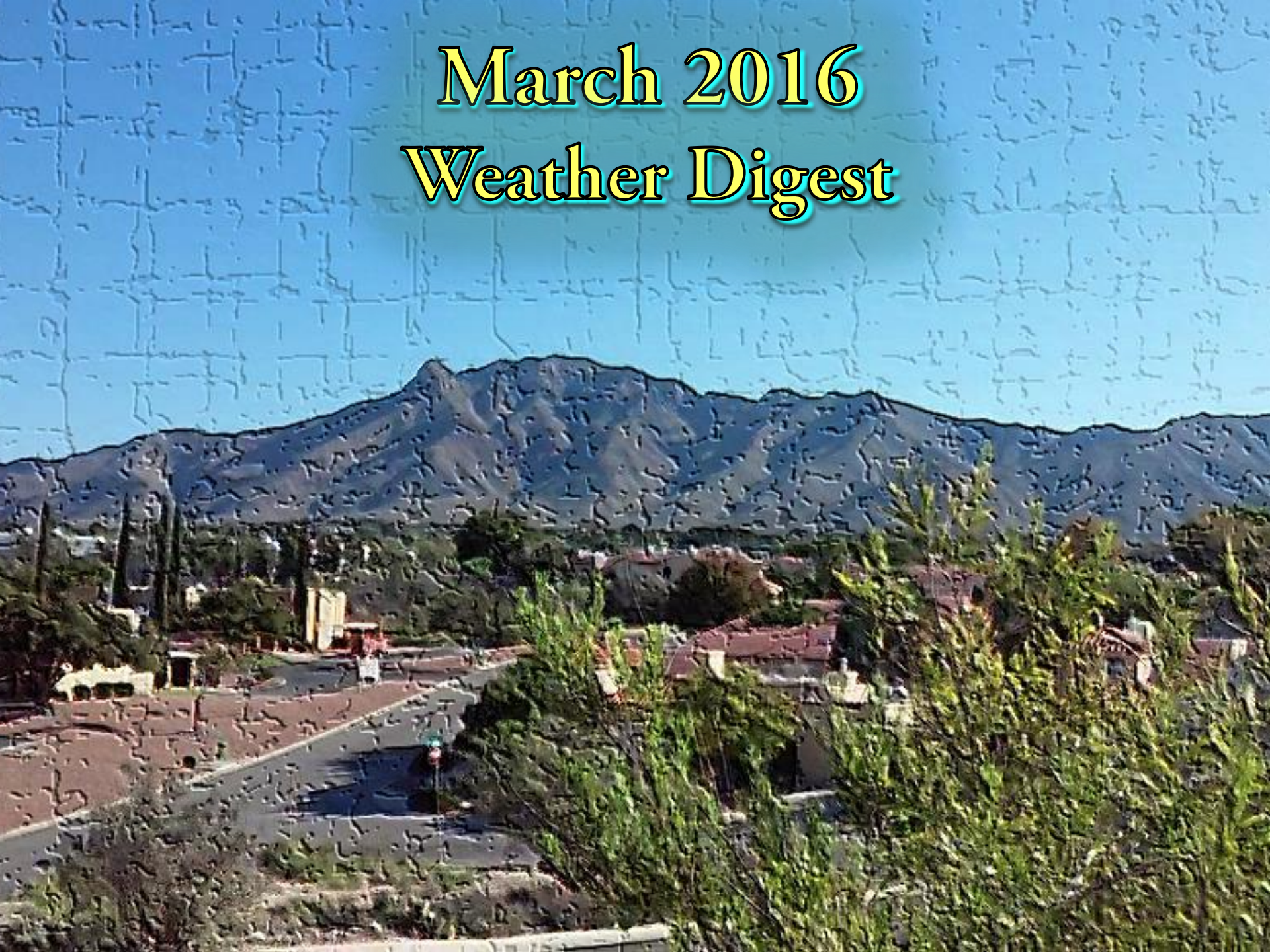
March 2016
Weather Digest



March 2016 Weather Summary

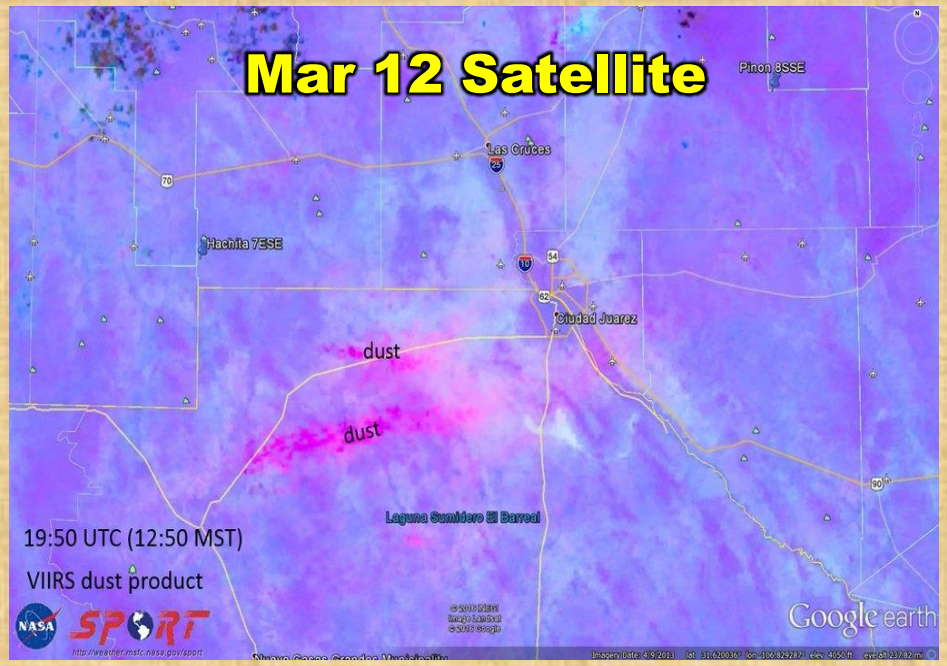
March started off like a lamb and ended like a lion. March and April are typically our "Dry Monsoon" in the Borderland with the prevailing wind from the west southwest. These two months also have the least rainfall on the average of all other months. Hence putting these two features together we get our "Gusty Dusty" months. This year brought back the least favorite trademarks of the Borderland's climate and that was "blowing dust." On more than one occasion, winds gusted over 50 mph over the area and reached a peak of 73 mph (March 22) at three locations-all on the immediate east (lee) slopes of the mountains as theory nicely predicts. The return of blowing dust brought with it the dangers and hazards to the roadways (some had to be closed temporarily) and the health risks to our respiratory systems.

More than 50% of the Borderland received less than 25% of normal precipitation which is small to begin with in our dry months and most amounts that did fall were less than .1 inches for the entire month. As a result, drought conditions started to creep back into southern New Mexico and far west Texas mostly in the form of abnormally dry conditions with moderate drought west of the Continental divide.

March 2016 Weather Summary Continued

Despite an optimistic forecast for above normal rainfall for the Borderland in the late winter and spring months, this very strong El Nino was very disappointing and failed to deliver to date so far. Presently the warm sea surface temperatures around the equator in the mid Pacific are cooling with El Nino in decline with a possible return to La Nina conditions by this fall.

LP 375 SPUR 601
Mar 12 East El Paso
03/12/2016 02:23:25 PM


Mar 12 Satellite
Pinon 8SSE
Las Cruces
Hachita 7ESE
Ciudad Juarez
dust
dust
Laguna Sumidero El Barreal
19:50 UTC (12:50 MST)
VIIRS dust product
NASA
SPORT
Google earth

Mar 22 near Lordsburg, NM

March 22 near Lordsburg, NM

Mar 22 west of Lordsburg

Mar 22 near Lordsburg

Mar 22 Otero County

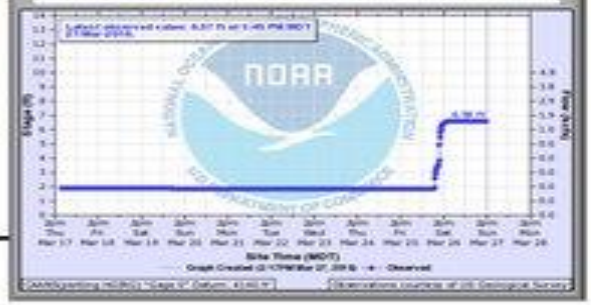
March 22 Lordsburg, NM

Water returns to the Rio Grande!

Water Returning to the Rio!

