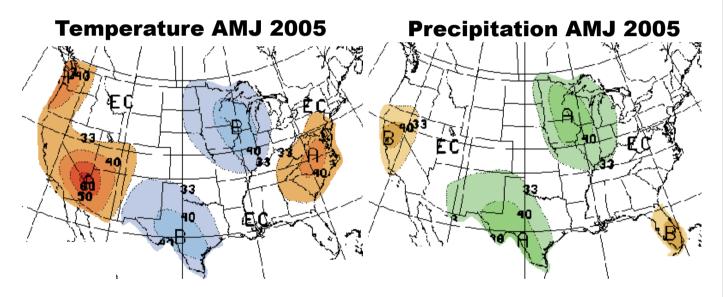
# Climate Forecasts and **Forecast Uncertainty**



Holly C. Hartmann and Gregg Garfin

Climate Assessment for the Southwest University of Arizona

hollyoregon@juno.com gmgarfin@email.arizona.edu

### Supported by:



NOAA GAPP



NOAA CLIMAS



HyDIS: NASA/Raytheon Syneray

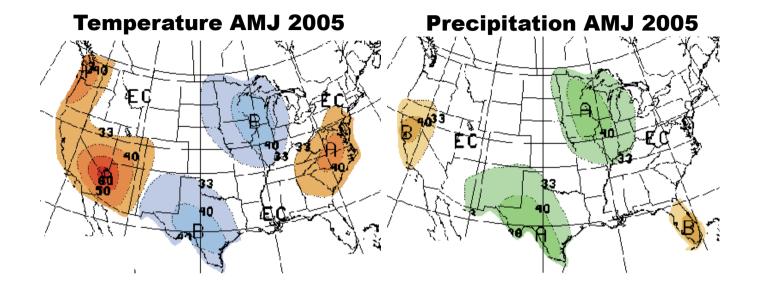


NSF SAHRA



# Outline

- Forecast skill
- Forecast Evaluation Tool:
  - Orientation
  - Analogue tool
    - Probability of exceedance
  - Forecast skill evaluation
    - Number of forecasts made
    - Bubble plots



Three-category (tercile) forecasts Probability of

- above-normal
- near-normal
- below-normal

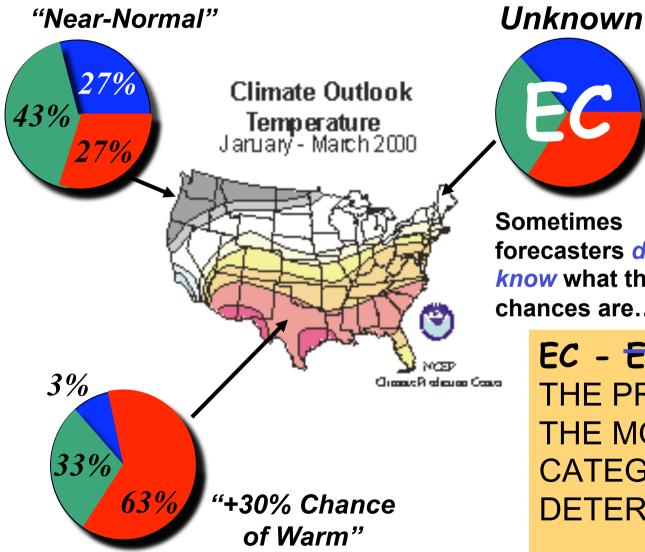
Temperature and Precipitation

### What do the Climate Outlooks Mean?

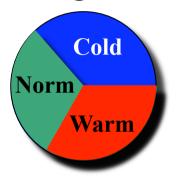








Legend



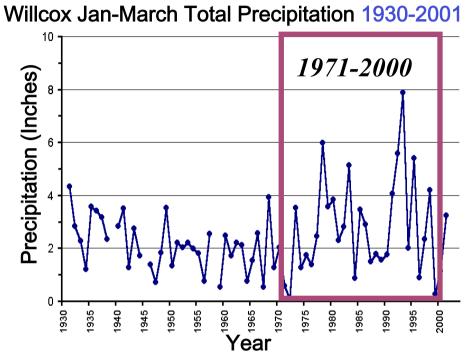
**Sometimes** forecasters don't know what the chances are...

> EC - EQUAL CHANCES THE PROBABILITY OF THE MOST LIKELY **CATEGORY CANNOT BE DETERMINED**

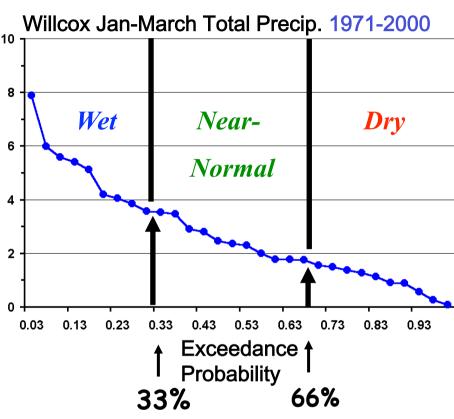
= Unknown Chances!!!

### Wet, Dry, Normal – Compared to What?









The data are ranked and divided into three categories of equal probability, with roughly 10 years in each category.

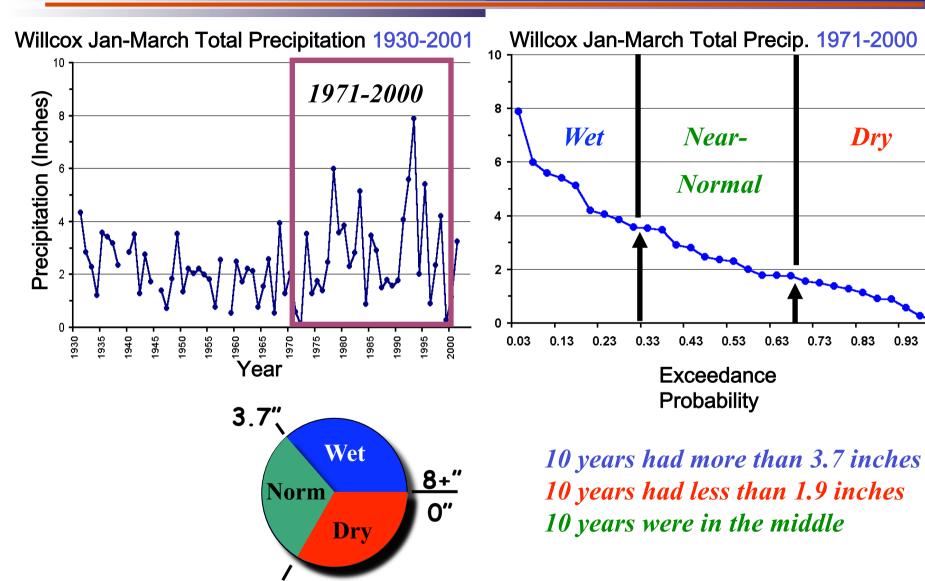
### Wet, Dry, Normal – Compared to What?



