February 2025 Weather Digest

February 2025 Weather Summary

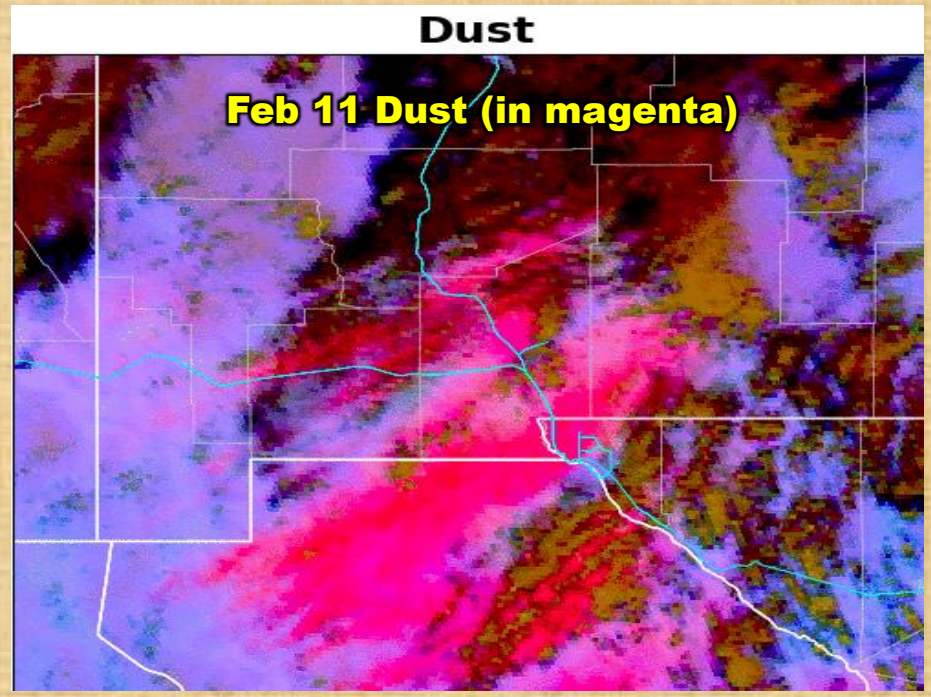
After a cool January, February ended up being very warm, with most sites reporting temperatures 4 to 6 degrees above normal. For much of the month, the storm track remained well north of the area, allowing dry, warm air across the Borderland. A weak La Niña pattern continued through the month, which usually spells warmer, drier weather. Even notorious cold sites such as Gila Hot Springs, Mule Creek, and the mountains avoided typical low temperatures in the single digits. On February 26-27 a strong back door (moving west) cold front swept across southern New Mexico, and uncharacteristically created dense blowing dust across areas close to the International Border.

As is often the case, when unseasonably warm temperatures arrive, precipitation disappears. Most of the area ended up at about 5-10 percent of normal. A few spots in the Gila were fortunate enough to receive about 50 percent of normal. Most sites received most or all of their monthly precipitation on the 14th and 15th as a Pacific storm was able to sweep far enough south across the area. Obviously with the dry pattern, mountain snowfall was also well below normal.

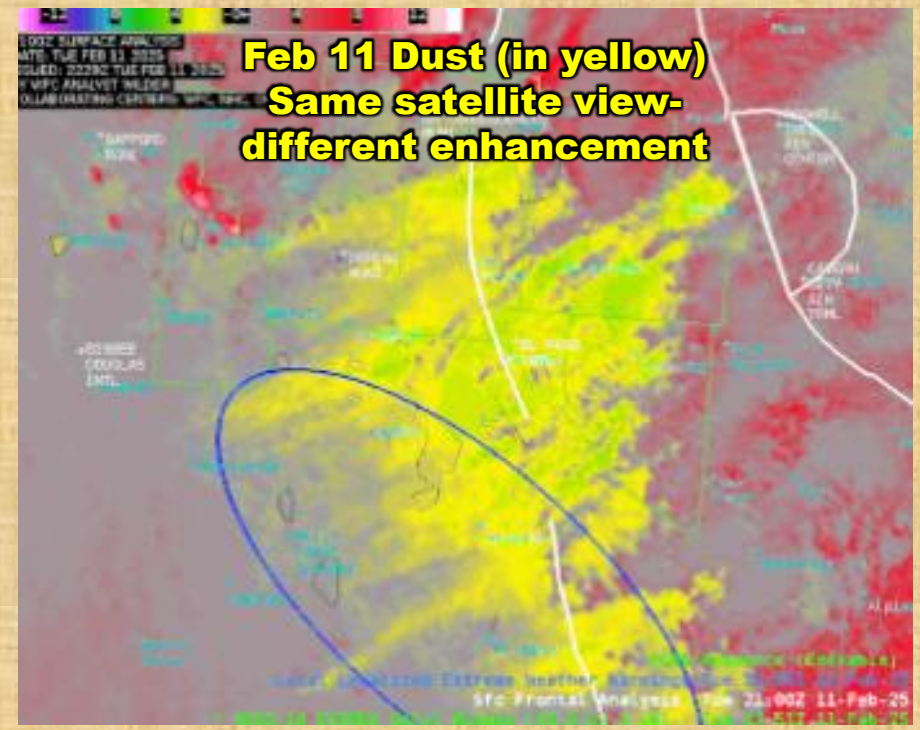
February 2025 Weather Summary

Looking ahead to March, we continue to gain daylight and warmth. At El Paso, daylight on March 1 is 11 hours and 31 minutes, while on March 31 the daylight has increased to 12 hours and 30 minutes; a total gain of 59 minutes. Also don't forget, we switch back to Daylight Savings Time (move ahead one hour) on March 9. At El Paso, the average high temperature on March 1 is 67˚, warming to 76˚ on March 31. The record high temperature at El Paso for March is 93˚. Also, Spring Equinox falls on March 20th. This date signifies the Sun being directly over the Equator, with nearly equal (12 hours) of day and night. Because of refraction and non-perfect sphere of Earth, our equal day/night locally occurs on March 16.

For our sky watchers, the March full moon occurs on the 14th, and is commonly known as the Worm Moon. Of more note, a total lunar eclipse will take place early morning of the 14th. This will be viewable across all of North America, assuming favorable cloud conditions. The new moon occurs on the 29th.


Dust
Feb 11 Dust (in magenta)

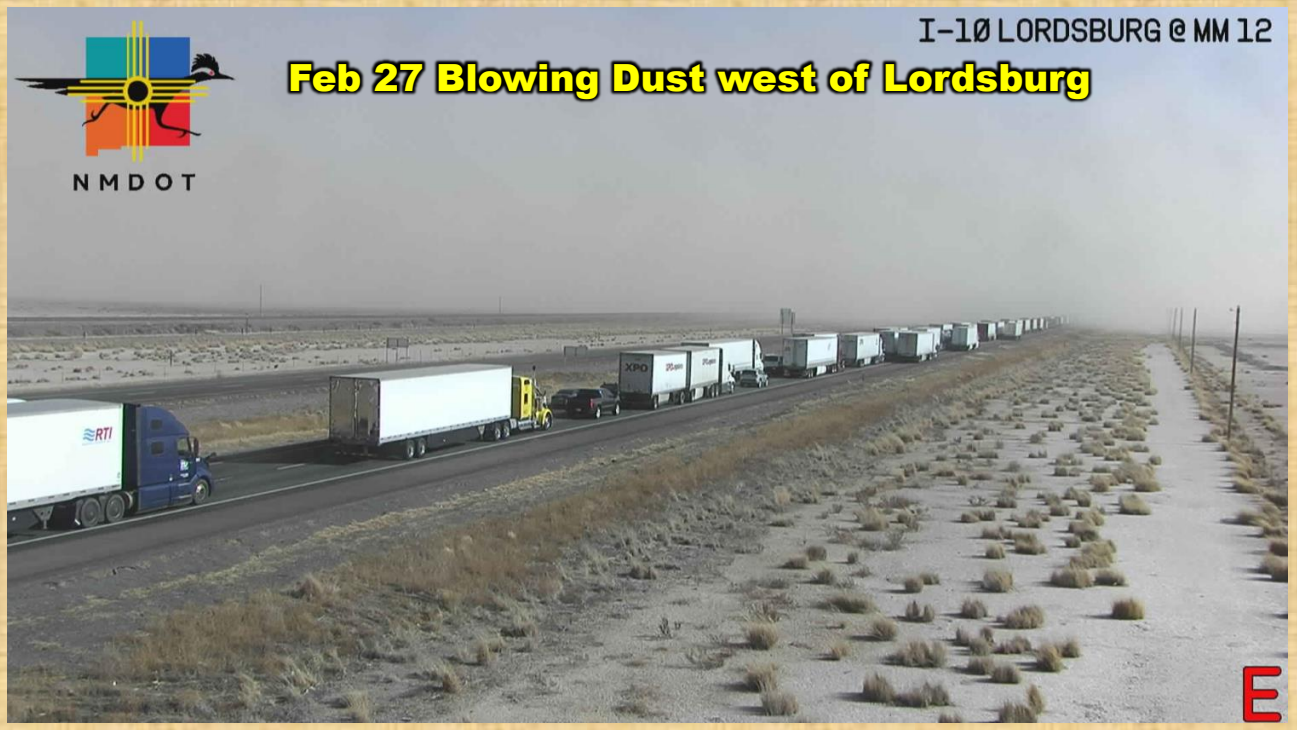

Feb 11 Dust over the
Franklin Mtns


Feb 11 Dust (in yellow)
Same satellite view-
different enhancement

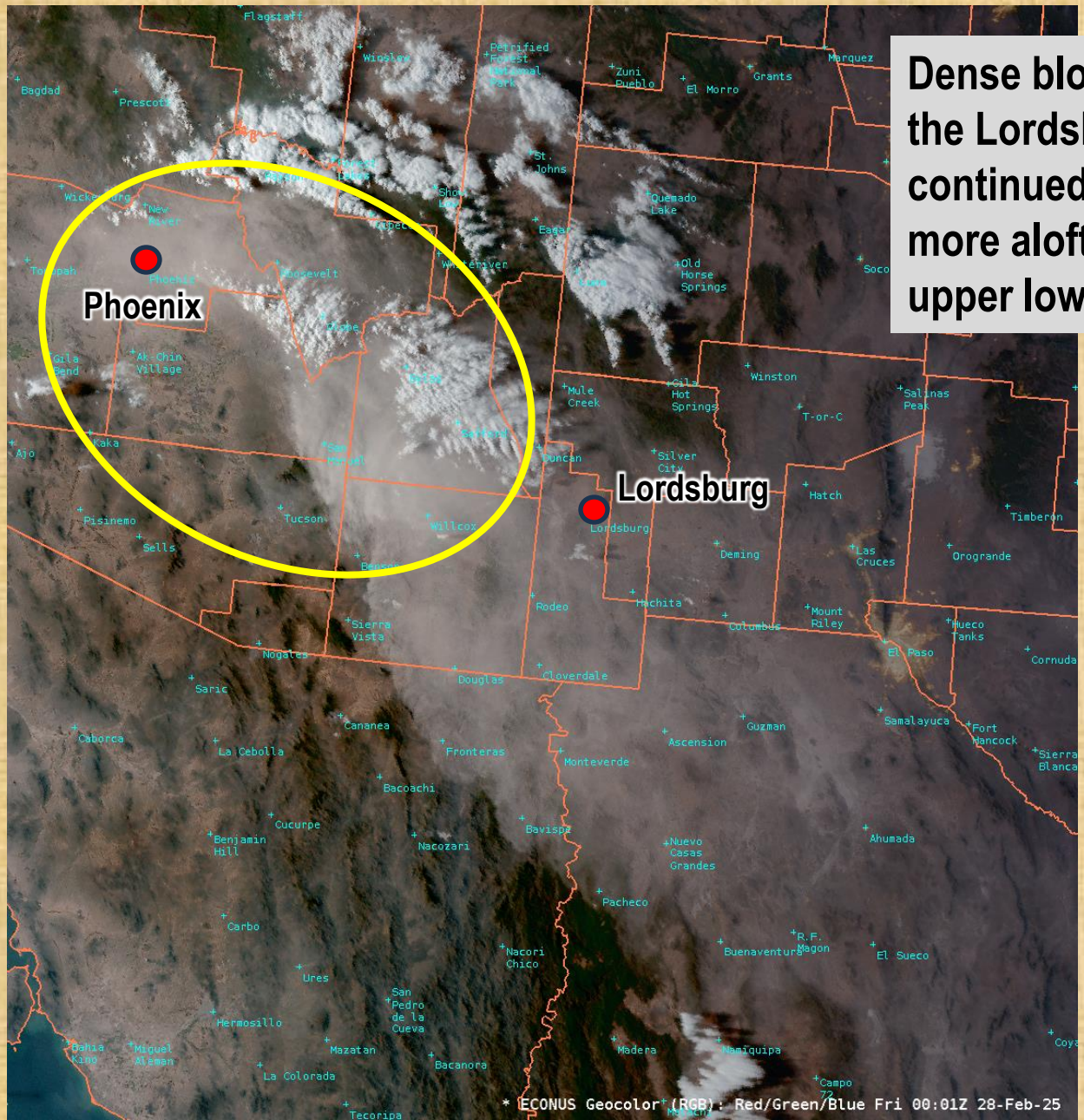

Feb 11 Dust in Santa Teresa


Feb 11 Dust at El Paso


Feb 14 Dusting of snow near Silver City

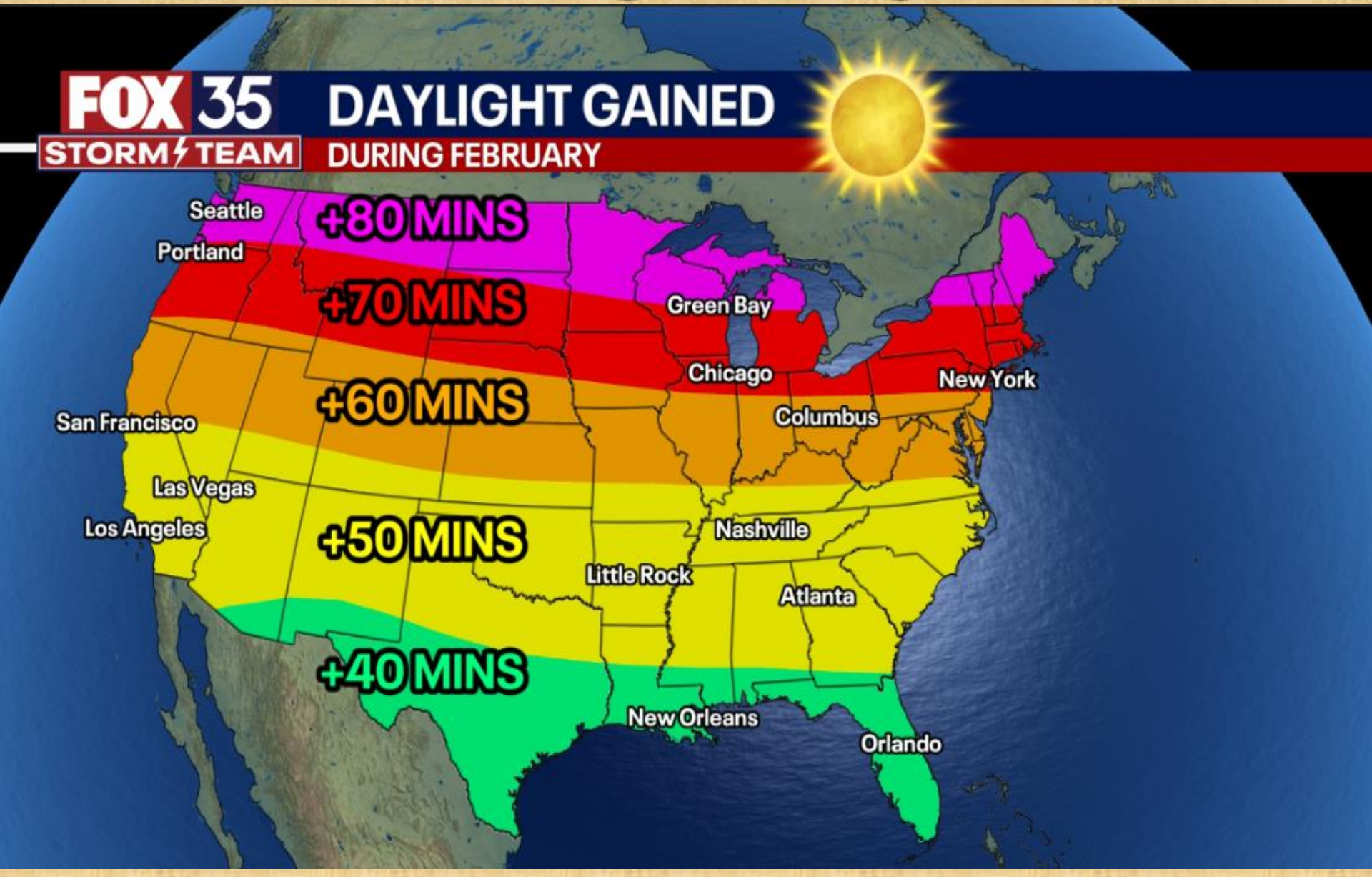

I-10 LORDSBURG @ MM 12
NMDOT
Feb 27 Blowing Dust west of Lordsburg
E

Feb 27 Blowing Dust



Dense blowing dust which plagued the Lordsburg Playa in the afternoon continued to drift west and become more aloft as it was drawn into an upper low over Arizona

