

# December 2018

## Weather Digest



# December 2018 Weather Summary

December 2018 finally produced a more typical winter month than we have witnessed in quite awhile. Much of the area received some late month snow just after Christmas, compliments of a series of Pacific storms that moved across the area. In fact, this would be the first significant snowfall for much of the lowlands since December of 2015. The month also “seemed” colder than normal-this was because the average monthly high temperature at many sites was below normal. However, abnormally warm overnight lows kept the average daily temperatures above normal.

Perhaps the weak El Niño weather pattern is starting to hold, as much of the area received above normal precipitation; the exceptions being the Sacramento Mountains, and much of the area west of the Continental Divide-though much of these areas were only slightly below normal. The parade of Pacific storms started on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, with a storm spreading light rain across much of the area. Another storm moved across on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. This one did not drop much precipitation, but it allowed cold temperatures to sweep in from the central Plains, with the first significantly below freezing temperatures since mid November. Then the aforementioned post Christmas series of storms that dumped widespread precipitation across the region. The lowlands received some light to moderate snow, while many mountain sites recorded heavy snow. The Sacramento Mountains were especially hard hit-in fact Cloudcroft received over half of their seasonal snowfall total with up to 30 inches reported over 4 days.

# December 2018 Weather Summary

**Looking ahead to January: Though daylight technically began increasing on the Winter Solstice (Dec 21), January is when you can first start to notice longer daylight. The month starts with 10 hours and 7 minutes of daylight and grows to 10 hours and 39 minutes by the 31<sup>st</sup>. Normal temperatures begin to increase by around January 10<sup>th</sup>. Normal high temperatures begin the month at 56 degrees and warm to 60 degrees by the end of the month.**

**Fog in El Paso  
Dec 9**



**Fog in El Paso  
Dec 9**



**Fog at Transmountain  
Pass Dec 9**



**Fog in El Paso  
Dec 9**



# Snow in Cloudcroft Dec 18



# Snow in Cloudcroft Dec 18



# Snow in Cloudcroft Dec 27



# Snow in Cloudcroft Dec 27



**Winter's Handiwork the  
day after-Cloudcroft  
Dec 29**



# **El Niño Watch Is In Effect**

## **ENSO Alert System**

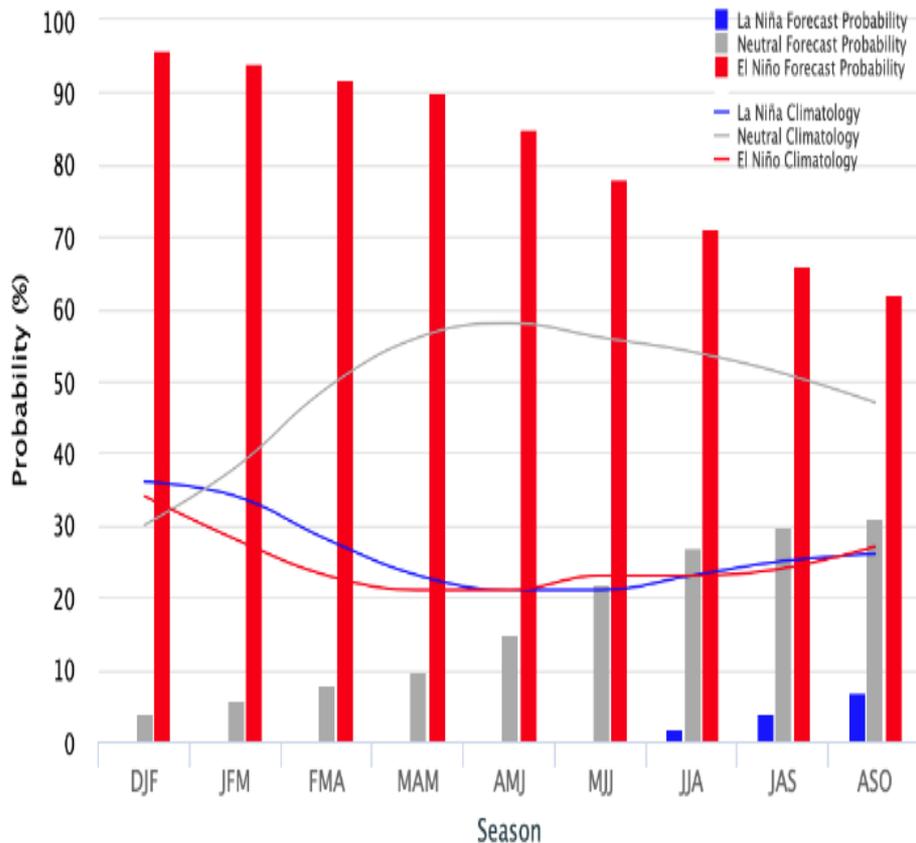
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

# ENSO Forecast

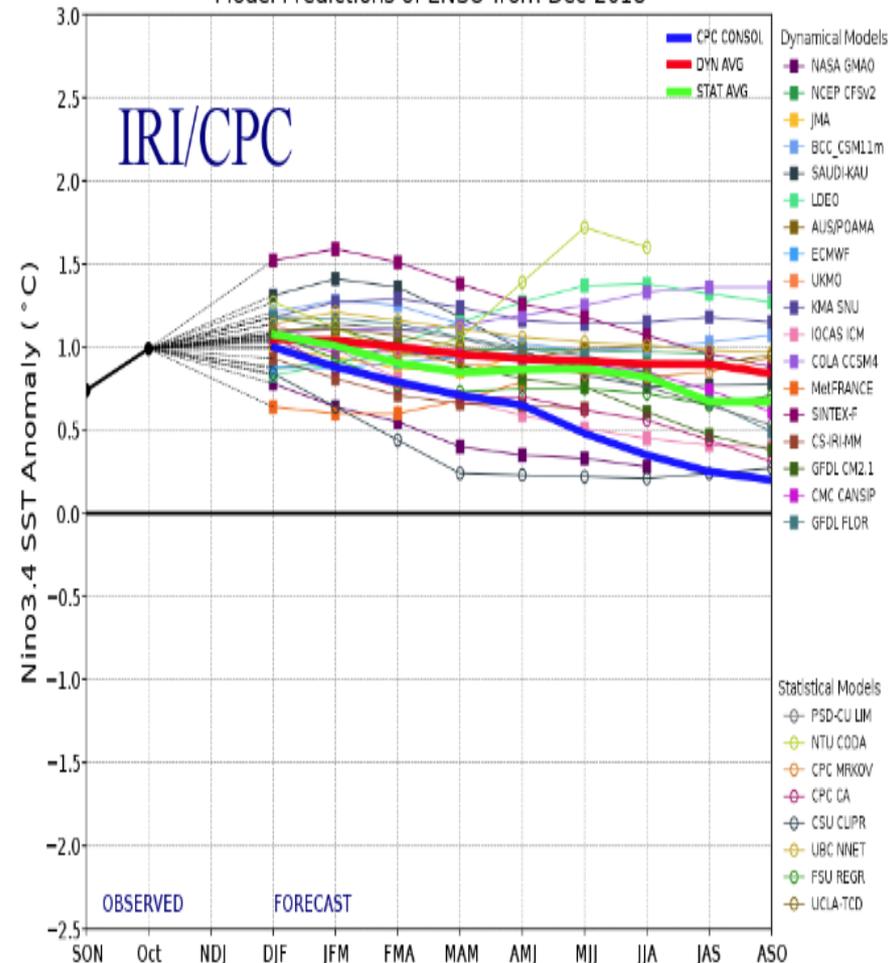
**ENSO is now in a weak El Niño phase and should remain there for most of the winter**

Mid-December 2018 IRI/CPC Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly  
Neutral ENSO: -0.5 °C to 0.5 °C



