



El Paso County Cooperative Extension Meeting

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State Climatologist
Colorado Climate Center
Presented to El Paso County
Ranchers, August 31, 2006.

Prepared by Odie Bliss



Where Have We Been?



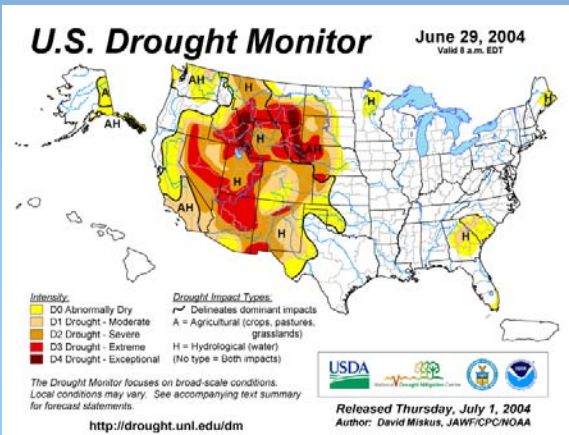
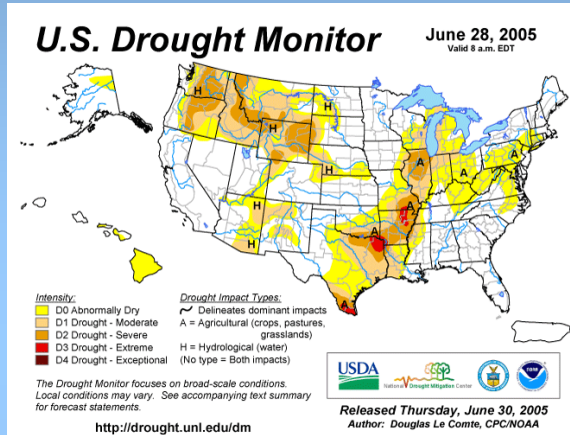
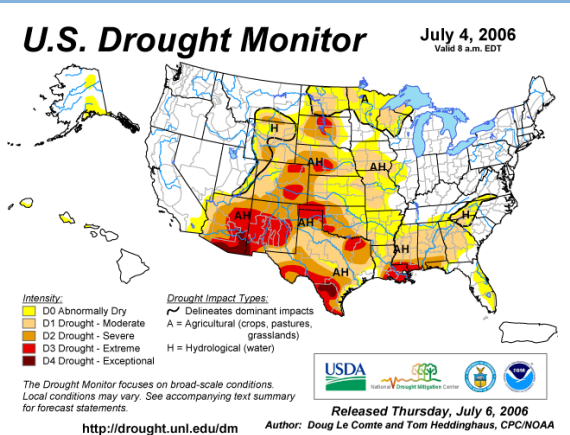
U.S. Drought Monitor for July 1



2006

2005

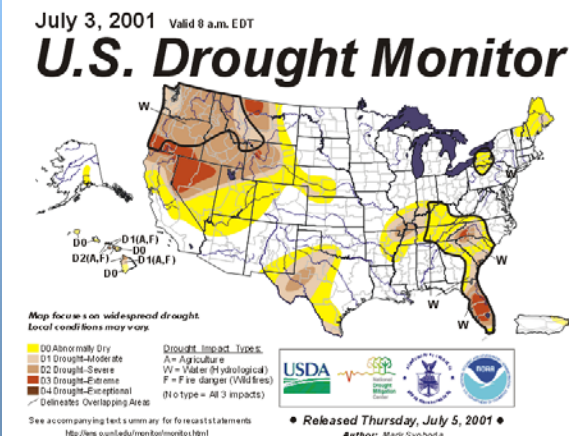
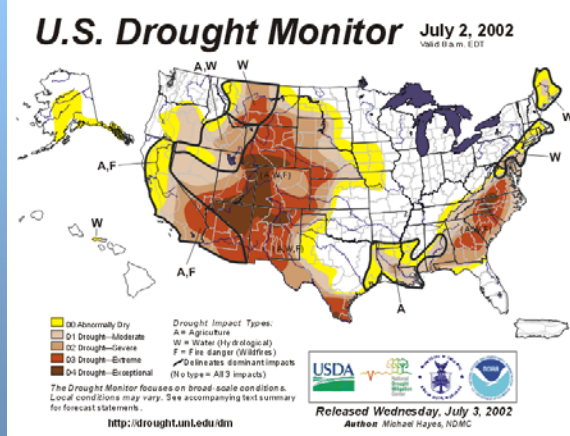
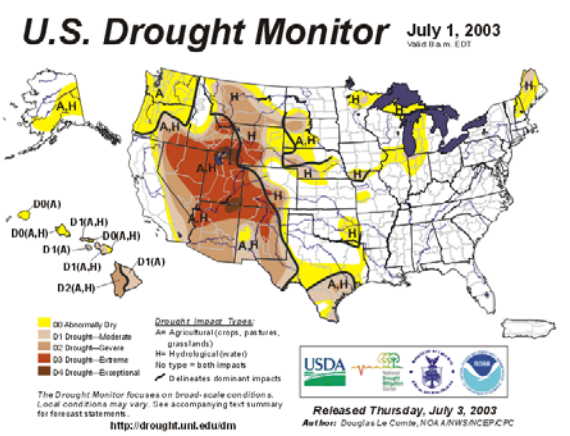
2004



2003

2002

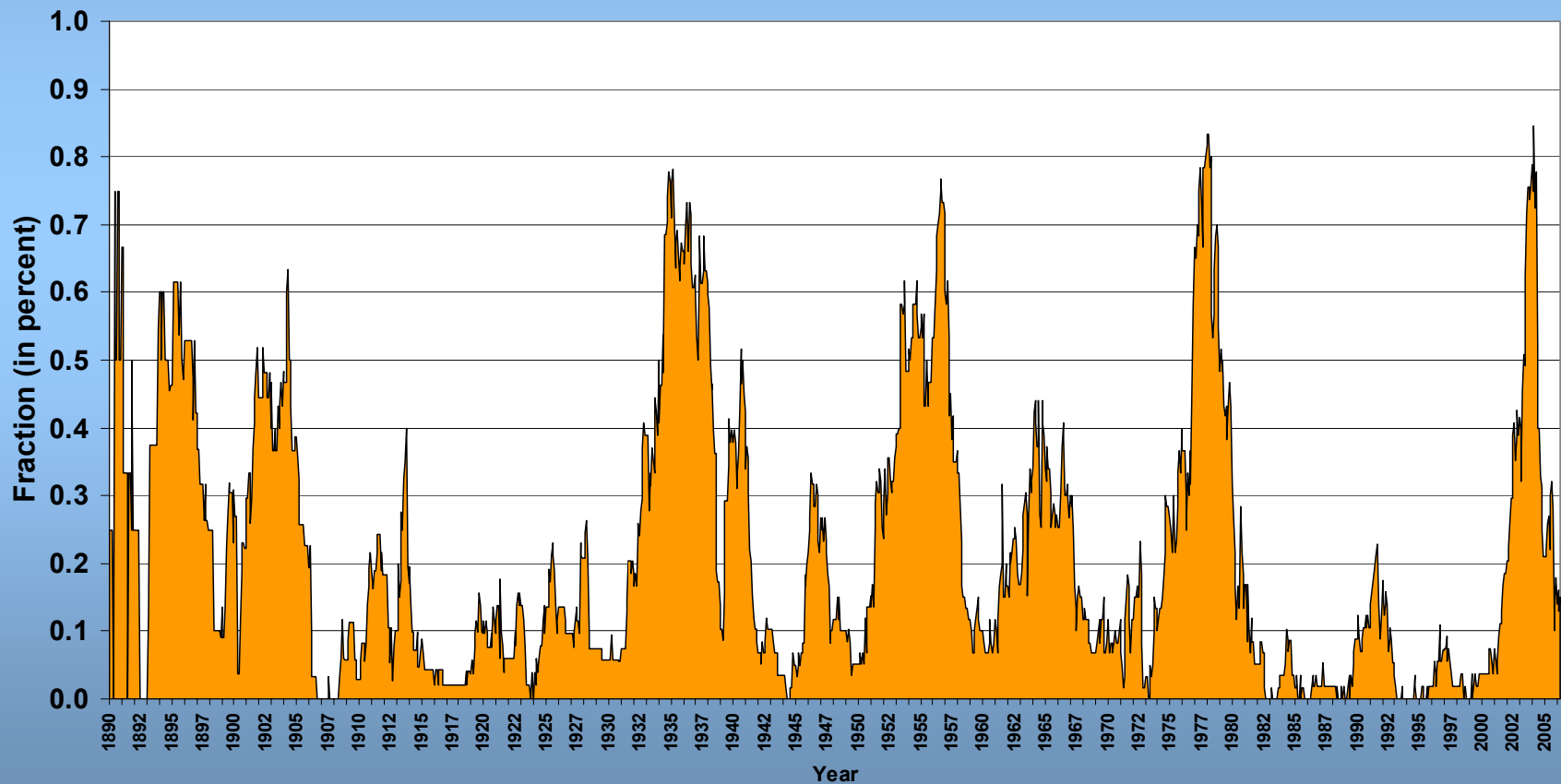
2001



48-month SPI graph



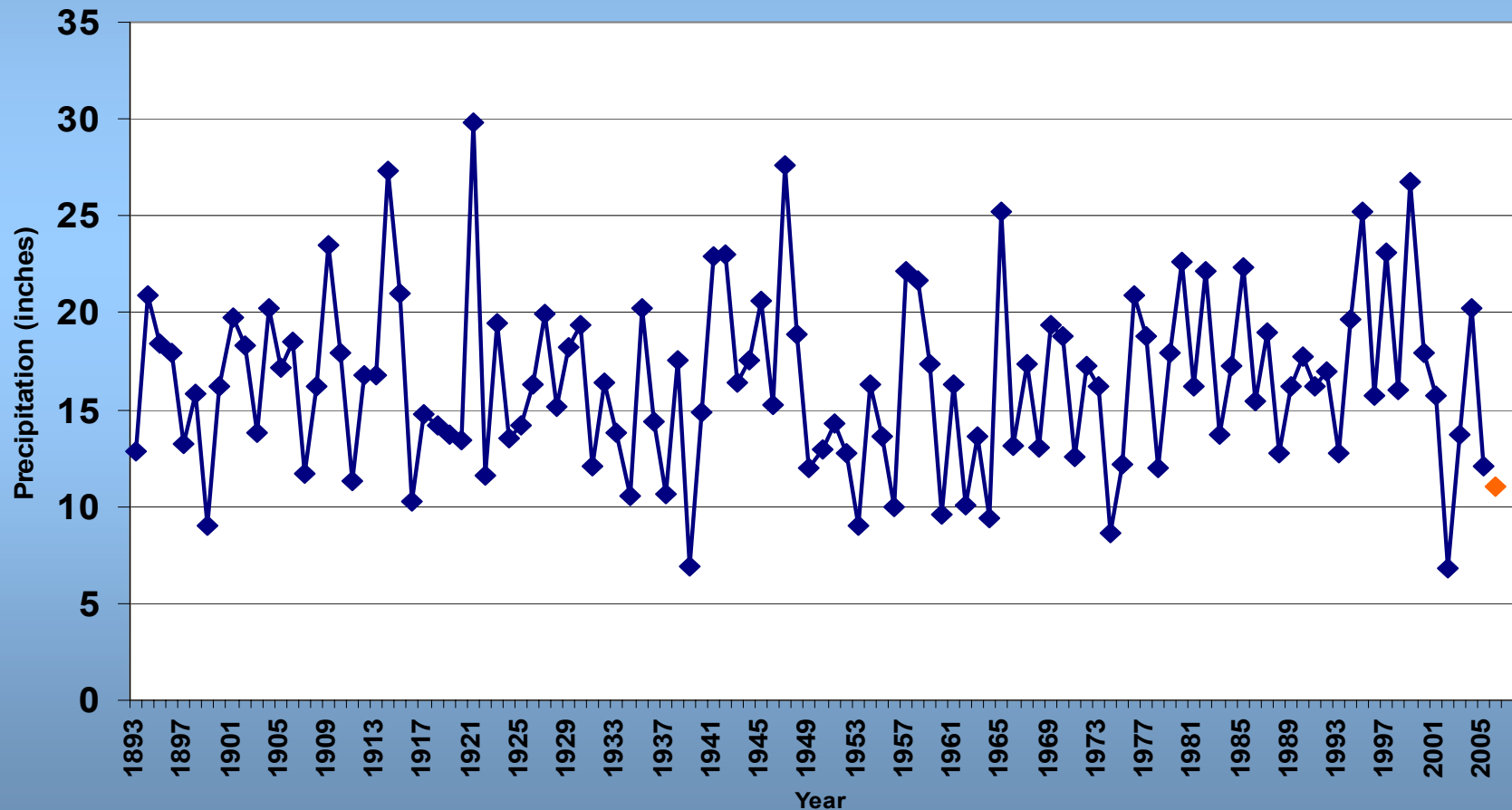
Fraction of Colorado in Drought
Based on 48 month SPI
(1890 - June 2006)



Colorado Springs Water Year Precipitation*



Colorado Springs Water Year Precipitation (Adjusted Values*)
from 1893-2006



* Colorado Climate Center adjusted for station changes.

Summary



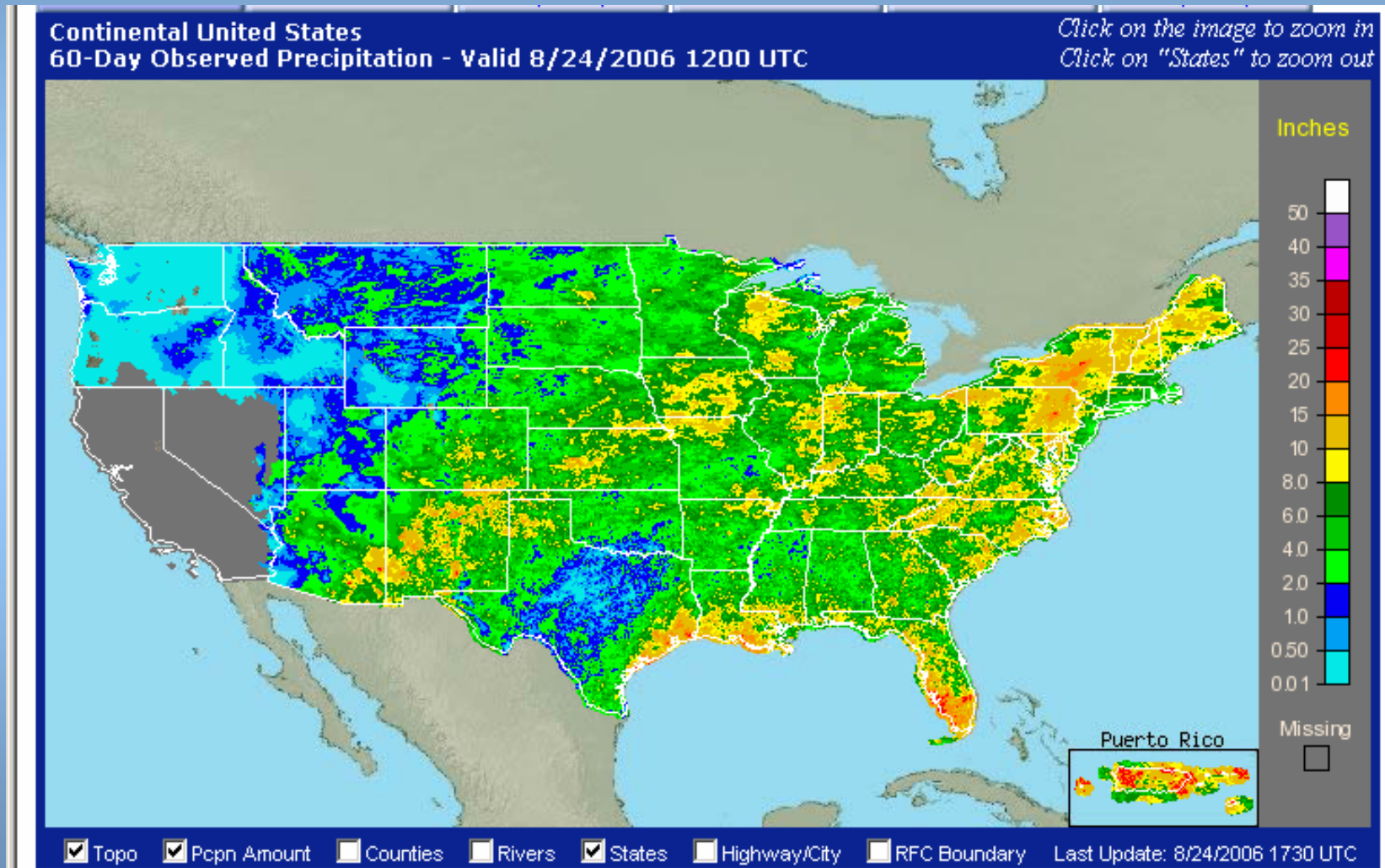
- After generous moisture in 1980s and 1990s, drier than average conditions have been dominant since fall 1999.
- Above average temperatures have also prevailed since the mid 1990s.
- Recent drought episode has been severe (with respect to recent history) with some similarities to the droughts of the 1930s, 50s and 70s.

Where Are We Now?



From <http://home.fuse.net/Wyght/WestHP2000c.html>

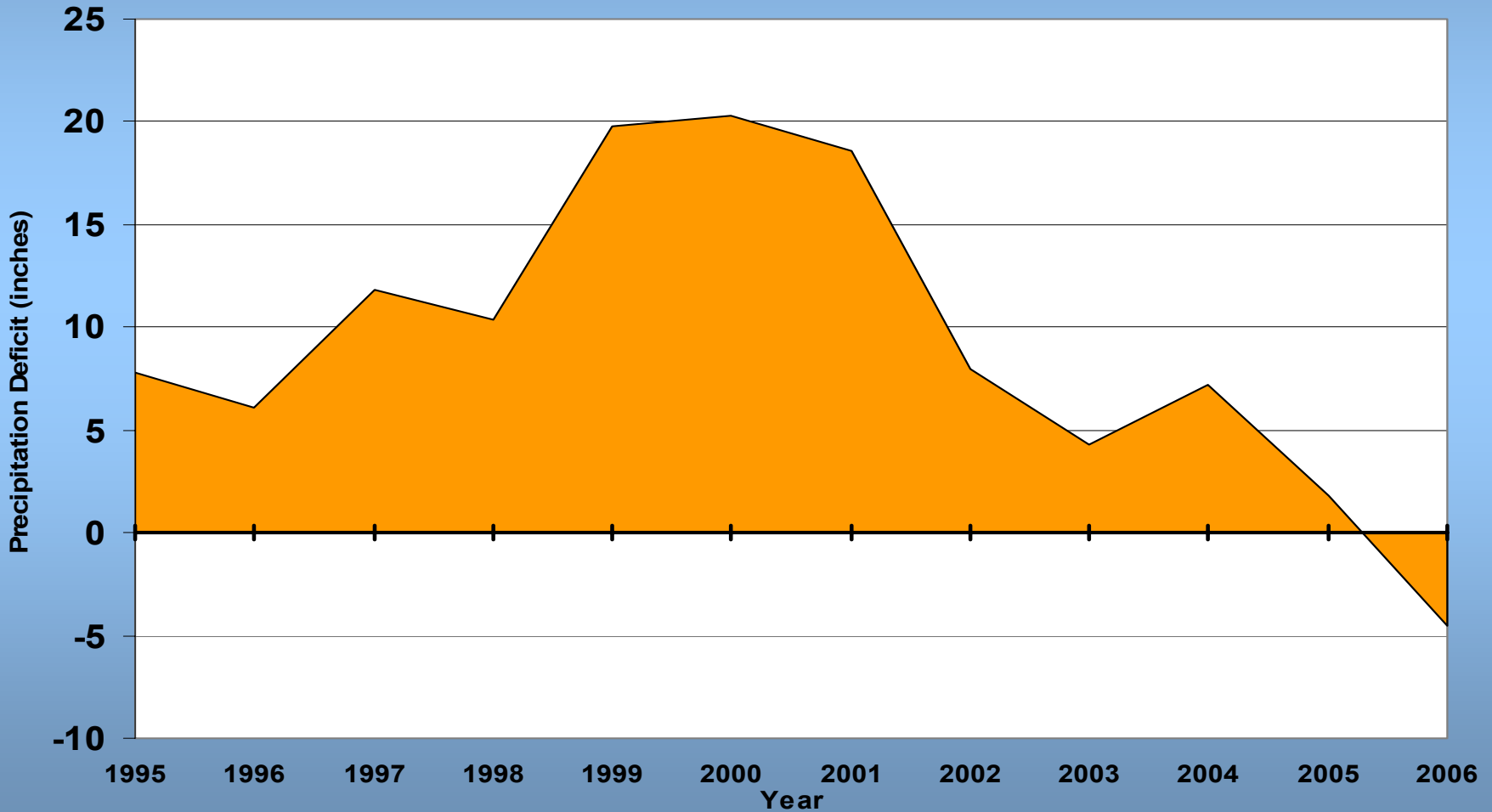
NWS National Precipitation Analysis for Past 60 days



