

December 2022 Weather Digest



December 2022 Weather Summary

December behaved like we would expect during a La Niña event, with average temperatures a bit above normal and precipitation a bit below normal. The month was marked by storm activity near the beginning and again near the end. At the beginning, December 3-7, strong southwest flow with abundant moisture (something usually seen in the summer) moved over the area. The lowlands received widespread, though mostly light rain, while the mountains received light to moderate rain. The atmosphere was so warm that only a few of the highest terrain spots received snow. On December 28-30 a strong Pacific storm moved through the area with strong winds, lowland rainfall, and mountain moderate snow. Many sites in the mountains received 3 to 6 inches. Wind gusts of 50 to 80 mph were common across the area. There was also a brief cold snap, when frigid air from the Midwest moved into the area. Low temps in the teens or colder was common, while highs remained in the 30s or colder. Our precipitation map shows the majority of the area ranged from about 50-100% of normal. Only areas in Sierra and Luna Counties saw above normal precipitation. The warmest temperatures of the month were also at the beginning when we remained under that warm southwest flow.

December 2022 Weather Summary, cont'd

Looking ahead to January, we continue to sit in the coldest part of the year, although daylight continues to increase along with normal temperatures. Daylight length on the first is 10 hours, 7 minutes of light, increasing to 10 hours, 39 minutes on the last day of the month. At El Paso, the normal high temperature at the beginning of January is 57 degrees, warming to 61 degrees at the end of the month.

Looking at our celestial events, the Full Moon, also known as the Wolf Moon, occurs on January 6. The New Moon occurs on the 21. There are no eclipses in January; instead we will have to wait until March, when a couple of lunar eclipses occur.



Dec 4 Fog near Lordsburg



Dec 12 El Paso Blowing Dust



Dec 13 Snow on the Franklin Mtns



Dec 13 Snow near Guadalupe Pass



Dec 13 Apache Summit Snow



Dec 13 Cloudcroft Snow



Dec 13 Lake Mescalero Snow



Dec 13 Timberon Snow



Dec 13 Cloudcroft Snow

Dec 13 Snow near Silver City



Dec 13 Silver City Snow



©Timberon Development Council 2012-12-13 07:24:11

Dec 13 Timberon Snow



Dec 19 "Fogbow" Santa Teresa



2022-12-19 00:40:05
CAM-TBTCM

Dec 18 Fog at Cloudcroft



Dec 18 Snow Apache Summit



Dec 27 Sunrise over Franklin Mtns

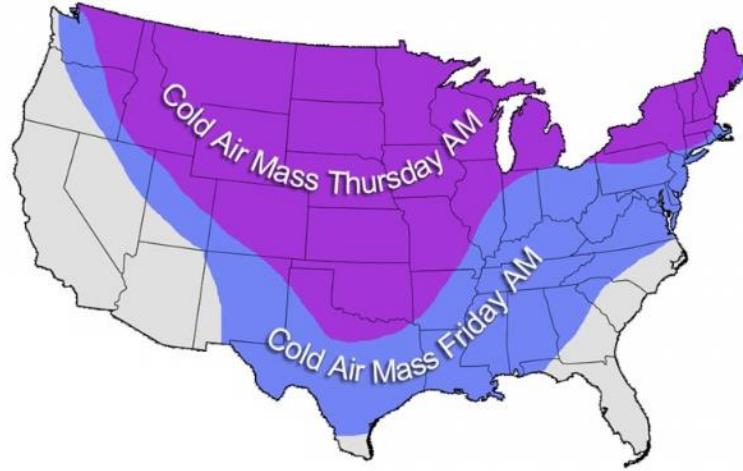




Arctic Air Mass Location (Thursday & Friday)

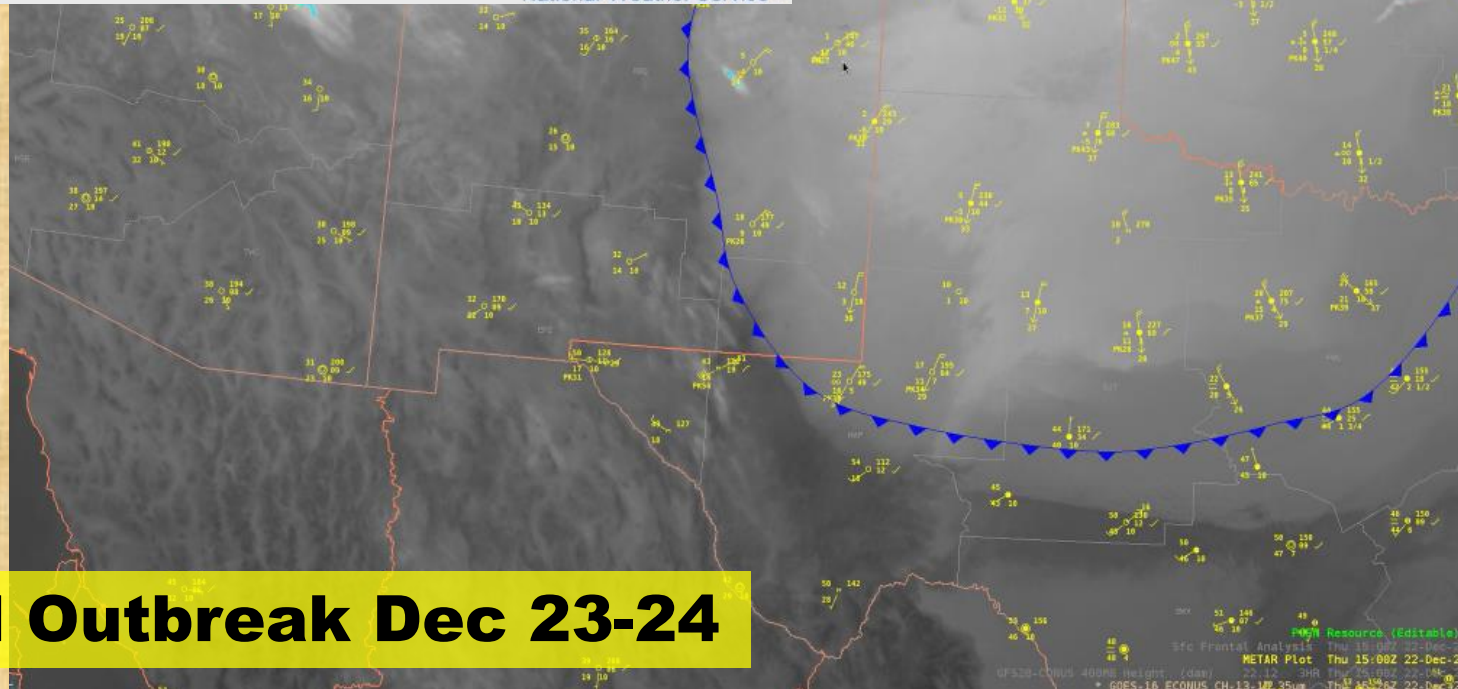
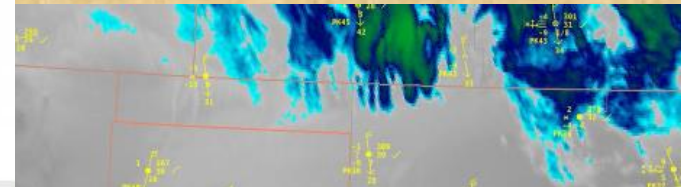
ARCTIC AIR INTRUSION FRIDAY & SATURDAY (December 23rd & 24th)

- Extremely cold air reaches north Texas and NE New Mexico by Thursday morning
- Cold front moves into the Borderland just after sunset Thursday
- Arctic Air will be in place for all areas east of the continental divide by Friday morning



Last Updated 12/21/2022 1:40 PM

National Weather Service –



Sharp Cold Outbreak Dec 23-24

ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Advisory in Affect

ENSO Alert System

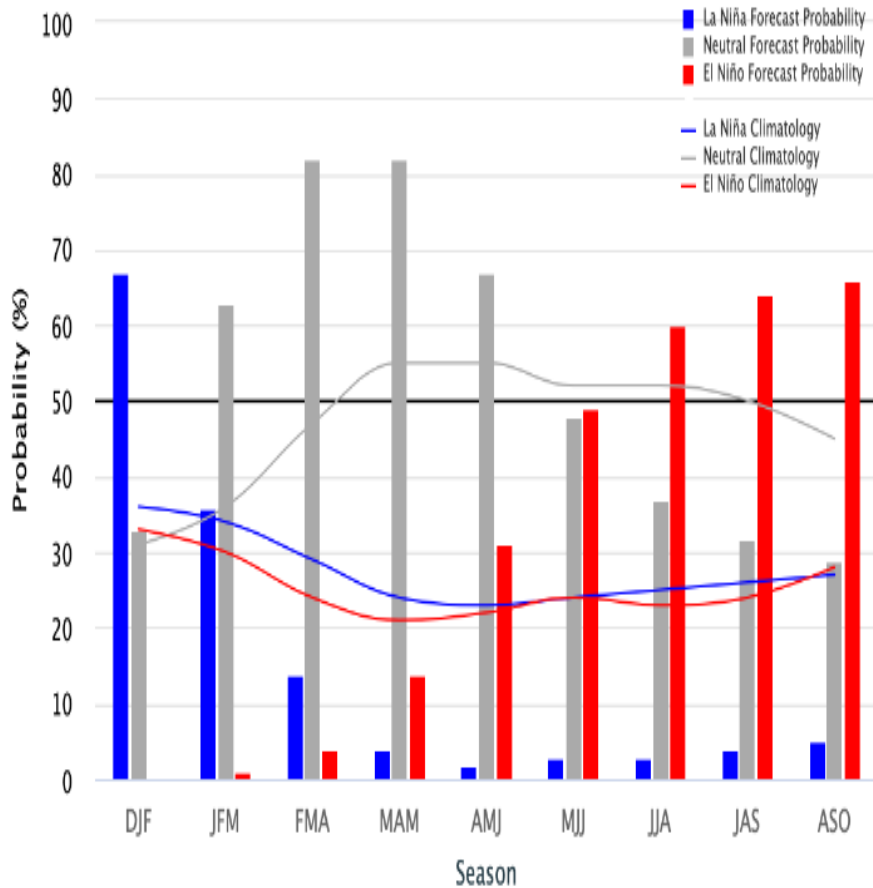
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

ENSO Forecast

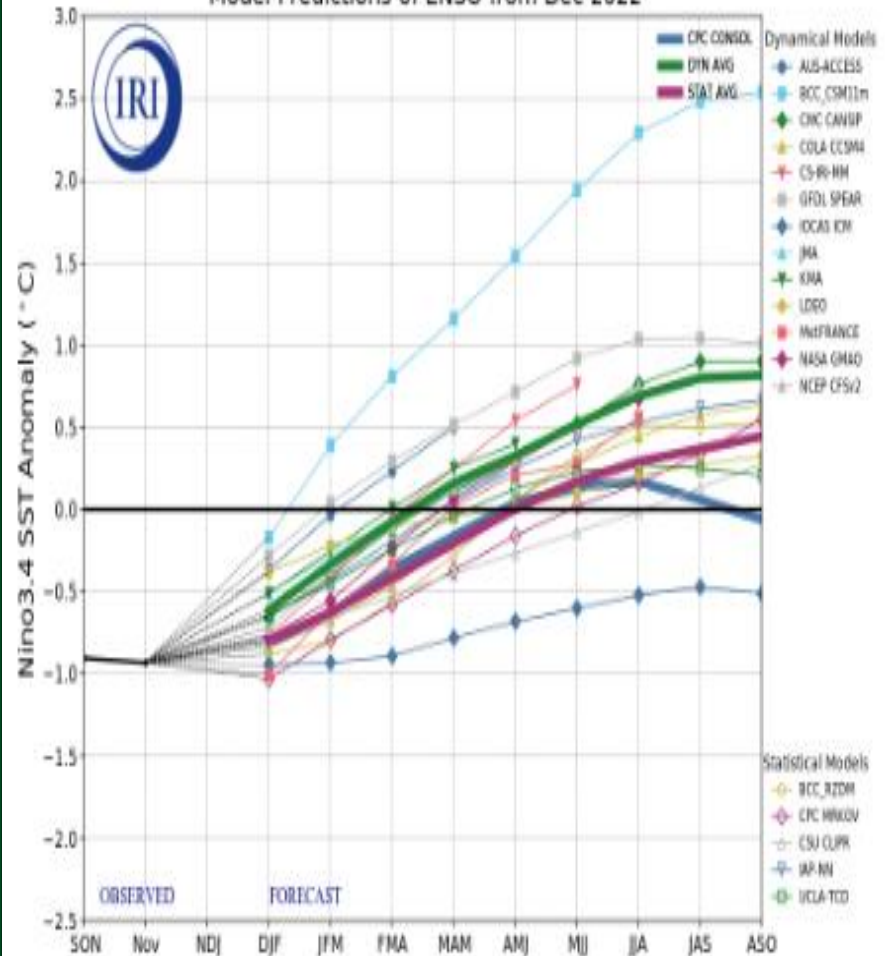
ENSO is in La Niña status. Forecast shows decent chance of La Niña lasting into mid winter, likely transitioning to neutral toward spring of 2023.

