



# CLIMAS

Climate Assessment for the Southwest

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Search by key

- Arizona, New Mexico, and other western states

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CLIMAS was established to assess the impacts of climate variability and longer-term climate change on the Southwest. CLIMAS assesses the ability of the Southwest to adapt to sufficiently abrupt climatic events and climate changes.

[What's New](#)

[Outlooks](#)

- Interdisciplinary: Anthropologists, climatologists, geographers, natural resource specialists

[Products](#)

[Climate](#)

[Initiations](#)

[Conferences](#)



## Climate Change

Our mission is to provide climate information on this issue.

- Stakeholder driven: Natural resource managers, ranchers, farmers, tourism businesses, tribes

[Additional Links](#)

*Integrating science, community, and policy*

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CLIMAS is part of the [Institute for the Study of Planet Earth](#)  
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Phone: (520) 792-8712, FAX: (520) 792-8795



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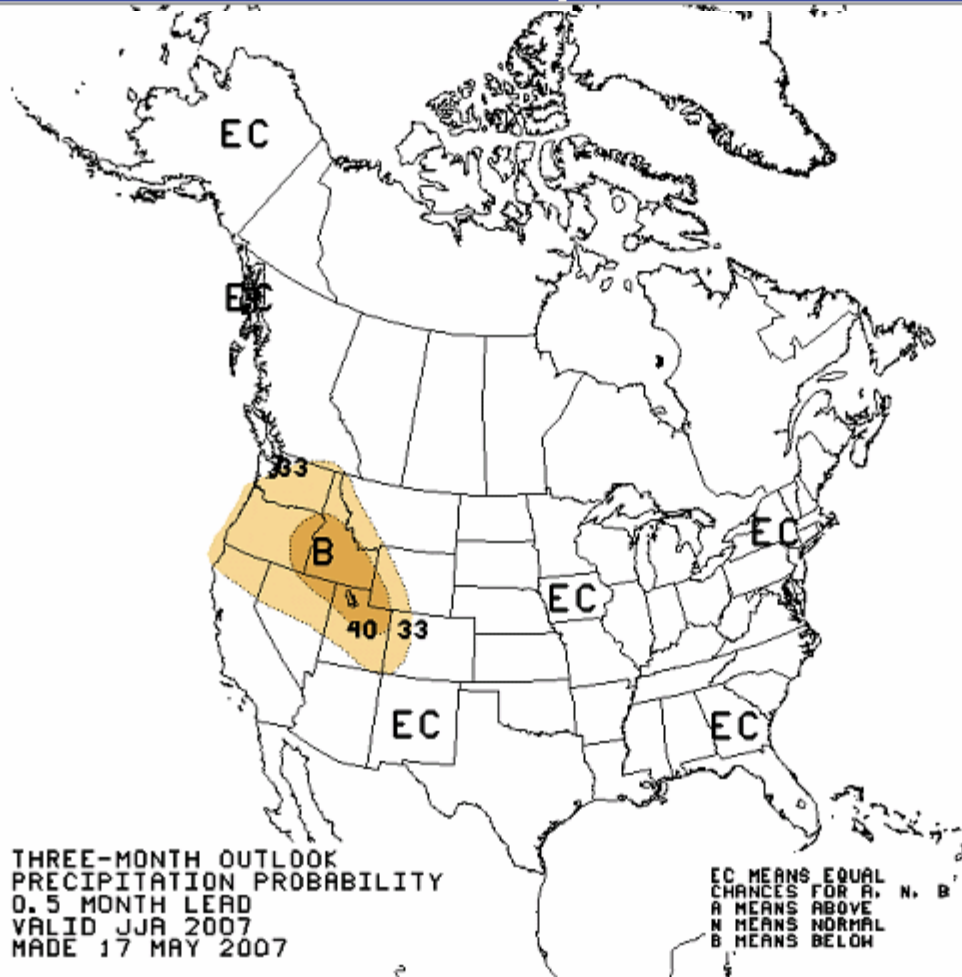
News

Organization

Enter Search Term(s):

Search

| 8-14 Day Outlook        |         |               |           | Three Month Outlook     |                 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Temperature             |         | Precipitation |           | Temperature             | Precipitation   |
| U.S. Hazards Assessment |         |               |           | U.S. Drought Assessment |                 |
| Temp./Wind              | Precip. | Soil/Wildfire | Composite | Drought Monitor         | Drought Outlook |



## CPC-CLIMAS collaboration

- Integrate stakeholder needs
- Improve understanding
- Allay skepticism
- Online forecast evaluation tool

Discussion  
Popular Products  
More Highlights

Climate-Weather  
El Niño/La Niña  
MJO  
AAO, AO, NAO, PNA  
Storm Tracks  
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CPC Seminars  
Publications  
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Related Products

# Online Forecast Evaluation Tool



## Forecast Interpretation Tutorial

To get the most out of forecasts, it's important that you interpret them correctly. But some forecasts can be confusing. Use our tutorial or take a quiz to make sure you understand the forecasts.

