



## TRANSCRIPT

NOAA Monthly Media Climate Call

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Media advisory about briefing

<https://www.noaa.gov/media-advisory/noaa-monthly-us-global-climate-report-call-may-19>

Ivy:

Welcome and thank you all for standing by. At this time, all participants will be in the listen-only mode until the question and answer portion at the end of today's presentations. During the question-and-answer portion, if you would like to ask a question, you may use "star, one" on your phone. As a reminder, today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the conference over to John Bateman. Thank you. You may begin.

John Bateman:

All right, thanks. Good morning. And thank you everyone for joining this monthly climate update call, part of the suite of climate services that NOAA provides to government, business, academia, and the public to support informed decision making. I'm John Bateman with NOAA Communications, and I'll be facilitating the call today. If you have any additional questions after today's call my colleague, John Leslie and I can both be reached by email at, and I will spell it, N-E-S-D-I-S.P-A @ N-O-A-A dot G-O-V.

John Bateman:

Today's update will feature three short presentations, followed by an operator-assisted question and answer session. A copy of the presentation our speakers will follow can be downloaded from the link in the media advisory. And with that, I will introduce our speakers. The first presenter is Ahira Sánchez-Lugo, a climatologist with NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information, who will provide a summary of the April 2022 US And Global Climate Report, as well as the latest drought monitor update. Our second presenter is Jared Guyer, Lead Forecaster for the NOAA National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center, who will provide a review of the severe weather and tornadoes that struck parts of the US in April. And our third presenter is Johnna Infanti, a meteorologist at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, who will provide the latest El Niño, La Niña update as well as the US temperature, precipitation and drought outlook for the summer of 2022. Our first speaker will be Ahira from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

Thank you, John. And thanks to everyone who joined in today. I'm going to go ahead and start on slide two, to look at the April global temperatures. So in this map, we have two maps. The map on the left is the temperature anomalies map, that depicts the areas that had above or below-average temperatures. So, the areas shaded in red means that during the month of April, those areas experienced above-average temperatures. And the areas shaded in blue mean that they had below-average temperatures during the month. And then the map on the right is the percentiles map, which takes each gridded anomaly and puts that into a historical perspective, meaning how that particular grid point, that anomaly for that grid point, how did it compare with its own history?

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

So, during the month of April, we saw that much warmer-than-average April temperatures were present across parts of each of the land areas that we have, for each continent that we have data for, as well as parts of northern, western and southwestern Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean and across much of the Indian Ocean. Record-high April temperatures were observed across parts of central South America, the Oceania region, southwestern Pacific Ocean, and a large area of the southern and southwestern Asia, Northeastern Africa. Meanwhile, near to cooler-than-average April temperatures were observed across much of central and northern North America, southern South America, central Europe, southern Africa, as well as the central Eastern tropical and southeastern Pacific Ocean. However, no land or ocean areas had a record-cold April temperature. Averaged as a whole, the April global temperature was 0.85 degrees Celsius above average, which is a 1.53 degrees Fahrenheit above average. And this value tied with 2010 as the fifth warmest April since global records began in 1880, which is a total of 143 years of record keeping.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

In terms of continental averages, Asia as a whole had its warmest April on record with a temperature departure of 2.62 degrees Celsius, which is 4.72 degrees Fahrenheit above average. And this value was 0.05 degrees Celsius or 0.09 degrees Fahrenheit above the previous record that took place in 2016. So an event that took place during the month was a high-pressure system that brought very warm temperatures to parts of southern Asia during the last few days in April and into early May. And the areas that were mostly impacted were India and Pakistan, where maximum temperatures were over 40 degrees Celsius, which is 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

There were multiple new temperature records that were set during that timeframe. Averaged as a whole, Pakistan had its warmest April on record, with a temperature departure of 4.05 degrees Celsius, or 7.29 degrees Fahrenheit above average. And this exceeded the previous record that took place in 2010, by close to 1 degree Celsius or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit. The Oceania region had its fifth warmest April on record, while Africa, South America had an April temperature that ranked among the 12 warmest on record. North America was the only continent that had a continental average that was slightly below average, and it was the coldest April for North America since 2018.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

Moving now to slide three, looking at the global surface temperature for the year to date, January-through-April period. It was 0.87 degrees Celsius or 1.57 degrees Fahrenheit above average. And this ranked as the fifth highest January-through-April period on record. Looking at the map, we saw that during the first four months of the year, much warmer-than-average temperatures were present across parts of South America, Asia, Australia, the Atlantic, and Indian oceans, as well as parts of Mexico, Europe, central Africa and the northern, western, and south central Pacific Ocean. Record-high temperatures were observed across parts of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, as well as parts of South America and Southern Asia.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

Meanwhile, near to cooler-than-average temperatures were present across parts of North America, northern Atlantic Ocean, the northern and southern parts of Africa, as well as central and eastern tropical, and southeastern Pacific Ocean. However, no land or ocean area had a record-cold January-through-April temperature. Regionally, Asia and the Caribbean region had their fourth warmest January-through-April period. While South America, Oceania, and Europe had a year-to-date temperature that ranked among the 11th warmest on record. Despite North America having a continental average that was above average for the period, it was the coldest January-through-April period since 2014, for North America. Looking ahead with data through April 2022, the year as a whole for 2022 is very likely to rank among the 10 warmest years on record, and has about less than 30% chance of it ranking among the five warmest years on record.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

Moving now to slide number four to look at the US. The US as a whole had an April temperature of 50.7 degrees Fahrenheit, which is 0.4 degrees Fahrenheit below average, and ranked in the middle third of the historical period of record. Looking at the map, we see that temperatures were below average across parts of the Northwest to the Great Lakes and into the Mississippi Valley, while parts of the Southwest, the Deep South and portions of the East Coast had above-average, April temperatures.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

In terms of statewide averages, Washington State had its third coldest April on record, while Montana had its fifth coldest. And the states of Oregon, North Dakota, and Minnesota had a temperature that ranked among the top cold Aprils. During the month, from April 11 through the 17th, there was a trough over the Pacific Northwest that helped bring really cold Arctic air into the region, and that resulted in the coldest temperatures across much of the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies, and Northern Plains during that time period. However, no state had a top-10 warm April. Texas and Mexico had their 11th warmest April and Arizona had its 12th warmest on record. In terms of precipitation, above-average precipitation was observed across parts of the Northwest, Northern Rockies and the Plains, Great Lakes, and the Northeast, while below-average precipitation was observed across the Southwest, as well as central [inaudible 00:10:00]. Averaged as a whole, the April precipitation total for the contiguous US was 2.58 inches, which is close to average.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

Another interesting statistic for the States, North Dakota had its second wettest April on record, and this was mainly due to multiple late-season snow events that helped contribute to a wet April. And then Oregon, Minnesota, had their seventh wettest April while New Mexico had its second driest April on record. And Kansas had its third driest, and Colorado and Arizona had their fifth driest April on record. And then during the month, several tornado outbreaks occurred, which helped contribute to an above-average tornado count for the month.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

Moving now to slide number five, to look at the year to date for the contiguous US. The January-through-April temperature was 39.9 degrees Fahrenheit, which is 0.8 degrees Fahrenheit above average, and it ranked in the warmest third of the historical record. Temperatures were above average across parts of the West and along the East Coast, while below-average temperatures were present across parts of the upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

California had its sixth warmest January-through-April period, while no other state had a top 10 warm or cold January-through-April period. In terms of precipitation, as you can see from the map, much of the western half of the contiguous US had below-average precipitation for the year to date. And then, while much of the eastern half had near to above-average precipitation, averaged as a whole, the contiguous US had 8.25 inches of rain, which is 1.22 inches below average, and ranked as the 13th driest January-through-April period. California had its driest January-through-April period, with only 3.25 inches of rain, which is close to 10 inches below average. And this surpassed the previous records set in 2013. Nevada and Utah had their third driest such period, while Arizona, Nebraska and Mexico had a top 10 dry January-through-April period.

