October 2026 Weather Digest

October 2026 Weather Summary

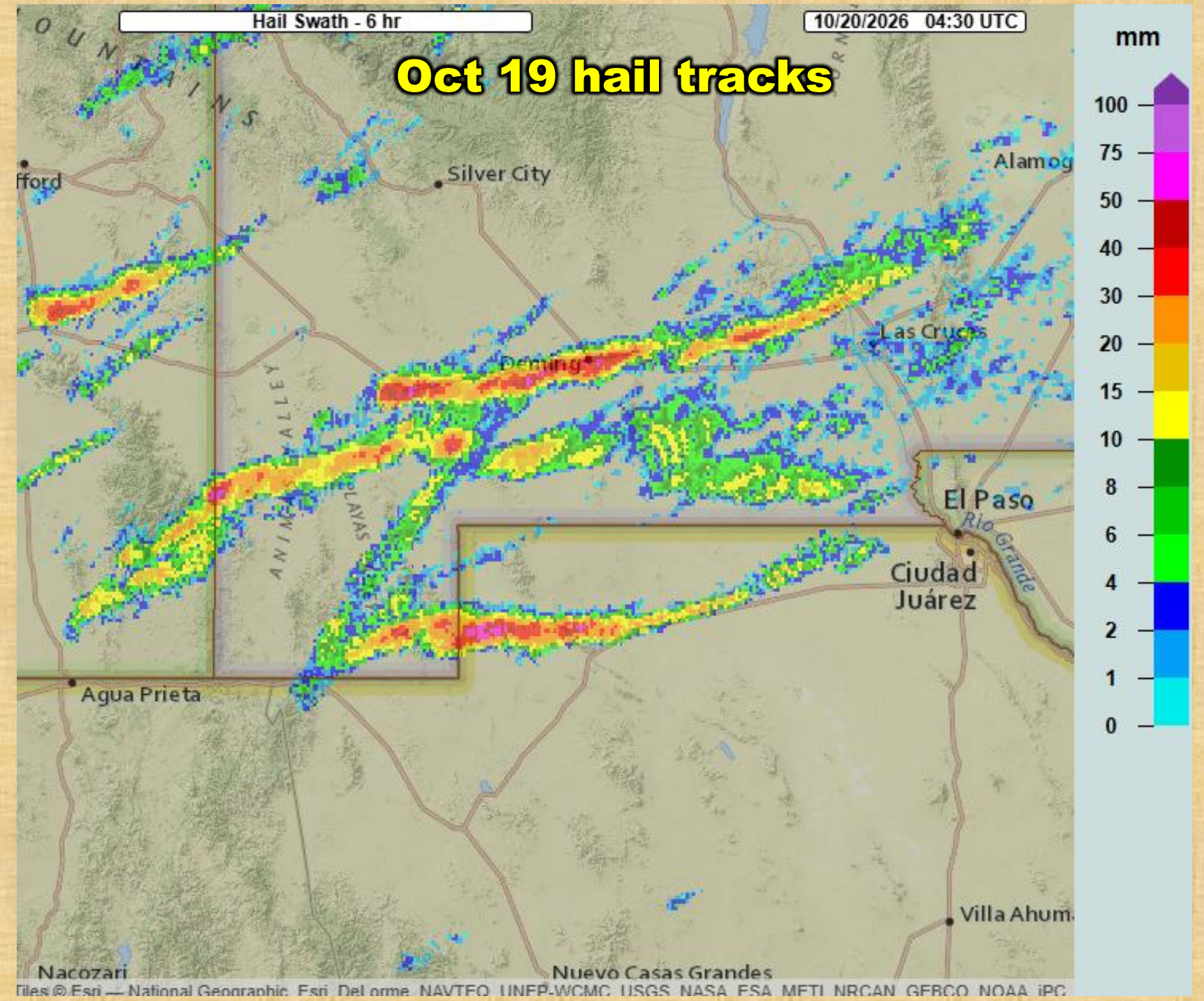
October continued the trend of a wet late summer and Fall, likely a by-product of the strong El Niño that has formed this Fall. The last half of the month saw a long series of Pacific storms parade through. This timing was able to draw sub-tropical moisture that persisted over northern Mexico for much of the month. Since these storms were driven by storms moving off the Pacific, and not just monsoon moisture, storms tended to become strong and many times severe, with large hail and damaging winds. For the month, much of the area received about 125-300 percent of normal. Only small areas of Grant, Hidalgo, Sierra and Hudspeth Counties remained relatively dry. Noteworthy storms were a pair of Pacific storms; the first one came through on October 19-20, tapping into tropical moisture. This created areas of heavy rainfall, and also several storms with large hail. The second storm came in on October 22-24. This didn't have as much moisture so heavy rain was more limited. However several storms produced large hail.

Of course with all the rain and clouds, temperatures were much more moderate than normal. Monthly average high temperatures at most sites were around one-half to two degrees below normal. Low temperatures on the other hand were four to eight degrees above normal, as the clouds tend to hold in warmth overnight. See the hail track maps below.

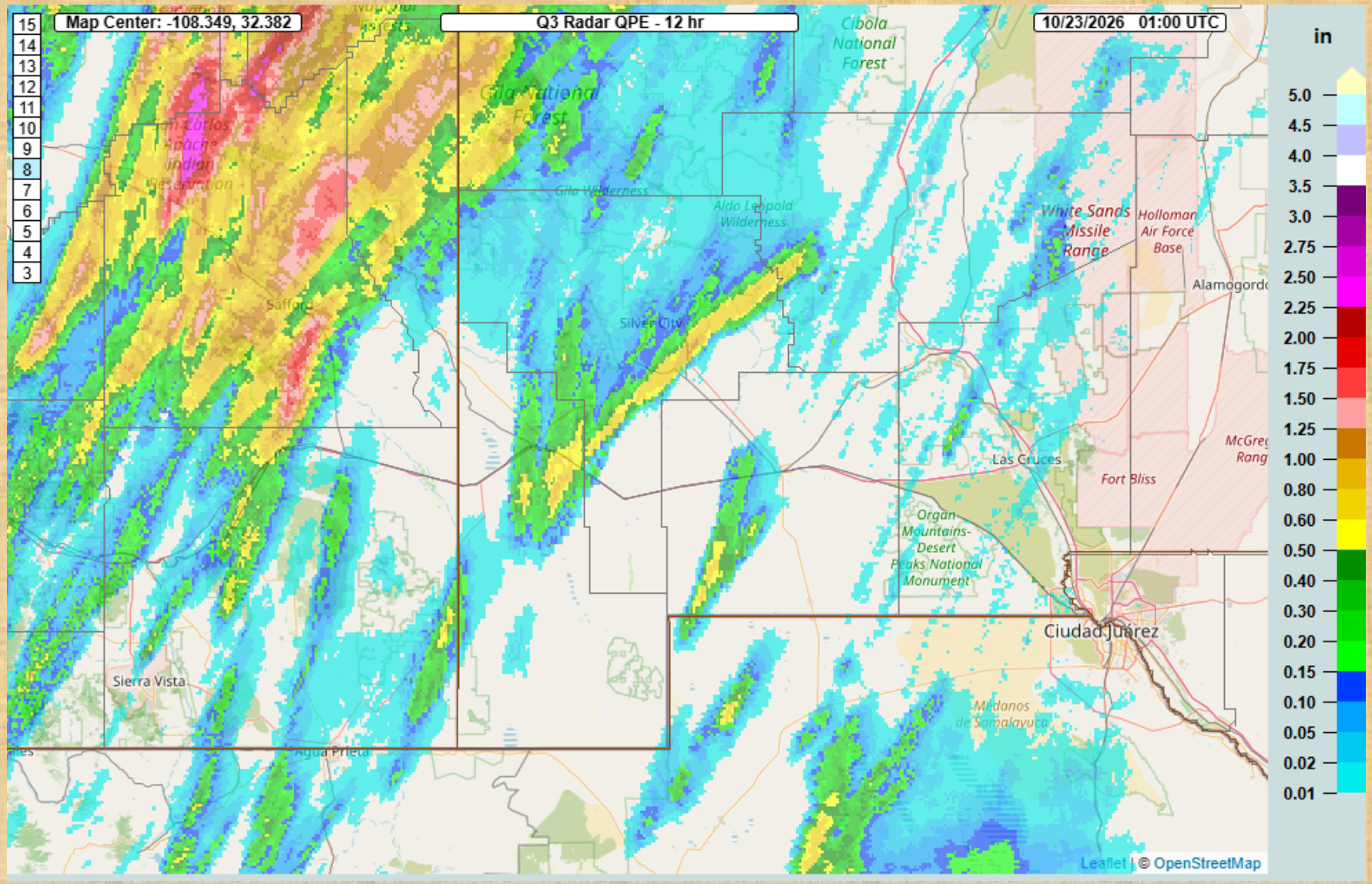
October 2026 Weather Summmary

Looking ahead to November, our average monthy rainfall continues to decrease as we approach the winter season. At El Paso, the 30 year normal rainfall for the month is 0.43 inches. Daylight continues to decrease as we gradually approach the winter solstice. Daylight length at El Paso on November 1 is 10 hours, 54 minutes, decreasing to 10 hours, 14 minutes on the last day of the month. The average high on November 1 is 73°, cooling to 61° on November 30. The warmest all-time November temperature at El Paso is 87 degrees.

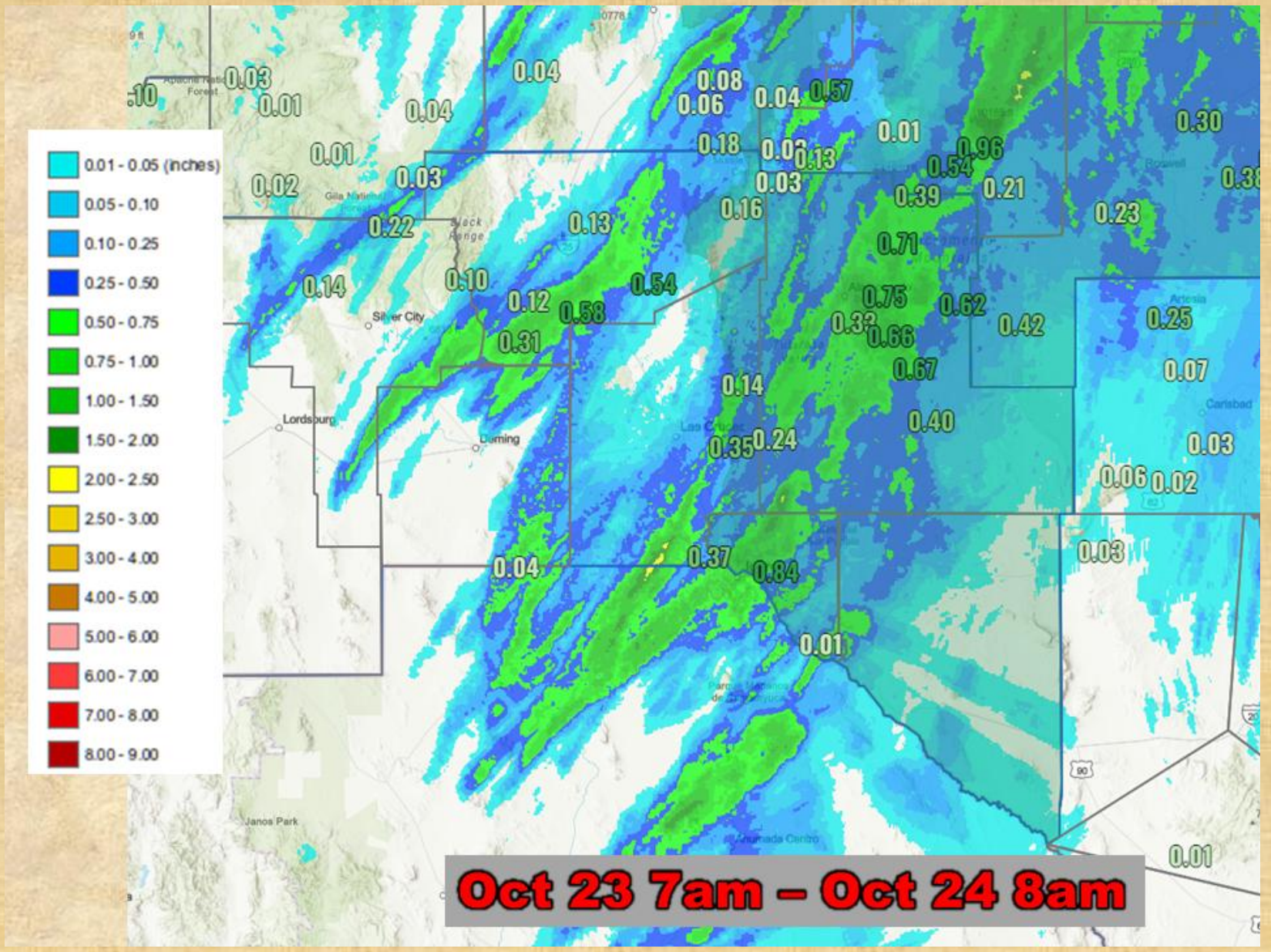
For you lunar fans, November's full moon occurs on the 24th, and is commonly known as the Beaver Moon. This month's full moon is also a Supermoon, meaning the moon is near its closest point to Earth. The new moon takes place on November 9. There are no solar or lunar eclipses in November.

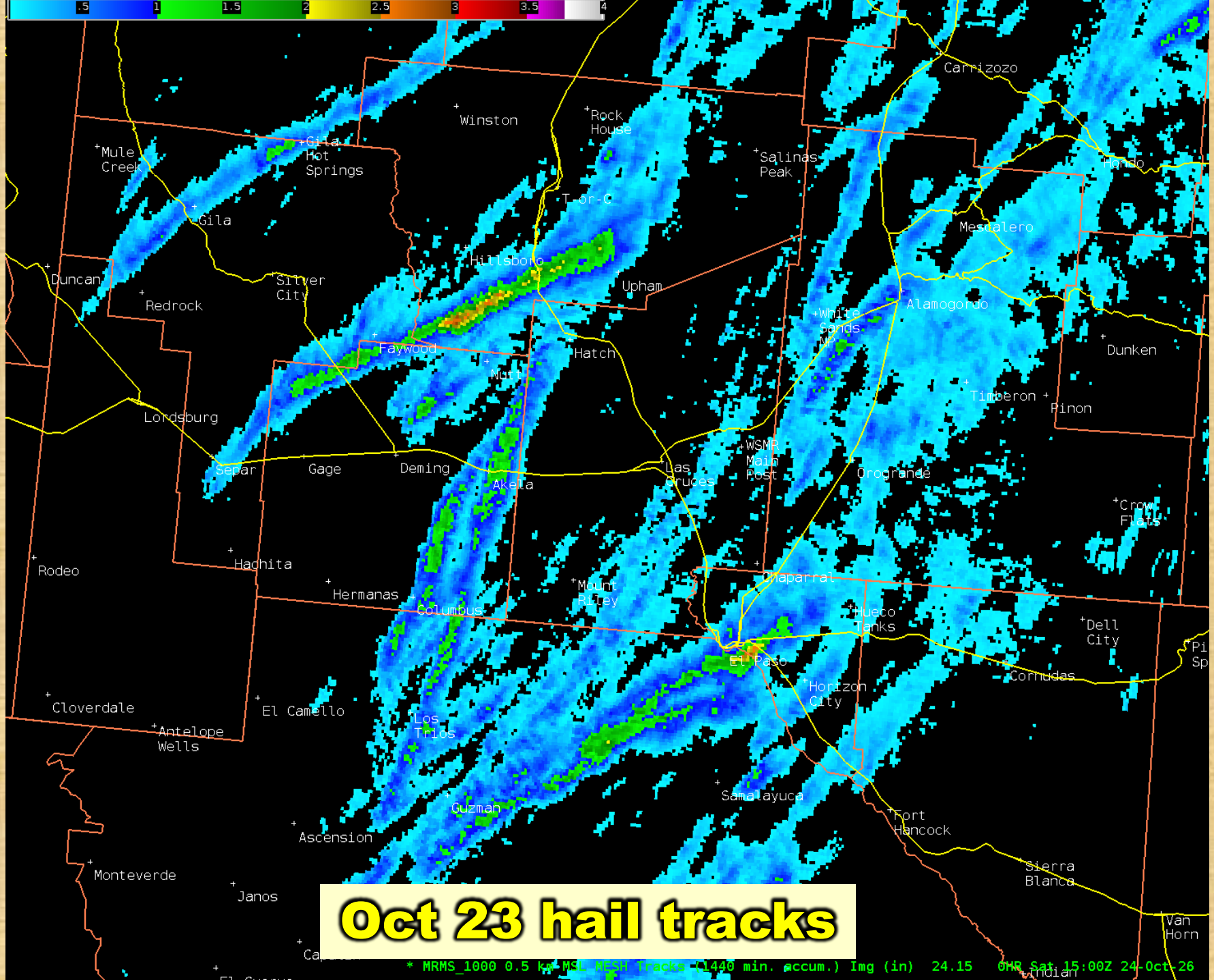

Hail Swath - 6 hr
10/20/2026 04:30 UTC
Oct 19 hail tracks
mm
100
75
50
40
30
20
15
10
8
6
4
2
1
0
Silver City
Deming
Las Cruces
El Paso
Rio Grande
Ciudad Juárez
Agua Prieta
Nacozari
Nuevo Casas Grandes
Villa Ahum
Alamog
ffford
PLAYAS VALLEY
MOUNTAINS

