



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid August 6, 2025

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

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated September 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 Southwest New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Slight improvement in drought status in July after near to above normal precipitation.
- Drought conditions expected to persist into the autumn season, below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures in August.





U.S. Drought Monitor

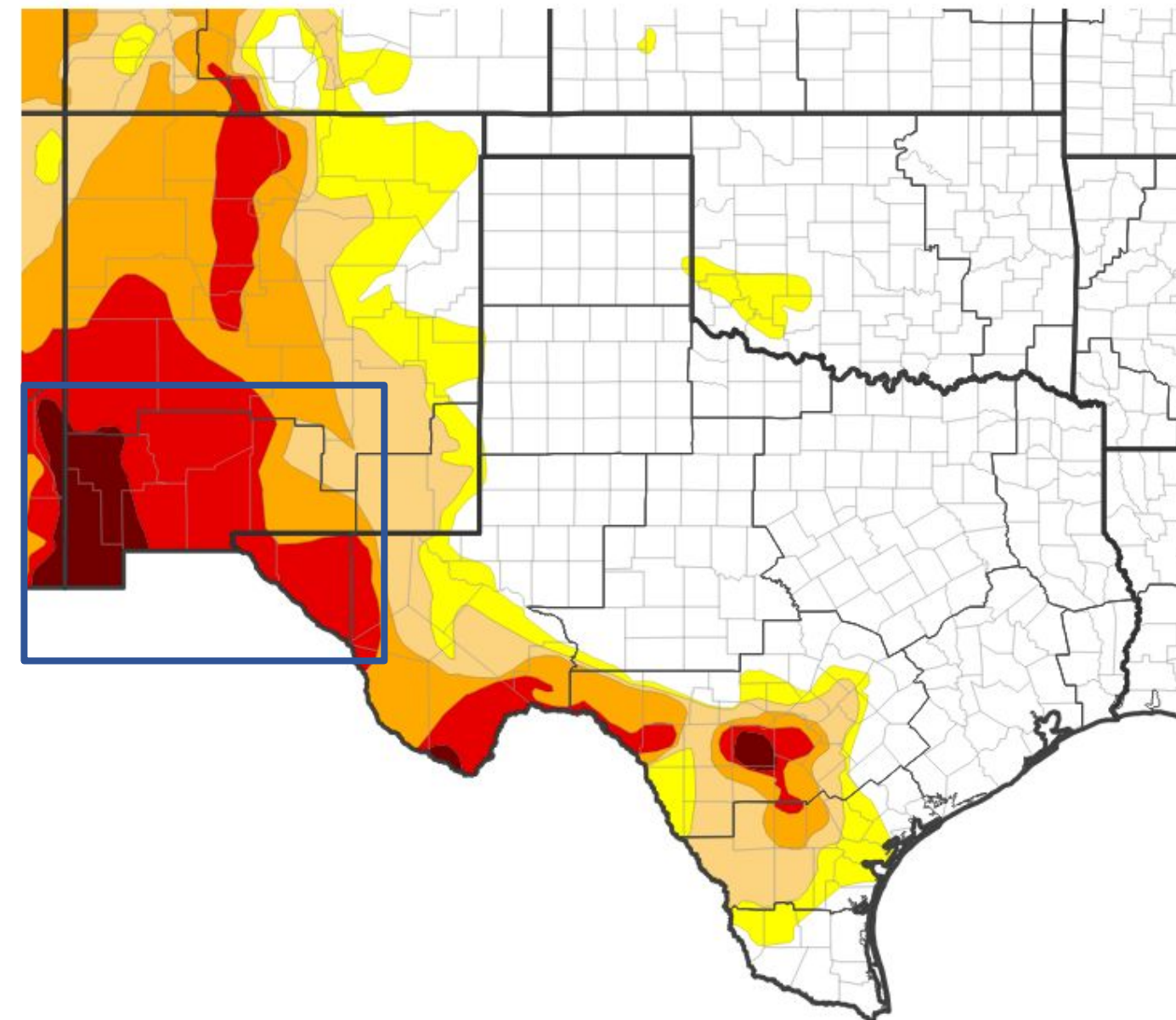
August 6, 2025
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Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
Southwest New Mexico including Grant and Hidalgo Counties.
Gila National Forest.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
Far West Texas including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties
Most of South-Central New Mexico including Dona Ana, Luna
and Sierra Counties.
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Portions of South-Central New Mexico including Otero County
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Lincoln National Forest.
Eastern New Mexico (78% of New Mexico, 20% of Texas)
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
Northeast New Mexico (93% of New Mexico, 27% of Texas)

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 07/29/25



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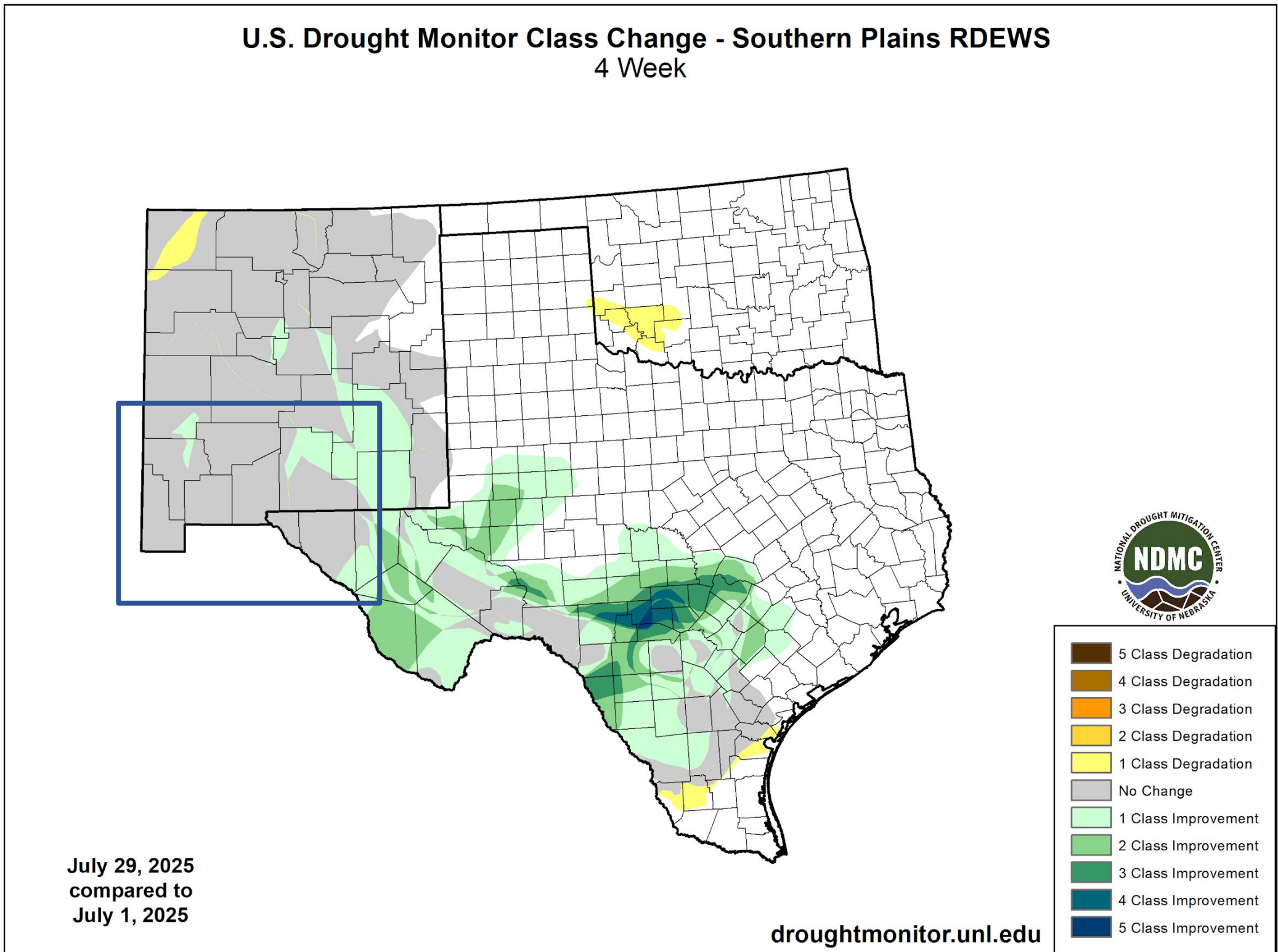
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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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 Southeast New Mexico including Lincoln National Forest
- **No Change:**
Middle and Lower Rio Grande Valley, Southwest New Mexico





Precipitation

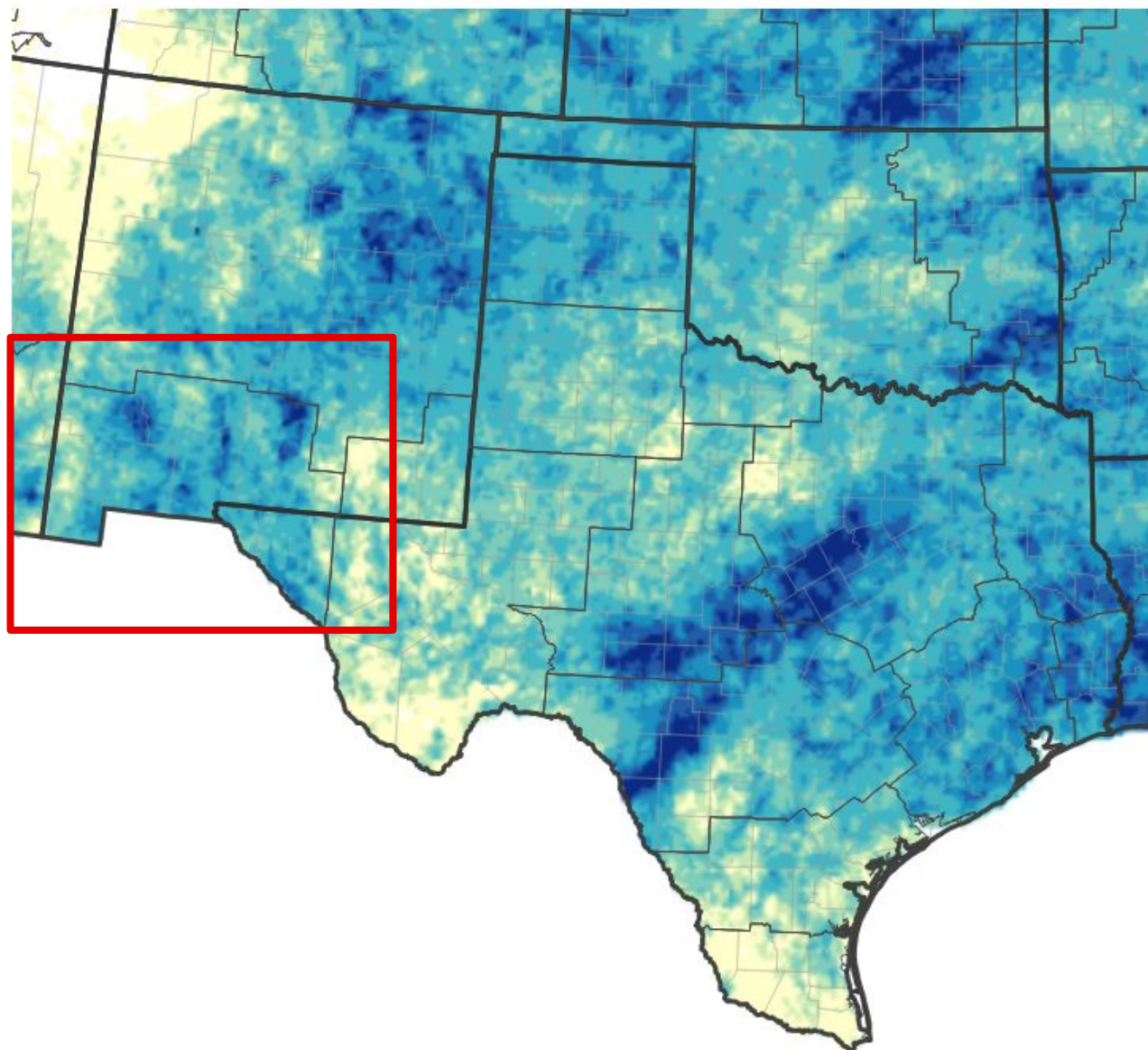
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30-day precip totals,
2.00-3.00" along I-10 corridor.
3.00-4.00" over mountain
forests.

90-day precip totals,
3.00-4.50" along I-10 corridor.
4.00-6.00" over mountain
forests.

Near to above normal rainfall
along Rio Grande,
south-central NM in July.
Precipitation totals rapidly
drop off along AZ/NM state
line.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



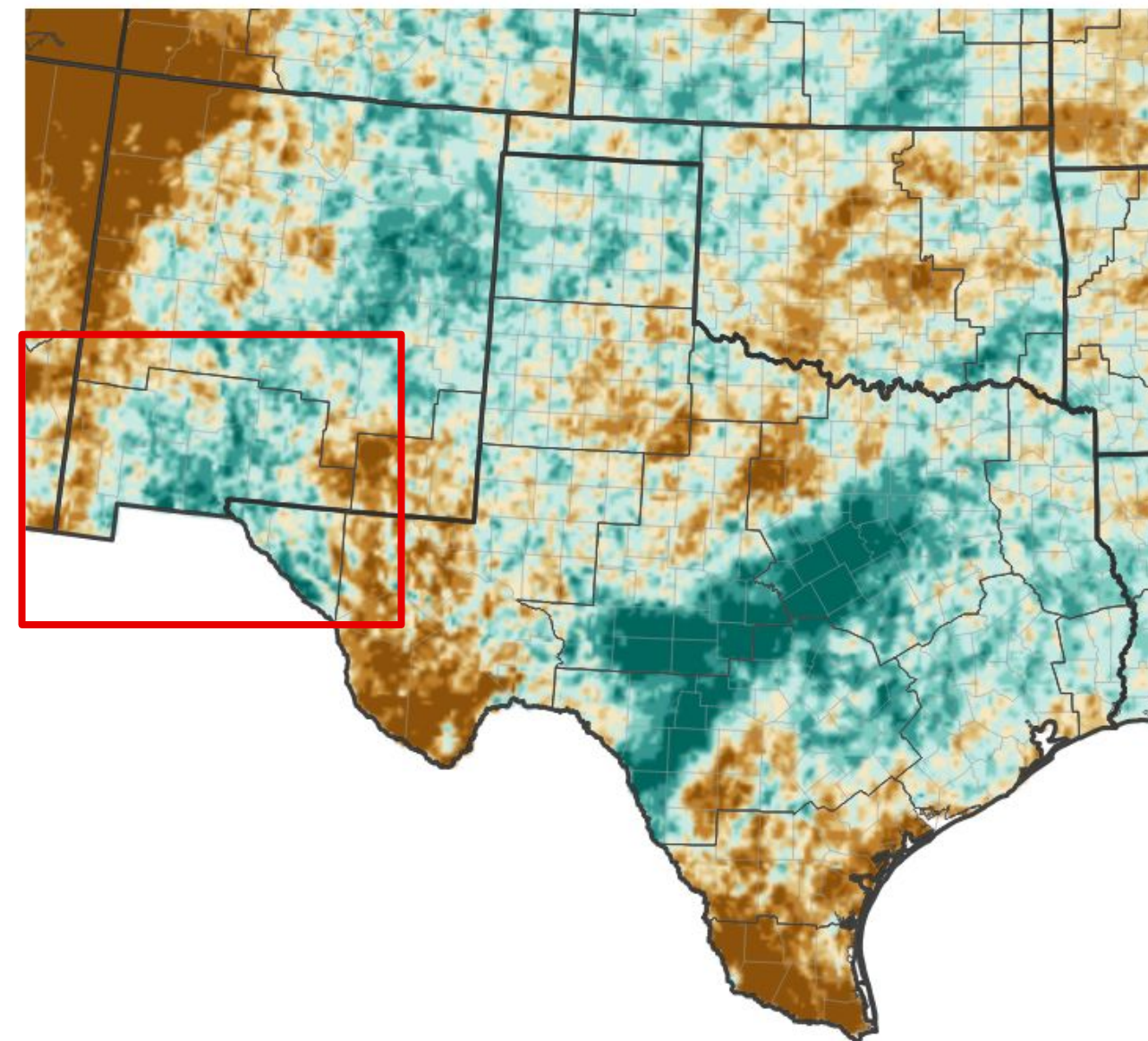
Inches of Precipitation



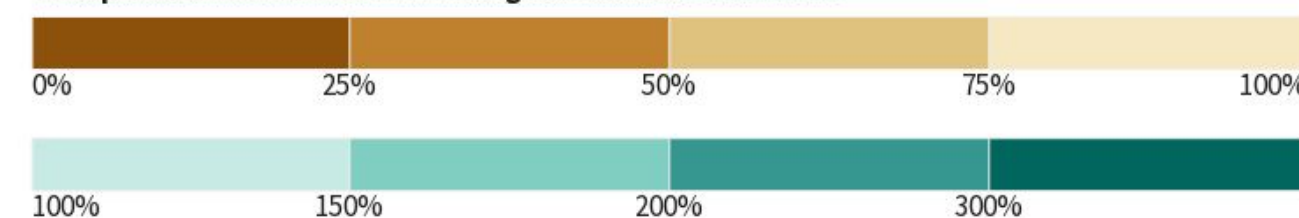
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/04/25

