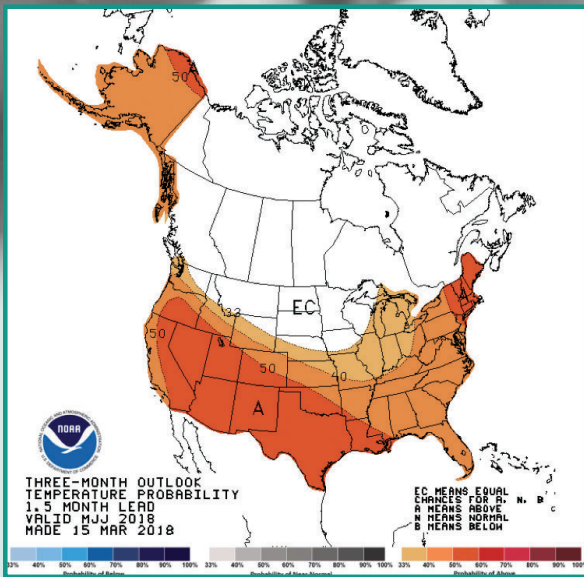




THE ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR

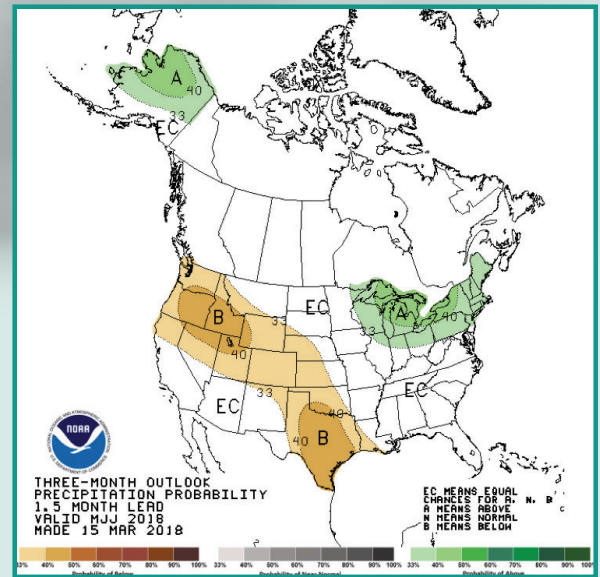
Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management

April Snow Showers Bring May Flowers?



Through April 12, departure from average monthly temperatures for reporting stations

Bismarck	-16.0°F
Dickinson	-14.8°F
Fargo	-19.9°F
Grand Forks	-17.6°F
Hettinger	-14.4°F
Jamestown	-17.9°F
Minot	-18.7°F
Williston	-18.5°F



By Mark D. Schneider

"Spring fever" has reached a high point among North Dakotans recently. Did we have exceptionally cold, snowy weather in March and April to cause this? Looking at National Weather Service (NWS) reporting stations across our state, temperatures in March weren't unusually cold, with most reporting stations coming in only two to five degrees below normal. April, on the other hand, was making a strong case for itself when this article was written. (see table above)

North Dakotans were correct in their observations that recent weather has been considerably colder than normal. In fact, fishermen would've been the first to tell you that most small lakes still had a few feet of ice remaining through mid-April.

When looking at snowfall from July 1 of last year until April 12, reporting stations range from a few inches above normal to a few inches below normal season-to-date. If we begin on March 1, though, and compare reporting stations to their average on April 12, we see above normal snowfalls. Bismarck was 13.8" above normal, Fargo was 12.2", and Grand Forks was 8.3" above normal for this abbreviated period.

Long-range forecasts for May, June, and July (see maps) are showing equal chances of normal temperatures and precipitation for North Dakota returning. Hopefully when you're reading this article in May, North Dakota is greening up and the flowers are blooming.