NWS FORM E-5	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERC NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATIC	E HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HS	SA)	
(PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924) NATIONAL WEATHER SE			(TSA)	
		REPORT FOR:		
MONTHLY F	REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	MONTH	YEAR	
		April	2020	
		SIGNATURE		
TO:	Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2	Steven F. Piltz		
	NOAA / National Weather Service	(Meteorologist-in-Charge)		
	1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283	DATE		
		May 4, 2020		

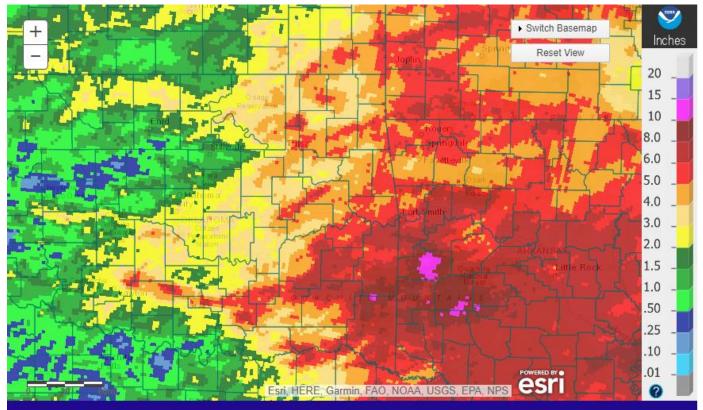
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

An "X" in the box indicates no flood stages were reached in this Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) during the month above.

It was a typical April this year, with severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flooding. Some minor river flooding occurred during April 2020. Overall, temperatures were near to below normal, with some areas receiving below normal rainfall and others receiving above normal rainfall. Normal precipitation for the month of April ranges from 3.1 inches in Pawnee County to 4.7 inches in Latimer County. The Ozark region of northwest Arkansas averages 4.3 inches for the month. This report, past E-5 reports, and monthly hydrology and climatology summaries can be found at http://www.weather.gov/tsa/hydro-monthly-summary.

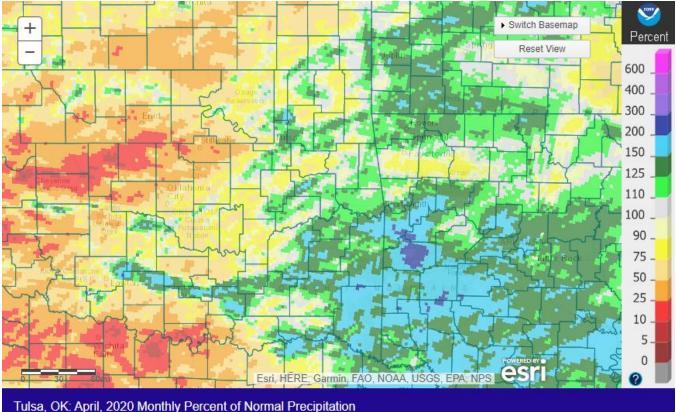
Monthly Summary

Using the radar-derived estimated observed precipitation from the RFCs (Fig. 1a), rainfall totals for April 2020 ranged from around 1.5" to around 10" across eastern OK and northwest AR, with most of the area receiving 3"-6". These rainfall totals correspond to 75% to 125% of the normal April rainfall across the majority of the area, with some areas receiving 125-200% and others only 25%-75% of normal (Fig. 1b).



Tulsa, OK: April, 2020 Monthly Observed Precipitation Valid on: May 01, 2020 12:00 UTC

Fig. 1a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for April 2020



Valid on: May 01, 2020 12:00 UTC

Fig. 1b. Estimated % of Normal Rainfall for April 2020

In Tulsa, OK, April 2020 ranked as the 41st coldest April (59.3°F, tied 1982, 1968; since records began in 1905), the 43rd wettest April (4.91"; since records began in 1888), and the 5th snowiest April (Trace, tied 18 other years; since records began in 1900). Fort Smith, AR had the 30th coldest April (59.8°F, tied 1996, 1935, 1898; since records began in 1883) and the 29th wettest April (6.46"; since records began in 1883). Fayetteville, AR had the 32nd coldest (57.1°F, tied 1968), the 36th wettest and driest (4.00"), and the 3rd snowiest (Trace) April since records began in 1950.

