



# Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid September 4, 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 October 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.
- 
- Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) drought status affecting Southwest New Mexico and Far West Texas.
  - Minimal changes in drought status in August after below normal, highly variable precipitation.
  - Drought conditions expected to improve further in September due to additional rainfall, near normal precipitation.





# U.S. Drought Monitor

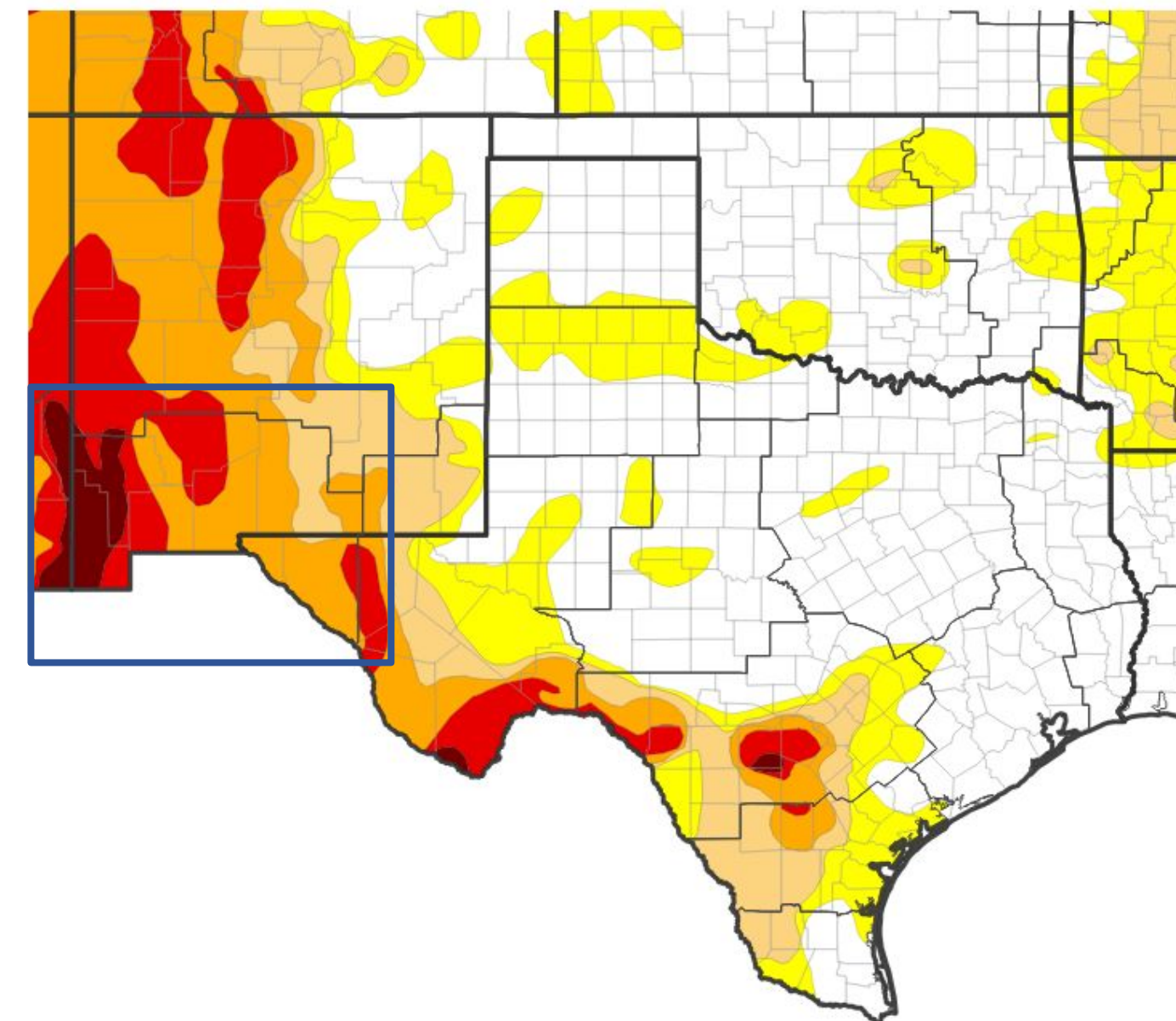
September 4, 2025  
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Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

## Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**  
Southwest New Mexico including Grant and Hidalgo Counties.  
Gila National Forest.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**  
Portions of Southwest New Mexico including Luna and Sierra Counties
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**  
Portions of South-Central New Mexico including Dona Ana and Otero Counties
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**  
Lincoln National Forest.  
Southeast New Mexico (72% of New Mexico, 20% of Texas)
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**  
Northeast New Mexico (82% of New Mexico, 38% of Texas)

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



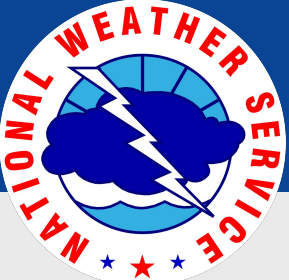
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/02/25



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El Paso, TX



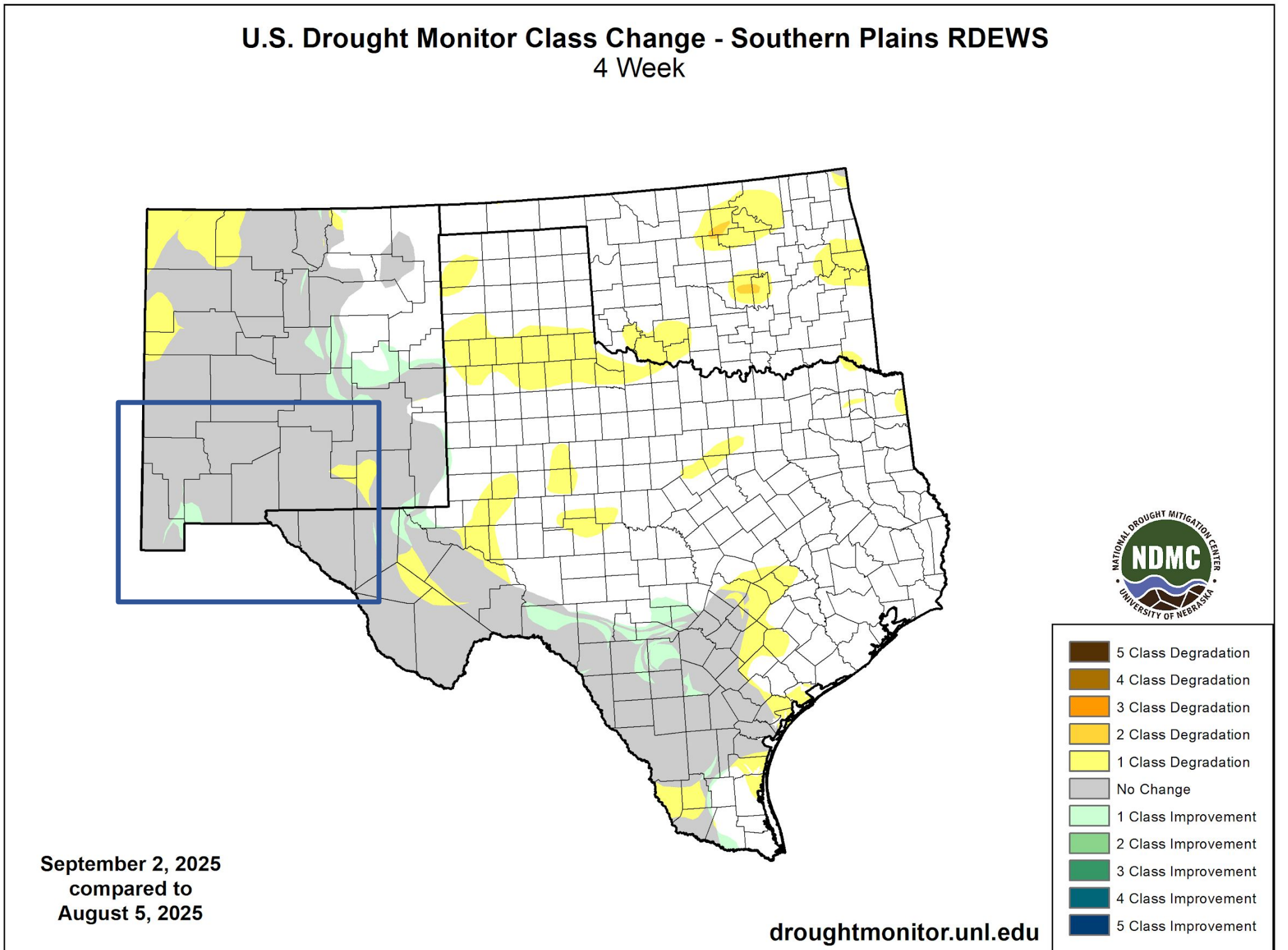
# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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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:**  
Portions of Southeast New Mexico
- **Drought Improved:**  
Portions of Southwest New Mexico
- **No Change:**  
South-Central New Mexico, Far West Texas





# Precipitation

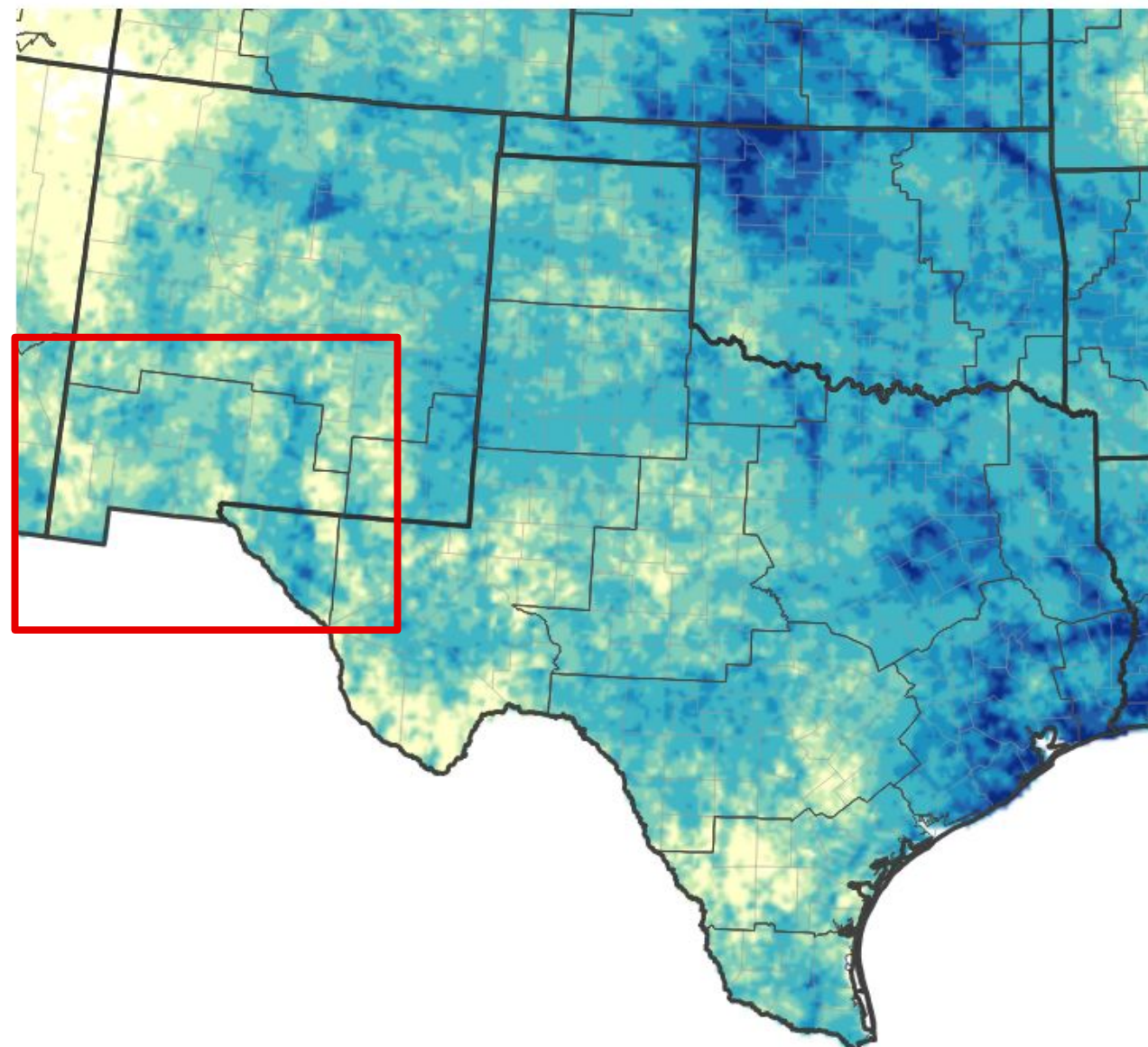
September 4, 2025  
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30-day precip totals,  
0.50-1.50" along I-10 corridor.  
1.50-3.00" over mountain  
forests.

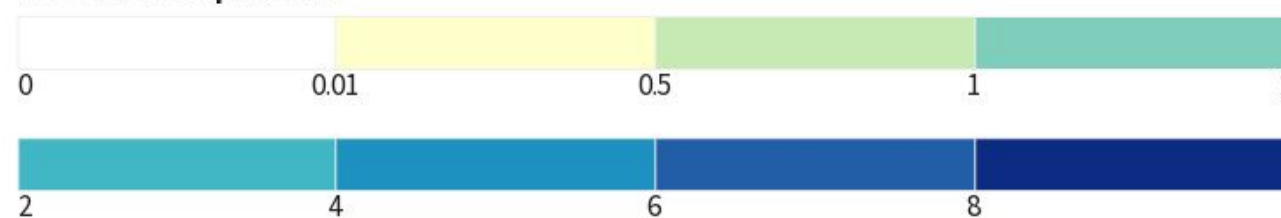
90-day precip totals,  
2.50-5.00" along I-10 corridor.  
4.00-8.00" over mountain  
forests.

Highly variable, but slightly  
below normal rainfall along  
Rio Grande, south-central NM  
in July. Below normal rainfall  
across western NM.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



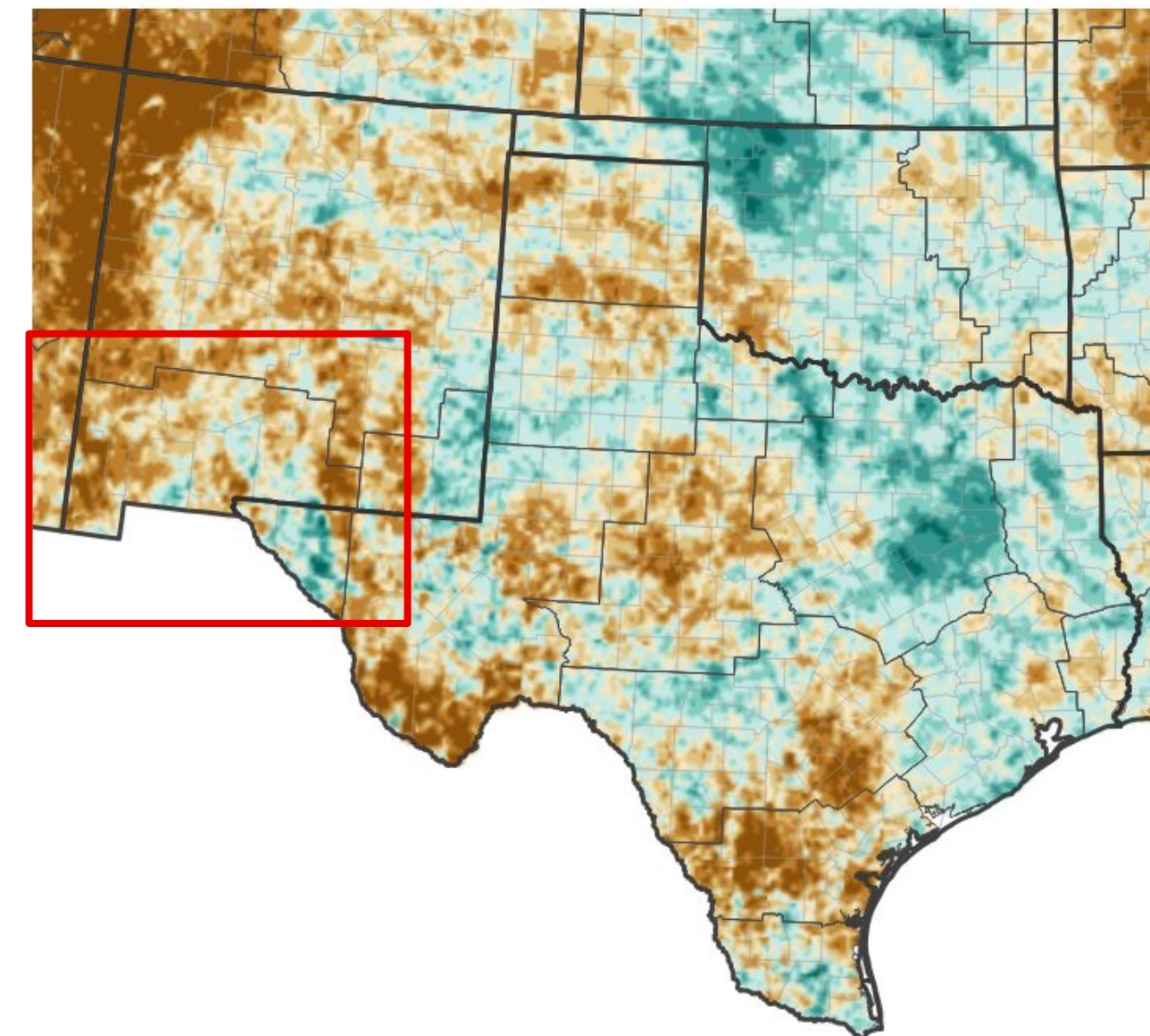
Inches of Precipitation



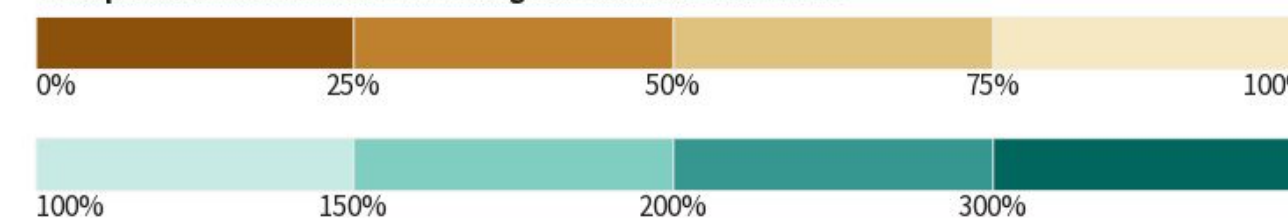
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;  
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/02/25

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: 09/03/25



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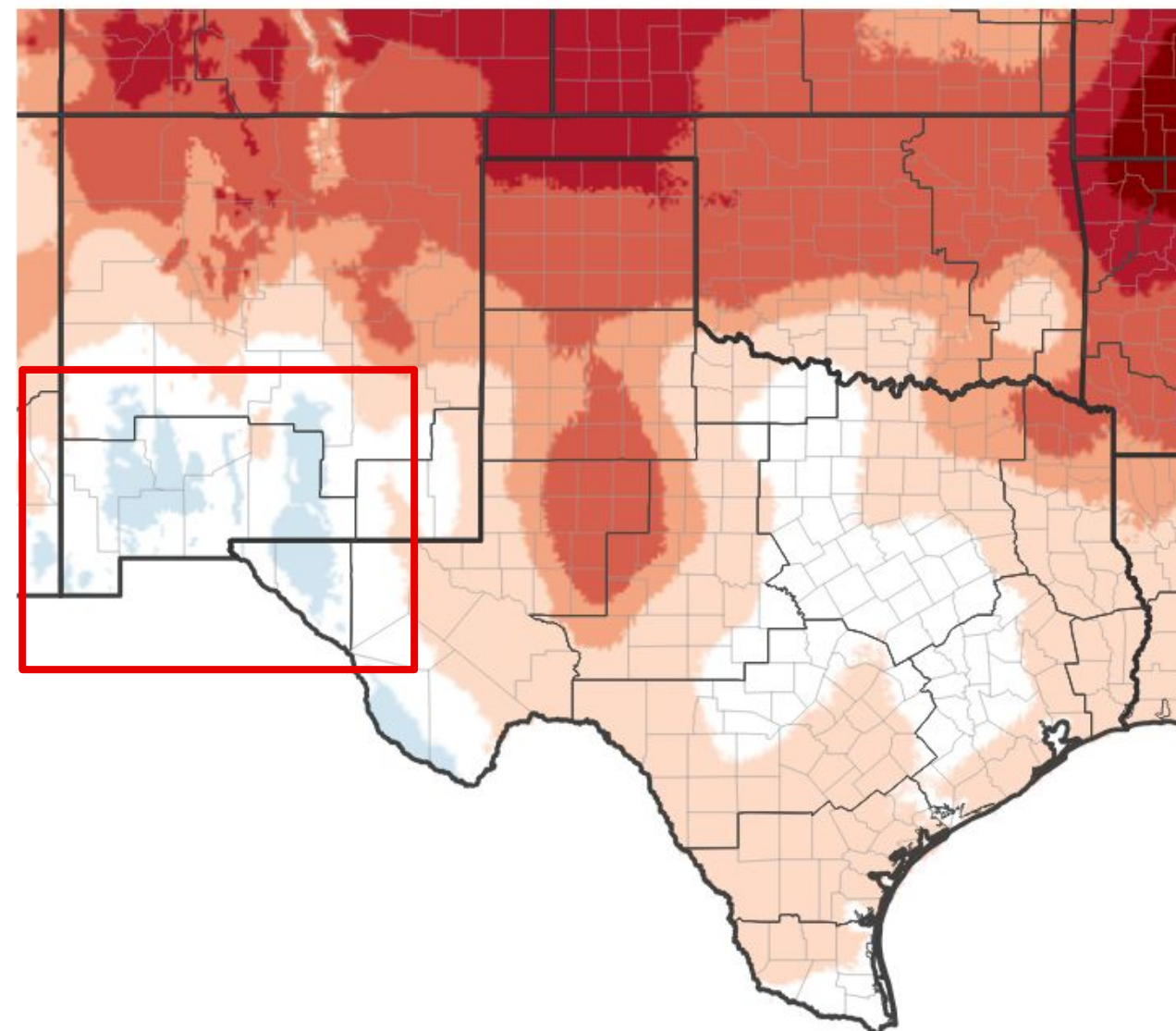


# Temperature

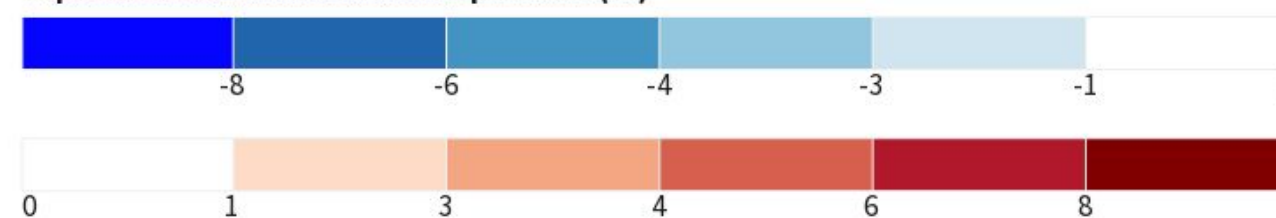
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- Warmer than normal August for New Mexico and Far West Texas
- 30-day high temperature anomalies above normal
- August mean average temperatures 3.8°F above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



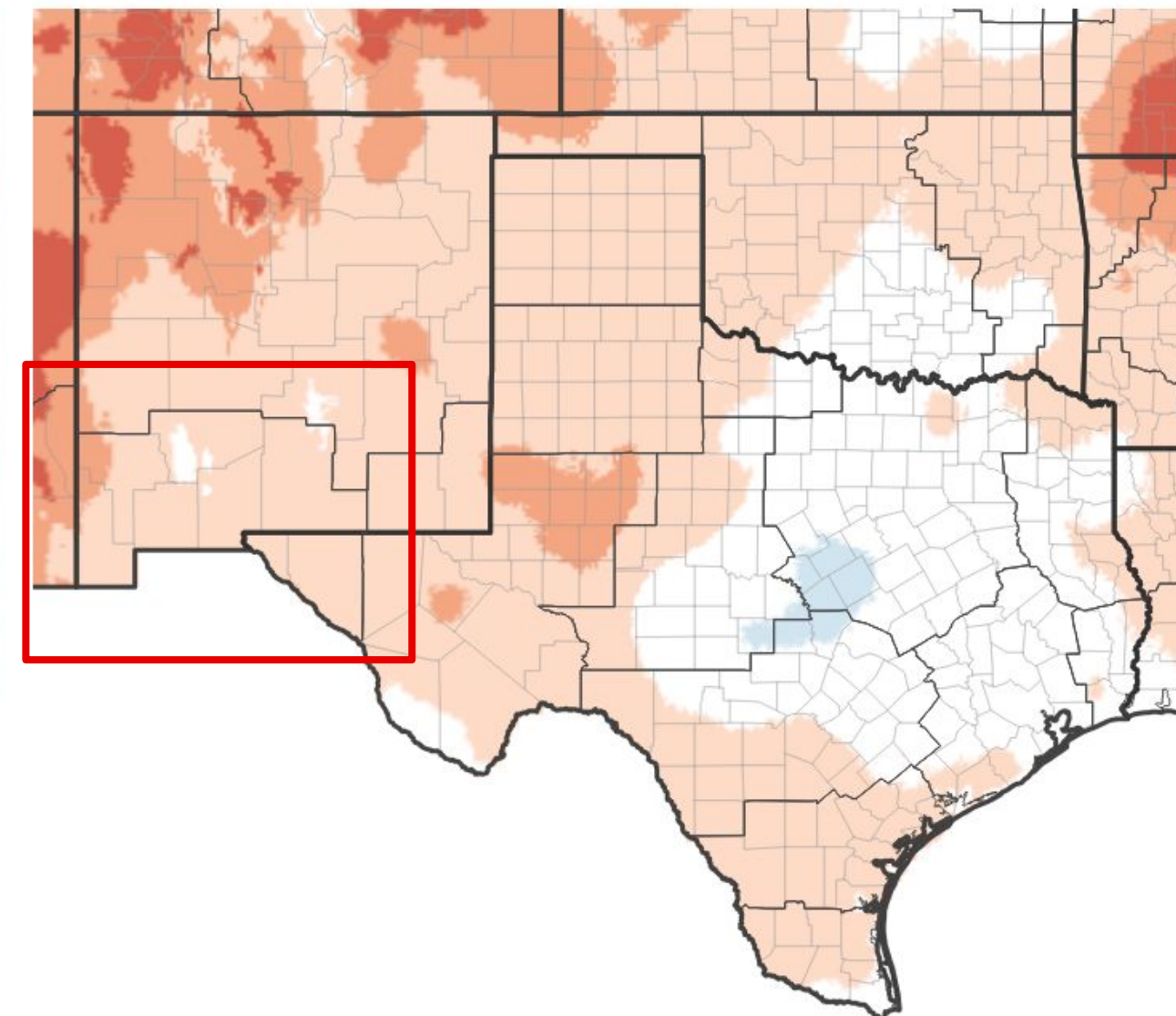
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



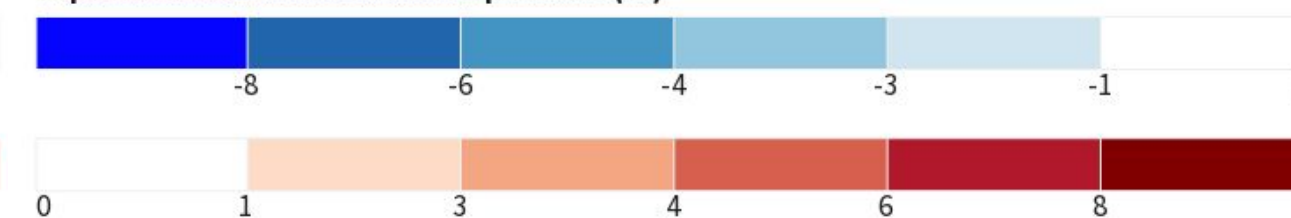
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/22/25

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



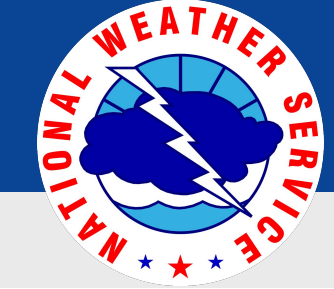
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/22/25



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# Summary of Impacts

September 4, 2025  
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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Rapid spike in Gila River on August 31 due to heavy rain. Gila and Rio Grande basins running below normal. Mimbres River closer to normal. River levels will be highly dependent on thunderstorms through September with additional sudden rises. Rio Grande has mostly dried up south of the Caballo Dam, reaching Low Stage at El Paso in mid-August. Elephant Butte storage sits at 3.8% capacity, the same level as last month and well below 30-year median. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

## Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains below normal despite summer rains. Additional rain due to thunderstorms is likely in September, which may improve drought status somewhat. Outlook points to near normal precipitation in September. 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

- Low fire danger due to summer rainfall and ERCs near normal for September. Peak fire season has ended, but additional lightning starts will be possible this month. No risk of large fire growth in September due to rain and light prevailing winds.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

September 4, 2025  
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- Gila River running closer to normal after heavy rains on August 31, expected to fall back below normal in September. Gila River spike occurred August 31, reaching reaching 13.5 feet/6,000 cfs at Virden. Mimbres River spikes on August 12, 20, 31. Rio Ruidoso basins running near normal. Rio Grande at El Paso has dried up, returning to Low Stage.

## Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	0.83 ft	11.00 ft	29 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
Redrock	3.85 ft	20.00 ft	18 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
Virden	4.56 ft	15.00 ft	12 ft <sup>3</sup> /s

## Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft	12 ft <sup>3</sup> /s

Gauge data recorded on 9/4/2025

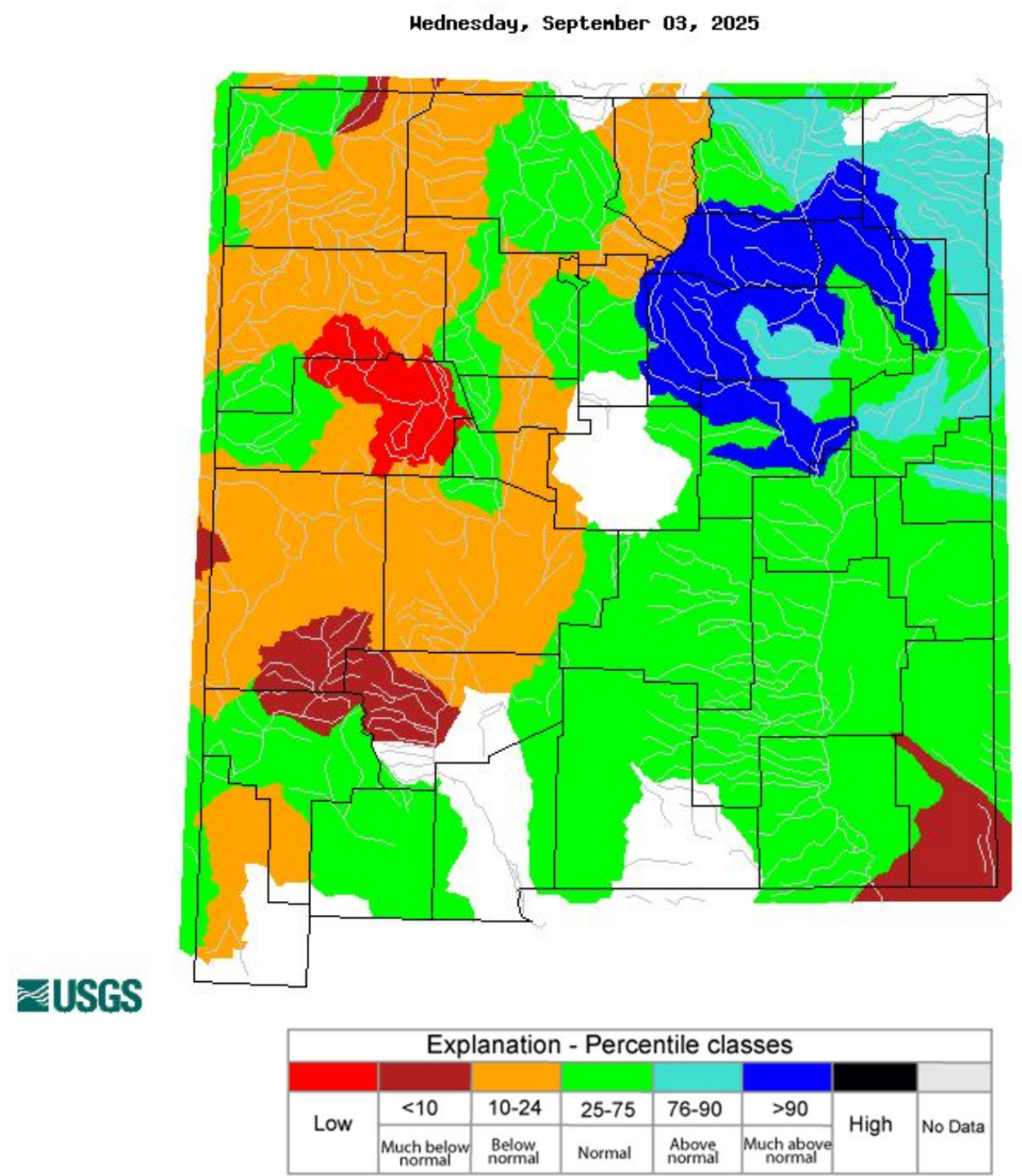
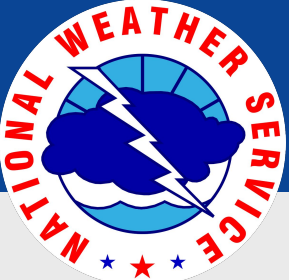


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid September 3, 2025





# Agricultural Impacts

September 4, 2025  
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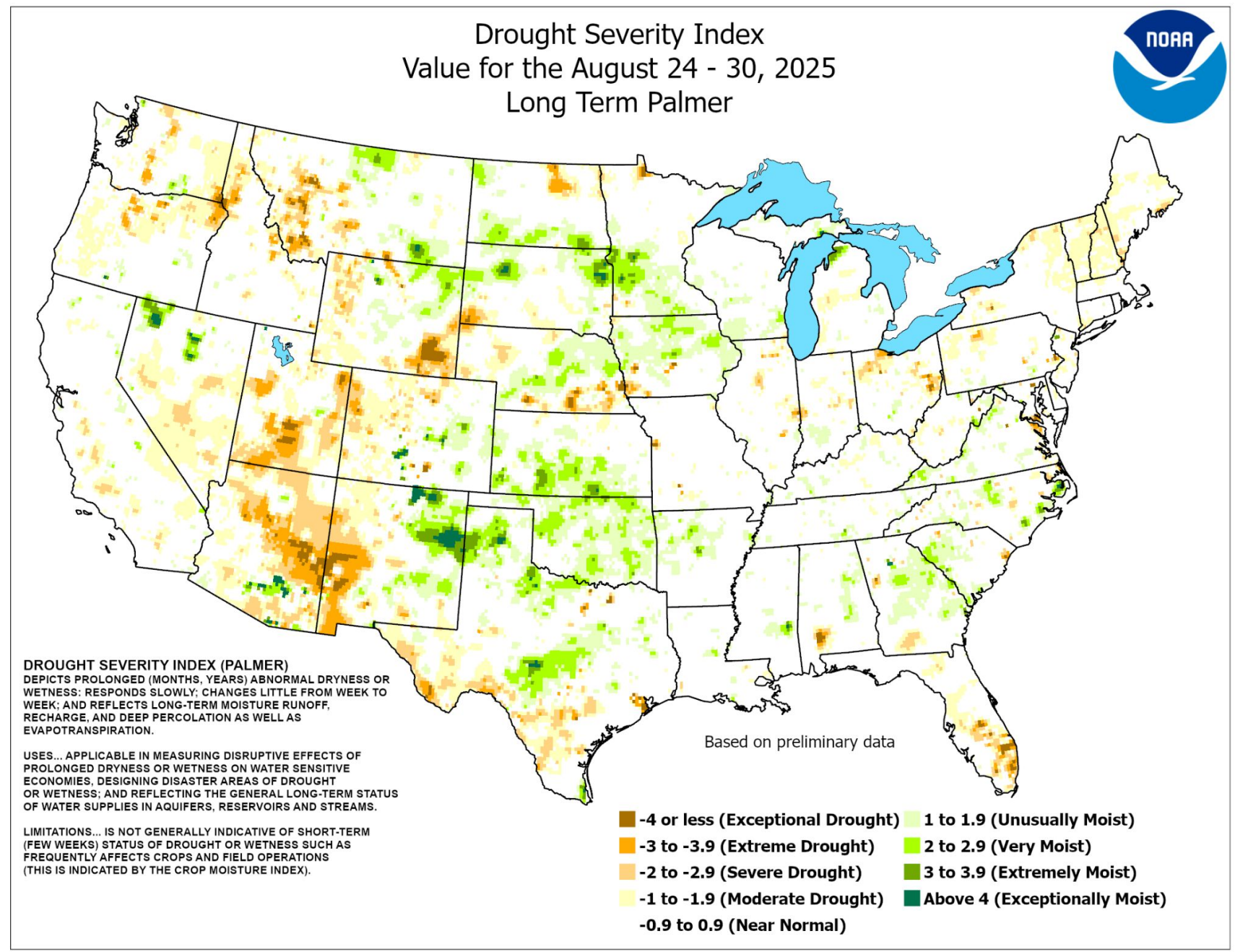
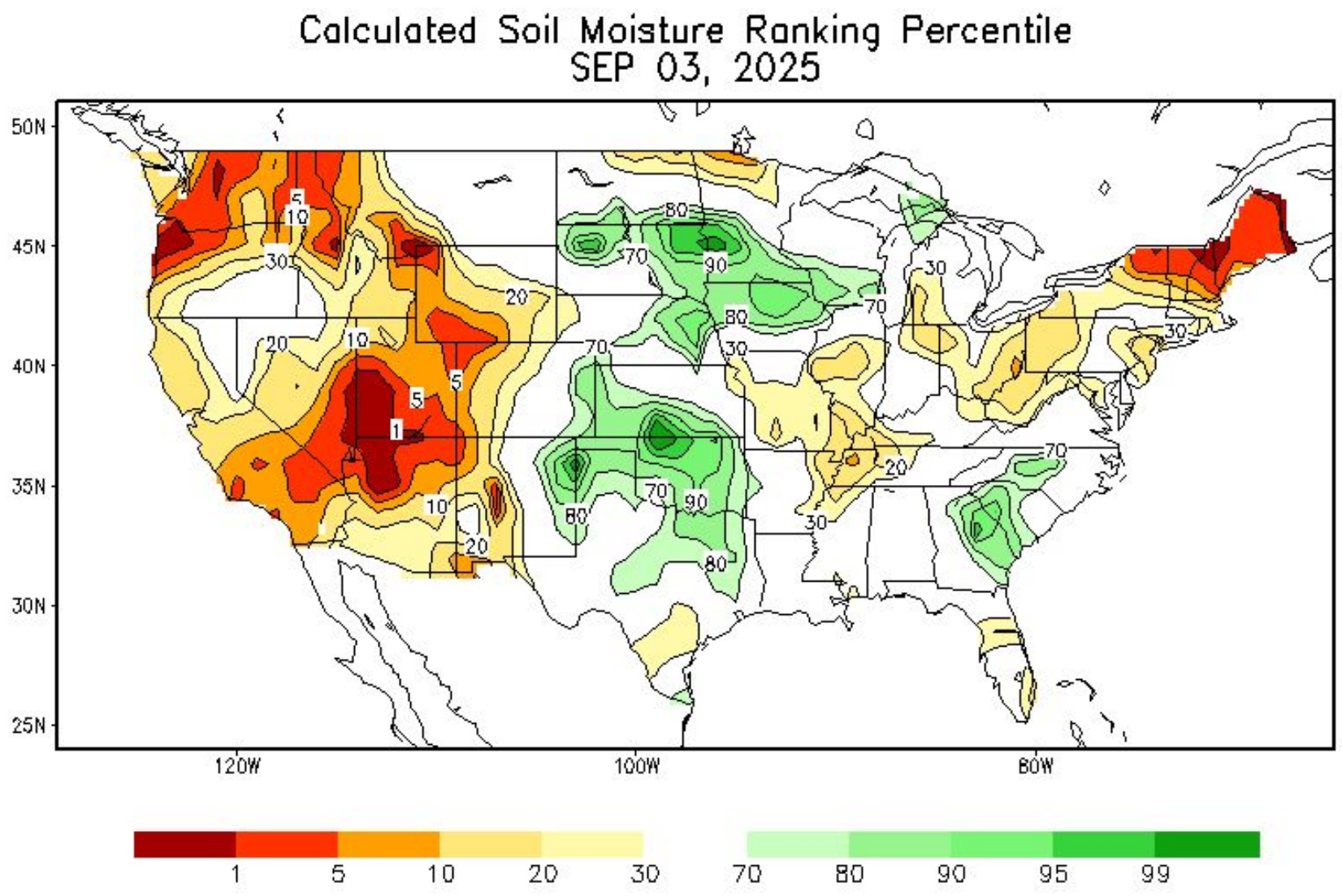


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 3, 2025

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#). Weekly value for period ending August 30, 2025





# Fire Hazard Impacts

September 4, 2025  
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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](#)

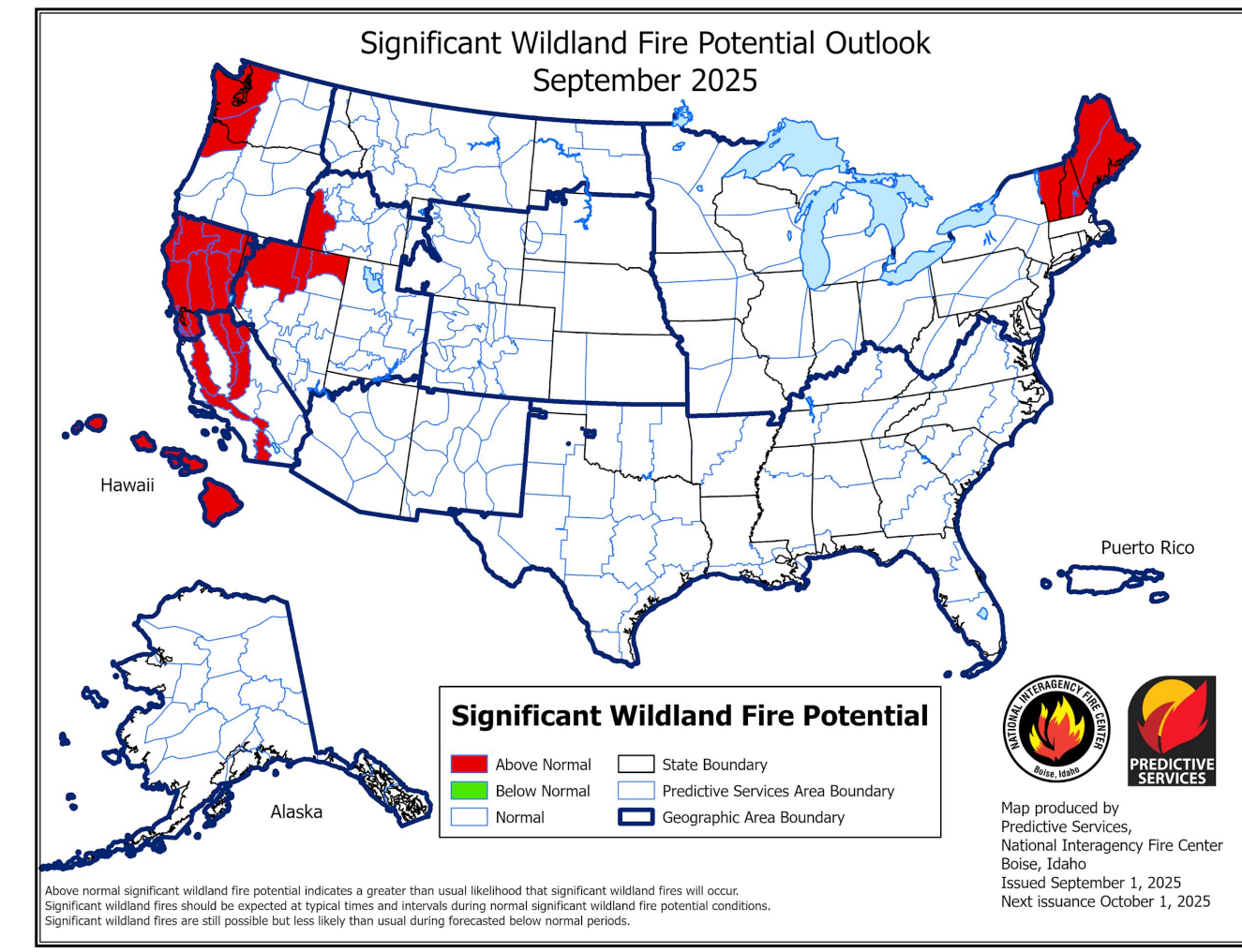
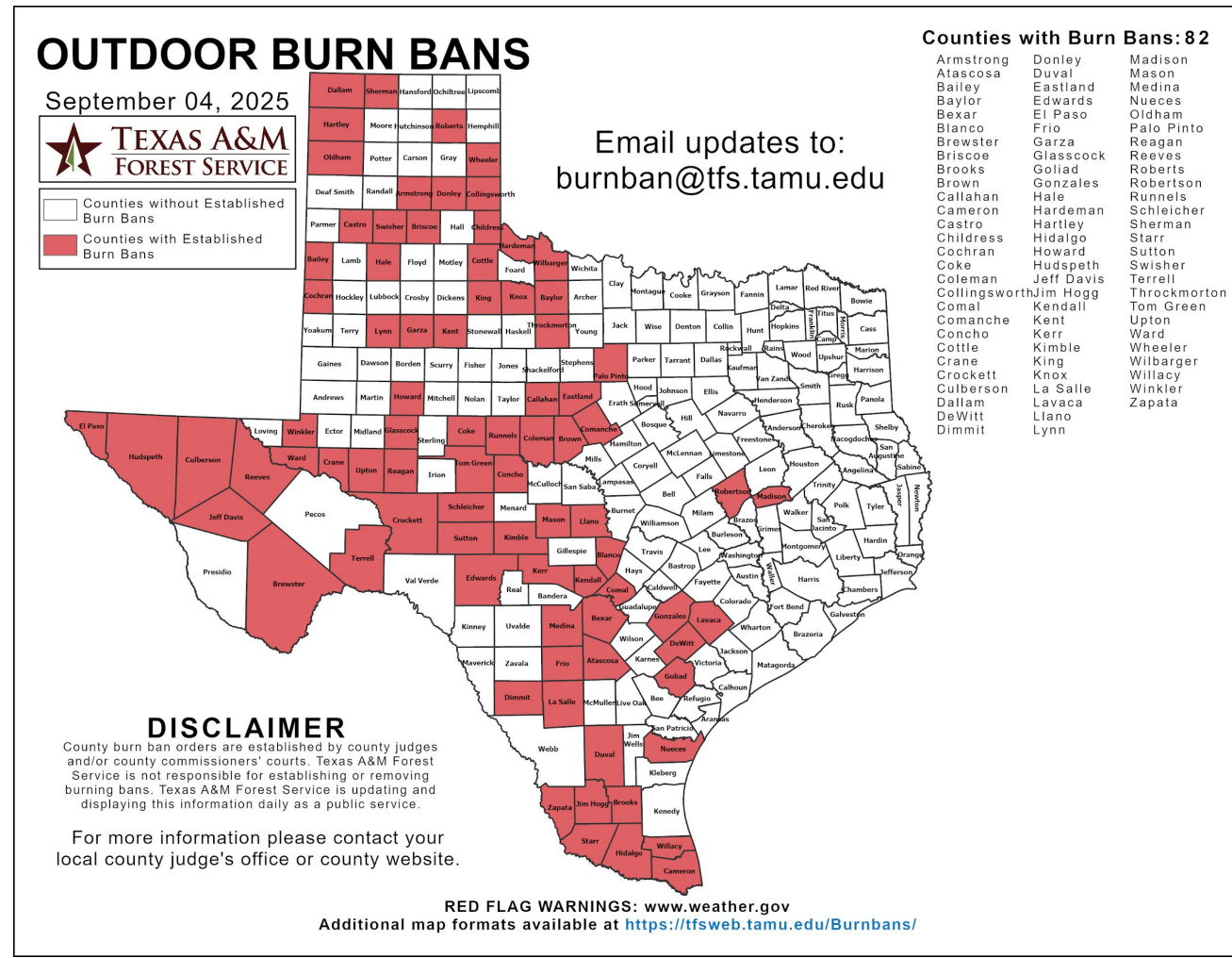


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for September 2025



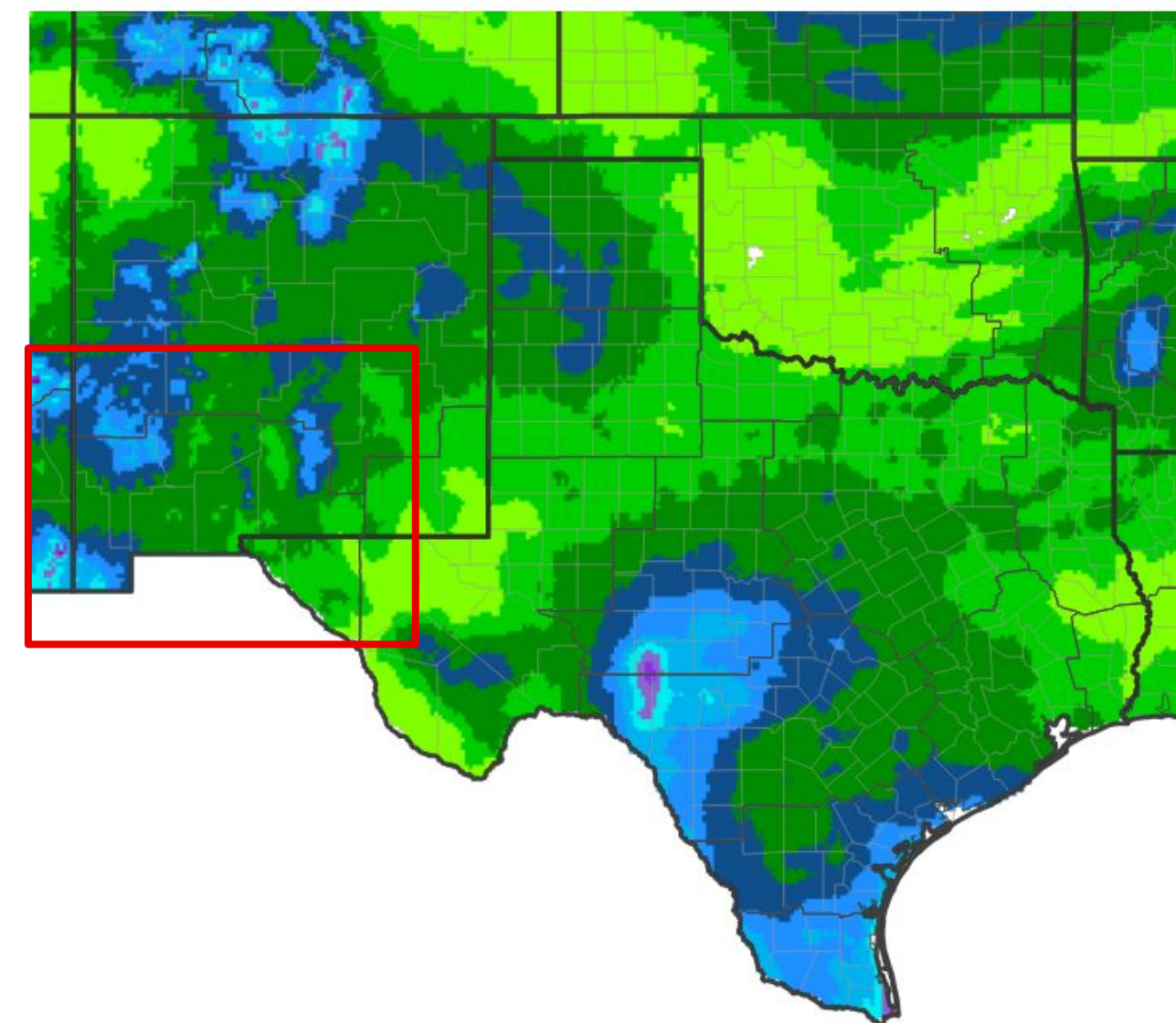


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

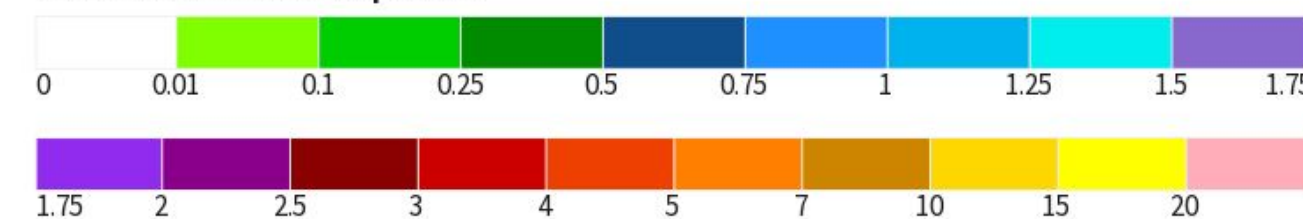
September 4, 2025  
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- Scattered showers and thunderstorms expected the first week of September (9/4-9/11). Rain totals will be spotty and highly variable. Best rain chances over area mountains and western NM. Climate outlook for September leans toward near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.
- 2023 and 2024 monsoon seasons finished well below normal. Precipitation was closer to normal this summer. Drought conditions are likely to persist through the autumn season.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 4, 2025–September 11, 2025

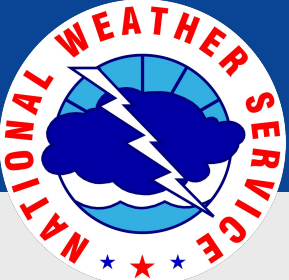


Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/04/25





# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

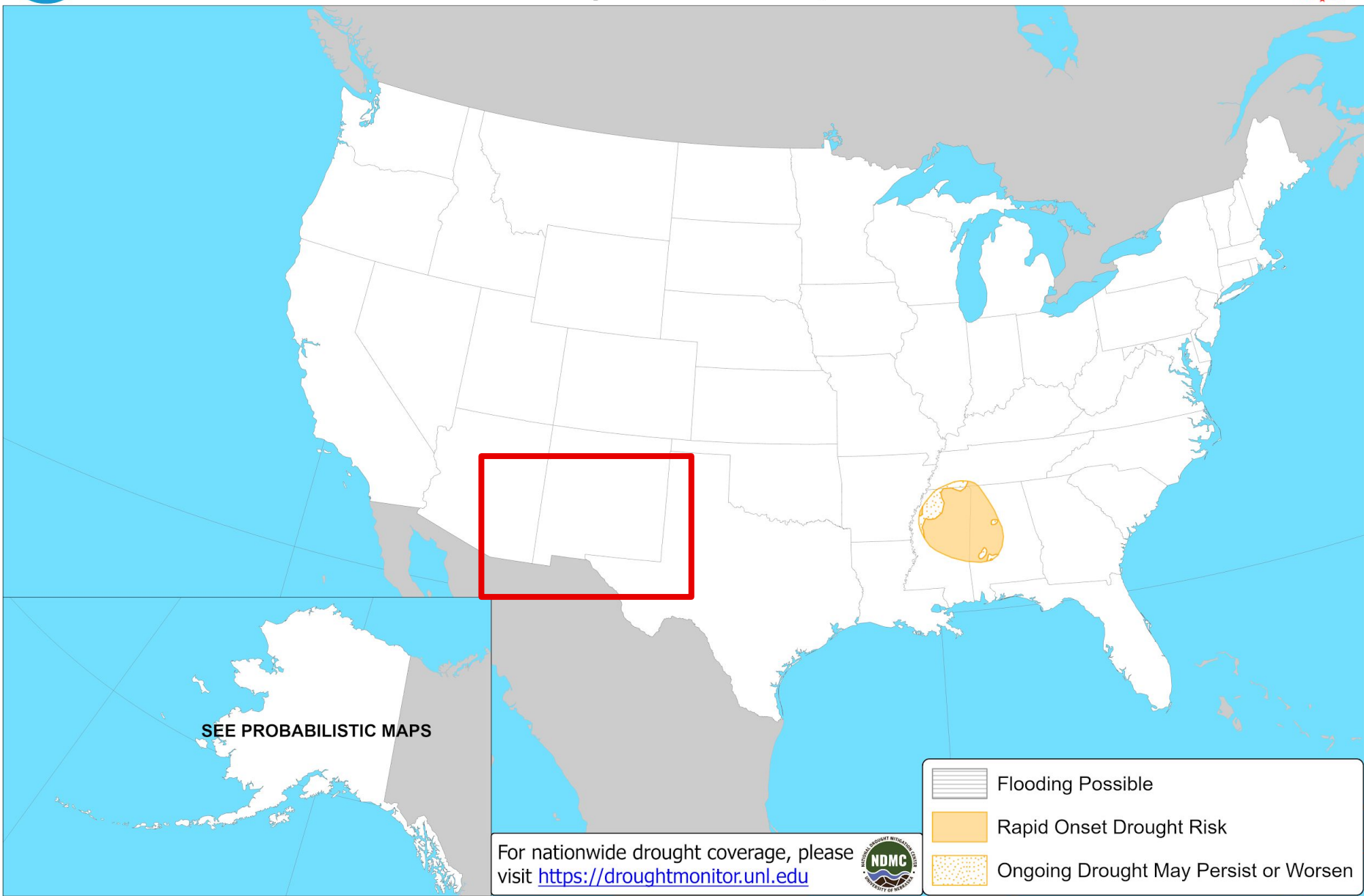
September 4, 2025  
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Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Severe to Extreme 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 autumn season.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook  
Valid: September 12 - 18, 2025



Climate Prediction Center

Released: September 4, 2025 3:00 PM EDT

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Image Caption:

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





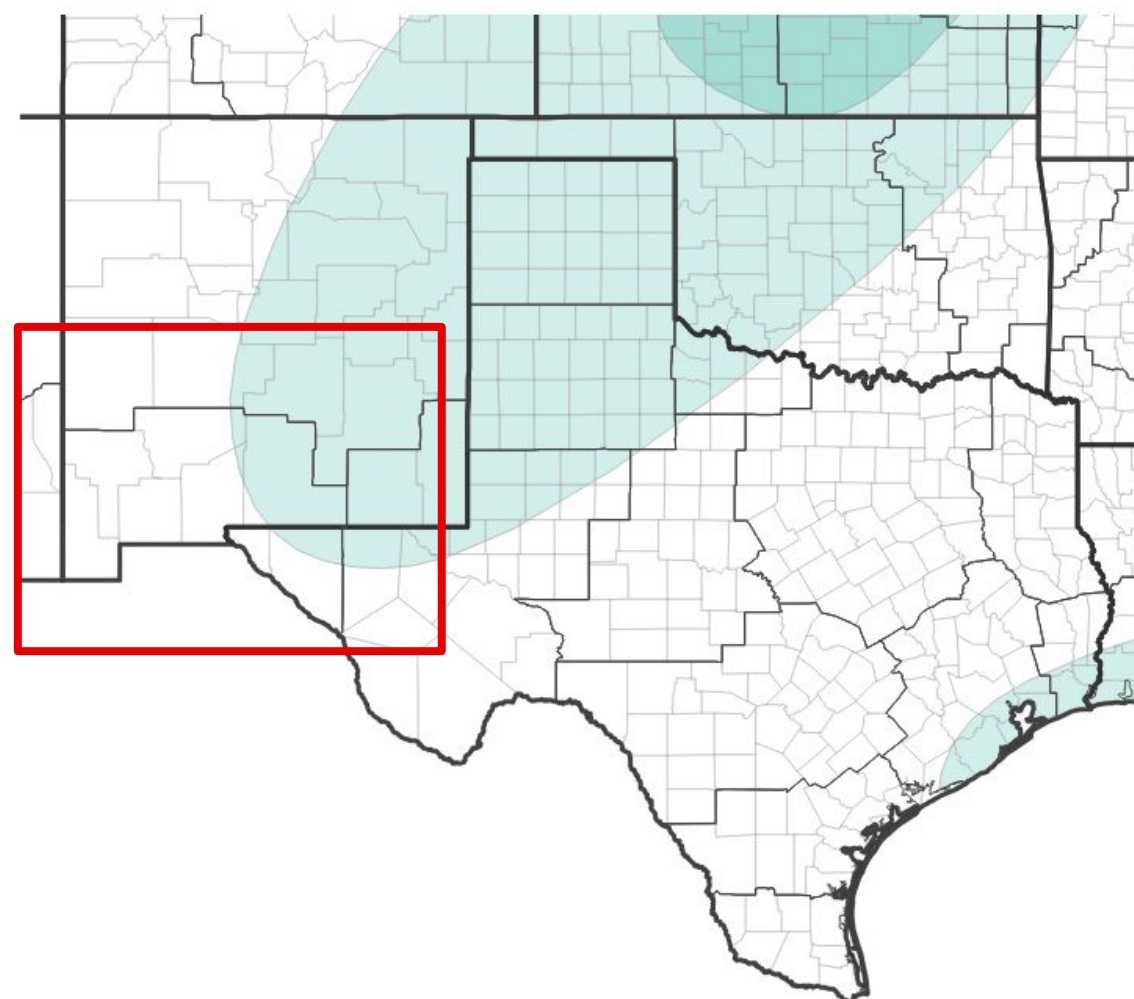
# Long-Range Outlooks

September 4, 2025  
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- 33-40% chance of above normal precipitation for Eastern New Mexico, equal chances leaning near normal elsewhere.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: 1.52"
- Equal chances, leaning near normal temperatures for Southwest New Mexico and Far West Texas
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: 88.3°

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for September 1, 2025–September 30, 2025



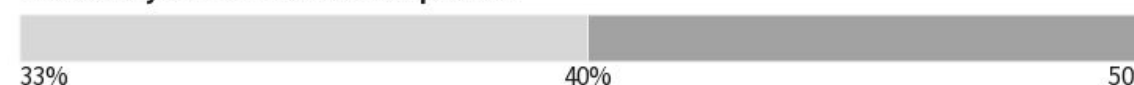
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



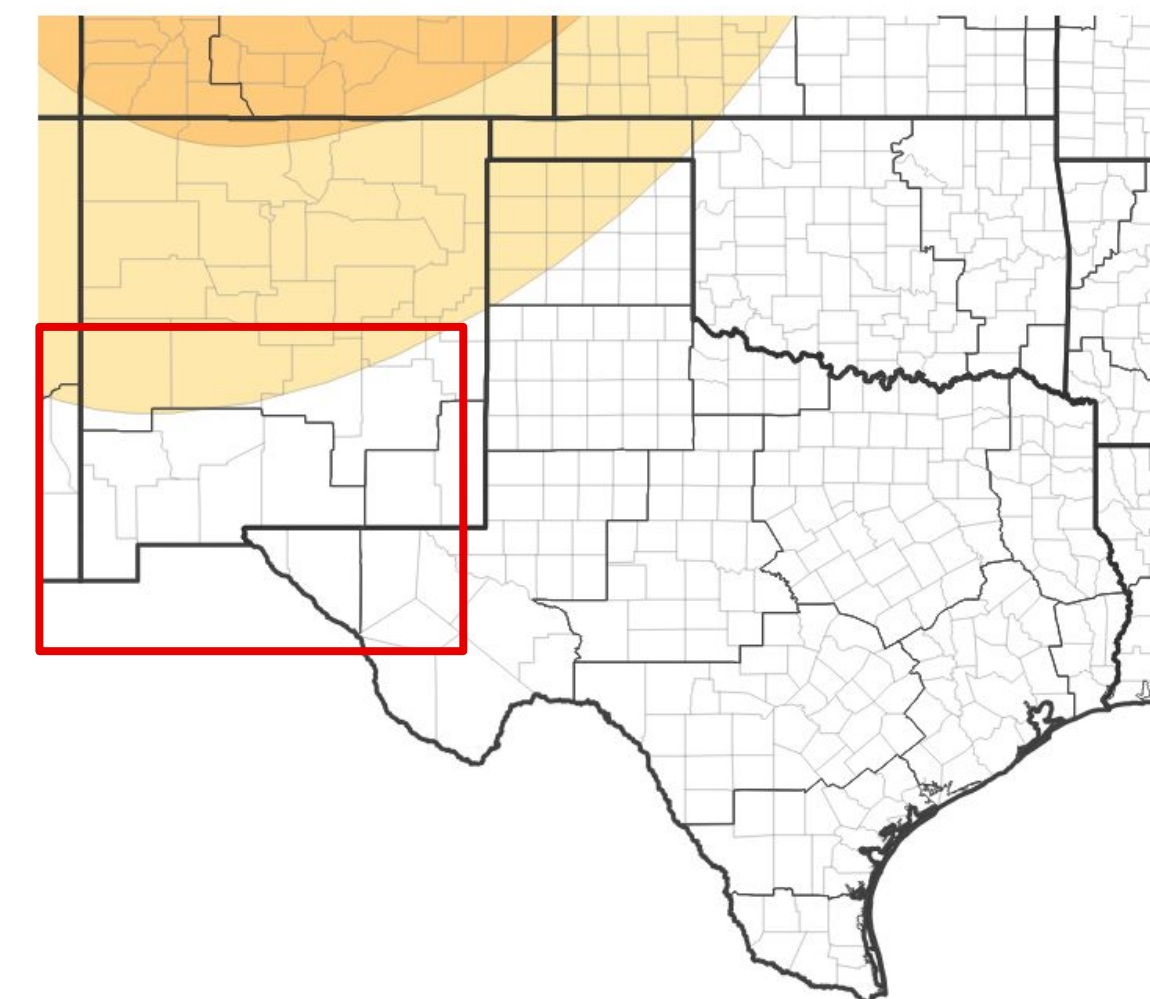
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 08/31/25

Monthly Temperature Outlook for September 1, 2025–September 30, 2025



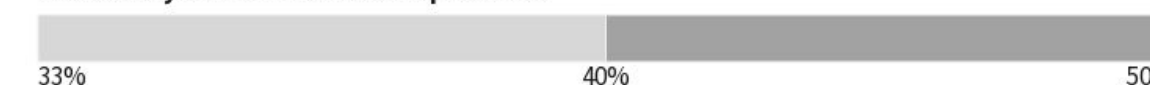
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



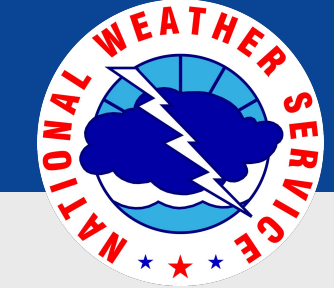
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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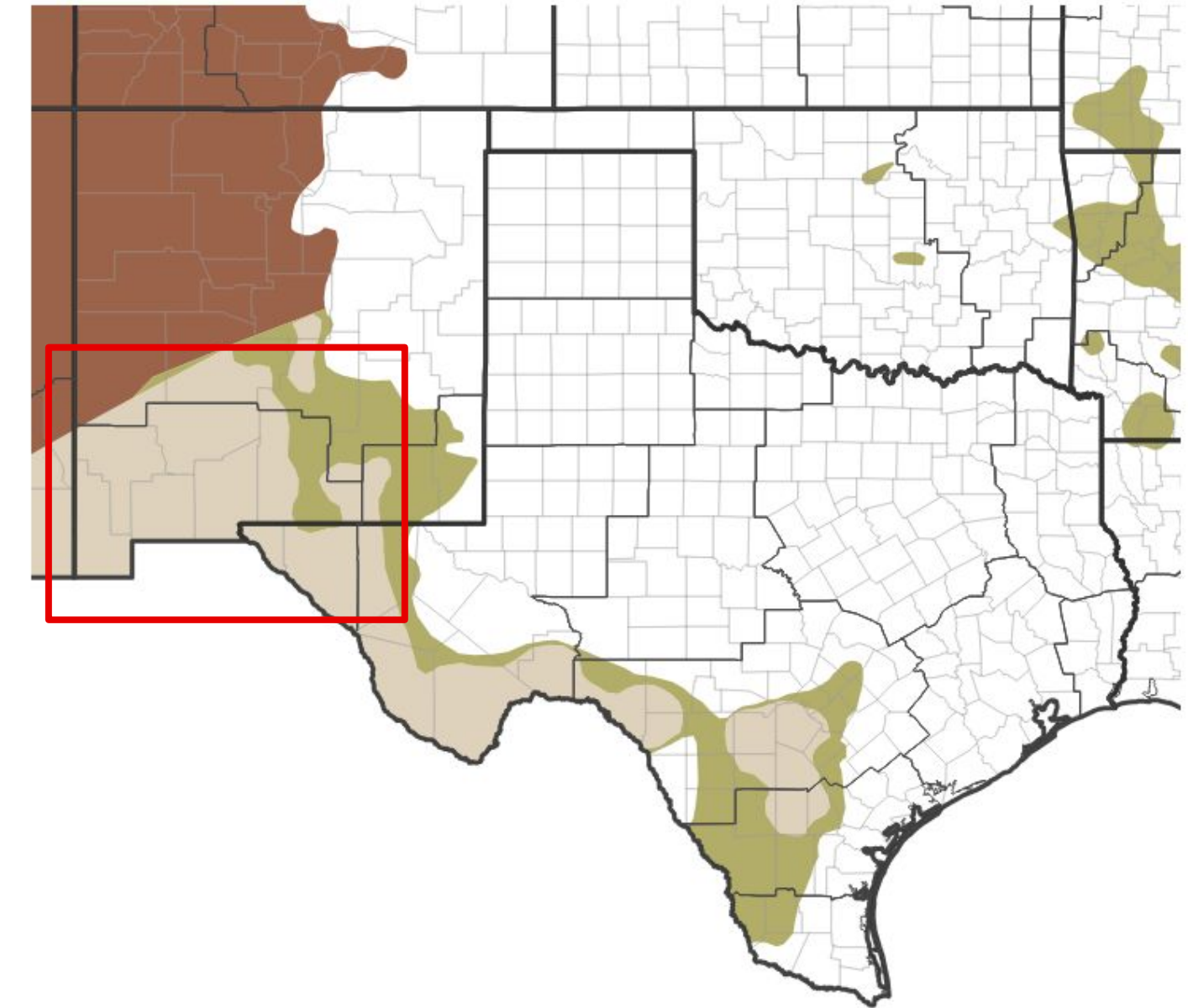
# Drought Outlook

September 4, 2025  
8:49 PM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to improve further in September due to near normal precipitation and temperatures. Thunderstorm rainfall may provide further drought relief.

1-Month Drought Outlook for September 1,  
2025–September 30, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 08/31/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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