

February 2018 Weather Digest



February 2018 Weather Summary

February turned out to be an odd month, but maybe not completely out of the ordinary. For the most part, the month was warm and dry. However on just two days (Feb 15-16), the Borderland received widespread rain, with rainfall totals generally equaling or exceeding the entire monthly average. For the month most areas saw average monthly temperatures around 3-5 degrees above normal. Because of this abnormally warm month, even mountain sites which were above normal with total liquid measured, were below normal in snowfall. For example, Cloudcroft received about 178% of normal (nearly twice the normal), and yet only received about one-quarter of their average February snowfall.

Getting back to the mid month wet period, very strong and moist southwest flow developed over the area ahead of a large upper low over the eastern Pacific Ocean. The airmass was abnormally wet; meteorologists use a measurement of the atmospheric moisture called precipitable water. These precipitable water measurements from the 15th set all time monthly record levels for the El Paso area. Most of the area ranged from 150-300% of normal, though parts of the New Mexico Bootheel, along with the Sacramento Mountains, received below normal rainfall for the month. This rainfall should ease up the recent drought conditions, at least in the short term. In the longer term, with the La Niña pattern persisting for a few more months, it is still up in the air whether drought conditions will worsen again.

February 2018 Weather Summary Contd.

Looking ahead to March, the spring warm up begins in earnest, with average high temperatures at El Paso of 67 degrees on the 1st, warming to 74 degrees by the 31st. March is also spring ahead, as we turn our clocks ahead 1 hour on the 11th. March at El Paso averages about one-quarter inch (.26 inches) of rainfall, with about one-third of an inch of snow. By contrast, Cloudcroft in the Sacramento Mountains, averages 1.51 inches of rain, with 10.6 inches of snow.

Cloudfcroft Feb 16



Cloudfcroft Feb 17



Fog Trans Mountain Pass Feb 16



Ranger Peak Feb 17



Sunset El Paso



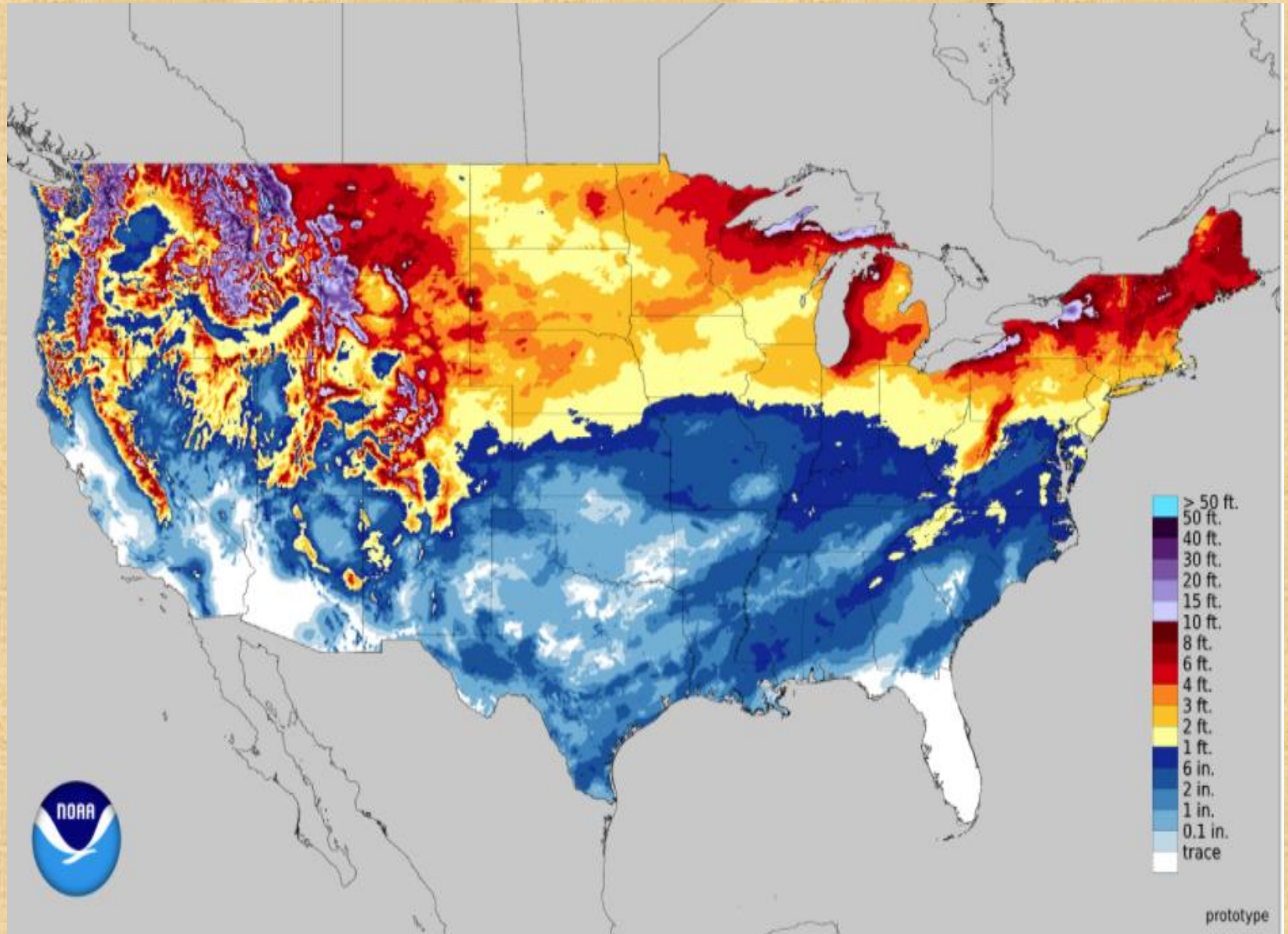
**El Paso Feb 27
Blowing Dust**



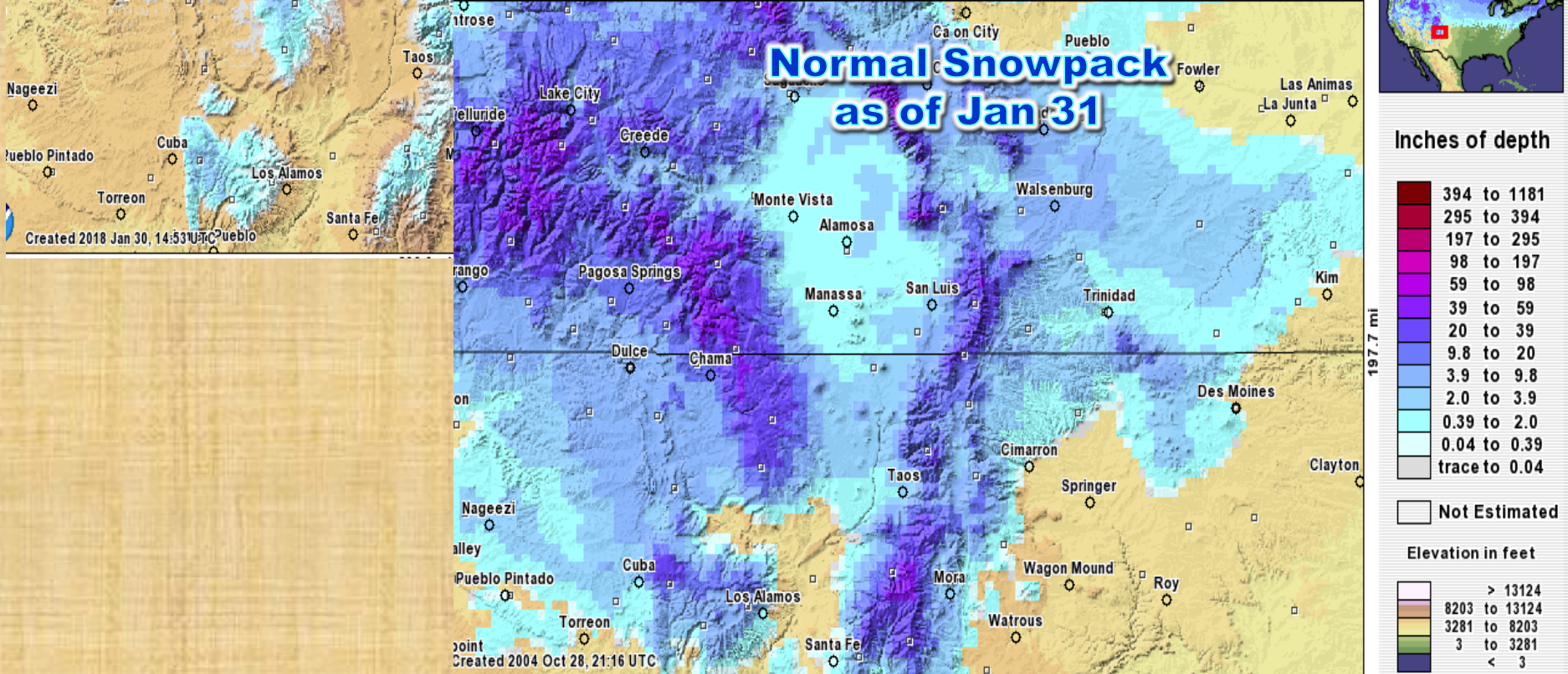
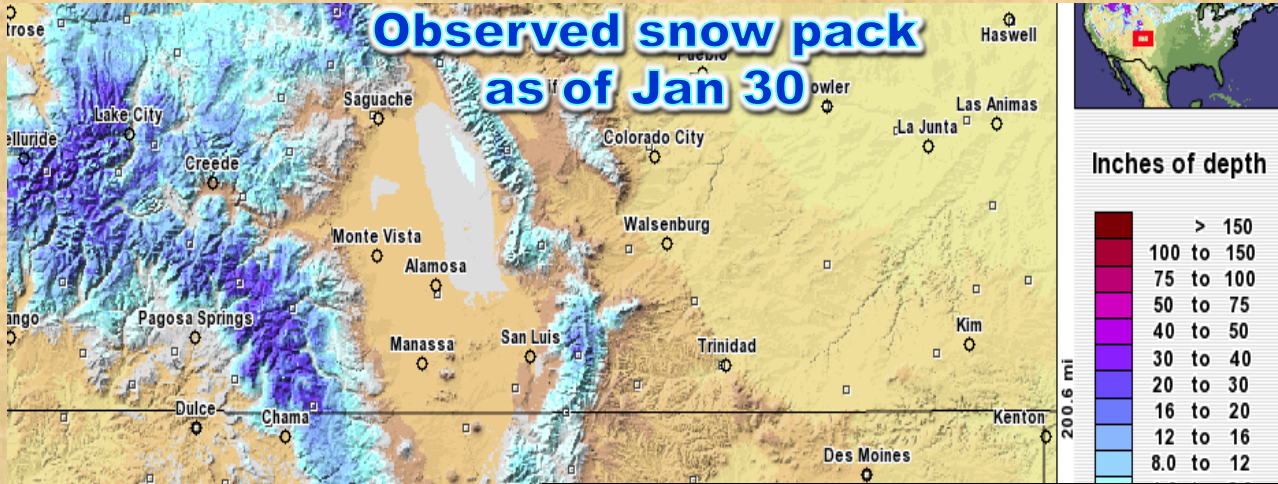
Fog Organ Mtns Feb 28