Amount of daylight gained during February



ENSO Alert System Status:
La Niña Advisory is in effect

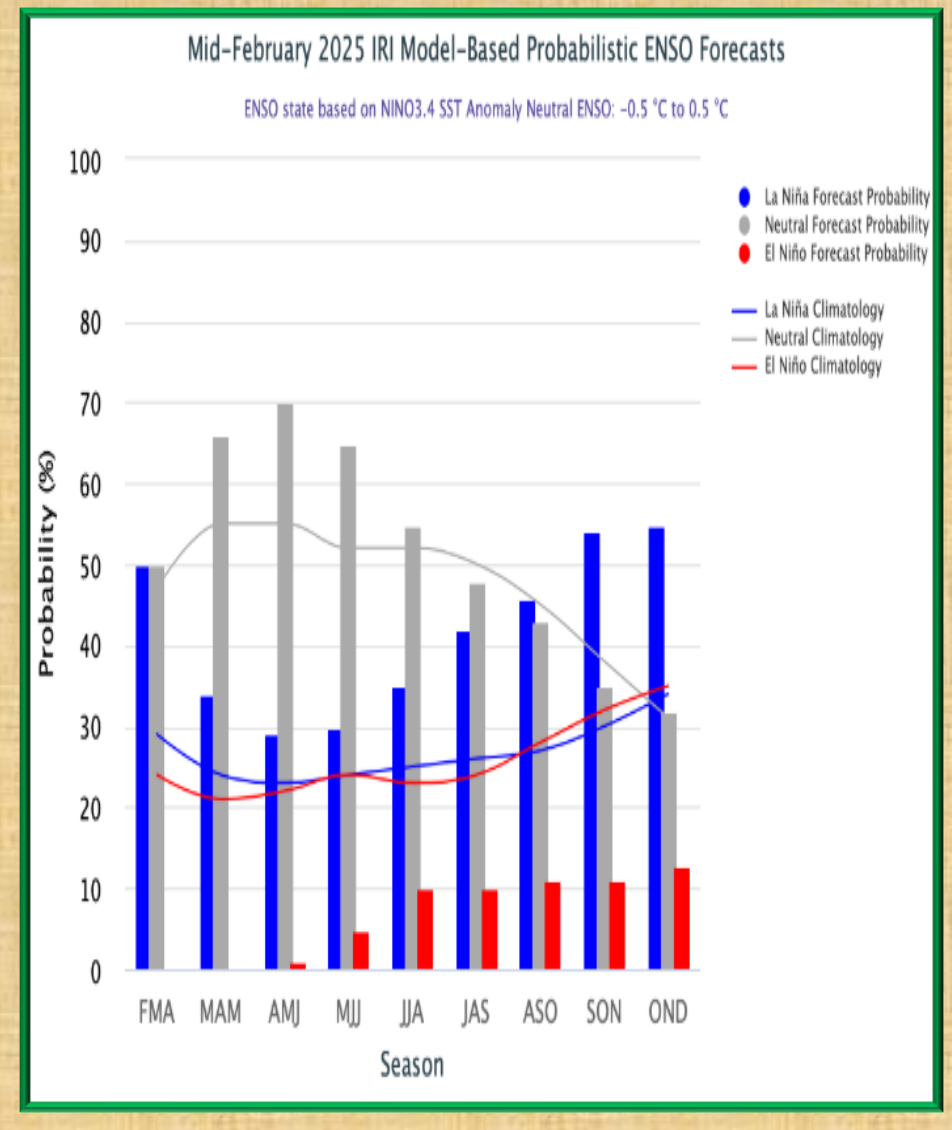
ENSO Alert System

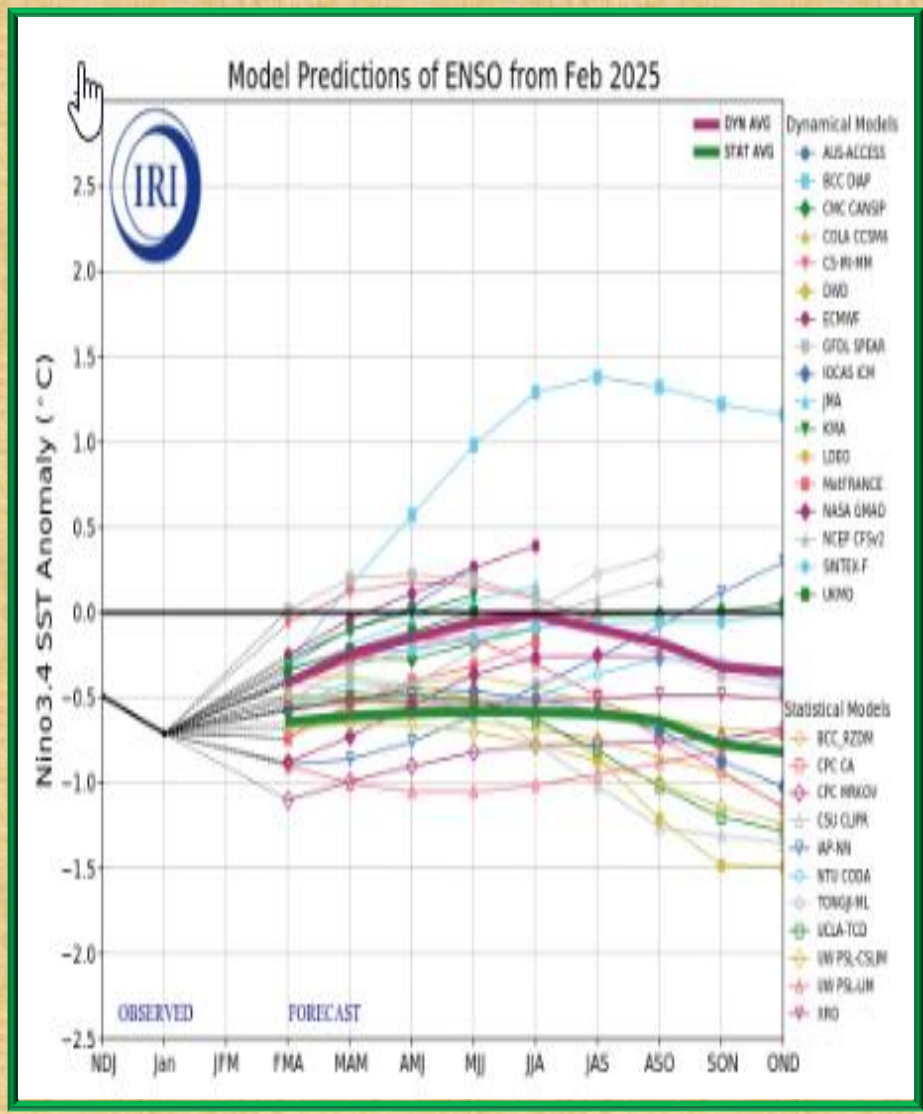
- El Niño or La Niña Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.

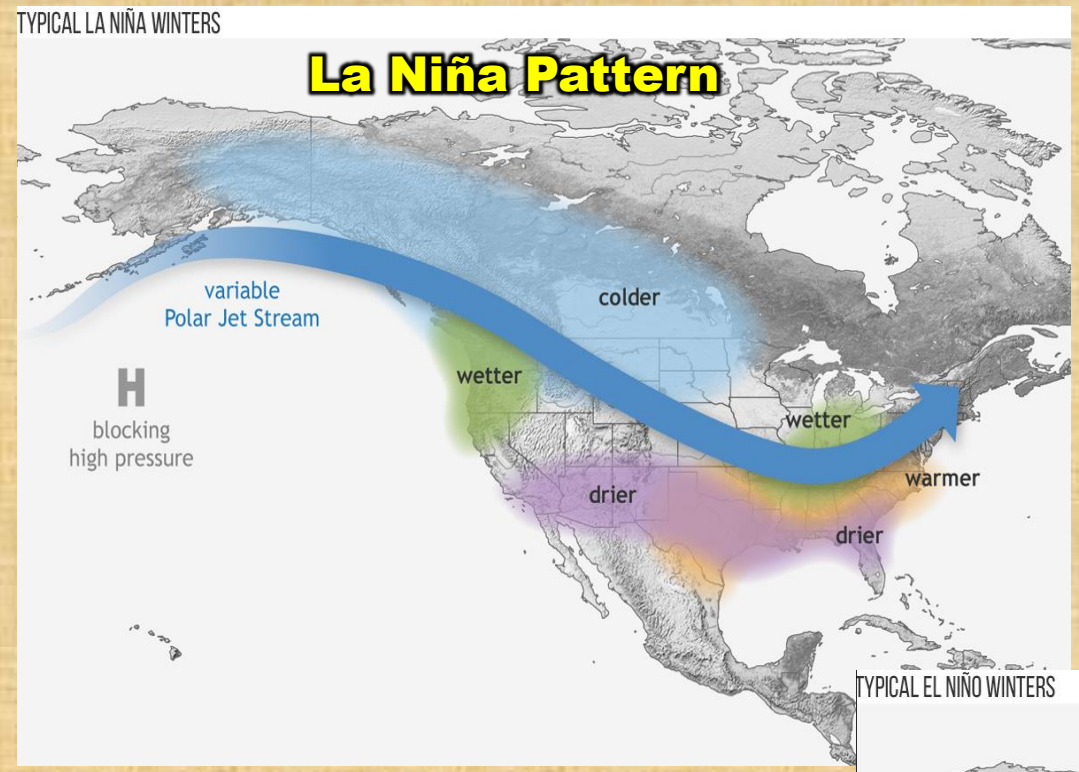
- El Niño or La Niña Advisory: Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

ENSO Forecast

ENSO is in La Niña phase, with a shift back to neutral by the end of Spring

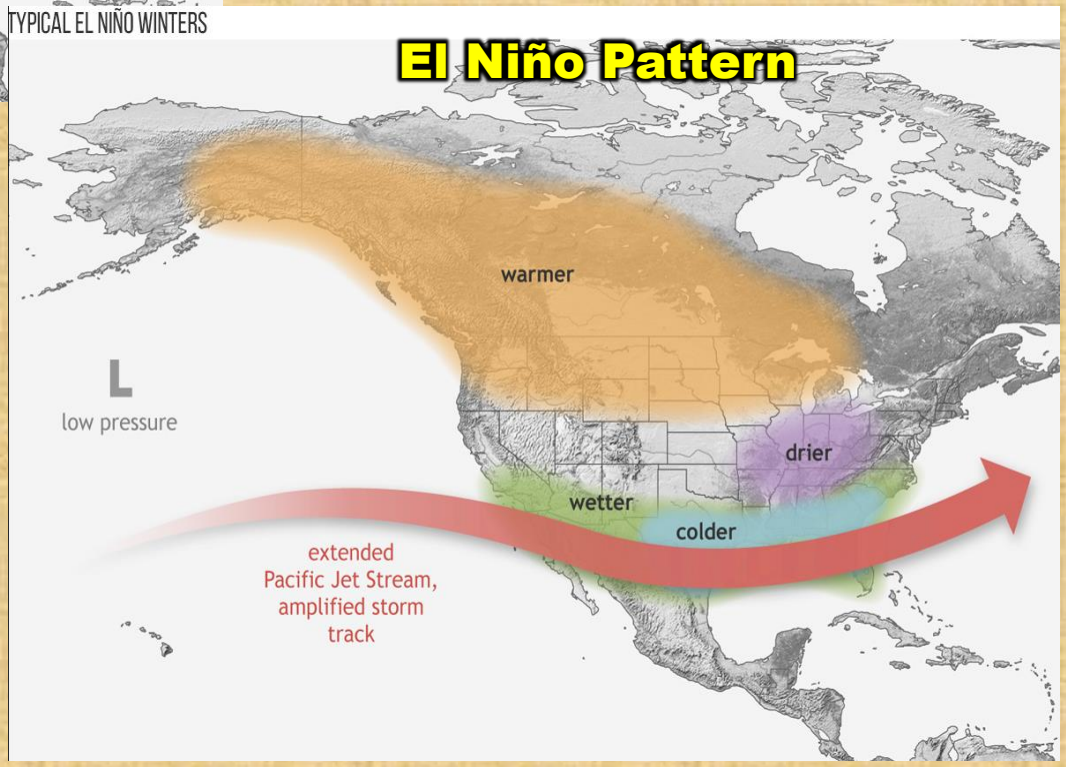






With a La Niña pattern, a ridge of high pressure tends to build off the west coast of the U.S., blocking most of our Pacific winter storm systems. These storms tend to end up moving across the northern Plains and down to the southeastern part of the country. Of course it is important to remember that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

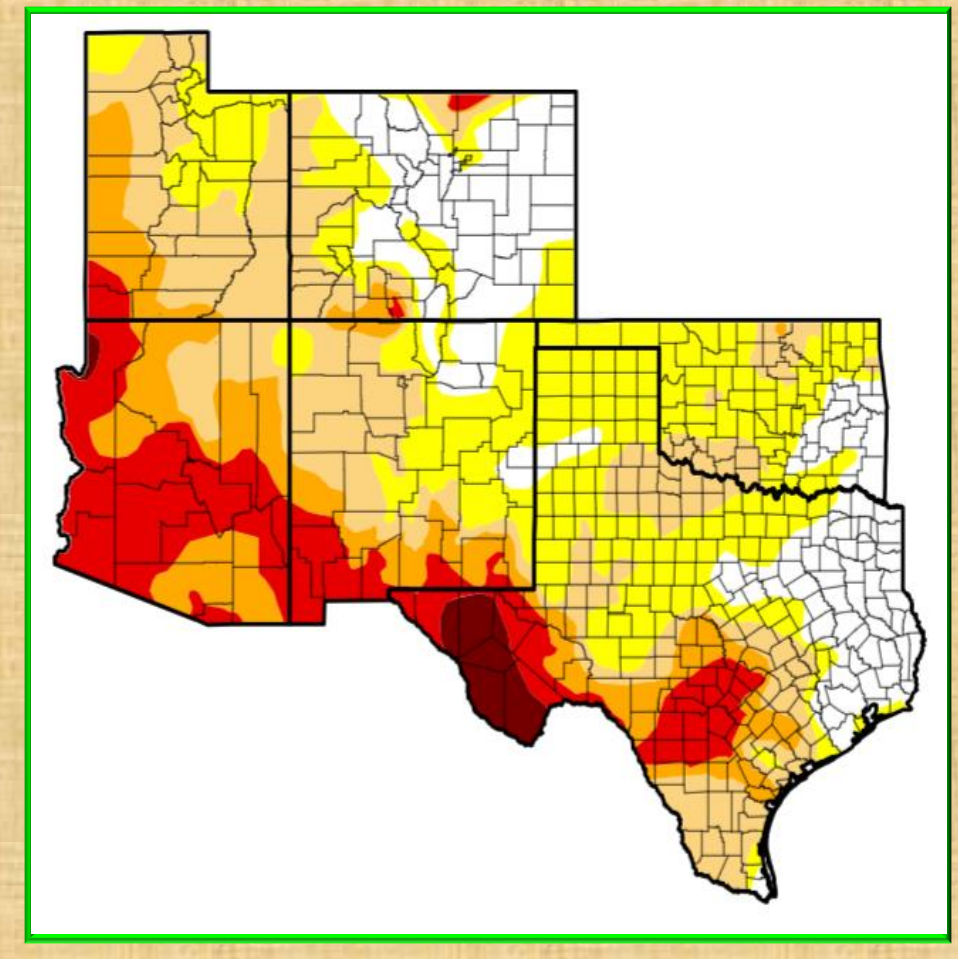
With El Niño, we often see the opposite pattern where the eastern Pacific ridge of high pressure is often weak or non-existent, allowing winter storms to sweep across the southern U.S. This typically will give the south-western U.S. above normal precipitation.



