



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid September 4, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 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 Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
 - Worsening of drought conditions for Far West Texas due to below normal summer precipitation.
 - Drought conditions expected to improve for much of New Mexico in September due to forecasted above normal precipitation.



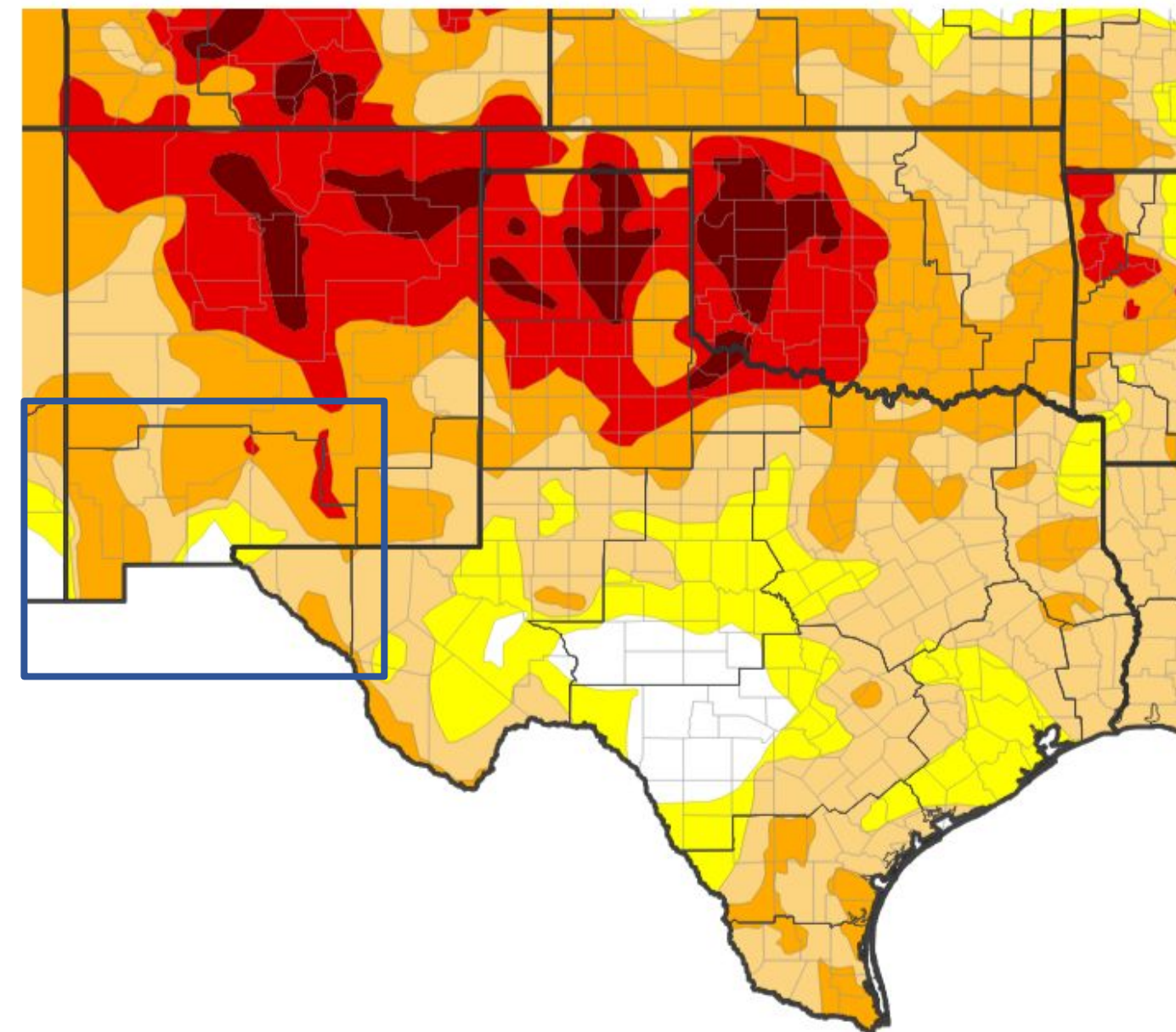


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
Sacramento Mountains east slopes
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Portions of Southern and Southwest New Mexico including Otero, Sierra, Grant, Luna, 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

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/01/26



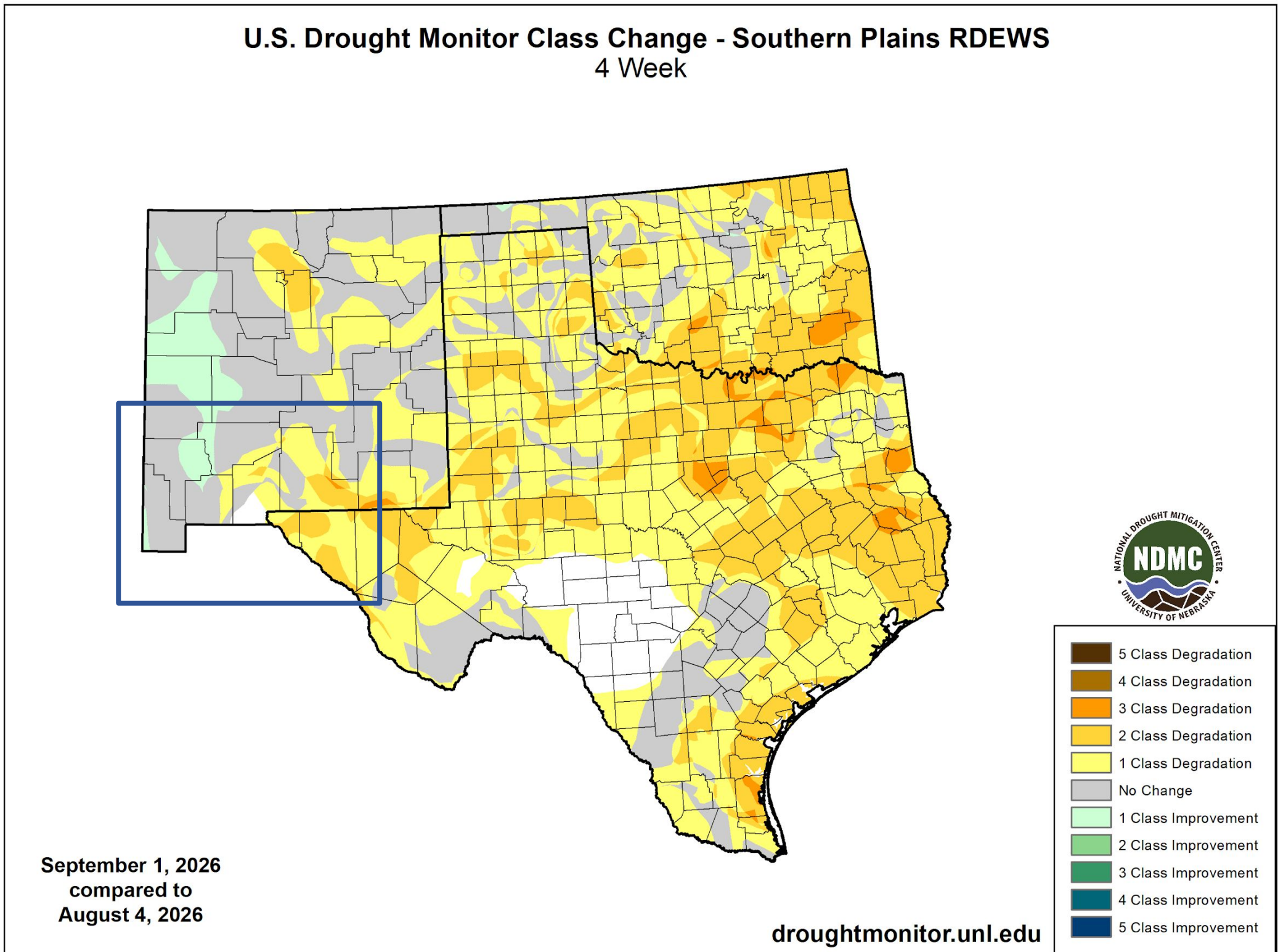
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

September 4, 2026
2:46 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:**
Far West Texas, including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties
Portions of South-Central New Mexico including Dona Ana and Otero Counties
- **Drought Improved:**
Portions of Southwest New Mexico including Grant County and the Black Range
- **No Change:**
Portions of Southwest New Mexico





Precipitation

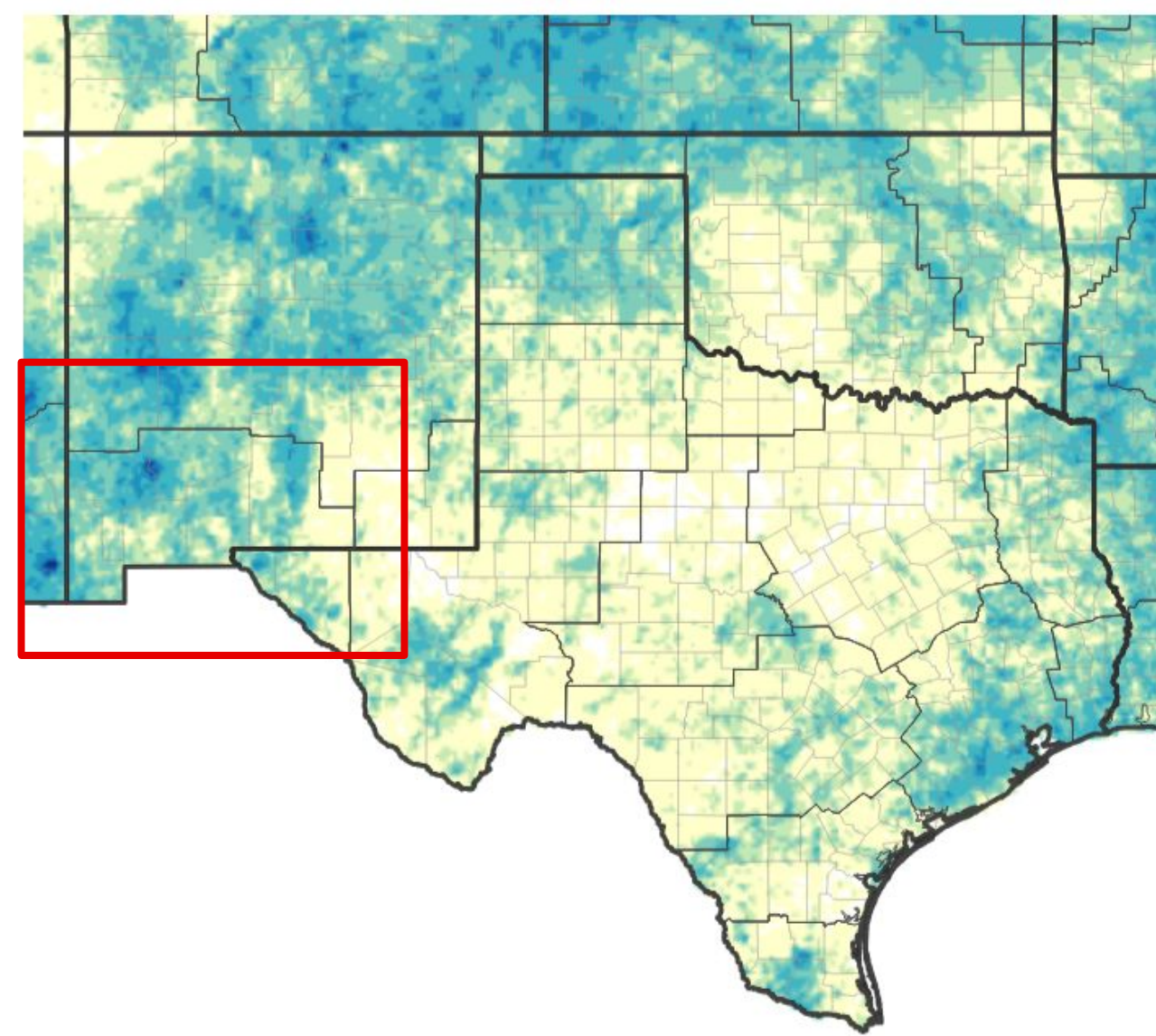
September 4, 2026
2:46 AM

30-day precip totals:
0.50-2.00" for desert
lowlands. **2.00-4.00"** over
mountain forests.

90-day precip totals:
2.00-6.00" for desert
lowlands. **4.00-10.00"** over
mountain forests.

Below normal August
precipitation **50-75%** for most
of Southern New Mexico and
Far West Texas. Highly
variable precipitation, with
localized areas of heavy
precipitation.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

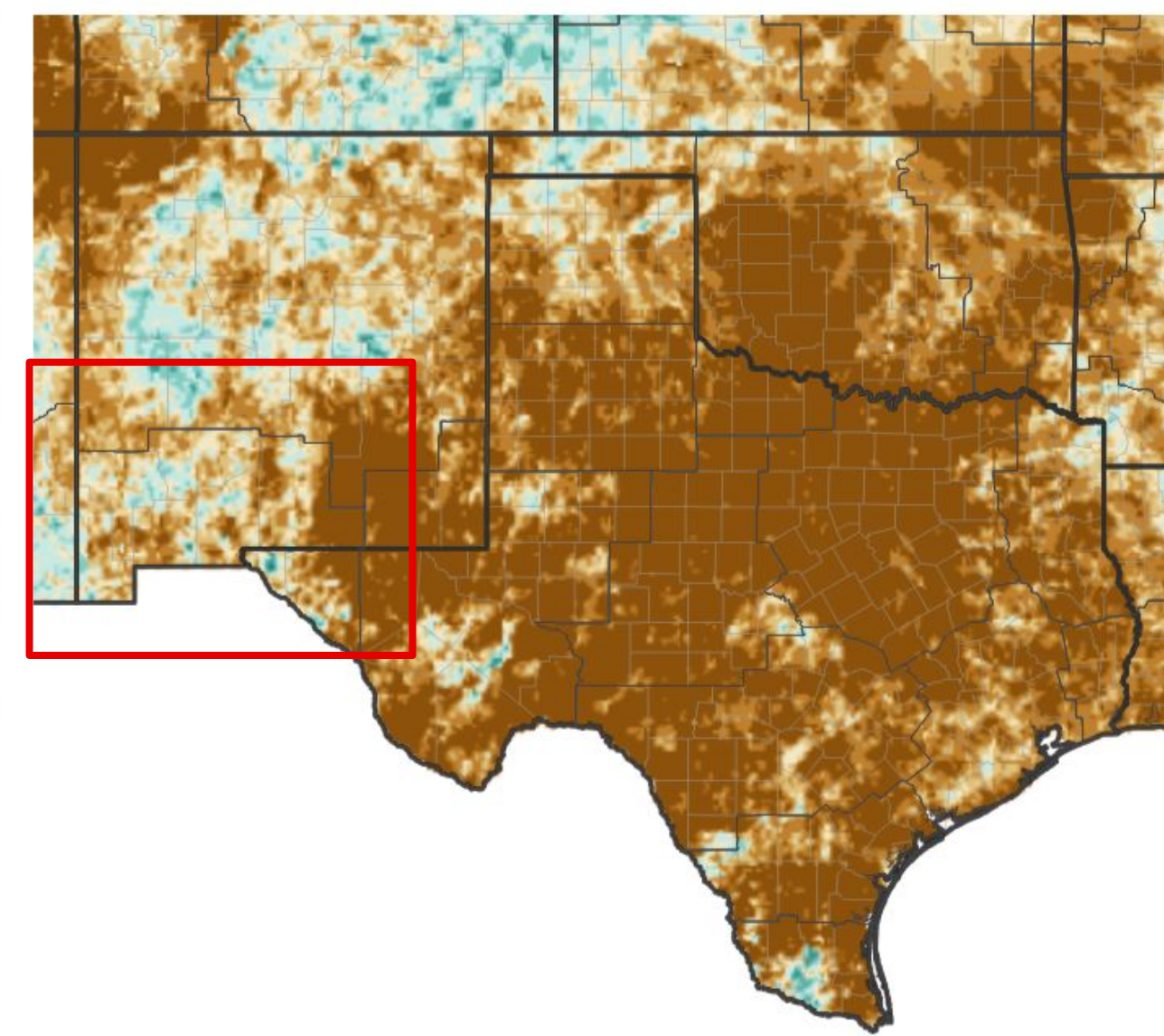


Inches of Precipitation

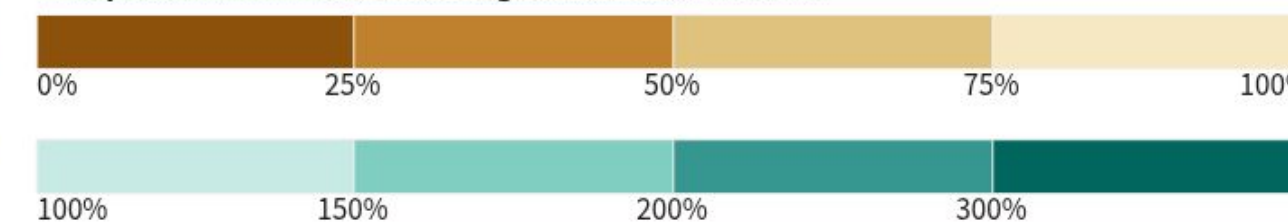


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 09/01/26

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: 09/01/26



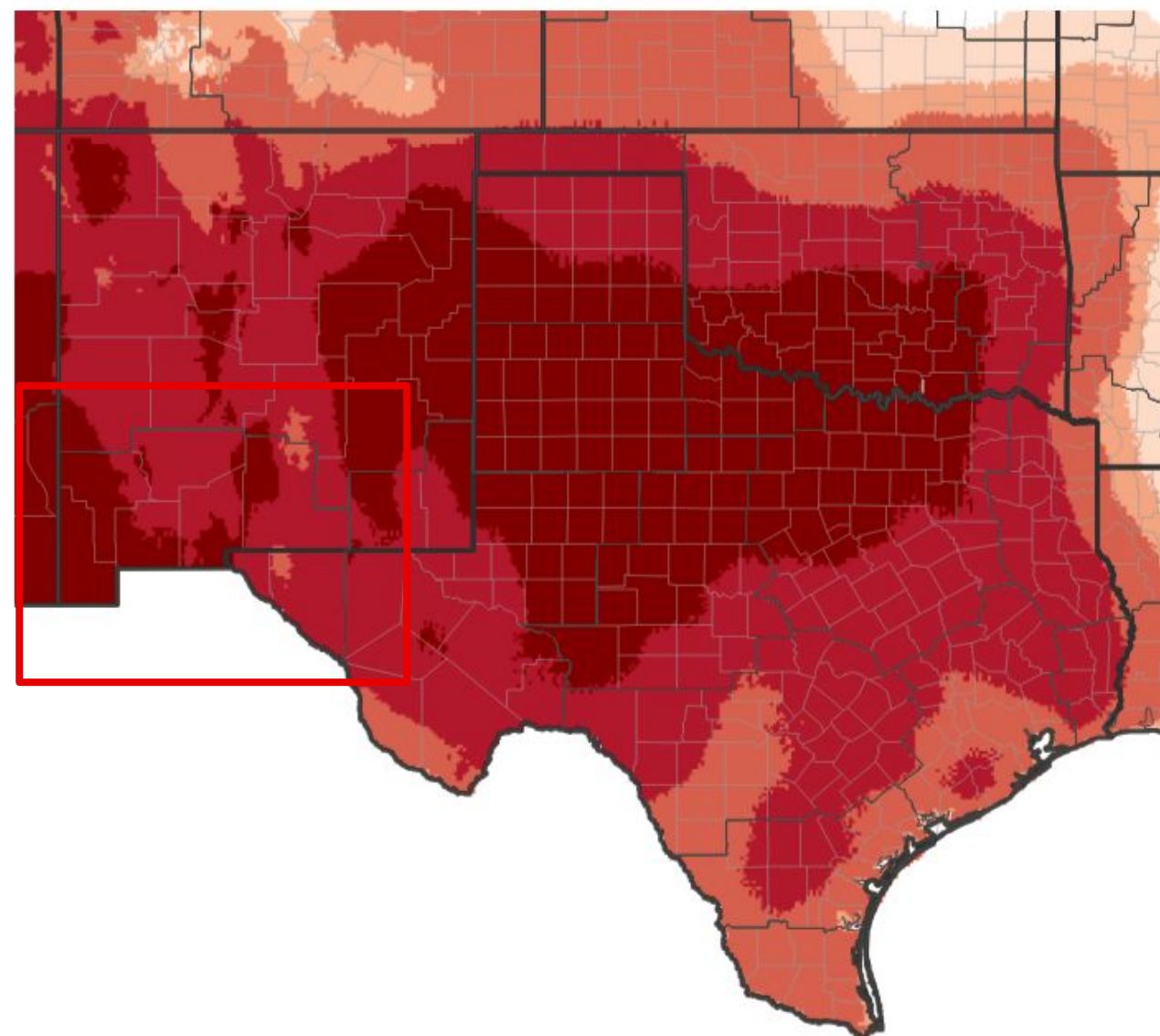


Temperature

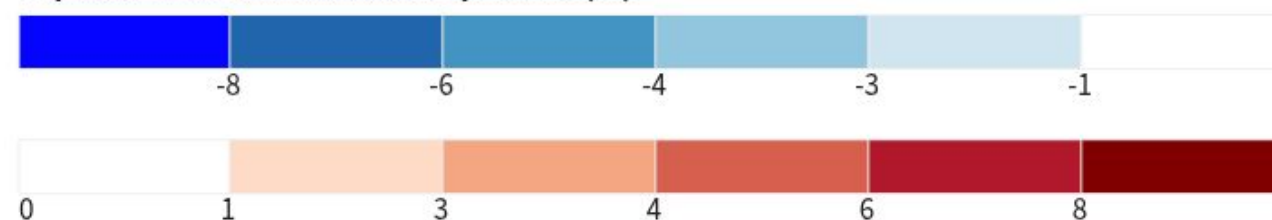
September 4, 2026
2:46 AM

- Above normal August temperatures for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- 30-day high temperatures **4-6 degrees** above normal
- August mean average temperature **4.0°F** above normal at El Paso International (KELP). 6th hottest August on record.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



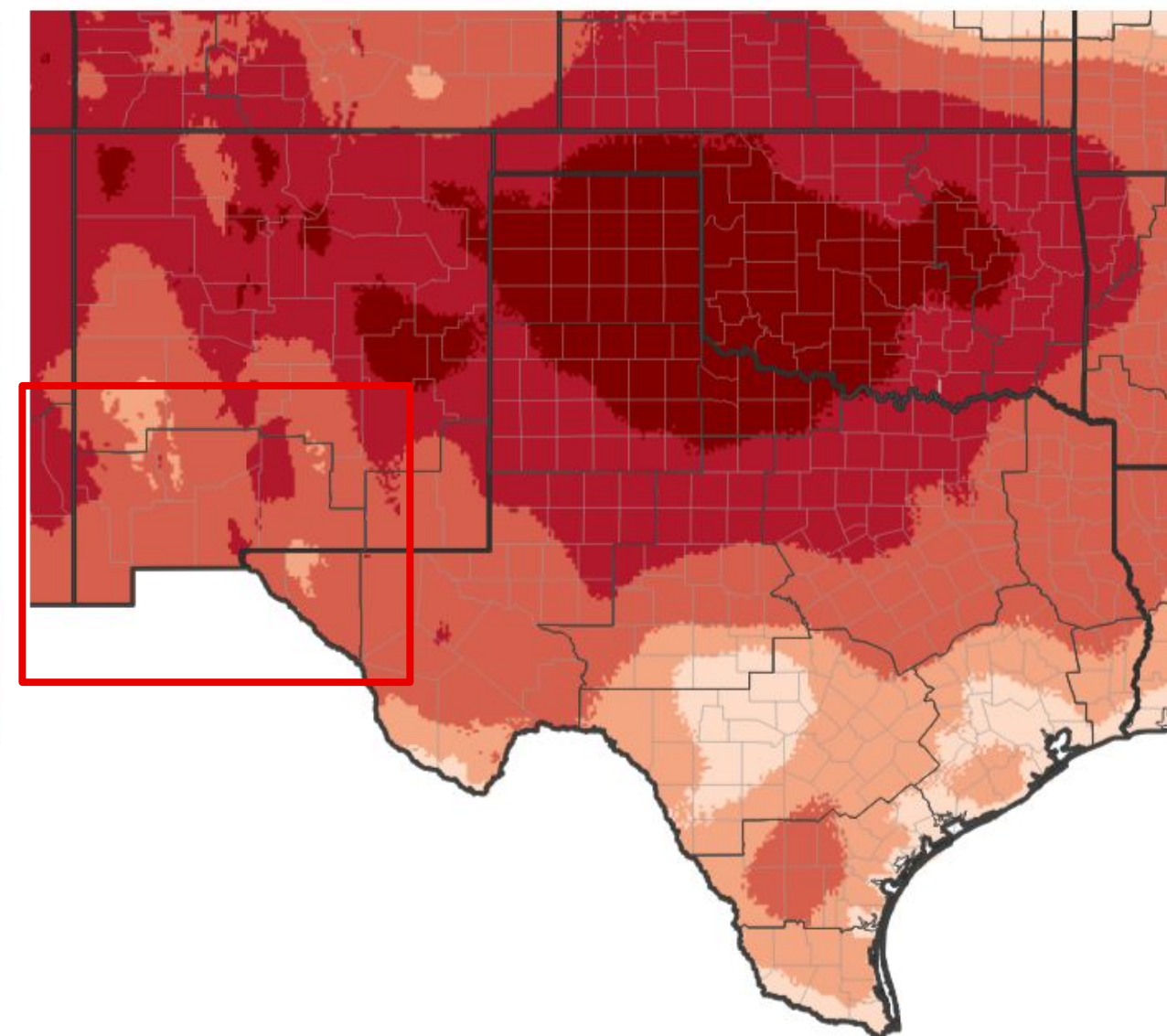
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



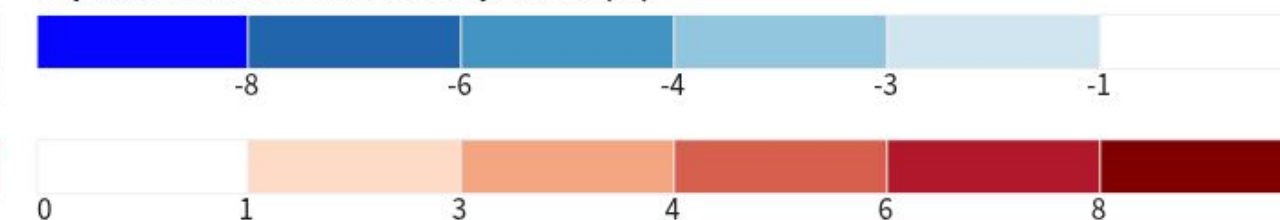
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/30/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



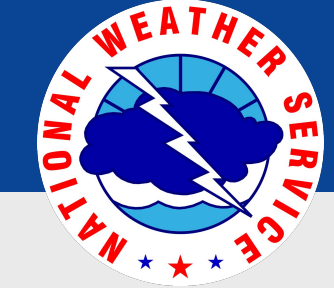
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 08/30/26





Summary of Impacts

September 4, 2026
2:46 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 across Western New Mexico. Rio Grande downstream of Caballo Dam has run dry for the season. Mimbres River is near normal for the end of summer, with sudden increases in August due to thunderstorms. Elephant Butte storage at 1.4% capacity, the same as last month and near the historical 30-year minimum. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is below normal following a summer of below normal precipitation. Outlook leans to near normal precipitation in September, which could improve soil moisture conditions headed into the harvest season. 2026 Rio Grande irrigation season surface water allotment ended at 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

- Fire season has ended for Southern New Mexico after a summer of rain. This monsoon season's below normal precipitation has kept ERCs above normal for August. Small lightning starts will be possible in September, but large fire growth is not expected. Light winds will keep fire weather conditions low through the month.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

September 4, 2026
2:46 AM

- Gila River had a few spikes due to heavy rain in August, but has trended lower over the past 60 days. Streamflow remains well below normal for the end of summer. Rio Grande below Caballo Dam has run dry for the season.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	0.83 ft	11.00 ft	24 ft ³ /s
Redrock	3.78 ft	20.00 ft	13 ft ³ /s
Virden	3.61 ft	15.00 ft	10 ft ³ /s

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft	0 ft ³ /s

Gauge data recorded on 9/4/2026

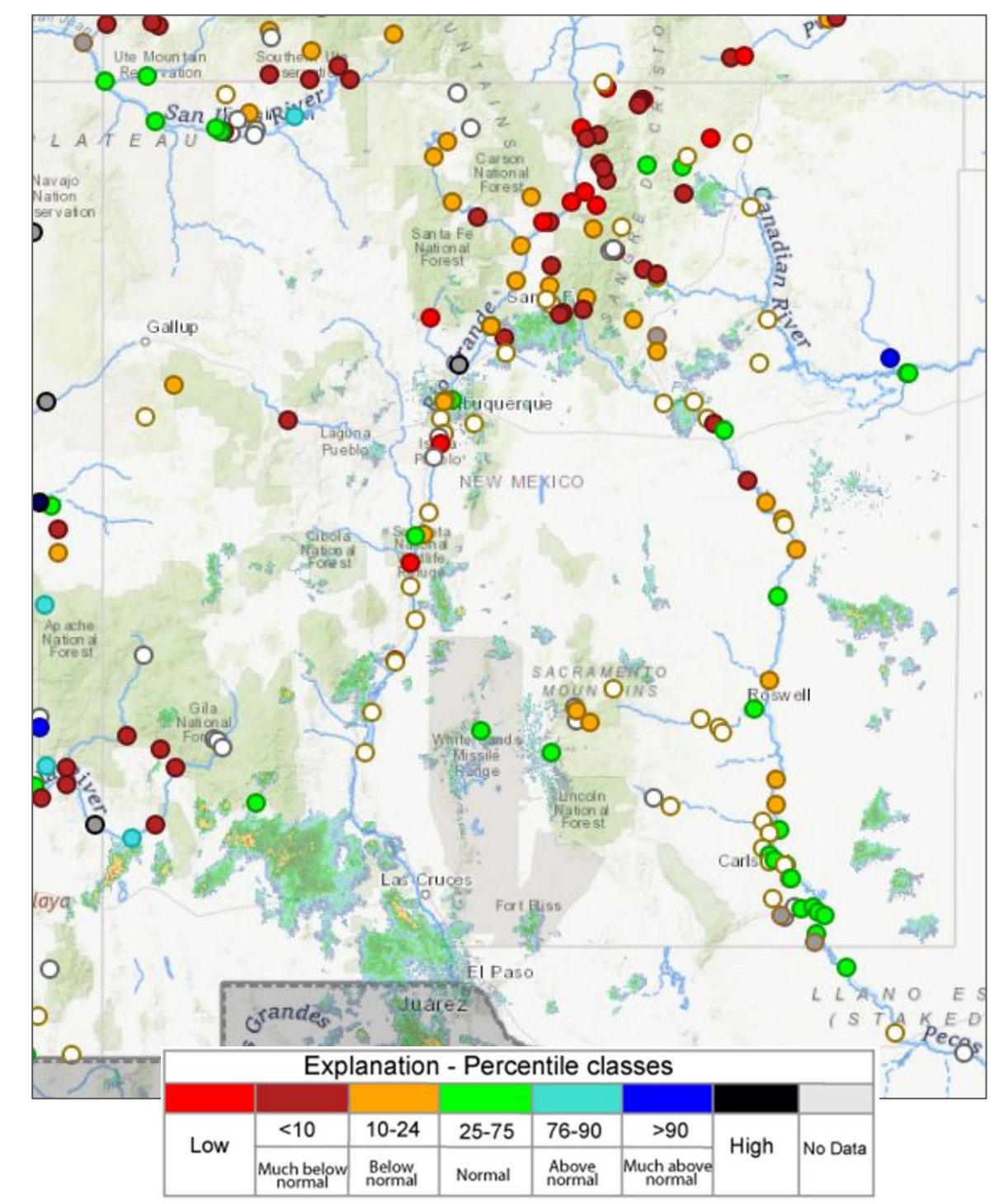
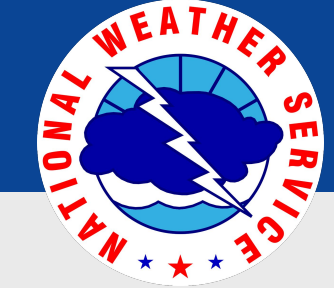


Image Caption: USGS 7 day Streamflow Status valid September 4, 2026

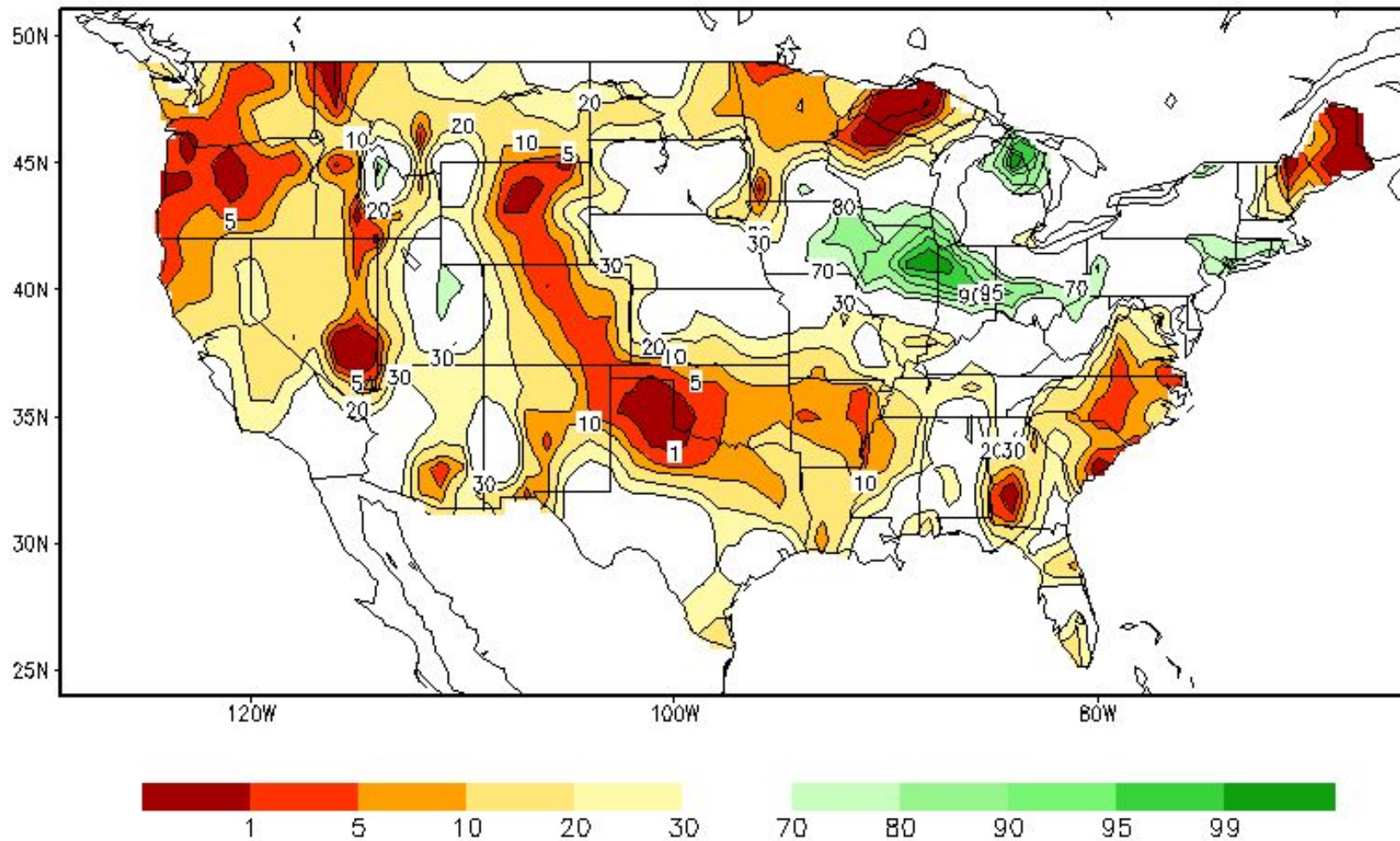




Agricultural Impacts

September 4, 2026
2:46 AM

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 02, 2026



Drought Severity Index
Value for the August 23 - 29, 2026
Long Term Palmer

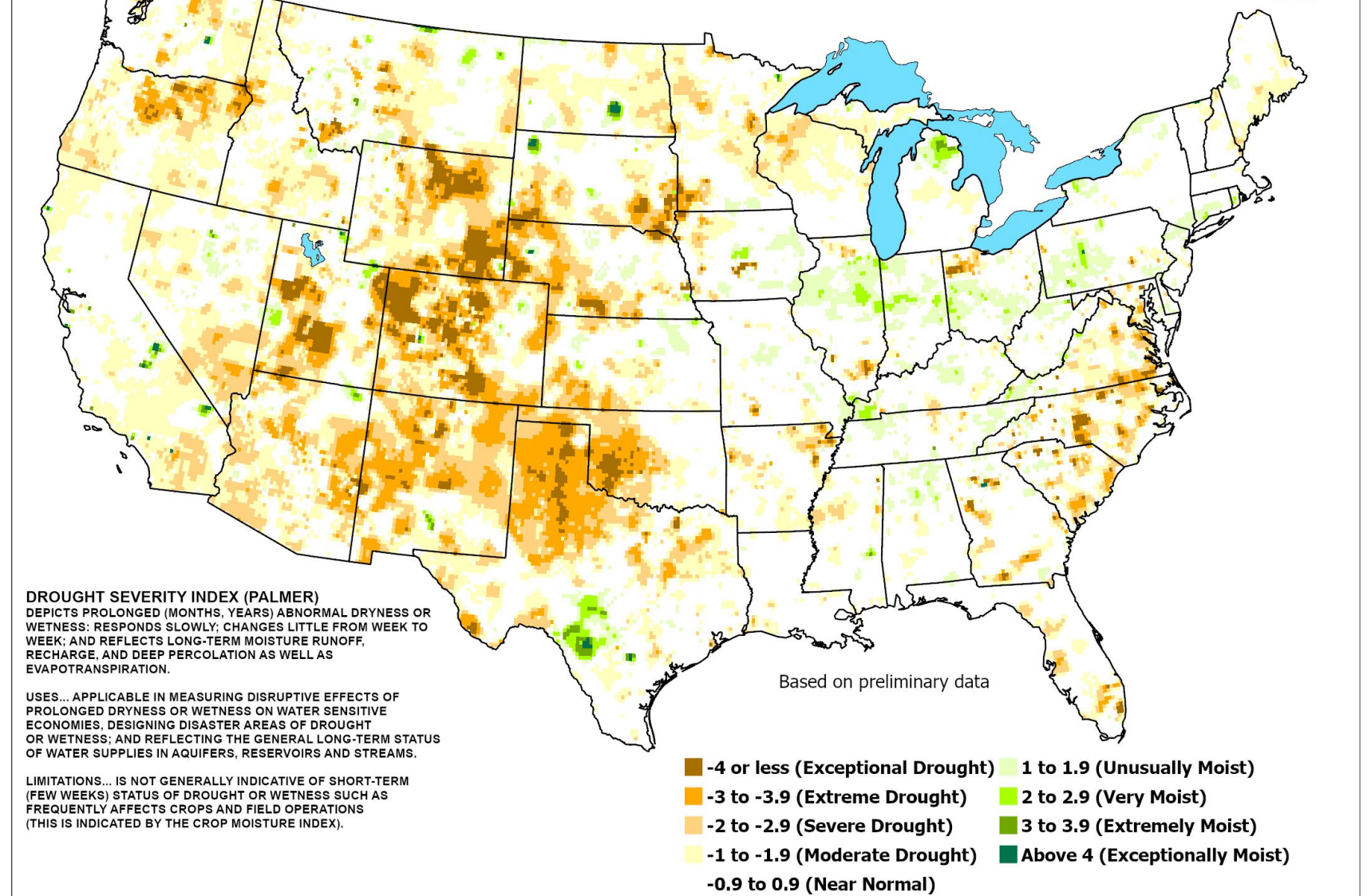


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 2, 2026

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#) valid August 23-29, 2026



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

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX



Fire Hazard Impacts

September 4, 2026
2:46 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](#)

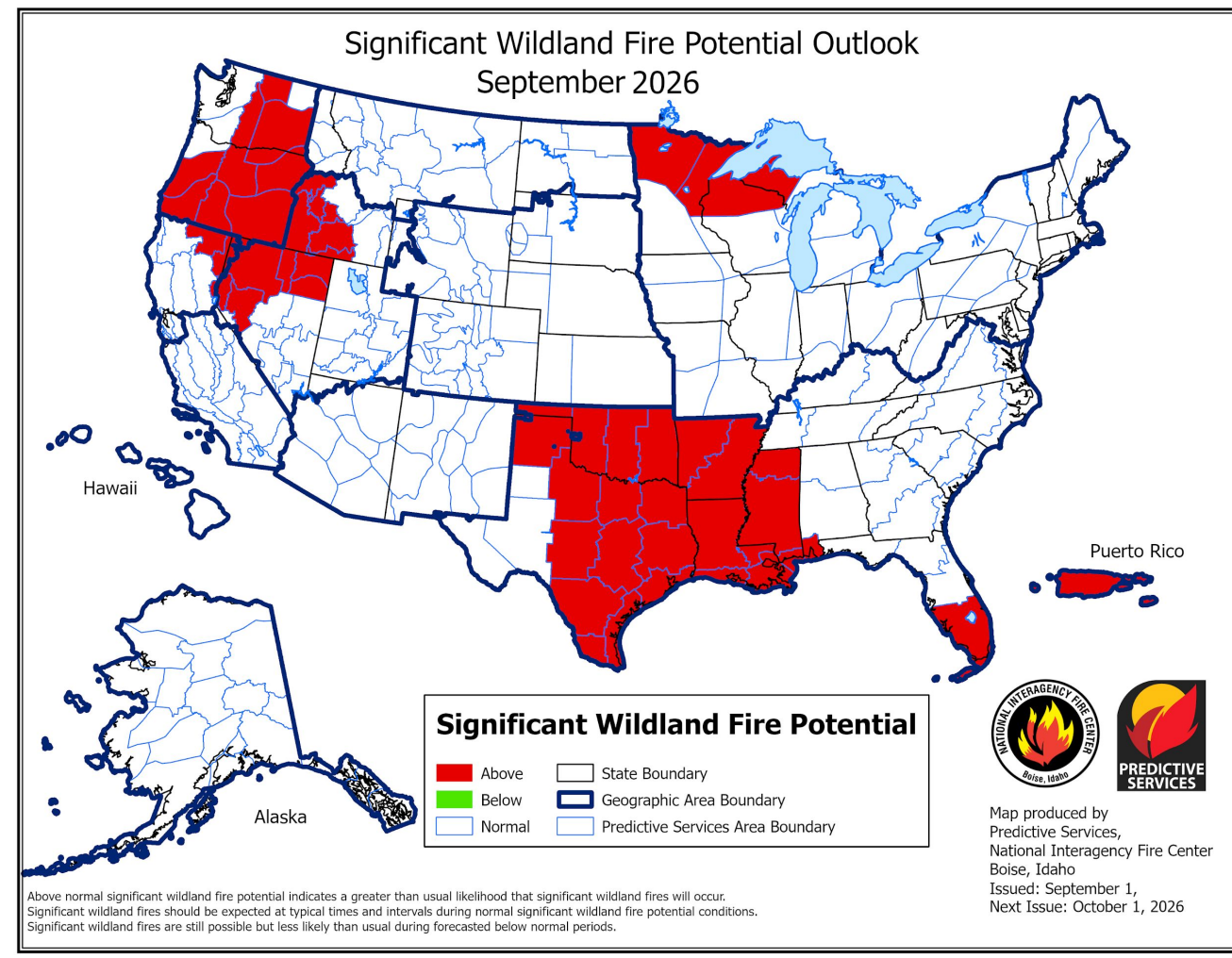
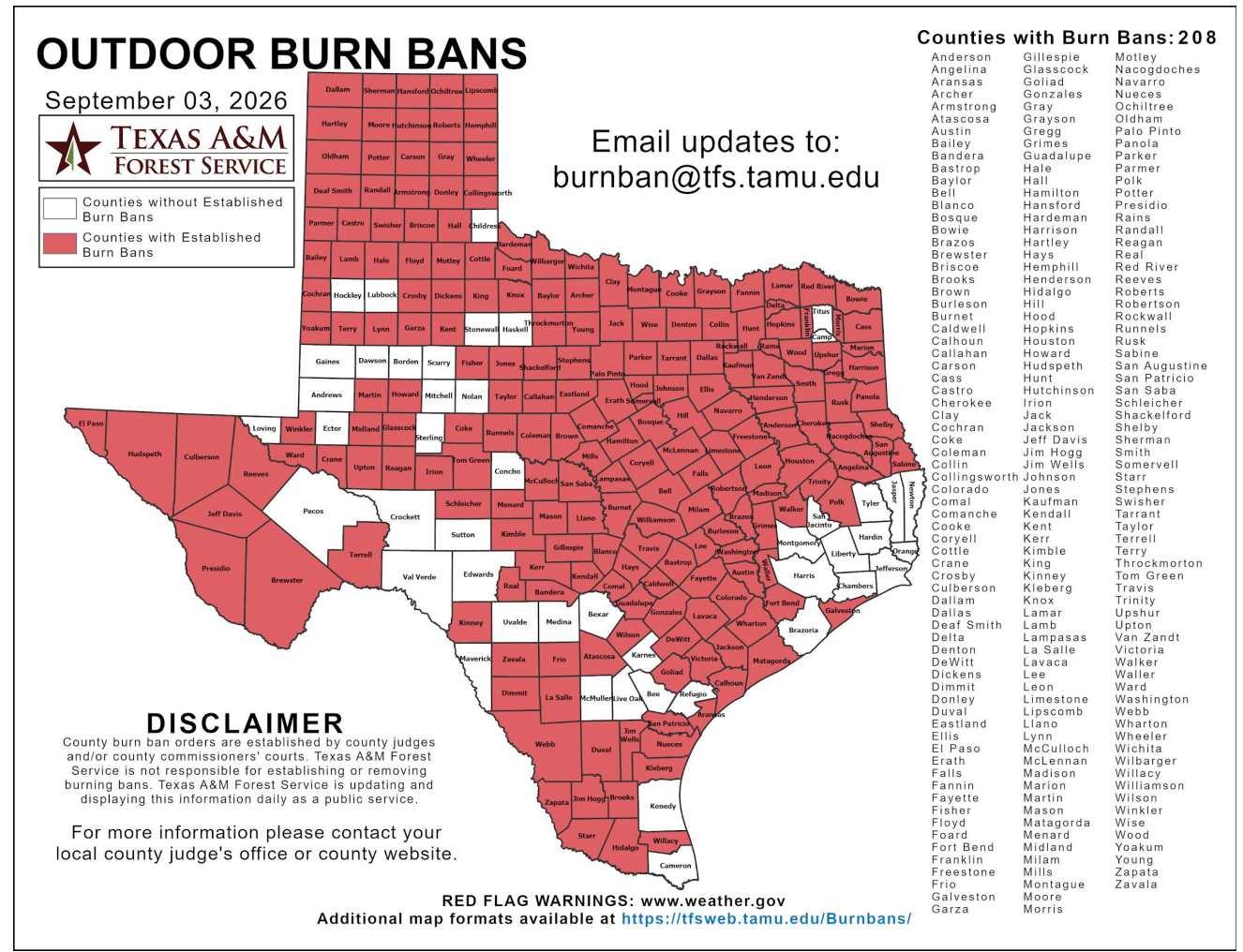


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for September 2026



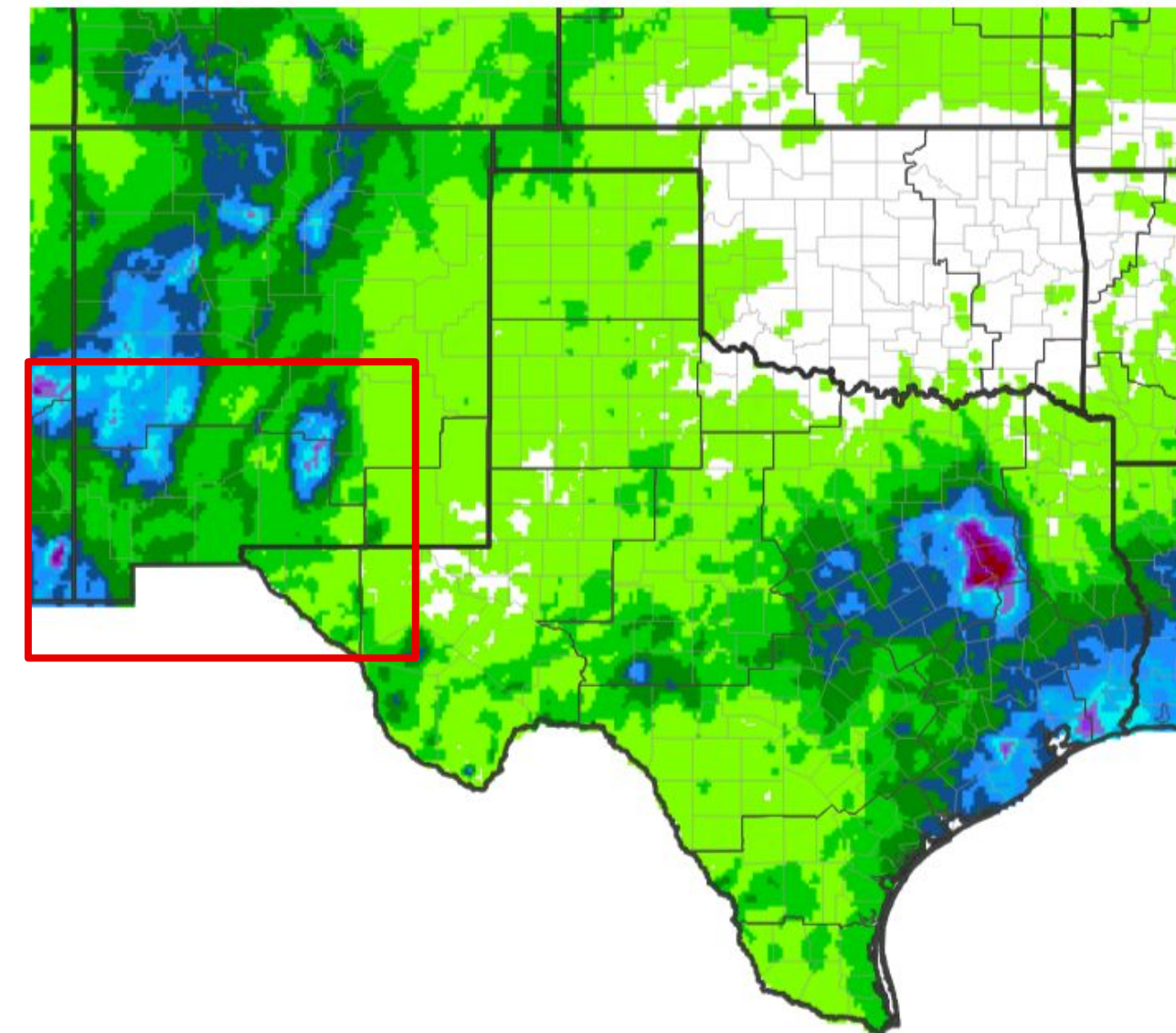


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

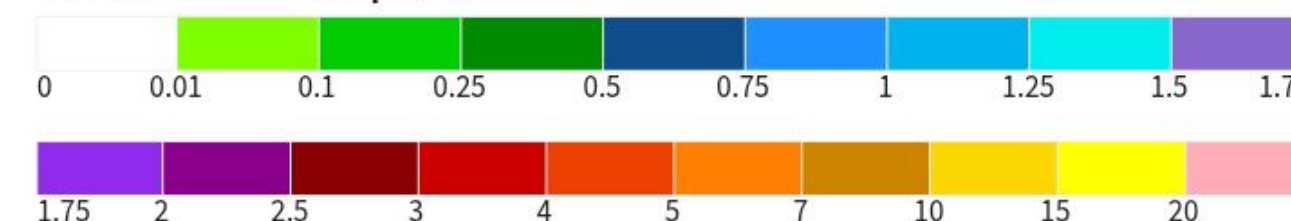
September 4, 2026
2:46 AM

- Scattered showers and thunderstorms expected area-wide through most of early September. Localized flash flooding is possible, especially across the high elevations and Western New Mexico. Precipitation outlook leans toward near to above normal for September, which may help improve drought conditions. Monsoon season is expected to end in early October, followed by a drier autumn season.
- 2026 yearly precipitation totals are on track to finish above normal after an overall wet June.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September
3, 2026–September 10, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center: image Last Updated: 09/03/26



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

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

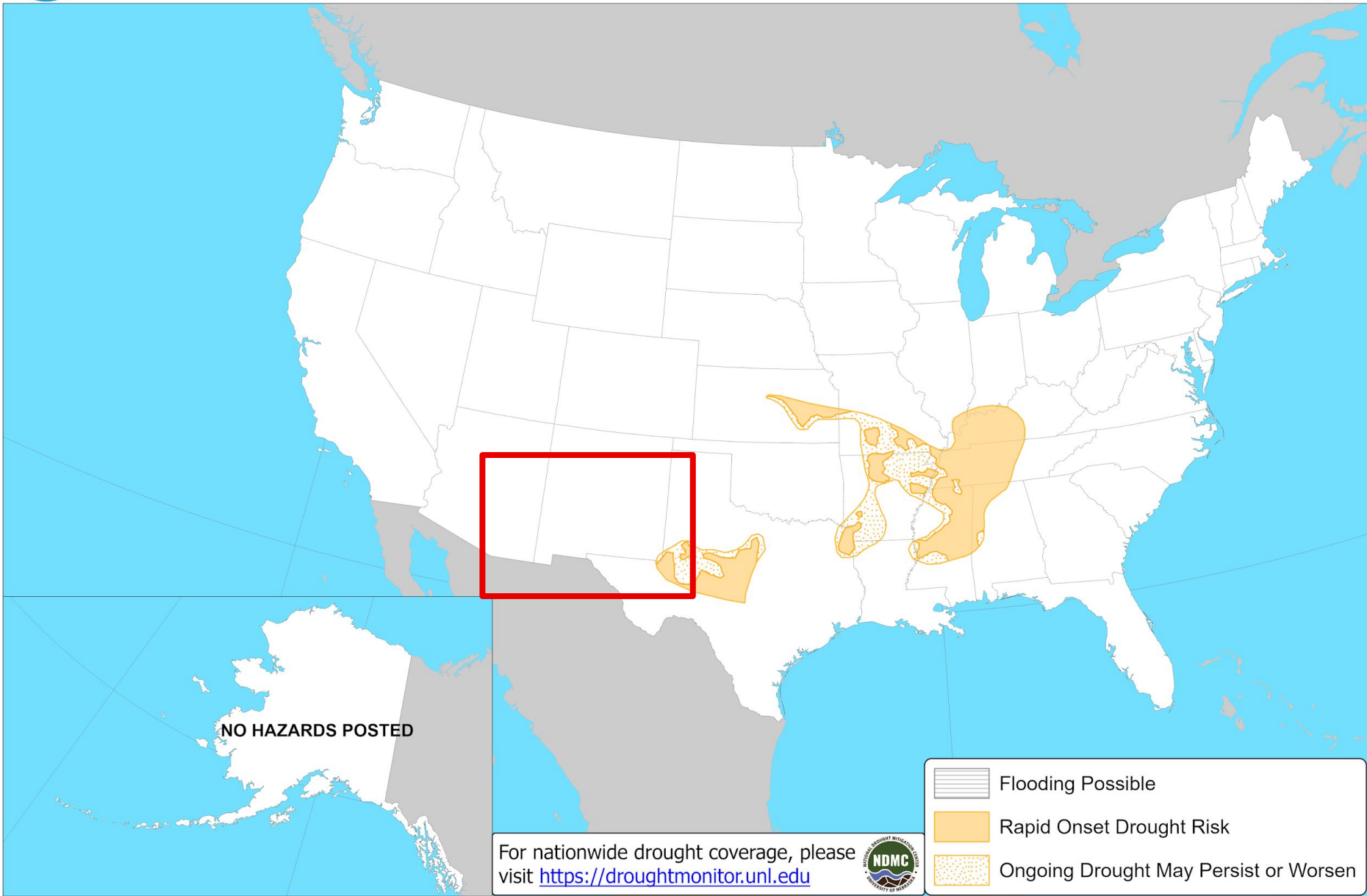
September 4, 2026
2:46 AM

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 Far West Texas and Southern New Mexico. Rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to improve through the autumn season.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: September 11 - 17, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: September 3, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

Image Caption:

[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid September 11-17





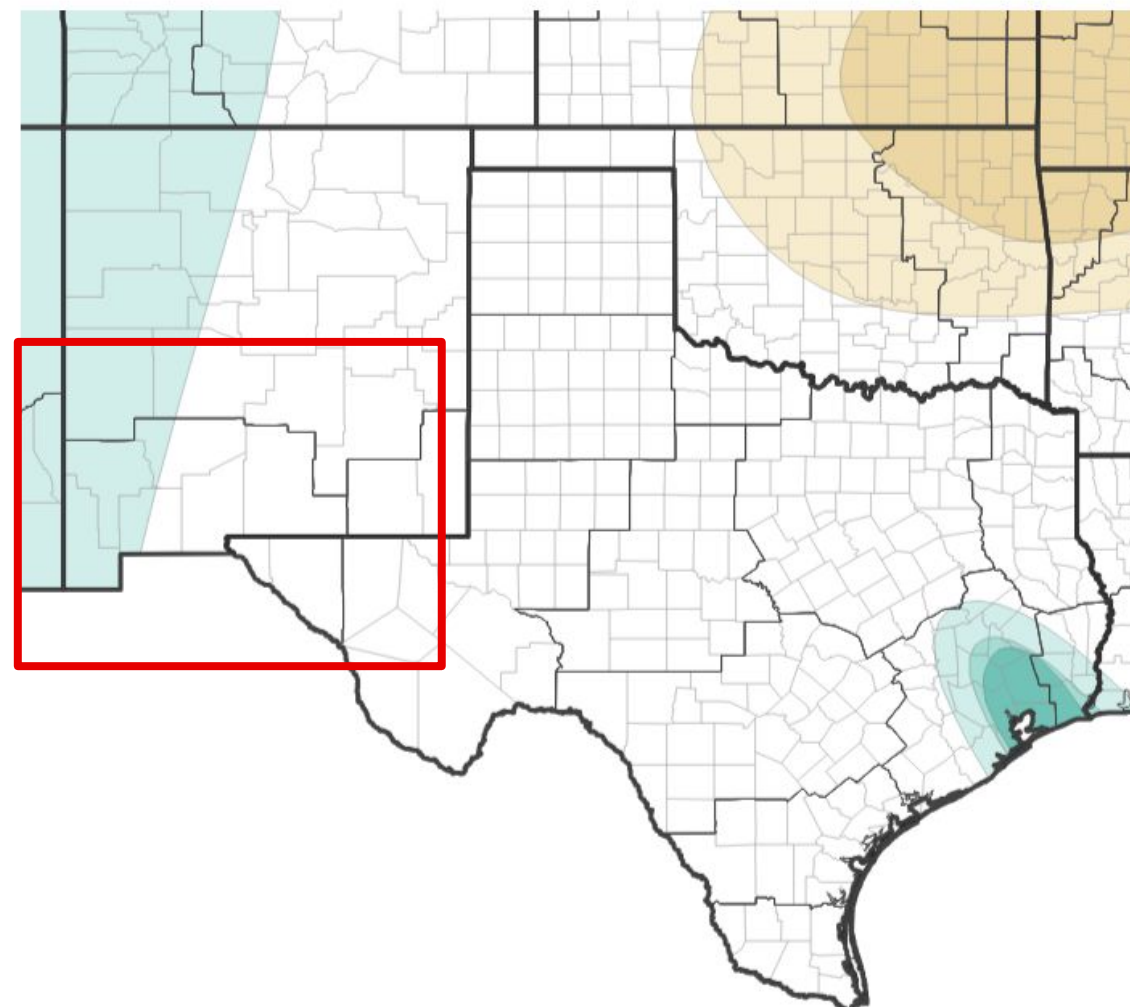
Long-Range Outlooks

September 4, 2026
2:46 AM

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

- **33-40%** chance for above normal precipitation for Western New Mexico, Equal Chances elsewhere.
- September monthly average precipitation for El Paso: **1.52"**
- **40-50%** chance of above normal temperatures for Western New Mexico, **50-60%** chance of above normal temperatures for Far West Texas.
- September monthly average high temperature for El Paso: **88.3°**

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



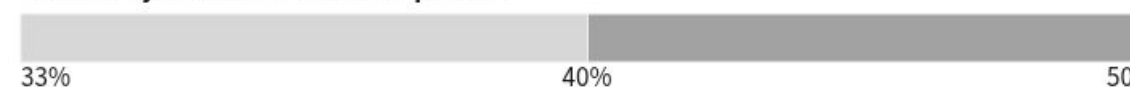
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



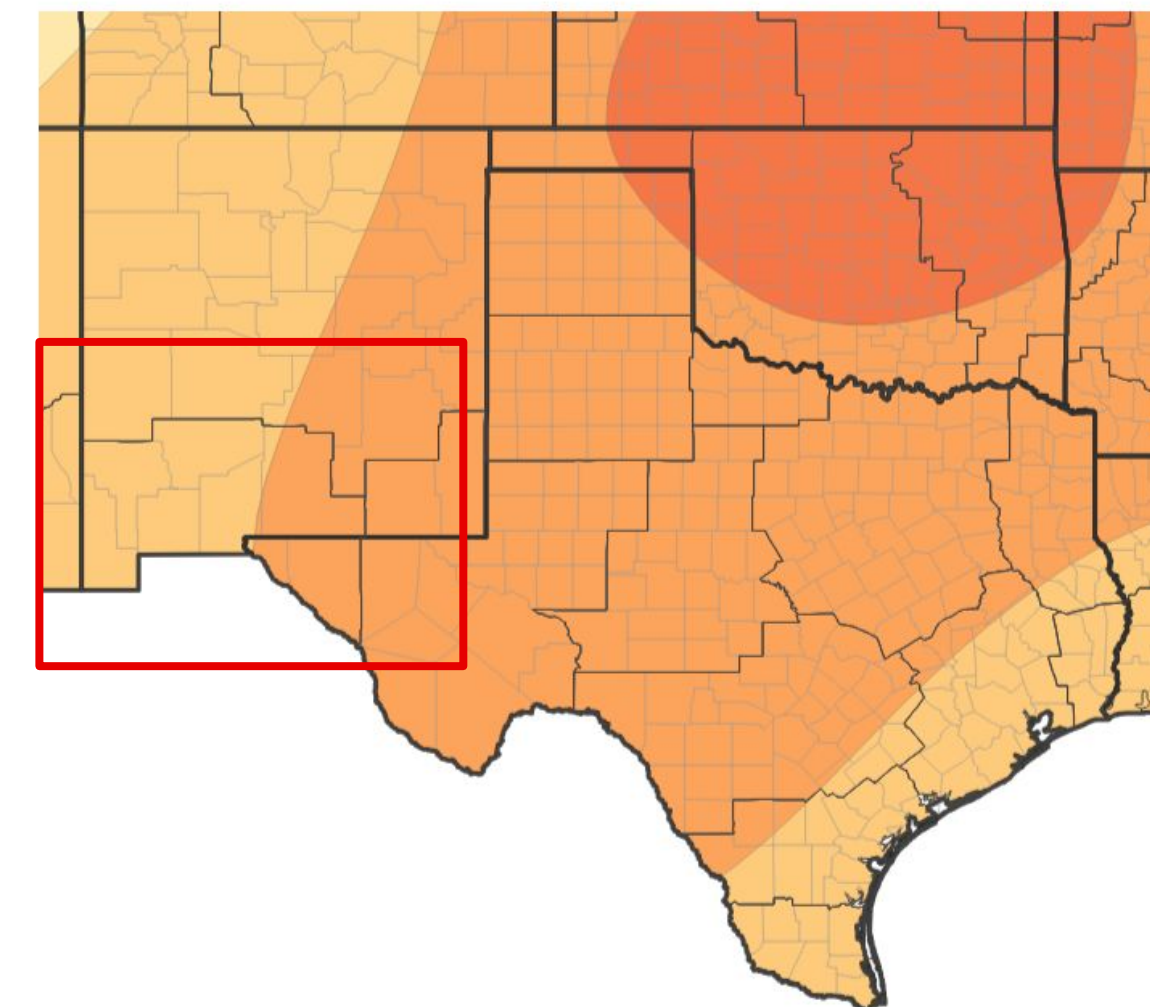
Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



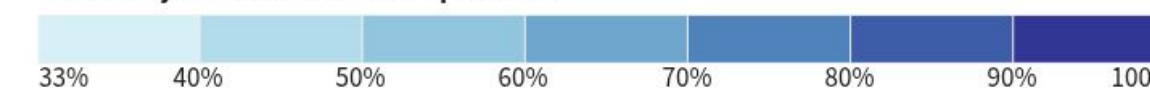
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures





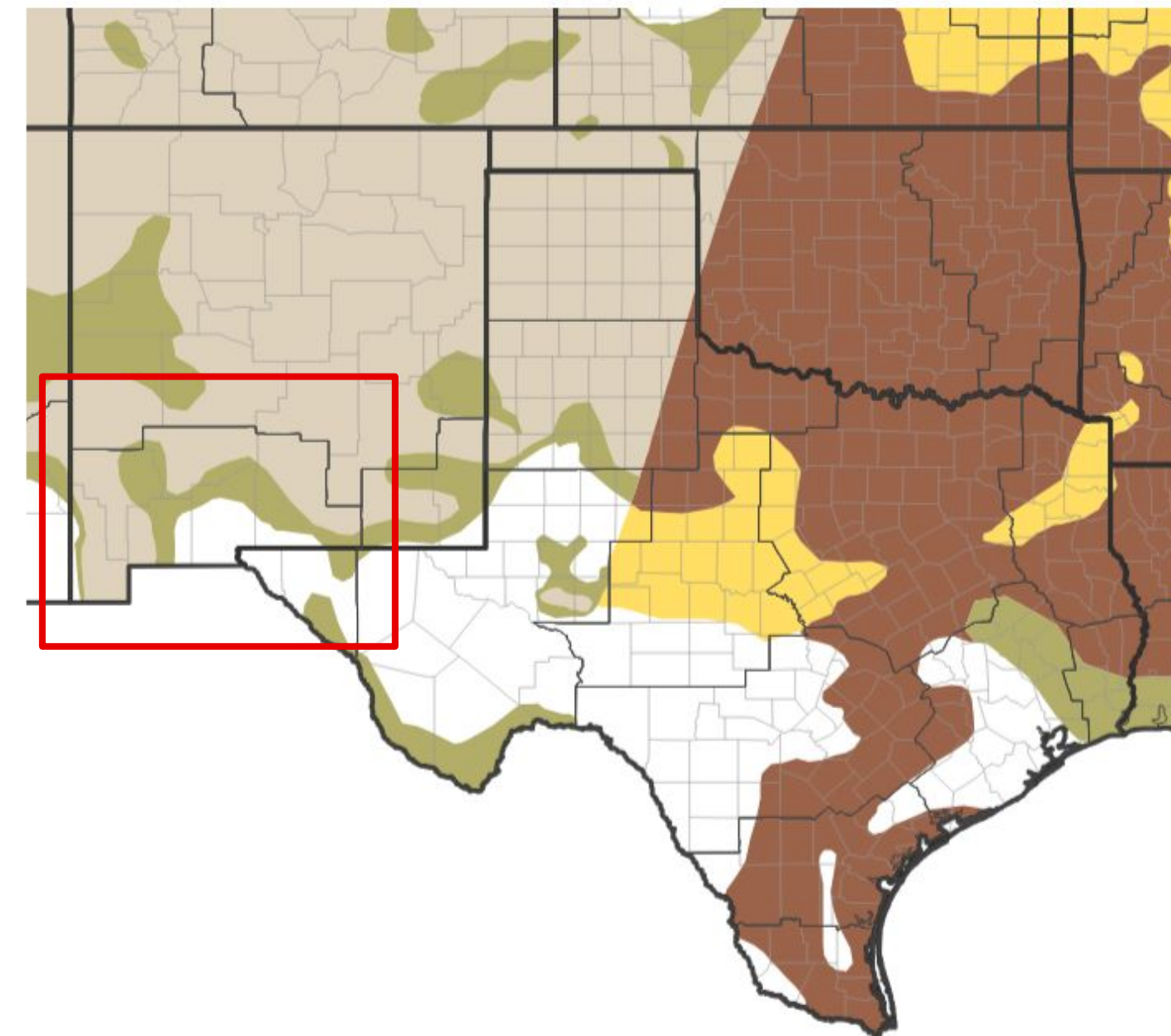
Drought Outlook

September 4, 2026
2:46 AM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to improve across most of New Mexico and Far West Texas through September. Precipitation forecast leaning near to above normal.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 31,
2026–November 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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