



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid May 4, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated June 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/EPZ/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=132 for regional drought status updates.

- Moderate (D1) to Severe (D2) drought status affecting Southwest New Mexico. Abnormally Dry (D0) for Far West Texas.
- Drought conditions will persist for Western New Mexico, but may further improve for South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Above normal precipitation and near normal temperatures expected in May. Critically low Gila/Rio Grande river levels.

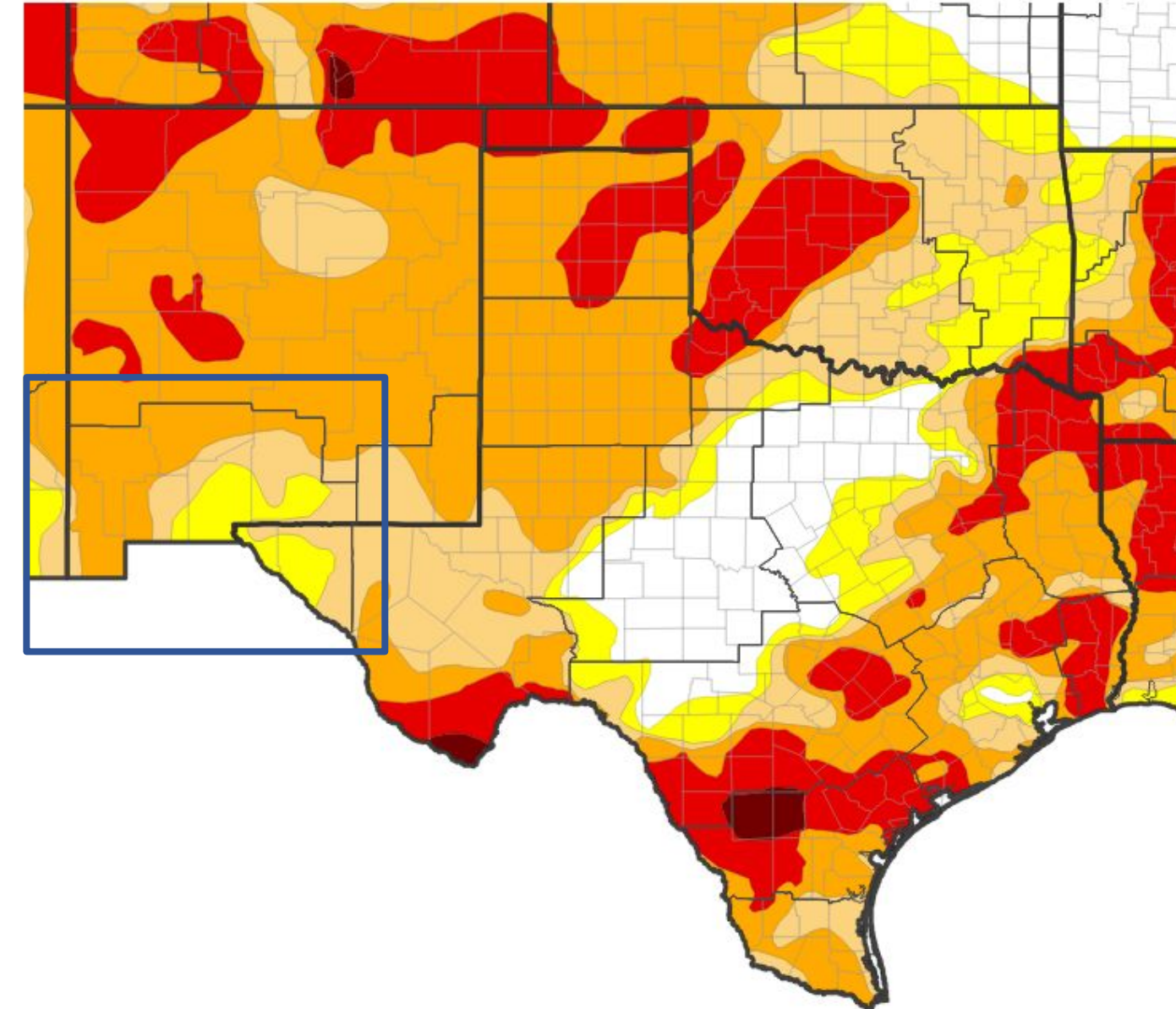


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
None
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Portions of Southwest New Mexico including Grant, Sierra, and Hidalgo Counties
Gila and Lincoln National Forests
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Portions of South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
Portions of South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/28/26





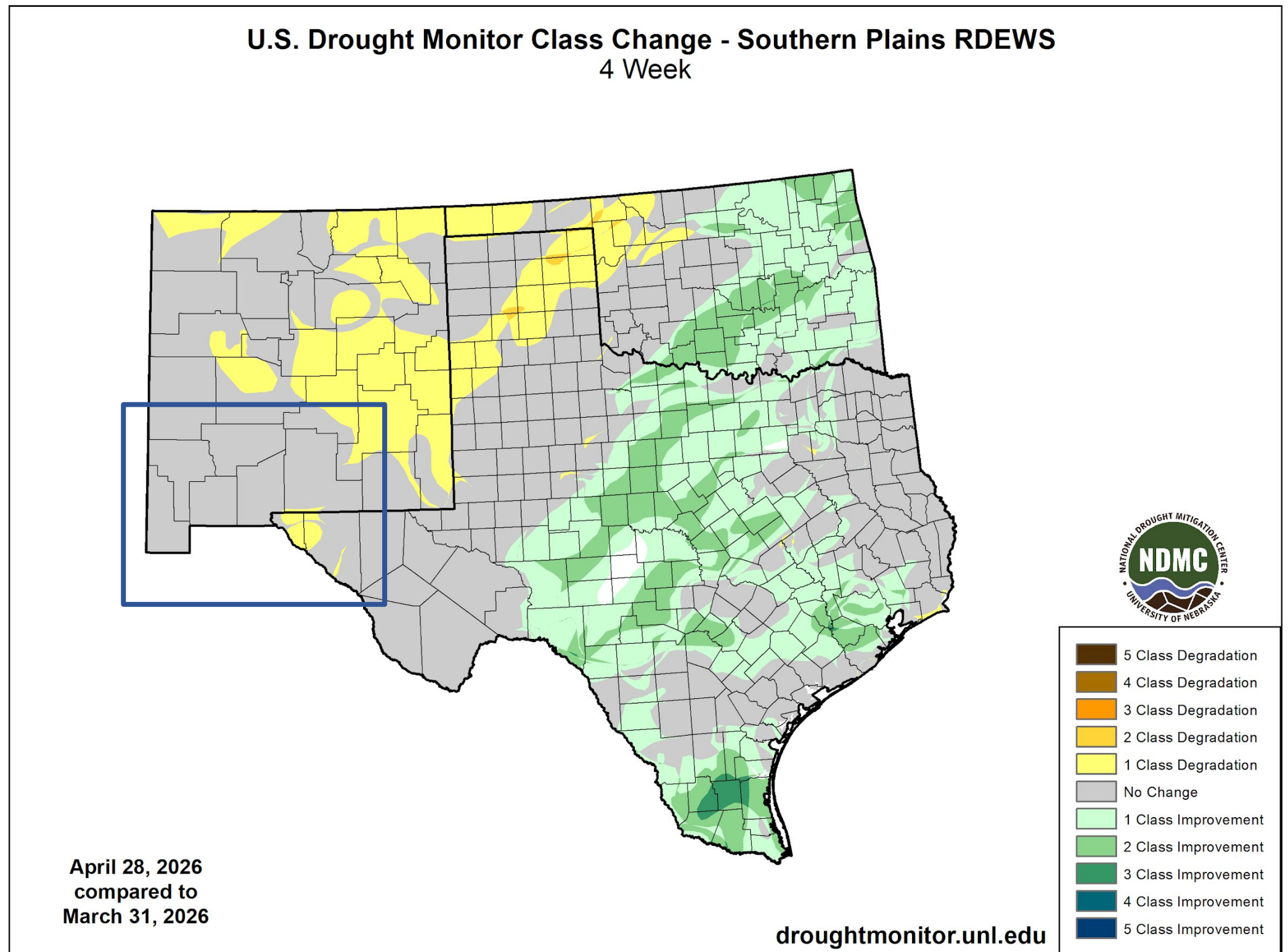
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

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 El Paso and Hudspeth Counties in Far West Texas
- **Drought Improved:**
None
- **No Change:**
Southwest and South-Central New Mexico