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: 08/05/25



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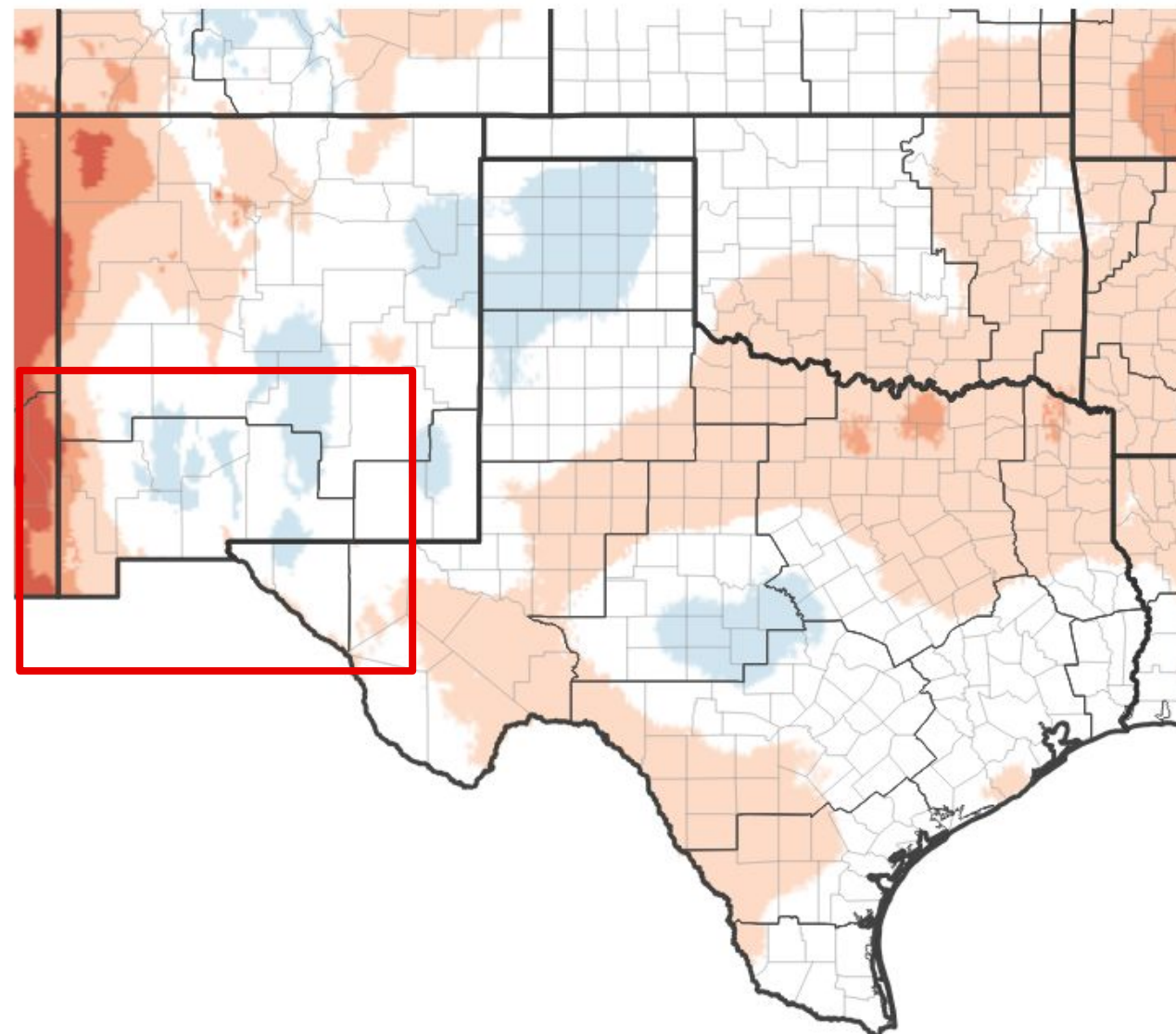


Temperature

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- Near normal to slightly below normal July for New Mexico and Far West Texas
- 30-day high temperature anomalies near normal
- July mean average temperatures 0.8°F above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



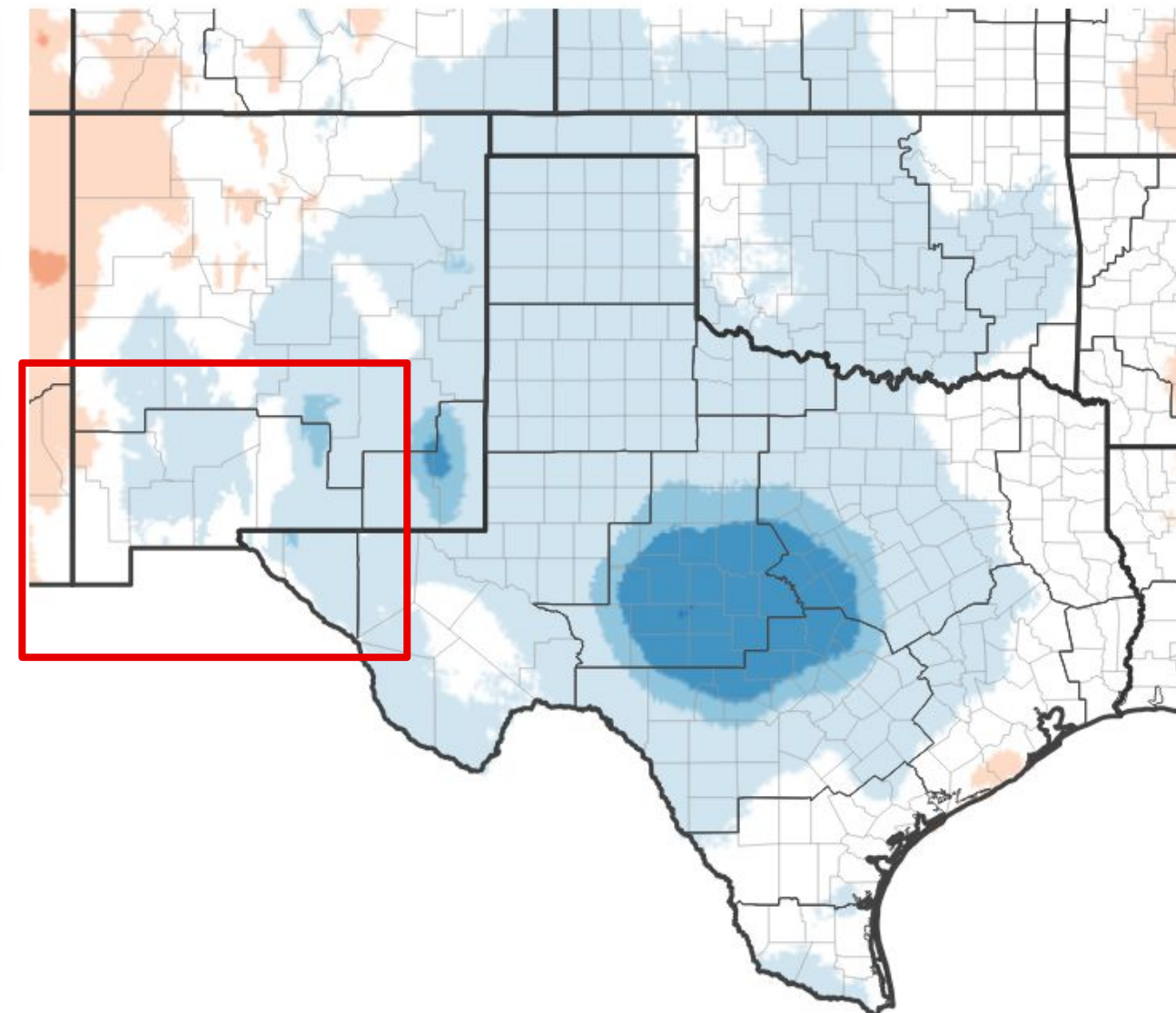
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



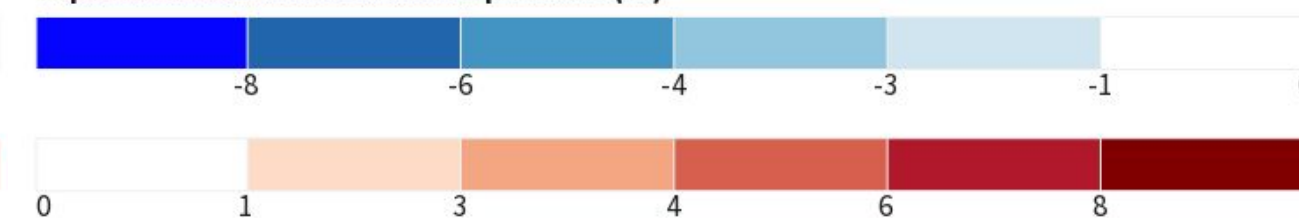
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/02/25

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: 08/02/25



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Summary of Impacts

August 6, 2025
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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow in Gila basins remain below normal despite summer rains. Rio Grande and Mimbres Rivers are running closer to normal. Burn scar flooding caused rapid spikes in streamflow for the Mimbres (July 18 and 22) and Rio Ruidoso (July 8, 24, 30). River levels will be highly dependent on thunderstorms through September with additional sudden rises. Rio Grande water released south of the Caballo Dam, reaching El Paso on June 3rd. Elephant Butte storage sits at 3.8% capacity, much lower than last month due to downstream release and well below 30-year median. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture increased this month, closer to normal due to recent rains. More typical monsoon rainfall has improved drought status somewhat. Outlook points to near normal precipitation rest of this summer. 2025 Rio Grande irrigation season has ended with a surface water allotment of six inches (6") per acre. Please refer to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District ([EBID](#)) website or your local municipality for more information.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- ERC's are above normal for August due to recent dryness. Peak fire season has ended, but additional lightning starts will be possible this month. Low risk of large fire growth in August due to additional rains and light prevailing winds.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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- Gila River running below normal, despite summer rains. Gila River spikes occurred on July 23, 29, and 31. Mimbres River spikes on July 18 and 22 due to upstream burn scar flooding. High flows and rapid rises out of Rio Ruidoso due to upstream burn scars. Rio Grande at El Paso reporting normal streamflow. Flood risk continues through September with the potential for thunderstorms and heavy rain.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	0.97 ft	11.00 ft	51 ft ³ /s
Redrock	3.83 ft	20.00 ft	17 ft ³ /s
Virden	4.67 ft	15.00 ft	1 ft ³ /s

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	3.97 ft	8.50 ft	531 ft ³ /s

Gauge data recorded on 8/6/2025

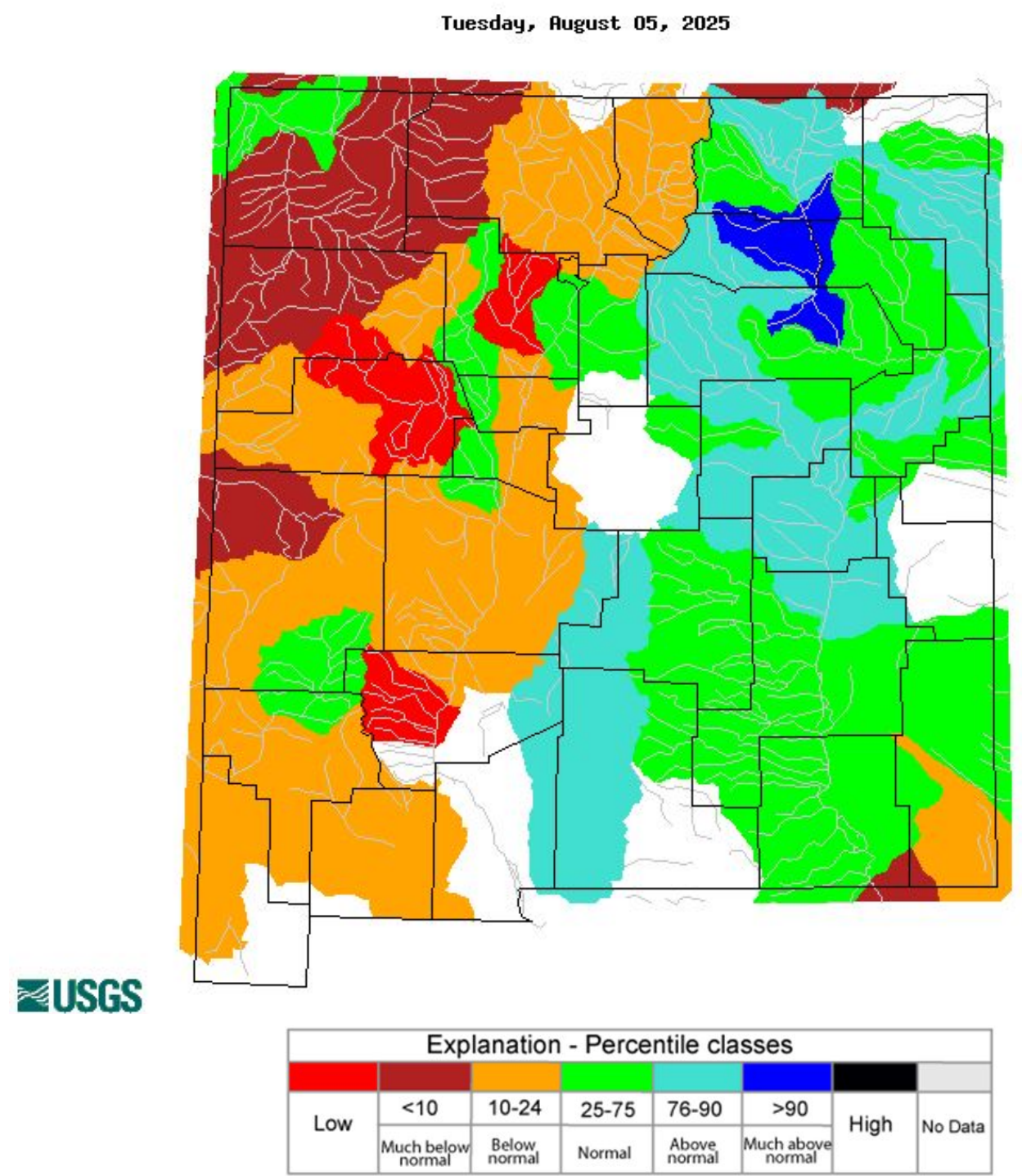


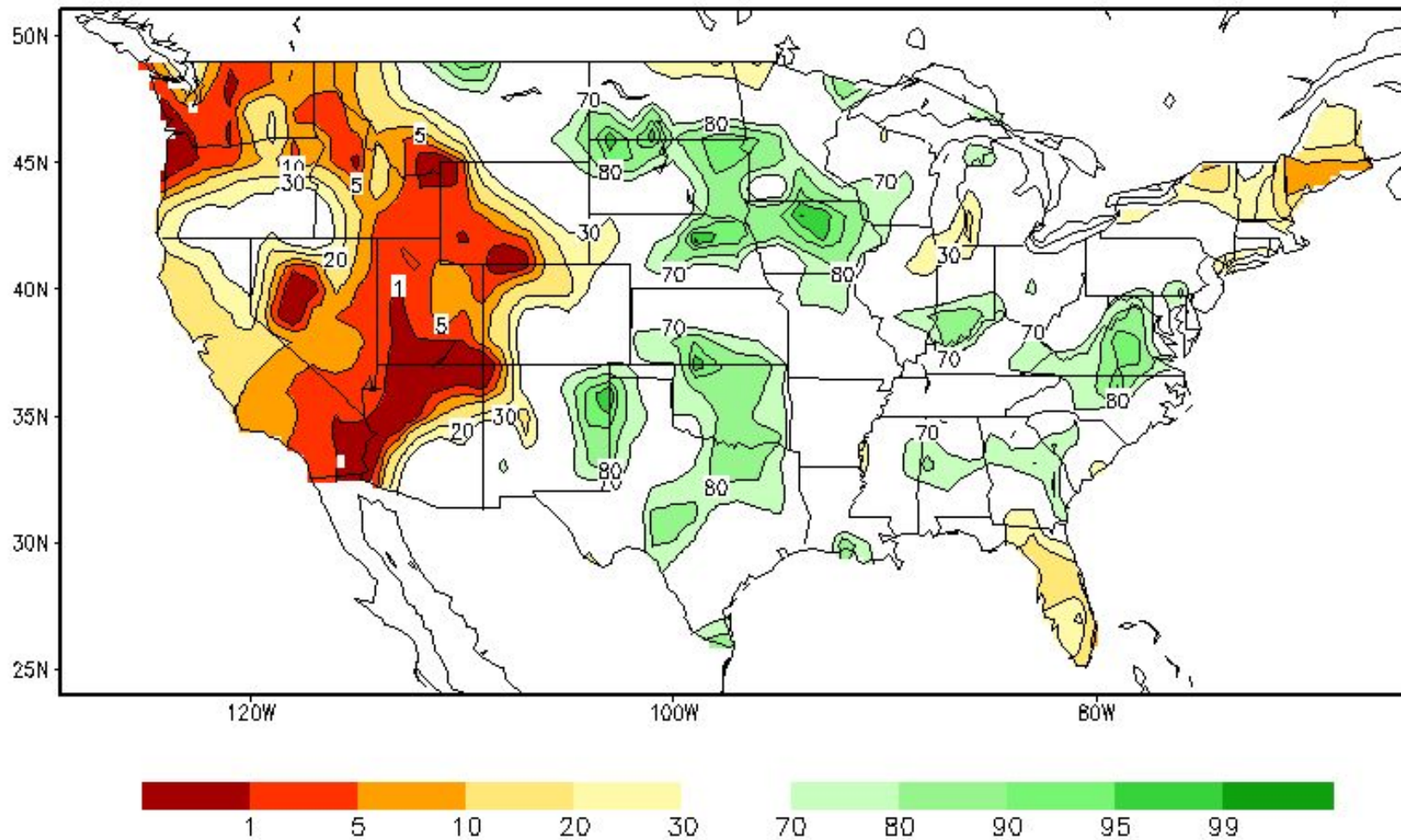
Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid August 5, 2025



Agricultural Impacts

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Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
AUG 05, 2025



Drought Severity Index
Value for the July 27 - August 2, 2025
Long Term Palmer

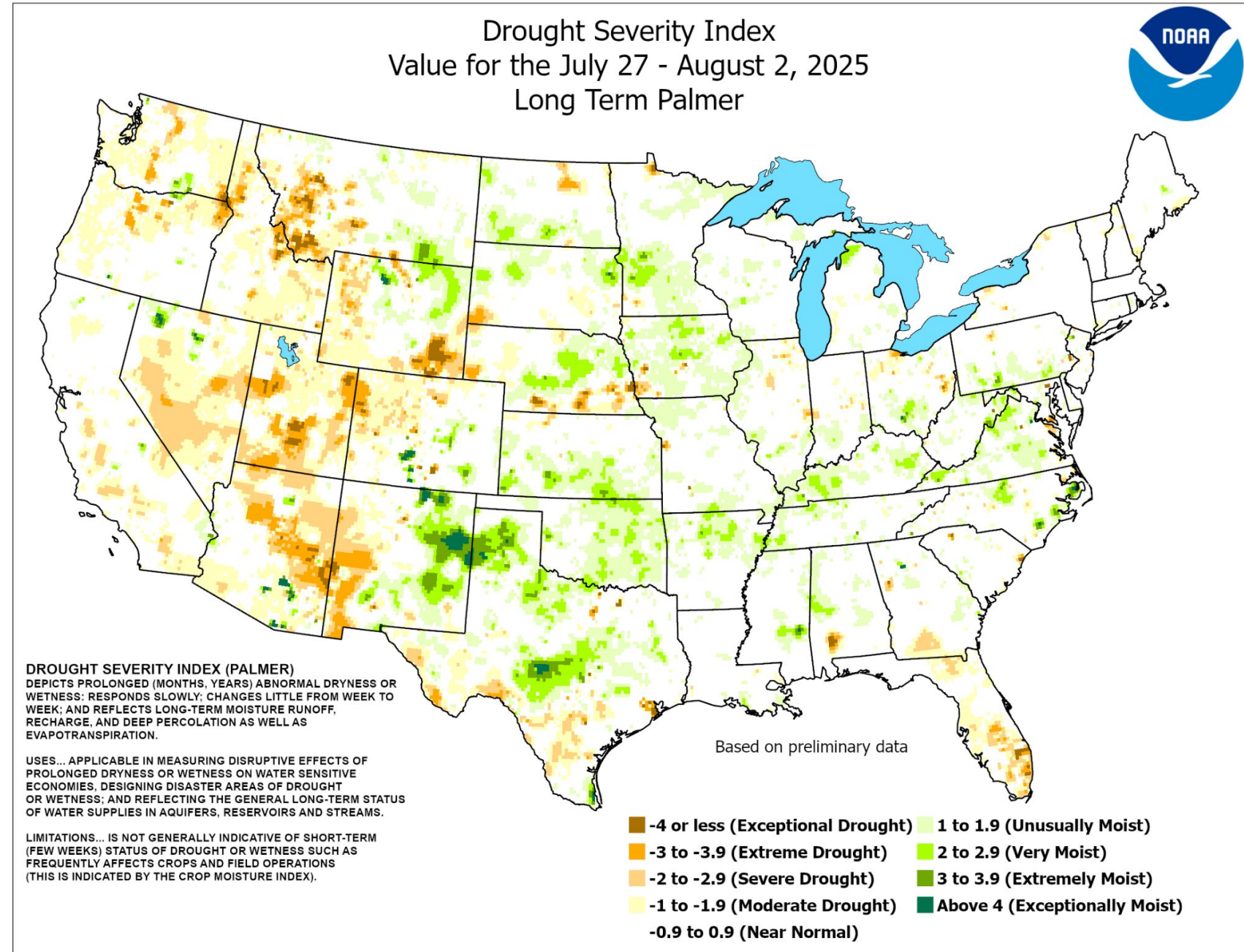


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid August 5, 2025

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#). Weekly value for period ending August 2, 2025





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

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

Latest NM Fire Restrictions available [here](#)

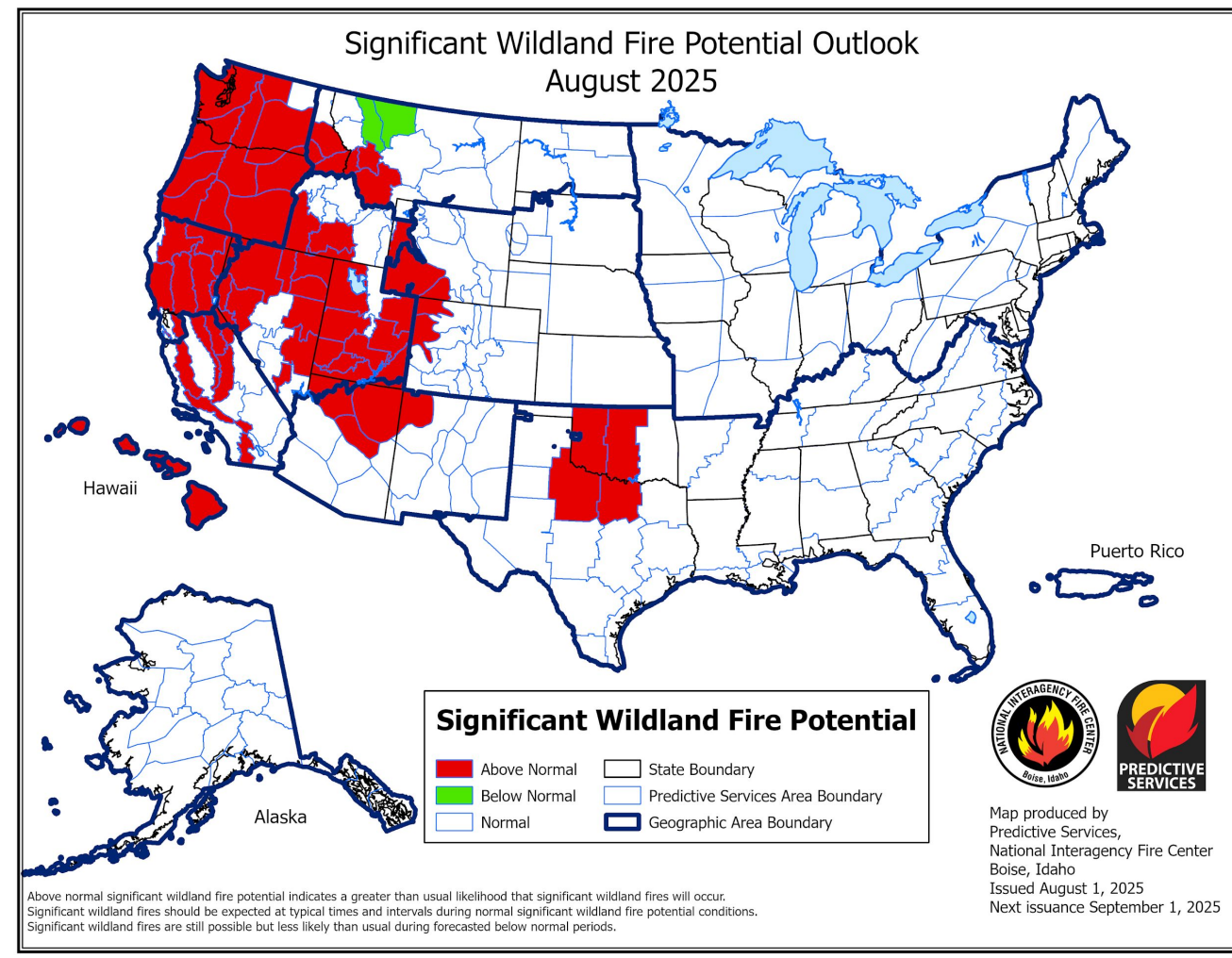
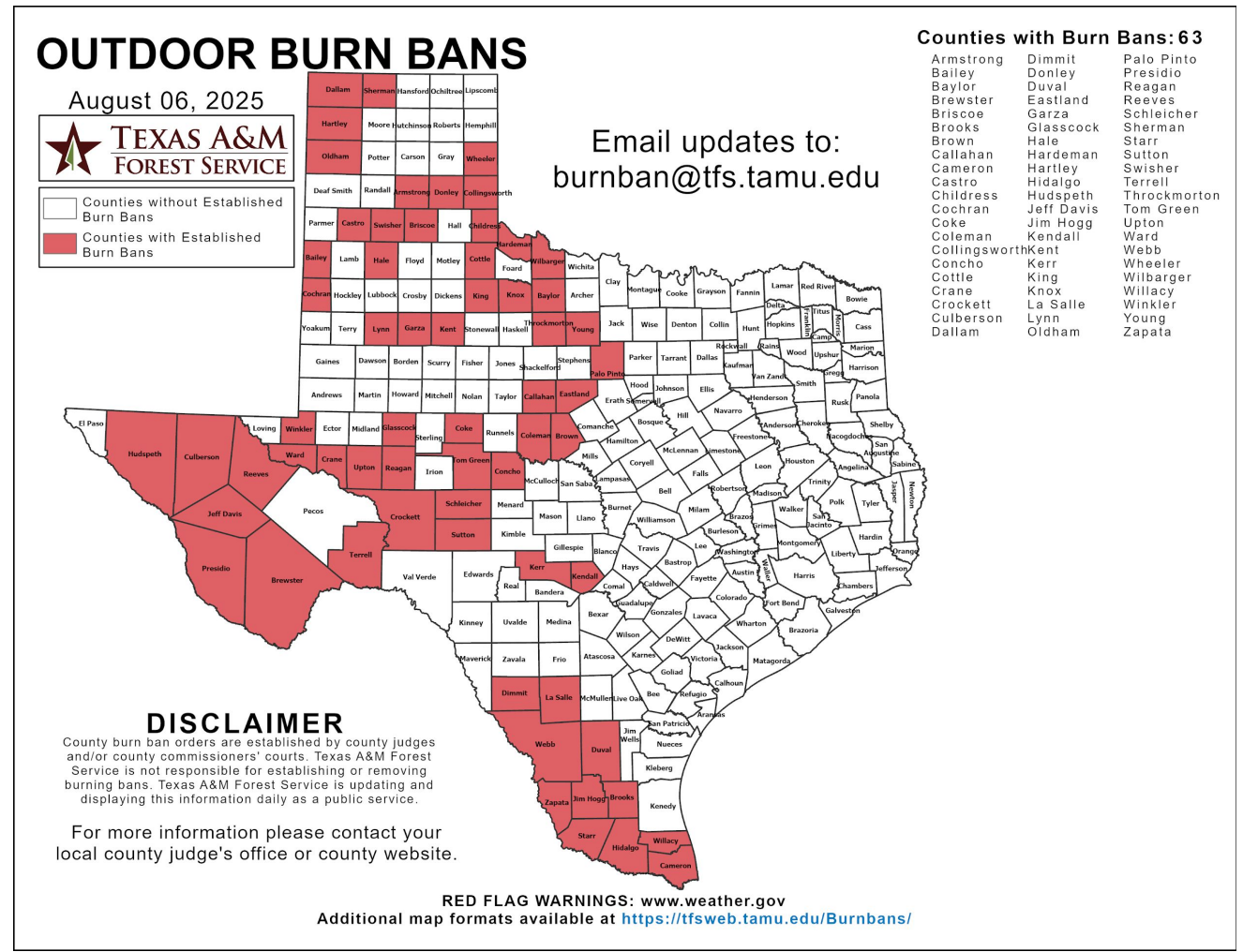


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for August 2025



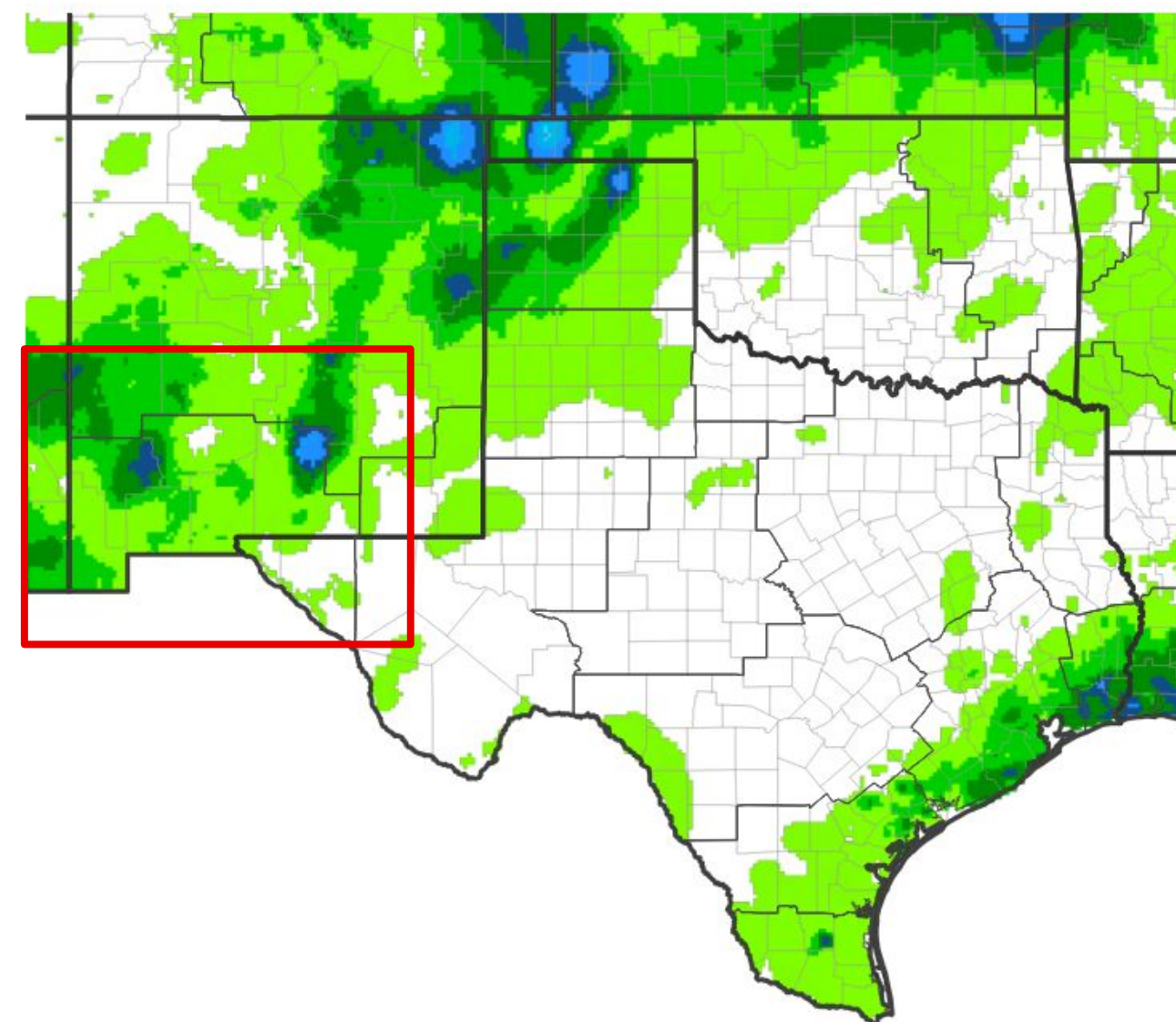


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

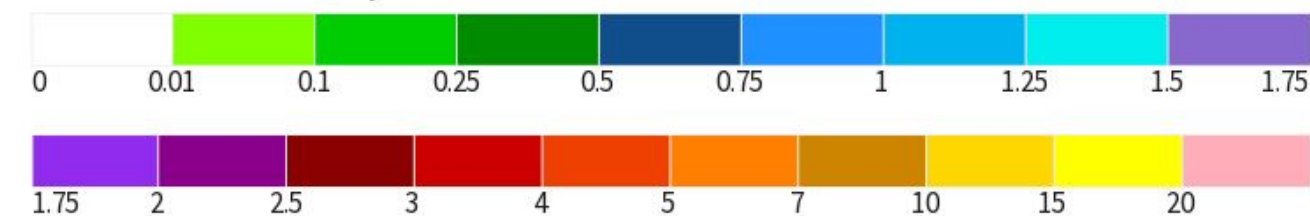
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- Scattered showers and thunderstorms expected again next week (August 10-16). Rain totals will be spotty and highly variable. Best rain chances over area mountains and western NM. Climate outlook for August leans toward above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.
- 2023 and 2024 monsoon seasons finished well below normal. Precipitation expected to be closer to normal this summer. Drought conditions are likely to persist through the summer season.

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



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 08/06/25





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

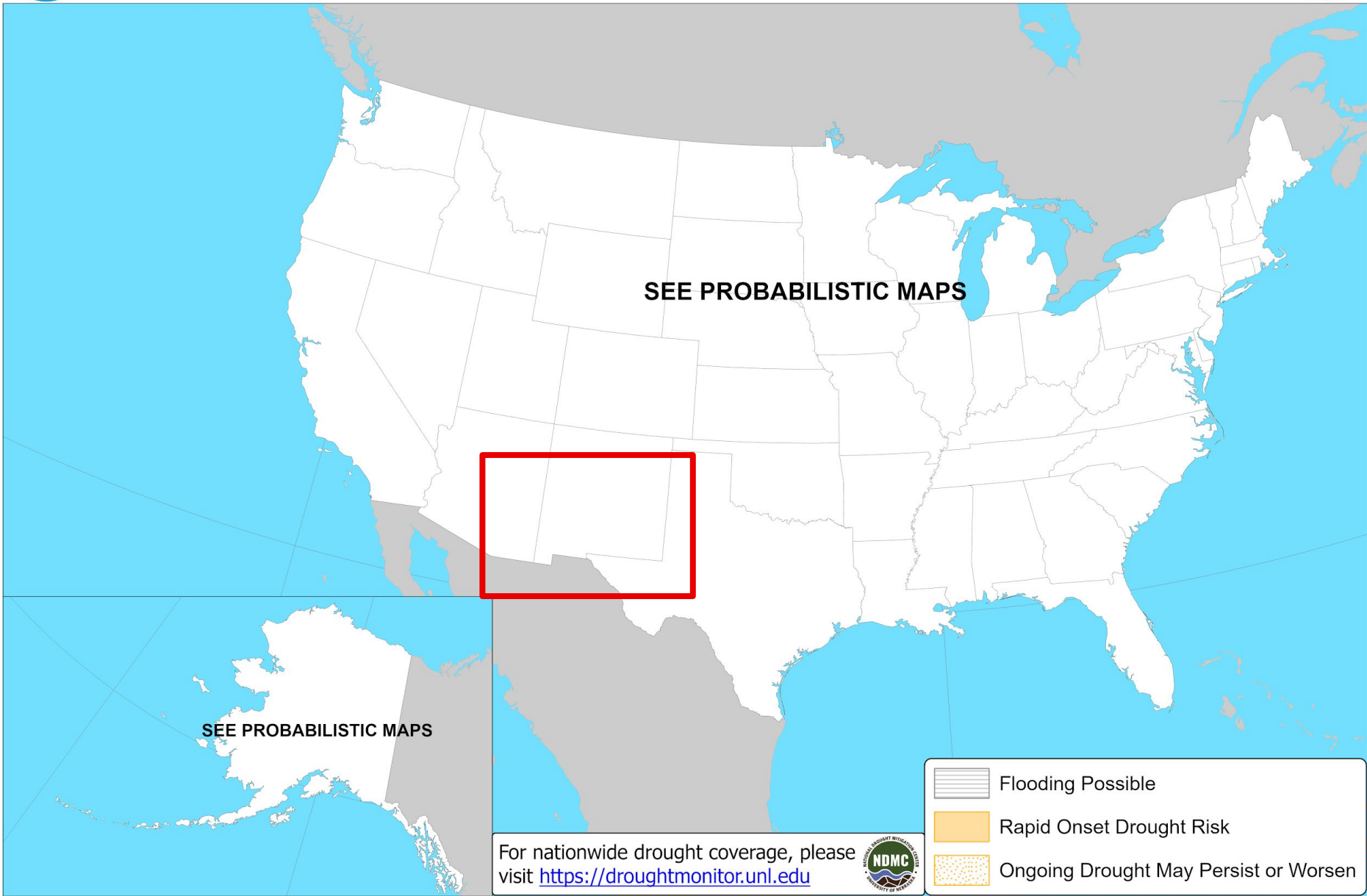
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Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Severe to Exceptional Drought is already in place across southern New Mexico and far west Texas. Rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to persist through the summer season.



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



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

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





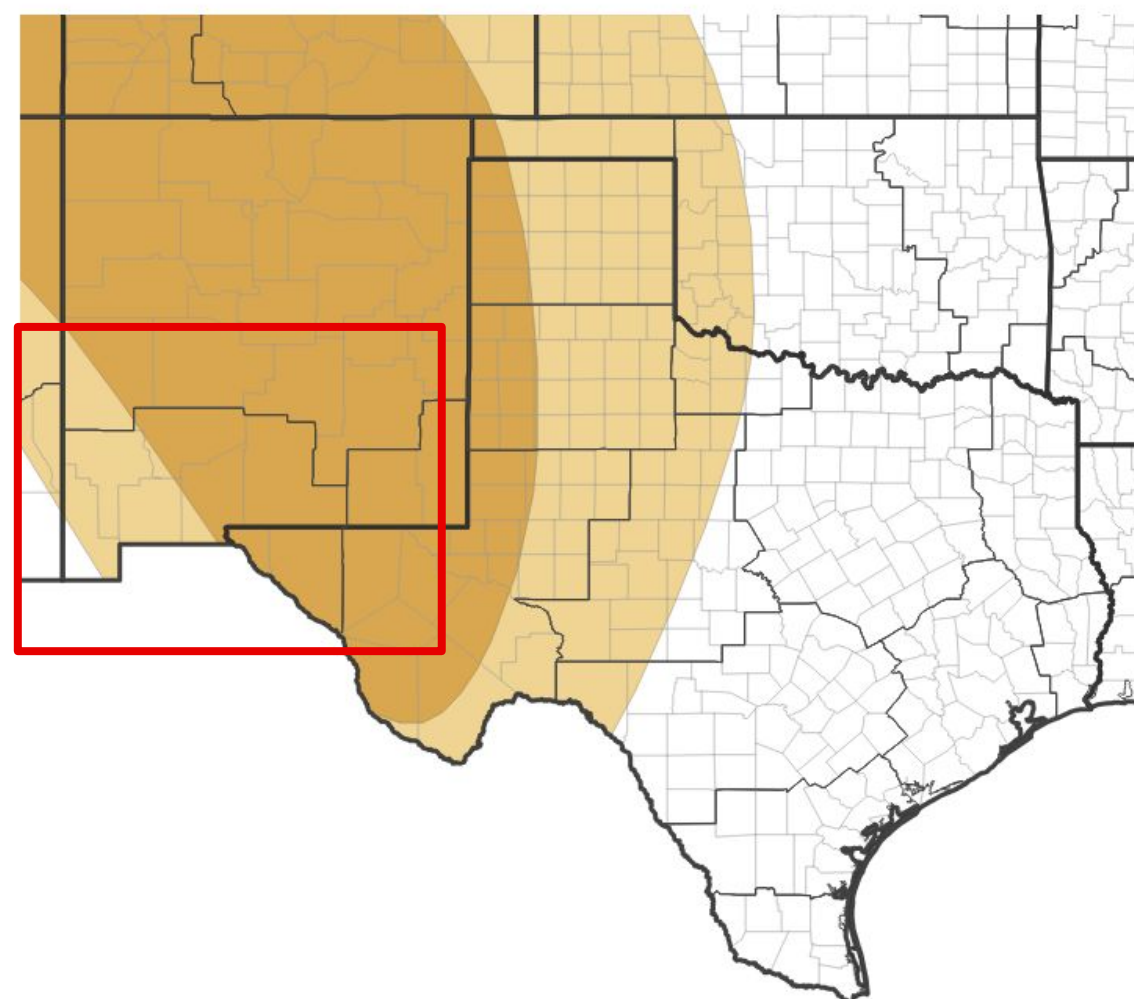
Long-Range Outlooks

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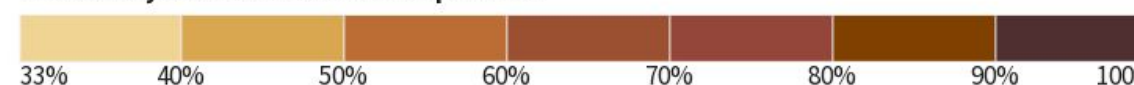
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- 40-50% chance of below normal precipitation for most of Southern New Mexico, Far West Texas. Slightly better chances for Southwest New Mexico.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: 1.67"
- 60-70% chance of above normal temperatures for Southwest New Mexico and Far West Texas
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: 94.0°

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



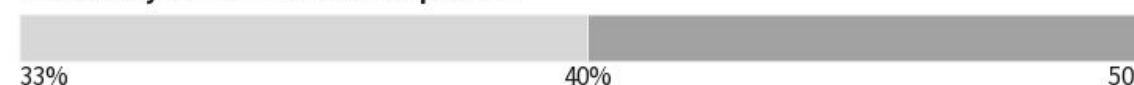
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



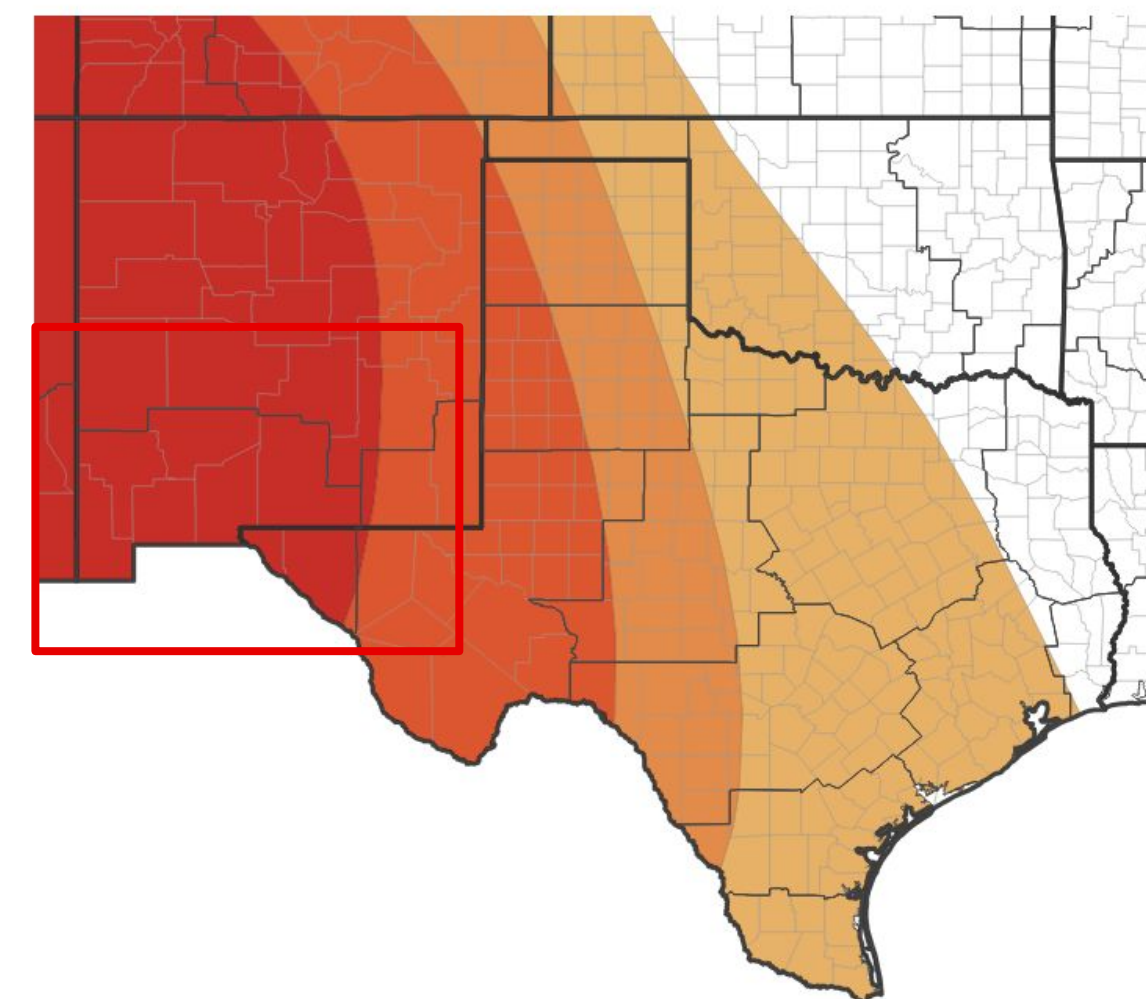
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



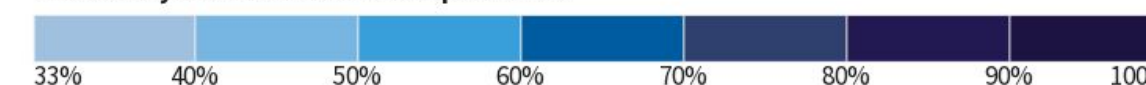
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/31/25

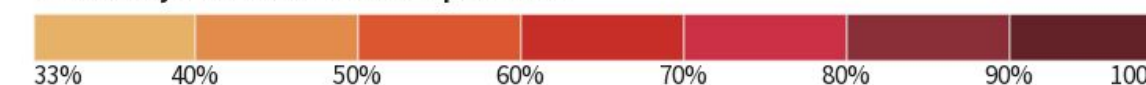
Monthly Temperature Outlook for August 1, 2025–August 31, 2025



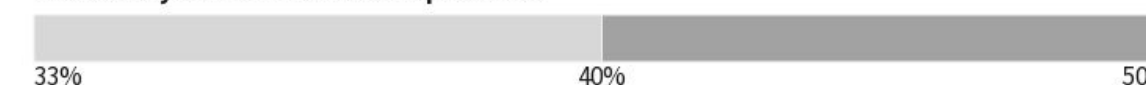
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

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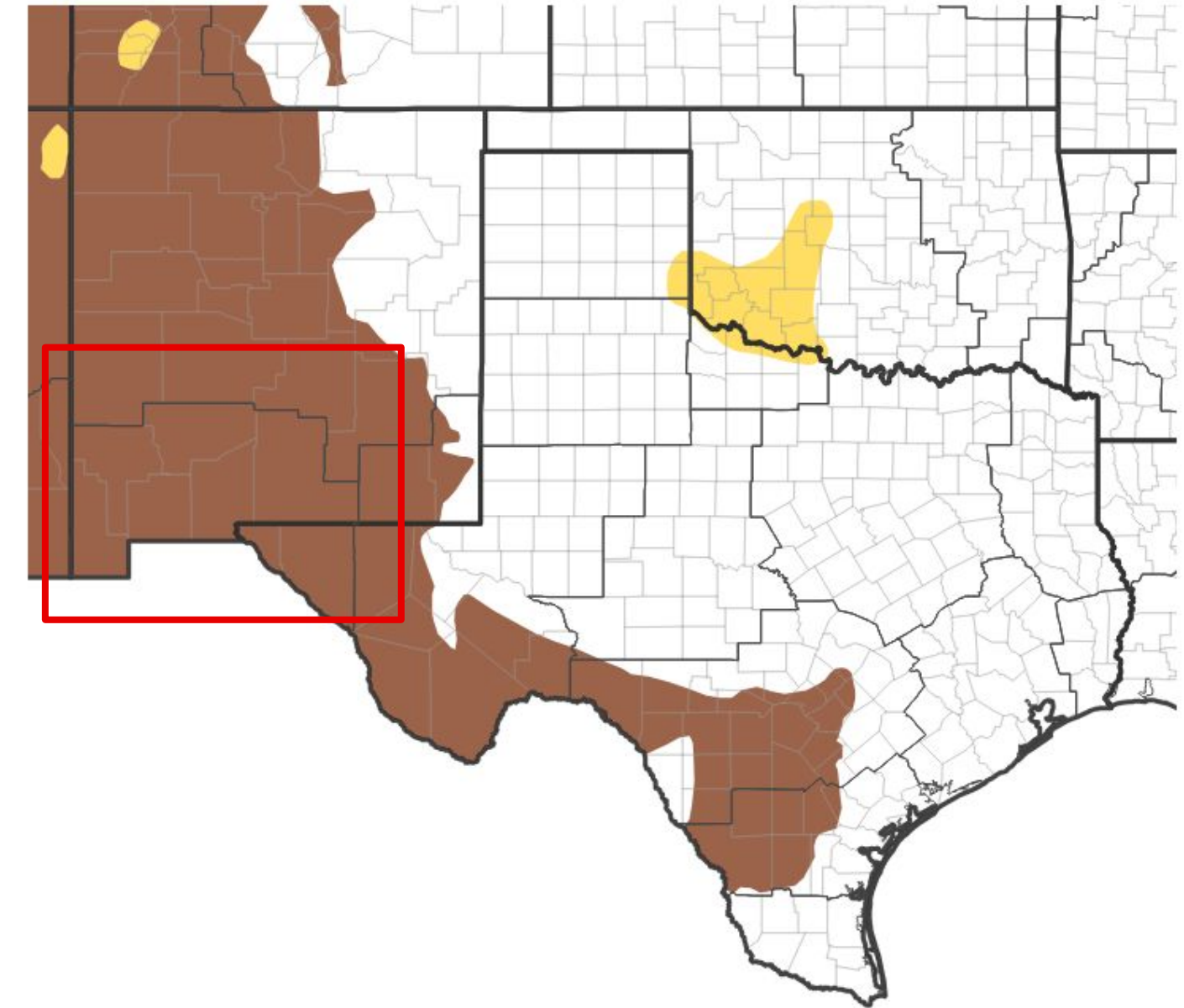
Drought Outlook

August 6, 2025
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions are expected to persist through August due to below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures. Thunderstorm rainfall may provide temporary drought relief.

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



Drought Is Predicted To...



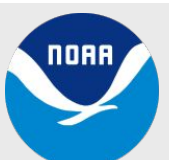
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/31/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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