Some of the larger precipitation reports (in inches) for April 2020 included:

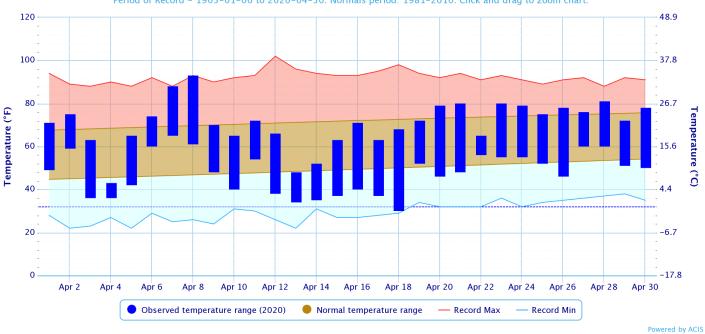
Some of the larger precipita	alion rep	ons (in inches) for April 2020	include	u.	
Clayton, OK (meso)	9.01	Greenwood 1.4W, AR (coco)	7.47	Charleston 1.7E, AR (coco)	7.26
Riverdale 4.2E, AR (coco)	6.93	Wilburton, OK (meso)	6.88	Hindsville 10NNE, AR (coop)	6.52
Fort Smith, AR (ASOS)	6.46	Van Buren 0.7SSE, AR (coco)	6.42	Ozark, AR (coop)	6.41

Some of the lowest precipitation reports (in inches) for April 2020 included:

Oilton, OK (meso)	1.78	Burbank, OK (meso)	2.52	Pawnee, OK (meso)	2.58
Eufaula, OK (meso)	3.02	Porter, OK (meso)	3.07	Foraker, OK (meso)	3.24
Haskell, OK (meso)	3.42	Okemah, OK (meso)	3.45	Bixby, OK (meso)	3.52

According to statistics from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey (OCS) Mesonet:

toording to statistics from the <u>orithmetological ourroy</u> (OCO) Modellet.							
Rank since	April	Spring-to-	Last 90	Year-to-	Water Year-	Last 180	Last 365 Days
1921	2020	Date	Days	Date	to-Date	Days	(May 2, 2019 –
		(Mar 1 –	(Feb 1 –	(Jan 1 –	(Oct 1 – Apr	(Nov 3 –	Apr 30, 2020)
		Apr 30)	Apr 30)	Apr 30)	30)	Apr 30)	
Northeast	46 th	16 th	15 th	8 th	6 th	9 th	1 st
OK	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest
East	43 rd	10 th	11 th	6 th	4 th	8 th	3 rd
Central OK	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest
Southeast	28 th	12 th	12 th	7 th	5 th	17 th	4 th
OK	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest
	36 th	21 st	20 th	12 th	13 th	19 th	2 nd
Statewide	driest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest

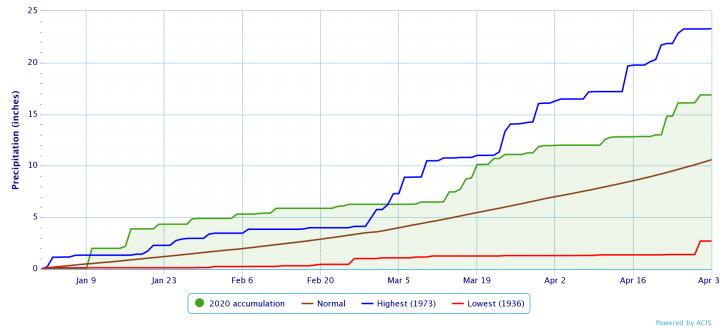


Daily Temperature Data - Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

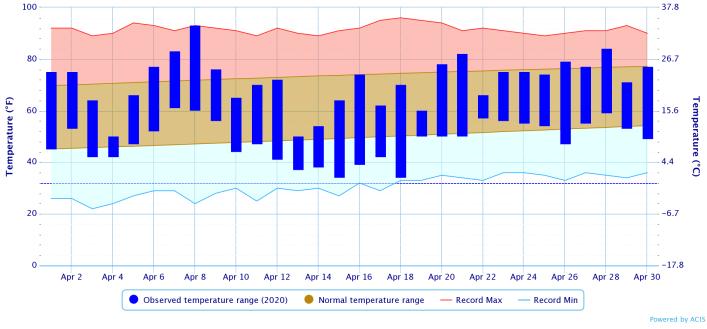
Period of Record - 1905-01-06 to 2020-04-30. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.

