



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



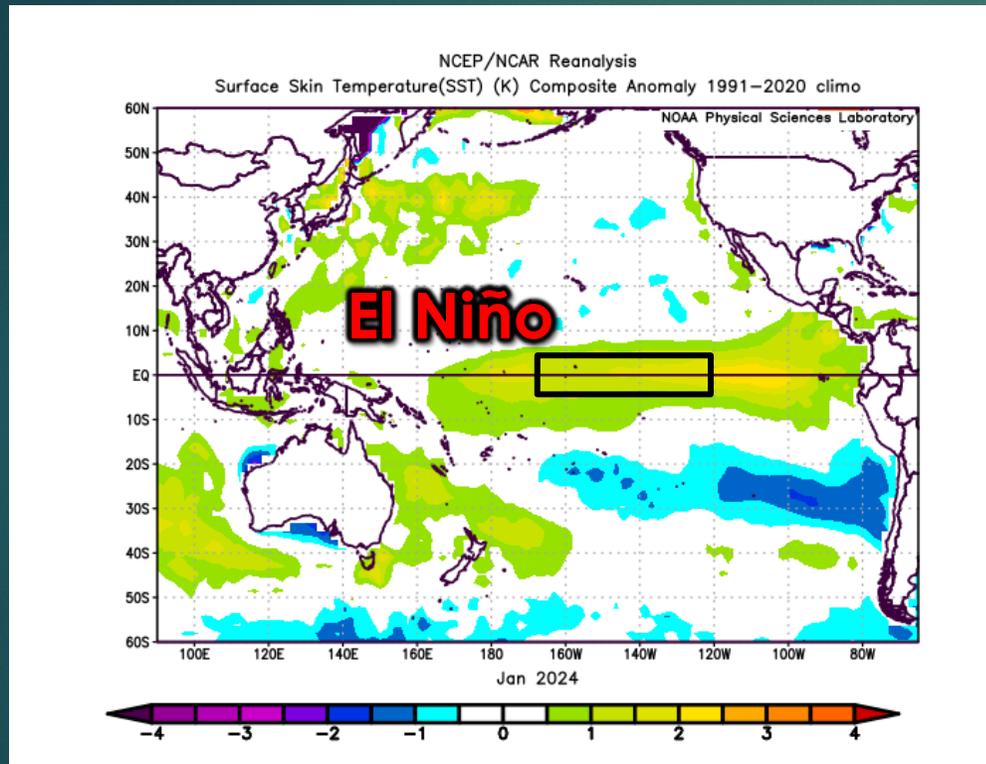
# New Mexico's Seasonal Outlook

KERRY JONES, METEOROLOGIST

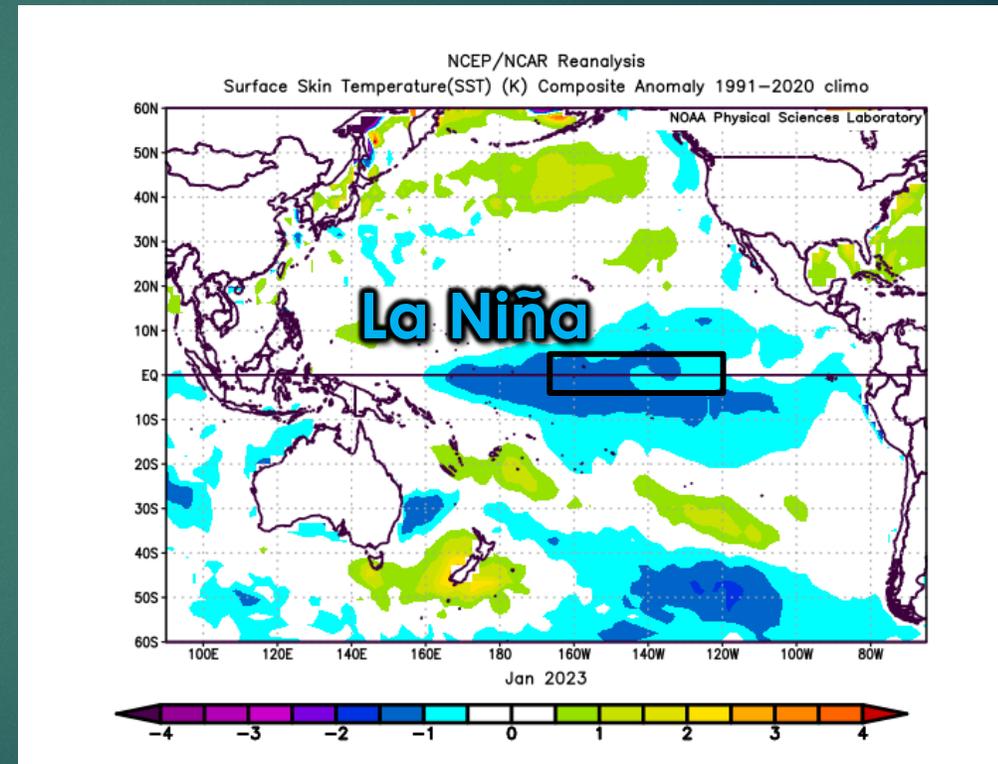
RICH NADEN, METEOROLOGIST

# Robust El Niño Pattern in Place; Peaked in Strength 4-6 Weeks Ago

January 2024



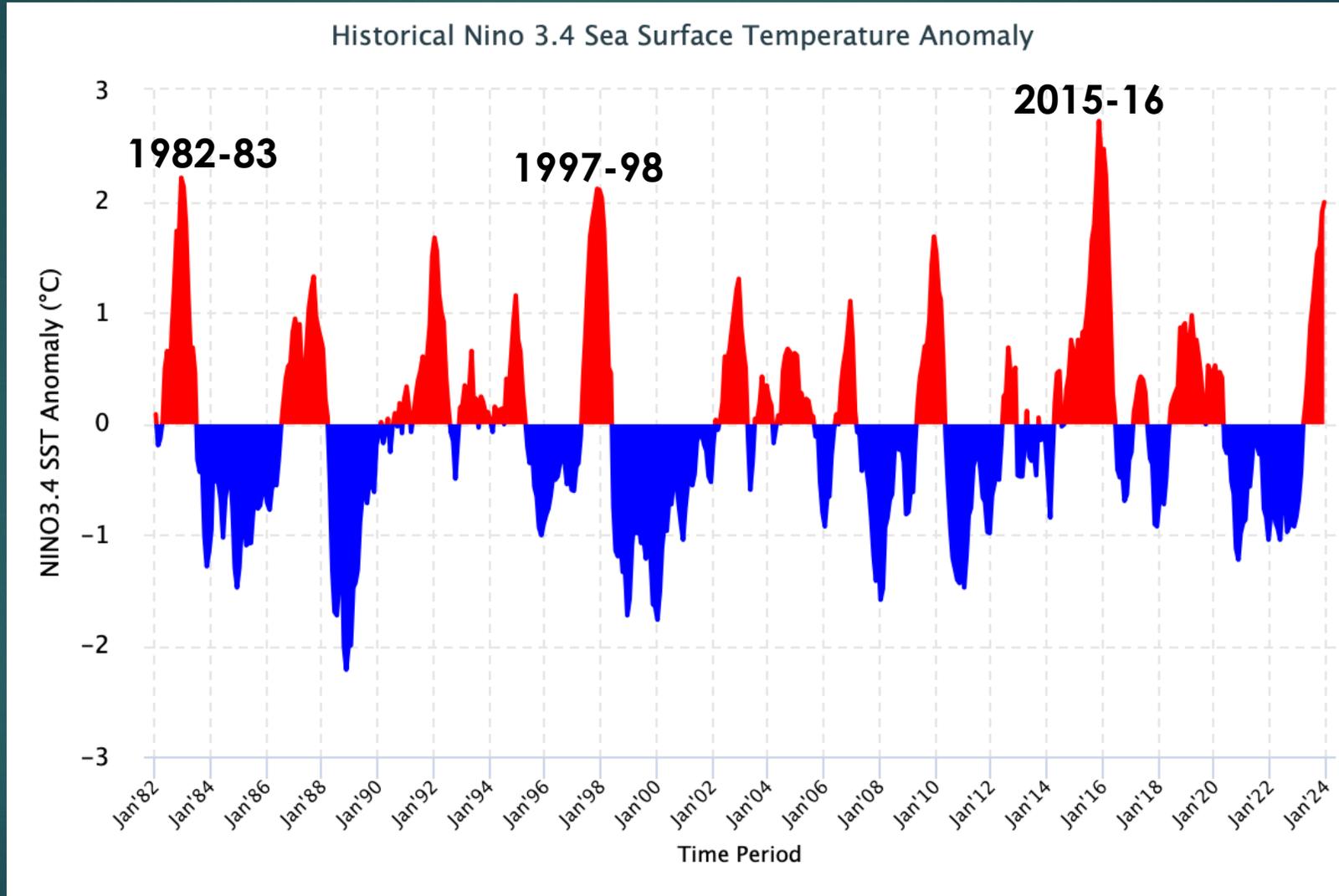
January 2023



Warmer than average sea-surface temperatures (SST) in the tropical Pacific

Cooler than average SSTs tropical Pacific

# 4<sup>th</sup> Strongest El Niño Since 1950



# Don't Bet Against El Niño (generally)!



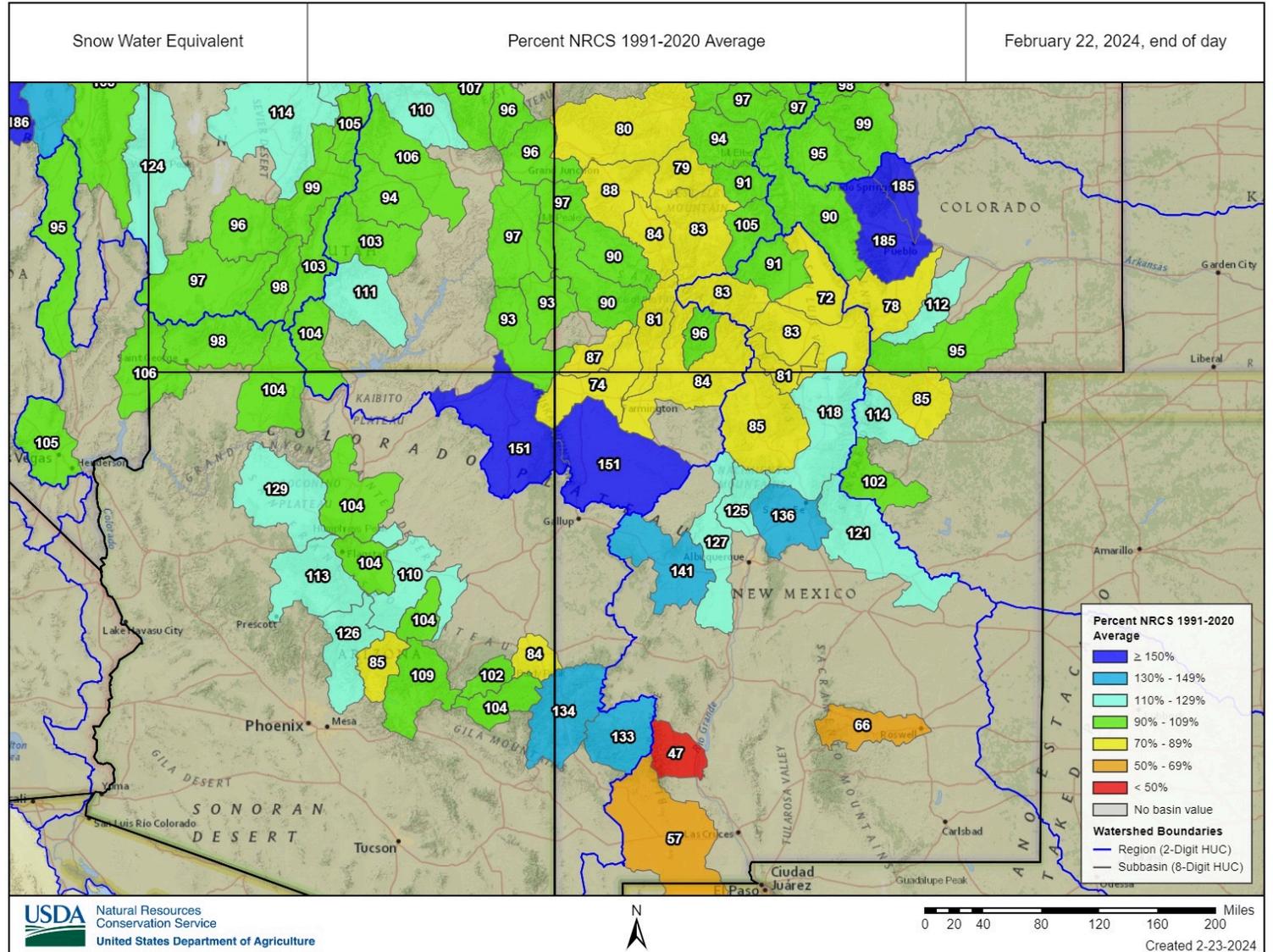
January 31, 2024



January 16, 2023



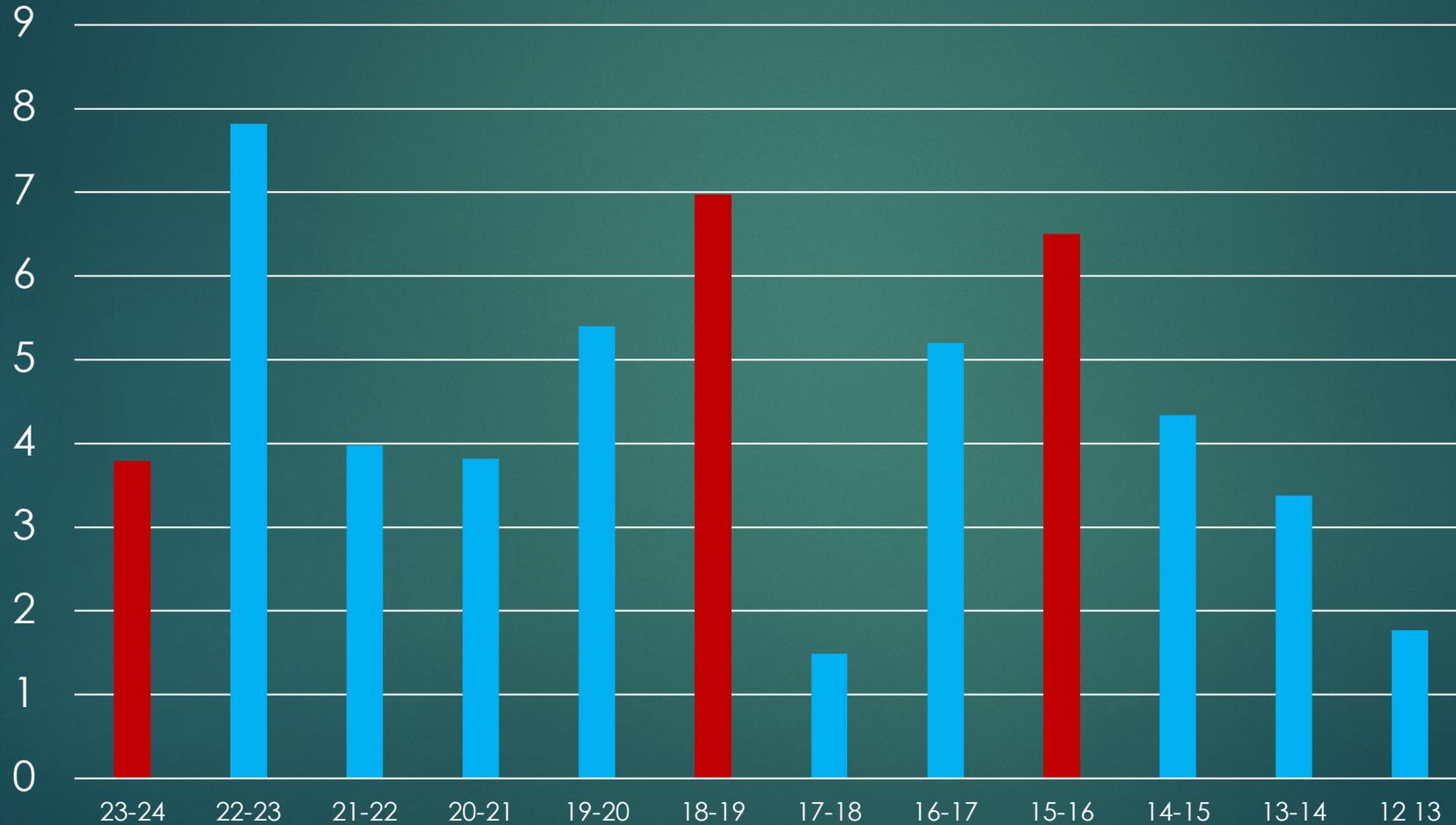
January 31, 2022



# Jones Precip Gauge



Oct 1st thru Feb 23



# Most Recent "Three Peat" La Niña Winters



January 31, 2023



January 31, 2022



January 31, 2021

# Most Recent El Niño Winters



January 31, 2024



February 1, 2016



February 2, 2010

# Impact of Snowpack on Fine Fuels

January 31, 2022



January 31, 2024



