



Synopsis

April 2023 was a dry month for most of the state with windy spring afternoons and numerous days with critical fire weather conditions. The month began with a high wind event that registered gusts as high as 77 mph and created dangerous fire weather. Around the middle of the month, there was another stretch of windy days with critical fire weather and light rain/snow in the mountains. Warming temperatures combined with the robust snowpack created rises on rivers and streams in the northern mountains throughout the month.



Photo courtesy Eli@starfishprime
Escondida Fire



Photo courtesy B Driskel
Palo Flechado Pass

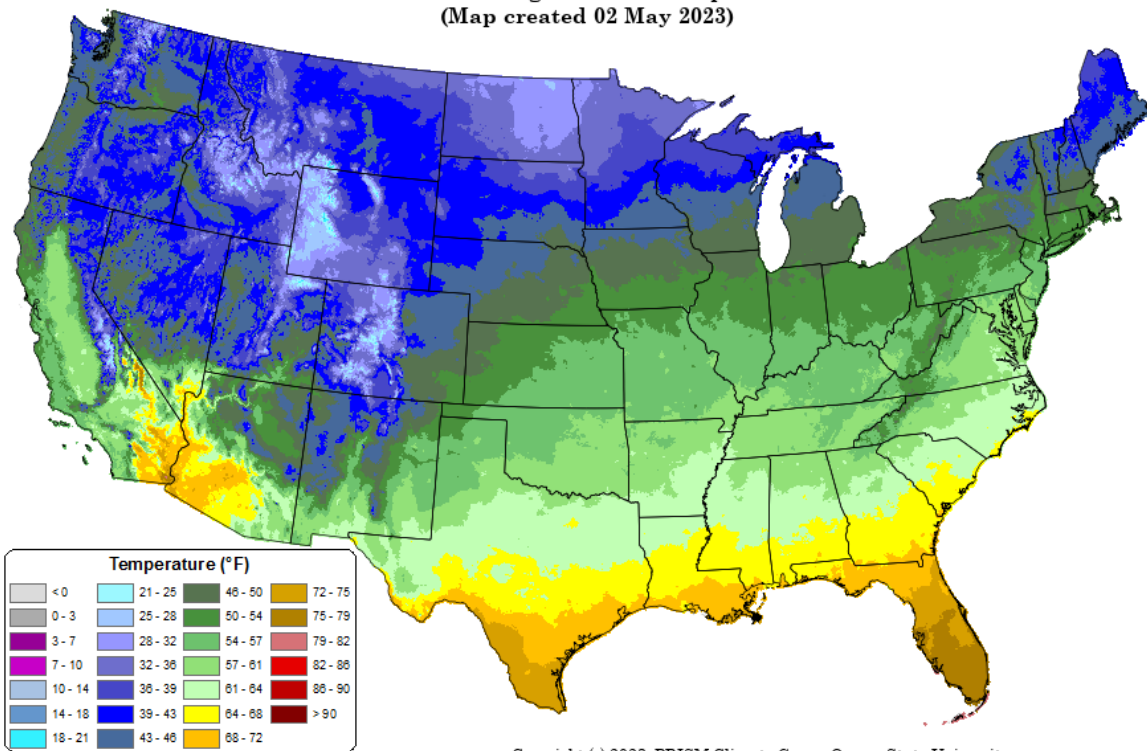


Photo courtesy NMSP
Jemez River Flooding

Temperatures

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Apr 2023

Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Apr 2023
(Map created 02 May 2023)

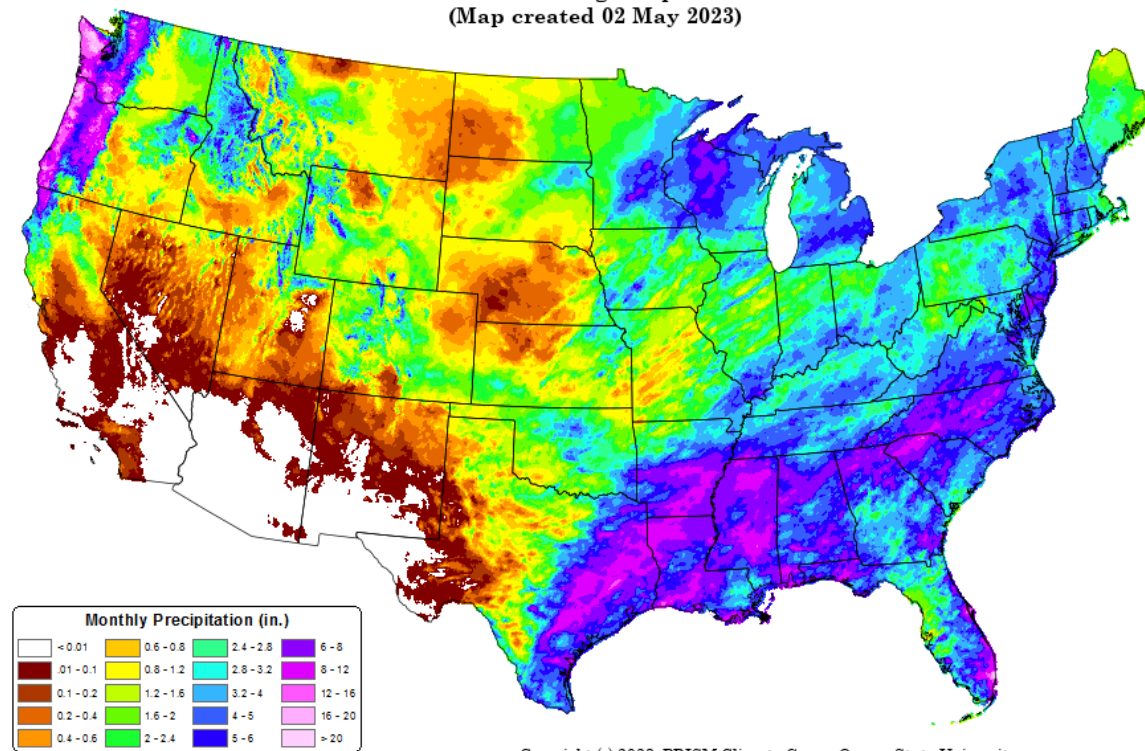


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Precipitation

Total Precipitation: Apr 2023

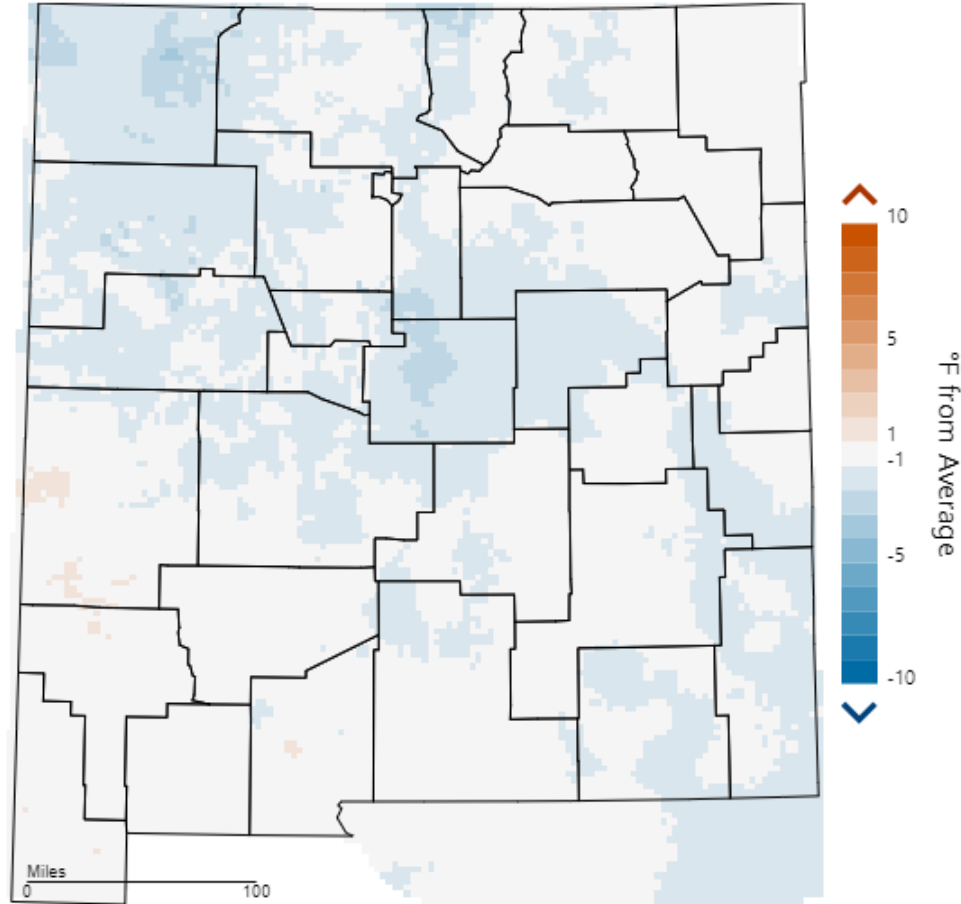
Period ending 30 Apr 2023
(Map created 02 May 2023)



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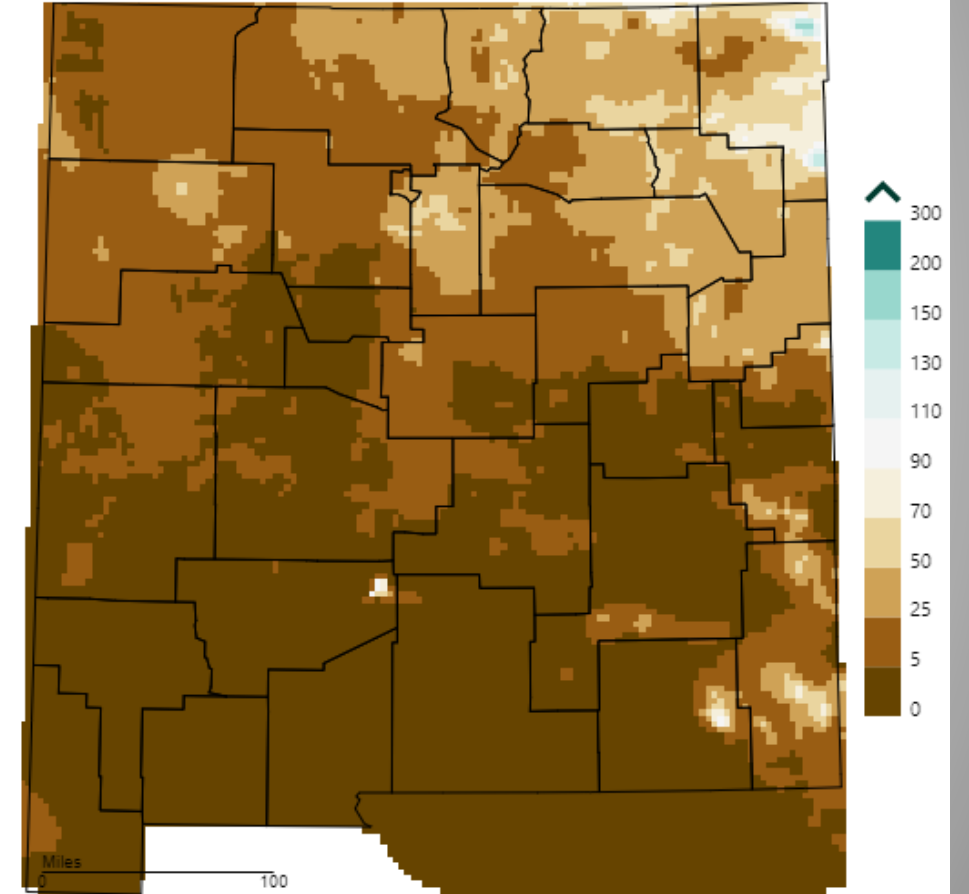
Temperature Departure

Mean Temperature Departures from 1991-2020 Computed Average(s)



Precipitation % of Average

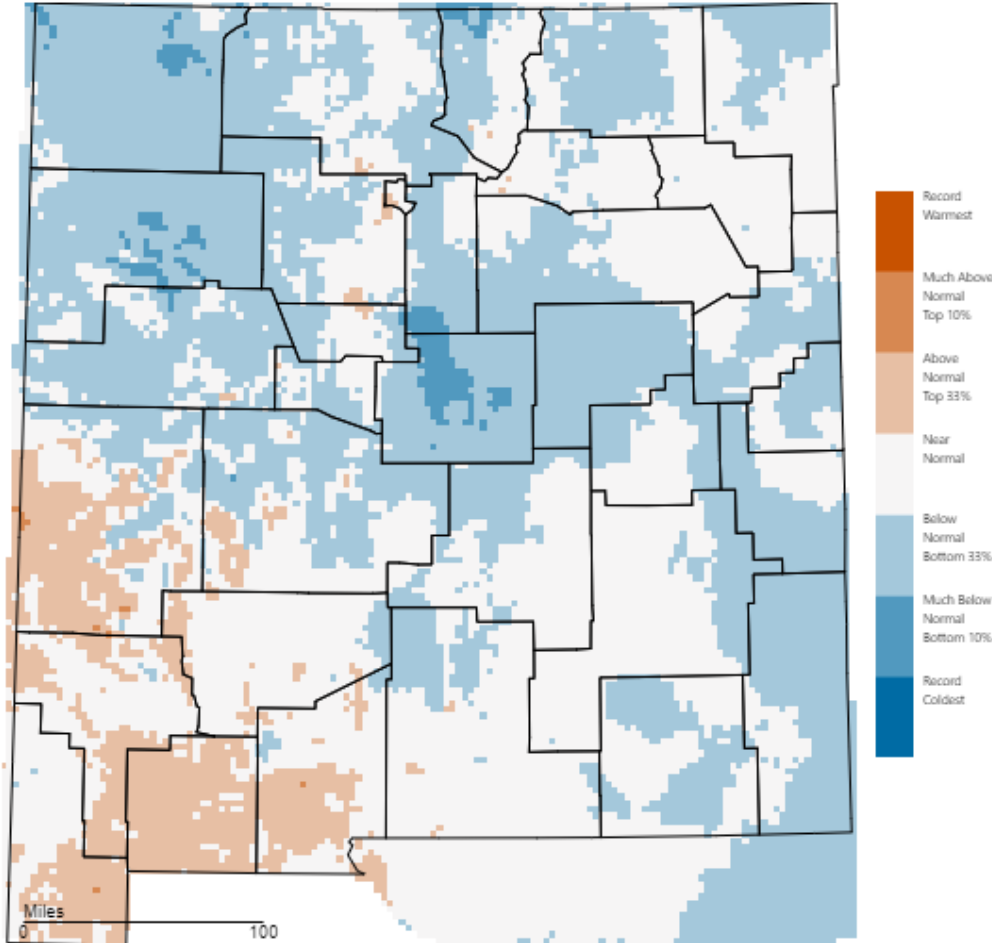
Precipitation Percents of 1991-2020 Computed Average(s)