Oct 22 radar estimated rainfall



Oct 23 radar estimated rainfall




.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
3
3.5
4
Carrizozo
Winston
Rock House
Mule Creek
Gila Hot Springs
Salinas Peak
Ruidoso
T-or-C
Gila
Mescalero
Hillsboro
Duncan
Silver City
Upham
Redrock
Alamogordo
White Sands NM
Faywood
Hatch
Dunken
Mutt
Timberon
Pinon
Lordsburg
WSMR Main Post
Separ
Gage
Deming
Las Cruces
Orogrande
Akela
Crow Flats
Rodeo
Hachita
Chaparral
Hermanas
Columbus
Mount Riley
Hueco Tanks
Dell City
El Paso
Cornudas
Horizon City
Cloverdale
El Camello
Los Trios
Antelope Wells
Samalayuca
Guzman
Fort Hancock
Ascension
Sierra Blanca
Monteverde
Janos
Van Horn
Oct 23 hail tracks
* MRMS_1000 0.5 km MSL MESH Tracks (1440 min. accum.) Img (in) 24.15 0HR Sat 15:00Z 24-Oct-26

ENSO Alert System Status:

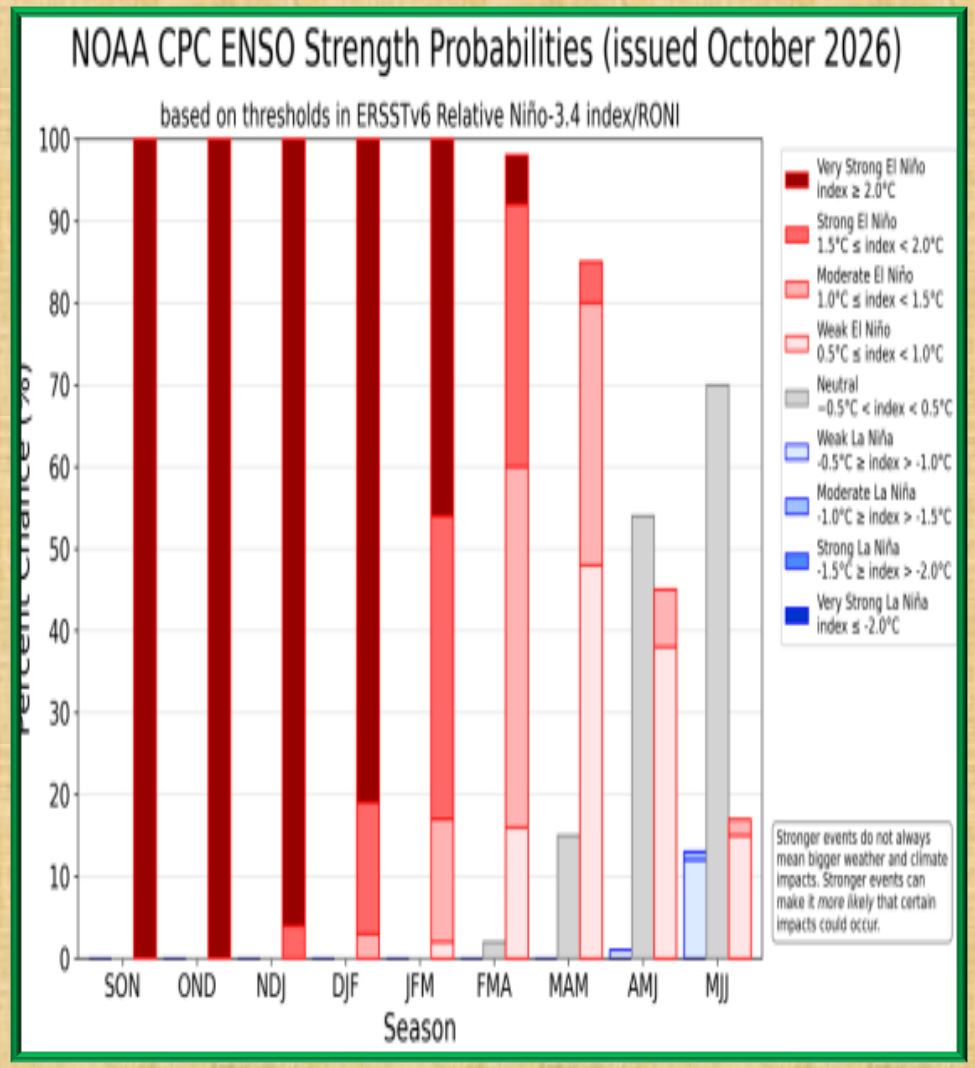
El Niño Advisory

ENSO Alert System

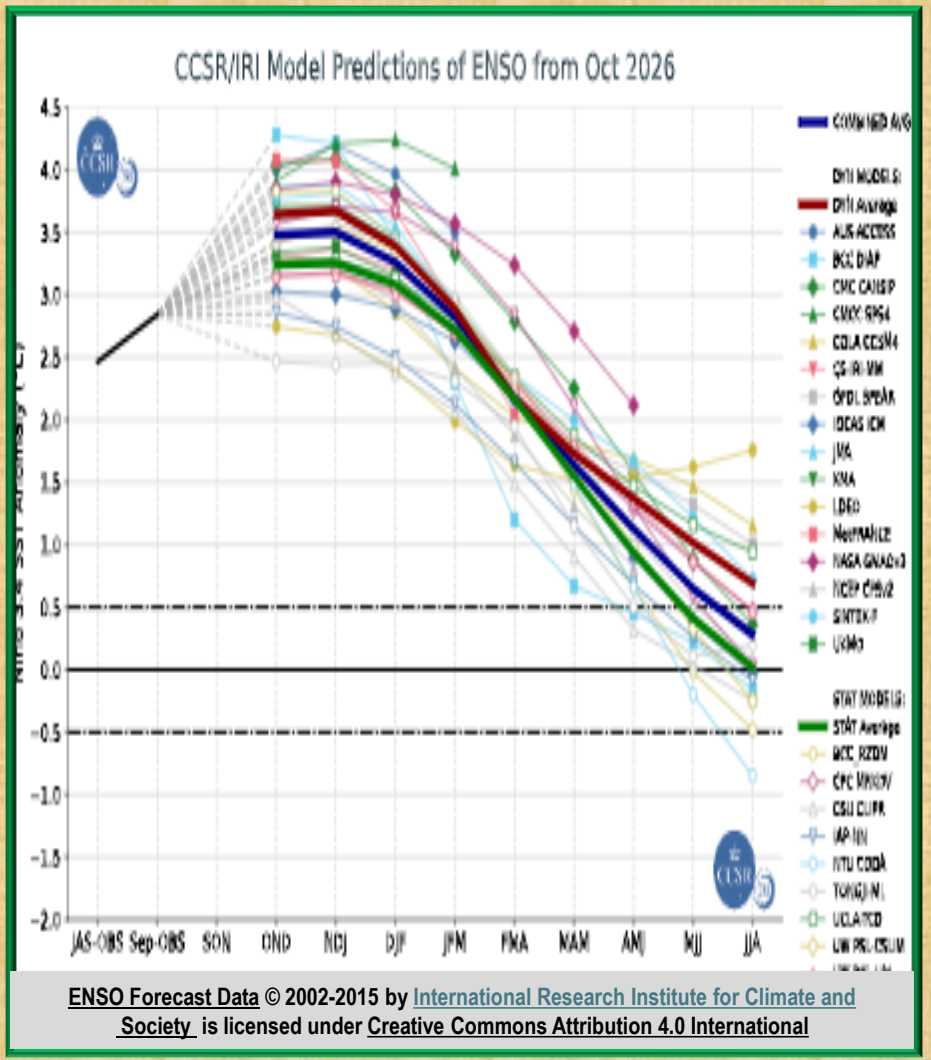
- El Niño or La Niña Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño or La Niña conditions in the next six months.
- El Niño or La Niña Advisory: Issued when El Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

ENSO Forecast

ENSO is currently in a very strong El Niño phase but is expected to rapidly weaken by late winter.

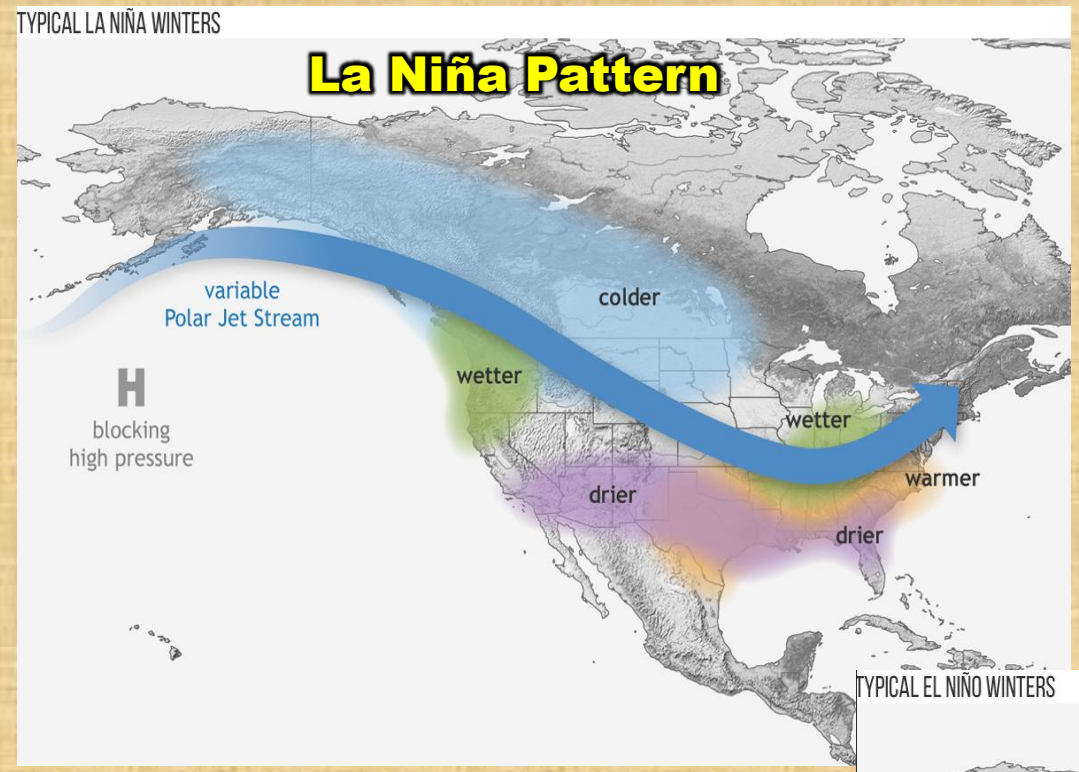


Now at very strong El Niño phase. Strength forecast to weaken toward late winter.



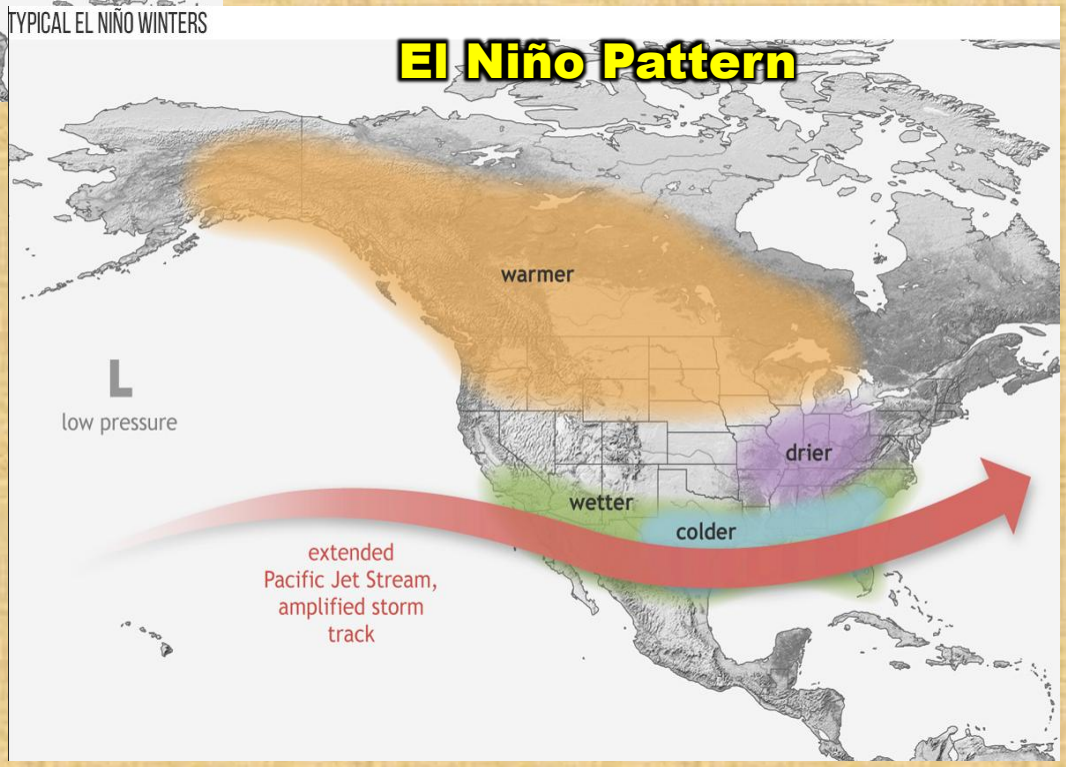
ENSO Forecast Data © 2002-2015 by International Research Institute for Climate and Society is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International

Ensemble members forecast showing a very strong El Niño into Spring dropping off to weak El Niño next summer



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 southwestern U.S. above normal precipitation.

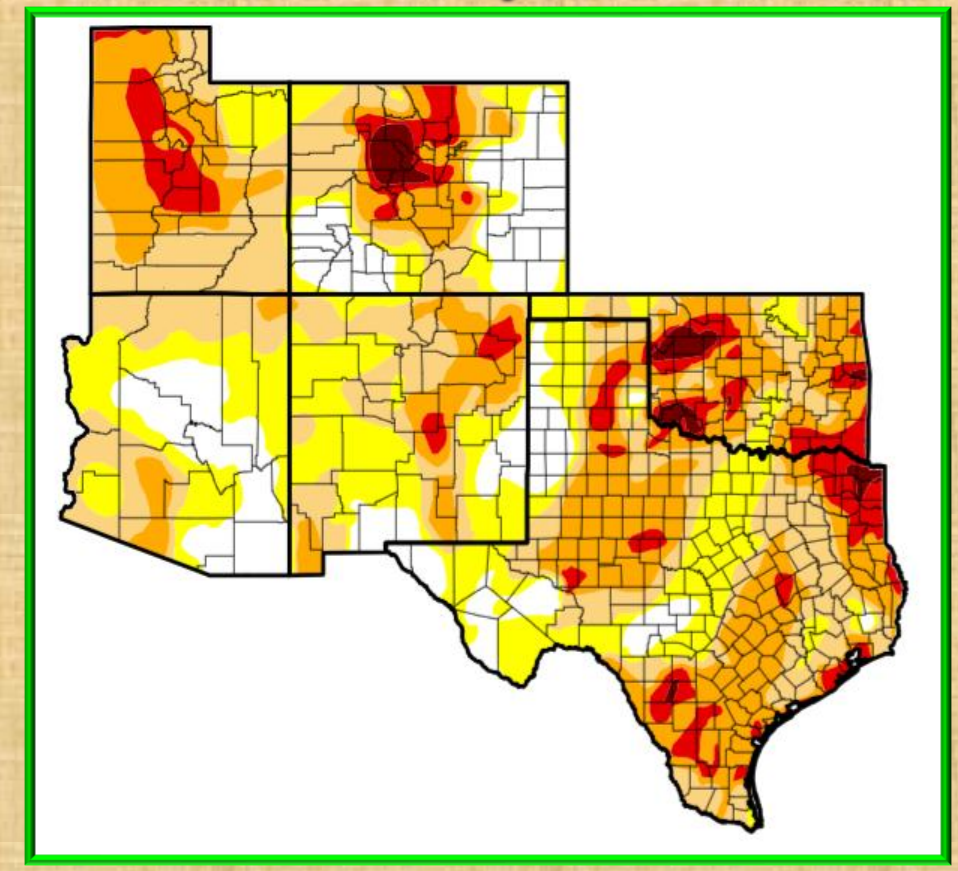


Current drought conditions and 3 month change

Intensity:

