

# April 2021 Weather Digest



# April 2021 Weather Summary

April started out on a quiet note and for much of the month was dry and breezy, typical for this time of the year. However activity picked up toward the end of the month with a couple of storm systems. The first one moved through the area on the 17th and 18th, bringing a few light showers to the lowlands and some light snow to area mountains. The second storm barreled in off the Pacific ocean beginning on the 28th. This brought with it scattered lowland showers and mountain snow. The snow became heavy over portions of the Sacramento Mountains early on the 29th, and up to one foot of snow was reported in the Cloudcroft vicinity. For the month the area east of the Rio Grande Valley benefited from several days of showers, ending up with near to above normal precipitation for April. Unfortunately areas west of the Rio Grande observed much less precipitation and remained below normal for the month. There was one serious wildfire to develop, which was just west of Ruidoso, starting up on the 26th.

April was the last month for significant snows over the upper Rio Grande Basin and the month and the season finished a little disappointing. The snow pack and snowfall finished ahead of last year but below normal. Elephant Butte Reservoir is well below normal and releases this summer are likely to be brief and below normal.

# April 2021 Weather Summary, cont'd

Looking ahead to May, the area continues to warm up rapidly as we approach summer. The average high temperature at El Paso on the 1st is 84 degrees, while on the last day of the month it is 94 degrees. May is the last of the three driest months of the year; March and April being the other two. Most lowland areas only receive about one-third of an inch or less in all three of these months. This means current exceptional drought conditions will likely continue. Day length continues to increase, from 13 hours, 26 minutes on May 1, to 14 hours, 04 minutes on May 31.

For our fans of the moon, our full moon in May will occur on the 26th, also known as the Flower Moon. The new moon will occur on the 11th. There will be a total eclipse of the moon on the 26th, viewable mostly over the Pacific Ocean but also including the western U.S.

VILLAGE OF CLOUDCROFT NEW MEXICO 9,000 feet above stress level **Apr 17 Cloudcroft Snow**



© 2021, CloudcroftWebcam.com 04/17/21 06:11:36 AM MDT

VILLAGE OF CLOUDCROFT NEW MEXICO 9,000 feet above stress level **Apr 18 Cloudcroft Snow**



© 2021, CloudcroftWebcam.com 04/18/21 06:18:16 AM MDT

**Apr 26 Three Rivers Fire**



**Apr 26 Three Rivers Fire**



**Apr 26 Three Rivers Fire**



**Apr 26 Three Rivers Fire**

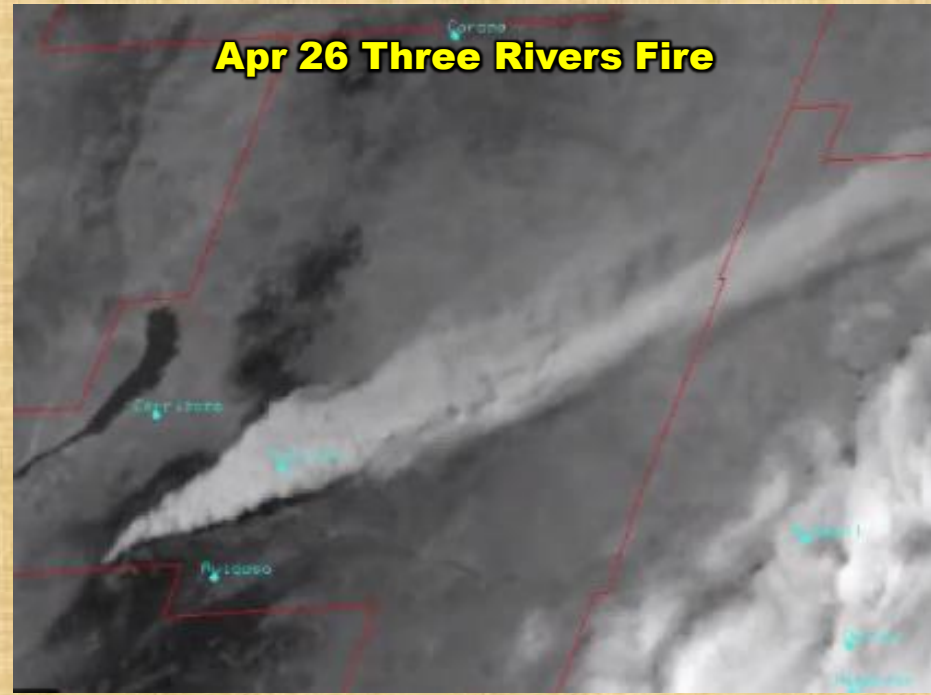


**Apr 26 Three Rivers Fire**

ruidoso.net  
It's where to go!



**Apr 26 Three Rivers Fire**



## Apr 29 Cloudcroft Snow



## Apr 29 Cloudcroft Snow



## Apr 29 Organ Mtn Snow



## Apr 29 Silver City Showers



# **ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Advisory**

## **ENSO Alert System**

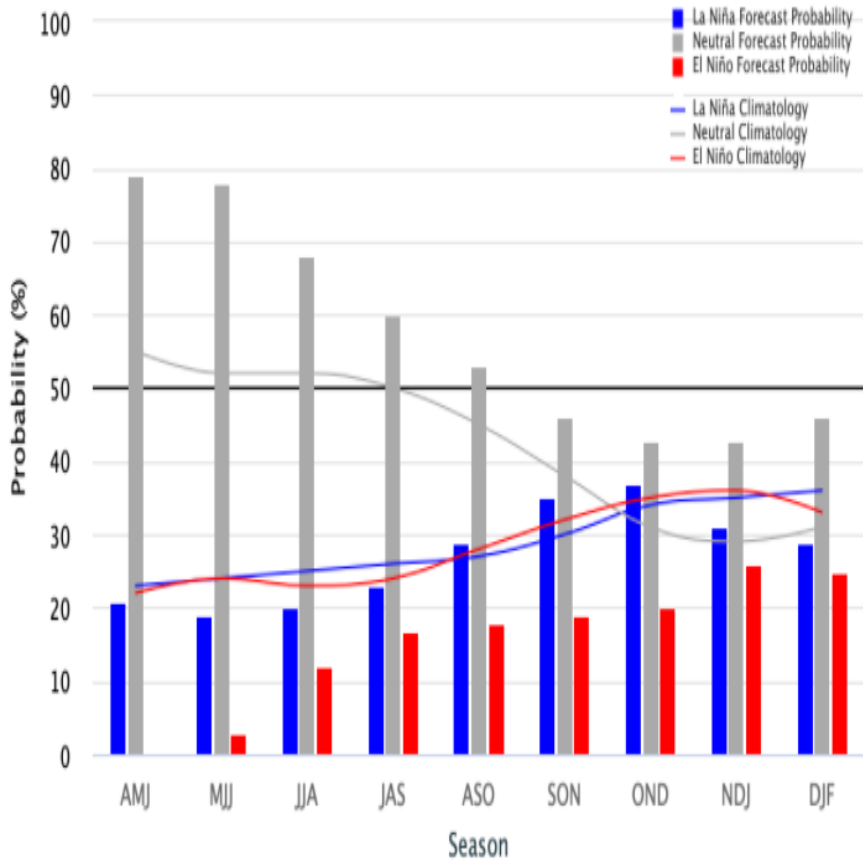
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

# ENSO Forecast

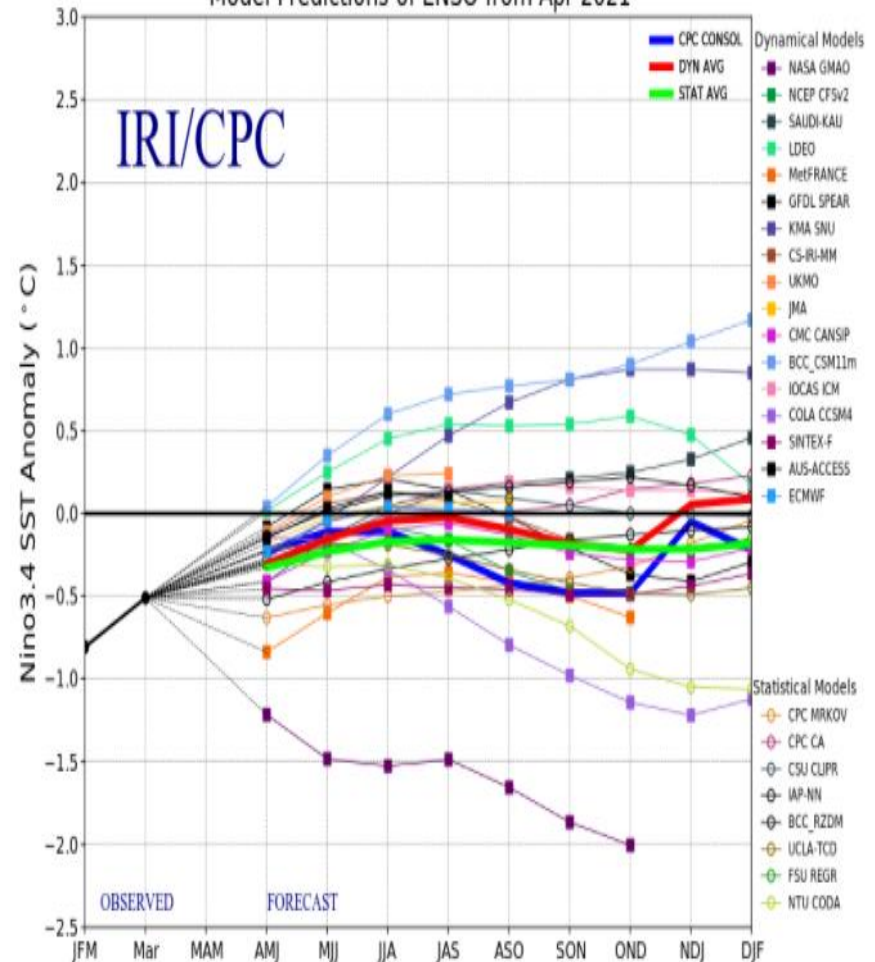
ENSO is now in a weak La Niña phase; should transition to neutral by May or June.

