

# February 2023 Weather Digest



# February 2023 Weather Summary

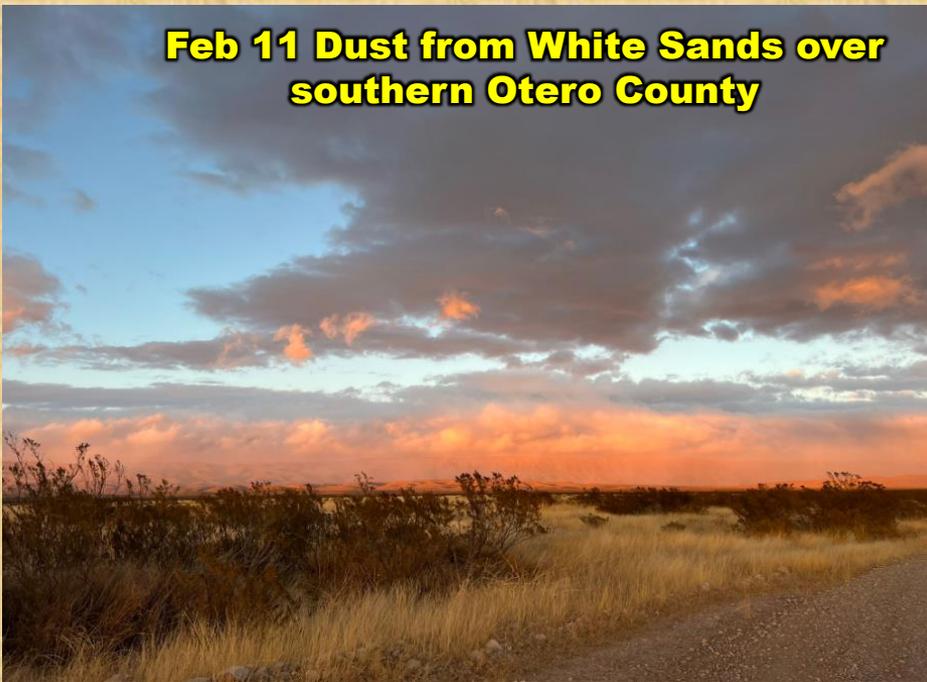
February started off like a winter month but by mid to late February it appeared more like spring as the storm track became quite busy over the area. To start the month, a strong cold front pushed in from the east bringing chilly temperatures for the first three days of the month. Some freezing drizzle and light snow fell across parts of Hudspeth and Otero Counties. Jumping ahead to mid-month, the Pacific storm track became quite active across the southern U.S. The Borderland saw strong winds and blowing dust Feb 13-15, Feb 21-22, and on Feb 26. Wind gusts of 60-80 mph were common on all these days. On the 22nd and 26th, a few mountain sites even recorded wind gusts over 100 mph. Some moderate mountain snow also accompanied the storms of Feb 14th and 15th.

For the month, rainfall was generally just below normal most areas; though most of the mountains and southern Luna and Dona Ana Counties were above normal. Temperatures most areas were below normal with the frequent cold front passages and cloud coverage.

# February 2023 Weather Summary, cont'd

Looking ahead to March; temperatures continue to warm as we reach the Spring Equinox and pass it. The average high temperature at El Paso Airport on the first is 67 degrees, climbing to 76 degrees on the last day of the month. Speaking of the Spring Equinox, this event occurs on March 20 this year. Daylight increases from 11 hours, 30 minutes March 1<sup>st</sup>, to 12 hours, 28 minutes on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Looking at the moon, our full moon this month, also known as the Worm Moon, occurs on March 7<sup>th</sup>, while the new moon occurs on March 21<sup>st</sup>. There are no solar or lunar eclipses in March-the first one (a solar eclipse) not occurring until April.

**Feb 11 Dust from White Sands over southern Otero County**



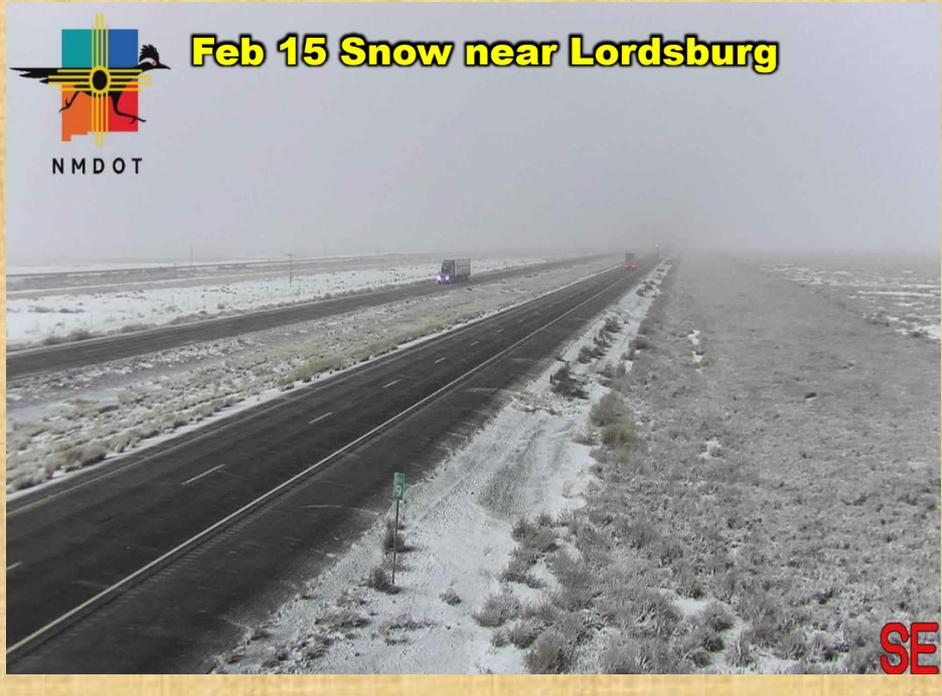
**Feb 13 El Paso Rainbow**



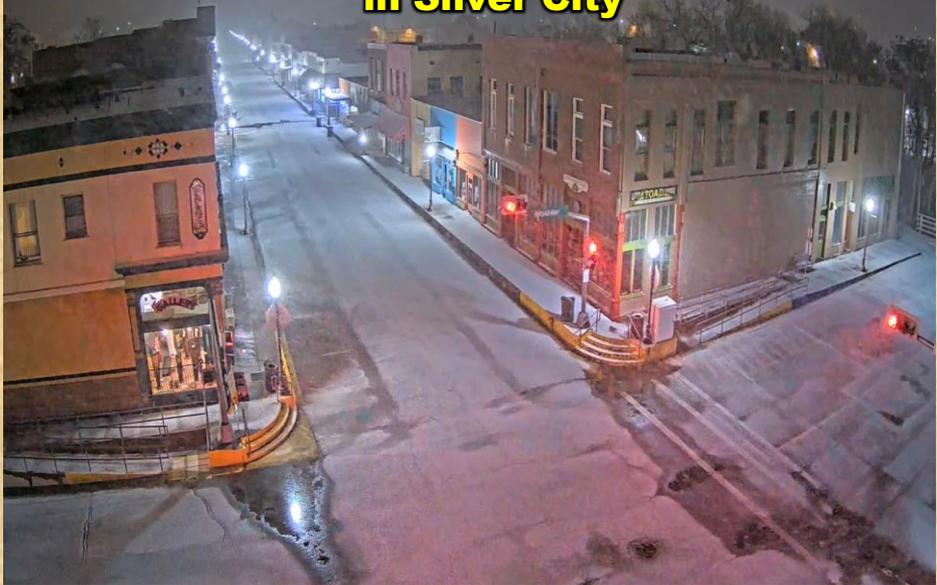
 **Feb 15 Snow near Lordsburg**



 **Feb 15 Snow near Lordsburg**



**Feb 15 Snow beginning in Silver City**



**Feb 22 Dust near Deming**



**Feb 13 Snow at Ruidoso**



**Feb 13 Snow at Timberon**



**Feb 15 Snow at Mimbres**



**Feb 15 Snow at Pinos Altos**



**Feb 16 Snow Burro Mtn**



**Feb 16 Ice near Silver City**



**Feb 22 Wind damage El Paso**



**Feb 22 Wind damage El Paso**



**Feb 22 Wind damage Gadsden MS**



**Feb 22 Wind damage at NMSU**



**Feb 26 Wind damage El Paso area**



**Feb 26 Wind damage El Paso area**



**Feb 26 Wind damage El Paso area**



**Feb 22 Silver City wind damage**



**Feb 26 Wind damage near San Elizario**

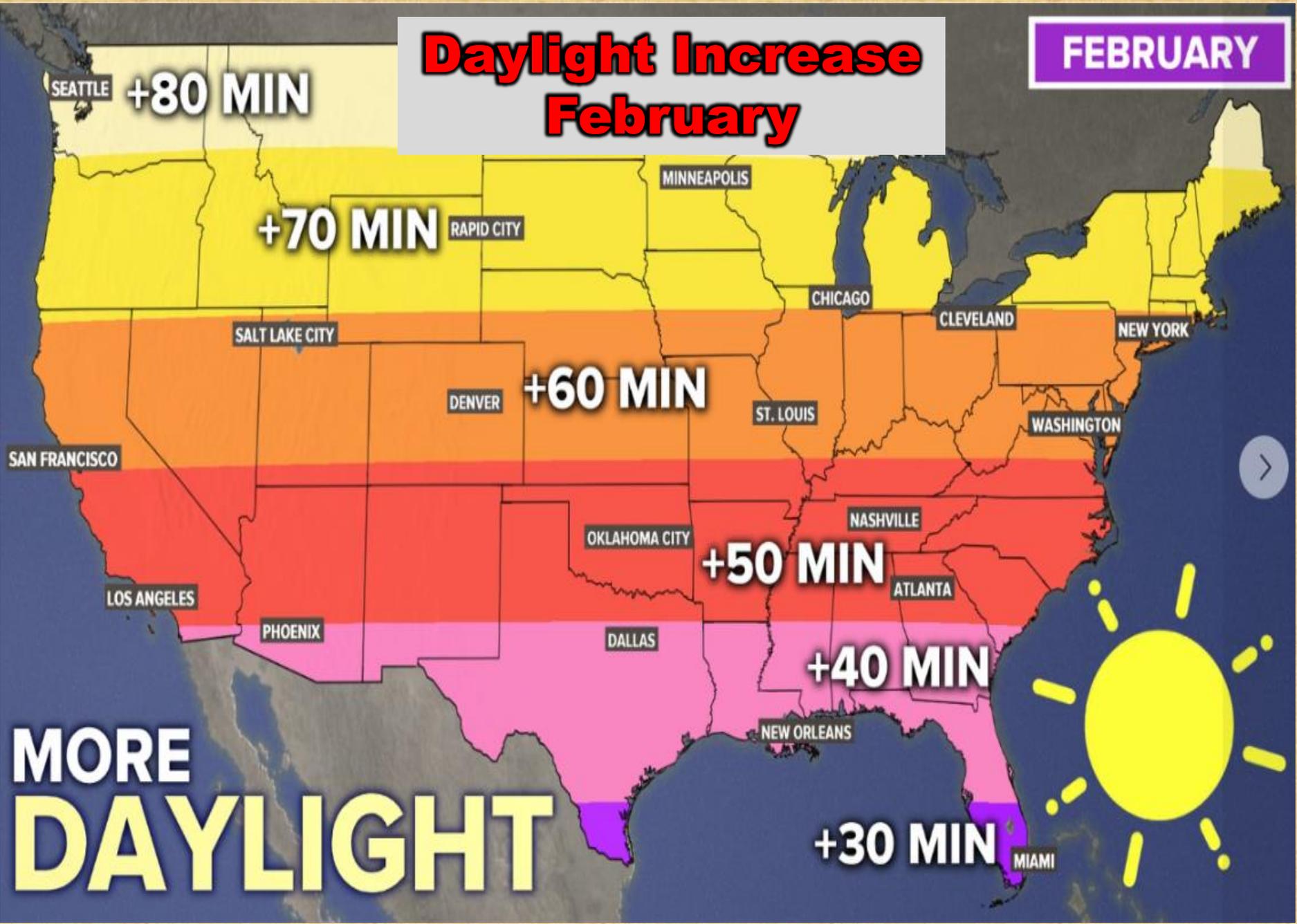


**Feb 26 Wind damage near Chaparral**



# Daylight Increase February

FEBRUARY



# MORE DAYLIGHT



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

## **ENSO Alert System**

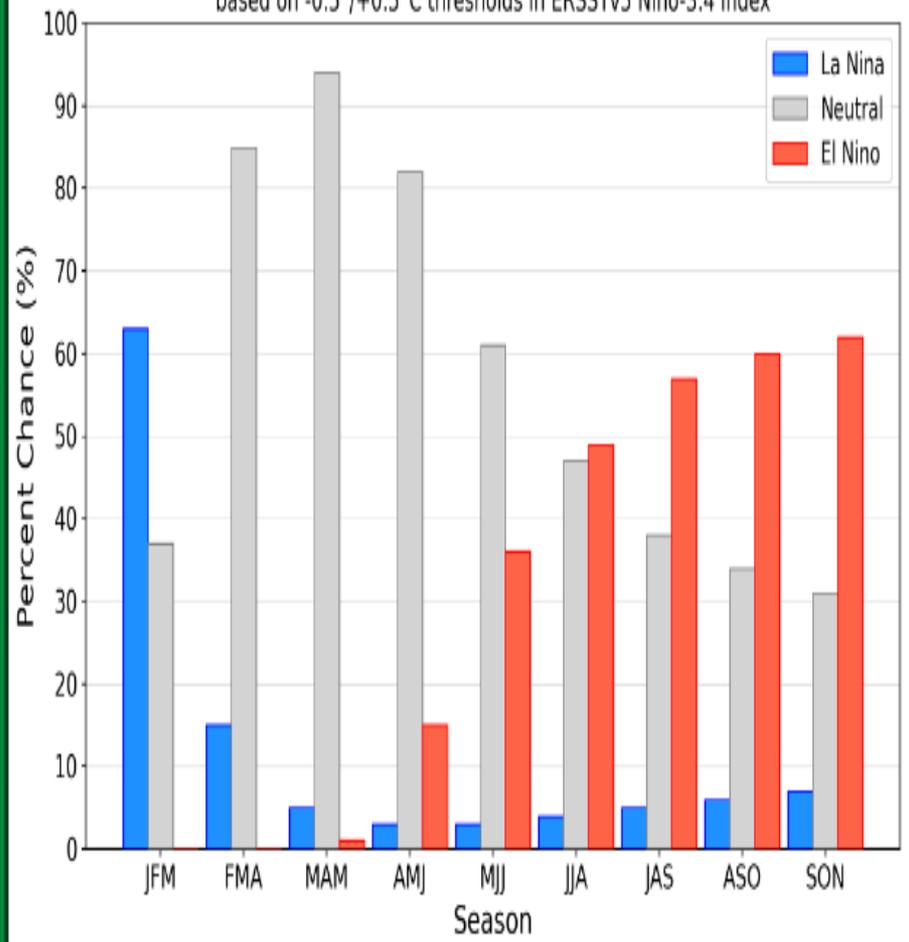
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