Model Predictions of ENSO from Dec 2018

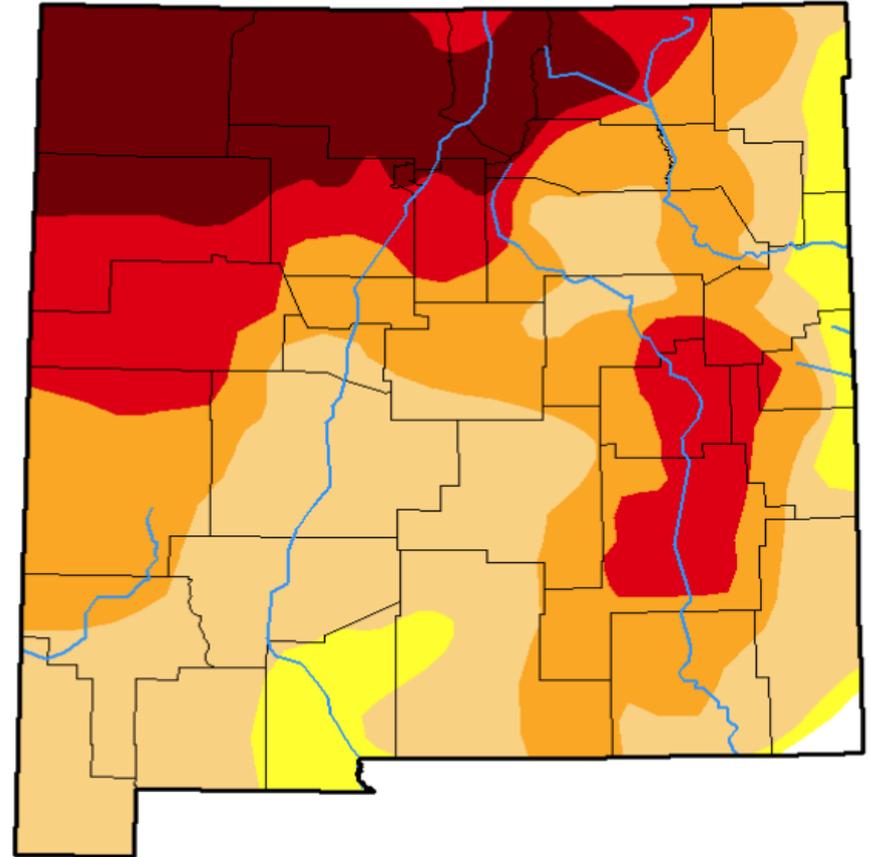
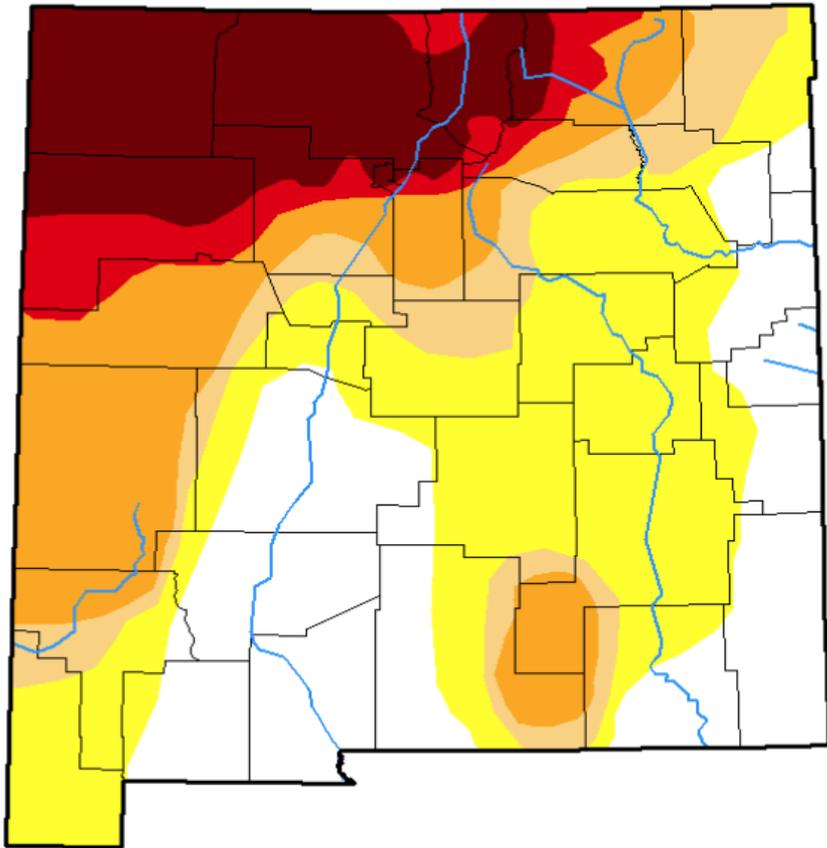


# Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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

**December 25, 2018**

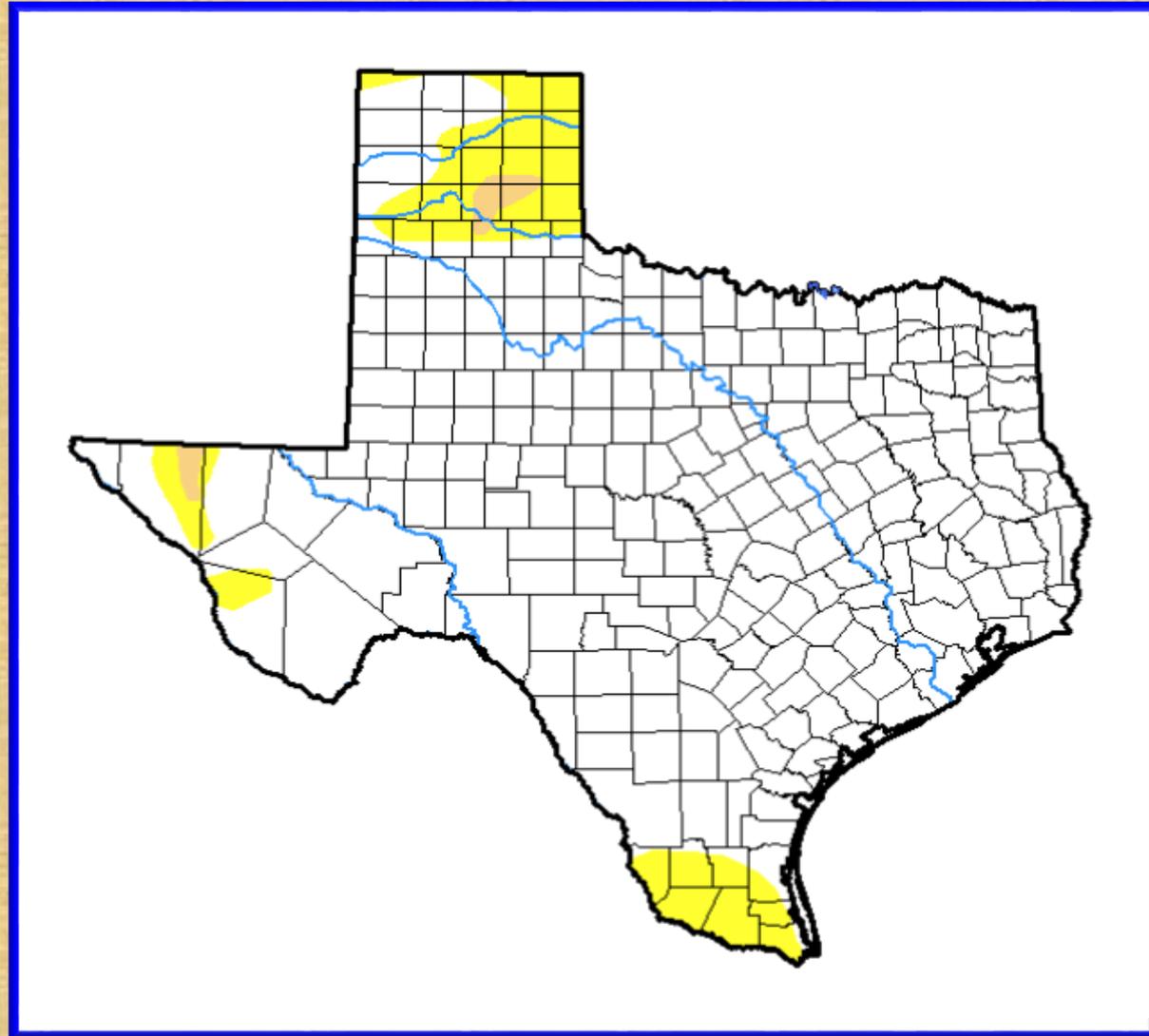
**September 25, 2018**



# Current drought conditions for Texas as of December 25, 2018

Intensity:

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



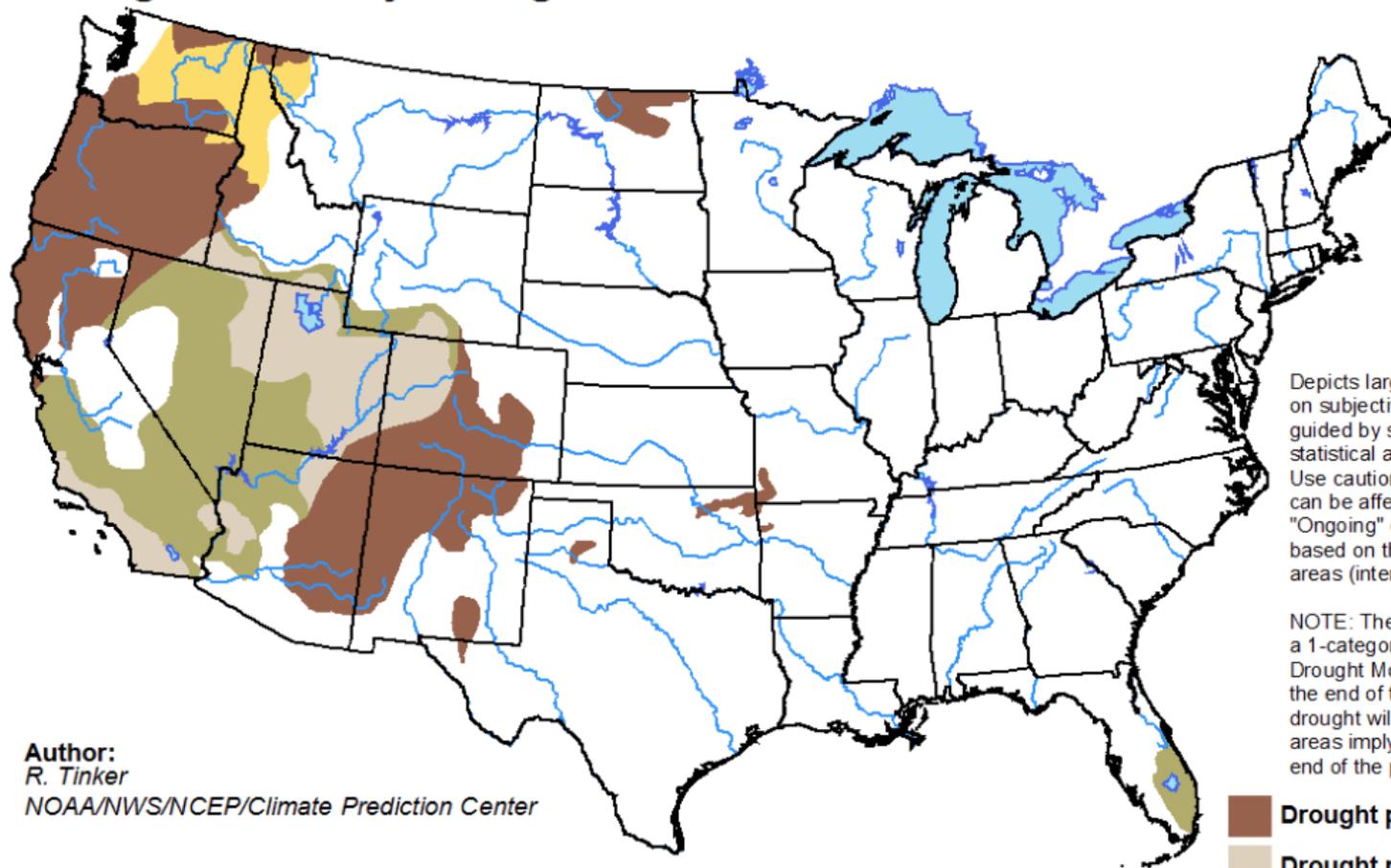
**Build your own custom slider maps here at:**

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

# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 20, 2018 - March 31, 2019  
Released December 20, 2018

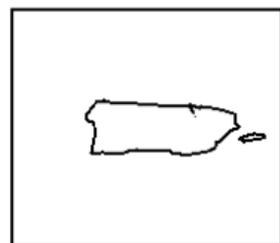
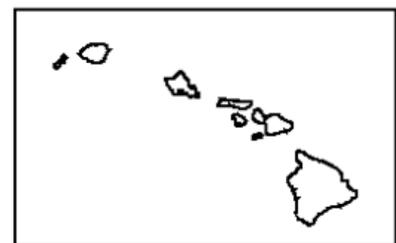
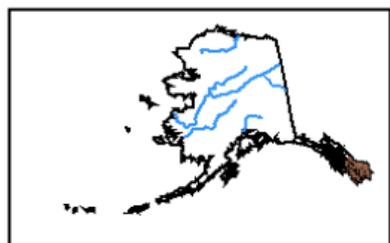


Author:  
R. Tinker  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

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 improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely

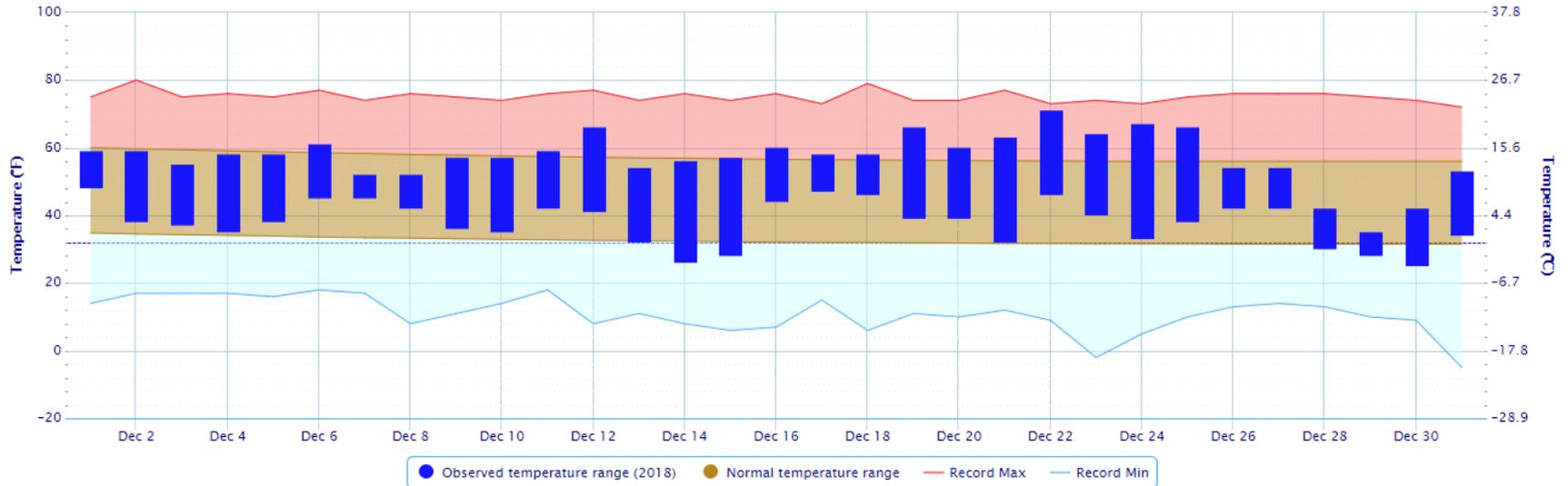


<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

# Temperature and precipitation data for December 2018 at El Paso

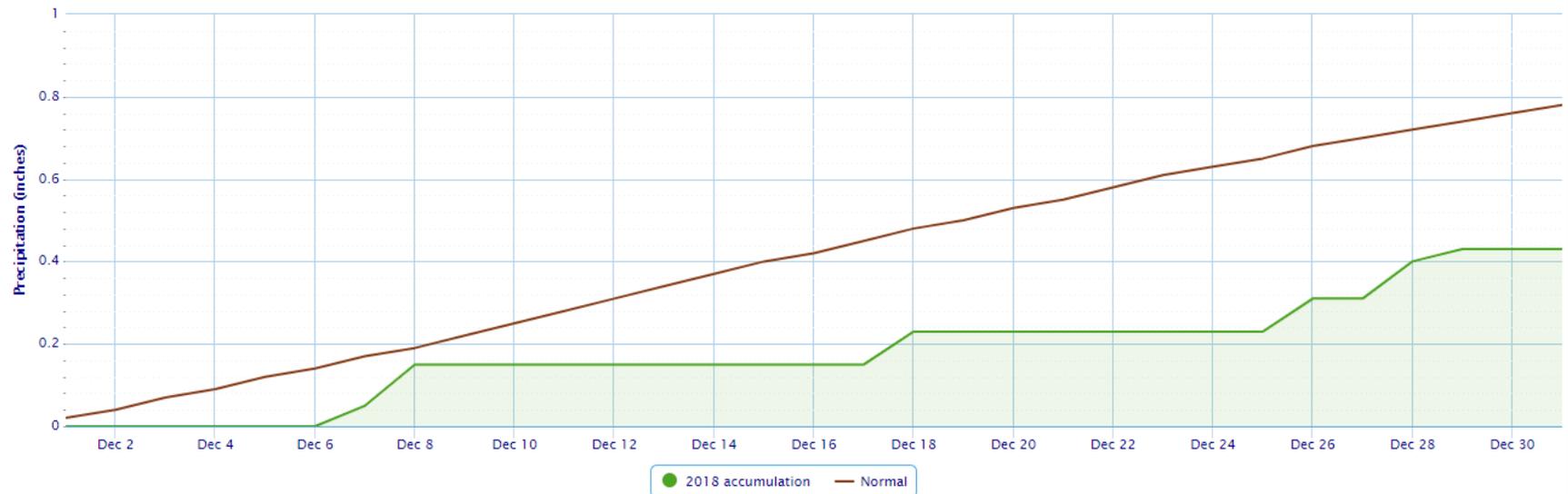
Daily Temperature Data – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2018-12-31; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2018-12-31. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Accumulated Precipitation – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

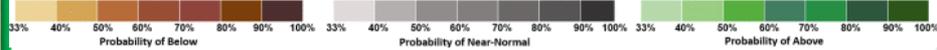
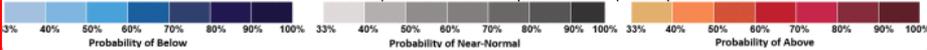
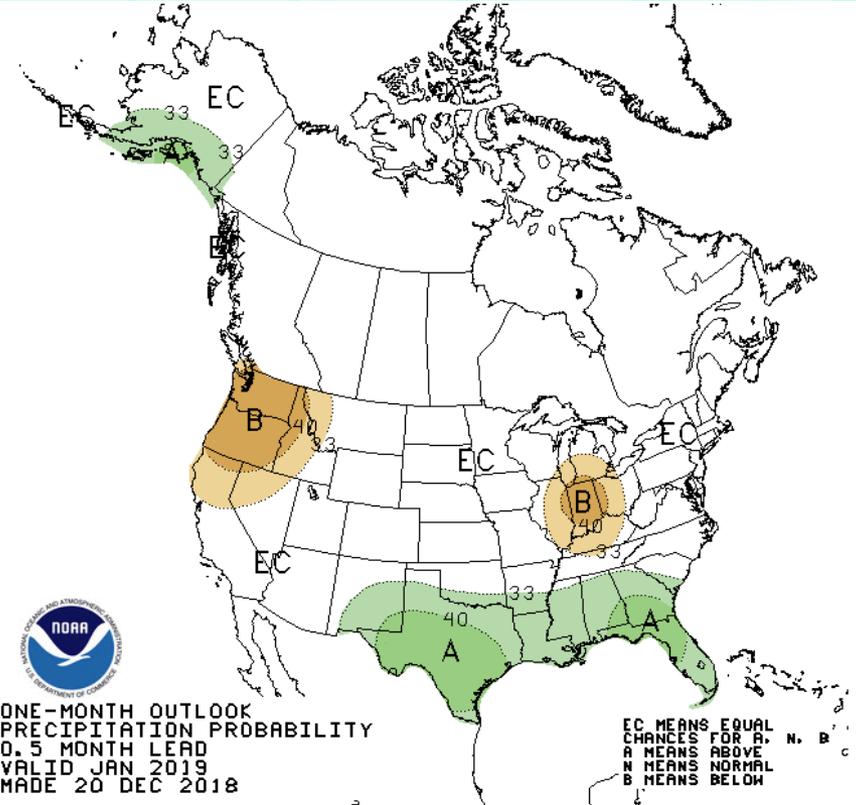
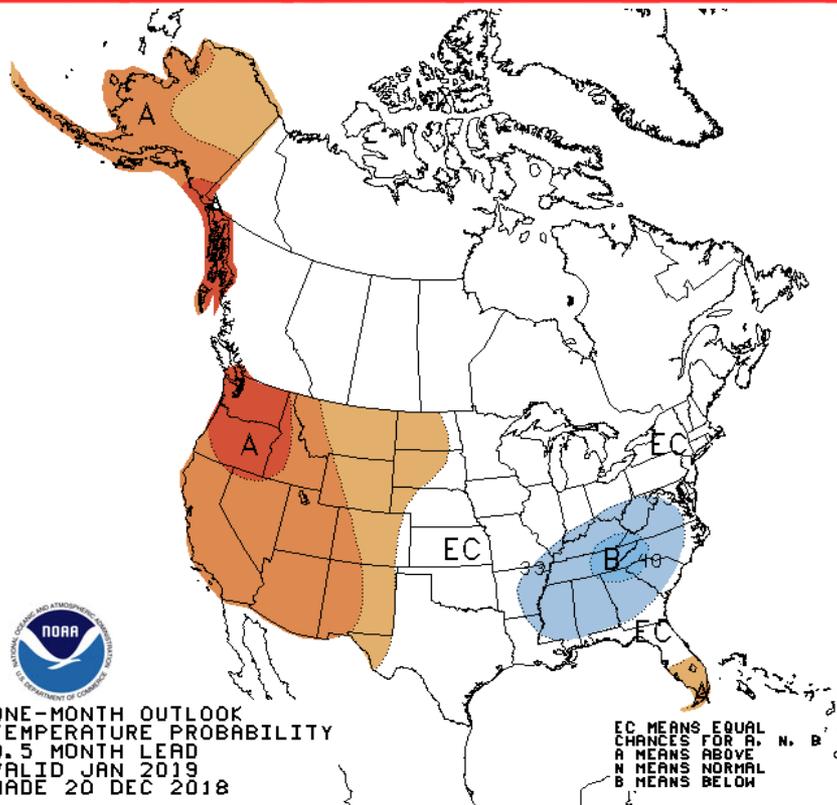
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