Mid-April 2021 IRI/CPC Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

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

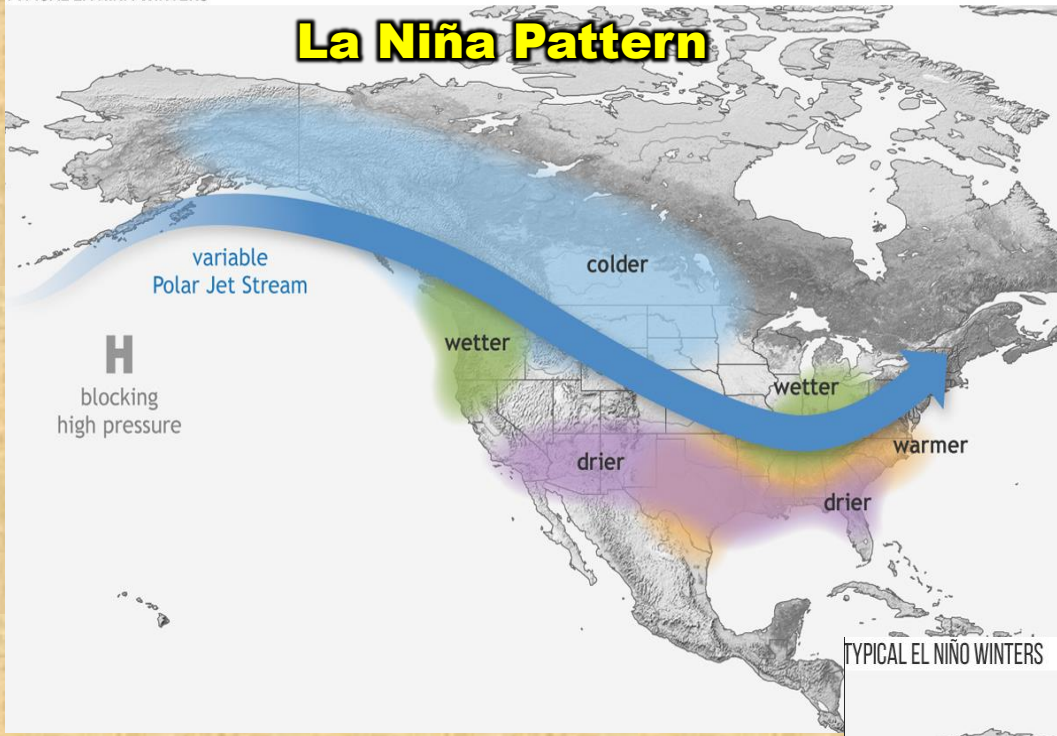


Model Predictions of ENSO from Apr 2021



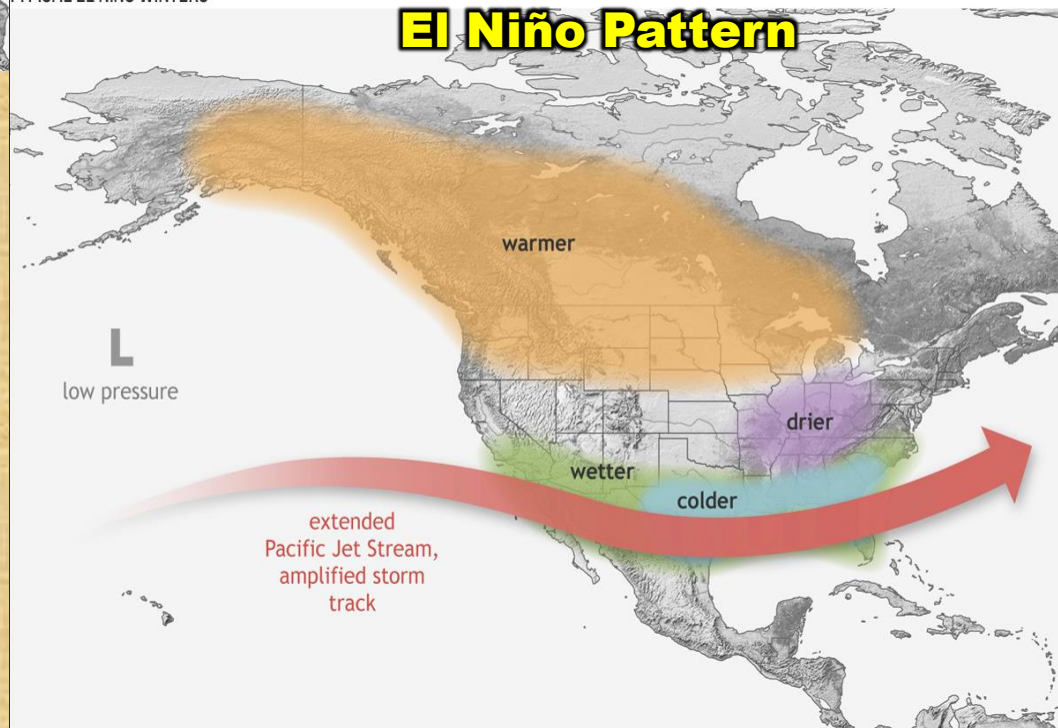


# La Niña Pattern



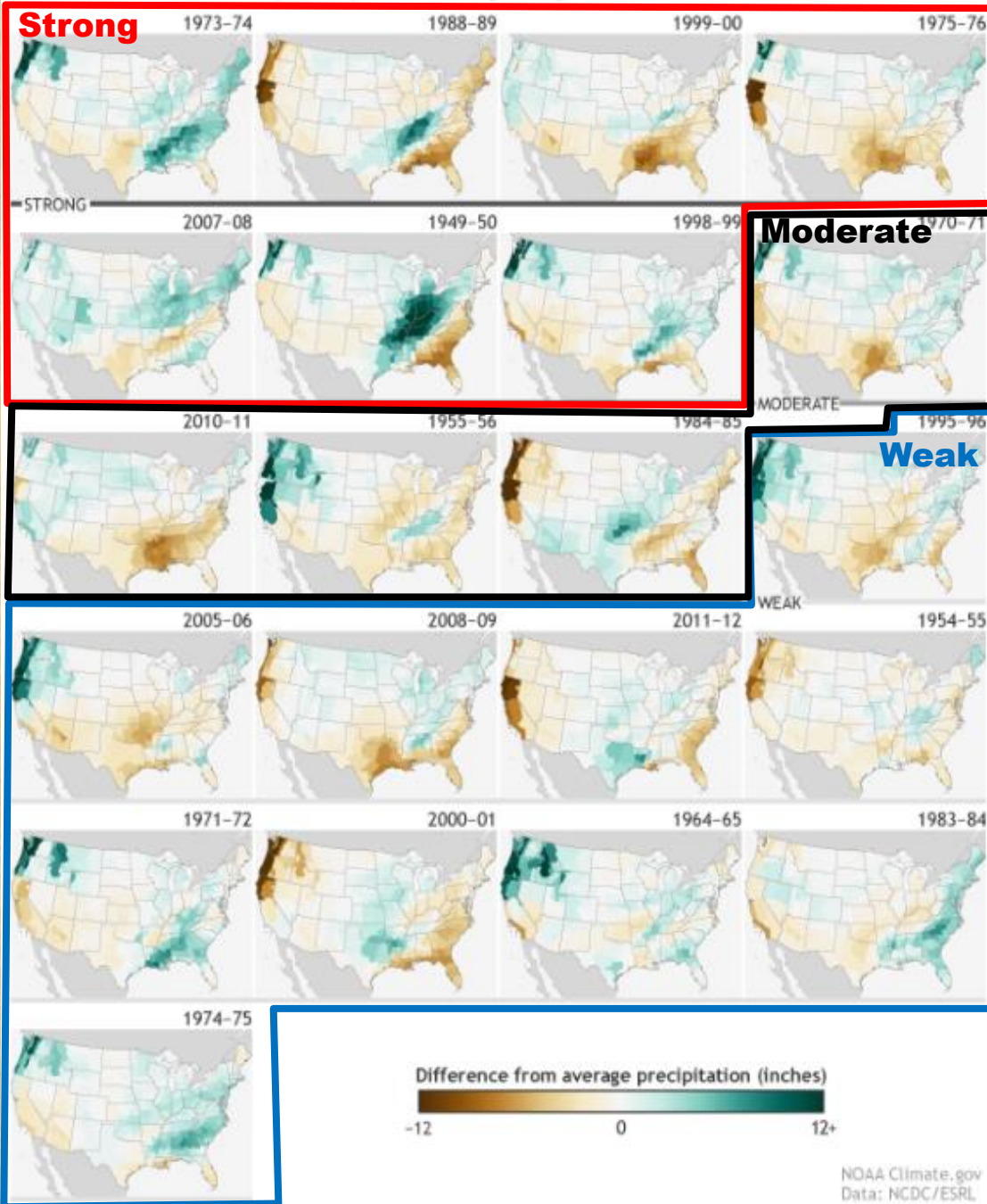
We are heading into a weak to moderate La Niña for much of this winter. As the pattern shows, a ridge of high pressure tends to build off the west coast of the U.S., blocking most of our Pacific winter storm systems. These storms tend to end up moving across the northern Plains and down to the southeastern part of the country. Of course it is important to remember that these patterns are only what typically happens and are not guaranteed to occur.

# El Niño Pattern



With El Niño, we often see the opposite pattern where the eastern Pacific ridge of high pressure is often weak or non-existent, allowing winter storms to sweep across the southern U.S. This typically will give the southwestern U.S. above normal precipitation.

Winter (December-February) precipitation during strong, moderate, and weak La Niñas since 1950



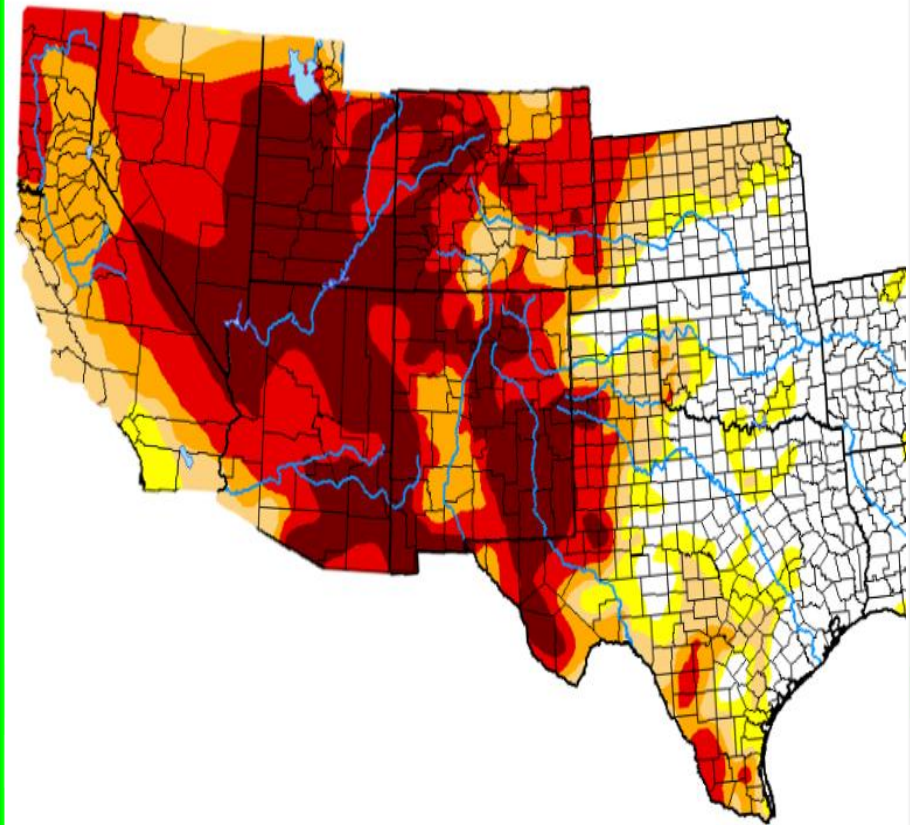
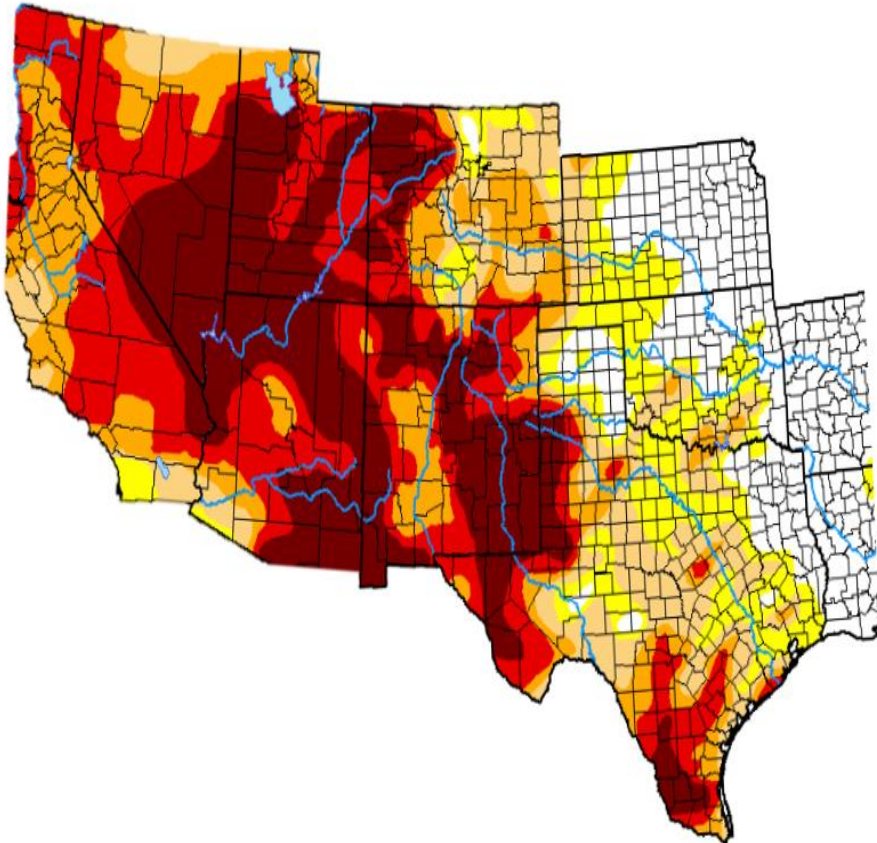
Examples of the numerous La Niña winters since 1950. These maps depict the departure from normal precipitation amounts for a winter.

# Current drought conditions and 3 month change

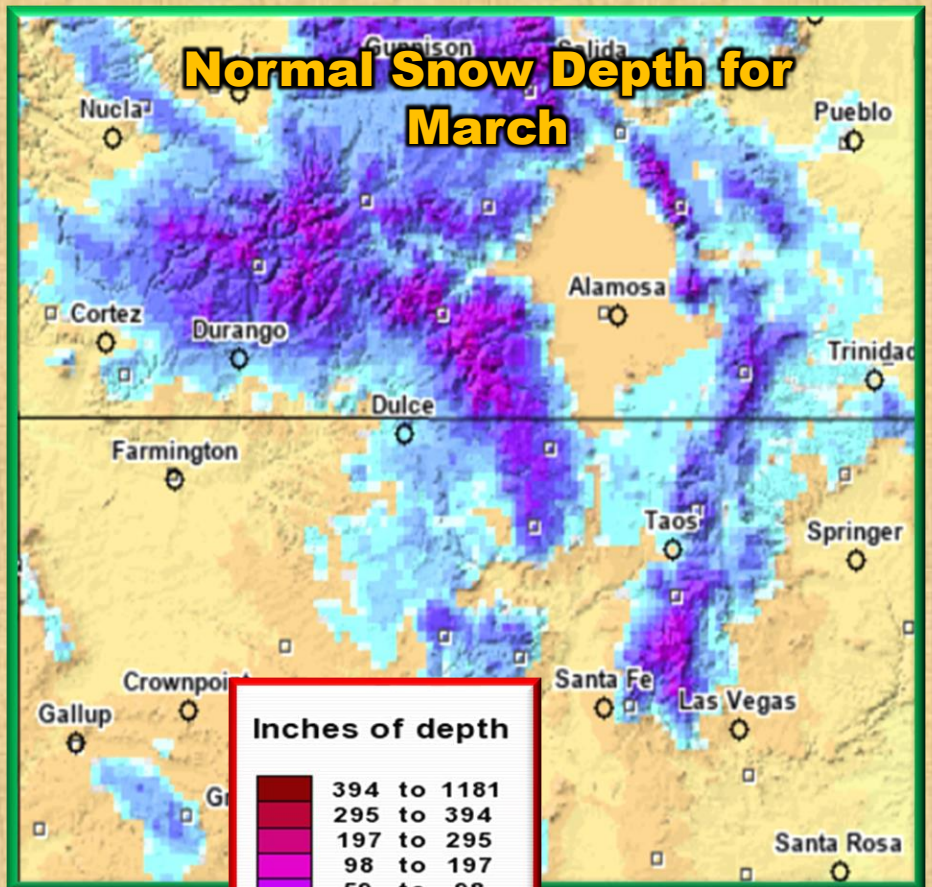
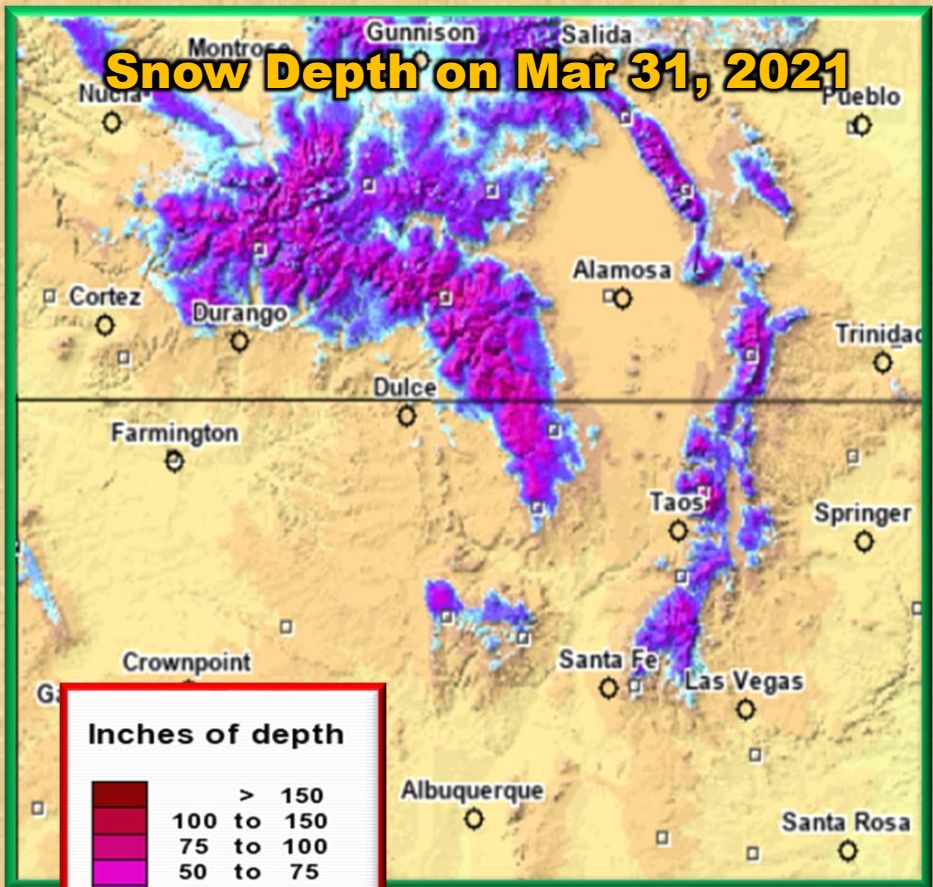
- Abnormally Dry – D0
- Moderate Drought – D1
- Severe Drought – D2
- Extreme Drought – D3
- Exceptional – D4

**April 27, 2021**

**January 26, 2021**



# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of April 30, 2021



**Inches of depth**

Dark Red	> 150
Red	100 to 150
Dark Pink	75 to 100
Light Pink	50 to 75
Magenta	40 to 50
Dark Purple	30 to 40
Medium Purple	20 to 30
Light Purple	16 to 20
Blue-Gray	12 to 16
Light Blue	8.0 to 12
Very Light Blue	4.0 to 8.0
White	2.0 to 4.0
White	trace to 2.0

Not Estimated

**Elevation in feet**

White	> 13124
Light Yellow	8203 to 13124
Yellow	3281 to 8203
Green	3 to 3281
Dark Green	< 3

**Inches of depth**

Dark Red	394 to 1181
Red	295 to 394
Dark Pink	197 to 295
Light Pink	98 to 197
Magenta	59 to 98
Dark Purple	39 to 59
Medium Purple	20 to 39
Light Purple	9.8 to 20
Blue-Gray	3.9 to 9.8
Light Blue	2.0 to 3.9
Very Light Blue	0.39 to 2.0
White	0.04 to 0.39
White	trace to 0.04

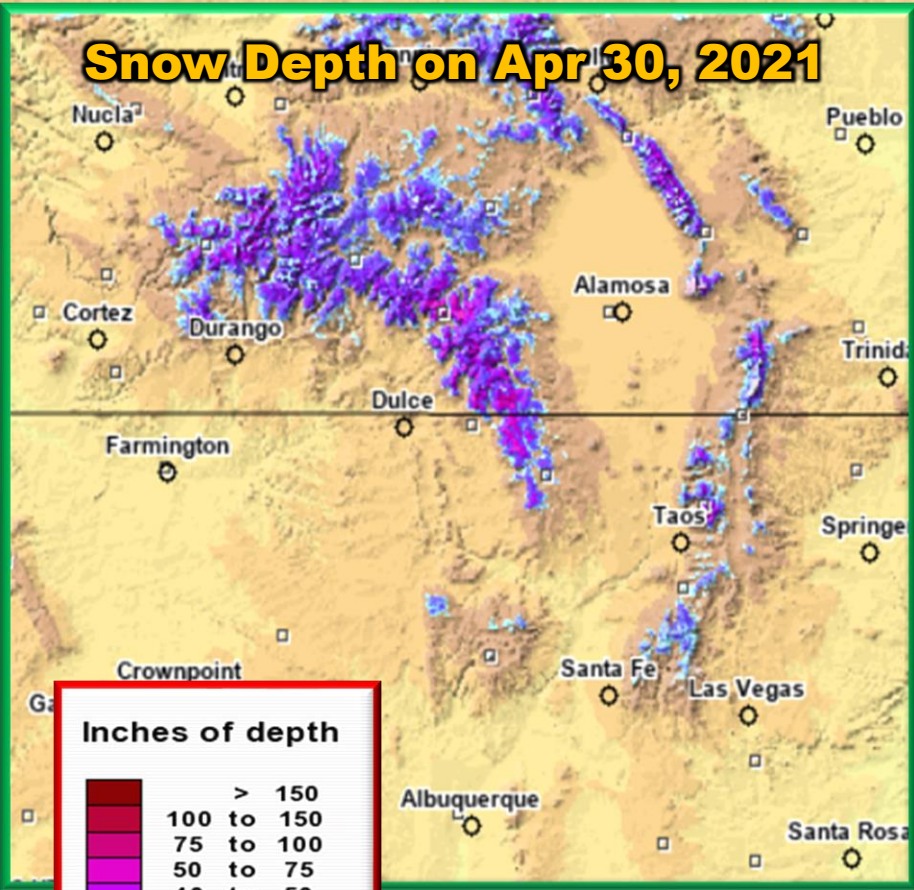
Not Estimated

**Elevation in feet**

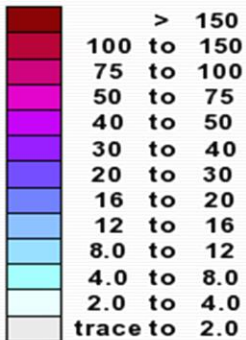
White	> 13124
Light Yellow	8203 to 13124
Yellow	3281 to 8203
Green	3 to 3281
Dark Green	< 3

# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of April 30, 2021

## Snow Depth on Apr 30, 2021

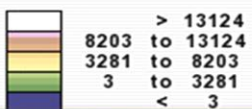


### Inches of depth

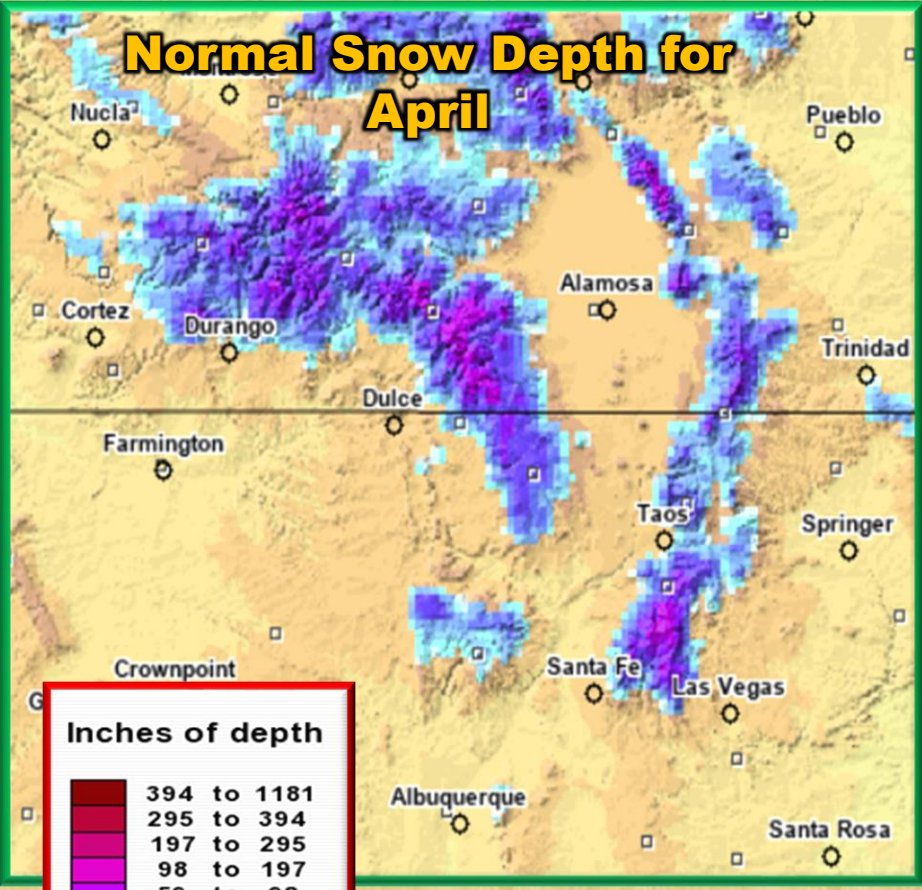


Not Estimated

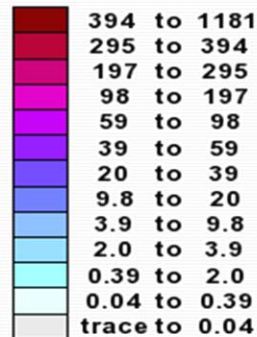
### Elevation in feet



## Normal Snow Depth for April

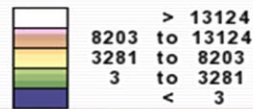


### Inches of depth



Not Estimated

### Elevation in feet



# Snow Water Equivalent as of April 30, 2020

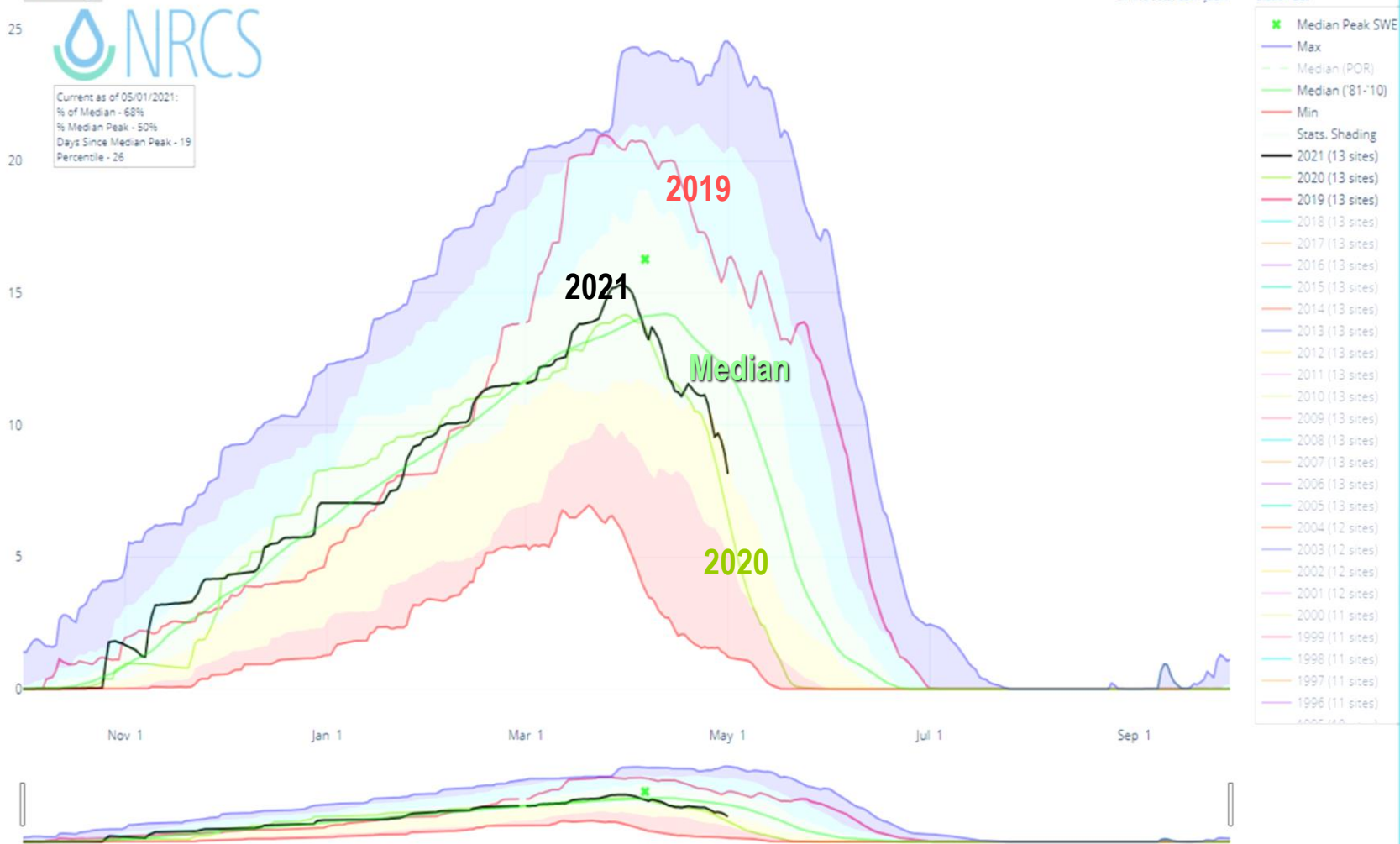
## Compare to last few years and average values

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER RIO GRANDE

Reset Range

Link to data: [CSV](#) / [JSON](#)

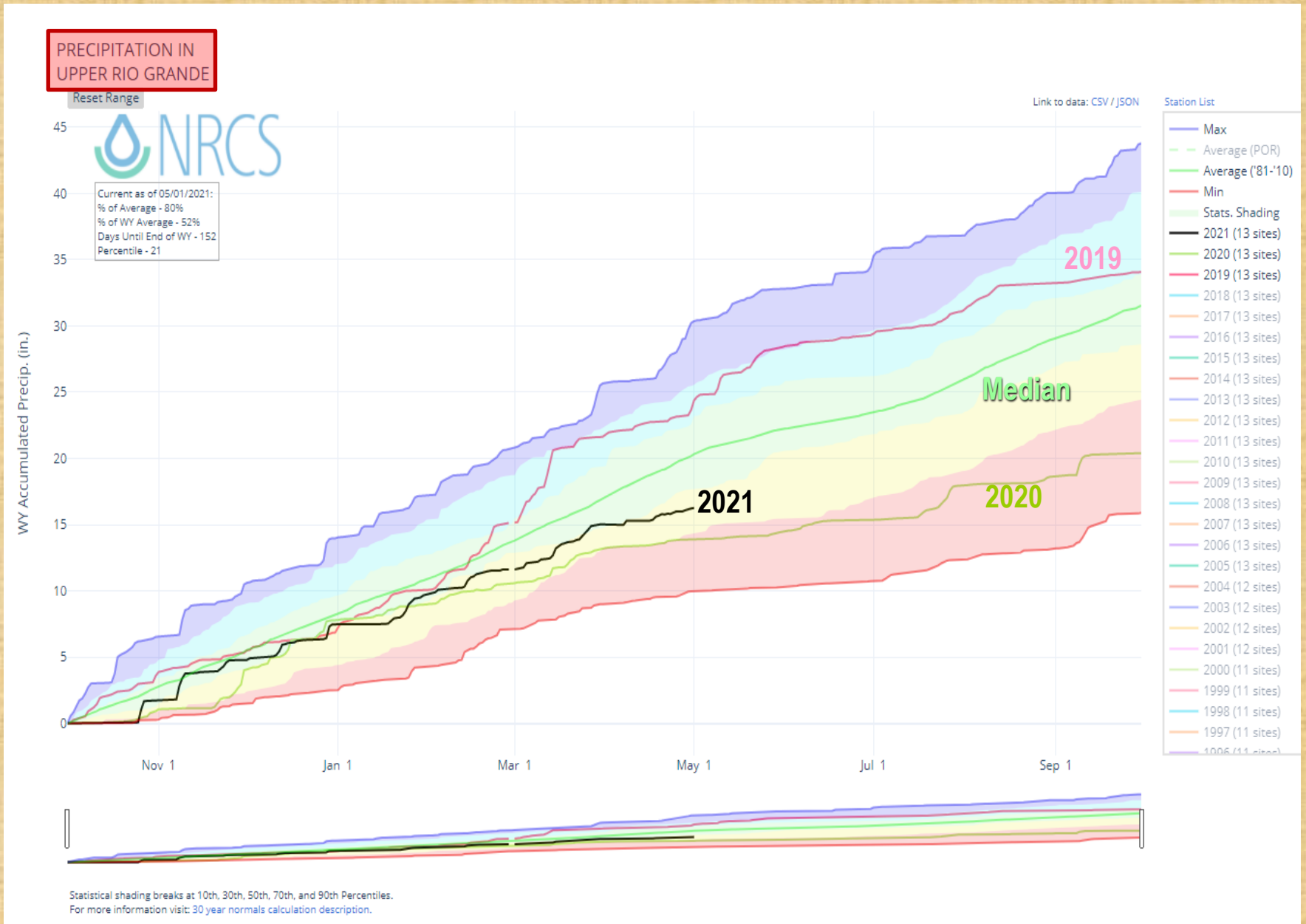
Station List



Statistical shading breaks at 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th Percentiles.  
 For more information visit: [30 year normals calculation description](#).

# Precipitation for the Water Year Oct 1 – April 30, 2021

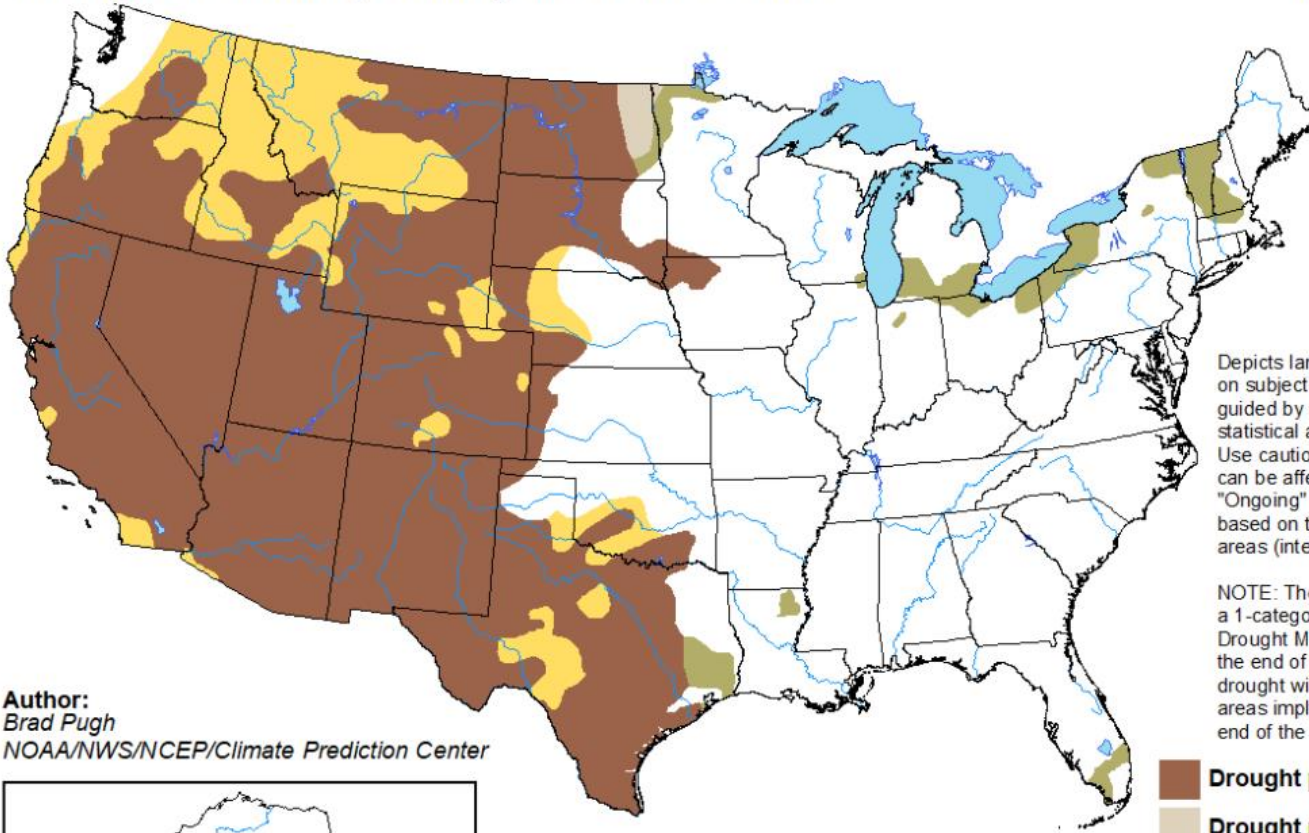
## Compare to last few years and average values



# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

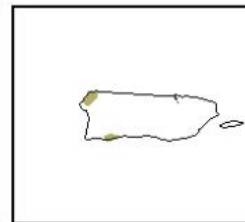
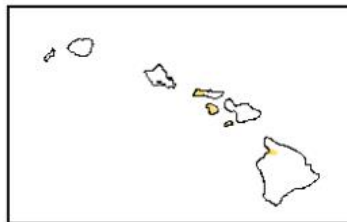
Valid for April 15 - July 31, 2021  
Released April 15