Colorado Springs Accumulated Deficit



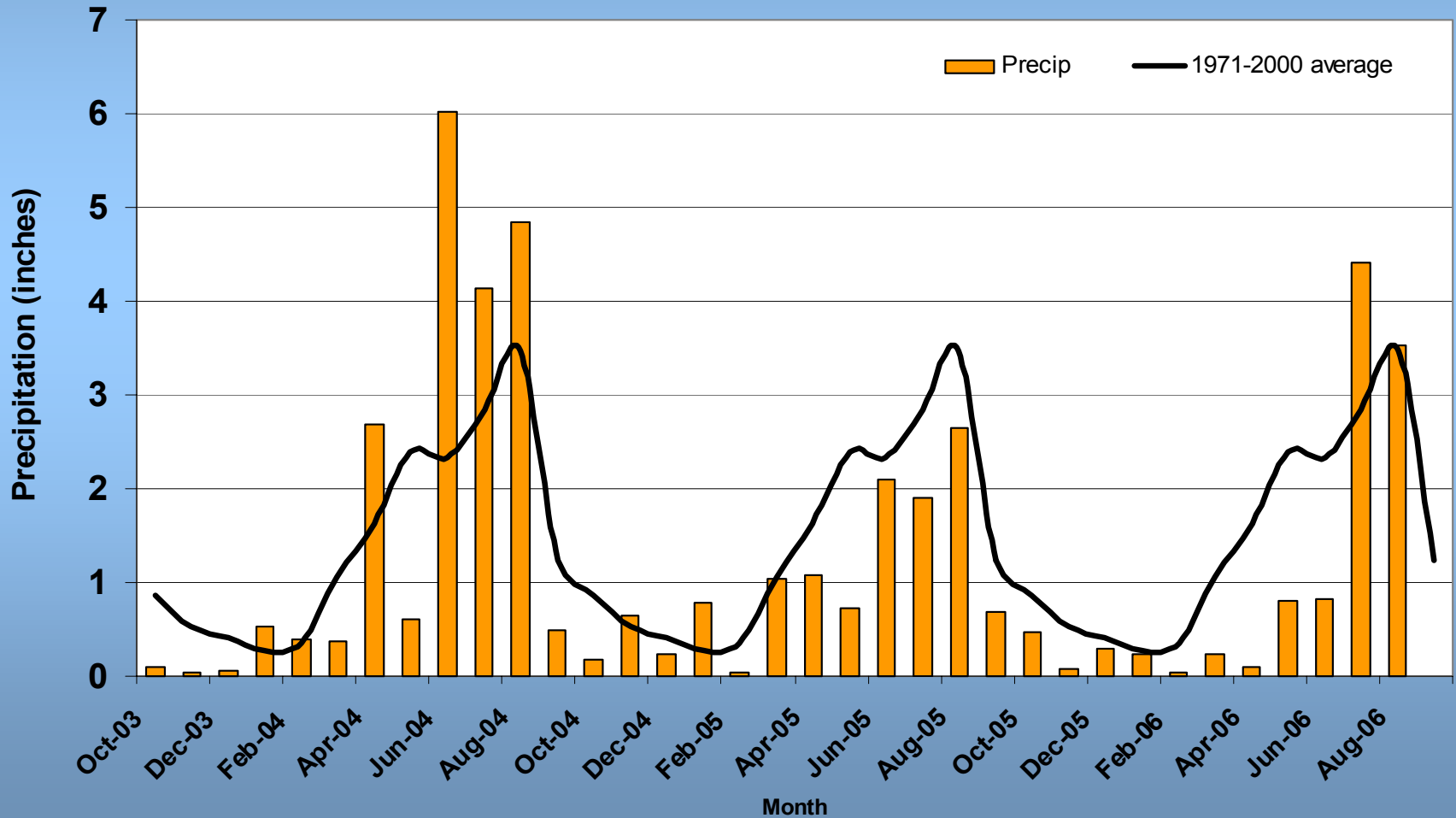
Colorado Springs Accumulated Precipitation Deficit



Colorado Monthly Precipitation



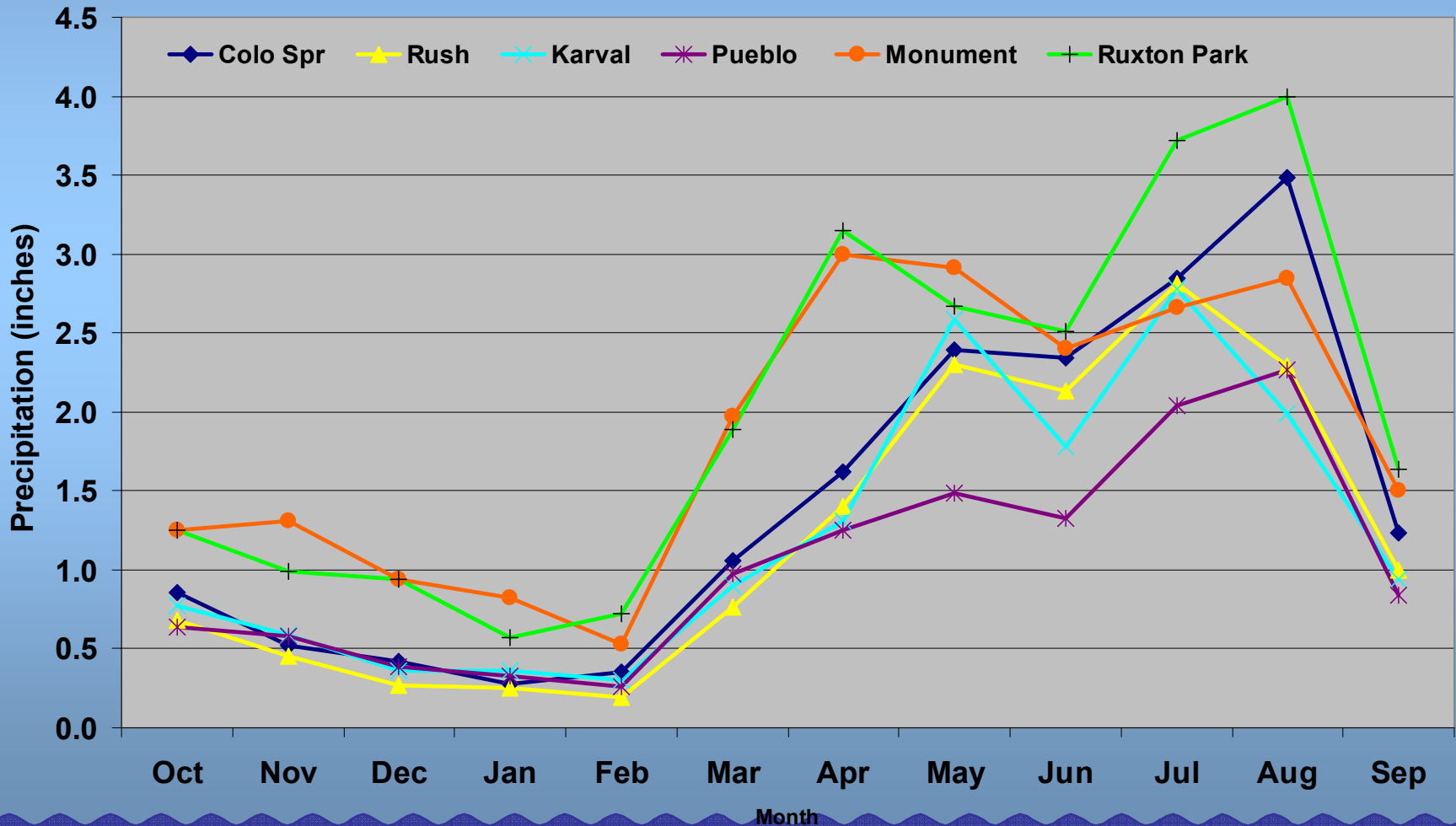
Colorado Springs Monthly Precipitation vs. Average Precipitation