3/17/22



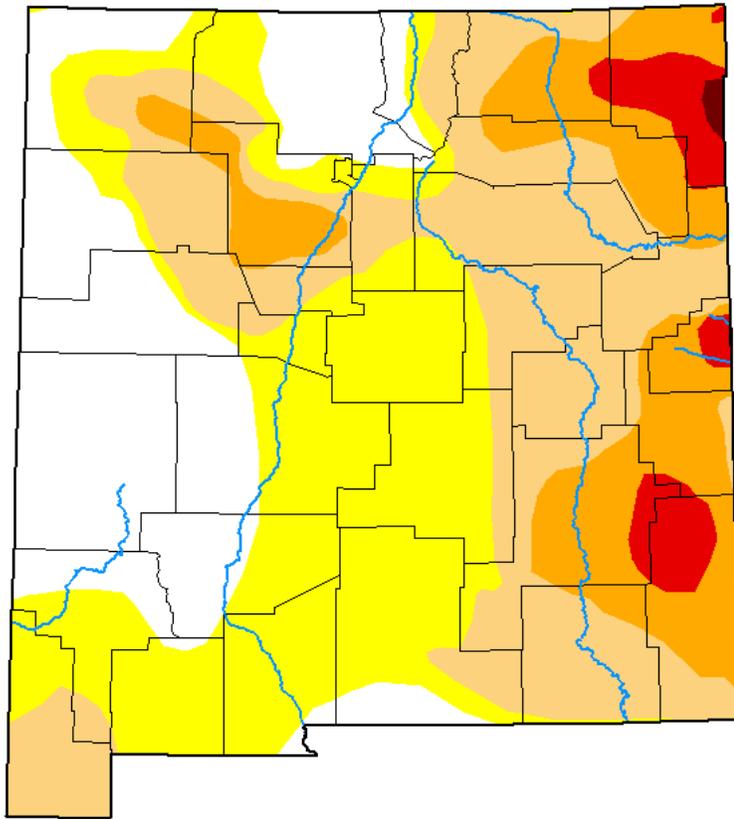
3/26/23



# Latest Drought Monitor

Updated Weekly

## U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



**February 21, 2023**

(Released Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
<b>Current</b>	23.60	29.78	28.57	14.23	3.63	0.19
<b>Last Week</b> <i>02-14-2023</i>	21.86	30.41	29.36	14.56	3.63	0.19
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>11-22-2022</i>	6.76	50.90	21.83	15.58	4.74	0.19
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>01-03-2023</i>	7.03	51.67	22.75	14.81	3.56	0.19
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-27-2022</i>	0.99	22.22	45.34	24.47	6.99	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>02-22-2022</i>	0.00	2.91	17.23	47.40	29.94	2.53

Intensity:

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

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:

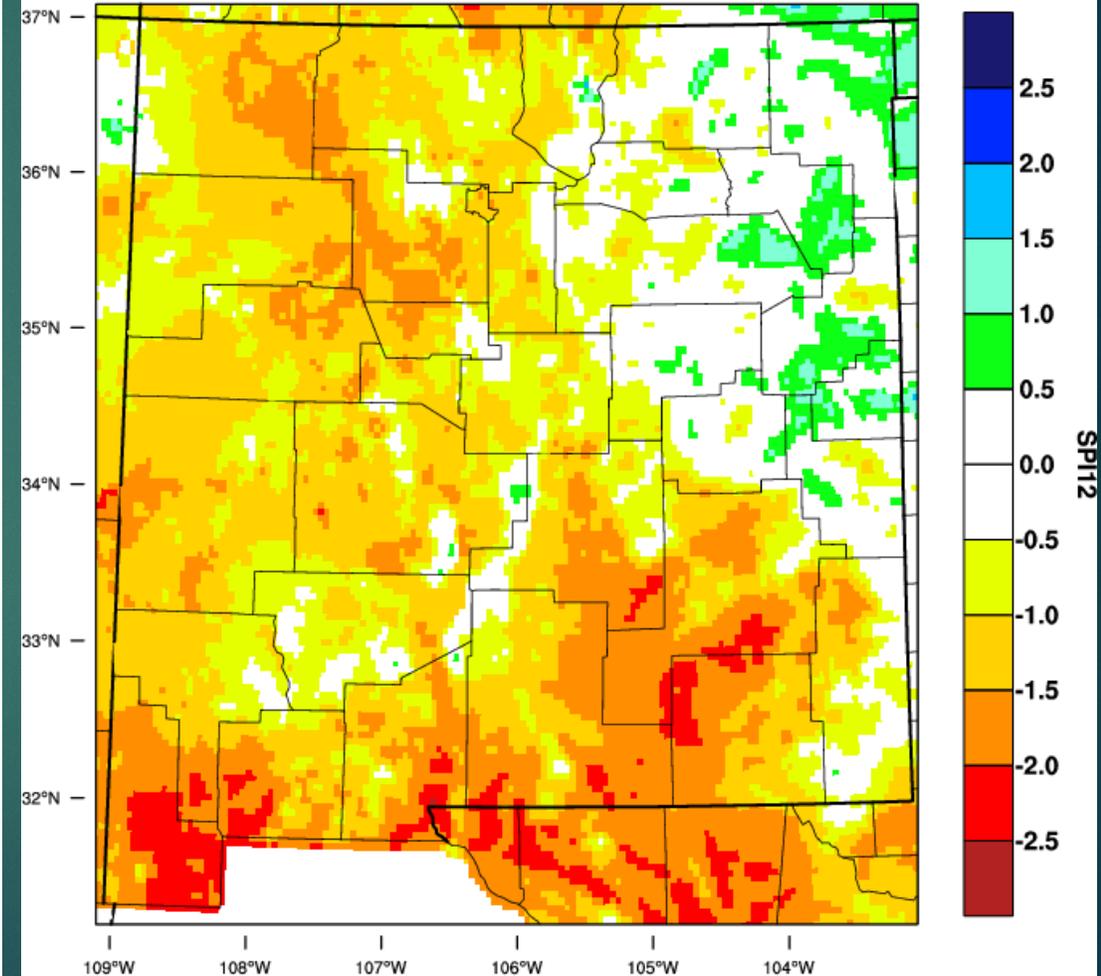
Richard Heim  
NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## New Mexico - 12 month SPI