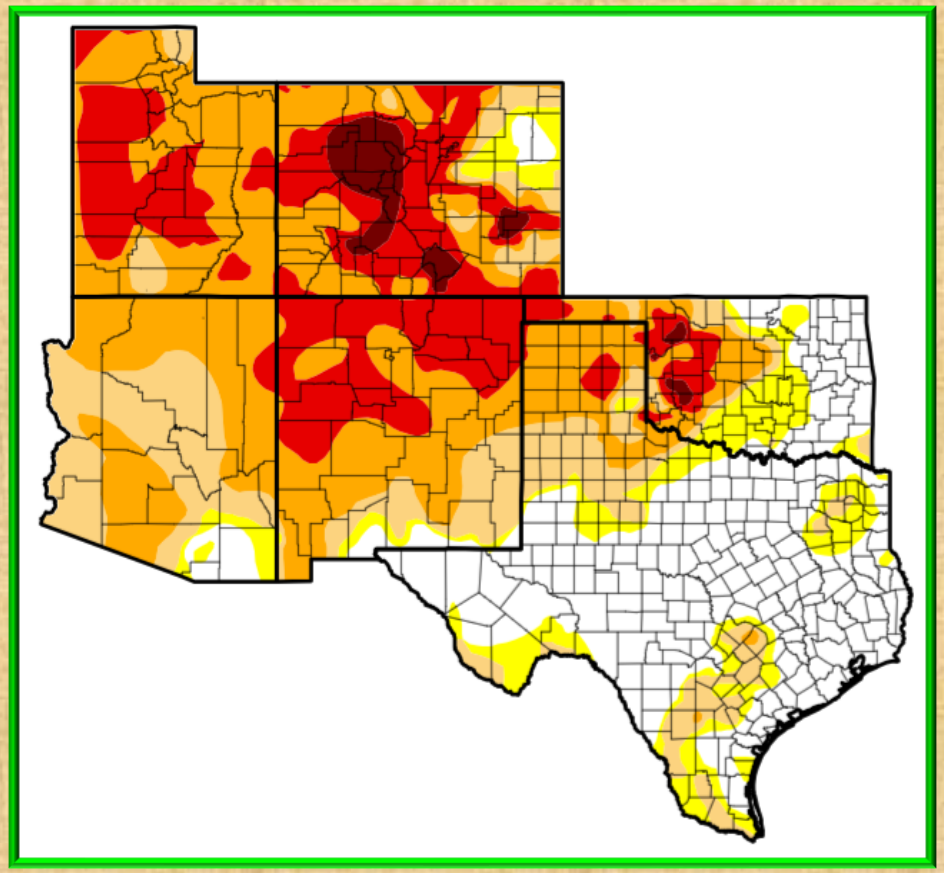
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

Oct 27, 2026



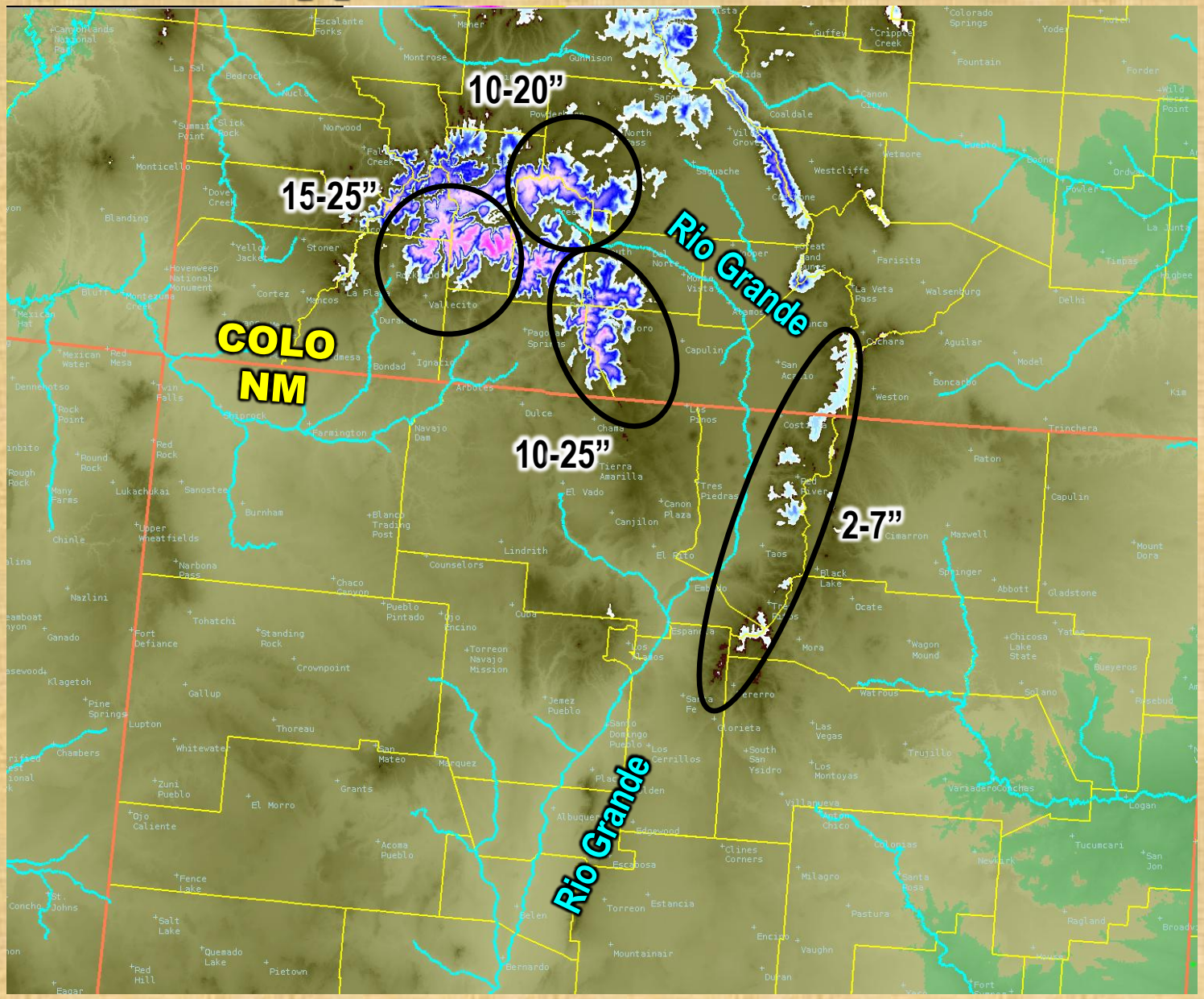
Drought conditions continue to slowly ease; now mostly in D1 or less

Jul 28, 2026

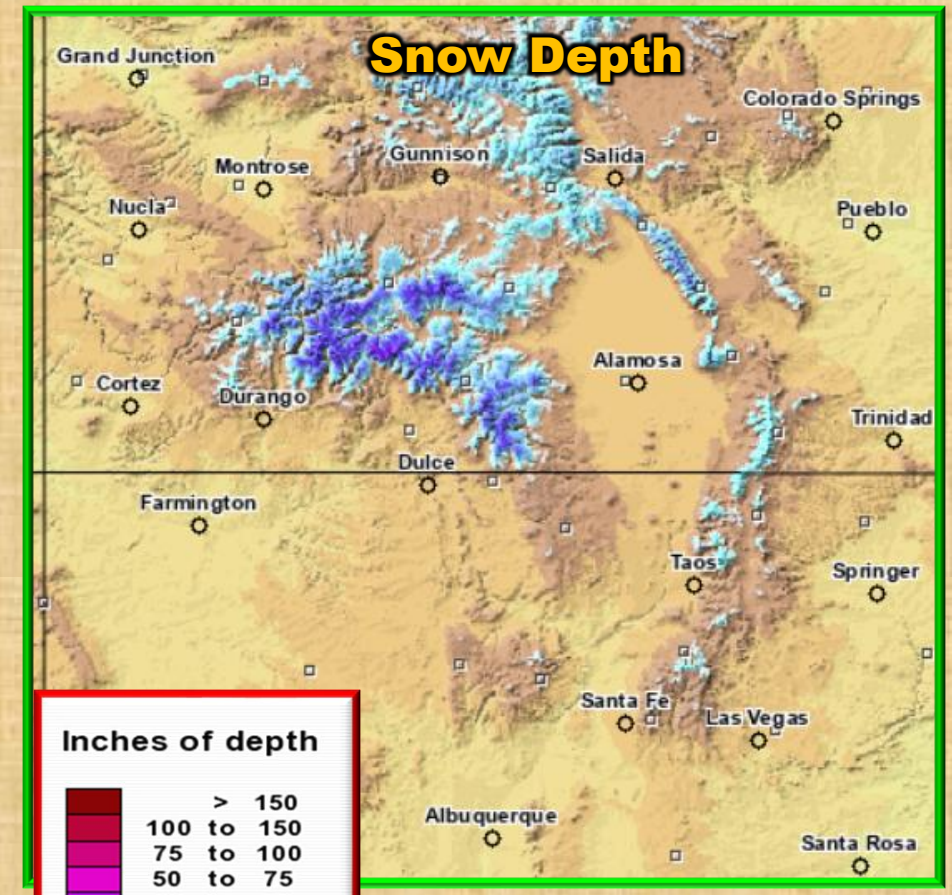


Most of our area is in D2 drought or less

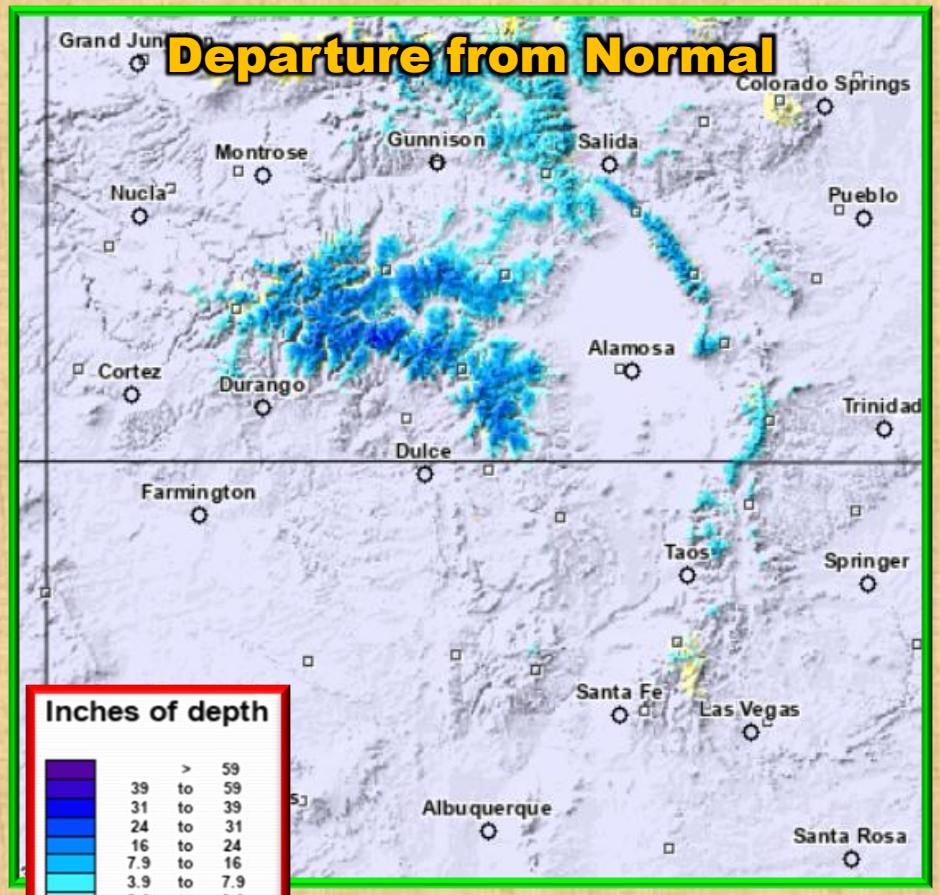
October 31, 2026 Snow Depth
Upper Rio Grande Basin



Snow Data Upper Rio Grande Basin as of Oct 31, 2026



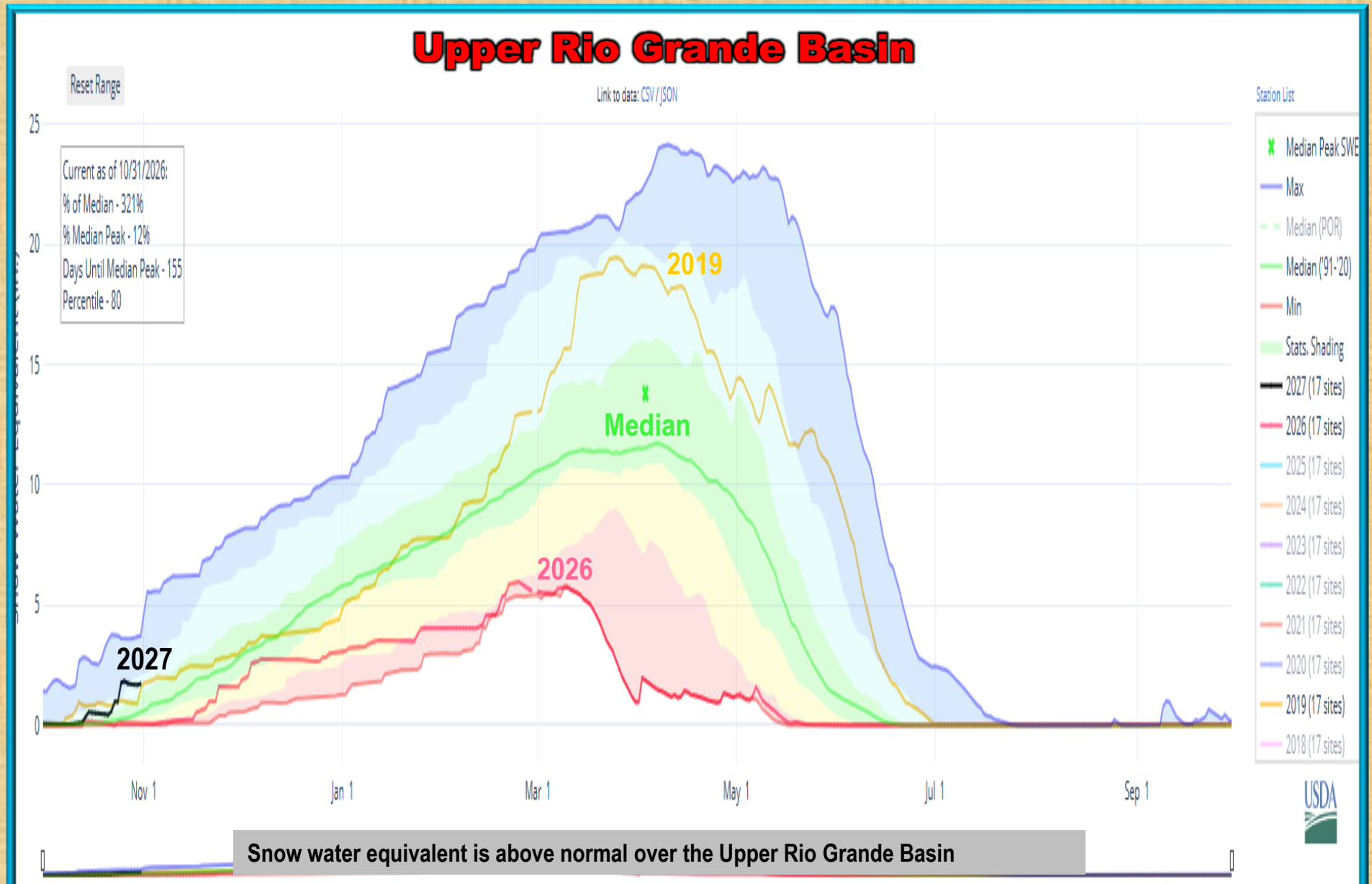
Snow depth mostly 15-30 inches at higher elevations of the Upper Rio Grande Basin