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>

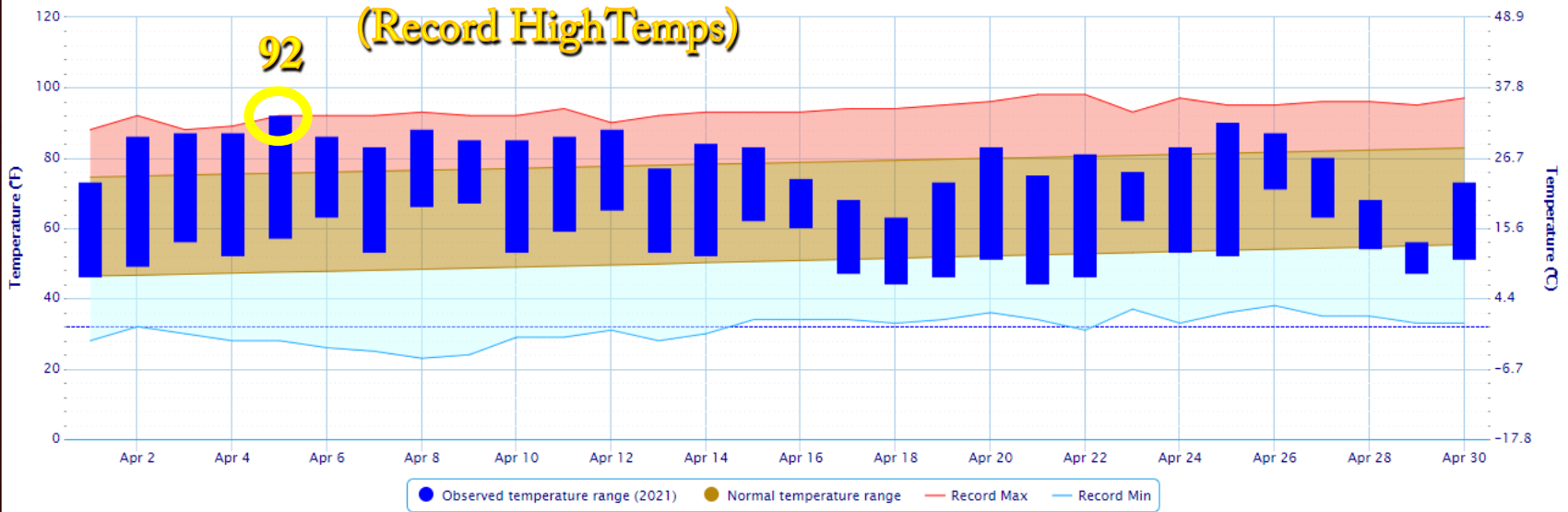


# Temperature and precipitation data for April 2021 in El Paso

○ = record

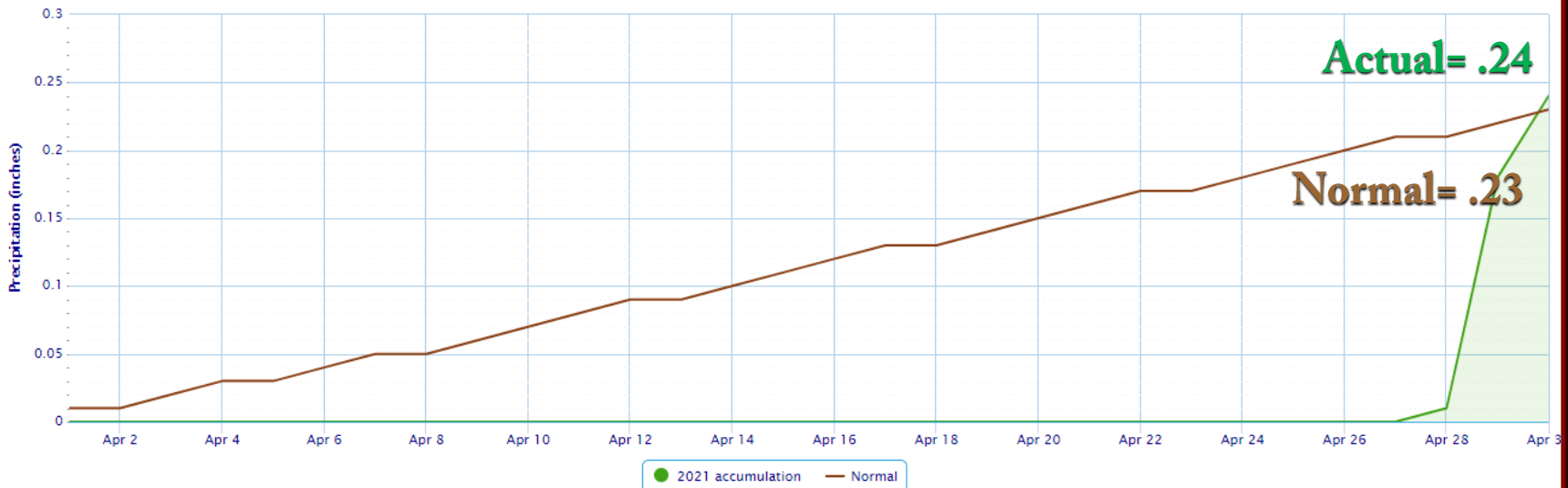
Daily Temperature Data – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2021-04-30; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2021-04-30. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.

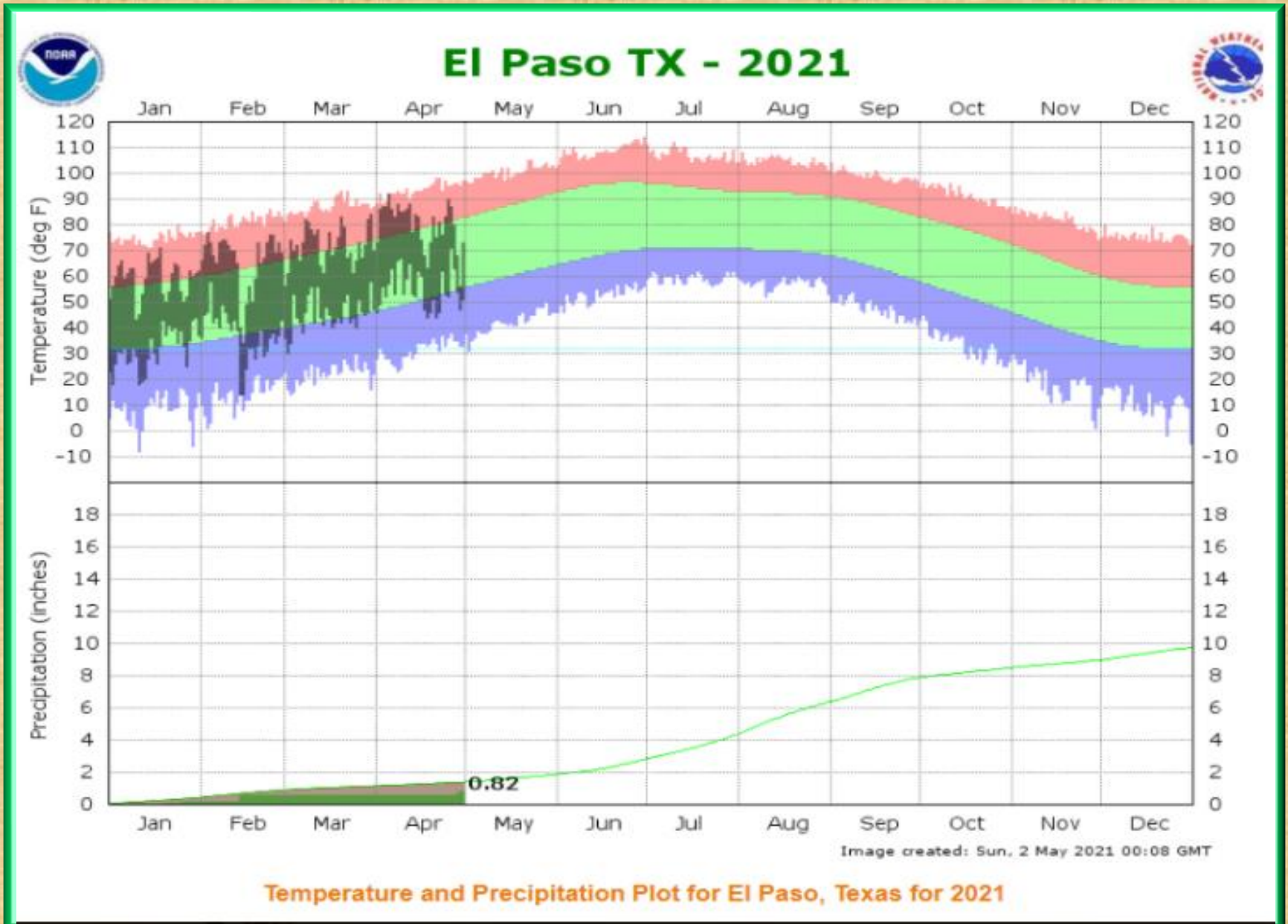


Accumulated Precipitation – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

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



# 2021: Temperature and Precipitation YTD Data for El Paso

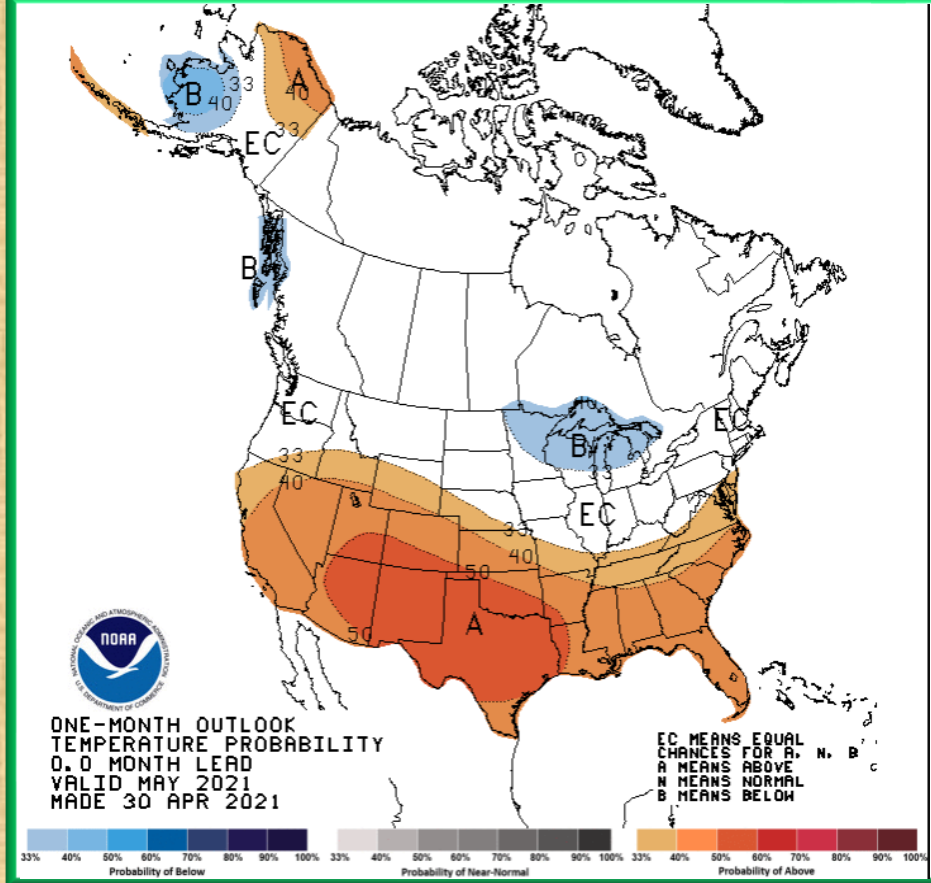
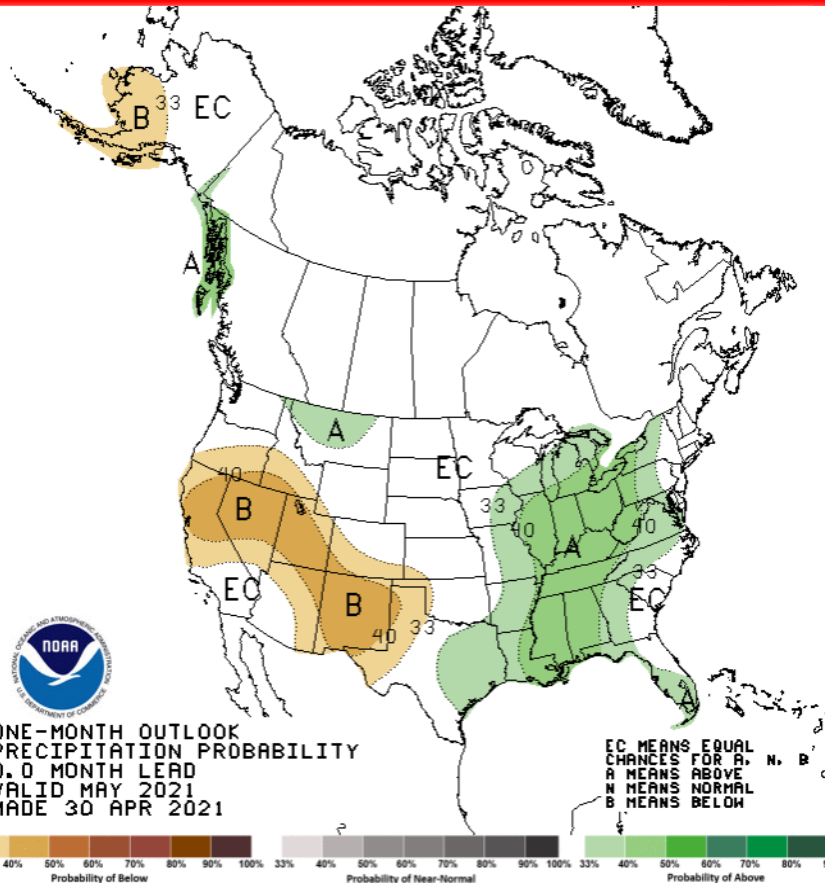


Temperature and Precipitation Plot for El Paso, Texas for 2021

# Temperature and precipitation outlook for May 2021

## Temperature

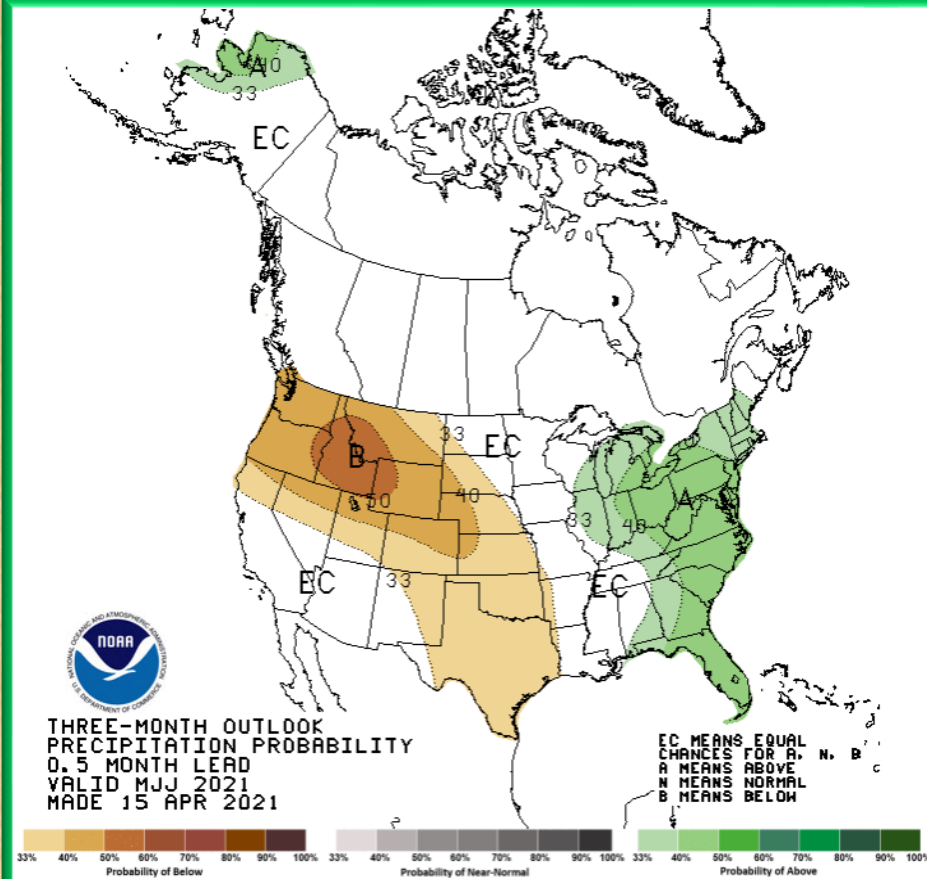
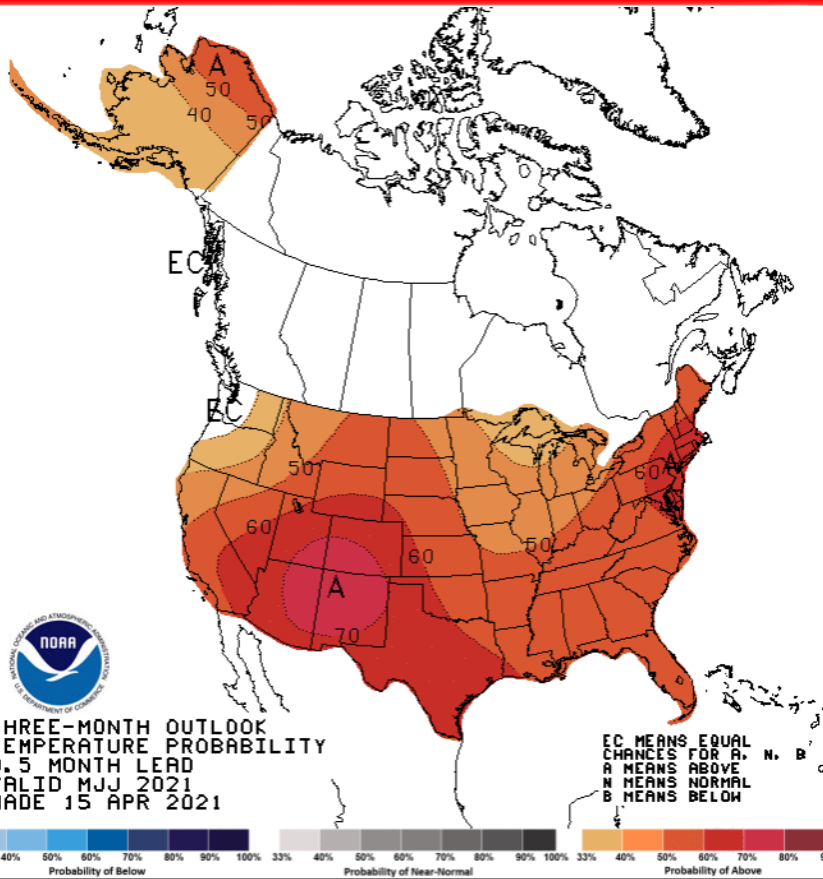
## Precipitation



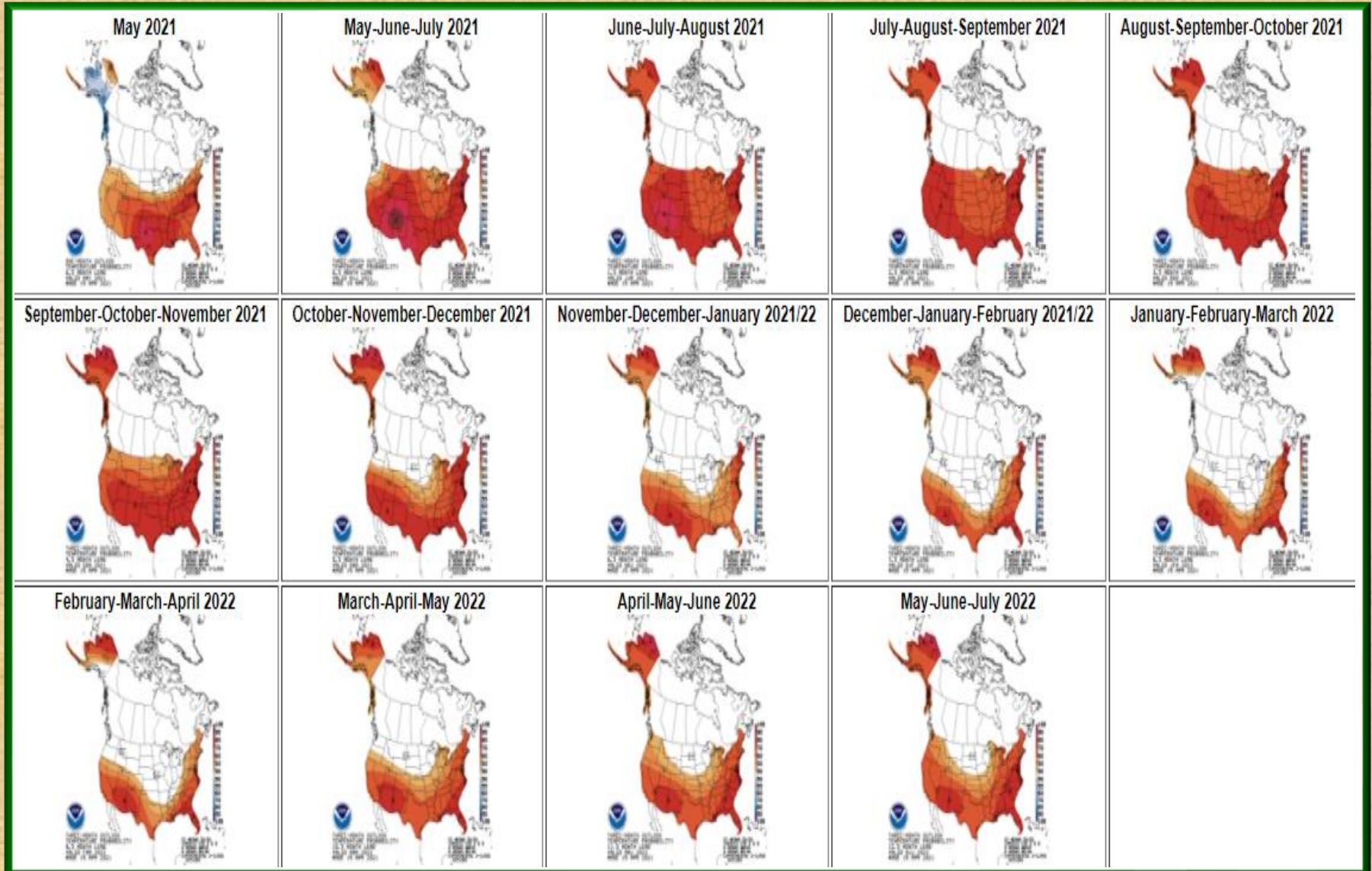
# Temperature and precipitation outlook For May-July 2021

## Temperature

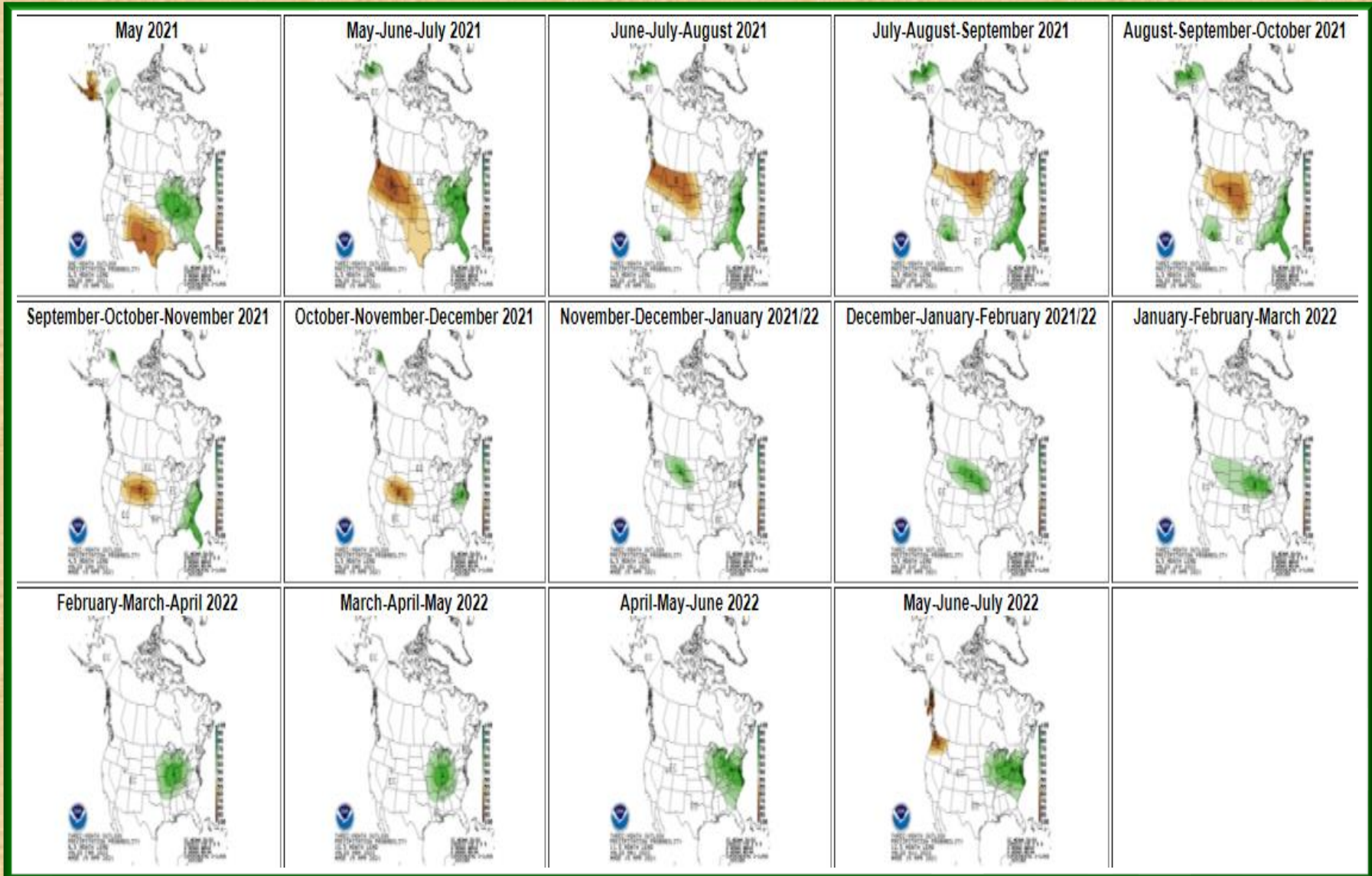
## Precipitation



# Temperature Outlook Through July 2022



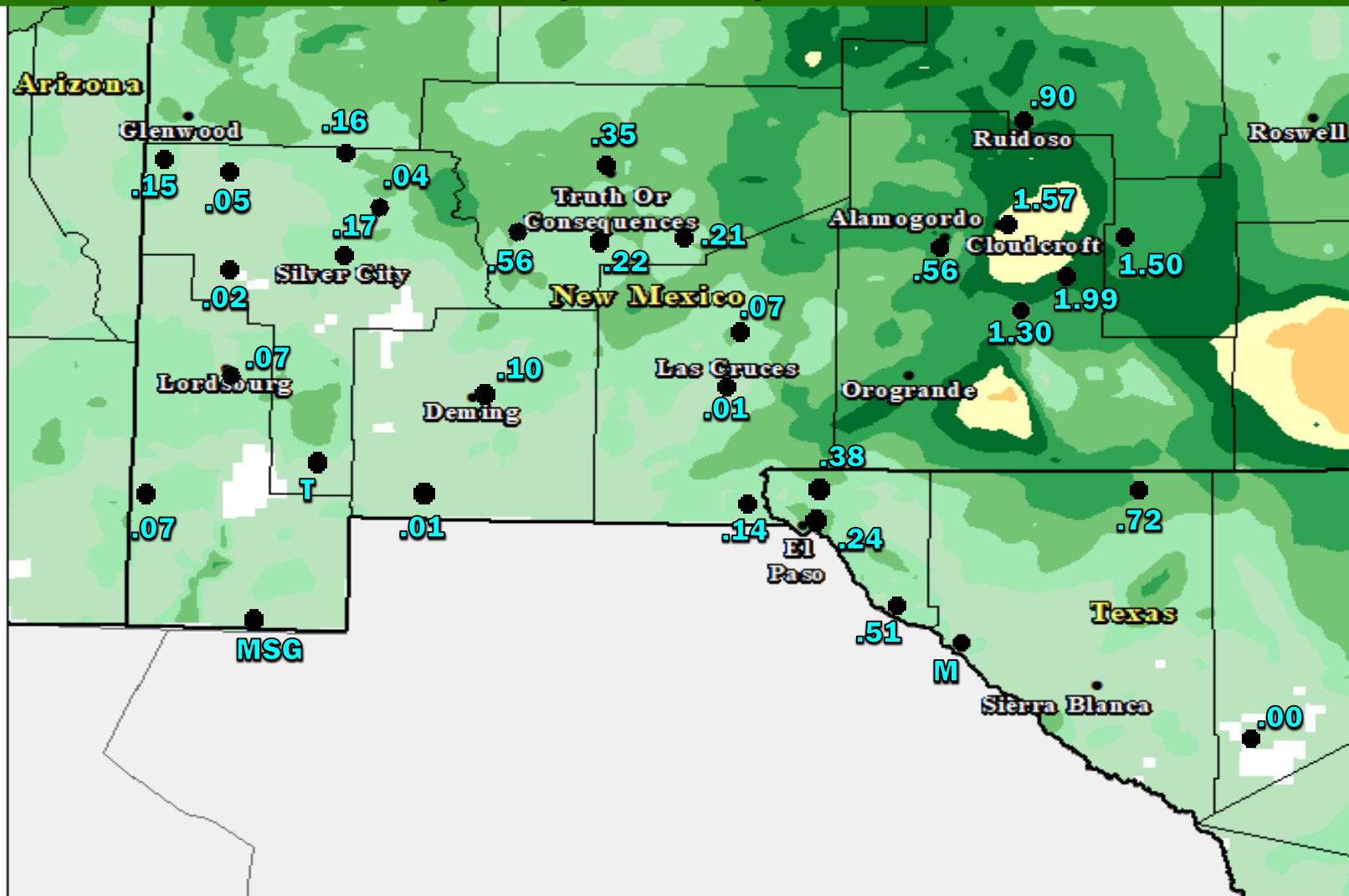
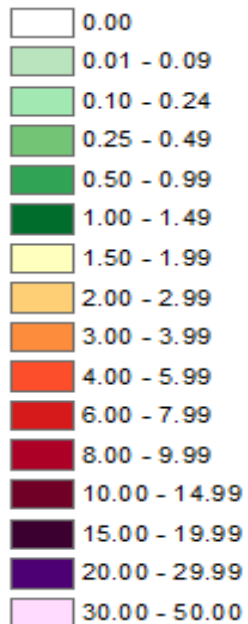
# Precipitation Outlook Through July 2022



