

Rio Grande|Bravo

CLIMATE IMPACTS & OUTLOOK January 2016

SUMMARY

Forecasts call for increased chances of below-average temperatures and above-average precipitation for much of the region through March 2016, mostly due to the influences of El Niño.

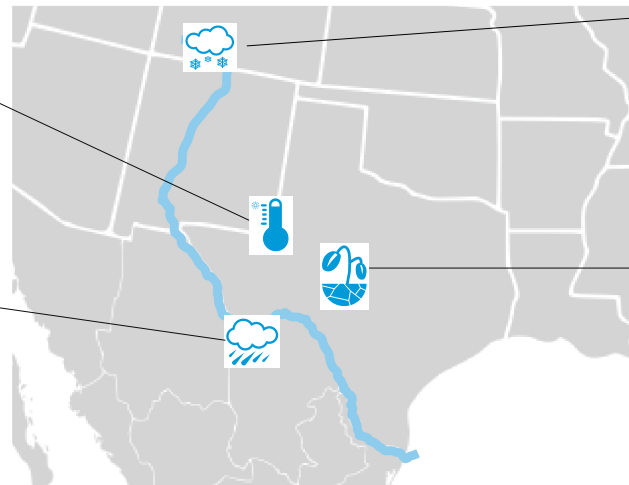
AT A GLANCE

West Texas

Temperatures in western Texas were 4-6°F (2.2-3.3°C) above average in December

Rio Grande Basin

Increased chances of above-average precipitation for the region in February



Colorado/New Mexico

Snowpack in the Sangre de Cristo and Jemez mountains, which feed the Rio Grande, reached 134% of average in January

Rio Grande Basin

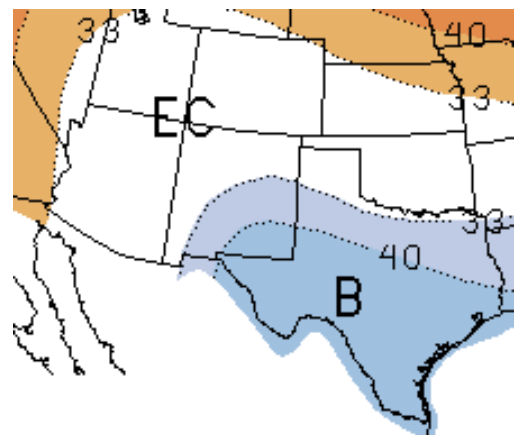
The majority of the region is predicted to remain drought-free through March

FORECAST JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH

TEMPERATURE

NOAA's three-month temperature outlooks call for increased chances of below-average temperatures in the majority of Texas and the southeastern region of New Mexico (NOAA; Figure 1). CONAGUA's Servicio Meteorológico Nacional (SMN) also forecasts below-average temperatures for January through March for northeastern Mexico (Figure 2).

Figure 1 (above right). NOAA January through March seasonal temperature outlook. Forecast made on December 17, 2015: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_temp.gif.



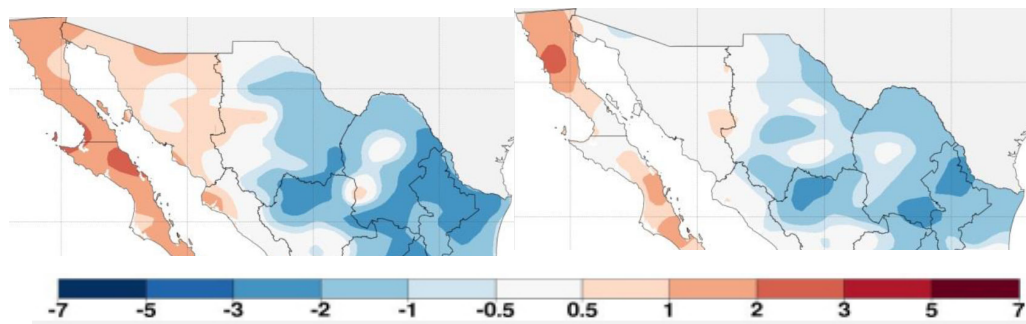


Figure 2. Predicted minimum temperature anomalies for northern Mexico (in °C). February (Left) and March (Right). Forecast made on January 8, 2016:

<http://smn.cna.gob.mx/climatologia/pronostico/prontemps.pdf>.

