

# March 2020 Weather Digest



# March 2020 Weather Summary

March turned out to be a very wet month, in fact at El Paso it was third wettest March on record. Several other sites, including Cloudcroft, NMSU Ag farm, and Animas, recorded their highest March rainfall total ever. Month precipitation for much of the area east of the Continental Divide ranged from 200 to 600 percent of normal, while to the west of the Divide, monthly totals ranged from 100 to 200 percent of normal. The main cause of all this was a very sustained southwest flow aloft that was able to bring numerous batches of sub-tropical moisture up with it. When an upper low off the Pacific Ocean then moved east into this moisture, abundant rainfall was usually the result. The first Pacific storm of the month moved across the area on the 2nd through 4th, resulting in moderate to heavy rainfall and some heavy mountain snow. In fact, Cloudcroft received nearly their entire monthly average with this two day storm.

On March 12th and 13th, the area received the first severe weather of the year, as scattered thunderstorms developed across much of the area east of the Rio Grande Valley. In fact a weak tornado was reported on the 13th at Boles Acres, near Alamogordo.

# March 2020 Weather Summary, cont'd

Since the month was much wetter than normal, this would the month was probably less windy than normal. As we had to wait almost until the final week of the month to see more typical March weather of dust and winds. Pacific storms moved through on the 23rd and 27th to finally bring these winds. Winds of 40 to 50 mph were common on the 23rd, while on the 27th winds of 50 to 60 mph were reported across much of the Borderland.

Looking at temperatures, since the month had considerable cloudiness, this usually means below normal high temperatures and above normal low temperatures, and indeed this was true for March. Most reporting sites around the area showed average high temperatures from normal to about one degree below normal. Low temperatures ranged from about 3 to 5 degrees above normal.

Looking ahead to April, daylight and temperatures continue to increase. Average high temperatures in El Paso increase from 75 degrees on the first, to 83 degrees on the 30th.

# March 2020 Weather Summary, cont'd

Most of the lowlands will see their first 90 degree reading of the year during April. The length of daylight increases from 12 hours, 34 minutes on the 1st, to 13 hours and 26 minutes on the last day of the month. The full moon, which will be a super full moon, will occur on the 7th, while the new moon occurs on the 22nd.

CLOUDCROFT  
WEBCAM

**Mar 3 Snow in Cloudcroft**



CLOUDCROFT  
WEBCAM

**Mar 3 Snow in Cloudcroft**



CLOUDCROFT  
WEBCAM

**Mar 3 Snow in Cloudcroft**



CLOUDCROFT  
WEBCAM

**Mar 3 Snow in Cloudcroft**



**Mar 3 Rain in Las Cruces**



**Mar 3 Snow on the Organ Mtn**



**Mar 3 Snow on the Organ Mtns**



**Mar 4 Snow on the Franklin Mtns**



**Mar 13 Severe Thunderstorm near Orogrande**



**Mar 13 Severe Thunderstorm near Orogrande**



**Mar 13 Severe Thunderstorm near Orogrande**



**Mar 13 Tornado near Boles Acres**



**Mar 18 Poppies**



**Mar 18 Poppies**



**Mar 27 Dust in El Paso**



**Mar 27 near Anthony**





**ENSO conditions are neutral. Alert system is not active**

## **ENSO Alert System**

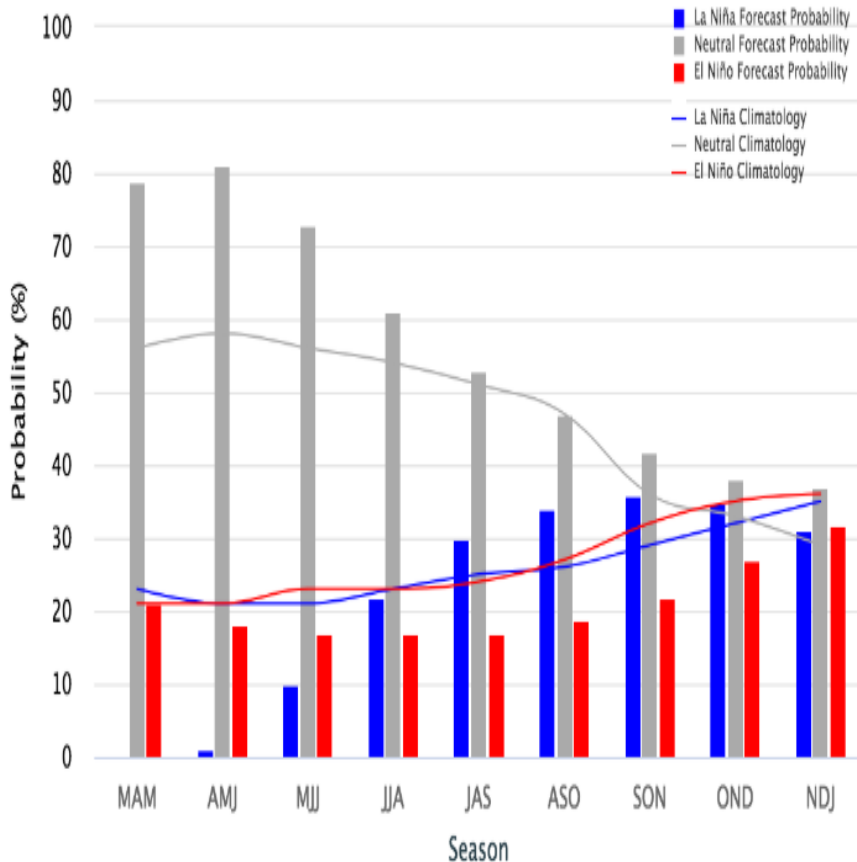
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

# ENSO Forecast

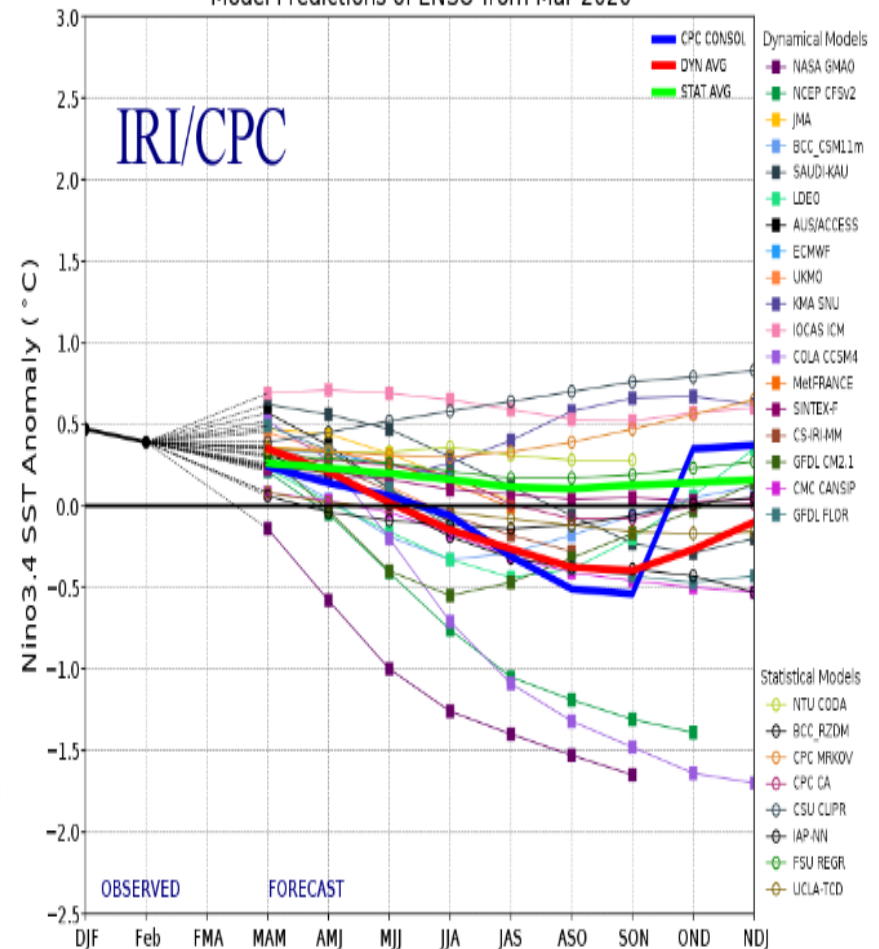
ENSO is now in a neutral phase and is expected to remain that way into this winter

Mid-March 2020 IRI/CPC Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

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



Model Predictions of ENSO from Mar 2020

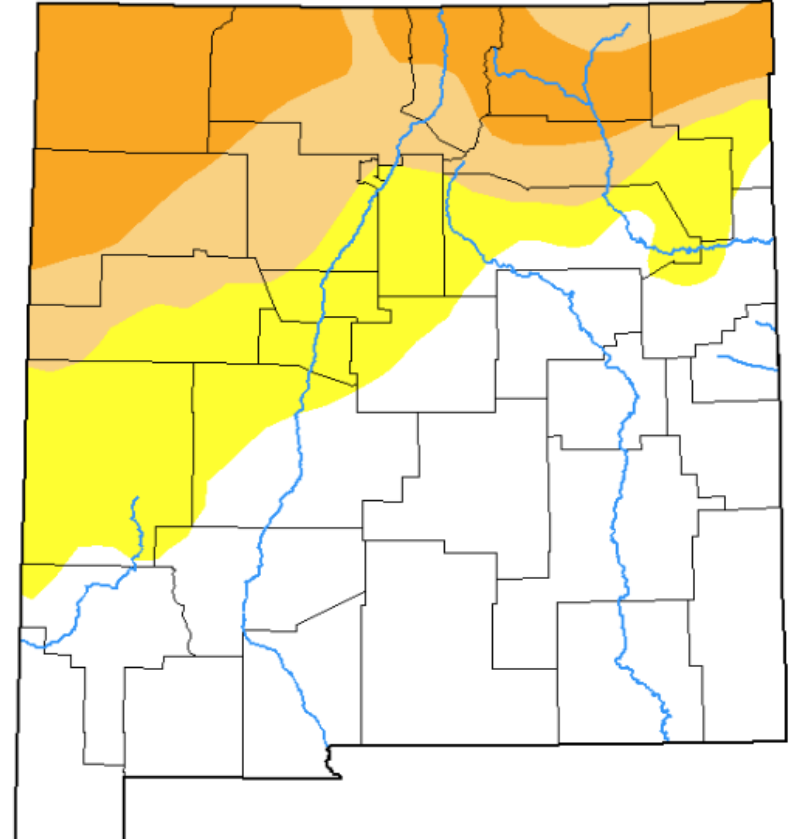
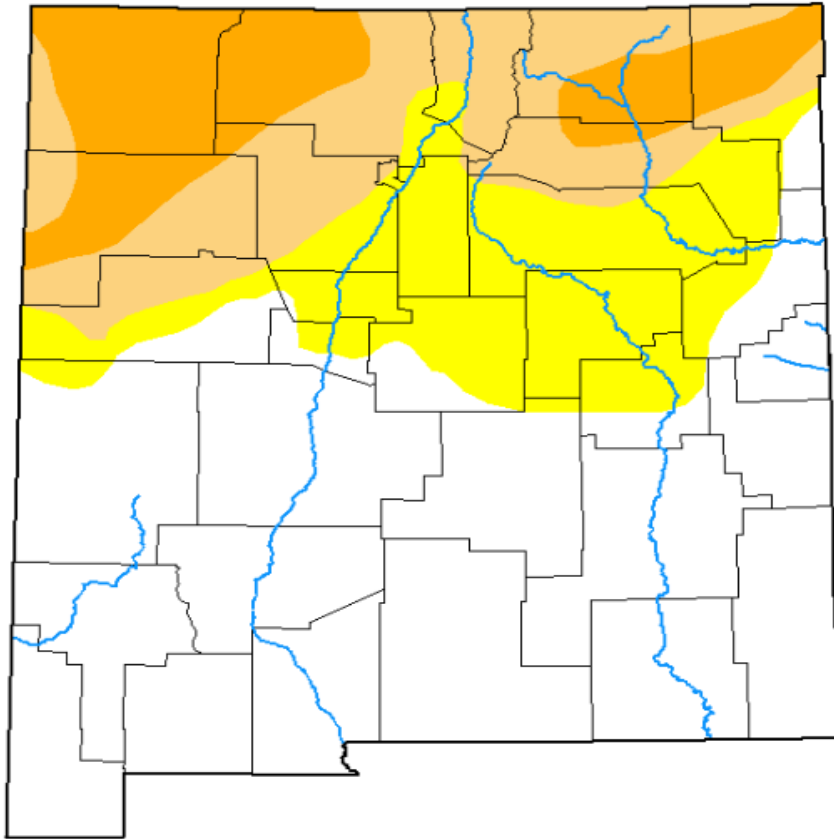


# Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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






**March 24, 2020**

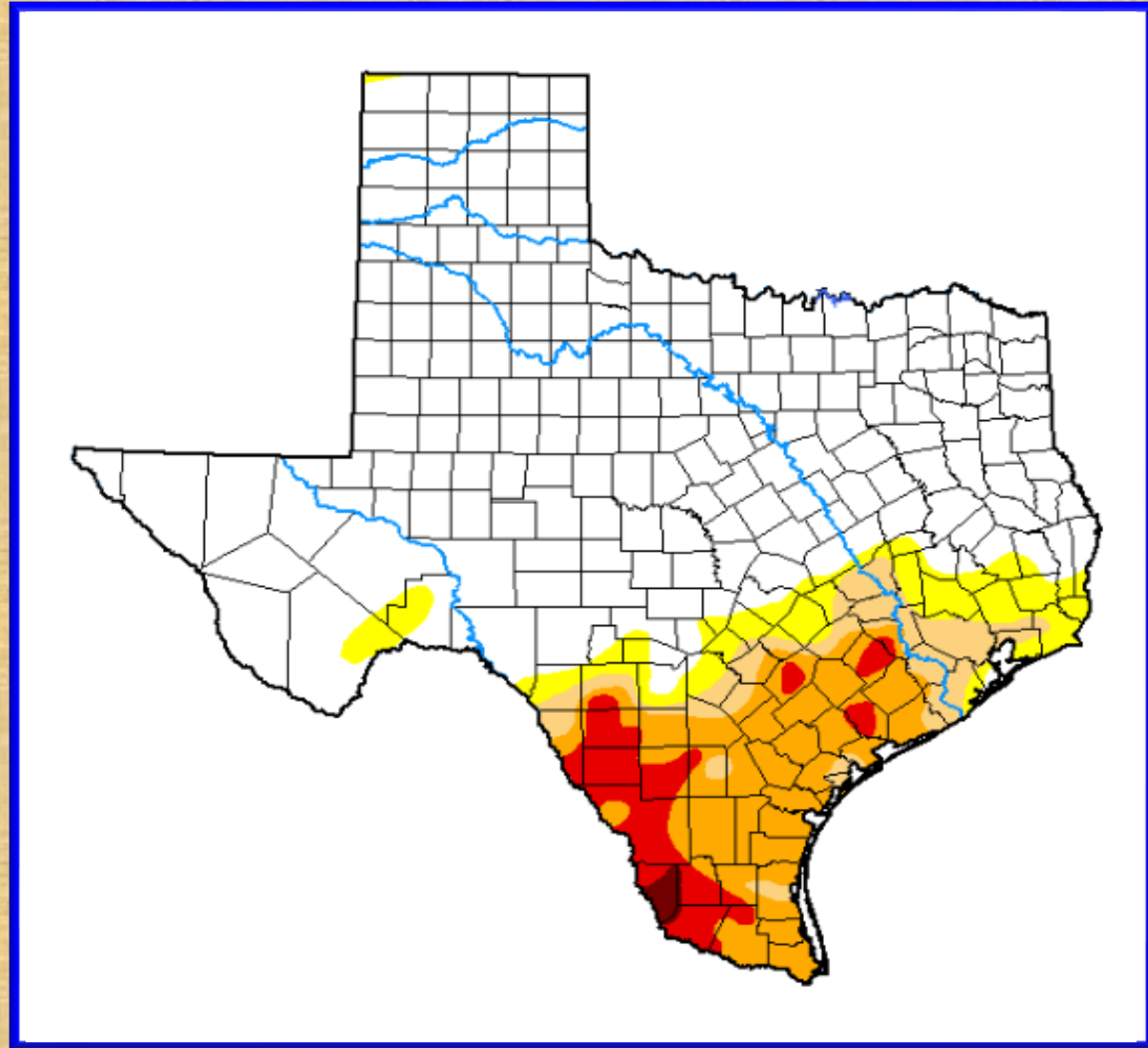
**December 31, 2019**



# Current drought conditions for Texas as of March 24, 2020

Intensity:

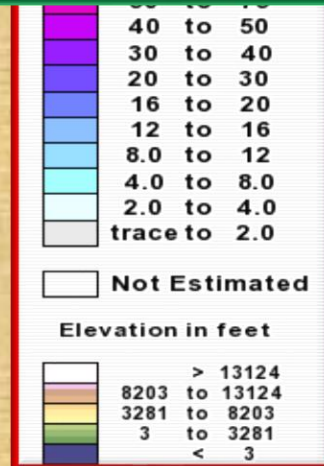
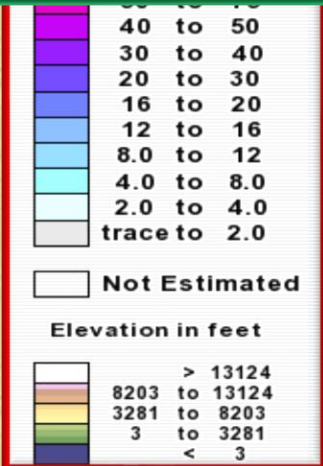
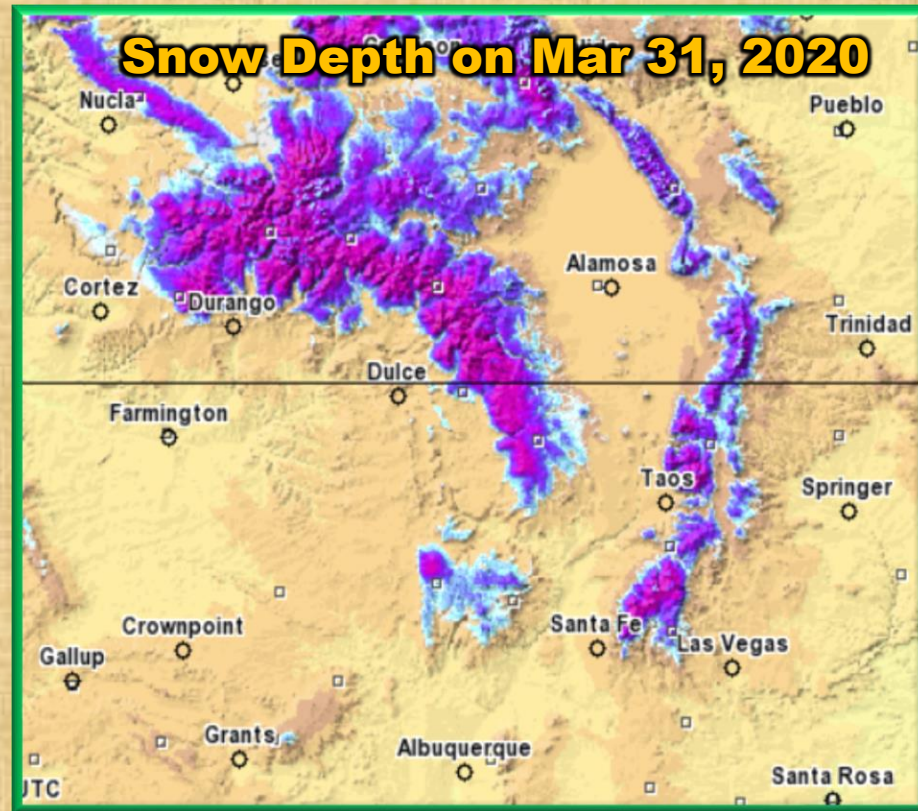
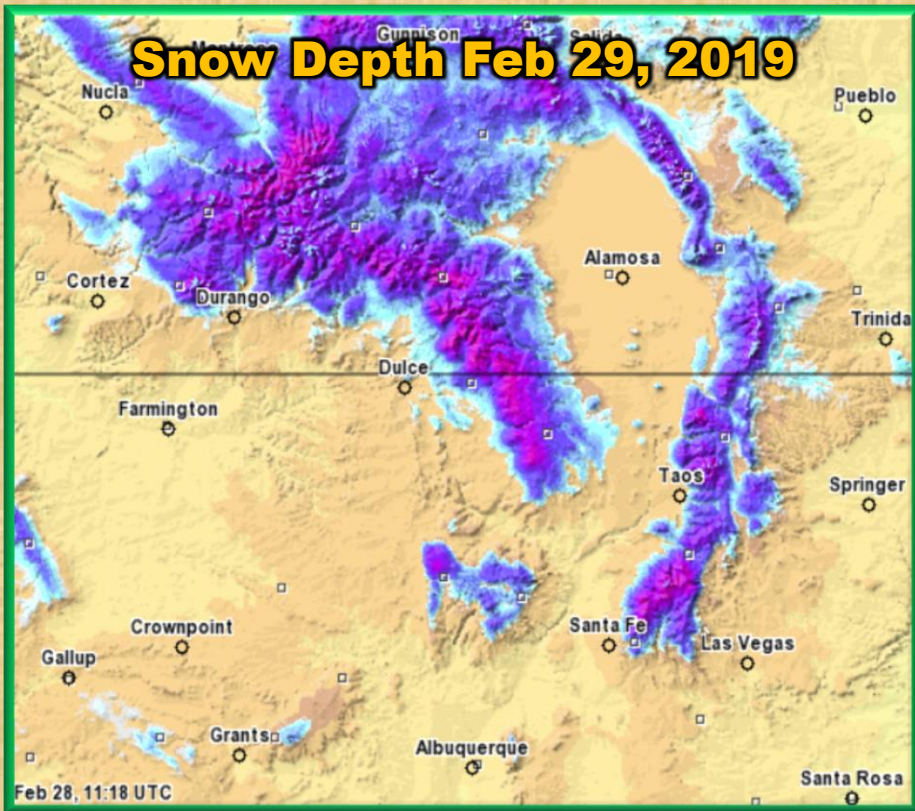
-  D0 - Abnormally Dry
-  D1 - Moderate Drought
-  D2 - Severe Drought
-  D3 - Extreme Drought
-  D4 - Exceptional Drought