Mid-December 2022 IRI Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

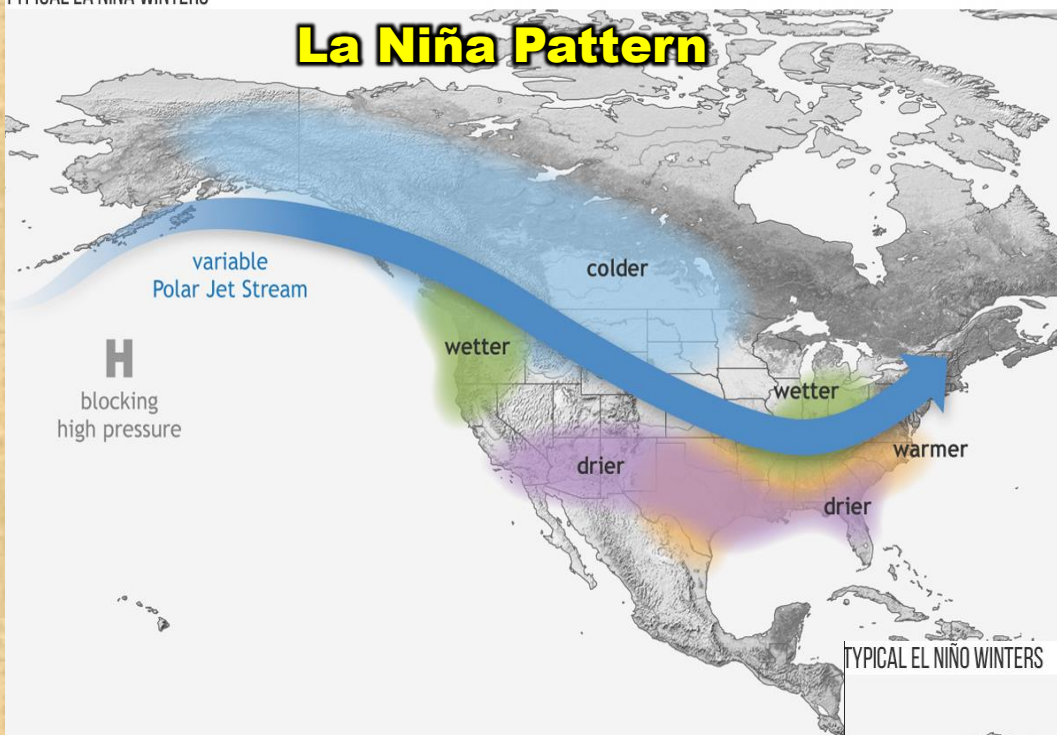
ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly
Neutral ENSO: -0.5°C to 0.5°C



Model Predictions of ENSO from Dec 2022

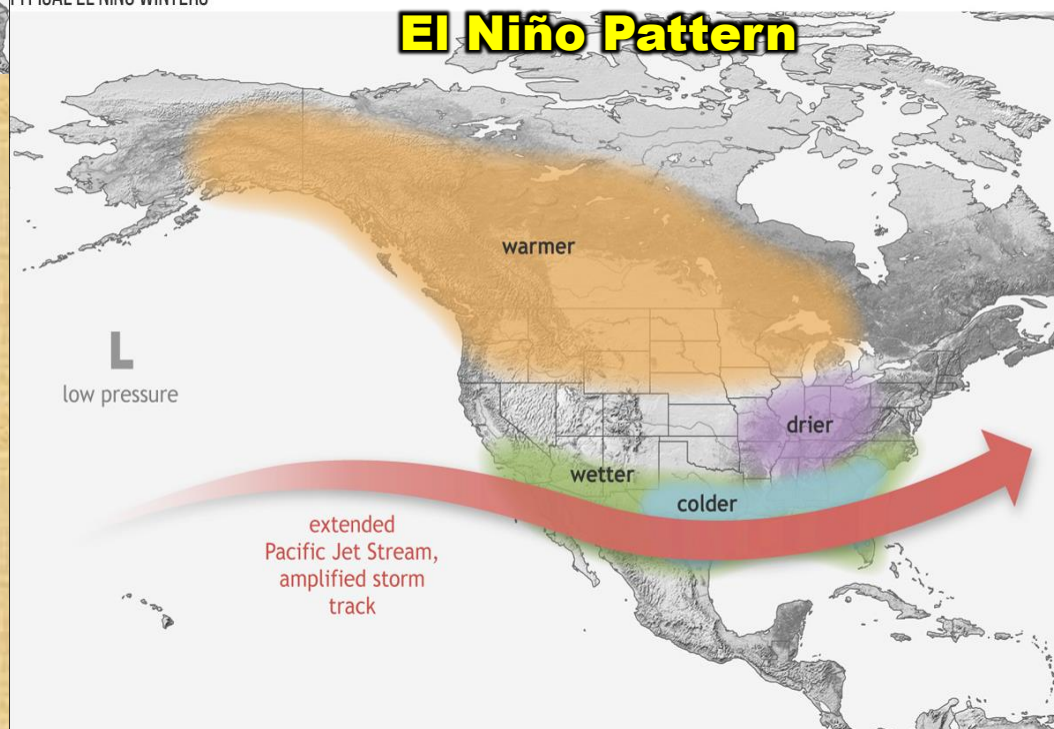


La Niña Pattern



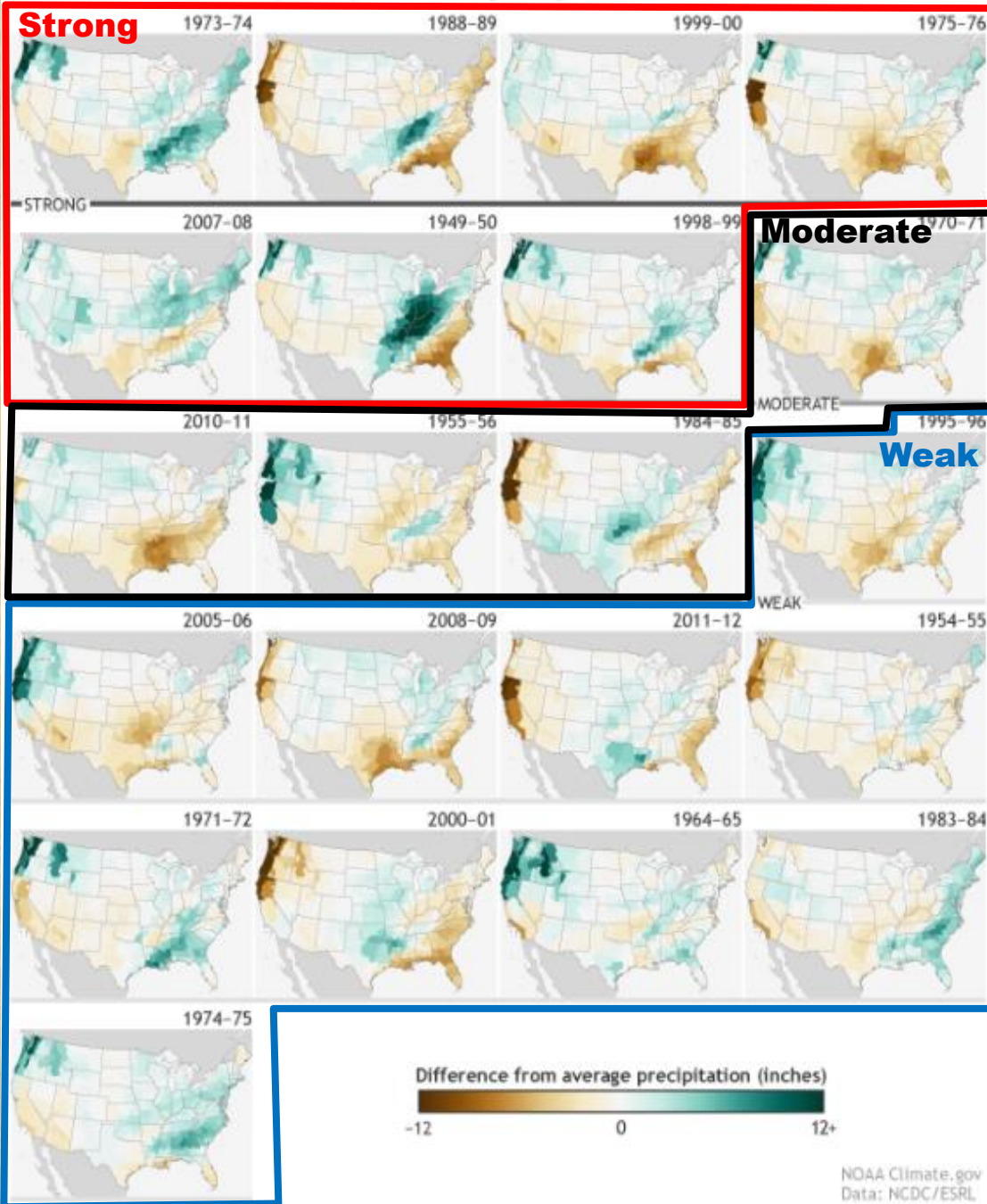
With a La Niña pattern, a ridge of high pressure tends to build off the west coast of the U.S., blocking most of our Pacific winter storm systems. These storms tend to end up moving across the northern Plains and down to the southeastern part of the country. Of course it is important to remember that 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



