



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid April 9, 2025

Issued By: NWS El Paso (Santa Teresa, NM)

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated May 7, 2025 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/EPZ/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=132 for regional drought status updates.
-
- Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) drought status affecting Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
 - Drought conditions expected to persist into the summer months, seasonally dry and warm spring expected to continue.
 - River levels well below normal due to lack of mountain snowpack, limited irrigation likely for 2025 Rio Grande growing season.





U.S. Drought Monitor

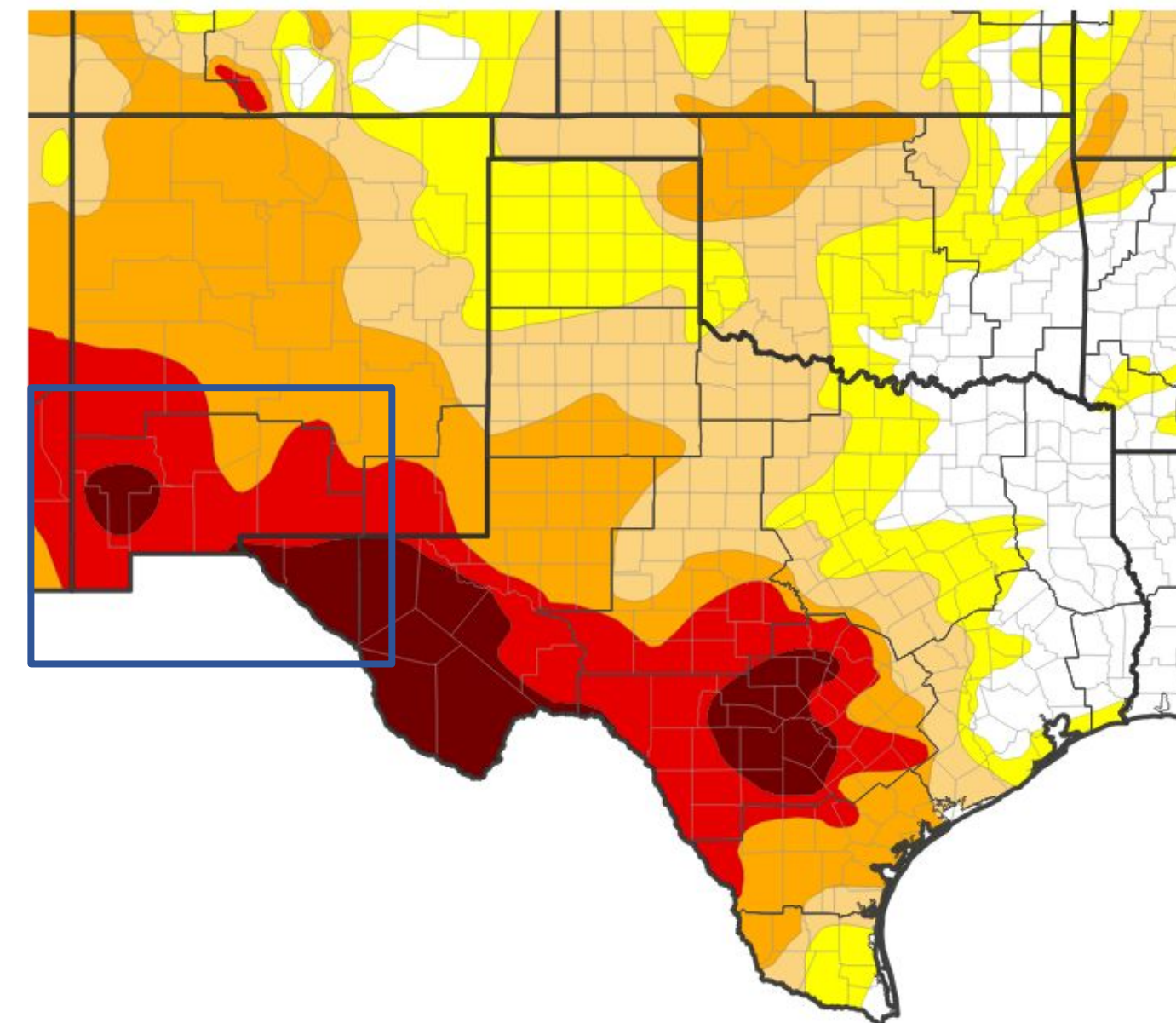
April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
Far West Texas including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
Most of Southwest and South-Central New Mexico including Dona Ana, Luna, Grant, and Hidalgo, Sierra, and Otero Counties. Gila and Lincoln National Forests.
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Northwest and Central New Mexico
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Northeast New Mexico (93% of New Mexico, 68% of Texas)
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
Northeast New Mexico (100% of New Mexico, 85% of Texas)
- A very dry winter caused drought to worsen, spring a seasonally dry time of year. Drought is expected to persist into the summer months.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



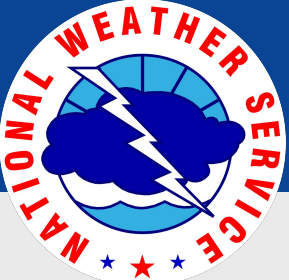
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/01/25



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX



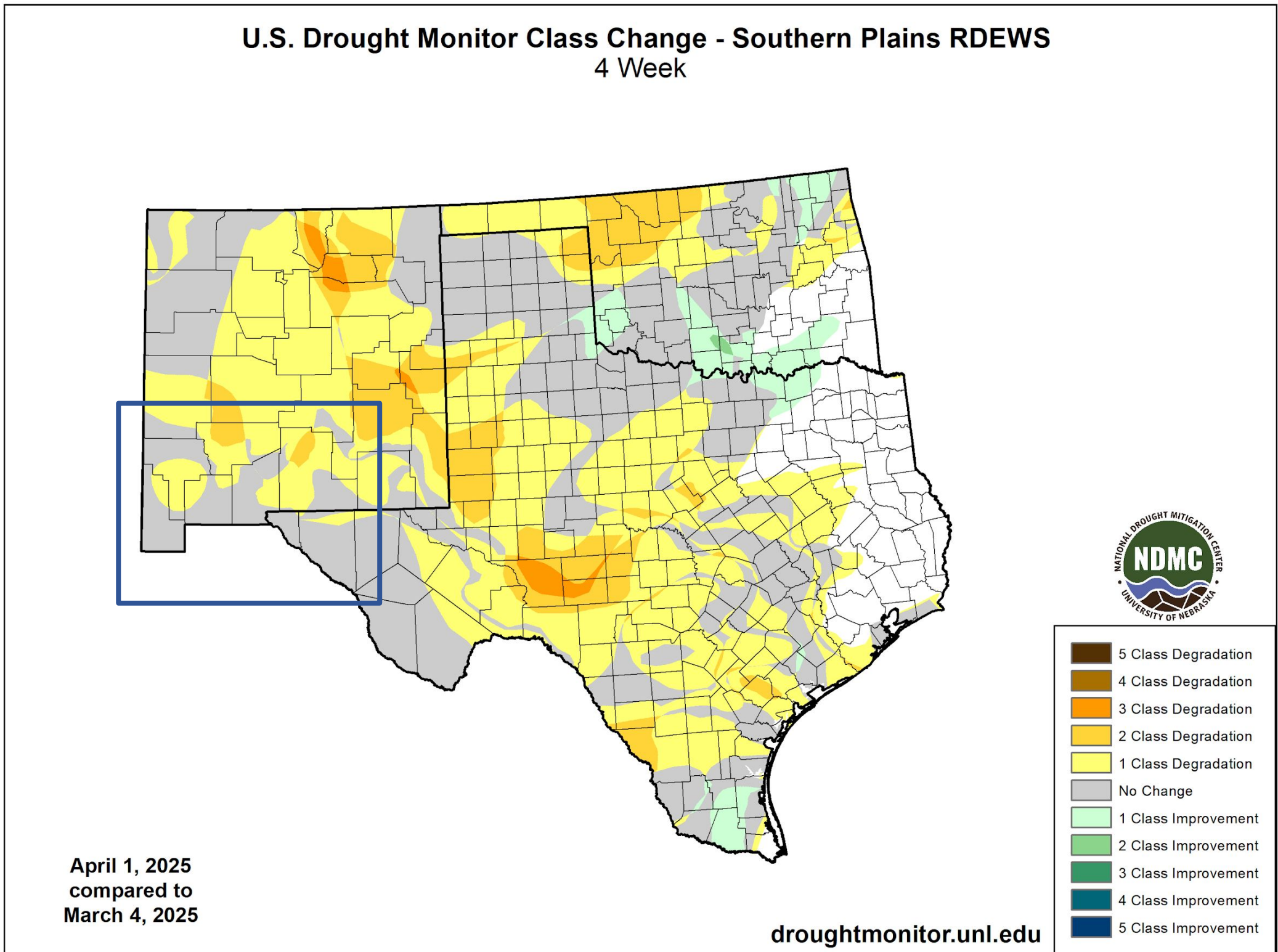
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

Link to the latest [1-month change map](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

4-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:**
Portions of Central New Mexico including Lincoln National Forest and the Middle Rio Grande Valley.
- **Drought Improved:**
None
- **No Change:**
Portions of Southwest New Mexico and Far West Texas





Precipitation

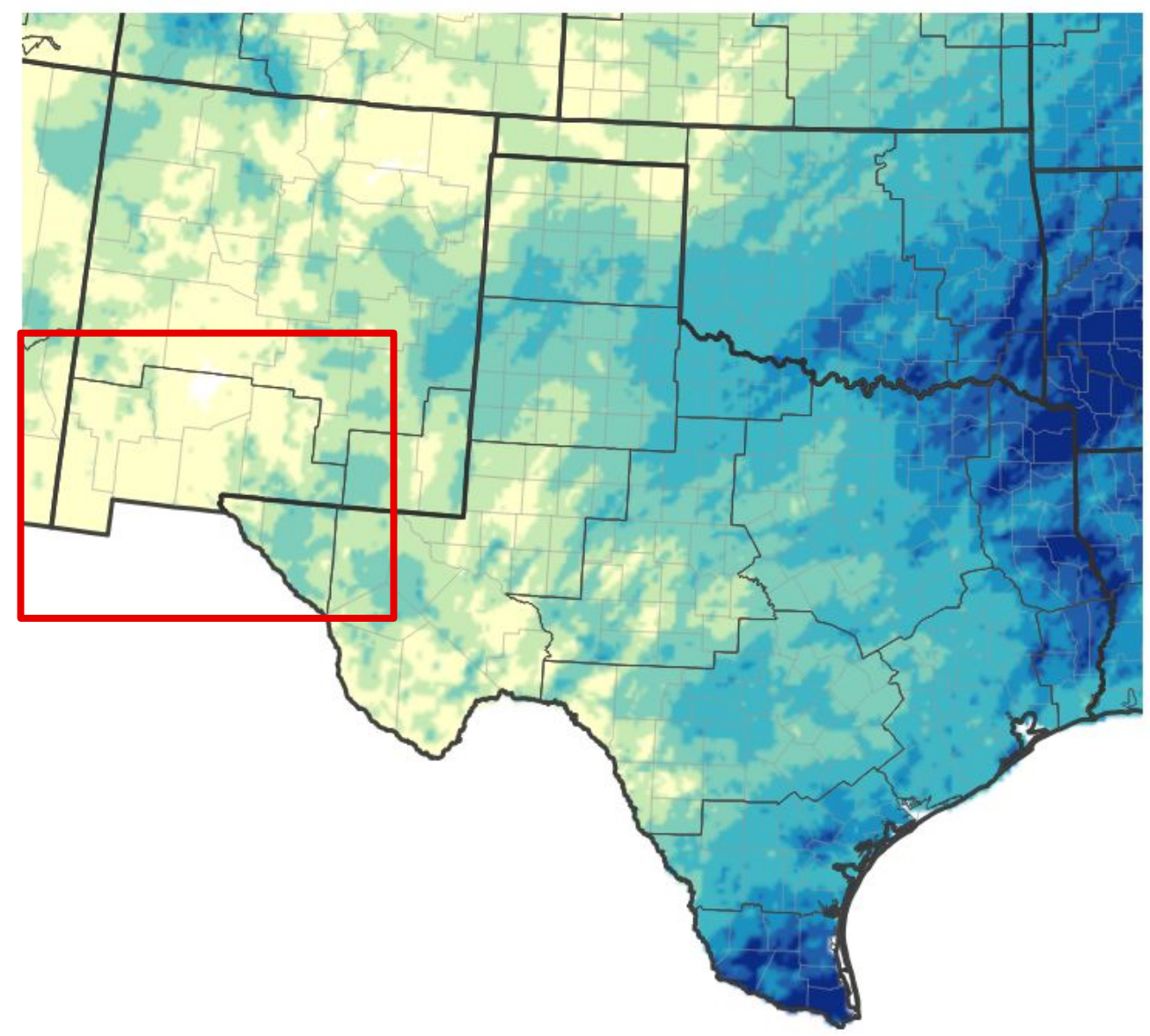
April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

30-day precip totals,
0.00-0.10" along I-10 corridor.
0.25-0.50" over mountain
forests.

90-day precip totals,
0.25-0.50" along I-10 corridor.
0.50-1.00" over mountain
forests.

Historically dry winter for
many. Little to no mountain
snowpack. Far West Texas
just picked up 0.25-0.75" from
April 3-5, may provide
temporary relief from drought
conditions this month.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

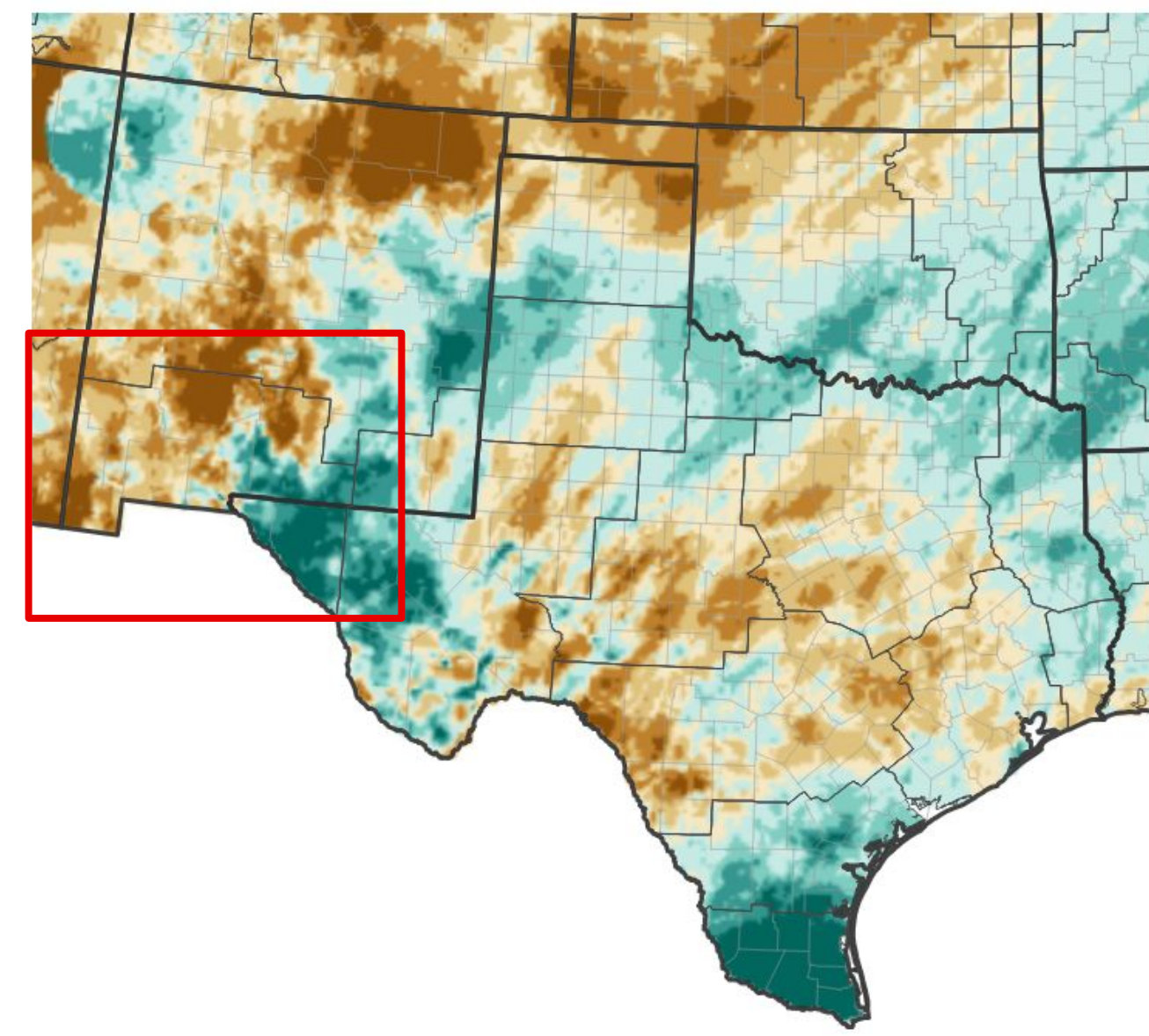


Inches of Precipitation

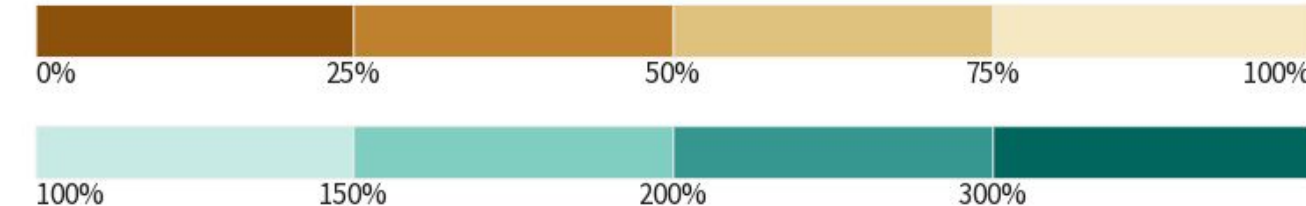


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 04/07/25

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 04/08/25



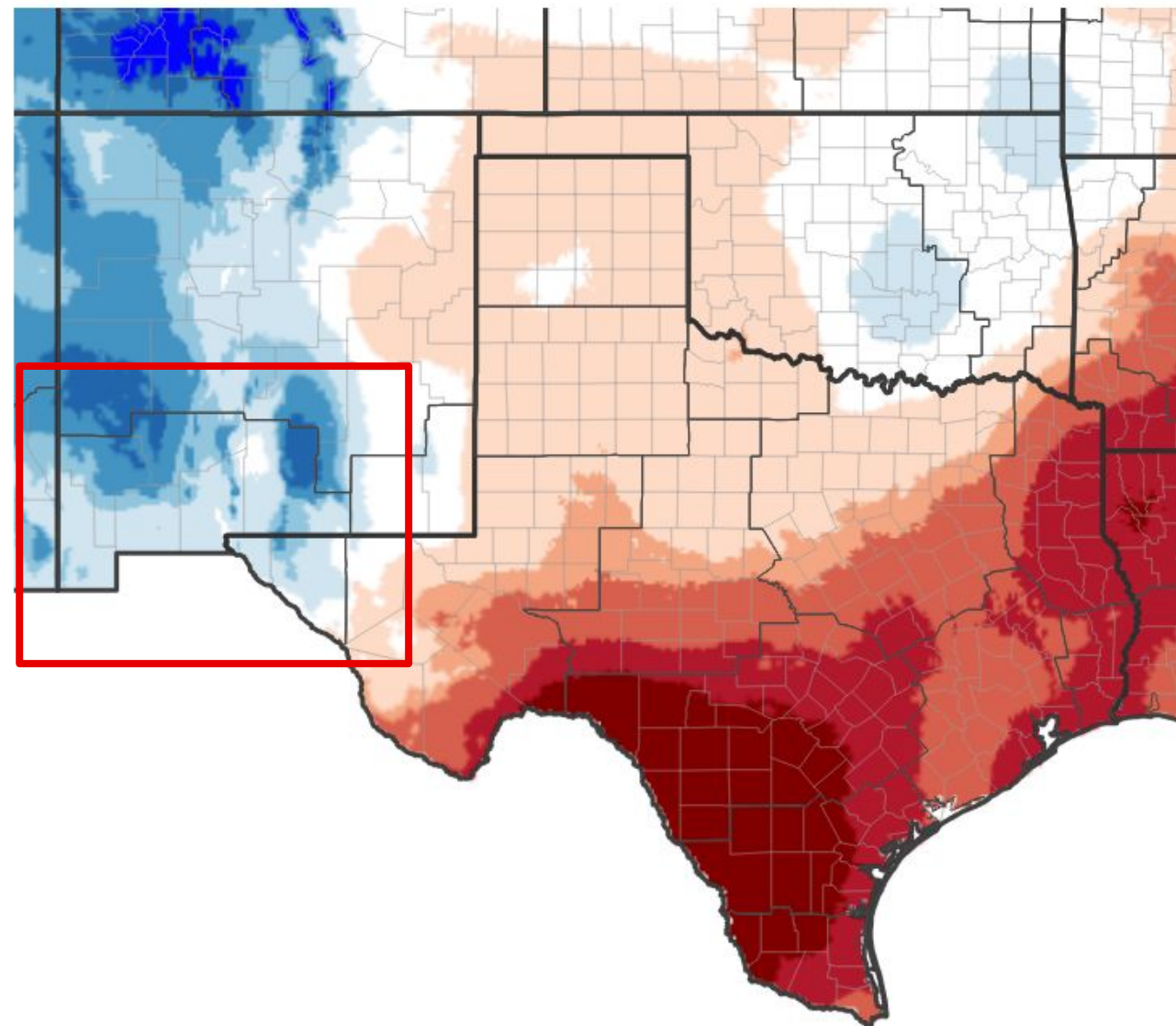


Temperature

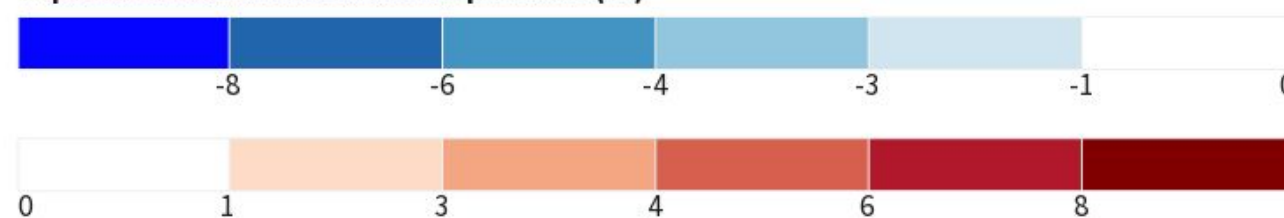
April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

- Near or slightly below normal March for New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- 30-day high temperature anomalies near normal or 1-2 degrees below normal.
- 2024 was the hottest year on record for El Paso.
- March mean average temperatures 1.6°F above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



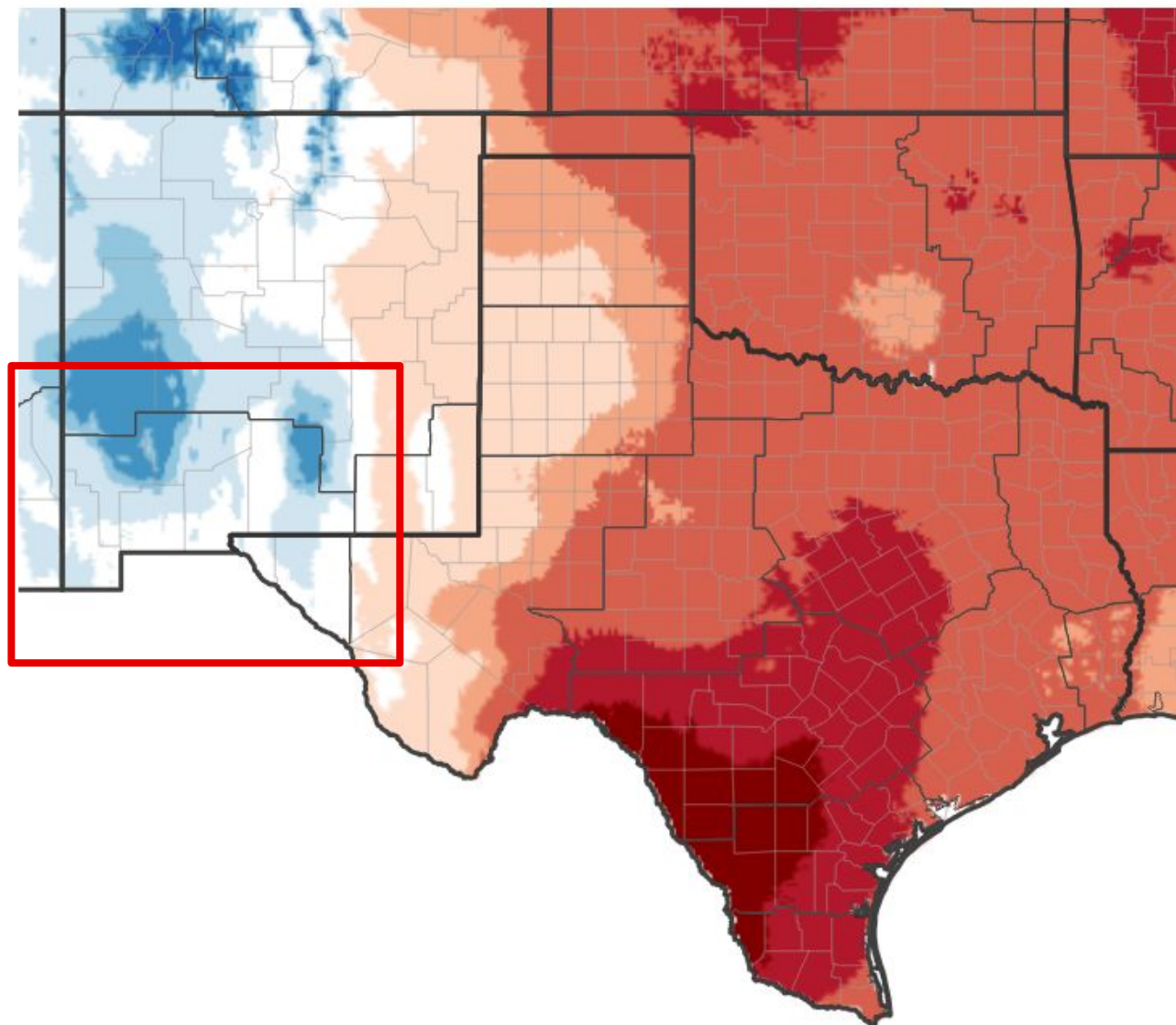
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 04/05/25

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



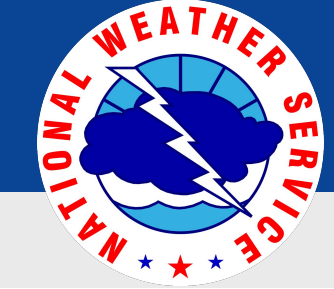
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/05/25



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX



Summary of Impacts

April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows in Gila and Mimbres basins are well below normal with no flooding issues expected through the spring. Mountain snowpack is practically non-existent to start April, and the minimal snowmelt is just about complete. No sudden rises occurred in March. Flow remains near normal out of Lincoln National Forest. River levels will remain steady through the spring season with only temporary rises due to rain or thunderstorms but long-term river levels should remain consistent into this summer's Monsoon season. Rio Grande water has dried up south of the Caballo Dam and will remain dry before opening in early June. Elephant Butte storage sits at 14.2% capacity, a slight increase from last month but well below 30-year median. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

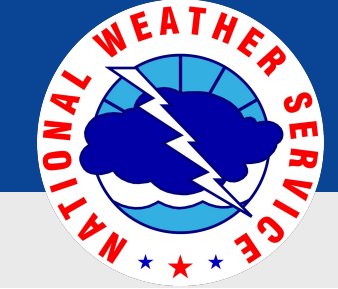
Agricultural Impacts

- Warmer and drier than usual conditions expected in April, with few chances for rain showers. Outlook points to a very dry late Spring and rough start to the 2025 growing season. This year's projected Rio Grande irrigation surface water allotment is only 5-6 inches. Please refer to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District ([EBID](#)) website or your local municipality for more information.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Above normal ERCs exist across the National Forests due to recent dryness, close to the 90th percentile. Soil moisture remains very low. Lack of winter snowpack may limit the spring greenup especially under forest canopies. Large fire risk is Critical with any breezy to windy days going forward.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

- Very little snowpack over area mountains as of April 1. Lack of mountain snow will minimize flood risk this spring as no excessive rainfall is expected through May. River flooding season will begin again next summer.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
Gila	1.12 ft	11.00 ft
Redrock	4.18 ft	20.00 ft
Virden	4.77 ft	15.00 ft

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft

Gauge stage recorded on 4/9/2025

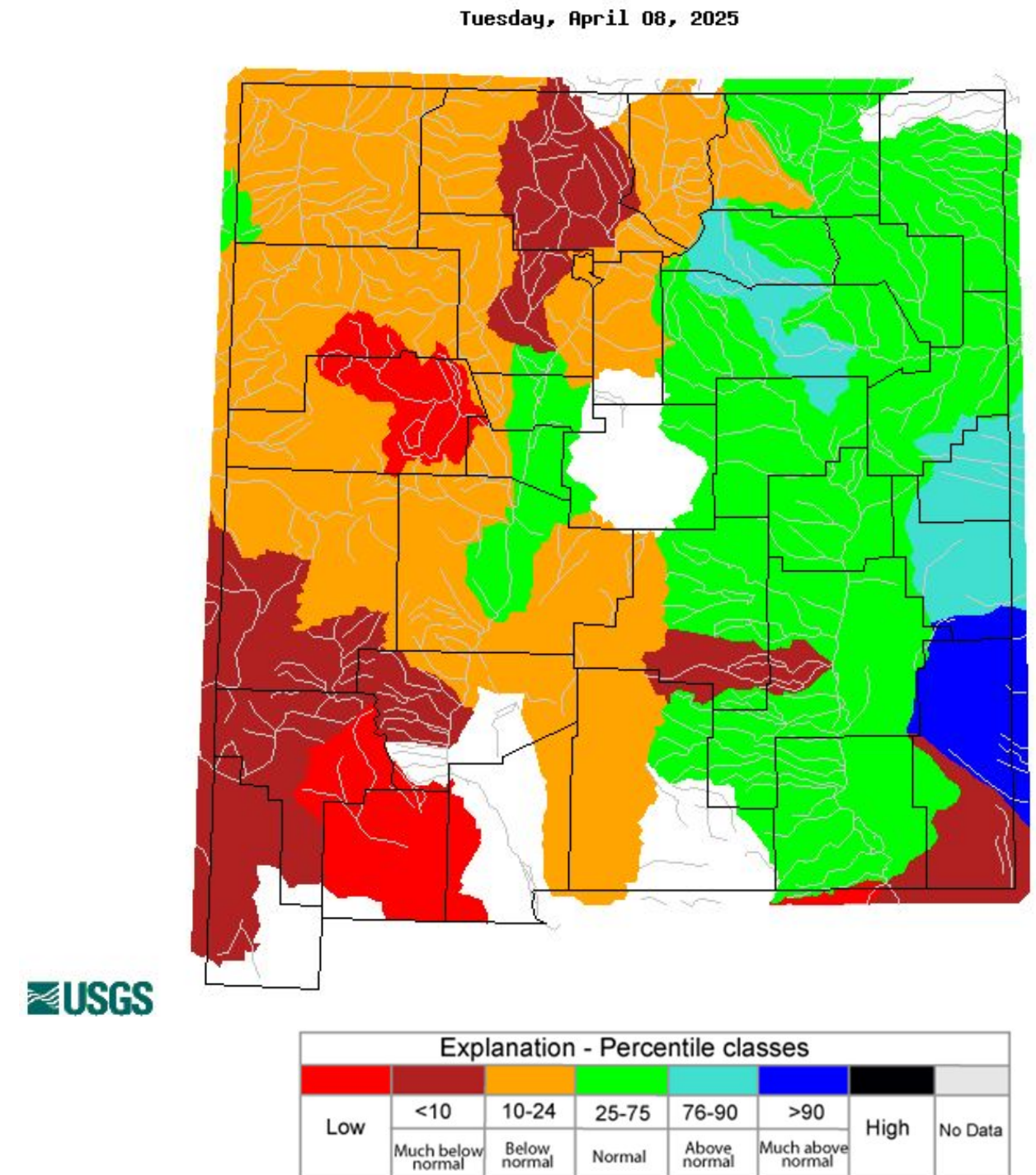
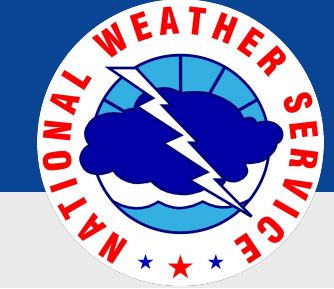


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow
HUC map valid April 8, 2025



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX



Agricultural Impacts

April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

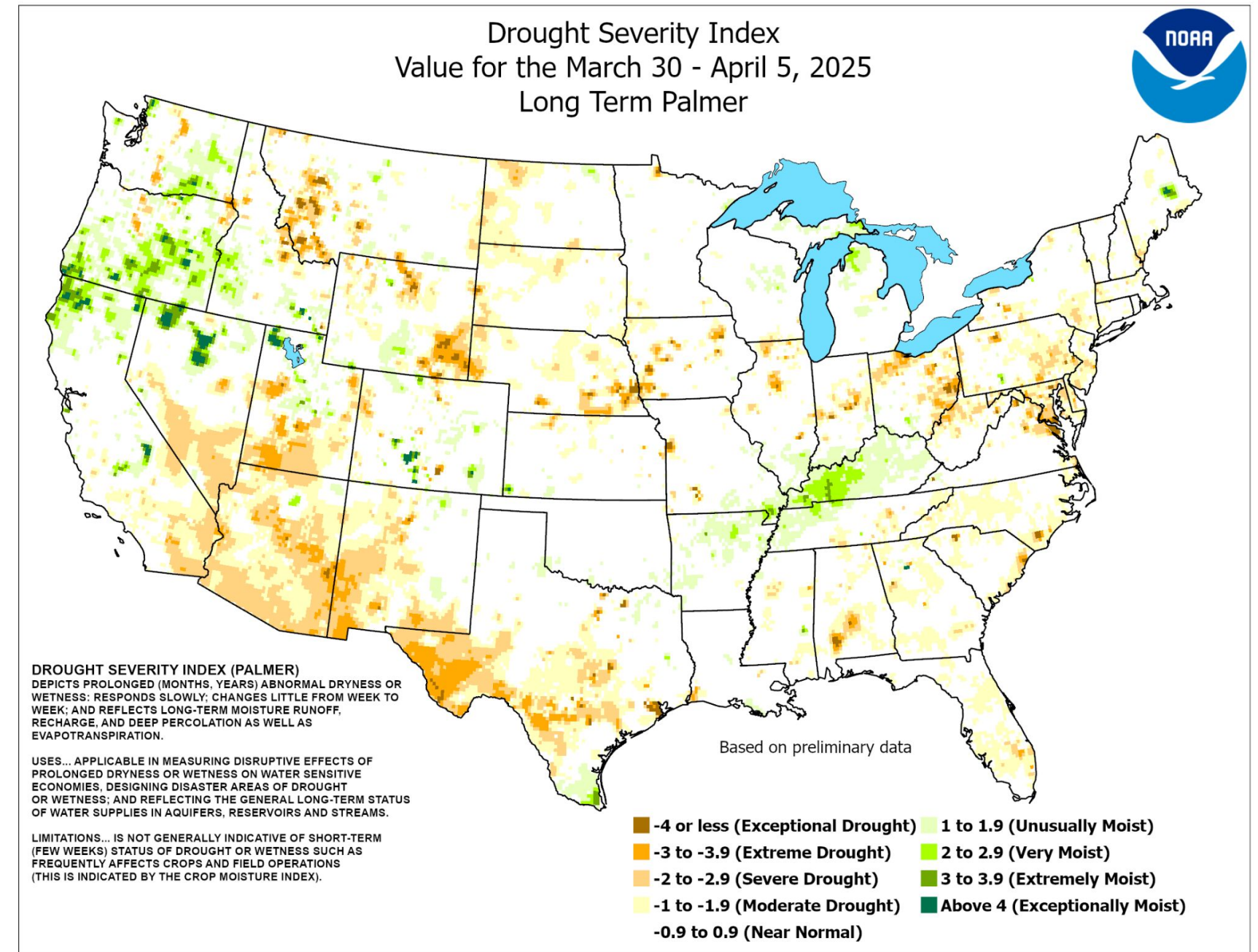
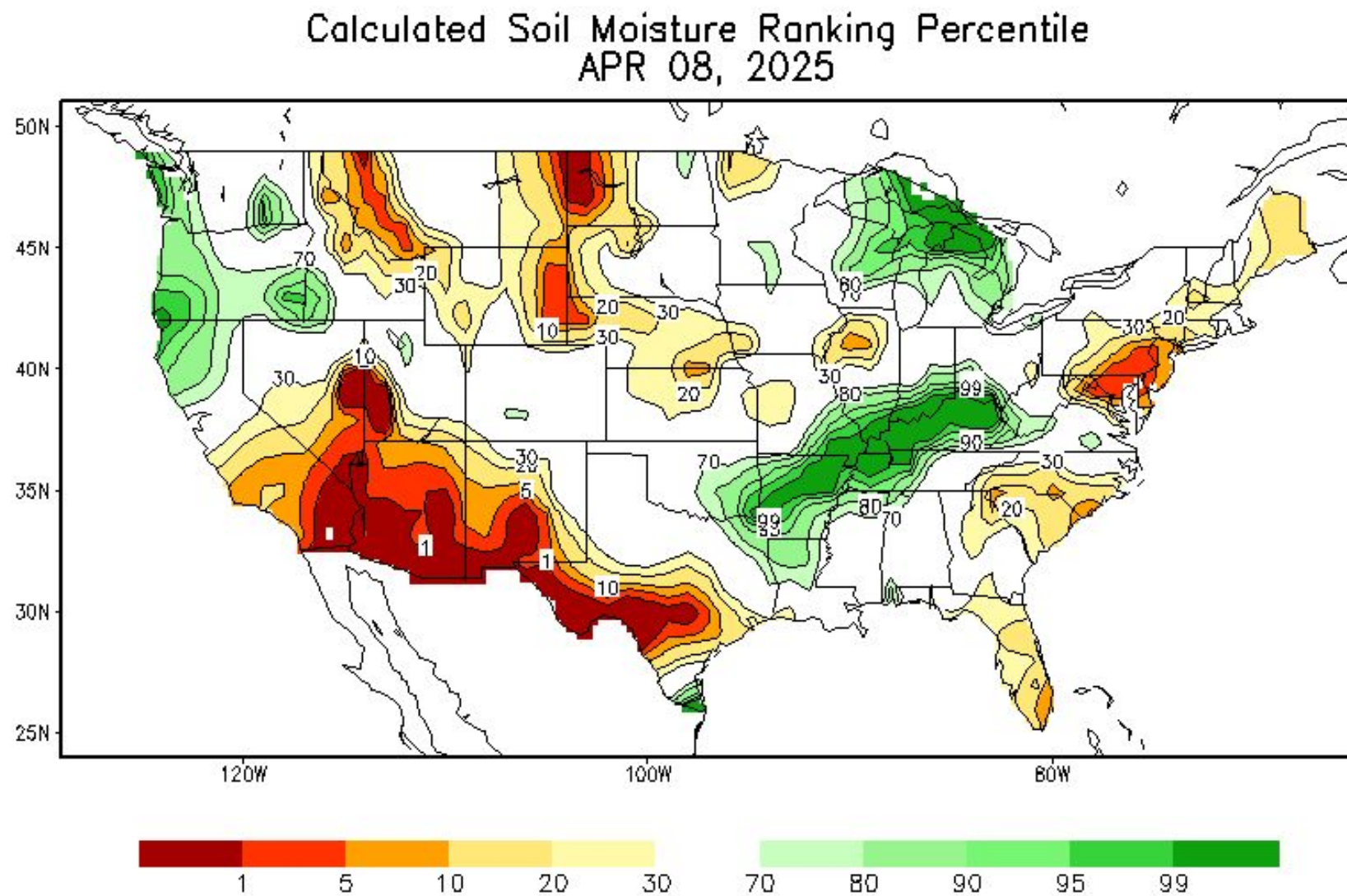


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid April 8, 2025

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#). Weekly value for period ending April 5, 2025





Fire Hazard Impacts

April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

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

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

Latest NM Fire Restrictions available [here](#)

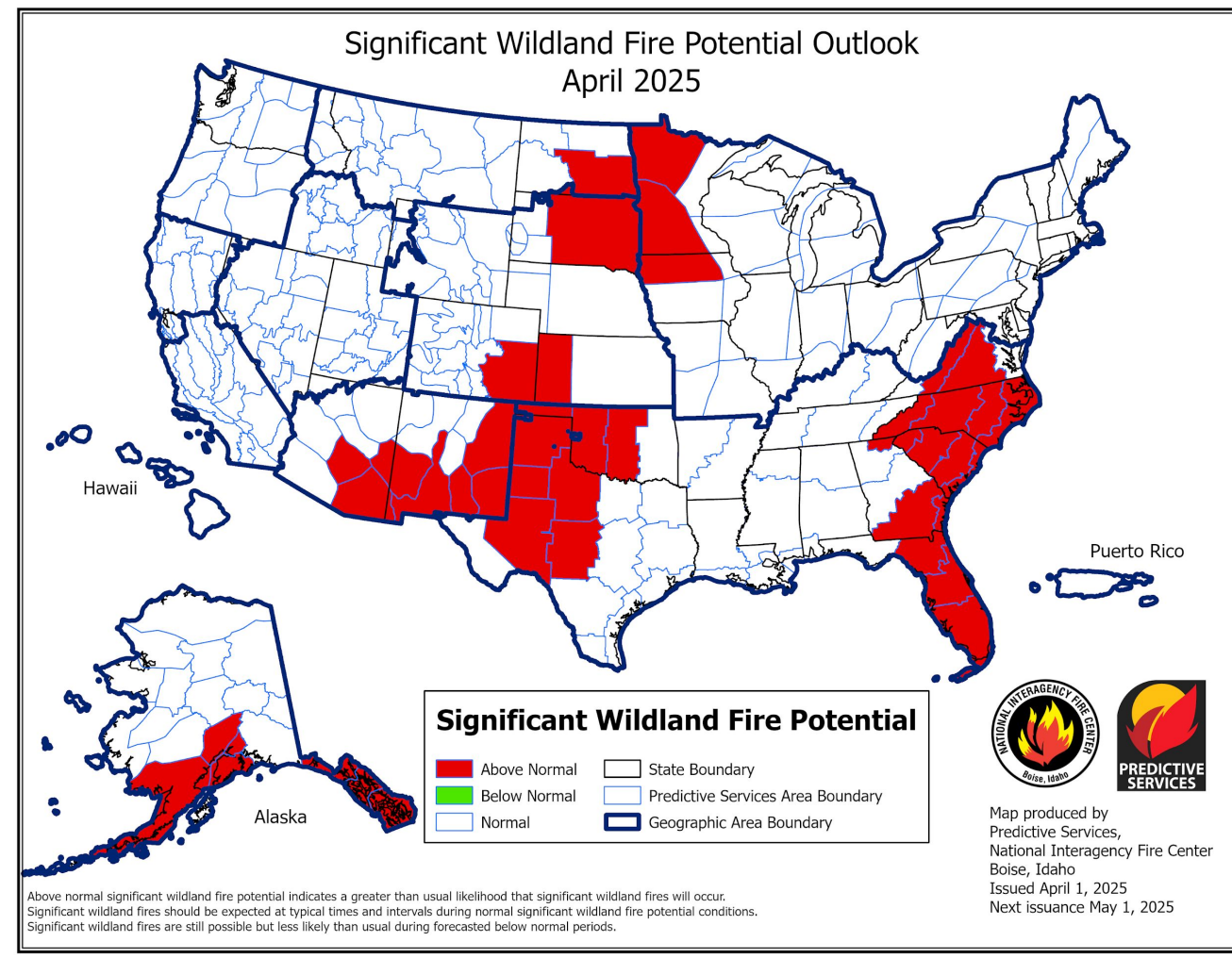
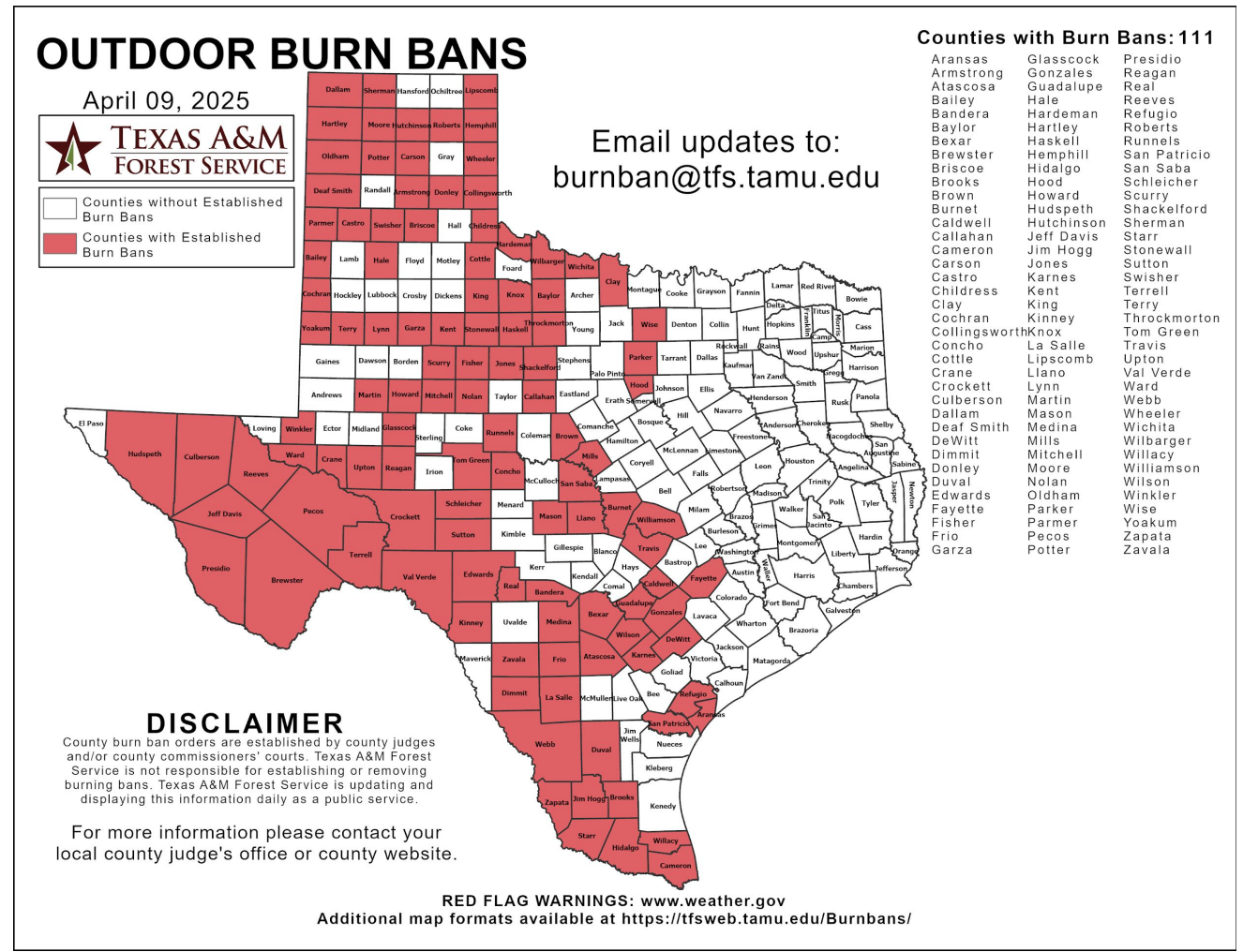


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for April 2025



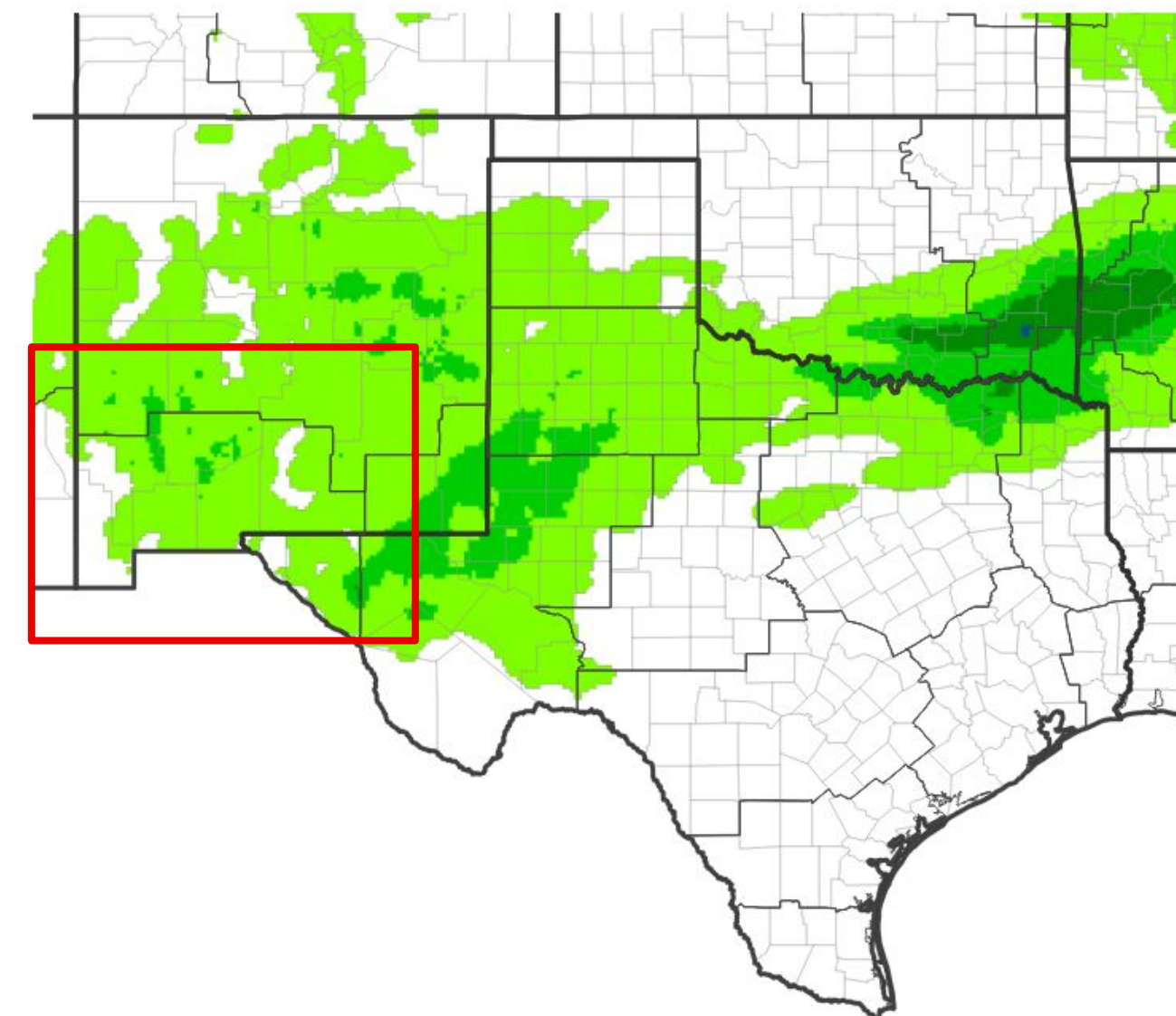


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

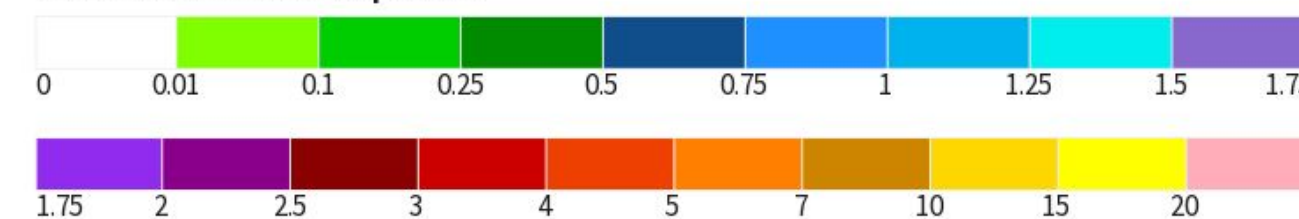
April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

- Light rain showers possible next week, with a few more opportunities later in the month as the dryline becomes more established across west Texas. Climate outlook for April leans drier and warmer than normal.
- 2024 finished below normal for precipitation area wide. Drought conditions are likely to linger through the spring season.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 9, 2025–April 16, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation

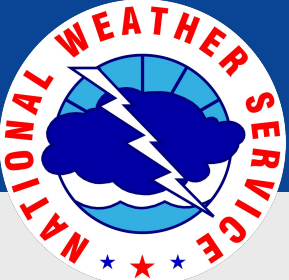


Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/09/25



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

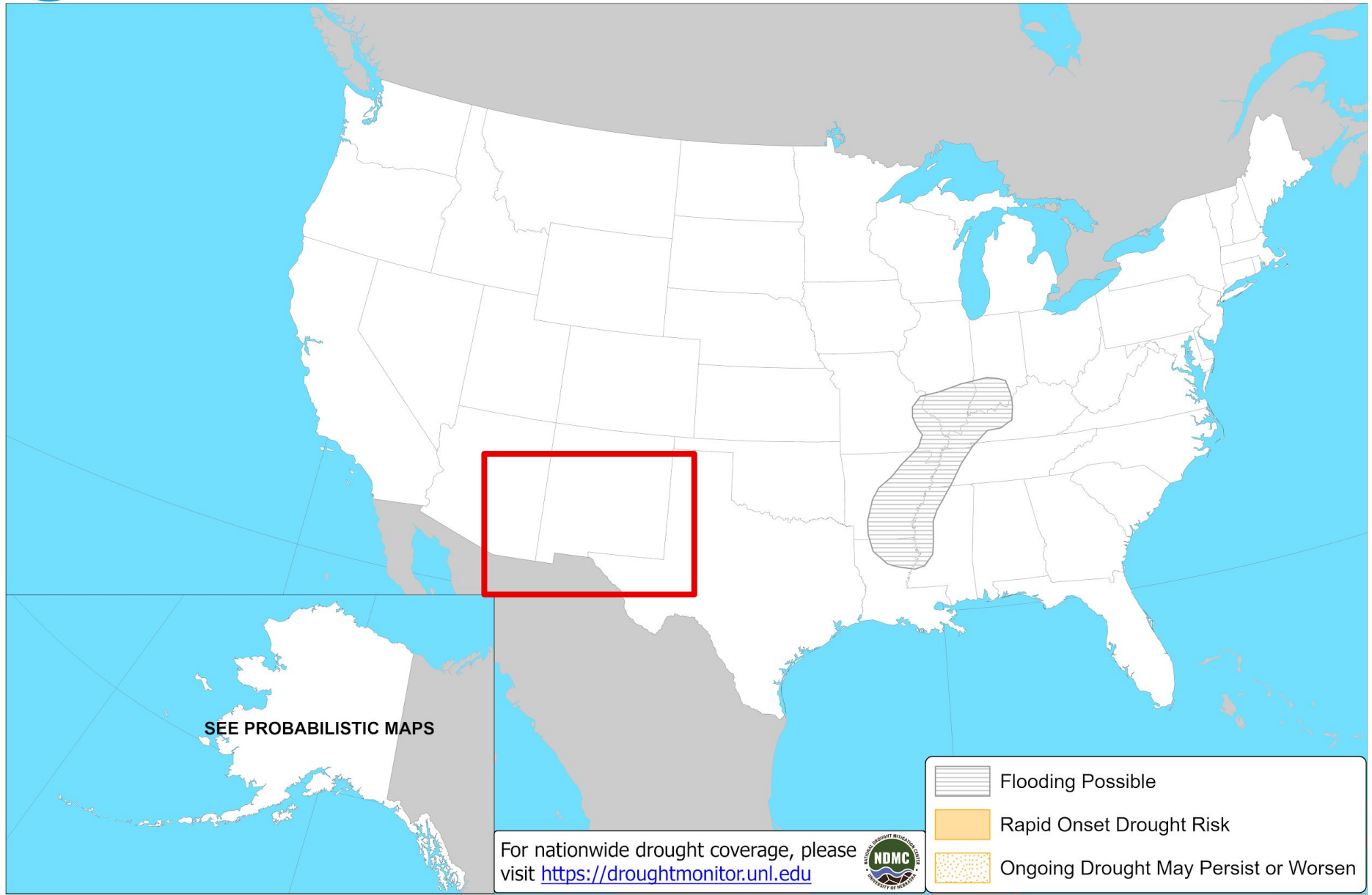
April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- While below normal precipitation totals are expected through the spring season, rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to persist through the spring season.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: April 17 - 23, 2025



Climate Prediction Center
Released: April 9, 2025 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

Image Caption:
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid April 17 to 23





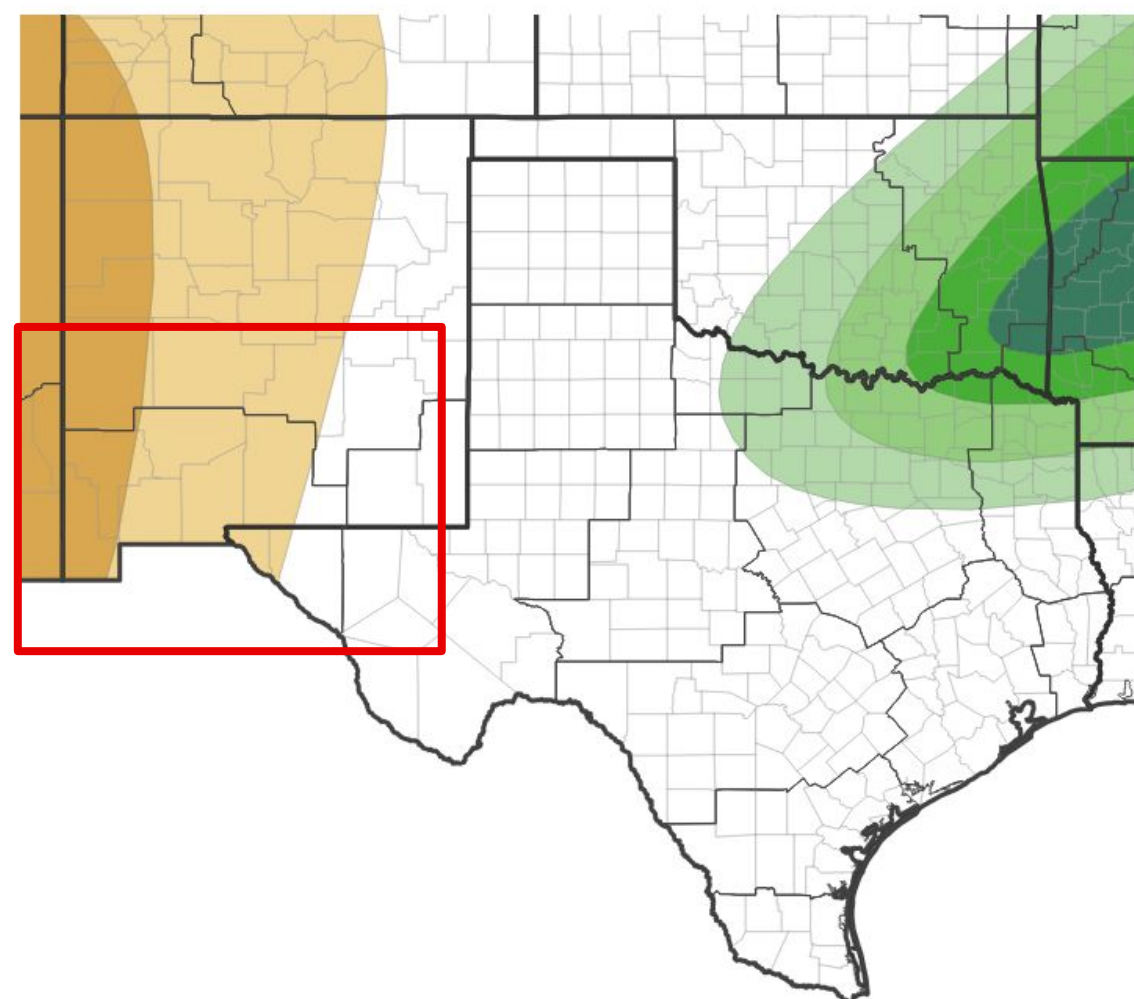
Long-Range Outlooks

April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

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

- 33-40% chance for below normal precipitation across Far West Texas and Southern New Mexico, 40-50% chance toward Arizona state line
- Monthly average for El Paso: 0.17"
- 50-60% chance for above normal temperatures across Far West Texas and Southern New Mexico

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2025–April 30, 2025



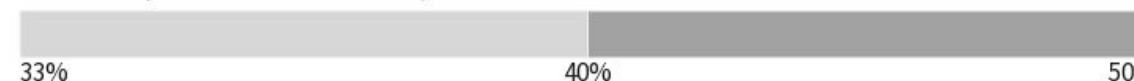
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



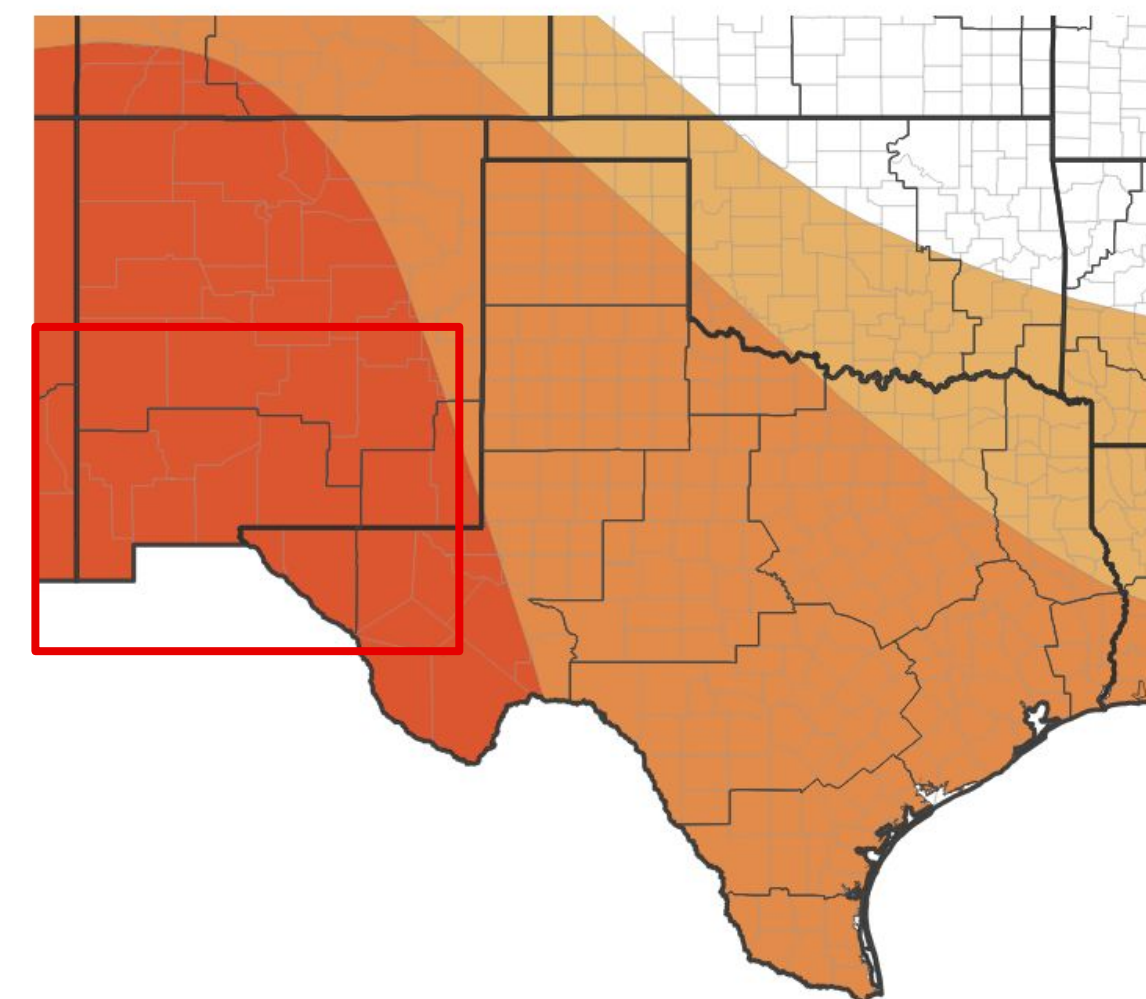
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 03/31/25

Monthly Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2025–April 30, 2025



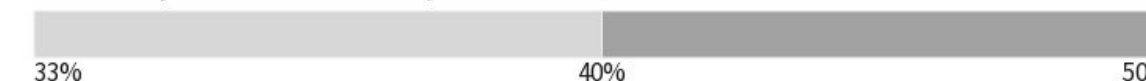
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 03/31/25



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX



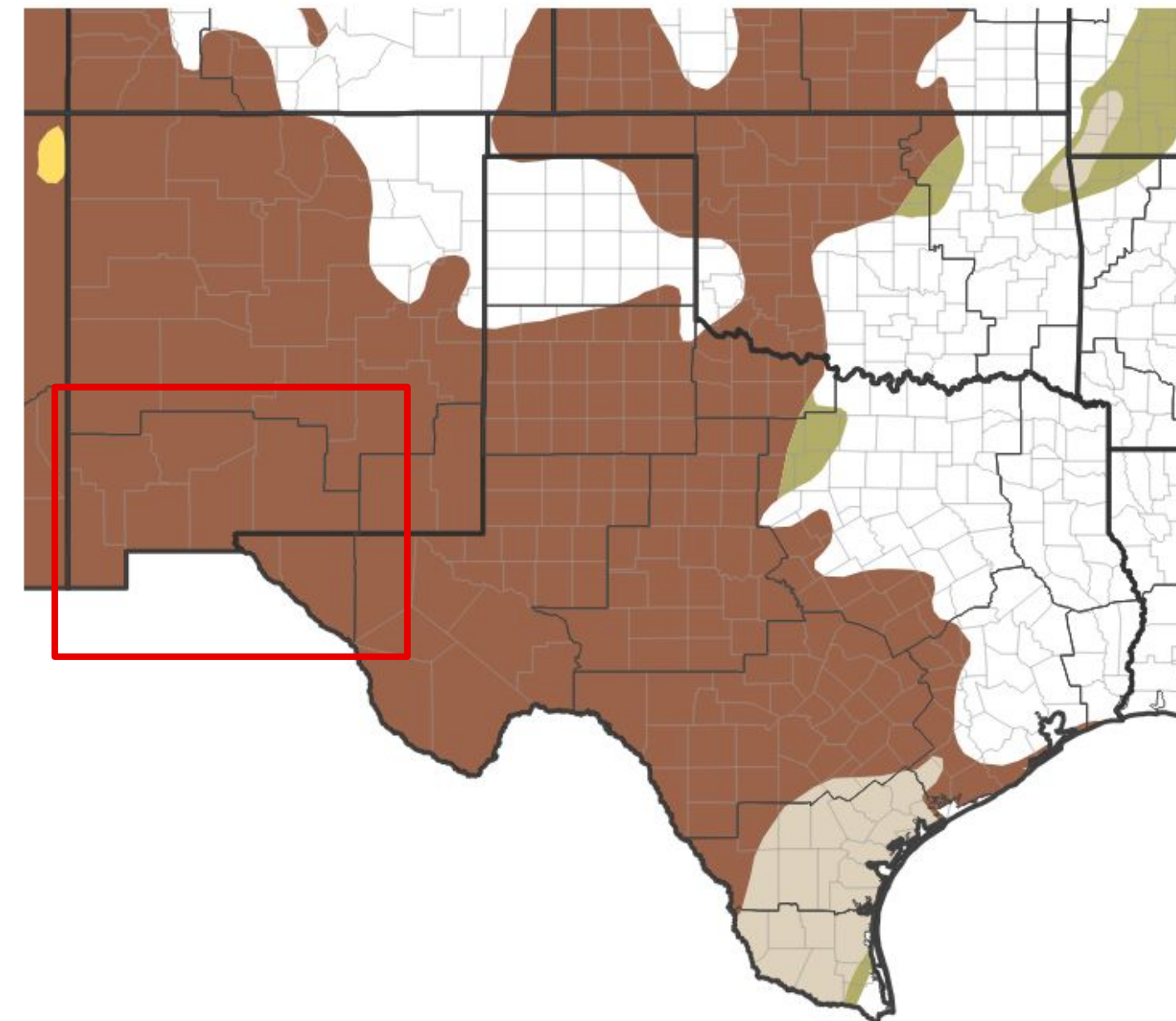
Drought Outlook

April 9, 2025
6:50 PM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist through April, possibly increasing in severity across Western New Mexico

1-Month Drought Outlook for April 1, 2025–April 30, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 03/31/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX