

December 2015 Weather Digest



December 2015 Weather Summary

December 2015 began relatively quiet, unlike how many months respond under El Niño conditions. However, the end of the month more than made up for the quiet beginning.

High pressure aloft and dry west flow dominated nearly the first half of the month. Temperatures were above normal, and through the 11th, no precipitation was reported. The came to an end on the 12th and 13th, as a strong Pacific moved across New Mexico, resulting in the first precipitation event of the month. While the lowlands just reported light rain, some of the mountains received heavy snow. The Cloudcroft area reported 12-15 inches of snow over the two days.

Another Pacific storm system moved in on the 15th and 16th, bringing light showers to the area, but also brisk winds and much below normal temperatures. And the largest storm system of the month waited until just after Christmas to pull in and impact the area.

A very powerful storm system developed out over the Pacific Ocean and moved into the area late on Christmas Day. The full effects were not felt until the next day however, as some snow and rain started. By the night of the 26th, all precipitation had changed to snow and heavy snow fell overnight. 8.1 inches of snow fell in El Paso, making it the 4th heaviest snowfall event ever for the observation site. Even heavier amounts fell west of the Franklin Mountains, with up to 12 inches reported. The Sacramento Mountains received the brunt of the snowfall, with reports of 15 to 24 inches common around that area. The majority of the transportation system of

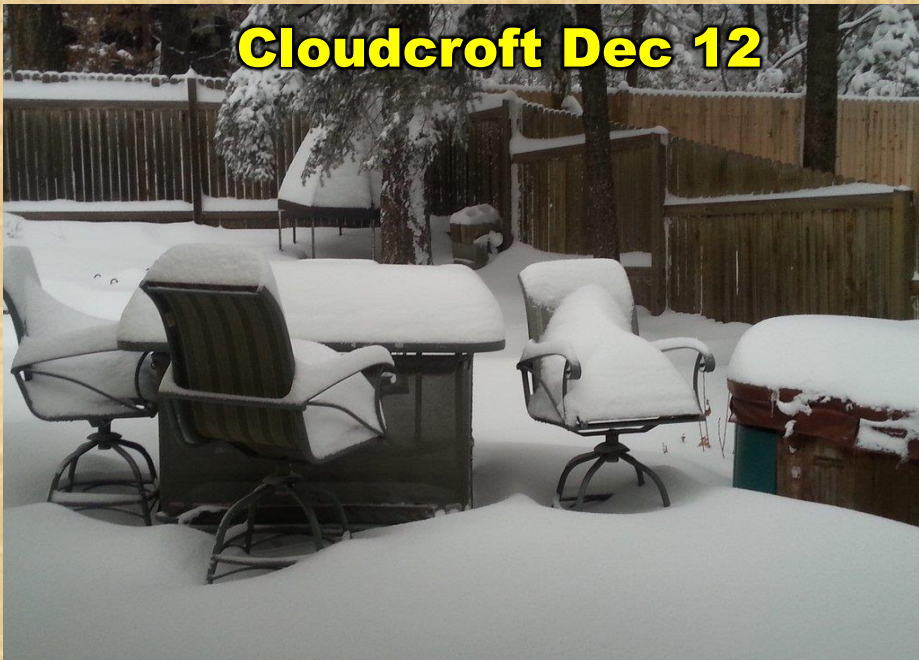
December 2015 Weather Summary

(cont'd)

southern New Mexico and west Texas was shut down or severely curtailed on the 26th and 27th. Most snow choking the road systems melted within a day or two and allowed the roads to get back to normal.

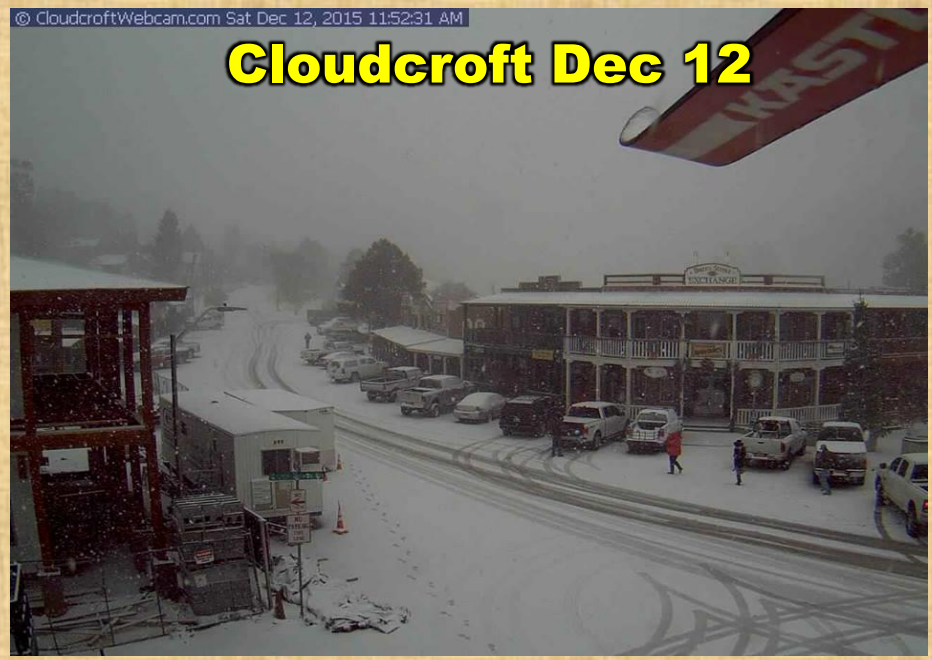
For the month temperatures ended up being very close to normal, as most sites were within a degree of their normal levels. Precipitation for the month on a normal basis varied more. Much of the Rio Grande Valley saw above normal precipitation, while much of the remainder of the area between the Continental Divide and the Sacramento Mountains was around normal. Only parts west of the divide, and far eastern Otero and Hudspeth Counties, received below normal precipitation.