Dry

0.83

0.93



1.9"

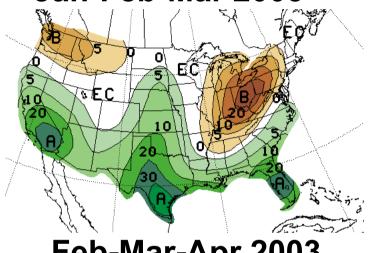
# Precipitation Outlooks



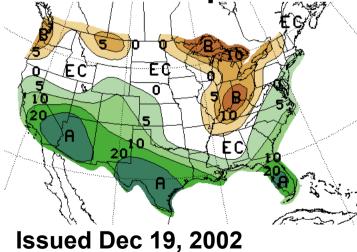


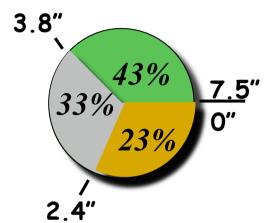


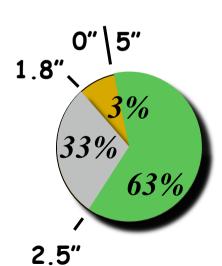


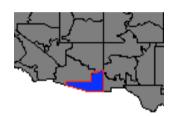














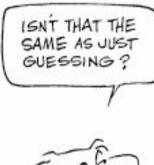
# How Good are Seasonal Climate Forecas





# **Common Perception**









# How Good? Compared to What?



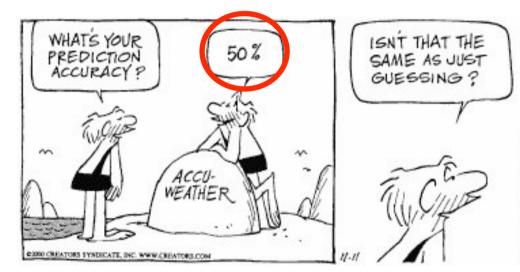




Skill Score =

### **Forecast - Baseline**

Perfect - Baseline





Skill: (0.50 - 0.54)/(1.00-0.54) = -8.6%

~worse than guessing~

## Types of Forecast Evaluation Measures



## **Categorical Scores**

• Probability of Detection, False Alarm Rate

### **Probabilistic Scores**

- Brier Score: for "2-category" forecasts
- Ranked Probability Score: for "multi-category" forecasts

### **Distributions-oriented Measures**

more complex, but more informative

## http://fet.hwr.arizona.edu/ForecastEvaluationTool/

#### **Online Forecast Evaluation Tool**

#### Take the Tutorial



#### Forecast Interpretation Tutorial

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

Beain Tutorial

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

For comments about forecasts, contact Holly Hartmann: hollyh@hwr.arizona.edu

For comments about this website, contact the Webmaste ellen@hwr.arizona.edu

Advance warning of climate or hydrologic events can help you avoid losses or allow you to take advantage of unique opportunities. This website will help you get the most use out of a variety of different forecasts.

#### Which forecasts are you interested in?

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

### **Initially for NWS CPC climate forecasts**

### Six elements in our webtool:

- Exploring Forecast Progression
- Forecast Interpretation Tutorials
- Historical Context
- Forecast Performance
- Use in Decision Making
- Details: Forecast Techniques, Research



# http://fet.hwr.arizona.edu/ForecastEvaluationTool/









Ravtheon





Text Size: A -- A -- A

### **Login and System Requirements:**



If you are not already registered as a beta-tester, please do so here.

This allows you full access to all the webtool features. In exchange, we may contact you for feedback about the usability of the webtool, the desirability of additional features, and your use of the webtool in making resource management decisions. We also appreciate any comments you may send us about the webtool as you are using it.

#### **Privacy Policy**

Personal information about users of the Forecast Evaluation Tool is stored in our database and made available only to project administrators. Personal information will not be made public or otherwise released to any third party, although we may identify public agencies, but not individual offices or personnel within an agency. Statistics regarding data usage and analyses activities which do not contain personal information about users may be published or otherwise used by project administrators. Monitoring information will also be used to evaluate the efficiency and efficacy of our webtools.

#### Welcome to the Forecast Evaluation

Tool BETA-TEST Version 1.0. This website provides helpful information about climate forecasts using both JavaScript and Java Applet-based interactive graphical tools, maps, and charts. To be able to utilize or even view the Java-based tools on this site, your browser must be properly configured and your computer system must satisfy the requirements listed below.

#### **System Requirements:**

#### Full use of the Forecast Evaluation Tool requires the Sun JAVA Runtime

Environment (JRE) in addition to Internet Explorer version 5.5 or newer, Netscape version 6.2 or newer, or Mozilla Firefox version 1.0.2 or newer. Note: If the Java Runtime Environment is not successfully installed on your system, or your browser is not configured to display Java and JavaScript, the java-based tools will show up as solid gray rectangles on the web pages that contain them. Installation and configuration help.

#### The Forecast Evaluation Tool is a product of several research programs, including:

CLIMAS: The Climate Assessment for the Southwest Project, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Global

GAPP: The GEWEX Americas Prediction Project, funded by the NOAA Office of Global Programs.

SAHRA: The Semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Area Science and Technology Center, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

HyDIS: (The Hydrologic Data and Information System): Funded by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA).

EOSDIS Synergy: Funded by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration

For comments about forecasts, contact Holly Hartmann: hollyoregon@juno.com For comments about this website, contact the HyDIS Team: hydis team@hwr.arizona.edu









