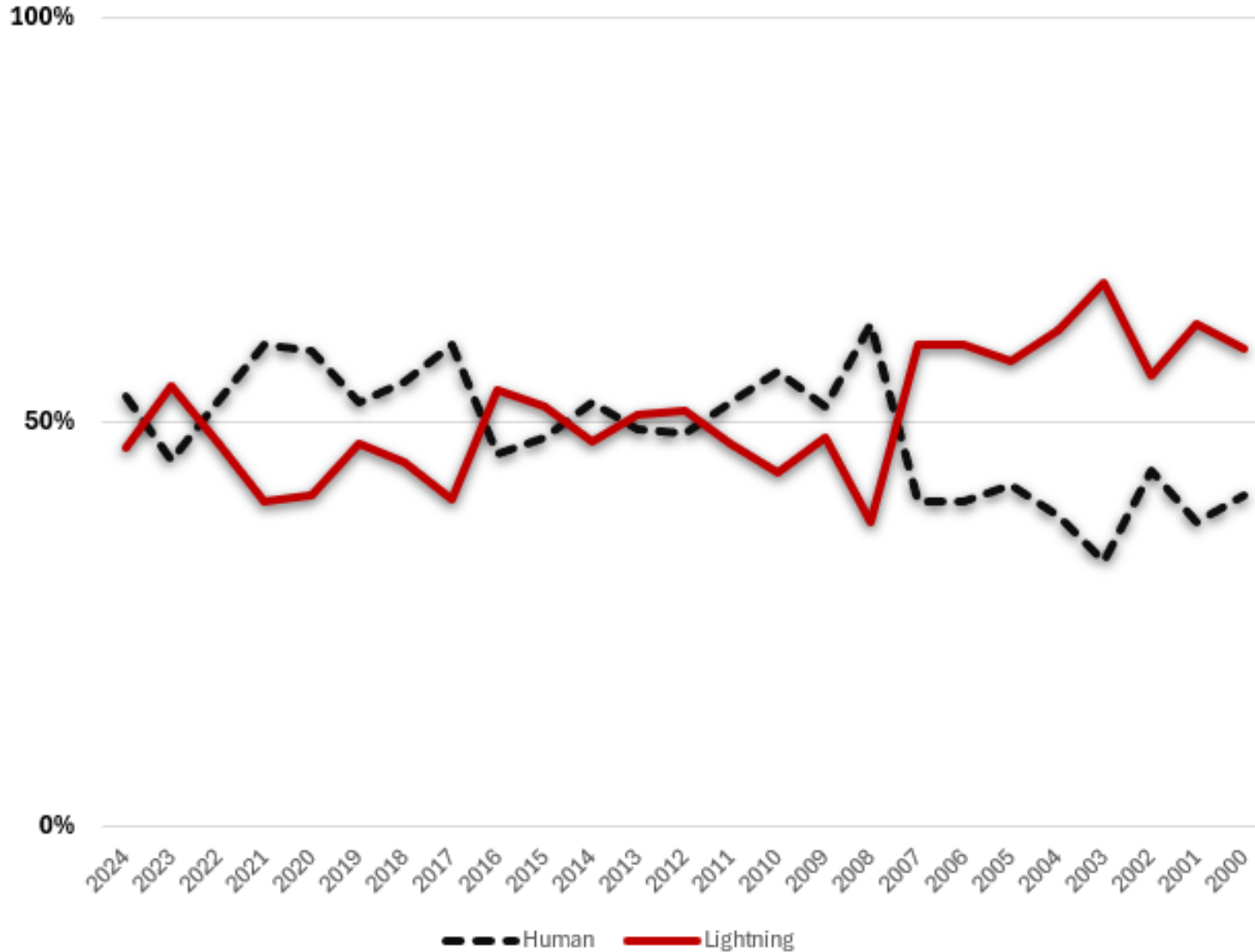


KERRY JONES,
USFS/SANTA FE NF
SW PREDICTIVE SERVICES

RICH NADEN,
NPS
SW PREDICTIVE SERVICES

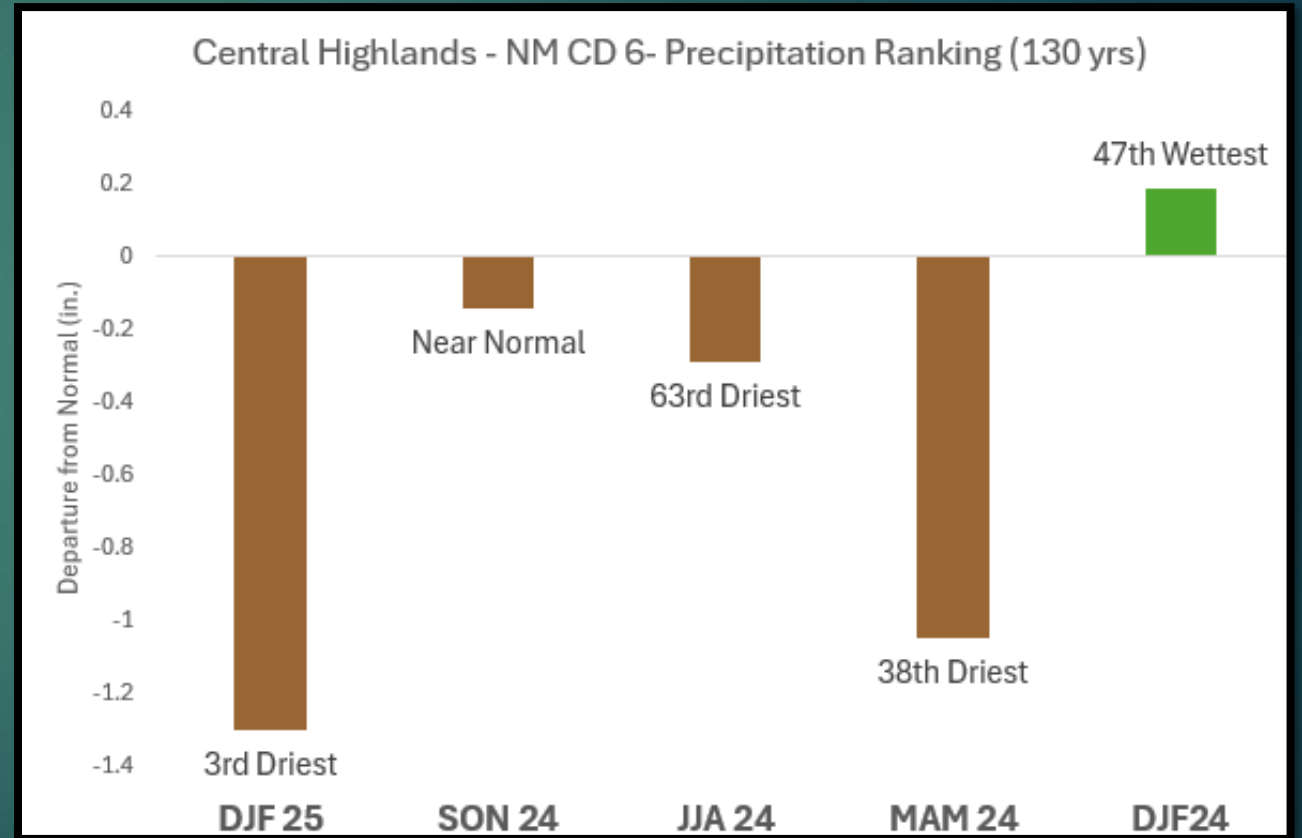
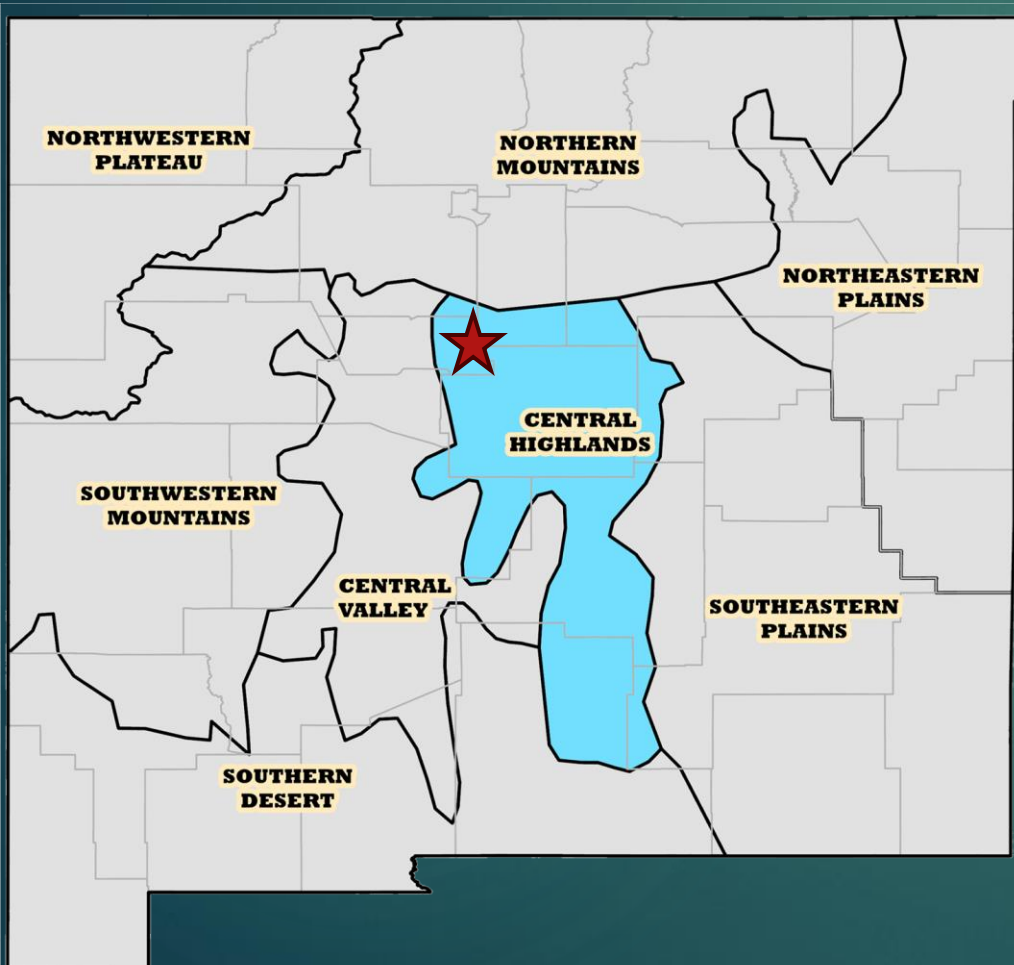
2025 FIRE SEASON OUTLOOK

Human vs. Lightning-Caused Wildfires in New Mexico

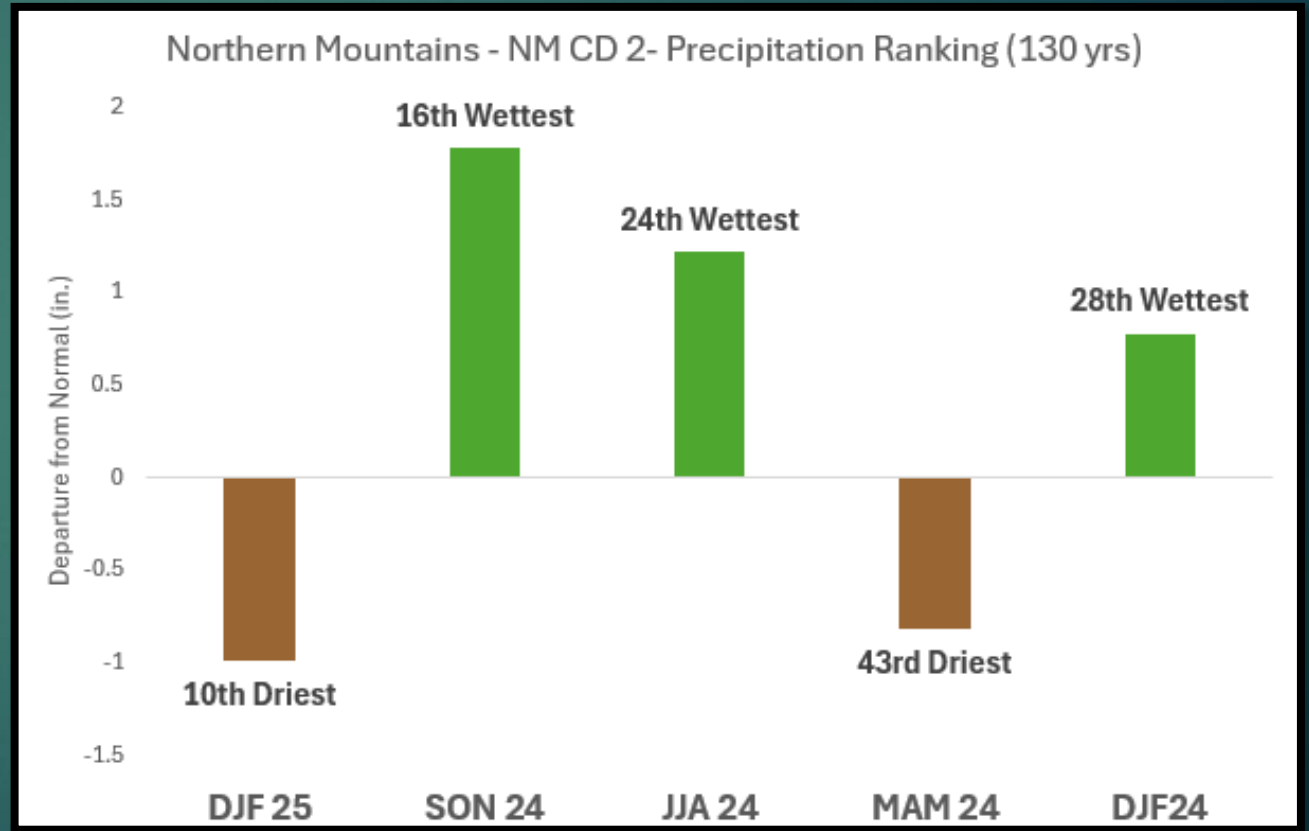
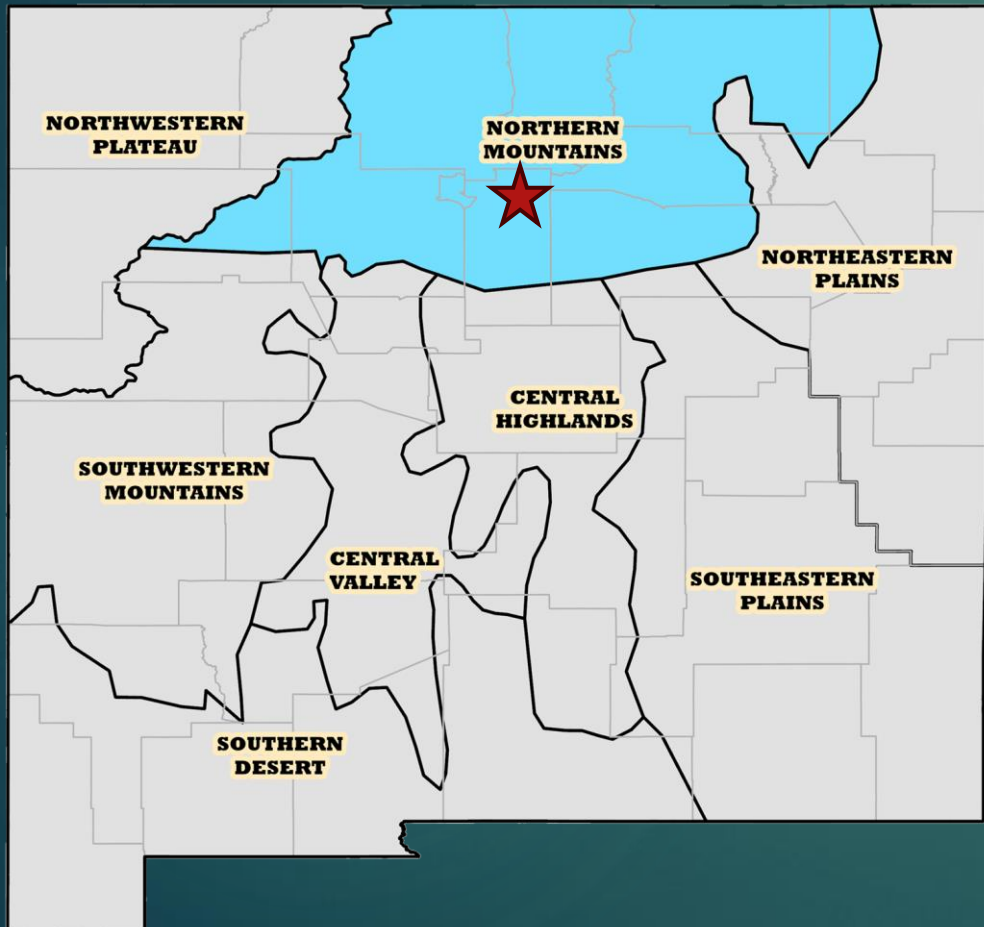


Wildfire
Trends in
New
Mexico

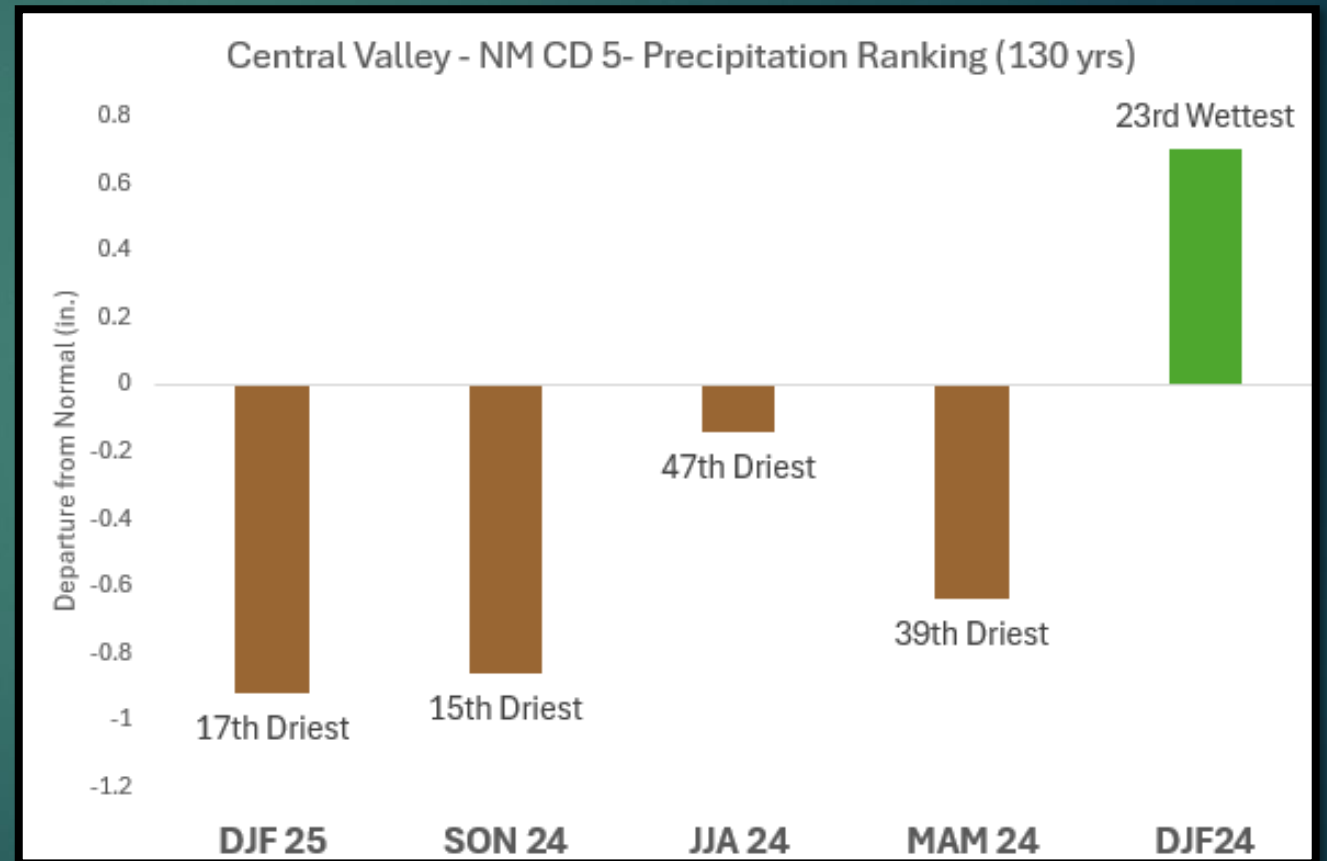
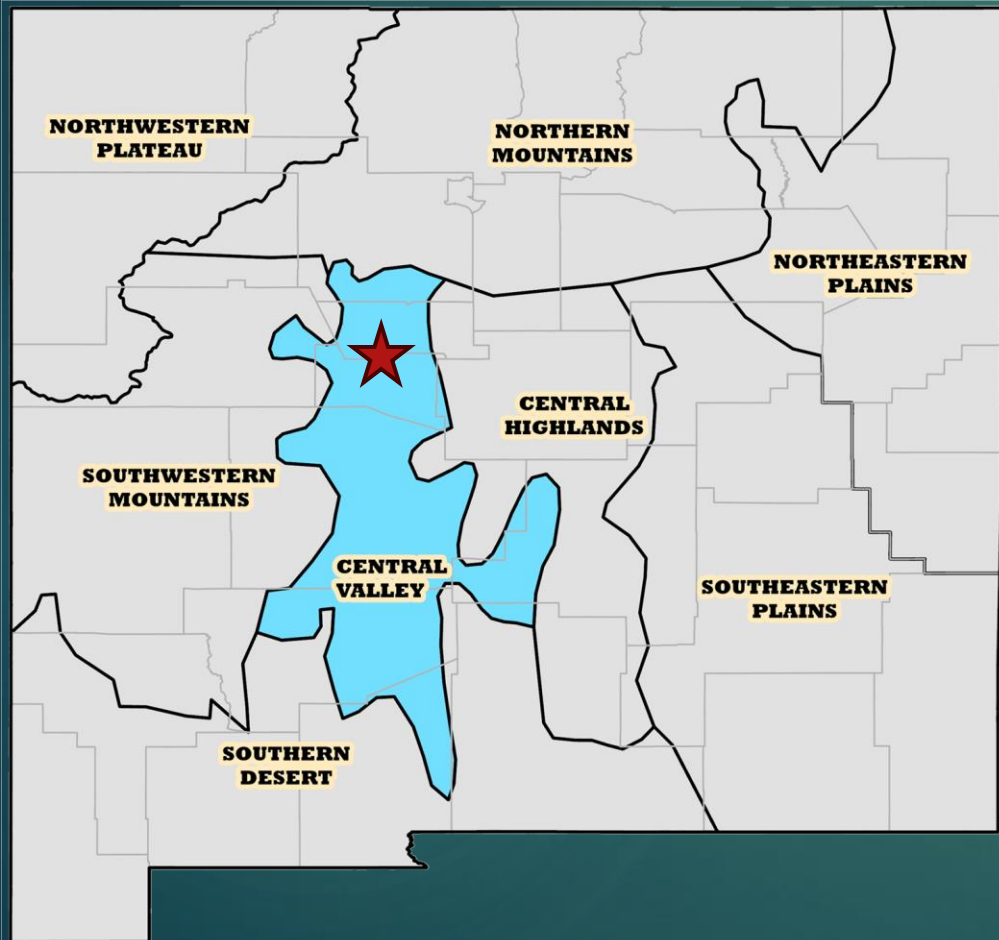
Climate Division 6 Central Highlands



Climate Division 2 Northern Mountains



Climate Division 5 Central Valley



SANTA FE, NM (922) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

Reset Range

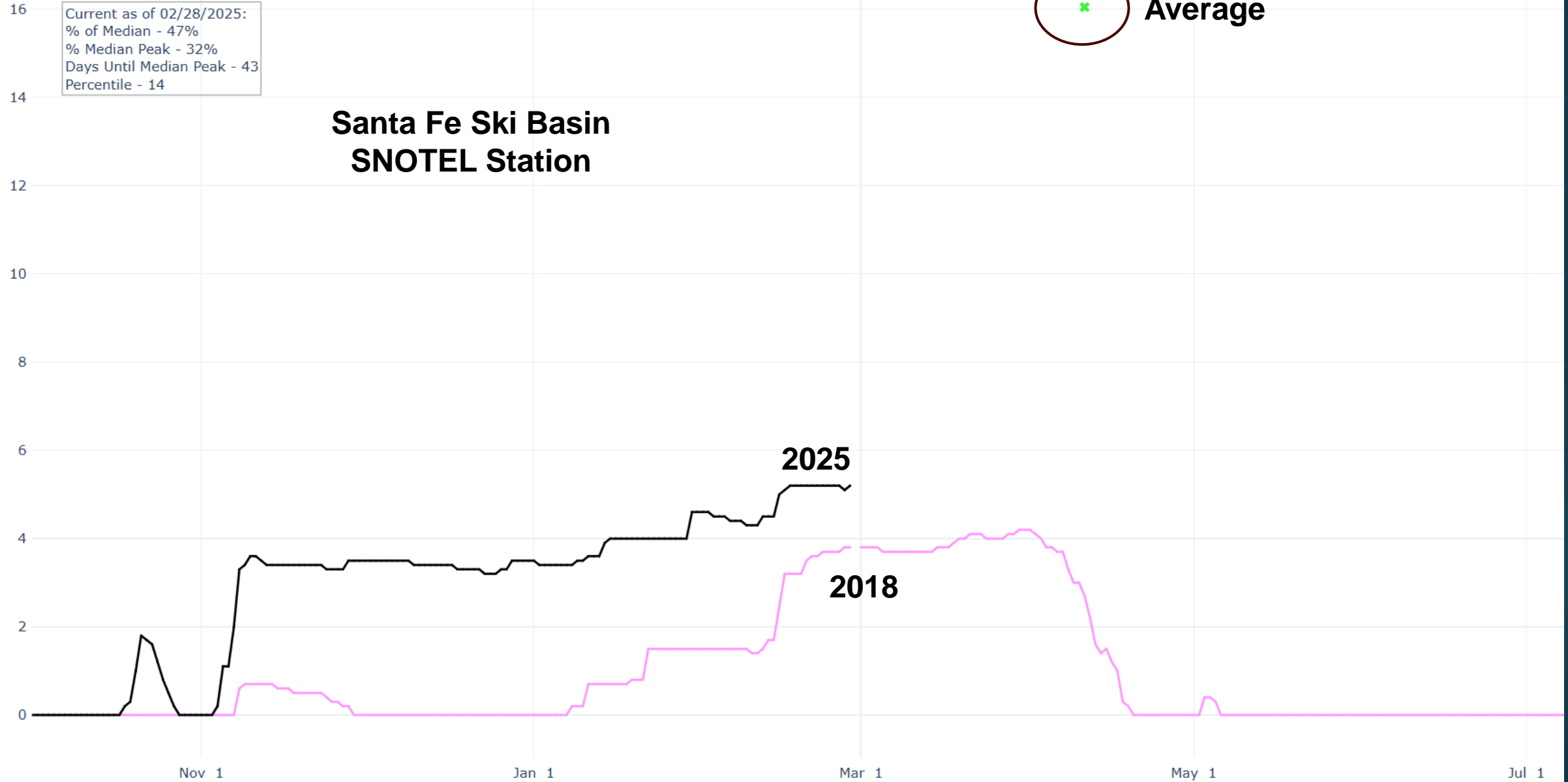
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Current as of 02/28/2025:
% of Median - 47%
% Median Peak - 32%
Days Until Median Peak - 43
Percentile - 14

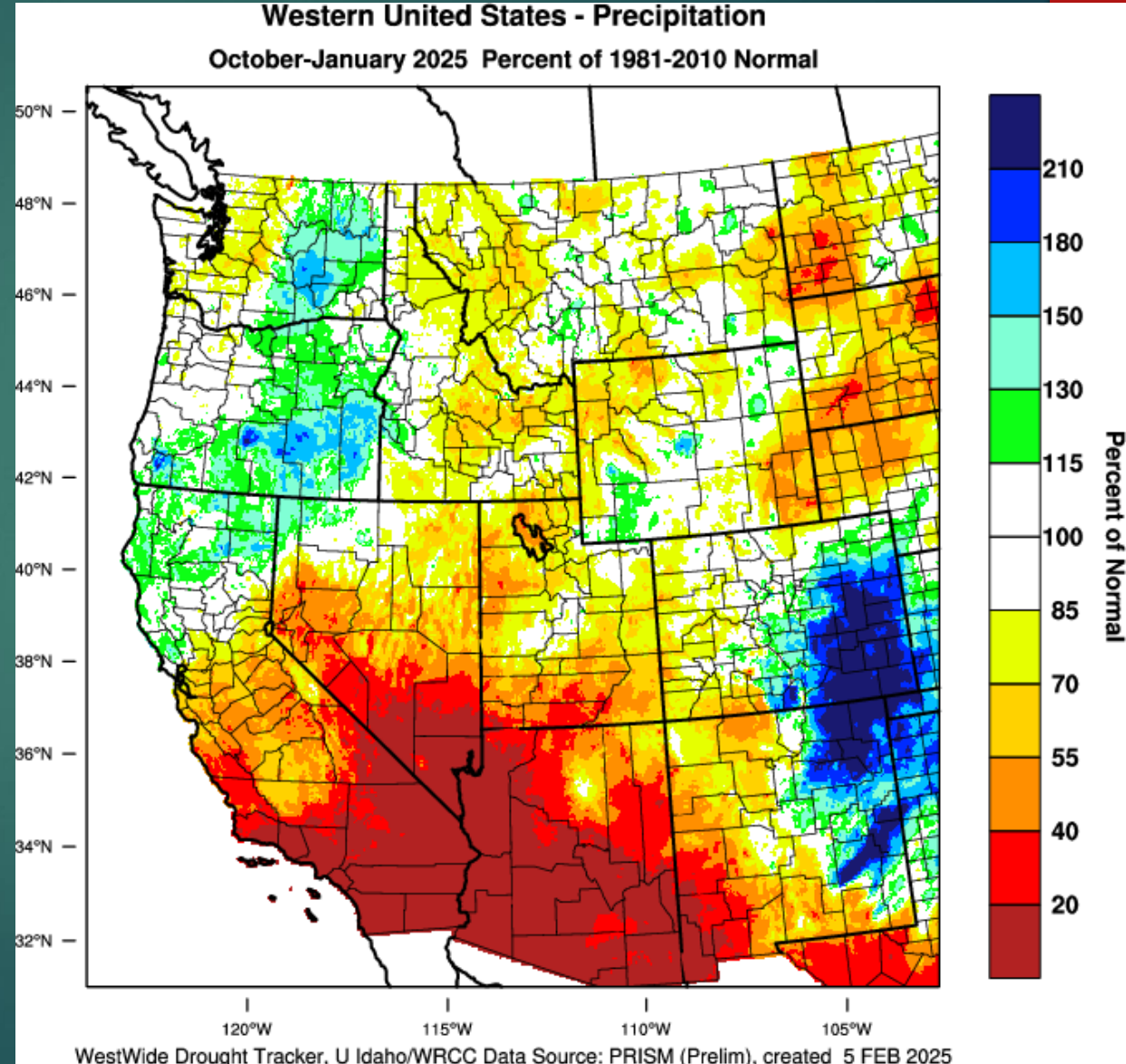
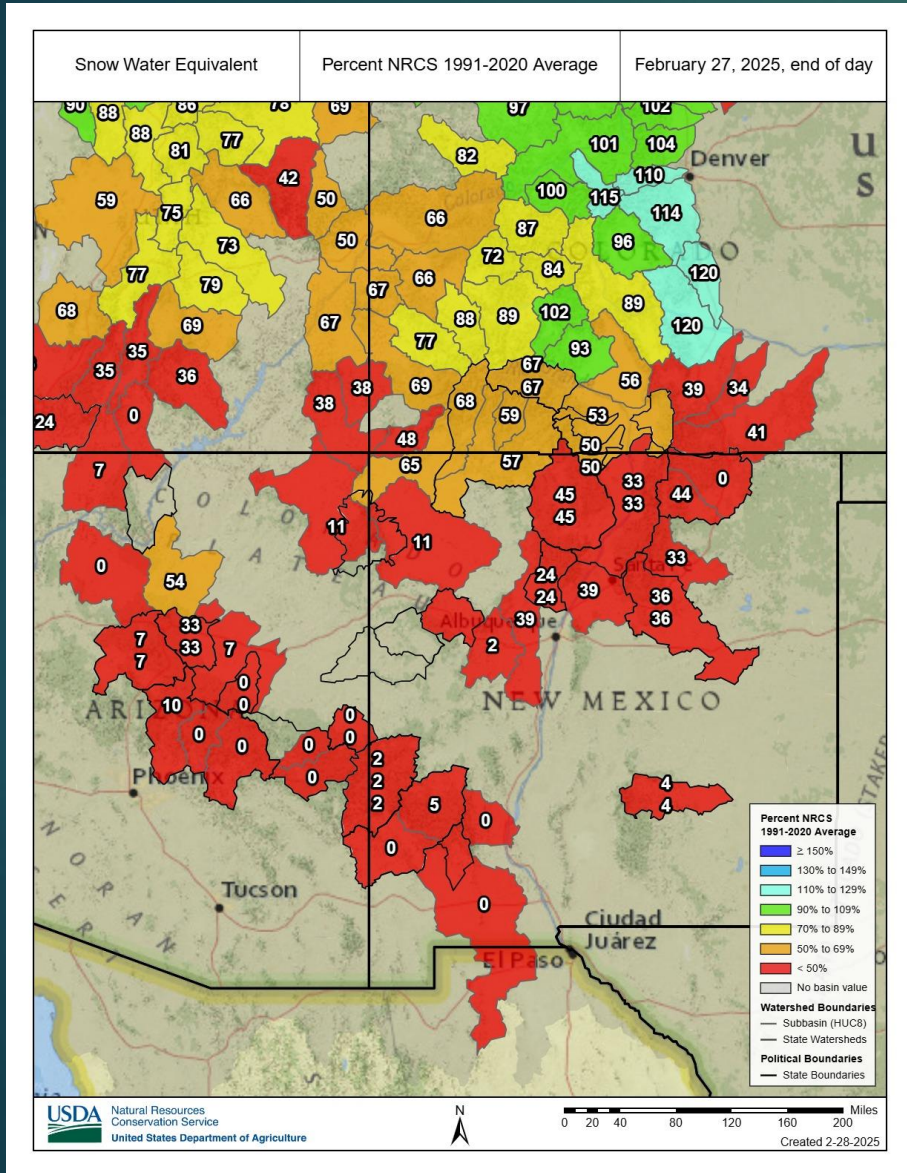
Average

Santa Fe Ski Basin SNOTEL Station

Snow Water Equivalent (in.)



Western U.S. Perspective



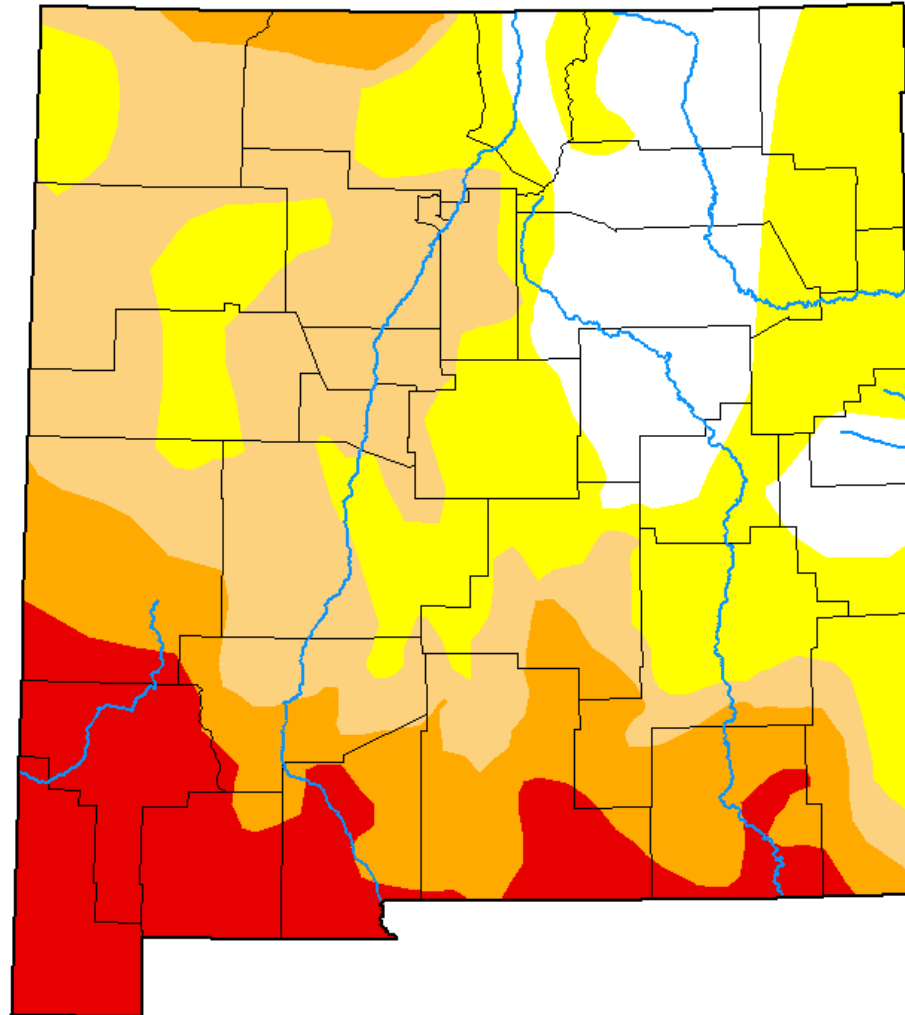
Mid Elevation Snowpack & Fine Fuels









Latest Drought Monitor

Updated Weekly

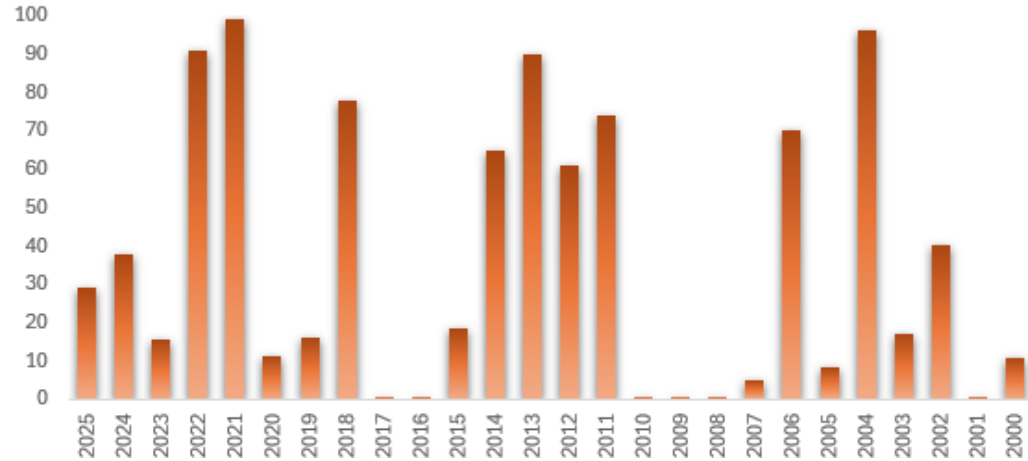
February 18, 2025



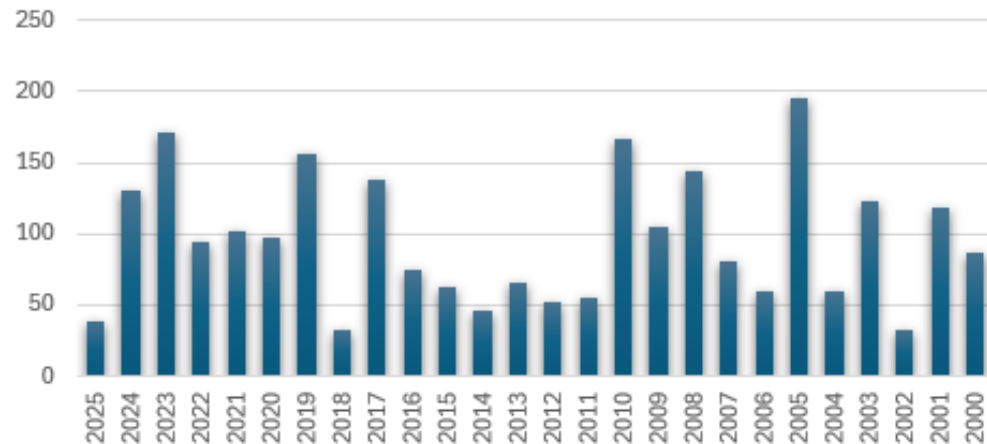
Intensity:

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

**Percent of New Mexico in Severe or Worse Drought
in Early March**



**Percent of Average 1 March Snowpack
Central/North-Central NM**

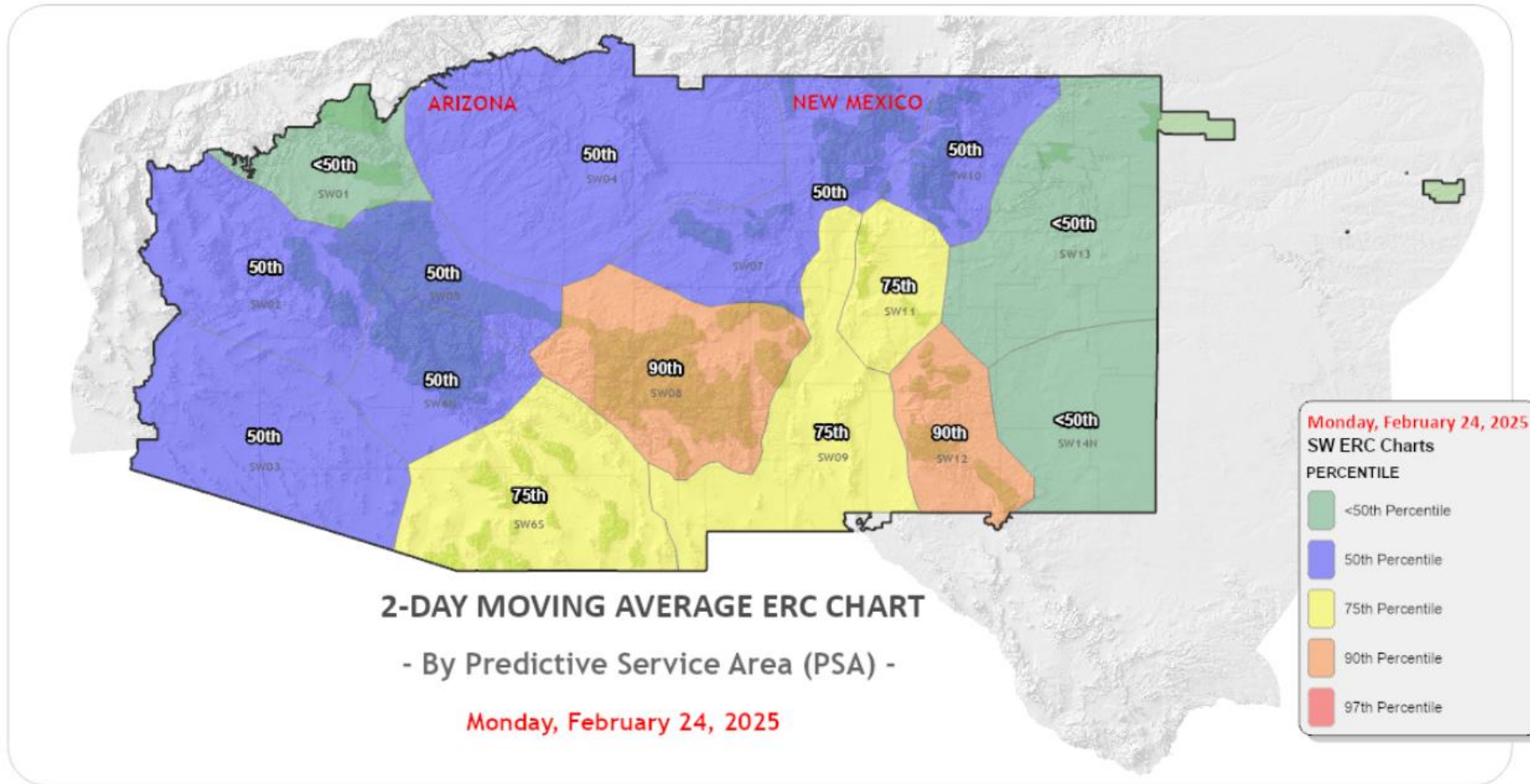


Snowpack and Drought Trends

2025 New Mexico Fire Weather Outlook

Where are we now? Fuels and Energy Release Component (ERC)

SOUTHWEST AREA

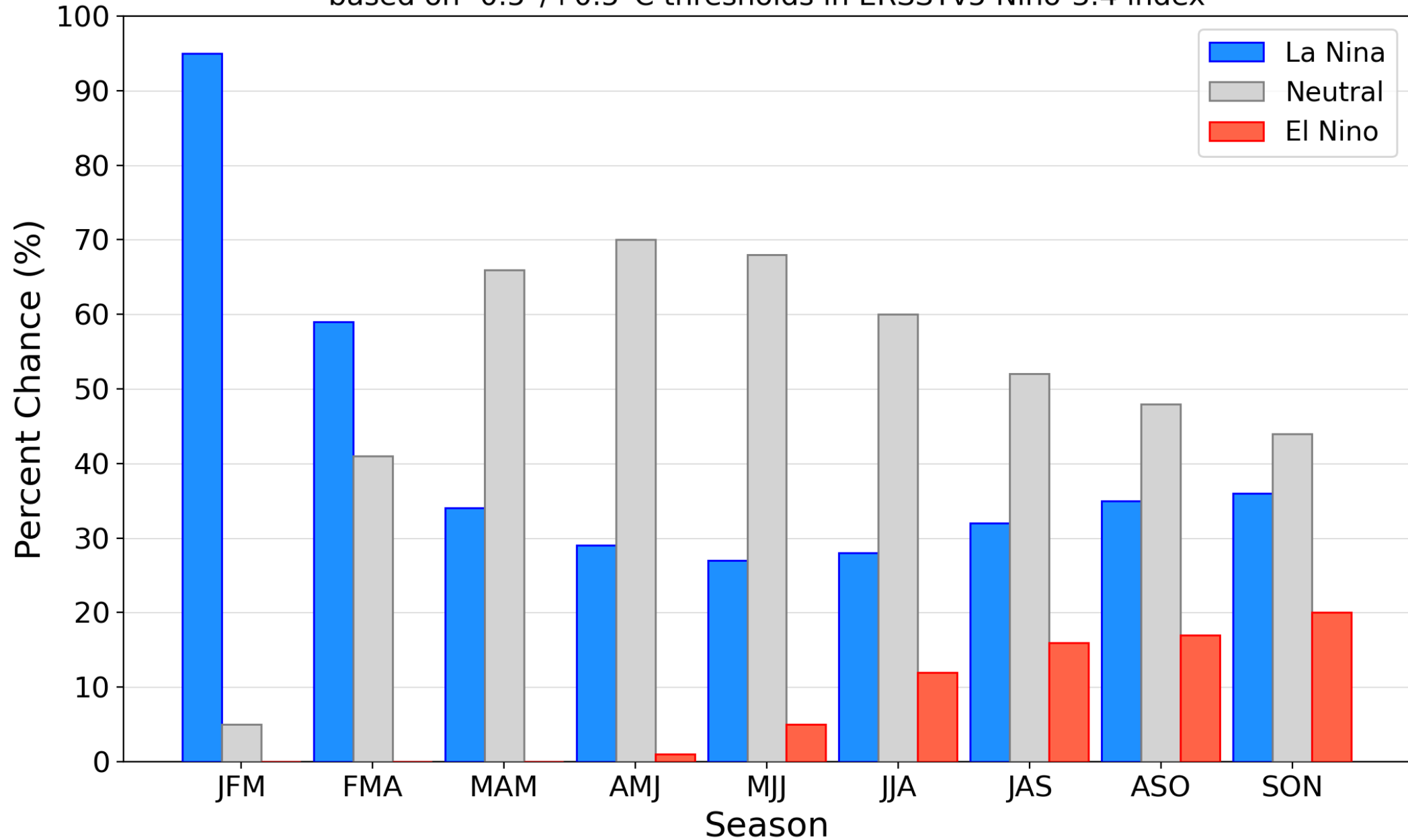


* Data for this product provided by the SWCC Predictive Services

* Map produced by SWCC Intelligence Operations Section

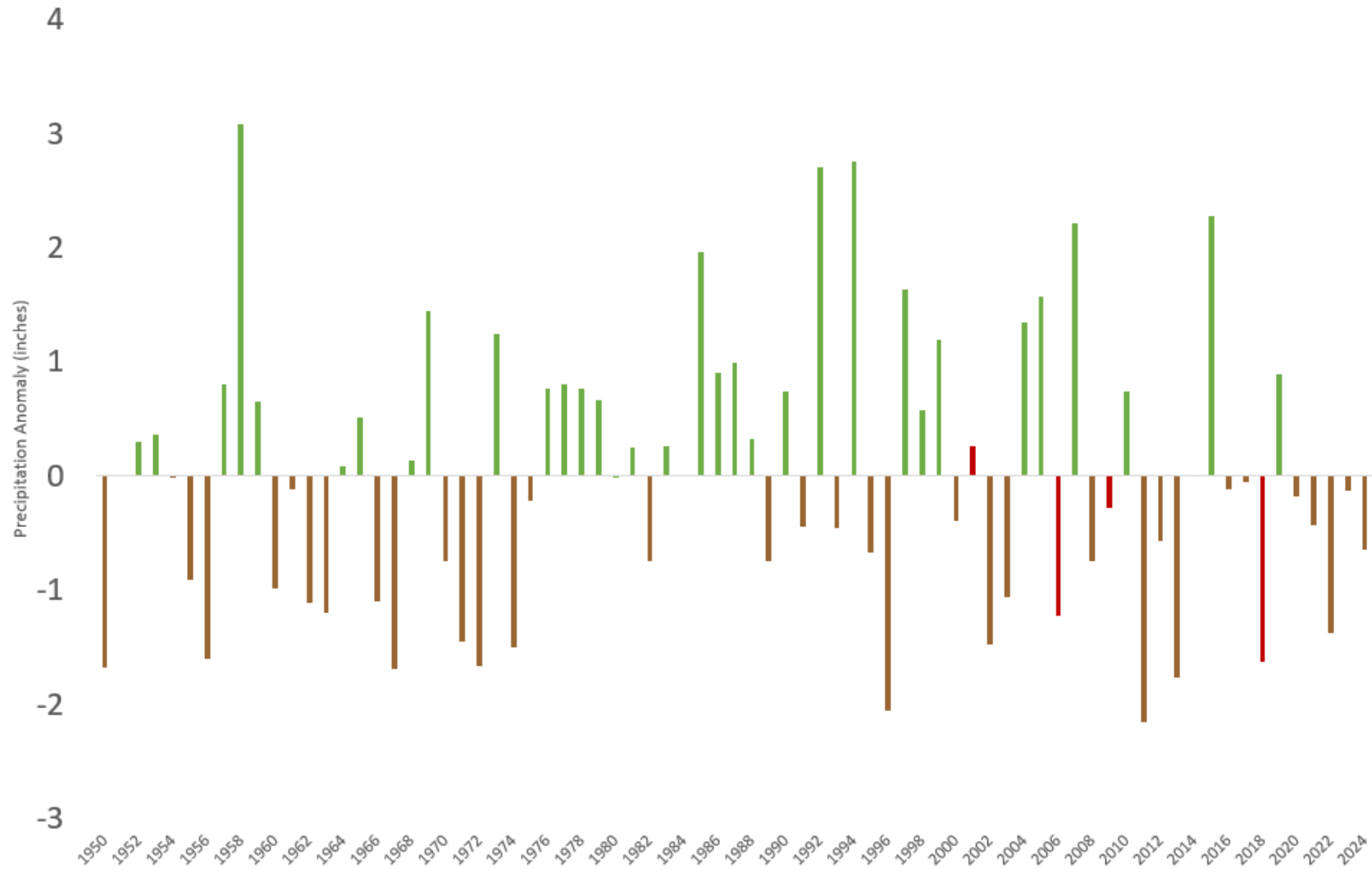
Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued February 2025)

based on $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ thresholds in ERSSTv5 Niño-3.4 index



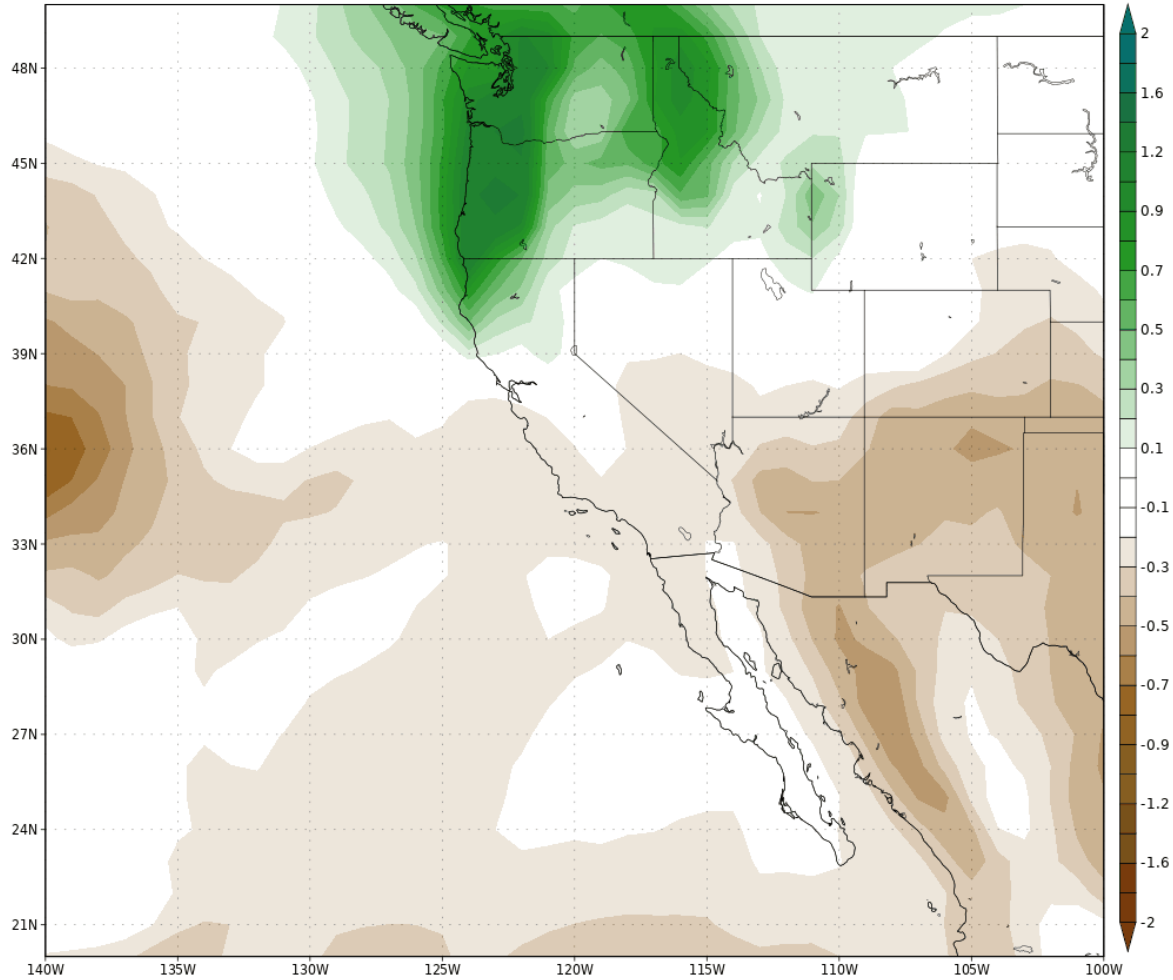
Historical Observations for Spring

Central Highlands - CD6 - March-April-May Precipitation Anomaly

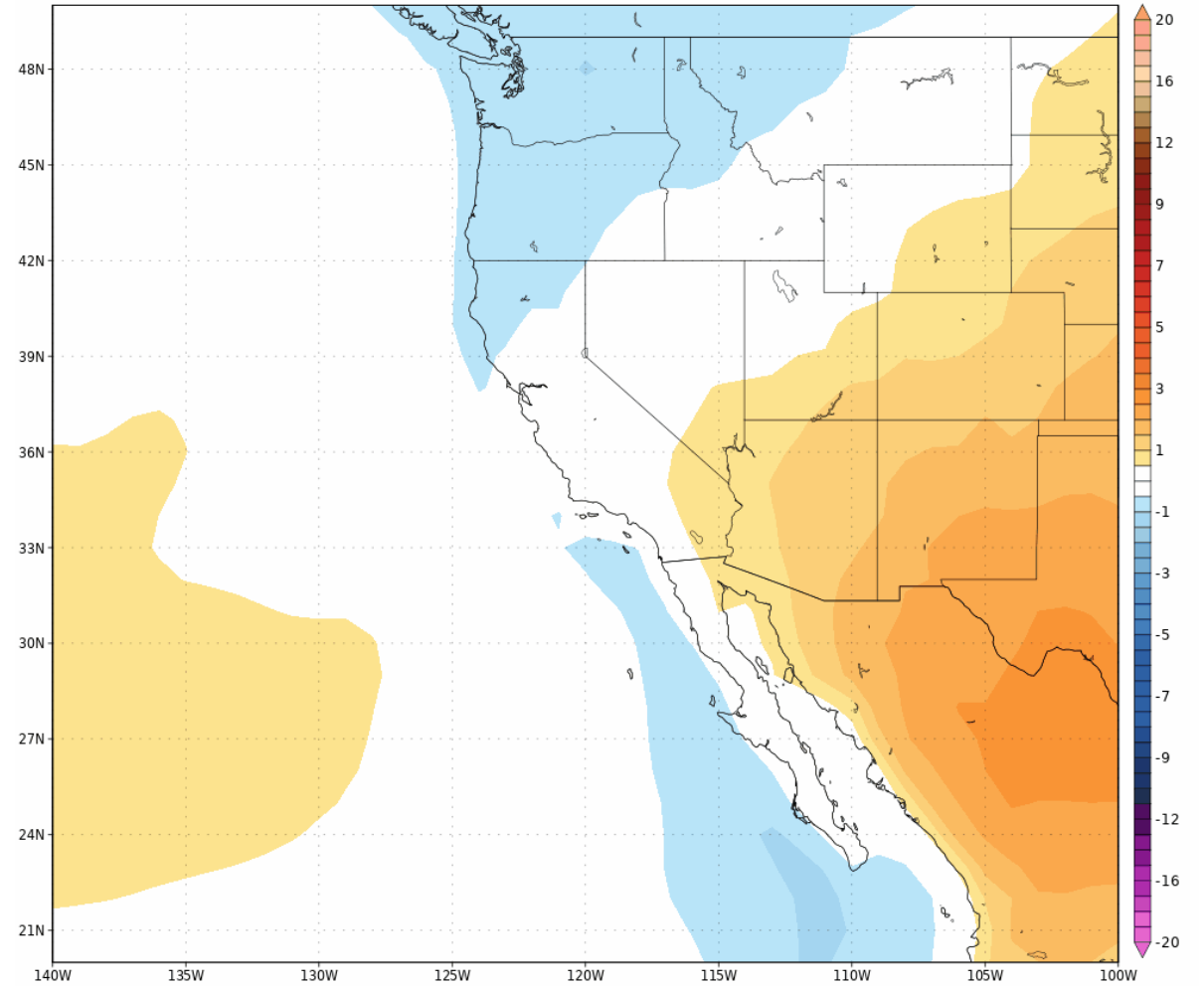


What Do the Latest Models Show?

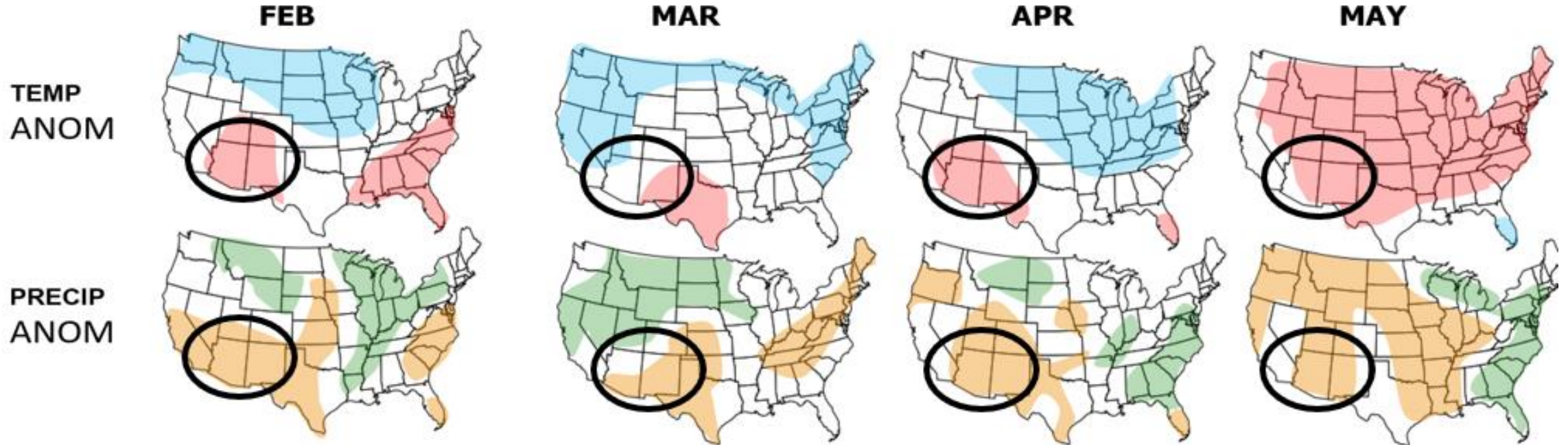
Init: Feb 8, 2025 • Valid: Mar 2025 • Alex Boreham • cyclonicwx.com
NMME Precip Rate Anomaly [mm/day]



Init: Feb 8, 2025 • Valid: Mar 2025 • Alex Boreham • cyclonicwx.com
NMME 2 Meter Temperature Anomaly [°C]



Southwest Predictive Services



Bottom Line: A changeable late winter/spring pattern to lead to an early overall start to the large fire season

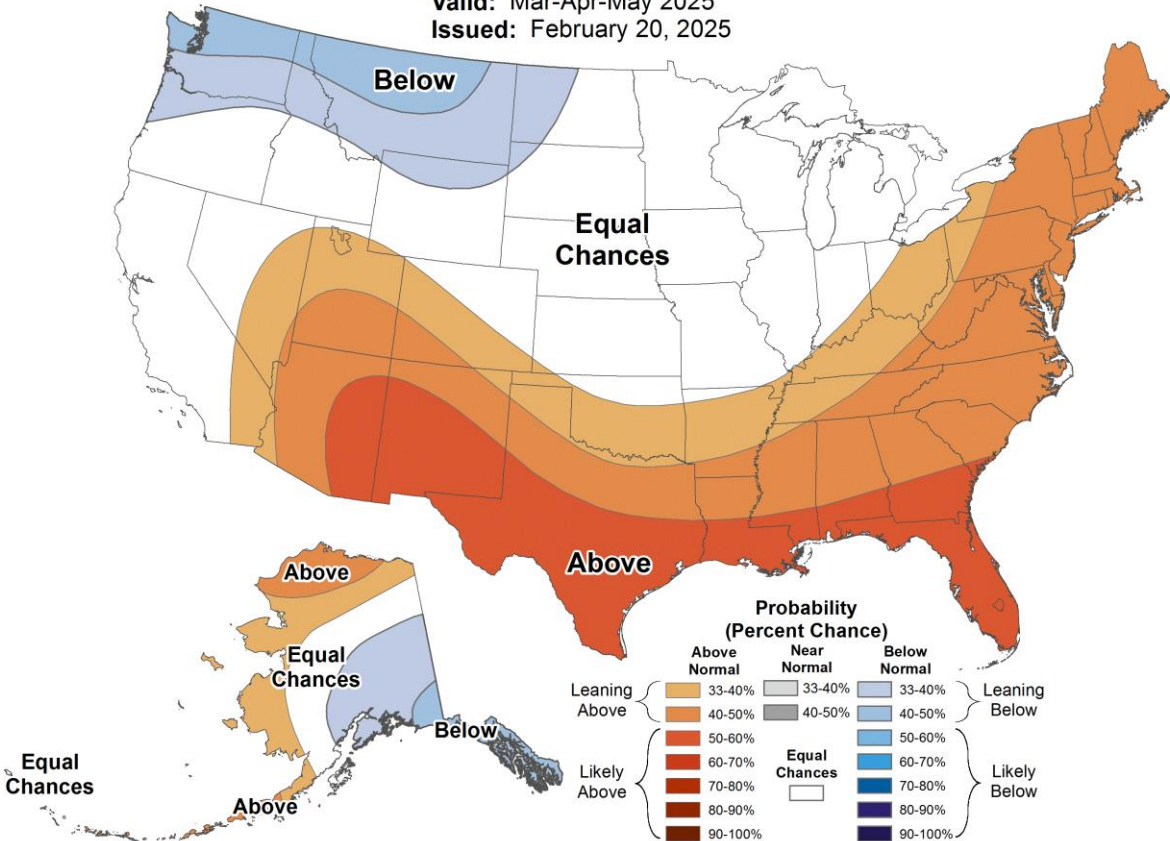
March – April – May 2025



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



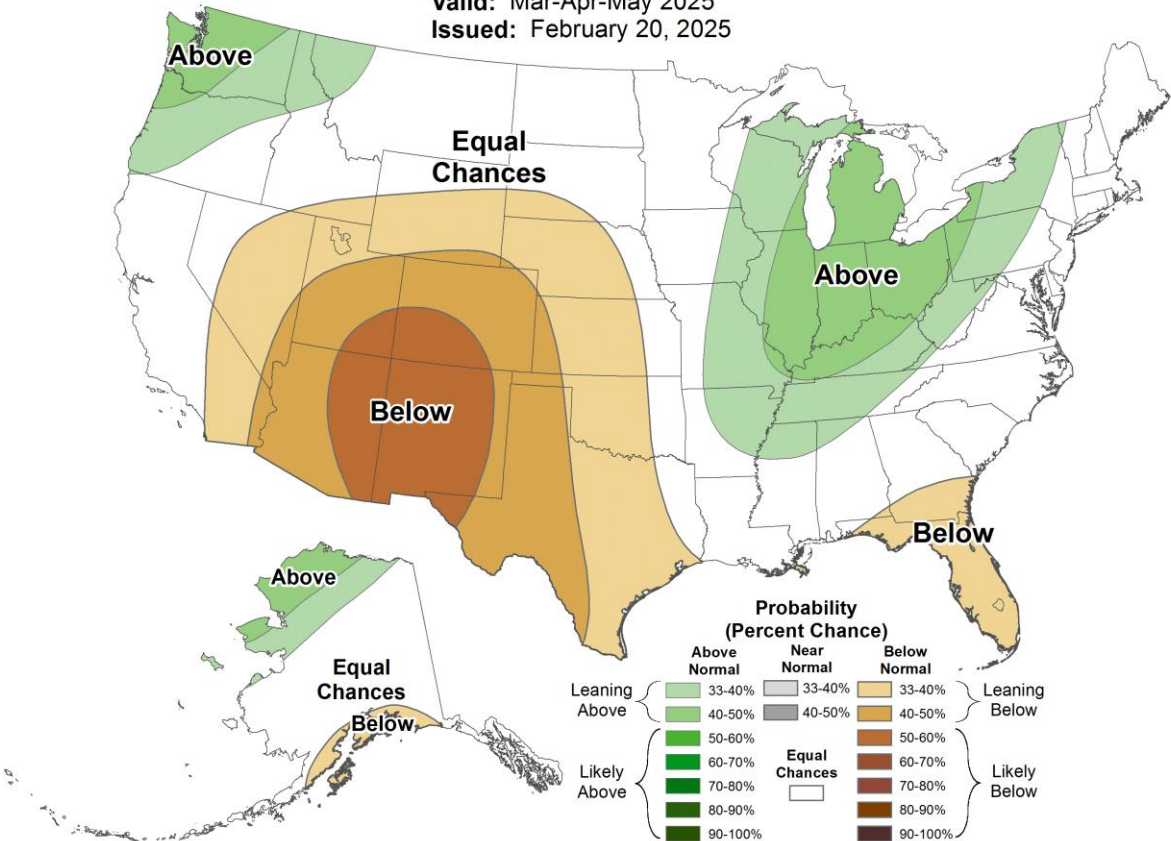
Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2025
 Issued: February 20, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2025
 Issued: February 20, 2025



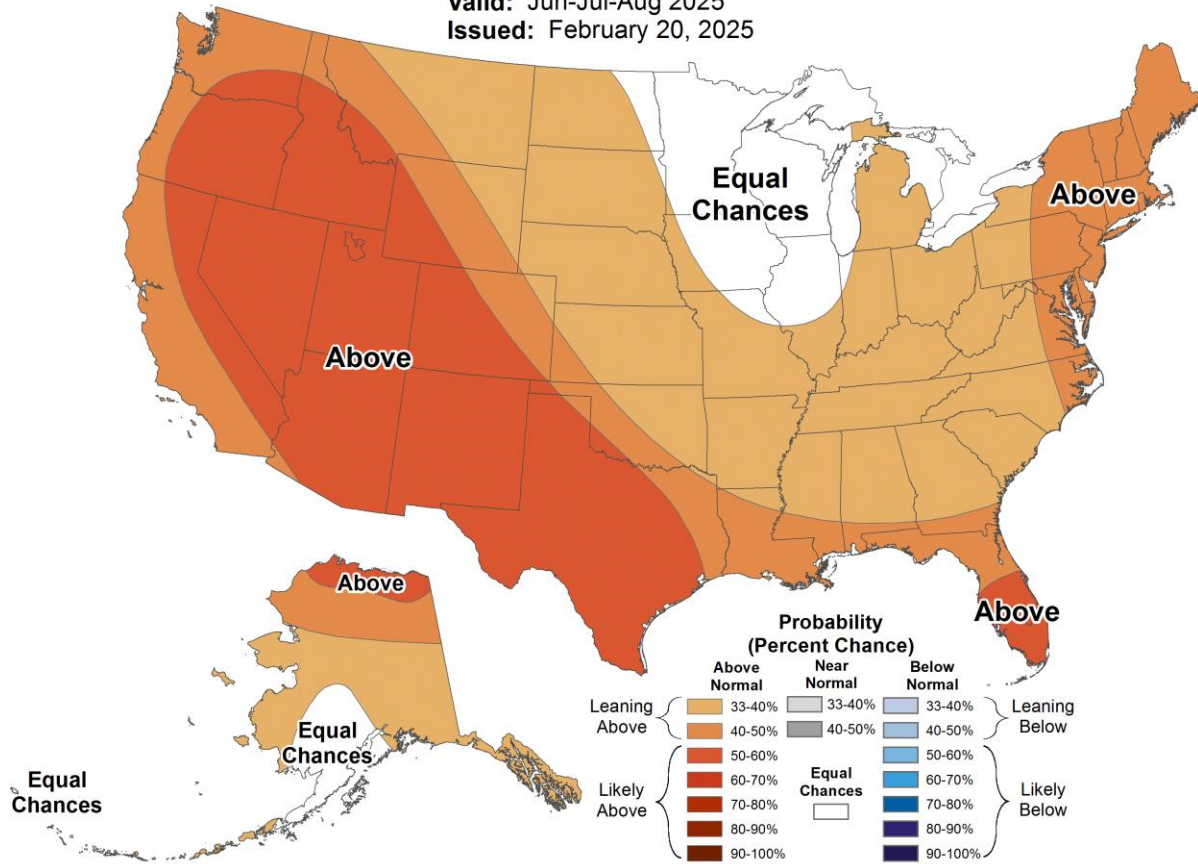
June – July – August 2025



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



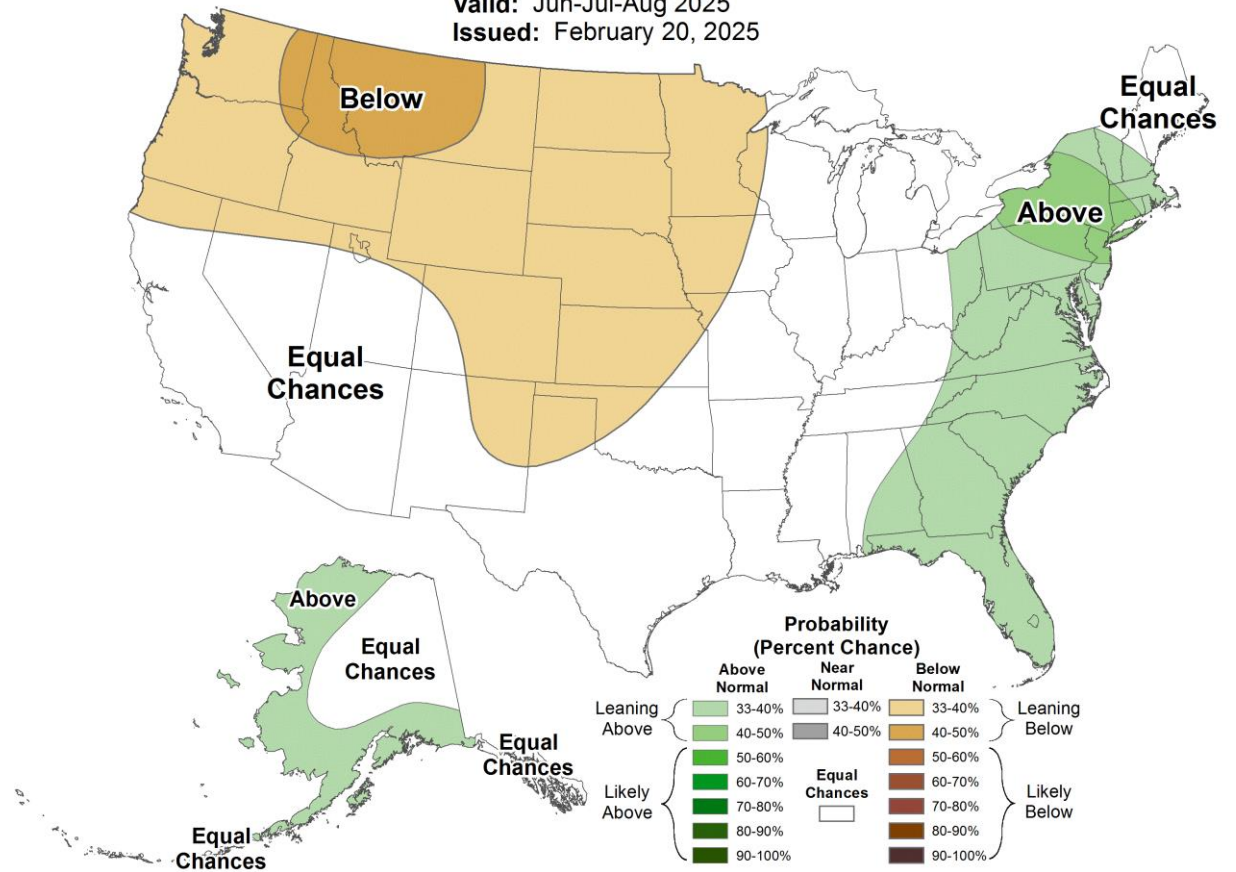
Valid: Jun-Jul-Aug 2025
 Issued: February 20, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



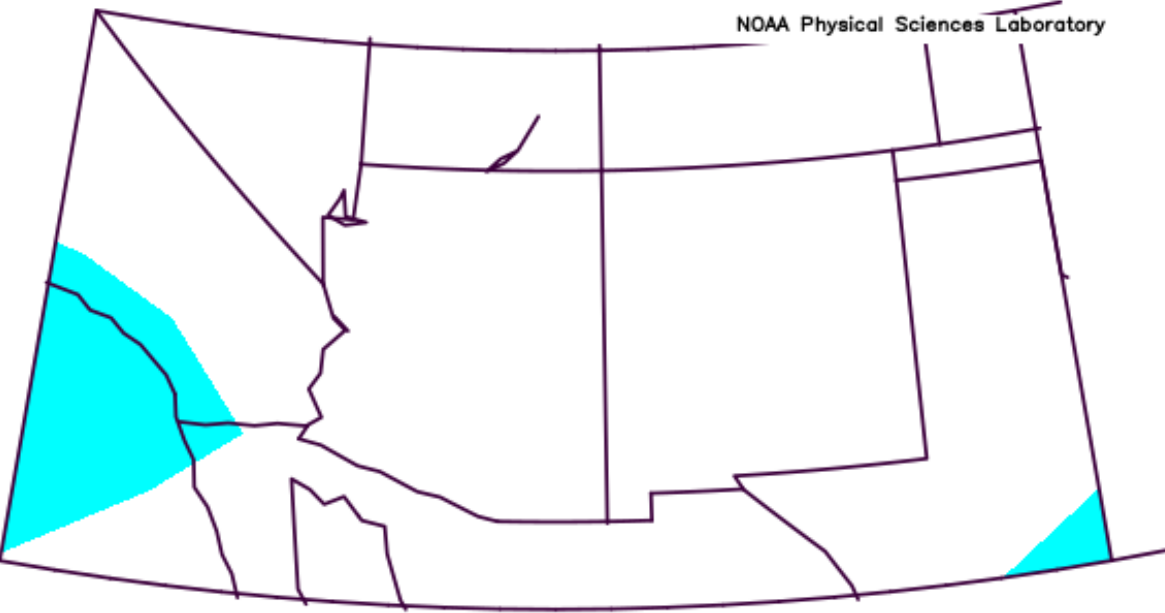
Valid: Jun-Jul-Aug 2025
 Issued: February 20, 2025



Thoughts on Spring Wind Trends?

April-May “Free-Air” Wind Speed Anomaly for 5 Similar Past Years

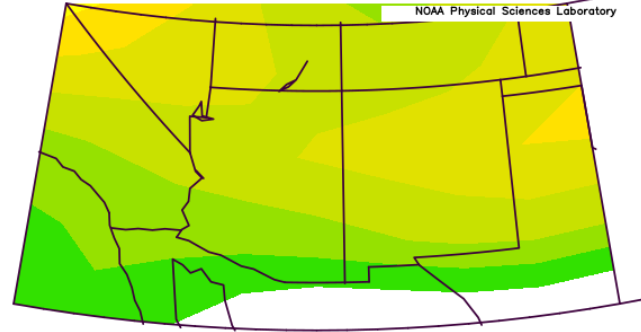
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
700mb Zonal Wind (m/s) Composite Anomaly 1991–2020 climo
NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory



Apr to May: 2001,2006,2009,2014,2018

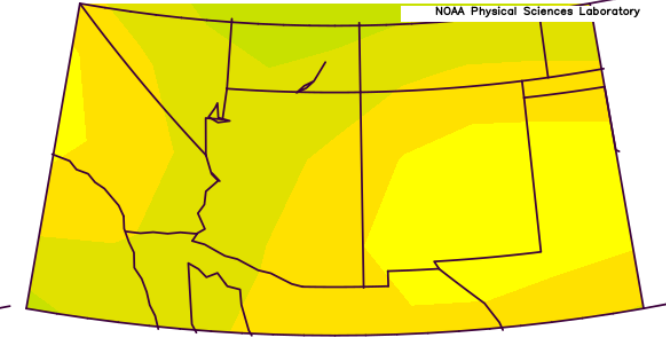
April-May “Free-Air” Wind Speed Anomaly for 2011 and 2022

NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
700mb Zonal Wind (m/s) Composite Anomaly 1991–2020 climo
NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory



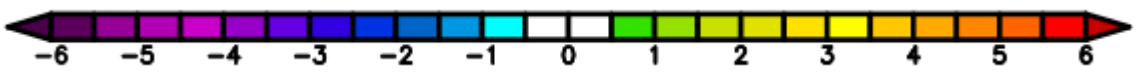
Apr to May: 2022

NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
700mb Zonal Wind (m/s) Composite Anomaly 1991–2020 climo
NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory



Apr to May: 2011

- April & May are the windiest months in New Mexico due to proximity of the jet stream, high elevation and warm days.
- La Nina historically favors above average windiness and more frequent dry/wind events

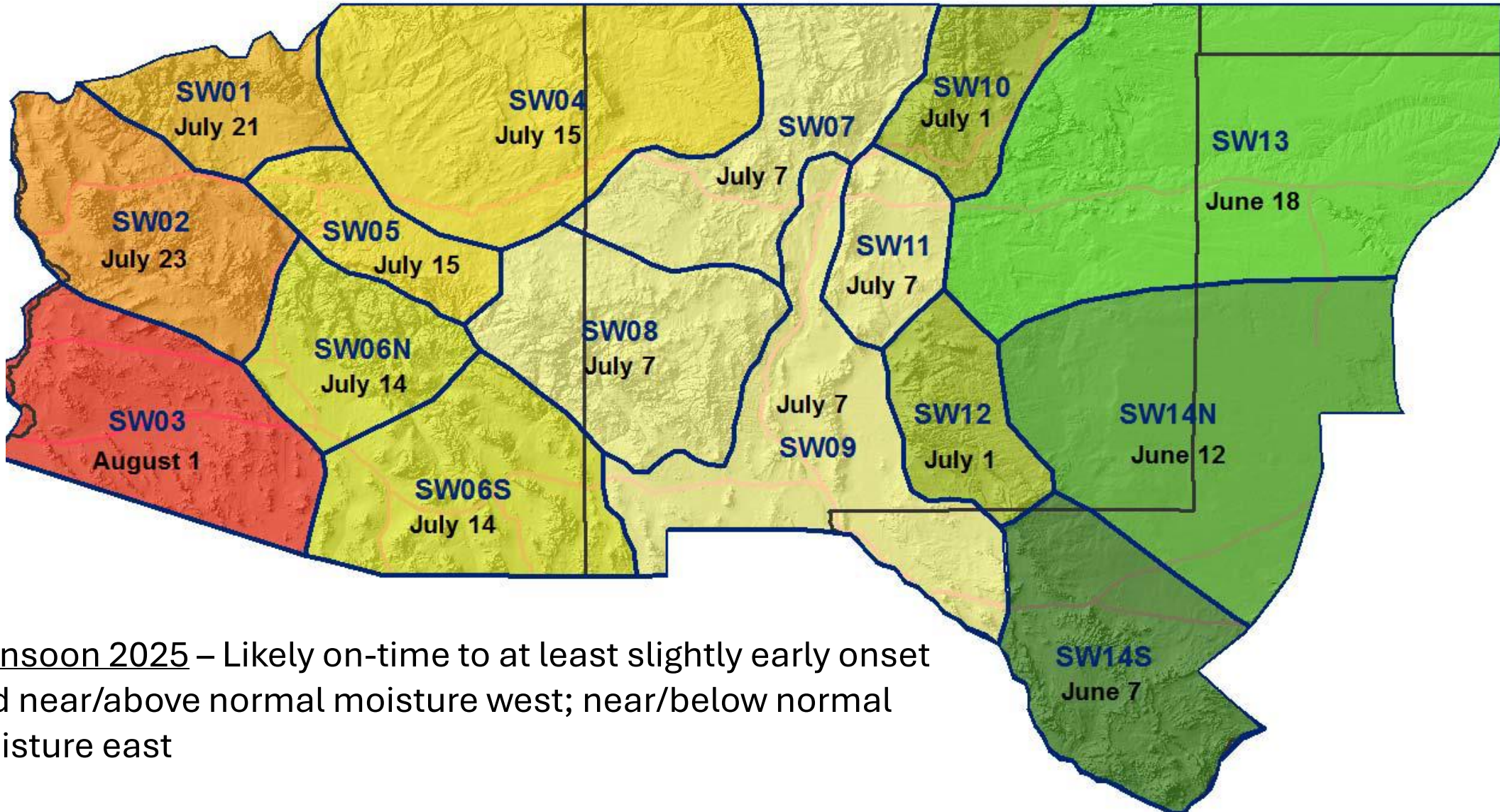




Significant Fire Potential Outlook



Median Ending Dates for “End of Large Fire Season”



Monsoon 2025 – Likely on-time to at least slightly early onset and near/above normal moisture west; near/below normal moisture east

Outlook Summary & Considerations

- Critically dry and likely early start to the 2025 fire season with above average potential for significant fires across the western two-thirds of NM
- Overall, up/down weather pattern through March followed by predominantly warmer & drier-than-normal conditions April-May.
- Normal springtime windiness (April & May) with odds tilted toward above average breeziness. More frequent blowing dust events that could coincide with smoke impacts in areas.
- An active dryline likely May-June across eastern New Mexico.
- Late spring period may benefit from transition back toward ENSO Neutral
- Monsoon 2025 – Likely on-time to at least slightly early onset and near/above normal moisture west; near/below normal moisture east

