January 2023 Weather Summary

Overview

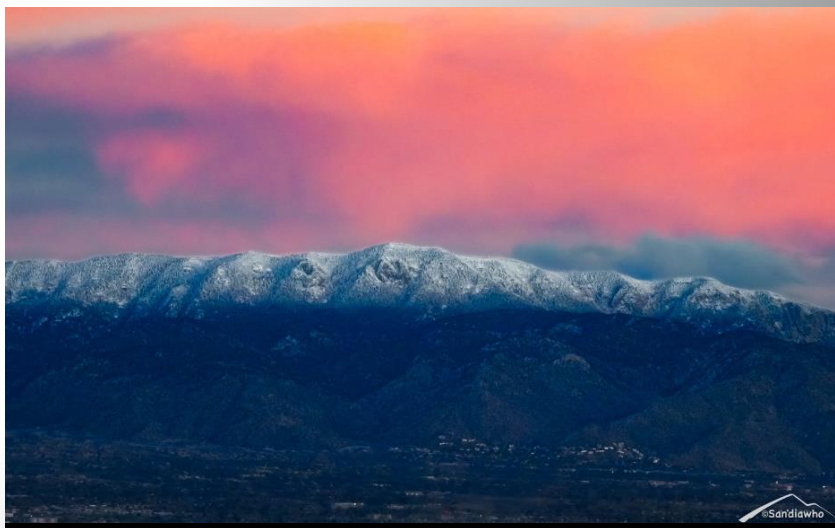
Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued February 8, 2023 4:49 PM MDT

Synopsis

January 2023 began cooler than average with a couple of weak winter storms that brought light mountain snow. The first couple of weeks had multiple high wind events in eastern New Mexico. A winter storm in the middle of the month brought over a foot of snow to the mountains in western and northern New Mexico and more high winds to the eastern plains. About a week later, another storm brought widespread snowfall and strong east canyon winds with gusts up to 64 mph in Albuquerque. The month ended with a modified arctic airmass that brought multiple nights of very cold temperatures and freezing fog to eastern New Mexico. Snowpack continued to improve throughout the month.

January 29th | Clayton, NM
Photo courtesy Marianne Rose

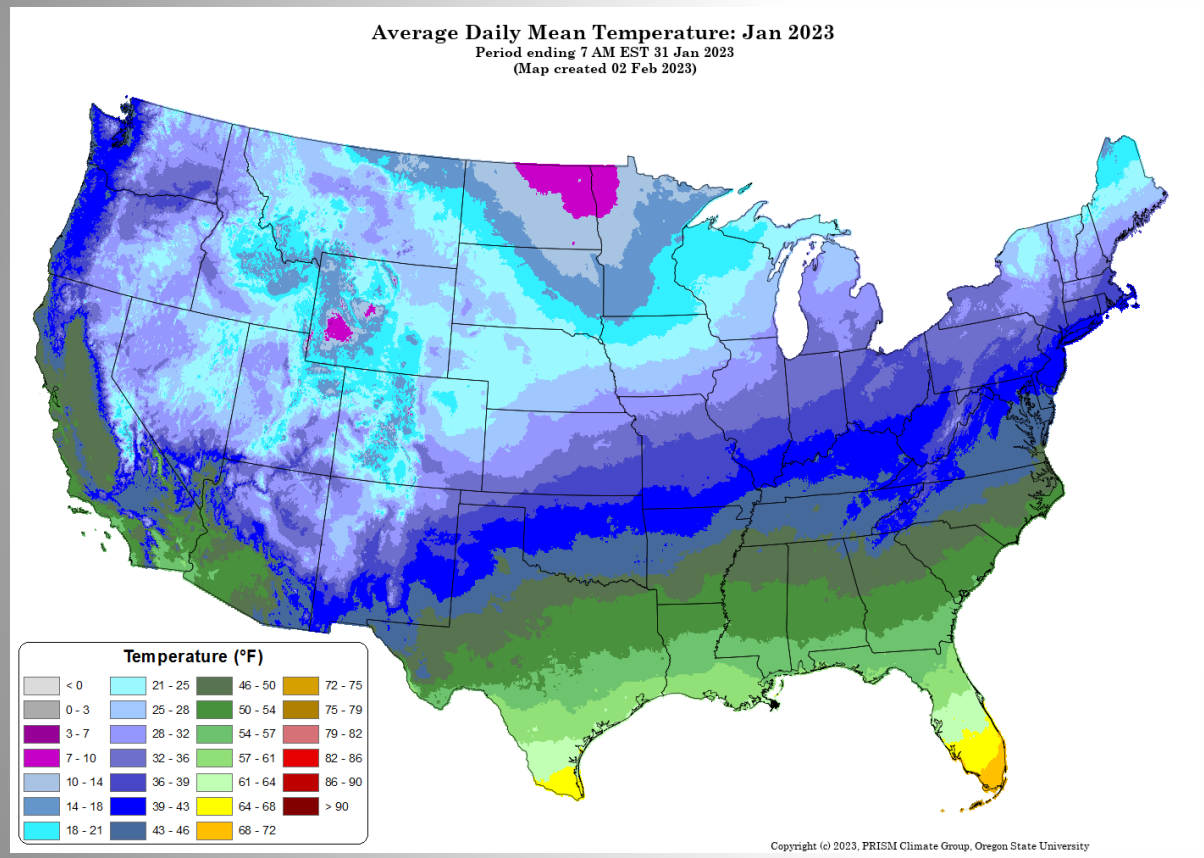
January 20th | Valles Caldera, NM
Photo courtesy Pam Cornell



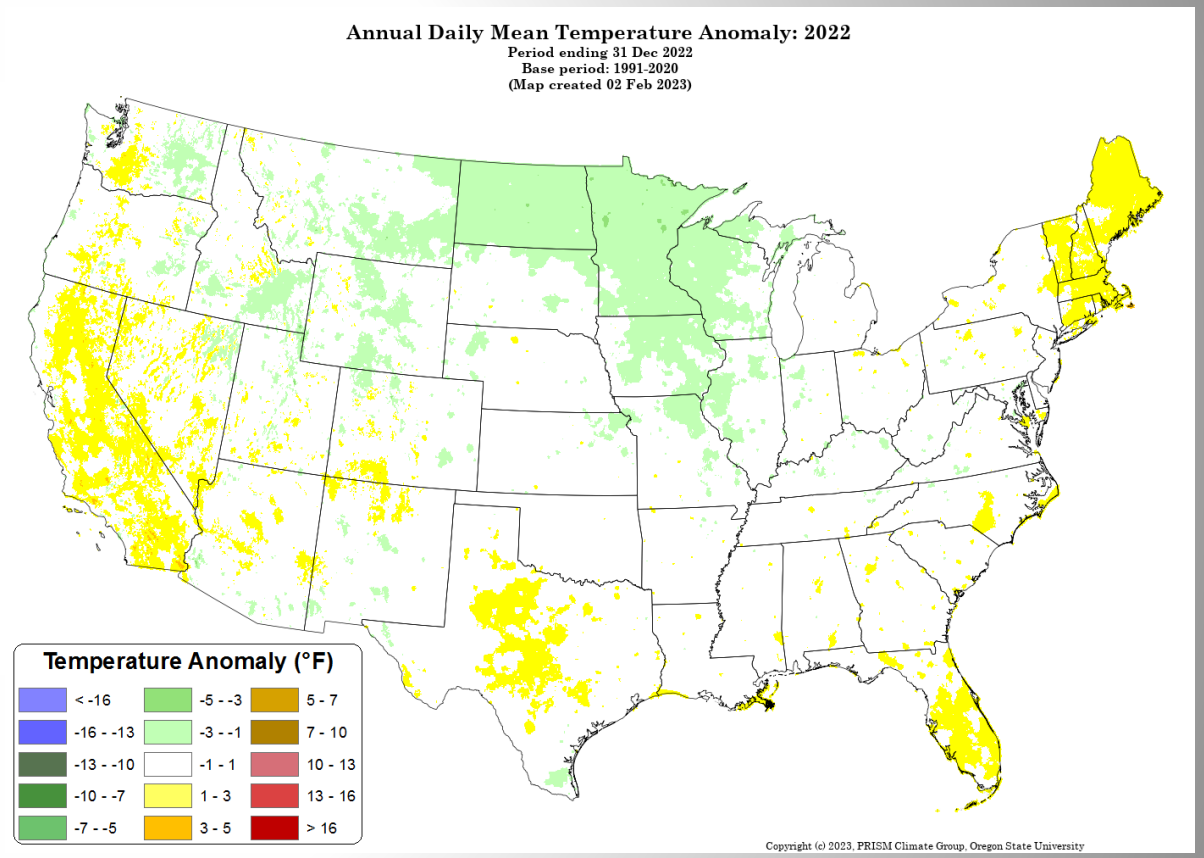
January 4th | Sandia Mountains
Photo courtesy Laura Horton