# Temperature and precipitation outlook for January 2019

## Temperature

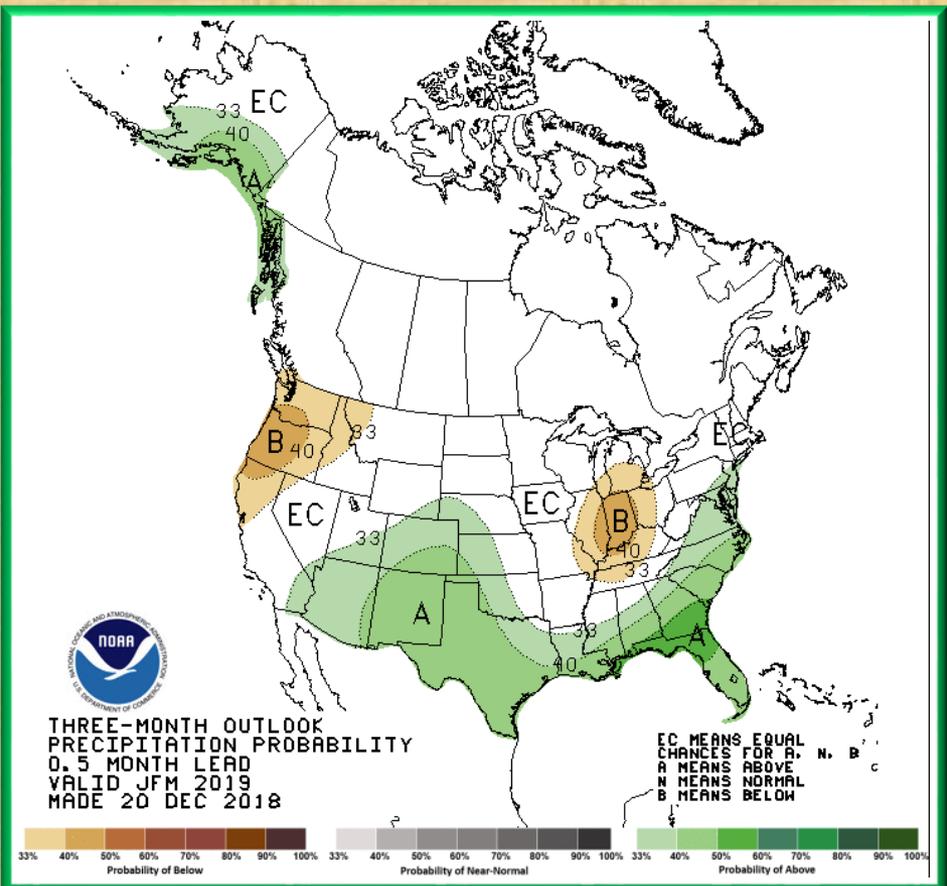
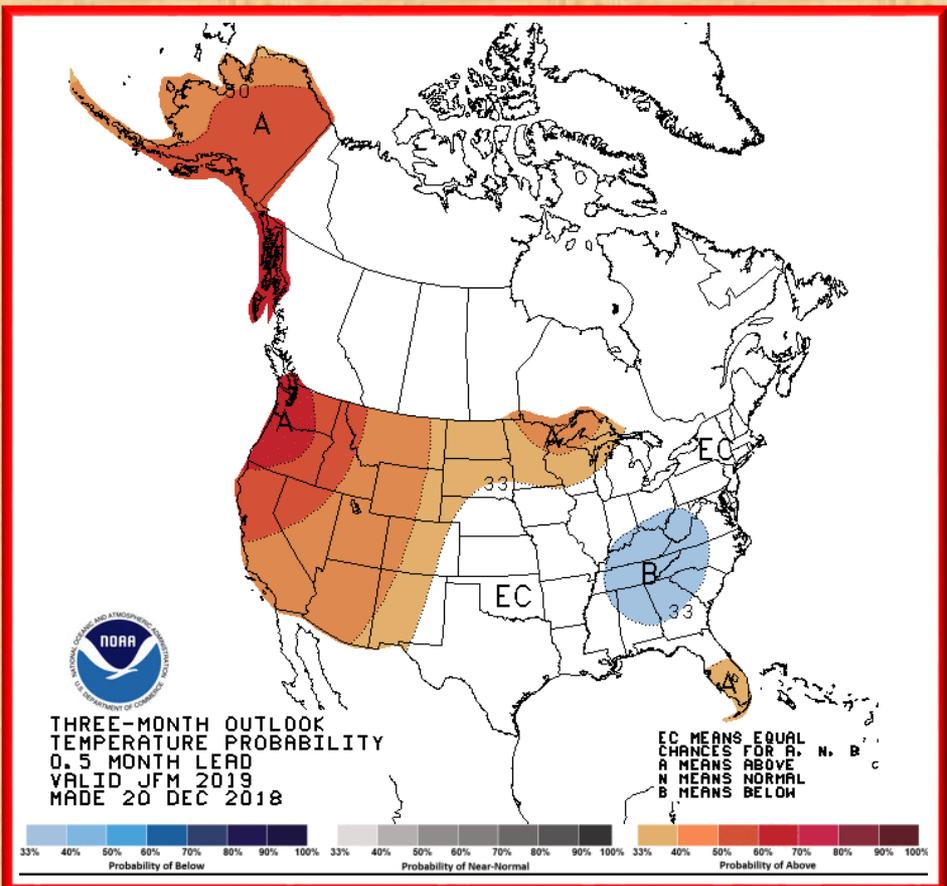
## Precipitation



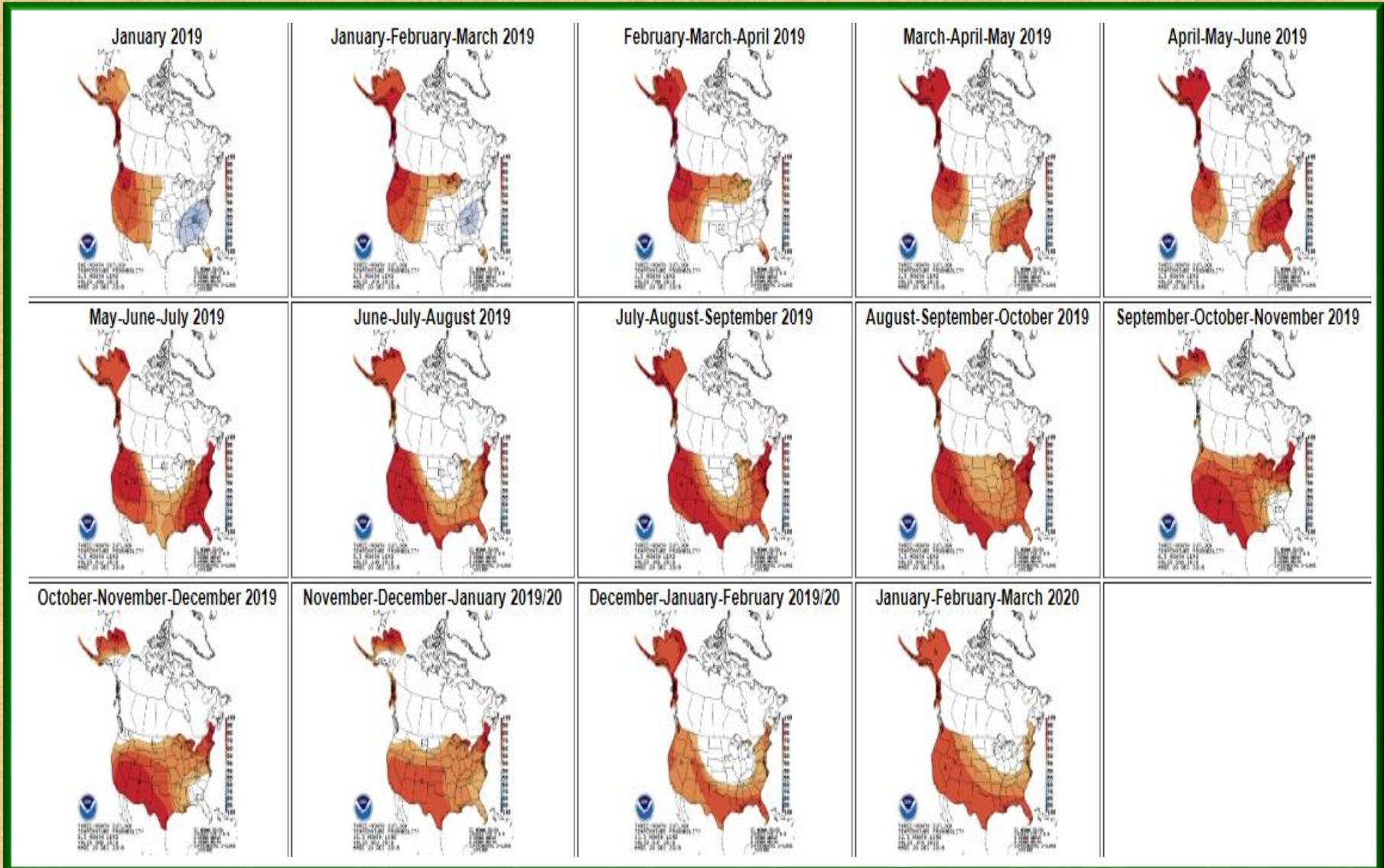
# Temperature and precipitation outlook For Jan-Mar 2019

