

# December 2017 Weather Digest



# December 2017 Weather Summary

December turned out to be a very warm month as we become well entrenched in the La Niña weather pattern. El Paso Airport easily broke the all time December monthly average temperature. However many other sites only approached or slightly bested the all time monthly record. The persistent upper ridge, which is often associated with the La Niña winter pattern, once again made it's appearance. Temperatures basically were above normal for the entire month excepting a stretch around 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>, when an upper trough swept east across the area. This combined with a cold front pushing west through the area to bring showers on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, with many places turning to snow on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Turning to precipitation, not surprisingly the bulk of the area was well below normal with very little rain during the month. The one exception was west Texas, where both El Paso and Hudspeth Counties tallied above normal rainfall. This has led to drought concerns as moderate drought conditions have developed west of the Continental Divide, while east of the Divide, conditions have fallen into the abnormally dry category (see drought maps below). The drought is also affecting the upper Rio Grande Basin snow pack. Current snow pack is 50% or less than normal (see snowpack maps below), and likely will not improve much, if any, the remainder of the winter.

**El Paso Dec 5 Brine trucks hitting the roads**



**El Paso Dec 7 light snow**



**El Paso Dec 7 light snow**



**El Paso Dec 7 light snow**



**El Paso Dec 7 light snow**



**El Paso Dec 7 light snow**



**El Paso Dec 7 light snow**



**El Paso Dec 7 light snow**



# Cloudcroft Dec 7 light snow



# Cloudcroft Dec 7 light snow



# Mayhill Dec 7 light snow



# Lordsburg Dec 7 light snow

**Silver City Dec 17**



© CloudcroftWebcam.com

Fri Dec 22, 2017 06:33:33 AM

**Cloudcroft Dec 22**



© CloudcroftWebcam.com

Fri Dec 22, 2017 07:43:48 AM

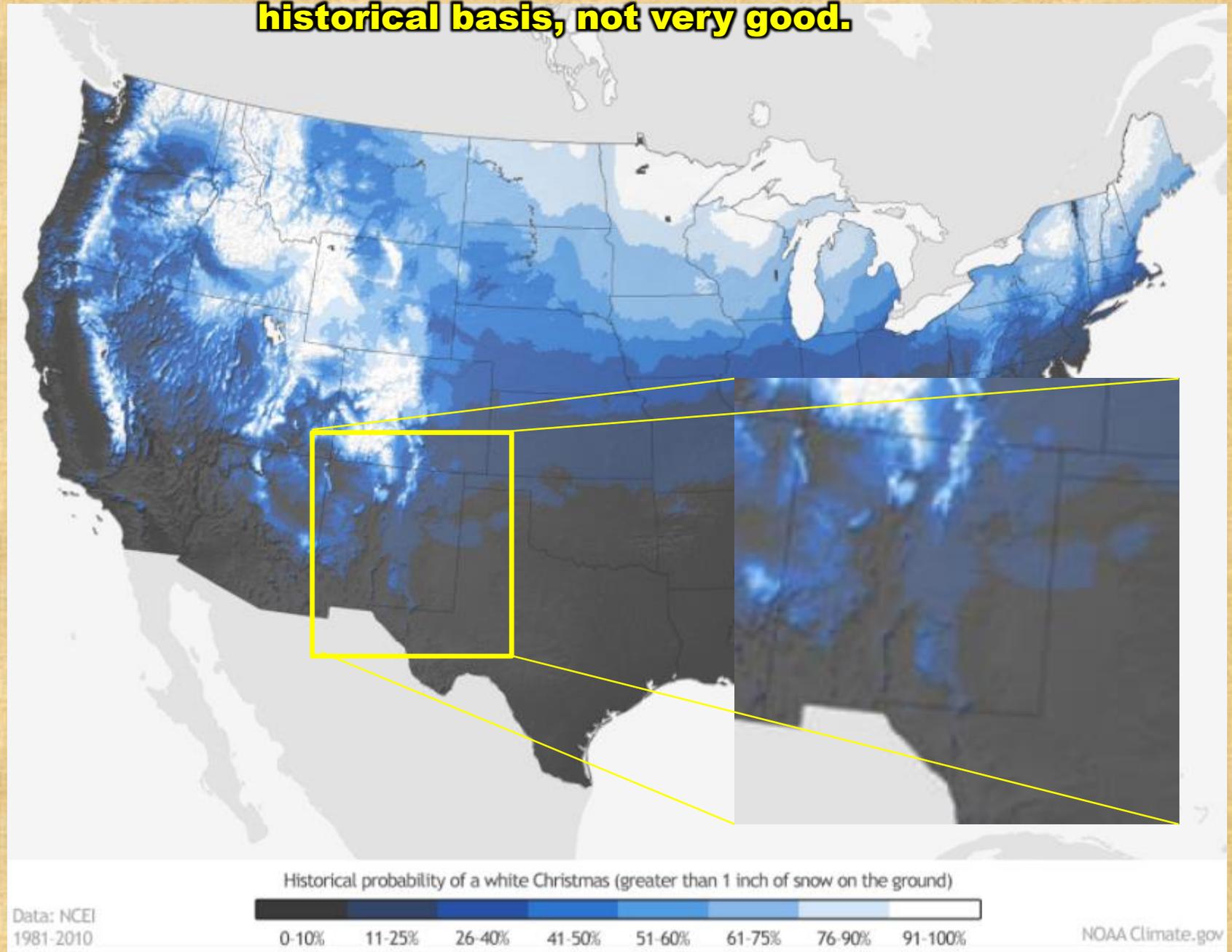
**Cloudcroft Dec 22**



**Santa Teresa Dec 22**

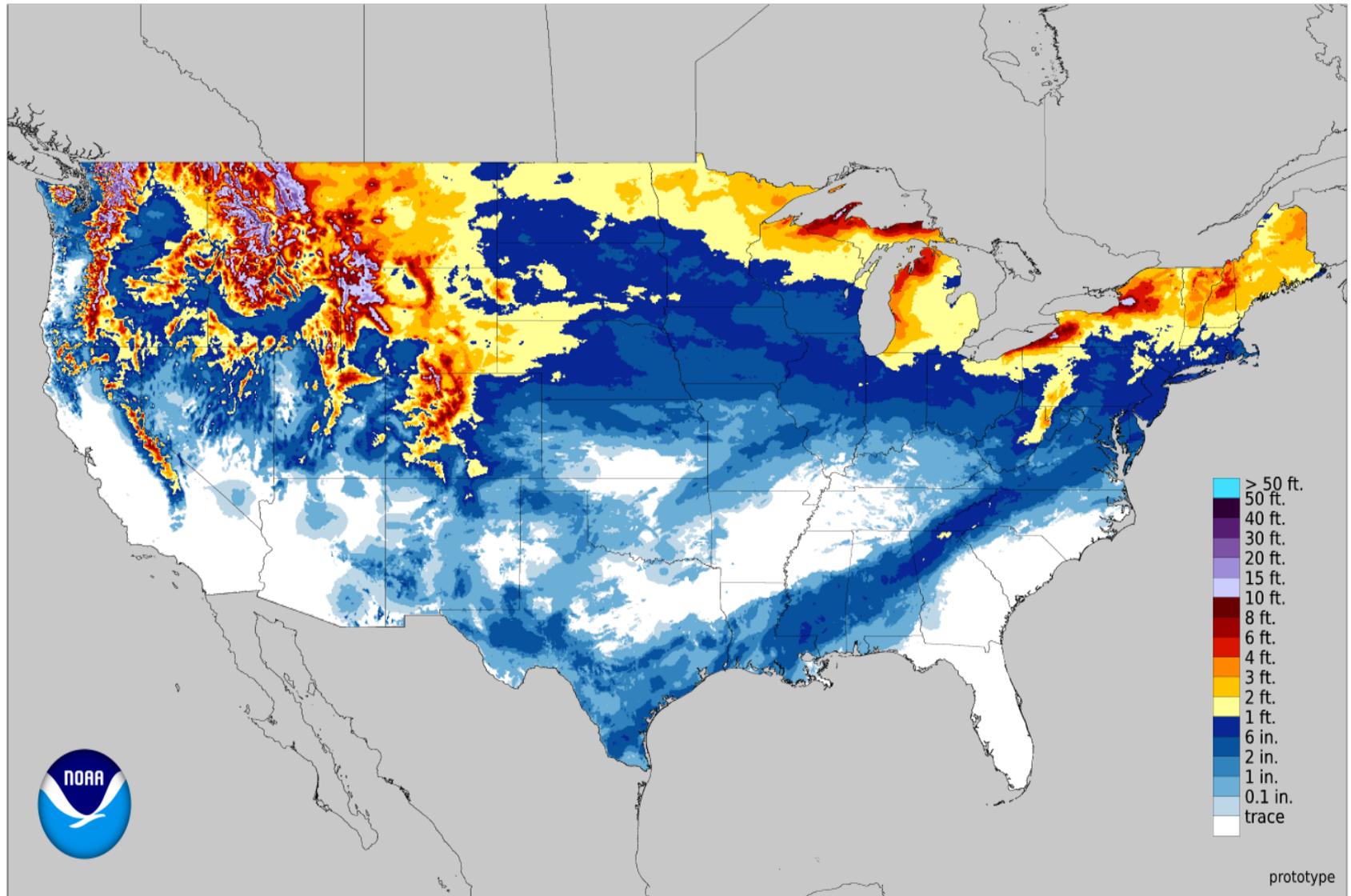


# What is our chance of a white Christmas? On a historical basis, not very good.



# National Snowfall Analysis: accumulation from 2017-09-30 to 2017-12-31

Issued 2018-01-01 18:24:43 UTC

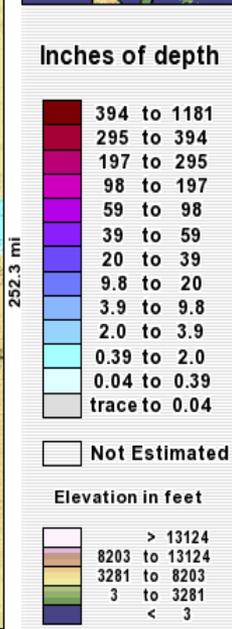
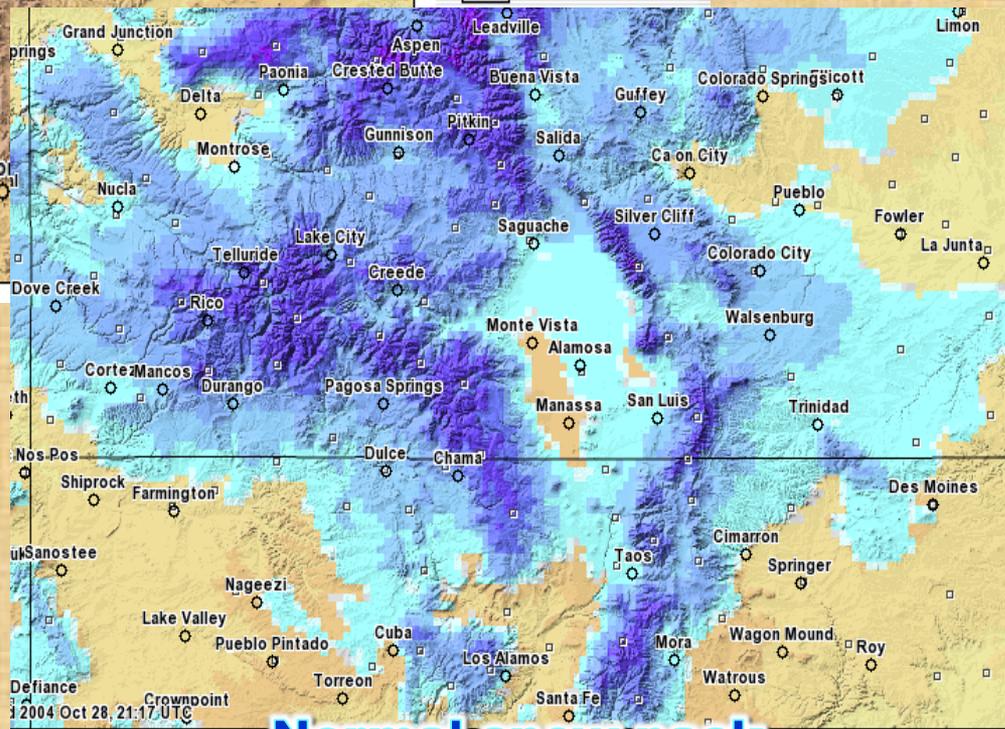
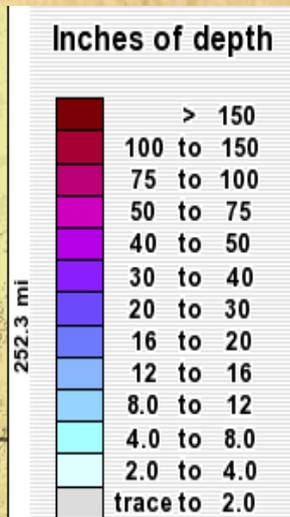
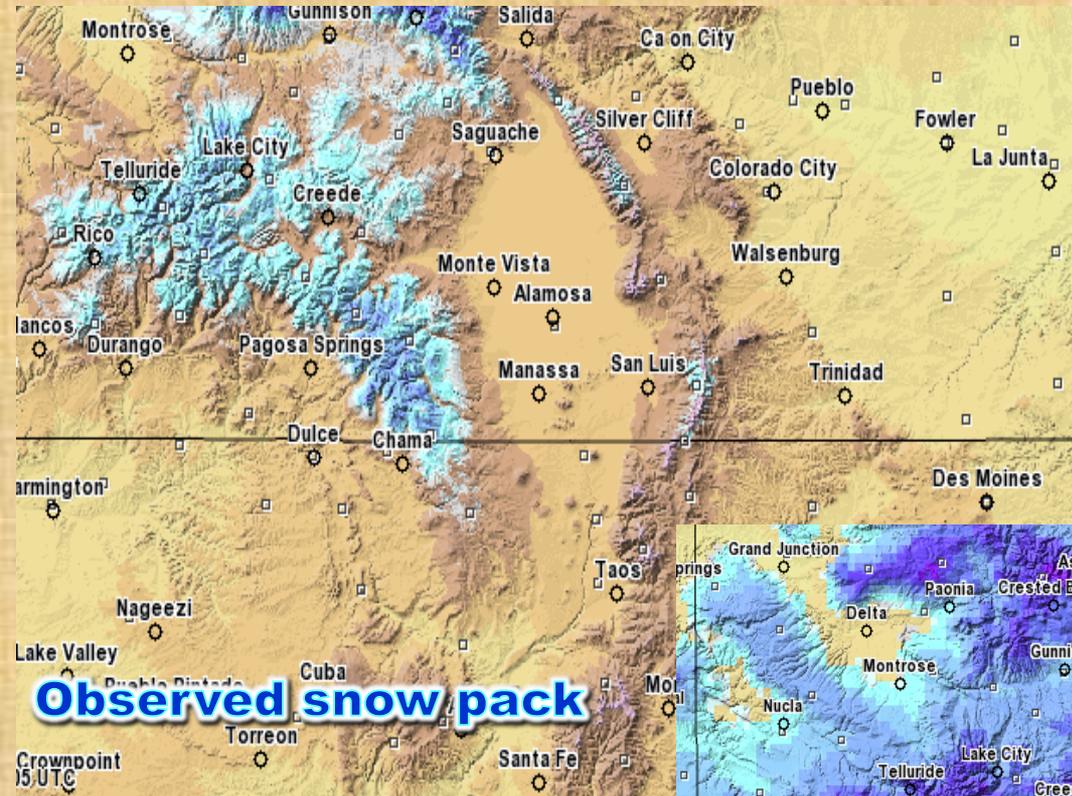


# What is our chance of any measureable snowfall during a winter? A fair chance on a historical basis

## Percent of Winters With Measurable Snow



# How is the upper Rio Grande Basin snow pack doing? Not good. These charts show snow pack is 50% or less than normal



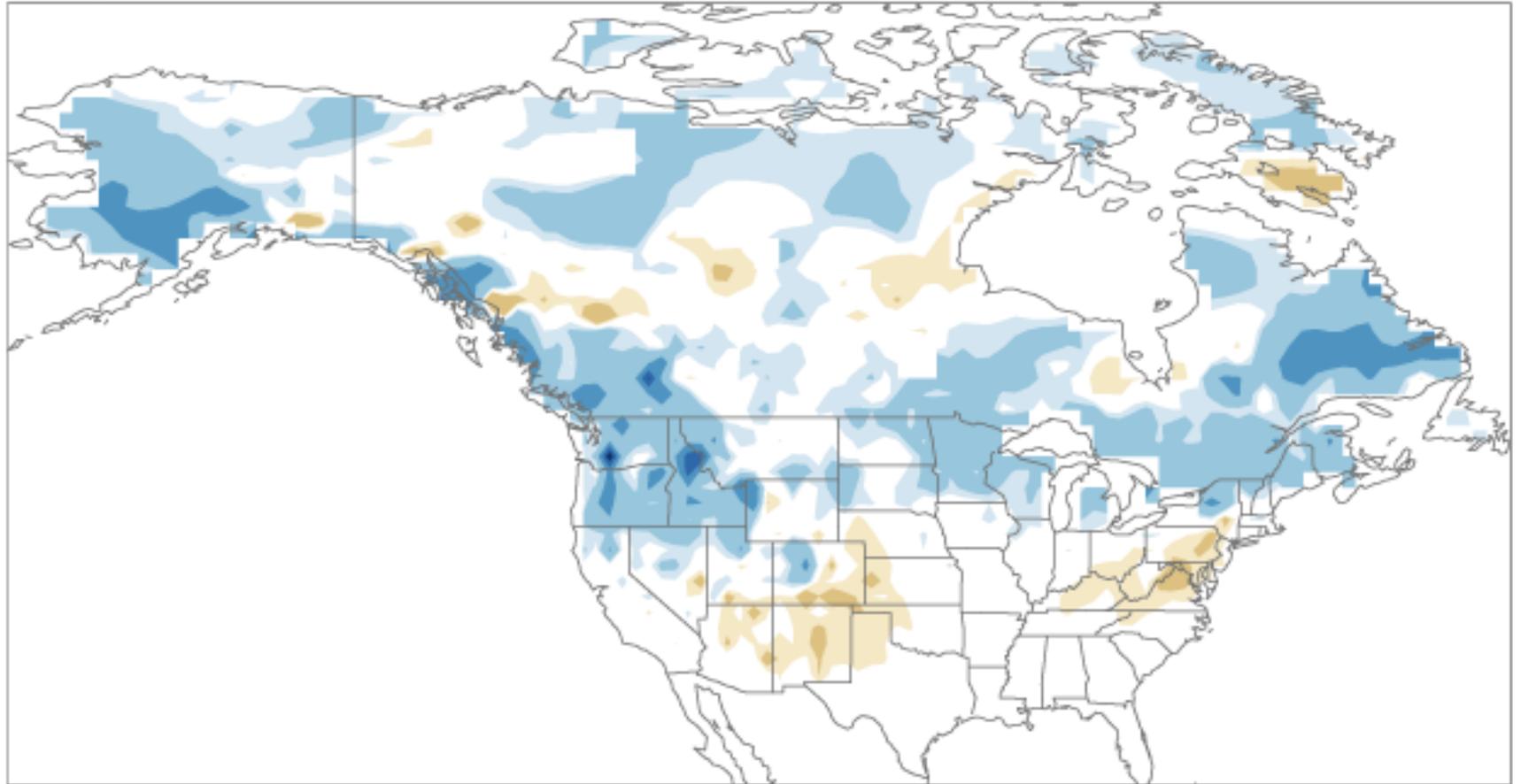
# **La Niña Advisory in Effect**

## **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.

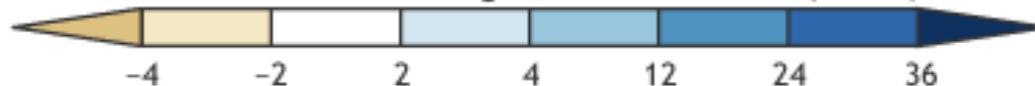
**La Niña pattern typically means very little in the way of snow fall for New Mexico, and that includes the upper Rio Grand River Basin of southern Colorado.**

Average snowfall patterns for all La Niña years



October-April  
1950-51 to 2008-09

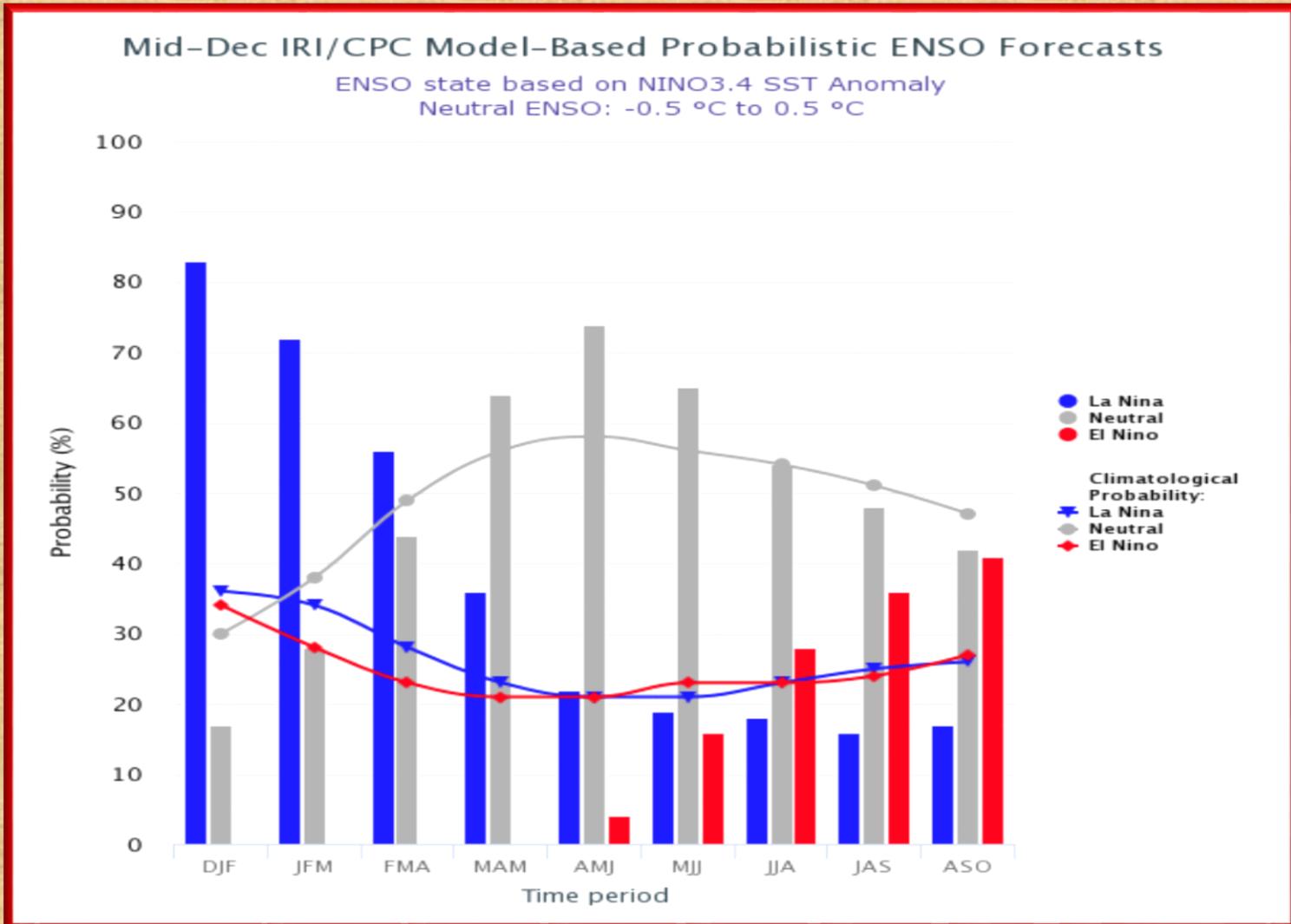
Difference from average seasonal snowfall (inches)



NOAA Climate.gov  
Data: Rutgers GSL

# ENSO Forecast from November into Late Summer of 2018

ENSO IS AT BEGINNING STAGE OF A LA NIÑA. IT IS LIKELY TO LAST THROUGH LATE WINTER; THEN LIKELY BACK TO NEUTRAL BY EARLY SUMMER

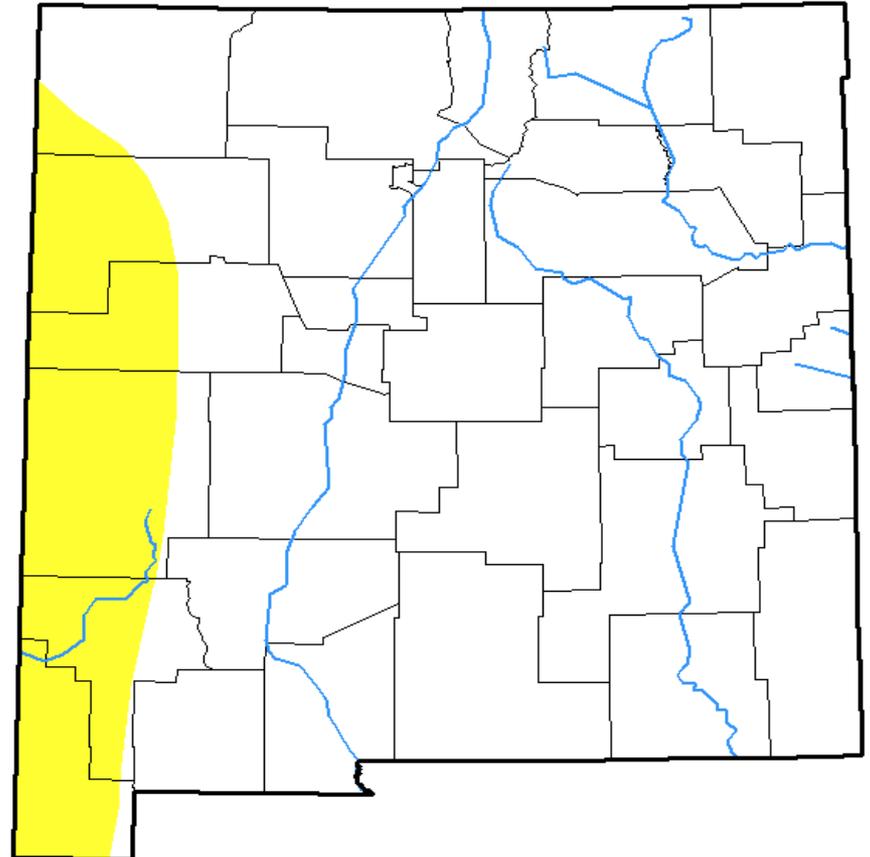
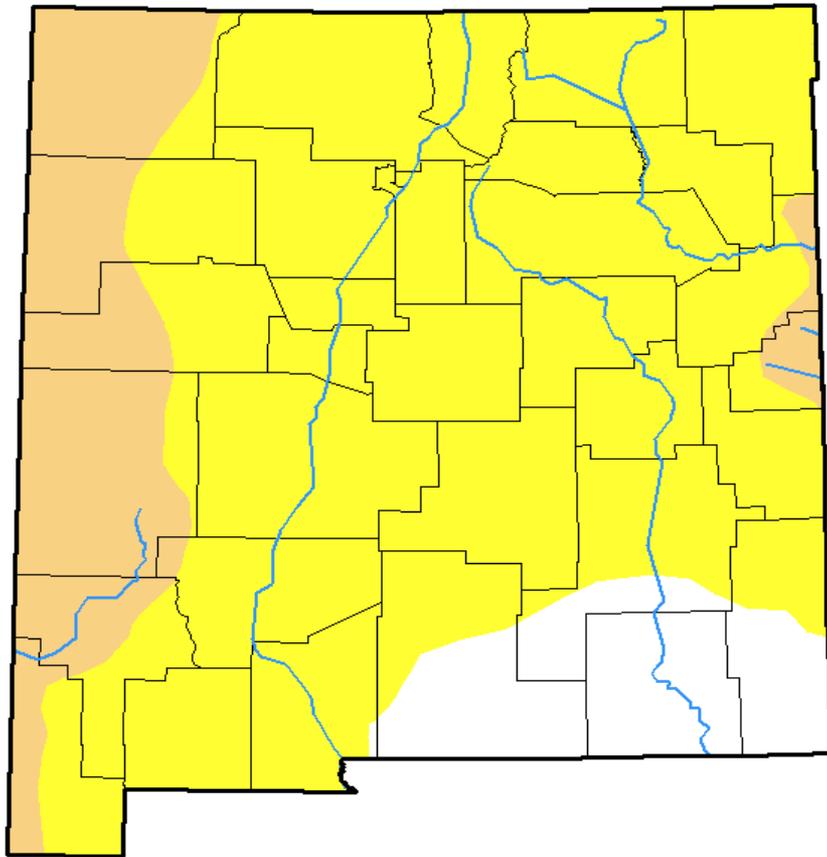


# Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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

**December 19, 2017**

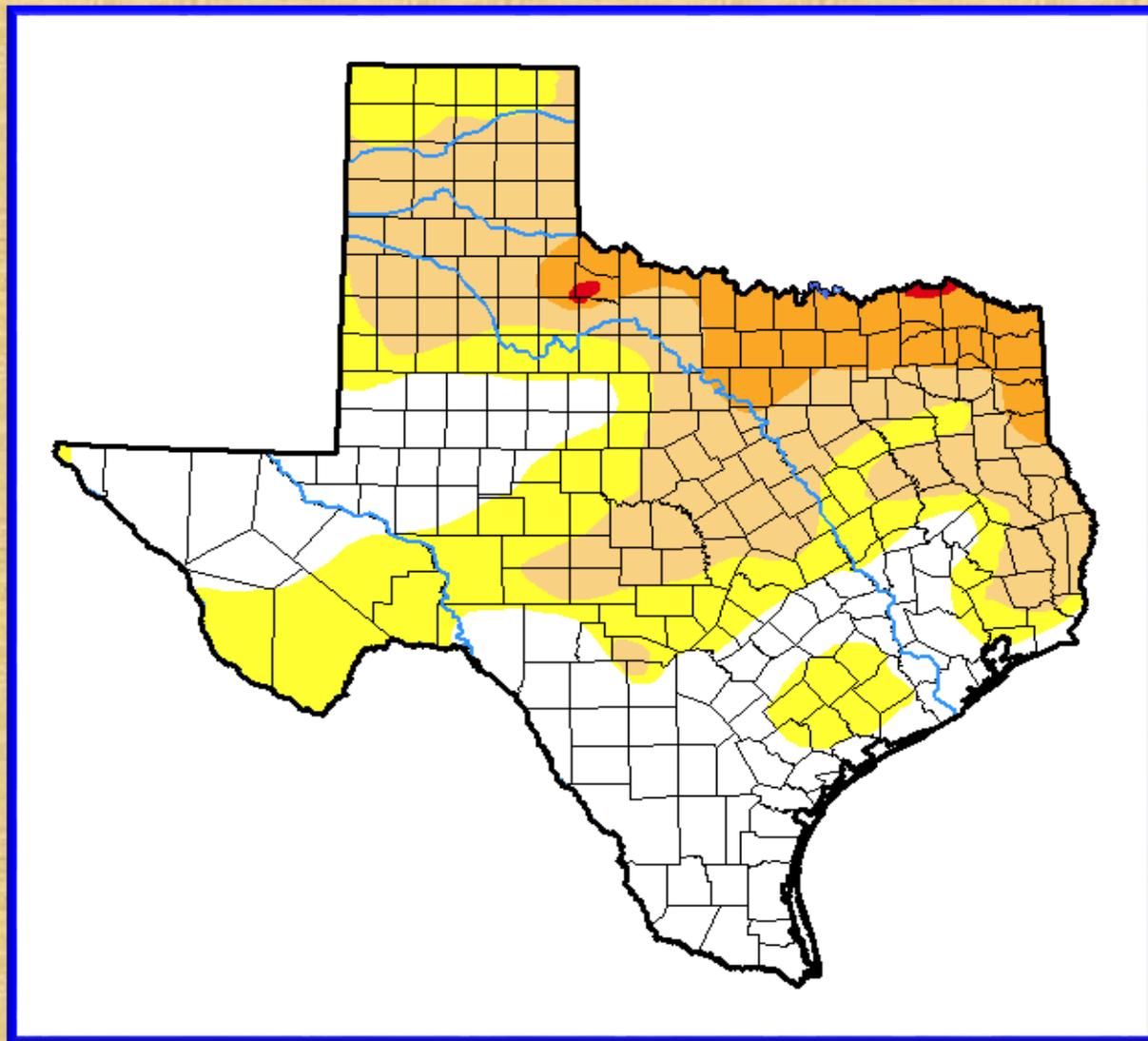
**September 26, 2017**



# Current drought conditions for Texas as of December 19, 2017

Intensity:

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



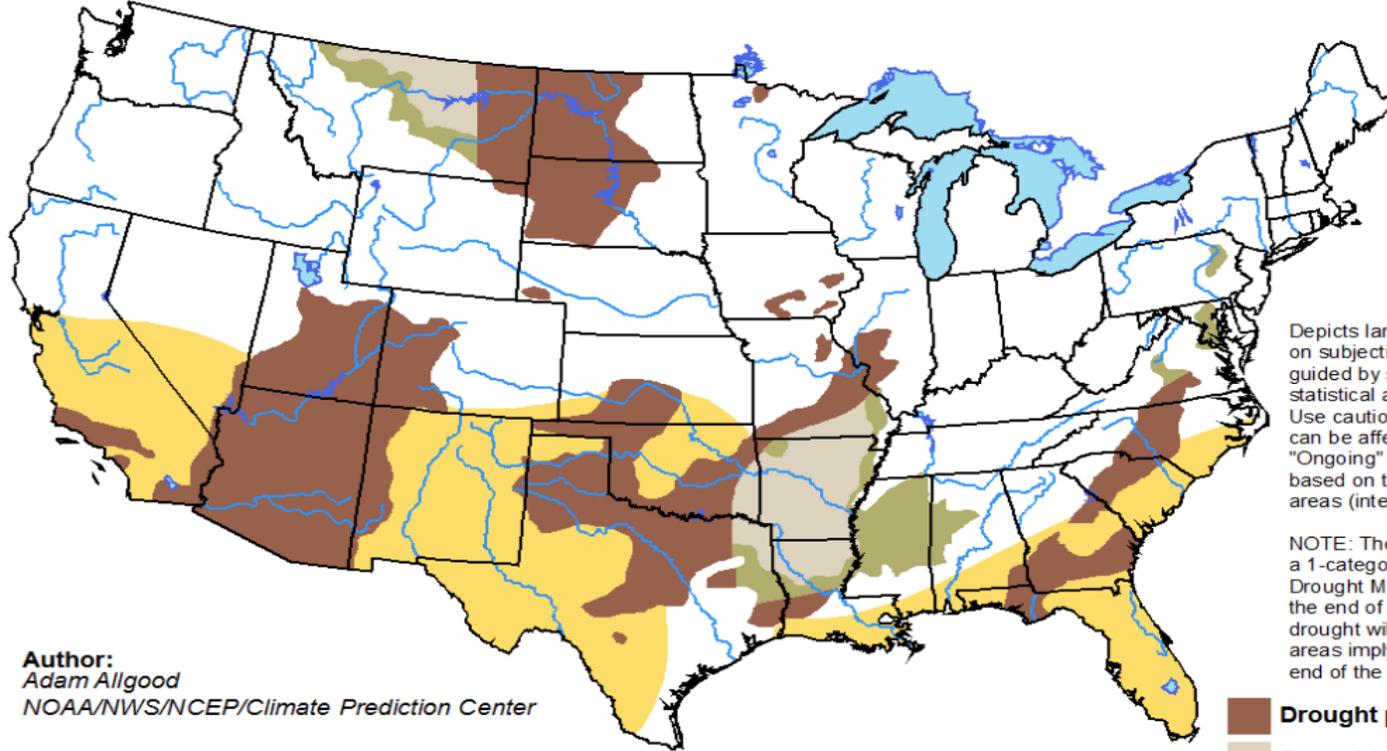
**Build your own custom slider maps here at:**

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

# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 21 - March 31, 2018  
Released December 21, 2017

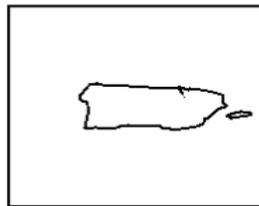
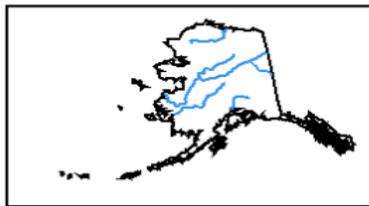


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

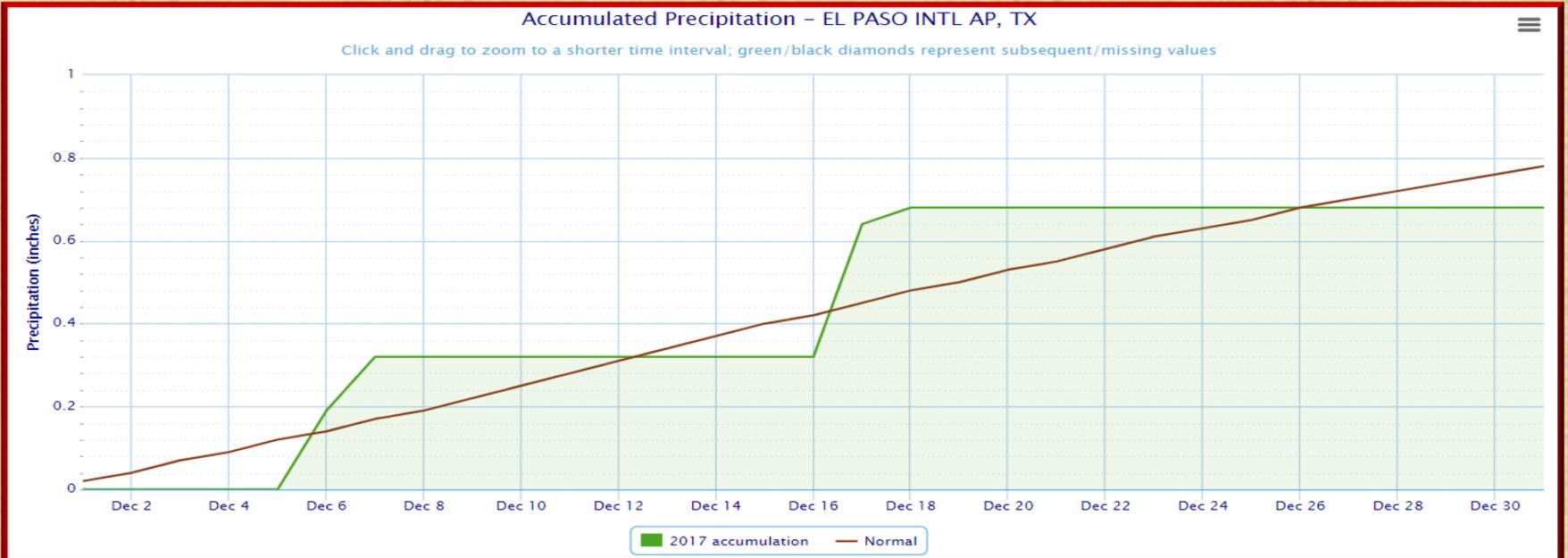
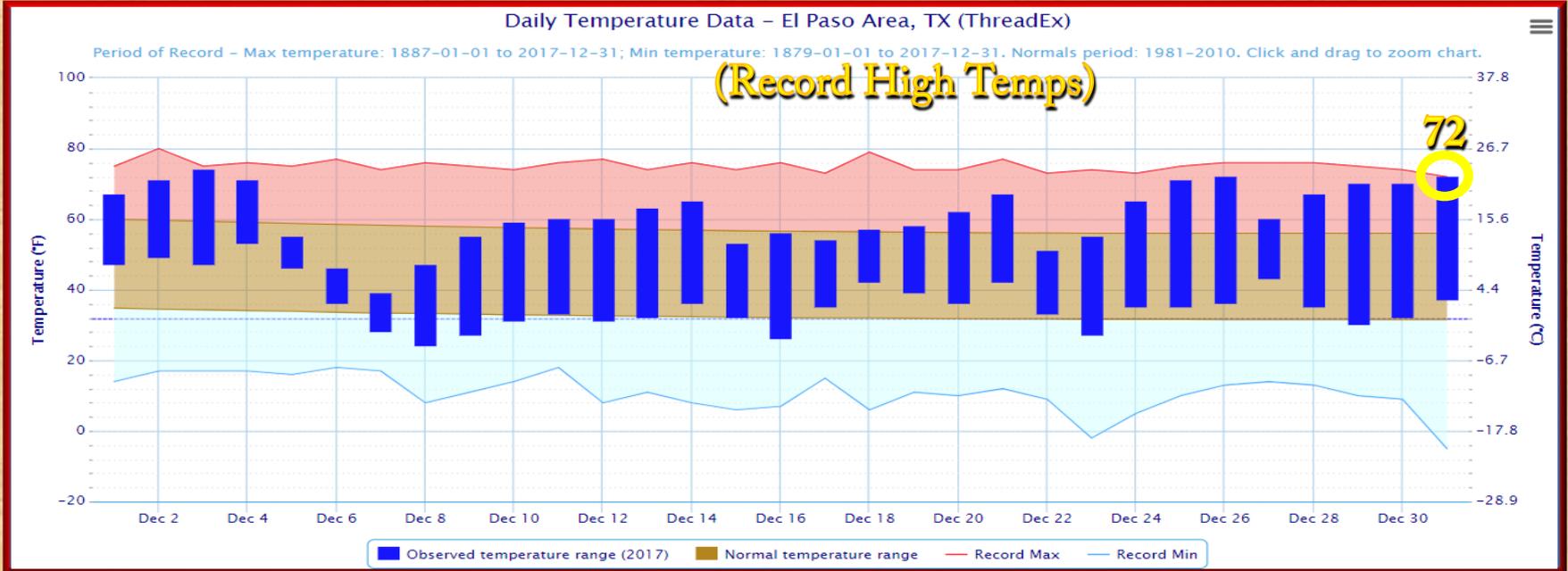
Author:  
Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

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

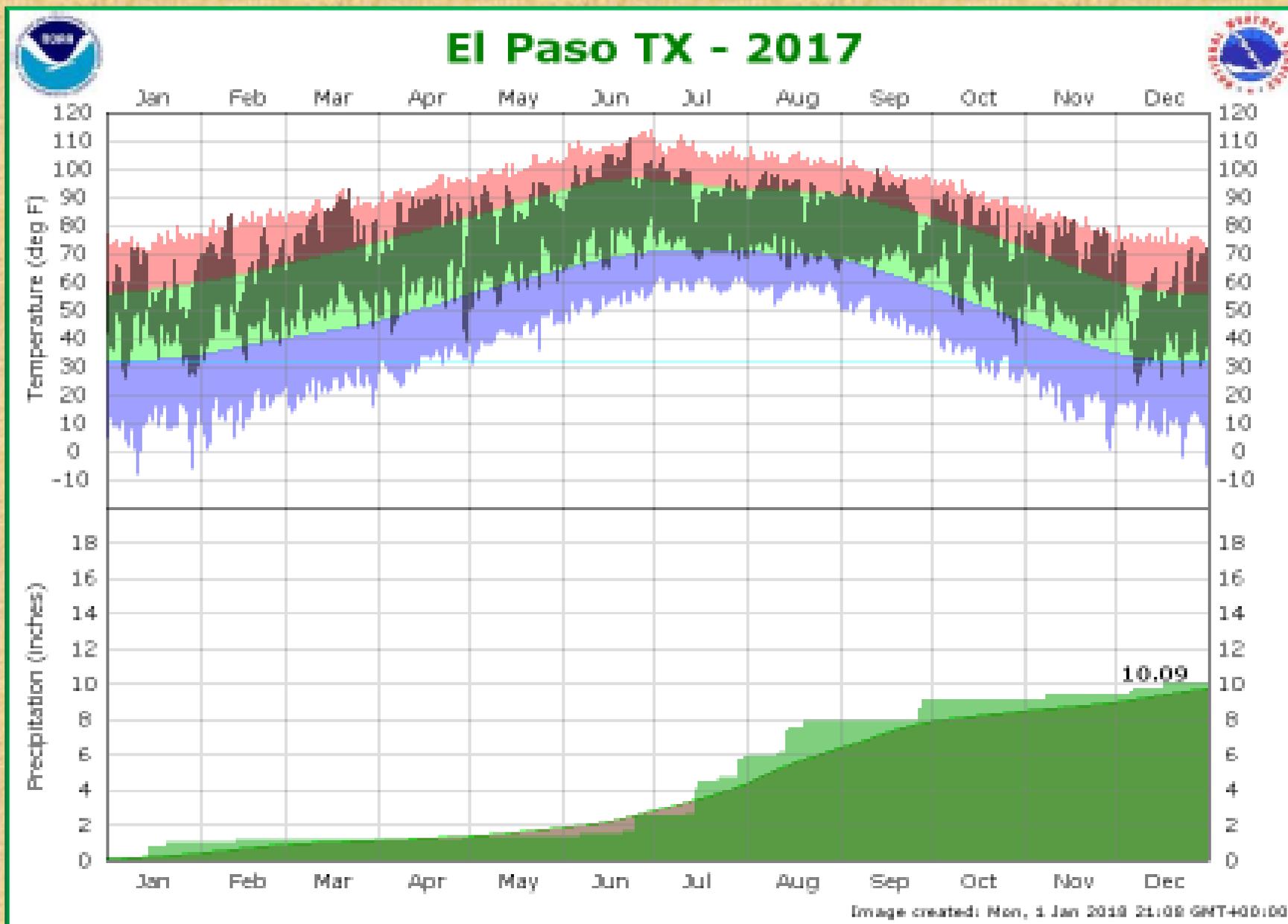


<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

# Temperature and precipitation data for December 2017 in El Paso



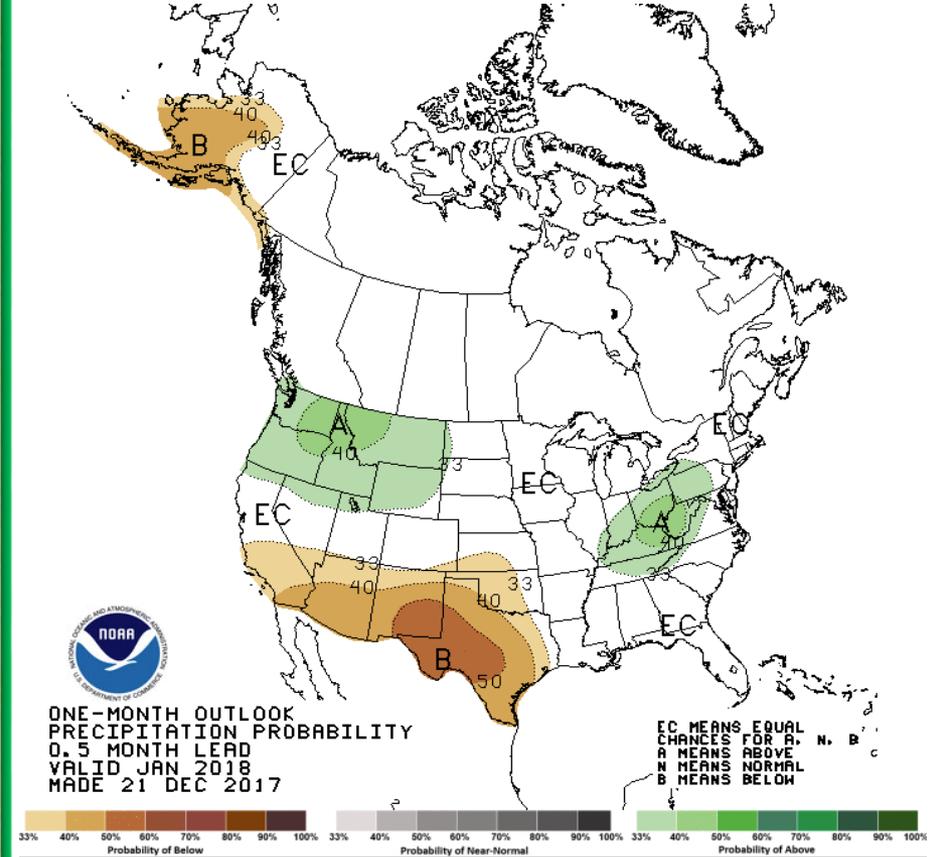
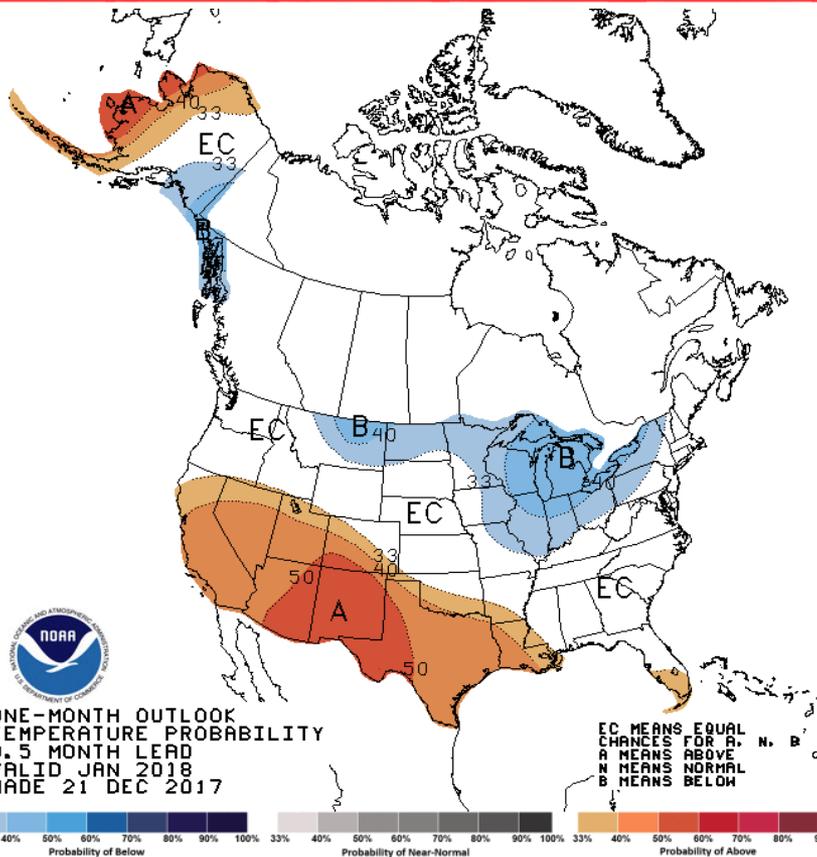
# 2017 year-to-date temperature and precipitation data El Paso



# Temperature and precipitation outlook for January 2018

## Temperature

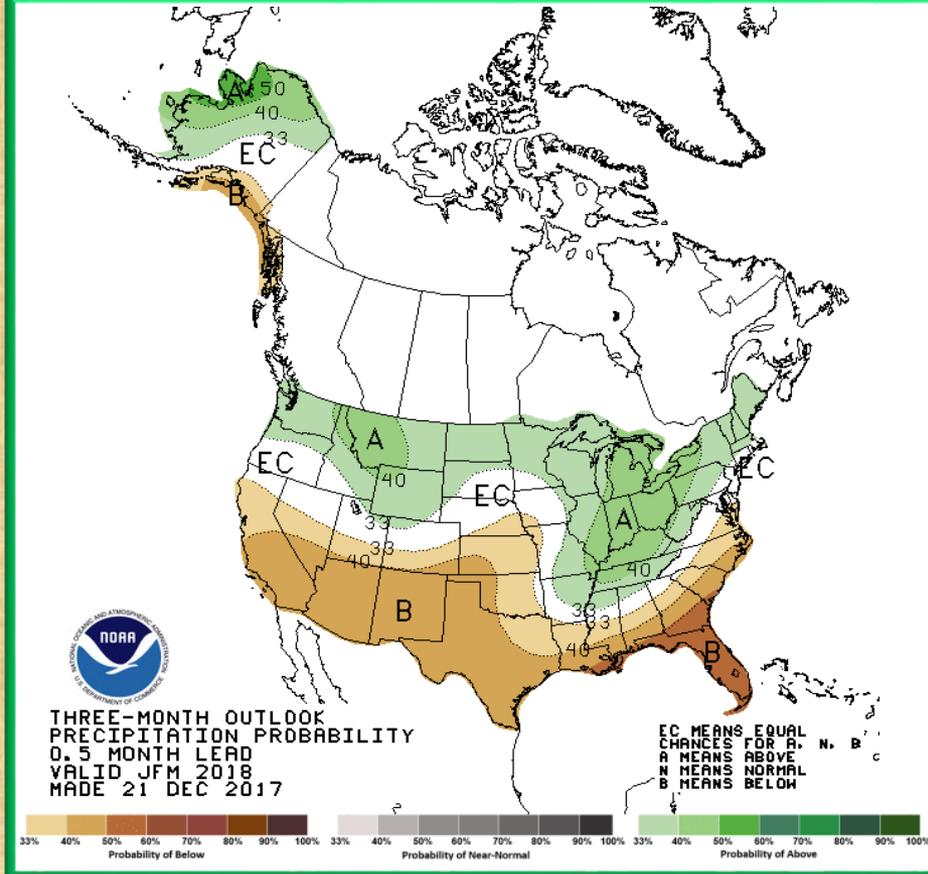
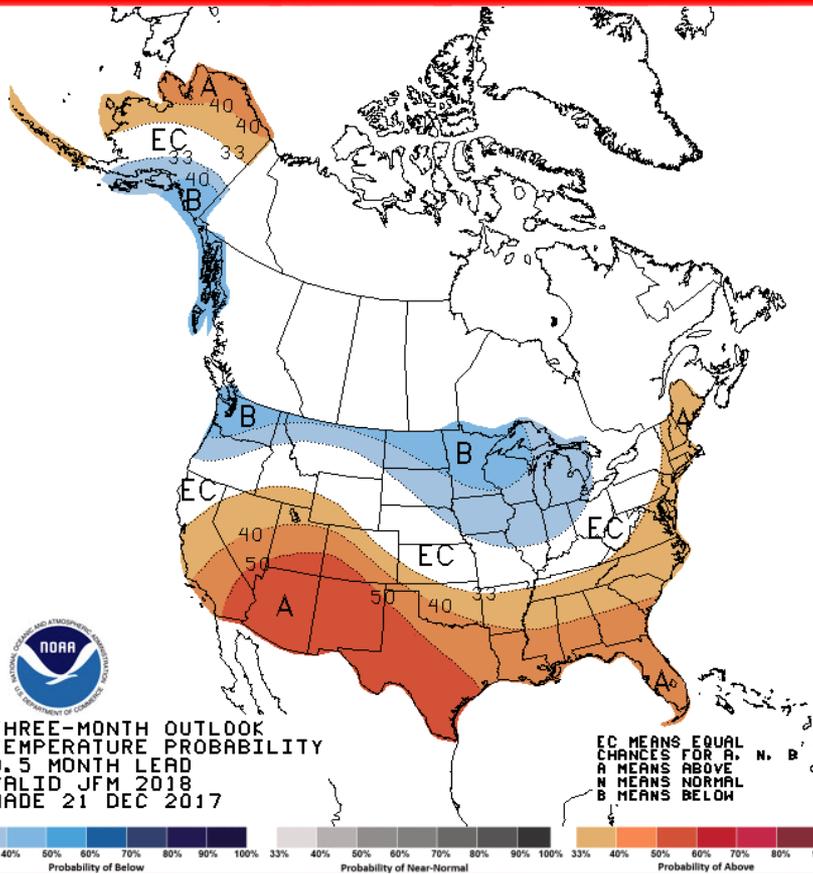
## Precipitation



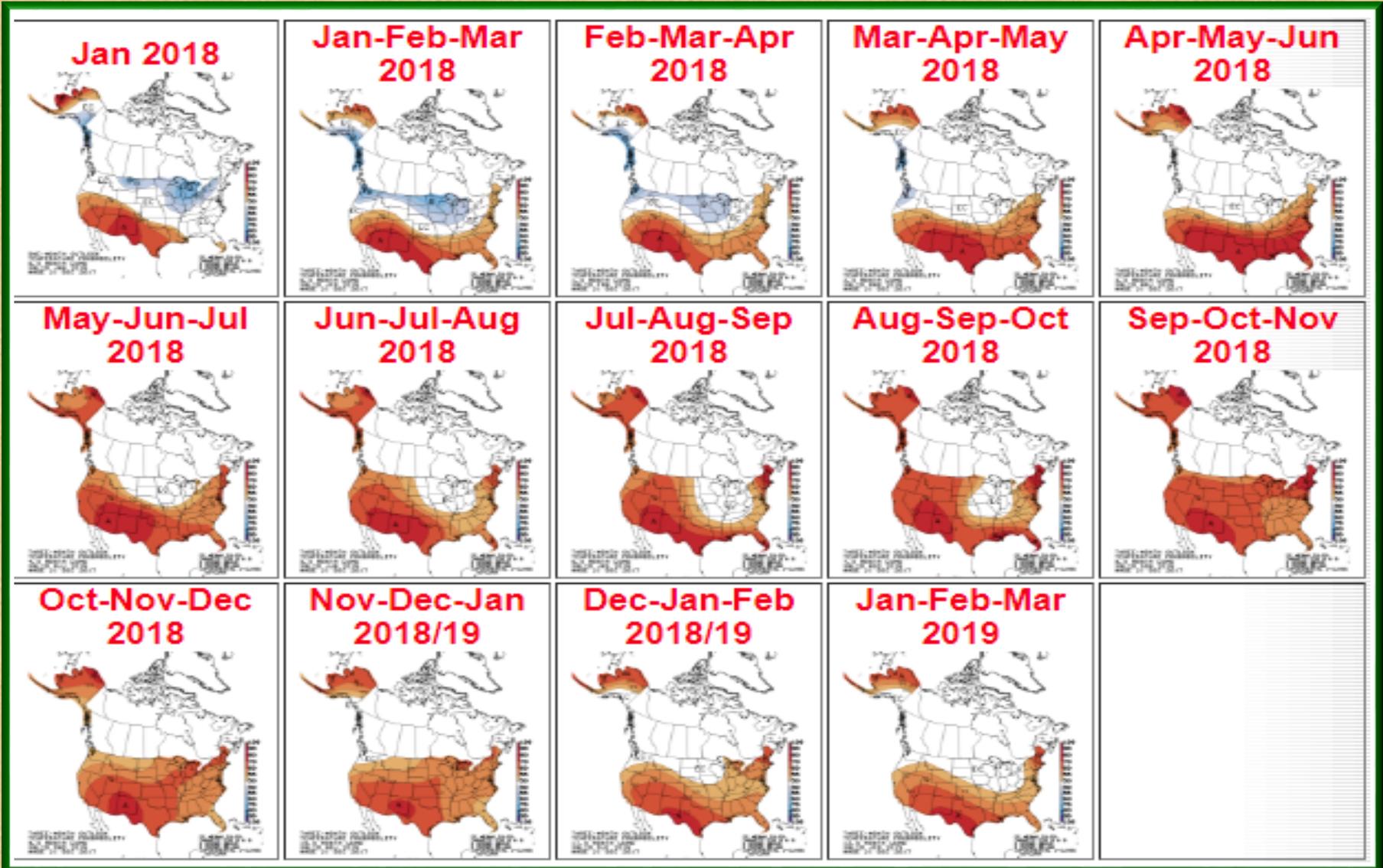
# Temperature and precipitation outlook For January-March 2018

## Temperature

## Precipitation

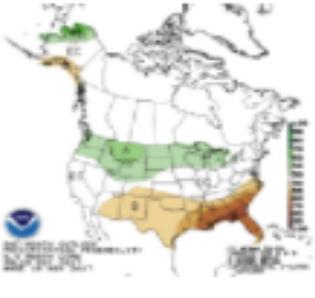


# Temperature Outlook Through March 2019

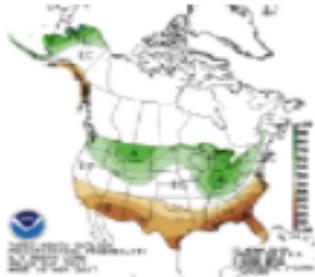


# Precipitation Outlook Through March 2019

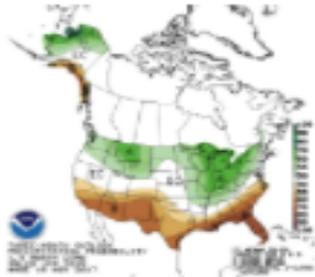
**Dec 2017**



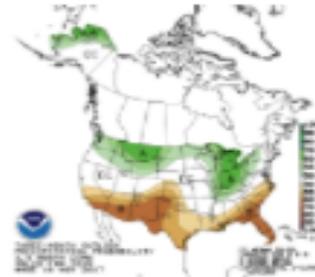
**Dec-Jan-Feb  
2017/18**



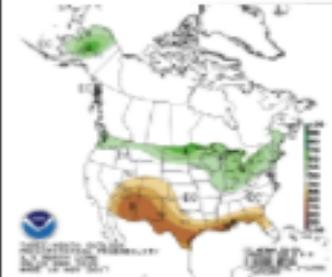
**Jan-Feb-Mar  
2018**



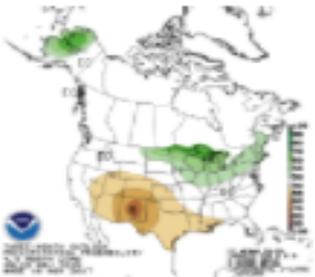
**Feb-Mar-Apr  
2018**



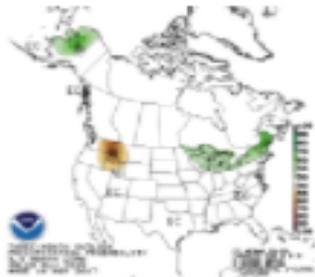
**Mar-Apr-May  
2018**



**Apr-May-Jun  
2018**



**May-Jun-Jul  
2018**



**Jun-Jul-Aug  
2018**



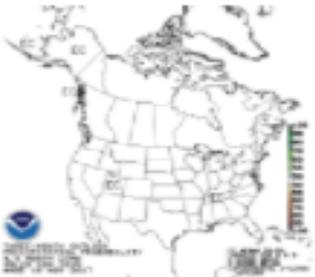
**Jul-Aug-Sep  
2018**



**Aug-Sep-Oct  
2018**



**Sep-Oct-Nov  
2018**



**Oct-Nov-Dec  
2018**



**Nov-Dec-Jan  
2018/19**

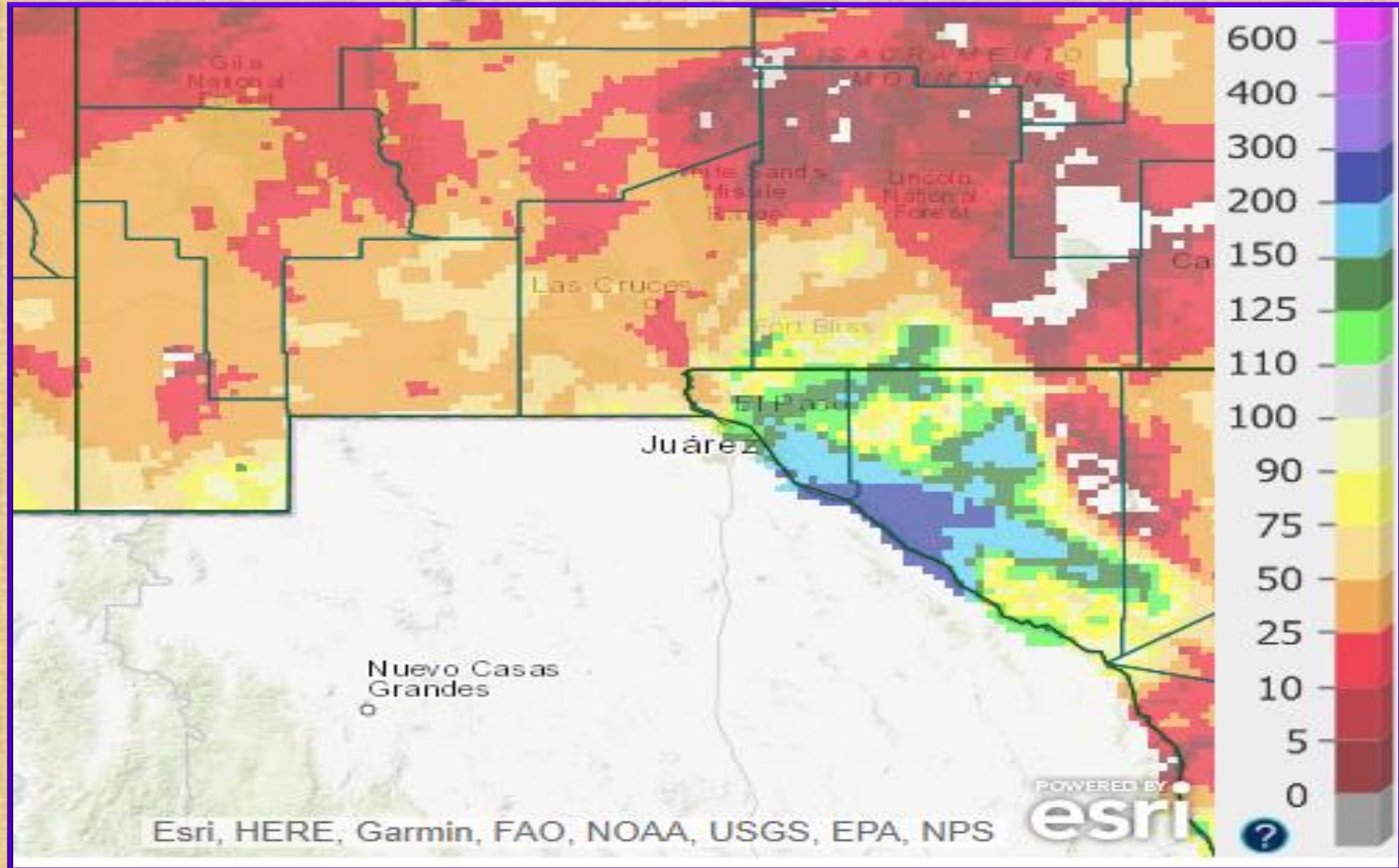


**Dec-Jan-Feb  
2018/19**





# December 2017 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal

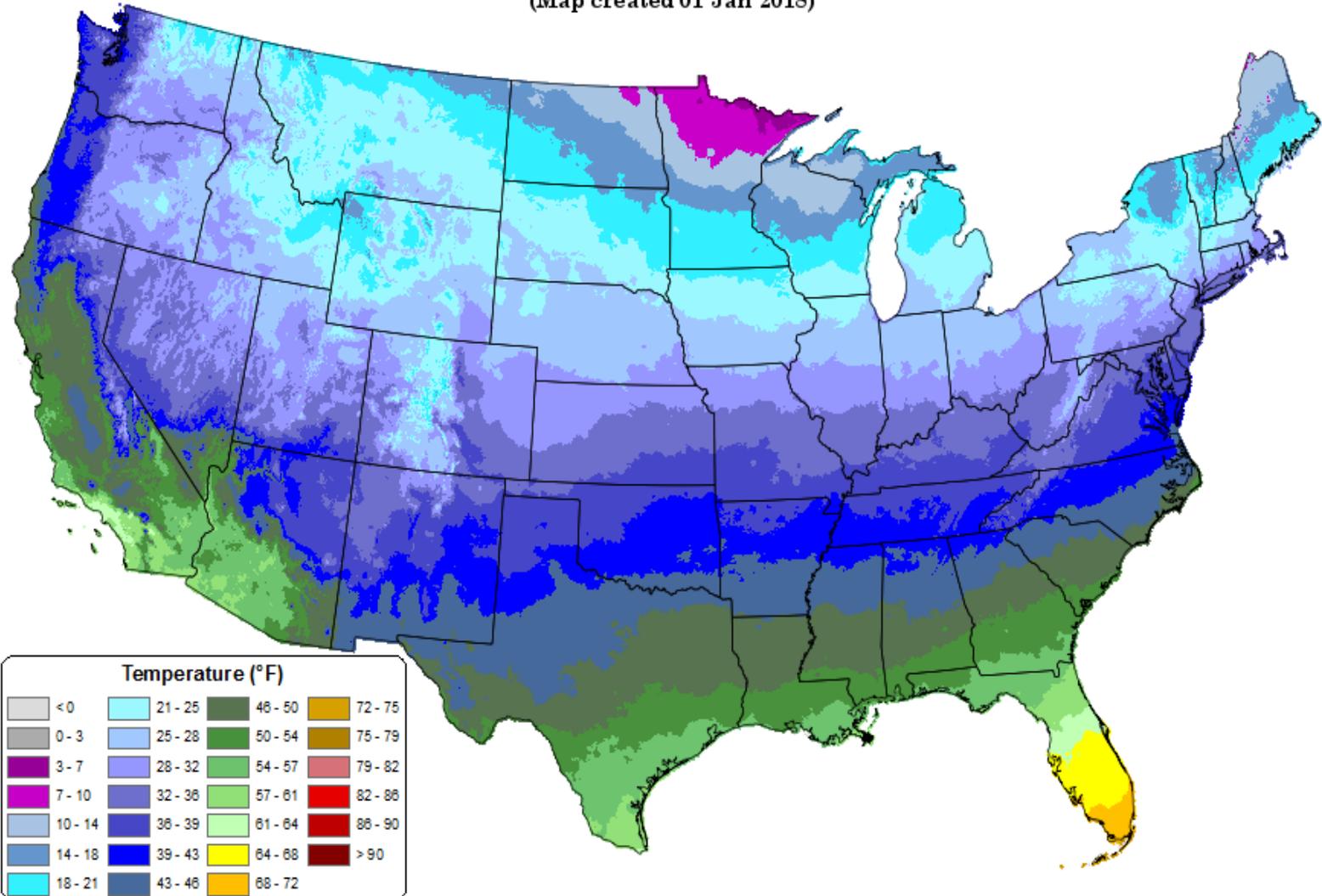


# Average Daily Mean Temperature for December 2017

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 December 2017 - 31 December 2017

