



Water Availability Task Force Meeting May 16, 2006



THE HEAT IS ON!

John F. Henz, C.C.M.

Colorado Division of Wildlife
May 16, 2006

HDR

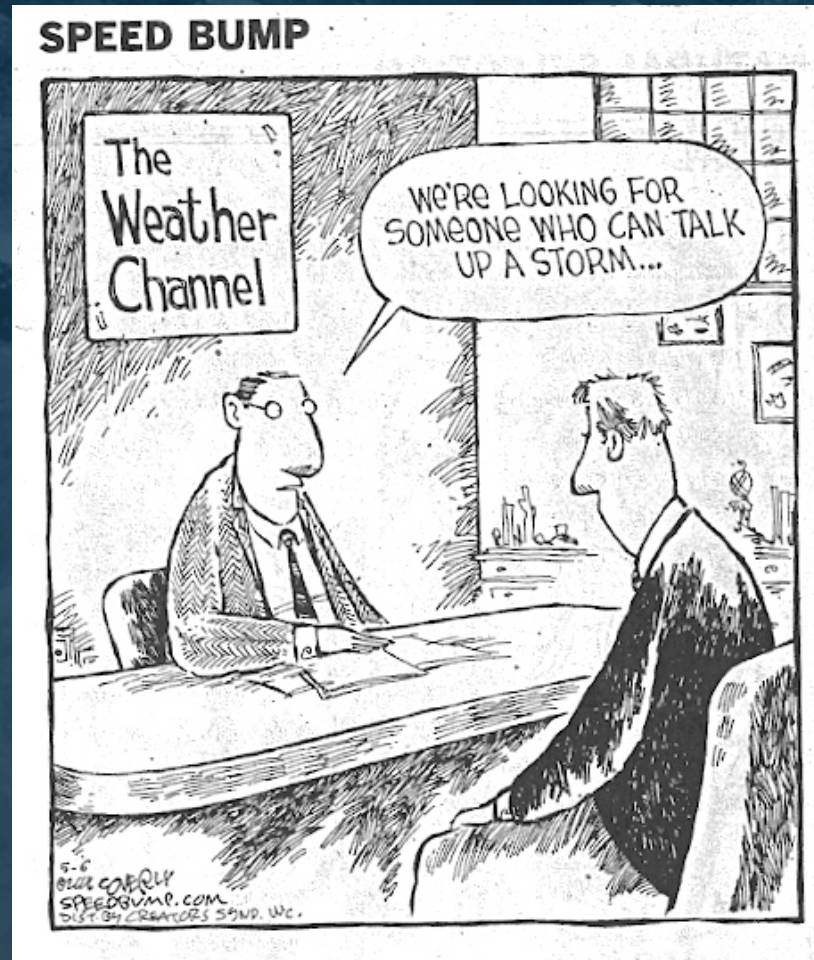
John F. Henz, CCM

"the old forecaster"

- Senior Project Manager and
National Hydro-Meteorology Group leader
HDR Engineering, Inc. – Denver CO
- Certified Consulting Meteorologist (1980-20??)
- Private meteorologist since 1974
- Email: john.henz@hdrinc.com

**Significantly
assisted by:
Bill Badini**

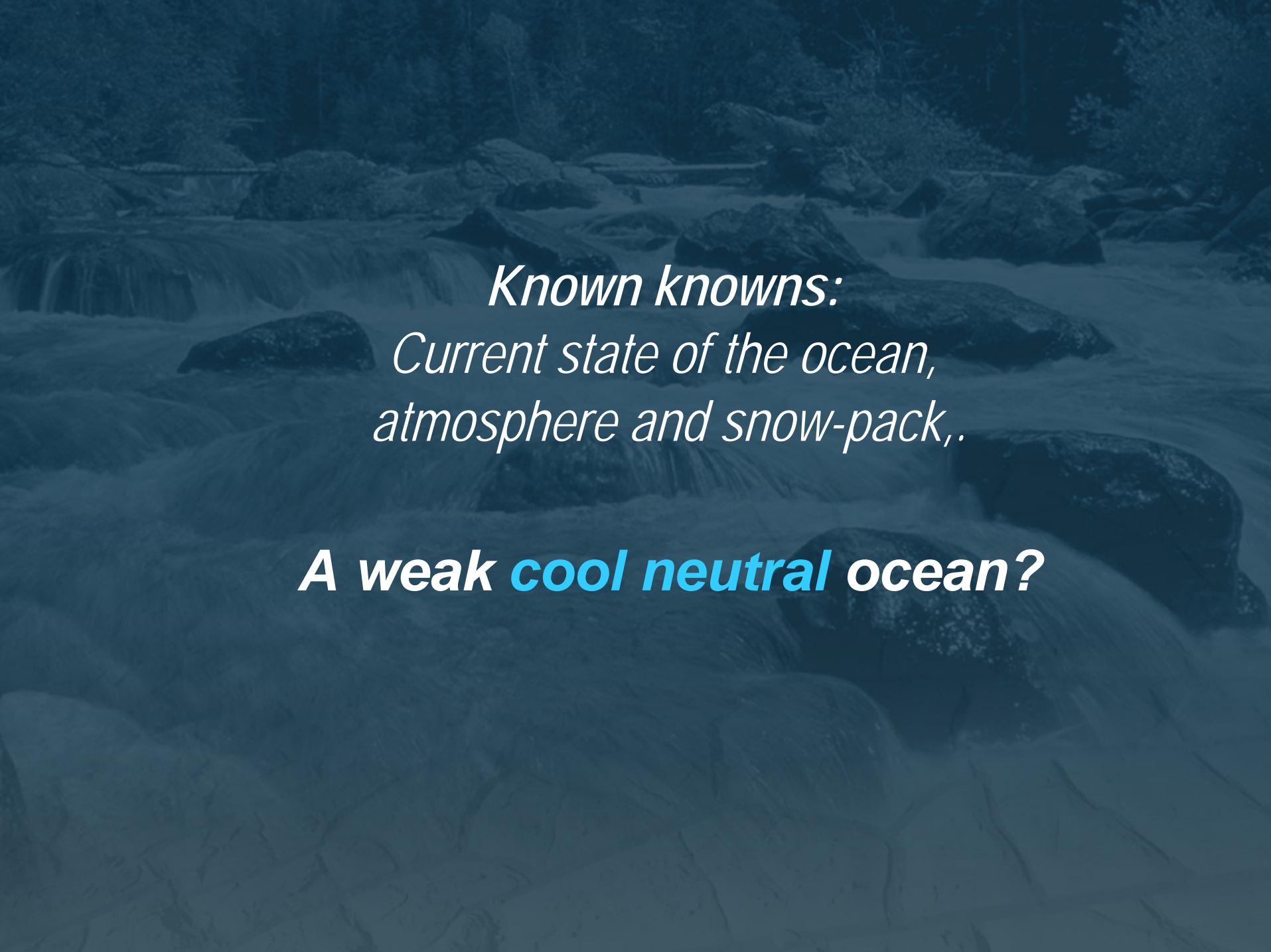
Today's laugh



- *Would you settle for a “heat wave”?*

What's going on with the known knowns?

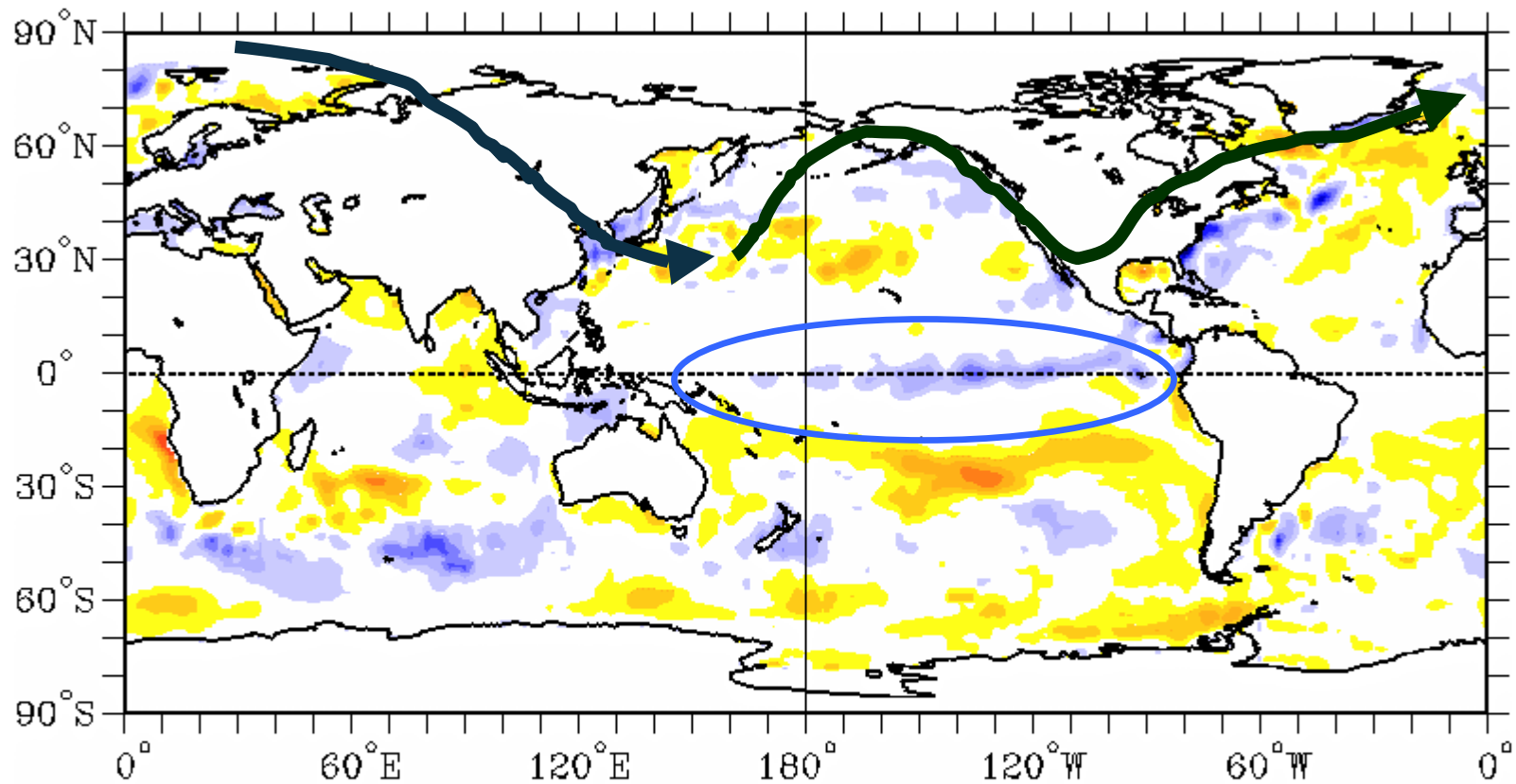




Known knowns:
Current state of the ocean,
atmosphere and snow-pack,.

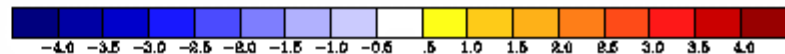
A weak *cool neutral* ocean?

La Nina, though weak, persisted (Mar 11)

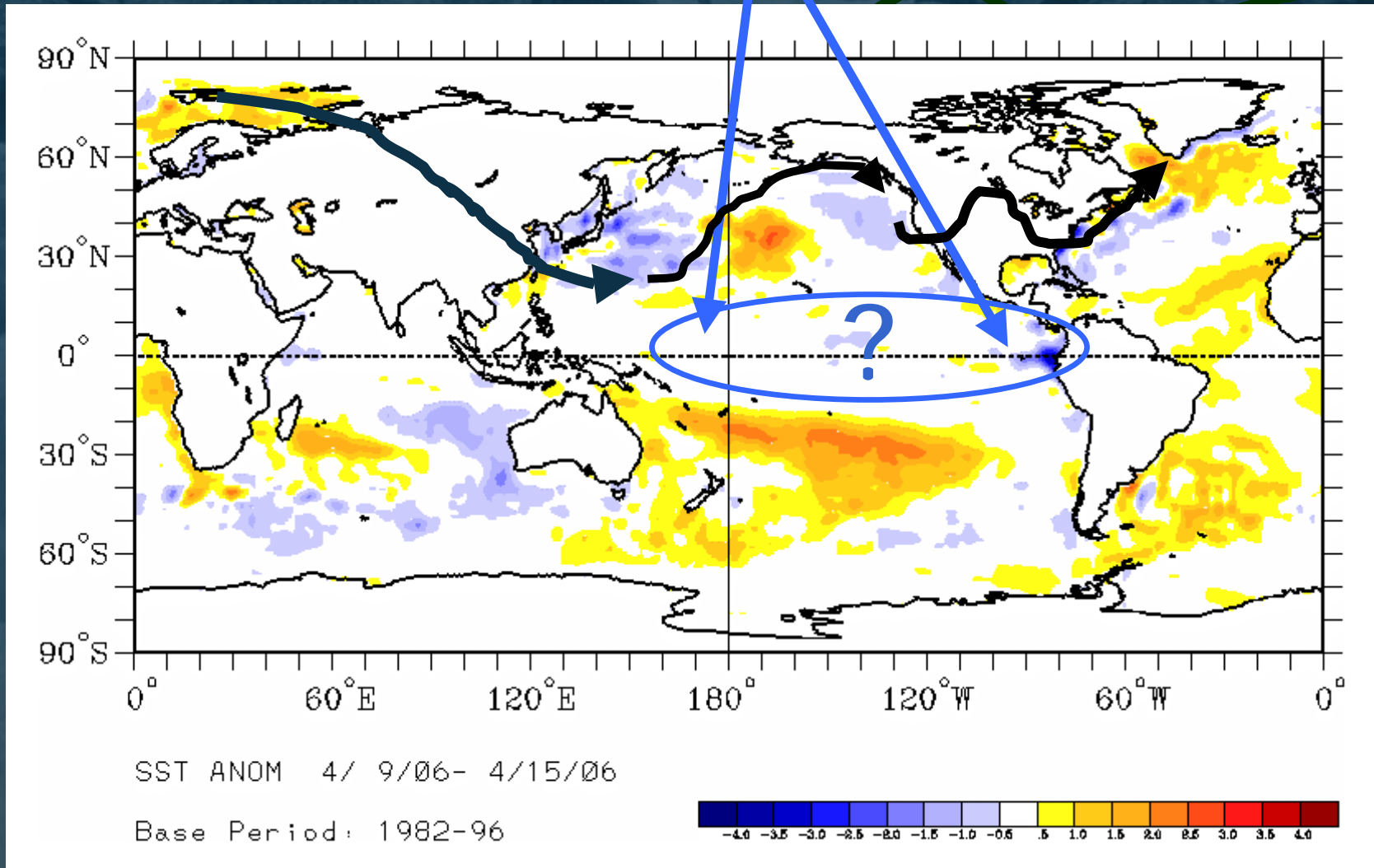


SST ANOM 3/ 5/06- 3/11/06

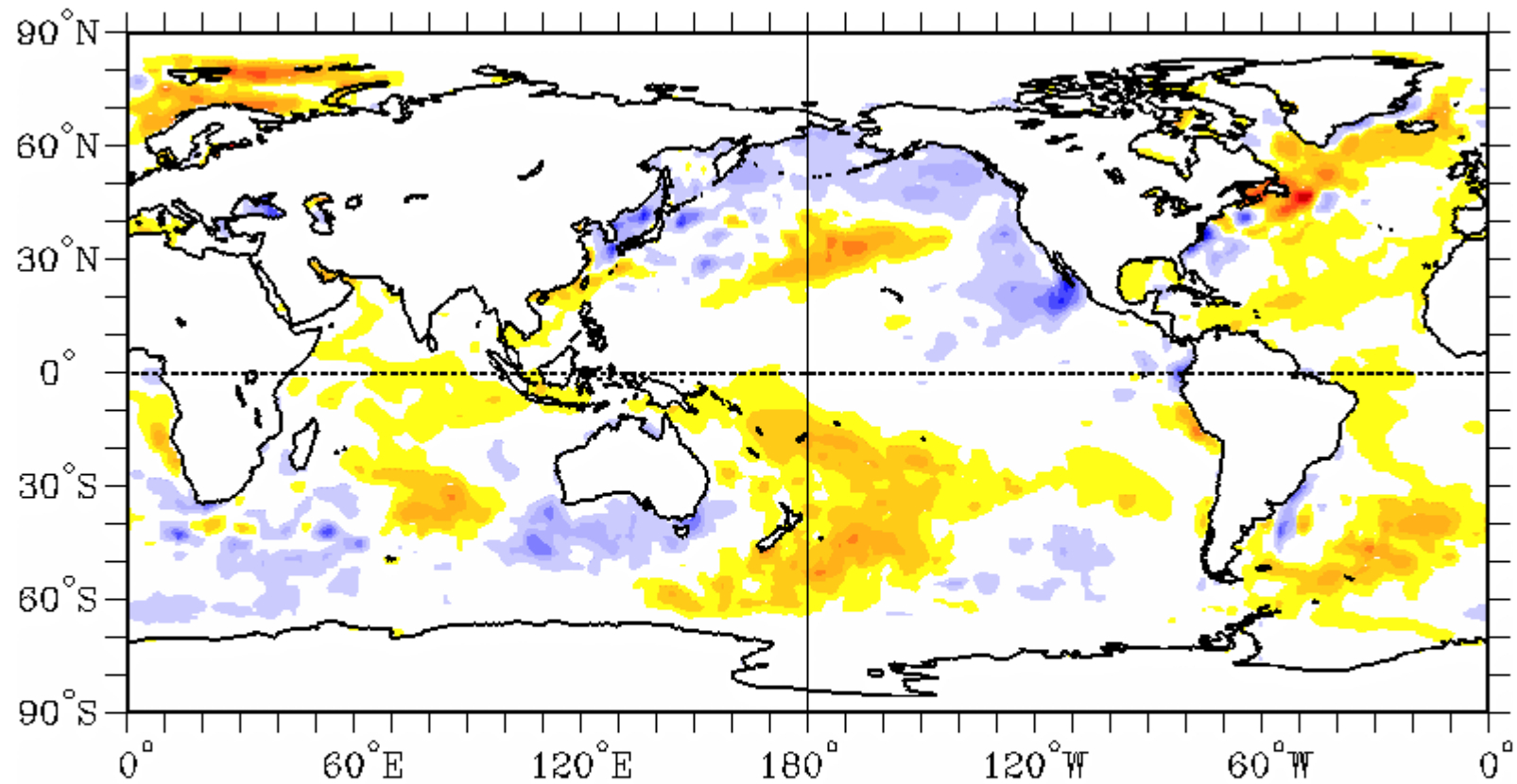
Base Period: 1982-96



Where did La Nina go? (April 15)

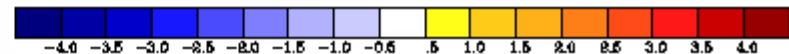


Where did La Nina go? (May 13)

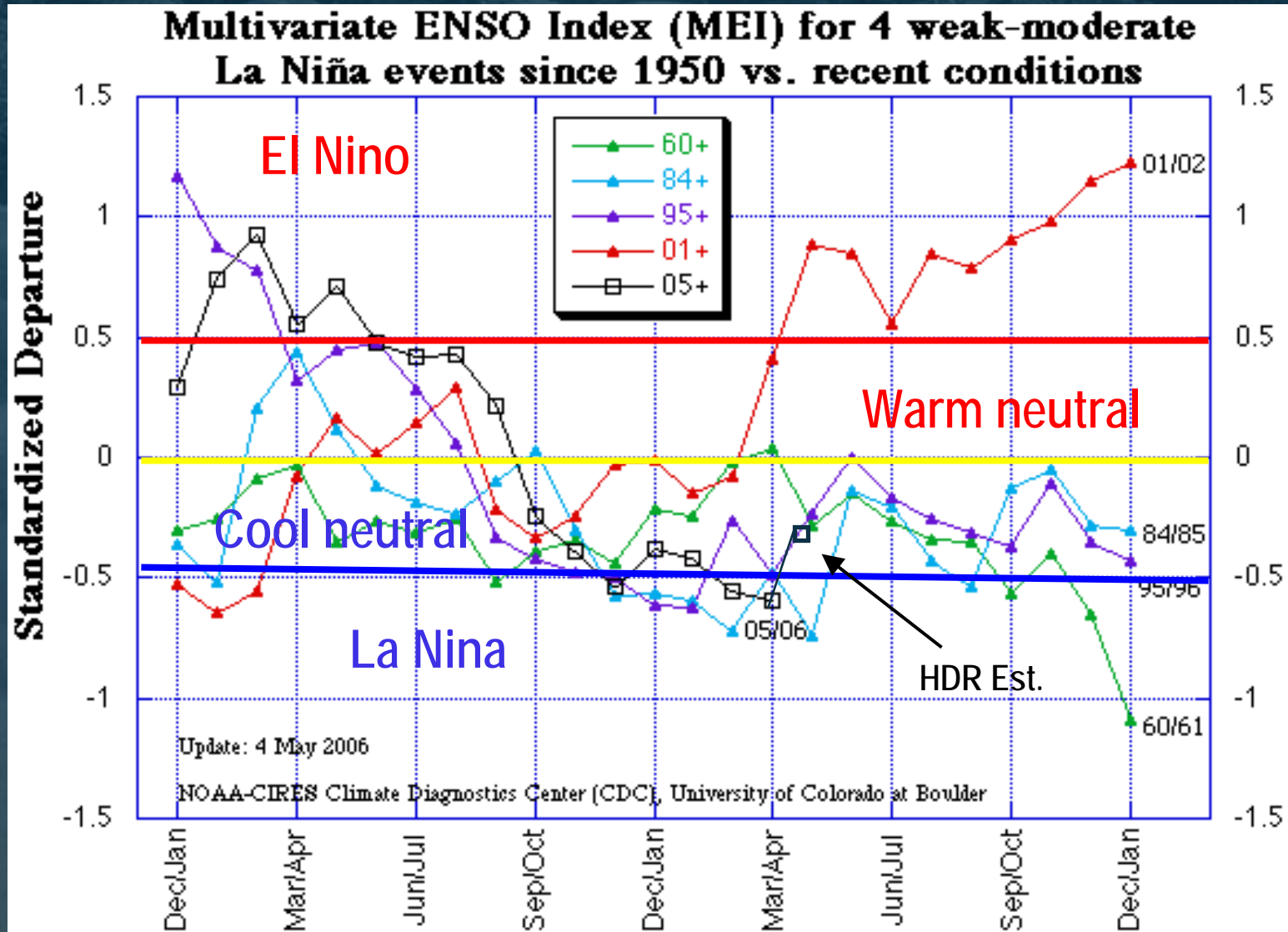


SST ANOM 5/ 7/06- 5/13/06

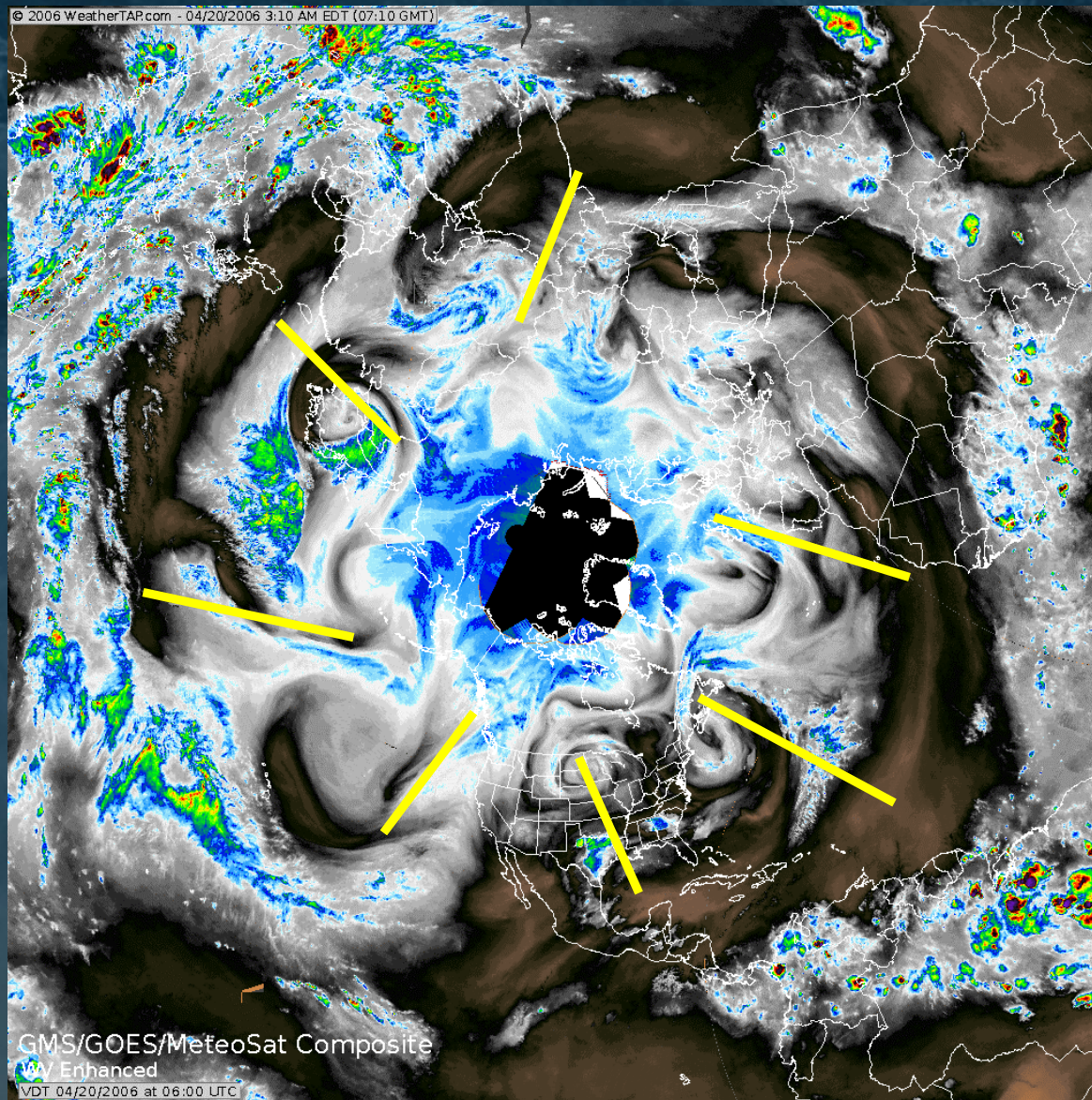
Base Period: 1982-96



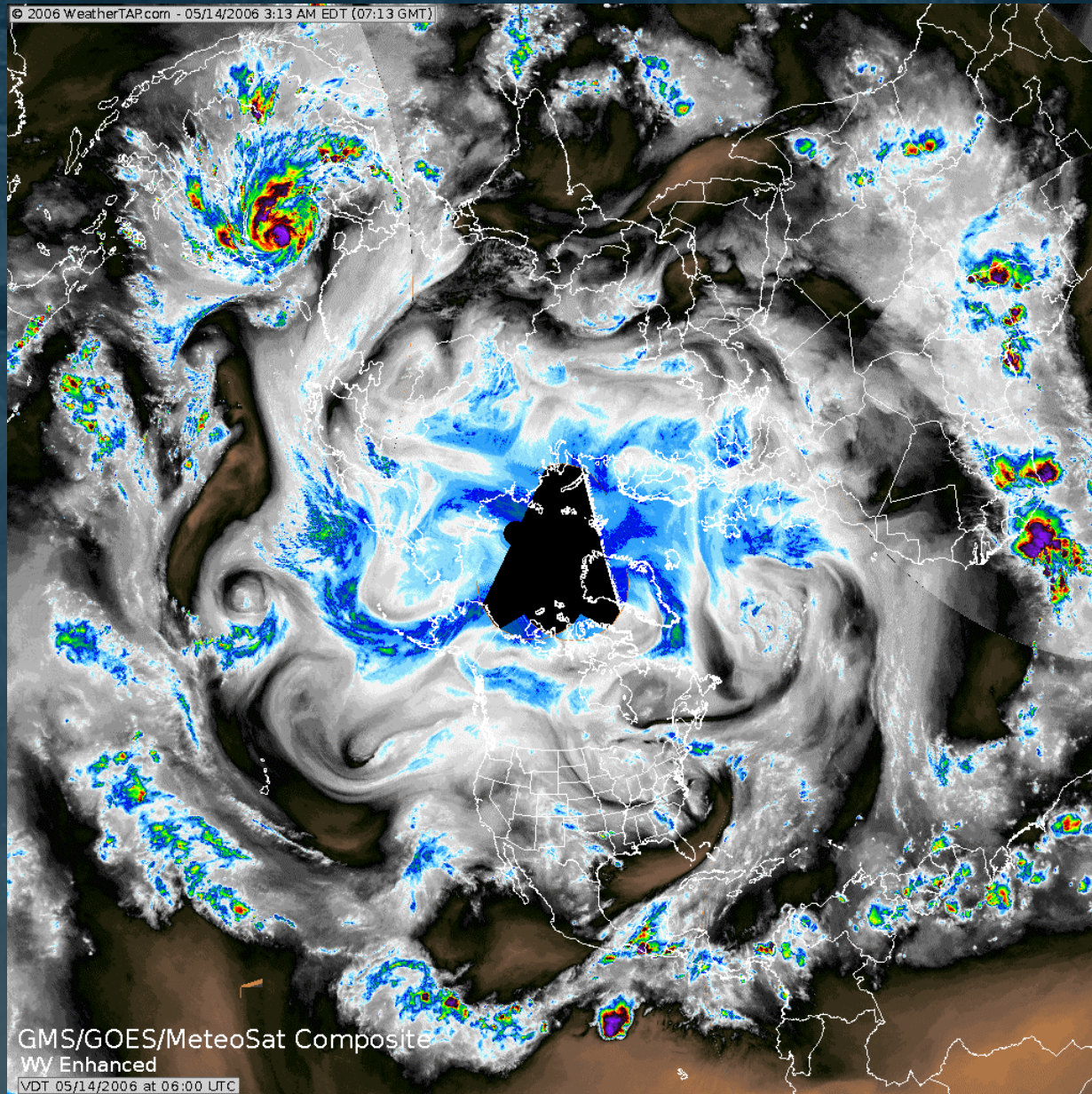
Weak cool neutral ocean lingers



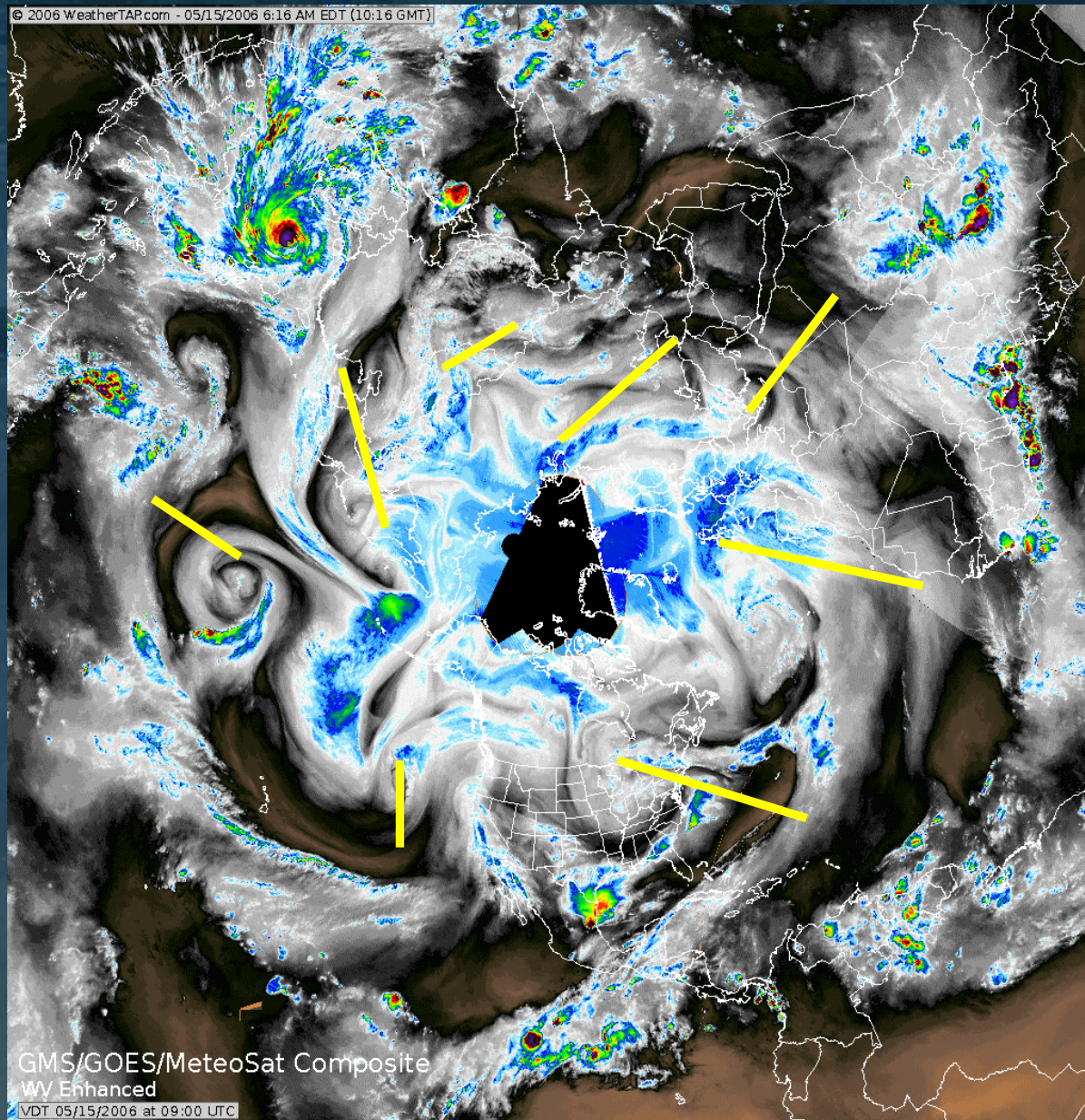
Looking down on the NH Storm Track



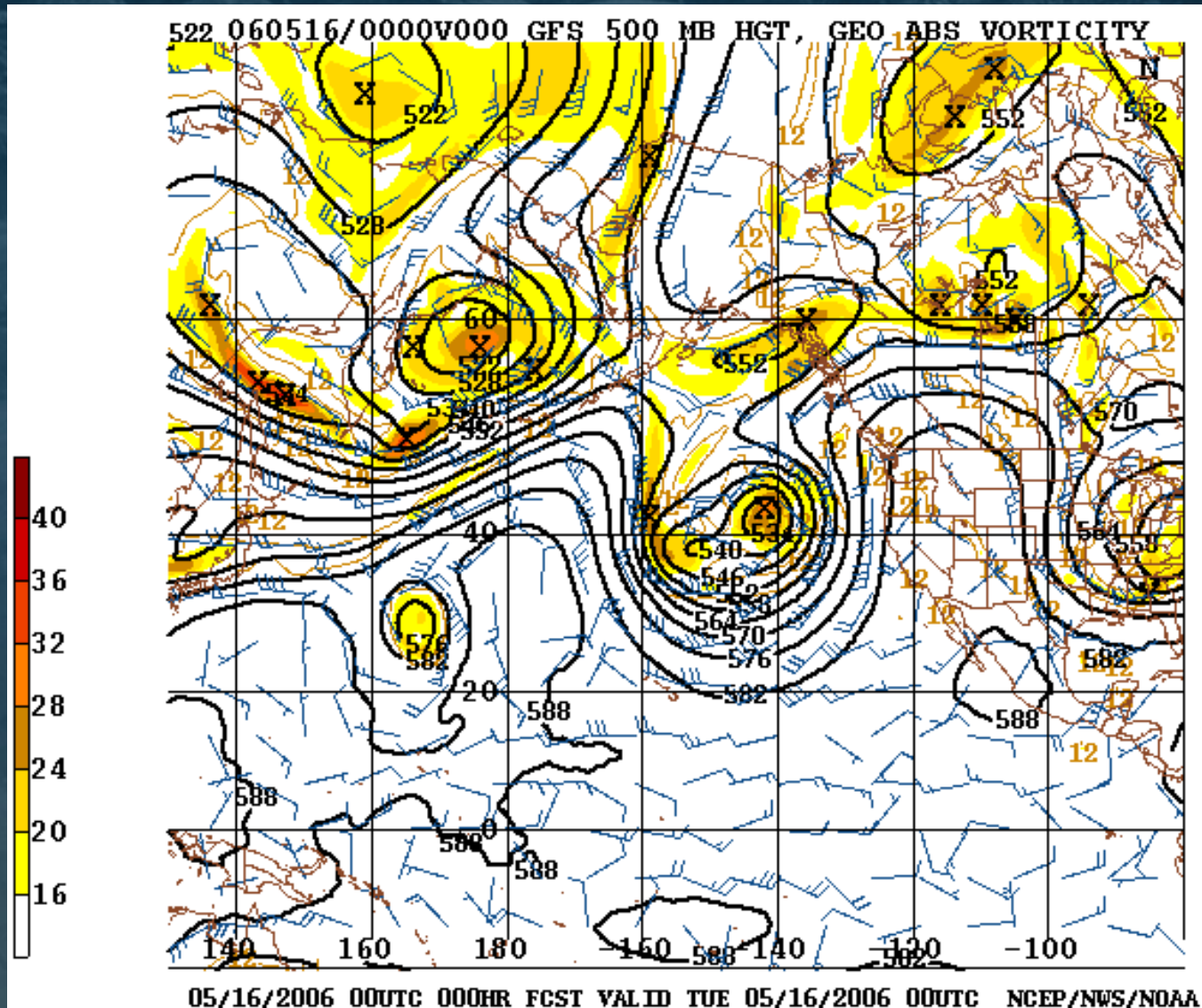
It's slowing down with summer's approach



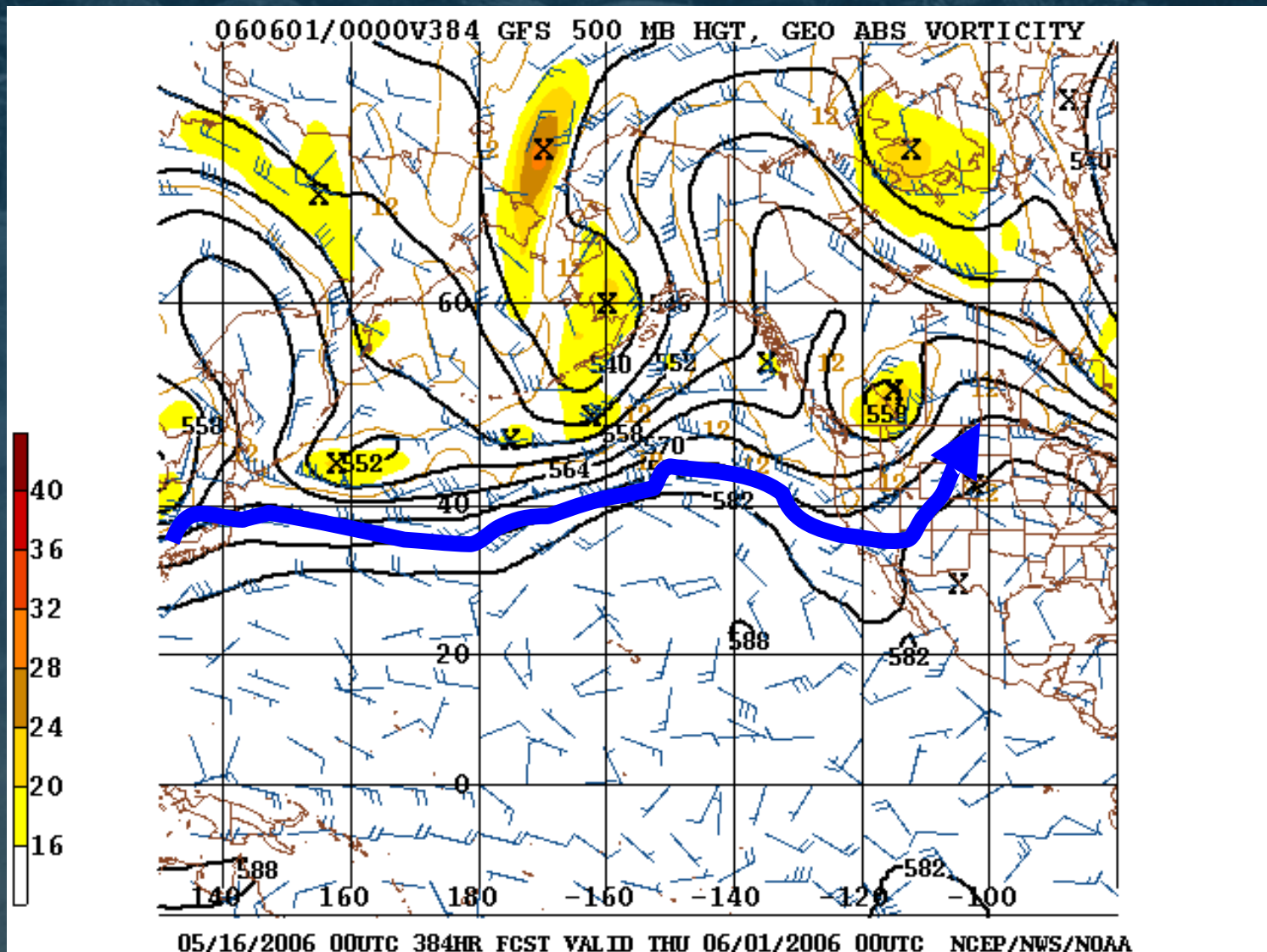
NH Storm track is still active but



May 15, 2006 Pacific storm track



Forecast storm track June 1, 2006



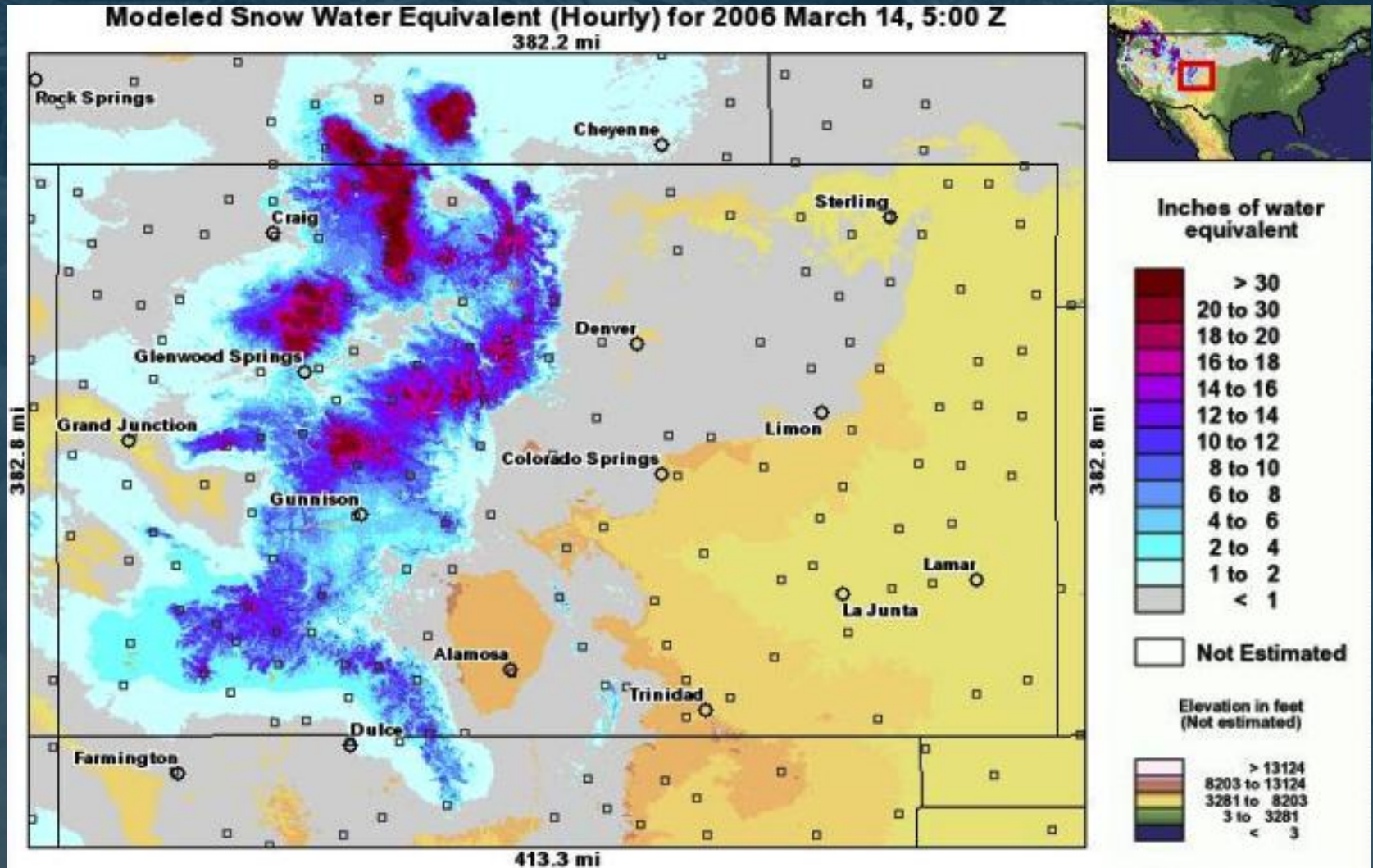
“Changes in storm track”

- **Annual summer slow down coming.**
summer regime of thunderstorms and monsoon looms ahead in the next 3-5 weeks.
- **Does it offer a “last hurrah”?**
Looks like Memorial Day weekend could get wet east of Cont. Divide and storm track might send series of weak weather systems into Western US 1-15 June
- **“Monsooner or mon-later”**
Looks like monsoon should arrive in Colorado July 2-10 with increased t-storm activity.

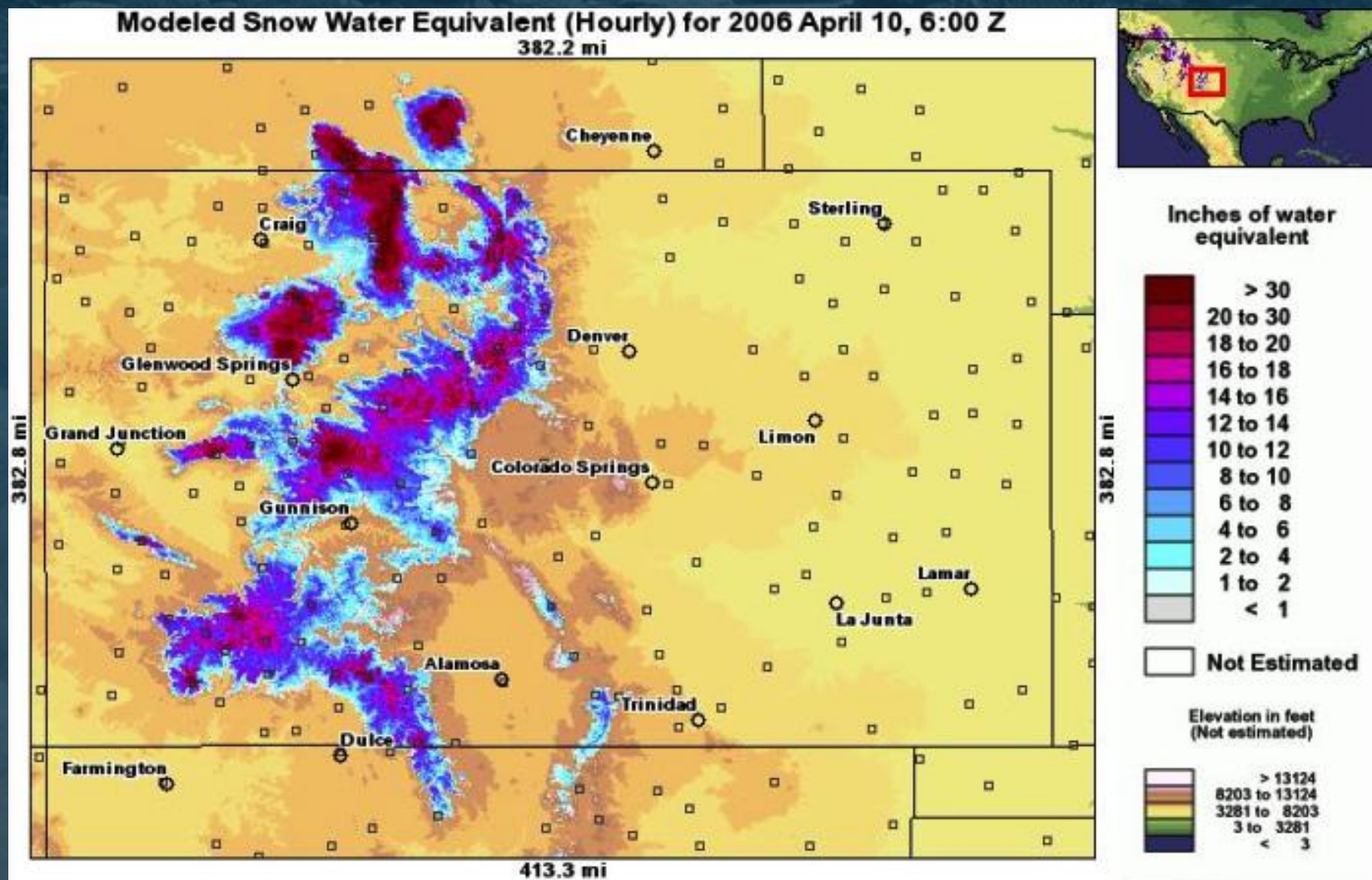
Any “Chunks” on the horizon? NO!

- **“Slow sloppy slider”**: A slow developing Colorado storm system with useful precipitation and moist east winds!
- Looks like a stormy, cool and unstable period for the next 3 weeks.
- 2-3 chances for a “SSS” or two from April 24 to May 8.
- Delays the May heat wave until May 8-18!

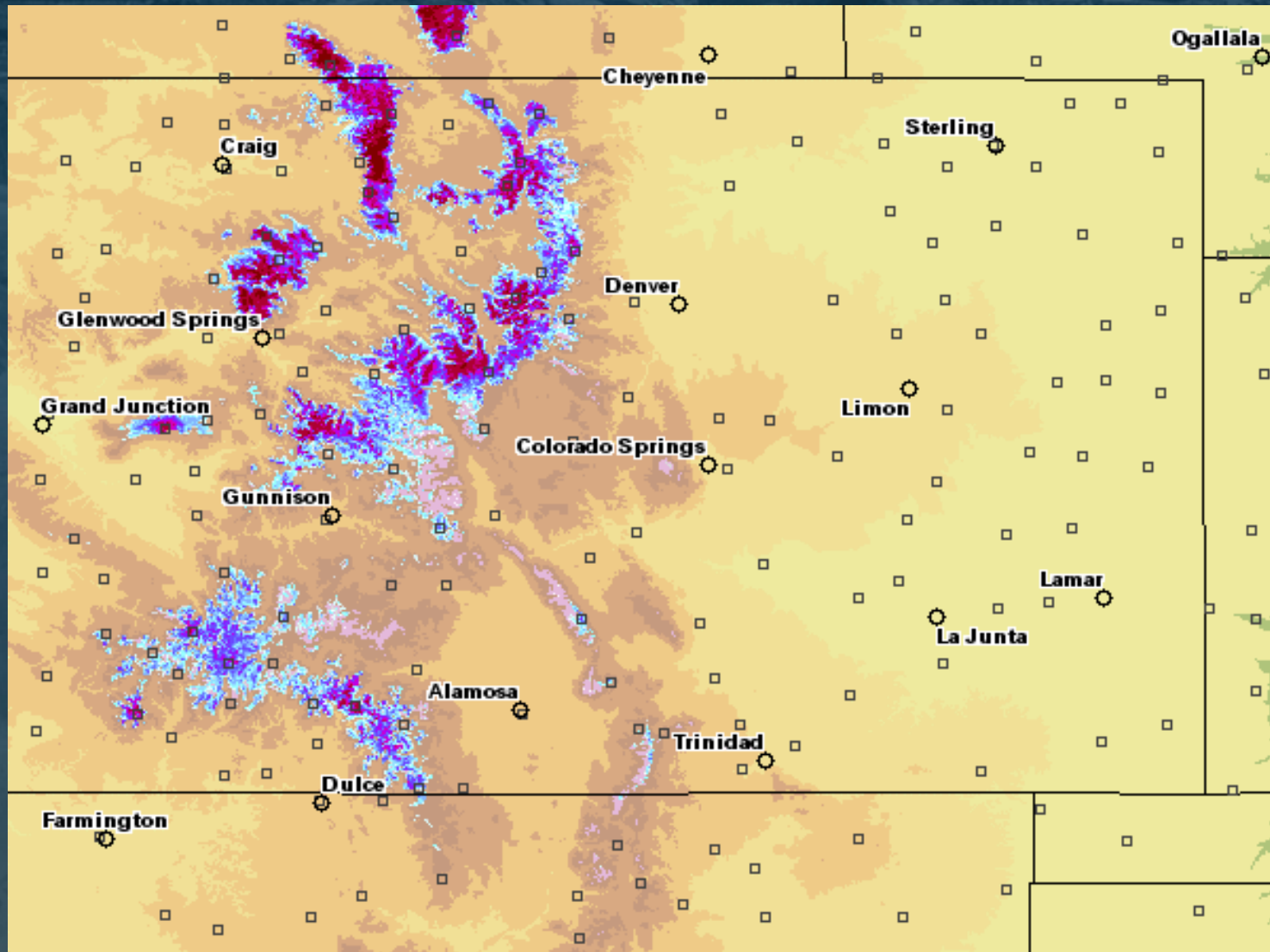
March 15, 2006 SWE



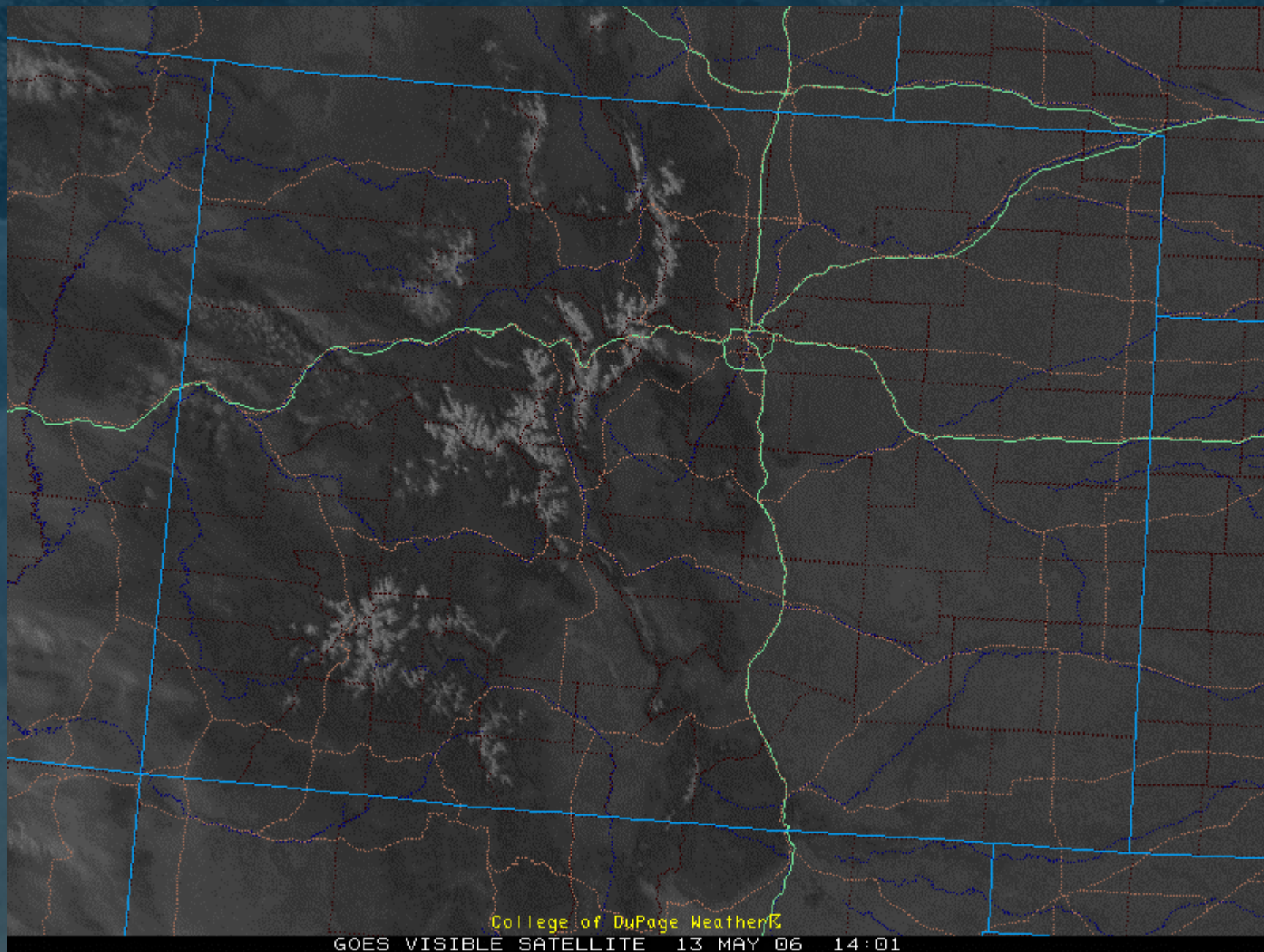
April 10, 2006 SWE



May 14, 2006 SWE .. The run is on!



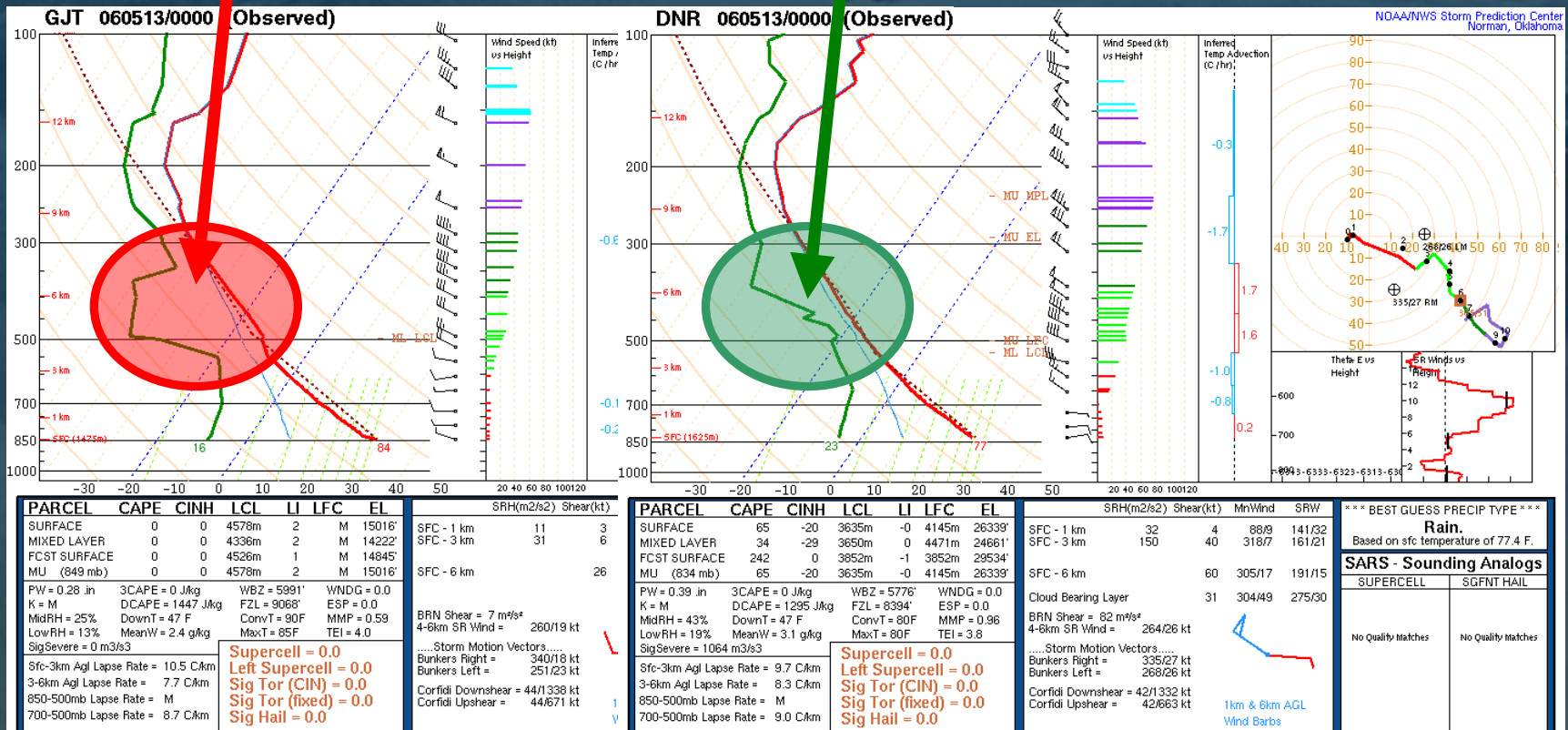
May 14, 2006 SWE .. The run is on!