[Begin Tutorial](#)

We are interested in improving the dialogue between researchers, forecasters, and users of their products. We encourage you to e-mail us with questions and comments about the forecasts, how you use them, and about the design or information on this website.

For comments about forecasts, contact Holly Hartmann: [hollyoregon@juno.com](mailto:hollyoregon@juno.com)

For comments about this website, contact the HyDIS Team: [hydis\\_team@hwr.arizona.edu](mailto:hydis_team@hwr.arizona.edu)

website will help you get the most use out of a variety of different forecasts.

## Which forecasts are you interested in?

- Seasonal Climate Forecasts
  - Seasonal Water Supply Forecasts (coming)
  - Seasonal Snow Forecasts (coming)
- .....

## What aspect of the forecasts are you interested in?

### Explore the Forecasts

Take a look at some of the forecasts. You select the seasons and lead times that are important to you.

### How do the forecasts relate to my specific situation?

See how a forecast for your location compares to recent conditions and historic data. Use examples from the past to see what the future might bring.

### Forecast Performance

Forecasts are far from perfect. Researchers have a lot more to learn about how our atmosphere and watersheds work. Although past performance does not guarantee future results, it is important to know how well forecasts have worked for your particular situation.

### Using Forecasts in Making Decisions (coming)

How can you make use of probabilistic forecasts? This section shows examples of how different decision makers have used different forecasts.

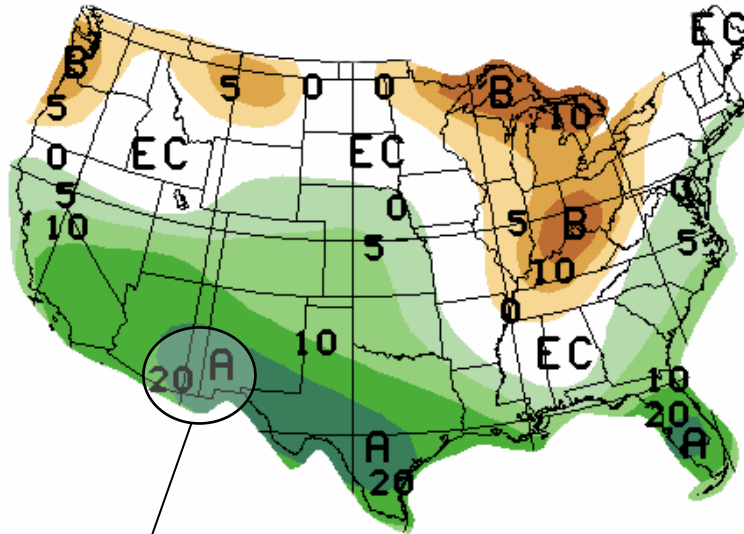
### Forecast Details (coming)

Find out how forecasts are made and what researchers are doing to improve the forecasts.

[Get Forecast Info](#)

<http://fet.hwr.arizona.edu/ForecastEvaluationTool/>

February - April 2003  
Precipitation



| Precipitation | Probability Anomaly | Probability of Occurrence                     |               |               | Most Likely |
|---------------|---------------------|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|
|               |                     | Wet   | Neutral       | Dry           |             |
|               | 40% - 50%           | 73.3% - 83.3                                  | 23.3 - 13.3%  | 3.3%          | Above       |
|               | 30% - 40%           | 63.3% - 73.3%                                 | 33.3% - 23.3% | 3.3%          | Above       |
|               | 20% - 30%           | 53.3% - 63.3%                                 | 33.3%         | 13.3% - 3.3%  | Above       |
|               | 10% - 20%           | 43.3% - 53.2%                                 | 33.3%         | 23.3% - 13.3% | Above       |
|               | 5% - 10%            | 38.3% - 43.3%                                 | 33.3%         | 28.3% - 23.3% | Above       |
|               | 0% - 5%             | 33.3% - 38.3%                                 | 33.3%         | 33.3% - 28.3% | Above       |
|               | 0% - 5%             | 30.8% - 33.3%                                 | 33.3% - 38.3% | 30.8% - 33.3% | Neutral     |
|               | 5% - 10%            | 28.3% - 30.8%                                 | 38.3% - 43.3% | 28.3% - 30.8% | Neutral     |
|               | 0% - 5%             | 33.3% - 28.3%                                 | 33.3%         | 33.3% - 38.3% | Below       |
|               | 5% - 10%            | 28.3% - 23.3%                                 | 33.3%         | 38.3% - 43.3% | Below       |
|               | 10% - 20%           | 23.3% - 13.3%                                 | 33.3%         | 43.3% - 53.3% | Below       |
|               | 20% - 30%           | 13.3% - 3.3%                                  | 33.3%         | 53.3% - 63.3% | Below       |
|               | 30% - 40%           | 3.3%  | 33.3% - 23.3% | 63.3% - 73.3% | Below       |
|               | 40% - 50%           | 3.3%  | 23.3% - 13.3% | 73.3% - 83.3% | Below       |
|               | "CL" or "EC"        | Unknown Probabilities. No Forecast Indicated. |               |               |             |

- 53 - 63 % chance (33 % + 20 or 30 %) that Feb.-Apr. precipitation will be like the wettest 10 years between 1971-2000.

- 33 % chance that Feb.-Apr. precipitation will be like the neutral 10 years between 1971-2000.

- 3.3 to 13.3 % chance that Feb.-Apr. precipitation will be like the driest 10 years between 1971-2000.

## Choose Forecast Dates, Type & Season

Each month, the CPC issues 13 3-month outlooks, each offset by one month, beginning with the next season and extending to the same season but for the next year. This means that for any specific 3-month season, the CPC has issued thirteen outlooks, with the earliest issued 13 months ago and the latest issued the month immediately prior to the season. For more details, see the [tutorial](#)

To see how the outlooks evolved for seasons that matter to your decision making situation, think of when you needed to make your decision and select the Forecast Issue Months that are one or several months before that time. Then select the Target Seasons that cover the important period.

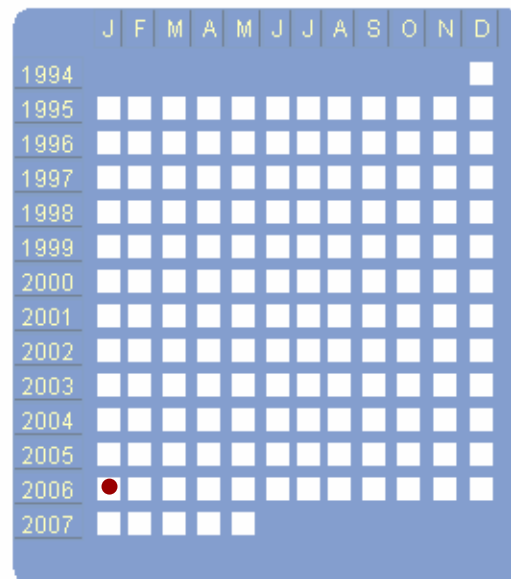
For example, a rancher that makes decisions in March that concern the following summer might be interested in reviewing the forecasts issued in January, February, and March of 1997 that covered May-Jun-Jul, Jun-Jul-Aug, and Jul-Aug-Sept of 1998.

**Step 2. Make a choice from the two "Show" links below. If you wish to change to temperature or precipitation click appropriate button.**

Temperature  Precipitation

[Show](#) the current set of available forecasts (all seasons and lead times)

[Show](#) the evolution of forecasts leading up to the current season (diminishing lead times)



For comments about forecasts, contact Holly Hartmann: [hollyvOregon@juno.com](mailto:hollyvOregon@juno.com)

For comments or suggestions about this website, contact the HyDIS Team: [hydys\\_team@hwr.arizona.edu](mailto:hydys_team@hwr.arizona.edu)

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- 1** Click in box(es) to Choose a Forecast Issue Date(s).  
Click Red Dot to Remove.

|      | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1994 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1995 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1996 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1997 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1998 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1999 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2000 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2001 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2002 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2003 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2004 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2005 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2006 | • |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2007 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

- 2** Use Mouse to Move Shaded Area.  
Click Shaded Area to Select Season.

Issue Date

2006 2007

Jan 2006 F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A

- 3** Click Issue Date to Remove.

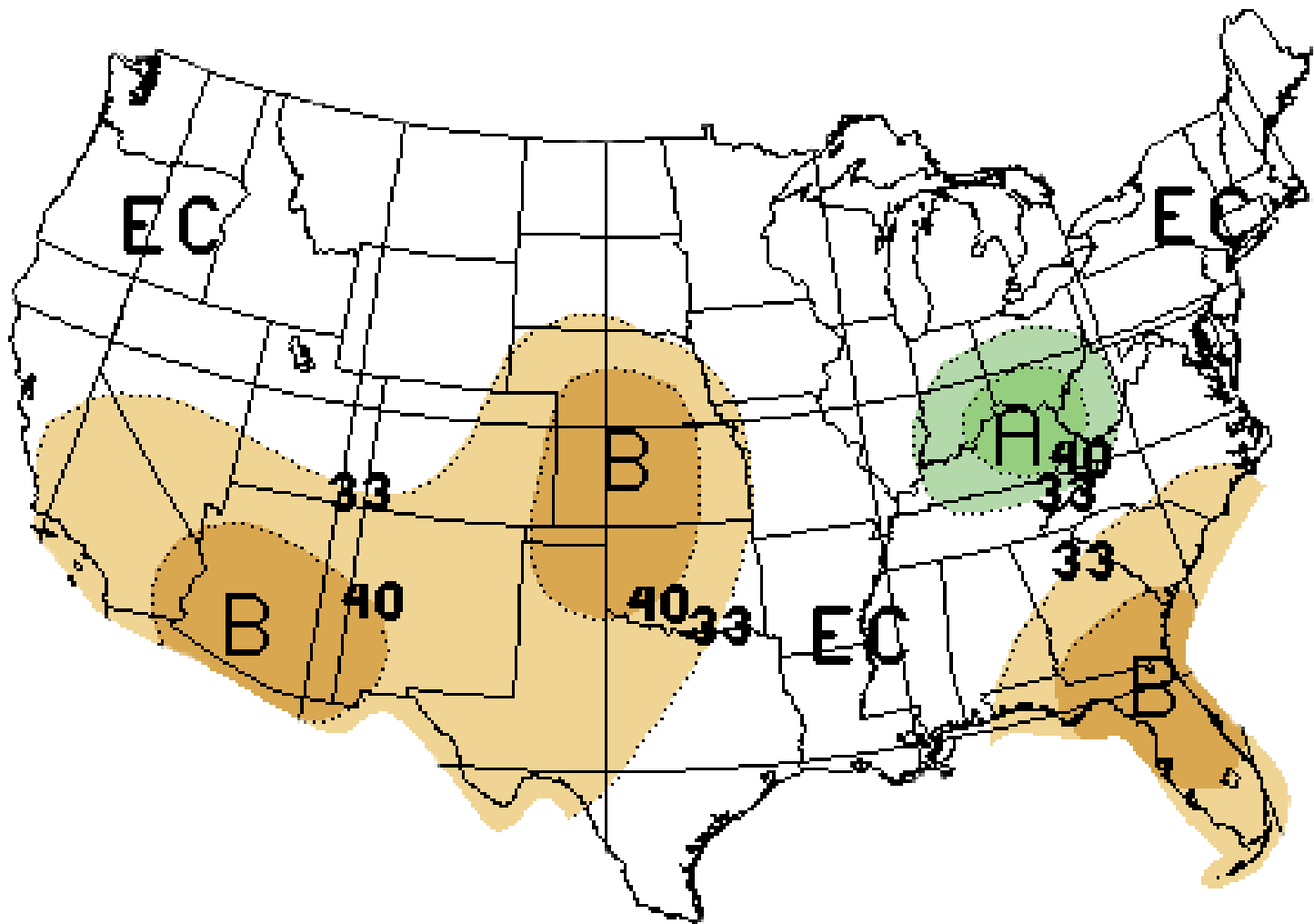
Issue Date Target Date

Jan 2006 FMA 2006

Precip  Temp

Display

February - April 2006  
Precipitation



## Choose Forecast Dates, Type & Season

### Forecast evaluation tool can

is used to evaluate forecasts, beginning with the next season and extending to the same season but for the next year. This means that for any specific 3-month season, the CPC has issued thirteen outlooks, with the earliest issued 13 months ago and the latest issued the month immediately prior to the season. For more details, see the [tutorial](#)

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### - Improve decision-making

or Customize your results with the choices below:

Increased likelihood of a "dry" spring can mean decreased chances of field inundation in Feb., March, and April.

Increase incentives to plant spring lettuce – a potentially very lucrative crop.

1 Click in box(es) to Choose a Forecast Issue Date(s).

|      | S | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1997 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2001 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2002 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2003 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2004 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2005 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2006 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2007 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |