<b>11-88</b> )	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMER NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRAT		A (HSA)
PRES. by NWS Instruct			na (TSA)
MONTHLY	REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	REPORT FOR: MONTH	YEAR
-		Мау	2015
TO:	Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230	SIGNATURE Steven F. Piltz (Meteorologist-in-	Charge)
	Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283	DATE <b>August 25, 201</b>	5

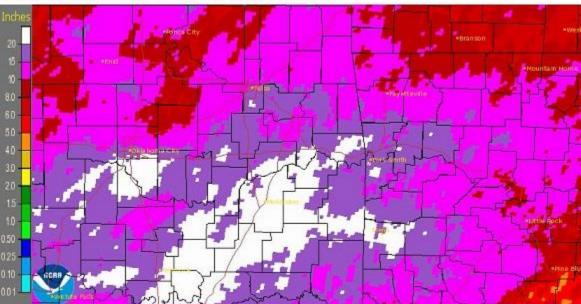
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

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

Widespread, devastating flooding occurred across eastern OK and northwest AR this month. Locations along and south of I-40 received nearly half a year's worth of rainfall during a 3 week period. 7 fatalities occurred this month in eastern OK and northwest AR due to flooding. Normal precipitation values climatologically rank May as the wettest month of the year. These averages range from 5.0 - 5.5 inches across northeast Oklahoma to 5.5 - 6.0 inches across southeast Oklahoma. The Ozark region of northwest Arkansas averages 5.8 inches for the month. This report, past E-5 reports, and monthly hydrology and climatology summaries can be found at <a href="http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=hydro-monthly-summary">http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/?n=hydro-monthly-summary</a>.

### Monthly Summary

Using the radar-derived estimated observed precipitation from the RFCs (Figs. 1a, 2, 3), rainfall totals for May 2015 were 10" to 25" across most of the HSA. A portion of Osage, Pawnee, Washington (OK), Nowata, Benton, Carroll, northern Washington (AR), and northern Madison Counties were the low spots with \*only\* 6"-10" of rain this month. The entire area received above normal rainfall (Fig. 1b), with portions of eastern OK and west central AR getting 300%-600% of the normal May rain. The January 1 – May 31, 2015 total ranges from 15" in and around Osage County to 43" in southeast OK (Figs. 4a, 5). This is 5" to over 20" above the normal year-to-date rainfall (Fig. 4b).



Tulsa, OK (TSA): May, 2015 Monthly Observed Precipitation Valid at 6/1/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/2/15 14:15 UTC

Fig. 1a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for May 2015

#### Tulsa, OK (TSA): May, 2015 Monthly Percent of Normal Precipitation Valid at 6/1/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/2/15 14:16 UTC

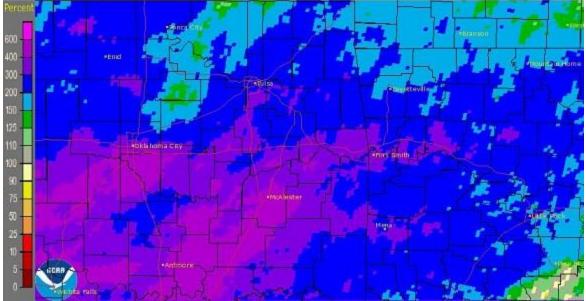
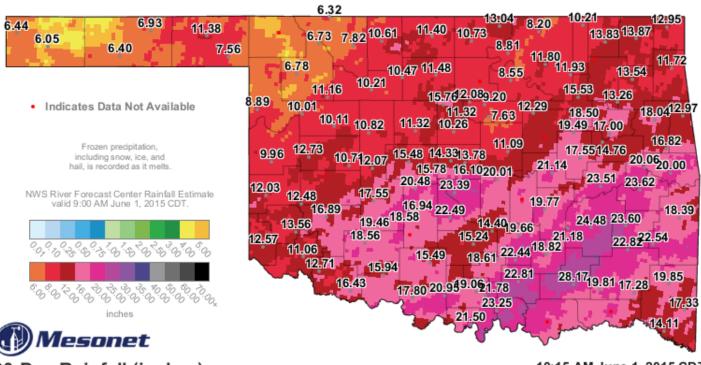


Fig. 1b. Estimated % of Normal Rainfall for May 2015



30-Day Rainfall (inches)

10:15 AM June 1, 2015 CDT Created 10:20:19 AM June 1, 2015 CDT. © Copyright 2015

Fig. 2. 30-day Mesonet Rainfall Measurements and Estimated Observed Rainfall (image, from RFC) ending at 10:15am CDT 06/01/2015

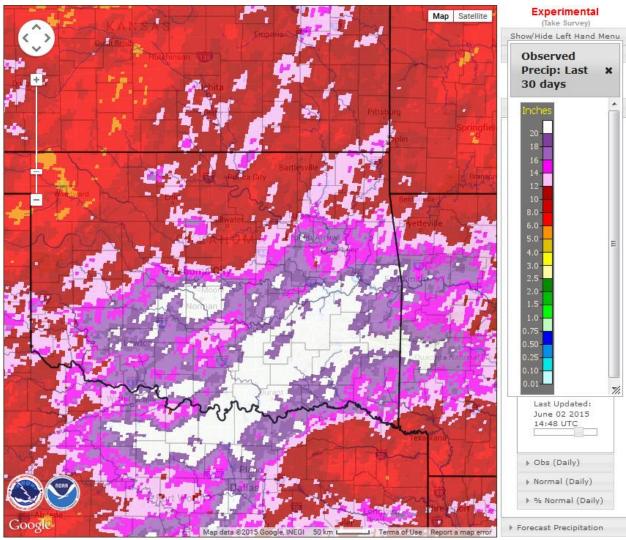


Fig. 3. Estimated Observed Rainfall for May 2015

Tulsa, OK (TSA): Current Year to Date Observed Precipitation Valid at 6/2/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/2/15 15:02 UTC

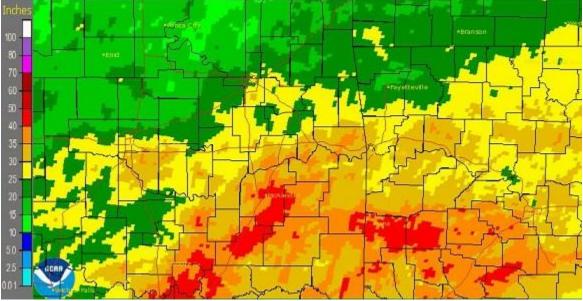


Fig. 4a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for Year-to-Date Jan. 1-May 31 2015

#### Tulsa, OK (T5A): Current Year to Date Departure from Normal Precipitation Valid at 6/2/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/2/15 15:03 UTC

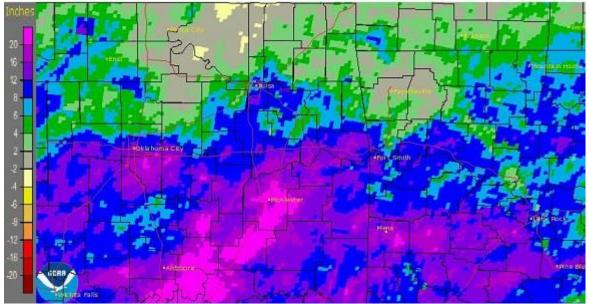


Fig. 4b. Estimated Observed Departure from Normal Rainfall for Year-to-Date Jan. 1-May 31 2015

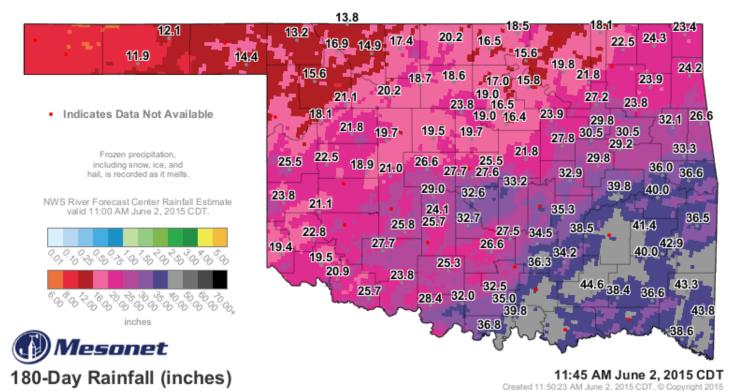


Fig. 5. 180-day Mesonet Rainfall Measurements and Estimated Observed Rainfall (image, from RFC) ending at 11:45am CDT 06/02/2015

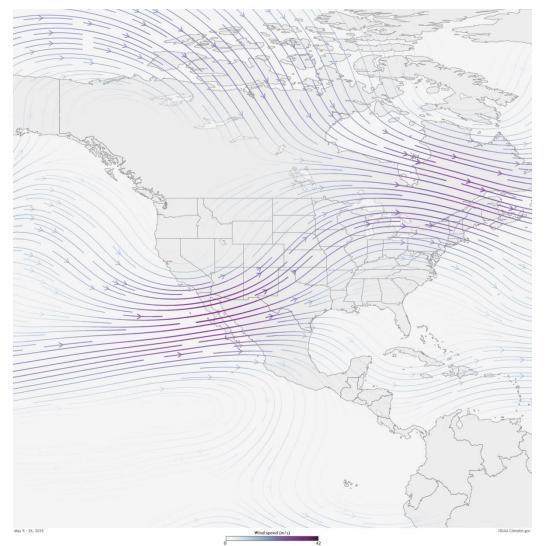
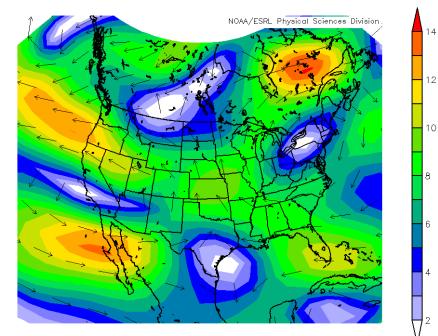


Fig. 6. Average wind speed (color) and direction (arrows) at the 300-millibar atmospheric pressure level for May 5-26, 2015. The jet stream persistently steered storms full of moisture into the Southern Plains states of Texas and Oklahoma. NOAA Climate.gov map by Hunter Allen, based on NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis data provided by NOAA ESRL.

According to Tom Di Liberto with the NWS Climate Prediction Center, "The culprit for these events has been a parade of slow moving storms and a very moist air mass courtesy of the Gulf of Mexico. On a seasonal climate timescale, above-average rains during the spring across the southern tier of the U.S., including Texas and Oklahoma, is a pattern often seen during El Niño events. During El Niños, the jet stream (an area of fast moving winds high in the atmosphere) can extend across the southern US, helping to track storms across the south, including the type of storm systems capable of producing the severe thunderstorms that soaked the region (compare the above Fig. 6 to the wintertime El Niño pattern). During May, this was exactly what happened, leaving Texas and Oklahoma in a prime location for stormy weather. Of course, El Niño alone cannot account for the record-breaking nature of the rains. We cannot discount the influence of natural variability of our atmosphere (extreme weather sometimes just happens), as well as some influence from climate change, since extreme precipitation events are likely to increase and have increased as the planet warms and the atmosphere gets wetter."

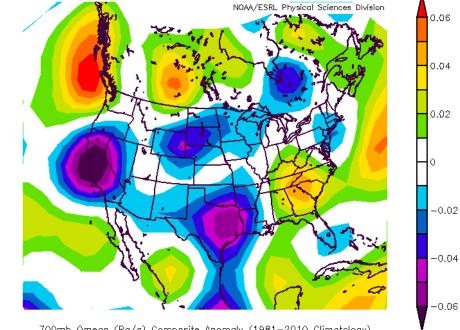
For the month of May as a whole, the subtropical jet was abnormally strong across northern Mexico, with downstream troughing, resulting in abnormally strong southerly flow across the Southern Plains (Fig. 7). Further, there was a broad region of abnormally strong upward motion for May across the Southern Plains and south Texas (Fig. 8). Low-level moisture was abnormally high for the last two weeks of May along the corridor of heaviest flooding (Fig. 9). The precipitable water anomalies for the month as a whole surprisingly did not show a strong signal. The abnormally low upper-level pressure across the southern California area favors a storm track from over the moisture rich Baja Peninsula Mexico, northeast into the Southern Plains (Fig. 10). The anomalous ridge over the eastern U.S. promotes moisture rich flow from the Gulf of Mexico into the southern Plains. The significantly anomalous high pressure over the Gulf of Alaska and anomalous low pressure over southern California, combined, is indicative of a blocking pattern over the west coast/eastern Pacific Ocean, resulting in this persistent pattern of moisture rich flow into the Southern Plains.

Fig. 7. 300mb vector wind anomaly for May 2015 shows the abnormally strong subtropical jet spreading across northern Mexico with downstream troughing, resulting in abnormally strong southerly flow across the Southern Plains.



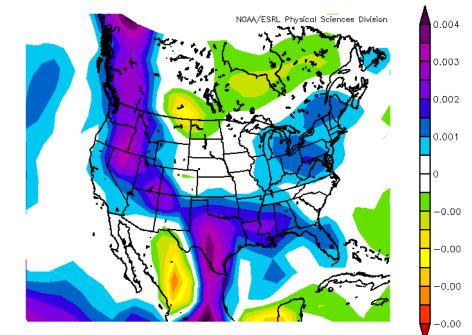
300mb Vector Wind (m/s) Composite Anomaly (1981-2010 Climatology) 5/1/15 to 6/1/15 NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis

Fig. 8. 700mb Omega anomaly for May 2015. Broad region of abnormally strong upward motion for May across the Southern Plains and south Texas.



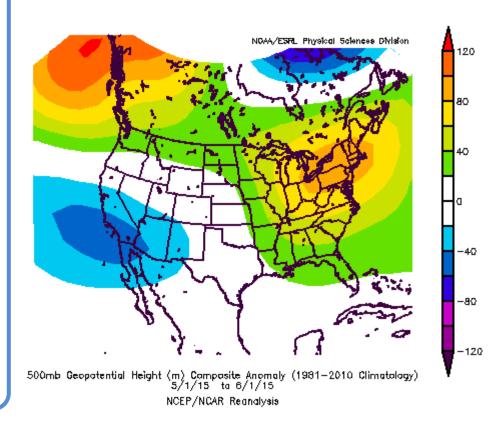
700mb Omega (Pa/s) Composite Anomaly (1981-2010 Climatology) 5/1/15 to 6/1/15 NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis

Fig. 9. 1000mb Specific Humidity anomaly for May 15-31, 2015. Low-level moisture was abnormally high for the last two weeks of May along the corridor of heaviest flooding. The precipitable water anomalies for the month surprisingly did not show a strong signal.



1000mb Specific Humidity (kg/kg) Composite Anomaly (1981—2010 Climatology) 5/15/15 to 5/31/15 NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis

Fig. 10. 500 mb Height anomaly for May 2015. The abnormally low upper-level pressure across the southern California area favors a storm track from over the moisture rich Baja Peninsula Mexico, northeast into the Southern Plains. The anomalous ridge over the eastern U.S. promotes moisture rich flow from the Gulf of Mexico into the southern Plains. The significantly anomalous high pressure over the Gulf of Alaska and anomalous low pressure over southern California is indicative of a blocking pattern over the west coast/eastern Pacific Ocean, resulting in this persistent pattern of moisture rich flow into the Southern Plains.



### <u>Rainfall</u>

Jay, OK (meso)

For the entire state of Oklahoma, the average rainfall for May 2015 was 14.06", setting the new record for not only the wettest May, but for the <u>wettest of any month on record</u>. The previous record was 10.75" in October 1941. The entire state of Arkansas recorded its second wettest May on record with 10.35". Fort Smith, AR also set both its <u>wettest May and wettest of any month records</u> with a total of 19.85" in May 2015. The previous May record was 13.67" in 1943 and the previous wettest month record was 15.02" in June 1945. An analysis by the NWS Hydrometeorological Design Studies Center determined that several areas along and south of I-40 in OK had precipitation totals with less than a 0.1% annual chance (1,000-year event) of occurring (Fig. 11). The highest rainfall total in the HSA this month occurred in Hartshorne 4ESE, OK (Pittsburg County) with 27.70". The average 0.1% annual occurrence (1,000-year event) is 25.6" (but can range from 19.3"-32.2"; see <a href="http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/pfds\_map\_cont.html?bkmrk=ok">http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/pfds\_map\_cont.html?bkmrk=ok</a> )

In Tulsa, OK, May 2015 ranked as the 39<sup>th</sup> coolest May (67.9°F, tied 1972, 1923; since records began in 1905) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest May (14.77"; since records began in 1888). The May rainfall in Tulsa was 8.86" above normal, but still several inches short of the record wettest May of 18.00" set in 1943. Fort Smith, AR had the 65<sup>th</sup> warmest May (69.8°F, tied 1975; since records began in 1883) and the <u>RECORD wettest May</u> (19.85"; since records began in 1883). The May rainfall in Fort Smith was 14.38" above normal! The previous record wettest May in Fort Smith was 13.67" in 1943. Fayetteville, AR had the 28<sup>th</sup> coldest (64.8°F) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest (13.01") May since records began in 1950. The May rainfall in Fayetteville was 6.97" above normal. The record wettest May in Fayetteville is 13.39" in 1957.

