

# March 2026 Weather Digest



# March 2026 Weather Summary

**2026 temperatures started out relatively mild for January and most of February. However, the very end of February began heating up and really went into overdrive for March. The majority of observation sites smashed all monthly March records, as much of spring seemed to have been skipped. Most sites ranged from 8-12° above normal for both high and low temperatures. Many sites reported some of their earliest ever 90+° readings.**

**As is usually the case when abnormally warm temperatures occur, precipitation was largely lacking from the area. The majority of the Borderland was well below normal, with many sites either reporting no rain or just a couple of hundredths. Only southern Luna County and southeastern Hidalgo County recorded above normal rainfall as scattered thunderstorms spread across these areas on Mar 9/10, spreading up to one-half inch of rain.**

# March 2026 Weather Summary

Looking ahead to April, daylight and temperatures continue climbing toward summer. The average high temperature at El Paso on April 1 is 77°, warming to 83° on the April 30. Length of daylight on the 1<sup>st</sup> is 12 hrs, 31 min, increasing to 13 hrs, 24 mins on the last day of the month. Precipitation continues to decrease as we head towards the dry Spring season, with the normal rainfall at El Paso at .17 inches for the month.

The full moon for April occurs on the 1st, and is commonly known as the Pink Moon, and also the Paschal Moon. The New Moon occurs on the 17th. April will not see any Lunar or Solar eclipses

**Mar 10 Clouds over Burro Mtn**



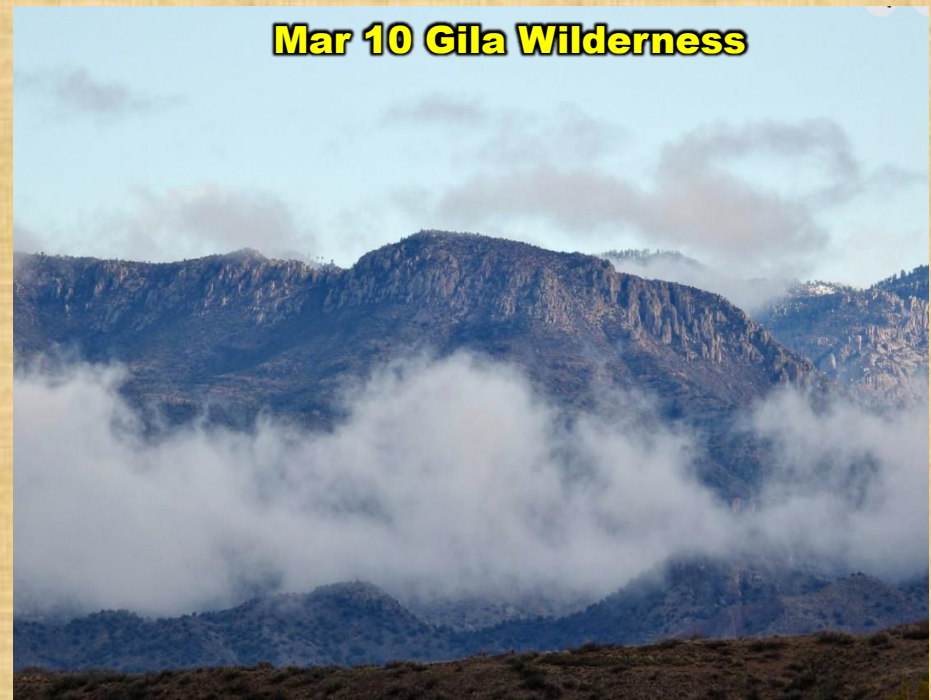
**Mar 10 Gila Wilderness**



**Mar 10 Gila Wilderness**



**Mar 10 Gila Wilderness**



**Mar 27 Wind damage in El Paso**



**Mar 27 Wind damage in Anthony**



**Mar 25 El Paso Sunset**



**Mar 25 El Paso Sunset**



**Mar 27 Blowing Dust near Deming**



**Mar 27 Blowing Dust near Deming**



**Mar 27 Sago Fire**



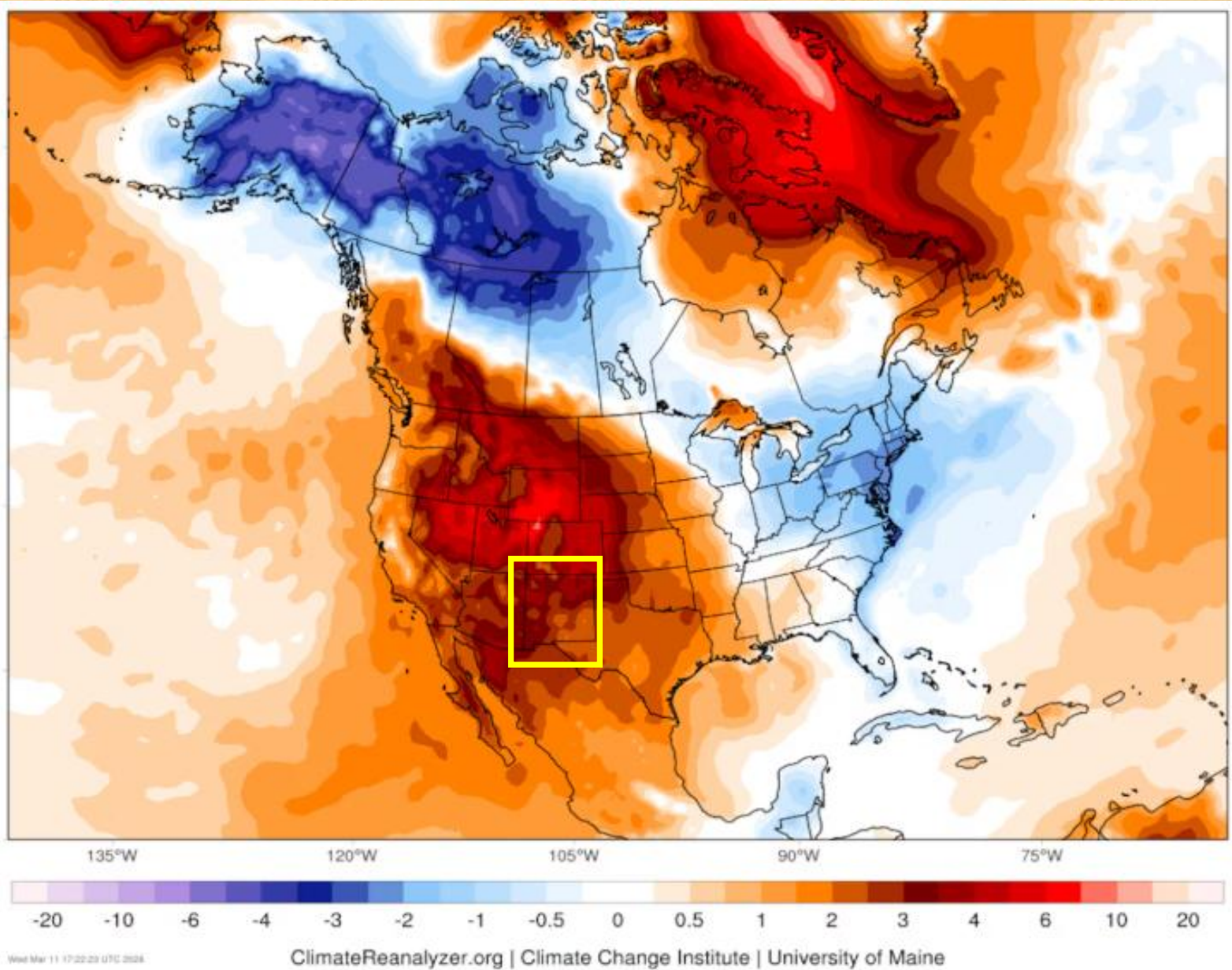
**Mar 27 Sago Fire**



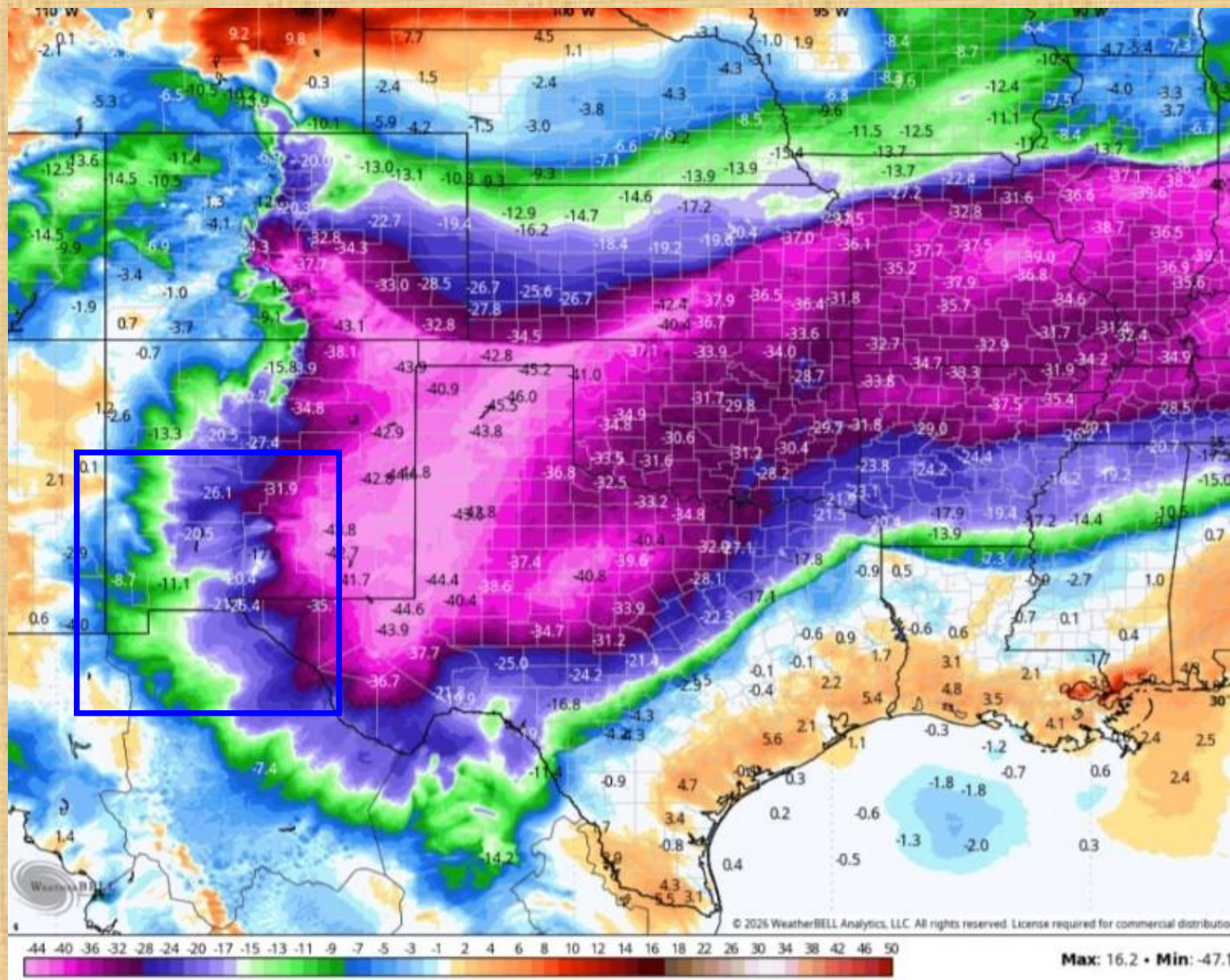
**Mar 27 Sago Fire**



# Temperature anomaly for winter 2026 (Nov 2025 – Feb 2026)



# Cold front Mar 27-28: High temperatures cooled around 15-25° from Mar 26 to Mar 28



# **ENSO Alert System Status:**

**La Niña Advisory**

**El Niño Watch (new)**

## **ENSO Alert System**

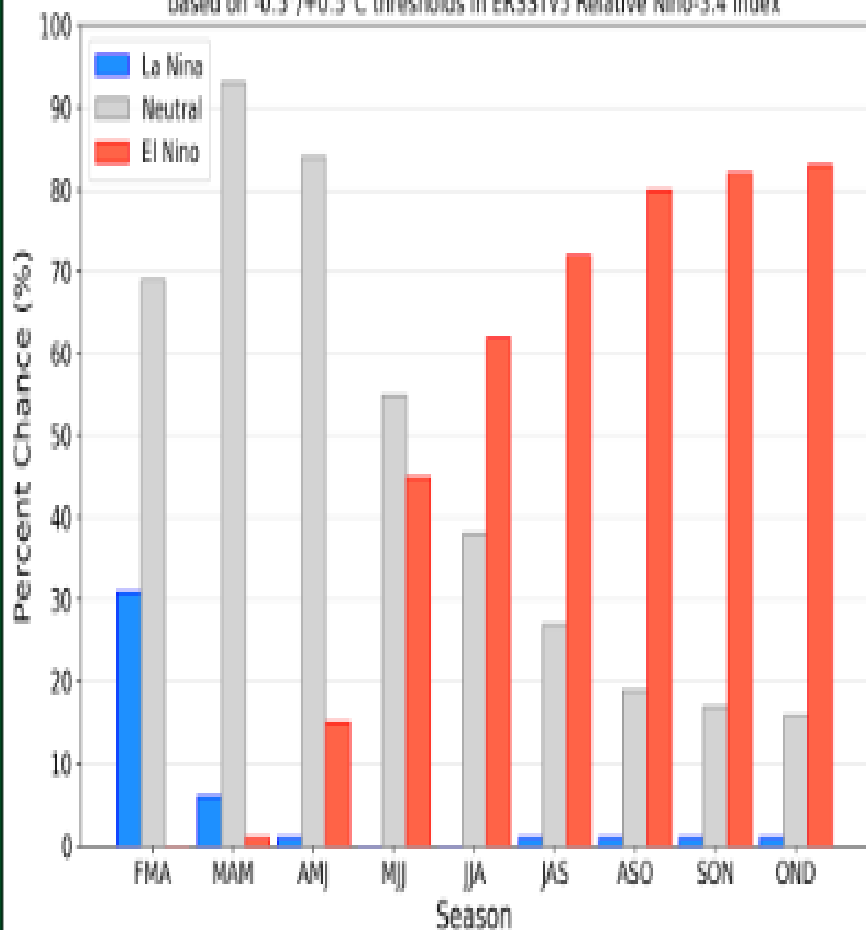
- **El Niño or La Niña Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- **El Niño or La Niña Advisory:** Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

# ENSO Forecast

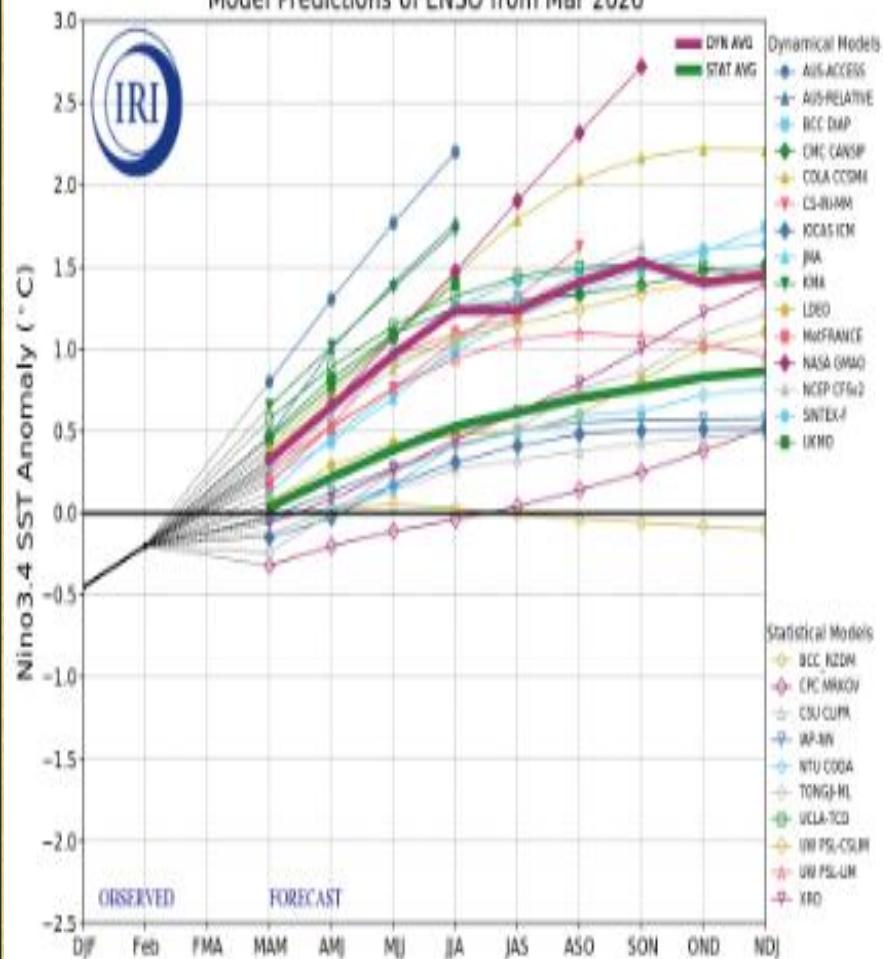
**ENSO is currently transitioning to neutral phase and will likely transition to El Niño phase by early summer.**

Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued March 2026)

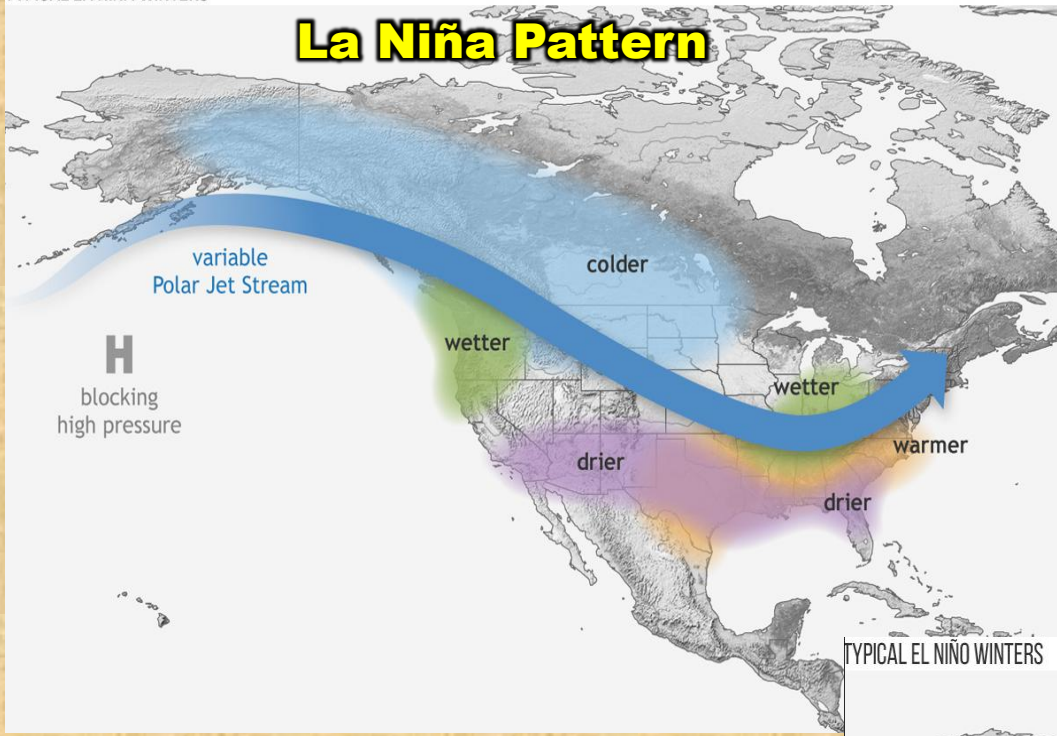
based on  $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}$  thresholds in ERSSTv5 Relative Niño-3.4 index



Model Predictions of ENSO from Mar 2026

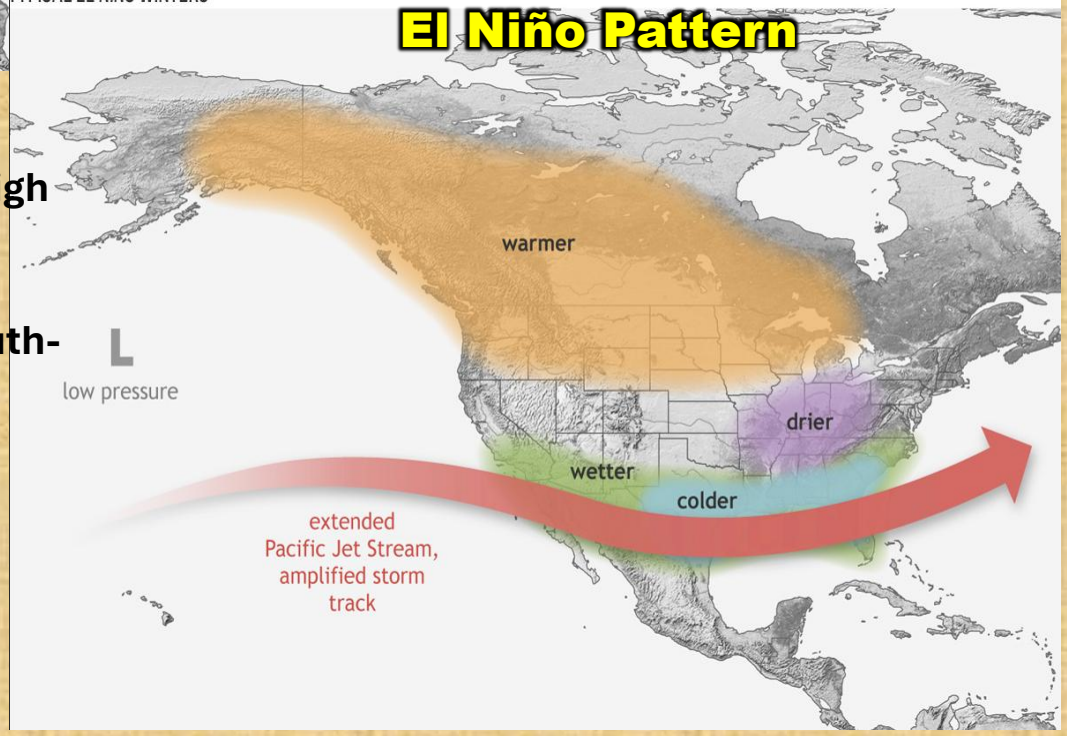


# La Niña Pattern



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.

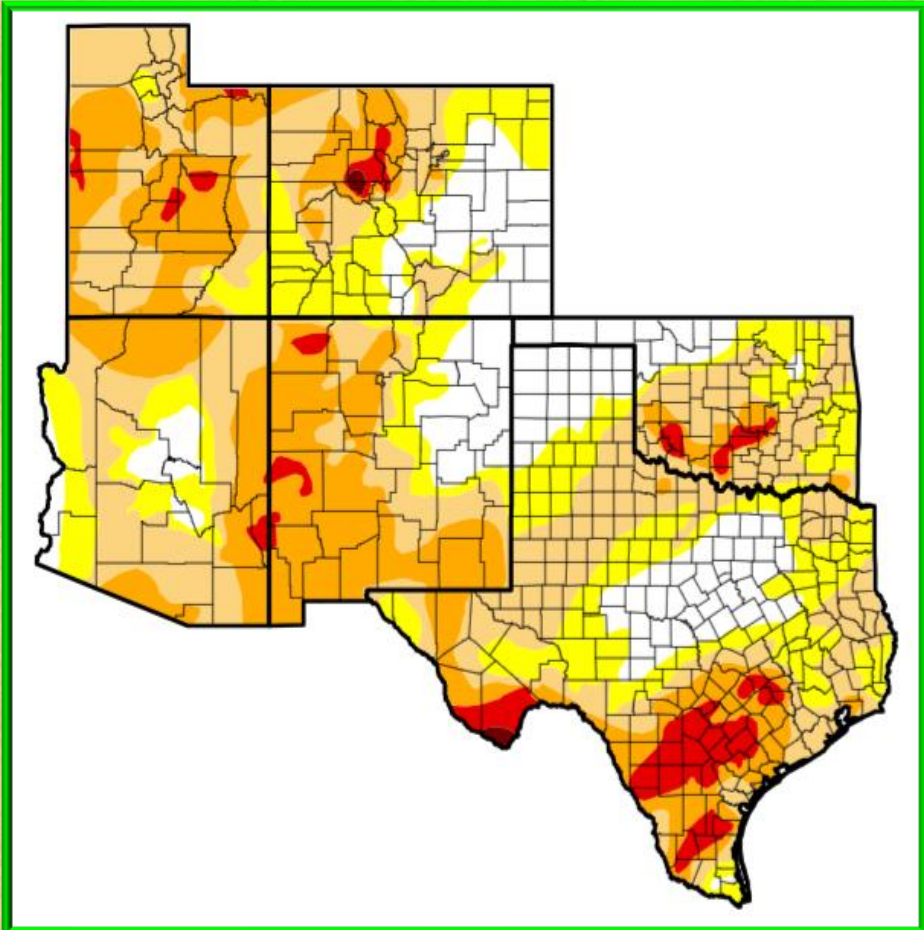
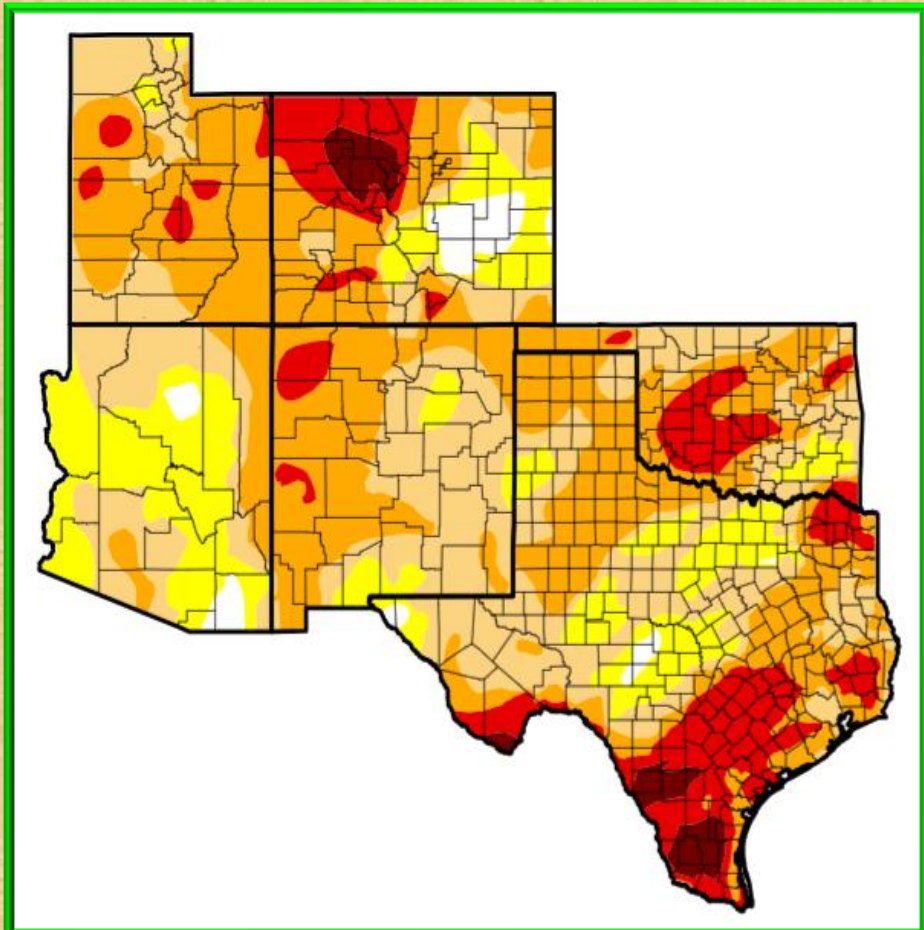
Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

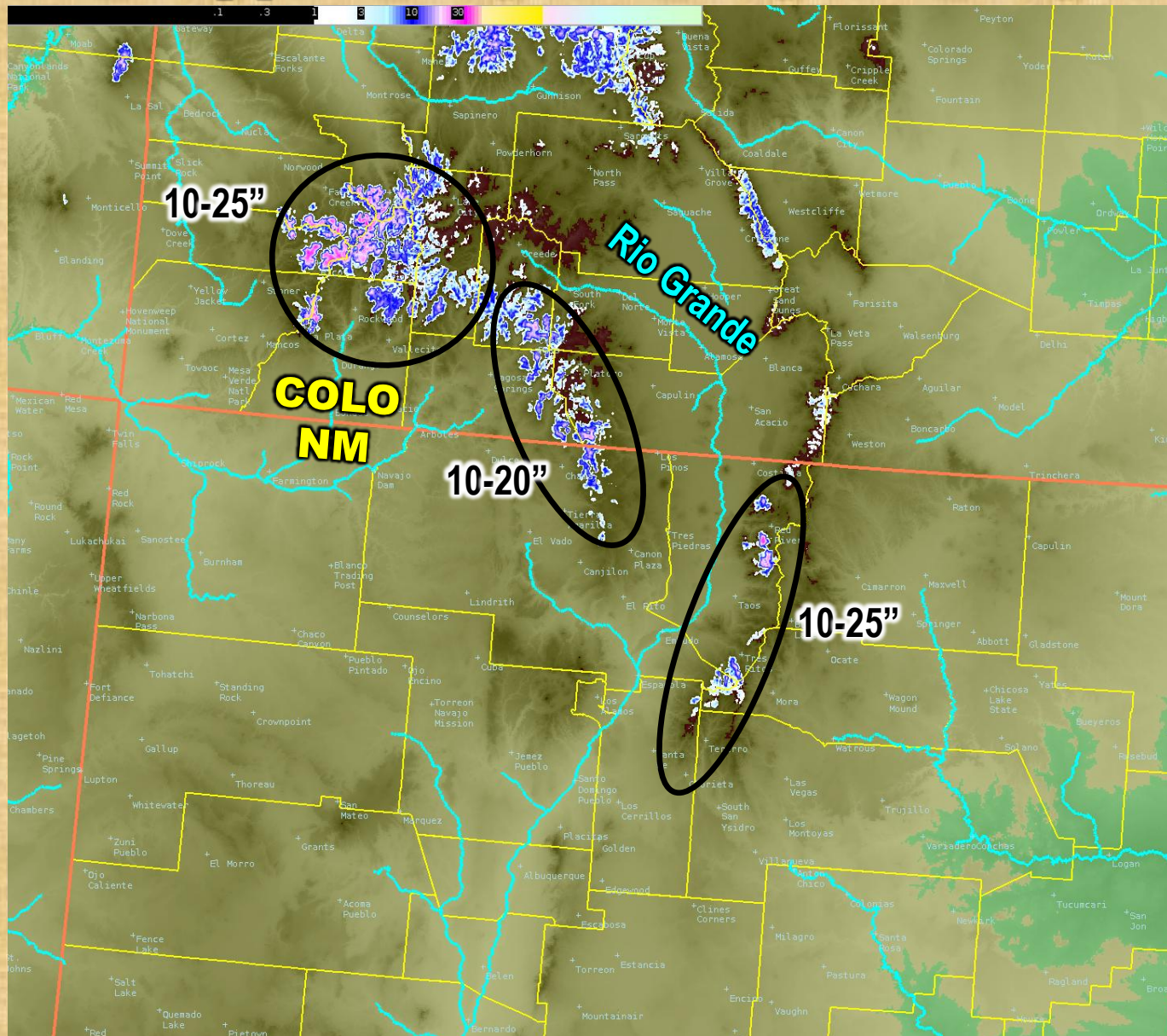
# Current drought conditions and 3 month change

**Mar 24, 2026**

**Dec 30, 2025**

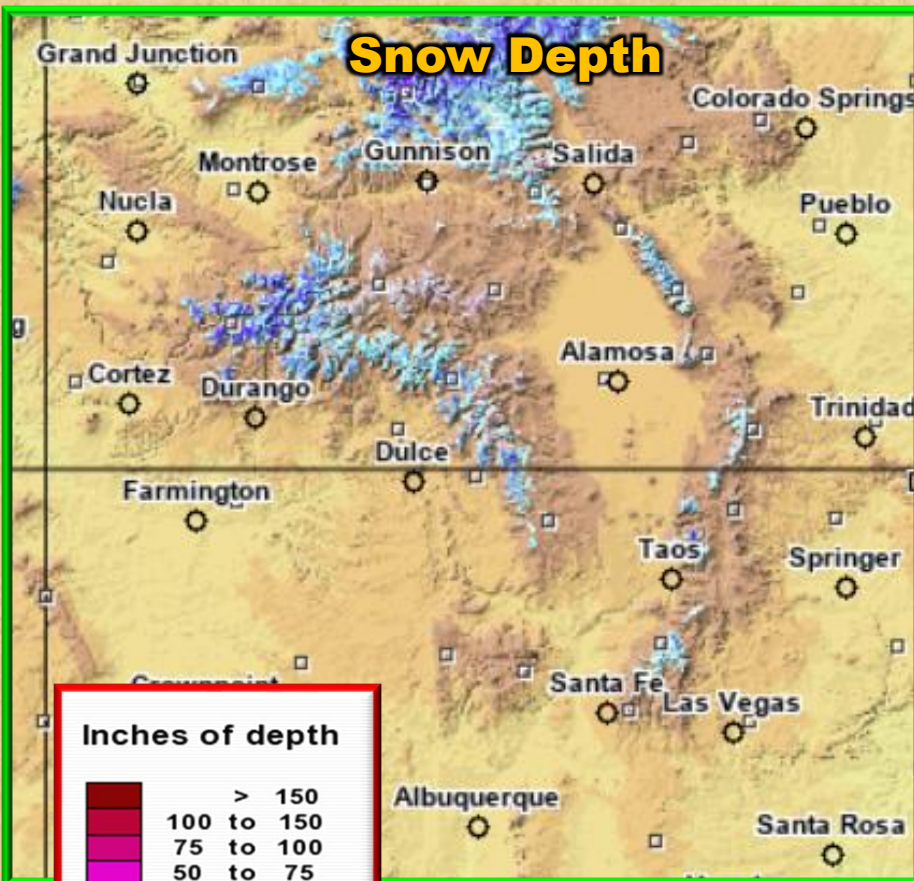


# March 31, 2026 Snow Depth Upper Rio Grande Basin

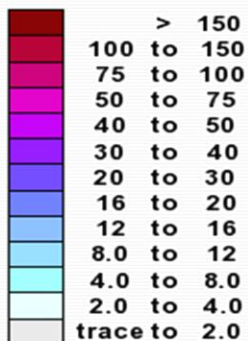


# Snow Data Upper Rio Grande Basin as of Mar 31, 2026

## Snow Depth

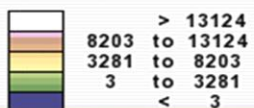


### Inches of depth

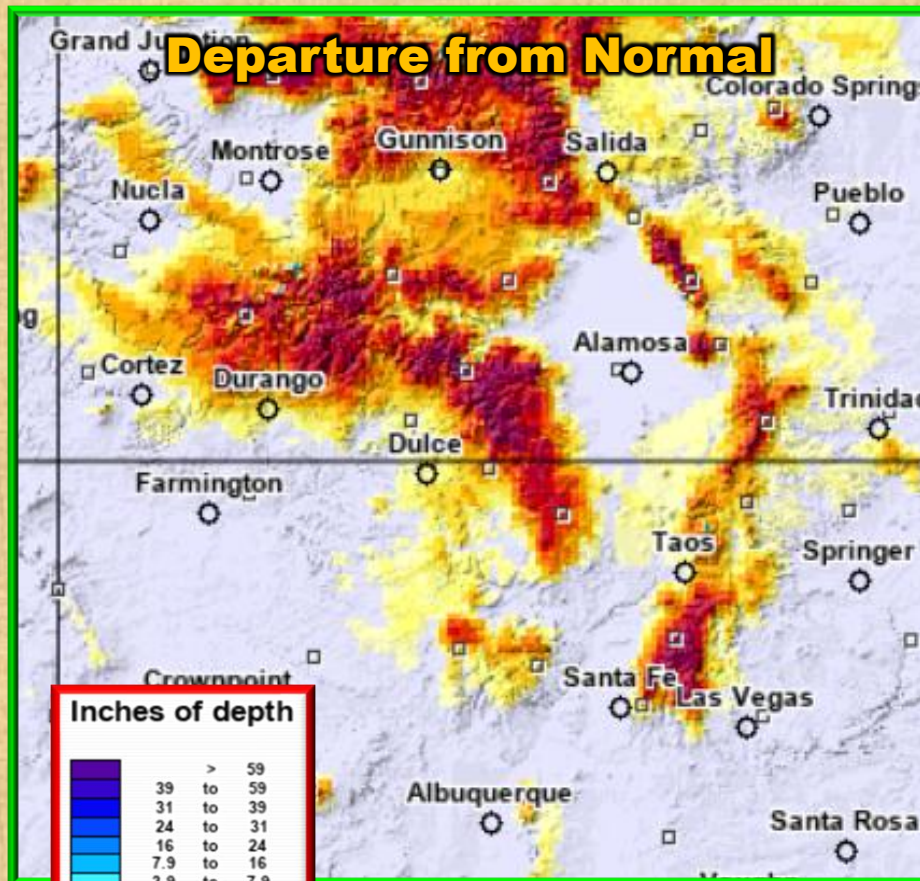


Not Estimated

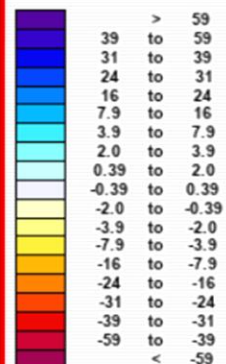
### Elevation in feet



## Departure from Normal



### Inches of depth



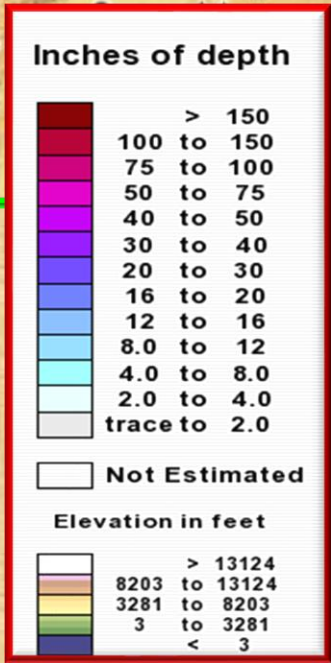
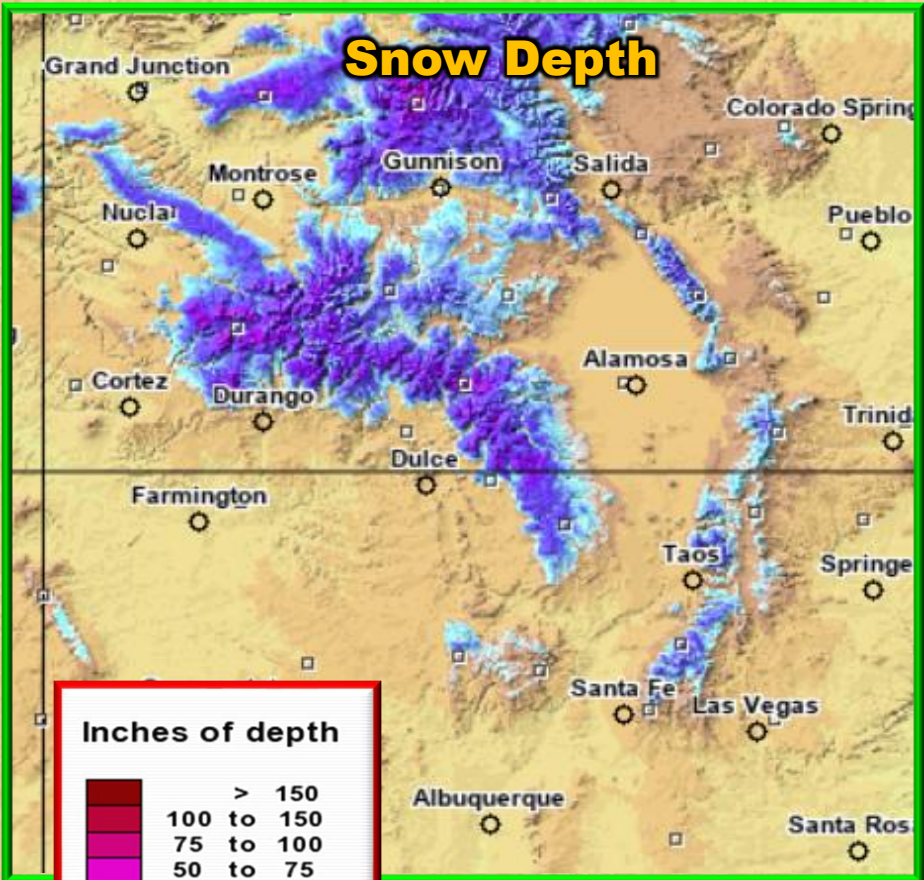
Not Estimated

### Elevation in feet

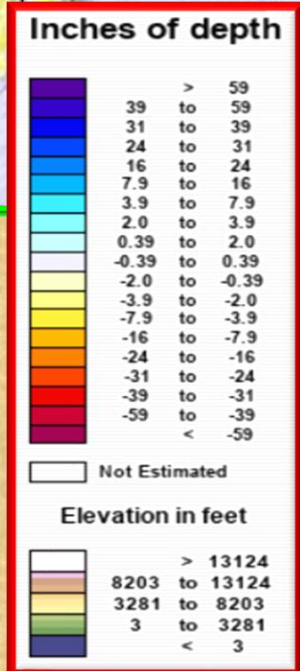
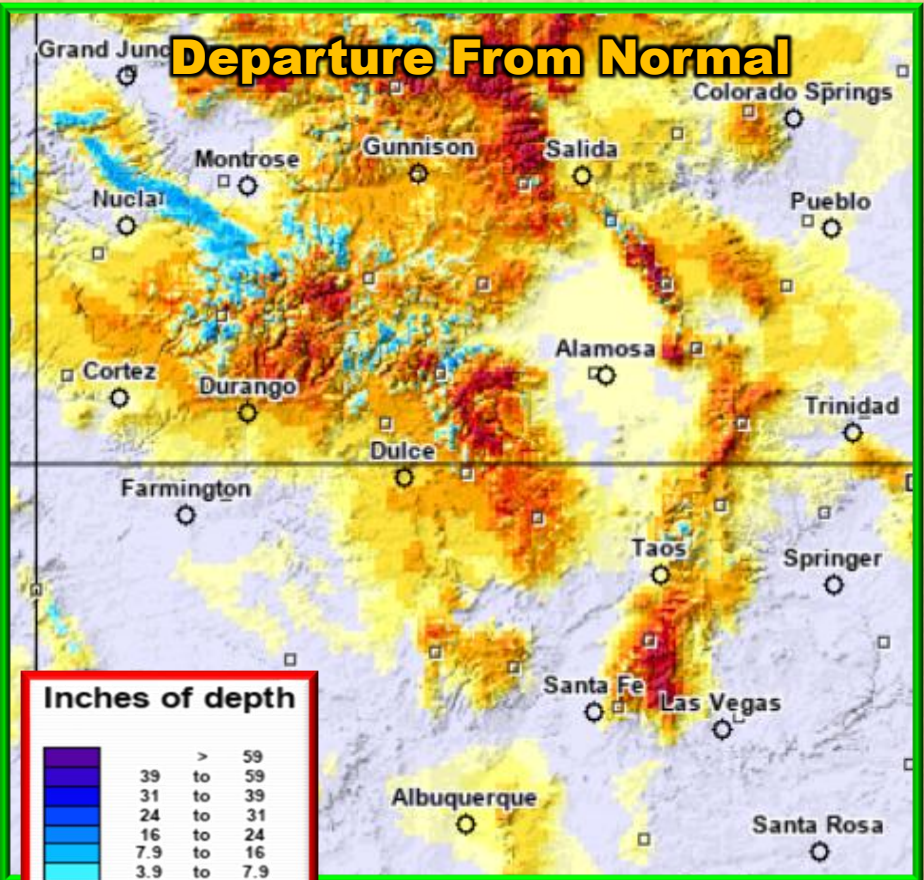


# Snow Data Upper Rio Grande Basin as of Feb 28, 2026

## Snow Depth



## Departure From Normal



# Snow Water Equivalent as of Mar 31, 2026

## Compared to last few years and average values

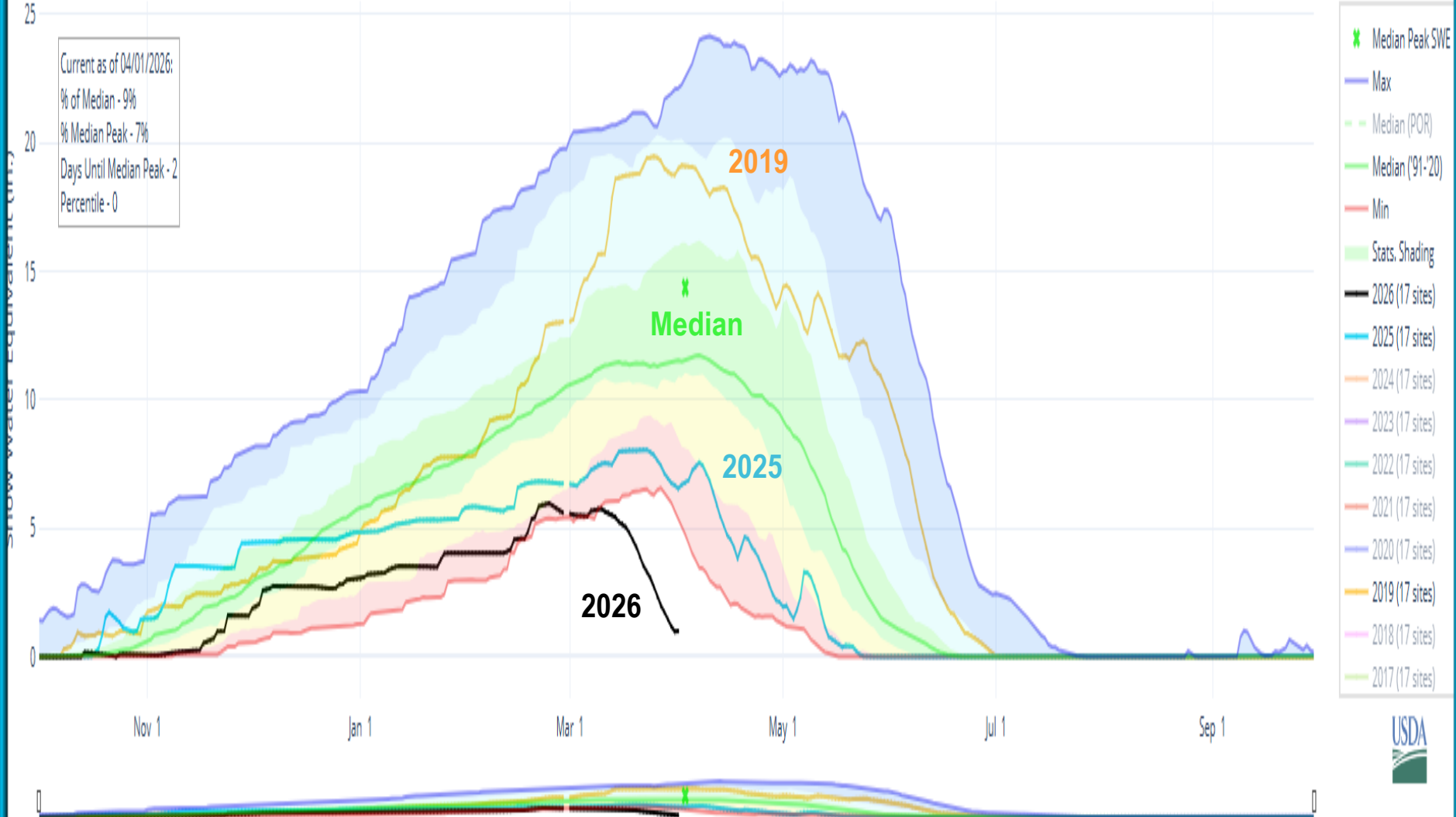
### Upper Rio Grande Basin

Reset Range

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

[Station List](#)

Current as of 04/01/2026:  
% of Median - 9%  
% Median Peak - 7%  
Days Until Median Peak - 2  
Percentile - 0



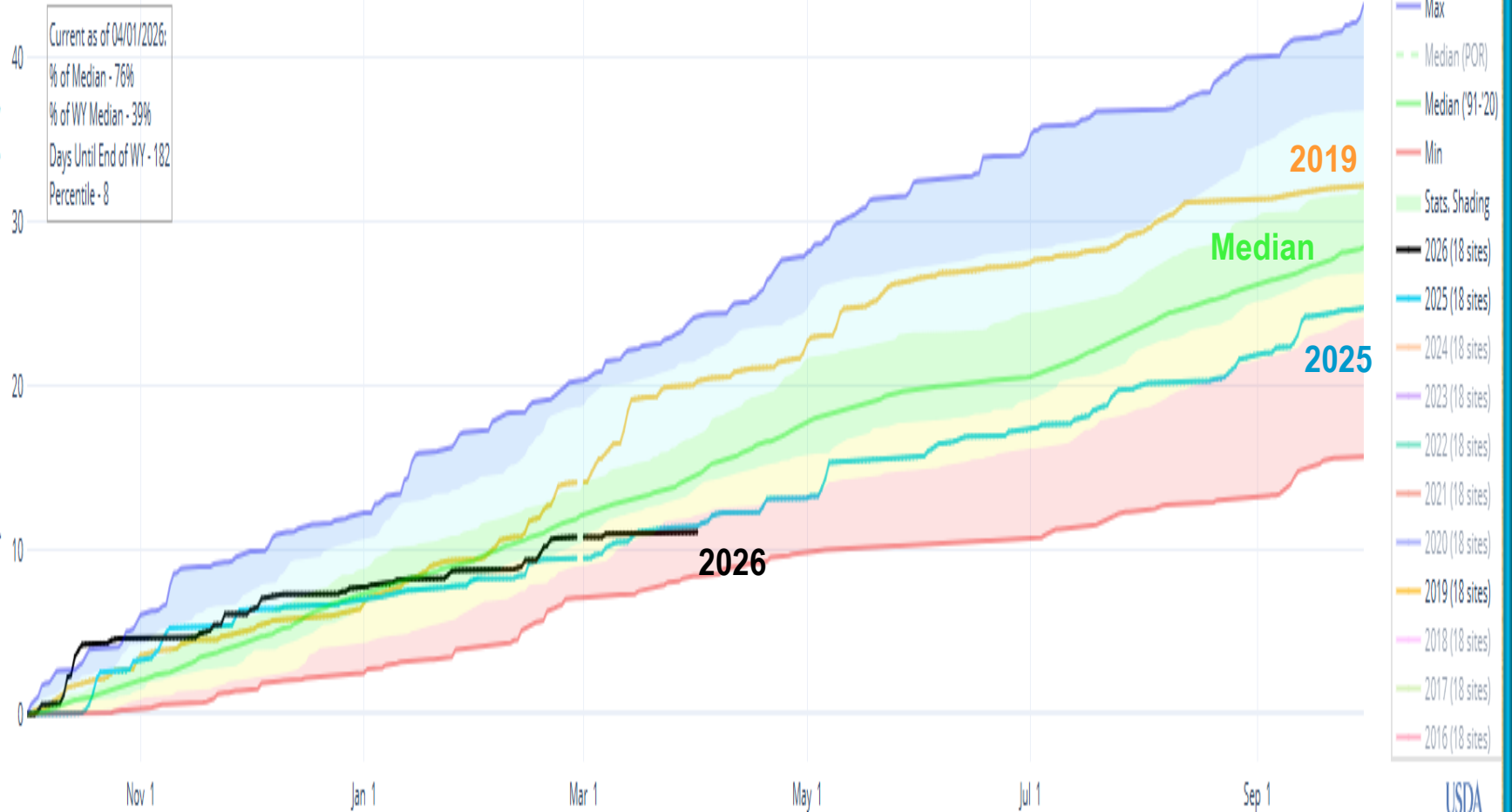
# Precipitation for the Water YTD Oct 1 – Mar 31, 2026 Compared to last few years and average values

## Upper Rio Grande Basin

Reset Range

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

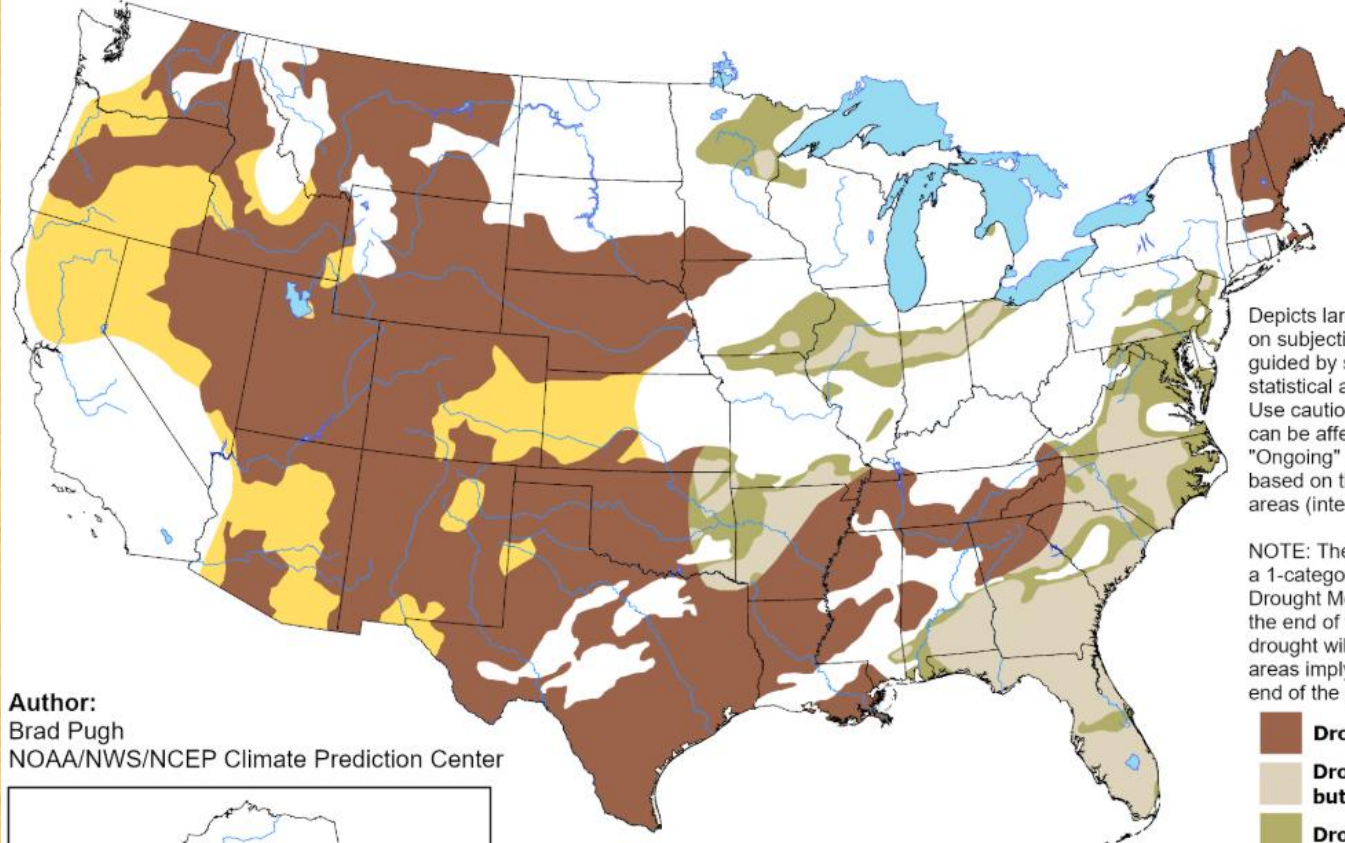
Station List



# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 19 - June 30, 2026  
Released March 19, 2026

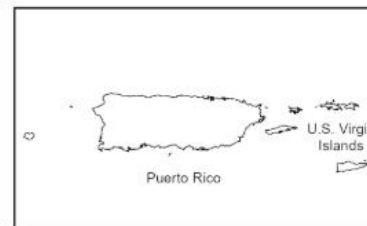
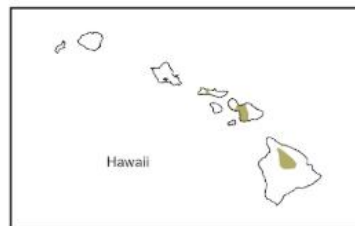


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

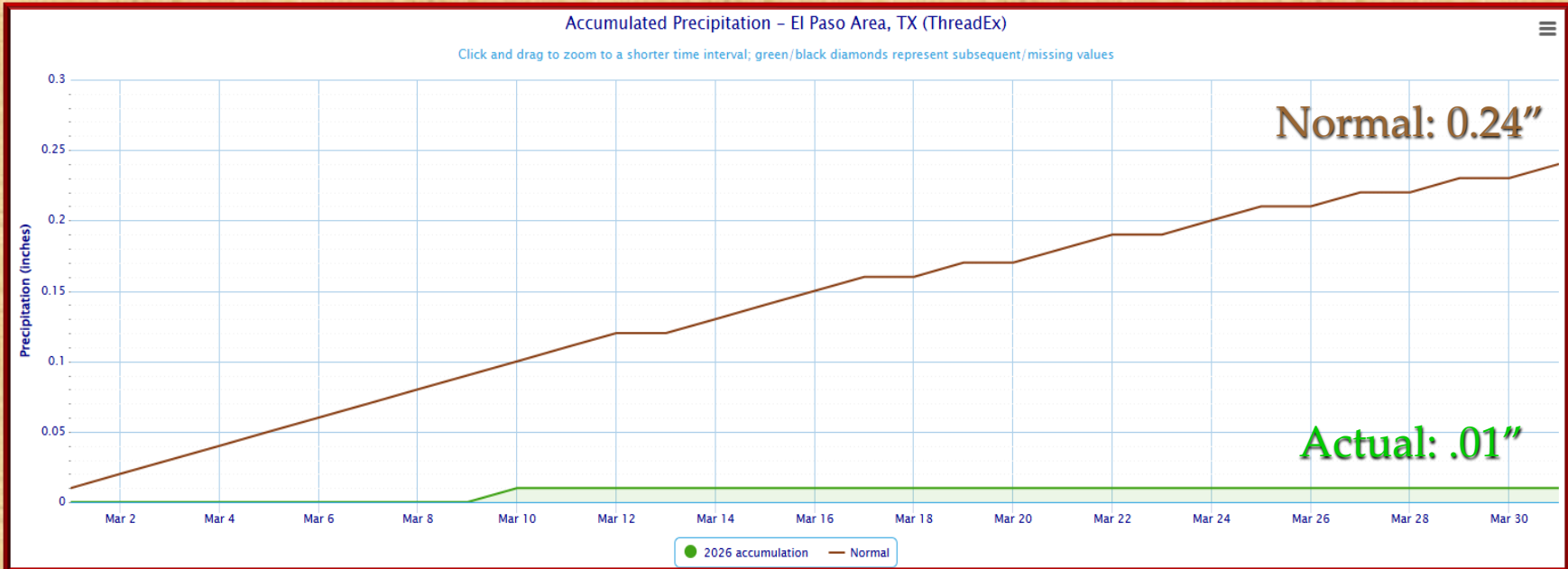
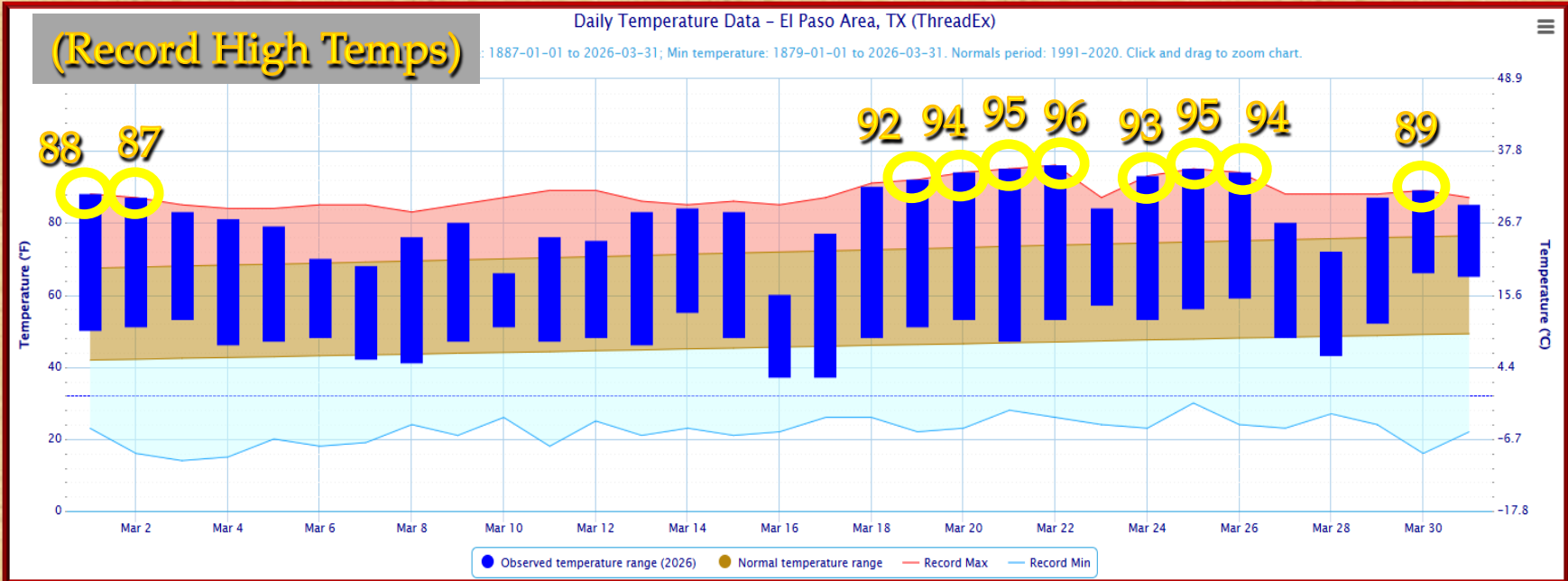
-  **Drought persists**
-  **Drought remains, but improves**
-  **Drought removal likely**
-  **Drought development likely**
-  **No drought**



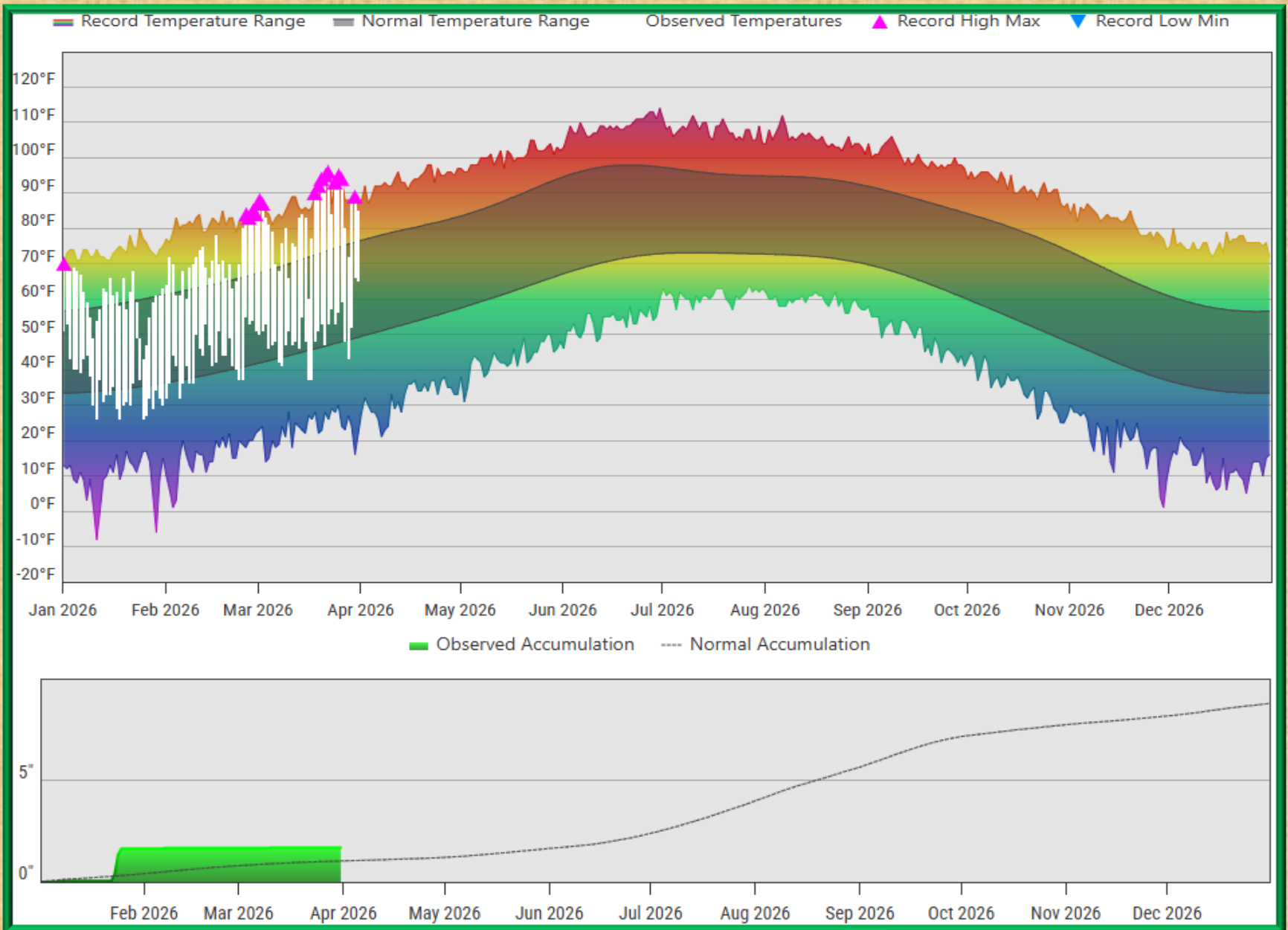
<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

# Temperature and precipitation data for March 2026 in El Paso

○ = record

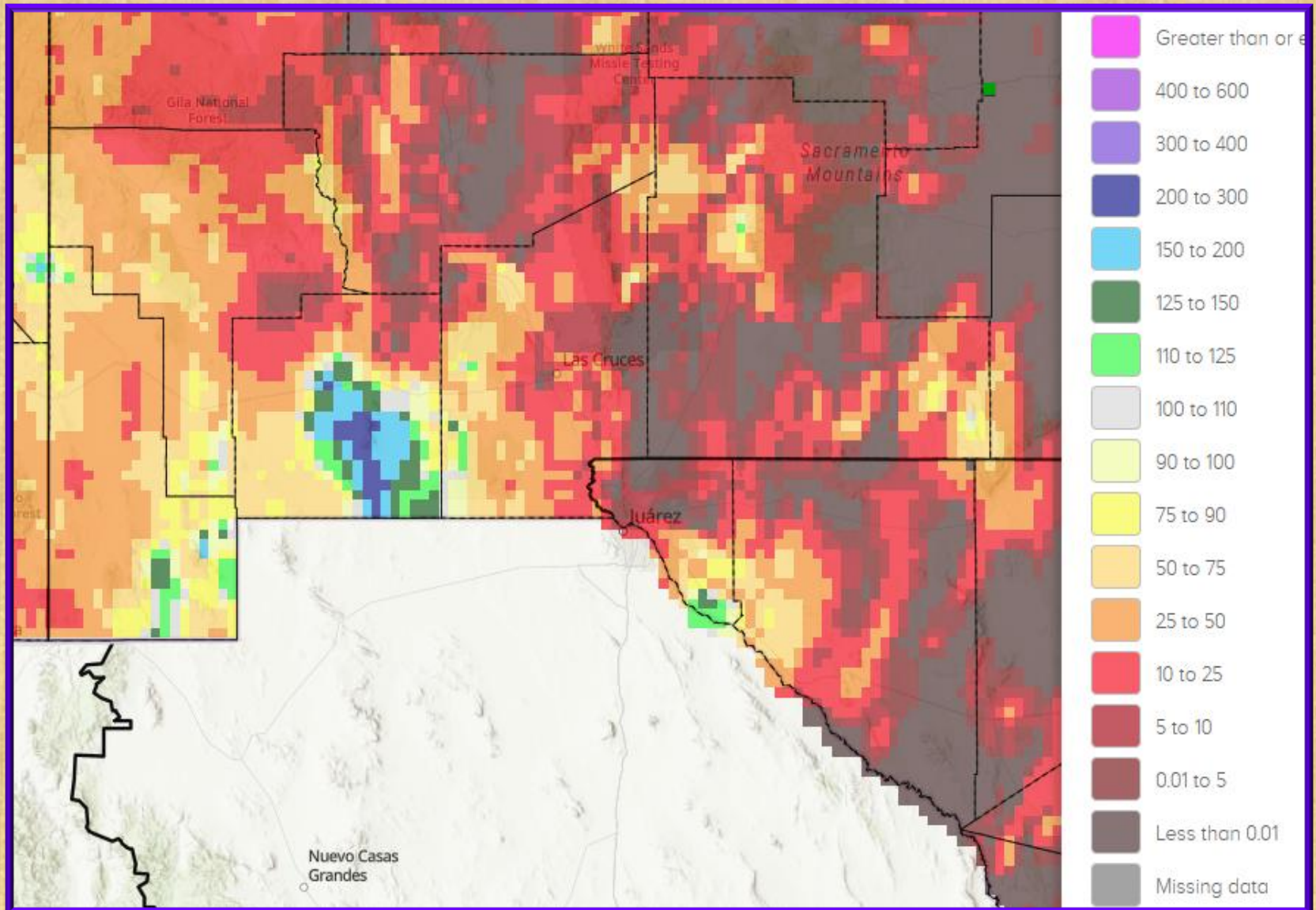


# 2026 Temperature and Precipitation through March for El Paso

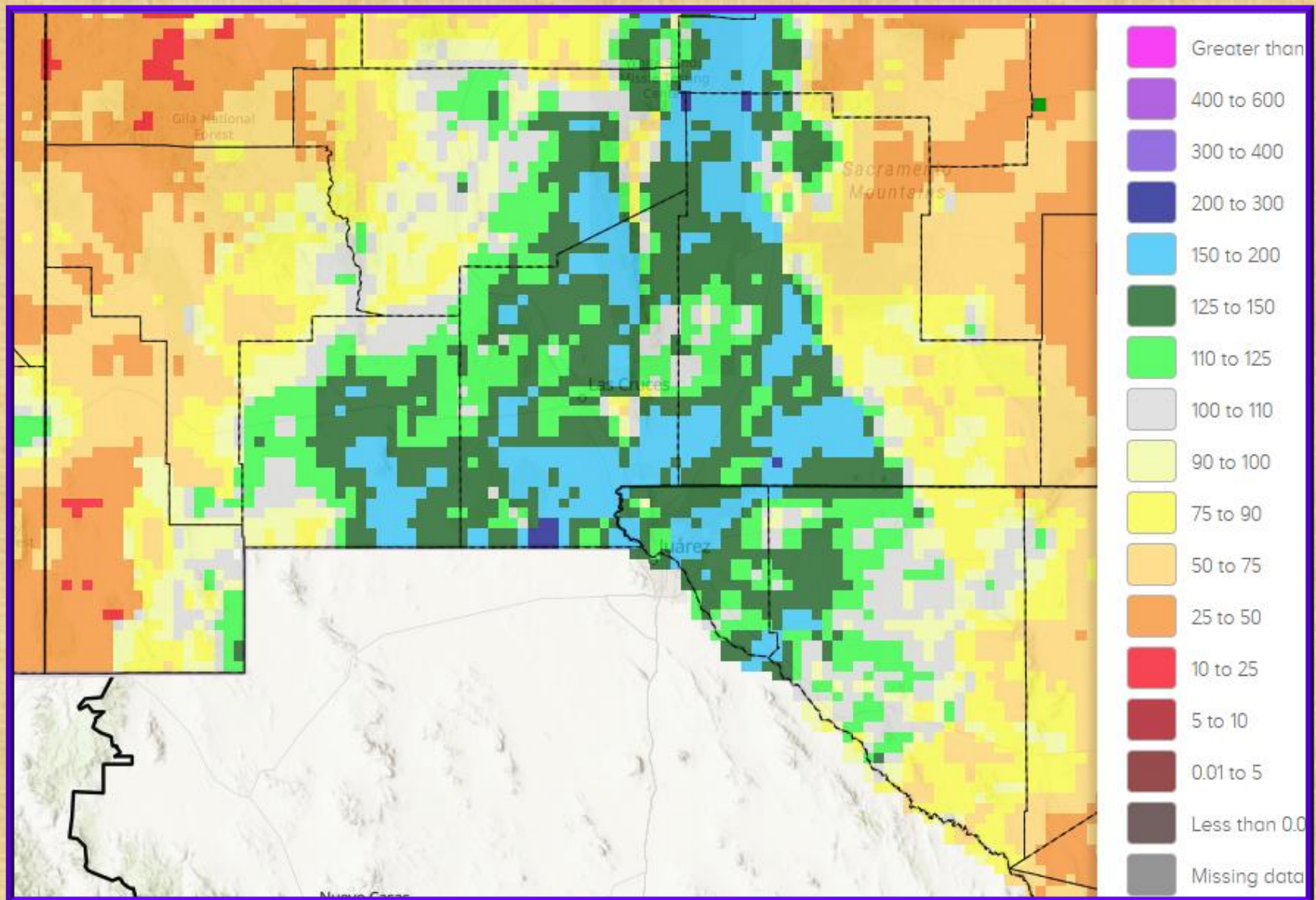




# March 2026 rainfall estimate percent of normal



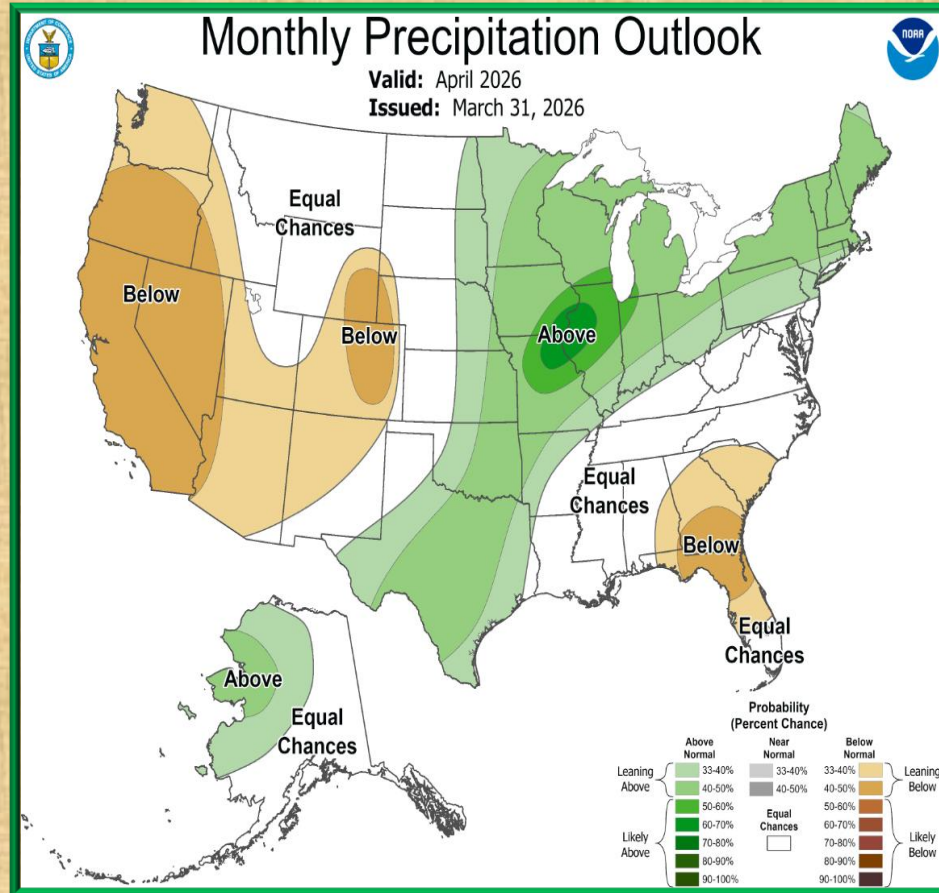
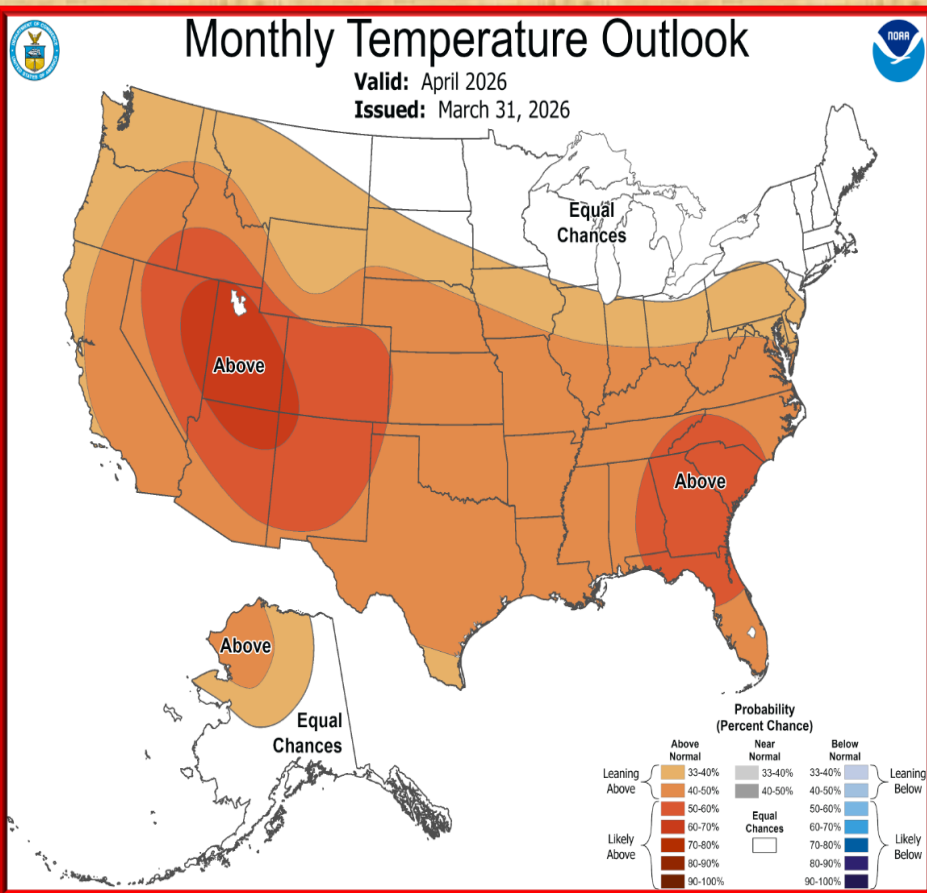
# Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Mar 31)



# Temperature and Precipitation Outlook For April 2026

## Temperature

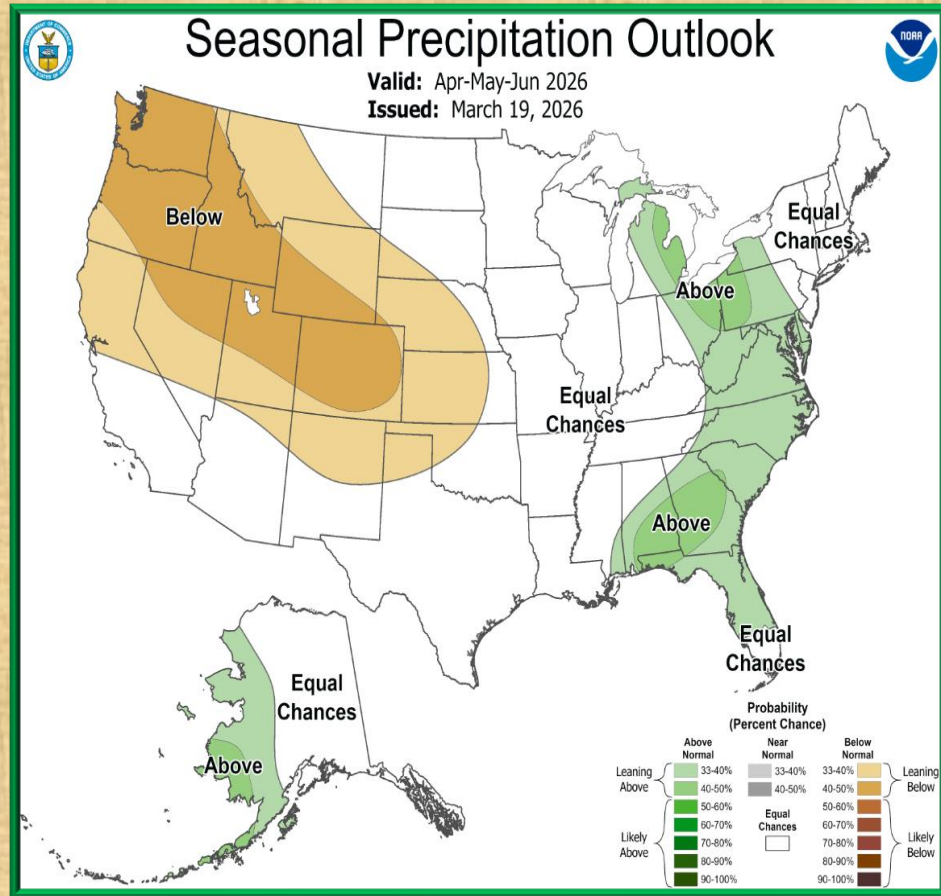
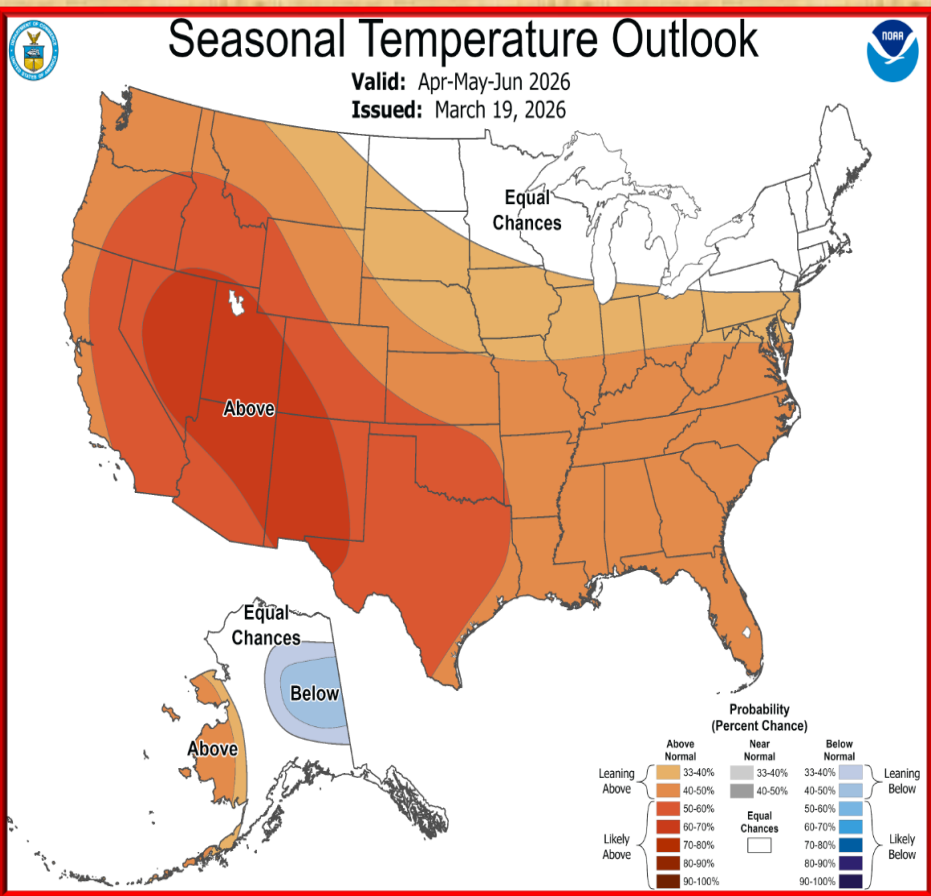
## Precipitation



# Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for Apr-Jun 2026

## Temperature

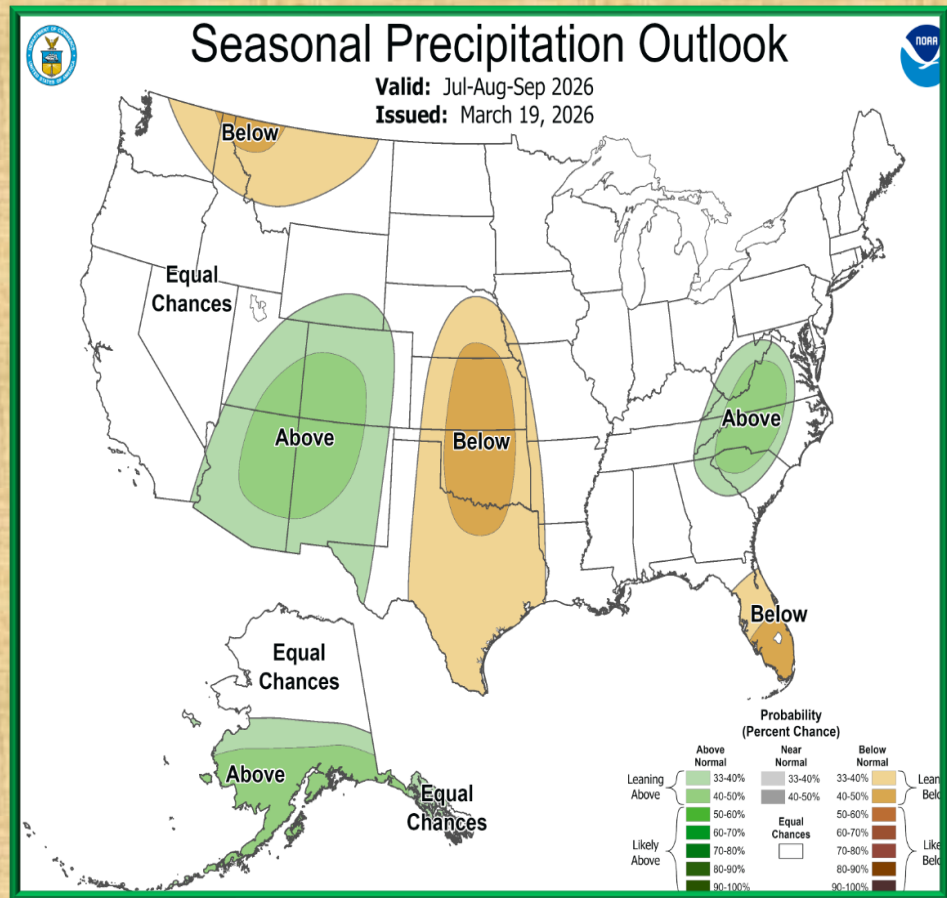
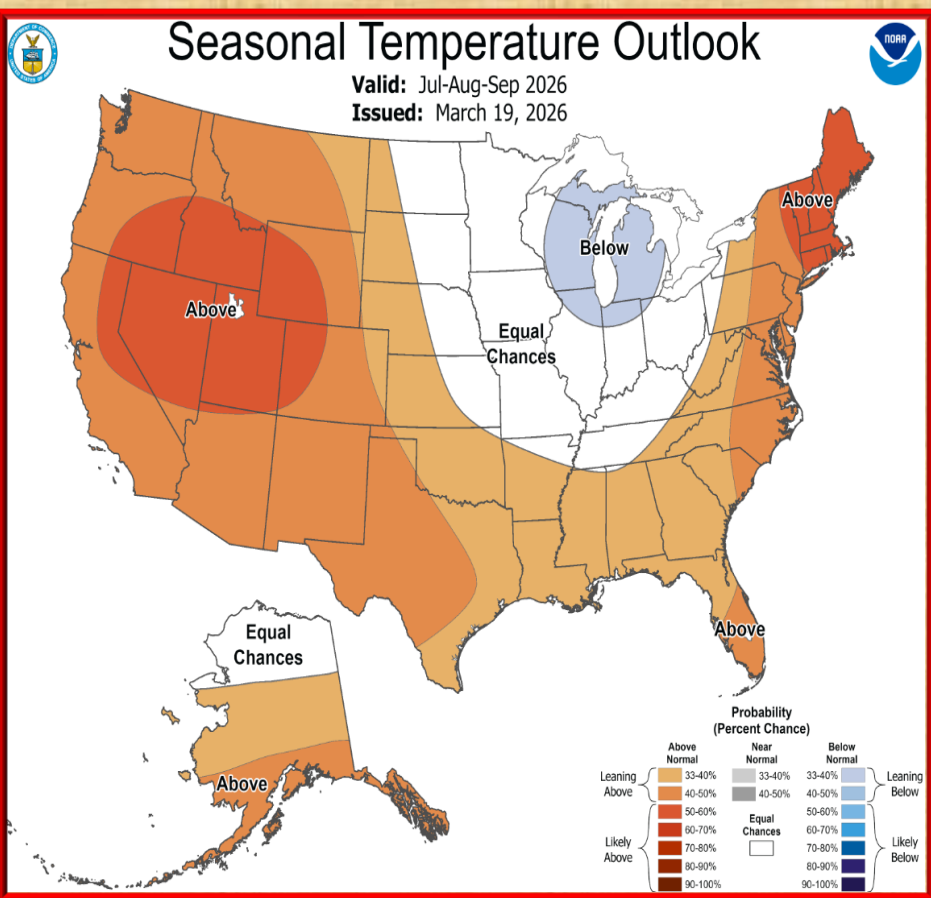
## Precipitation



# Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for Jul-Sep 2026

## Temperature

## Precipitation

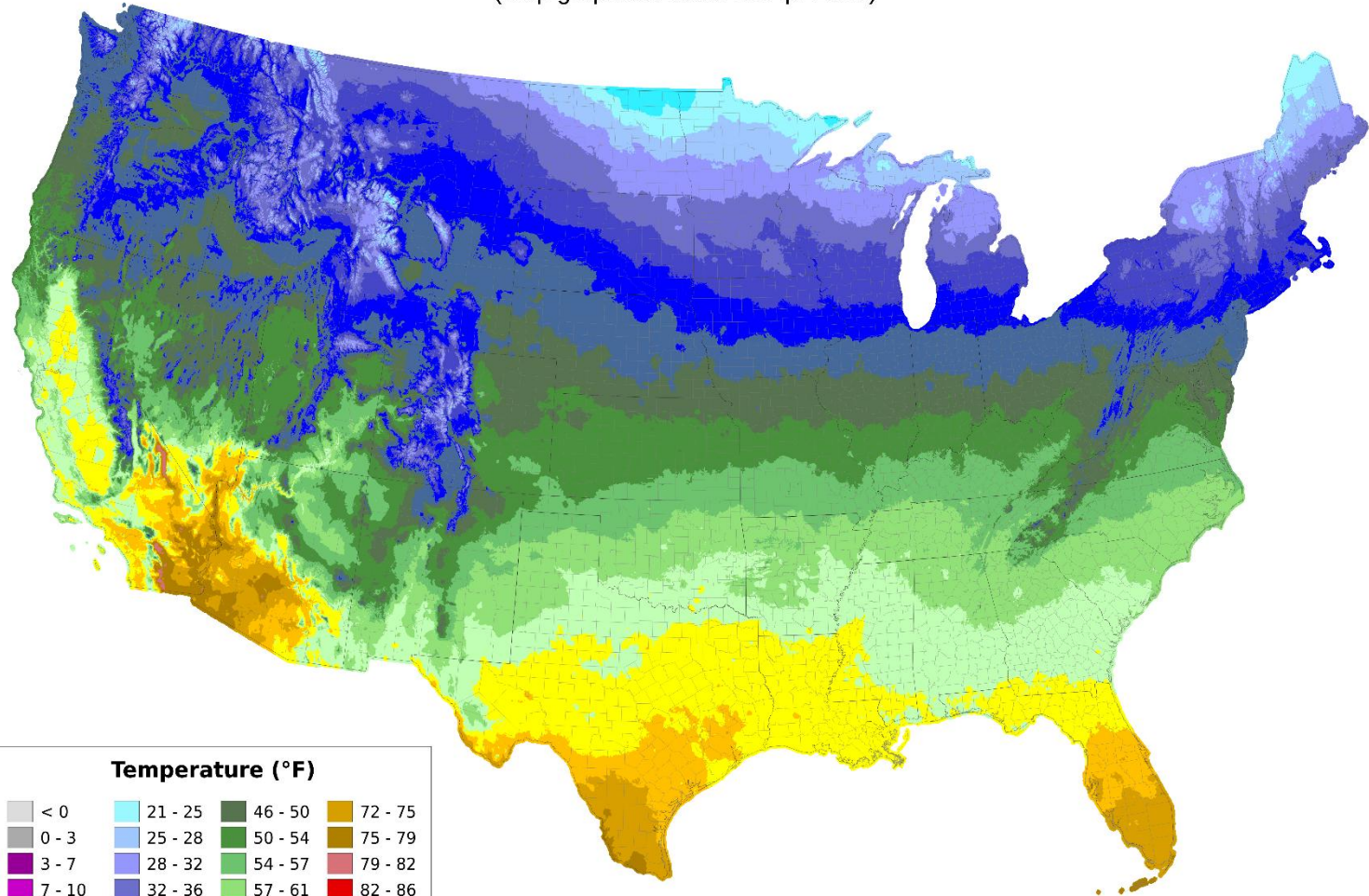


# Average Daily Mean Temperature for March 2026

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 Mar 2026 - 31 Mar 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2026

(Map graphic created 01 Apr 2026)



## Temperature (°F)

< 0	21 - 25	46 - 50	72 - 75
0 - 3	25 - 28	50 - 54	75 - 79
3 - 7	28 - 32	54 - 57	79 - 82
7 - 10	32 - 36	57 - 61	82 - 86
10 - 14	36 - 39	61 - 64	86 - 90
14 - 18	39 - 43	64 - 68	> 90
18 - 21	43 - 46	68 - 72	

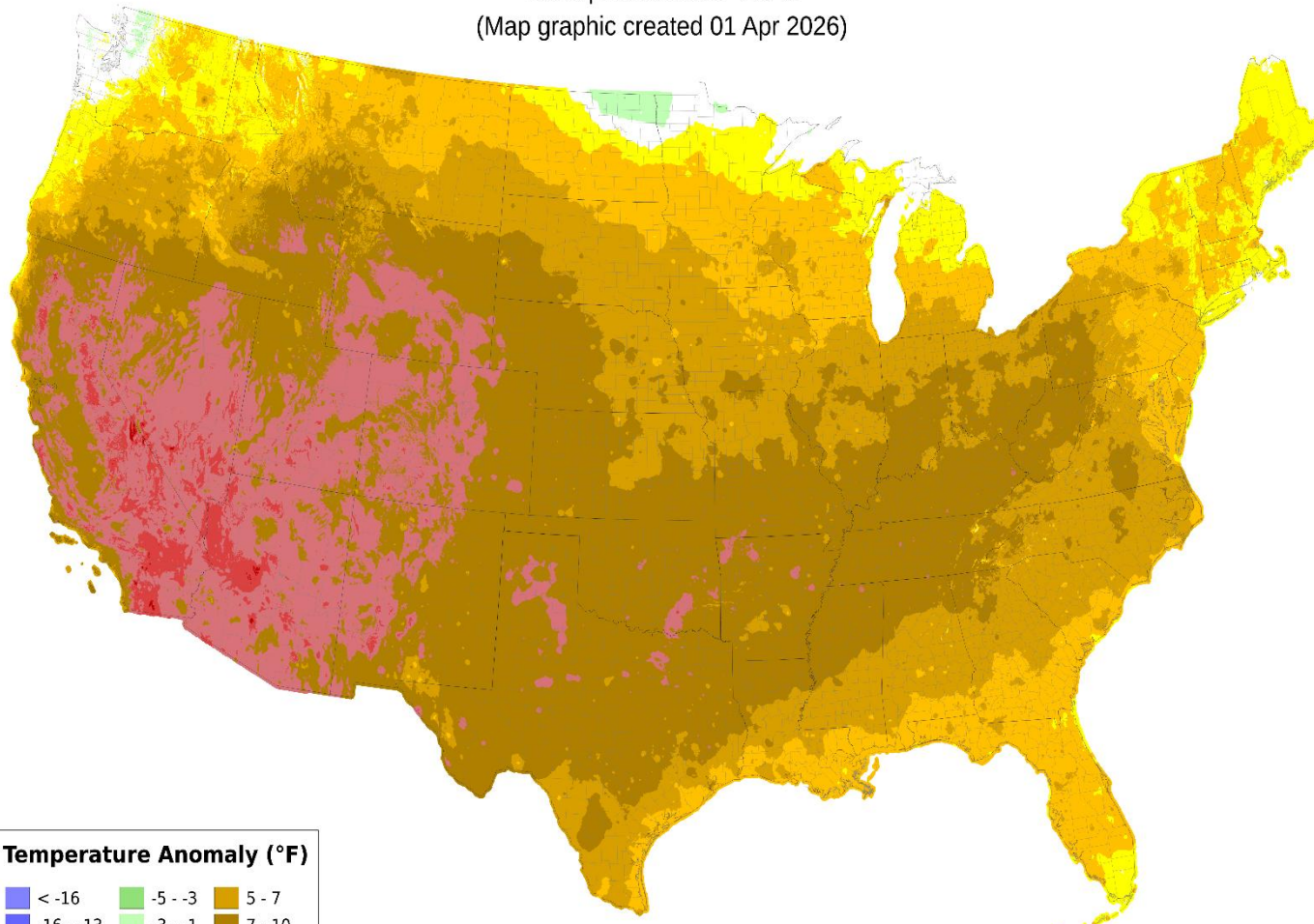
# Daily Mean Temperature Departure from Normal, March 2026

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 Mar 2026 - 31 Mar 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 01 Apr 2026)



## Temperature Anomaly (°F)

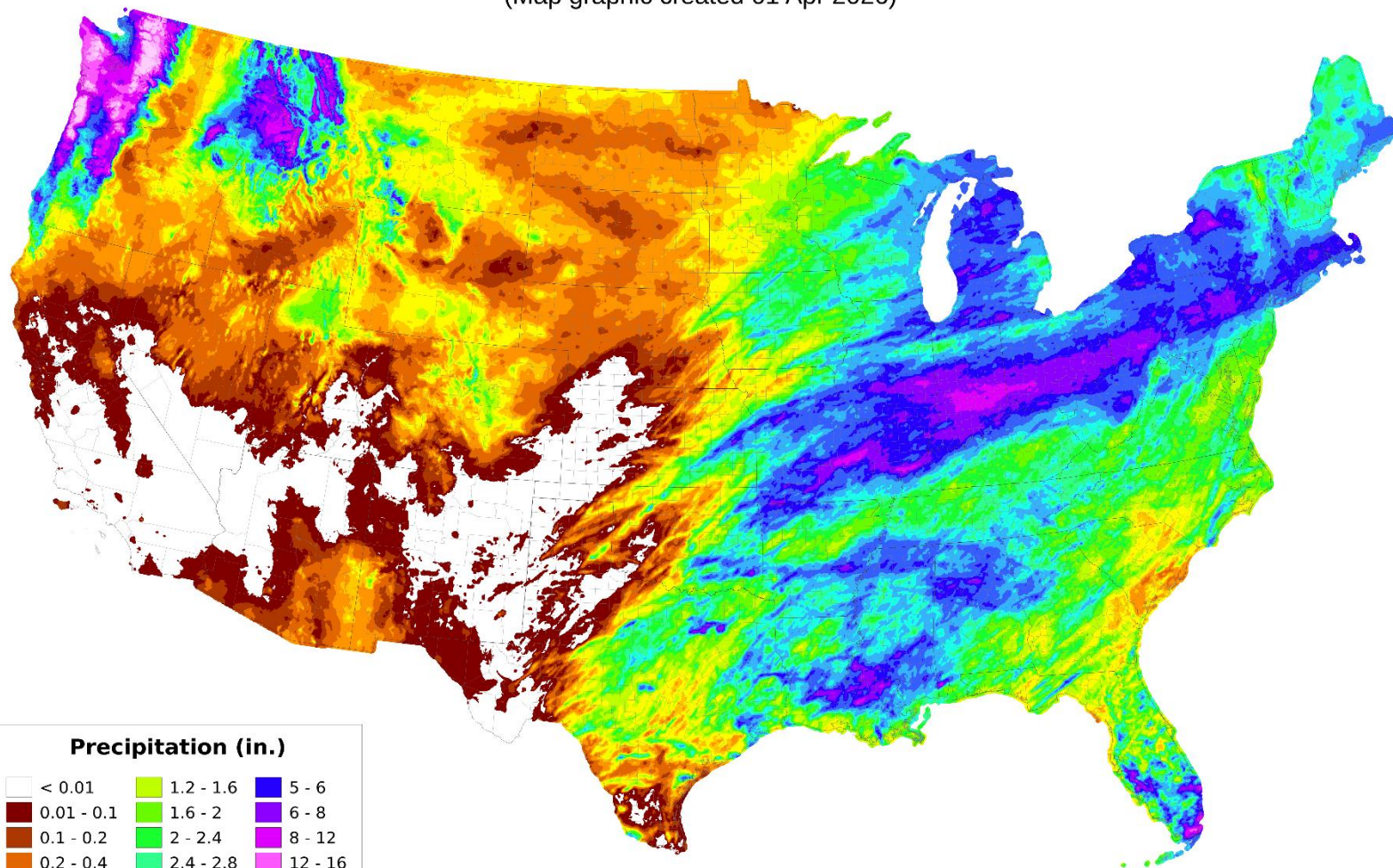
< -16	-5 - -3	5 - 7
-16 - -13	-3 - -1	7 - 10
-13 - -10	-1 - 1	10 - 13
-10 - -7	1 - 3	13 - 16
-7 - -5	3 - 5	> 16

# Total Precipitation for March 2026

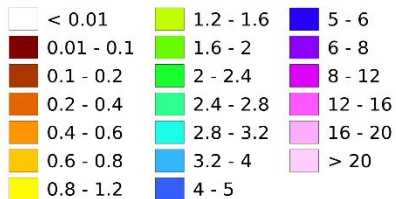
Total Precipitation: 01 Mar 2026 - 31 Mar 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2026

(Map graphic created 01 Apr 2026)



## Precipitation (in.)



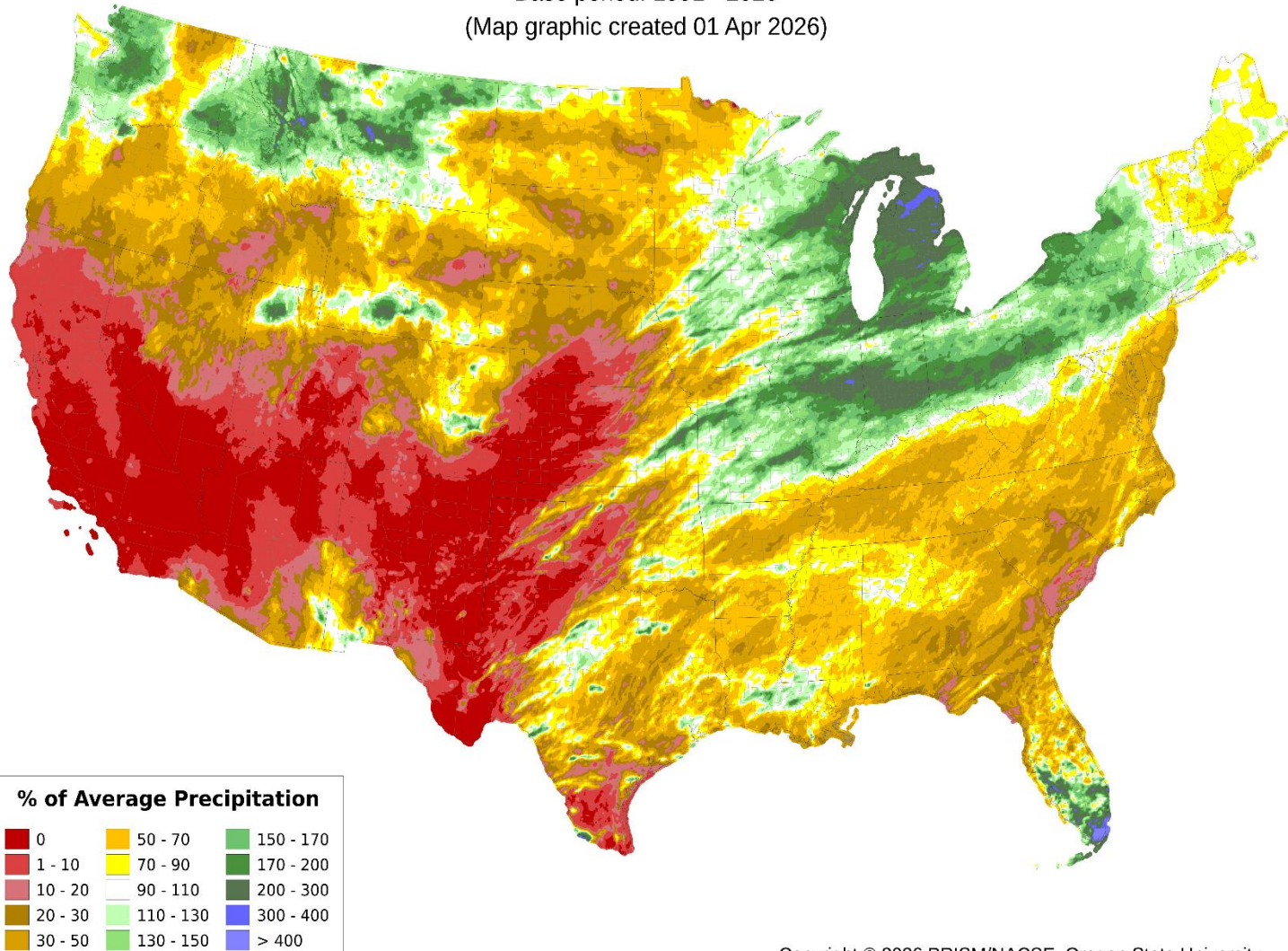
# Percent of Normal Precipitation for March 2026

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Mar 2026 - 31 Mar 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 01 Apr 2026)

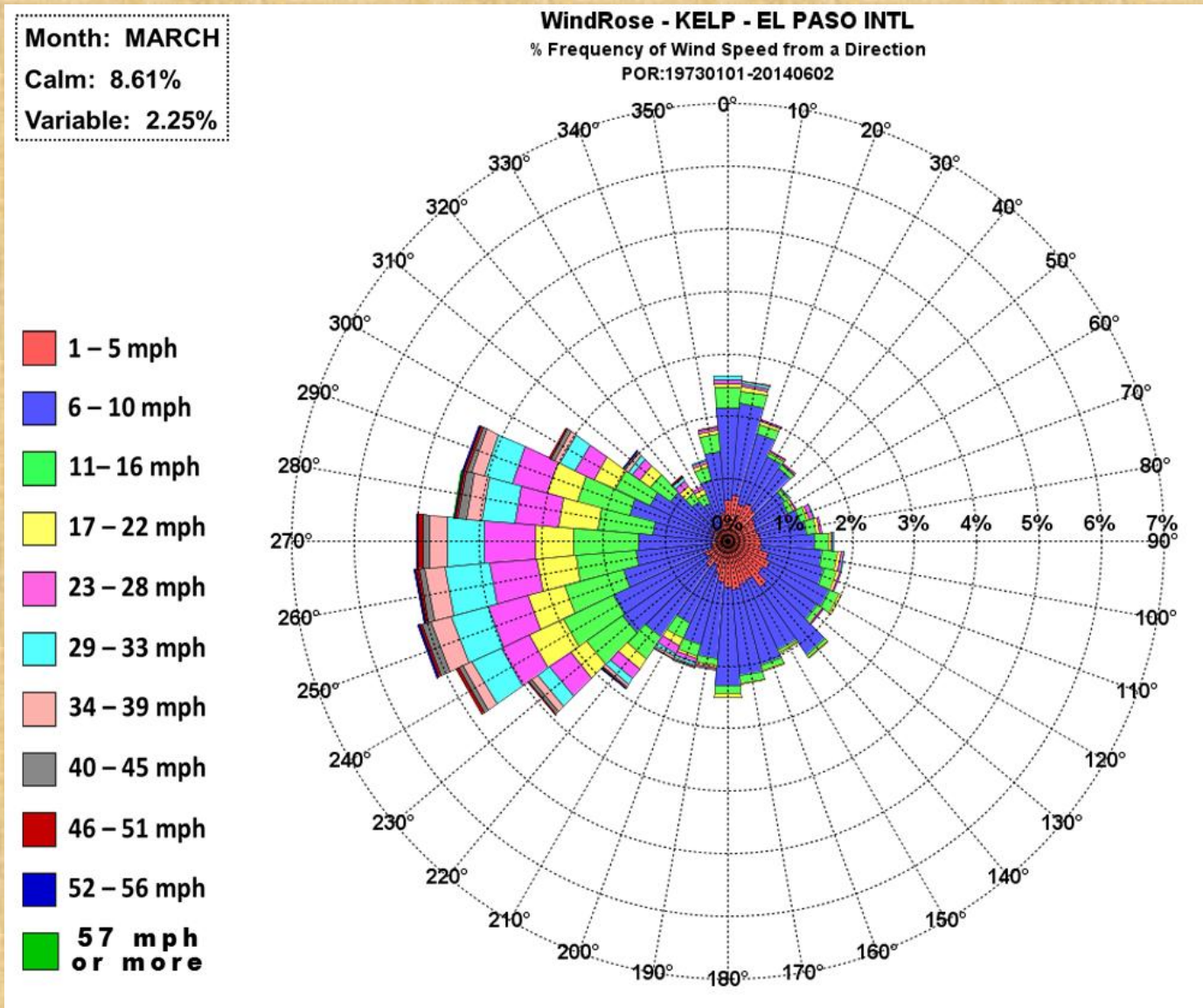


# Selected Weather Reports March 2026

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Location (County)</b>	<b>Event</b>
MAR 27 844 AM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	62 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 831 AM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	59 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 1130 AM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP13-HIDALGO	54 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 505 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	53 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 526 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	52 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 220 PM	WSMR CONDRON FIELD-DONA ANA	50 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 739 AM	LA LUZ-OTERO	48 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 409 PM	DEMING AIRPORT- LUNA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 249 PM	DELL CITY-HUDSPETH	44 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 845 AM	TIMBERON-OTERO	42 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 1014 PM	LAS CRUCES BAYLOR PK-DONA ANA	40 MPH PEAK WIND
MAR 27 413 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	40 MPH PEAK WIND

# Special Features

[www.weather.gov/epz/elpwindrosedata](http://www.weather.gov/epz/elpwindrosedata)



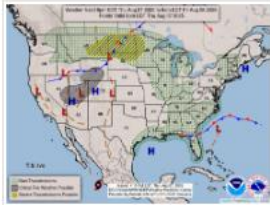
Click a location below for detailed forecast.



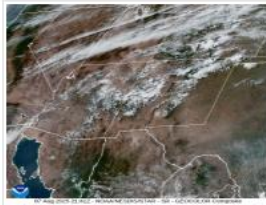
Last Map Update: Thu, Aug 7, 2025 at 3:48:31 pm PDT



Radar



Weather Map



Satellite



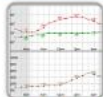
Briefing



Forecast Discussion



Weather Hazards Outlook



Hourly Forecast



Gridded Forecast



Weather Calculator



Current Observations



Satellite



Climate Data



Past Weather



Drought



Hydrology



Wx Radio



Skywarn



Fire Weather



Vo1unteer



Aviation



Social Media



Weather Digest



Monsoon/Tropical

**Don't Forget-Current and past issues of our Weather Digest are available on our website at**

**[www.weather.gov/epz/](http://www.weather.gov/epz/)**

**Just click on “Weather Digest” icon, then choose which month’s Digest to view. Also, though discontinued, don’t forget to check out our back issues of Southwest Weather Bulletin.**

[Location Help](#)

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

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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 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>	

