December 2024 Weather Digest

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December 2024 Weather Summary

December 2024 will be remembered for two things; very warm and dry. This month was one of the hottest on record with high temperatures around the area averaging 4 to 7 degrees above normal. Most reporting sites showed this December in the top 3 or 4 all-time hottest Decembers on record. The main culprit was the eastern Pacific ridge of high pressure, which persisted just off the west coast much of the month, thus blocking any Pacific storms from coming through our area.

Of course with above normal temperatures usually comes dry weather, and that was certainly the case this December, with the majority of sites reporting one-hundredth or less of precipitation. Needless to say the entire area was near zero percent of normal.

December 2024 Weather Summary

Looking ahead to January, we continue to slowly increase daylength and eventually see our average temperatures start to slowly warm. Daylength on the 1st is 10 hours, 7 mins, while on the 31st it increases to 10 hours, 40 mins. At El Paso, the average high temperature on Jan 1 is 57°, warming to 61° on Jan 31. The January full moon will occur on January 13, also known as the Wolf Moon. The New Moon occurs on January 29.



Dec 12 Silver City Sky

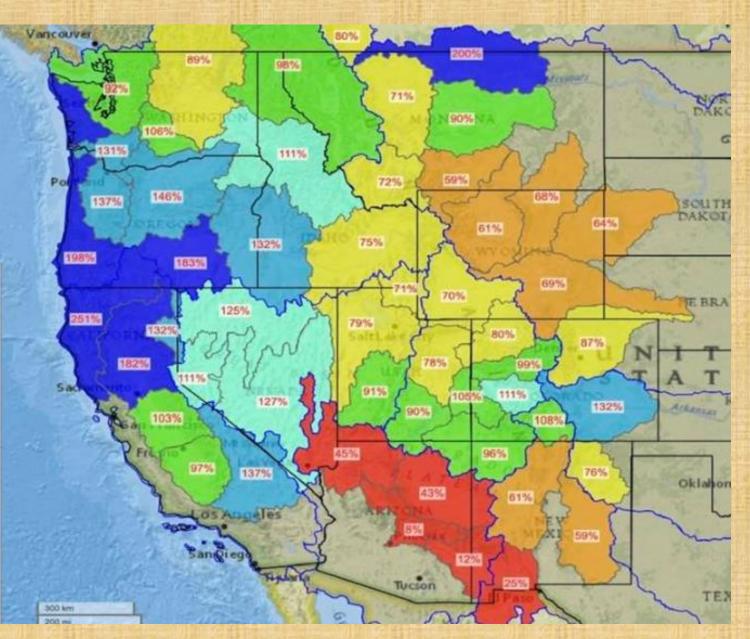


Snow pack for western mountains as of mid December. Upper Rio Grande Basin was around 95-110% of normal

Snow Water Equivalent Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median December 15, 2024, end of day ≥ 150% 130% to 149% 110% to 129% 90% to 109% 70% to 89% 50% to 69% < 50% No basin value Watershed Boundaries — Region (HUC2) Subregion (HUC4) **Political Boundaries** — State Boundaries

> Natural Resources Conservation Service

Created 12-16-2024, 11:19 AM MST



ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Watch is in effect

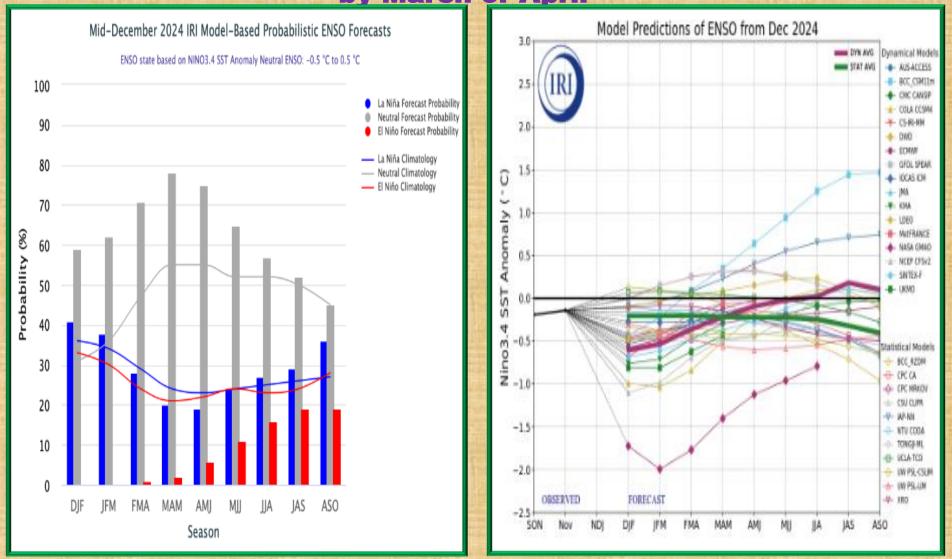
ENSO Alert System

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.

E Niño or La Niña Advisory: Issued when E Niño or La Niña conditions are observed and expected to continue.

ENSO Forecast

ENSO is in Neutral phase and is expected to transition to La Niña in January, with a shift back to neutral by March or April



TYPICAL LA NIÑA WINTERS La Niña Pattern variable colder Polar Jet Stream wetter blocking high pressure warmer drier YPICAL EL NIÑO WINTERS

With a La Niña pattern, a ridge of high pressure tends to build off the west coast of the U.S., blocking most of our Pacific winter storm systems. These storms tend to end up moving across the northern Plains and down to the southeastern part of the country. Of course it is important to remember that these patterns are only what typically happens and are not guaranteed to occur.