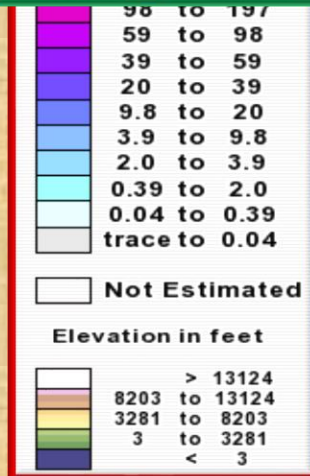
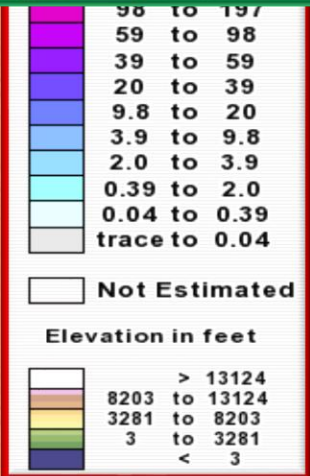
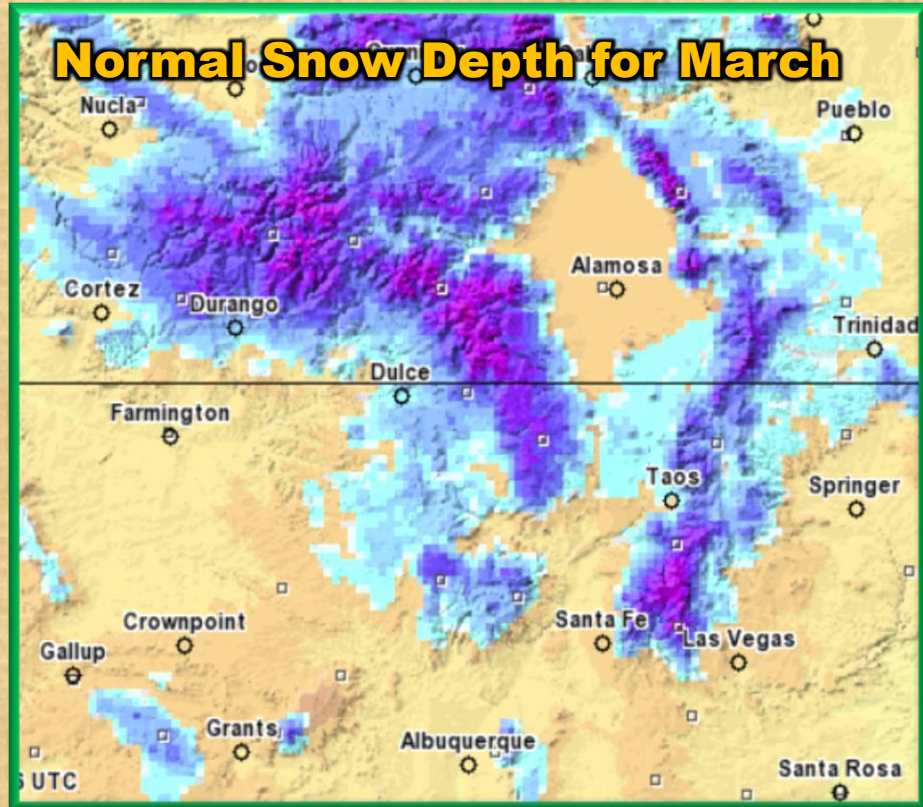
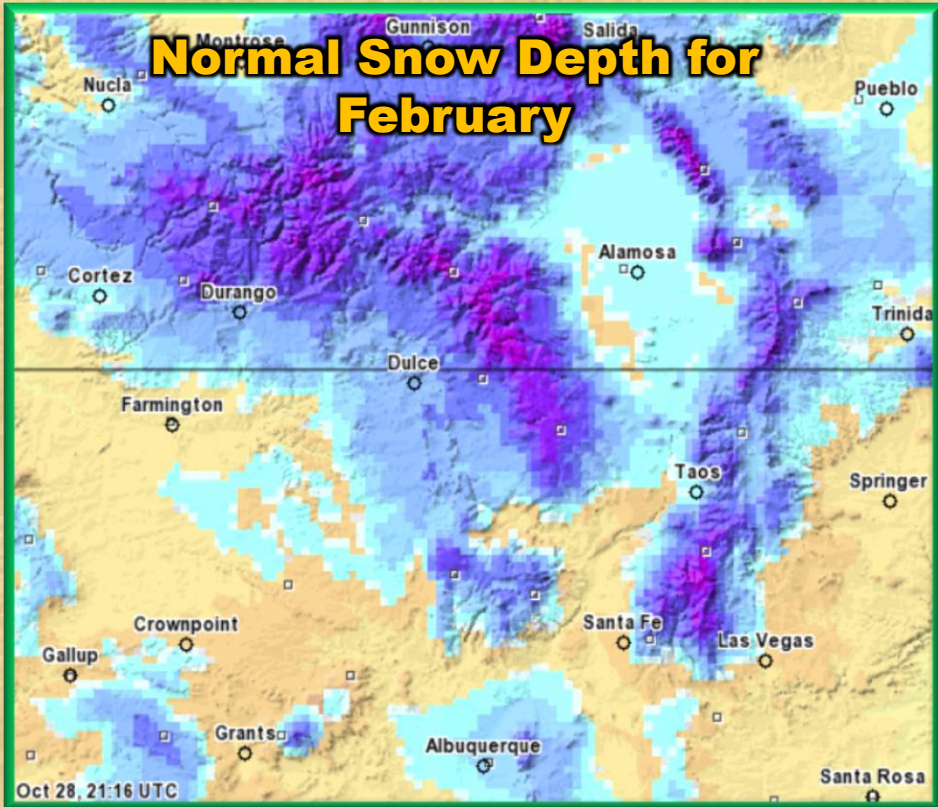
**Build your own custom slider maps here at:**