El Paso County Average Precipitation

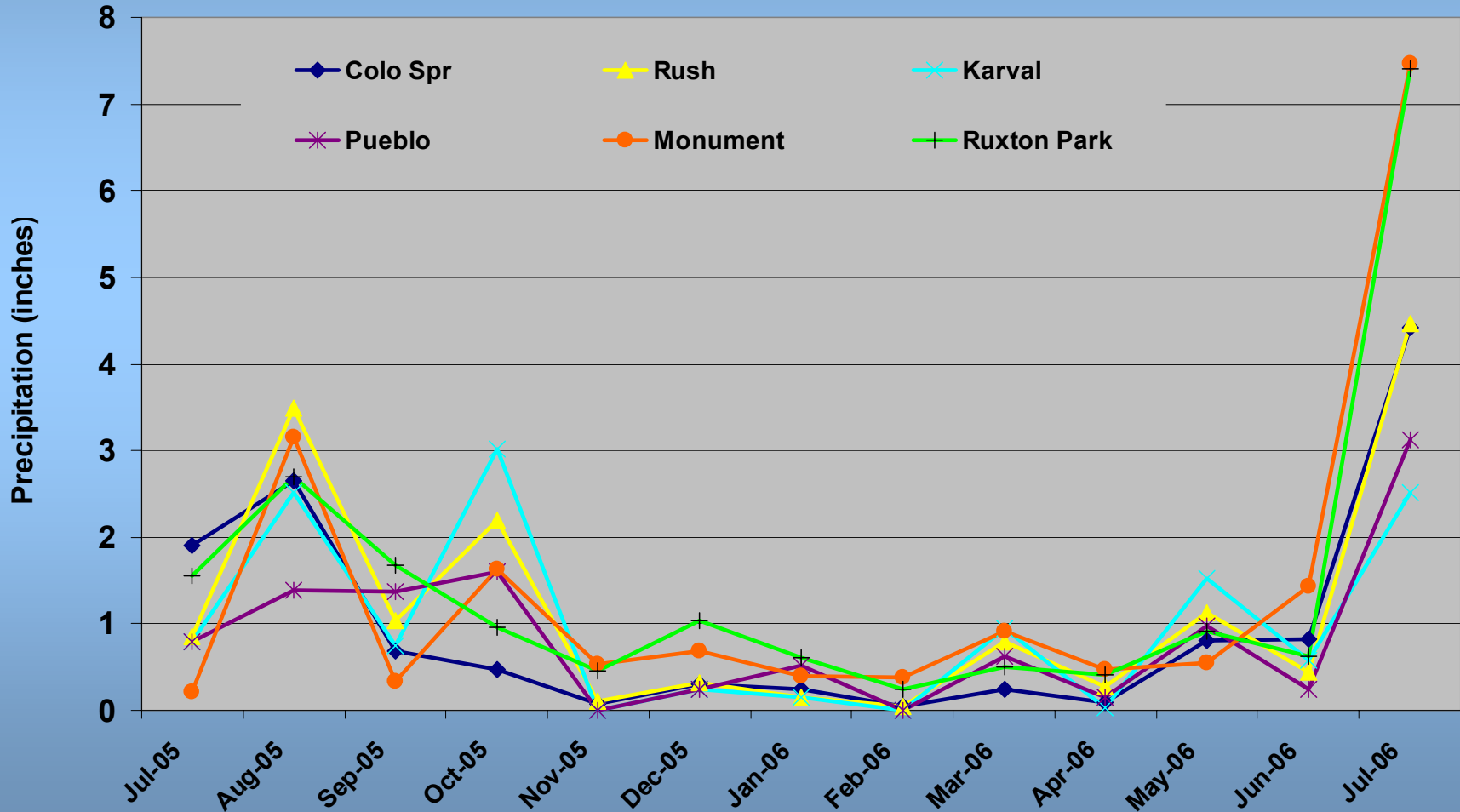
El Paso County Average Precipitation, 1971-2000





El Paso County Precipitation

El Paso County Precipitation



Summary of Current Conditions



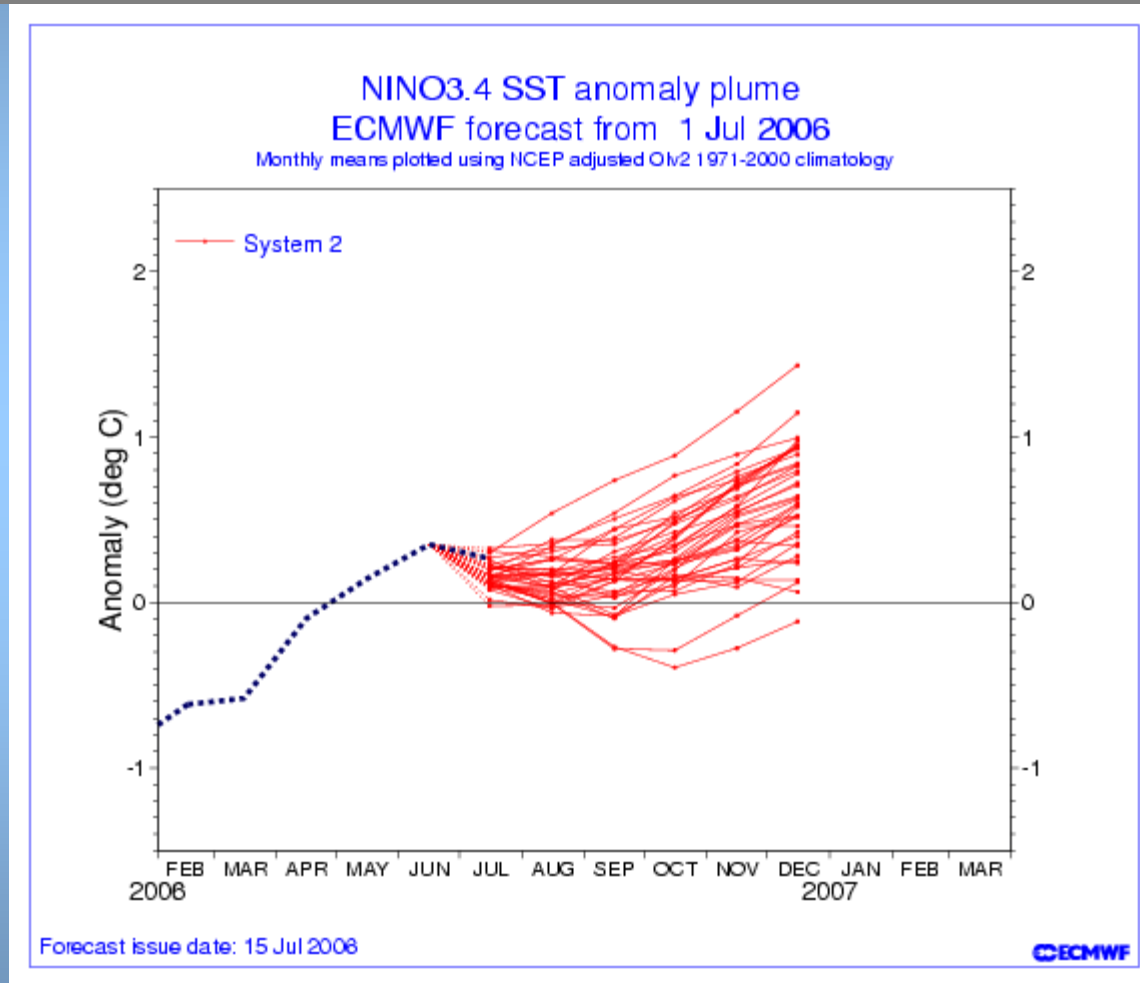
- Rainfall has been spotty, but generally above average in El Paso County and most of southern and Central Colorado since early July.
- Summer rains have been sufficient to bring substantial short-term drought relief to this area.

What Comes Next?



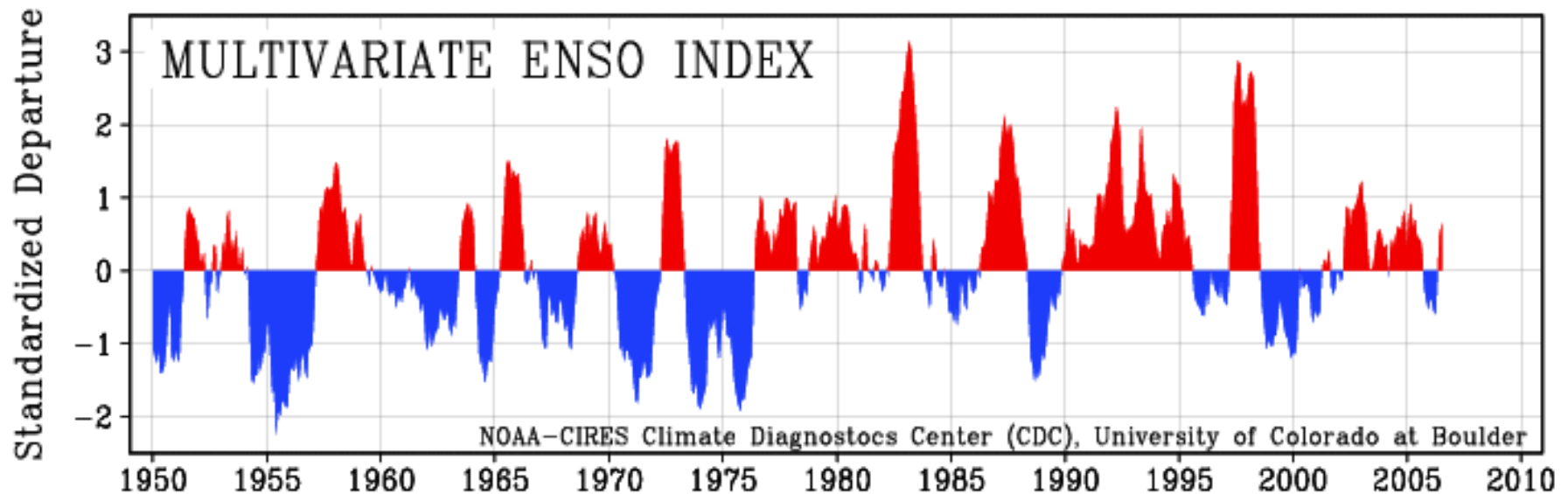


Pacific Sea Surface Temperature Projections



<http://www.cdc.noaa.gov/people/klaus.wolter/SWcasts/>

Multivariate ENSO Forecast

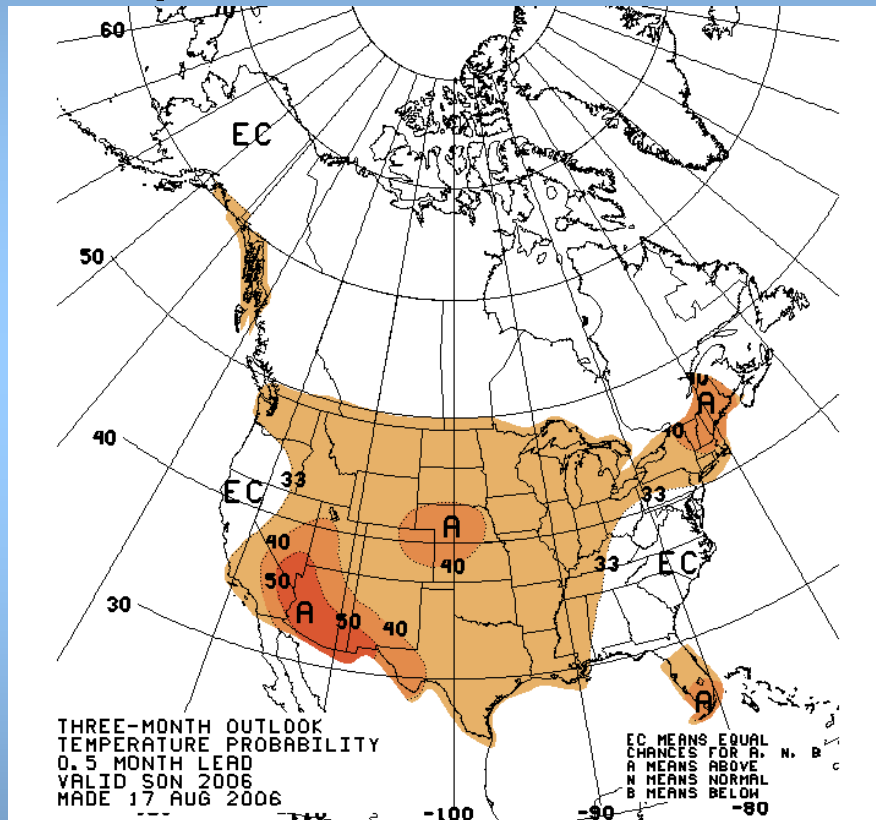


Last updated 4 August 2006

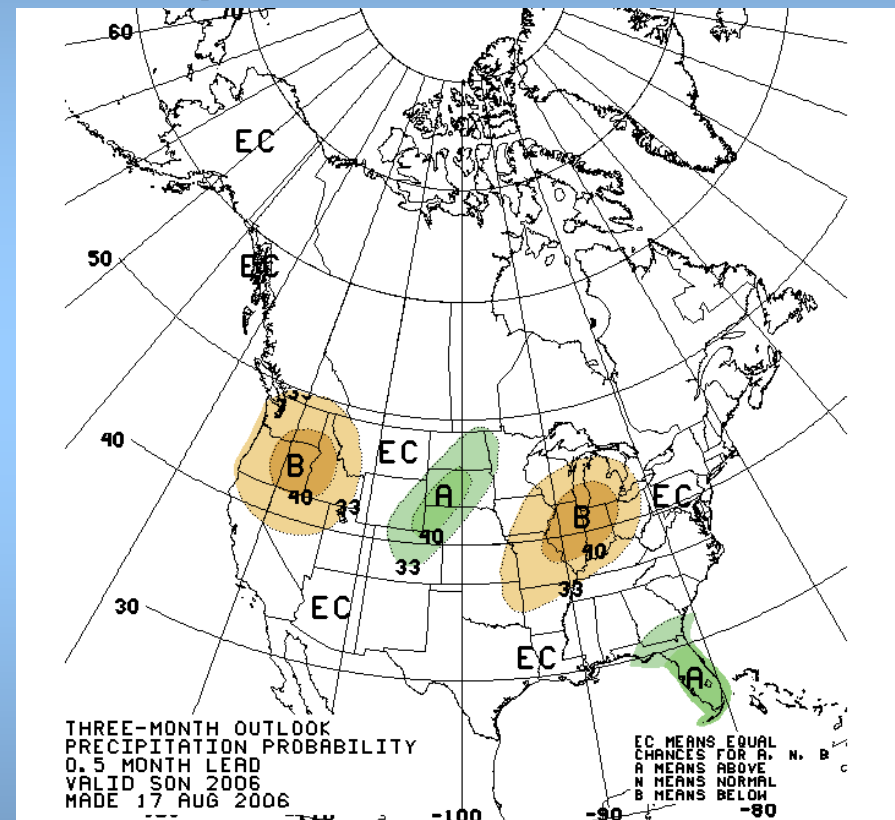
CPC Sep-Nov 06 Forecast



Temperature



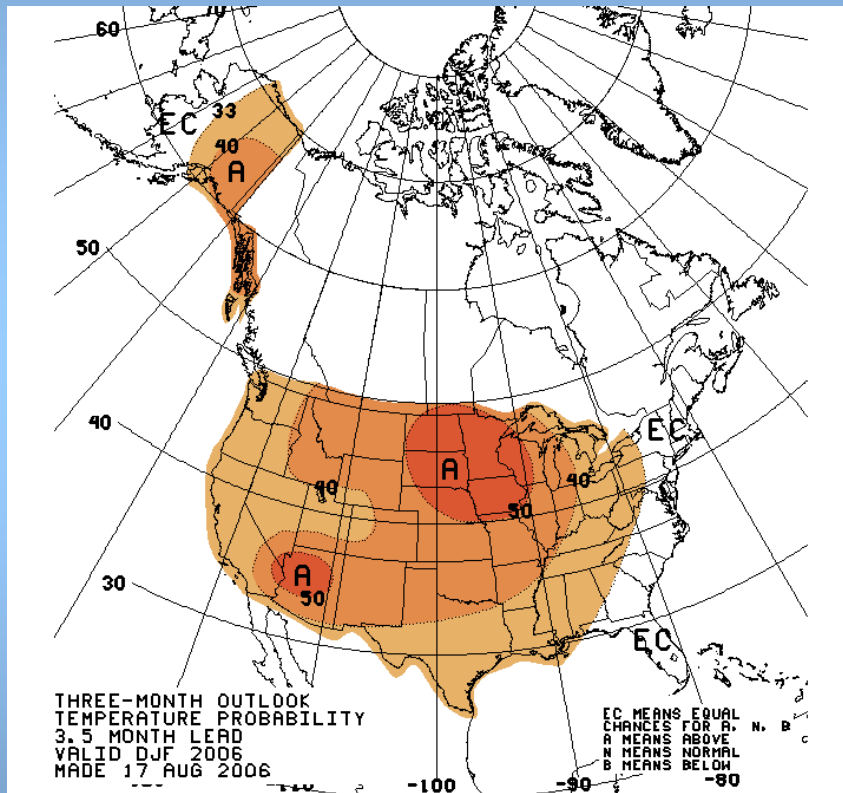
Precipitation



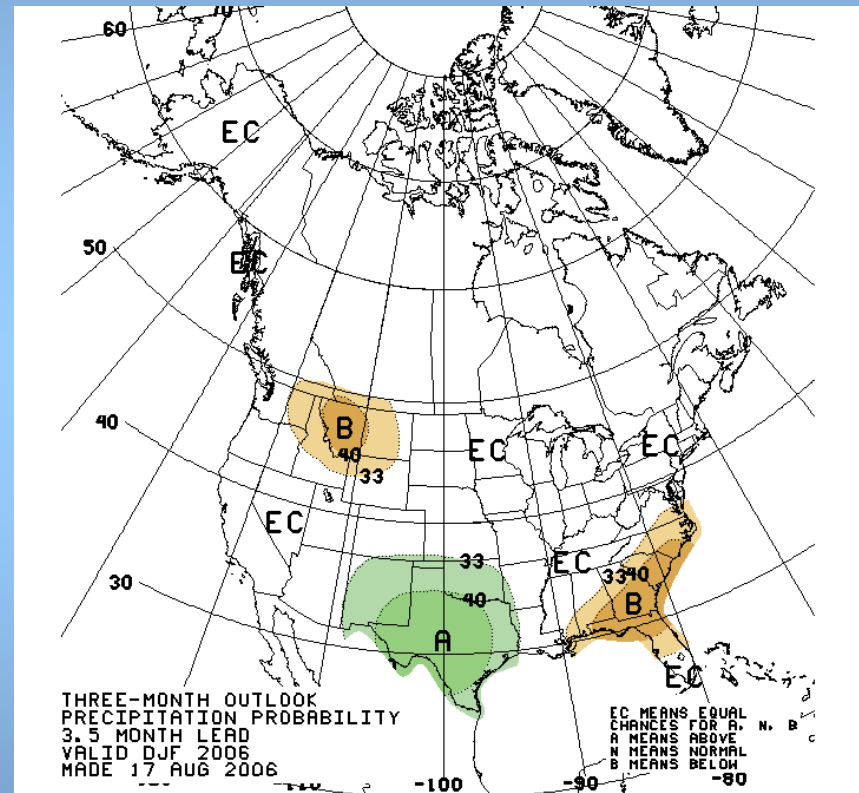


CPC Dec 06-Feb 07 Forecast

Temperature



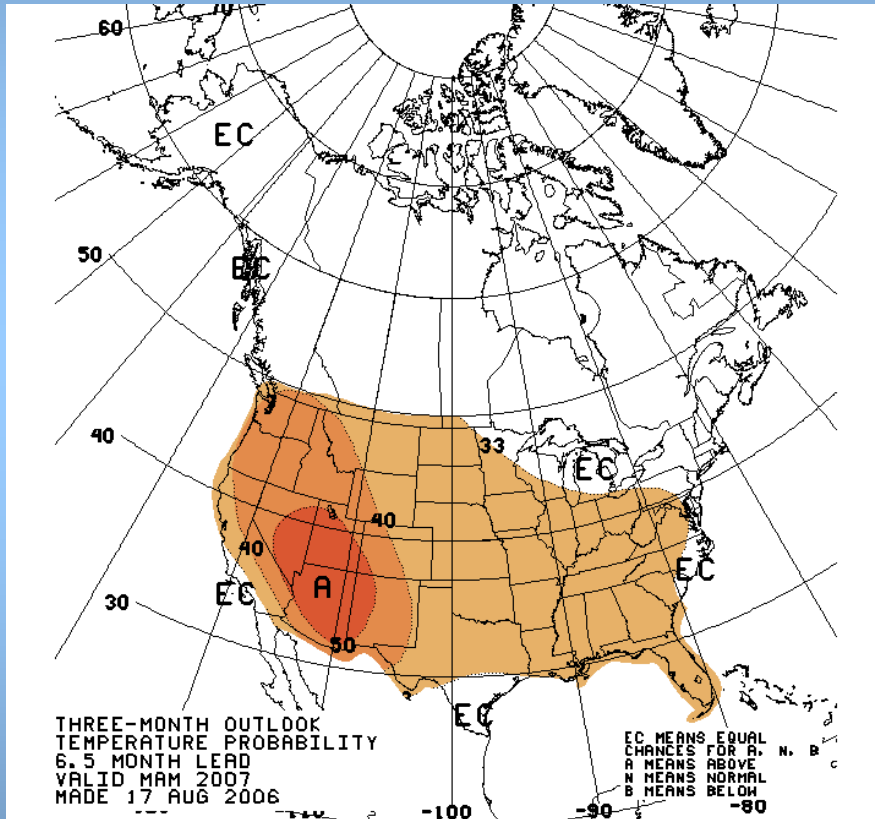
Precipitation



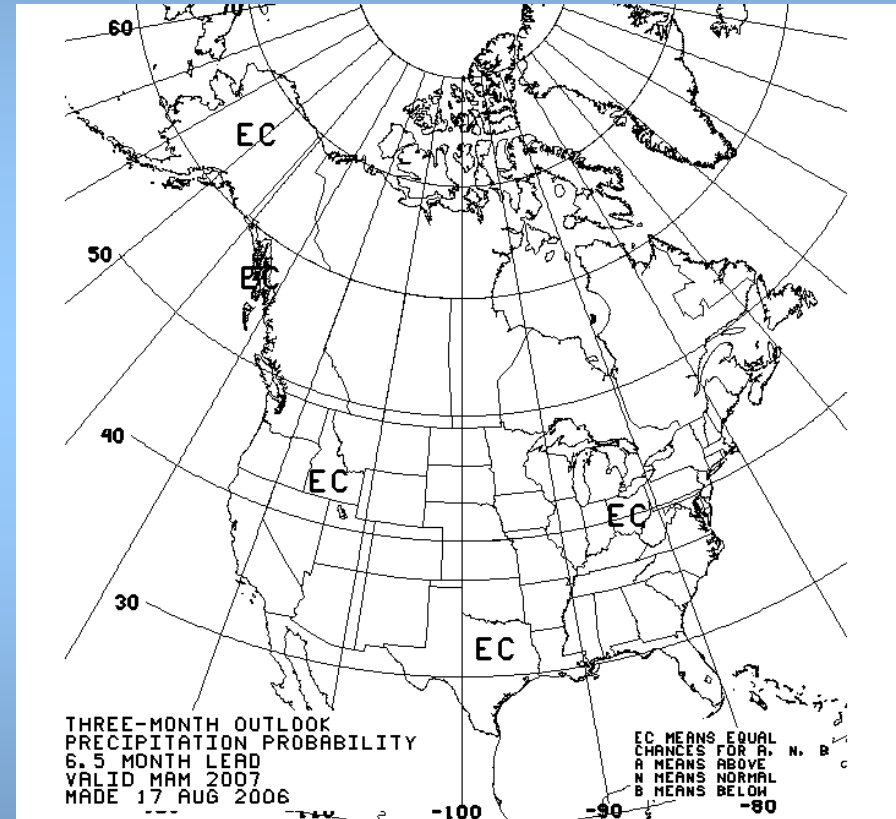
CPC Mar-May 07 Forecast



Temperature



