

March 2017 Weather Digest

New Mexico

Texas

March 2017 Weather Summary

March 2017 turned out to be a very warm month, in fact several sites set all time records for March heat. The month was quiet overall, with very little rainfall. In fact most places were well below normal, with only Sierra County around the lakes recording above normal precipitation. The good news is that spring rainfall averages are so low that it does not take much to make up this rainfall deficit.

While the first part of the month was very quiet wind wise, the latter half of the month was much more typical of March, with several days of strong winds and dense blowing dust. A series of strong Pacific storms swept through the area the final ten days of the month, with peak wind gusts of 50 to 80 mph very common. Several of these days saw blowing dust closing major highways due to poor visibilities. Several reports of minor to moderate structure damage were also reported. Fortunately, no reports of serious vehicle accidents were received due to the poor weather.

Looking ahead, the Climate Prediction Center is forecasting shows a good chance for a warmer than normal April. Precipitation is not showing any favoring right now. And further down the road, it looks like this coming fall and winter may switch over to an El Niño, pattern, which normally is favorable for wetter than normal winters. Stay tuned.

El Paso March 31



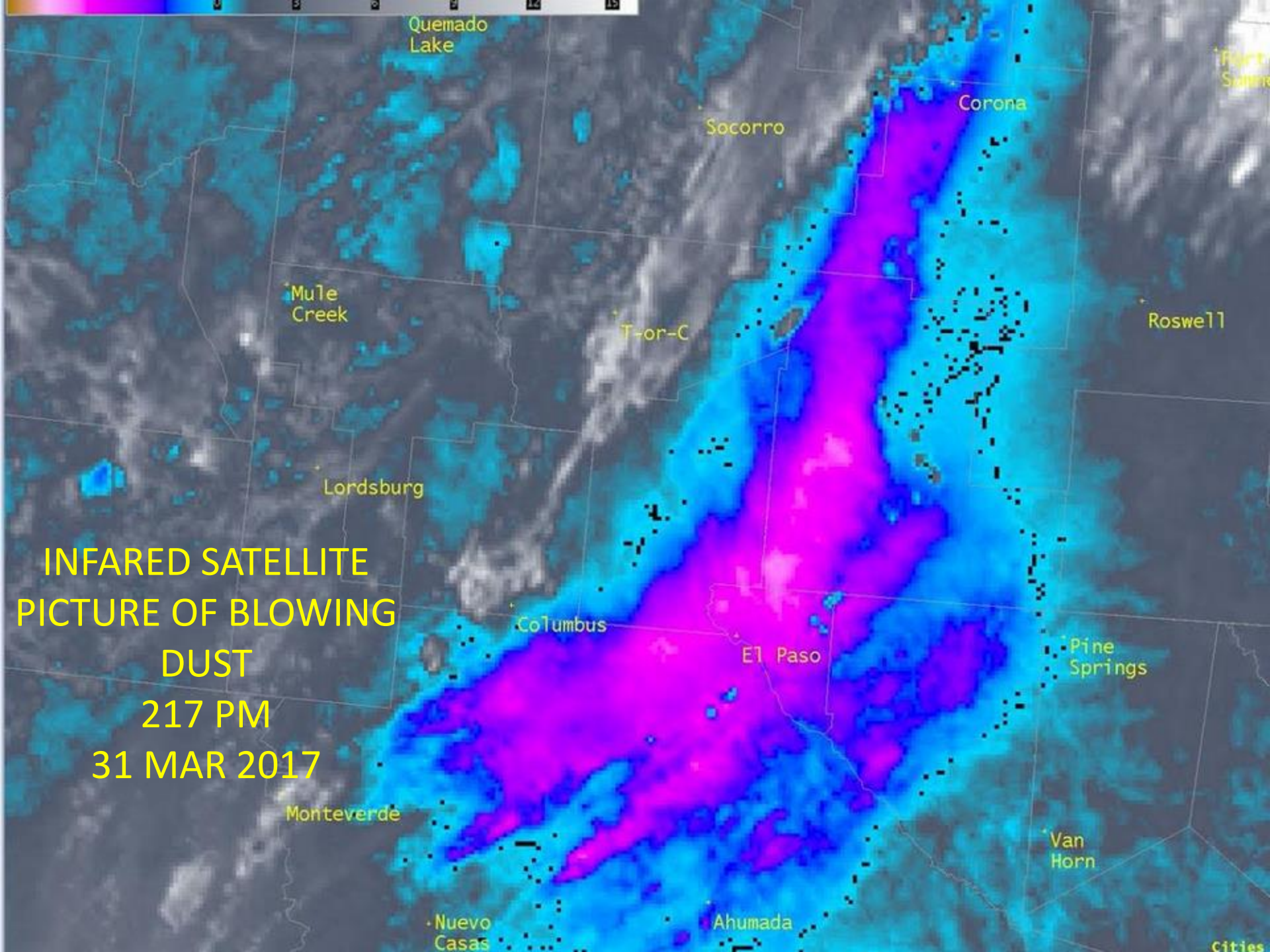
El Paso March 31



Dell City sunset March 12



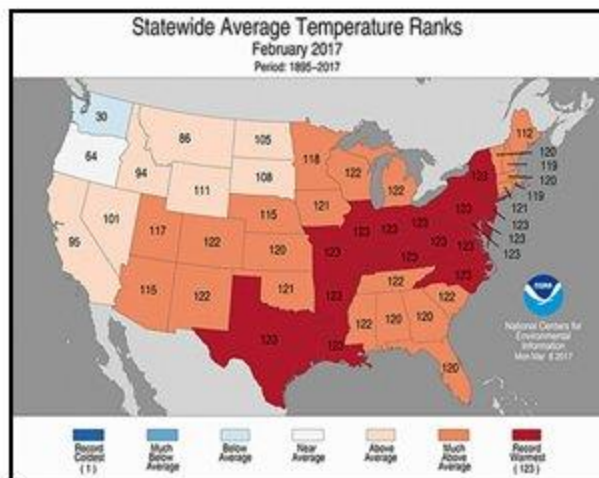
© Melanie W. Perry



INFARED SATELLITE
PICTURE OF BLOWING
DUST
217 PM
31 MAR 2017

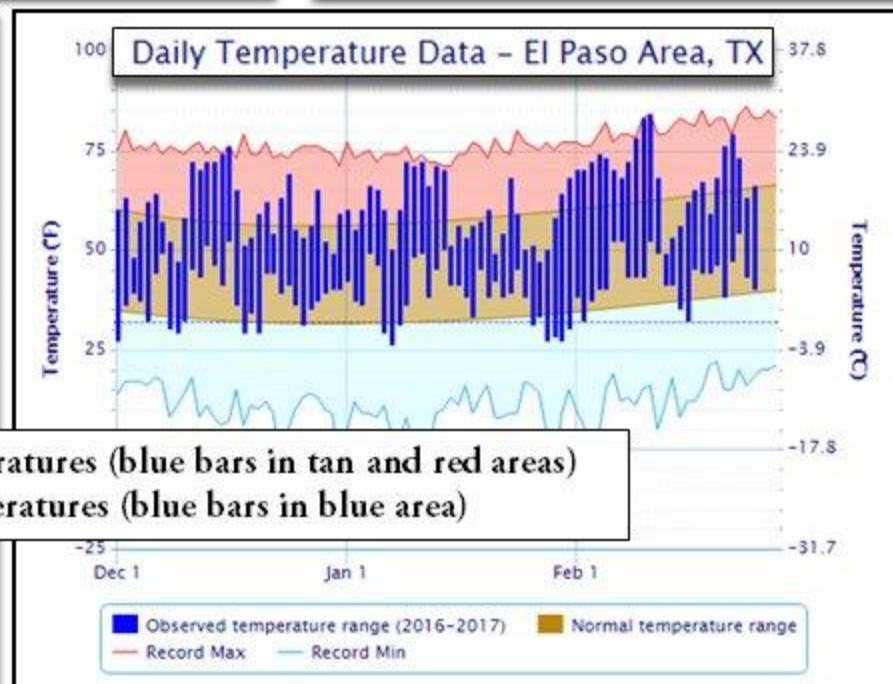
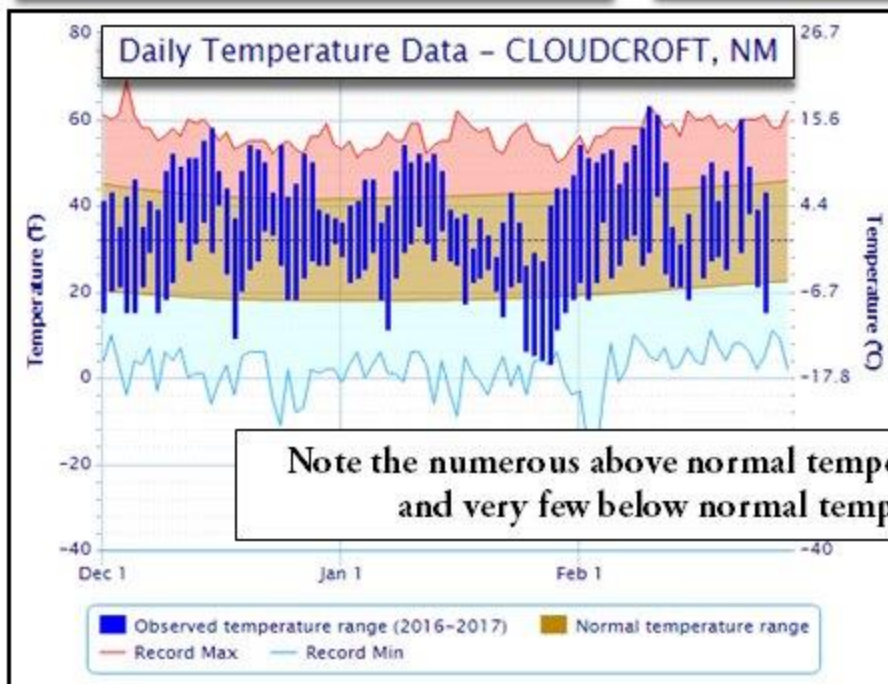
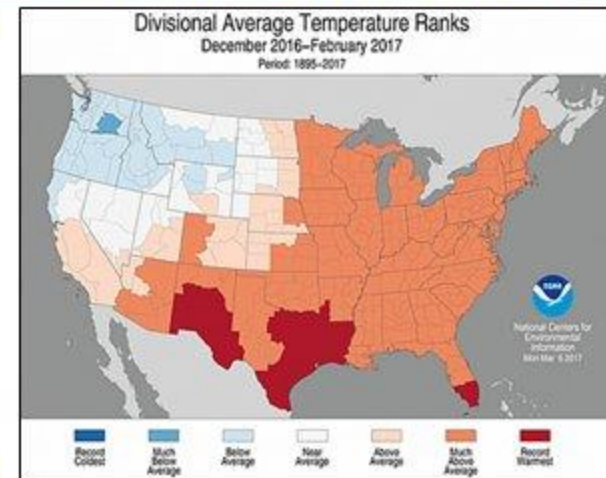
Cities

Warm Winter 2016-17 (Dec-Feb) across the Borderland



Texas
warmest
winter on record.