Accumulated Precipitation - Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

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





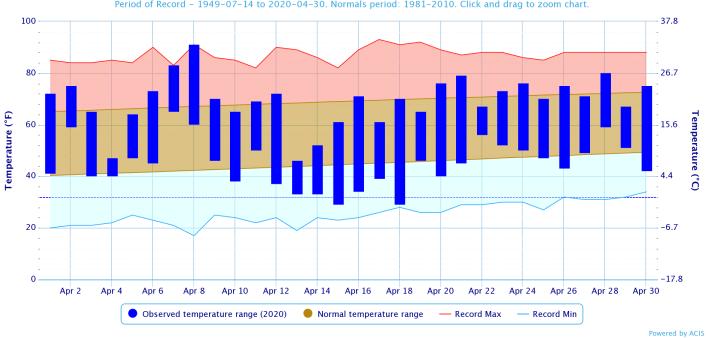


Accumulated Precipitation - Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

35 30 25 **Precipitation (inches)** 20 15 10 5 0 Jan 23 Jan 9 Feb 6 Feb 20 Mar 5 Mar 19 Apr 2 Apr 16 Apr 3 2020 accumulation - Normal — Highest (1945) — Lowest (1936)

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

Powered by ACIS

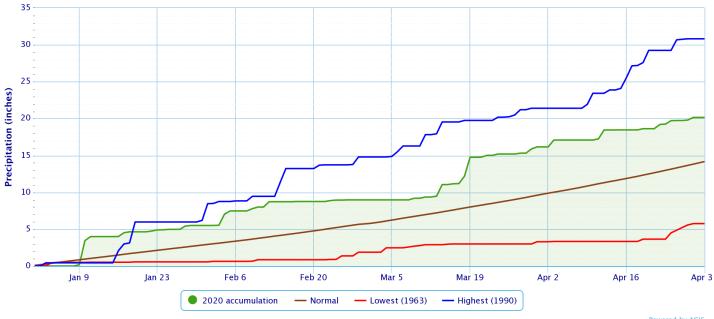


Daily Temperature Data - FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

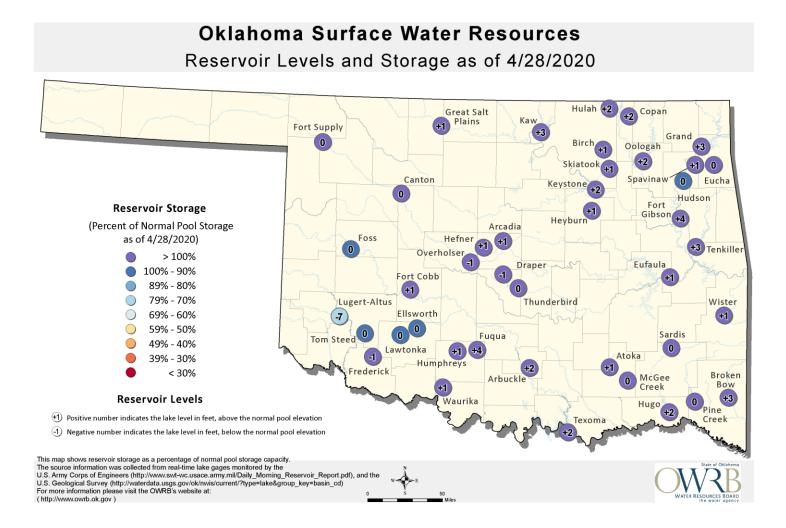
Period of Record - 1949-07-14 to 2020-04-30. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.

Accumulated Precipitation - FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

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



Powered by ACIS



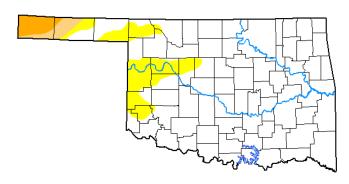
According to the USACE, most of the lakes in the HSA were utilizing a little more than 3% of their flood control pools as of 5/01/2020: Beaver Lake 91%, Tenkiller Lake 7%, Ft. Gibson Lake 11%, Eufaula Lake 8%, Oologah Lake 11%, Copan Lake 7%, Kaw Lake 4%, Keystone Lake 4%, Grand Lake 23%, Skiatook Lake 6%, Hugo Lake 4%, and Sardis Lake 5%.

Drought

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) from April 28, 2020 (Figs. 2, 3), eastern OK and northwest AR were drought free.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

April 28, 2020 (Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2020) Valid 8 a.m. EDT



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None D0-D4 D1-D4 D2-D4 D3-D4 [
Current	<mark>85.96</mark>	14.04	3.94	2.27	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-21-2020	89.09	10.91	3.94	2.27	0.00	0.00
3 Month s Ago 01-28-2020	81.34	18.66	8.03	<mark>0.8</mark> 5	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	76.45	23.55	10.47	3.64	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	71.94	28.06	11.08	1.01	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-30-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



D2 Severe Drought D3 Extreme Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author: Deborah Bathke National Drought Mitigation Center



Fig. 2. Drought Monitor for Oklahoma

U.S. Drought Monitor Arkansas



April 28, 2020

(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2020) Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Valid 8 a.m. ED I										
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)									
	None D0-D4 D1-D4 D2-D4 D3-D4 D4									
Current	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Last Week 04-21-2020	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
3 Month s Ago 01-28-2020	93.87	6.13	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	86.68	13.32	4.35	0.31	0.00	0.00				
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	54.35	45.65	11.77	5.79	0.00	0.00				
One Year Ago	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				