# ENSO Forecast

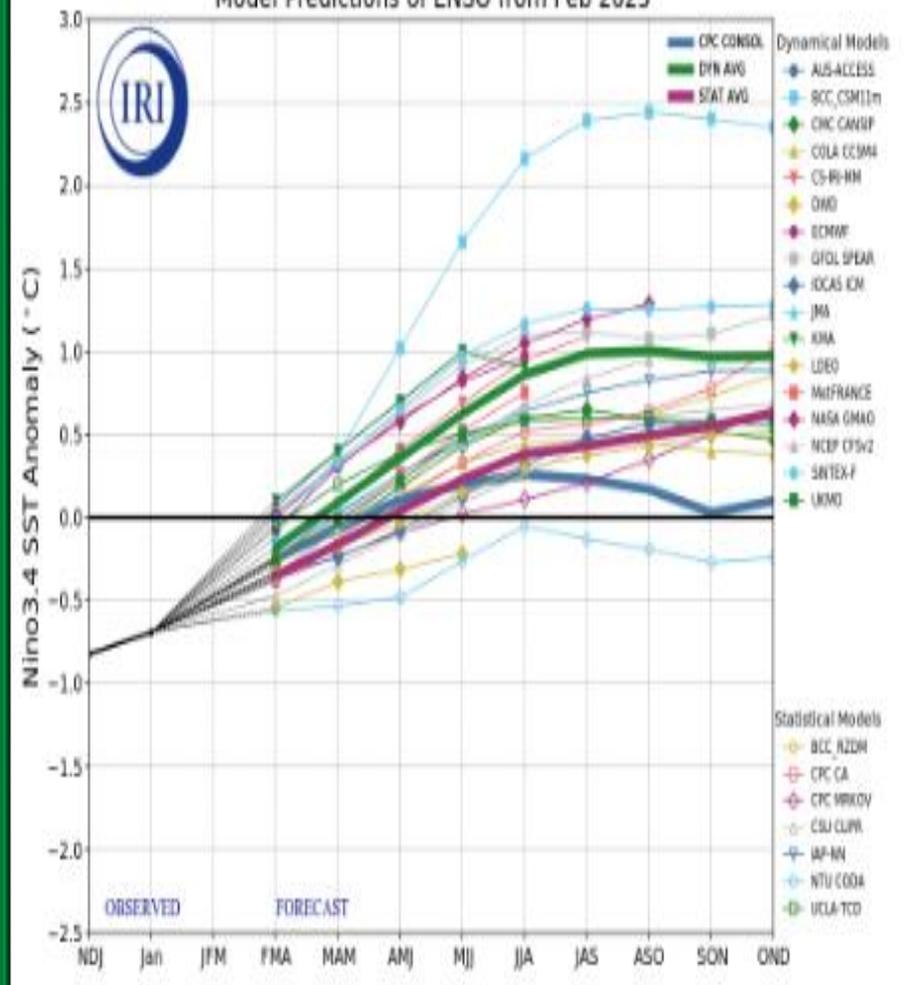
**ENSO is in La Niña status. Forecast shows La Niña lasting another month or two, then likely transitioning to neutral for the summer of 2023.**

Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued Feb. 2023)

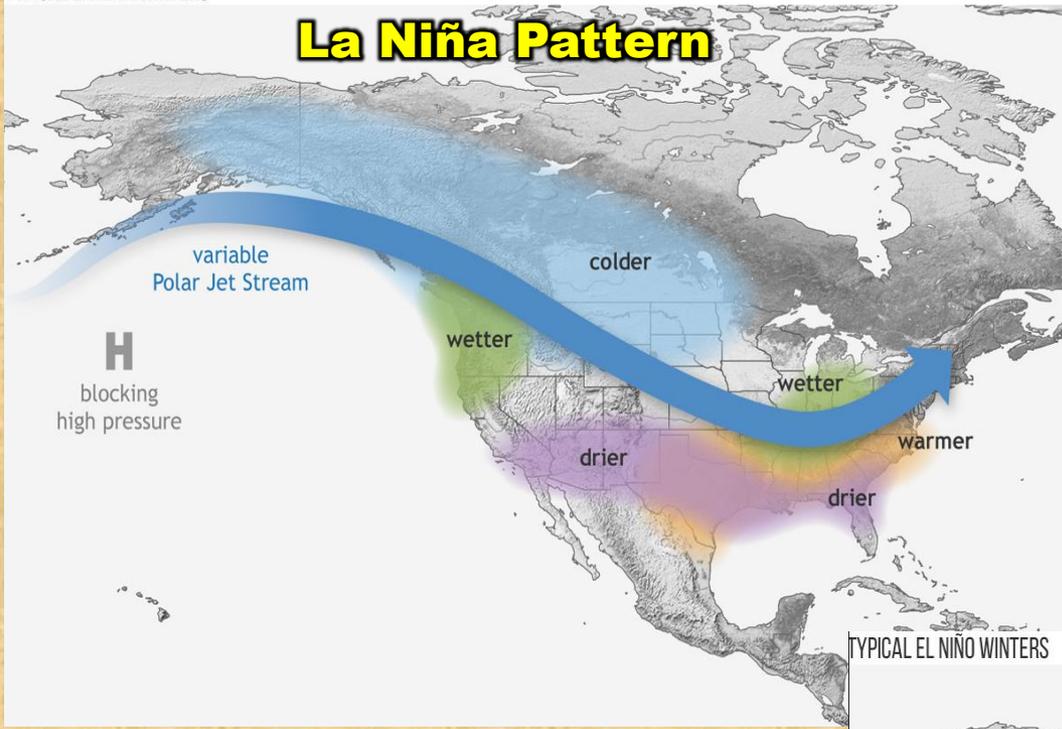
based on  $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  thresholds in ERSSTv5 Niño-3.4 index



Model Predictions of ENSO from Feb 2023

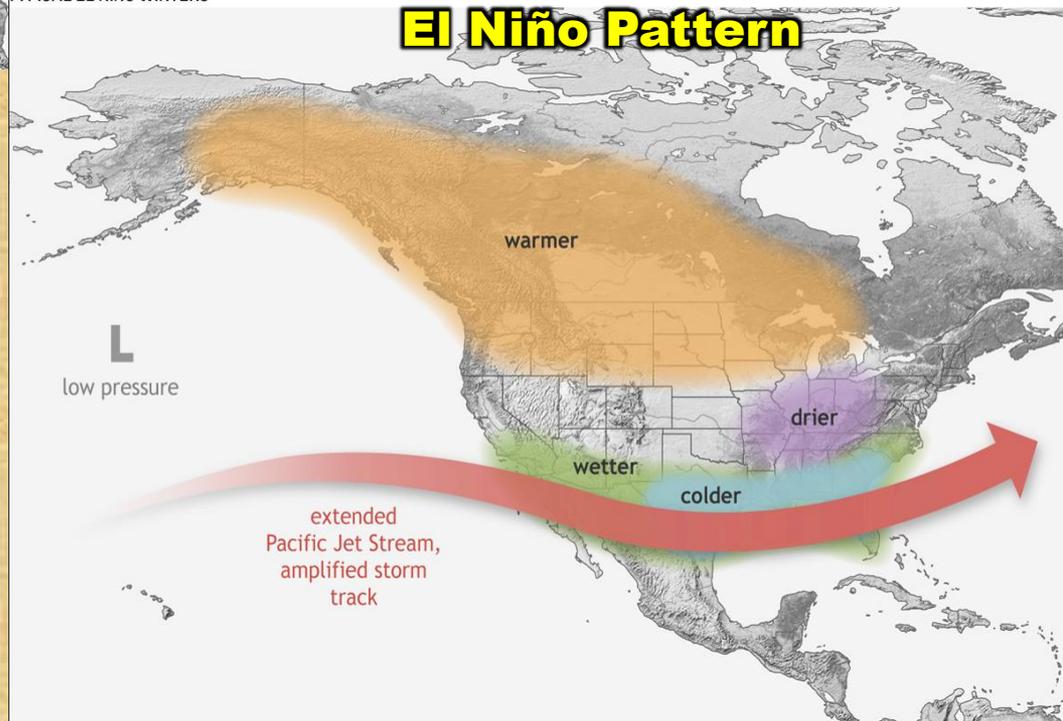


# La Niña Pattern



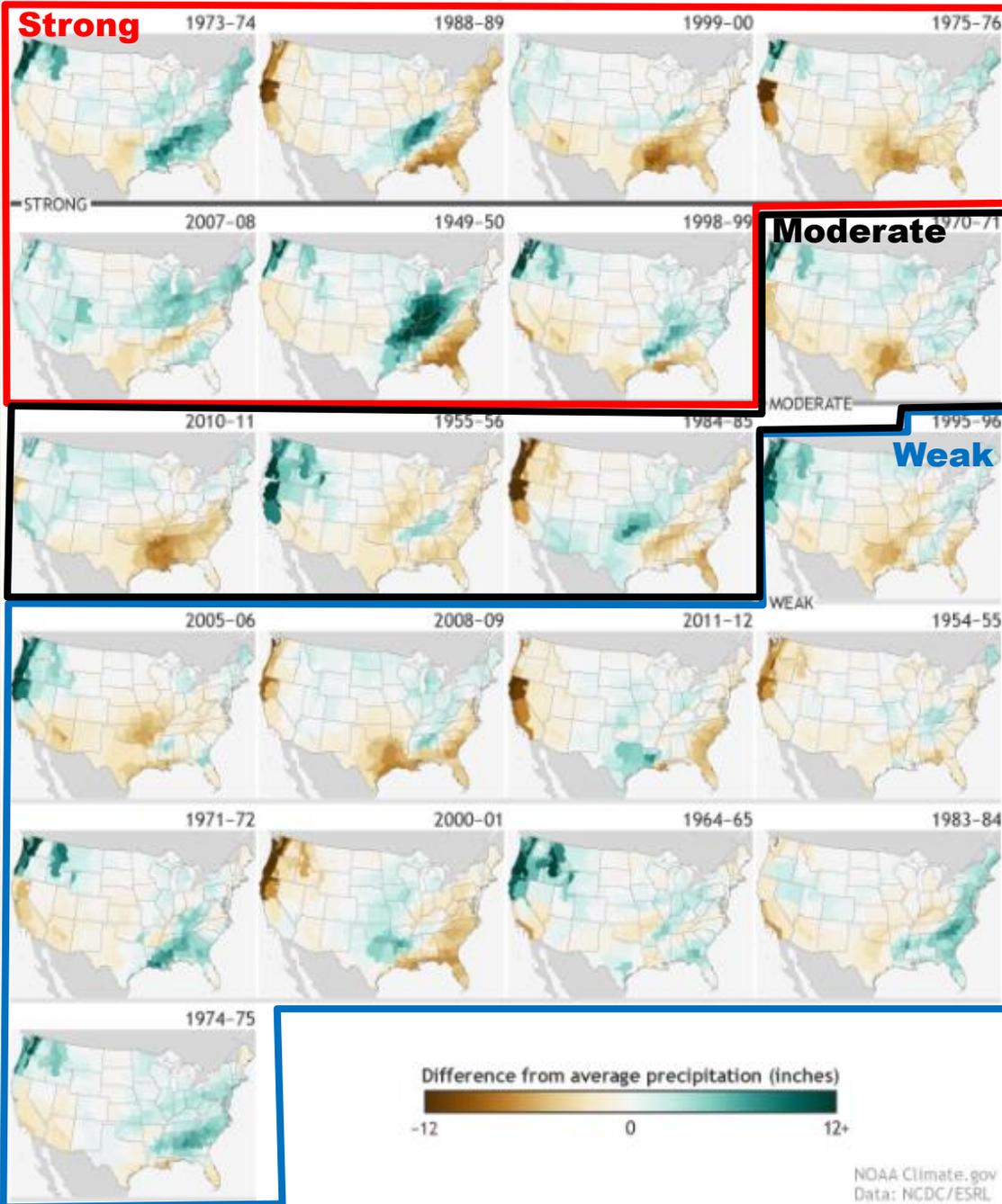
With a La Niña pattern, a ridge of high pressure tends to build off the west coast of the U.S., blocking most of our Pacific winter storm systems. These storms tend to end up moving across the northern Plains and down to the southeastern part of the country. Of course it is important to remember that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



