

March 2018 Weather Digest



March 2018 Weather Summary

March came in like a lamb and left like a lamb, with very little lion in between. The La Niña pattern continued the dry and warm weather around the area for March, with most sites recording average temperatures above normal by one to two degrees. The main weather pattern saw a persistent west to northwest flow aloft as an upper ridge dominated the pattern just off the west coast. This kept most storms to our north, although several storms pushed across the central Rockies, bringing typical March winds and blowing dust to the area. A Pacific storm moved across the area on the 11th, and combined with a cool front pushing in from the east, to give much of the area some light showers. This would turn out to be the only precipitation many areas received for the month.

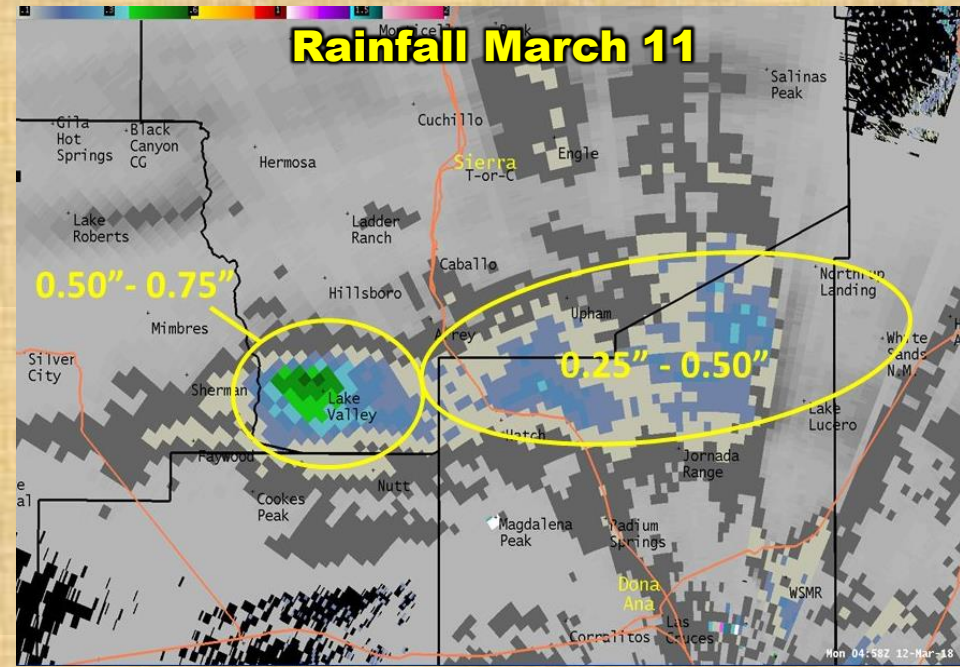
March was abnormally dry and unfortunately offset the gains of February in easing the drought conditions. Precipitation was well below normal most places, except for a strip of above normal precipitation running from western Hudspeth and eastern El Paso Counties up across the Organ Mountains to eastern Sierra County. Drought conditions worsened for most areas. Most of southern New Mexico as of the end of the month was now in a moderate to severe drought. Meanwhile because of modest March rainfall, most of west Texas was still in just the abnormally dry zone.

March 2018 Weather Summary Contd.

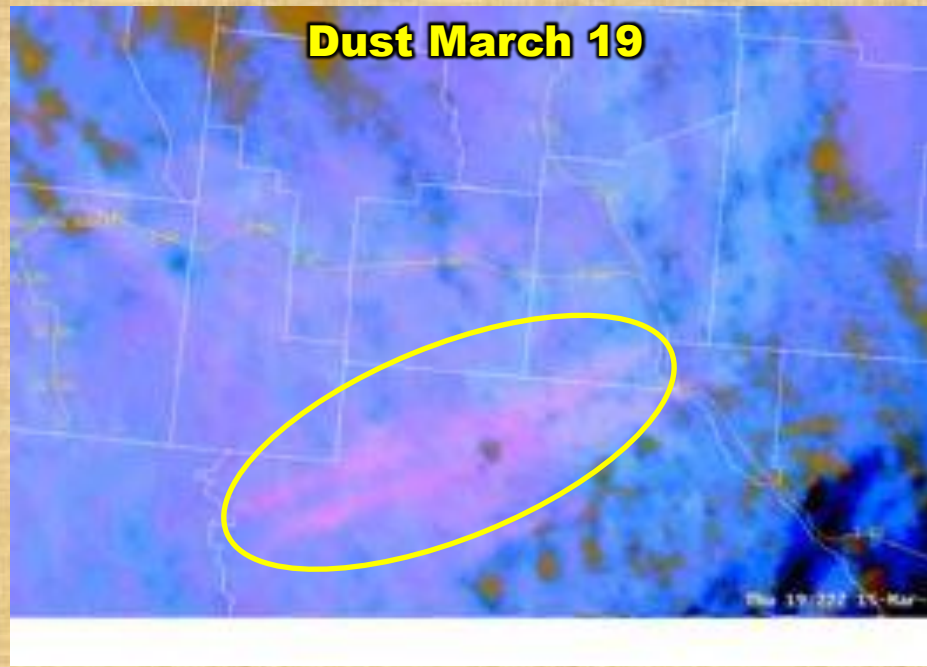
Unfortunately, the Upper Rio Grande Basin was also impacted by the dry weather. February saw some nice gains in snow pack and snow water equivalent as the area attempted to approach normal levels, but March pretty much erased all the gains made in the previous month. Snow water equivalent measurements of the snow pack in this area were back down to 54% of normal, or barely over half the normal snow pack. The seasonal peak for snowpack occurs in the first week of April, and then the water content begins decreasing.

April also sees a continuing warmup. Our first 90 degree readings over the desert areas usually occur by the middle of the month, and the month sees a gain of almost one hour of daylight, increasing from around 12 ½ hours at the beginning of the month to almost 13 ½ hours at the end of the month. On average, April is also our driest month of the year.

