

February 2022 Weather Digest



February 2022 Weather Summary

February started out with a bang as a strong Pacific storm system moved into the area on the 2nd and 3rd. This produced a round of lowland showers and mountain snow on these days. The Sacramento Mountains received the brunt of the snow, with around 10 to 16 inches reported across that area. A strong cold front moved also moved in during this time, giving the Borderland a couple of days of well below normal temperatures. Unfortunately, the remainder of the month behaved in a more typical pattern; mostly dry with several bouts of strong winds. Strong storm systems from the Pacific Ocean moved in on the 15th and 16th, and then again on the 23rd. Wind gusts each of these days reached the 50 to 80 mph range. Considerable blowing dust was also reported, and certain stretches of highways along the southern lowlands briefly closed during these dusty episodes.

Rainfall for the month was relatively meager. Areas east of the Rio Grande Valley did report near to slightly above normal precipitation, while areas to the west were well below normal. Drought conditions remained mostly unchanged; areas west of the Rio Grande Valley remained in severe to extreme drought, while areas to the east persisted in abnormally dry to moderate drought status. Temperatures for the month were relatively mild as very few high or low temperatures records were set. Aside from the brief cold snap from the 3rd to 5th, temperatures remained mostly in the climatically normal range.

February 2022 Weather Summary, cont'd

Looking ahead to March, temperatures begin warming at faster clip than the previous couple of months. Average high temperatures at El Paso begin the month at 67 degrees, warming to 76 degrees at the end of March. Climatologically, the spring windy season begins in February and then peaks in March and April. So if this March behaves normally, we can expect around 4 to 6 windstorms and the associated blowing dust. March also begins our stretch of the 3 driest months of the year, which include April and May.

Daylight length continues its march upward. Daylight on the 1st sits at 11 hours, 31 minutes and increases to 12 hours, 29 minutes on the last day. We also switch back to daylight saving time on the 13th, bringing more light to our evenings. In lunar news, our full moon will occur on the 18th, which is commonly known as the Worm Moon, as earthworms being moving to the surface with the warming temperatures. The new moon occurs on the 2nd. There are no lunar or solar eclipses during the month.

Feb 2 Snow El Paso



Feb 2 Snow El Paso



Feb 2 Snow El Paso



Feb 2 Snow El Paso



Feb 2 Snow Cloudcroft



Feb 2 Snow Cloudcroft



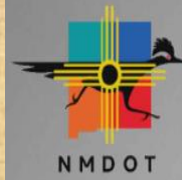
Feb 2 Snow El Paso-Transmountain



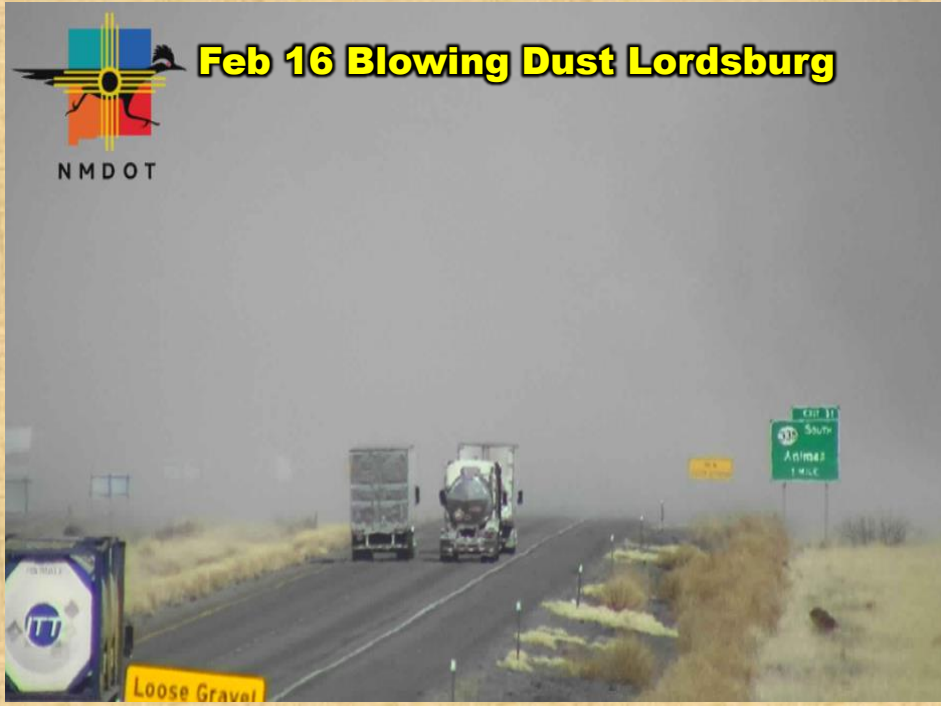
Feb 3 Snow Organ Mtns



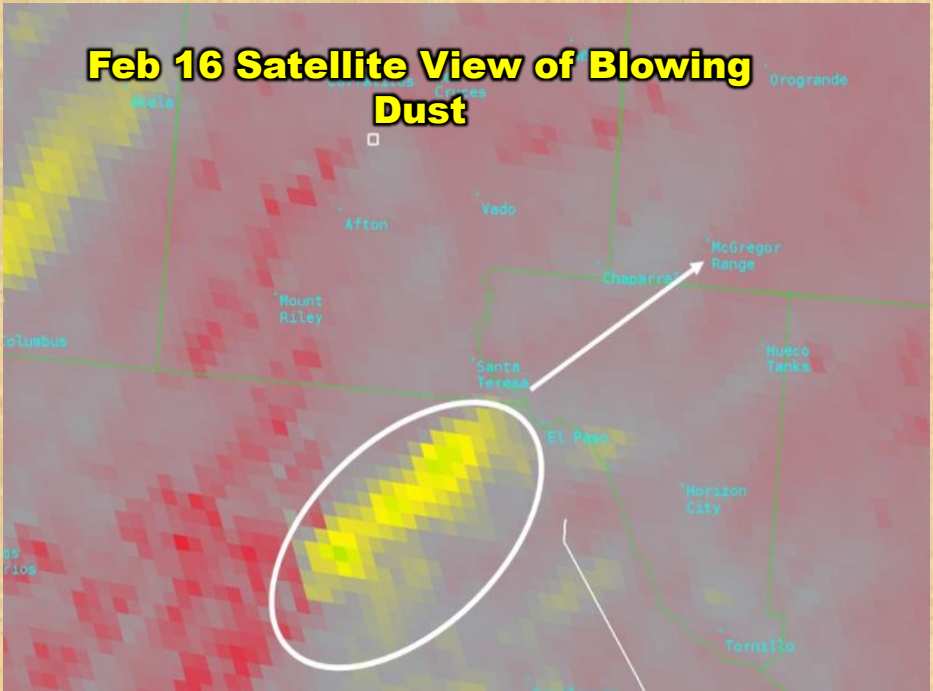
Feb 16 Wind Damage El Paso



Feb 16 Blowing Dust Lordsburg



Feb 16 Satellite View of Blowing Dust



Gain in daylight from the beginning of February to the end of the month

MORE DAYLIGHT FOR FEBRUARY



ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Advisory in Affect

ENSO Alert System

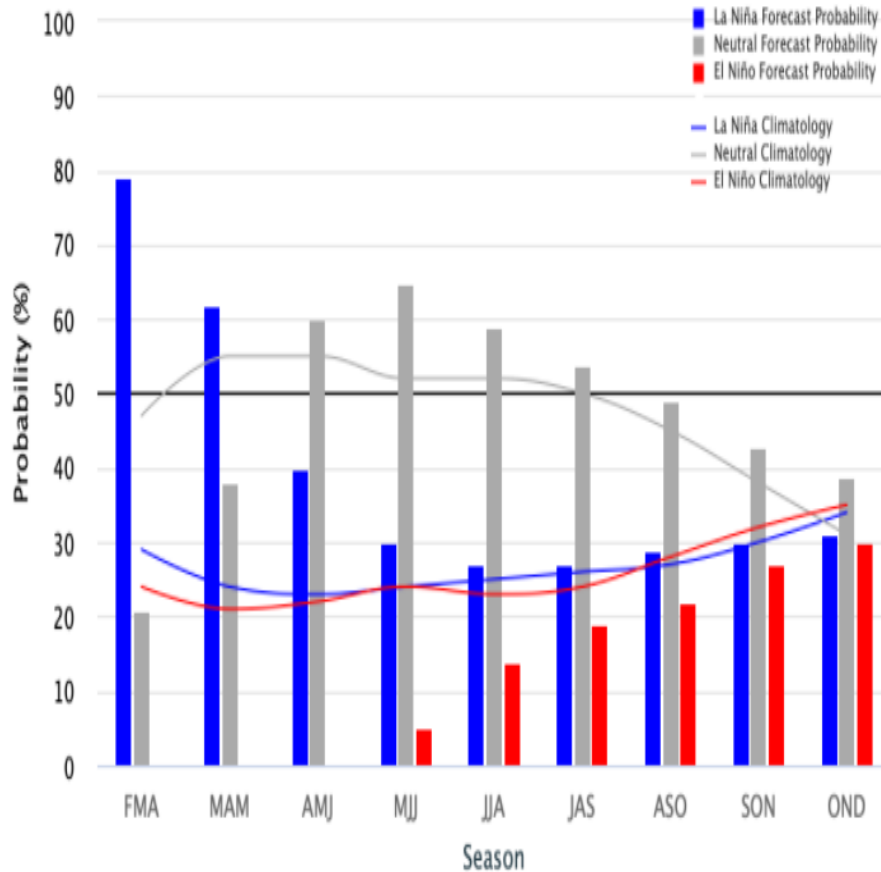
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

ENSO Forecast

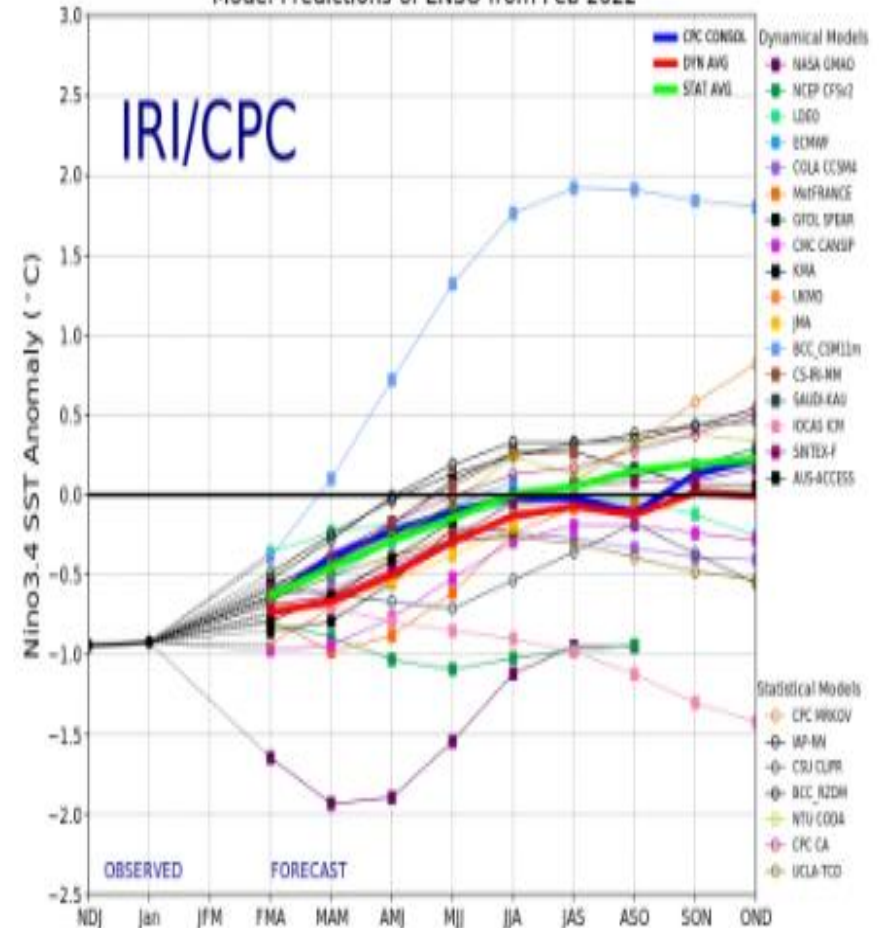
ENSO is in La Niña status, where it is expected to stay into early spring and then gradually shift to neutral.