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2017

(Map created 01 Jan 2018)

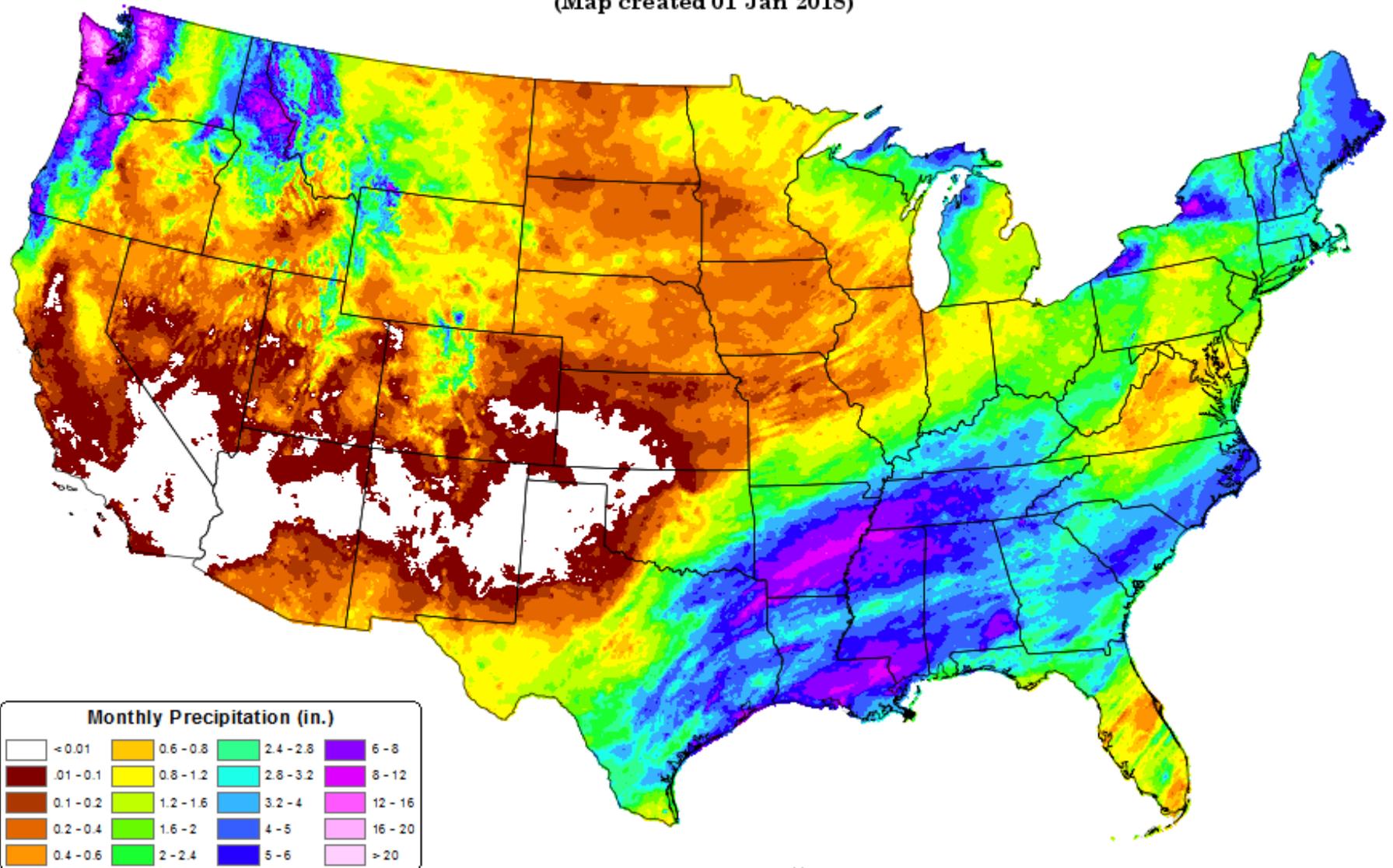


# Total Precipitation for December 2017

Total Precipitation: 01 December 2017 - 31 December 2017

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2017

(Map created 01 Jan 2018)



# Special Features

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

Month: DECEMBER

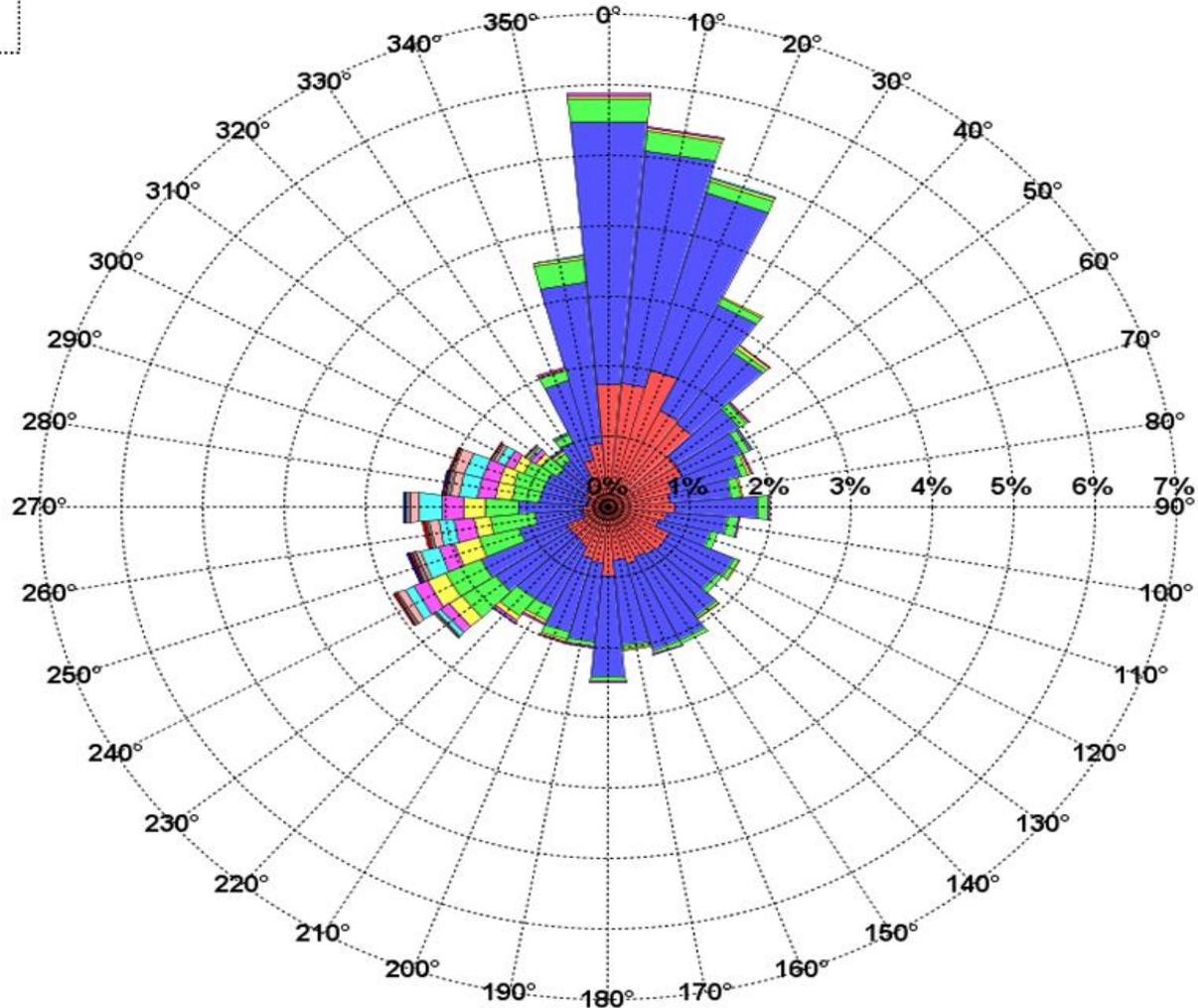
Calm: 13.59%

Variable: 1.46%

## WindRose - KELP - EL PASO INTL

% Frequency of Wind Speed from a Direction

POR:19730101-20140602



# Selected weather reports December 2017

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup> 900 AM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH CO	2.50 INCHES SNOW
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> 500 PM	WHITE SIGNAL-GRANT CO	2.00 INCHES SNOW
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> 600 PM	PINOS ALTOS-GRANT CO	4.00 INCHES SNOW
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> 605 PM	MCKNIGHT CABIN-GRANT CO	5.00 INCHES SNOW



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Photo Credit: John Fausett

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

Enter Your City, ST or ZIP Code

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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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**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

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>	

**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.**

# AUTUMNAL SKIES OVER THE BORDERLAND

