Winter 2015-2016

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Pima County LDIG Meeting
March 9, 2016

Winter Season Highlights

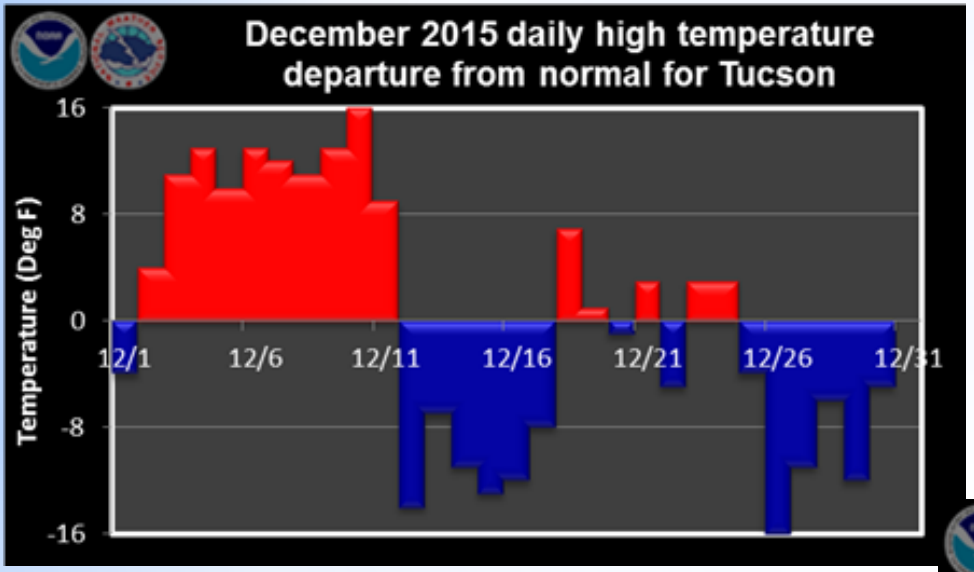
* 13th Warmest, last 2 Winters the Warmest
* 57th Driest, 2.18” Precipitation (-0.55” below Normal)

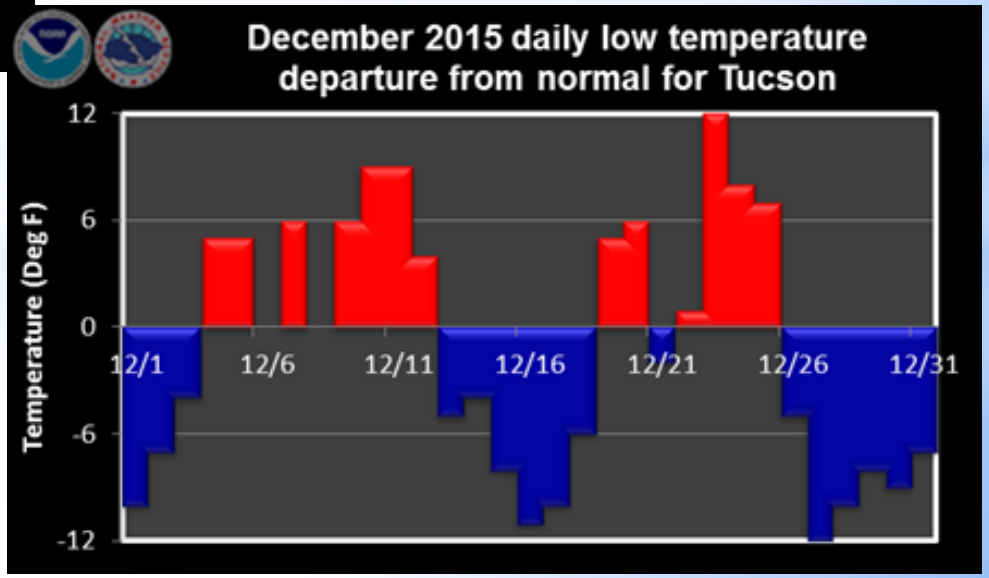
  Last Winter: 5.12”
* Average Monthly Temp 55.0°F (+1.8°F)
* Water Year (Oct-Feb): 4.59” Precipitation (+0.40” above Normal)

  Last Oct-Feb: 6.45”

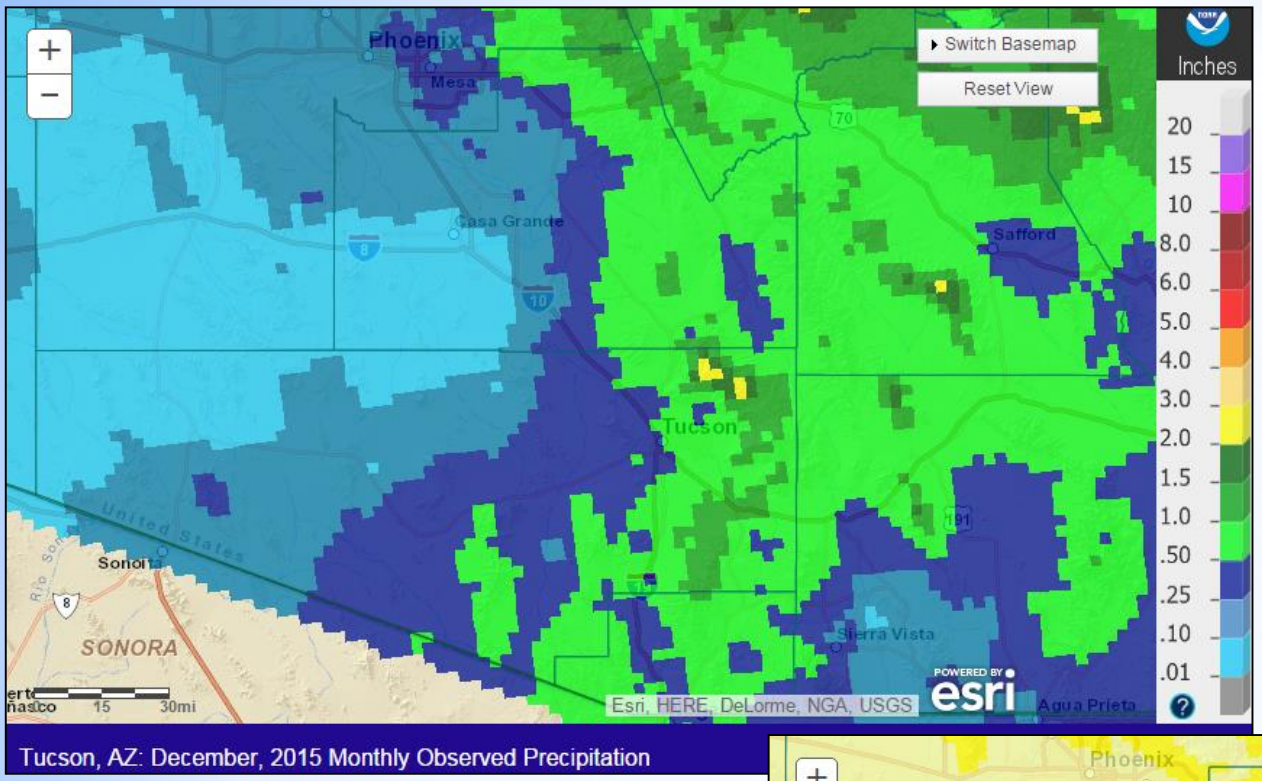
DECEMBER 2015

* 50th Wettest and 55th Coolest
* 0.47” Rainfall (-0.46” below Normal)

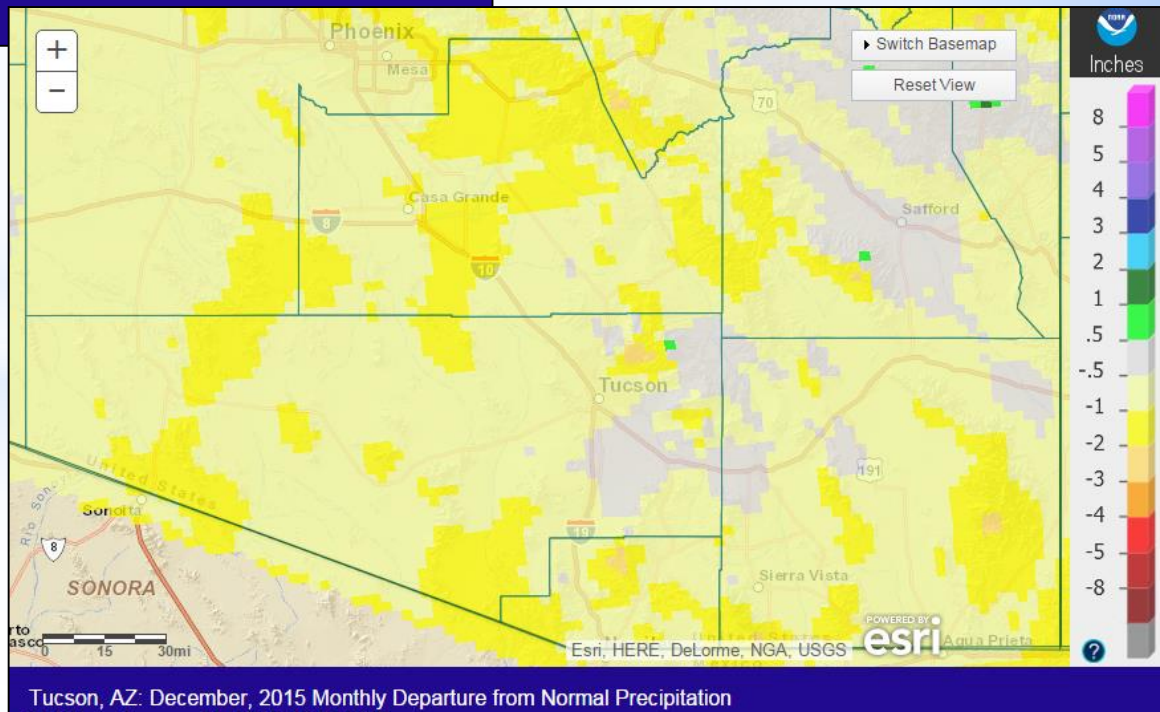




DECEMBER 2015



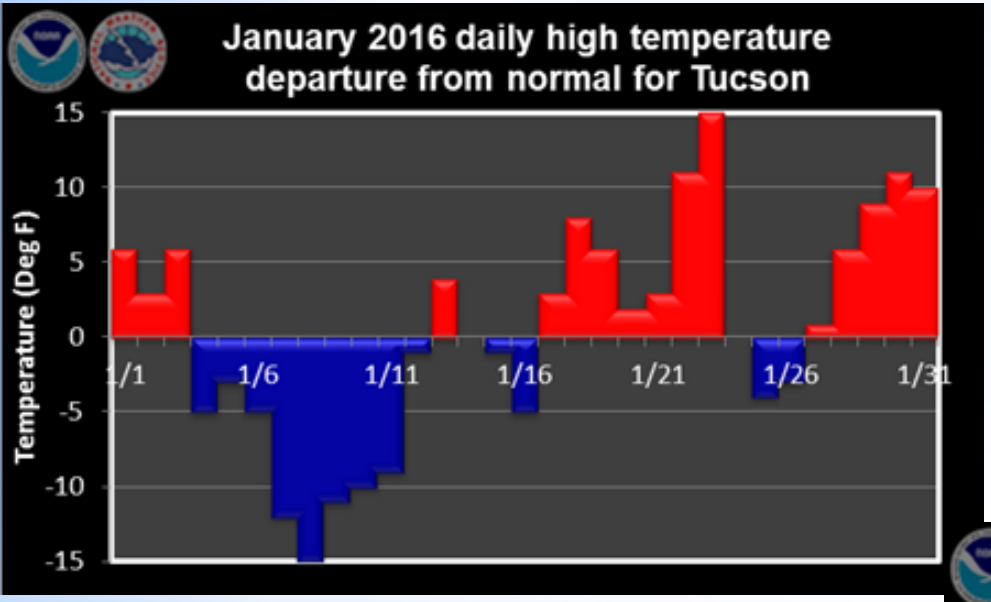
Tucson, AZ: December, 2015 Monthly Observed Precipitation

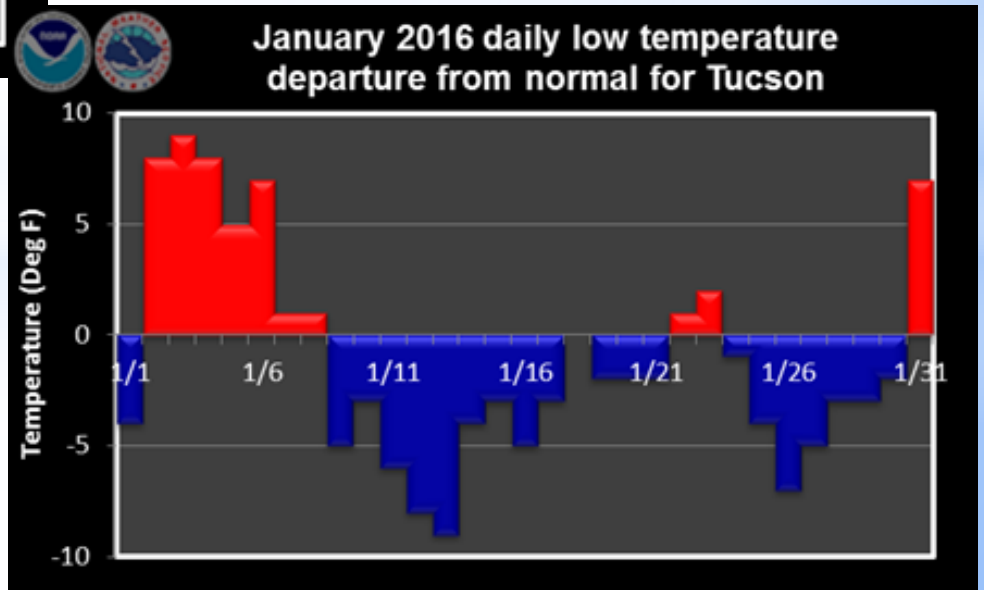


Tucson, AZ: December, 2015 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation

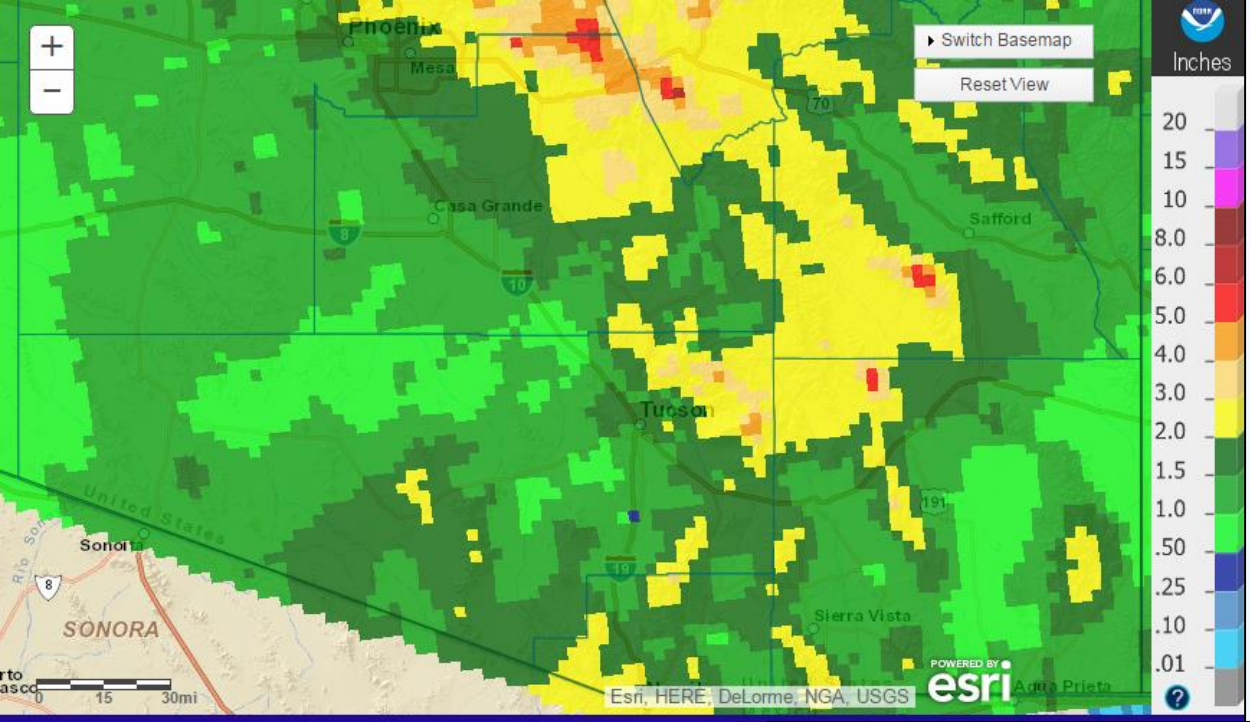
JANUARY 2016

* 22nd Wettest and 40th Warmest
* 1.53” Rainfall (+0.59” above Normal)





JANUARY 2016

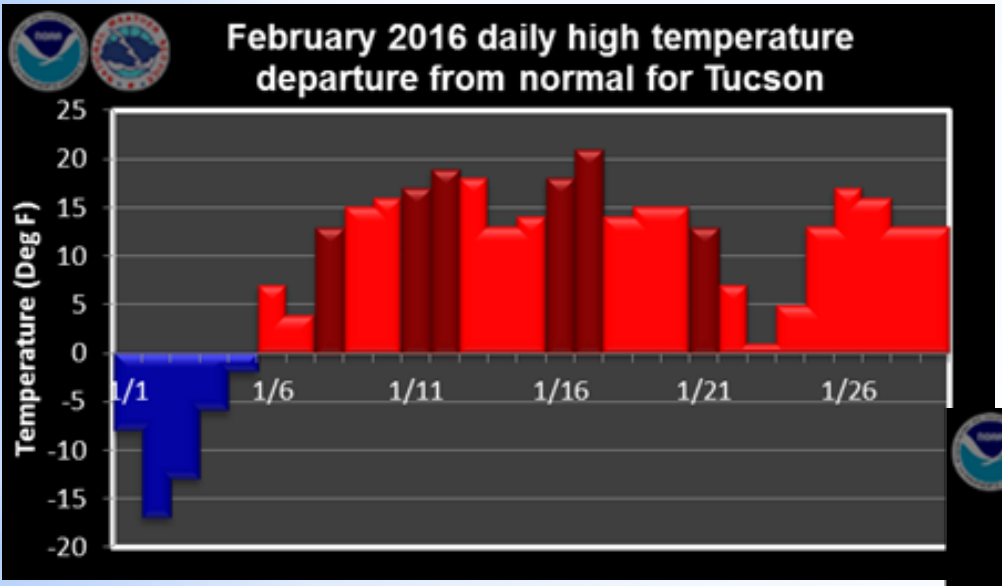


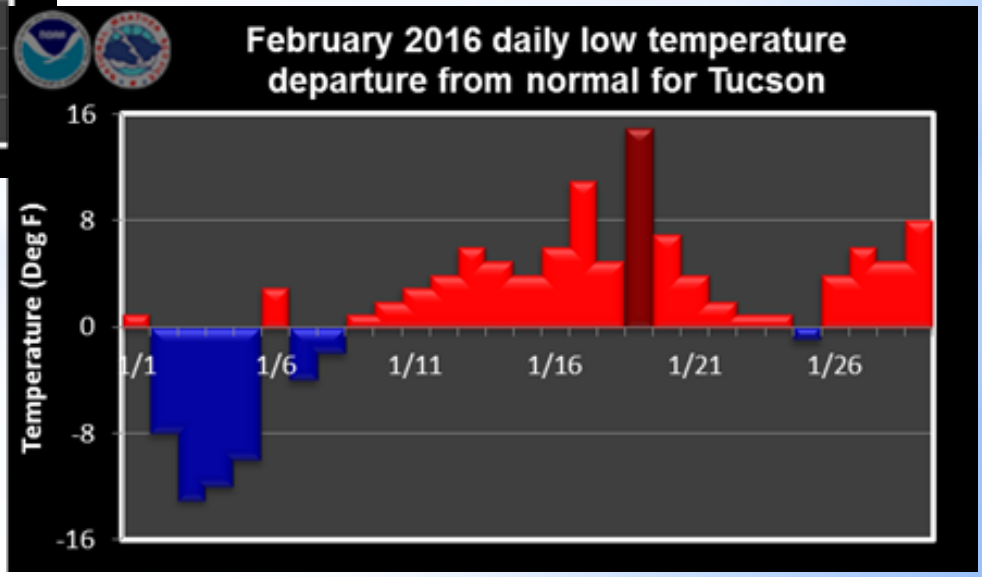
Tucson, AZ: January, 2016 Monthly Observed Precipitation

Tucson, AZ: January, 2016 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation

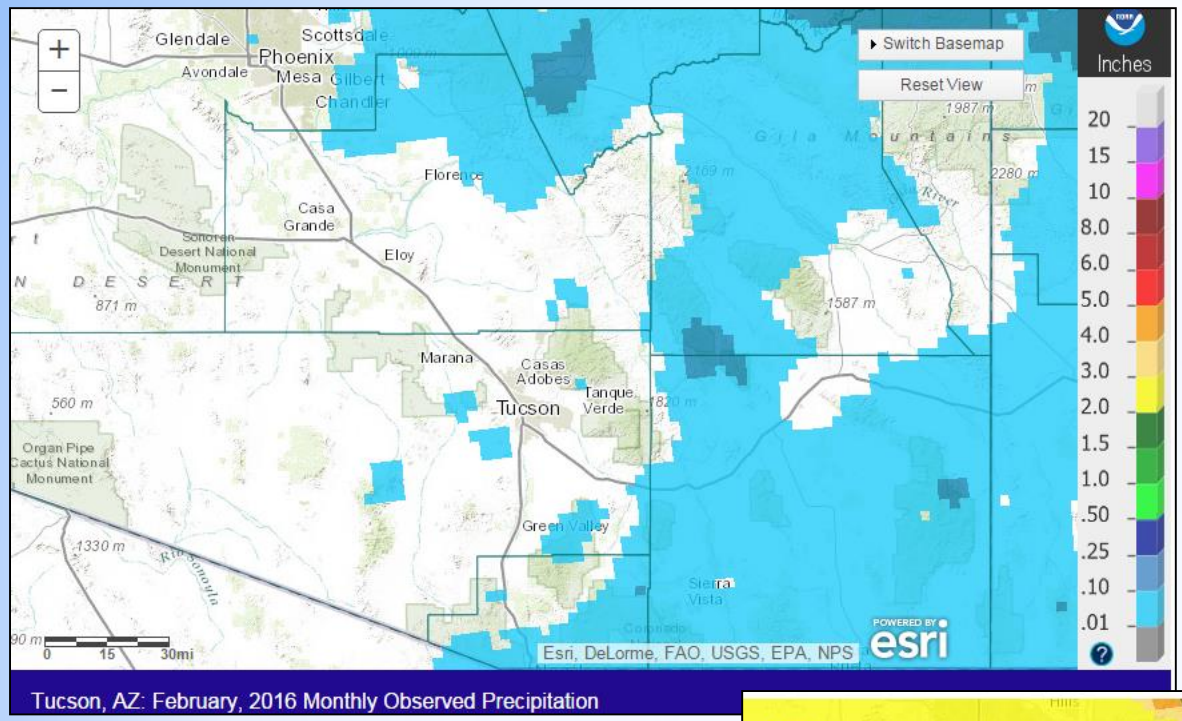
FEBRUARY 2016

* 2nd Warmest February and 26th Driest
* 0.18” Precipitation (-0.68” below Normal)
* 6 Record High Temps Set & 2nd Earliest 90o

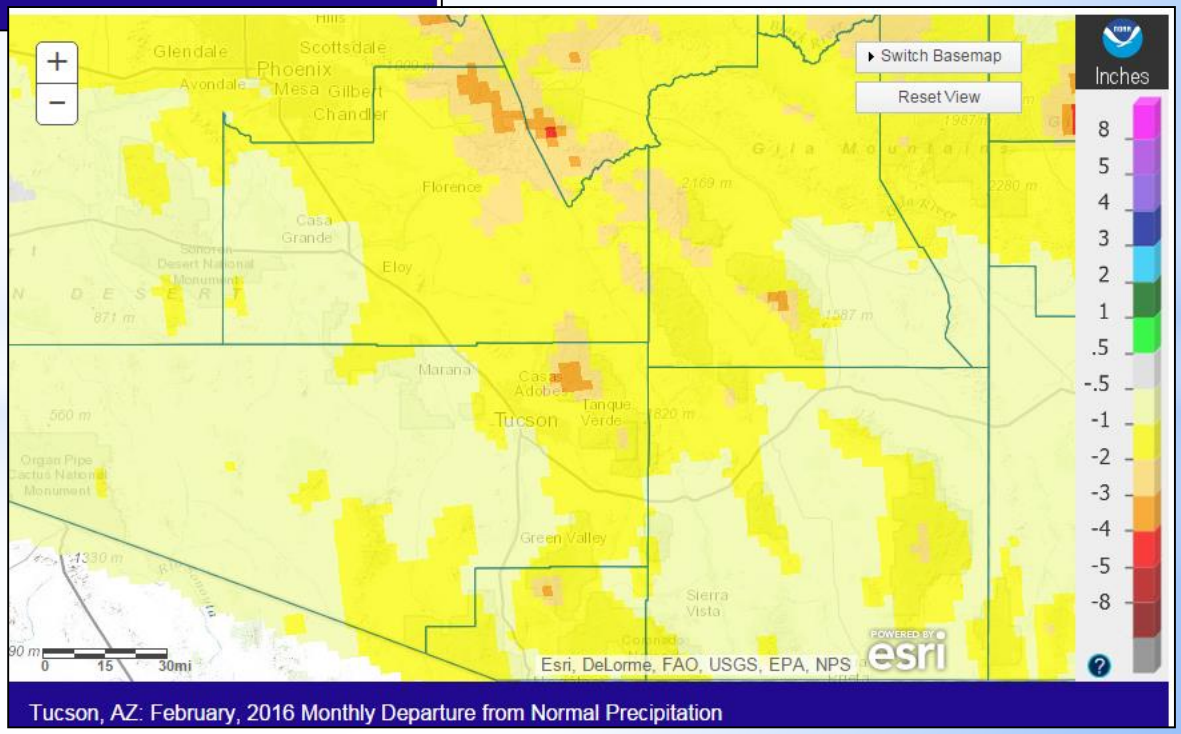




FEBRUARY 2016

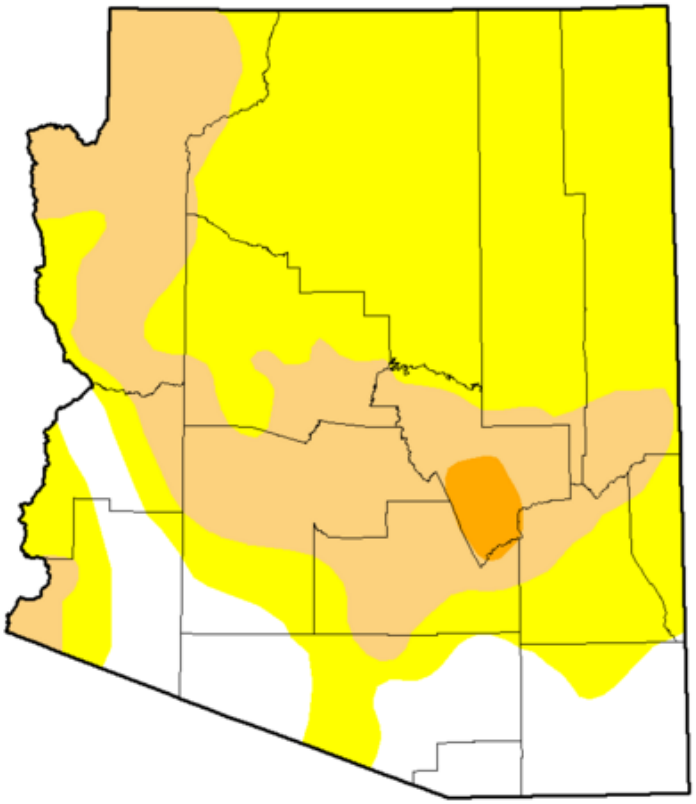


Tucson, AZ: February, 2016 Monthly Observed Precipitation

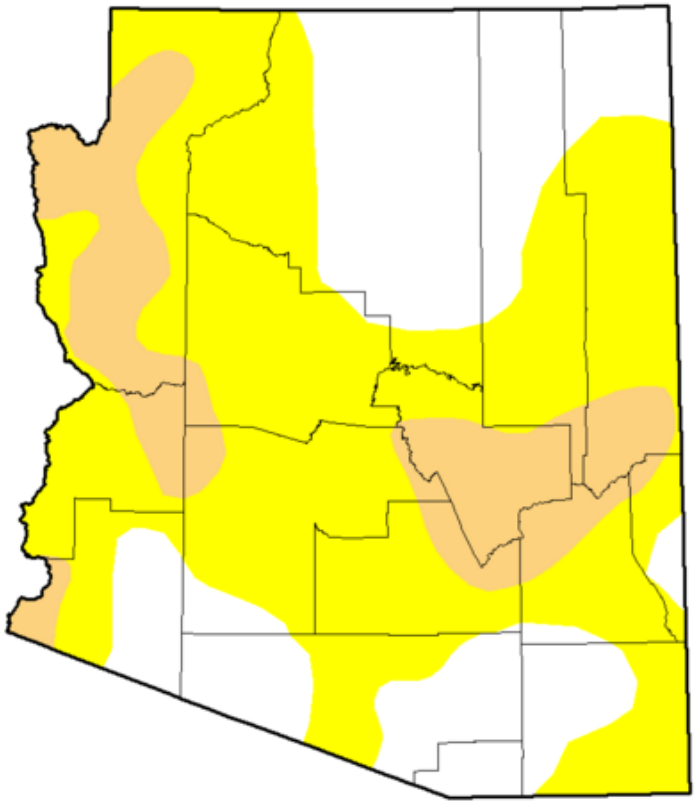


Tucson, AZ: February, 2016 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation

Drought Conditions



December 1, 2015



February 23, 2016

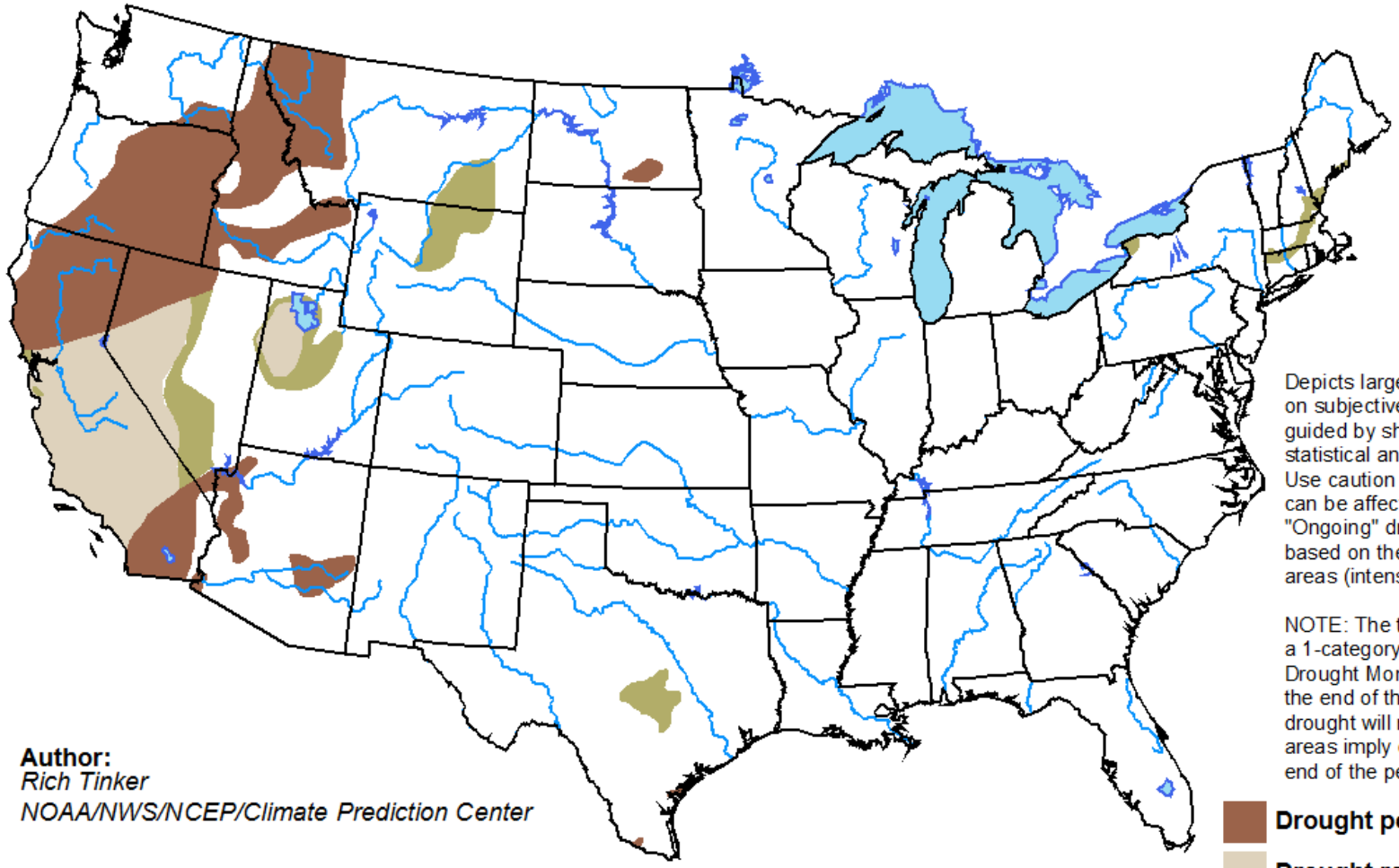
Statistics Comparison

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2015-12-01	15.73	84.27	29.87	1.27	0.00	0.00
2016-02-23	31.11	68.89	16.13	0.00	0.00	0.00

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 18 - May 31, 2016
Released February 18, 2016



Author:
Rich Tinker
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).

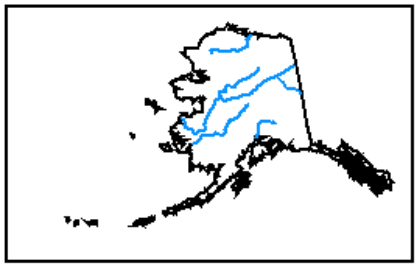
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

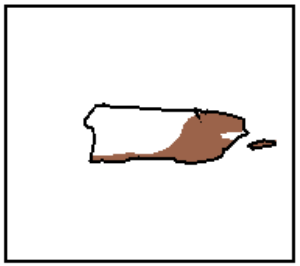
Drought persists

Drought remains but improves

Drought removal likely

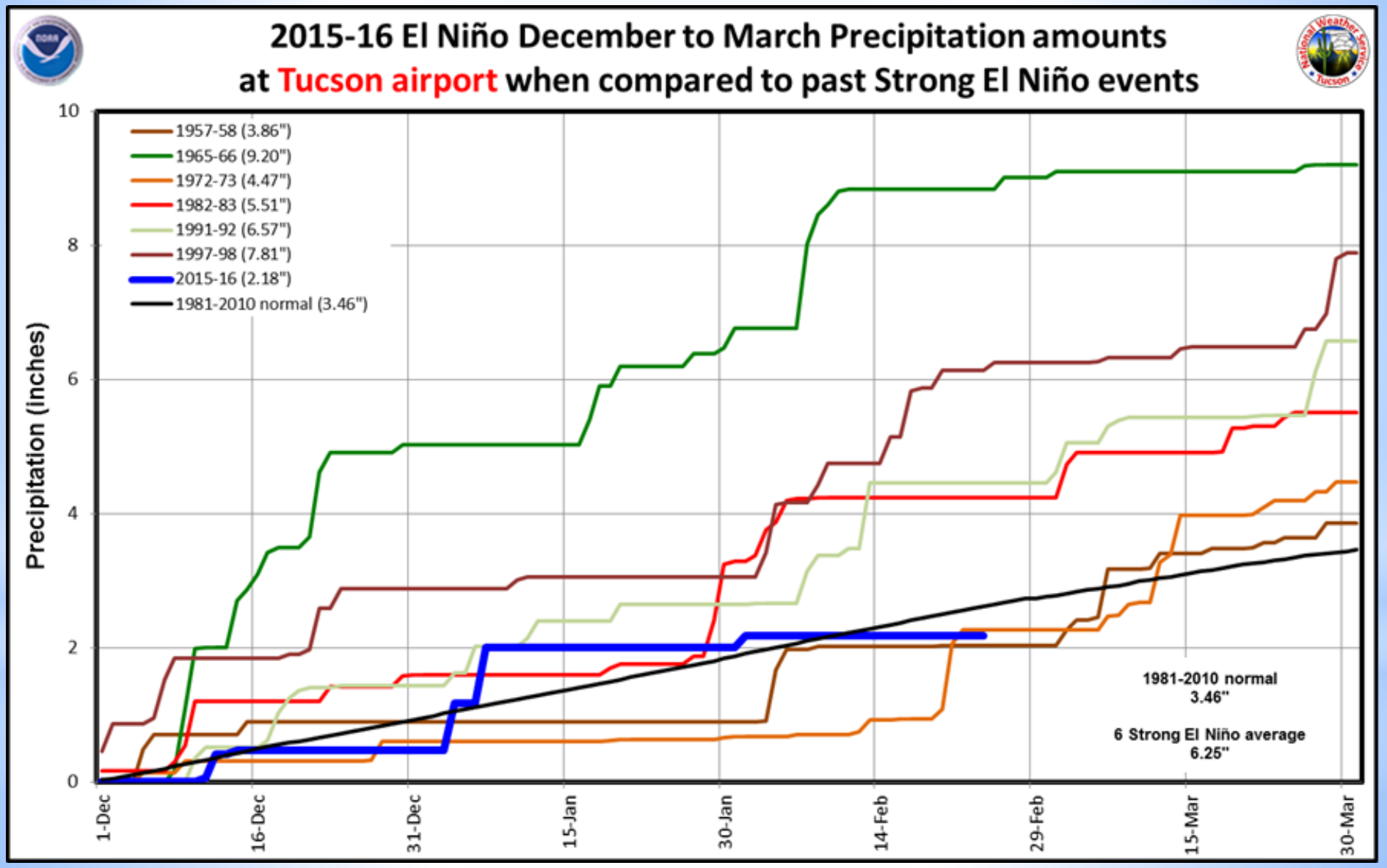
Drought development likely





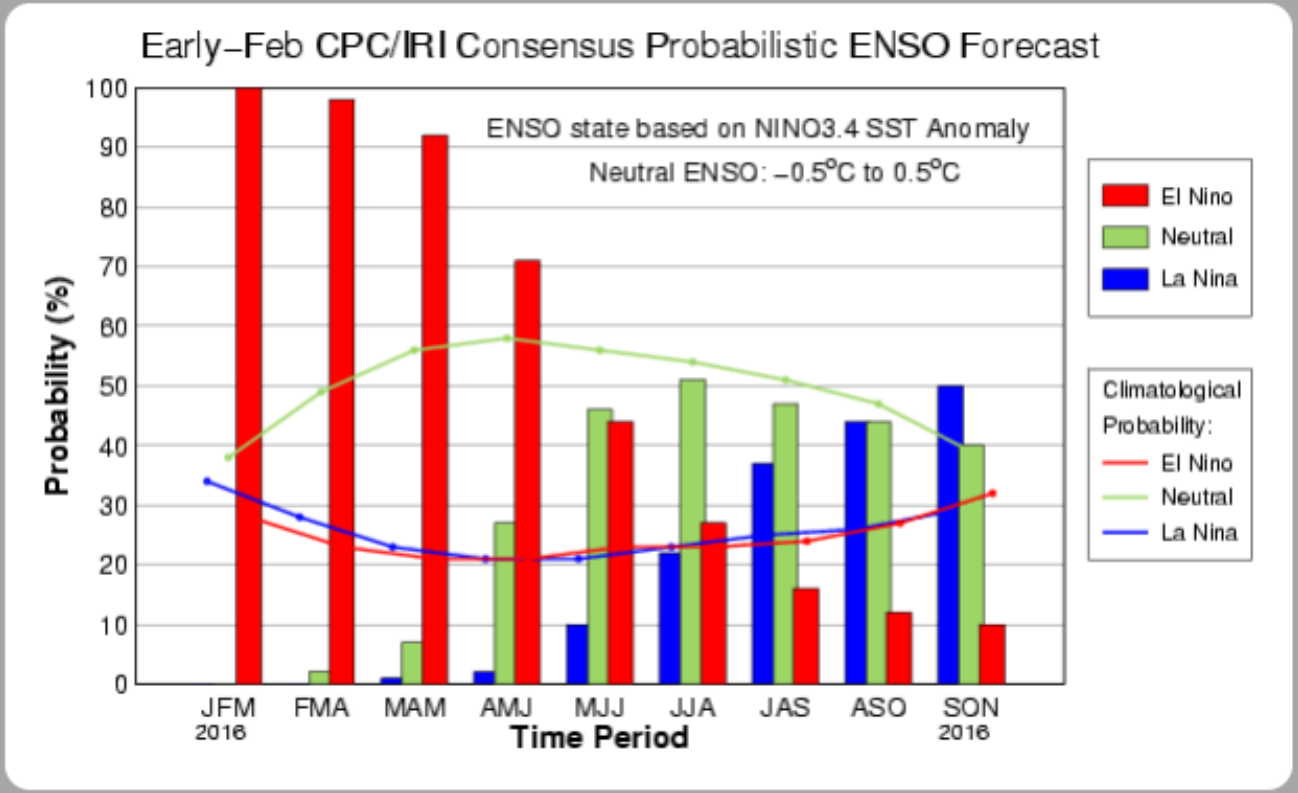
http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73

El Niño

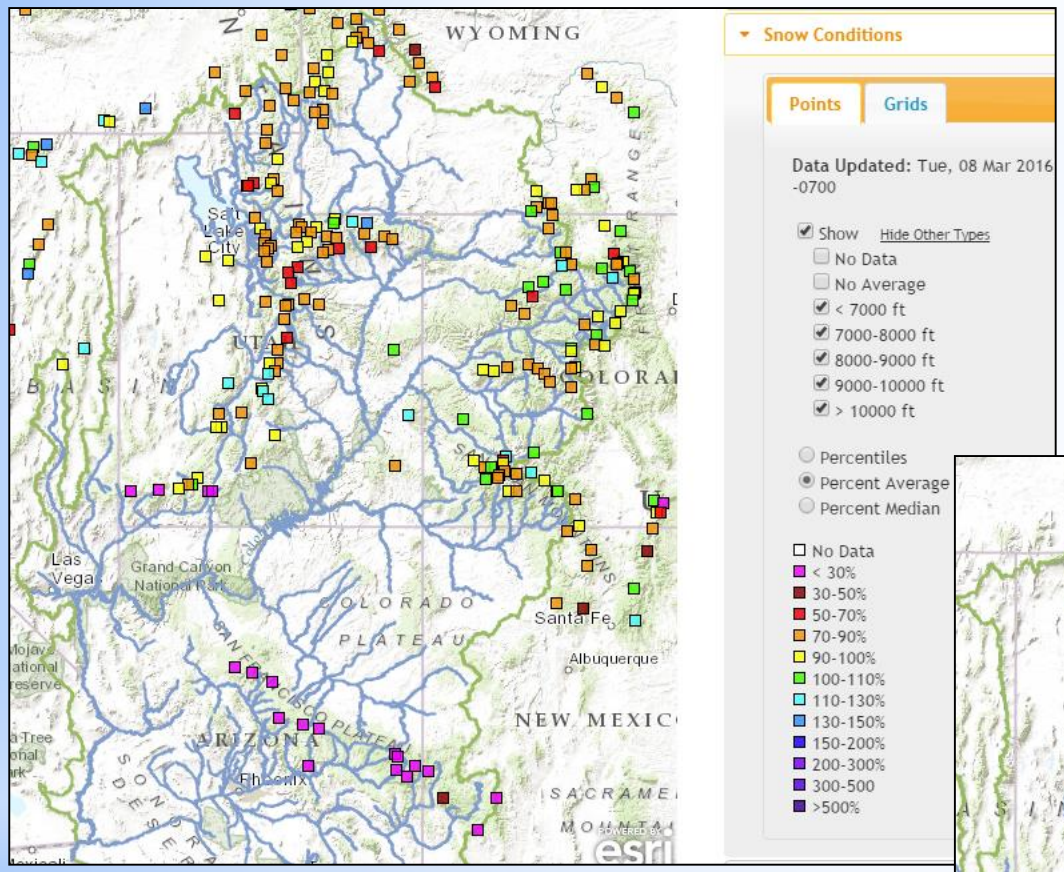

2015-16 El Niño December to March Precipitation amounts
at Tucson airport when compared to past Strong El Niño events
1957-58 (3.86")
1965-66 (9.20")
1972-73 (4.47")
1982-83 (5.51")
1991-92 (6.57")
1997-98 (7.81")
2015-16 (2.18")
1981-2010 normal (3.46")
Precipitation (inches)
0
2
4
6
8
10
1-Dec
16-Dec
31-Dec
15-Jan
30-Jan
14-Feb
29-Feb
15-Mar
30-Mar
1981-2010 normal
3.46"
6 Strong El Niño average
6.25"

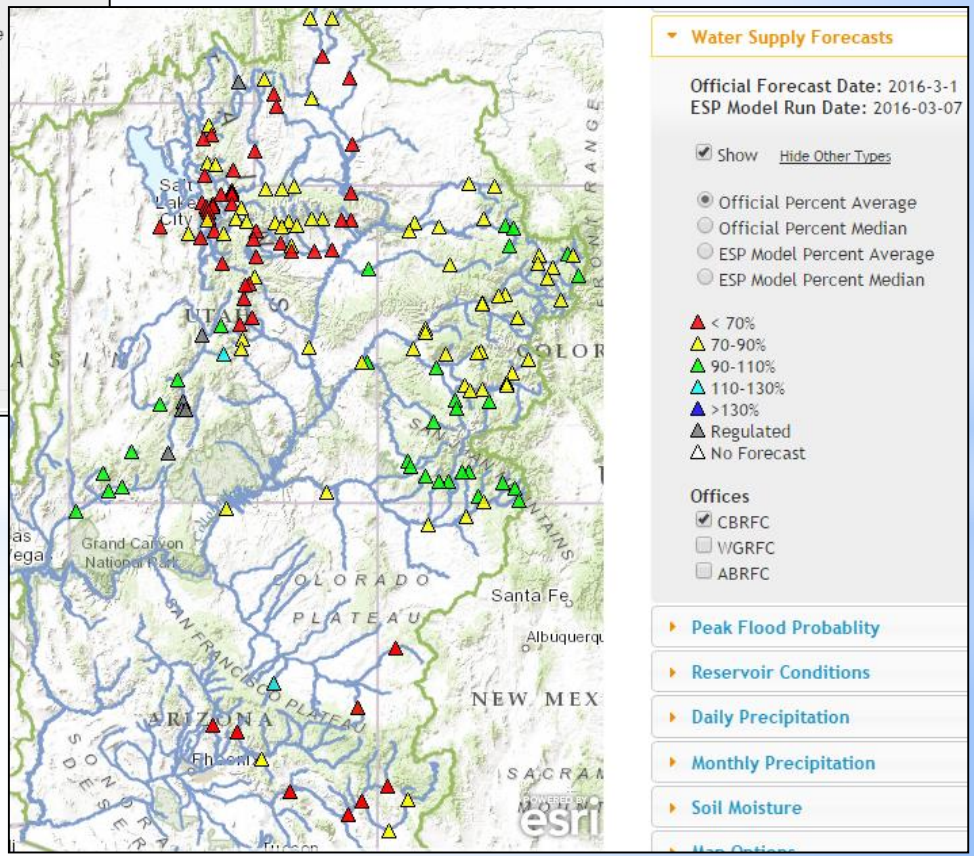
El Niño

The chance of El Niño gradually decreases into the spring and ENSO-neutral is favored by May-June-July (MJJ) 2016. The chance of La Niña increases to 50% in September-October-November (SON) 2016.



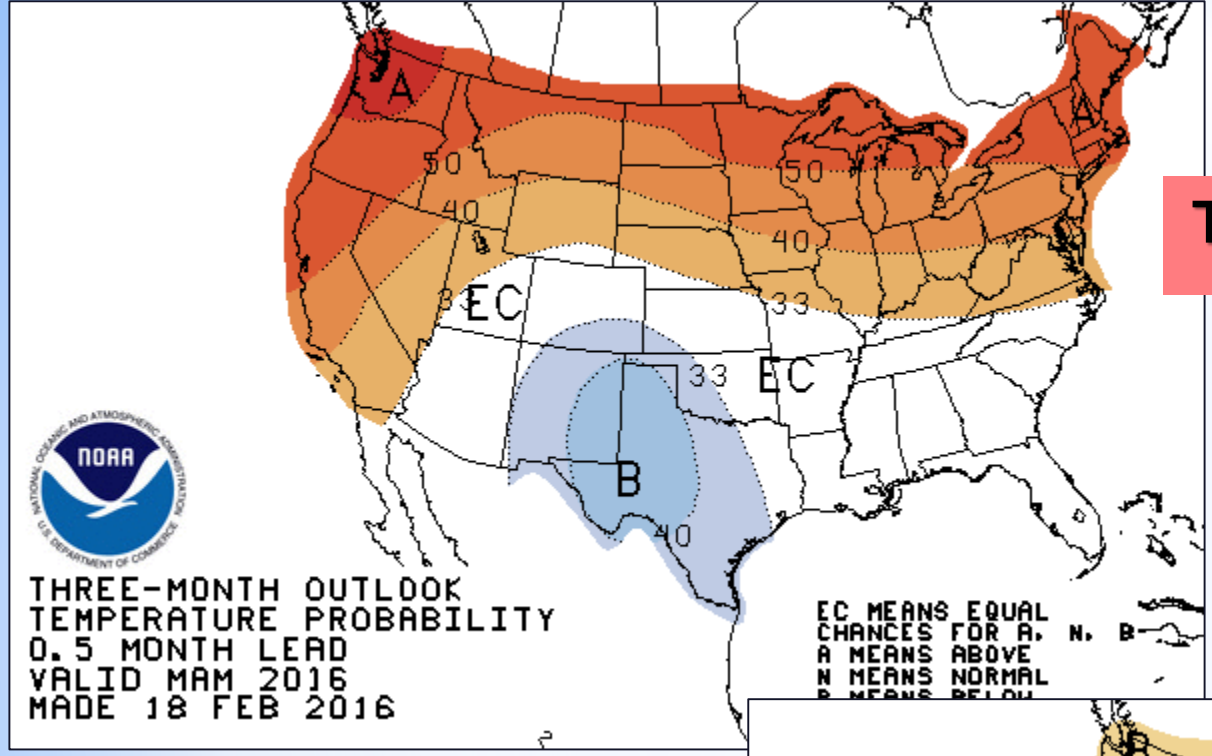
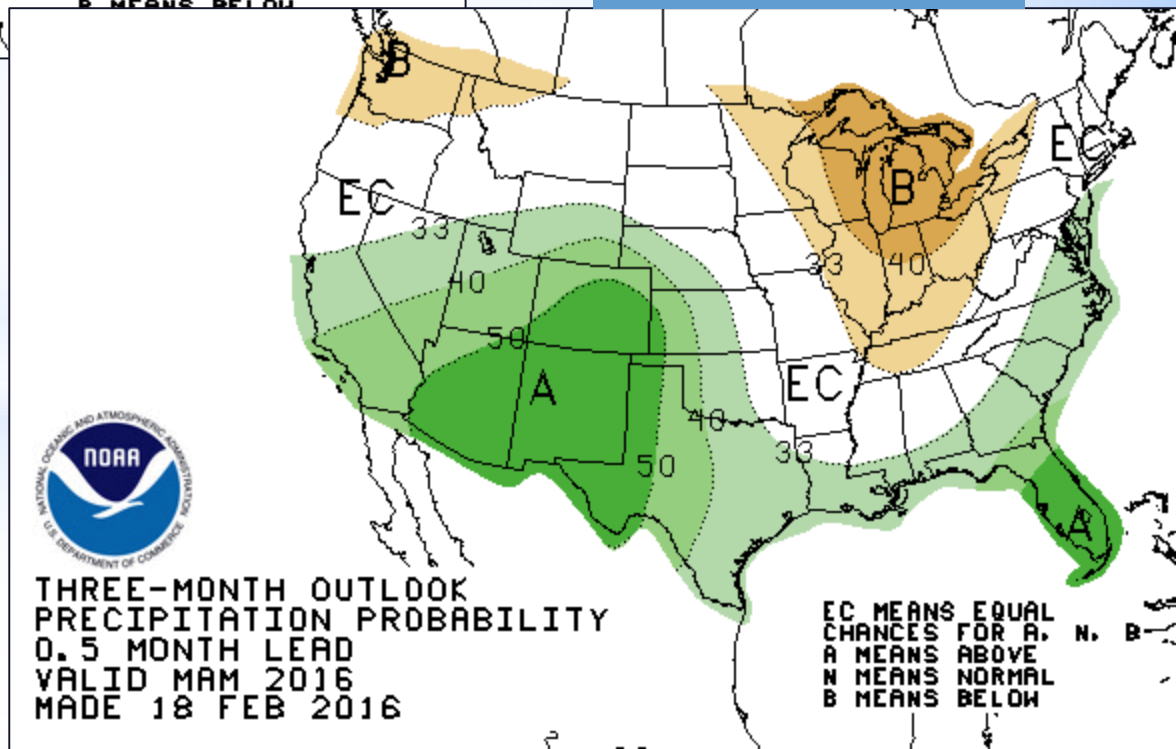
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center





March - May Outlook

Temperature



Precipitation