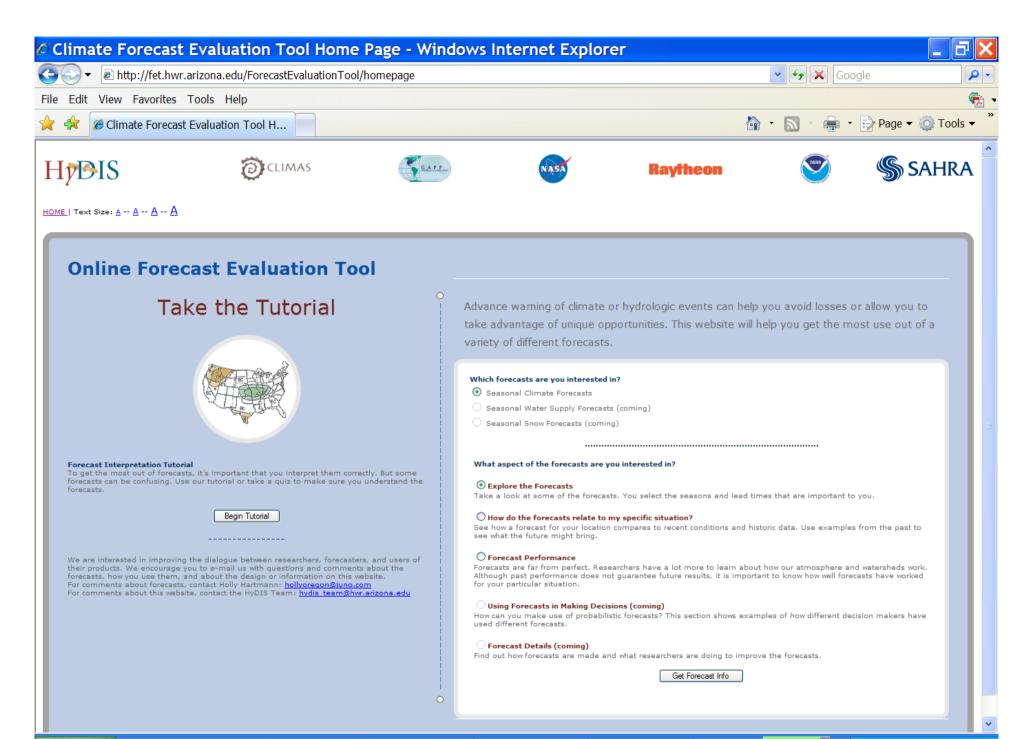
































## Historical Context for Forecasts



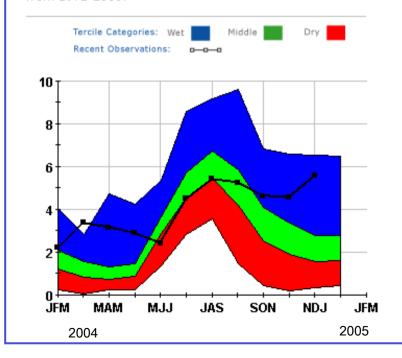
## Historical Context for Forecasts



#### **Historic Conditions**

Precipitation / Southern New Mexico (102)

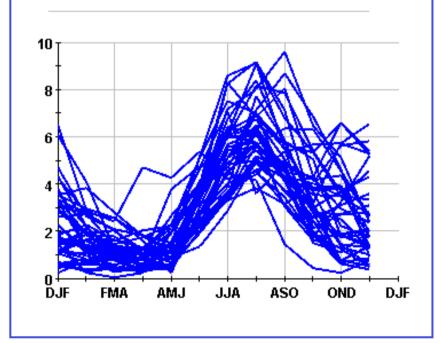
This plot shows 3 month (seasonal) **Precipitation** for the last **12 Months** compared to the historic tercile categories from 1971-2000.



### Analogs: Examples of Possible Futures

Precipitation / Southern New Mexico (102)

Possibilities for the future **12 Months** are shown in this subplot, using each 3 month (seasonal) period from the past 40 years, 1961-2000.



# Historical Context for Forecasts: Analogs

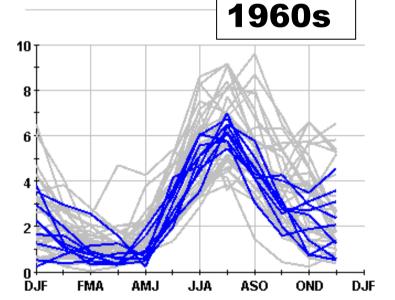


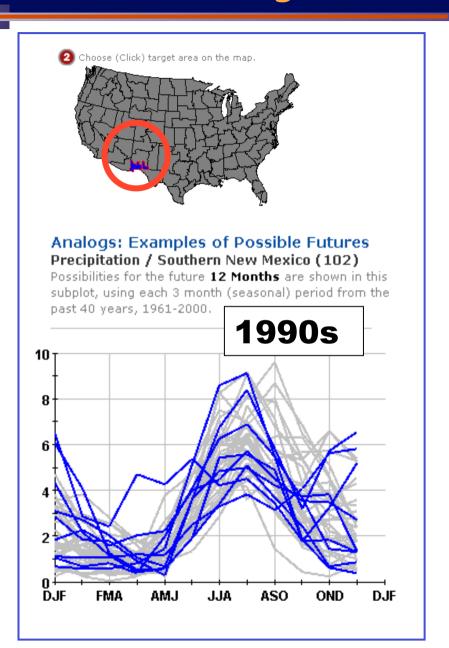
### **Analogs: Examples of Possible Futures**

Precipitation / Southern New Mexico (102)

Possibilities for the future **12 Months** are shown in this subplot, using each 3 month (seasonal) period from the

past 40 years, 1961-2000.

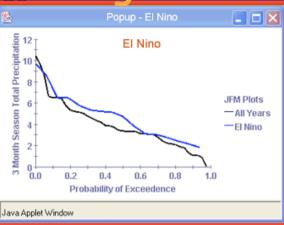




# Historical Context for Forecasts: Analogs



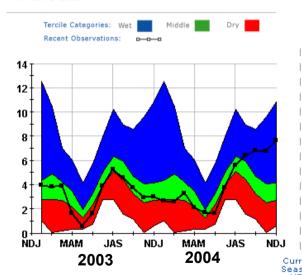




#### **Historic Conditions**

Precipitation / NorthEast Arizona (97)

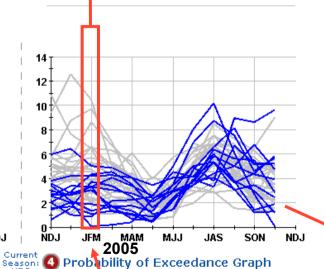
This plot shows 3 month (seasonal) Precipitation for the last 24 Months compared to the historic tercile categories from 1971-2000.



#### Analogs: Examples of Possible Futures

Precipitation / NorthEast Arizona (97)

Possibilities for the future 12 Months are shown in this subplot, using each 3 month (seasonal) period from the past 40 years, 1961-2000.



### Analog Selector

Select/deselect a year	Бу
clicking on it.	

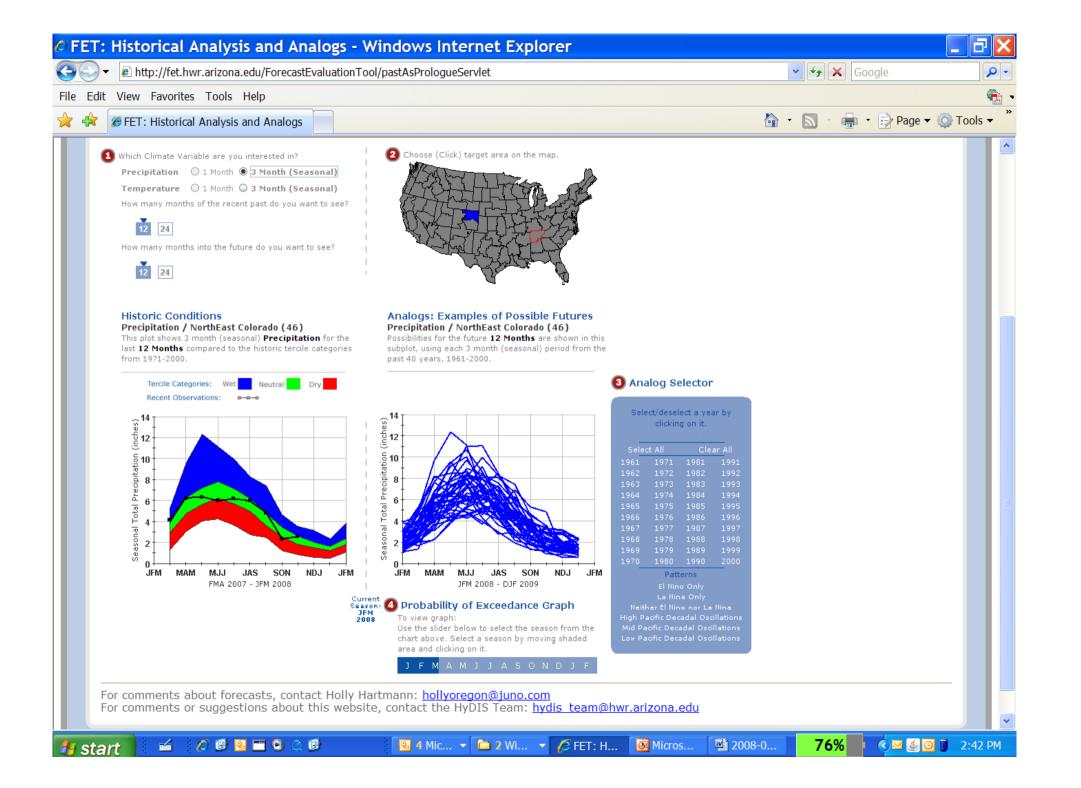
		-1	
Sele	ot All	Cle	ar All
1961		1981	1991
1962	1972	1982	1992
1963			1993
			1994
1965		1985	
1966	1976	1986	1996
1967	1977	1987	1997
1968	1978		
1969	1979	1989	
	1980	1990	

