

Summer/Fall 2026 Outlook

Winter 2026-27 Preview

Mark O'Malley

National Weather Service

Phoenix, AZ

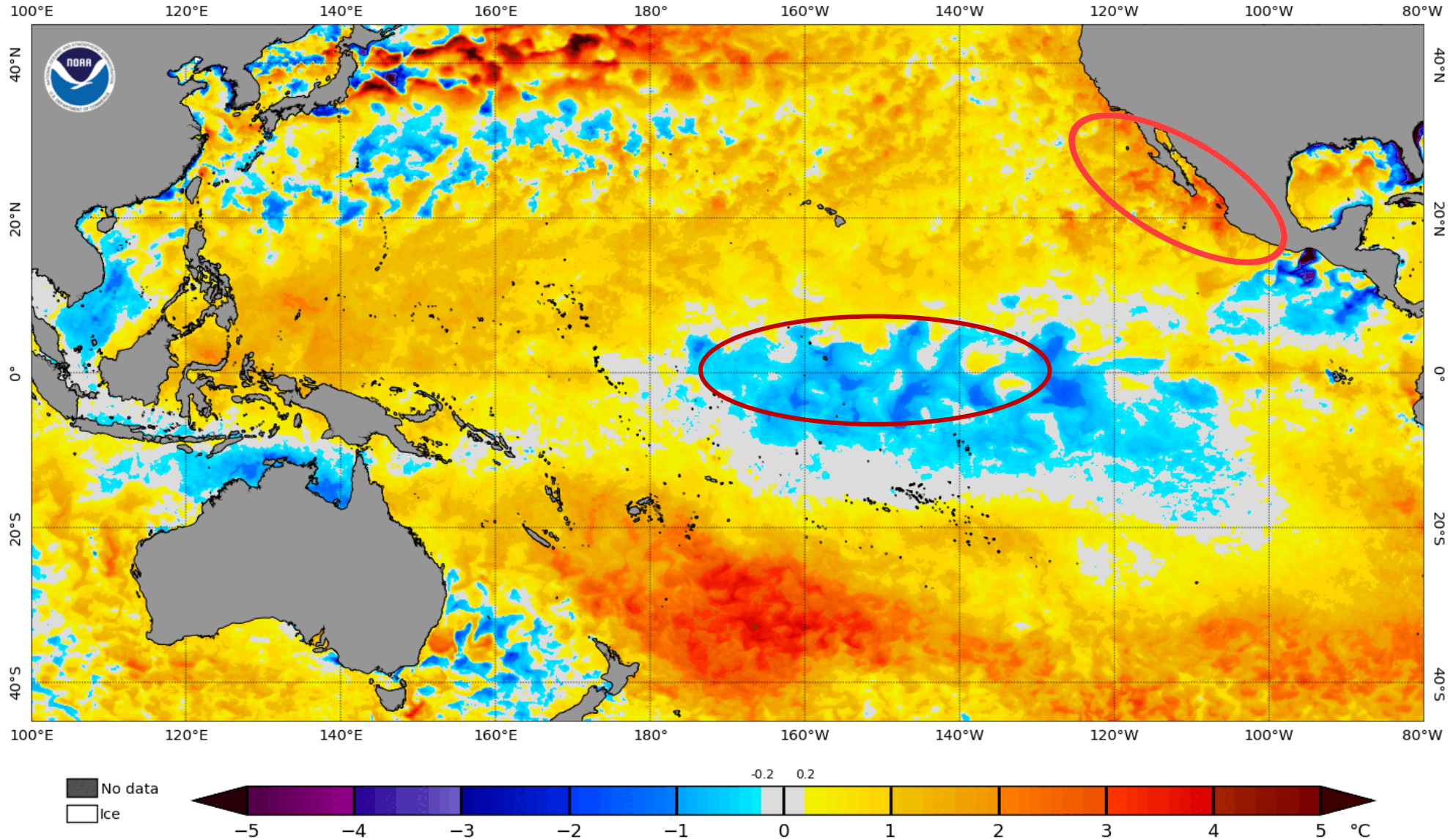
www.weather.gov/phoenix





ENSO – Sea Surface Temperatures

NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km SST Anomalies (v3.1) 3 Feb 2026



