



# Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid July 2, 2026

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

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

- This product will be updated August 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](https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=132) for regional drought status updates.
- 
- Moderate (D1) to Severe (D2) drought status affecting Southern New Mexico. No drought for Far West Texas.
  - Drought conditions will persist for South-Central New Mexico in July, but may improve for Southwest New Mexico.
  - Further improvements to drought are possible later this summer.



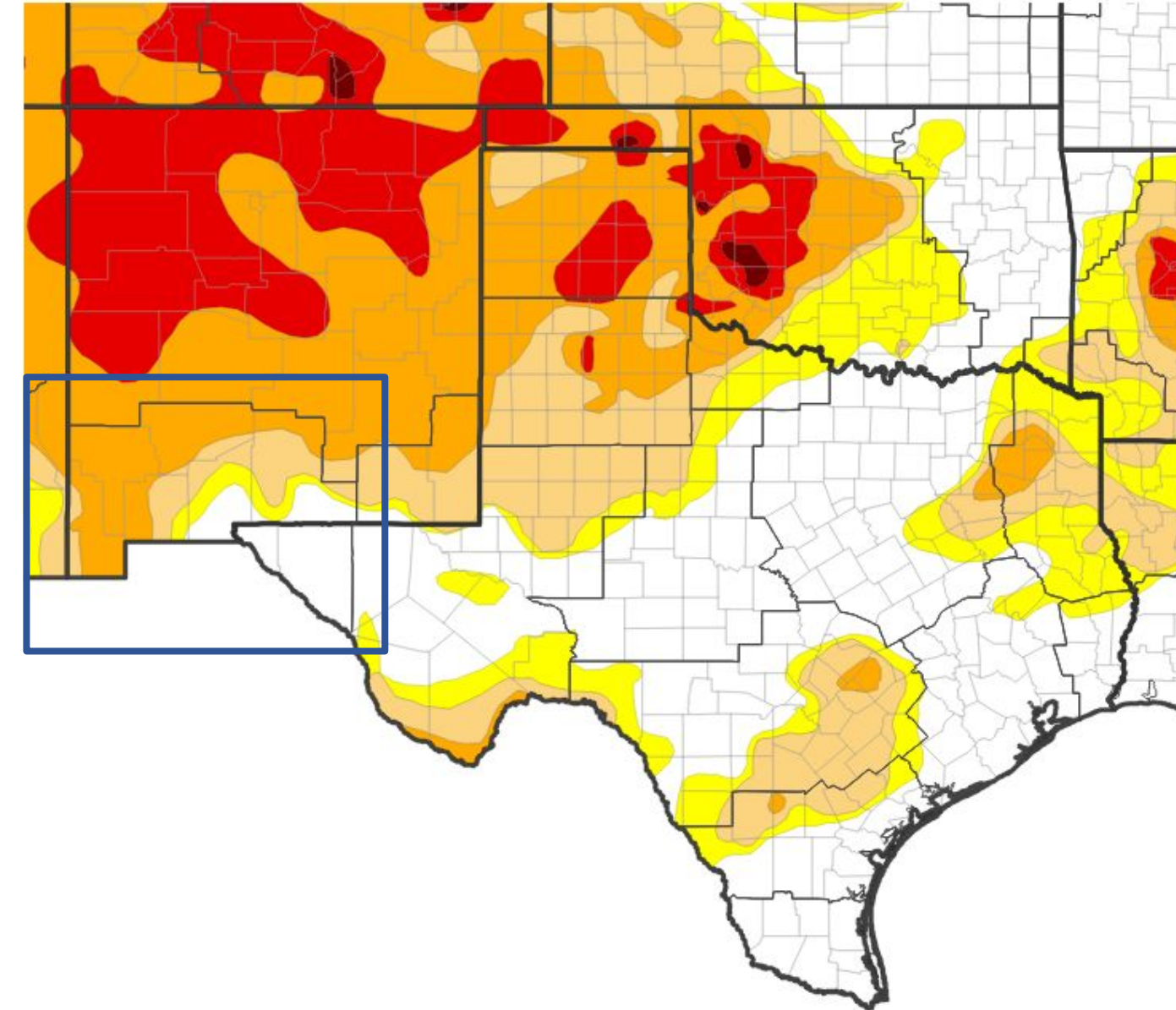


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

## Drought Intensity and Extent

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

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 06/30/26





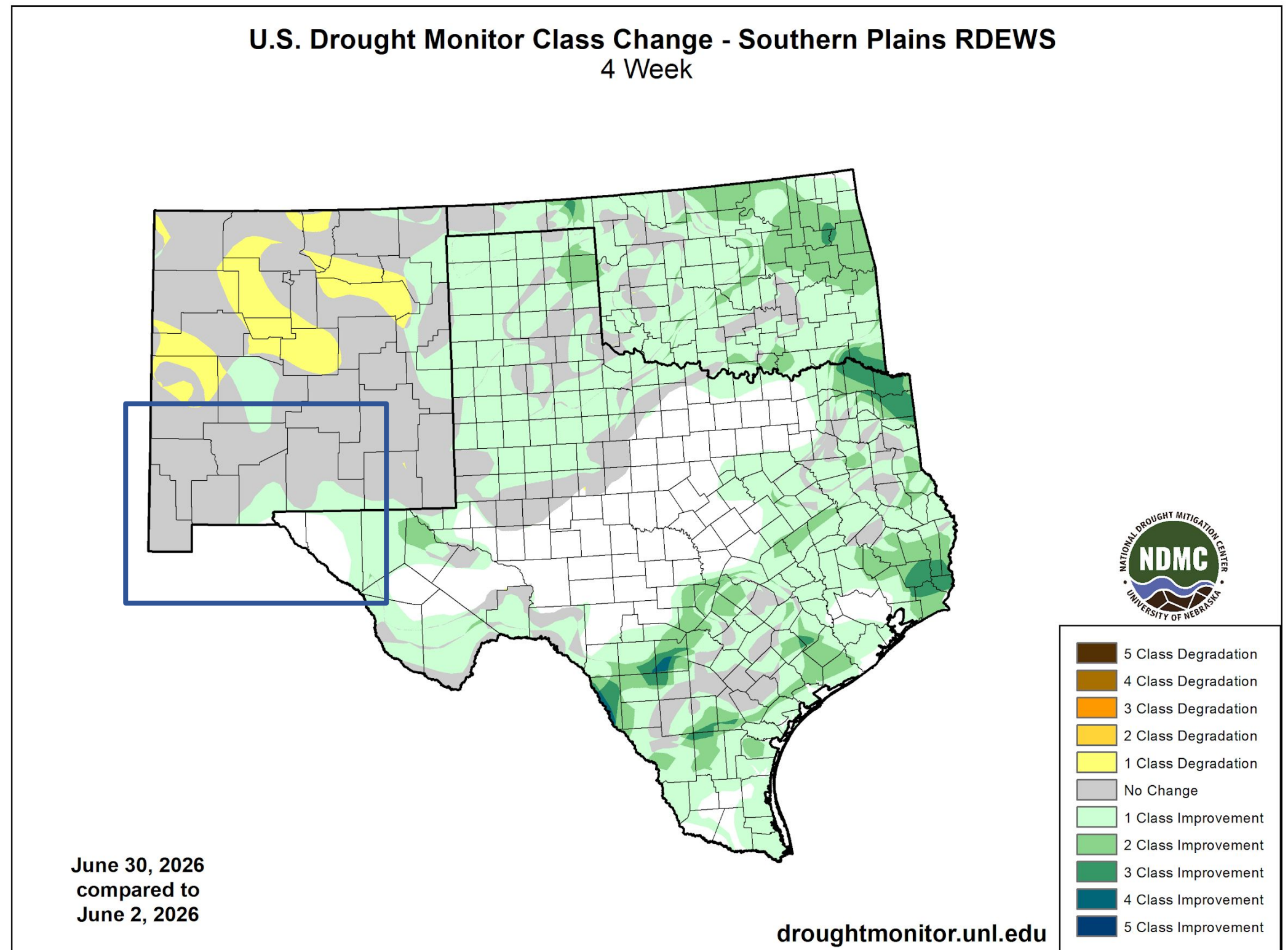
# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

July 2, 2026  
3:38 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:**  
None
- **Drought Improved:**  
Portions of South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas
- **No Change:**  
Southwest and South-Central New Mexico





# Precipitation

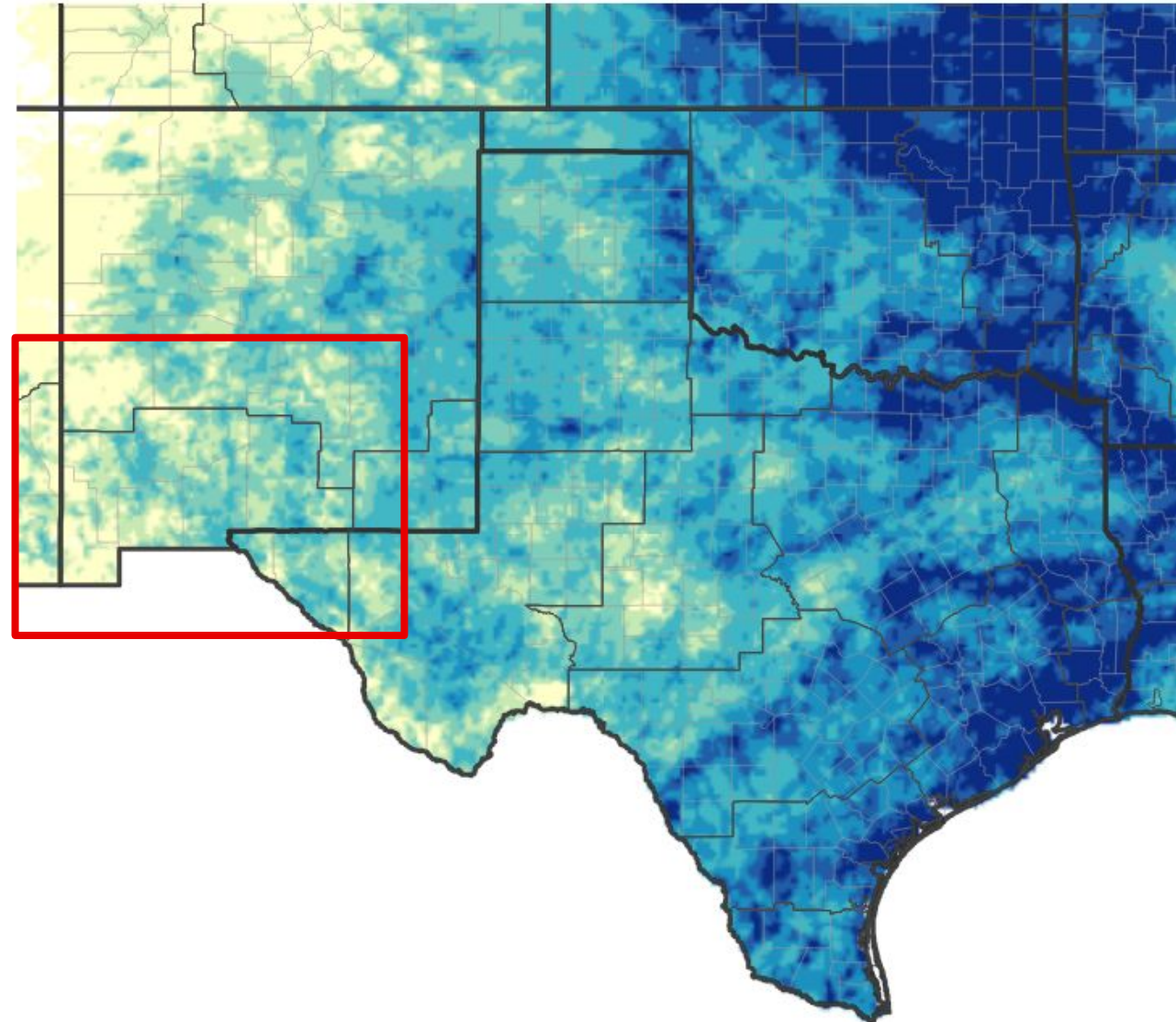
July 2, 2026  
3:38 PM

30-day precip totals:  
**0.50-2.00"** for desert  
lowlands. **1.00-3.00"** over  
mountain forests.

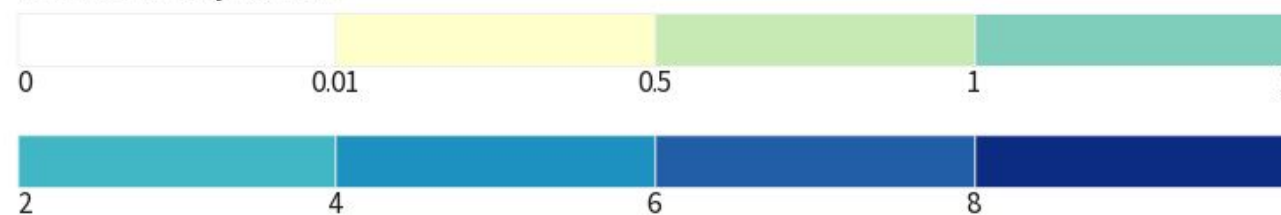
90-day precip totals:  
**1.00-4.00"** for desert  
lowlands. **2.00-5.00"** over  
mountain forests.

Above normal June  
precipitation **150-300%** for  
most of Southern New Mexico  
and Far West Texas. Below  
normal June precipitation  
**25-75%** for portions of  
Southwest New Mexico.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



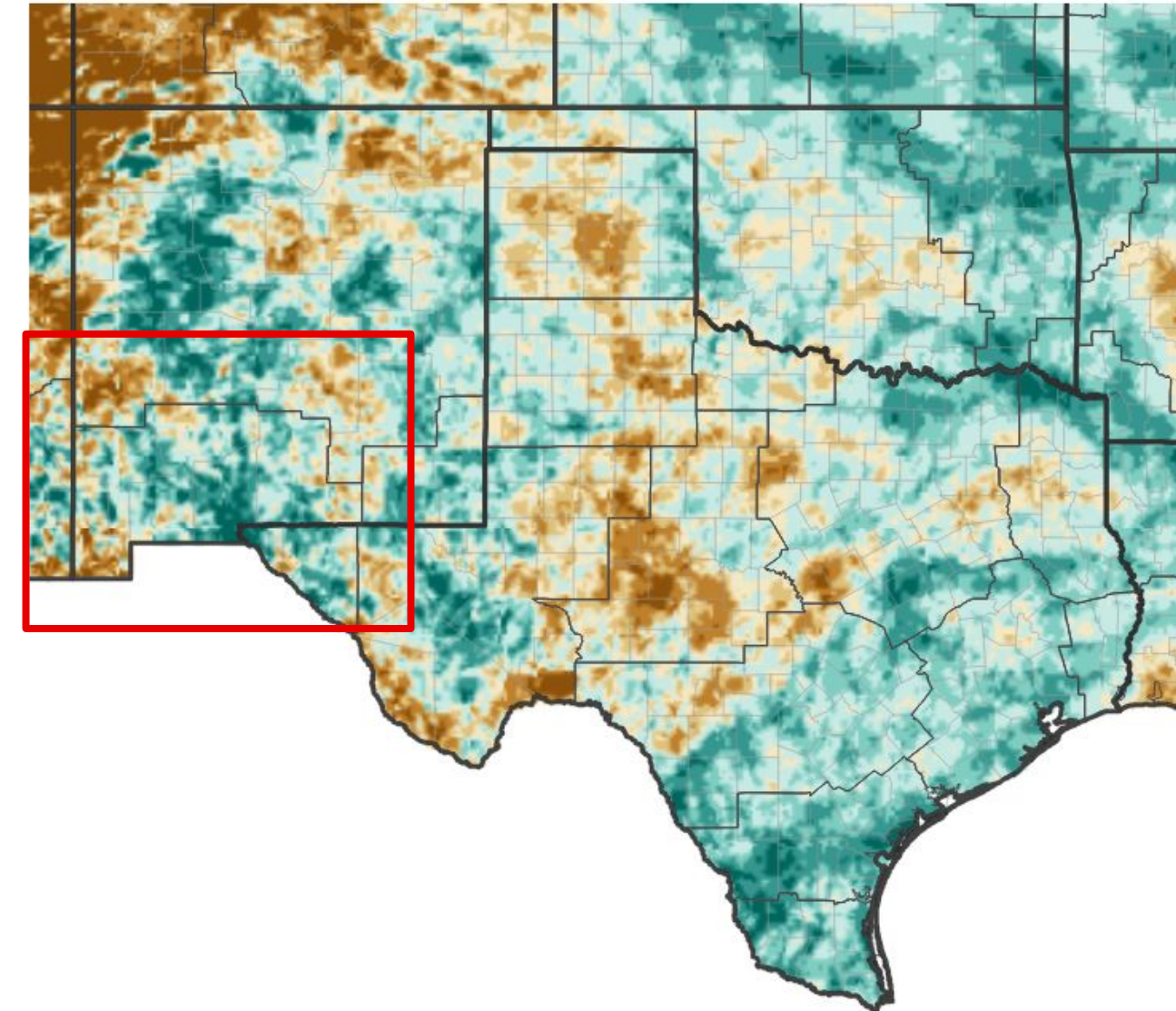
Inches of Precipitation



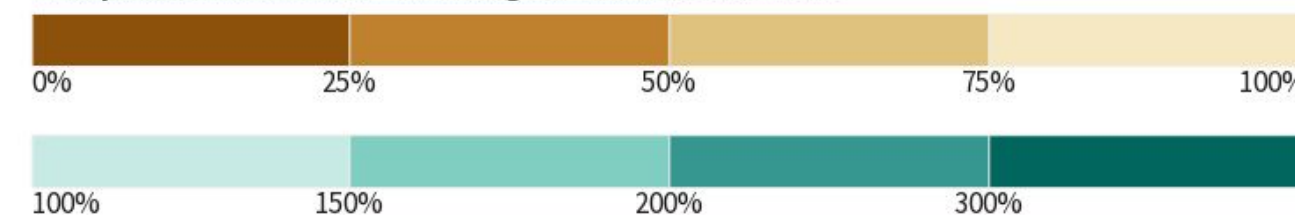
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;  
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 06/30/26

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: 07/01/26



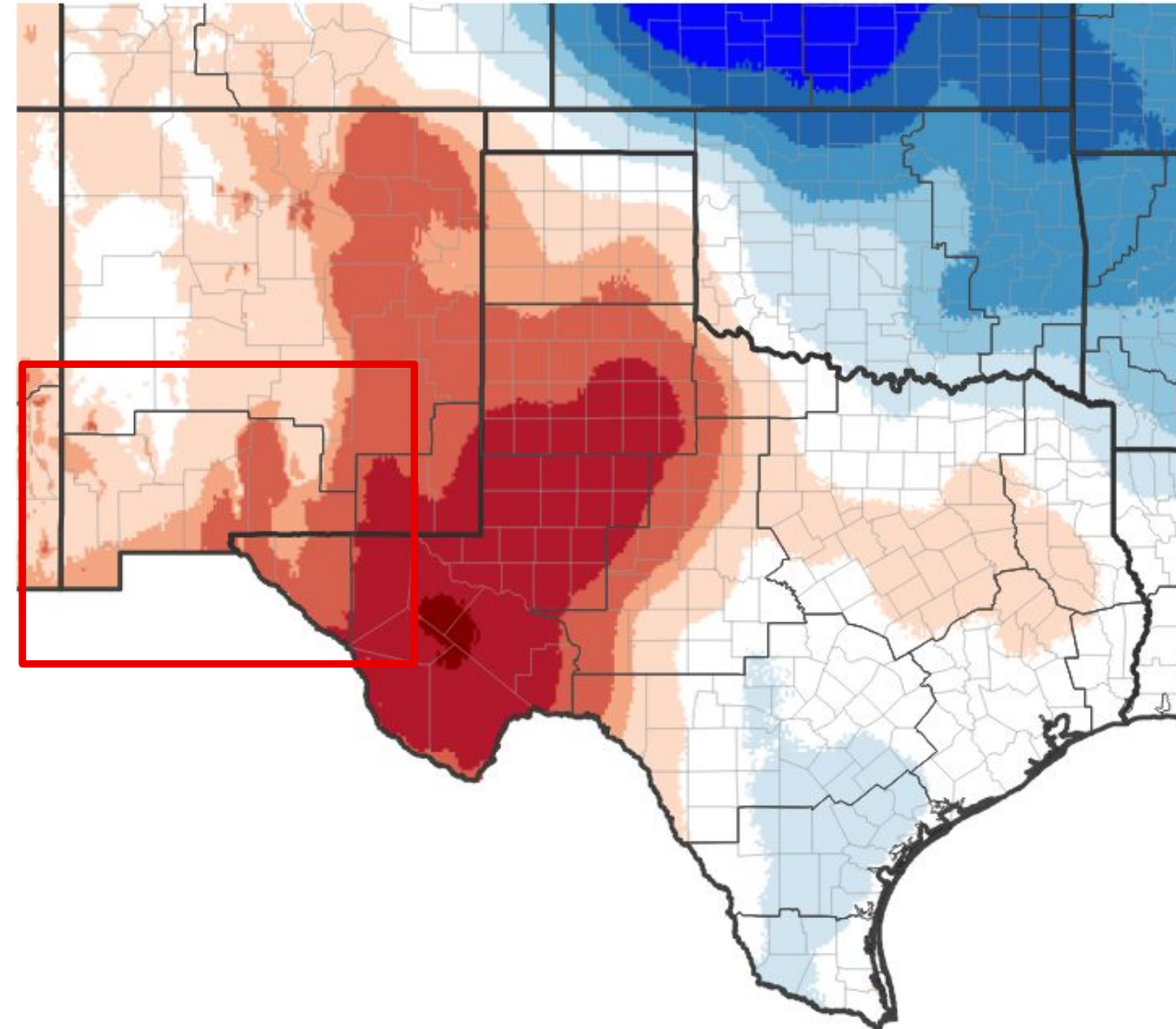


# Temperature

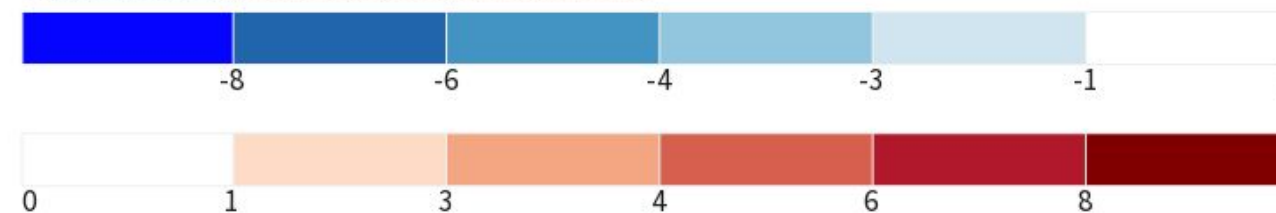
July 2, 2026  
3:38 PM

- Slightly above normal June temperatures for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- 30-day high temperatures **0-2 degrees** above normal
- June mean average temperature **2.3°F** above normal at El Paso International (KELP).

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



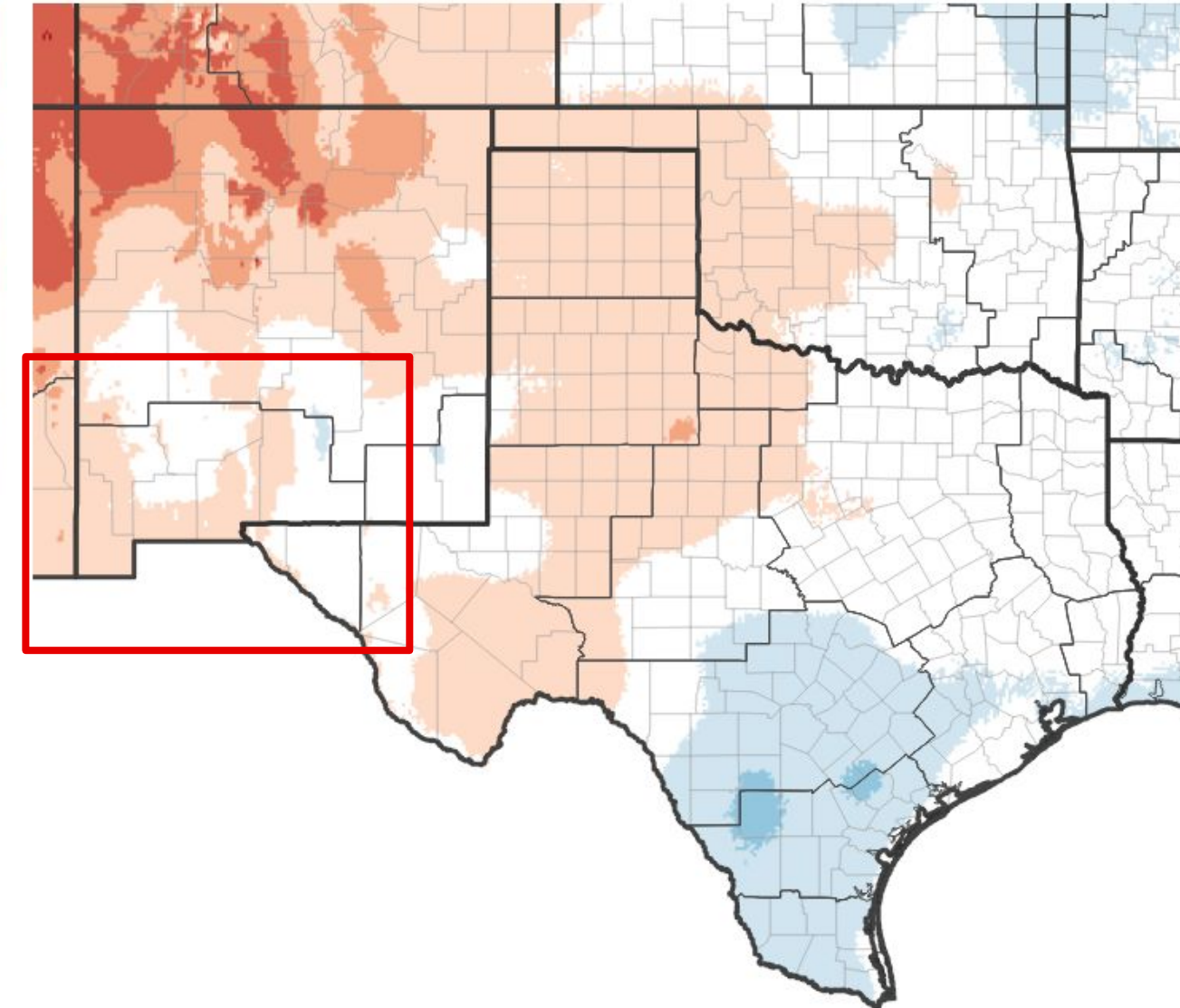
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



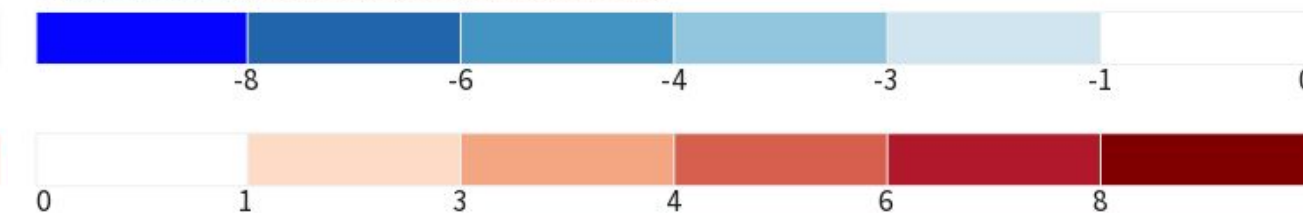
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 06/28/26

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: 06/28/26





# Summary of Impacts

July 2, 2026

3:38 PM

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 in the Gila Wilderness. 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 July due to thunderstorms. Elephant Butte storage at 3.7% 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 June precipitation. Outlook leans to above normal precipitation in July, 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

- A more active monsoonal pattern and thunderstorm rainfall over local forests will reduce the risk of large fire growth in July. Periods of elevated fire danger will still be possible, with the primary risk for wildfires being lightning starts. ERCs are near normal for early July. Fire risk will be Low to Moderate over the next couple months with periods of rainfall and lightning activity.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

July 2, 2026  
3:38 PM

- Gila River streamflow remained low over the last month due to below normal precipitation. No sudden rises occurred in June. Water was released along the Rio Grande below Caballo Dam on May 29.

## Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	0.34 ft	11.00 ft	4 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
Redrock	3.60 ft	20.00 ft	4 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
Virden	4.25 ft	15.00 ft	1 ft <sup>3</sup> /s

## Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	4.45 ft	8.50 ft	580 ft <sup>3</sup> /s

Gauge data recorded on 7/2/2026

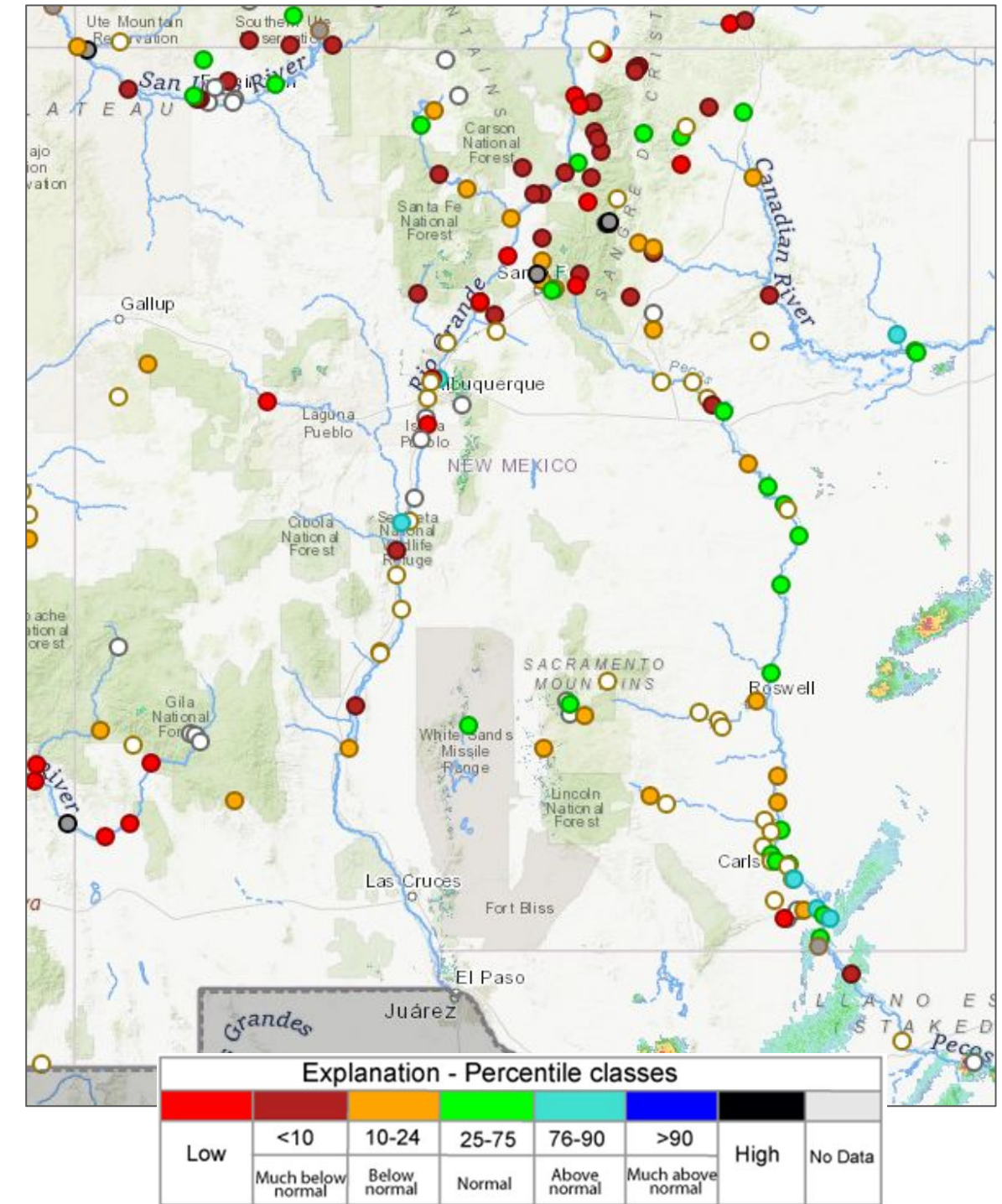


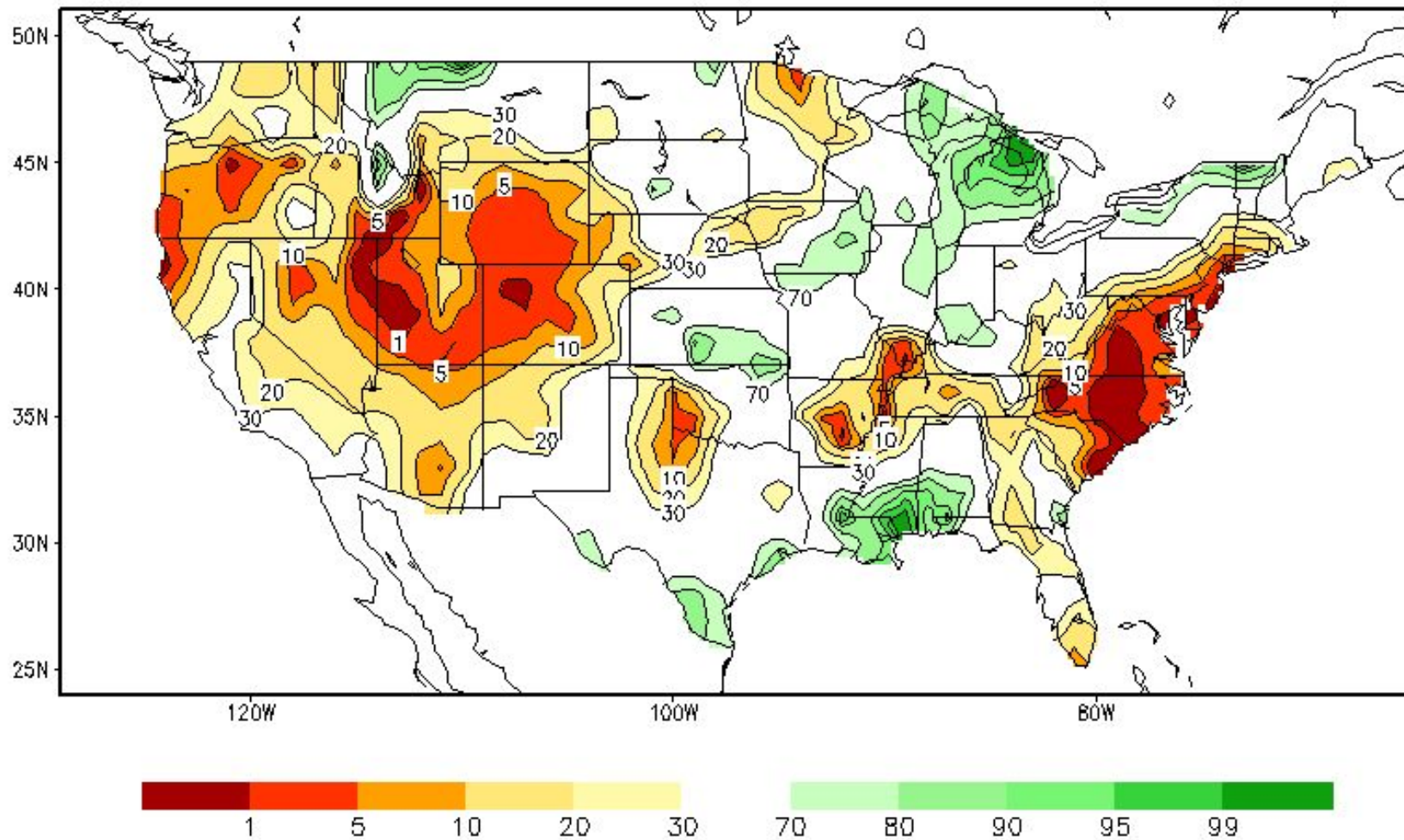
Image Caption: USGS 7 day Streamflow Status valid July 2, 2026



# Agricultural Impacts

July 2, 2026  
3:38 PM

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
JUL 01, 2026



Drought Severity Index  
Value for the June 21 - 27, 2026  
Long Term Palmer

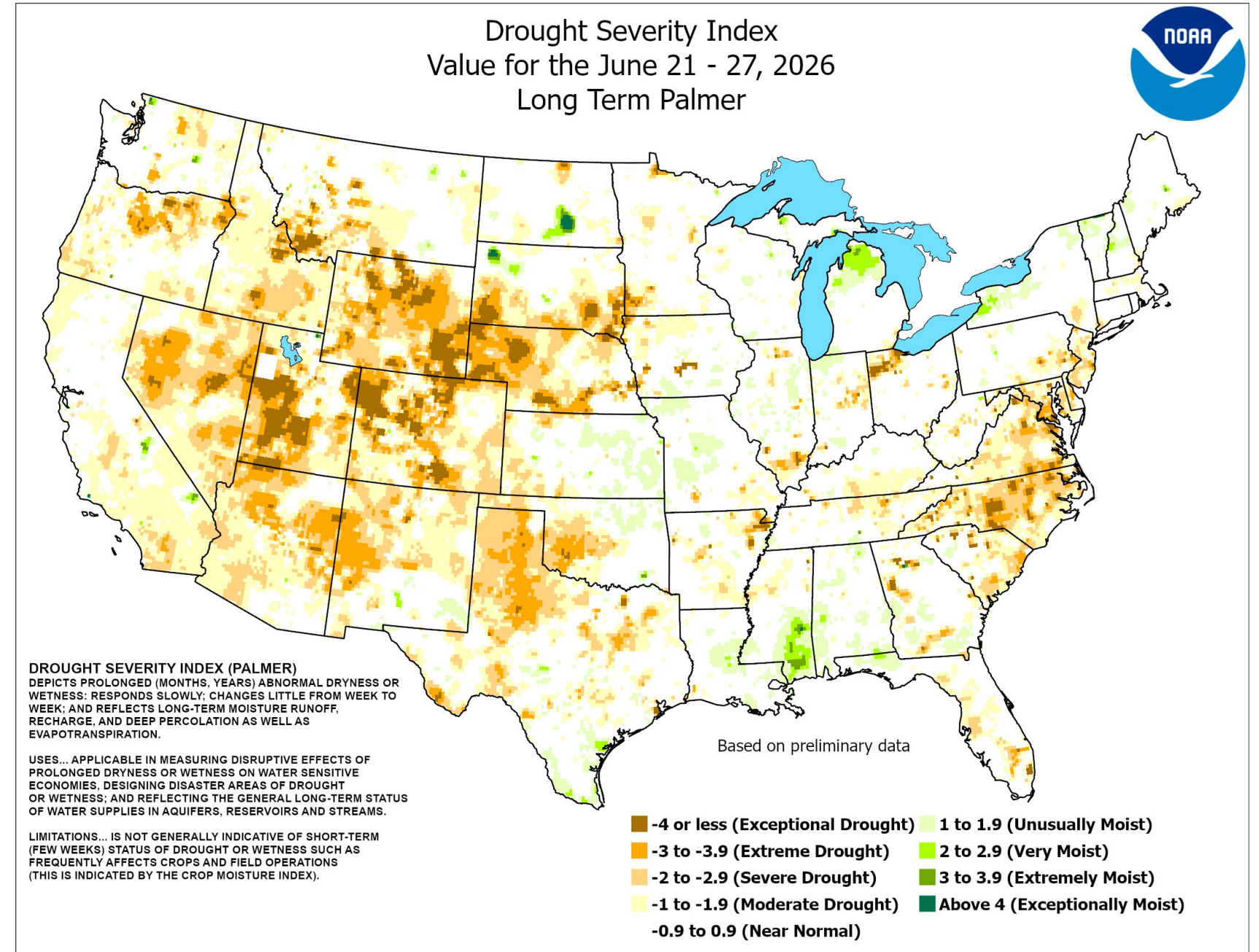


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid July 1, 2026

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#) valid June 21-27, 2026





# Fire Hazard Impacts

July 2, 2026  
3:38 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](#)

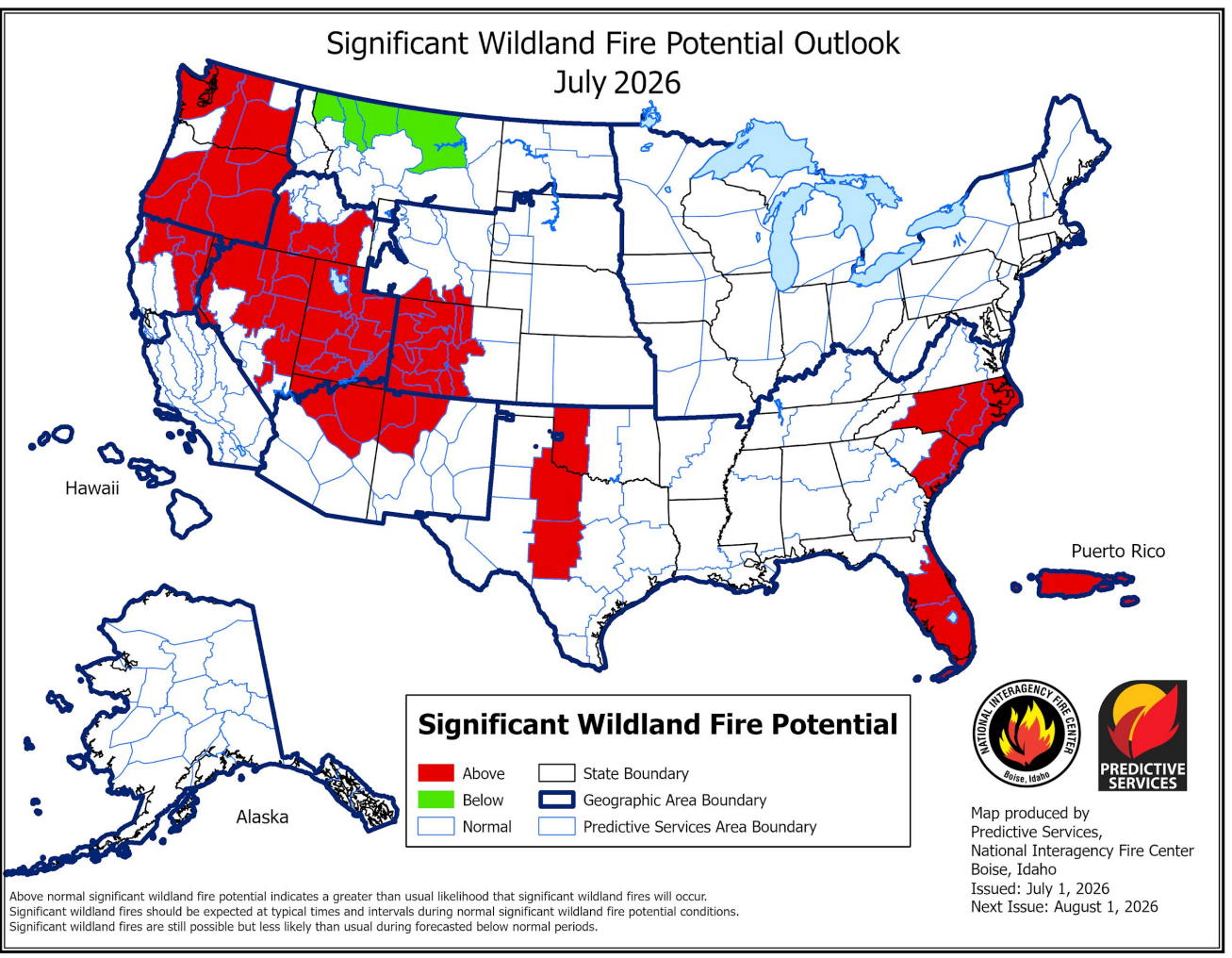
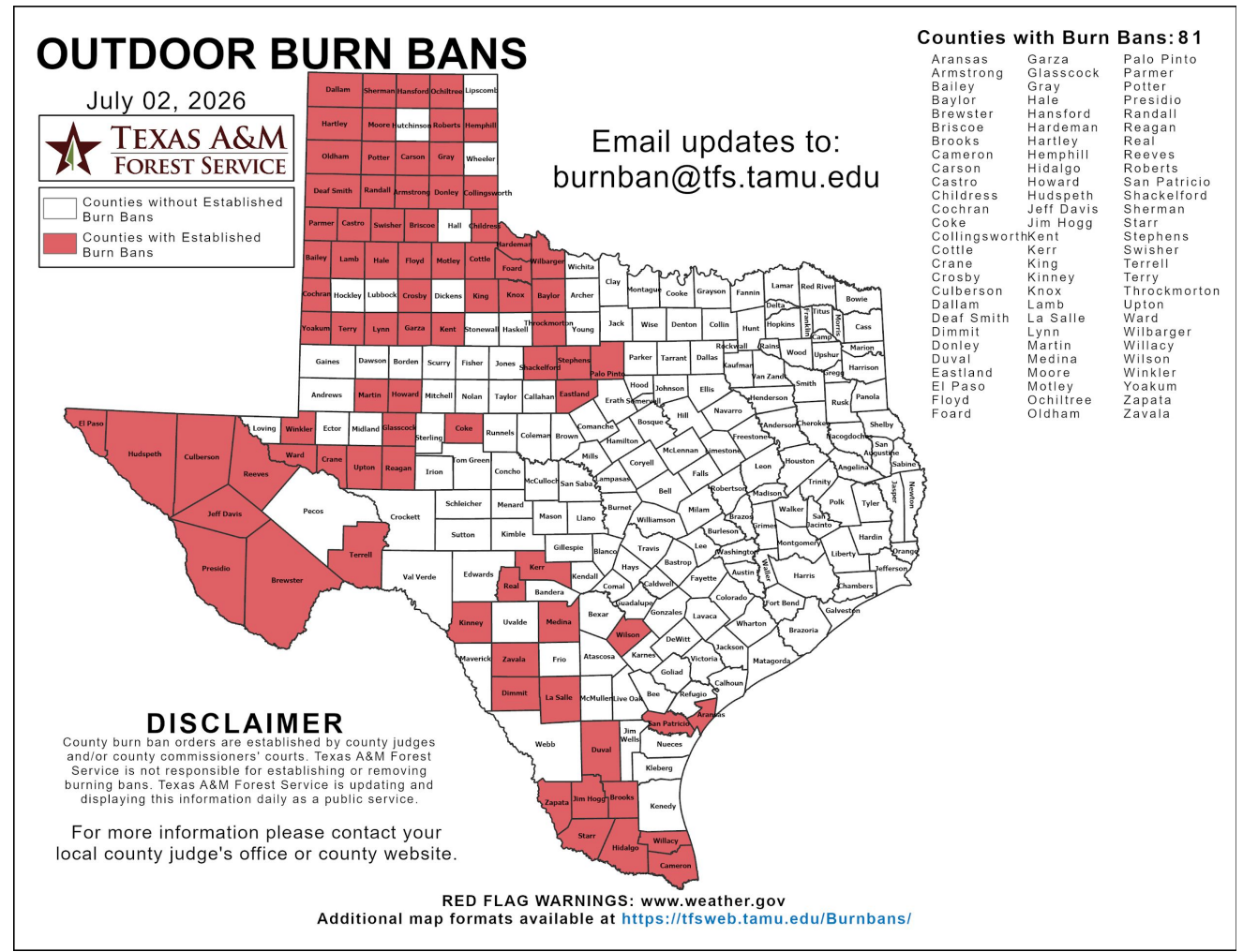


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for July 2026

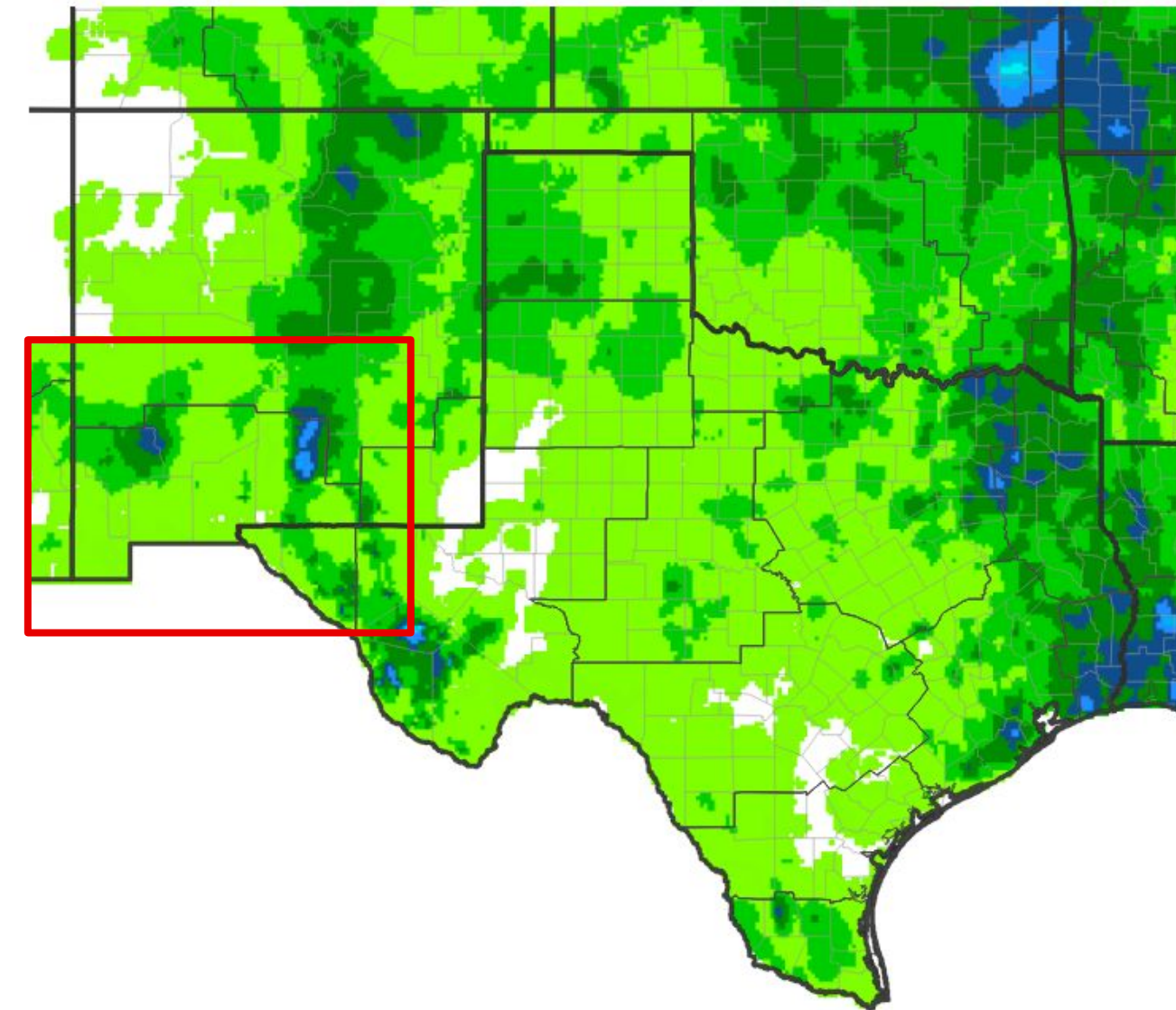


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

July 2, 2026  
3:38 PM

- Scattered mountain showers and thunderstorms through early July. Isolated thunderstorms in the lowlands. Heaviest rains favoring the NM mountains and generally east of the Rio Grande. Monthly forecast is leaning towards above normal July precipitation, which may help improve drought conditions.
- 2026 yearly precipitation totals are on track to finish above normal after an overall wet June.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for July 2, 2026–July 9, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 07/02/26





# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

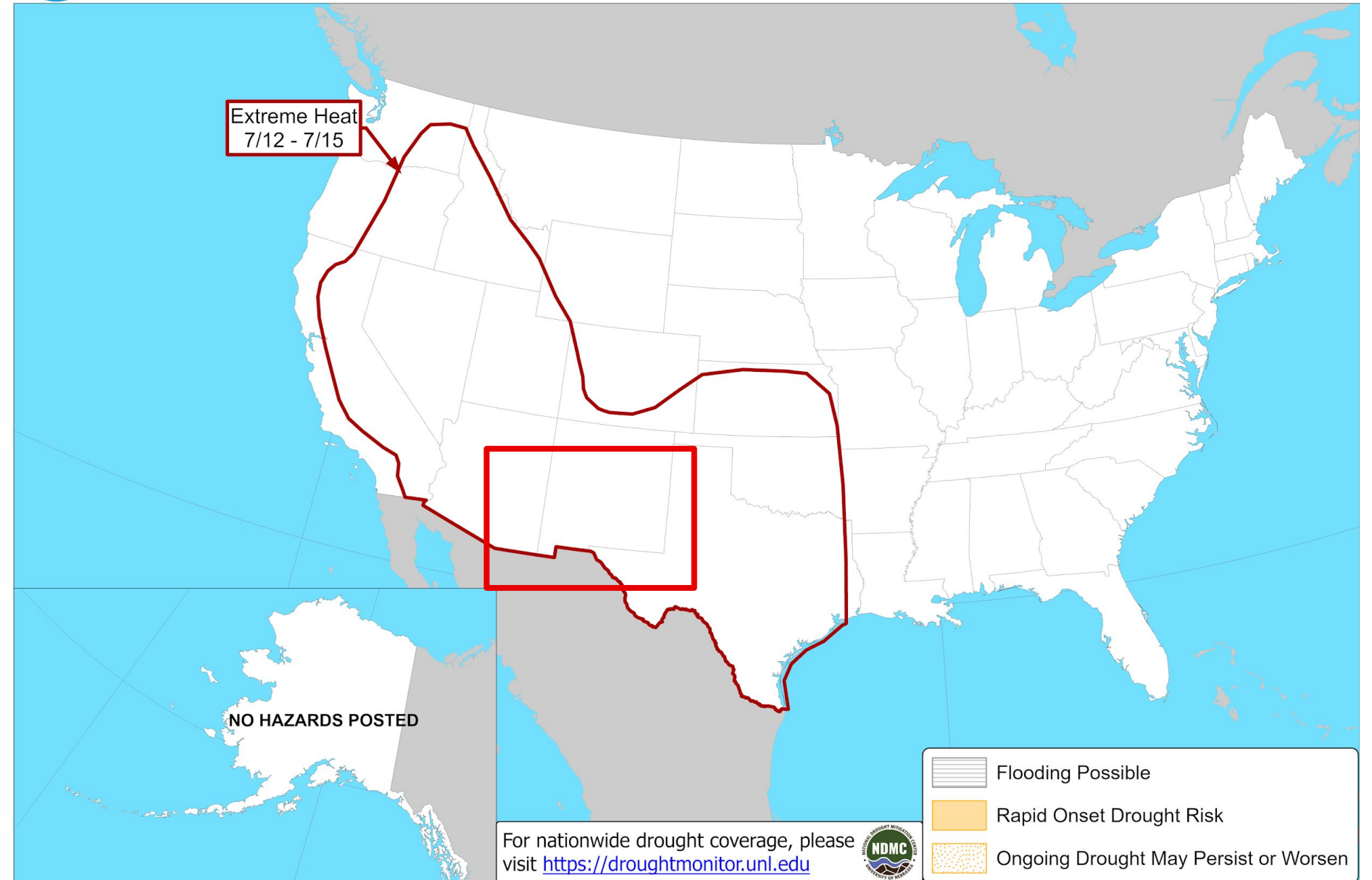
July 2, 2026  
3:38 PM

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 Southern New Mexico. Rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to improve across Southern New Mexico through the monsoon season.
- Low risk of extreme heat in mid-July.



## Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: July 10 - 16, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: July 2, 2026 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 July 10-16





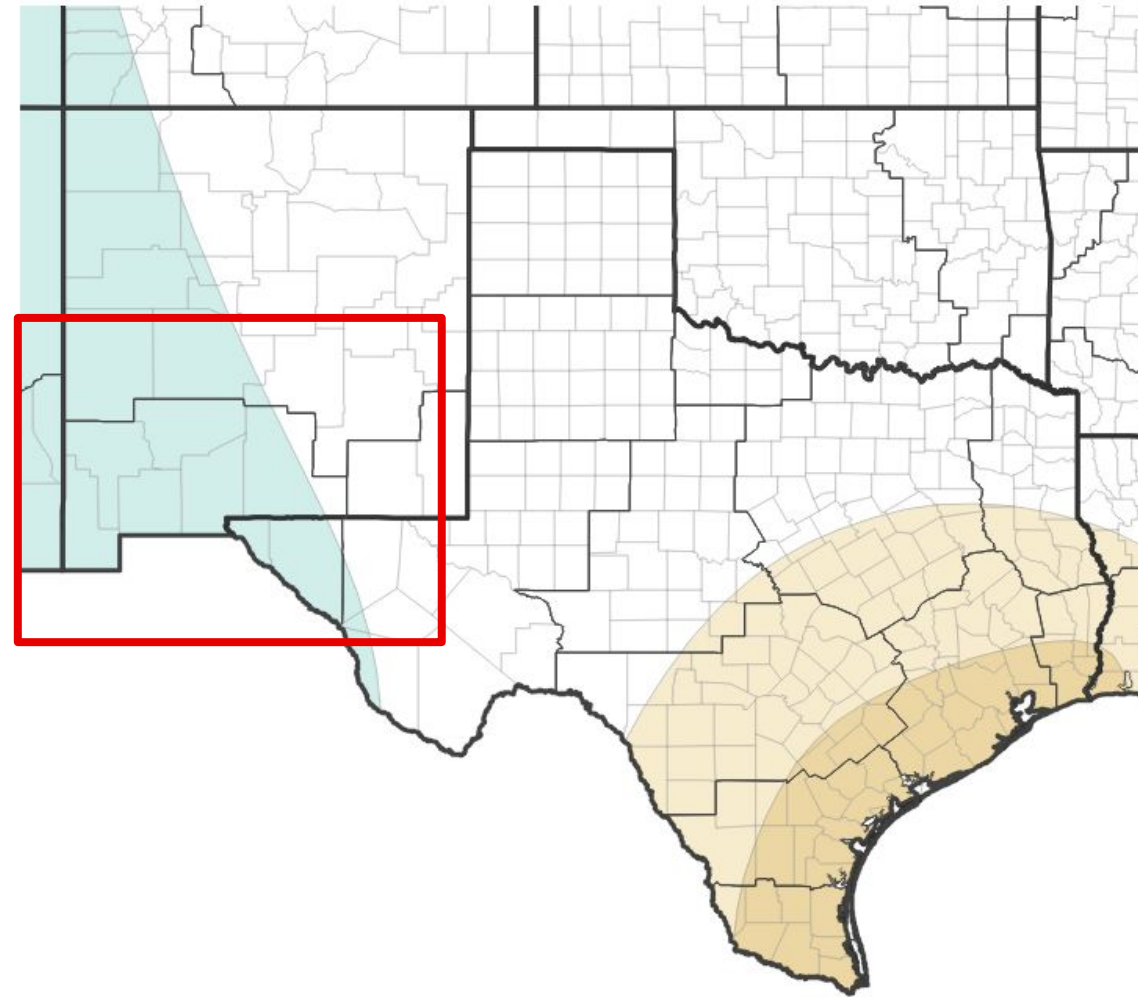
# Long-Range Outlooks

July 2, 2026  
3:38 PM

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

- **33-40%** chance for above normal precipitation for Western New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: **1.58"**
- **40-50%** chance of above normal temperatures for Western New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: **95.8°**

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



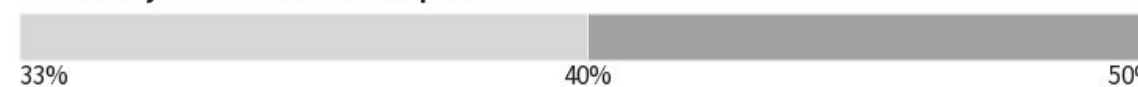
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

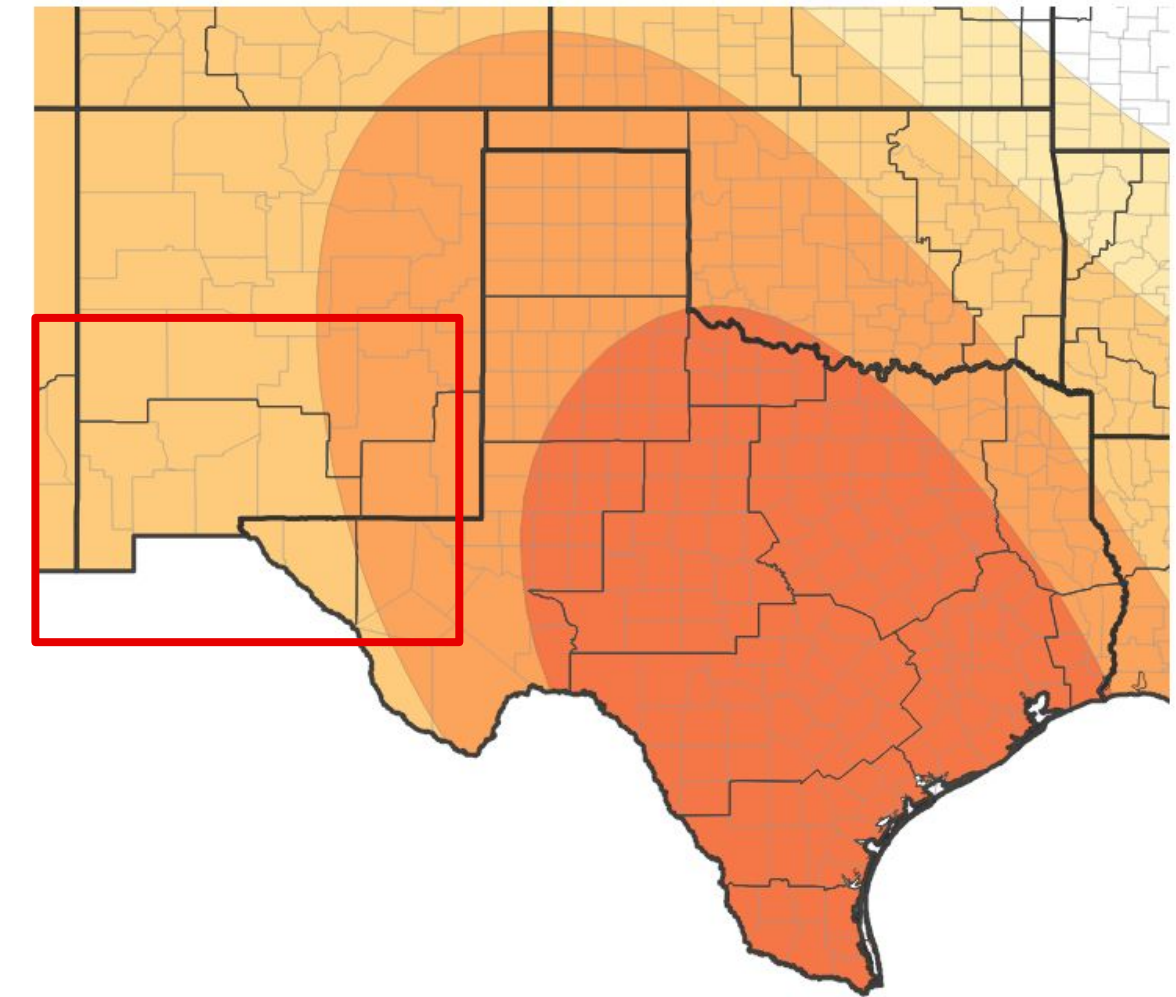


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 06/30/26

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



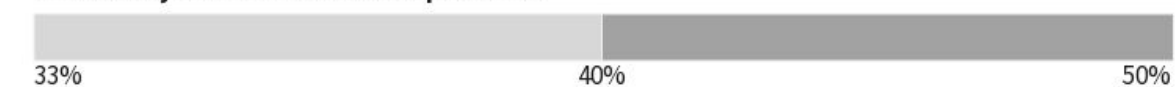
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 06/30/26





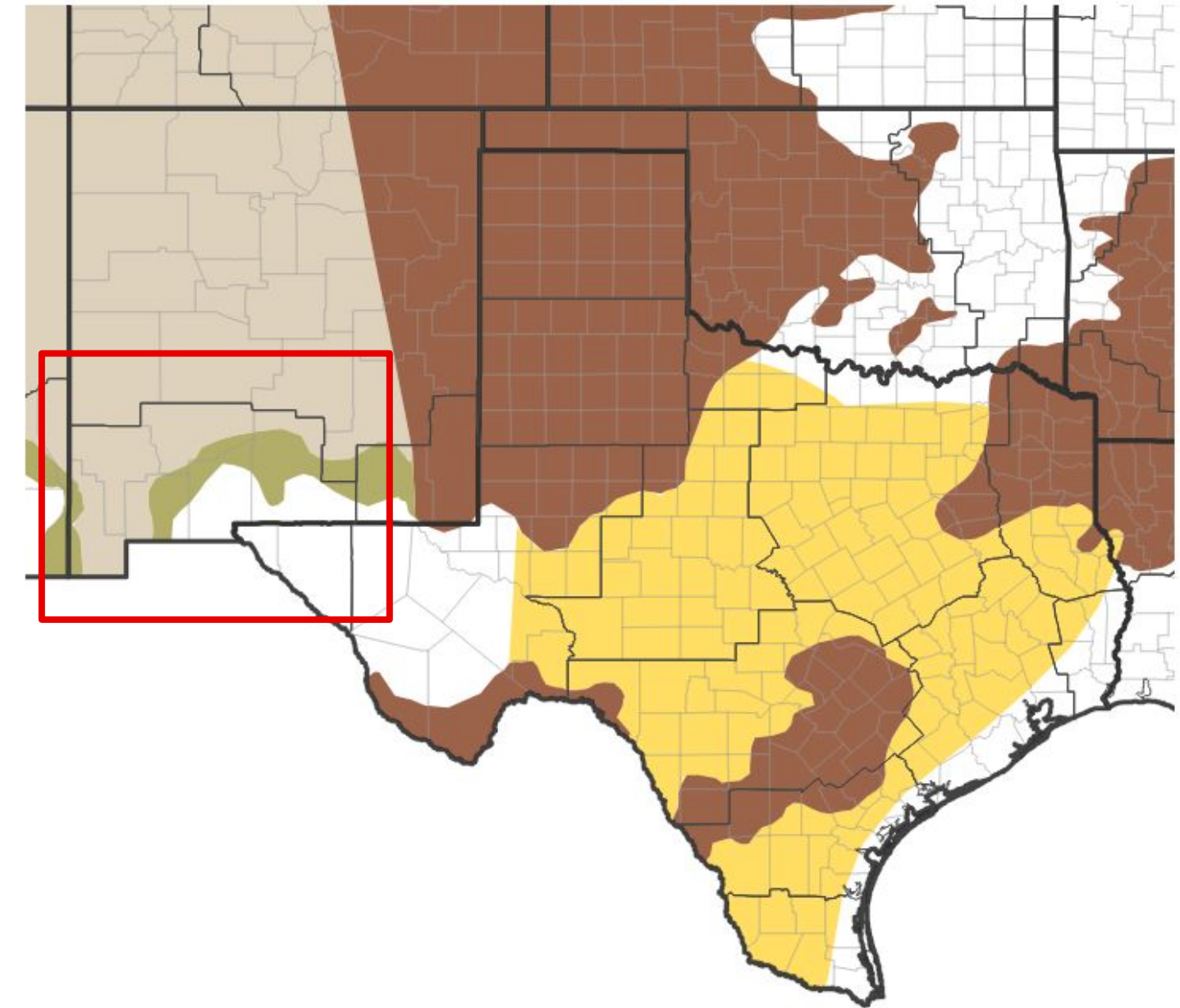
# Drought Outlook

July 2, 2026  
3:38 PM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across most of New Mexico through July, but should improve for the rest of monsoon season due to above normal precipitation. No drought status for Far West Texas and El Paso/Las Cruces metro. July precipitation leaning above normal.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for June 30, 2026–September 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov. Last Updated: 06/30/26

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