



TRANSCRIPT

NOAA 2024 U.S. Spring Outlook

March 21, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. EDT via GoToMeeting

Hosted by NOAA National Weather Service Public Affairs

Media Advisory - [NOAA to announce U.S. Spring Outlook on March 21st](#)

U.S. Spring Outlook news release - [Spring Outlook: Warmer for most of U.S., wetter in the Southeast](#)

0:08

Erica Grow Cei: All right, everybody, welcome to the webinar. We have a number of reporters logging in, and we will start the broadcast in two minutes.

2:00

Erica Grow Cei: Alright everybody, it is 11:02 Eastern Time. Good morning, and thank you for joining us today for NOAA's announcement of the 2024 U.S. Spring Outlook, including predictions for temperature, precipitation, drought, and flood risk across the country. This news conference is being recorded, so, if you do not want to be recorded, please disconnect at this time.

2:24

Erica Grow Cei: My name is Erica Grow Cei..I'm a Public Affairs Specialist with NOAA's National Weather Service.

2:30

Erica Grow Cei: You can find the news release and maps related to today's announcement at NOAA.gov.

2:36

Erica Grow Cei: And there's a direct link to the news release in the chat box to the right of your screen.

2:43

Erica Grow Cei: If you have questions following the news conference I can be reached at erica.grow@noaa.gov or you can reach the entire team at nws.pa@noaa.gov, or by phone at 301-427-9000.

3:03

Erica Grow Cei: We will lead off today's news conference with about 10 minutes of remarks from our experts and then we will take questions from reporters.

3:12

Erica Grow Cei: If you would like to ask a question during the Q and A portion of this briefing, please click the hand icon in the GoTo Webinar window next to your name in the attendees list that appears to the right of your screen.

3:24

Erica Grow Cei: You can also type a question into the Q and A box if you prefer. Just please make sure to put your full name as you would like it to be stated, and your affiliation, along with your question.

3:37

Erica Grow Cei: The NOAA experts who are joining us today are Jon Gottschalk, the Chief of the Forecast Operations Branch at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, and Ed Clark, the Director of the National Water Center.

3:50

Erica Grow Cei: Both Jon and Ed, are participating in this news conference from the Operations Center at NOAA's National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

3:59

Erica Grow Cei: The National Weather Service plays a critical role in helping the nation prepare for extreme weather and climate events.

4:06

Erica Grow Cei: Accurate and timely weather forecasts, forecast advice, and interpreted services known as Impact-Based Decision Support Services, help the nation become more ready, resilient, and responsive to extreme events.

4:23

Erica Grow Cei: This will ultimately result in a more Weather and Climate Ready Nation.

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Erica Grow Cei: We also issue seasonal forecasts like this spring outlook, so communities and our partners can prepare for what's to come.

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Erica Grow Cei: Our Scientists at the Climate Prediction Center produce the outlook for drought, along with predictions for temperature and precipitation for April through June.

4:45

Erica Grow Cei: The National Water Center produces the National Hydrologic Assessment or flood risk, which is also for April through June.

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Erica Grow Cei: Together these NOAA produced outlooks provide the best possible scientific prediction of the expected spring weather conditions across the nation.

5:03

Erica Grow Cei: With that, Jon Gottschalk has the U.S. Spring Outlook from the Climate Prediction Center. John, please take it away.

5:13

Jon Gottschalk: Thank you, Erica, And thank you all for joining today's announcement of NOAA's Spring Outlook for 2024.

5:20

Jon Gottschalk: This past winter was milder than average across much of the contiguous US.

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Jon Gottschalk: As was widely reported in January as a whole was the warmest year on record and the U.S. was no exception.

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Jon Gottschalk: Total winter precipitation was above average across many areas of the Western U.S., central and southern Plains and areas in the Southeast and along the Eastern seaboard.

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Jon Gottschalk: Whereas precipitation amounts were below average in the northern Rockies, northern High Plains and the Upper Great Lakes.

5:49

Jon Gottschalk: Just like last year, 2024 began with a parade of Atmospheric Rivers, but the focus of this moisture this year was further south into central and southern California.

