



# Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid May 7, 2025

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

Contact Information: [nws.elpaso@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.elpaso@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated June 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](https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=132) for regional drought status updates.
- 
- Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) drought status affecting Southwest New Mexico and Far West Texas.
  - Drought conditions expected to persist into the summer months, near normal precipitation and temperatures for May.
  - River levels well below normal due to lack of mountain snowmelt, limited irrigation likely for 2025 Rio Grande growing season.







# U.S. Drought Monitor

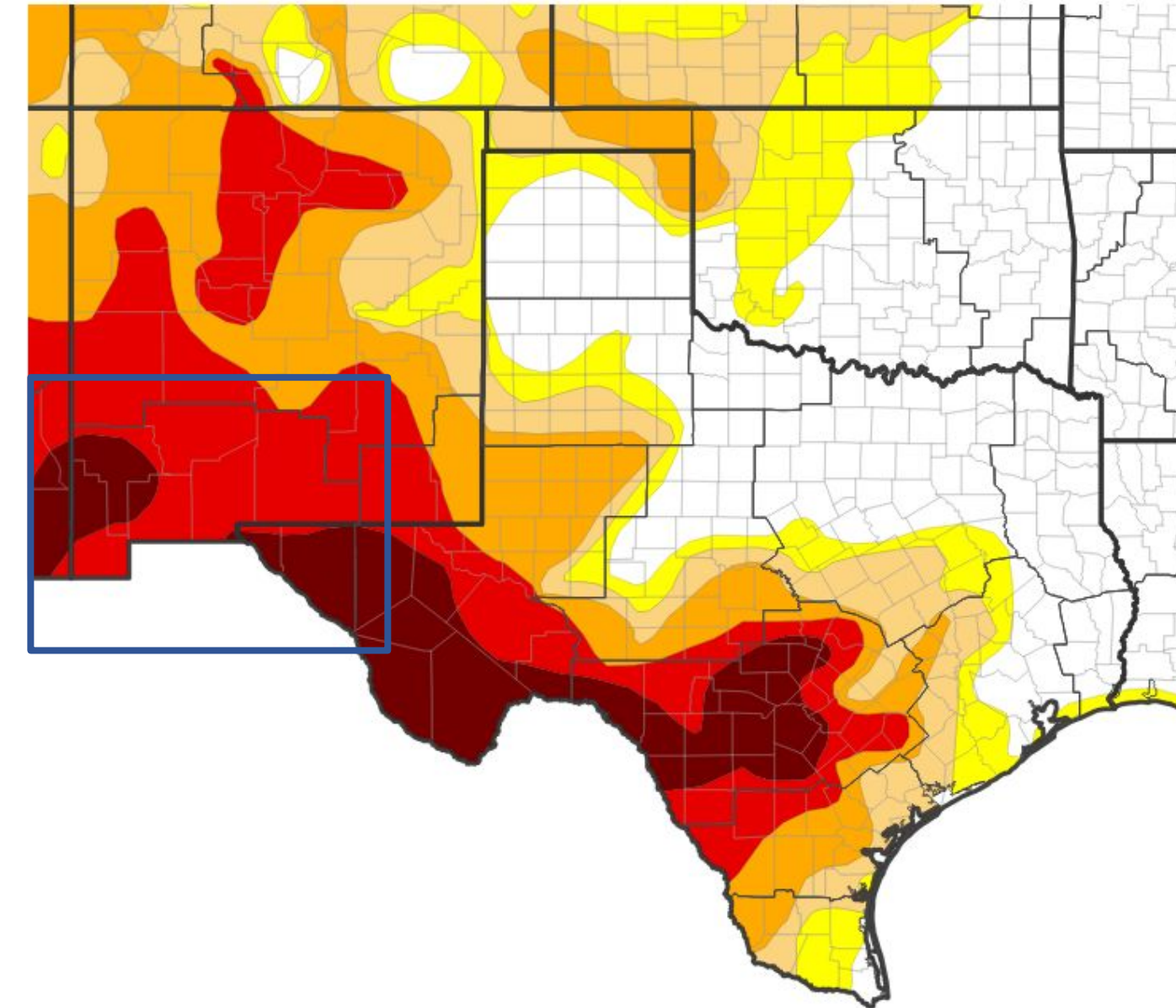
May 7, 2025  
8:02 AM

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  
Southwest New Mexico including Grant and Hidalgo 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 (96% of New Mexico, 53% of Texas)
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**  
Northeast New Mexico (100% of New Mexico, 64% of Texas)
- Lack of spring rains have caused drought to worsen over SW NM. 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: 04/29/25



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

National Weather Service  
El Paso, TX



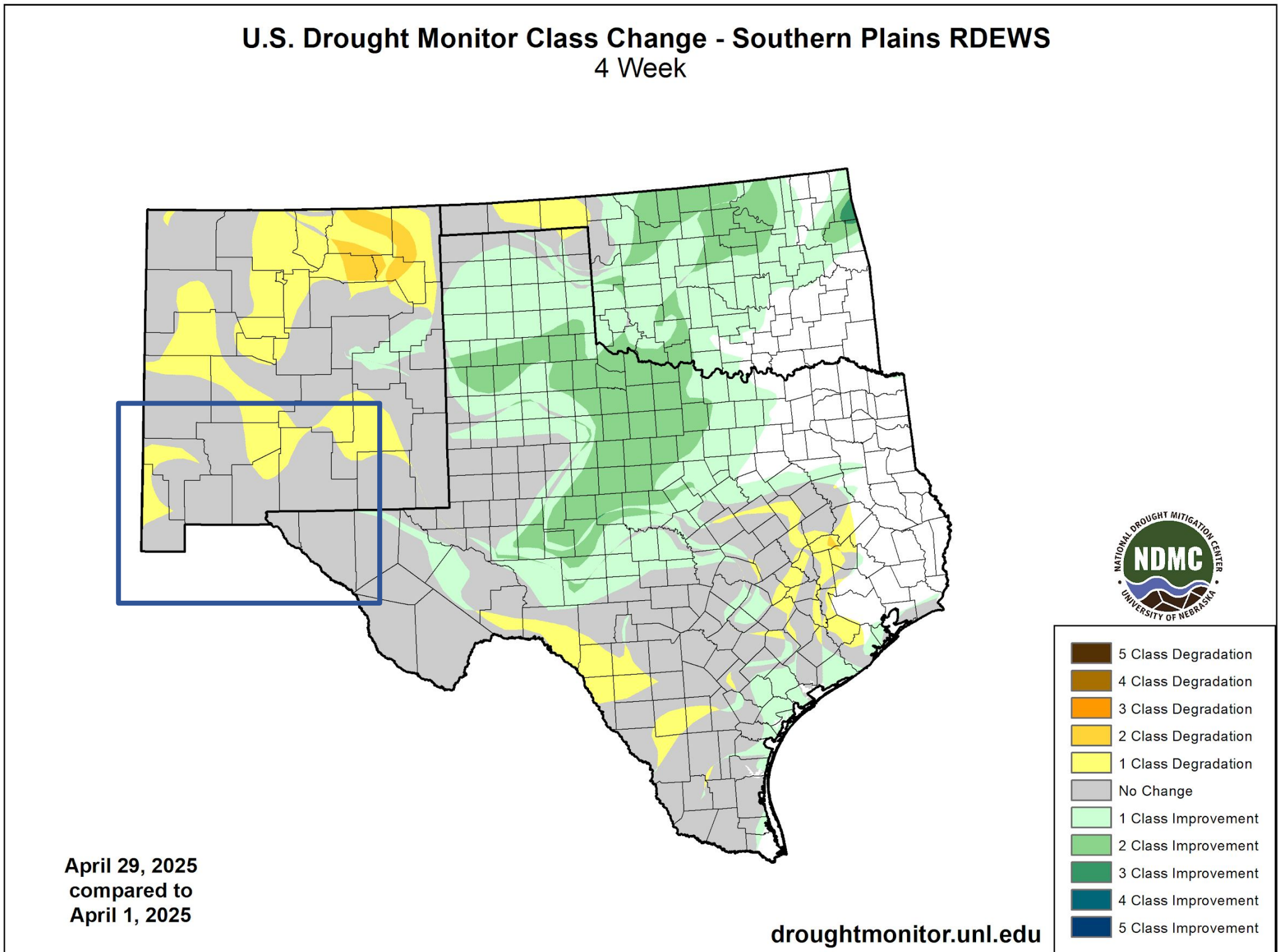
# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

May 7, 2025  
8:02 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 Southwest and Central New Mexico including Gila National Forest and the middle Rio Grande Valley
- **Drought Improved:**  
None
- **No Change:**  
Portions of Southwest New Mexico and Far West Texas







# Precipitation

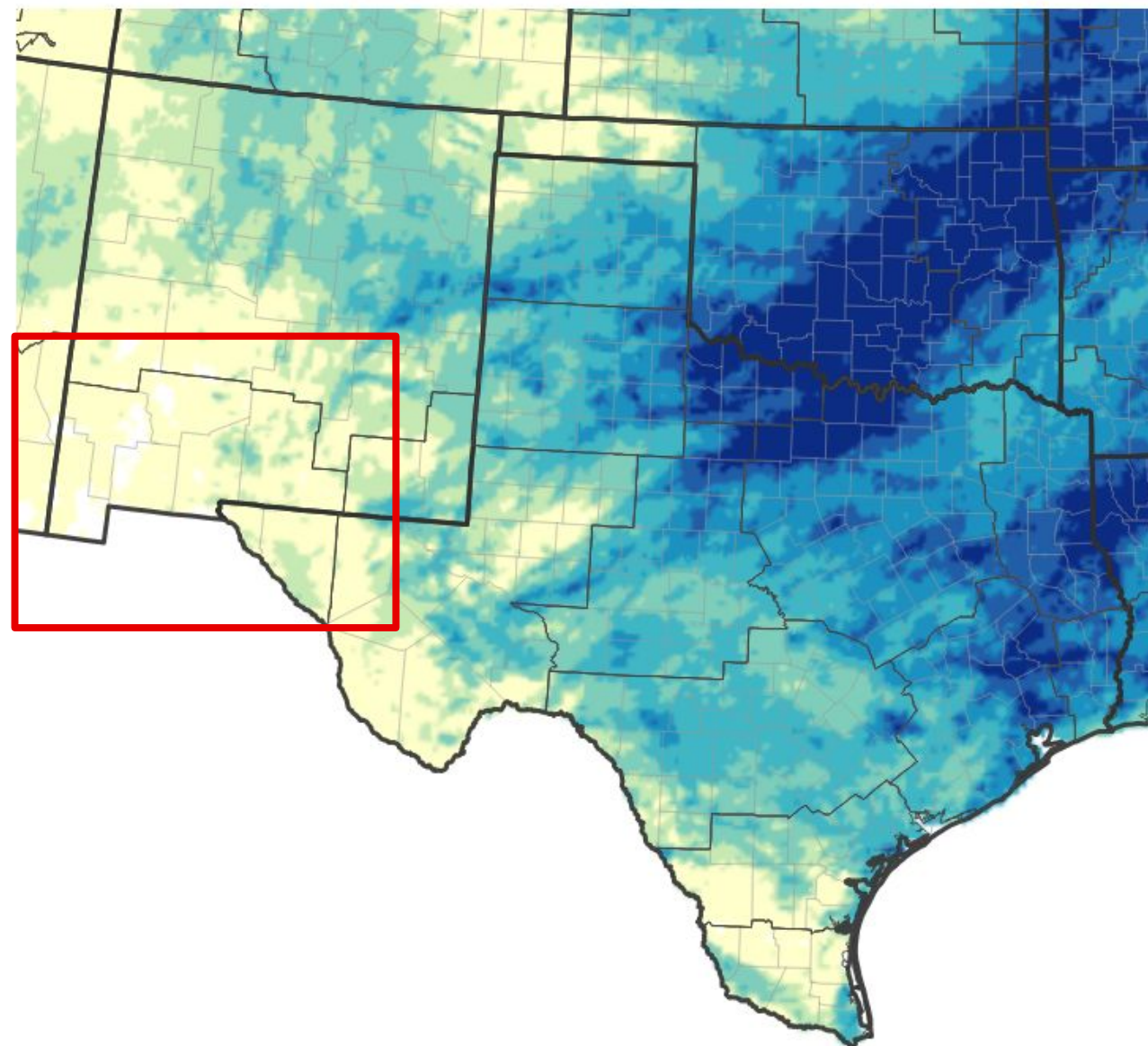
May 7, 2025  
8:02 AM

30-day precip totals,  
0.10-0.30" along I-10 corridor.  
0.15-0.40" over mountain  
forests.

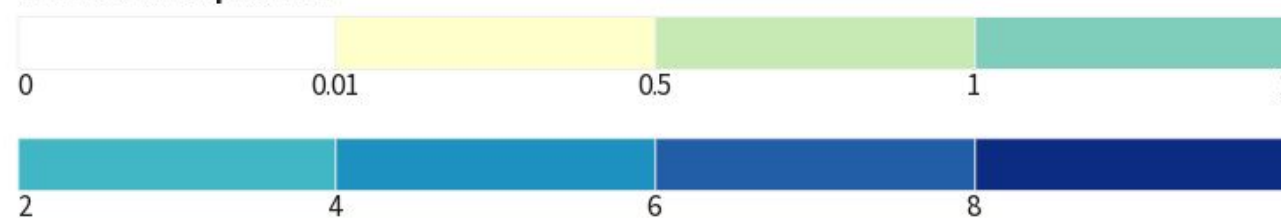
90-day precip totals,  
0.25-0.50" along I-10 corridor.  
0.50-1.00" over mountain  
forests.

Decent April rains for west  
Texas, improving drought  
slightly. Very dry west of the  
Rio Grande, where drought  
worsened.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



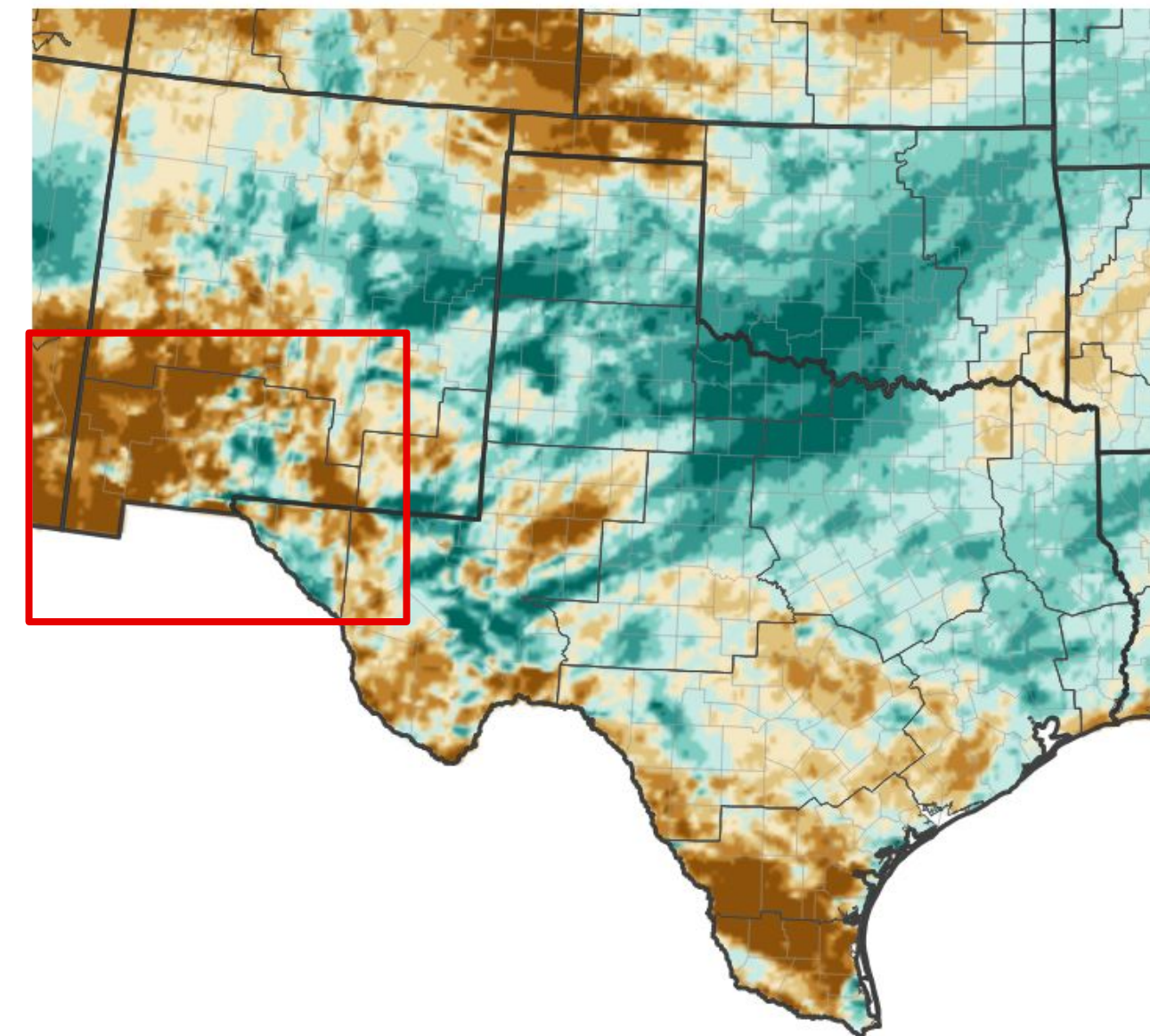
Inches of Precipitation



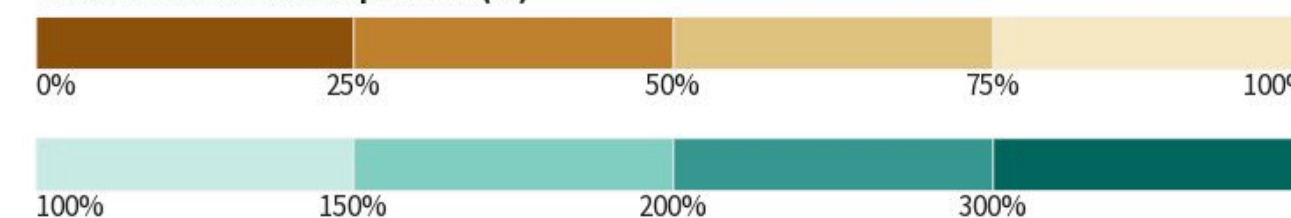
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;  
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/05/25

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: 05/07/25



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

National Weather Service  
El Paso, TX



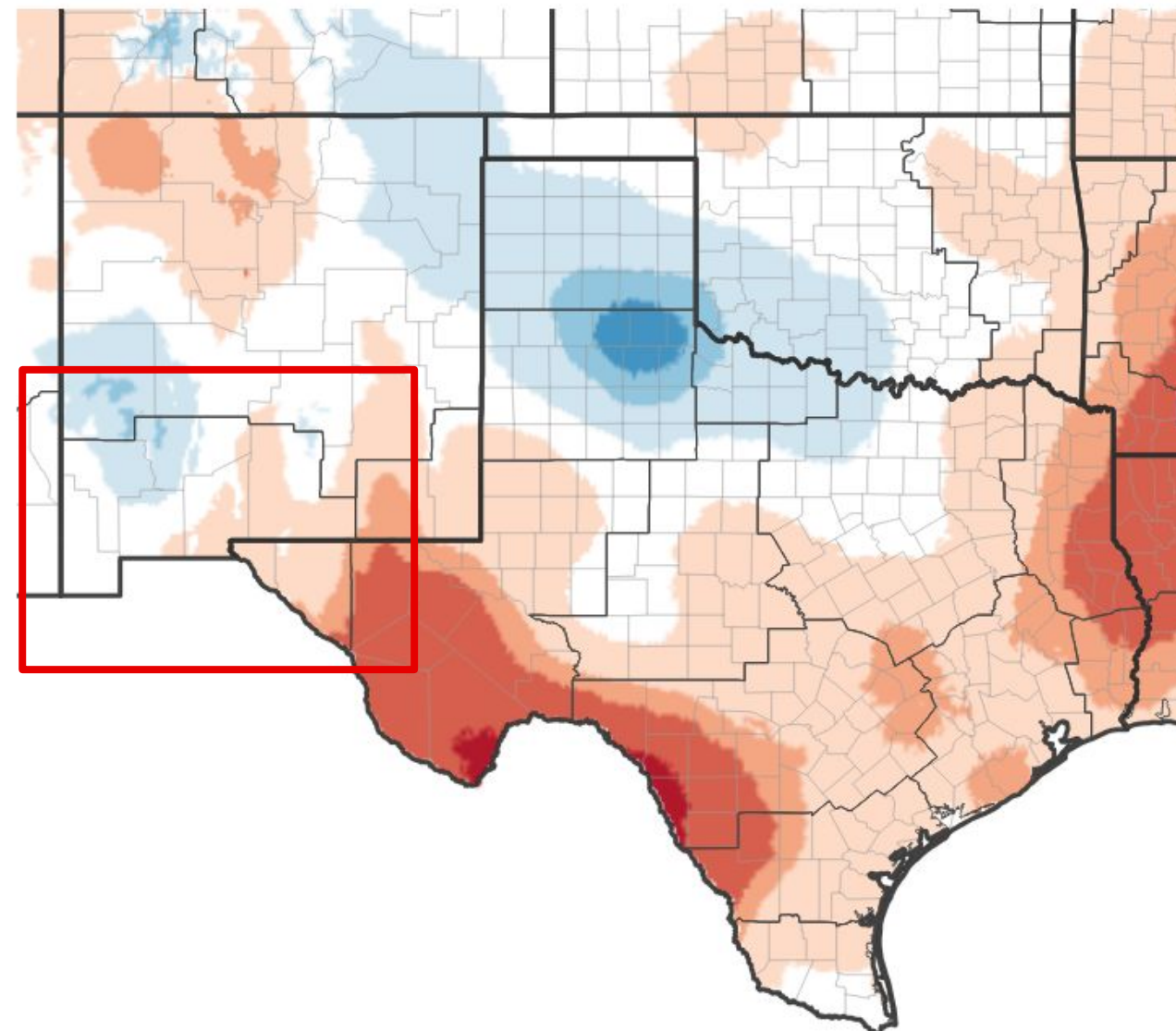


# Temperature

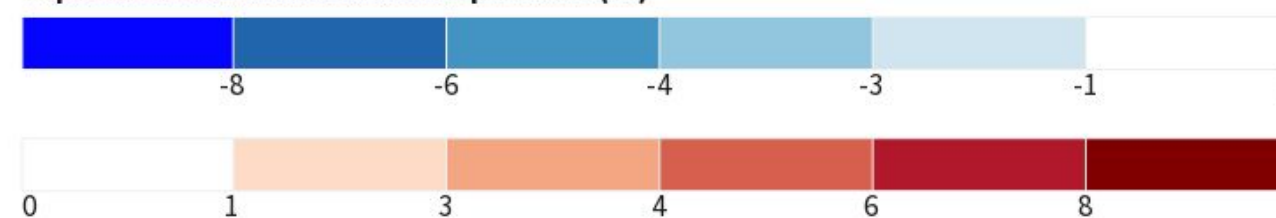
May 7, 2025  
8:02 AM

- Near normal April for New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- 30-day high temperature anomalies near normal or 0-1 degrees below normal.
- April mean average temperatures 0.6°F above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



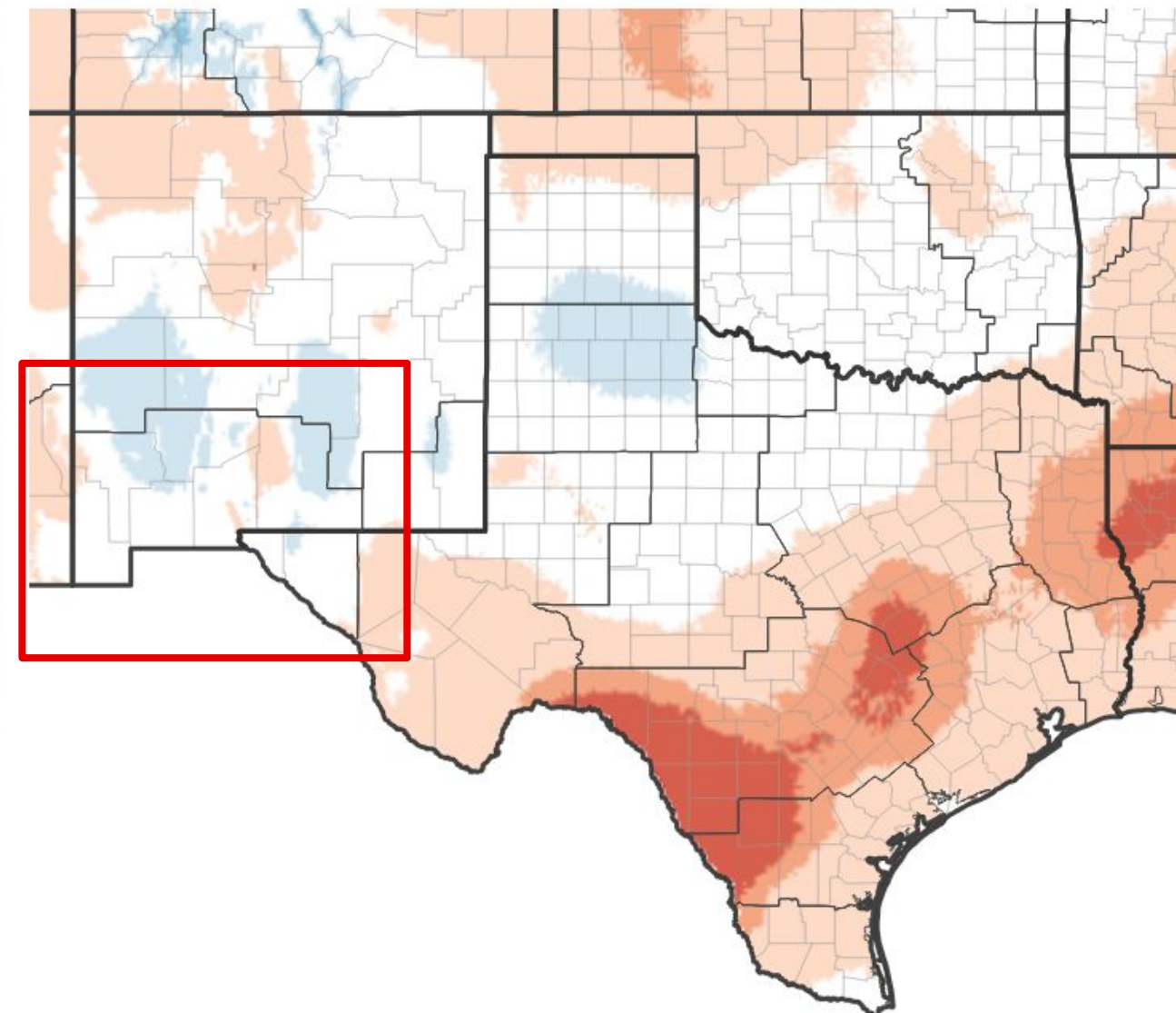
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



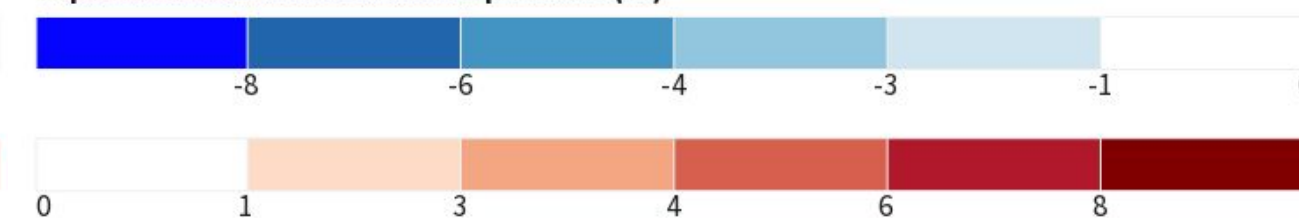
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/03/25

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: 05/03/25



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

National Weather Service  
El Paso, TX





# Summary of Impacts

May 7, 2025

8:02 AM

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 was practically non-existent last winter with minimal snowmelt. No sudden rises occurred in April. Flow remains near normal out of Lincoln National Forest. River levels will remain steady through the early summer 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 14.0% capacity, no change from last month and well below 30-year median. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

## Agricultural Impacts

- Rains over the northern Rio Grande may help increase storage some this month, but local rain chances remain quite low. Outlook points to a 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

- Recent rains have decreased ERCs recently, closer to normal for early May. Soil moisture remains low. Lack of winter snowpack may limit the spring greenup especially under forest canopies. Large fire risk is Critical with any windy days going forward.







- Little to no Gila River snow melt this year. Flood risk will remain low in May. River flooding season will begin again next summer.

### Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
Gila	1.03 ft	11.00 ft
Redrock	3.85 ft	20.00 ft
Virden	4.40 ft	15.00 ft

### Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft

Gauge stage recorded on 5/7/2025

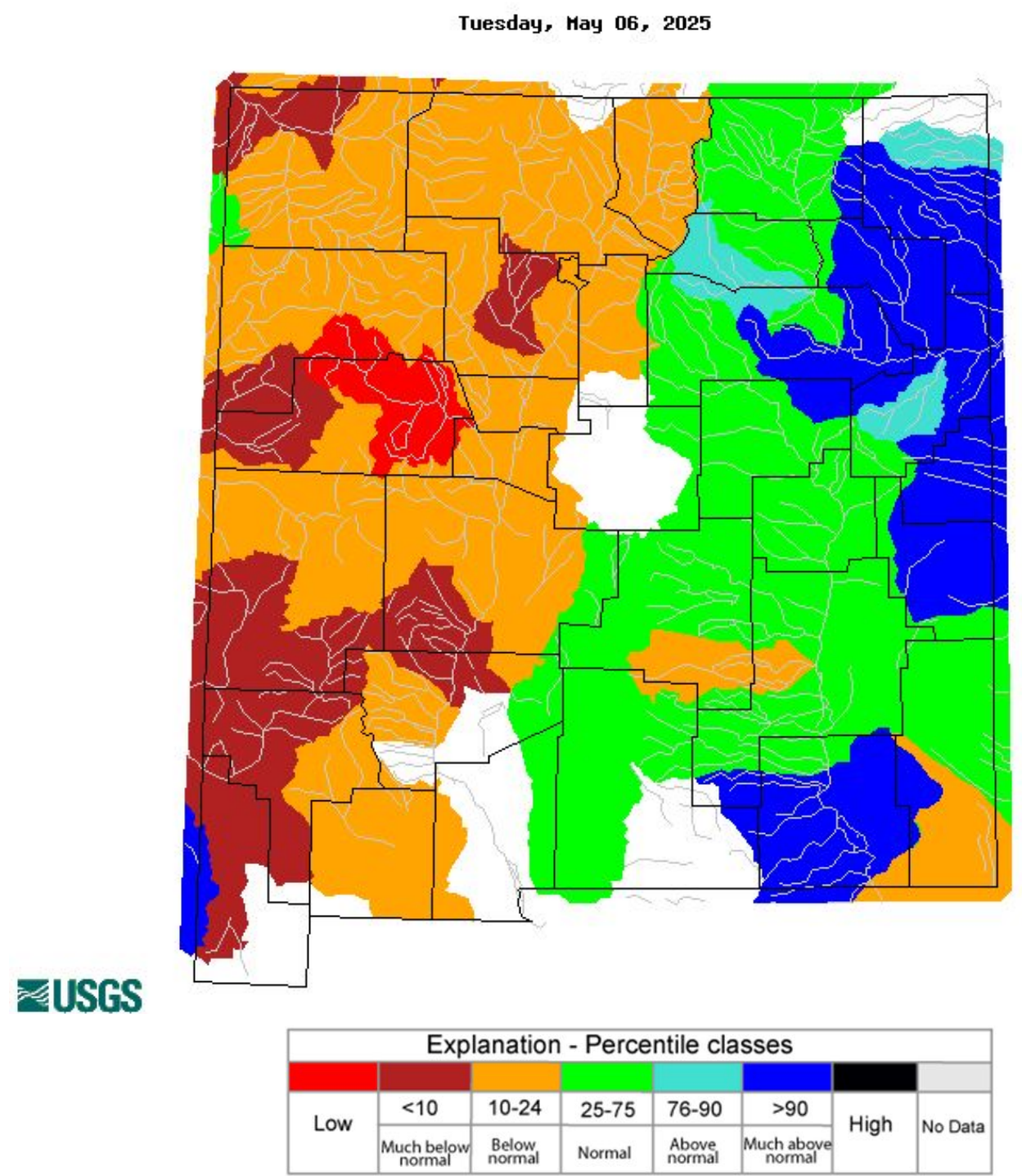


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid May 6, 2025





# Agricultural Impacts

May 7, 2025  
8:02 AM

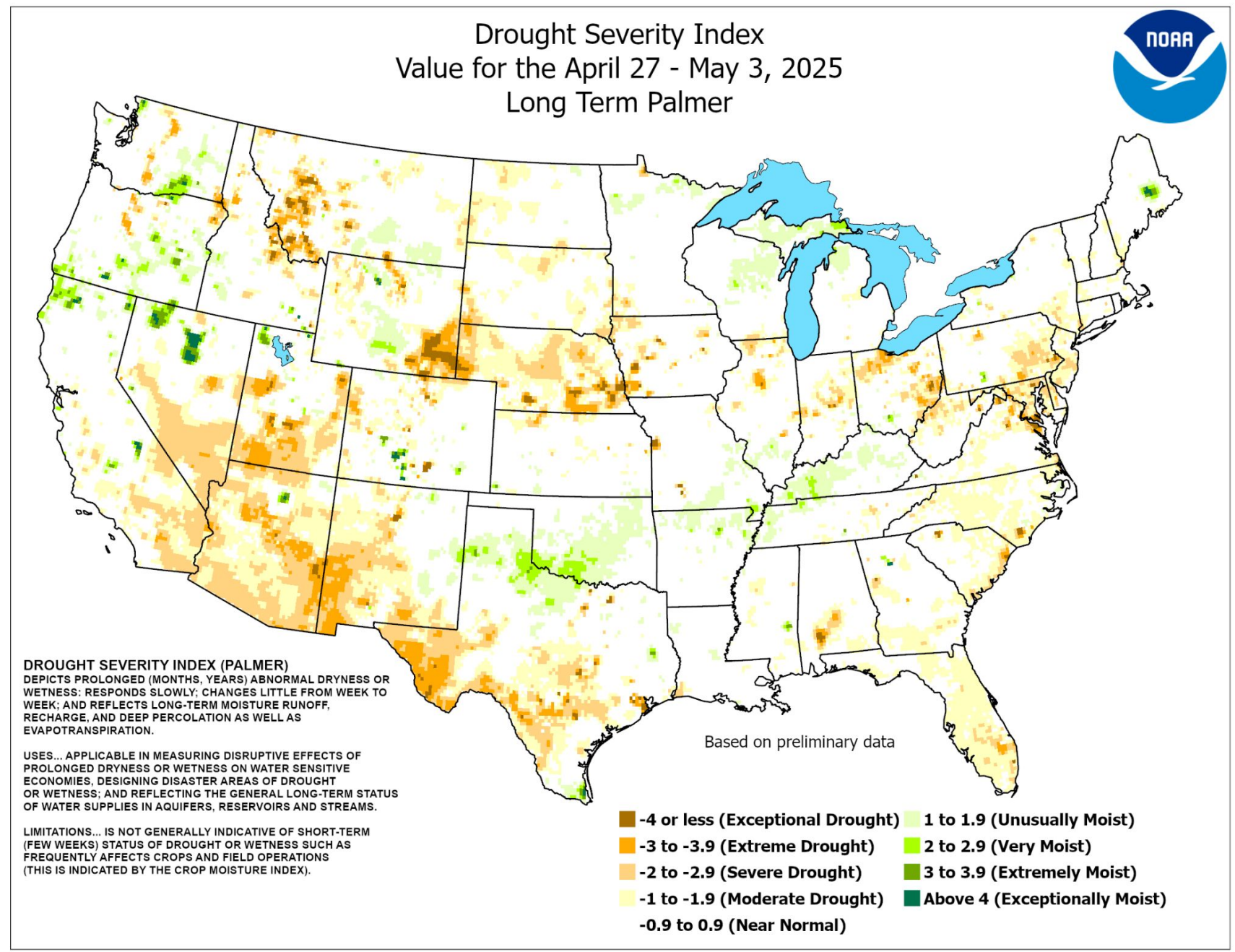
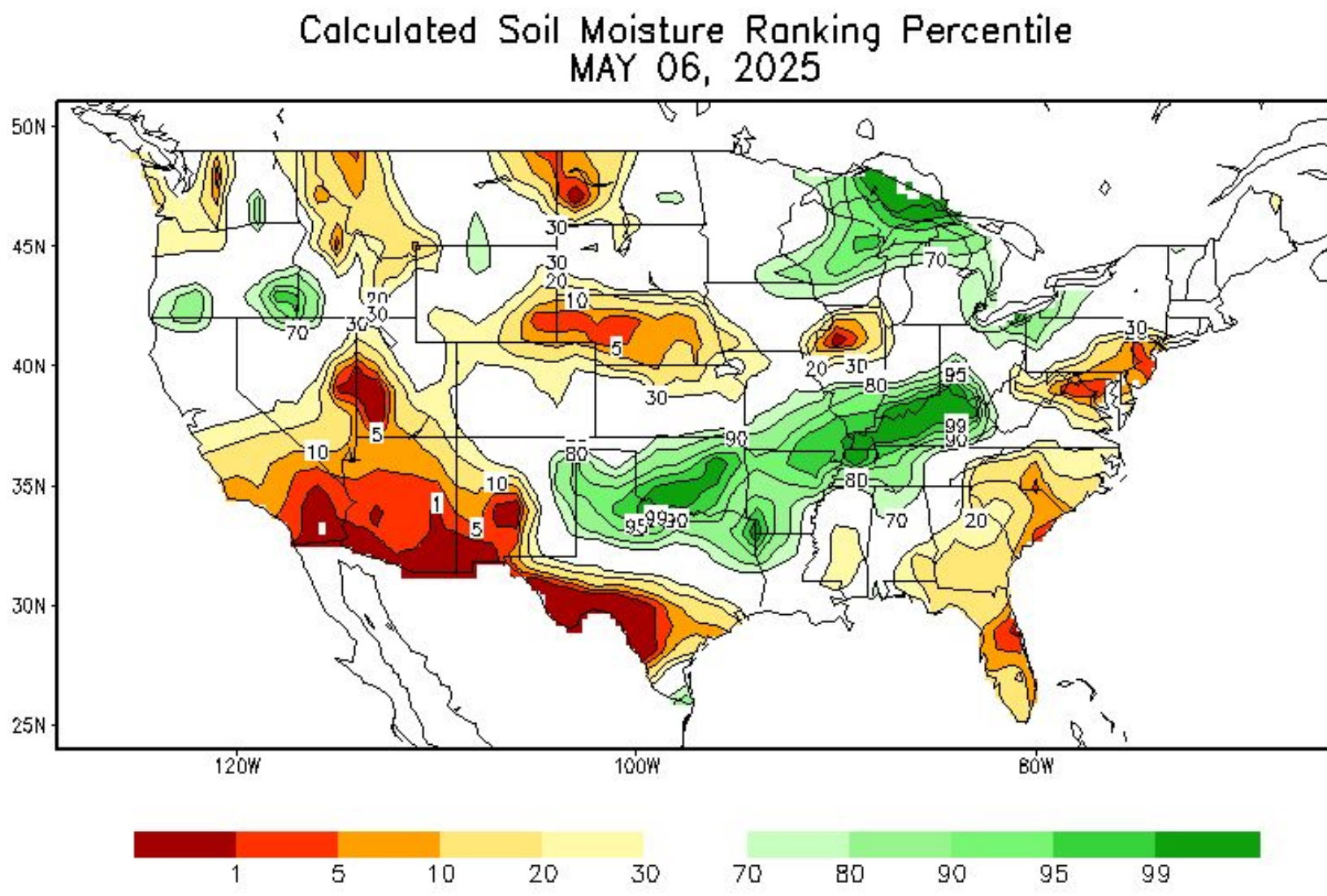


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid May 6, 2025

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#). Weekly value for period ending May 3, 2025







# Fire Hazard Impacts

May 7, 2025  
8:02 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](#)

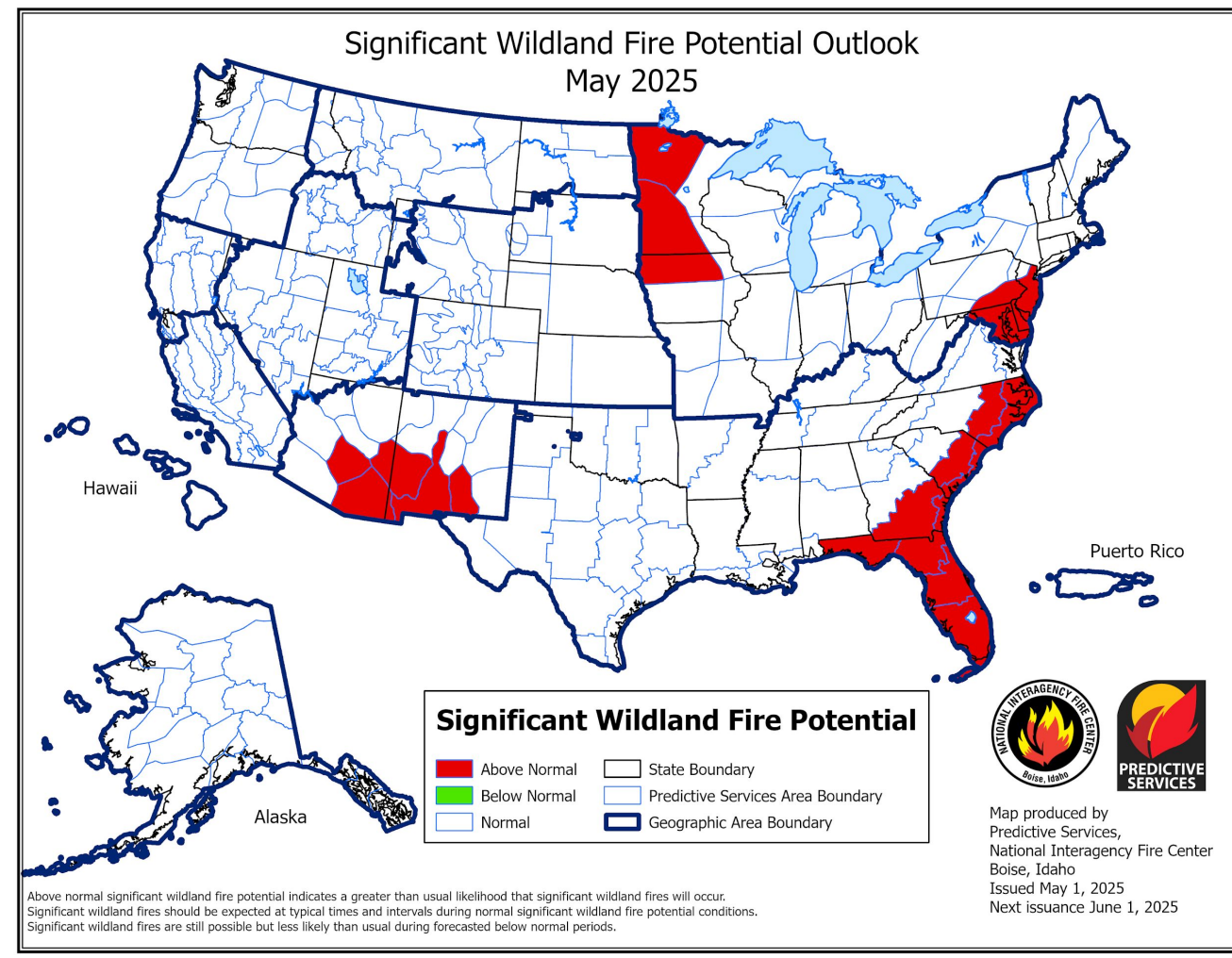
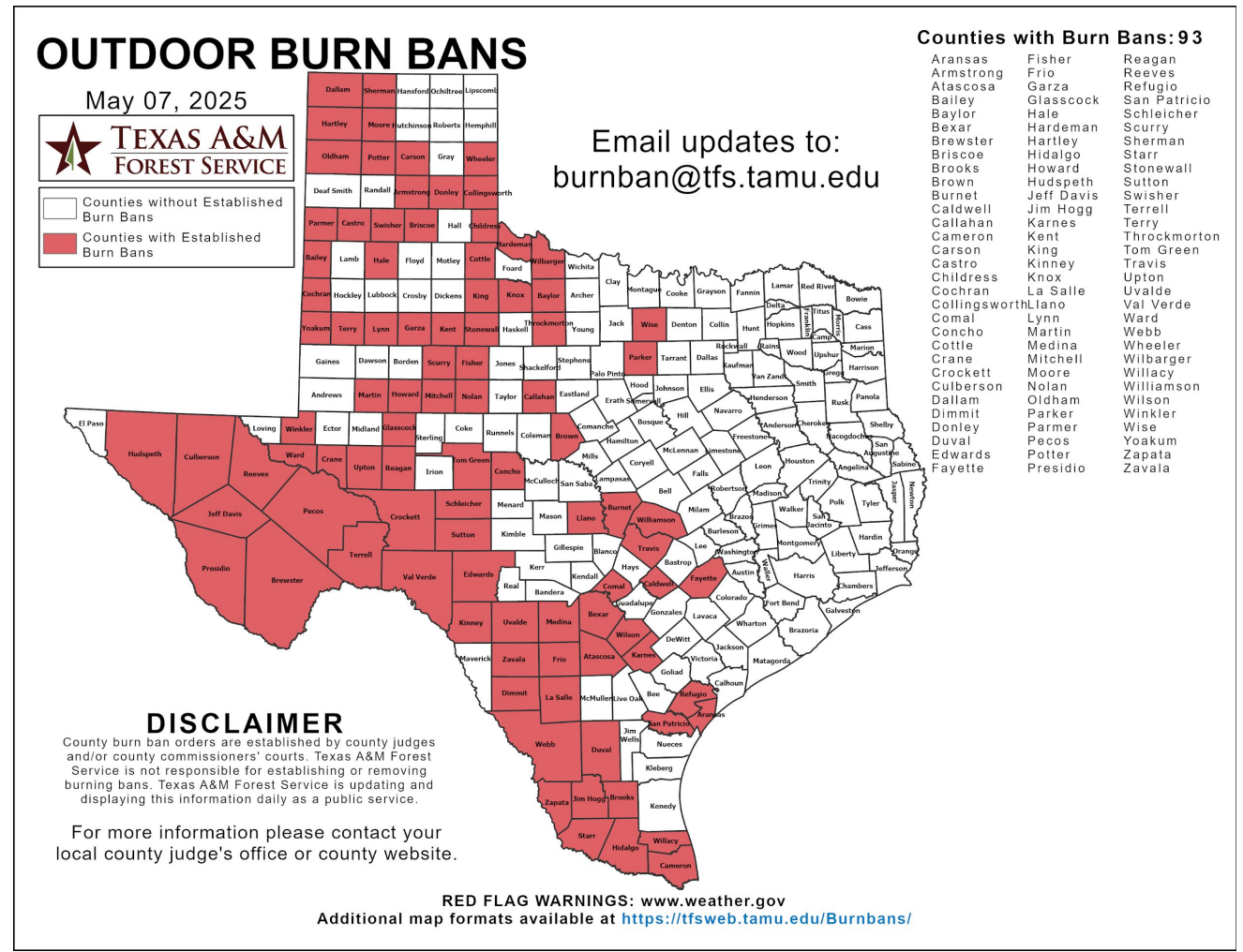


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for May 2025





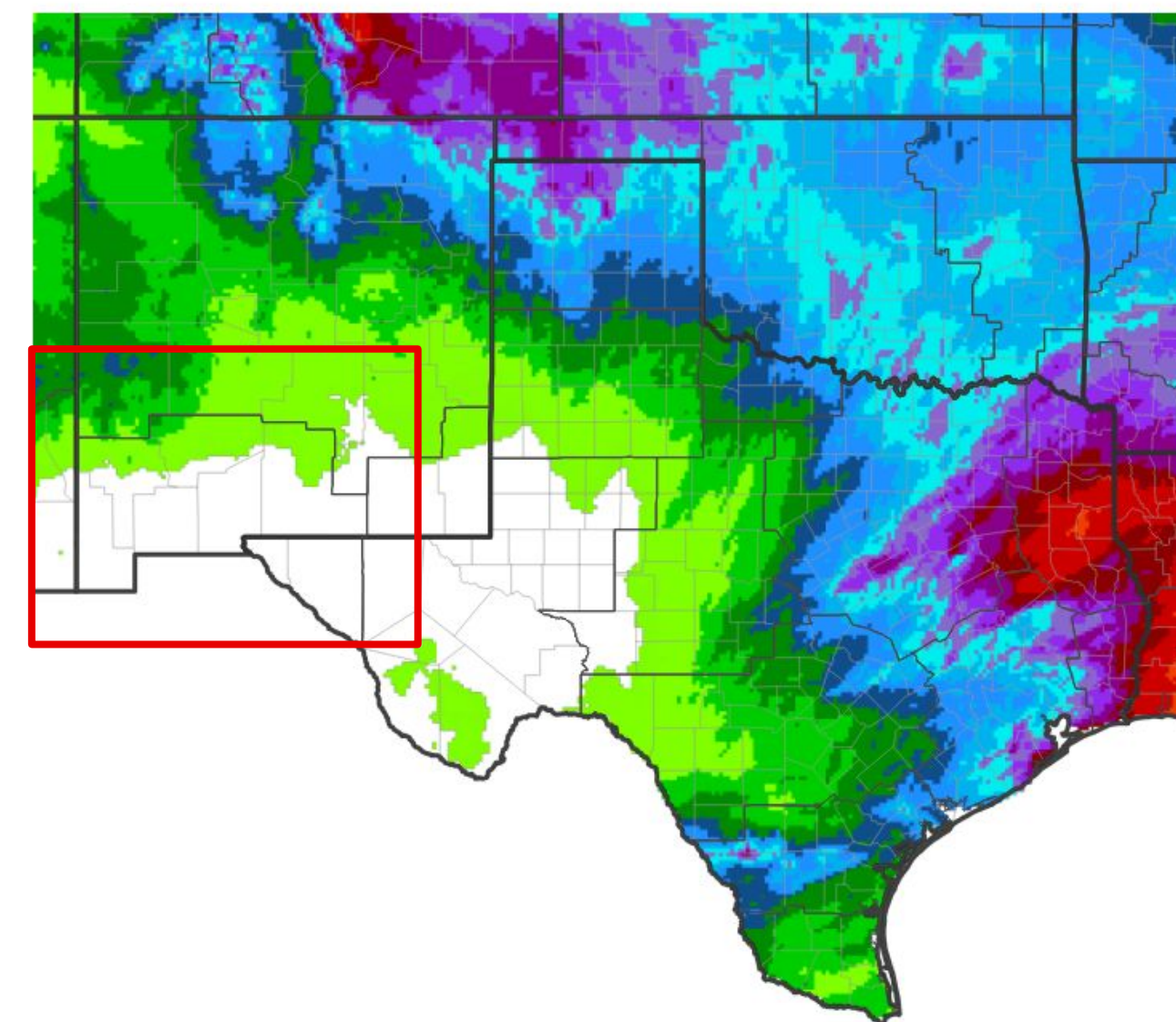


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

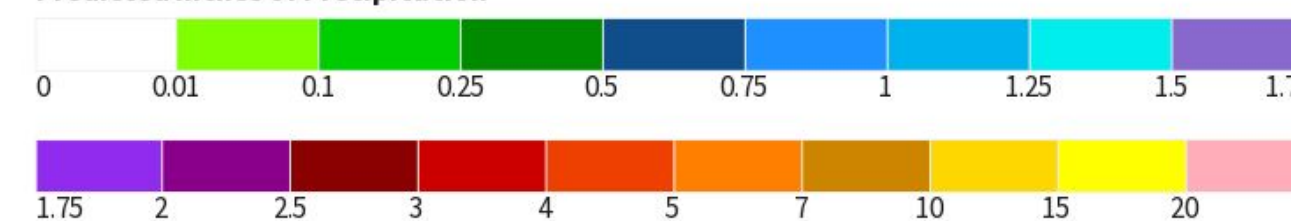
May 7, 2025  
8:02 AM

- Best rain chances this week further north into central New Mexico. Dryline thunderstorms may reach south-central NM and far west TX later this month, but focusing further east over Southern High Plains. Climate outlook for May leans near normal for both precipitation and temperature.
- 2024 finished below normal for precipitation area wide. Drought conditions are likely to persist into the summer season.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 6, 2025–May 13, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/06/25







# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

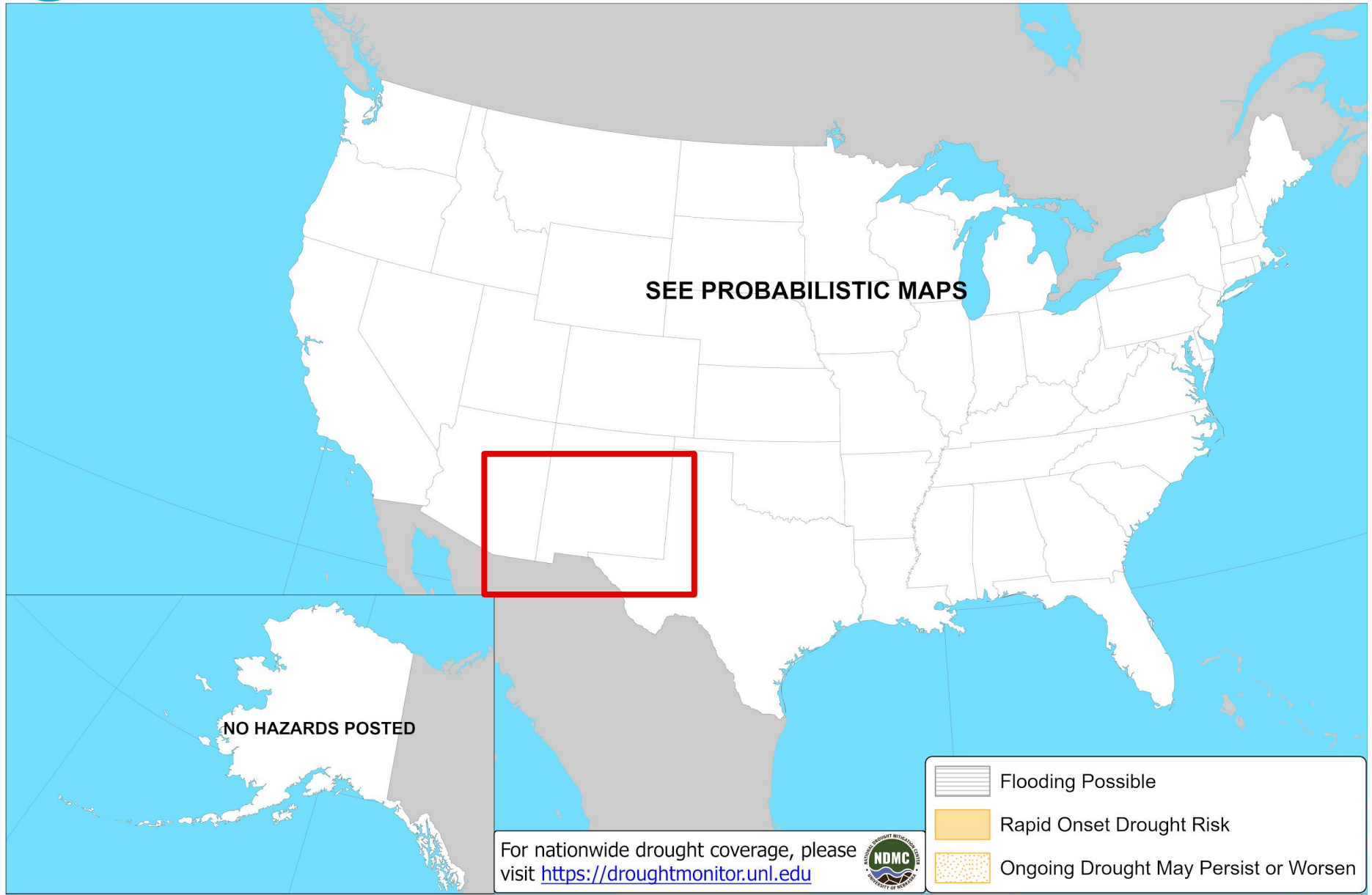
May 7, 2025  
8:02 AM

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 into the summer season.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook  
Valid: May 14 - 20, 2025



Climate Prediction Center  
Released: May 6, 2025 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:   
[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

Image Caption:  
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid May 14 to 20







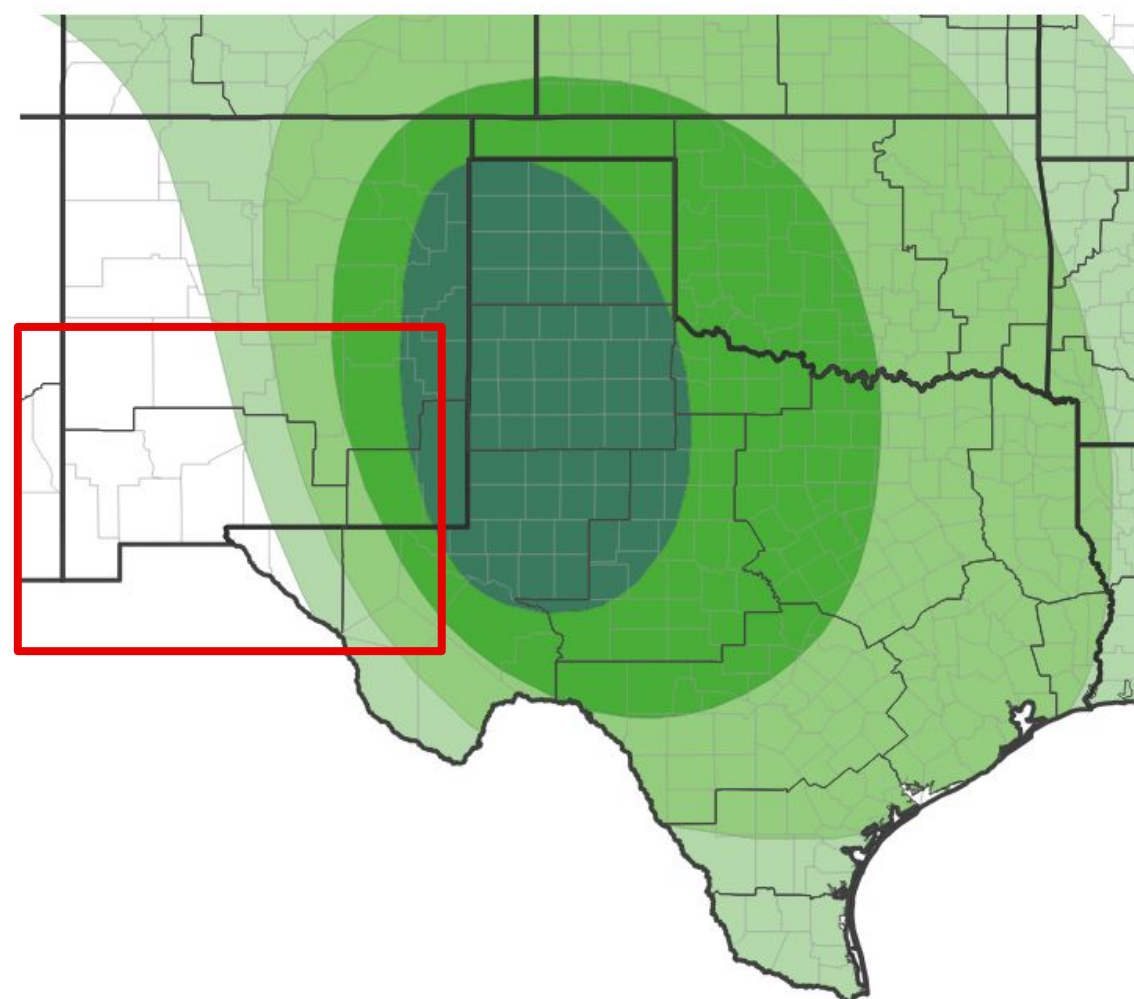
# Long-Range Outlooks

May 7, 2025  
8:02 AM

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

- 33-40% chance for portions of Far West Texas and South-Central New Mexico, near normal for Southwest New Mexico
- Monthly average for El Paso: 0.43"
- Near normal May temperatures are most likely across Far West Texas and Southern New Mexico

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2025–May 31, 2025



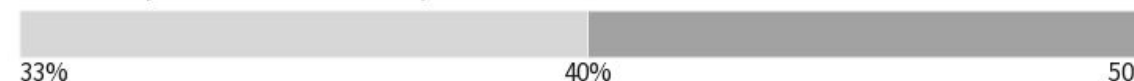
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



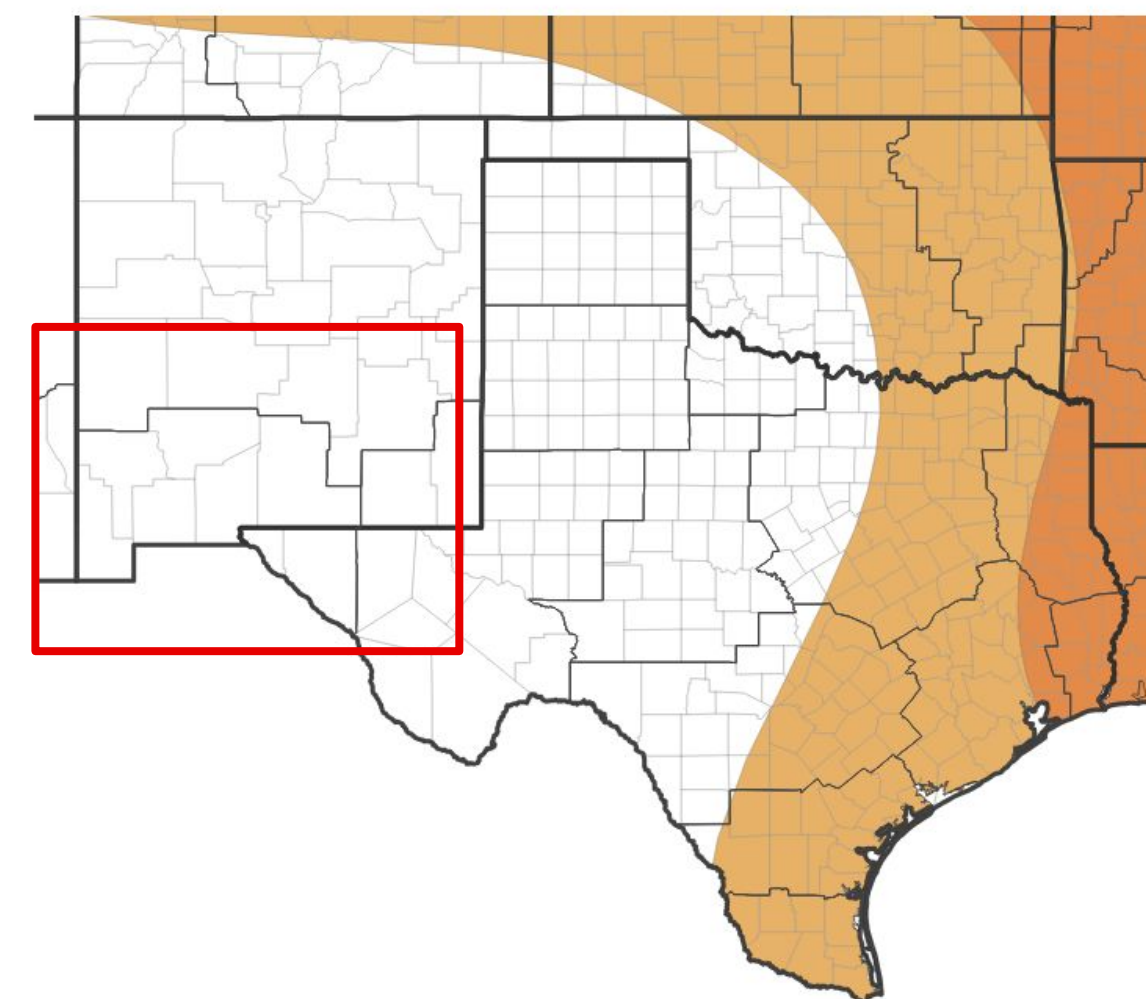
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/30/25

Monthly Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2025–May 31, 2025



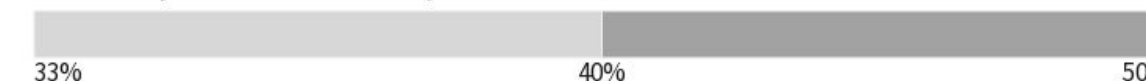
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 04/30/25



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

National Weather Service  
El Paso, TX





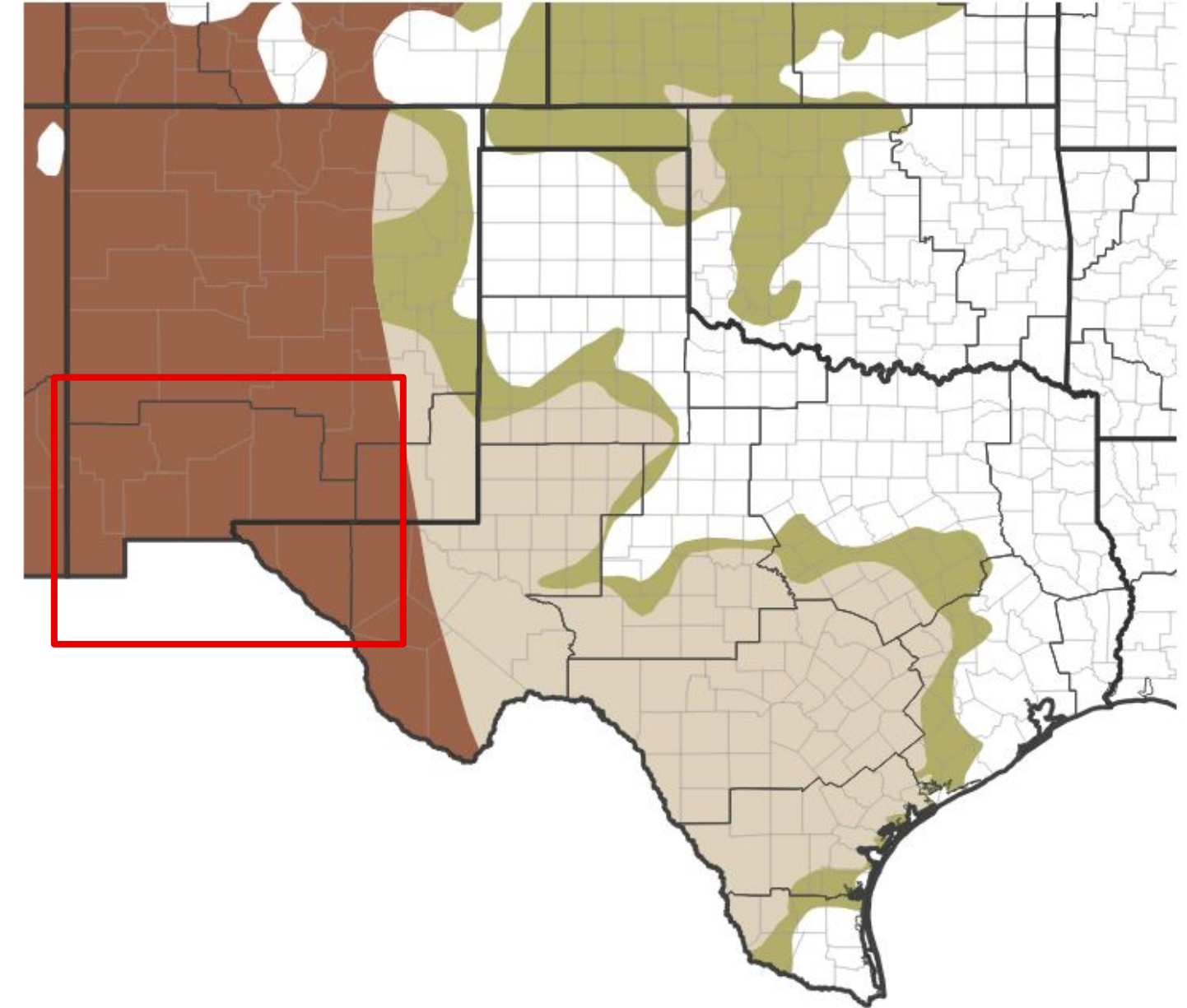
# Drought Outlook

May 7, 2025  
8:02 AM

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

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

1-Month Drought Outlook for May 1, 2025–May 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



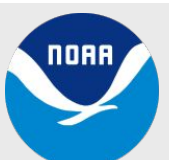
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/30/25

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