State Temperatures

Actual

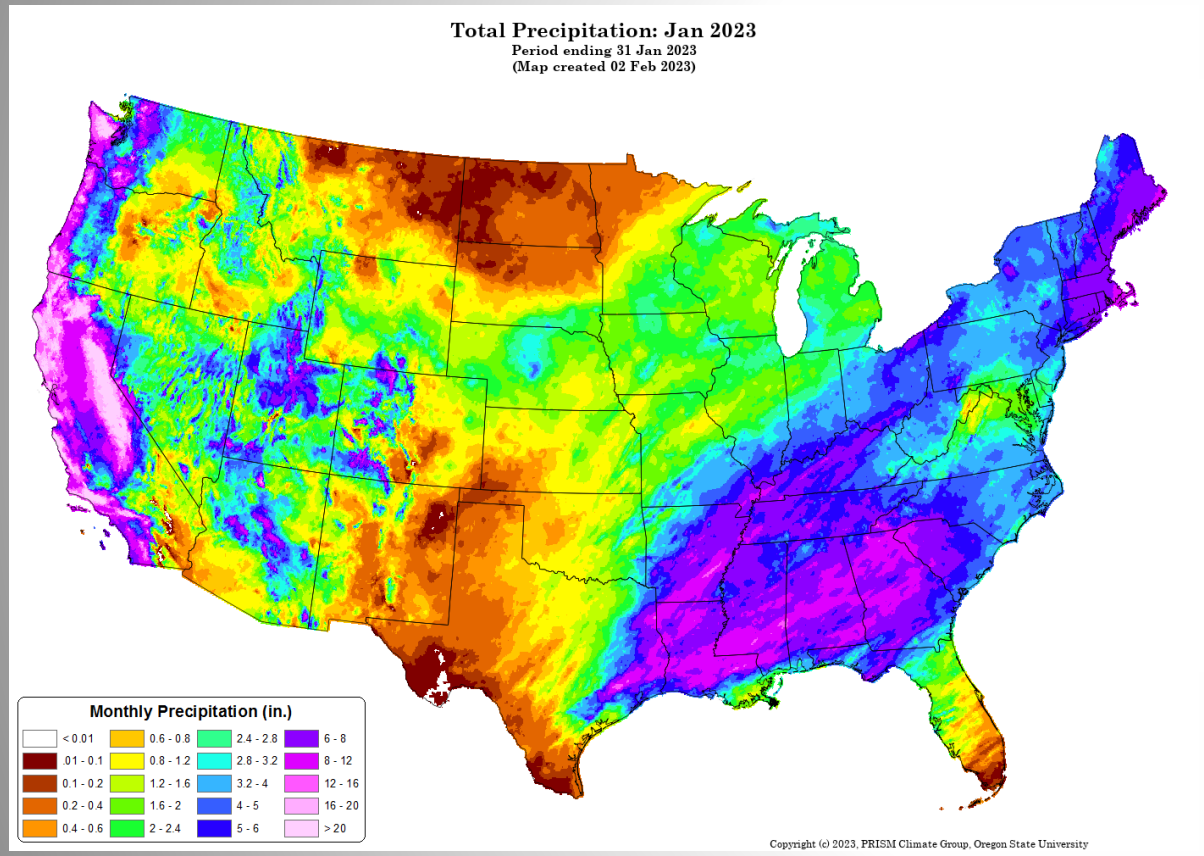


Anomaly

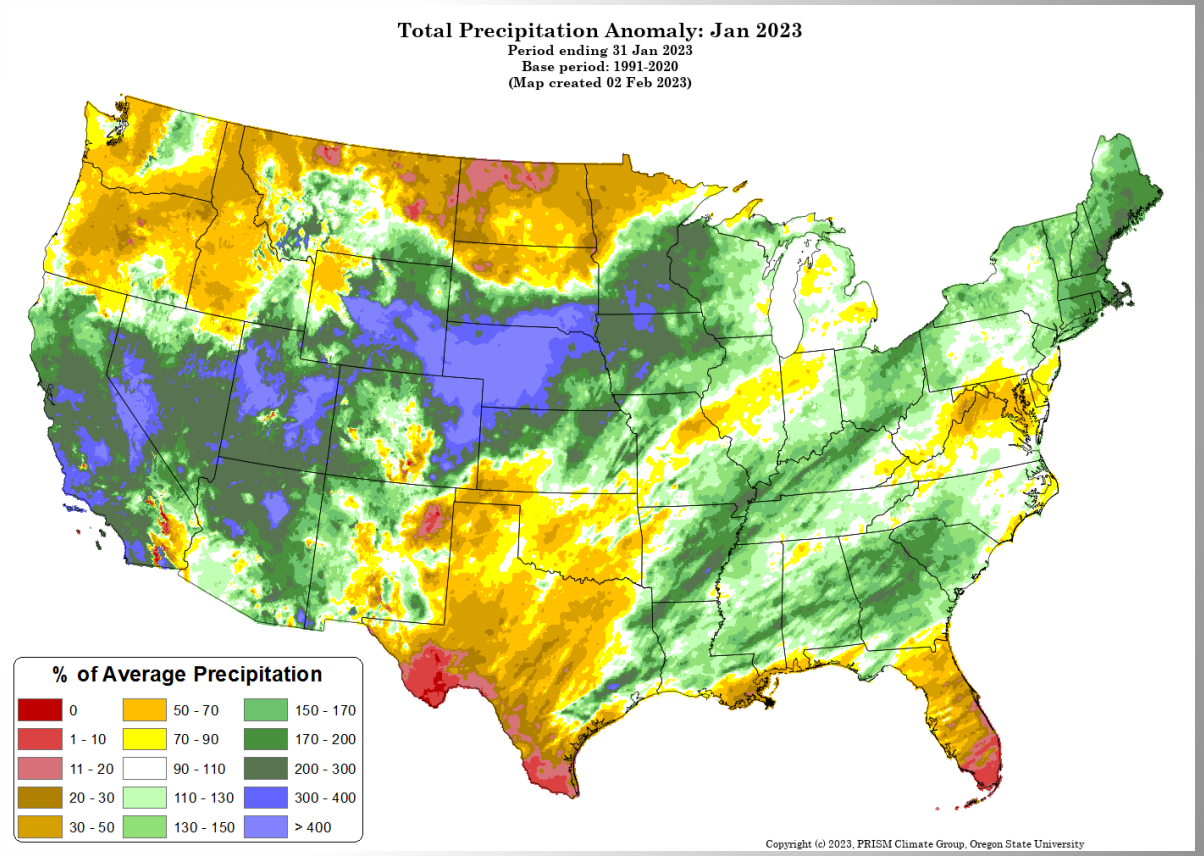


State Precipitation

Actual



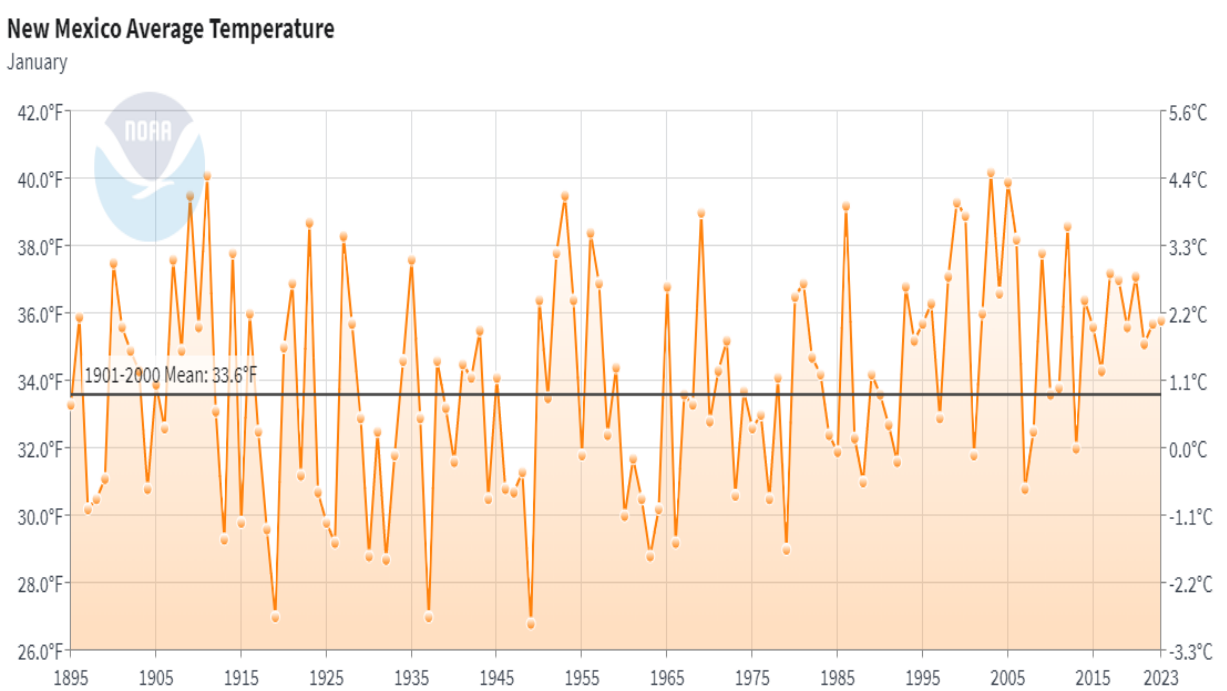
Anomaly



January 2023

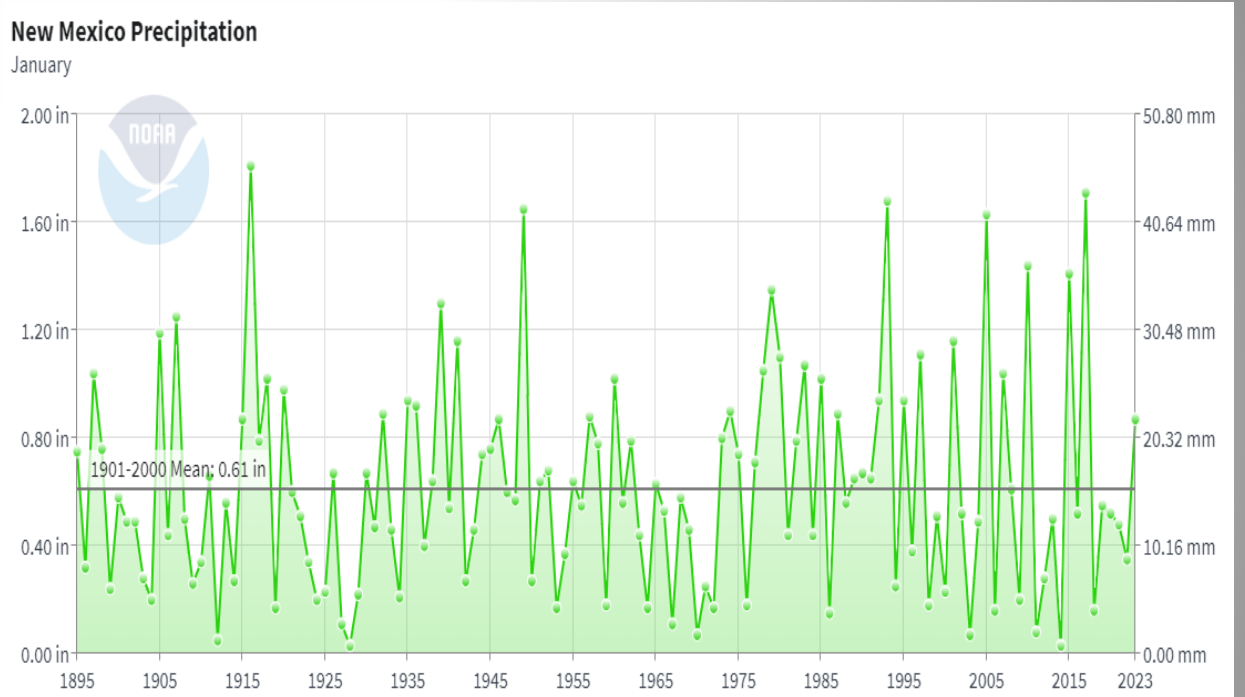
Statewide Temperature & Precipitation Trends

Temperature



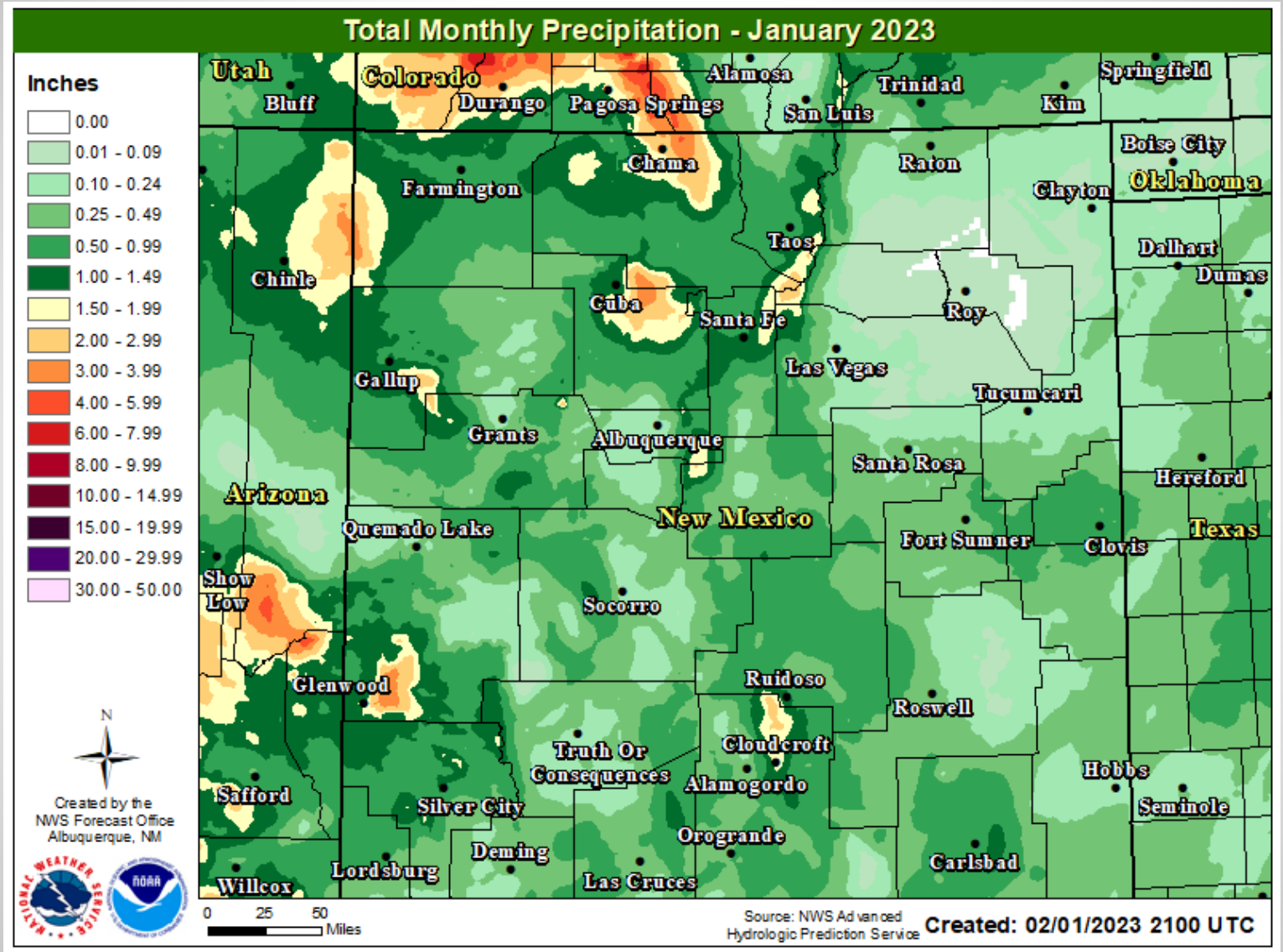
The January 2023 average statewide temperature was 35.8°, which was 2.2° above the long-term normal of 33.6° (1901-2000). This ranked as the 39th warmest January on record (1895-2023).

Precipitation



The January 2023 average statewide precipitation was 0.87”, which was 0.26” above the long-term normal of 0.61” (1901-2000). This ranked as the 32nd wettest January on record (1895-2023).

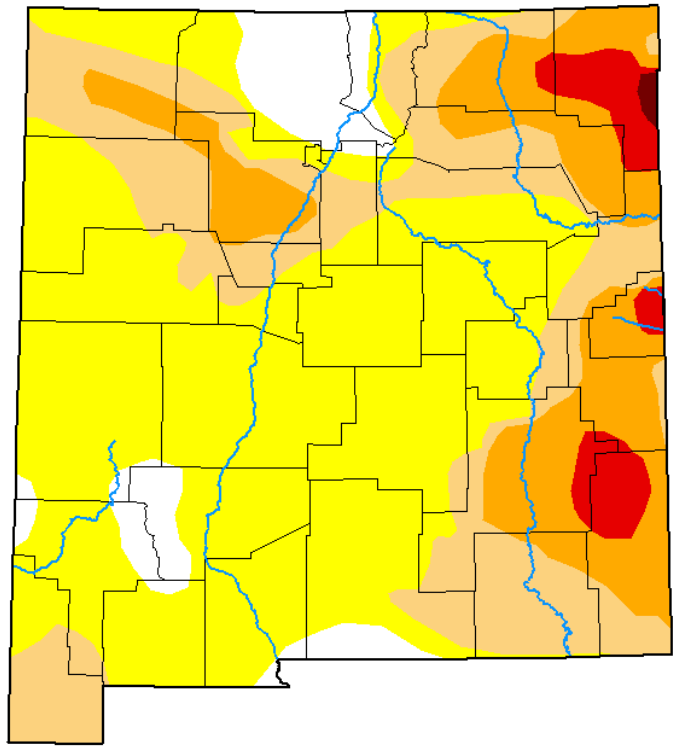
Monthly Precipitation



Here is a more detailed image of the January 2023 precipitation.

Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor
New Mexico



January 3, 2023
(Released Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
Last Week *12-27-2022*	7.03	92.97	41.73	18.55	3.74	0.19
3 Months Ago *10-04-2022*	3.30	96.70	76.81	32.32	7.27	0.18
Start of Calendar Year *01-03-2023*	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
Start of Water Year *09-27-2022*	0.99	99.01	76.80	31.46	6.99	0.00
One Year Ago *01-04-2022*	0.00	100.00	97.83	75.86	20.91	0.00

Intensity:
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:
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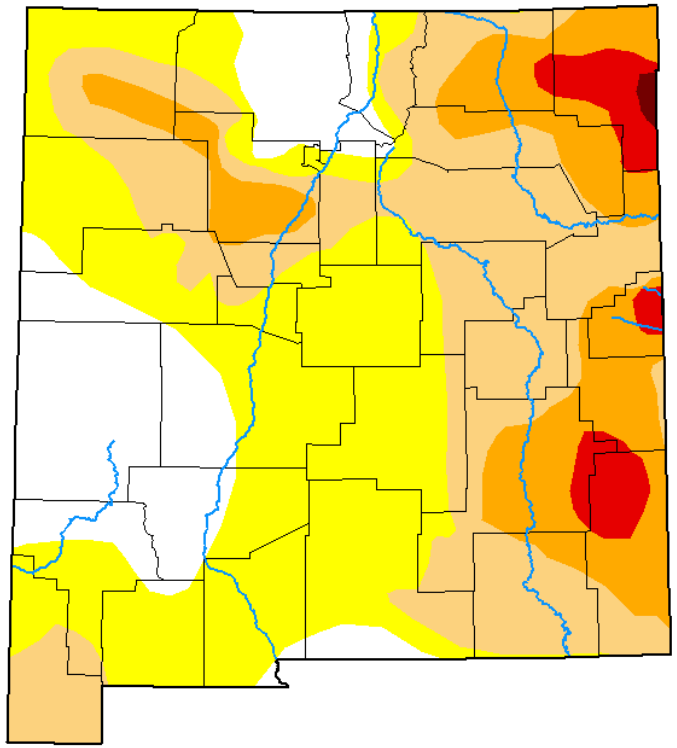
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor
New Mexico



January 31, 2023
(Released Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.92	82.08	47.31	18.37	3.78	0.19
Last Week *01-24-2023*	17.92	82.08	47.31	18.37	3.78	0.19
3 Months Ago *11-01-2022*	6.76	93.24	42.20	20.41	4.93	0.19
Start of Calendar Year *01-03-2023*	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
Start of Water Year *09-27-2022*	0.99	99.01	76.80	31.46	6.99	0.00
One Year Ago *02-01-2022*	0.00	100.00	97.15	78.16	29.76	2.53

Intensity:
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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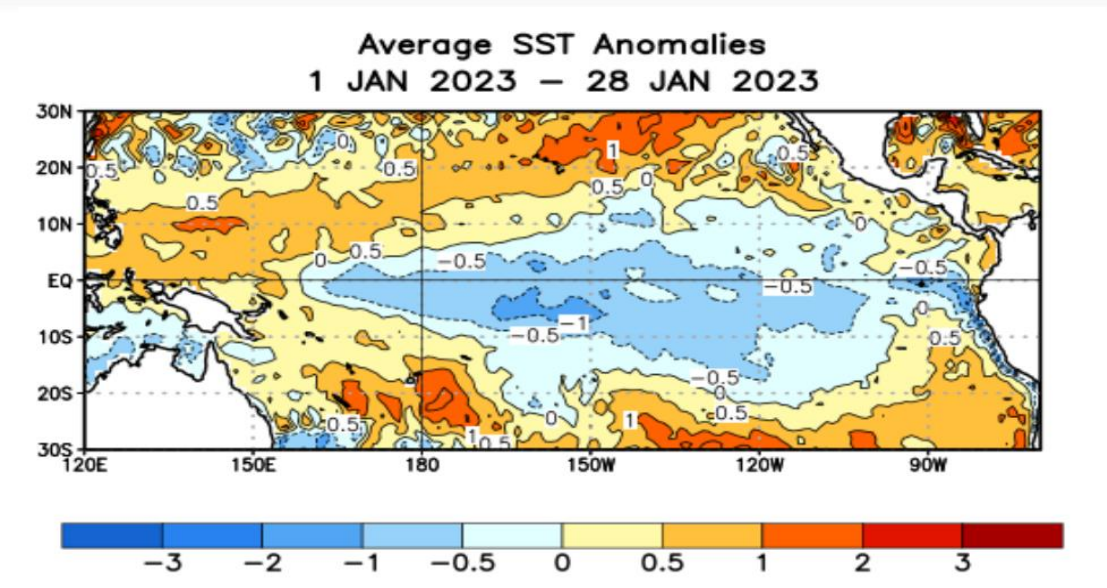
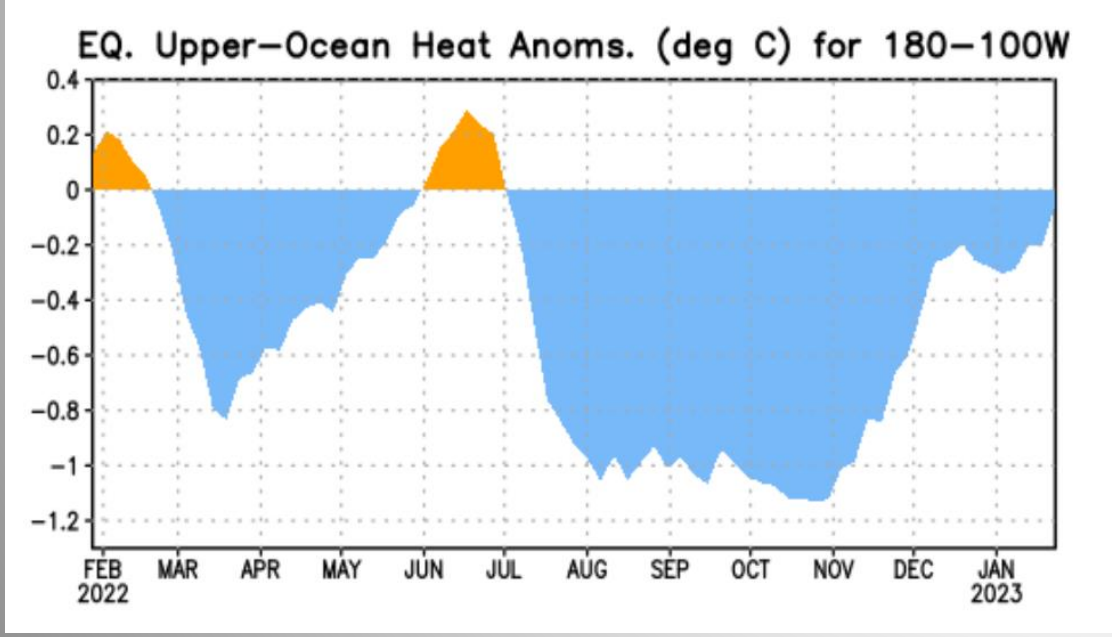
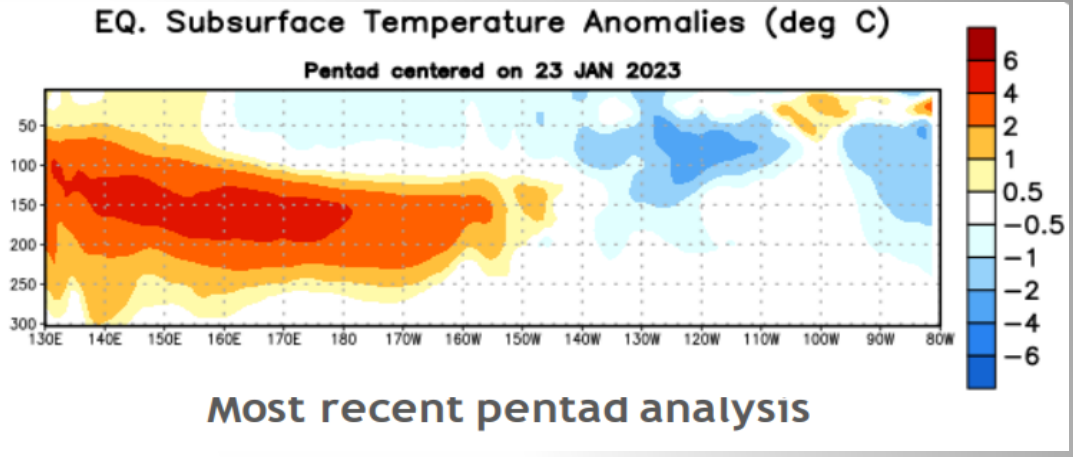
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought conditions in January remained about the same for most of the state, but portions of the southwest and northern mountains had drought completely removed due to a series of winter storms the past couple months.







Most recent pentad analysis

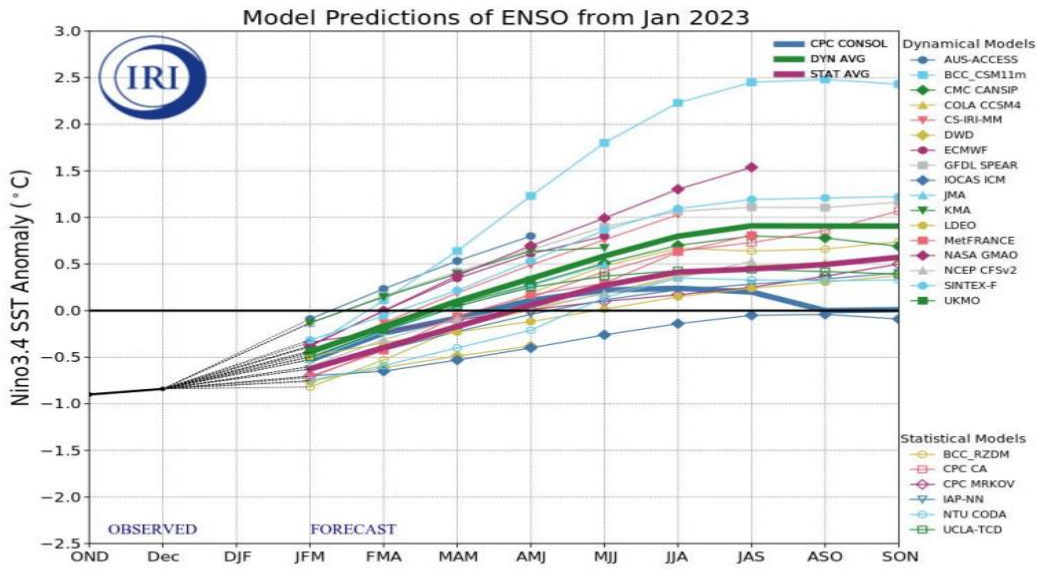
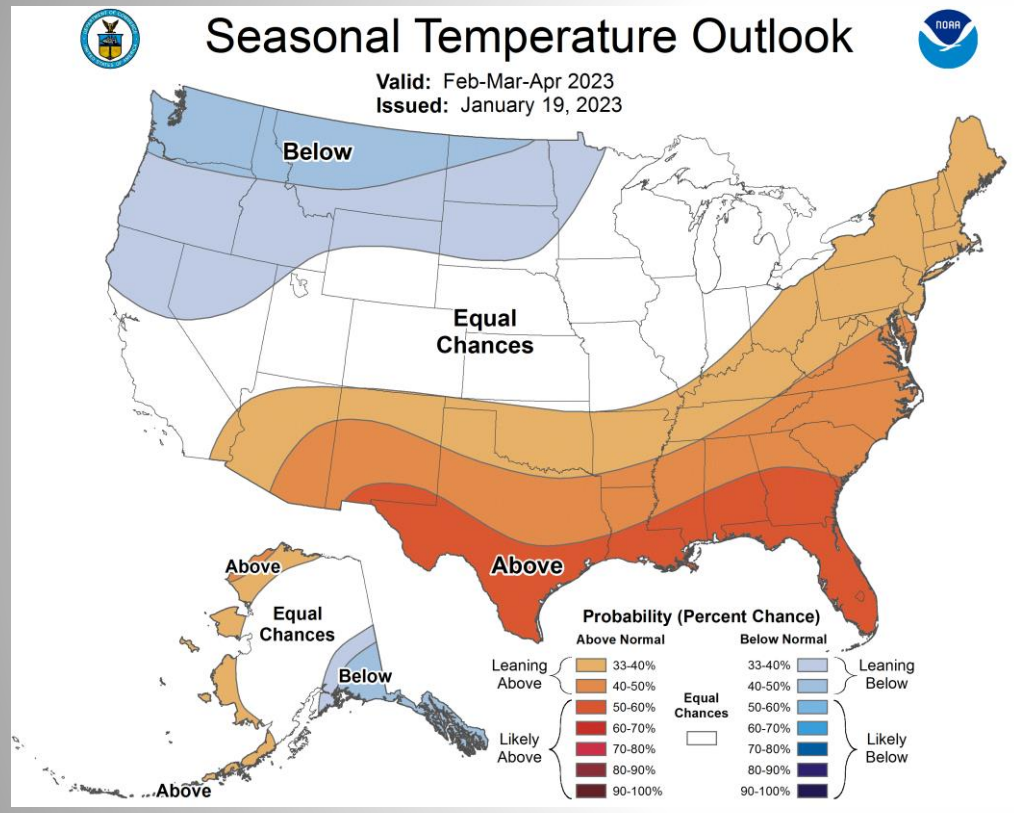


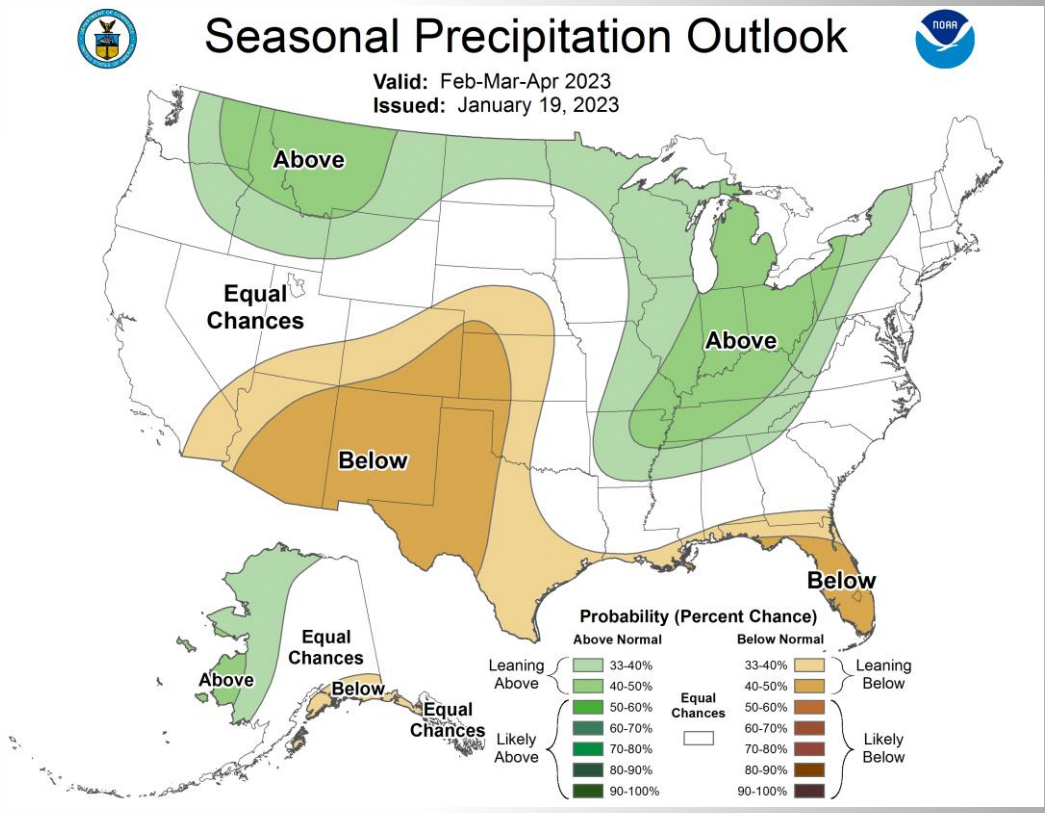
Figure provided by the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society (updated 19 January 2023).

Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

Temperature
February-March-April



Precipitation
February-March-April

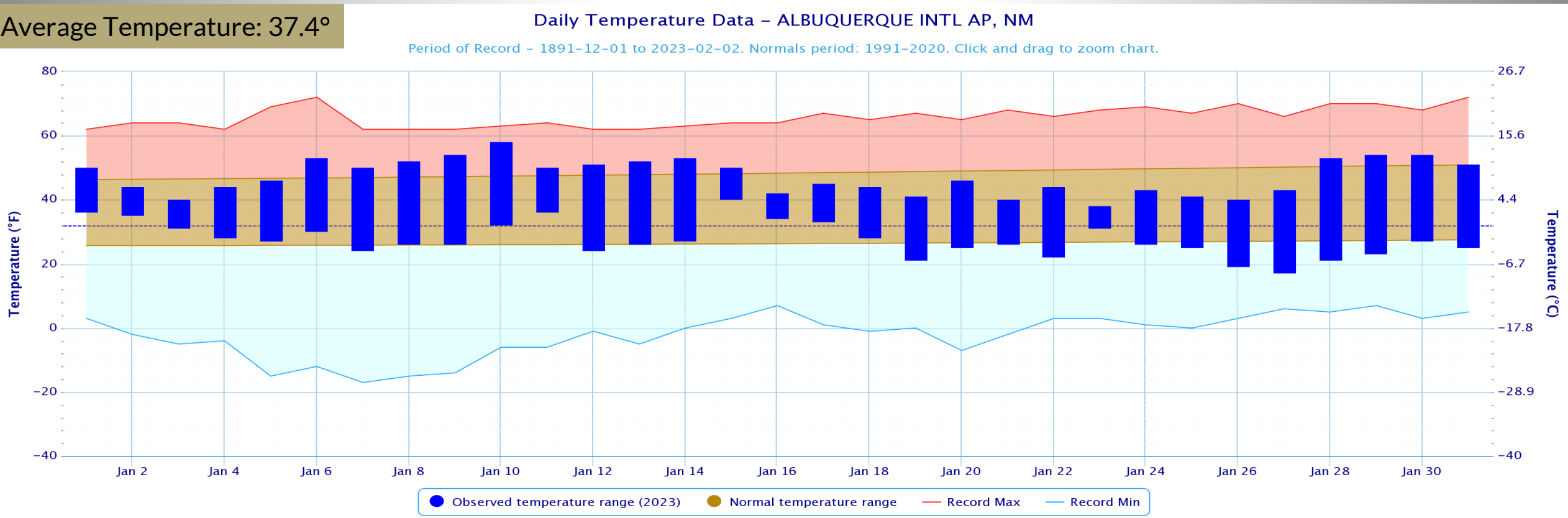


Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation are favored this spring season, especially southern New Mexico.

January 2023

Albuquerque Sunport Temperatures

Average Temperature: 37.4°

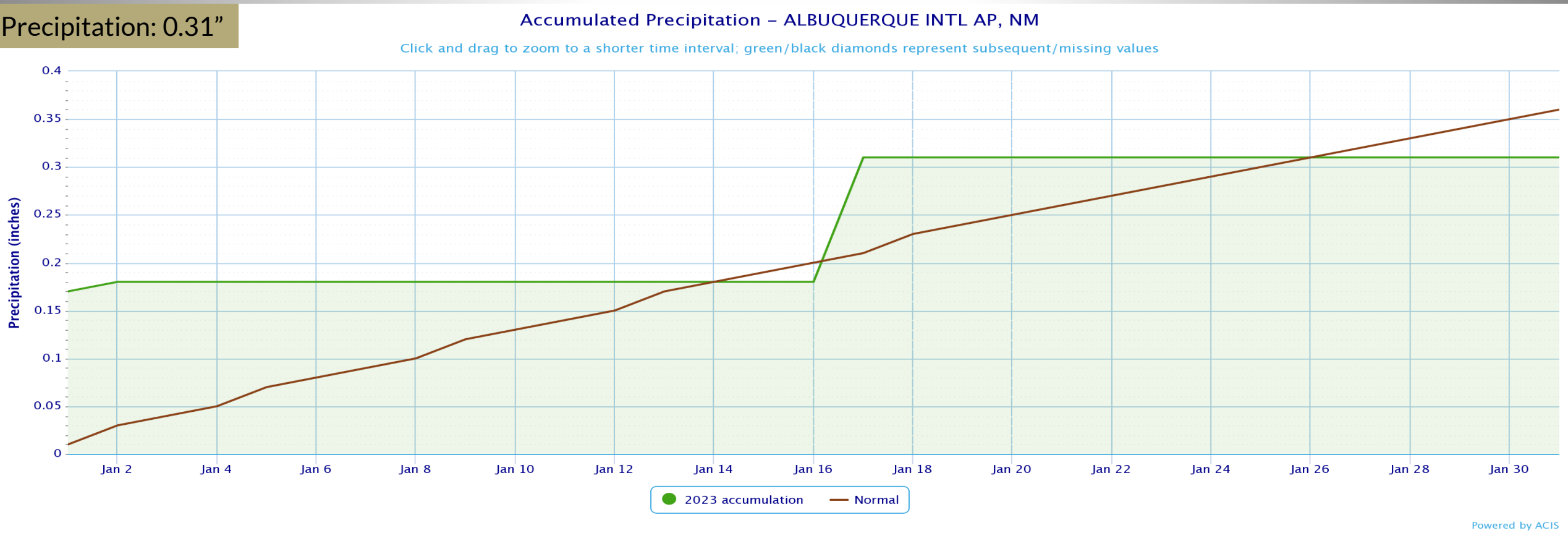


The January 2023 average temperature for Albuquerque was 37.4°, which was the same as the normal of 37.4°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 47.3°. This was 1.1° below the normal average maximum temperature of 48.3°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 27.5°. This was 1.1° above the normal average minimum temperature of 26.4°. This ranked as the 41st warmest January on record.

January 2023

Albuquerque Sunport Precipitation

Precipitation: 0.31”



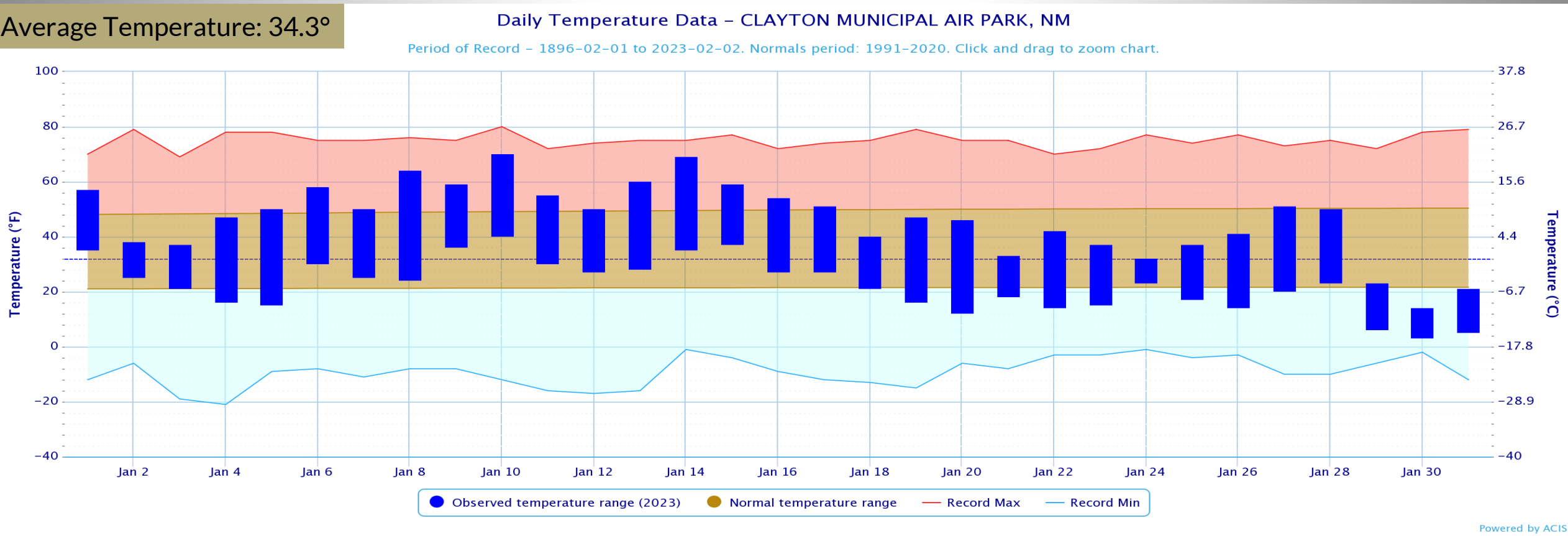
The January 2023 precipitation for Albuquerque was 0.31”, which was 0.05” below the normal of 0.36”. This ranked as the 71st driest January on record.