## Temperature

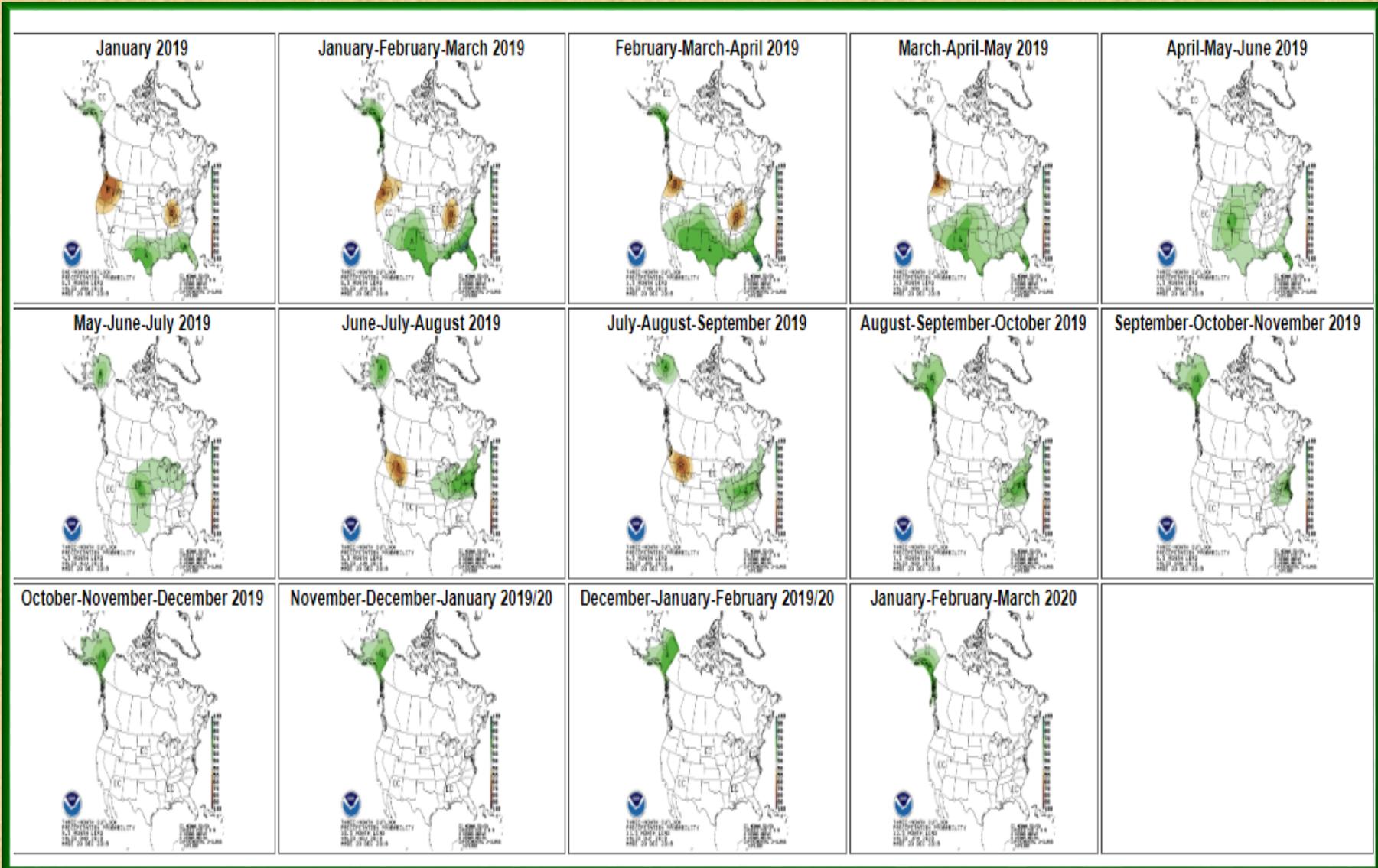
## Precipitation



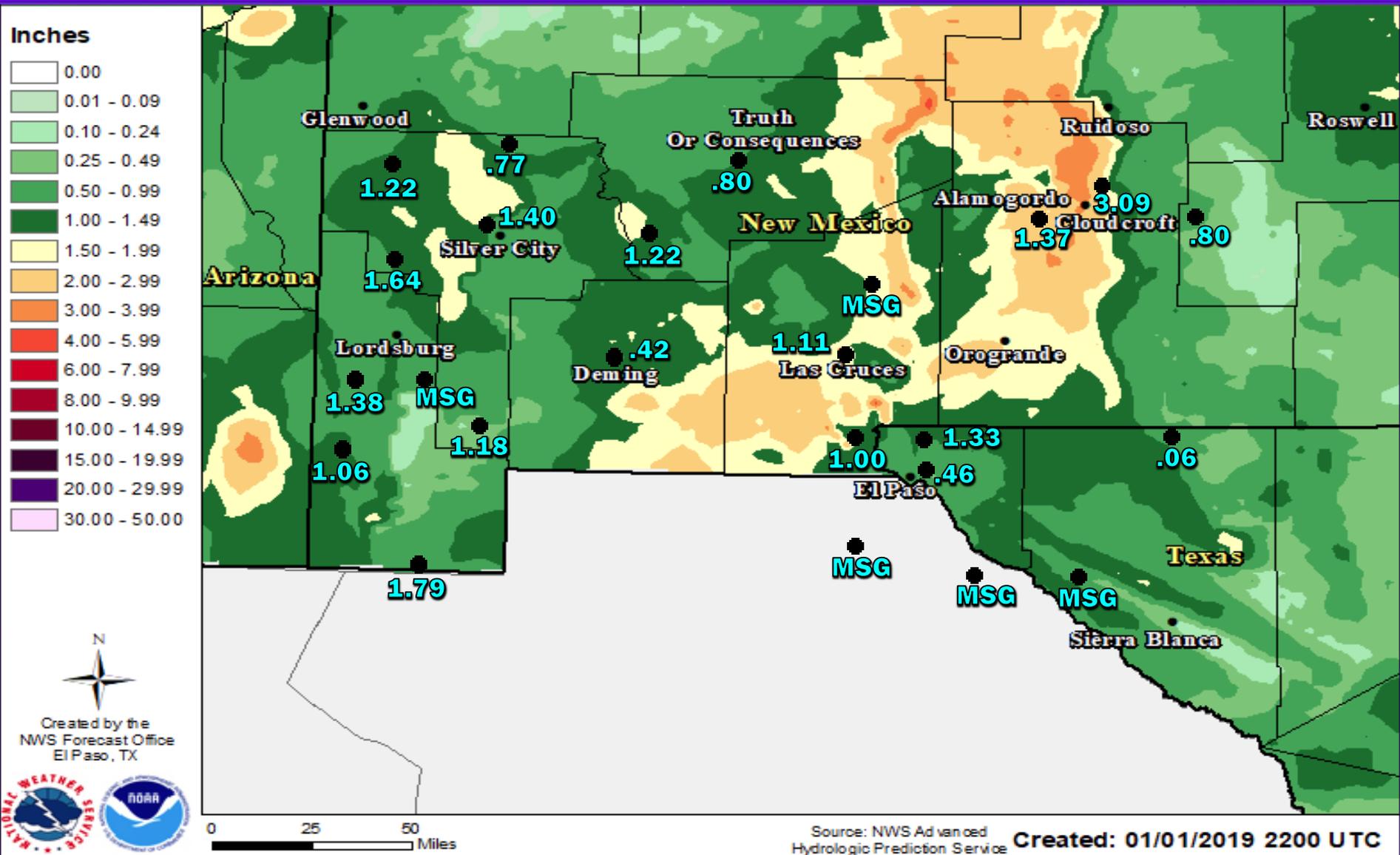
# Temperature Outlook Through March 2020



# Precipitation Outlook Through March 2020

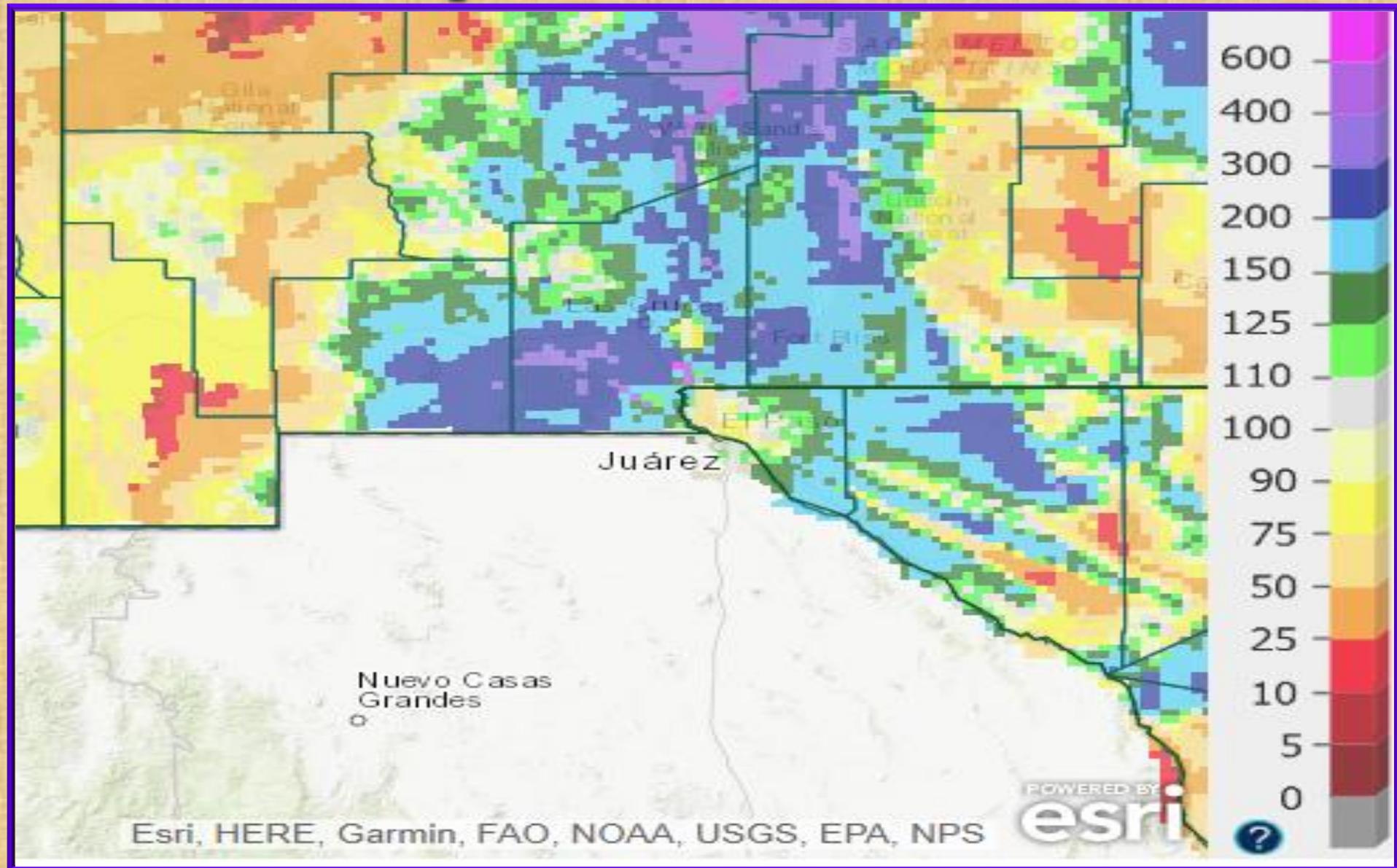


# December 2018 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



Created by the  
NWS Forecast Office  
El Paso, TX

# December 2018 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal

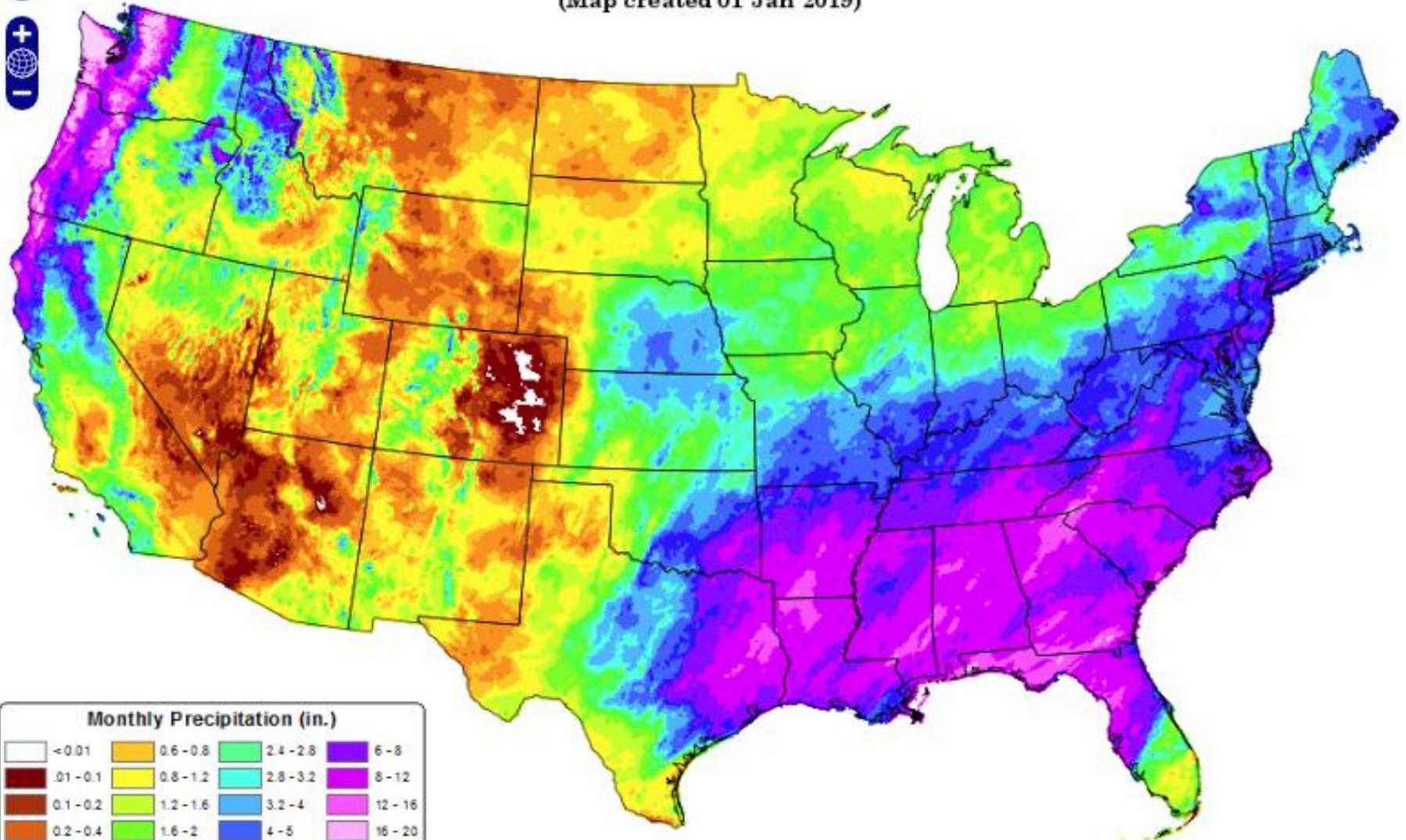


# Total Precipitation for December 2018

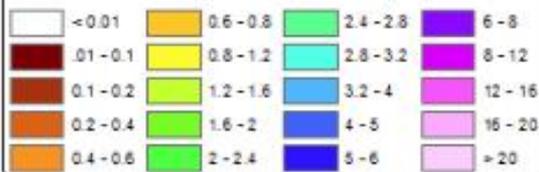
Total Precipitation: 01 Dec 2018 - 31 Dec 2018

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2018

(Map created 01 Jan 2019)



Monthly Precipitation (in.)



# Special Features

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

Month: DECEMBER

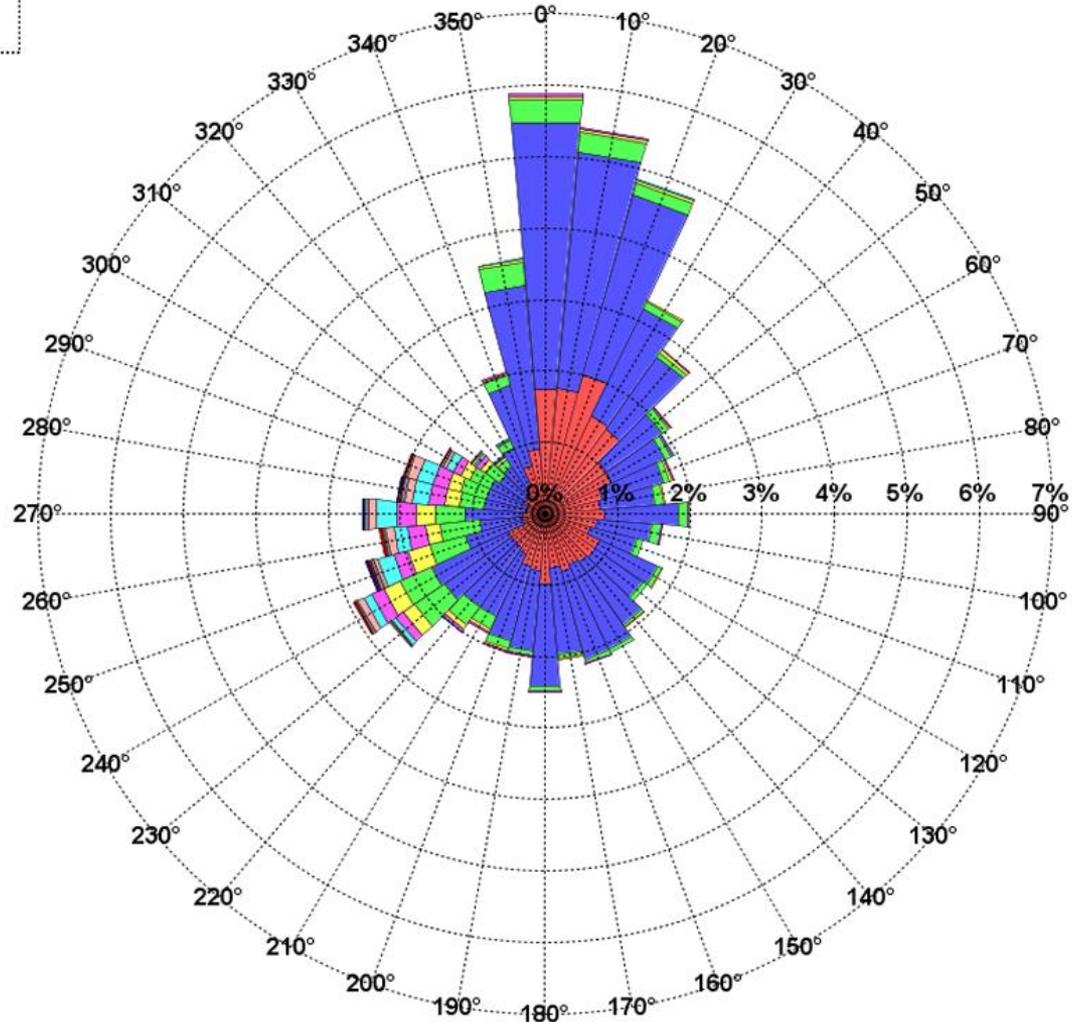
Calm: 13.59%

Variable: 1.46%

## WindRose - KELP - EL PASO INTL

% Frequency of Wind Speed from a Direction

POR:19730101-20140602



# Selected weather reports December 2018

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
DEC 7 327 PM	WHITE SIGNAL 2SW-GRANT	0.15 MILE DENSE FOG
DEC 7 331 PM	ETHOLEN 5W-HUDSPETH	0.25 MILE DENSE FOG
DEC 9 555 AM	PLANEPORT 2SW-EL PASO	0.25 MILE DENSE FOG
DEC 13 115 AM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	72 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 1200 AM	EL PASO 10 NE-EL PASO	60 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 1226 AM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	58 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 110 AM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	56 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 114 AM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO	56 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 1251 AM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	54 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 114 AM	SIERRA BLANCA 1SE-HUDSPETH	49 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 444 AM	DELL CITY 1N-HUDSPETH	47 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 12 1105 PM	WINSTO-SIERRA	47 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 300 AM	LAS CRUCES 6SW-DONA ANA	45 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 125 AM	OROGRANDE 4NW-OTERO	45 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 12 1135 PM	ALAMOGORDO AIRPORTOTERO	44 MPH WIND GUST

