October-December 2025 Outlook: Perspective for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas Region

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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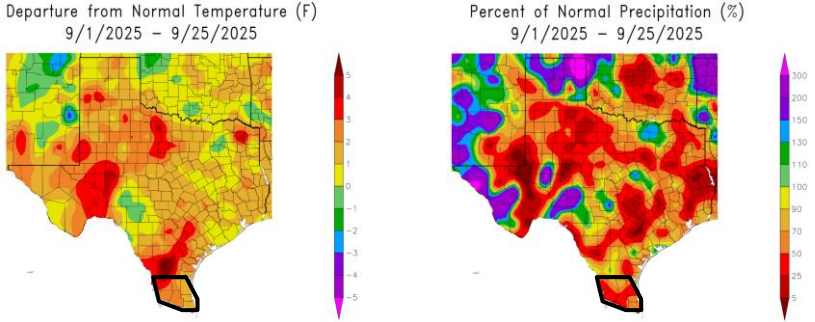
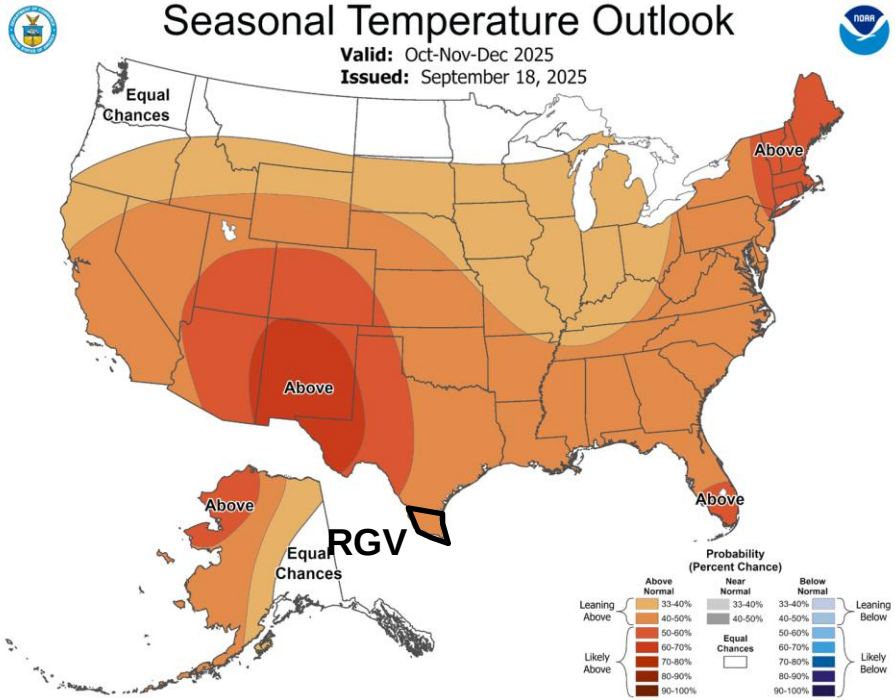
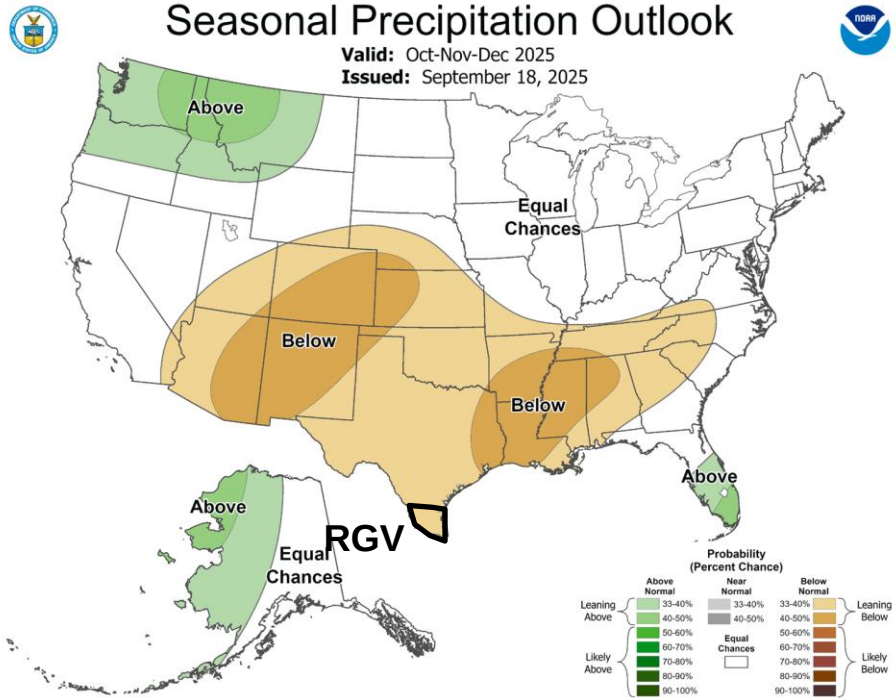
Dry and warmer than normal conditions are expected to develop and persist through Autumn 2025; drought, wildfire potential, water supply, marine/coastal hazards, and cool/cold fronts are now in focus



Seasonal Forecast, October-December 2025 USA





September 2025: The month of amongst the hottest on record with hit or miss showers and thunderstorms

Maximum 24-Day Mean Avg Temperature for BROWNSVILLE S PADRE ISLAND INTL AP, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	88.9	2023-09-24	0
2	86.2	2016-09-24	0
3	85.7	2025-09-24	0
4	85.4	2018-09-24	0
5	85.1	1970-09-24	0
6	85.0	1980-09-24	0
7	85.0	1900-09-24	0
8	85.0	2019-09-24	0
9	84.9	2000-09-24	0
-	84.9	1920-09-24	0

Period of record: 1898-12-01 to 2025-09-24

Maximum 24-Day Mean Avg Temperature for MCALLEN MILLER INTL AP, TX

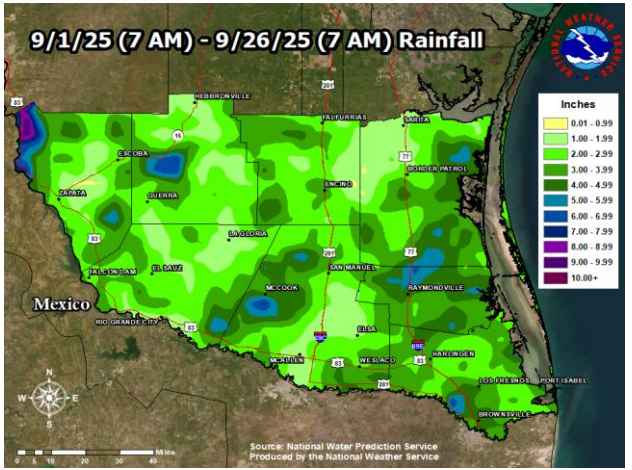
Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	90.0	2016-09-24	0
2	89.7	2023-09-24	0
3	88.2	2025-09-24	0
4	87.5	2018-09-24	0
5	87.5	2011-09-24	0
6	86.9	2019-09-24	0
7	86.8	2017-09-24	0
8	86.4	1980-09-24	0
9	86.4	2015-09-24	0
10	86.2	1985-09-24	0

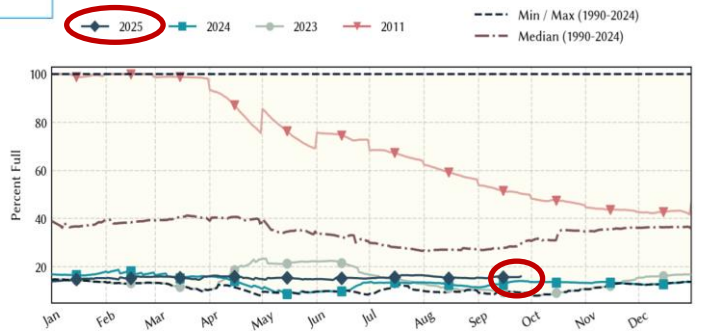
Period of record: 1961-01-14 to 2025-09-24

September 2025 will finish amongst the hottest on record. As of September 24, both Brownsville and McAllen **ranked third all-time for the hottest on record of the month**. Both sites will likely finish September in the **top 5**.

Rainfall was hit or miss across the region (see top right image) with the **most production generally over the coastal counties**.



Top Image: Rainfall footprint from September 1-26, 2025.



Bottom Image: Latest data from the **Rio Grande Reservoirs (Texas Share)** continue to indicate 2025 levels are at or below 30 year lows and near records. Month-over-month values have increased slightly. **Credit:** Texas Water Development Board

Key Takeaways: October-December 2025 Outlook

- A **warmer than normal** outlook is anticipated during the **October-December 2025** timeframe for the Rio Grande Valley/Deep South Texas region. **Confidence is medium-high (60-80%). Note:** October and November are the top two months where the temperatures fall the fastest from the beginning of the month to the end of the month. **Precipitation odds/trends will begin dropping across much of the region**. We have placed a lean towards a drier than normal pattern in the October-December 2025 timeframe. **Confidence is medium-high (50-70%).**

- The odds for **drought/dryness** expanding over Deep South Texas through December are increasing. With the potential for drought conditions to increase as we move forward through December, **wildfire concerns** will likely increase through December. **Note: Cool/cold fronts** are expected to become more and more pronounced and frequent late October through December. These cool/cold fronts will help to drive northerly flow and drier air into the region, thus increasing the potential for wildfires.

- Additionally, the **increase in cool fronts** will result in an **increase in coastal (tidal/surf) and marine (dangerous boating) situations** as we progress through the Autumn Season.

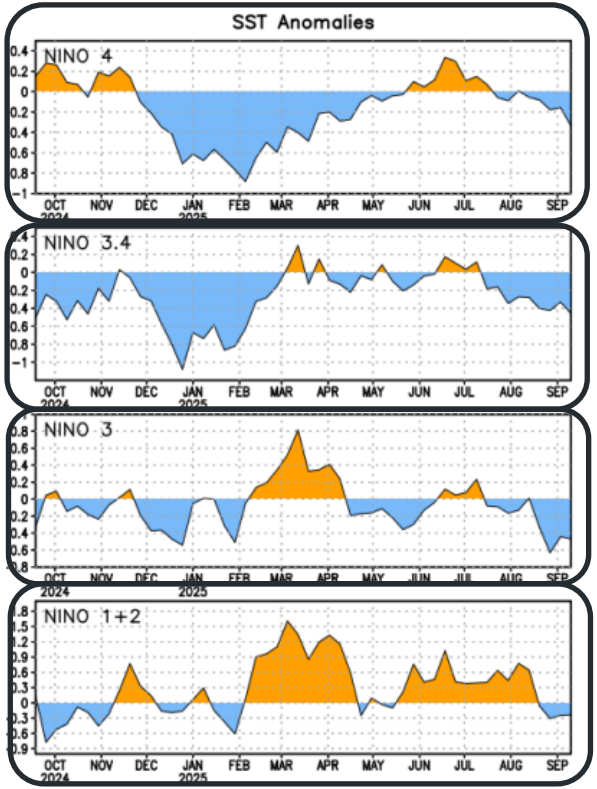
- Falcon Int'l Reservoir remained **near historic lows at the end of September**. **With widespread, meaningful rainfall being rather limited, confidence remains near-certain (~100%) on total storage remaining just above record lows through December.**

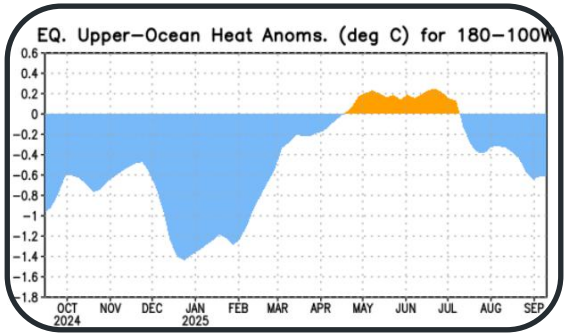
The "Why" of the Forecast: Developing La Nina, soil moisture, long-term trends, and other key climate teleconnections to play a role

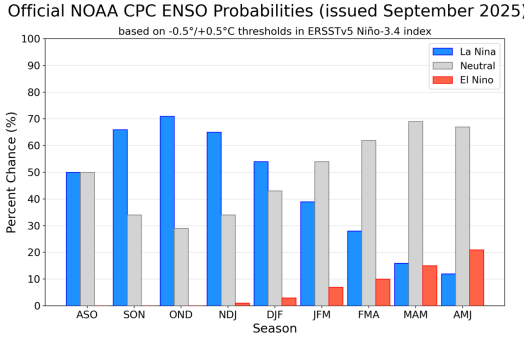
Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2022	-1.0	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.0	-0.9	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-0.9	-0.8
2023	-0.7	-0.4	-0.1	0.2	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0
2024	1.8	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5
2025	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2					

- With a transition to a La Nina expected to take place over the next 2-3 months, **warmer than normal temperatures** are favored to continue through December and potentially longer. **As for precipitation, odds favor for a drier than normal pattern** to take place across Deep South Texas/RGV.
- Other **teleconnections** such as the Arctic Oscillation, Pacific North American Oscillation, circumpolar vortex (PV) strength, as well as northern hemispheric snow cover trends could play a **vital role** in the frequency and intensity of **cool frontal boundaries** through this Autumn 2025 Season.
- As **drought conditions** expand, **wildfire season** could emerge as early as November and could potentially become **robust during the early parts of 2026.**

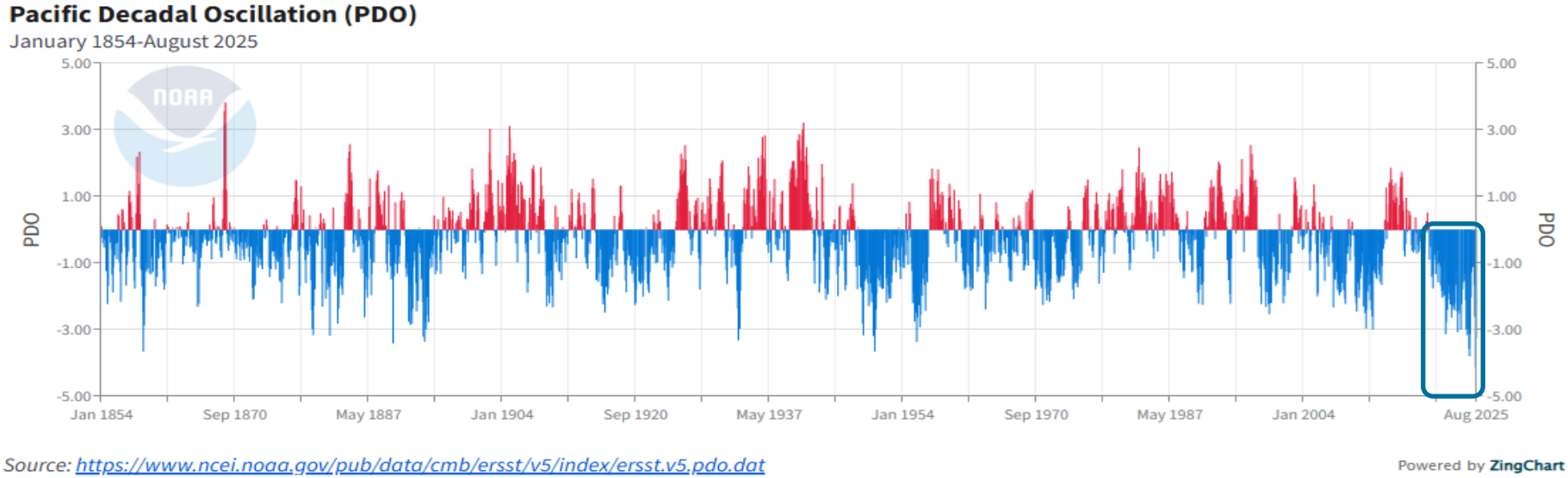
*Above right: Oceanic Niño Index. Values between -0.5 and 0.5 (gray) indicated ENSO Neutral conditions persisting since April-June 2024.





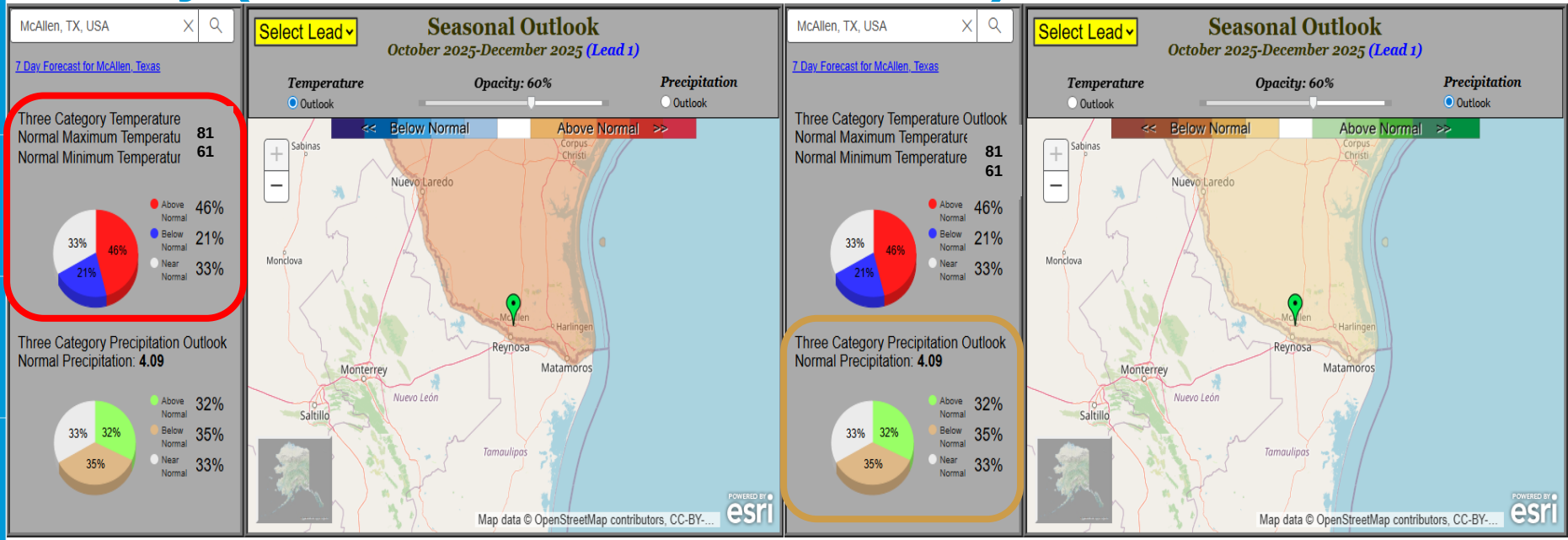


The “Why” of the Forecast: Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) remains in Sharp Negative Phase



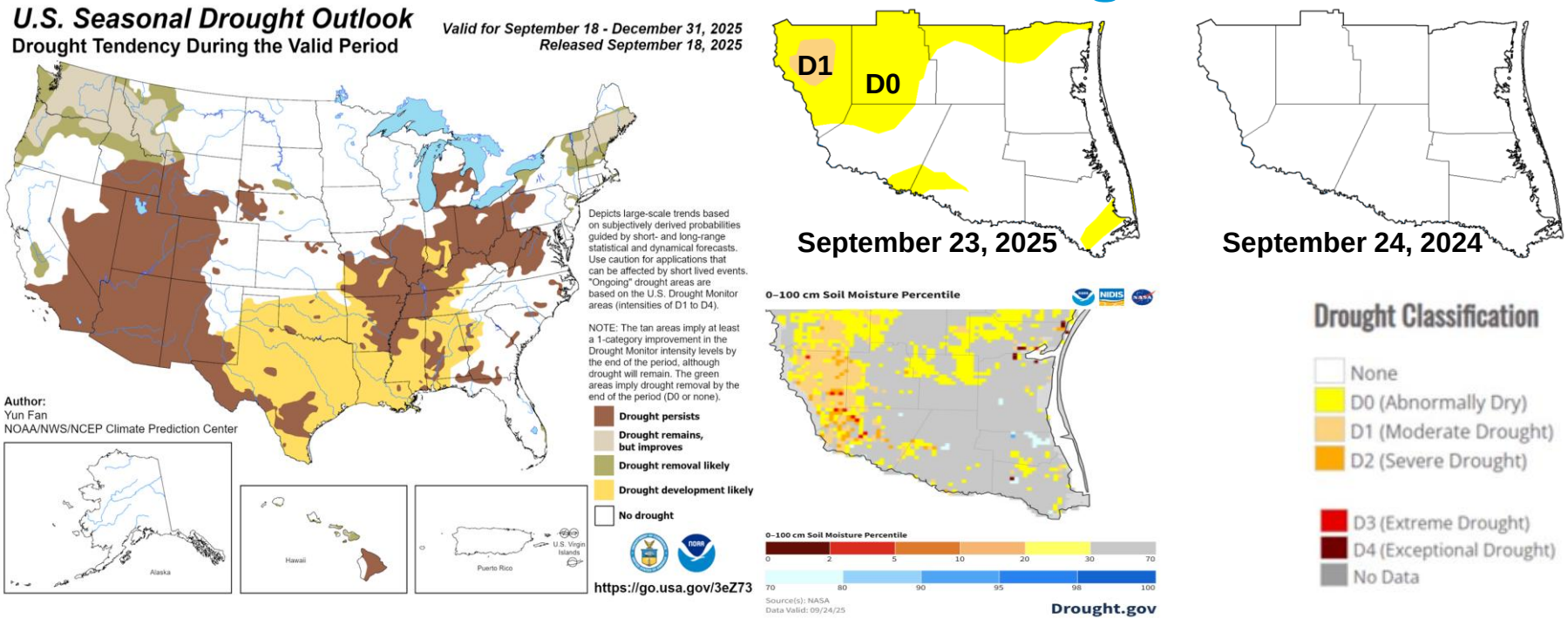
- The 2021-2025 **prolonged and strong negative PDO has persisted**, and should remain the case through the remainder of 2025. This **continues to support confidence** for a **warmer than normal pattern to persist through the end of 2025.**
- In addition to the sharply negative PDO in place, a developing La Nina is expected to result in a **drier than normal precipitation outcome.** **Confidence remains high** for a sharply negative PDO to continue.

The October-December 2025 Outlook: Rio Grande Valley (McAllen as Anchor Point)



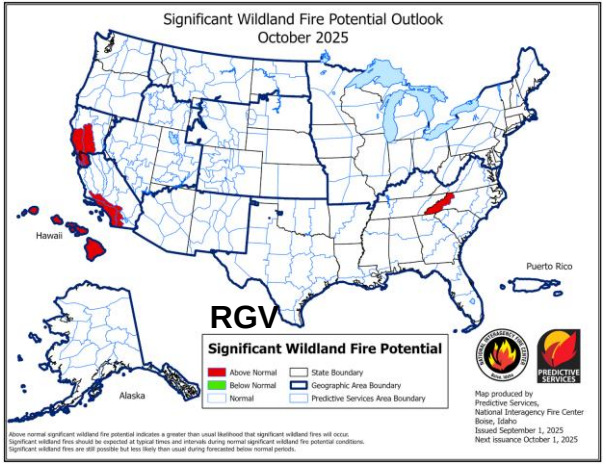
- **Temperature:** **Warmer than normal temperatures** are favored. **Confidence: Medium-High (60-80%).** RGV averages: Afternoon – Upper 80s to lower 90s in early October; lower 70s by the end of December. Wake-up: Lower 70s in early October, falling to the lower 50s by the end of December.
- **Precipitation:** Lean towards a **drier than normal outcome**. **Confidence: Medium-high (50-70%).** RGV averages: 4 to 7 inches (**most in October**).

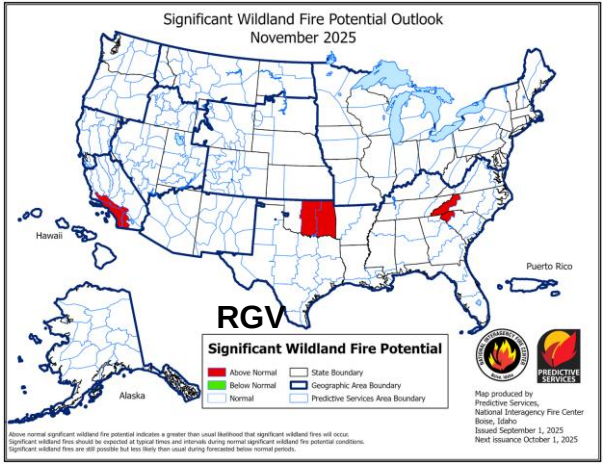
The October-December 2025 “Droughtlook”

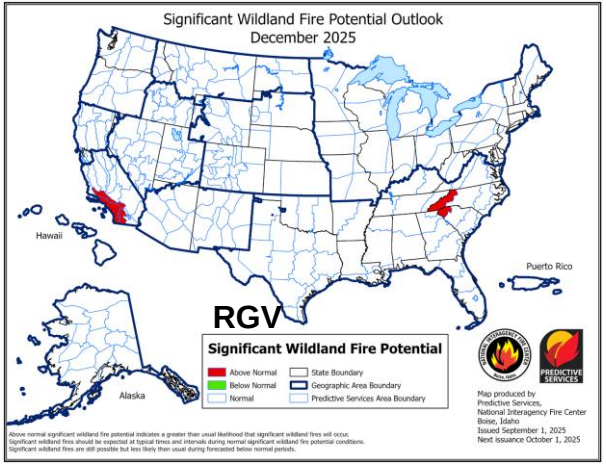


- **Year-over-Year (YoY) drought/dryness** comparison shows slight worsening of drought across the Brush Country compared to 2024.
- The seasonal drought outlook suggests **drought conditions worsening/expanding** over Deep South Texas through December.

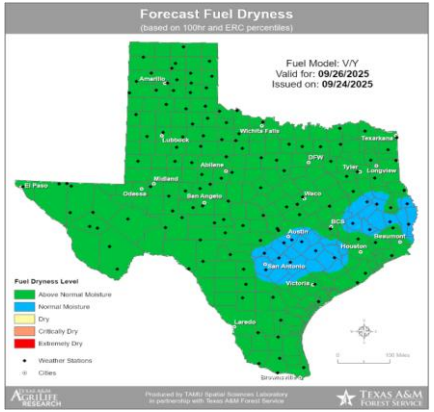
Wildfire Concerns Remains Limited Going Into October…If dryness persist, things could develop later this year or early 2026!







- There remains <u>general greenness</u> along/east of IH-69C/US 281, in large part thanks to the **March 26-28, 2025 drought busting rain storm** and **occasional rains April-September**. <u>Wildfire spread concerns will remain limited for the foreseeable future</u> before **potentially returning again by late autumn into early 2026!**
- The Zapata/Jim Hogg/Starr area had a "just-in-time" reprieve for wildfire potential by the end of September. **However, a drier and warmer than average October would set the stage for wildfire spread potential in November 2025-March 2026.**
- As we move through autumn, <u>trends should continue to favor higher humidity near the coast</u> with potentially drier conditions along and west of **IH-69C/US 281. Cooler and dry air intrusions** are <u>expected to increase</u> as we move through Autumn. **If dryness persists, some of the stronger cool/cold fronts <u>will raise the risk</u> for wildfires as early as November/December 2025.** This is <u>especially true for the Rio Grande Plains and Brush Country</u>.

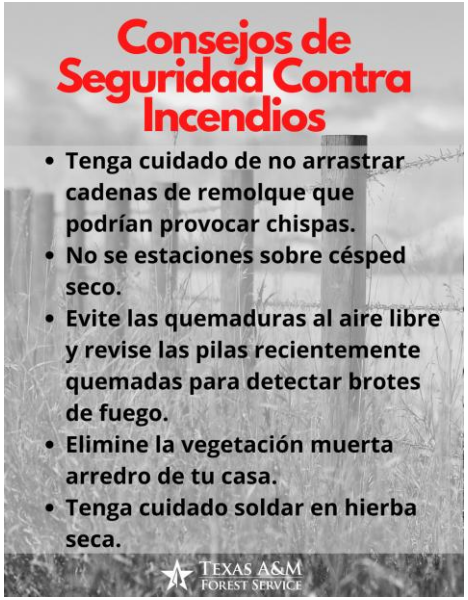


Fuel moisture remains above normal across Deep South Texas. The lack of widespread dry to critically dry fuels suggest the threat for large fires should remain limited.

Wildfire Prevention Review

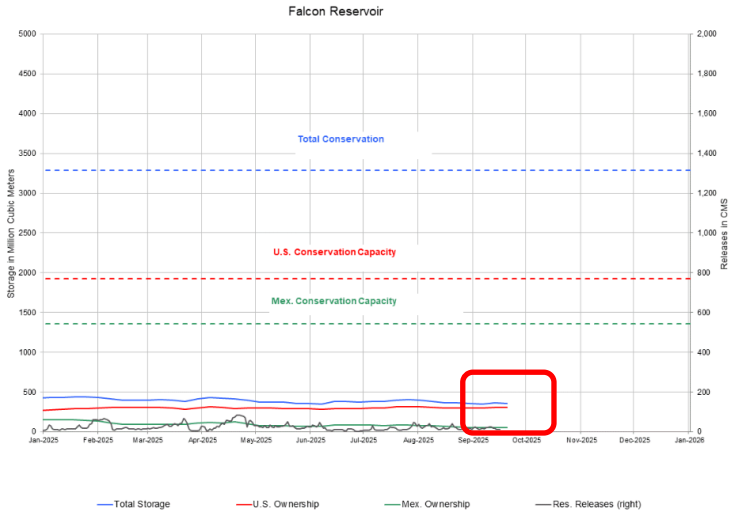
- Conditions remain stable for most locations at the end of September and are expected to remain so through October. However, if dryness persists, wildfire spread potential may increase late this year (i.e. as early as November) or in early 2026 in the Rio Grande Plains/Brush Country. Such a situation would worsen drought and cure recently-grown fine fuels such as rangeland and brush.
- Continue to practice fire weather safety and focus on **farm, ranch workers**, and **other persons who might drive hot vehicles** on parched brush on critical/near-critical days – especially on hot, breezy days during a dry spell.

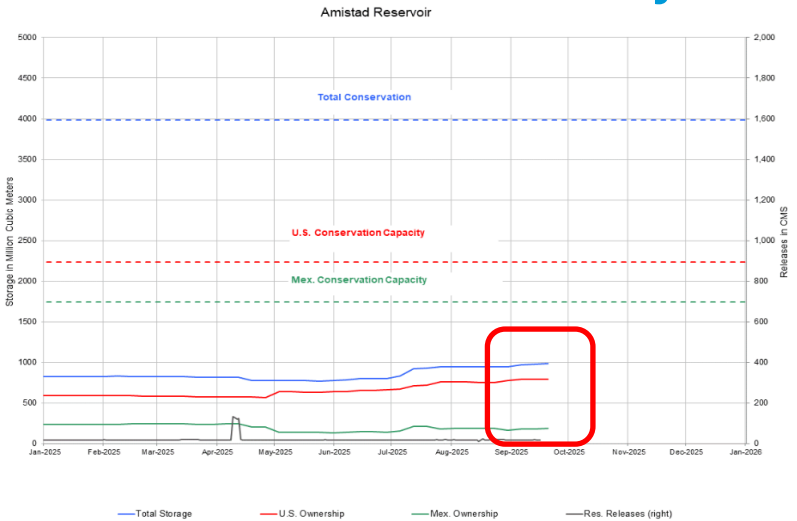
Infographics for Wildfire Prevention



- ~50 in all (20 in Spanish)!
- Thanks to **Texas A&M Forest Service** for Many of These!

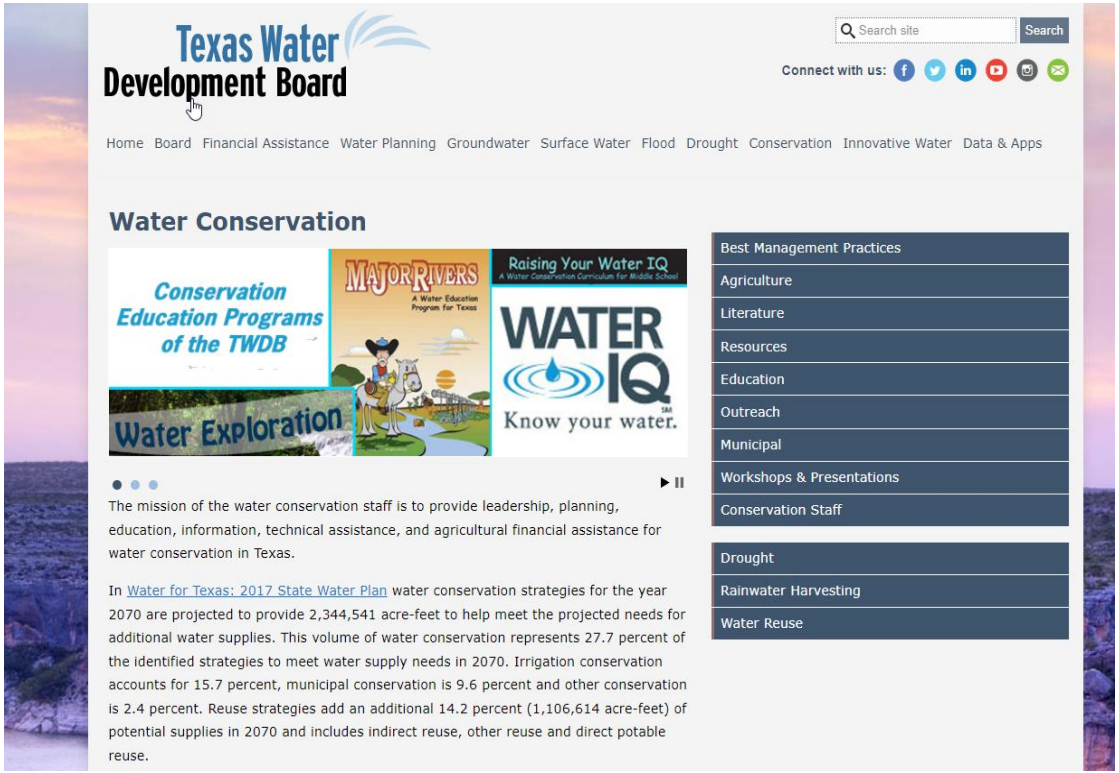
Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs have and will continue to remain just above record lows through the remainder of 2025 and into early 2026





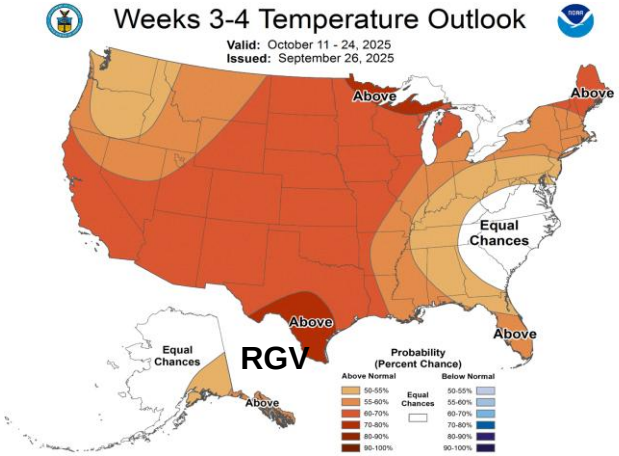
- **Falcon remained steady at 11.0%** as of September 25 (compared to **11.1% in late August**). Levels may not change much through December.
- **Amistad also remained nearly steady and slightly above all-time record lows as of late September.** Levels were at **24.7% on September 25th** (slightly higher than the **23.8% from late August**). Levels may not change much through December.

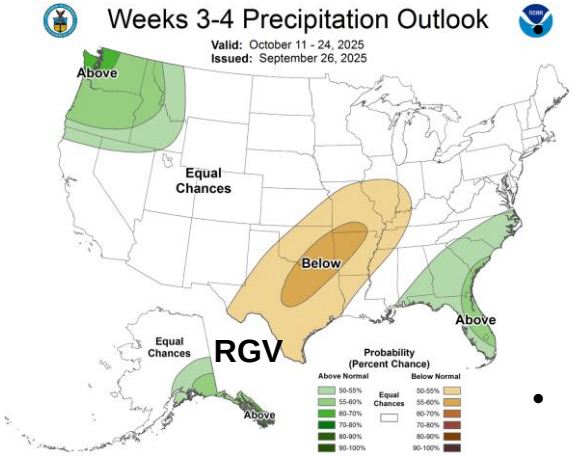
Water Conservation is Key Until Further Notice!

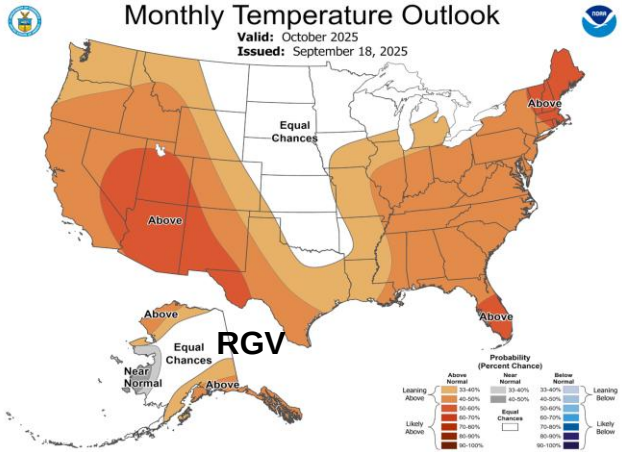


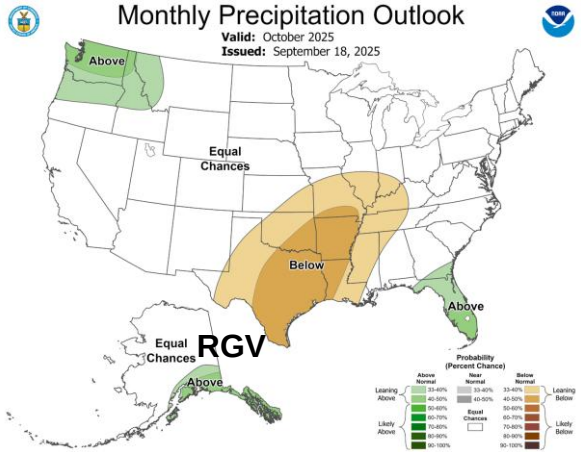
- "Stage 2/3" Restrictions continued through early summer 2025 in some areas, and are likely to continue **until further notice** based on inflows from Amistad and Falcon.
- Learn more at the Texas Water Development Board's Conservation Page

October 2025: Medium-High (50-80%) Confidence on Temperature and Precipitation Trends









Medium to long range forecast models are suggesting the mid-upper level steering pattern to flatten out. This will <u>steadily weaken or lessen the influence of the heat ridge</u> that has plagued the region over the past several months.

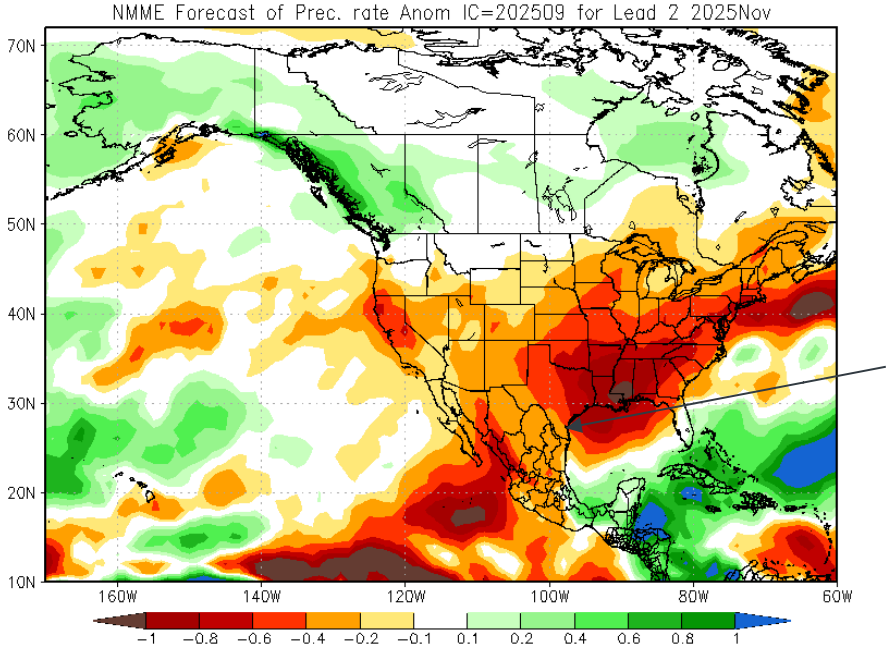
- While **Heat Risk** <u>will become of lesser impact in time</u>, the **pattern is suggesting for temperatures to average out warmer than normal through October**.

This **also supports a drier than normal pattern** to develop through the month of October.

A **<u>developing La Nina over the next few months</u>** also supports a **warmer** and **drier** **than normal pattern.**

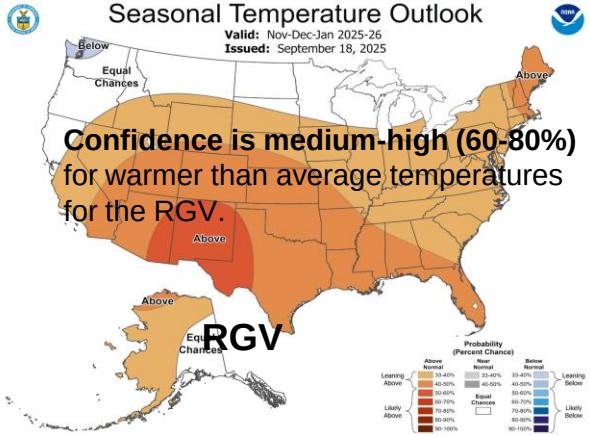
Early Look: November 2025

Potential rainfall rate anomaly, November 2025

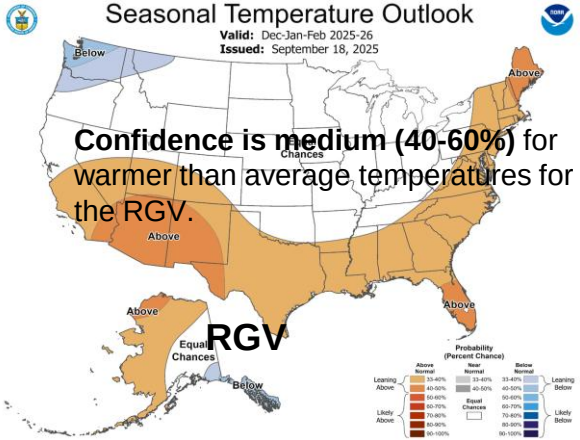


- This model's forecast for November is suggesting a **dry pattern** (note the brown and nearby red colors over the area) to develop. It's worth noting that this time of the year is around the start of our dry season.
- **Cool fronts** moving into Texas will increase more and more in time. Most will likely be dry, but there could be one or two that could reach the Valley/Deep South Texas Ranchlands and could set off **showers and thunderstorms**. **Stronger cool/cold fronts** could reach the Valley towards Thanksgiving.

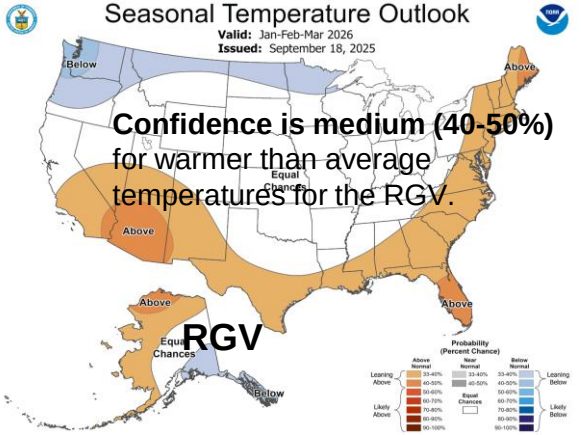
Mid Autumn through Winter 2025/2026: Warmer and drier than normal trends are favored



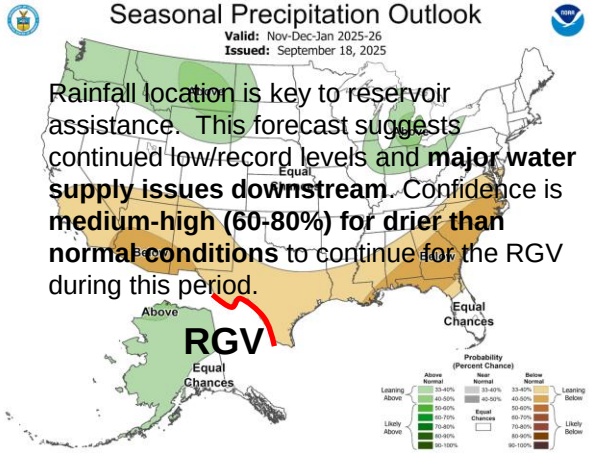
Confidence is medium-high (60-80%) for warmer than average temperatures for the RGV.



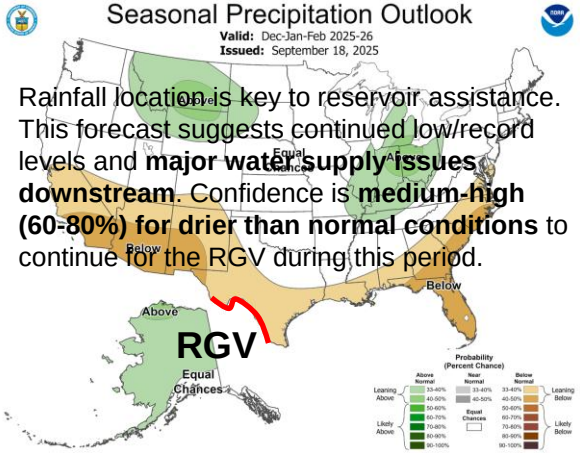
Confidence is medium (40-60%) for warmer than average temperatures for the RGV.



Confidence is medium (40-50%) for warmer than average temperatures for the RGV.



Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests continued low/record levels and **major water supply issues downstream**. Confidence is **medium-high (60-80%) for drier than normal conditions** to continue for the RGV during this period.