Intensity: None



D2 Severe Drought D3 Extreme Drought

D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:

Deborah Bathke National Drought Mitigation Center





<u>Outlooks</u>

The <u>Climate Prediction Center</u> (CPC) outlook for May 2020 (issued April 30, 2020) indicates an equal chance for above, near, and below normal temperatures across far northeast OK and far northwest AR and a slightly enhanced chance for above normal temperatures across the remainder of eastern OK and west central AR. This outlook also indicates an enhanced chance for above median precipitation across all of eastern OK and northwest AR. This outlook takes into account dynamical model guidance, the weeks 3-4 outlook, and current soil moisture. From CPC, "dynamical model forecasts are in excellent agreement for this time of year and feature a high amplitude ridge (trough) over western (eastern) North America during the first two weeks of May. This highly amplified ridge aloft increases chances of above normal temperatures throughout the West extending to the central and southern Great Plains. The slightly elevated chances of above normal precipitation, centered across the Ozarks to the middle Mississippi Valley, is associated with predicted rainfall at the beginning of the month."

For the 3-month period May-June-July 2020, CPC is forecasting an enhanced chance for above normal temperatures and above median precipitation across all of northeast OK and northwest AR (outlook issued April 16, 2020). This outlook is based on both statistical and dynamical forecast tools and decadal timescale climate trends. According to CPC, the combined effect of the ocean-atmosphere system is consistent with ENSO neutral conditions. The forecast is for ENSO neutral conditions to continue through Autumn 2020.

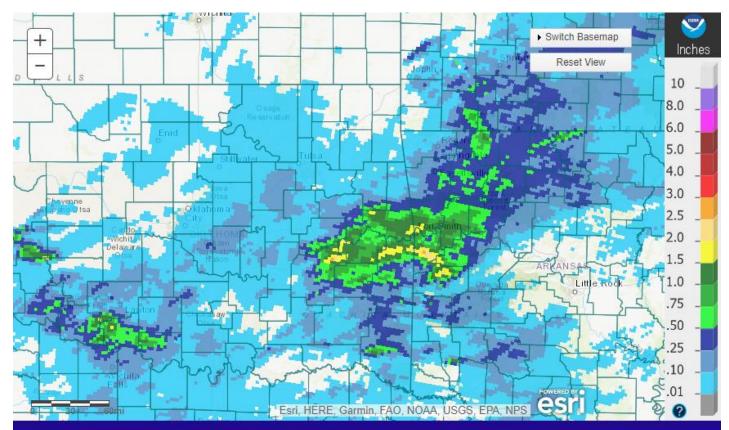
<u>Summary of Heavy Precipitation Events</u> Daily quality-controlled rainfall maps can be found at: <u>http://water.weather.gov/precip/index.php?location_type=wfo&location_name=tsa</u>

Elevated instability, ahead of a cold front, resulted in isolated showers and thunderstorms across southeast OK and west central AR during the afternoon and evening hours of the 2nd. By midnight, warm air advection increased over the region, and additional showers and thunderstorms developed over east central and southeast OK and northwest and west central AR. This activity slowly shifted east through the overnight and early morning hours, exiting the area a little after sunrise on the 3rd. Rainfall totals were highest across east central OK, west central AR, and portions of northwest AR, where around 0.50" to around 2.5" were observed (Fig. 4). This rainfall resulted in minor flooding along the Poteau River near Panama and the Arkansas River at Van Buren and at Ozark L&D (see preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report and the E3 Report for details). The strong arctic cold front continued to move southeast across the area during the day on the 3rd. Additional showers and thunderstorms developed both ahead of and behind the front around sunrise, and this activity continued through mid-evening. Temperatures in Osage County fell below freezing, where some postfrontal freezing drizzle occurred. Additional rainfall amounts ranged from around 0.25" to near 1" (Fig. 5).

A cutoff low over the desert Southwest was slowly making its way east, ahead of a longwave trough, on the 11th. During the afternoon hours, showers and thunderstorms moved north out of TX into southeast OK and west central AR. By early evening, additional storms moved east out of south central OK into southeast OK and west central AR. This activity impacted locations along and south of I-40 through mid-evening, before expanding further north. A more intense line of showers and thunderstorms moved east out of central OK just before midnight. The line moved quickly east across eastern OK and northwest AR, mainly southeast of I-44, before exiting the area by 4 am on the 12th. Rainfall totals ranged from around 0.50" to around 1.5" (Fig. 6).

