



# Drought Information Statement for South Texas

Valid March 3, 2026

Issued By: NWS Corpus Christi, TX

Contact Information: [sr-crp.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-crp.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated by April 7, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/crp/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

- Exceptional Drought (D4) has returned to portions of South Texas as of the latest Drought Monitor. Degradations of drought were scattered throughout the region. Mainly Severe to Extreme drought across South Texas, with a few locations in Moderate drought.
- South Texas experienced above normal temperatures for the month of February mostly between 3-4°F above normal. In the last week, many record-breaking high temperatures were set, as noted also by the 4-6°F departures above normal in the last seven days. Precipitation was below normal across South Texas, with the Victoria Crossroads seeing the greatest rainfall in February (0.5-1.0 in).
- Likely above-normal temperatures are favored and equal chances for normal precipitation for the month of March for most of South Texas. Drought conditions are expected to persist across the region through May 2026.

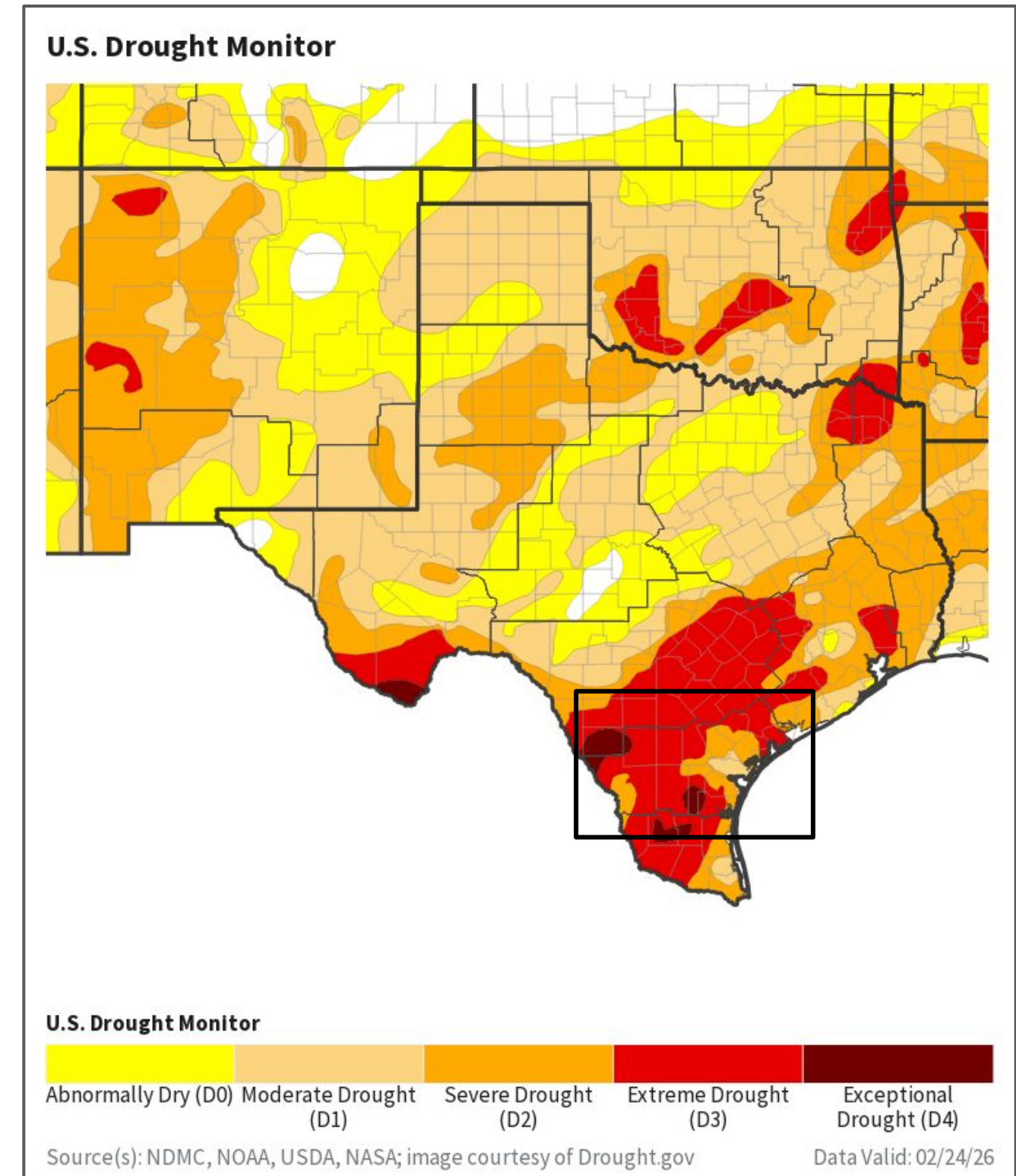


# U.S. Drought Monitor

March 3, 2026  
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Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Portions of Duval, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Webb, and La Salle counties.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Most of La Salle, Kleberg, McMullen, Duval, Live Oak, Jim Well, and Victoria counties. Portions of Webb, Nueces, Aransas, Goliad, Bee, and Calhoun counties
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Rest of South Texas except around San Patricio county.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most of San Patricio County. Portions of Webb, Live Oak, Bee, Nueces, Refugio, and Aransas counties.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: None.



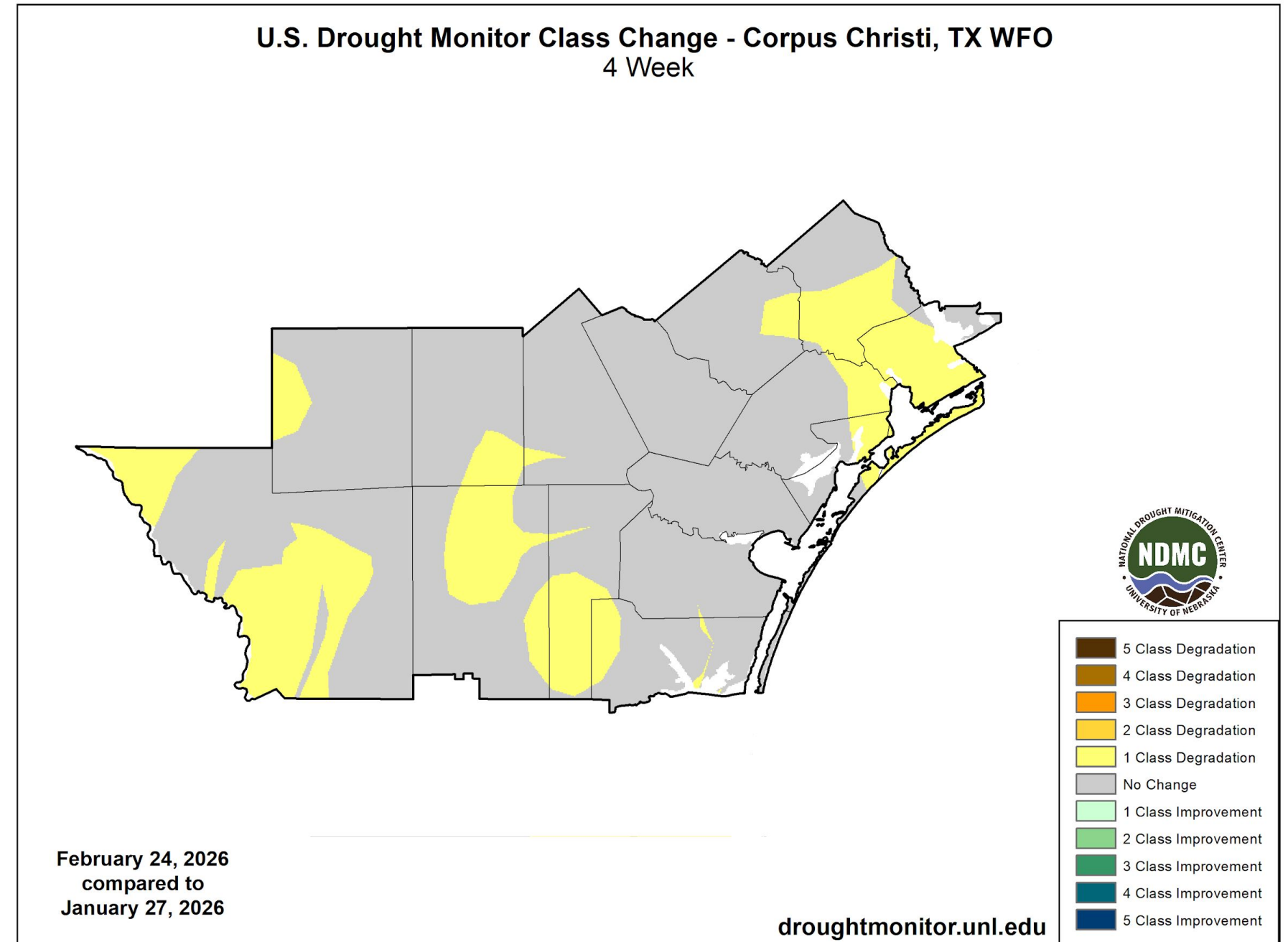


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

March 3, 2026  
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Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: In portions of Webb, La Salle, McMullen, Duval, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, Goliad, Victoria, Refugio, Aransas, and Calhoun counties
  - No Change: Majority of South Texas.
  - Drought Improved: No locations





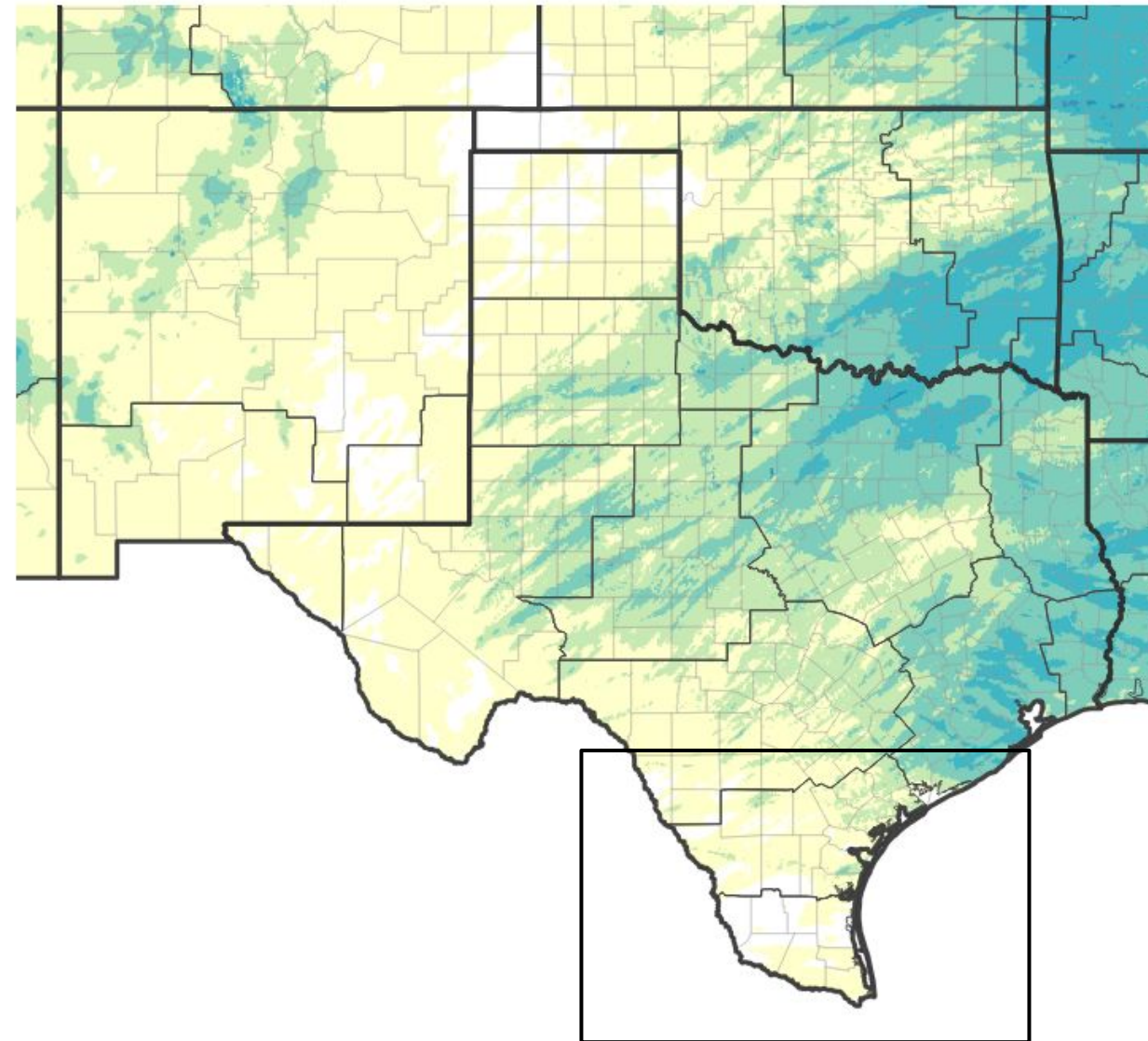
# Precipitation

March 3, 2026  
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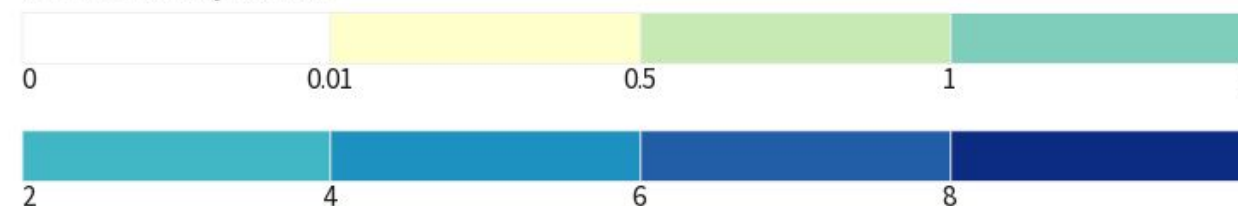
## South Texas Rainfall

- Majority of South Texas received 0-25% of normal rainfall for the month of February. Some locations across the Victoria Crossroads received 25-50% of normal rainfall.
- Much of South Texas received less than 0.50" of rainfall for the month of February. The Victoria Crossroads is where 0.5"-1.0" of precipitation fell along with an isolated severe thunderstorm that moved the Brush Country.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



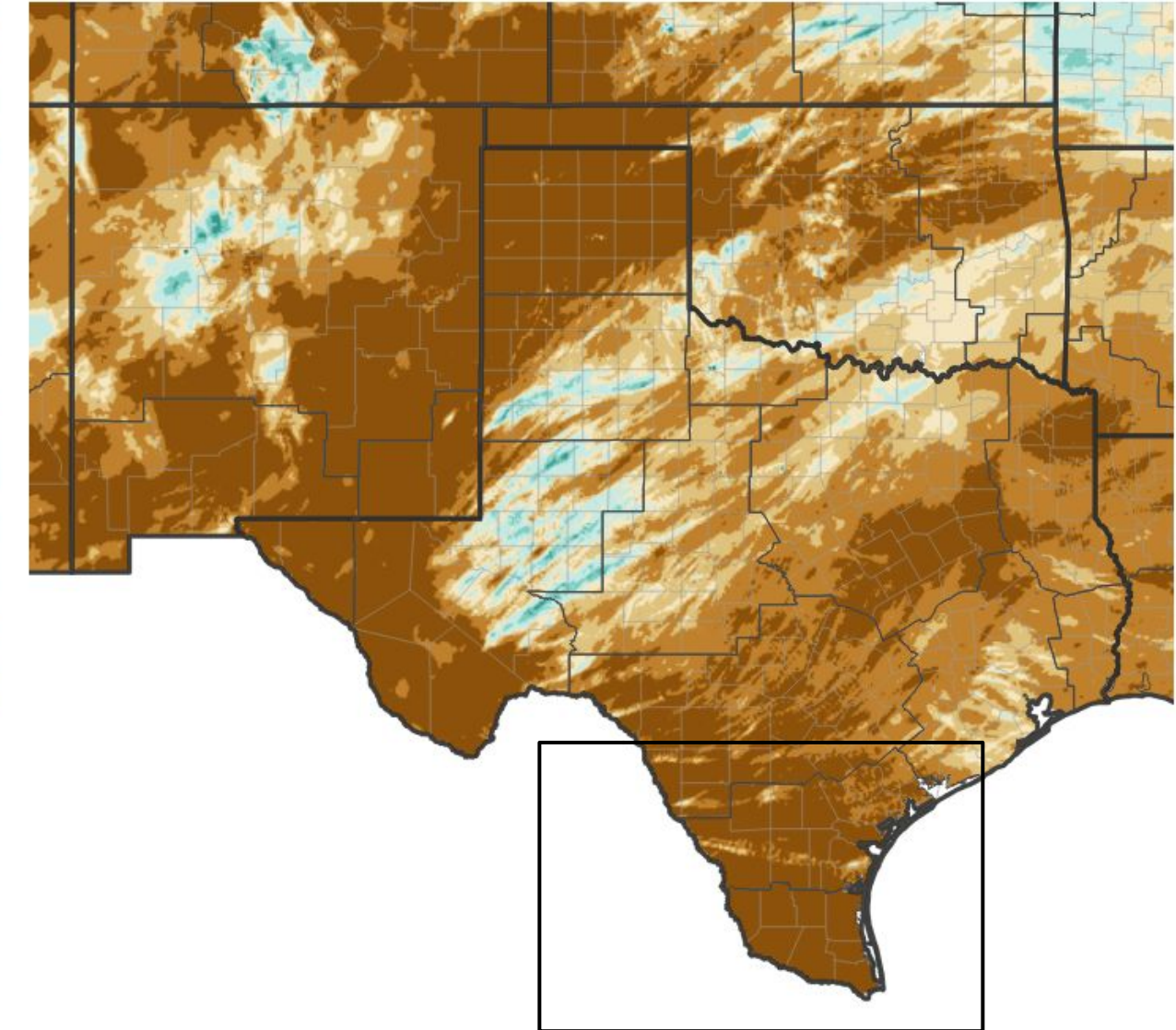
Inches of Precipitation



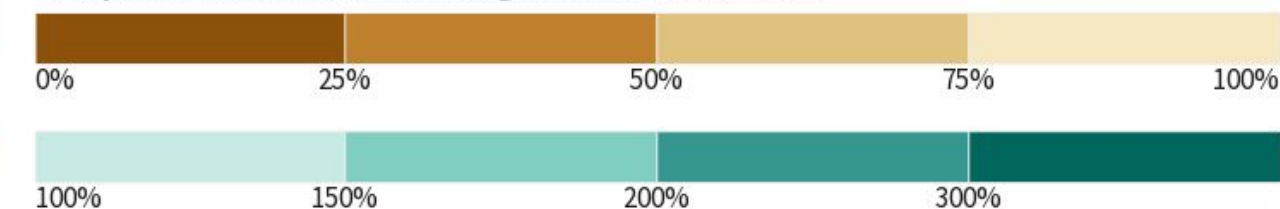
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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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: 03/03/26