Cloudfcroft Dec 12



© CloudfcroftWebcam.com Sat Dec 12, 2015 11:52:31 AM

Cloudfcroft Dec 12



© CloudfcroftWebcam.com Sun Dec 13, 2015 07:42:22 AM

Cloudfcroft Dec 13



©Timberon Development Council 2015-12-13 07:58:49

Timberon Dec 13



Las Cruces Dec 26



Las Cruces Dec 26



Santa Teresa Dec 26



Sun Bowl Dec 26



El Paso Dec 26



Santa Teresa Dec 26



Cloudcroft Dec 27



© CloudcroftWebcam.com Sat Dec 26, 2015 08:57:06 PM

Cloudcroft Dec 26



El Paso Dec 26



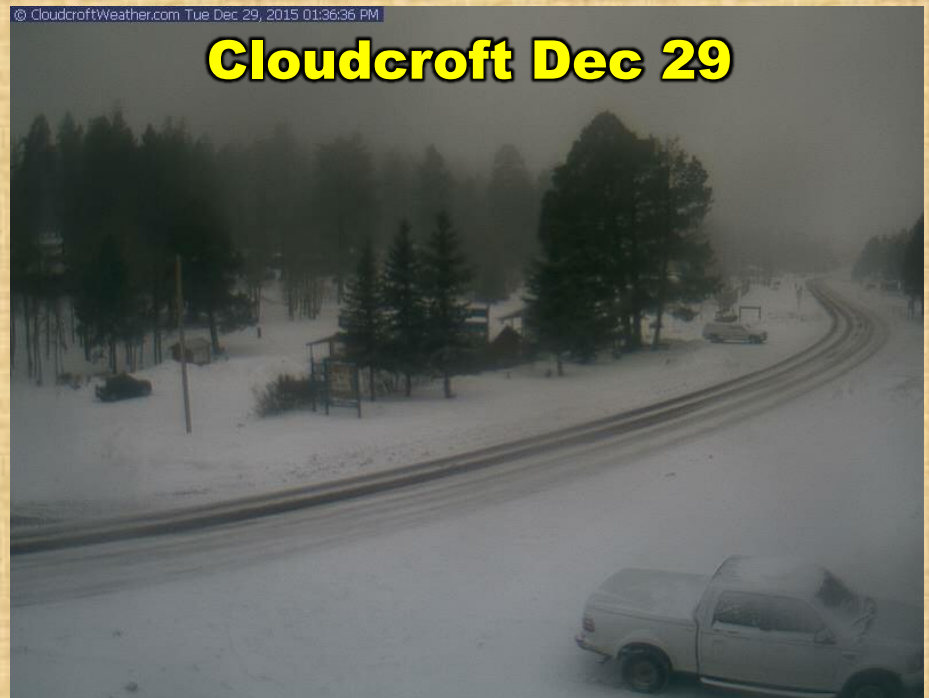
Soledad Canyon Dec 26



San Augustin Dec 27