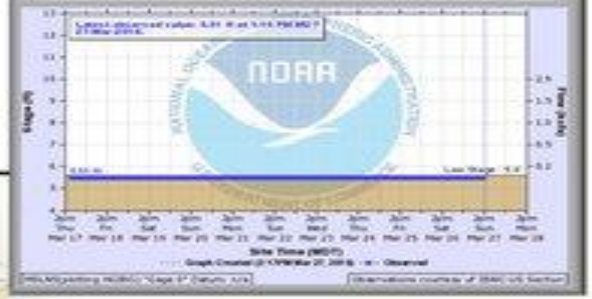
Leading edge is somewhere between Leasburg and Mesilla as of Sunday Afternoon…

Below Caballo Dam

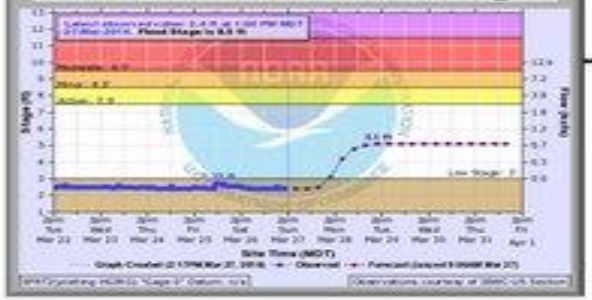


Leasburg Diversion Dam

Mesilla Diversion Dam



E.P. Courchesne Bridge



Obs and Forecasts Valid 3pm Sun 3/27/2016

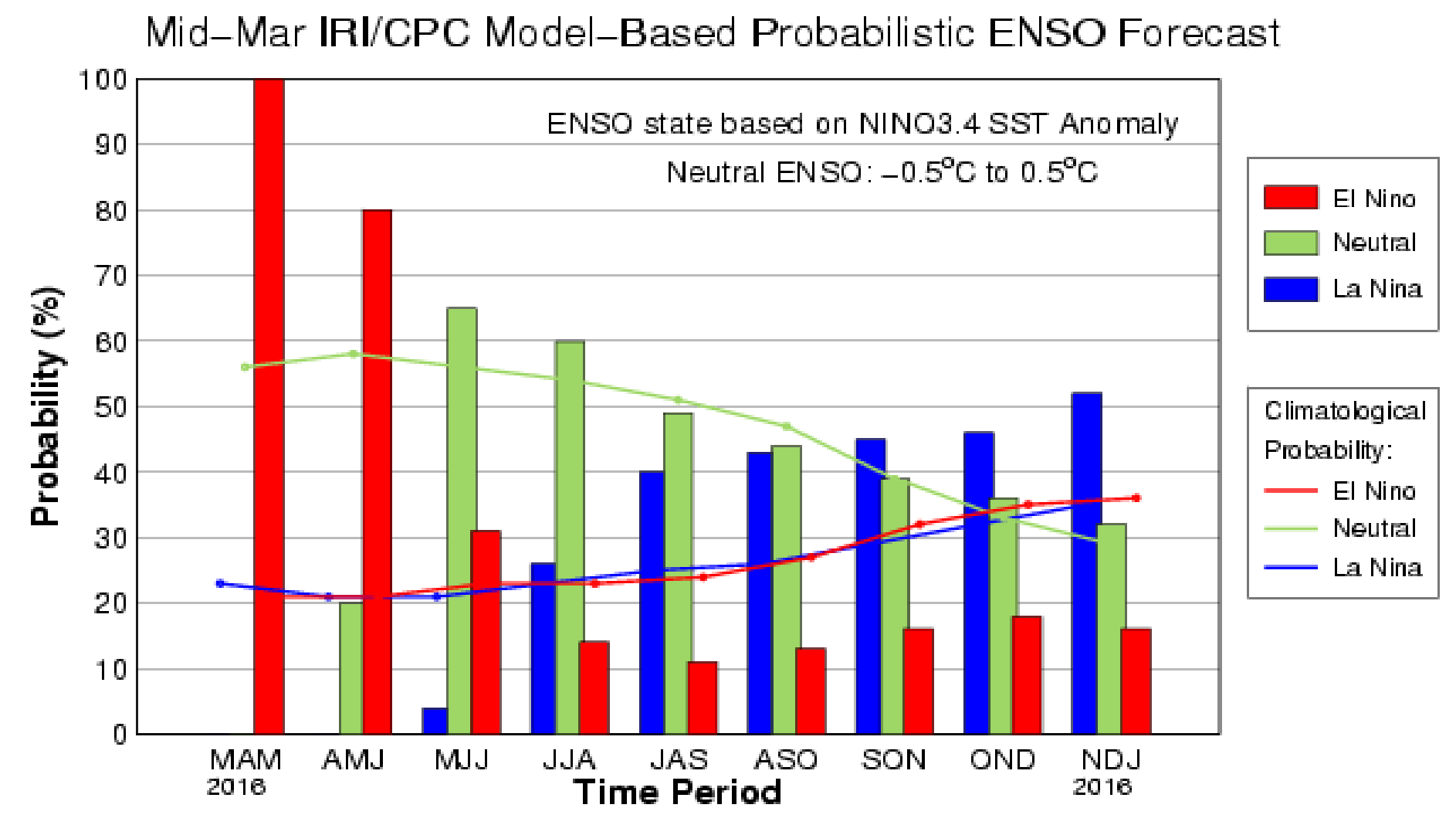
Water expected to reach El Paso, TX near Sunland Park, NM on Tuesday evening (3/29)

Hydro Data Available at http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=epz

@NWSElPaso

ENSO Forecast from March for winter of 2016

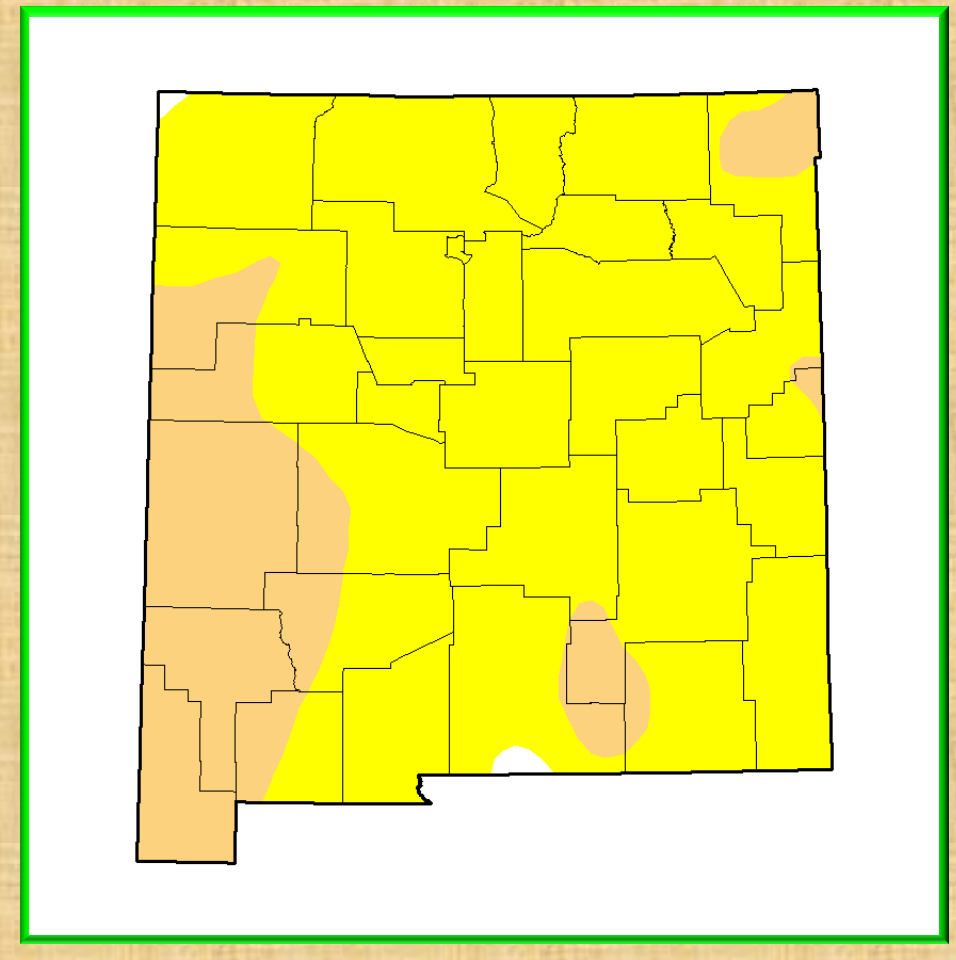
EL NIÑO WEAKENING. GOOD POSSIBILITY OF GOING TO NEUTRAL THIS SUMMER AND THEN TURNING OVER TO LA NIÑA THIS FALL/WINTER



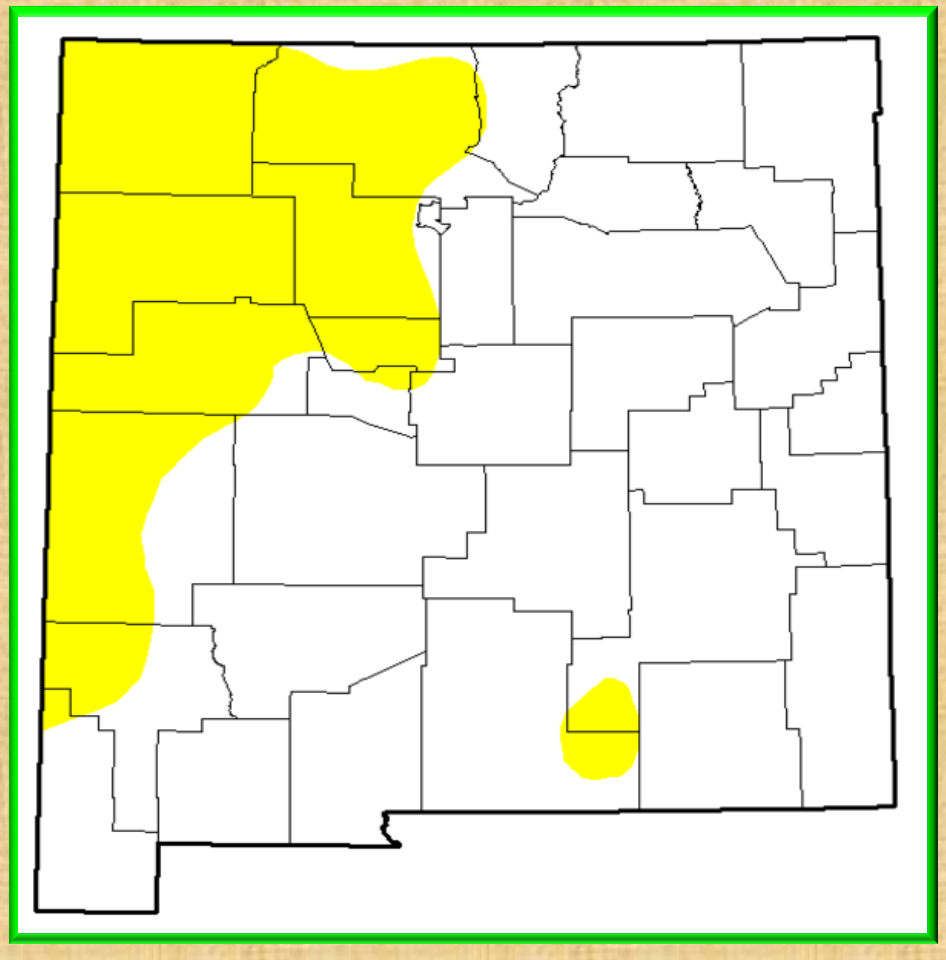
Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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

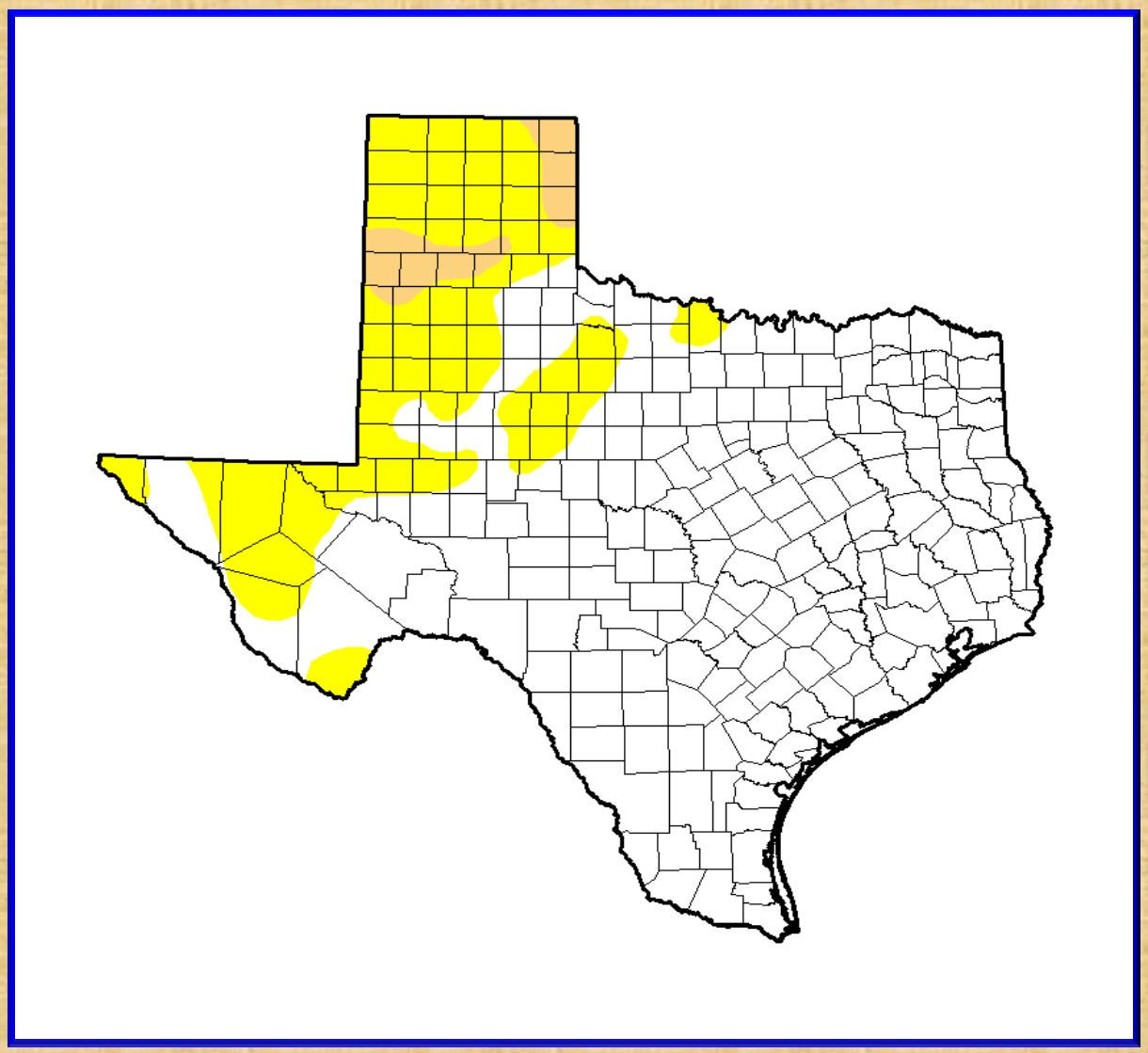
March 29, 2016



December 24 , 2015



Current drought conditions for Texas as of March 29, 2016



Intensity:

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

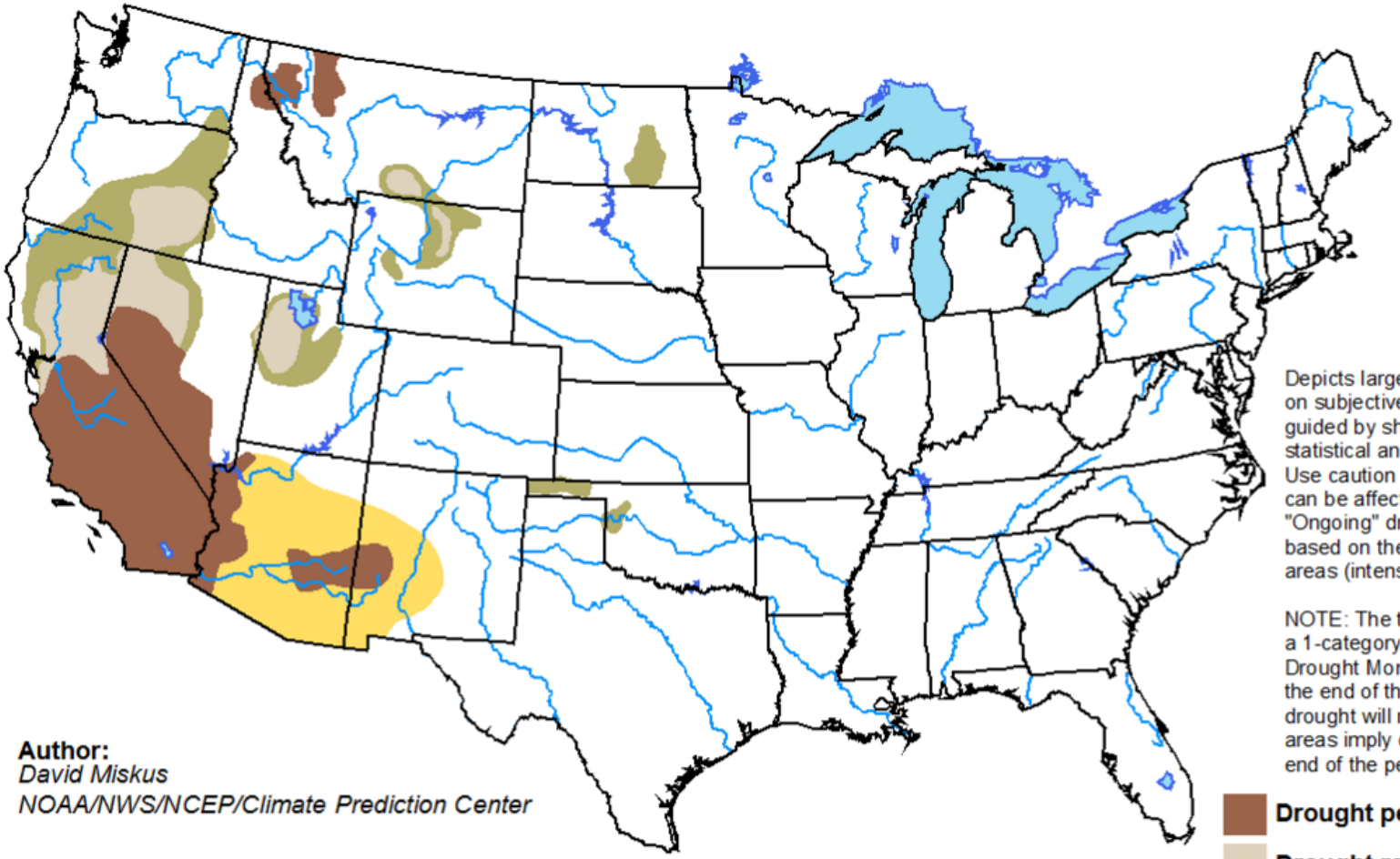
Build your own custom slider maps here at:

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

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 17 - June 30, 2016
Released March 17, 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).

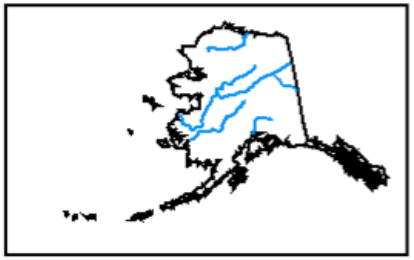
Drought persists

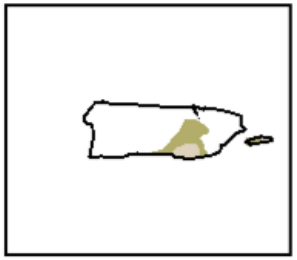
Drought remains but improve

Drought removal likely

Drought development likely

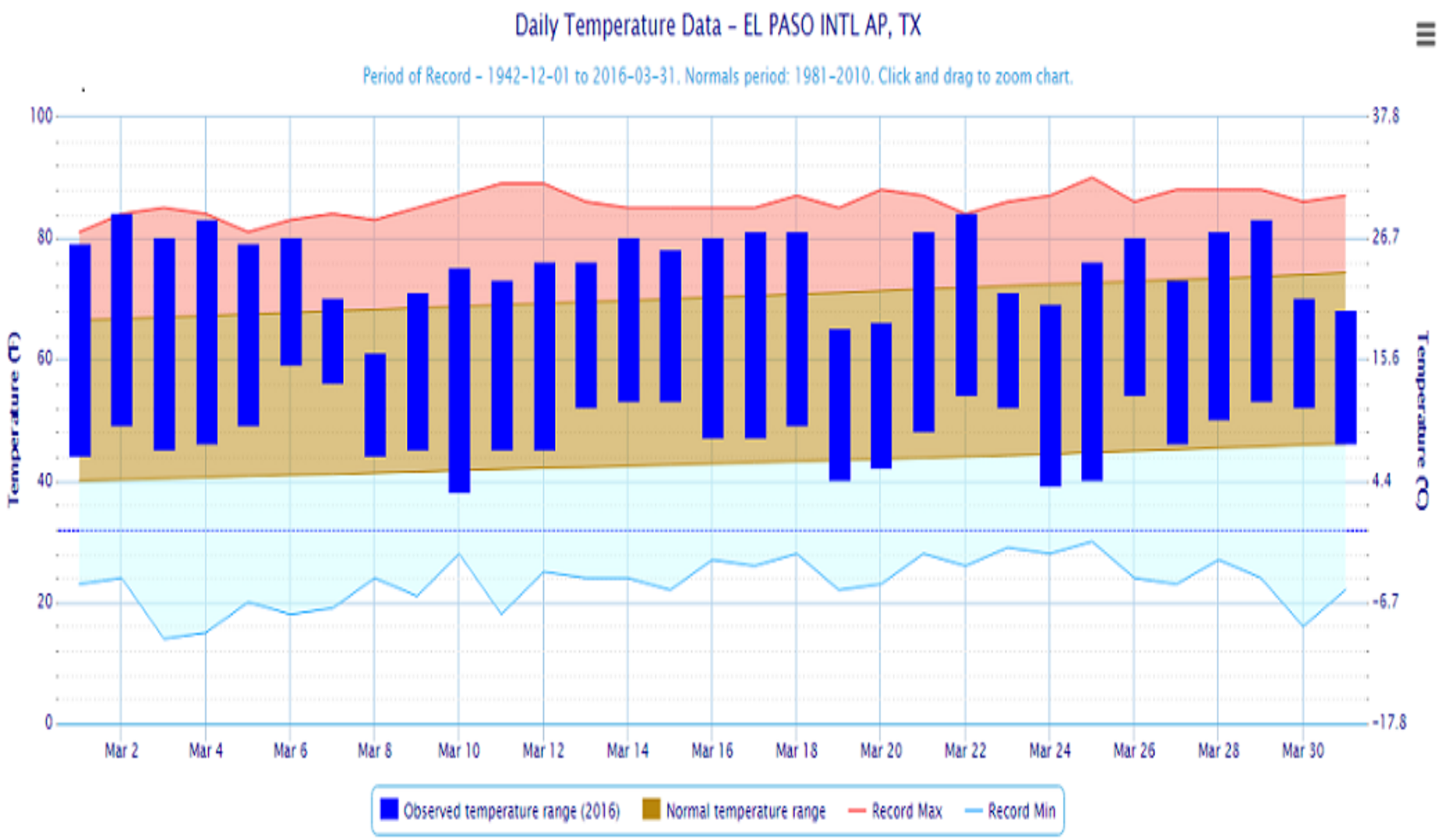
Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



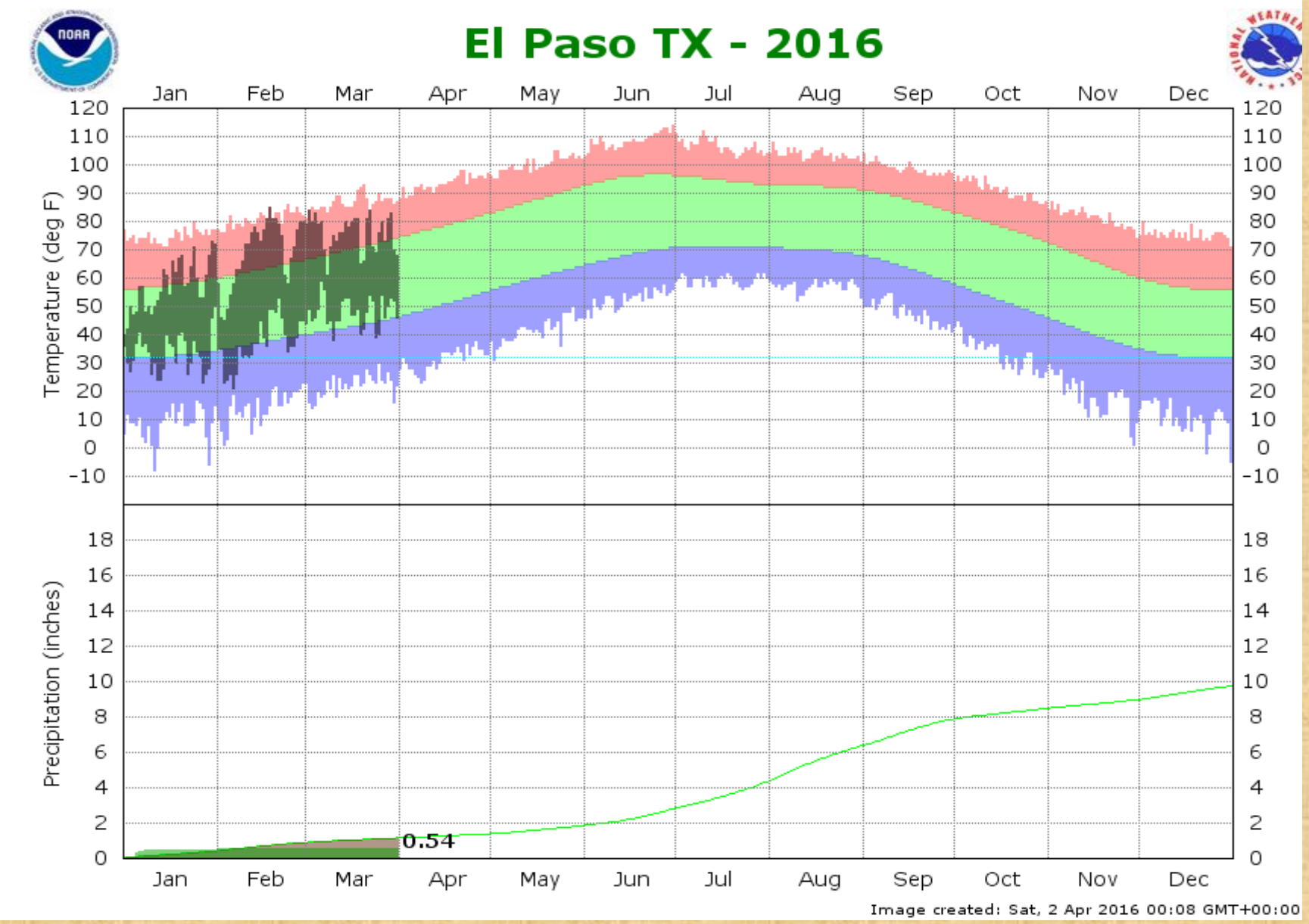


http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73

Daily temperature data for March 2016 in El Paso

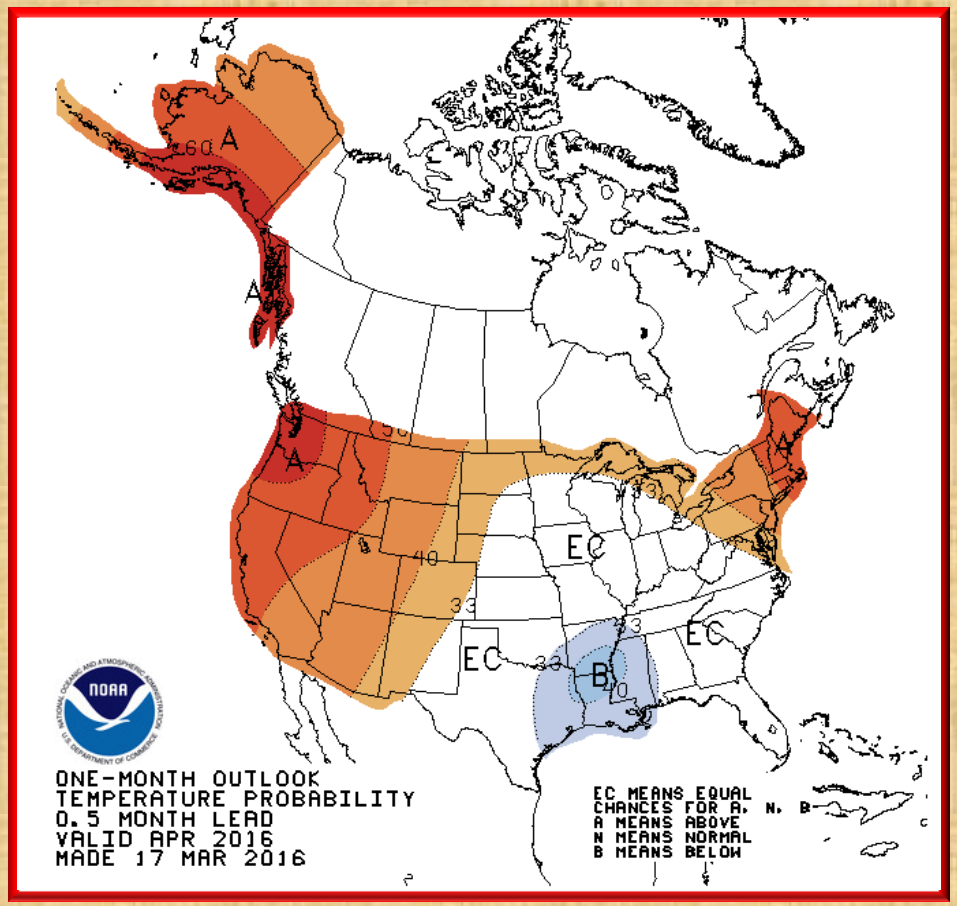


Daily temperature/precipitation data for March in El Paso

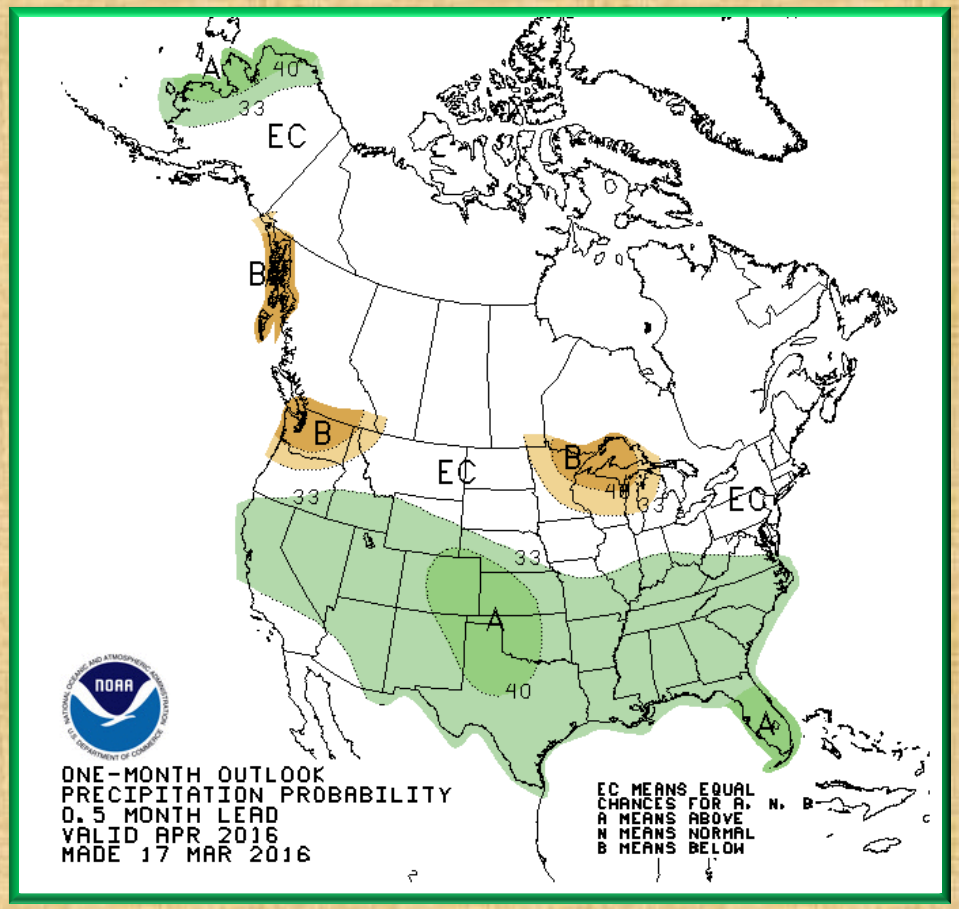


Temperature and precipitation outlook for April 2016

Temperature

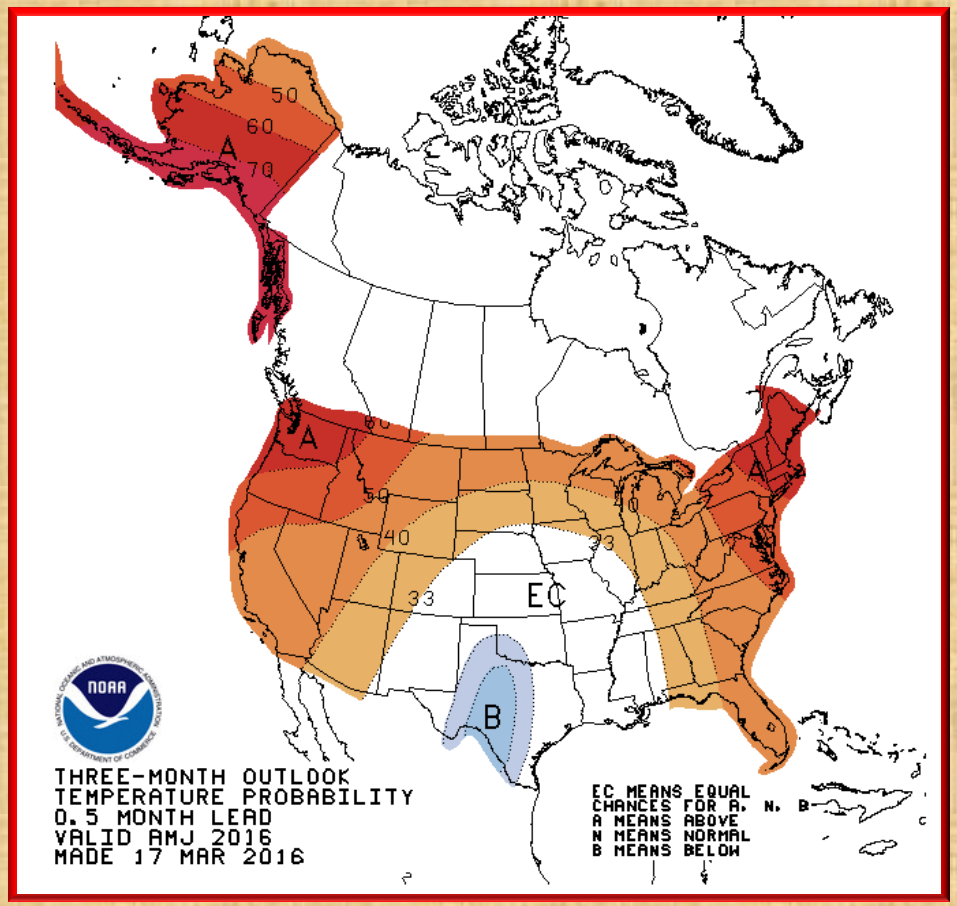


Precipitation

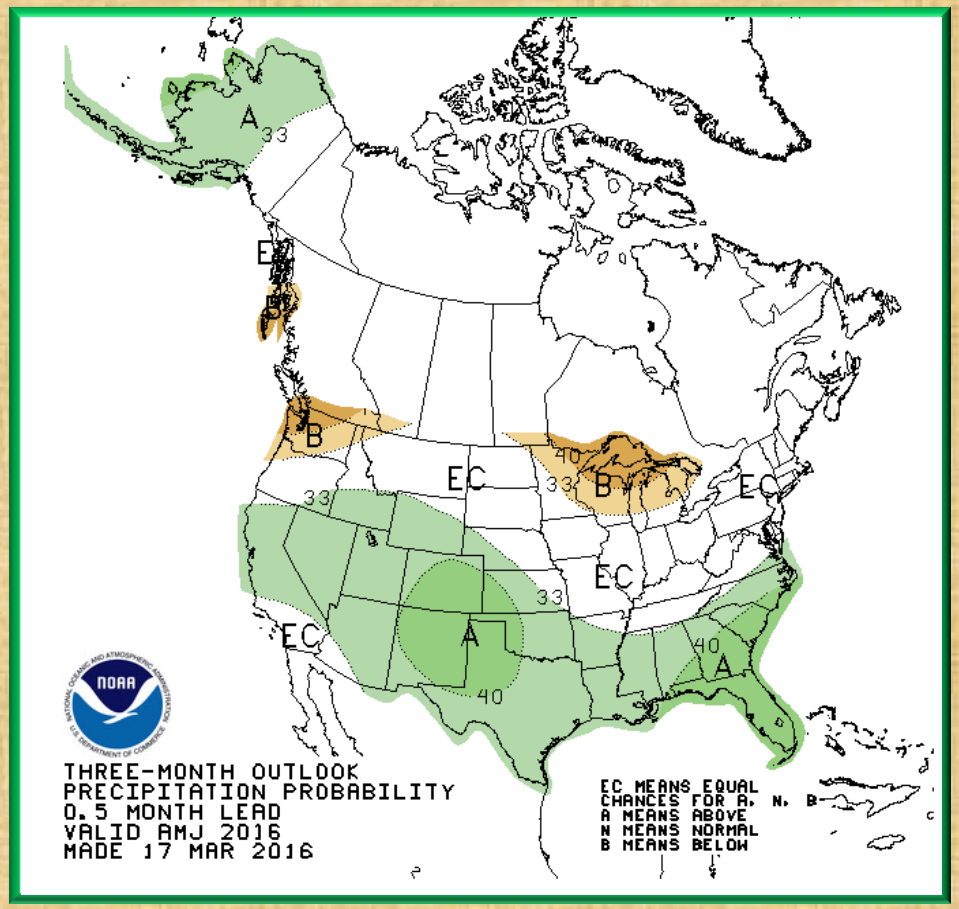


Temperature and precipitation outlook for Apr – Jun 2016

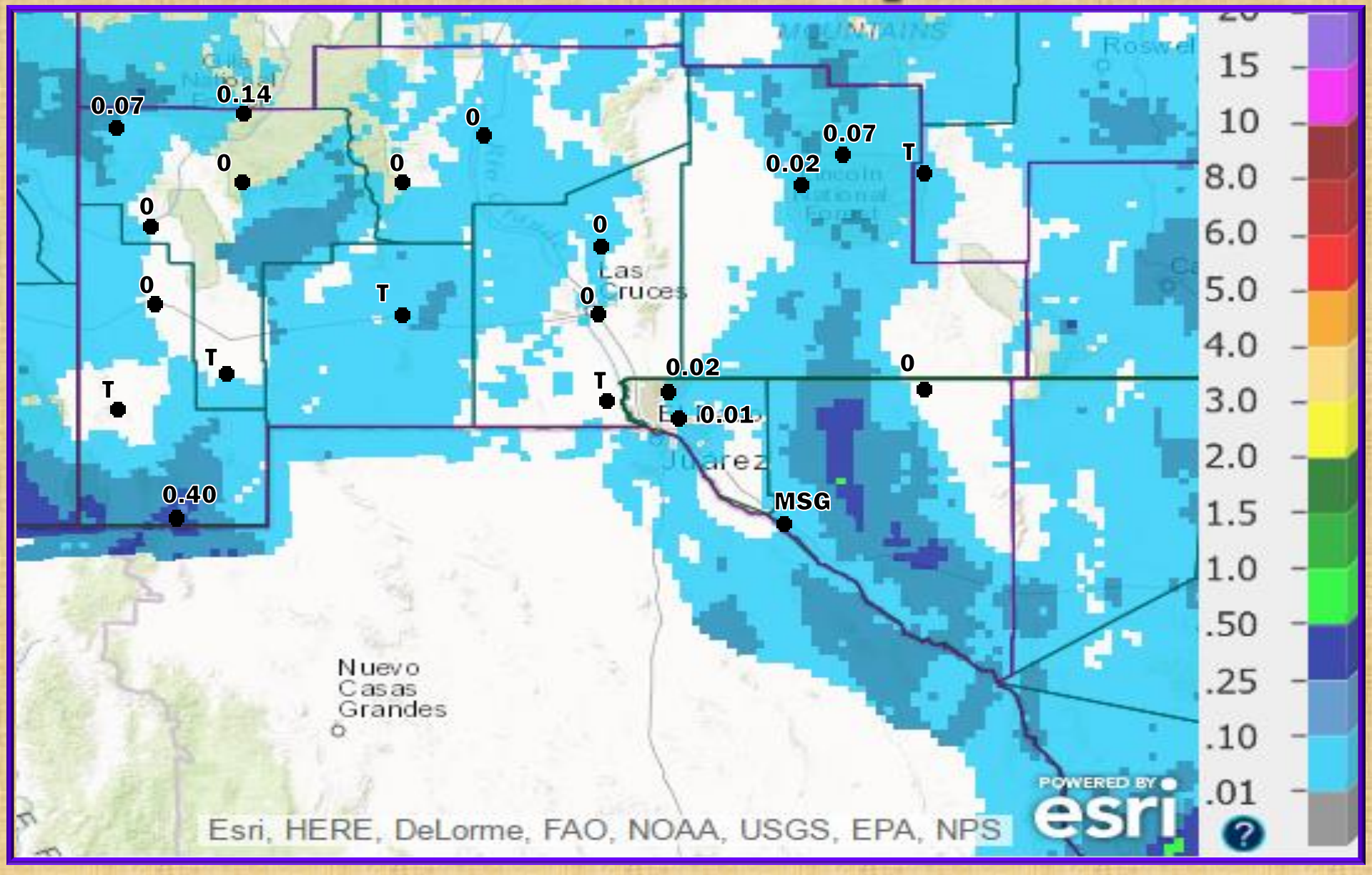
Temperature



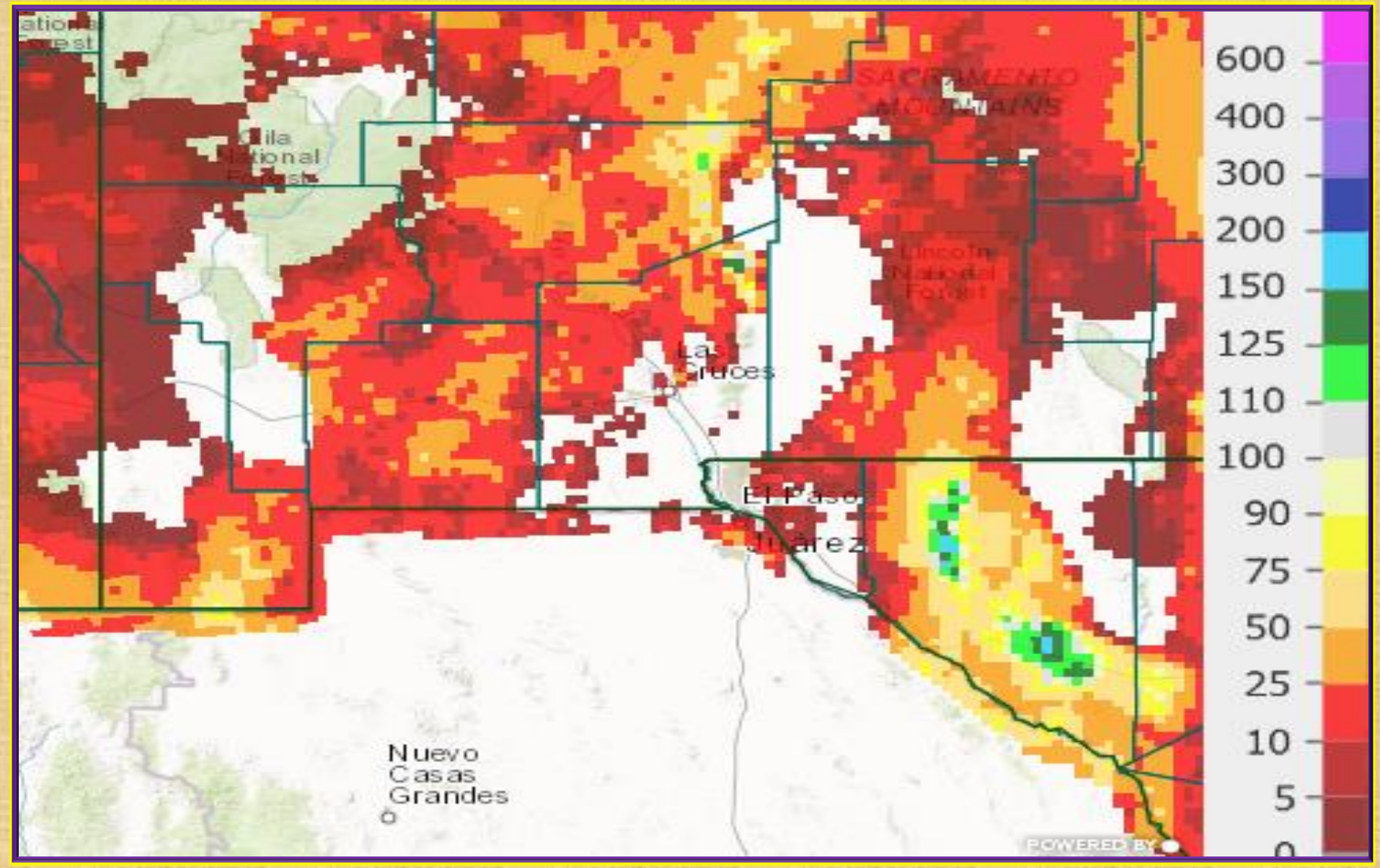
Precipitation



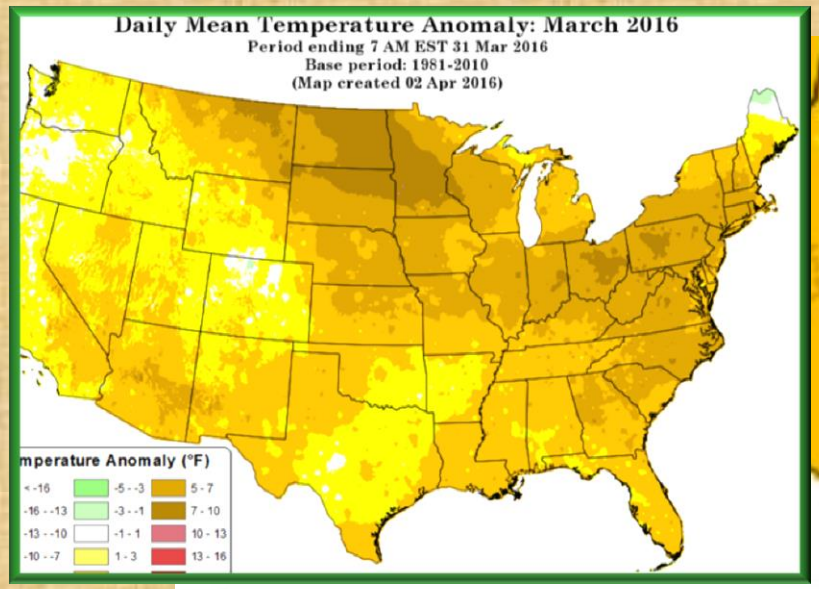
March 2016 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports

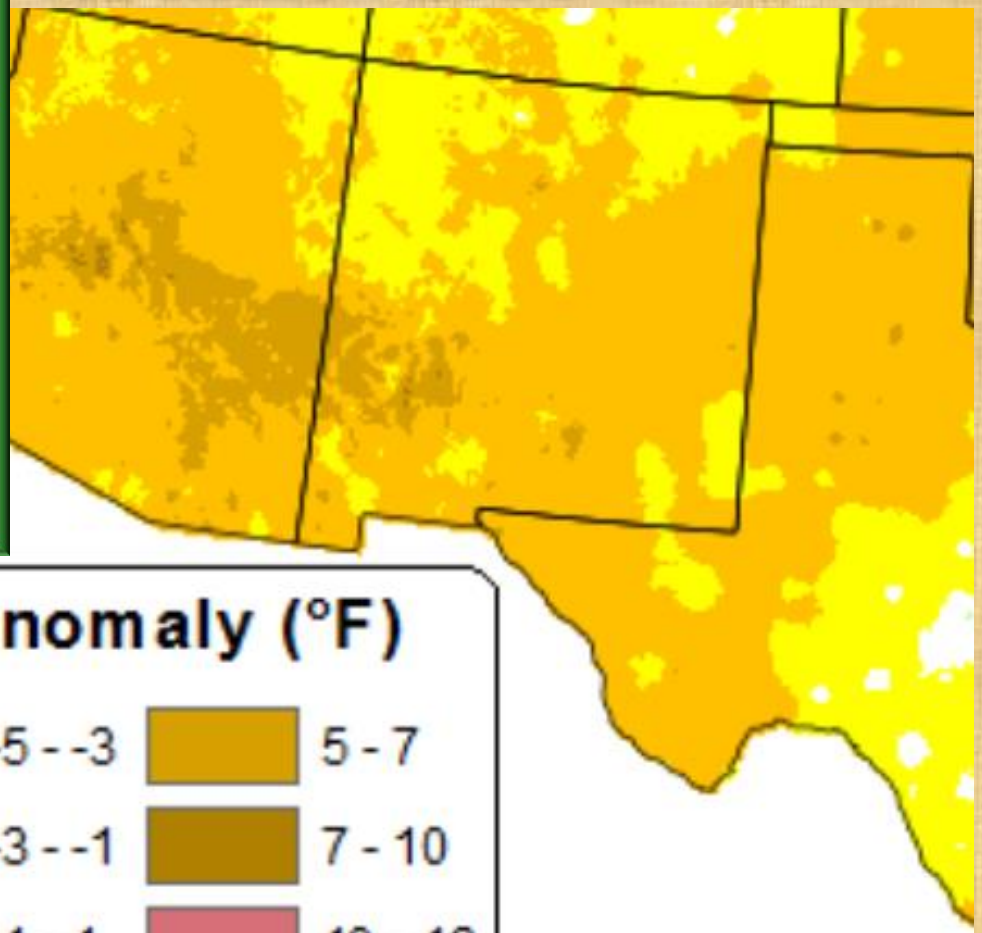


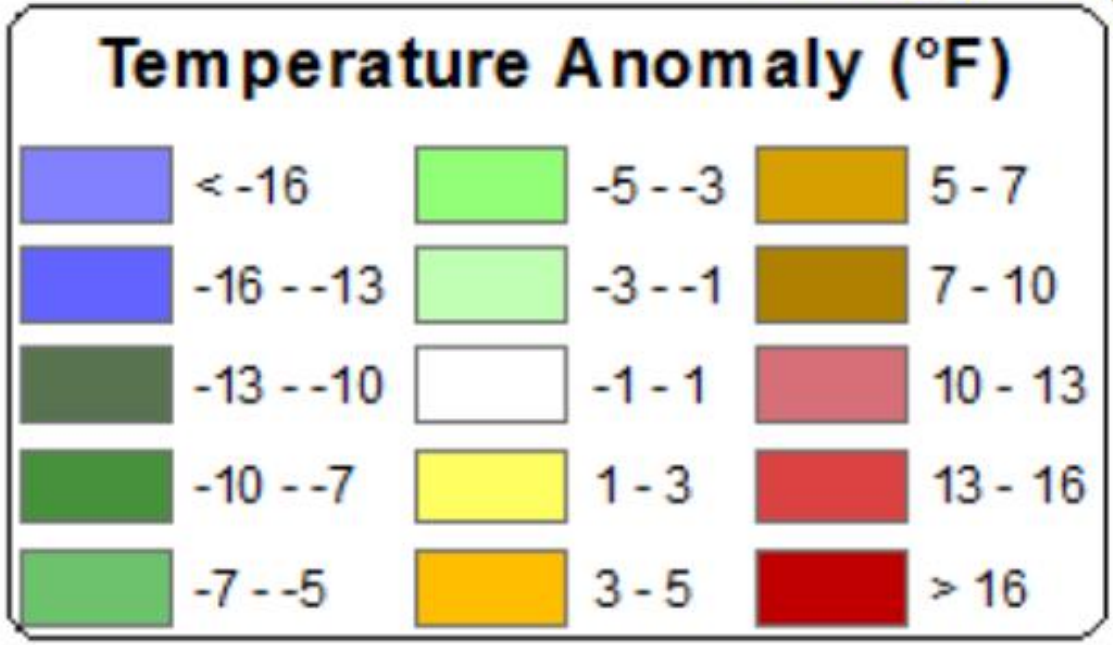
March 2016 Radar Rainfall Estimate
(Percent of normal)



Temperature Departure from Normal for March 2016







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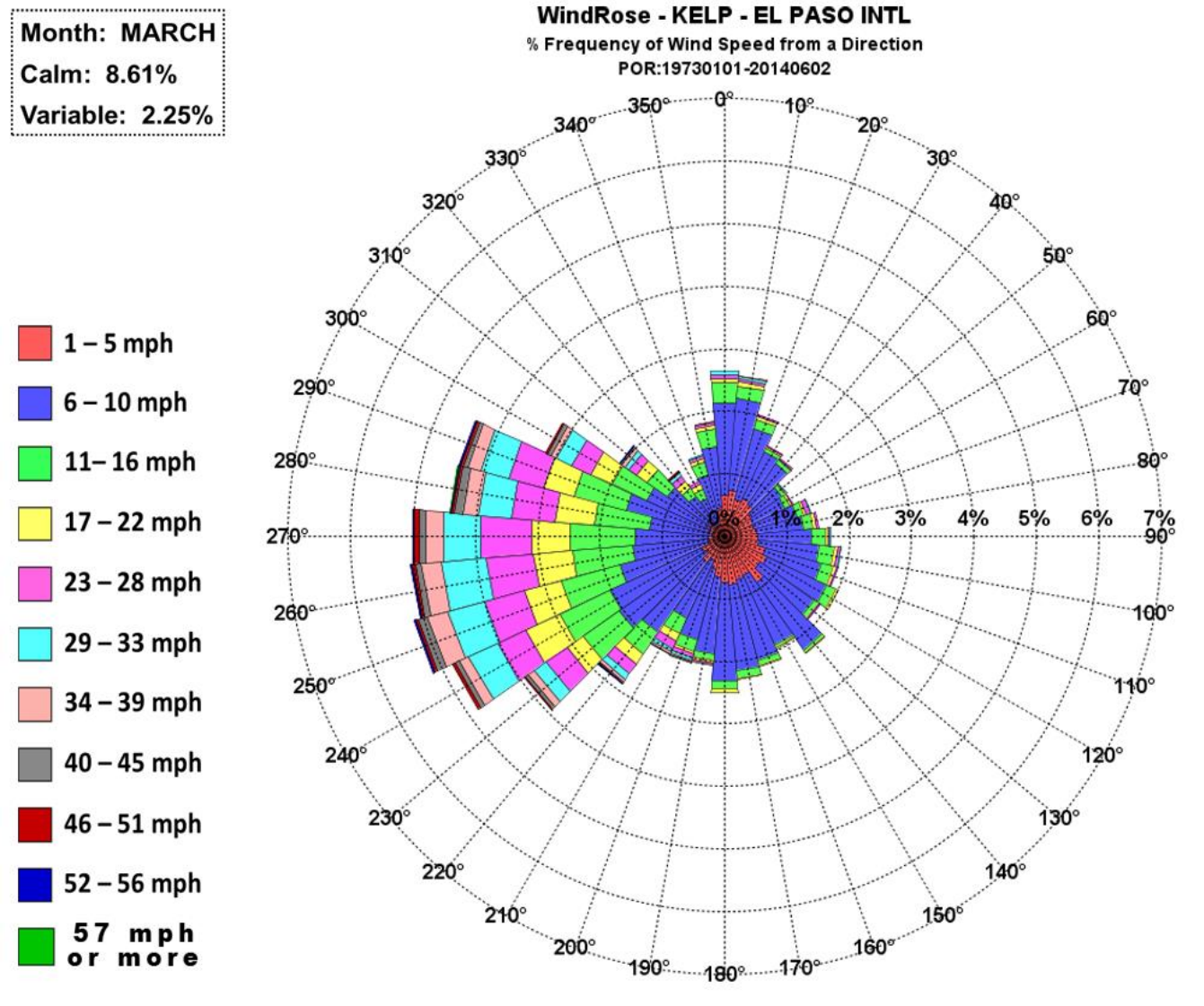
Oregon State University

Special Features

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

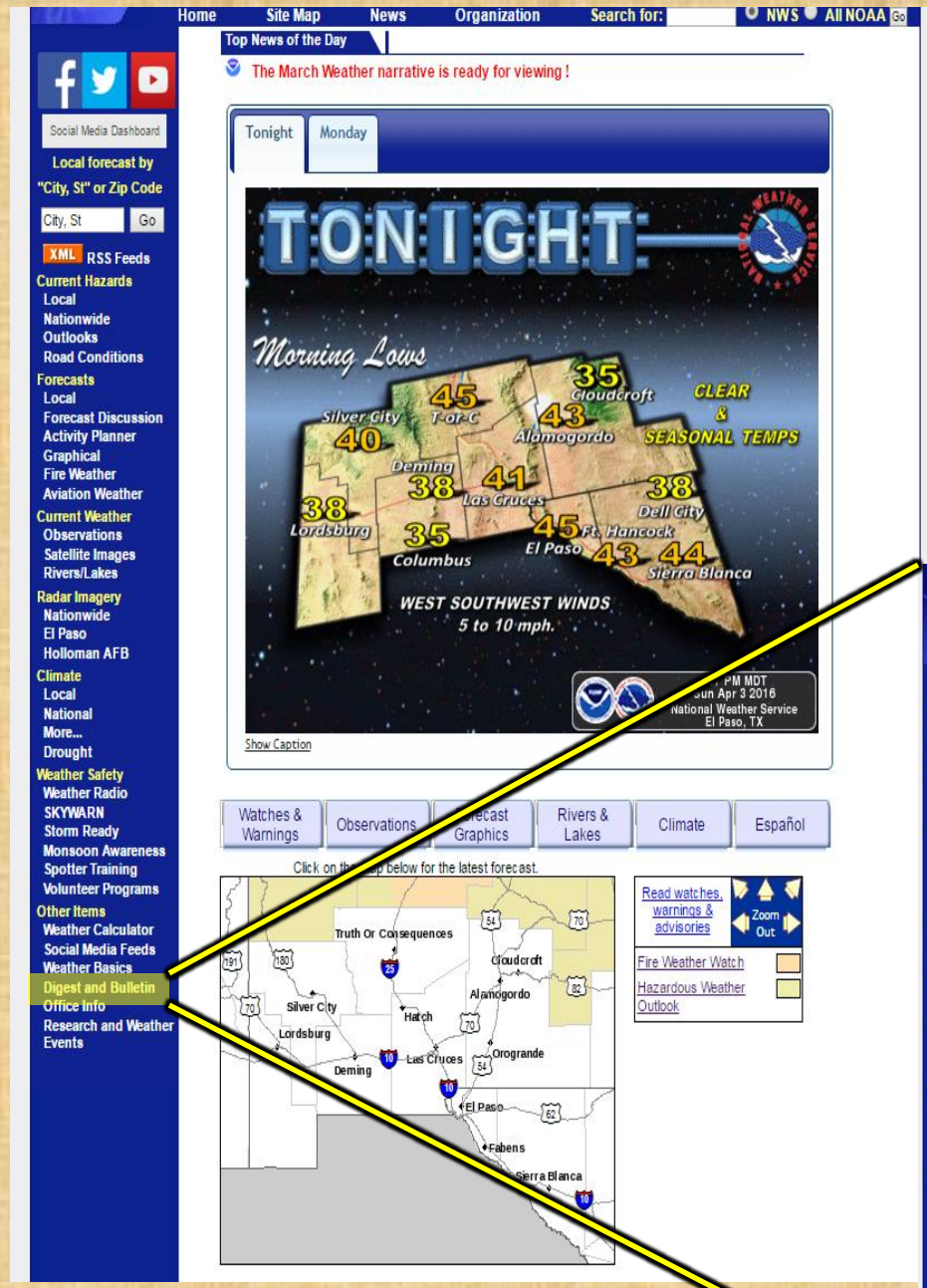
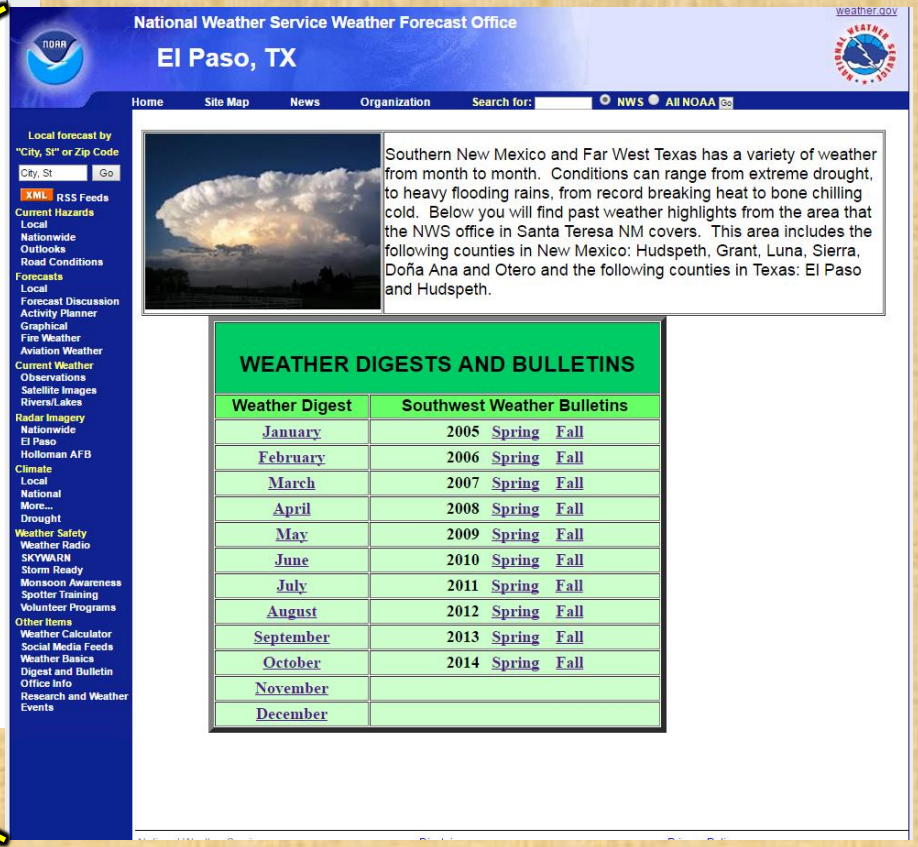


Selected weather reports February 2016

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
03/22/16 615 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DOÑA ANA	78 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 1120 PM	EL PASO 9NE	73 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 845 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DOÑA ANA	72 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 449 PM	ROAD FORKS 6NE-HIDALGO	61 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 615 PM	HACHITA 15SW-HIDALGO	55 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 633 PM	T OR C AIRPOSRT-SIERRA	54 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 420 PM	MAYHILL 3NW-OTERO	54 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 555 PM	LORDSBURG AIRPORT-HIDALGO	53 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 555 PM	WINSTON-SIERRA	52 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 834 PM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO	51MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 500 PM	DEMING 2 SE-LUNA	49 MPH PEAK WIND
03/22/16 624 PM	EL PASO AIRPORT	48 MPH PEAK WIND
03/23/16 300 PM	TULAROSA 22NW-OTERO	58 MPH PEAK WIND
03/23/16 431 PM	EL PASO AIRPORT	55 MPH PEAK WIND
03/23/16 237 PM	OROGRANDE 28NE-OTERO	54 MPH PEAK WIND
03/23/16 1200 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	52 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected weather reports February 2016

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
03/30/16 310 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DOÑA ANA	85 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 1106 AM	RODEO 3NE-HIDALGO	66 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 140 PM	HACHITA 15 SW-HIDALGO	65 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 450 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-OTERO	62 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 400 PM	LAS CRUCES 6SW-DOÑA ANA	56 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 300 PM	DEMING 2SE-LUNA	55 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 110 PM	TULAROSA 22NW-SIERRA	52 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 410 PM	TULAROSA 19NW-OTERO	51 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 800 PM	EL PASO 10NE	51 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 1001 AM	ORGAN 11NE-DOÑA ANA	51 MPH PEAK WIND
03/30/16 148 PM	MAYHILL 3NW-OTERO	49 MPH PEAK WIND

Don't Forget-Current and all past issues of our Weather Digest are available on our website at *http://www.srh.noaa.gov/elp/*

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