



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid October 3, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated November 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.
 - Recent heavy rain will improve drought conditions considerably in the coming weeks. Full removal of drought status for some locations.
 - Outlook leans toward above normal precipitation in October, with further drought improvement expected.





U.S. Drought Monitor

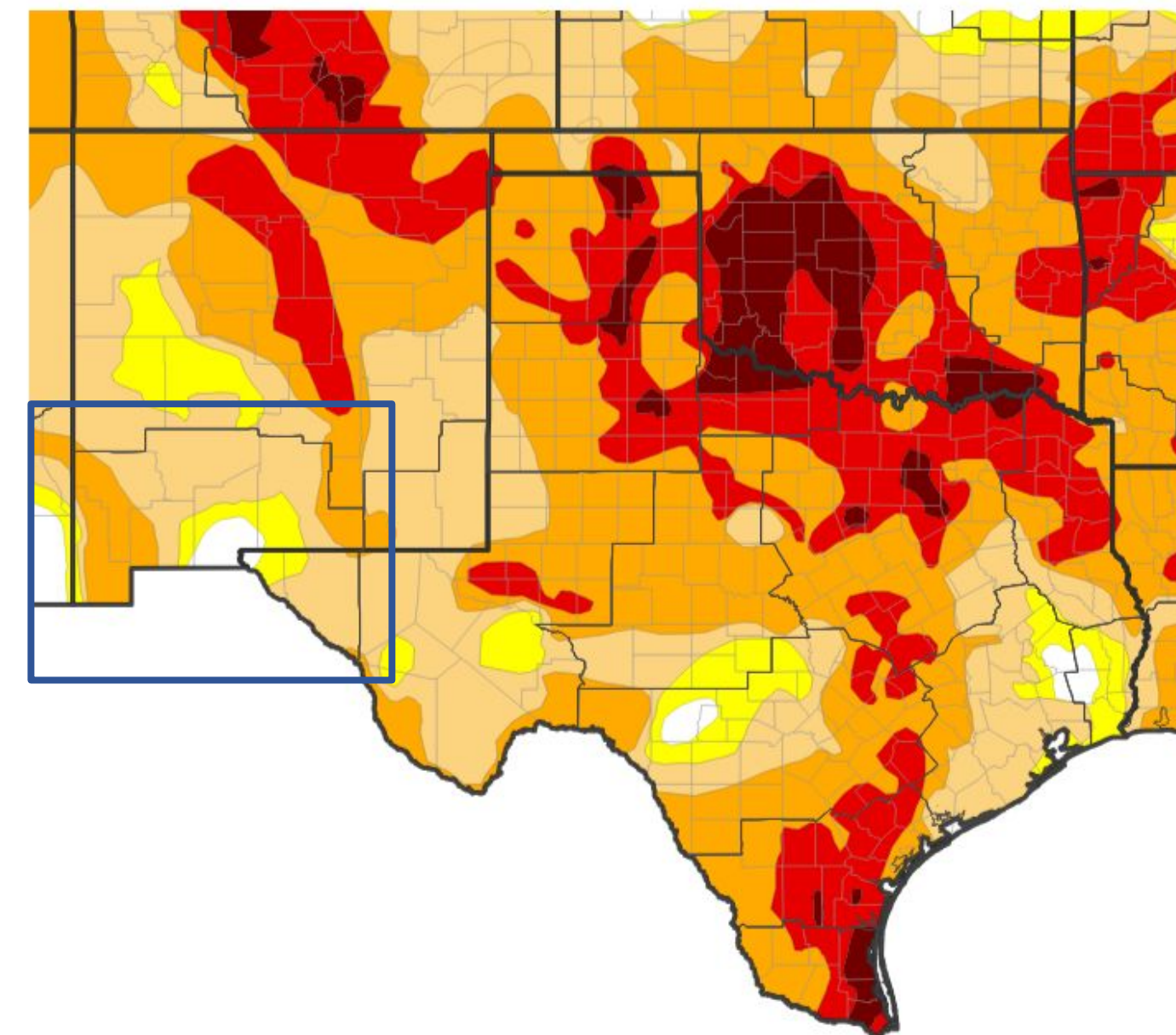
October 3, 2026
9:27 AM

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 South-Central and Southwest New Mexico including Grant and Hidalgo Counties
Lincoln National Forest
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Portions of South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas, including Otero, Sierra, Luna, and Hudspeth Counties
Gila National Forest
- **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: 09/29/26



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El Paso, TX



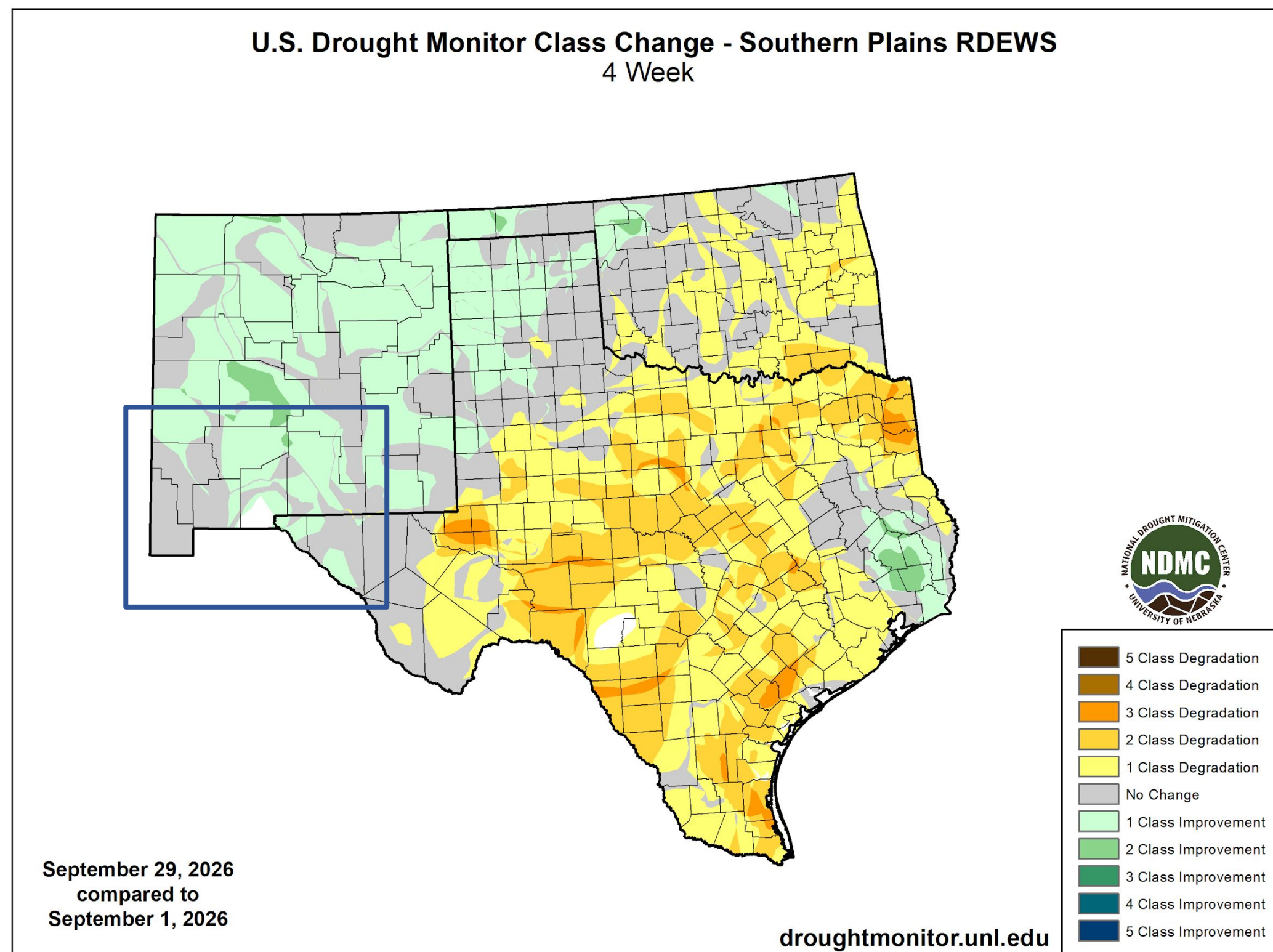
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 3, 2026
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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 South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas, including most of the Rio Grande and Tularosa Basins
- **No Change:**
Portions of Southwest New Mexico





Precipitation

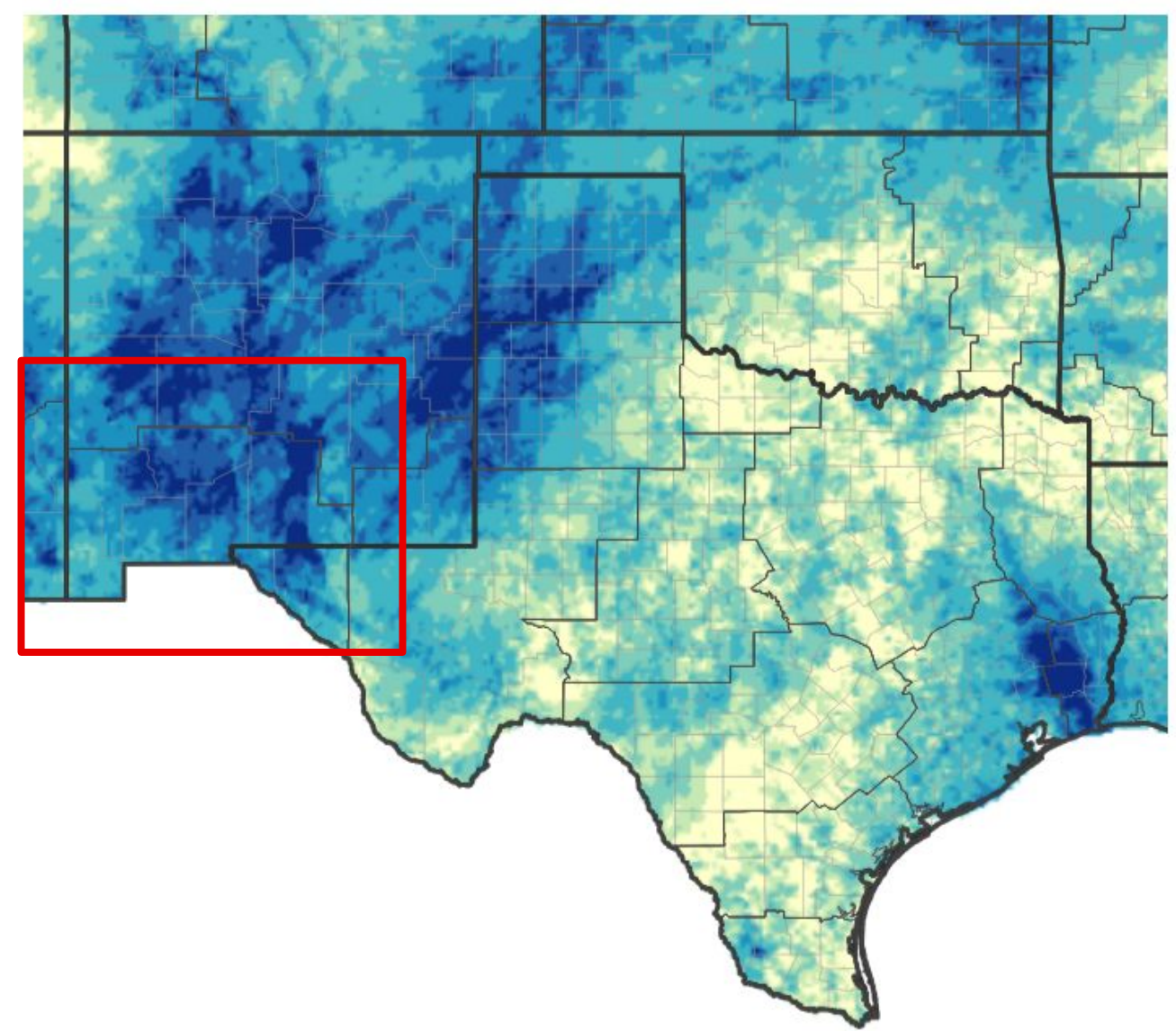
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30-day precip totals:
5.00-7.00" for desert
lowlands. **5.00-8.00"** over
mountain forests.

90-day precip totals:
7.00-10.00" for desert
lowlands. **10.00-13.00"** over
mountain forests.

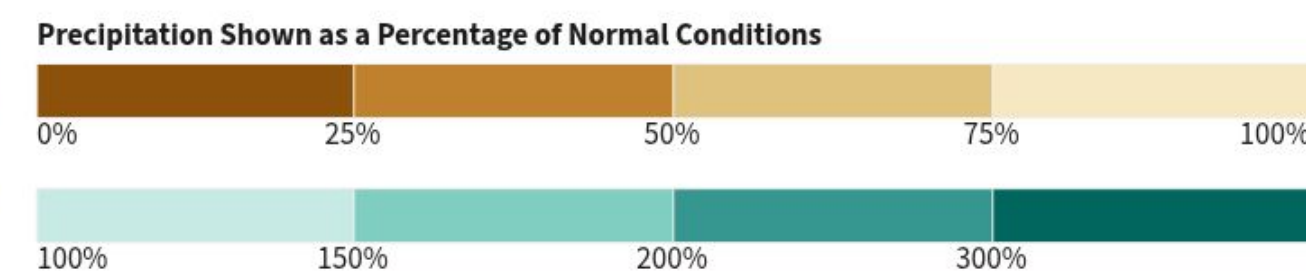
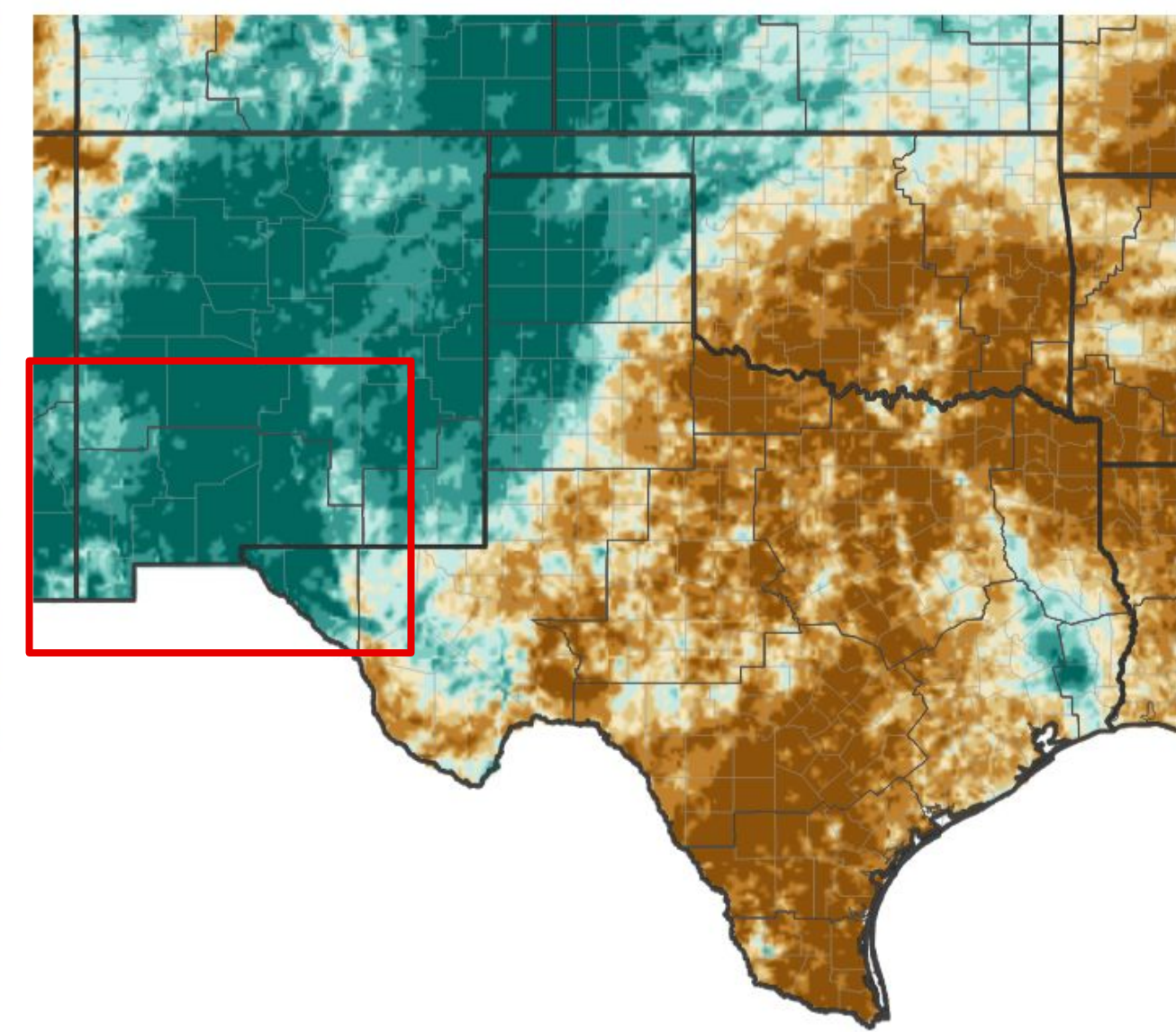
Record-setting September
precipitation with multiple
rounds of heavy rain. Monthly
precipitation **300-400%**
above normal for most of
Southern New Mexico and Far
West Texas. Annual
precipitation will finish above
normal due to recent weeks.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 09/30/26

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 09/30/26



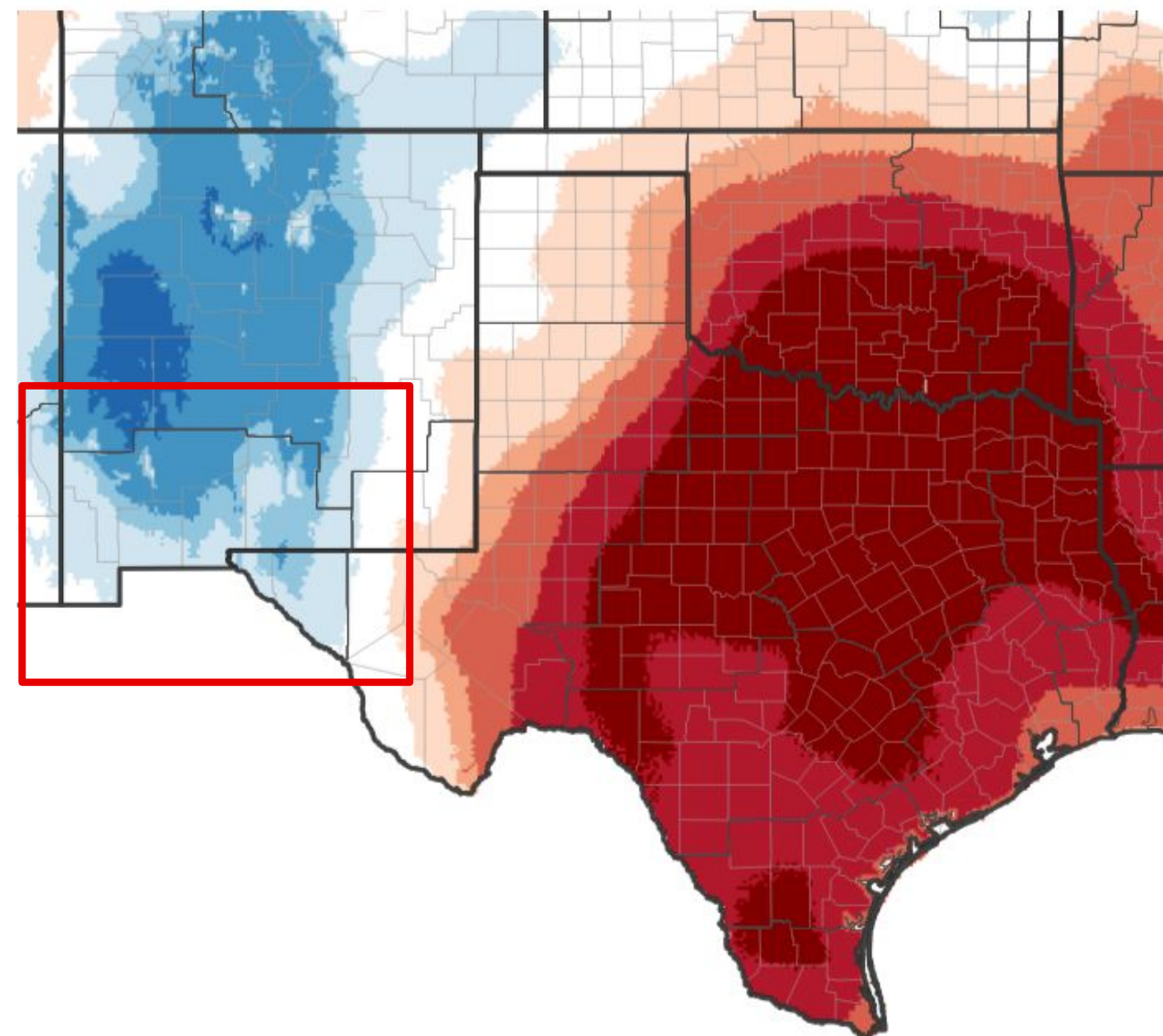


Temperature

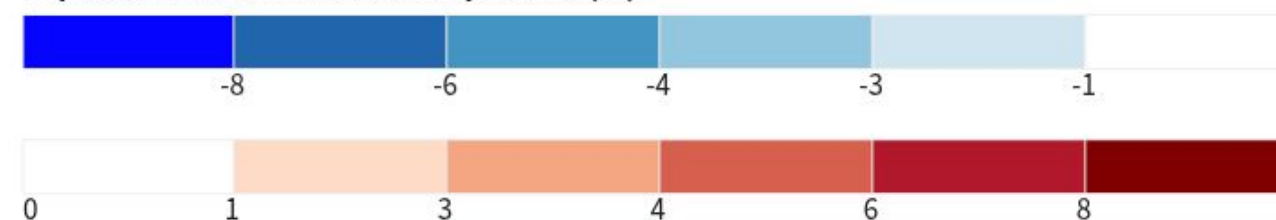
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- Slightly above normal September temperatures for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- 30-day high temperatures **2-4 degrees** above normal
- September mean average temperature **3.0°F** above normal at El Paso International (KELP).

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



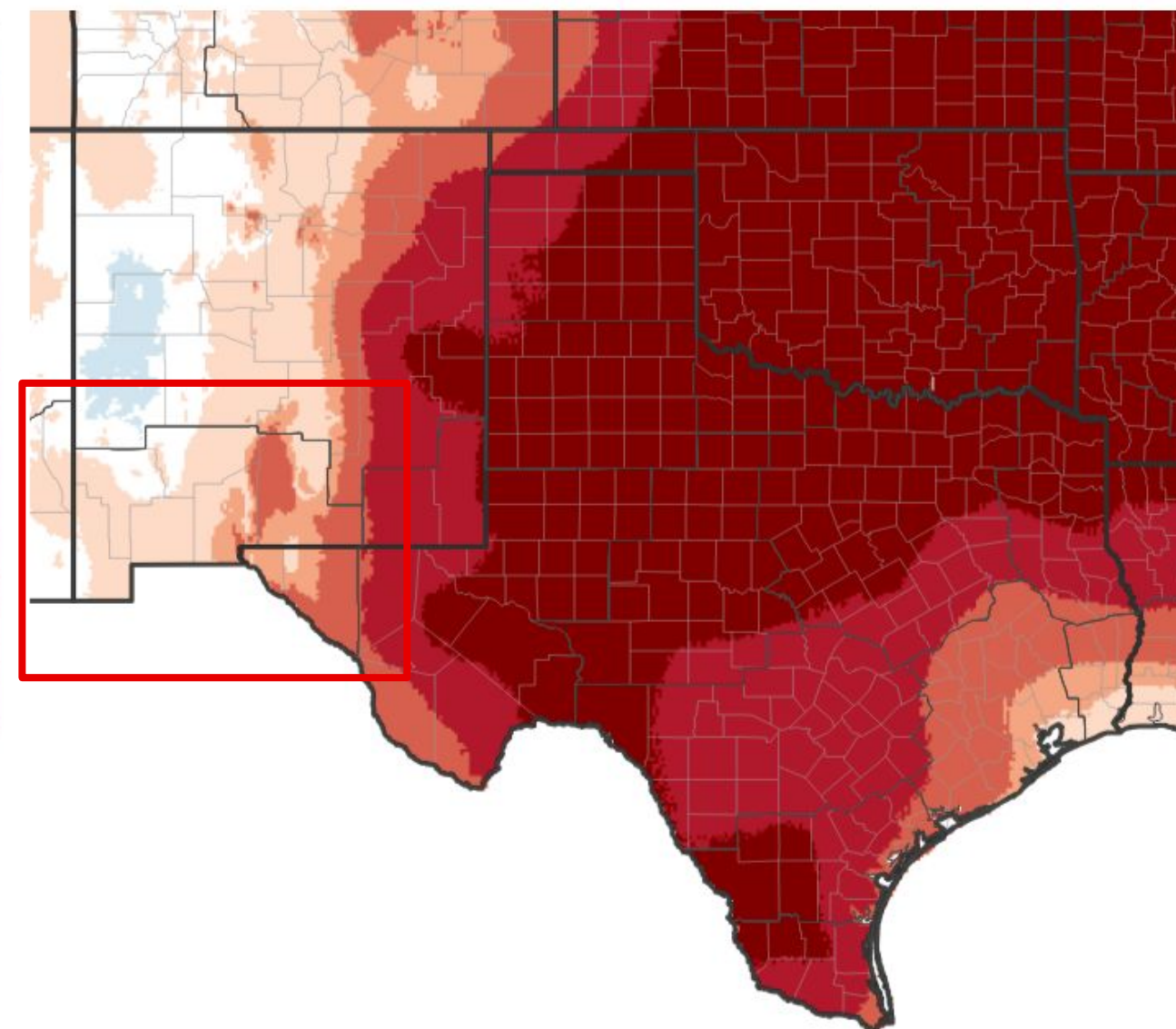
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



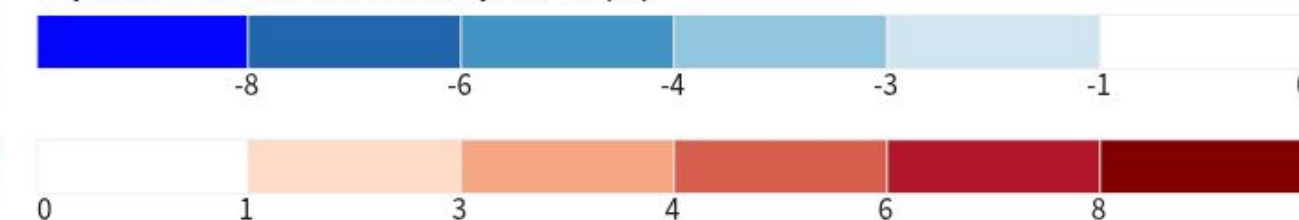
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/28/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



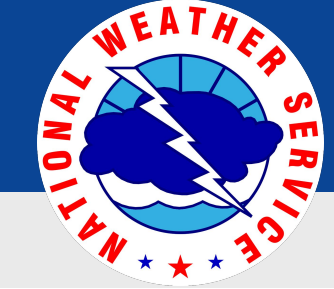
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/28/26



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Summary of Impacts

October 3, 2026
9:27 AM

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Gila River running well above normal due to recent heavy rains and flooding. Flooding occurred within the Rio Grande and Mimbres Rivers in late September, with the Gila River reached Action Stage. Rivers levels expected to slowly decrease over the next few weeks, but still running above normal for the rest of the month. Elephant Butte storage is at 3.2% capacity, up from last month due to above normal precipitation but still near the historical 30-year minimum. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture well above normal following a historical month of precipitation in September. Outlook leans to above normal precipitation in October, which could keep soil moisture conditions wetter than normal through the end of 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 above normal precipitation has allowed ERCs to plummet entering October. Fuel moisture will be wetter than normal through the month ahead. New lightning starts or large fire growth is not expected in October. Periods of breezy winds and sudden wind shifts due to cold fronts are possible as the autumn season begins.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

October 3, 2026
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- Gila River, Mimbres River, and Rio Grande all spiked in late September due to heavy rain. Rio Grande at El Paso reached Moderate Flood Stage (crest of 14900 cfs on 10/1) and Gila River above Gila reached Action Stage (crest of 9590 cfs on 9/30). Streamflow expected to slowly decrease in October as floodwaters moves downstream, but remain above normal.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	4.04 ft	11.00 ft	751 ft ³ /s
Redrock	6.35 ft	20.00 ft	358 ft ³ /s
Virden	7.47 ft	15.00 ft	991 ft ³ /s

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	4.30 ft	8.50 ft	604 ft ³ /s

Gauge data recorded on 10/3/2026

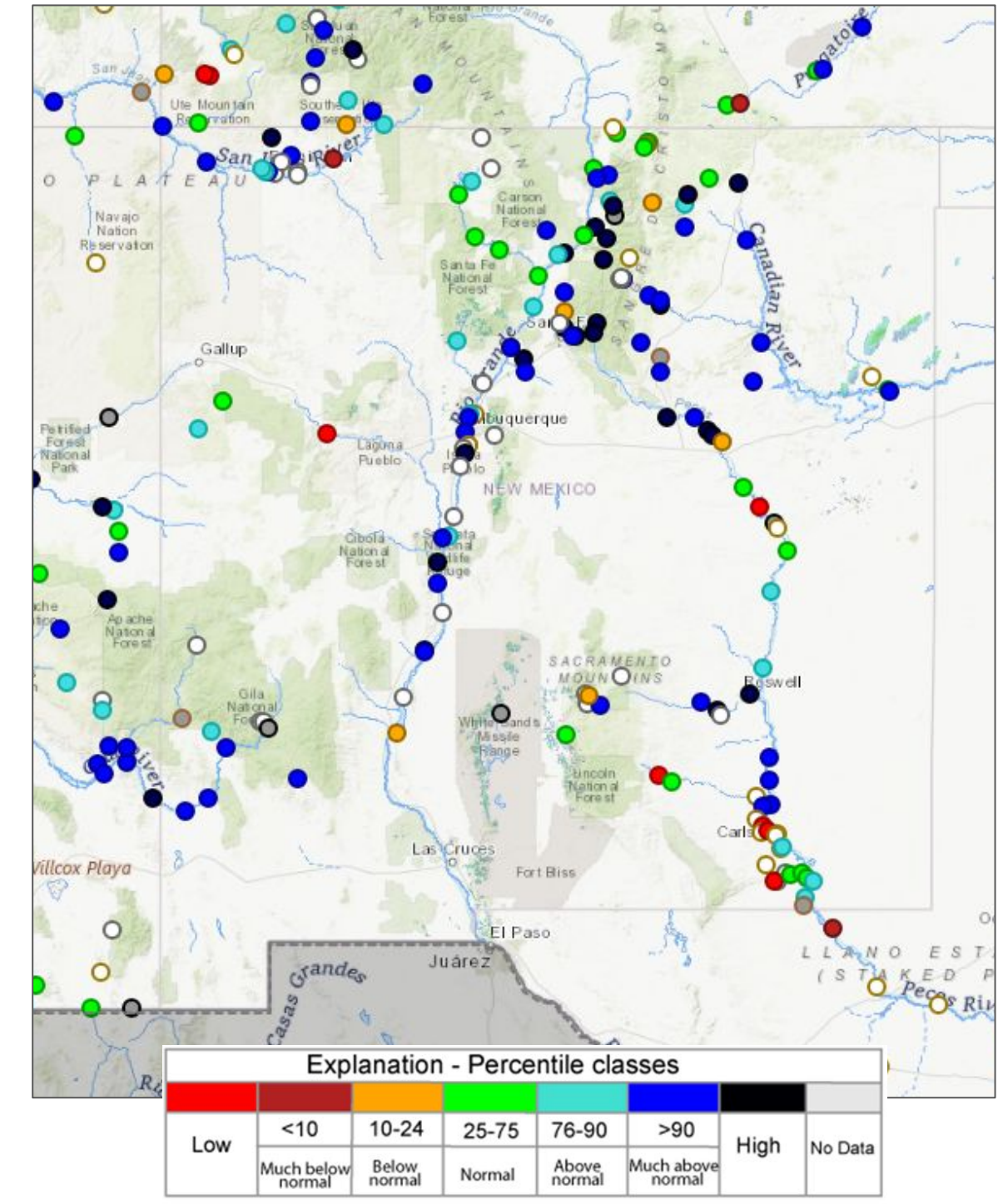


Image Caption: USGS 7 day Streamflow Status valid October 3, 2026

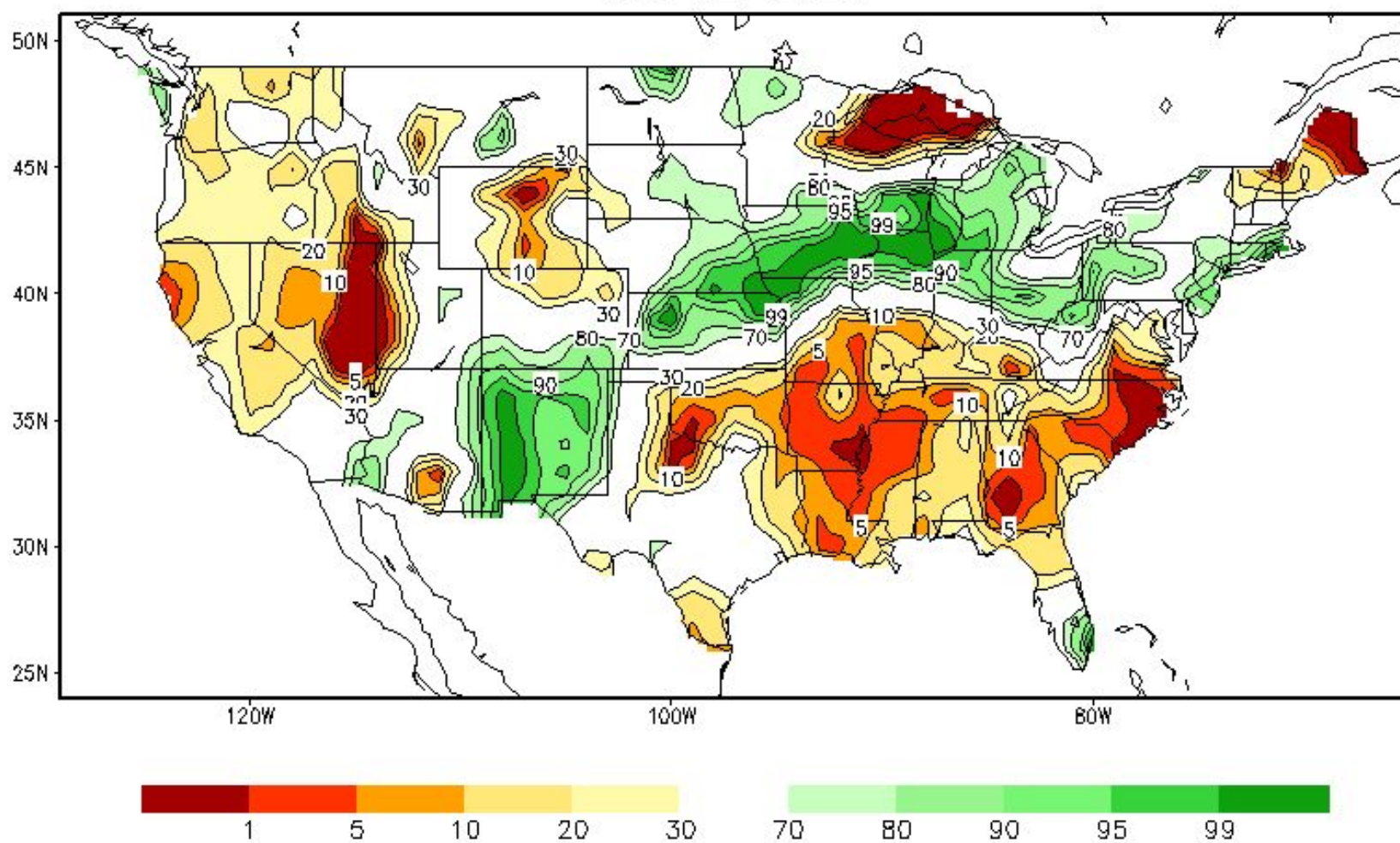




Agricultural Impacts

October 3, 2026
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Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 02, 2026



Drought Severity Index
Value for the September 20 - 26, 2026
Long Term Palmer

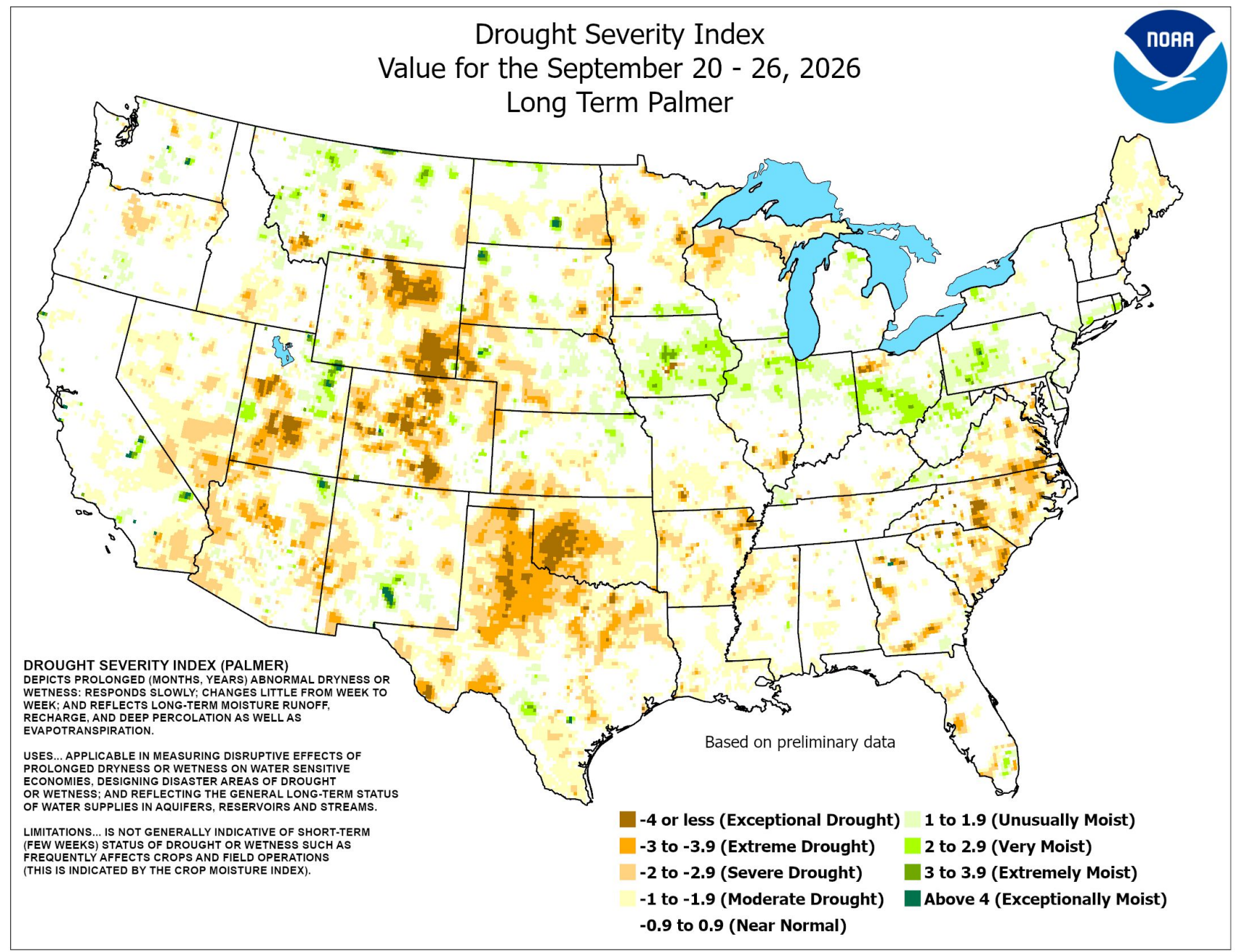


Image Captions:

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

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#) valid September 20-26, 2026



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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](#)

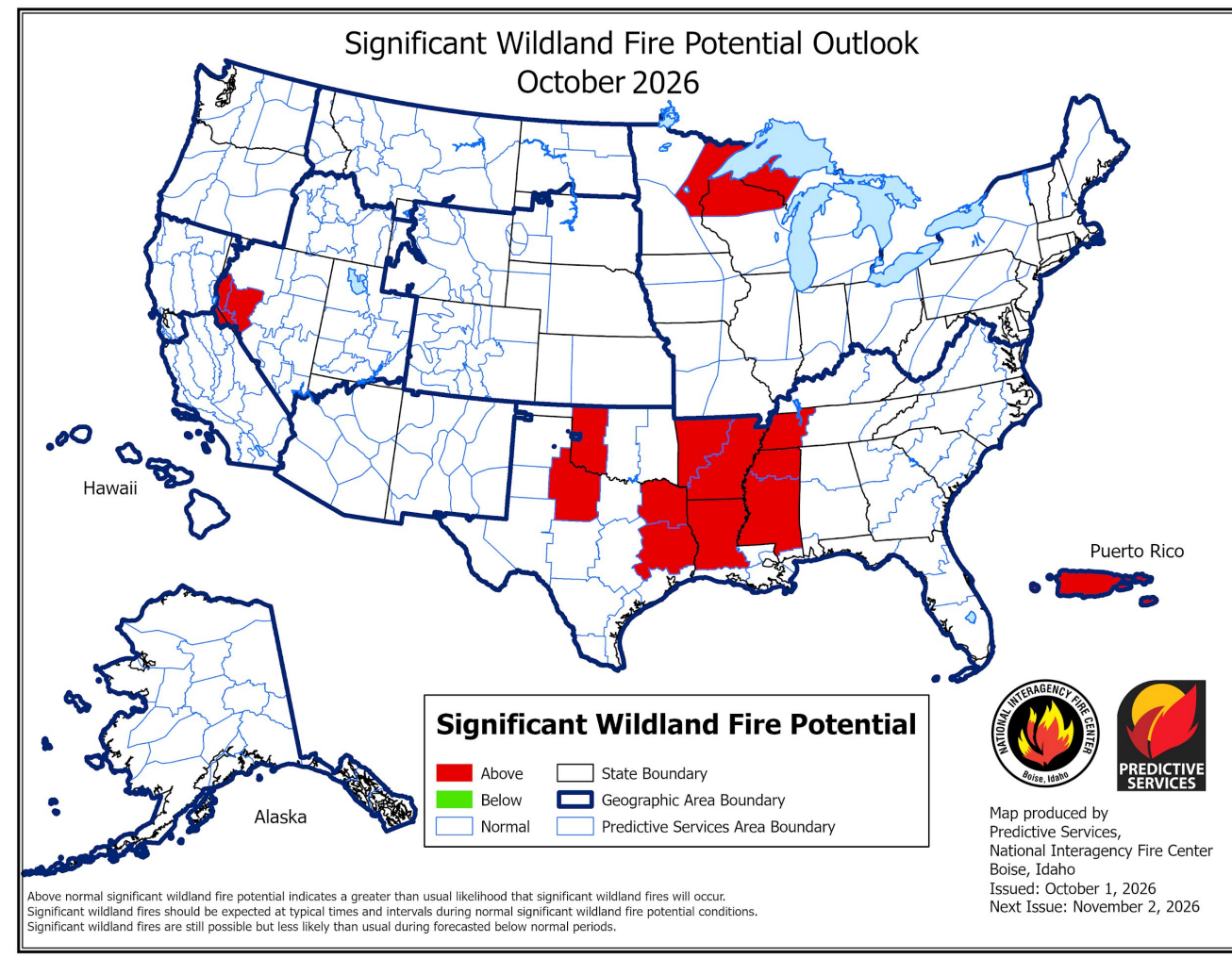
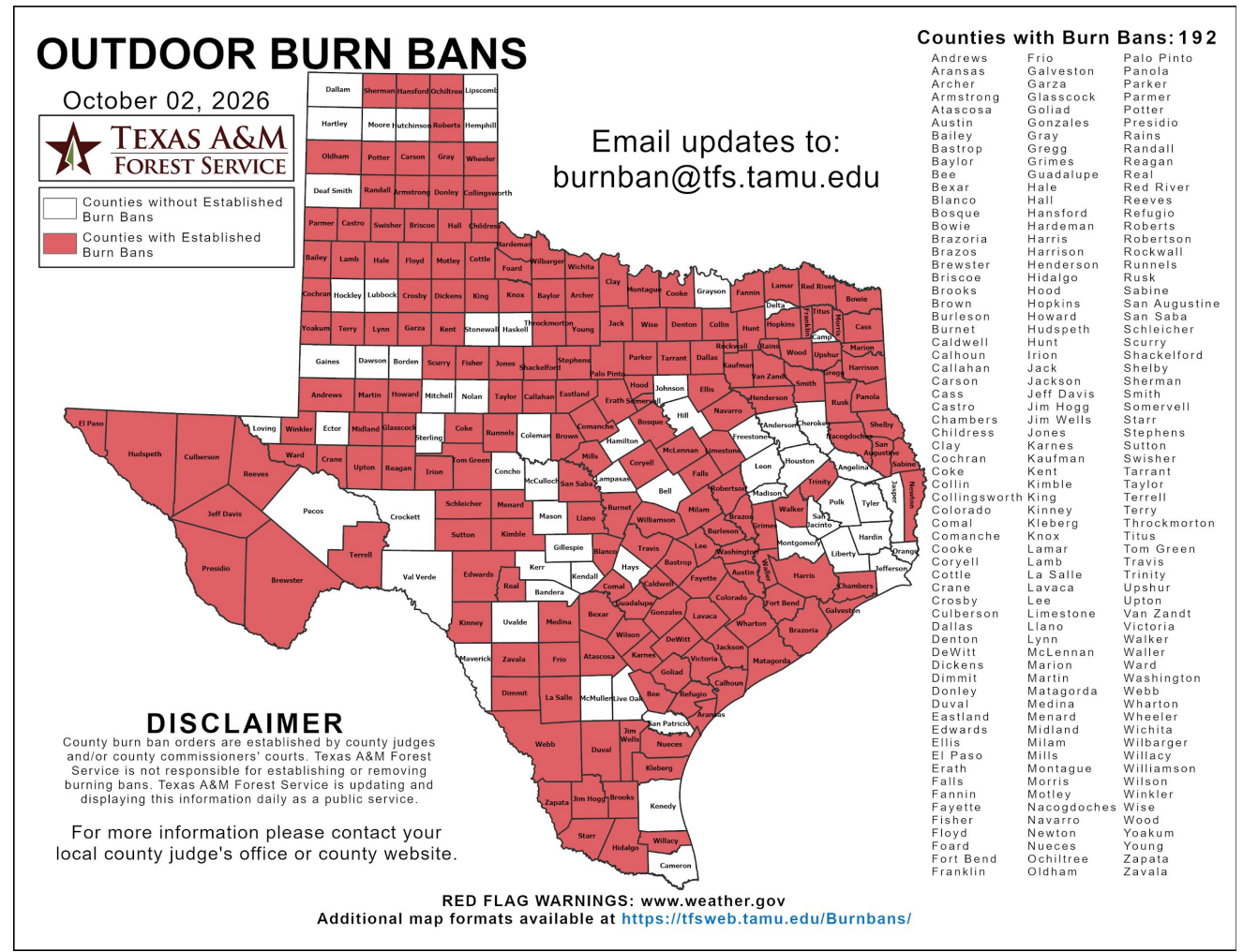


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2026



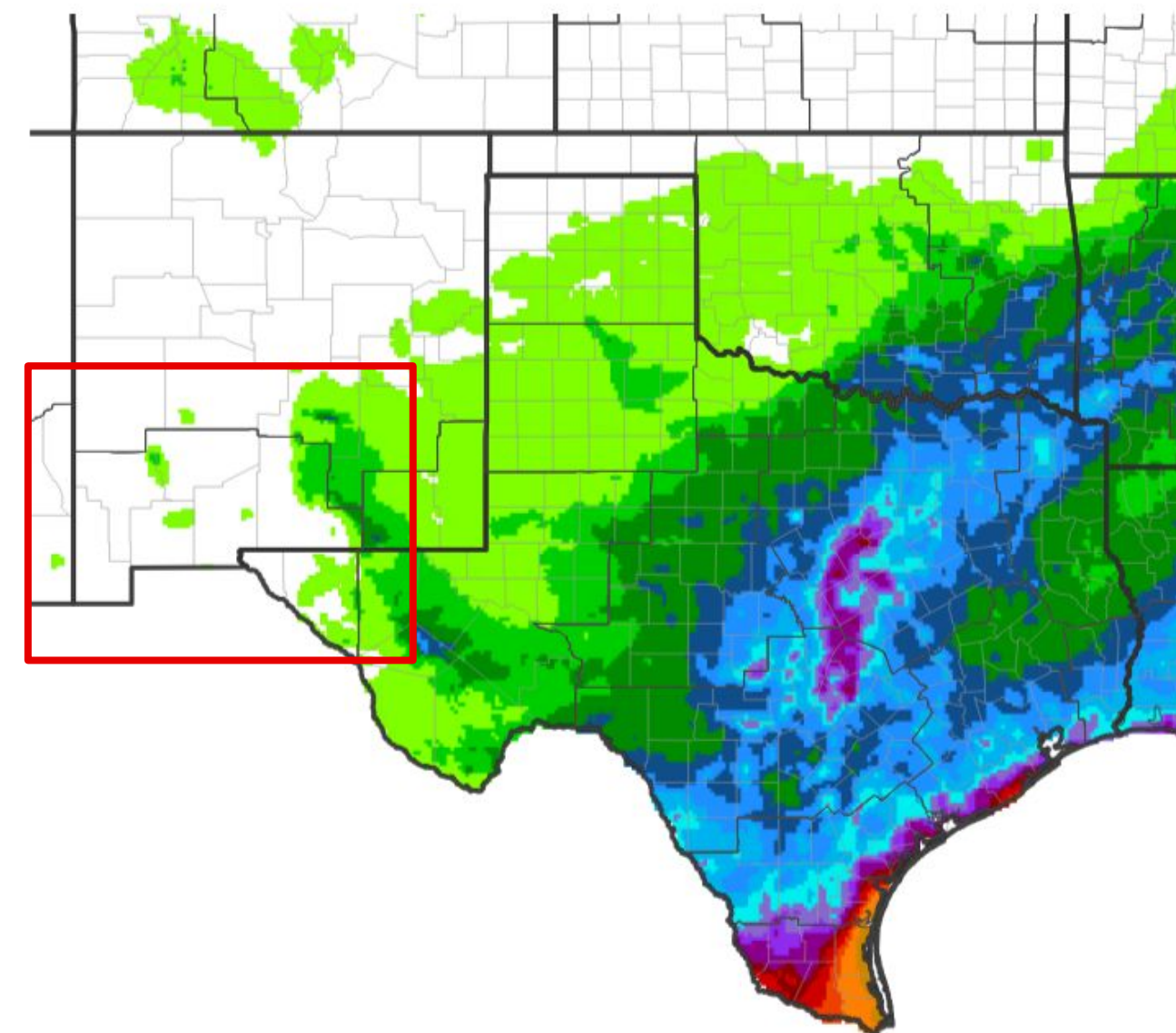


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

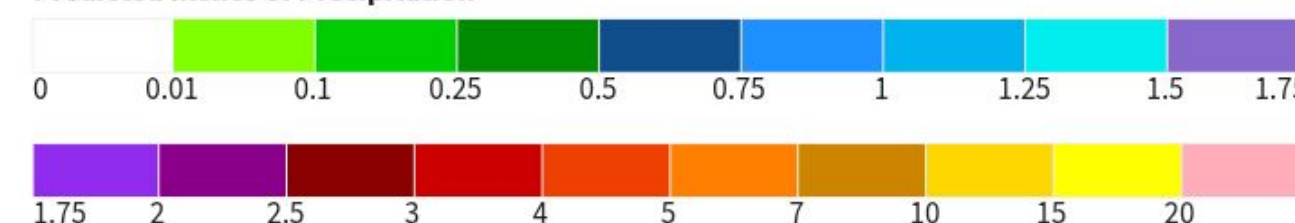
October 3, 2026
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- Much-needed drier weather expected for the first half of October as the Monsoon season ends. Precipitation outlook leans near to above normal for October, which will further improve drought conditions.
- 2026 yearly precipitation totals will finish above normal for most of the region due to heavy rain in September. Most of Southern New Mexico is already at 150-250% above normal precipitation of 2026.

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



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center: image Last Updated: 10/02/26



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Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

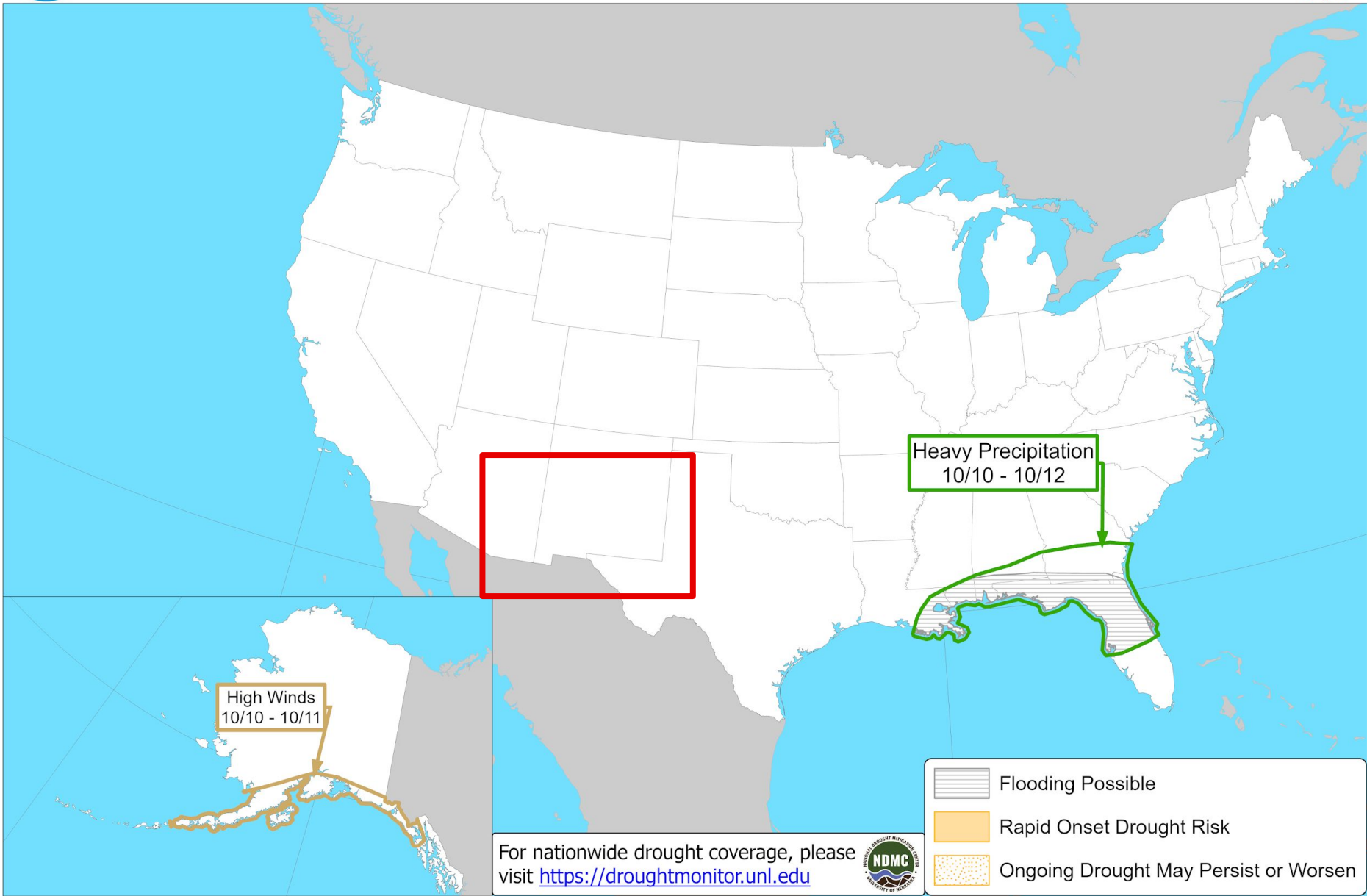
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Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Moderate to Severe Drought is already in place across Western New Mexico. Rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to improve considerably through the autumn season.



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



Climate Prediction Center
Released: October 2, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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Image Caption:
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid October 10-16





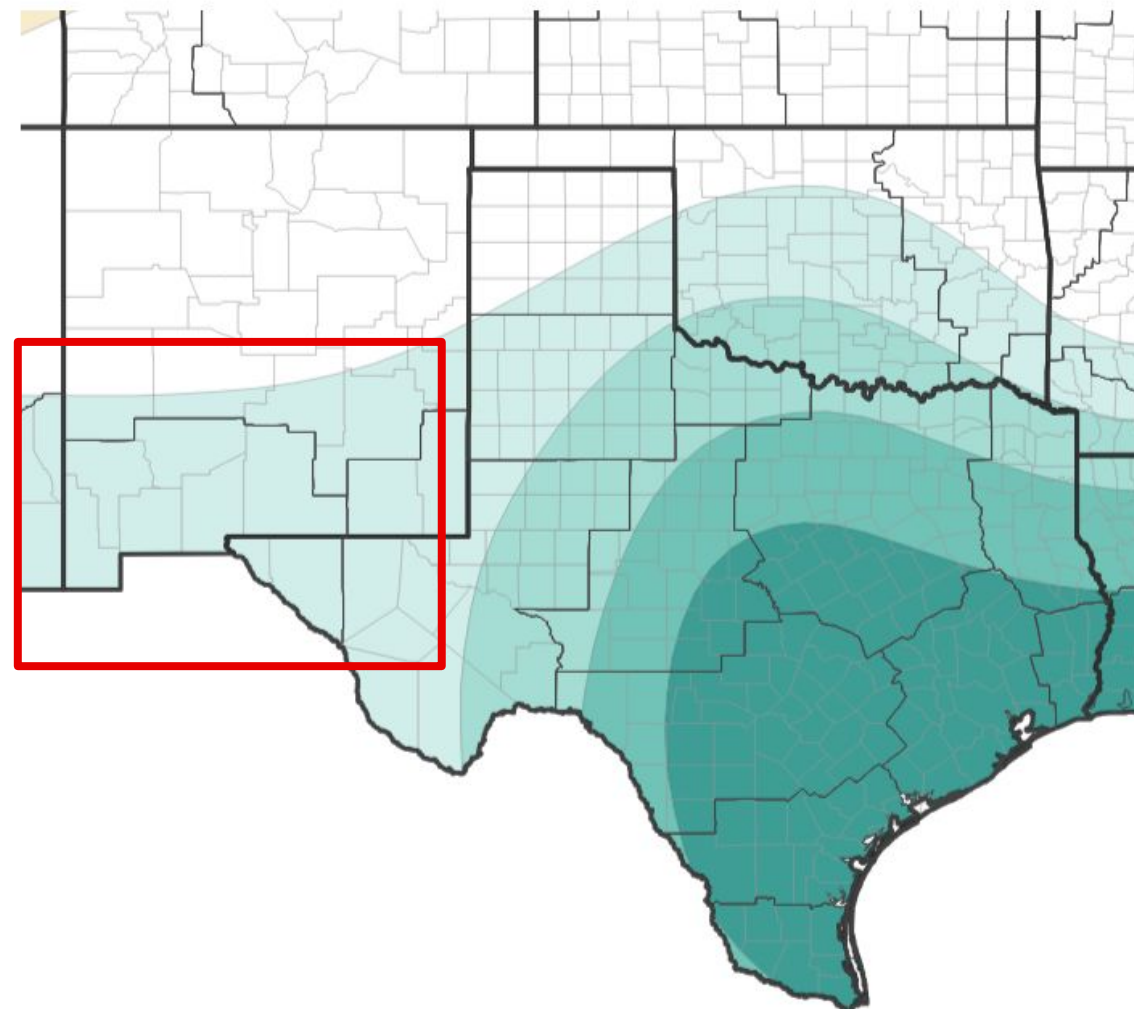
Long-Range Outlooks

October 3, 2026
9:27 AM

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

- **33-40%** chance for above normal precipitation for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- October monthly average precipitation for El Paso: **0.59"**
- **33-40%** chance of above normal temperatures for Western New Mexico, Equal Chances elsewhere.
- October monthly average high temperature for El Paso: **79.4°**

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



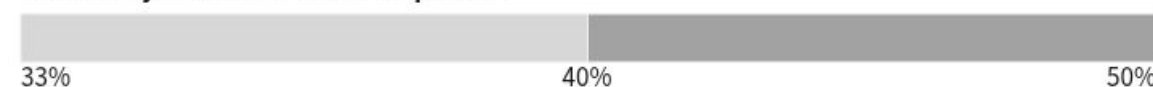
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



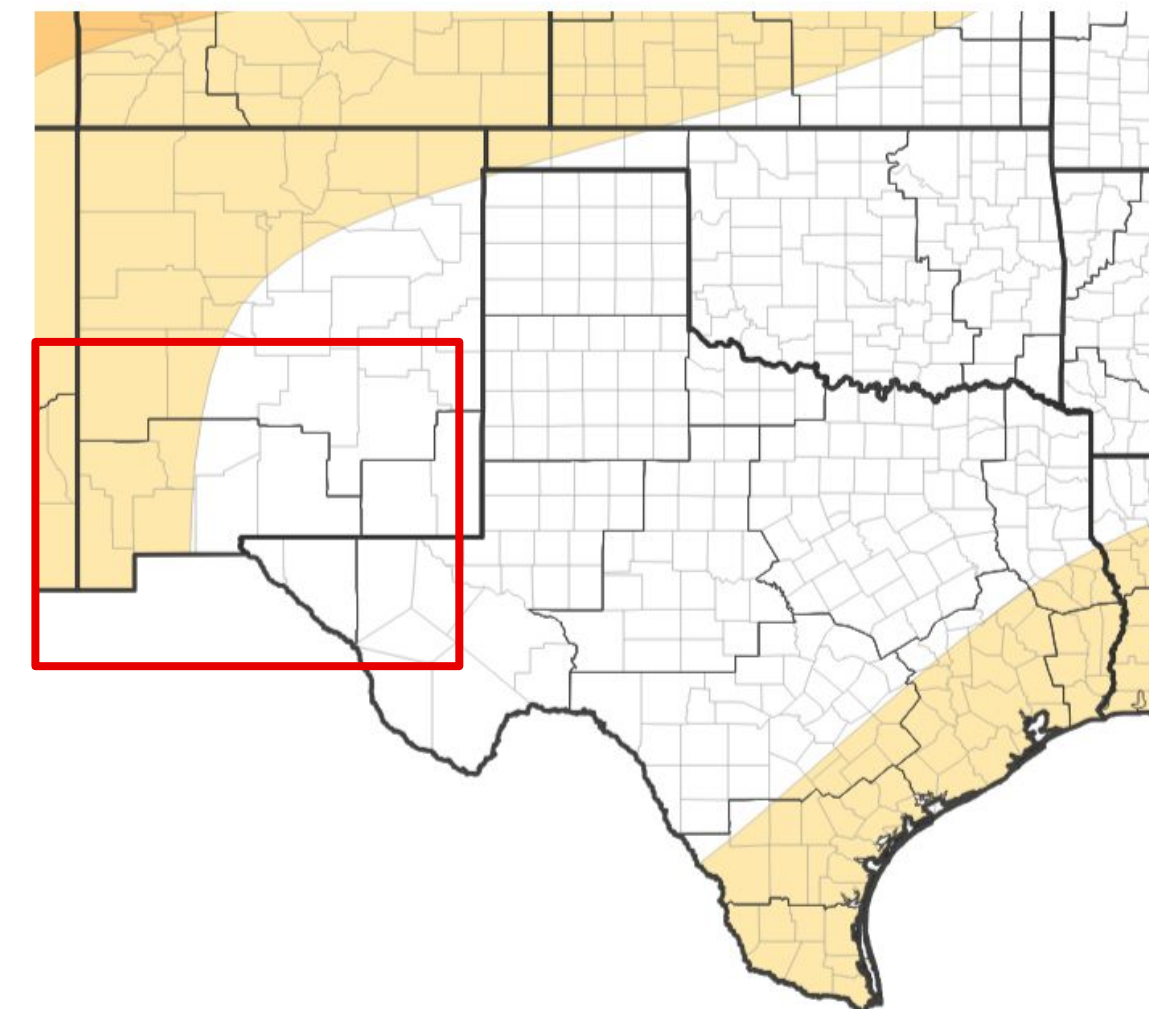
Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



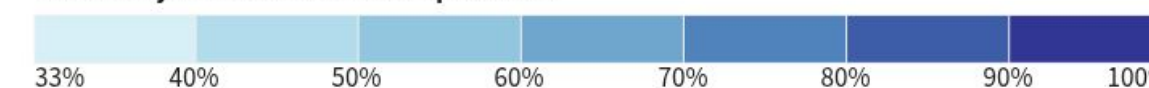
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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



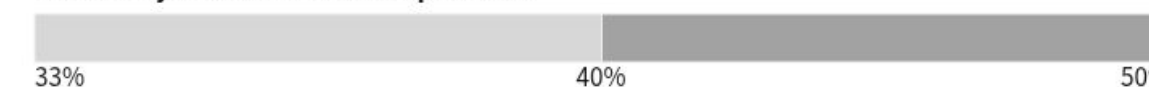
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

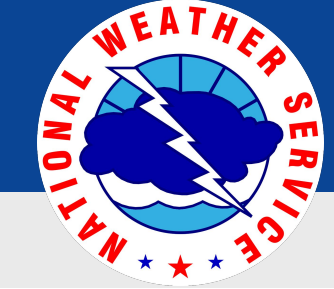


Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures





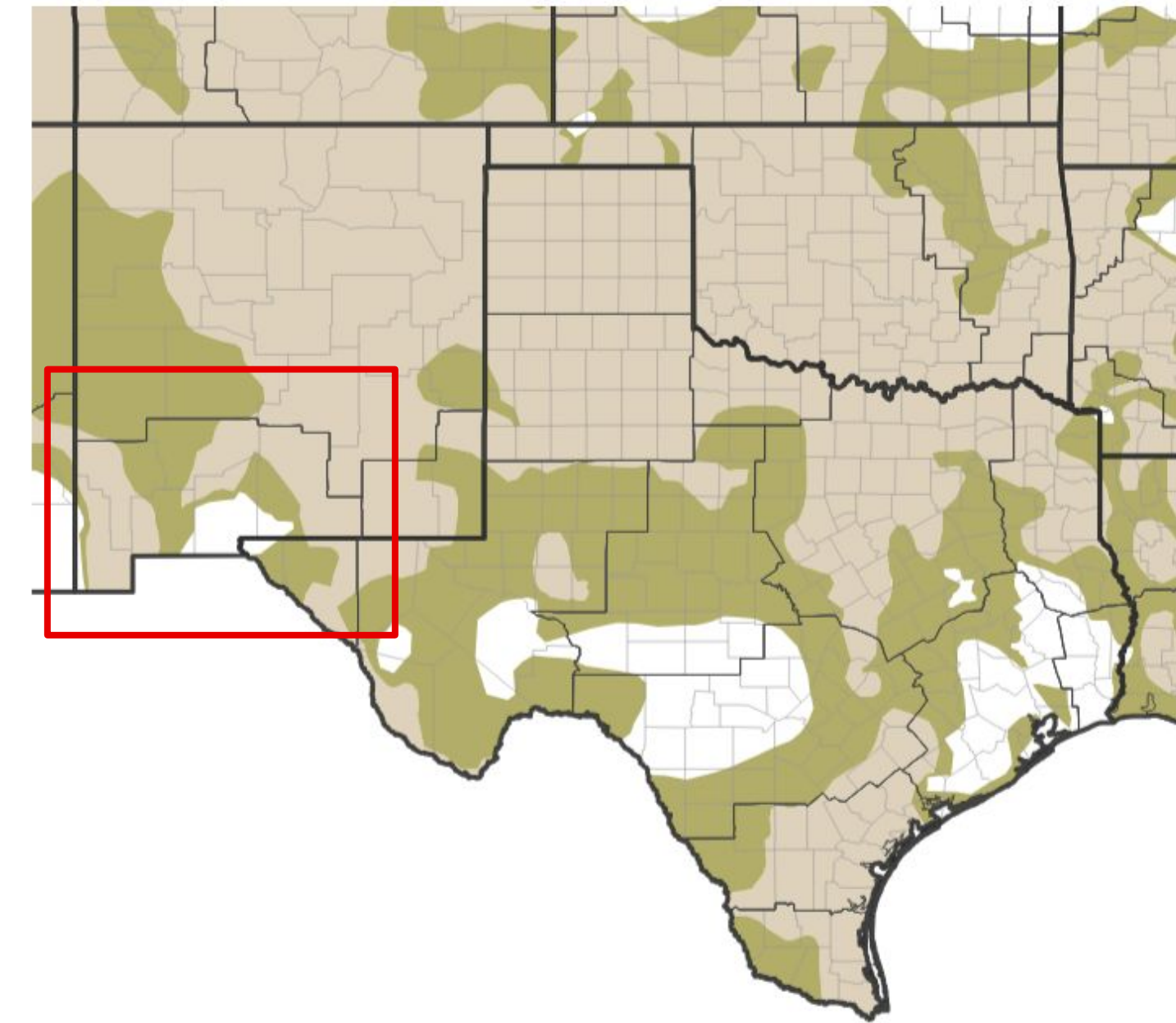
Drought Outlook

October 3, 2026
9:27 AM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to improve considerably across New Mexico and Far West Texas through October. Drought may be fully removed for some areas due to recent heavy rains. Precipitation forecast leaning near to above normal.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 30,
2026–December 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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