In Tulsa, OK, Spring 2015 ranked as the 34<sup>th</sup> warmest Spring (61.2°F, tied 2010, 2000, 1959; since records began in 1905) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest Spring (22.58"; since records began in 1888). The record Spring rainfall in Tulsa is 24.46" in 1973. Fort Smith, AR had the 43<sup>rd</sup> coldest Spring (61.9°F, tied 1964; since records began in 1883) and the <u>RECORD wettest Spring</u> (28.64"; since records began in 1883). The previous record wettest Spring in Fort Smith was 26.54" in 1990. Fayetteville, AR had the 28<sup>th</sup> warmest (57.2°F) and the 6<sup>th</sup> wettest (20.40") Spring since records began in 1950. The record wettest Spring in Fayetteville is 28.81" in 2011.

Some of the larger precipitation reports (in inches) for May 2015 included:

11.71

oome of the larger precipitation reports (in menes) for May 2010 moladed.						
Hartshorne 4ESE, OK (DCP)	27.70	Big Cedar 2E, OK (DCP)	25.01	McAlester, OK (meso)	24.48	
Stigler, OK (meso)	23.62	Wilburton, OK (meso)	23.60	Eufaula, OK (meso)	23.51	
Antlers, OK (coop)	23.48	McAlester, OK (ASOS)	22.98	Whitefield, OK (DCP)	22.86	
Clayton, OK (meso)	22.82	Talihina, OK (meso)	22.54	Okemah, OK (meso)	21.13	
Some of the lowest precipita	ation rep	ports (in inches) for May 2015	5 include	d:		
Bartlesville, OK (ASOS)	7.76	Foraker, OK (meso)	8.20	Pawnee, OK (meso)	8.55	
Burbank, OK (meso)	8.81	Hindsville 10 NNE, AR (coop)	9.99	Copan, OK (meso)	10.21	

11.80

Skiatook, OK (meso)

11.93

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

Wynona, OK (meso)

Rank since	Last 30	Last 60	Spring	Last 120	Year-to-	Last 180	Water Year-to-	Last 365 Days
1921	Days	Days	2015	Days	Date	Days	Date	(Jun 1, 2014 –
	(May 2	(Apr 2 –	(Mar 1 –	(Feb 1 –	(Jan 1 –	(Dec 3 –	(Oct 1, 2014 –	May 31, 2015)
	- 31)	May 31)	May 31)	May 31)	May 31)	May 31)	May 31, 2015)	
Northeast	2 <sup>nd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
OK	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest
East	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Central OK	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest	wettest
Central OK Southeast	wettest 1 <sup>st</sup>	wettest 1 <sup>si</sup>	wettest 1 <sup>st</sup>	wettest 3 <sup>rd</sup>	wettest 2 <sup>nd</sup>	wettest 3 <sup>rd</sup>	wettest 4 <sup>th</sup>	wettest 6 <sup>th</sup>
	wettest 1 <sup>st</sup> wettest	Jaj	wettest 1 <sup>st</sup> wettest					
Southeast	1 <sup>at</sup>	Jaj	1 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>

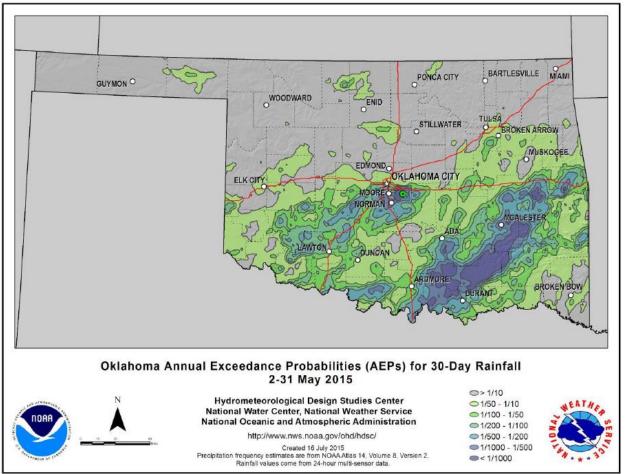


Fig. 11. Annual exceedance probabilities for the 30-day rainfall from 2 to 31 May 2015.

### <u>Rivers</u>

Just in May alone, there were 36 river floods and 46 crests for 18 river forecast points (out of 33 in the HSA). Of these 46 crests, 8 were major, 27 were moderate, and 11 were minor. 9 floods continued into June, with one additional major flooding crest in June from the rain in May. The NWS Tulsa office issued 1,045 total products during the entire event, including both river and flash flood watches, warnings, advisories, and follow up statements. Figs. 12 and 13 show before and after satellite images of flooding along the Arkansas River and Red River. Figs. 14 and 15 show damage at Hugo and Eufaula Lakes.

Flooding occurred at the following locations:

*Verdigris River Basin*: Polecat Creek near Sapulpa; Caney River near Ramona and Collinsville; Bird Creek near Sperry and Owasso

*Grand-Neosho River Basin*: Neosho River near Commerce; Spring River near Quapaw *Lower Arkansas River Basin*: Illinois River near Watts and Tahlequah; Arkansas River near Muskogee, Van Buren, and Ozark Lock and Dam; Lee Creek near Van Buren; Poteau River near Poteau and Panama *Canadian River Basin*: Deep Fork River near Beggs

Lower Red River Basin: Kiamichi River near Antlers; Red River near Arthur City

The Poteau River flooded 3 times in May 2015. The first flood led to moderate flooding near Poteau, but major flooding and one fatality near Panama. The third flood, which lasted 9 days near Poteau and 11 days near Panama, caused major flooding along the river downstream of Wister Lake, as measured by the gages at Poteau and Panama. The Arkansas River at Van Buren exceeded flood stage 4 times in May. The river crested twice above major flood stage during the last, 11-day, flood of the month. Likewise, the Arkansas River at Ozark Lock and Dam exceeded flood stage 3 times in May, with two crests above major flood stage during the last flood, which lasted 12 days, at the end of May/beginning of June. The Red River at Arthur City flooded twice in May, with two crests above major flood stage 17 days. The

Kiamichi River near Antlers had three floods. The second flood lasted 8 days and included 4 crests, all above moderate flood stage. The Neosho River near Commerce flooded twice, with three crests above moderate flood stage during the 10-day second flood. Preliminary hydrographs for the river flooding is available at the end of this report and detailed information on the timing of the flooding is available in the E3 Report.

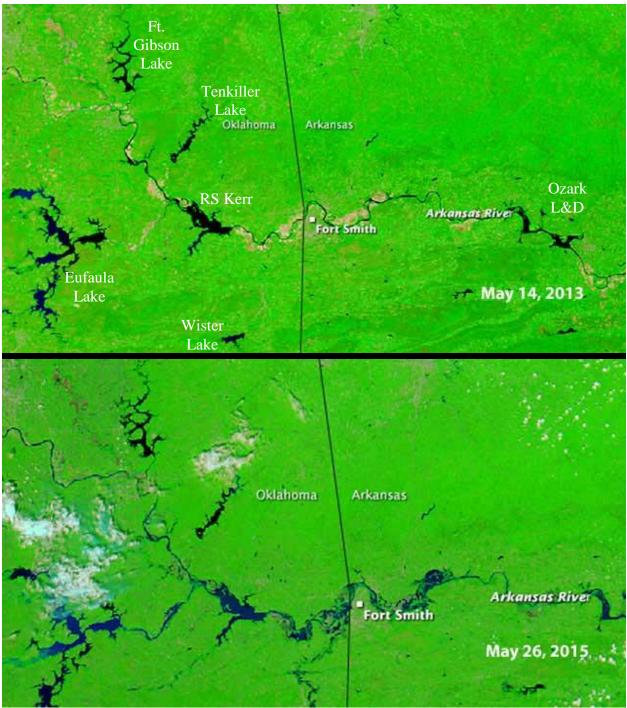


Fig. 12. NASA MODIS satellite images showing the flooding along the Arkansas River on May 26, 2015 (bottom) compared to non-flood conditions on May 14, 2013 (top).



Fig. 13. Satellite image of the Red River on December 6, 2014 (top) and June 19, 2015 (bottom).



Fig. 14. Flood damage at Wilson Point Recreation Area on Hugo Lake 8/17/2015. USACE Tulsa District

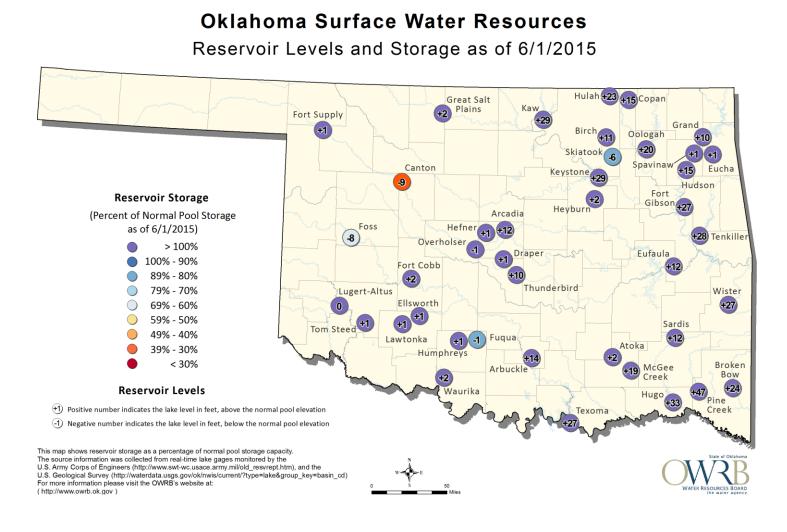


Fig. 15. Lake Eufaula. USACE Tulsa

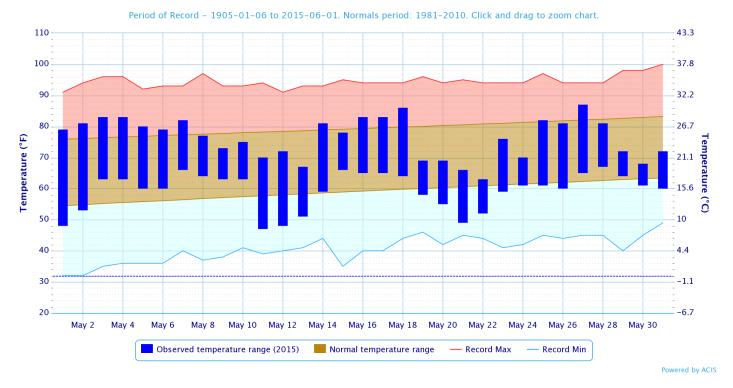
### **Reservoirs**

According to the USACE, all of the major reservoirs in the HSA were operating well into their flood pools as of 5/31/2015, except for Skiatook Lake, which was at 81% of its conservation pool (but up from 53% at the end up April). The following lakes were operating in their flood control pools (percentage of flood pool listed) as of 5/31/15: Sardis Lake 158%, Wister Lake 122%, Hugo Lake 102%, Eufaula Lake 100%, Ft. Gibson Lake 96%, Grand/Pensacola Lake 96%, Hudson Lake 95%, Beaver Lake 94%, Keystone Lake 93%, Kaw Lake 89%, Oologah Lake 81%, Tenkiller Lake 74%, Hulah Lake 58%, Copan Lake 52%, Birch Lake 37%, Heyburn Lake 2%.

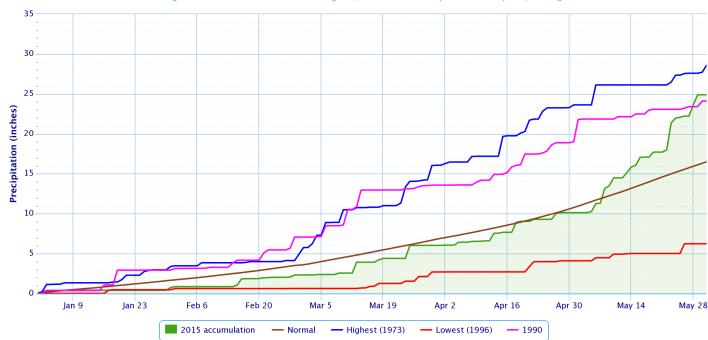
A couple of lakes set new pool records this month: Wister Lake 508.35' (prev. record 508.22') and Hugo Lake 440.11' (prev. record 440.05'). By the early morning hours of the 12<sup>th</sup>, Eufaula Lake exceeded the top of its flood control pool and went into surcharge. The lake remained in surcharge until May 31. The highest lake elevation was 599.68' (128% of flood pool) during the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup>. For reference, the record pool elevation for Eufaula Lake is 599.77' and the top of the surcharge pool is 600.00'. Eufaula Dam was completed in 1964 and impounds one of the world's largest man-made lakes (covering 102,500 acres).



#### Daily Temperature Data - Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)



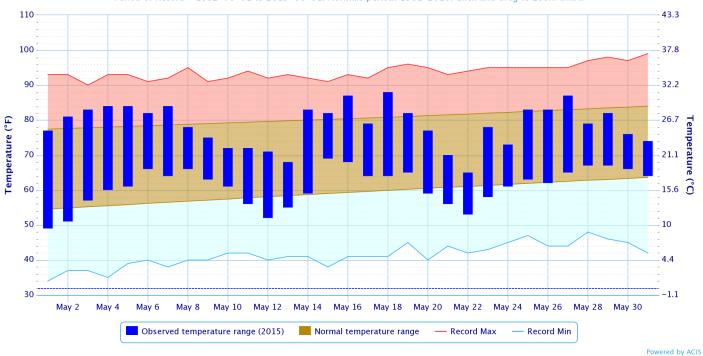
Accumulated Precipitation – Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)



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

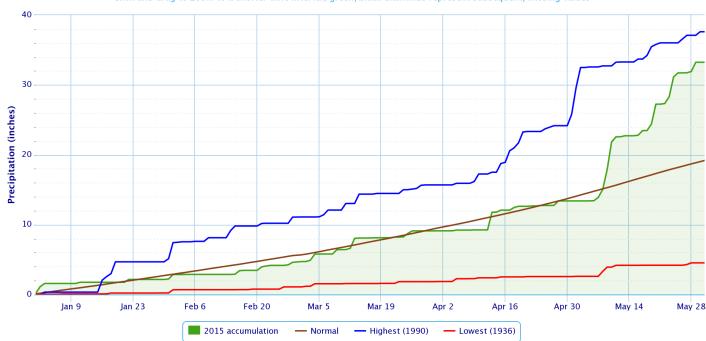
Powered by ACIS

#### Daily Temperature Data - Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)



Period of Record - 1882-06-01 to 2015-06-01. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.

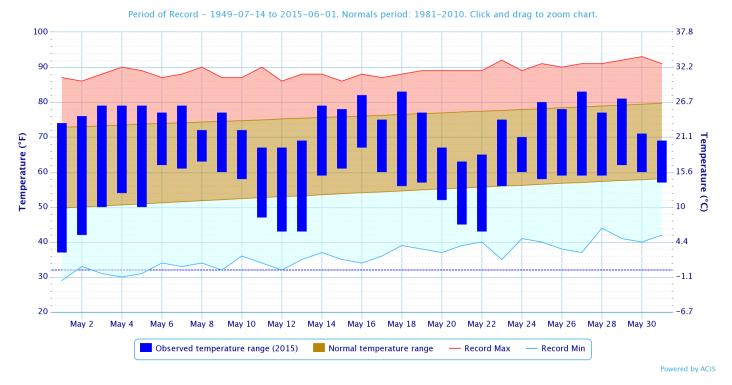
Accumulated Precipitation – Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)



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

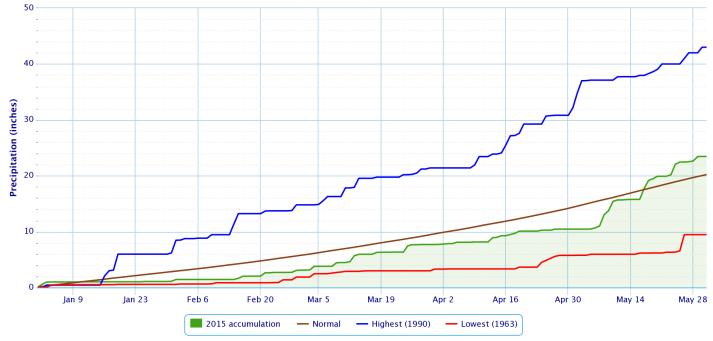
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#### Daily Temperature Data - FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FLD, AR



Accumulated Precipitation - FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FLD, AR



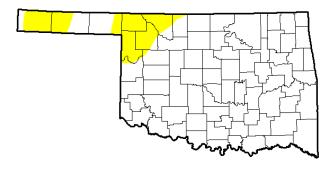


Powered by ACIS

#### **Drought**

According to the <u>U.S. Drought Monitor</u> (USDM) from June 2, 2015 (Figs 16, 17), the entire drought that had been plaguing the area is gone due to the excessive rainfall this month. According to the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, "It's been ... 239 straight weeks of having at least D1 (Moderate) drought somewhere within the state of Oklahoma's borders, all the way back to October 26, 2010, some 1673 days ago."