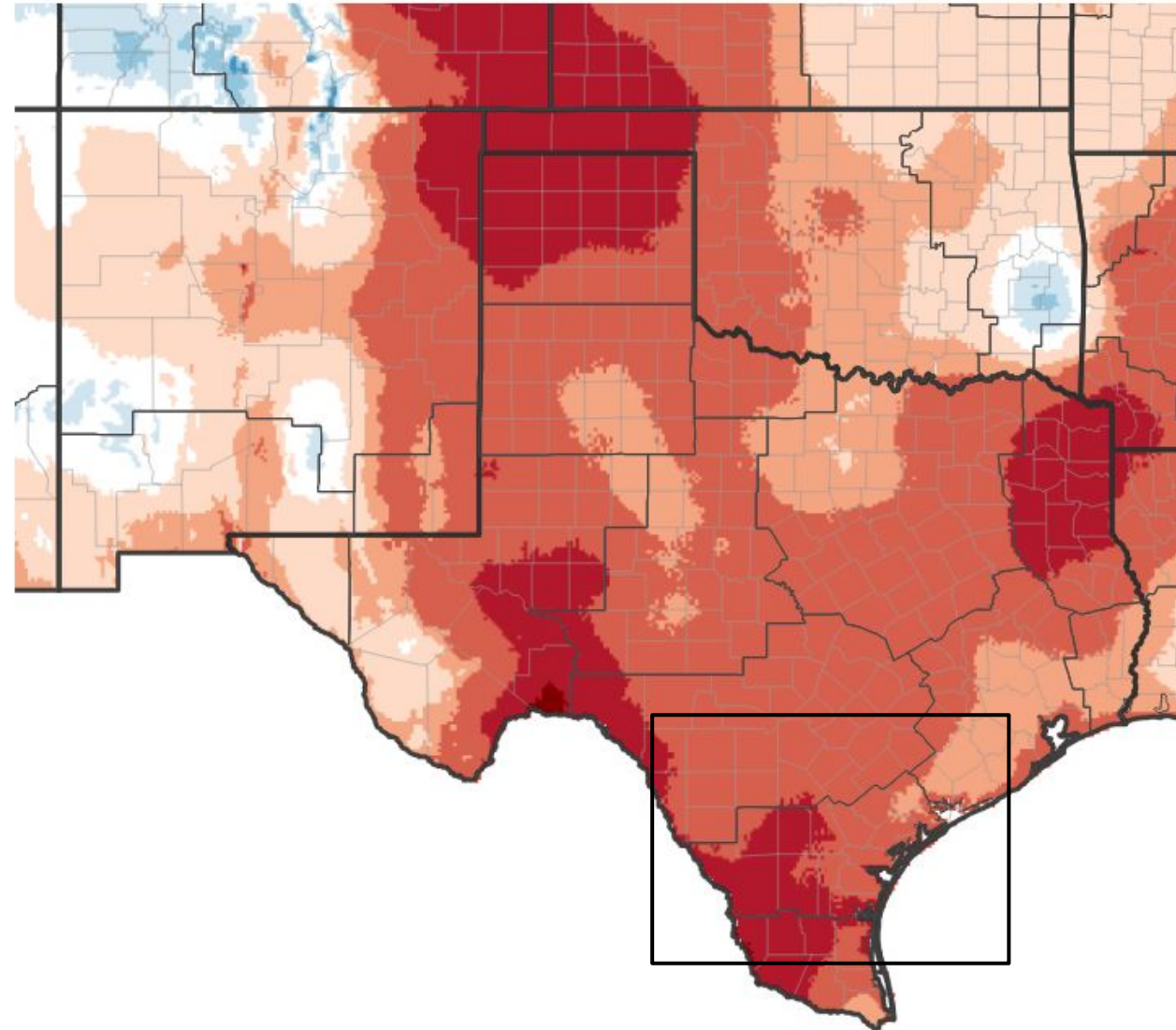


# Temperature

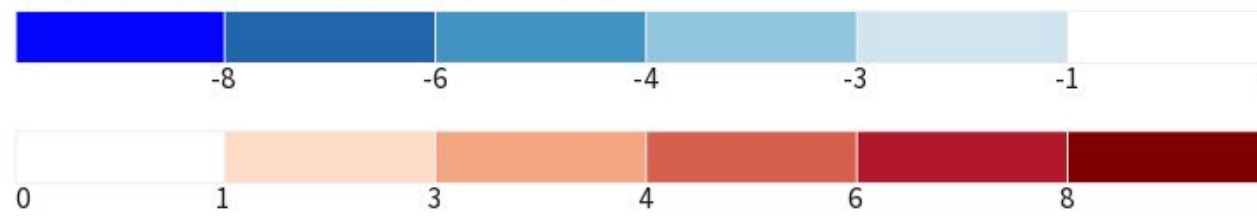
March 3, 2026  
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- Over the last 7 days, temperatures were 4-6°F above normal across the Brush Country with widespread anomalies of 3-4°F above normal for the remainder of South Texas
- Max temperatures over the last 30 days were above normal across the region as well. Departures were 3-4°F above normal, with some pockets of 1-3°F above normal values across the Coastal Plains and Victoria Crossroads.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



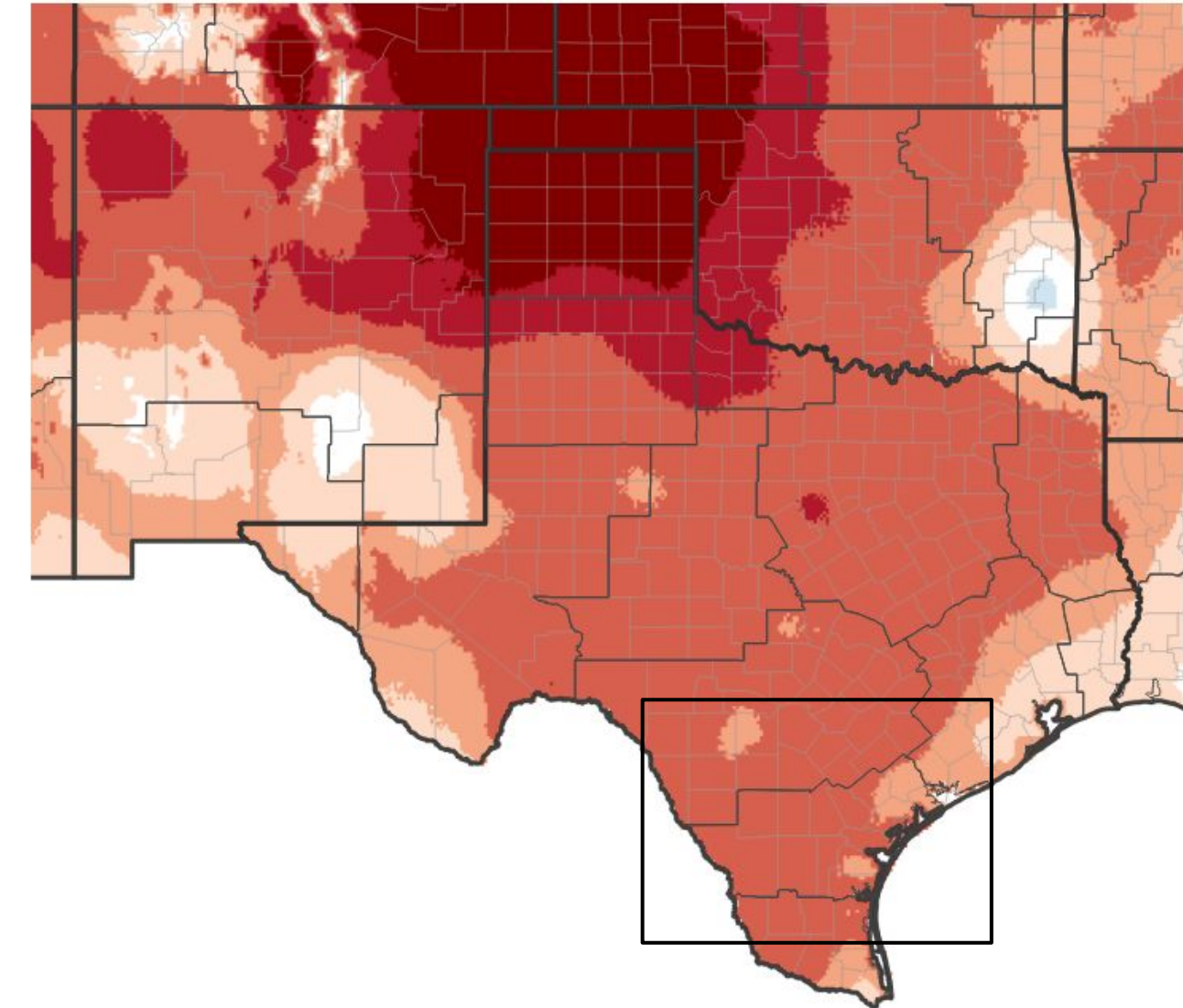
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



