June-August (Summer) 2026 Outlook: Perspective for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas Region

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

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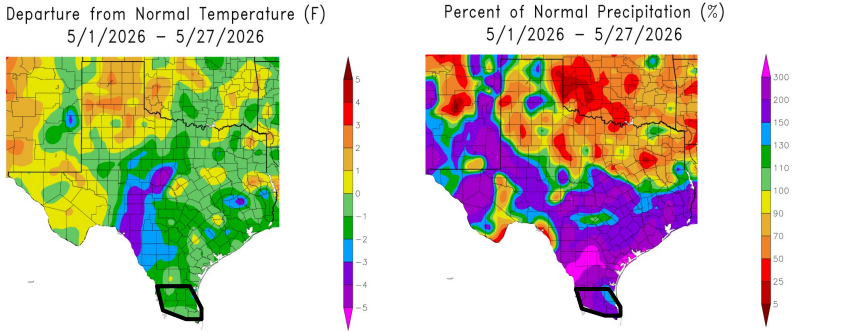
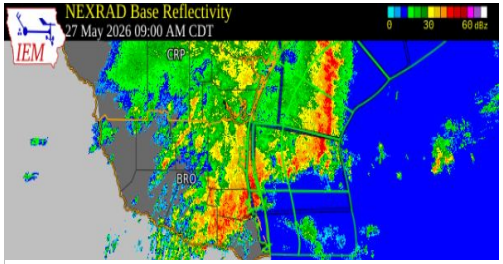
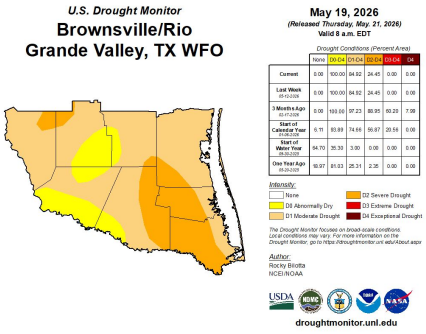
Hotter than normal conditions are favored to continue into the upcoming summer season; precipitation outlook remains a toss-up; drought, heat risk increases, occasional heavy rain/flooding, & water supply issues are in focus

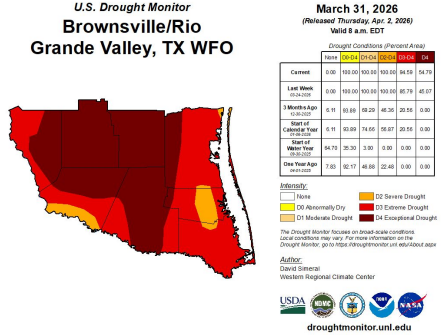




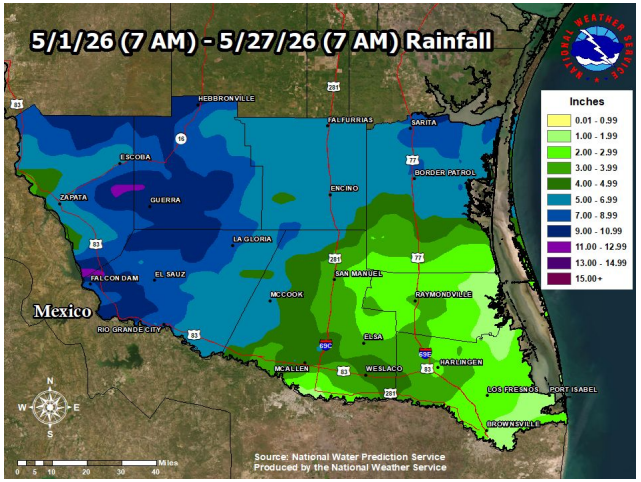
May 26-27, 2026 Rain Event

May 2026: Drought improvements continued in May thanks to continued active periods of showers and thunderstorms

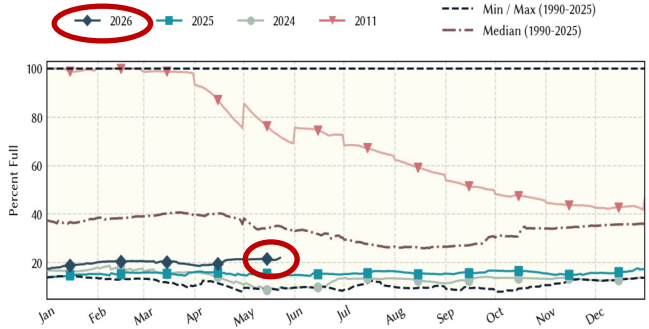




- After months of being in a perpetual dryness, active periods of showers and thunderstorms brought much-needed rainfall to Deep South Texas during the month of May. Widespread D1 (Moderate Drought) to D2 (Severe Drought) in April, and widespread D3 (Extreme Drought) to D4 (Exceptional Drought) late March (above, right) has since improved thanks to the recent rainfall. **The Northern Ranchlands and Brush Country (i.e. Zapata, Jim Hogg, Starr, Brooks, and Kenedy counties)** were amongst the areas that received the most rainfall during the month of May (see top right image).
- As of May 29th (above, left), D0 (Abnormally Dry) to D1 (Moderate Drought) conditions were observed across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.
- Month to date, as of May 29th, Brownsville's rainfall of 3.51" is 1.99" above normal. Harlingen's rainfall of 4.71" is 2.47" above normal and higher than last year's 3.52". Finally, McAllen's rainfall of 3.10" is 1.30" above normal and higher than last year's 1.14".
- The combination of clouds and rainfall helped to keep the heat in check. Despite a very warm ending to the month, **May will fall short of reaching the top 10**.

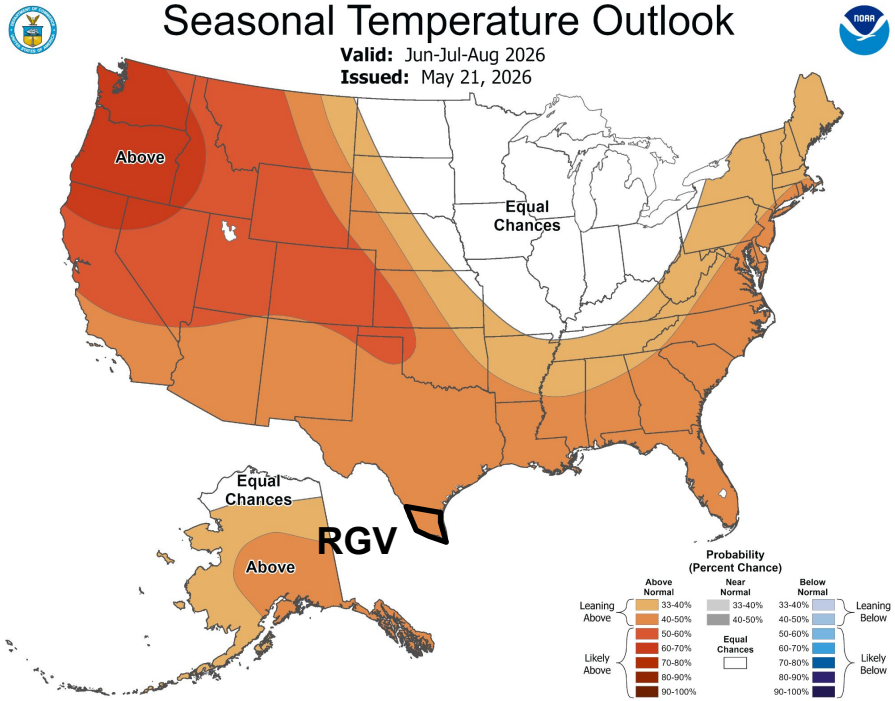


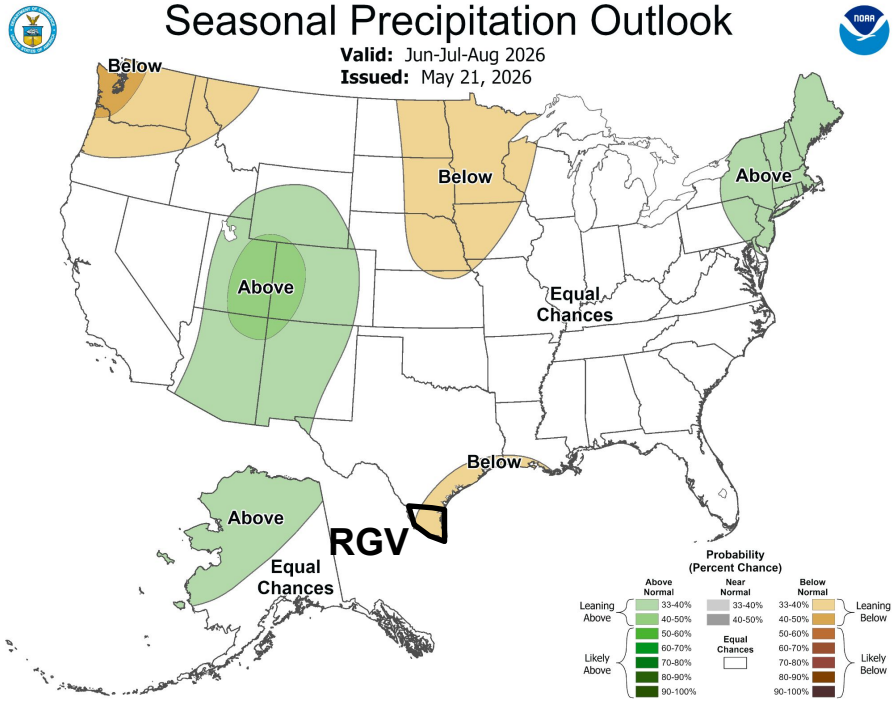
Top Image: Rainfall footprint for the month of May.



Bottom Image: Latest data from the **Rio Grande Reservoirs (Texas Share)** continue to indicate May 2026 levels are near 30 year lows and records, but above 2025 levels. Month-over-month shares have increased from 21.2% to 22%. **Credit:** Texas Water Development Board

Seasonal Forecast, June-August 2026 USA





<u>Confidence:</u> Medium (40-60%) for hotter than normal temperatures during the June-August (JJA) period. Precipitation: Slight lean towards a drier than normal pattern. <u>Precipitation Confidence:</u> Low-Medium (30-40%).

Key Takeaways: June-August 2026 Outlook

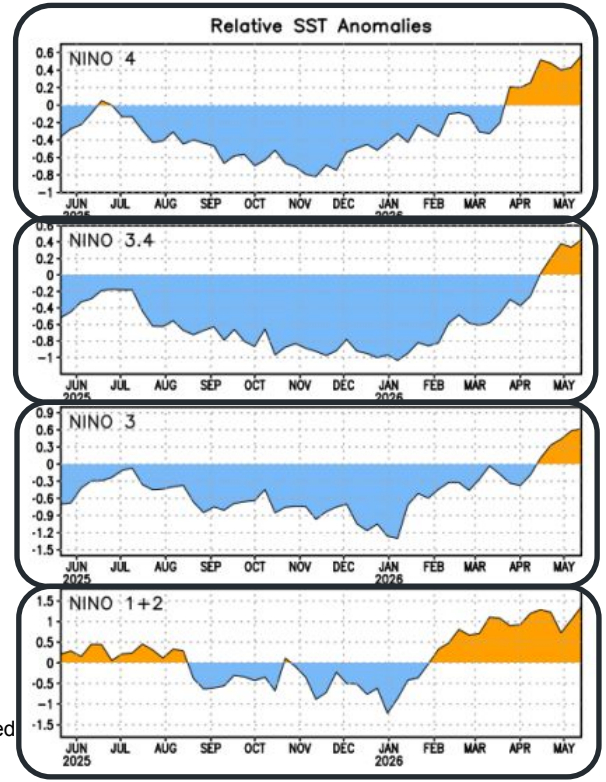
- A **normal to hotter than normal** outlook is anticipated through the **June-August** period for the RGV/Deep South Texas region. Additionally, there is a **slight lean towards a drier than normal pattern** across the region during the **June-August** timeframe!
- Medium to long-range models are signaling a **heat risk trends** potentially increasing as early as the 2nd or 3rd week of June as a heat ridge begins to develop over the region.
- Additional beneficial rains in May helped to further reduce the drought conditions across the region. As of May 29th, mainly **D0 (Abnormally Dry)** to **D1 (Moderate Drought)** conditions were observed across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley (see slide 8 for more information). Depending on how precipitation plays out through June, additional drought improvements are possible over at least parts of the area.
- Amistad Int'l Reservoir remained **near historic seasonal lows at the end of May**. Falcon received a slight boost in late May, but remained very low. **Confidence remains near-certain (~100%) on total storage remaining just above record lows through August.**
- Despite a slight lean to a drier than normal pattern, as we go through the June-July time period, **thunderstorms (mainly wind and a possible tornado), heavy rainfall, and localized flooding** mainly via sea breeze convection still needs to be taken into consideration.
- The **2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season is expected to be below average** with moderate to strong El Niño later this summer into the Fall season.

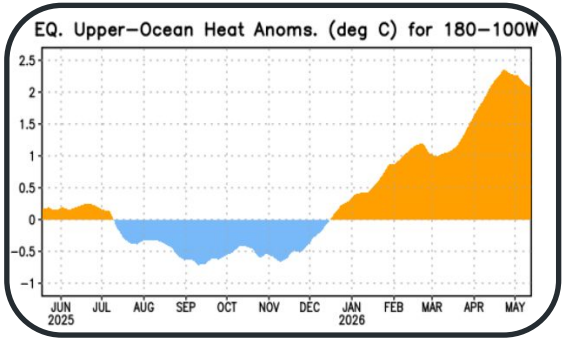
The "Why" of the Forecast: ENSO Neutral to El Niño transition, soil moisture, long-term trends, and other key climate teleconnections to play a role

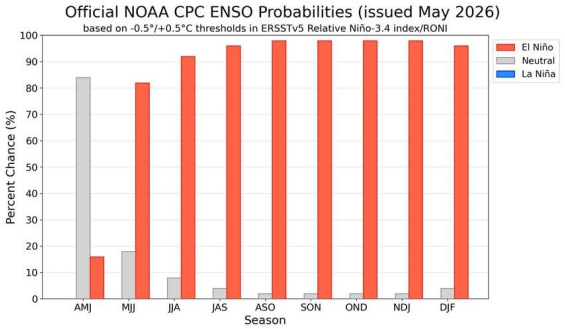
- **El Niño** is expected to emerge very soon (likely in June or July). The combination of analogs and long term trends such as a negative Pacific Decadal Oscillation (-PDO), and model trends suggest that a **hotter than normal pattern** is **favored** across Deep South Texas/RGV in the **June-August (JJA) period.**
- The combination of climatology and a flip to an **El Niño**, could support the continuation of a **wetter pattern** through at least part of June before turning dry.
- Medium range models favor the potential for a wet or active weather pattern continuing through the 1st part of June.

Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2023	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5
2024	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1
2025	-1.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0
2026	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5									

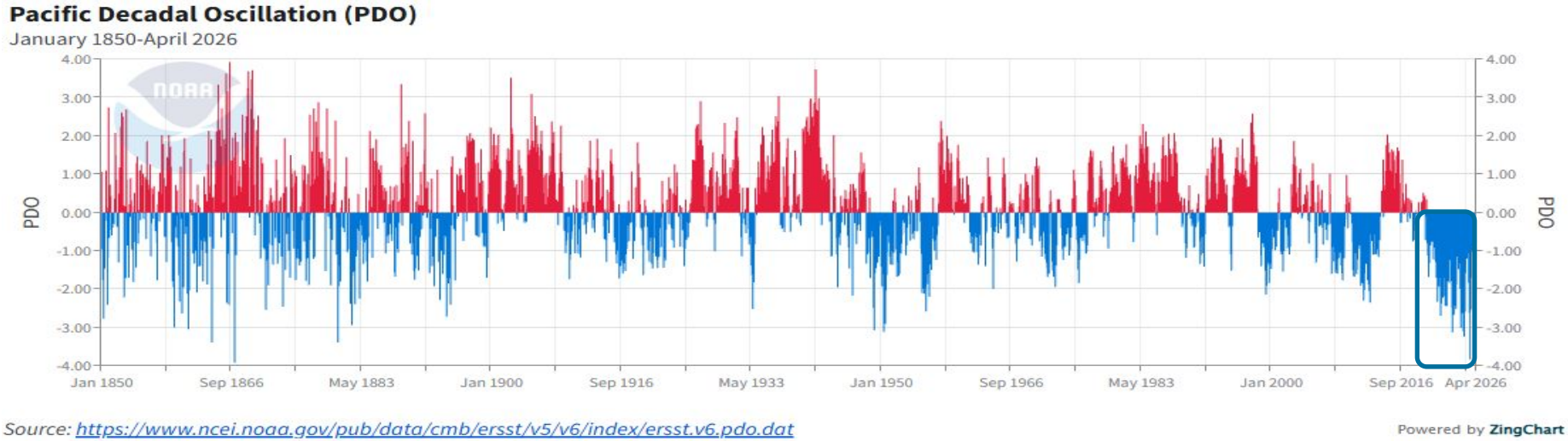
*Above right: Oceanic Niño Index. Values between -0.5 and 0.5 (gray) indicates ENSO Neutral conditions April-June 2024. ENSO Neutral conditions transitioned to a mainly weak La Nina July 2024 has persisted to present. Values between -0.5 and -1.0 (blue) indicates a weak La Nina.





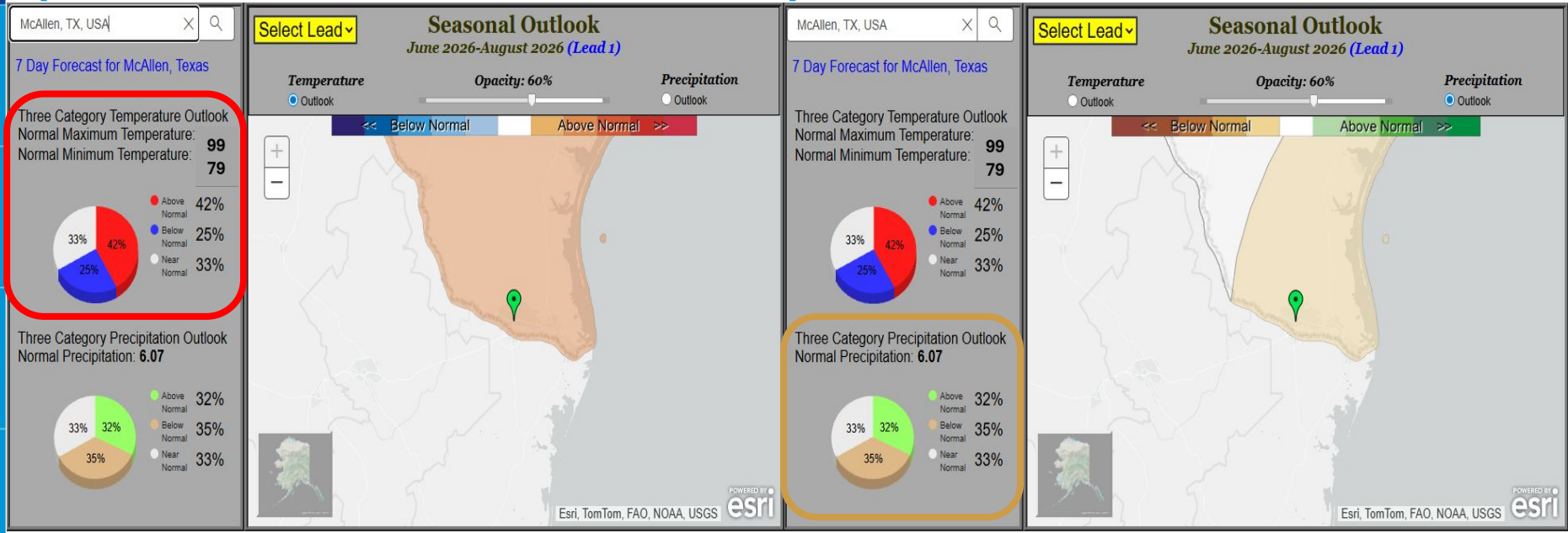


The “Why” of the Forecast: Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) remains in Sharp Negative Phase