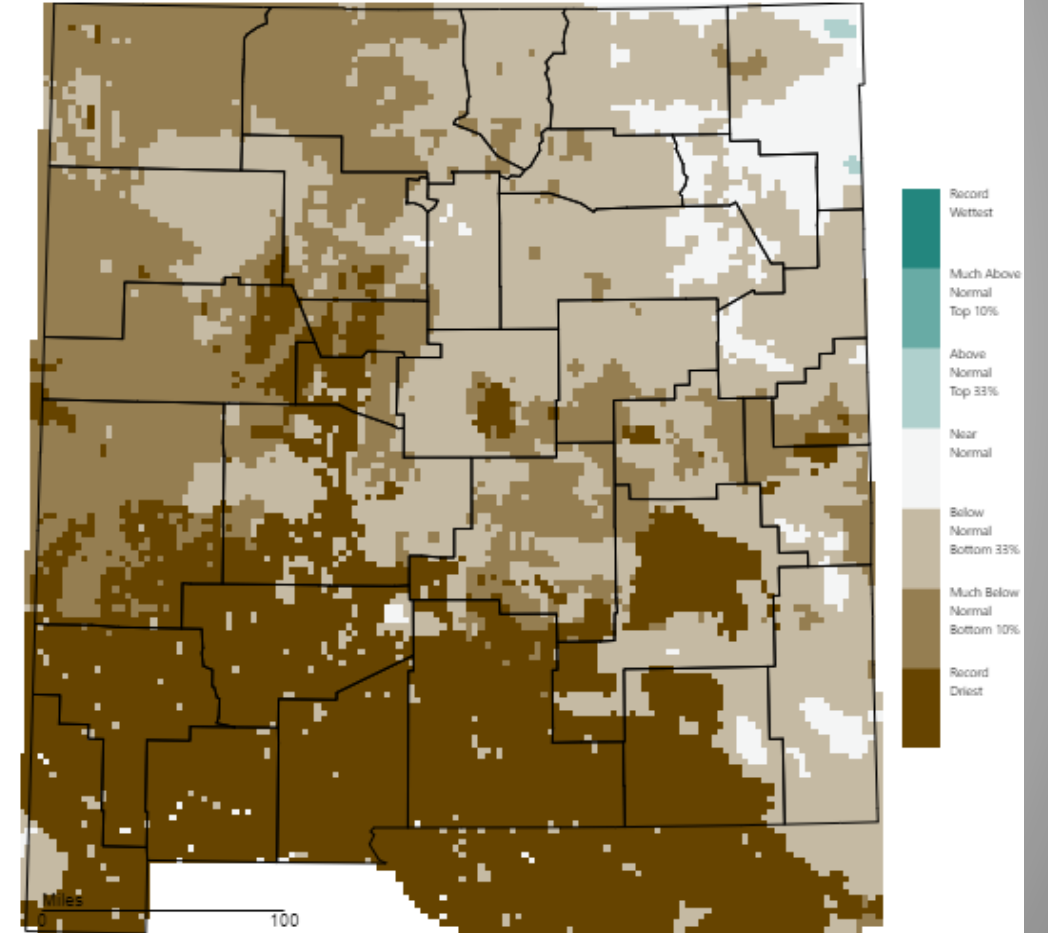
Temperature

Mean Temperature Percentile Ranking



Precipitation

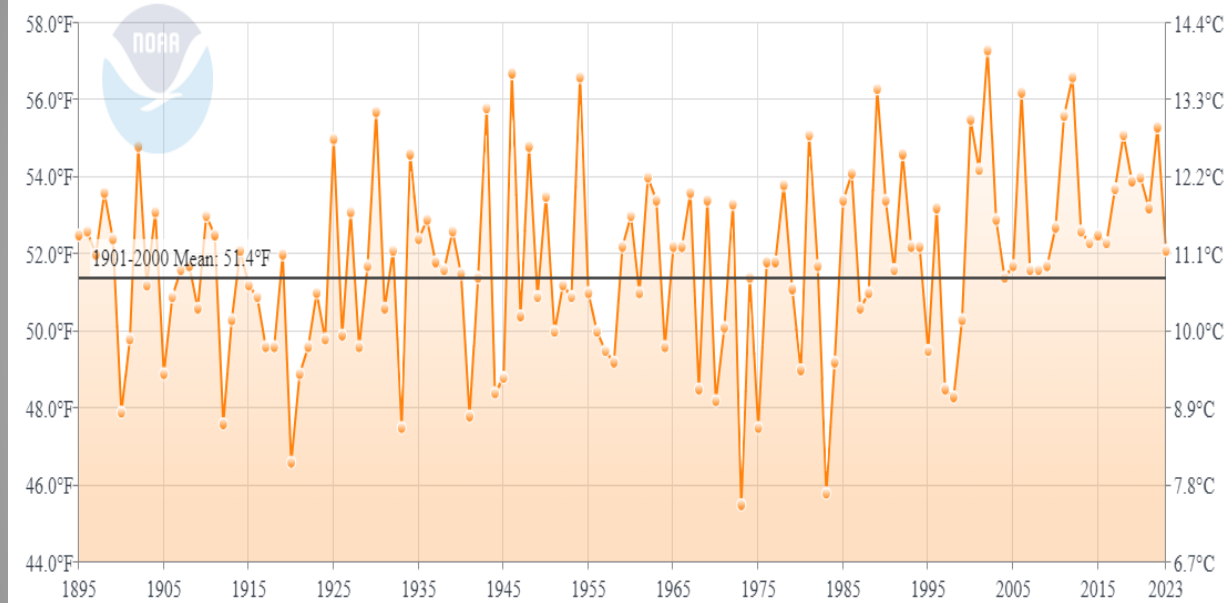
Precipitation Percentile Ranking





Temperature

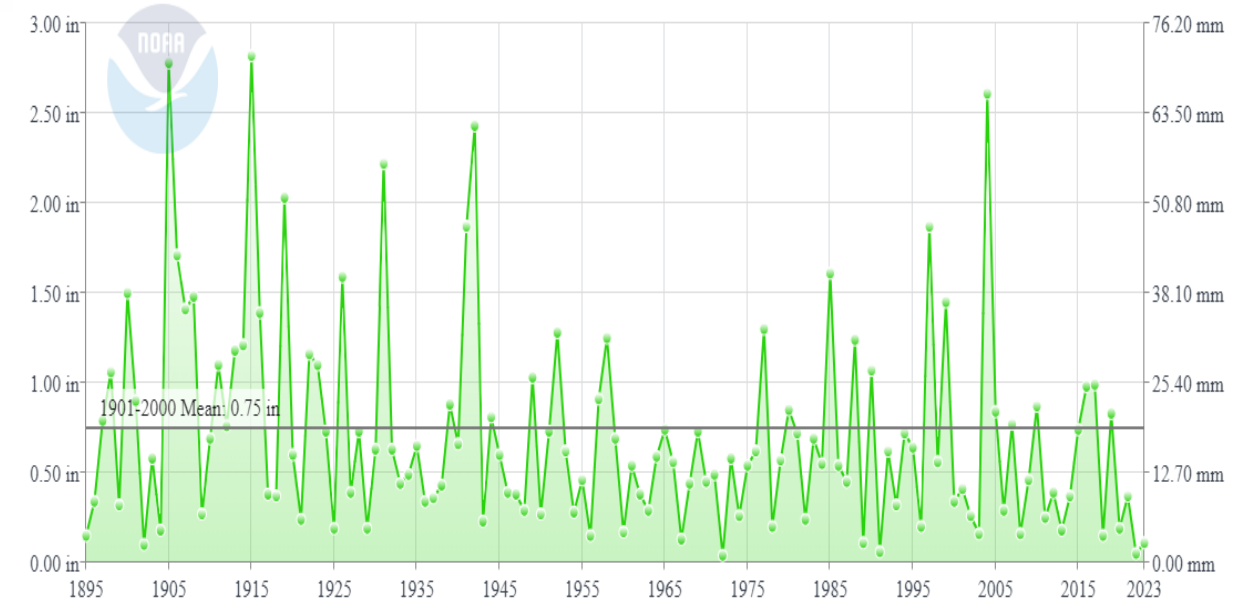
New Mexico Average Temperature
April



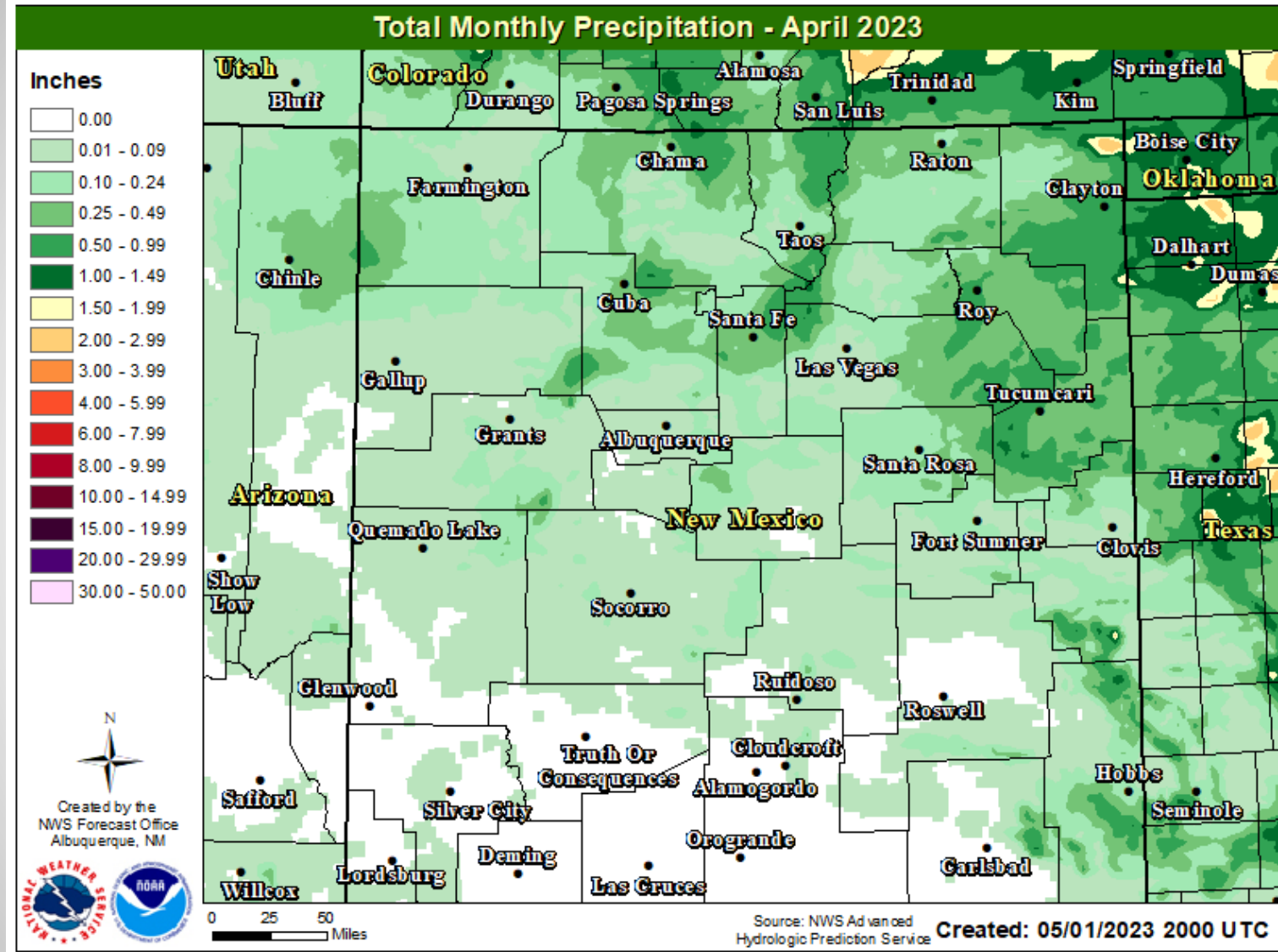
The April 2023 average statewide temperature was 52.1°, which was 0.7° above the long-term normal of 51.4° (1901-2000). This ranked as the 72nd warmest April on record (1895-2023).

Precipitation

New Mexico Precipitation
April



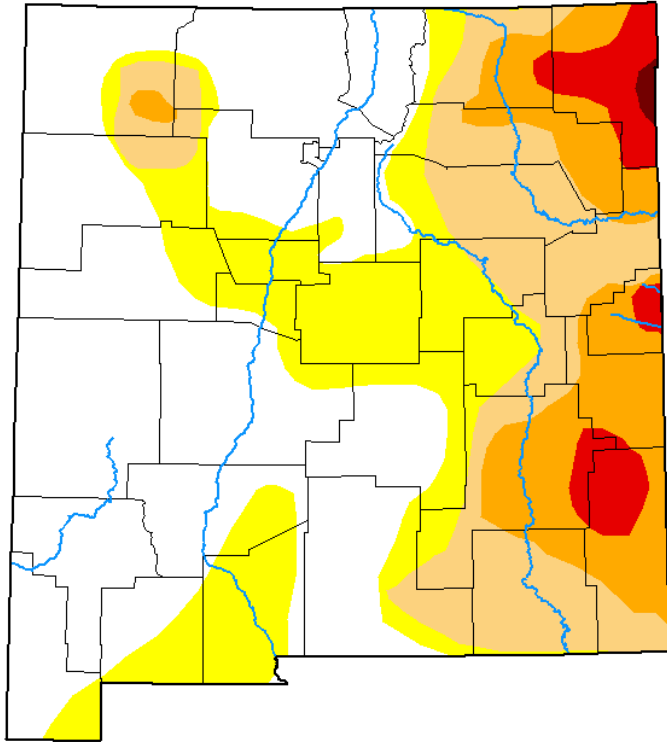
The April 2023 average statewide precipitation was 0.11", which was 0.64" below the long-term normal of 0.75" (1901-2000). This ranked as the 5th driest April on record (1895-2023).



Precipitation was generally light across the state with the exception of the NE corner where over 2 inches of precipitation fell.



U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



April 4, 2023
(Released Thursday, Apr. 6, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	47.20	52.80	32.16	15.67	4.20	0.21
Last Week 03-28-2023	36.06	63.94	32.91	15.67	4.20	0.21
3 Months Ago 01-03-2023	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.99	99.01	76.80	31.46	6.99	0.00
One Year Ago 04-05-2022	0.06	99.94	98.89	91.50	47.20	6.03

Intensity:
 None (White) D2 Severe Drought (Orange)
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (Red)
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange) D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

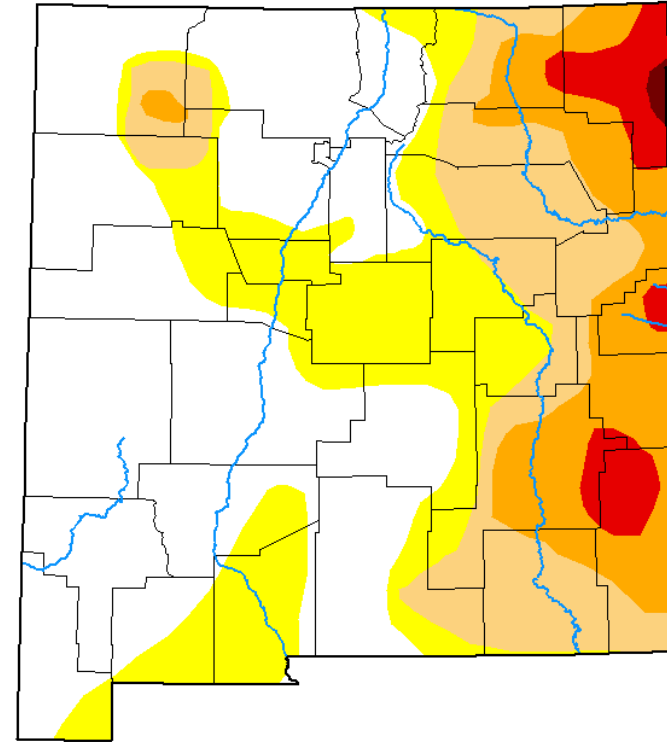
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
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Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



April 25, 2023
(Released Thursday, Apr. 27, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	46.63	53.37	32.14	16.19	4.18	0.21
Last Week 04-18-2023	46.63	53.37	32.14	16.19	4.18	0.21
3 Months Ago 01-24-2023	17.92	82.08	47.31	18.37	3.78	0.19
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.99	99.01	76.80	31.46	6.99	0.00
One Year Ago 04-26-2022	0.00	100.00	98.94	95.79	67.99	15.74

Intensity:
 None (White) D2 Severe Drought (Orange)
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (Red)
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange) D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

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>

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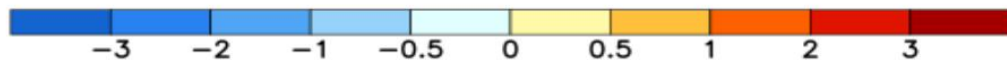
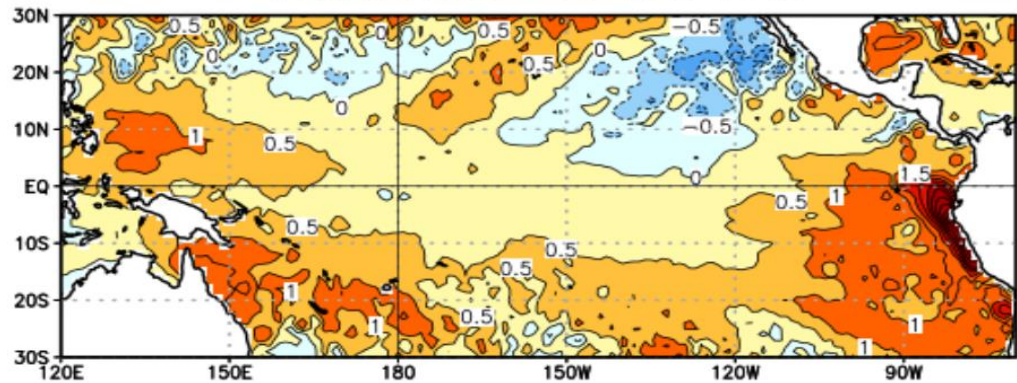


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Despite the above average precipitation in the NE corner of the state and below to much below average precipitation elsewhere, drought conditions remained unchanged with the exception of very minor adjustments.

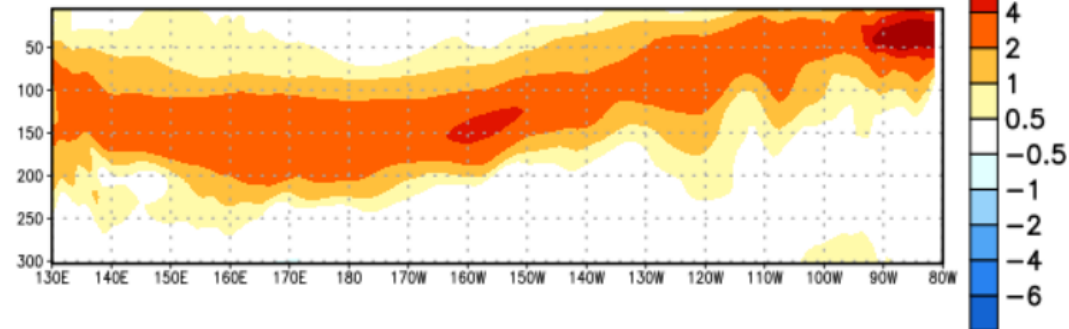


Average SST Anomalies
2 APR 2023 – 29 APR 2023

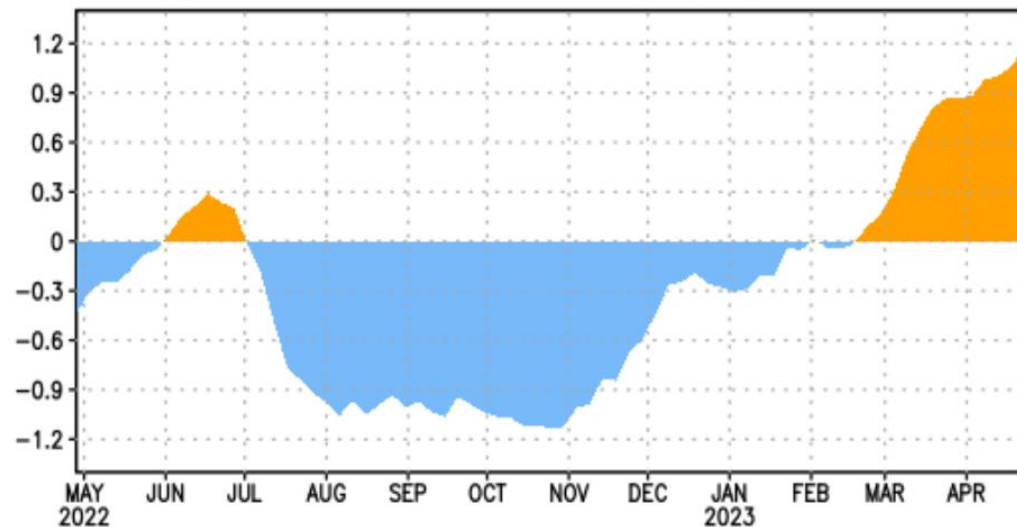


EQ. Subsurface Temperature Anomalies (deg C)

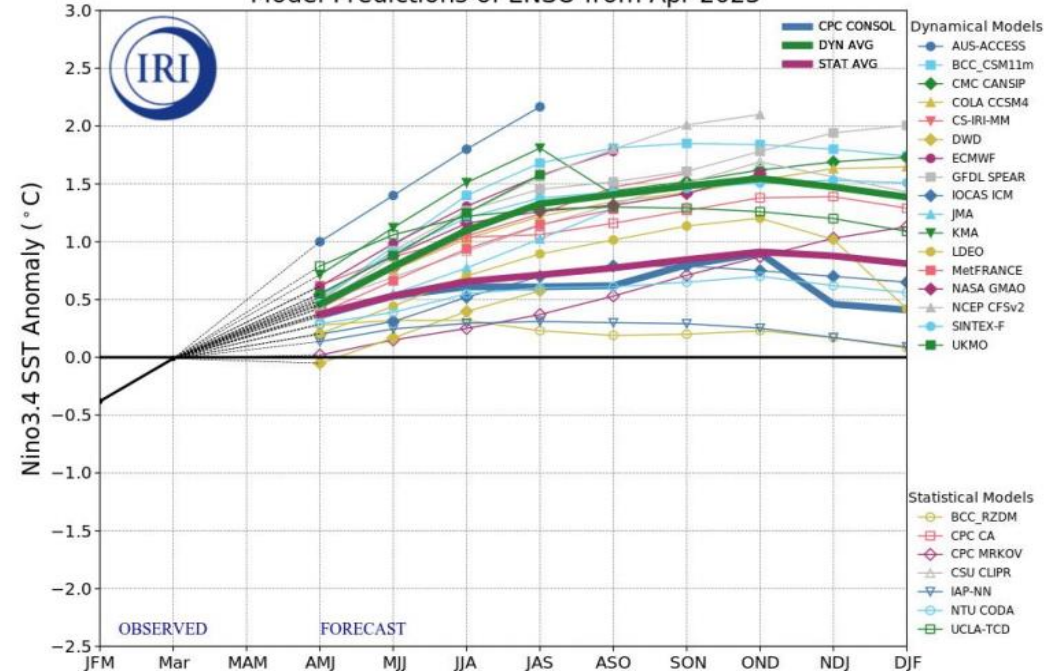
Pentad centered on 23 APR 2023



EQ. Upper-Ocean Heat Anoms. (deg C) for 180–100W

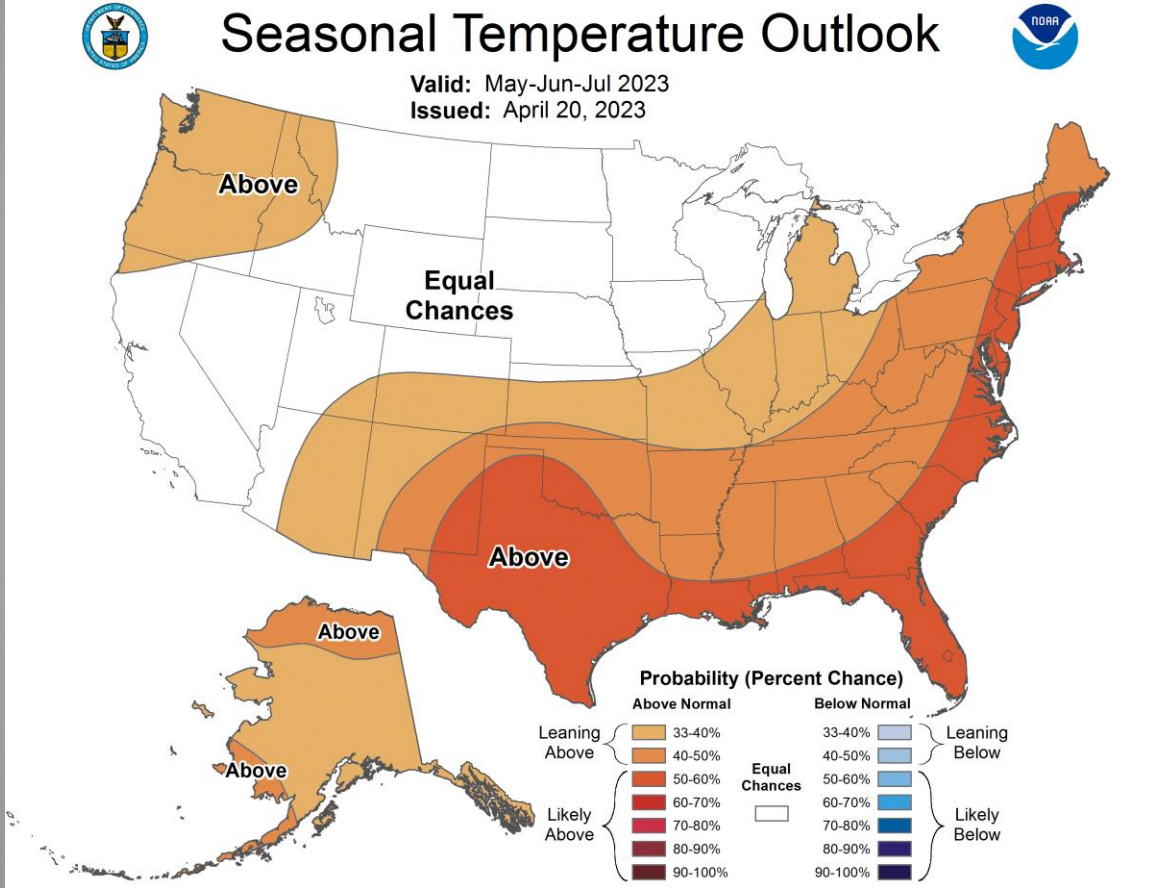


Model Predictions of ENSO from Apr 2023

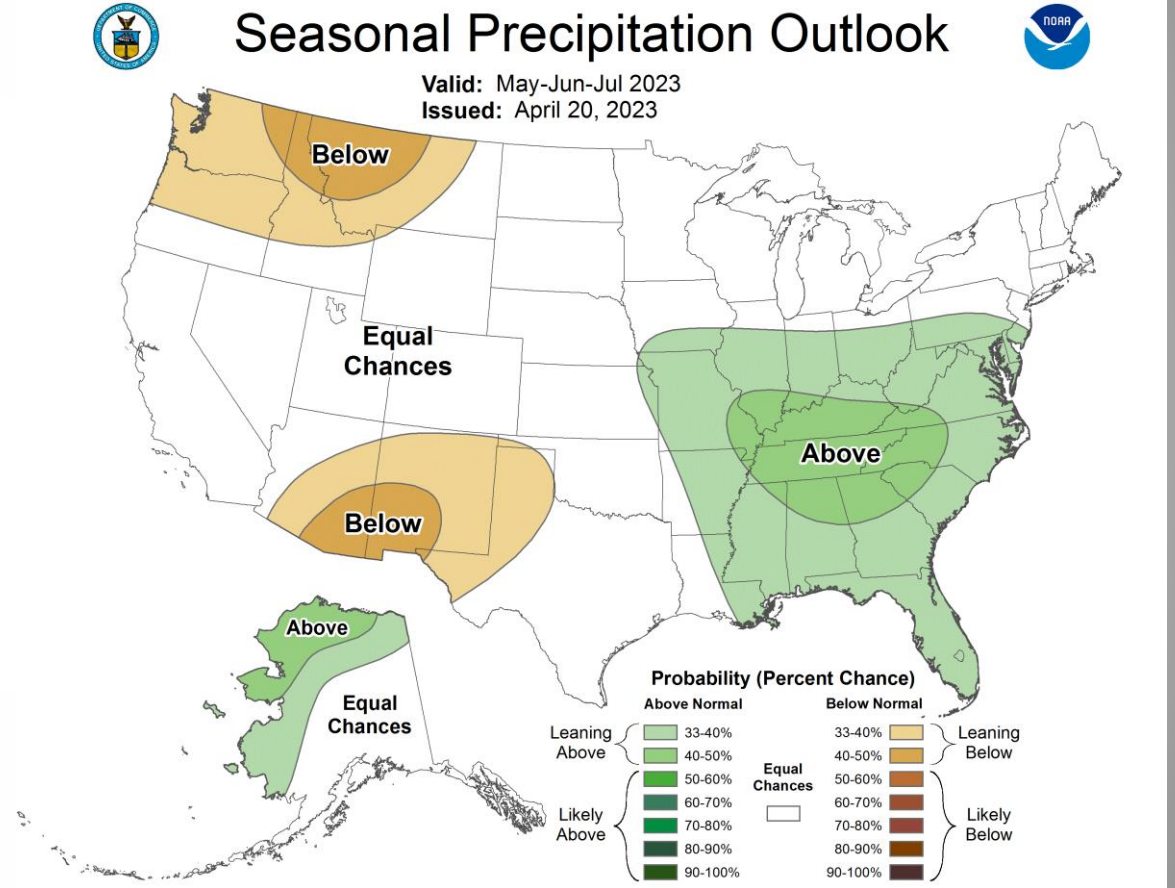




Temperature May-June-July



Precipitation May-June-July



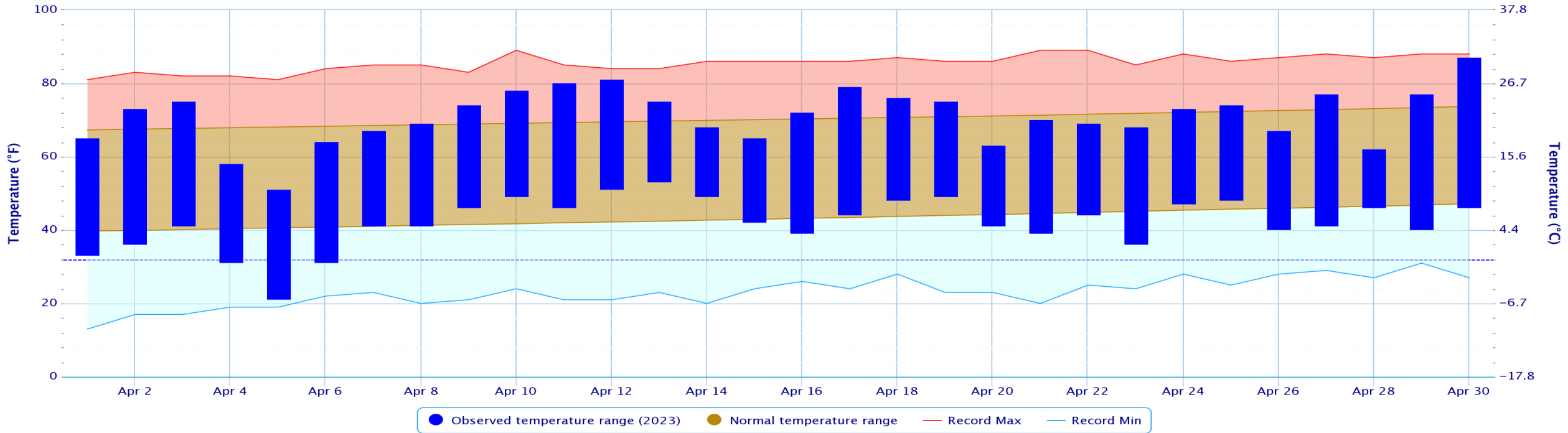
The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) projects the next 3 months to be warmer and drier than average.



Average Temperature: 56.5°

Daily Temperature Data – ALBUQUERQUE INTL AP, NM

Period of Record – 1891-12-01 to 2023-05-05. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

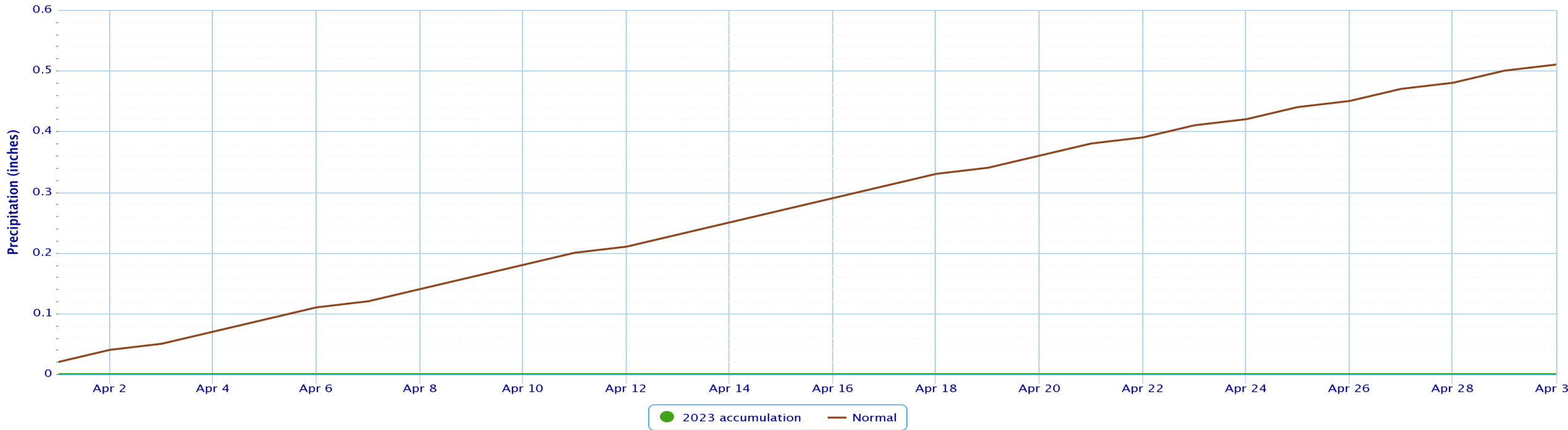
The April 2023 average temperature for Albuquerque was 56.5°, which was 0.3° below the normal of 56.8°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 71.1°. This was 0.8° above the normal average maximum temperature of 70.3°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 42.0°. This was 1.2° below the normal average minimum temperature of 43.2°. This ranked as the 86th coldest April on record.



Precipitation: Trace

Accumulated Precipitation – ALBUQUERQUE INTL AP, NM

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



Powered by ACIS

The April 2023 precipitation for Albuquerque was a Trace, which was 0.51” below the normal of 0.51”. This was tied for the 2nd driest April on record.

