature and Precipitation Data for El Paso



## El Paso TX - 2020

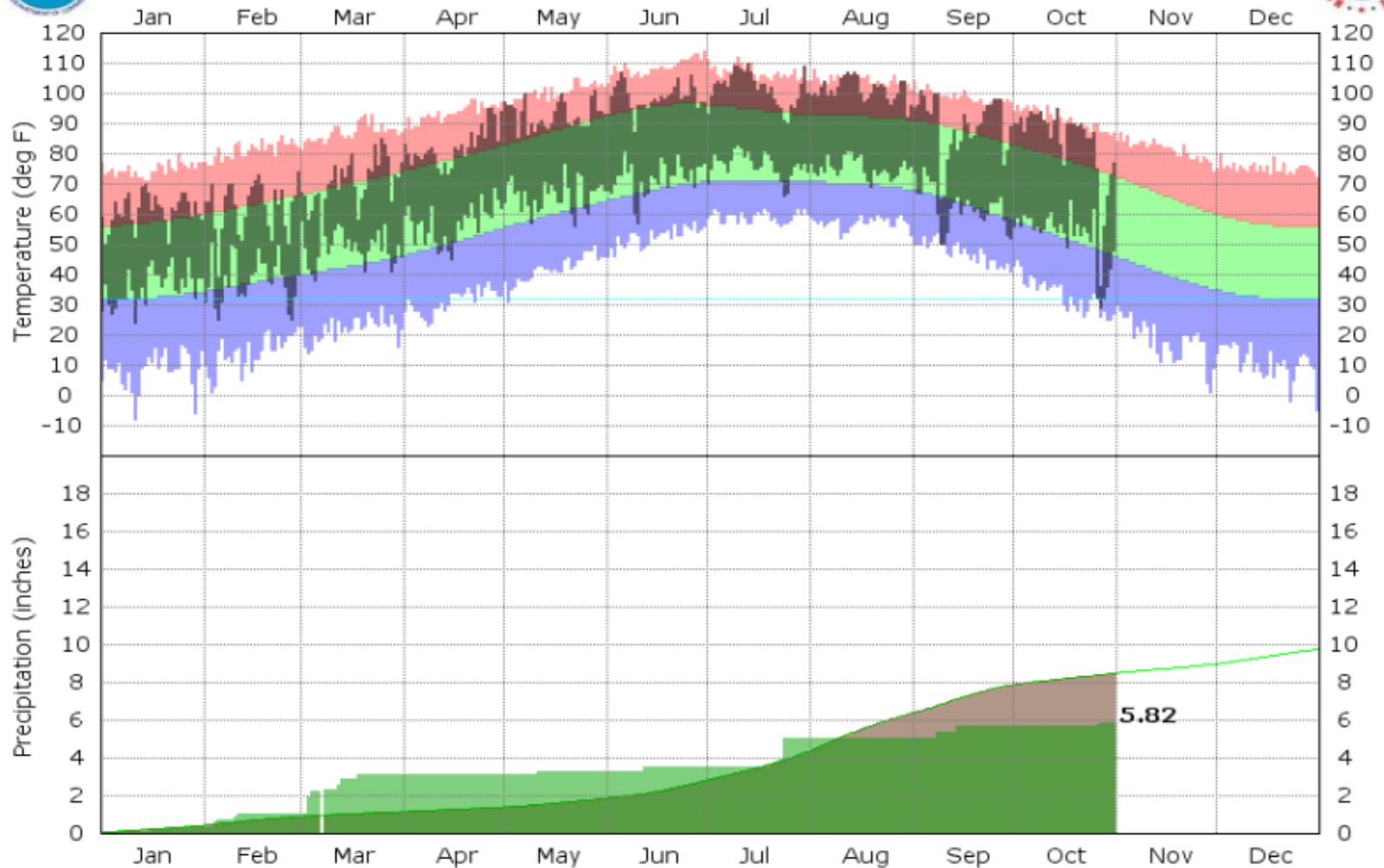


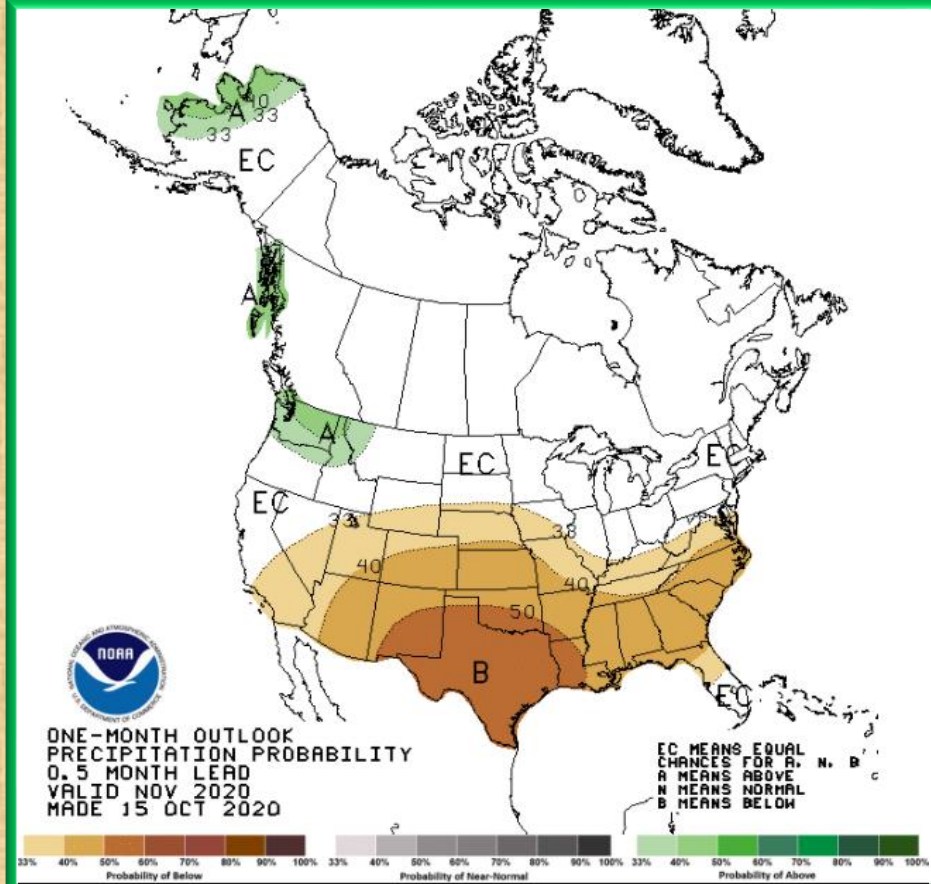
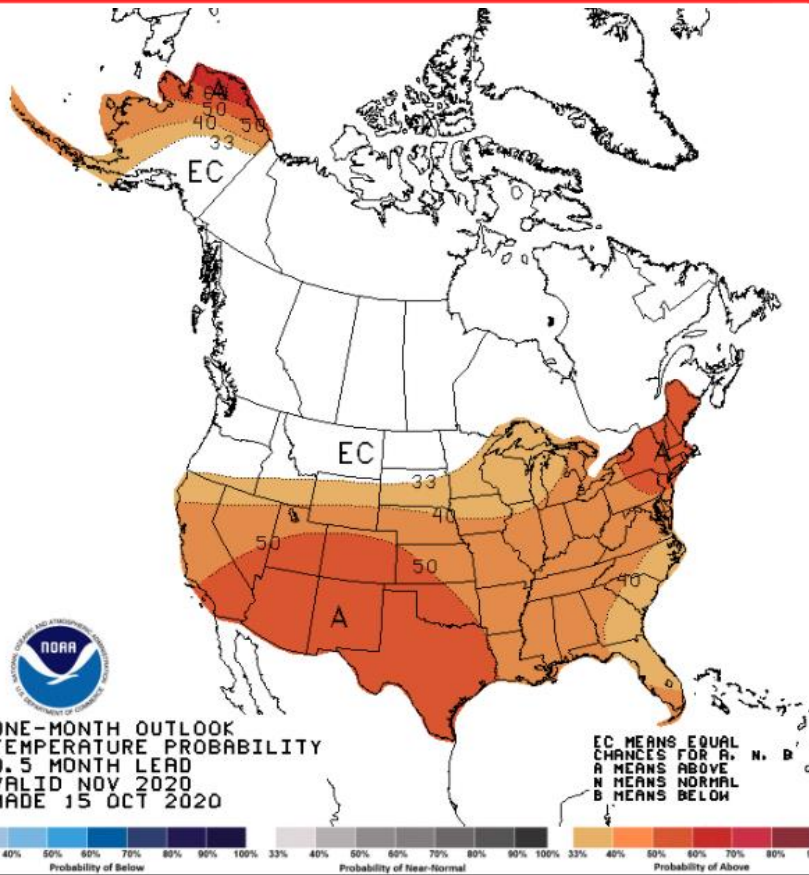
Image created: Sun, 1 Nov 2020 18:08 GMT

