

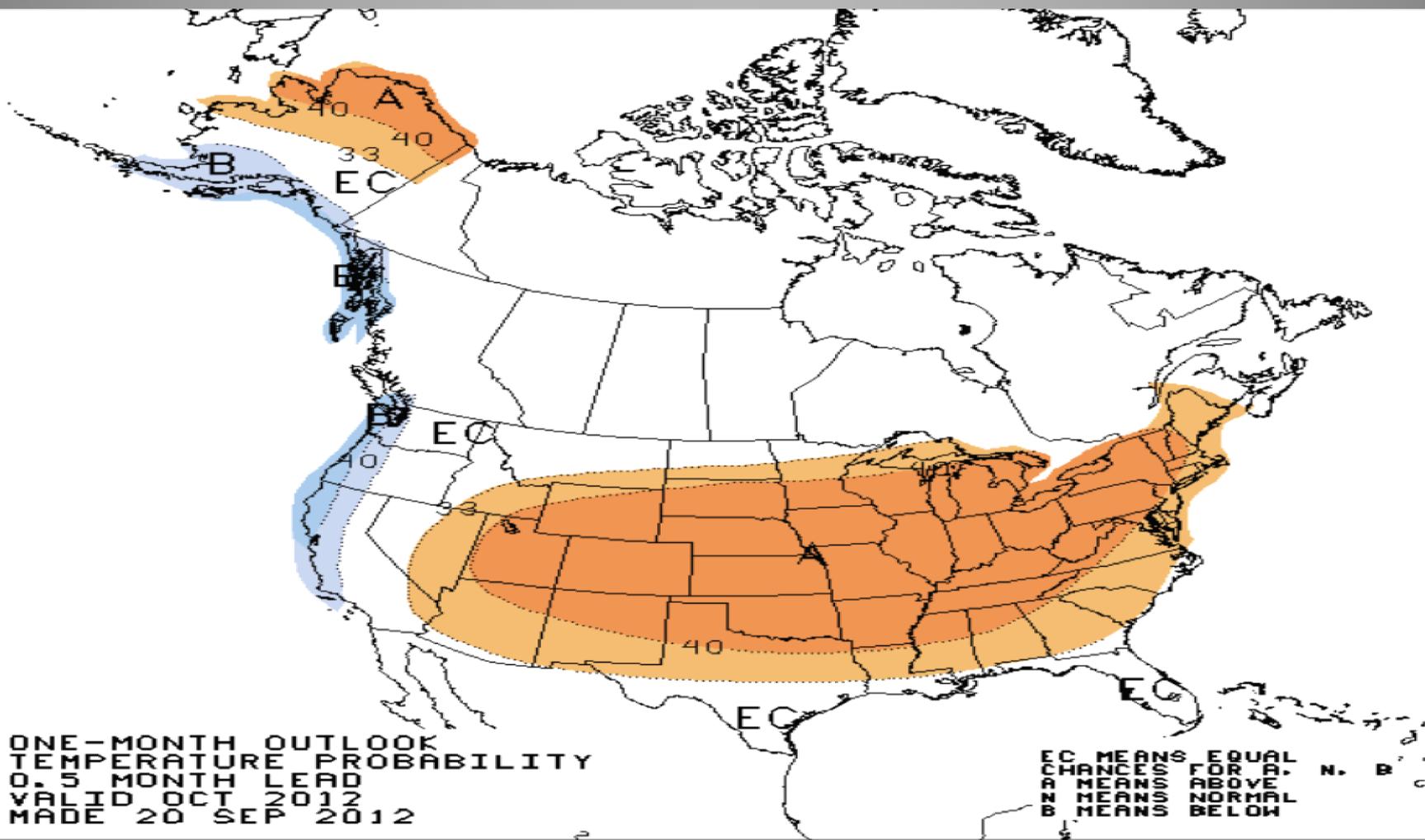


Fall 2012 Outlook

Exceptional Drought
Will Continue

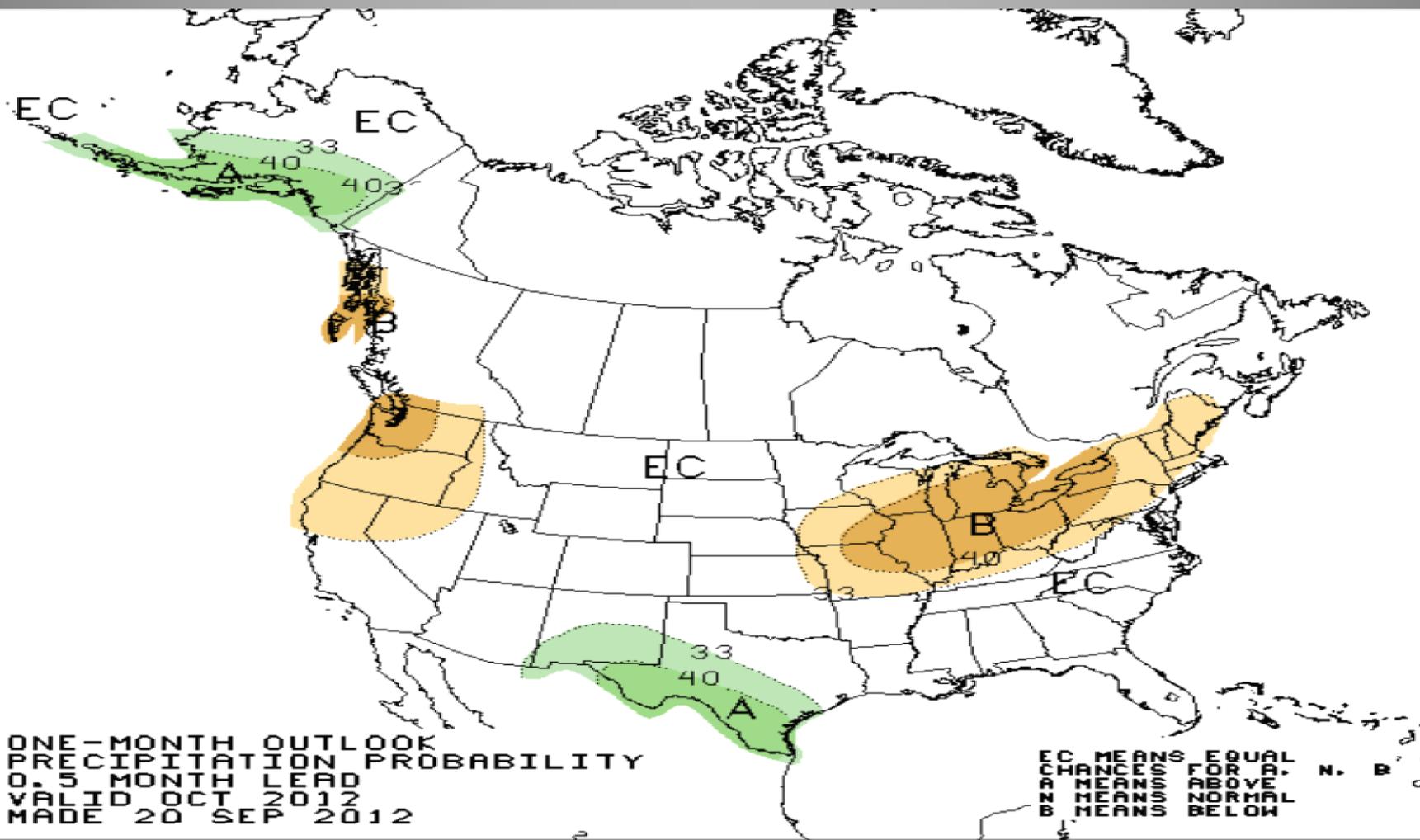


One Month Temperature Outlook



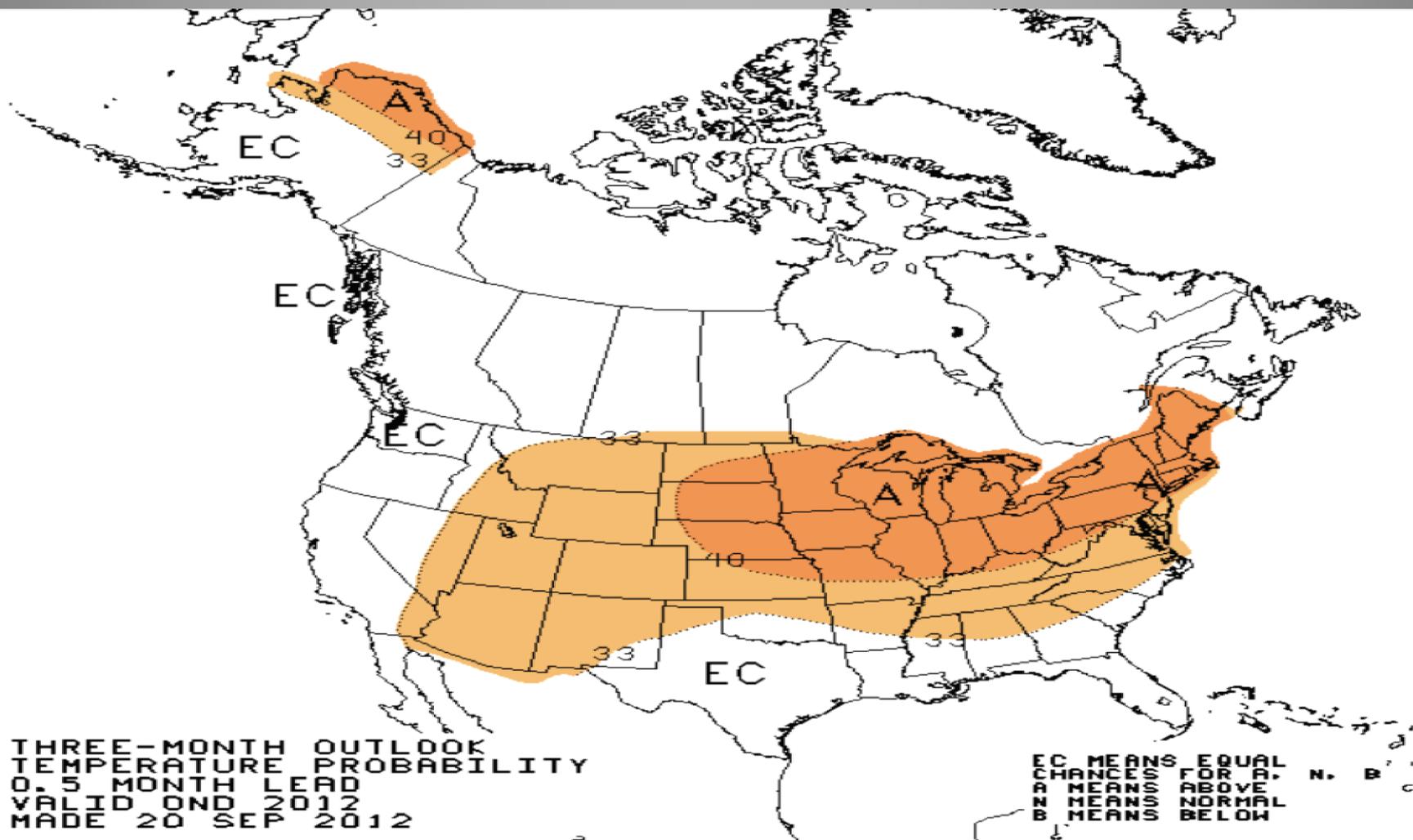