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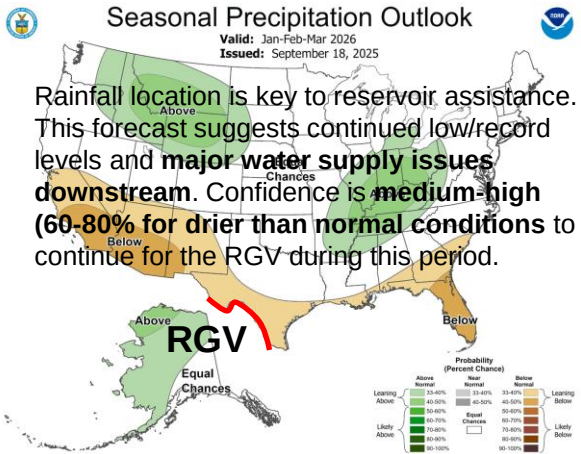

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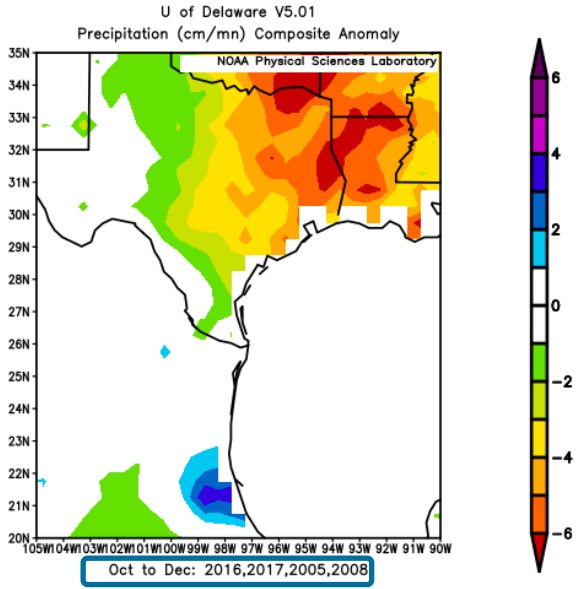
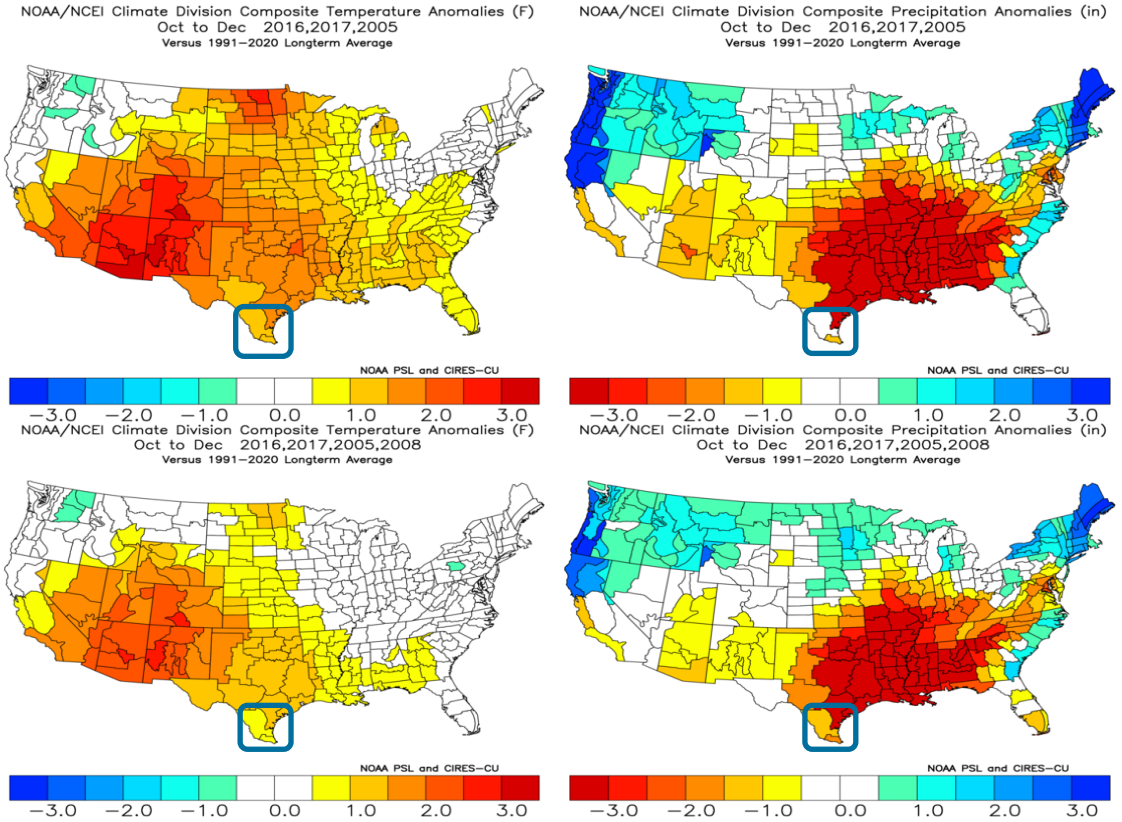
Comparing Similar Neutral to La Nina (Weak) Episodes mostly within the last 30 years; October-December Periods



Composite departure from average rainfall for years of similar Neutral to La Nina transition episodes in the October to December window.



- **Top:** Composite temperature (left) and precipitation (right) anomalies for similar Neutral to La Nina transition episodes leading into October-December, since 1950.
- **Bottom Left:** Same, except added the 2008 season.
- **Bottom Right:** Same, except added the 2008 season.

Bottom Lines

- **Normal to warmer than normal temperatures** are expected to persist through Autumn 2025. **Heat Risk** will become less and less of an issue in time. However, heat spikes are still possible at times through mid-October and residents should remain prepared for heat safety measures.
- Sufficient inflows from Mexican and International reservoirs serving the Lower Rio Grande watershed remain unlikely. The **combined share of water in Amistad and Falcon will likely to continue at or below Stage 2/3 triggers (25% or less) until further notice.** Water conservation, smart irrigation, and rainwater harvesting are **critical actions to continue as we move into the dry season.**
- With a **dry pattern expected to begin in October and persist through December**, **drought conditions** are expected to deteriorate across much, if not all of Deep South Texas as time progresses. This is especially true for the Rio Grande Plains and Brush Country, that's already in D0/D1 Drought. **It may take some time for drought conditions to develop over the Lower Valley and areas near the Lower Texas Coast due to the water tables being in better position** (**i.e. year to date surplus in rainfall**).
- **Fire weather will remain stable through October.** However, if the **dry pattern** expected to persist is realized, then **fire weather concerns** will begin increasing later this year (i.e. as early as November) and/or in early 2026 as **cool/cold fronts** become more frequent and stronger. Again, this is especially true for the Rio Grande Plains and Brush Country, that's already in D0/D1 Drought.
- **Stronger cold fronts** may arrive by late November, **with the potential for day-to-day "feel-like" temperatures dropping more than 40 degrees.** Additionally, with cool/cold fronts becoming more frequent over the next few months, **dangerous marine/coastal hazards will also begin to increase**.