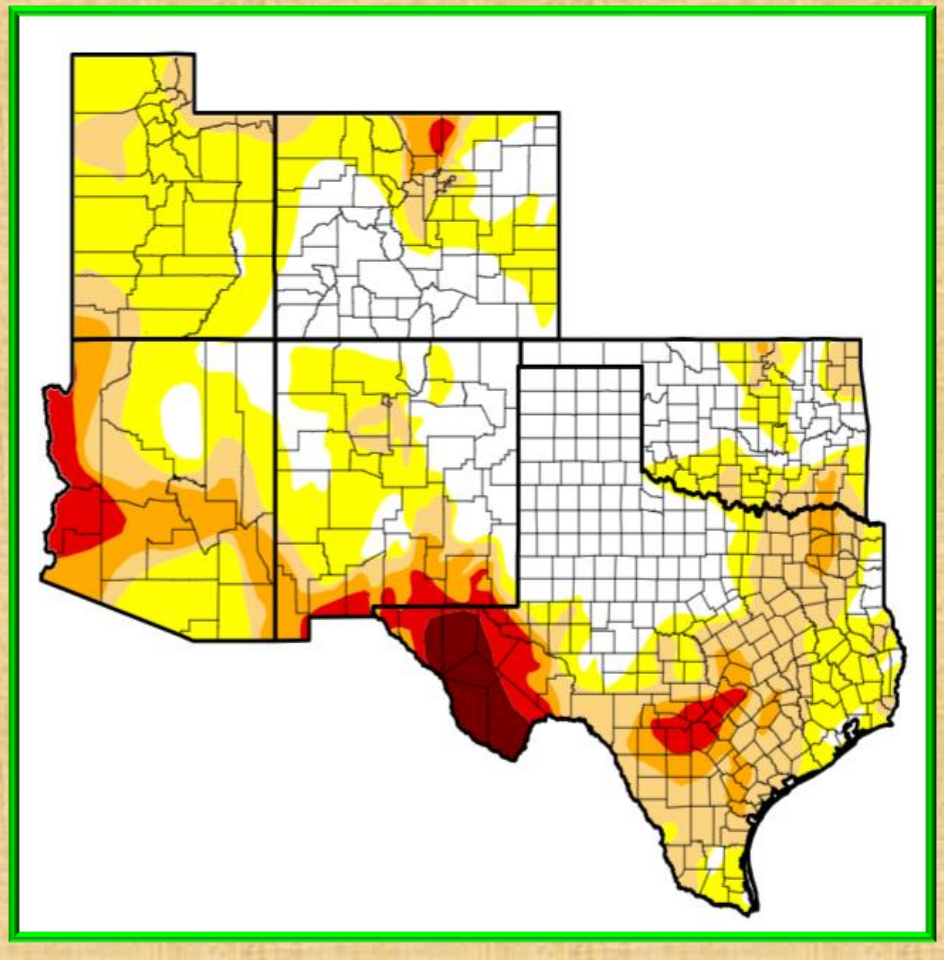
Current drought conditions and 3 month change

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

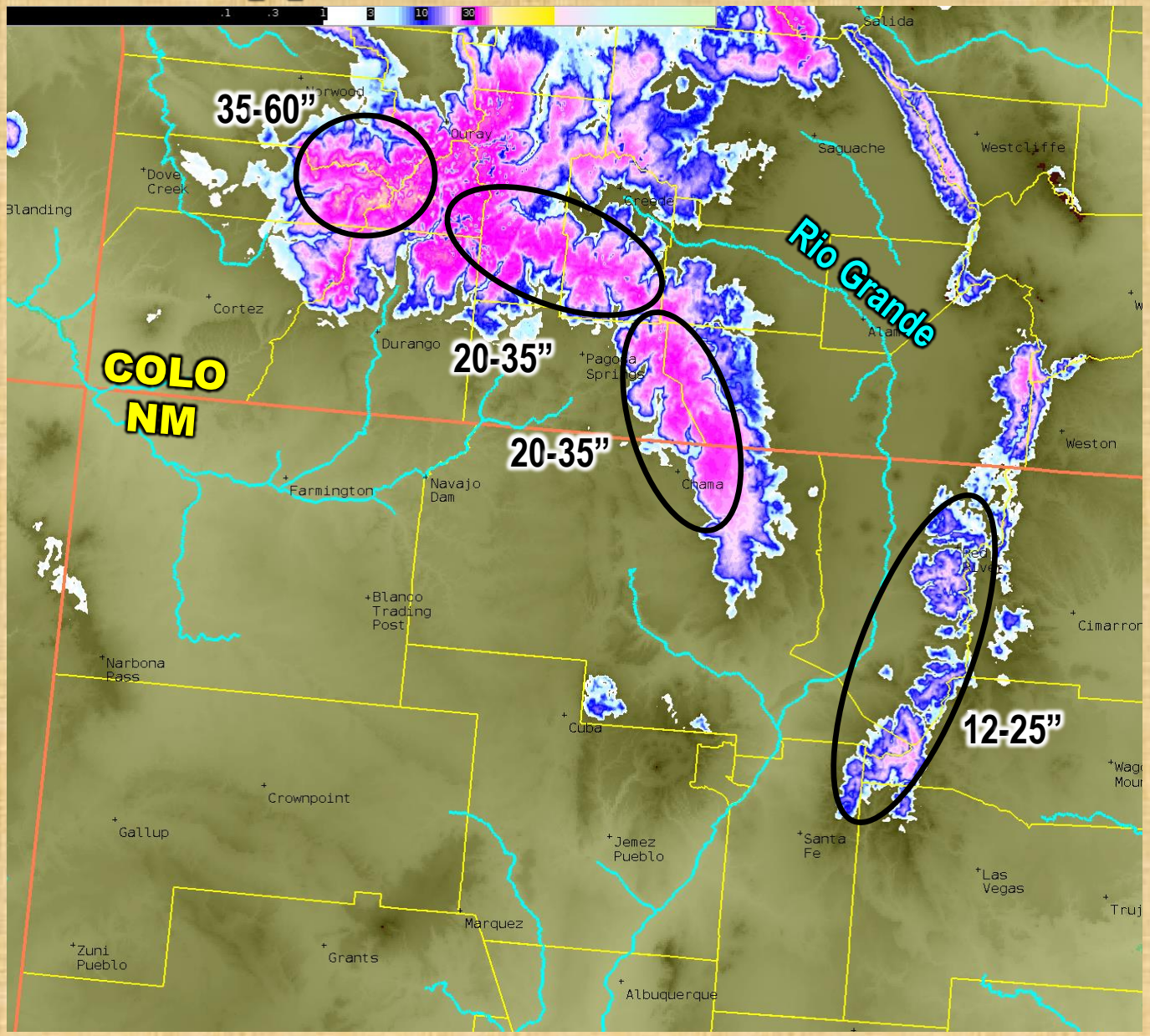
Feb 25, 2025



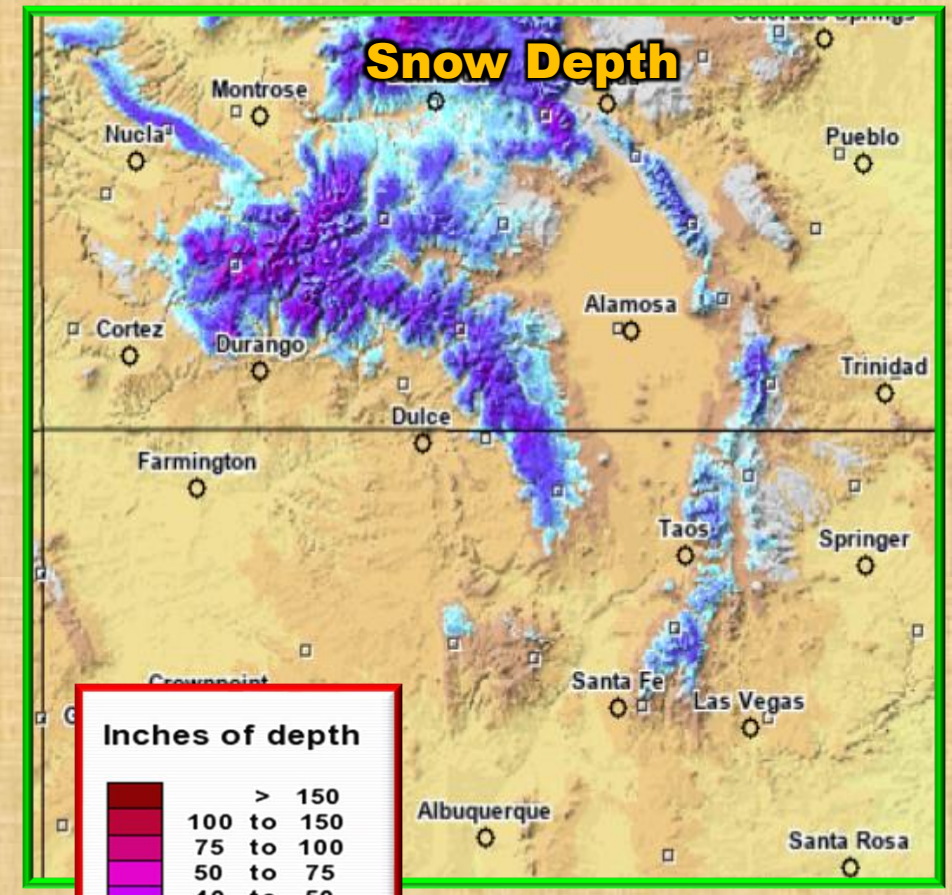
Nov 26, 2024

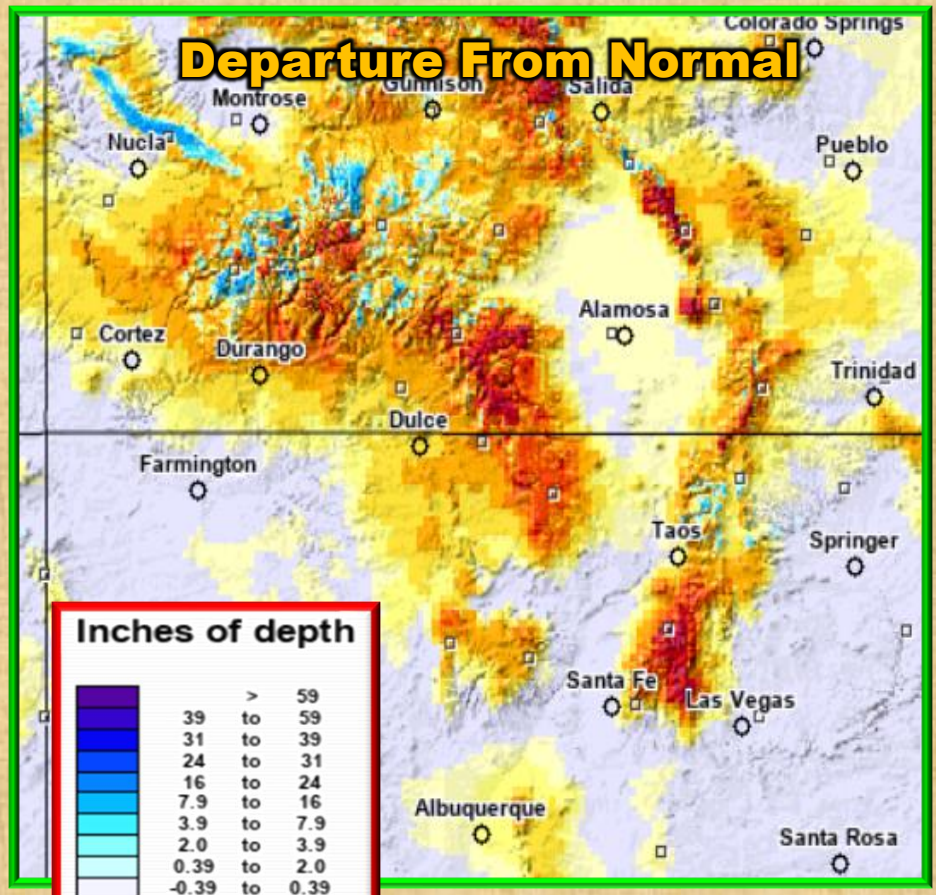


February 28, 2025 Snow Depth
Upper Rio Grande Basin

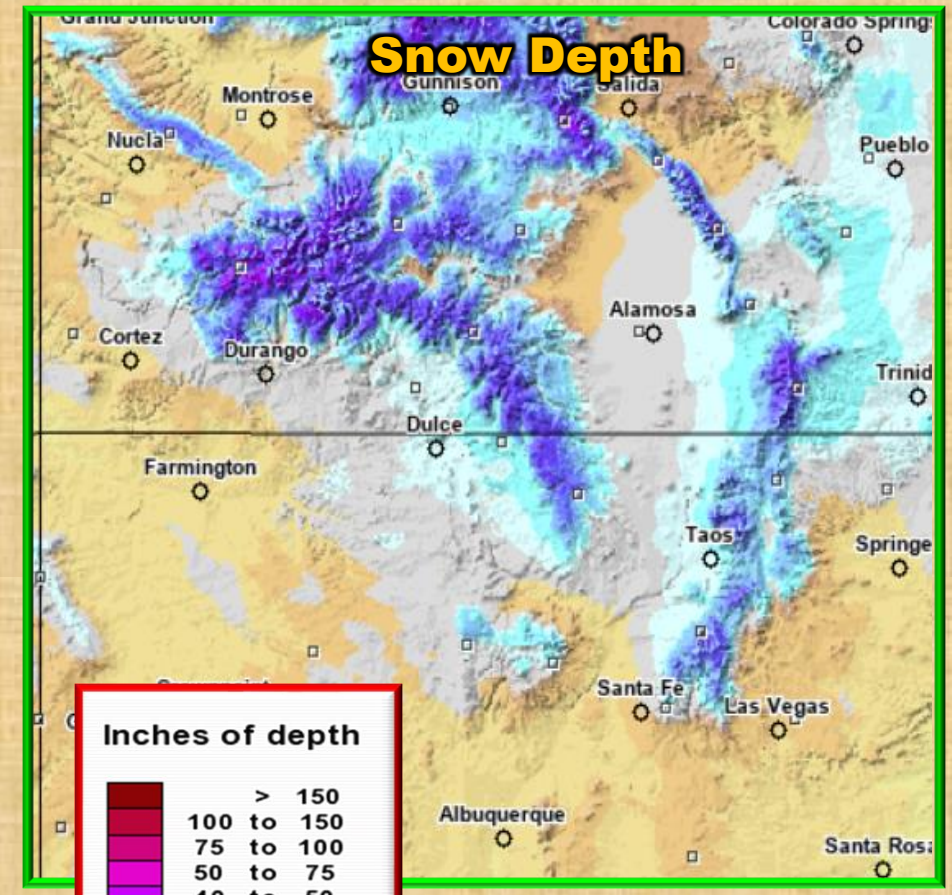


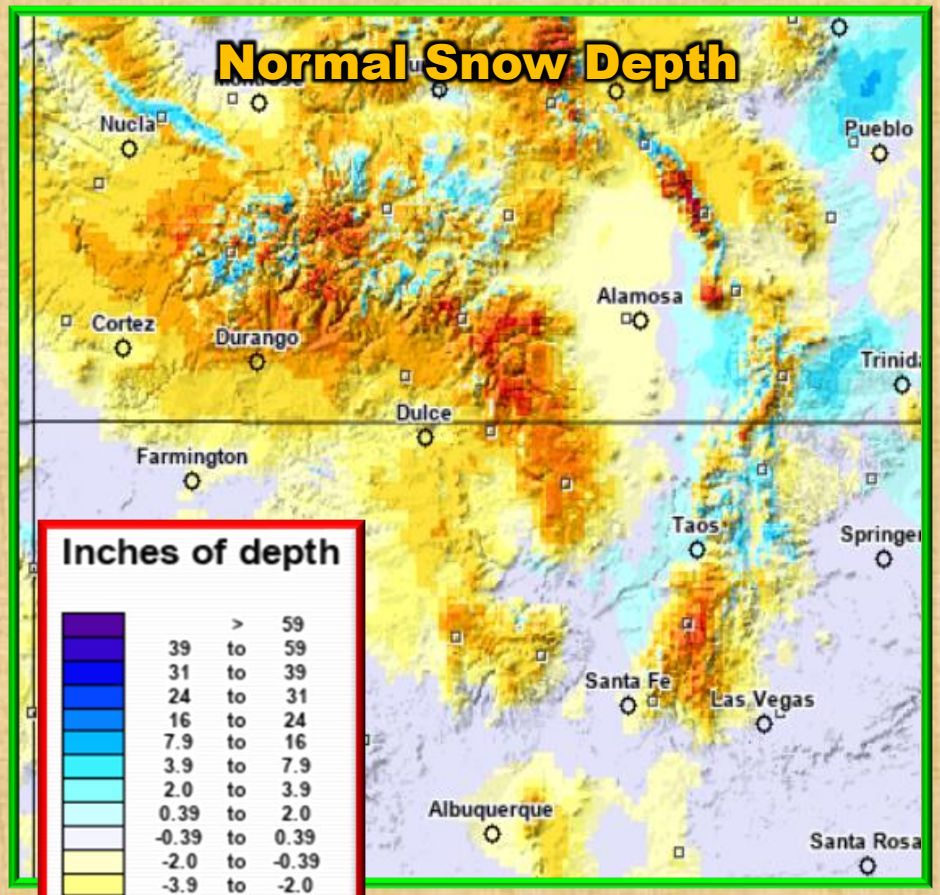
Snow Data Upper Rio Grande Basin as of Feb 28, 2025





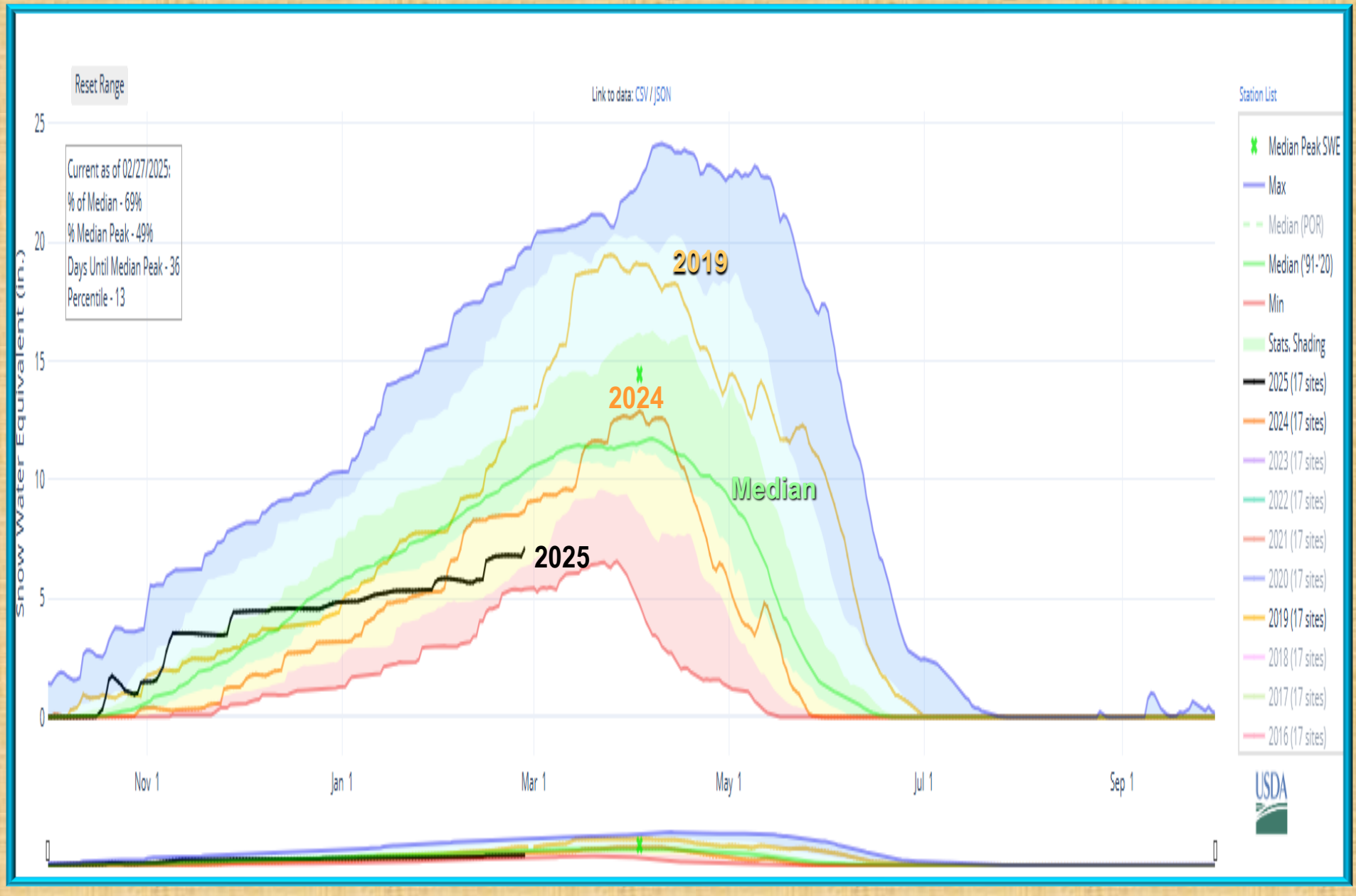
Snow Data Upper Rio Grande Basin as of Jan 31, 2025





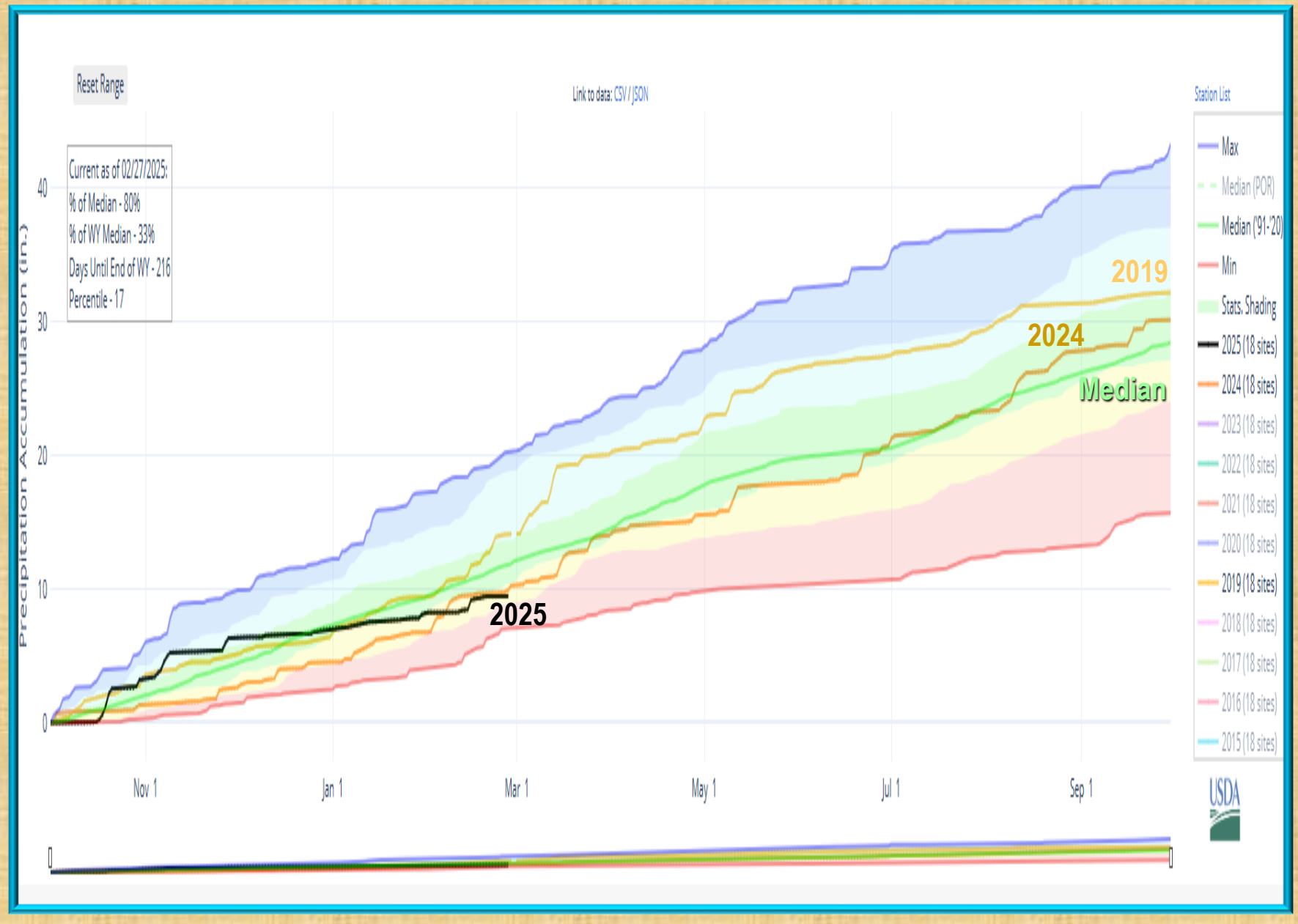
Snow Water Equivalent as of Feb 28, 2025

Compare to last few years and average values



Precipitation for the Water YTD Oct 1 – Feb 28, 2025

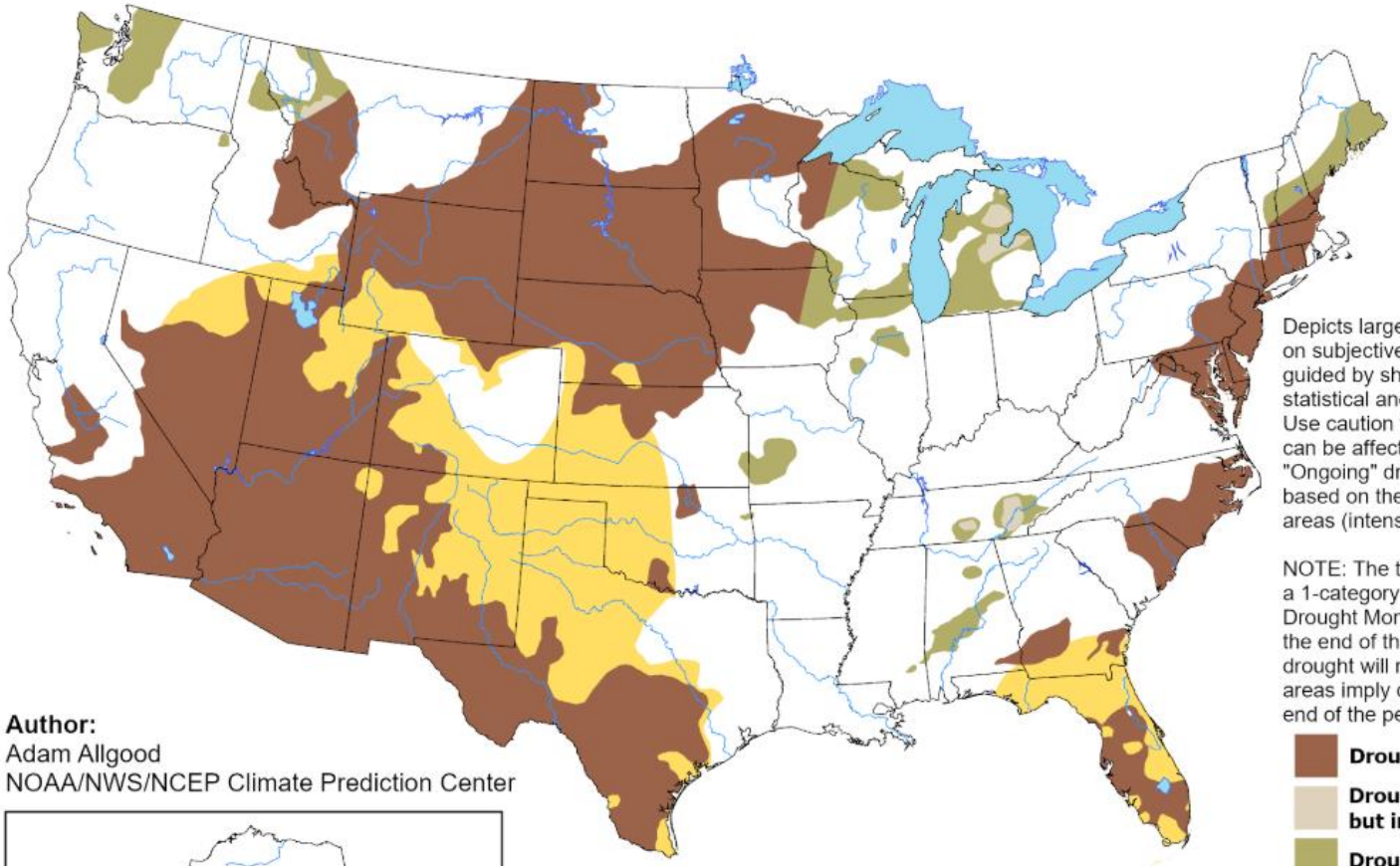
Compare to last few years and average values



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 20 - May 31, 2025
Released February 20, 2025

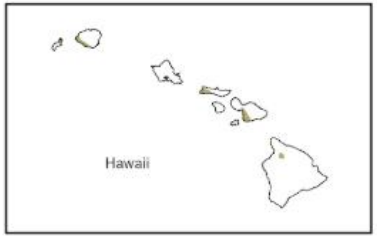


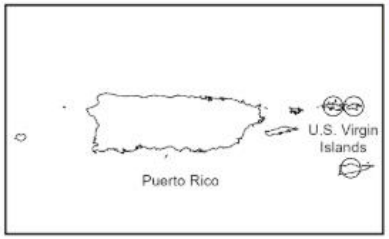
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

- **Drought persists**
- **Drought remains, but improves**
- **Drought removal likely**
- **Drought development likely**
- **No drought**

Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center

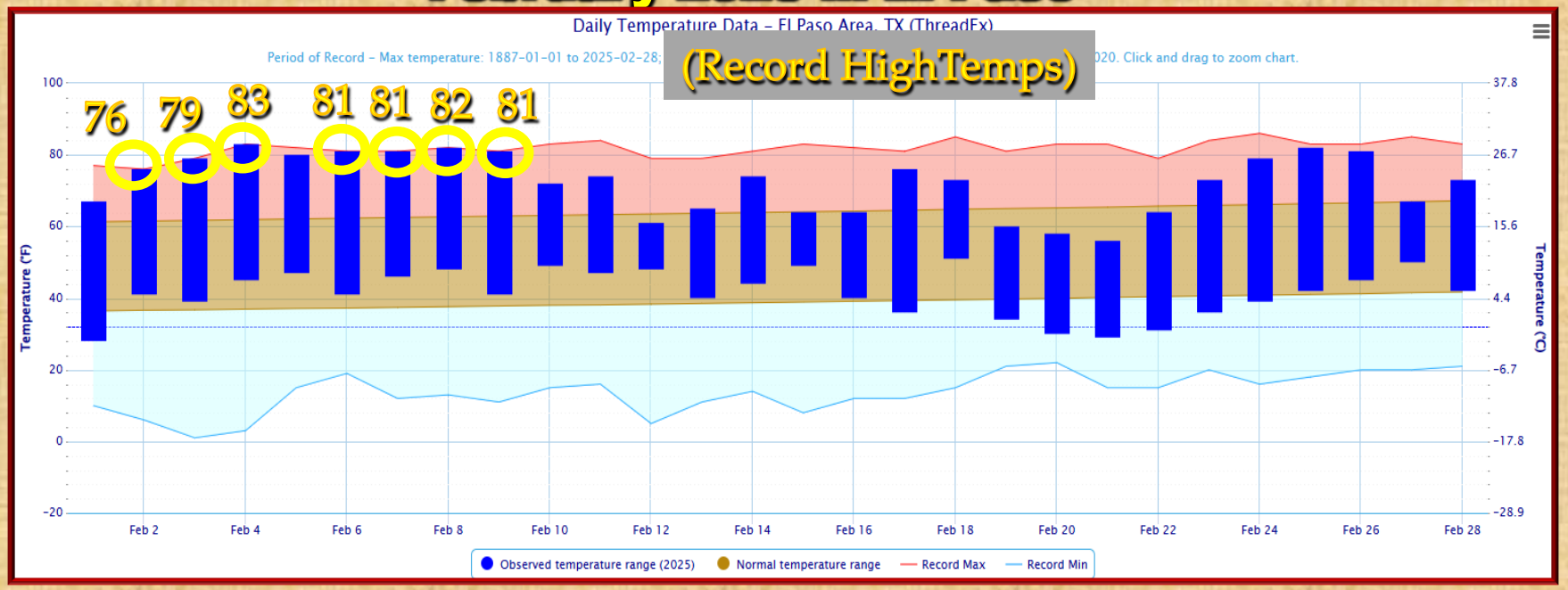


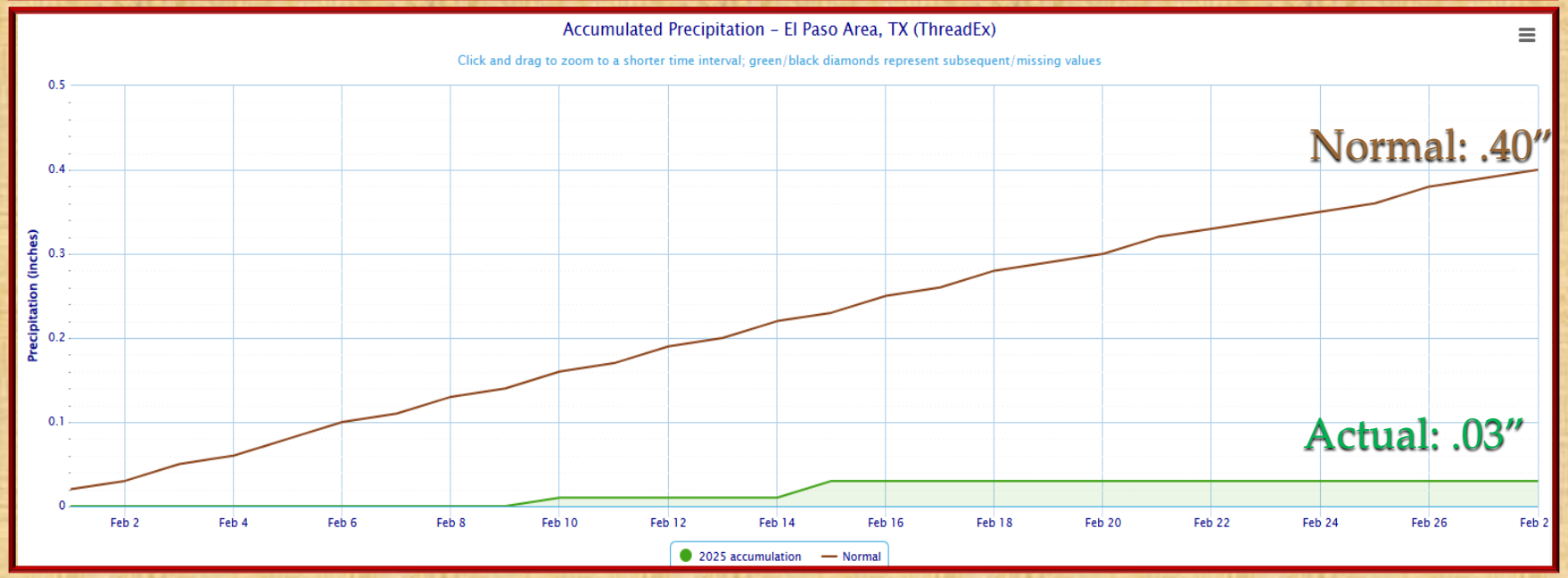


https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73

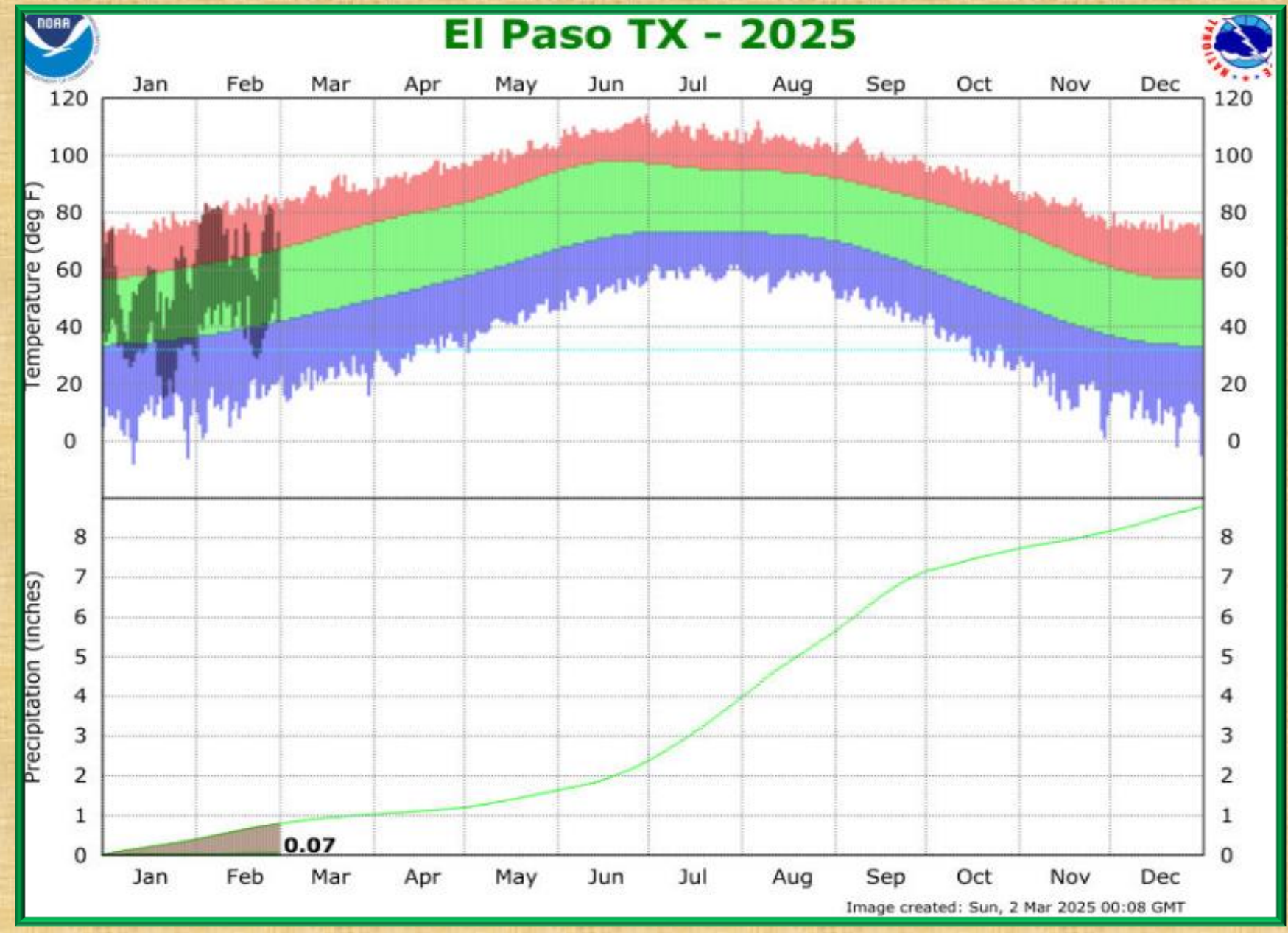
Temperature and precipitation data for February 2025 in El Paso

= record

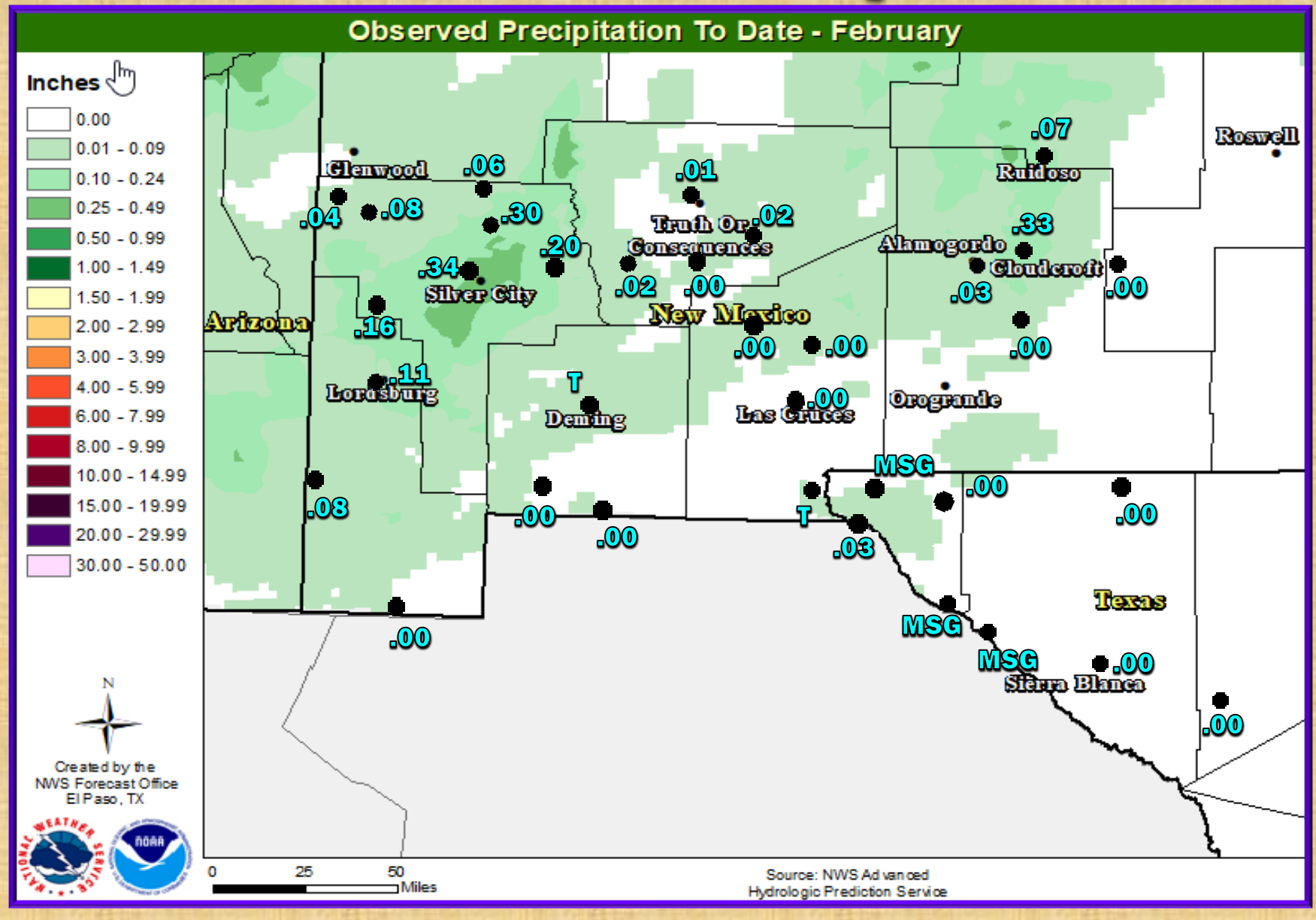




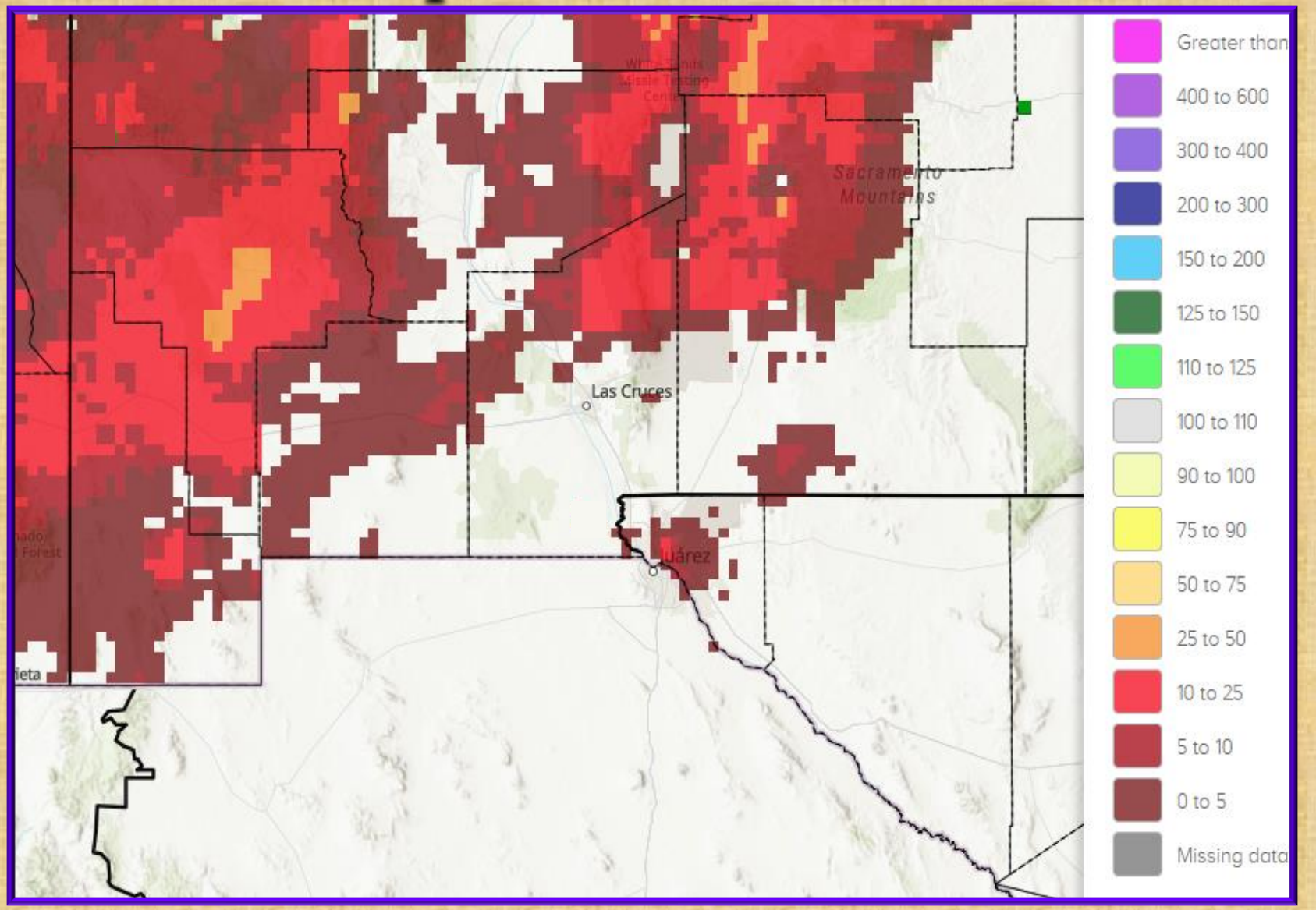
2025 Temperature and Precipitation through February El Paso



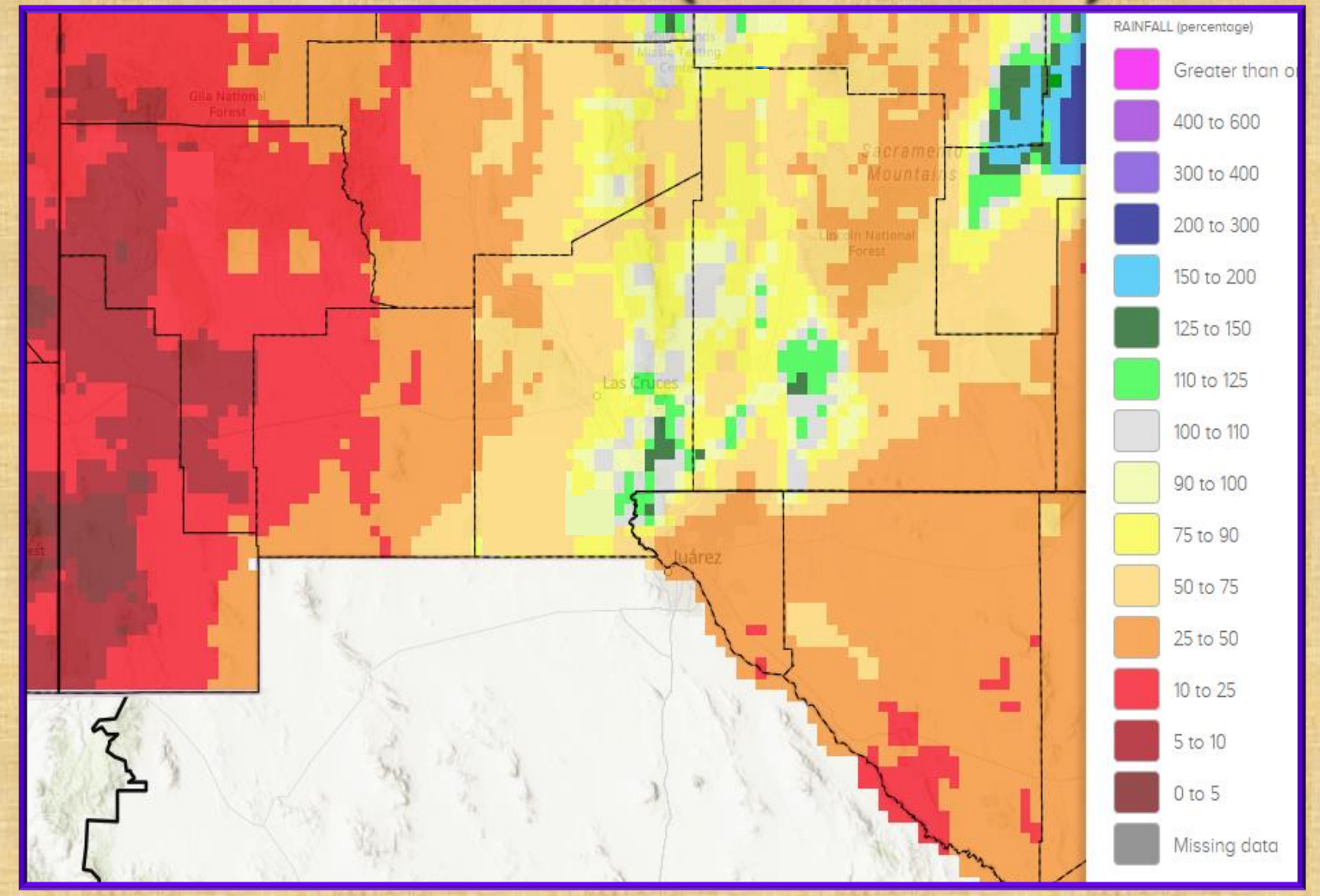
February 2025 rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



February 2025 rainfall estimate percent of normal

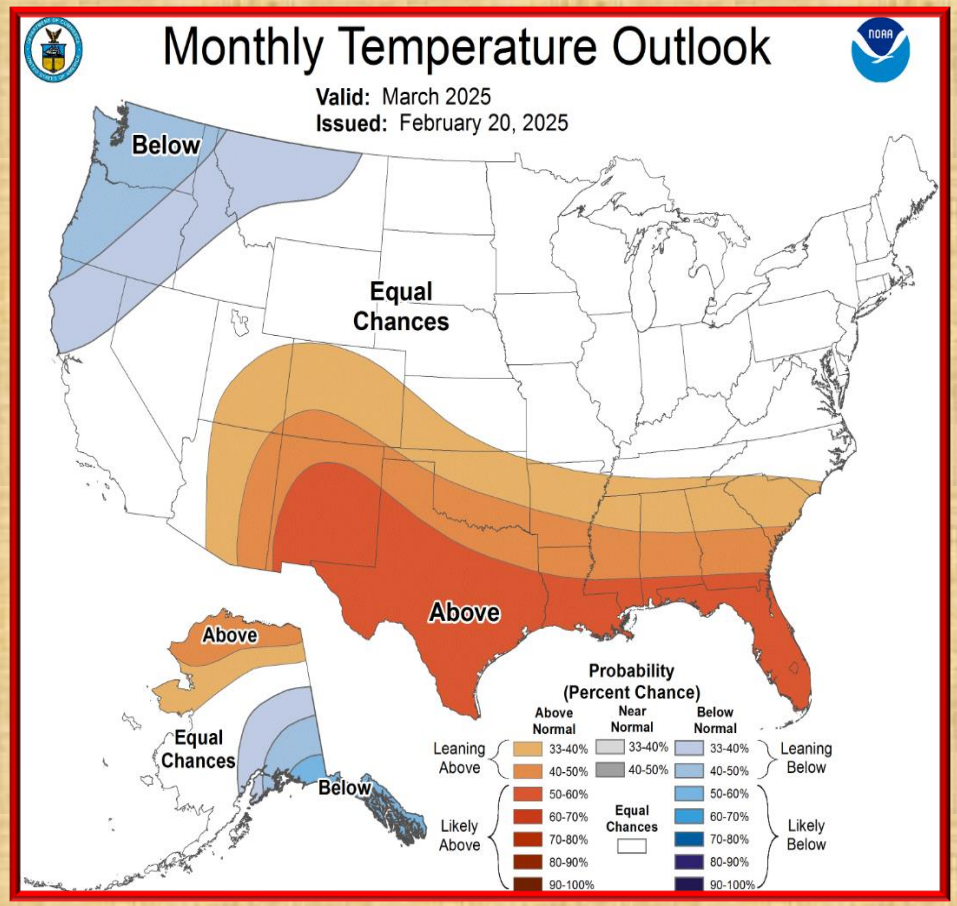


Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Feb 28)