El Niño Patterr

wetter

colder

warmer

extended Pacific Jet Stream, amplified storm track

low pressure

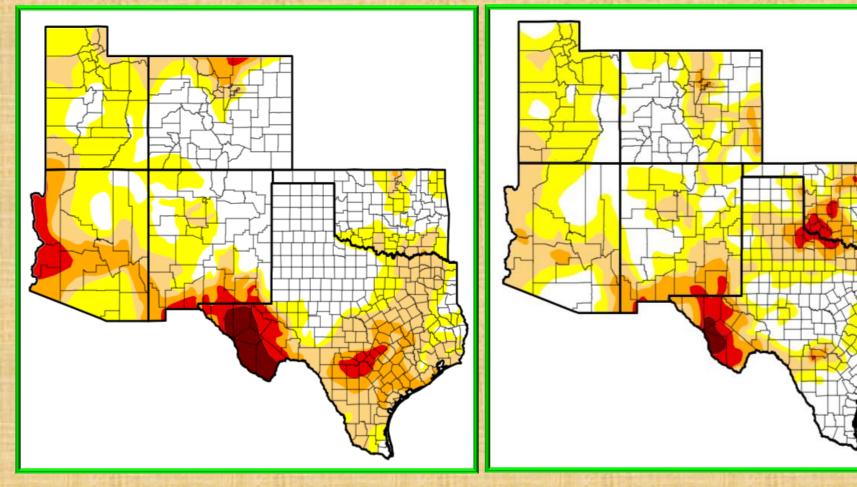
With El Niño, we often see the opposite pattern where the eastern Pacific ridge of high pressure is often weak or non-existent, allowing winter storms to sweep across the southern U.S. This typically will give the southwestern U.S. above normal precipitation.

Current drought conditions and 3 month change

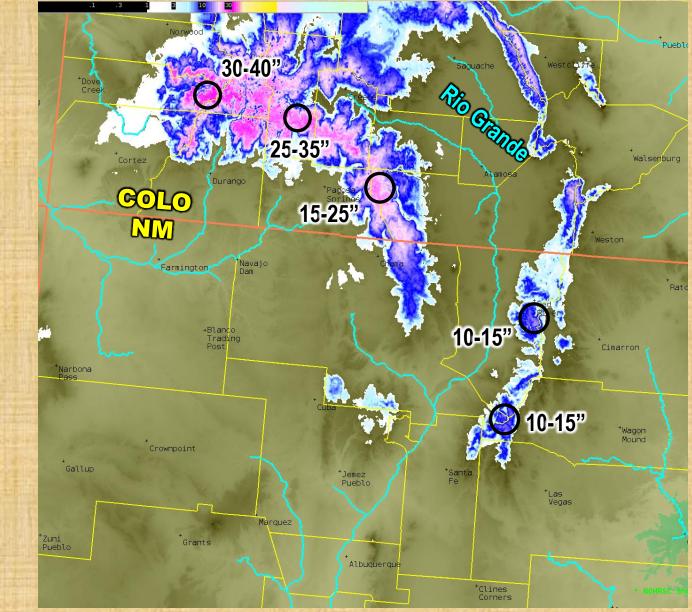
- Abnormally Dry D0
- Moderate Drought D1
- Severe Drought D2
- Extreme Drought D3
- Exceptional D4

Dec 24, 2024

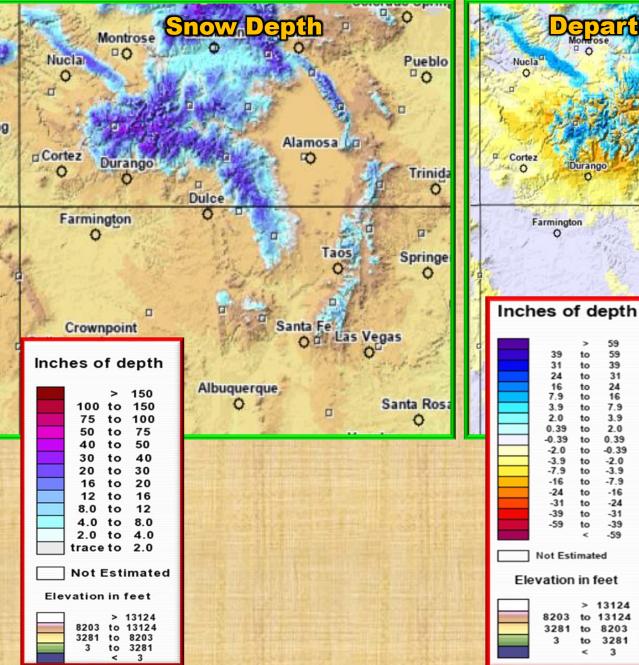
Sep 24, 2024

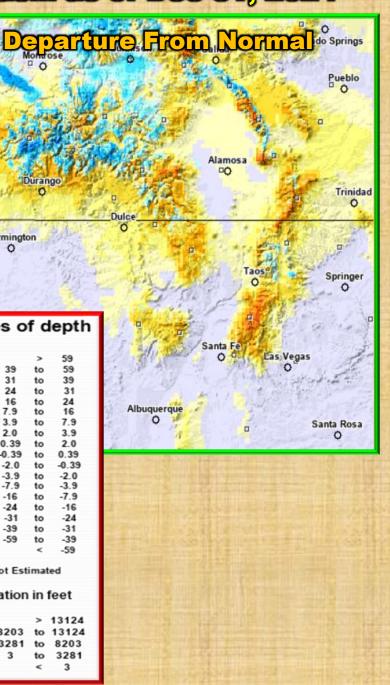


December 31 Snow Depth Upper Rio Grande Basin

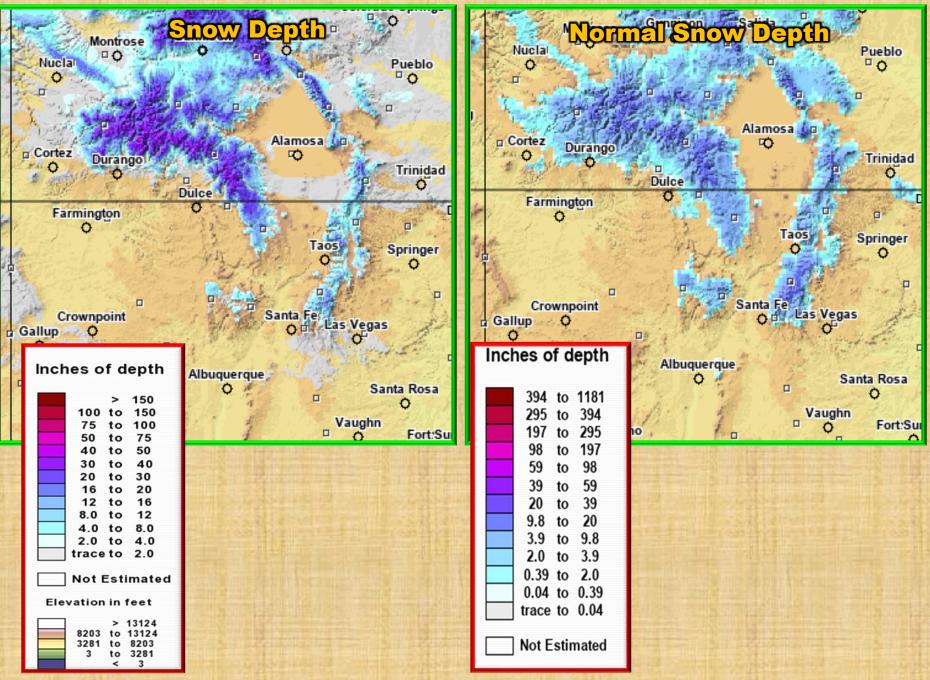


Snow Data Upper Rio Grande Basin as of Dec 31, 2024

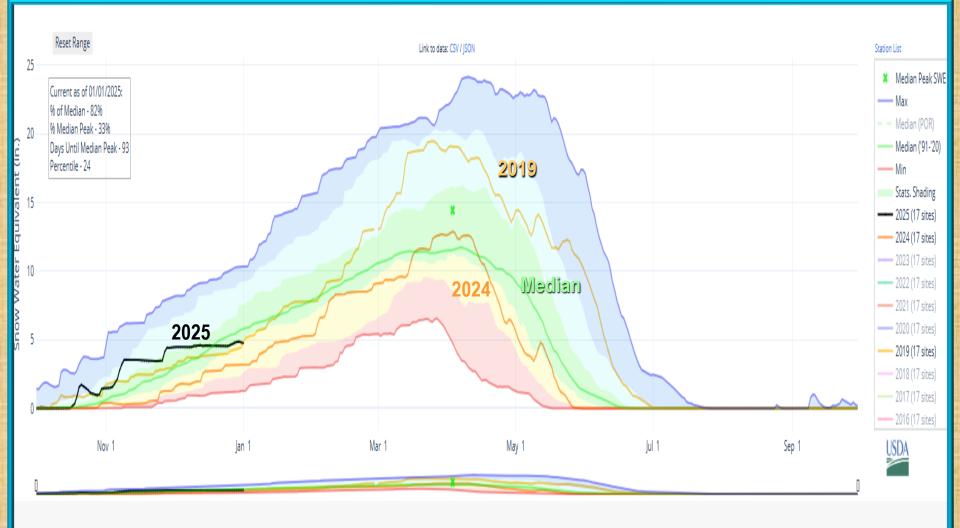




Snow Data Upper Rio Grande Basin as of Nov 30, 2024

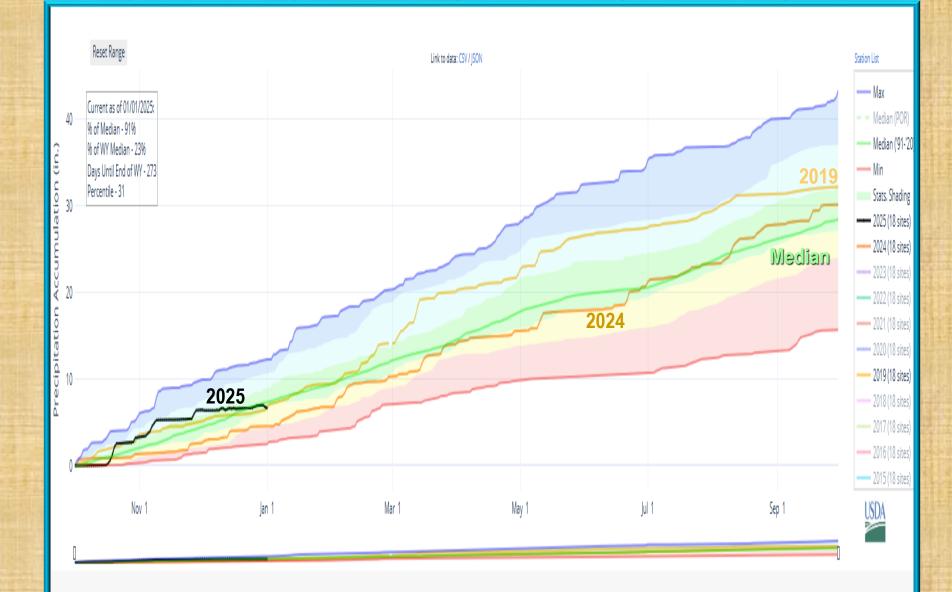


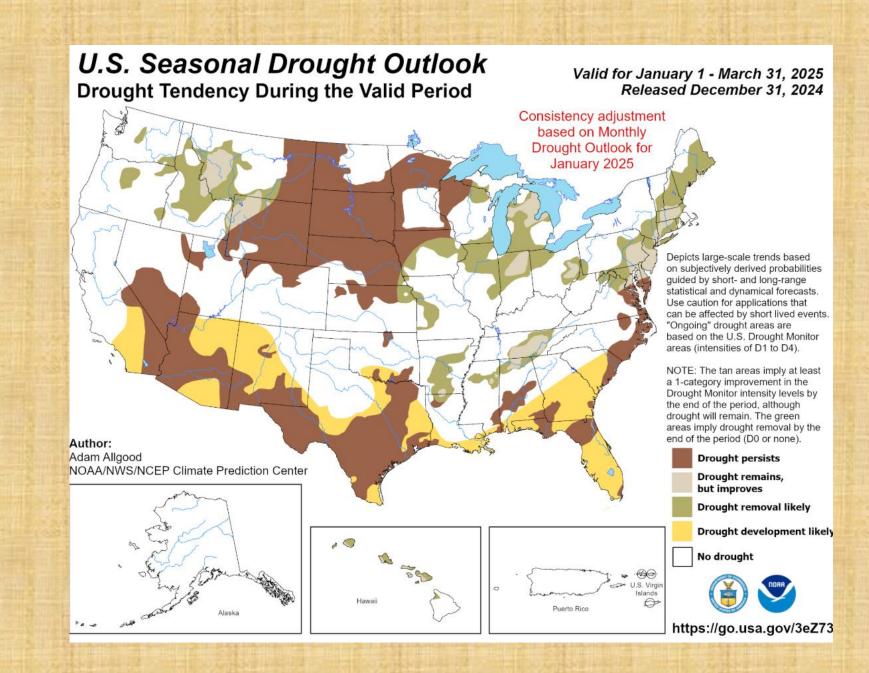
Snow Water Equivalent as of Dec 31, 2024 Compare to last few years and average values



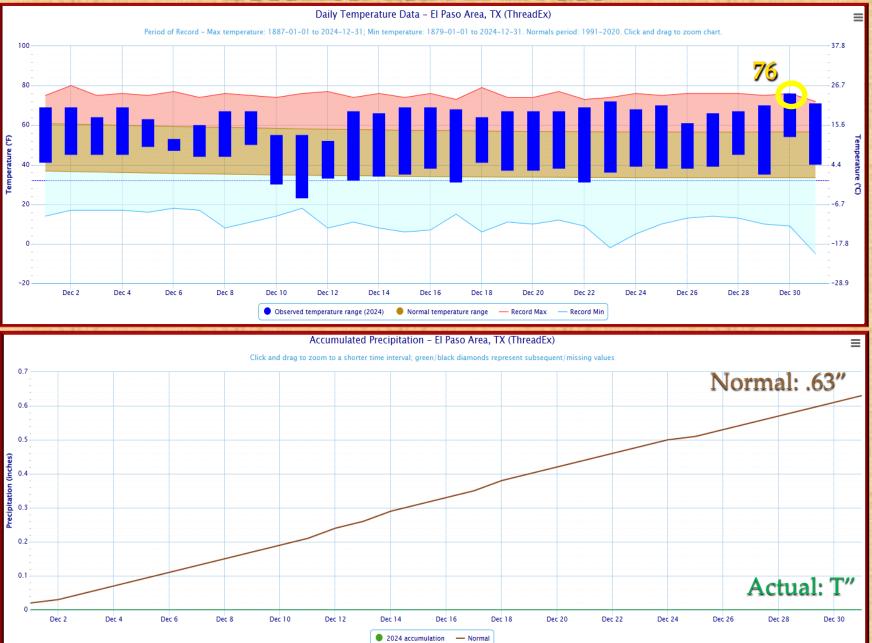
Statistical shading percentiles are calculated from period of record (POR) data, excluding the current water year. Percentile categories range from: minimum to 10th percentile, 10th - 30th, 30th - 70th, 70th - 90th, and 90th - maximum. For more information visit: 30-Year Hydroclimatic Normals

Precipitation for the Water YTD Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2025 Compare to last few years and average values

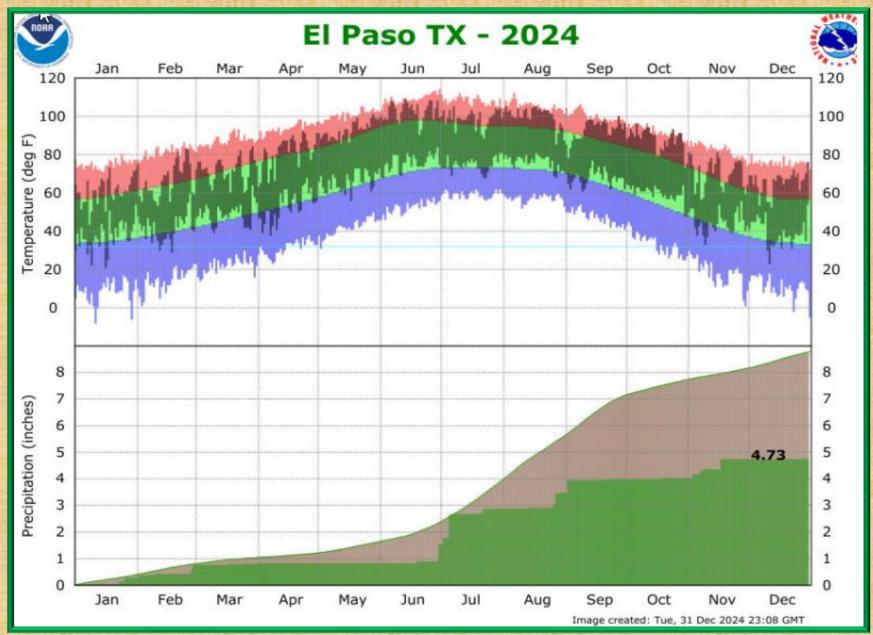




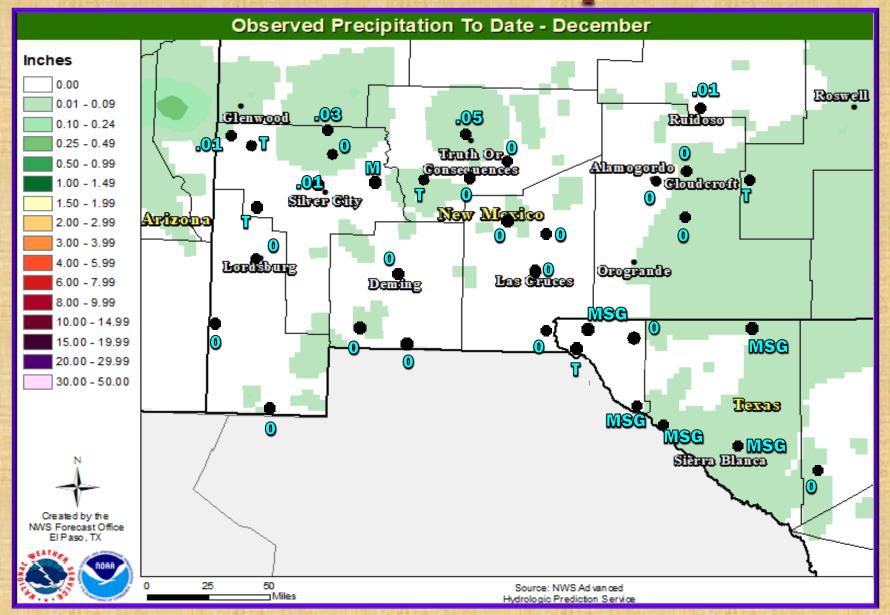
Temperature and precipitetion date for December 2024 in [(Record FlighTemps)] = record



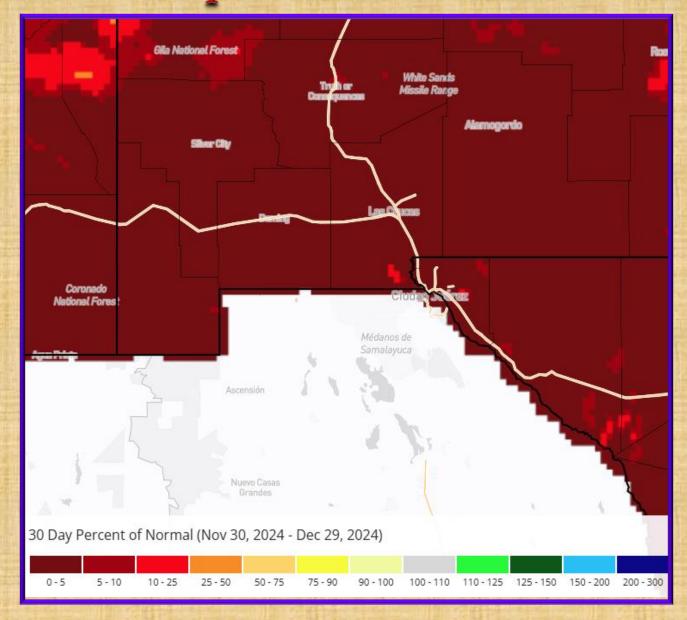
Temperature and Precipitation Year end 2024 for El Paso



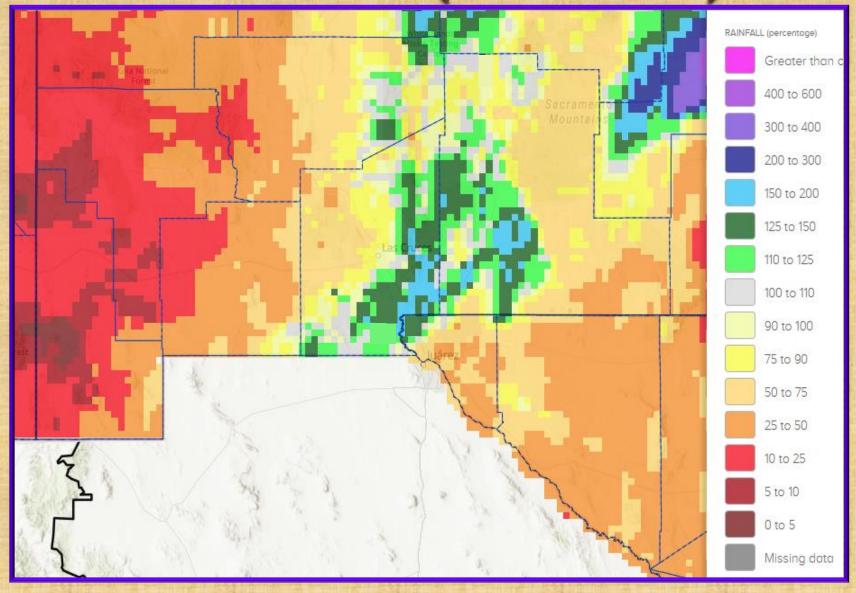
December 2024 rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports

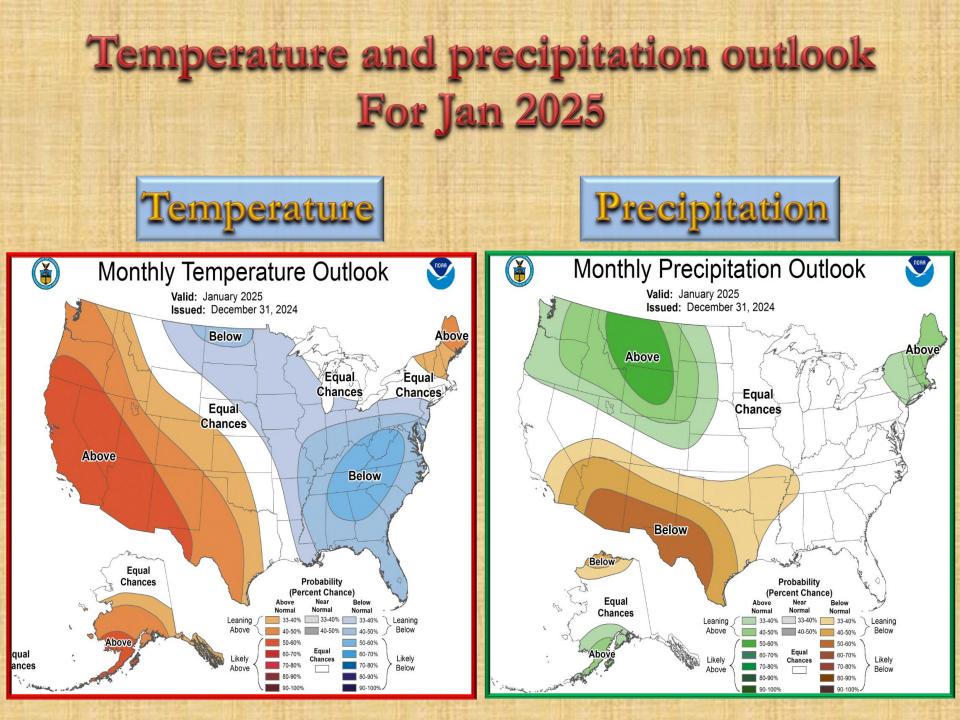


December 2024 rainfall estimate percent of normal



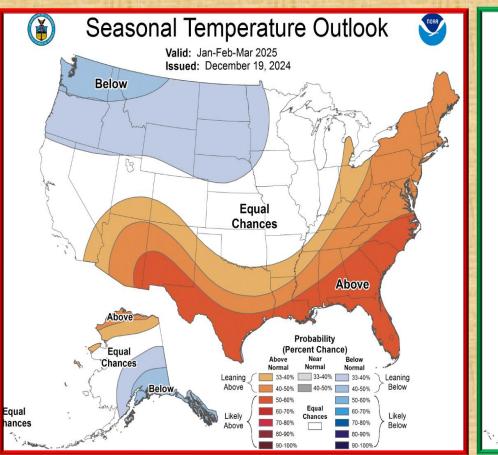
Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for the Water Year (Oct 1 – Dec 31)



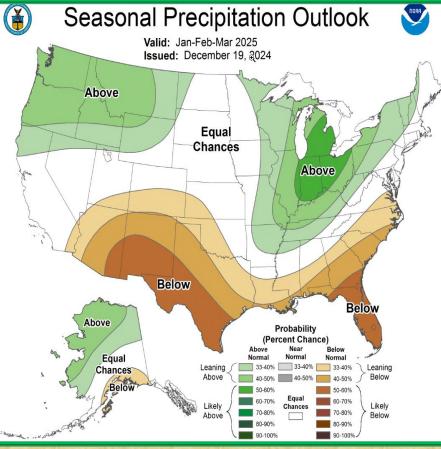


Temperature and precipitation outlook for Jan-Mar 2025

Temperature



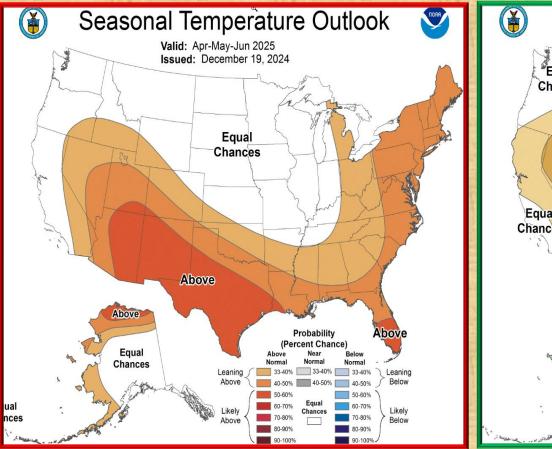


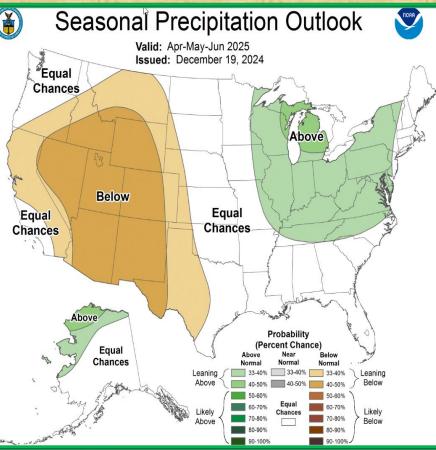


Temperature and precipitation outlook for Apr-Jun 2025

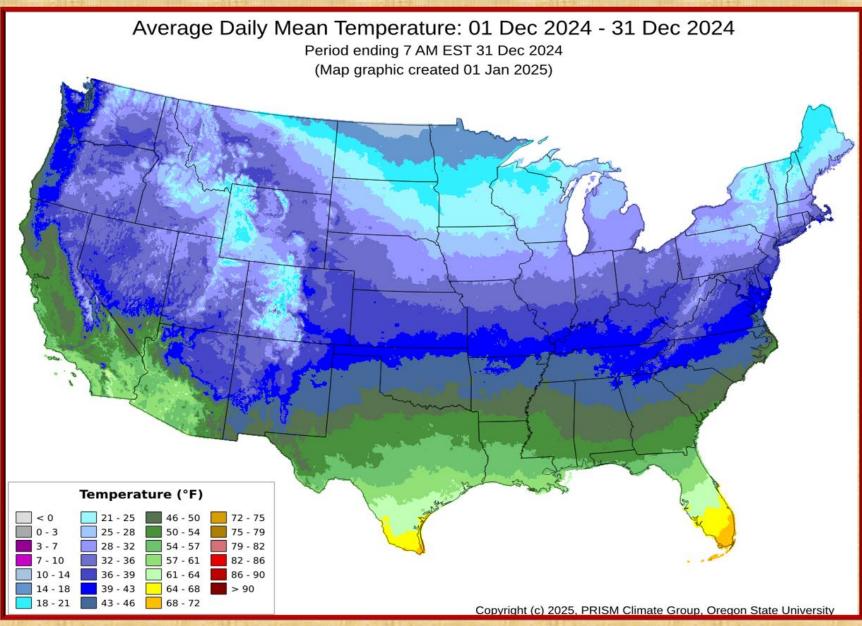
Temperature

Precipitation

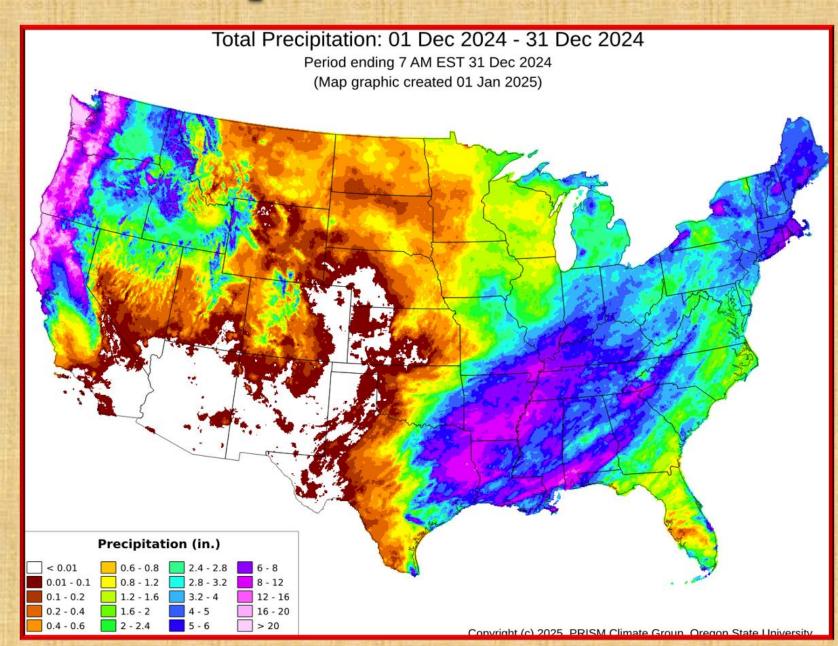




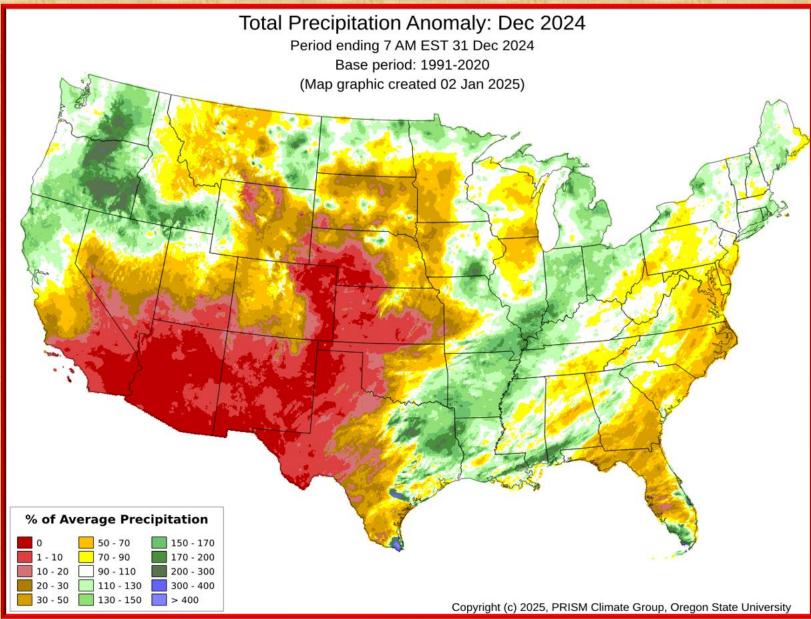
Average Daily Mean Temperature for December 2024



Total Precipitation for December 2024



Percent of Normal Precipitation for December 2024

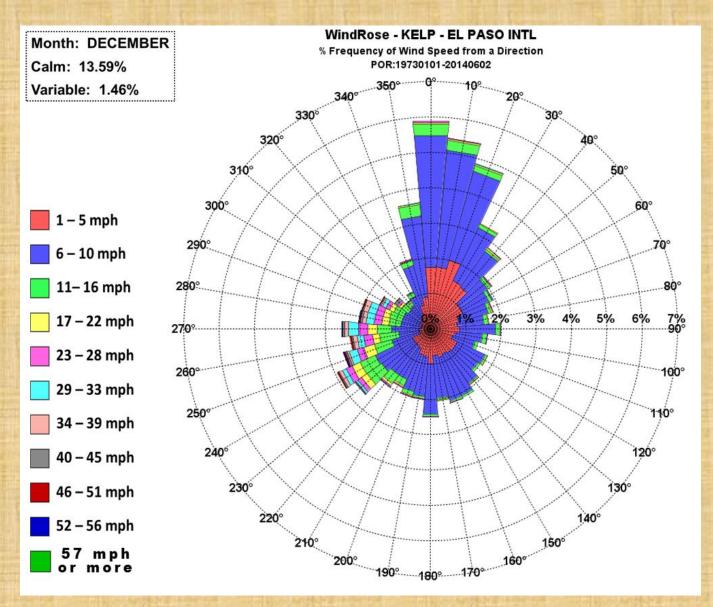


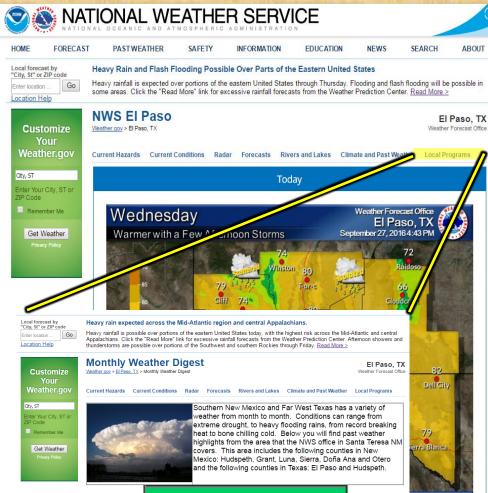
Selected Weather Reports December 2024

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
DEC 25 320 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	54 MPH PEAK WIND
DEC 25 1200 PM	MAYHILL-OTERO	46 MPH PEAK WIND
DEC 25 305 PM	WSMR BLDG 1830-DONA ANA	45 MPH PEAK WIND
DEC 25 306 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-LUNA	44 MPH PEAK WIND
DEC 25 456 PM	EL PASO INTL AIRPORT-EL PASO	44 MPH PEAK WIND
DEC 25 314 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	44 MPH PEAK WIND
DEC 25 245 PM	LORDSBURG PLAYA MP13-HIDALGO	44 MPH PEAK WIND
DEC 25 115 PM	SILVER CITY MTN VIEW-GRANT	42 MPH PEAK WIND
DEC 25 641 PM	MESCALERO-OTERO	40 MPH PEAK WIND

Special Features

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Weather Digest Southwest Weather Bulletins 2005 Spring Fall January 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 2014 Spring Fall October November December

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