# April 2021 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports

## Total Monthly Precipitation - April 2021

Inches



Created by the  
NWS Forecast Office  
El Paso, TX

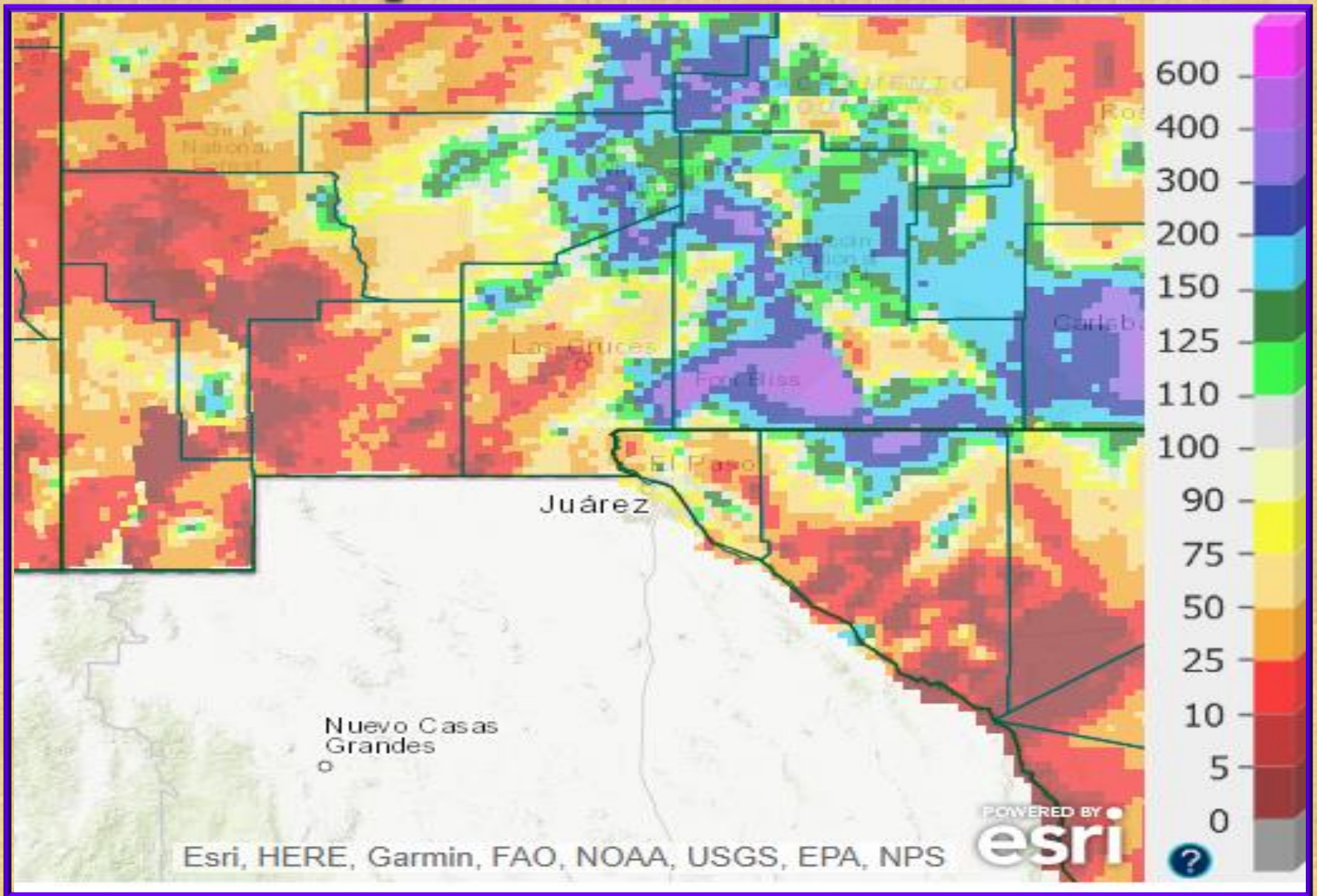


0 25 50  
Miles

Source: NWS Advanced  
Hydrologic Prediction Service

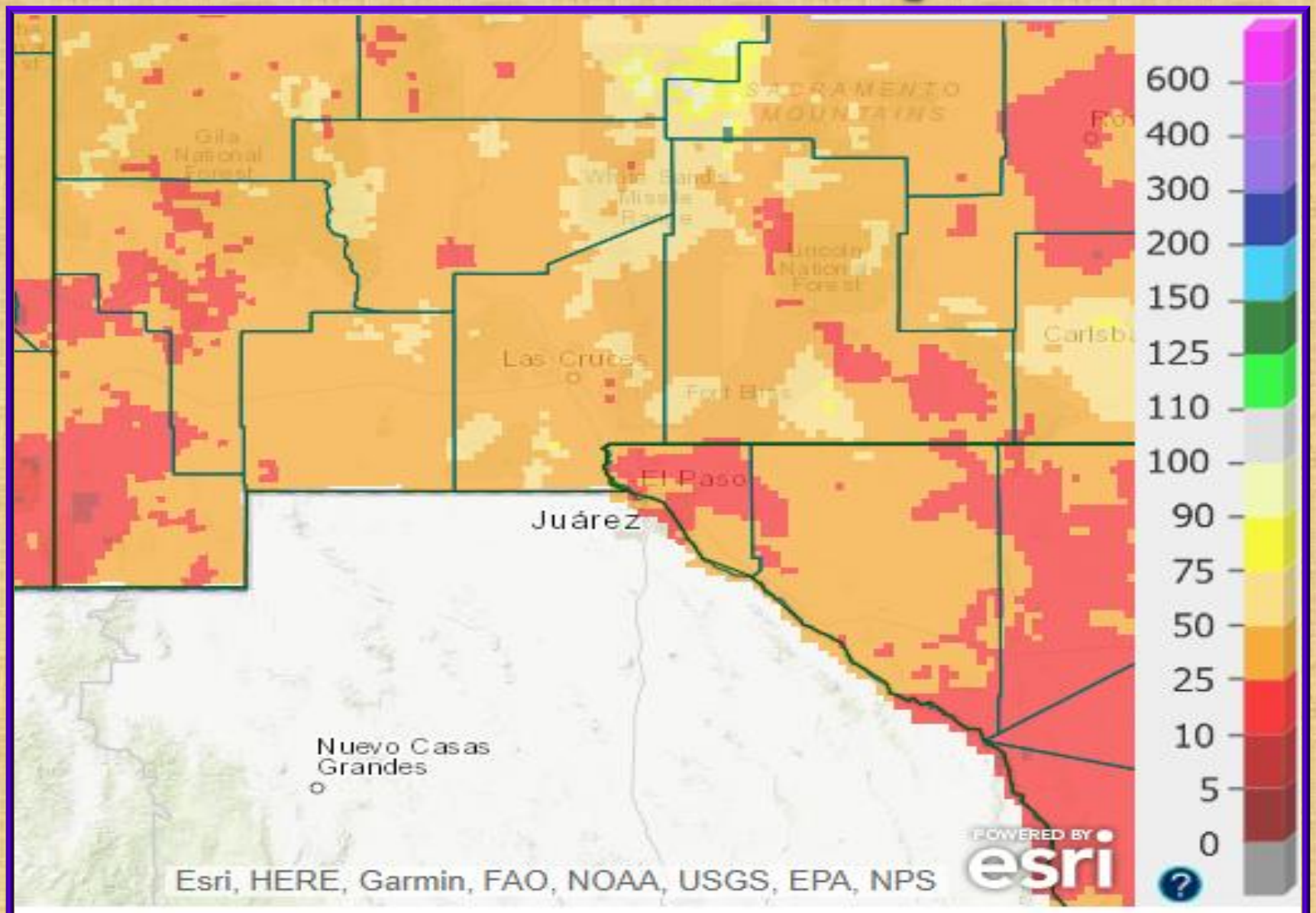
Created: 05/01/2021 2000 UTC

# April 2021 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal



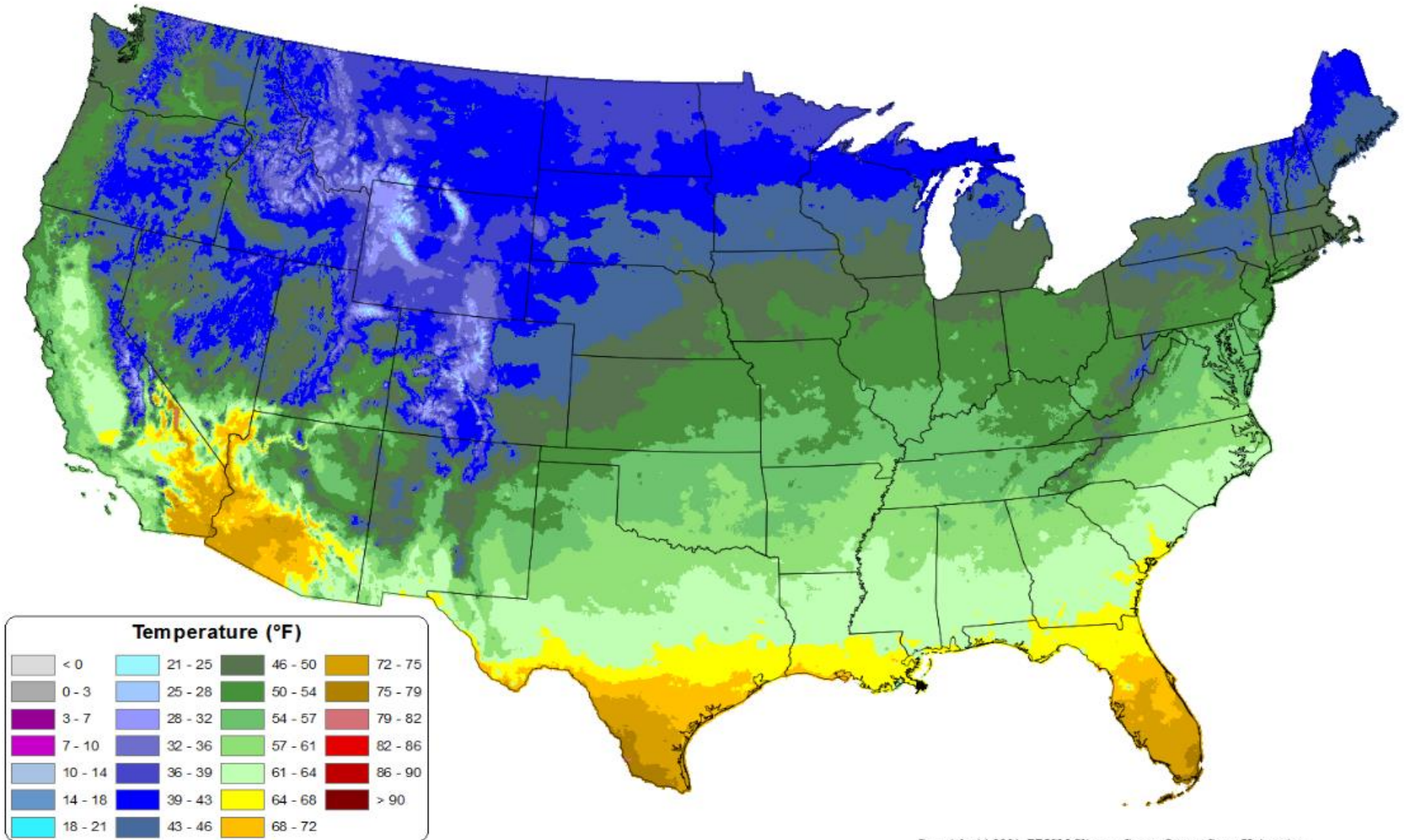


# Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Apr 30)



# Average Daily Mean Temperature for April 2021

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Apr 2021  
Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Apr 2021  
(Map created 02 May 2021)

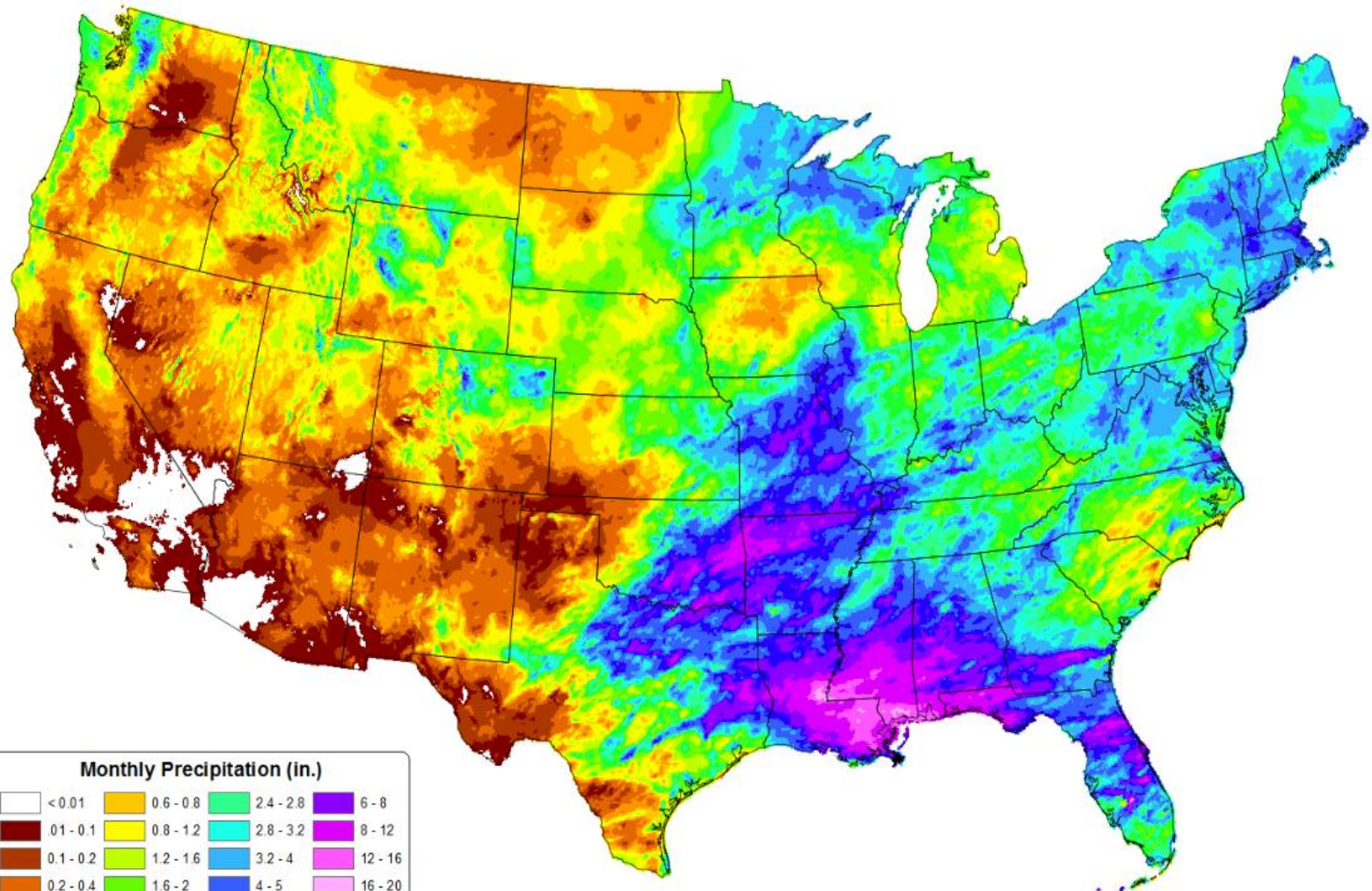


# Total Precipitation for April 2021

Total Precipitation: Apr 2021

Period ending 30 Apr 2021

(Map created 02 May 2021)



Monthly Precipitation (in.)			
<0.01	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

# Selected Weather Reports April 2021

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
APRIL 8 510 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	71 MPH WIND GUST
APRIL 8 630 PM	TULAROSA 20NW-OTERO	47 MPH WIND GUST
APRIL 8 1049 PM	EL PASO INTL ARPT-EL PASO	46 MPH WIND GUST
APRIL 8 415 PM	LAS CRUCES ARPT-DONA ANA	46 MPH WIND GUST
APRIL 8 718 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	46 MPH WIND GUST
APRIL 8 540 PM	HACHITA 15SW-HIDALGO	45 MPH WIND GUST
APRIL 8 400 PM	ROAD FORKS NE-HIDALGO	44 MPH WIND GUST
APRIL 8 510 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	43 MPH WIND GUST
APRIL 29 700 AM	MAYHILL-OTERO	1.27 INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 800 AM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO	1.27 INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 539 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	.78 INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 700 AM	ALAMOGORDO 2NE-OTERO	.76 INCHES PRECIP

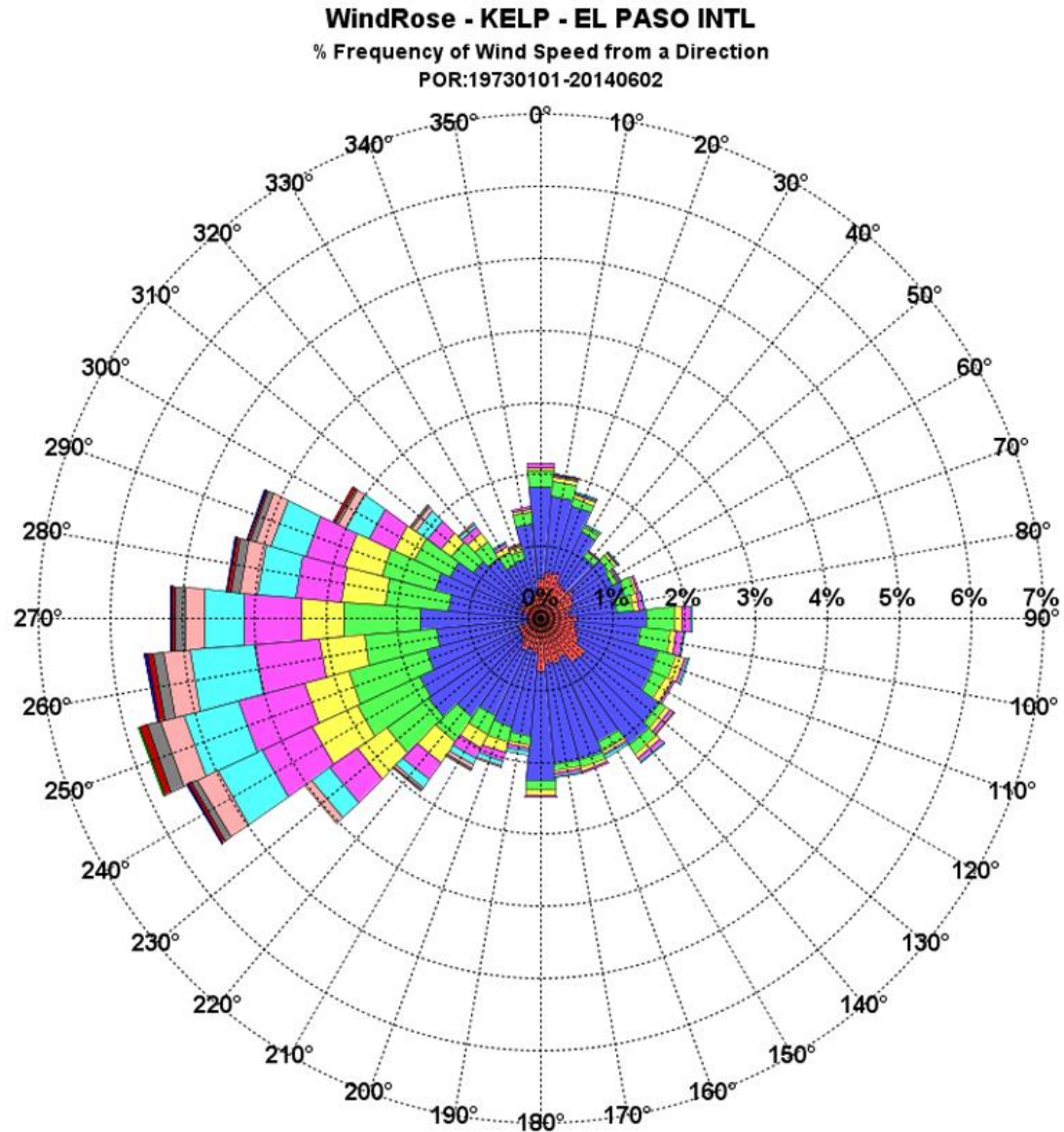
# Selected Weather Reports April 2021

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
APRIL 29 800 AM	TULAROSA-OTERO	.57 INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 800 AM	T OR C-SIERRA	.56 INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 700 AM	KINGSTON-SIERRA	.55 INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 530 PM	HILLSBORO-SIERRA	.45 INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 441 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	.43INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 700 AM	SILVER CITY-GRANT	.39 INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 458 PM	HOLLOMAN AFB-OTERO	.36 INCHES PRECIP
APRIL 29 531 PM	EL PASO NE-EL PASO	.24 INCHES PRECIP

# Special Features

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

Month: APRIL  
Calm: 6.66%  
Variable: 2.29%



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

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Remember Me

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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>	