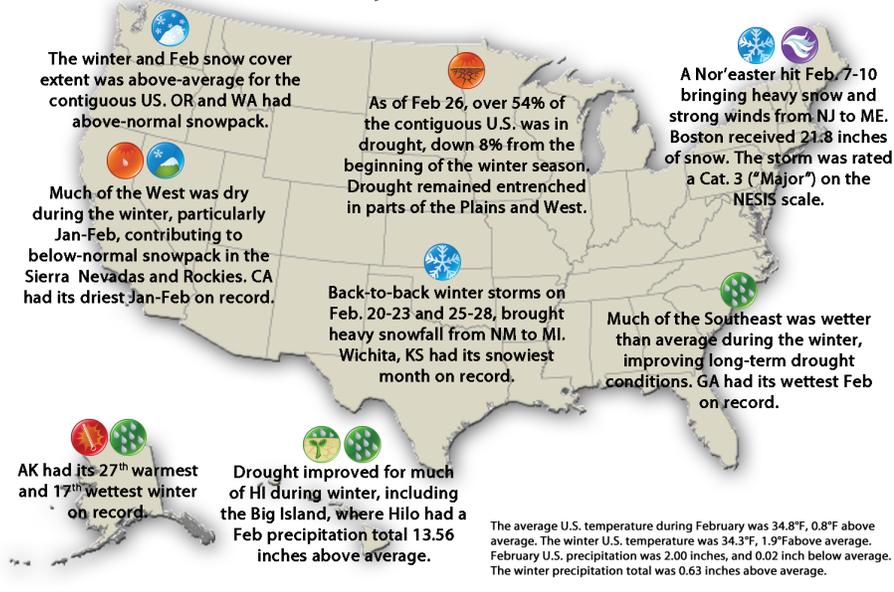


### Significant Regional and National Events for December 2012 - February 2013

## Significant Events for Winter and February 2013



## Highlights from the Region

### Oklahoma

- Beneficial winter precipitation has dropped exceptional and extreme drought coverage in the state from **91% – 62 %** since December 1.

### Texas

- Statewide, **below normal rainfall** has occurred four out of the past five months; agricultural and municipal **water deliveries are curtailed** along the Lower Rio Grande.

### New Mexico

- Northern mountain snowpack is running **20 – 40 % below** the historical median.

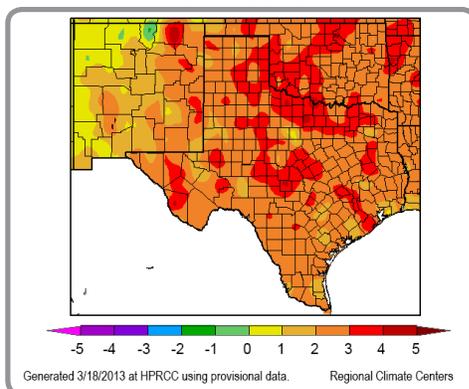
### Chihuahua (Mexico)

- Continued drought is impacting **water delivery negotiations** with the United States.

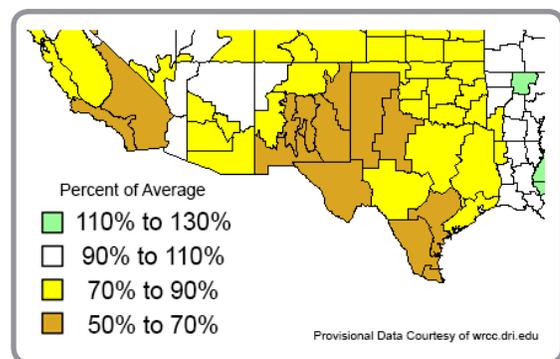
## Regional - Climate Overview for December 2012- February 2013

### Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies

2-Year Departure from Normal Temperature (°F)  
3/1/2011 - 2/28/2013



2-Year Percent of Average Precipitation (%)  
3/1/2011 - 2/28/2013



Provisional Data Courtesy of wrcc.dri.edu

### Temperature and Precipitation Rankings (since 1895)

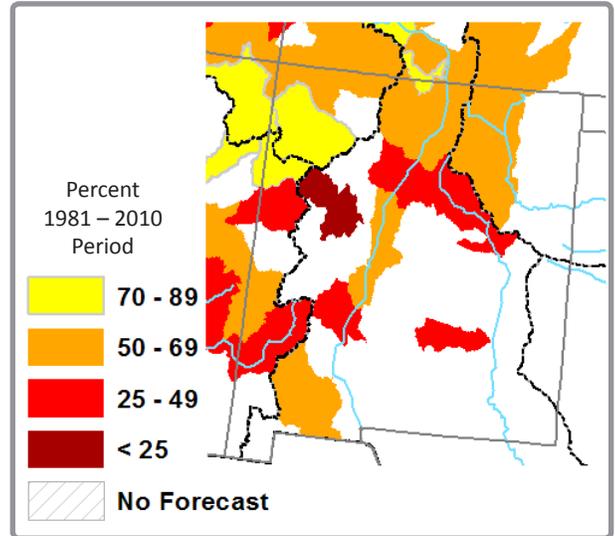
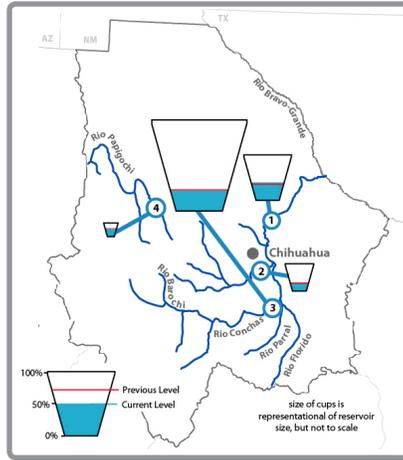
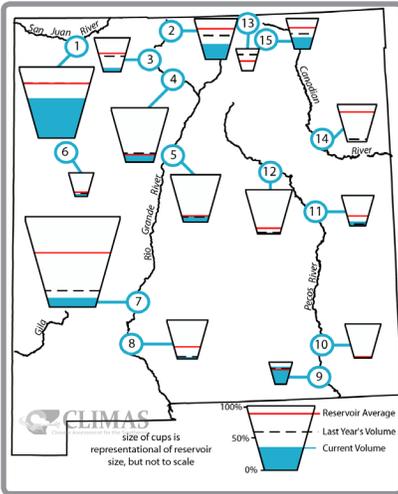
	Last 3 Months	Last 12 Months	Last 24 Months
Oklahoma	35th wettest	17th driest	<b>7th driest</b>
Texas	58th driest	25th driest	<b>3rd driest</b>
New Mexico	54th wettest	<b>2nd driest</b>	<b>2nd driest</b>
Oklahoma	30th warmest	<b>WARMEST</b>	<b>WARMEST</b>
Texas	21st warmest	<b>3rd warmest</b>	<b>WARMEST</b>
New Mexico	32nd coldest	<b>5th warmest</b>	<b>WARMEST</b>



More information on the Southern Plains drought early warning system pilot project is available at the U.S. Drought Portal, [drought.gov](http://drought.gov).



# Regional Highlight - Water Resources Remain Critical Across Much of Region



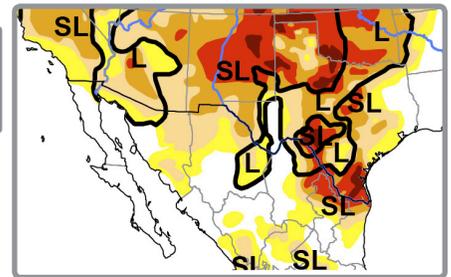
Reservoir levels in New Mexico (above left: [climas.arizona.edu](http://climas.arizona.edu)) and in the Chihuahua above center: [cna.gob.mx](http://cna.gob.mx)) as of March 1, 2013. Pecos basin reservoirs are at 2% capacity; Rio Grande basin reservoirs are at 19%. (source: NM state climatologist).

Percent of normal spring and summer streamflow forecast for New Mexico (above right: [wcc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://wcc.nrcs.usda.gov)) as of March 1, 2013. Inflow into Elephant Butte Reservoir, the state's largest, is at 39% of average. (source: NM state climatologist).

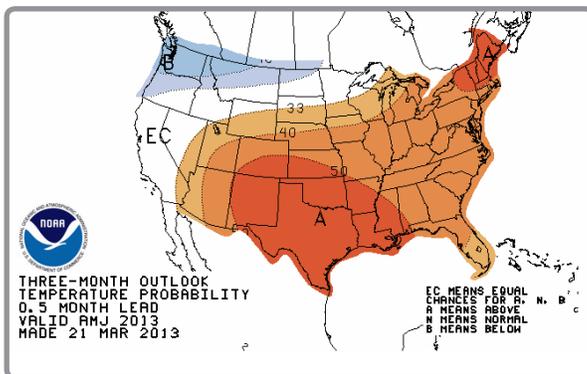
North American Drought Monitor (right: [drought.gov](http://drought.gov)) as of March 1 2013

**Drought Impact Types:**  
 ✓ Delineates dominant impacts  
 S = Short-Term, typically < 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)  
 L = Long-Term, typically > 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

**Intensity:**  
 D0 Abnormally Dry  
 D1 Drought - Moderate  
 D2 Drought - Severe  
 D3 Drought - Extreme  
 D4 Drought - Exceptional



## Regional Outlook - for Spring 2013



### Temperature Highlights

- High confidence for above normal temperatures for all of the Southern Plains during April, May, and June.

## Southern Plains Partners

- Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences  
[cires.colorado.edu](http://cires.colorado.edu)
- Climate Assessment for the Southwest  
[climas.arizona.edu](http://climas.arizona.edu)
- Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA)  
[cna.gob.mx](http://cna.gob.mx)
- DOI South Central Climate Science Center  
[doi.gov/csc/southcentral](http://doi.gov/csc/southcentral)
- National Drought Mitigation Center  
[drought.unl.edu](http://drought.unl.edu)
- National Integrated Drought Information System  
[drought.gov](http://drought.gov)
- NOAA/NESDIS National Climatic Data Center  
[ncdc.noaa.gov](http://ncdc.noaa.gov)
- NOAA/NWS Southern Region  
[srh.noaa.gov](http://srh.noaa.gov)
- NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center  
[cpc.noaa.gov](http://cpc.noaa.gov)
- NOAA/OAR Physical Sciences Division  
[esrl.noaa.gov/psd](http://esrl.noaa.gov/psd)
- NOAA Regional Collaboration Teams  
[regions.noaa.gov](http://regions.noaa.gov)
- Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program  
[southernclimate.org](http://southernclimate.org)
- Southern Regional Climate Center  
[srcc.lsu.edu](http://srcc.lsu.edu)
- State Climatologists – NM, OK, TX  
[stateclimate.org](http://stateclimate.org)
- Western Governors' Association  
[westgov.org](http://westgov.org)
- Western Regional Climate Center  
[wrcc.dri.edu](http://wrcc.dri.edu)

### Drought Highlights

- Increased chances of below normal precipitation for most of the region through June.
- Drought expected to persist or develop in most of Texas and New Mexico.
- Some improvement in drought possible in eastern Oklahoma.

