



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid June 4, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated July 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. Drought status removed across Far West Texas.
- Drought conditions will persist for Western New Mexico, but may improve or end across South-Central New Mexico.
- Above normal precipitation and near normal temperatures expected in June, which may further improve drought conditions this summer.

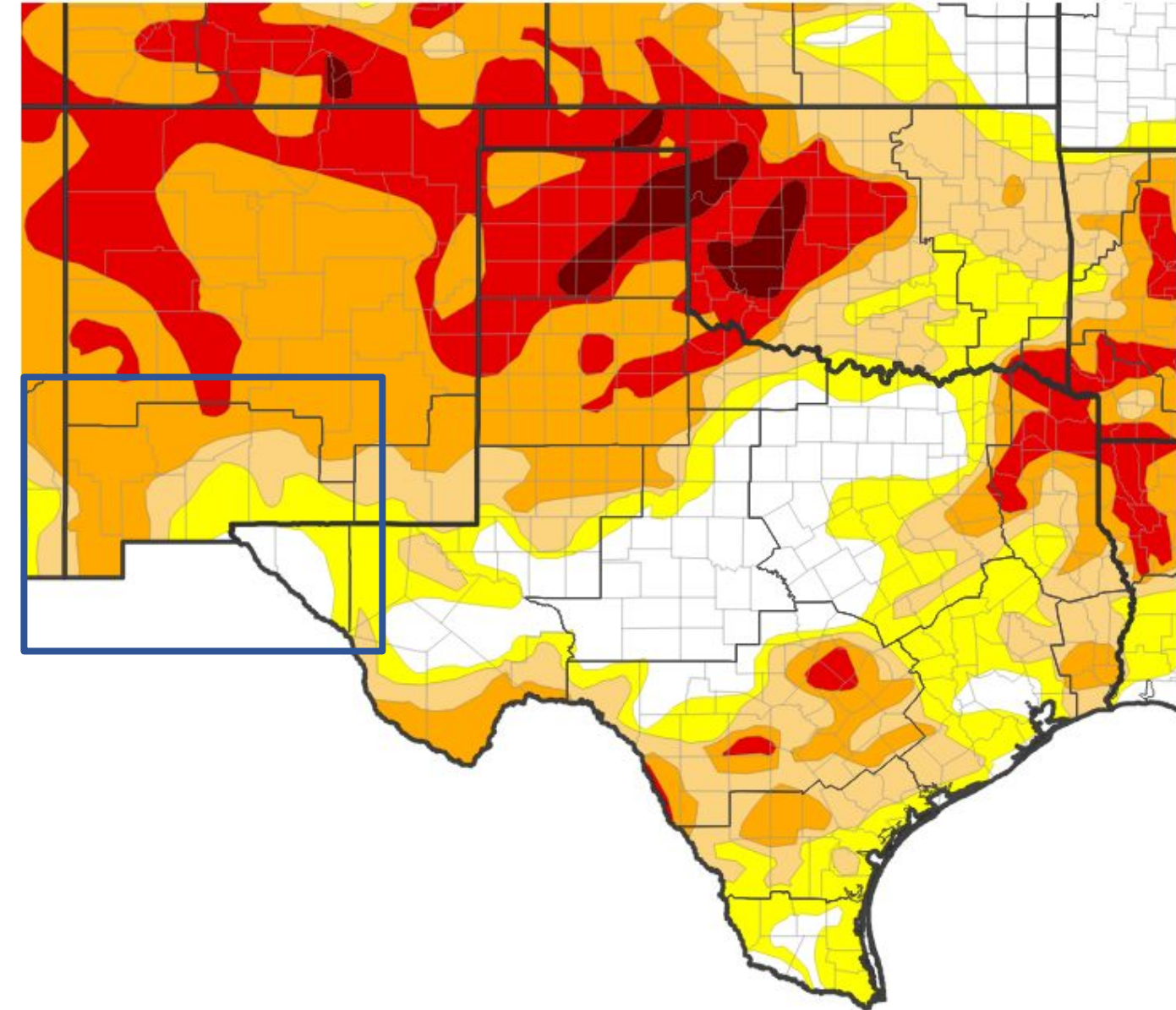


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
Portions of the Middle Rio Grande Valley in Central New Mexico
- **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: 06/02/26





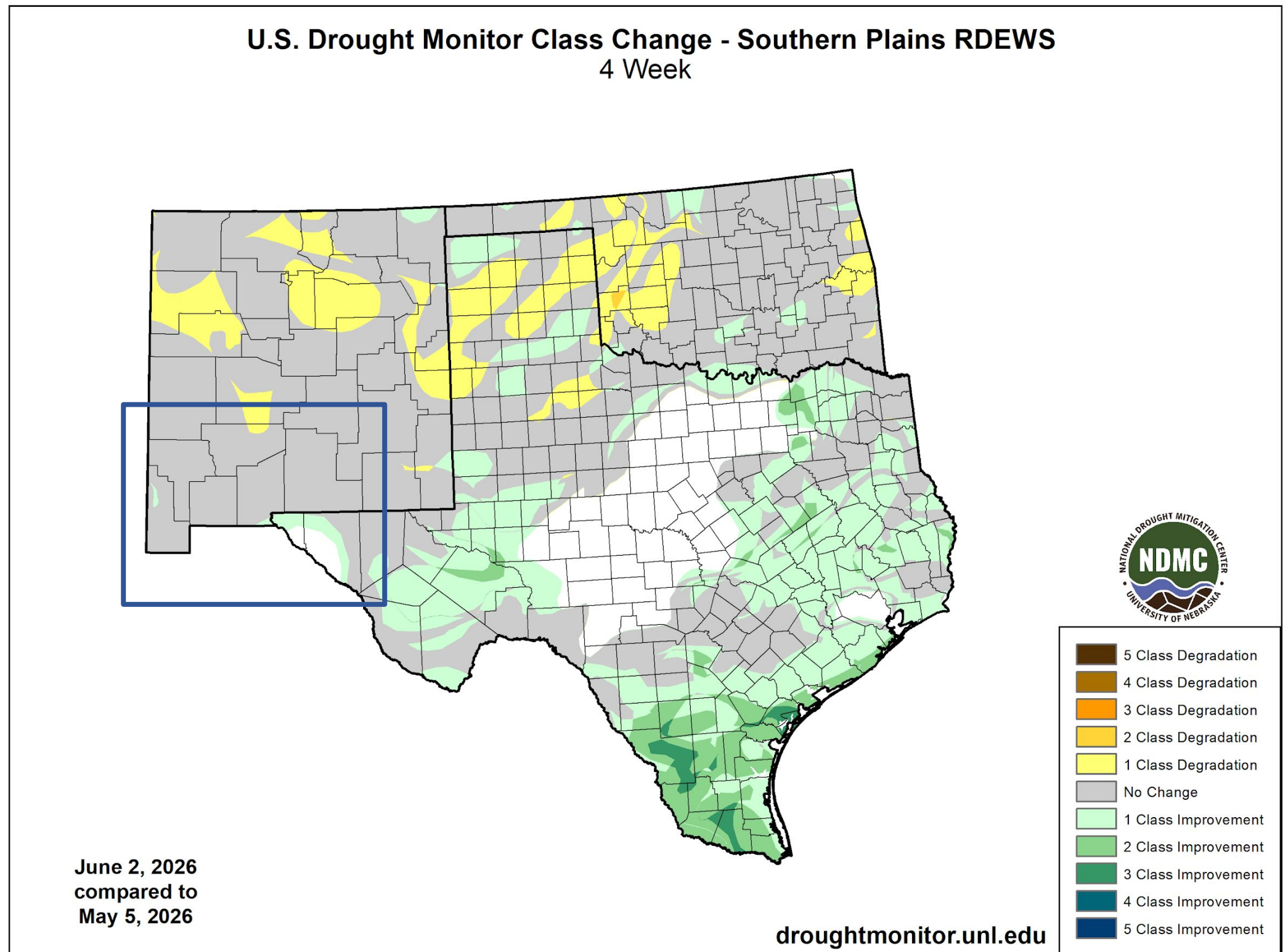
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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 Northern and Central New Mexico
- **Drought Improved:**
El Paso and Hudspeth Counties in Far West Texas
- **No Change:**
Southwest and South-Central New Mexico





Precipitation

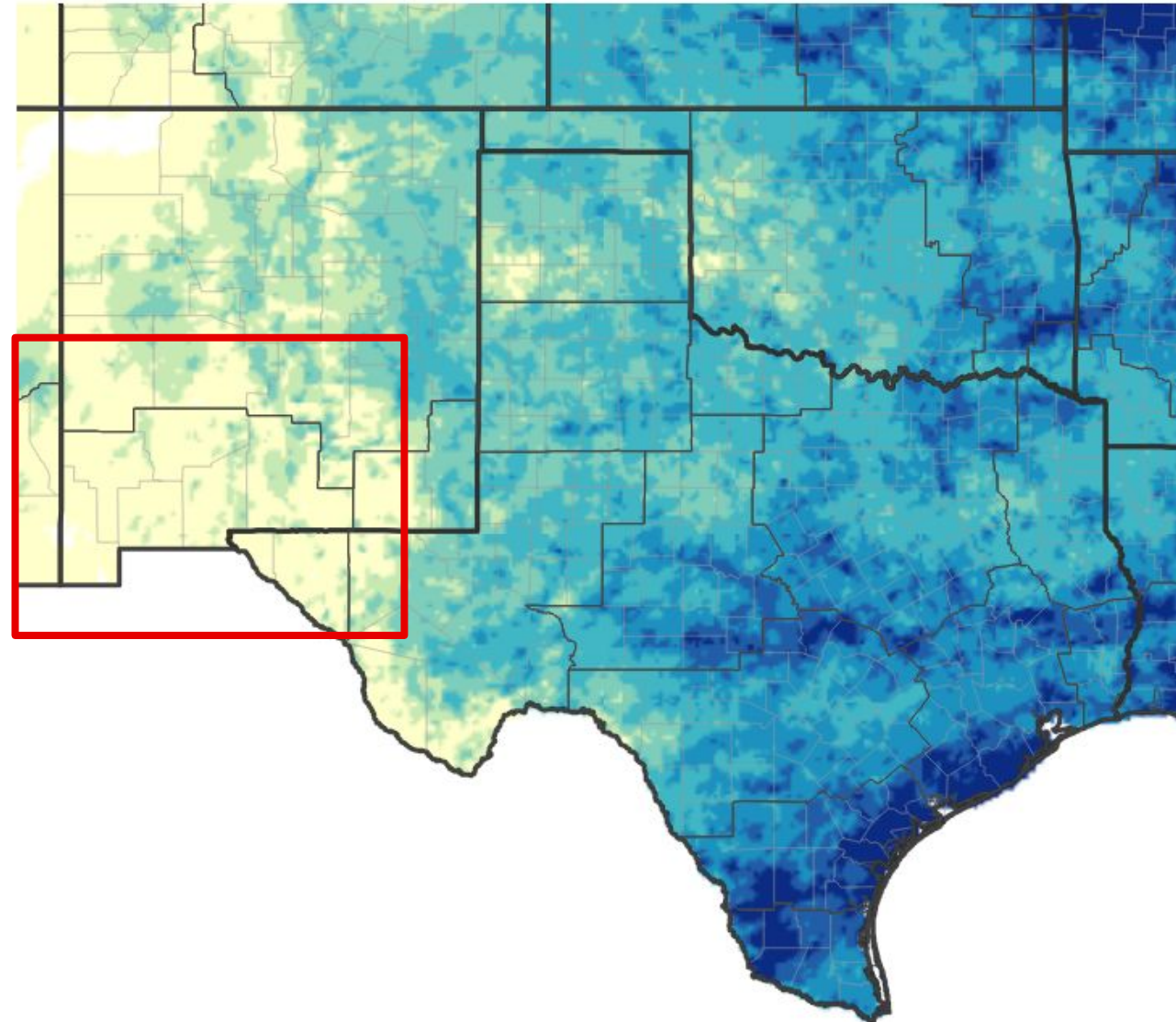
May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

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

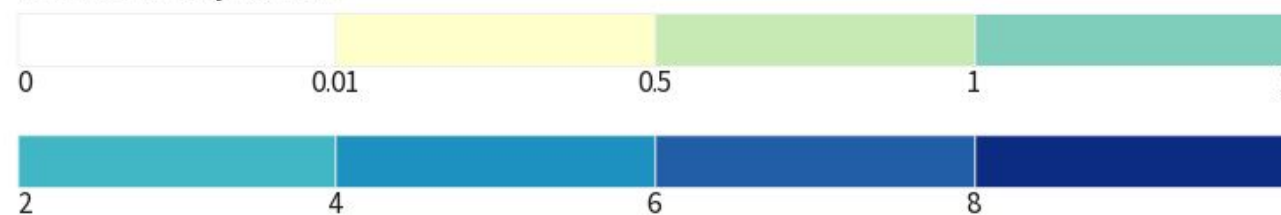
90-day precip totals:
0.75-1.25" for desert lowlands. **1.25-2.50"** over mountain forests.

Near normal May precipitation **100-150%** for portions of South Central New Mexico and Far West Texas. Below normal May precipitation **50-75%** for Southwest New Mexico.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

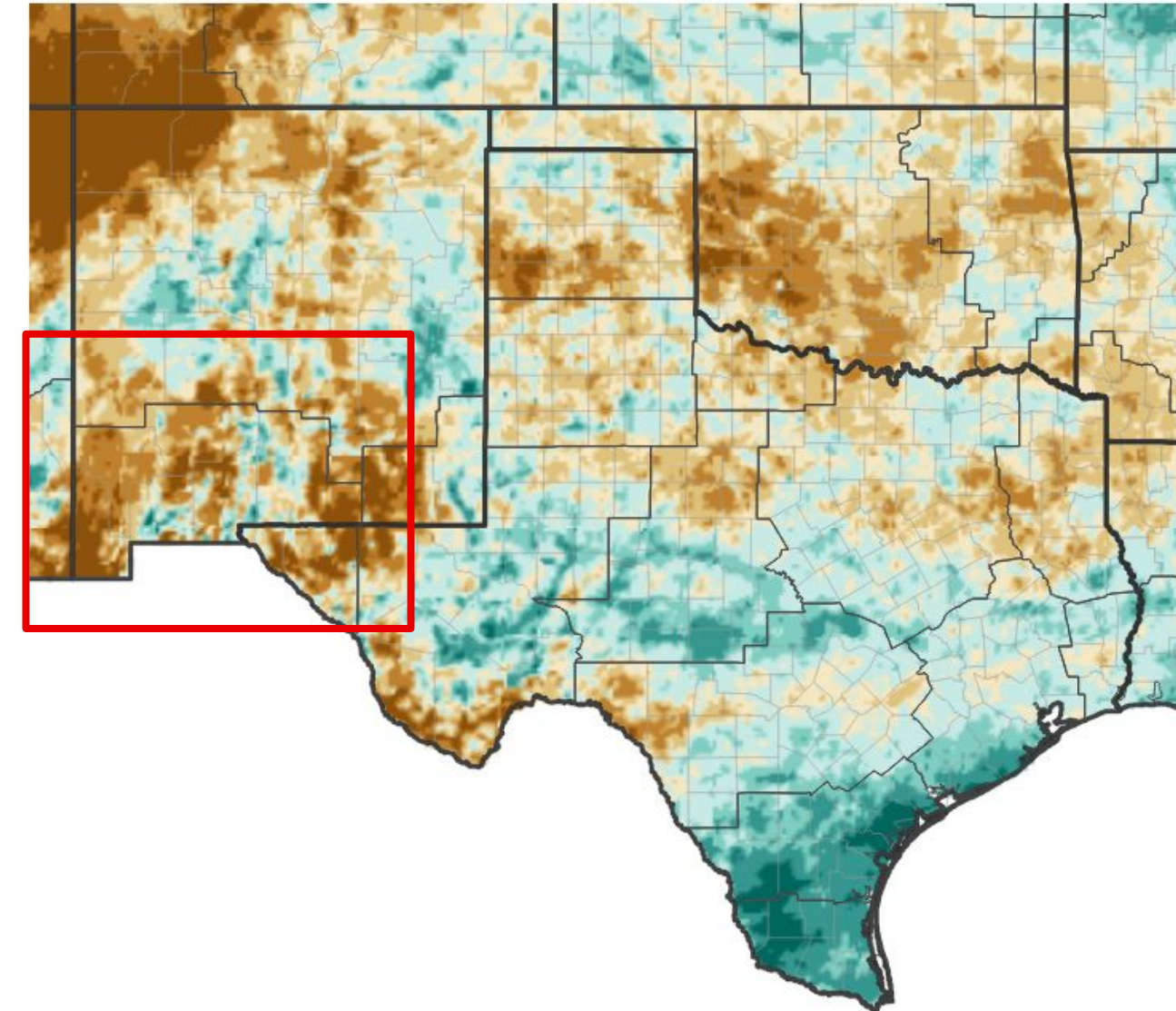


Inches of Precipitation

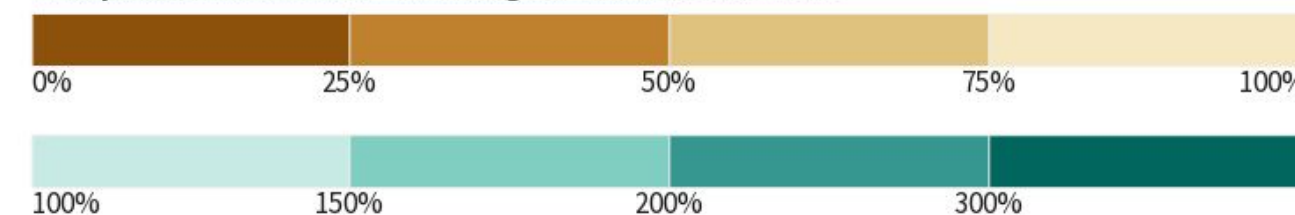


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 06/02/26

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: 06/03/26

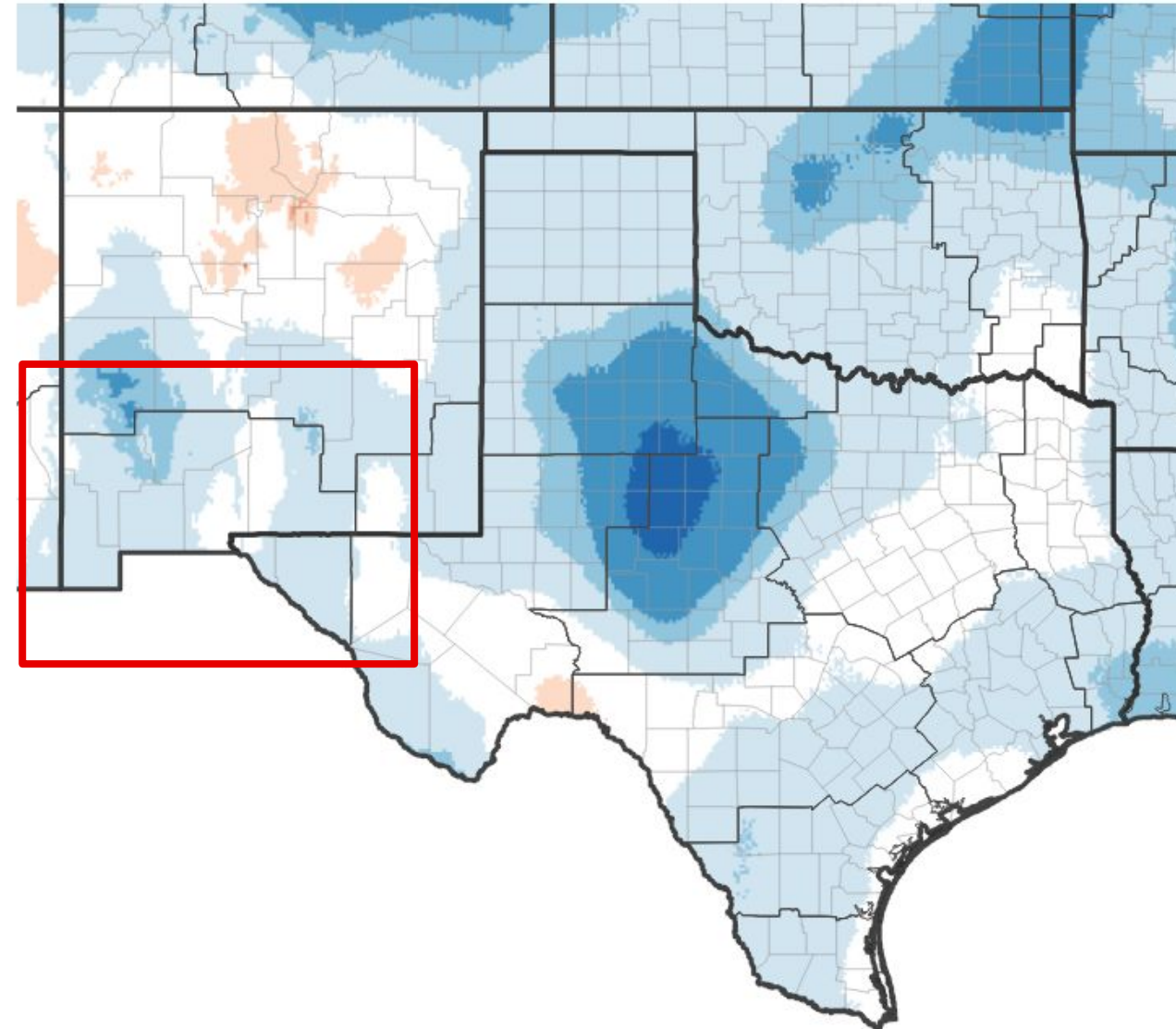


Temperature

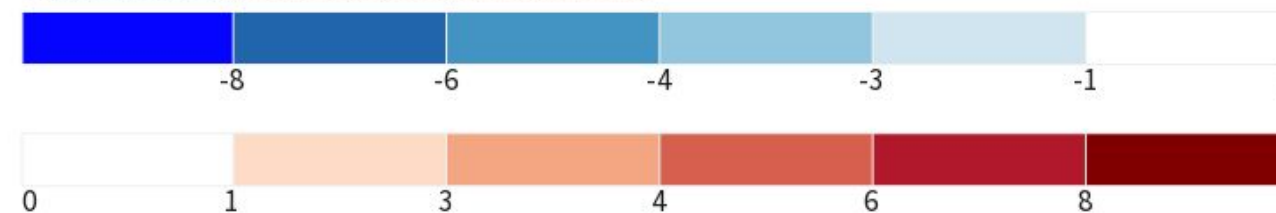
May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

- Near normal May temperatures for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- 30-day high temperatures **0-1 degrees** below normal
- May mean average temperature **0.1°F** above normal at El Paso International (KELP).

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



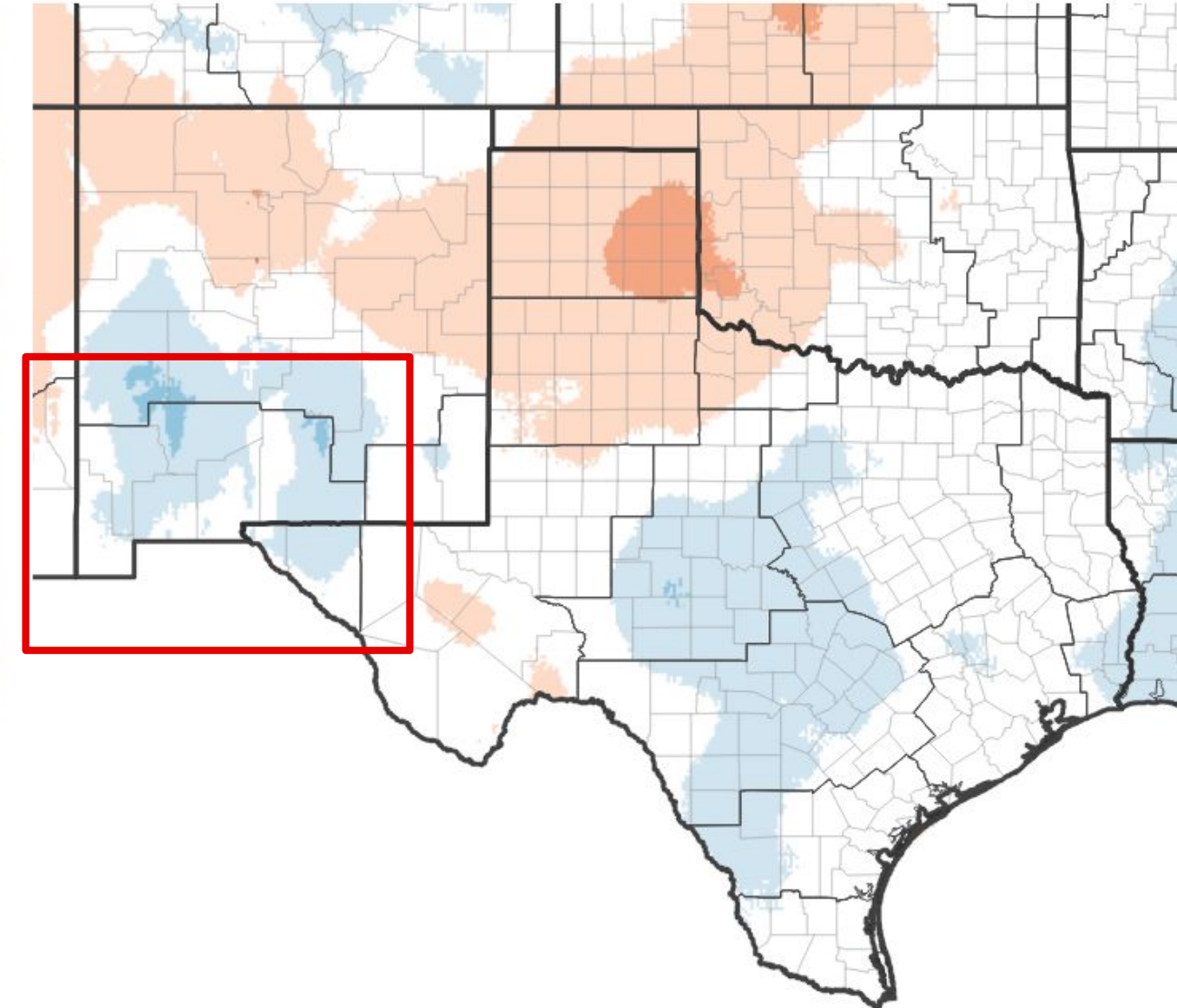
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



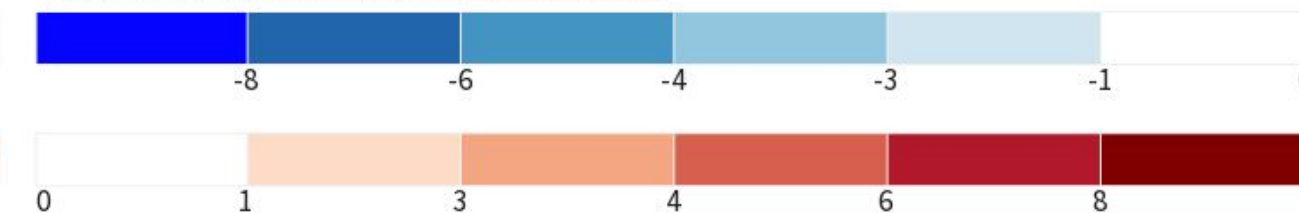
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/26/26

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: 05/26/26





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. Water was released south of Caballo Dam along the Rio Grande on May 29, with river gauges in El Paso responding on June 1. Mimbres River may see sudden increases in June due to thunderstorms. Elephant Butte storage at 9.4% capacity, lower than last month and well below the historical 30-year average. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is near normal after favorable May and early June precipitation. Outlook points to above normal precipitation in June, which could help the summer growing season. 2026 Rio Grande irrigation season surface water allotment is four inches (4") per acre. Please refer to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District ([EBID](#)) website or your local municipality for more information.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- An early start to the summer monsoon season and thunderstorm rainfall over local forests will reduce the risk of large fire growth in June. Periods of critical fire danger will still be possible, with the primary risk for wildfires being lightning starts. ERCs are near normal in early June due to recent precipitation. Fire risk will remain Moderate over the next couple months with the summer heat and periods of dryness.





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 May. Water was released along the Rio Grande below Caballo Dam on May 29.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	0.81 ft	11.00 ft	25 ft ³ /s
Redrock	4.01 ft	20.00 ft	19 ft ³ /s
Virden	4.61 ft	15.00 ft	9 ft ³ /s

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	4.45 ft	8.50 ft	513 ft ³ /s

Gauge data recorded on 6/4/2026

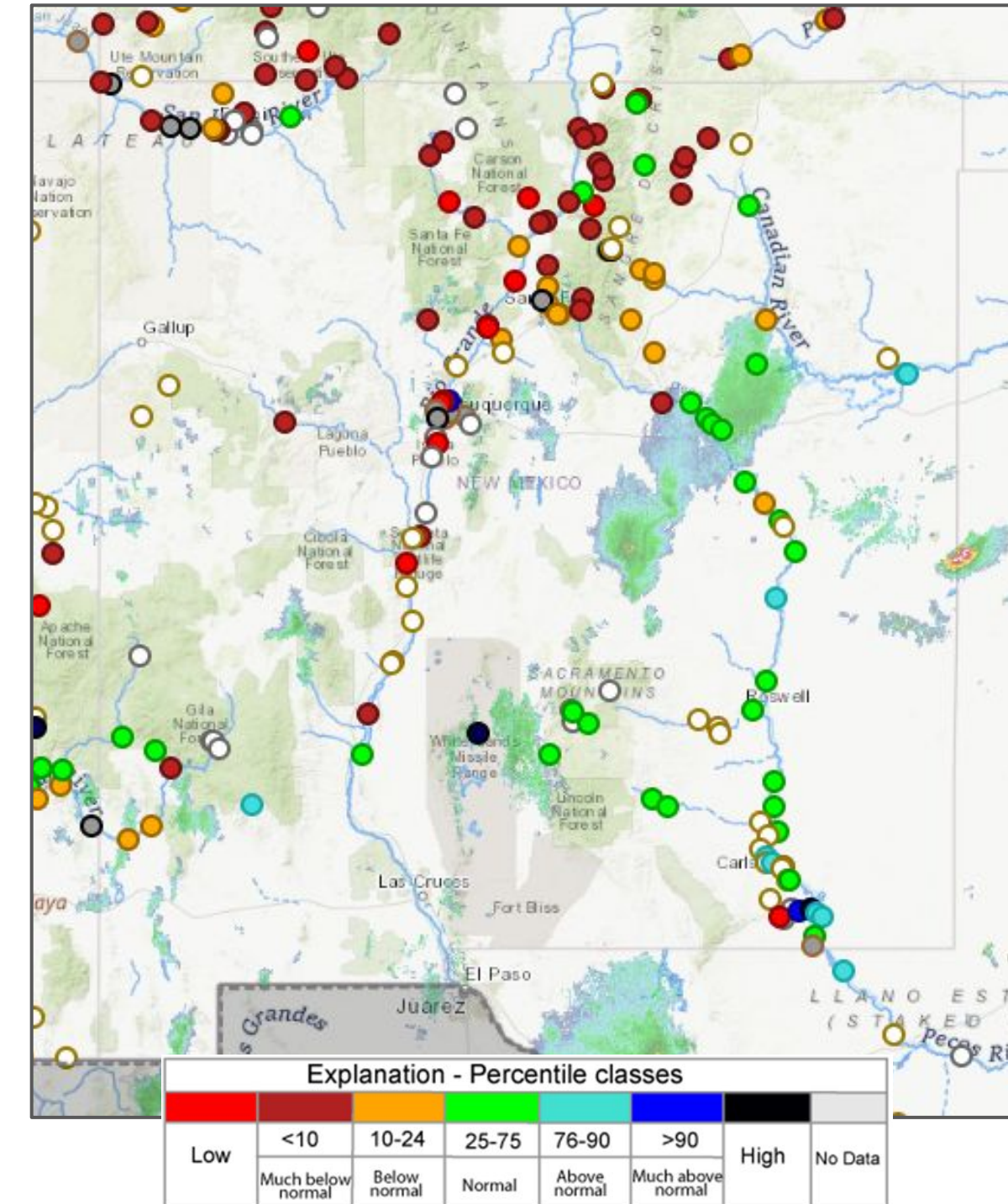
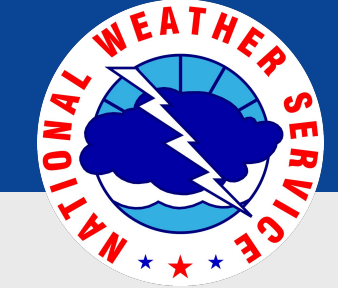


Image Caption: USGS 7 day Streamflow Status valid June 4, 2026

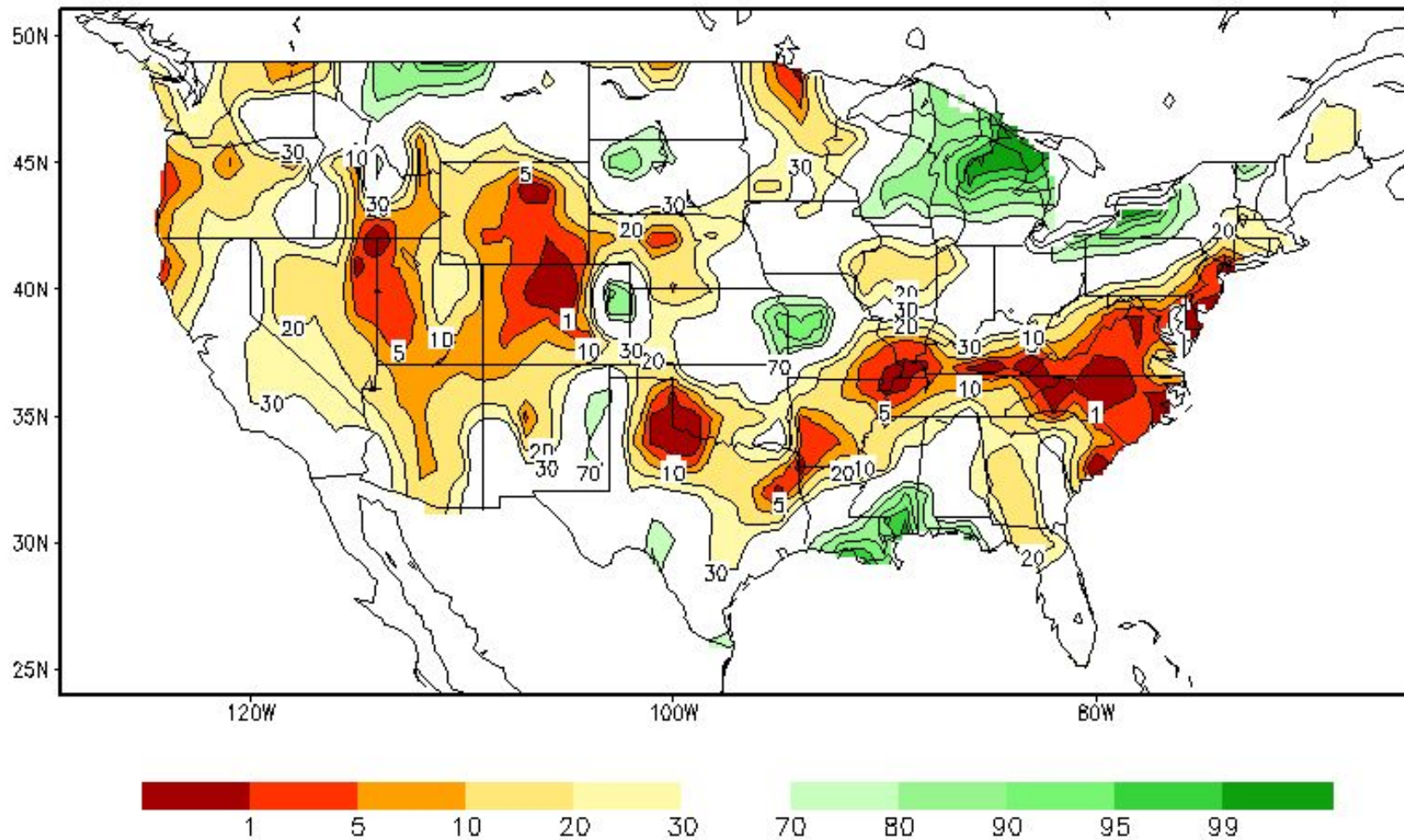




Agricultural Impacts

May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
JUN 03, 2026



Drought Severity Index
Value for the May 24 - 30, 2026
Long Term Palmer

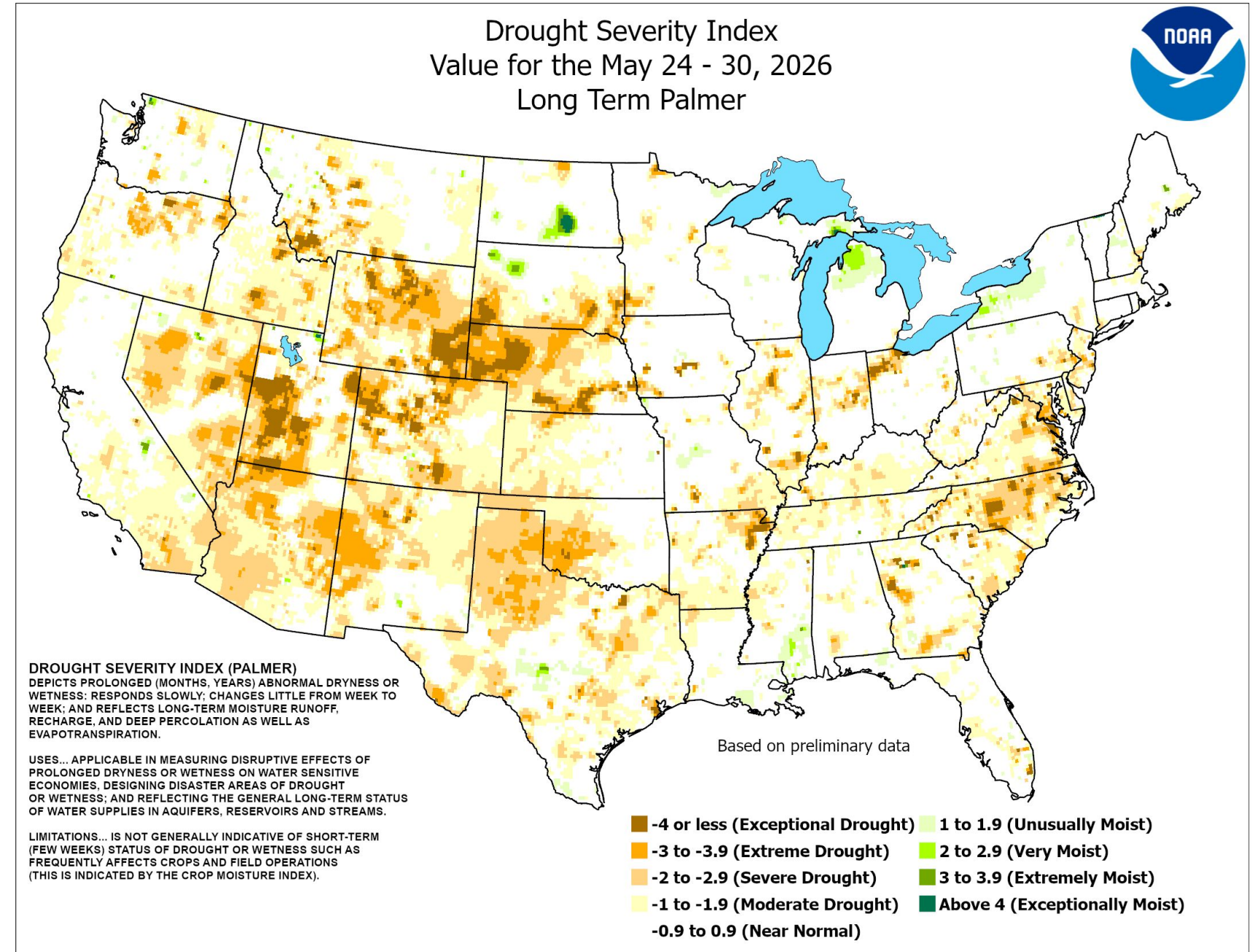


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid June 3, 2026

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#) valid May 24-30, 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](#)

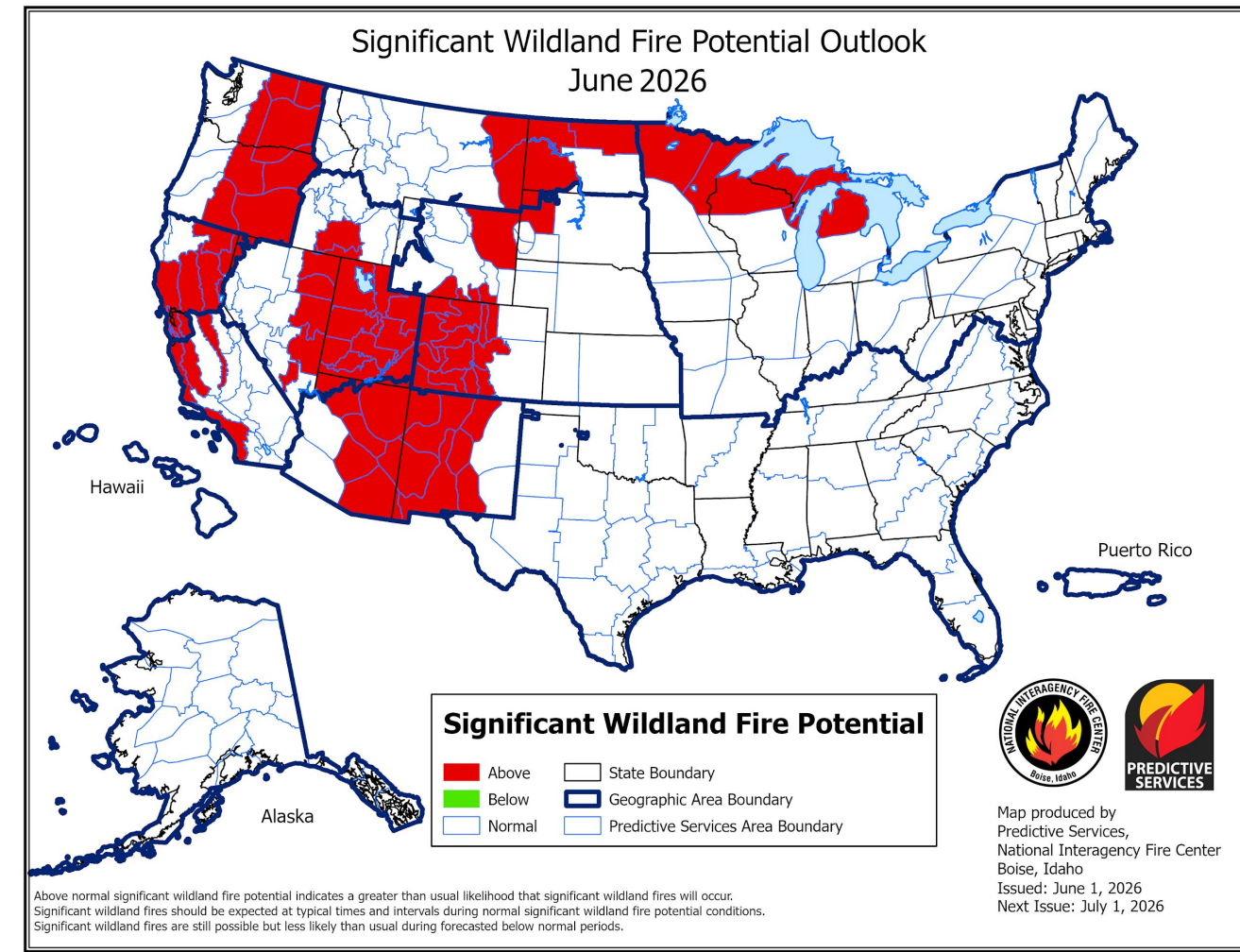
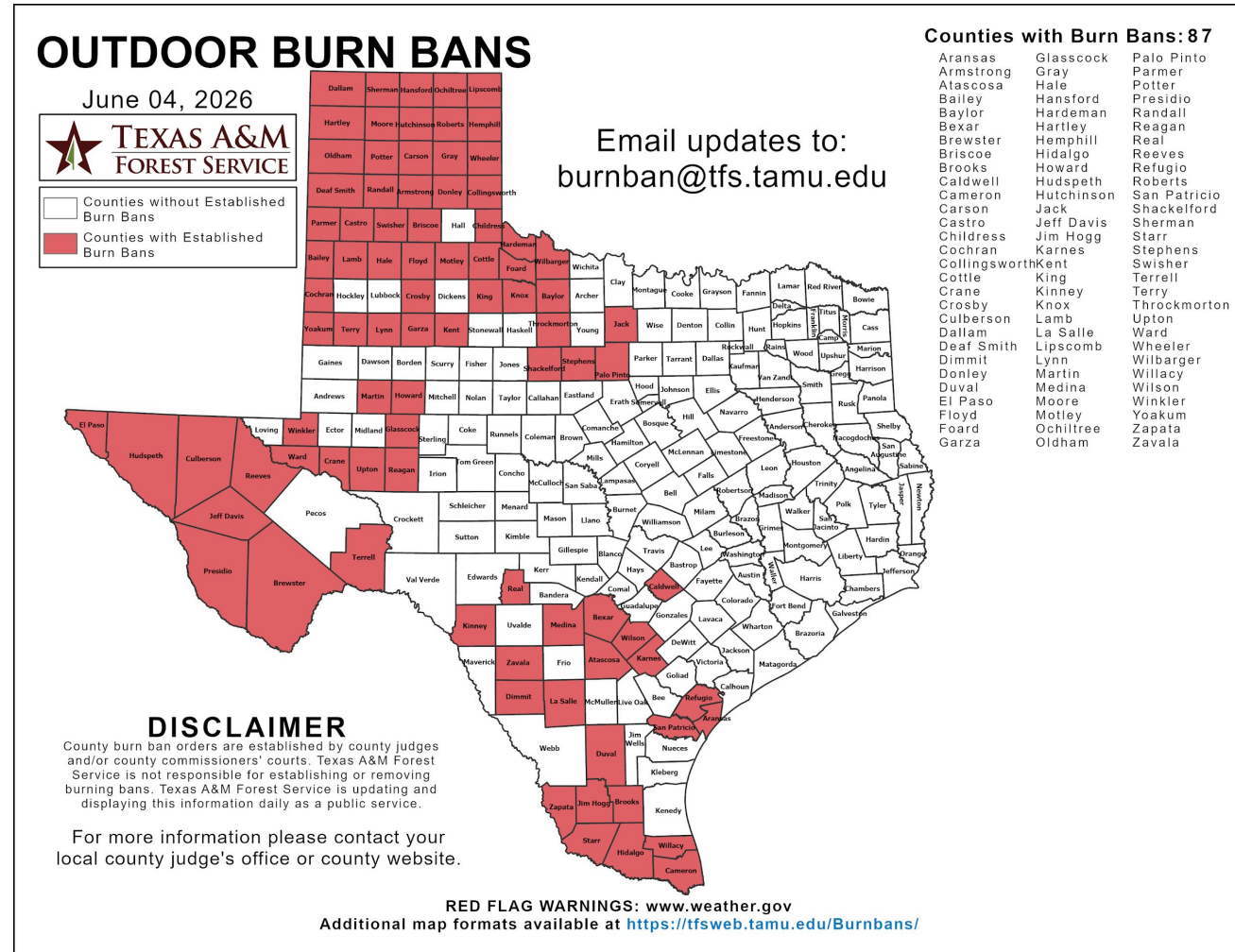


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for June 2026



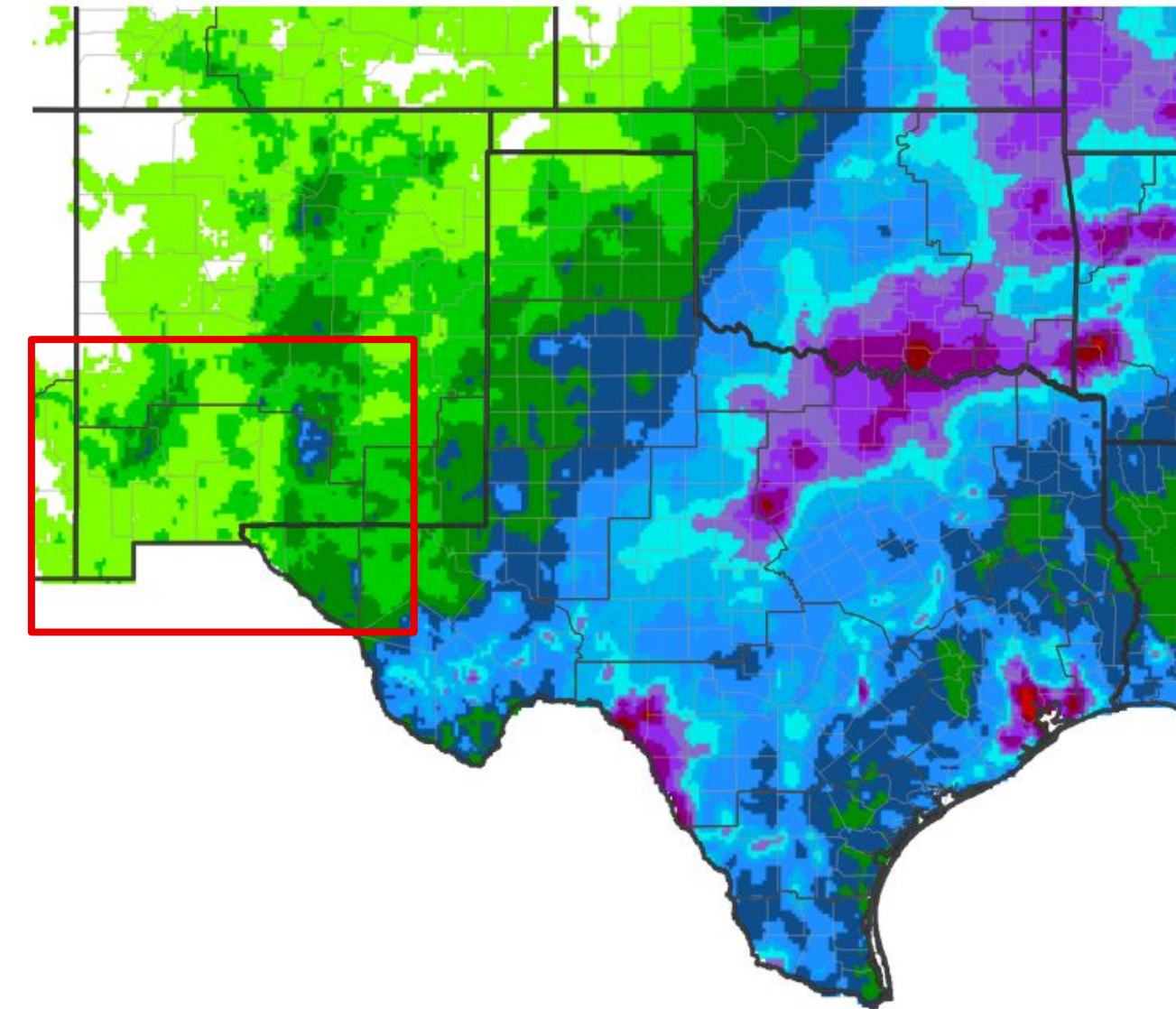


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

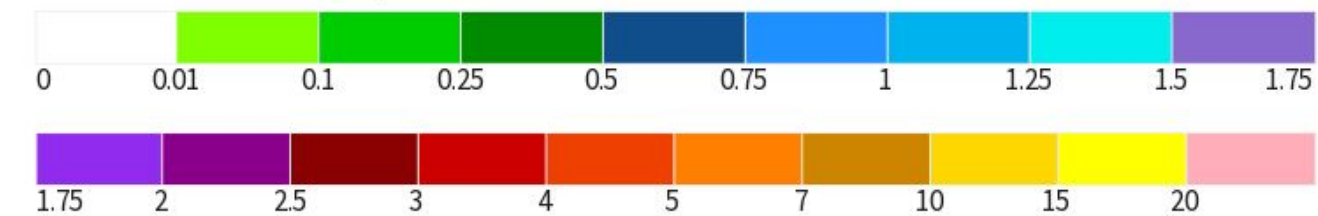
May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

- Scattered showers and thunderstorms area wide through the first week of June. Heaviest rains favoring the NM mountains and generally east of the Rio Grande. Monthly forecast is confident in above normal June precipitation, which may help decrease drought conditions.
- 2026 yearly precipitation totals remain on track to finish near normal to above normal.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for June 4, 2026–June 11, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 06/04/26





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

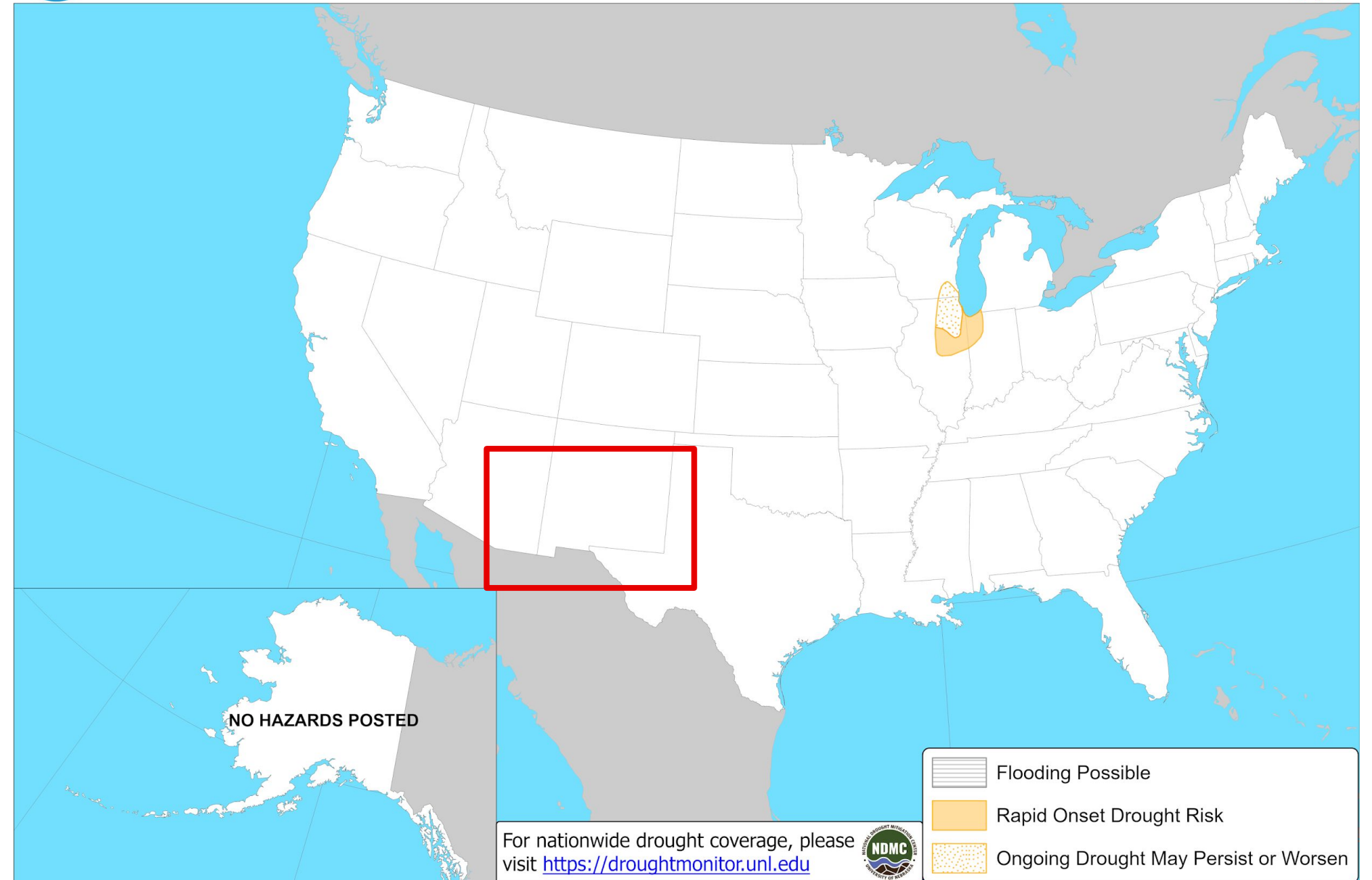
May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

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 through the summer season, but may decrease due to additional precipitation.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: June 12 - 18, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: June 4, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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Image Caption:

[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid June 12-18





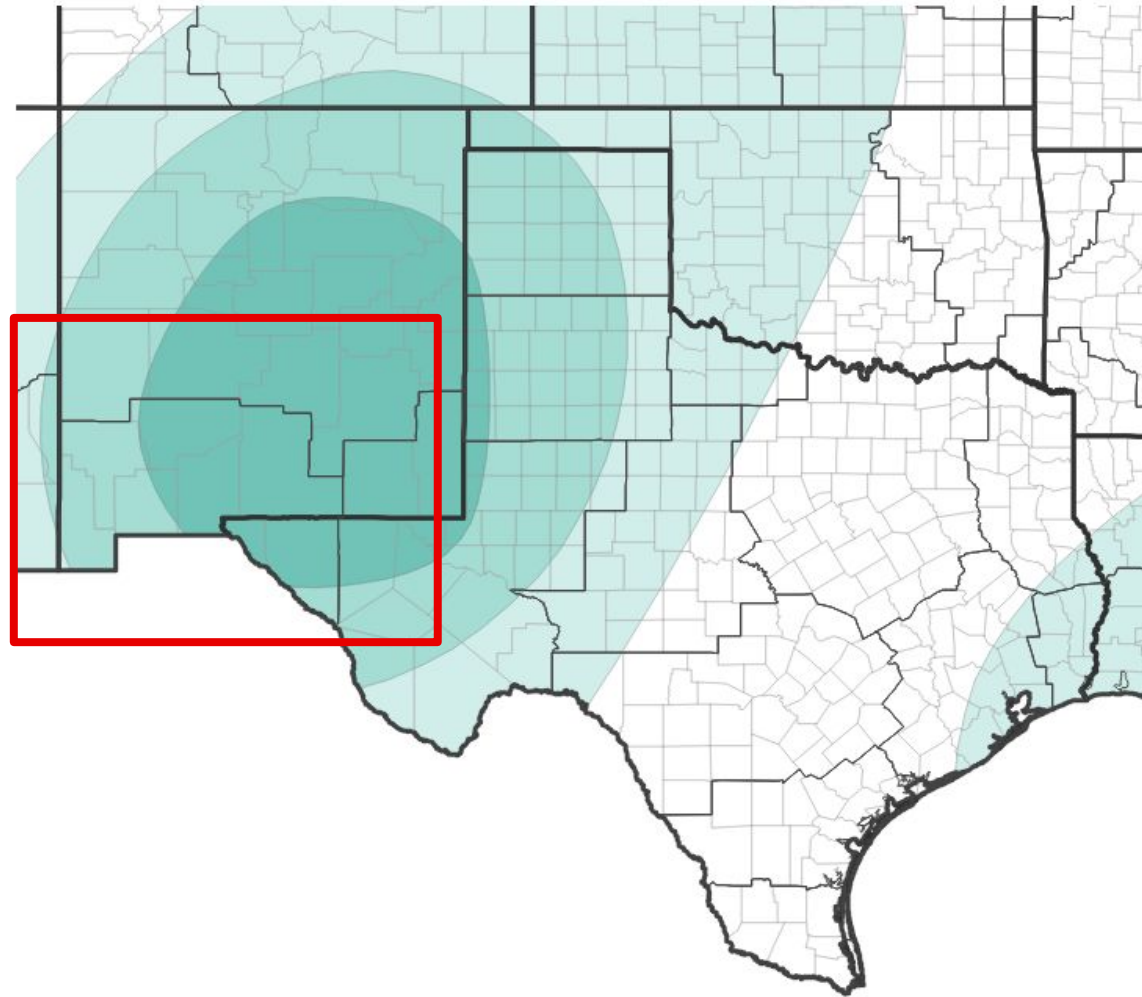
Long-Range Outlooks

May 4, 2026
12:20 AM

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

- **50-60%** chance for above normal precipitation for New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: **0.73"**
- **33-40%** chance of above normal temperatures for Western New Mexico, Equal Chances for Far West Texas.
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: **97.1°**

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



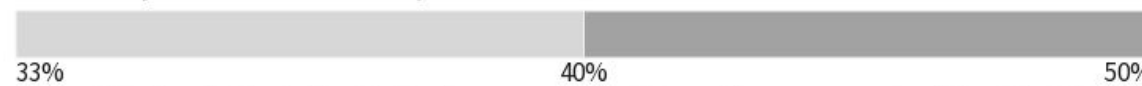
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

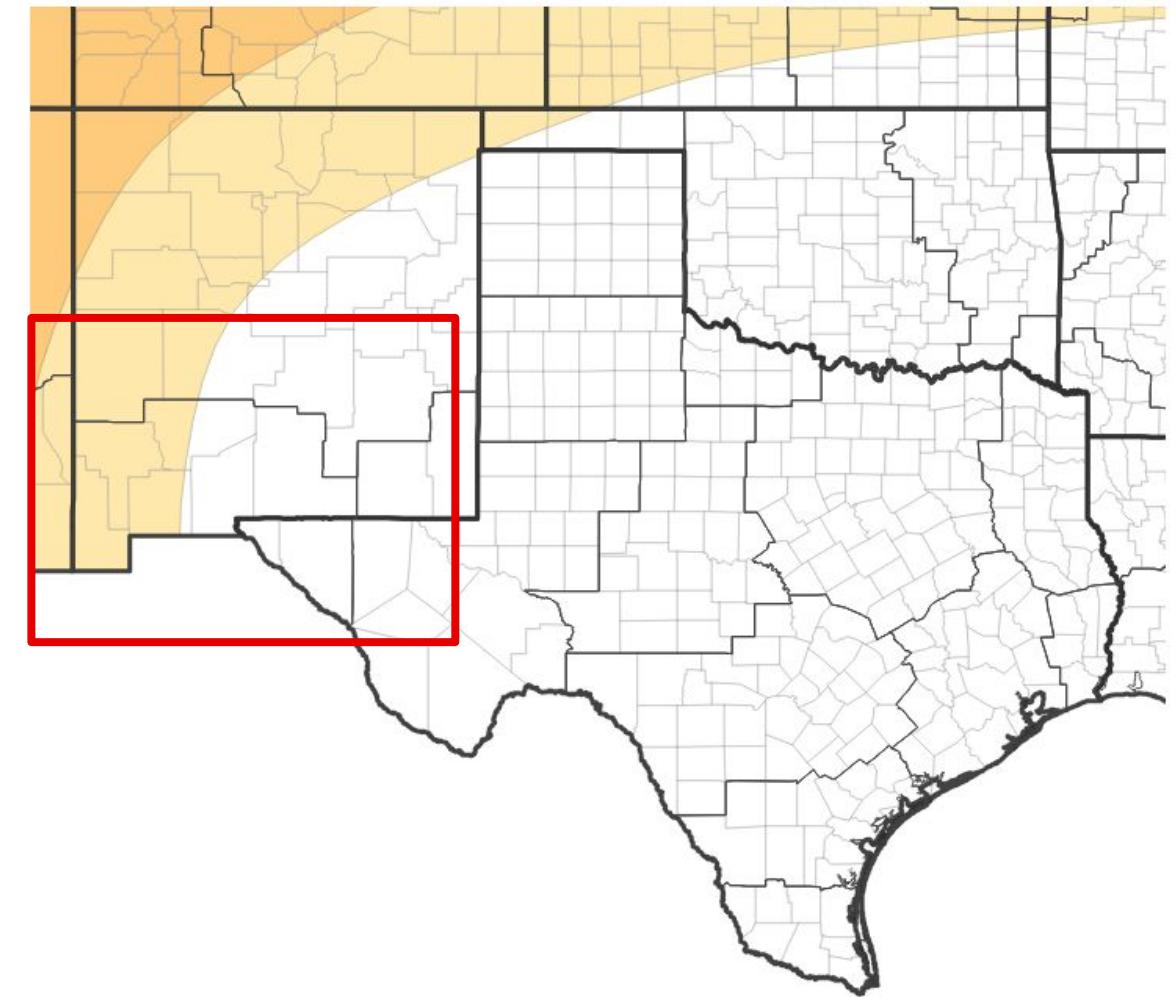


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/31/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



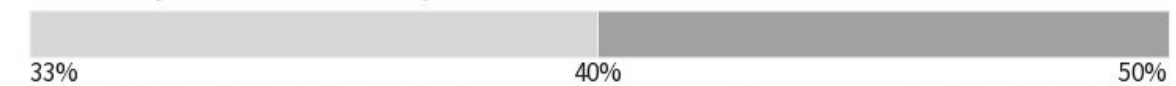
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/31/26





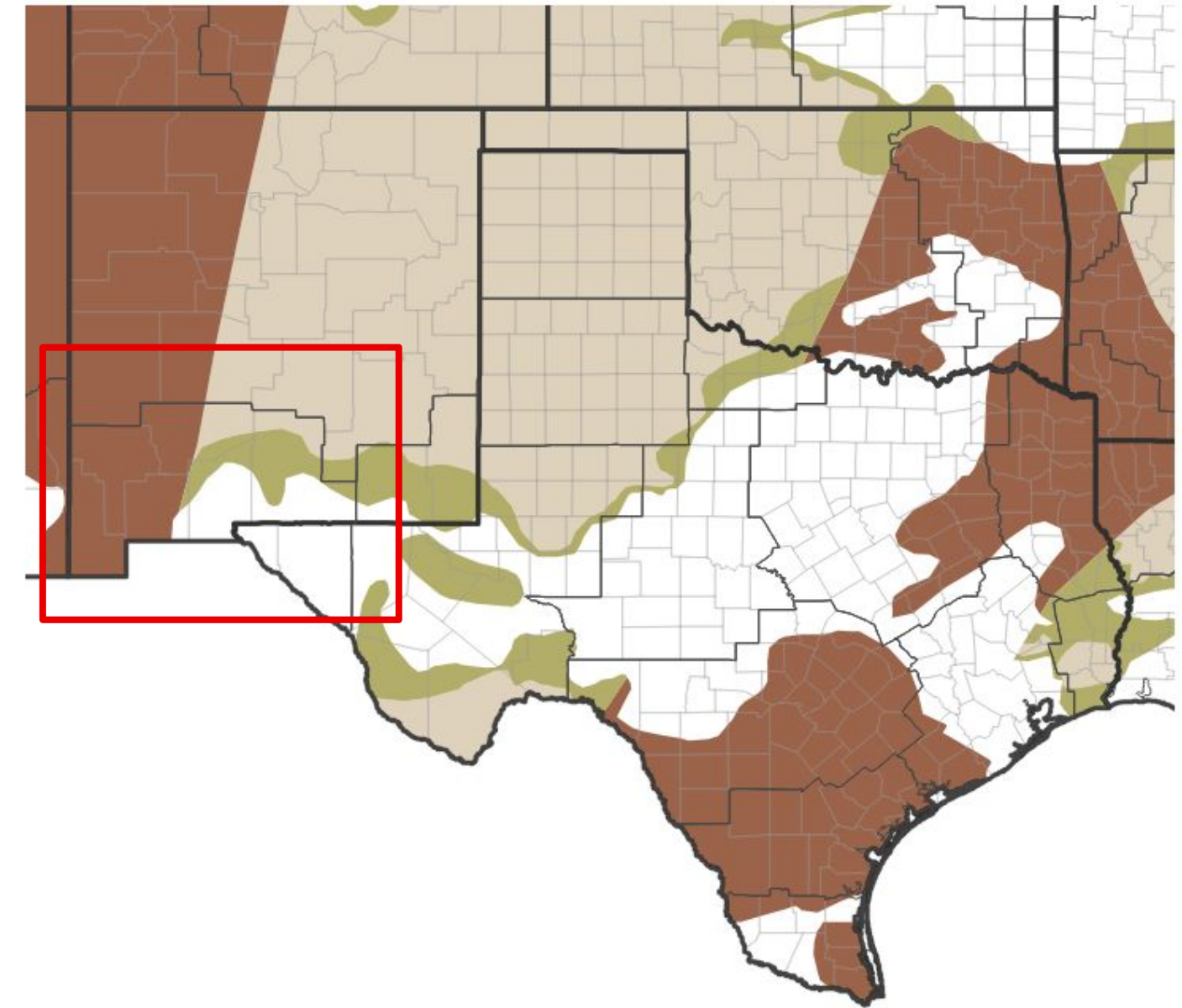
Drought Outlook

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 Western New Mexico, but should improve or even end for portions of South-Central New Mexico due to above normal precipitation. No drought status for Far West Texas and El Paso/Las Cruces metro. Above normal June precipitation expected.

1-Month Drought Outlook for June 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 05/31/26

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