Precipitation

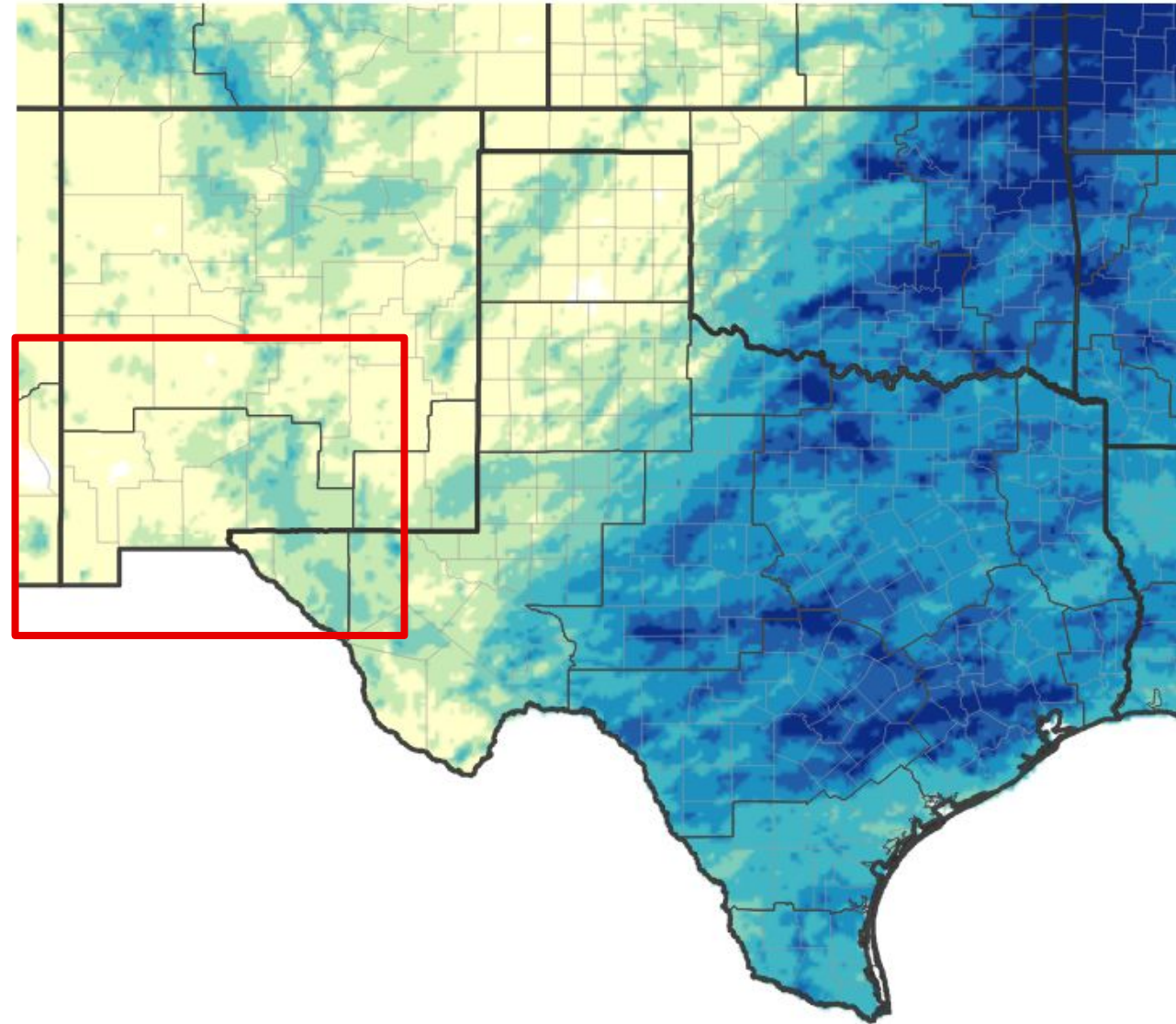
May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

30-day precip totals:
0.05-0.25" for desert
lowlands. **0.25-1.50"** over
mountain forests.

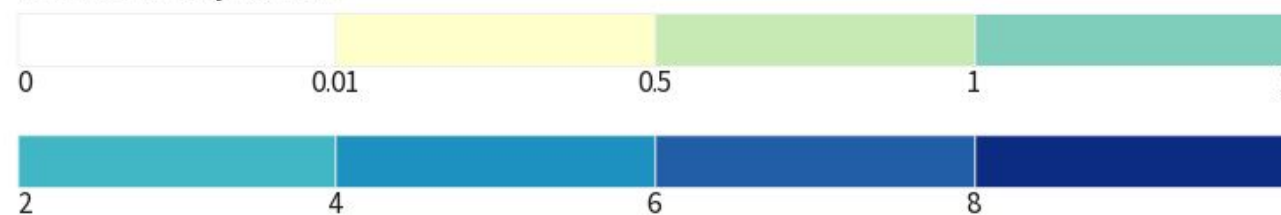
90-day precip totals:
0.25-0.50" for desert
lowlands. **1.00-2.00"** over
mountain forests.

Above normal April
precipitation **250-400%** for
portions of South Central New
Mexico and Far West Texas.
Below normal April
precipitation **25-50%** for
western New Mexico, Gila
National Forest.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