New Mexico
2nd warmest
winter on record.



Note the numerous above normal temperatures (blue bars in tan and red areas)
and very few below normal temperatures (blue bars in blue area)

Record-Breaking March in El Paso

March Climate Recap

Weather Forecast Office
El Paso, TX
Issued April 1, 2017 4:36 PM



Hottest March on Record

Average Daily High:
79.6 °F
Old Record: 78.1 °F in 2011

Average Mean Temperature:
65.0 °F
Old Record: 63.2 °F in 2011

Average Daily Low:
50.4 °F
Old Record: 48.3 °F in 2011

More March Records

March 22nd:
All-Time High March
Temperature of 93 °F Tied

69 Cooling Degree Days
Old Record: 45 CDD in 1971

March Precipitation Total:

TRACE
Monthly Average: 0.26"

Data Source: KELP ASOS

Length of Record: 1887 - 2017

No Advisory in effect

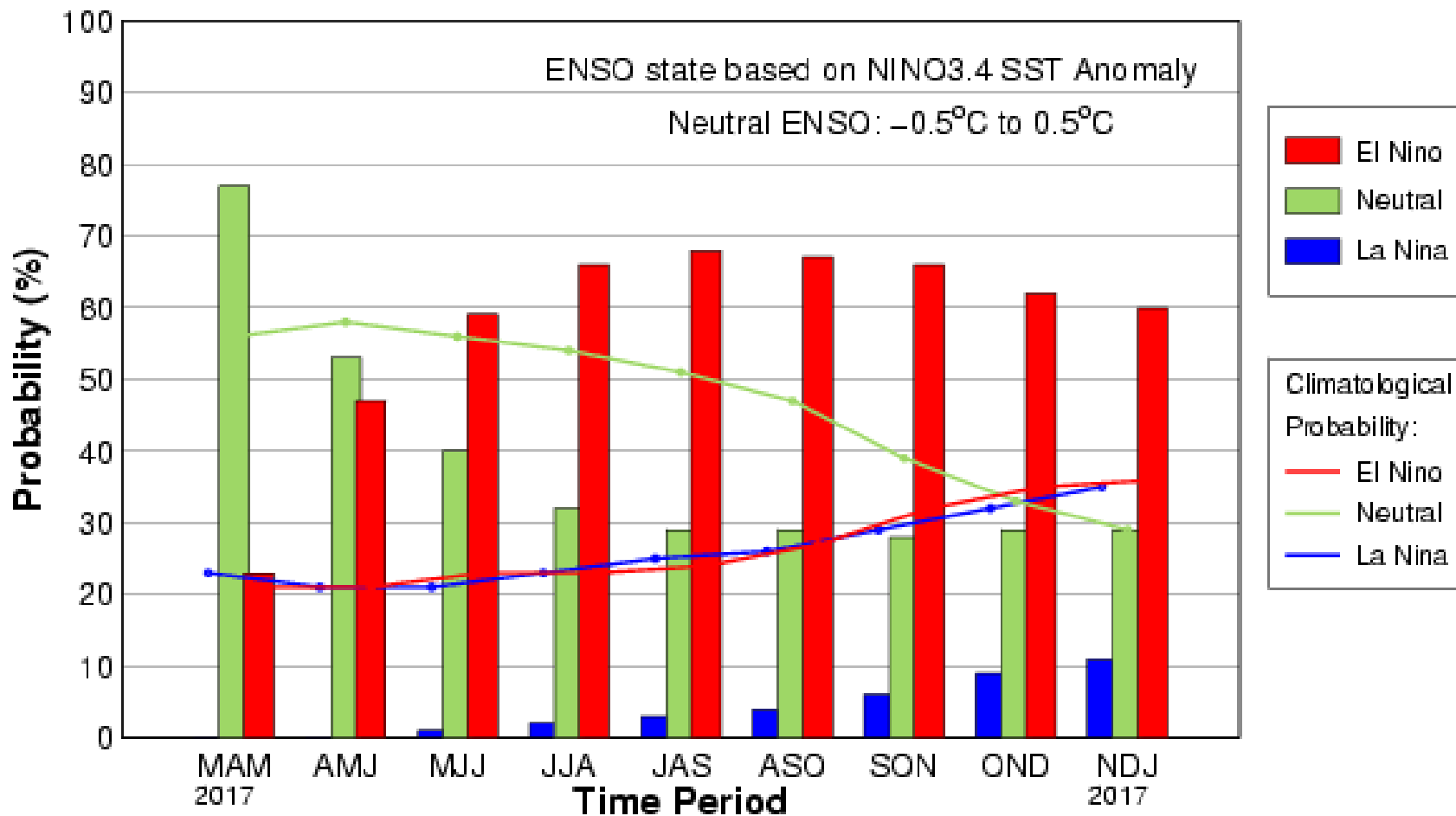
ENSO Alert System

- **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 from May into early winter of 2017

ENSO IS NOW IN A **NEUTRAL** PERIOD. FAVORING OF GOING TO EL NINO BY SUMMER

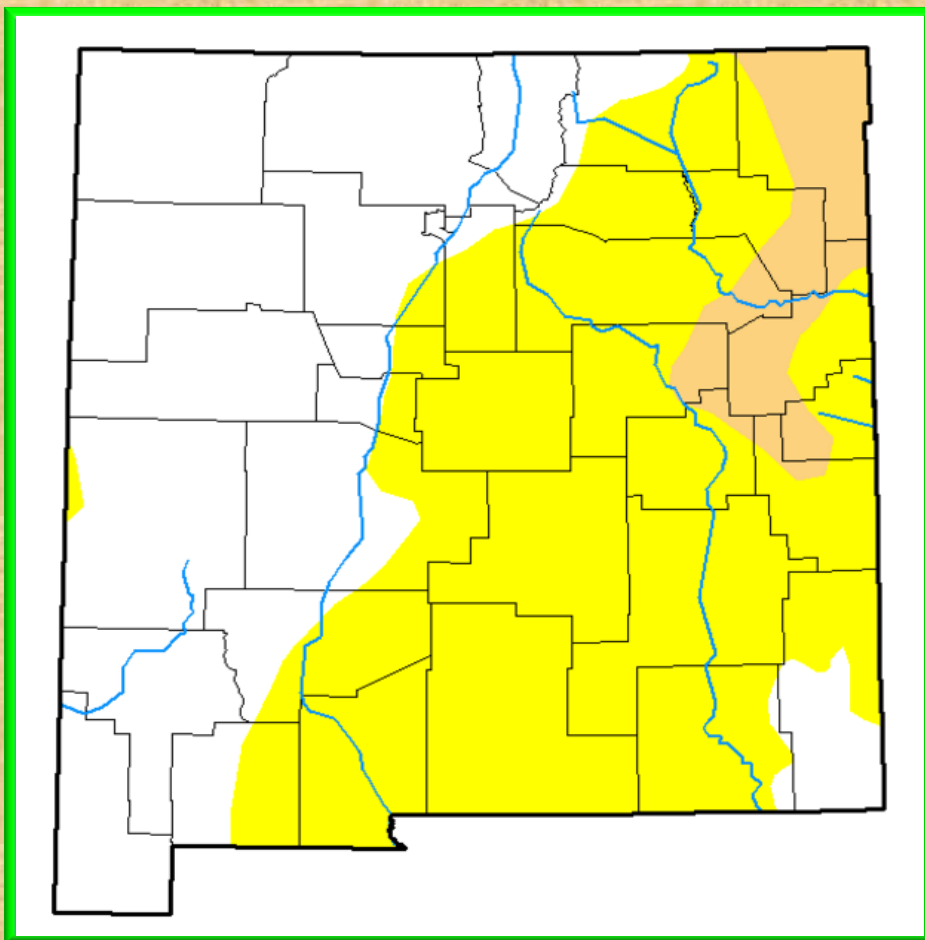
Mid-Mar IRI/CPC Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecast



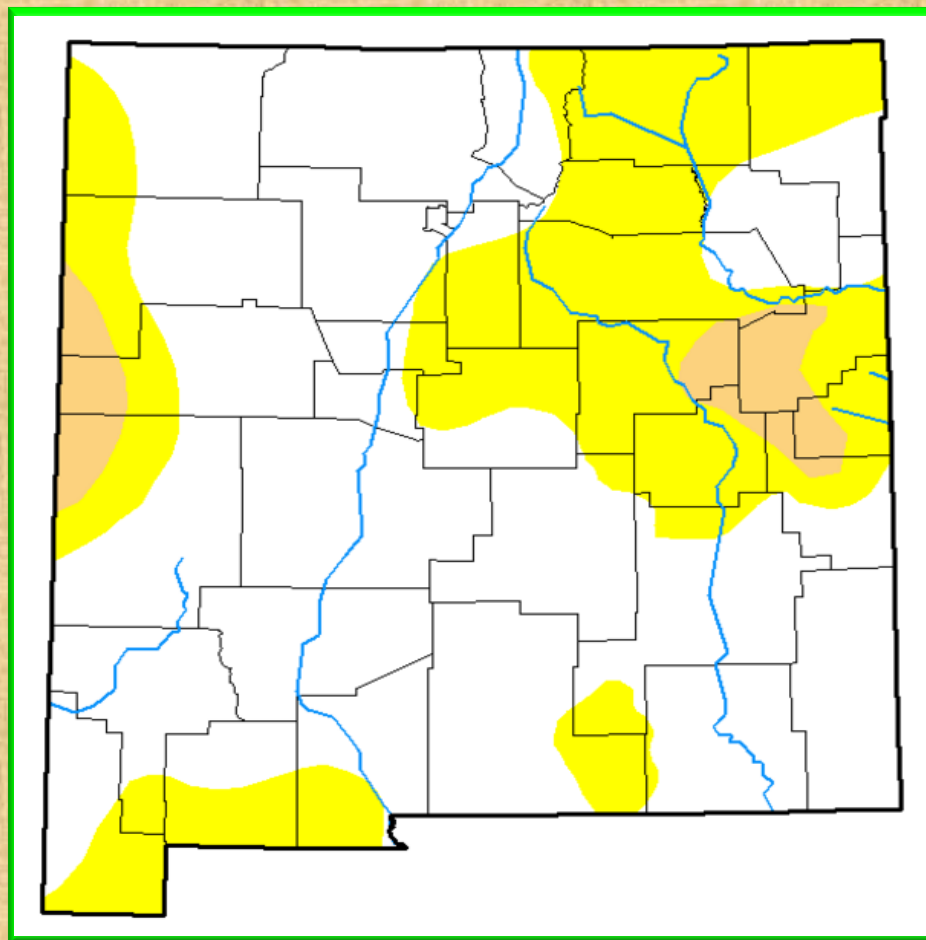
Current drought conditions for New Mexico and 3 month change

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

March 28, 2017








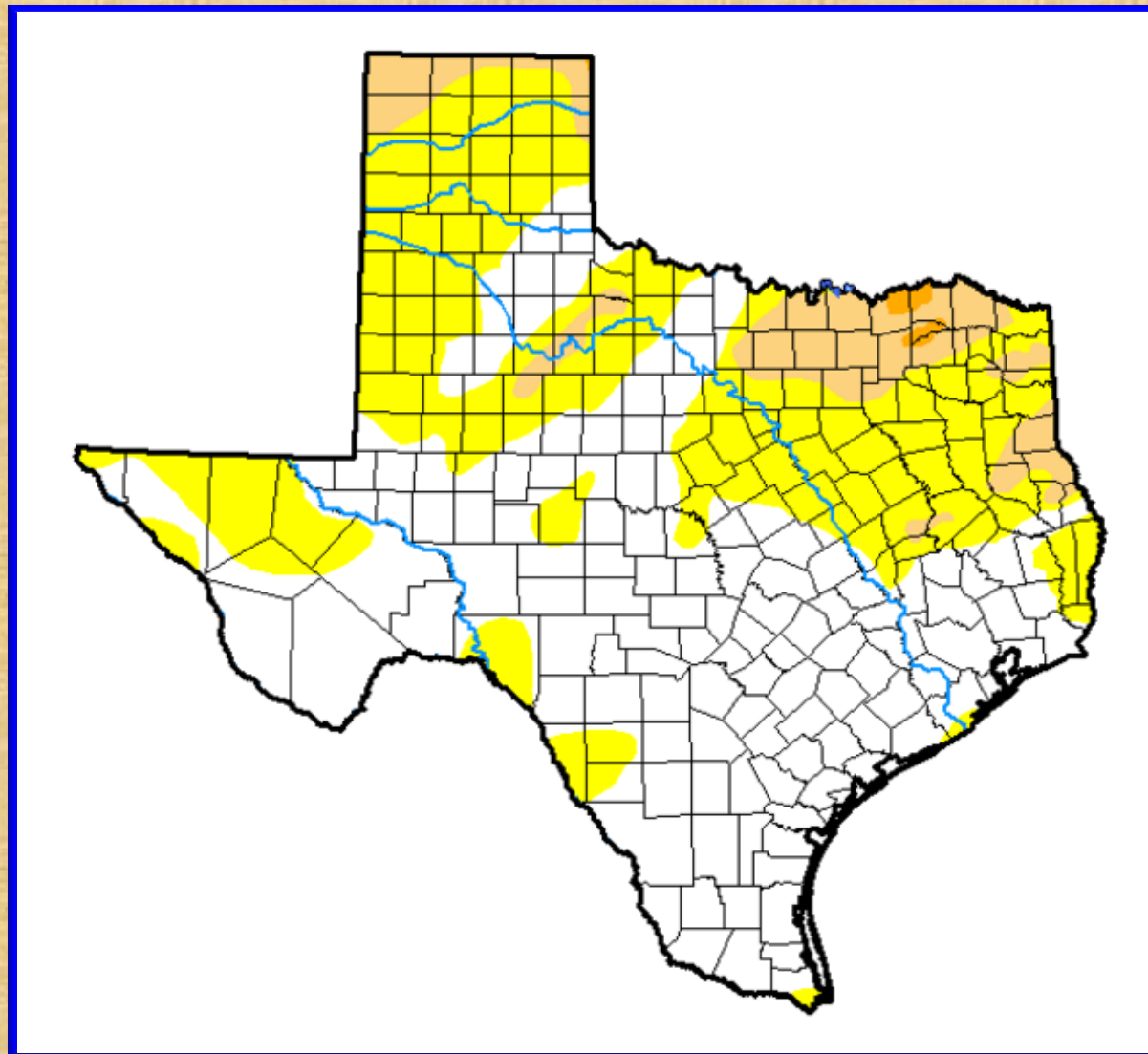
December 27, 2016



Current drought conditions for Texas as of March 28, 2016

Intensity:

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



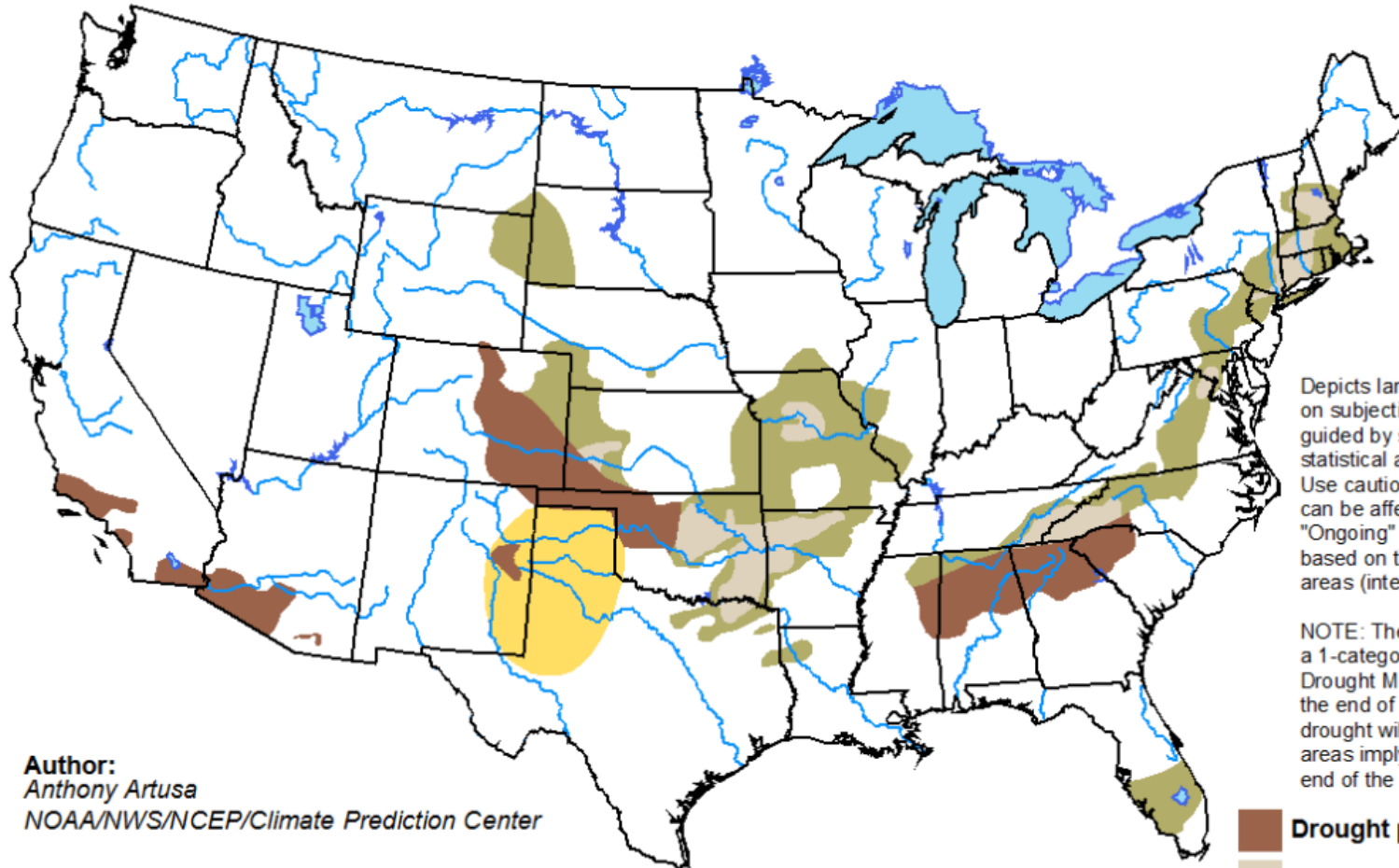
Build your own custom slider maps here at:

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

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period





Valid for March 16 - June 30, 2017
Released March 16, 2017

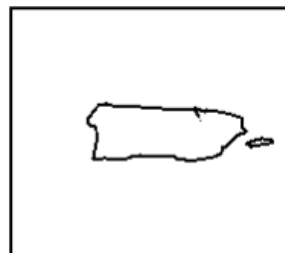


Author:
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

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).

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

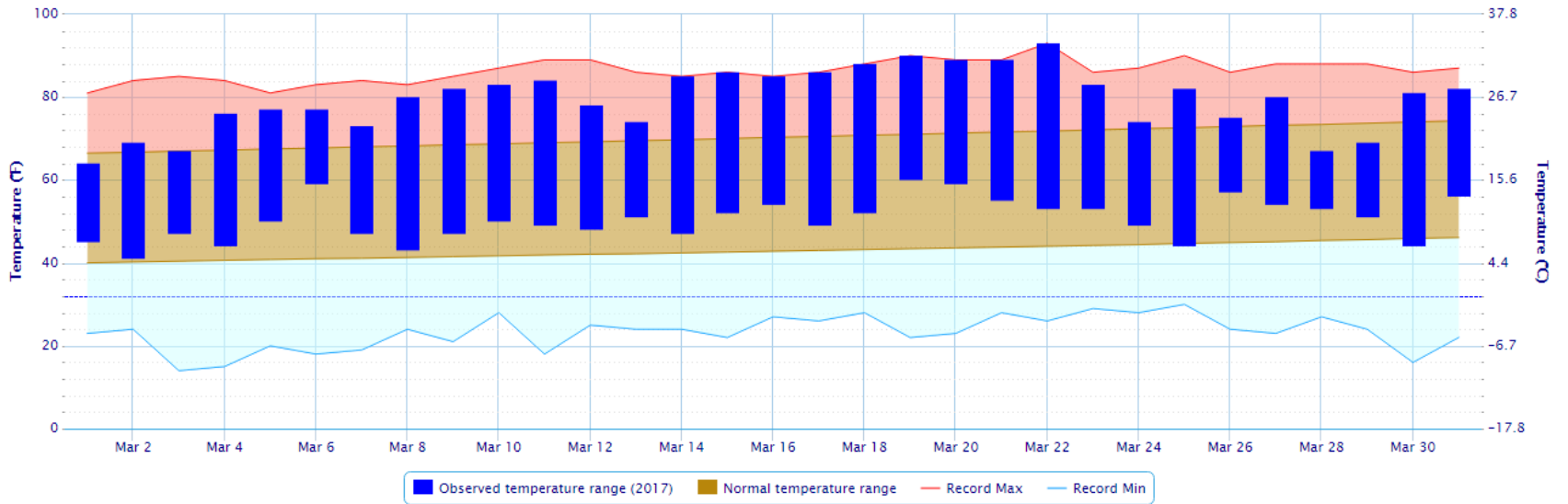


<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Temperature and precipitation data for March 2017

Daily Temperature Data – EL PASO INTL AP, TX

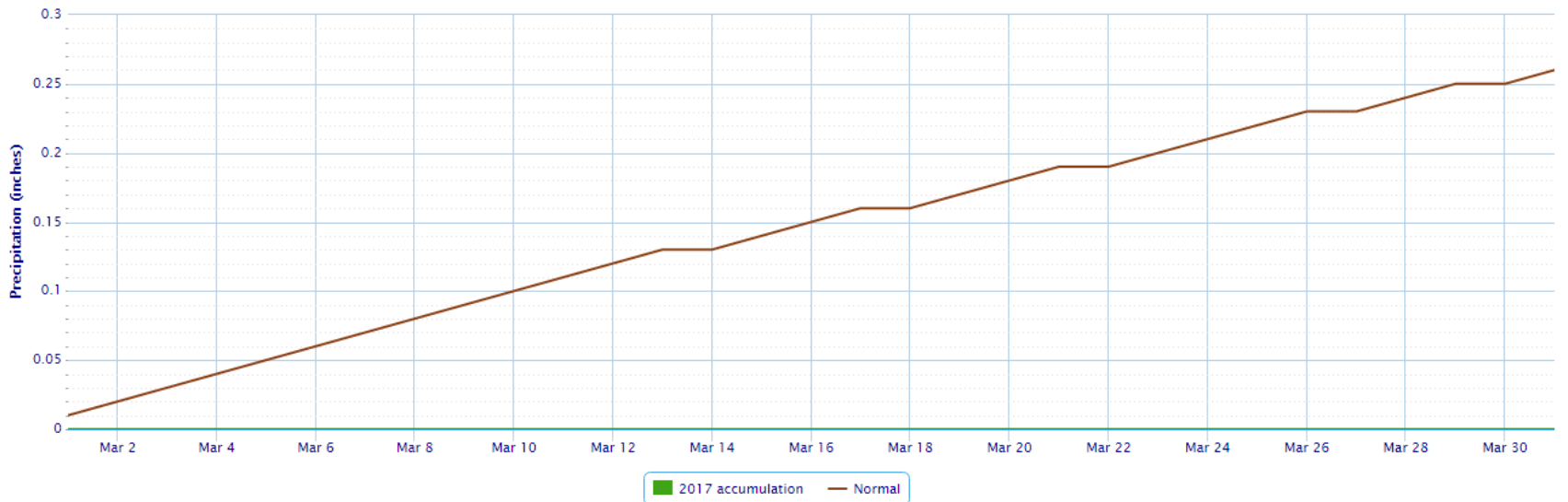
Period of Record – 1942-12-01 to 2017-04-01. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Precipitation – EL PASO INTL AP, TX

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



Powered by ACIS

2017 year-to-date temperature and precipitation data El Paso



El Paso TX - 2017

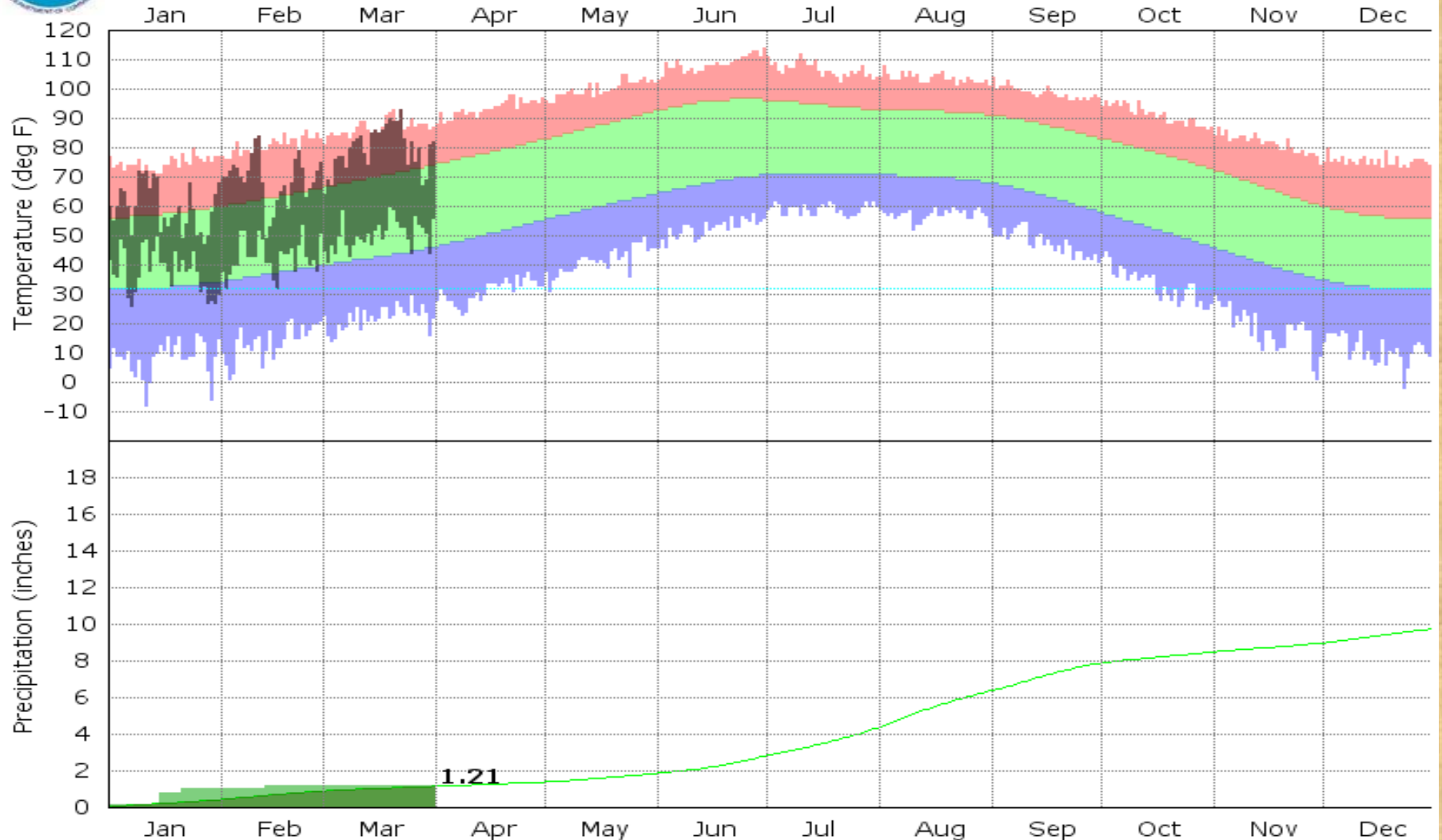


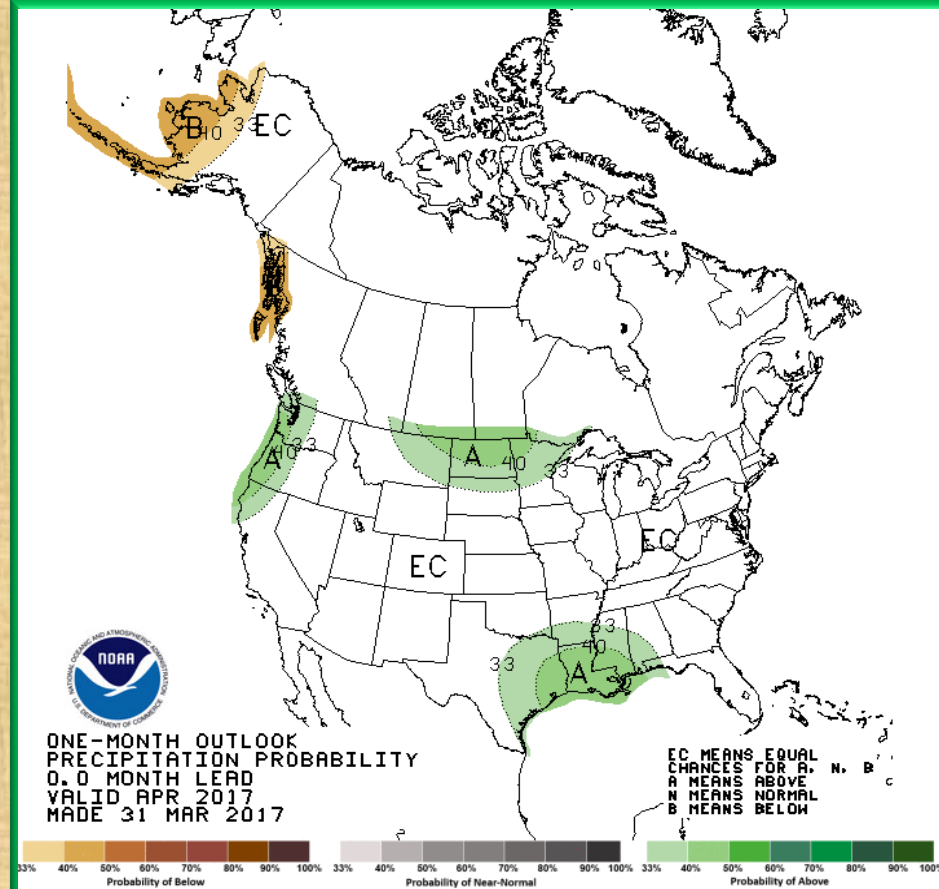
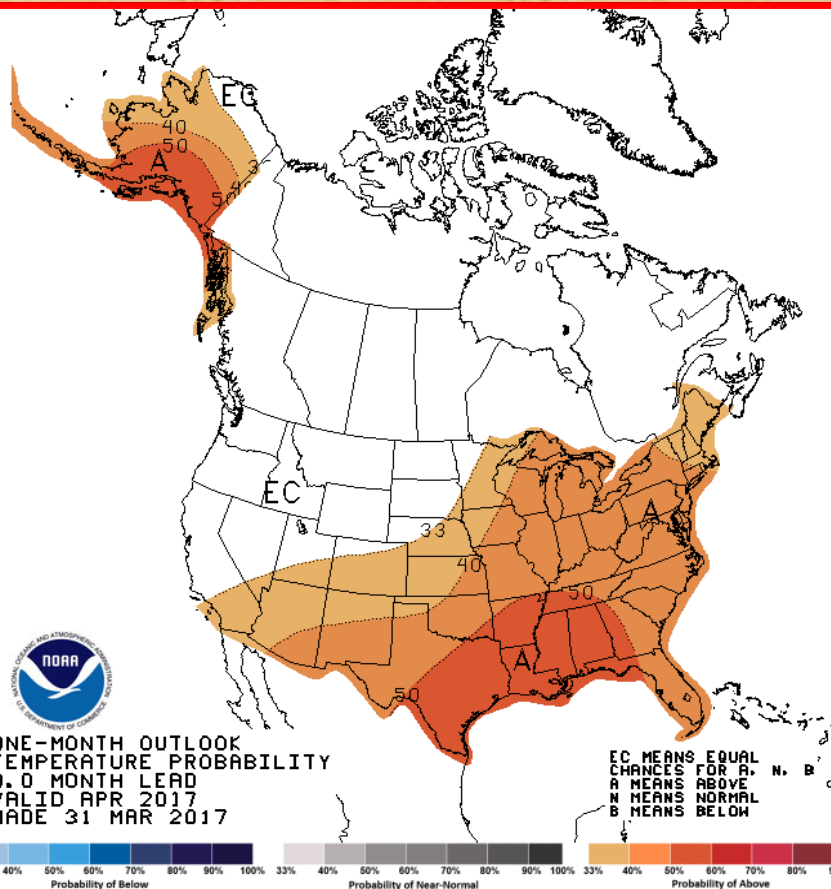
Image created: Sat, 1 Apr 2017 15:08 GM

Temperature and Precipitation Plot for El Paso, Texas for 2017

Temperature and precipitation outlook for April 2017

Temperature

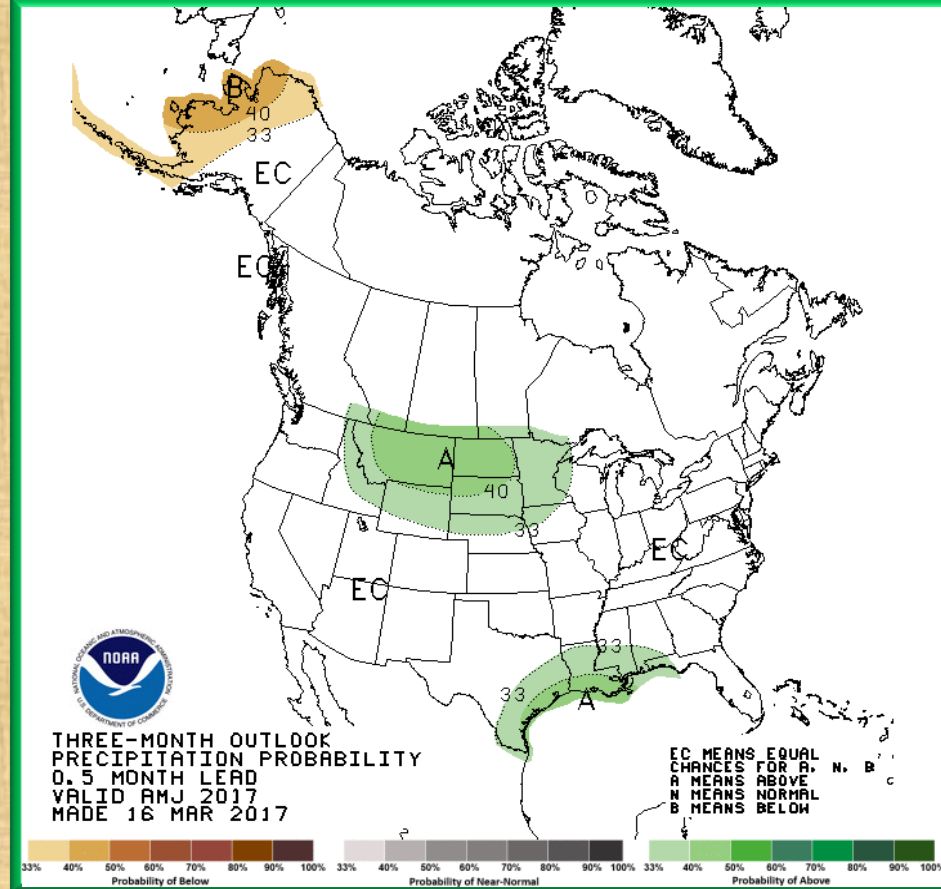
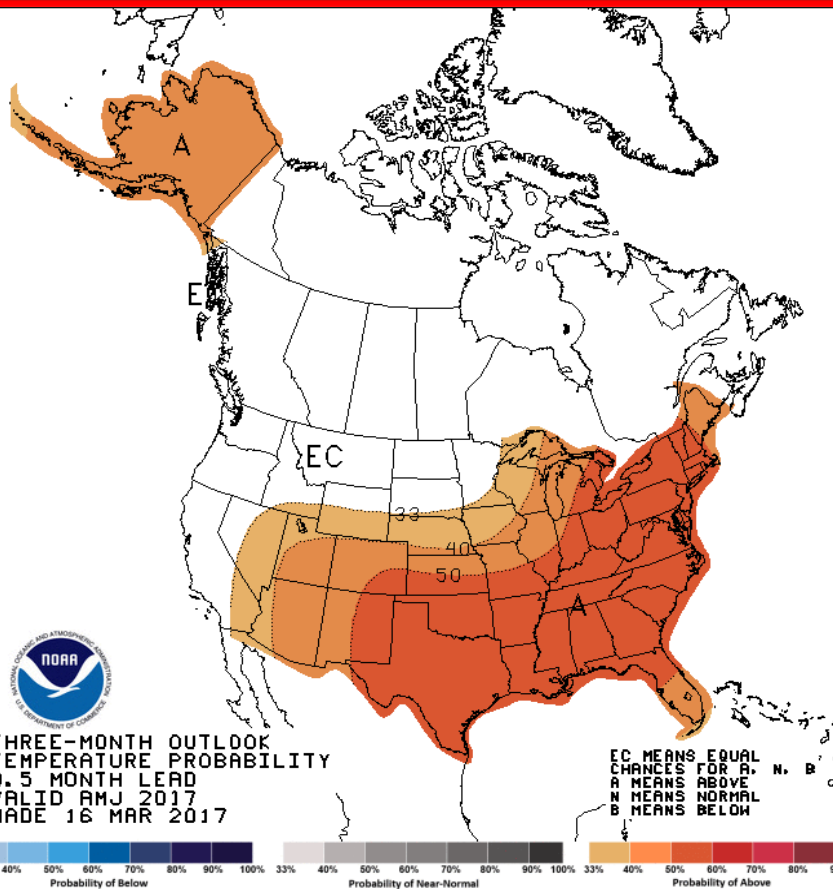
Precipitation



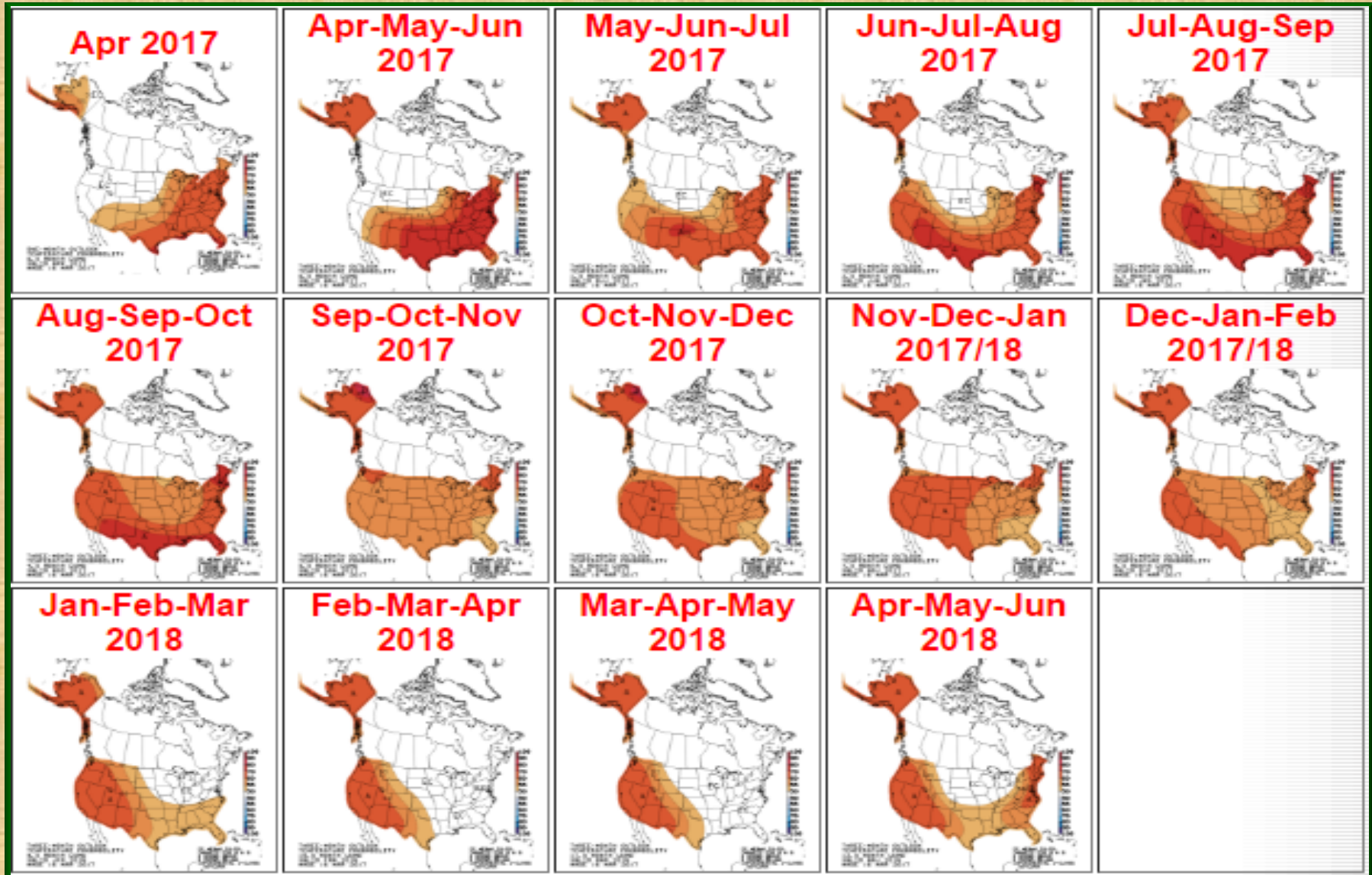
Temperature and precipitation outlook For Apr – Jun 2017

Temperature

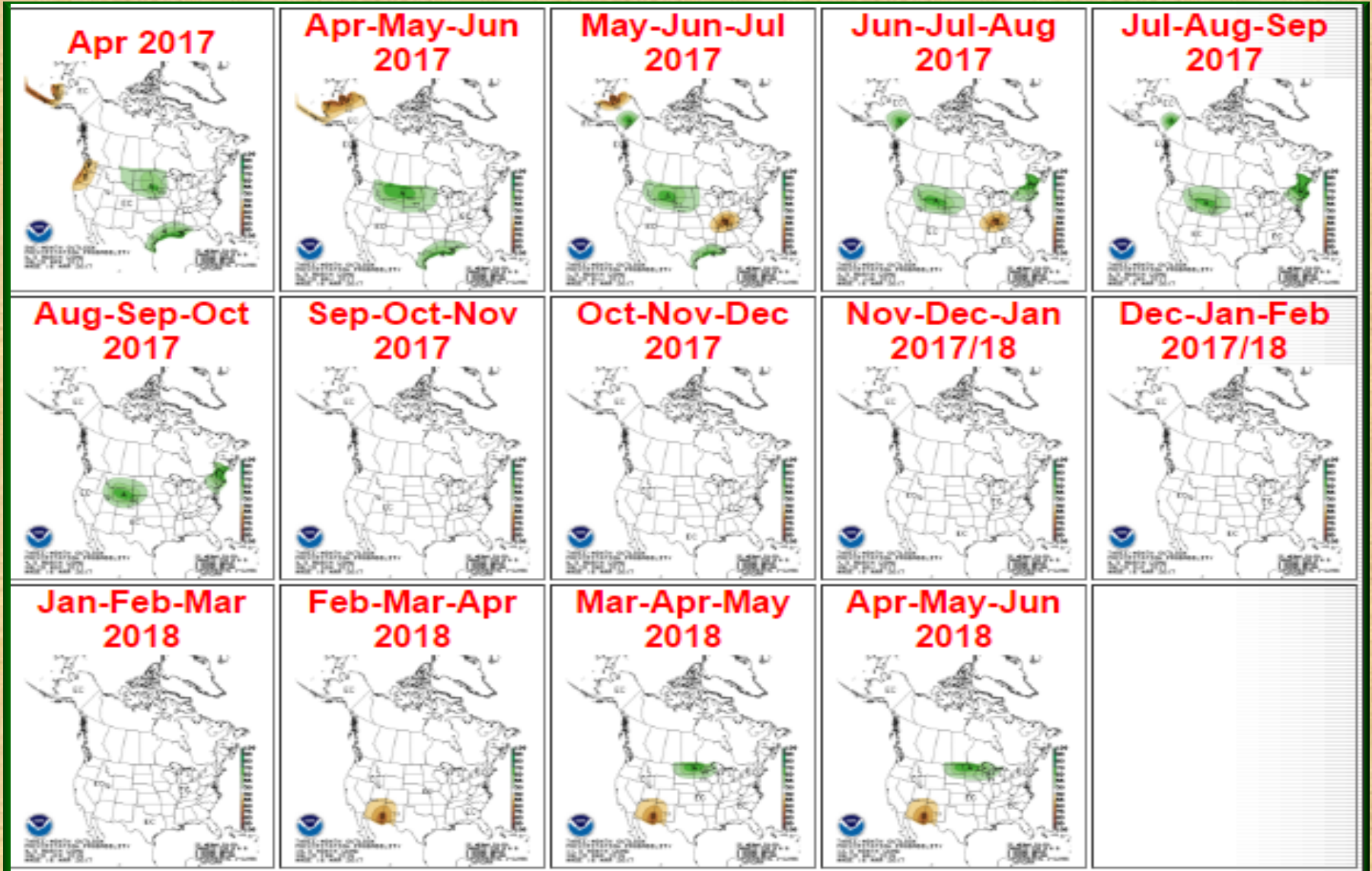
Precipitation



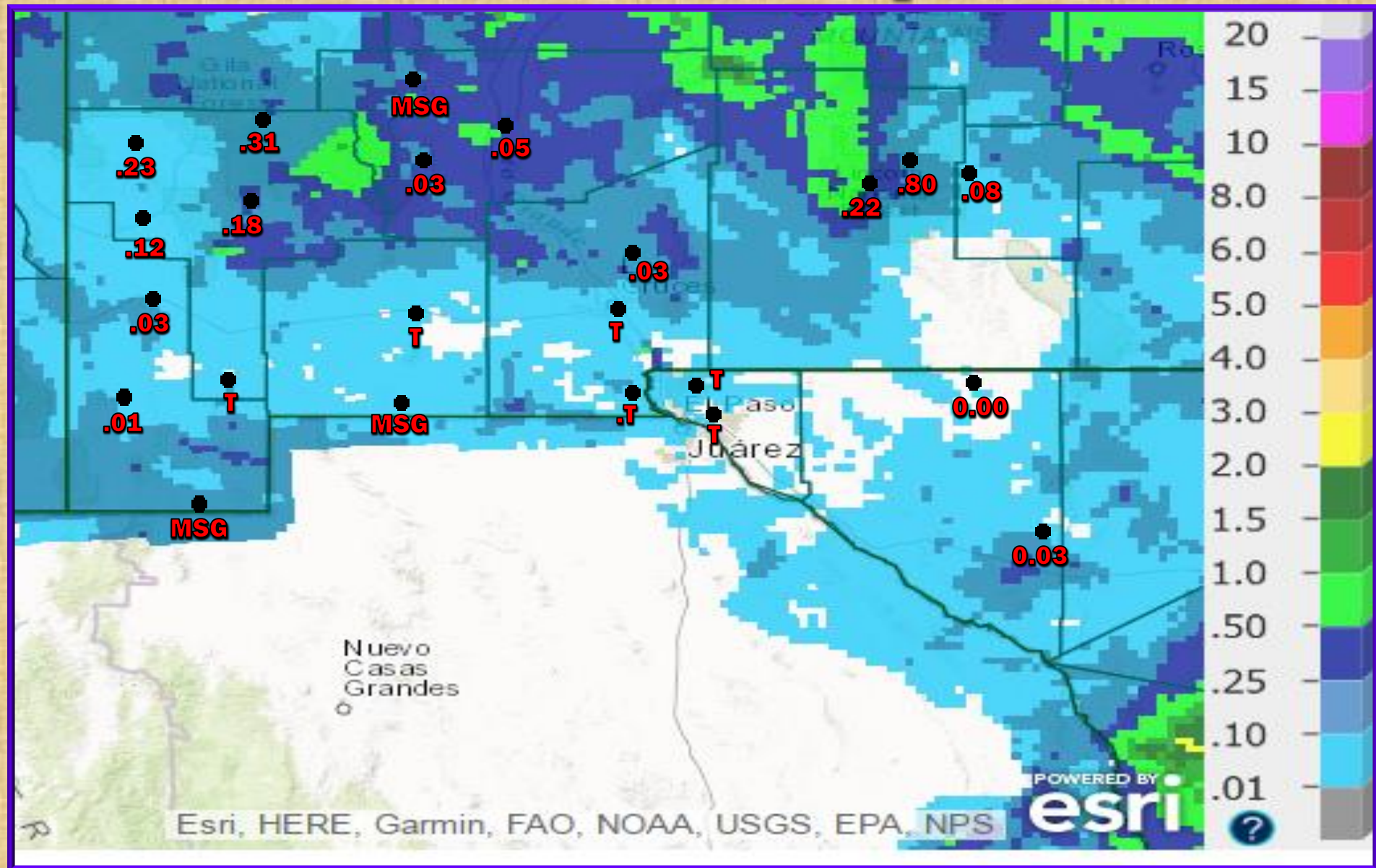
Temperature Outlook Through June 2018



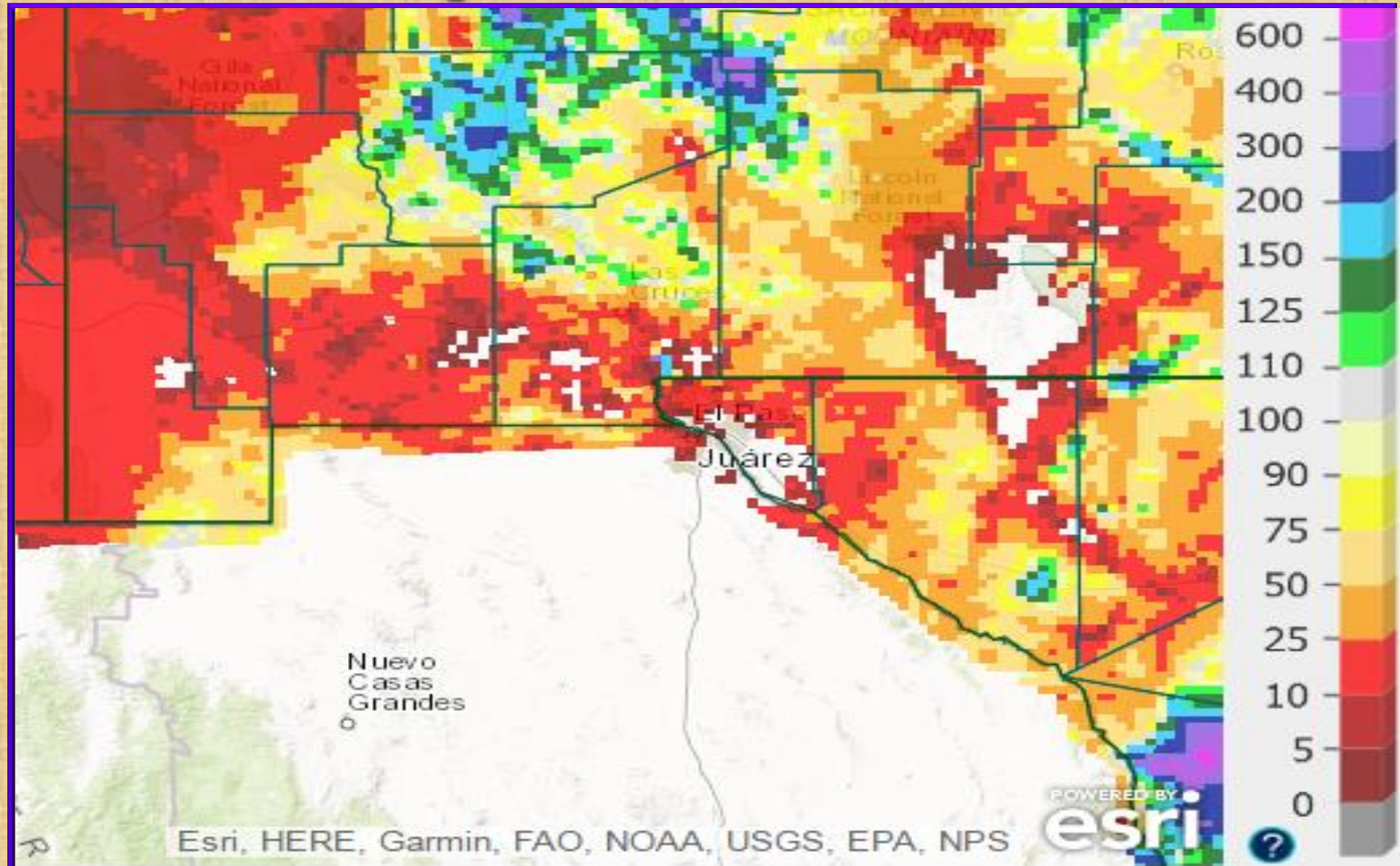
Precipitation Outlook Through June 2018



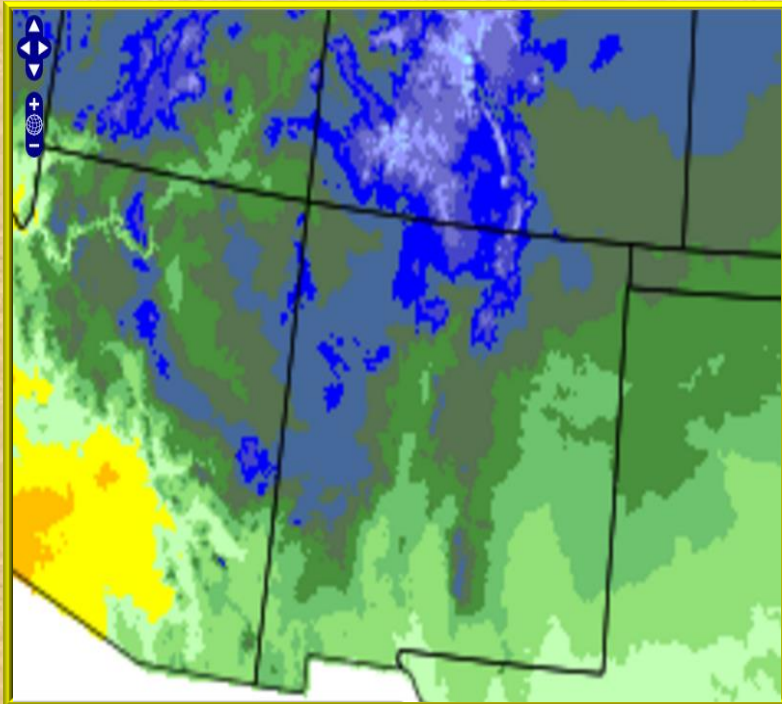
March 2017 radar rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



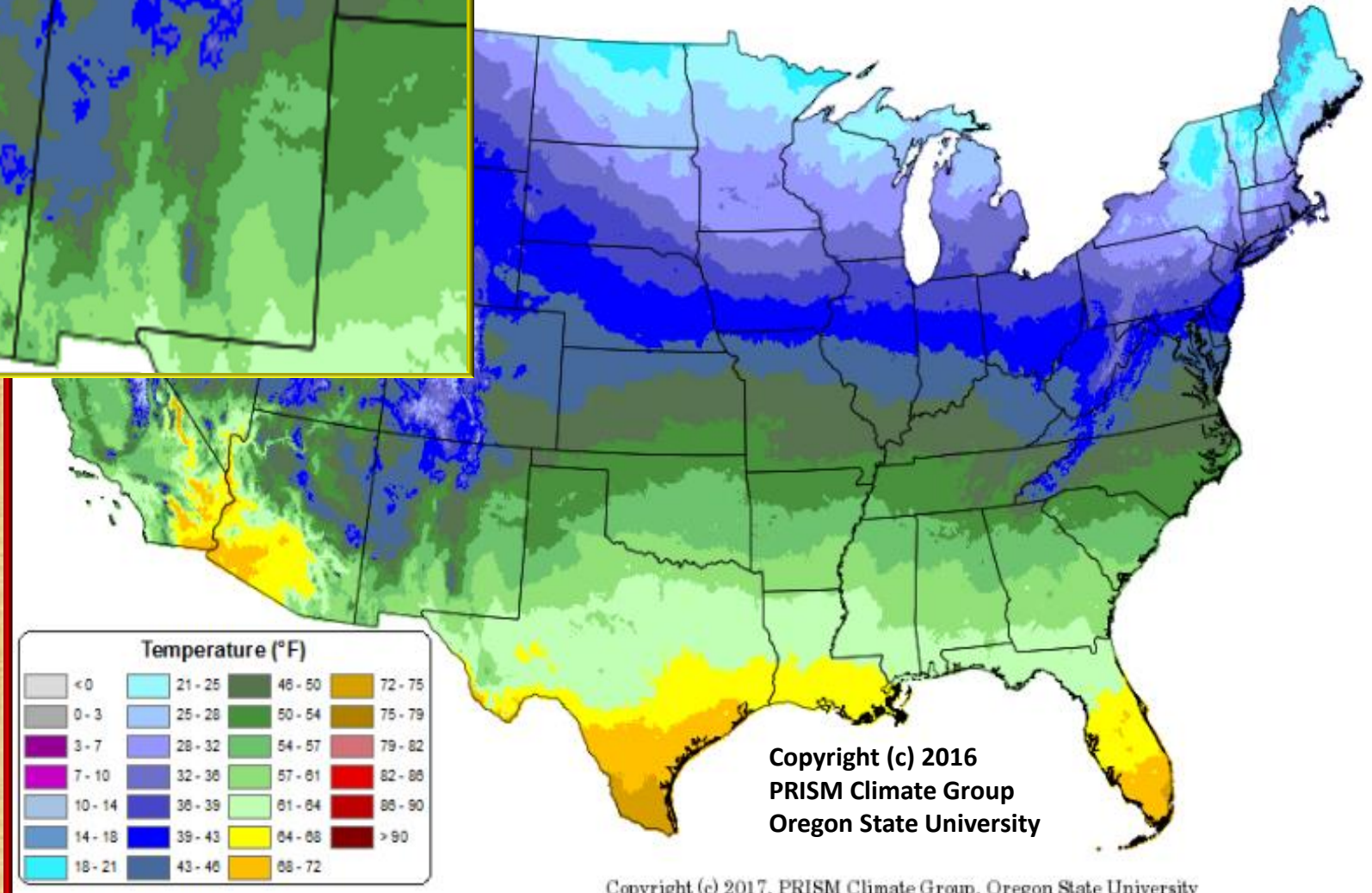
March 2017 radar rainfall estimate percent of normal



Average Daily Mean Temperature for March 2017



Daily Mean Temperature: March 2017
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2017
(Map created 02 Apr 2017)



Temperature (°F)			
< 0	21 - 25	46 - 50	72 - 75
0 - 3	25 - 28	50 - 54	75 - 79
3 - 7	28 - 32	54 - 57	79 - 82
7 - 10	32 - 36	57 - 61	82 - 86
10 - 14	36 - 39	61 - 64	86 - 90
14 - 18	39 - 43	64 - 68	> 90
18 - 21	43 - 46	68 - 72	

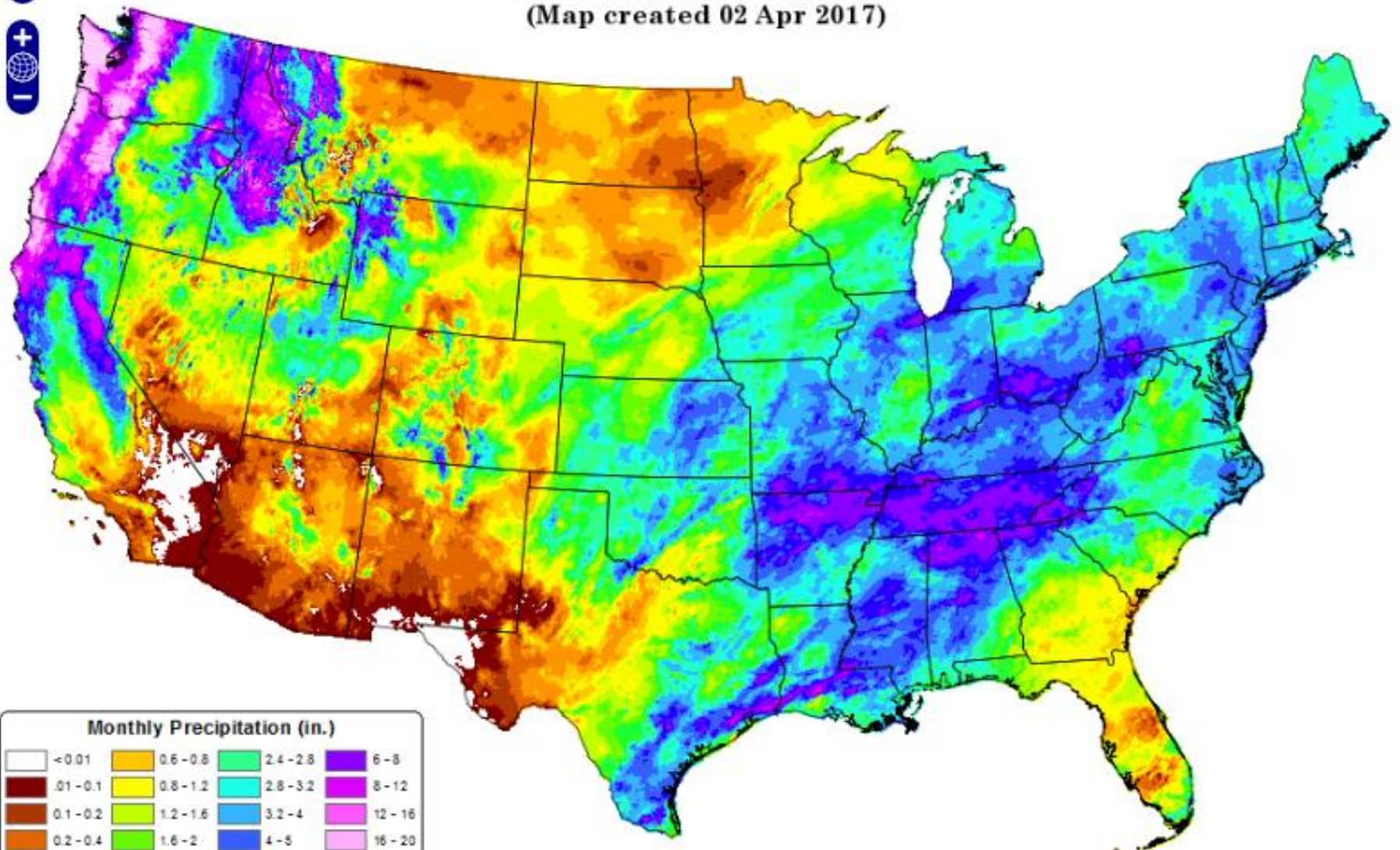
Copyright (c) 2016
PRISM Climate Group
Oregon State University

Total Precipitation for March 2017

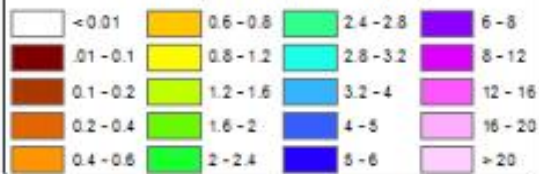
Total Precipitation: March 2017

Period ending 31 Mar 2017

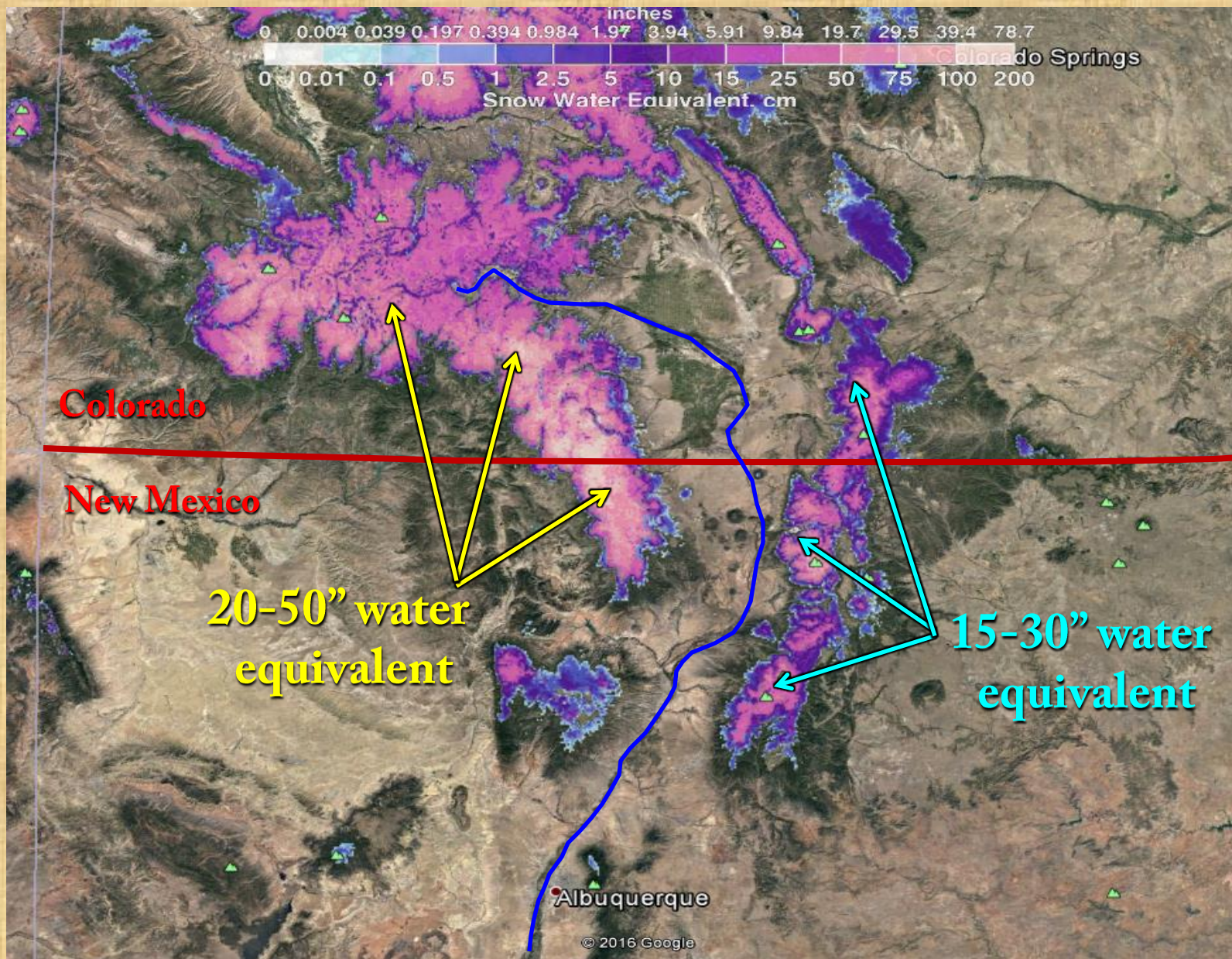
(Map created 02 Apr 2017)



Monthly Precipitation (in.)



Snowpack water equivalent for the upper Rio Grande Basin at the end of March



Special Features

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

Month: MARCH

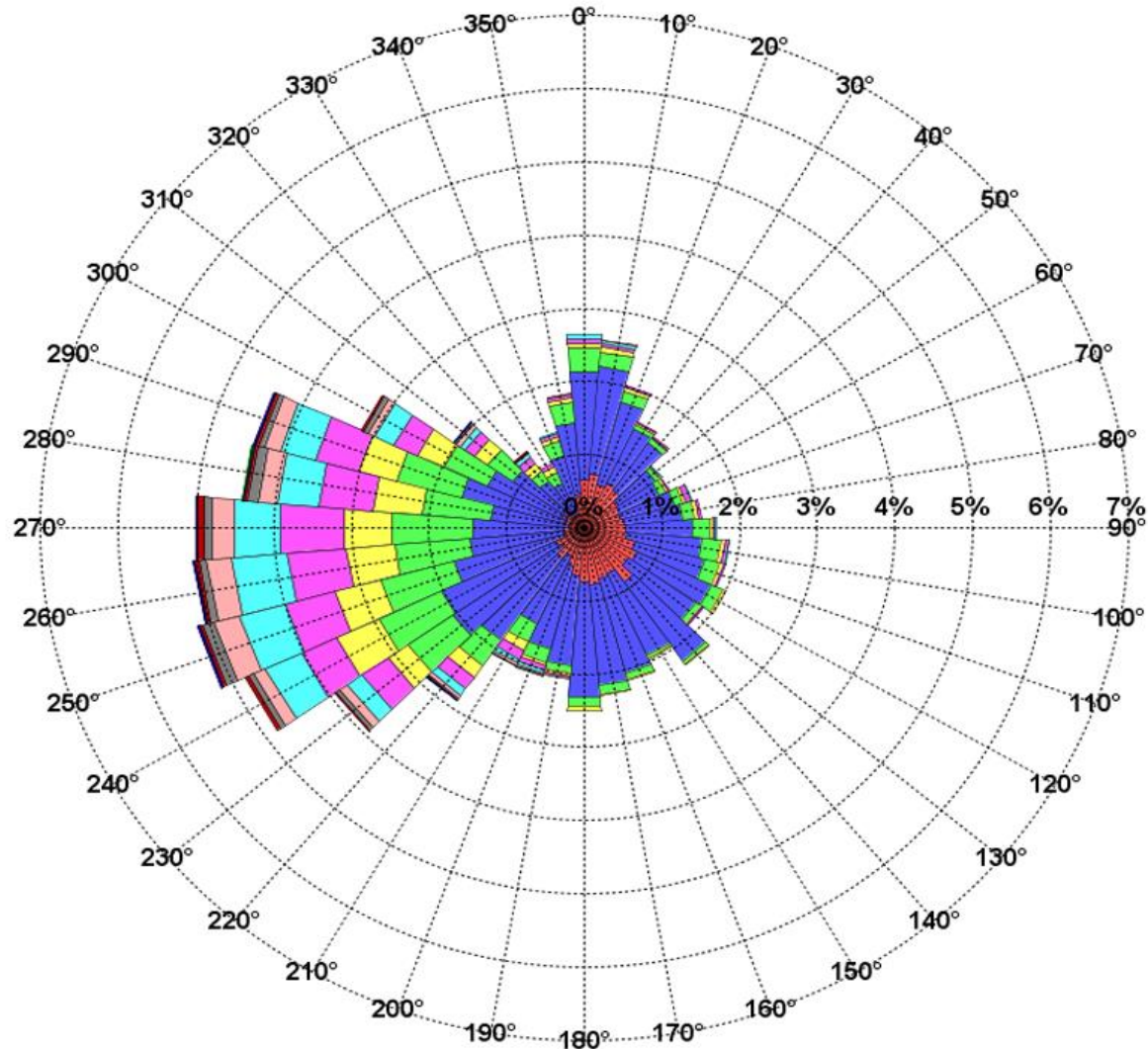
Calm: 8.61%

Variable: 2.25%

WindRose - KELP - EL PASO INTL

% Frequency of Wind Speed from a Direction

POR:19730101-20140602



Selected weather reports March 2017

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
3/06/2017 720 AM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	66 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/06/2017 355 AM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	63 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/06/2017 633 AM	EL PASO 6 NE-EL PASO	62 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/06/2017 428 AM	WINSTON-SIERRA	55 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/06/2017 421 AM	HILLSBORO-SIERRA	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/06/2017 600 AM	CHAPARRAL-DONA ANA	51 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/06/2017 235 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	49 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/12/2017 1226 AM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/12/2017 348 AM	EL PASO 5 NW-EL PASO	50 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/12/2017 1226 AM	TULAROSA 4 SE-OTERO	45 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 435 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	82 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 325 PM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	70 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 439 PM	ROAD FORKS 5 NE-HIDALGO	65 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 343 PM	FORT HANCOCK-DONA ANA	62 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 512 PM	EL PASO AIRPORT-EL PASO	61 MPH PEAK WIND GUST

Selected weather reports March 2017

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
3/23/2017 405 PM	TULAROSA 19 NW-OTERO	59 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 526 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	58 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 215 PM	LAS CRUCES AIRPORT-DONA ANA	58 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 402 PM	SIERRA BLANCA 1 SE-HUDSPETH	57 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 330 PM	CHAPARRAL 2 E-DONA ANA	55 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 219 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-DONA ANA	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/23/2017 700 PM	SUNLAND PARK-DONA ANA	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/28/2017 420 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	60 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/28/2017 402 PM	EL PASO 6 NW-EL PASO	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/28/2017 351 PM	SANTA TERESA 5 NW-DONA ANA	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/28/2017 315 PM	EL PASO AIRPORT-EL PASO	52 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/28/2017 420 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	60 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 1245 PM	SAN AUGUSTIN PASS-DONA ANA	74 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 640 AM	HACHITA 15 SW-HIDALGO	72 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 418 PM	EL PASO AIRPORT-EL PASO	61 MPH PEAK WIND GUST

Selected weather reports March 2017

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
3/31/2017 403 PM	SANTA TERESA 5NW-DONA ANA	60 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 1030 AM	WSMR MAIN POST-DONA ANA	58 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 454 PM	EL PASO 13 NE-EL PASO	58 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 402 PM	FORT HANCOCK-HUDSPETH	57 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 417 PM	DEMING AIRPORT-DONA ANA	55 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 126 PM	DRIPPING SPRINGS-DONA ANA	55 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 600 PM	SUNLAND PARK-DONA ANA	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 1245 PM	MAYHILL-OTERO	54 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 1245 PM	SUNSPOT 1S-OTERO	53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST
3/31/2017 1245 PM	T OR C AIRPORT-SIERRA	53 MPH PEAK WIND GUST



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Photo Credit: John Fausett

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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City, ST

Enter Your City, ST or ZIP Code

Remember Me

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

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.gov/epz

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.

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	