One Month Precipitation Outlook



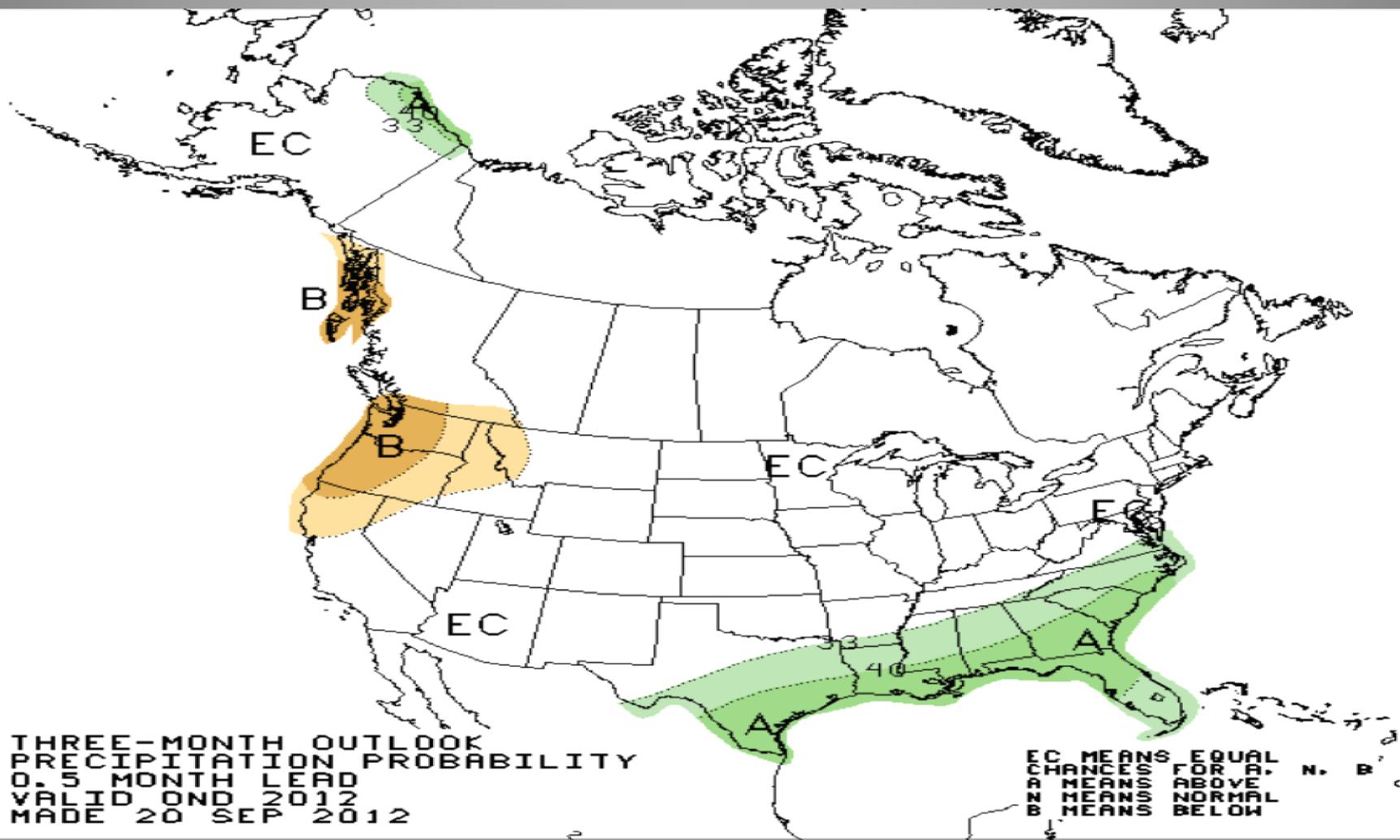


Three Month Temperature Outlook





Three Month Precipitation Outlook





Seasonal Drought Outlook