# U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma



(Released Thursday, Jun. 4, 2015) Valid 7 a.m. EST								
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)							
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4		
Current	88.91	11.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Last Week 526/2015	77.31	22.69	2.74	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Months Ago 3/3/2015	1.48	98.52	65.55	47.81	28.29	5.75		
Start of Calendar Year 1230/2014	25.63	74.37	62.03	40.84	21.74	5.70		
Start of Water Year 930/2014	8.55	91.45	73.31	58.13	20.92	4.64		

June 2, 2015

632014 Intensity:

One Year Ago

D0 Abnom ally Dry D3 Extreme Drought

4.02

t D4 Exception al Drought

95.98 85.20 75.79 61.17 21.33

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

#### Author:

David Miskus NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

D2 Severe Drought



http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

#### Fig. 16. Drought Monitor for Oklahoma

### U.S. Drought Monitor Arkansas



June 2, 2015 (Released Thursday, Jun. 4, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

	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 526/2015	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Month's Ago 30/2015	38.17	61.83	10.66	2.18	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12302014	36.88	63.12	14.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 930/2014	54.54	45.46	9.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 63/2014	81.61	18.39	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intensity:						

D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author: David Miskus

NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

### <u>Outlooks</u>

The <u>Climate Prediction Center</u> (CPC) outlook for June 2015 (issued May 31, 2015) indicates an enhanced chance for below normal temperatures across all of eastern OK and northwest AR. This outlook also calls for a slightly enhanced chance for above median rainfall across Choctaw County, with an equal chance for above, near, and below median precipitation elsewhere. This outlook is based on short- and extended-range computer models. The largest signal for below normal temperatures is centered over north TX and OK, where soil moisture currently exceeds the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.

For the 3-month period June-July-August 2015, CPC is forecasting an enhanced chance for below normal temperatures and above median precipitation across all of eastern OK and northwest AR (outlook issued May 21, 2015). According to CPC, El Niño conditions continue to strengthen and are currently on the border line of weak to moderate strength. These conditions are favored to continue through at least the next few months and likely into the later part of the year. The coupling between the ocean and atmosphere remains strong over the tropical Pacific. However, El Niño impacts are generally most significant during the cold seasons. Therefore, this outlook is based on both statistical and dynamical forecast tools and considering El Niño conditions.

<u>Summary of 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>

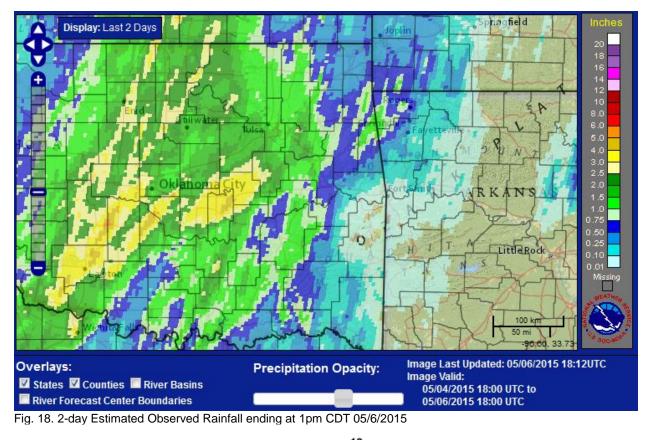
### <u>May 1-15</u>

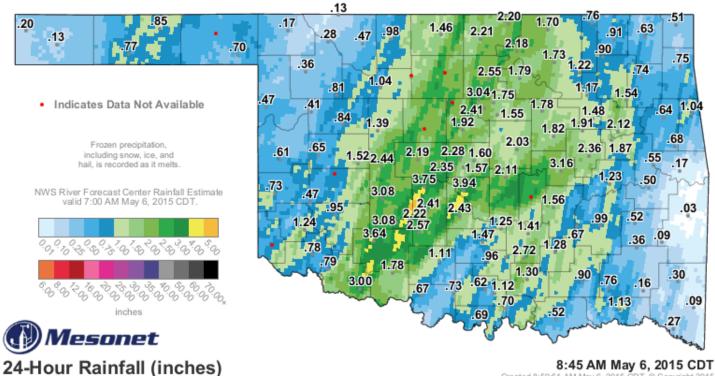
The pleasant start to May didn't last too long as an unsettled weather pattern brought several days of rain to eastern OK and northwest AR starting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Widely scattered showers and thunderstorms developed during the early afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> across eastern OK and northwest AR. Additional storms spread east into eastern OK during the evening and overnight hours as a mid-level low spun over southeast Colorado. The activity was enhanced by a 60kt southerly low-level jet over the area. A brief EF0 tornado occurred near Kellyville during the late night hours. By 7am on the 6<sup>th</sup>, rainfall totals across all of eastern OK, except Le Flore County, ranged from around 0.25" to around 3" of rain. Most of eastern OK received 0.50"-1.5". The highest totals of 2"-3" occurred west of Hwy 75 and across Wagoner County (Figs. 18, 19). The activity weakened by sunrise, with widely scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms continuing through the remainder of the morning hours. Additional storms developed during the afternoon and evening in central OK as another shortwave moved over the region. These storms produced copious rainfall (3rd highest 1-day total in Oklahoma City's record) leading to flash flooding and river flooding in the Oklahoma City metro area. Evaporation below the anvil from the OKC storms created very strong damaging wind gusts of 40-60mph across portions of Pawnee, Osage, Tulsa, Creek, and Rogers County (Fig. 21). Eventually, these storms moved east into eastern OK and northwest AR during the overnight and morning hours of the 7<sup>th</sup>. However, the storms had weakened and did not bring any severe weather or flooding to the HSA. Rainfall totals were generally around 0.25" to around 1" southeast of I-44 in eastern OK and northwest AR (Fig. 20).

Highest 24-hr r	ainfall en	ding 7am CDT	5/6/2015:				
Okemah 3E, OK	3.11"	Kaw Lake, OK	3.08"	Burbank, OK	2.17"	Hallett 3WSW, AR	2.14"

Another mid-level low over the northwest U.S. dove south on the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and then moved into the Plains on the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, resulting in several rounds of rain over the region. A complex of thunderstorms developed over western OK during the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup>. These storms propagated east into eastern OK and western AR during the evening and through the early morning hours of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Locations southeast of an Okmulgee to Jay line received around 0.50" to around 2" of rain. Western Choctaw, the southeastern half of Pushmataha, and southern Le Flore Counties had the highest totals of 2"-5" of rain (Fig. 22).

Highest 24-hr rainfall ending 7am CDT 5/8/2015:									
Big Cedar 2E, OK	4.87"	Page 5N, OK	3.43"	Cloudy 5ENE, OK	3.23"	Antlers 2NE, OK	2.54"		





Created 8:50:51 AM May 6, 2015 CDT. @ Copyright 2015 Fig. 19. 24-hr Mesonet Rainfall Measurements and Estimated Observed Rainfall (image, from RFC) ending at 8:45am CDT 05/06/2015

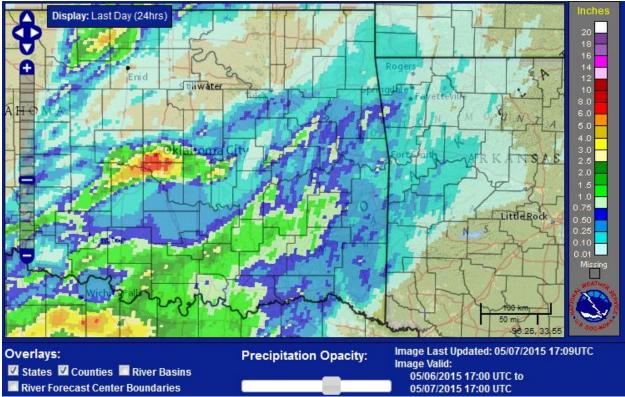
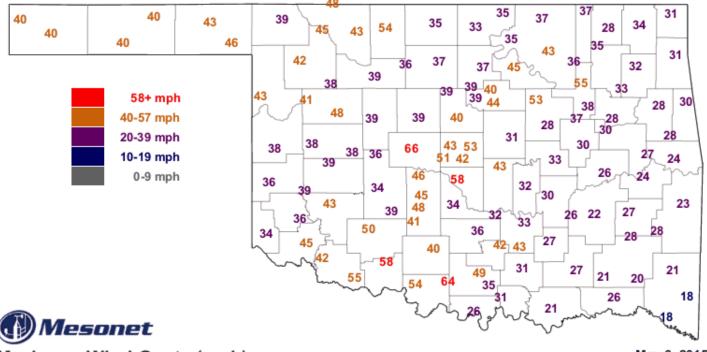


Fig. 20. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at Noon CDT 05/7/2015



## Maximum Wind Gusts (mph)

May 6, 2015 Created 7:30:16 AM May 7, 2015 CDT. © Copyright 2015

Fig. 21. Maximum Wind Gusts as measured by the Oklahoma Mesonet for 05/06/2015



Fig. 22. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/8/2015

Thunderstorms developed near a frontal boundary across southwest OK and spread east into the area during the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> through the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Some storms lingered during the day on the 9<sup>th</sup>, while additional thunderstorms developed during the afternoon and evening hours across western/central OK and moved east into the HSA that night. The final round of showers and thunderstorms affected eastern OK and northwest AR on the 10<sup>th</sup> as the cold front associated with the mid-level low moved across the region. The rain finally came to an end by the 11<sup>th</sup> as the cold front exited to the east. Due to the subtropical flow over the Southern Plains, moisture was plentiful and each of these rounds of storms brought copious amounts of rain. Both widespread flash flooding and river flooding occurred.

By 7am on the 9<sup>th</sup>, most of eastern OK and northwest AR had received 0.50" to around 2" of rain, with portions of eastern OK receiving 2"-5" of rain (Fig. 23). The hardest hit areas were in Okfuskee, Tulsa, and Wagoner Counties, where flash flooding was reported. Okemah 3E, OK measured 4.58" and Big Cabin 5NE, OK measured 3.38". Okemah measured 2.91" of rain in only 1 hour, and the emergency manager reported some homes and several roads were flooded (roads were flooded throughout the county). Sections of I-44 were closed during the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> due to water covering the roadway and stalled vehicles.

Training thunderstorms brought 2"-4" of rain to most of Choctaw County on the 9<sup>th</sup>. However, even heavier rain affected locations in east central OK and west central AR. In this area, widespread 2"-6" of rain fell (Fig. 24), creating widespread flash flooding during the evening and overnight hours: several bridges were washed out in Boley (Okfuskee Co.); swift water rescues were reported in Ozark, Vernon, and Sallisaw; 1'-2' of water was over some roads that rarely flood in Onapa (McIntosh Co.); 2' of water covering a road in Fort Smith; and numerous road closures or wash outs throughout the impacted area.

Highest 24-hr rainfall ending 7am CDT 5/10/2015:								
Sallisaw 2SSW, OK	4.92"	Stigler 4WNW, OK	4.62"	Panama 2E, OK	4.47"			
Stuart 3SE, OK	4.45"	Fort Smith, AR	4.39"	Kerr L&D 15, OK	4.31"			
Riverdale 4.2E, AR	4.30"	Eufaula 5W, OK	4.29"	Van Buren 2.1NNW, AR	4.14"			
Mayo L&D 14, OK	4.07"	Trimble/Barling L&D 13, OK	3.84"	Van Buren 0.7SSE, AR	3.82"			

Much of the HSA received over 0.50" of rain by the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>, with widespread 1.5" to 4" totals once again. This time the highest rain impacted locations southeast of a McAlester, OK to Fayetteville, AR line (Fig. 25), causing far east central OK and west central AR to be hit by very heavy rain two days in a row. Numerous roads were once again impacted by flash flooding. Four tornadoes also occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup>: an EF-0 near Moyers; an EF2 and an EF-0 both near Red Oak; and an EF1 near the McAlester airport.

Highest 24-hr rainfall ending 7am CDT 5/11/2015:								
Daisy 4ENE, OK	4.09"	Page 5N, OK	3.64"	Wilburton 2SW, OK	3.63"			
Fanshawe, OK	3.54"	Kerr L&D 15, OK	3.39"	Greenwood 1.9WNW, AR	3.22"			
Panama 2E, OK	3.11"	Ozark 3WNW, AR	3.00"	Trimble/Barling L&D 13, OK	2.98"			

All of the rain from the 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> resulted in moderate to major flooding of several mainstem rivers. Figures 26-31 illustrate the multi-day rainfall totals ending on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The one week rainfall total, from 1pm CDT 5/4/2015 through 1pm CDT 5/11/2015, ranged from 3"-11.5" of rain (Figs. 30, 31)! Locations south of Hwy 412 received over 4" of rain and widespread 7"-10" of rain fell near and south of I-40. For reference, this is approximately twice the normal rainfall for this area for the entire month of May. This rainfall led to 1 Major, 6 Moderate, and 2 Minor floods on area rivers (Fig. 36). Preliminary hydrographs are available at the end of this report and detailed river crest information can be found in the May E3 Report. The Poteau River near Panama crested at 43.54 feet, based on the USGS high water mark measurement on the 12<sup>th</sup>. This (preliminary) crest is the 6th highest on record for this location. One flood related fatality occurred near Spiro, where a 60 year old male of Spiro drowned in the Poteau River while attempting to rescue cattle that had been inundated by rapidly rising flood waters around 3:30am CDT May 11. His body was recovered May 13. A total of five homes received minor flood damages. Between the river flooding and flash flooding, initial estimates on damages to roads and bridges are in the \$500,000 range for Le Flore County (Figs. 32-35). Moderate flooding occurred along the Arkansas River at Van Buren and at Ozark Lock & Dam; Lee Creek near Van Buren; the Poteau River near Poteau; the Deep Fork River near Beggs; and the Kiamichi River near Antlers. Another fatality occurred on the 12<sup>th</sup> in Rudy, AR when 19 year old Skylar Combs drowned while trying to swim in the falling but still swollen and fast flowing Frog Bayou (Grotto Hole). In addition to high river levels, lake levels also rose from this rain. By the early morning hours of the 12<sup>th</sup>, Eufaula Lake exceeded the top of its flood control pool and went into surcharge. This was due not only to the repeated heavy rain in the immediate vicinity of the lake, but also inflow from the heavy rains in central OK. Combined with the additional rainfall later in the month, the lake remained in surcharge until May 31.