January 2024

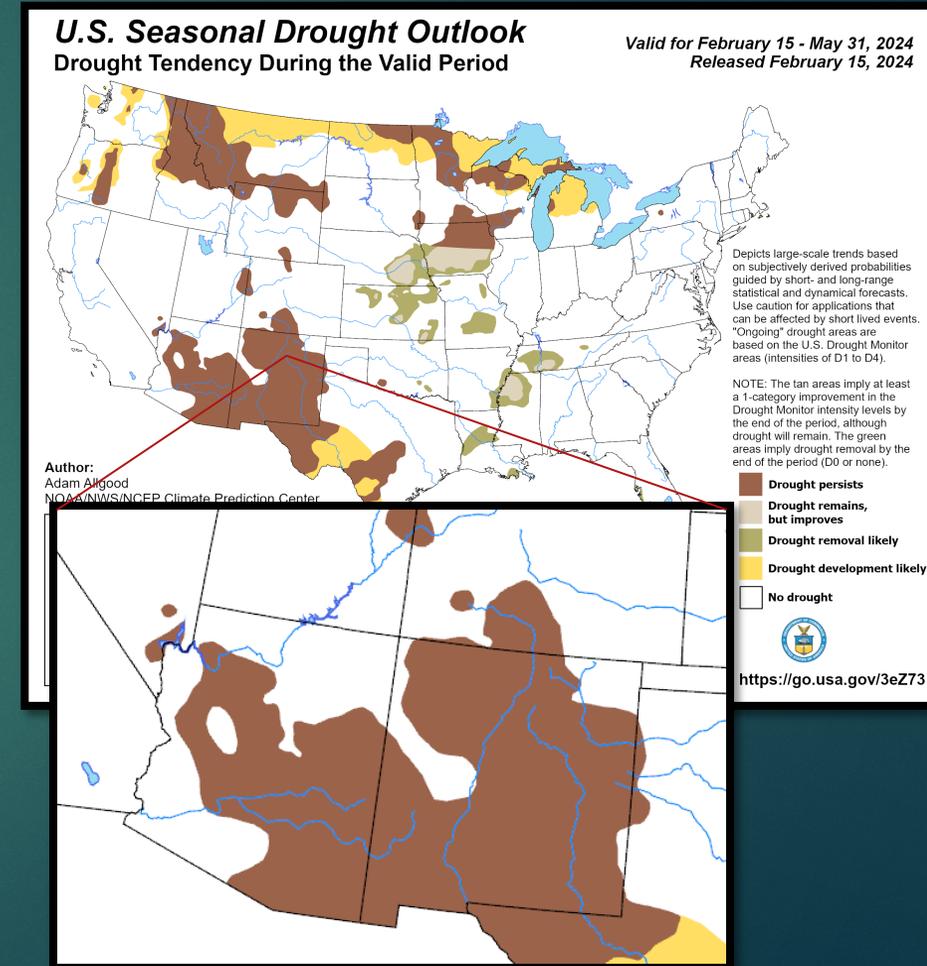
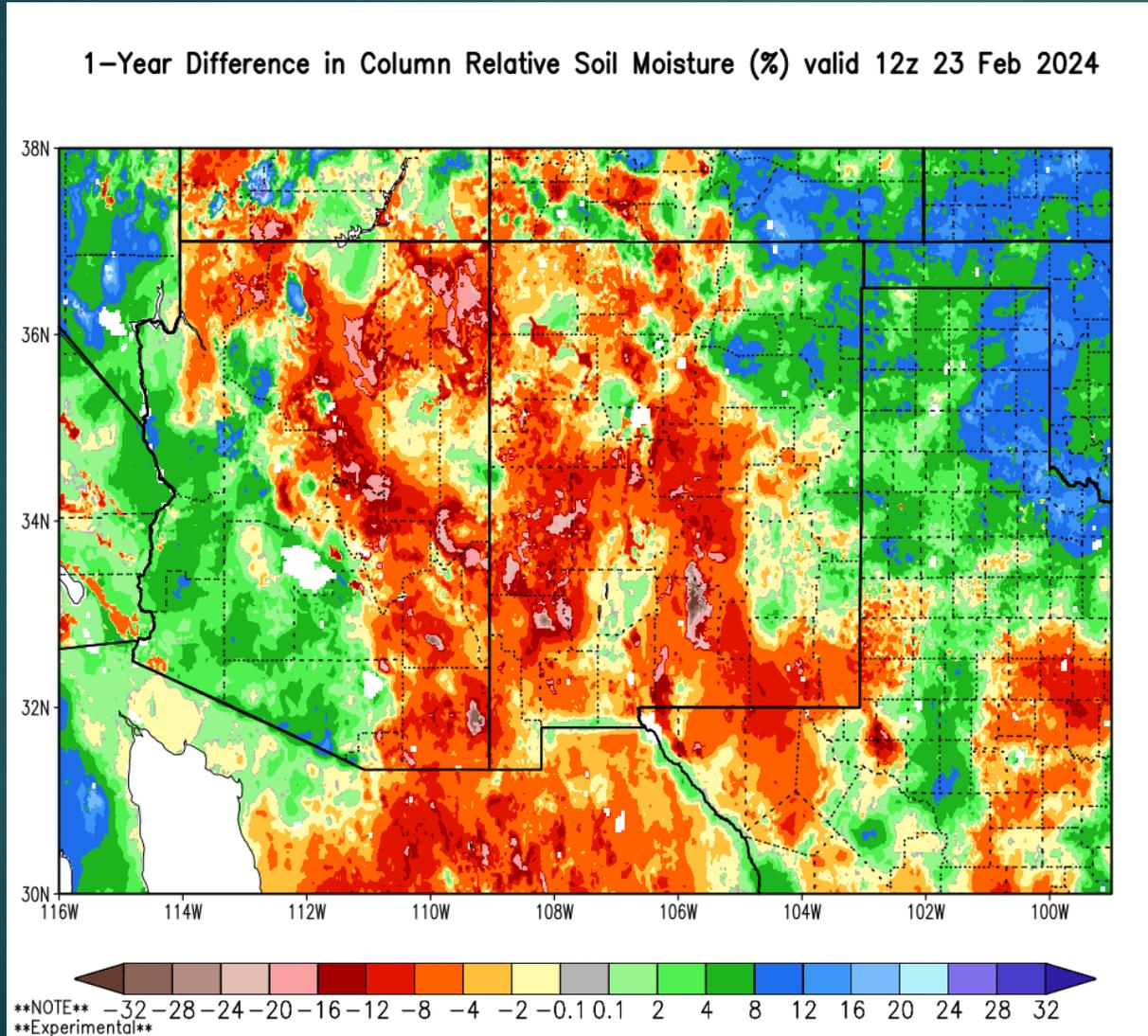


WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 16 FEB 2024

# Seasonal Drought Outlook

Updated Monthly

Overall, some improvement in drought conditions anticipated as we move into late winter and spring.

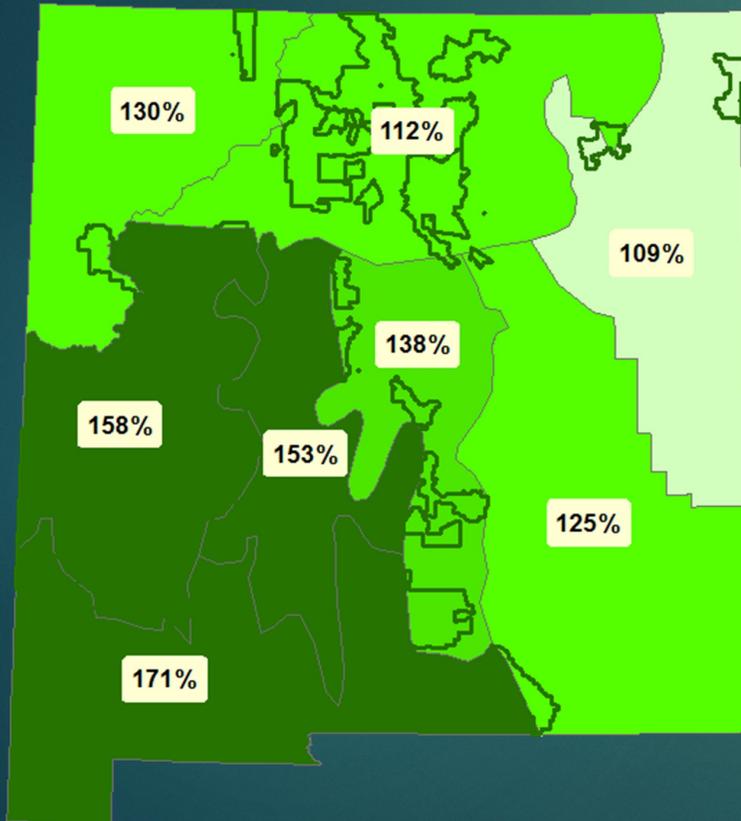




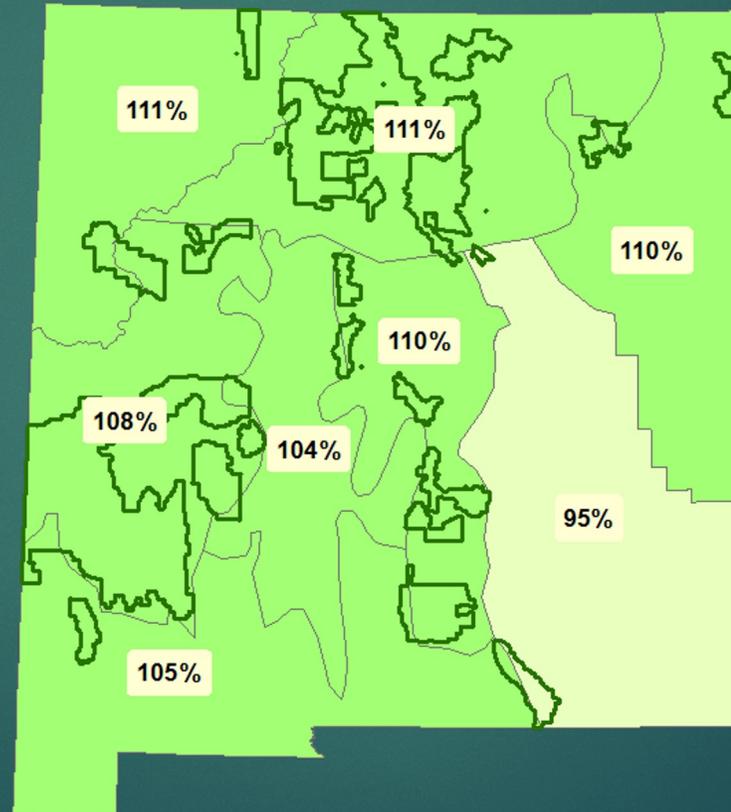
# El Niño Spring Precipitation

Percent of Normal

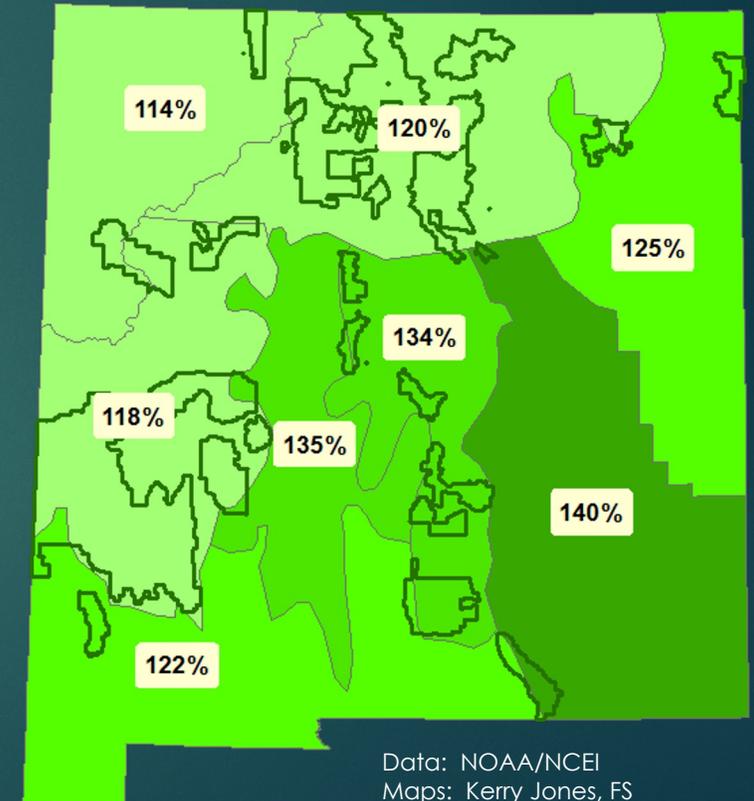
Strong El Niño Events  
(8 total)



Moderate El Niño Events  
(7 total)



Weak El Niño Events  
(10 events)

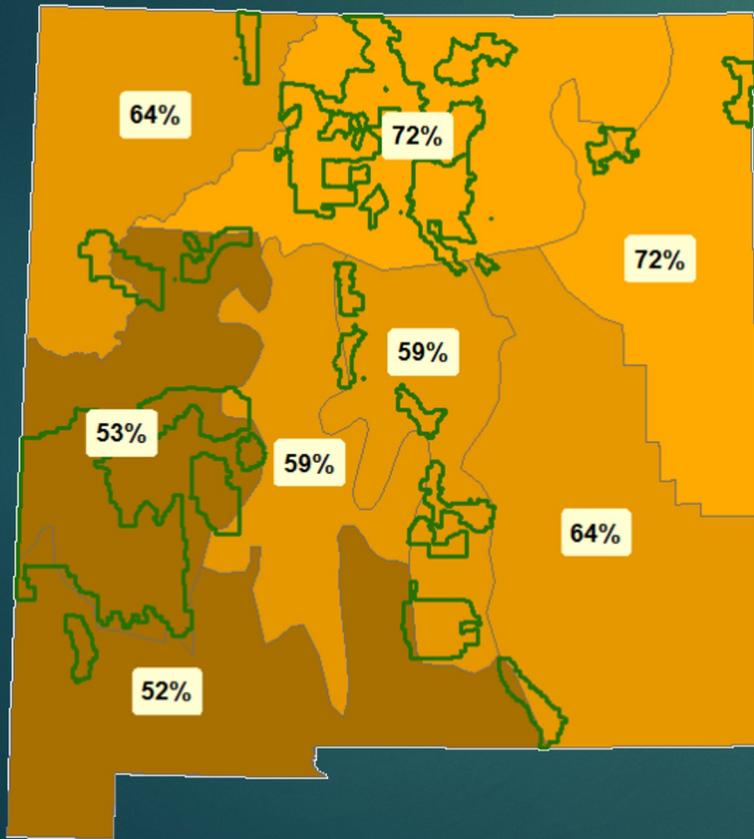


Data: NOAA/NCEI  
Maps: Kerry Jones, FS

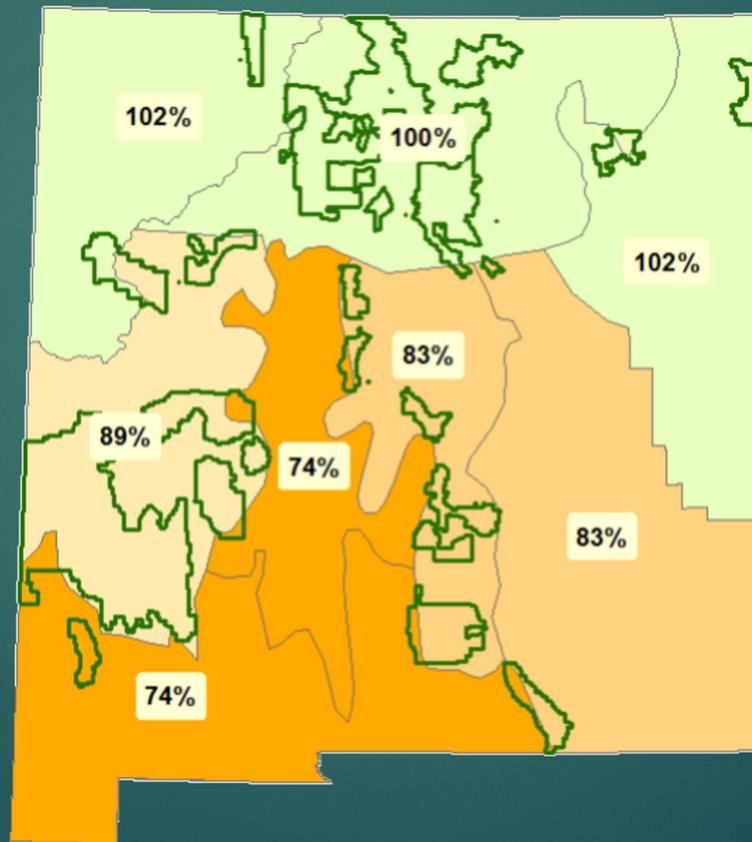
# La Niña Spring Precipitation

Percent of Normal

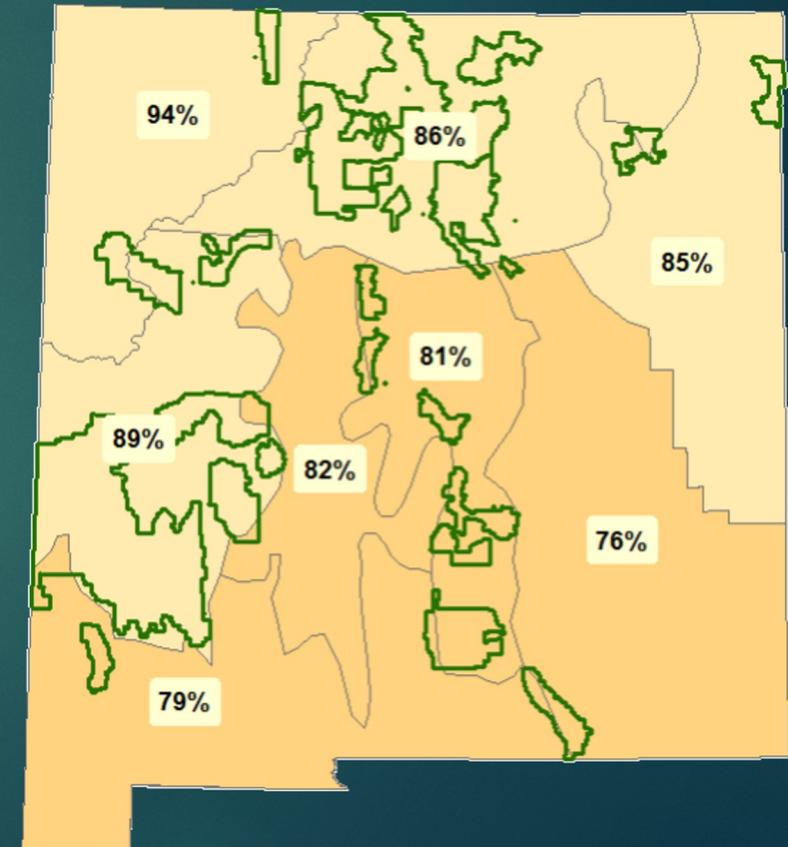
Strong-Moderate  
La Niña (12 events)



Weak  
La Niña (11 events)

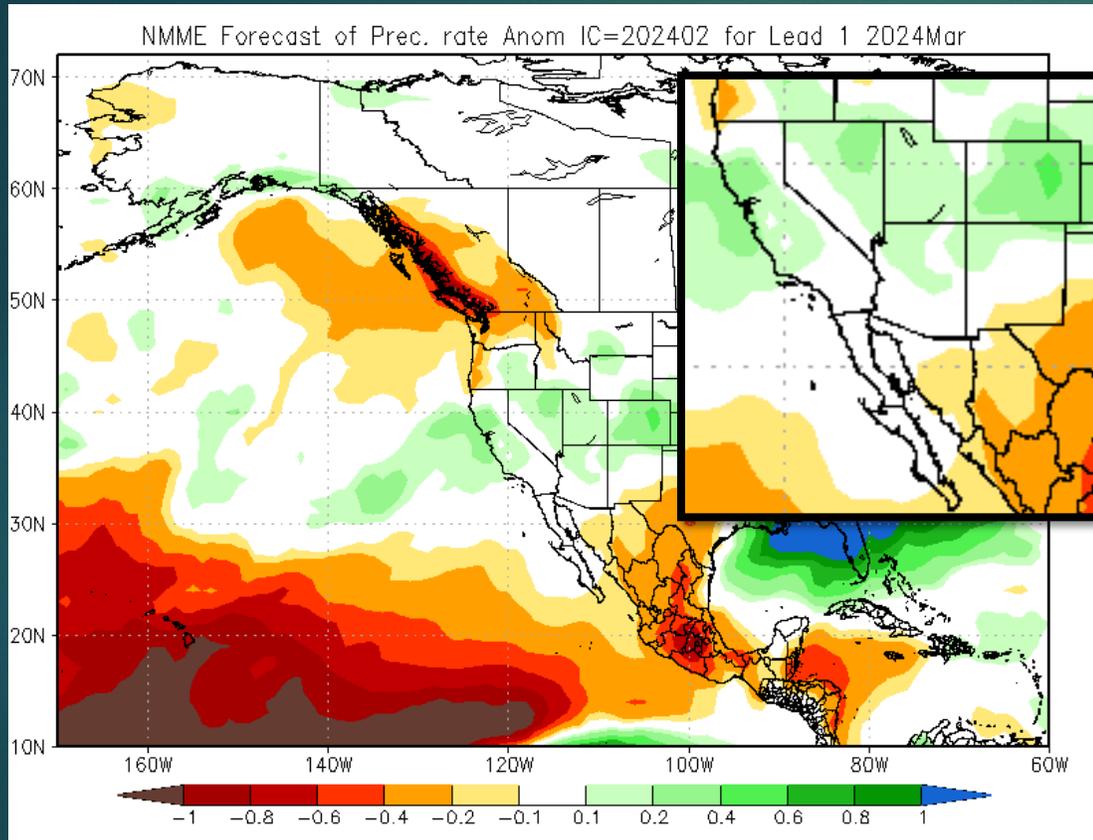


Back-to-Back  
La Niña (10 events)

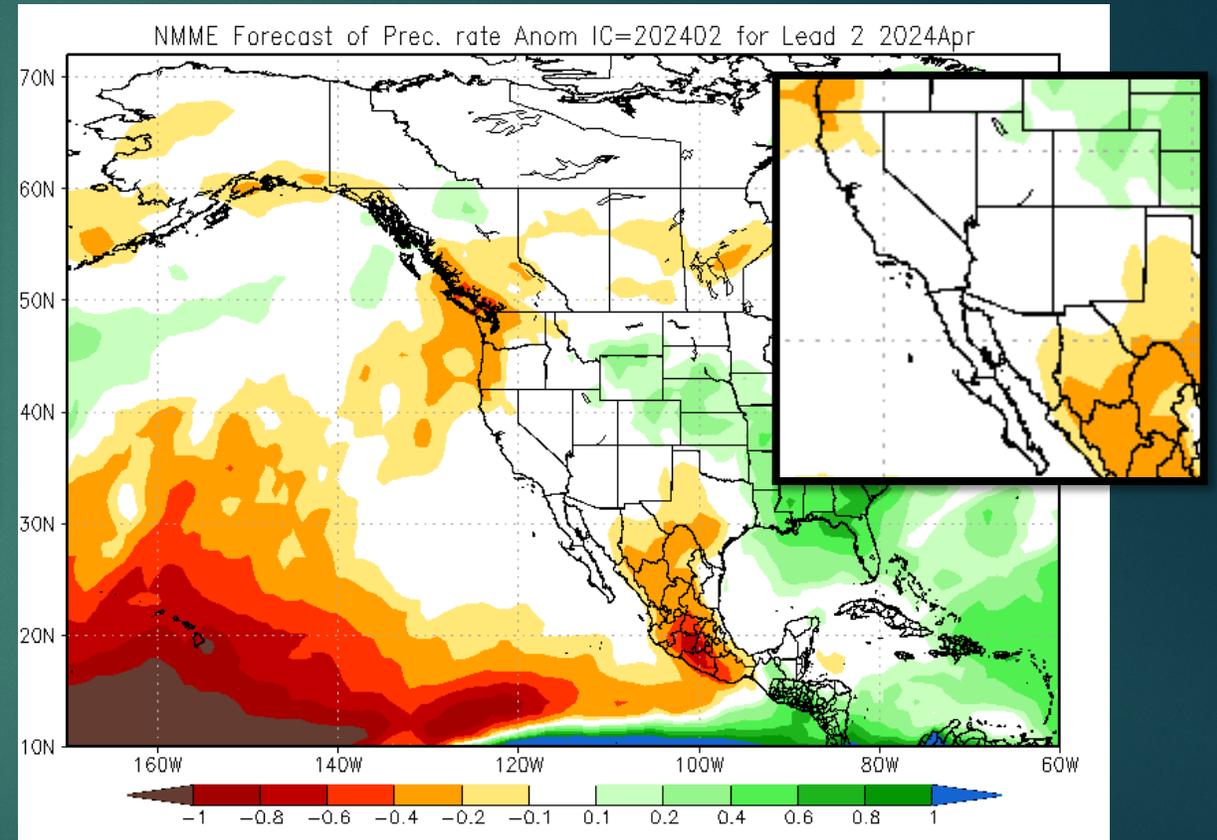


# Latest Climate Model Output

March

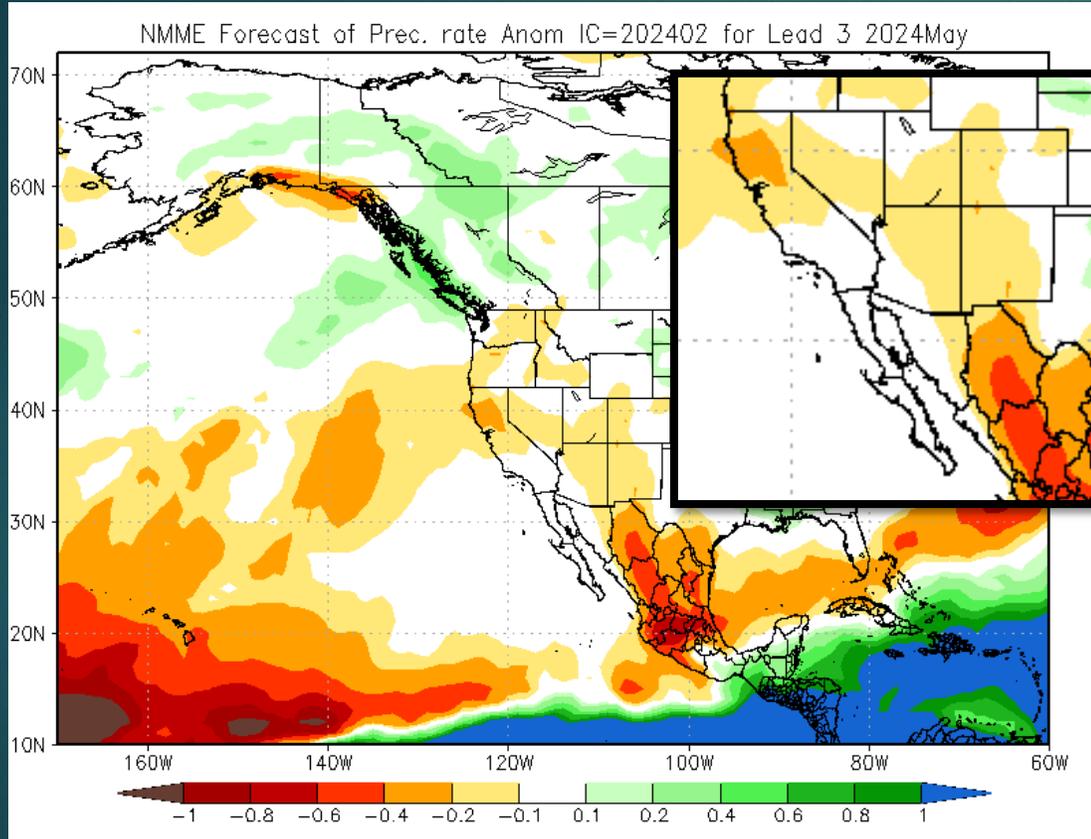


April

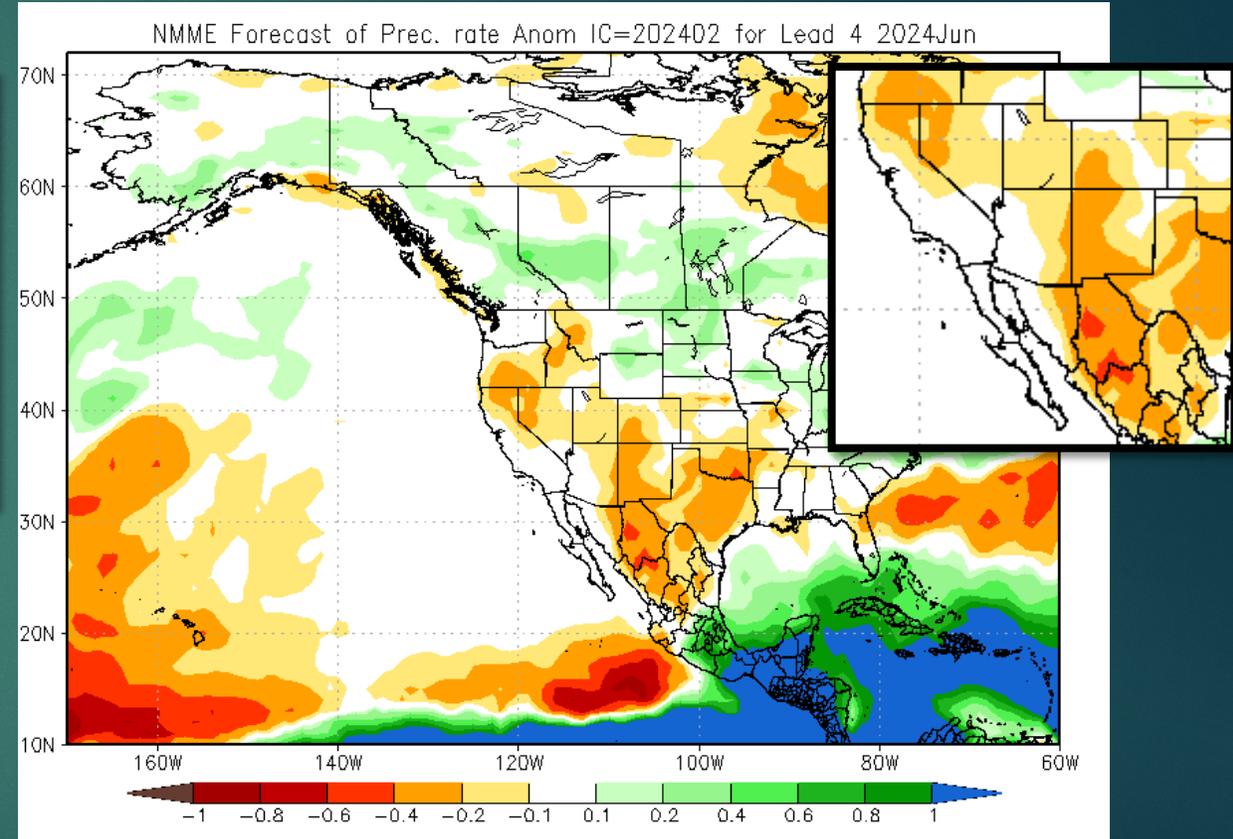


# Latest Climate Model Output

May

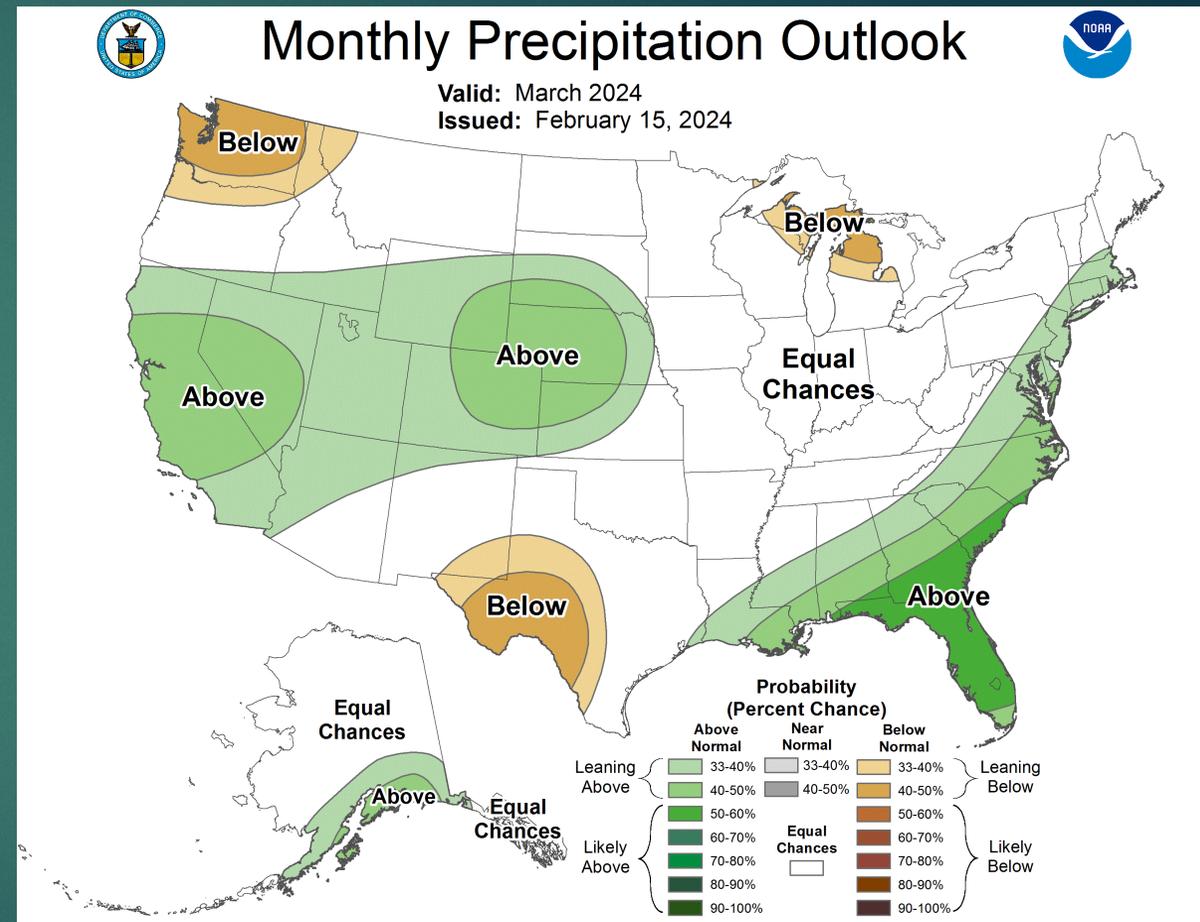
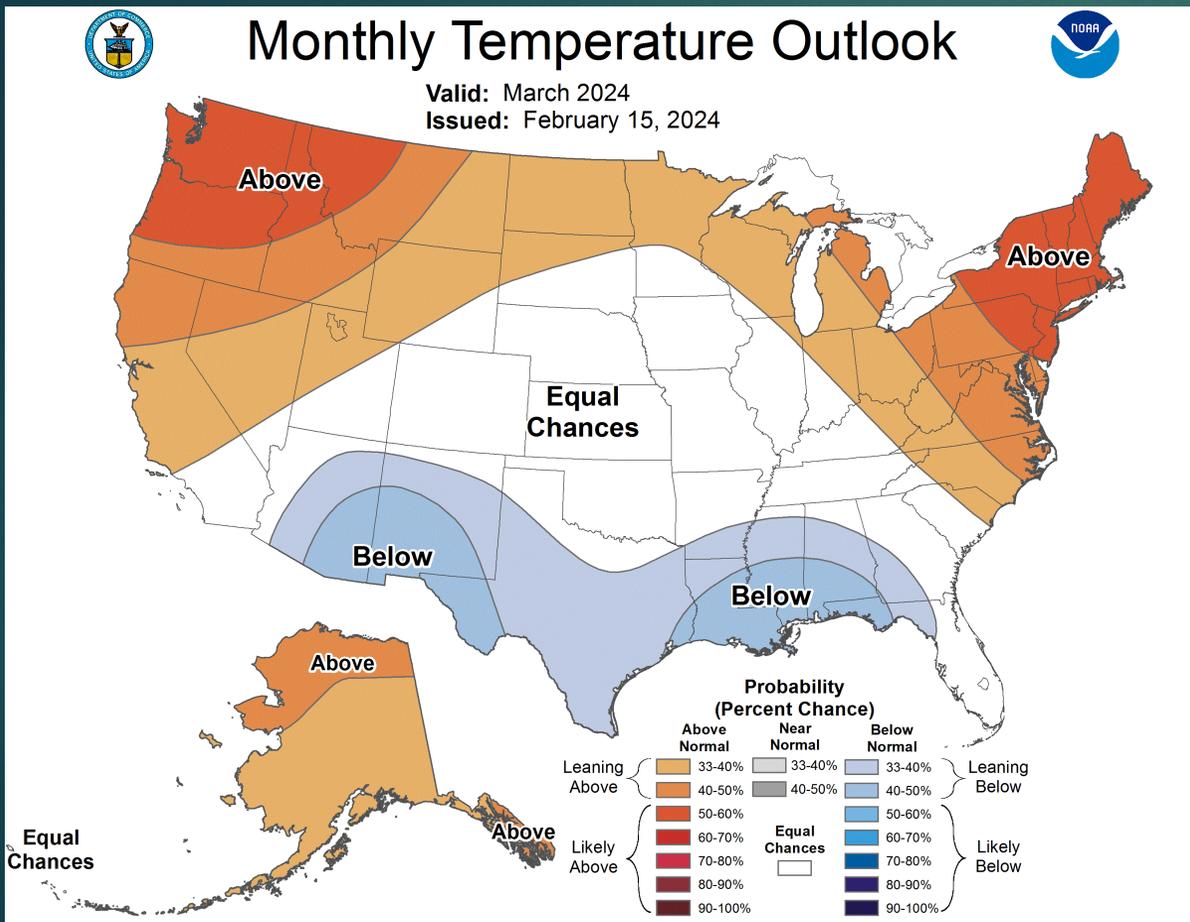


June



# One Month Outlook

March 2024

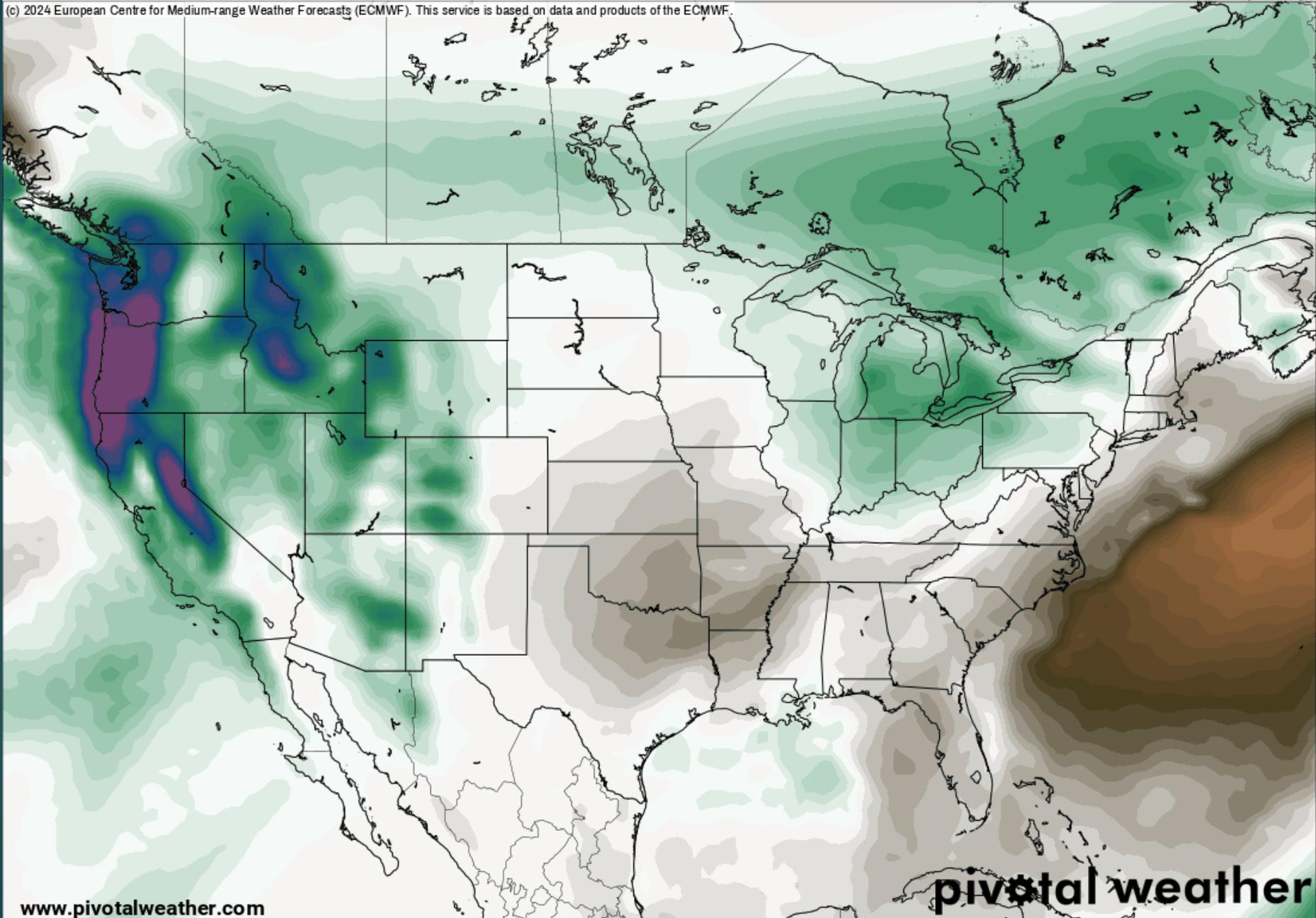


# Precipitation Rate Anomaly (in/day), previous 7 days mean

F252 Valid: Mon 2024-03-04 00z

Init: Thu 2024-02-22 12z EPS Weeklies (Mean)

(c) 2024 European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). This service is based on data and products of the ECMWF.



[www.pivotalweather.com](http://www.pivotalweather.com)

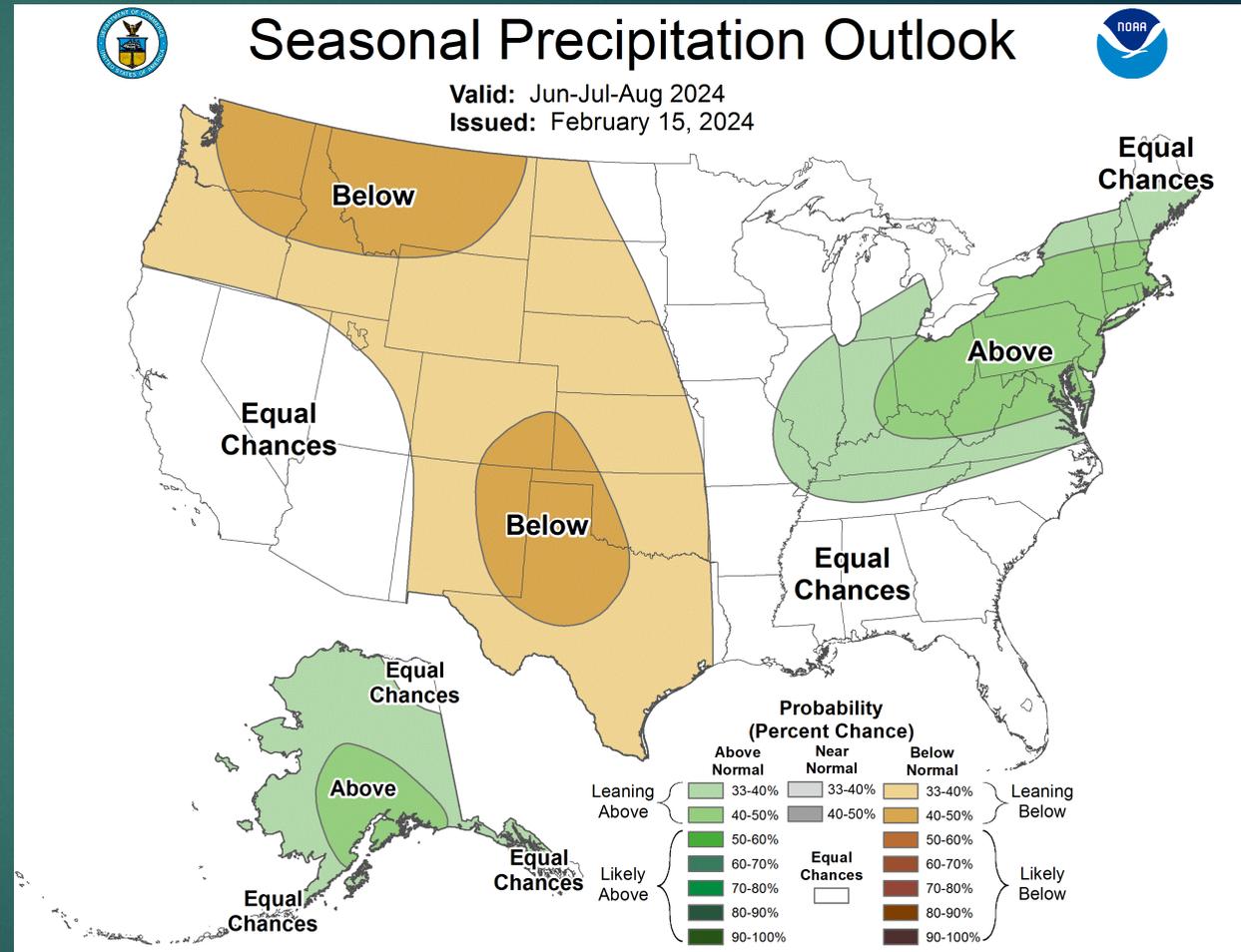
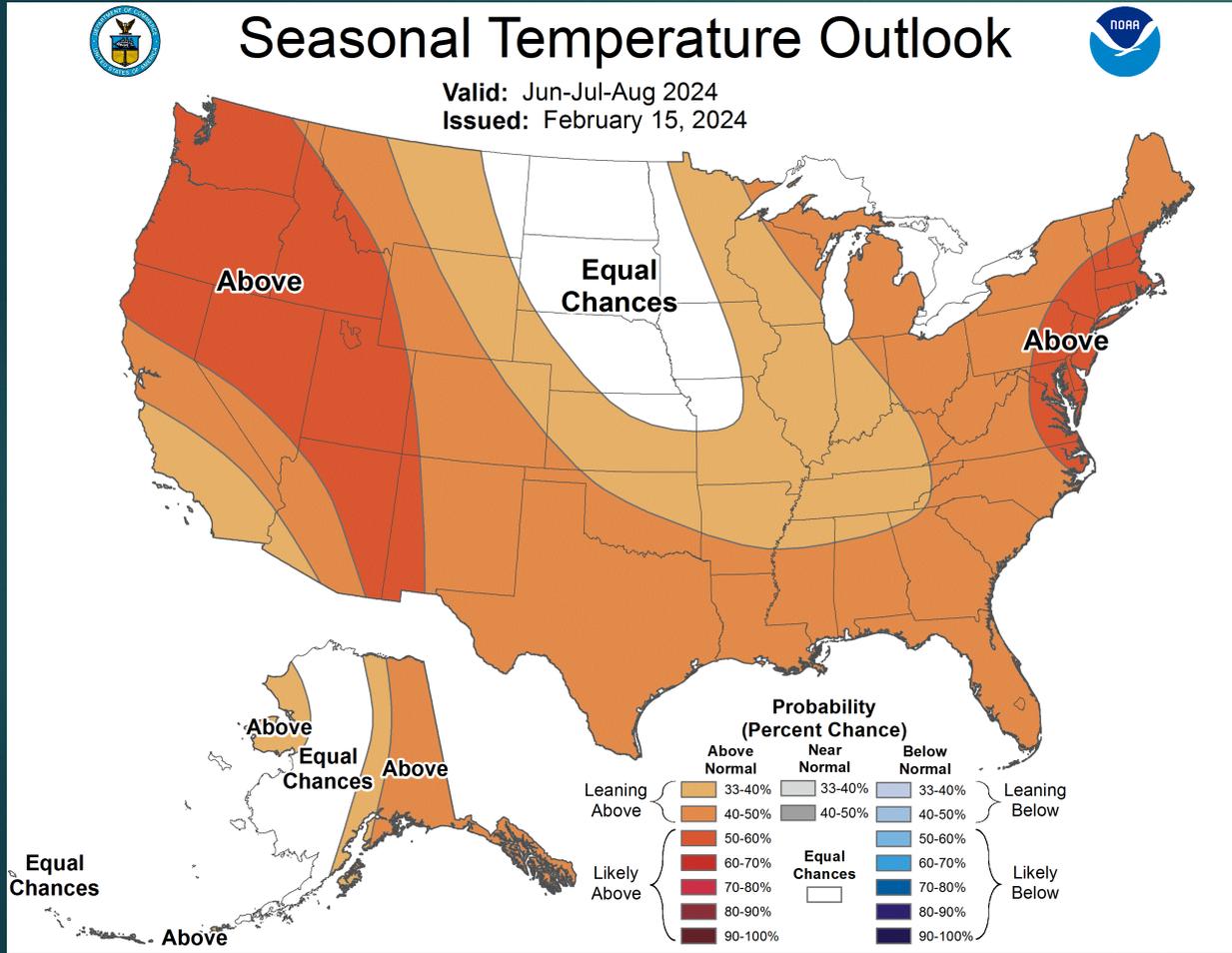
**pivotal weather**

-0.3 -0.28 -0.26 -0.24 -0.22 -0.2 -0.18 -0.16 -0.14 -0.12 -0.1 -0.08 -0.06 -0.04 -0.02 0 0.02 0.04 0.06 0.08 0.1 0.12 0.14 0.16 0.18 0.2 0.22 0.24 0.26 0.28 0.3



# Longer Range Outlook

## June-July-August 2024





# Predictive Services Outlook

Spring 2024



FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

**Temperature  
Anomaly**



**Precipitation  
Anomaly**



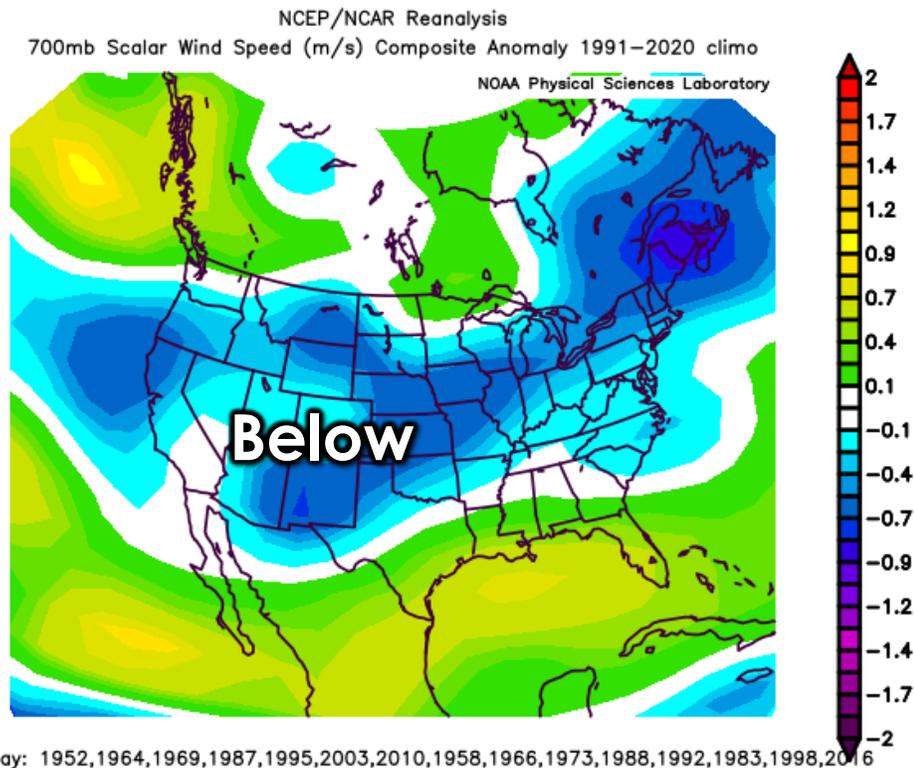
Changeable pattern by mid-late spring/early summer due to switch to ENSO-neutral conditions.