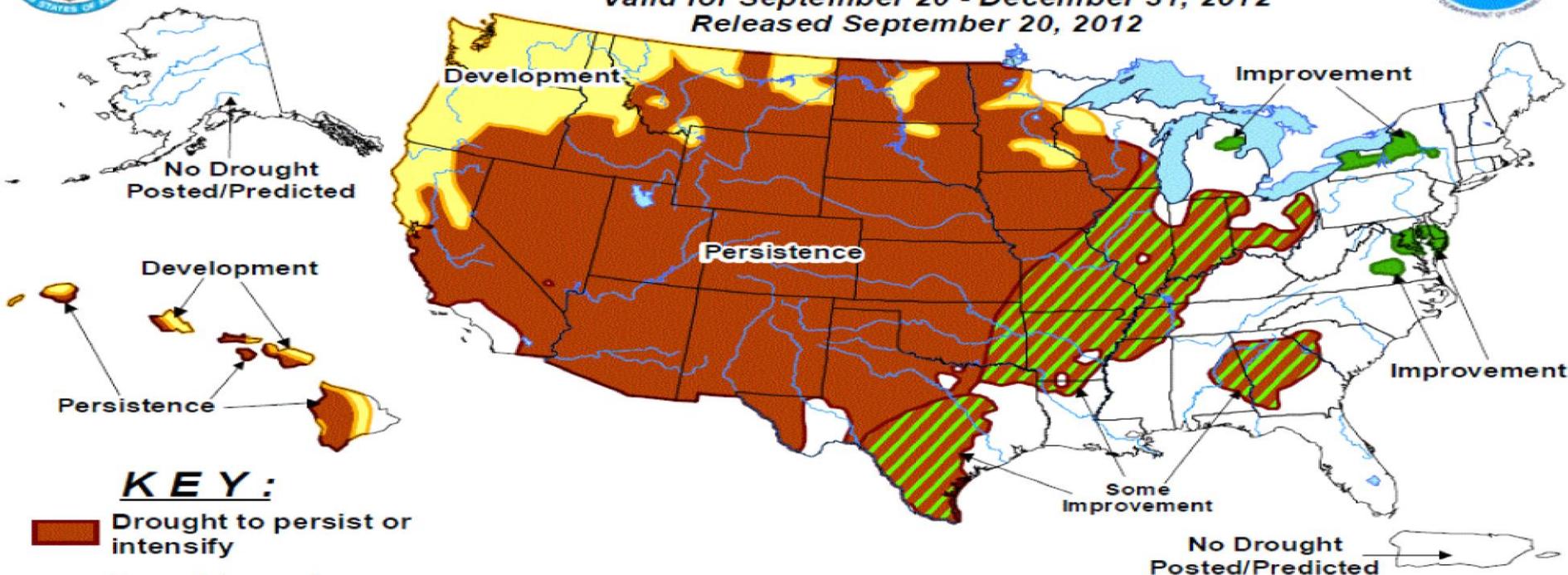


U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 20 - December 31, 2012

Released September 20, 2012



KEY:

-  Drought to persist or intensify
-  Drought ongoing, some improvement
