

August 2026 Weather Digest

August 2026 Weather Summary

August certainly was a mixed bag as far as precipitation is concerned. The mountains (Gila/Black Range and Sacramentos) received ample rainfall, around 120-200% of normal. Meanwhile the lowlands exhibited a much more hit or miss pattern. Many areas of Sierra, Dona Ana, and El Paso Counties ranged from just below normal to 150 percent of normal. But other areas such as Hidalgo, Luna, Otero, and Hudspeth Counties were mostly well below normal.

August temperatures ended up well above normal, with average temperatures most places running 4 to 6 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures contributed much of this abnormal warmth, with average highs for many places around 5 to 7 degrees above normal.

August 2026 Weather Summary

Looking ahead to September, we experience the last of the three wet monsoon months. At El Paso the 30 year normal rainfall for the month is 1.52 inches, very similar to July and August. Daylight continues to wane as we head into Autumn. Daylength at El Paso on September 1 is 12 hours, 47 minutes, decreasing to 11 hours, 52 minutes on the last day of the month. The average high on September 1 is 92°, cooling to 85° on September 30. At El Paso, we typically will see one or two triple digit readings before ending for the year. The latest ever triple digit reading at El Paso was September 27, just two years ago in 2024. The warmest temperature ever at El Paso in September is 106°.

Astronomically speaking, September's full moon occurs on September 26 and is commonly known as the Harvest Moon. The new moon takes place on September 10. There are no solar or lunar eclipses in September.

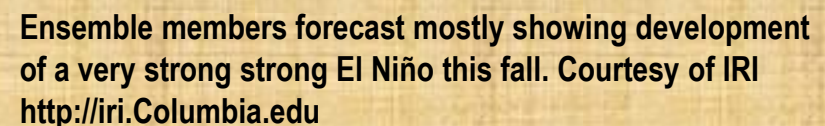
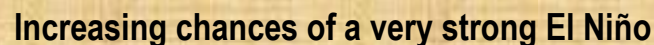
ENSO Alert System Status:

El Niño Advisory

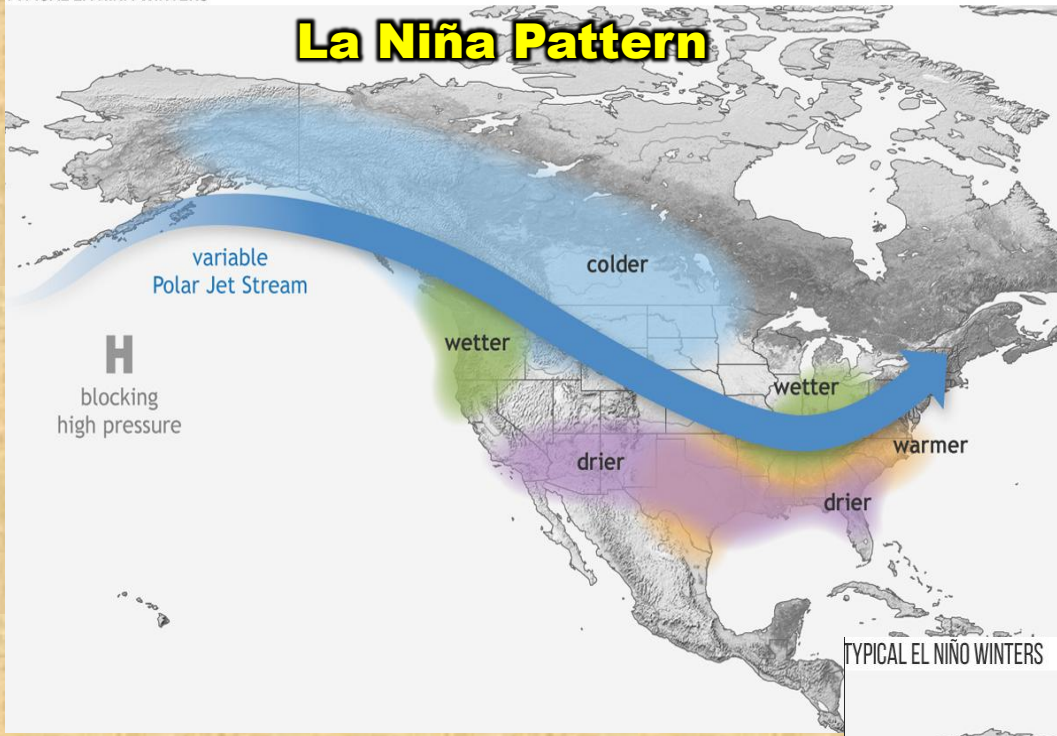
ENSO Alert System

- **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 is currently in a strong El Niño phase and has a high chance of becoming very strong by early this Fall.



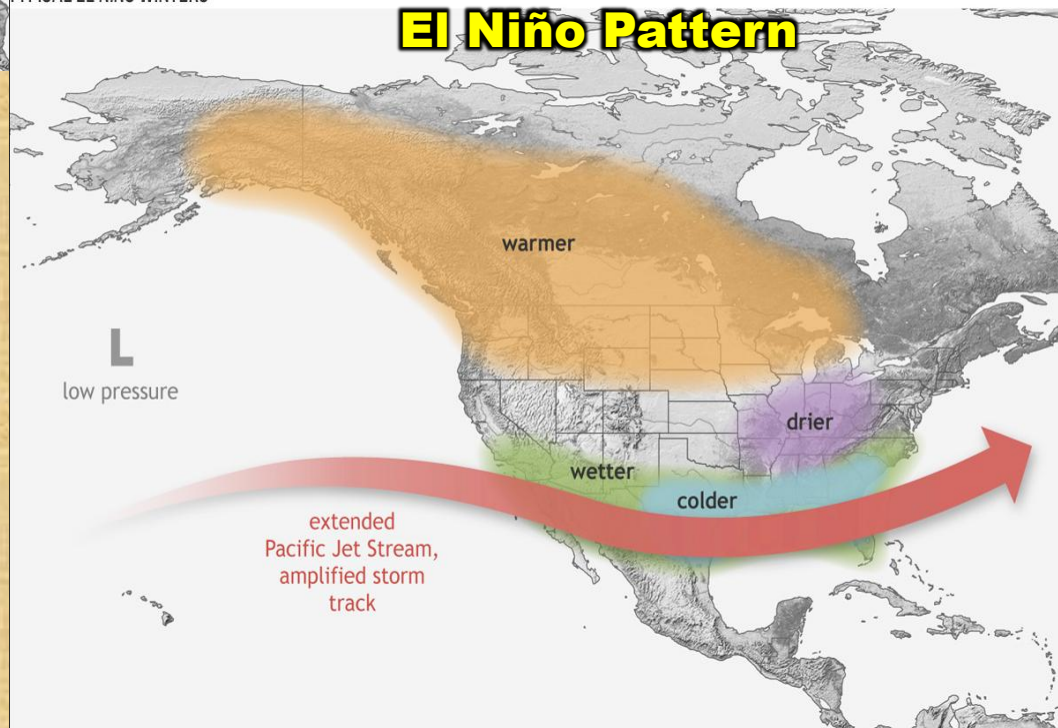
La Niña Pattern



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.

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.

El Niño Pattern

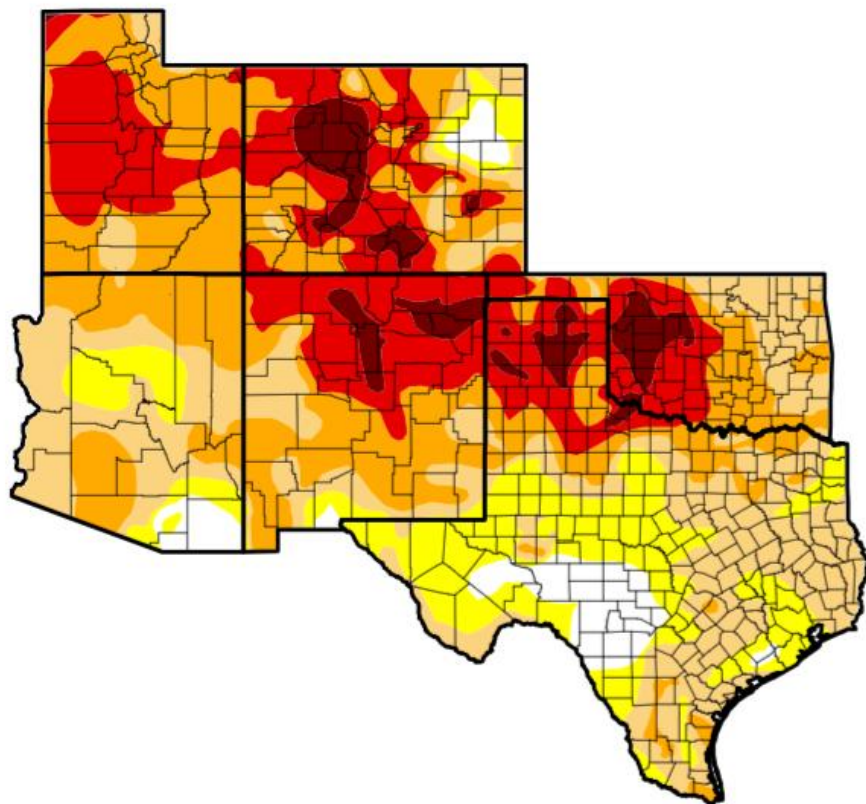


Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

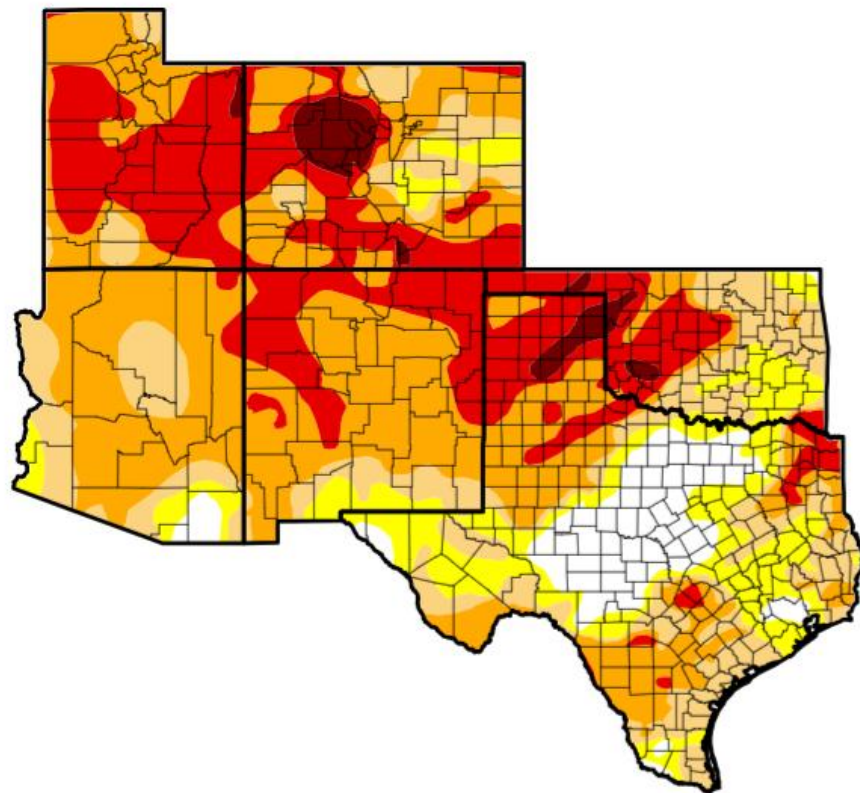
Current drought conditions and 3 month change

Aug 25, 2026



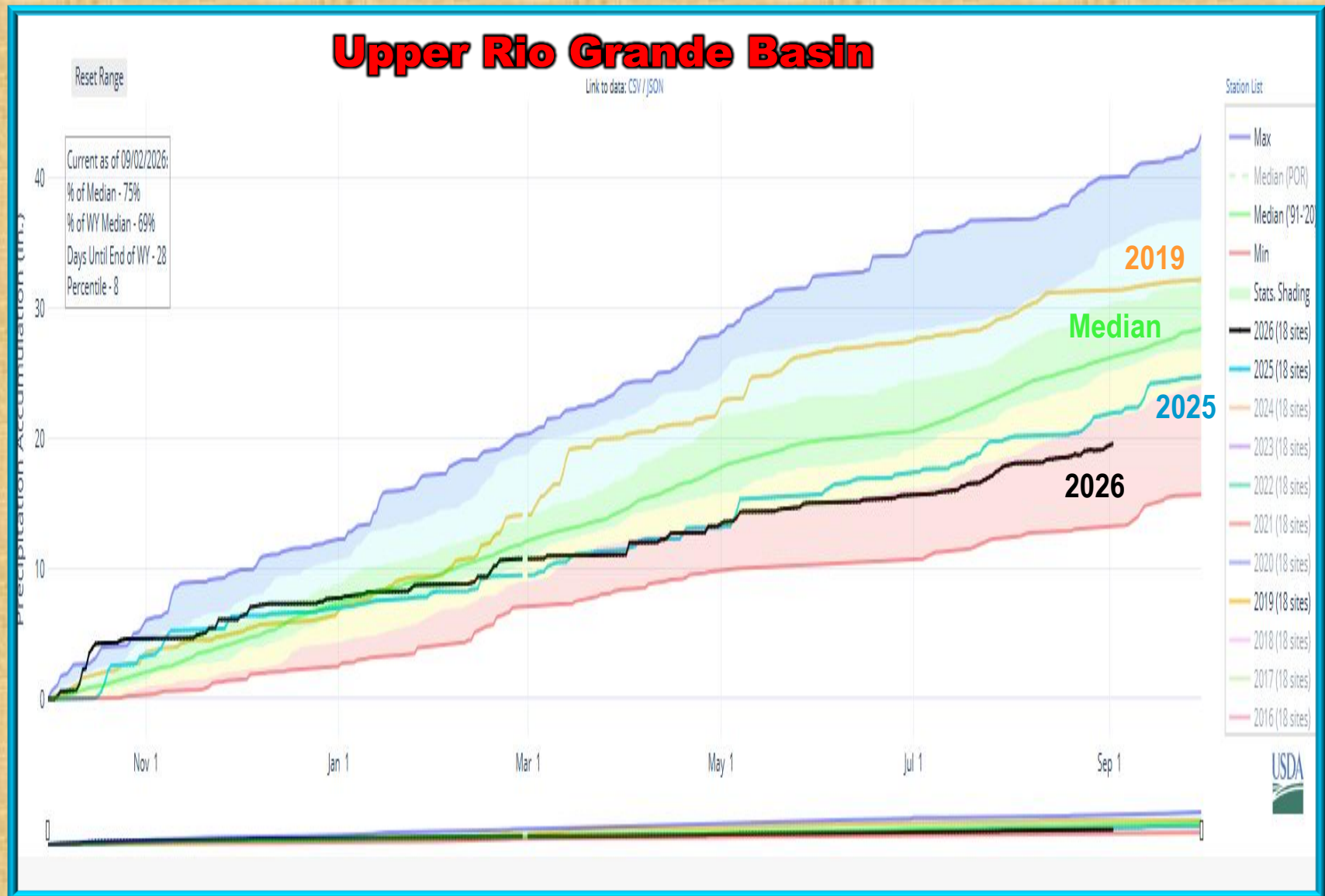
Not much change across southern New Mexico

May 26, 2026



Most of our area is in D2 drought or less

Precipitation for the Water YTD Oct 1 – Aug 31, 2026 Compared to last few years and average values

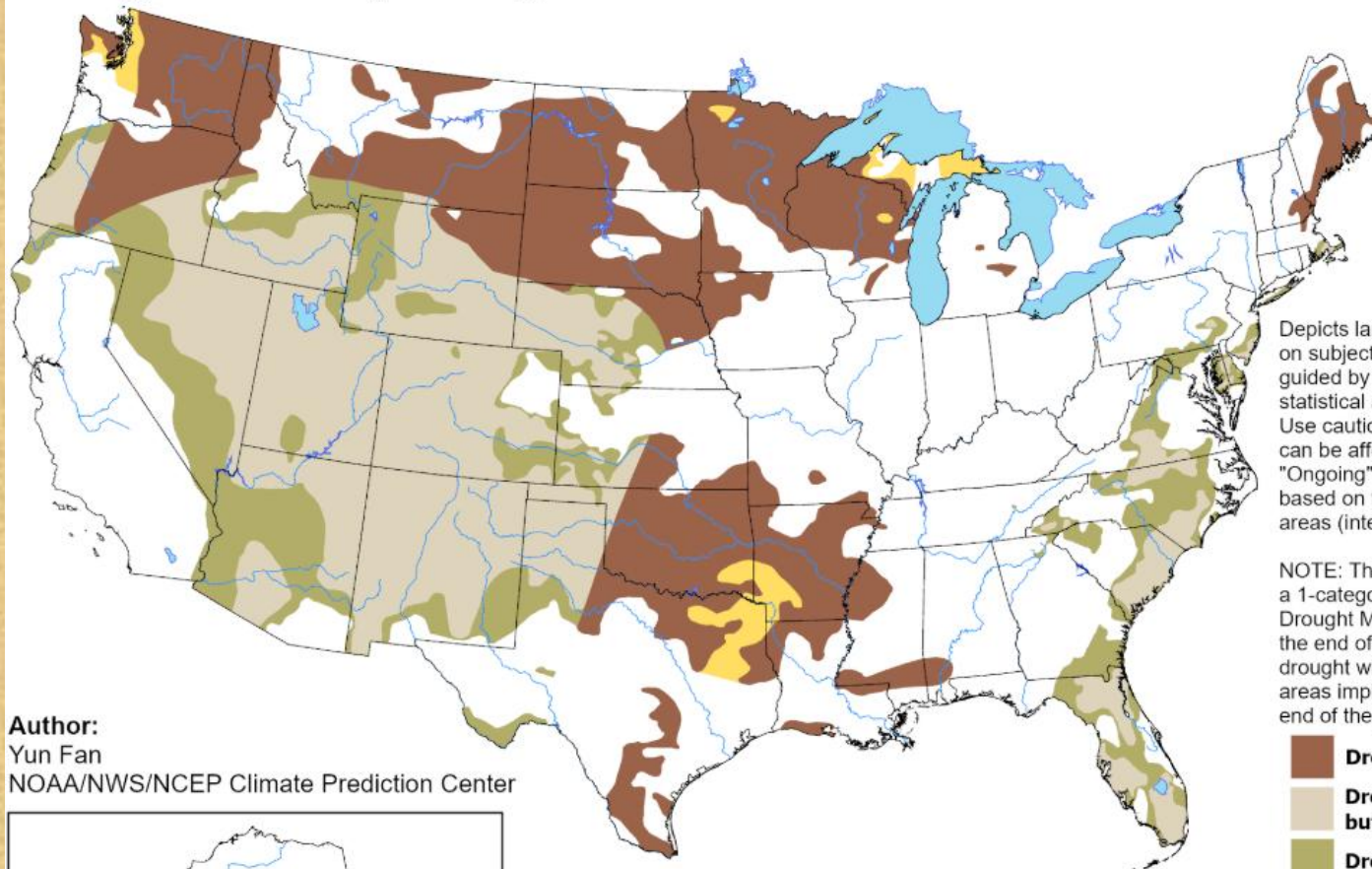


Precip accumulation around 3-5 inches below normal over the Upper Rio Grande Basin

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for August 20 - November 30, 2026
Released August 20, 2026

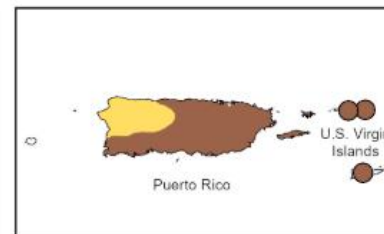
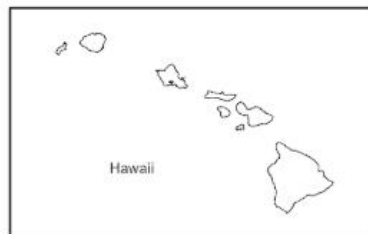


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to 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**
- No drought**

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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

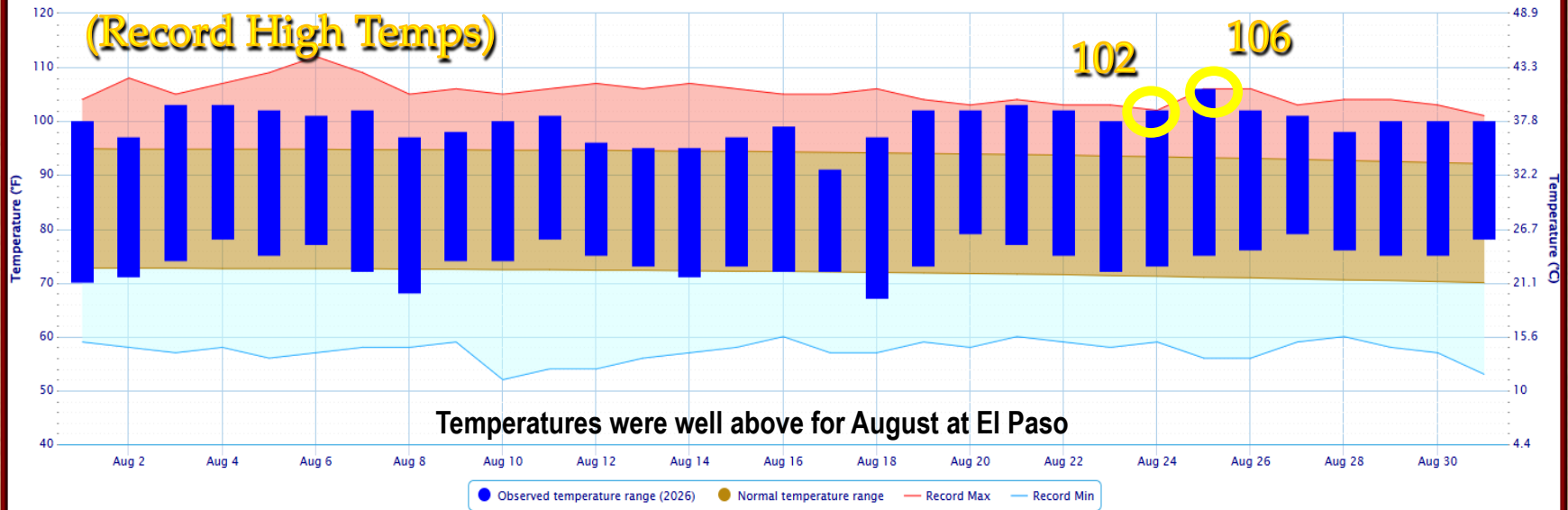
Drought outlook remains positive, with much of southern New Mexico/west Texas either in no drought or conditions improving

Temperature and precipitation data for August 2026 in El Paso

○ = record

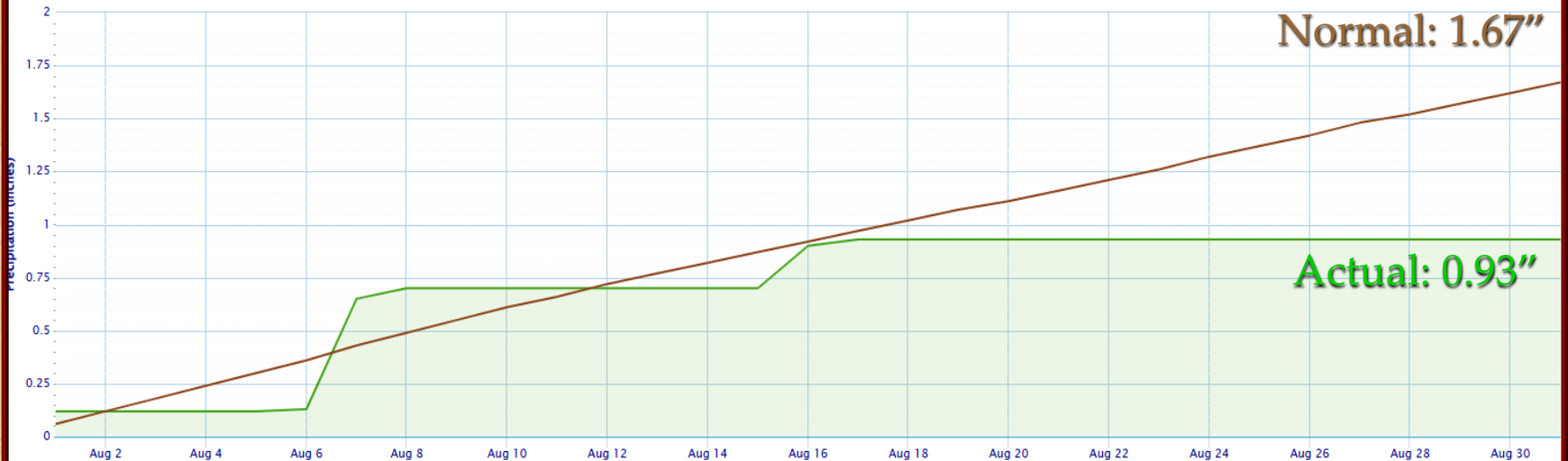
Daily Temperature Data – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2026-09-01; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2026-09-01. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



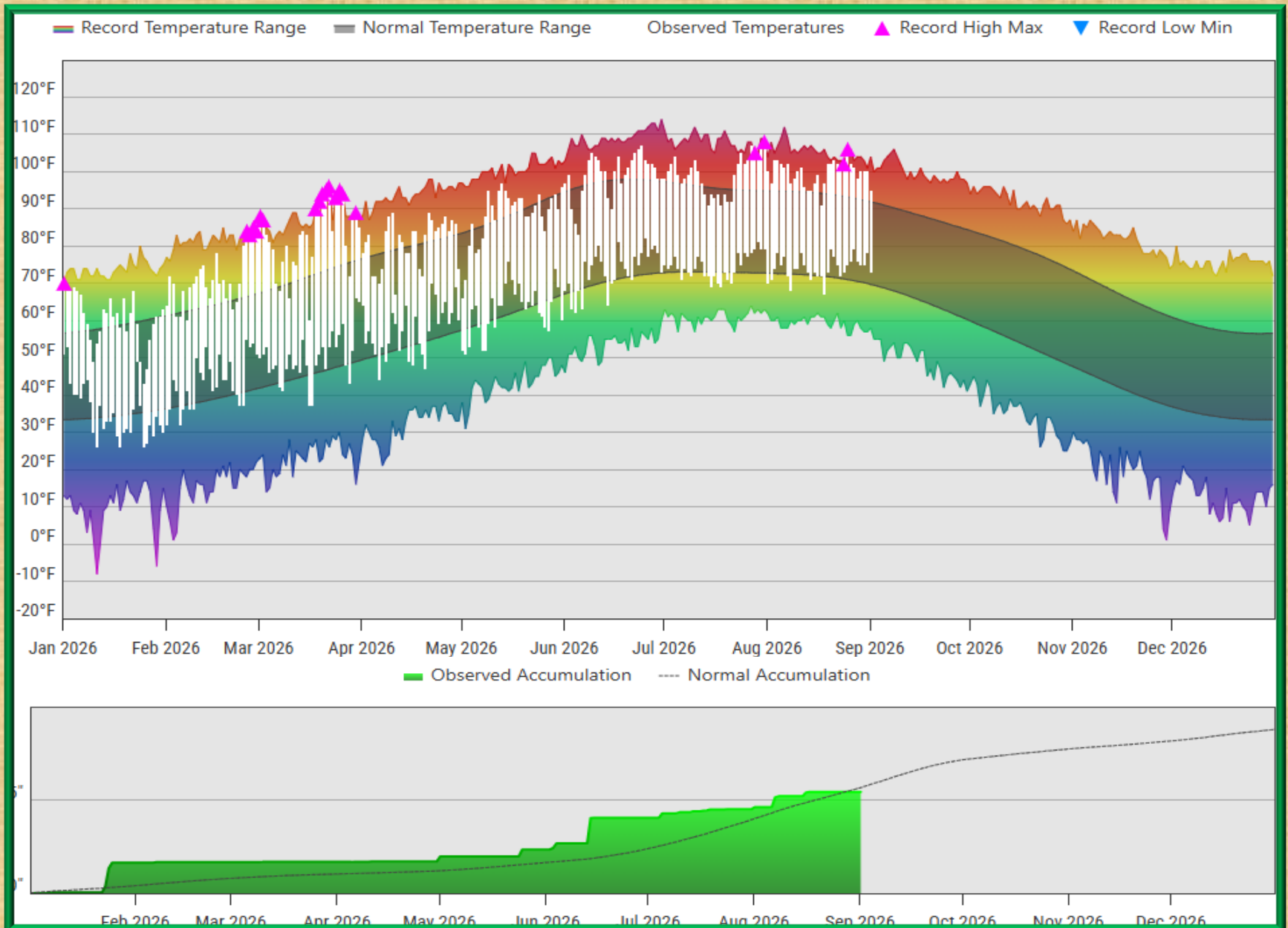
Accumulated Precipitation – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

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

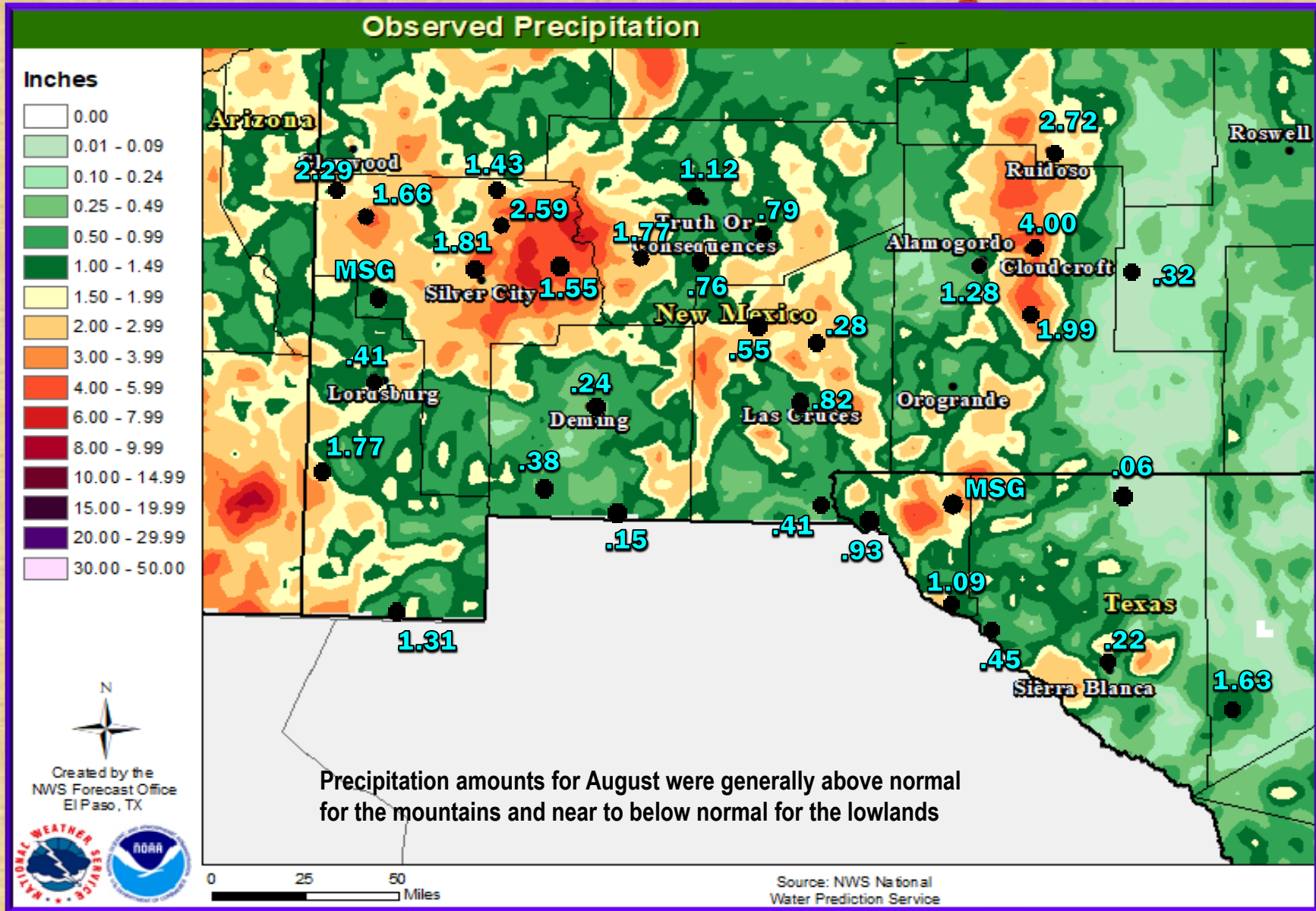


Precipitation was below normal for August at El Paso

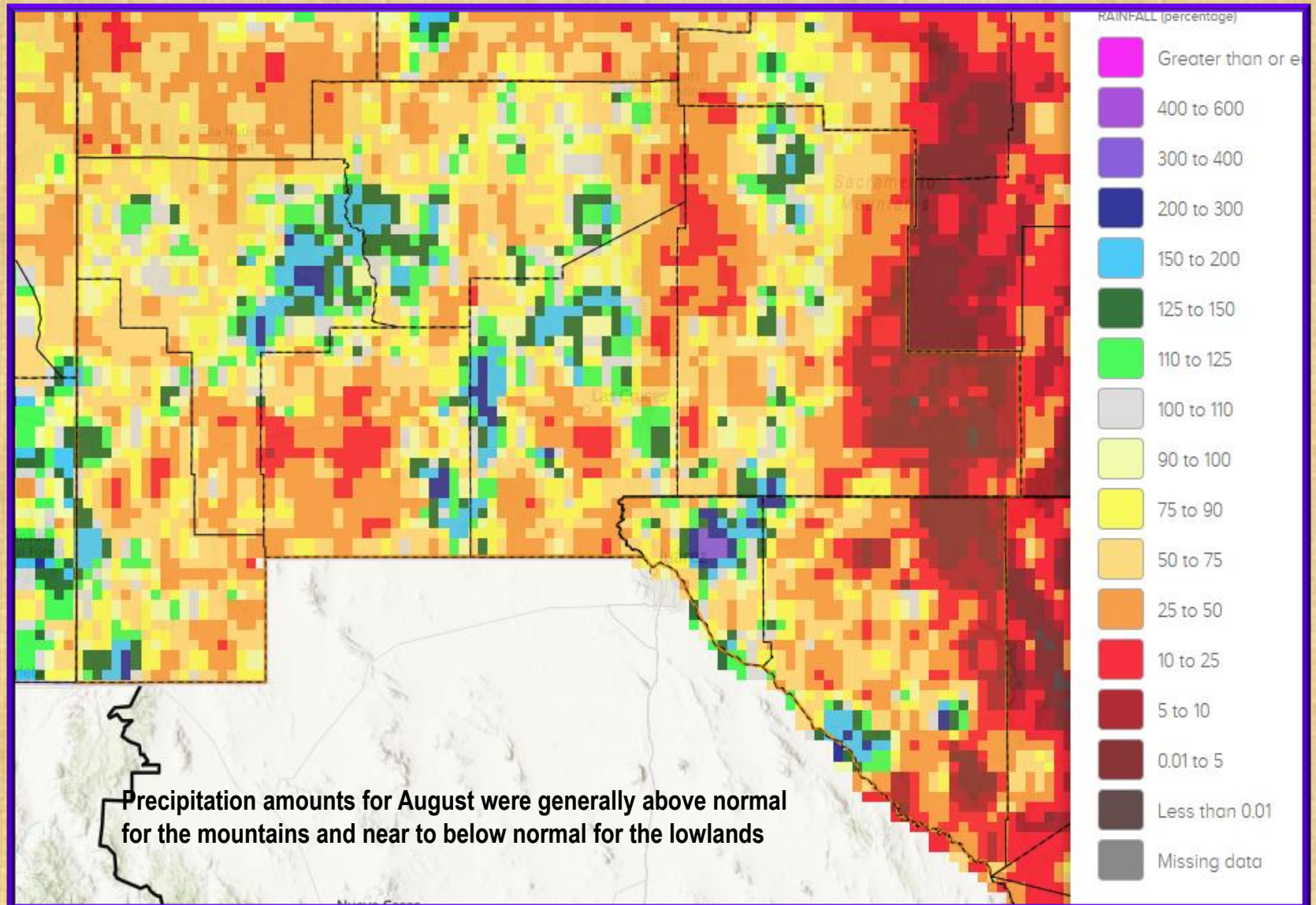
2026 Temperature and Precipitation through August for El Paso



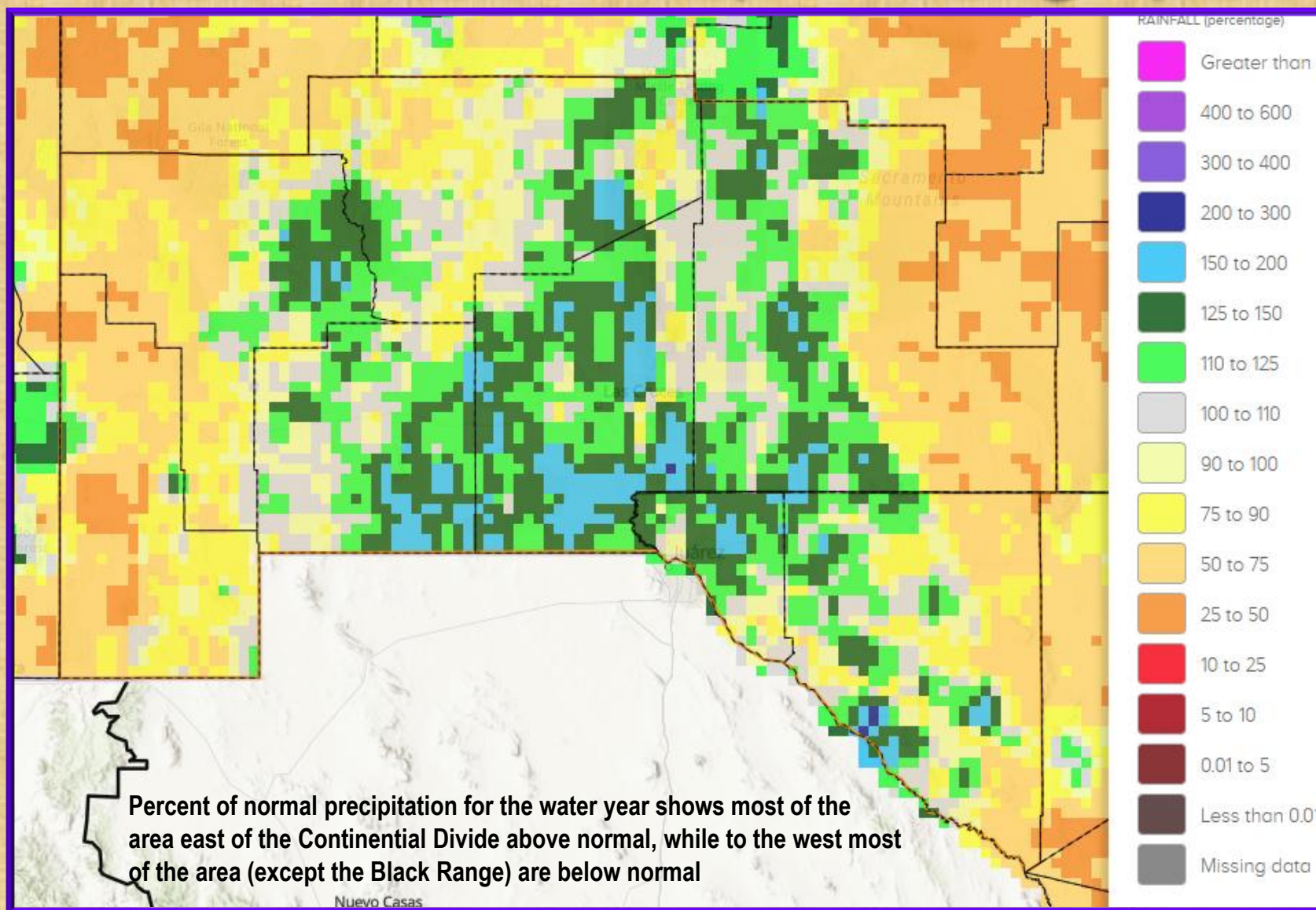
August 2026 rainfall estimate with surface rainfall reports



August 2026 rainfall estimate percent of normal



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



Tracking the 2026 Monsoon Season across the El Paso Forecast Area

A transition to monsoon flow began around June 13-16 this year with winds shifting to the south and east and bringing in higher humidity. This is about 15-20 days earlier than normal [see fig 1]. Widespread thunderstorms over northern Mexico and southern New Mexico also began around this time.

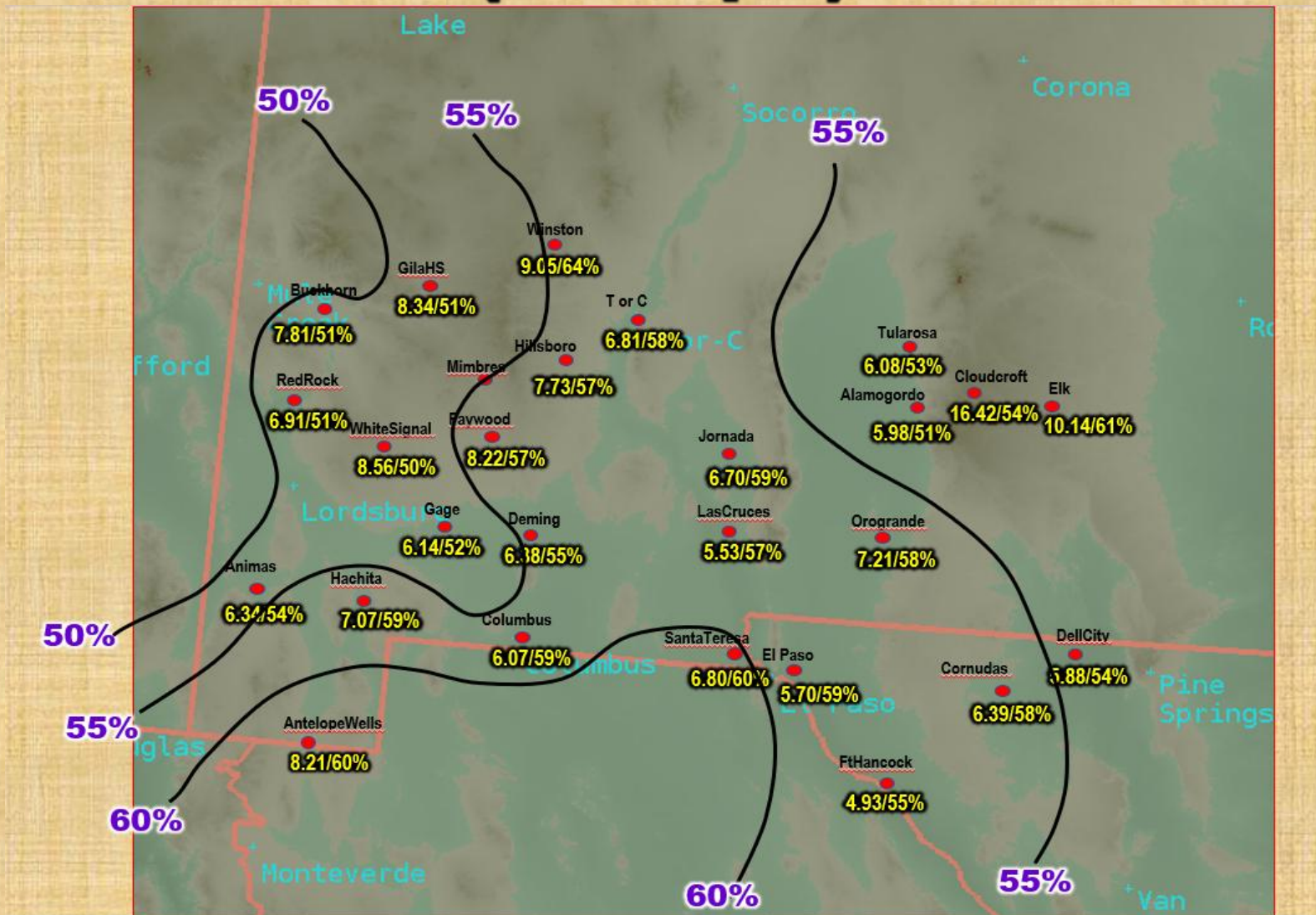
Monsoon 2026 started off with a bang right out of the gate, as heavy rainfall from thunderstorms fell on June 14-15. Many areas received one inch or more of rain on these days. This rain was very beneficial and reduced much of southern New Mexico and far west Texas drought status to none or just abnormally dry. However, much of southern New Mexico remained in moderate to severe drought status to end June.

Tracking the 2026 Monsoon Season across the El Paso Forecast Area

Updating our monsoon season through the end of July; this past month was wetter than normal overall, especially west of the Rio Grande Valley. The highest rainfall occurred over area mountains, followed by southern Luna and Hidalgo Counties. In July, lower rainfall amounts were observed in the El Paso area and in the Tularosa Basin, receiving 25-75% of normal. Little or no drought improvement was seen since June across southern New Mexico.

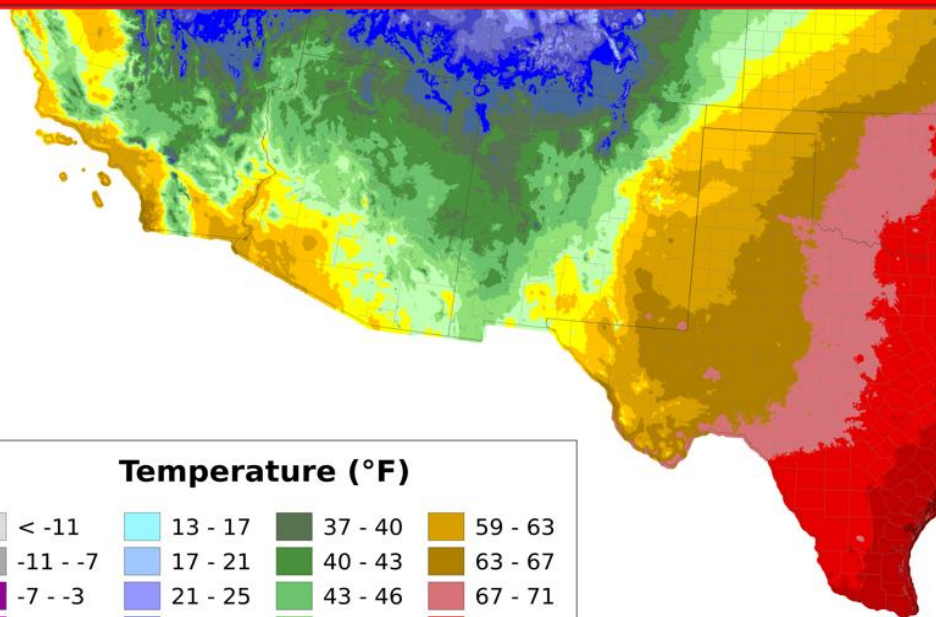
Some of the most active days of July occurred on July 17-20, about a week after the northern Gulf of California reached 29°C [**see fig 2**]. During this period, strong high pressure over the Central US allowed moisture to increase from the Gulf associated with an upper-level disturbance [**see fig 3**]. Scattered thunderstorms developed each day, resulting in isolated instances of flash flooding and areas of blowing dust. A drier and hotter pattern developed to end the month as the monsoon high shifted over New Mexico and Arizona [**see fig 4**], keeping storm coverage mostly limited to area mountains.

Rainfall Totals and the Percent of Annual Precipitation Falling During the Monsoon Season (Jun15-Sep 30)



Percent of annual rainfall during the Monsoon Season (Jun 15 – Sep 30) ranges from about 50-60 percent over southern New Mexico and west Texas

Tracking the 2026 Monsoon Season across the El Paso Forecast Area. Fig 1



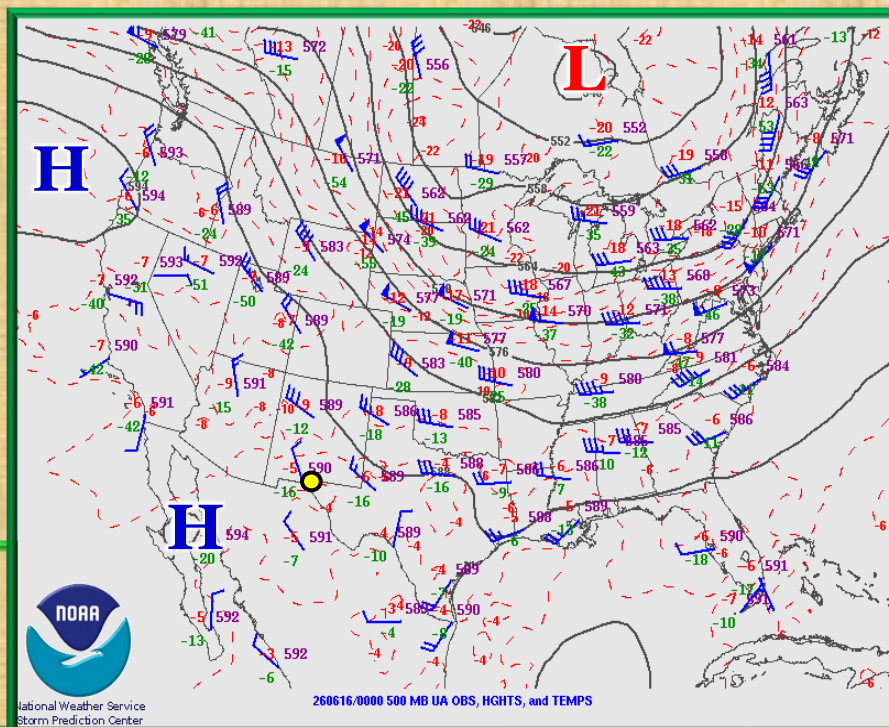
Temperature (°F)

< -11	13 - 17	37 - 40	59 - 63
-11 - -7	17 - 21	40 - 43	63 - 67
-7 - -3	21 - 25	43 - 46	67 - 71
-3 - 1	25 - 28	46 - 49	71 - 75
1 - 5	28 - 31	49 - 52	75 - 79
5 - 9	31 - 34	52 - 55	> 79
9 - 13	34 - 37	55 - 59	

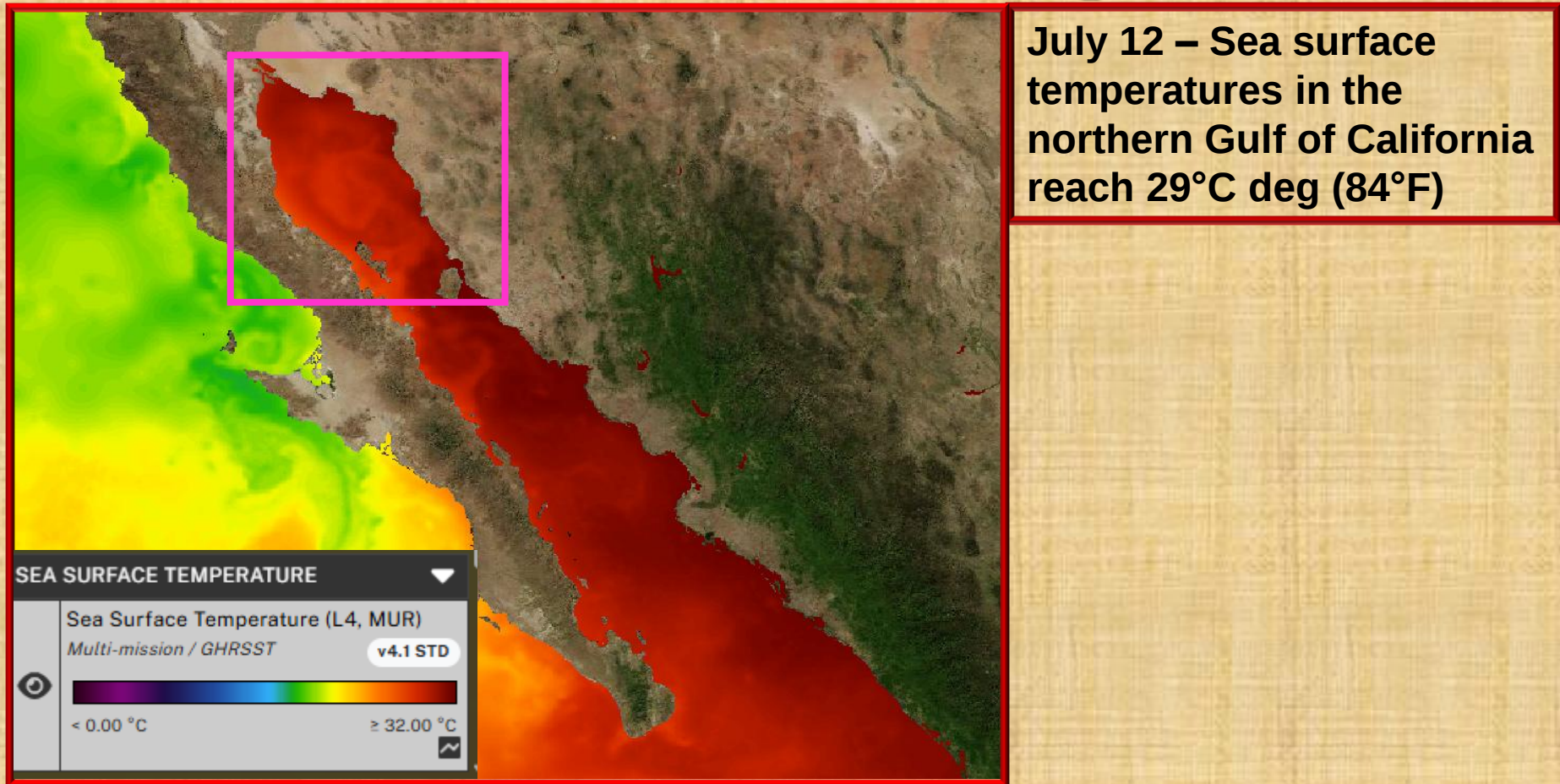
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<https://prism.oregonstate.edu>, map created 14 Jun 2026

June 14 – Dewpoints in the 50s reach the Borderland and generally remain in place for the remainder of the month.

By June 15, 500mb (18,000 ft) sub-tropical high reaches the Desert Southwest as the polar jet stream migrates northward.



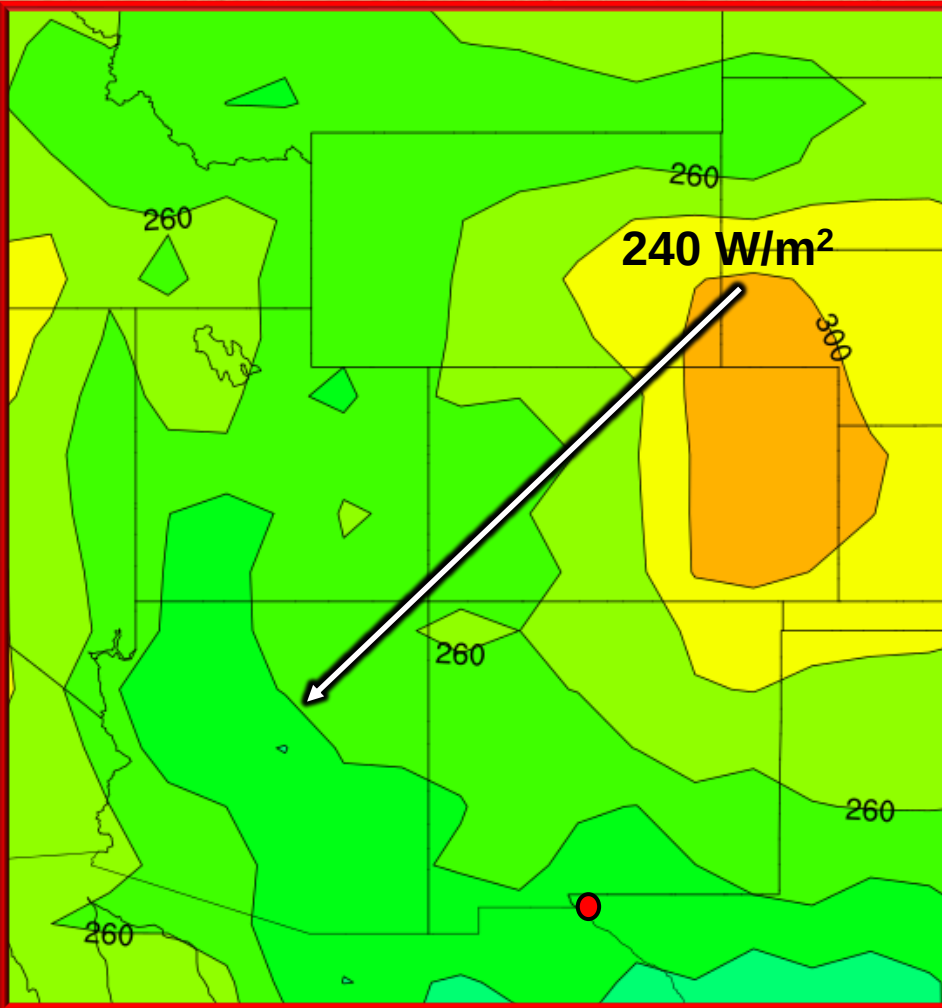
Tracking the 2026 Monsoon Season across the El Paso Forecast Area. Fig. 2



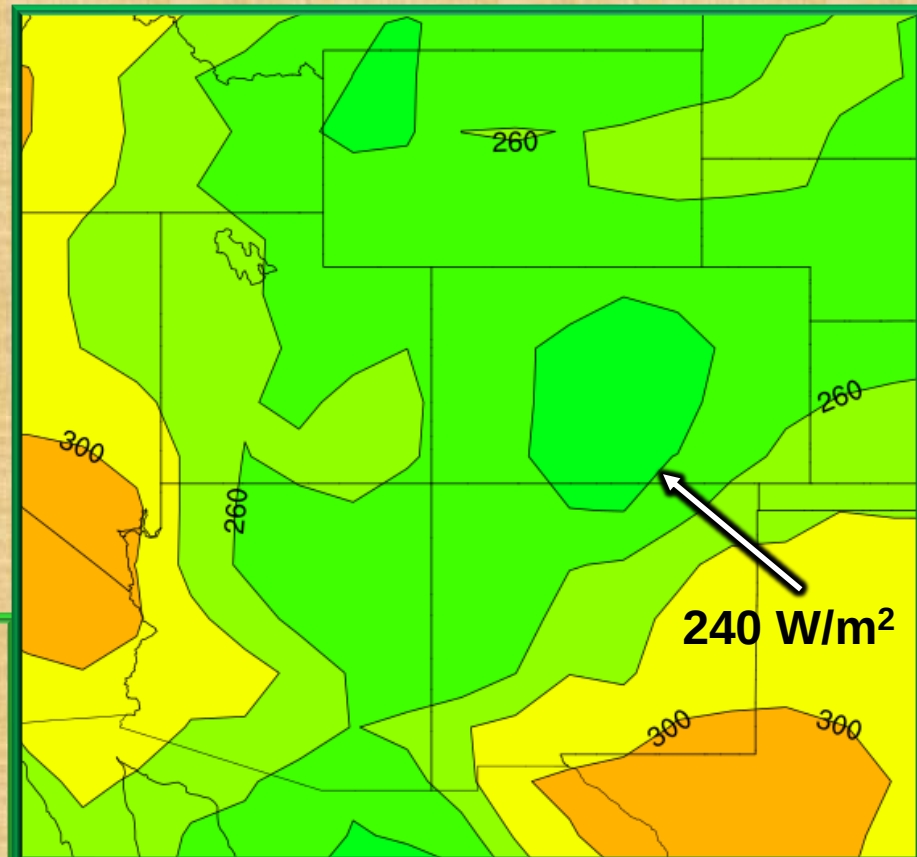
Studies (Mitchell, et al 2002, “Onset of the 2002 NAM: Relation to Gulf of California SST”) have shown that once northern Gulf of California sea surface temperatures reach 26°C, that monsoon rains will begin within about a week. Studies have also shown that when the sea surface temperature reaches 29°C, New Mexico/Arizona will begin receiving the bulk of their rainfall (around 65-70%). This date occurred in mid-July this year, a couple weeks earlier than average [see fig 6].

Tracking the 2026 Monsoon Season across the El Paso Forecast Area. Fig. 3

July 17-20: Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) diminishes to less than 240 W/m^2 over much of New Mexico. Thick clouds and anvil tops from thunderstorms diminish the OLR values, often indicative of the monsoon moisture and thunderstorms moving into the area.

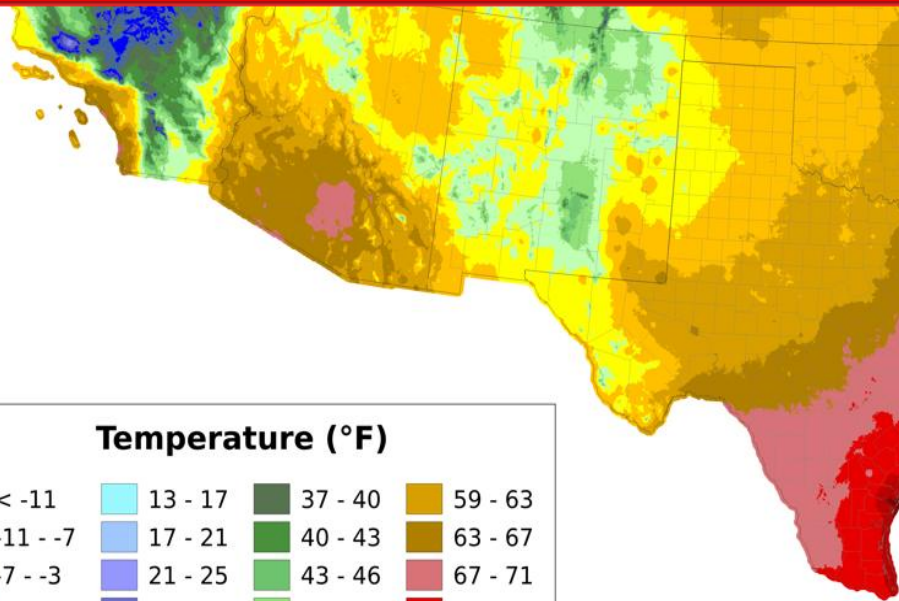


Jul 25-30: Outgoing Longwave Radiation increases to $280\text{-}300 \text{ W/m}^2$. This denotes a decrease in thunderstorm coverage from the middle of the month as we see a stretch of dry, hot weather to finish July.



As we enter the later portion of the 2026 Monsoon Season. Fig 4

Sep 1 – Dewpoints remain in the 50s, indicating the monsoon season continues in full swing.



Temperature (°F)

< -11	13 - 17	37 - 40	59 - 63
-11 - -7	17 - 21	40 - 43	63 - 67
-7 - -3	21 - 25	43 - 46	67 - 71
-3 - 1	25 - 28	46 - 49	71 - 75
1 - 5	28 - 31	49 - 52	75 - 79
5 - 9	31 - 34	52 - 55	> 79
9 - 13	34 - 37	55 - 59	

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<https://prism.oregonstate.edu>, map created 2 Sep 2026

At the beginning of September, the 500mb (18,000 ft) upper flow is still well in the Monsoon pattern.

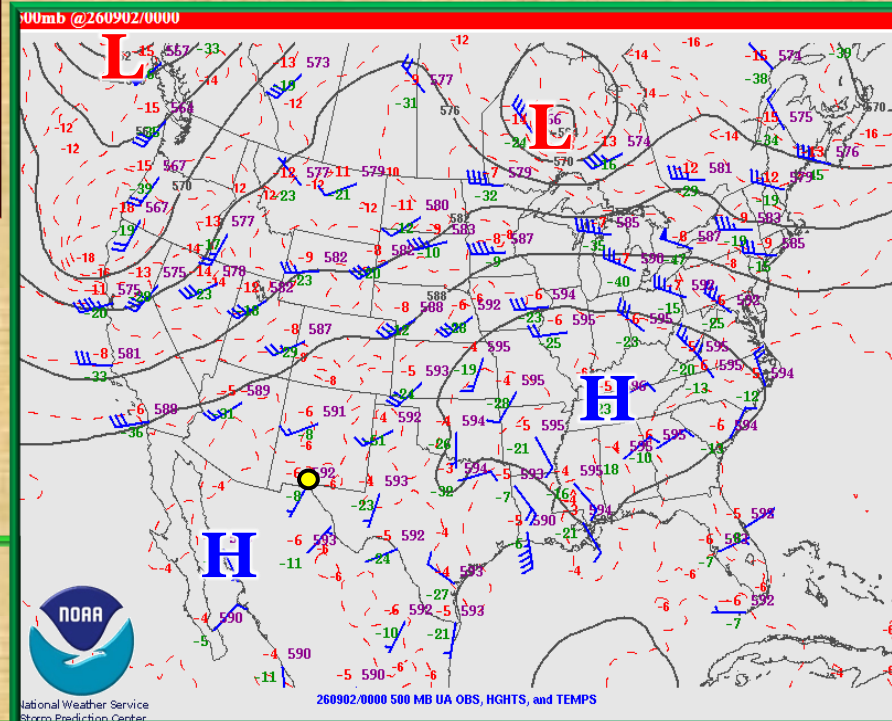


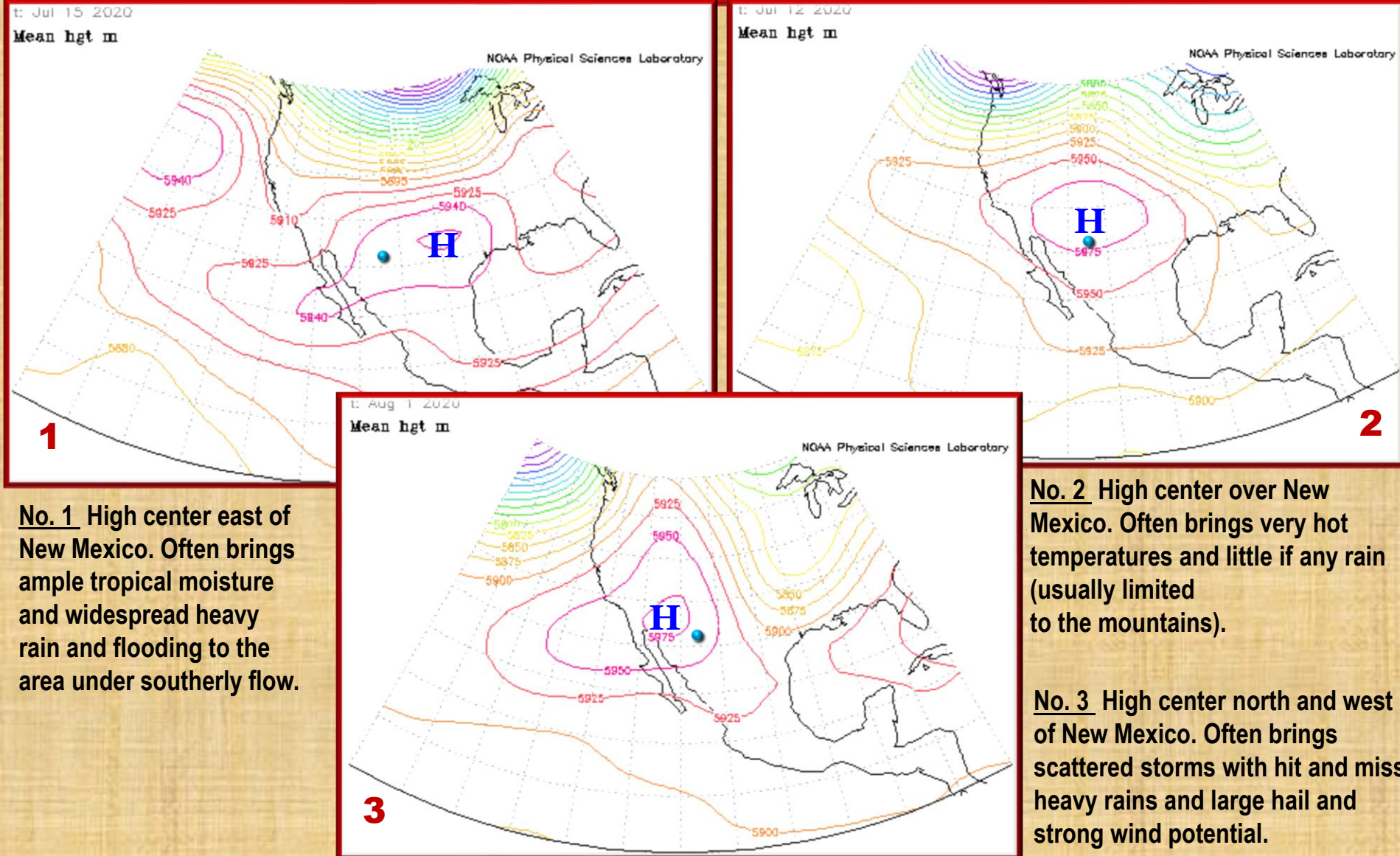
Fig. 6**Percent of monsoon rainfall after 29C**

Year	29C Date	ELP	DMN	CLD	TCS	HIL	BKN
2025	Jul 24	70	69	MSG	59	44	67
2024	Jul 17	41	56	75	33	59	73
2023	Jul 17	89	100	83	97	100	81
2022	Jun 29	85	82	85	67	74	80
2021	Jul 16	51	75	68	60	63	71
2020	Jul 22	88	65	67	98	89	86
2019	Aug 8	83	91	62	67	71	34
2018	Jul 21	59	46	74	80	62	61
2017	Jul 23	58	67	66	88	61	64
2016	Aug 3	93	92	71	79	85	73
2015	Jul 27	63	43	56	53	61	57
2014	Jul 23	92	82	77	91	89	MSG
2013	Aug 8	61	68	61	88	75	MSG
2012	Jul 24	53	64	73	42	52	80
2011	Jul 29	37	90	36	86	62	68
2010	Jul 29	47	31	43	33	47	32
2009	Jul 24	54	61	47	56	65	56
2008	Jul 27	48	39	54	46	58	58
2007	Jul 26	65	62	60	91	72	100
2006	Jul 29	84	81	73	86	85	MSG
2005	Jul 30	95	79	72	83	87	80
AVE	Jul 25	67	69	65	71	69	68

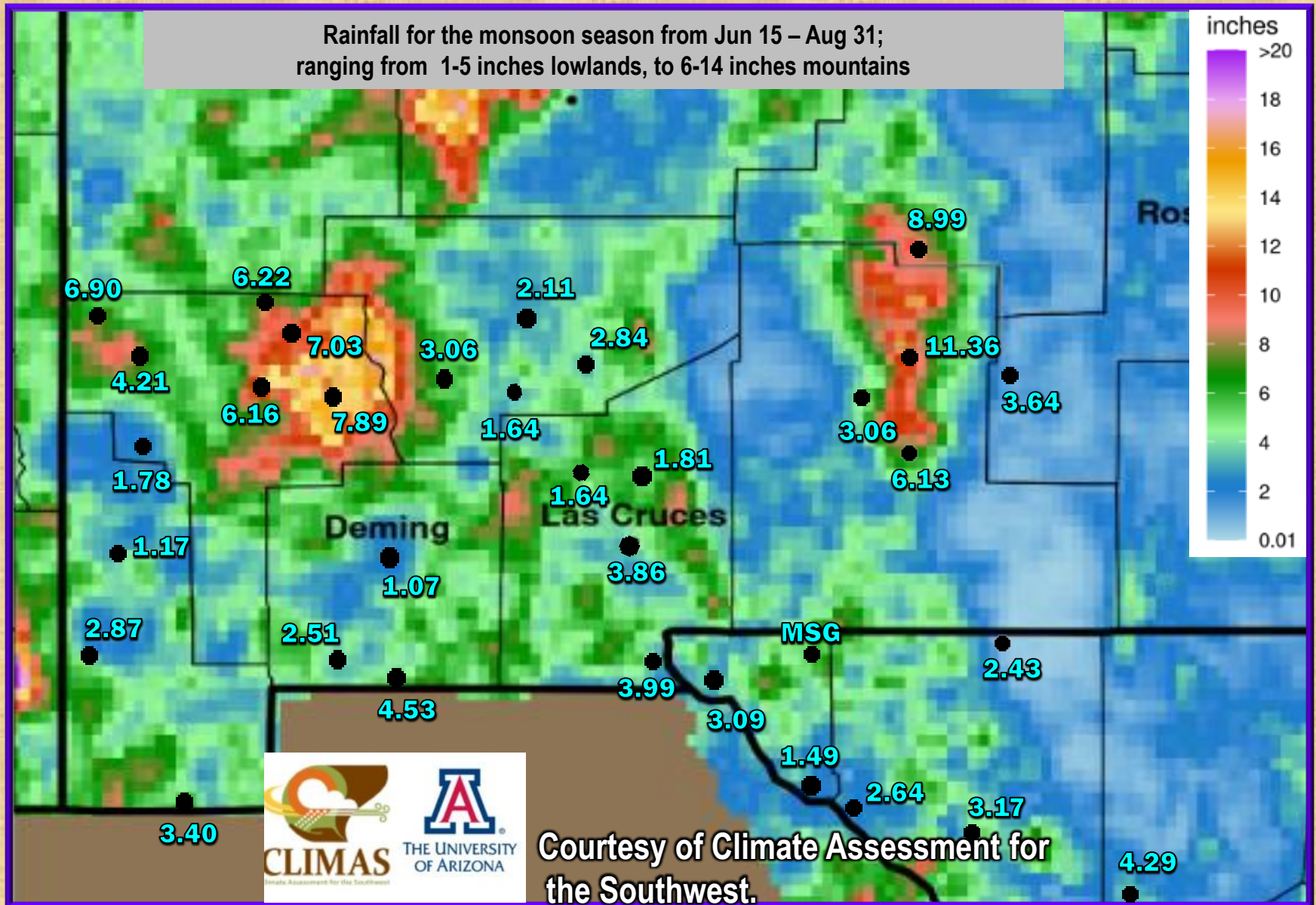
ELP=El Paso Intl Airport
DMN=Deming Airport
CLD=Cloudcroft COOP
TCS=T or C Airport
HIL=Hillsboro COOP
BKN=Buckhorn COOP

The northern Gulf of California sea surface temperature this year reached 29°C on July 12. Research has shown that, on average, around 65-75% of the total monsoon rainfall will fall after that date.

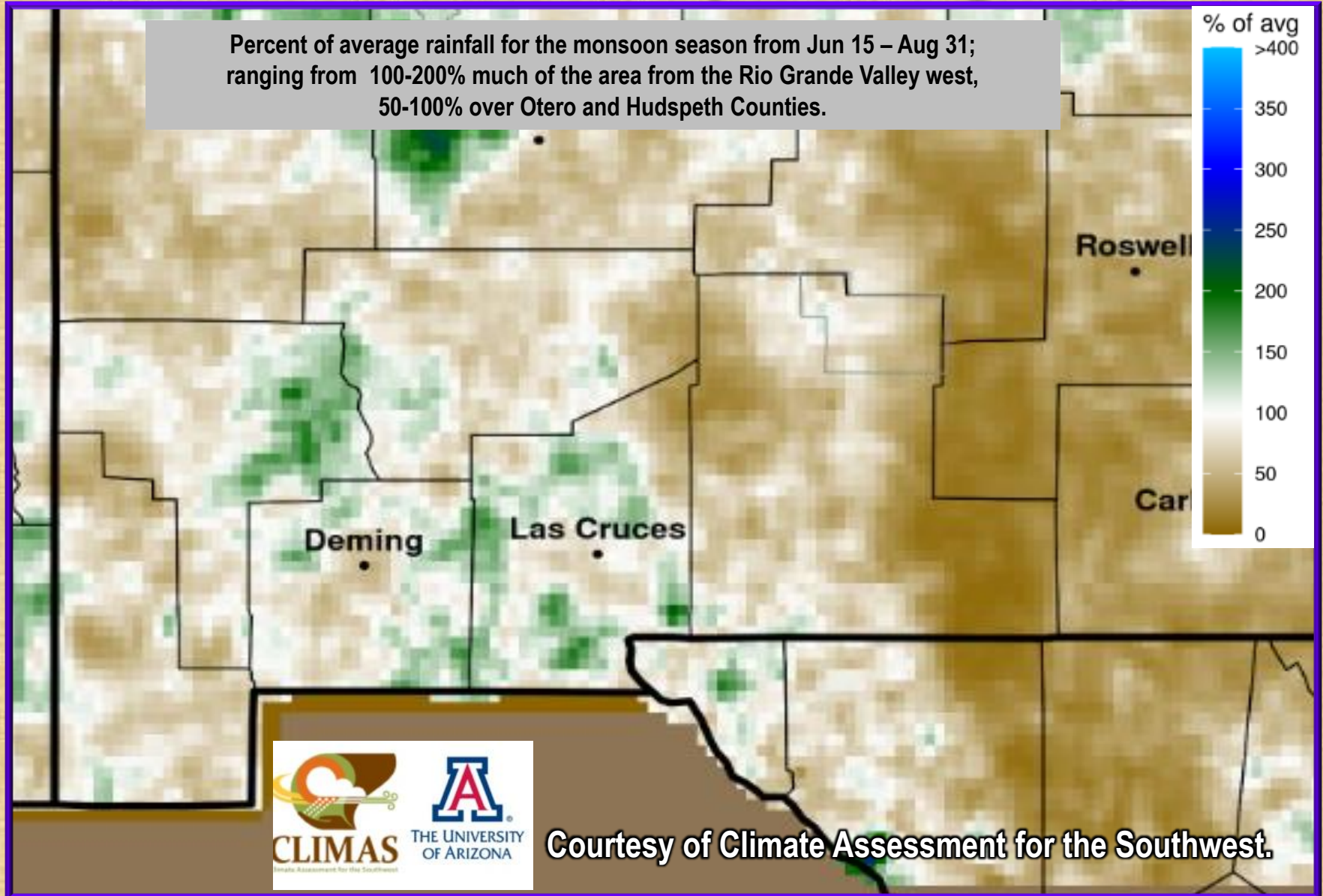
Position of NAM upper high determines our rainfall potential. Blue dot represents El Paso.



Radar rainfall estimate for the Monsoon Season 2026 (June 15 – August 31, 2026)

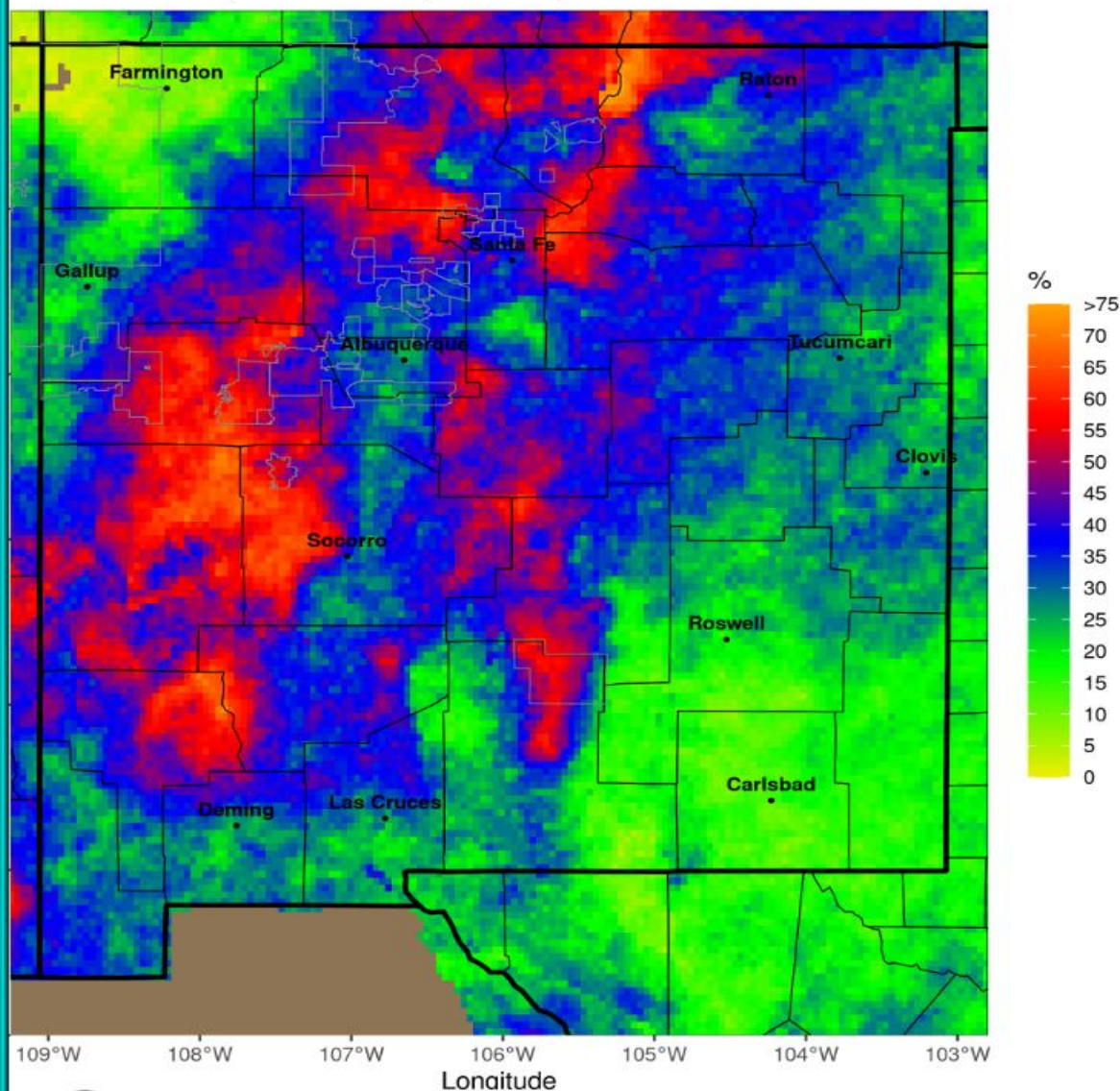


Radar rainfall estimate percent of normal for Monsoon season 2026 (June 15- August 31)



Jun 15 – Aug 31

Percent of days with rain (>0.01 in): 2026-06-15 to 2026-09-02



This map shows the percentage of measurable rainfall days so far during the Monsoon season. Range from about 15-40% lowlands to 40-70% mountains.

Courtesy of Climate Assessment for the Southwest.

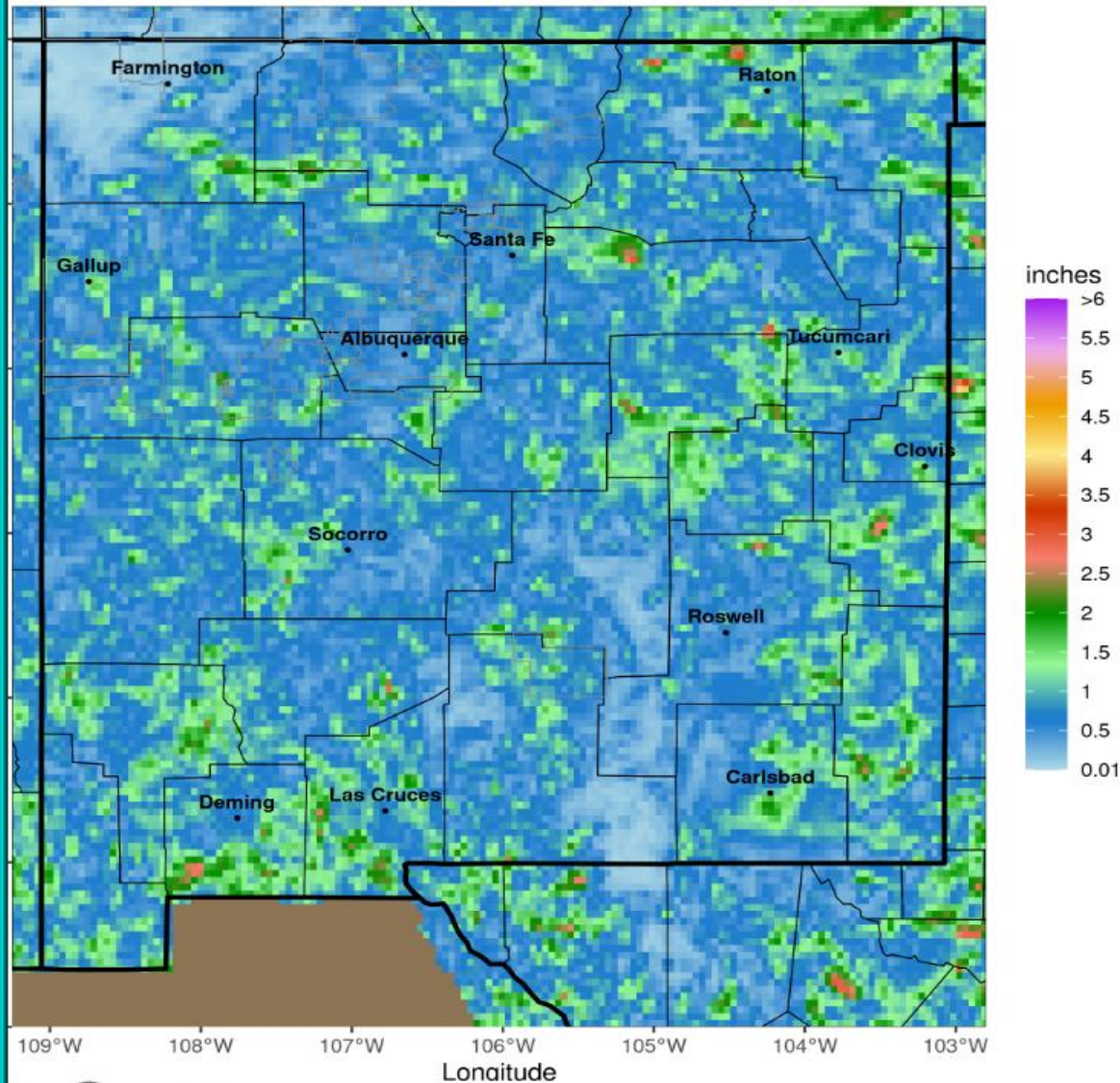


THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension

Plot created: 2026-09-02
The University of Arizona
<https://cals.arizona.edu/climate/>
Data Source: NOAA MPE Analysis
<https://water.weather.gov/precip/>

Jun 15 – Aug 31

Max 1-day Precipitation (in.): 2026-06-15 to 2026-09-02



This map shows greatest one day rainfall total so far during the Monsoon season. Courtesy of Climate Assessment for the Southwest.

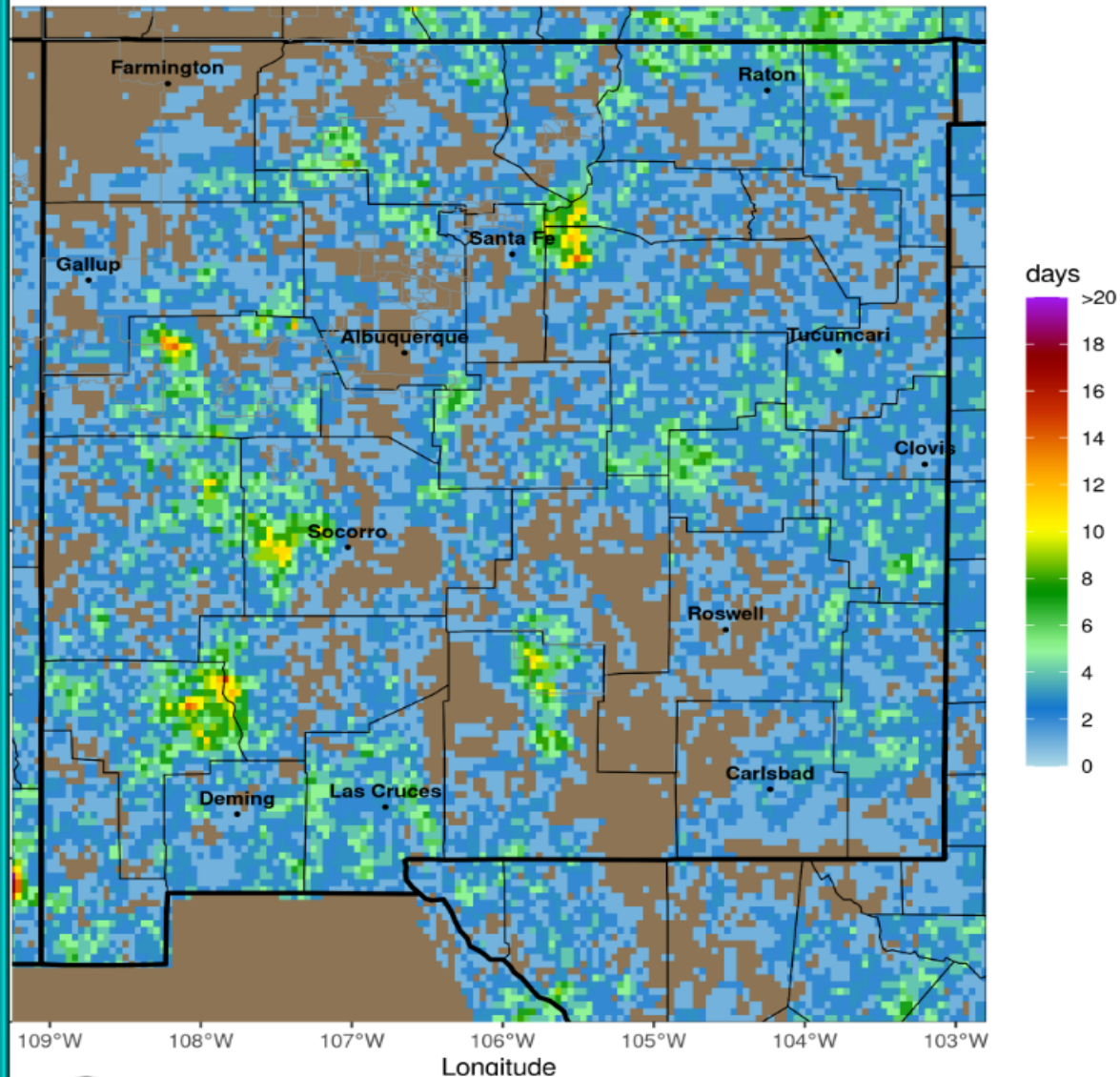


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Cooperative Extension

Plot created: 2026-09-02
The University of Arizona
<https://cals.arizona.edu/climate/>
Data Source: NOAA MPE Analysis
<https://water.weather.gov/precip/>

Jun 15 – Aug 31

Heavy Rain Days (≥ 0.50 in/day): 2026-06-15 to 2026-09-02



This map shows the number of days of at least .50" of rain so far during the monsoon season.

Courtesy of Climate Assessment for the Southwest.

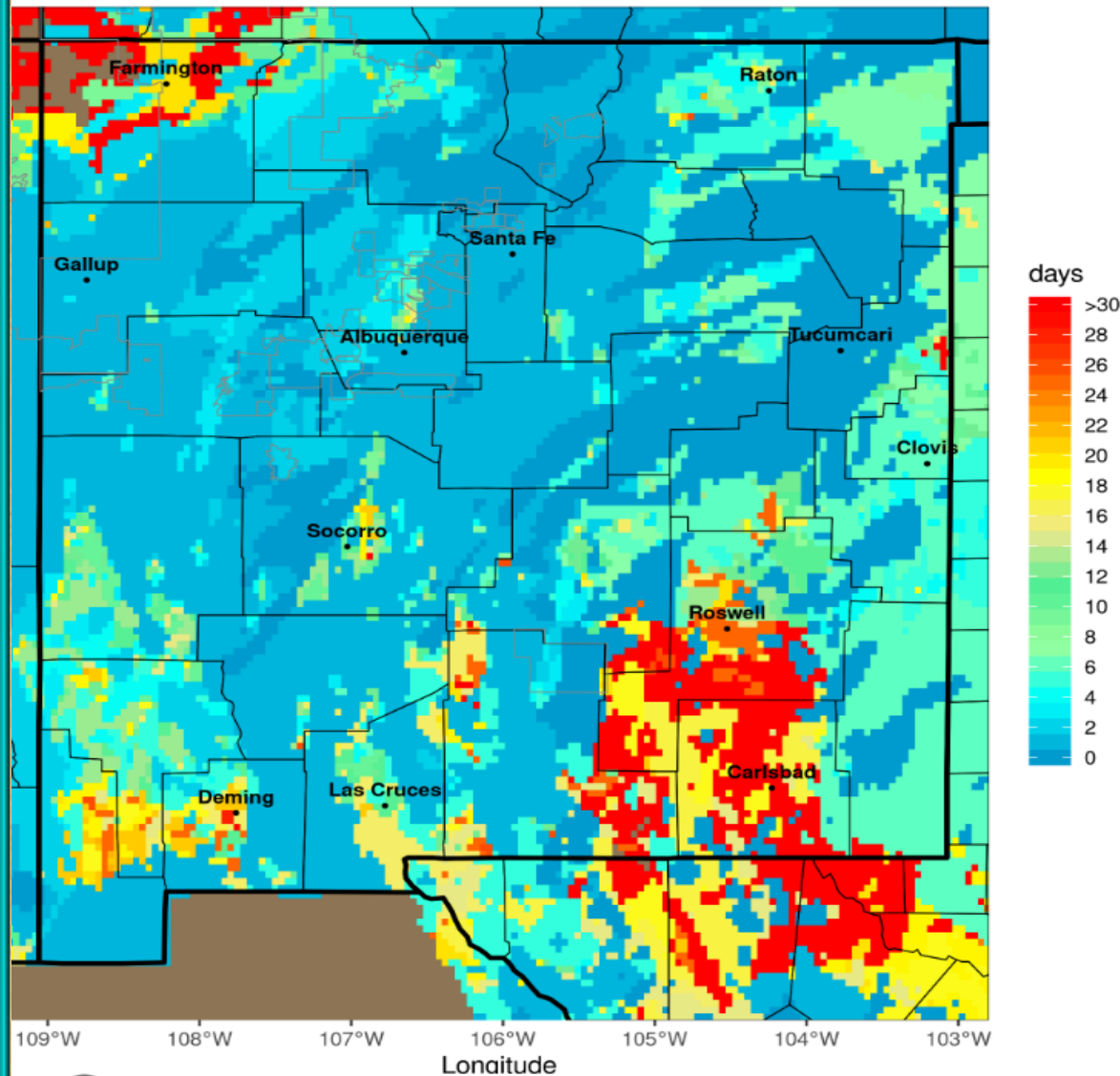


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Plot created: 2026-09-02
The University of Arizona
<https://cals.arizona.edu/climate/>
Data Source: NOAA MPE Analysis
<https://water.weather.gov/precip/>

Jun 15 – Aug 31

Days since >0.05 inch rain event: 2026-06-15 to 2026-09-02



This map shows the number of days since at least .05" of rain was observed. Higher values indicate a longer period since at least the last light rainfall.

Courtesy of Climate Assessment for the Southwest.



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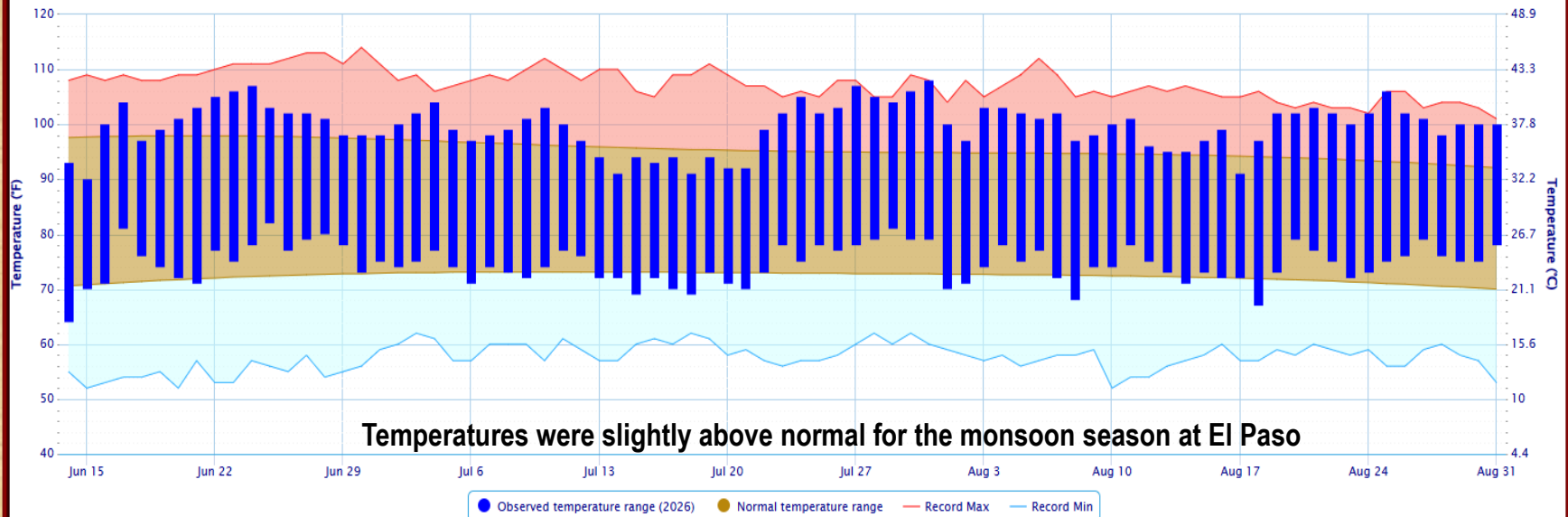
Plot created: 2026-09-02
The University of Arizona
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Temperature and precipitation data Jun 14 – Aug 31, 2026

Monsoon Season in El Paso

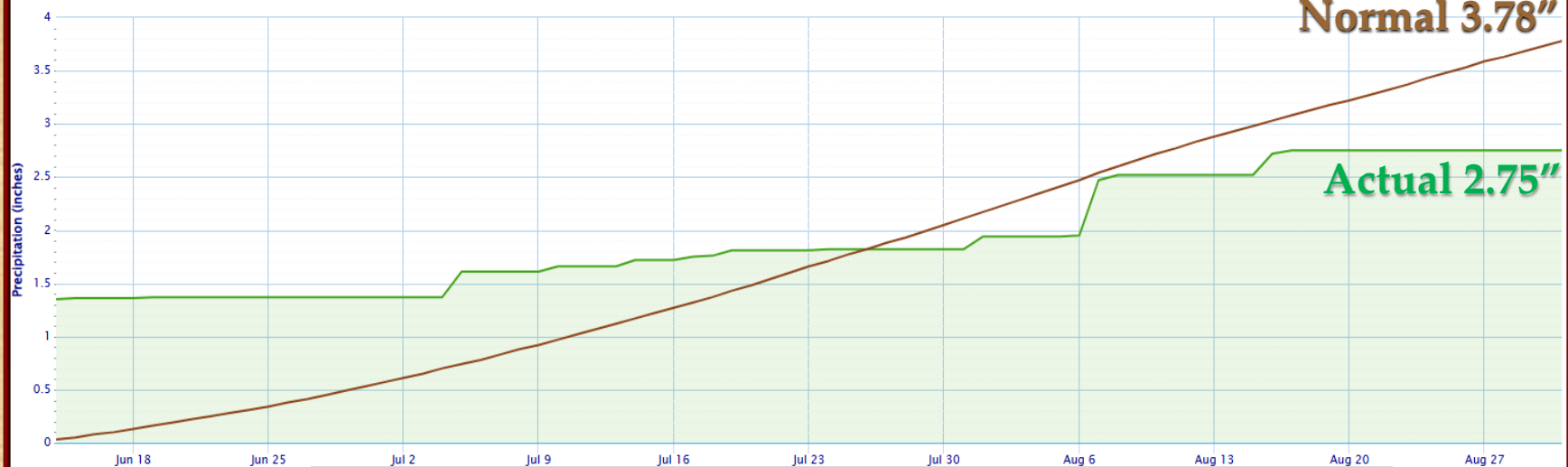
Daily Temperature Data – El Paso Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1887-01-01 to 2026-09-01; Min temperature: 1879-01-01 to 2026-09-01. Normals period: 1991-2020. 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

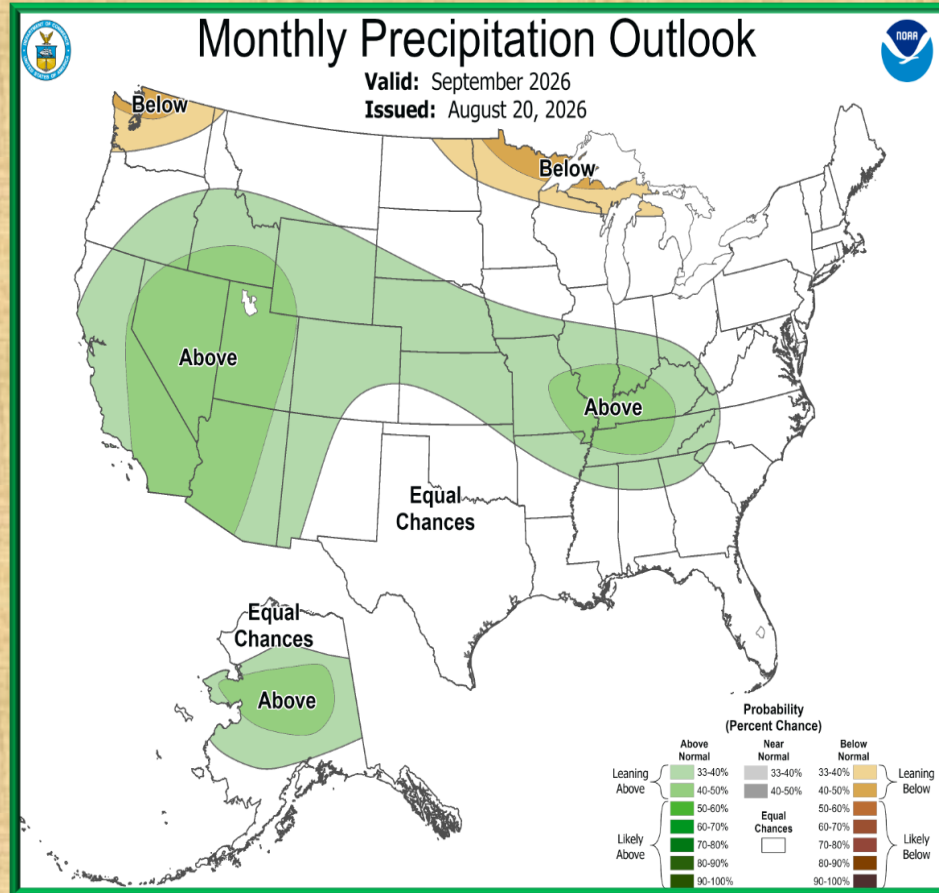
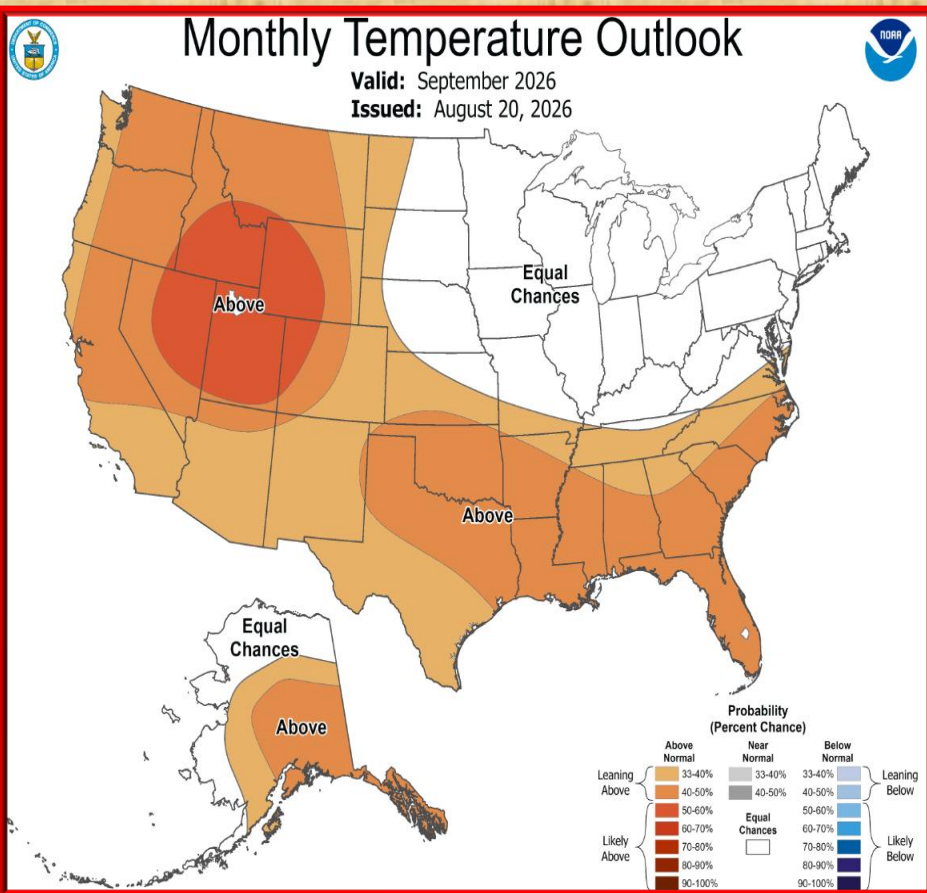


Rainfall was about one inch below normal for the monsoon season at El Paso

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook For September 2026

Temperature

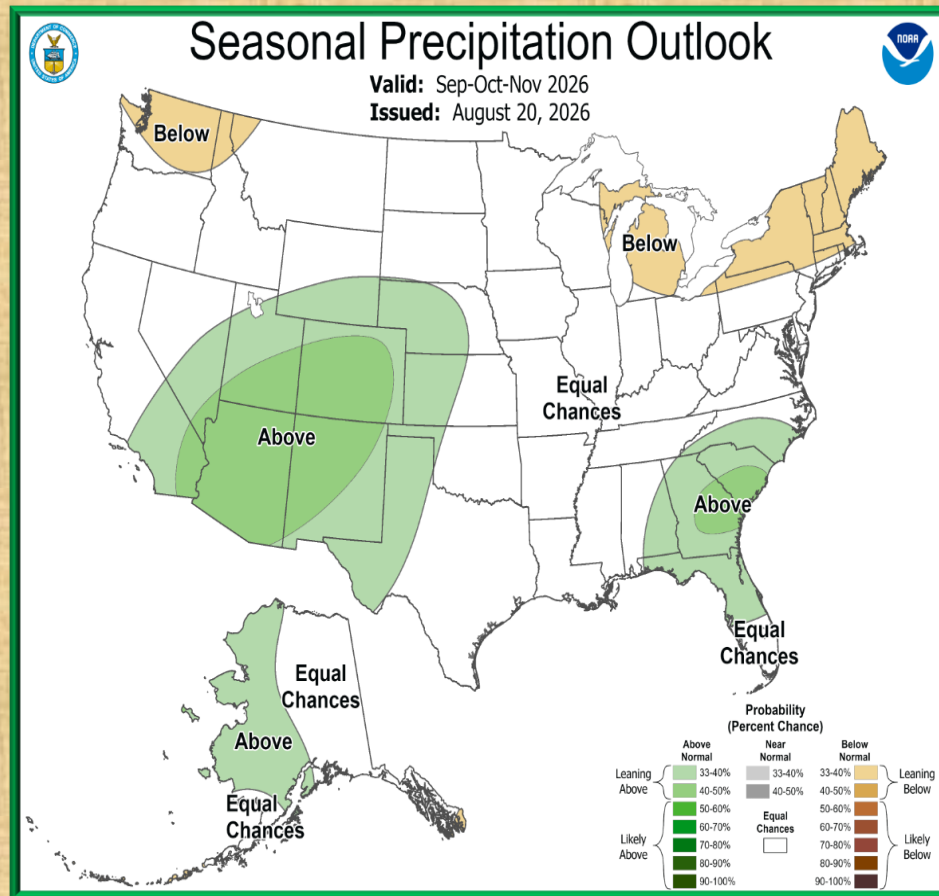
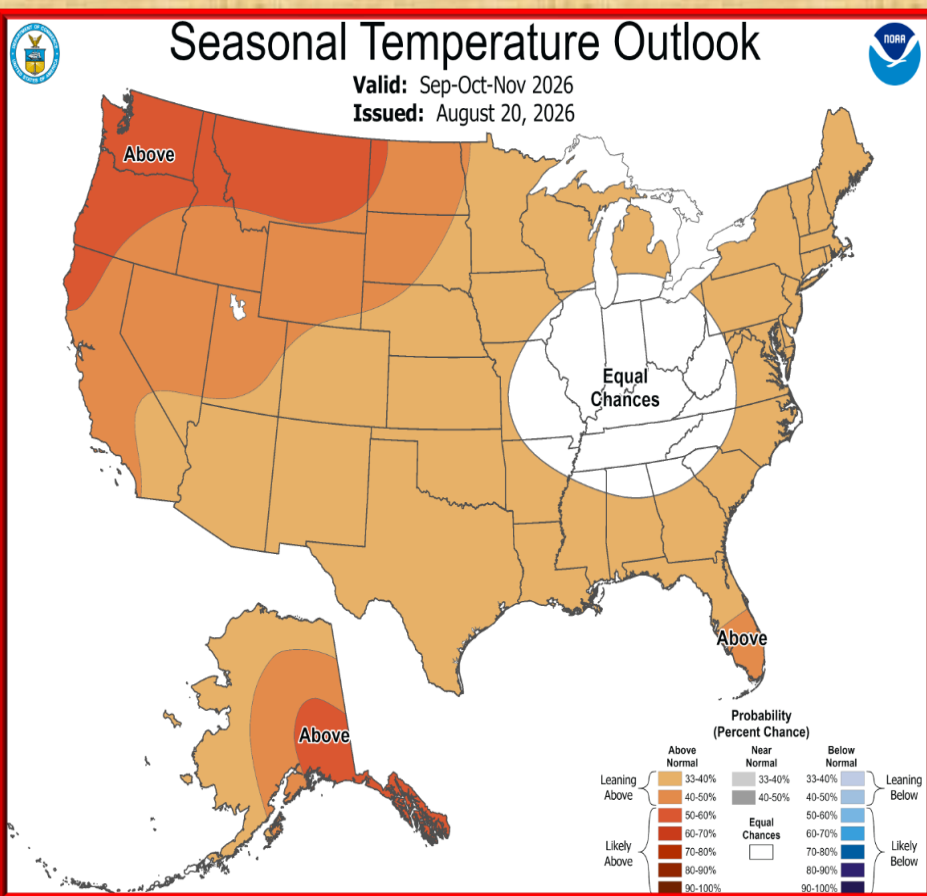
Precipitation



Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for Sep-Nov 2026

Temperature

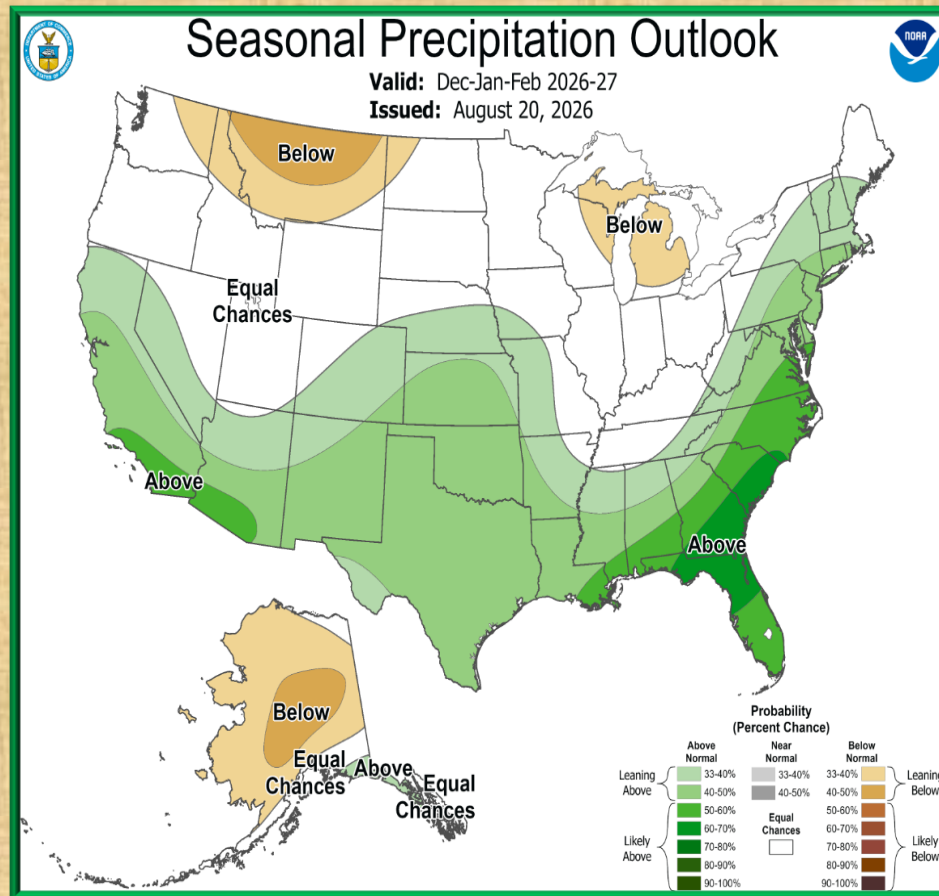
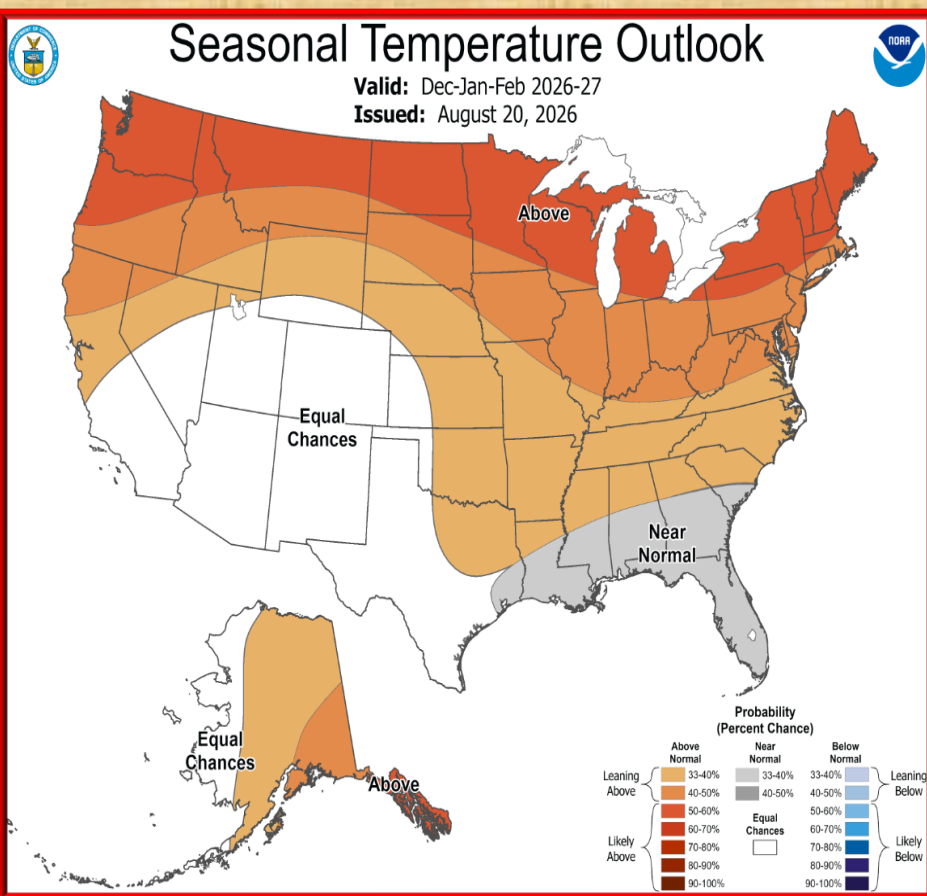
Precipitation



Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for Dec 2026-Feb 2027

Temperature

Precipitation

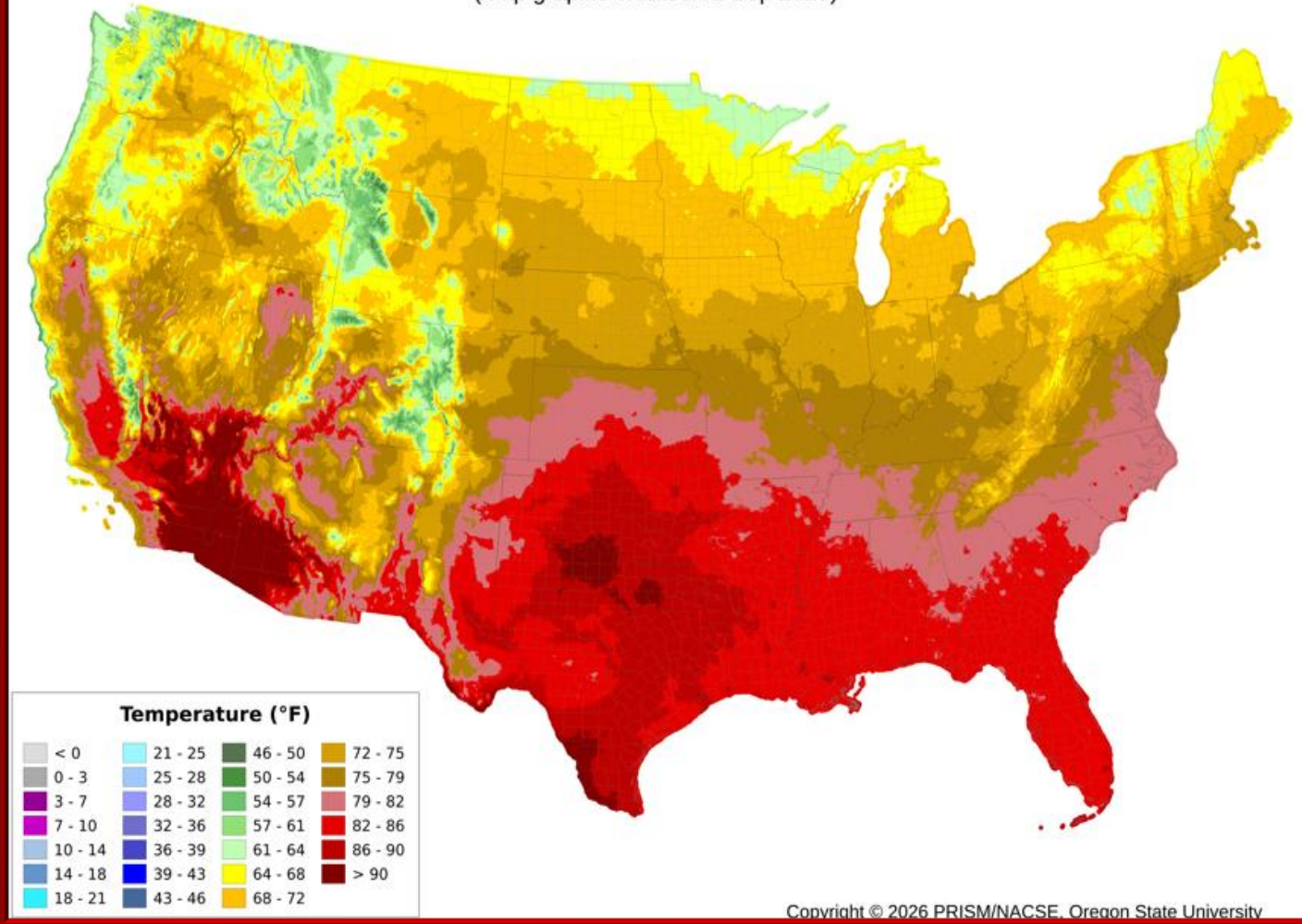


Average Daily Mean Temperature for August 2026

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Aug 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2026

(Map graphic created 01 Sep 2026)



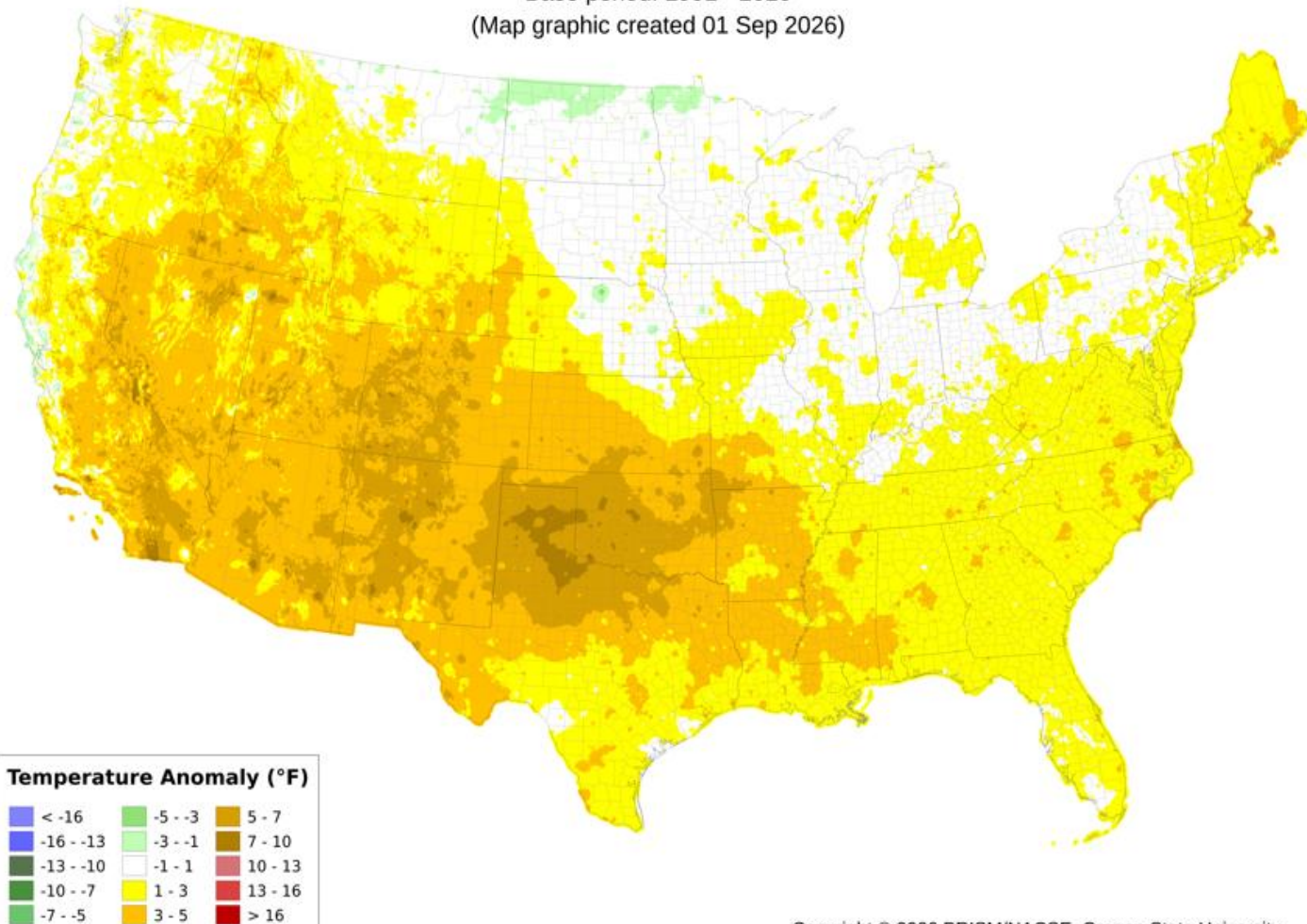
Daily Mean Temperature Departure from Normal, August 2026

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Aug 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2026

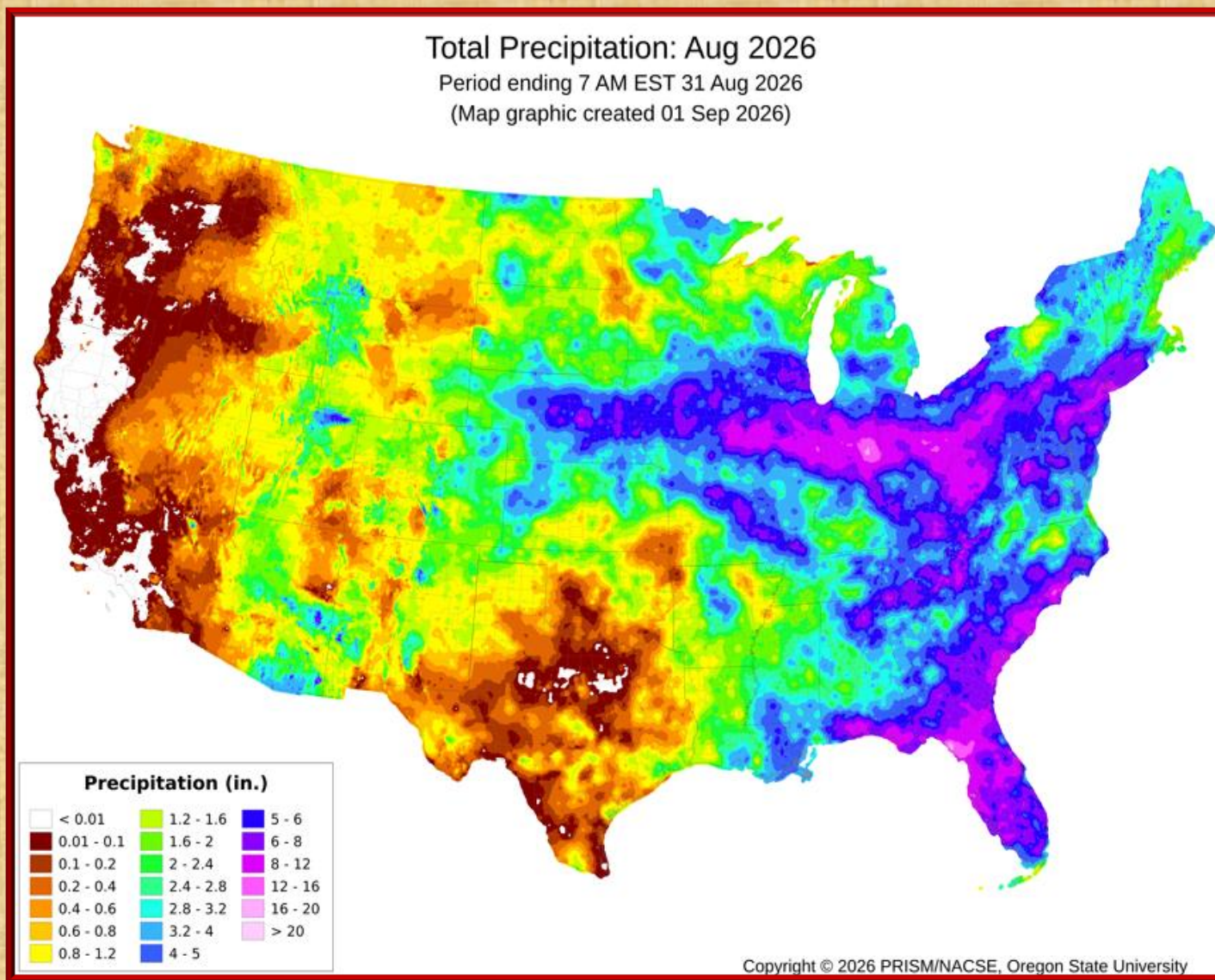
Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 01 Sep 2026)



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Total Precipitation for August 2026



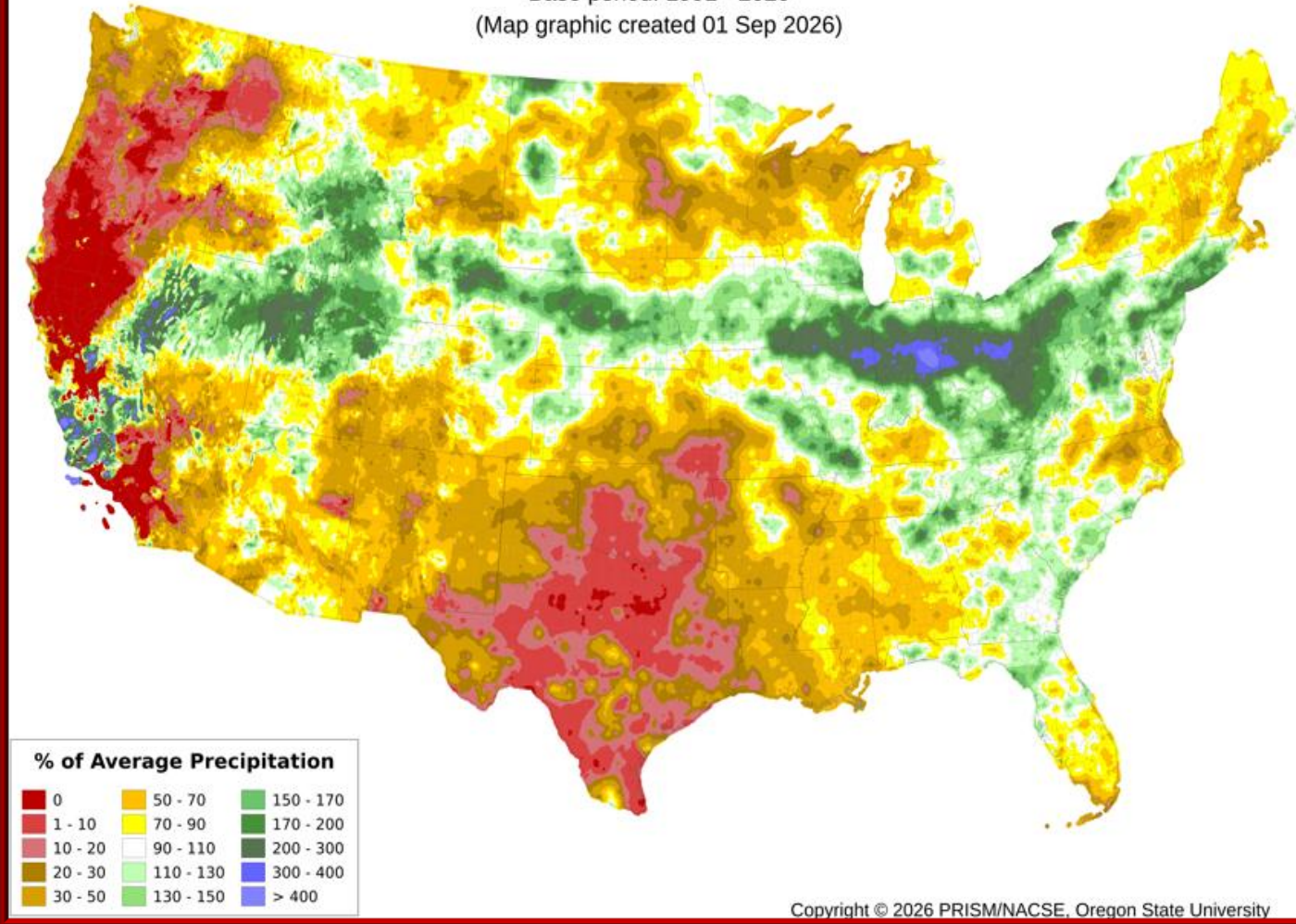
Percent of Normal Precipitation for August 2026

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Aug 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 01 Sep 2026)



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Selected Weather Reports August 2026

Date/Time	Location (County)	Event
AUG 25 700 PM	EL PASO INTL ARPT-EL PASO	106° DAILY RECORD HIGH
AUG 25 700 PM	LAS CRUCES NMSU-DONA ANA	106° DAILY RECORD HIGH
AUG 25 700 PM	DEMING ARPT-LUNA	105° DAILY RECORD HIGH
AUG 25 700 PM	SANTA TERESA NWS-DONA ANA	105° DAILY RECORD HIGH
AUG 25 700 PM	T OR C ARPT-SIERAA	102° DAILY RECORD HIGH
AUG 25 700 PM	HILLSBORO-SIERRA	101° DAILY RECORD HIGH
AUG 25 700 PM	GILA HOT SPRINGS COOP-GRANT	99° DAILY RECORD HIGH
AUG 25 700 PM	FORT BAYARD COOP-GRANT	98° DAILY RECORD HIGH
AUG 25 700 PM	WHITE SIGNAL COOP-GRANT	98° DAILY RECORD HIGH
AUG 25 700 PM	MIMBRES RANGER STN COOP-GRANT	93° DAILY RECORD HIGH

Selected Weather Reports August 2026

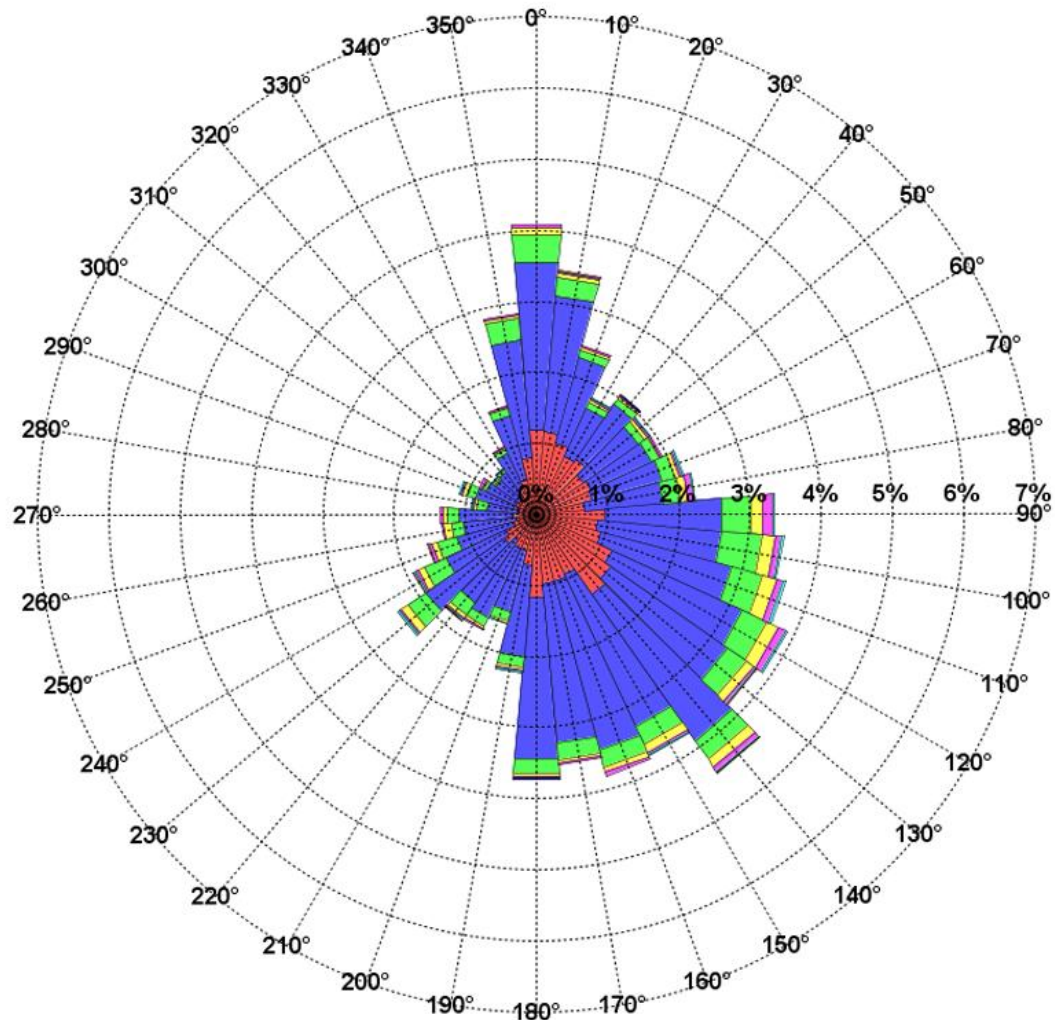
[illegible]

Special Features

www.weather.gov/epz/elpwindrosedata

Month: AUGUST
Calm: 10.33%
Variable: 9.31%

WindRose - KELP - EL PASO INTL
% Frequency of Wind Speed from a Direction
POR:19730101-20140602



Click a location below for detailed forecast.



Last Map Update: Thu, Aug 7, 2025 at 3:48:31 pm MDT

Don't Forget-Current and past issues of our Weather Digest are available on our website at

www.weather.gov/epz/

Just click on “Weather Digest” icon, then choose which month’s Digest to view. Also, though discontinued, don’t forget to check out our back issues of Southwest Weather Bulletin.



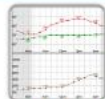
Briefing



Forecast Discussion



Weather Hazards Outlook



Hourly Forecast



Gridded Forecast



Weather Calculator



Current Observations



Satellite



Climate Data



Past Weather



Drought



Hydrology



Wx Radio



Skywarn



Fire Weather



Vo1unteer



Aviation



Social Media



Weather Digest



Monsoon/Tropical

[Location Help](#)

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 >](#)

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 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	