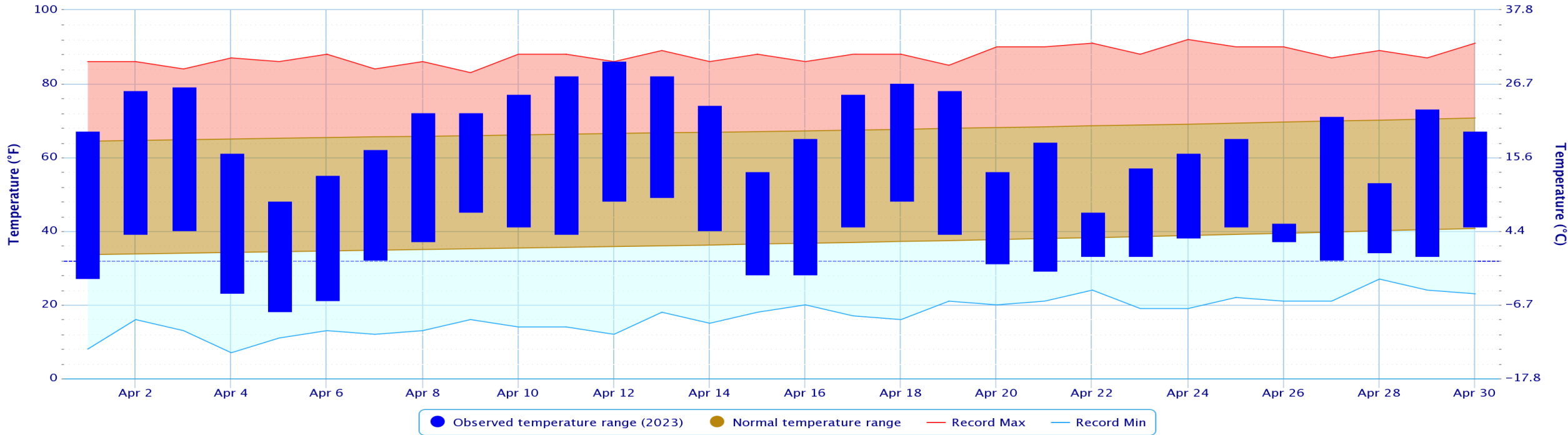
There was 0.0” of snow, compared to the normal of 0.3”.



Average Temperature: 51.2°

Daily Temperature Data – CLAYTON MUNICIPAL AIR PARK, NM

Period of Record – 1896-02-01 to 2023-05-05. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



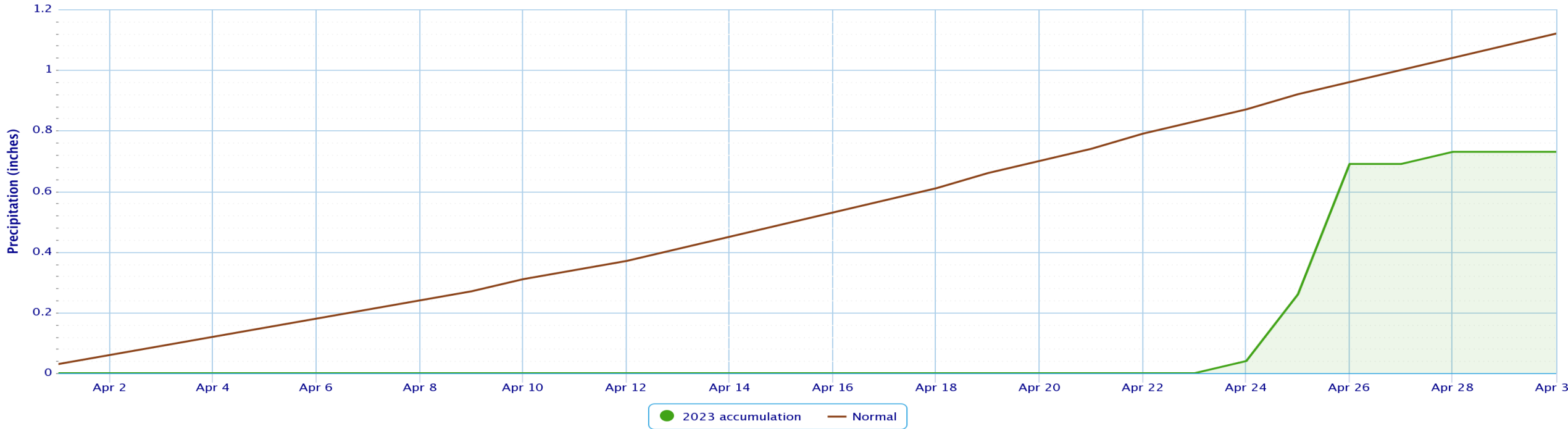
The April 2023 average temperature for Clayton was 51.2°, which was 0.8° below the normal of 52.0°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 66.8°. This was 0.5° below the normal average maximum temperature of 67.3°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 35.5°. This was 1.3° below the normal average minimum temperature of 36.8°. This ranked as the 47th coldest April on record.



Precipitation: 0.73"

Accumulated Precipitation – CLAYTON MUNICIPAL AIR PARK, NM

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



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The April 2023 precipitation for Clayton was 0.73", which was 0.39" below the normal of 1.12". This ranked as the 56th driest April on record.

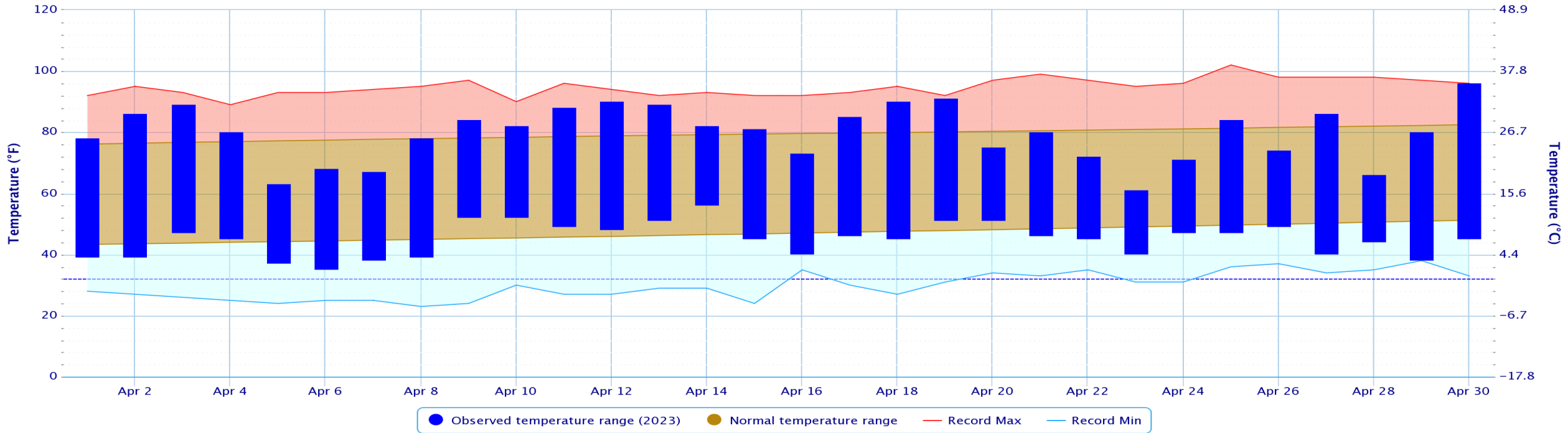
There was a Trace of snow, compared to the normal of 1.3".



Average Temperature: 62.3°

Daily Temperature Data – ROSWELL INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK, NM

Period of Record – 1946-12-01 to 2023-05-05. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



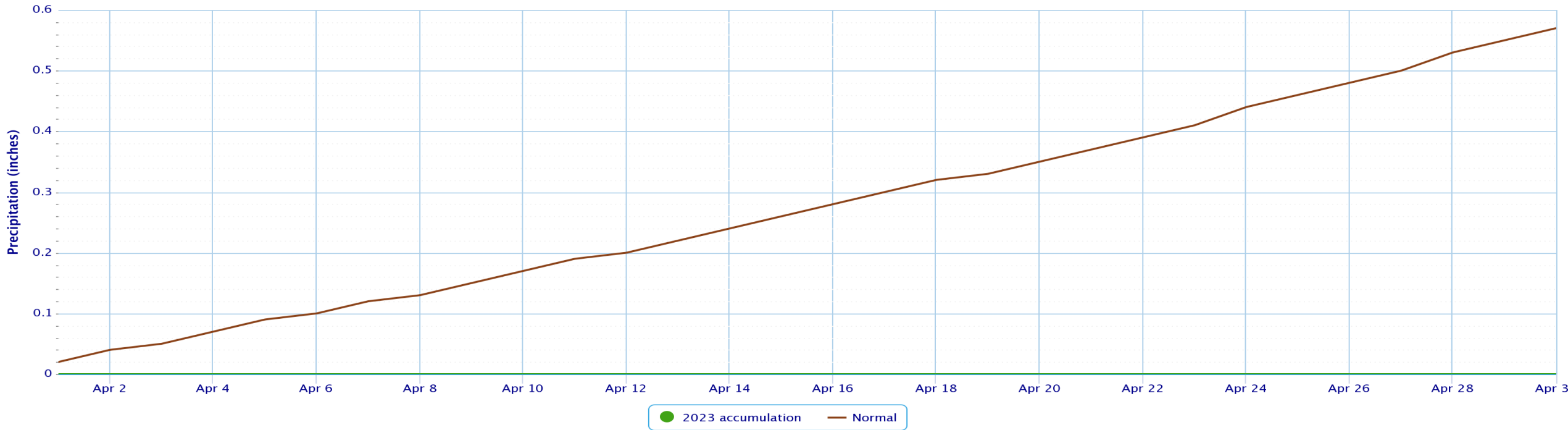
The April 2023 average temperature for Roswell was 62.3°, which was 0.9° below the normal of 63.2°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 79.6°. This was 0.2° above the average maximum temperature of 79.4°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 44.9°. This was 2.1° below the normal average minimum temperature of 47.0°. This ranked as the 39th coldest April on record.



Precipitation: Trace”

Accumulated Precipitation – ROSWELL INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK, NM

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



Powered by ACIS

The April 2023 precipitation for Roswell was a Trace, which was 0.57” below the normal of 0.57”. This was tied for the 3rd driest April on record.

There was 0.0” of snow, compared to the normal of 0.0”.










Event Type	Date	County Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Wildfire	4/2/2023	ESTANCIA VALLEY			The Echo Ridge grassfire quickly spread south of Moriarty where it destroyed three homes and seven outbuildings. The fire burned 175 acres.
High Wind	4/3/2023	NORTHWEST PLATEAU	56 kt	GUST	The Farmington Airport measured a peak wind gust of 64 mph.
High Wind	4/3/2023	WEST CENTRAL PLATEAU	57 kt	GUST	The Gallup Airport measured a peak wind gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	4/3/2023	WEST CENTRAL MOUNTAINS	54 kt	GUST	The El Malpais Lava Flow RAWS measured a peak wind gust of 62 mph.
High Wind	4/3/2023	EAST SLOPES SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS	51 kt	GUST	The Angel Fire Airport measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	4/3/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	51 kt	GUST	The Las Vegas Airport measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	4/3/2023	SOUTHWEST MOUNTAINS	70 kt	GUST	The Magdalena Ridge Observatory measured a peak wind gust of 80 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	TUSAS MOUNTAINS INCLUDING CHAMA	35 kt	SUSTAINED	A public weather station in the Tusas Mountains measured a high sustained wind speed of 40 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	JEMEZ MOUNTAINS	50 kt	GUST	A Los Alamos National Laboratory mesonet station measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	4/3/2023	NORTHERN SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS	70 kt	GUST	The Taos Ski Valley measured a peak wind gust of 81 mph at Kachina Peak.
High Wind	4/4/2023	MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY/ABQ METRO AREA	52 kt	GUST	The Albuquerque Sunport measured a peak gust of 60 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY	36 kt	SUSTAINED	The Sulf White Sands Missile Range mesonet station measured a high sustained wind speed of 41 mph.
High Wind	4/3/2023	SANDIA/MANZANO MTS INCLUDING EDGEWOOD	65 kt	GUST	The Sandia Airpark measured a peak gust of 75 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	SANDIA/MANZANO MTS INCLUDING EDGEWOOD	57 kt	GUST	The Sandia Airpark measured a peak gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	CENTRAL HIGHLANDS	57 kt	GUST	The Clines Corners ASOS measured a peak gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	SOUTH CENTRAL HIGHLANDS	50 kt	GUST	The Little Burro White Sands Missile Range mesonet station measured a peak gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	4/3/2023	SOUTH CENTRAL MOUNTAINS	56 kt	GUST	The Smokey Bear RAWS measured a peak gust of 65 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	FAR NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	53 kt	GUST	The Raton Airport measured a peak gust of 61 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	55 kt	GUST	The Las Vegas Airport measured a peak gust of 63 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	UNION COUNTY	50 kt	GUST	The NMC51 mesonet site measured a peak gust of 58 mph.

*Storm reports are considered preliminary until a final review is certified in the NWS Storm Data publication. Certified data is available three to four months post-event at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>



Event Type	Date	County Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
High Wind	4/4/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	43 kt	SUSTAINED	The mesonet station southeast of Vaughn measured a high sustained wind of 50 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	58 kt	GUST	The mesonet station southeast of Vaughn measured a peak wind gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	QUAY COUNTY	56 kt	GUST	The Tucumcari Airport measured a peak wind gust of 64 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	CURRY COUNTY	59 kt	GUST	The GW0819 mesonet station in Clovis measured a peak wind gust of 68 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	ROOSEVELT COUNTY	57 kt	GUST	The Dora 2SW Texas mesonet station measured a peak wind gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	DE BACA COUNTY	52 kt	GUST	A public weather station at Sumner Lake measured a peak wind gust of 60 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	CHAVES COUNTY PLAINS	63 kt	GUST	The Roswell Industrial Airport measured a peak wind gust of 70 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	SOUTHWEST CHAVES COUNTY	55 kt	GUST	The Dunken RAWs measured a peak wind gust of 63 mph.
High Wind	4/4/2023	SAN AGUSTIN PLAIN S& ADJACENT LOWLANDS	38 kt	SUSTAINED	The KVFUD5 mesonet station in Magdalena measured a high sustained wind speed of 44 mph.
Flood	4/12/2023	SANDOVAL			Rapid snowmelt led to rises on the Jemez River, causing the Jemez Springs Wastewater Facility to overflow.
Tstorm Wind	4/12/2023	COLFAX	51 kt	GUST	The Raton Crews Airport ASOS measured a thunderstorm wind gust of 59 mph.
Wildfire	4/17/2023	CURRY COUNTY			Multiple brush fires caused by sparks from a fire truck grew out of control in eastern Clovis. Three unoccupied outbuildings were damaged by the fire.
High Wind	4/19/2023	NORTHWEST PLATEAU	52 kt	GUST	A semi truck was blown over due to high winds along State Road 491 south of Shiprock.
High Wind	4/19/2023	MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY/ALBUQUERQUE METRO AREA	52 kt	GUST	High winds blew over a semi on I-25 just north of Los Lunas. The ABQ Sunport measured a peak wind gust of 60 mph.
High Wind	4/19/2023	WEST CENTRAL PLATEAU	50 kt	GUST	The Gallup Airport ASOS measured a peak gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	4/19/2023	CENTRAL HIGHLANDS	55 kt	GUST	The Clines Corners ASOS measured a peak wind gust of 63 mph.
High Wind	4/19/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	57 kt	GUST	The Las Vegas Airport ASOS measured a peak wind gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	4/19/2023	QUAY COUNTY	50 kt	GUST	The Tucumcari Airport ASOS measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	4/25/2023	SANTA FE METRO AREA	50 kt	GUST	The Santa Fe Airport ASOS measured a peak gust of 58 mph from a localized dry microburst. No damage was reported.
High Wind	4/25/2023	MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY/ALBUQUERQUE METRO AREA	57 kt	GUST	The Albuquerque Sunport ASOS measured a peak gust of 66 mph from a localized dry microburst. No damage was reported.
High Wind	4/25/2023	CENTRAL HIGHLANDS	56 kt	GUST	The Clines Corners ASOS measured a peak gust of 64 mph from a localized dry microburst. No damage was reported.
High Wind	4/28/2023	UPPER TULAROSA VALLEY	53 kt	GUST	The Phillips Hill mesonet station measured a peak wind gust of 61 mph.
High Wind	4/28/2023	FAR NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	57 kt	GUST	The Raton Airport measured a peak wind gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	4/28/2023	UNION COUNTY	51 kt	GUST	The Clayton Airport ASOS measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.

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-  NCEI Climatological Rankings: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/national/rankings>
-  PRISM Climate Data: <http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/>
-  NWS Local Climate Pages: <https://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=abq>
-  NCEI Storm Data: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>
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