-  Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
-  Drought development likely

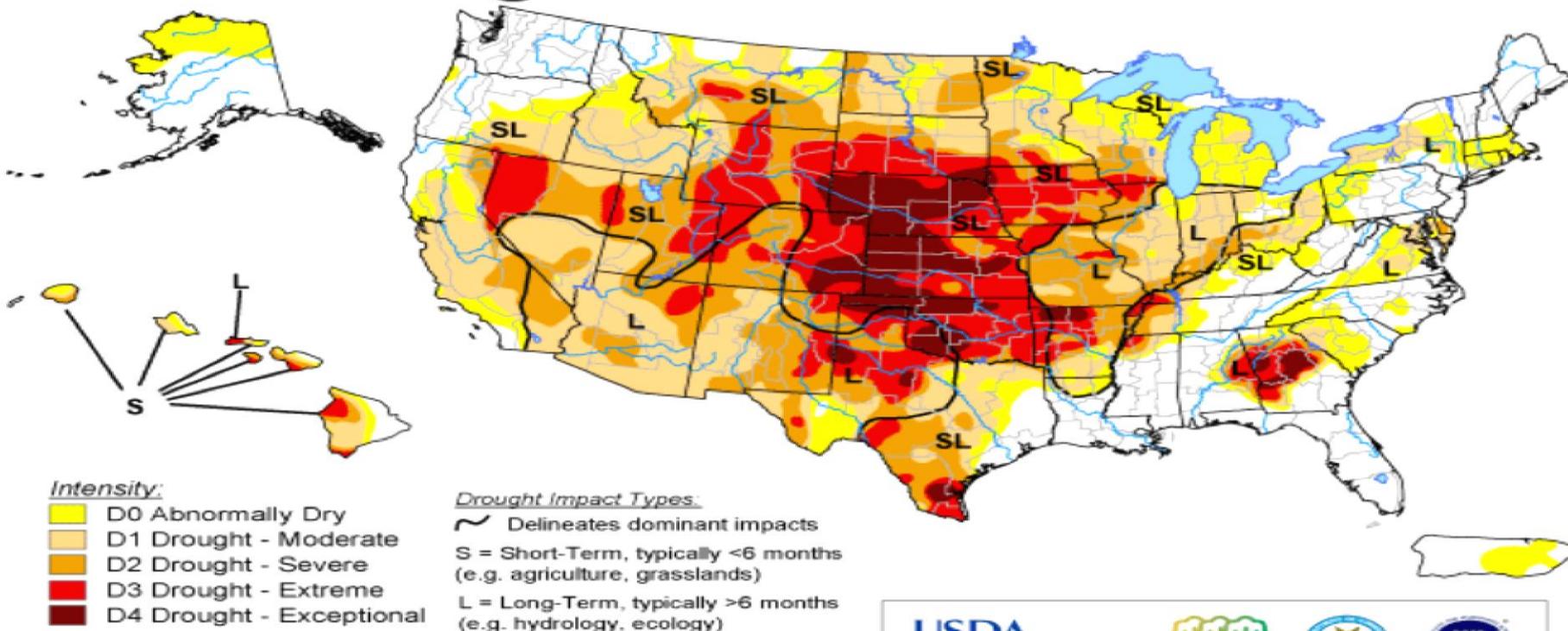
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.



Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 18, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Released Thursday, September 20, 2012
Author: David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center



Regional Viewpoint

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 18, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

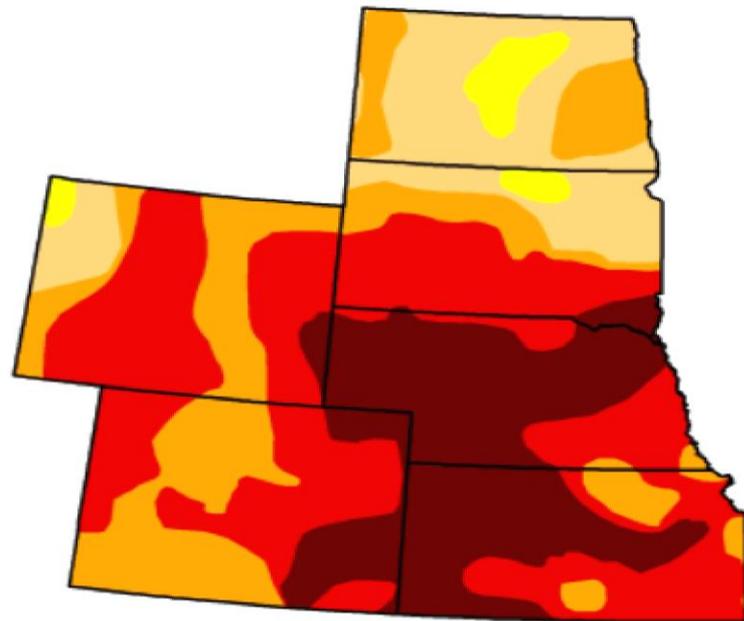
High Plains

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.28	82.81	60.63	23.71
Last Week (09/11/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	95.60	82.77	60.66	25.10
3 Months Ago (06/19/2012 map)	18.53	81.47	59.11	21.59	6.35	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	61.66	38.34	18.12	7.22	2.07	0.04
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	70.09	29.91	17.44	11.97	6.22	2.96
One Year Ago (09/13/2011 map)	64.67	35.33	16.76	12.75	6.98	2.96

Intensity:

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



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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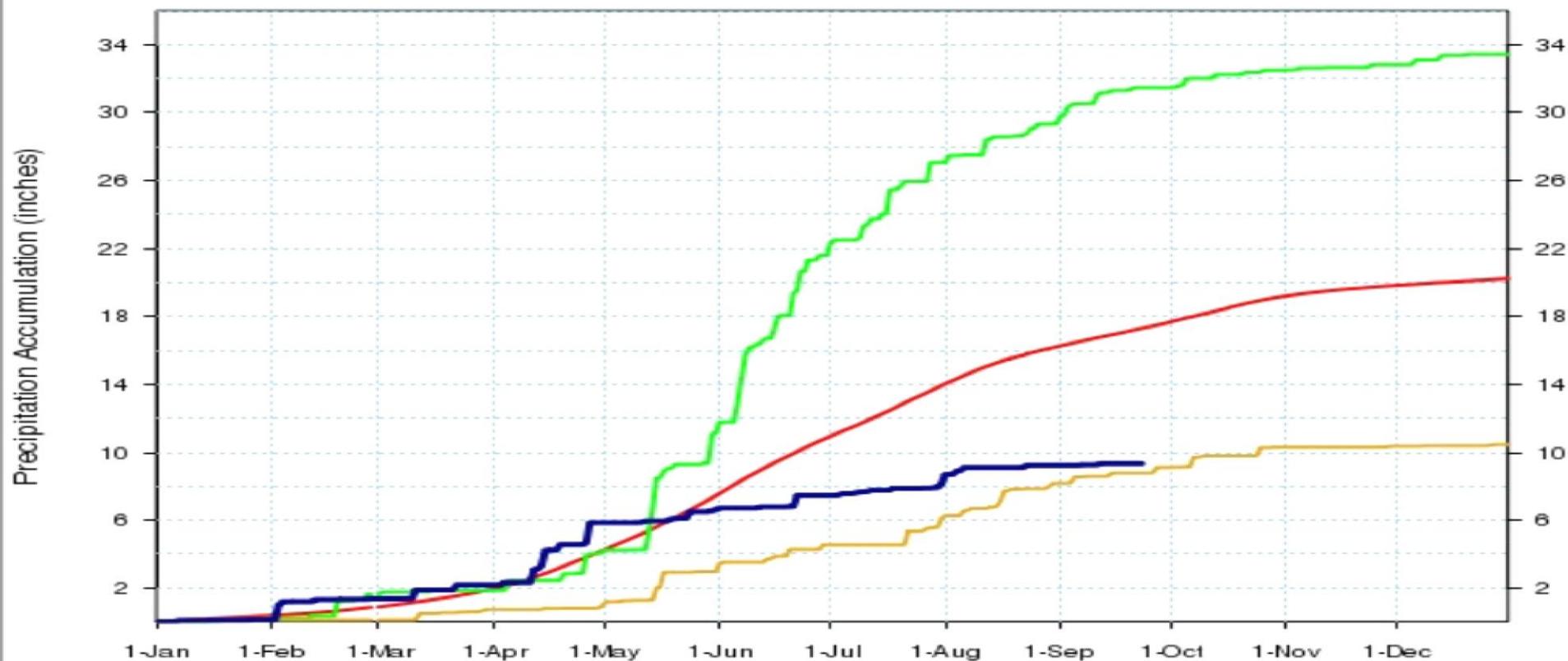
Drought Talking Points

- A vast majority of the Central Plains will continue to experience drought conditions through October, November and December. Parts of the Dakotas, Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin will see drought conditions develop.
- All Central Plains locations are favored for above average temperatures during the October, November and December period.



Precipitation Graph-North Platte

**Precipitation Summary for NORTH PLATTE RGNL AP
Jan 1 - Dec 31**

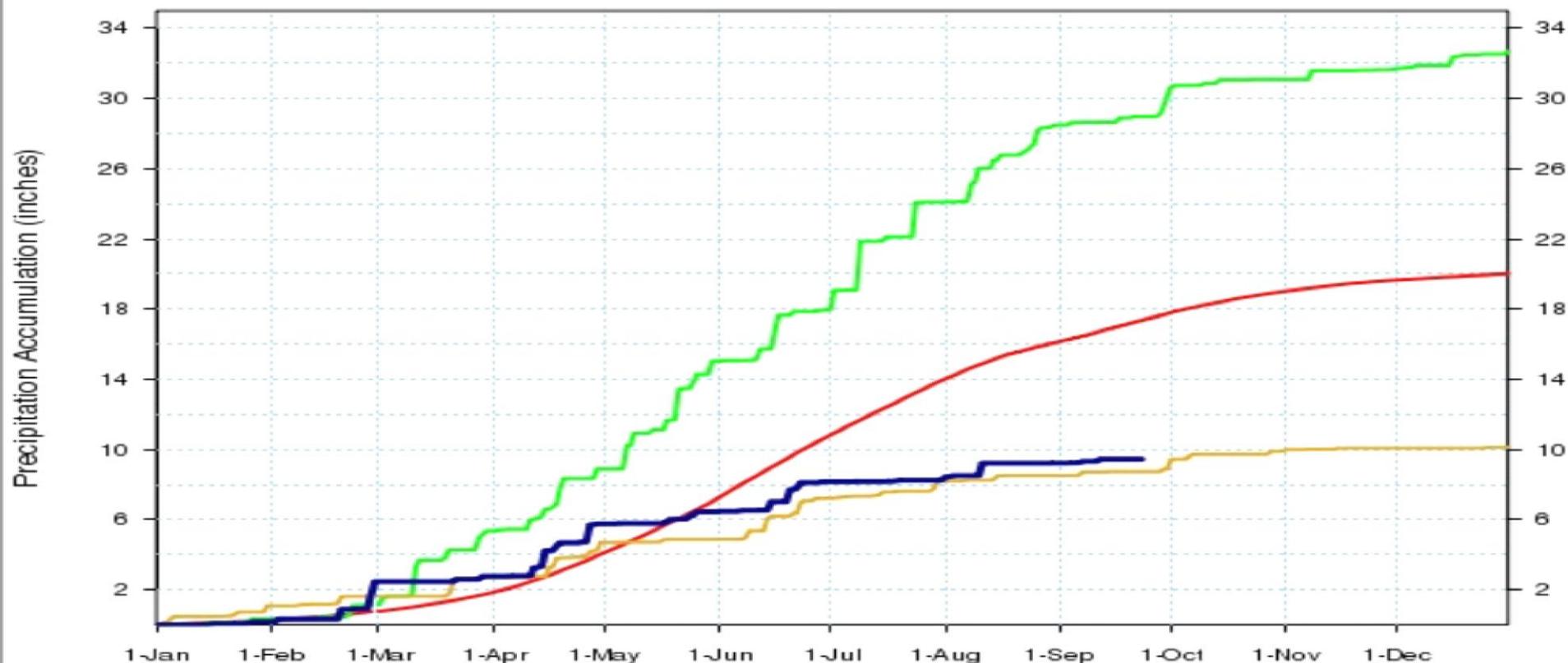


Heavy dark blue line is precipitation accumulation for 2012. Smooth red line is normal.
Green line is accumulation for wettest period (1951). Tan line is accumulation for driest period (1954).
Period of record for wettest and driest: 1948 - 2012.