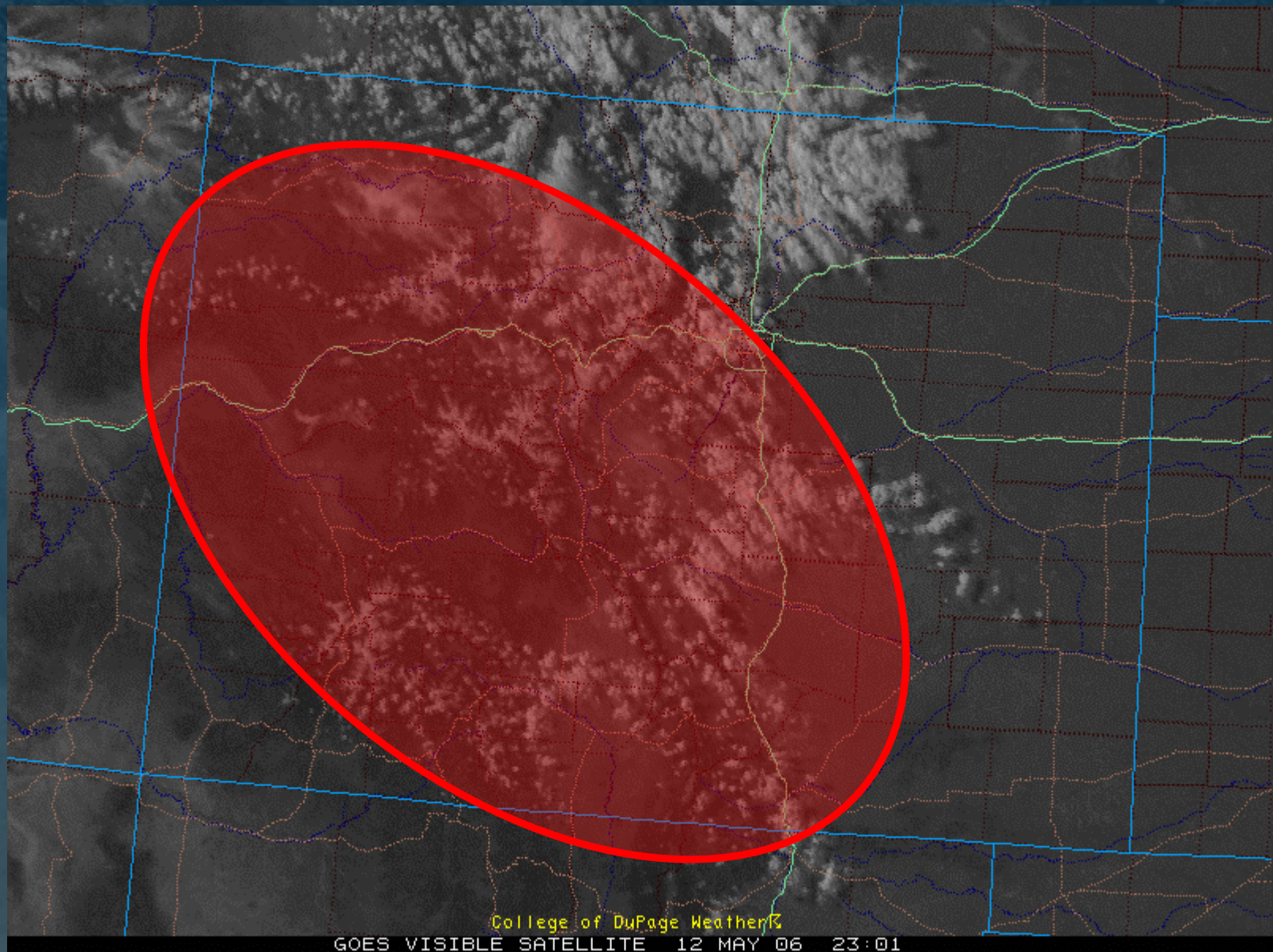
Evaporation of snow pack may cause a 8-15 % reduction in the runoff by end of this week.

Dry at Grand Junction

Wetter in Denver



May 14, 2006 SWE .. The run is on!



Mid-May “heat wave” is here and should last to May 24-27



- Tributaries in the Blue, Yampa-White and Eagle River basins could spell trouble by end of week if not sooner.
- Major rivers should peak next week.
- Cold water, peaks and Memorial Day weekend = public safety concerns.



Be ready for water temp 40-50F, air in 80's!

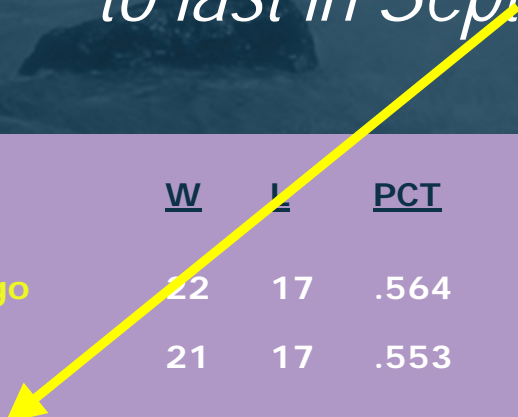
What does it all mean?

Imapct Task Forces	West of Divide	East of Divide
Water Supply	Looks quite good from snowmelt.	Need help from a late May –early June storm
Municipal Water	Looks very good	Anticipate average summer
Wildfire	Current heat wave, Memorial Day weekend and storms = <i>trouble</i>	Dry conditions will keep danger high into June
Agriculture	Summer looks average to dry in NW, moist in central and SW	Need late spring storm then only “hit &miss” thunderstorms
Tourism	Looks like a “Chamber of Commerce” summer	Storminess in June and July could impact
Energy	Above average demands due to temps	Average due to short “heat waves”

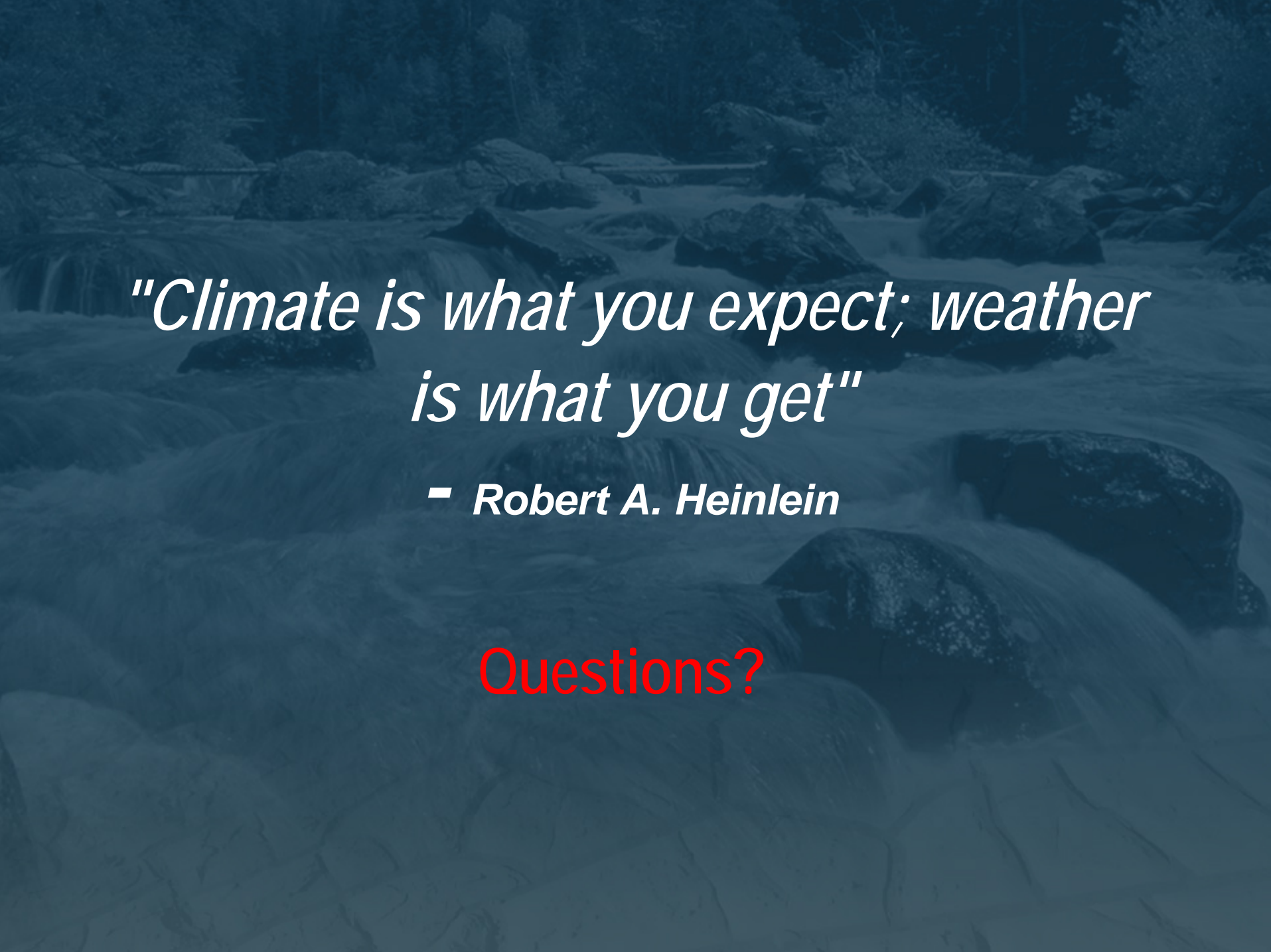
To summarize our June-July Outlook

- Pattern will continue dry into Memorial Day weekend = Temp 3-7F abv avg, little precip.
- Brief window of late spring storminess possible May 28 into June 12. Hope for a wet period of 3-5 days, especially east.
- Current heat wave west of Divide set stage for troublesome fire threat for Memorial Day weekend.
- Monsoon should start in early July and help moderate temperatures and bring lower demand for water to large Front Range utilities.

Unknown unknowns:
*"The Rockies will go from first in April
to last in September."* *Self-styled baseball realist*



WEST	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>G</u> <u>B</u>	<u>HO</u> <u>ME</u>	<u>ROAD</u>	<u>RS</u>	<u>RA</u>	<u>STRK</u>	L10
San Diego	22	17	.564	-						
Arizona	21	17	.553	.5						
Colorado	21	18	.538	1						
Los Angeles	20	19	.513	2						
San Francisco	19	20	.487	3						



*"Climate is what you expect; weather
is what you get"*

— *Robert A. Heinlein*

Questions?