Mid-February 2022 IRI/CPC Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts

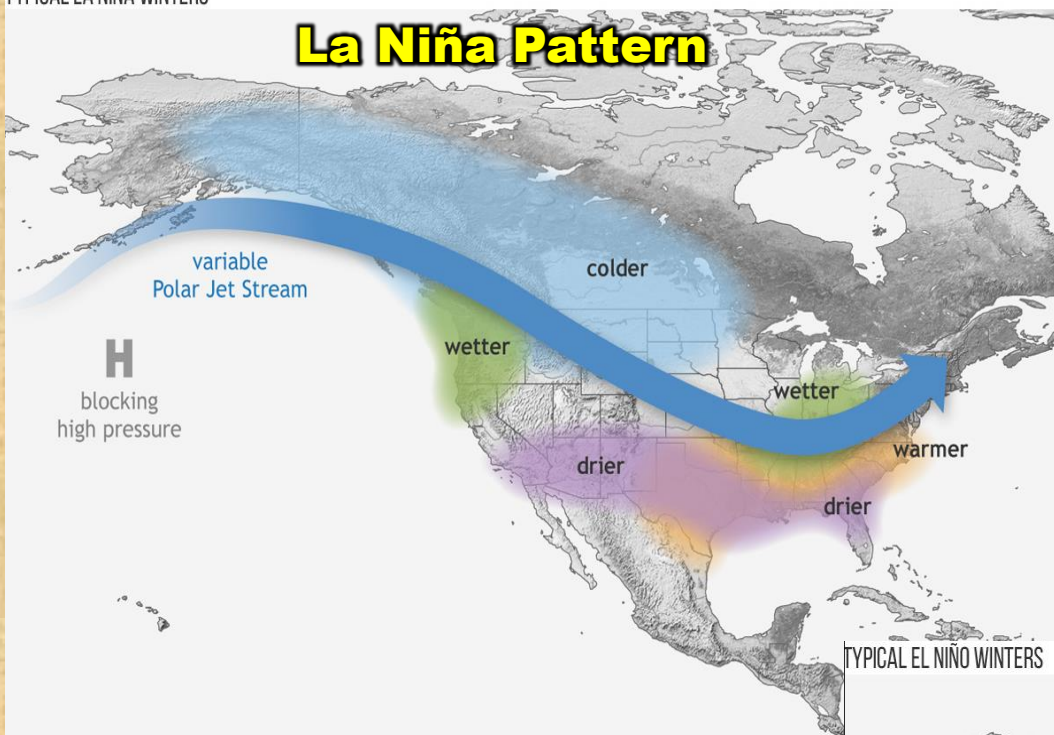
ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly
Neutral ENSO: -0.5°C to 0.5°C



Model Predictions of ENSO from Feb 2022

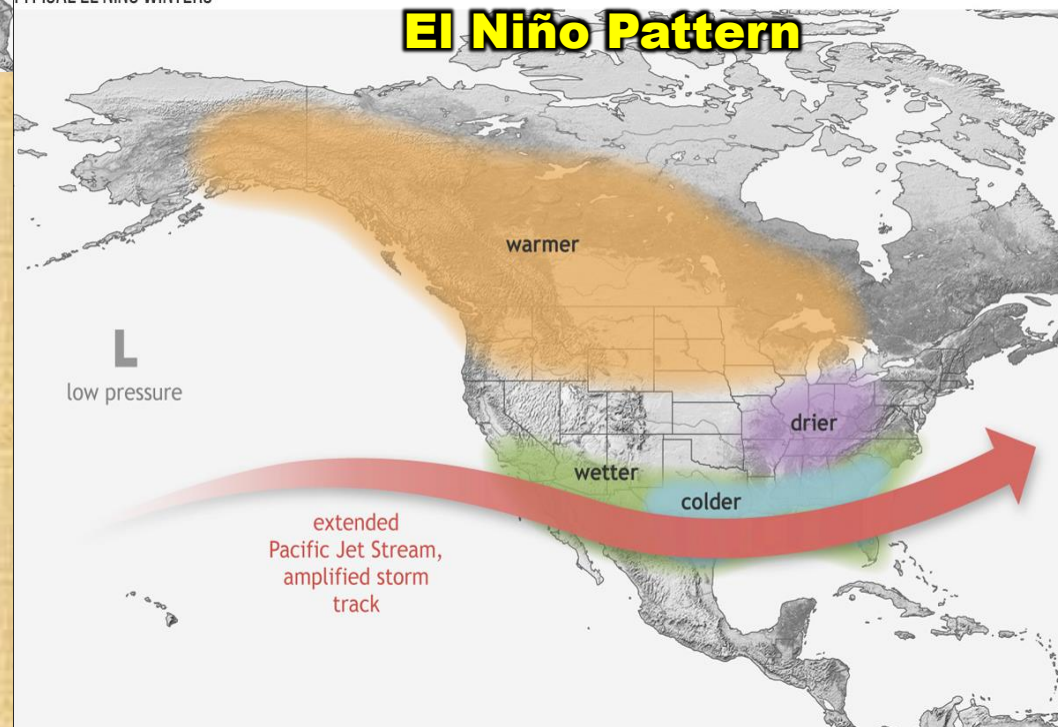


La Niña Pattern



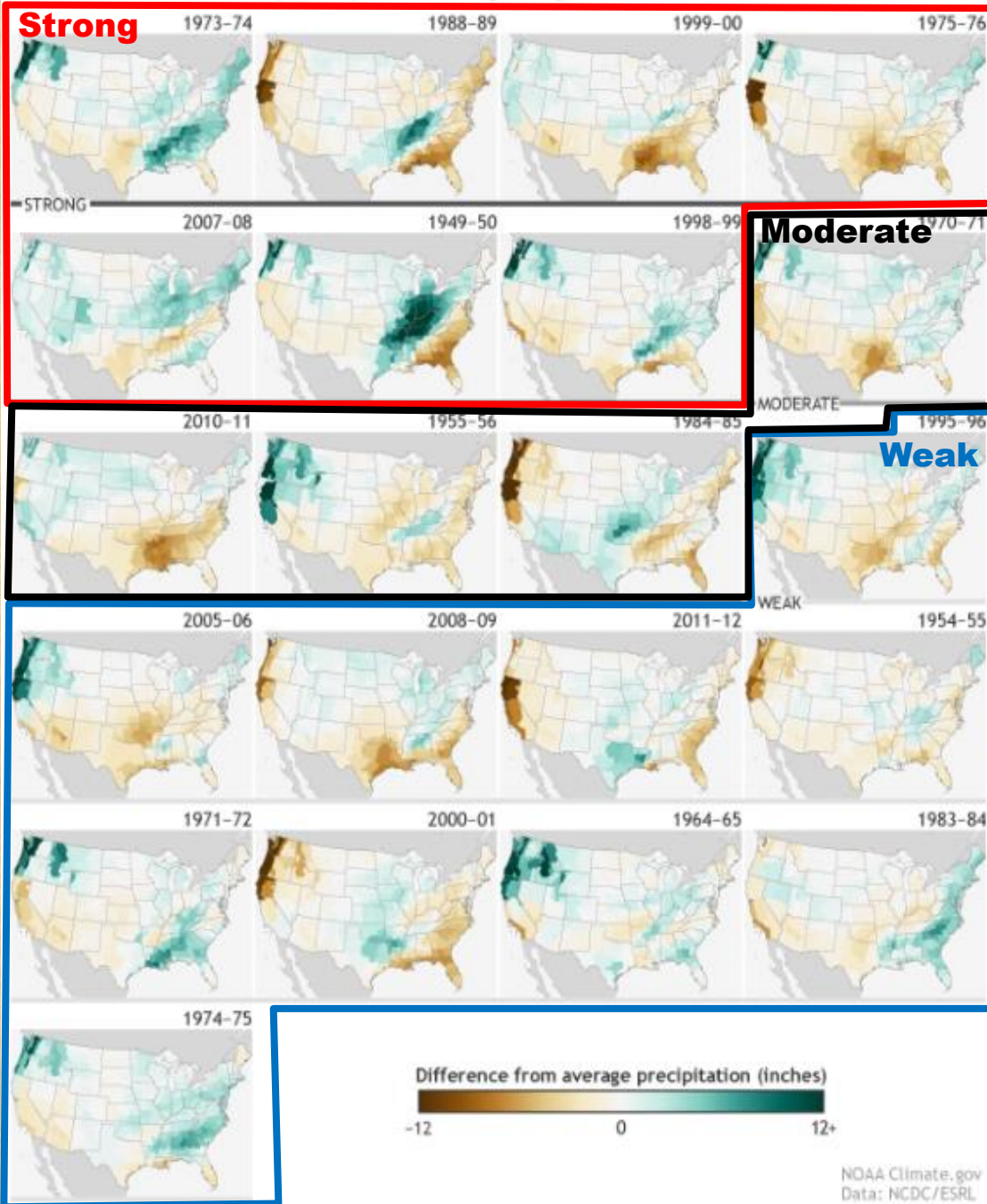
With a La Niña pattern, a ridge of high pressure tends to build off the west coast of the U.S., blocking most of our Pacific winter storm systems. These storms tend to end up moving across the northern Plains and down to the southeastern part of the country. Of course it is important to remember that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



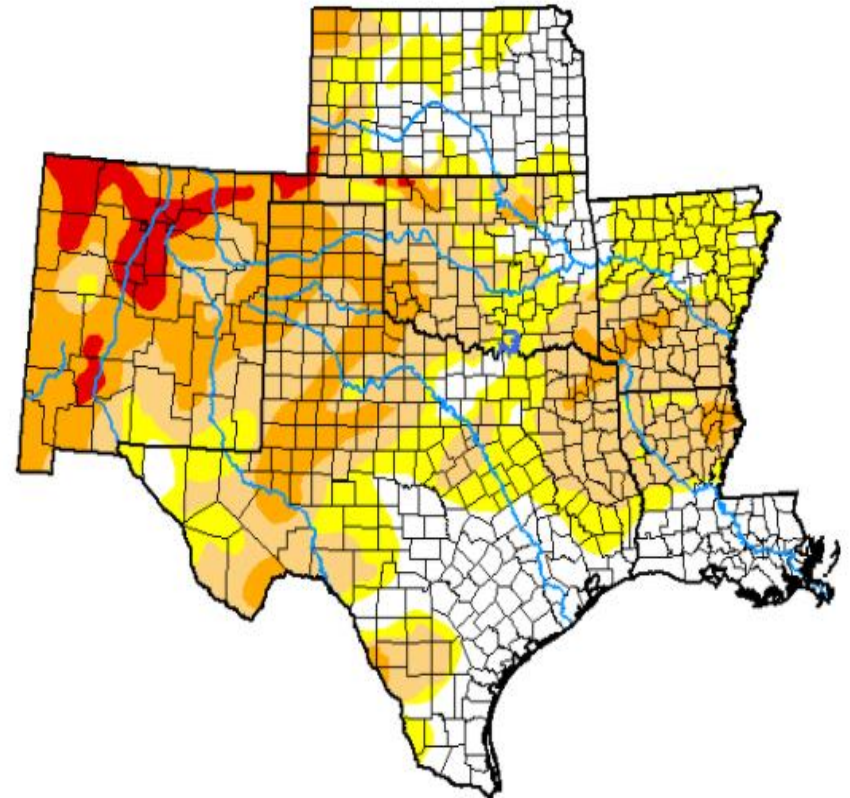
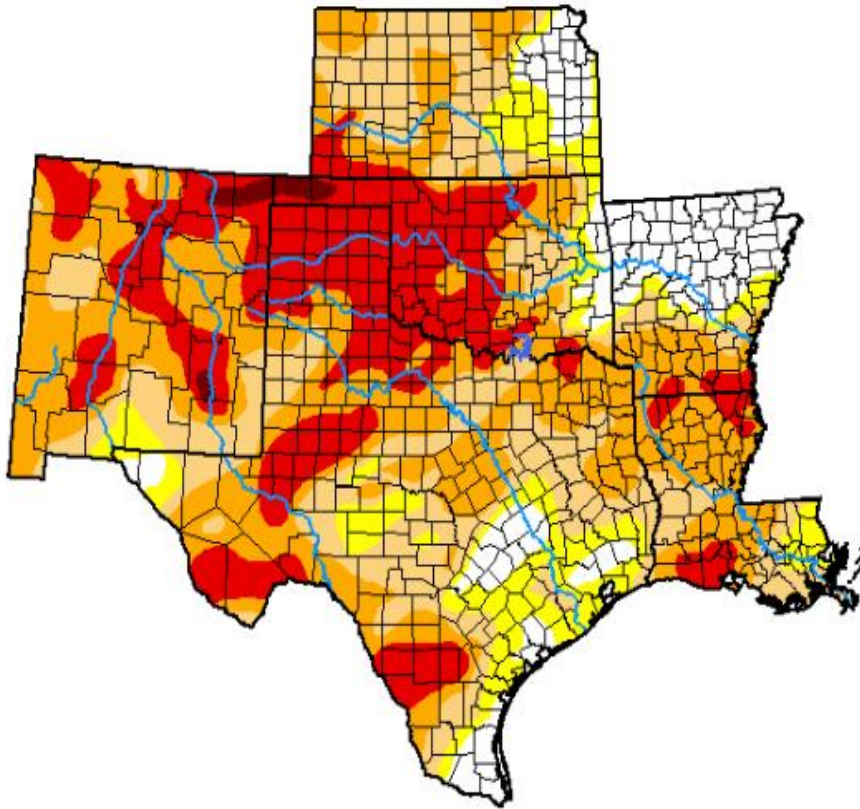
Examples of the numerous La Niña winters since 1950. These maps depict the departure from normal precipitation amounts for a winter.

Current drought conditions and 3 month change

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

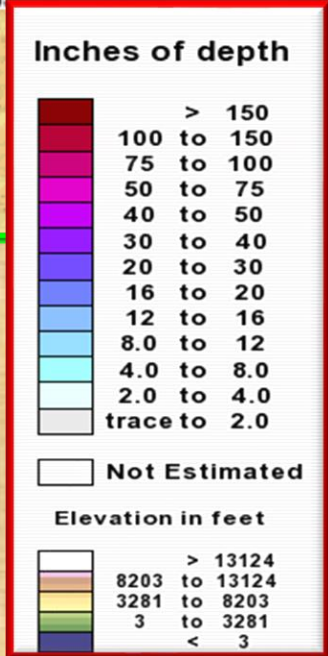
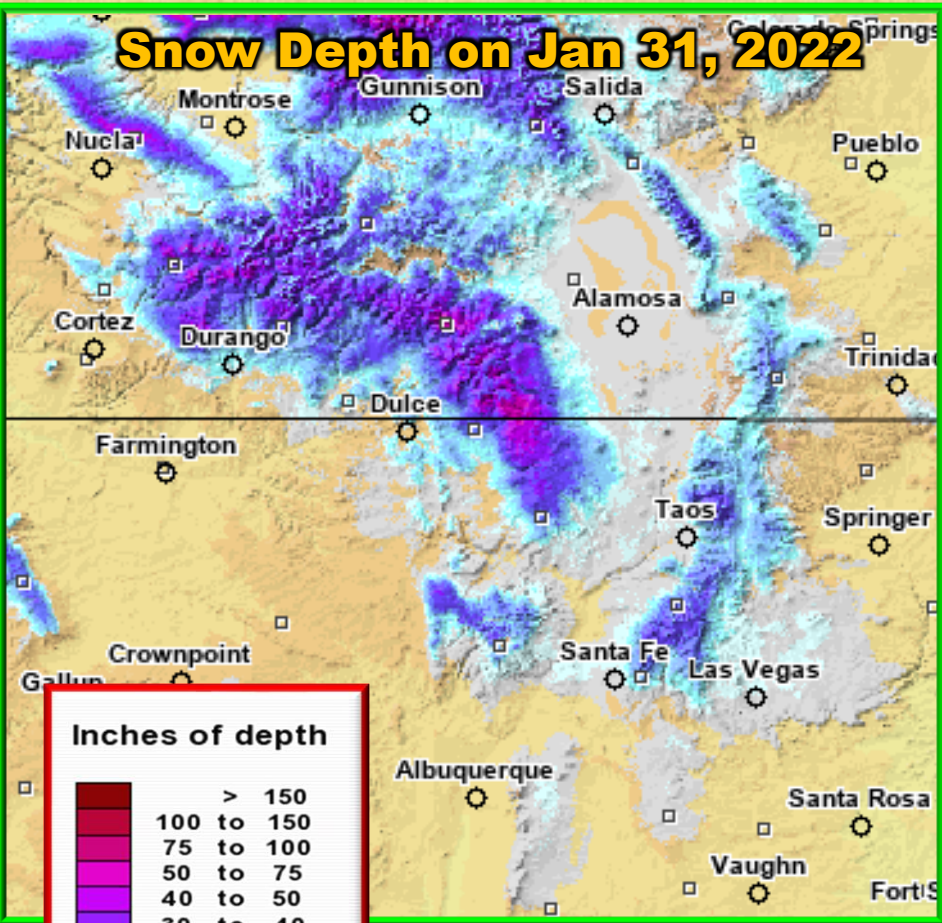
February 22, 2022

November 30, 2021

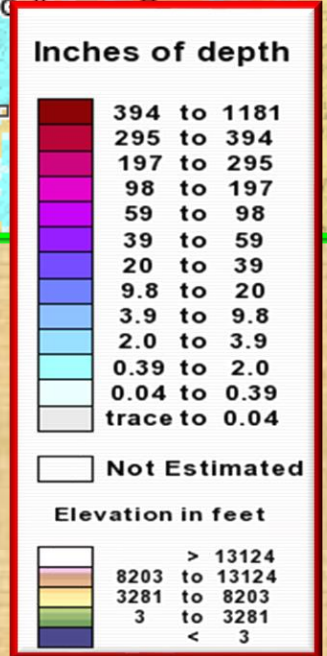
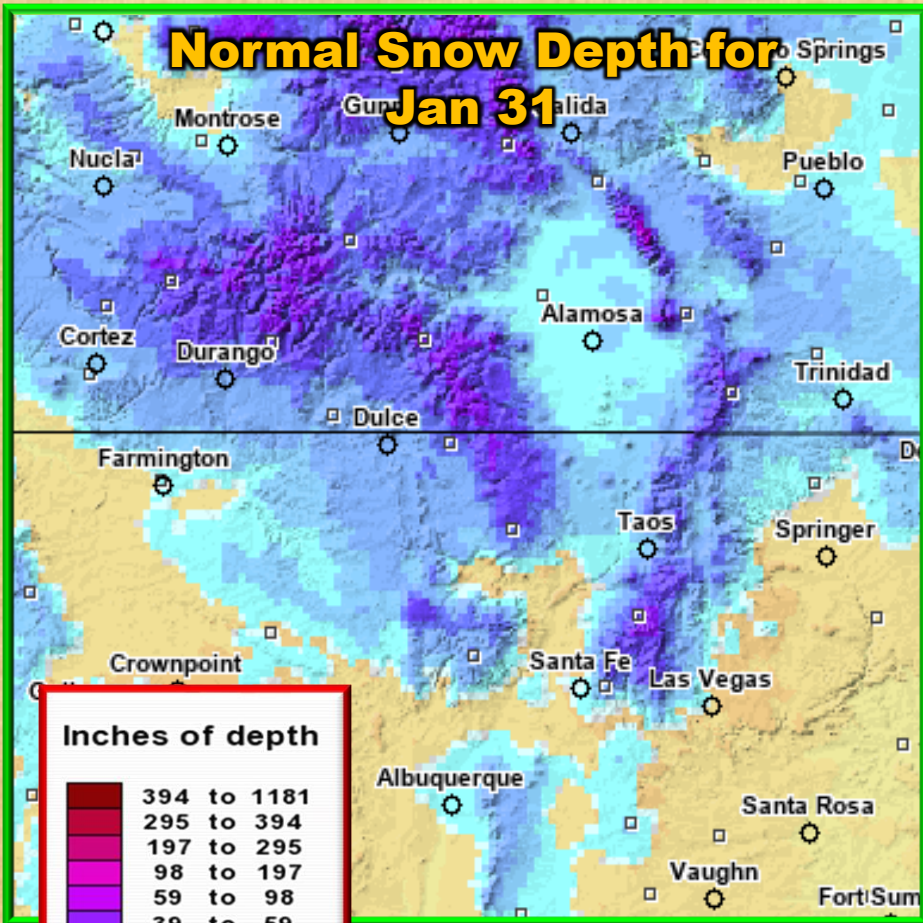


Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Jan 31, 2022

Snow Depth on Jan 31, 2022

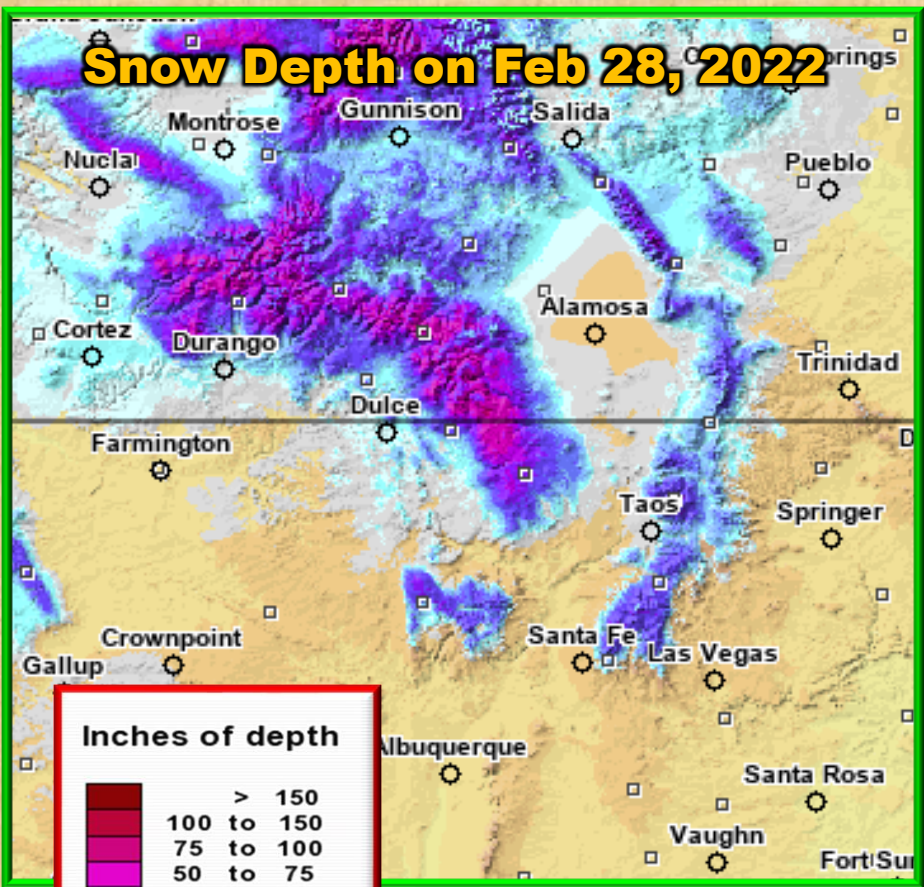


Normal Snow Depth for Jan 31

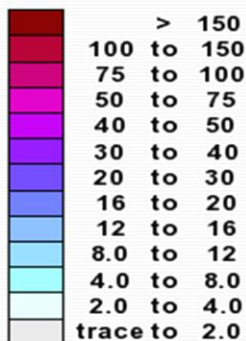


Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Feb 28, 2022

Snow Depth on Feb 28, 2022

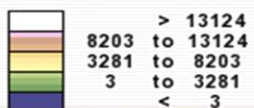


Inches of depth

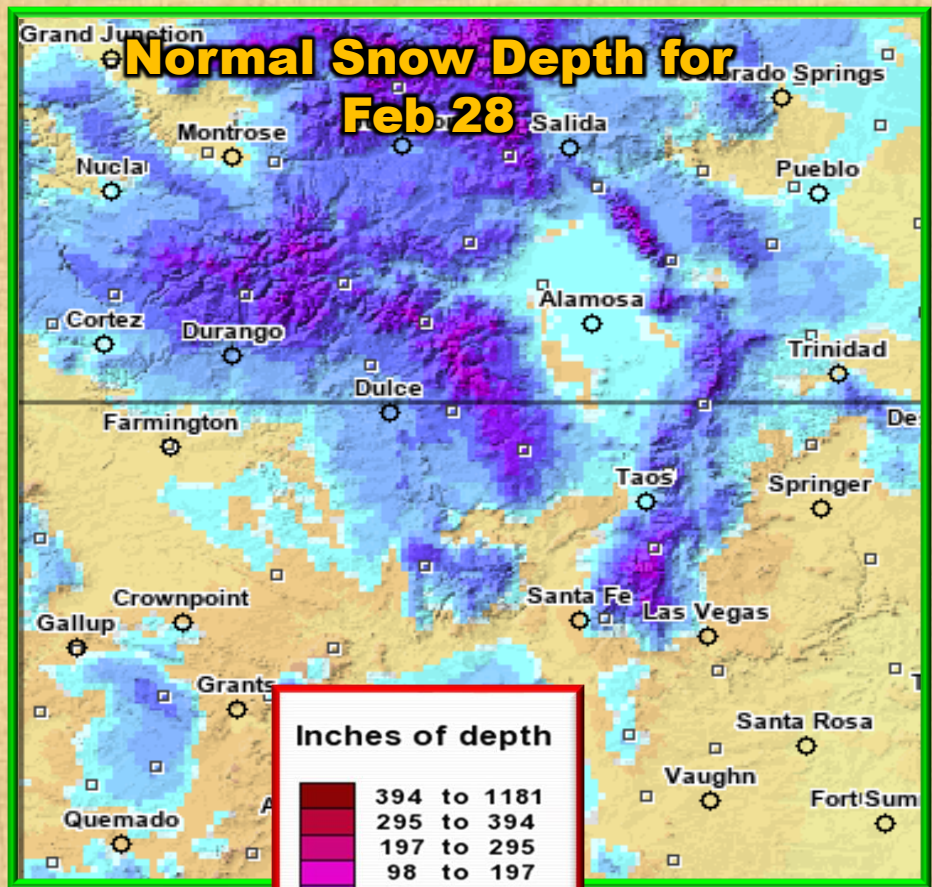


Not Estimated

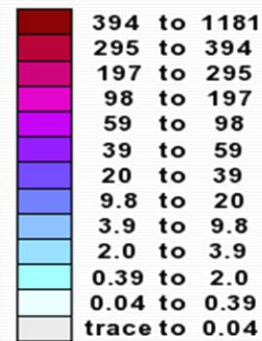
Elevation in feet



Normal Snow Depth for Feb 28

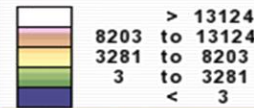


Inches of depth



Not Estimated

Elevation in feet



Snow Water Equivalent as of Feb 28, 2021

Compare to last few years and average values

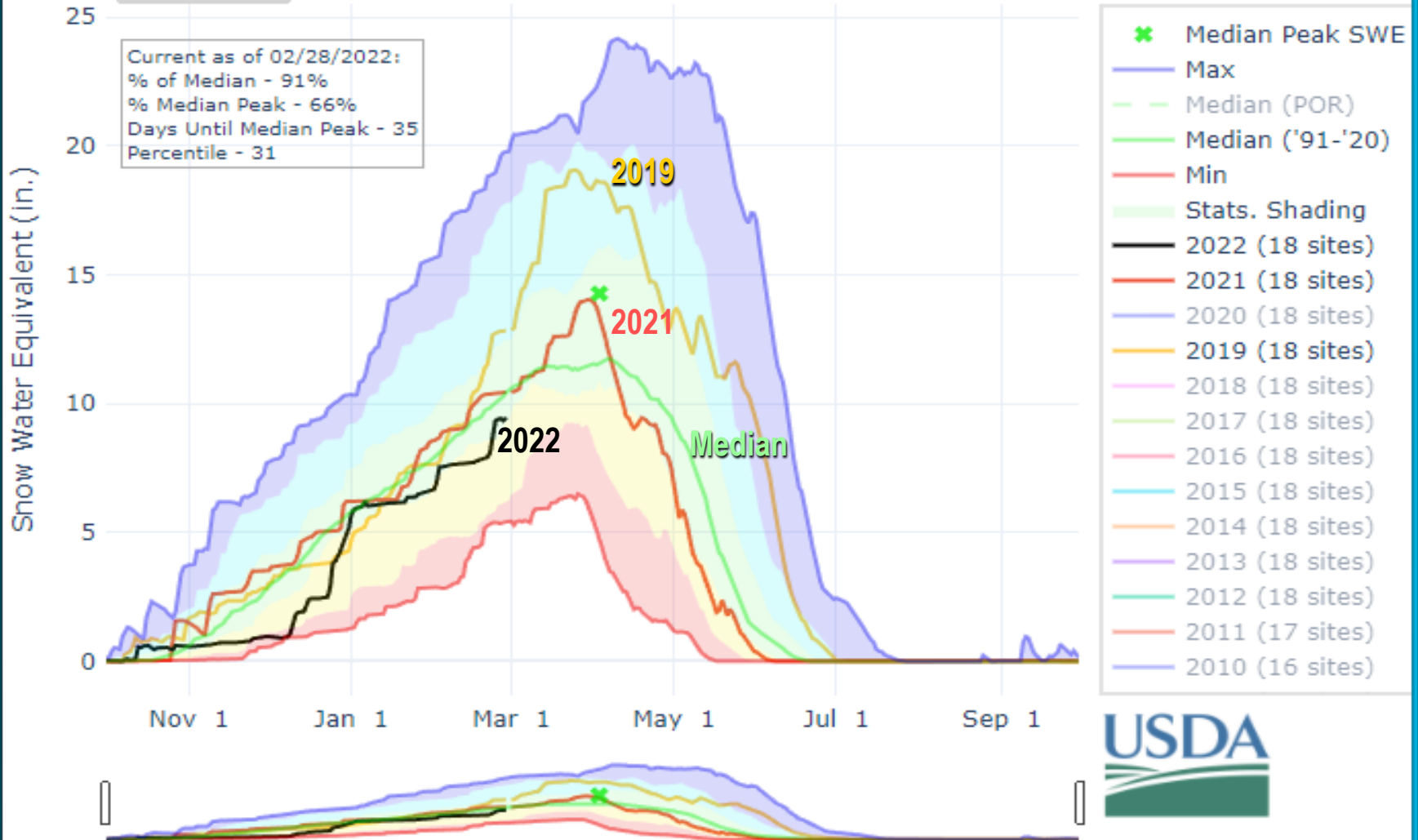
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER RIO GRANDE

Reset Range

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

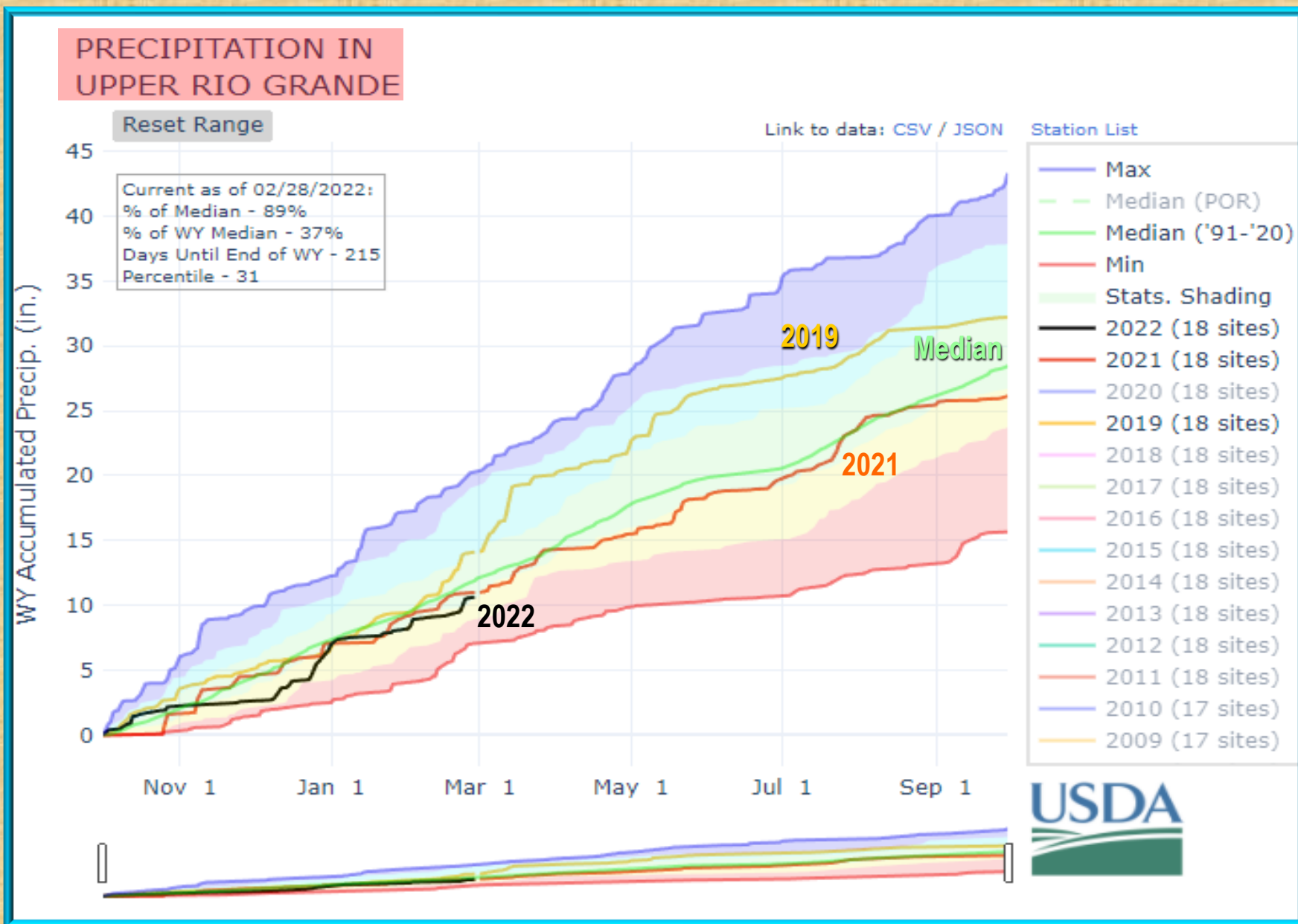
[Station List](#)

Current as of 02/28/2022:
 % of Median - 91%
 % Median Peak - 66%
 Days Until Median Peak - 35
 Percentile - 31



Precipitation for the Water Year Oct 1 – Feb 28, 2022

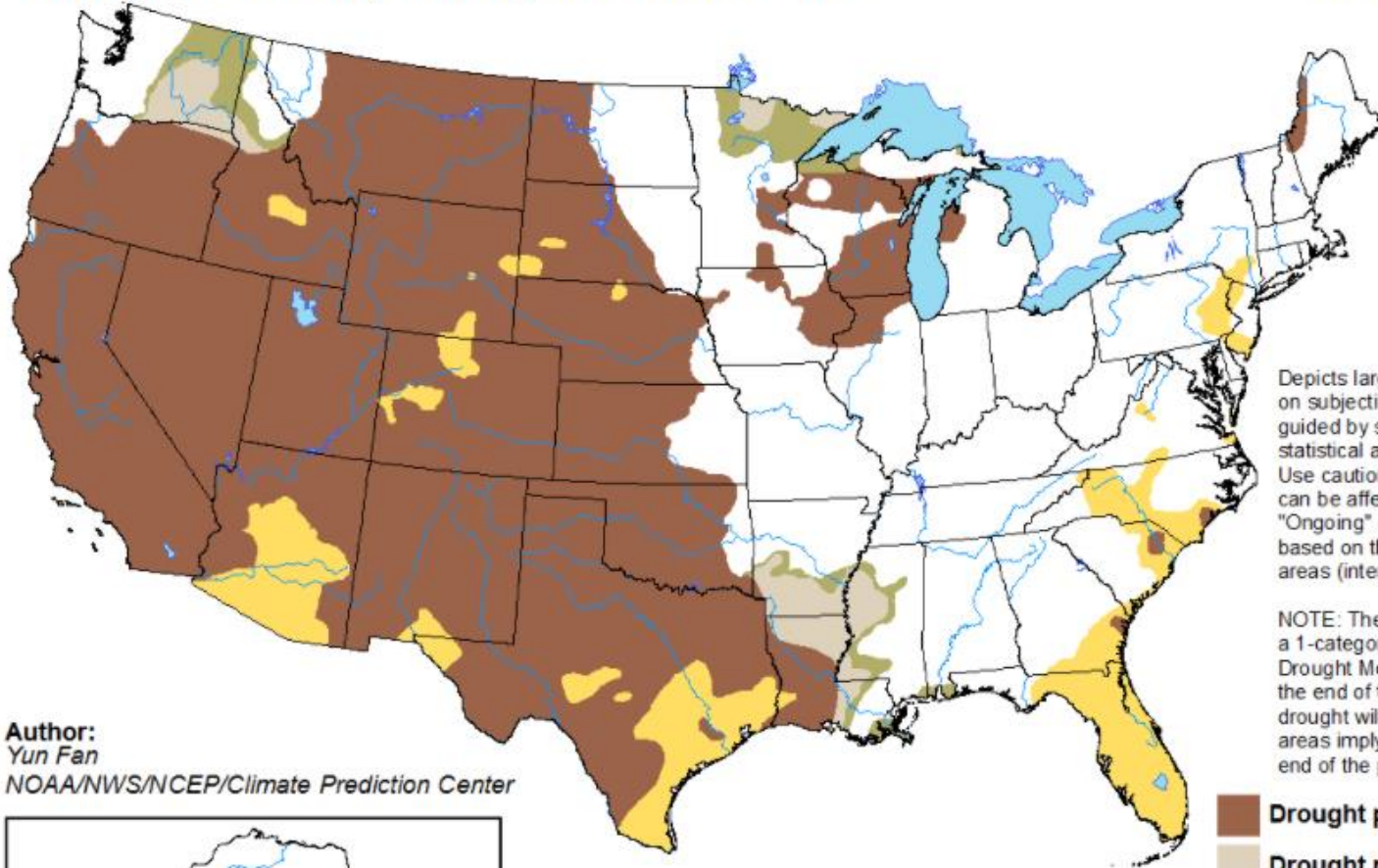
Compare to last few years and average values