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

# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of March 31, 2020

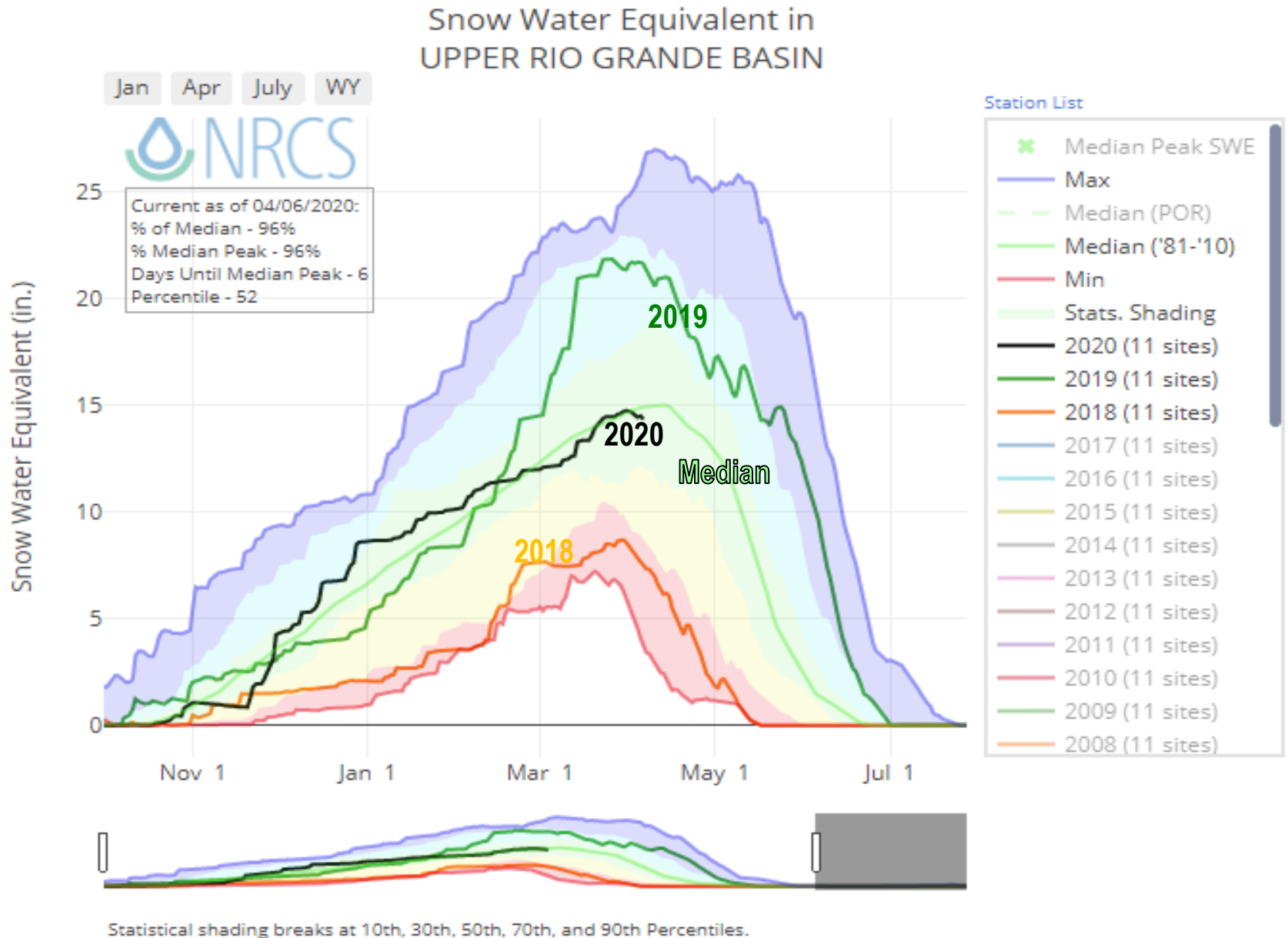


# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of March 31, 2020



# Snow Water Equivalent as of March 31, 2020

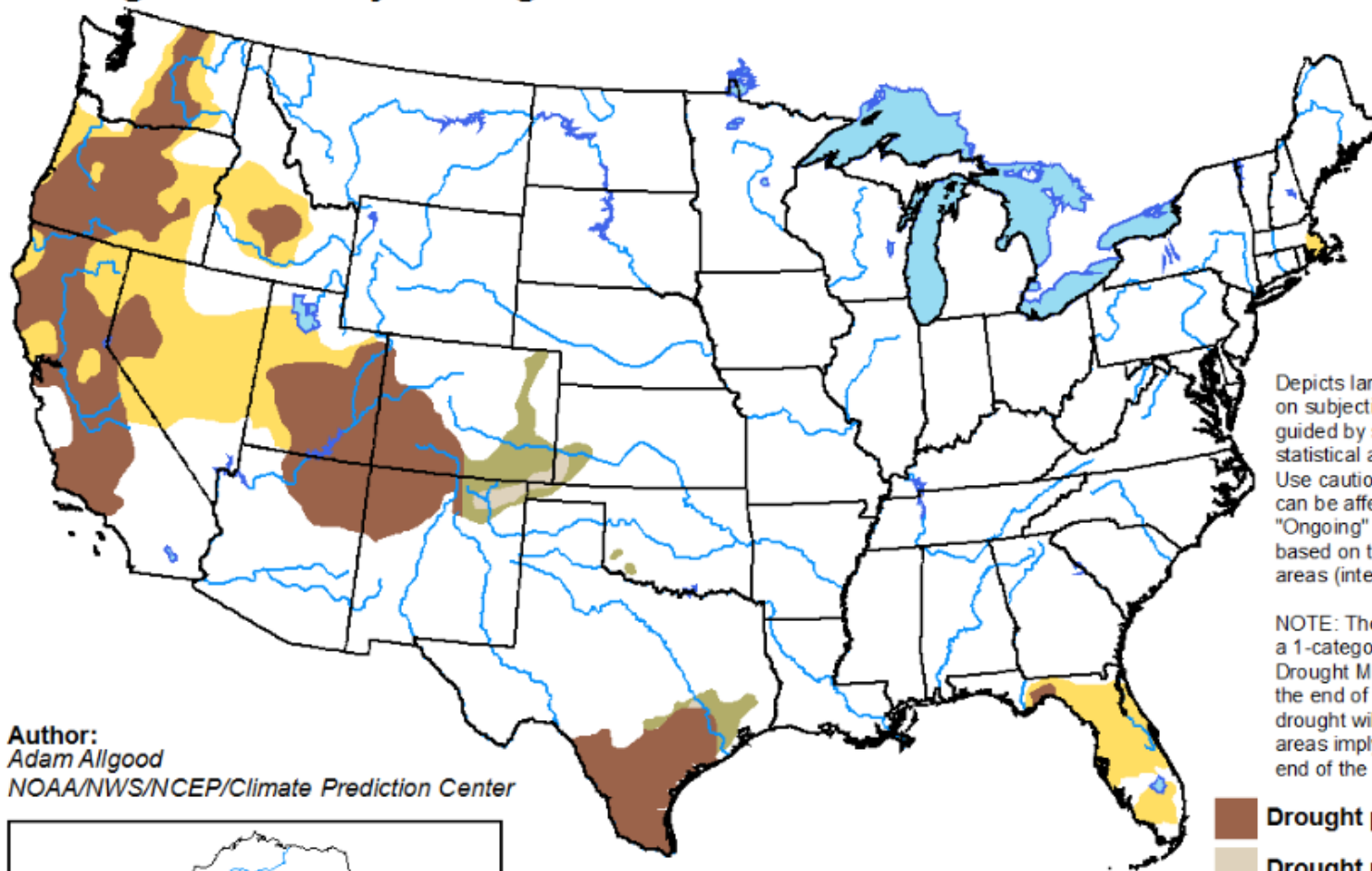
## Compare to last few years and average values



# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

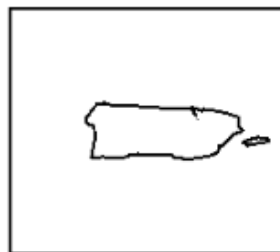
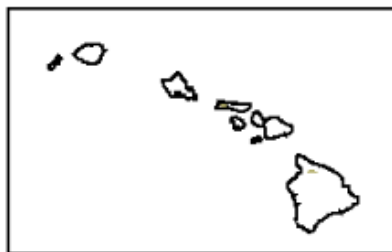
Valid for March 19 - June 30, 2020  
Released March 19







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



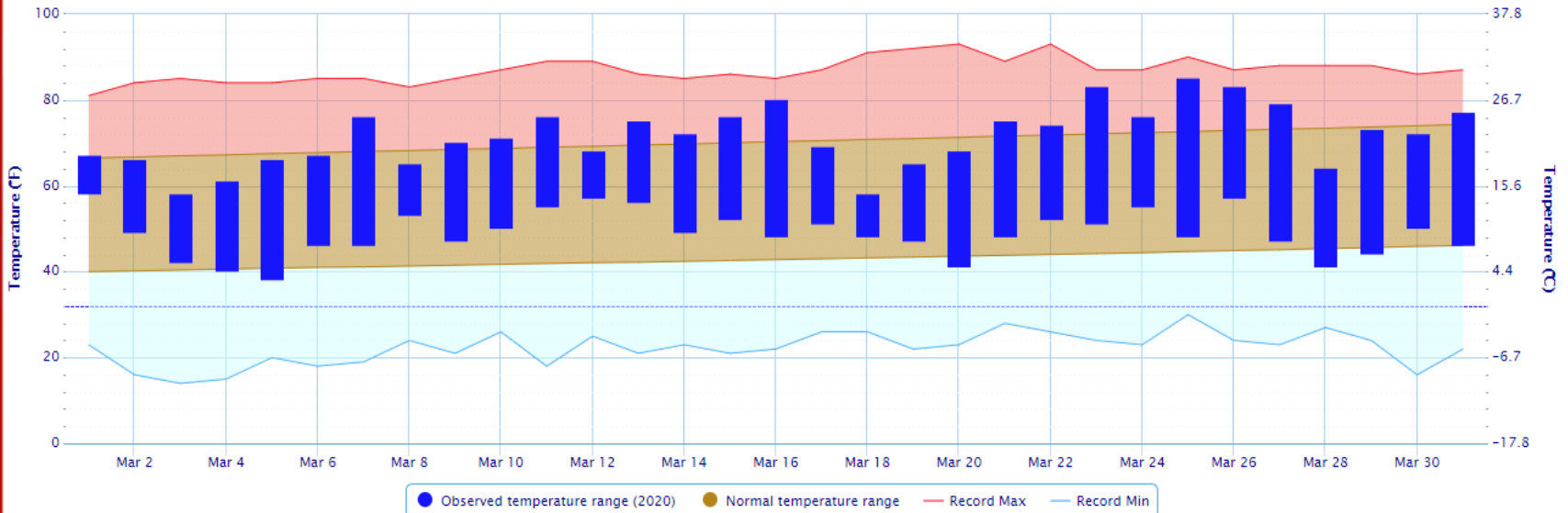
<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>



# Temperature and precipitation data for March 2020 in El Paso

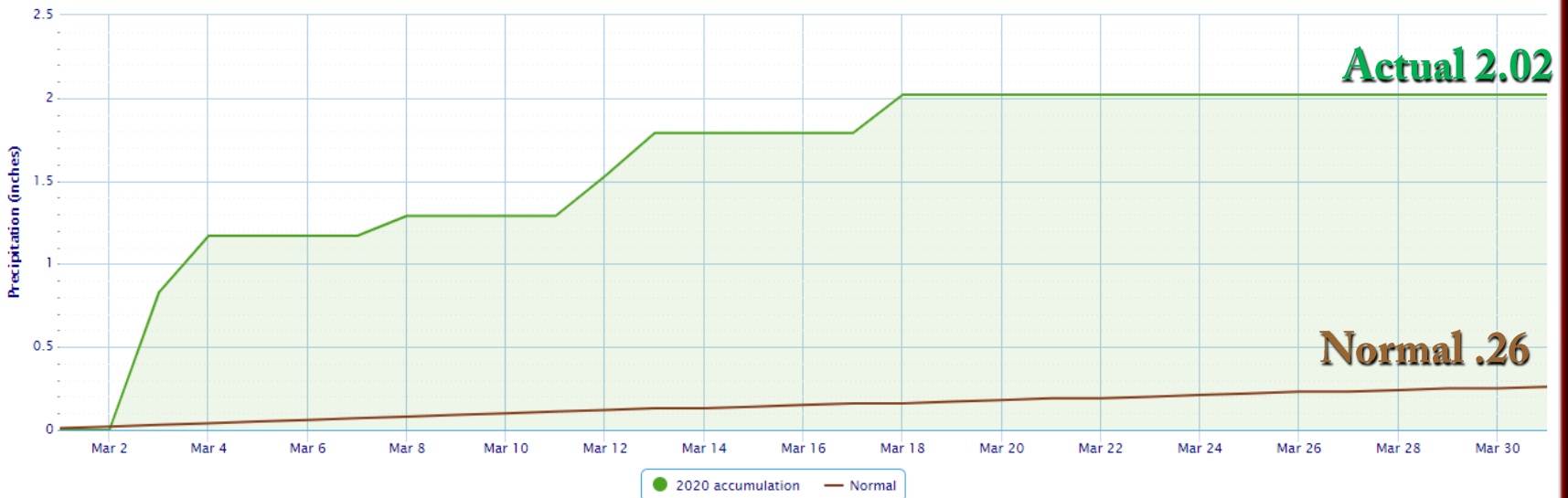
Daily Temperature Data – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2020-04-05; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2020-04-05. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.