There was 0.1” of snow, compared to the normal of 1.4”.

January 2023

Clayton Temperatures

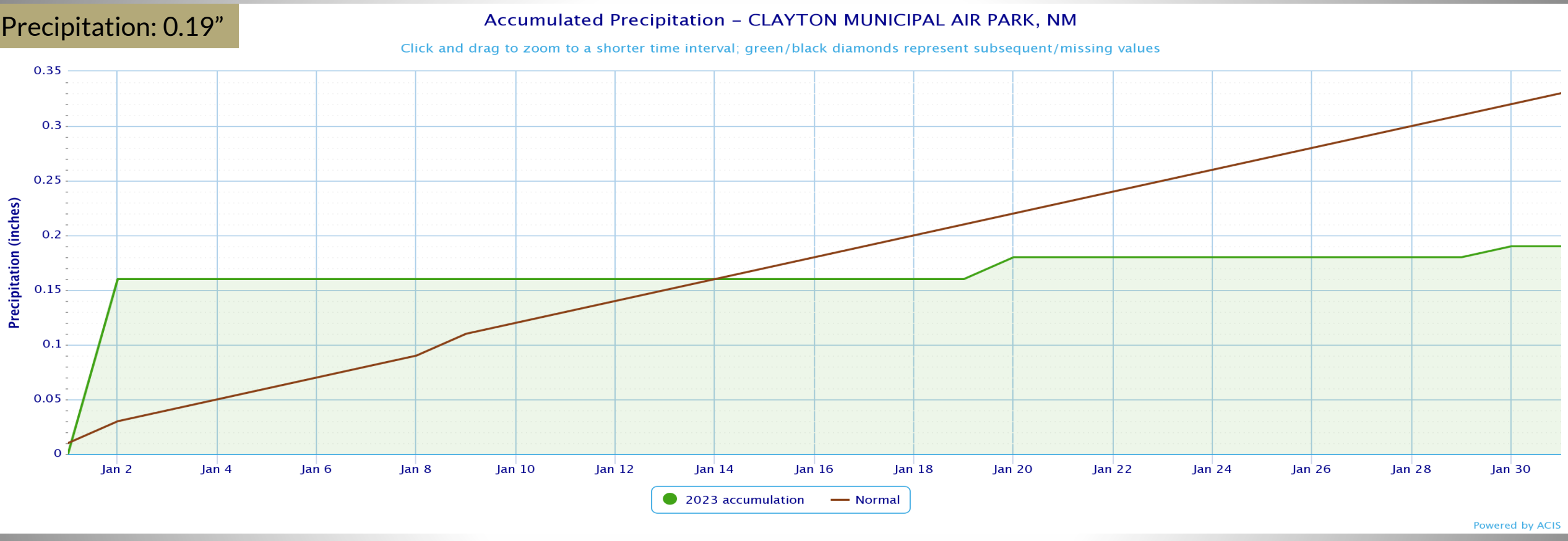
Average Temperature: 34.3°



The January 2023 average temperature for Clayton was 34.3°, which was 1.2° below the normal of 35.5°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 46.5°. This was 3.0° below the normal average maximum temperature of 49.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 22.1°. This was 0.7° above the normal average minimum temperature of 21.4°. This ranked as the 49th coldest January on record.

Clayton Precipitation

Precipitation: 0.19”

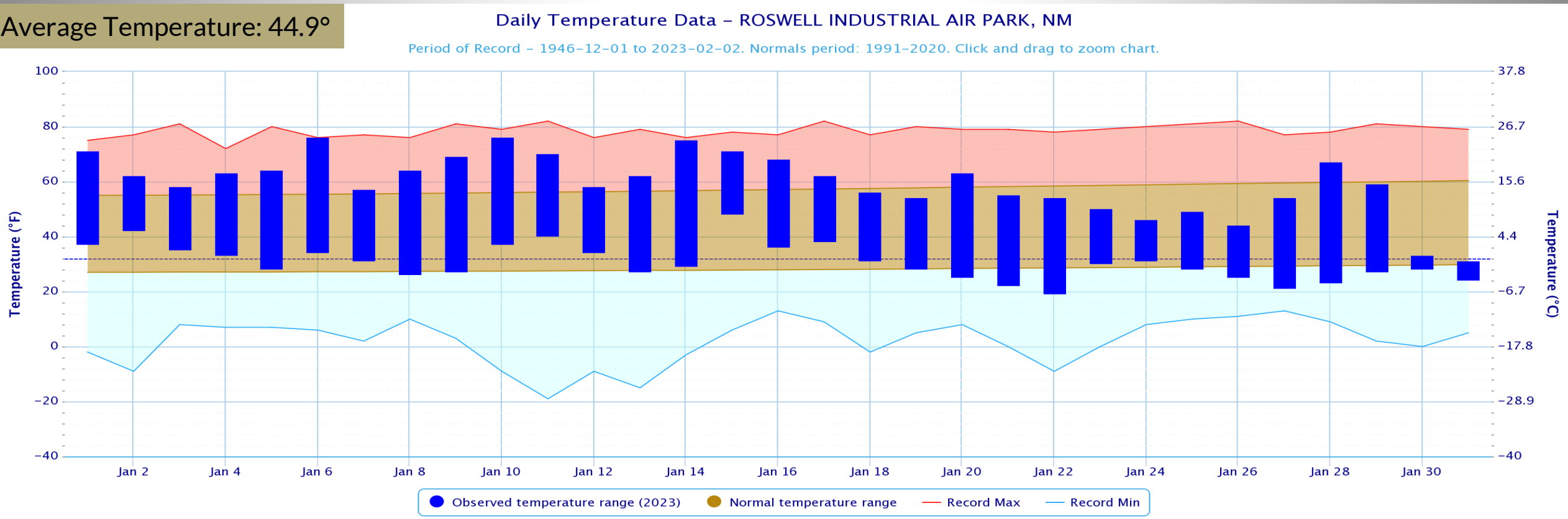


The January 2023 precipitation for Clayton was 0.19”, which was 0.14” below the normal of 0.33”. This ranked as the 51st driest January on record.

There was 0.9” of snow, compared to the normal of 3.7”.

Roswell Temperatures

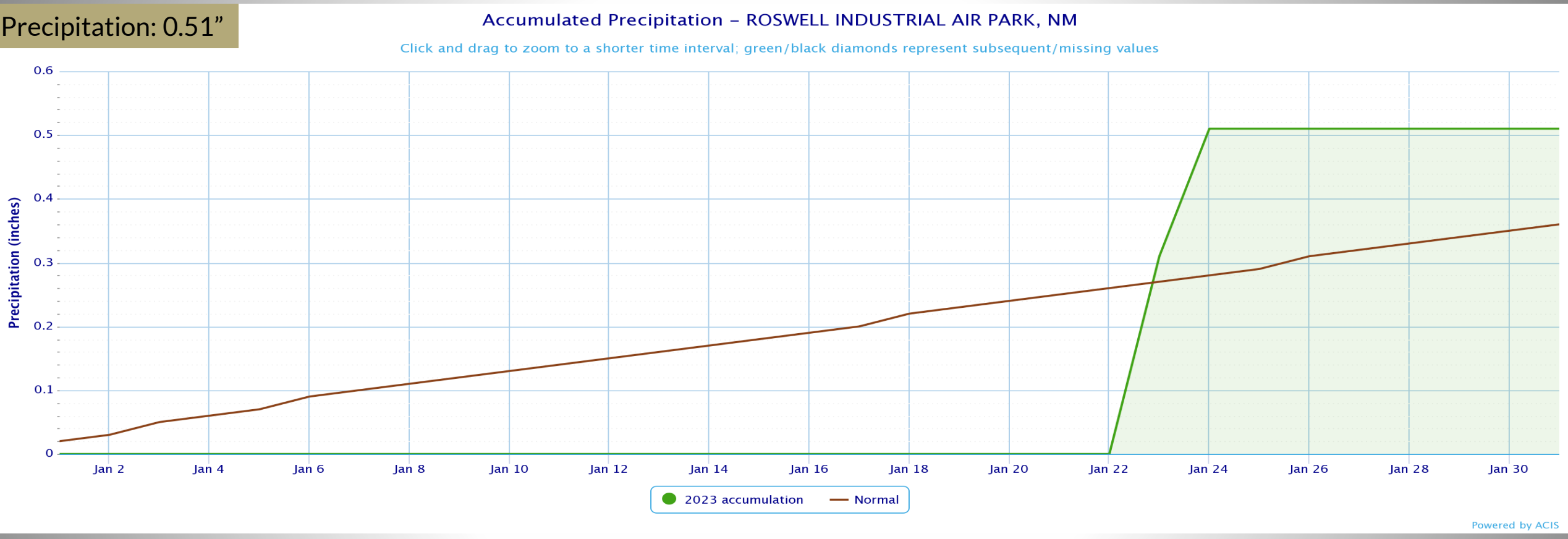
Average Temperature: 44.9°



The January 2023 average temperature for Roswell was 44.9°, which was 2.2° above the normal of 42.7°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 59.4°. This was 2.1° above the average maximum temperature of 57.3°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 30.5°. This was 2.4° above the normal average minimum temperature of 28.1°. This ranked as the 9th warmest January on record.