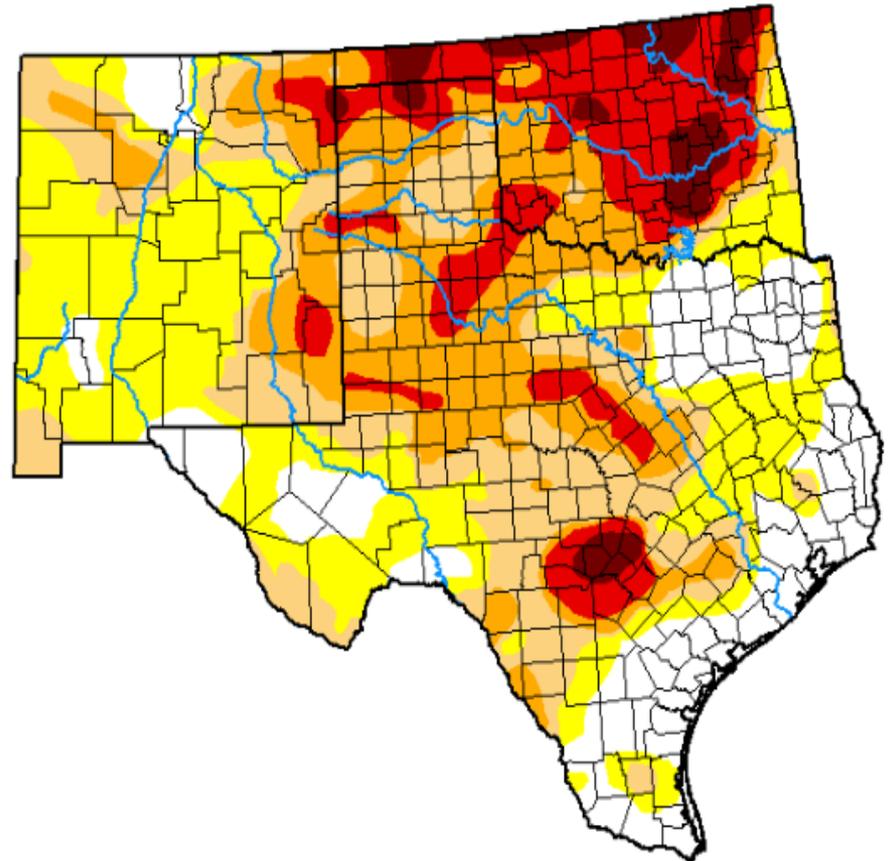
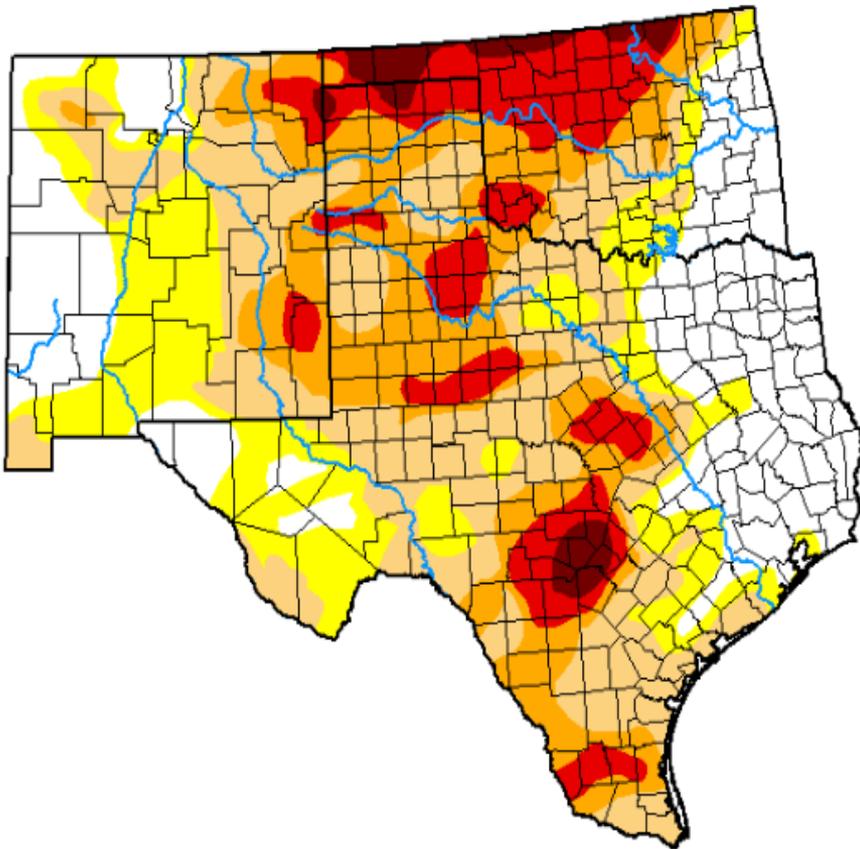
Examples of the numerous La Niña winters since 1950. These maps depict the departure from normal precipitation amounts for a winter.