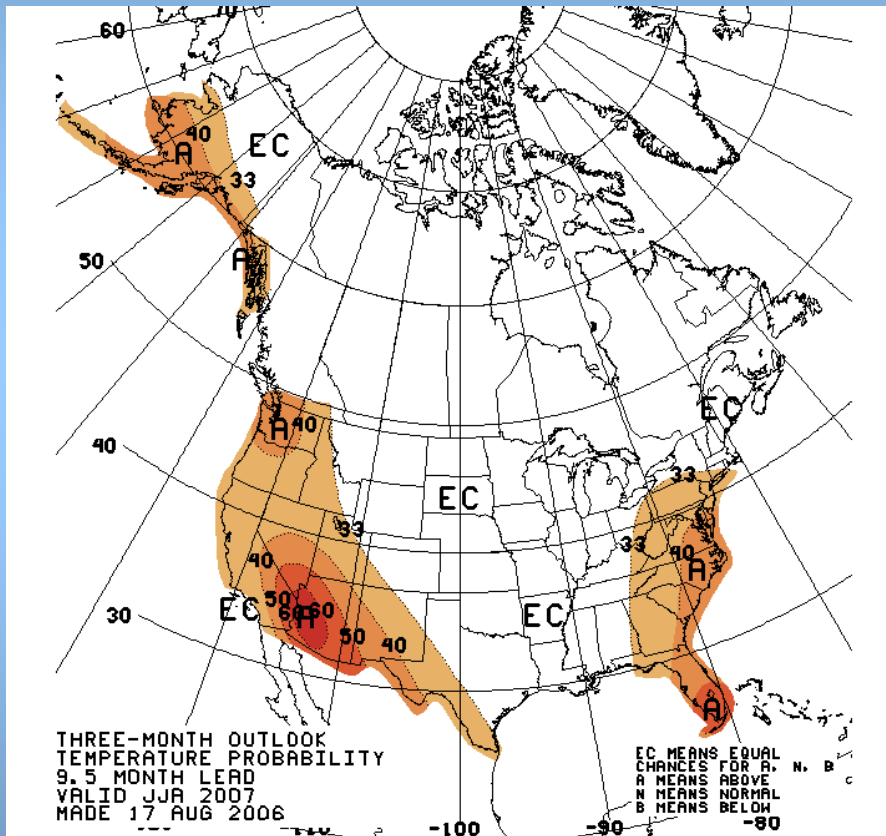
Precipitation



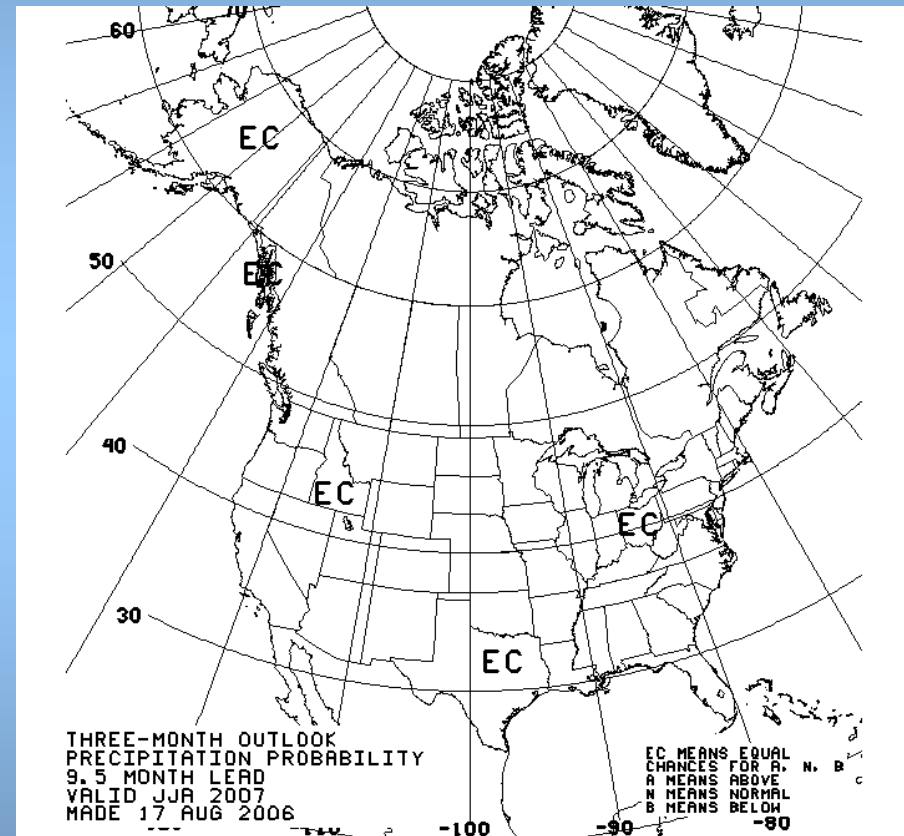
CPC Jun-Aug 07 Forecast



Temperature



Precipitation





Summary of Forecast Information

- Weak La Nina of recent months has given way to weak El Nino – probably a positive sign
- Very dry winters (like last winter) are more likely to be followed by a wetter winter
- Prediction of next spring and summer very "Iffy"
- Long range prediction for this area will almost always be "Iffy"
- Best to be thankful for recent rains, but anticipate more dry weather ahead

Volunteers Wanted To Help Measure El Paso County Precipitation!



Join CoCoRaHS or RainCheck!



<http://www.cocorahs.org>



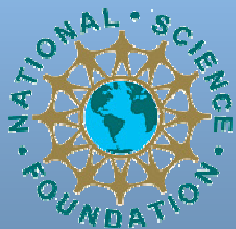
rain✓check.org

<http://www.rain-check.org/index.html>

For More Information,
Visit the CoCoRaHS Web Site



<http://www.cocorahs.org>



Support for this project provided by
Informal Science Education Program,
National Science Foundation
and
many local charter sponsors.

Colorado Climate Center

Colorado State University



- Data and Power Point Presentations available for downloading
- <http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu>
click on “Drought”
then click on “Presentations”