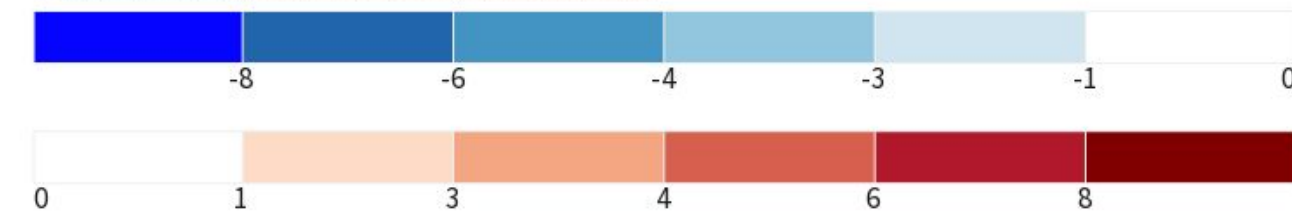
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/26/26

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: 02/26/26





# Summary of Impacts

March 3, 2026  
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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Stage 3 water restrictions remain in effect across much of South Texas. Local lake levels continue to decline overall.
- Currently, the combined storage levels of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon are sitting at 9.6 percent as of February 3rd compared to 10.2 percent one month prior.
- Under Stage 4 water restrictions, outdoor watering is prohibited, but no date has been announced for if or when they will kick in. Stage 4 is implemented when city officials determine a water-supply emergency exists.
- The Corpus Christi City Council approved an interlocal cooperation agreement on Dec. 16 with the cities of Alice, Beeville and Mathis, creating a framework to share resources, coordinate projects and provide mutual aid during water or wastewater emergencies. The cities have cooperated informally for years, and now the agreement formally establishes regional collaboration on engineering and technical resources, future system design, water supply projects and infrastructure interconnections. ([KIII TV](#) (Corpus Christi, Texas), Dec 15, 2025)

## Agricultural Impacts (<https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/tag/texas-crop-and-weather-report/>)

- Coastal Bend: Rainfall was very scattered; some areas received spotty showers while much of the district remained extremely dry. Soil moisture was very short to short in most areas. Corn planting was underway where producers had adequate moisture, but many were waiting on rain before moving forward. Winter pastures of oats, wheat and ryegrass were practically non-existent this season. Early spring green-up of annual grasses, forbs and legumes was evident in areas that received more rain. Range and pasture conditions remained very poor to poor in most areas and continued to deteriorate. Hay feeding continued for beef herds, and hay supplies remained tight. Livestock were being supplemented or shipped. Cows looked thin though calves were holding up.
- South: Drought conditions continued and worsened throughout the district. Temperatures were on the rise with windy conditions daily. Topsoil and subsoil conditions were very short. Soil moisture remained limited with little to no water available in the local irrigation canal system. Row crop producers with enough moisture began planting corn and grain sorghum crops. Very little field activity was noted as row crop farmers waited for moisture to begin planting. Cotton acreage was expected to be low again, but planting should begin soon. Leafy greens were still showing signs of freeze damage. Oats were in the heading stage, while other fields were being prepared for planting. Onion harvest began with exceptional yields reported. Citrus and cool-season vegetable harvests continued. Conditions were windy, preventing any pre-emergent applications. Range and pasture conditions remained poor, as most pastures showed burnt tops from the recent frost. Hay and feed were in great demand as hay supplies tightened. Producers continued to thin herds. Beef cattle markets continued to run above-average volumes and strong prices for all classes of beef cattle.





# Summary of Impacts

March 3, 2026  
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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- None

## Other Impacts

- Beeville under stage 4 emergency water shortage restrictions and Local State of Disaster Issued (<https://www.beevilletx.gov/news/post/10042/>) (<https://www.beevilletx.gov/news/post/10036/>)
- Corpus Christi under stage 3 water restrictions (<https://www.cctexas.com/>)
- Portland under stage 3 water restrictions
- Laredo under stage 2 water restrictions (<https://laredoutilities.com/water-conservation-program/>)
- Alice under stage 3 water restrictions ([https://www.cityofalice.org/\\_T19\\_R185.php](https://www.cityofalice.org/_T19_R185.php))
- Mathis under stage 3 water restrictions (<https://www.cityofmathis.com/213/Water-Restrictions>)
- Rockport under stage 3 water restrictions (<https://www.rockporttx.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3440>)
- Victoria under stage 2 water restrictions (<https://www.victoriatx.gov/civicalerts.aspx?aid=2001>)
- Other South Texas communities under restrictions can be found [here](#)

## Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.



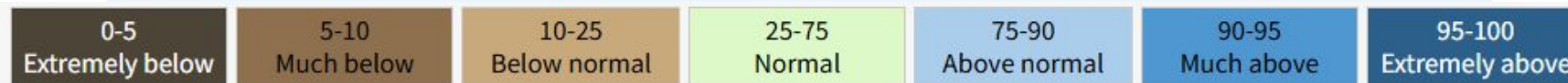
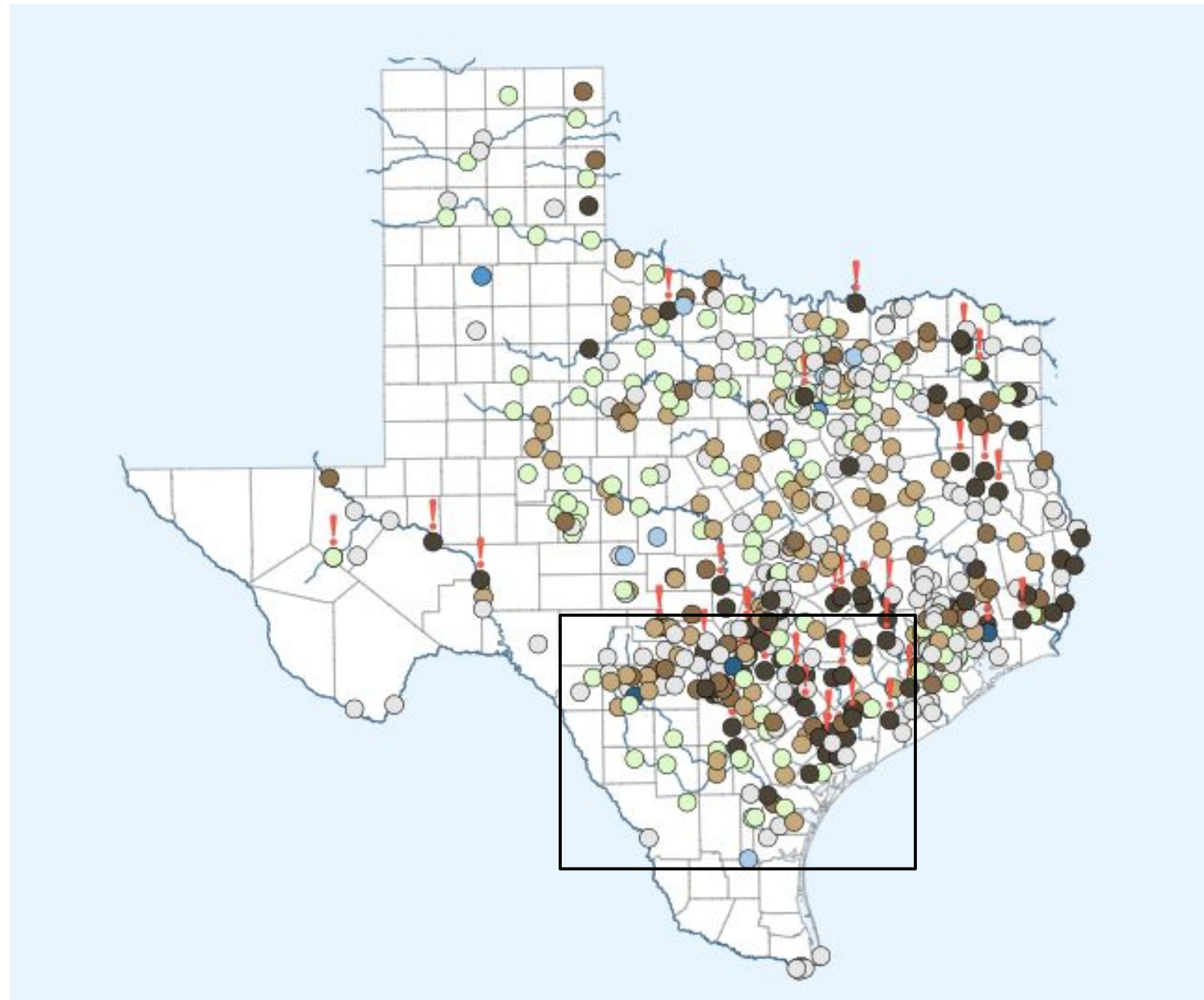


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

March 3, 2026  
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## USGS Discharge Anomalies | Texas Reservoirs

- Flows are majority either below to extremely below normal across much of South Texas.



Reservoir	Pool Elevation (ft)	Current Elevation (ft)
Choke Canyon	220.5	179.21
Lake Corpus Christi	94.0	75.62
Lake Texana	44.0	35.91
Coleta Creek	98.0	94.84
Canyon Lake	909.0	887.49
Lake Amistad	1117.0	1050.52

Reservoir values as of March 3, 2026





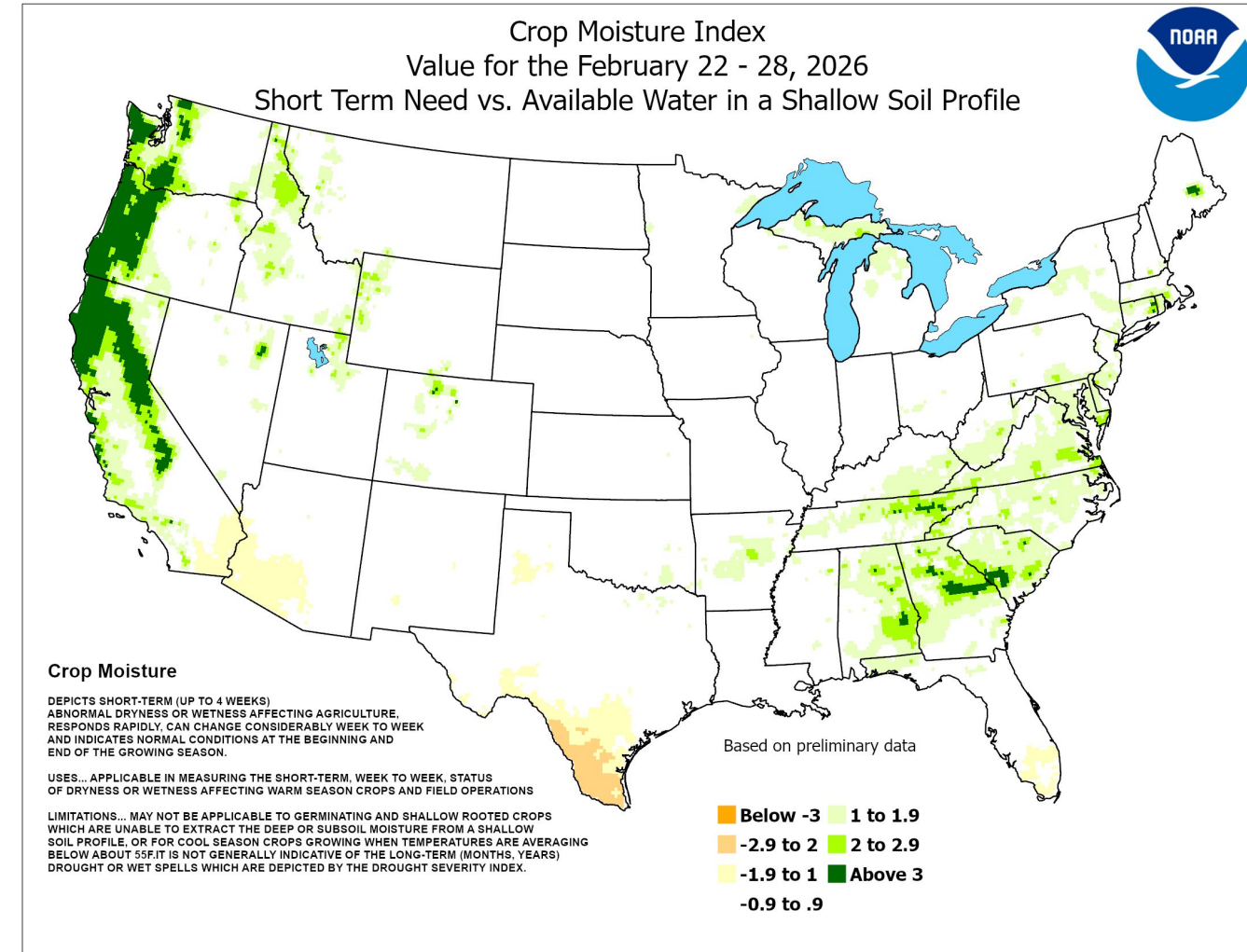
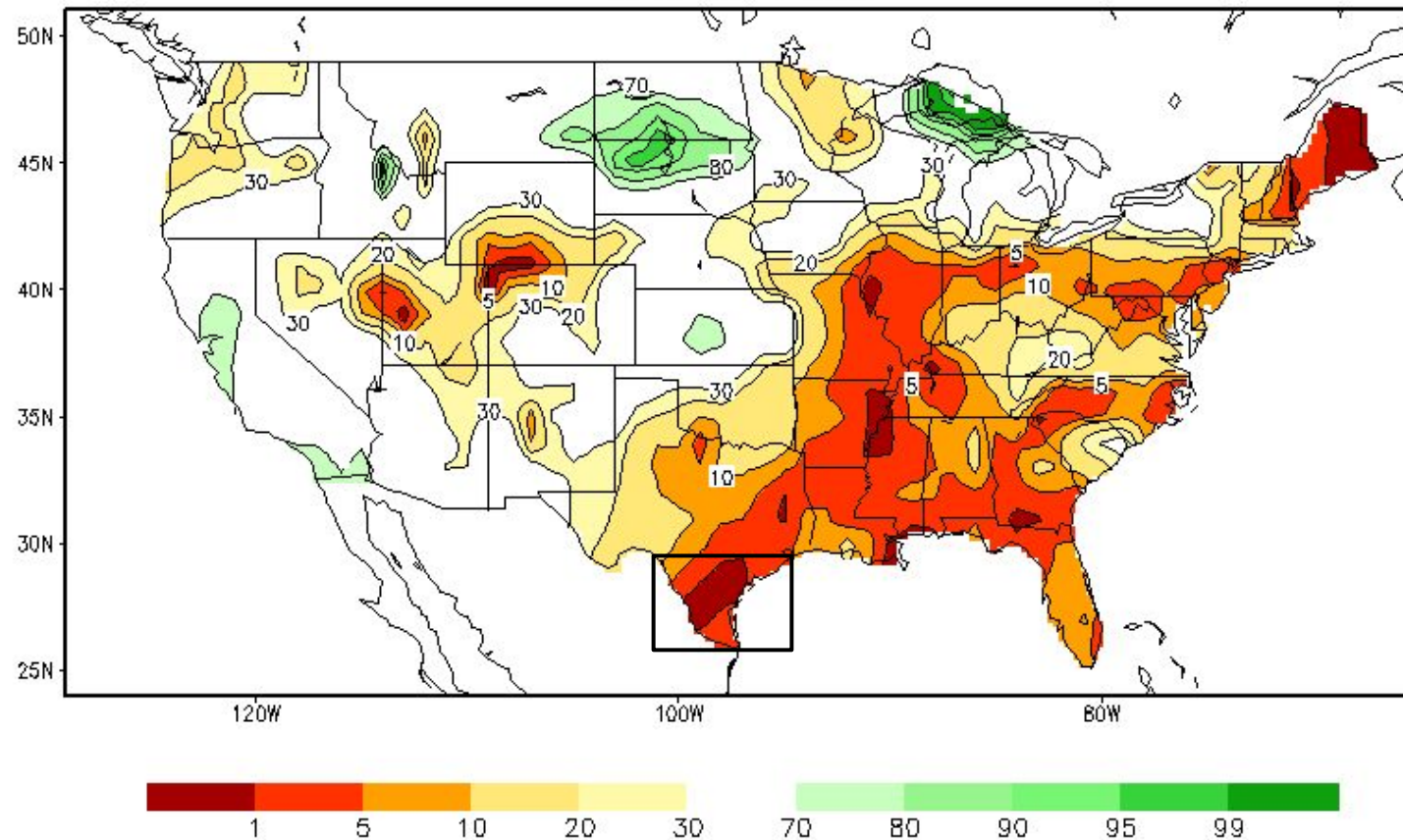
# Agricultural Impacts

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[Soil Moisture](#) | [Crop Moisture](#)

- Soil moisture is much below normal across the region.
- Crop moisture index is abnormally dry.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
MAR 02, 2026



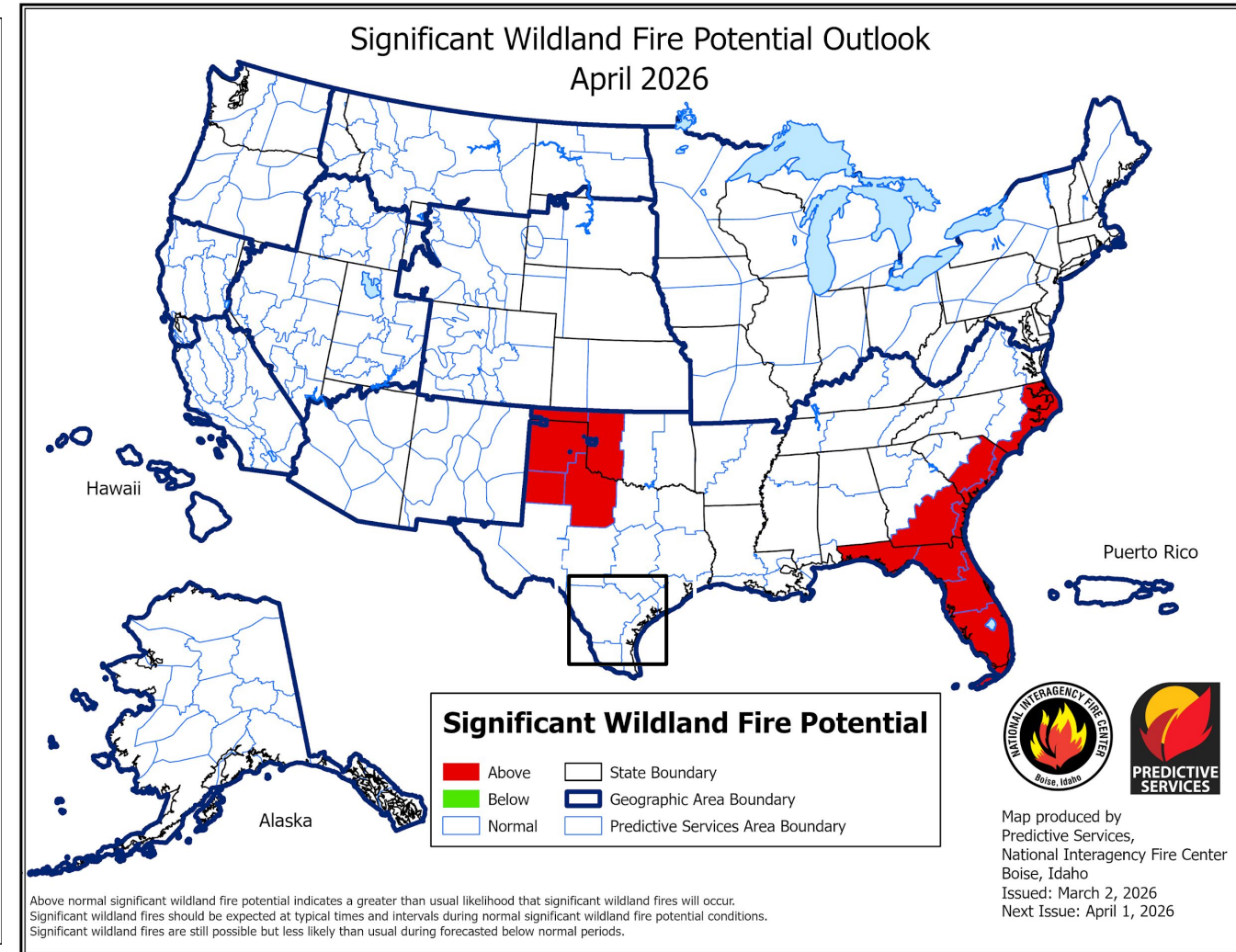
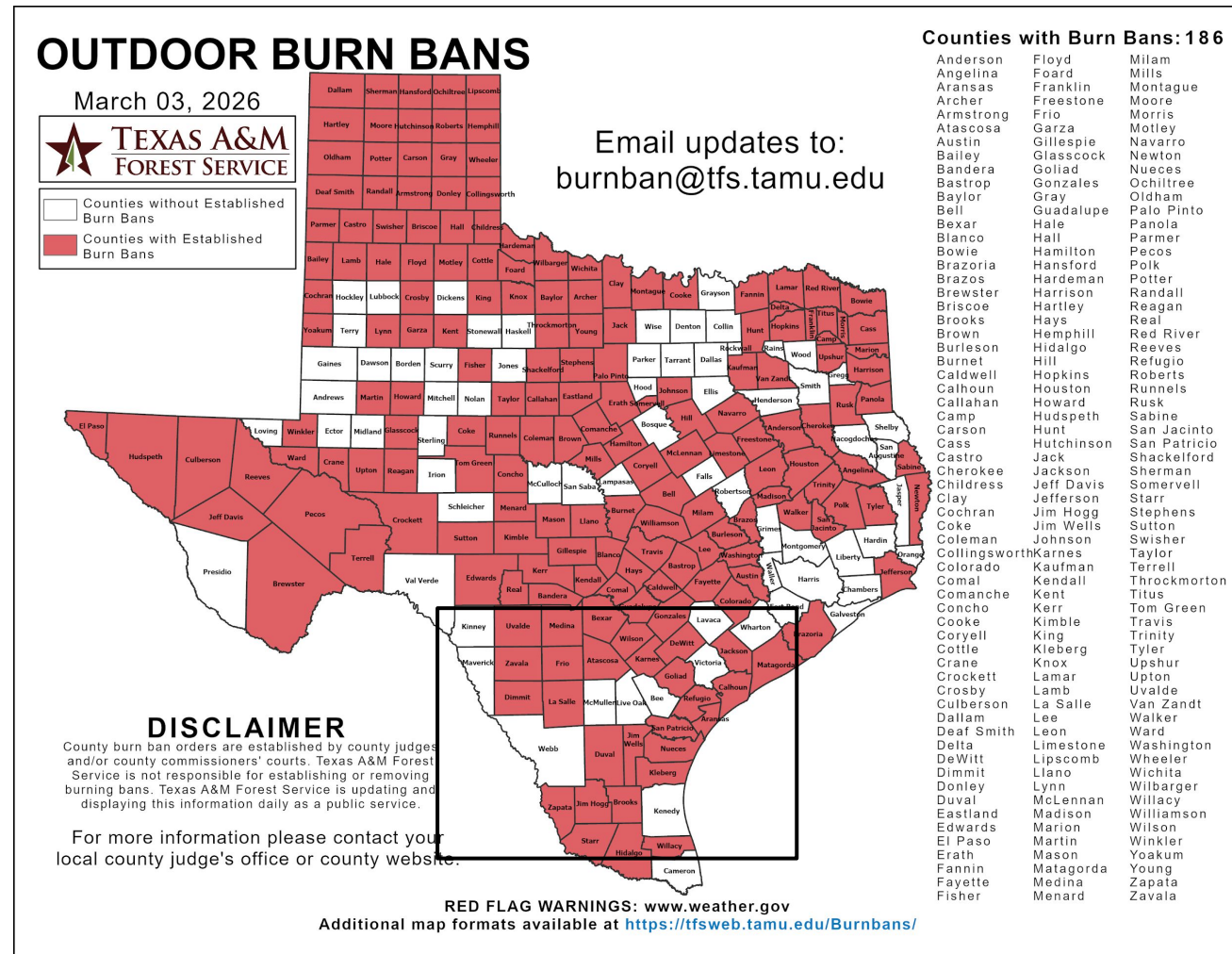


# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Burn Bans currently in effect for La Salle, Duval, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Aransas, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.
- Normal significant wildland fire potential outlook across South Texas for April.