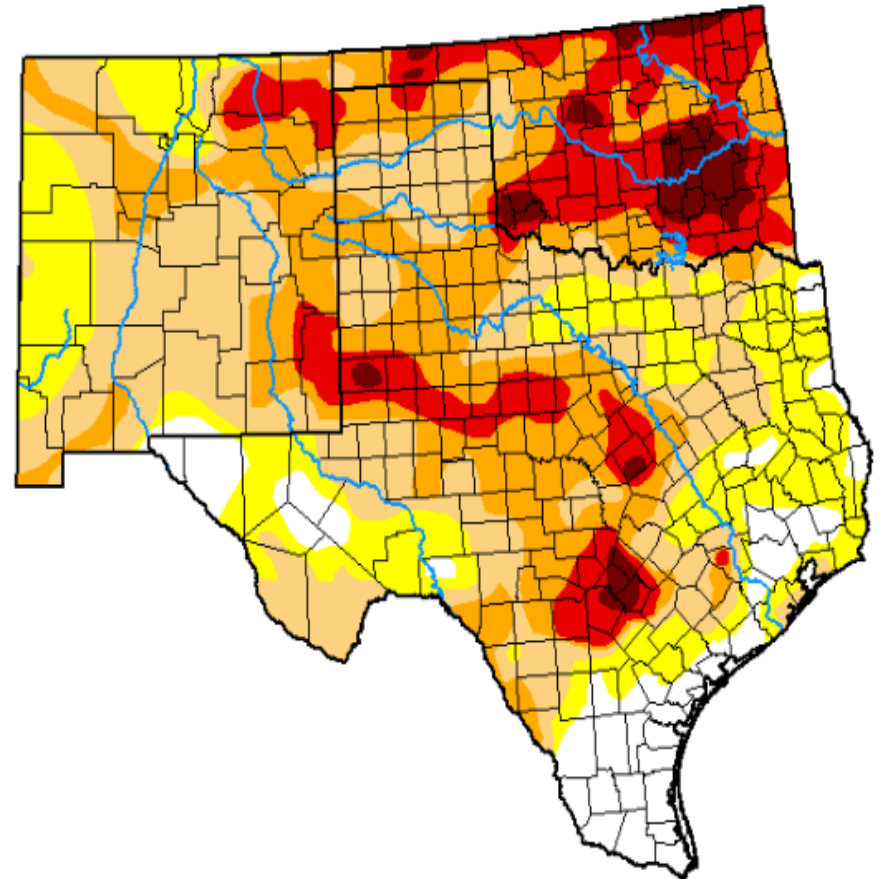
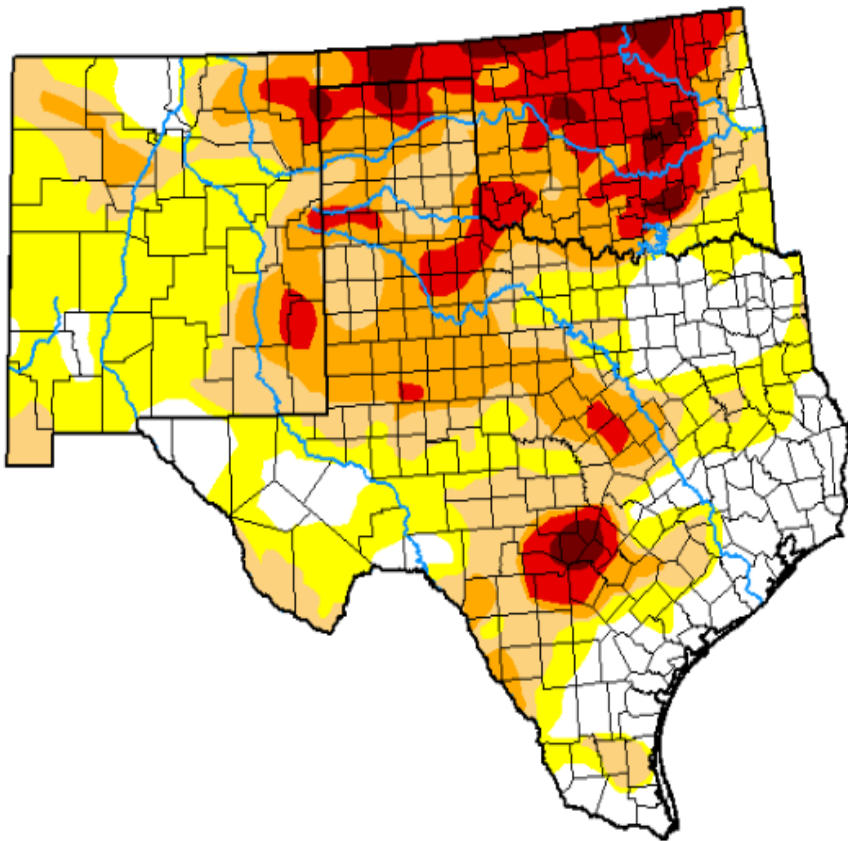
Examples of the numerous La Niña winters since 1950. These maps depict the departure from normal precipitation amounts for a winter.

Current drought conditions and 3 month change

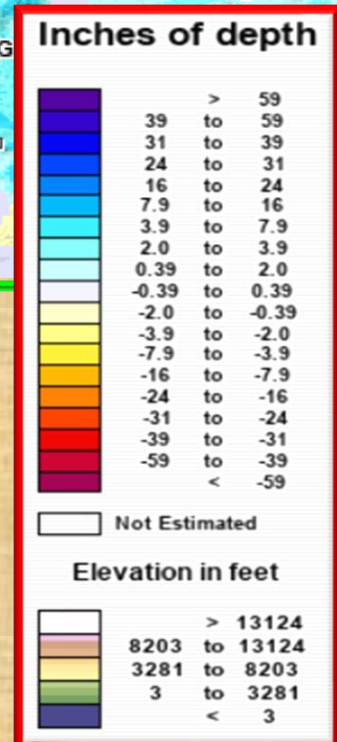
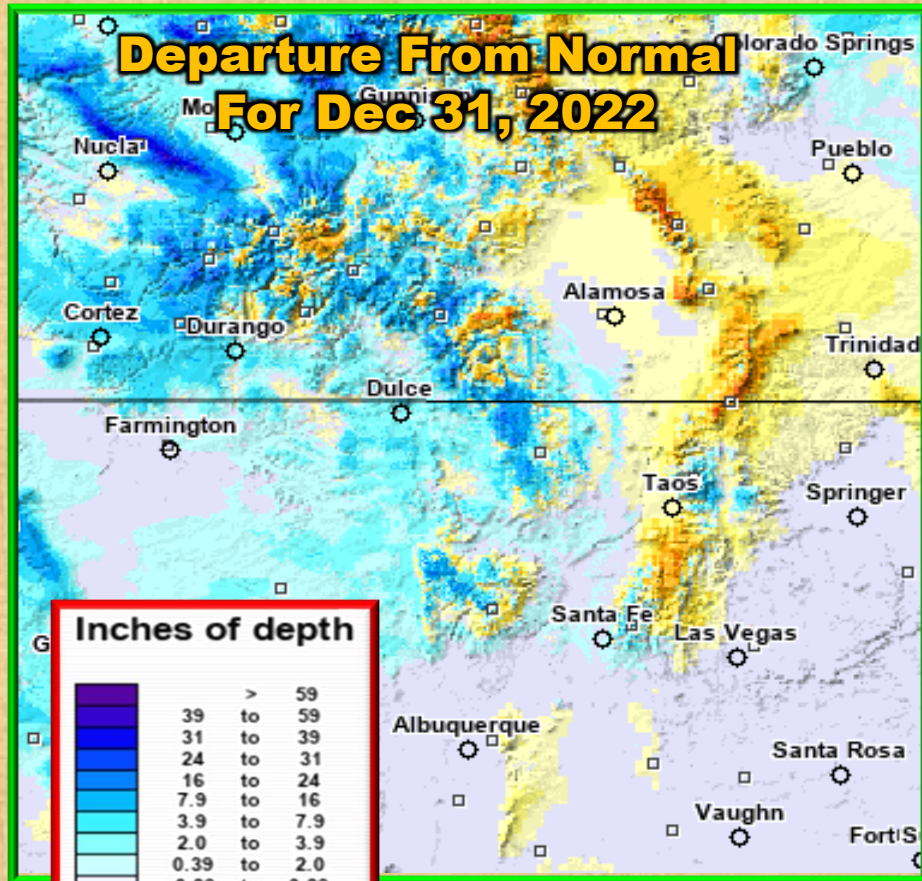
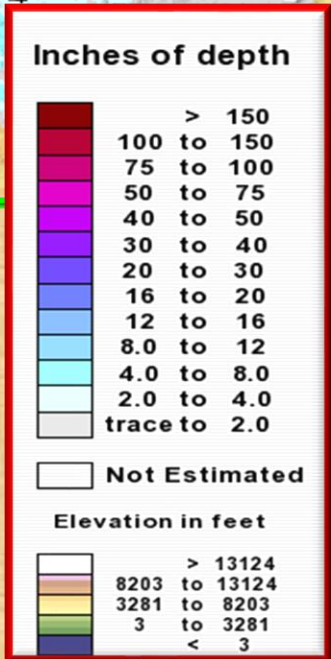
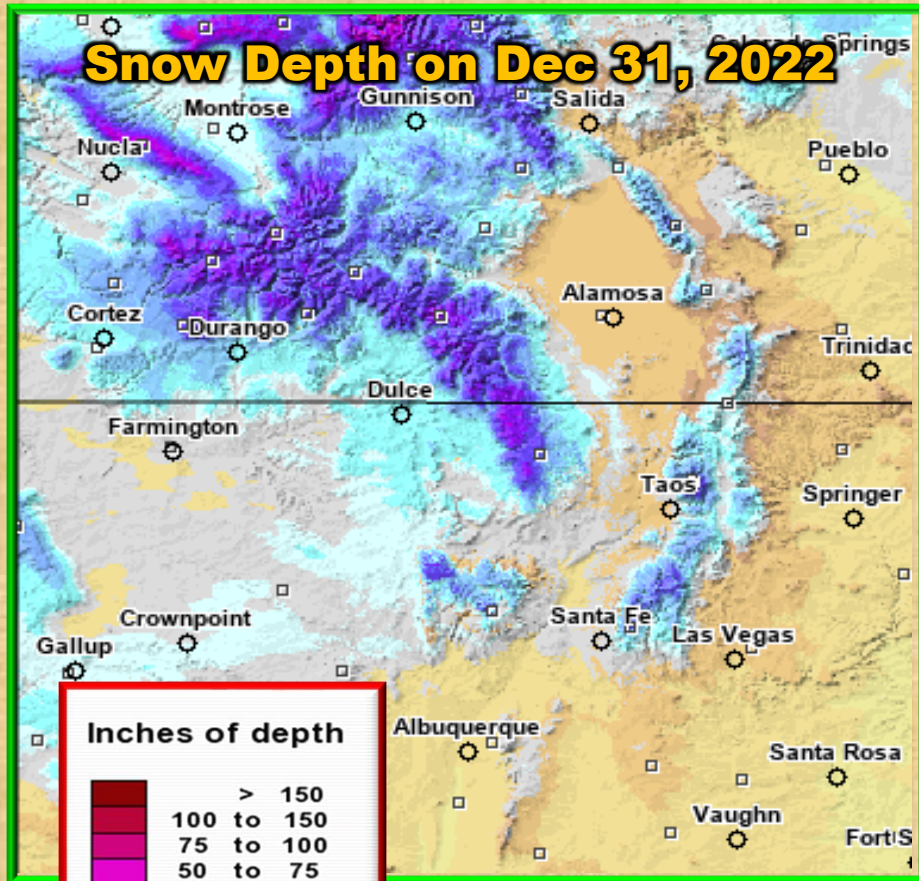
- Abnormally Dry – D0
- Moderate Drought – D1
- Severe Drought – D2
- Extreme Drought – D3
- Exceptional – D4

December 27, 2022

September 27, 2022

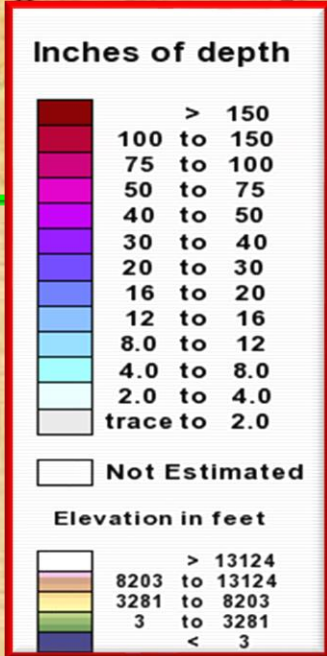
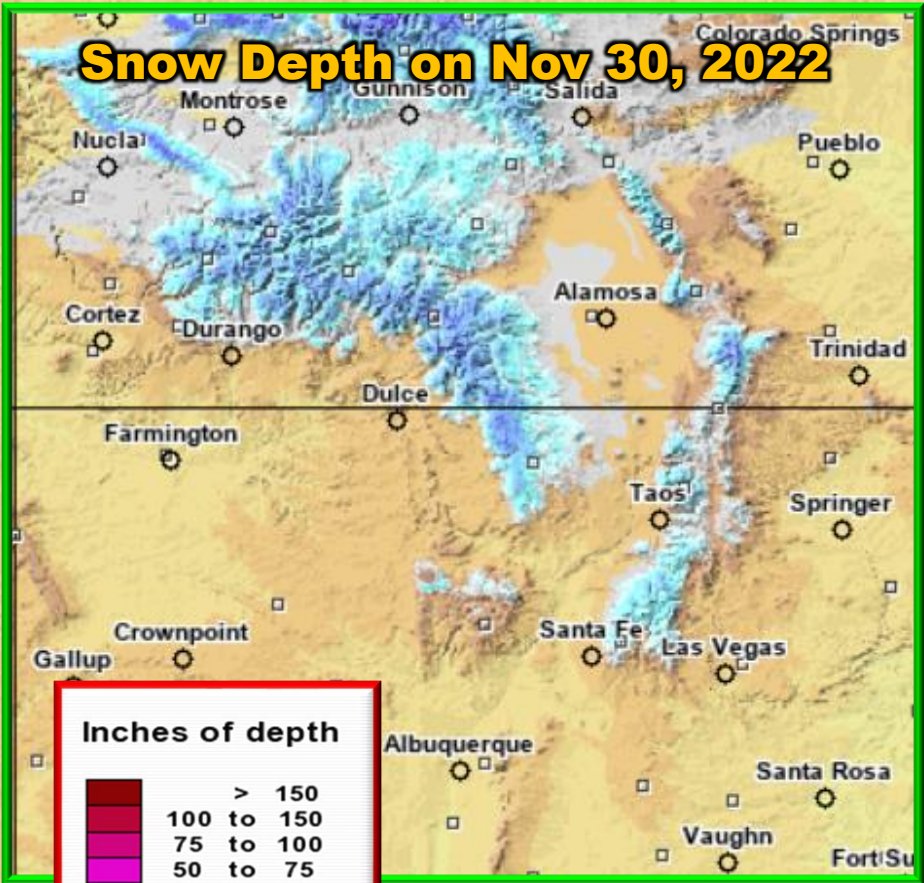


Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Dec 31, 2022

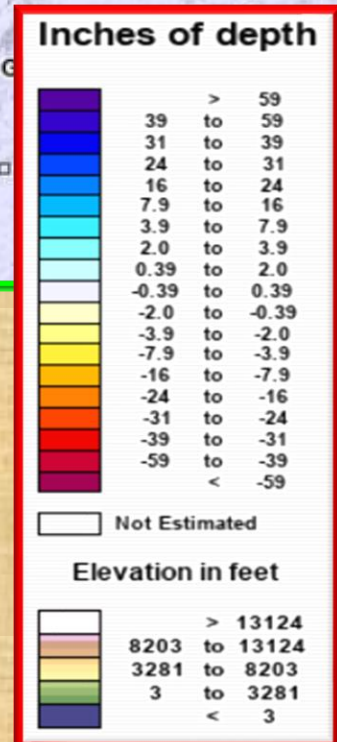
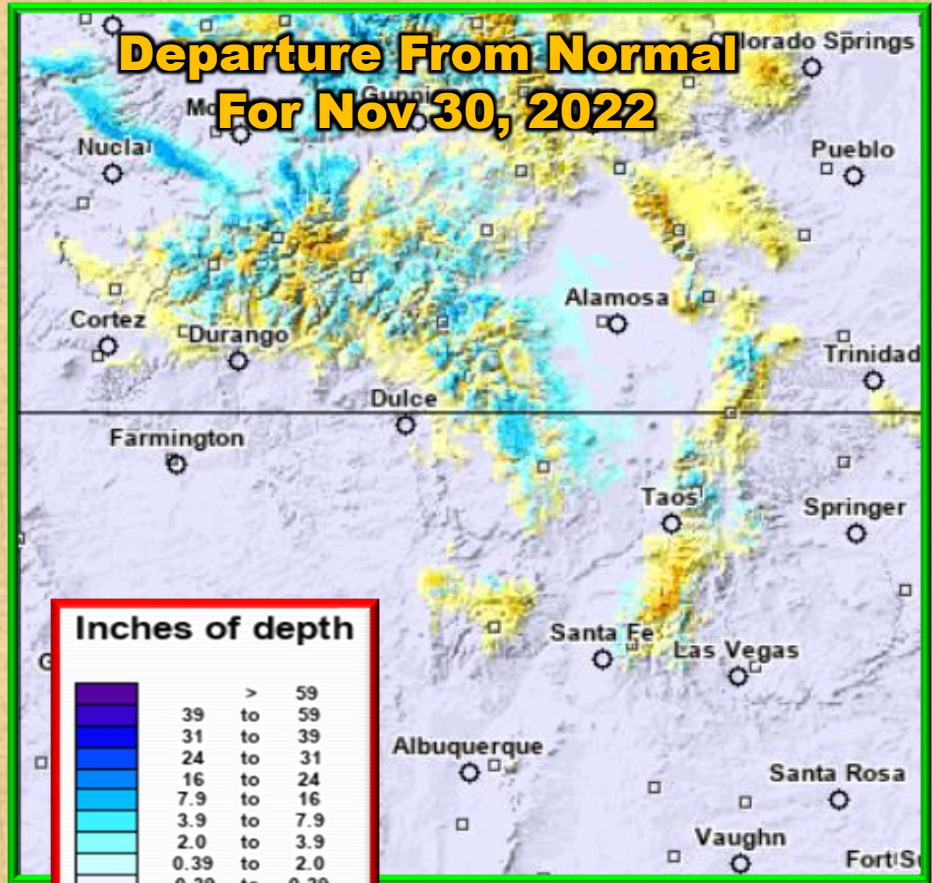


Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Nov 30, 2022

Snow Depth on Nov 30, 2022



Departure From Normal For Nov 30, 2022



Snow Water Equivalent as of Dec 31, 2022

Compare to last few years and average values

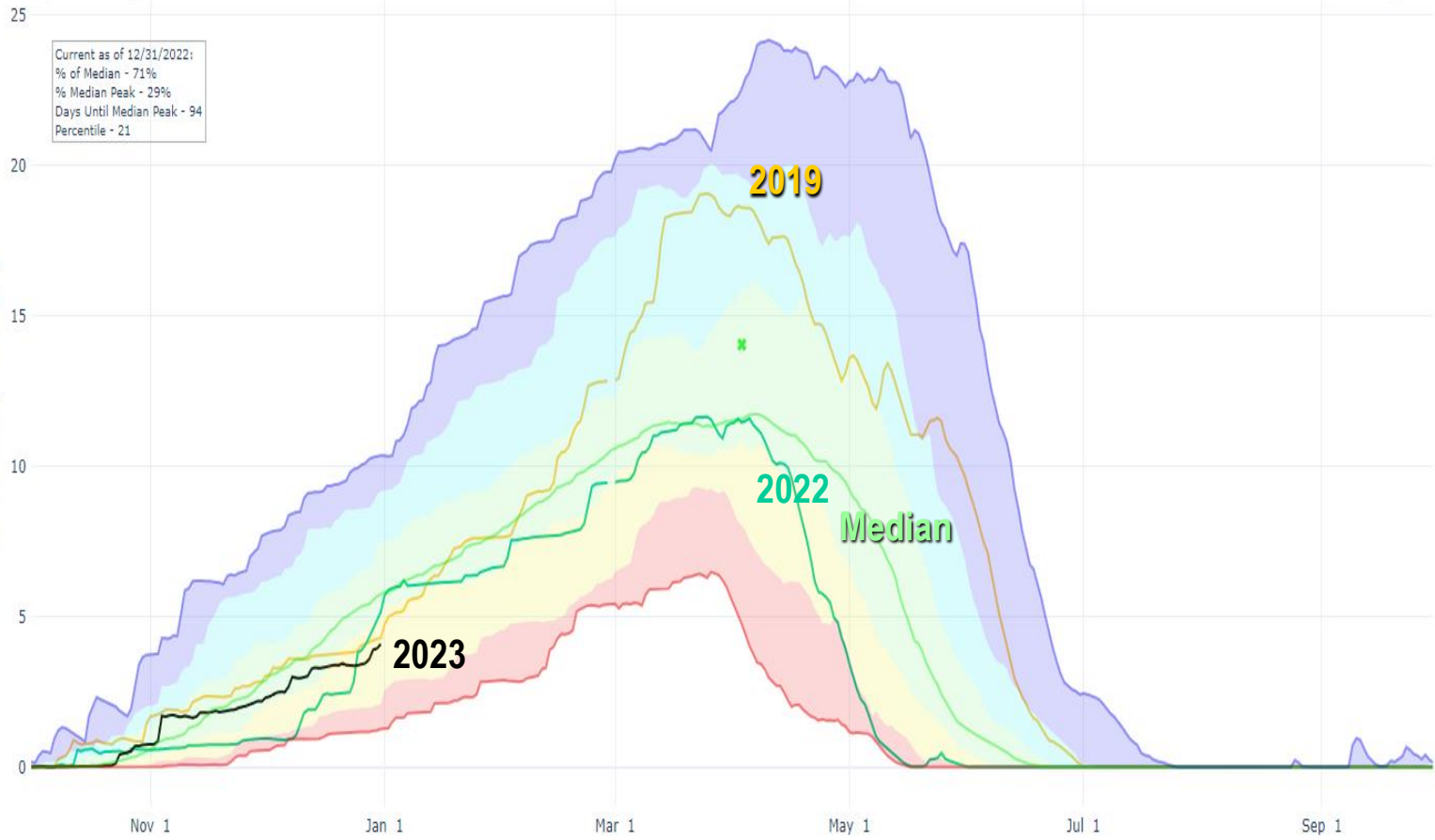
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER RIO GRANDE

Reset Range

Link to data: CSV / JSON

Station List

Current as of 12/31/2022:
 % of Median - 71%
 % Median Peak - 29%
 Days Until Median Peak - 94
 Percentile - 21



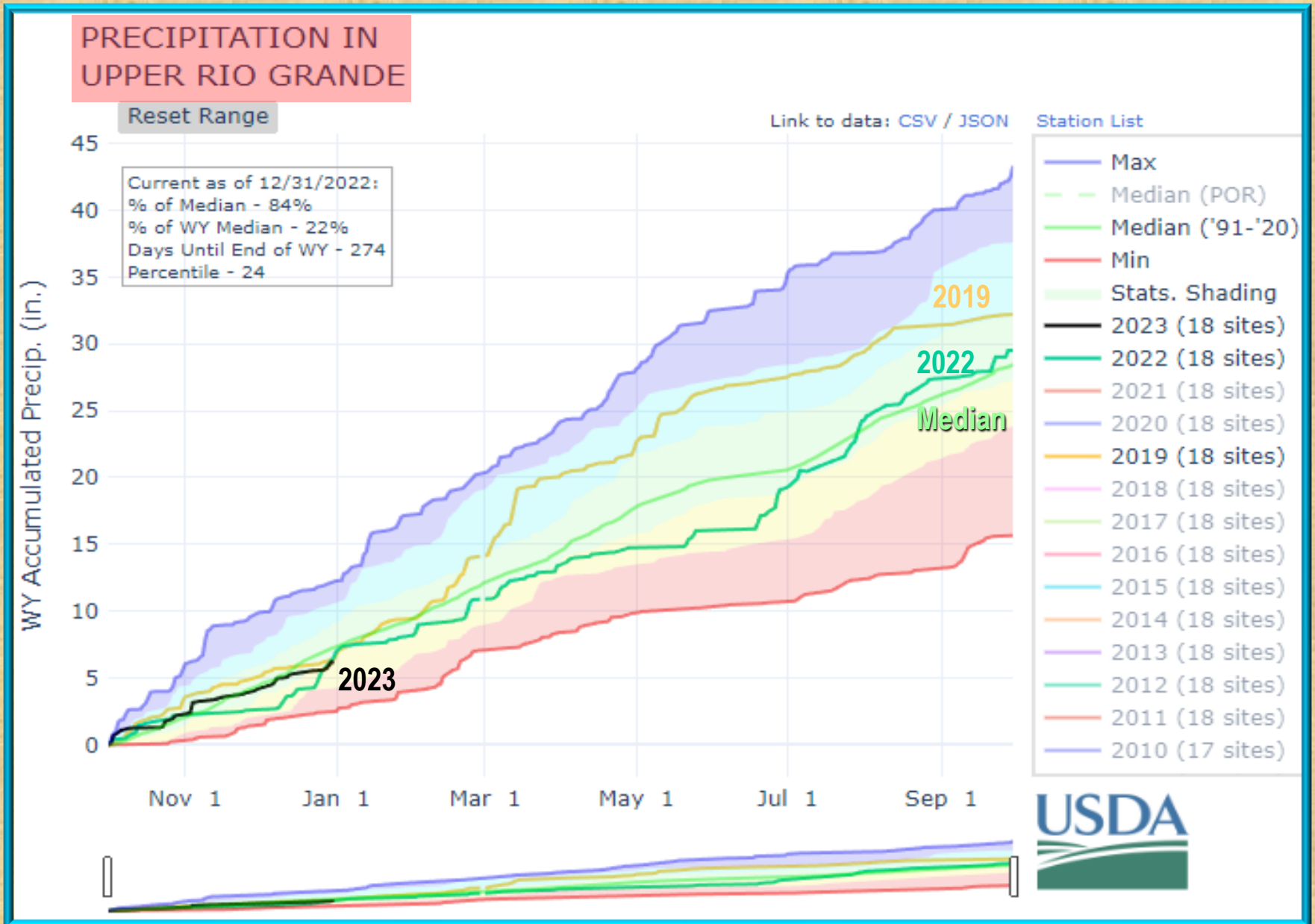
- ✦ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2023 (18 sites)
- 2022 (18 sites)
- 2021 (18 sites)
- 2020 (18 sites)
- 2019 (18 sites)
- 2018 (18 sites)
- 2017 (18 sites)
- 2016 (18 sites)
- 2015 (18 sites)
- 2014 (18 sites)
- 2013 (18 sites)
- 2012 (18 sites)
- 2011 (17 sites)
- 2010 (16 sites)
- 2009 (16 sites)
- 2008 (14 sites)
- 2007 (13 sites)
- 2006 (13 sites)
- 2005 (13 sites)
- 2004 (12 sites)
- 2003 (12 sites)
- 2002 (12 sites)
- 2001 (12 sites)



