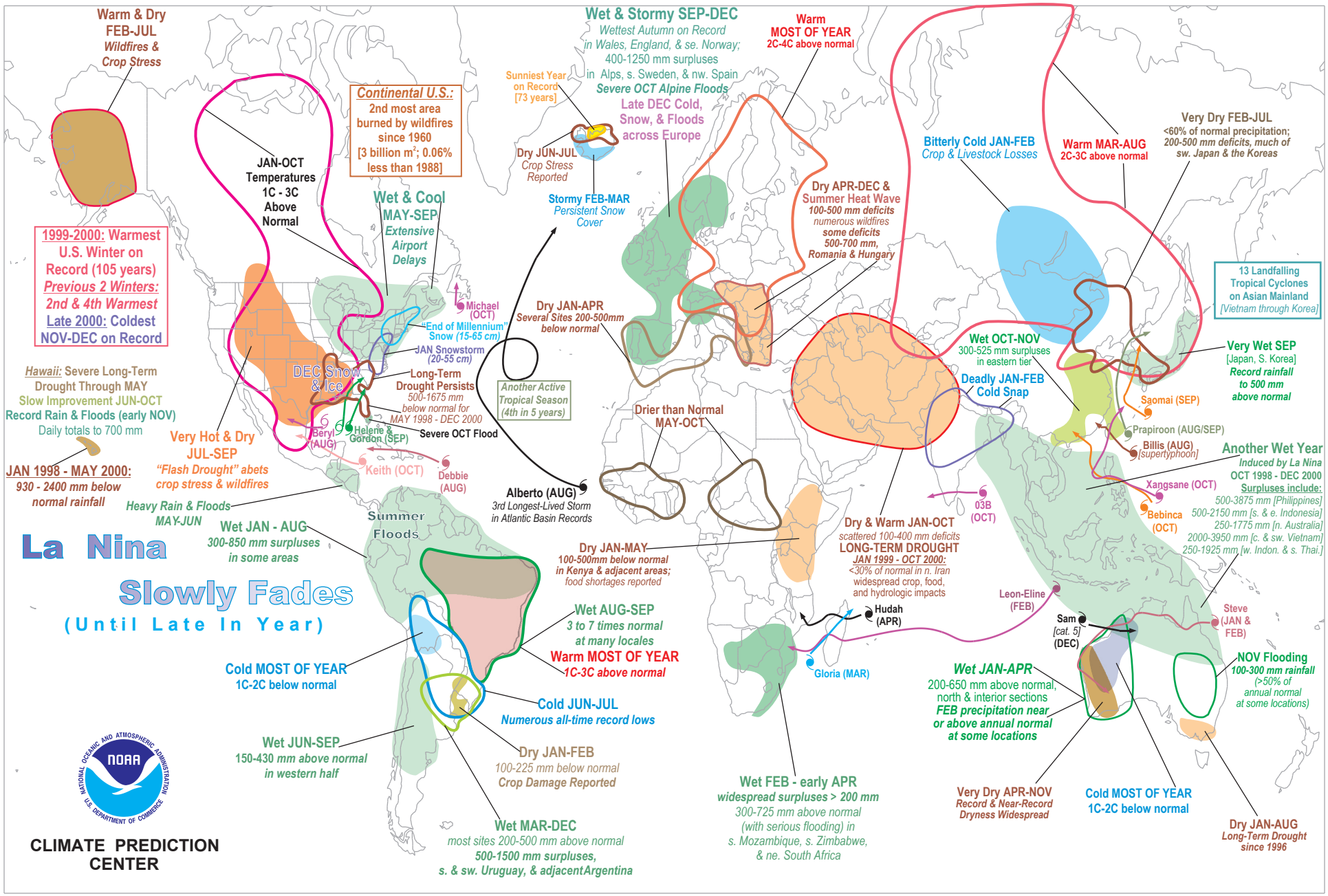SIGNIFICANT CLIMATIC ANOMALIES AND EPISODIC EVENTS DURING 2000