Temperature and Precipitation Plot for El Paso, Texas for 2020

# Temperature and precipitation outlook for November 2020

## Temperature

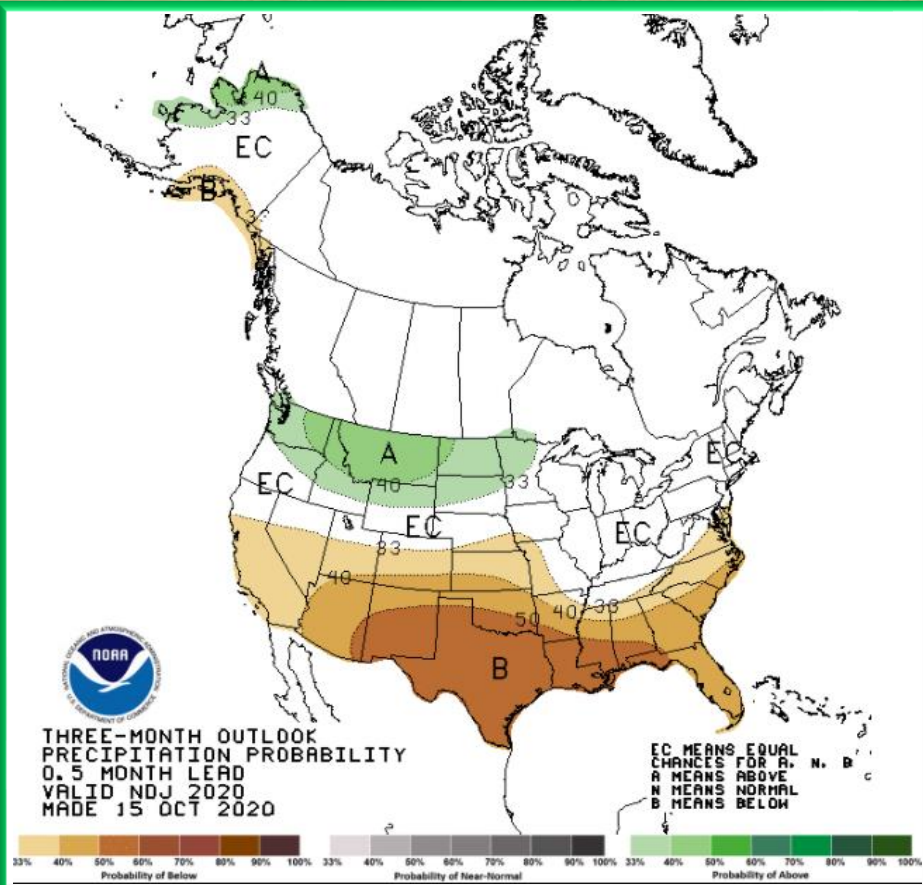
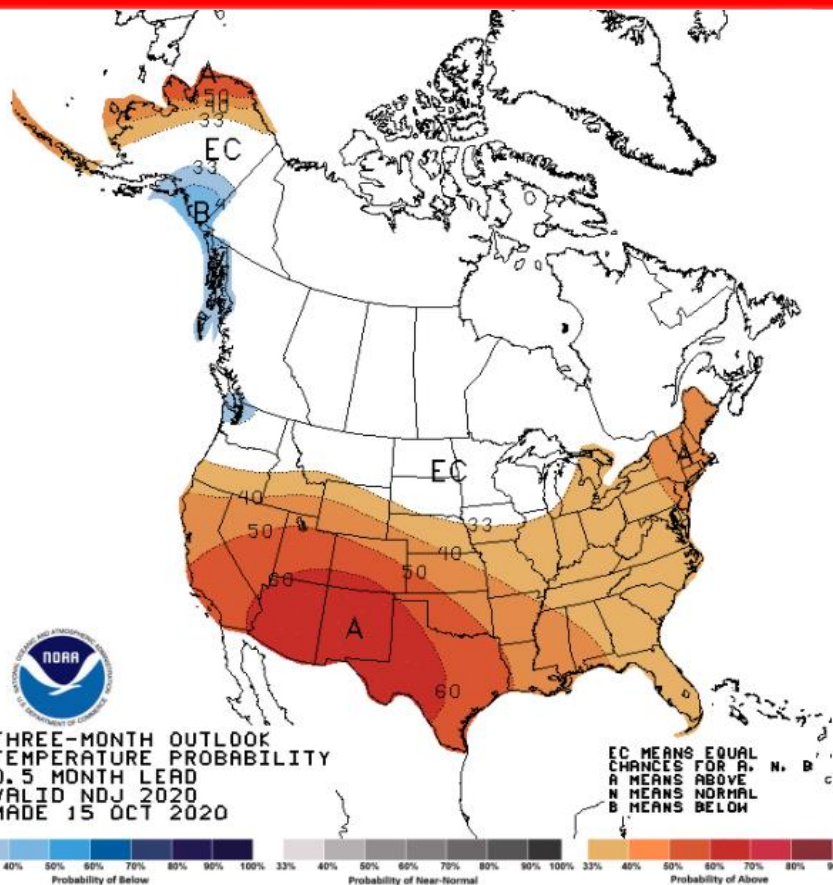
## Precipitation