# How Do Spring Winds Trend?

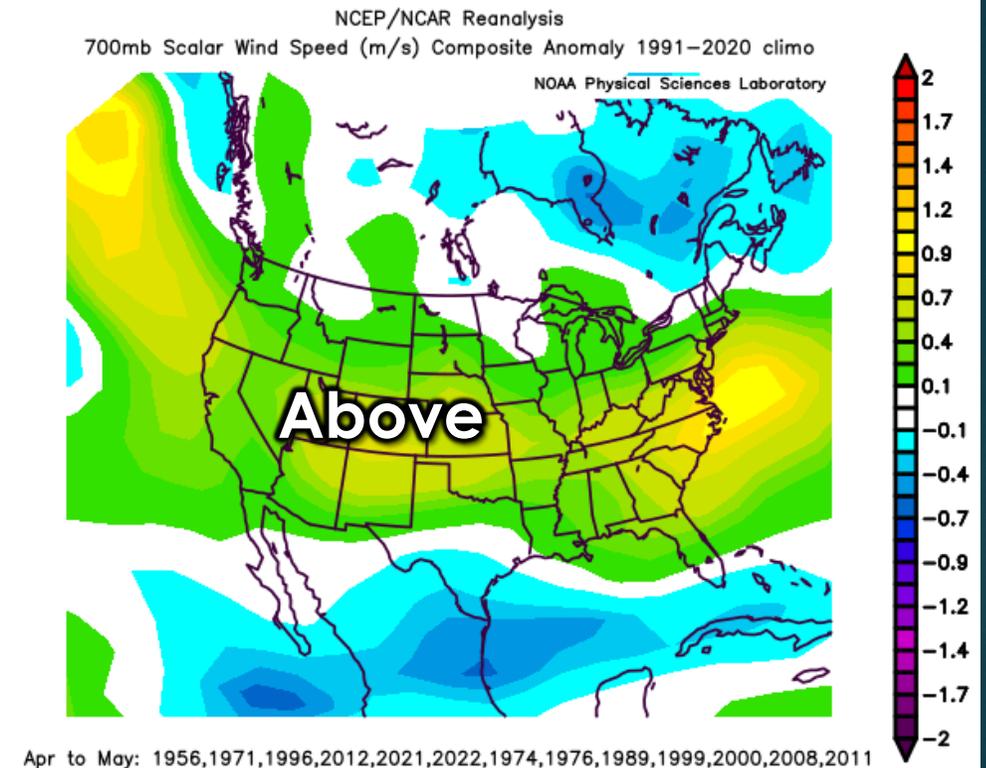
April - May

These charts show how much above (warm colors) or below (cool colors) normal springtime winds were during moderate to strong ENSO events.

## Moderate-Strong El Niño

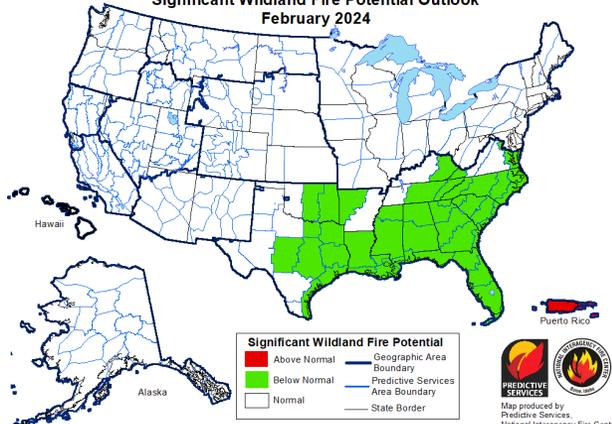


## Moderate-Strong La Niña



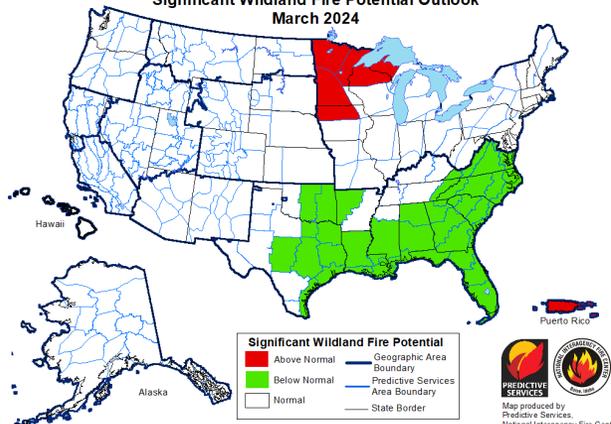


Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
February 2024



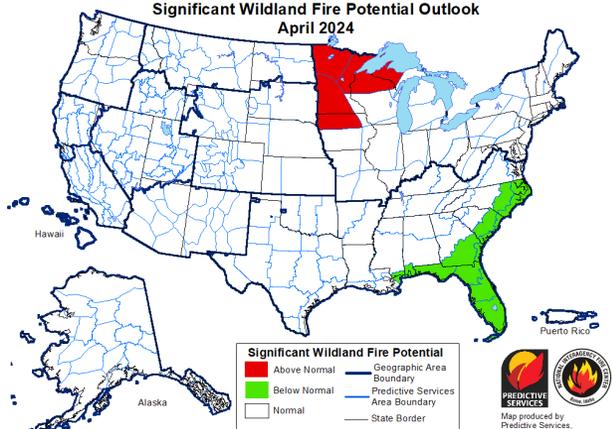
Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
March 2024



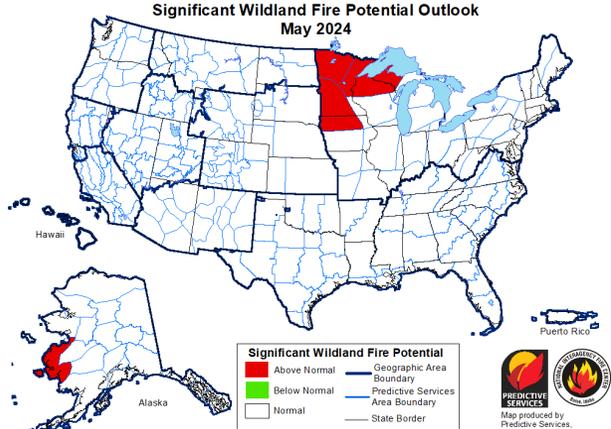
Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
April 2024



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
May 2024



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

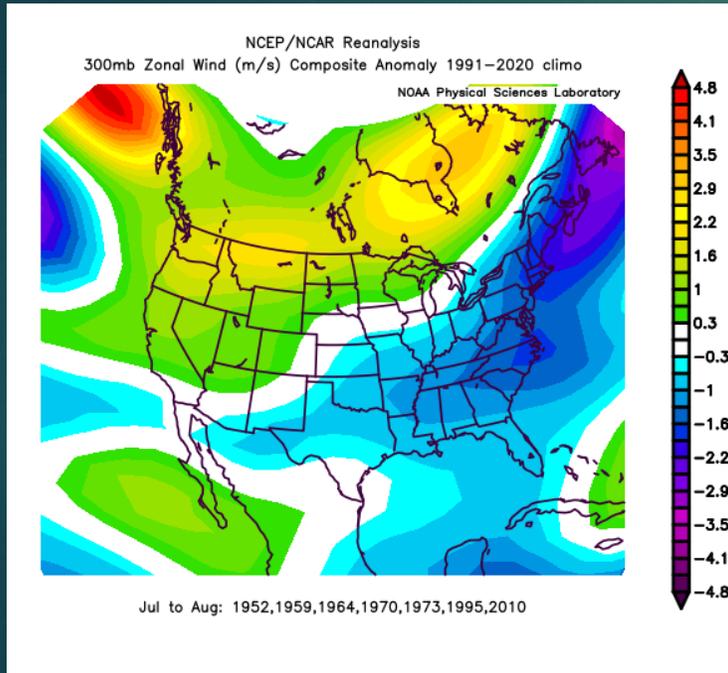
# Significant Fire Potential Outlook

# What About the Monsoon?

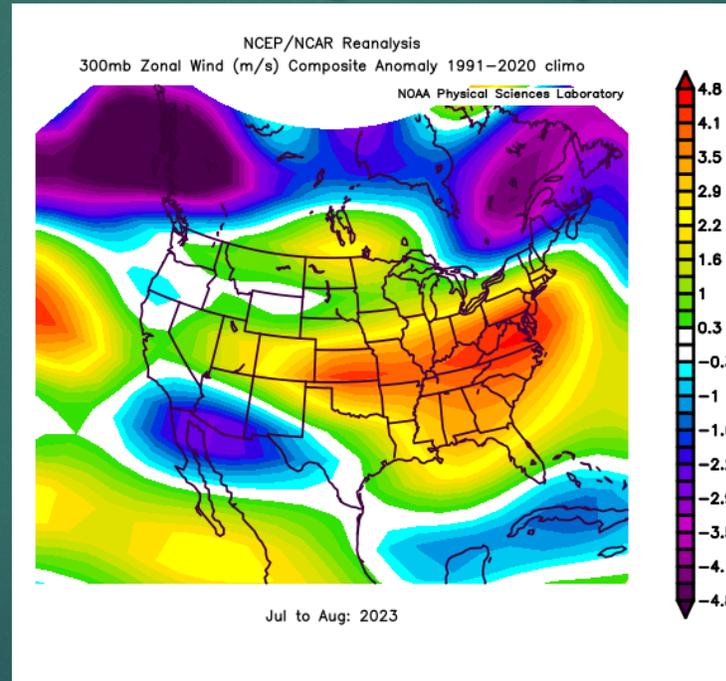
July - August

These charts show how much above (warm colors) or below (cool colors) the “westerly” wind influence was past two years and what \*may\* play out for 2024.

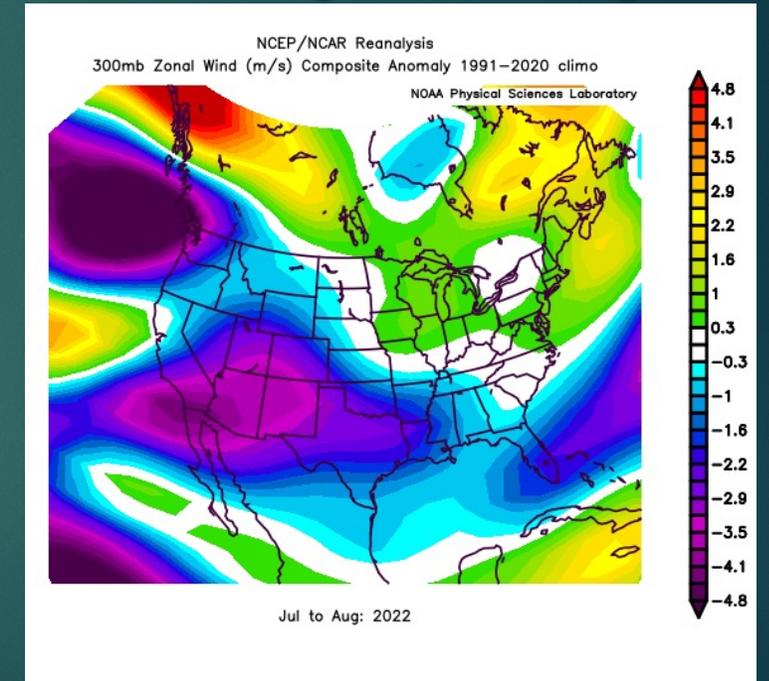
**2024?**



**2023 (DISMAL)**



**2022 (VERY WET)**



# Outlook Summary

- Active weather pattern likely through the remainder of winter into early spring. High elevation snowpack not likely to peak until late March or early April.
- Increasing potential for downslope wind events/associated drying for the east slopes of the Sangres.
- Changeable mid to late spring pattern; tending drier-than-normal and warmer with less frequent storm events April-May.
- Wind: Not 2022 or 2011! Near to slightly below average.
- Monsoon: Likely on-time to slightly delayed onset. Near normal most locations; however, concern for drier pattern north.