#### Highest 5-day rainfall ending 5/11/2015:

Uniontown 2.1ESE, AR	10.50"	Sallisaw 1SE, OK	10.21"	Krebs 0.3WNW, OK	10.10"
Antlers 6.3SE, OK	9.94"	Wilburton 9.4N, OK	9.93"	Bengal, OK	9.80"
Panama, OK	9.60"	Kerr L&D 15, OK	9.55"	Hartshorne 3.9NNE, OK	9.20"
Fort Smith, AR	9.18"	Red Oak, OK	9.14"	Greenwood 1.9WNW, AR	9.09"
Van Buren 2.1NNW, AR	8.99"	Page 5N, OK	8.86"	Short 1N, OK	8.81"
Fanshawe, OK	8.81"	Riverdale 4.2E, AR	8.69"	Big Cedar, OK	8.56"
Poteau, OK	8.53"	Stigler, OK	8.53"	Short 4S, OK	8.52"
Trimble/Barling L&D 13, OK	8.35"	Antlers, OK	8.12"	Mulberry, AR	8.08"
Vian 5.3 ENE, OK	8.07"	Mayo L&D 14, OK	8.02"	Charleston 1.7E, AR	8.00"

Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/9/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/9/2015 1200 UTC- Created 5/11/15 23:34 UTC



Fig. 23. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/9/2015

Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/10/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/10/2015 1200 UTC- Created 5/12/15 23:32 UTC

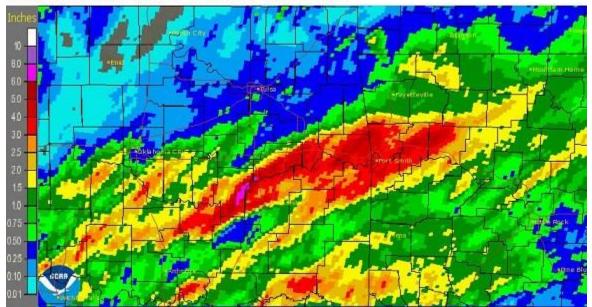


Fig. 24. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/10/2015

Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/11/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/11/2015 1200 UTC- Created 5/13/15 17:33 UTC

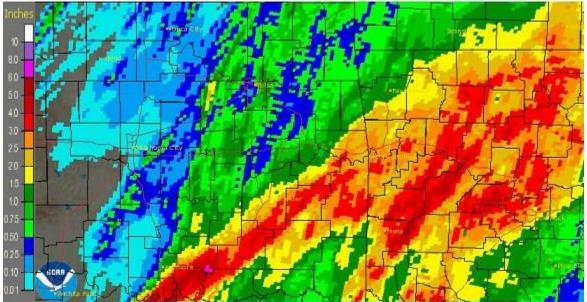


Fig. 25. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/11/2015

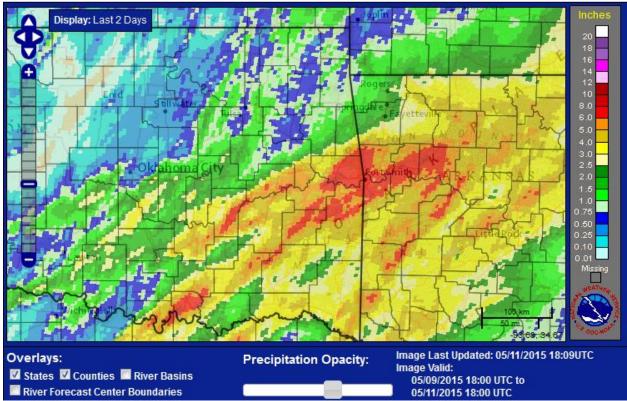
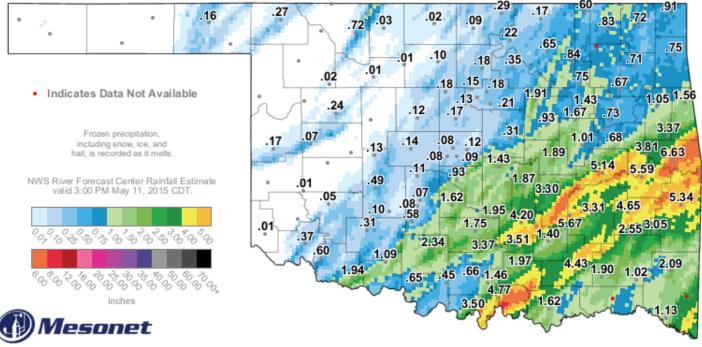


Fig. 26a. 2-day Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 1pm CDT 05/11/2015



# 2-Day Rainfall (inches)

3:45 PM May 11, 2015 CDT Created 3:49:28 PM May 11, 2015 CDT. © Copyright 2015

Fig. 26b. 2-day Mesonet Rainfall Measurements and Estimated Observed Rainfall (image, from RFC) ending at 3:45pm CDT 05/11/2015

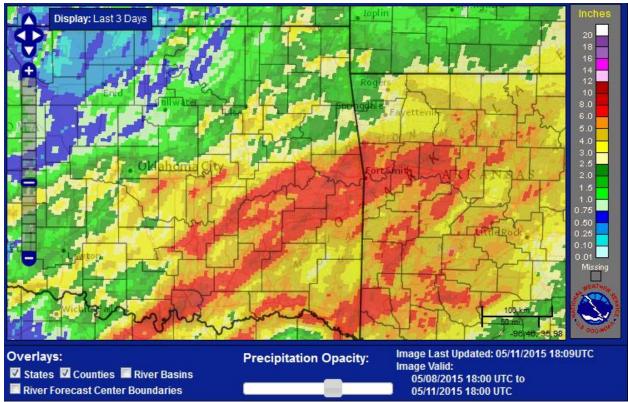
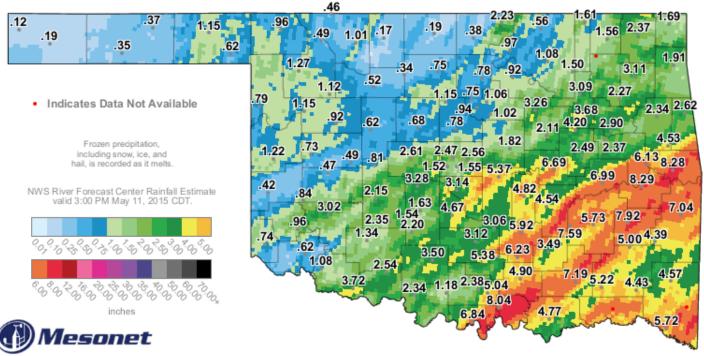


Fig. 27a. 3-day Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 1pm CDT 05/11/2015



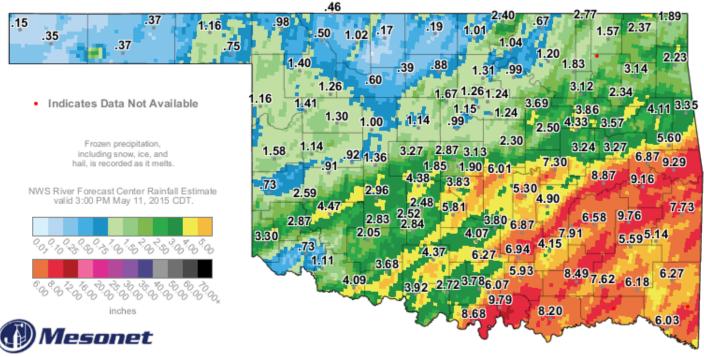
# 3-Day Rainfall (inches)

3:45 PM May 11, 2015 CDT Created 3:49:28 PM May 11, 2015 CDT. © Copyright 2015

Fig. 27b. 3-day Mesonet Rainfall Measurements and Estimated Observed Rainfall (image, from RFC) ending at 3:45pm CDT 05/11/2015



Fig. 28a. 4-day Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 1pm CDT 05/11/2015



# 4-Day Rainfall (inches)

3:45 PM May 11, 2015 CDT Created 3:49:28 PM May 11, 2015 CDT. © Copyright 2015

Fig. 28b. 4-day Mesonet Rainfall Measurements and Estimated Observed Rainfall (image, from RFC) ending at 3:45pm CDT 05/11/2015

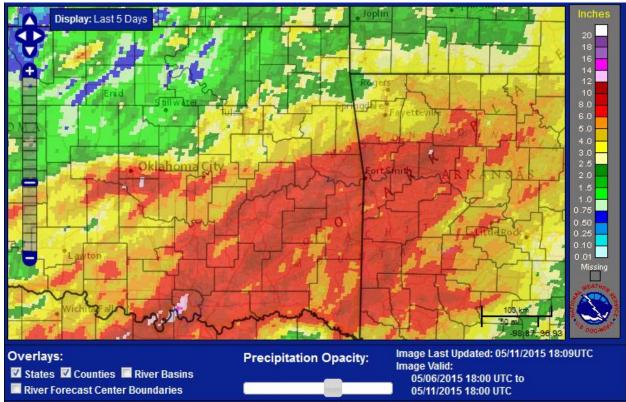
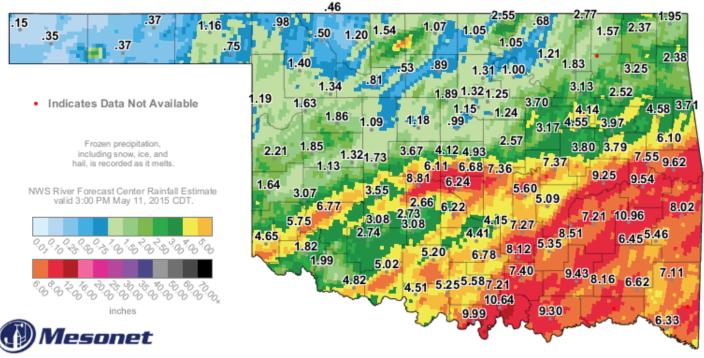


Fig. 29a. 5-day Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 1pm CDT 05/11/2015



# 5-Day Rainfall (inches)

3:45 PM May 11, 2015 CDT Created 3:49:28 PM May 11, 2015 CDT. © Copyright 2015

Fig. 29b. 5-day Mesonet Rainfall Measurements and Estimated Observed Rainfall (image, from RFC) ending at 3:45pm CDT 05/11/2015

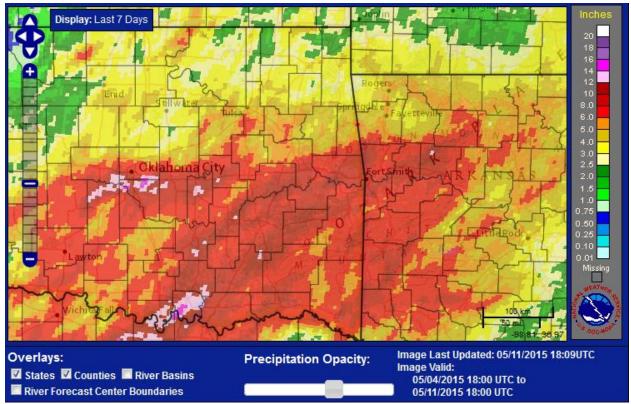


Fig. 30. 7-day Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 1pm CDT 05/11/2015

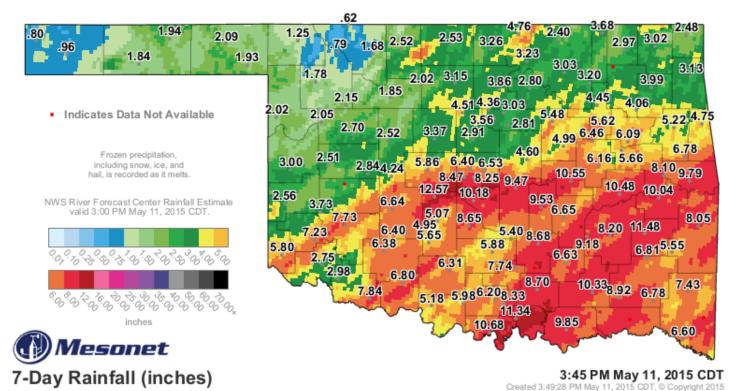


Fig. 31. 7-day Mesonet Rainfall Measurements and Estimated Observed Rainfall (image, from RFC) ending at 3:45pm CDT 05/11/2015



Fig. 32. PANO2 gage site from the air at 2:30pm CDT 5/12/2015. Stage is 42.11'. Photo: Michael Davidson



Fig. 34. Poteau River from the air at ~2:30pm CDT 5/12/2015. Photo: Michael Davidson



Fig. 33. Poteau River 5/12/2015 2:30pm CDT (PANO2 42.11') "This is the water treatment facility mentioned in the impact statements. The water was less than a foot from going over the berms. (Michael Davidson, Image)"

berms. (Michael Davidson, Image)" "The pond to the north is pond 1 raw sewage. The pond in the right corner is pond 4. It's the one that is pumped to the river, but in this case, the river almost came to it (David Fox, takes care of the pumps there)."



Fig. 35. Poteau River from the air at ~2:30pm CDT 5/12/2015. Photo: Michael Davidson

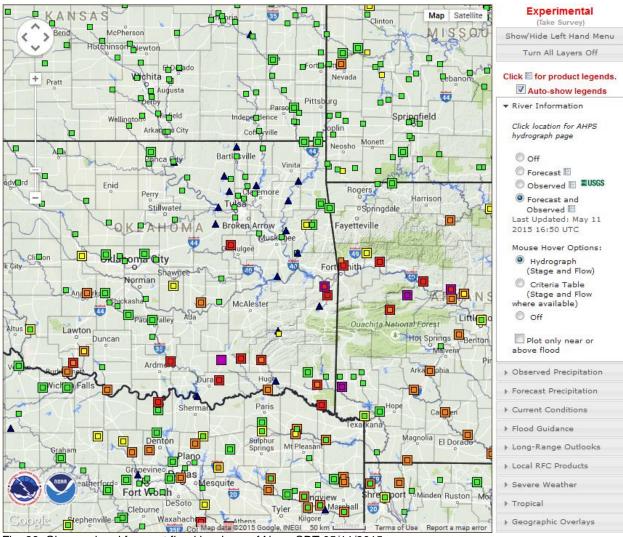


Fig. 36. Observed and forecast flood levels as of Noon CDT 05/11/2015

Showers and isolated thunderstorms developed during the afternoon on the 13<sup>th</sup> as an upper-level wave in the subtropical westerlies approached the Southern Plains from the southwest. While the majority of the HSA saw rain on the 13<sup>th</sup>, locations west of a Vinita to McAlester to Hugo line received around 0.50" to 2" of rain. The highest totals occurred in northern Creek, southeast Osage, Tulsa, western Rogers, and far southern Washington (OK) Counties. Rain lingered into the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> and brought an additional 0.25" to around 1" to portions of Rogers, Nowata, Craig, and Ottawa Counties.

A line of thunderstorms moved into eastern OK from the west on the 15<sup>th</sup> before diminishing during the afternoon hours. Additional scattered storms developed during the afternoon in Madison and Franklin Counties. 0.25" to near 0.75" of rain fell west of a Bartlesville to Muskogee to Hugo line in eastern OK and over Madison and Franklin Counties in northwest AR.

### <u>May 16-31</u>

On the large scale, a persistent split-flow block continued in the west on the 16<sup>th</sup>, with ridging centered over Florida. The Central/Southern Plains was in the storm track laid out between the two primary upper features and remained that way for over a week.

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, early morning storms lingered across northwest AR through the mid-morning hours. Thunderstorms, some of which were supercells, developed along a Pacific cold front and dryline in western OK as the main upper trough swung into the Central Plains. These storms merged into a large quasi-linear convective system (QLCS) as they moved east into the HSA during the evening, though a few discrete supercells formed ahead of the QLCS. Strengthening wind fields aloft supported severe weather, and 9 tornadoes occurred with this activity: EF1 near Okemah; EF2 in Broken Arrow; EF2 near Inola; EF1 Claremore Airport; EF1 near Pryor; EF1 near Adair; EF1 from near Ketchum to near Afton; EF1 near Fairland; and EF1 near Wyandotte. Well above normal precipitable water values and training thunderstorms, in conjunction with antecedent conditions, led to additional flash flooding. The entire HSA received around 0.50" to around 2" of rain, with pockets of 2"-3" (Fig. 37). Flash flooding occurred along the corridor of heaviest rain from Pittsburg County, OK to southern Washington County, AR. Several state and US highways were closed due to high water. Minor flooding occurred along the Arkansas River at Van Buren following this rain. The rain had shifted east of the area by sunrise on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/17/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/17/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/3/15 21:33 UTC



Fig. 37. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/17/2015

A few isolated storms brought localized 0.25" to 1.5" of rain during the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup>, with southern Delaware County getting 1.5"-2.5", as a cold front sagged south. The front stalled near the Red River, then began to lift northward on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The warm front stalled near I-40 during the evening due to reinforcing rain cooled outflow over northeast OK and northwest AR. Widespread thunderstorms developed as an upper-level trough ejected into the Plains. While the entire region saw rain, the heaviest rainfall was focused near the warm front along and south of I-40 as the MCS moved across southeast OK and west central AR. A smaller area of showers and thunderstorms affected far northeast OK near the surface low and a cold front. Precipitable water values of 1.75"-2" once again yielded storms very efficient at making rain. Along and south of the I-40 corridor, widespread 1.5" to 4" of rain fell. Portions of Haskell, Le Flore, Latimer, Pushmataha, and Pittsburg Counties saw 4" to 7" of rain (Fig. 38). The OK Mesonet station near Clayton measured 6.01" and the Talihina station measured 5.64" (Fig. 39). North of I-40, rainfall totals were 0.25" to 1.5". The heavy rain on top of saturated soils led to widespread, extensive flash flooding along and south of I-40. This was the same area that received very heavy rain 1-2 weeks prior. Flood waters inundated numerous buildings in Talihina (Le Flore Co.), including the housing authority, the Choctaw Nation Hospital, the high school, and a nursing home. Numerous roads were under water across the area as well. Mainstem river flooding also resulted from all of this rain. The Poteau River near Poteau and Panama both reached moderate flood stage, while the Arkansas River at Van Buren and Ozark Lock and Dam had minor flooding (see preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report). Area lakes, which were already mostly full from the rainfall in the weeks prior, filled further and both Sardis and Wister Lakes went into surcharge according to data from the USACE Tulsa District. Water began going through the uncontrolled auxiliary spillway at Wister Lake by late on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and continued to flow on the spillway until the morning of June 8, 2015. Eufaula Lake was still in surcharge and the rainfall from the 19th caused the lake to rise higher still. On the night of May 21, 2015, William Gamblin, 34, of Hugo, OK was driving his pickup truck when it became stuck in flood water 4 miles north of Hugo on Ballpark Rd. He walked out and got help, then walked back to the truck to get some personal items. Local media reports Mr. Gamblin walked about 100 yards when he hit a dip in the road and went under water. He did not resurface.

Highest 24-hr rainfall ending 7am CDT 5/20/2015: Clayton 4NNE, OK 6.01" Talihina 4SE, OK

5.63"

Ratcliff, AR

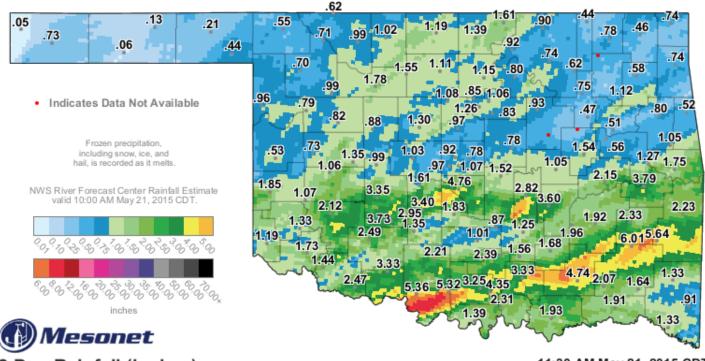
5.05"

Charleston 1.7E, AR	4.84"	Big Cedar E, OK	4.78"	Talihina 3ENE, OK	4.74"
Page 5N, OK	4.62"	Eufaula 4.6ENE, OK	3.86"	Stigler 4WNW, OK	3.79"

Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/20/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/20/2015 1200 UTC- Created 5/21/15 15:45 UTC



Fig. 38. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/20/2015



# 2-Day Rainfall (inches)

11:30 AM May 21, 2015 CDT Created 11:34:18 AM May 21, 2015 CDT. © Copyright 2015

Fig. 39. 2-day Mesonet Rainfall Measurements and Estimated Observed Rainfall (image, from RFC) ending at 11:30am CDT 05/21/2015

There was only a short break as the rain stayed just south of the Red River, and then heavy rain once again inundated the region beginning on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The rain continued over the Memorial Day weekend, tragically leading to four additional fatalities. Deep moisture returned to the region, with precipitable water values between 1.5 and 2 inches in the atypical deep tropical airmass. Several disturbances moved through the deepening meridional flow. A zone of upper-level divergence set up across the Plains over Memorial Day weekend, allowing for the training of storms. Convection began along and north of the Red River on the 22<sup>nd</sup> due to persistent upglide north of the surface front in northern TX. By 7am on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, rainfall totals south of I-

40 ranged from 0.25" to around 3", with the highest totals of 1.5"-3" occurring across southern Pittsburg, southern Latimer, southern Le Flore, and Pushmataha Counties in southeast OK (Fig. 40). Along and north of I-40, totals were around 0.50" or less.

The front then began to lift north into the HSA during the overnight hours and on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Convection focused mainly west of the area during the day of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, with scattered activity across eastern OK and northwest AR. By the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, however, the line of storms from the west had moved into the HSA. The convection slowly moved east during the evening and overnight hours as the upper-level flow backed from an approaching trough and diffluent flow spread east over the region. An EF0 tornado occurred near Red Oak, OK (Latimer Co.) The biggest impact, though, was the deadly flooding that occurred. Saturated soils, along with many of the larger rivers near or already in flood, allowed for rapid onset of flash flooding. Most of the activity was very efficient at producing rain, with some rain rates as much as 1.5"-2.5" per hour. However, due to the antecedent conditions, flash flooding occurred even with rainfall rates not typically associated with flash flooding. Widespread 1.5"-4" of rain fell over most of eastern OK by 7am on the 24<sup>th</sup>, with many areas seeing totals of 4"-7" (Fig. 41). The rainfall axis shifted further east during the morning and afternoon on the 24<sup>th</sup> as convection renewed along the outflow boundary from the overnight storms, impacting western AR and southeast OK. Dangerous flooding continued in these areas, which also experienced widespread 1"-5" of rain (Fig. 42). In just a 2-day period, the entire HSA had received around 2" to nearly 8" of rain (Figs. 43, 44) and around 2.5"-12" of rain in just 5 days (Figs. 45, 46), ending at 8:15pm 5/24/2015.

#### Highest 24-hr rainfall ending 7am CDT 5/24/2015 (≥3.5"):

Ingiloot E i in raimai	onang ran oe				
McAlester 2.2ENE, OK	6.32"	McAlester 4S, OK	6.23"	Hectorville 4W, OK	6.12"
McAlester Airport, OK	5.73"	Krebs 0.3WNW, OK	5.59"	Broken Arrow 2SSW, OK	5.50"
Webbers Falls Dam, OK	5.45"	Broken Arrow 1.5SW, OK	5.35"	Broken Arrow 2.7SSW,OK	5.30"
Bixby 2ENE, OK	5.22"	Broken Arrow 7ENE, OK	5.18"	Jenks 4.5ENE, OK	5.16"
Bristow 4SSE, OK	5.14"	Glenpool 0.6S, OK	5.11"	Webbers Falls 1.5S, OK	5.09"
Broken Arrow 3NNW, OK	5.05"	Tulsa, OK	4.85"	Whitefield, OK	4.72"
Webbers Falls, OK	4.47"	Bunch 0.8N, OK	4.47"	Tahlequah 4NNW, OK	4.46"
Pensacola Dam, OK	4.31"	Claremore 5W, OK	4.20"	Jenks Riverside Arpt, OK	4.01"
Claremore 7.5W, OK	3.91"	Spavinaw, OK	3.90"	Spavinaw Dam, OK	3.66"
Tulsa Intl. Arpt., OK	3.65"	Tahlequah 2ENE, OK	3.61"	Claremore 7.5W, OK	3.60"
Okemah 3E, OK	3.60"	Tenkiller Ferry Dam, OK	3.59"	Muskogee 2ENE, OK	3.55"
Oologah Lake, OK	3.54"	Eufaula 4.6ENE, OK	3.52"	Okemah 5W, OK	3.50"
Highest 24-hr rainfall	ending 7am CE	<u>DT 5/25/2015:</u>			
Greenwood 1.4W, AR	4.65"	Page 5N, OK	4.13"	Riverdale 4.2E, AR	3.97"
Big Cedar 2E, OK	3.72"	Fort Smith, AR	2.80"	Cloudy 6SSE, OK	2.70"
Charleston 1.7E, AR	2.58"	Van Buren 2.1NNW, AR	2.57"	Poteau 1ENE, OK	2.56"

Many Flash Flood Warnings were issued, with a Flash Flood Emergency issued for the Tulsa metro area. The City of Tulsa alone made 55 water-related emergency responses between 9 and 11pm. Widespread roads in the Tulsa metro area and suburbs had water over them, some to several feet, and numerous stalled cars. Homes were flooded in Sapulpa, OK, Catoosa, OK, and Beggs, OK, and likely elsewhere. Many roads, including state and U.S. highways, were flooded from around Okemah, OK, northeast across the Tulsa area into the northeast corner of the state. Many roadways were damaged or washed out (Figs. 53, 55 – 64).

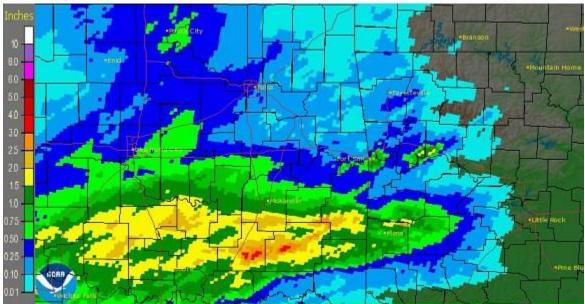
Four fatalities occurred from the heavy rain on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first fatality was 44 year old Claremore Fire Captain Jason Farley, who fell into a rapidly flowing drain pipe on Archer Court at Highway 20 just west of Claremore, OK. Captain Farley had been part of the response to rescue people inside several duplexes when the water was high. As the rescues were wrapping up, he fell into the drain pipe. He helped rescue a woman and 6 small children. Quinton Spradley, 37 years old, drowned in a drainage ditch in Sapulpa, OK. He was found on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Finally, two 20 year old men, Cody Parrick and Benjamin Baber, were driving back home to Okmulgee after the Rocklahoma (Pryor, OK Mayes Co.) concert ended late on May 23, 2015, but never made it home. The men had been missing until June 7, 2015, when their vehicle was found submerged on the Oneta boat ramp on Lake Eufaula (McIntosh Co., about 42 miles south of their homes). The Medical Examiner determined the cause of death to be accidental drowning.

The heavy rain also led to widespread mainstem river flooding across eastern OK and west central AR. Of the 33 river forecast points in the HSA, 19 rose above flood stage, or if already flooded, rose higher from the additional rain through the 24<sup>th</sup> (Fig. 47). These included rivers in the following basins: Bird Creek, Polecat

Creek, Caney River, Verdigris River, Illinois River, Lower Arkansas River, Poteau River, Lee Creek, Deep Fork River, Kiamichi River, and the Red River. See the E3 Flood Stage Report for details and the preliminary hydrographs at the end of this report. Many of these points reached moderate and major flooding, and several remained above flood stage for a week or more. A couple of additional forecast points reached action stage, and a couple points rose but remained just below flood stage. Many of these points continued to rise later in the month due to additional rainfall and routed flow from upstream.

A large convective complex developed on the 25<sup>th</sup> in northern TX and southern OK, tracking eastward along and south of the Red River. As strong wind fields spread downstream of a mid-level wave, the storm complex remained organized and maintained rapid east-northeast development through the evening from southeast OK into northwest AR. Mesovortices developed along some of the linear convective segments, and four tornadoes occurred: EF2 from near Clayton to near Yanush; EF1 near Whitesboro; EF1 near Fanshawe; and EF2 from near Wister to near Panama. Rainfall was once again heavy across portions of east central and southeast OK. Along and south of I-44, rainfall totals ranged from around 0.25" to around 3" (Fig. 48). Without time for recovery from the last heavy rain, this additional rainfall resulted in more rapid-onset flash flooding and sustained or higher river flooding (Figs. 54, 52). The combined rain over the Poteau River basin on the 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> caused major flooding along the river as indicated by the forecast points at Poteau and Panama. Wister Dam was holding back a record amount of water, and the downstream flooding would have been worse had the reservoir not been in place. This rain event led to the 4<sup>th</sup> and highest crest of the long duration moderate flood along the Kiamichi River near Antlers. According to USGS data, the 7-day average streamflow ending May 26, 2015 was well above normal (above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile) compared to historical streamflow for that day of the year for almost all of the river gages in eastern OK and northwest AR. All of the gages with available data along and south of I-40 in the HSA measured the highest 7-day average streamflow on record for May 26 (Fig. 51).

Lake levels continued to rise after all of the rain from the 22<sup>nd</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>. According to data from the USACE Tulsa District, Wister Lake set a new pool of record late on the 25<sup>th</sup>, when the pool elevation peaked at 508.35' (previous record was 508.22'). Hugo Lake also reached its new pool of record late on the 25<sup>th</sup>, with a pool elevation of 440.11' (previous record 440.05'). Inflow into Eufaula Lake reached 250,000 cfs on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and the lake reached its highest pool level on the 26<sup>th</sup>. USACE Tulsa District pie charts of flood control pools on May 26, 2015 for the Lower Arkansas River Basin and the Lower Red River Basin show just how full the system was, with all reservoirs operating in the flood pool (Figs. 49, 50). Most of the flood pools were more than half way full, with several over 70% full.



Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/23/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/23/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/4/15 2:28 UTC

Fig. 40. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/23/2015

#### Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/24/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/24/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/4/15 3:17 UTC

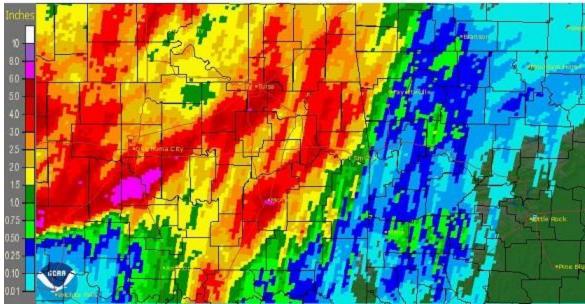


Fig. 41. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/24/2015

Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/25/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/25/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/4/15 4:05 UTC

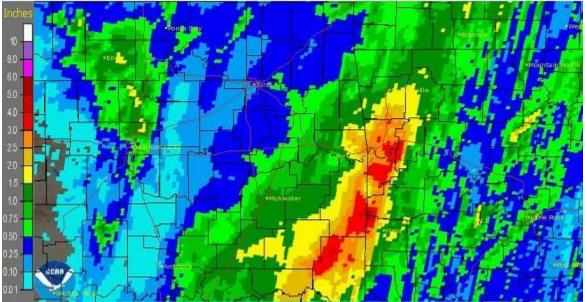
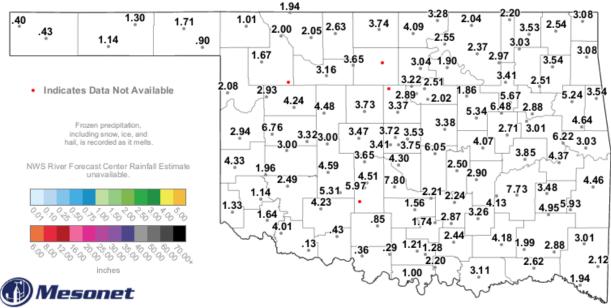


Fig. 42. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/25/2015



### 2-Day Rainfall (inches)

Fig. 43. 48-hour Observed Rainfall from the Oklahoma Mesonet ending at 8:15pm CDT 05/24/2015

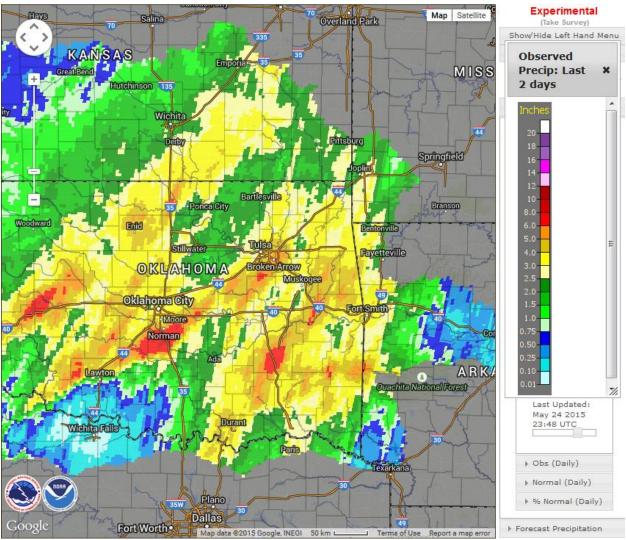
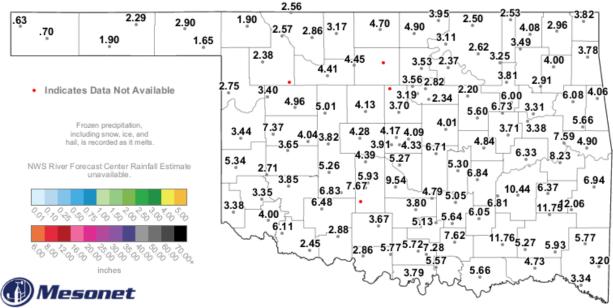


Fig. 44. 2-day Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 6:48pm CDT 05/24/2015

<sup>8:15</sup> PM May 24, 2015 CDT Created 8:19:19 PM May 24, 2015 CDT, © Copyright 2015