# Temperature and precipitation outlook For November-January 2020

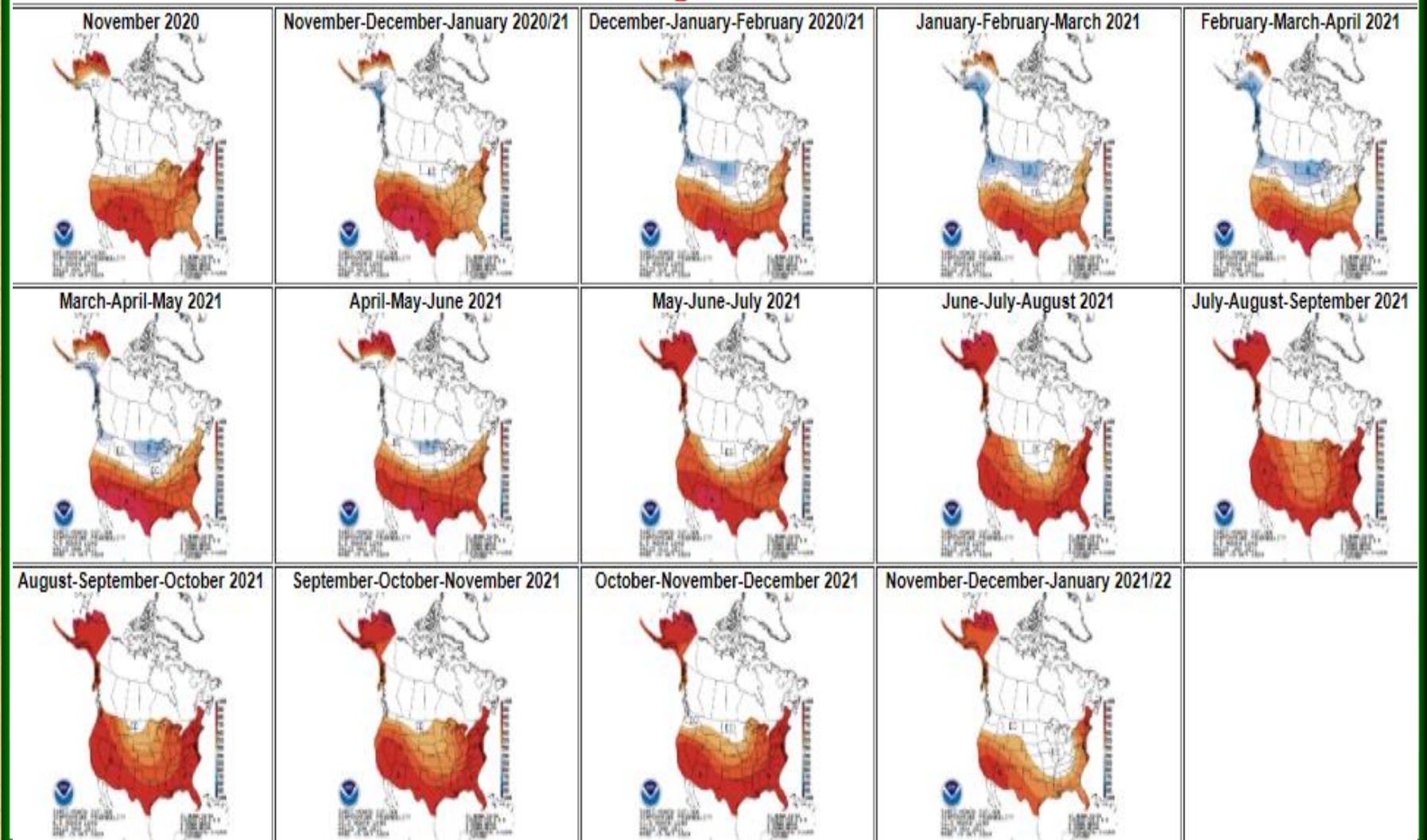
## Temperature

## Precipitation



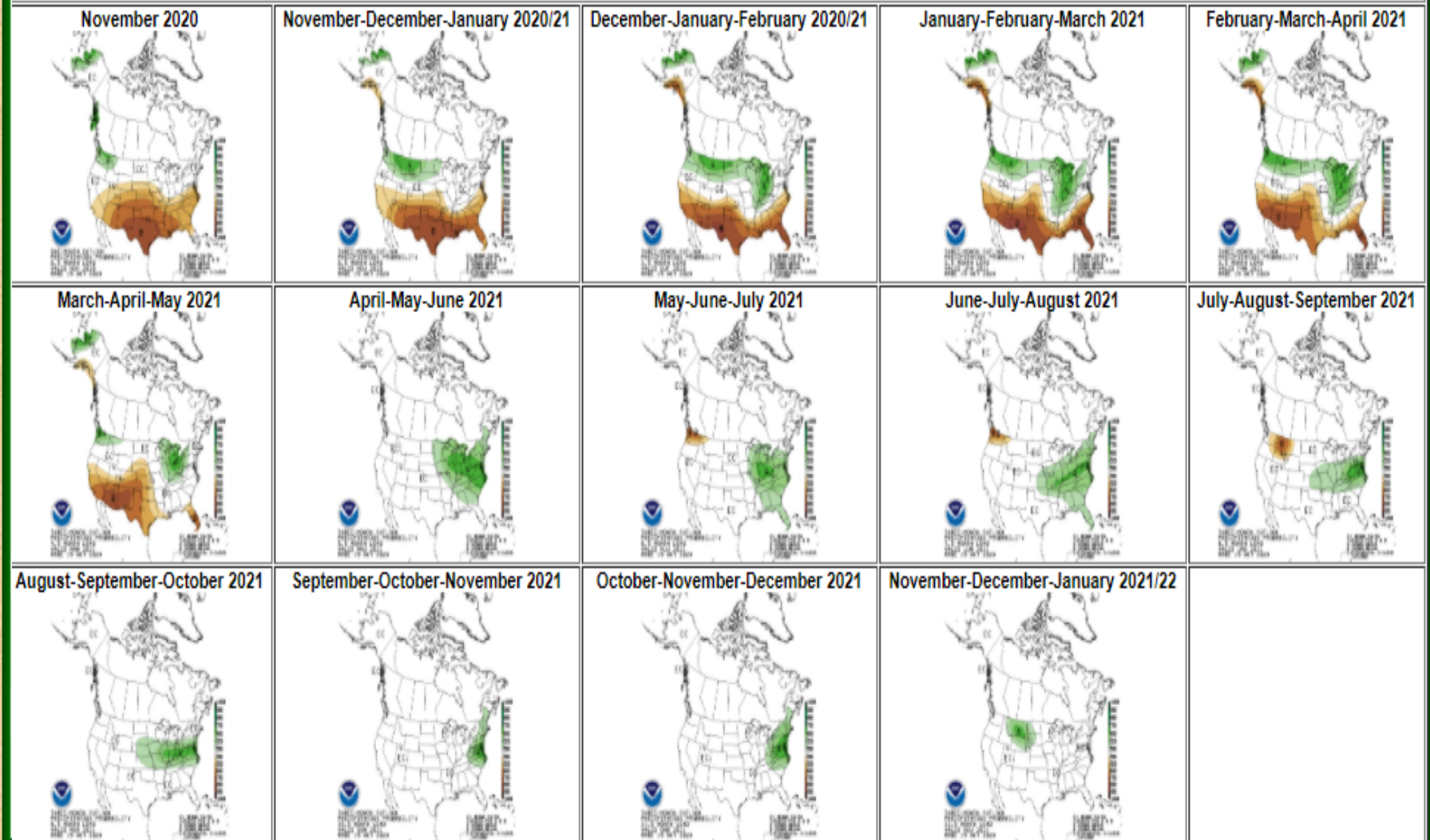
# Temperature Outlook Through January 2022

## Temperature



# Precipitation Outlook Through January 2022

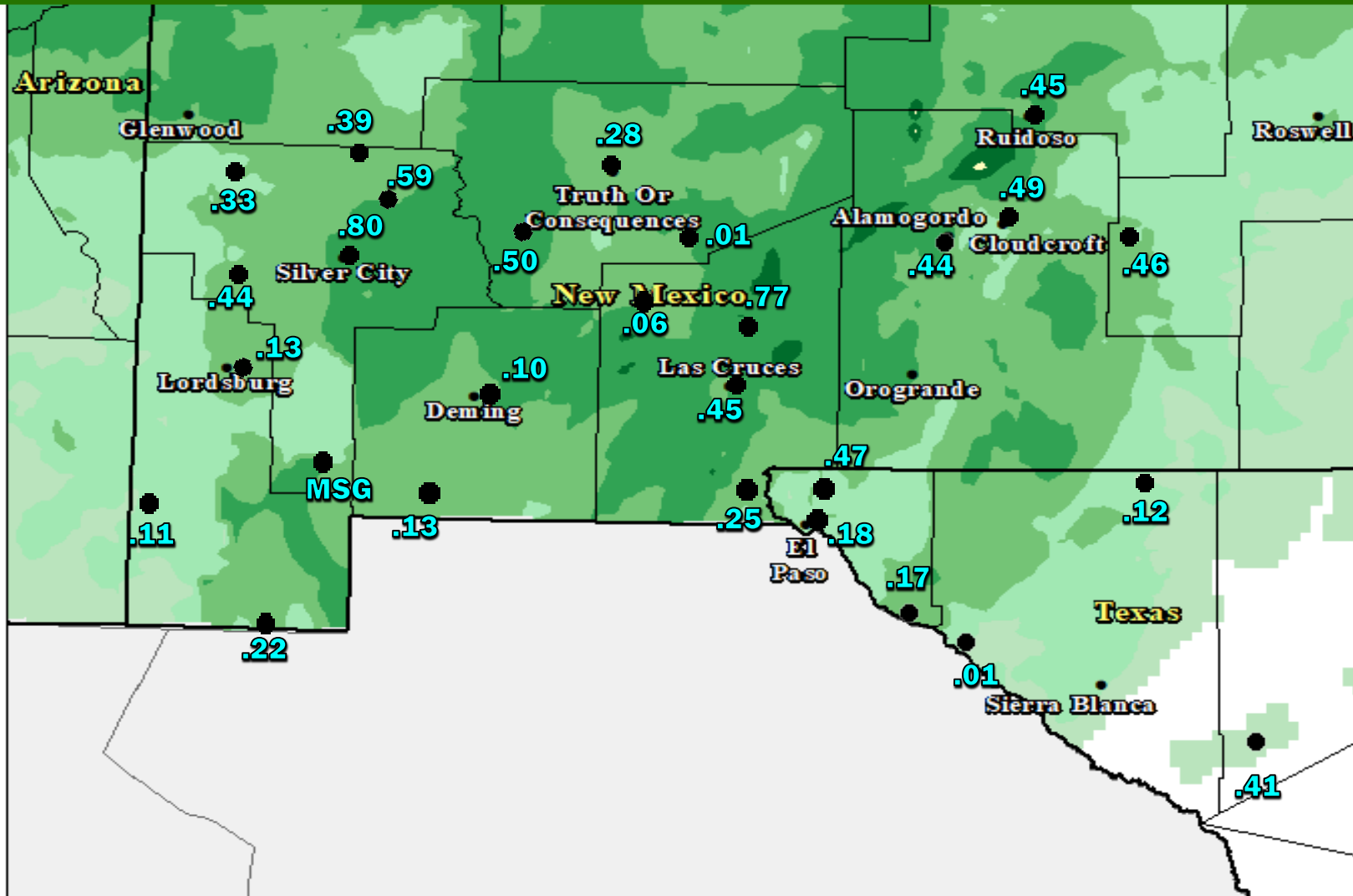
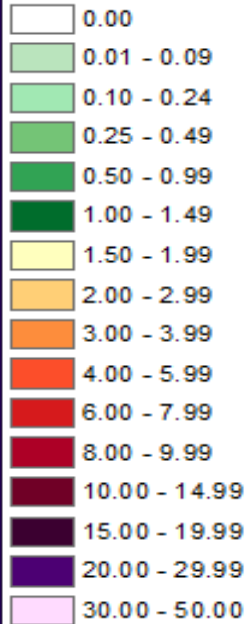
## Precipitation



# October 2020 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports

## Total Monthly Precipitation - October 2020

Inches



Created by the  
NWS Forecast Office  
El Paso, TX

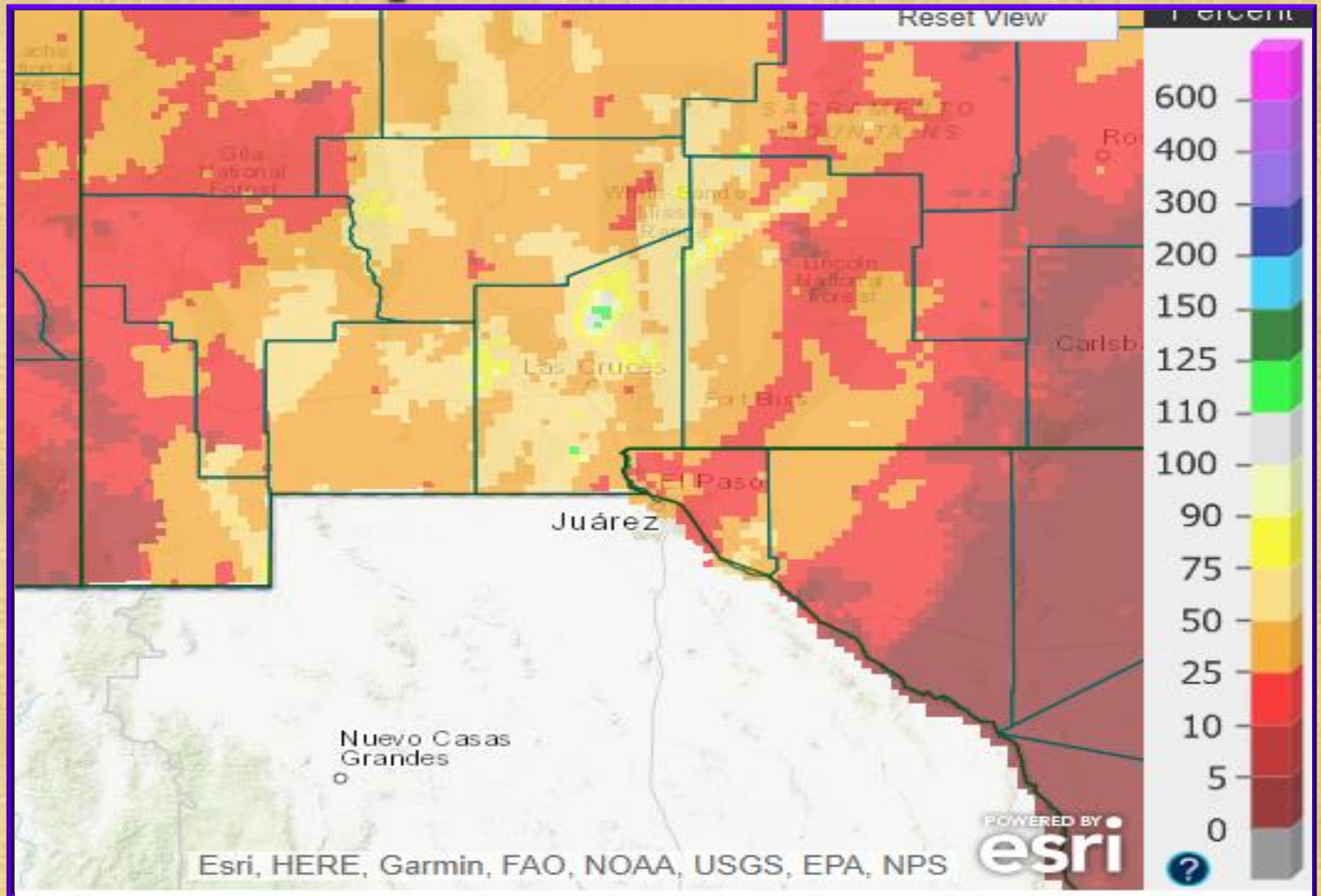


0 25 50  
Miles

Source: NWS Advanced  
Hydrologic Prediction Service

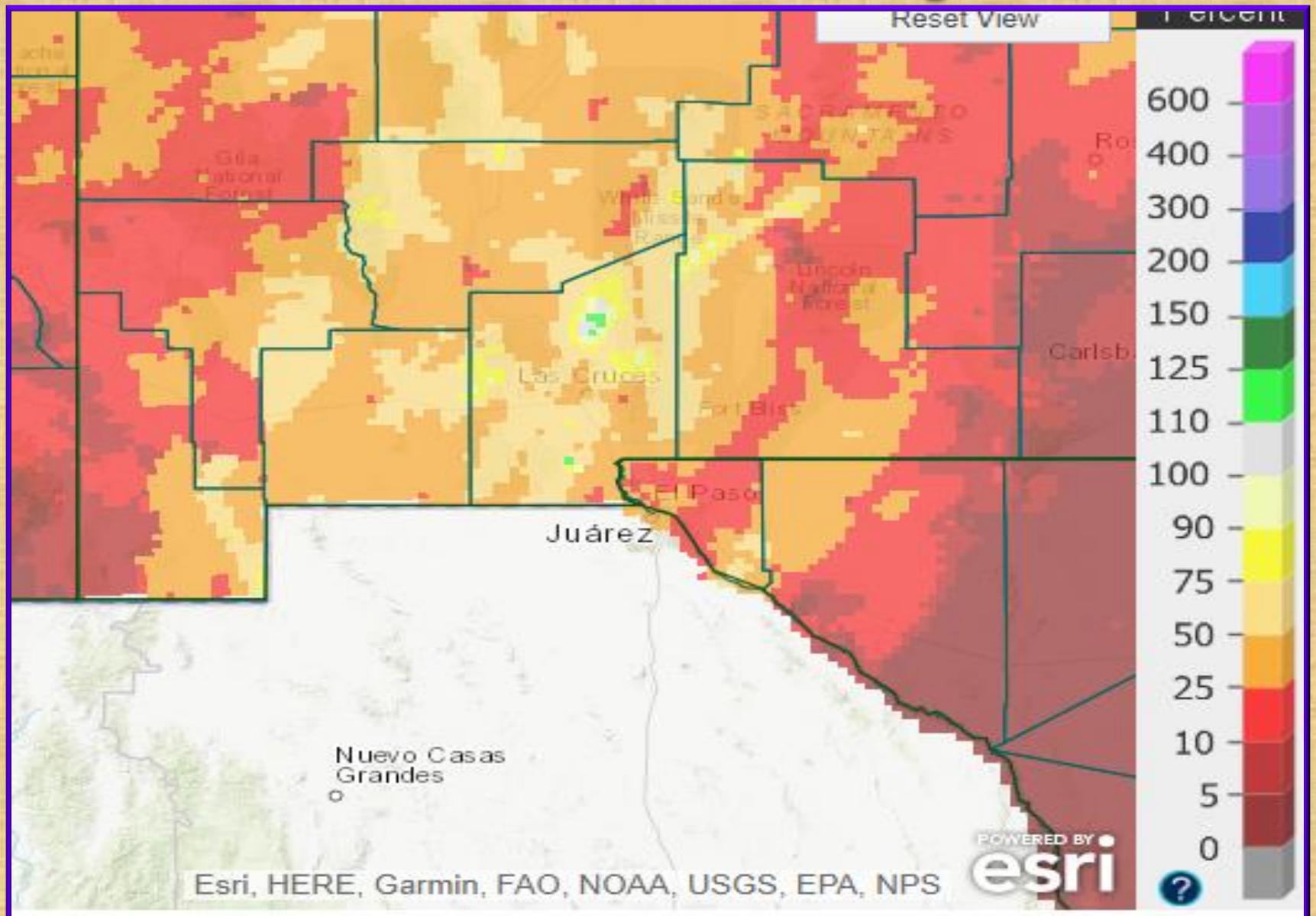
Created: 11/01/2020 2200 UTC

# October 2020 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal





# Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Sep 30)

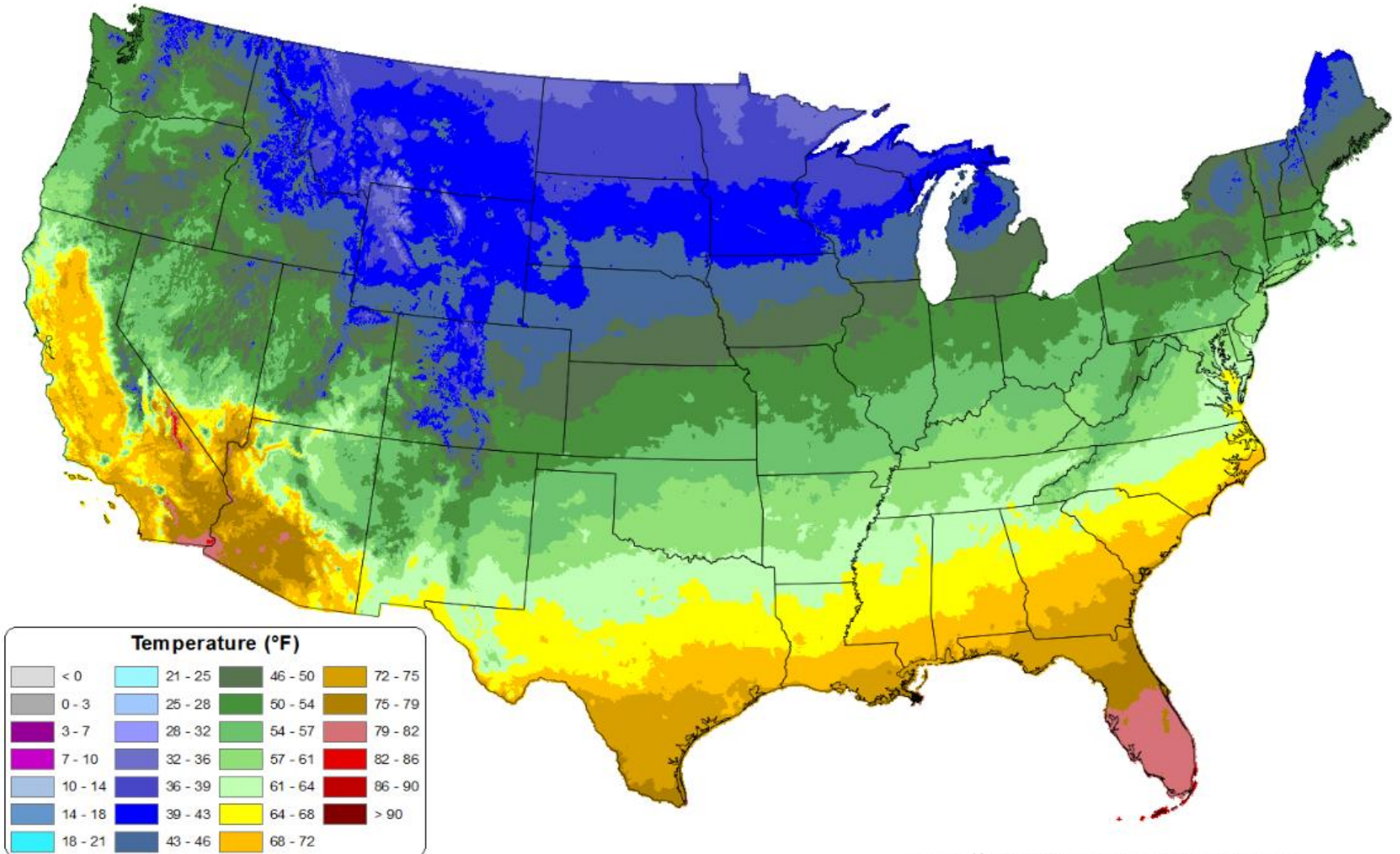


# Average Daily Mean Temperature for October 2020

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Oct 2020

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Oct 2020

(Map created 02 Nov 2020)