Rainfall March 11



Dust March 19



Blowing dust near Lordsburg Mar 15



Blowing dust Santa Teresa Mar 15



Thu, Mar 15 10:08:07 AM CT 2018 Ranger Peak 1

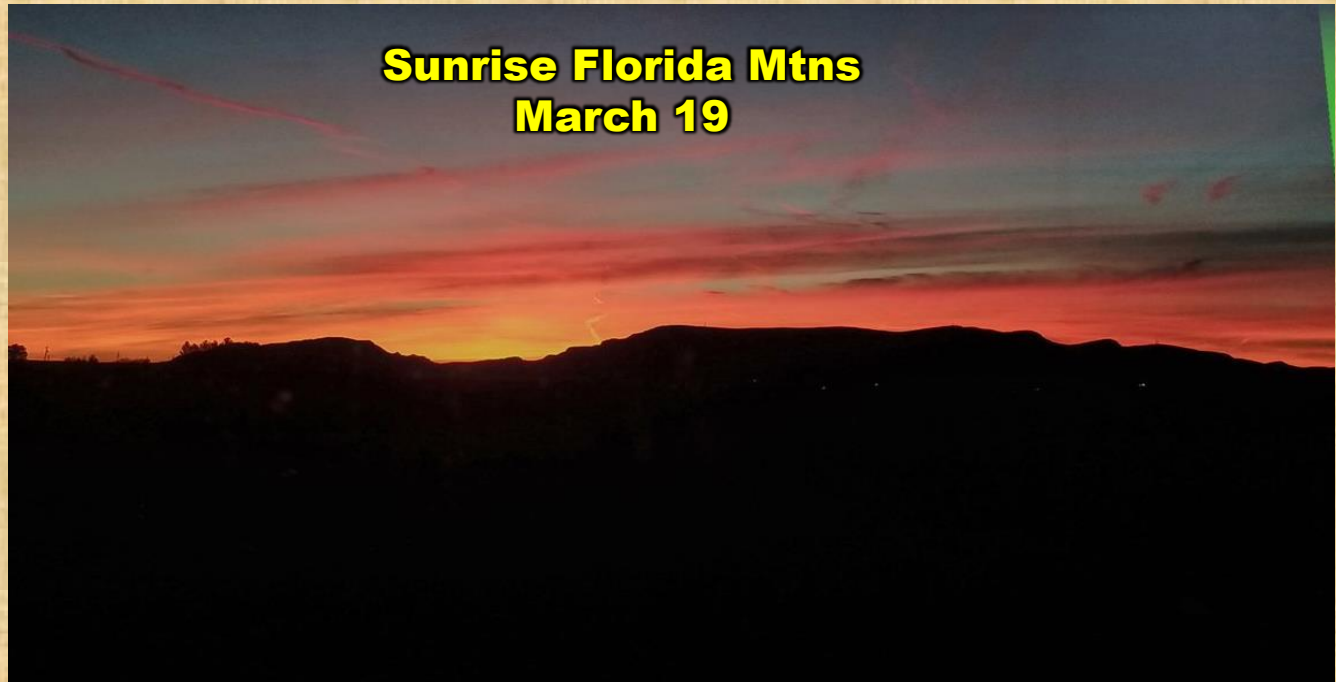
**Ranger Peak El Paso
March 15**



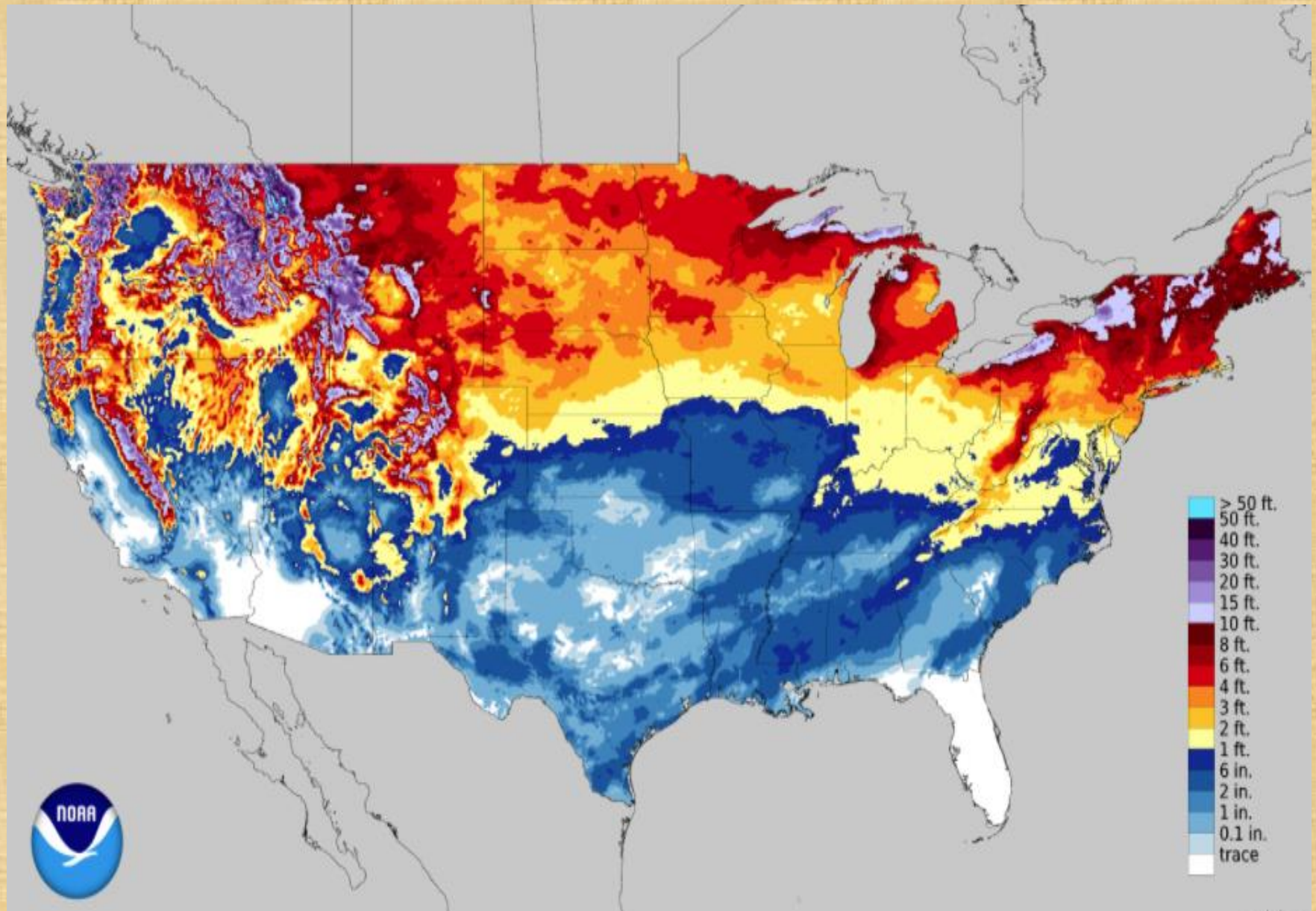
**Cloudy day in El Paso
March 25**



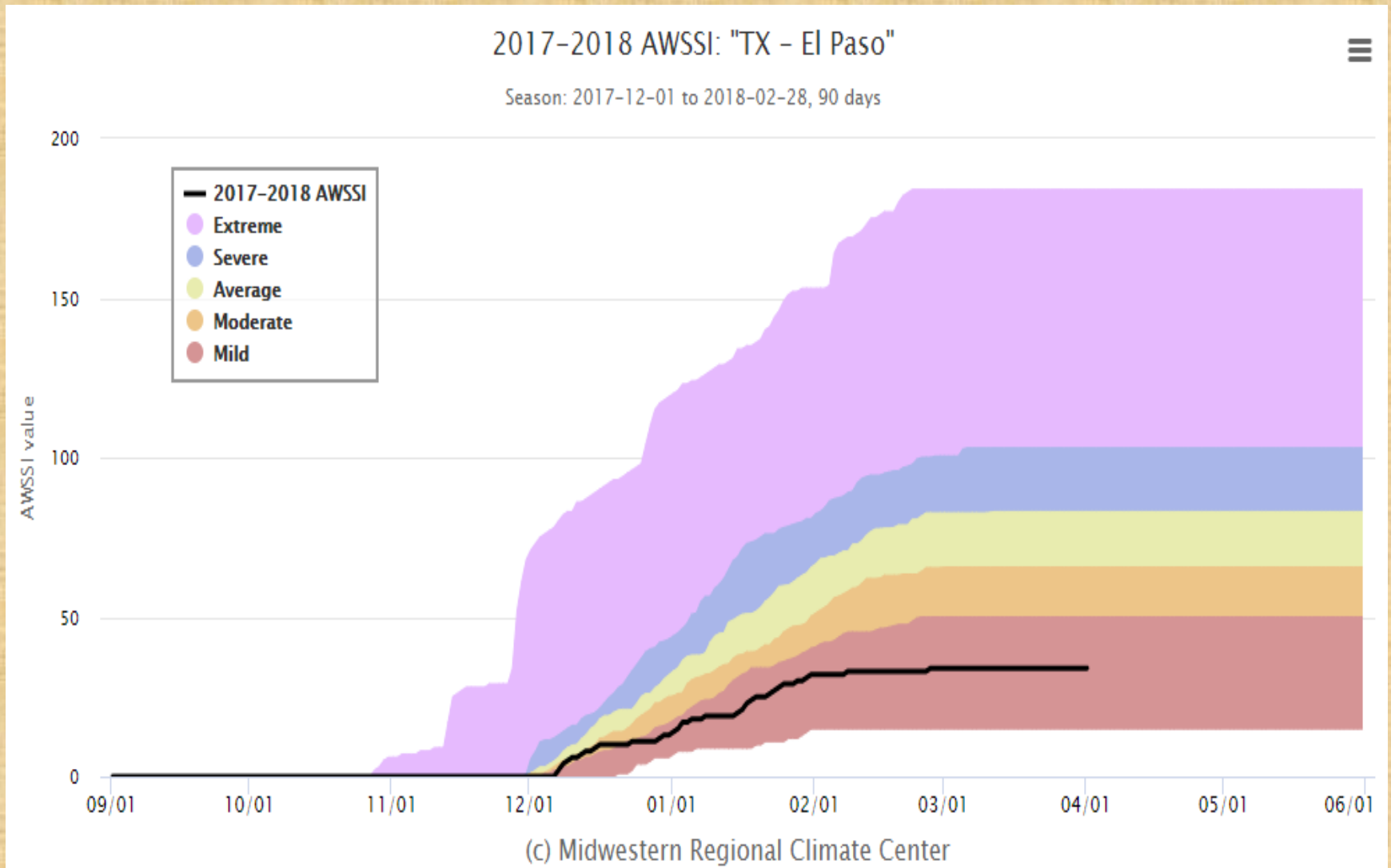
**Sunrise Florida Mtns
March 19**



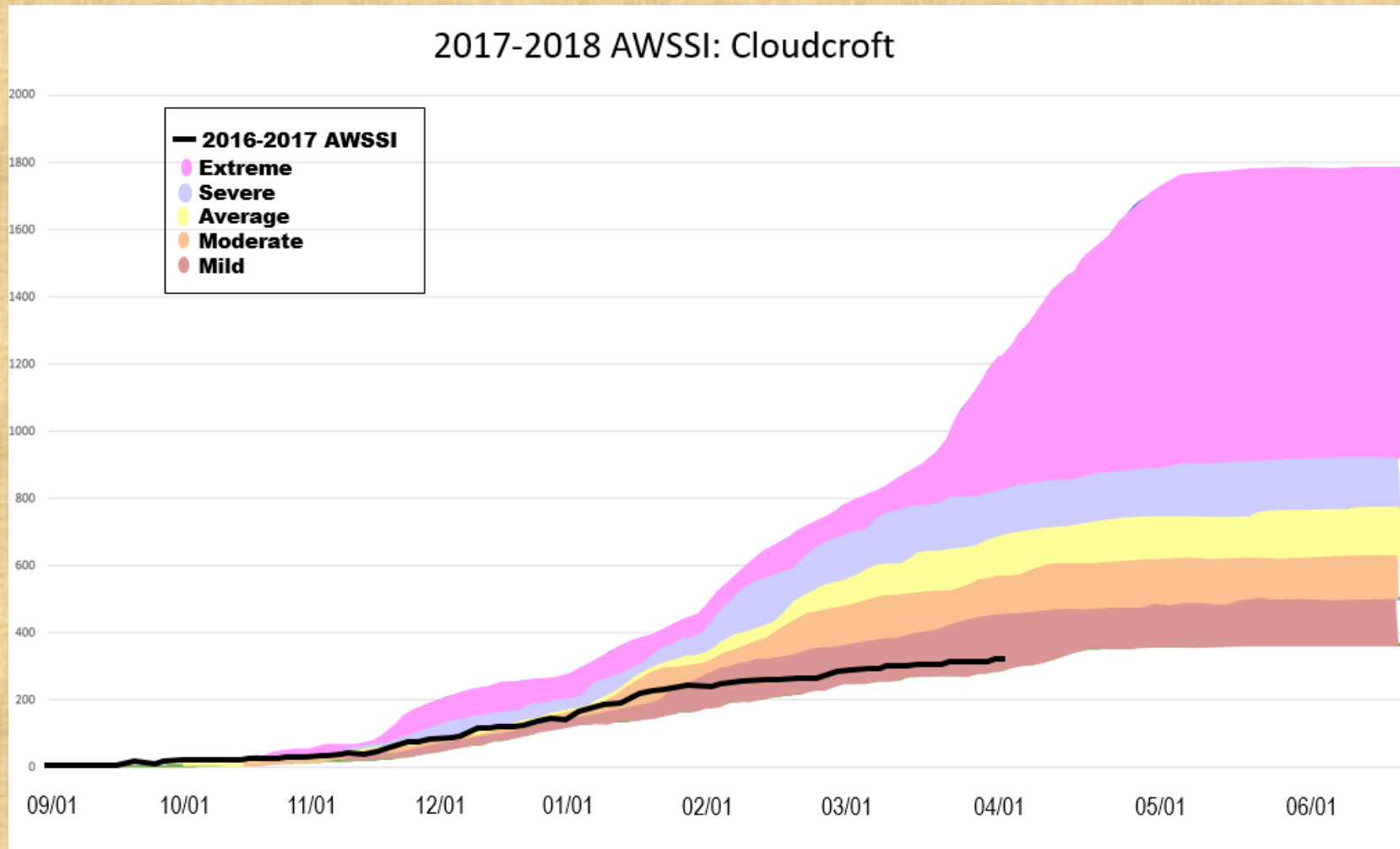
Seasonal snowfall total through Mar 31



Winter Season Severity Index through March - El Paso

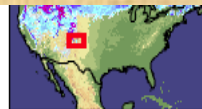


Winter Season Severity Index through March – Cloudcroft

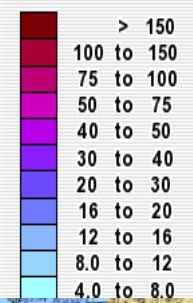


Upper Rio Grande Basin end of February

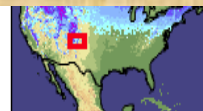
Observed snow pack as of Feb 28



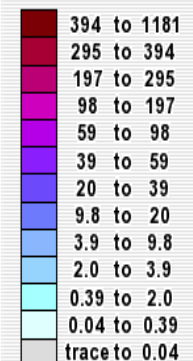
Inches of depth



Normal snow pack as of Feb 28

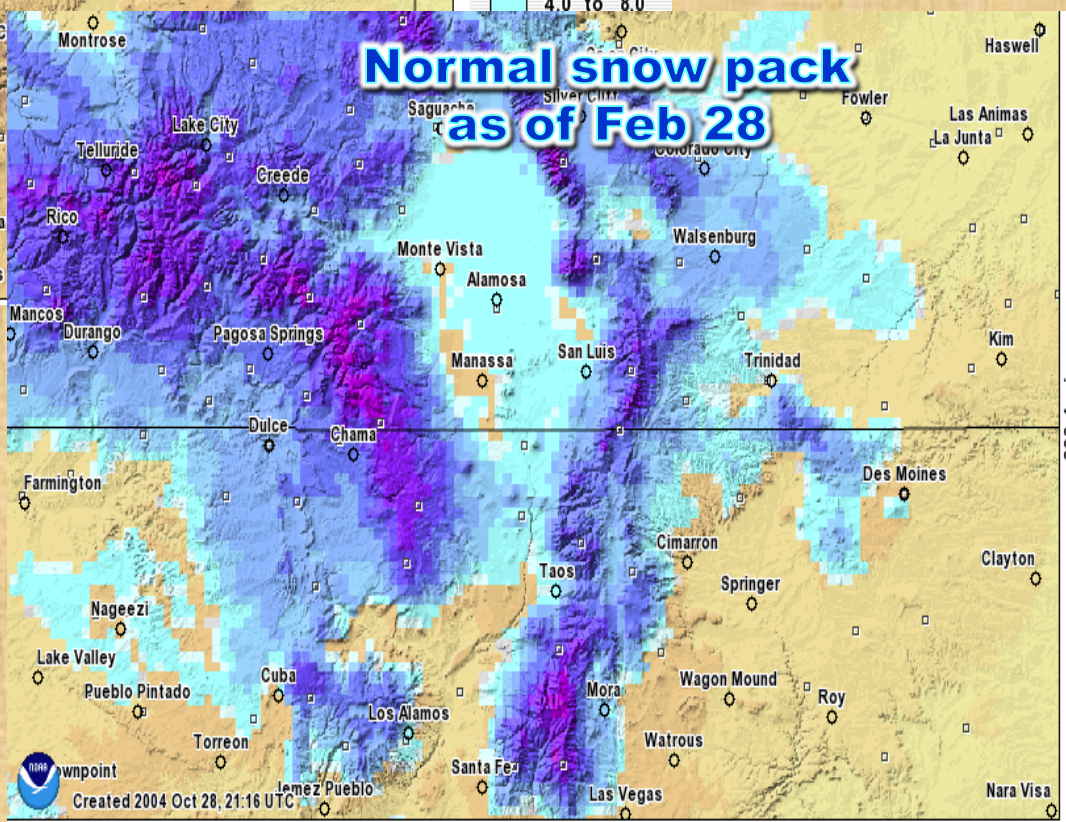
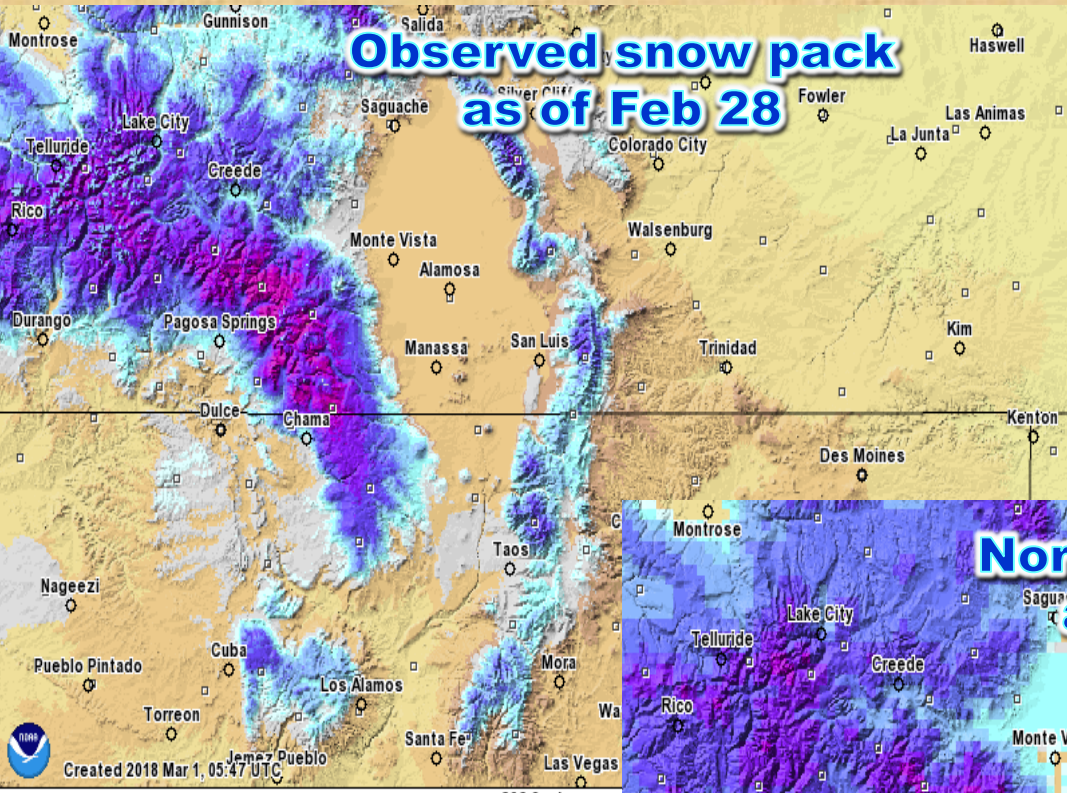


Inches of depth



Not Estimated

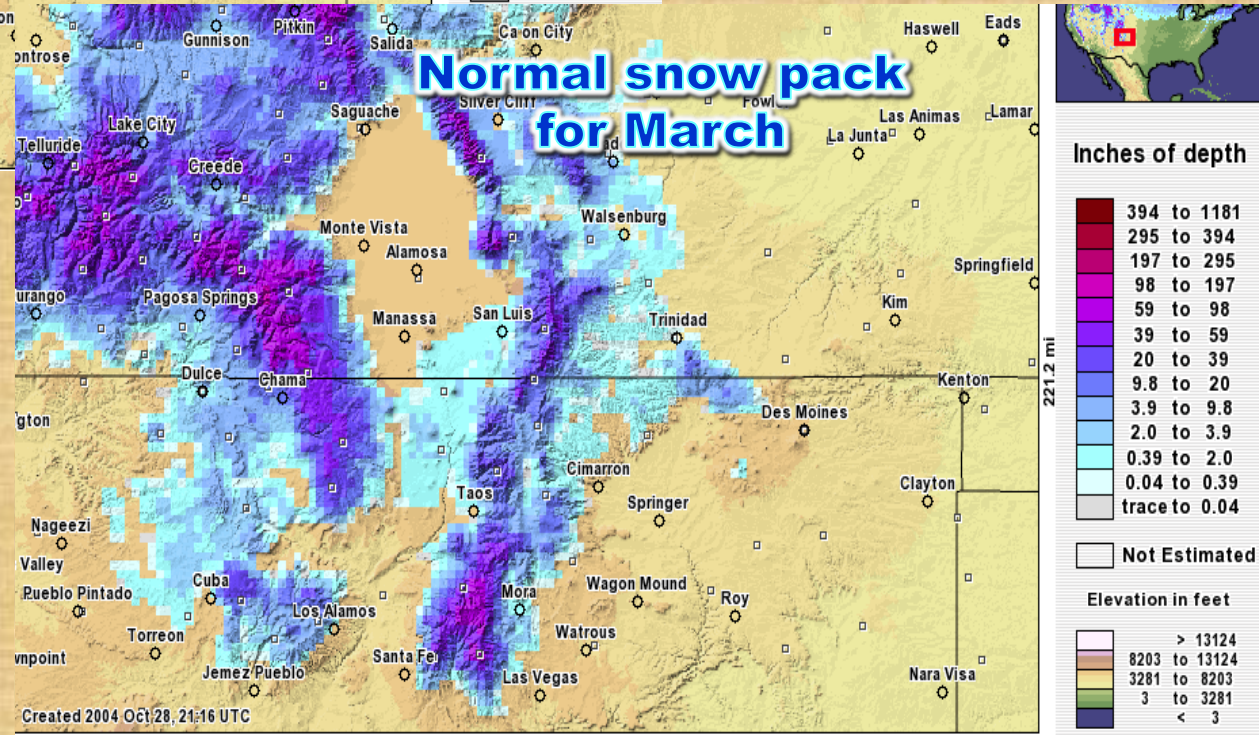
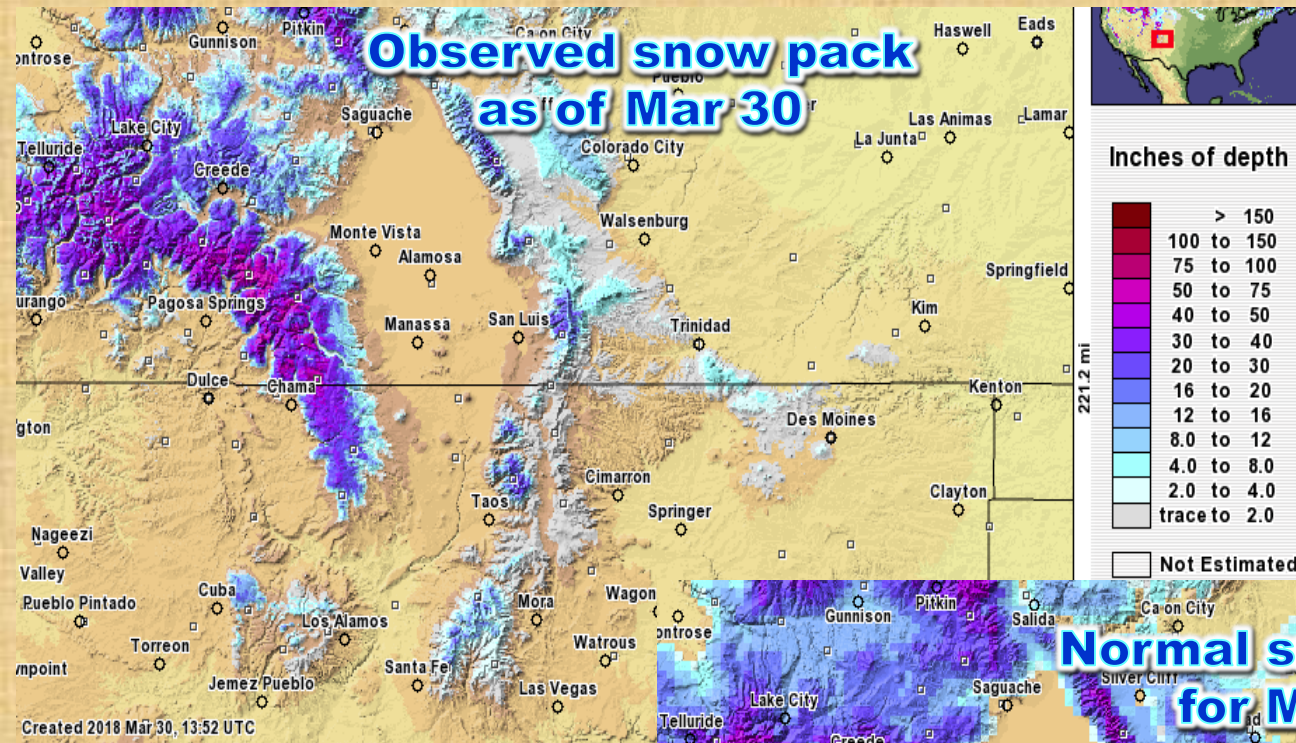
Elevation in feet



Created 2018 Mar 1, 05:47 UTC

Created 2004 Oct 28, 21:16 UTC

Upper Rio Grande Basin end of March

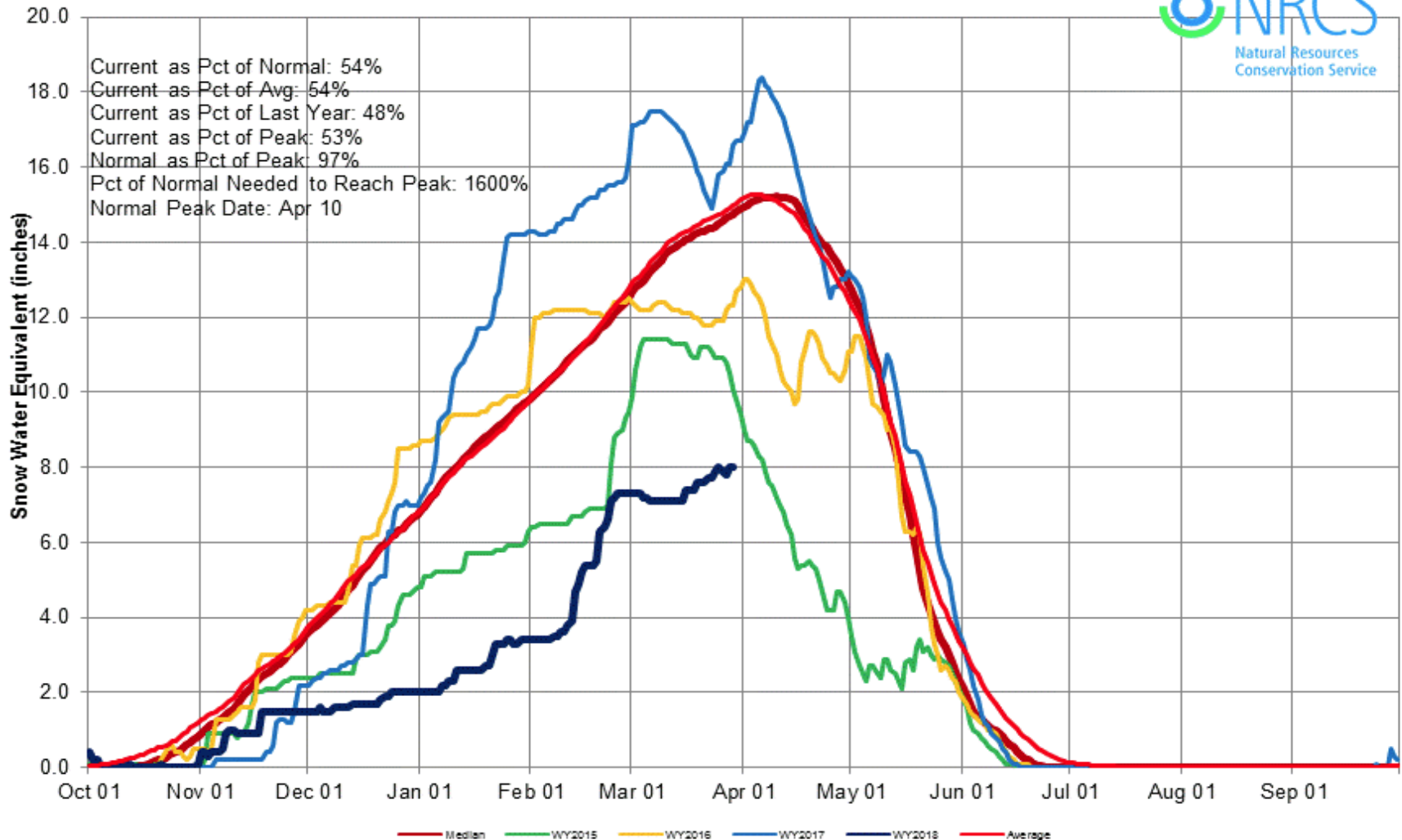


Upper Rio Grande Basin Time Series

Snowpack slipped in March-back down to 54% of normal

Upper Rio Grande Basin Time Series Snowpack Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 29, 2018



La Niña Advisory in Effect

ENSO Alert System

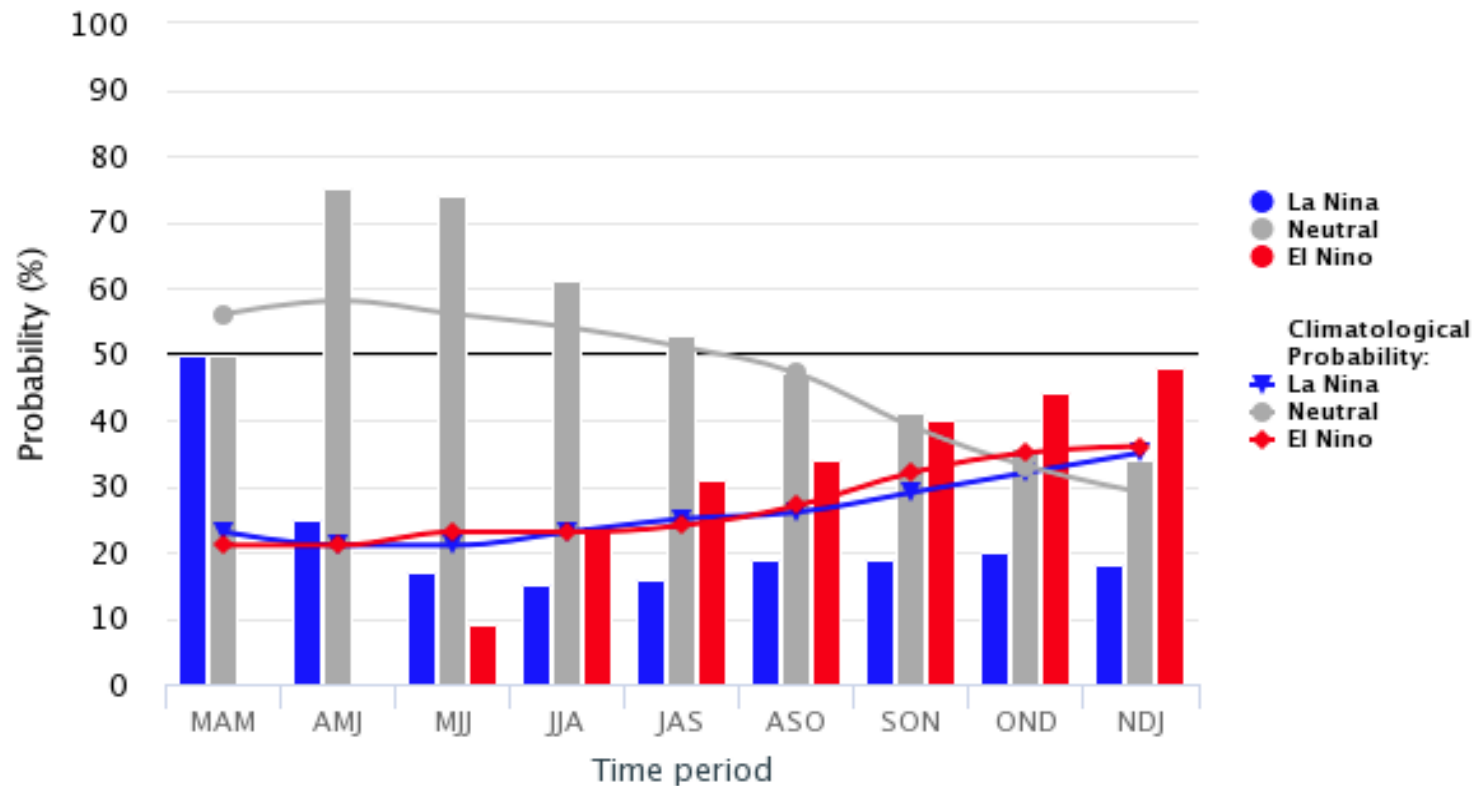
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