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Jon Gottschalk: The good news, the wet winter has eased the drought significantly in the southern Plains and the Gulf Coast region and parts of the Southwest, especially in California, continue to receive drought relief and add to the reservoir levels in the region.

6:12

Jon Gottschalk: 21.2% of the contiguous U.S. is currently experiencing at least moderate drought.

6:18

Jon Gottschalk: Exceptional drought conditions, the highest on the U.S. drought monitor scale, cover just 0.14% of the CONUS.

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Jon Gottschalk: In February La Nina watch was declared by the Climate Prediction Center.

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Jon Gottschalk: At the same time, we are still in the midst of El Nino conditions in the tropical Pacific.

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Jon Gottschalk: But the influence from El Nino is expected to continue weakening moving through spring.

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Jon Gottschalk: The transition from El Nino to ENSO neutral temperature's not reacting,

6:45

Jon Gottschalk: Not reaching the threshold for either El Nino or La Nina is expected to take place by this summer.

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Jon Gottschalk: La Nina and El Nino are climate patterns that are defined by a shift in wind patterns, leading to sea surface temperature departures, from average across the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

7:00

Jon Gottschalk: This shift can influence weather patterns for the U.S. and globally.

7:04

Jon Gottschalk: La Nina conditions are favored to develop by the summer 2024, and continue through the autumn months with odds, rising to near 85%.

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Jon Gottschalk: This information along with antecedent surface conditions helps set the stage for the spring outlook.

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Jon Gottschalk: I'll start with the Spring Drought Outlook.

7:20

Jon Gottschalk: Most of the East and California, are expected to remain drought free this spring, based on the spring precipitation outlook, and increasingly wet time of year, drought is expected to improve across the central Great Plains. Drought improvement or removal is also forecast for the Middle to Lower Mississippi Valley.

7:39

Jon Gottschalk: The highest forecast confidence for development exists across the southern High Plains due to increasing short-term dryness and support from the Spring Precipitation Outlook.

7:48

Jon Gottschalk: This region will be quite vulnerable to high wildfire risk, especially during high wind events.

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Jon Gottschalk: Following a lack of winter snowfall, persistence is forecast across much of Montana, North Dakota and the Upper Mississippi Valley.

8:00

Jon Gottschalk: Outside the contiguous U.S., drought is expected to expand across Hawaii and end for Puerto Rico.

8:06

Jon Gottschalk: Looking at the spring temperature outlook, warmer than average temperatures are favorite for most of the U.S., with the exception of some areas in the Southwest and northern and central High Plains, the greatest chances for above average temperature exist for northwest Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, and near the Great Lakes region.

8:24

Jon Gottschalk: There are also elevated probabilities for above normal temperatures for Hawaii, while the outlook does not highlight any areas favored to see below average temperatures in the spring. For the spring precipitation Outlook,

8:37

Jon Gottschalk: Below average precipitation is most favored across the Southwest U.S. and parts of the Pacific Northwest above average precipitation chances are present for Southern Alaska parts of the northern and central Plains, the Southeast, the Lower Ohio Valley, and parts of the Mid-Atlantic.

8:53

Jon Gottschalk: There are also probabilities for below average precipitation across Hawaii.

8:57

Jon Gottschalk: That concludes my remarks, and with that, I will turn it over to Ed, who will speak about this year's Spring Flood Risk Outlook.

9:23

Ed Clark: Thank you, Jon.

9:24

Ed Clark: I'm pleased to provide the 2024 National Hydrologic Assessment.

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Ed Clark: A collaboration between the National Water Center, regional offices and the National Weather Service River Forecast Centers.

9:34

Ed Clark: NOAA categorizes flood risk as minor, moderate, major, or record flooding.

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Ed Clark: You can see the news release for definitions of these categories, but in brief, minor flooding means minimal or no property damage, but roads may be inundated.

9:47

Ed Clark: Moderate flooding means some inundation of structures and roads.

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Ed Clark: Major flooding means extensive inundation of structures and roadways and record flooding is when flooding meets or exceeds historical levels.

