



# Climate Change in Truth or Consequences



SCAN ME

Our communities are already seeing rising temperatures and changing rain and snow patterns.

## Temperature


Current Conditions (1990-2019)
<p><b><i>It's already getting hotter...</i></b></p> <p><b>+ 1.2 °F</b> Increase in Annual Average Temperature since 1950 - 1979 period</p> <p><b>13 more days per year above 90°F</b> since 1950 -1979 period</p> <p><b>8.6 fewer cold days per year</b> With low temperatures below freezing (32°F)</p>
Future Projections (2050-2079)
<p><b><i>Temperatures will be even higher...</i></b></p> <p>Winter: 3.6°F to 5.5°F Warmer Spring: 4.9°F to 6.9°F Warmer Summer: 5.2°F to 7.0°F Warmer Fall: 4.2°F to 6.4°F Warmer</p> <p><b>+ 59 More Hot Days</b> days per year with highs above 90°F</p>

## Rain and Snow

Current Conditions (1990-2019)
<p><b><i>Extremely variable...</i></b></p> <p><b>4.6 inches of rainfall 1980</b> <b>19.2 inches of rainfall 1990</b></p> <p><b><i>With changes in seasonal patterns...</i></b></p> <p><b>+ 9% Fall Precipitation</b> <b>- 4% Summer Precipitation</b> since 1950 -1979 period</p>
Future Projections (2050-2079)
<p><b><i>Future is uncertain but may be slightly drier...</i></b></p> <p><b>- 2% to - 6%</b> <i>average annual precipitation by midcentury</i></p> <p><b>More Rain and Less Snow</b> <b>Higher Rates of Evaporation and Drought</b></p>

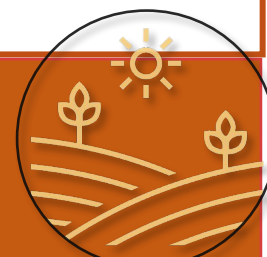
## Seasonal Changes

Earlier Frost-Free (by 2-4 weeks)  
More Growing Degree Days  
Earlier and Faster Runoff  
Drier Overall



**Spring**

Higher Temperatures  
More Extreme Monsoon  
More Intense Rainstorms  
More Extreme Heat Days




**Summer**

Warmer and Drier  
Later Start of Winter  
Extended Fire Season  
Extended Growing Season



**Fall**

Fewer Freezing Degree Days  
More Rain vs. Snow  
More Extreme Storms  
Extended Fire Season

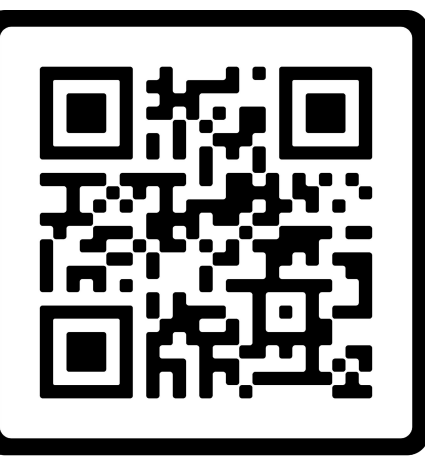


**Winter**

### What seasonal changes have you noticed?

*Post your experiences below*





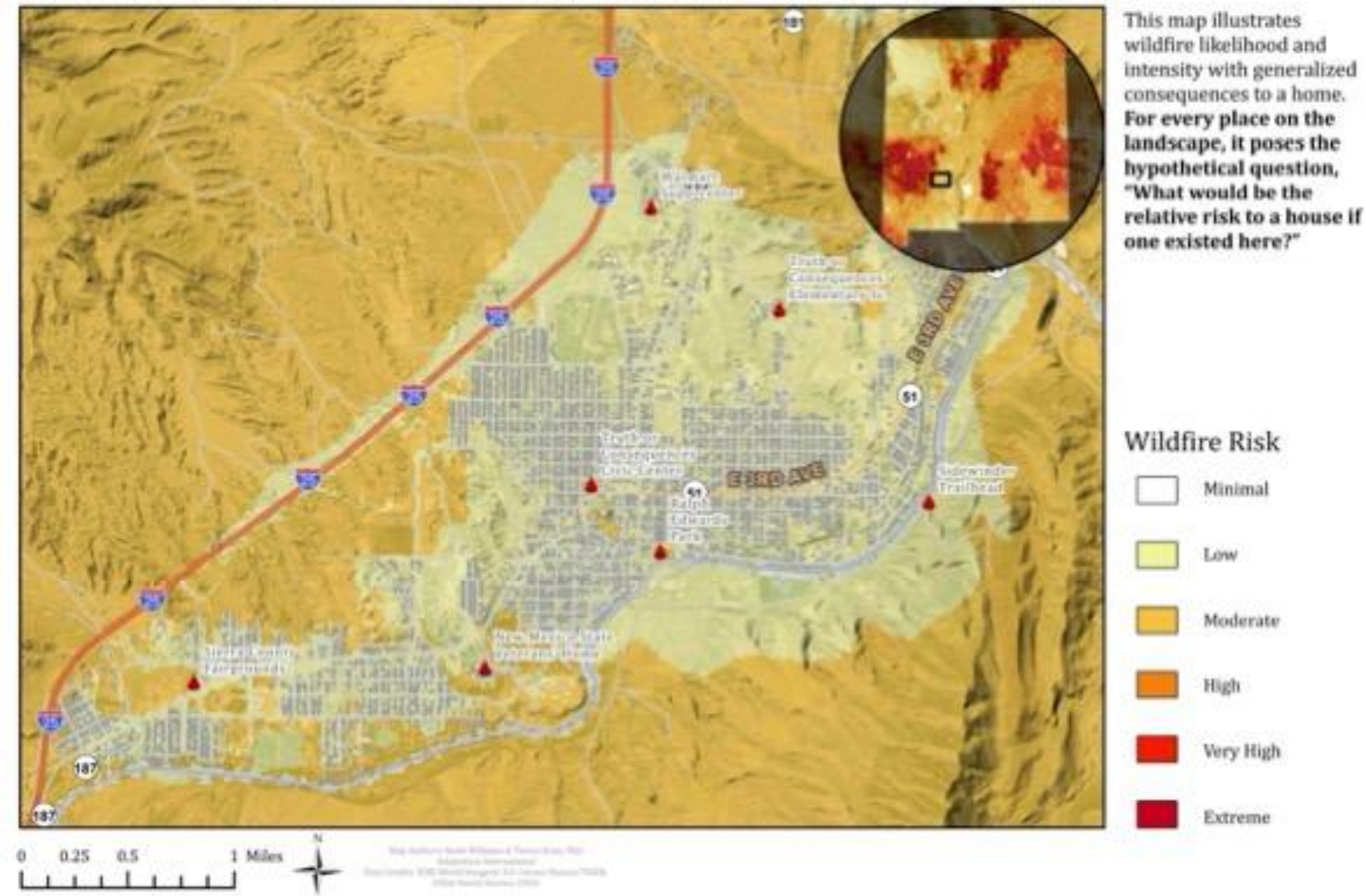
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# Common Climate Risks

## Wildfire and Flood Risk in Truth or Consequences

### Wildfires

Wildfire Risk to Truth or Consequences Communities (as of 2020)



Statewide, the risks associated with wildfires, are likely to increase.

- New Mexico already experiences 50 more days a year of extreme wildfire risk than it did in the 1970s.
- Wildfires can directly impact people and property.
- Smoke inhalation, poor air quality, disruptions to critical infrastructure impact the lives, economy, and health and well-being of New Mexicans.
- Wildland fires are no longer constrained to mountainous areas.
- The 2022 Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, the largest and most destructive in the state's recorded history, burned 534 square miles and was exacerbated by unseasonably hot and dry conditions and high winds.

### Floods

Annual Flood Risk in Truth or Consequences



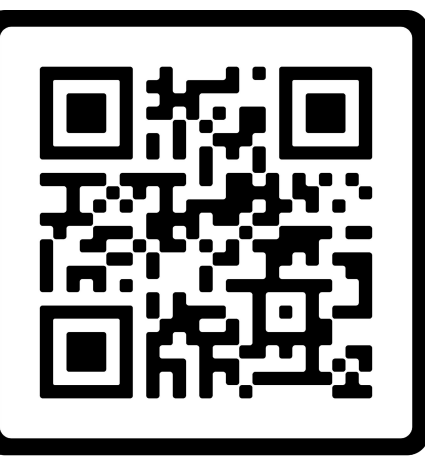
In the next 30 years, 17% of properties in New Mexico have more than a 1 in 4 chance of flooding.

- Flooding, landslides, and debris flows can impact infrastructure, buildings, and people.
- Flash floods, particularly from summer thunderstorms and monsoon rains, pose real risks to people and property.
- Those individuals or families with limited mobility, transportation challenges, can't or don't receive timely notifications or living in substandard housing are likely to experience the worst impacts.

## How have flooding or wildfires affected you?

Post your experiences below



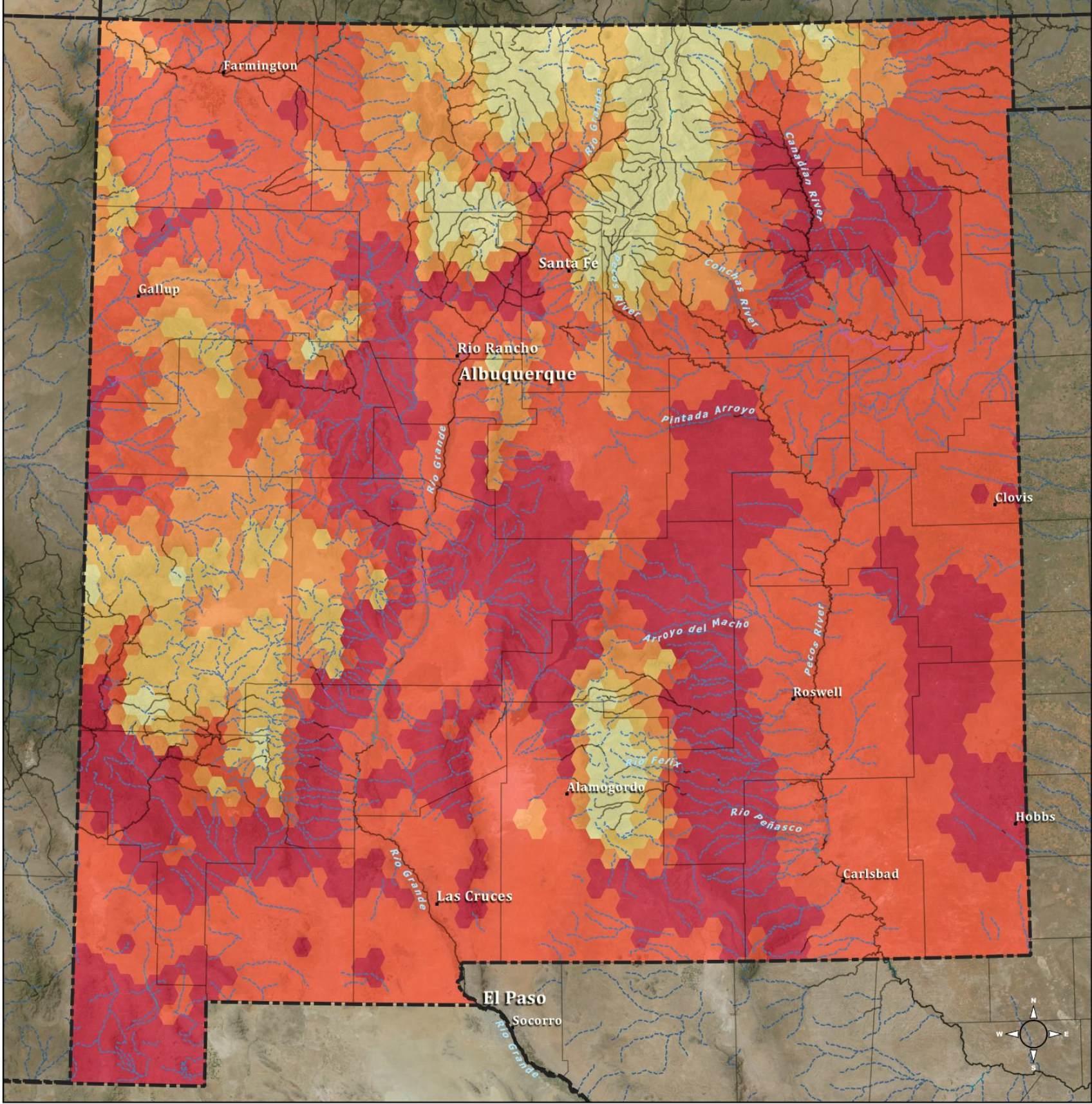


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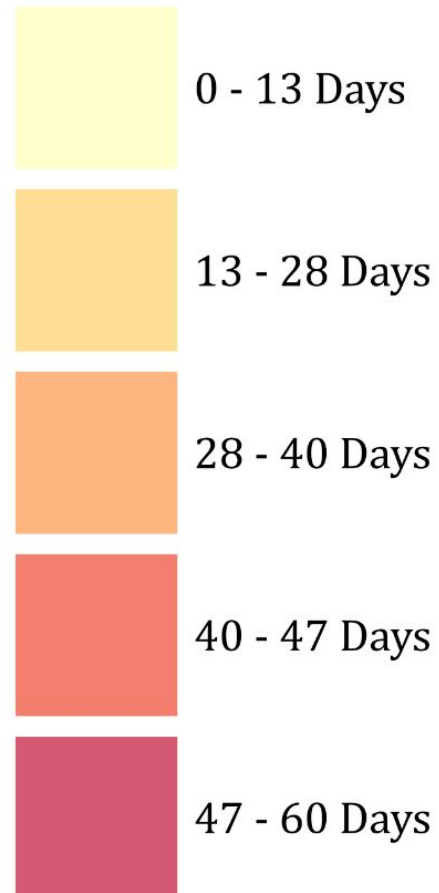
# Common Climate Risks

It is getting hotter and drier

## Extreme Heat



Projected Additional Days Per Year with High Temperatures above 90 °F by the 2050's

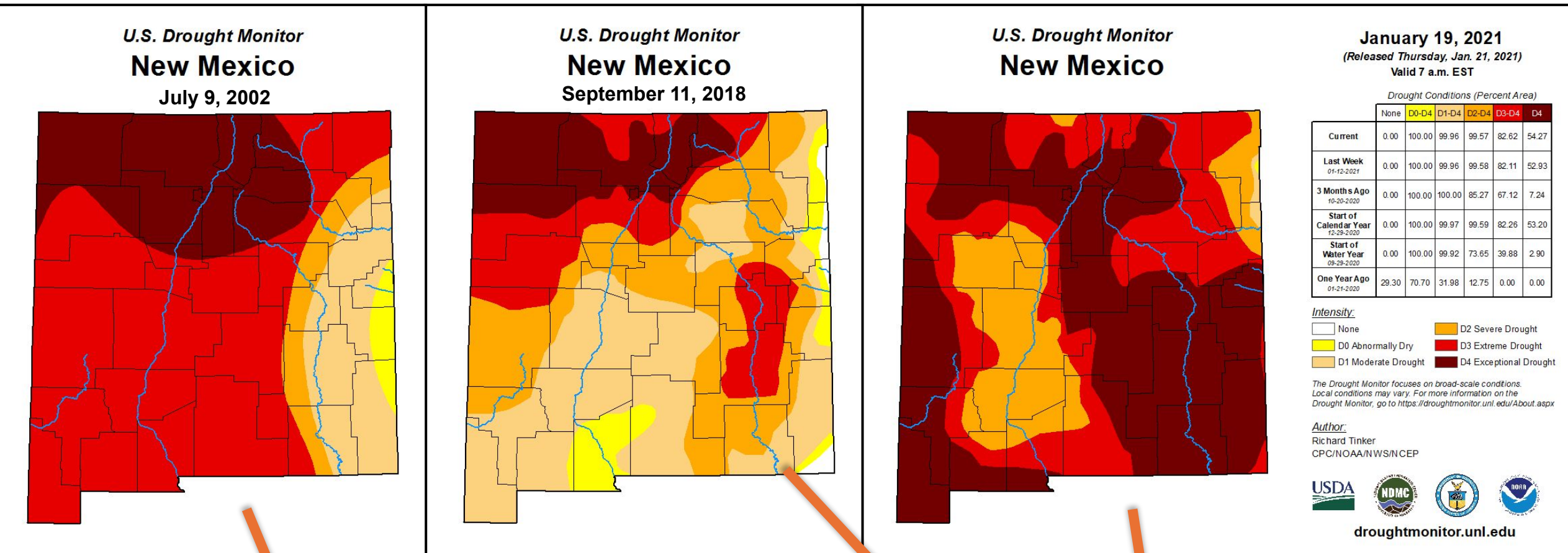


RCP 8.5 Ensemble Mean Projections  
Data derived from LOCA Downscaled CMIP5 Projections.

**By 2050, New Mexico is projected on average to see at least twice as many dangerously hot days per year, with some areas in the southern part of the state increasing even more.**

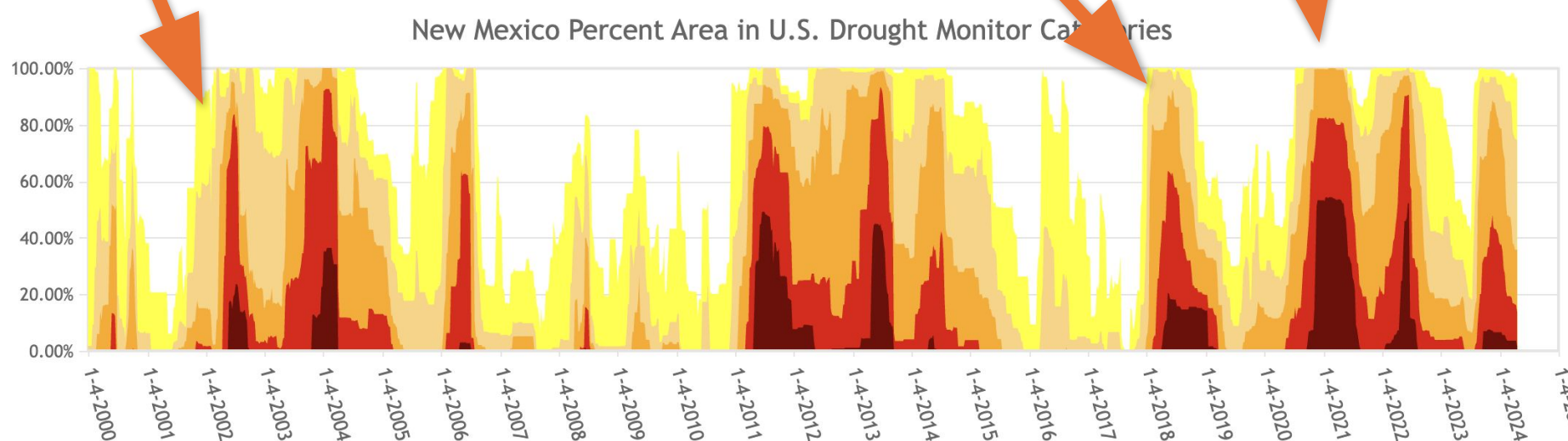
- In 2020, the New Mexico Department of Health received reports of 340 heat-related illness hospital visits.
- Heat-related emergency visits and hospitalizations in New Mexico are predicted to double by 2030
- Older adults, children, low-income residents, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions are more likely to experience adverse health effects from heat.
- People with certain health conditions, such as cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, and diabetes, are more susceptible to the effects of extreme heat.

## Drought



**Multi-year droughts have been a consistent part of New Mexican history for hundreds of years. Warmer temperatures will lead to more evaporation, transpiration (water used and evaporated by plants), and less snowpack.**

- Climate-driven hydrological modeling indicates a 25% decrease in runoff and recharge in the next 50 years.
- Less water will be available for agriculture, working lands, and our communities.
- Increasing aridity (severe lack of water availability) will affect the health and vitality of ecosystems.
- Decreases in vegetative cover can accelerate erosion.



**How have these extreme heat or recent droughts affected you?**

*Post your experiences below*