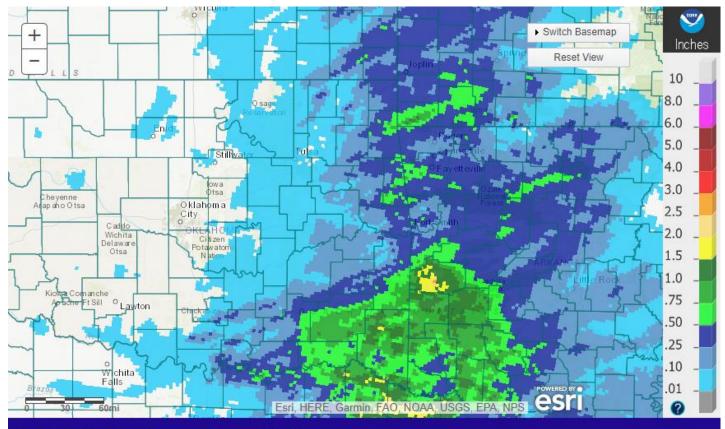
The main trough then dropped into the Plains, with widespread convection across southern OK and central TX. These storms moved northeast into eastern OK and northwest AR around sunrise on the 12th and exited the area by noon. A cold front then moved southeast into the region, with showers and thunderstorms developing along it during the early afternoon. These storms formed a line, which then continued eastward across much of eastern OK and western AR through the mid-evening hours. Once again, around 0.50" to around 1.5" of rain fell near and southeast of I-44 (Fig. 7). The two days of rain resulted in rises along some rivers, with minor flooding occurring along the Poteau River near Panama (see preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report and the E3 Report for details).

Scattered showers and thunderstorms moved across northeast OK and northwest AR during the morning of the 19th within an area of warm air advection. During the afternoon, thunderstorms developed over southeast OK and west central AR in the vicinity of a surface low and attendant warm front. These storms quickly moved southeast of the area, coming to an end by late afternoon. While most places that saw rain received around 0.25" or less, areas of far southeast OK and west central AR received 0.50" to around 1.50" of rain (Fig. 8).



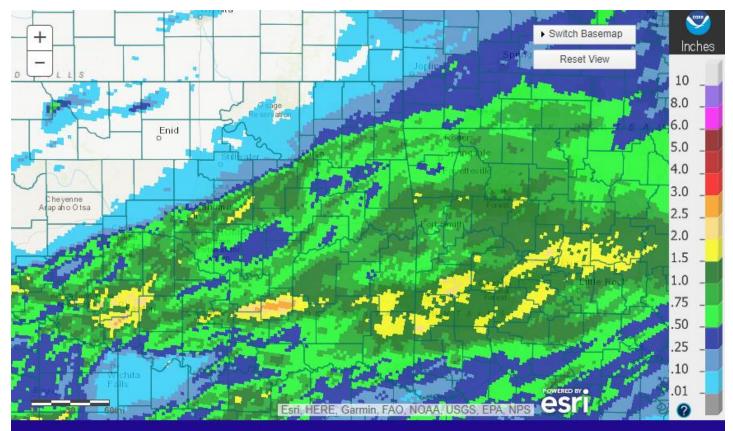
Tulsa, OK: April 03, 2020 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid on: April 03, 2020 12:00 UTC

Fig. 4. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/03/2020.



Tulsa, OK: April 04, 2020 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid on: April 04, 2020 12:00 UTC

Fig. 5. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/04/2020.

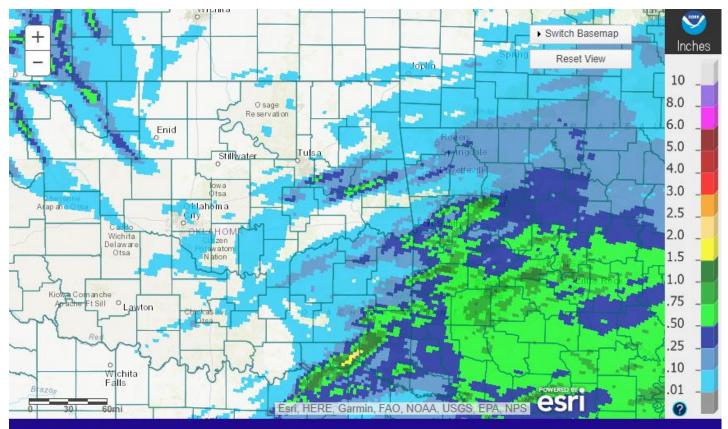


Tulsa, OK: April 12, 2020 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid on: April 12, 2020 12:00 UTC Fig. 6. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/12/2020.



Tulsa, OK: April 13, 2020 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid on: April 13, 2020 12:00 UTC

Fig. 7. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/13/2020.