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 17 - May 31, 2022
Released February 17



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:
Yun Fan
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

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



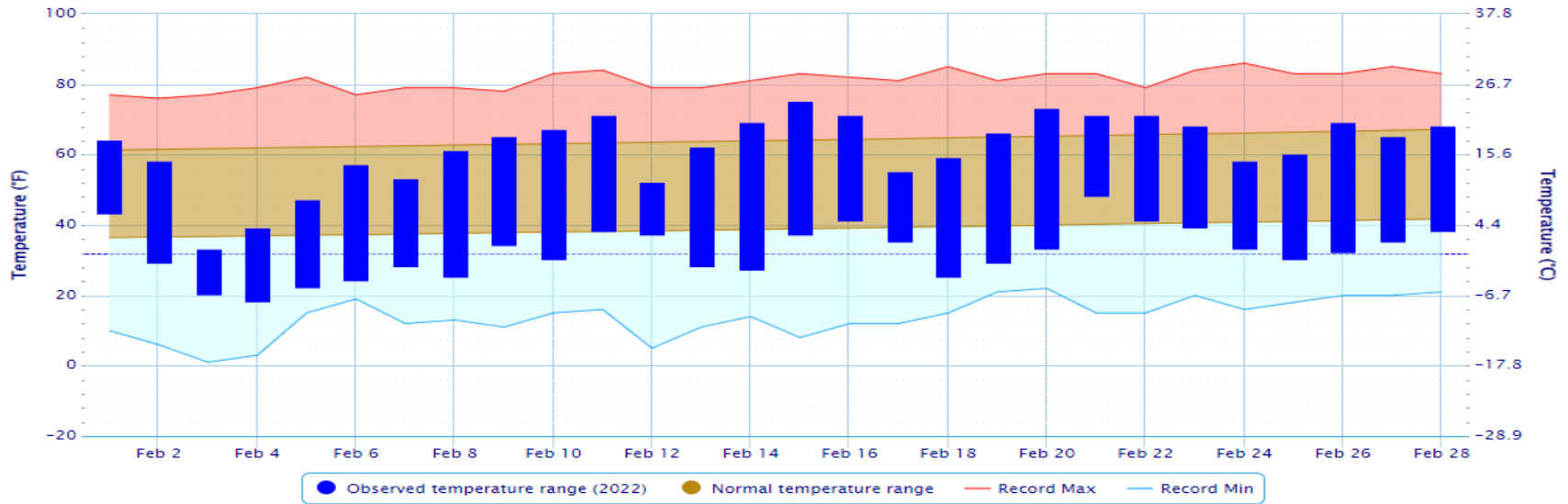
<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Temperature and precipitation data for February 2022 in El Paso

○ = record

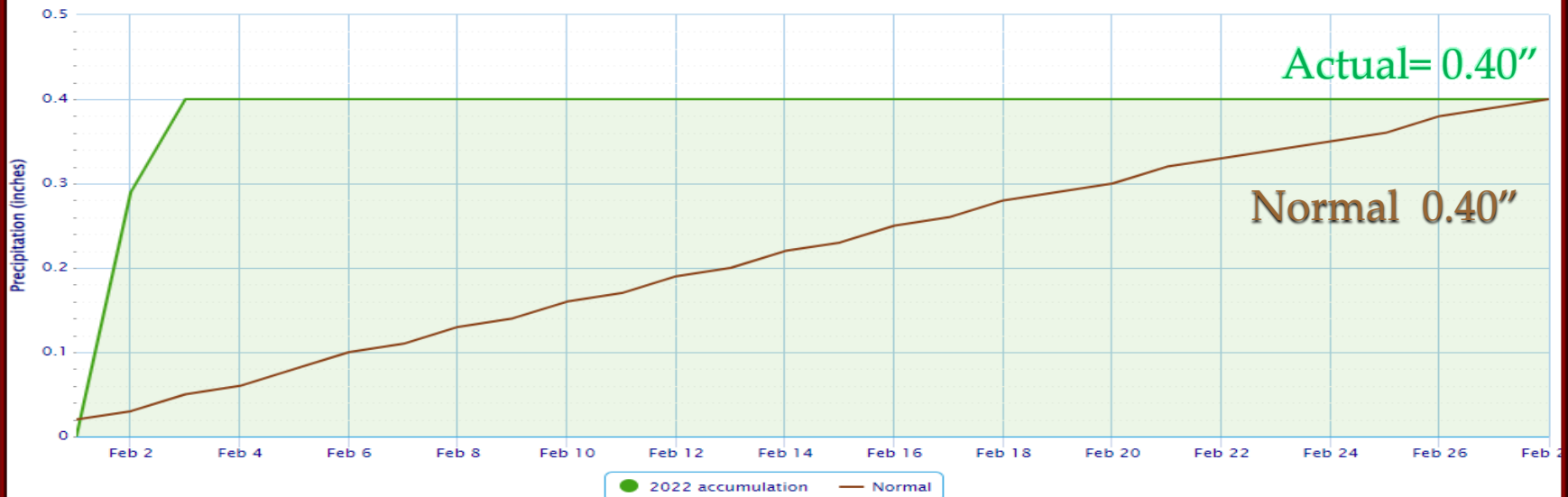
Daily Temperature Data – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2022-02-28; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2022-02-28. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.

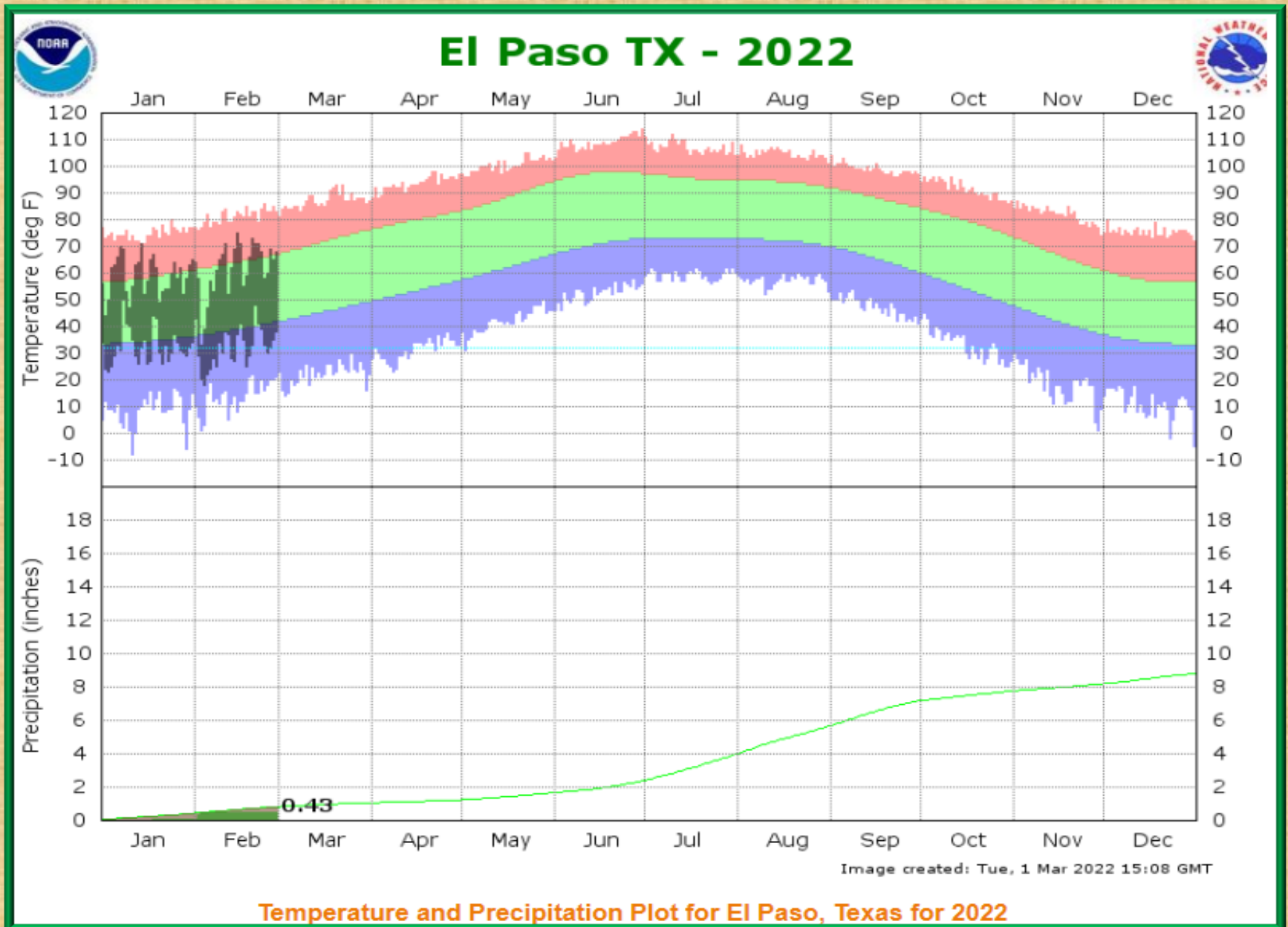


Accumulated Precipitation – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

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



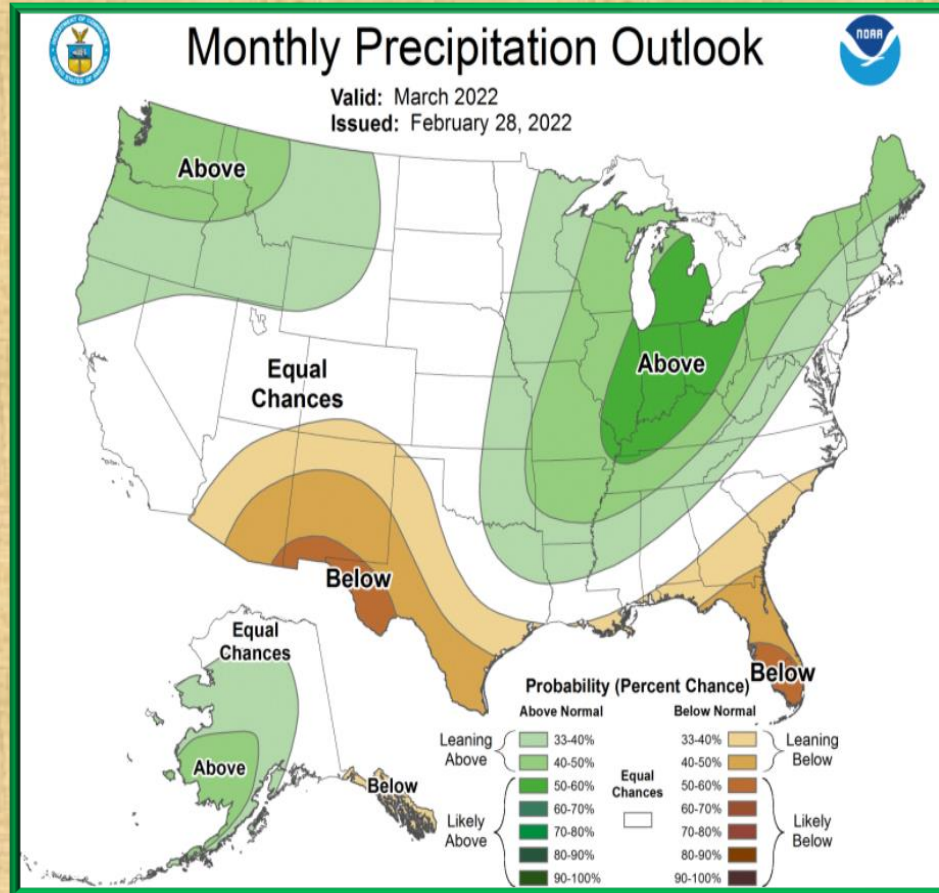
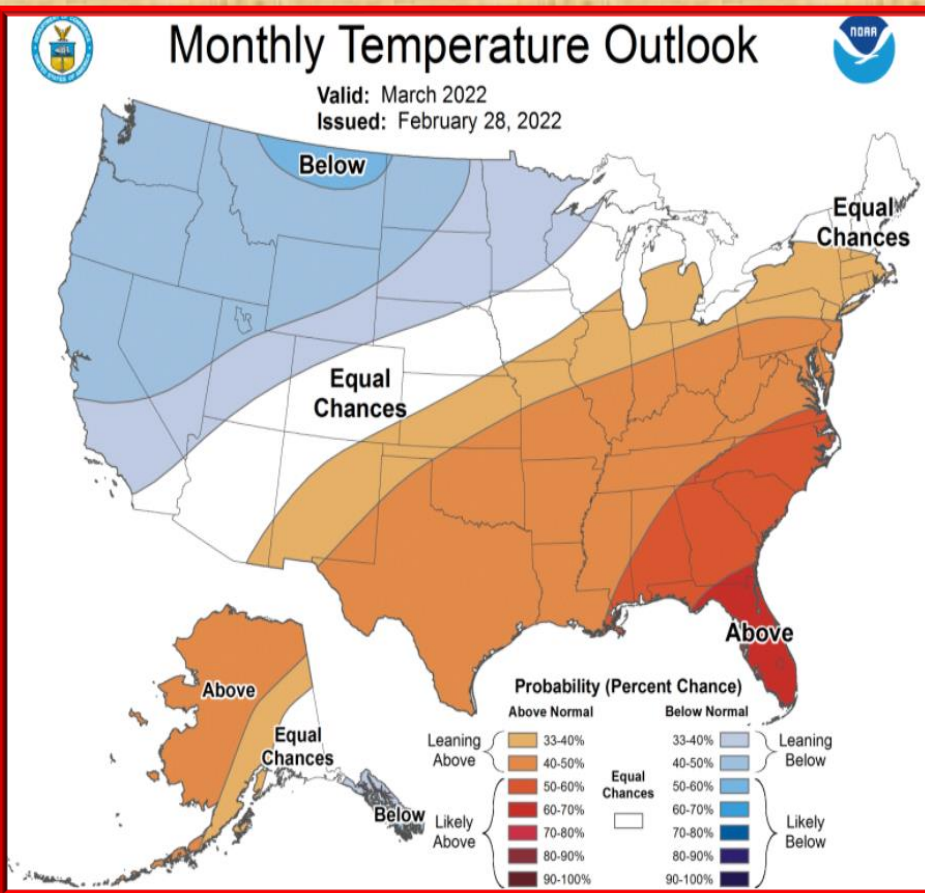
2022: Temperature and Precipitation YTD Data for El Paso