Snow depth around 5-15 inches above normal over the Upper Rio Grande Basin

Snow Water Equivalent as of Oct 31, 2026

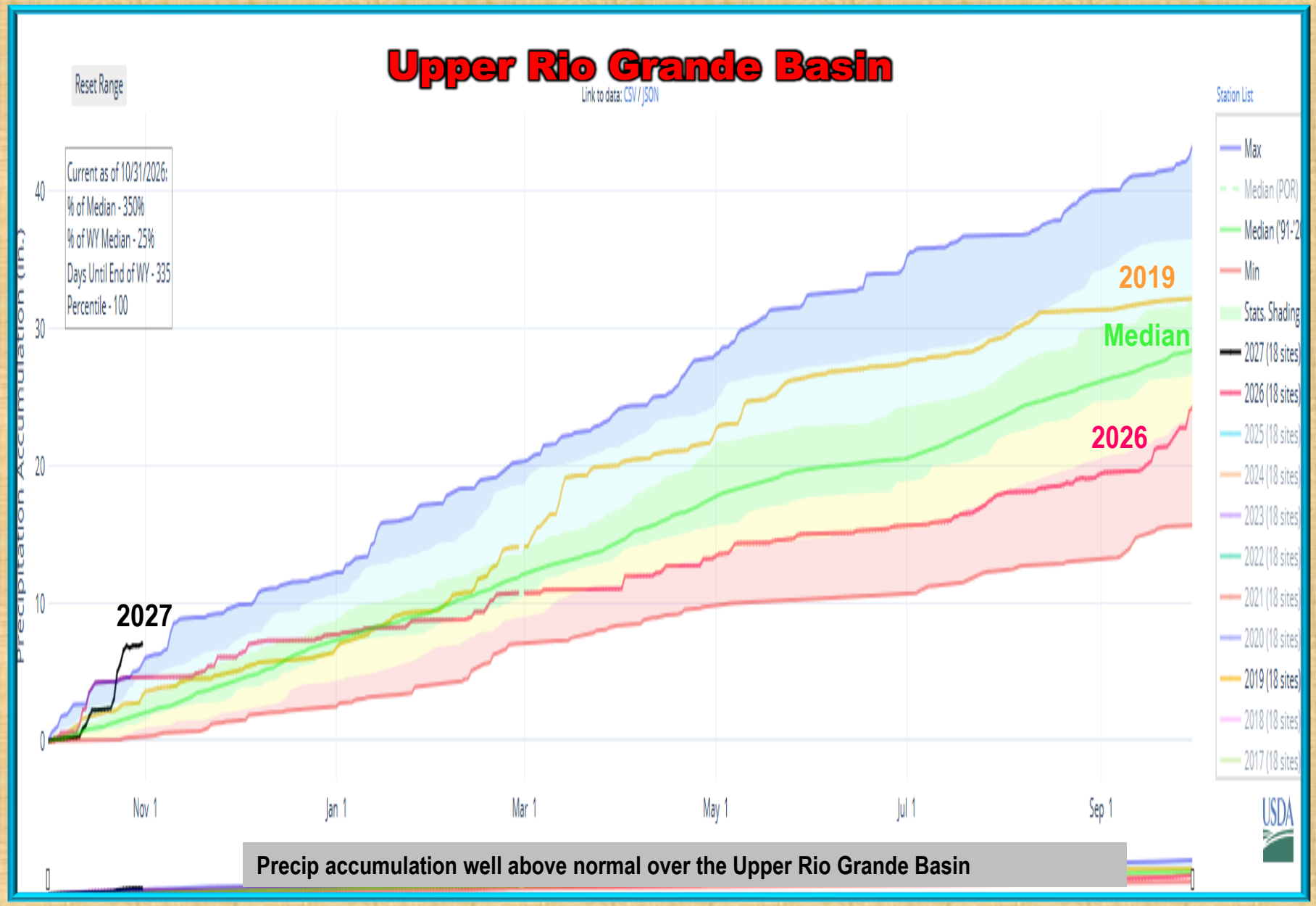
Compared to last few years and average values



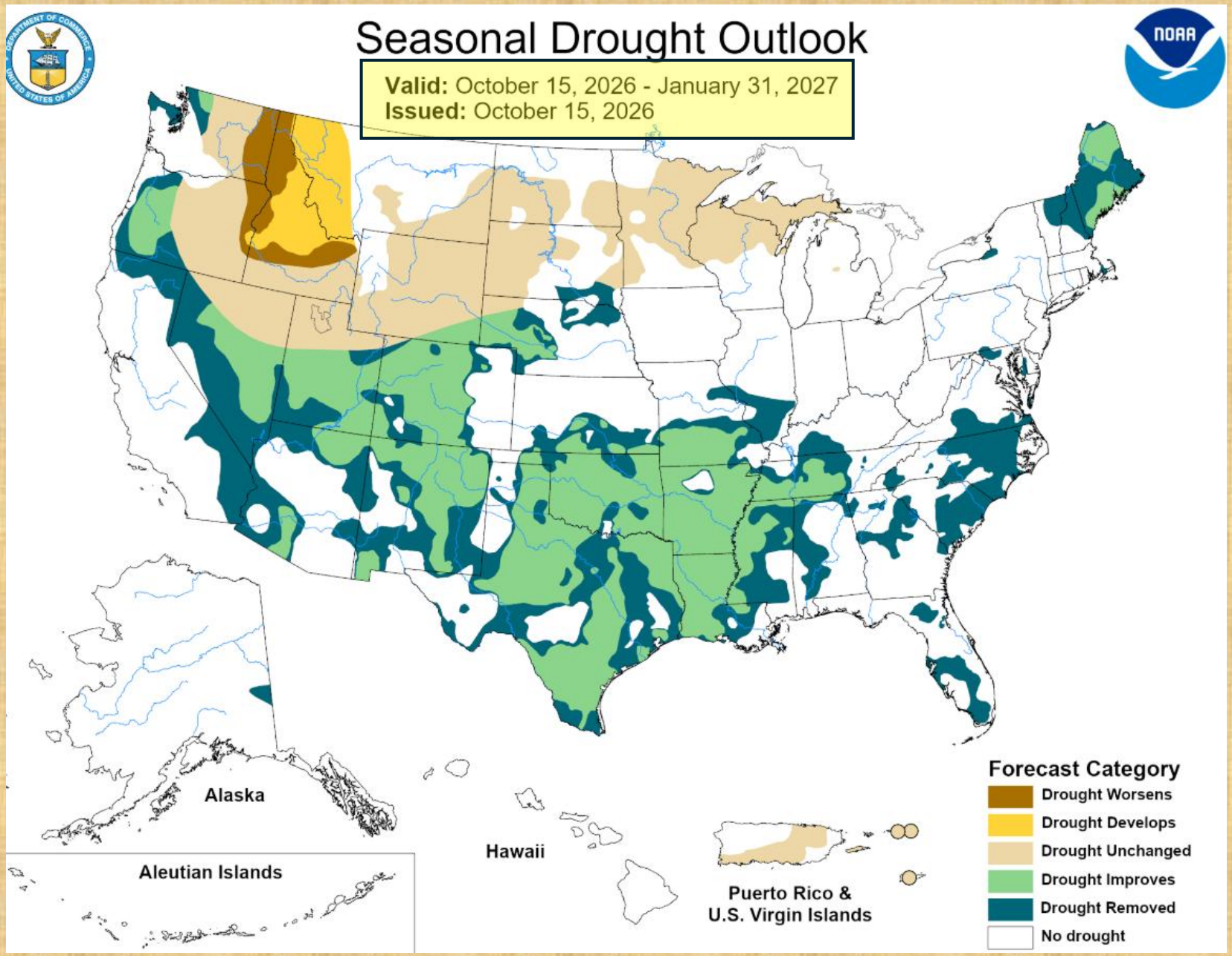
Snow water equivalent is above normal over the Upper Rio Grande Basin

Precipitation for the Water YTD Oct 1 – Oct 31, 2026

Compared to last few years and average values



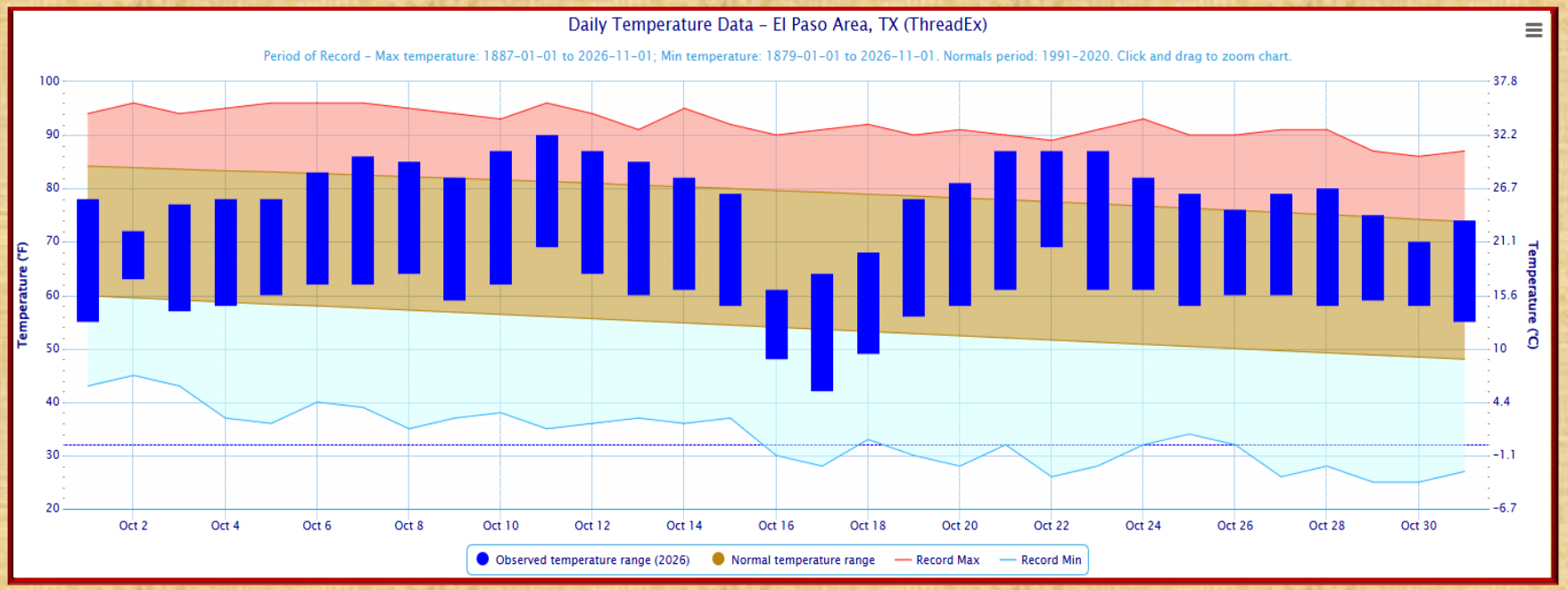
Precip accumulation well above normal over the Upper Rio Grande Basin

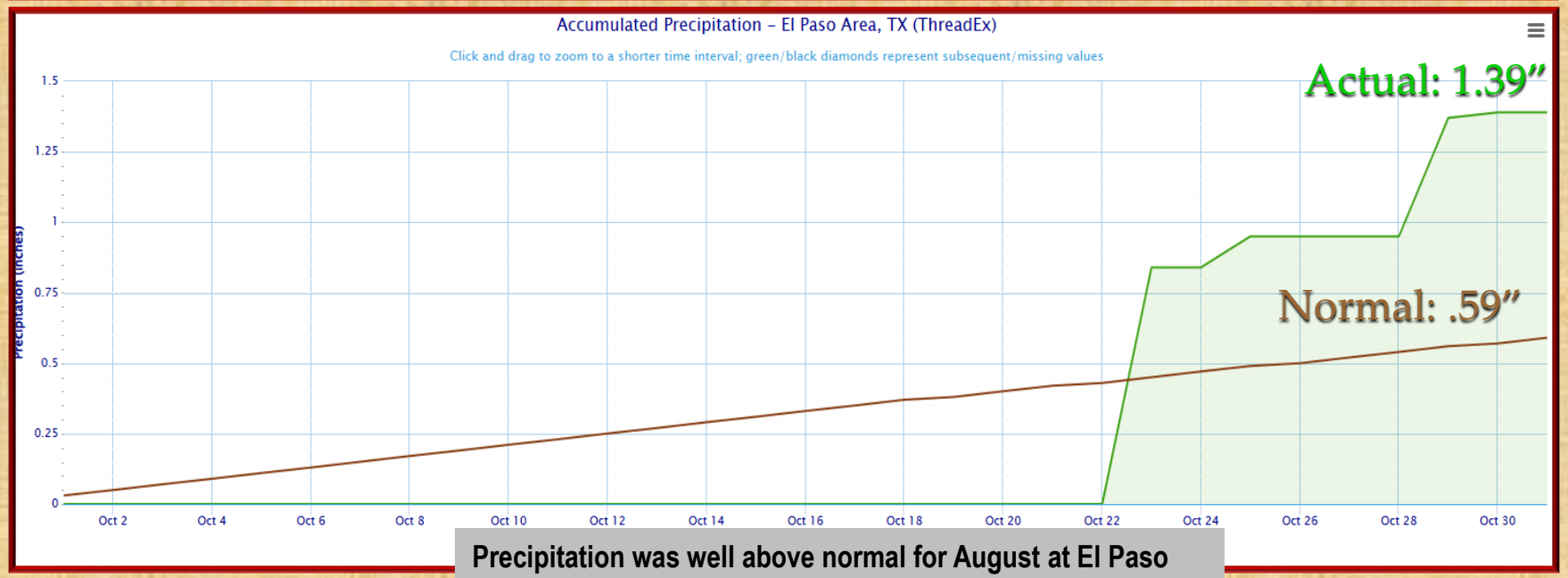


Drought outlook remains positive, with much of southern New Mexico/west Texas either in no drought or conditions improving