Cloudcroft Dec 29



El Paso Dec 27

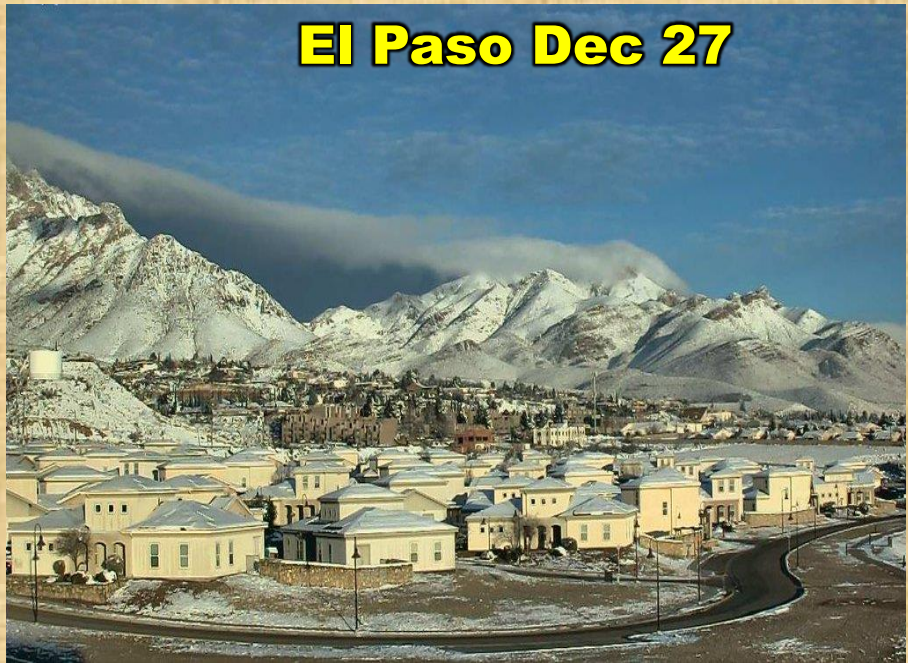


El Paso Dec 27



Manny Middle ©2015

El Paso Dec 27



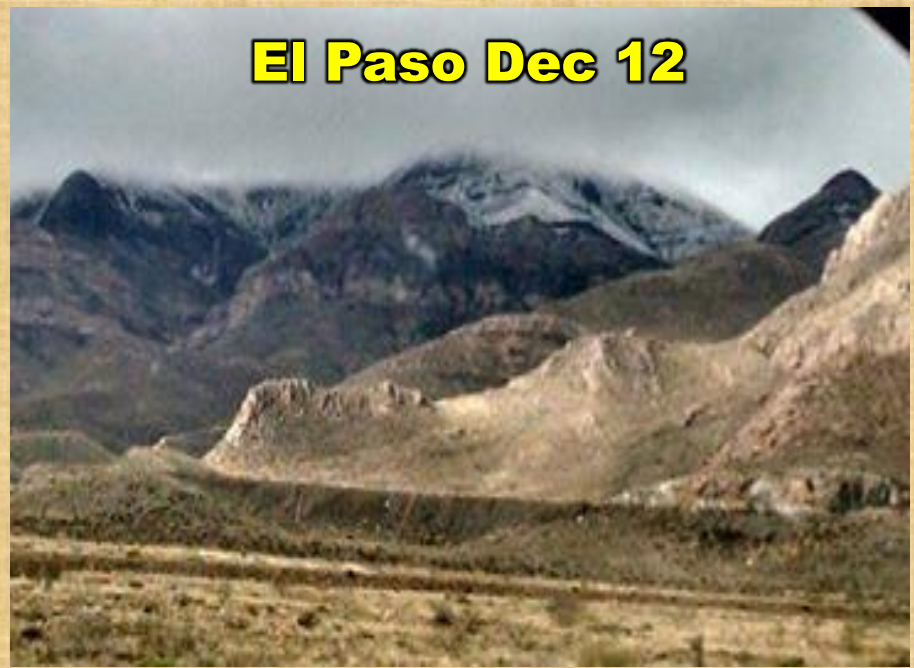
Trans Mountain Dec 27



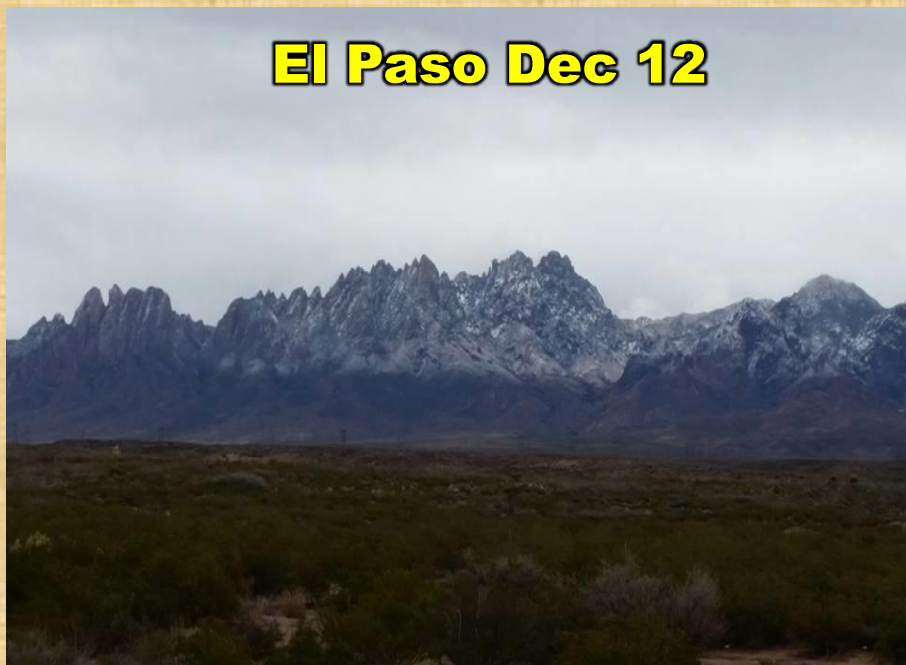
El Paso Dec 12



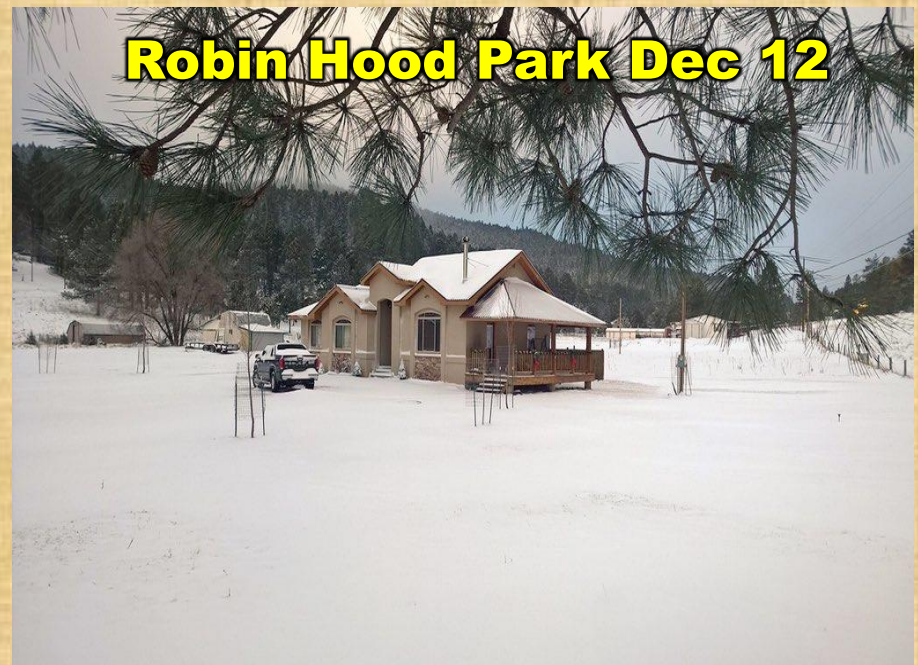
El Paso Dec 12



El Paso Dec 12



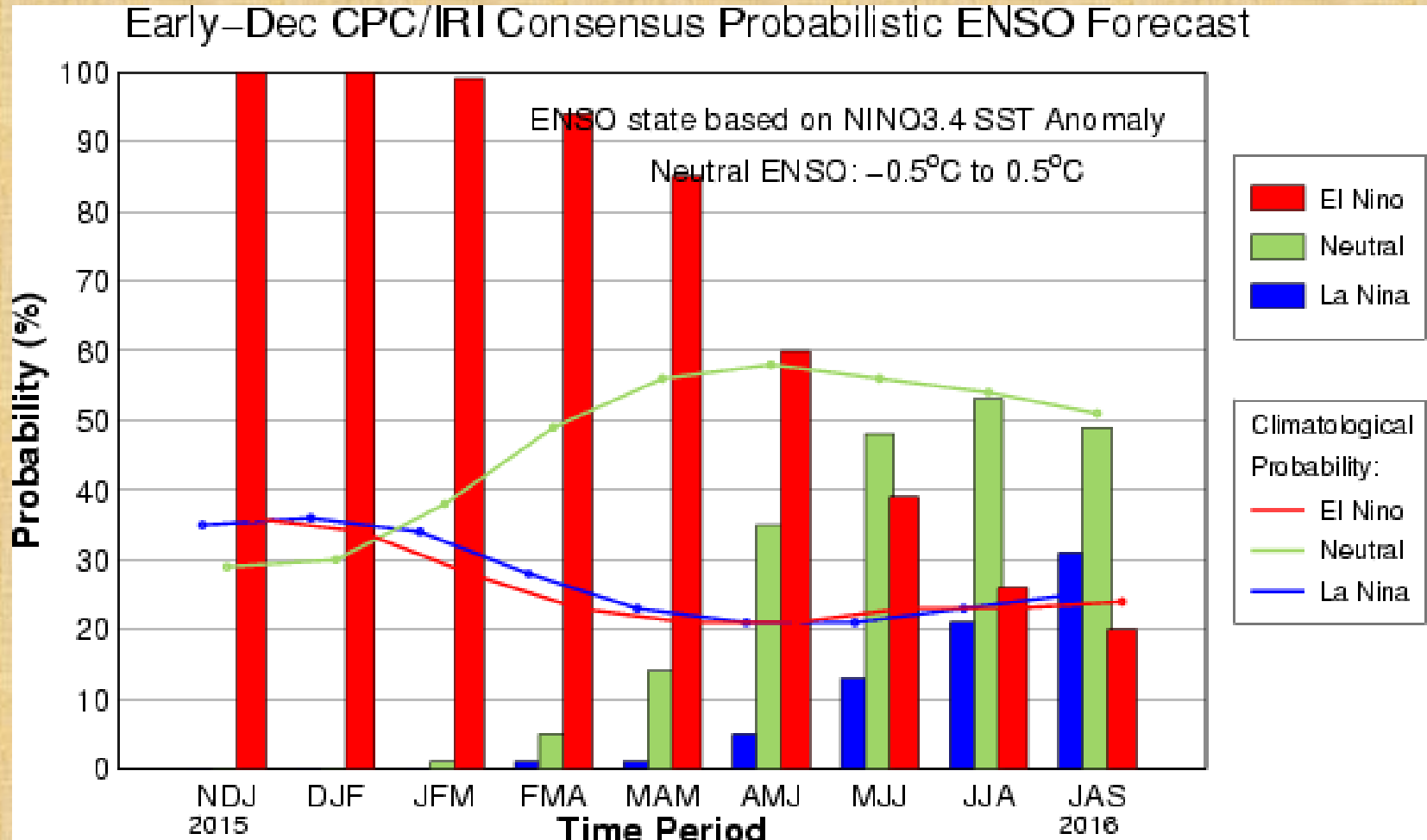
Robin Hood Park Dec 12



ORGAN MOUNTAINS IN SNOWY SPLENDER DEC 28



ENSO Forecast from December 10 2015

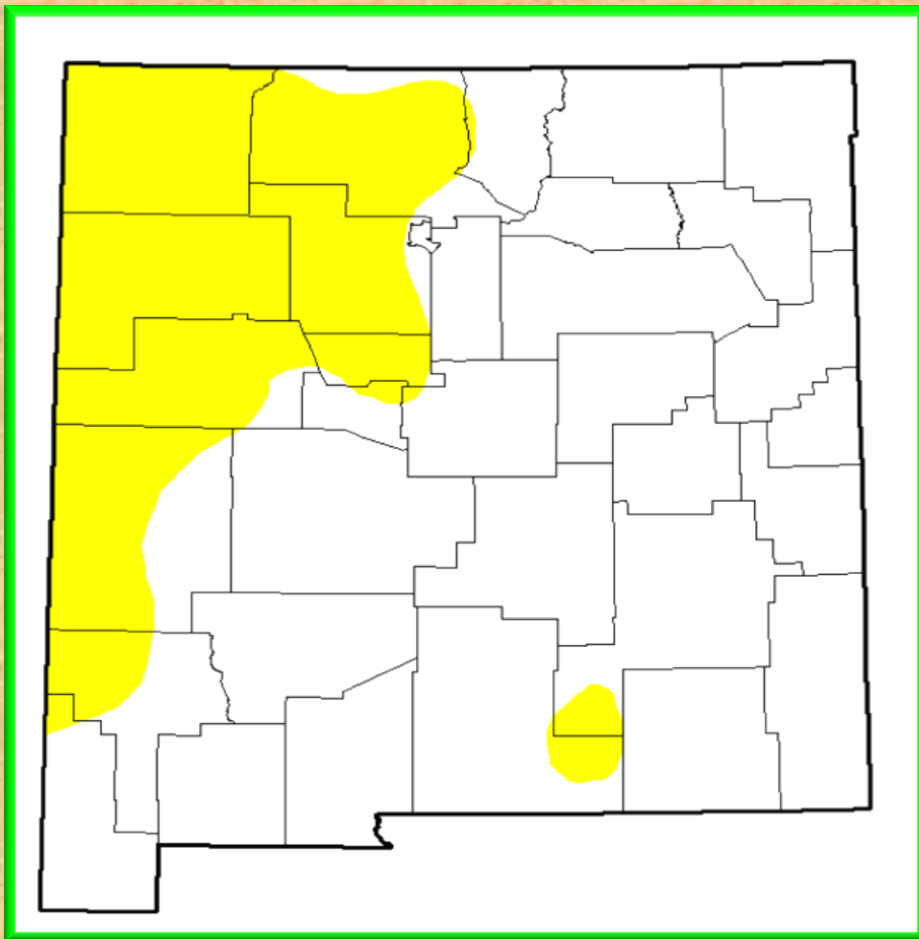


STRONG EL NINO STILL FORECAST INTO SPRING OF THIS YEAR.