Temperature and precipitation outlook for March 2022

Temperature

Precipitation



Temperature and precipitation outlook For March-May 2022

Temperature

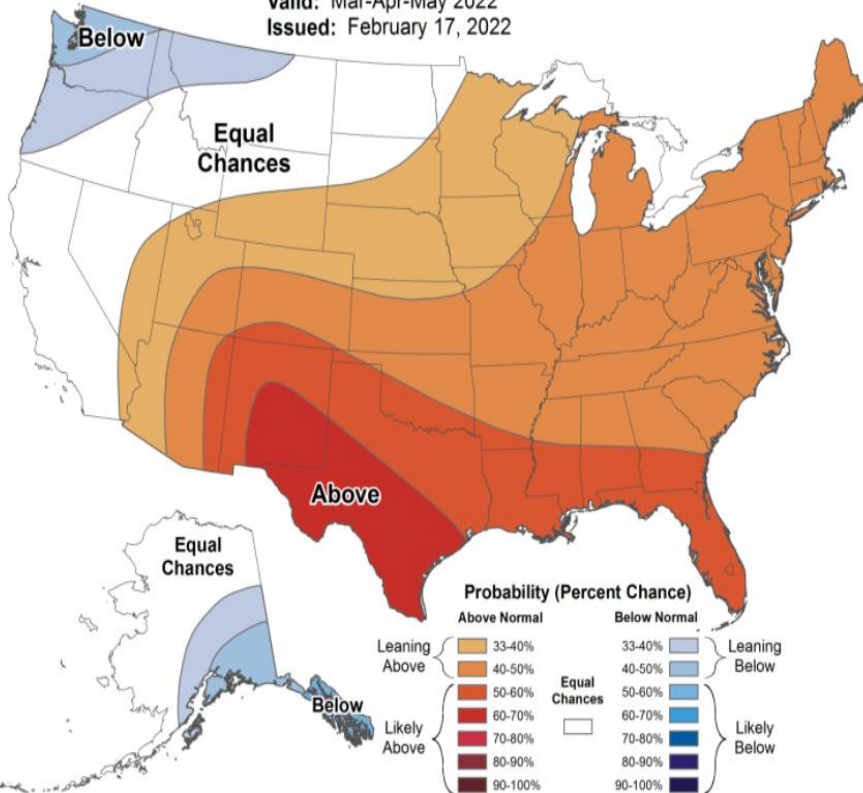
Precipitation



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



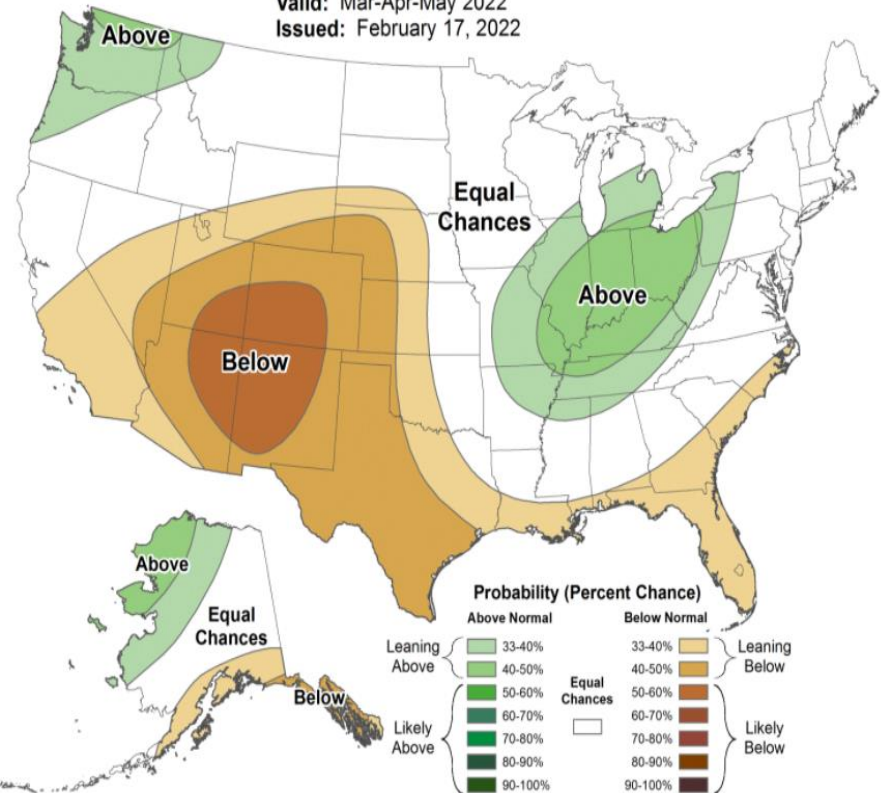
Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2022
Issued: February 17, 2022



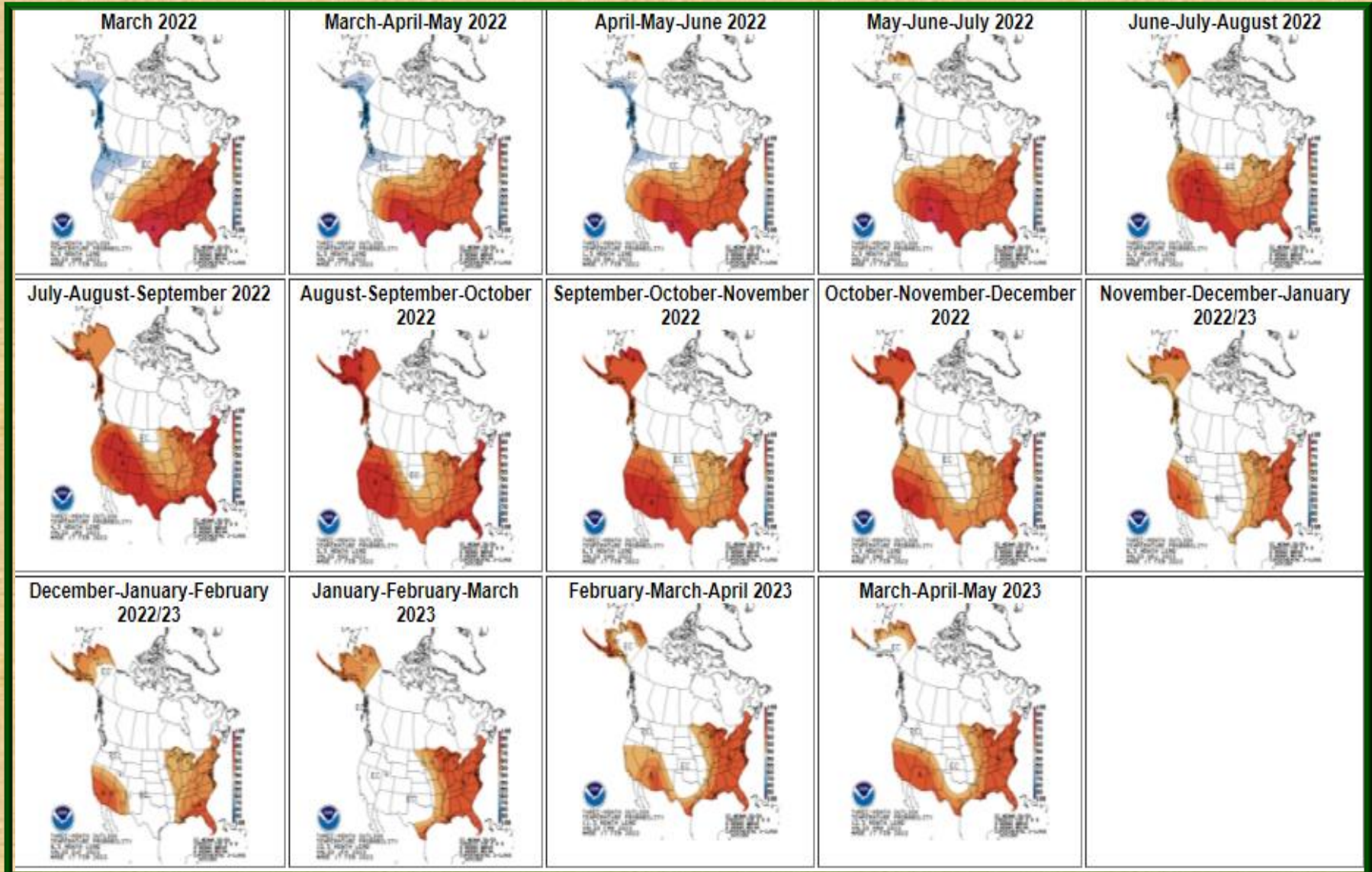
Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