Original data provided at 10th, 20th, 50th, 70th, and 90th Percentiles

Precipitation for the Water Year Oct 1 – Dec 31, 2022

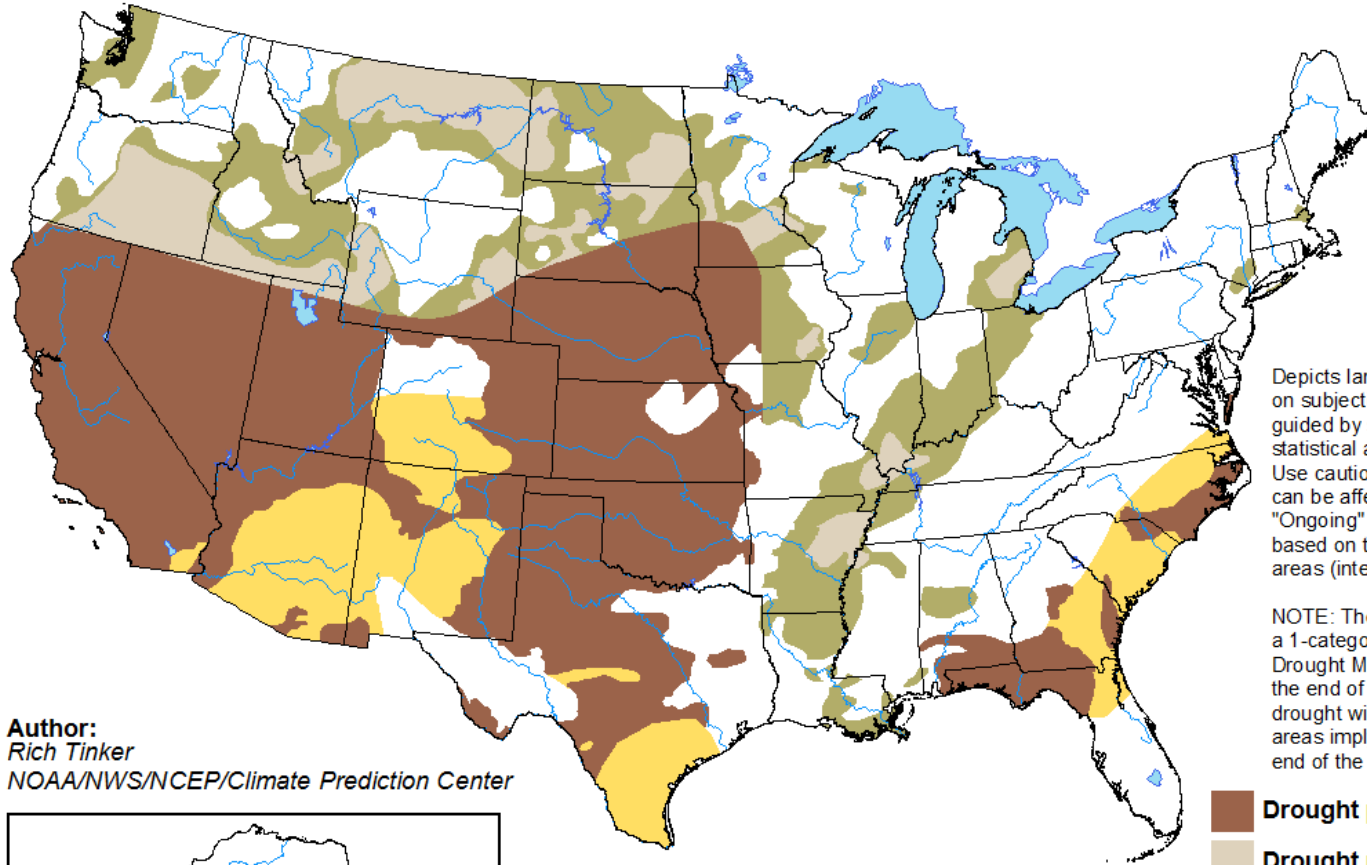
Compare to last few years and average values



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





Valid for December 15, 2022 - March 31, 2023
Released December 15, 2022

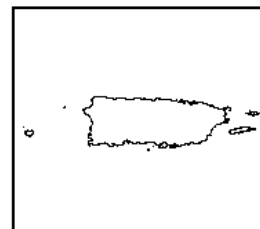
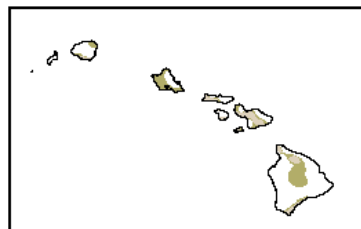
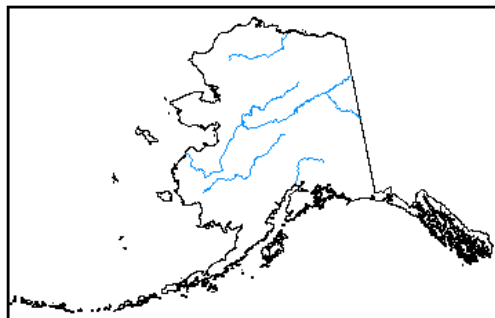


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived event: "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to 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:
Rich Tinker
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

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



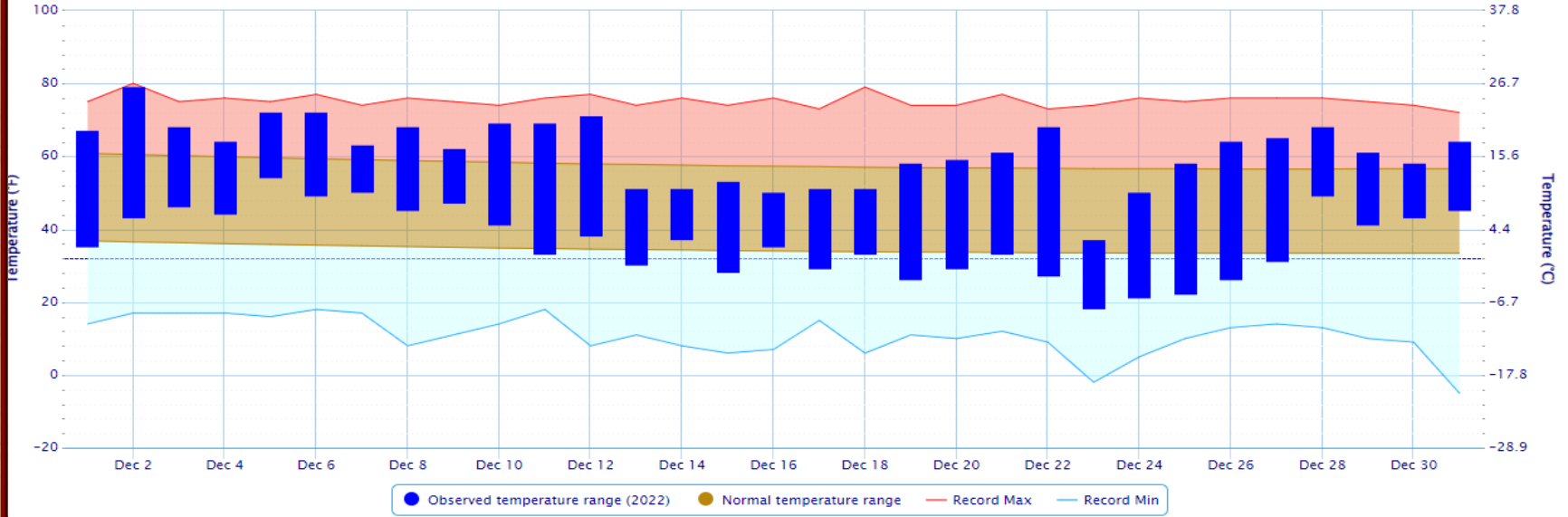
<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Temperature and precipitation data for December 2022 in El Paso

○ = record

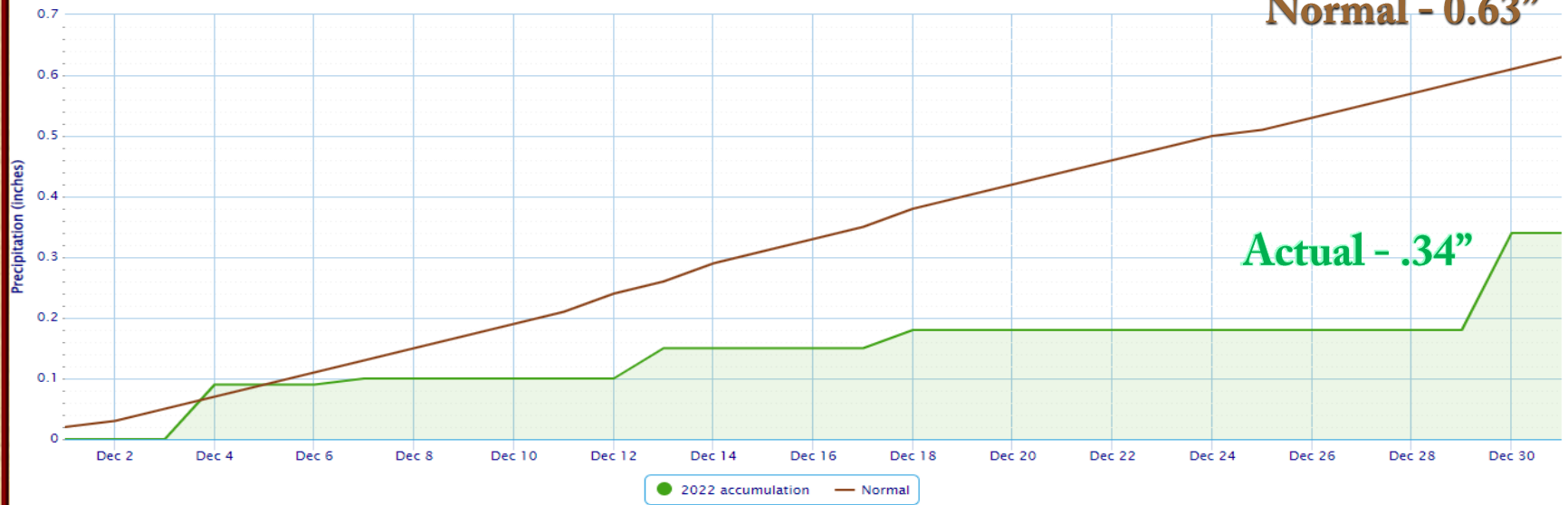
Daily Temperature Data - El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record - Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2022-12-31; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2022-12-31. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.