Roswell Precipitation

Precipitation: 0.51”



The January 2023 precipitation for Roswell was 0.51”, which was 0.15” above the normal of 0.36”. This ranked as the 19th wettest January on record.

There was 2.2” of snow, compared to the normal of 2.4”.

Severe Weather*

Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Heavy Snow	1/1/2023	TUSAS MOUNTAINS INCLUDING CHAMA	11 in		The Hopewell SNOTEL reported an estimated 11 inches of snowfall.
Heavy Snow	1/1/2023	JEMEZ MOUNTAINS	10 in		The Quemazon SNOTEL reported an estimated 10 inches of snowfall.
High Wind	1/3/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	50 kt	Gust	A station southeast of Vaughn measured a wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	1/4/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	57 kt	Gust	A station southeast of Vaughn measured a wind gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	1/3/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	50 kt	Gust	The Las Vegas Municipal airport measured a wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	1/4/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	53 kt	Gust	The Las Vegas Municipal airport measured a wind gust of 61 mph.
High Wind	1/10/2023	EAST SLOPES SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS	37 kt	Sustained	The Angel Fire Airport reported a high sustained wind speed of 43 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	UPPER RIO GRANDE VALLEY	37 kt	Sustained	The Taos Airport measured repeated high sustained winds of 40 to 43 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	CENTRAL HIGHLANDS	55 kt	Gust	The Clines Corners weather station measured a gust of 63 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	CENTRAL HIGHLANDS	37 kt	Sustained	The Clines Corners weather station measured a high sustained wind of 43 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	59 kt	Gust	A public weather station six miles north of Tecolotito measured a gust of 68 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	37 kt	Sustained	A weather station near Tecolotito measured sustained winds of 40 to 43 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	UNION COUNTY	52 kt	Gust	The Clayton Municipal Airport measured a wind gust of 60 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	58 kt	Gust	A mesonet station in southwestern Guadalupe County measured a gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	51 kt	Gust	A mesonet station measured a gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	QUAY COUNTY	50 kt	Gust	The Tucumcari Airport measured a wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	CURRY COUNTY	53 kt	Gust	A mesonet station measured a gust of 61 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	DE BACA COUNTY	54 kt	Gust	A mesonet station measured a gust of 62 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	DE BACA COUNTY	42 kt	Sustained	A mesonet station measured repeated high sustained winds between 40 to 48 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	ROOSEVELT COUNTY	50 kt	Gust	A mesonet station measured a wind gust of 58 mph.

*Storm reports are considered preliminary until a final review is certified in the NWS Storm Data publication.
Certified data is available three to four months post-event at: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/

Severe Weather*

Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
High Wind	1/11/2023	SOUTHWEST CHAVES COUNTY	51 kt	Gust	The Dunken RAWS measured several gusts of 58 to 59 mph.
High Wind	1/11/2023	NORTHERN SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS	57 kt	Gust	Taos Ski Valley at Kachina Peak measured a wind gust of 66 mph.
Heavy Snow	1/15/2023	CHUSKA MOUNTAINS	13 in		The Navajo Whiskey Creek SNOTEL estimated 13 inches of snowfall.
Heavy Snow	1/15/2023	WEST CENTRAL MOUNTAINS	10 in		The Rice Park SNOTEL estimated 10 inches of snowfall.
Heavy Snow	1/15/2023	TUSAS MOUNTAINS INCLUDING CHAMA	10 in		The Chamita SNOTEL estimated 10 inches of snowfall.
Heavy Snow	1/15/2023	JEMEZ MOUNTAINS	10 in		The Pajarito Mountain Ski area estimated 10 inches of snowfall.
High Wind	1/15/2023	SOUTH CENTRAL MOUNTAINS	57 kt	Gust	The Smokey Bear RAWS measured a wind gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	1/15/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	40 kt	Sustained	The NMC site southeast of Vaughn measured a sustained wind of 43 mph.
High Wind	1/15/2023	FAR NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	55 kt	Gust	The Raton Crews Airport ASOS measured a wind gust of 63 mph.
High Wind	1/15/2023	SOUTHWEST CHAVES COUNTY	52 kt	Gust	The Dunken RAWS measured a peak wind gust o 60 mph.
High Wind	1/15/2023	UNION COUNTY	55 kt	Gust	A NMC mesonet station SW of Clayton measured a peak wind gust o 63 mph.
Heavy Snow	1/16/2023	FAR NORTHWEST HIGHLANDS	10 in		A CoCoRaHS station measured 10 inches of snowfall near Tierra Amarilla.
Heavy Snow	1/16/2023	TUSAS MOUNTAINS INCLUDING CHAMA	10 in		The Chamita SNOTEL measured 10 inches of snowfall near Chama.
Heavy Snow	1/17/2023	JEMEZ MOUNTAINS	14.5 in		A CoCoRaHS observer measured 14.5 inches of snowfall in the western Jemez Mountains.
Heavy Snow	1/17/2023	JEMEZ MOUNTAINS	12 in		The Vacas Locas SNOTEL estimated 12 inches of snowfall in the western Jemez Mountains.
Heavy Snow	1/17/2023	JEMEZ MOUNTAINS	11 in		The Garita Peak SNOTEL estimated 11 inches of snowfall in the western Jemez Mountains.
Heavy Snow	1/17/2023	SOUTHERN SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS	11 in		The Santa Fe Ski area measured 11 inches of snowfall.
Winter Weather	1/17/2023	SOUTH CENTRAL MOUNTAINS			Severe winter driving conditions along NM532 Ski Run Rd, just west of Ruidoso.
High Wind	1/18/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	58 kt	Gust	A NMC site southeast of Vaughn measured a wind gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	1/18/2023	DE BACA COUNTY	58 kt	Gust	A NMC site east of Ft. Sumner measured a wind gust of 67 mph.
Heavy Snow	1/20/2023	NORTHWEST HIGHLANDS	9 in		A trained spotter in Cuba, NM reported a snow accumulation of 9 inches.

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Certified data is available three to four months post-event at: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/

Severe Weather*

Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Winter Weather	1/20/2023	WEST CENTRAL MOUNTAINS			A car crash resulted in the closure of I-40 at the Continental Divide.
Heavy Snow	1/20/2023	WEST CENTRAL MOUNTAINS	12 in		A trained spotter reported a snow accumulation of 12 inches.
Winter Weather	1/21/2023	JEMEZ MOUNTAINS			A snow plow flipped along New Mexico Highway 4 west of Los Alamos.
Heavy Snow	1/20/2023	SOUTHERN SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS	10 in		The Santa Fe Ski area reported a snow accumulation of 10 inches.
Winter Weather	1/20/2023	CENTRAL HIGHLANDS			Two crashes along I-40 near Clines Corners. These crashes resulted in the closure of I-40.
Heavy Snow	1/20/2023	JOHNSON/BARTLETT MESAS INCLUDING RATON PASS	10 in		A trained spotter just northeast of Folsom, NM reported a snow accumulation of 10 inches.
High Wind	1/23/2023	MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY/ABQ METRO AREA	56 kt	Gust	The Albuquerque Sunport measured repeated high wind gusts with a peak gust of 64 mph.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY	4.3 in		The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge measured 4.3 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	8 in		The Vaughn COOP station measured 8 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	CURRY COUNTY	8 in		A CoCoRaHS station near Clovis measured 8 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	CURRY COUNTY	8.5 in		A CoCoRaHS station north of Texico measured 8.5 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	CURRY COUNTY	6 in		A CoCoRaHS station near Clovis measured 6 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	DE BACA COUNTY	4 in		A trained spotter eleven miles southwest of Yeso measured 4 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	EASTERN LINCOLN COUNTY	4 in		A CoCoRaHS station near Arabela measured 4 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	SAN AGUSTIN PLAINS AND ADJACENT LOWLANDS	4.5 in		A CoCoRaHS observer near Magdalena measured 4.5 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	SOUTHWEST CHAVES COUNTY	5 in		A trained spotter near Dunken measured 5 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	1/23/2023	ROOSEVELT COUNTY	8 in		A COOP observer in Portales measured 8 inches of snow.

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Resources

- NCEI Climatological Rankings: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/national/rankings
- PRISM Climate Data: http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/
- NWS Local Climate Pages: https://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=abq
- NCEI Storm Data: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/
- Questions?: sr-abq.webmaster@noaa.gov
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