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



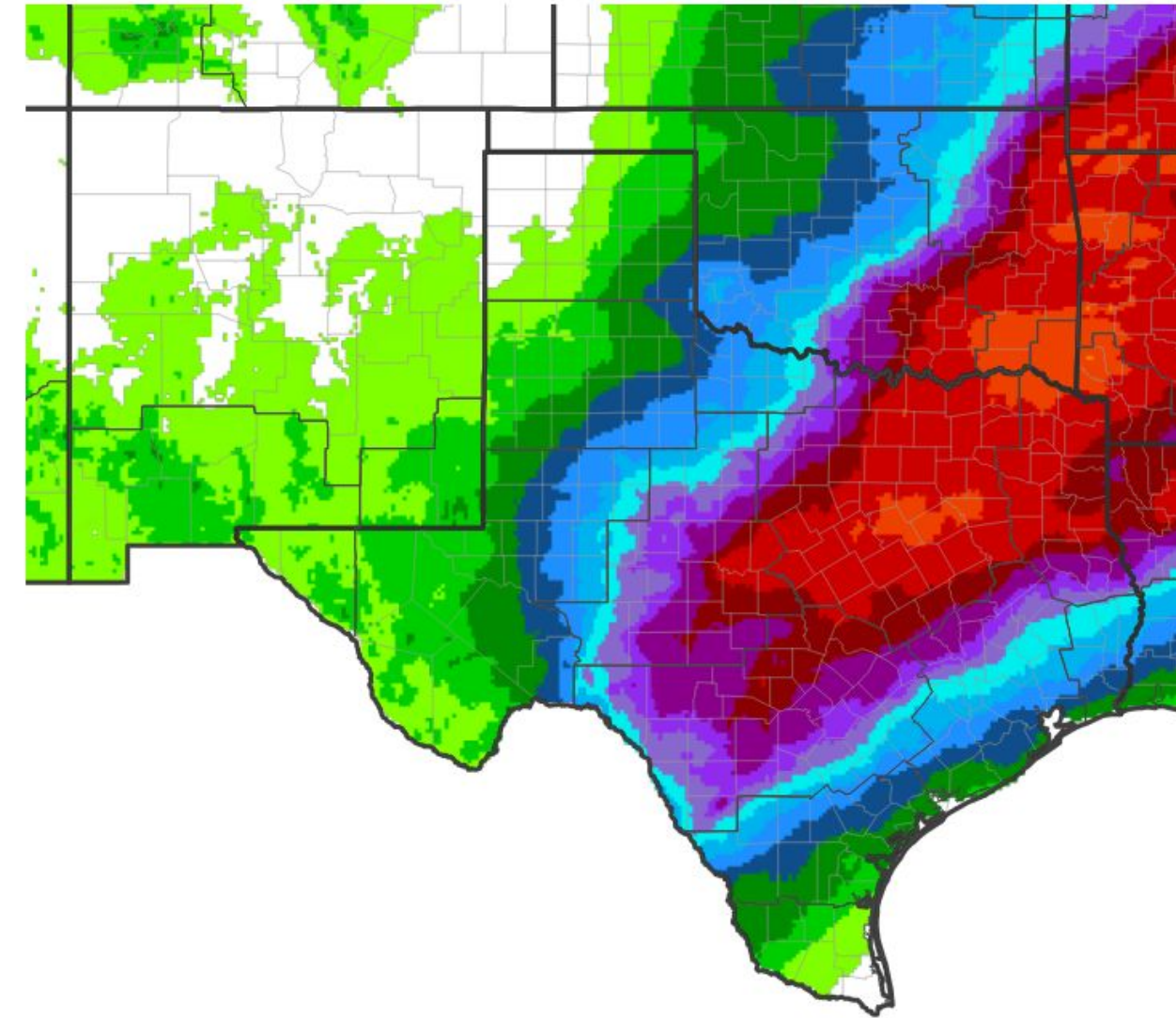


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

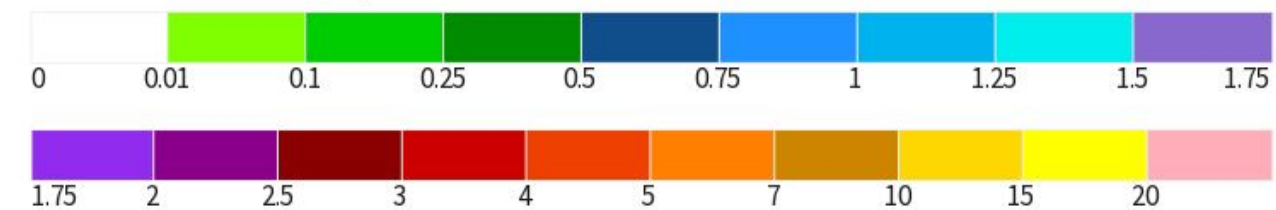
March 3, 2026  
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- Much of the upper reaches of Texas' watersheds will see chances for rainfall in the next 7 days, with the areas of highest rainfall still remaining across northeast Texas.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 3, 2026–March 10, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/03/26





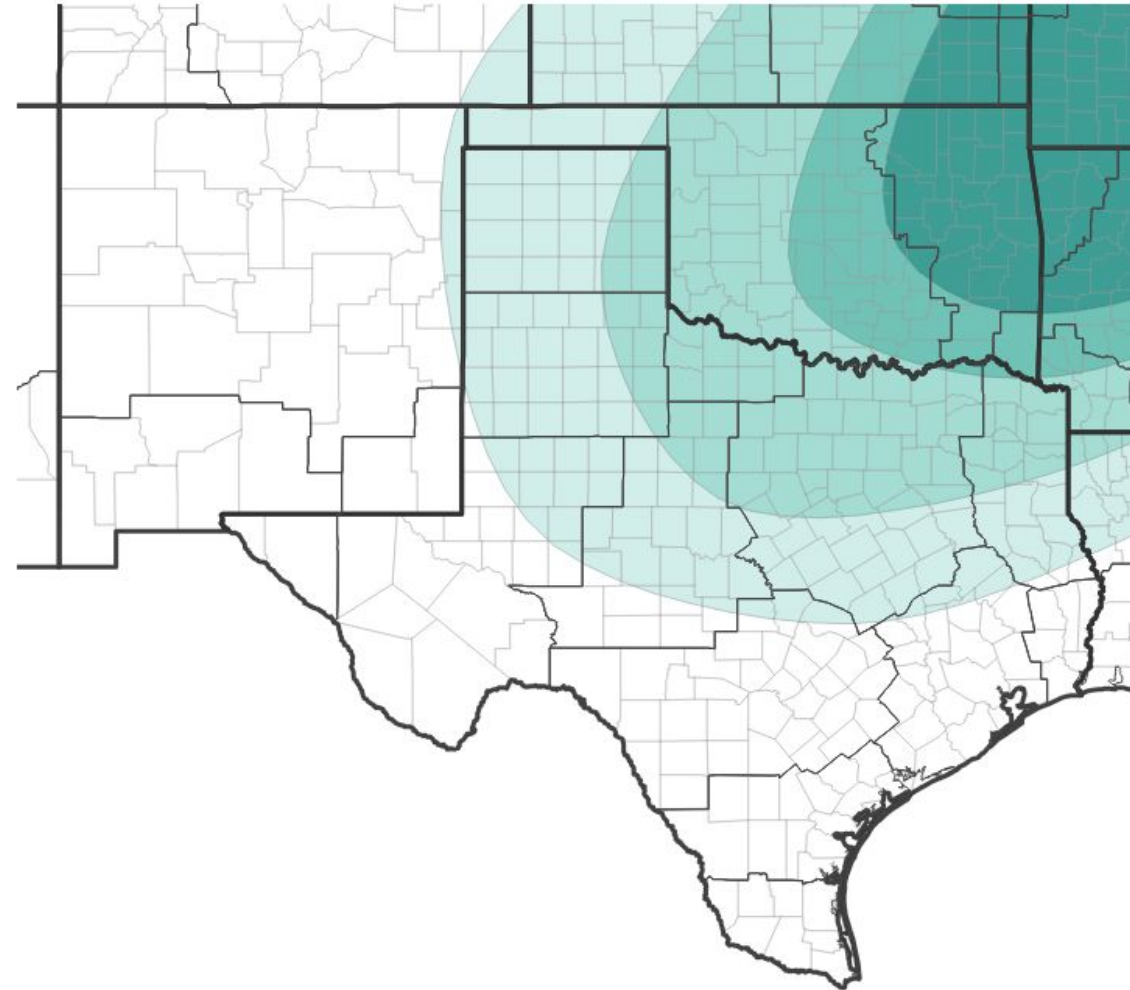
# Long-Range Outlooks

March 3, 2026  
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Equal chances of normal precipitation for the entirety of March across the portions of South Texas.
- Likely above-normal temperatures for the entirety of March.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for March 1, 2026–March 31, 2026



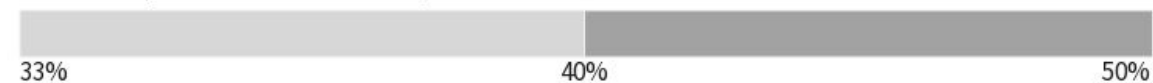
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



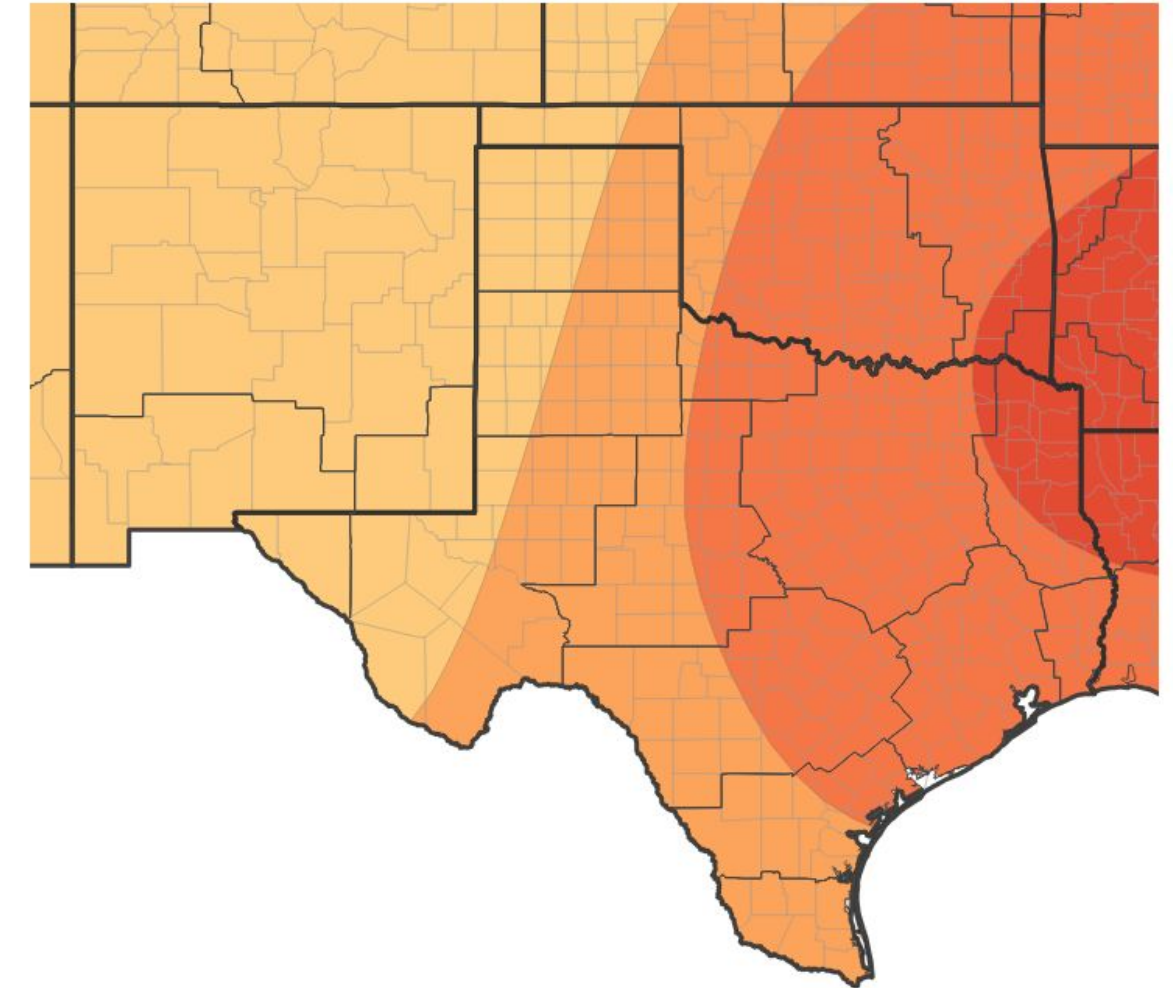
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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Monthly Temperature Outlook for March 1, 2026–March 31, 2026



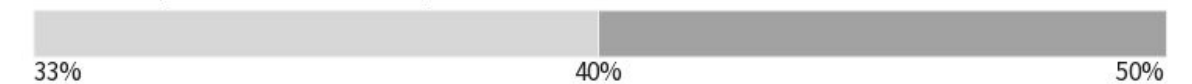
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/28/26





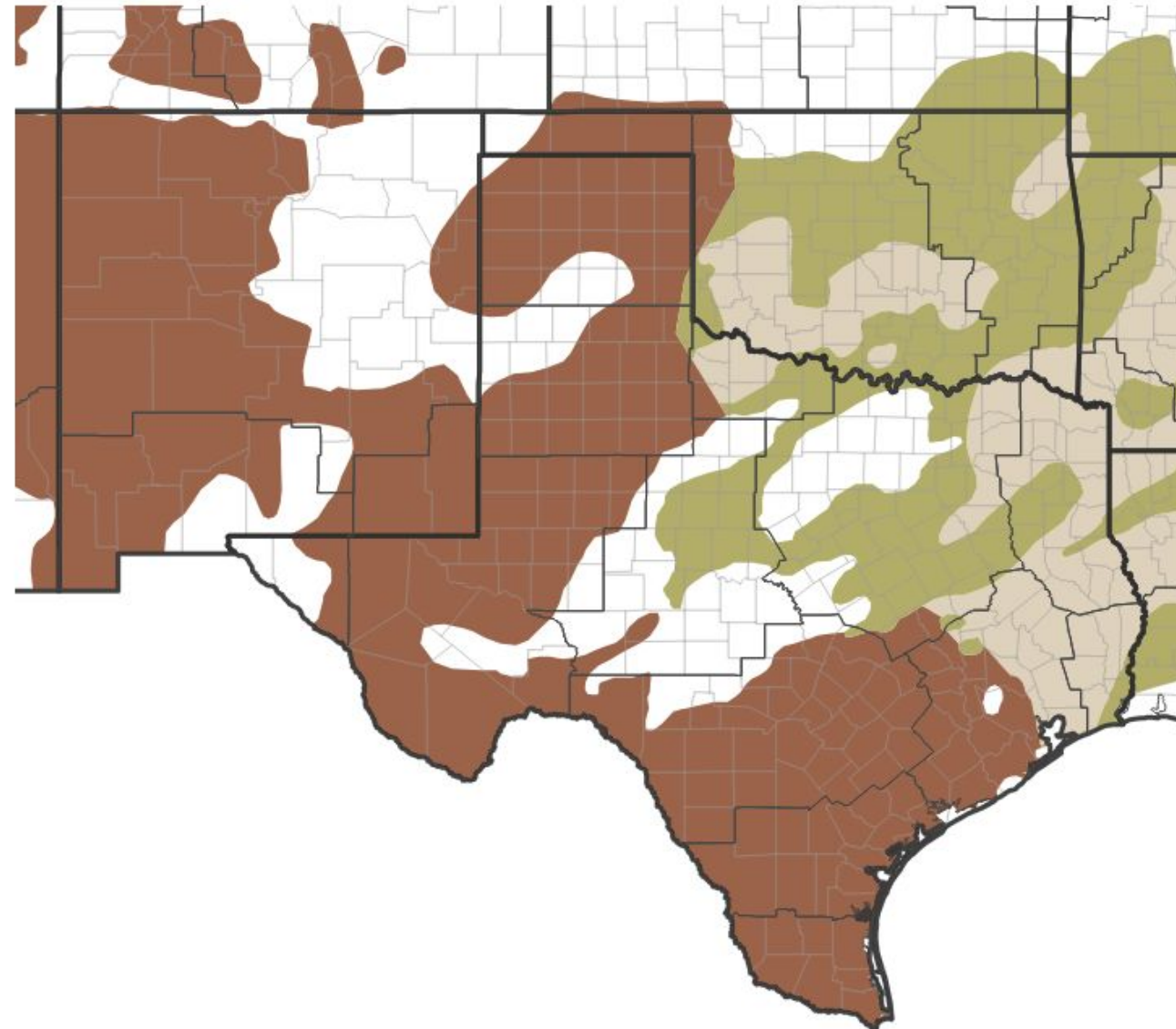
# Drought Outlook

March 3, 2026  
12:00 PM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across South Texas through April and into the Spring.

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



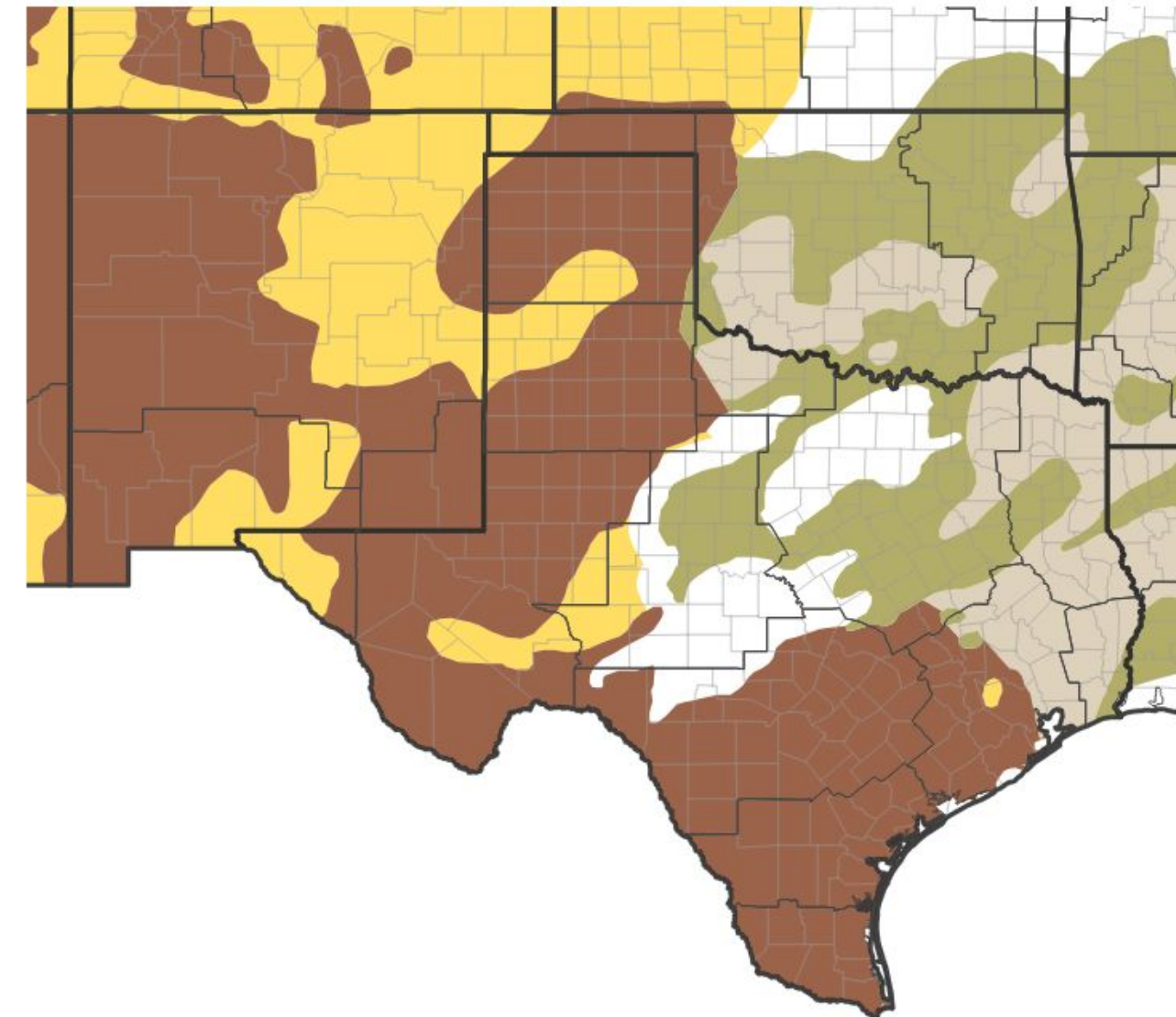
Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/28/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 28, 2026–May 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/28/26