Ahira Sánchez-Lugo:

North Dakota had its sixth wettest January-through-April. Moving now to my last slide, slide number six, looking at drought across the contiguous US. As of today, about 90% of the west, 72% of the High Plains, and 53% of the south were in some type of drought, which is moderate to exceptional drought. And drought was also present across parts of the southeast. Looking at just the west, 42% are experiencing extreme to exceptional drought, which is the last two categories for drought. And then as a whole, 53% of the contiguous US was in some type of drought, and this is about three percentage points less than four weeks ago. So there have been some improvements across parts of the Great Plains, while conditions did deteriorate across parts of the southern Rocky Mountains, the southwest and southeastern regions. So that is all that I have for today. I will now turn it over to Jared Guyer.

Jared Guyer:

All right. Hello everyone. My initial slide here is slide seven, if you want to refer to that. And again, I'm here today to refer and review April's severe weather and examine that. And if you look at slide seven, the left-hand side map, I'll refer you to that initially. That's basically a map of where we saw severe weather occurrences in the month of April. There's a couple of days that aren't yet compiled there at the beginning, but it essentially gives you an idea of where severe weather occurred in the continental United States during the month of April. And, on that left-side map of slide seven, a key there is that large hail reports are in green, severe wind reports are in blue and tornadoes are in red. And there were a total of 200, initially 209, probably higher than that, but 209 preliminary reports of tornadoes across the US in the month of April.

Jared Guyer:

And that's right around the 15-year average of 240. And, arguably we're at least near average. May end up slightly above when things are all said and done. So, on the left-hand side of the map, you can see that most of the severe weather was distributed across areas from the Great Plains, the upper Midwest. Also across parts of the mid-South, and even in Deep South, spanning say areas from Oklahoma and Texas, all the way over to Georgia, the Carolinas and Florida. And, as far as general locations, that's where we typically expect to see weather in the month of April. Things tend to work northward through the springtime. We saw what was fairly typical, where things tend to be a little more confined to the Deep South and then work their way northward, as the month and as the spring wears on.

Jared Guyer:

Now, the right-hand side of slide seven, we isolate just the tornadoes. So the same thing as on the left side, except isolated for tornadoes. And you can see those 200-plus reports and where those tornadoes did occur. And again, especially focused across parts of the Deep South, but also some other areas into the Ohio Valley, mid-south, and also the upper Midwest as well. So more than 1,800 total severe weather reports in the month of April. Severe winds were a little bit above normal. Large hail, severe hail was a bit below normal, and tornadoes were near normal, or perhaps a bit above, when all is said and done. Also, I note there that it can take upwards of two to three months to really finalize

things as far as severe weather and tornado reports. Especially tornadoes, the vast majority of those ... Tornadoes are surveyed and it does take time to compile some of the final numbers there.

Jared Guyer:

So, moving on to slide eight now, just to put April in a little broader context as far as severe weather goes. And particularly on slide eight, we're looking at tornadoes on the left-hand side. And that's the context for how the year began. As normal, January and February are usually relatively inactive, but even compared to the typical, we were a bit below average in January and February across the continental United States, as far as tornadoes go. March turned much more active. March was even more active than typical as far as tornadoes go. And April largely continued that theme as well. And looking in more detail, on the right-hand side of slide eight, I'll note there that, to simplify this and boil it down, our curve there, our line is the accumulation of tornado reports. And so those are tornadoes, with that red line, tornadoes year to date in 2022. And this graph actually runs through essentially the last day or two.

Jared Guyer:

And that compares to the average annual tornado trend, which is the black line. So, basically, with the red line being below the black line, initially January and February, we were slightly below normal, in terms of our start of the year. But as mentioned, March turned much more active. You can see that really spiked up there, that red line rise well above the average. And then April's at least normal, or perhaps slightly above normal. So overall, by the time we get to the here and now, we're running largely right around or just slightly above what we would typically expect to see across the United States in aggregate, as far as total tornado numbers.

Jared Guyer:

Now, as we go into slide nine, I'm going to highlight several events that were the most impactful during the month of April. And the activity boiled down to several multi-day segments of severe weather and tornadoes. And that's fairly common. And it broke down to an event early in the month, middle of the month and then later in the month. It boiled down to three different segments or clusters of multi-day activity. So on slide nine, first up is April 5th and 6th in the Southeast United States.