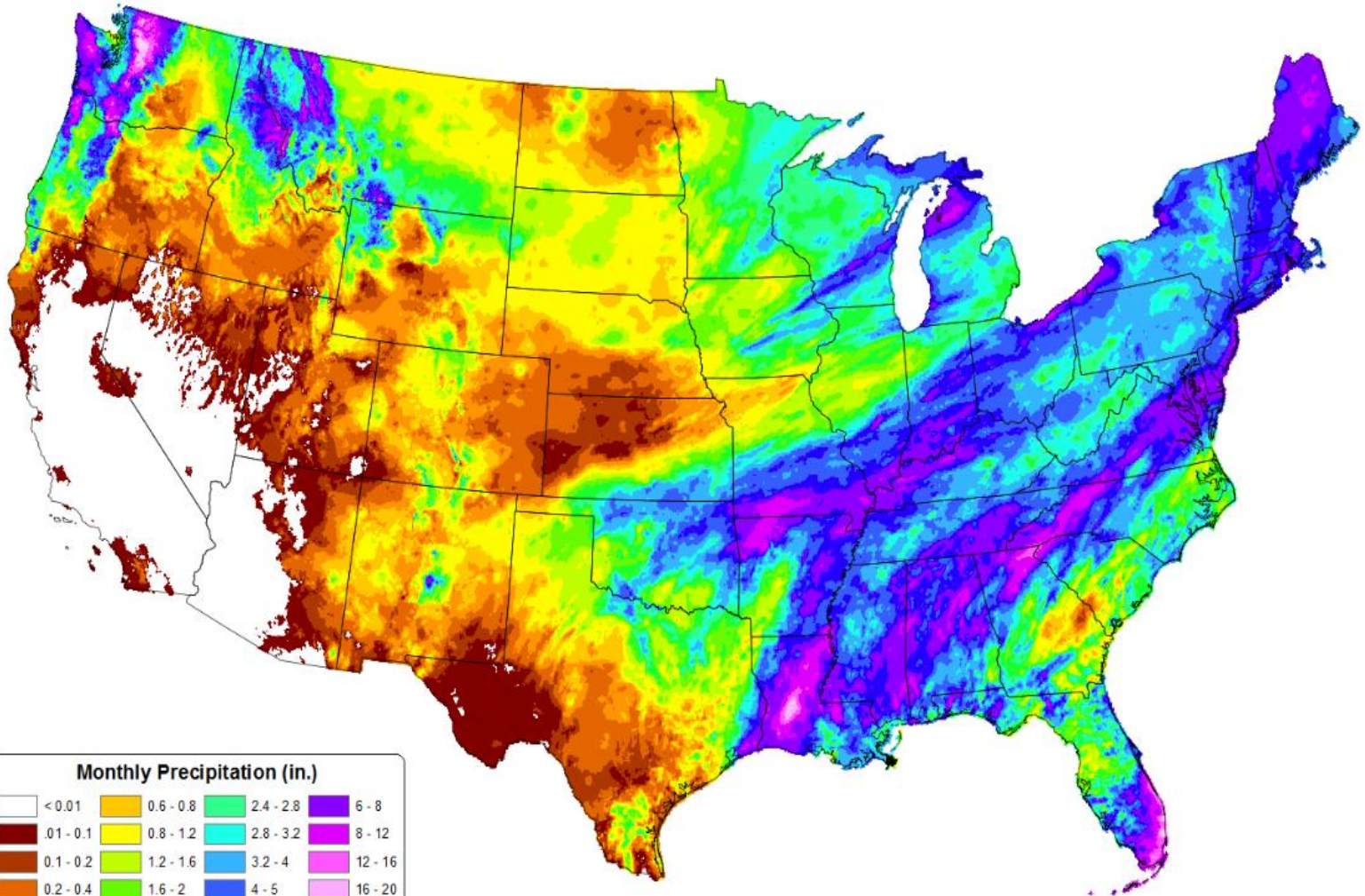


# Total Precipitation for October 2020

## Total Precipitation: Oct 2020

Period ending 31 Oct 2020

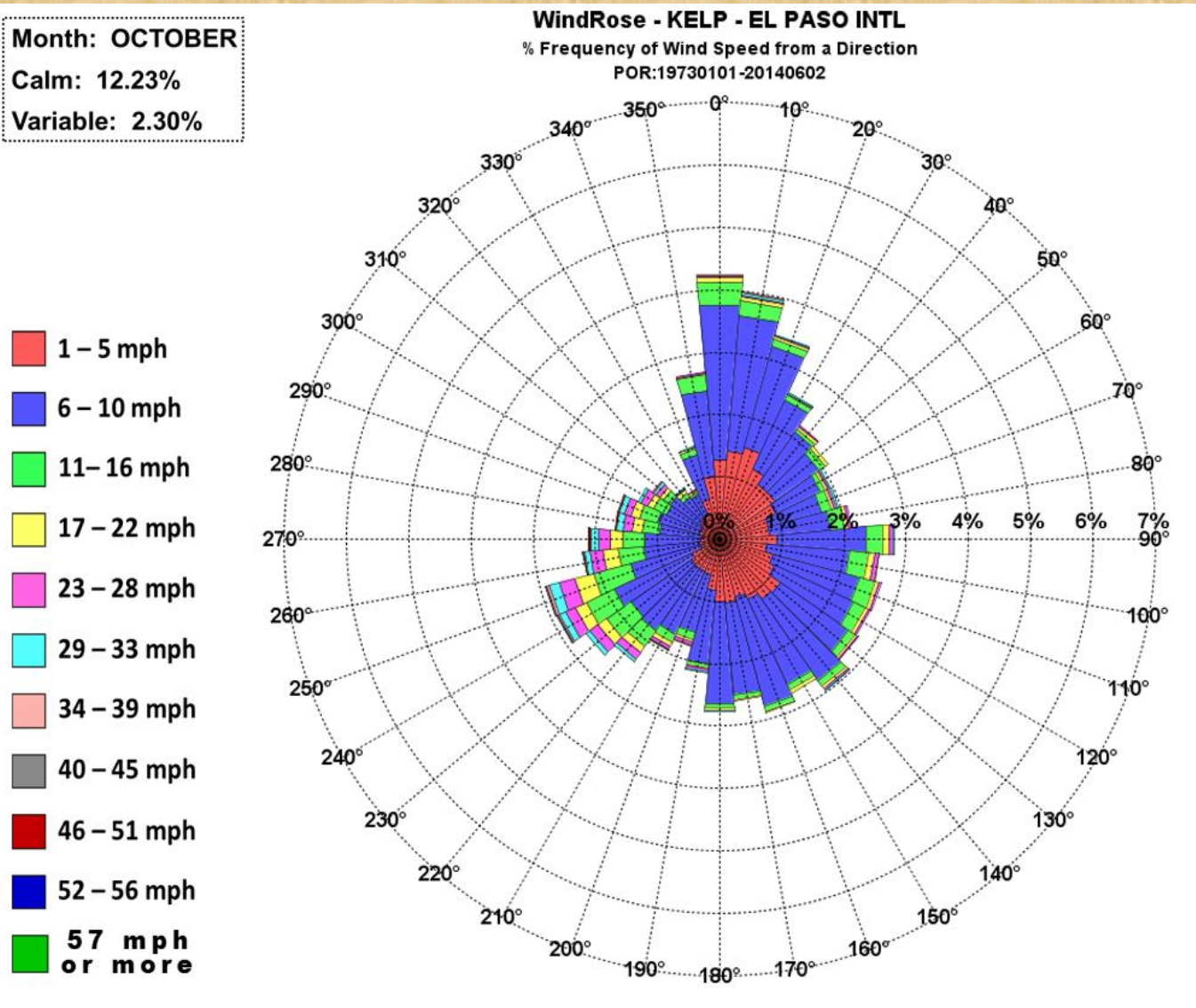
(Map created 02 Nov 2020)



Monthly Precipitation (in.)			
< 0.01	0.6 - 0.8	2.4 - 2.8	6 - 8
0.01 - 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

# Special Features

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



# Selected weather reports October 2020

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
OCTOBER 26 600 AM	TULAROSA-OTERO	.9 INCH HAIL
OCTOBER 26	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	62 MPH PEAK WIND
OCTOBER 26	S. FRANKLIN PEAK-EL PASO	53 MPH PEAK WIND
OCTOBER 26	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
OCTOBER 26	OROGRANDE GATE-OTERO	47 MPH PEAK WIND
OCTOBER 26	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	47 MPH PEAK WIND
OCTOBER 26	DENVER WSMR-OTERO	42 MPH PEAK WIND
OCTOBER 26	DELTA CLIPPER WSMR-OTERO	41 MPH PEAK WIND
OCTOBER 26	SPACEPORT-SIERRA	41 MPH PEAK WIND
OCTOBER 26	RINCON-DONA ANA	40 MPH PEAK WIND
OCTOBER 26	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	38 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected weather reports October 2020

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
OCTOBER 27 325 PM	SACRAMENTO-OTERO	7.0 INCHES SNOW
OCTOBER 27 720 AM	ALAMOGORDO-OTERO	4.5 INCHES SNOW
OCTOBER 27 546 AM	LAS CRUCES-DONA ANA	3.0 INCHES SNOW

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 >](#)

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City, ST

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**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 >](#)

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Enter Your City, ST or ZIP Code

Remember Me

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**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
<a href="#">January</a>	2005 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">February</a>	2006 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">March</a>	2007 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">April</a>	2008 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">May</a>	2009 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">June</a>	2010 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">July</a>	2011 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">August</a>	2012 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">September</a>	2013 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">October</a>	2014 <a href="#">Spring</a> <a href="#">Fall</a>
<a href="#">November</a>	
<a href="#">December</a>	

**NWS DOPPLER RADAR  
WATCHING THE MONSOON SKIES  
OVER EL PASO 24/7**