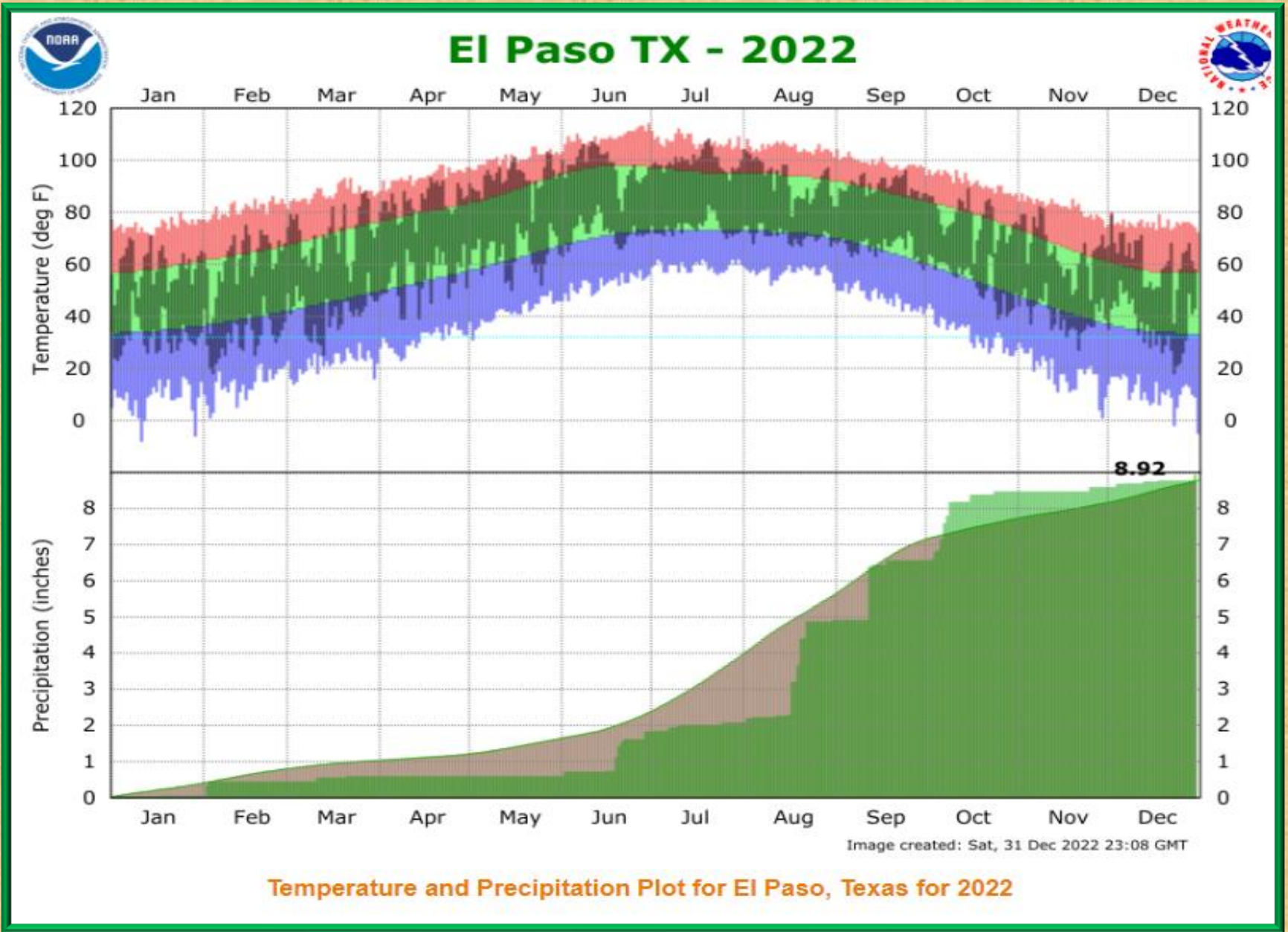


Accumulated Precipitation - El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

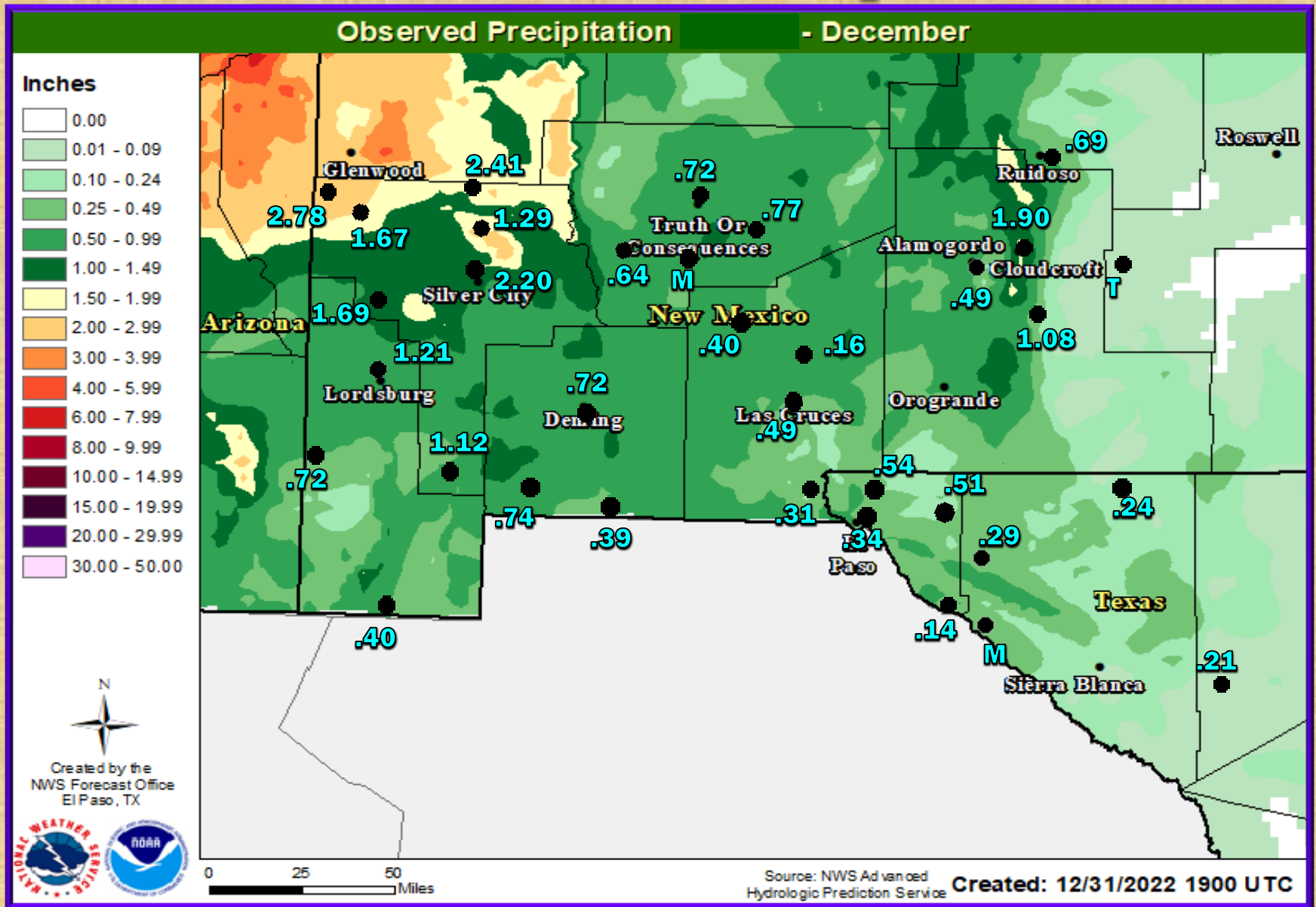
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



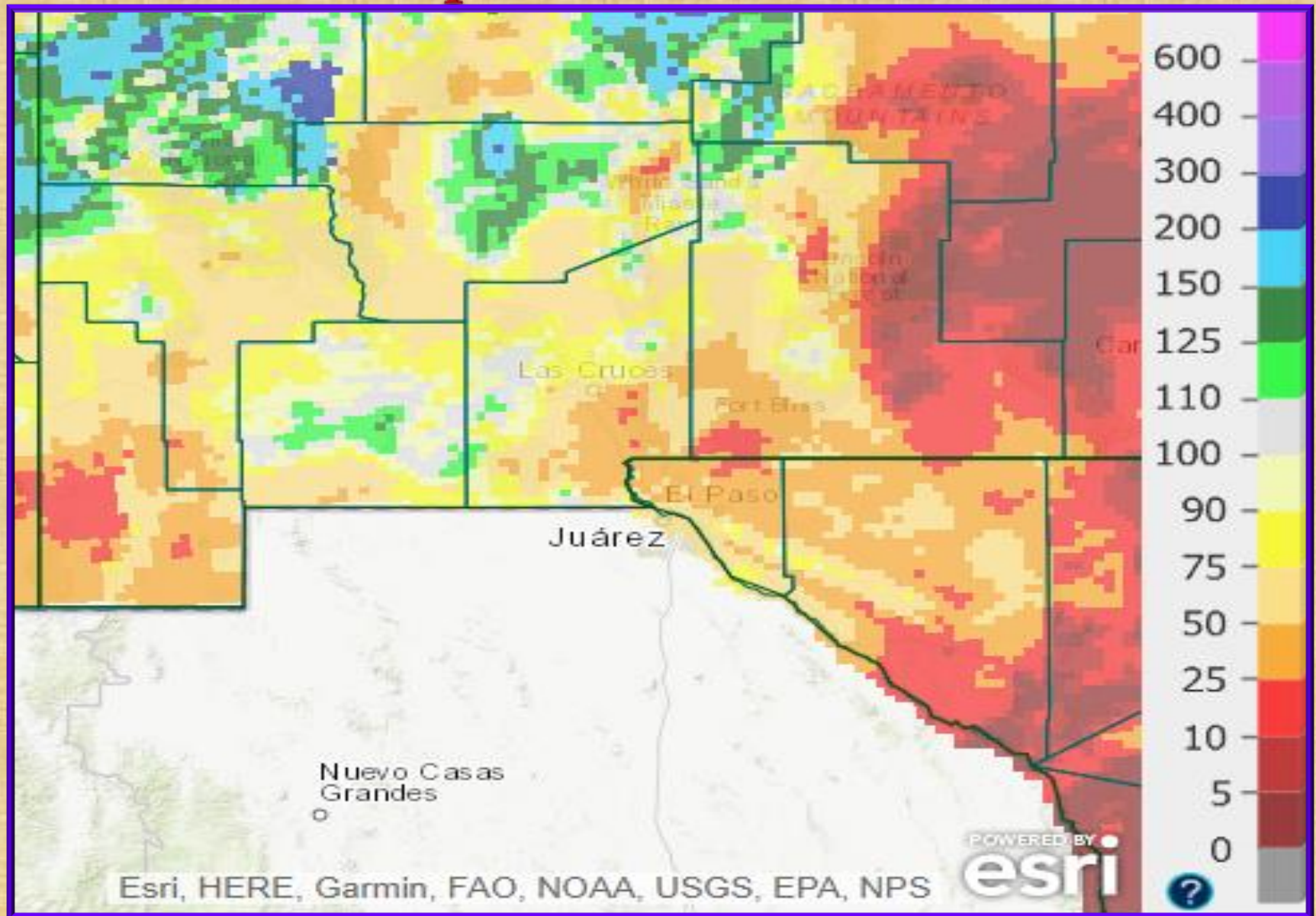
Temperature and Precipitation for 2022 for El Paso



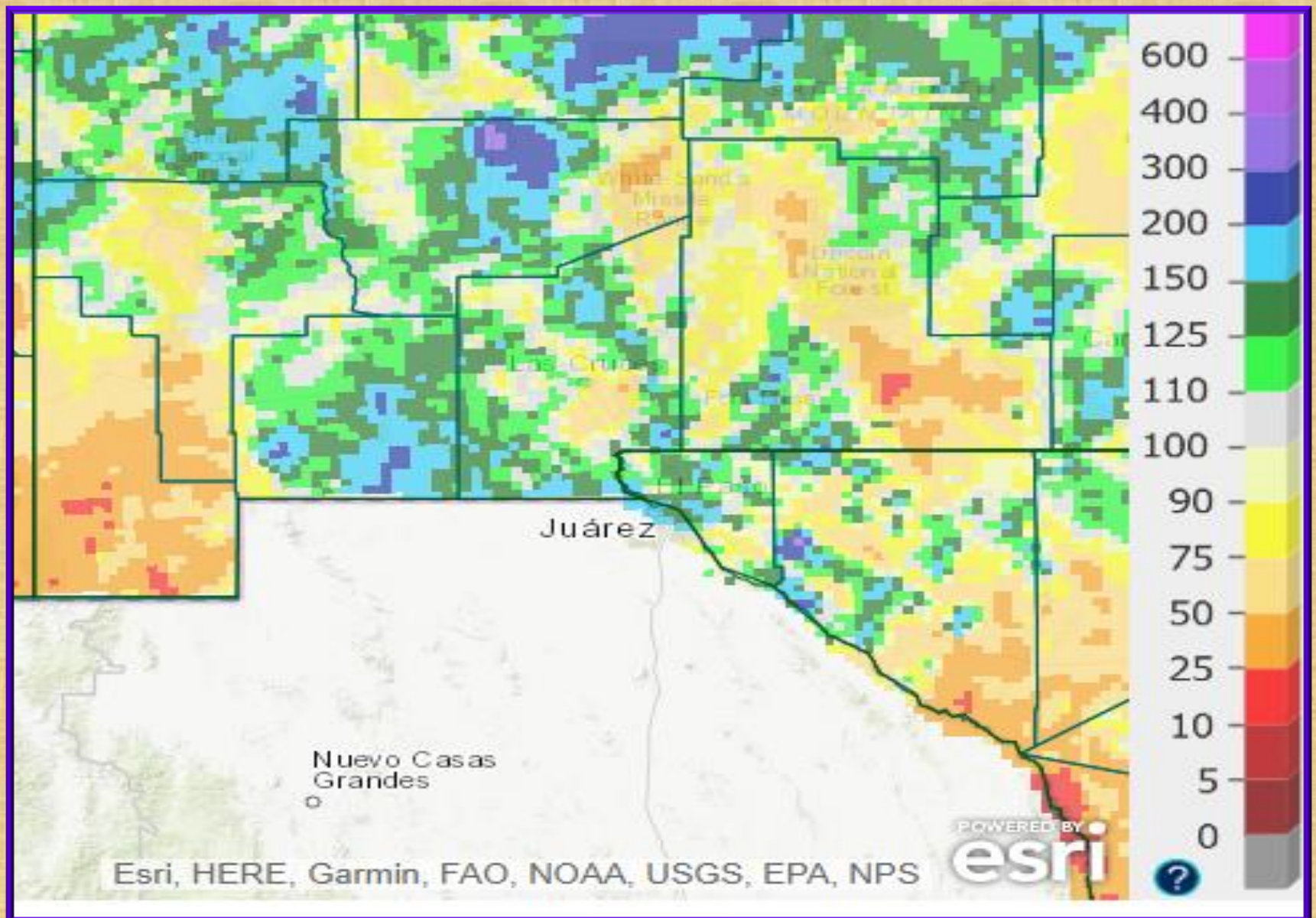
December 2022 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



December 2022 rainfall estimate percent of normal



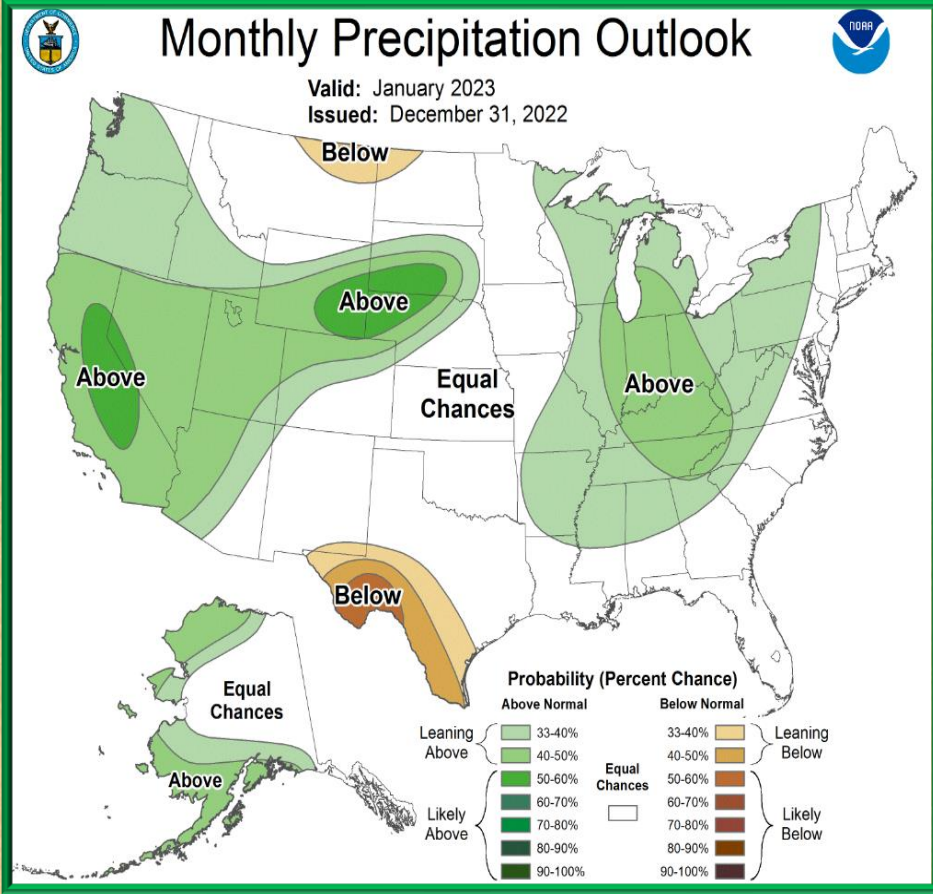
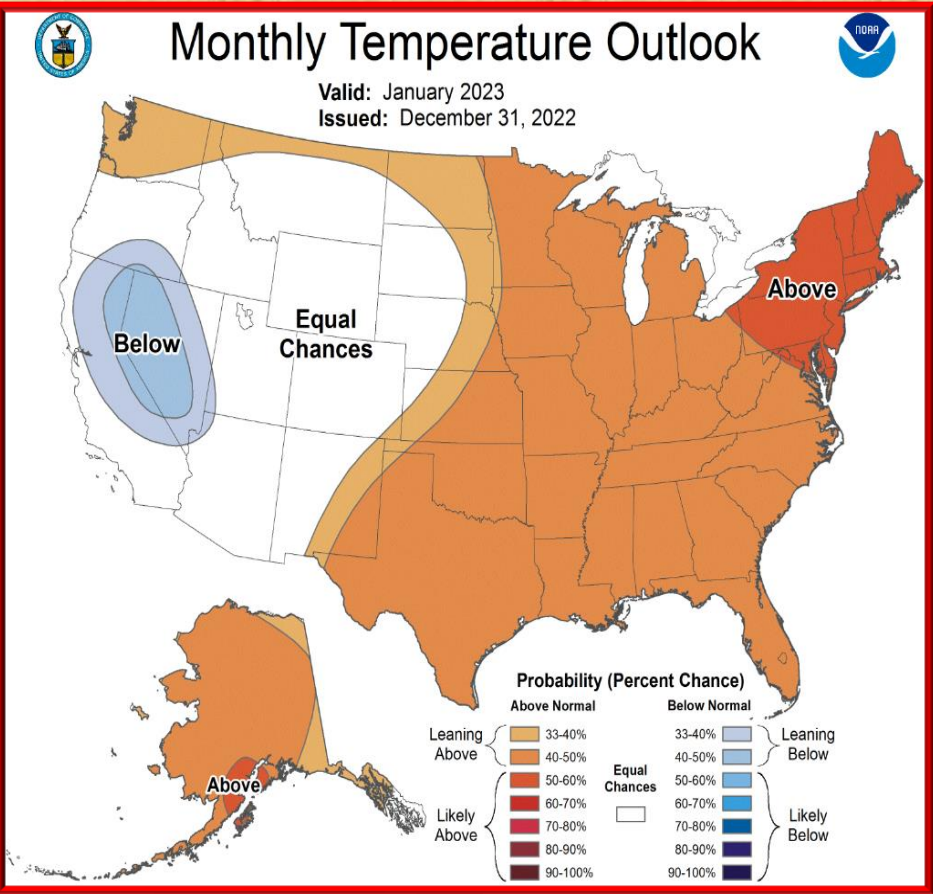
Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Dec 31)



Temperature and precipitation outlook For January 2023

Temperature

Precipitation



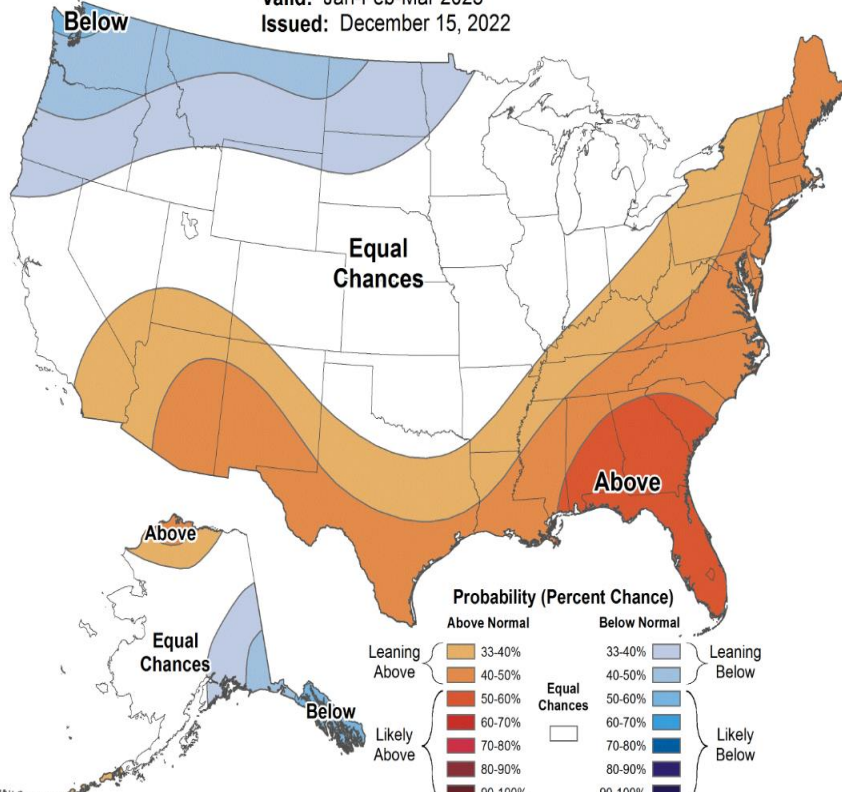
Temperature and precipitation outlook for Jan-Mar 2023

Temperature

Precipitation

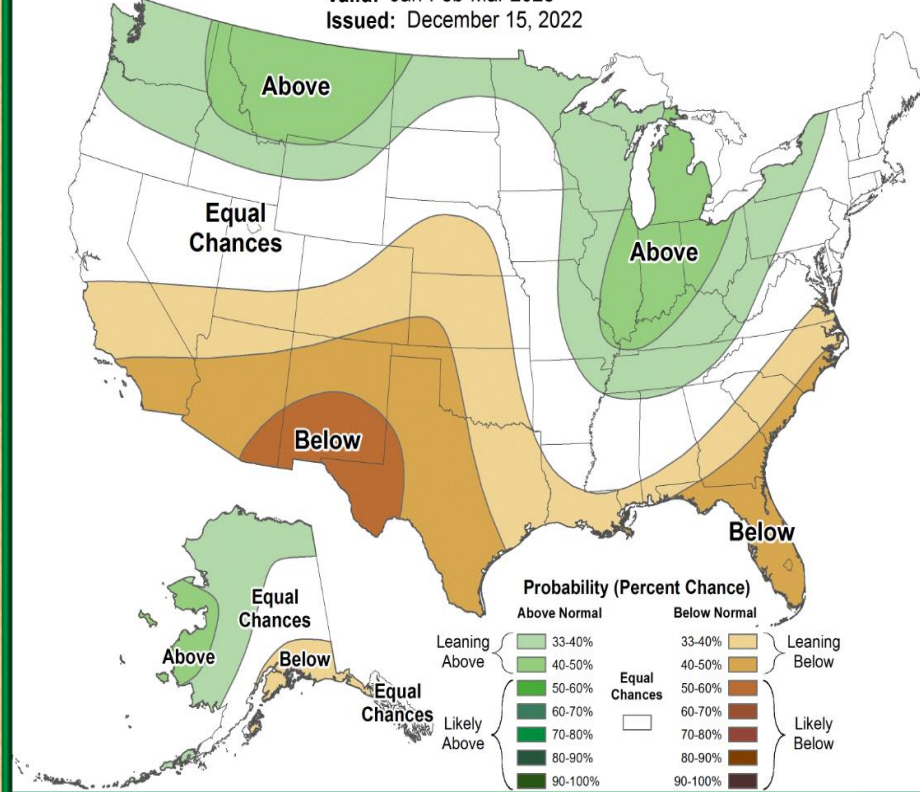
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2023
Issued: December 15, 2022



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2023
Issued: December 15, 2022