Jared Guyer:

Over that multi-day period, there were around 80 confirmed tornadoes that we've counted thus far. And that unfortunately was highlighted by a tornado that produced EF4 damage. When I say "EF4," that's on the Enhanced Fujita scale. That scale runs on the low end from EF0, to EF5 on the higher end. There's an EF4 tornado near Pembroke, Georgia, that's highlighted on the left side map of slide nine, there in Eastern Georgia. There are many other tornadoes, however, in other parts of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and even far north Florida on that day. In particular, that EF4 tornado that I mentioned in Georgia near Pembroke, which is in Bryan County, Georgia. There's a 14-mile track tornado and produced damage, with peak estimated winds of 185 miles per hour. And that's the highest that we've had year to date, thus far.

Jared Guyer:

All right, moving on to slide 10. Slide 10 highlights the middle of the month, an active stretch we had there in the April-11th-through-13th timeframe, and in particular across parts of the upper Midwest and mid-South, we had more than 70 confirmed tornadoes. And the maps on the 12th is on the left-hand side. You can see the tornadoes, again in the red dots, as far as tornadoes go. But severe weather across the upper Midwest, especially centered on Iowa and surrounding states. And then other severe weather occurred farther south, initially across Texas and Louisiana. But then

that severe weather spread farther east as we went into the 13th, on the right-hand side of slide 10 there. And it spread into broader parts of the Mississippi Valley, mid-South, Tennessee Valley, et cetera, over into areas such as Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee and nearby areas.

Jared Guyer:

If you'll look at slide 11. My final slide here highlights a prolific event at the end of the month. This is April 29th in Kansas and Nebraska. There were at least 14 tornadoes during this event. There's a little inset map on the lower-left of slide 11 that shows a broad regional look. Most of that severe weather was again, as mentioned, was across Nebraska and Kansas. Nearby states as well, Missouri and Oklahoma to some extent, but in particular, there was an EF3 tornado that moved through Andover, Kansas. If you're not familiar, Andover, Kansas is an eastern suburb of Wichita, Kansas there in south-central Kansas. And this tornado moved through populated areas, residential areas. It was on the ground for around 20 minutes. Ended up as a EF3 tornado producing at its peak EF3 damage, again on the Enhanced Fujita scale.

Jared Guyer:

And it had nearly a 13-mile path length, as it was on the ground for that 20 minutes or so. There were at least three injuries associated with that tornado. And, fortunately, there were no deaths associated with that, which is certainly a great thing, especially in the context of going through residential areas and the like. And you see some of the unfortunate damage associated with that tornado in particular, on the right-hand side as it moves through the Andover, Kansas area. And in all nearly 1,000 structures sustained damage just in Andover, Kansas alone, during that event on April 29th. So with that, I'll now turn it over to Johnna.

Johnna Infanti:

Thank you. And good morning, everyone. This is Johann Infanti, Meteorologist from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center. I'd like to now bring your attention to slide 12 in the presentation, which shows the current sea surface temperature observations and forecast for the El Niño-Southern Oscillation. The figure on the left shows the current sea surface temperature anomalies in the tropical Pacific. Blue shading in this figure represents areas where sea surface temperatures are below normal. And the orange to red areas correspond to areas where sea surface temperature are above normal. The light to medium blue on the map that is found along and surrounding the Equator indicates that, on average, sea surface temperature are currently below normal. sea surface temperature in what is called the Niño 3.4 region of the tropical Pacific are roughly 1.1 degrees Celsius below normal, which puts us in the La Niña phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation. La Niña conditions begin when sea surface temperature in the Niño 3.4 region fall to 0.5 degrees Celsius below normal.

Johnna Infanti:

The chart on the right shows the ENSO forecast from early May through December, January, February 2022. This chart indicates the probability of La Niña shown... [inaudible 00:24:34] Shown that the great, shown with the red bars proceed surface temperatures in [inaudible 00:24:39] region. La Niña [inaudible 00:24:41] to continue, and the odds for La Niña decrease in the late Northern hemisphere summer, with a 58% chance in August through October 2022, before slightly increasing through the Northern hemisphere fall and winter 2022, with a 61% chance. Shifting now to slide 13, which represents our monthly outlooks for the month of June. These outlooks represent the probability of [inaudible 00:25:09] mean temperature or total precipitation for the month will be below, near or above normal. The red and orange shading on the map to the left indicates areas where above-normal temperatures are the most likely outcome, while the blue shading indicates areas where below-normal temperatures are the most likely.

Johnna Infanti:

For precipitation and the map on the right, green shading indicates areas where above-normal precipitation is most likely. And brown shading indicates areas where below-normal precipitation is most likely. Looking first at the map on the left, the red and orange areas in the southern two thirds of the US indicate that this area is favored to have warmer than normal temperatures in June. The largest probabilities above 60% are forecast through western Texas and New Mexico, coinciding with the lowest soil moisture. Conversely, anomalously wet soil moisture was one reason for equal chances of below, near, or above-normal temperatures across much of the northern Great Plains and upper Mississippi Valley. While the equal chances forecast along much of the West coast was due, in part, to negative precipitated temperature anomalies nearby. Slightly elevated probabilities of below-normal temperatures are forecast across western parts of Oregon and Washington, along with the Alaska Panhandle. Due to conflicting and weak signals among the tools, equal chances is forecast for the remainder of Alaska.

Johnna Infanti:

Moving on to precipitation, shown in the figure on the right-hand side. The areas of brown shading across much of the central to southern Great Plains, extending westward to parts of the Great Basin, Pacific Northwest and Northern California, indicates elevated probabilities of below-normal precipitation. The slightly larger probabilities focused from southern Wyoming, south ridge of the Texas Panhandle was due to La Niña composites and weak [inaudible 00:26:58]. Since June is typically a dry time of the year for Southern California [inaudible 00:27:05] ... forecast for these areas. Possibility of enhanced sea breeze convection supports the slight favoring of above-normal precipitation for Florida and areas along and close to the Southern coast. [inaudible 00:27:18] and Alaska, a large area of equal chance was necessary in the June precipitation outlook, due to weak signals among the dynamical model solutions. [inaudible 00:27:34] ... period from June [inaudible 00:27:37] ... in 2022. I'd like to bring your attention to slide 14.

Johnna Infanti:

These outlooks represent the probabilities that the mean temperature or total precipitation for the season will be below, near or above normal. Looking at the figure on the left, warmer than normal temperatures are likely in most of the US, including Northern and Western Alaska, with the highest probabilities over the Western half of the nation. The greatest likelihood for above-normal [inaudible 00:28:01] are located in the central Great Basin through central and Southern Rockies. This elevated probability [inaudible 00:28:11] equal chances of above, near or below-normal temperatures are [inaudible 00:28:22] ... are expected to be similar to climatological probability.

John Bateman:

Hi Johnna. This is John Bateman. I think you are starting to break up a little bit, unfortunately. If we can get your connection back up, we will come back to you if we have any questions after this. But I just want to let folks know that after this slide, we do have the drought outlook slide as well. And maybe we can discuss that when we get a better connection with Johnna. In the meantime, though, if we want to go to the question-and-answer section, we can start doing that. If you have any specific questions for our call participants, please be sure to identify who you'd like to answer the question. And Ivy, could you please remind the call participants how they can ask a question? And then please queue up the first question.

Ivy:

Yes, absolutely. As a reminder, for those on the phone, if you would like to ask a question, please unmute your phone, press "star, one," and record your name clearly when prompted. Again, that's "star, one" to ask a question, and "star, two," to withdraw your question. So, our first question is from Seth Bornstein, from the Associated Press. Your line is open.

Seth Bornstein:

Thank you. My question is for Johnna. So I don't know if she's dialed back in? Has she dialed back in?

Johnna Infanti:

I'm here? Can you all hear me?

John Bateman:

Yes. Now I can hear.

Seth Bornstein:

We can hear you.

John Bateman:

Thank you.

Johnna Infanti:

Okay. My apologies. It must have been my cell signal.

Seth Bornstein:

No. No. I understand. Johnna, looking at the ENSO forecast, given that the, yeah, anomaly in 3.4 in April was at a record level for April, I'm wondering why does the La Niña probabilities decrease over the next few months and then increase again? Can you explain why at the ... It is still fair to say with a 58% chance, it's still more likely than not that we're going to have a lull through hurricane season. But, what about it is less likely for the summer and then slightly increases back up for the winter, which is, of course, important for drought in the west?

Johnna Infanti:

Sure. Yeah. There's a number of pieces of guidance that go into the ENSO forecast, which include dynamical models and statistical models, as well as forecaster consensus. So, the models and guidance this month did show that dip in the summer seasons and then the slight increase in the winter season. So it's based on the guidance that we have.

Seth Bornstein:

Okay. And, if it goes into the winter season as a La Niña, this would be officially a triple dip, would it not?

Johnna Infanti:

Yes.

Seth Bornstein:

Okay. Thank you.

Johnna Infanti:

The past two years of La Niña. Yes.

Seth Bornstein:

Yeah. All right. Thank you.

Johnna Infanti:

Mm-hmm.

Ivy:

Great. Thank you. And again, for those on the phone, if you would like to ask a question, you may use "star, one." It looks like our next question. And the only other question in queue right now, is from Rebecca Hersher, from NPR. Your line is open.

Rebecca Hersher:

Hi, thanks. I also have a question about the ENSO, although it's much more basic. Can you just explain how that forecast could affect the hurricane season? And then the drought and wildfire outlook, going into the fall?

Johnna Infanti:

Yes. Sure. In terms of La Niña and the hurricane season, there is a slightly elevated chance of La Niña for the upcoming hurricane season, which is summer into autumn. Typically, La Niña does result in more favorable conditions, but I'm going to encourage you to stay tuned for NOAA's seasonal hurricane outlook coming May 24th, which will tell you more about that. In terms of the drought, La Niña does impact drought as well. And in terms of our next winter, is that what you're asking about?

Rebecca Hersher:

Yes. Yeah. The fall going into the winter.

Johnna Infanti:

Right. So I'm going to encourage you to take a look at the drought outlook that will come out close to that time period.

Rebecca Hersher:

Okay. Thanks.

Johnna Infanti:

Yep.

Ivy:

Thank you. Our next question is from Alison Tobin from Money. Your line is open.

Alison Tobin:

Thank you. My question is for Jared, regarding tornado season. I'm wondering if you have any predictions on the rest of the season, particularly in regards to damage? How damaging they can be?

Jared Guyer:

Well, it's certainly can be quite challenging, if not impossible, to know with any detail or precision what the rest of the season will look like. The thing I can tell you, and the thing I would focus this on, is that, as typical, through say the month of May and going into June and the like, is that severe weather becomes more prevalent in a general sense. It becomes more prevalent across more areas of the United States. Typically, severe weather becomes more common as we go through the remainder of May into June. It becomes more common across, say, parts of the Midwest, into the Northern Plains and also the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states. So, that's the main thing, is that I can guarantee in terms of a forecast, is that almost certainly things will become more active as we see in a typical season. We have no other things to really hang our hat on, in terms of with any confidence saying things are going to end up being below normal or above normal, for that matter.

Jared Guyer:

we've seen many cases where we start off active and then things turn relatively quieter, and vice versa as well. But, then again, even when things are quiet, severe weather is very impactful on local scales. And when I say "severe weather," we're dealing with storms and focusing on storms that produce large hail, damaging winds and tornadoes. So even when overall numbers are below average, it's very impactful or can be very impactful on local communities, regional areas, in terms of response and needs. So, overall numbers are one thing, but again, severe weather is a very ... It tends to be very local and impactful, especially when you're thinking about things like tornadoes and larger hail and damaging winds. So things will undoubtedly become more active. More severe weather in more areas over the next 30 to 60 days or so, before things tend to turn somewhat quieter. Especially in regards to tornadoes, overall numbers tend become a little more muted as we go deeper into the summer. But we're in that prime time right now, overall, as far as severe weather goes.

Alison Tobin:

Awesome. Thank you.

Ivy:

Thank you. Our next question comes from Dinah Pulver from USA Today. Your line is open.

Dinah Pulver:

Thank you. I wondered if you could talk just a little bit, Johnna, about why we have such a strong above-normal temperatures forecast for the summer? Particularly in New England and the west?

Johnna Infanti:

Sure. Yes. I will begin with the Western part of the US. So in the Western part of the US, we do have above-normal temperatures predicted for the summer, with a fairly high probability. And that is due to guidance that we are getting that is fairly consistent on the probability of above-normal temperatures. Particularly we look at guidance from dynamical models, as well as expected La Niña impacts and other things like soil moisture, particularly for this season. So all of those combined together are giving us higher probabilities.

Dinah Pulver:

Yes. I was curious about the La Niña aspect of it, particularly about why La Niña makes it be warmer than normal?

Johnna Infanti:

Typically, La Niña favors warmer than normal conditions over much of the west in general.

Dinah Pulver:

And then in New England?

Johnna Infanti:

Yep. And in New England, similar response. Most of the guidance is favoring warmer than normal temperatures over New England. In this case, there are warmer SSTs off the coast of New England, the forecast.

Dinah Pulver:

Thank you.

Johnna Infanti:

Mm-hmm.

Ivy:

Thank you. And again, that is "star, one," if you have a question on the phone. And our next question is from Jennifer Yachnin from E&E news. Your line is open.

Jennifer Yachnin:

Great. Thank you so much for having the call. I was actually hoping to shift us back to the drought outlook slide, that hasn't come up yet. And, in addition to just asking you to go through that for us, I was also curious. Just looking at the grading on it, it looks like drought persists is the lowest ranking. Is there any expectation that the drought can or does worsen, particularly in the west? Thank you.

Johnna Infanti:

Right. So the lowest ranking on this particular map has drought [inaudible 00:38:06]. Now that you have me back? Would you like me to go through the drought outlook slides as well?

Jennifer Yachnin:

That would be great, please.

Johnna Infanti:

John, would that be okay?

John Bateman:

Yes. That's fine. That's a good idea. I appreciate the question. And, yes. Go ahead, Johnna. Thanks.

Johnna Infanti:

Okay, great. I'm sorry that my cell phone cut out for a minute there. So, hopefully, if you can hear me just please interrupt if my signal starts to get funny again. So I'm going to move on to the drought outlook on slide 15. So the brown areas on the map indicate where drought is currently ongoing and expected to continue. Drought is most likely to persist across much of the western US. And there was improvement over parts of the plains during early to mid-May and the southwestern US and the southern High Plains experienced worsening drought conditions given predominantly warm and dry conditions since mid-April.

Johnna Infanti:

The yellow shading on the map indicates areas where drought condition or ... I'm sorry, drought development is likely, which can be seen in areas experiencing abnormally dry conditions in the Eastern and Northern Rockies. These areas coincide with the areas of drier-than-normal precipitation and warmer-than-normal temperatures expected, due to La Niña impacts. Some drought development is forecast across parts of the Corn Belt, where precipitation signals are lacking and soil moisture is dry to start the season. Favorite above-normal temperatures in a drier time of year also favors some drought development across the eastern parts of the southern plain. The tan shading on the map indicates areas where drought is predicted to remain but improve. And green shading indicates areas where a drought [inaudible 00:39:46] is likely.

Johnna Infanti:

Some improvement is forecast for the southern parts of the four corners associated with climatological start of the North American monsoon in early July, which typically lasts beyond the end of August. Across the eastern CONUS, drought improvement and removal are broadly favored, with near to above-normal precipitation favored at the monthly seasonal [inaudible 00:40:05]. And many areas entering in the climatologically wetter time of year. No drought development is likely in Alaska as the state is entering into its wettest time of year. Drought persistence and development are likely in Hawaii, as the state is now entering into a climatologically drier time of year. And some drought degradation is possible in Puerto Rico, while longer-term precipitation signals and the climatological ramp up of the Atlantic hurricane season favor drought removal by the end of August. And that's it. And that's from the Climate Prediction Center. And I do apologize for my cell phone issues. And if we could continue now with the Q&A, [inaudible 00:40:39] happy to do so. Thank you so much.