9:59

Ed Clark: Please be advised that this outlook is on timescales of weeks to months, not days or hours.

10:03

Ed Clark: And localized flooding may be caused by heavy and intense rainfall at any time.

10:07

Ed Clark: This year, approximately 122 million people are at risk for flooding in their communities, with roughly 350,000 at risk for moderate flooding. NOAA does not protect populations at risk for major flooding this year.

10:20

Ed Clark: The overall threat of significant flooding this spring is low due to above normal temperatures and significantly below average snowpack.

10:27

Ed Clark: Moderate flooding is expected in climatologically flood prone

10:31

Ed Clark: regions of the Midwest and South.

10:33

Ed Clark: The overall lack of snowpack and limited winter precipitation, coupled with the current Climate Prediction Center Outlook, suggest low flow conditions may return to the main stem rivers in the Greater Mississippi River Basin later this year.

10:46

Ed Clark: Low flow conditions may impact navigation on the entire Mississippi River system, as well as water supplies for communities and industries that are dependent on the Mississippi for their fresh water.

10:57

Ed Clark: For Alaska, the Spring Ice breakup and snowmelt flooding potential is forecast to be near normal.

11:02

Ed Clark: The hydrologic assessment also provides information about the nation's water supply forecast for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses.

11:10

Ed Clark: The National Weather Service water supply prediction this year indicates that that water supply will be below average in the central and northern Great Plains.

11:17

Ed Clark: Water supply conditions in California improved after a second consecutive winter, near to above average snowfall.

11:23

Ed Clark: Water supply over the Northwest is expected to be generally below average at the Columbia River Basin, with above average conditions in the upper portions of the Snake River Basin.

11:32

Ed Clark: The Colorado River Basin is expected to see near normal average water supply but below normal water supply in the Rio Grande Basin.

11:39

Ed Clark: Overall, the Great Basin is expected to have above average water supply.

11:43

Ed Clark: In the southern Great Plains, continuing drought in Texas along with the aforementioned climate outlook will lead to low water supply conditions at central West Texas, where reservoirs are replenished by rainfall.

11:54

Ed Clark: The National Hydrologic Assessment also provides a first look at some of the major drivers influencing summer hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

12:01

Ed Clark: This year's Mississippi River Basin forecast is anticipated to result in near normal springtime discharge of nutrients.

12:08

Ed Clark: In turn, this will create conditions for an average hypoxic zone development of approximately 5,000 square miles in the Northern Gulf.

12:16

Ed Clark: An average hypoxic zone or 350 square miles is also expected to develop in the Chesapeake Bay.

12:22

Ed Clark: These predictions are based on the assumption of typical summer conditions, such as tropical storms and or drought.

12:28

Ed Clark: It's important to note that heavy rainfall can lead to flooding at any time.

12:32

Ed Clark: Even in areas where the National Hydrologic Assessment does not project flooding, the public can determine whether their community is in a flood risk area by monitoring local flow conditions at water.weather.gov.

12:44

Ed Clark: This concludes my remarks and the hydrologic outlook, and with that, I will turn it back to Erica to moderate the question and answer session.

12:53

Erica Grow Cei: Thank you so much, Ed and Jon. Thank you. And, before we move on to the Q&A portion of our News Conference, I'd like to introduce a few additional experts who are on the line to assist. So, if we can pull up the slides, Yes, with the subject matter experts. We have Brad Pugh, the Operational Drought Lead at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

13:13

Erica Grow Cei: Tom Diliberto, a Public Affairs Specialist and Climate Scientist with NOAA Communications, Brad Rippey, meteorologist, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

13:23

Erica Grow Cei: Dr. David Maurstad, Senior Executive of the National Flood Insurance Program of FEMA, he's joining us on the phone. Dr. Nick Nauslar, Fire, Science, and Operations Officer for the National Interagency Fire Center of the Storm Prediction Center, and we're also joined today by experts from the National Weather Service's River Forecast Centers, whose names you can view on the screen.

13:46

Erica Grow Cei: They are on the line to answer questions about specific river basins.

13:50

Erica Grow Cei: We'll now take your questions about the outlook, so if you'd like to ask a question, please click the hand icon in the Goto Webinar window next to your name, in the attendee list to the right of your screen. I will then call upon each reporter that has a virtually raised hand. Once you're called upon, you will need to unmute yourself. Please be sure to state your full name and media affiliation, before you ask your question. And feel free to state who you are directing your question to, if you know.

14:20

Erica Grow Cei: You can also submit your question in the Q and A box, if you prefer, but please again, be sure to include your preferred name and your media affiliation.

14:30

Erica Grow Cei: So with that, we'll get started on the Q&A, and I will start with Seth Borenstein, I have unmuted you, and you may unmute yourself.

14:42

Seth Borenstein, AP: OK, thank you very much for doing this, Seth Borenstein at AP for Jon or Ed.

14:49

Seth Borenstein, AP: Just a big picture question. It seems that you know, while you're saying a wetter and warmer spring.

14:57

Seth Borenstein, AP: But you're also saying really not too bad in terms of major, in terms of flooding that impacts people, is this sort of sweet spot as especially after a very warm winter and a LA Nina's predicted summer, where which may mean more hurricanes.

15:19

Seth Borenstein, AP: Is this sort of the best of all possible outlooks you could have for a spring.

15:27

Seth Borenstein, AP: And how much of that has to do with the transition expected from El Nino to La Nina?

15:34

Seth Borenstein, AP: I mean, this just seems like one of the nicer forecasts we've had in a while. **Ed Clark:** I'll start with the flooding that I'll ask Jon to comment on the climatological inputs and outlooks for the season.

15:46

Ed Clark: We certainly are pleased to see the lack of major flooding in the Upper Mississippi and portions of the Red River North, which we typically see this time of year.

15:54

Ed Clark: In fact, this is one of the first outlooks I've seen in a long time, where we have not had major flooding projected for some portion of the country.

16:01

Ed Clark: With that said, well, the lack of flooding is certainly a boon for the nation.

16:08

Ed Clark: The low flow potential development later in the season, which our colleagues at the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center could speak to later, is certainly a concern as we go into the drier, cooler, or warmer portions of the year.

16:21

Ed Clark: Jon, you want to add? **Jon Gottschalck:** Sure. And I would agree with Ed.

16:25

Jon Gottschalck: And you Seth with respect to, from the drought perspective is that in other years, as you know, we've had much more coverage for drought with the US drought monitor. And many areas this year. It's relatively low coverage for extreme or exceptional drought. And with respect to, there are areas that we're going to be concerned with and I mentioned this in a second.

16:46

Jon Gottschalck: But also, relatively low amount of coverage and very, just a few areas that are D three (D3) or D four (D4) for example.

16:53

And as you mentioned, it is linked in some ways to the transition where we're going from a very strong El Nino event towards, and so neutral, then La Nina.

17:03

One, with the very lack of considerable snow cover, precipitation of all the northern tier certainly helps in the short term, for some flooding in those regions. But as we get into the summer, that could be a detriment. Potentially, for drought development in some of those northern areas. So I would say California's also drought free as well.

17:22

And so that's one perspective why it seems like a favorable outlook, but as I mentioned, things can change very quickly during the spring. And we are worried about some areas for extreme heat, wildfire risk, where some of the dry conditions do exist. The Southwest, Lower Southern Plains, parts of the Southwest, and again the northern Plains and Upper Mississippi Valley.

17:44

Thank you.

17:48

Alright, thank you. The next hand that I saw raised was Davis Nolan. I'll do my best to go in order. Davis, you're unmuted, on my end. You can unmute yourself.

18:00

Thank you very much. Davis Nolan, Meteorologist, WKRN TV in Nashville, Tennessee. And my question basically, the big question my viewers want to know about is severe weather possibilities. I'm doing a story on this later in our evening news. And basically with the transition from El Nino to possibly ENSO neutral to La Nina by April to June, June - August. Severe weather chances, I know we mentioned flooding already. I saw that outlook. But, you know, based on the upper-air pattern, the mean upper-air pattern you're looking at as far as the Southeast is concerned, I guess, particularly Tennessee, Kentucky, but even the rest of the Southeast as well.

18:41

What is your opinion on severe weather? And I guess Dr. Nauslar, I noticed you are from the SPC. Maybe you might want to ask a question or whoever you wish?

18:53

This is Jon from the Climate Prediction Center, so I'll answer that. One thing that's important that NOAA doesn't officially do seasonal severe weather outlooks.

19:00

But having said that, typically in the situation that we're, we were in a La Nina winter, going into the spring, typically we have a more troughing, or the upper-air patterns more conducive for potential severe weather in the Plains, including, and also the Southeast, and Midwest, with that sort of situation.

19:17

But we don't have that this year. And so we're kind of in a transition to ENSO neutral? So really, right now, there's not much that can be said reliably and confidently with respect to the severe weather season in your area. And in much of the Midwest and Southeast overall, right now we're mainly just focusing with more confidence signals in elevated chances for above normal precipitation with lingering El Nino effects, especially in April and early May, across the Southeast and in your area.

19:47

Thank you.

19:52

All right. Thank you. up Next.

19:57

Justin Boggs of Scripps News.

20:00

Hey, yeah, good morning.

20:02

My question is just kind of, if we can look back at last year, a little bit, and, obviously, last June, the northern U.S., in particular, the Northeast, especially, had a lot of issues with wildfires and air quality. We saw a lot of Major League Baseball events and outdoor events being canceled.

20:26

I'm just wondering, from your perspective, how does your outlook for this spring, I guess, compared to last year and the conditions that caused just so many wildfires across North America last year?

20:37

Can you kind of maybe kind of give a gauge into your thoughts on how wildfire season might look as we get into May and June?

20:47

I can speak from the Climate Prediction Center. This is Jon ... from the CPC, with respect to the conditions last year and what we're seeing this year.

20:56

We're not really necessarily seeing what evolved last year.

20:59

In addition, you know, spring Outlook last year, we did not see that sort of visual impact during the summer either.

21:07

But overall, we are expecting above normal temperatures.

21:10

And general increasing chances for some wildfires, but I might think that Nick from SPC may be able to offer a comment in addition to what I've answered here.

21:26

Yes. Nick Nauslar, with the Storm Prediction Center. In terms of, for the United States, the Upper Mississippi Valley and the Upper Midwest, we're looking like to have an active Spring Fire Season, those well above normal temperatures and really the lack of snowfall and snow cover across those areas.

21:44

A lot of that smoke that you referenced came down from Canada last year, while we know you're not going to forecast for Canada, you know a record setting. Especially three times, four times the amount of acres burned than previously that's ever happened annually in recorded history.

22:01

They are looking at some areas with above normal potential.

22:05

This spring, they're still kind of in a wait and see mode to see what happens with fires, perhaps re-igniting, that stayed active over the winter months and to see what sort of spring precipitation they get before making any really strong considerations of above or below normal fire activity and in most of Canada.

22:26

Appreciate it. Thank you.

22:30

Alright, thank you so much everybody. Next up, if I can go to Mike Smith.

22:38

Mike, I'm going to unmute you on my end and then you can answer, ask your question.

22:45

Yeah, this is Mike Smith from the Times Picayune in New Orleans. You touched on it a little bit with some mild winters, and low flows on the river. But salt water intrusion of the river here is always a huge concern. I'm wondering if you can say anything yet about later this year, if we can turn to the forecast, we can expect another substantial saltwater intrusion event, Or if it's, is it too early to really say?

23:14

Pass that to my colleague Jessica at the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center. Jessica?

23:23

Hi. Thanks for the question. So right now with the current forecast, we do not see anything that would suggest a low flow saltwater intrusion type event.

23:35

However, it's not something that couldn't happen. We would need persistent low flows at the time of the year when that is more normally expected. So we're looking at a summer, maybe late, fall type event. And so right now that's just too early to predict and we can't say with certainty that we would have another saltwater intrusion event right now.

24:00

OK, thank you.

24:04

Thank you, Jessica. Next up I would like to go to Will Wade, Will you are unmuted.

24:12

Will, I apologize, you were breaking up on our end. Could you repeat your question?

24:36

Sure.

24:39

I heard commercial shipping, is that correct?

24:43

Yeah.

24:49

Yeah.

24:51

With that Mississippi River.

24:54

Yes. All right.

24:59

OK.

25:01

and is that, is that a question that we can address? If I heard your question, you're asking about impacts to navigation and commercial shipping on the lower river. Again, I'll defer that to Jessica. What, those might look like as we see lower flows over the course of the next couple of months.

25:26

Yes, if, and if we are referring to the possible impacts to transportation on the lower part of the Mississippi River.

25:34

And we did see some restrictions, channel restrictions and changes that the barge industry had to deal with during the last two years of low water flow.

25:46

As we are looking right now, we do not see anything that would indicate that this would be a certainty again for this year.

25:54

However, we would have to refer you over to our contacts and at the Coast Guard and the correct agencies that deal with channel restrictions and those things, with transportation on the lower part of the river.

26:13

OK, thank you very much, Jessica, Up next, PJ Hofstetter. PJ, you are unmuted on my end.

26:22

Hi. Thanks so much just to follow up on that last question, Jessica.

26:25

So, from what I understand is that, although there's not necessarily any, you know, guidance or outlook on what, what shipping impacts there might be come this fall. I just want to, could you give a little more clarity of like, what you guys are, our forecasting for those low flows on interior rivers? Is it just the Mississippi? Or, we also anticipating impacts on, like, the lower, high, you know, at the lower Ohio, the Illinois.

27:03

Well, for those questions to our local experts, Jessica, if you'd like to start with the Lower River, and then we can transition to James Noel for the Ohio.

27:15

Sure. For the lower, for the lower portion of the Mississippi River, we are expecting a below normal to normal flood season this year, looking at some of the smaller rivers along the Gulf Coast and that cover the south-east, we're expecting more of a normal springtime flood season.

27:39

And this is just, just this spring flood outlook, though, not where the water levels may be come Fall.

27:48

That's correct, yes. Outlook is through, through June.

And like Jessica was saying, really, our outlooks through the spring flood outlook season don't indicate anything in terms of low flow conditions coming out of the Ohio River Basin.

28:13

Beyond that as John Gottschalk was talking about is what the transition to La Nina, it's something that we'll just have to monitor as we go through the summer and the fall time to see if any dryness redeveloped for a third year.

28:26

As Jessica said right now, it's, it's uncertain, it says something that we'll need to continue to monitor over the next 2 to 3 months, OK. Great, thanks so much!

28:41

OK, thank you very much. Next up, we have Erica Rodriguez, Erica, I am unmuting you on my end.

28:55

Erica, feel free to ask your question. You can unmute yourself and ask your question, and please remember to give your name and media affiliation when you ask.

29:11

OK, I am not, Oh, Erica, do we have you?

29:20

I am not hearing anything from Erica Rodriguez.

29:25

Anyone else confirm you did not hear? Now? OK, we do have some questions in the Q and A box.

29:34

Mike, do you want to unmute and ask a question from the Q and A box? And while Mike is preparing to do that, just a reminder, to all the attendees, you can use the raise hand feature.

29:47

Go ahead, and ask a question verbally, if you prefer.

29:53

All right, thanks, Erica. My name is Mike Musher, I'm with the National Weather Service Public Affairs. And the first question we have is from Jack Lee. with the San Francisco Chronicle. He's looking for additional information about the flood risk in California.

30:08

You wanted to confirm that the risk seems to be low and what kinds of scenarios could cause localized flooding, and where he was asking for Brett Witten from the California Nevada River Forecast Center.

30:24

Ed, do you want to start that first, and then we'll hand it off to Brett?

30:27

As we said in the Outlook, there's a, we're not seeing any signals for even minor flooding in California.

30:34

And I'll let Brett speak to what conditions could locally materialize that would cause any sort of issues, portions of the state.

30:47

All right, yes, Brett Whiten, California Nevada River Forecast Center. So, yeah, there's this map we are looking at here, the Spring Flood Outlook.

30:55

We're not expecting a very high probability of any flooding within California for that long range outlook. Snowpack is around normal for most of the Sierra so snowmelt flooding.

31:08

When we have normal snowpack it is kind of a lower risk.

31:12

We can, we can get, it all depends on those temperatures that occur throughout the spring.

31:18

We get a really above normal, warm week.

31:23

High temperature is what we'll, we'll probably see.

31:26

The increase of likelihood of snow melt flooding would be elevated but for the most part, it's a lower risk than this year because of it because of the normal snowpack, you know, really one of the main drivers probably for flood risk within California as it's going to be more this year more due to rainfall.

31:52

And so, you know, once we see that it's more of a near term thing, you know, let's once we see systems evolve in the near term, we'll have a better sense of whether there'll be an elevated risk of flooding due to rainfall.

32:07

But, but that's hard to predict for, for, for sort of a seasonal outlook.

32:16

All right, Eric and Brad, thank you so much.

32:27

How might a return of La Nina conditions influence the persistent drought conditions in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin?

32:37

Yes. This is John from CPC. I'd like to take that one. That's a great question.

32:43

Because as we transition to La Nina or we expect that to occur, that will happen during the summer months, typically during La Nina offenses that develop in the summer and going into the autumn months.

32:55

We tend to have warmer temperatures and drier conditions, and, in fact, our outlooks, after what's shown here for the April, May, June period.

33:04

Outlooks, extended to the summer do indicate a pretty significant low normal precipitation signal that develops across the parts of the monsoon region, the Rockies and expands eastward into the central plains.

33:17

And so combined with that signal over time, there's also a tendency for warmer than normal conditions during La Nina as you get into the summer and autumn months.

33:26

And so, the tendency would be to potentially, increase drought risk or increase in drought severity, parts of the central plains, Upper Mississippi Valley, including Iowa.

33:45

All right. Thank you, John, for the answer. I've got another question here from Morgan Strack: buying W Q A D in Moline, Illinois.

33:54

We have a big agriculture presence in my markets, with Eastern Iowa expected, or persistent drought.

34:01

What kind of pattern are we looking for to help relieve conditions?

34:08

Yeah, I will answer first, and then turn it over to Brad to try it out.

34:13

The improvement in parts of Iowa and Nebraska are related to some short-term precipitation, as well as primarily April precipitation and in the April, May, June, for seasonal precipitation outlook.

34:28

So, for the more the shorter term, and then expect some of the drivers to come in later, but I'll ask Brad to amplify on my answer.

34:42

Yeah, hello. Yes, it's brand new at the Climate Prediction Center.

34:46

So for the seasonal dry Outlook, we are expecting, as John mentioned, improving conditions for, that's southern Western Iowa.

34:59

Based on the April, May, June precipitation outlook.

35:03

And also we're going into a very wet time a year.

35:07

For northern and Eastern Iowa persistence is more likely.

35:14

Due to really a long-term drought signal dates back three years.

35:21

I will say there could be some temporary relief over the next few weeks and we'll take a couple of rounds of heavy precipitation during the next two weeks, especially over the Northern part of Iowa.

35:32

So there could be some short-term improvements, but then later in the spring, there is concern that drought may re-intensify.

35:43

If you look at the seasonal temperature outlook, there are increased probabilities for above normal temperatures. Probabilities exceed 50%.

35:55

So that is a concern as we get later into the spring and towards the early summer, if we have more episodes of heat and everything, that, yeah, that could kinda revert back the drought intensity levels from any improvement we have in the short-term.

36:13

OK, thanks, Brad and John.

36:16

We've got a question from Erica Rodriguez. She's with News Radio 610, W I O D, in Miami.

36:25

What's the prediction for flooding and Hurricanes in South Florida?

36:33

So, at this point, it's really too early to describe the tropical outlook. Certainly, Florida can see any intense rainfall at any time in Florida. It certainly causes problems and challenges, flooding, being one of those. John, I don't know if you want to speak to any sort of Outlook from the precipitation standpoint.

36:54

Yeah, in the short-term Erica, there will be favoring above average precipitation during the Spring months there. And this is mainly a residual lagged impact, the impact that's common with El Nino events as they move into the spring. And early summer.

37:08

And so that's the signal for above average precipitation, as far as the Hurricane outlook, or the NOAA Hurricane outlook, won't be released until later in May, at that time.

37:22

OK, thanks, Ed and John.

37:23

And just a reminder, the NOAA announcement on the Atlantic Hurricane Outlook will be on May 23rd this year.

37:33

If I, if I understood right West and central Texas basin's haven't replenished so far. Can you give an idea of what that means for the state as a whole and the Gulf Coast region in particular.

37:57

I'll refer to my friend and colleague, Greg Waller, the West Gulf River Forecast Center.

38:08

Greg, we're not hearing you.

38:29

Yeah, we're still not hearing you Greg.

38:34

Perhaps Greg could follow up offline with the reporter afterwards just e-mail us at NWS.PA@noaa.gov and we'll get the answers for your questions. I've got another question here from Craig Miller.

38:55

Can anyone on the call comment on how a shift back to La Nina might affect tornado activity and perceived shift eastward of Tornado Alley?

39:13

This is John Boucher from CBC.

39:16

Try to answer that question. I think, as I mentioned earlier, typically the strongest signal or severe weather activity associated with La Nina is when we're coming out of El Nino winter into the, the early part of the severe weather season.

39:29

March, April, May season.

39:34

Going into La Nina events during the summer and fall.

39:37

There's not much of a relationship that I'm aware of with any sort of strong signals that one would be able to to make with that so that it's very difficult to confidently reliable, reliably, to say anything that regard as we get into since we're entering later on in the year, summer and early fall.

39:58

Hey, thanks, John.

40:00

I don't see any more questions in the question box here.

40:07

Any time we have an additional one in the Hand raise function, P Hofstetter would like to ask another question if that's OK with everybody. PJ. I took you off mute.

40:25

Hi. Thank you so much. I will try to keep this quick. It's just actually to follow up on Iowa. I apologize, my audio was breaking up a little bit. Brad, were you saying that? At least in the short-term, expected improving conditions for southern and south, Southern, and Western Iowa. But what was the longer term for northern and eastern Iowa?

40:55

Yes, sir, the forecast, as you can see here, we are expecting a drought to persist through the end of June.

41:05

Um, what I was mentioning earlier is there could be some short-term improvements over the next few weeks, like going into early April.

41:14

But there's concern that, as we go later into the spring, later in May and June, that the drought could re intensify so that that's the reason for the persistence forecasts in Northern and Eastern Iowa.

41:28

OK, great, that is perfect, Thank you so much.

41:31

Yep, You're welcome.

41:37

Alright, everybody.

41:39

If there are no further questions, I'll speak slowly so that I can give everyone an opportunity just in case they have any last minute questions before we close up the webinar for today. But those are some really great questions. I'd love to see the River Forecast Center experts getting in on this and being able to offer their localized expertise. So I really appreciate everyone joining this call today and for sharing their expertise, not only meteorologically and hydrologically, but also as far as their region is concerned.

42:17

So before I conclude the News Conference, I want to thank all the experts who participated throughout Noah, not just our RFC folks, but for the National Water Center, Climate Prediction Center, the Regional River Forecast Centers, and from our federal partner agencies.

42:34

the National Inter-agency Fire Center and Storm Prediction Center, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, and the US Department of Agriculture or USDA.

42:51

Again, if you have any questions following this news conference please reach out to the National Weather Service Public Affairs team by e-mail at NWS.PA@NOAA.gov, or you can call us at (301) 427-9000.

43:12

The Spring Outlook news release, with the outlook and the flood risk maps are available on noaa.gov and in the chat window.

43:21

Audio and video from this news conference will be added to the press release this afternoon.

43:28

one final check for any additional questions.

43:33

I think we're in good shape to wrap it up for today. I appreciate everyone's participation, and have a great day.

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