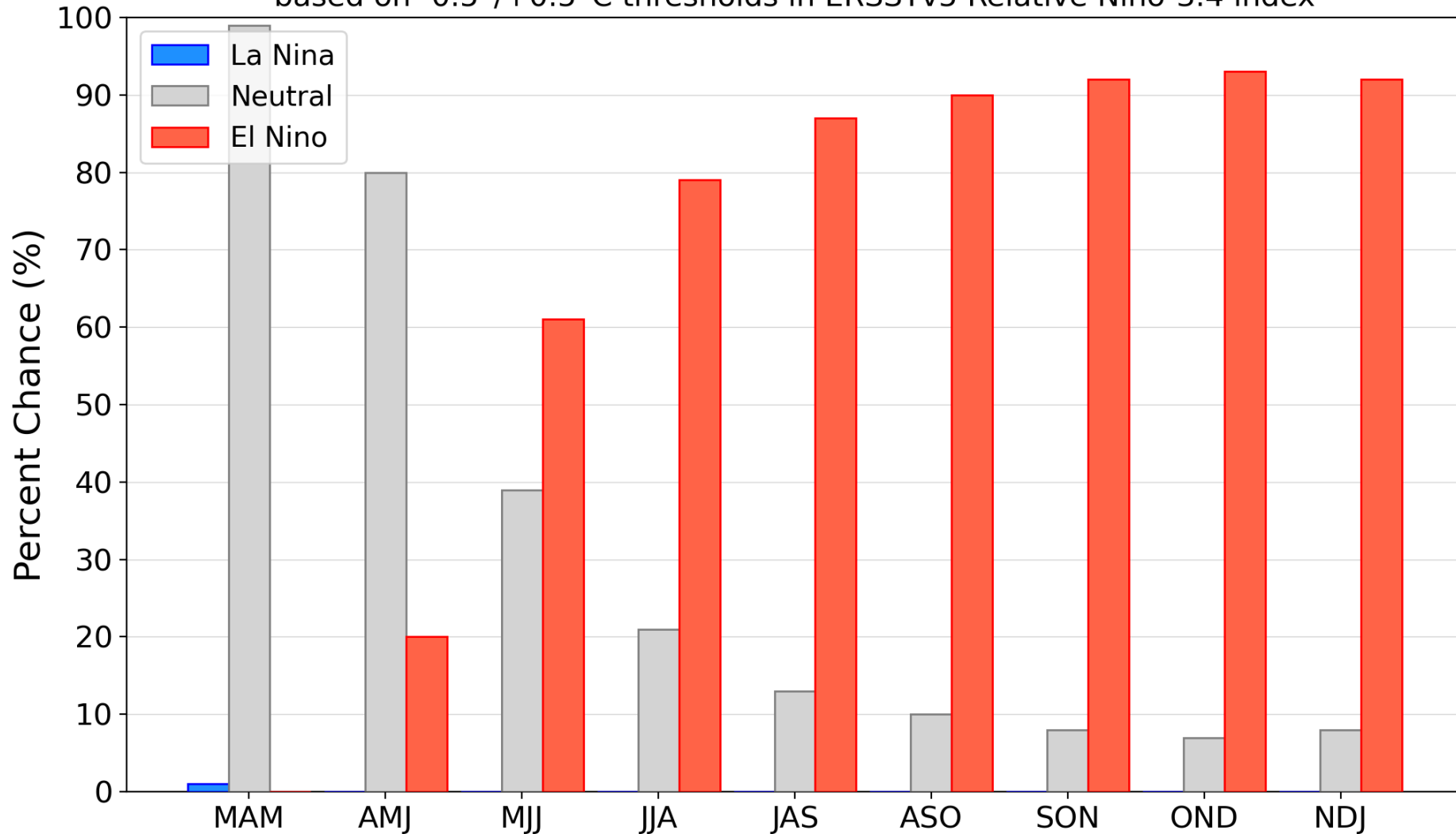


El Niño/La Niña Outlook – April 2026

Model Predictions of ENSO from Apr 2026

Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued April 2026)

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



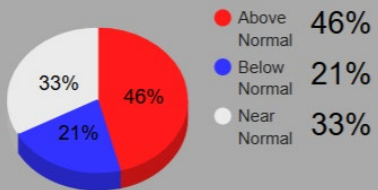


Temperature Outlook: Jul/Aug/Sep 2026



Seasonal Temperature Outlook

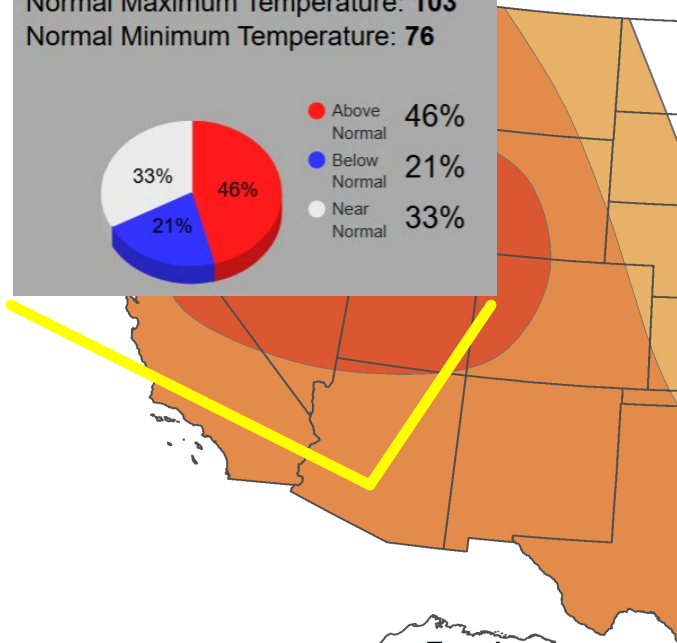
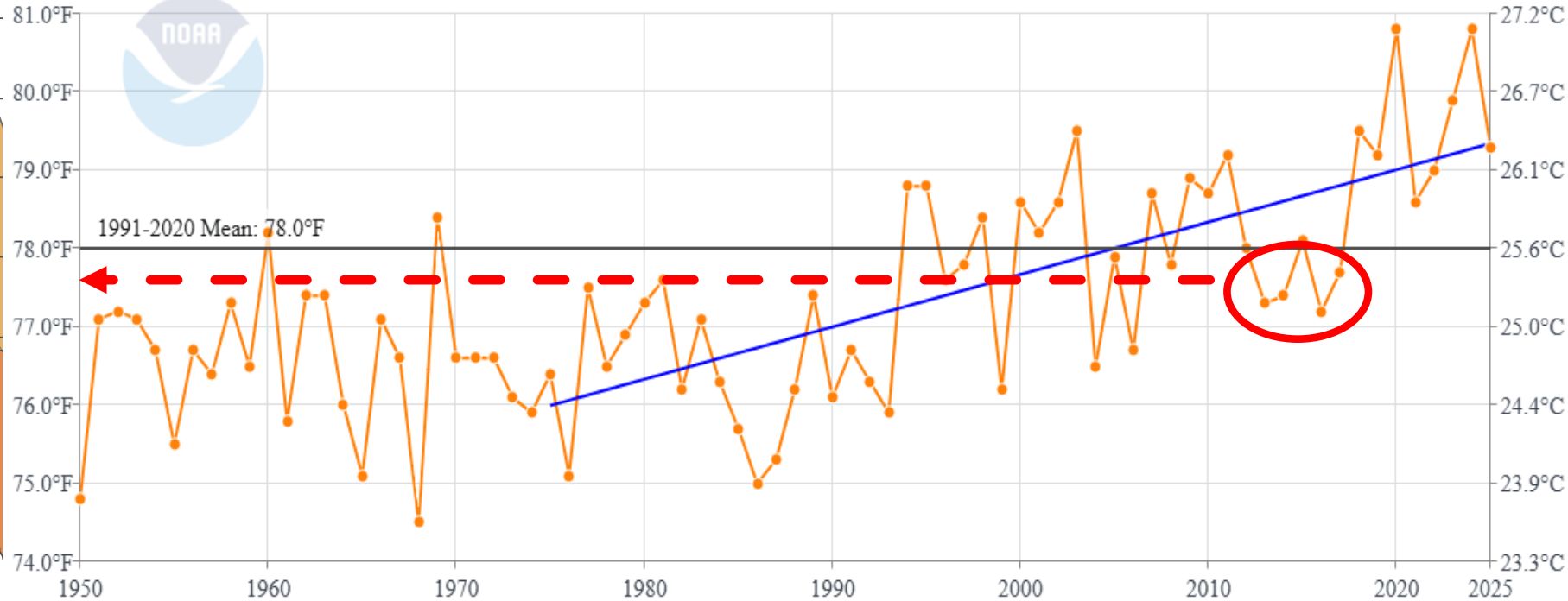
Three Category Temperature Outlook
Normal Maximum Temperature: **103**
Normal Minimum Temperature: **76**



Valid:
Issue

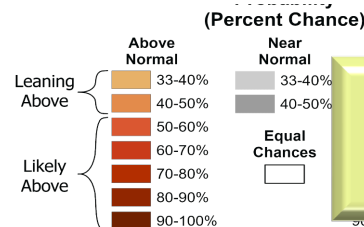
Arizona Average Temperature

July-September



Equal Chances

Above

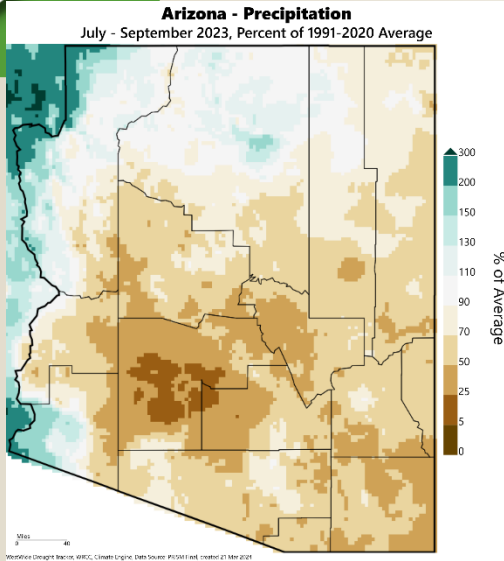


Three-month average

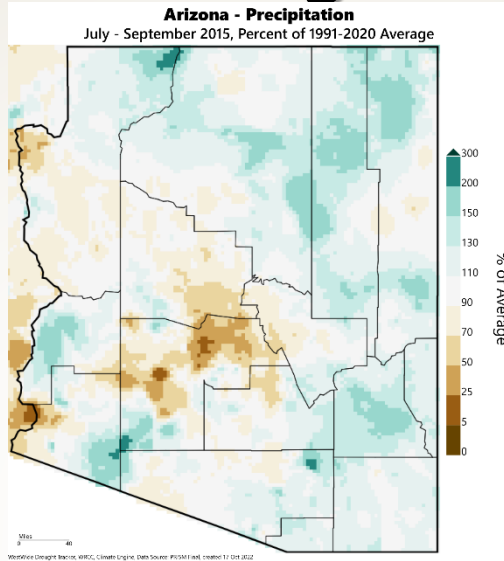
Better odds for above normal temperatures



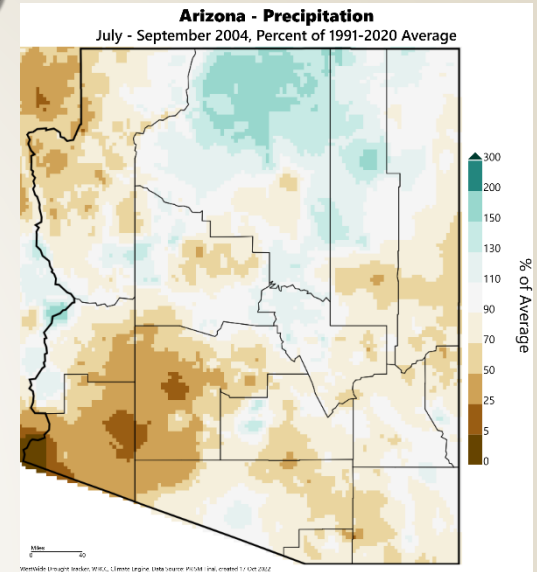
Recent Monsoon Rainfall during an emerging El Niño (Jul-Sep Percent Average Precipitation)



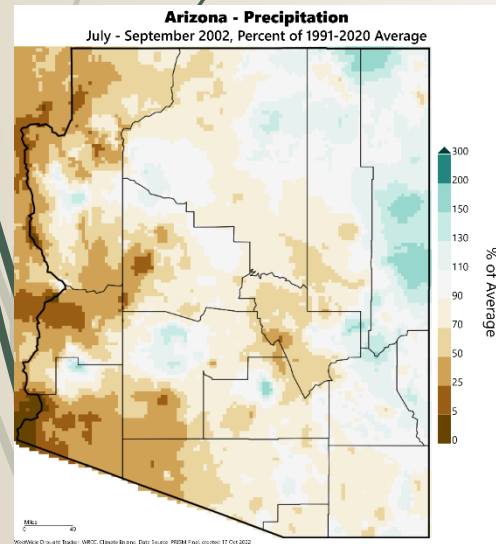
2023



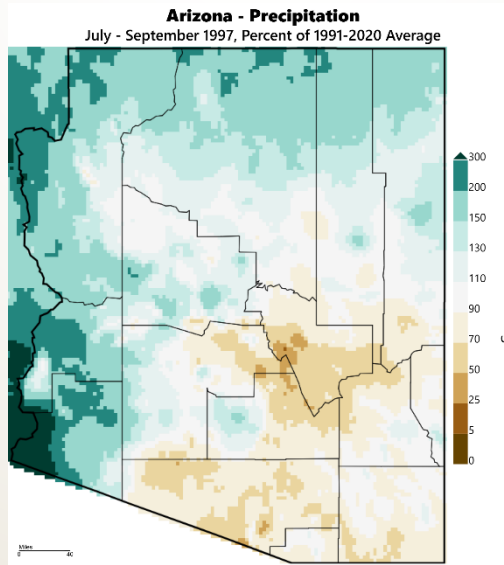
2015



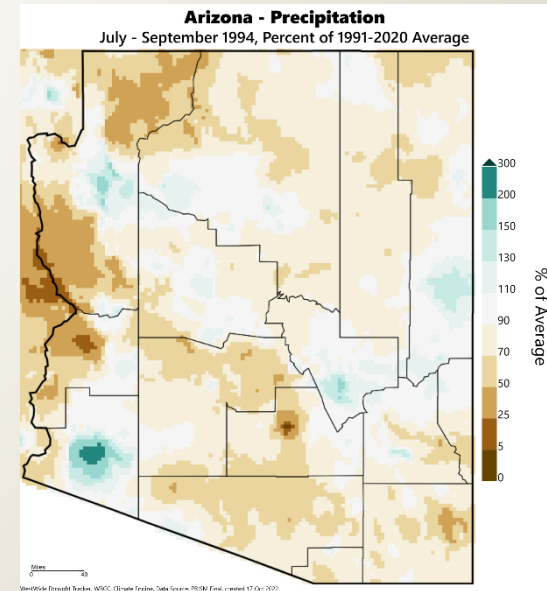
2004



2002



1997



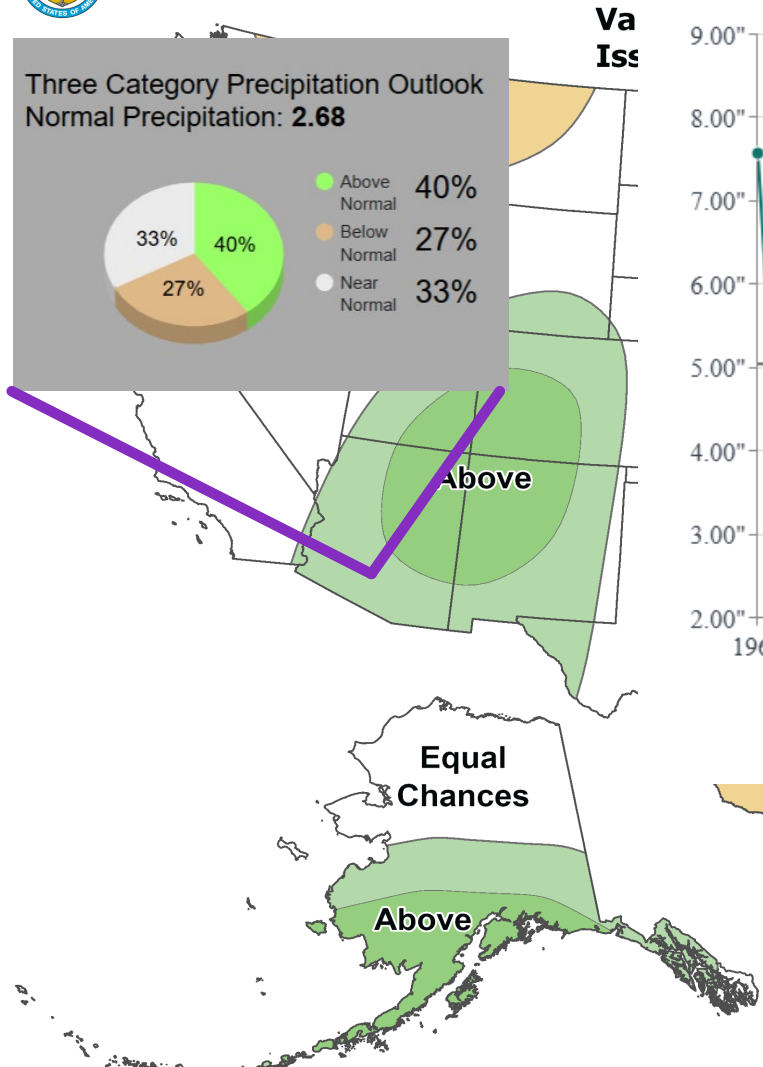
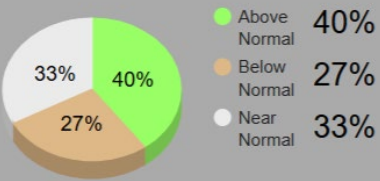
1994



Precipitation Outlook: Jul/Aug/Sep 2026

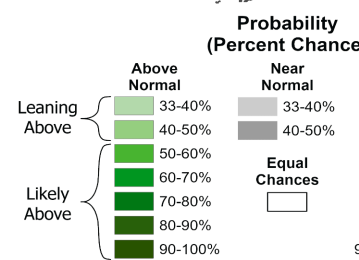
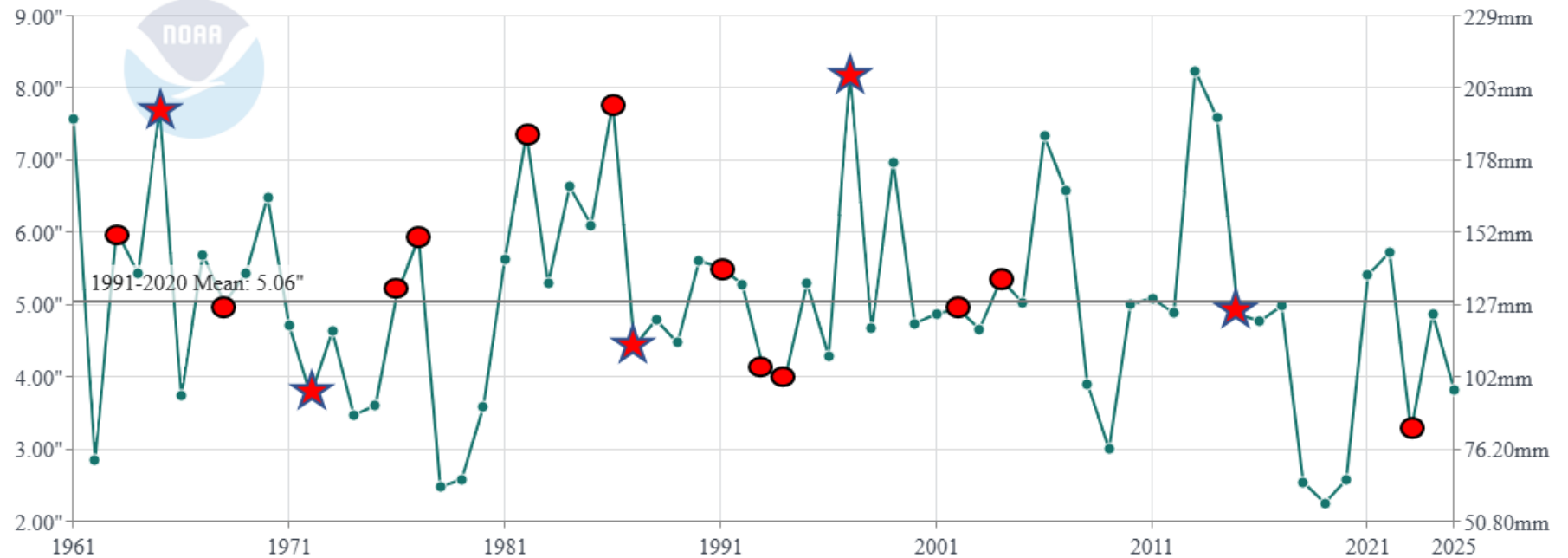
Seasonal Forecast

Three Category Precipitation Outlook
Normal Precipitation: **2.68**



Colorado, Climate Division 2 Precipitation

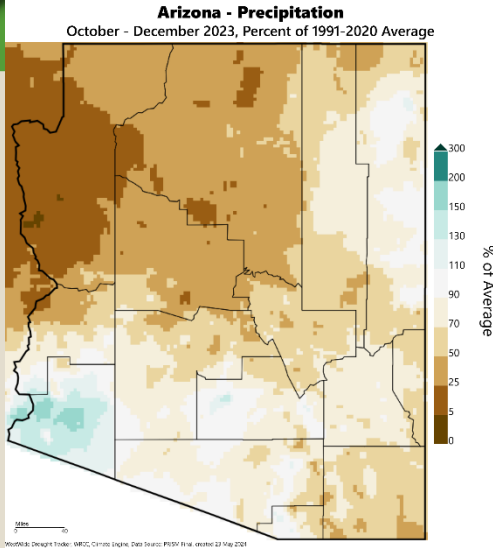
July-September



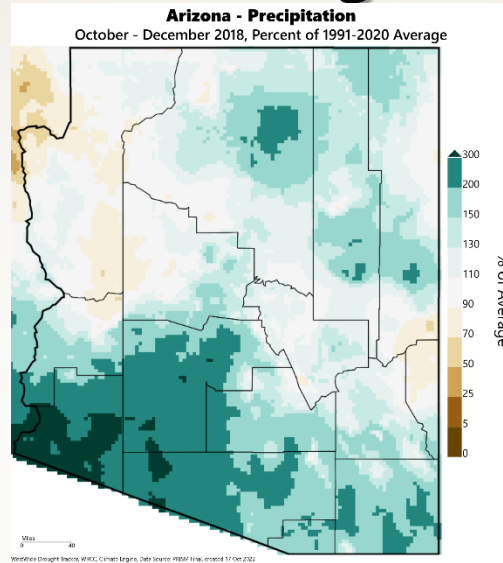
Three-month total
Slightly better odds of above average precipitation



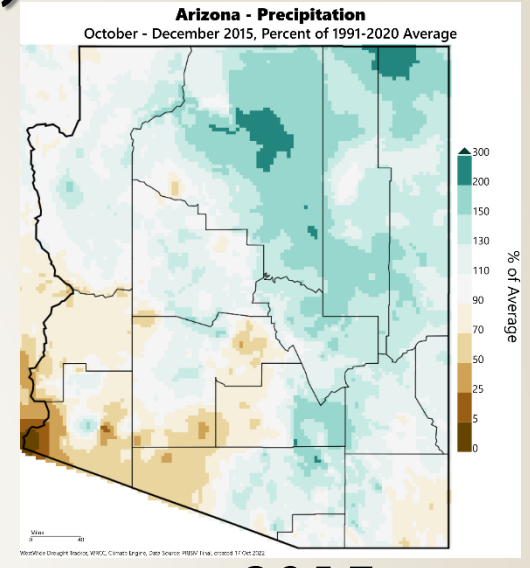
Recent Autumn Precipitation during an El Niño (Oct-Dec Percent Average Precipitation)



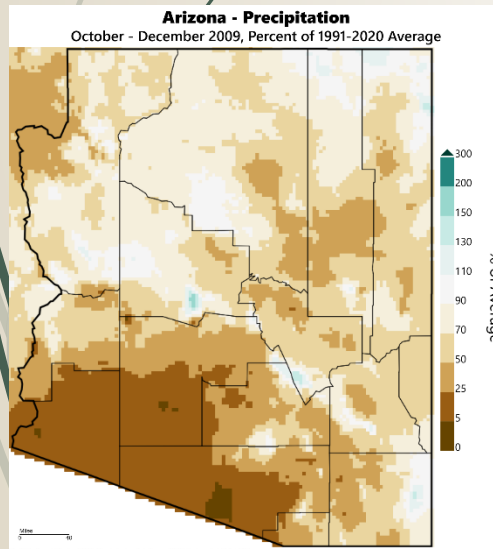
2023



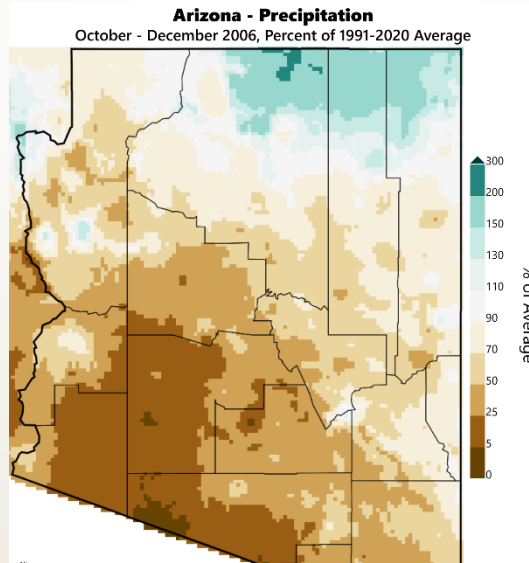
2018



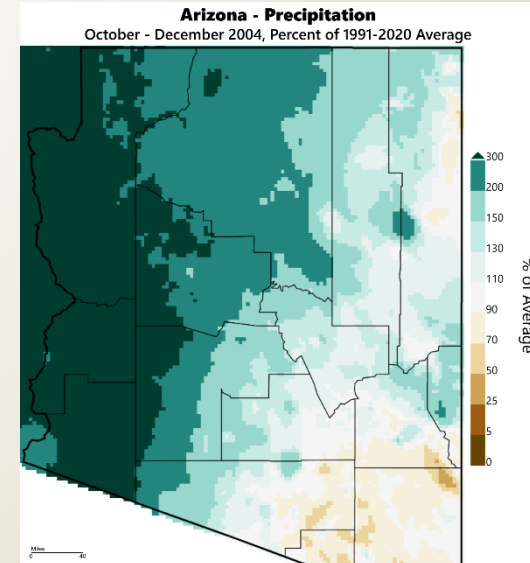
2015



2009



2006



2004

Precipitation Outlook: Oct/Nov/Dec 2026

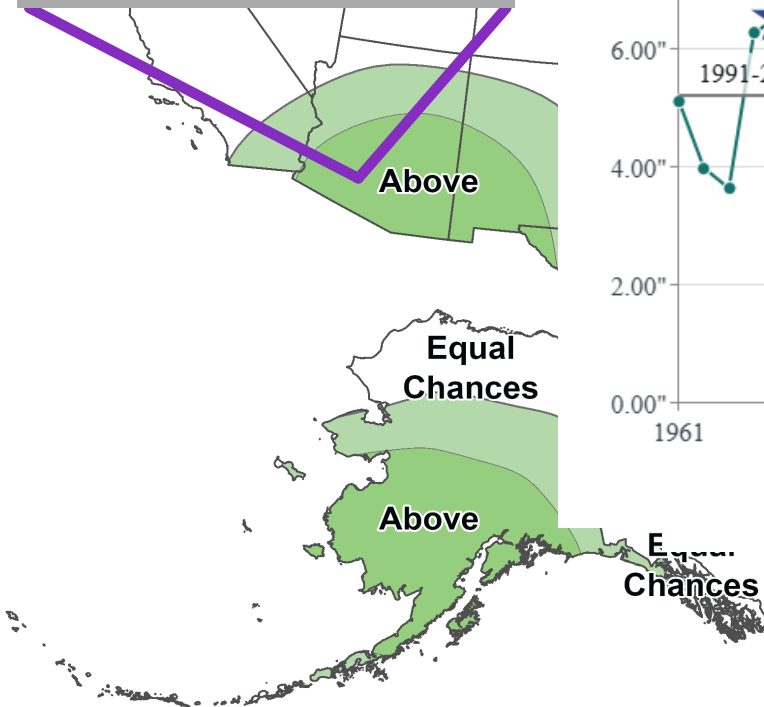
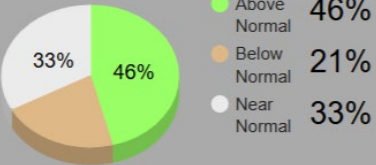


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

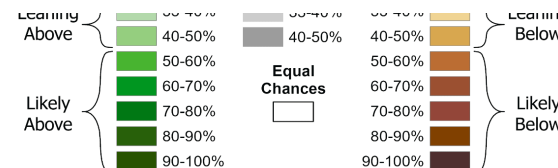
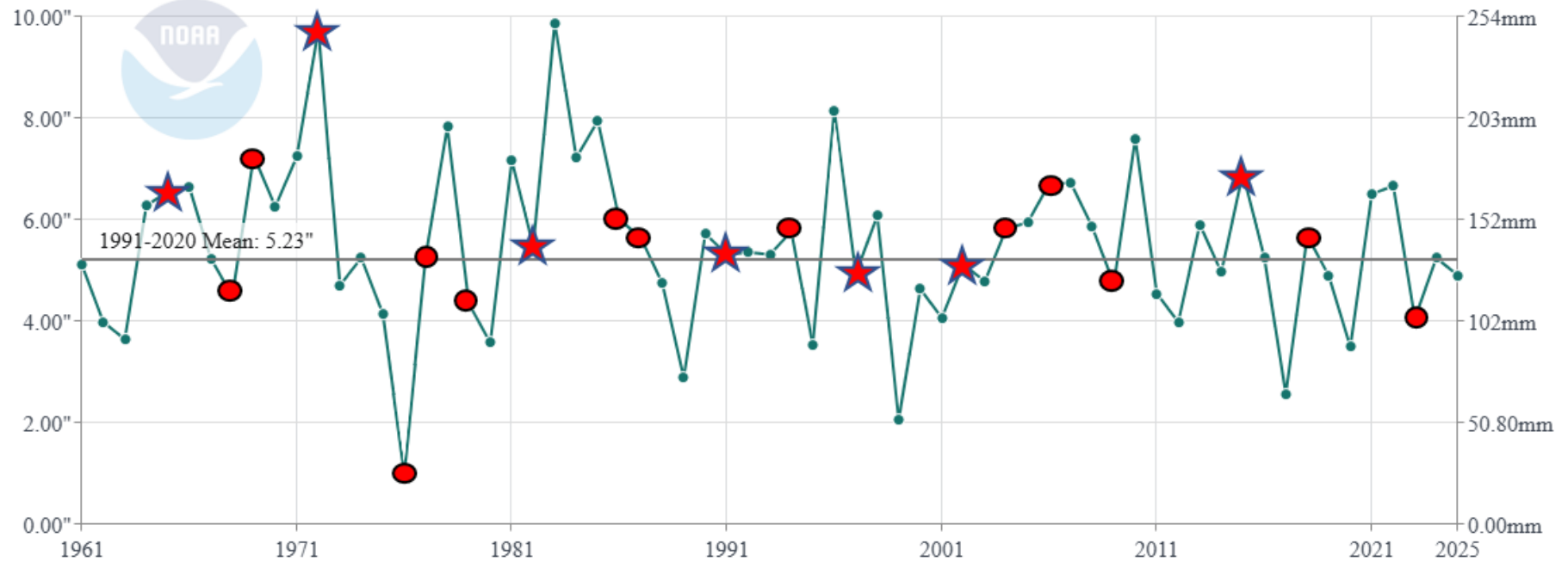
Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026
Issued: April 16, 2026



Three Category Precipitation Outlook
 Normal Precipitation: **2.30**



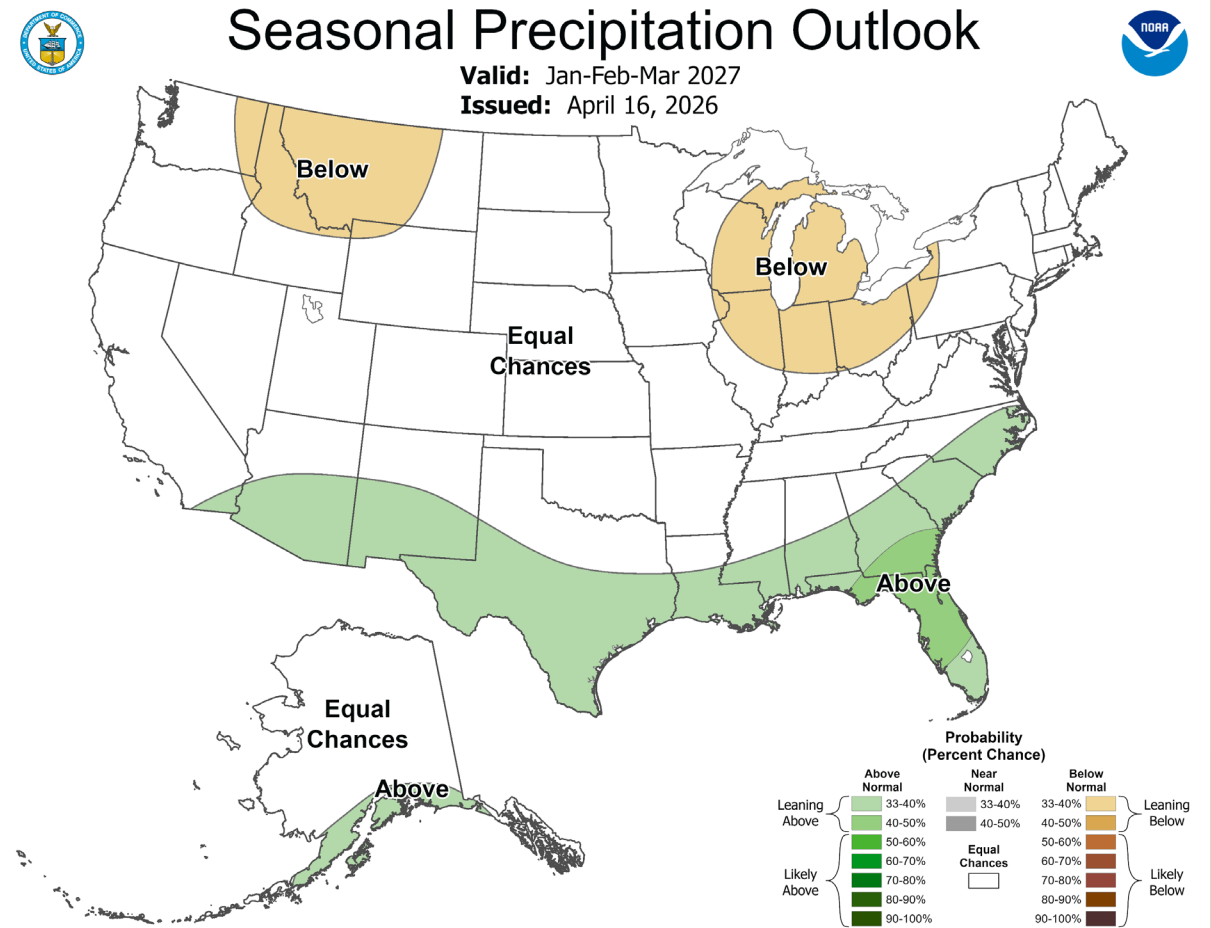
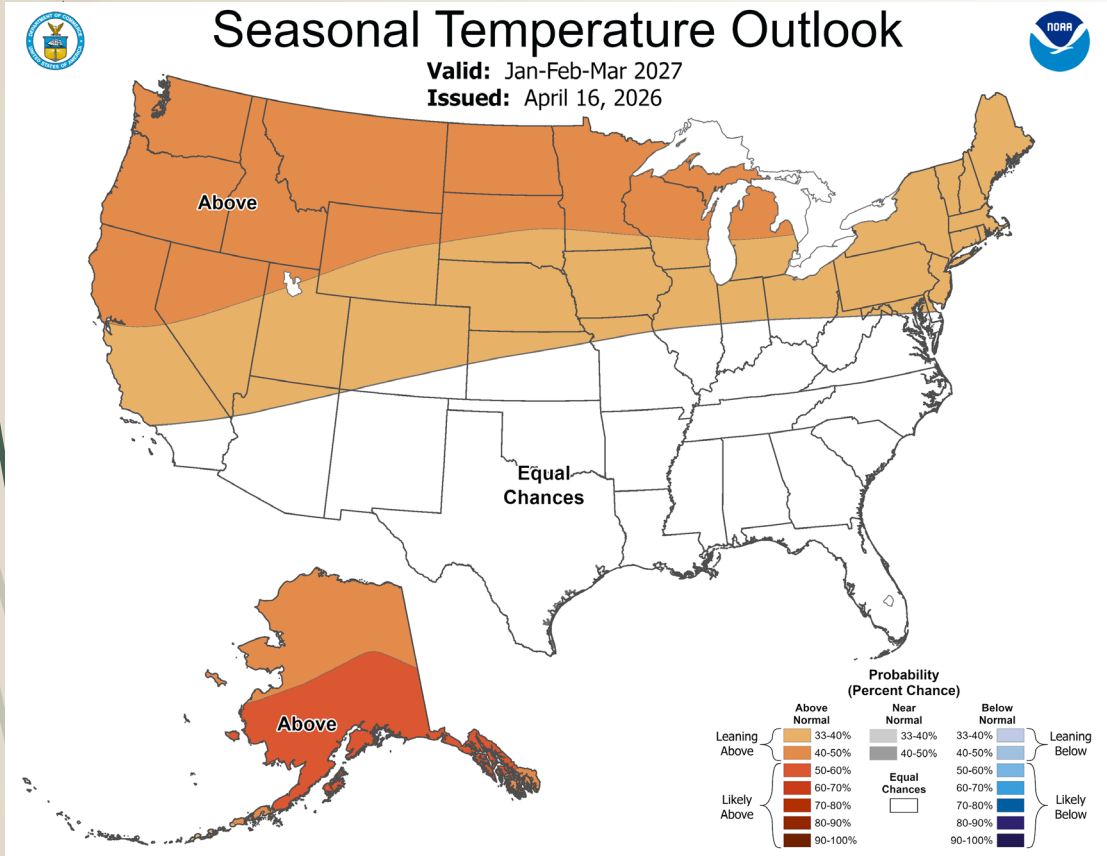
Colorado, Climate Division 2 Precipitation
 October-December





Outlook: Jan/Feb/Mar 2027

Three-month average/total
Shading indicates chances of
above or below normal



Slight shift in odds favoring a wetter winter 2026-27, but equal chances regarding temperature

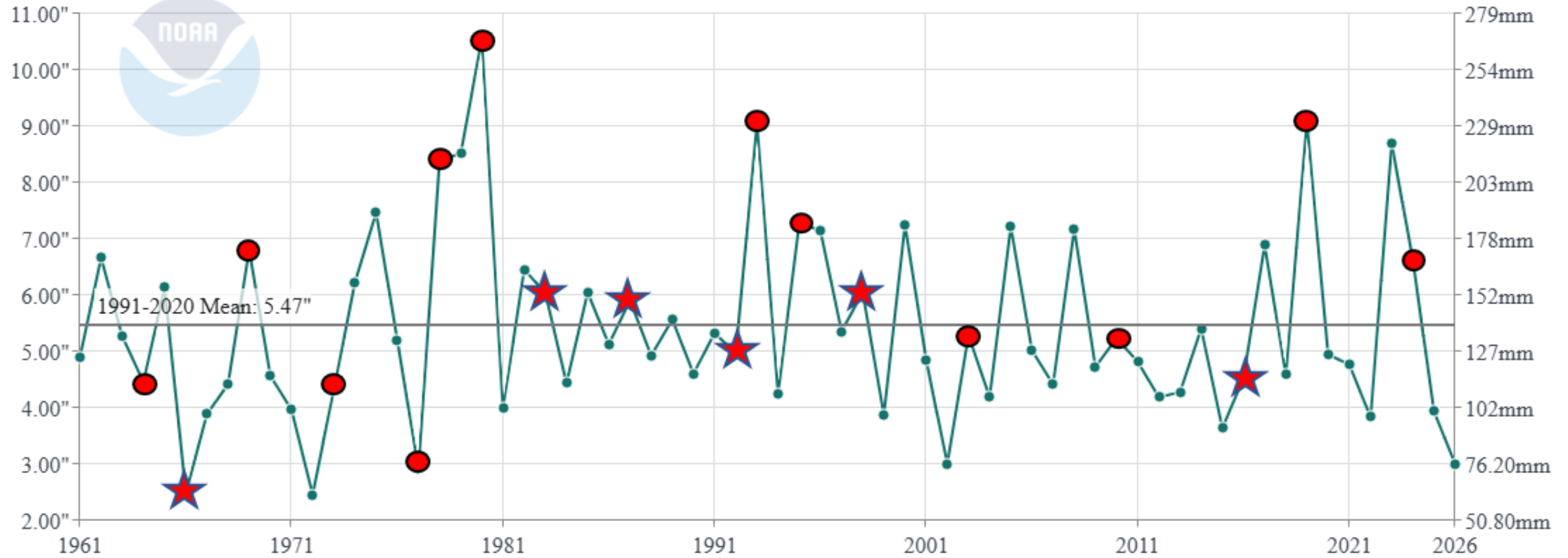


Recent Winter Precipitation during El Niño (Jan-Mar Percent Average Precipitation)

Arizona - Precipitation

Arizona - Precipitation
January - March 2016, Percent of 1991-2020 Average

Colorado, Climate Division 2 Precipitation January-March



2010

2003

1998



Summary

E-mail: mark.omalley@noaa.gov

- Odds favor a warmer than average summer based on modeling, but **especially** trends over the past 30-50 years
- Odds are slightly increased for a wetter than average monsoon, but randomness of thunderstorms will likely provide large spatial variations in rainfall coverage
- **Very High** confidence in El Nino developing this summer and peaking during winter 2026-27, potentially in a strong to very strong category
- There are enhanced chances that fall 2026 will be wetter than average, however historically there is a wide range of outcomes during the autumn season
- Recent warm, dry conditions have hurt soil moisture levels, and a wet period prior to the winter would be beneficial to aid in runoff efficiency
- Slightly elevated chances exist for a wetter than normal winter 2026-27 concurrent with El Nino. Some of the wettest Arizona winters occur during El Nino events