



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid December 4, 2025

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

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated January 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.

- Severe (D2) drought status affecting Southern New Mexico. Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate (D1) drought status affecting Far West Texas.
- Improvement in drought conditions for Southwest New Mexico after mid-November rains.
- Drought conditions expected to persist or re-develop in December due to near or below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.





U.S. Drought Monitor

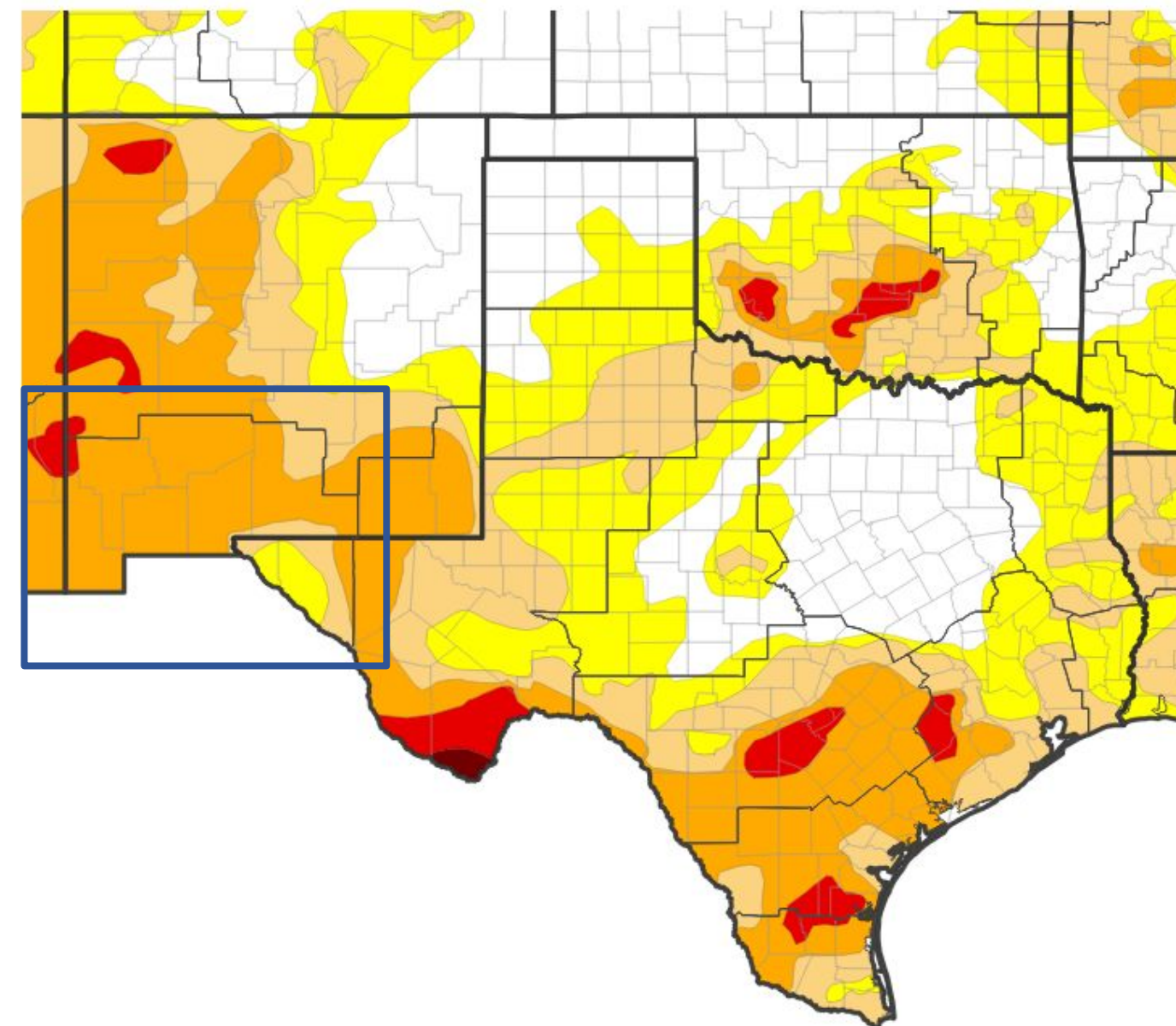
December 4, 2025
10:10 AM

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)**
Portions of Western New Mexico including Grant County.
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Most of Southwest and South-central New Mexico, Gila National Forest.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Portions of Far West Texas including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Lincoln National Forest.
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
Portions of Far West Texas (83% of New Mexico, 76% of Texas).

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 12/02/25



National Oceanic and
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U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX



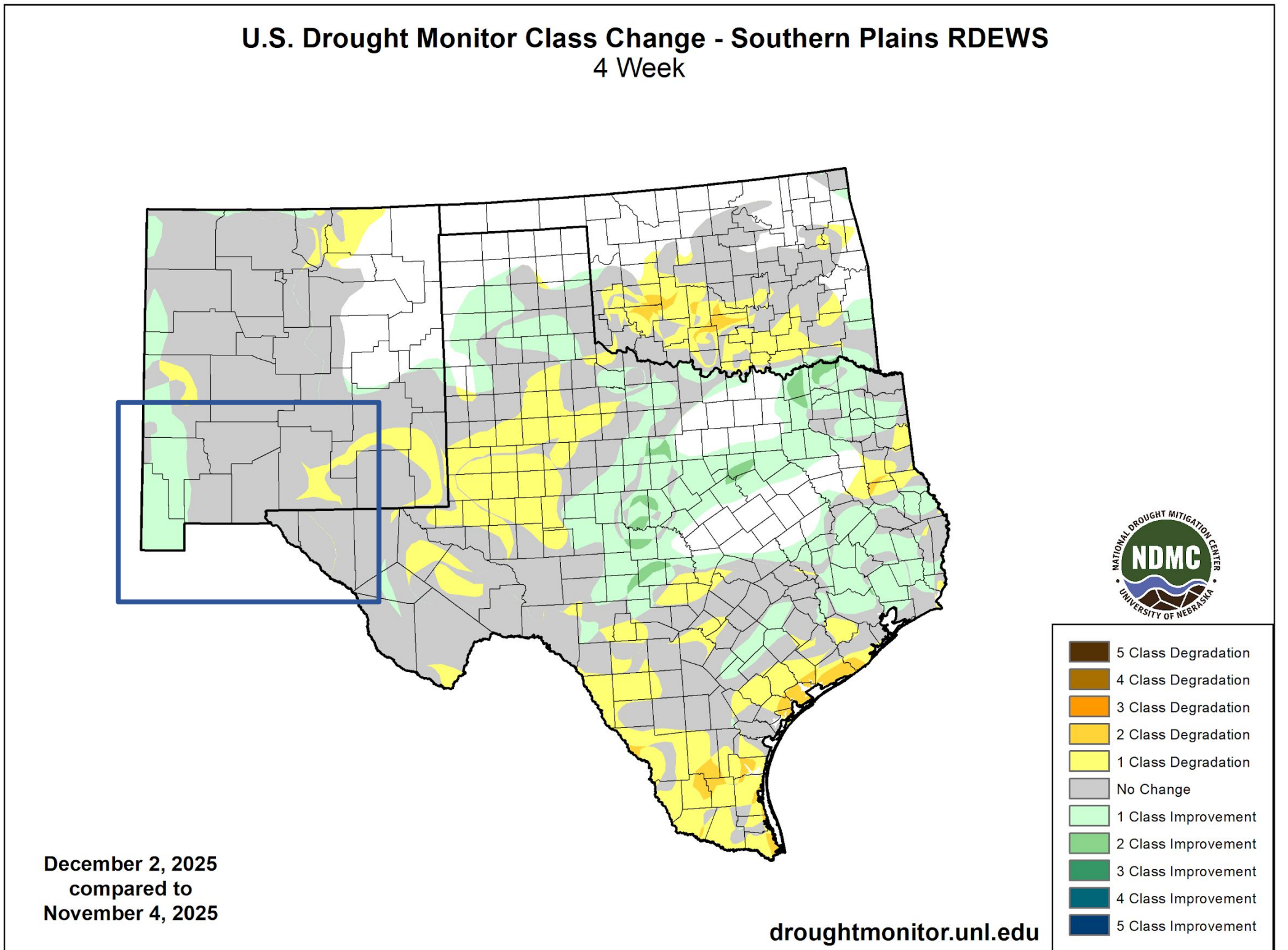
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

December 4, 2025
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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 Otero County
- **Drought Improved:**
Portions of Southwest New Mexico
- **No Change:**
Far West Texas and most of South-central New Mexico