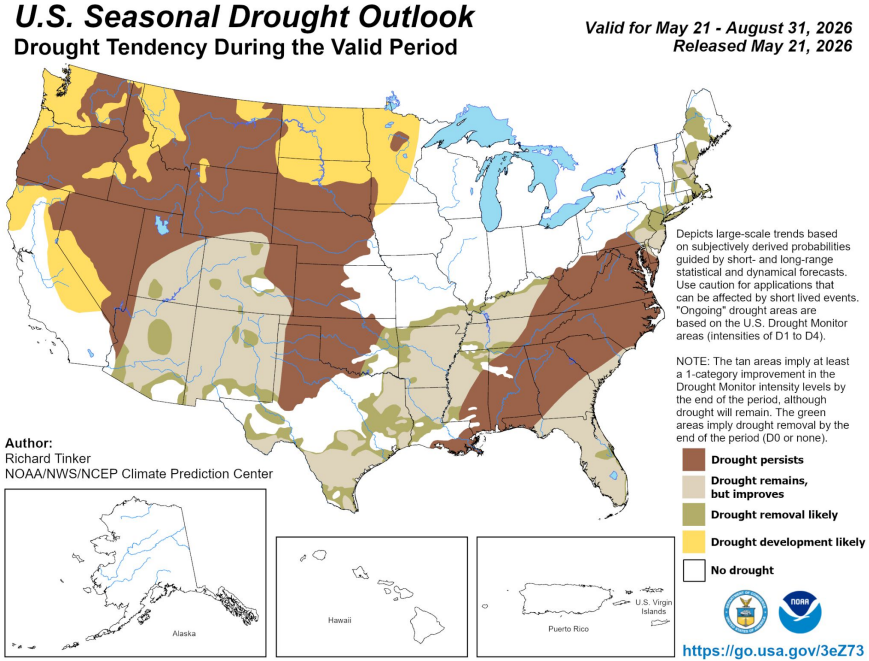
- The 2021-2026 **prolonged and strong negative PDO has persisted**, and will remain the case through mid 2026. This **continues to support confidence** for a **hotter than normal pattern to persist through Summer 2026.**
- The sharply negative PDO will support a **drier than normal precipitation theme** through the June-August (JJA) period. However, recent drought improvements, seasonality, and a transition to an El Niño this summer may continue to support a **wet pattern** across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley into at least the first part of June. Late June through August could be drier overall, despite the occasional showers or thunderstorms along the sea breeze, near the coast. Overall, **there is a slight lean towards a drier than normal pattern** during the June-August (JJA) period! **Confidence remains high** for a sharply negative PDO to continue.

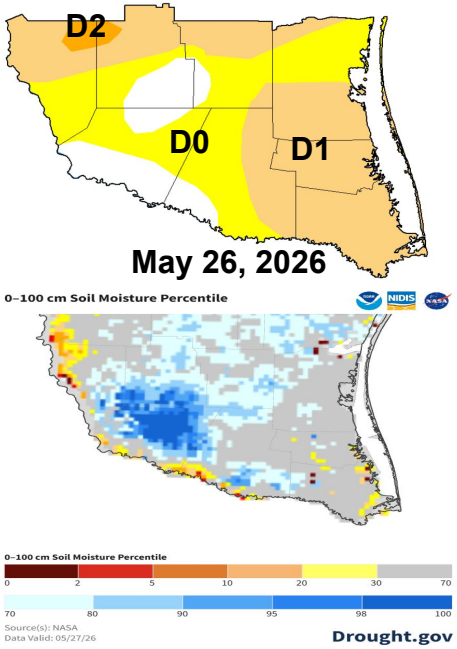
The June-August 2026 Outlook: Rio Grande Valley (McAllen as Anchor Point)

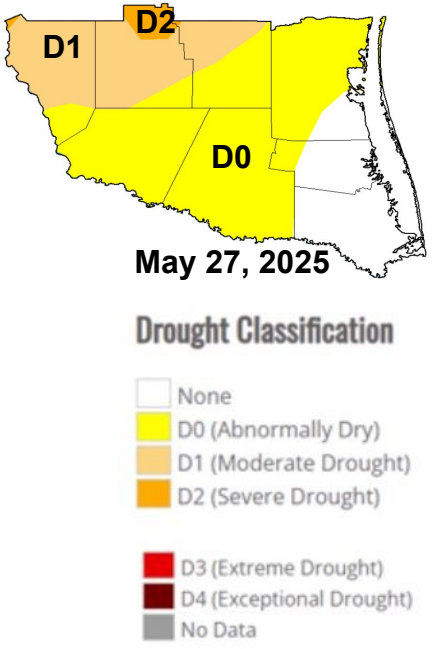


- **Temperature:** **Hotter than normal temperatures** are expected. **Confidence: Medium (40-60%).** RGV averages: Afternoon – Mid-Upper 90s through early June; Mid 90s-Lower 100s mid-June through August. Wake-up: Mid-upper 70s through early June; Upper 70s mid-June through August.
- **Precipitation:** **Slight lean to drier than normal conditions** are expected. **Confidence: Low-medium (30-40%).** RGV averages: 6-7 inches (**most in June**).

The June-August 2026 “Droughtlook”

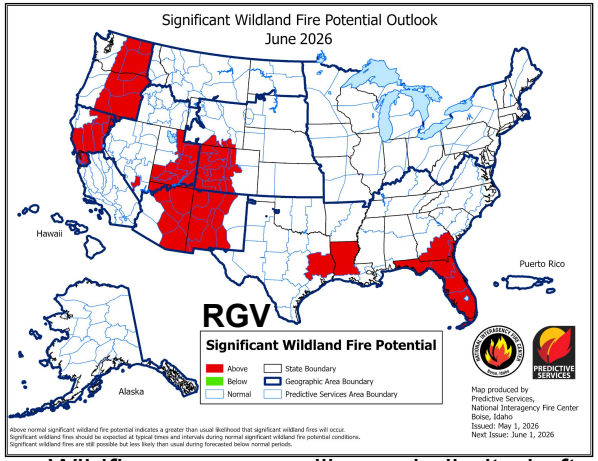


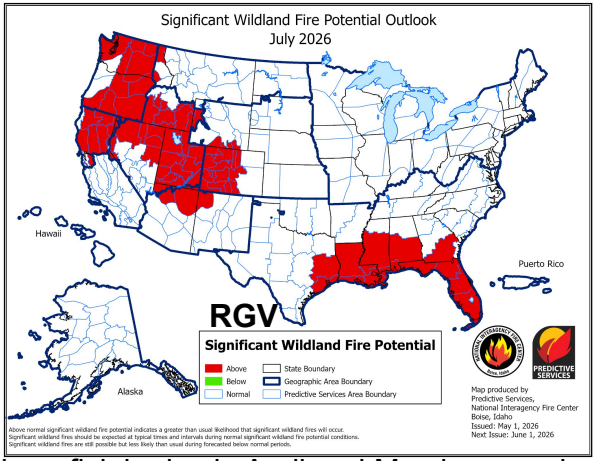


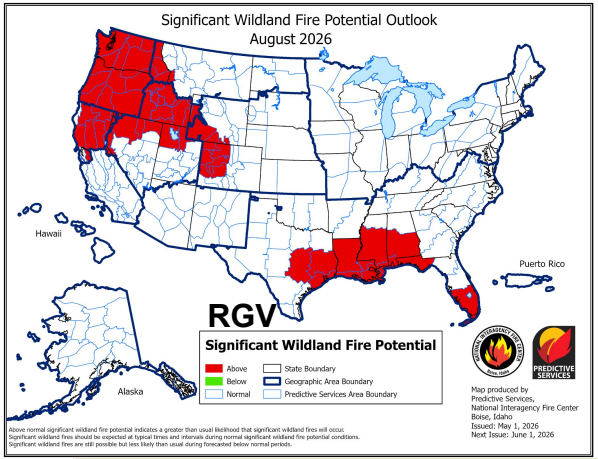


- Despite recent improvements, **Year-over-Year (YoY) drought/dryness** still shows a deeper and more expansive drought most notably across the coastal counties and Lower Valley this year compared to 2025.
- **Severe Drought (D2)** conditions were observed about 2% of the RGV/Deep South Texas, including northeastern Zapata and northwestern Jim Hogg counties
- **Moderate Drought (D1)** conditions were observed at about 50% of the RGV/Deep South Texas, including all of Cameron and Willacy, eastern Hidalgo, much of Kenedy, and the northern parts of Brooks, Jim Hogg, and Zapata counties.
- The seasonal drought outlook continues to suggest **drought conditions/dryness conditions improving** into mid June, though confidence remains low as to how much more. **A dry/hot late June through August would return at least moderate drought to many areas.**

Wildfire Concerns will remain a non-issue into early July after beneficial rains fell in April and May







- Wildfire concerns will remain limited after beneficial rains in April and May improved drought conditions and resulted in significant greenup across the region.
- This is the time of year where moisture in the form of humidity and showers/thunderstorms **increase**. Relative humidity (RH) values to typically remain above wildfire weather thresholds.
- **If additional** showers and thunderstorms **are realized** through June, not only will it help to continue to improve the extensive drought across the region, but it will **maintain greenup** over the region.
- **July** could signal a transition back to drying fuels if rains don't come and afternoon humidity decreases, leading to higher evaporation. The combination of **higher fuel loading (brush and grasses) from spring rains,** with potentially very hot and mainly rain-free conditions in July and August **could increase wildfire spread/growth conditions then**. Confidence remains uncertain at the end of May.

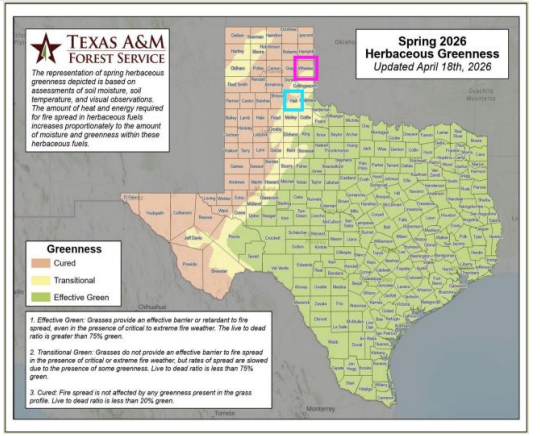
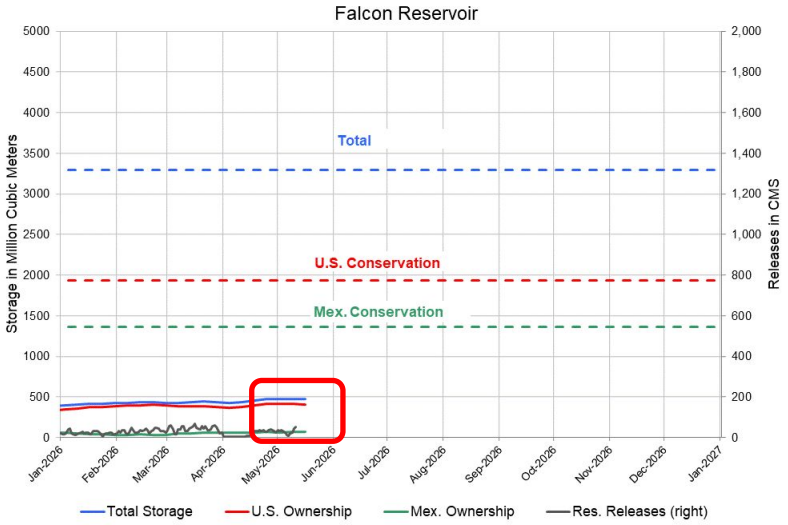
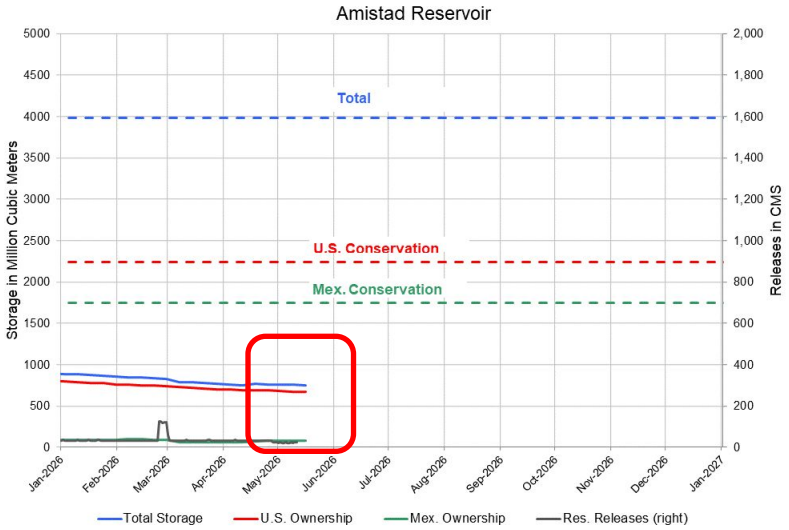


Image: Herbaceous Greenness across Texas as of April 18, 2026. Fire status improved from **greenup** across Deep South Texas amid recent beneficial rains.