# Selected weather reports December 2018

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
DEC 13 253 AM	HILLSBORO-SIERRA	44 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 410 AM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	44 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 13 1240 AM	SANTA TERESA 5NW-DONA ANA	43 MPH WIND GUST
DEC 29 700 AM	CLOUDCROFT 2SW-OTERO	25.5 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 800 AM	SUNSPOT-OTERO	23.0 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 700 AM	MAYHILL 3NW-OTERO	10.3 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 700 AM	SILVER CITY 5W-GRANT	9.3 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 700 AM	SILVER CITY-GRANT	7.7 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 700 AM	GILA HOT SPRINGS-GRANT	4.0 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 700 AM	ALAMOGORDO 2NE-OTERO	4.0 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 700 AM	LAS CRUCES 9SE-DONA ANA	4.0 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 700 AM	KINGSTON-SIERRA	3.3 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 800 AM	DEMING 27NW-LUNA	3.0 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 700 AM	LORDSBURG 8NW-HIDALGO	2.5 INCHES SNOW
DEC 29 700 AM	EL PASO 3NE-EL PASO	2.0 INCHES SNOW

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 >](#)

**Customize Your Weather.gov**

City, ST

Enter Your City, ST or ZIP Code

Remember Me

[Privacy Policy](#)

**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 >](#)

**Customize Your Weather.gov**

City, ST

Enter Your City, ST or ZIP Code

Remember Me

[Privacy Policy](#)

**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 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.**

NWS DOPPLER RADAR  
WATCHING THE MONSOON SKIES OVER EL PASO 24/7