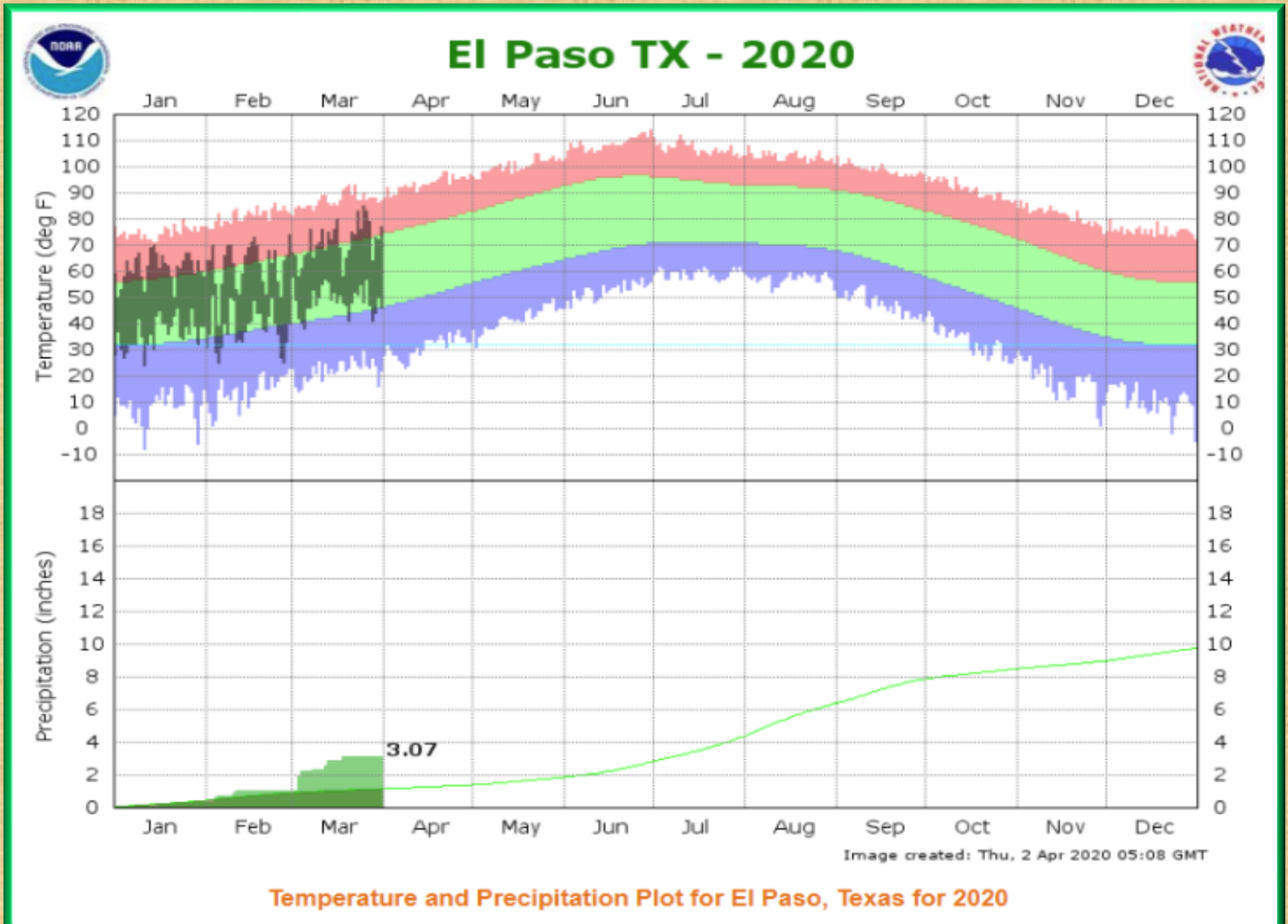


Accumulated Precipitation – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

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



# 2020 Year to Date: Temperature and Precipitation Data for El Paso

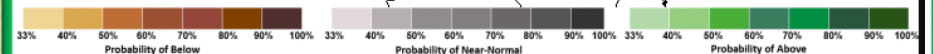
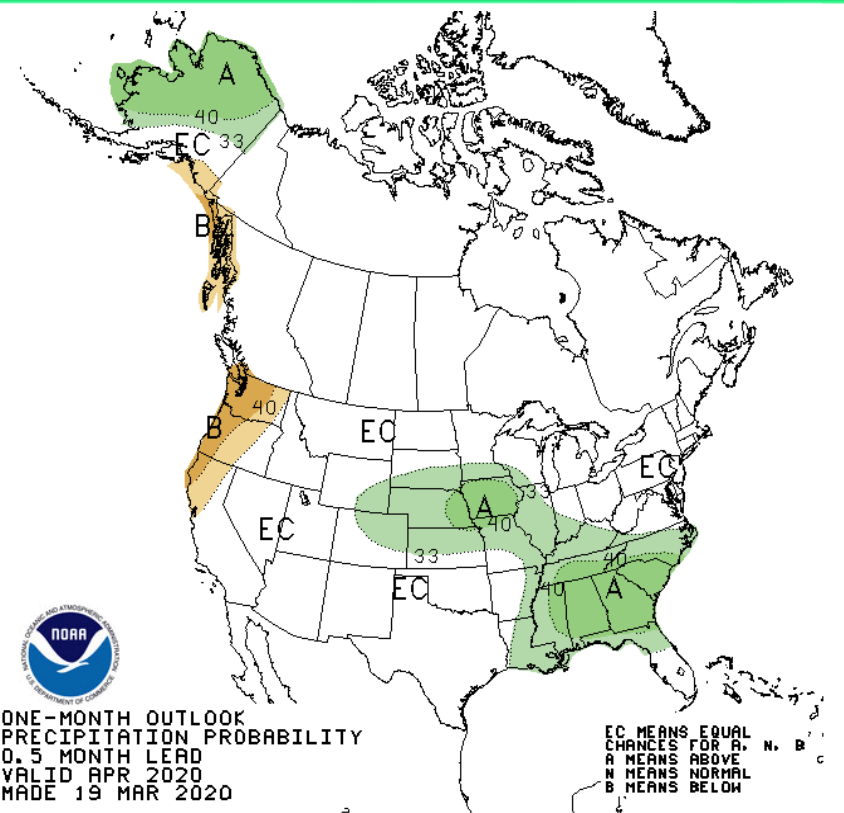
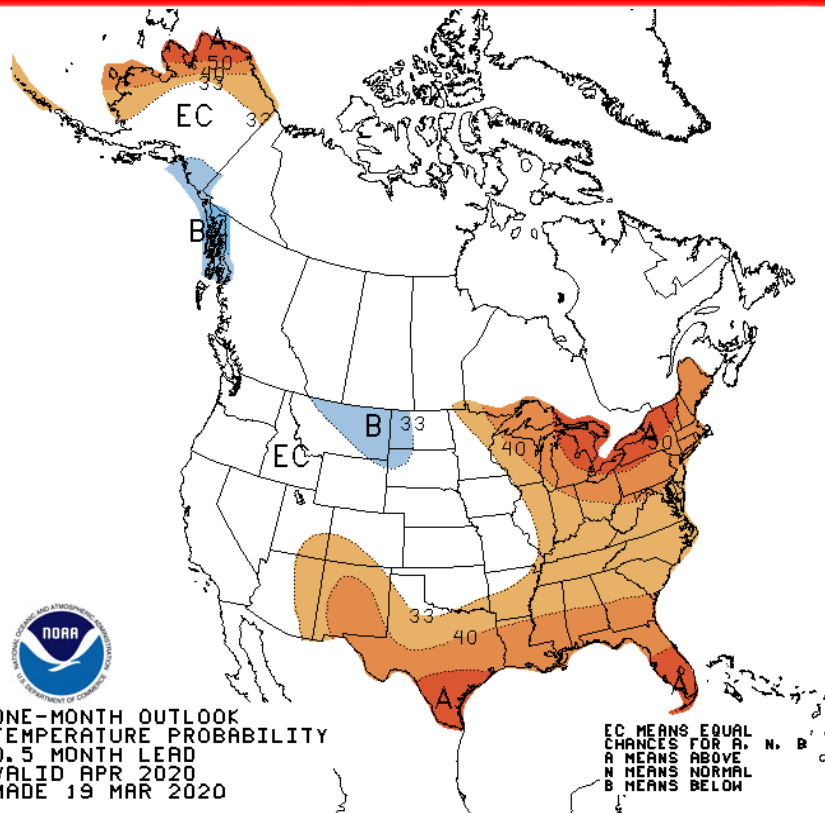


Temperature and Precipitation Plot for El Paso, Texas for 2020

# Temperature and precipitation outlook for April 2020

## Temperature

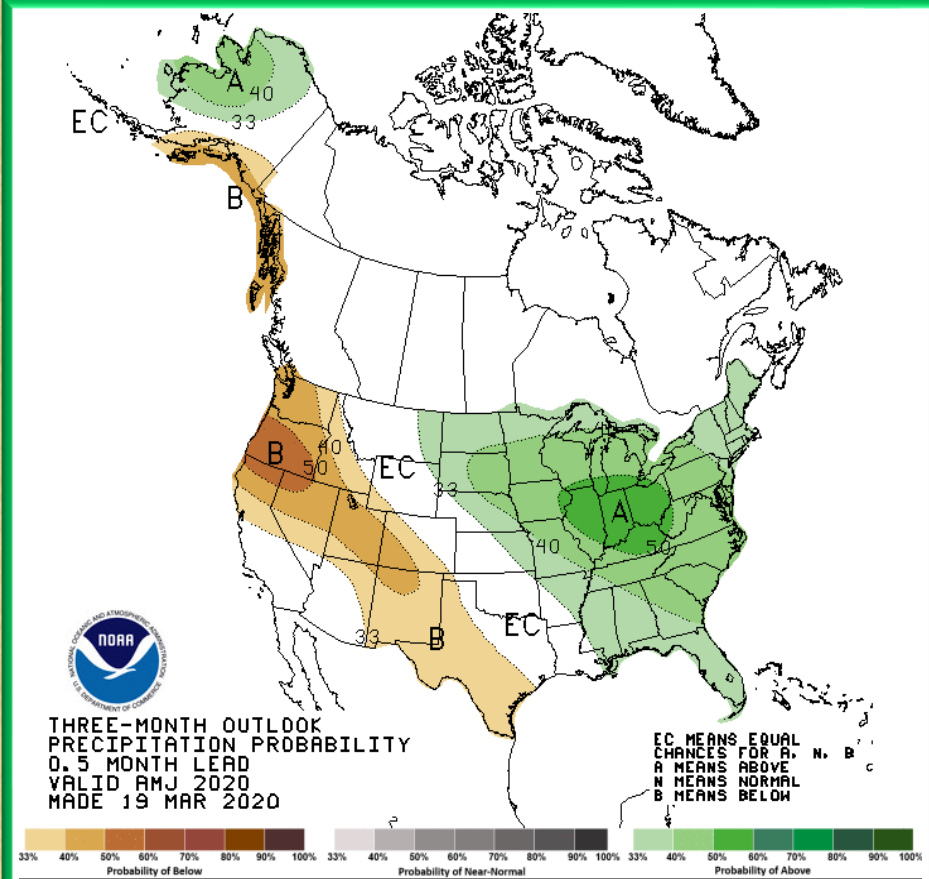
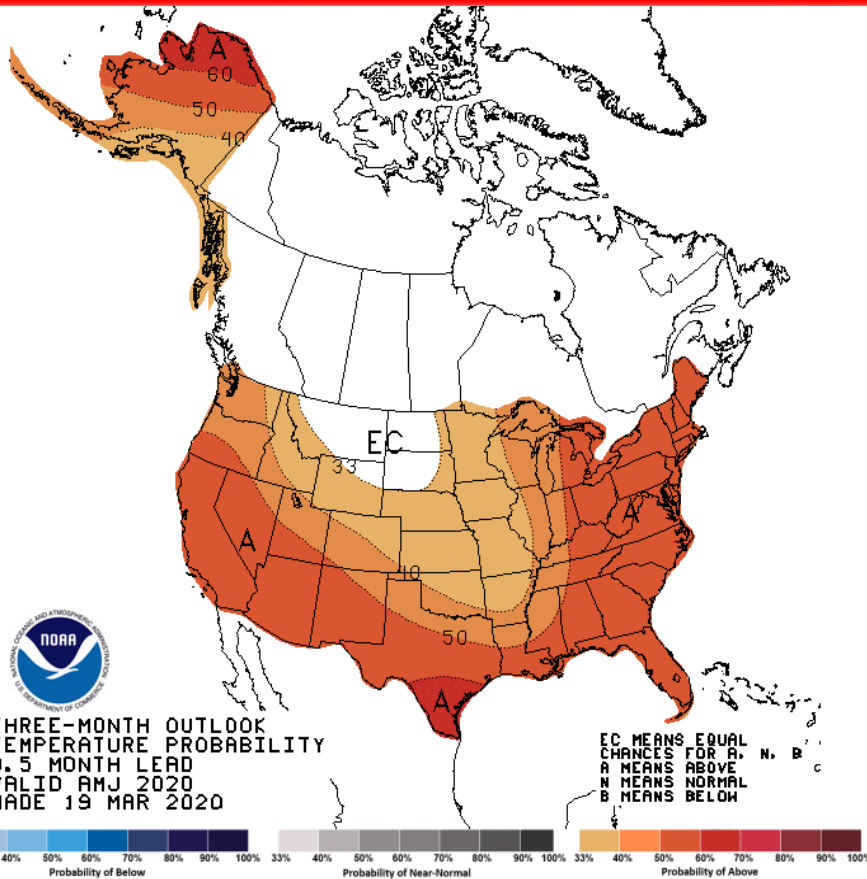
## Precipitation



