

## Report on 90-day Weather Projection for the Northern Half of New Mexico

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### Introduction:

This 90-day weather forecast is for the northern half of New Mexico. The forecast area is bounded by the state borders on the north, west, and east, and Interstate 40 on the south.

The report contains a summary weather outlook for February through April (directly below), a review of the current El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) condition, which is an official El Nino, and an overview of current weather trends along with outlook maps for the next 90 days.

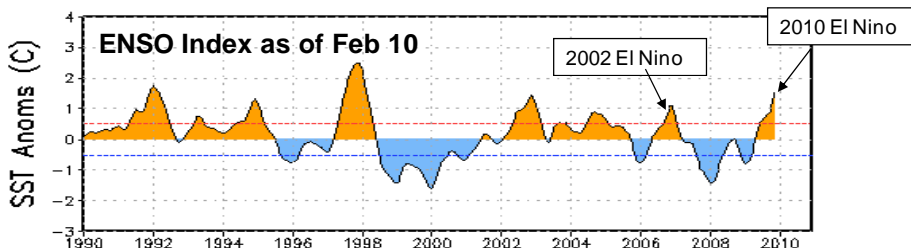
Also, I have a few comments about global warming and the recent controversy regarding the science behind it.

### Summary, Ninety-day weather outlook for forecast area:

- *The El Nino is official.* And it is developing into a moderate one.
- The majority of long-range computer models agree that an El Nino condition will persist through the end of Spring of 2010. The computer models now predict higher than average precipitation levels for the forecast area.
- Precipitation throughout the forecast area during the past four weeks has been well above average.

### Review of Current El Nino Southern Oscillation Situation and Discussion:

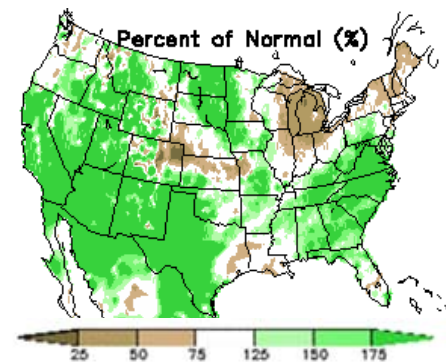
The latest historic Oceanic Nino Index, which is the official metric from which a La Nina or El Nino is declared, is now at 1.8C, 20% greater than last month and still growing. It looks to be on par with the moderate El Nino of 2002. See graph at left.



The majority of the of the 22 international computer models used to predict El Nino events suggest that it will last through middle of spring. Most of the models predict a moderate to strong event.

Last 30 days. Generally precipitation in the forecast area was above below normal in November in almost all areas. See map at right. An El Nino winter weather pattern has developed over the region, with a series of low-pressure cyclonic activity (i.e., storms) being spawned in the eastern Pacific and traversing the area. The position of the jet stream, which tends to track the storms, has been favorably to bring these storms into the state. Until recently, the

### **30-day (ending 31 Jan 2010) % of average precipitation**

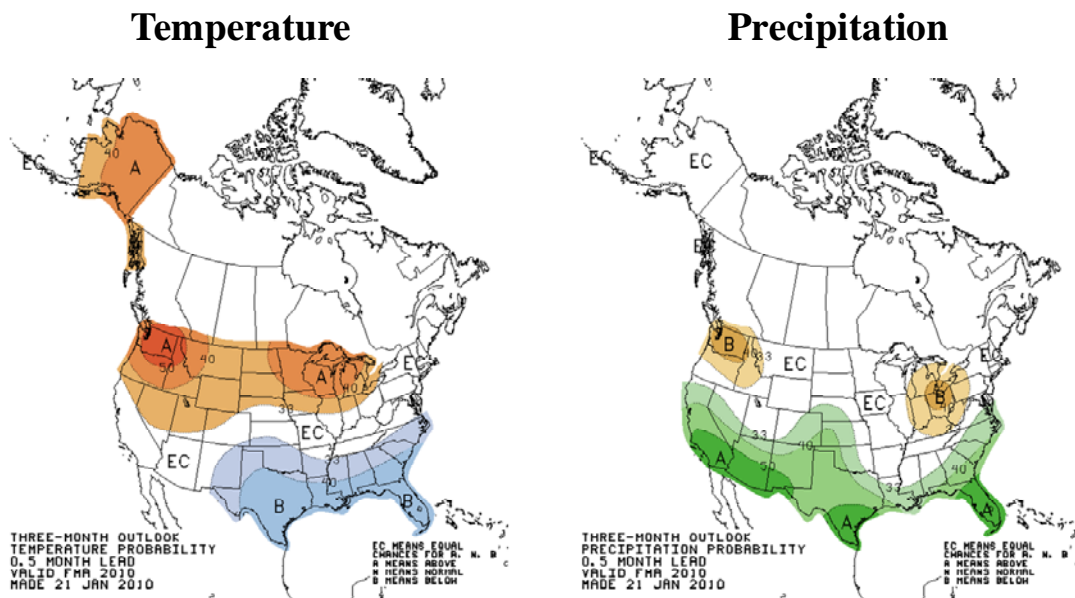


major impact of the storms has been in the southern half of the state. But the impact has now moved northward, as I suggested in my Dec report.

Next 90 days.

The prediction for the next 90 days can be seen below in the graphic from the National Climate Prediction Center.

## Outlook for Feb Through Apr 10



### Recent Weather Trends

We have seen very significant snowfall in recent weeks, especially in the central mountains of the forecast area. Storms have been lining up and impacting the area, and then moving off to wreak havoc in the central and eastern US.

### Global Warming and the Recent Controversy.

In December I discussed the situation regarding the science of global warming. Apparently some scientists who questioned the connection between global warming and human activity had their views suppressed. This is significant because plans are being drawn to make very expensive changes to human activity in order to mitigate the warming effect. Credible estimates of the cost of these changes are around 4 trillion dollars per year over the next two decades. For comparison, the US economy is around 13 trillion dollars per year. It is important to get this right before we make this investment.

The UN recently announced that it will investigate the situation by reviewing all of the evidence. I believe it is the first step in rethinking the entire problem. Many scientists continue to hold their position that humans are impacting the warming, but the scandal has seriously damaged their reputation with the public and a review will take place.

I believe that global warming is real because we can measure it. I am unsure how much humans have impacted it and I anxiously await the results of the UN investigation. In any case, the political damage to the global warming case has been momentous.

Next Report: Early March, 2010.