Temperature and precipitation data for October 2026 in El Paso

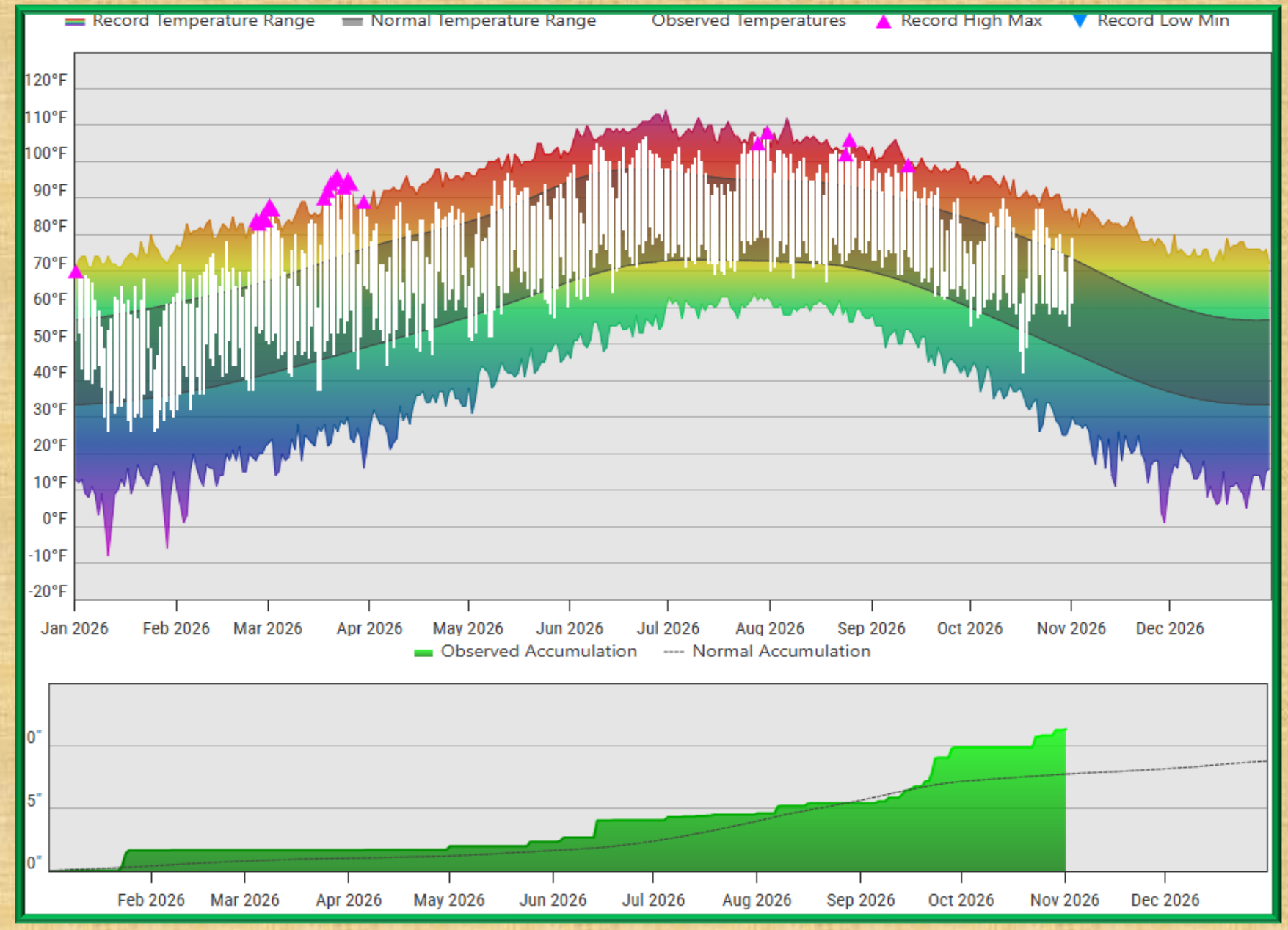
= record



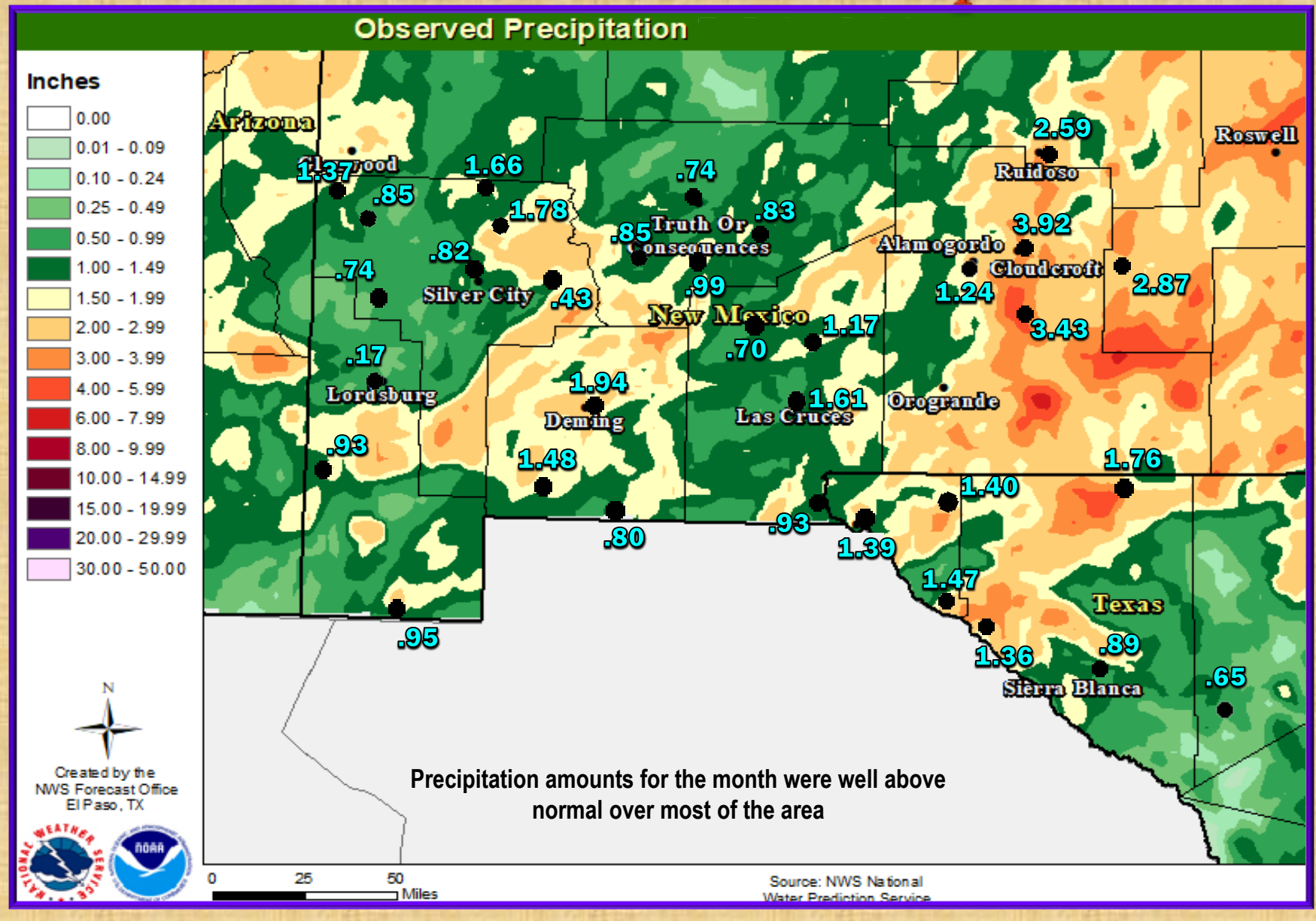


Precipitation was well above normal for August at El Paso

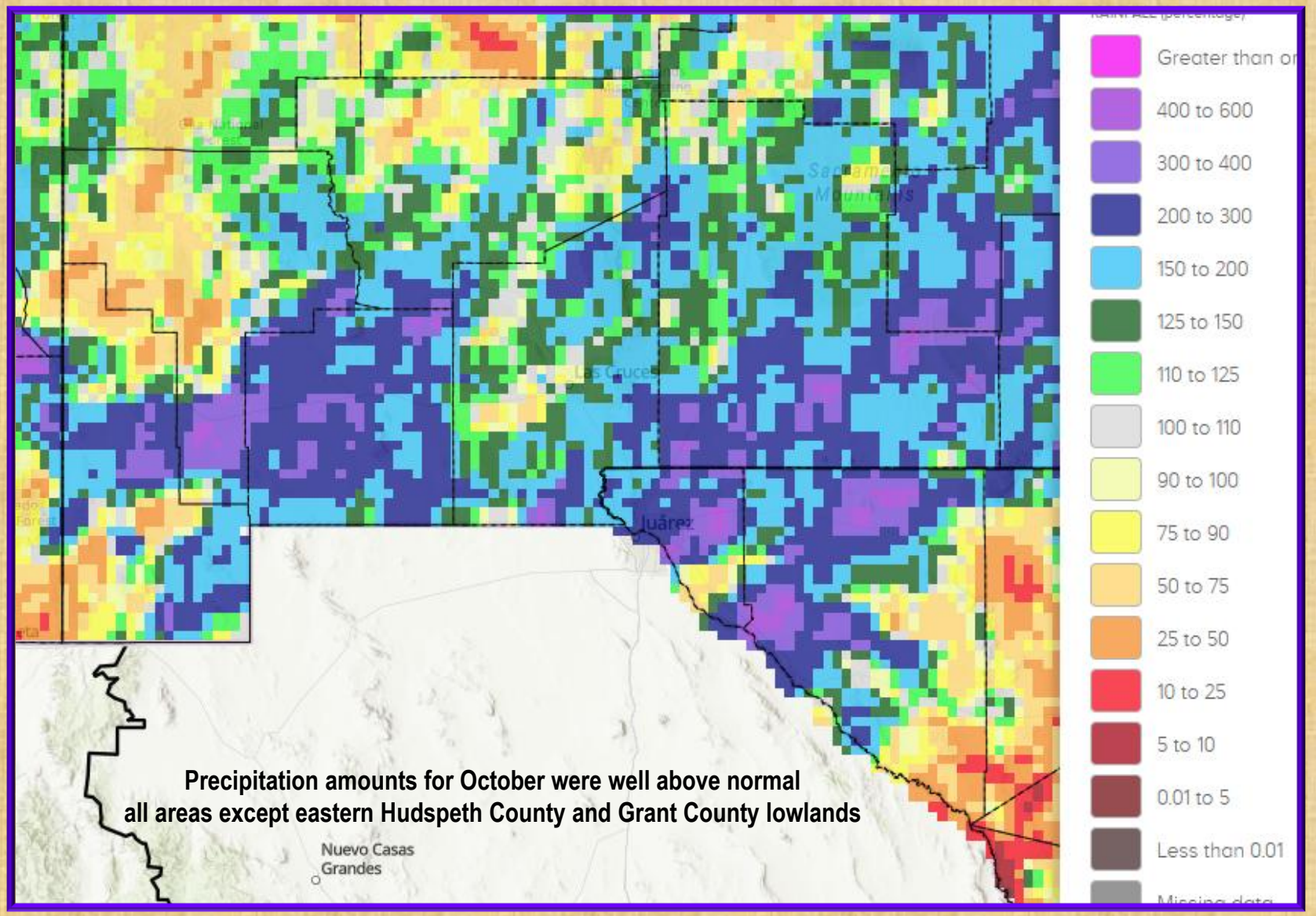
2026 Temperature and Precipitation through October for El Paso



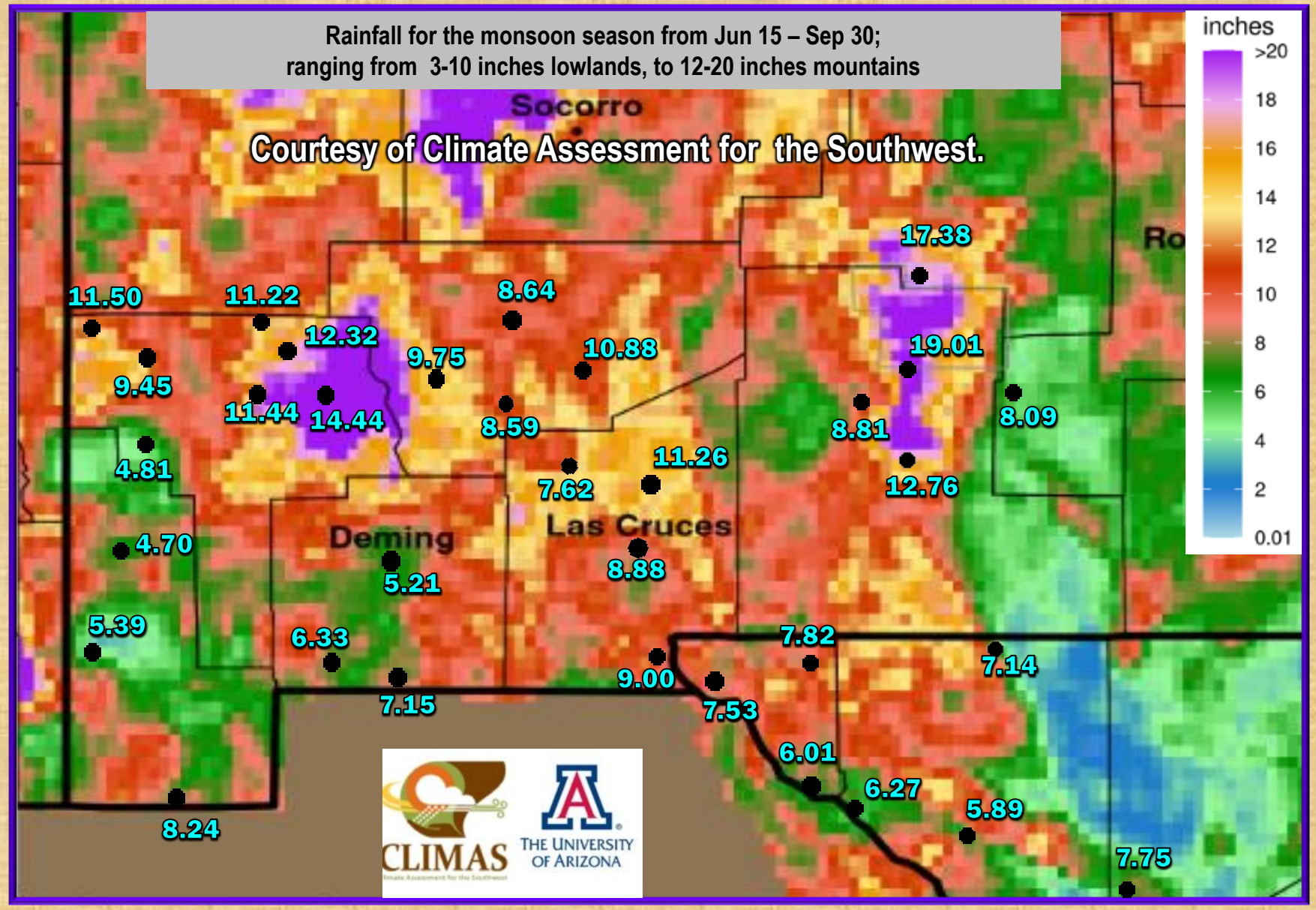
October 2026 rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



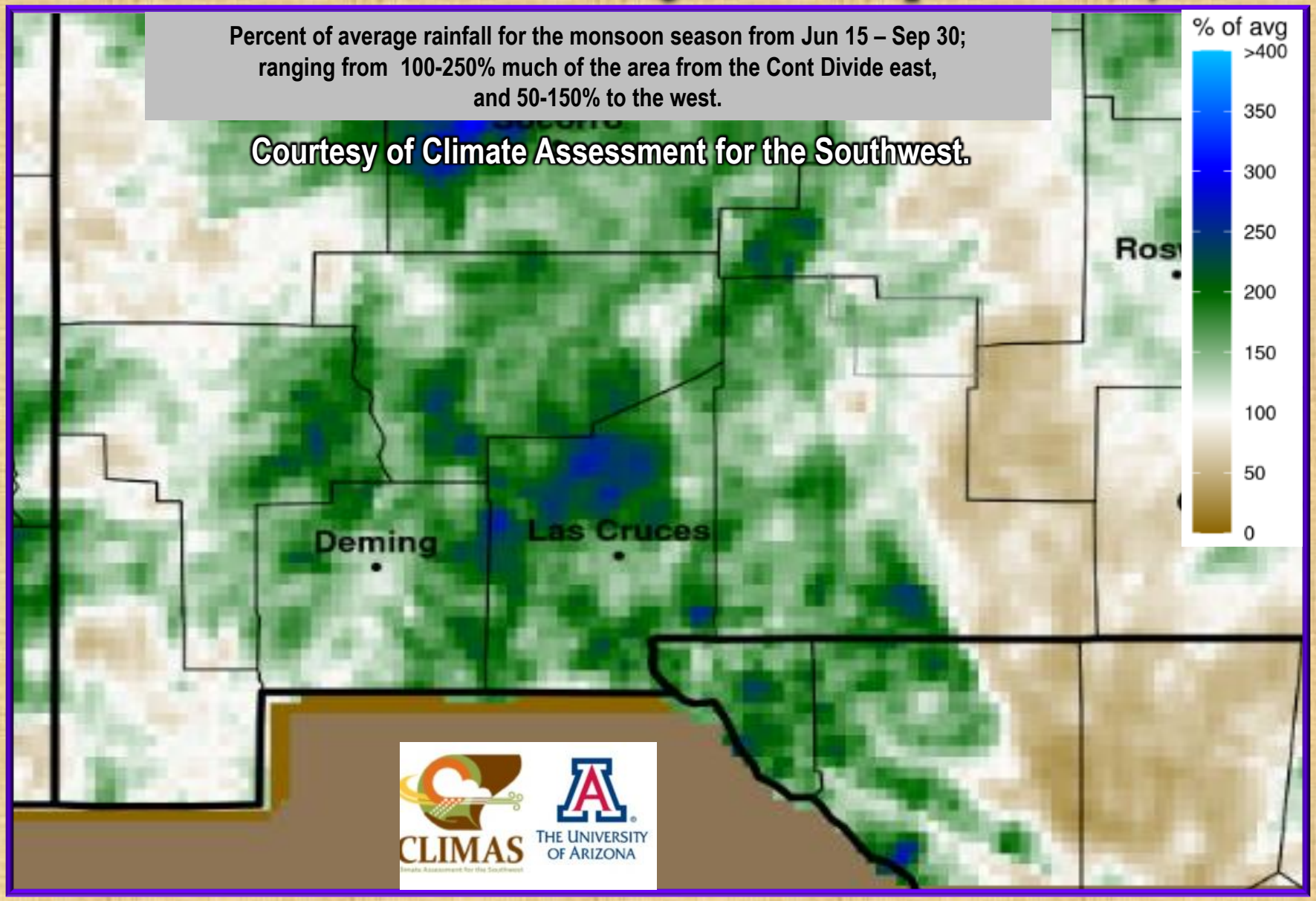
October 2026 rainfall estimate percent of normal



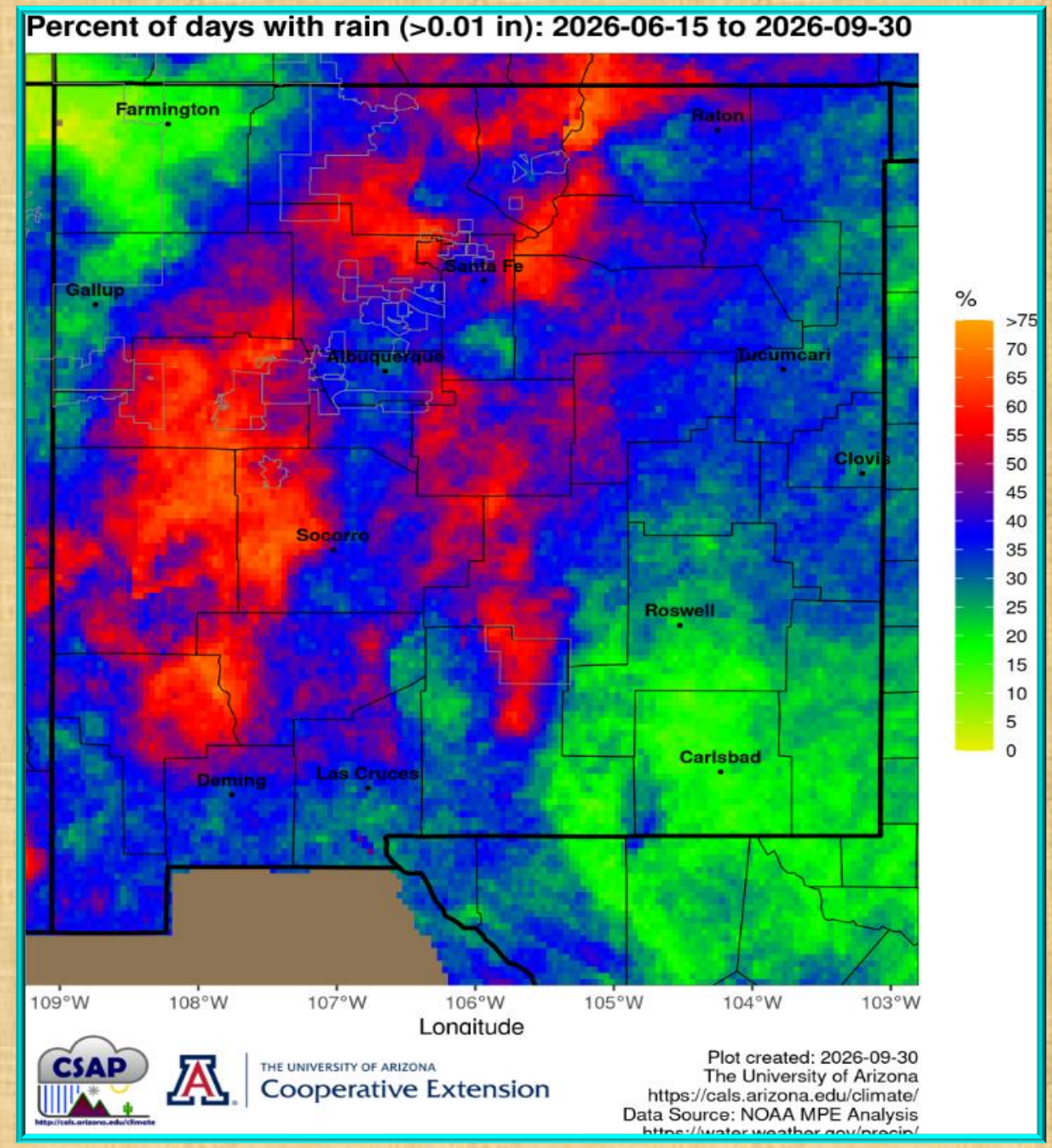
Radar rainfall estimate for the Monsoon Season 2026 (June 15 – September 30, 2026)



Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for Monsoon season 2026 (June 15- September 30)



Jun 15 – Sep 30

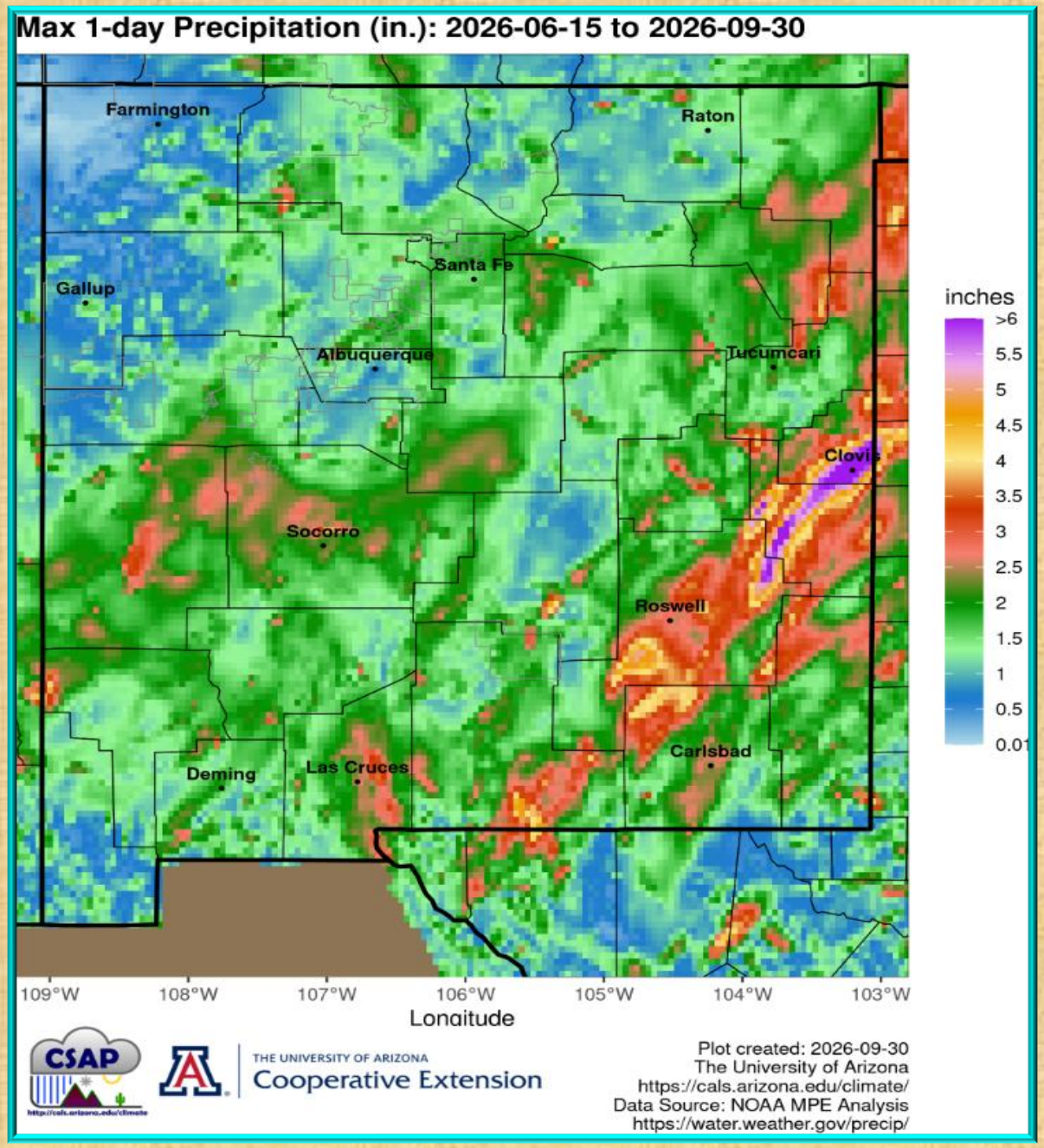


CLIMAS — THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

This map shows the percentage of measurable rainfall days so far during the Monsoon season. Range from about 25-40% lowlands to 50-70% mountains.

Courtesy of Climate Assessment for the Southwest.

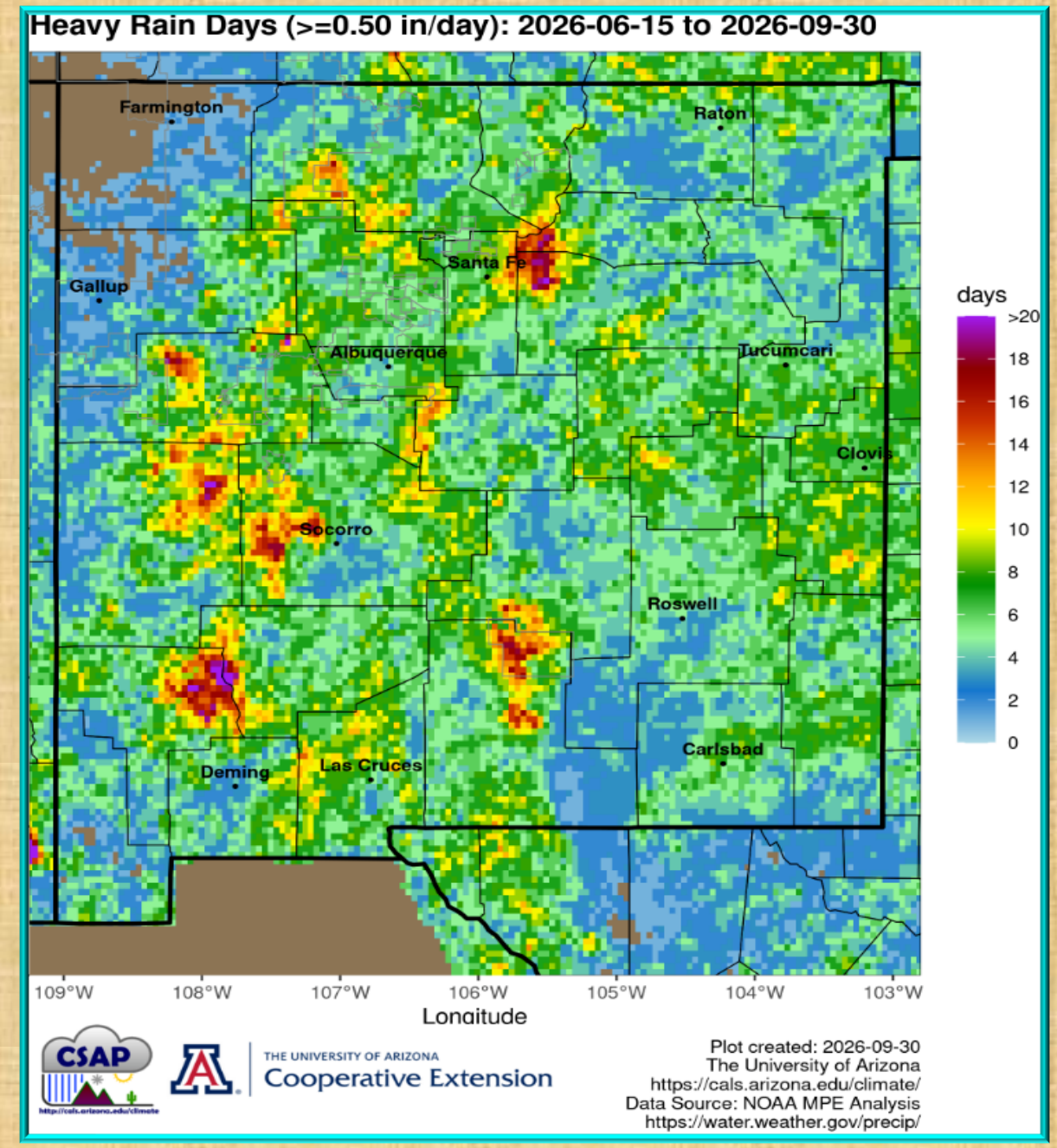
Jun 15 – Sep 30



CLIMAS
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

This map shows greatest one day rainfall total so far during the Monsoon season. Courtesy of Climate Assessment for the Southwest.

Jun 15 – Sep 30

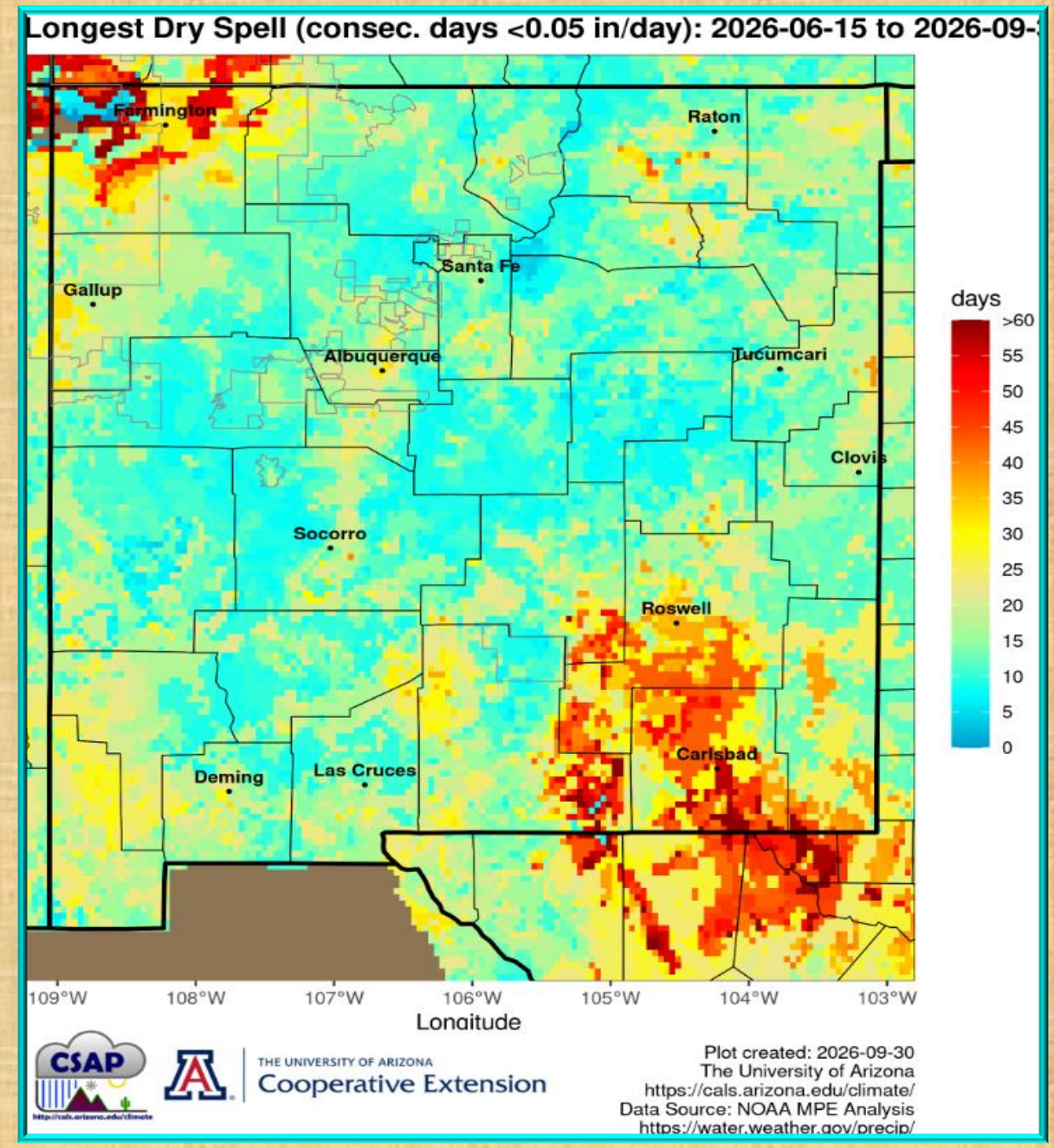


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This map shows the number of days of at least .50” of rain so far during the monsoon season.

Courtesy of Climate Assessment for the Southwest.

Jun 15 – Sep 30



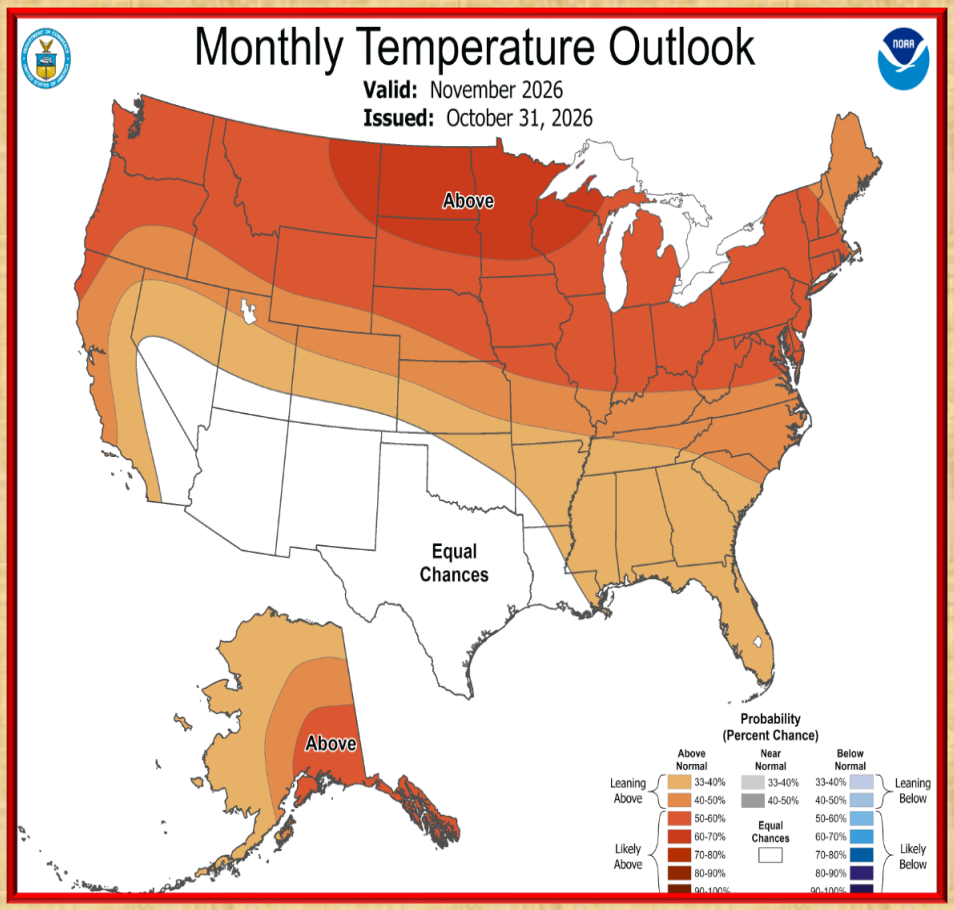
CLIMAS
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

This map shows the number of consecutive days less than .05” of rain was observed. Higher values indicate a long dry spell during the season, while lower values show on short to moderate dry spells during the season.

Courtesy of Climate Assessment for the Southwest.

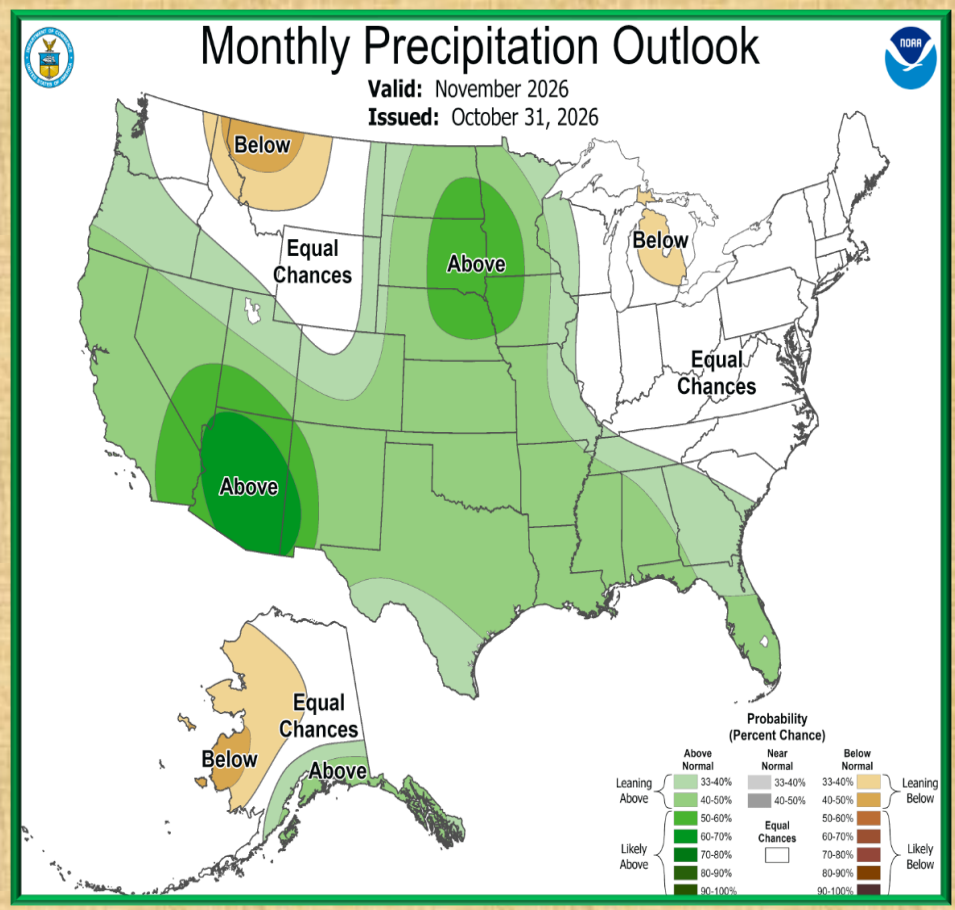
Temperature and Precipitation Outlook For November 2026

Temperature



Equal chances of above, below, or normal temperatures

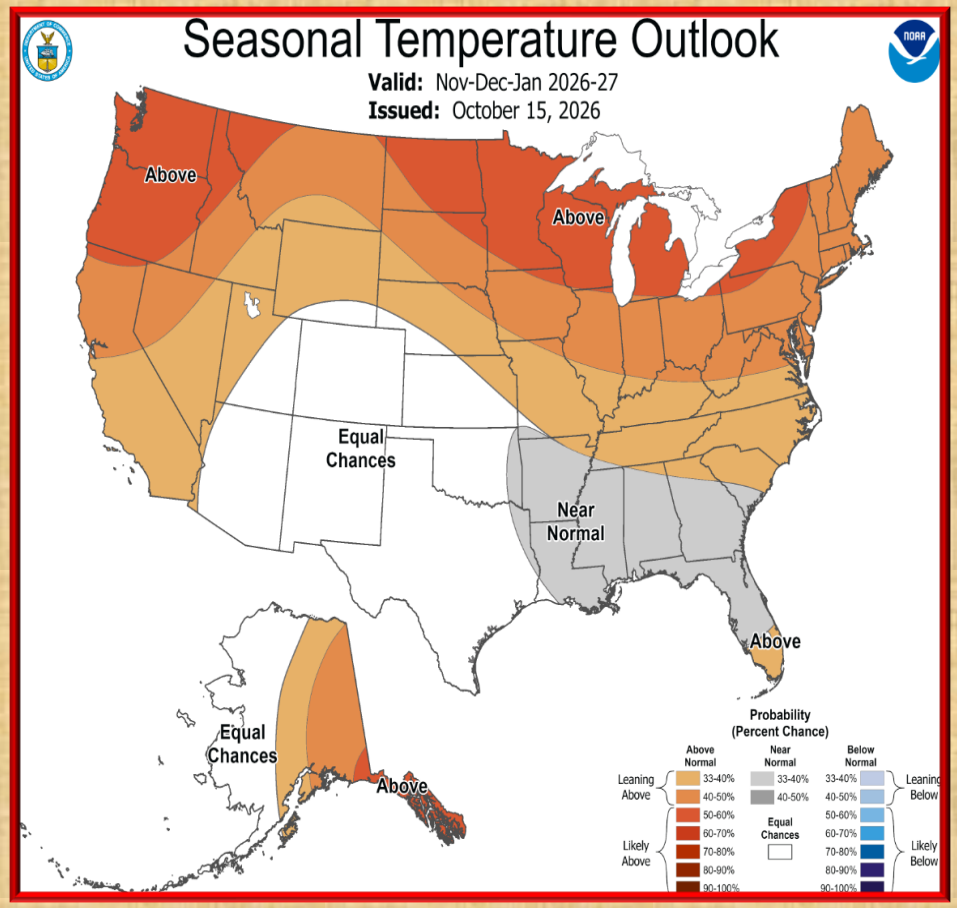
Precipitation



40-60 percent chance of above normal precipitation.

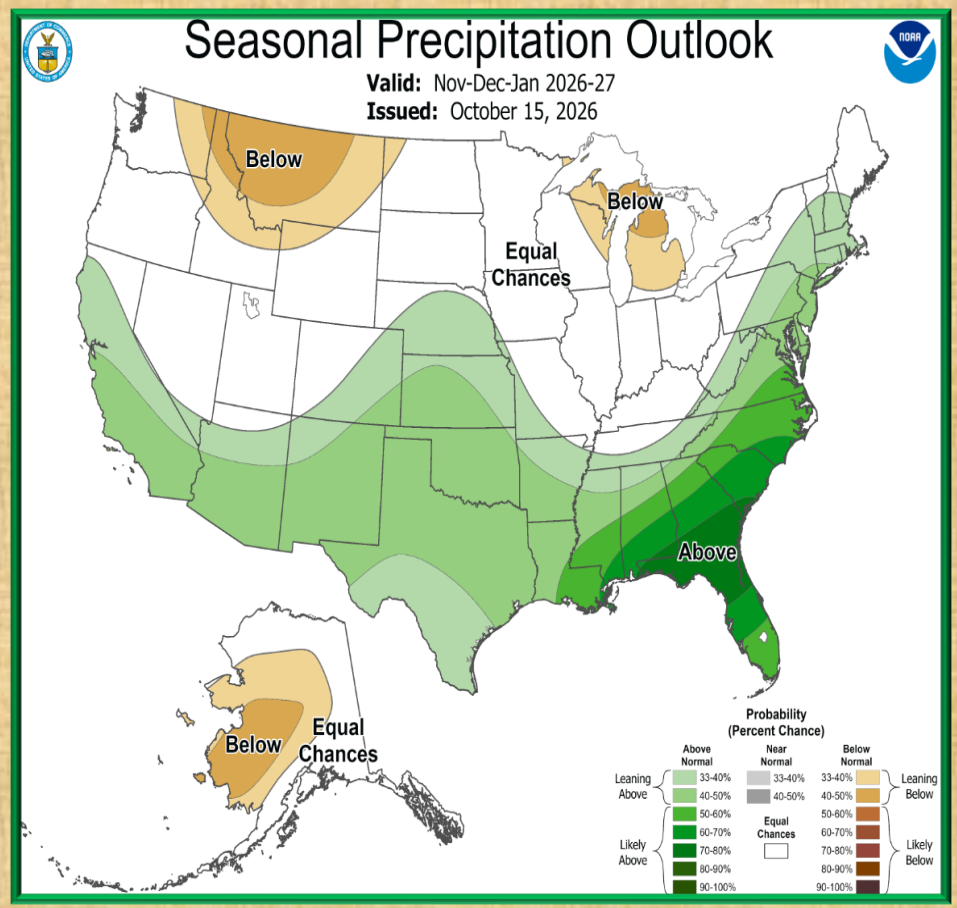
Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for Nov-Jan 2027

Temperature



Equal chances of above, below, or normal temperatures

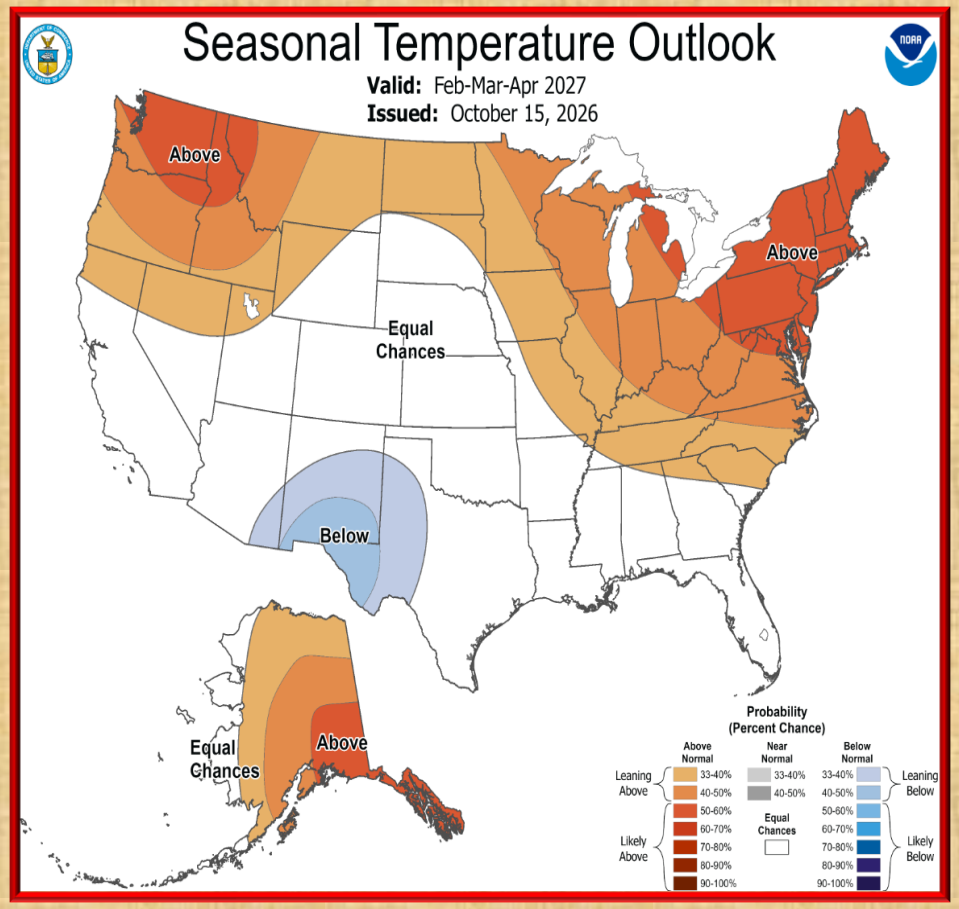
Precipitation



40-50 percent chance of above normal precipitation.

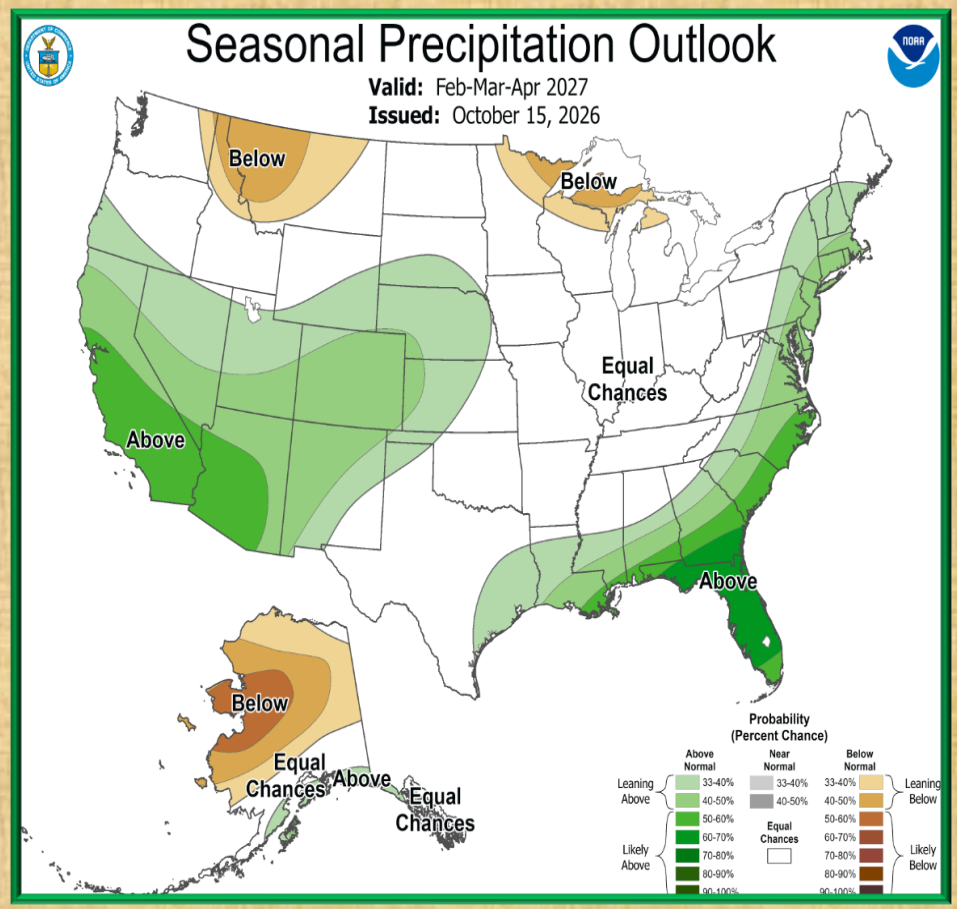
Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for Feb-Apr 2027

Temperature



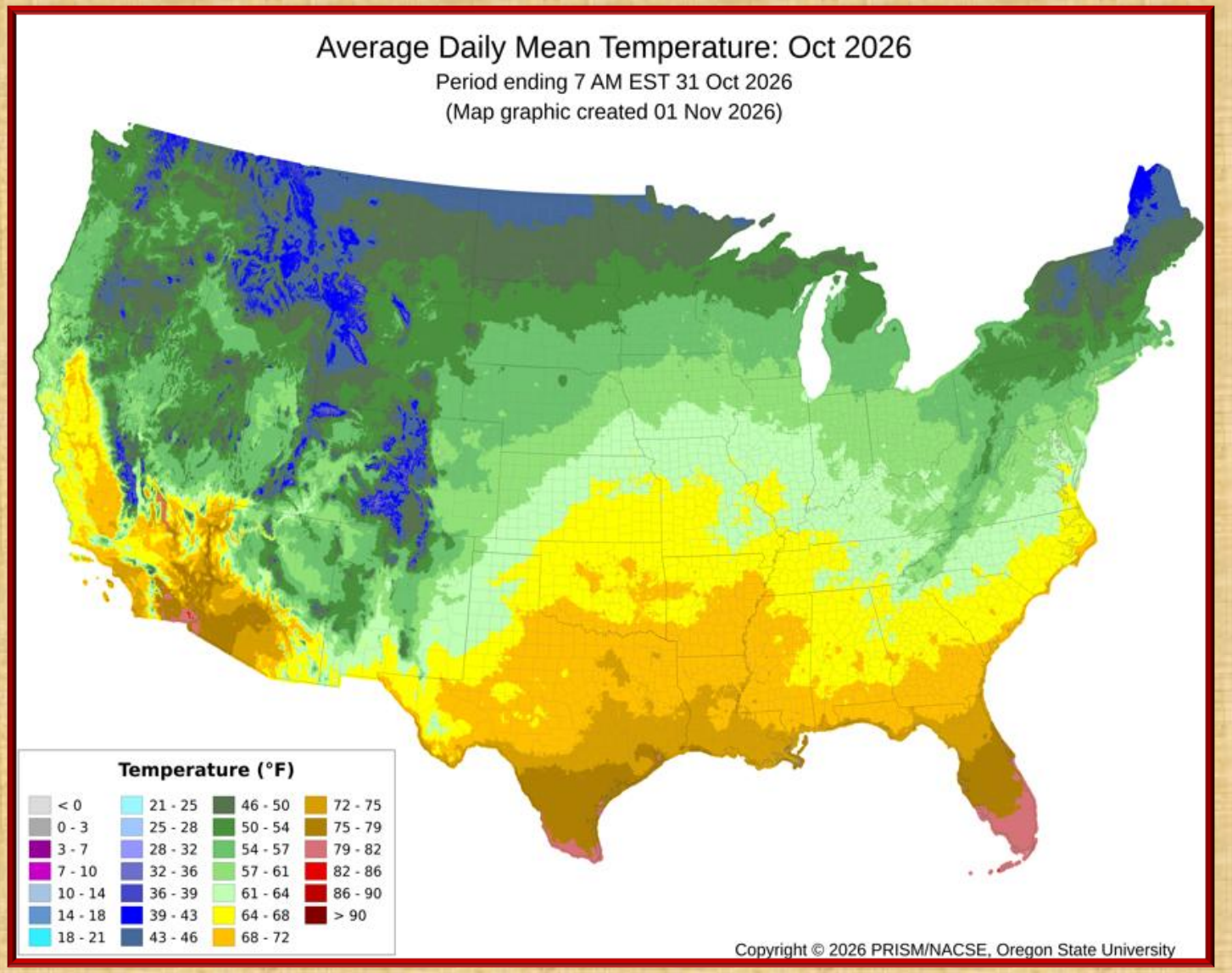
40-50 percent chance of below normal temperatures.

Precipitation



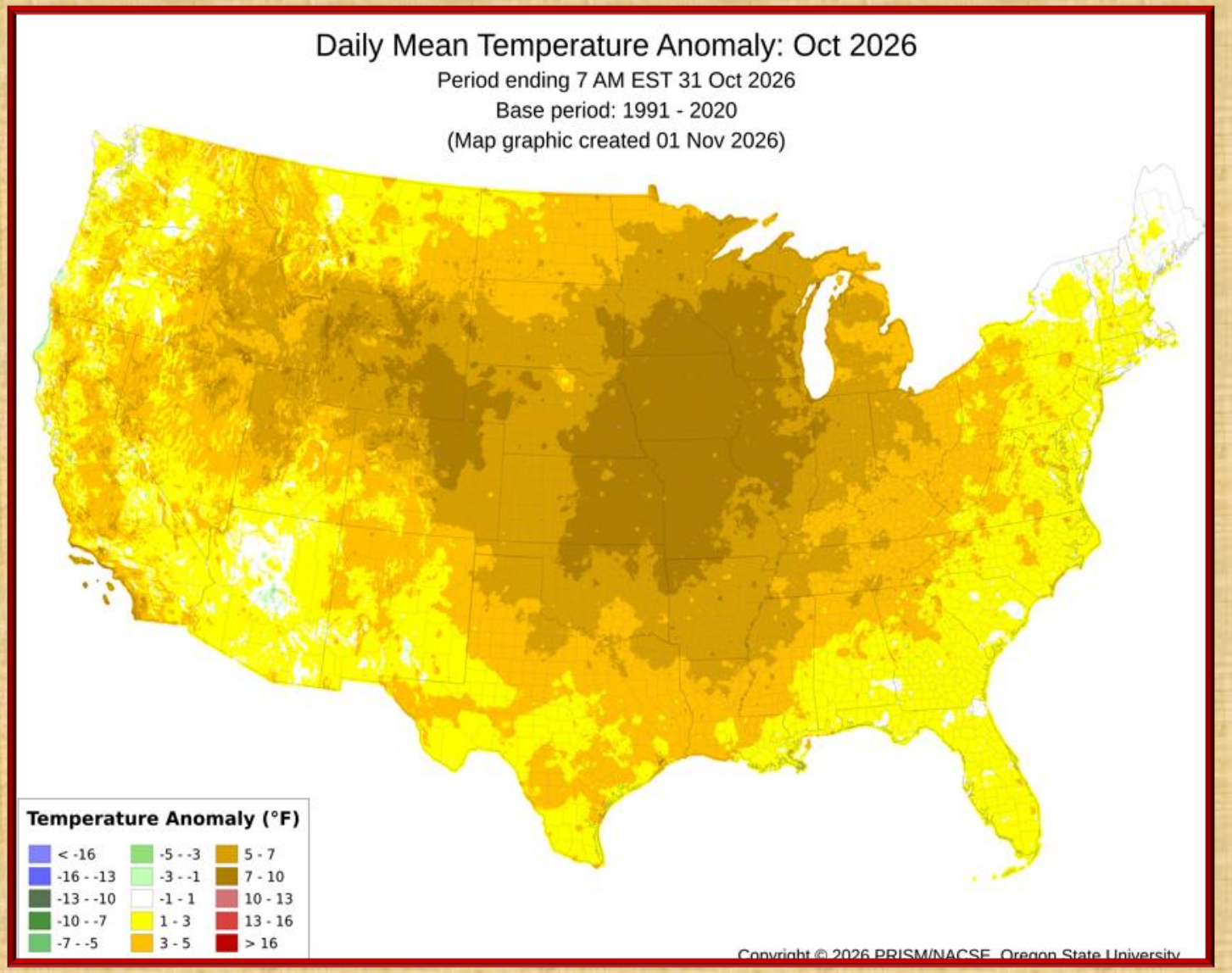
30-50 percent chance of above normal precipitation.

Average Daily Mean Temperature for October 2026



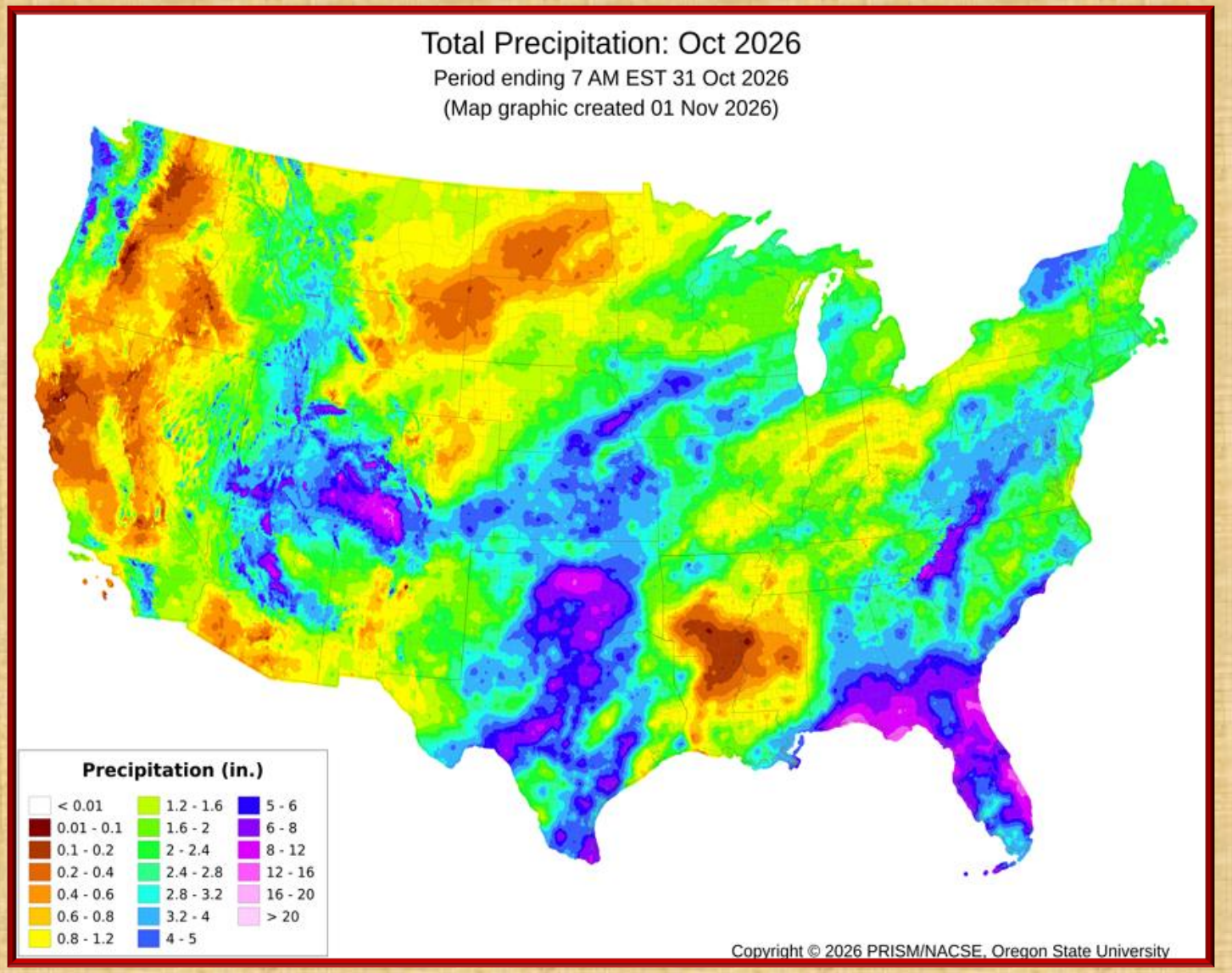
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Daily Mean Temperature Departure from Normal, October 2026



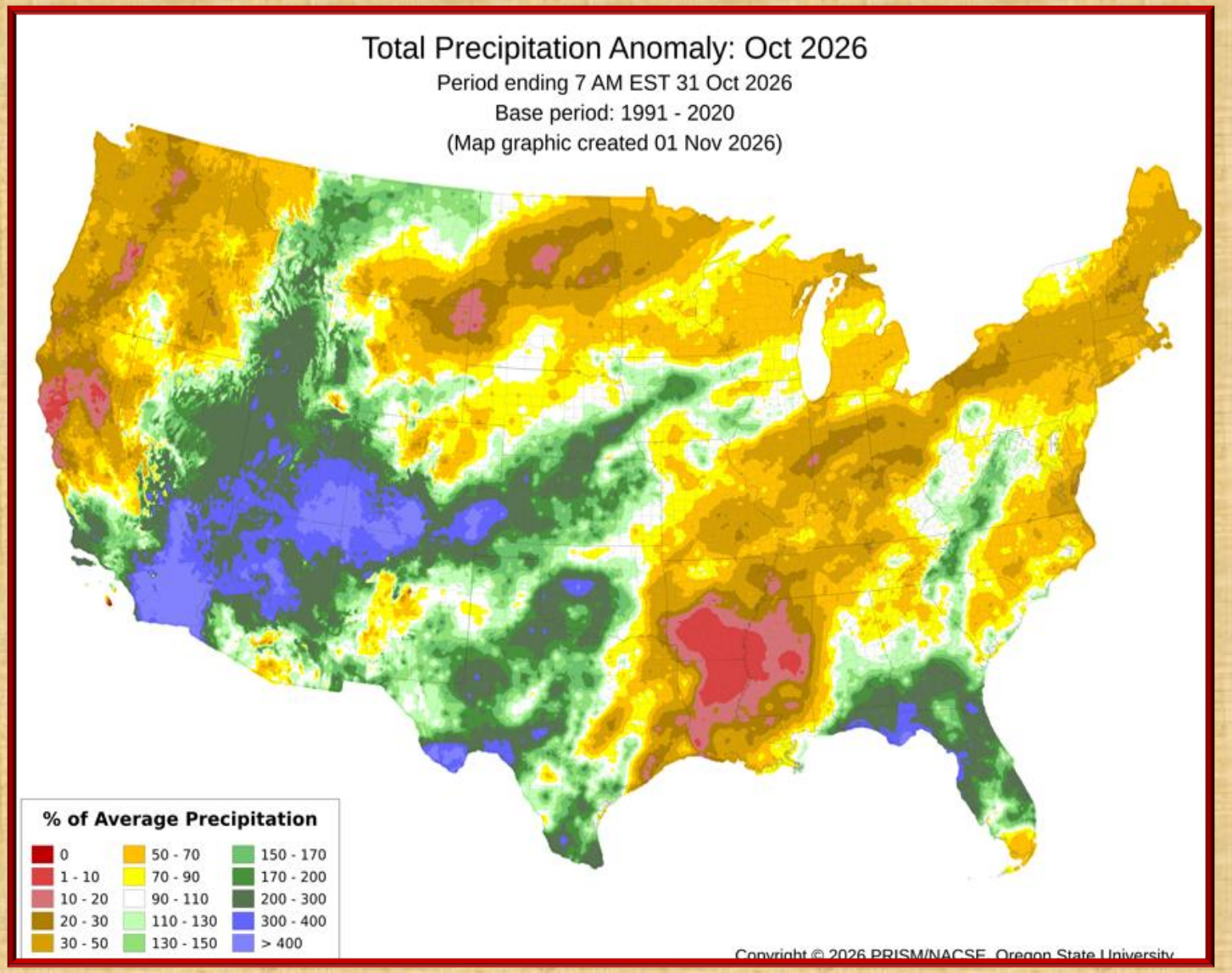
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Total Precipitation for October 2026



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Percent of Normal Precipitation for October 2026



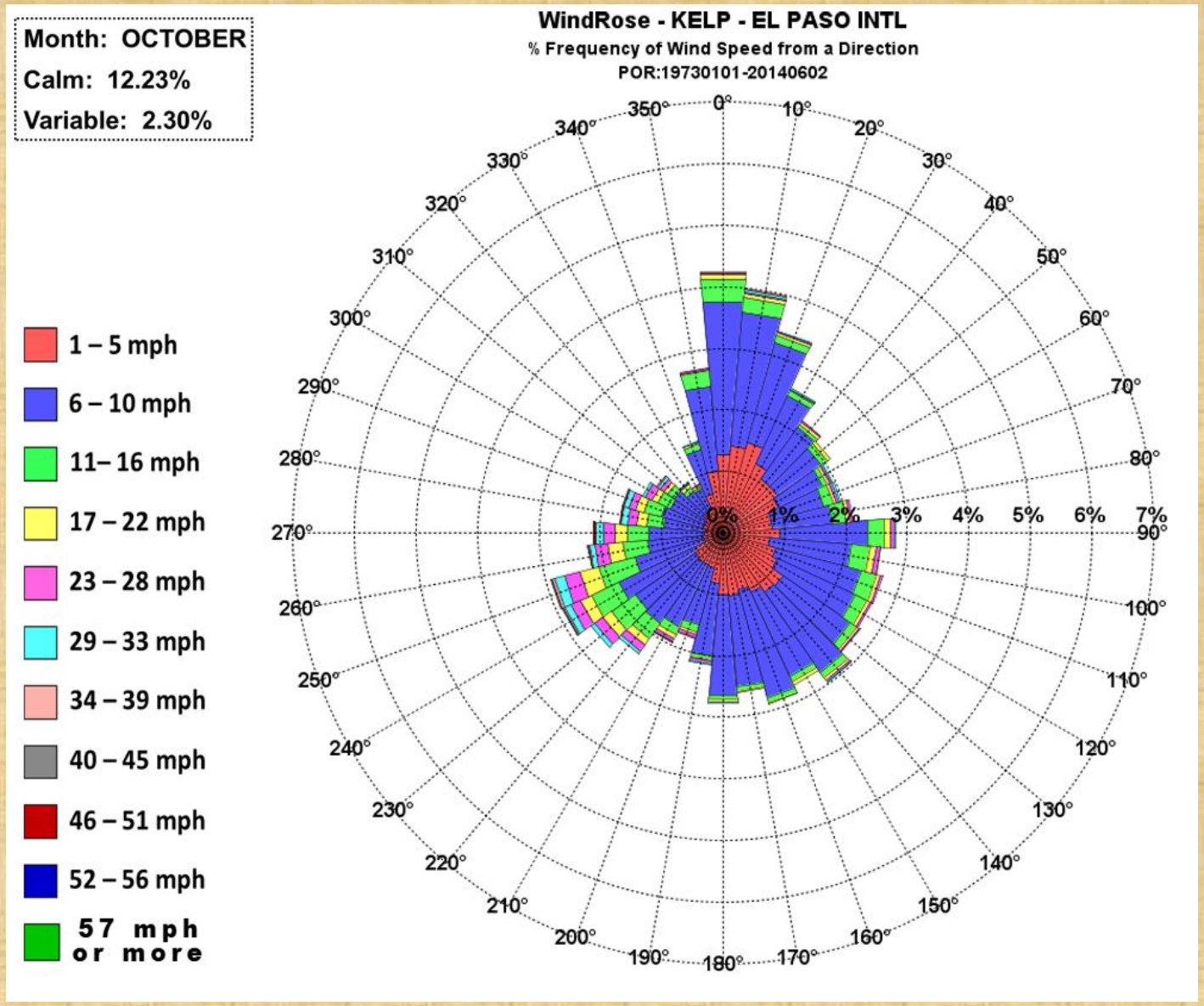
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Selected Weather Reports October 2026

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
OCT 16 500 AM	LA UNION-DONA ANA	60 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 15 910 PM	HIGH ROLLS-OTERO	59 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 16 710 AM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP13-HIDALGO	57 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 16 424 AM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 16 226 AM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 16 555 AM	SAN AUGSTION PASS-DONA ANA	50 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 15 938 PM	SIERRA BLANCA-HUDSPETH	45 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 16 424 AM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	45 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 16 217 AM	ALAMOGORDO 1SW-OTERO	44 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 15 1059 PM	DELL CITY-HUDSPETH	43 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 15 1125 PM	SUNLAND PARK 1W-DONA ANA	42 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
OCT 16 615 AM	SANTA TERESA AIRPORT-DONA ANA	41 MPH PEAK WIND GUST

Special Features

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