Precipitation Graph-Valentine

**Precipitation Summary for Valentine Area
Jan 1 - Dec 31**

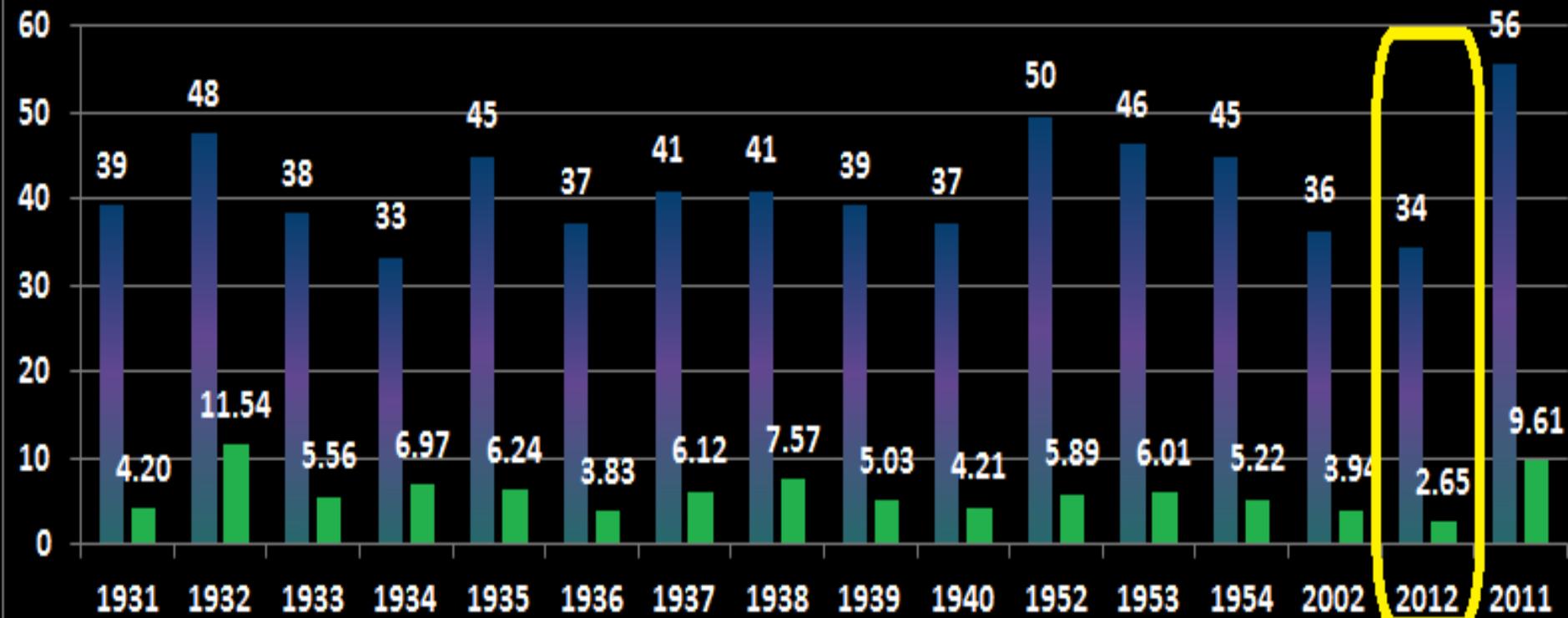


Heavy dark blue line is precipitation accumulation for 2012. Smooth red line is normal.
Green line is accumulation for wettest period (1977). Tan line is accumulation for driest period (1894).
Period of record for wettest and driest: 1889 - 2012.



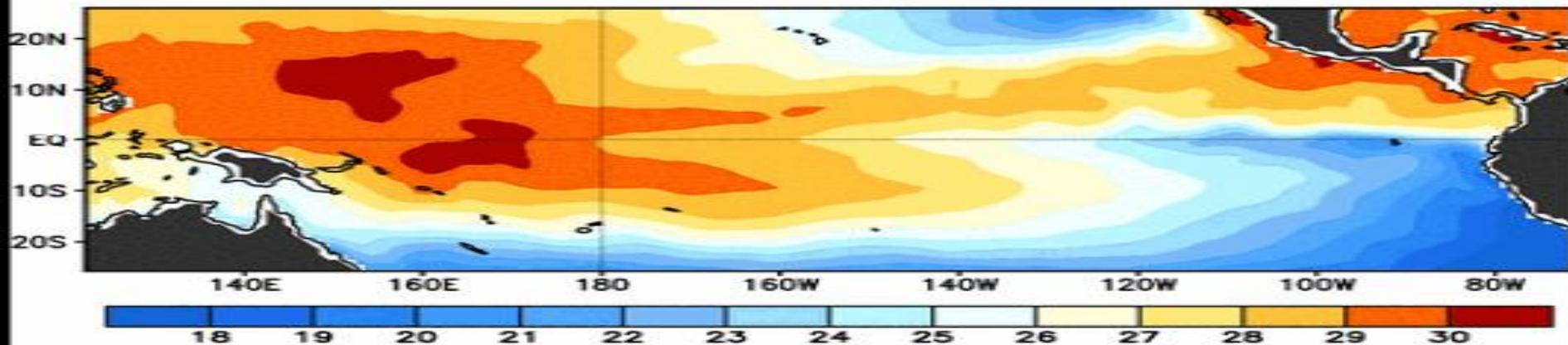
A Comparative Look At Other Drought Years

■ Average RH at 6 pm Local Time Jun-Aug ■ Observed Rainfall Jun-Aug at KLBF

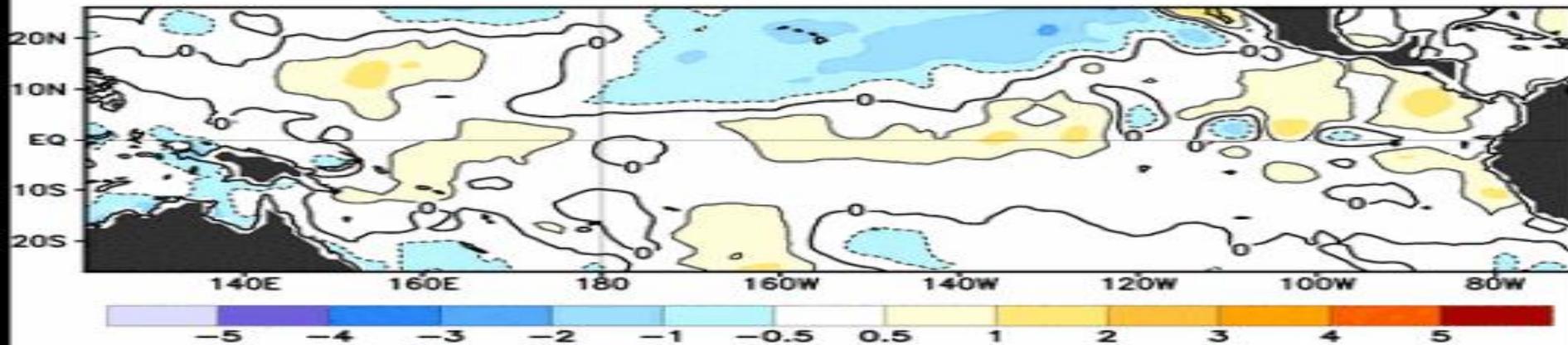


Observed Sea Surface Temperatures

Observed Sea Surface Temperature (°C)



Observed Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies (°C)



7-day Average Centered on 12 September 2012

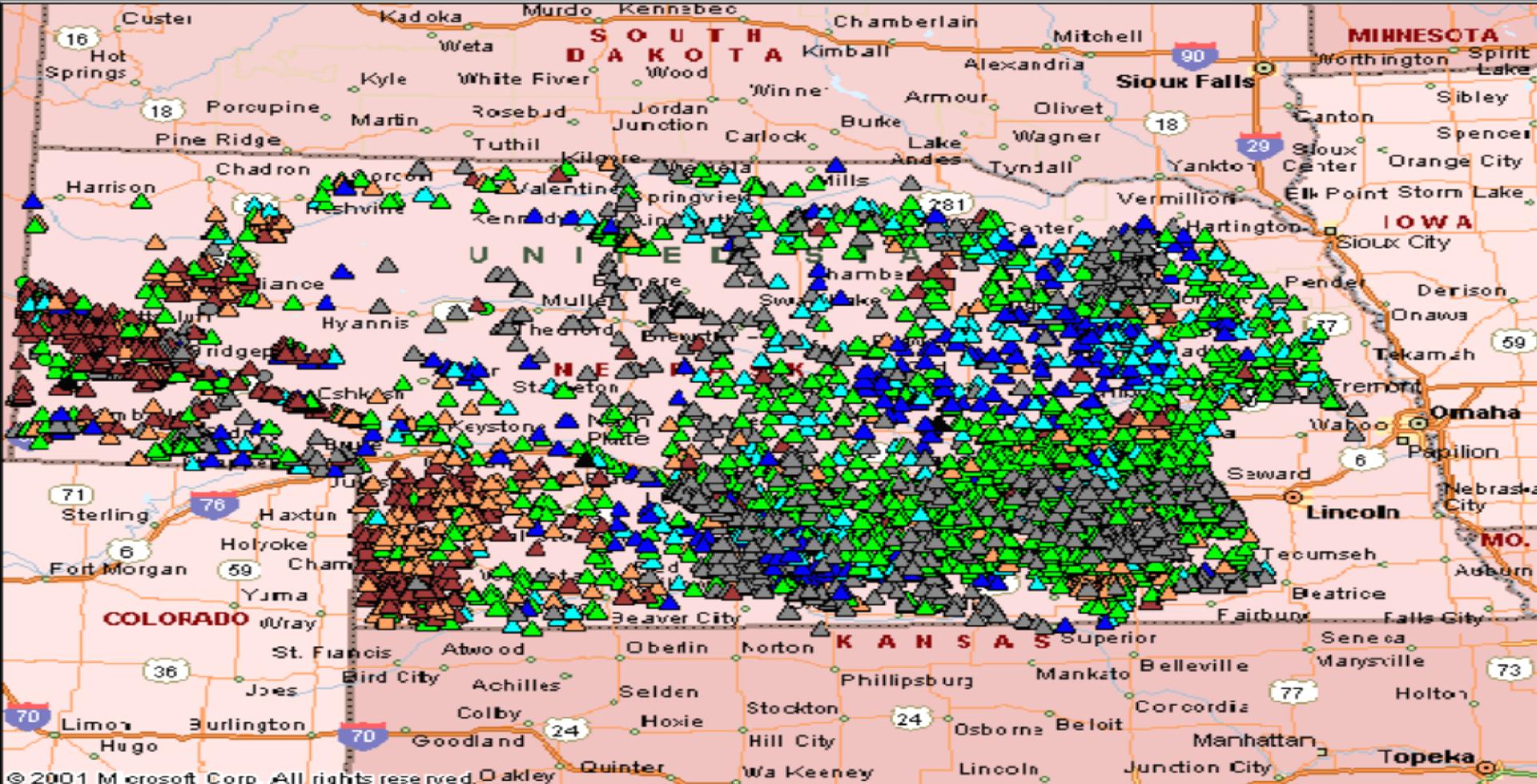


Weak El Niño Developing

- ENSO Alert System Status: **El Niño Watch**
- Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) continued to warm slightly and are greater than 0.5°C above average across the eastern Pacific Ocean.
- Conditions are currently transitioning to El Niño and will likely meet criteria for a weak El Niño state in October.

Ogallala Aquifer Draw Down

(Graphic courtesy of the USGS)



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Explanation - Percentile classes (symbol color based on most recent measurement)

Low	<10 Much Below Normal	10-24 Below Normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above Normal	>90 Much Above Normal	High	Not Ranked	Real Time	Continuous	Periodic Measurements