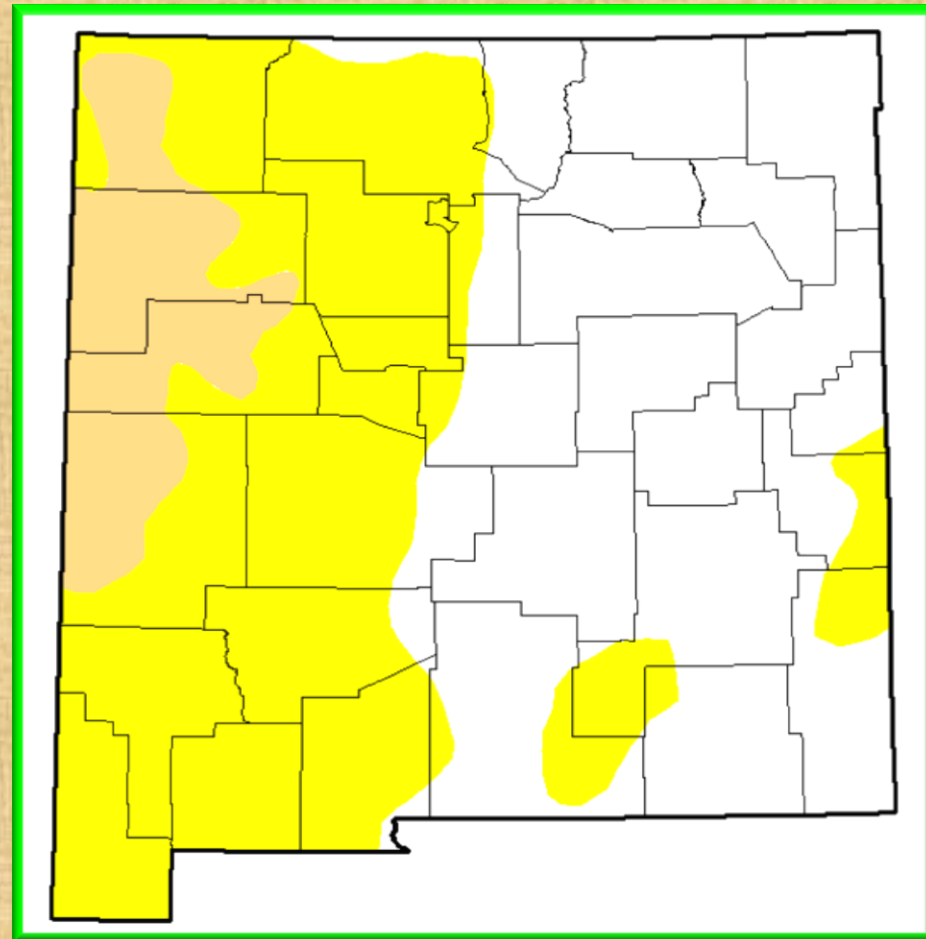
Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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

December 22, 2015








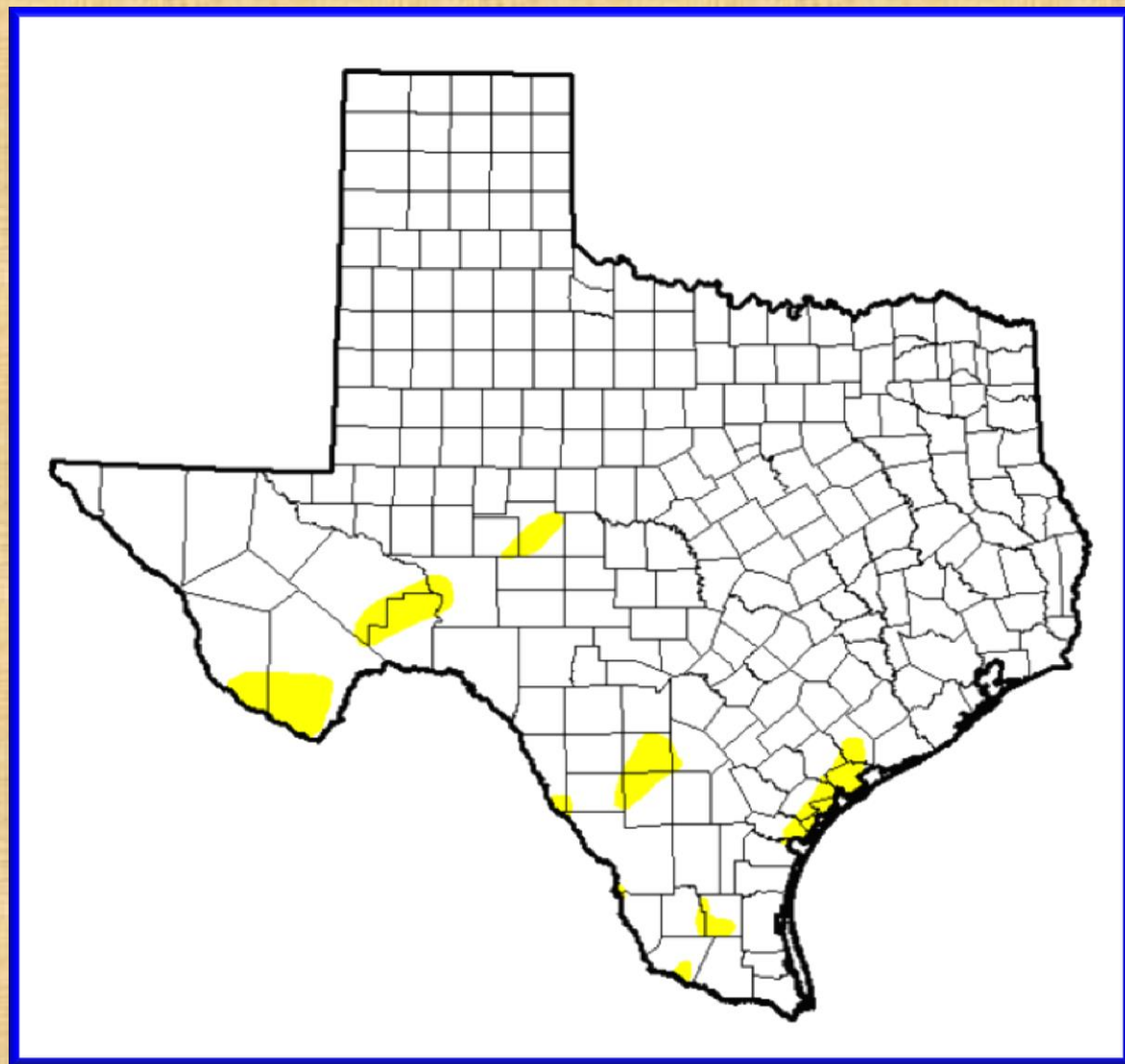
September 22, 2015



Current drought conditions for Texas as of December 22, 2015

Intensity:

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



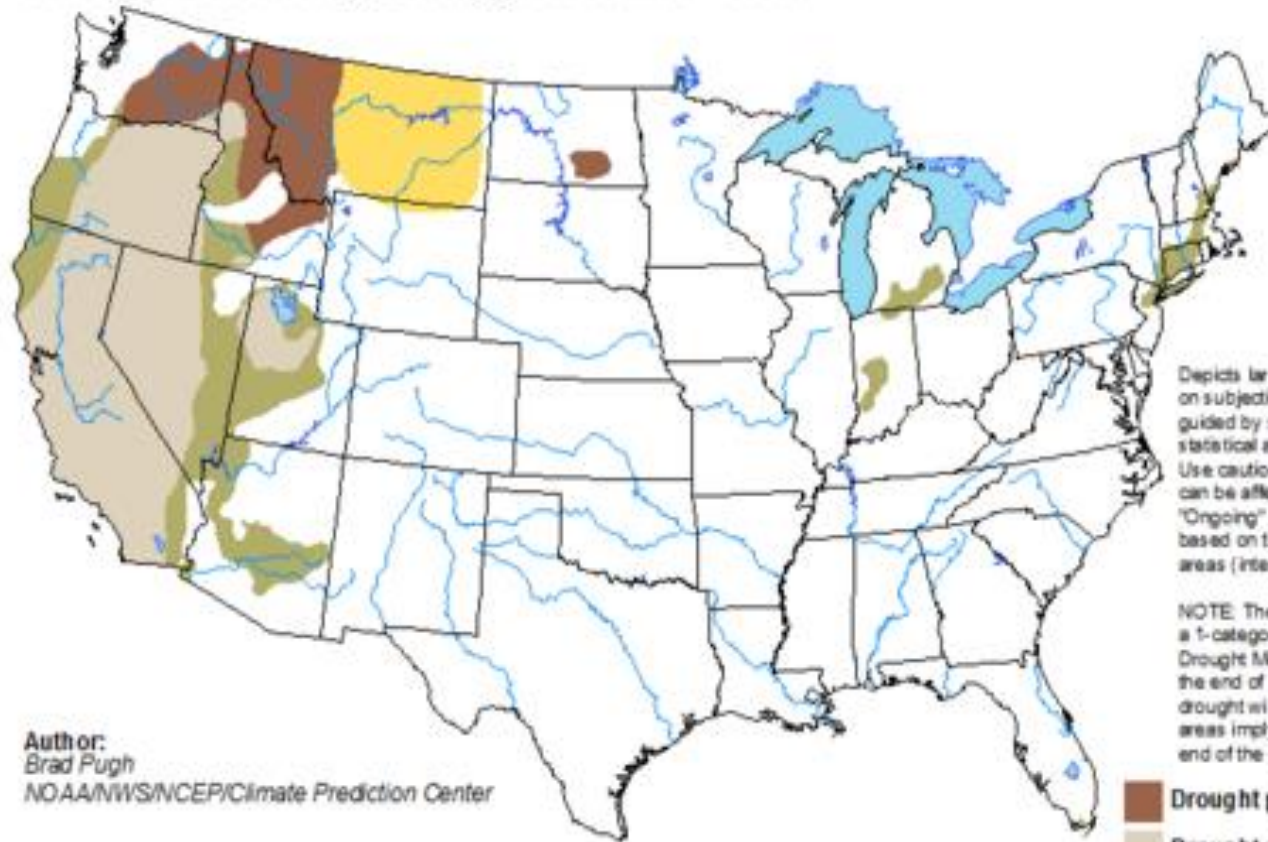
Build your own custom slider maps here at:

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

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





Valid for December 17 - March 31, 2016
Released December 17, 2015

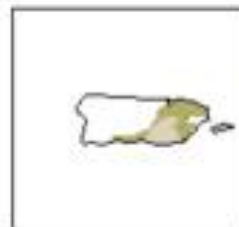
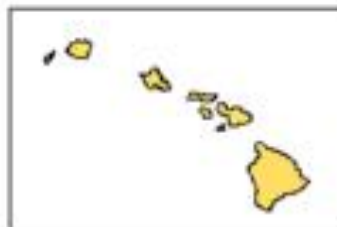


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

Author:
Brad Pugh
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

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

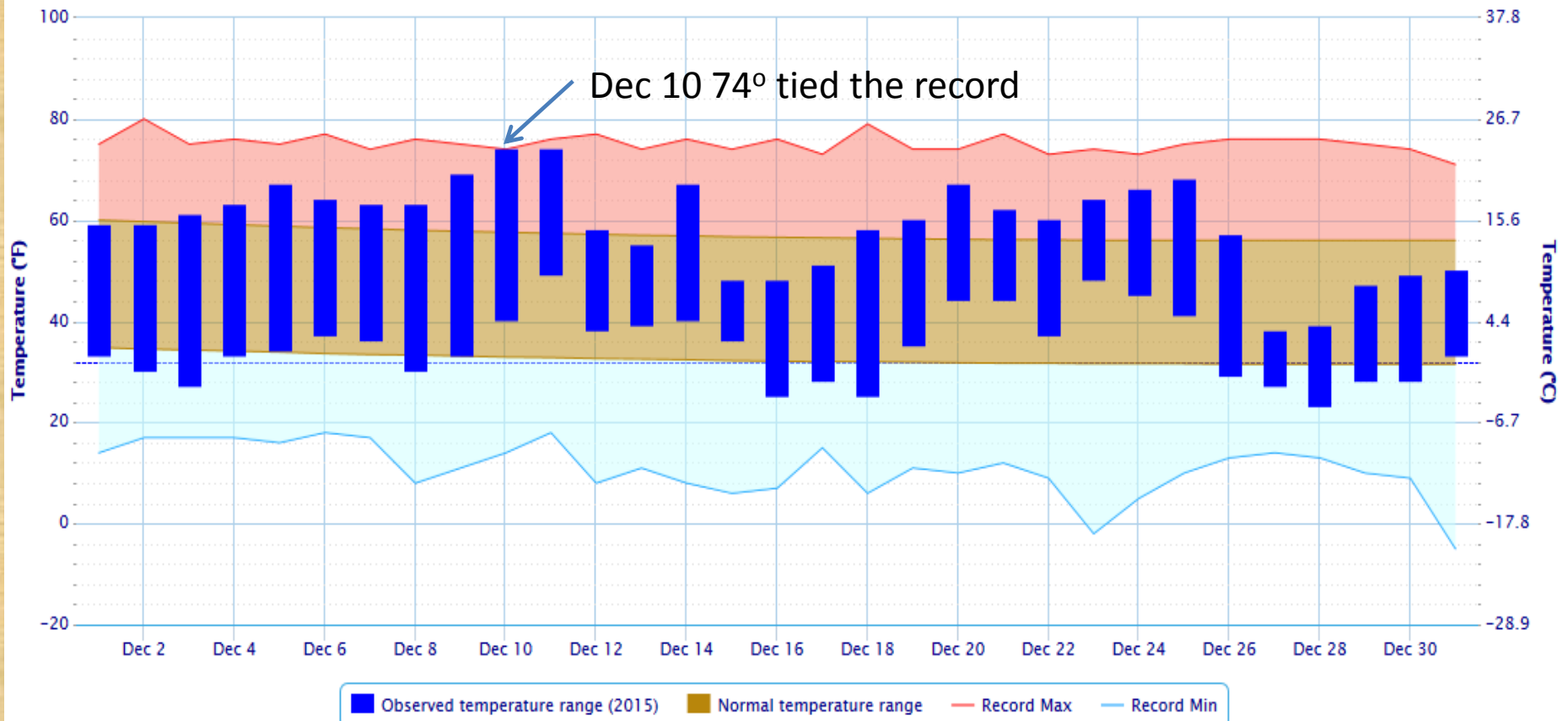


<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

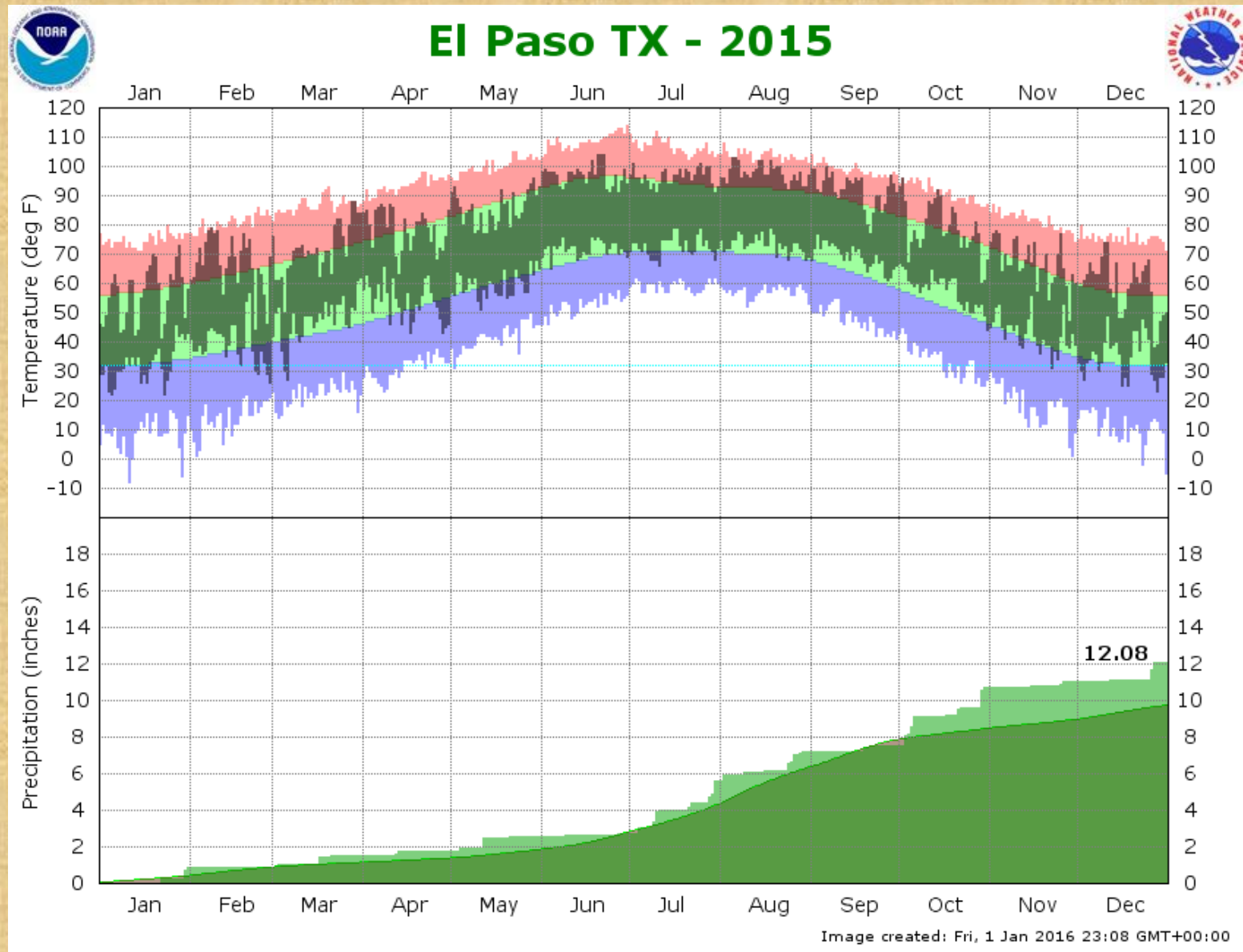
Daily temperature data for December in El Paso

Daily Temperature Data - El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record - Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2015-12-31; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2015-12-31. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.

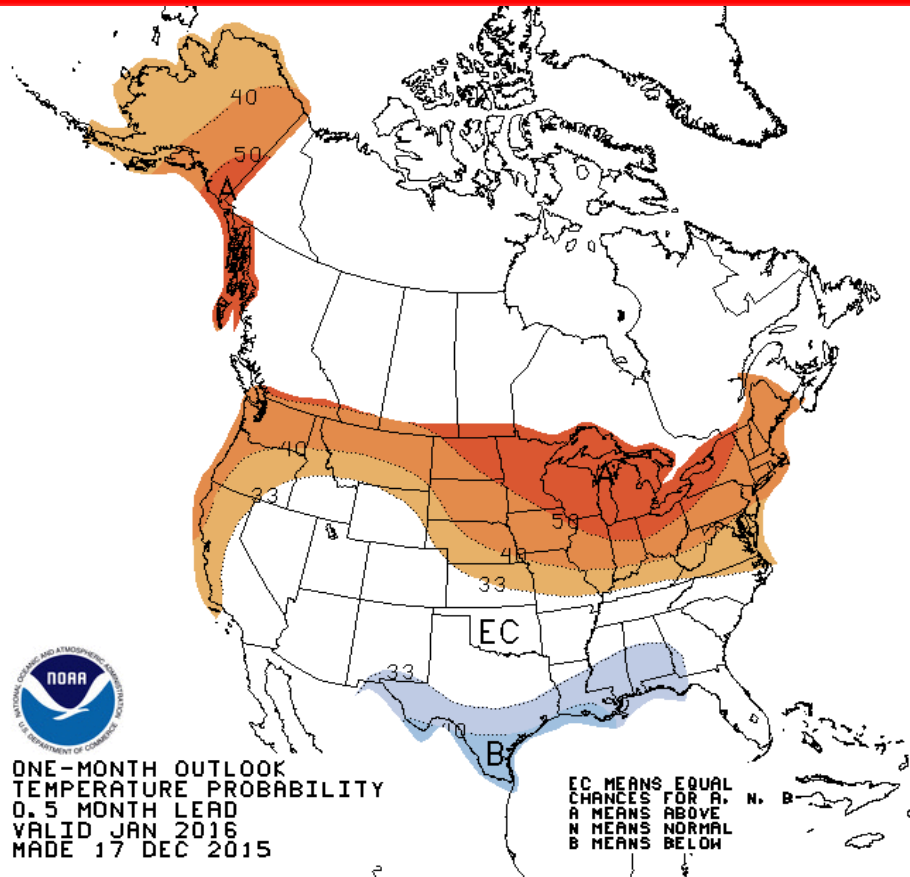


Daily temperature/precipitation data through December in El Paso

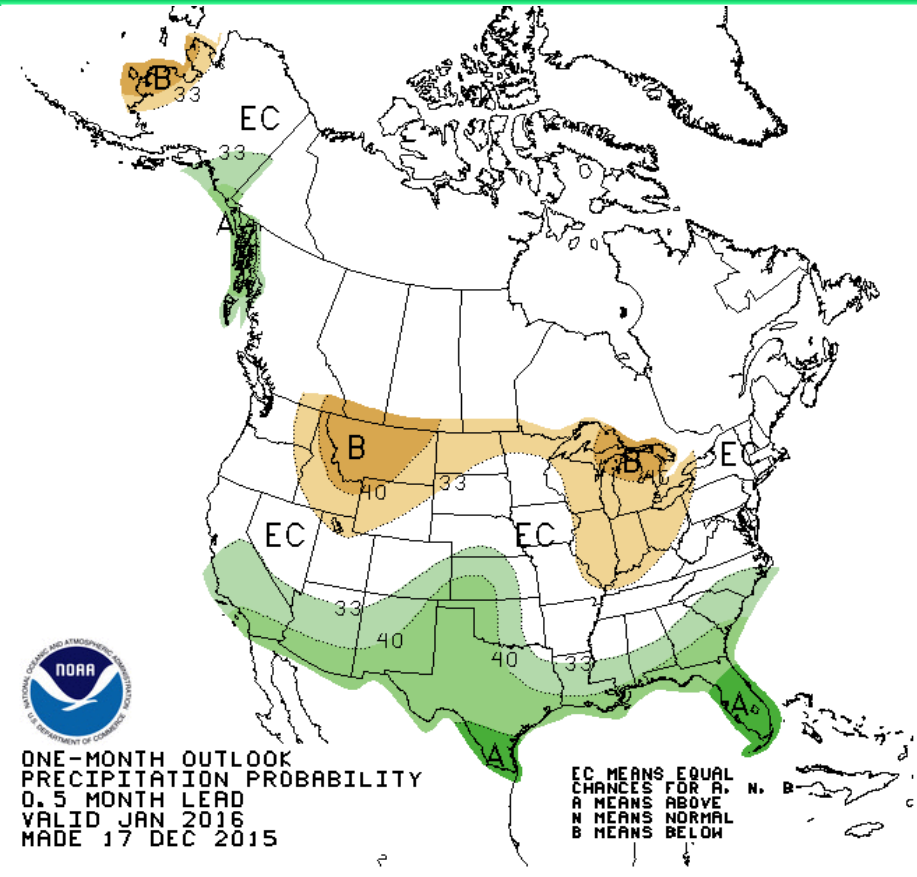


Temperature and precipitation outlook for January 2015

Temperature



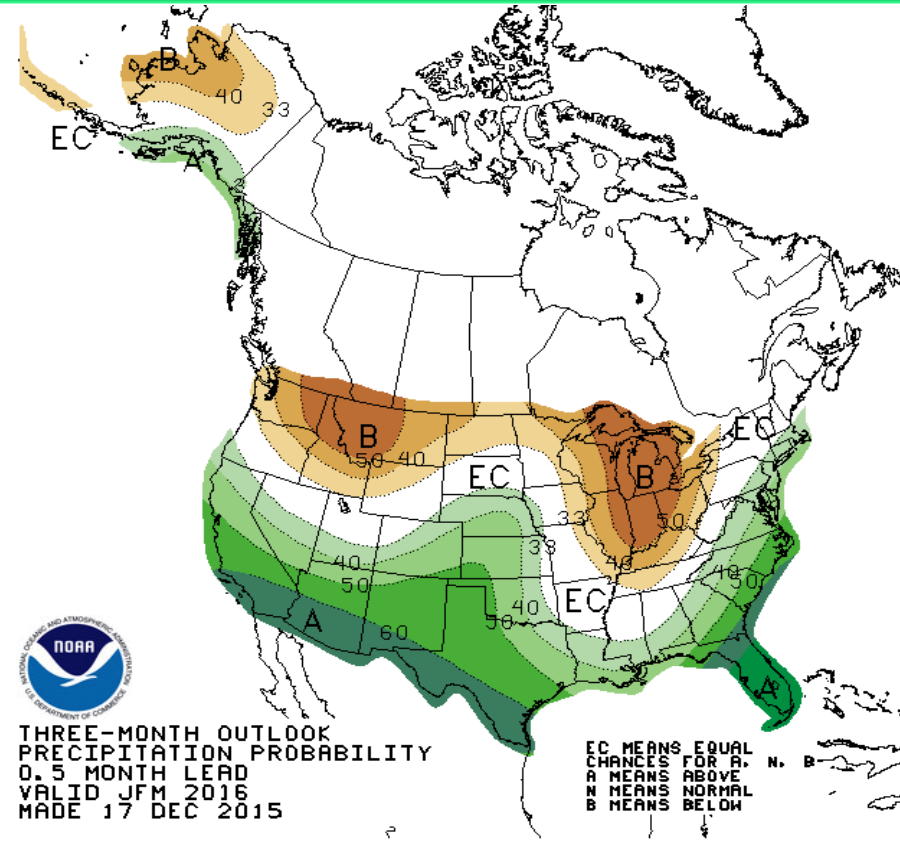
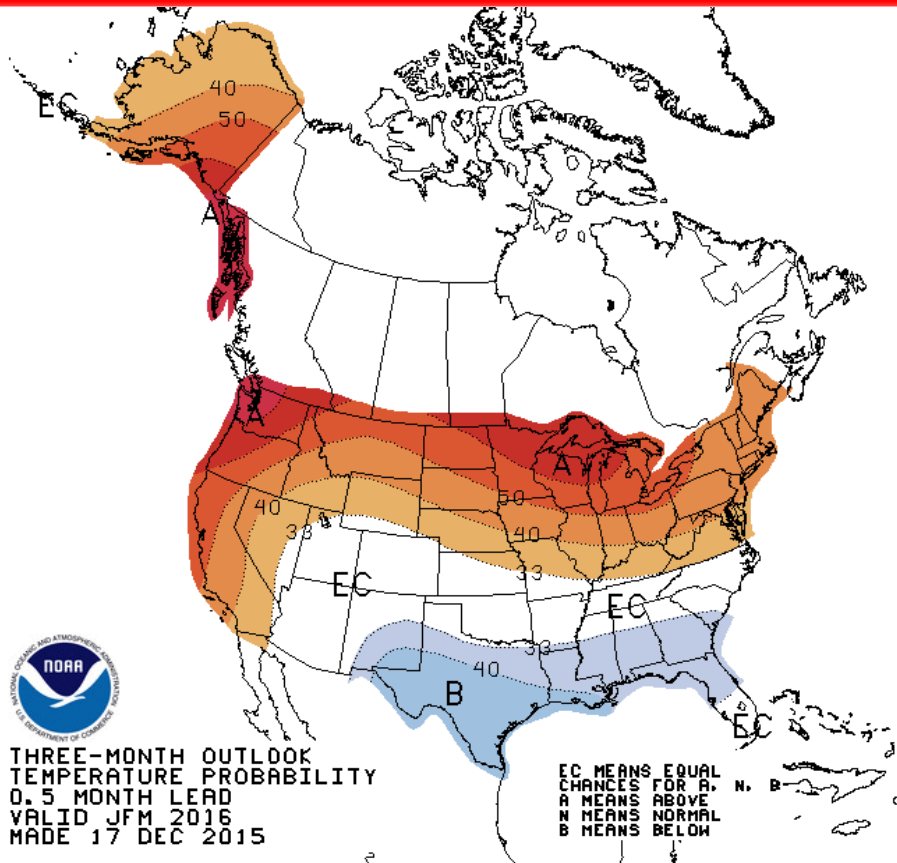
Precipitation



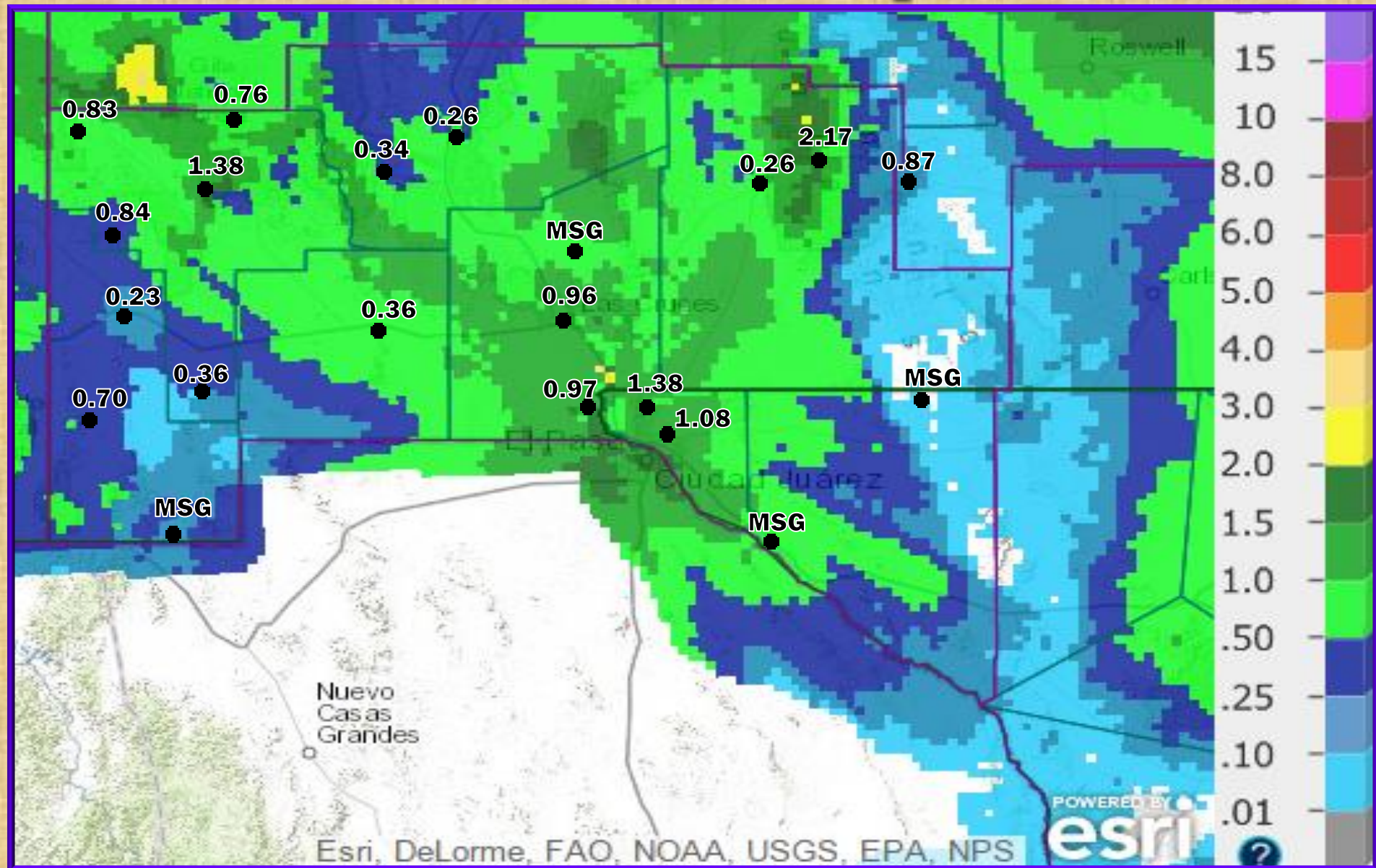
Temperature and precipitation outlook for Jan - Mar 2015

Temperature

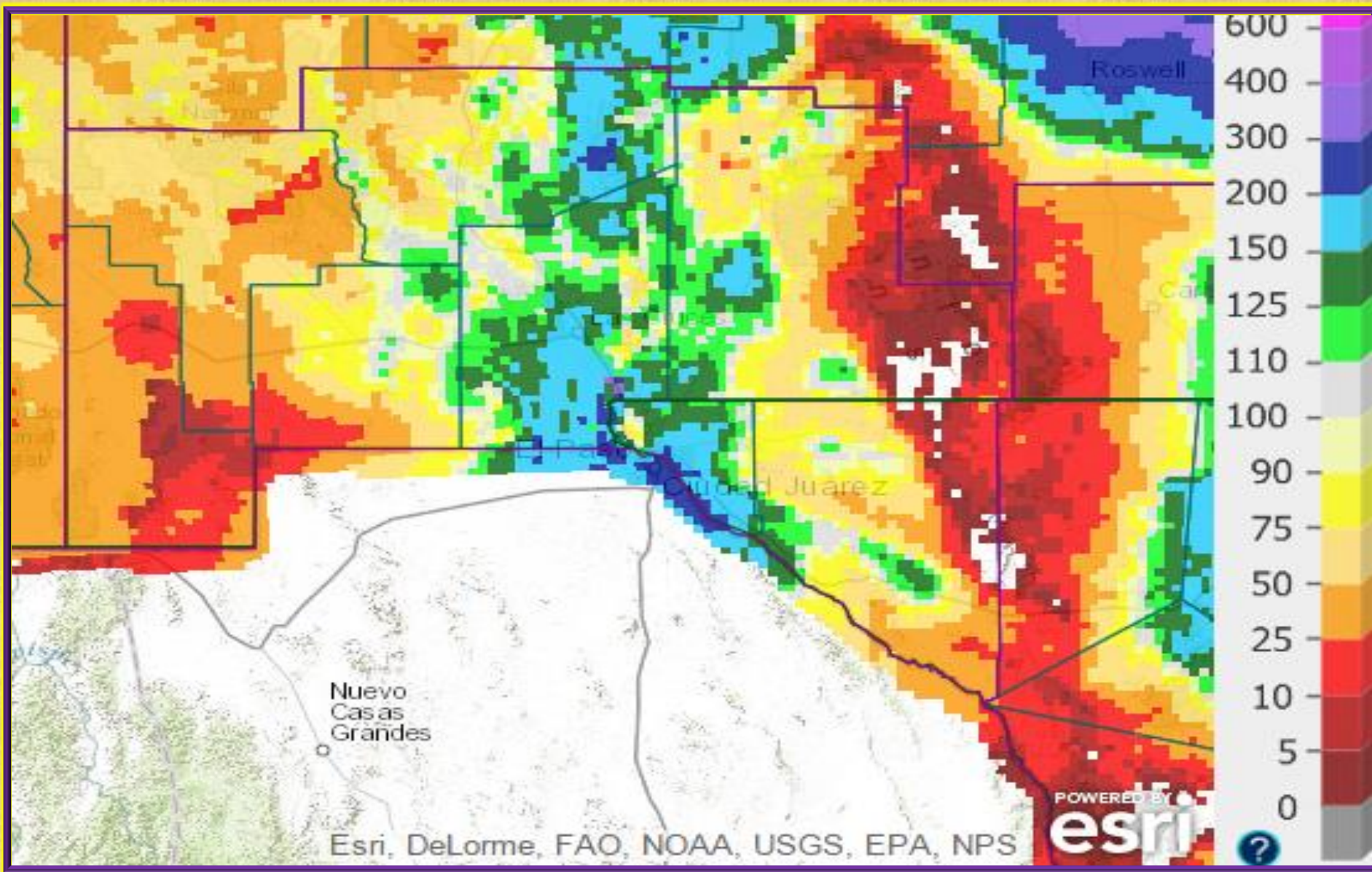
Precipitation



December 2015 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



December 2015 Radar Rainfall Estimate (Percent of normal)



Special Features

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

Month: DECEMBER

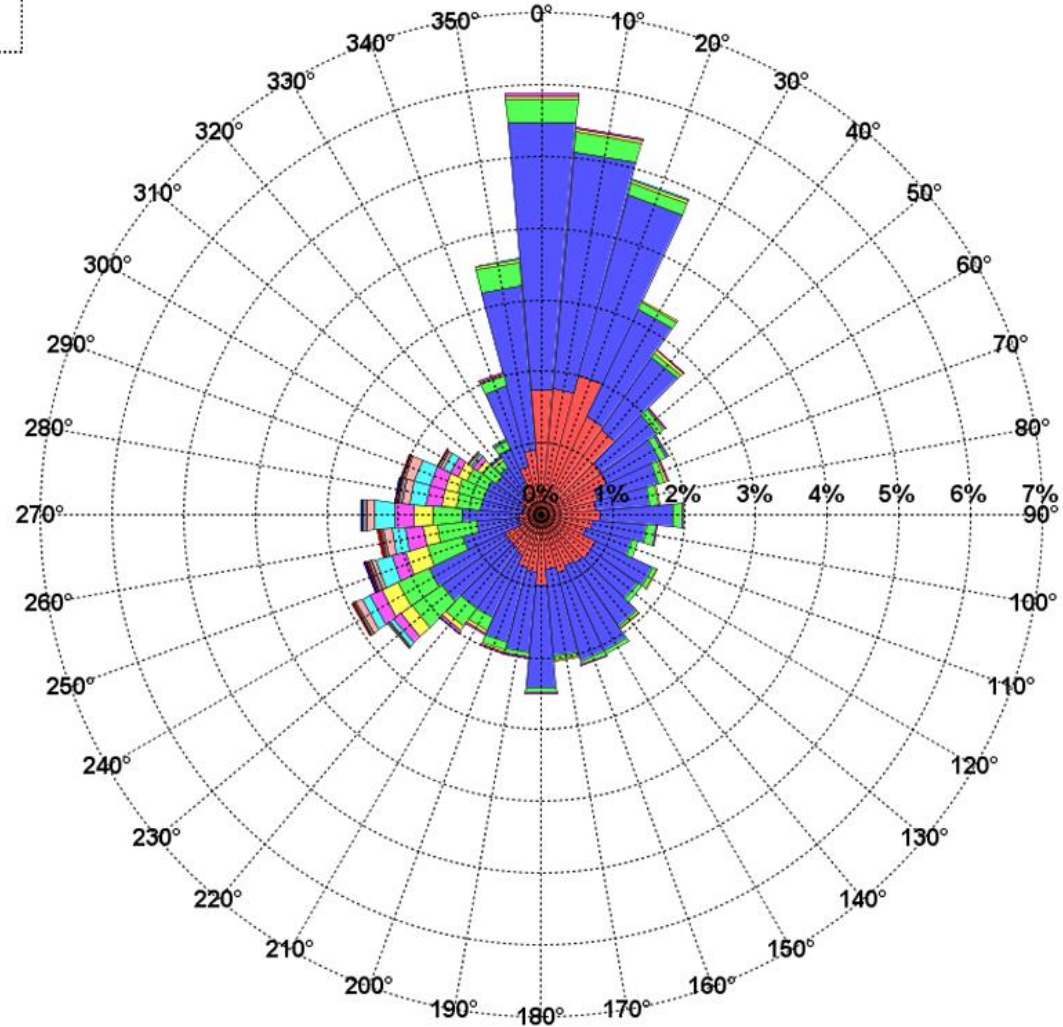
Calm: 13.59%

Variable: 1.46%

WindRose - KELP - EL PASO INTL

% Frequency of Wind Speed from a Direction

POR:19730101-20140602



Selected weather reports December 2015

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
12/3/2015 700 AM	SUNSPOT-OTERO	13.5 INCHES SNOW
12/3/2015 700 AM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO	12.5 INCHES SNOW
12/3/2015 700 AM	BAYARD-GRANT	3.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 527 PM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO	30.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 247 AM	APACHE SUMMIT-OTERO	16.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 148 AM	WEED-OTERO	13.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 756 AM	ORGAN-DONA ANA	13.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 700 AM	LAS CRUCES-DONA ANA	12.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 700 AM	KINGSTON-SIERRA	11.5 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 530 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA AN	10.4 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 704 AM	EL PASO 2NW	10.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 530 PM	EL PASO ARPT	8.1 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 921 AM	ANTHONY-DONA ANA	8.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 700 AM	DEMING-LUNA	8.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 810 AM	LA UNION 3 SE-DONA ANA	7.0 INCHES SNOW

Selected weather reports December 2015

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
12/27/2015 1000 AM	TYRONE-GRANT	5.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 700 AM	SILVER CITY-GRANT	5.0 INCHES SNOW
12/27/2015 1047 AM	T OR C-SIERRA	2.5 INCHES SNOW

**OUR CLOSING PICTURE: A RARE DAY WHEN YOU CAN GO FOR A SLED RIDE
IN EL PASO TEXAS...DEC 27.**