Temperature and precipitation outlook for Apr-Jun 2023

Temperature

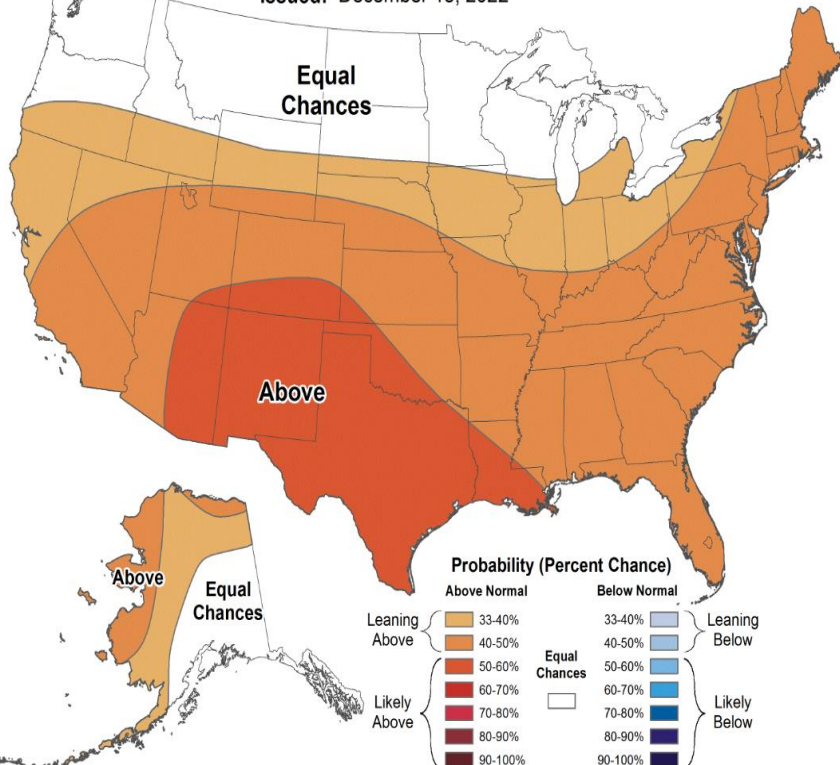
Precipitation



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



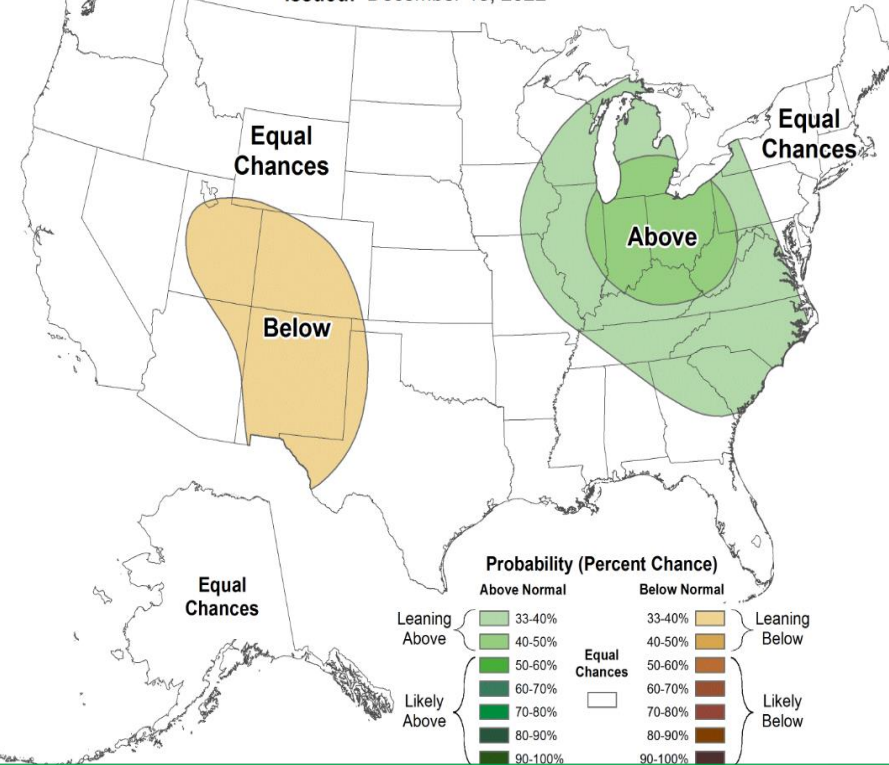
Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2023
Issued: December 15, 2022



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2023
Issued: December 15, 2022

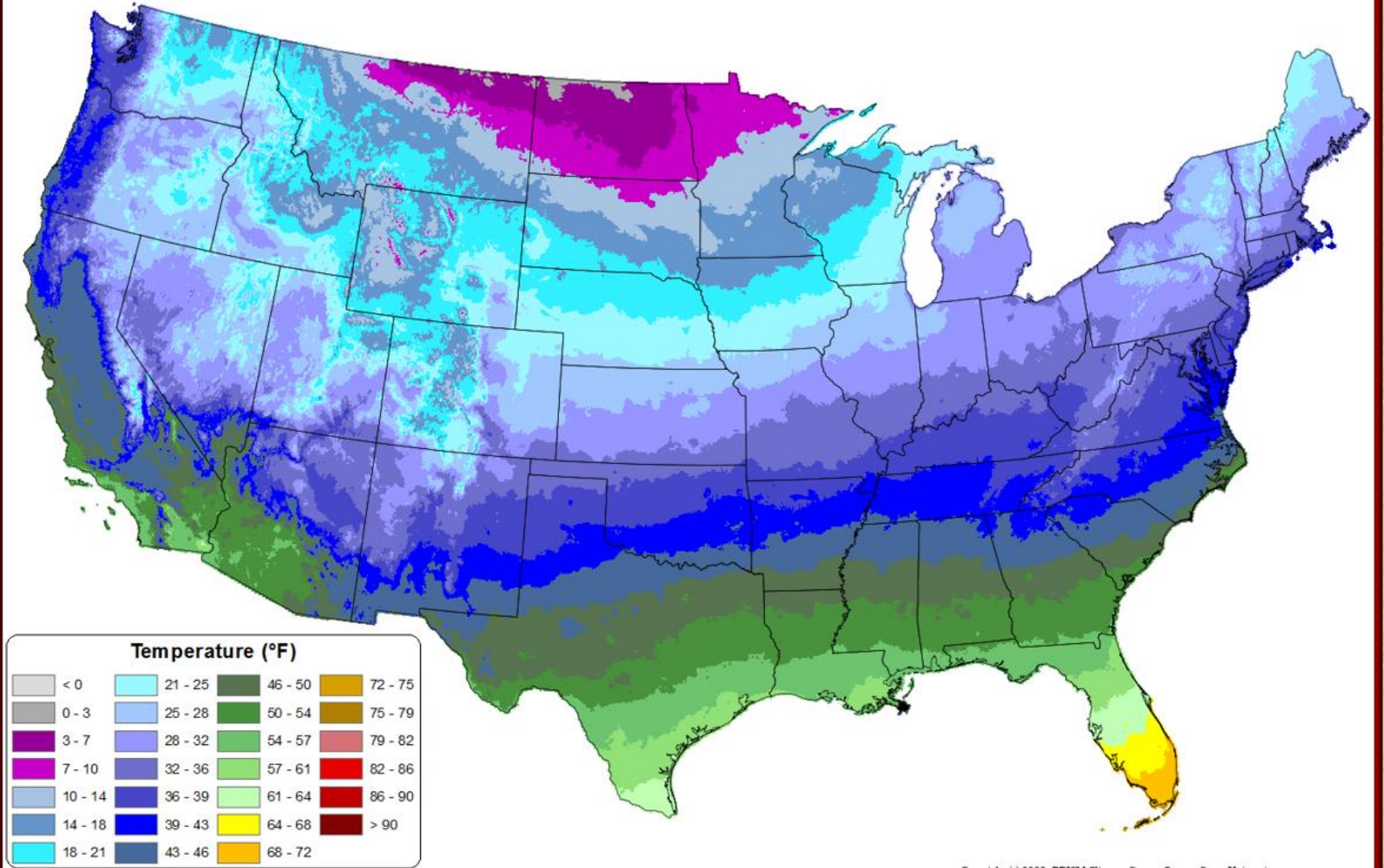


Average Daily Mean Temperature for December 2022

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 Dec 2022 - 31 Dec 2022

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2022

(Map created 01 Jan 2023)

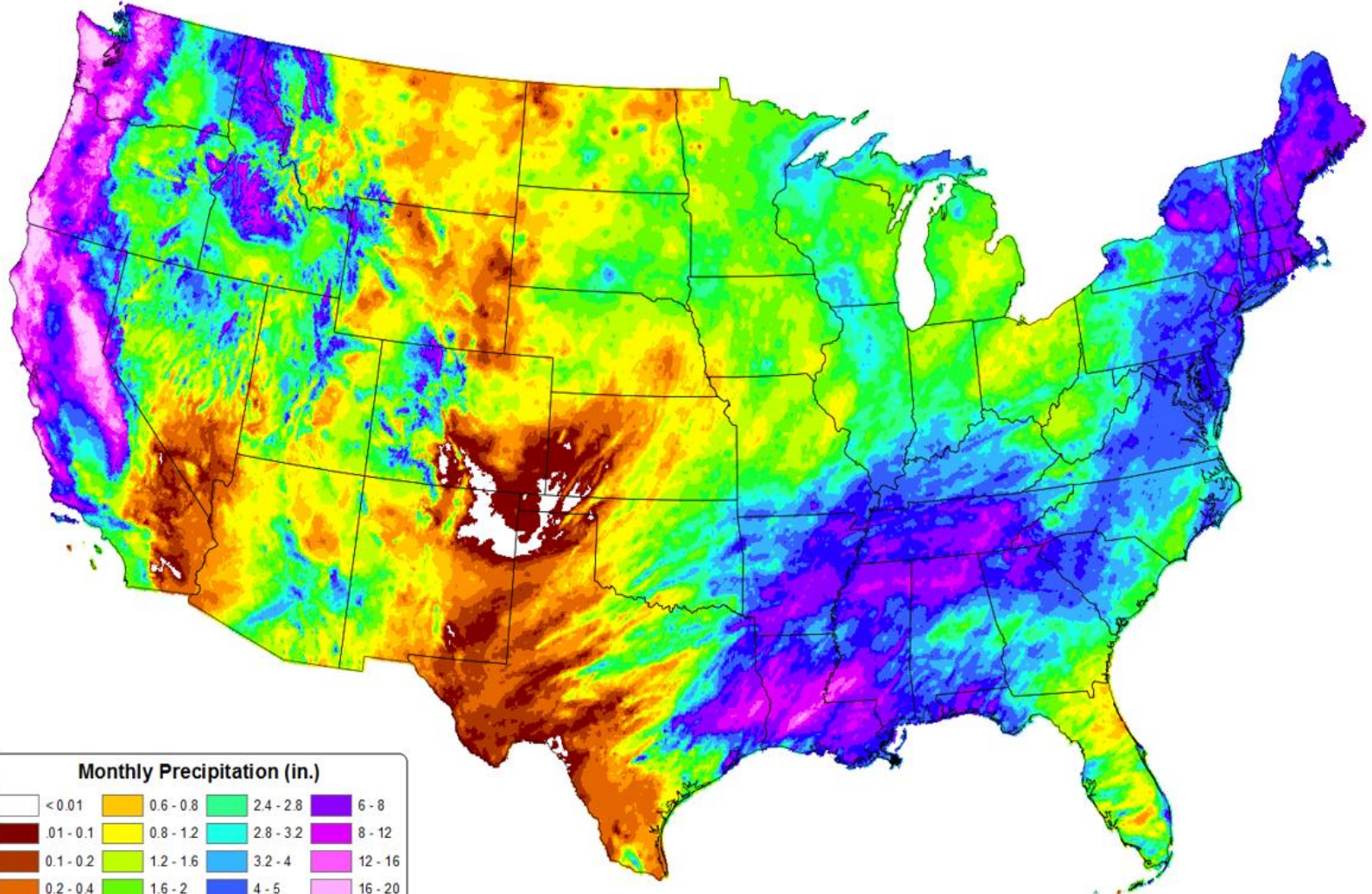


Total Precipitation for December 2022

Total Precipitation: 01 Dec 2022 - 31 Dec 2022

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2022

(Map created 01 Jan 2023)



Monthly Precipitation (in.)

< 0.01	0.6 - 0.8	2.4 - 2.8	6 - 8
0.01 - 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 December 2022

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
DECEMBER 12 210 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	81 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 336 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	66 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 345 PM	BIGGS FIELD-EL PASO	55 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 1229 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	54 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 309 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	53 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 249 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	53 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 326 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	52 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 1245 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	51 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 500 AM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	51 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 321 PM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH	50 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 135 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 12 1055 AM	GRANT CO AIRPORT-GRANT	48 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected Weather Reports December 2022

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
DECEMBER 28 150 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	85 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 1245 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	72 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 140 PM	HACHITA VALLEY- HIDALGO	60 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 645 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	60 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 215 PM	MAYHILL-OTERO	59 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 329 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	53 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 135 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	51 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 343 PM	BIGGS FIELD-EL PASO	51 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 226 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 1041 AM	MESCALERO-OTERO	48 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 300 PM	CHIRICAHUA MUSEUM-HIDALGO	47 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 159 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	47 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected Weather Reports December 2022

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
DECEMBER 28 255 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MM9-HIDALGO	46 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 216 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	46 MPH PEAK WIND
DECEMBER 28 101 PM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH	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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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
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	