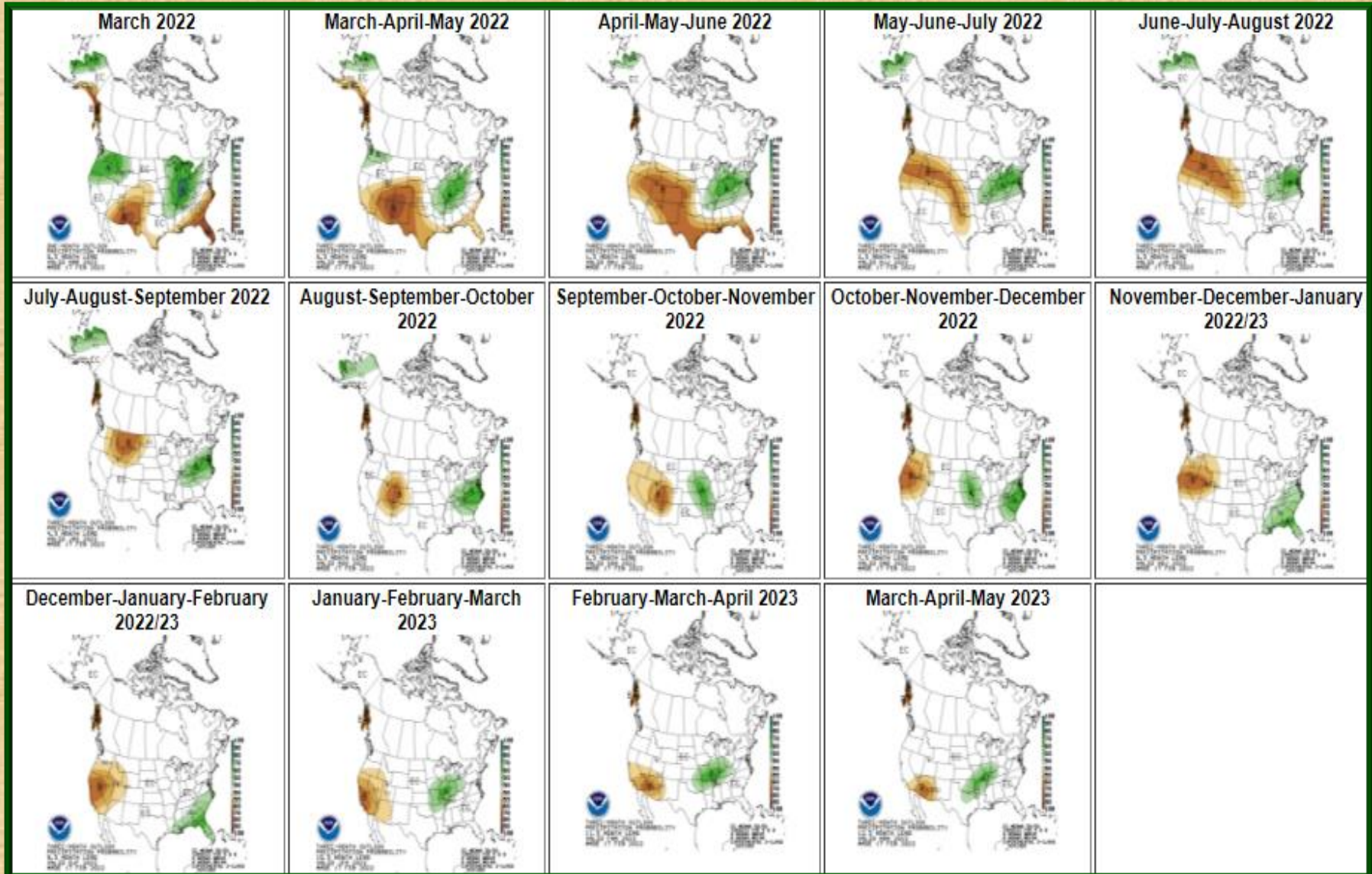
Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2022
Issued: February 17, 2022



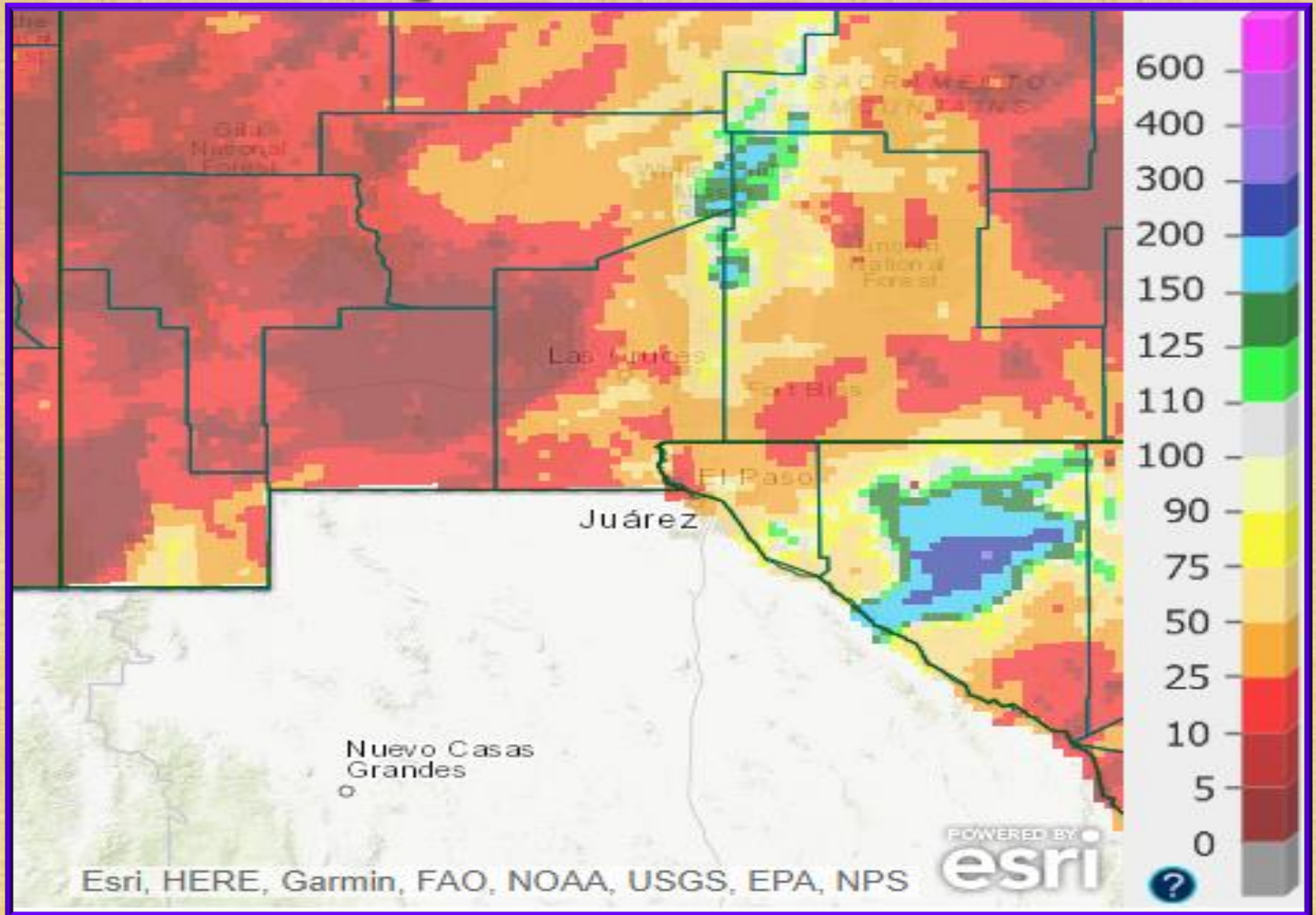
Temperature Outlook Through May 2023



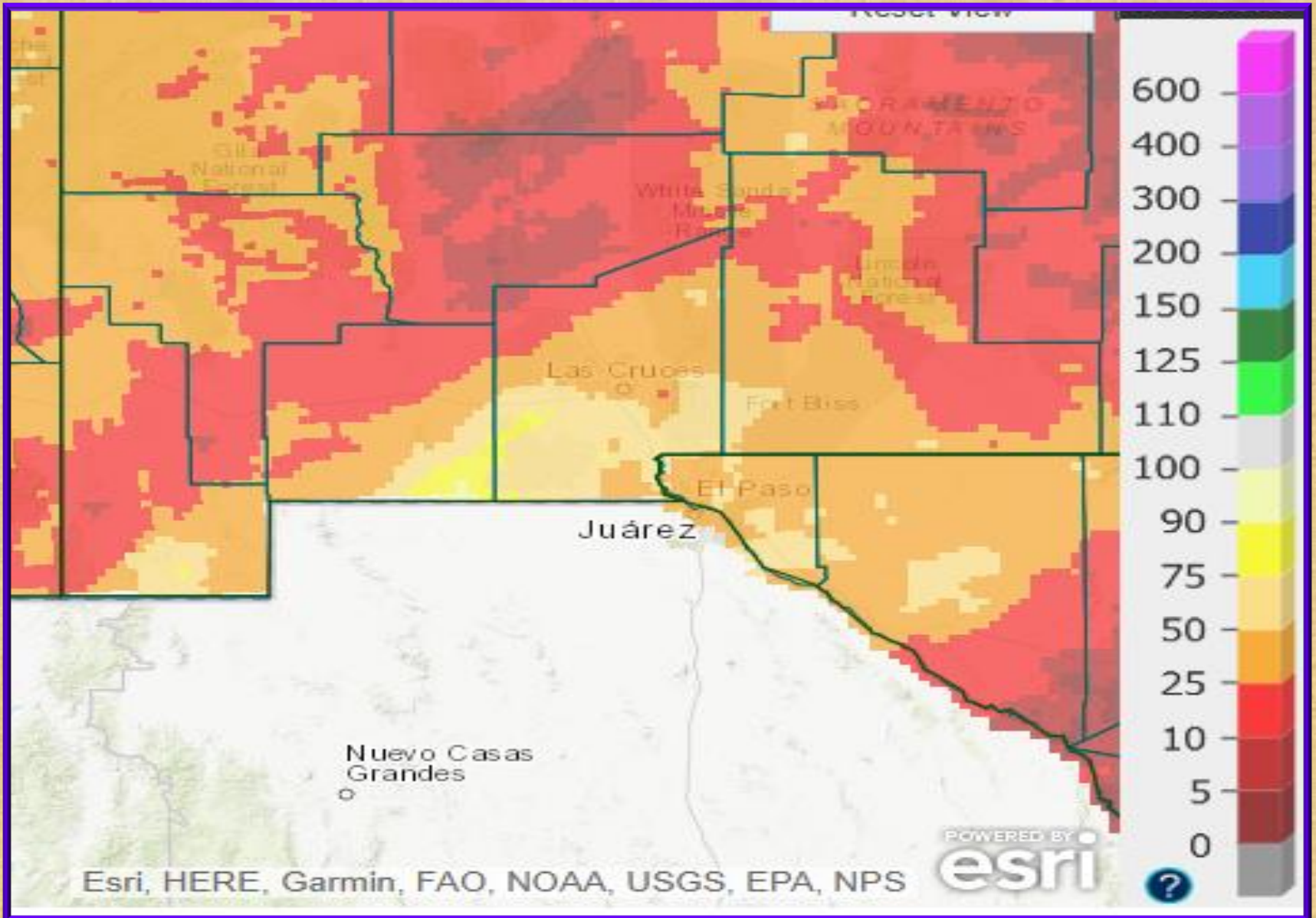
Precipitation Outlook Through May 2023



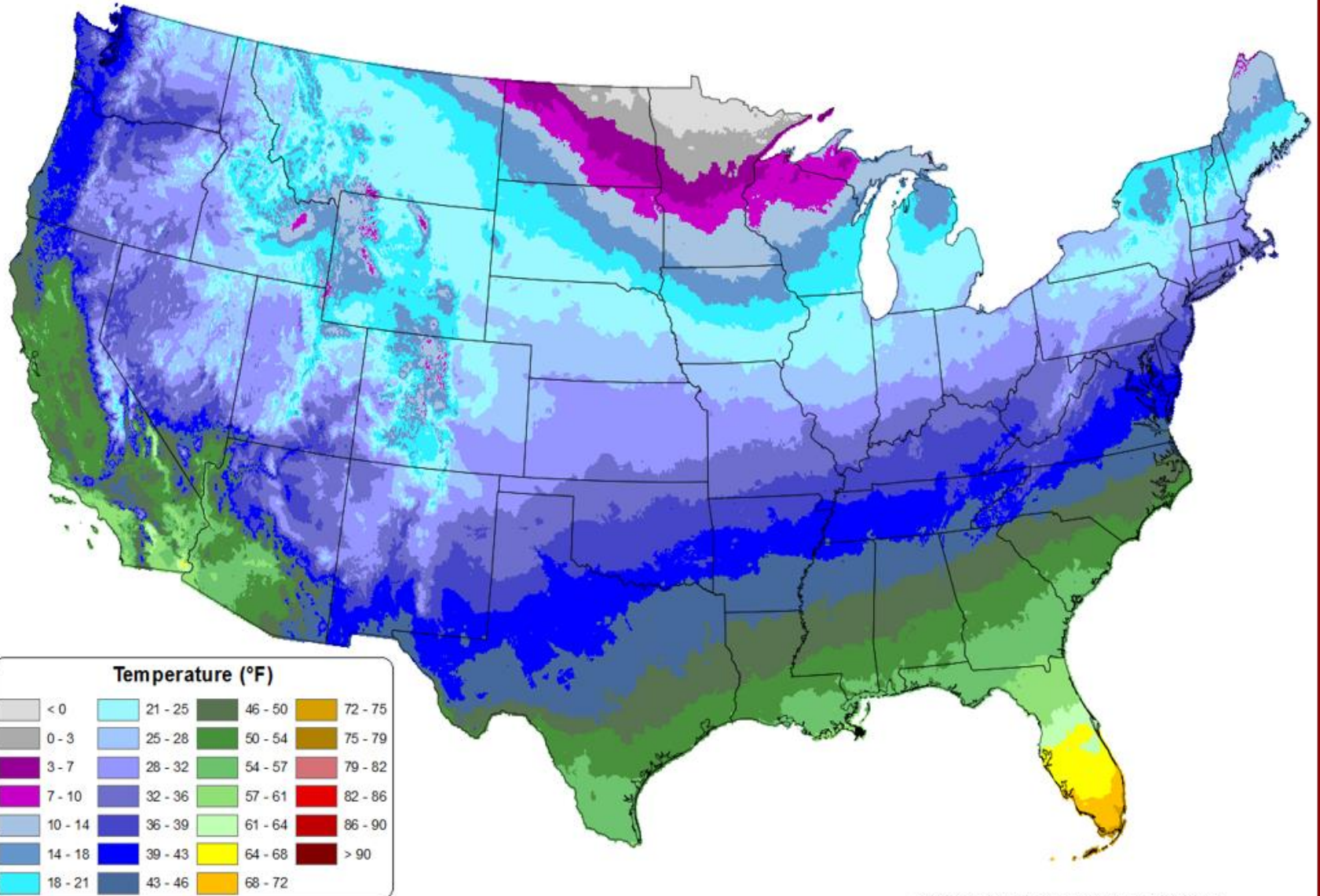
February 2022 rainfall estimate percent of normal



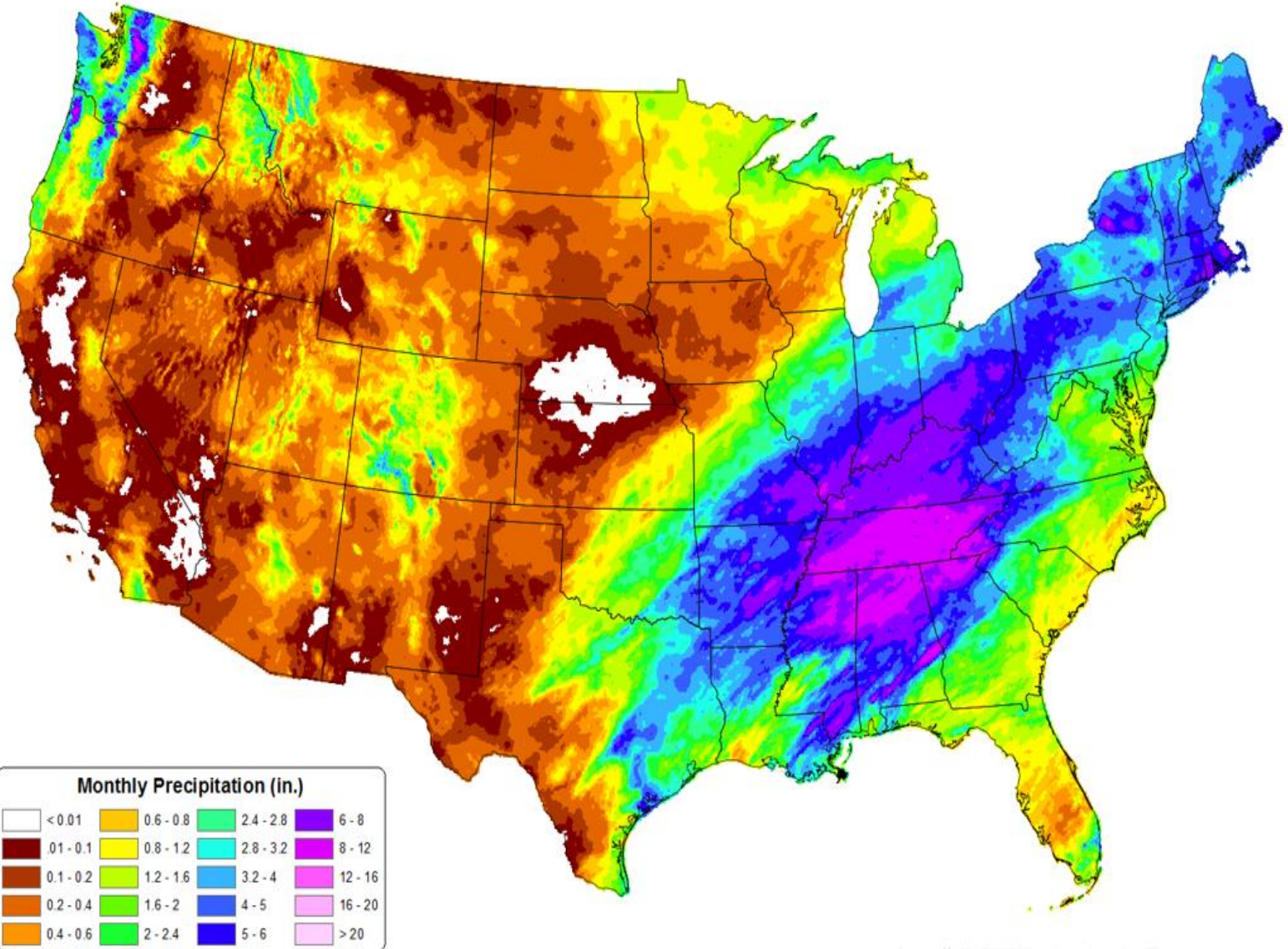
Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Feb 28)



Average Daily Mean Temperature for February 2022



Total Precipitation for February 2022



Selected Weather Reports February 2022

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
FEB 2 1233 PM	HIGH ROLLS 5 SE-OTERO	16.0 INCHES SNOW
FEB 2 738 AM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO	9.5 INCHES SNOW
FEB 2 700 AM	SUNSPOT-OTERO	8.1 INCHES SNOW
FEB 2 700 AM	MAYHILL 3NW-OTERO	5.5 INCHES SNOW
FEB 2 700 AM	EL PASO 6N-EL PASO	3.7 INCHES SNOW
FEB 2 600 AM	LA LUZ 6NE-OTERO	3.5 INCHES SNOW
FEB 2 700 AM	TULAROSA-OTERO	3.0 INCHES SNOW
FEB 2 637 AM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	3.0 INCHES SNOW
FEB 2 700 AM	BAYARD 3N-GRANT	2.3 INCHES SNOW
FEB 2 630 AM	ALAMOGORDO 2SE-OTERO	2.0 INCHES SNOW
FEB 15 400 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	72 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 300 PM	CHIRICAHUA MUSEUM-HIDALGO	53 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected Weather Reports February 2022

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
FEB 15 326 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	51 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 901 AM	MAYHILL-OTERO	50 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 147 PM	DEMING ARPT-LUNA	49 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 415 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	49 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 340 PM	HATCHITA VALLEY-HIDALGO	49 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 145 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA-HIDALGO	47 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 230 PM	HOLLOMAN AFB-OTERO	44 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 315 PM	ARREY 2N-SIERRA	44 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 438 PM	WINSTON-SIERRA	43 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 315 PM	LAS CRUCES ARPT-DONA ANA	41 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 230 PM	SPACEPORT AMERICA-SIERRA	40 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 15 723 PM	EL PASO ARPT-EL PASO	38 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected Weather Reports February 2022

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
FEB 16 355 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	87 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 335 PM	WSMR MUSEUM-DONA ANA	65 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 340 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	60 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 513 PM	EL PASO ARPT-EL PASO	59 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 228 PM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH	56 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 202 PM	T OR C ARPT-SIERRA	55 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 140 PM	HATCHITA VALLEY-HIDALGO	53 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 418 PM	HOLLOMAN AFB-OTERO	52 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 354 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	51 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 426 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	49 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 614 PM	DELL CITY-HUDSPETH	49 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 110 PM	CHIRICAHUA MUSEUM-HIDALGO	48 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected Weather Reports February 2022

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
FEB 16 215 PM	ALAMOGORDO ARPT-OTERO	48 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 1205 PM	SPACEPORT-SIERRA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 346 PM	LAS CRUCES HIGH RIDGE-DONA ANA	45 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 155 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA-HIDALGO	45 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 1200 PM	LA UNION-DONA ANA	43 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 101 PM	MAYHILL-OTERO	42 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 16 441 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	42 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 650 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	77 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 600 PM	WSMR CONDRON FIELD-DONA ANA	66 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 440 PM	HATCHITA VALLEYHIDALGO	64 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 335 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP11-HIDALGO	63 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 215 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	62 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected Weather Reports February 2022

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
FEB 23 224 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	617 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 315 PM	SPACEPORT AMERICA-SIERRA	60 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 526 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	59 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 228 PM	WINSTON-SIERRA	57 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 335 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	53 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 659 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	52 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 300 PM	SILVER CITY MTN VIEW-GRANT	51 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 601 PM	ARREY-SIERRA	50 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 541PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	46 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 429 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	46 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 23 609 PM	EL PASO AIRPORT-EL PASO	45 MPH PEAK WIND

Special Features

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

Month: FEBRUARY

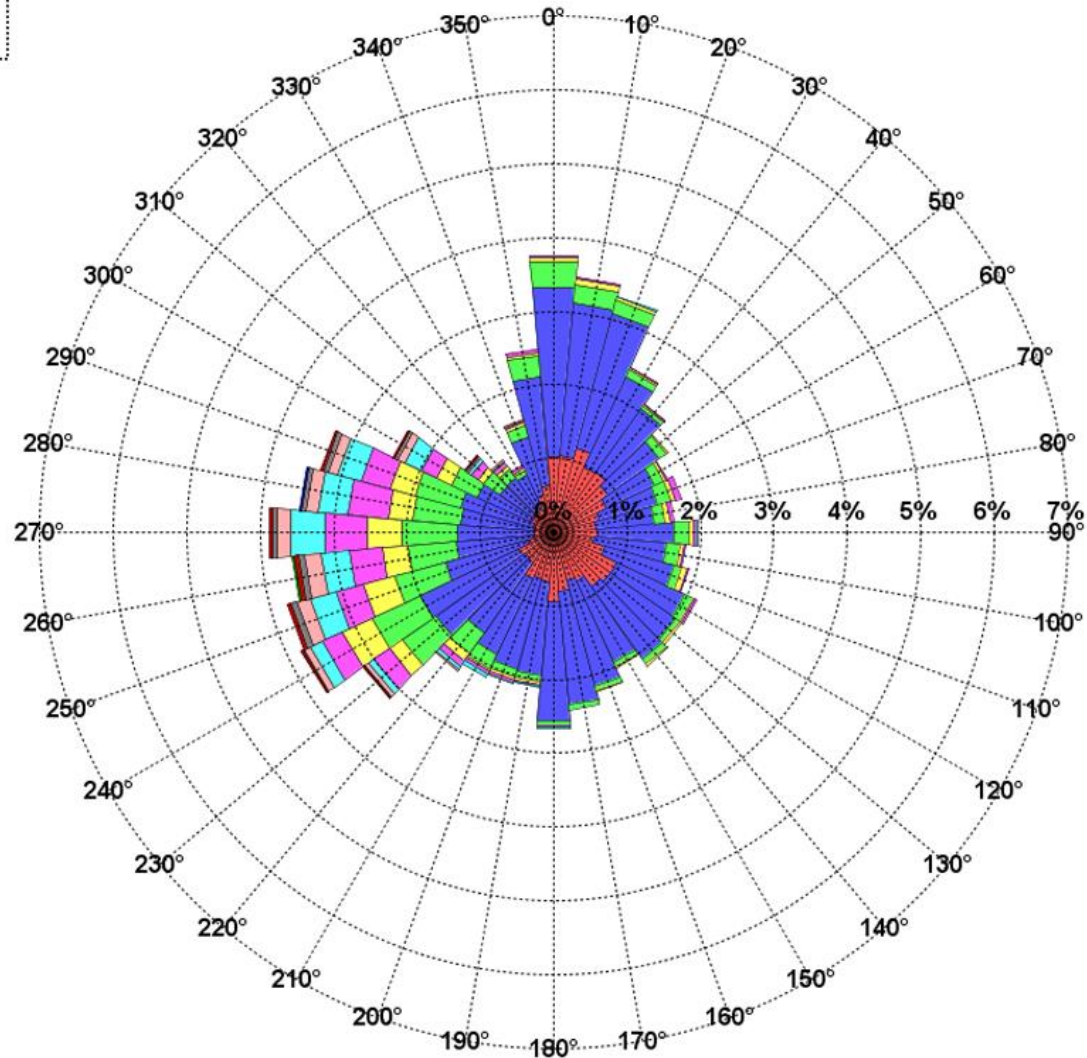
Calm: 10.51%

Variable: 1.83%

WindRose - KELP - EL PASO INTL

% Frequency of Wind Speed from a Direction

POR:19730101-20140602



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.