Seasonal snowfall total through Feb 28

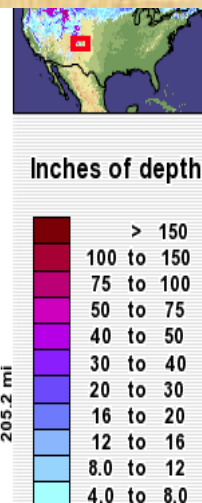
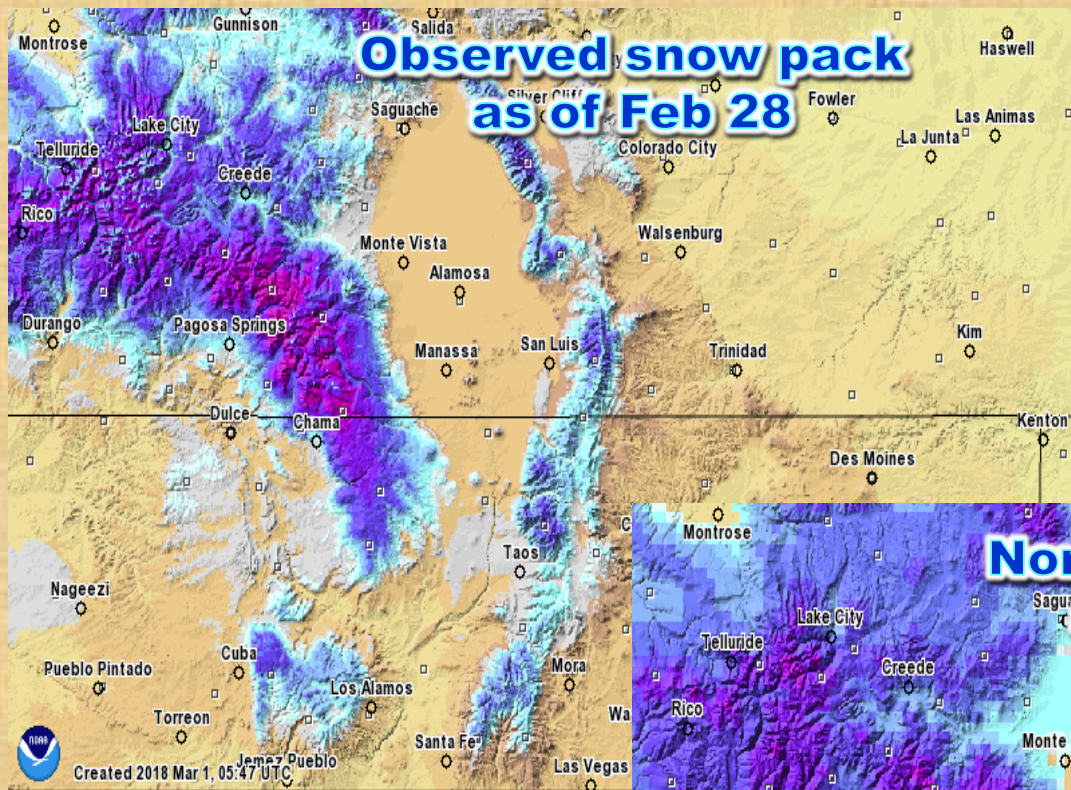


Upper Rio Grande Basin end of January

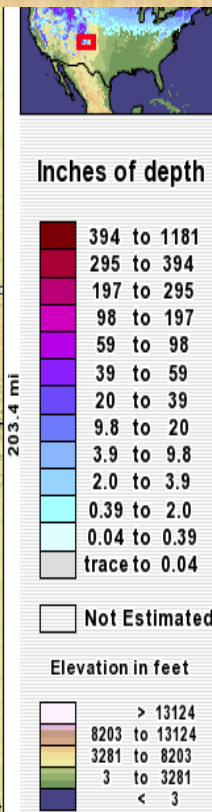
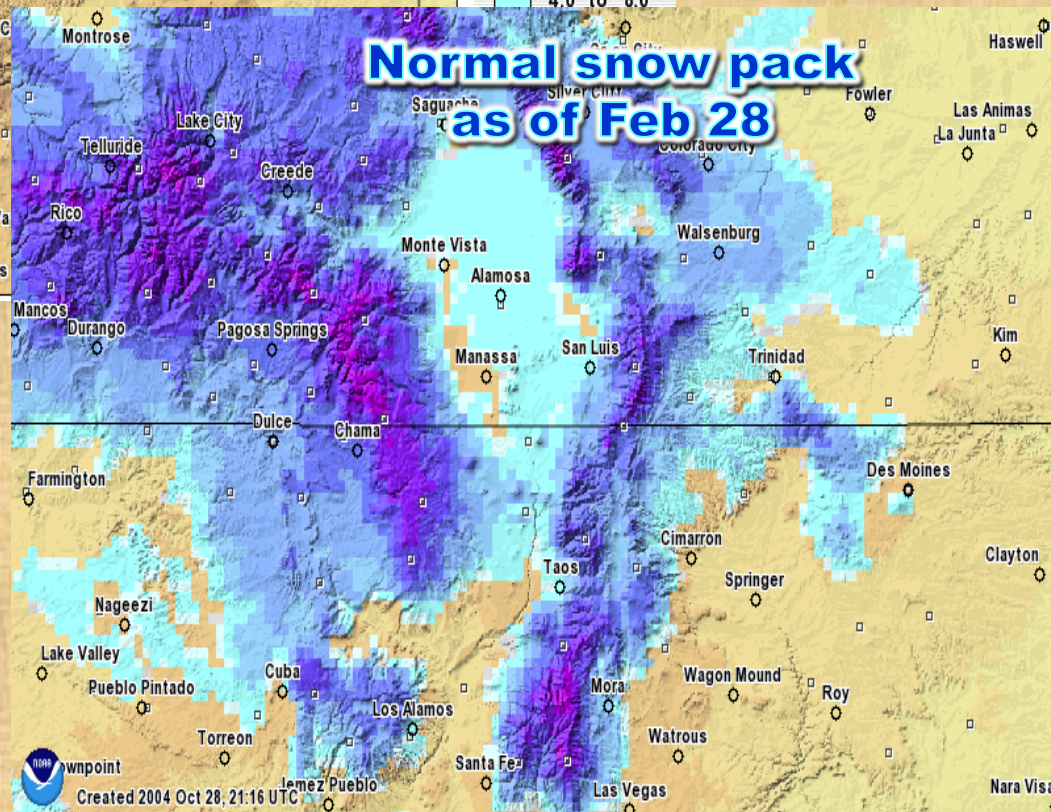


Upper Rio Grande Basin end of February

Observed snow pack as of Feb 28



Normal snow pack as of Feb 28



Created 2018 Mar 1, 05:47 UTC



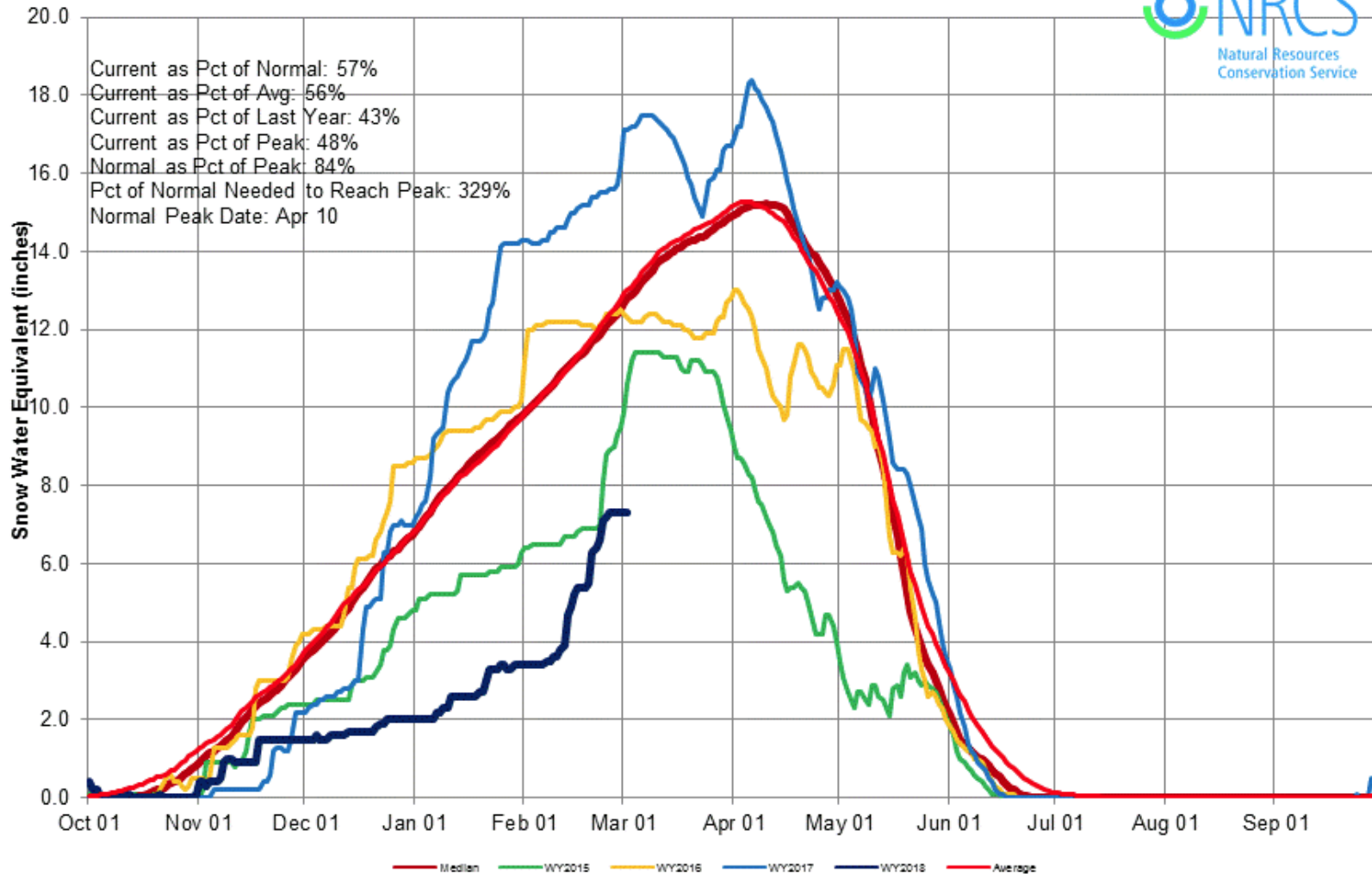
Created 2004 Oct 28, 21:16 UTC

Upper Rio Grande Basin Time Series

Doing better-Percent of Normal rose from 36% January to 57% end of February

Upper Rio Grande Basin Time Series Snowpack Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 02, 2018



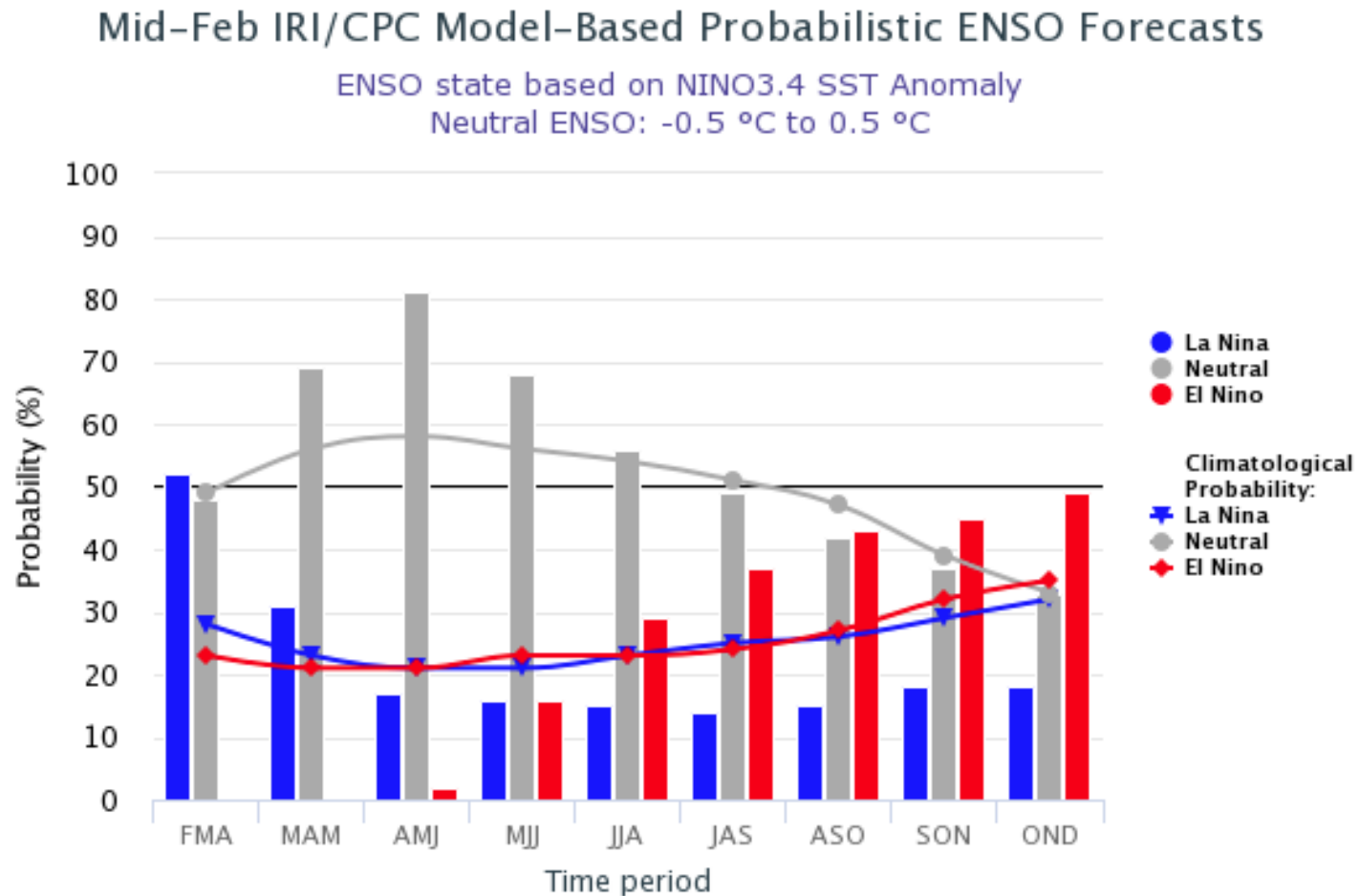
La Niña Advisory in Effect

ENSO Alert System

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

ENSO Forecast Through the End of the Year

ENSO IS IN LA NIÑA PHASE. IT IS LIKELY TO LAST INTO EARLY SPRING; THEN LIKELY BACK TO NEUTRAL THROUGH THE REST OF THE SUMMER

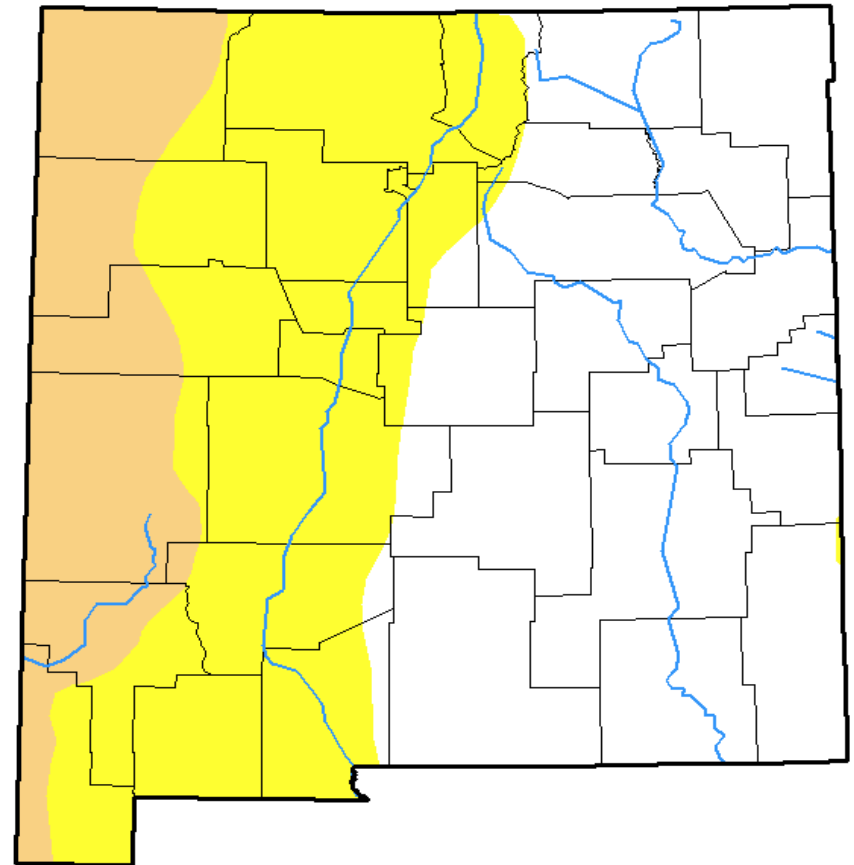
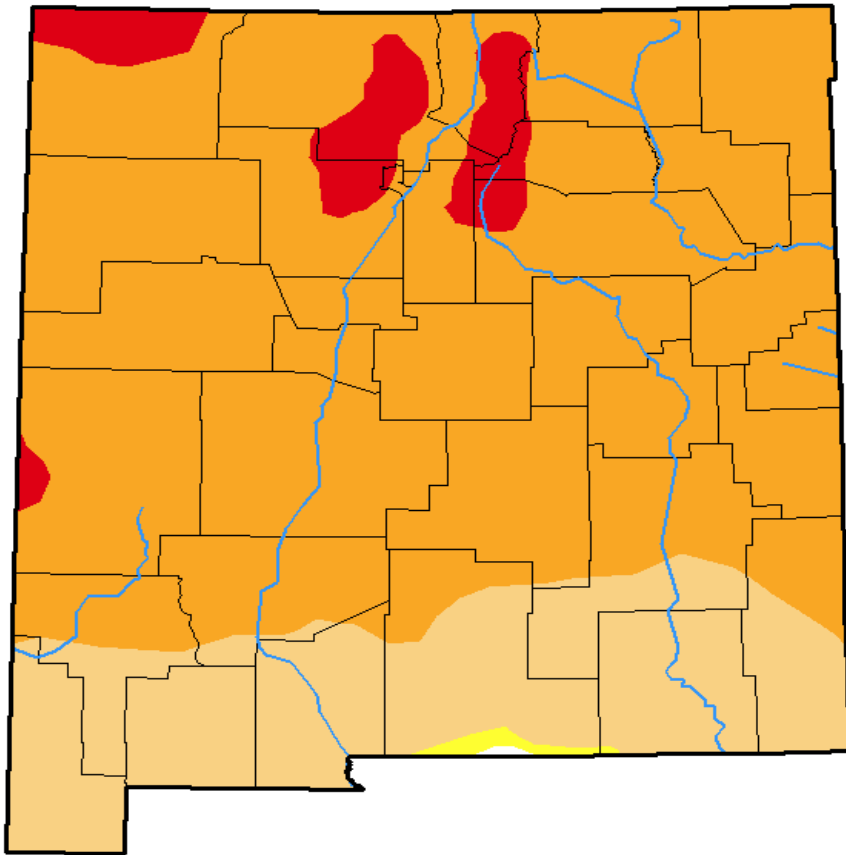


Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

- Abnormally Dry – D0
- Moderate Drought – D1
- Severe Drought – D2
- Extreme Drought – D3
- Exceptional – D4






February 20, 2018

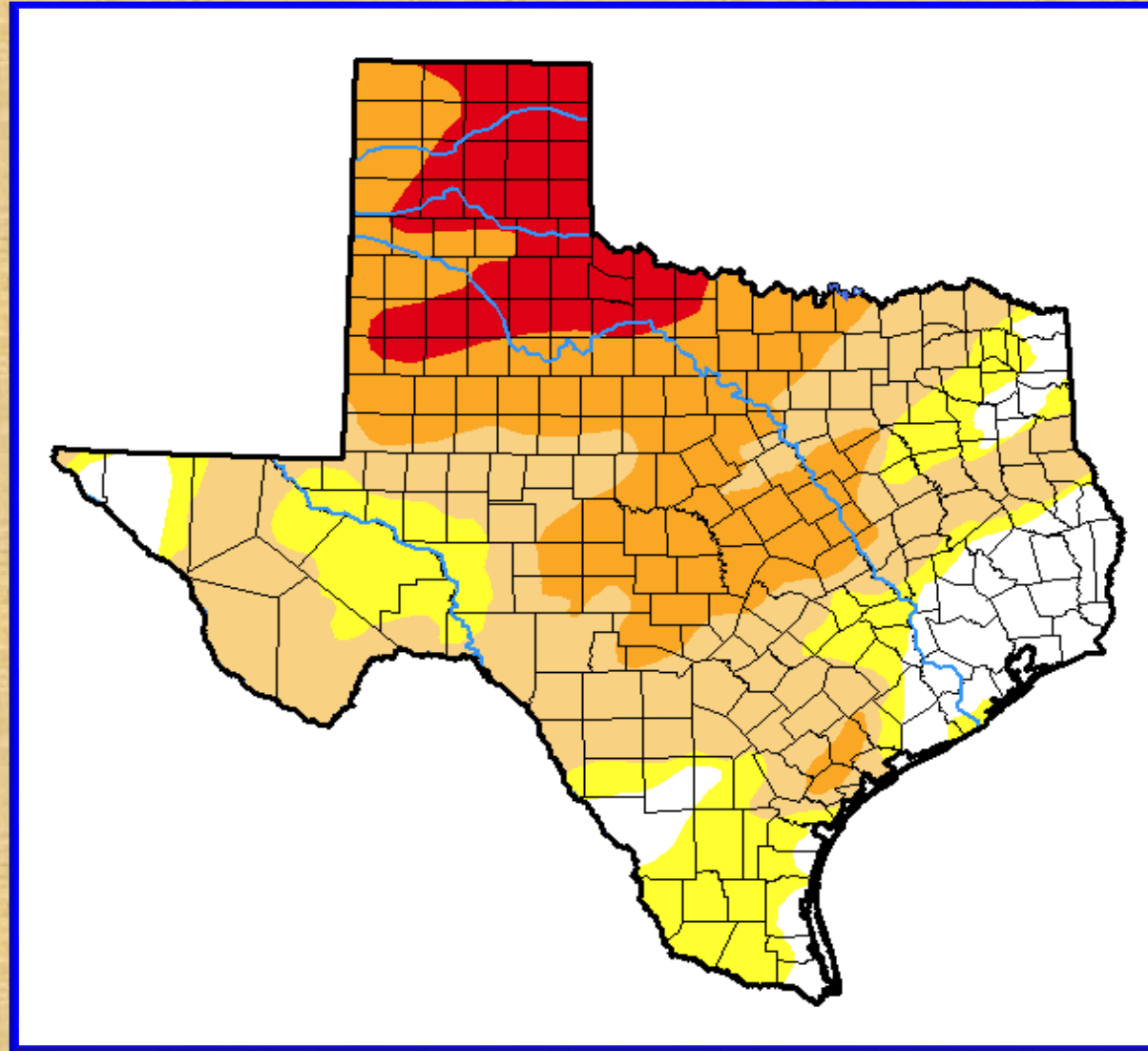
November 28, 2017



Current drought conditions for Texas as of February 20, 2017

Intensity:

-  D0 - Abnormally Dry
-  D1 - Moderate Drought
-  D2 - Severe Drought
-  D3 - Extreme Drought
-  D4 - Exceptional Drought



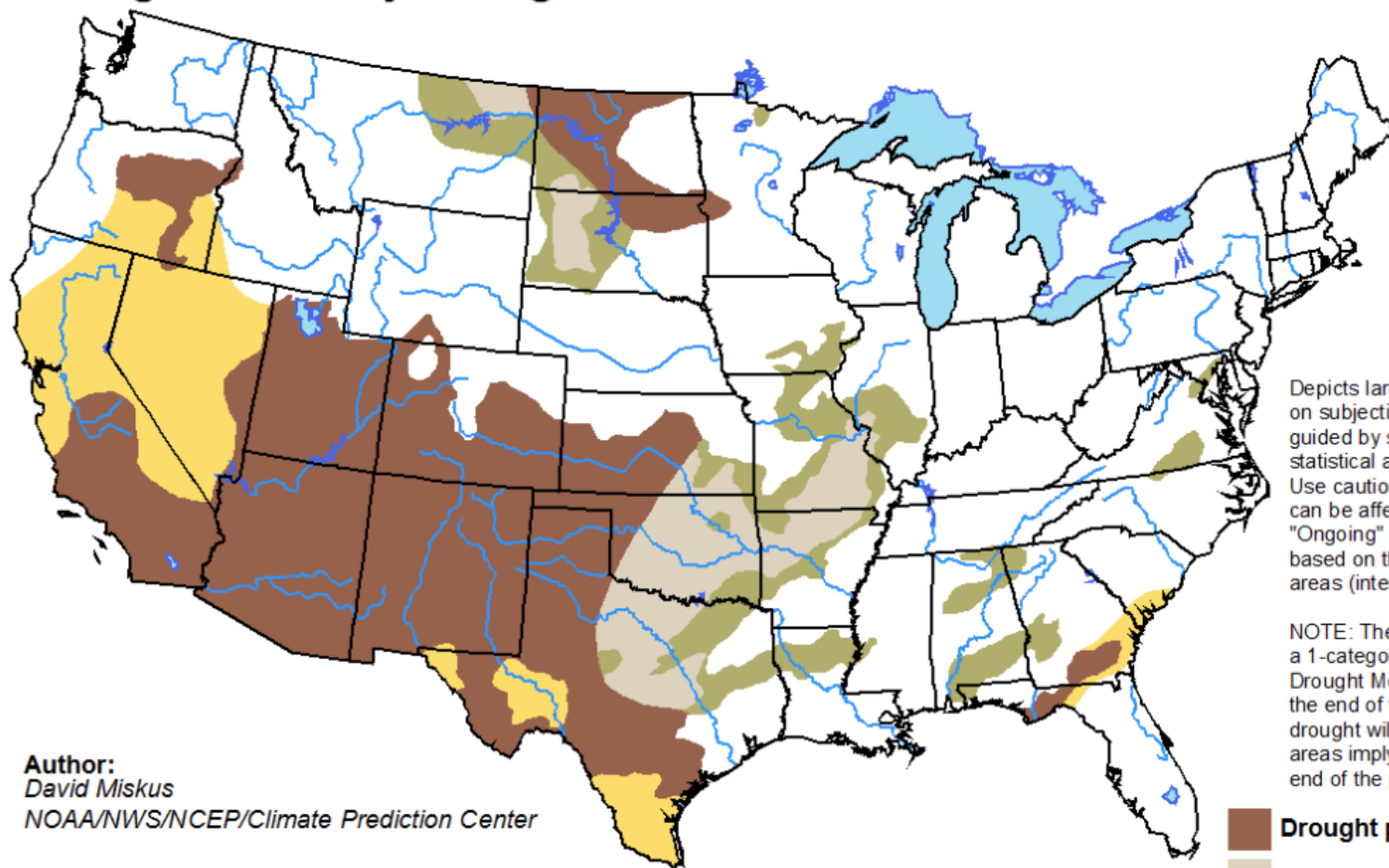
Build your own custom slider maps here at:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ComparisonSlider.aspx>

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





Valid for February 15 - May 31, 2018
Released February 15, 2018

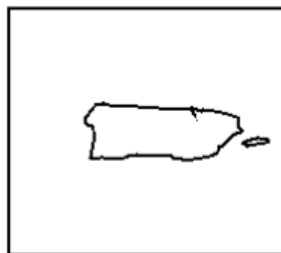
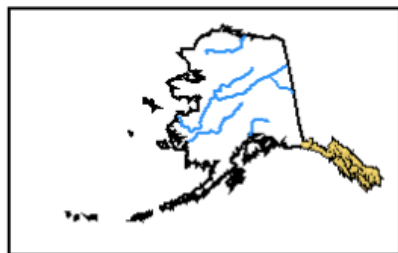


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

-  Drought persists
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely

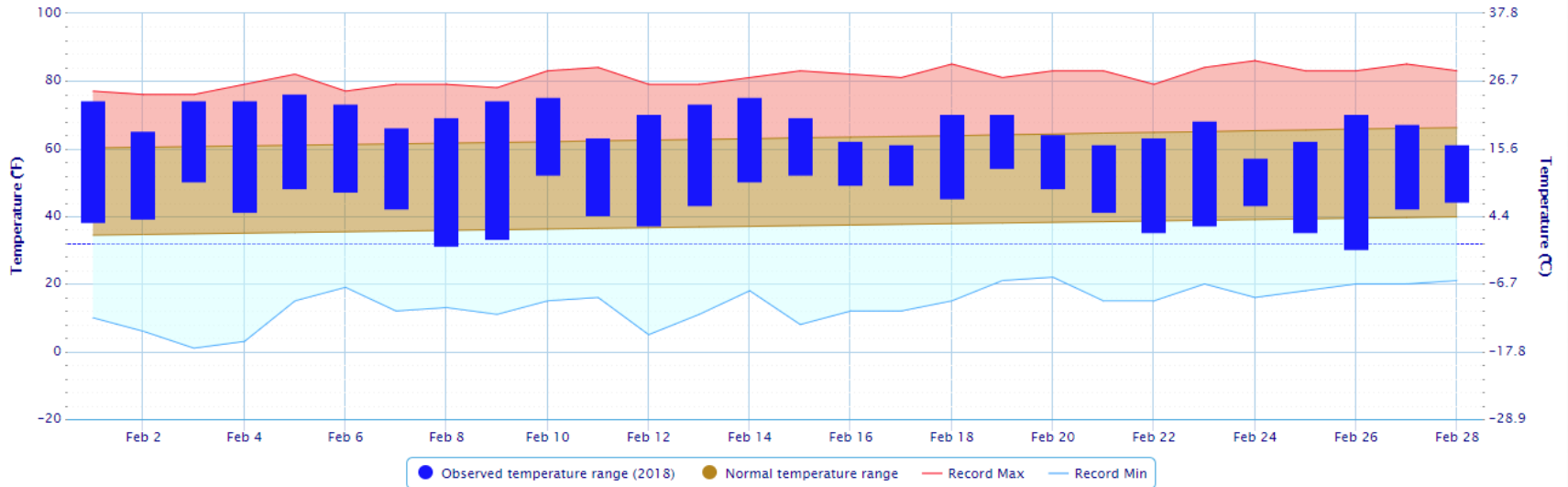


<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Temperature and precipitation data for January 2018 in El Paso

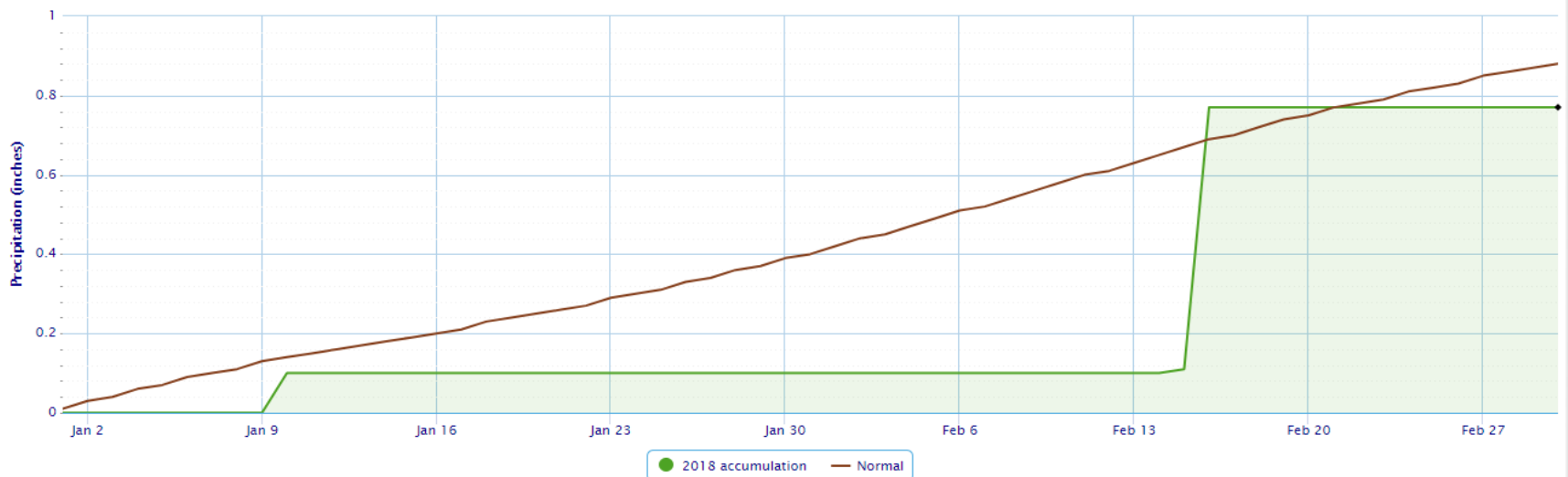
Daily Temperature Data – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2018-03-01; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2018-03-01. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Accumulated Precipitation – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

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



2018 year-to-date temperature and precipitation data El Paso



El Paso TX - 2018

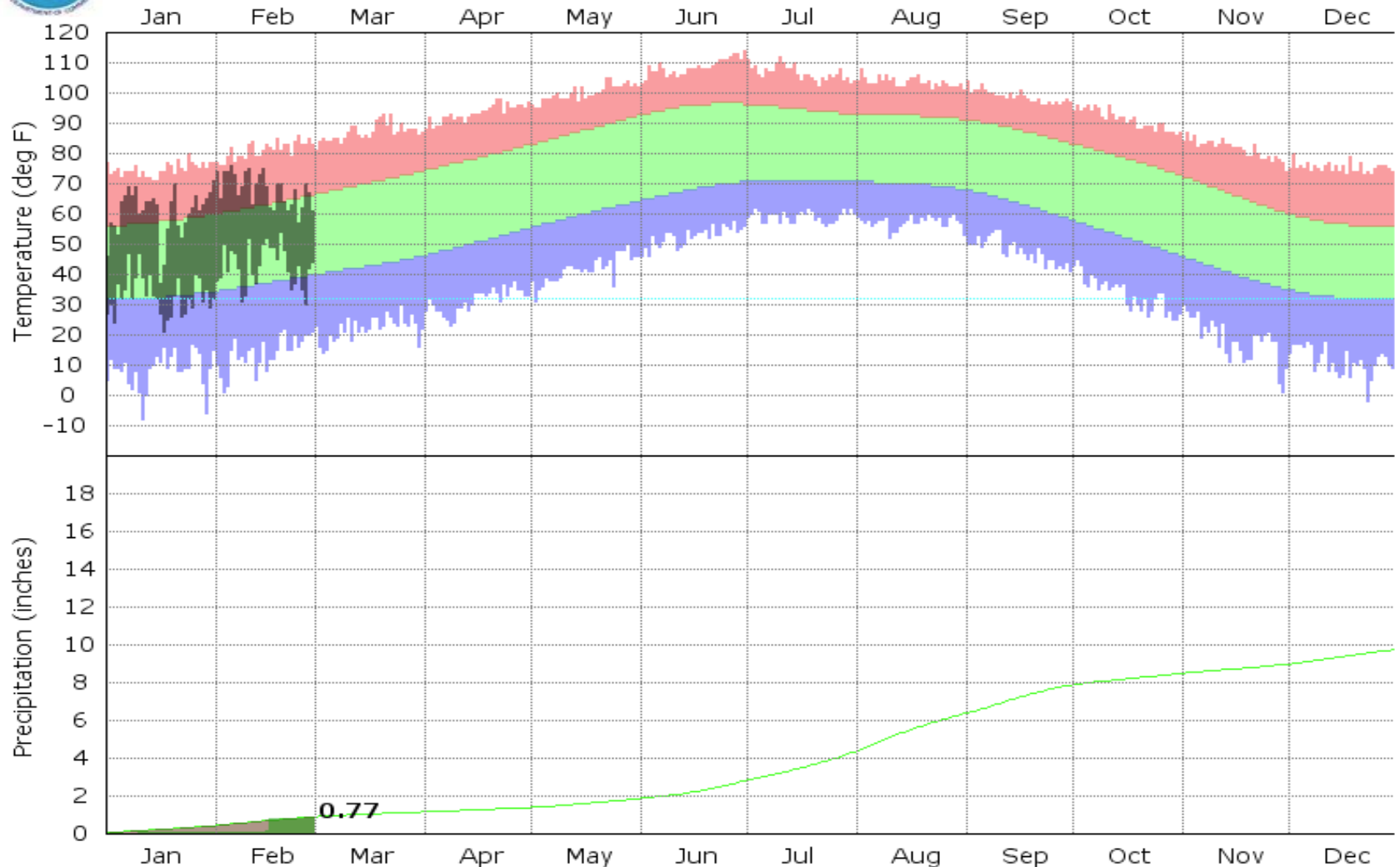
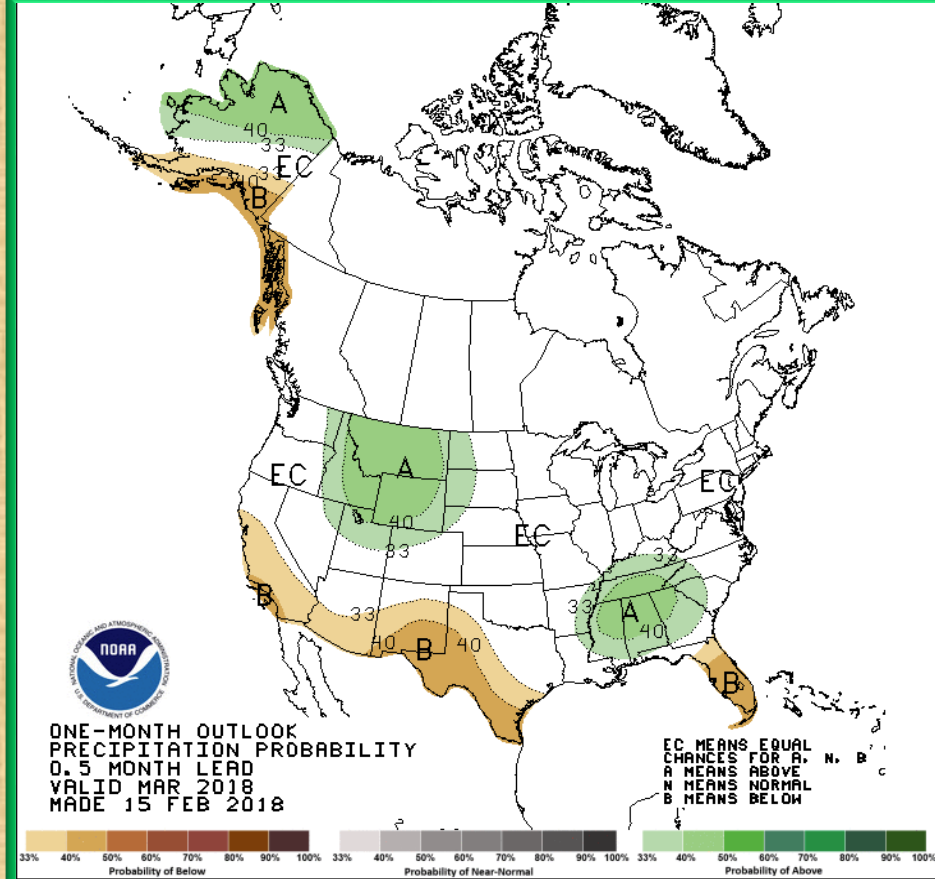
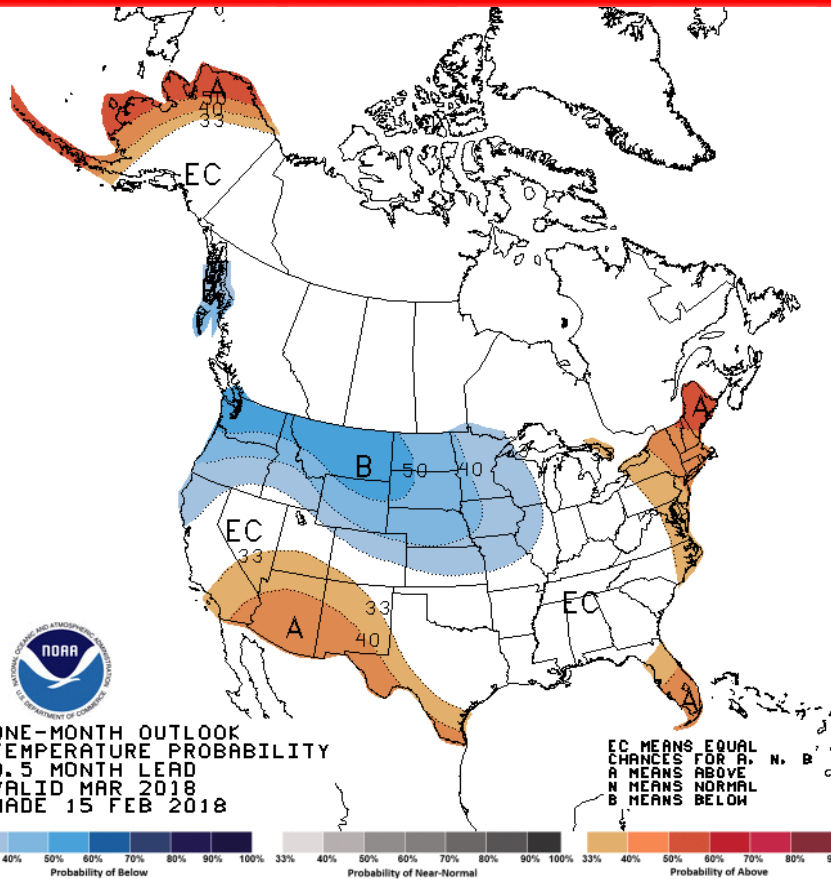


Image created: Thu, 1 Mar 2018 15:08 GT

Temperature and precipitation outlook for March 2018

Temperature

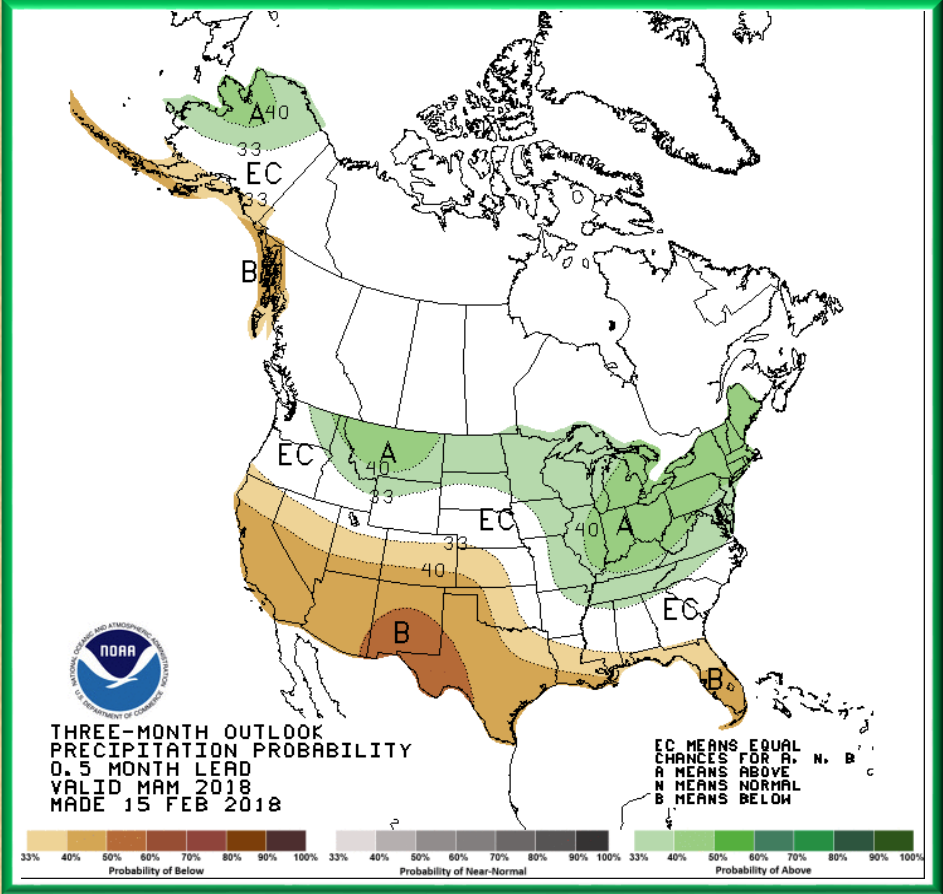
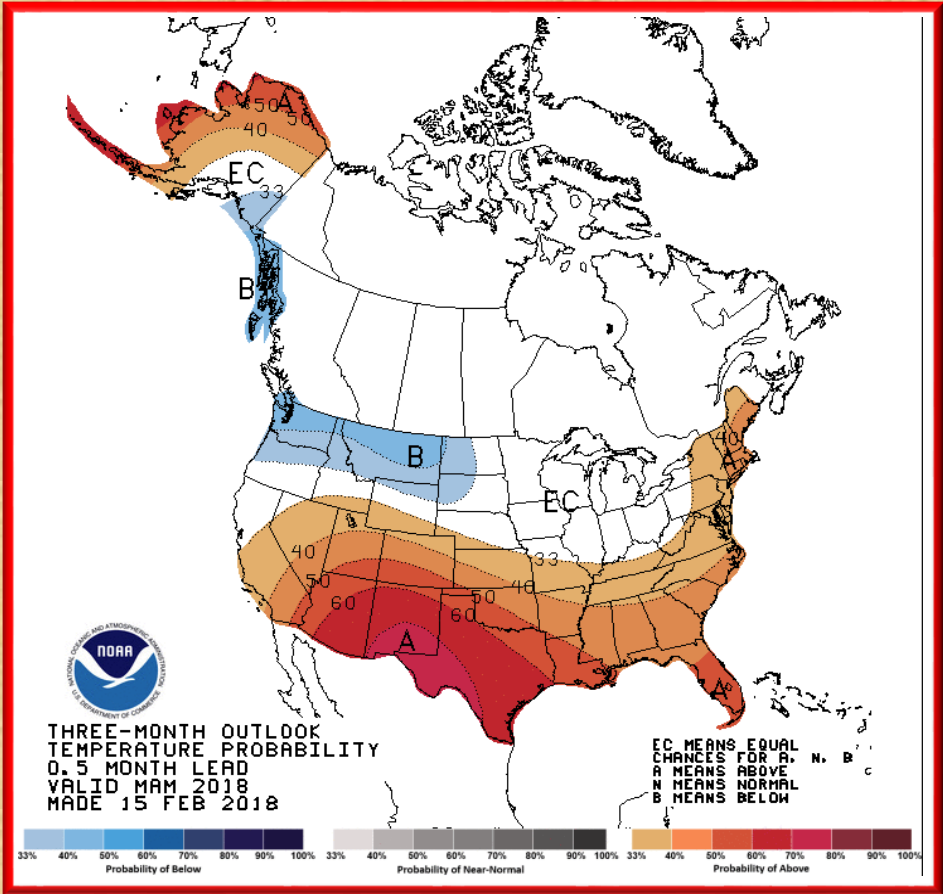
Precipitation



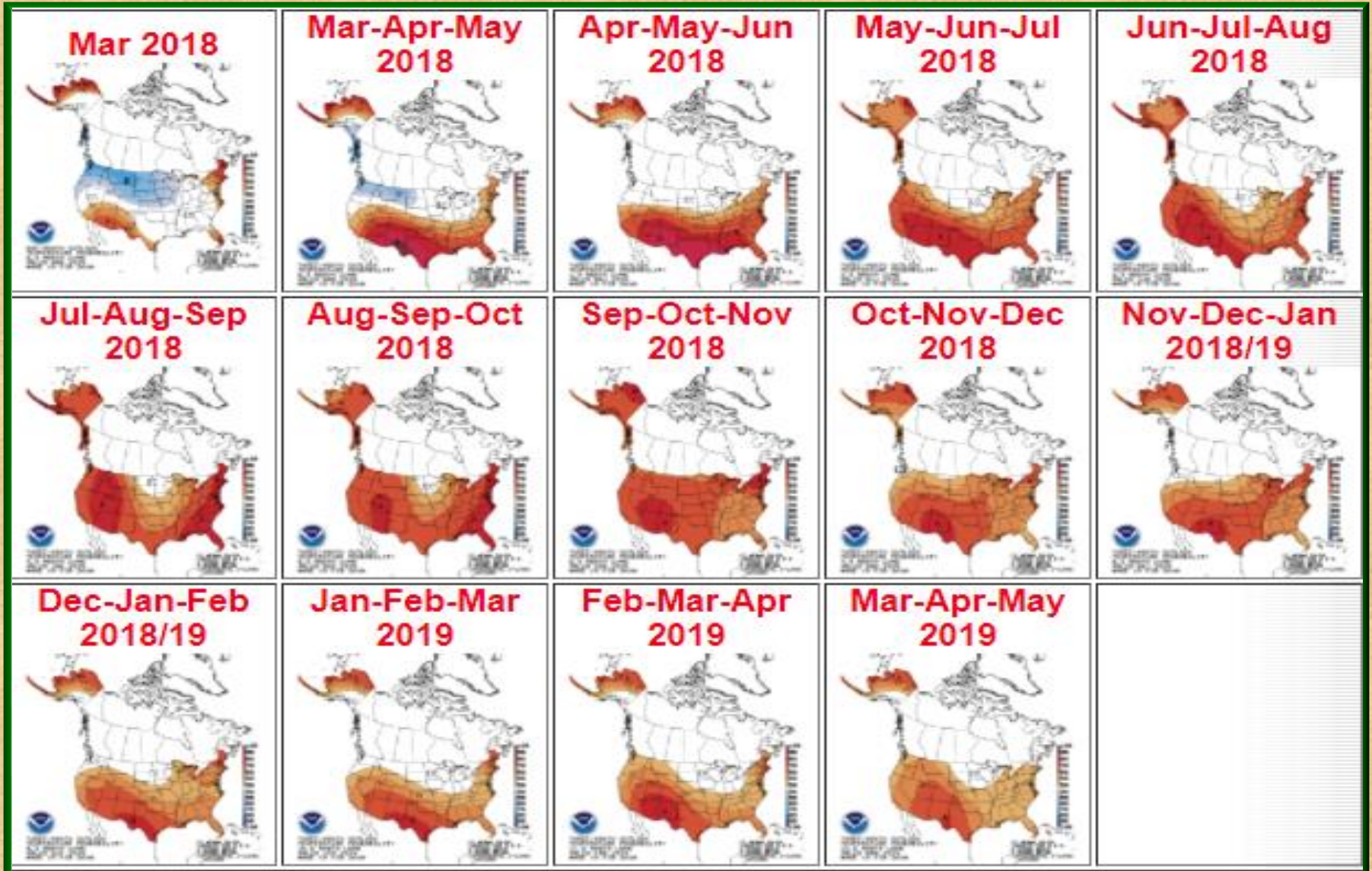
Temperature and precipitation outlook For March-May 2018

Temperature

Precipitation

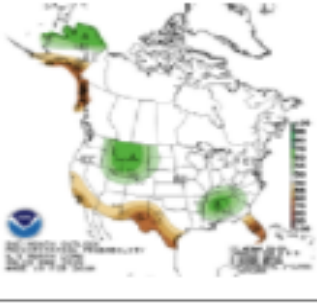


Temperature Outlook Through May 2019

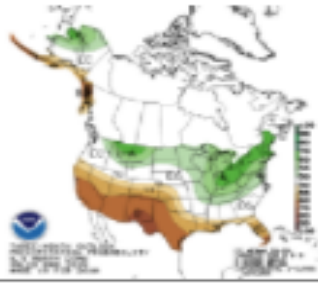


Precipitation Outlook Through May 2019

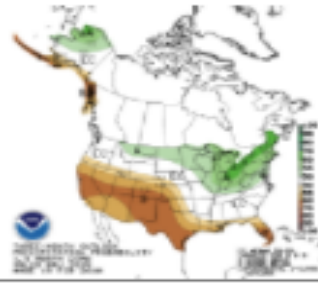
Mar 2018



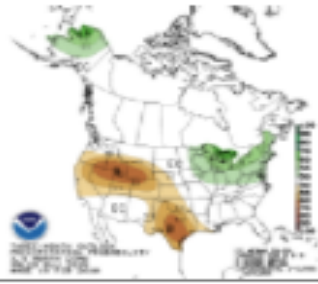
**Mar-Apr-May
2018**



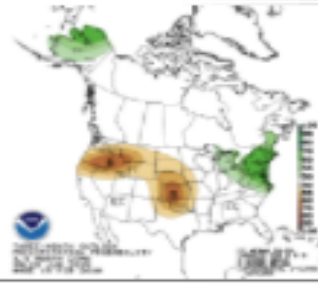
**Apr-May-Jun
2018**



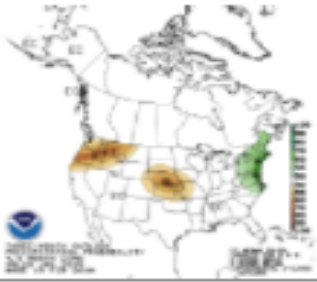
**May-Jun-Jul
2018**



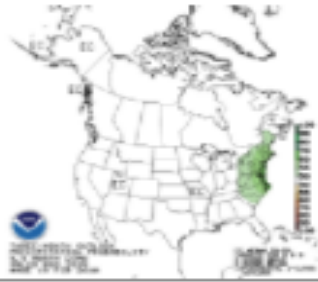
**Jun-Jul-Aug
2018**



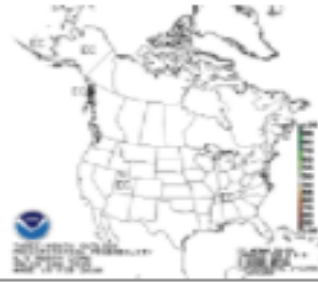
**Jul-Aug-Sep
2018**



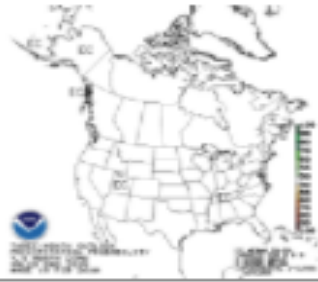
**Aug-Sep-Oct
2018**



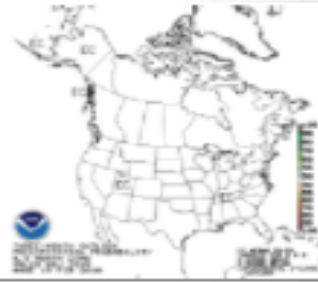
**Sep-Oct-Nov
2018**



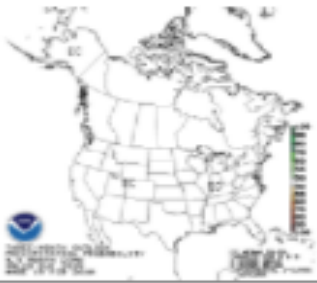
**Oct-Nov-Dec
2018**



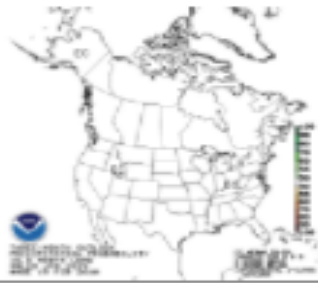
**Nov-Dec-Jan
2018/19**



**Dec-Jan-Feb
2018/19**



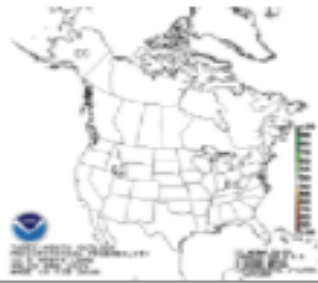
**Jan-Feb-Mar
2019**



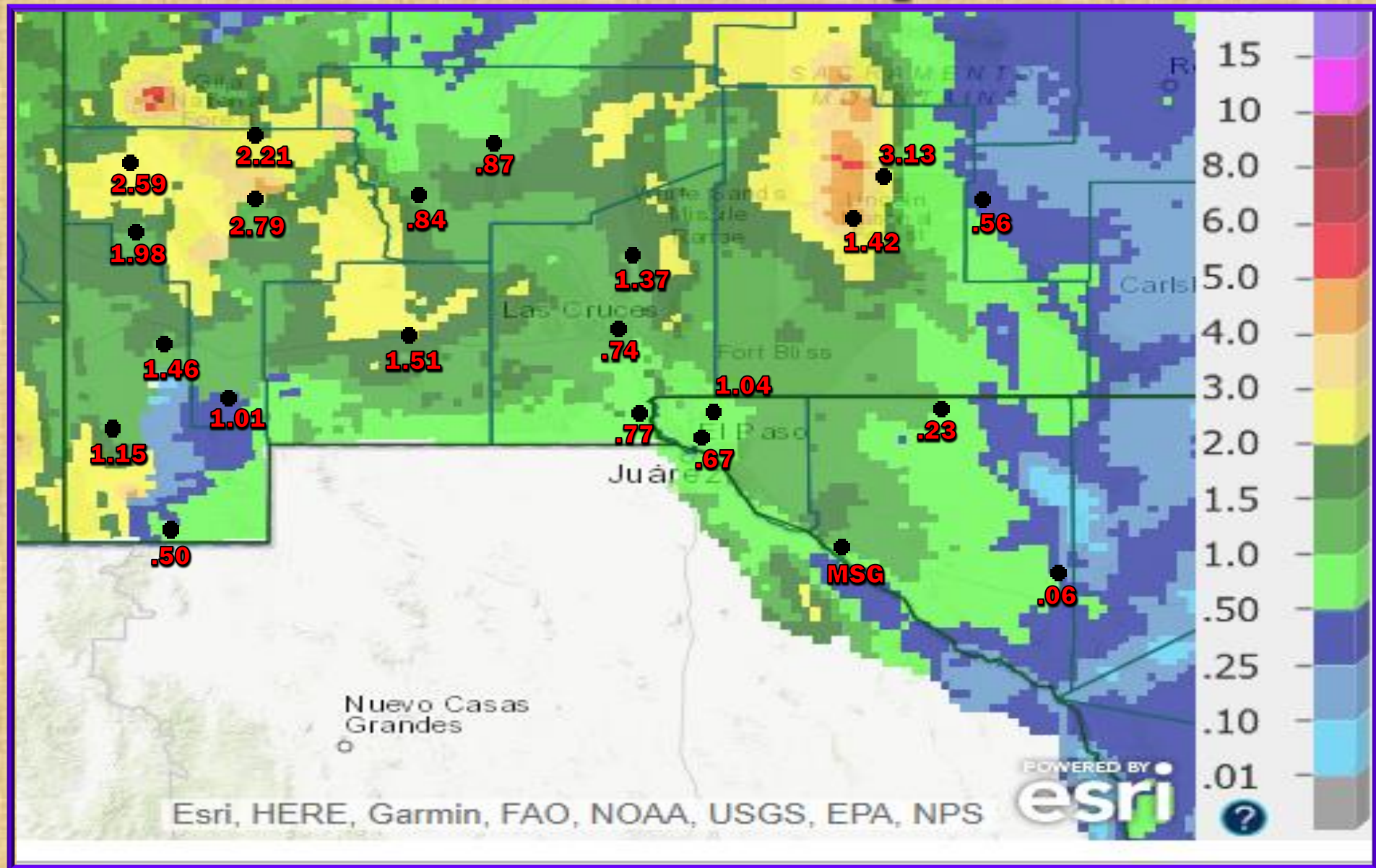
**Feb-Mar-Apr
2019**



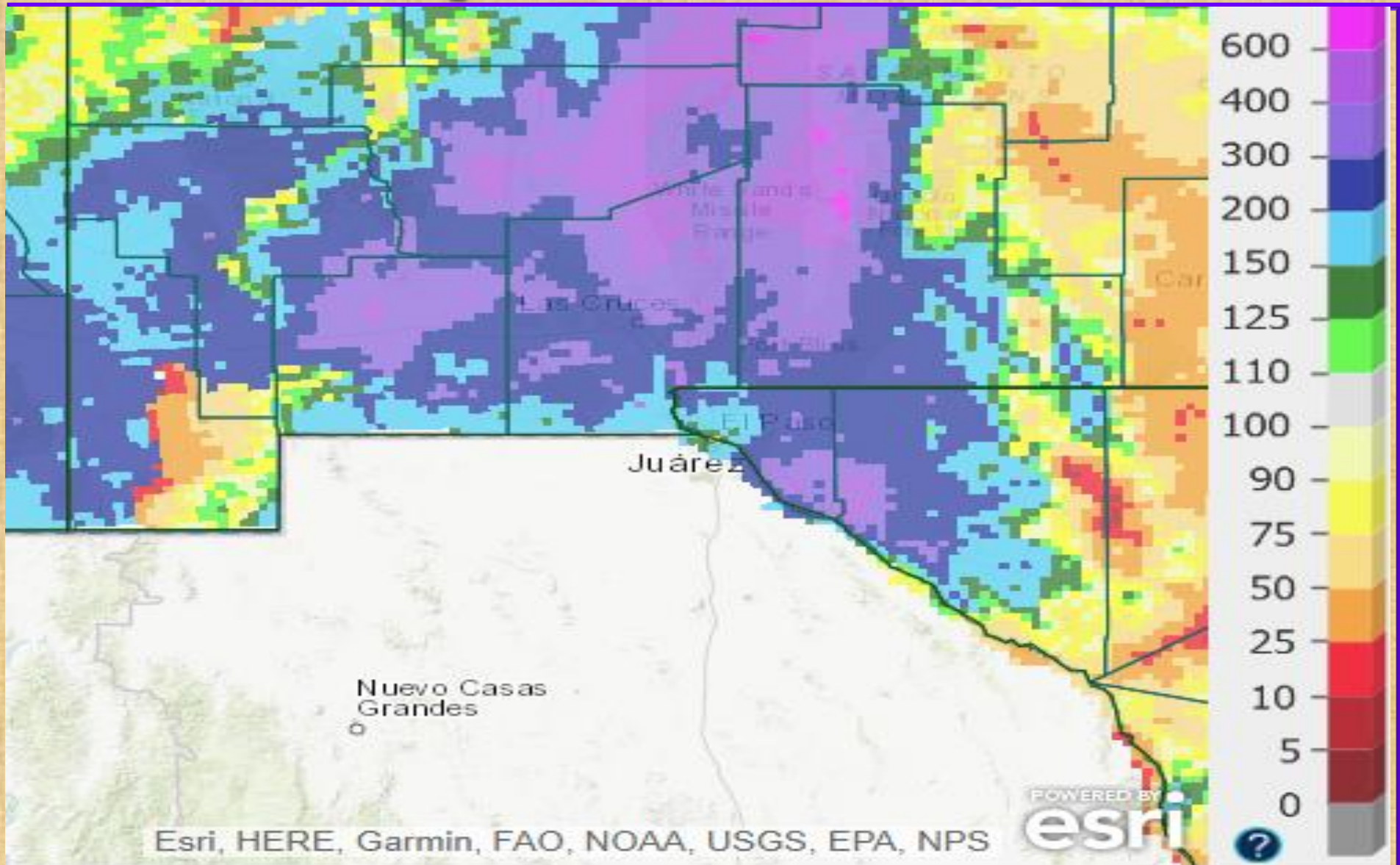
**Mar-Apr-May
2019**



February 2018 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports

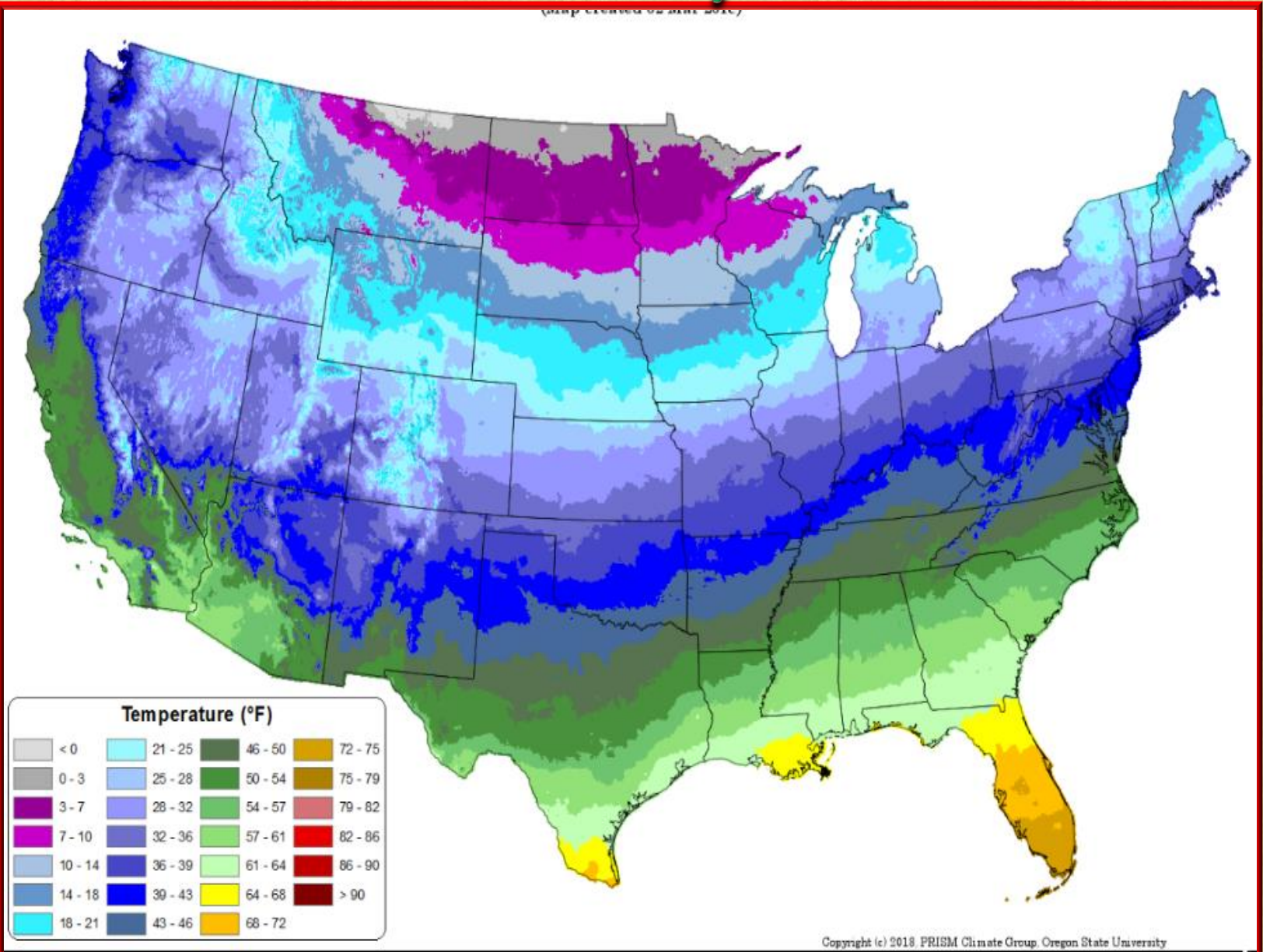


February 2018 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal

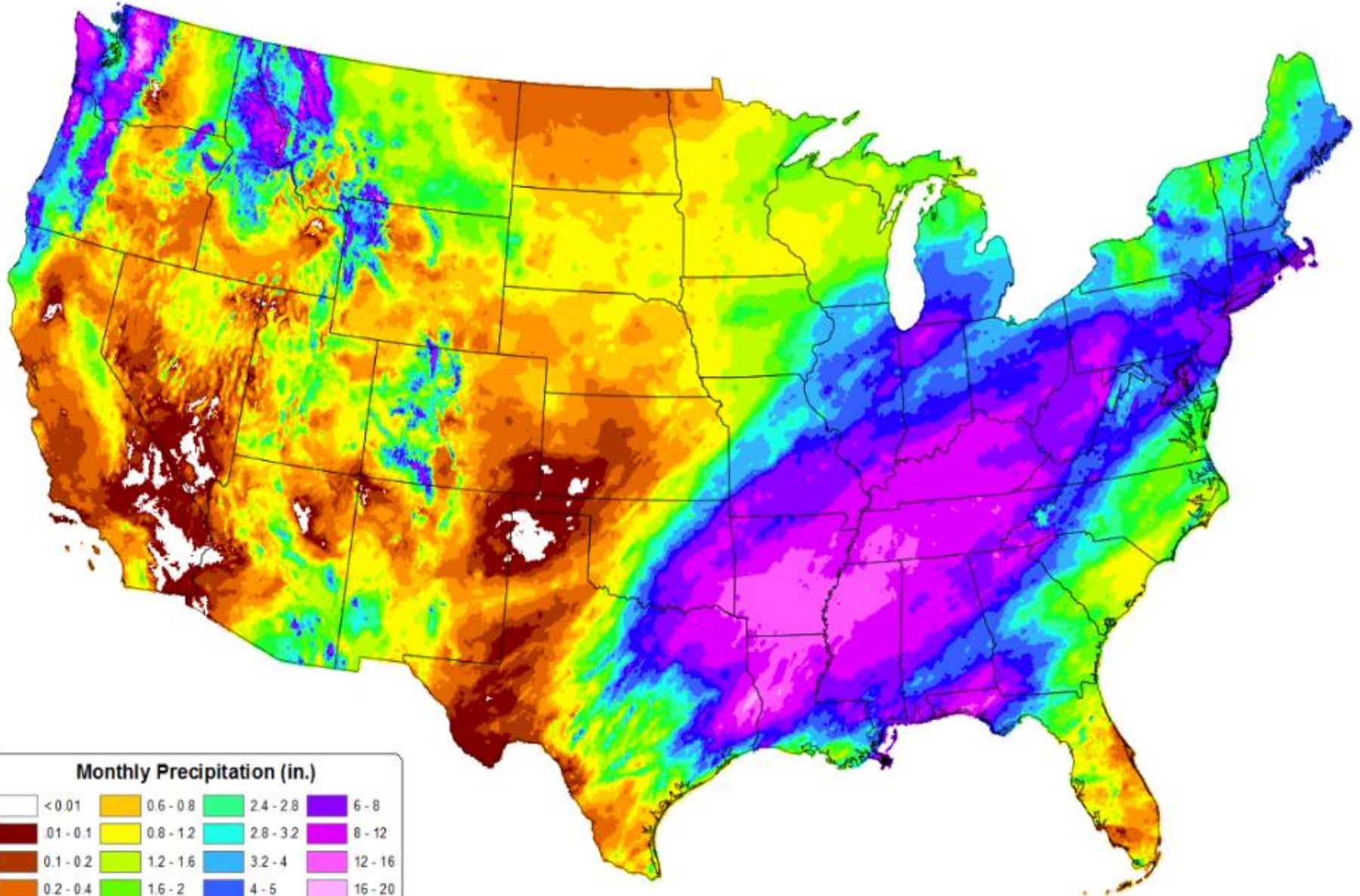


Average Daily Mean Temperature for February 2018

Map created on 02/28/2018



Total Precipitation for February 2018



Monthly Precipitation (in.)



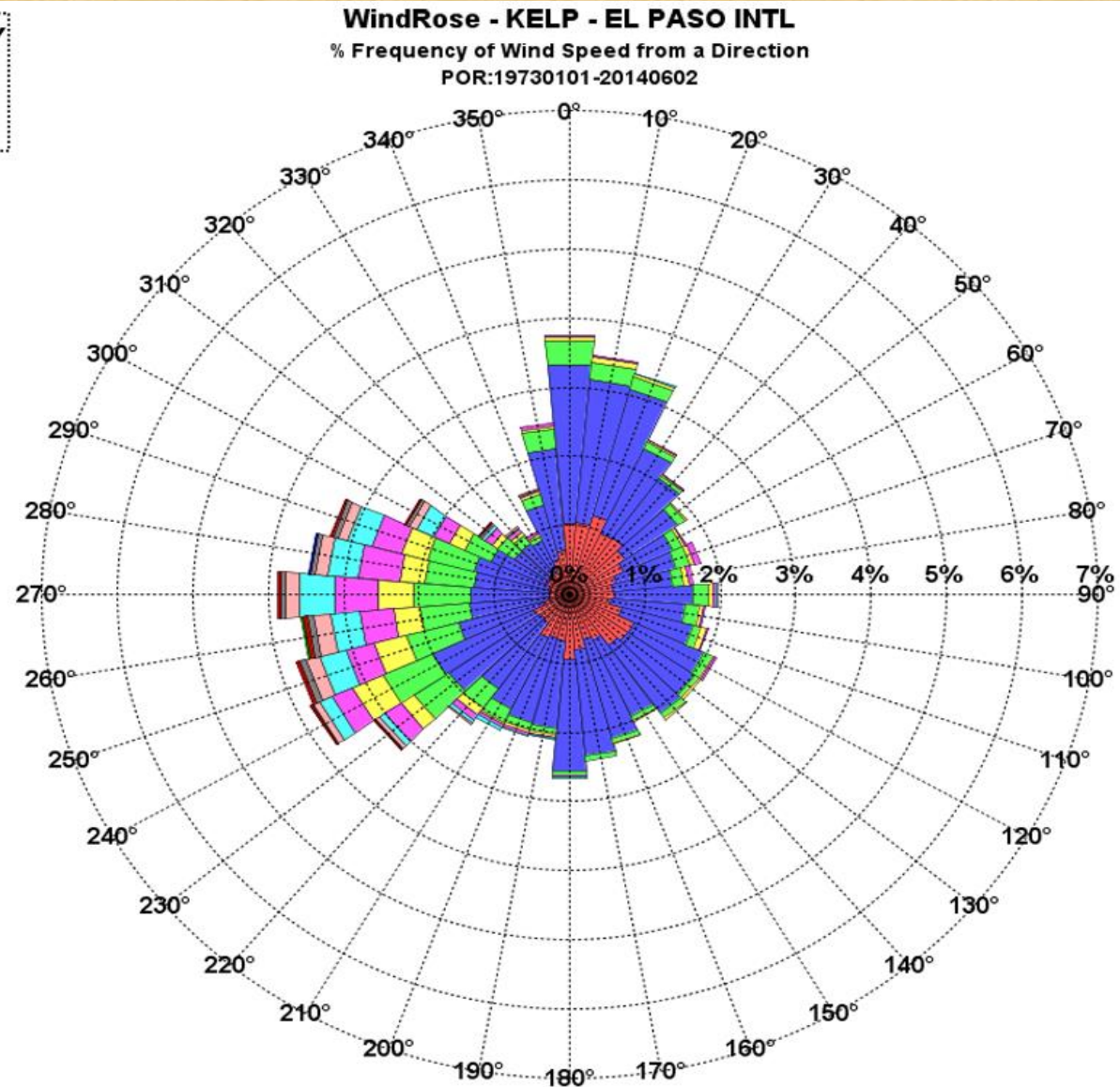
Special Features

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/epz/?n=elpwindrosedata>

Month: FEBRUARY

Calm: 10.51%

Variable: 1.83%



Selected weather reports February 2018

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
FEB 16 700 AM	CLOUDCROFT 2 S-OTERO	1.99 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 530AM	SILVER CITY 3 SW-GRANT	0.84 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 700 AM	SILVER CITY 4 NW-GRANT	0.81 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 700 AM	TYRONE 14 SW-GRANT	0.79 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 700 AM	DEMING 6 SW-LUNA	0.74 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 530 AM	GILA 3 NE-GRANT	0.68 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 700 AM	BAYARD 6 N-GRANT	0.66 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 645 AM	LA LUZ 6 NE-OTERO	0.62 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 700 AM	HANOVER 9 NE-GRANT	0.58 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 700 AM	CHAPARRAL-DONA ANA	0.55 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 700 AM	WHITE SANDS MR 1 E-DONA ANA	0.51 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 16 800 AM	MIMBRES-GRANT	0.51 INCHES RAINFALL
FEB 19 649 AM	EAST MESA 5 SE-DONA ANA	82 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 1210 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	75 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected weather reports February 2018

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
FEB 19 930 PM	WSMR MAIN POST 1 SE-DONA ANA	71 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 520 AM	RODEO 3 SE-HIDALGO	58 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 1139 AM	SUNSPOT 1 S-OTERO	55 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 1240 AM	HACHITA 15 SW-HIDALGO	55 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 200 AM	EL PASO 10 NE-EL PASO	51 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 1010 AM	TULAROSA 19 NW-SIERRA	51 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 1045 PM	OROGRANDE 4 NW-OTERO	50 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 601 PM	ORGAN 11 NE-DONA ANA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 827 PM	WINSTON-SIERRA	48 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 455 PM	DELL CITY 1 N-HUDSPETH	47 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 518 PM	SANTA TERESA 5 NW-DONA ANA	47 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 1201 PM	MAYHILL 1 NE-OTERO	46 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 1126 AM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	46 MPH PEAK WIND
FEB 19 359 PM	REDROCK 12 E-GRANT	40 MPH PEAK WIND

Selected weather reports February 2018

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
JAN 21 1044 AM	RADIUM SPRINGS-DONA ANA	PK WIND 42 MPH
JAN 28 515 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	PK WIND 63 MPH
JAN 28 400 PM	EL PASO 10NE-EL PASO	PK WIND 50 MPH
JAN 28 426 PM	SIERRA BLANCA 1SE-HUDSPETH	PK WIND 50 MPH
JAN 28 400 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	PK WIND 47 MPH
JAN 28 453 PM	SANTA TERESA 5NW-DONA ANA	PK WIND 46 MPH
JAN 28 355 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	PK WIND 46 MPH

Local forecast by "City, St" or ZIP code
 Enter location ...
[Location Help](#)

Heavy Rain and Flash Flooding Possible Over Parts of the Eastern United States
 Heavy rainfall is expected over portions of the eastern United States through Thursday. Flooding and flash flooding will be possible in some areas. Click the "Read More" link for excessive rainfall forecasts from the Weather Prediction Center. [Read More >](#)

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NWS El Paso
[Weather.gov > El Paso, TX](#)

El Paso, TX
 Weather Forecast Office

Current Hazards Current Conditions Radar Forecasts Rivers and Lakes Climate and Past Weather **Local Programs**

Today

Wednesday
 Warmer with a Few Afternoon Storms

Weather Forecast Office
 El Paso, TX
 September 27, 2016 4:43 PM

Local forecast by "City, St" or ZIP code
 Enter location ...
[Location Help](#)

Heavy rain expected across the Mid-Atlantic region and central Appalachians.
 Heavy rainfall is possible over portions of the eastern United States today, with the highest risk across the Mid-Atlantic and central Appalachians. Click the "Read More" link for excessive rainfall forecasts from the Weather Prediction Center. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms are possible over portions of the Southwest and southern Rockies through Friday. [Read More >](#)

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El Paso, TX
 Weather Forecast Office

Current Hazards Current Conditions Radar Forecasts Rivers and Lakes Climate and Past Weather **Local Programs**

Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas has a variety of weather from month to month. Conditions can range from extreme drought, to heavy flooding rains, from record breaking heat to bone chilling cold. Below you will find past weather highlights from the area that the NWS office in Santa Teresa NM covers. This area includes the following counties in New Mexico: Hudspeth, Grant, Luna, Sierra, Doña Ana and Otero and the following counties in Texas: El Paso and Hudspeth.

WEATHER DIGESTS AND BULLETINS	
Weather Digest	Southwest Weather Bulletins
January	2005 Spring Fall
February	2006 Spring Fall
March	2007 Spring Fall
April	2008 Spring Fall
May	2009 Spring Fall
June	2010 Spring Fall
July	2011 Spring Fall
August	2012 Spring Fall
September	2013 Spring Fall
October	2014 Spring Fall
November	
December	

Don't Forget-Current and past issues of our Weather Digest are available on our website at <http://www.weather.gov/epz/>

Just click on "Local Programs>Weather Digest", then choose which month's Digest to view. Also, though discontinued, don't forget to check out our back issues of Southwest Weather Bulletin.