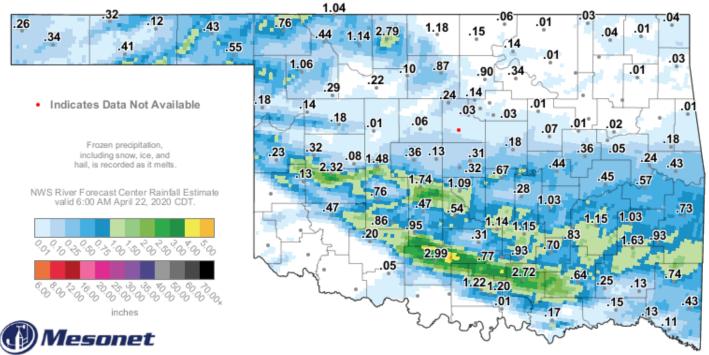
Tulsa, OK: April 20, 2020 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid on: April 20, 2020 12:00 UTC

Fig. 8. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/20/2020.



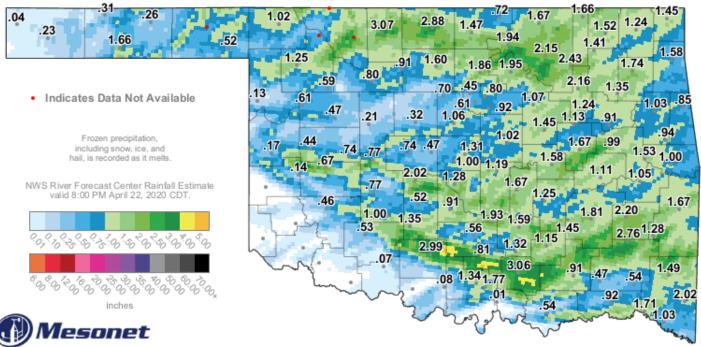
Tulsa, OK: April 22, 2020 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid on: April 22, 2020 12:00 UTC

Fig. 9. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/22/2020.



24-Hour Rainfall Accumulation (inches)

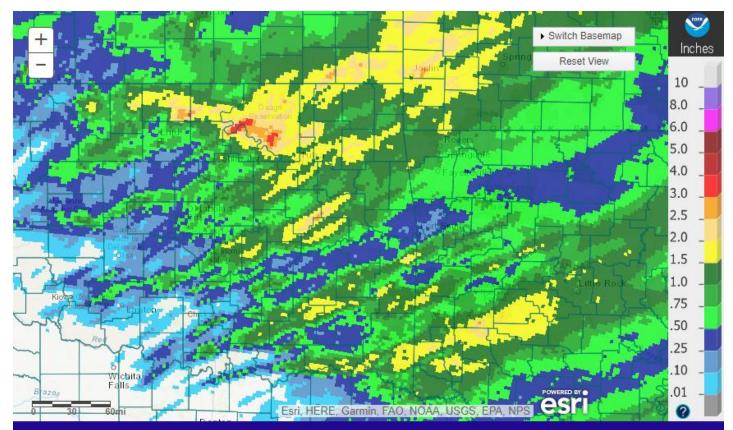
7:35 AM April 22, 2020 CDT Created 7:40:59 2020 CDT. © Copyright 2020 Fig. 10. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 7:35 am CDT 4/22/2020.



24-Hour Rainfall Accumulation (inches)

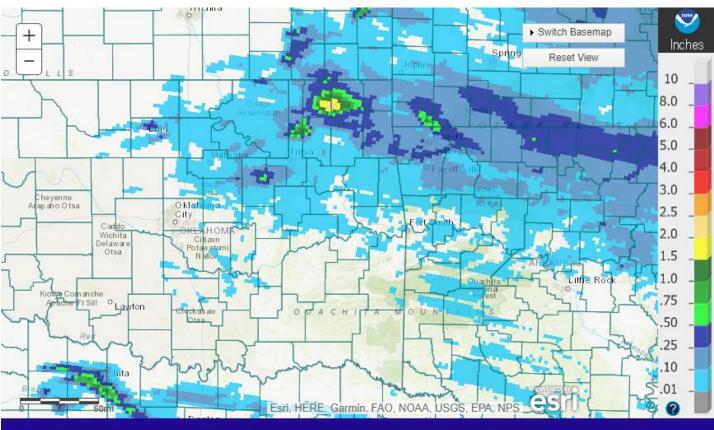
9:35 PM April 22, 2020 CDT Created 9:39:44 PM / Copyright 2020

Fig. 11. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 9:35 pm CDT 4/22/2020.



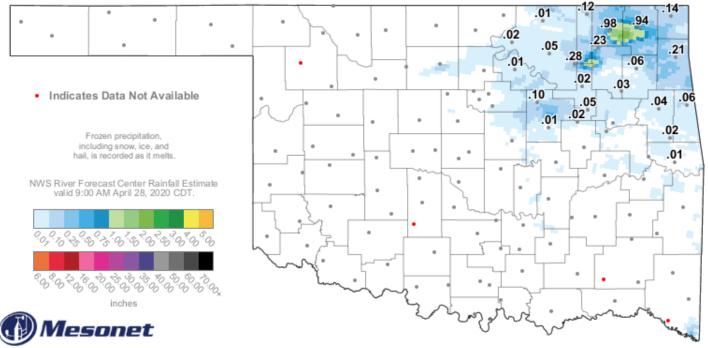
Tulsa, OK: April 23, 2020 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid on: April 23, 2020 12:00 UTC

Fig. 12. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/23/2020.



Tulsa, OK: Current 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid on: April 28, 2020 12:00 UTC

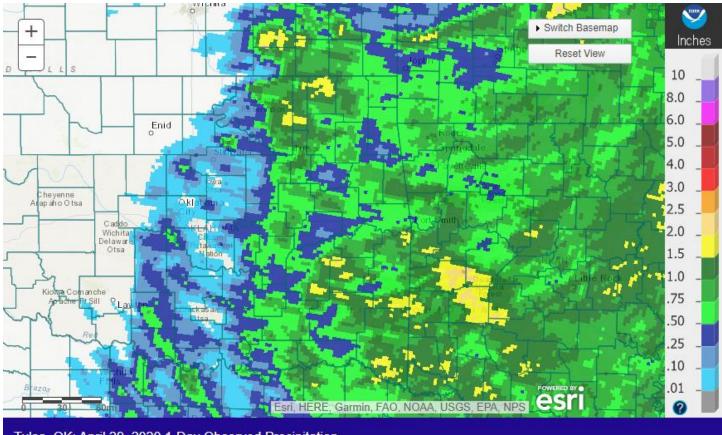
Fig. 13. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/28/2020.



24-Hour Rainfall Accumulation (inches)

10:00 AM April 28, 2020 CDT

Fig. 14. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 10:00 am CDT 4/28/2020.



Tulsa, OK: April 29, 2020 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid on: April 29, 2020 12:00 UTC

Fig. 15. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 4/29/2020.

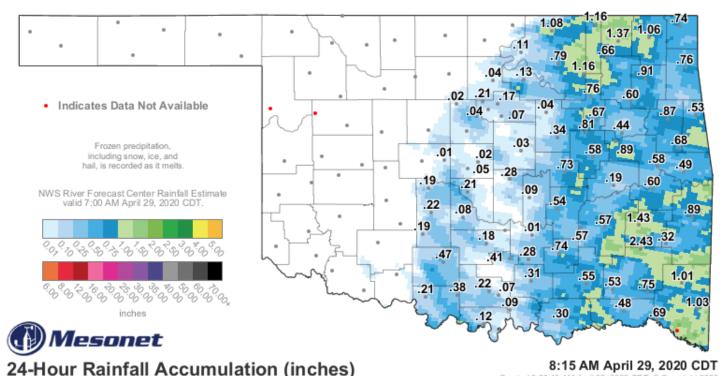


Fig. 16. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 8:15 am CDT 4/29/2020.

A potent and compact potential vorticity maximum moved out of northern NM late on the 21st and continued to track eastward across OK and AR on the 22nd. A thunderstorm complex developed to the west and began to move into southeast OK just before midnight of the 22nd. This activity became widespread over southeast OK and west central AR through the overnight hours and ended from west to east by sunrise. Rainfall totals were around 0.50" to around 2" south of I-40 (Figs. 9, 10). As the upper-level vorticity maximum approached, at the surface, low pressure developed over western OK, which then progressed east through the day and into northwest AR by late on the 22nd. In the pre-dawn hours of the 22nd, another complex of storms developed over northern OK, arriving in northeast OK around sunrise. These storms continued to develop and expand in coverage across eastern OK and northwest AR through the morning and afternoon due to forcing from warm air advection and warm frontogenesis. Heavy rain occurred, especially over Osage County, with the OK Mesonet recording a little over 1" of rain in an hour at some locations. To the south of the surface low, a Pacific front and dryline swept across southern OK through the day, arriving in eastern OK by early evening. Scattered storms continued along and near the boundary, eventually turning into a line of storms across northeast OK and northwest AR and scattered storms across southeast OK and west central AR. This activity moved east of the area by late evening. A few isolated showers impacted northeast OK and northwest AR during the overnight hours. Rainfall totals ranged from around 0.50" to around 3" (Figs. 11, 12). Once again, the rain from these numerous rounds of storms caused area rivers to rise. However, only the Poteau River near Panama reached minor flood stage (see preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report and the E3 Report for details).