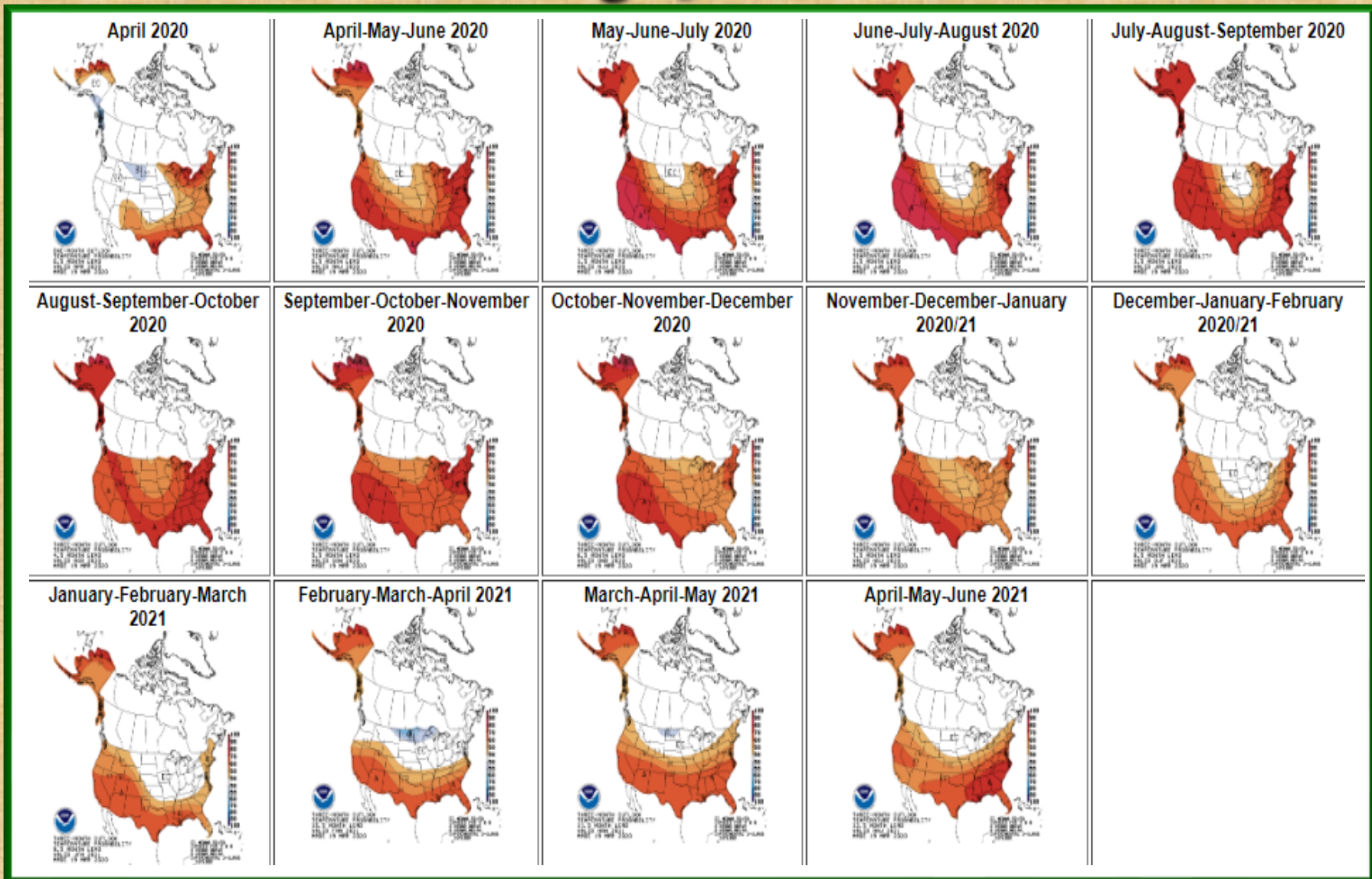
# Temperature and precipitation outlook For April-June 2020