Ivy:

[inaudible 00:40:54]. Yep. I just was going to check and see if Jennifer had any other questions before I went to the next.

Rebecca Hersher:

No. That was what I wanted to ask.

Ivy:

Thank you. Okay. No. No problem. Thank you. And our next question comes from Doyle Rice from USA Today. Your line is open.

Doyle Rice:

Oh, thanks for doing this call. Is it accurate to say that parts of all 50 states are expected to have a warmer-than-normal summer? Looking at that map, it looked like there was no parts of the US that were supposed to be cooler than normal.

So I just wanted to double check that, if that's accurate to say that pretty much the entire CONUS is supposed to be warmer than normal this year, for summer?

Johnna Infanti:

That's correct. No parts of the map indicates anything leaning below for this particular June, July, August outlook. However, there are some areas where we may expect equal chances of above and below-normal temperatures.

Doyle Rice:

Okay. Thank you.

Ivy:

Thank you. And again, that is "star, one," if you have a question on the phone. And currently our last question in queue is coming from Seth Bornstein from Associated Press. Please go ahead.

Seth Bornstein:

Yes. Thank you. To bring back to the drought outlook and La Niña. Can you give us a sense of ... You've got persistence issues, soil, moisture issues, temperature and then you've got La Niña. Can you give us a sense of how big the La Niña footprint is on the western drought outlook for both this summer ... ? And I know this only goes through the end of August, but going further into the rest of the fire season. Just a sense. I know it would be qualitative, not quantitative, on how big an effect this La Niña is having on drought and fire season there.

Johnna Infanti:

Right. So, noting that this is qualitative, of course, La Niña is one of the impacts that is considered in the drought outlook, particularly given the higher probabilities in the western part of the US that are partially due to typical La Niña impacts, which favor warmer-than-normal conditions over much of the west. So, that is considered there. In terms of the later leads, and going past this particular drought outlook, this drought outlook goes through the end of August, so I'm not going to comment much more on that. My apologies,

Seth Bornstein:

I guess what I'm wondering more than anything is, if this were not a La Niña period, but we still had the persistence of the mega drought that's been there and which is part of the soil moisture issue, would we see less of a drought? Or, and would we see some improvement, had it not been for the La Niña? I'm just trying to get a sense and a comment on how much, if any, this makes it worse? I mean, is this just for the drought? You've got all these horrible things that are causing it, and this is just one more? Or is this a big factor, that without it, things might be a little better?

Johnna Infanti:

So there are other things that go into this drought, of course. Low soil moisture is one of them. So both of those things are a factor here.

Seth Bornstein:

Okay. Because, we've had this La Niña for such a long period of time. And, when it finally ends, does that give hope? In other words, does the west have to wait for La Niña to be over, for any hope of improvement in the drought?

Johnna Infanti:

That's a good question. Do you mind if we follow up with some of your questions offline a bit?

Seth Bornstein:

Sure.

Johnna Infanti:

Thank you.

Seth Bornstein:

No problem. And if Michelle, who I know is the La Niña ... Michelle or Mike. And I've talked to Mike, but maybe Michelle would be good to talk to on that. So, thank you.

Johnna Infanti:

Thank you.

Seth Bornstein:

If you're listening, Jasmine. Thank you.

Ivy:

Thank you. And I am showing no other questions. Thank you.

John Bateman:

Great. Thank you. If there are no further questions, I will wrap up the call. First, I'd like to thank all of our speakers for their time, and everyone else for participating in this conference call. I will end by reminding you to mark your calendar for a few upcoming events. The release of the May 2022 US Climate Report is scheduled for June 8th. The release of the May 2022 Global Climate Report is scheduled for June 14th. And the next monthly media climate call is scheduled for June 16th at 11:00 AM, Eastern Time. Lastly, an audio file of this call will be posted on the noaa.gov media advisory site later today. And if you have any further informational needs, please feel free to email me, John Bateman. My contact information is available at the top of the media advisory. Thanks, everyone.

Ivy:

Thank you all for participating in today's conference. You may disconnect your line. And enjoy the rest of your day.

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