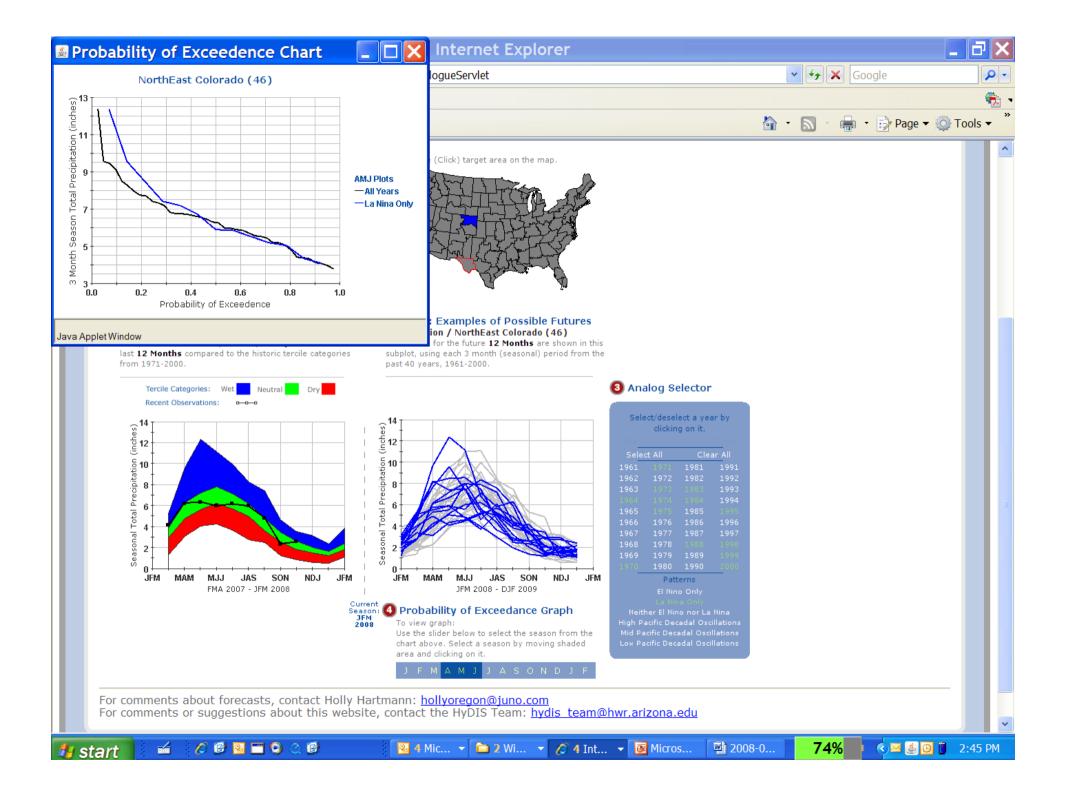
Mid Pacific Decadal Oscillations Low Pacific Decadal Oscillations

2004-05

Use the sider below to select the season from the chart bove. Select a season by moving shaded are and clicking on it.

M A M J J A S O N





### http://fet.hwr.arizona.edu/ForecastEvaluationTool/

#### **Online Forecast Evaluation Tool**

#### Take the Tutorial



#### Forecast Interpretation Tutorial

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

Beain Tutorial

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

For comments about forecasts, contact Holly Hartmann: hollyh@hwr.arizona.edu

For comments about this website, contact the Webmaste ellen@hwr.arizona.edu

Advance warning of climate or hydrologic events can help you avoid losses or allow you to take advantage of unique opportunities. This website will help you get the most use out of a variety of different forecasts.

#### Which forecasts are you interested in?

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

### **Initially for NWS CPC climate forecasts**

### Six elements in our webtool:

- Exploring Forecast Progression
- Forecast Interpretation Tutorials
- Historical Context
- Forecast Performance
- Use in Decision Making
- Details: Forecast Techniques, Research

- A. Which specific forecasts are you interested in?
  - Precipitation
  - C Temperature
  - B. Which forecast Seasons?

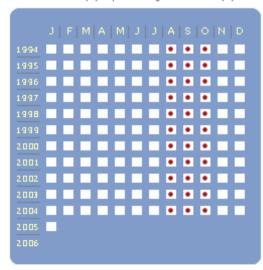
Select season(s) by moving shaded area...and click Seasons must be selected contiguously



DJF JFM FMA

#### C. Which forecast times (when issued)?

Select month(s) by dicking on month(s).



- Which forecast qualities are important to you? Select at least one:
  - ▼ Frequency of Forecasts:

How often has a forecast actually been made?
This criteria shows the frequency that non-CL or non-EC forecasts have been indicated.

▼ Probability of Detection:

How well has the forecast system been able to warn about upcoming conditions? This criteria tracks how often the forecasts say the right category (e.g., warm or cold) is most likely, compared to how often that category has actually occurred.

- M Above (warm or wet) M Below (cold or dry)
- ▼ False Alarm Rate:

How well can you trust what the forecast says? This criteria tracks how often the category given the greatest probability has turned out "wrong", compared to the how many times that category has been forecast.

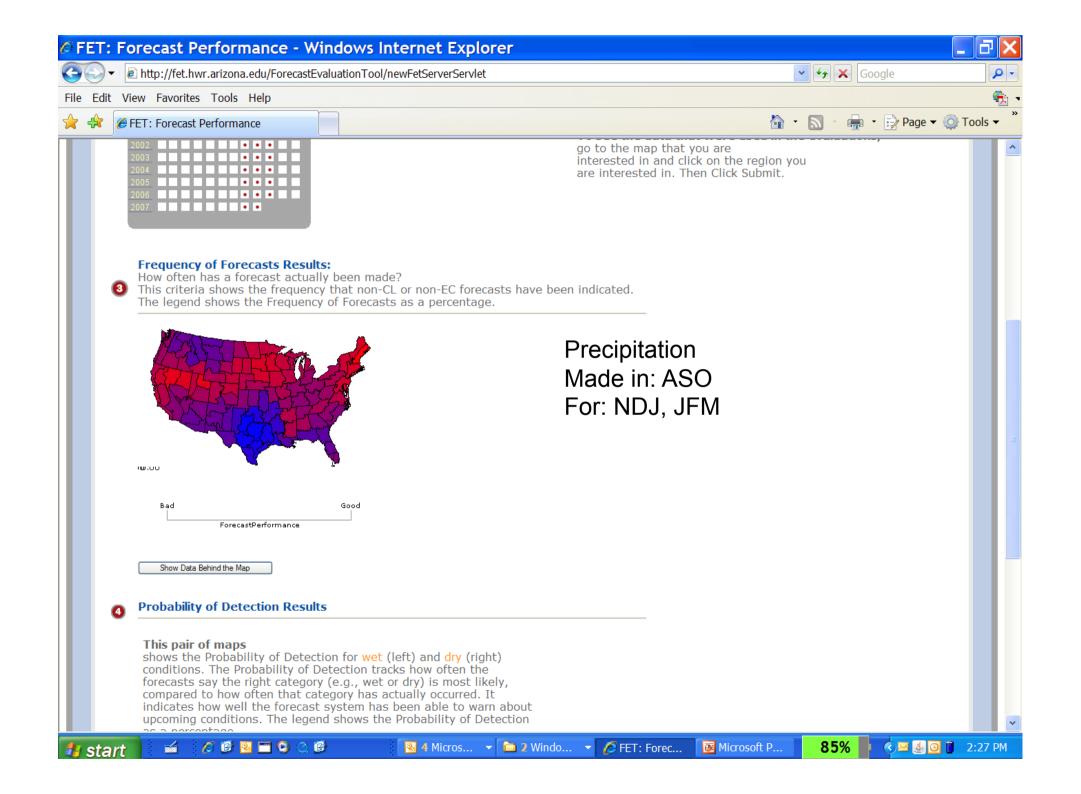
- Above (warm or wet) Below (cold or dry)
- ✓ Brier Score:

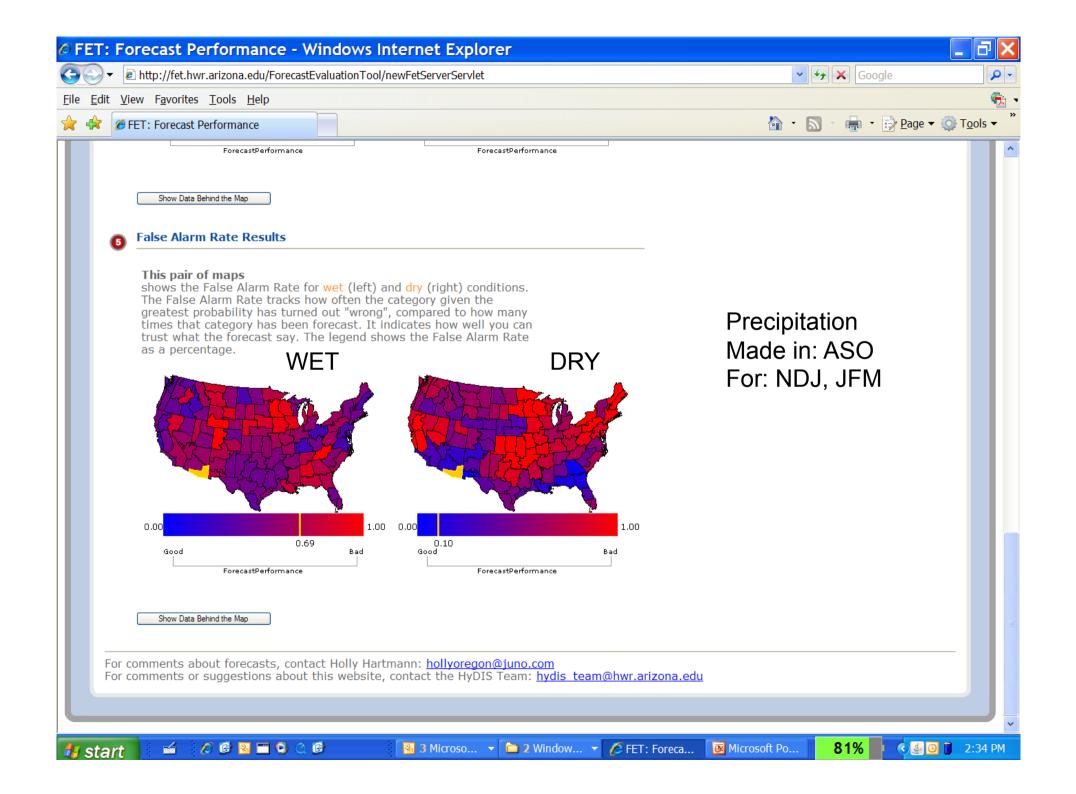
This criteria considers the strength of the probability given to a specific category (e.g., warm or cold). Forecasts made with high probability are penalized heavily if they are wrong, but forecasts with low probability aren't expected to be correct as often.

- Above (warm or wet) Below (cold or dry)
- Ranked Probability Score:

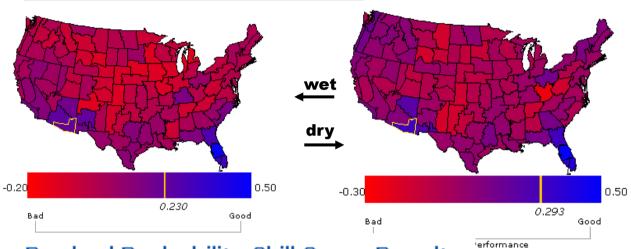
This criteria is similar to the Brier Score, but it looks at all categories at once. Forecasts are given worse scores for assigning higher probability to categories far away from what actually occurs.

Submit

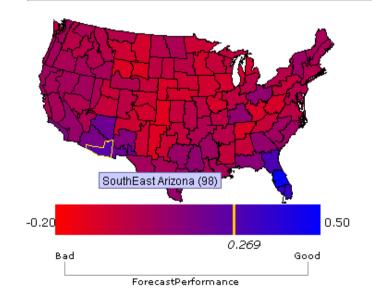




### **Brier Skill Score Results**

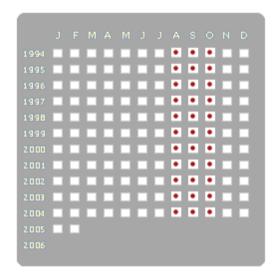


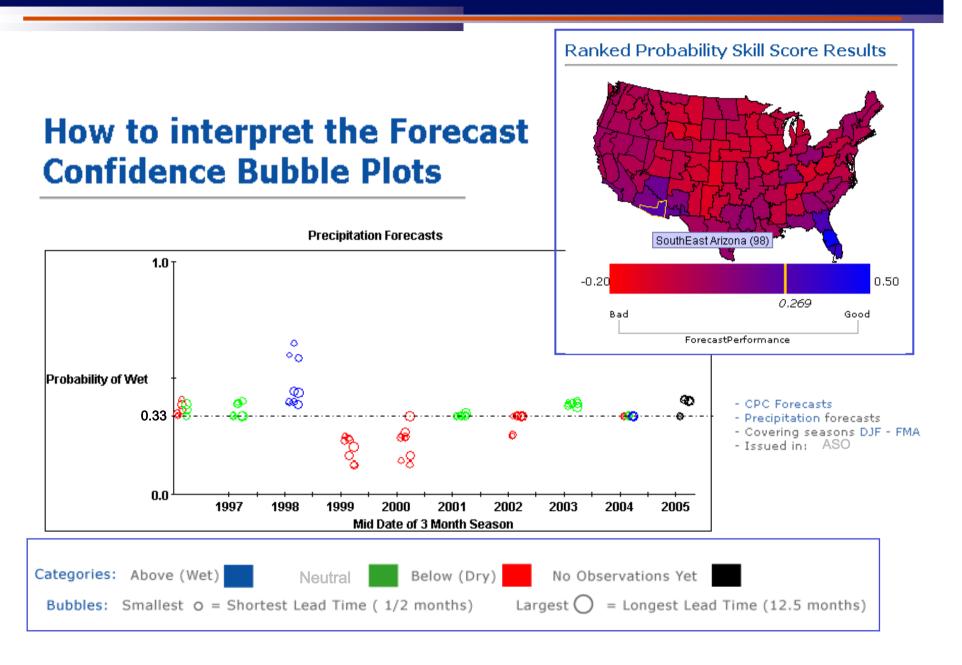
### Ranked Probability Skill Score Results



#### You Chose:

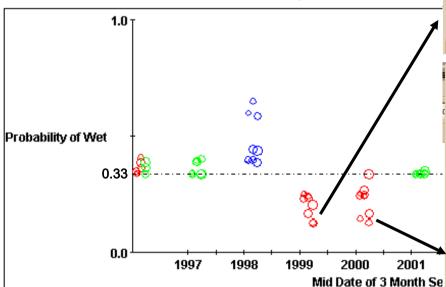
- CPC Forecasts
- Precipitation forecasts
- Covering seasons DJF FMA
- Issued in:





# How to interpret the Forect Confidence Bubble Plots

#### **Precipitation Forecasts**



Categories: Above (Wet) Neutral Below (Dr

Bubbles: Smallest O = Shortest Lead Time ( 1/2 months)

#### Forecast Evaluation Results: Maps Behind the Data

The following maps correspond to the specific forecast you selected from the bubble plot.

You chose the forecast issued in issued in September 1998 covering Febuary-March-April 1999

The CPC forecast

Forecast issued in September 1998 covering occurred, according to area averages
Febuary-March-April 1999 computed by the Climate Protection Ce

Corresponding Observations. The color corresponds to the condition that actually occurred, according to area averages computed by the Climate Protection Center using data from the National Weather Service National Climate Data Center

\_ | 🗆 | × |





Java Applet Window

0.617

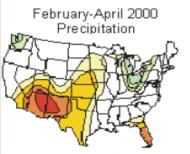
#### Forecast Evaluation Results: Maps Behind the Data

The following maps correspond to the specific forecast you selected from the bubble plot.

You chose the forecast issued in issued in September 1999 covering Febuary-March-April 2000

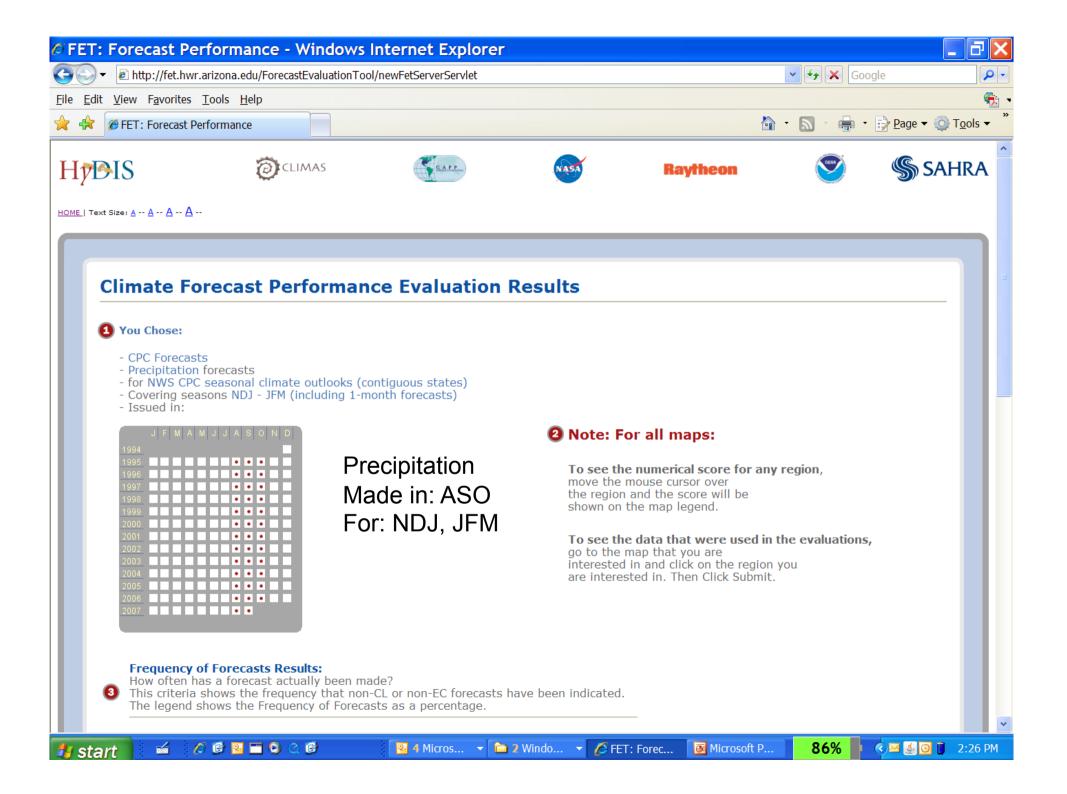
Forecast issued in September 1999 covering Febuary-March-April 2000

Corresponding Observations. The color corresponds to the condition that actually occurred, according to area averages computed by the Climate Protection Center sing data from the National Weather Service lational Climate Data Center





Java Applet Window

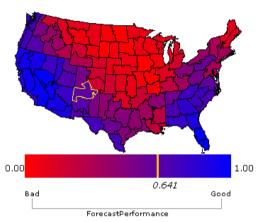


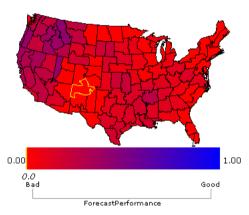
## Forecasts issued JFM, covering JJAS

Temperature: Warm Pr

Precipitation: Dry

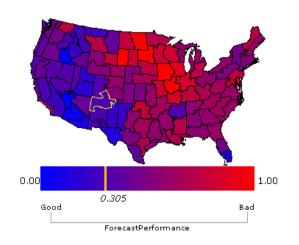
Probability of Detection

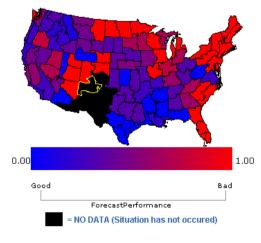




Will forecasts
warn me of an
impending 'critical'
event?

False Alarm Rate

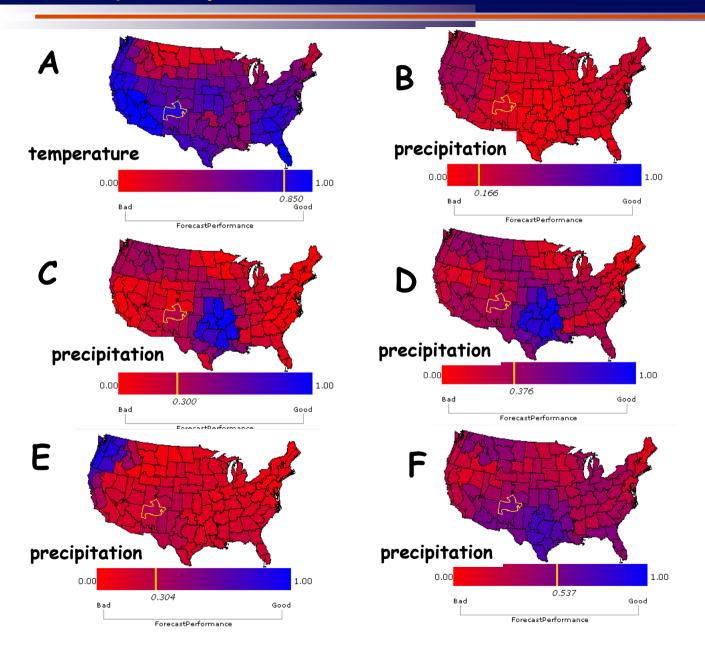




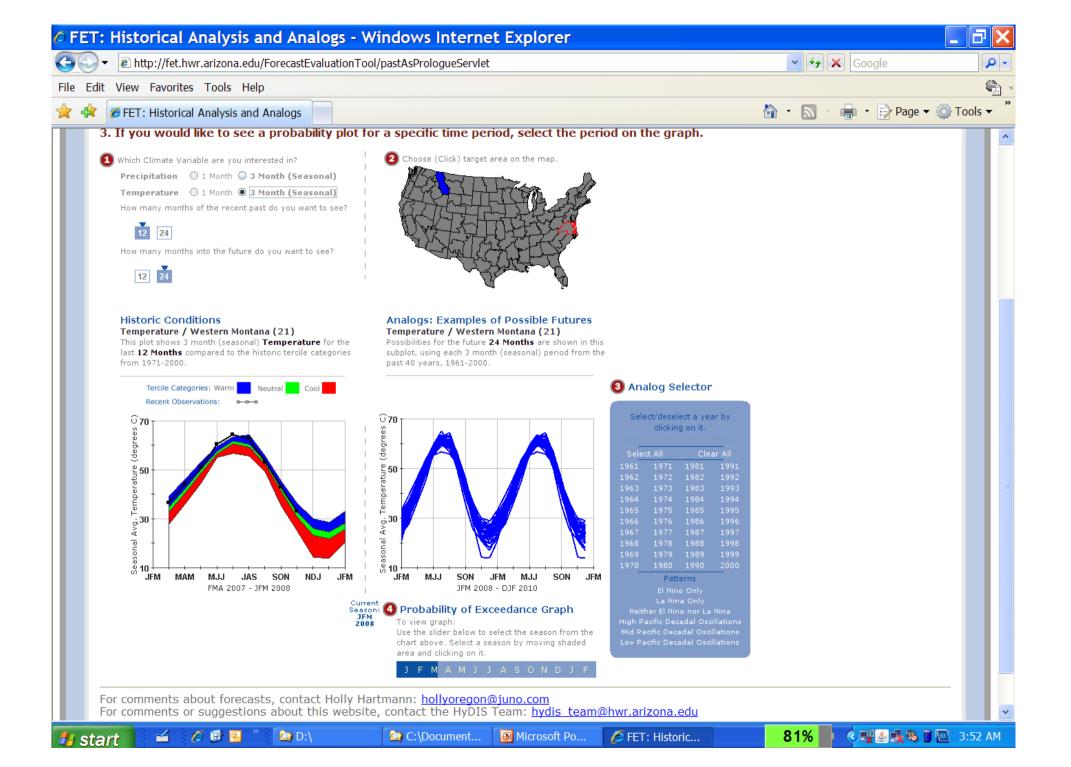
Given a 'critical' forecast, can I trust it?

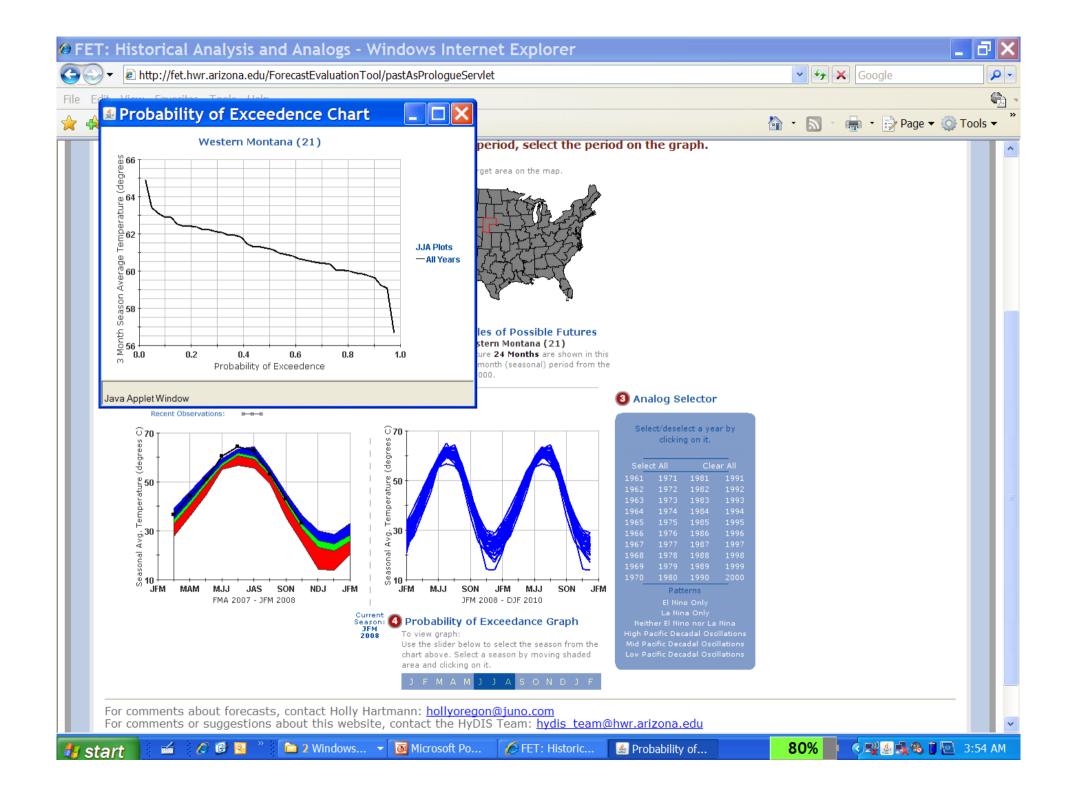
# Montana temperature

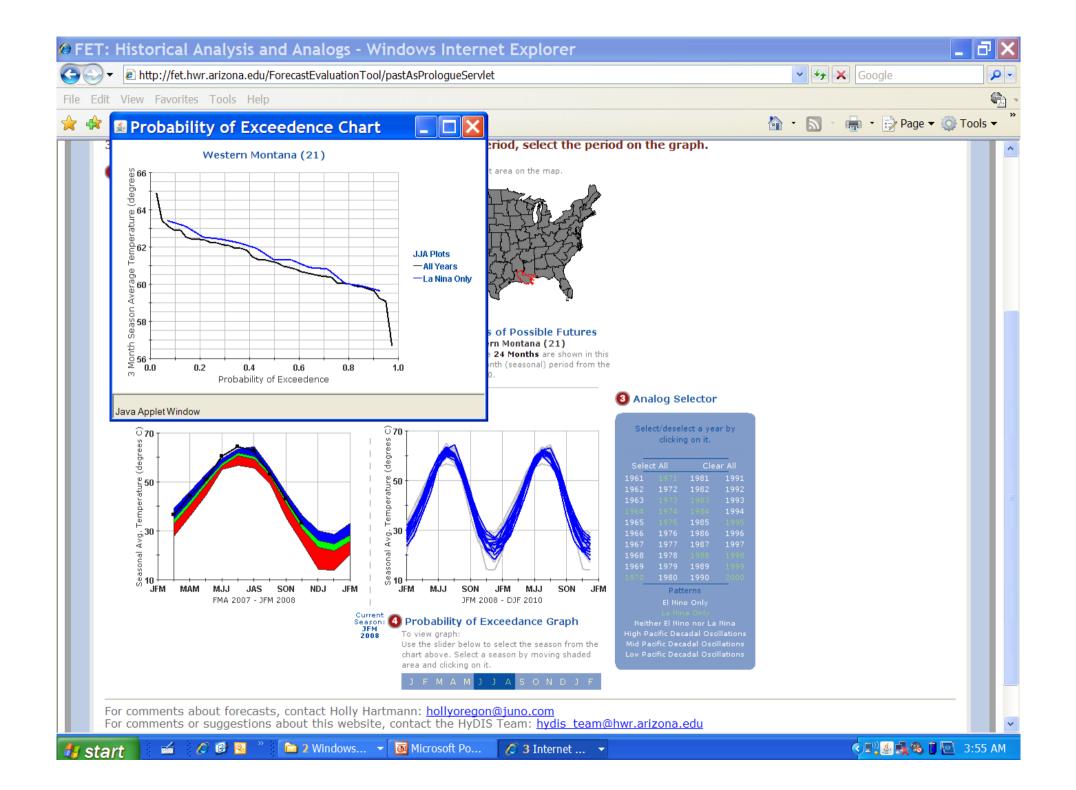
# Frequency of Actual Forecasts



Forecast Forecast				
<u>#</u>	Issued	Coverage		
A	JFM	JJAS		
В	JFM	JJAS		
C	JFM	ONDJ		
D	ASO	ONDJ		
Ε	JFM	AMJJ		
F	ASO	DJFMAM		

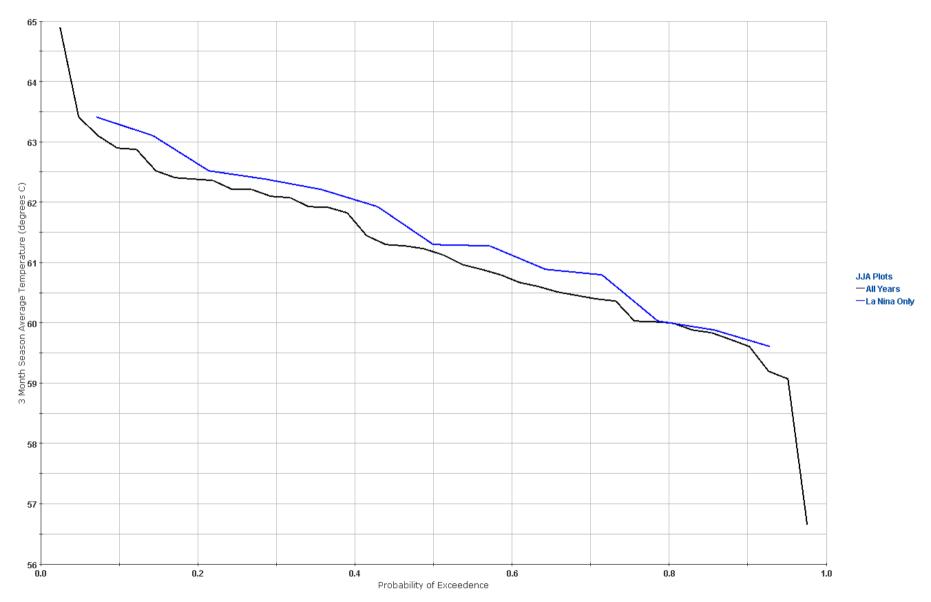






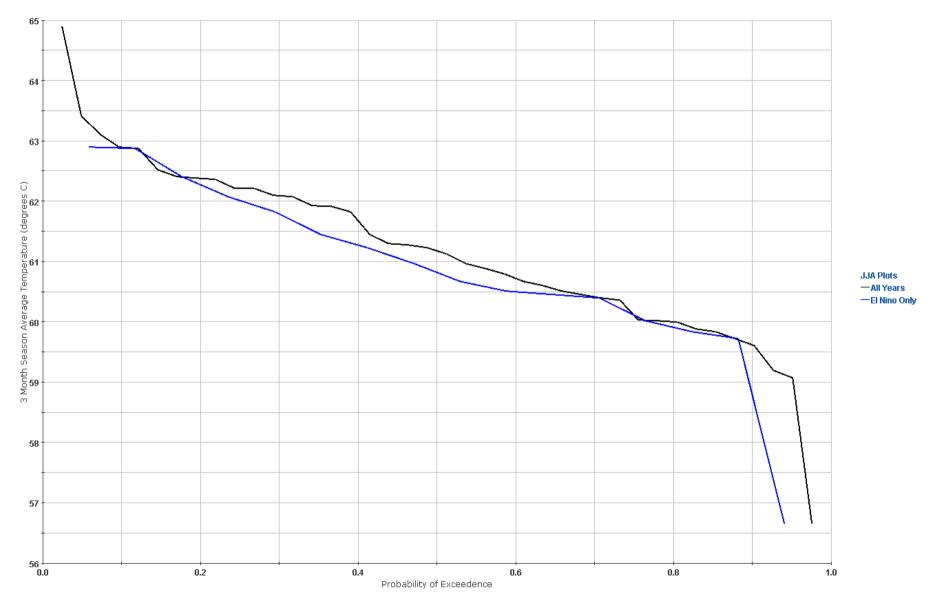


#### Western Montana (21)





#### Western Montana (21)



Holly C. Hartmann
Climate Assessment for the
Southwest
and
Arid Lands Information Center

Arid Lands Information Center University of Arizona Tucson, AZ hollyoregon@juno.com