ENSO Forecast Through the End of the Year

ENSO IS IN LA NIÑA PHASE. IT IS LIKELY TO CHANGE TO NEUTRAL OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

Mid-Mar IRI/CPC Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

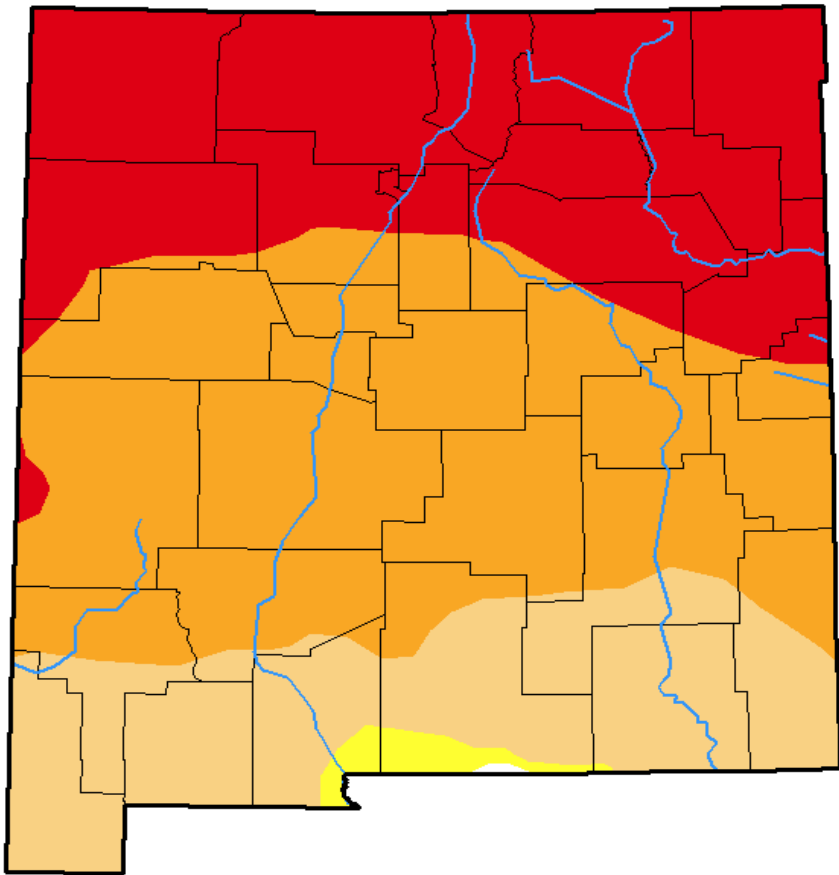
ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly
Neutral ENSO: $-0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



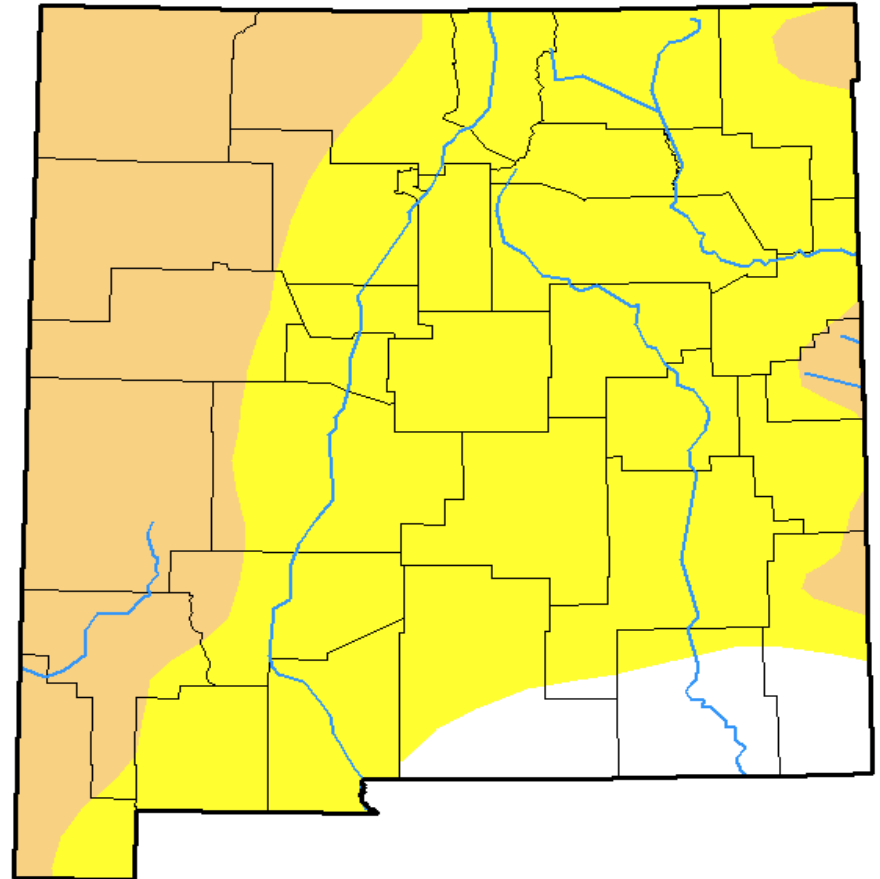
Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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

March 27, 2018








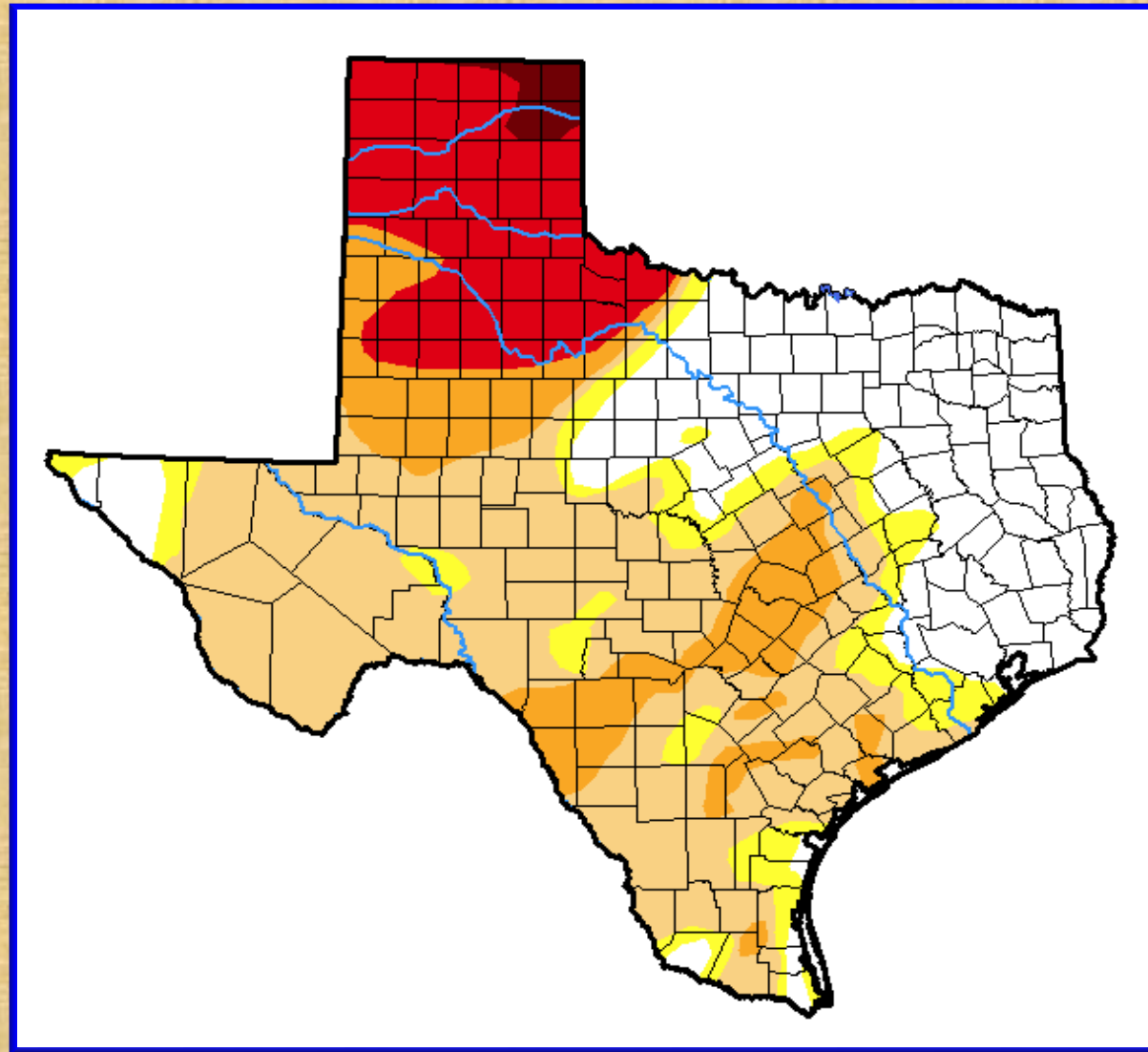
December 26, 2017



Current drought conditions for Texas as of March 27, 2018

Intensity:

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



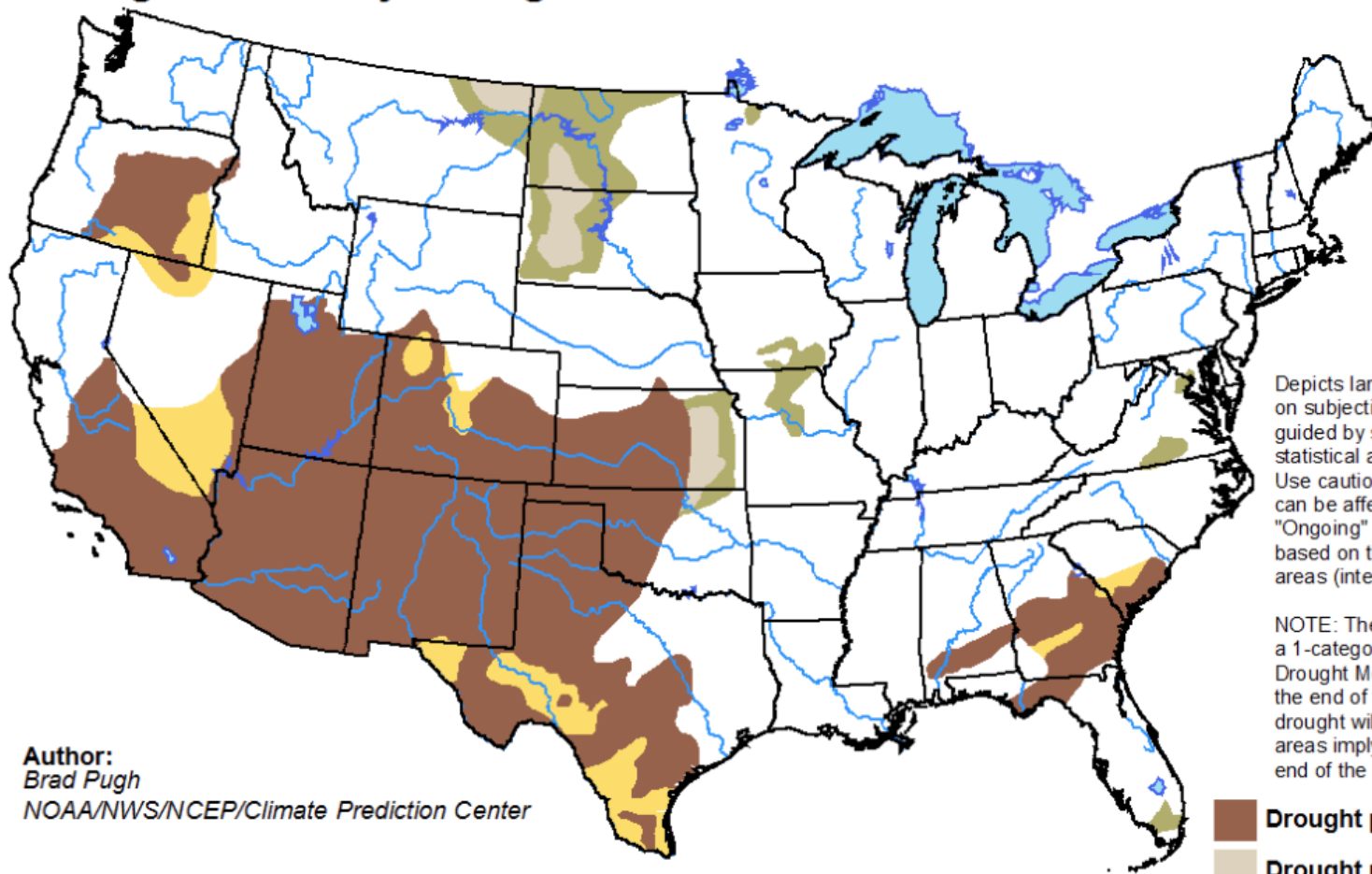
Build your own custom slider maps here at:

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

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





Valid for March 15 - June 30, 2018
Released March 15, 2018

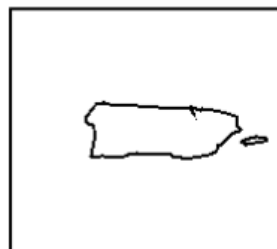


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

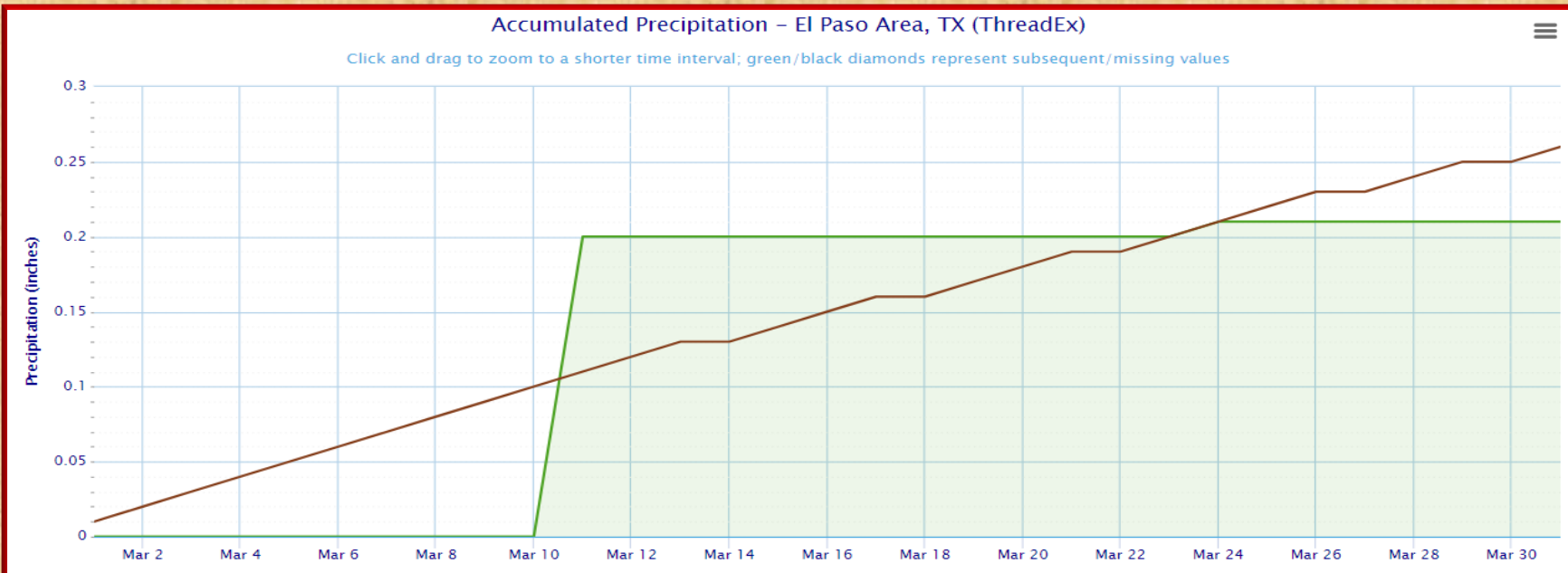
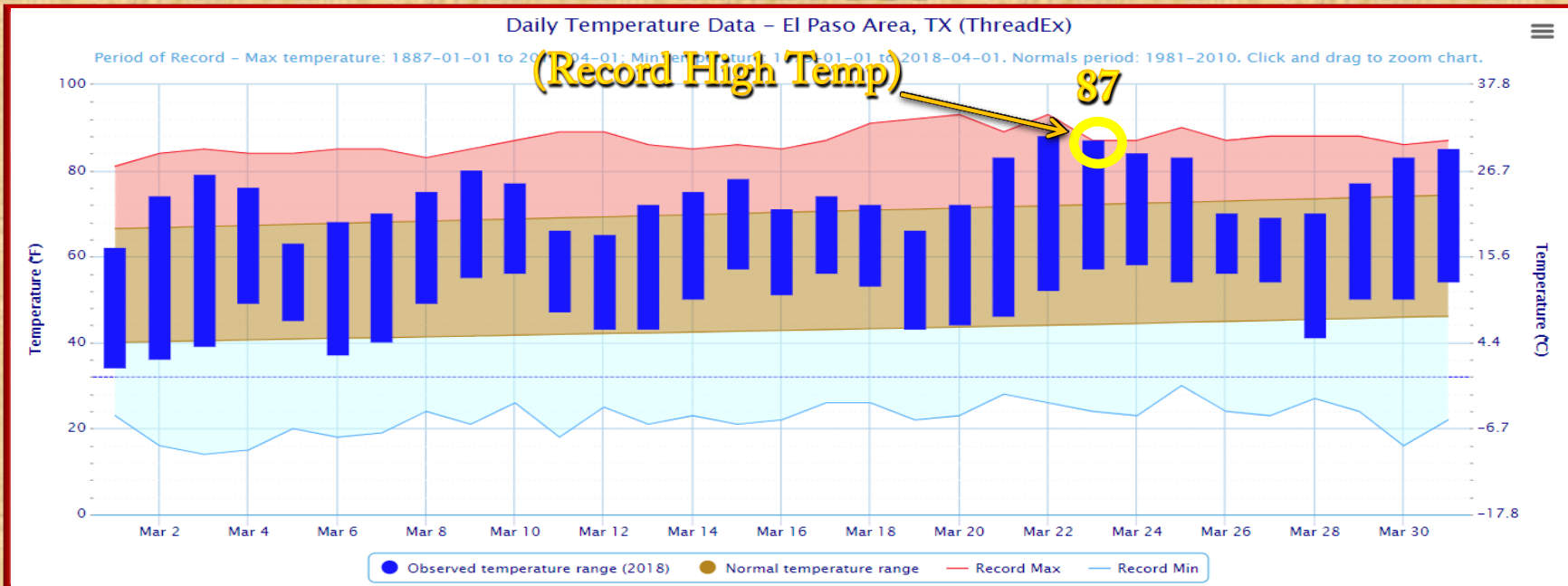
Author:
Brad Pugh
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

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



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

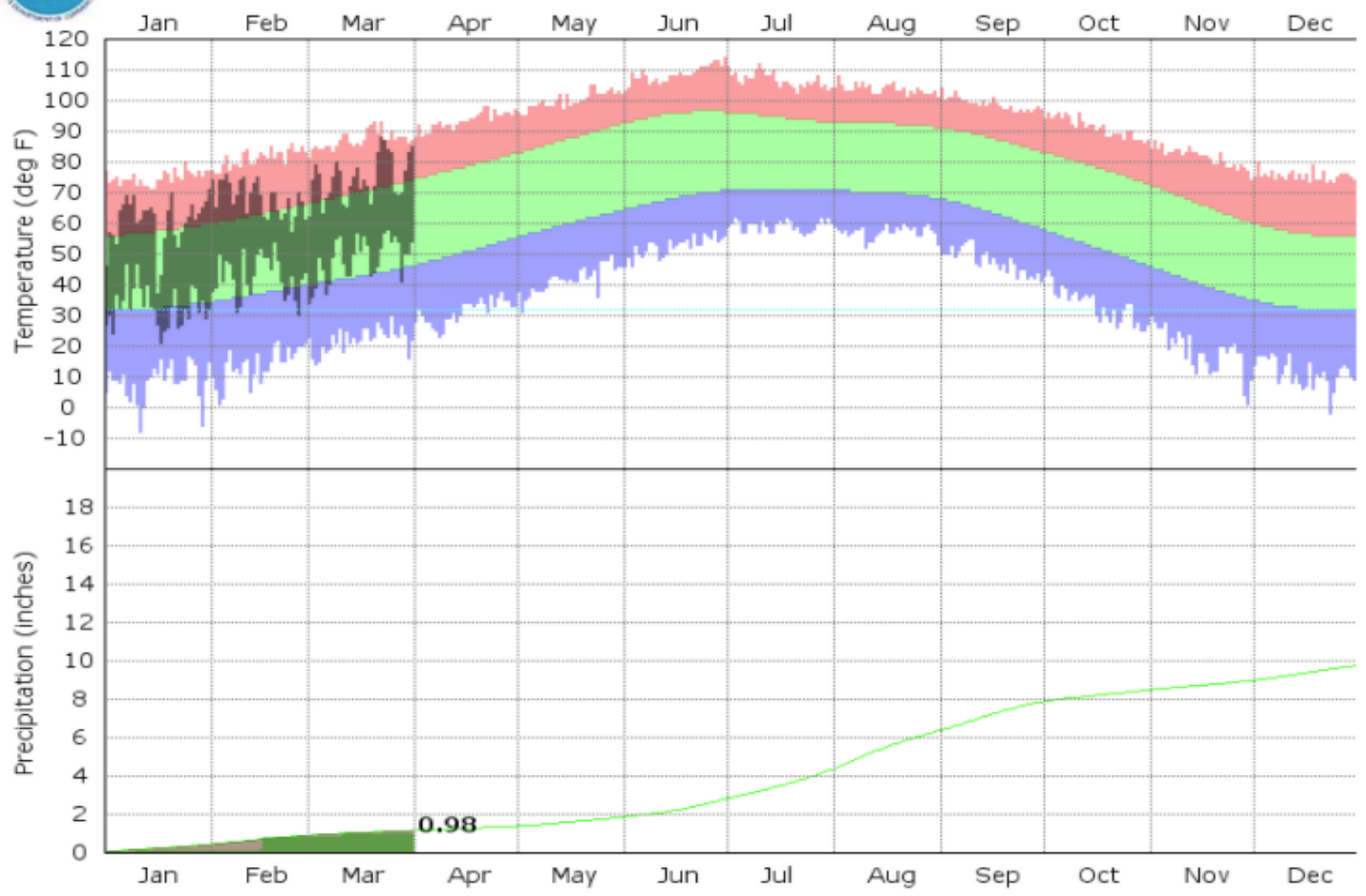
Temperature and precipitation data for March 2018 in El Paso