## 5-Day Rainfall (inches)

8:20 PM May 24, 2015 CDT Created 8:24:26 PM May 24, 2015 CDT. © Copyright 2015

Fig. 45. 5-day Observed Rainfall from the Oklahoma Mesonet ending at 8:20pm CDT 05/24/2015

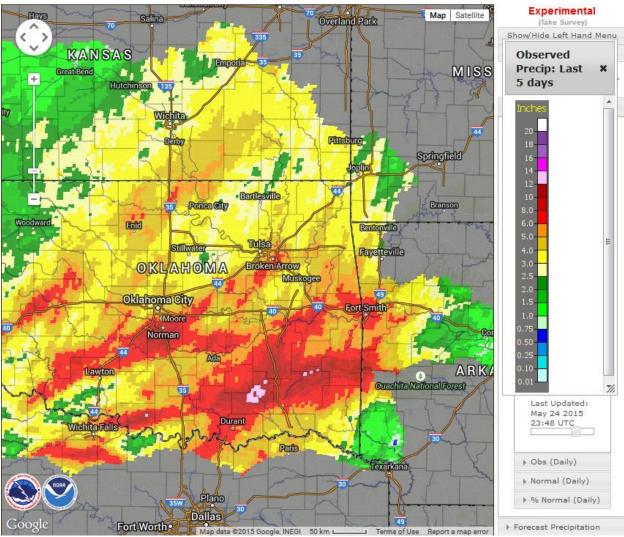


Fig. 46. 5-day Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 6:48pm CDT 05/24/2015

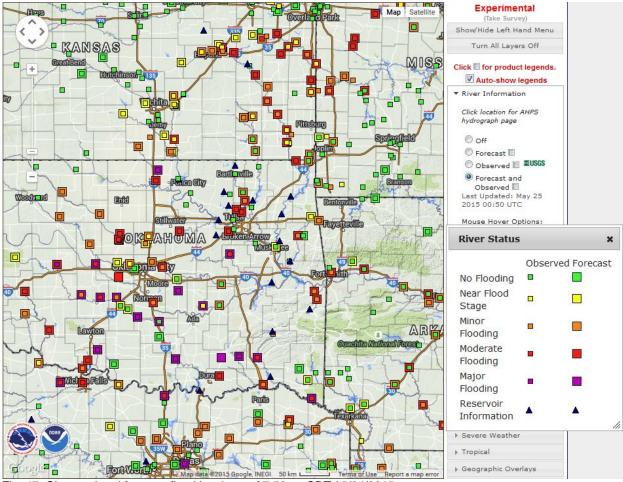


Fig. 47. Observed and forecast flood levels as of 7:50pm CDT 05/24/2015

Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/26/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/26/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/4/15 4:54 UTC

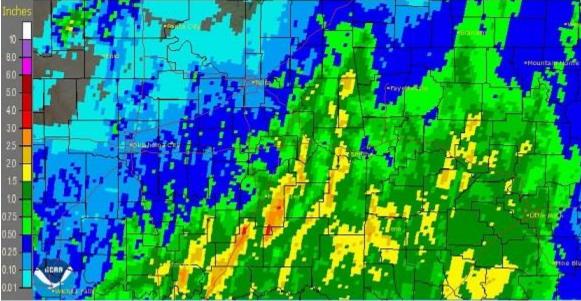
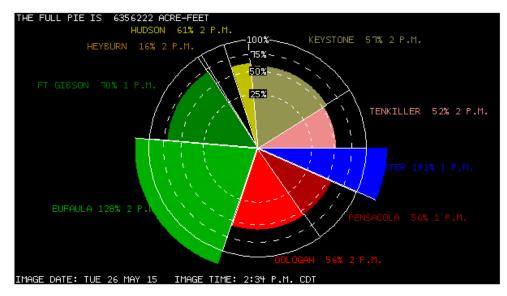


Fig. 48. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/26/2015

## LOWER ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

## Pie Chart of Flood Control Pools

Click on a lake name to get graphical data.



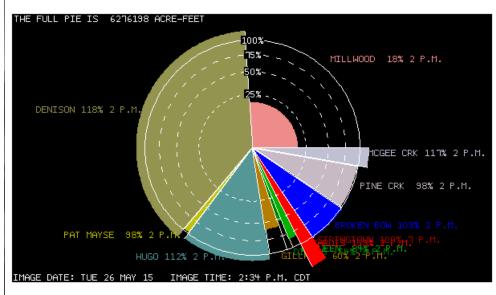
The size of the pie slice is proportionate to the lake's share of the total flood control storage in the Lower Arkansas River basin.

The radius of the pie slice indicates the percent of the lake's flood control storage that is filled at the time indicated. Fig. 49. USACE Tulsa District pie chart of flood control pools for the Lower Arkansas River Basin at 2:34pm CDT 5/26/2015.

# LOWER RED RIVER BASIN

## Pie Chart of Flood Control Pools

Click on a lake name to get graphical data.



The size of the pie slice is proportionate to the lake's share of the total flood control storage in the Lower Red River basin.

The radius of the pie slice indicates the percent of the lake's flood control storage that is filled at the time indicated.

Fig. 50. USACE Tulsa District pie chart of flood control pools for the Lower Red River Basin at 2:34pm CDT 5/26/2015.

# Map of 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Arkansas-White-Red)

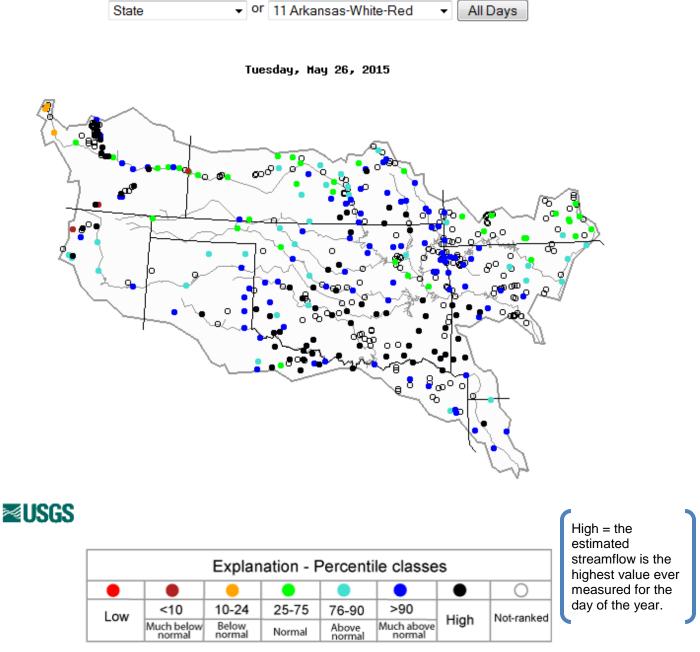


Fig. 51. USGS map of 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year, 5/26/2015.



Fig. 52. ODOT: This rock slide impacted the safety of the road bed of US-259 about five miles south of SH-63 in LeFlore County on May 25, 2015. http://www.ok.gov/odot/Flooding2015.html



Fig. 53. ODOT: US-271 near Clayton closed May 23, 2015, after heavy rains and erosion caused extensive cracking in the highway. Repairs, which are designed to slow further erosion, are estimated at \$500,000. http://www.ok.gov/odot /Flooding2015.html



Fig. 54. ODOT: SH-3 west of Rattan at Rattan Landing was under water May 25, 2015, in Pushmataha County. http://www.ok.gov/o dot/Flooding2015.h tml



Flooding in Sapulpa at Park St. and Washington where a car is submerged and two homes were Fig. 55. evacuated on May 23, 2015. JOEY JOHNSON/ for the Tulsa World



Flooding is seen in Sapulpa at Park Street and Washington Avenue, where a car is submerged and two homes were evacuated Saturday. JOEY JOHNSON/ for the Tulsa World Fig. 56.



Fig. 57. Woodland Acres Bixby, OK via Mike Collier Ch. 8 Twitter May 24, 2015



Fig. 58. "Sand Springs Cinemark Theater last night" - Jeremy Allen via Mike Collier Ch. 8 twitter May 24, 2015



Fig. 59. Locust Grove, OK via Verla Fletcher Twitter May 24, 2015



Fig. 60. Bixby, OK via Sarah Armstrong Twitter May 24, 2015



Fig. 61. Cole Strang Road 5 miles east of Pryor, OK via Will Carroll Facebook May 25, 2015



Fig. 62. Haikey Creek Park in Bixby, OK via Mike Collier Ch. 8 Twitter May 24, 2015



Fig. 63. Part of 61st Street between 209th and 193rd in Broken Arrow, OK was washed out by flood water. Fox23 5/24/2015



Fig. 64. Hwy 3 closed between Antlers and Rattan at the Kiamichi River around 6 p.m. 5/26/2015. USACE Tulsa District

Several upper-level waves moved over the region within the southwest flow aloft, bringing additional rounds of showers and thunderstorms. First, elevated storms moved across northeast OK during the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup>. Convection then developed during the evening and overnight hours of the 26<sup>th</sup> the outflow boundary from the earlier storms, affecting portions of northeast OK and northwest AR. Most of the scattered storms affected locations from Stillwater to Tulsa to Tahlequah to Sallisaw. This area received around 0.25" to near 2" of rain, with the highest totals across southern Tulsa and Wagoner Counties. Lighter rain fell north of this line. Minor street flooding was reported in Glenpool. Some afternoon storms on the 27<sup>th</sup> brought around 0.25" to around 1" of rain to portions of Benton, far northeast Washington, Madison, and far southern Carroll Counties in northwest AR.

During the early morning hours of the 28<sup>th</sup>, a convective complex was moving east across south central OK. Ahead of the main line, scattered storms developed in southeast OK. This activity brought 0.10" to near 1.5" to portions of McIntosh, Pittsburg, and Pushmataha Counties before being taken over by the main line. Additional overnight storms over north central OK moved east into northeast OK during the early morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, bringing some light rain, around 0.50" or less, to portions of Osage, Pawnee, and Washington Counties. Eastern Kay Co. received the most rain, getting 0.75" to near 2.5". The MCS continued to move east across eastern OK and into western AR through the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>. All of eastern OK and the AR counties that border OK had widespread rain from the MCS. This rain once again led to rapid-onset flash flooding. Sand bagging was required in Talihina to protect some businesses. Numerous roads throughout the region were closed due to high water. Three tornadoes also occurred within the line of storms on the 28<sup>th</sup>: EF1 near Talihina; EF1 near Highfill; and EF0 near Bentonville. Another MCS developed over northern TX/southern OK and tracked east along the Red River late on the 28<sup>th</sup> into the early morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Largely meridional upper flow aided in the northward expansion of the precipitation. High precipitable water values near 2" again supported heavy rain. This MCS once again brought heavy rain to southeast OK and scattered rain to eastern OK and counties along the OK/AR state line. 24-hr rainfall totals by 7am on the 29th ranged from around 0.50" to around 4" (Fig. 65). A large area of McIntosh, Pittsburg, and Latimer Counties had the highest totals of 2"-4" of rain. The highest 24-hr rainfall totals ending at 7am CDT 7/29/2015 were 4.02" measured 3.9NNE of Hartshorne, OK and 3.27" measured 5W of Eufaula, OK. Isolated locations elsewhere in eastern OK saw 1.5"-2.5" of rain. This rainfall led to additional moderate flood crests along the Neosho River near Commerce. The Kiamichi River near Antlers had finally fallen below flood stage, but this rainfall caused the river to rise once again to moderate flood levels.

A few storms lingered through the early morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>, with renewed convection occurring over eastern OK by late-morning. Widespread showers and thunderstorms, including supercells, moved east through the afternoon and late evening hours. Three tornadoes also occurred on the afternoon of the 29<sup>th</sup>: EF1 near Webbers Falls; EF0 near Gore; and EF1 from near Spavinaw to near Eucha. Precipitable water values remained at 1.5"-2", yielding more heavy rain. Most of eastern Kay, Pawnee, and Osage Counties saw little to no rain, while elsewhere, rainfall totals ranged from 0.25" to 3" (Fig. 66). Much of the affected area saw 0.75" to 2" of rain from these storms. 24-hour rainfall measurements ending at 7am CDT 7/30/2015 included: 3.08" in Porter, OK; 3.04" 5SE of Okmulgee, OK; and 2.57" in Antlers, OK. Significant flooding once again occurred, with extensive street flooding and water rescues in and around Pryor, OK and evacuations from homes in Wagoner. Significant street flooding was also reported in the Tulsa and Fort Smith areas, as well as numerous other towns in eastern OK and northwest AR. The Arkansas River continued to rise with this additional rainfall, resulting in multiple crests of major flooding at Van Buren and Ozark Lock and Dam, and moderate flooding near Muskogee. Lee Creek near Van Buren also experienced two crests of moderate flooding, and the Kiamichi River near Antlers had moderate flooding as well. According to data from the USACE Tulsa District, water likely flowed over the spillway briefly at Sardis Lake from late on the 29<sup>th</sup> until early on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Once again, an MCS developed over northern TX and tracked east-northeast along the Red River in far southern OK. By the time it reached Choctaw Co. on the 30<sup>th</sup>, most of the rain had dissipated north of the Red River. Choctaw Co. got 0.10"-0.25" of rain; however, upstream along the Red River, south central OK received 0.75" to 2" of rain. This water flowed eastward, and combined with the rain over the previous couple of days, caused the Red River at Arthur City, which was already experiencing major flooding, to climb even higher. The river crested at 36.99 feet, the second highest crest on record since the upstream Lake Texoma was impounded.

#### Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/29/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/29/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/11/15 16:55 UTC



Fig. 65. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/29/2015

Tulsa, OK (TSA): 5/30/2015 1-Day Observed Precipitation Valid at 5/30/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/11/15 17:45 UTC

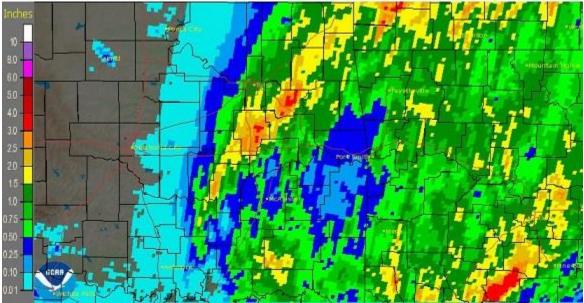


Fig. 66. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 7am CDT 05/30/2015

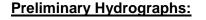
Written by:

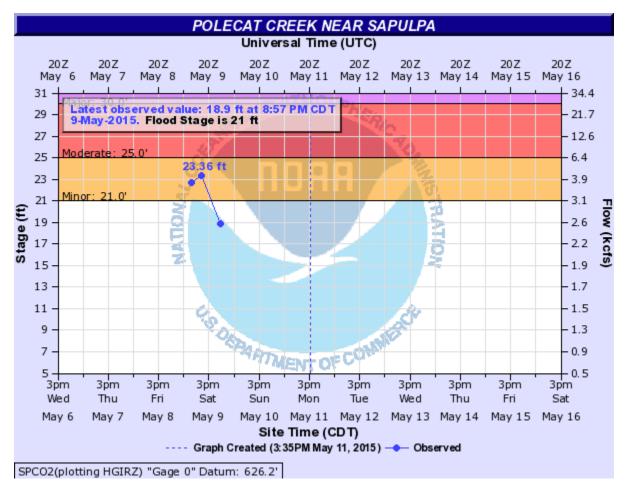
Nicole McGavock Service Hydrologist WFO Tulsa

### Products issued in May 2015:

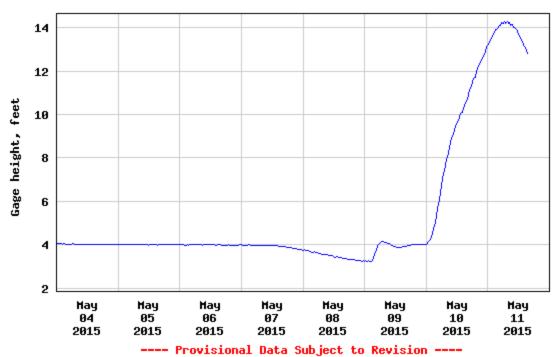
\*MLBA4 and OZGA4 transferred to NWS Tulsa HSA February 5, 2014 \*Mixed case River Flood products began July 31, 2013

- 72 Flash Flood Warnings (FFW)
- 66 Flash Flood Statements (FFS)
- 7 Flash/Areal Flood Watches (FFA) (32 Watch FFA CON/EXT/EXA/EXB/CAN)
- 51 Urban and Small Stream Advisories (FLS)
- 30 Areal Flood Warnings (FLW)
- 2 Areal Flood Statements (FLS)
- 78 River Flood Warnings (FLW)
- 527 River Flood Statements (FLS)
- 12 River Flood Advisories (FLS) (39 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)

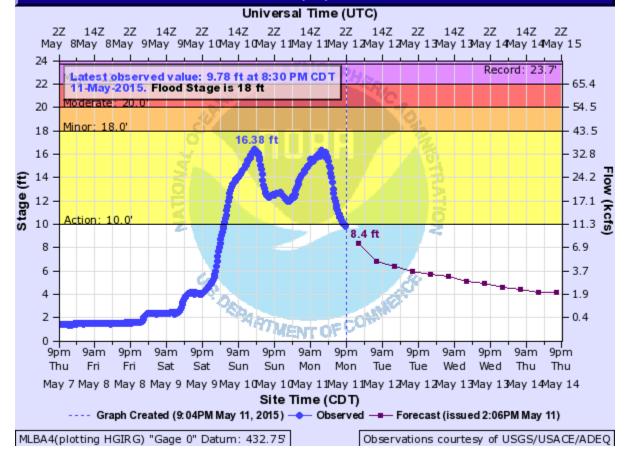


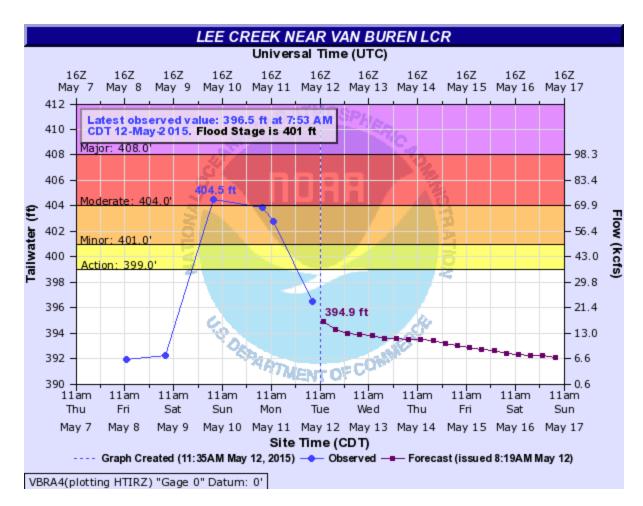


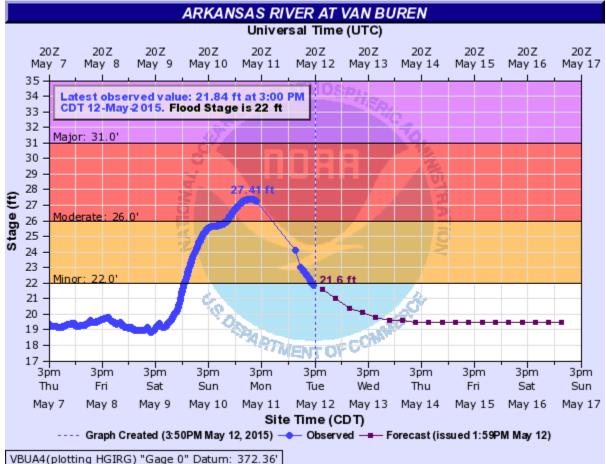
USGS 07185000 Neosho River near Commerce, OK

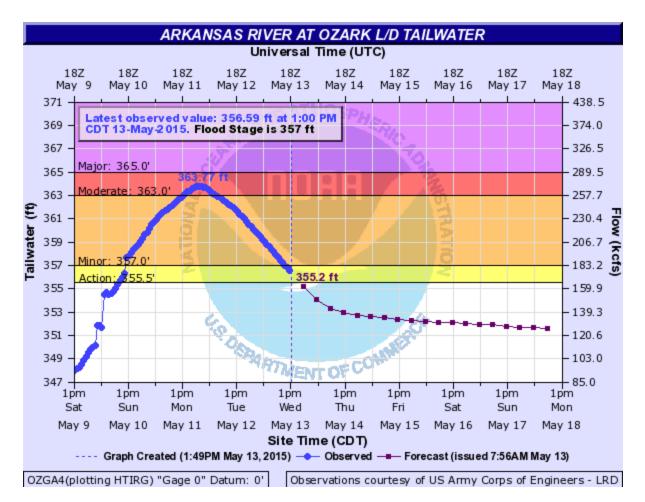


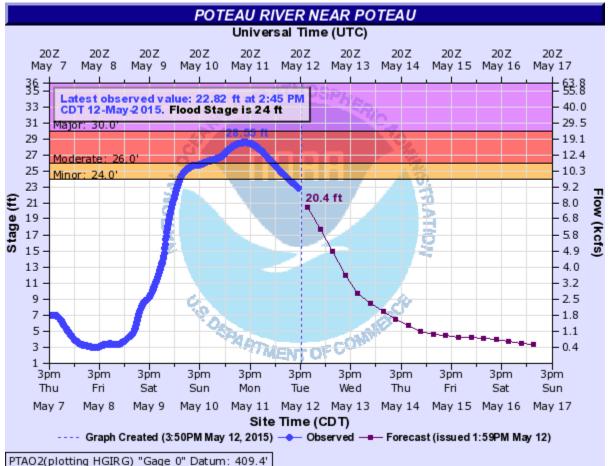
### MULBERRY RIVER (AR) NEAR MULBERRY

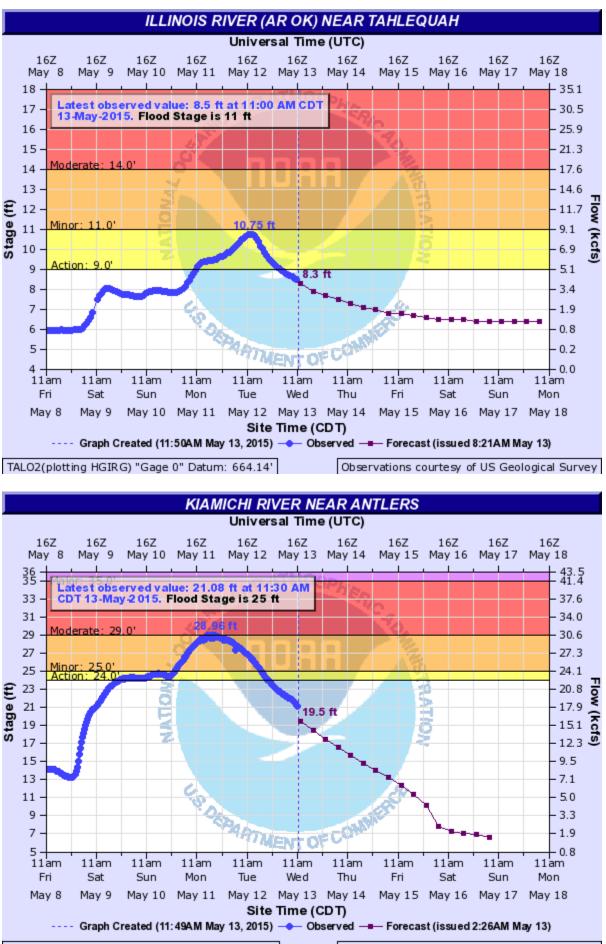




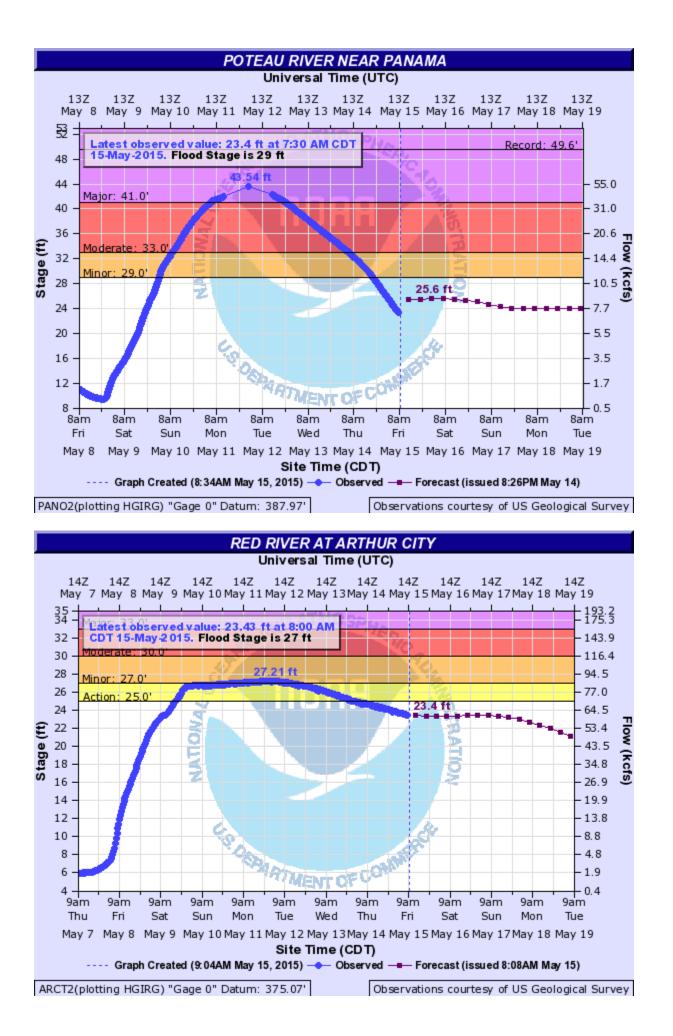


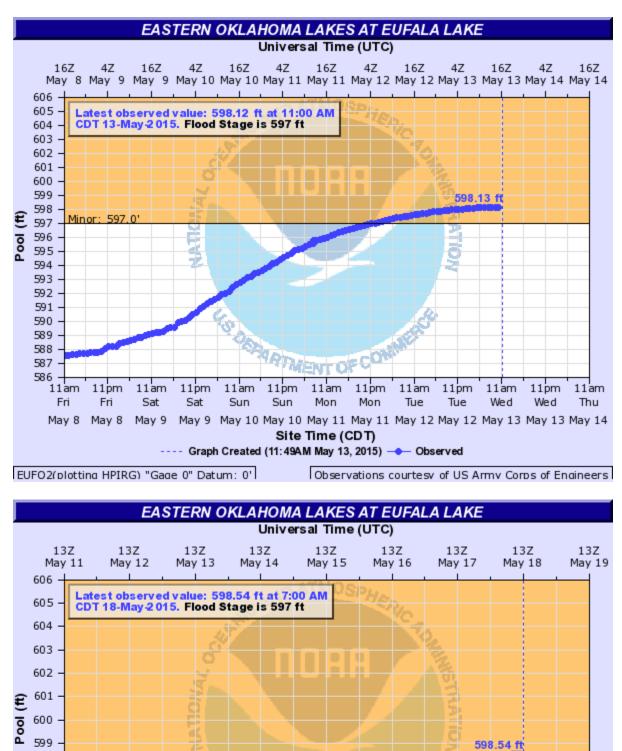


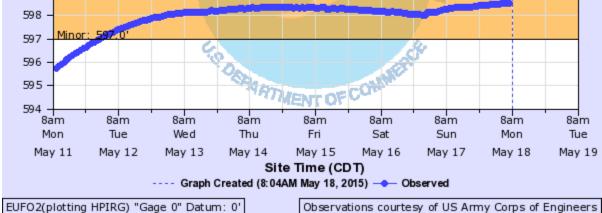


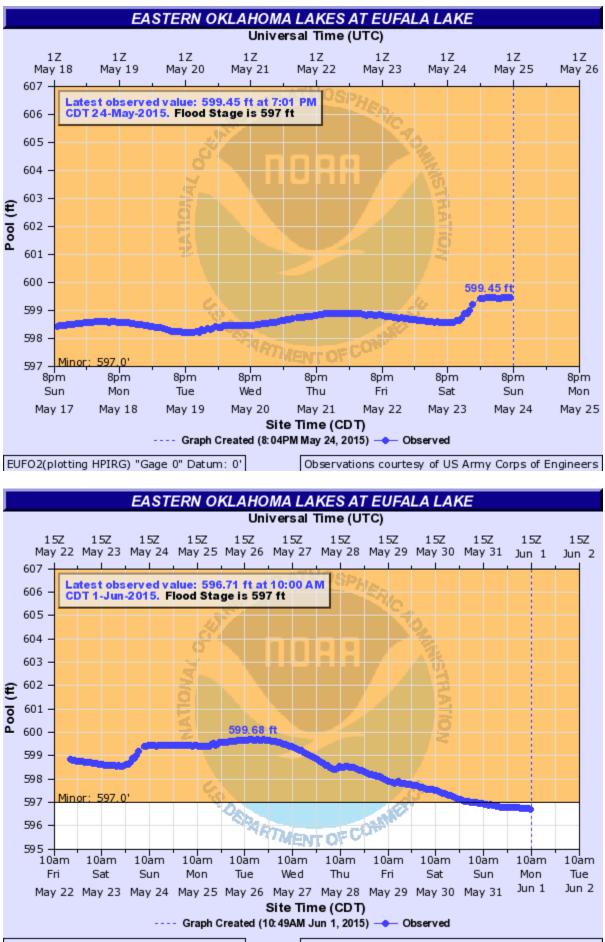


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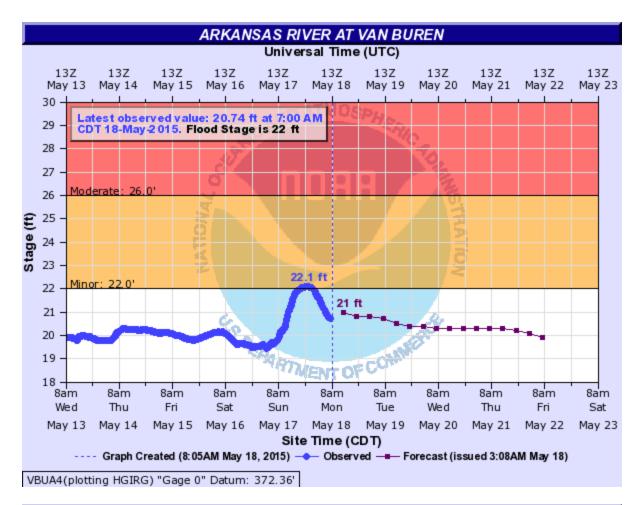


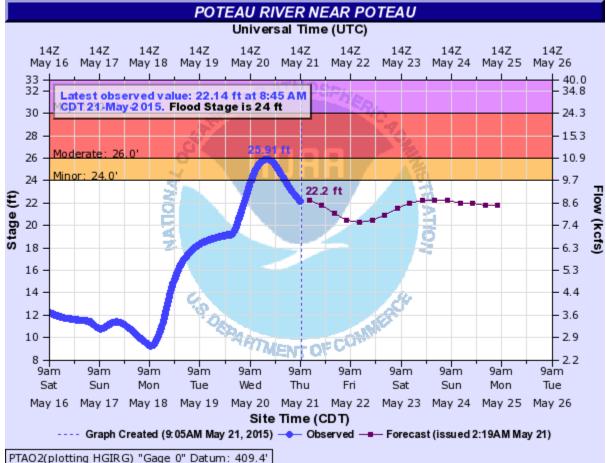


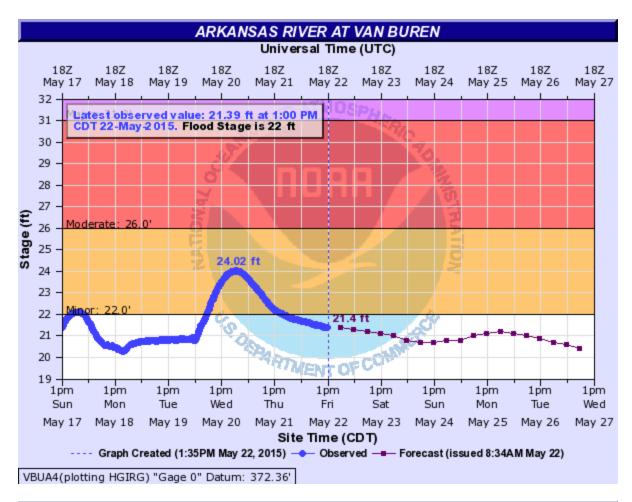


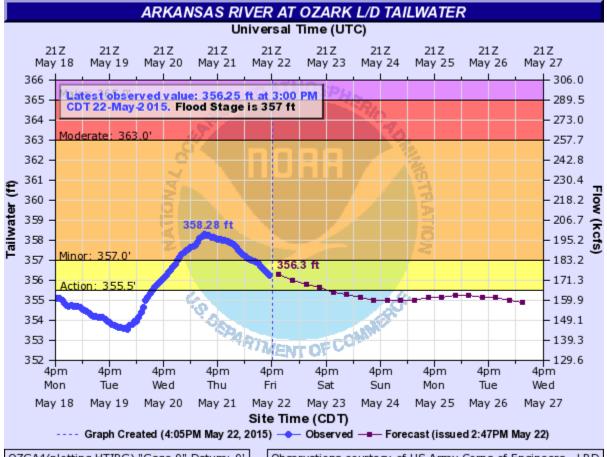
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Observations courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers

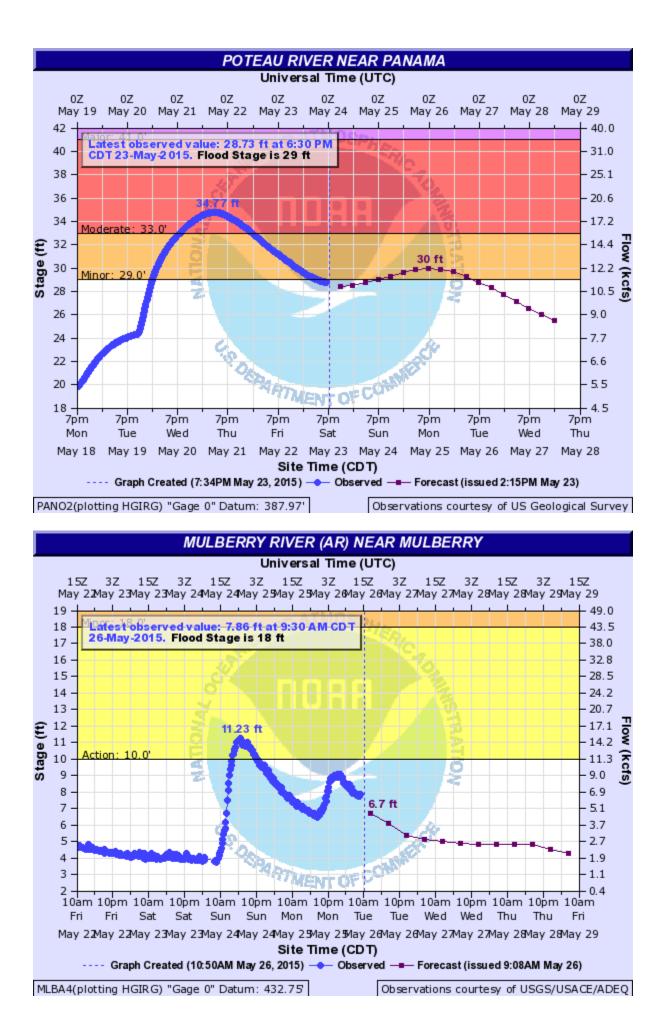


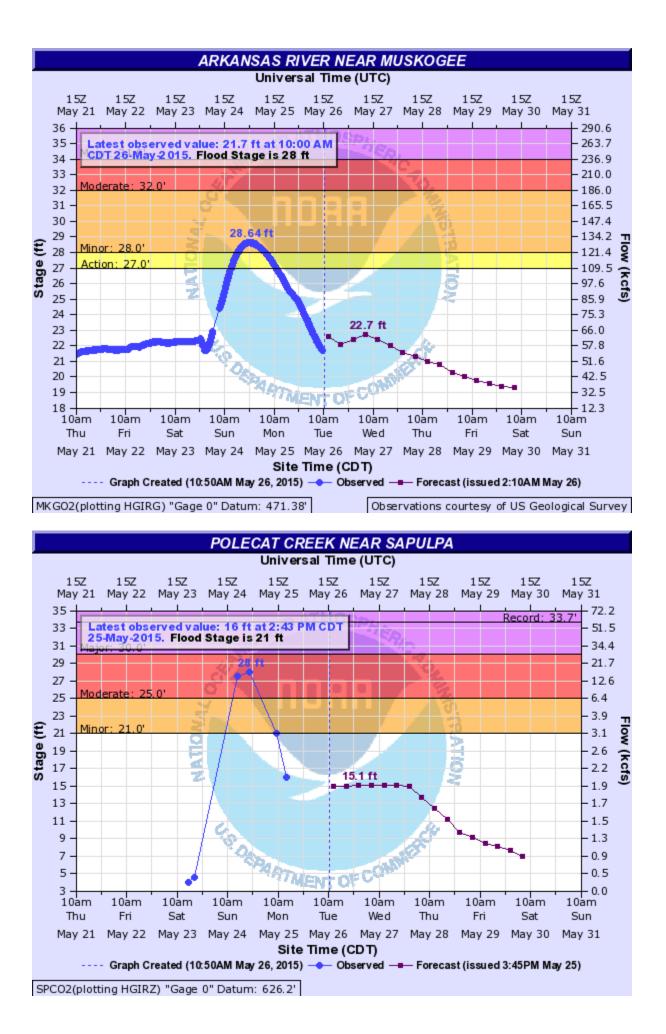


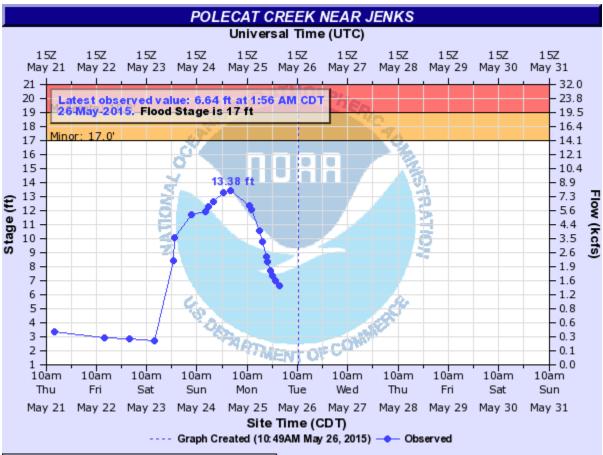




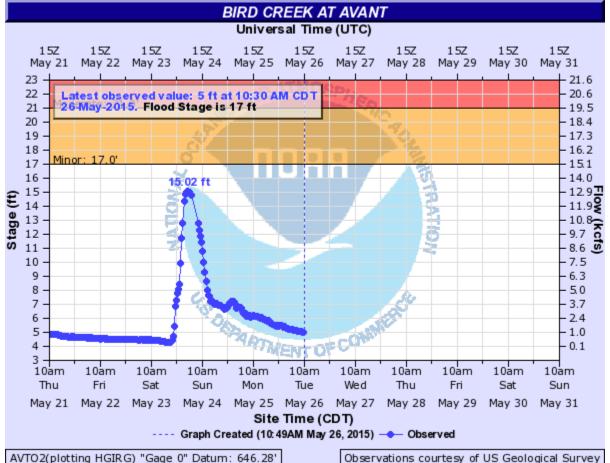
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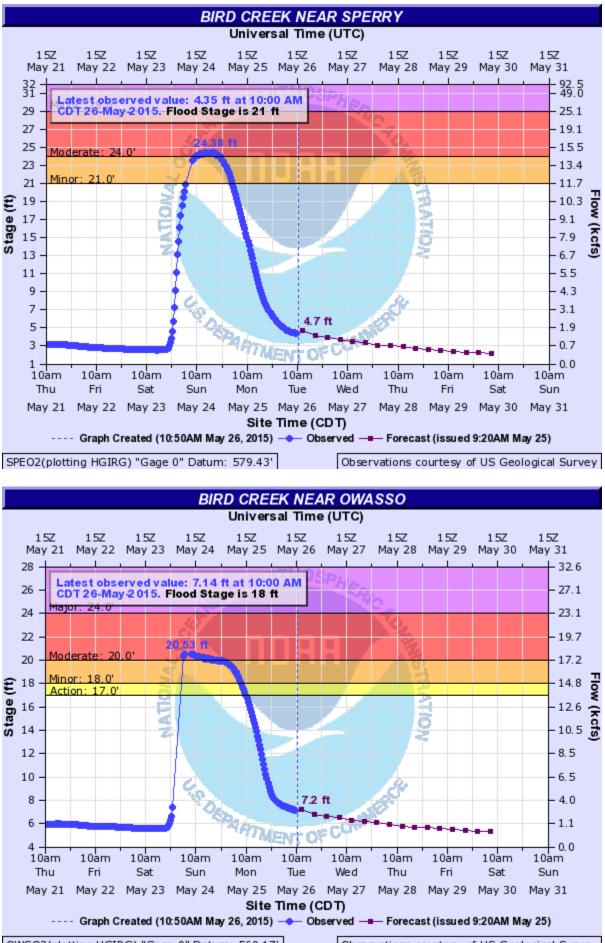




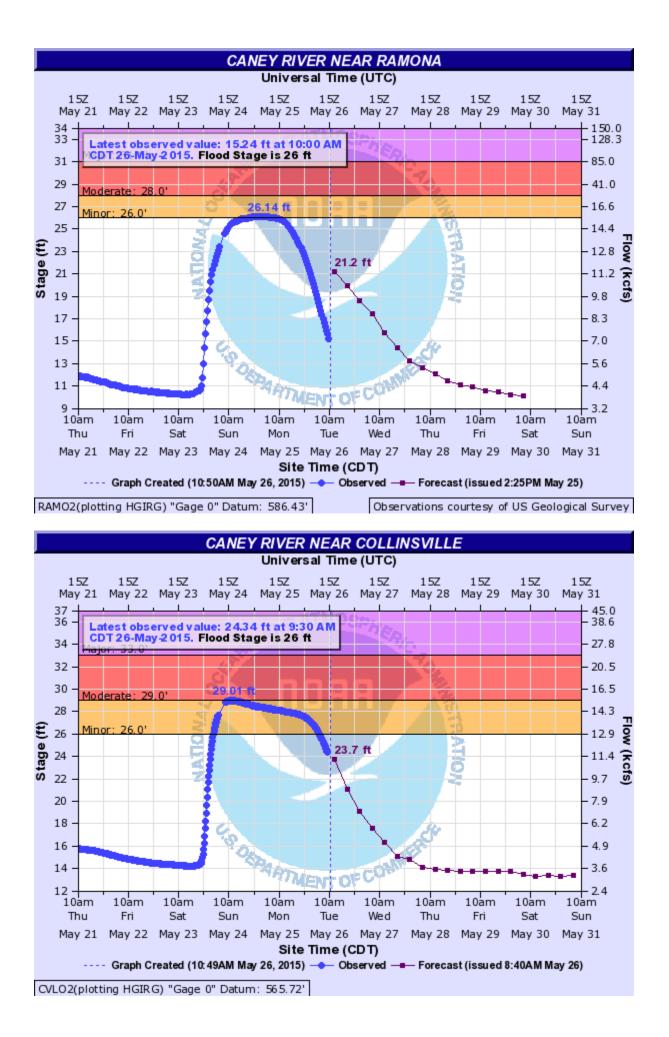


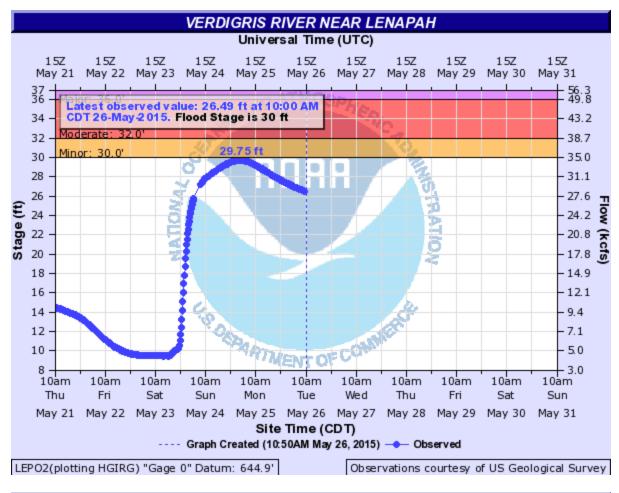
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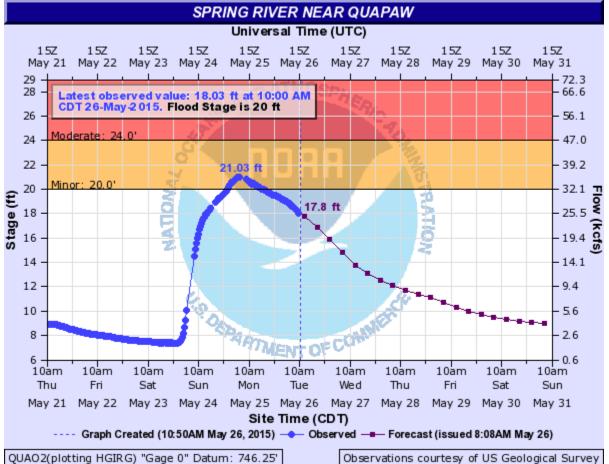


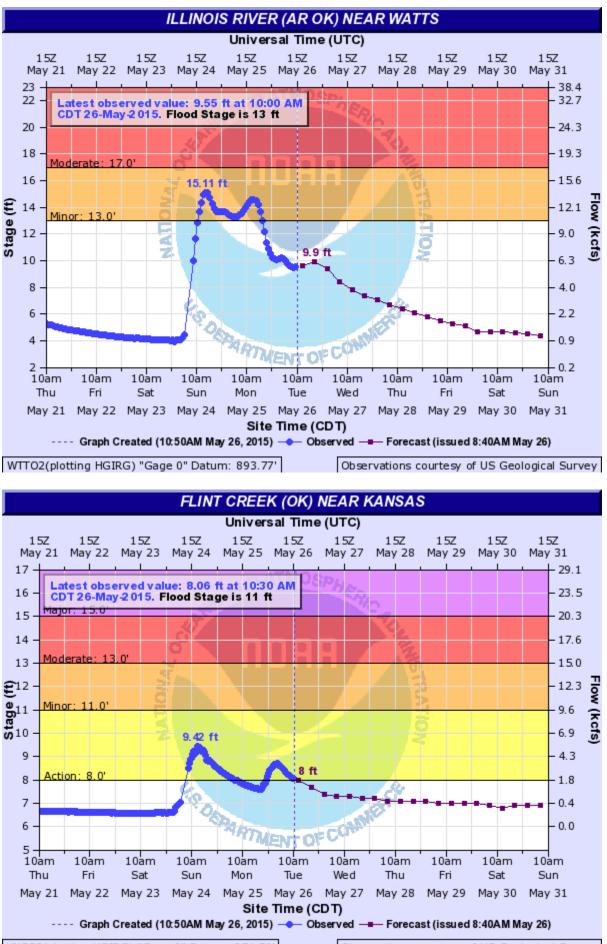


OWSO2(plotting HGIRG) "Gage 0" Datum: 560.17'

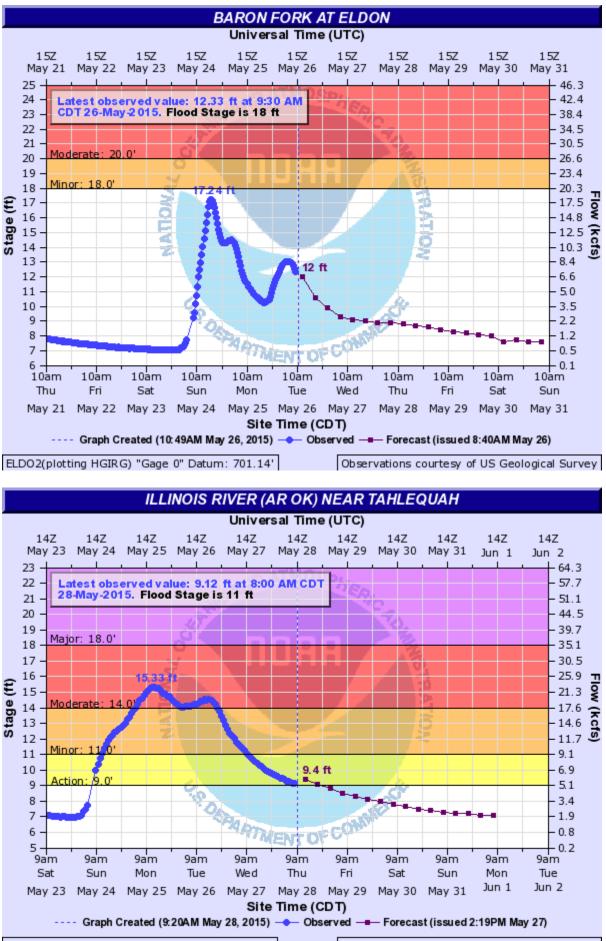








KNSO2(plotting HGIRG) "Gage 0" Datum: 854.59'



TALO2(plotting HGIRG) "Gage 0" Datum: 664.14'