## Temperature

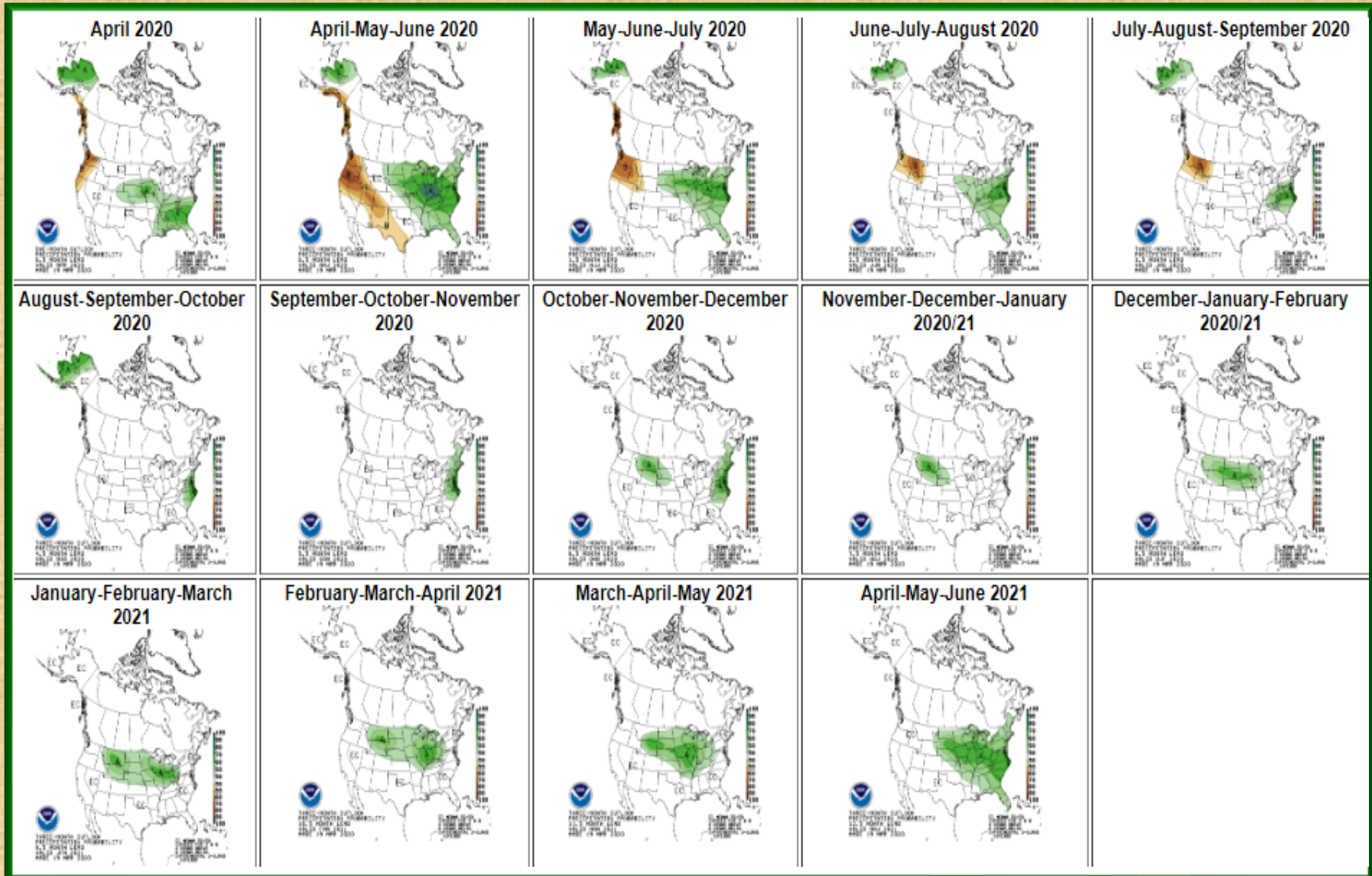
## Precipitation



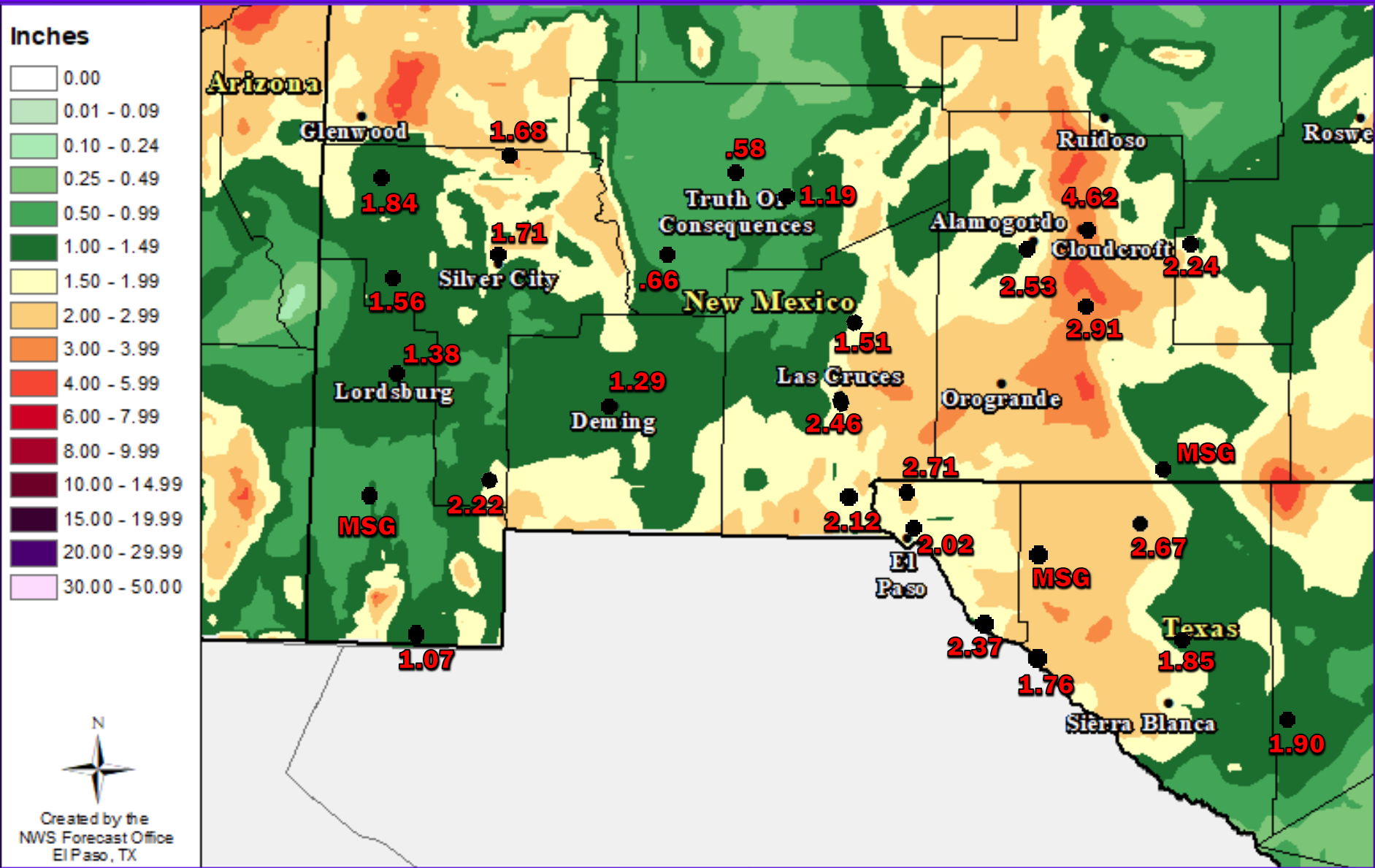
# Temperature Outlook Through June 2021



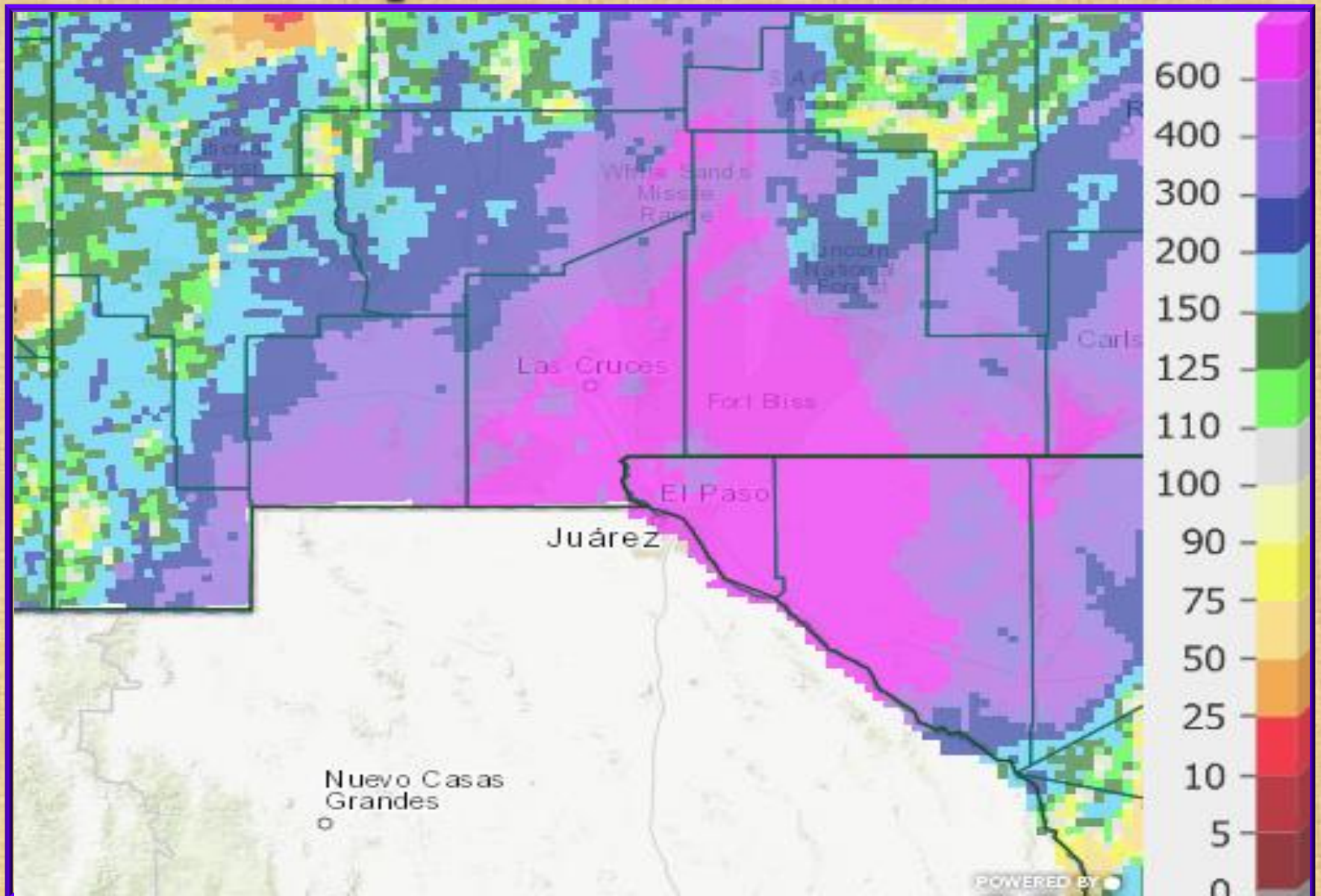
# Precipitation Outlook Through June 2021



# March 2020 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports

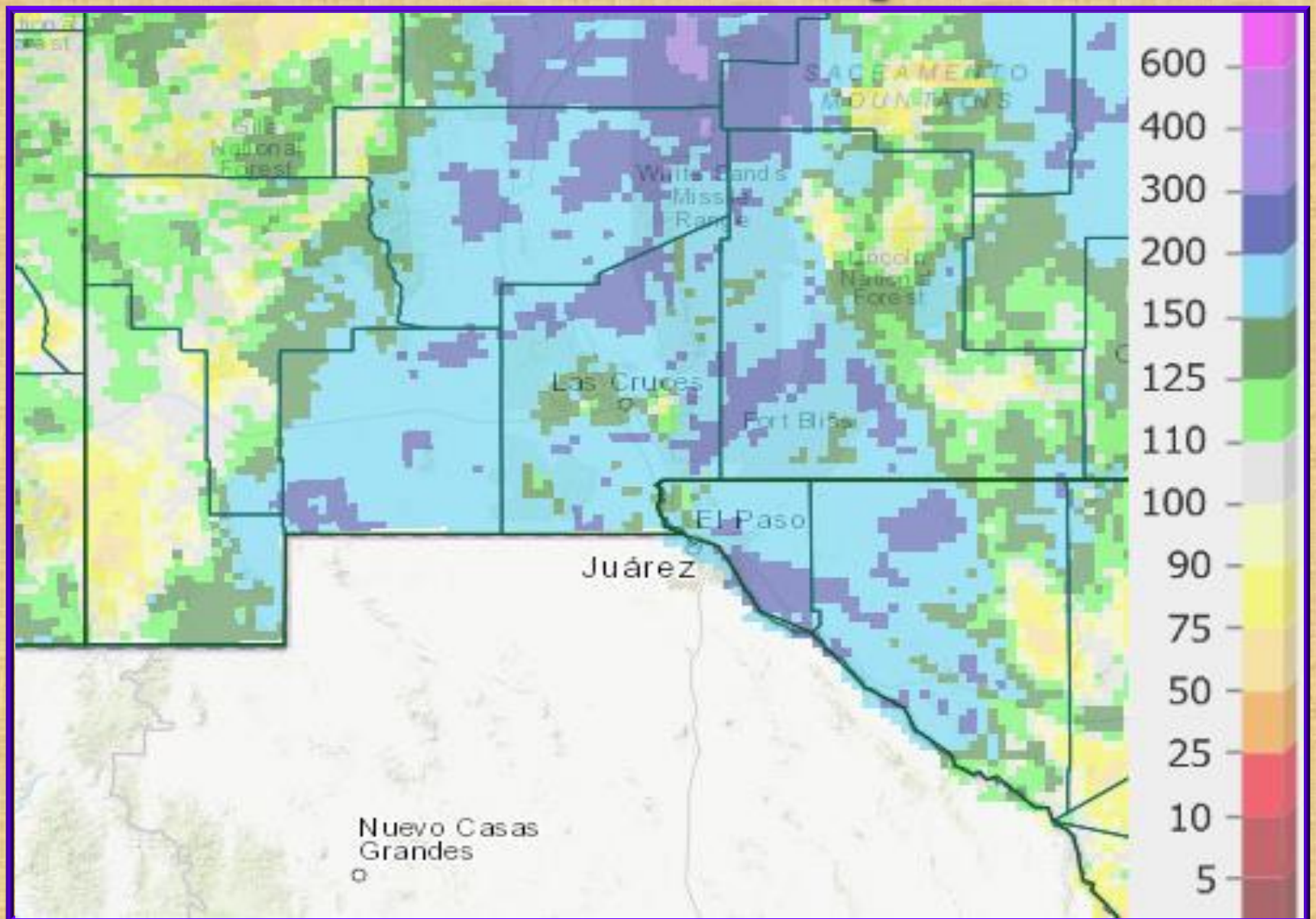


# March 2020 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal





# Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 to present)

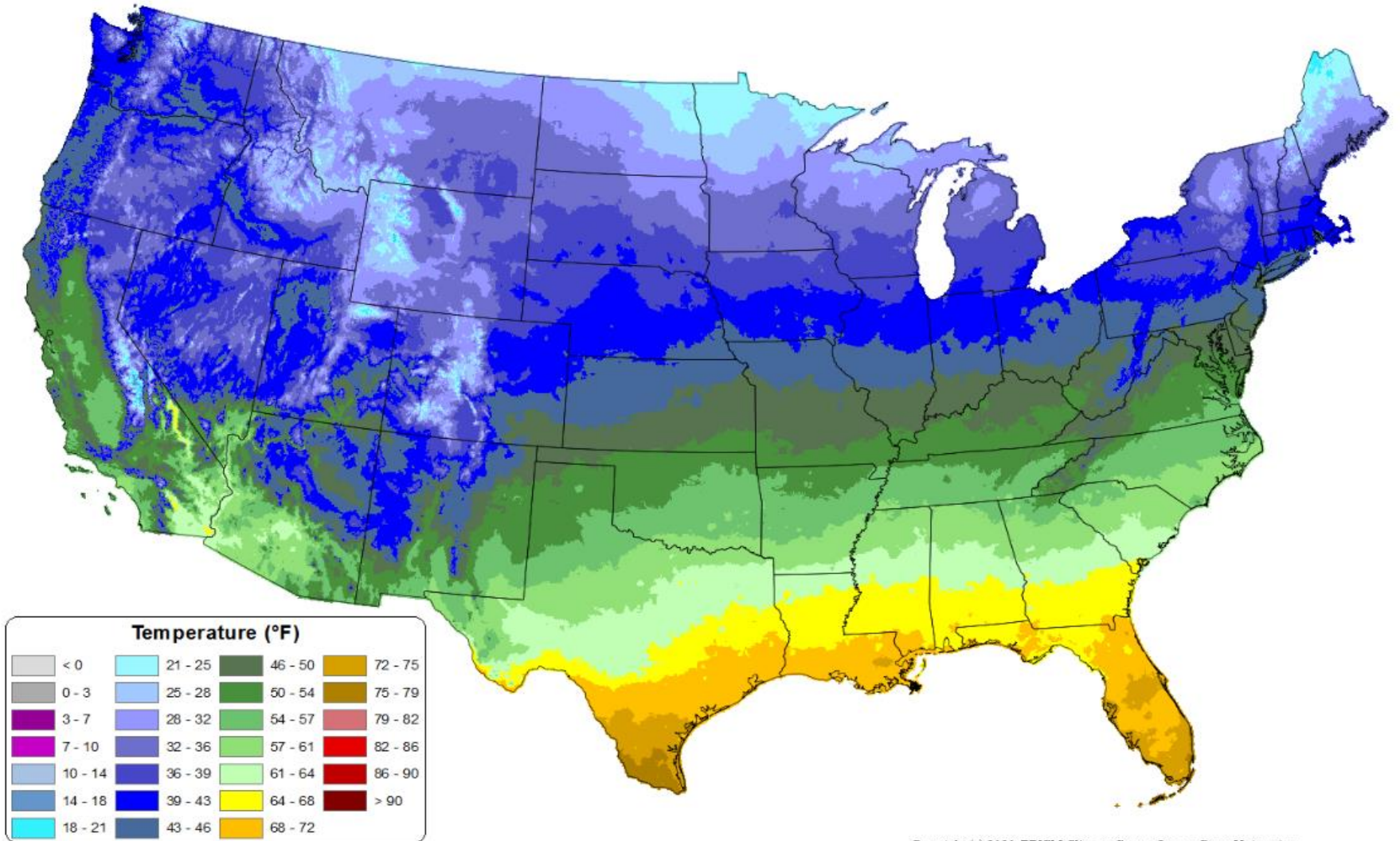


# Average Daily Mean Temperature for March 2020

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Mar 2020

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2020

(Map created 02 Apr 2020)

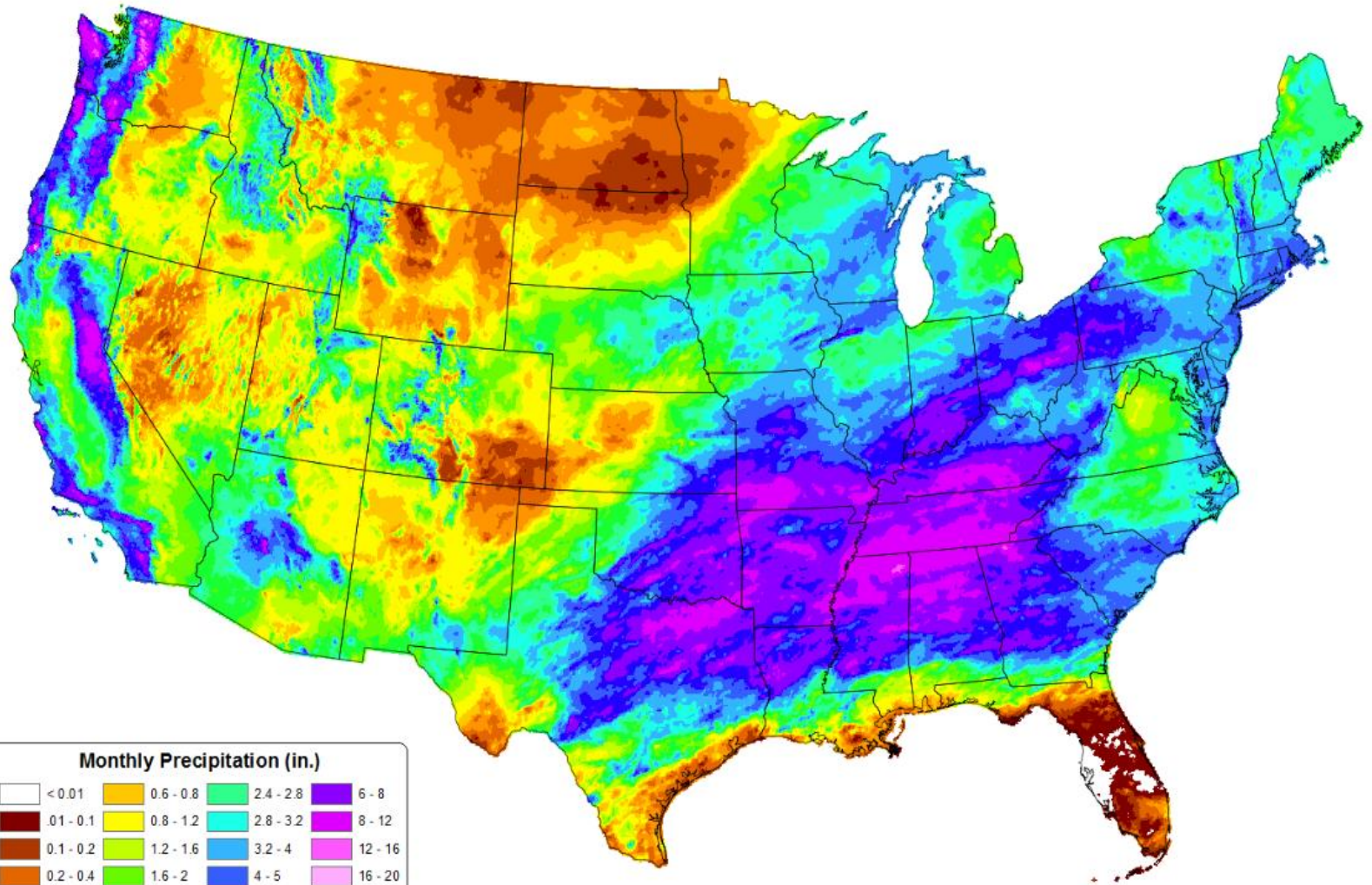


# Total Precipitation for March 2020

## Total Precipitation: Mar 2020

Period ending 31 Mar 2020

(Map created 02 Apr 2020)



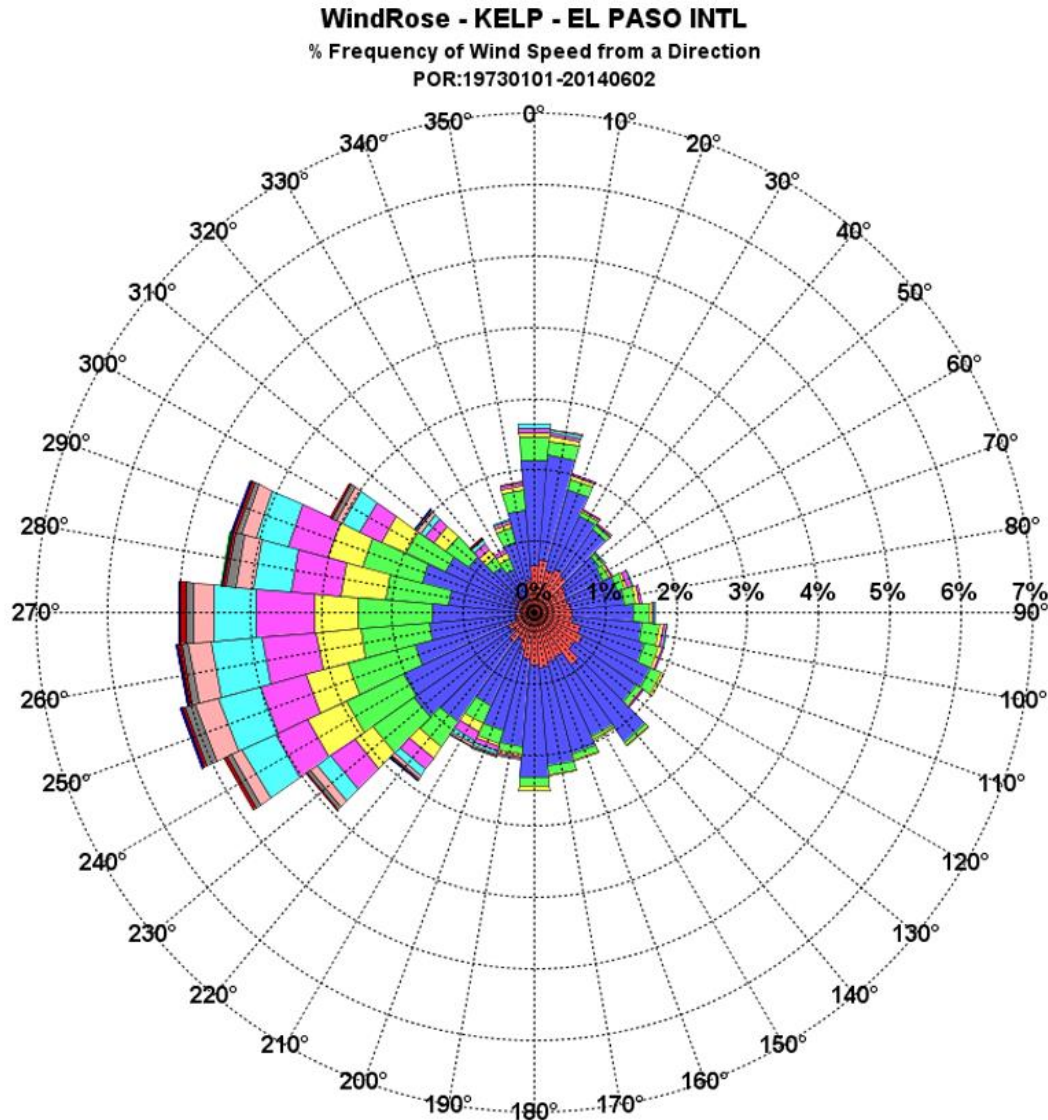
### Monthly Precipitation (in.)



# Special Features

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

Month: MARCH  
Calm: 8.61%  
Variable: 2.25%



# Selected weather reports March 2020

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
MAR 4 800 AM	DELL CITY 1SW-HUDSPETH	2.00 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 700 AM	LAS CRUCES 6SE-DONA ANA	1.91 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 700 AM	MAYHILL 4SE-OTERO	1.90 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 800 AM	EL PASO 3SW-EL PASO	1.85 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 700 AM	WSMR-DONA ANA	1.75 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 700 AM	ORGAN 2W-DONA ANA	1.55 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 749 AM	ANTHONY 8SW-DONA ANA	1.29 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 700 AM	CHAPARRAL-DONA ANA	1.27 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 700 AM	SANTA TERESA 1NW-DONA AN	1.24 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 830 AM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	1.17 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 700 AM	SOCORRO-EL PASO	1.04 INCHES OF RAIN

# Selected weather reports March 2020

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
MAR 4 700 AM	SIERRA BLANCA 15SE-HUDSPETH	1.00 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 800 AM	SUNSPOT-OTERO	0.92 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 700 AM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO	0.73 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 4 700 AM	ALAMOGORDO 2SE-OTERO	0.40 INCHES OF RAIN
MAR 13 305 PM	BOLES ACRES-OTERO	EF-0 TORNADO
MAR 23 330 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	72 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 625PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	54 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 200 PM	EL PASO 10NE-EL PASO	51 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 630 PM	MAYHILL 3NW-OTERO	49 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 455 PM	SPACEPORT AMERICA-SIERRA	46 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 345 PM	TULAROSA 20NW- SIERRA	44 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected weather reports March 2020

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
MAR 23 515 PM	SILVER CITY AIRPORT-GRANT	44 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 445 PM	ROAD FORKS 4NE-HIDALGO	44 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 403 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	44 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 454 PM	FAYWOOD-GRANT	43 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 355 PM	SUNSPOT-OTERO	43 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 555 PM	ALAMOGORDO AIRPORT- OTERO	40 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 23 426 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	40 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 135 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	88 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 610 PM	SUNSPOT-OTERO	68 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 326 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	66 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 754 PM	CLINT-EL PASO	63 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected weather reports March 2020

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
MAR 27 306 PM	EL PASO 6NE-EL PASO	61 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 600 PM	CHAPARRAL-DONA ANA	59 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 600 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	58 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 514 PM	SANTA TERESA 5NW-DONA ANA	58 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 350 PM	OROGRANDE-OTERO	58 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 401 PM	MAYHILL 3NW-OTERO	58 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 225 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	55 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 259 PM	REDROCK 12E-GRANT	54 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 340 PM	HACHITA 15SW-HIDALGO	53 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 500 PM	ANTHONY-DONA ANA	51 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 235 PM	ALAMOGORDO AIRPORT-OTERO	51 MPH PEAK WIND



# Selected weather reports March 2020

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
MAR 27 300 PM	SOCORRO-EL PASO	51 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 700 PM	SUNLAND PARK-DONA ANA	50 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 341 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	50 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 1155 AM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	49 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 630 PM	CANUTILLO-EL PASO	49 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 256 PM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO	45 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 150 PM	SPACEPORT AMERICA-SIERRA	45 MPH PEAK WIND

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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**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

**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.**

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>	

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