PRECIPITATION

Mostly due to the influence of strong El Niño conditions, NOAA precipitation forecasts favor increased chances of above-average precipitation for the entire U.S. Southwest region through March, with the highest probability in southern New Mexico and along the Texas/Coahuila/Chihuahua border region (Figure 3). The SMN forecasts average to above-average precipitation for most of the Rio Grande Region in Mexico in February. Forecasts for March vary between the two states, with Chihuahua predicted to receive above-average precipitation and Coahuila to receive below-average precipitation (Figure 4).

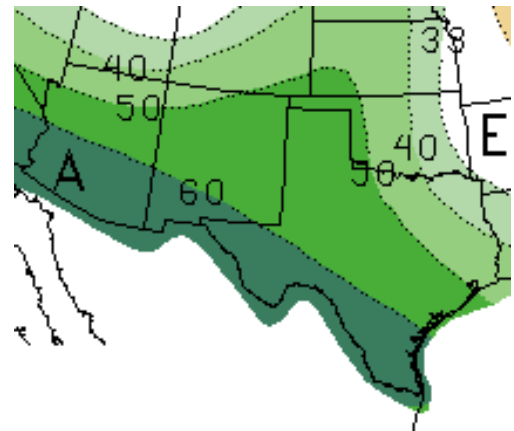


Figure 3 (above right). NOAA January through March seasonal precipitation outlook. Forecast made on December 17, 2015:

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off01_prpcp.gif.

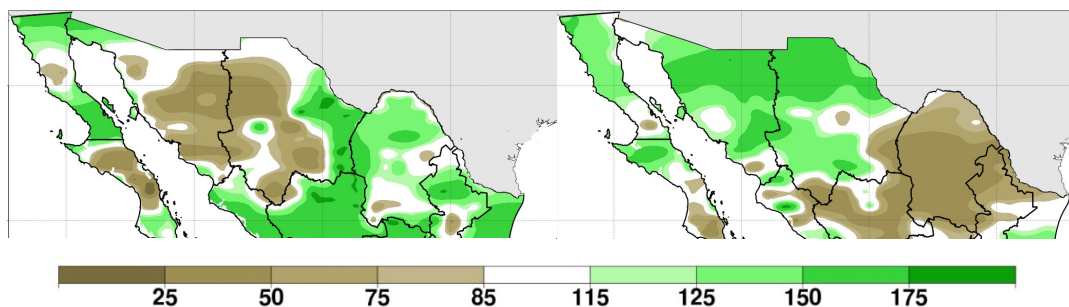


Figure 4. Percent of average precipitation for northern Mexico. February (Left) and March (Right). Forecast made in January 2016:

http://smn.cna.gob.mx/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=119:pronostico-climatologico-estacional&catid=9&Itemid=52.

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David Brown
Southern Region Climate Services Director
NOAA National Centers for Environmental
Information (NCEI)

Gregg Garfin
Climatologist
Climate Assessment for the Southwest
(CLIMAS)

Sarah LeRoy
Research Assistant
Climate Assessment for the Southwest
(CLIMAS)

Mark Shafer
Director of Climate Services
Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program

Hennessy Miller
Graduate Student
University of Arizona

Blanca E. Irigoyen/Brisia E. Espinosa
Climate Services
Mexico National Meteorological Services
(SMN)

Reynaldo Pascual/Adelina Albanil
Drought
Mexico National Meteorological Services
(SMN)

Martín Ibarra/Martín Guillén
Seasonal Forecasts
Mexico National Meteorological Services
(SMN)

Héctor Robles
Wildfire
Mexico National Meteorological Services
(SMN)