2018 year-to-date temperature and precipitation data El Paso



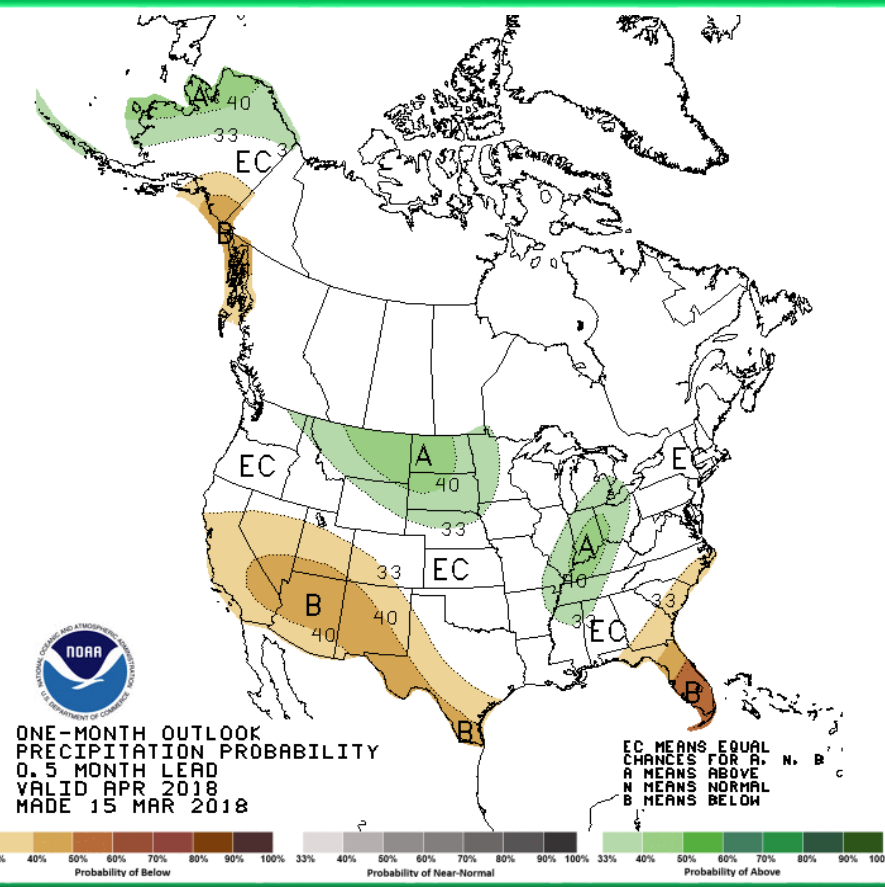
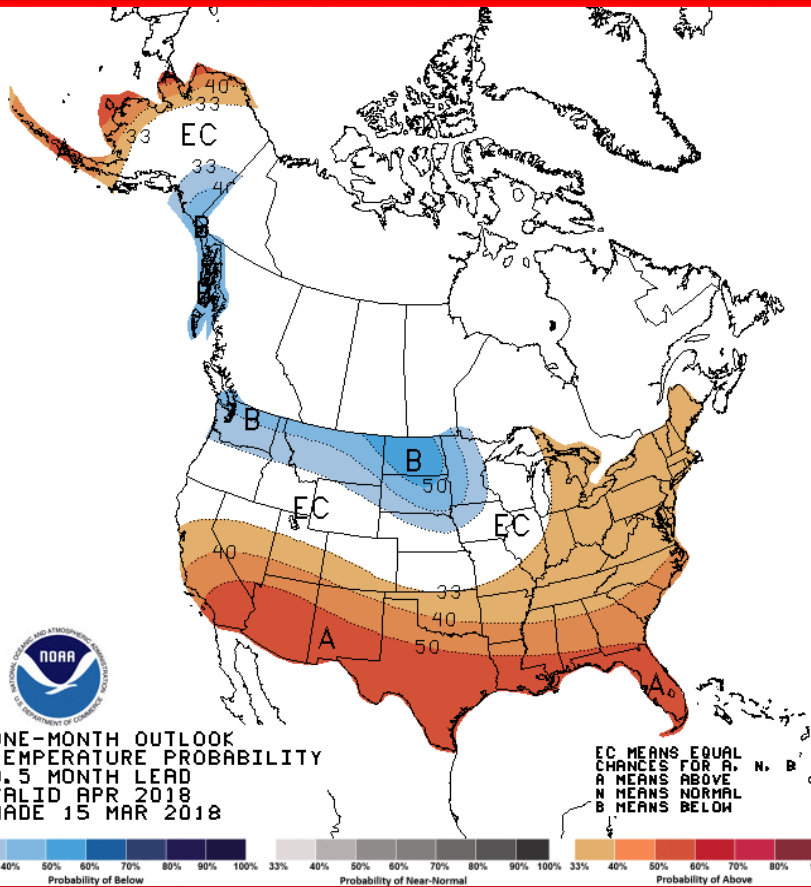
El Paso TX - 2018



Temperature and precipitation outlook for April 2018

Temperature

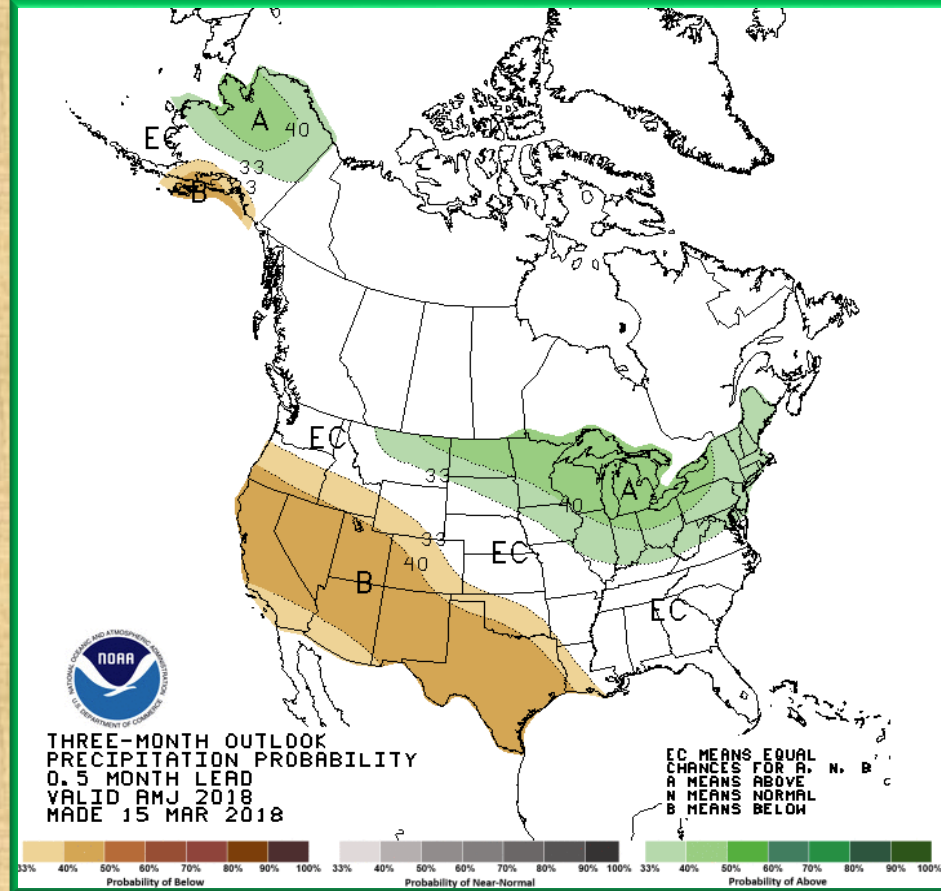
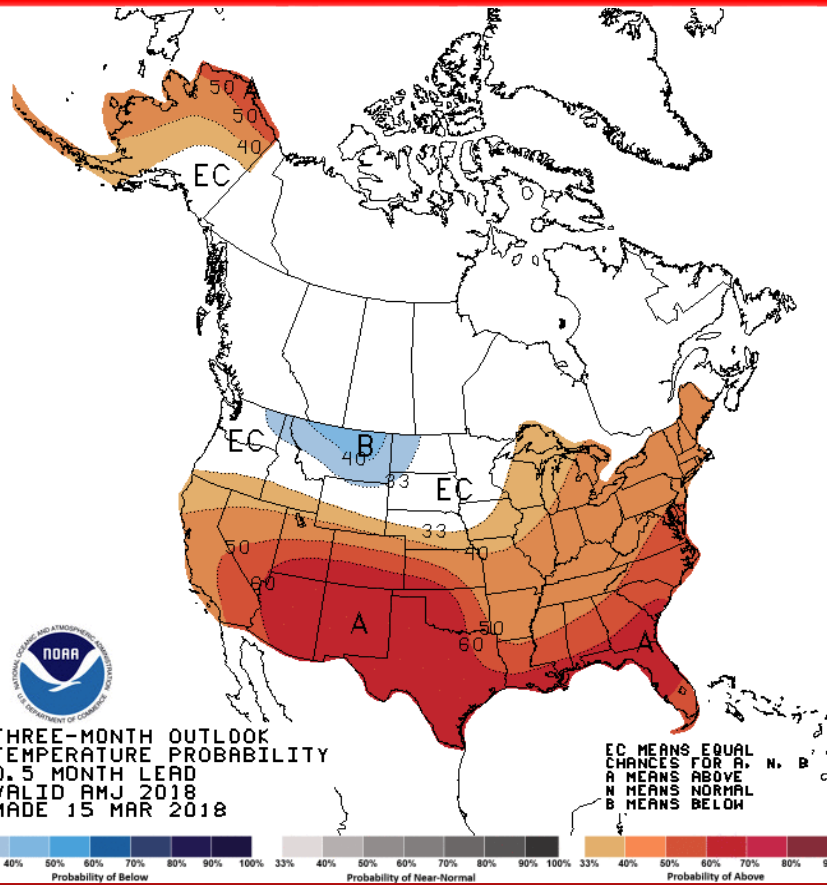
Precipitation



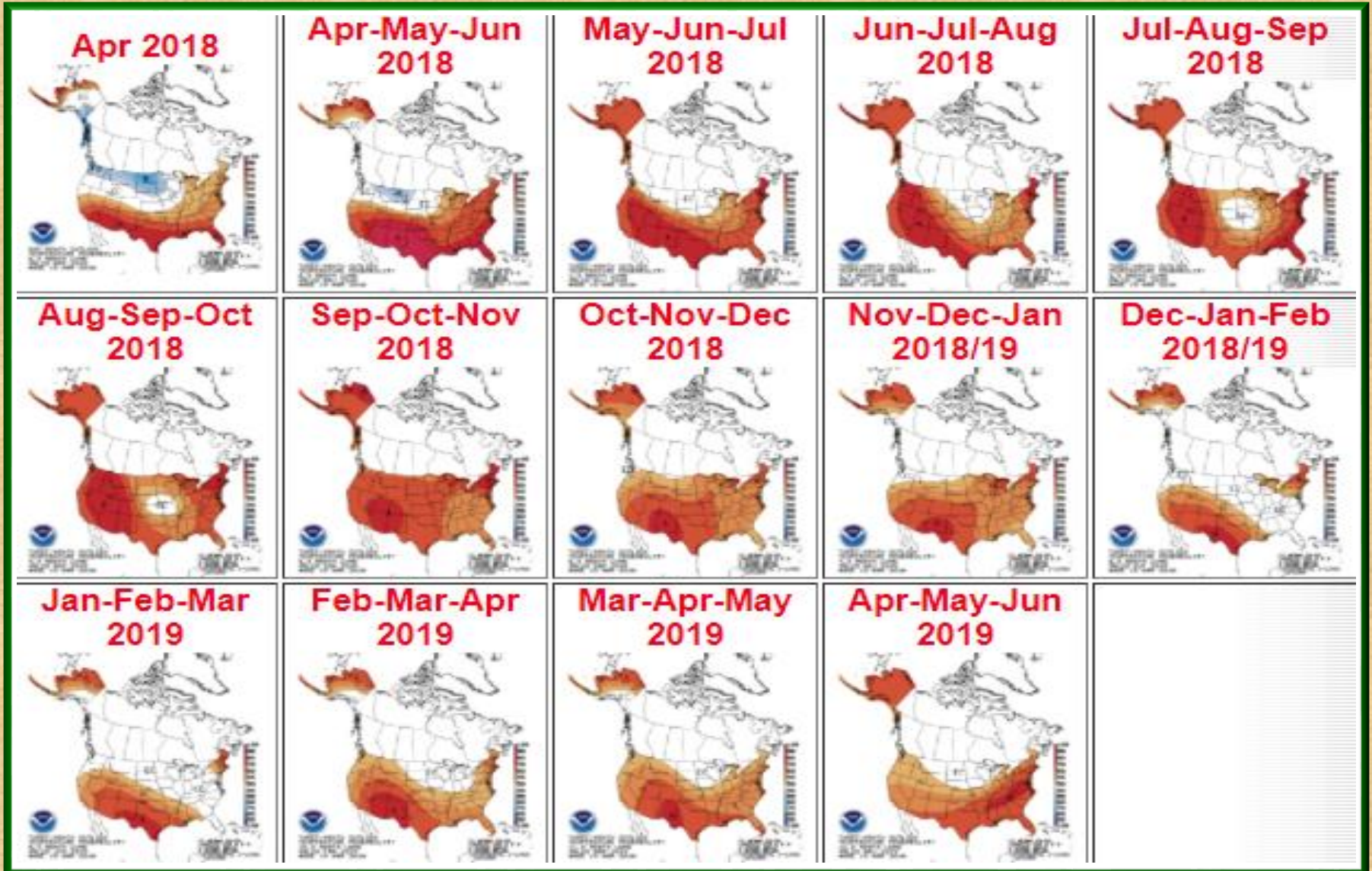
Temperature and precipitation outlook For April-June 2018

Temperature

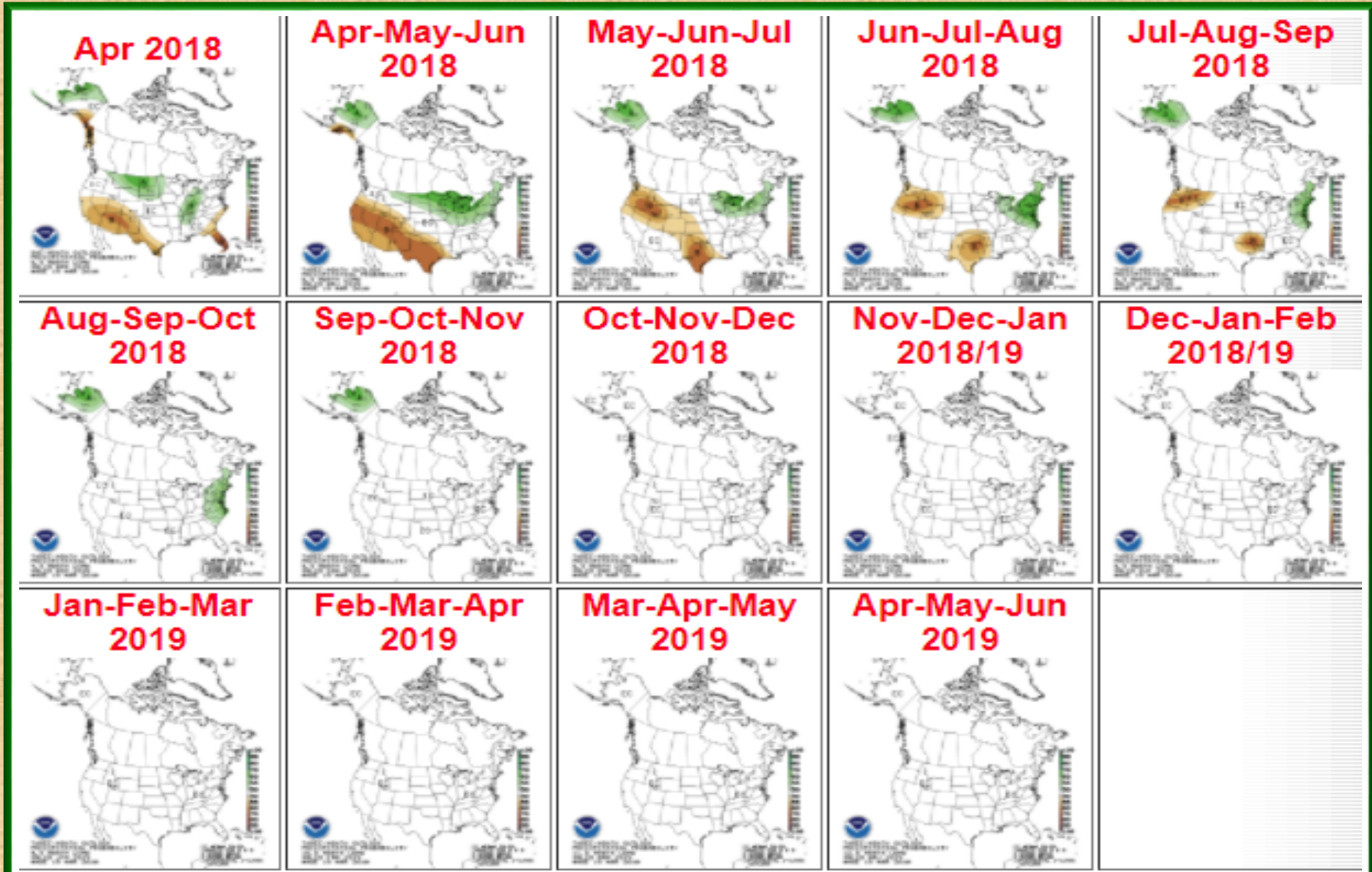
Precipitation



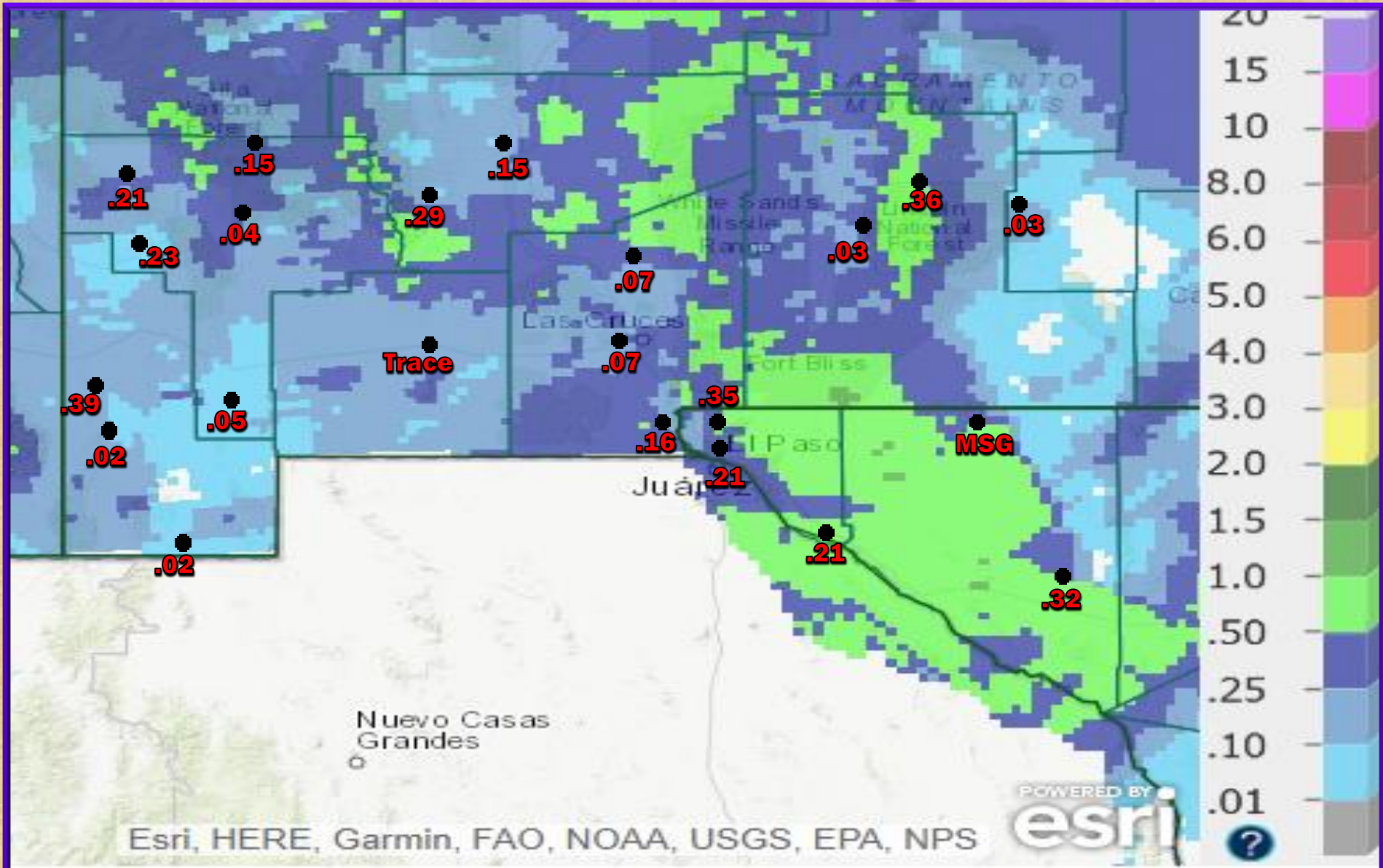
Temperature Outlook Through June 2019



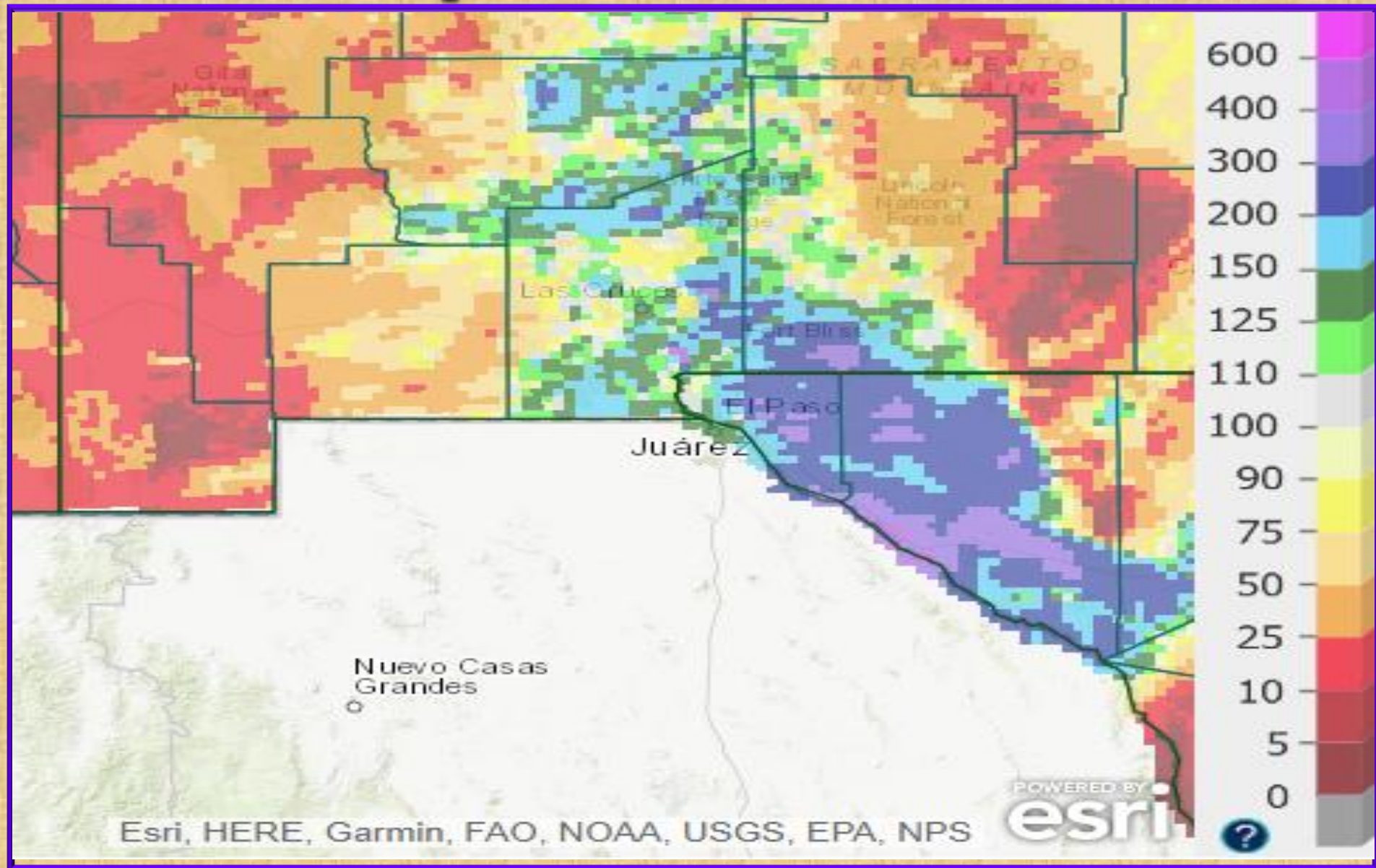
Precipitation Outlook Through June 2019



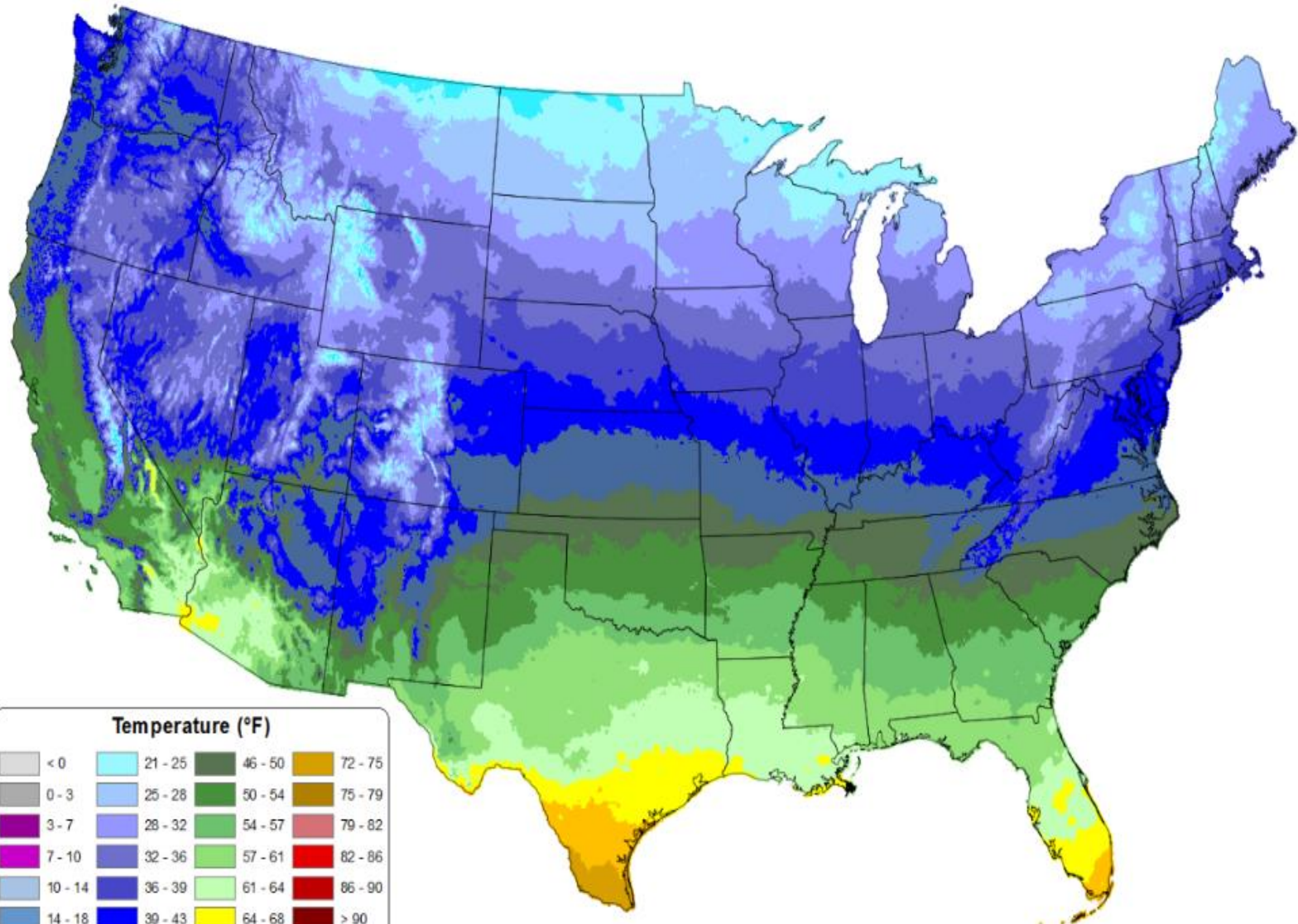
March 2018 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



March 2018 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal



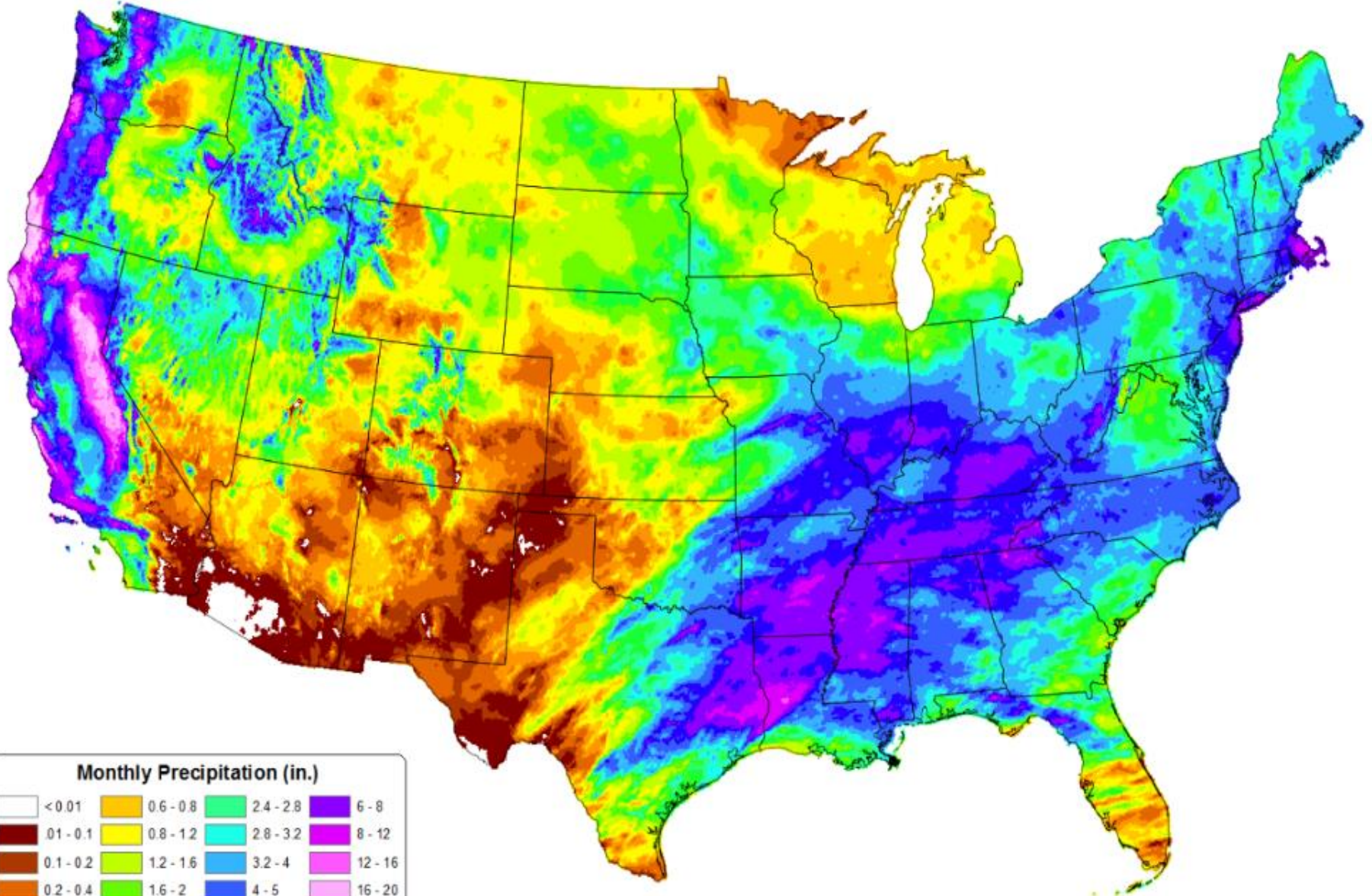
Average Daily Mean Temperature for March 2018



Temperature (°F)

< 0	21 - 25	46 - 50	72 - 75
0 - 3	25 - 28	50 - 54	75 - 79
3 - 7	28 - 32	54 - 57	79 - 82
7 - 10	32 - 36	57 - 61	82 - 86
10 - 14	36 - 39	61 - 64	86 - 90
14 - 18	39 - 43	64 - 68	> 90
18 - 21	43 - 46	68 - 72	

Total Precipitation for March 2018



Monthly Precipitation (in.)

<math>< 0.01</math>	0.6 - 0.8	2.4 - 2.8	6 - 8
0.1 - 0.1	0.8 - 1.2	2.8 - 3.2	8 - 12
0.1 - 0.2	1.2 - 1.6	3.2 - 4	12 - 16
0.2 - 0.4	1.6 - 2	4 - 5	16 - 20
0.4 - 0.6	2 - 2.4	5 - 6	> 20

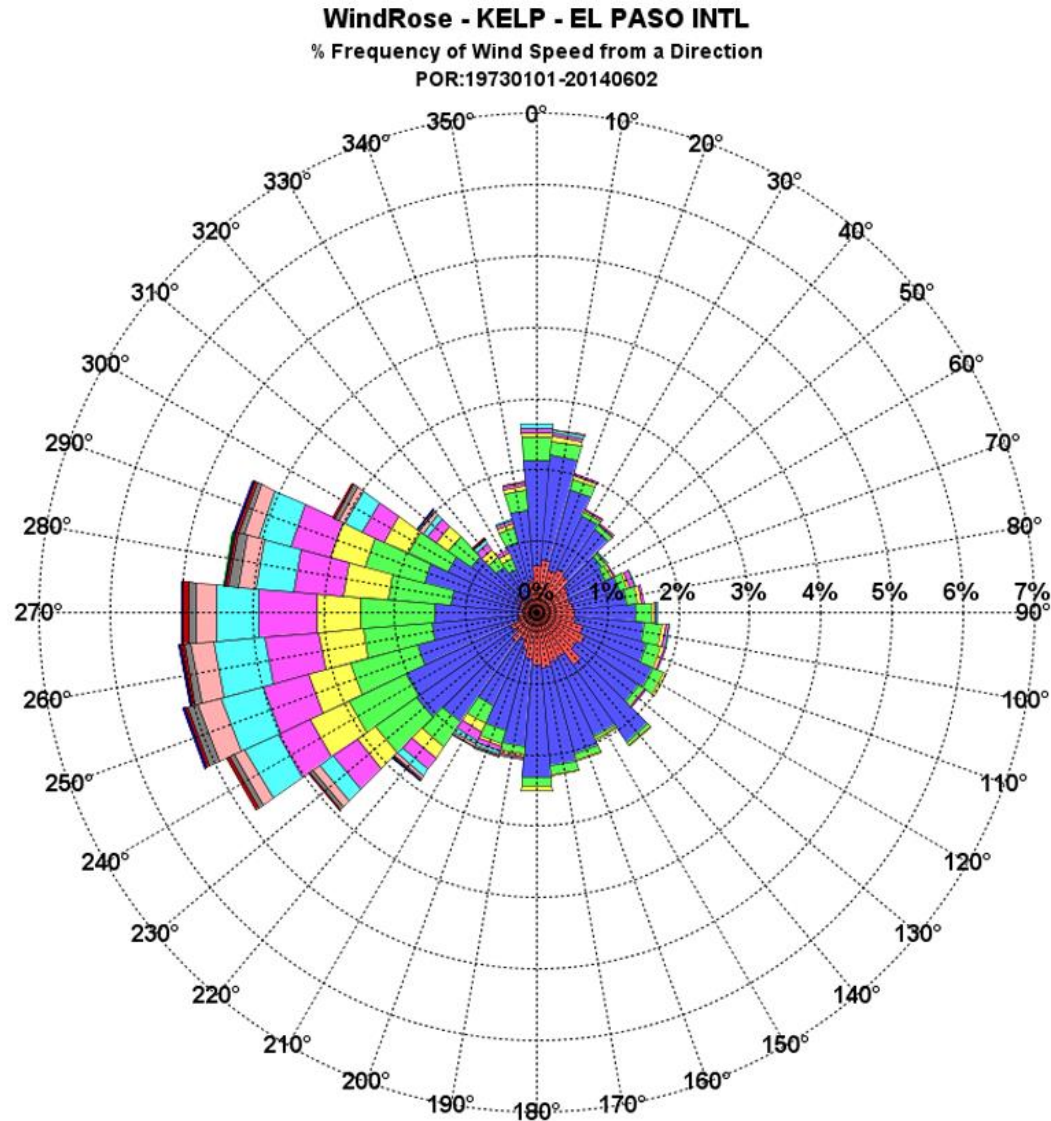
Special Features

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

Month: MARCH

Calm: 8.61%

Variable: 2.25%



Selected weather reports March 2018

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
MAR 11 330 PM	WHITE SIGNAL 2SW-DONA ANA	¼ MILE DENSE FOG
MAR 15 540 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	90 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 512 PM	HIGH ROLLS 1SW-OTERO	66 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 540 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	64 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 114 PM	RODEO 3NE-HIDALGO	61 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 329 PM	SUNSPOT 1S-OTERO	60 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 340 PM	HATCHITA 15SW-HIDALGO	59 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 500 PM	DEMING 2 SE-LUNA	59 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 700 PM	LAS CRUCES 6SW-DONA ANA	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 209 PM	ROAD FORKS-HIDALGO	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 244 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 340 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 600 PM	EL PASO 10NEW-EL PASO	53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 101 PM	MAYHILL 1NE-OTERO	53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 426 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST

Selected weather reports March 2018

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
MAR 15 520 PM	TULAROSA 19NW-OTERO	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 137 PM	WINSTON-SIERRA	51 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 435 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	49 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 520 PM	SANTA TERESA 5 NW-DONA ANA	48 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 215 PM	SILVER CITY AIRPORT-GRANT	48 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 440 PM	DELL CITY 9S-HUDSPETH	48 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 128 PM	HILLSBORO-GRANT	47 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 15 316 PM	FAYWOOD-GRANT	47 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 255 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	78 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 510 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	56 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 415 PM	SUNSPOT 1S-OTERO	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 401 PM	ORGAN 11 NE-DONA ANA	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 225 PM	TULAROSA 19NW-OTERO	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 341 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 545 PM	EL PASO 9NE-EL PASO	50 MPH PEAK WIND GUST

Selected weather reports March 2018

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
MAR 18 545 PM	EL PASO 9NE-EL PASO	50 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 526 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	50 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 415 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	49 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 313 PM	MAYHILL 3NW-OTERO	49 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 500 PM	DEMING 2SE-LUNA	49 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 245 PM	OROGRANDE 4NW-OTERO	48 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 500 PM	SANTA TERESA 5SW-DONA ANA	48 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 157 PM	FAYWOOD-GRANT	48 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 400 PM	CHAPARRAL 2E-DONA ANA	47 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 326 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	46 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 129 PM	WINSTON-GRANT	46 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 315 PM	ALAMOGORDO APT-OTERO	45 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 216 PM	HIGH ROLLS 1SW-OTERO	45 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 18 931 AM	RODEO 3NE-HIDALGO	42 MPH PEAK WIND GUST

Selected weather reports March 2018

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
MAR 24 500 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	73 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 528 PM	SANTA TERESA 5NW-DONA ANA	59 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 441 PM	DEMING 4SE-LUNA	55 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 615 PM	EL PASO 9NE-EL PASO	55 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 336 PM	ROAD FORKS 6NE-HIDALGO	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 630 PM	TULAROSA 19NW-OTERO	51 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 625 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	51 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 228 PM	RODEO 3NE-HIDALGO	50 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 603 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	49 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 432 PM	FAYWOOD-GRANT	48 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 800 PM	CHAPARRAL 2E-DONA ANA	47 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 435 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	47 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
MAR 24 626 PM	CLINT 2E-EL PASO	47 MPH PEAK WIND GUST

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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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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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
January	2005 Spring Fall
February	2006 Spring Fall
March	2007 Spring Fall
April	2008 Spring Fall
May	2009 Spring Fall
June	2010 Spring Fall
July	2011 Spring Fall
August	2012 Spring Fall
September	2013 Spring Fall
October	2014 Spring Fall
November	
December	

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.