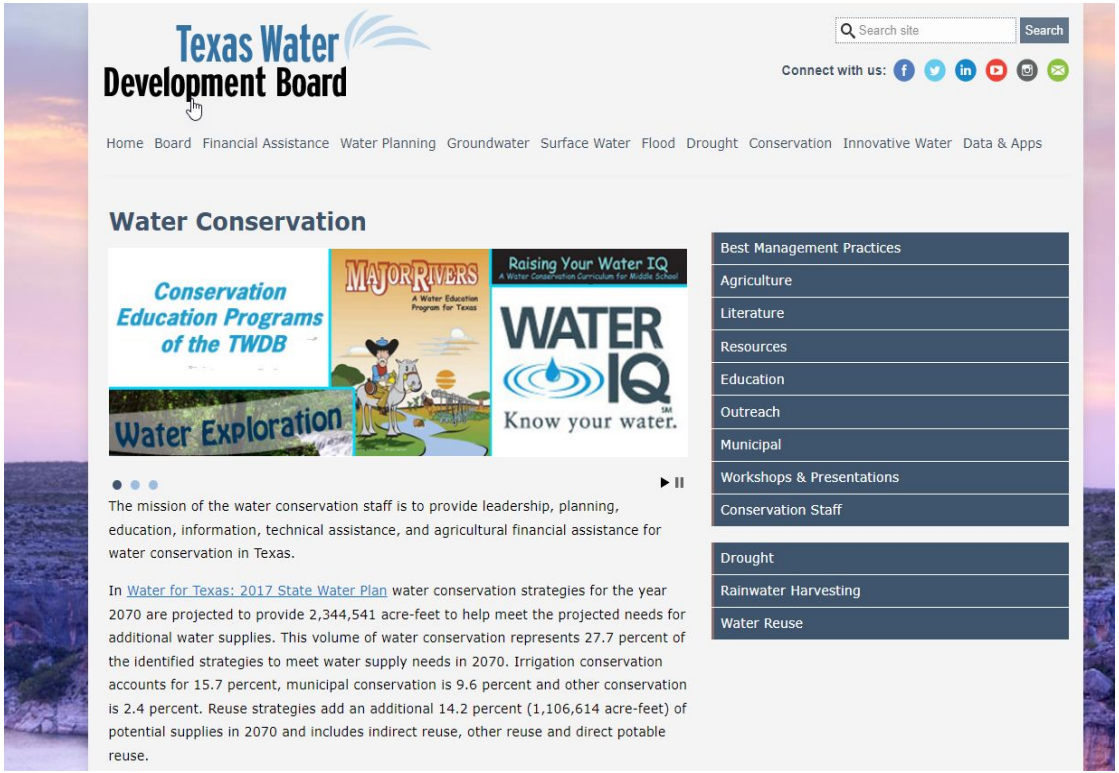
Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs (combined) will continue to remain just above record lows through mid 2026, absent an Atlantic tropical cyclone





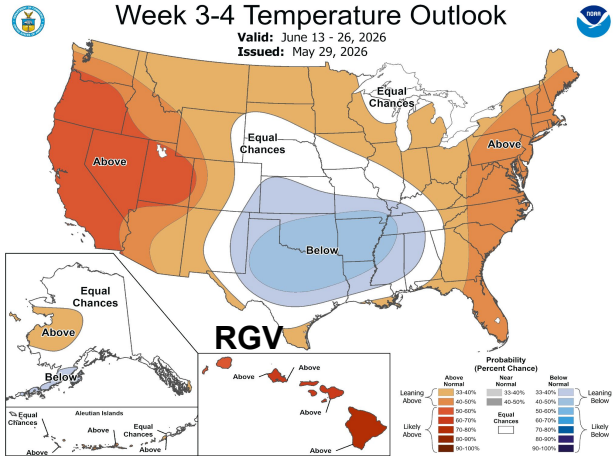
- **Falcon rose slightly, at 16.0% as of May 29th** (slightly higher than the **14.4% from late April**). Levels are likely to rise a little more through early June, then fall slowly by late June/early July, unless additional releases are provided from Amistad - or additional thunderstorm systems develop.
- **Amistad fell slightly and remains just above all-time record lows as of late May.** Levels were at **18.7% on May 29th** (slightly lower than the **19.2% from late April**). Levels should change little or fall slowly through July, unless additional thunderstorm systems develop.

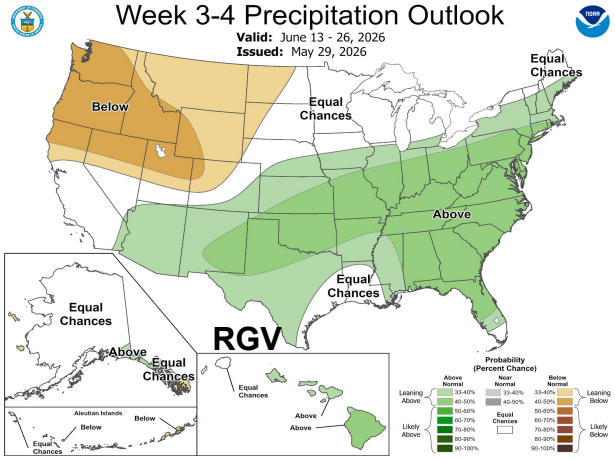
Water Conservation is Key Until Further Notice!

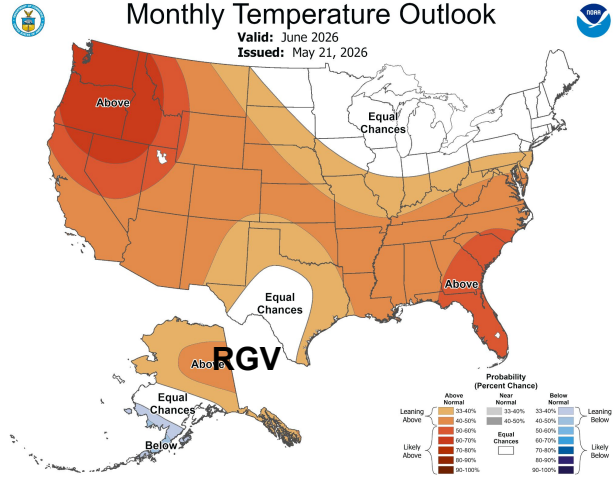


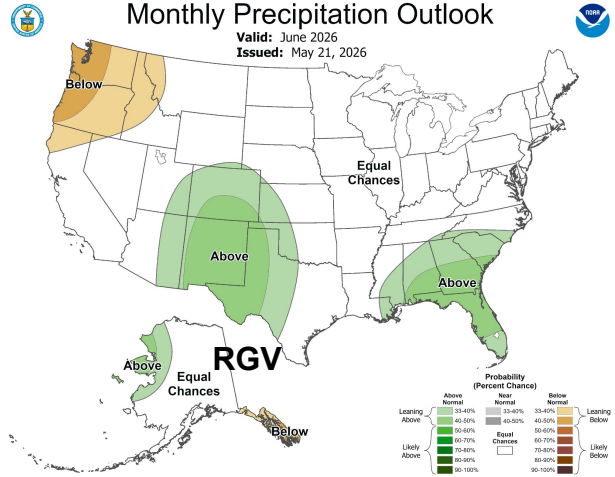
- "Stage 2/3" Restrictions will continue through mid 2026 (at least) in some areas, and are likely to continue **until further notice** based on inflows from Amistad and Falcon.
- Learn more at the Texas Water Development Board's Conservation Page.

June 2026: Low-Medium Confidence on Temperature (30-50%) and Precipitation (20-40%)









A slight lean for a hotter than normal pattern for the month of June is anticipated. Meanwhile, there are equal chances regarding the precipitation outcome.