High-based showers and isolated thunderstorms moved across northeast OK and northwest AR through the morning hours of the 27th as a compact vorticity maximum moved across central KS. An enhanced band of thunderstorms developed mid- to late-morning over northeast OK. This activity moved east across northeast OK and northwest AR during the afternoon and early evening hours before shifting east of the area. Rainfall totals were overall light, with most affected areas receiving a few hundredths of an inch to around 0.25" of rain. However, higher totals of 0.50" to 2" occurred in far northeast OK (Figs. 13, 14).

Low-level moisture increased on the 28th as a shortwave trough dropped quickly southeast during the day. A cold front stretched from northwest OK through northeast KS by mid-afternoon, with a surface low developing over north central to southwest OK. A dryline extended south from the surface low into TX, while a warm front

was located from the triple point though southeast OK. During the late afternoon hours, thunderstorms developed rapidly from central OK through northeast OK to southeast KS and quickly became severe. As the cold front surged, these storms rapidly formed into a line and moved southeast across eastern OK and western AR through the evening hours. An EF1 tornado occurred in Pushmataha County (see https://arcg.is/WOfzCo for more information). The line of storms exited the area by midnight. Most of eastern OK and western AR received 0.50" to 1.5" of rain, with pockets of 1.5" to near 2.5" (Figs. 15, 16). Area rivers saw big rises from this rain, but all remained within their banks.

Written by:

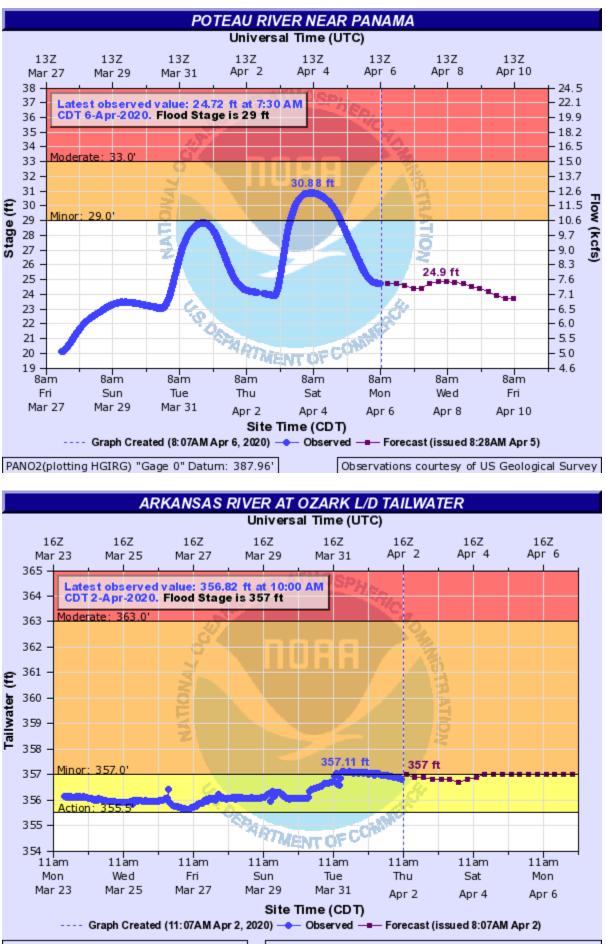
Nicole McGavock Service Hydrologist WFO Tulsa

Products issued in April 2020:

*CWYO2 became a daily river forecast point September 7, 2016 *MLBA4 and OZGA4 transferred to NWS Tulsa HSA February 5, 2014 *Mixed case River Flood products began July 31, 2013

- 1 Flash Flood Warnings (FFW)
- 0 Flash Flood Statements (FFS)
- 1 Flash/Areal Flood Watches (FFA) (2 Watch FFA CON/EXT/EXA/EXB/CAN)
- 6 Urban and Small Stream Advisories (FLS)
- 0 Areal Flood Warnings (FLW)
- 0 Areal Flood Statements (FLS)
- 7 River Flood Warnings (FLW) (includes category increases)
- 67 River Flood Statements (FLS)
- 5 River Flood Advisories (FLS) (23 Advisory FLS CON/EXT/CAN)
- 0 River Flood Watches (FFA) (0 Watch FFA CON/EXT/CAN)
- 0 River Statements (RVS)
- 0 Hydrologic Outlooks (ESF)
- 0 Drought Information Statements (DGT)

Preliminary Hydrographs:



OZGA4(plotting HTIRG) "Gage 0" Datum: 0' Observations courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers - LRD