# Current drought conditions and 3 month change

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

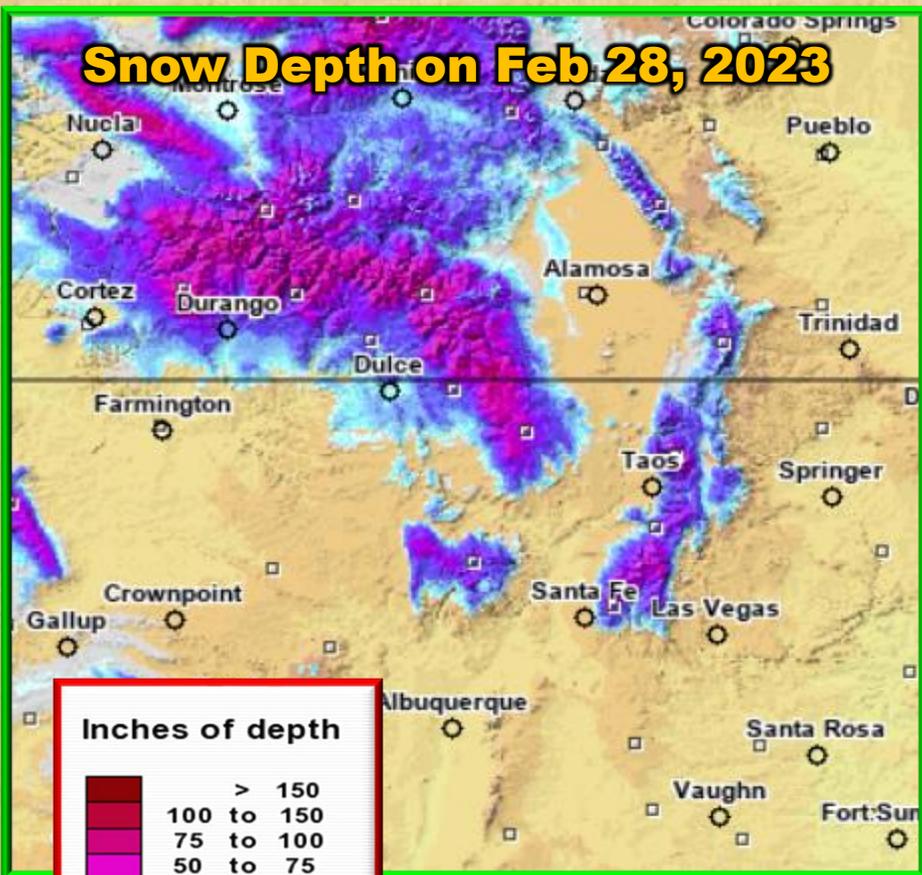
**February 28, 2023**

**November 29, 2022**

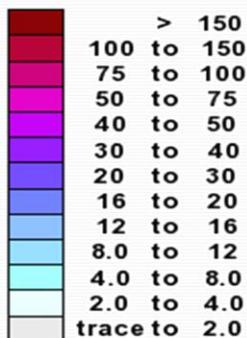


# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Feb 28, 2023

## Snow Depth on Feb 28, 2023

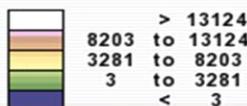


### Inches of depth

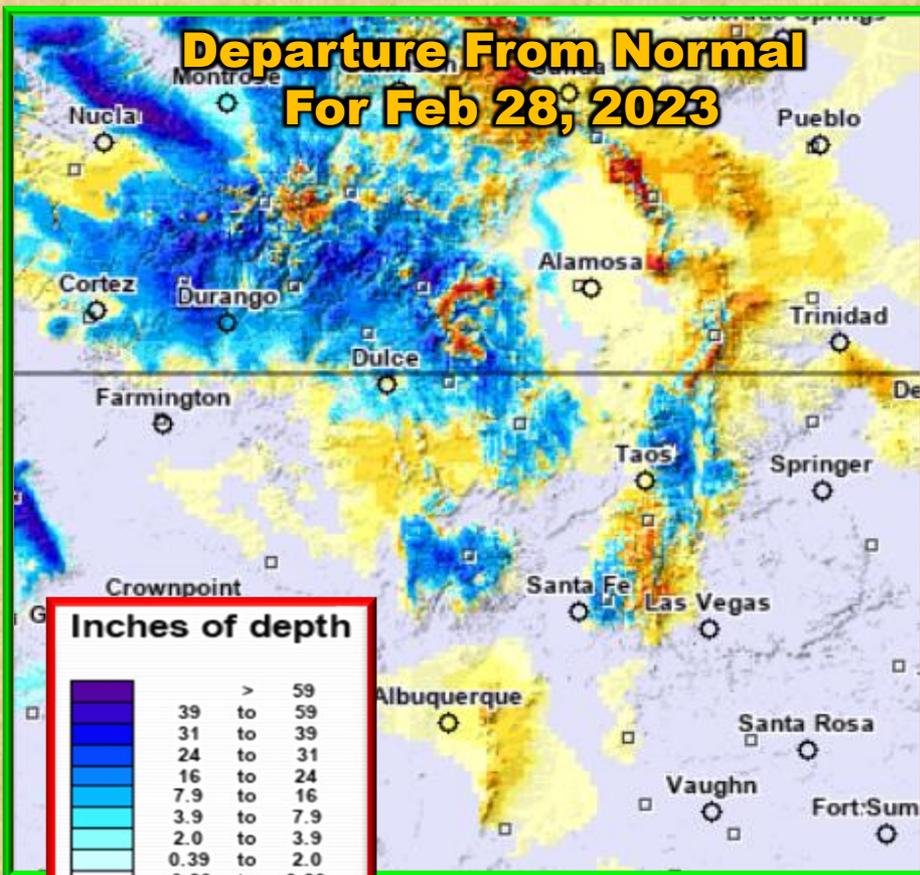


Not Estimated

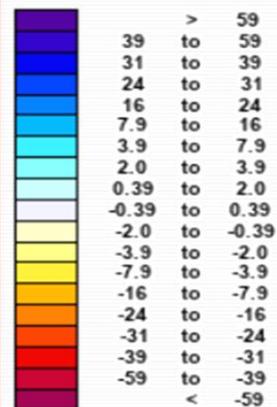
### Elevation in feet



## Departure From Normal For Feb 28, 2023



### Inches of depth



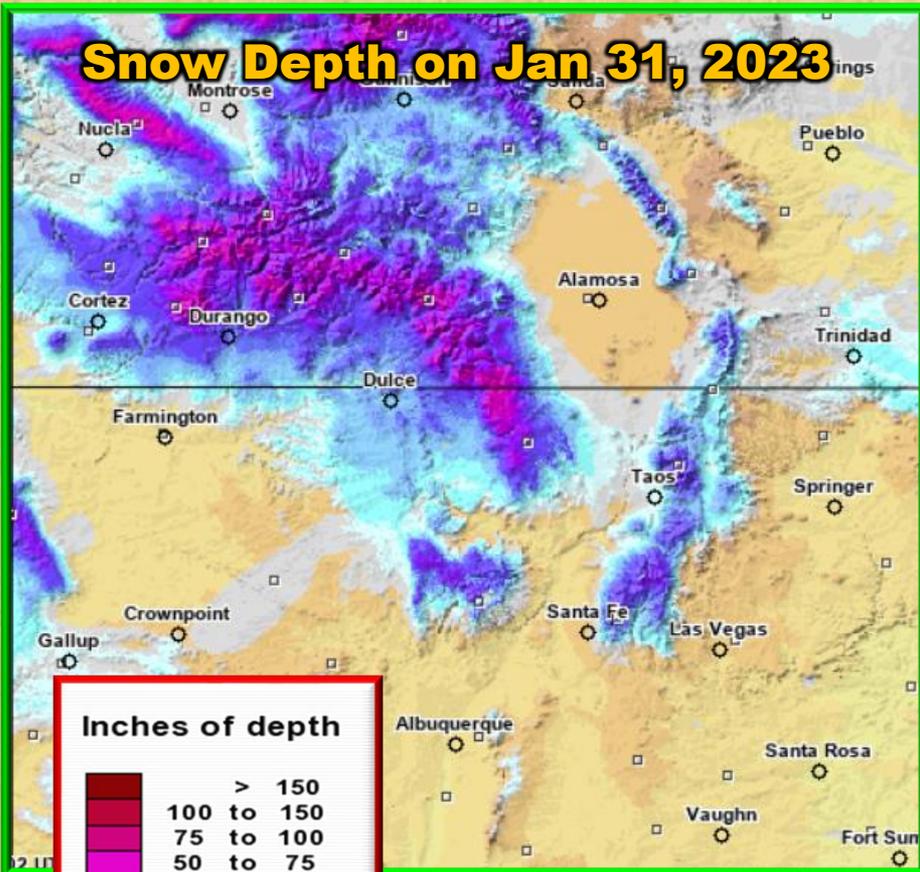
Not Estimated

### Elevation in feet

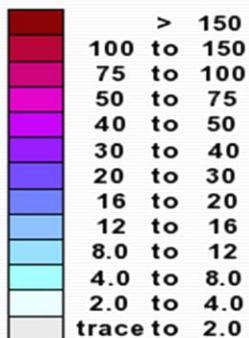


# Snow Data Upper Rio Grand Basin as of Jan 31, 2023

## Snow Depth on Jan 31, 2023

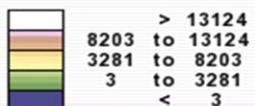


### Inches of depth

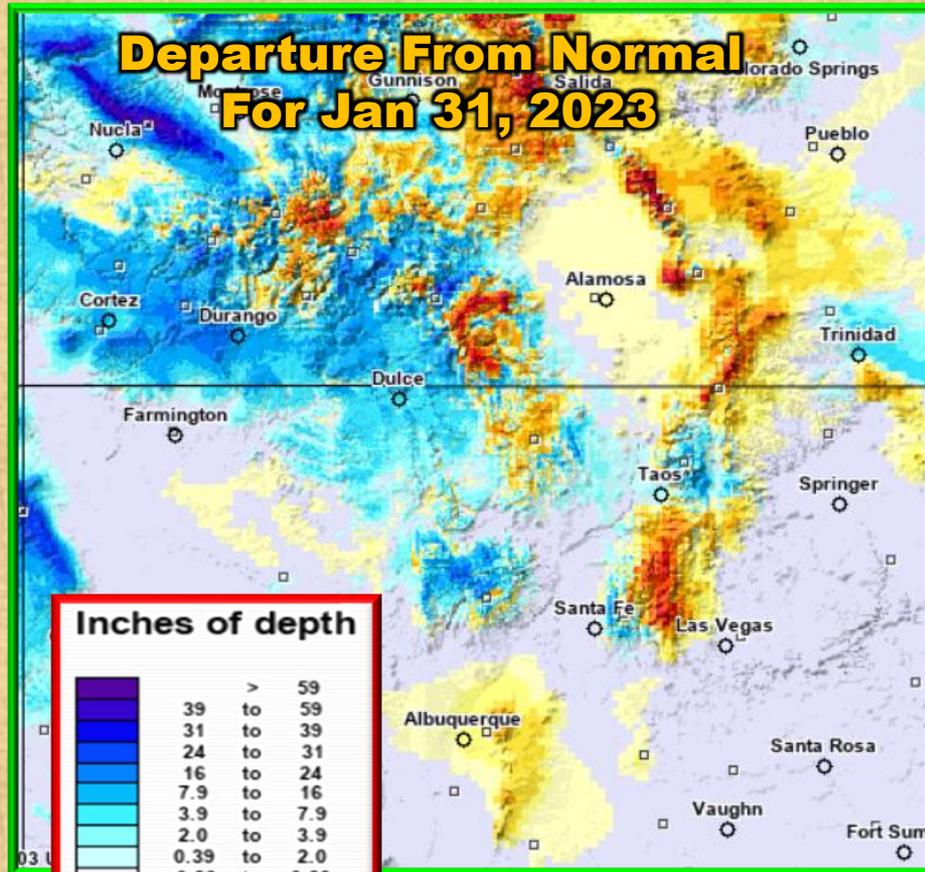


Not Estimated

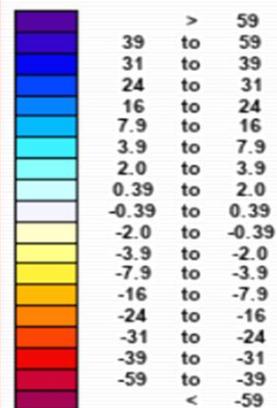
### Elevation in feet



## Departure From Normal For Jan 31, 2023



### Inches of depth



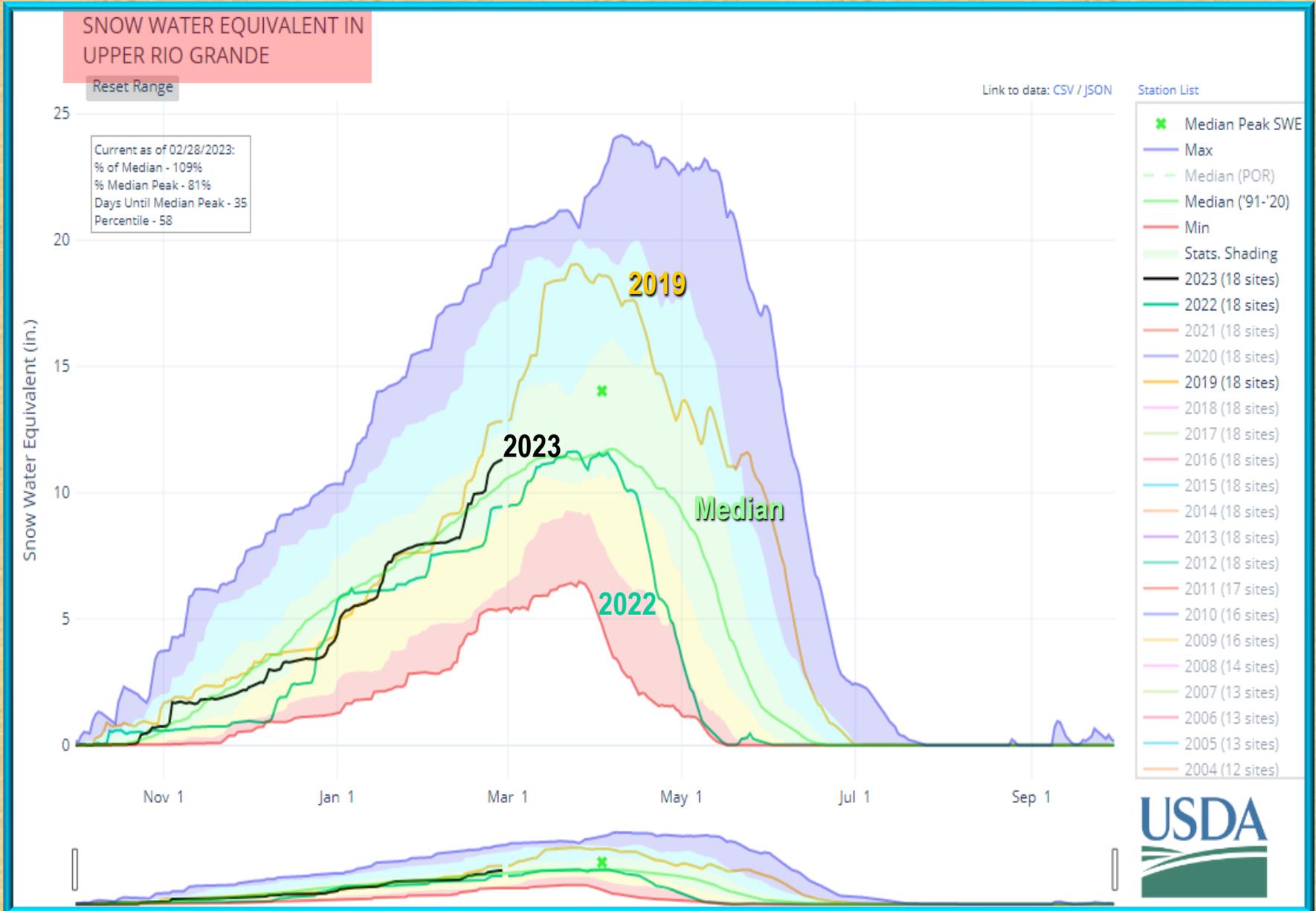
Not Estimated

### Elevation in feet



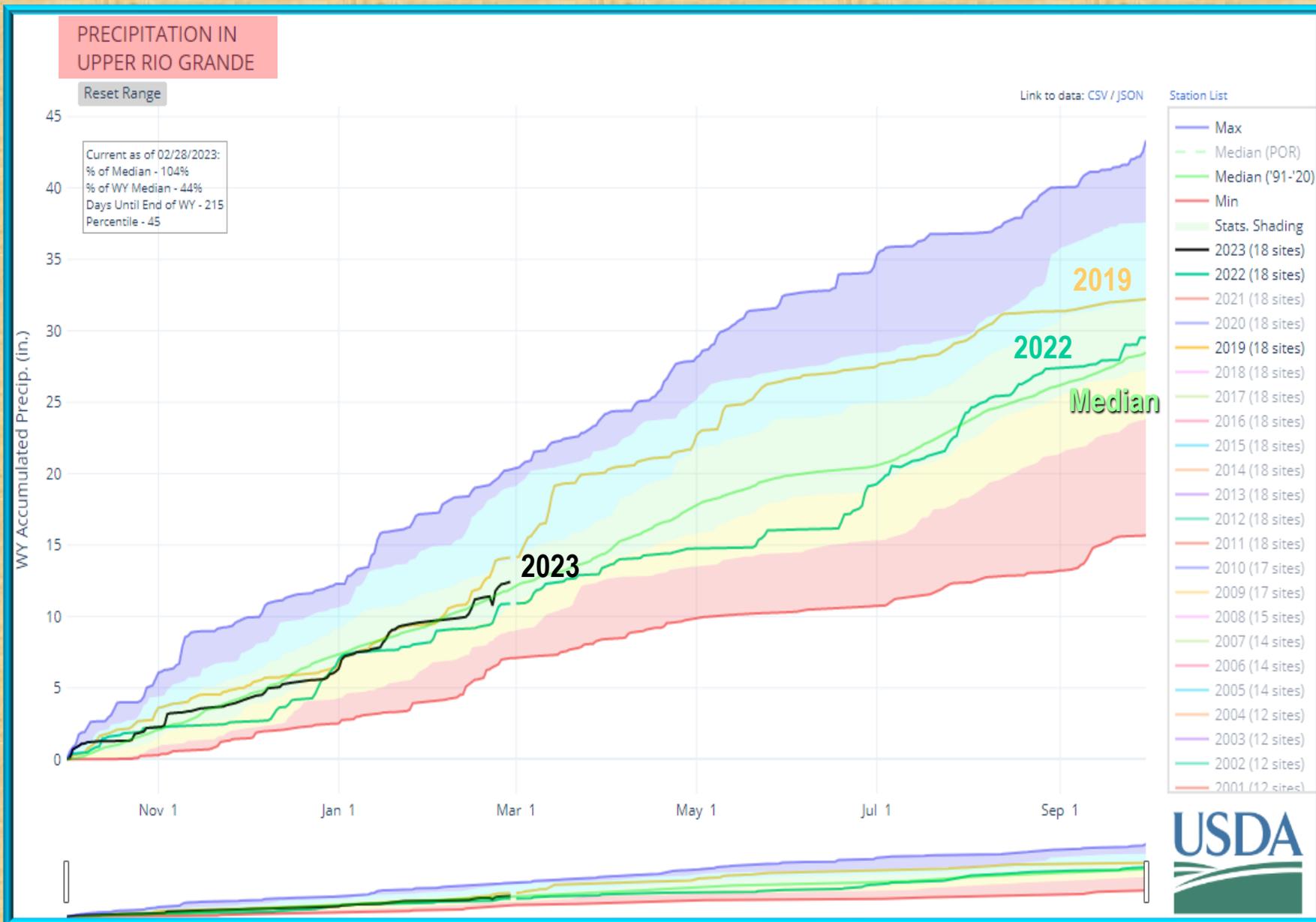
# Snow Water Equivalent as of Feb 28, 2023

## Compare to last few years and average values



# Precipitation for the Water Year Oct 1 – Feb 28, 2023

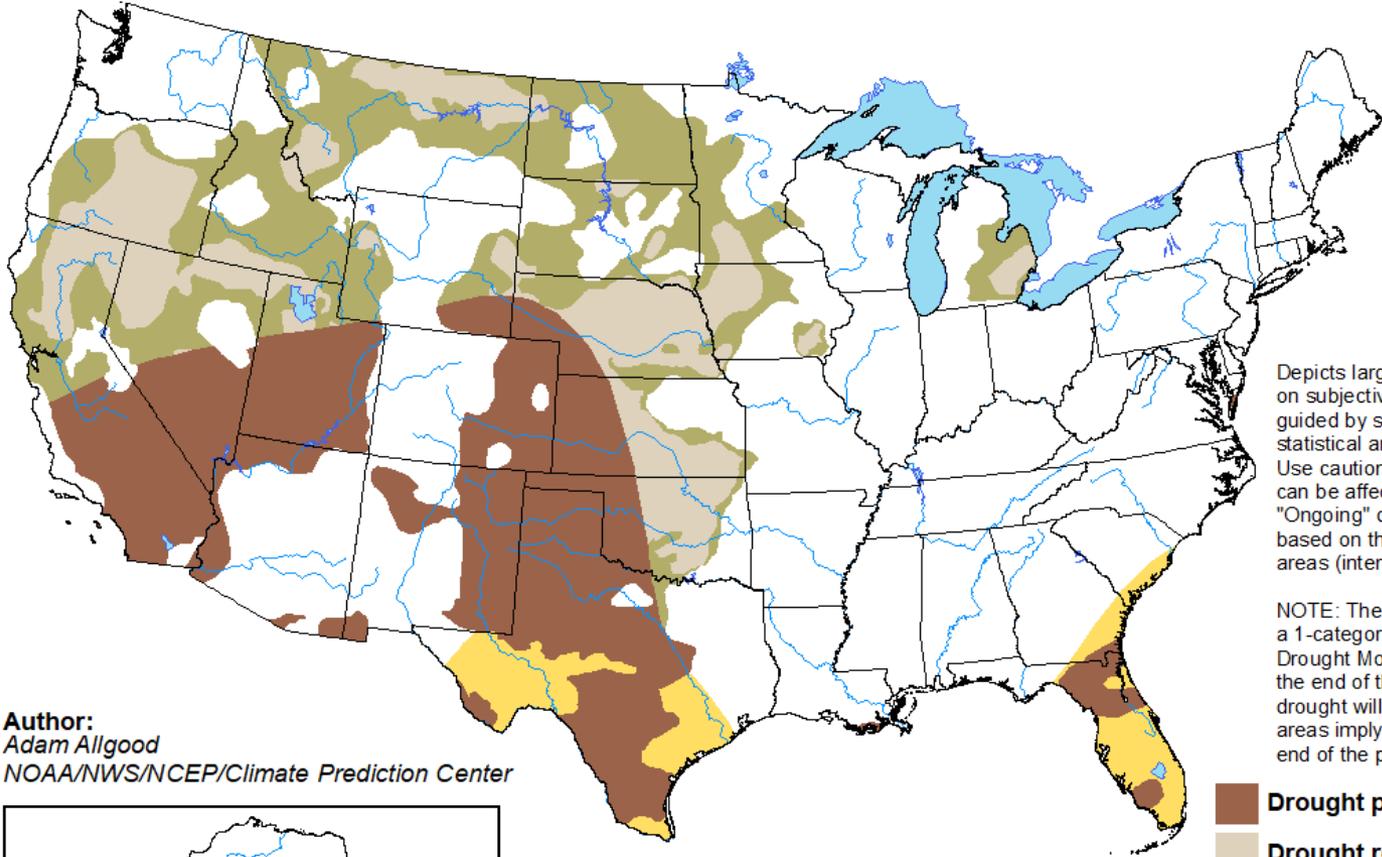
## Compare to last few years and average values



# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 16 - May 31, 2023  
Released February 16

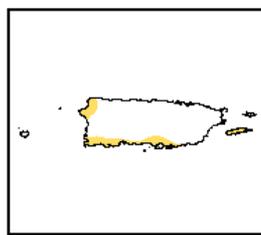
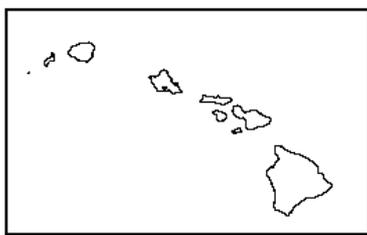
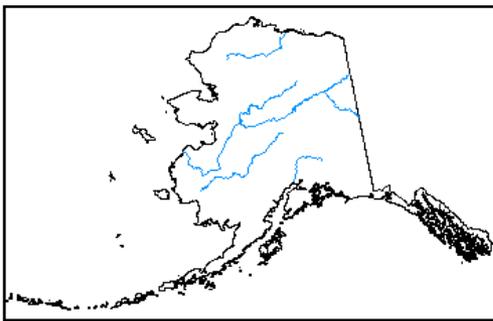


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

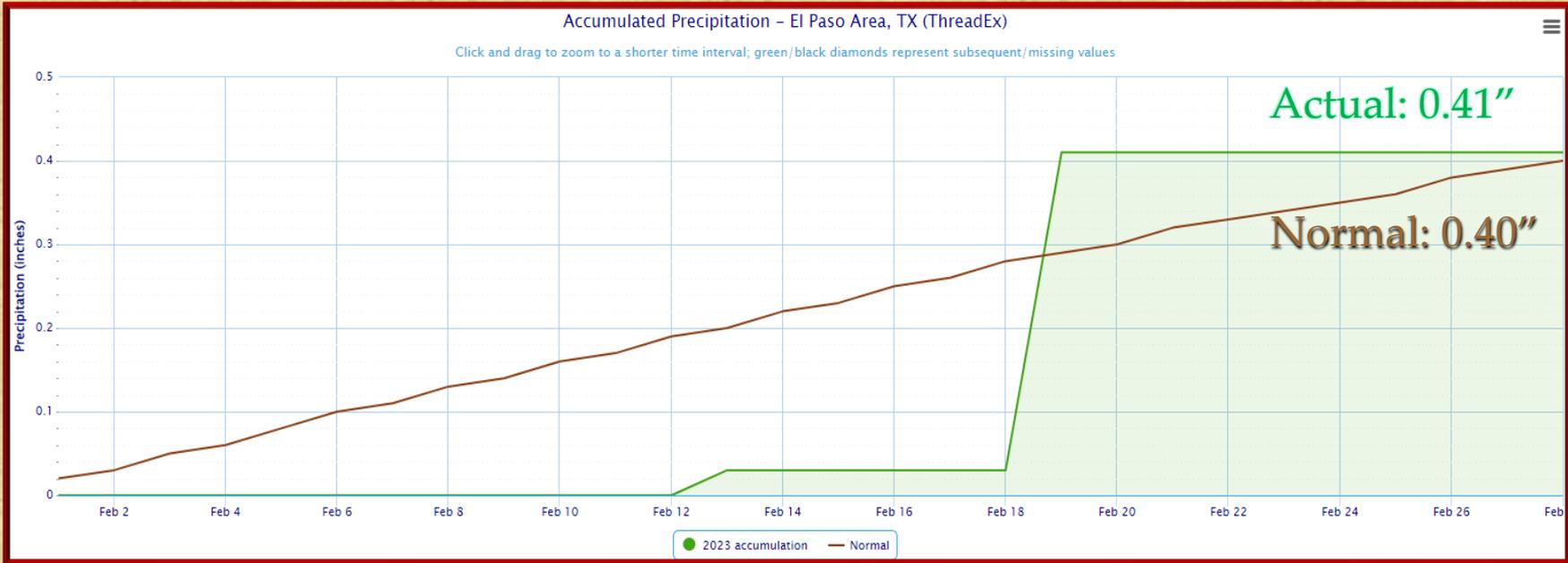
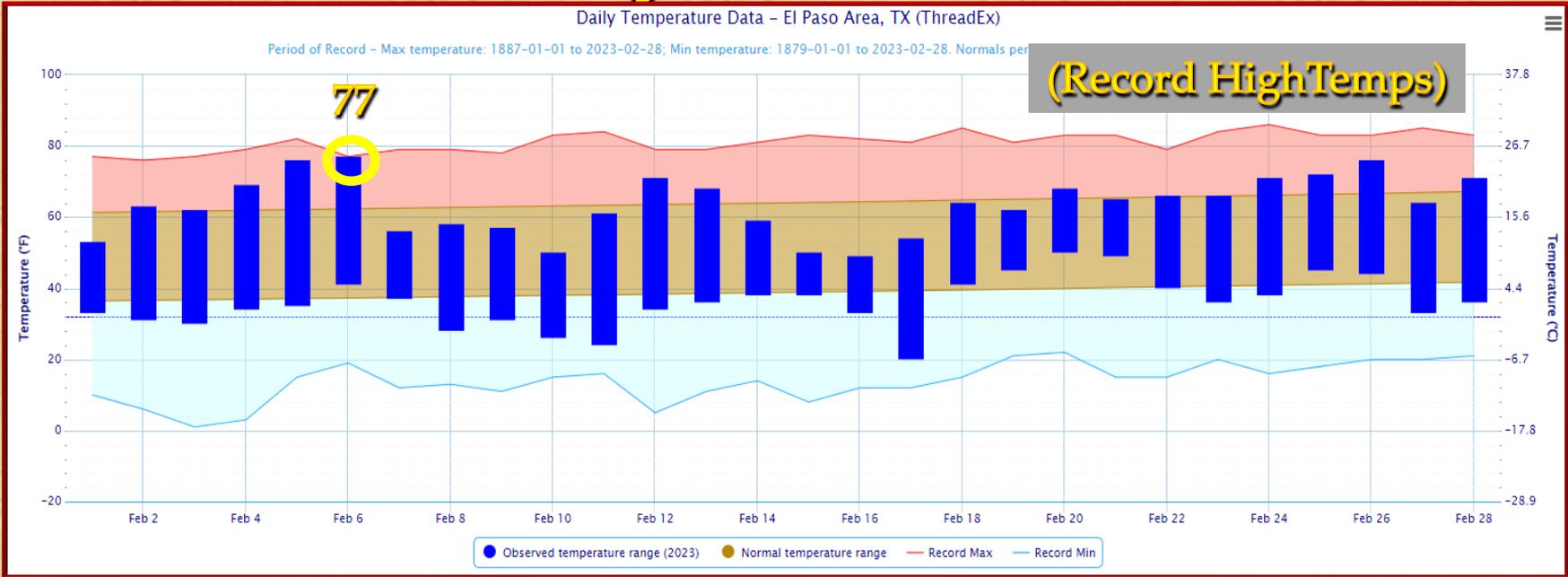
-  Drought persists
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely



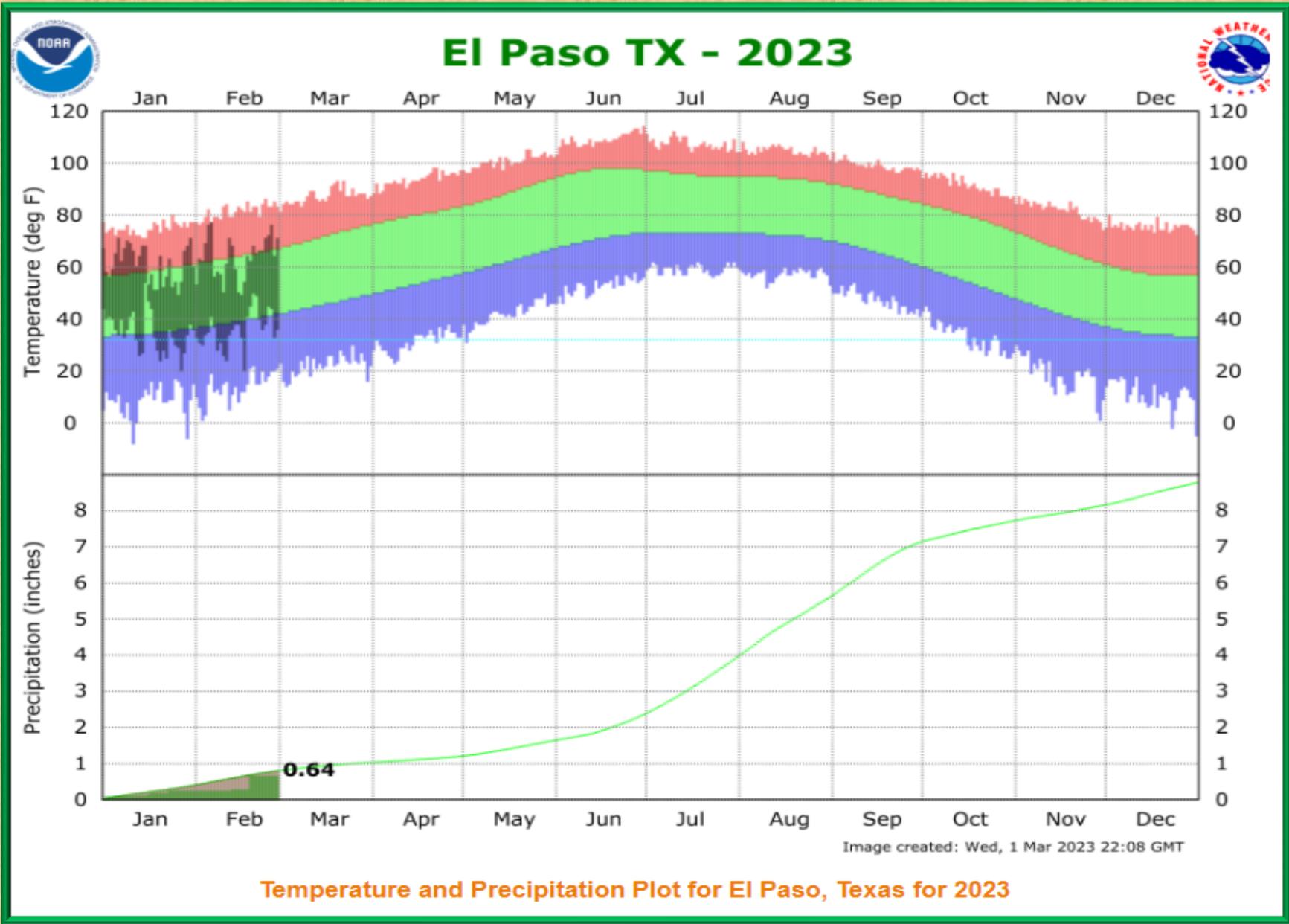
<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

# Temperature and precipitation data for February 2023 in El Paso

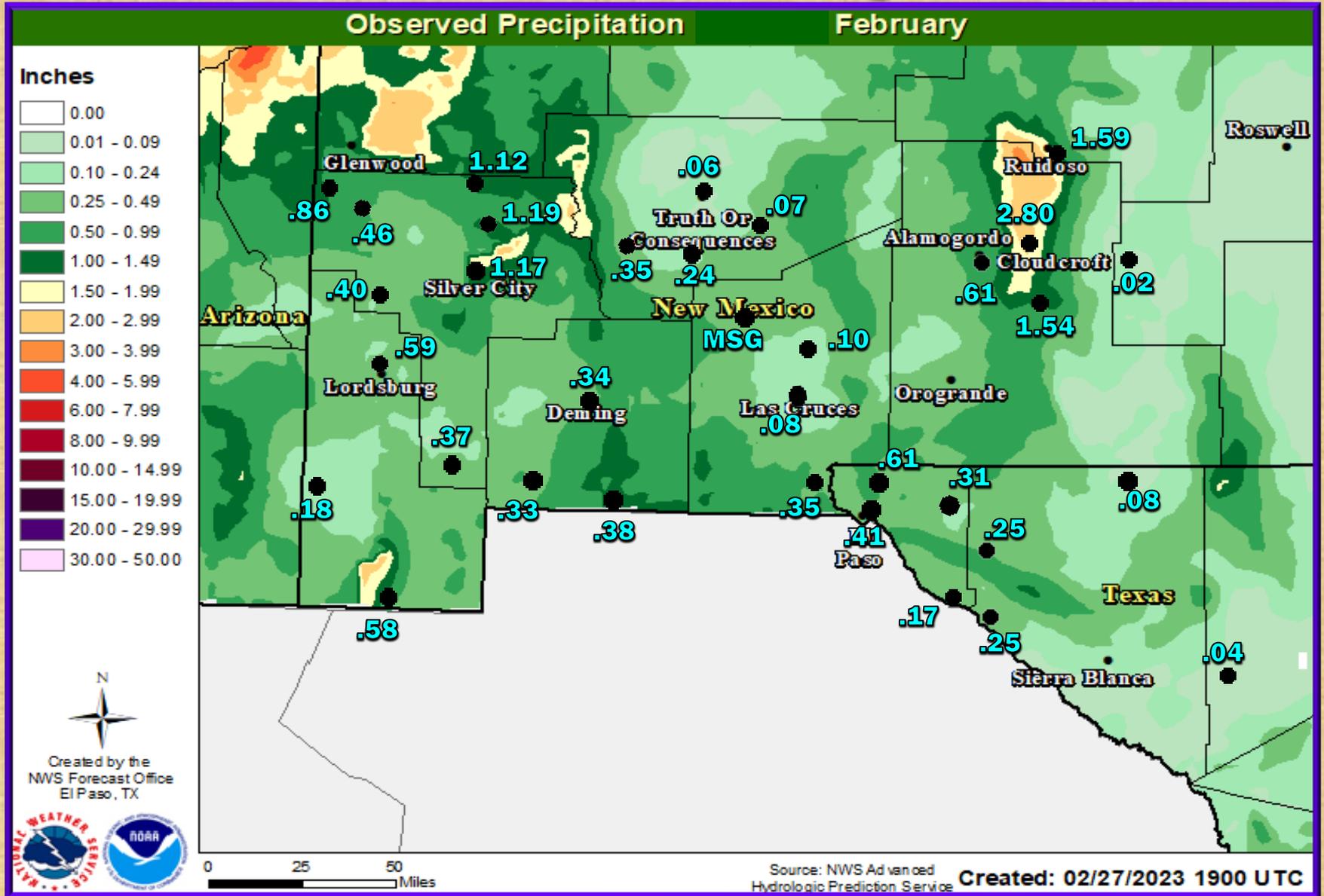
○ = record



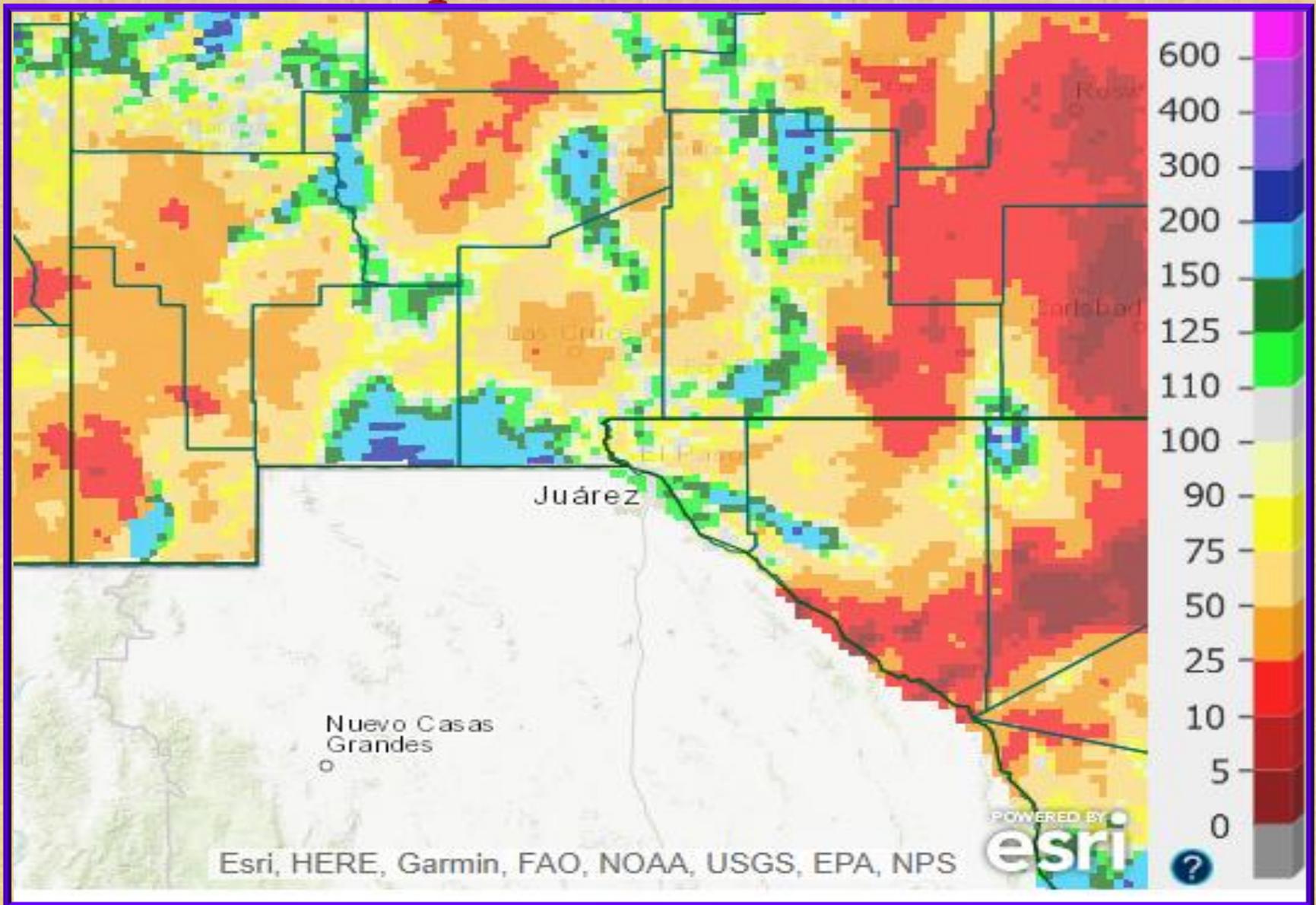
# Temperature and Precipitation for 2023 for El Paso



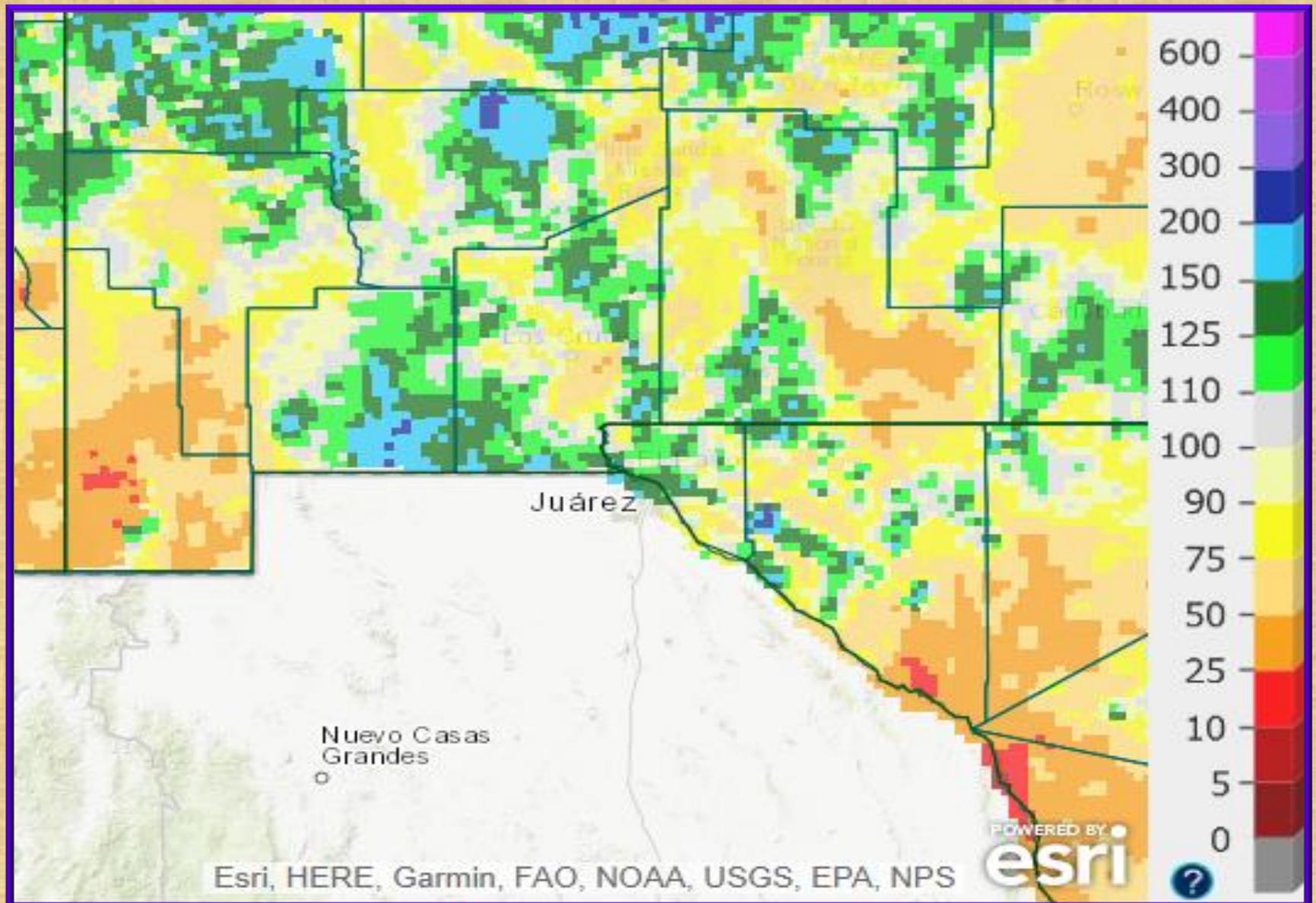
# February 2023 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



# February 2023 rainfall estimate percent of normal



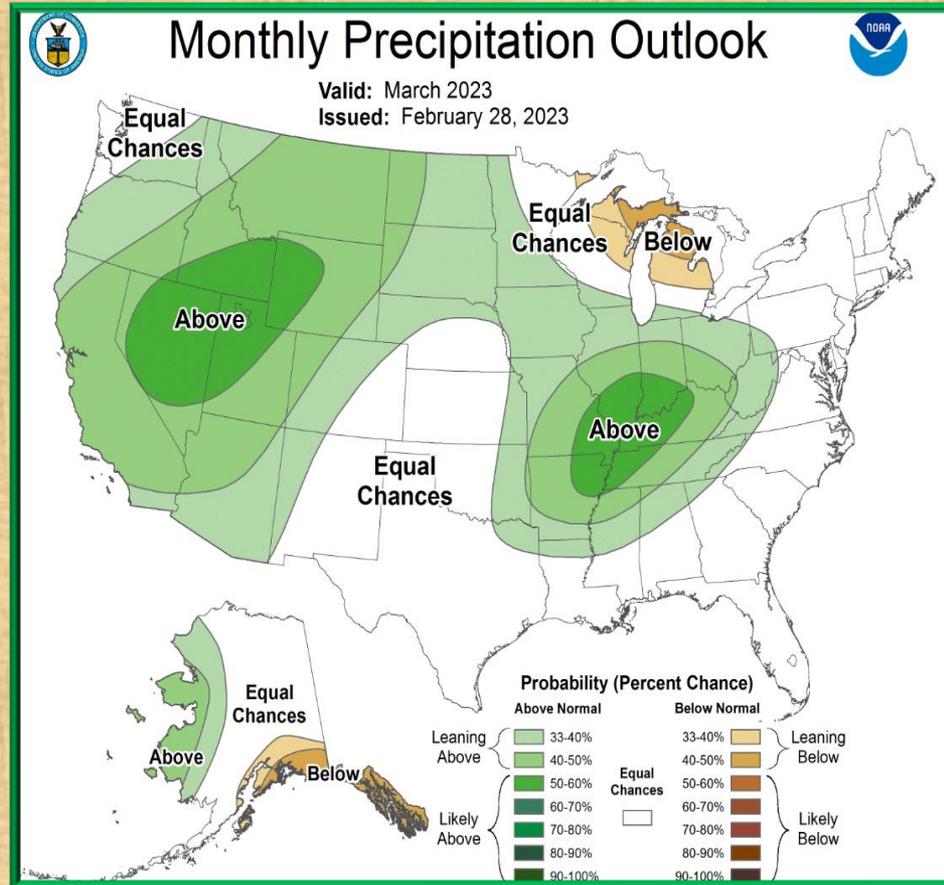
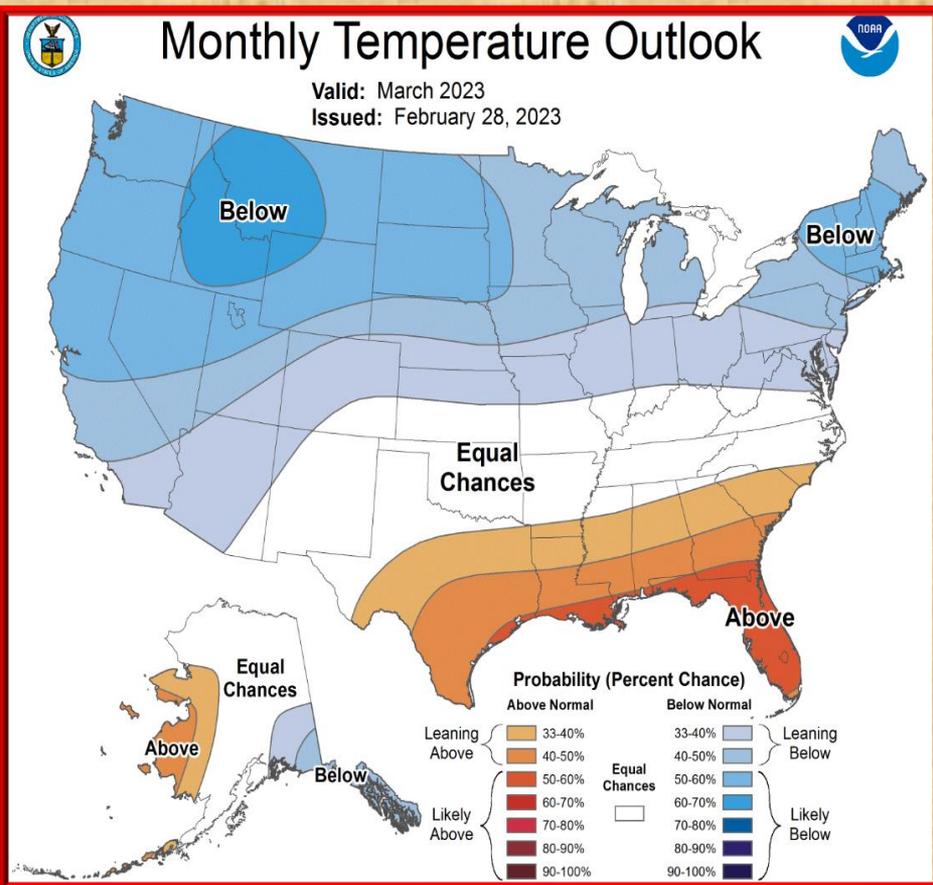
# Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Feb 28)



# Temperature and precipitation outlook For March 2023

## Temperature

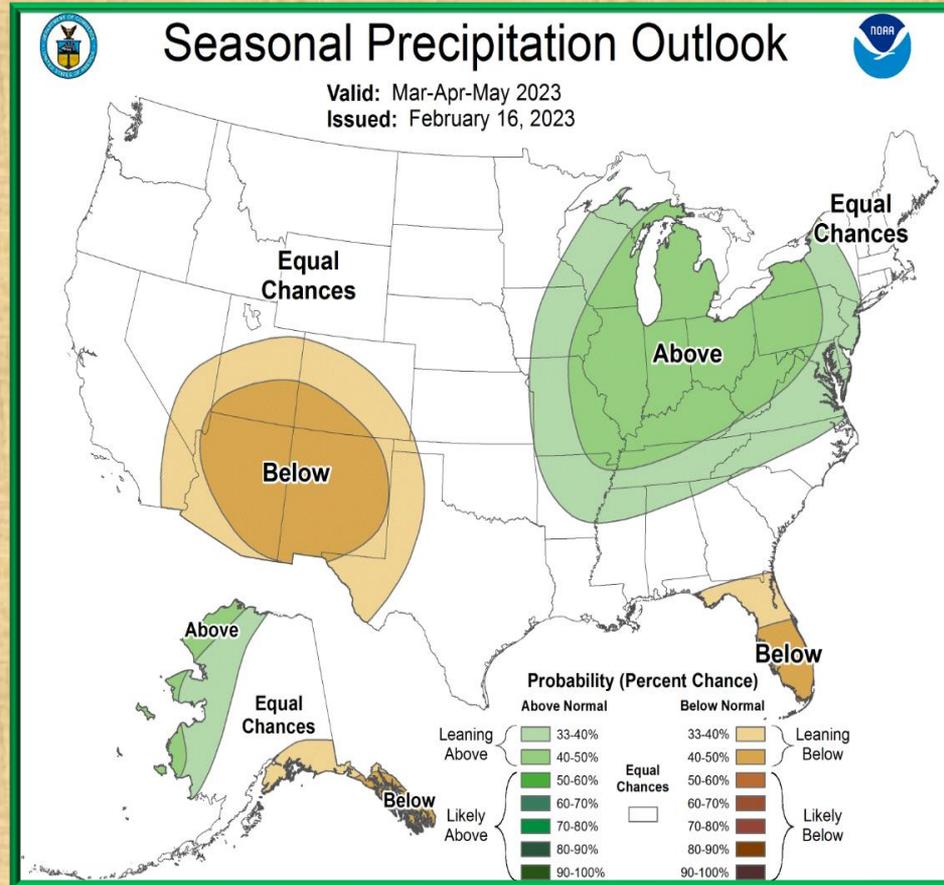
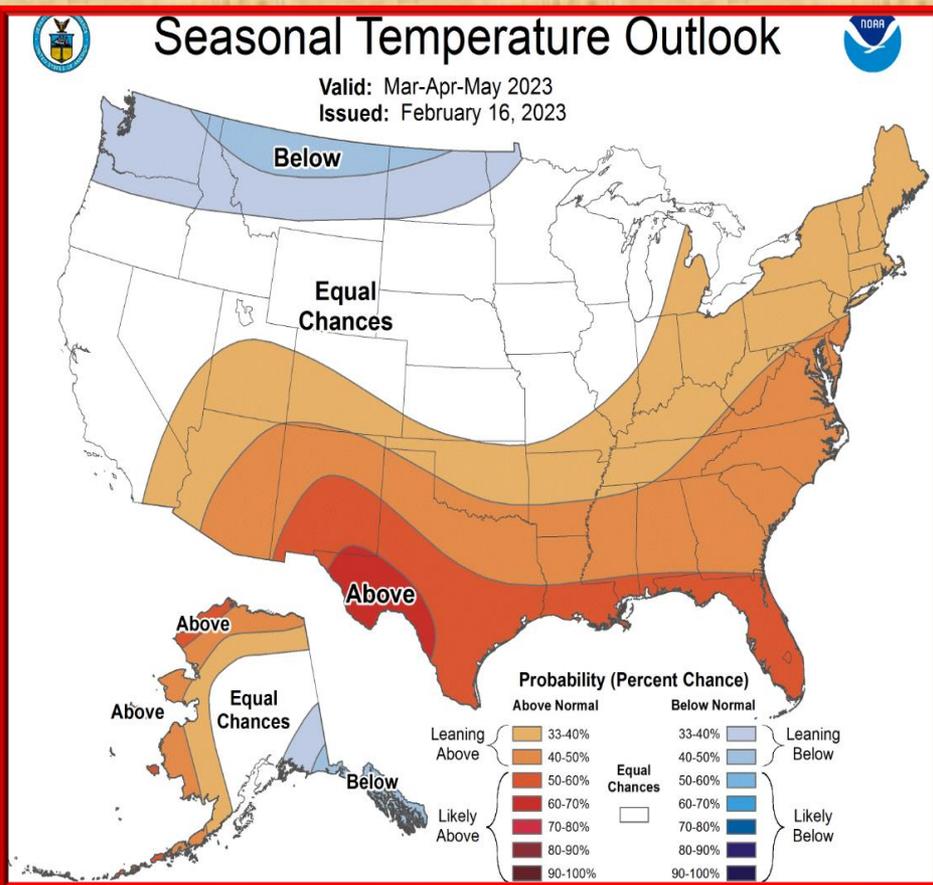
## Precipitation



# Temperature and precipitation outlook for Mar-May 2023

## Temperature

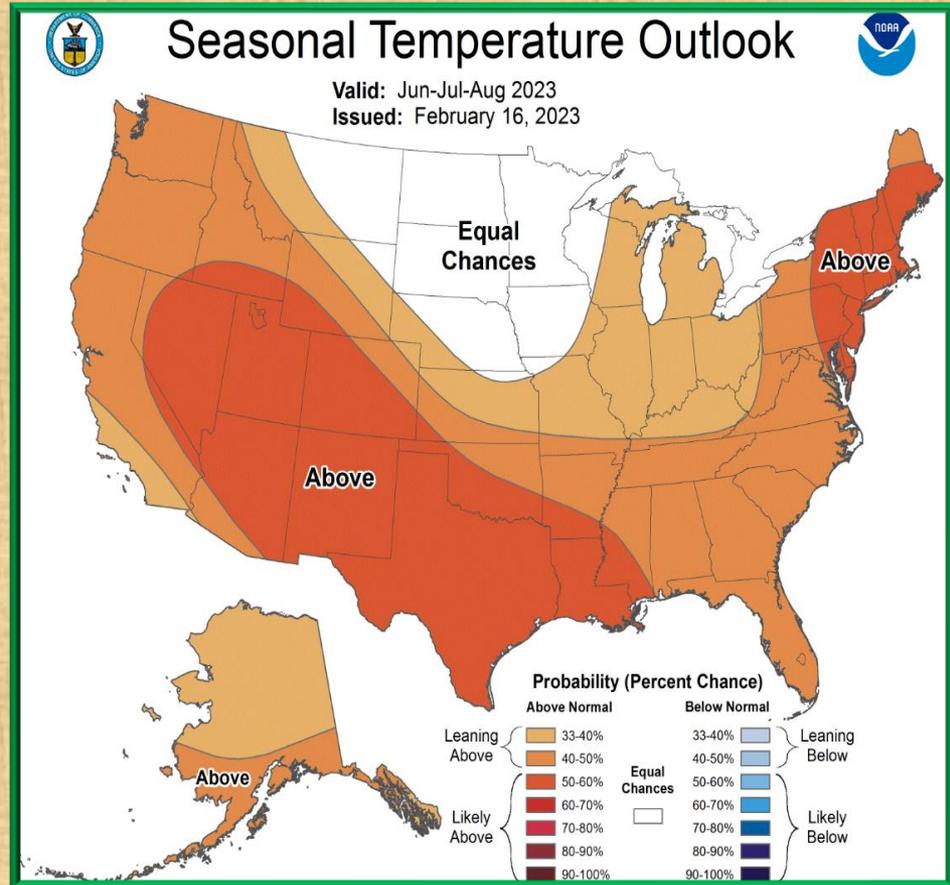
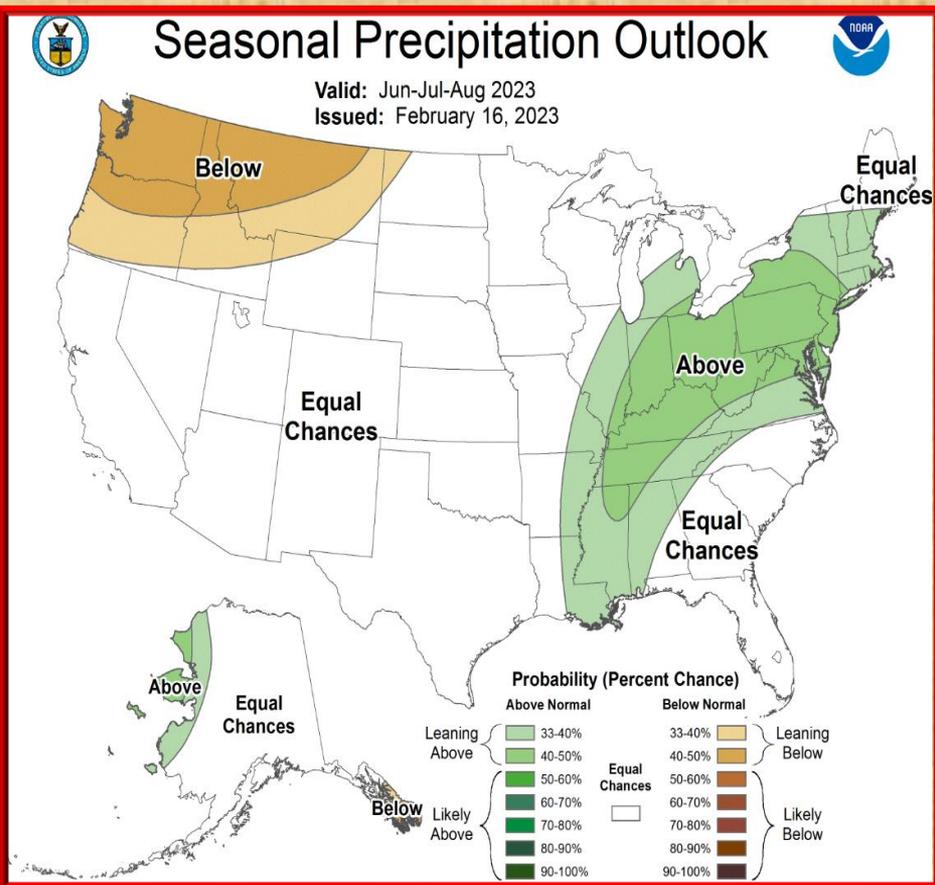
## Precipitation



# Temperature and precipitation outlook for Jun-Aug 2023

## Temperature

## Precipitation

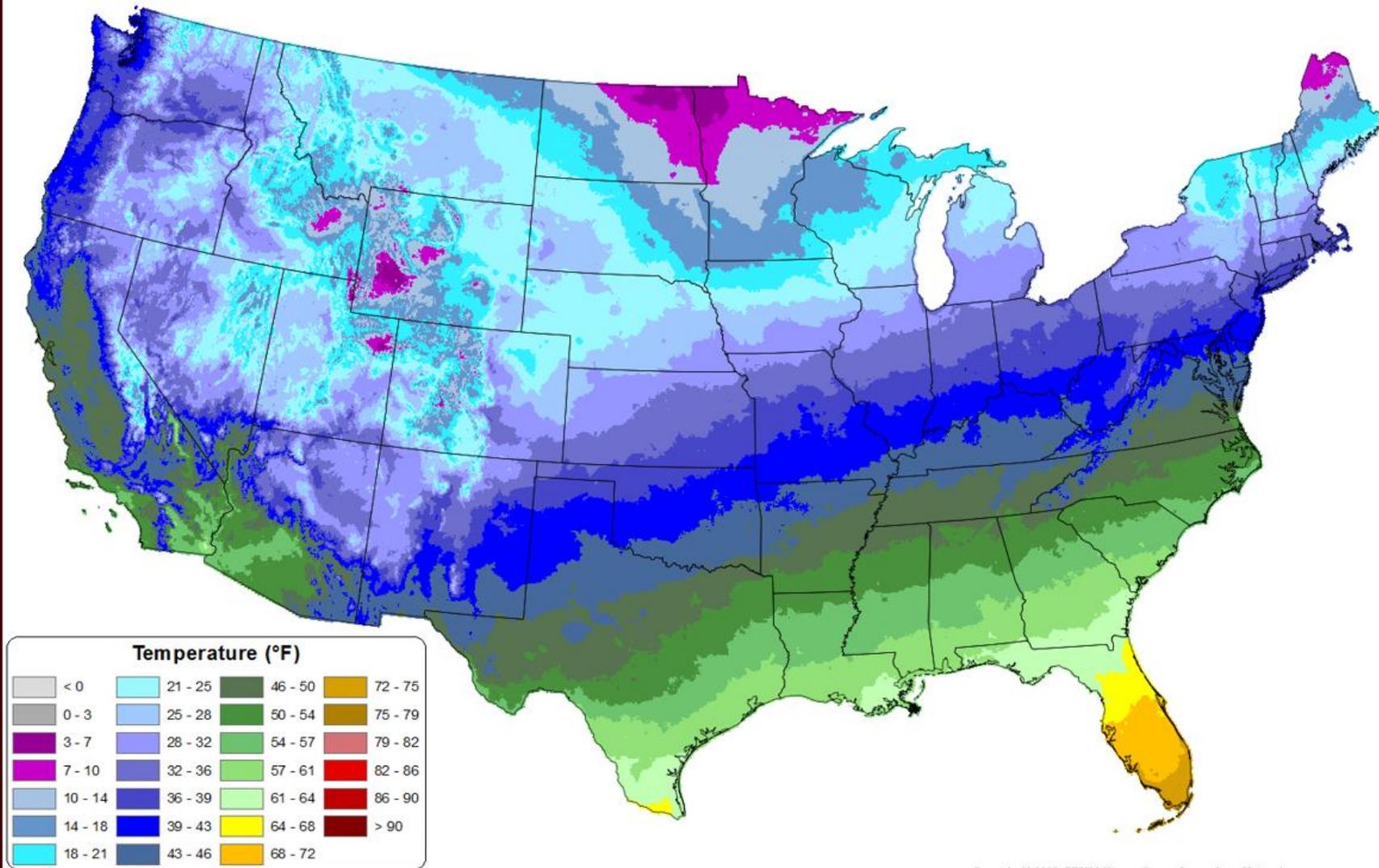


# Average Daily Mean Temperature for February 2023

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 Feb 2023 - 27 Feb 2023

Period ending 7 AM EST 27 Feb 2023

(Map created 28 Feb 2023)

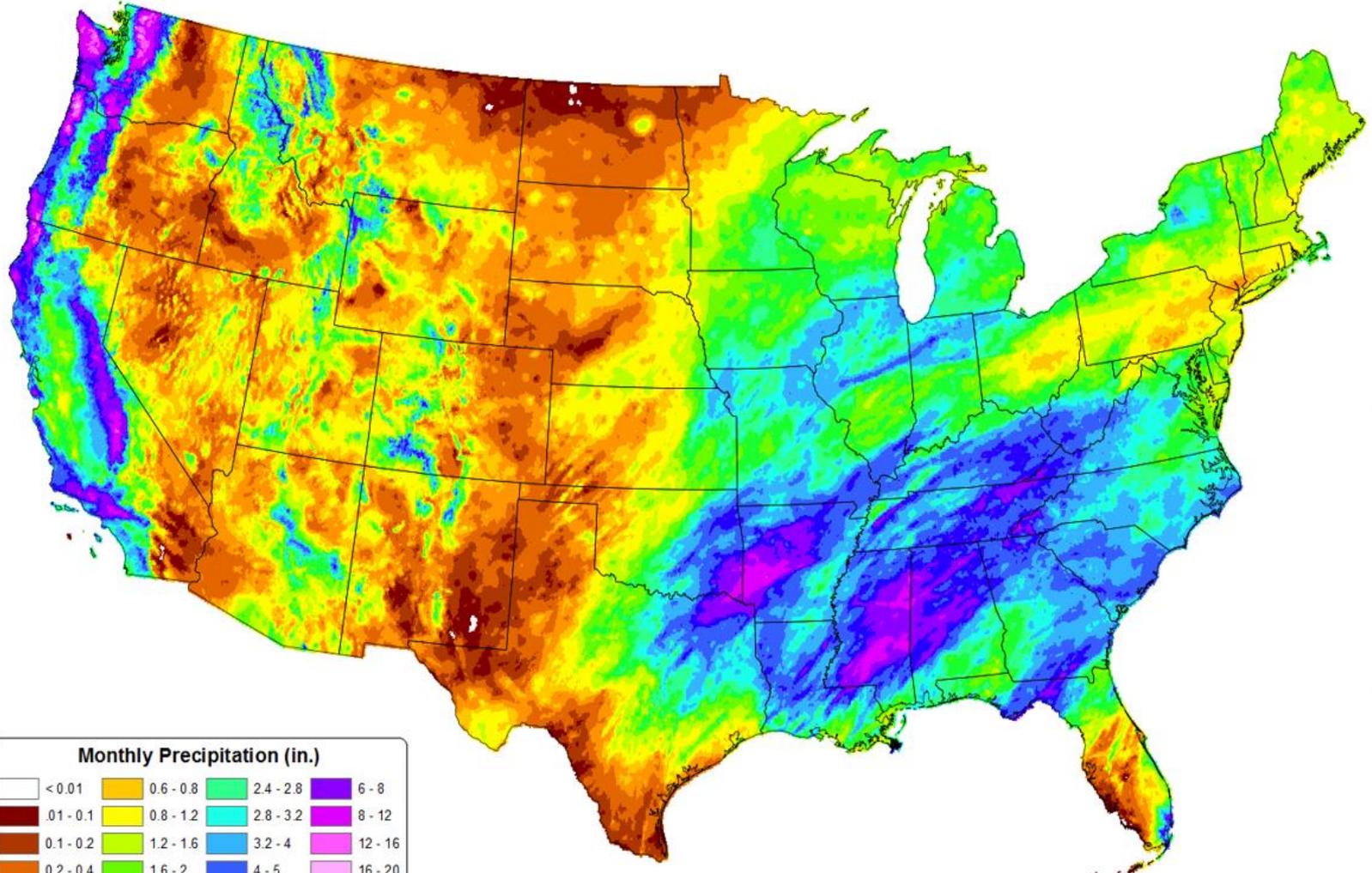


# Total Precipitation for February 2023

Total Precipitation: 01 Feb 2023 - 27 Feb 2023

Period ending 7 AM EST 27 Feb 2023

(Map created 28 Feb 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 February 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
FEBRUARY 13 350 PM	WSMR BLDG 1830-DONA ANA	67 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 235 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	61 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 109 PM	HOLLOMAN AFB-OTERO	58 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 155 PM	ALAMOGORDO AIRPORT-DONA ANA	56 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 303 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	53 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 528 PM	DELL CITY-HUDSPETH	51 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 428 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	49 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 1210 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MM12-HIDALGO	49 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 1245 PM	SPACEPORT AMERICA-SIERRA	47 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 539 PM	BIGGS FIELD-EL PASO	44 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 135 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	44 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 330 PM	SILVER CITY MTN VIEW-GRANT	41 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected Weather Reports February 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
FEBRUARY 13 100 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	41 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 229 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	40 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 13 1156 AM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	40 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 610 AM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	75 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 615 AM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	67 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 520 AM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	55 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 820 PM	CHIRICAHUA MUSEUM-HIDALGO	53 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 555 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA(NORTH)-HIDALGO	48 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 755 AM	DELL CITY-HUDSPETH	48 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 344 AM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH	48 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 310 PM	T OR C GOLF COURSE-SIERRA	45 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 122 PM	BIGGS FIELD-EL PASO	45 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected Weather Reports February 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
FEBRUARY 14 535 AM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	45 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 328 PM	HOLLOMAN AFB-OTERO	44 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 14 1009 AM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	43 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 610 AM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	77 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 748 AM	BIGGS FIELD-EL PASO	58 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 841 AM	MESCALERO-OTERO	58 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 230 AM	WSMR MUSEUM-DONA ANA	57 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 750 AM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	56 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 552 AM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	55 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 221 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	49 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 451 AM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 801 AM	MAYHILL-OTERO	47 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected Weather Reports February 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
FEBRUARY 15 726 AM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	46 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 355 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	45 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 115 PM	GRAN CO AIRPORT-GRANT	44 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 1145 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA (NORTH)-HIDALGO	44 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 746 AM	CLOUDCROFT-OTERO	43 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 15 340 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	41 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 16 700 AM	CLOUDCROFT 2 SW-OTERO	8.0 INCHES SNOW
FEBRUARY 16 700 AM	SILVER CITY 5NE-GRANT	6.5 INCHES SNOW
FEBRUARY 16 700 AM	SUNSPOT-OTERO	4.3 INCHES SNOW
FEBRUARY 16 700 AM	BAYARD 9 NE-GRANT	3.3 INCHES SNOW
FEBRUARY 16 700 AM	DEMING 12N-LUNA	1.0 INCHES SNOW

# Selected Weather Reports February 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
FEBRUARY 22 505 PM	SALINAS PEAK-SIERRA	111 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 420 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	97 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 845 AM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	70 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 1202 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	68 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 240 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	66 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 1215 PM	SPACEPORT-SIERRA	64 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 341 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	64 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 1055 AM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MM7	64 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 745 AM	MAYHILL-OTERO	62 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 356 PM	BIGGS FIELD-EL PASO	61 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 324 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	61 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 237 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	61 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected Weather Reports February 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
FEBRUARY 22 413 PM	HOLLOMAN AFB-OTERO	59 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 135 PM	SANTA TERESA AIRPORT-DONA ANA	58 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 355 AM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	56 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 22 115 PM	SILVER CITY MTN VIEW-GRANT	55 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 1110 AM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	111 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 141 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	81 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 1259 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	78 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 1124 AM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	78 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 231 PM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH	75 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 1106 AM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	72 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 1251 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	71 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 1250 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	71 MPH PEAK WIND

# Selected Weather Reports February 2023

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
FEBRUARY 26 1250 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	67 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 145 PM	PINOS ALTOS-GRANT	67 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 1252 PM	HOLLOMAN AFB-OTERO	67 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 1130 AM	WSMR BLDG 1830-DONA ANA	66 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 955 AM	NORTH LORDSBURG PLAYA-HIDALGO	59 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 115 PM	ALAMOGORDO AIRPORT-OTERO	59 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 222 PM	DELL CITY-HUDSPETH	59 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 201 PM	MAYHILL-OTERO	58 MPH PEAK WIND
FEBRUARY 26 330 PM	SILVER CITY MTN VIEW-GRANT	50 MPH PEAK WIND

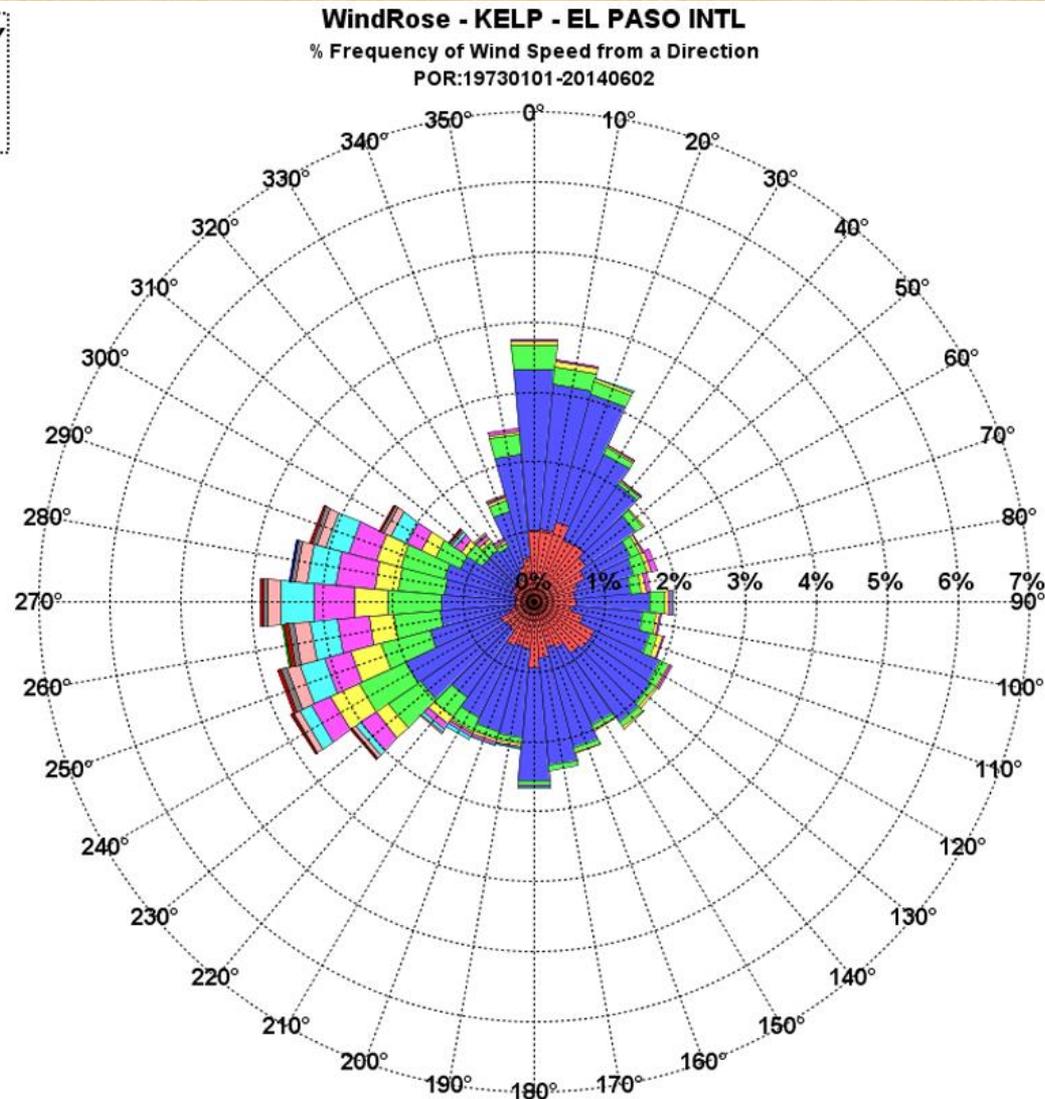
# Special Features

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

Month: FEBRUARY

Calm: 10.51%

Variable: 1.83%



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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 Weather Forecast Office

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**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  
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**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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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>	