



Average High: ~90°
Average Low: ~70°
Average All: ~80°

Still A Warm/Hot and “Leaning” Dry Forecast...

...But Could More “Comfortable” Temperatures and Storminess Be Reality?

The lions of winter “March-ed” through the third stanza of the calendar year, as the month was poised to become the fifth significantly (1.5 degrees or more) below average calendar month in a row across the Rio Grande Valley. Yet, atmospheric and long term signals continued to hint toward an above average late spring into early summer 2014, with a less than 25 percent chance for a cooler than normal period. Unfortunately, the [recent track record](#) has been lacking as winter (December 2013 – February 2014) ended cooler and wetter than normal. As of this writing (March 21, 2014), March was on track to end up 3 to 5 degrees below average and, for many, much wetter than average, courtesy of a cold front and additional rain from [March 8 to 10](#).

How warm and potentially how dry April through June may be will depend on which weather pattern dominates, particularly during the first half of the period (End of March through mid-May)— which is also the heart of the Rio Grande Valley’s lightning, hail, and downburst wind storm season. Shown on the next page are two scenarios. Each strongly suggest a slow release of winter’s grip across the northern tier of the U.S. from the Great Plains to the Great Lakes, and a continuation of the California through Great Basin warm to hot, dry pattern. The scenario on the left indicates a notable warm-up across the southern tier of the U.S. and a “lean” toward drying out in the Rio Grande Valley with worsening drought across most of the state (except East and Southeast Texas). This scenario is based strongly on [long range model consensus](#) and the continuation of neutral El Niño/Southern Oscillation through May.

However, the forecast community has been chastened since late autumn by a strongly positive Pacific-North American (PNA) teleconnection pattern which has resulted in the below to much below average temperatures across most areas east of the front range of the Rocky Mountains (exception: The Florida Peninsula). At the same time, a number of upper level disturbances have “broken” from the general northwest to southeast upper flow pattern and slid into northwest Mexico before headed east. Most of the disturbances sheared apart as

they headed east, but the stronger ones were able to drop moderate to heavy rainfall in late December, late January (as a glaze ice), and early March – the last which killed off, temporarily, the more than 3 year drought. The persistence of the general jet stream pattern (background) with these occasional southern stream disturbances gives pause to the warm/hot, leaning dry forecast as spring edges into summer. Should the 2013/2014 winter pattern hang around through the heart of the Valley’s severe weather season, the potential for a season [more like 2012](#) (numerous hail and wind damage episodes) than 2013 (few hail and wind damage episodes) needs to be monitored closely. To ensure you’re prepared for potential danger from downbursts, hail, and wind, consult our handy [Hazardous Weather Awareness Guide](#), or the [English](#) or [Spanish](#) “slide guides”, today!