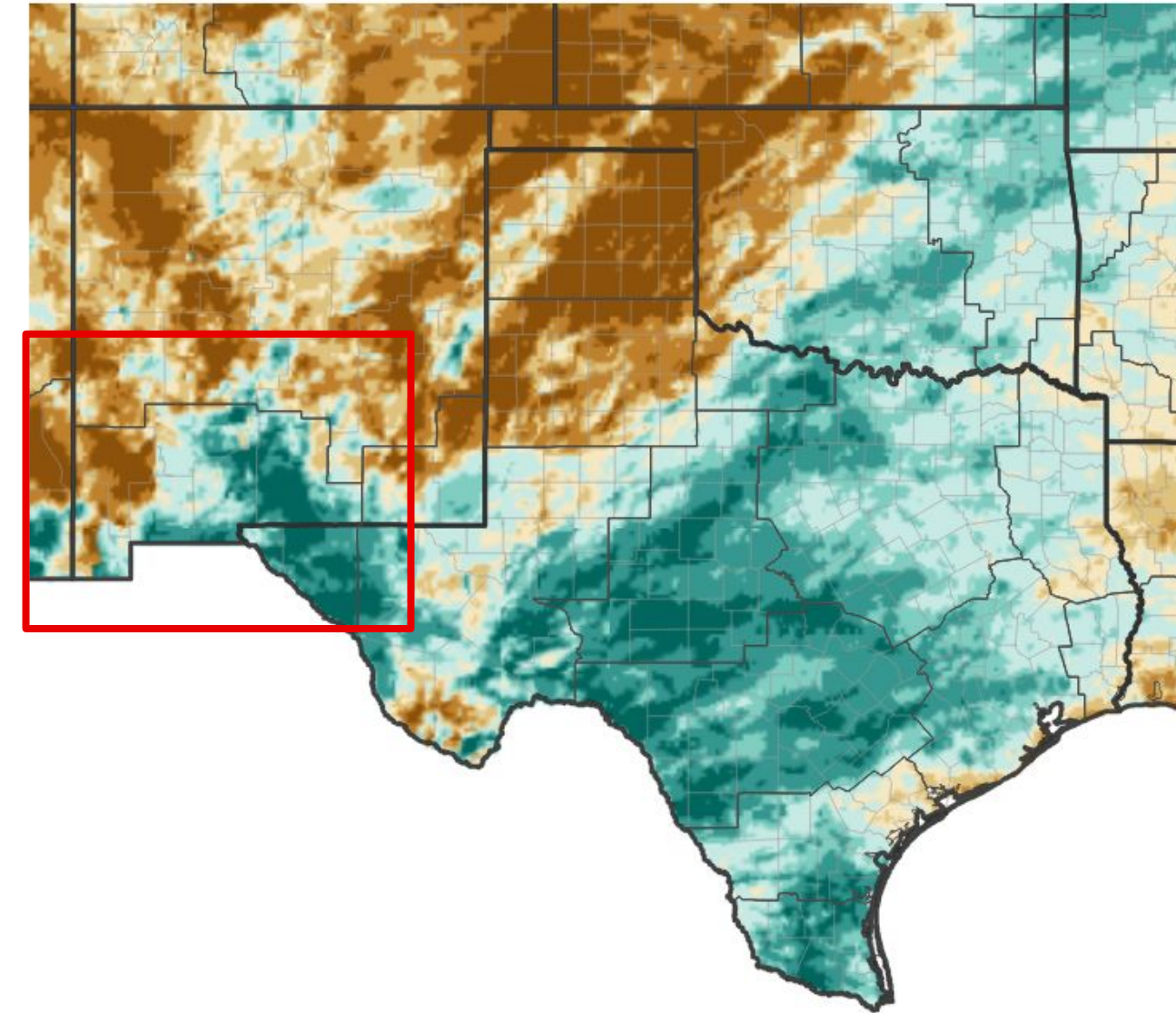


Inches of Precipitation

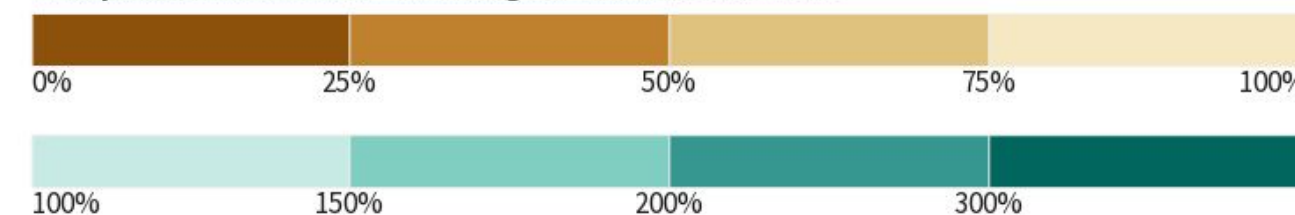


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 05/01/26

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 05/02/26



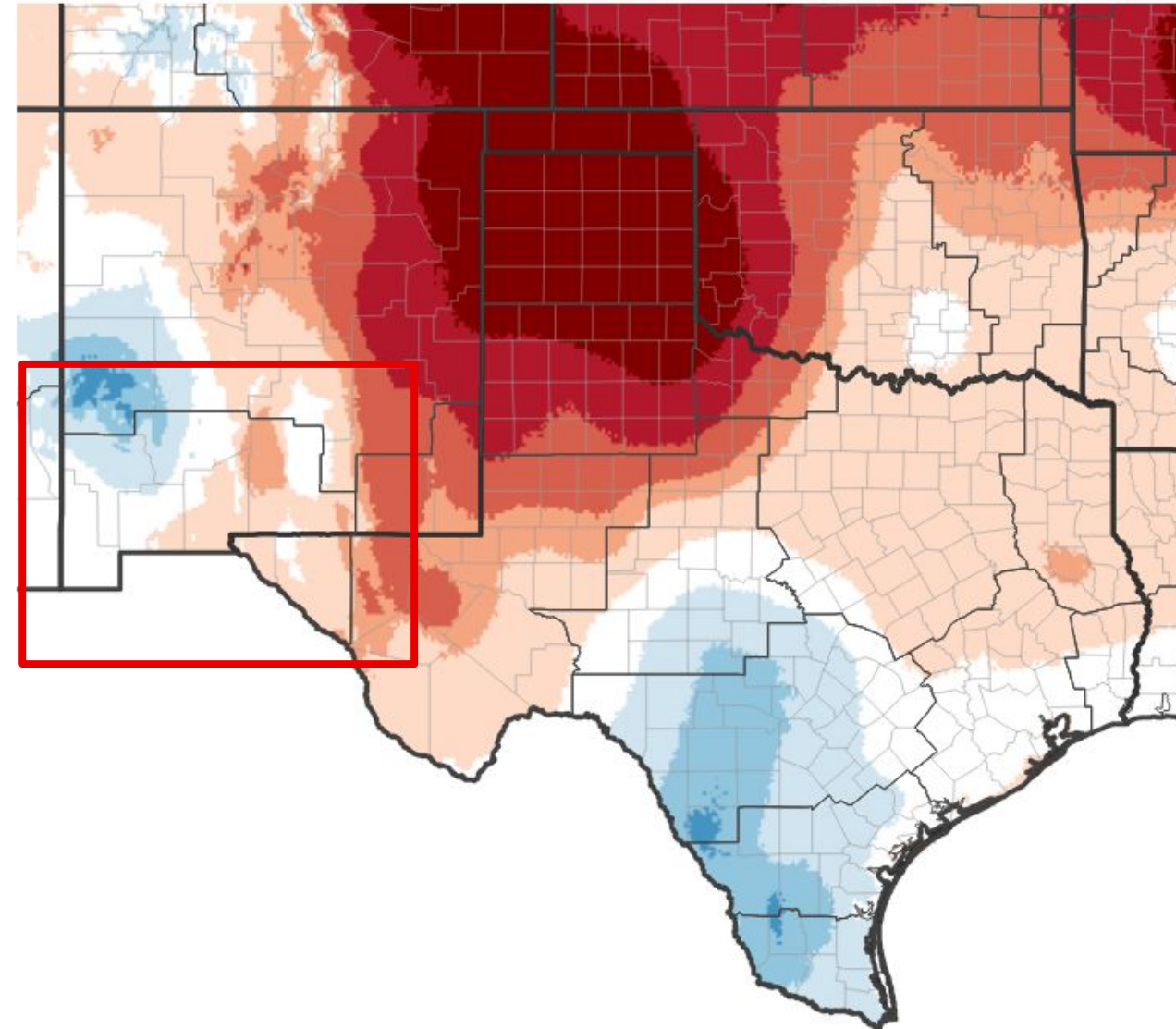


Temperature

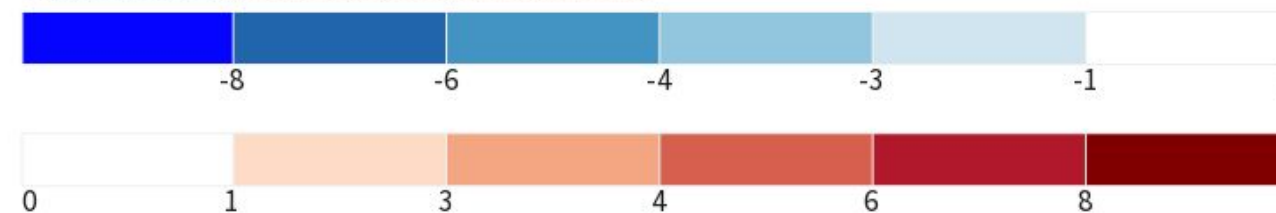
May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

- Slightly above normal April temperatures for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- 30-day high temperatures **2-4 degrees** above normal
- April mean average temperature **2.4°F** above normal at El Paso International (KELP).

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



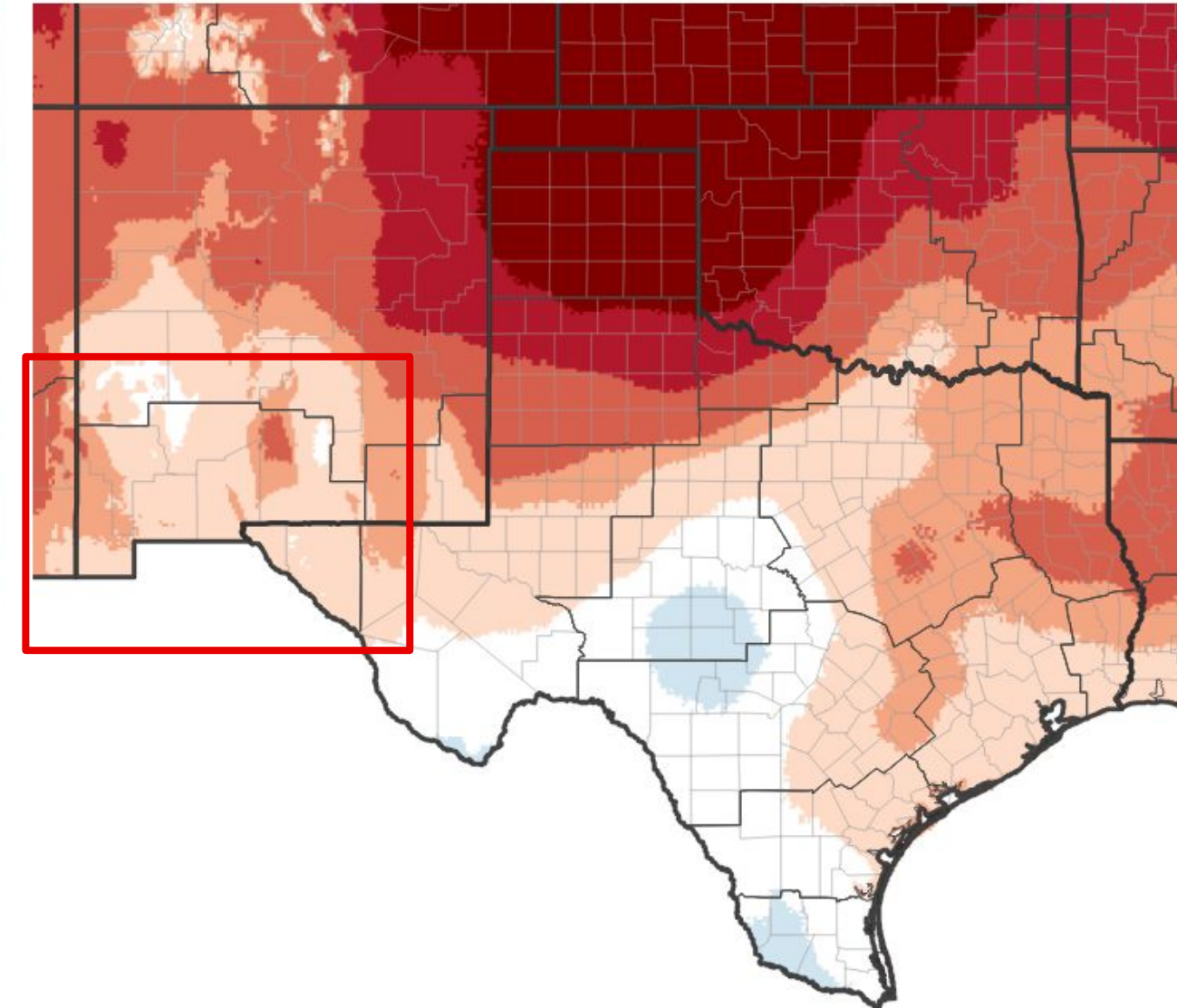
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



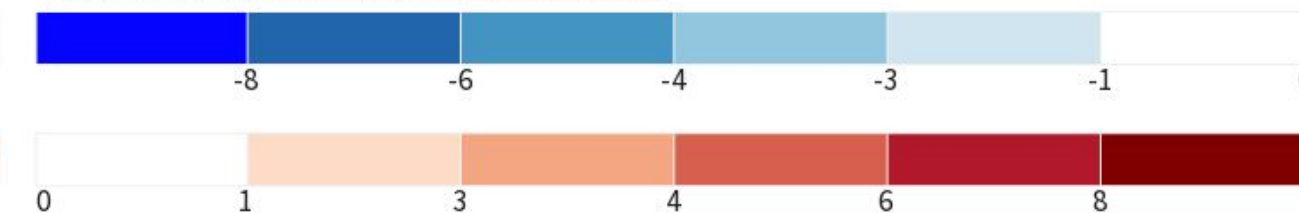
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/29/26

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: 04/27/26





Summary of Impacts

May 4, 2026

12:20 AM

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Gila River running well below normal due to below normal precipitation and the end of seasonal snowmelt. Mimbres River and Rio Grande south of the Caballo Dam are dry and will likely remain dry through the early summer season. Seasonal snowpack finished well below normal (10-25%) for the Gila and Rio Grande watersheds. Elephant Butte storage at 12.4% capacity, similar to last month and well below the historical 30-year average. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is near normal after some April and early May precipitation. Outlook points to above normal precipitation in May, which could help planting season. 2026 Rio Grande irrigation season water allotment will likely be very strict due to critically low Rio Grande water flow. Please refer to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District ([EBID](#)) website or your local municipality for more information.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Periods of critical fire danger are expected in May due to high wind and low humidity. ERCs are low in early May due to recent precipitation, and can rise quickly following any stretches of dry and breezy conditions. Fire risk will remain Moderate to High over the next few months with the early summer wind and heat.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

- Gila River streamflow decreased last month due to below normal precipitation and the end of mountain snowmelt. No sudden rises occurred in April. Mimbres River, Rio Grande below Caballo Dam have both run dry for the season.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	1.11 ft	11.00 ft	27 ft ³ /s
Redrock	4.27 ft	20.00 ft	42 ft ³ /s
Virden	4.88 ft	15.00 ft	24 ft ³ /s

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft	None

Gauge data recorded on 5/4/2026

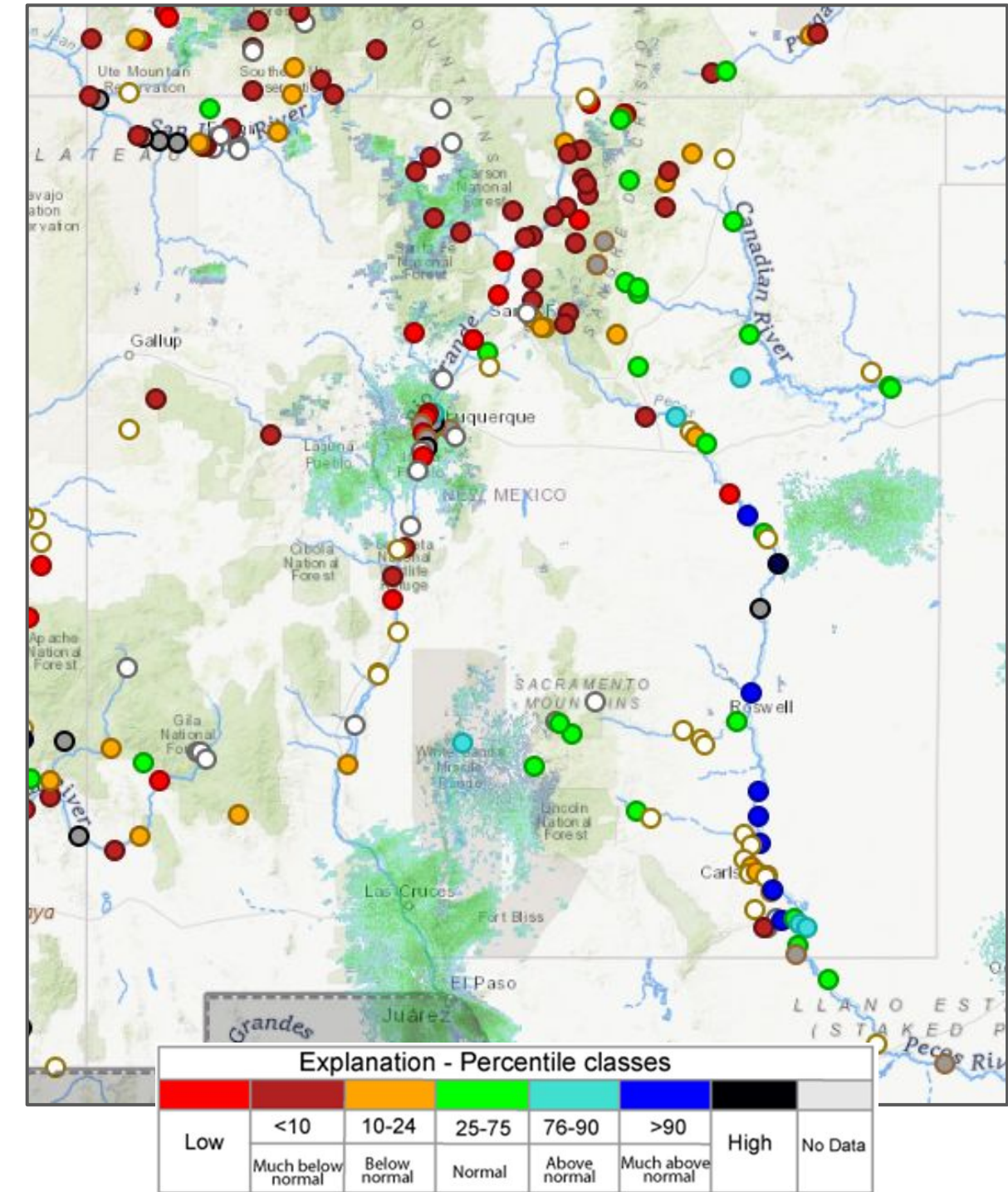


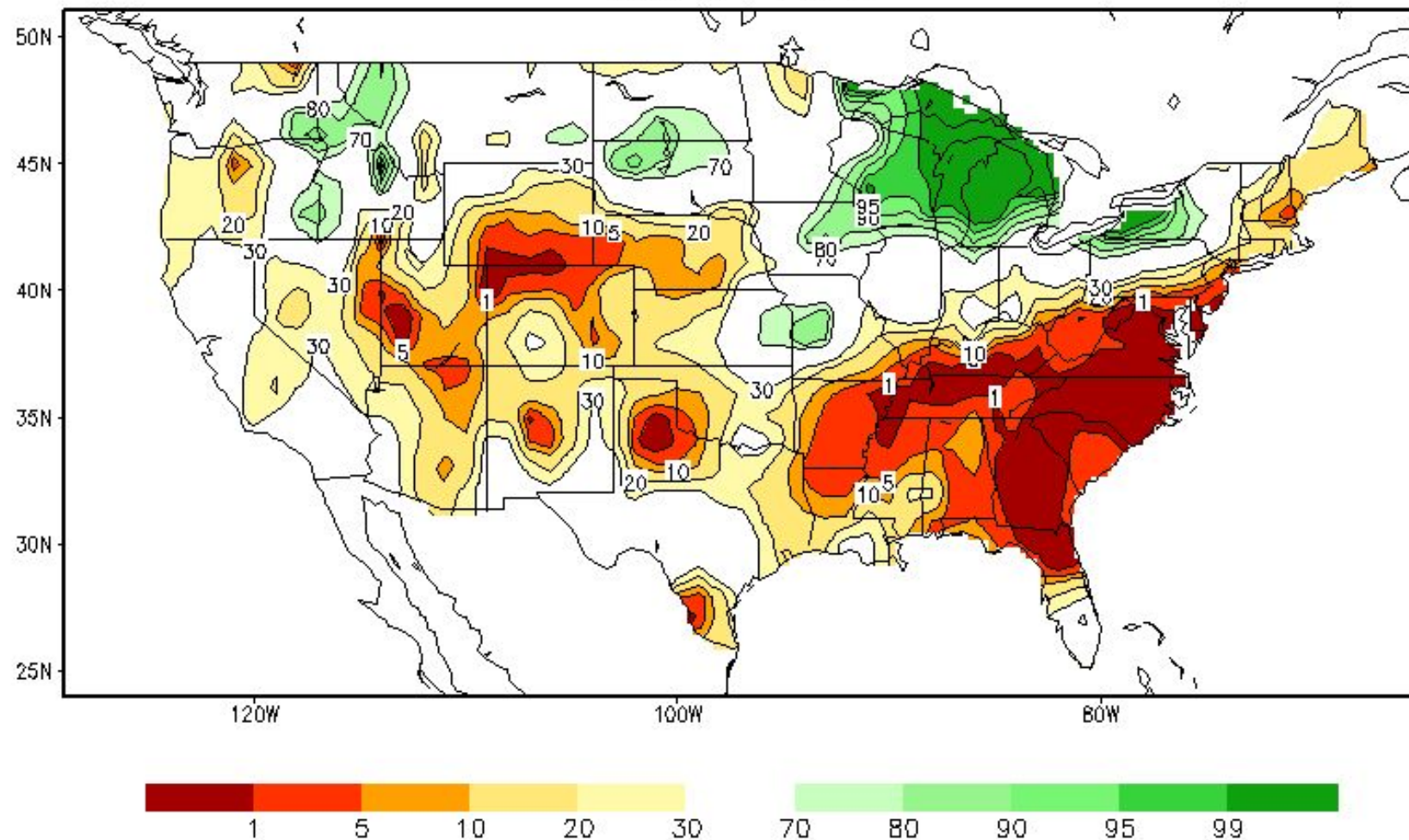
Image Caption: USGS 7 day Streamflow Status valid May 3, 2026



Agricultural Impacts

May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAY 02, 2026



Drought Severity Index
Value for the April 19 - 25, 2026
Long Term Palmer

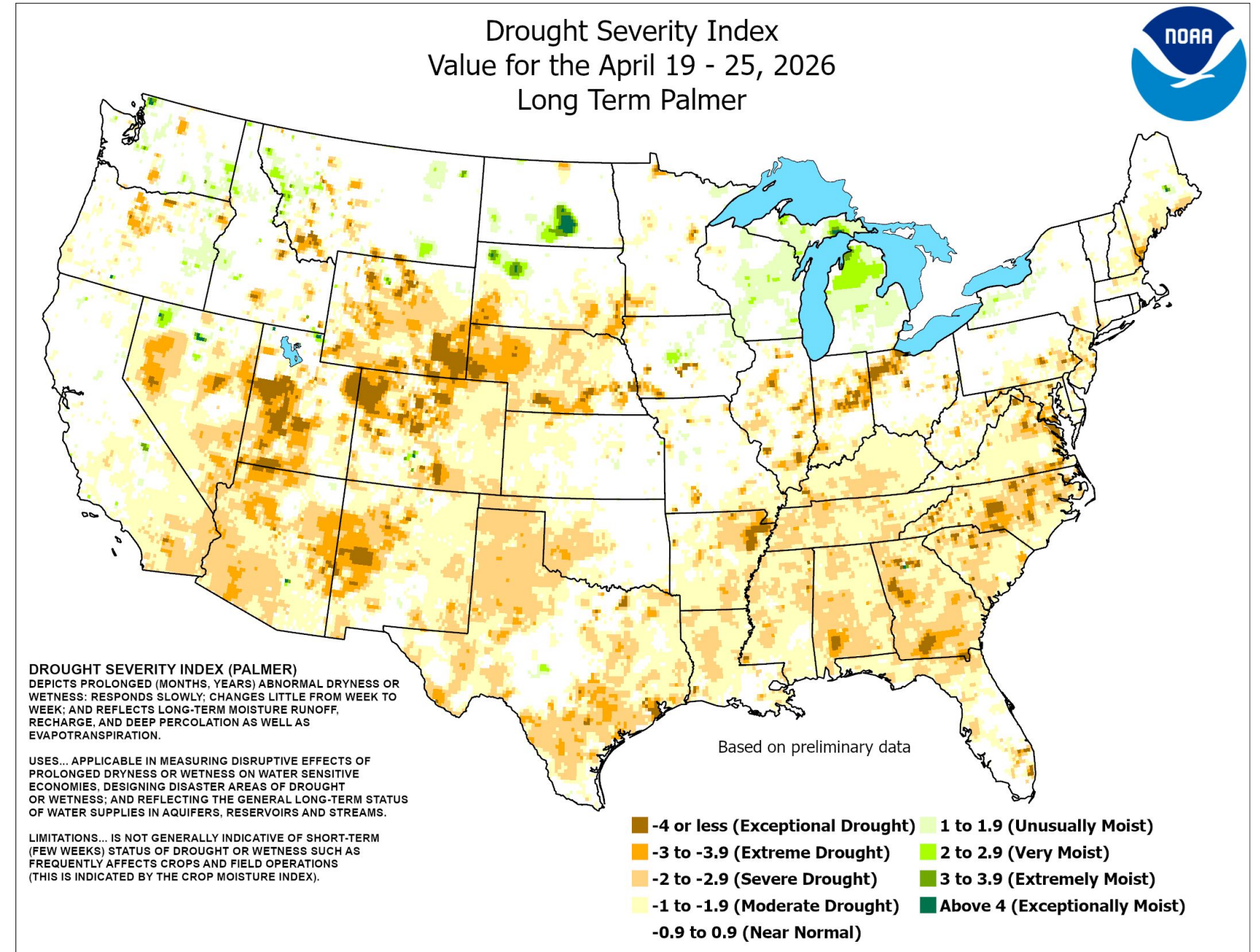
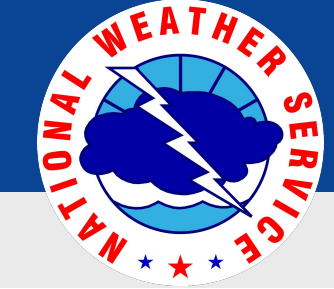


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid May 2, 2026

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#) valid April 19-25, 2026





Fire Hazard Impacts

May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

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

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

Latest NM Fire Restrictions available [here](#)

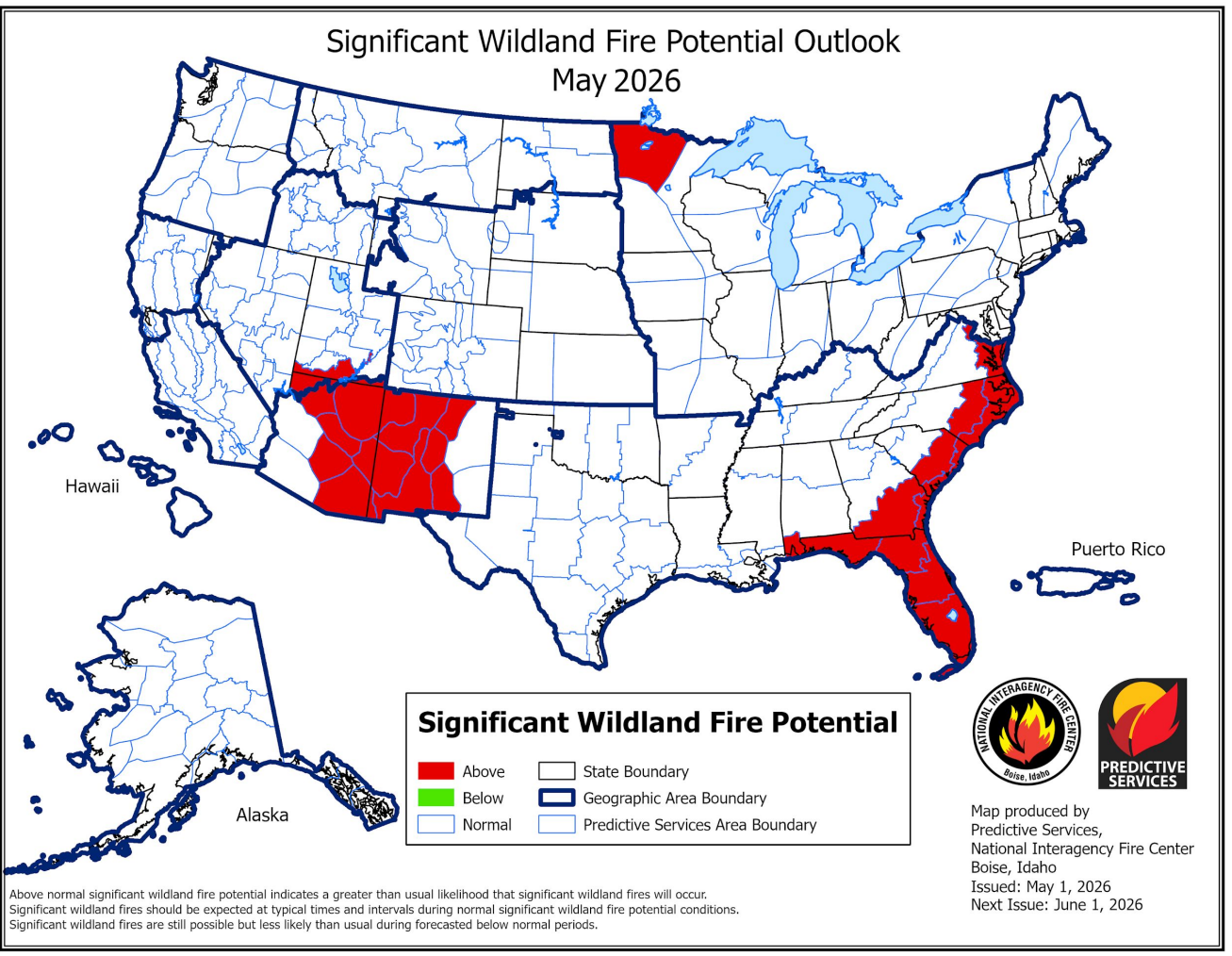
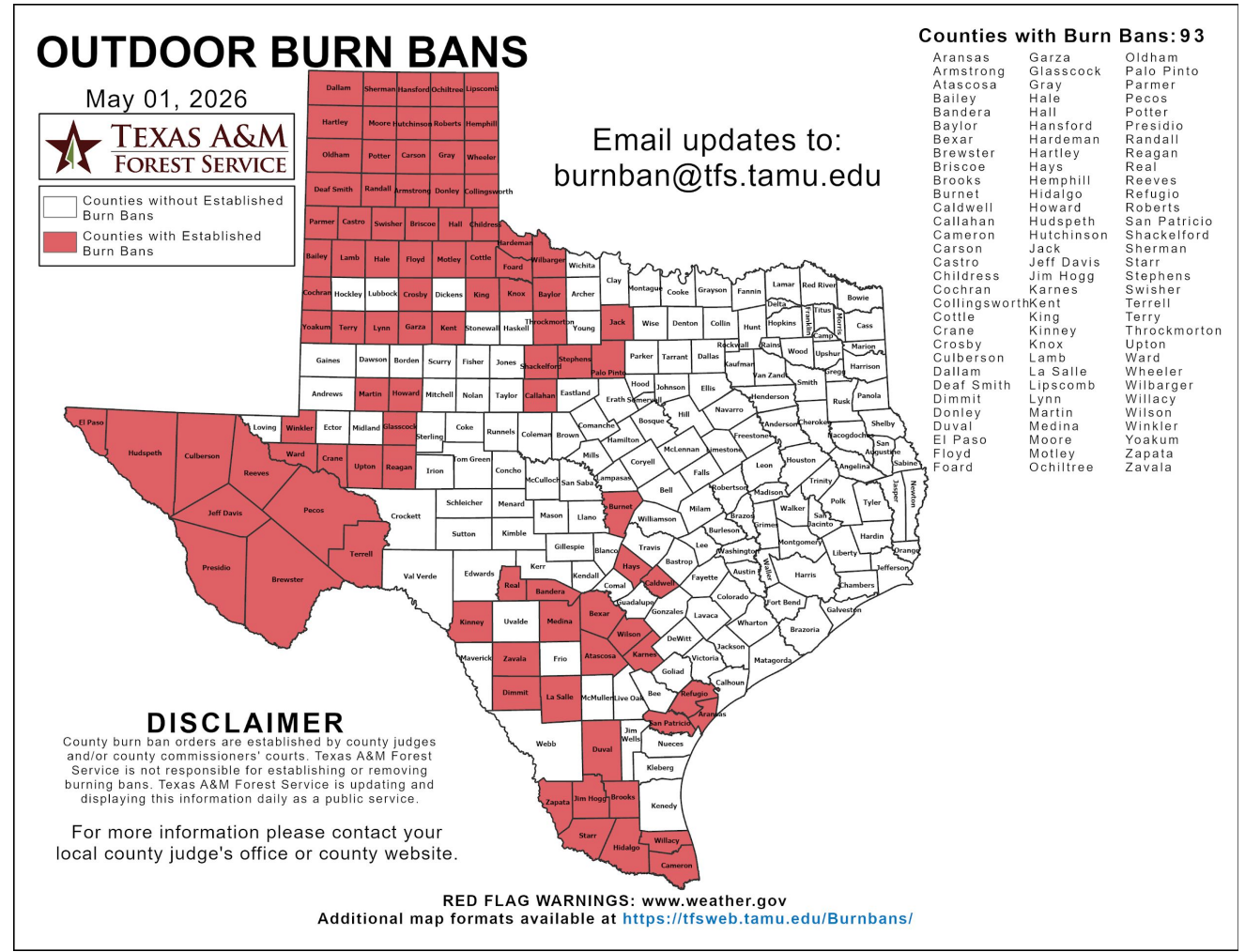


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for May 2026

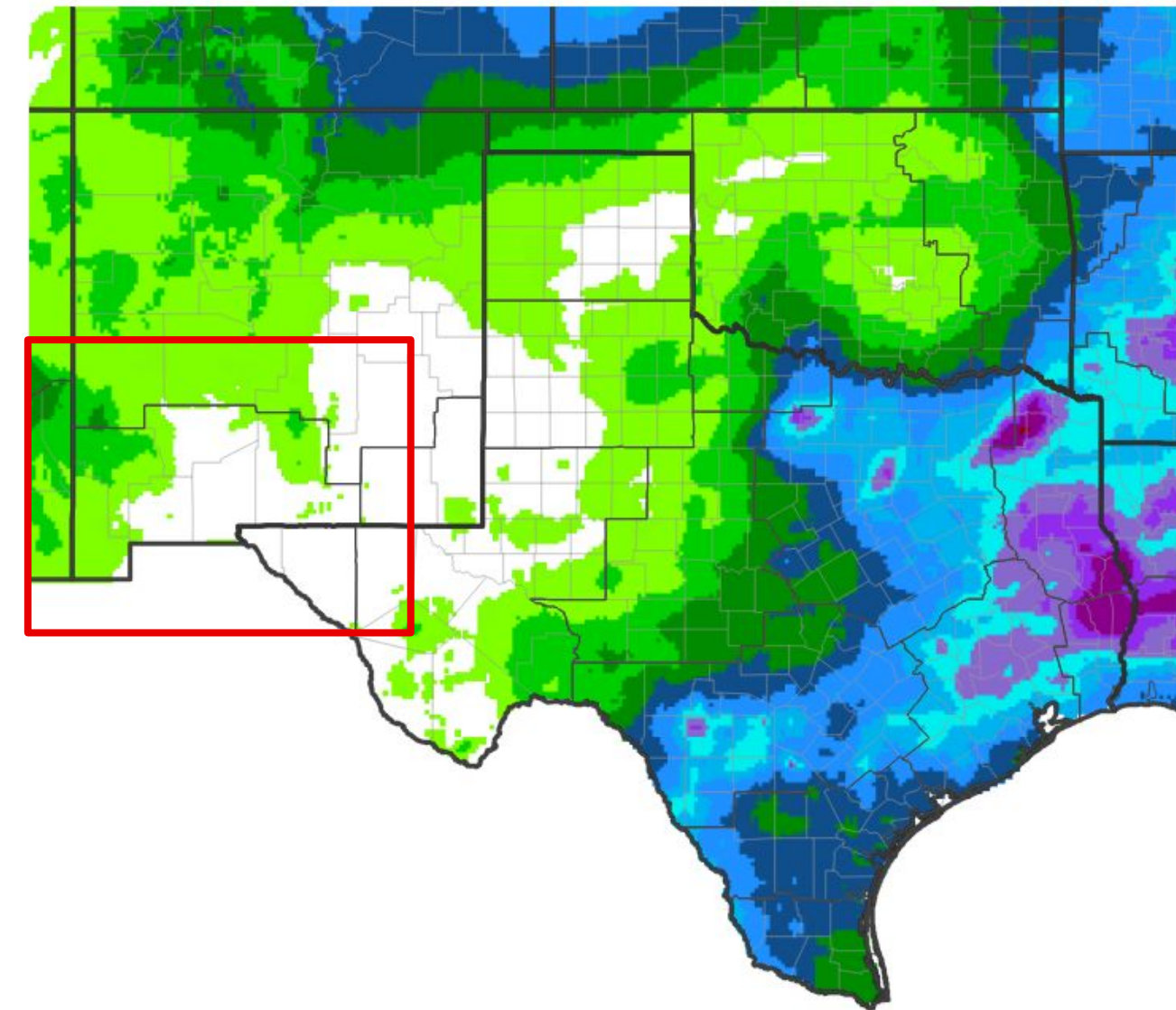


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

- Widespread rain fell across the region on May 1, followed by light rain showers in early May, mostly across Southwest New Mexico. Monthly forecast is confident in above normal May precipitation, which may help decrease drought conditions.
- 2025-26 winter season precipitation finished above normal for south-central New Mexico and far west Texas, but slightly below normal for western New Mexico.

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



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/03/26





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

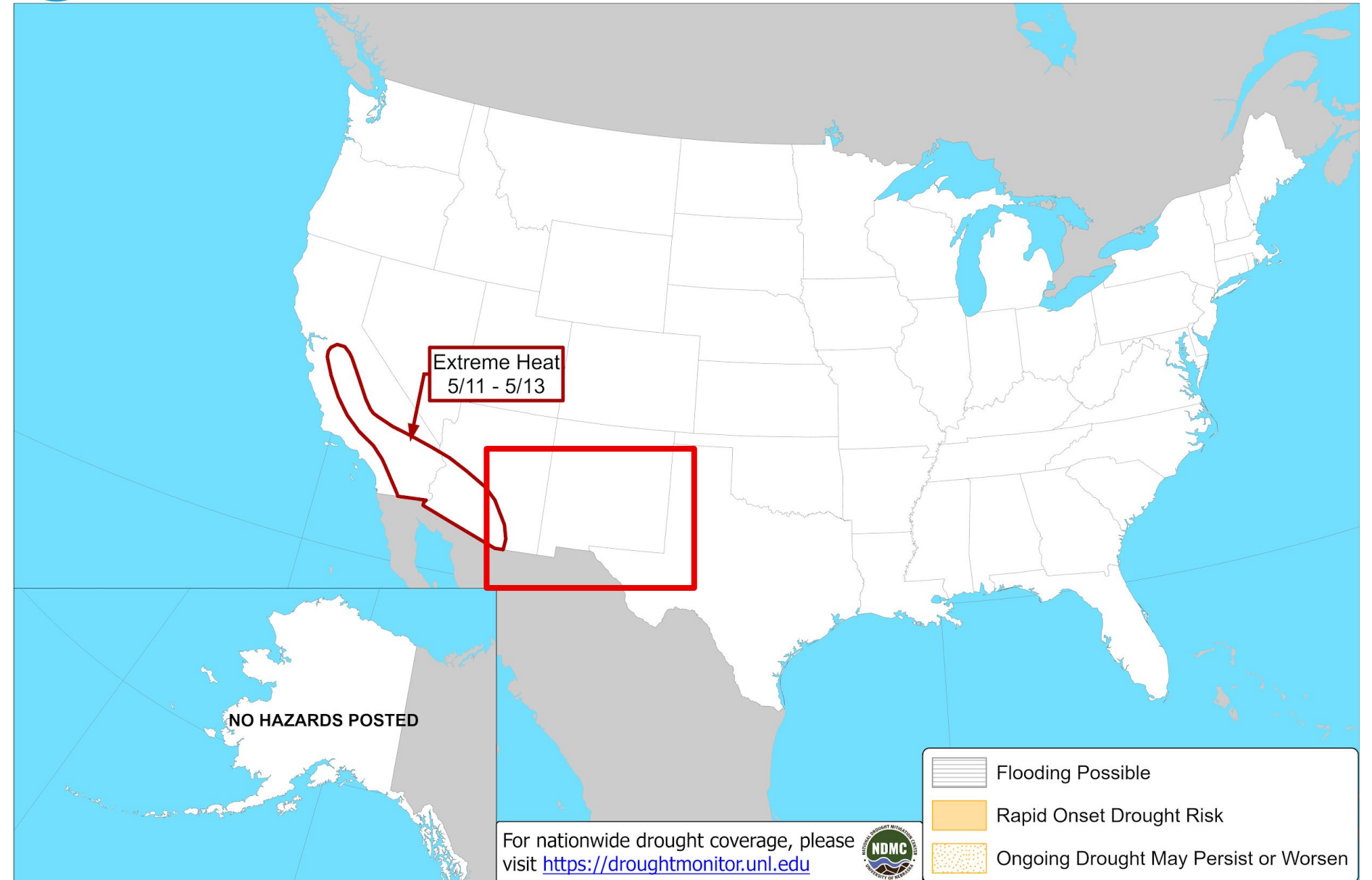
May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

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

- Moderate to Severe Drought is already in place across Southwest New Mexico. Rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to persist across Southwest New Mexico into the summer season, but may decrease due to additional precipitation.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: May 11 - 17, 2026



For nationwide drought coverage, please visit <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Climate Prediction Center

Released: May 3, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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Image Caption:

[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid May 11-17





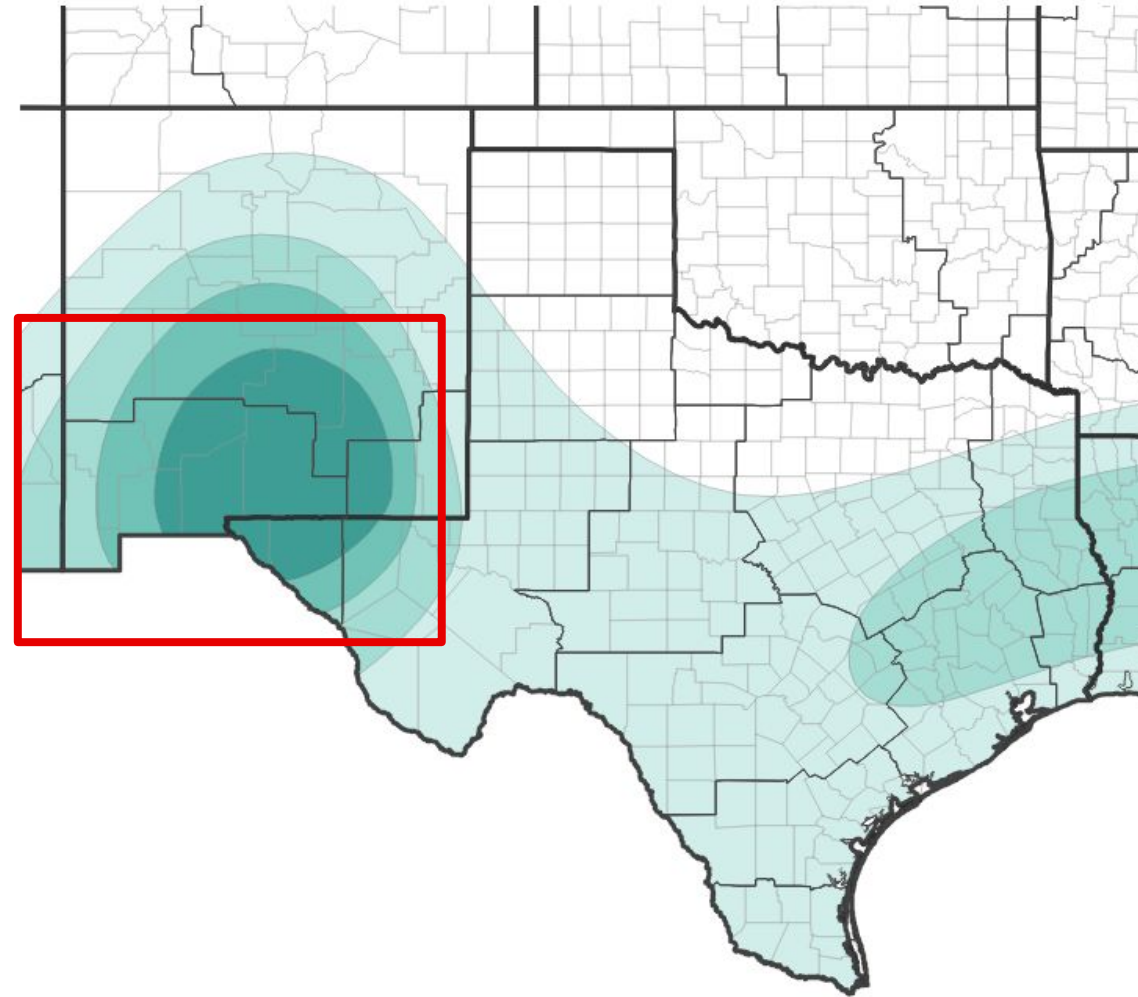
Long-Range Outlooks

May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

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

- **60-70%** chance for above normal precipitation for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: **0.43"**
- **33-40%** chance of above normal temperatures for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: **88.7°**

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

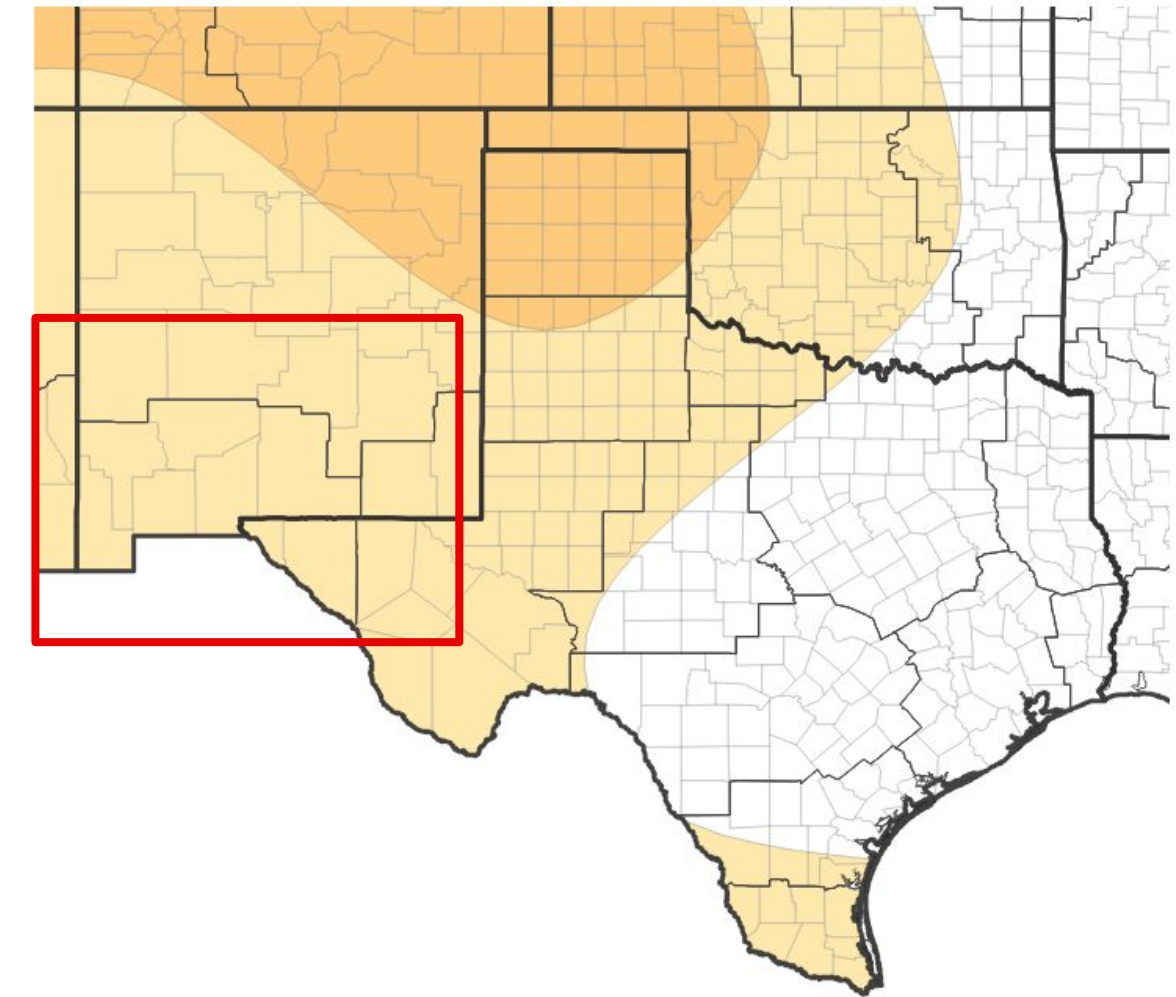


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/30/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 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: 04/30/26





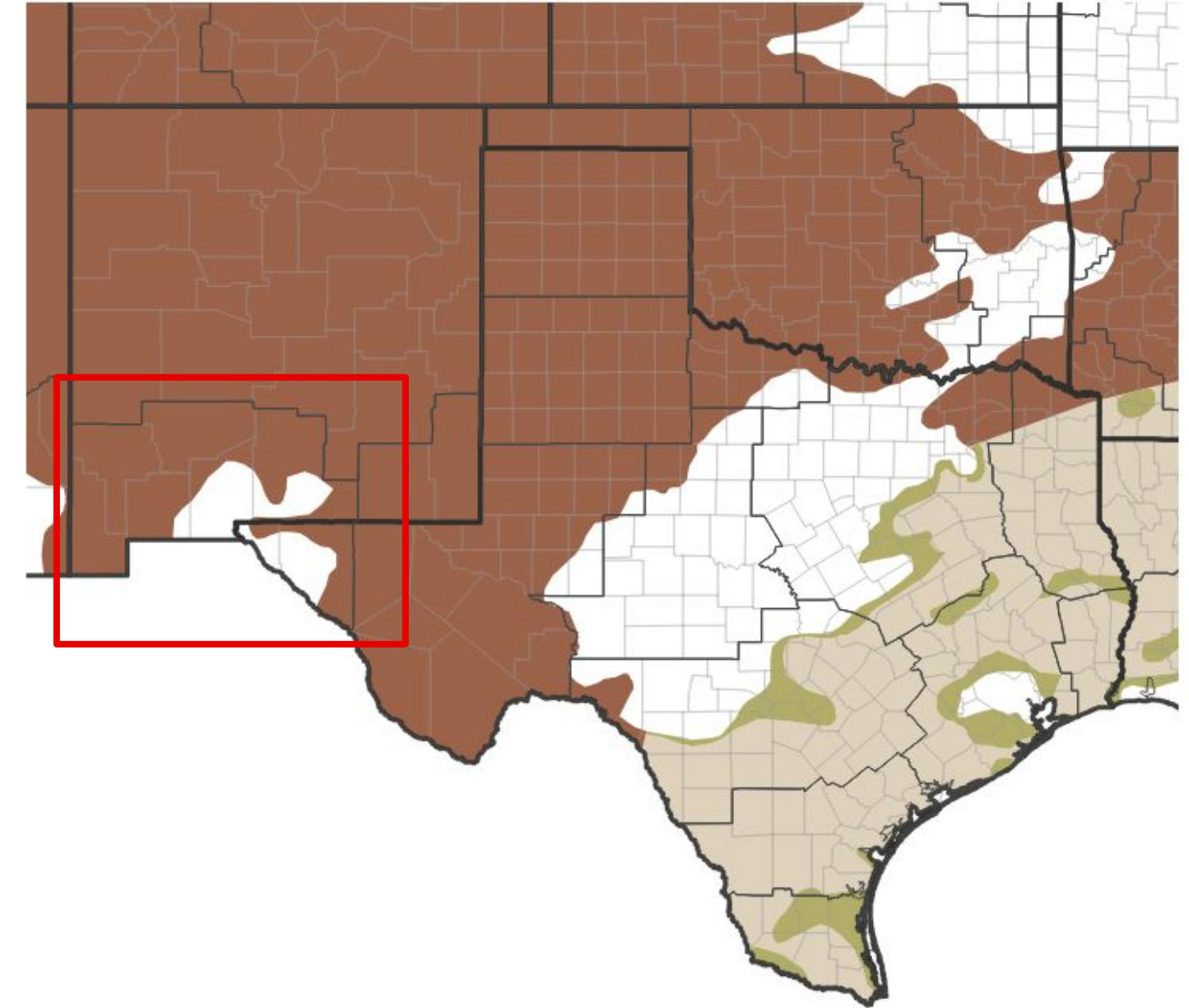
Drought Outlook

May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across Southwest New Mexico, but may decrease due to additional precipitation. No drought status for El Paso/Las Cruces metro. Above normal May precipitation expected.

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



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

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