This zip folder contains 8 template netcdf files to be used in the Sub-Seasonal Climate Forecast Rodeo. These files must be used when making submissions.

For information on netcdf see: http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/

For tools and resources for working with netcdf see: https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/gridded/tools.html

Four files are for use in the year-long competition and four are to be used for the hind-cast. Each is named with the outlook period and variable for which it is to be used.

Files to be used in the hind cast are named as such and contain all issuance dates for the hind-cast. As such, the entire hind-cast for each combination (variable-outlook) will be submitted in a single file (4 total, hence 4 templates). The day and month of these issuance dates are the same as those from the year-long competition, with the exception of hind-cast years including a leap year. In those instances, issuance dates will shift by 1 day for dates after February, so as to maintain the two week spacing of forecasts. The first issuance date for each year in the hind-cast always resets to April 18. Hind-casts should be submitted to the hind-cast directory.

Files with names not containing “hindcast” are to be used in the year-long competition and should be re-used for each submission. When making a submission, the “template” portion of each file name should be replaced with the issuance date of the forecast being submitted, in the format: YYYYMMDD (year, month, day). The appropriate submission directory will be identified by issuance date, using the same YYYYMMDD format.

Last, when computing spatial anomaly correlations (i.e. skill scores), forecasts (submitted using the above described templates) will be masked to the 17 U.S. states west of the Mississippi River where the Bureau of Reclamation operates. This is shown by the png and “fcstrodeo\_mask” netcdf files included in this zip folder.