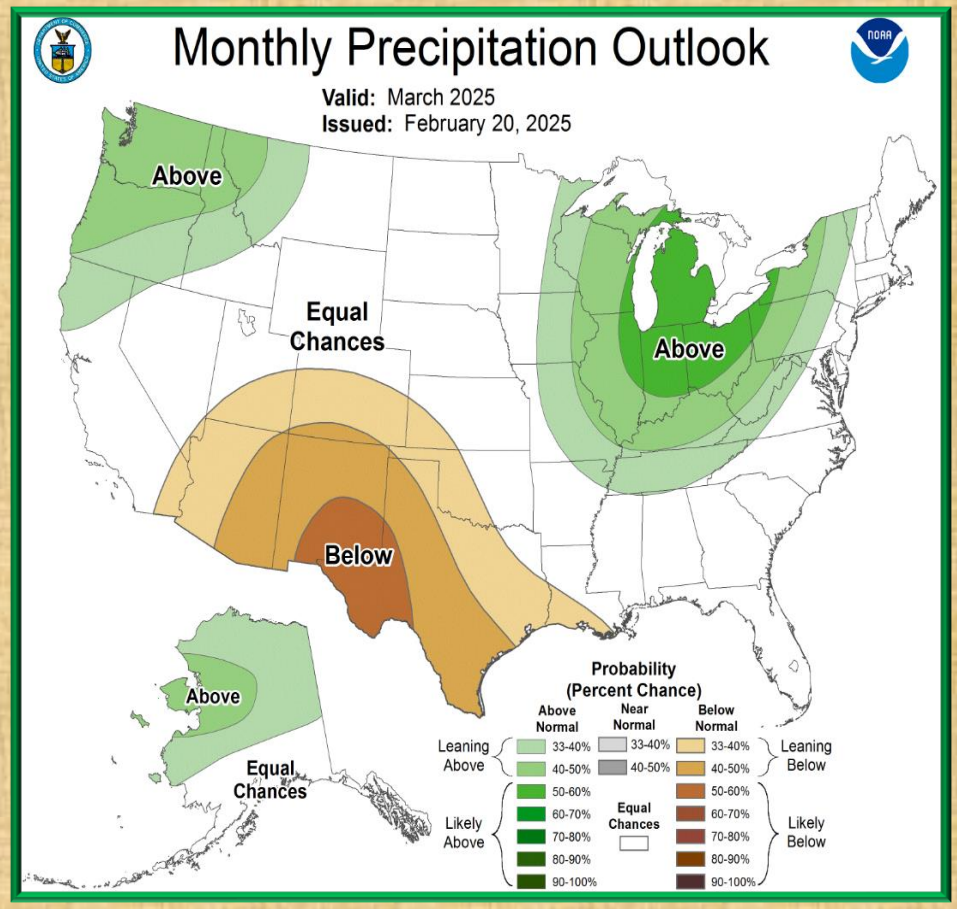


Temperature and precipitation outlook For Mar 2025

Temperature

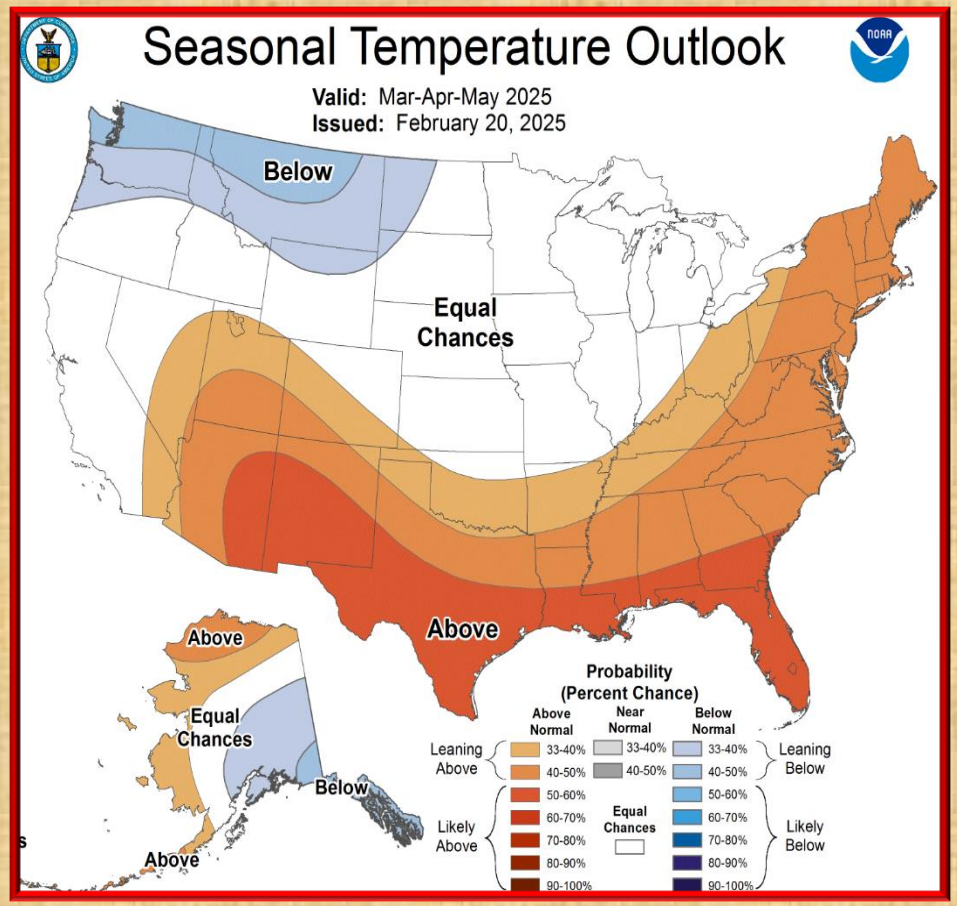


Precipitation

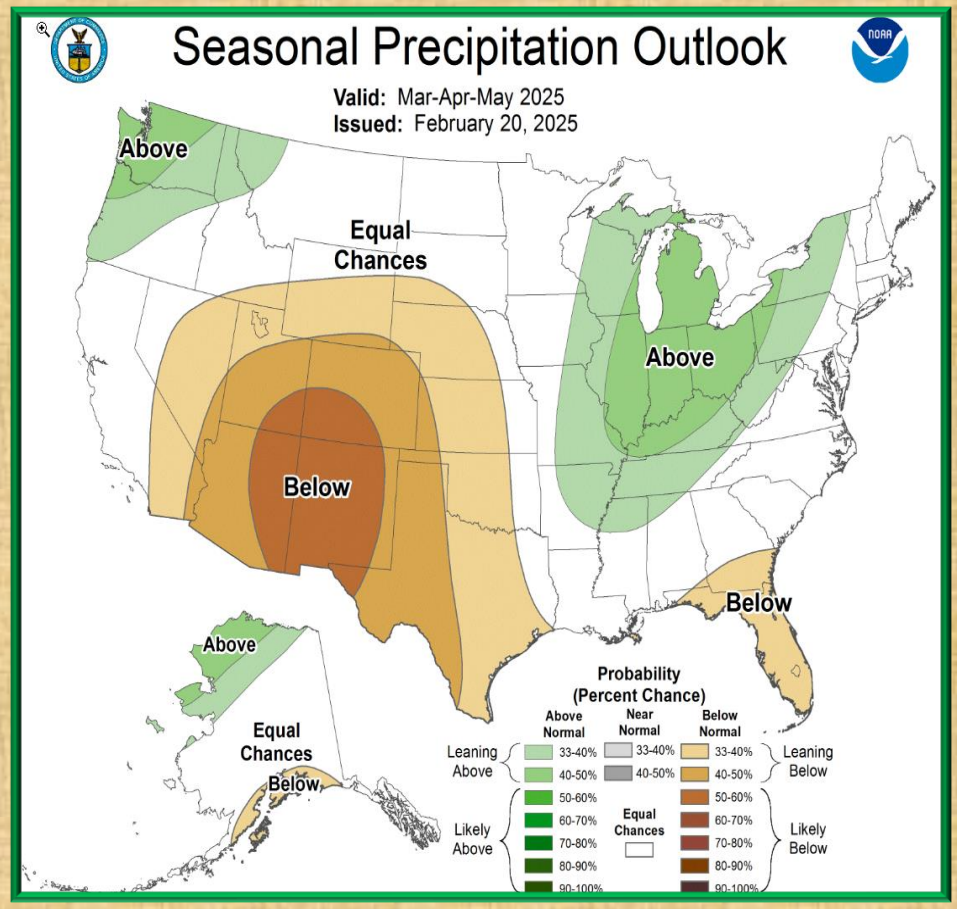


Temperature and precipitation outlook for Mar-May 2025

Temperature

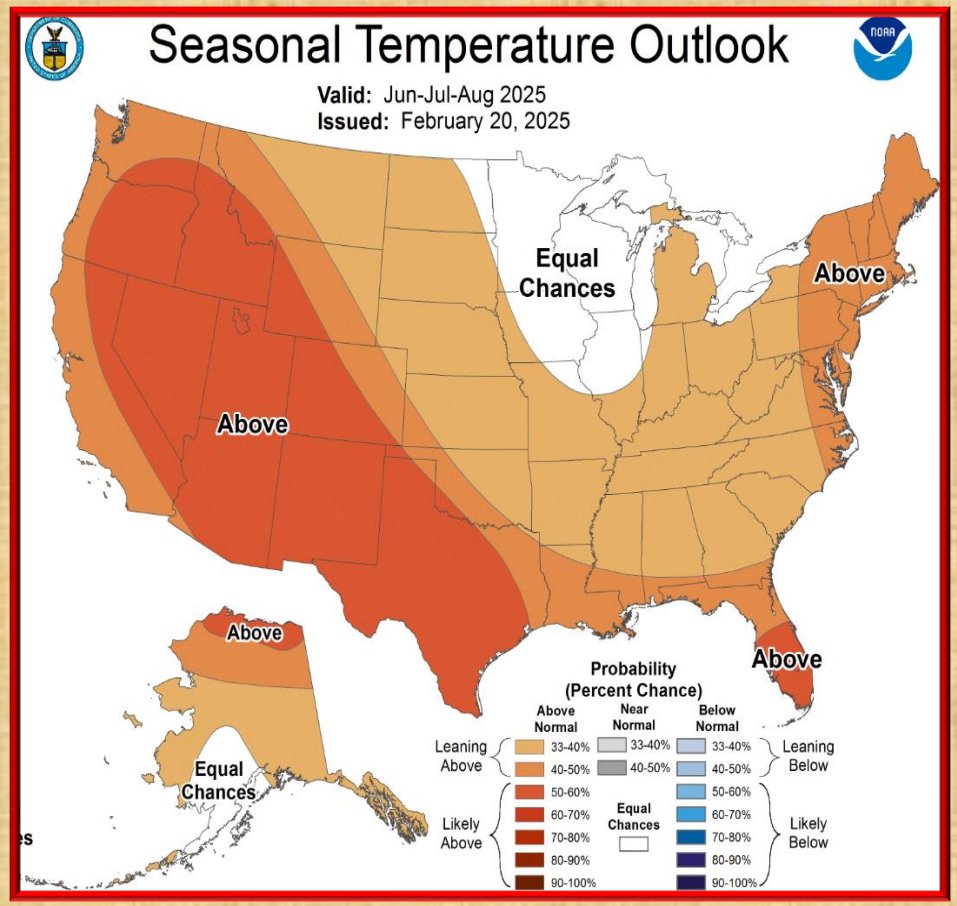


Precipitation

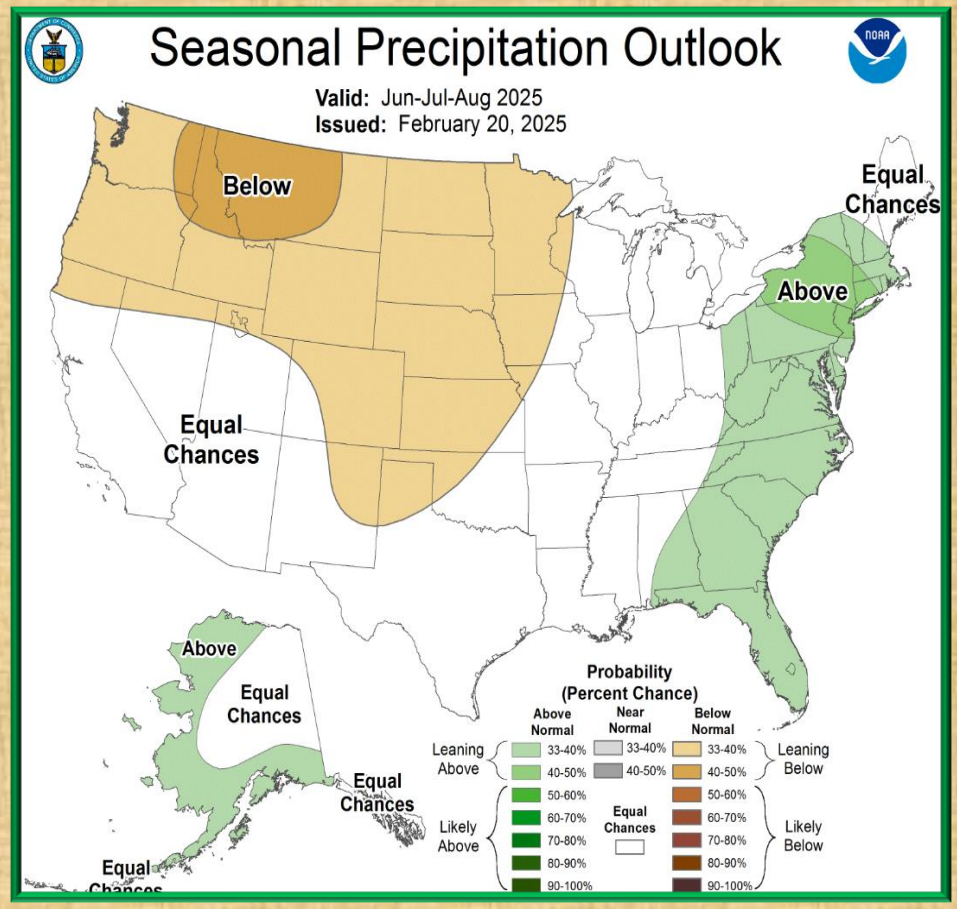


Temperature and precipitation outlook for Jun-Aug 2025

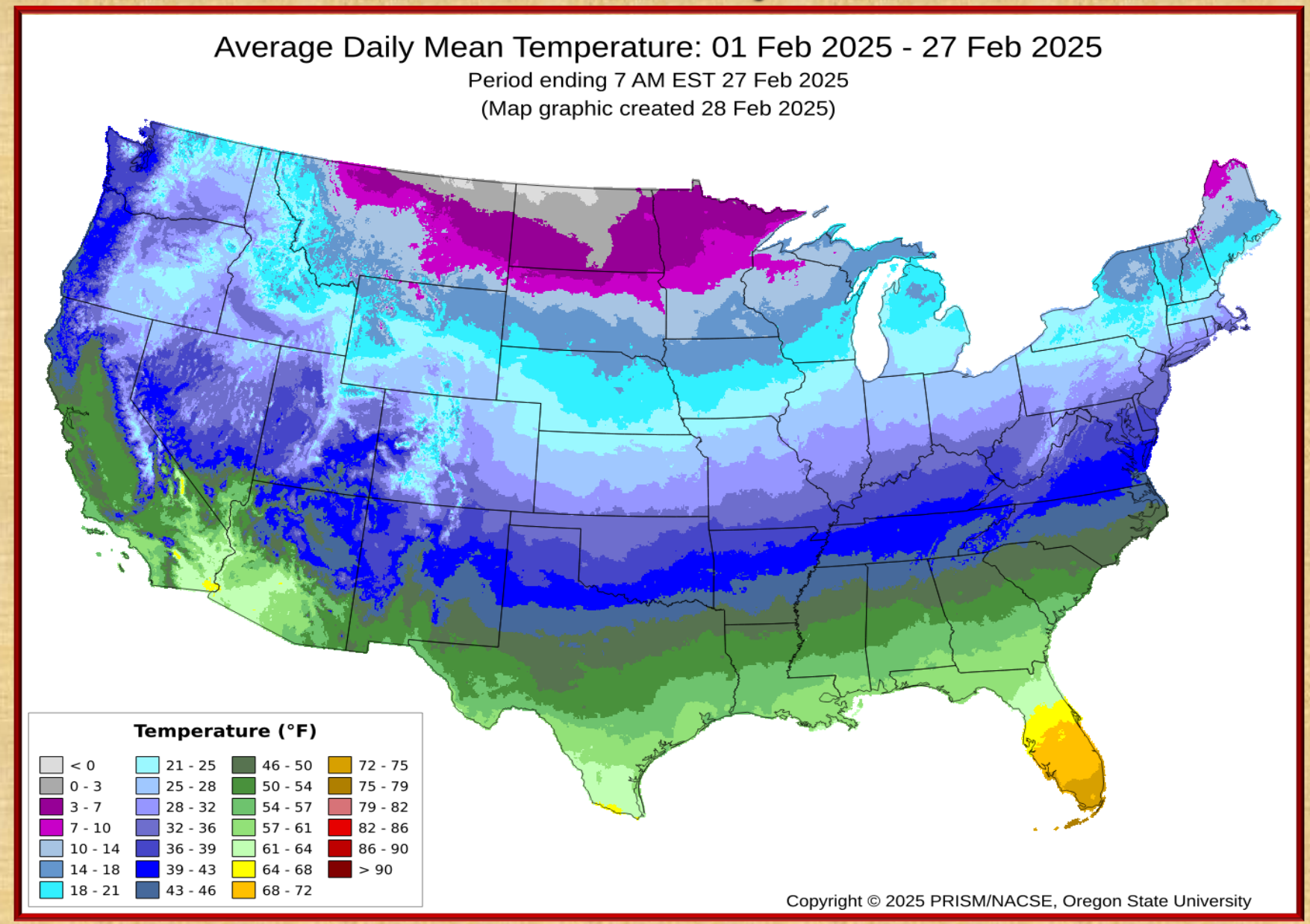
Temperature



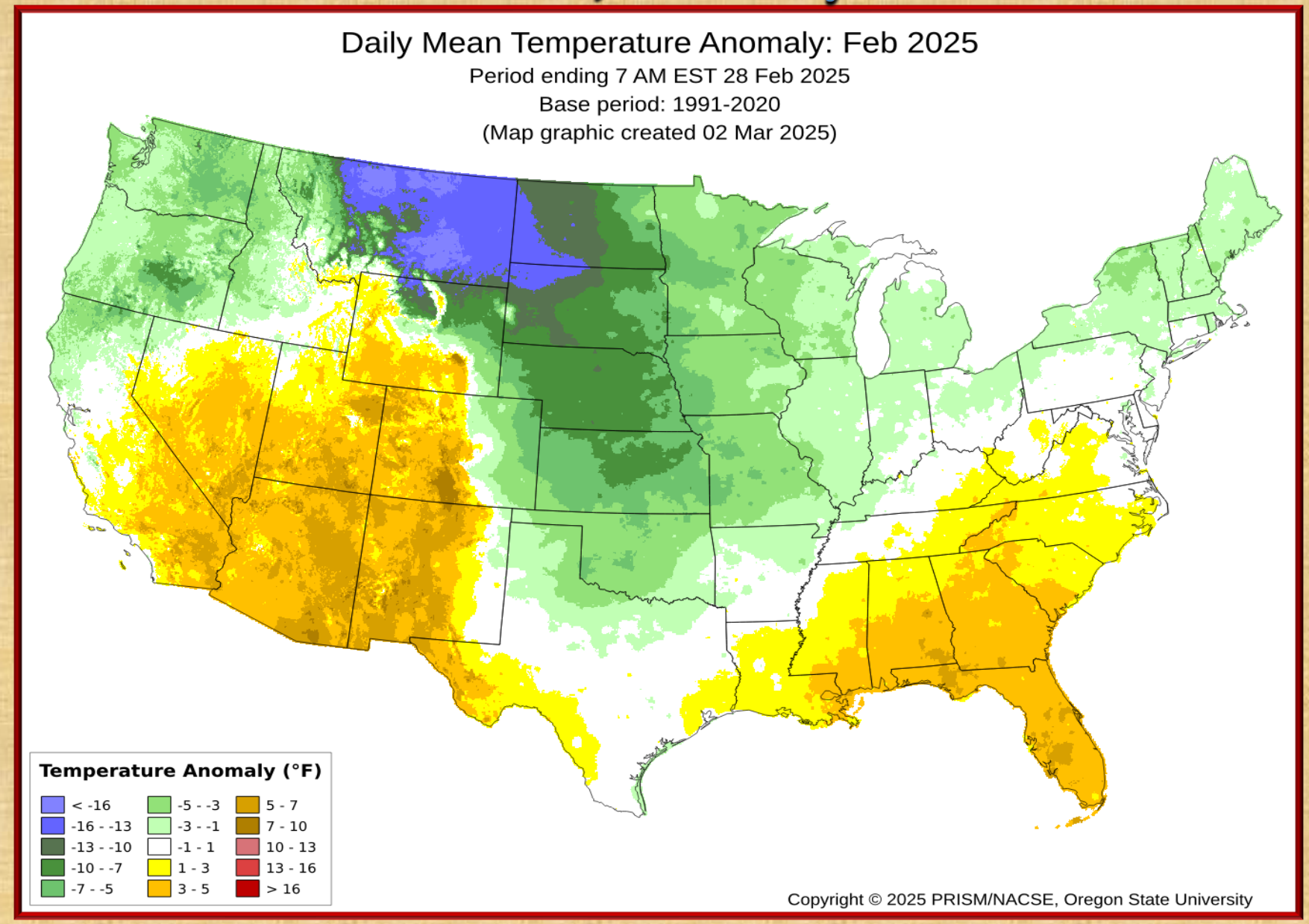
Precipitation



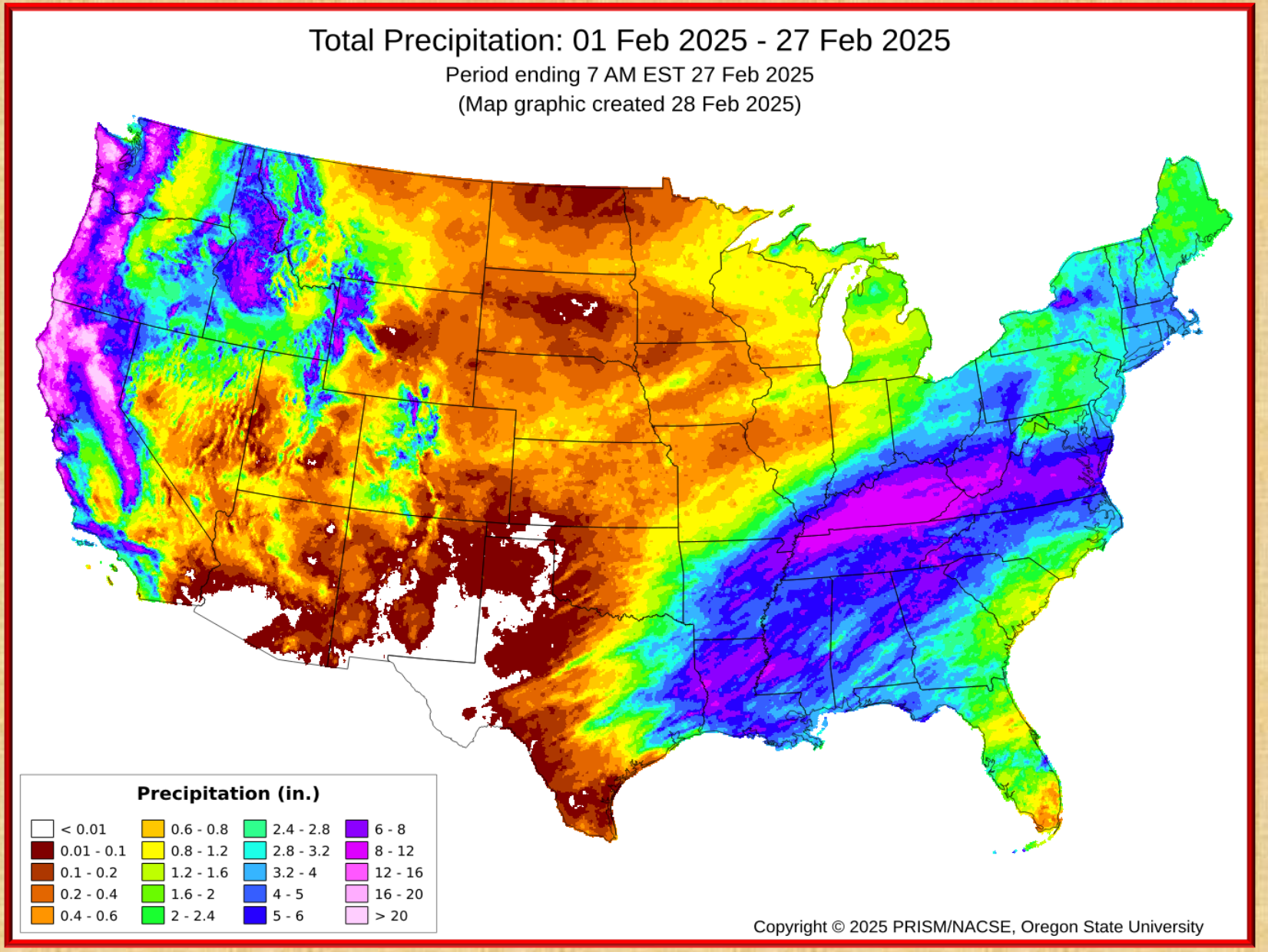
Average Daily Mean Temperature for February 2025



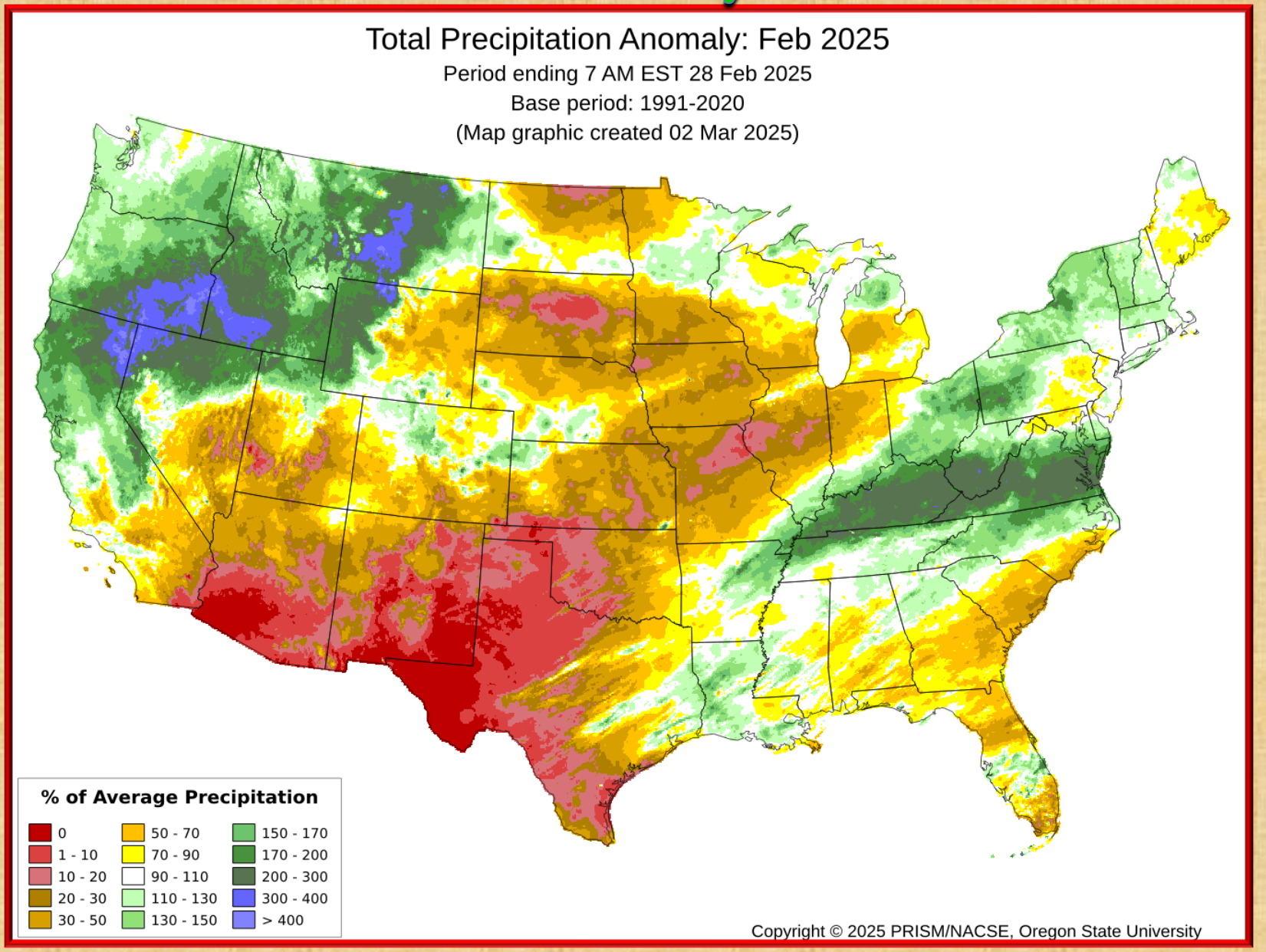
Daily Mean Temperature Departure from Normal, February 2025



Total Precipitation for February 2025



Percent of Normal Precipitation for February 2025



Selected Weather Reports January 2025

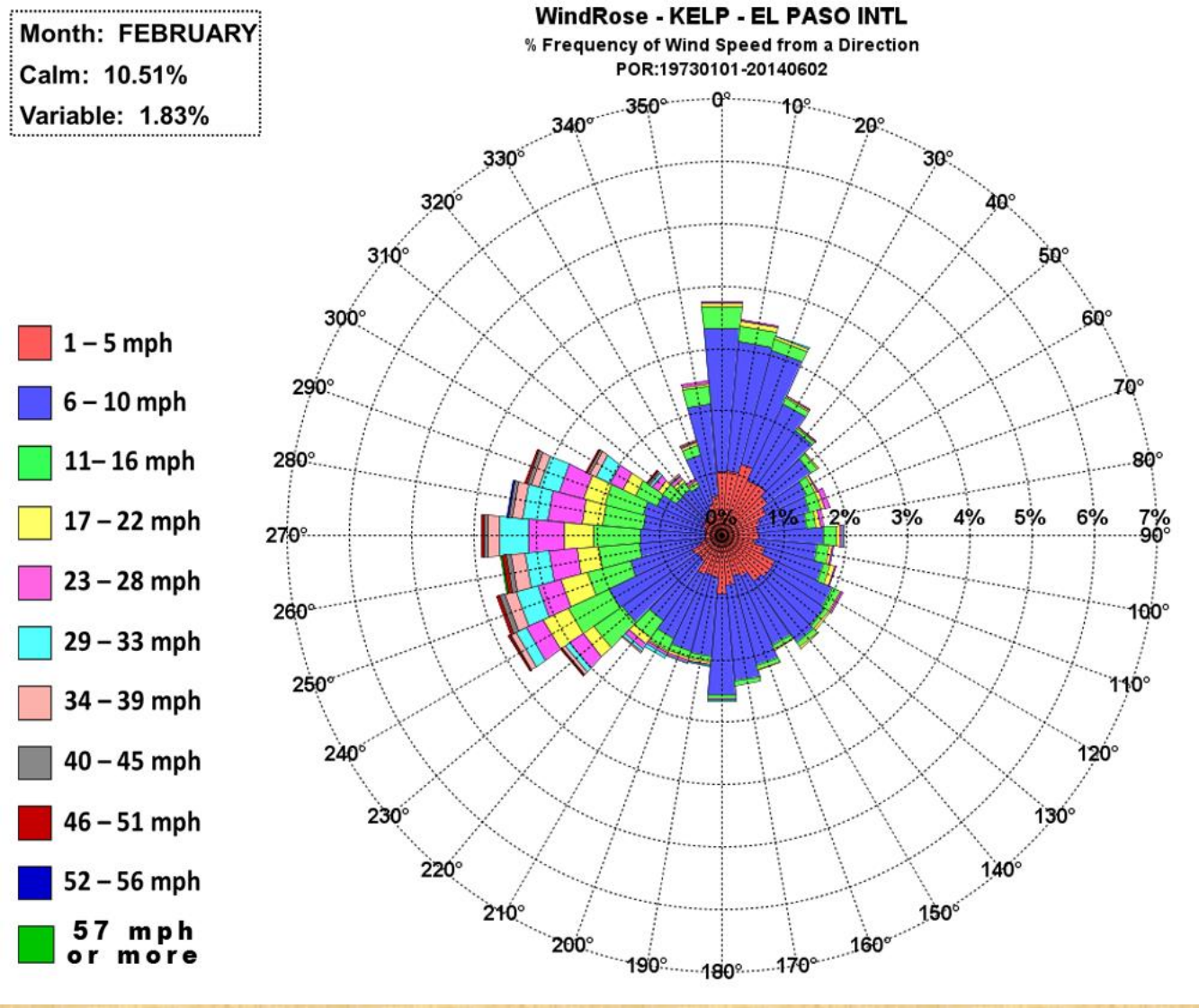
Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
FEB 11 315 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	74 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 158 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	55 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 409 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 745 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 231 PM	HOLLOMAN AFB-OTERO	51 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 255 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP11-HIDALG0	51 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 323 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	49 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 455 PM	BIGSS FIELD-EL PASO	46 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 255 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	45 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 404 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	45 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 400 PM	SILVER CITY MTN VIEW-GRANT	44 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 200 PM	MAYHILL- OTERO	44 MPH PEAK WIND GUST

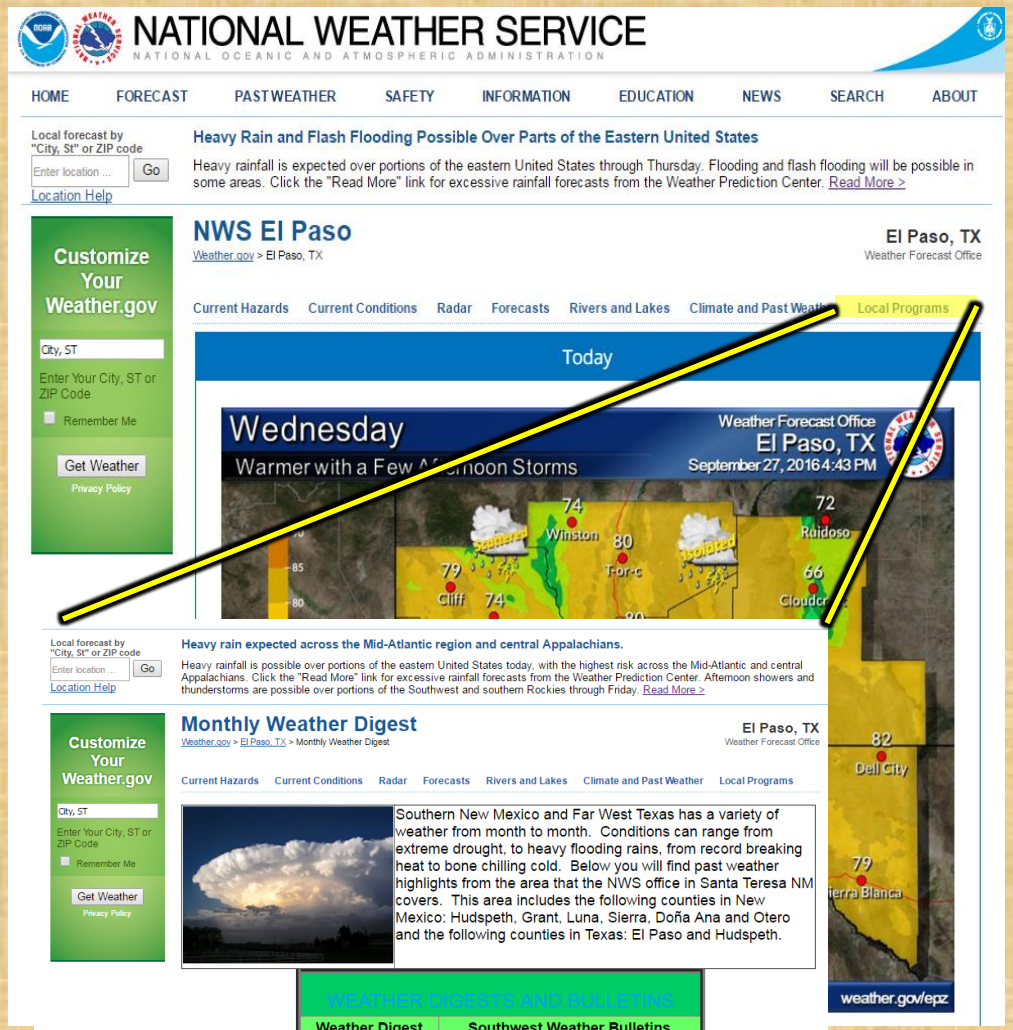
Selected Weather Reports January 2025

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
FEB 11 641 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	44 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 11 326 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	42 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 27 926 AM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	62 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 27 755 AM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 27 1005 AM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP13-HIDALGO	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 27 1125 AM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP11	49 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 27 739 AM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	46 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 27 829 AM	LAS CRUCES E-DONA ANA	40 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 27 1109 AM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	40 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 27 1054 AM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	39 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
FEB 27 933 AM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	37 MPH PEAK WIND GUST

Special Features

www.weather.gov/epz/elpwindrosedata





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

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.