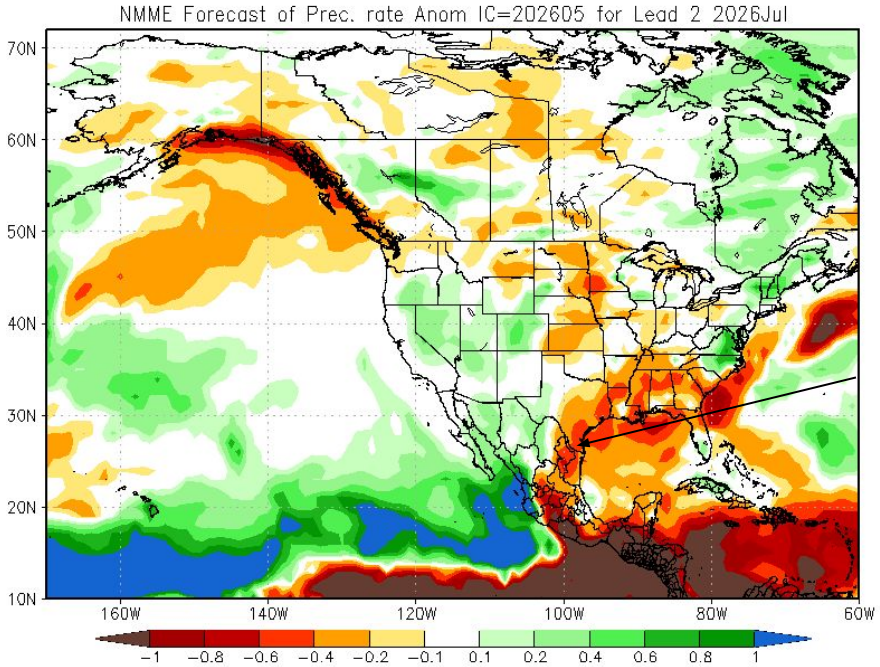
Short to medium range models are suggesting an active/wet/stormy pattern continuing through the 1st week of June.

Medium to long-range models are depicting Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley underneath or on the southern end of a heat ridge through much of June. This type of setup **favors easterly flow over the region and the potential for sea breeze convection (additional shower and thunderstorm potential)**.

Heat ridge location and the atmospheric and oceanic interaction/evolution associated with it will be key! That said, overall, the temperature and precipitation forecast confidence for the month of June is low-medium.

Early Look: July 2026

Potential rainfall rate anomaly, July 2026

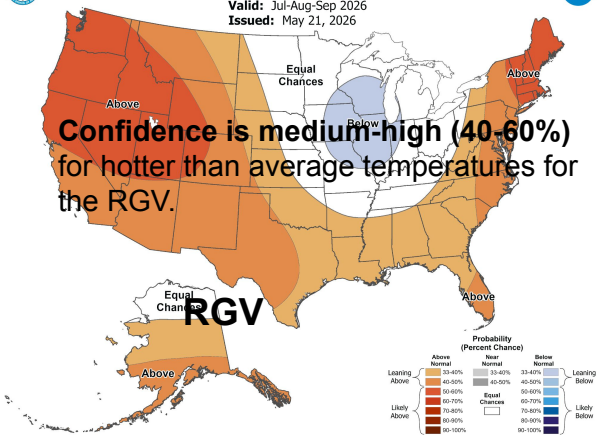


- This model's forecast for <u>July</u> favors a **drier than normal pattern** (note the red and light brown colors nearby).

Summer 2026 through mid Autumn 2026: Hotter than normal trends favored; Drier than normal conditions are favored through the Summer (equal chances towards the Fall)

Seasonal Temperature Outlook

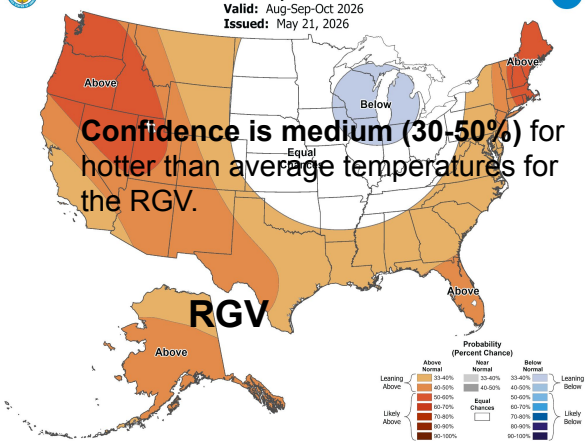
Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2026
Issued: May 21, 2026



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

Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Aug-Sep-Oct 2026
Issued: May 21, 2026



Confidence is medium (30-50%) for hotter than average temperatures for the RGV.

Seasonal Temperature Outlook

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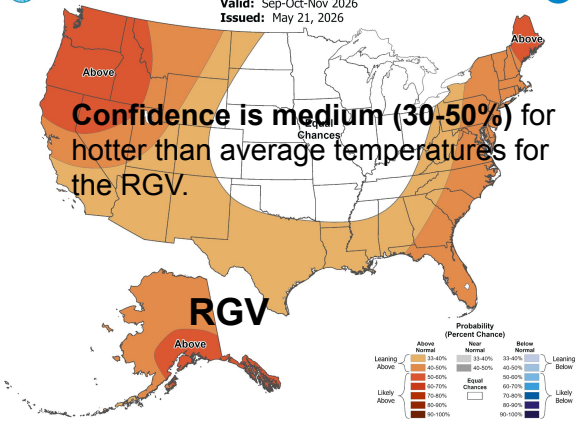
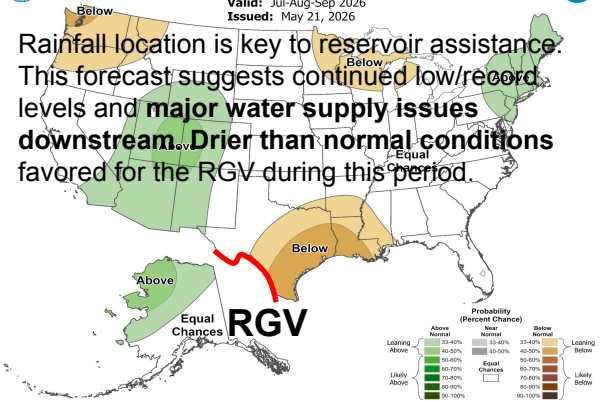
Issued: May 21, 2026



Confidence is medium (30-50%) for hotter than average temperatures for the RGV.

Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

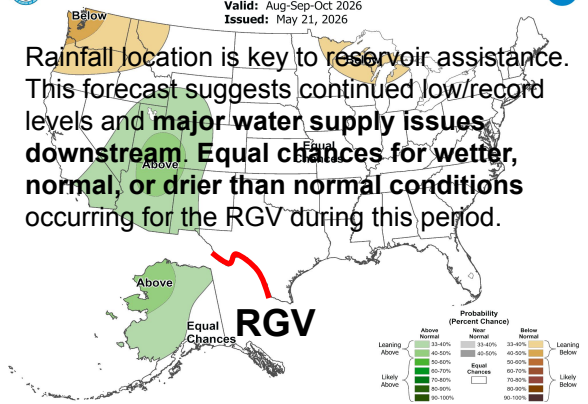
Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2026
Issued: May 21, 2026



Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests continued low/record levels and **major water supply issues downstream. Drier than normal conditions** favored for the RGV during this period.

Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

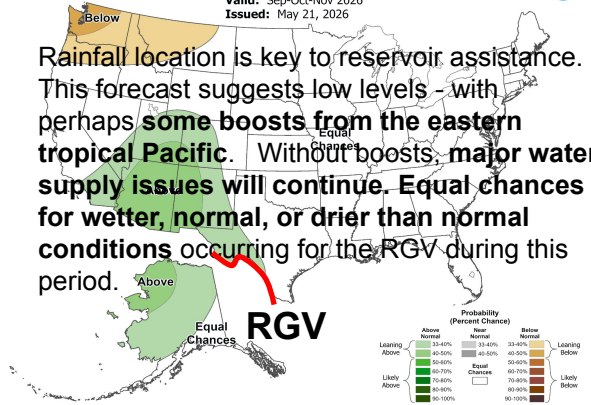
Valid: Aug-Sep-Oct 2026
Issued: May 21, 2026



Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests continued low/record levels and **major water supply issues downstream. Equal chances for wetter, normal, or drier than normal conditions** occurring for the RGV during this period.

Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2026
Issued: May 21, 2026



Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests low levels - with perhaps **some boosts from the eastern tropical Pacific**. Without boosts, **major water supply issues will continue. Equal chances for wetter, normal, or drier than normal conditions** occurring for the RGV during this period.

Comparing Similar ENSO Neutral to El Nino Episodes mostly within the last 30 years; June-August Periods

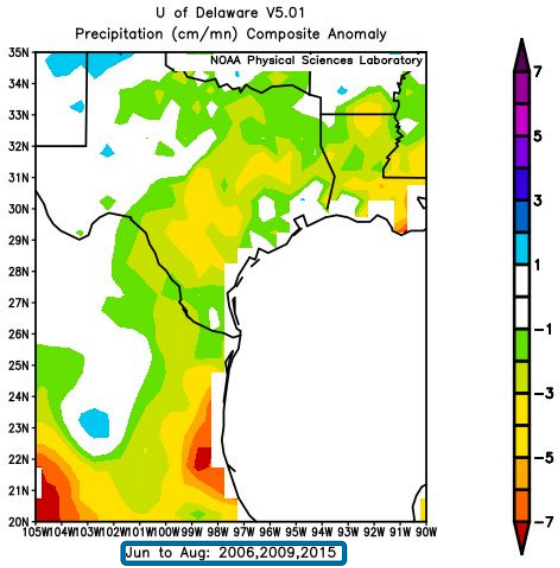
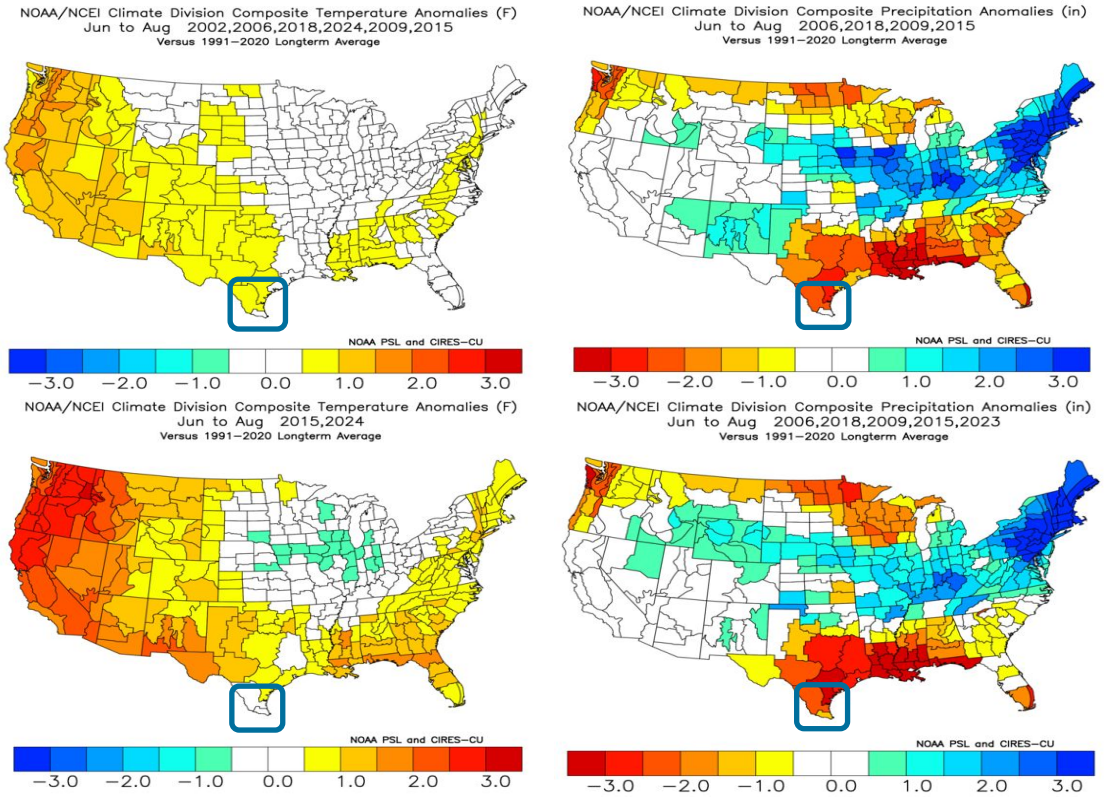


Image Above: Composite departure from average rainfall for years of similar Neutral to El Nino transition episodes in the **June to August window**. Note: map is not perfectly aligned with the shoreline in Texas/northeast Mexico.



- **Top:** Composite temperature (left) and precipitation (right) anomalies for similar Neutral to El Nino transition episodes leading into June-August, since 1950.
- **Bottom Left:** Same, but took out the 2024 season.
- **Bottom Right:** Same, but added 2018 and took out 2009, 2006, 2022, 2014, 2002, 2004, 2015, and 1972 seasons.

Bottom Lines

- A **normal to hotter than normal pattern** is anticipated during the **June-August (JJA) time period**. **Heat Risk** could potentially begin emerging as early as the 2nd or 3rd week of June. **1st week of June looks to be wet/stormy at times**. A return to drier conditions should emerge by July. Overall, a **slight lean for a drier than normal pattern** exists during the **June-August timeframe**.
- 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 and through the Summer.**
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)** to **D1 (Moderate Drought)** conditions were place across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley following beneficial rains that fell in May. Depending on how precipitation plays out through June, drought conditions could undergo further, but slight, improvements - **before worsening conditions reappear in July and August.**
- Don't "sleep" on the potential for **flash flooding**, through June. While a repeat of March 26-28, 2025, is not expected, **flood safety and readiness** needs to be in back of mind.
- Latest ENSO projections (i.e. a developing El Niño this Summer) suggest a below average 2026 hurricane season. **Remember, it only takes one landfall** to make a season memorable. We'll continue to keep close watch on trends in June and July!