Precipitation

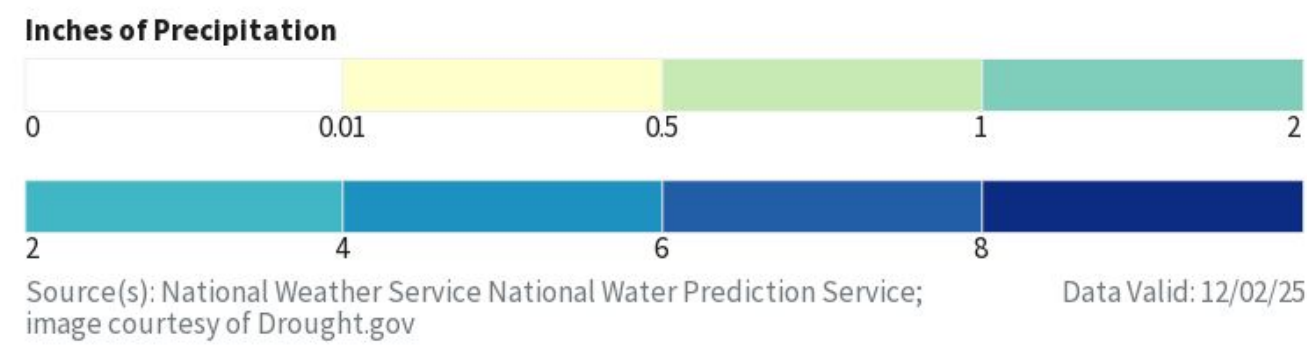
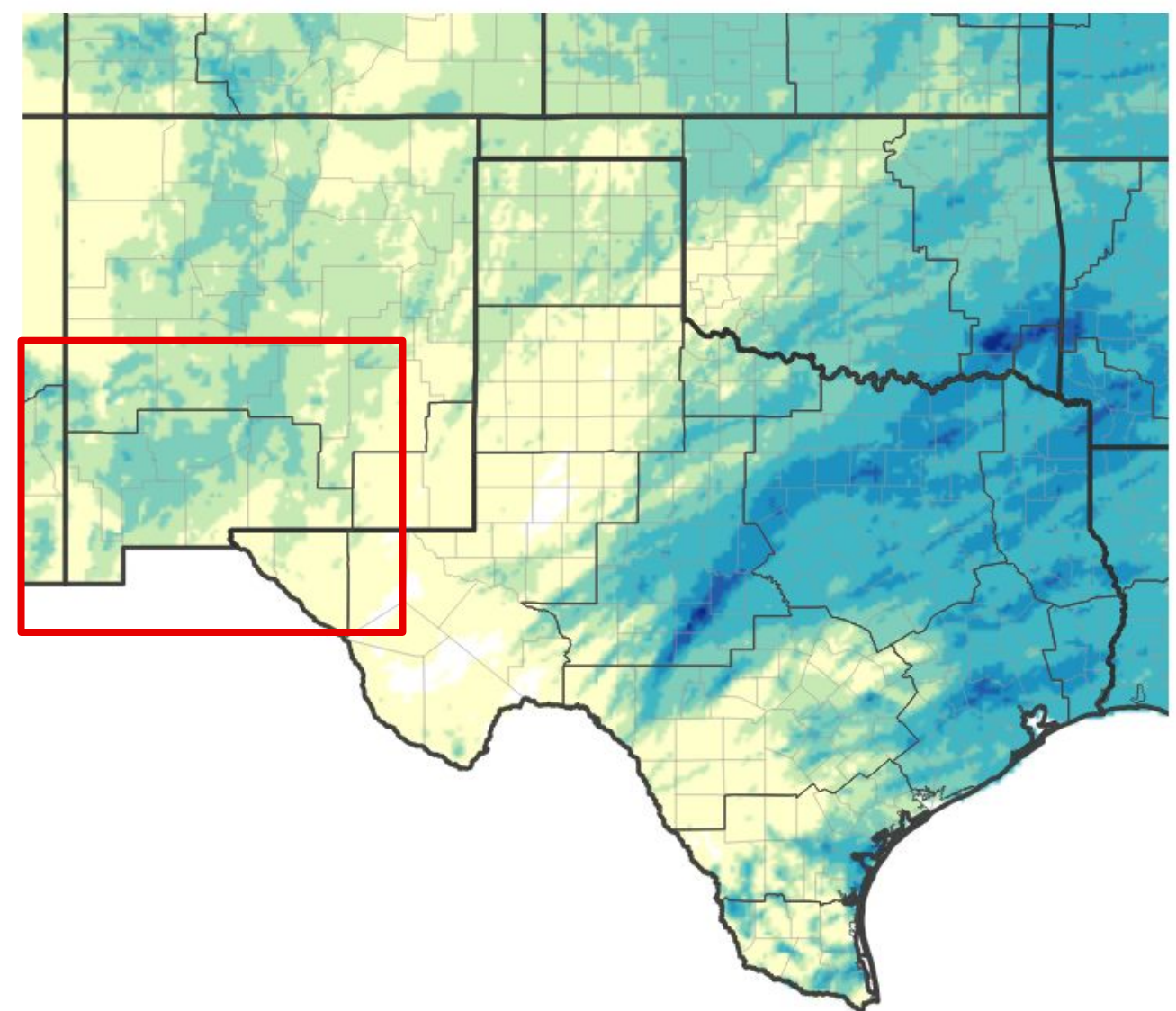
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30-day precip totals,
0.10-0.50" along I-10 corridor.
0.75-1.50" over mountain
forests.

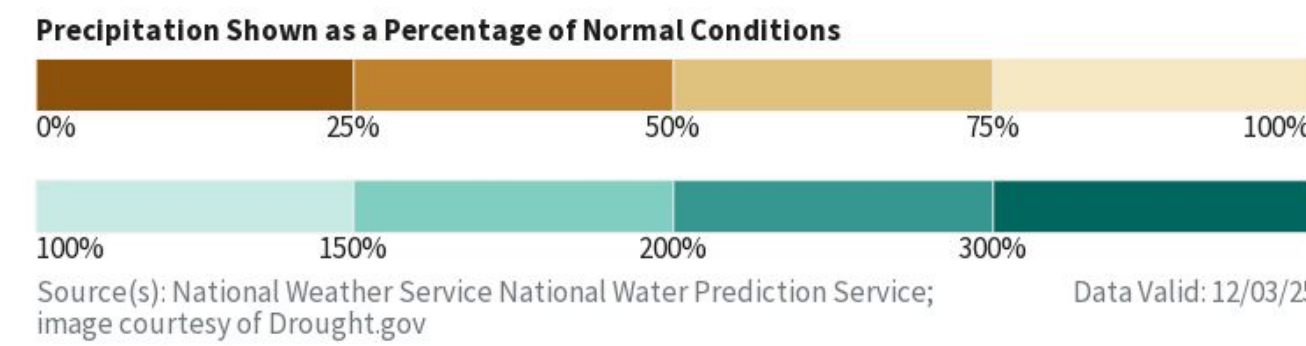
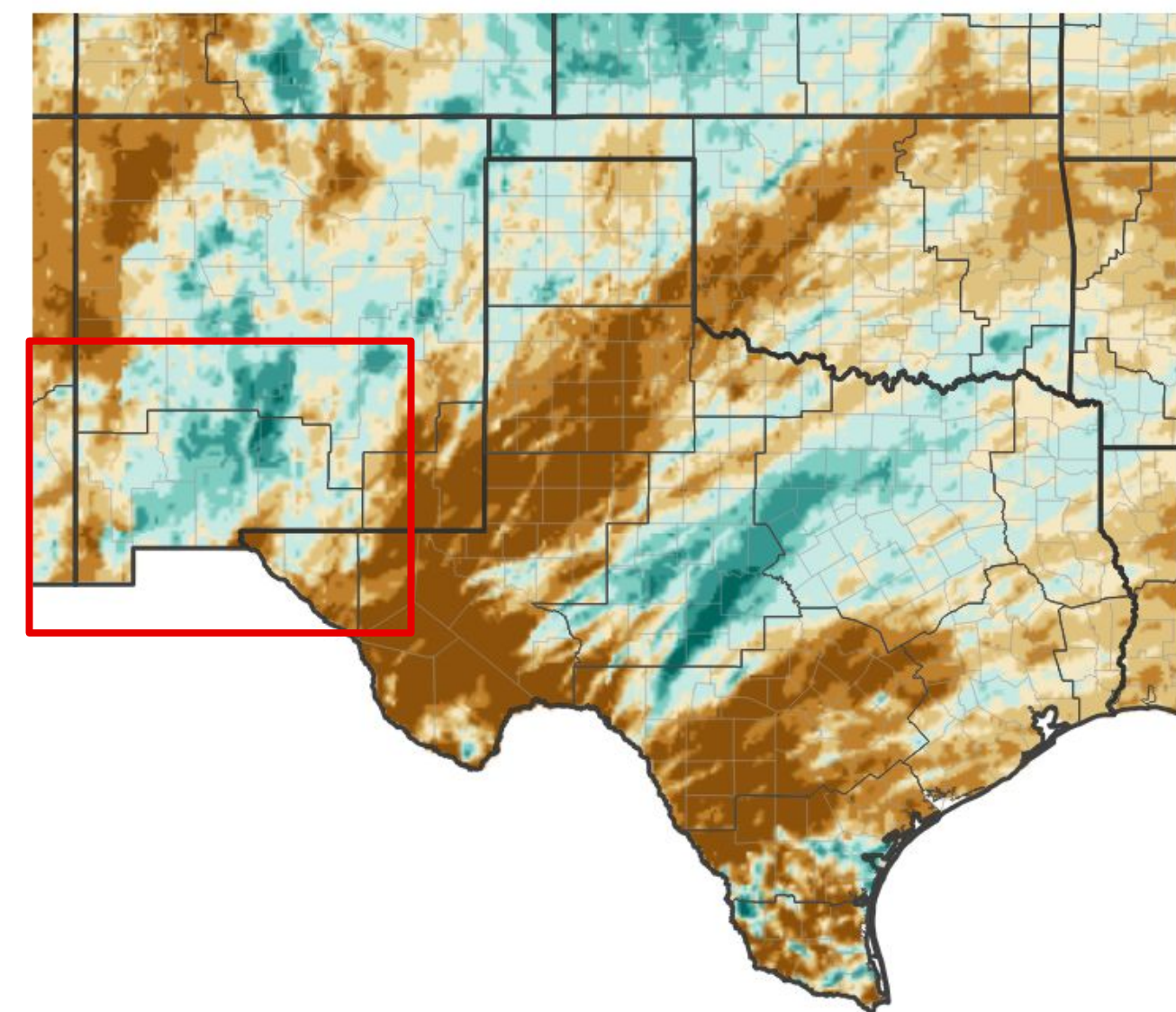
90-day precip totals,
2.50-5.00" along I-10 corridor.
4.50-7.00" over mountain
forests.

Below normal November
precipitation for west Texas,
near or above normal across
most of southern New Mexico.
Autumn rainfall was above
normal.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



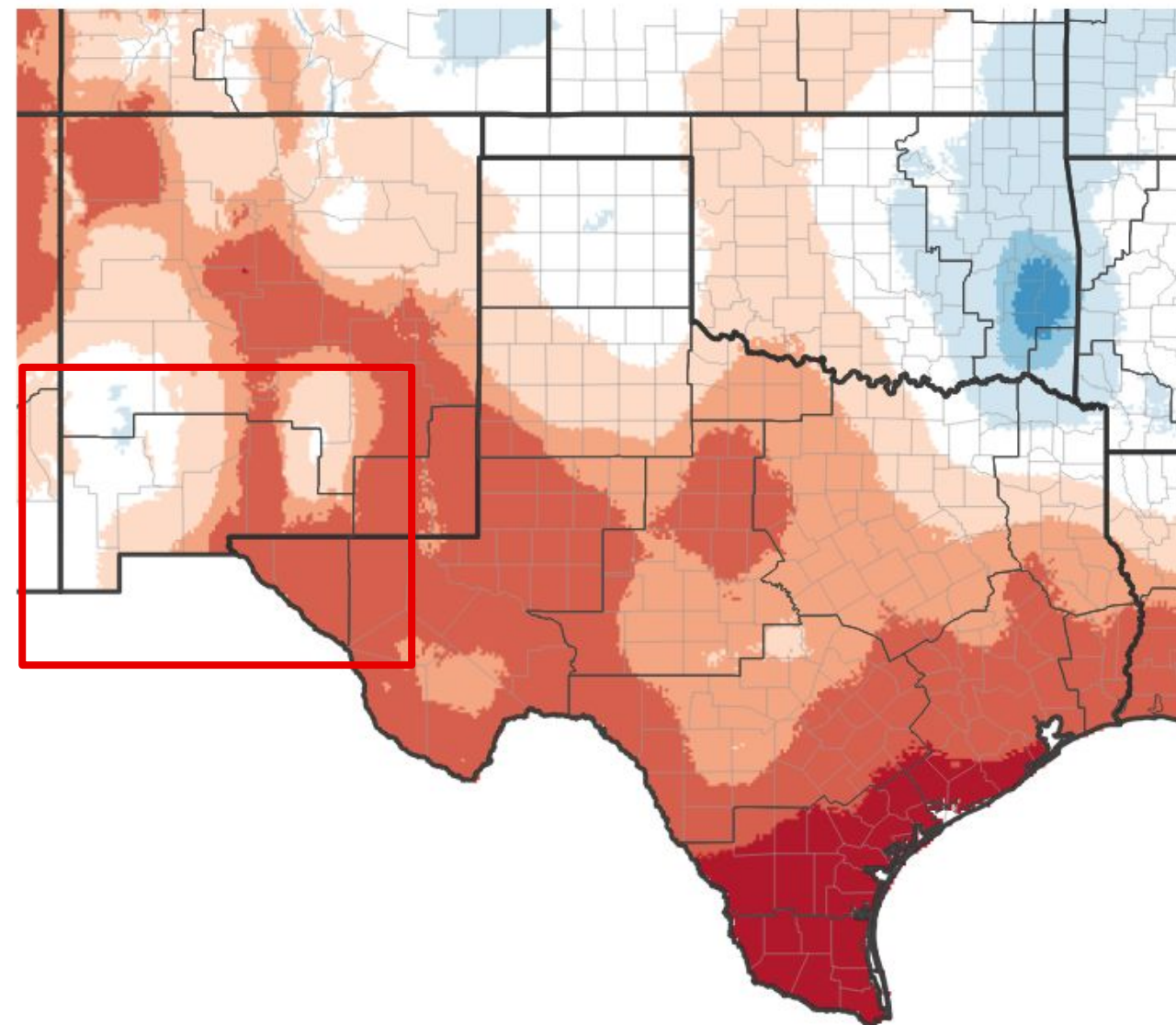


Temperature

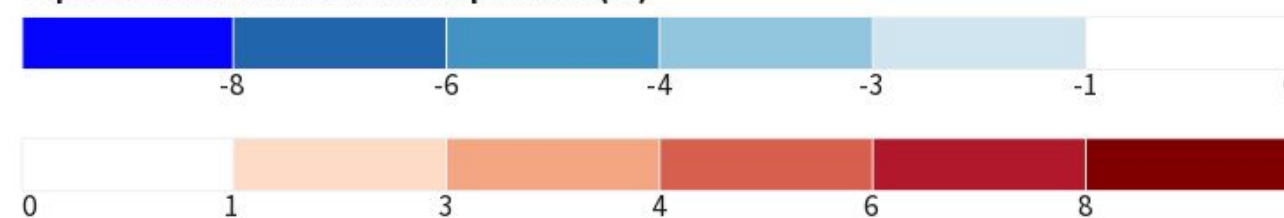
December 4, 2025
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- Above normal November temperatures for New Mexico and Texas, closer to normal along AZ-NM state line
- 30-day high temperature anomalies 3-6 degrees above normal
- November mean average temperature 5.8°F above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



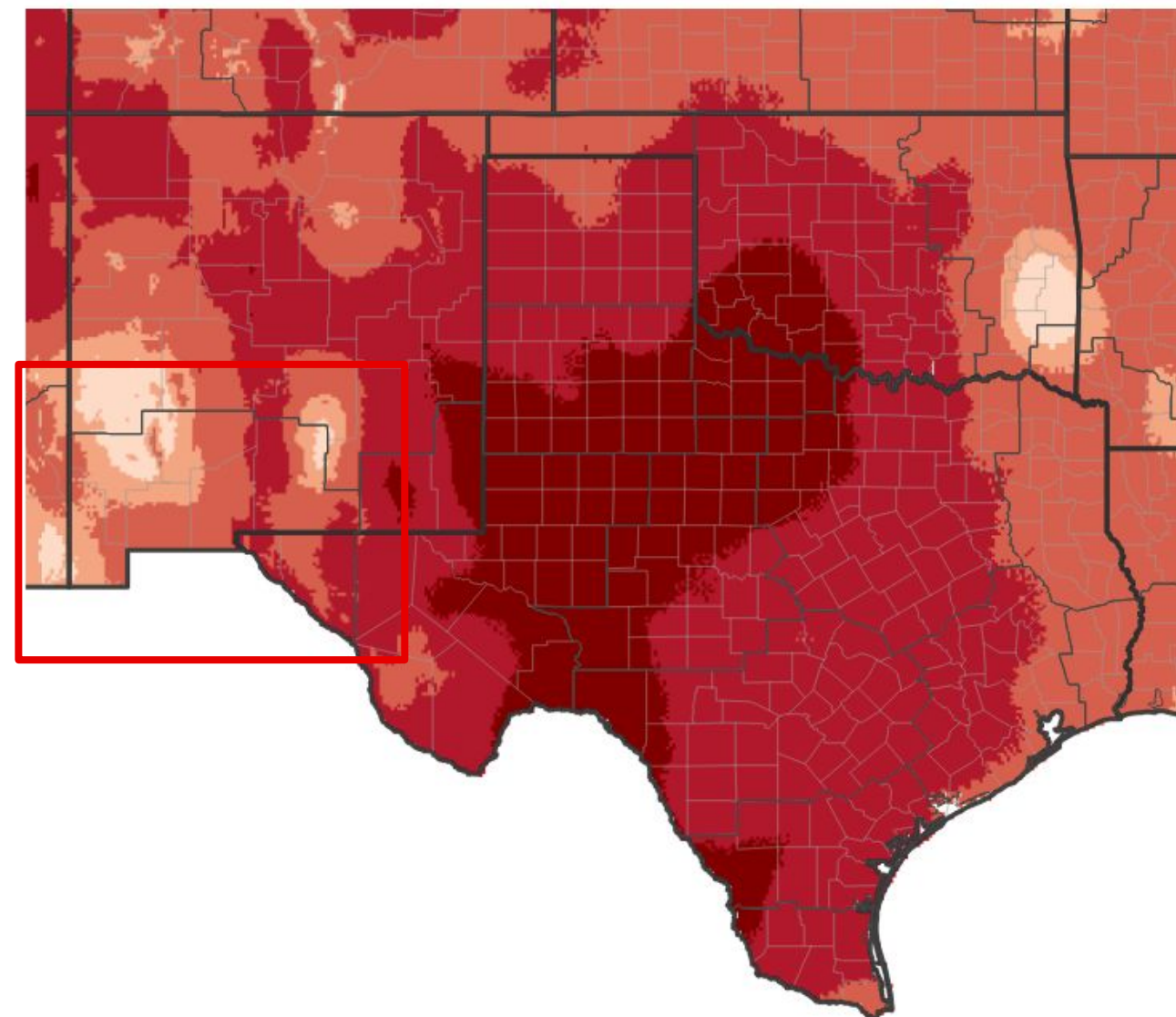
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



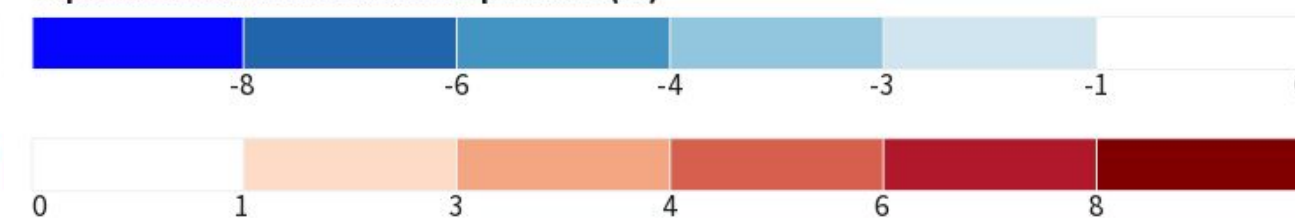
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 11/30/25

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: 11/30/25



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El Paso, TX



Summary of Impacts

December 4, 2025
10:10 AM

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Gila River running below normal. Mimbres River and Rio Grande south of the Caballo Dam have both dried up and will likely remain dry through the winter season. River levels will remain dry or slowly decrease into the winter due to lack of precipitation. Elephant Butte storage sits at 5.6% capacity, slightly higher than last month and near the historical 30-year minimum. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains below normal as the typically drier winter season commences. Further drying is expected this season. Outlook points to near normal precipitation in December. 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 this month due to slight drought improvement this autumn and ERCs near normal for December. Peak fire season has ended with low risk of lightning into the winter months. Periods of strong winds could lead to large fire growth in December as mostly dry conditions prevail.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

December 4, 2025
10:10 AM

- Gila River and Rio Ruidoso basins running near normal. No sudden rises occurred in November. Mimbres River has run dry for the season. Rio Grande below Caballo Dam has dried up.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	1.39 ft	11.00 ft	110 ft ³ /s
Redrock	4.40 ft	20.00 ft	74 ft ³ /s
Virden	5.15 ft	15.00 ft	62 ft ³ /s

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft	None

Gauge data recorded on 12/4/2025

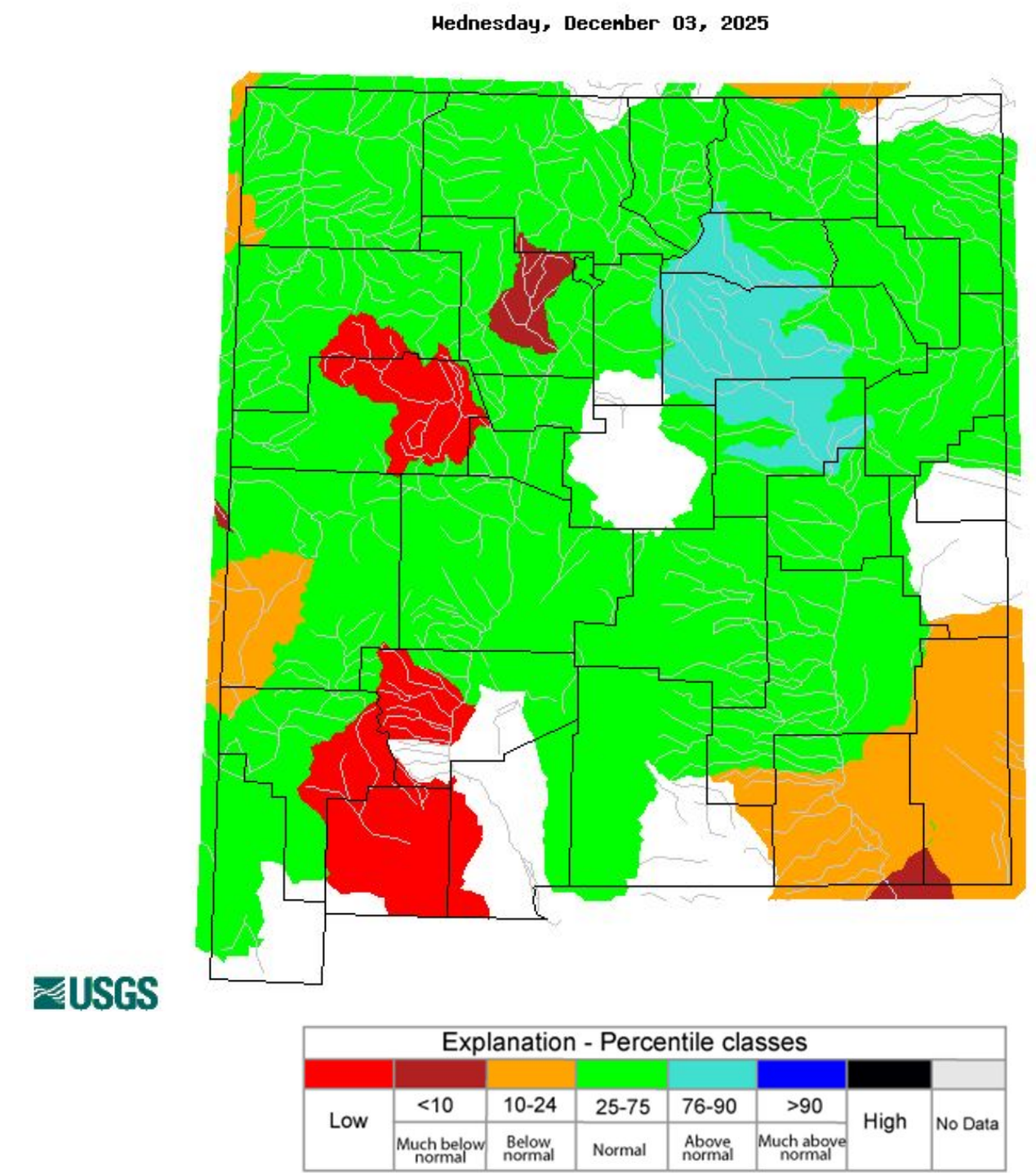


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid December 3, 2025

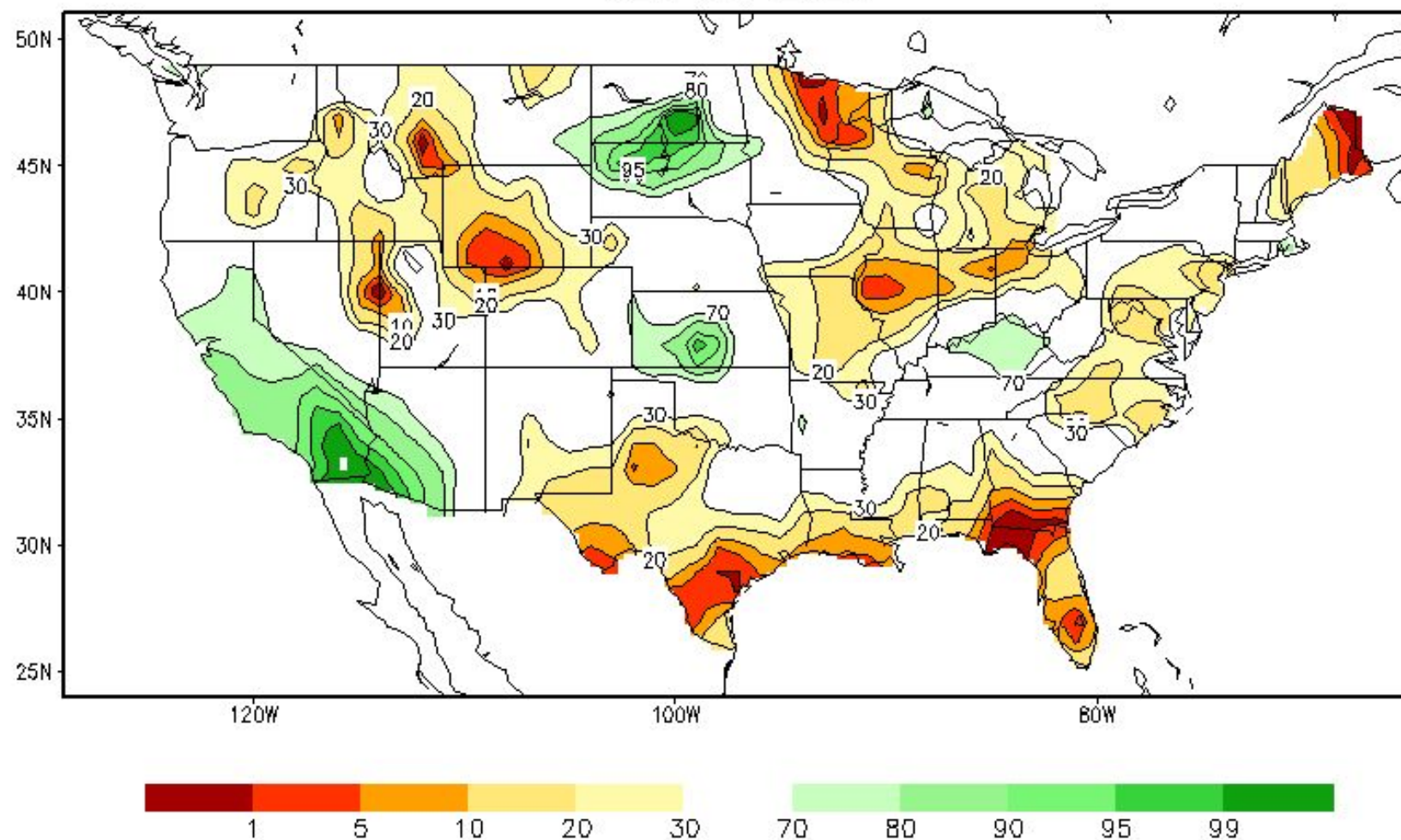




Agricultural Impacts

December 4, 2025
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Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
DEC 03, 2025



Crop Moisture Index
Value for the November 23 - 29, 2025
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

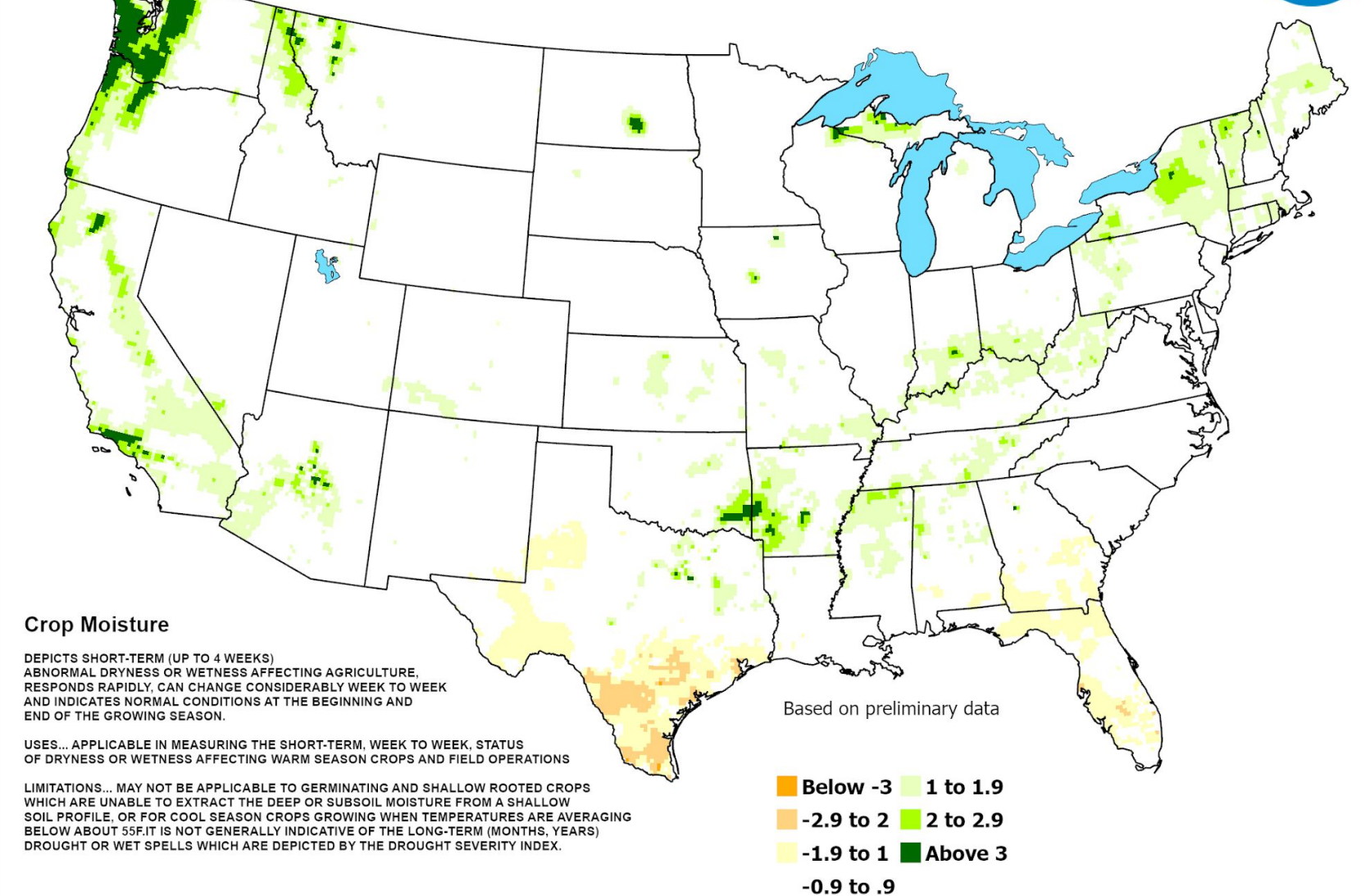


Image Captions:

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

Right: National Drought Mitigation Center's Short-Term Crop Moisture Index valid November 29, 2025



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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](#)

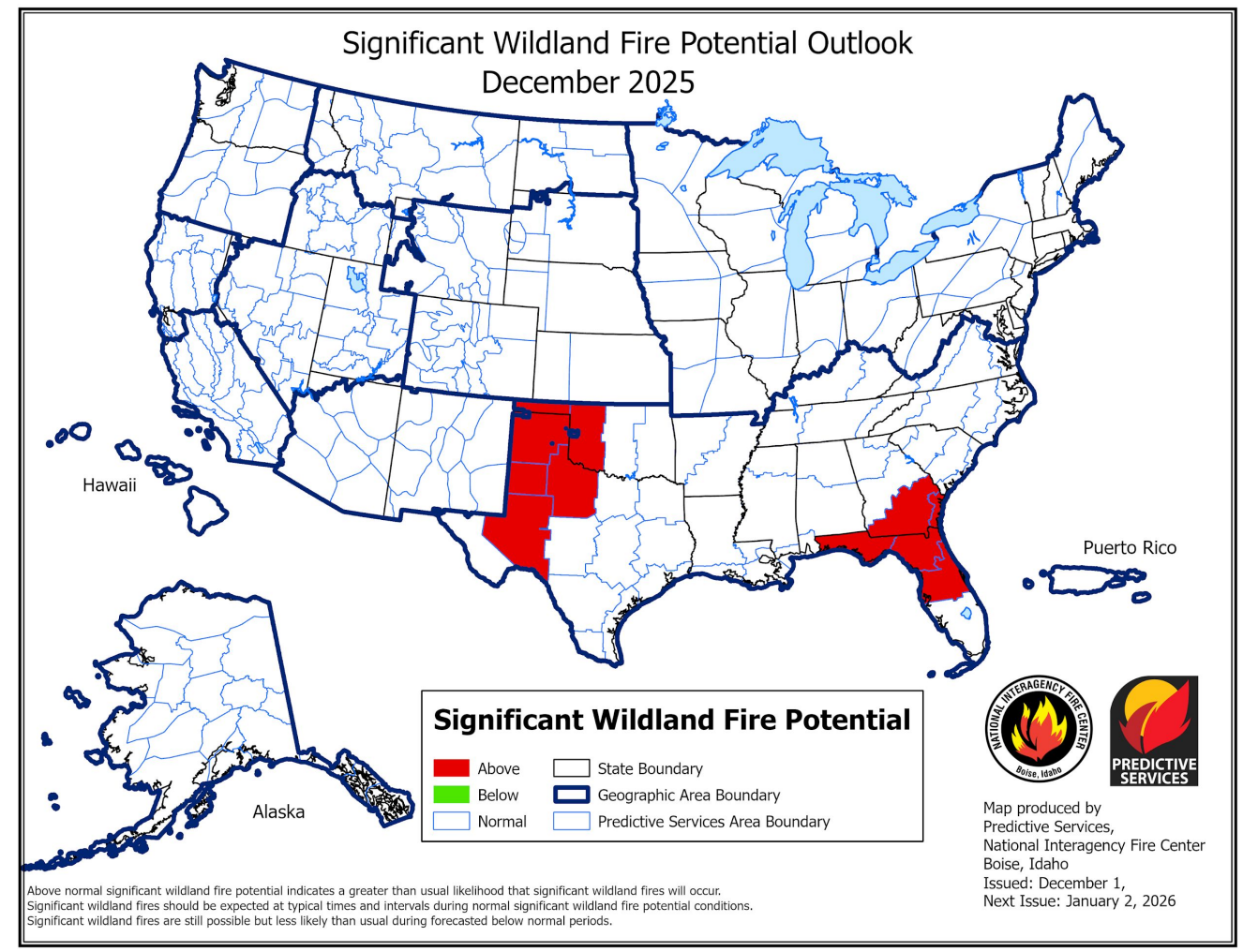
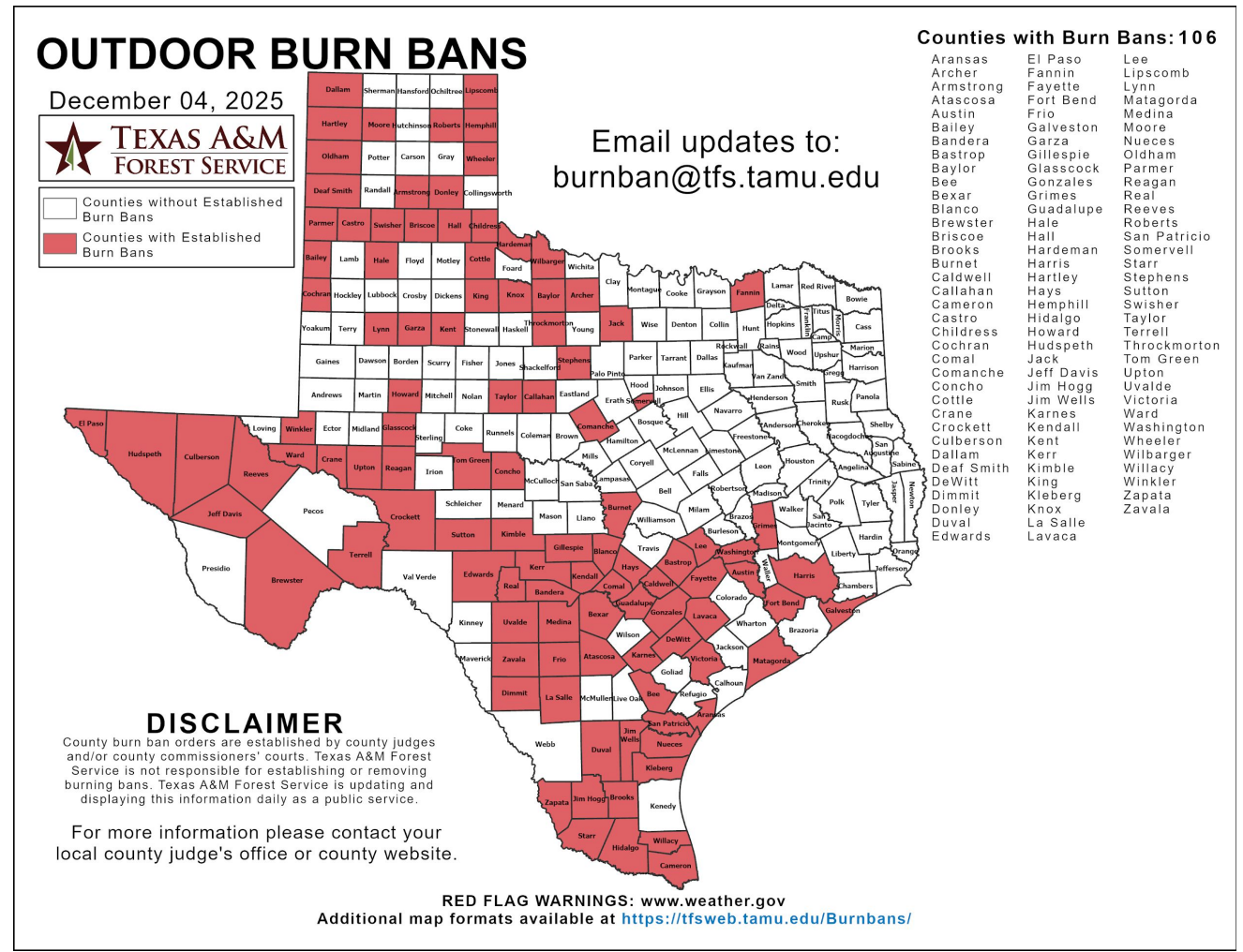


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for December 2025



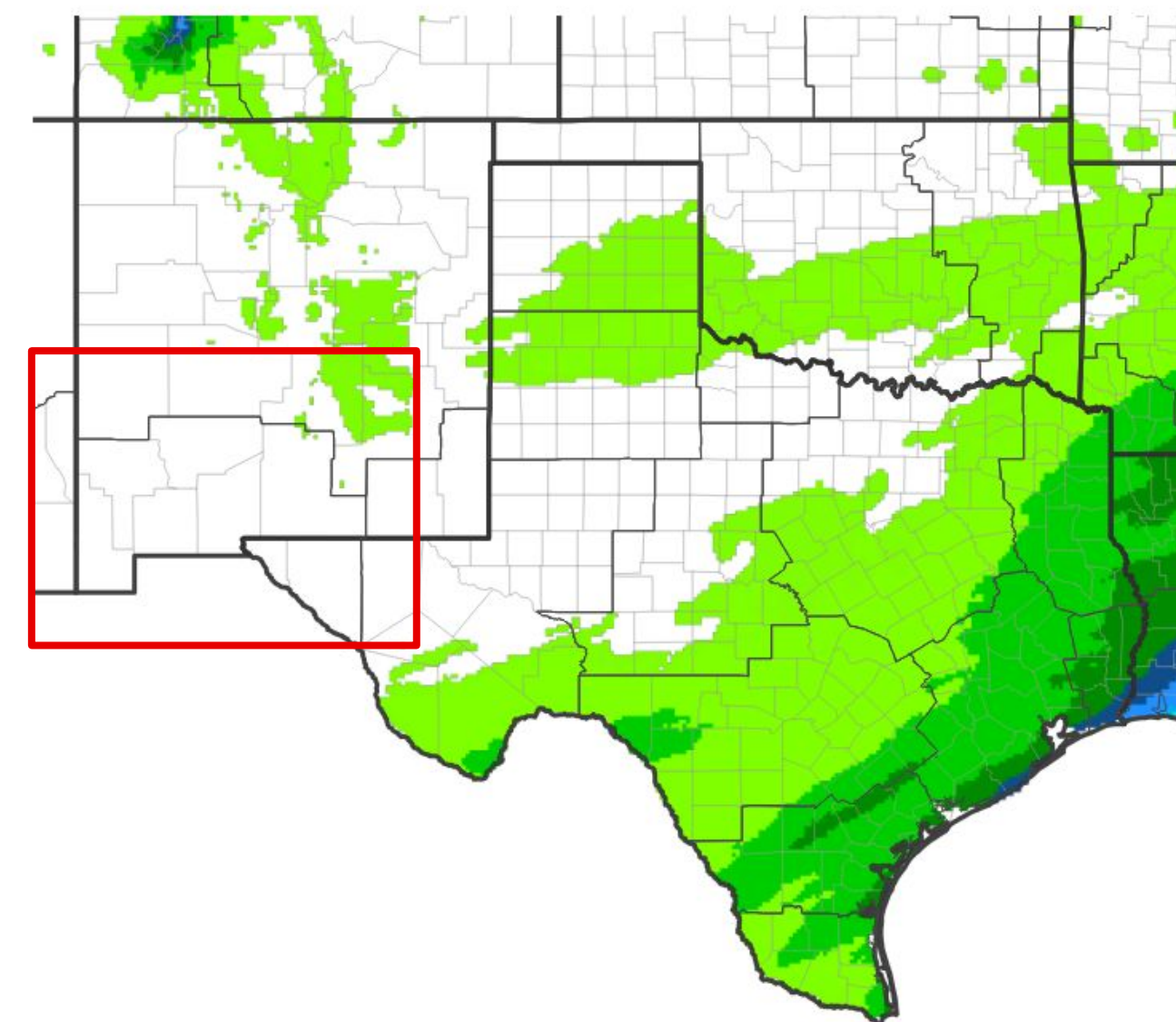


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

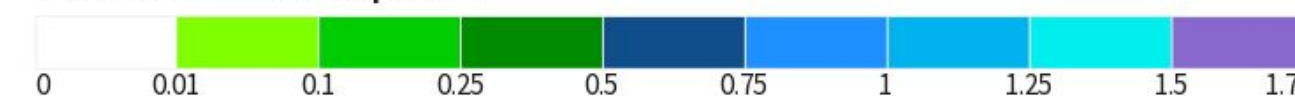
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- No precipitation expected over the next 7 days. Majority of December looks dry for New Mexico and west Texas, especially the first half of the month.
- 2025 autumn season rainfall finished near or above normal for southern New Mexico and far west Texas. Precipitation ranged from 90-170% of normal. Drought conditions are likely to persist into the winter season.

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



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/04/25





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

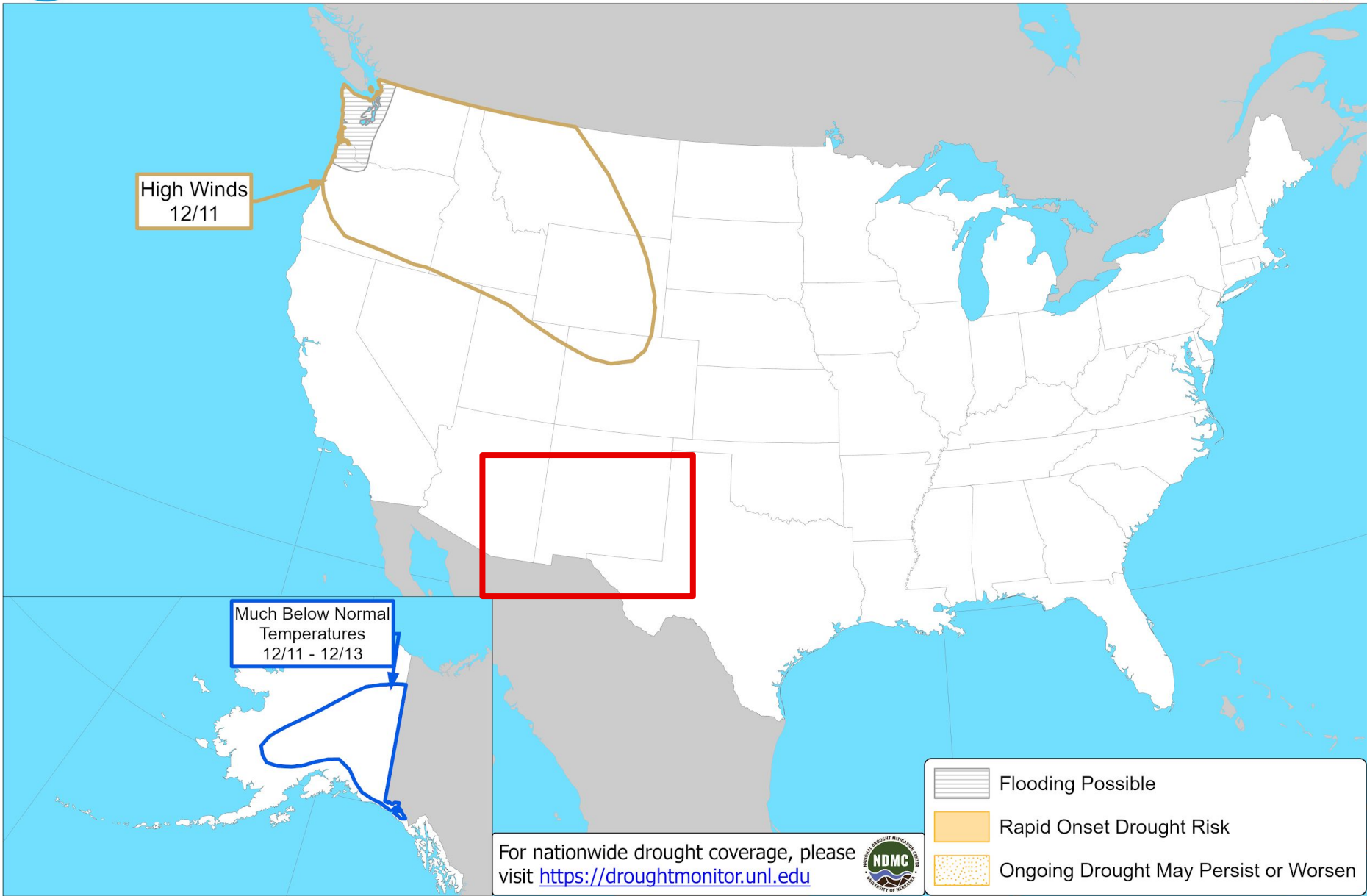
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Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Moderate to Severe 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 into the winter season.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: December 11 - 17, 2025



Climate Prediction Center

Released: December 3, 2025 3:00 PM EST

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Image Caption:

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



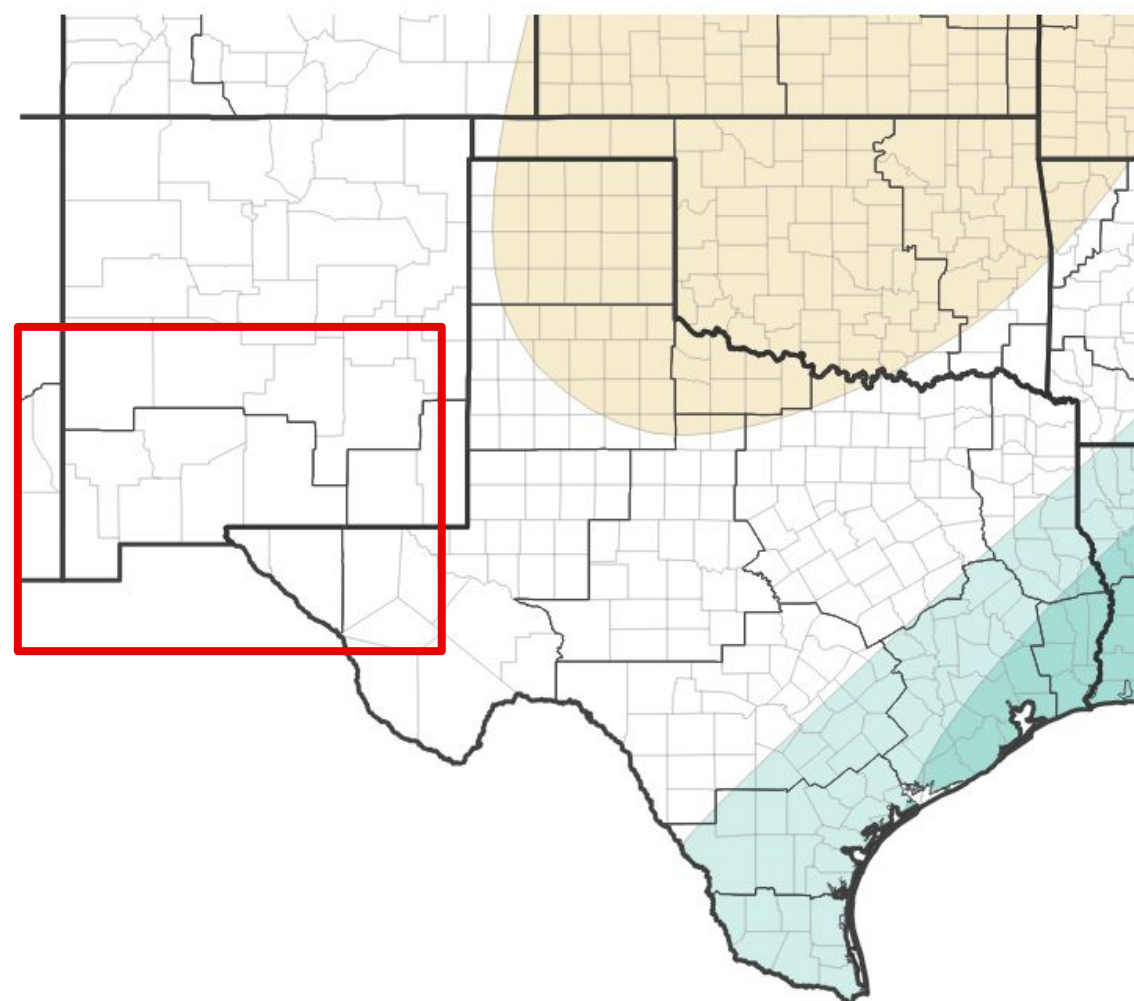


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Equal chances of below, near, and above normal precipitation for New Mexico and west Texas.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: 0.63"
- 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures for southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: 60.5°

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



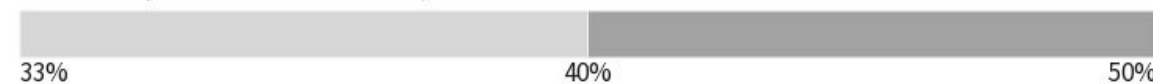
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



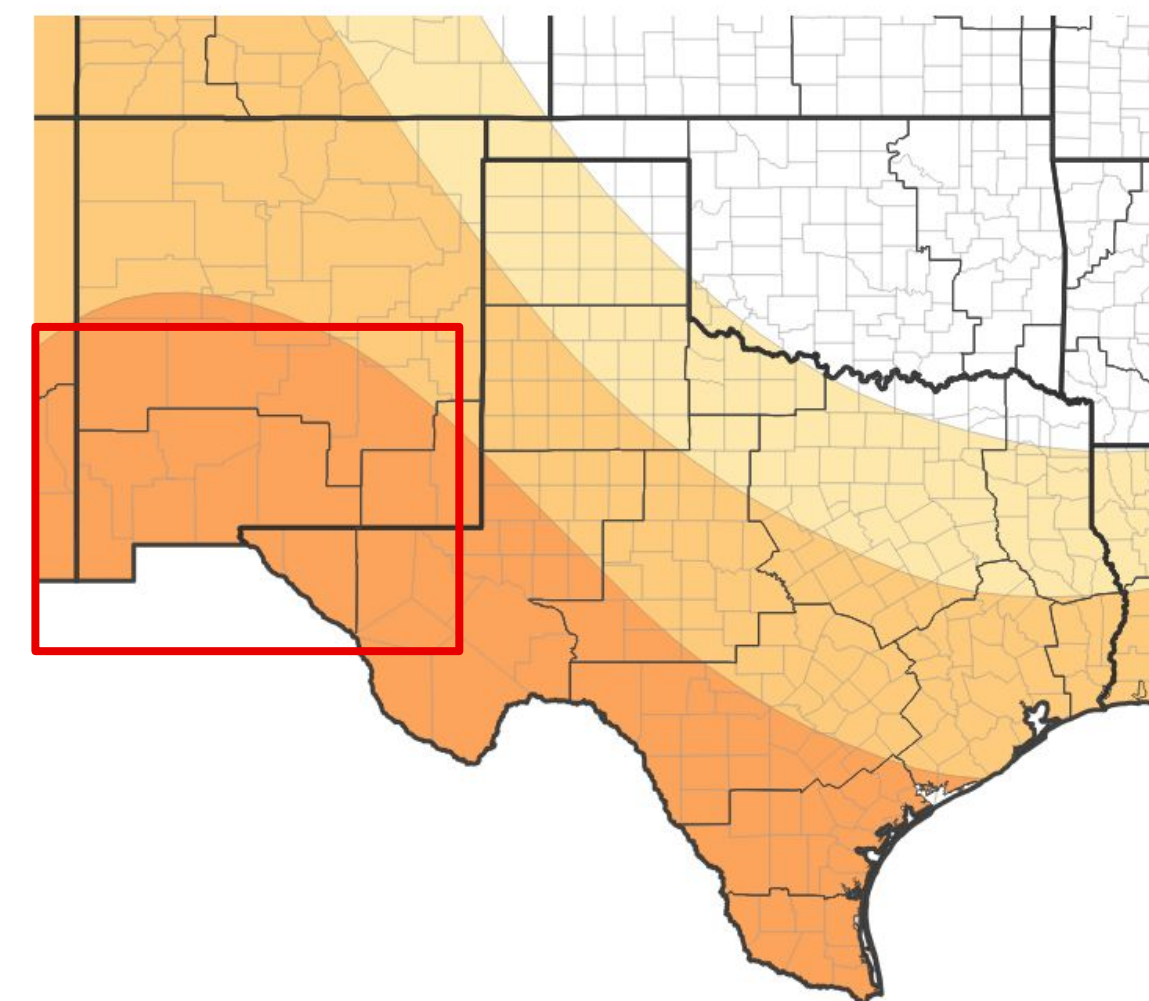
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



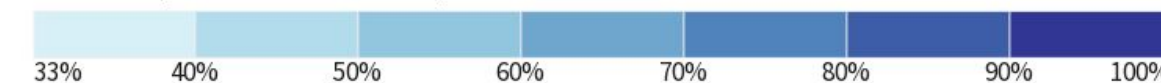
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/30/25

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



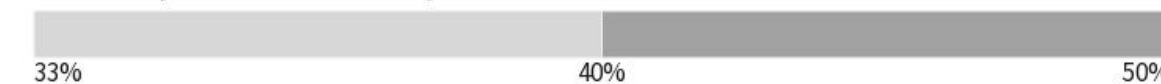
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 11/30/25

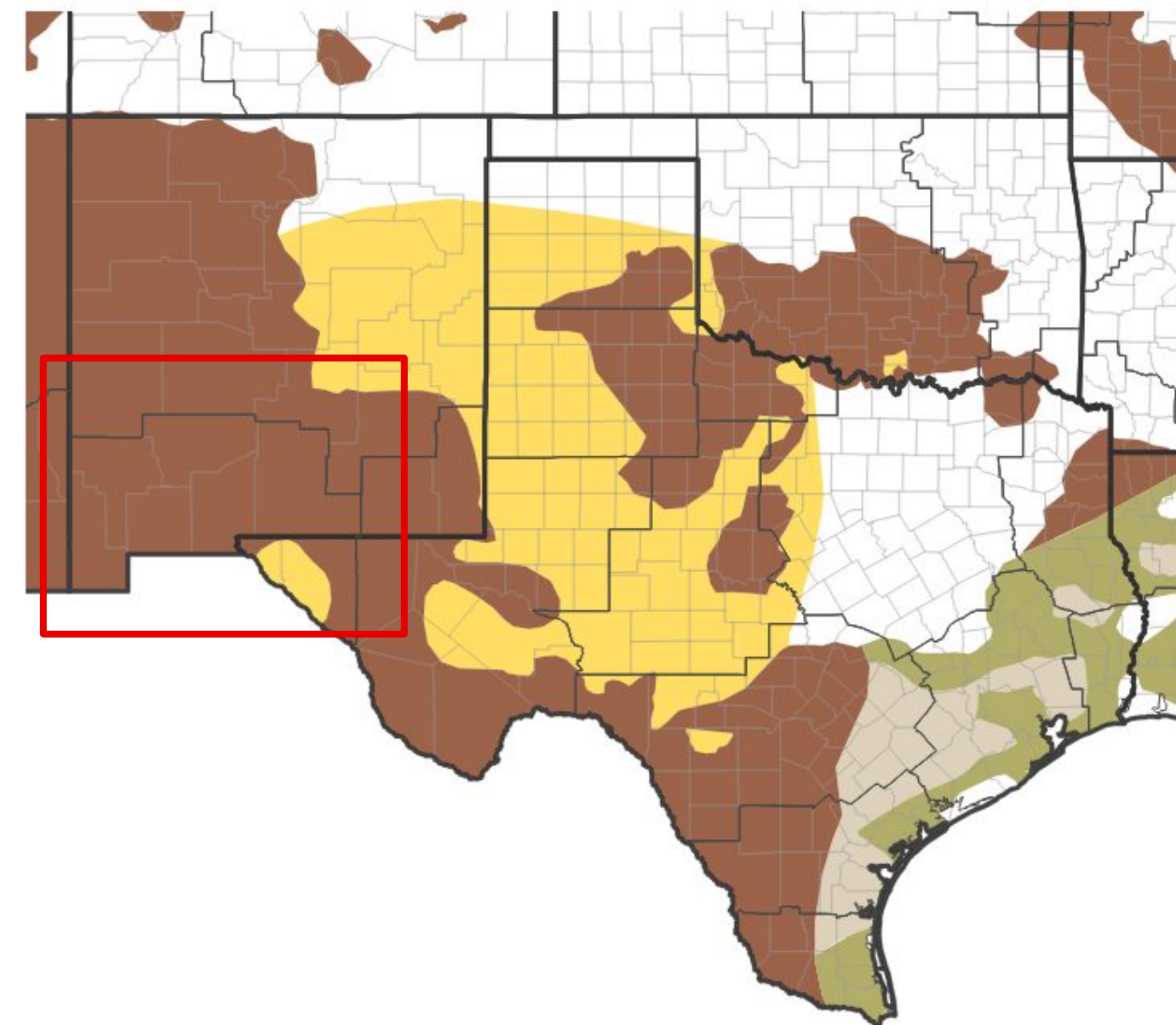


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist or re-develop through December due to lower than normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.

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



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 11/30/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

