April 2017 Weather Summary

Aprils across the Borderland are generally quiet, with just a few days of active weather. This April proved to be no different as the first half of the month was uneventful with slightly above normal temperatures. That changed on the 12th however as a dryline moved in from the east and a disturbance aloft moved in from the west. The dryline helped destabilize the atmosphere and by early afternoon strong thunderstorms developed. A few of these became severe, mostly in Hudspeth and Otero Counties, where large hail of one inch or greater were reported by several spotters.

Toward the end of the month a series of strong upper lows moved across the area. The first one came from the Pacific and brought strong winds and blowing dust to the area on the 24th and 25th. A cold upper low dropped south out of the central Rockies to New Mexico on the 28th, initially bringing strong winds and some showers to the area. As the storm exited on the 29th, a few thunderstorms rolled across southern New Mexico and into the El Paso area. Brief heavy rain and pea size hail was reported in these areas. High elevations in the Sacramento Mountains, such as Cloudcroft, receive three to six inches of snow.

For the month, rainfall once again was below normal for most areas except over Sierra County and parts of the Sacramento Mountains. With two to three consecutive months of dry weather, much of the Borderland is now in the drought category of abnormally dry, and another dry month could tip the area into a moderate drought.
Temperatures were once again above normal. When combined with the earlier winter season, this winter has proved to be one of the mildest on record (see AWSSI chart below for El Paso).
Accumulated Winter Season Severity Index (AWSSI) shows very mild winter in El Paso
Strong thunderstorms over Hudspeth Co from Santa Teresa April 12

Sierra Blanca April 12
NWS Radar depicting hail tracks on April 12

Strong thunderstorms over Hudspeth Co from Santa Teresa April 12

Hail at Timberon April 12

Rain over Timberon April 12
Rainbow near Alamogordo April 12

Flooding near Tularosa April 12

Radar showing Hail tracks/streaks From April 21 storms

Sierra Blanca April 12
The start of 6 inches of snow in Cloudcroft April 29

Dusting of snow on top of the Franklin Mountains in El Paso April 29

1-3 inches of snow early morning hours, Cloudcroft April 29
FREEZING TEMPERATURES RETURNED APRIL 30
Freeze damage. Top 4 ft of Locust dead / healthy foliage below. Top of tree is 15 ft above the ground. 25 degrees 4/30/17. Russ Bowen NWS COOP observer Hillsboro NMEX.
No 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.
ENSO Forecast from May into early winter of 2017

ENSO IS NOW IN A NEUTRAL PERIOD. FAVORING GOING TO EL NINO BY SUMMER
Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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

April 25, 2017

January 31, 2017
Current drought conditions for Texas as of April 25, 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 April 20 - July 31, 2017
Released April 20, 2017

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

http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73
Temperature and precipitation data for April 2017 in El Paso

- **90 Tied the Record**
- **Strong Cold Front**
2017 year-to-date temperature and precipitation data El Paso
Temperature and precipitation outlook for May 2017
Temperature and precipitation outlook
For May – Jul 2017

Temperature

Precipitation

THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID MJJ 2017
MADE 20 APR 2017

THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID MJJ 2017
MADE 20 APR 2017
Temperature Outlook Through July 2018


April 2017 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports
April 2017 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal
Average Daily Mean Temperature for April 2017

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PRISM Climate Group
Oregon State University
Snowpack water equivalent for the upper Rio Grande Basin at the end of April

Colorado

New Mexico

20–40” water equivalent

15–30” water equivalent

Albuquerque
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location (County)</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>68 MPH PEAK WIND GUST</td>
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<td>EL PASO AIRPORT-EL PASO</td>
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