



Drought Information Statement for The Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles

Valid July 26, 2026

Issued By: WFO Amarillo

Contact Information: sr-ama.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated on or before August 31st 2026.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/AMA/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit [https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/\[link\]](https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/[link]) for regional drought status updates.
-
- Rainfall remains minimal with lots of dry vegetation hanging around, mainly in the central to western Texas Panhandle.





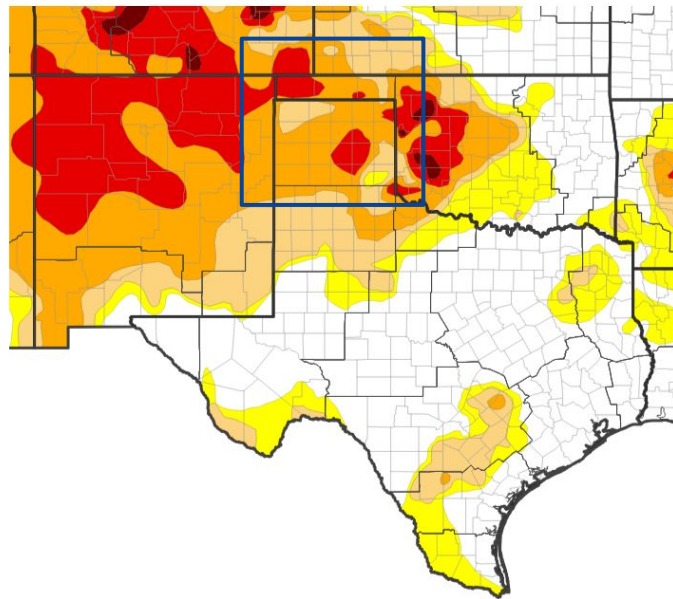
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for [The Southern Plains]

- Drought intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** An area to include Cimarron County into western Texas County. A small area in far southeast Texas and Southwest Beaver Counties. A large area that includes Carson into eastern Gray, southwest Roberts, southeast Hutchinson, northwest Donley, and northeast Armstrong. This area also includes the southeast corner of Potter County.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Northwest portions of Deaf Smith and Potter County. Moore and Oldham County. Southeast Hartley County.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Dallam, northern Hartley, and Sherman County. Parts of Wheeler, Donley, and Collingsworth Counties. Parts of Beaver County.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Donley and Collingsworth

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/21/26



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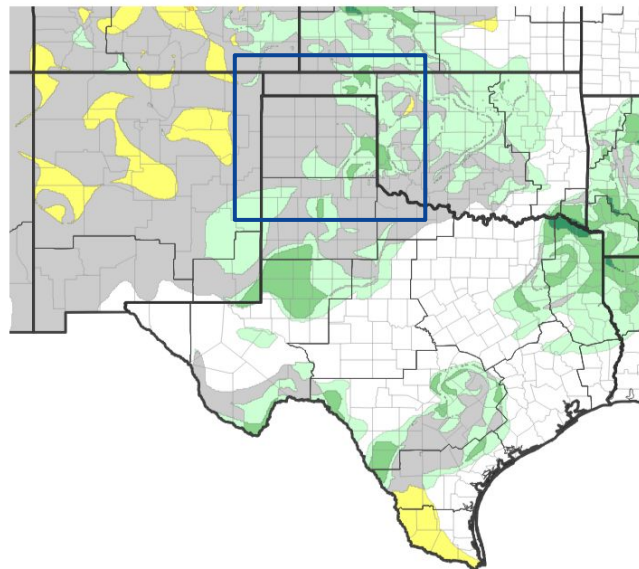


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for [The Southern Plains]

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Only areas in the eastern combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles saw improvements by 1 to 2 drought categories.

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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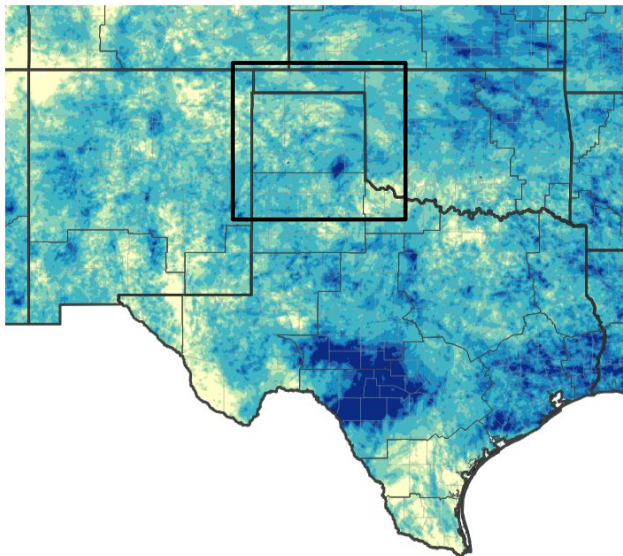
National Weather Service
Amarillo, Texas



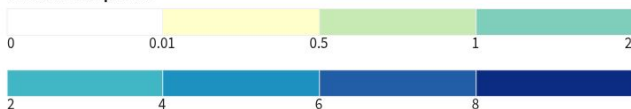
Precipitation

- Very little rain has been received across the central to western Panhandles June into July. Much of the combined Panhandles remain around 25 to 50 percent of normal for rainfall over the last 30 days.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



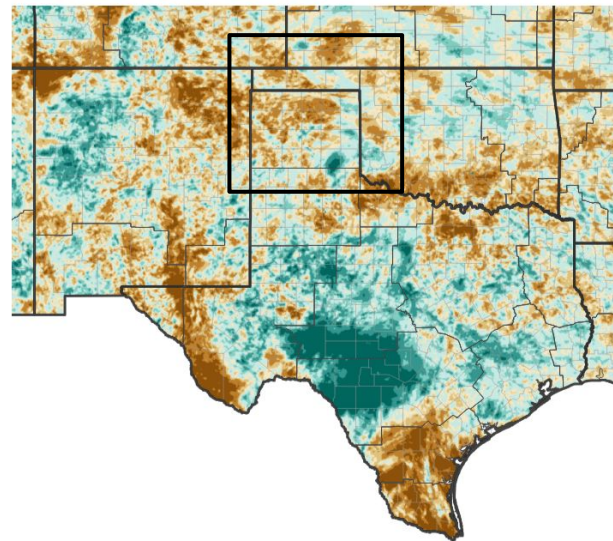
Inches of Precipitation



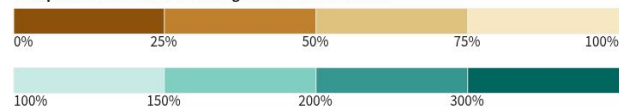
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;

Last Updated: 07/26/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/26/26



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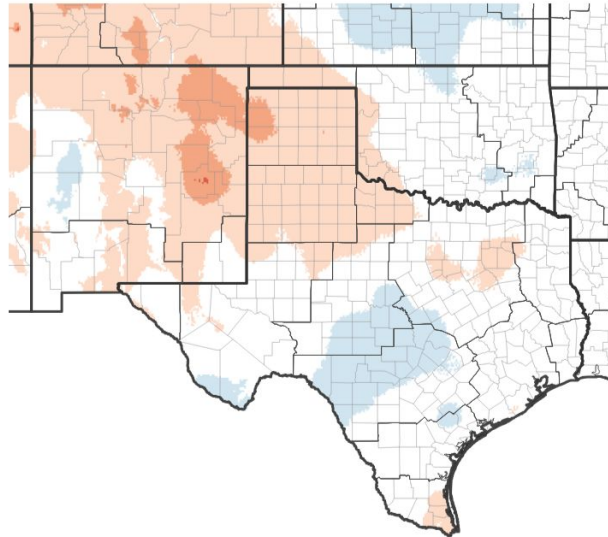
National Weather Service
Amarillo, Texas



Temperature

- Valid July 22nd. Over the last 30 days, temperatures continue to average 1 to 3 degrees above normal across the combined Panhandles.
- Valid July 22nd. Over the last 7 days, temperatures have been around average.
- The next 7 Day average will be well above normal.

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



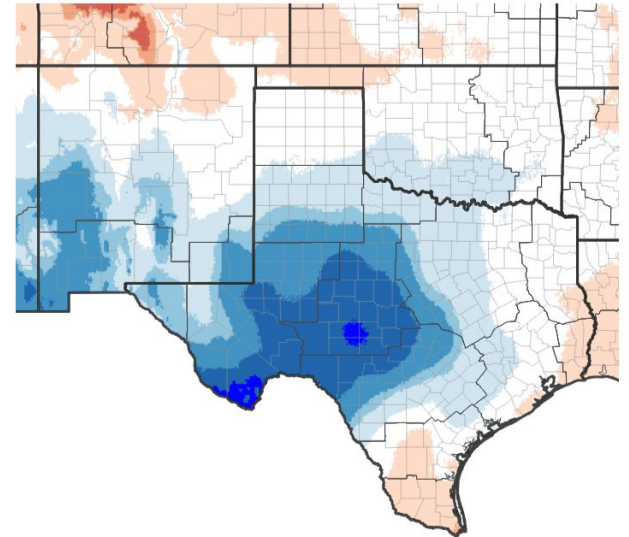
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



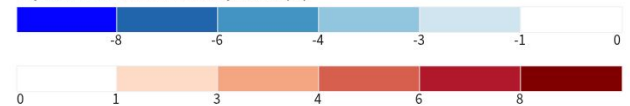
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/22/26

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/22/26





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Agricultural Impacts

- Non-irrigated crops are unable to grow at this time.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Lack of rain is leaving areas across the combined Panhandles with dead and dormant grasses still susceptible to fire starts.
- Several fires were started around the 4th of July due to various activities.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.
- Avoid activities involving sparks and flames are dead vegetation.
- Clear brush from homes and property to mitigate threats of wildfires.

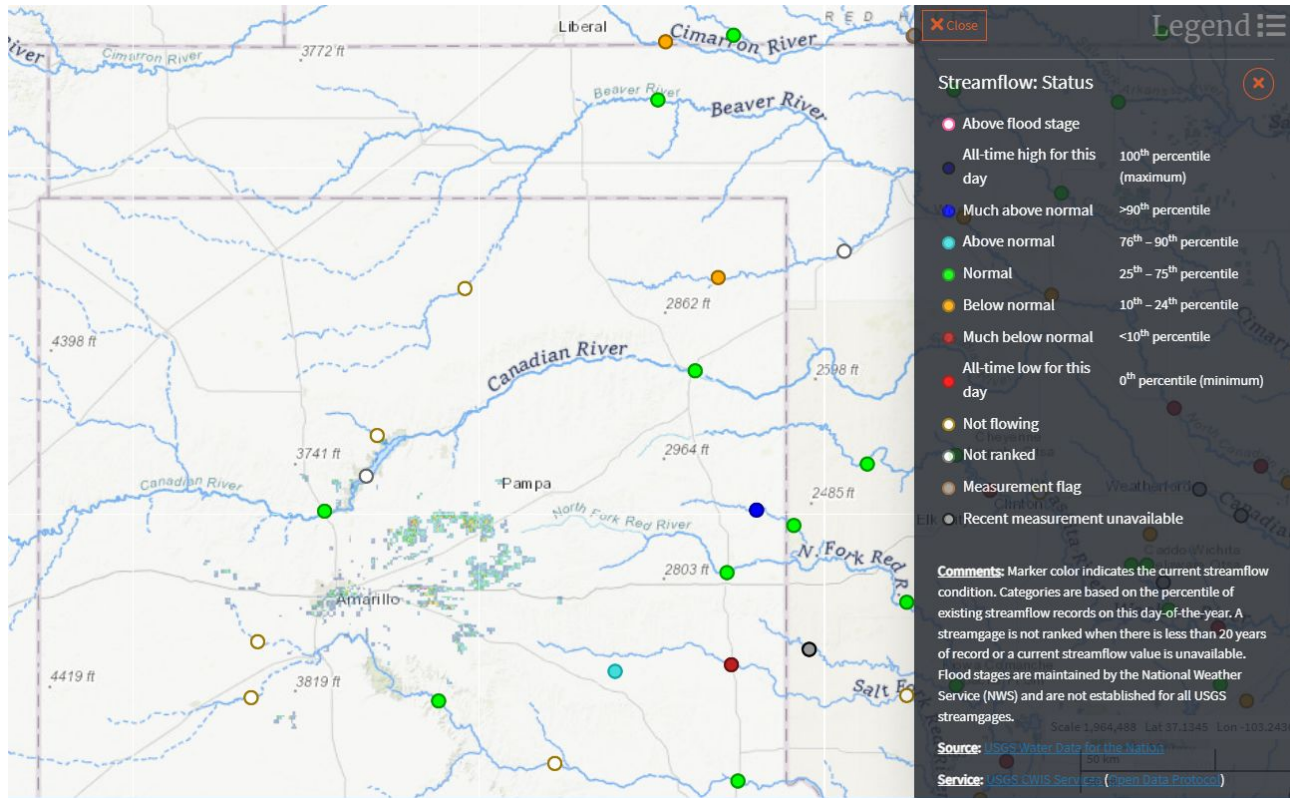




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Rivers and streams in the eastern combined Panhandles have seen some improvement in stream flow. With gauges near Lipscomb and Wellington remaining below normal.

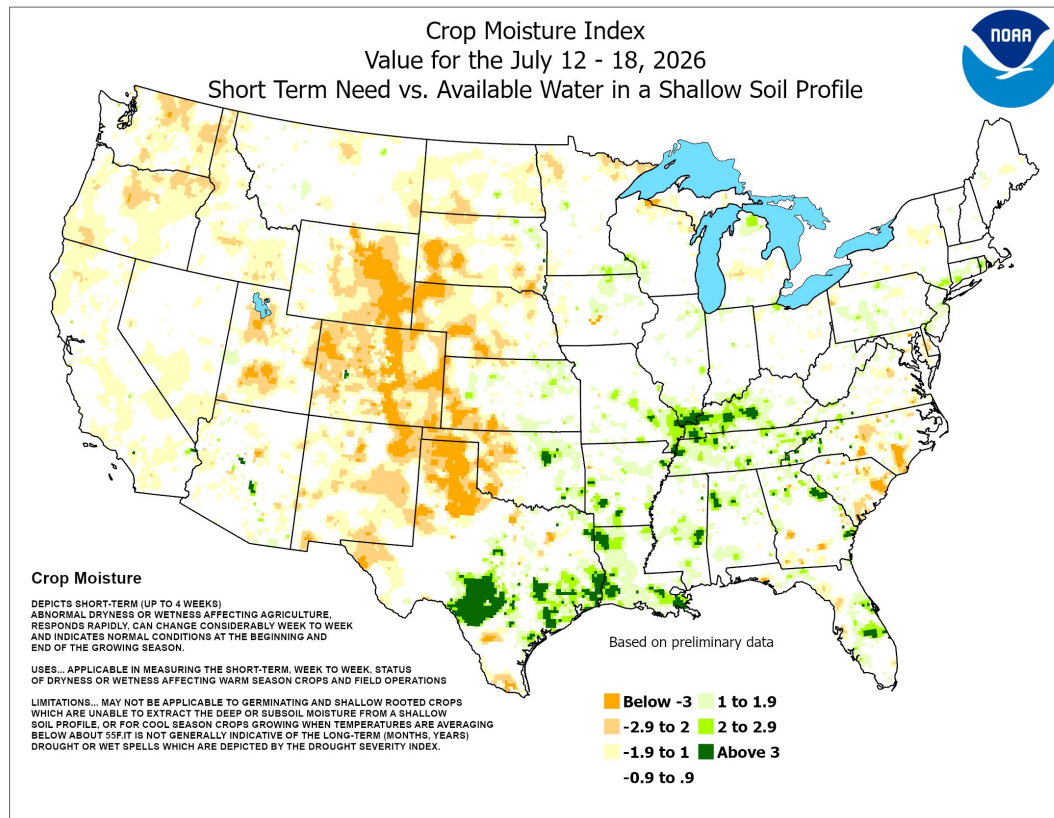
<https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/en/?aoi=default>





Agricultural Impacts

- Crop moisture remains has worsened.
 - A large swath of the combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles are seeing Severe Drought (-3.0 to -3.9).
 - Elsewhere in the Panhandles are seeing Excessive Dryness (-2.0 to -2.9) with crop growth halted outside of irrigation.
 - A small area around Lipscomb County into Beaver County are Slightly Dry to Favorably Moist (-0.9 to +0.9).





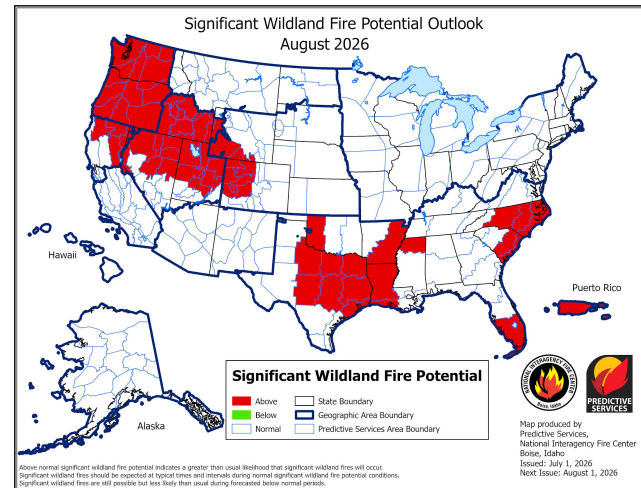
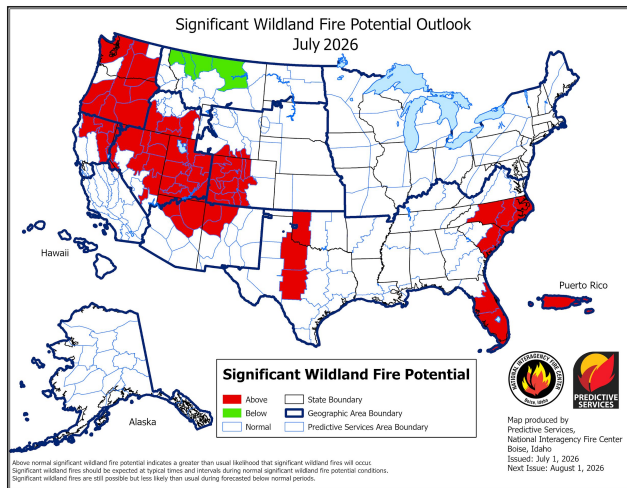
Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Patchy areas of dry vegetation remains due to drought conditions
- Very few counties have lifted burn bans this summer.

Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here](#).

Latest OK Burn Ban map available [here](#).



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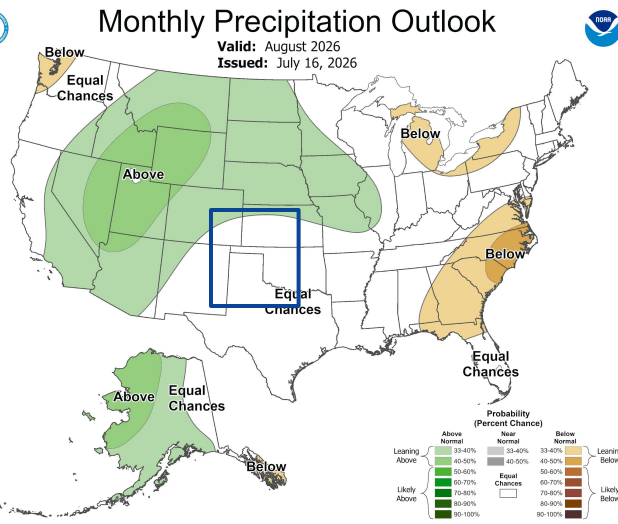
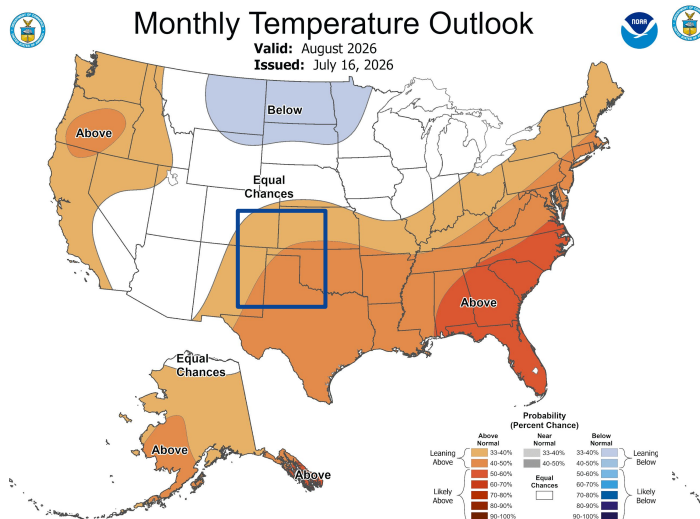
National Weather Service
Amarillo, Texas



Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles have equal chances to see above, below, or near normal precipitation during the month of August.
- The combined Panhandles are favoring above normal temperatures for the month of June. (30-40% chance for temperatures to average above normal for the entire month of August)



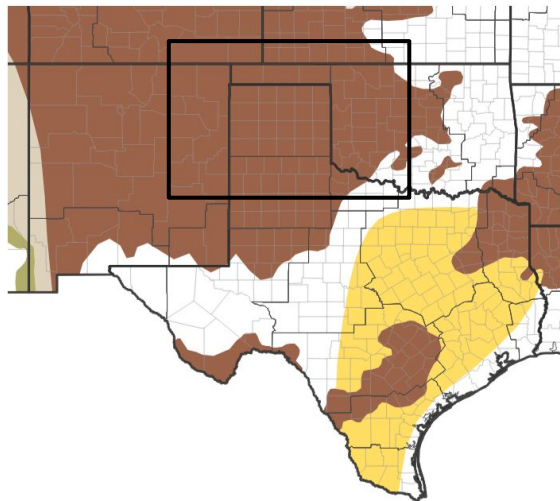


Drought Outlook

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- Drought conditions expected to persist across the combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles well into October.

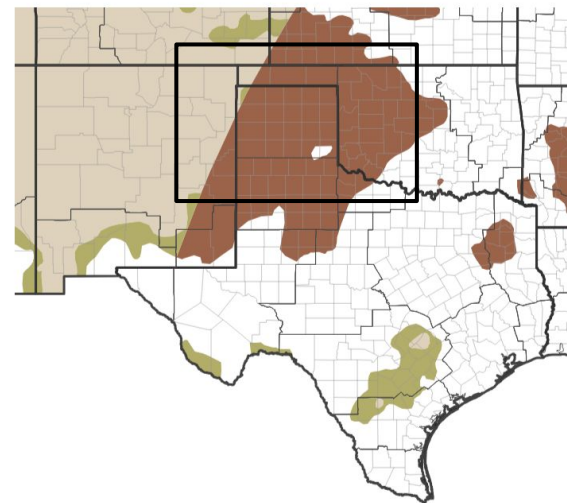
1-Month Drought Outlook for July 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for July 16, 2026–October 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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