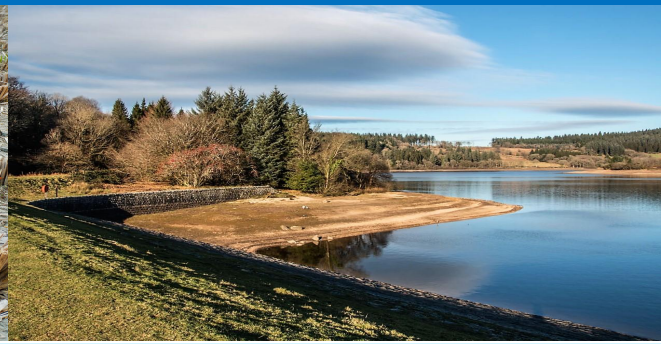
Drought Information Statement for West Texas & Southeast New Mexico

Valid 08/5/2026

Issued By: WFO Midland/Odessa

Contact Information: sr-maf.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated September 5, 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/maf/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.



U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for [region]

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS UNCHANGED FOR OF WEST TEXAS AND SE NM.

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Covers a small portion of northwest Eddy County.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Portions of SE NM, NE Permian Basin, Presidio, Brewster, and Terrell counties.
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Portions of the eastern Permian Basin, SE NM, Jeff Davis County, and much of the Big Bend.

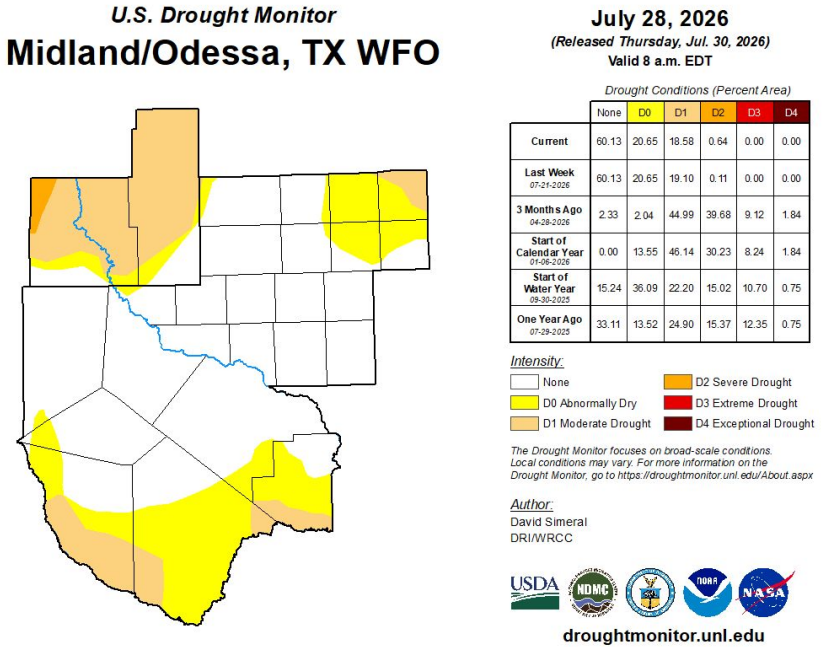


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EST July 28th.

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map for [region]

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Mainly unchanged with a one class degradation across northwestern Eddy County.

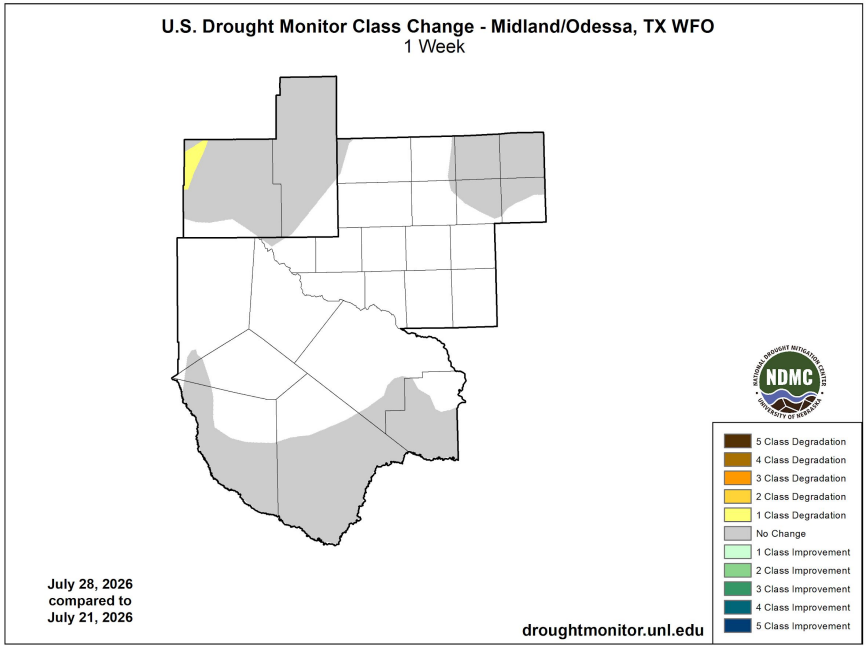
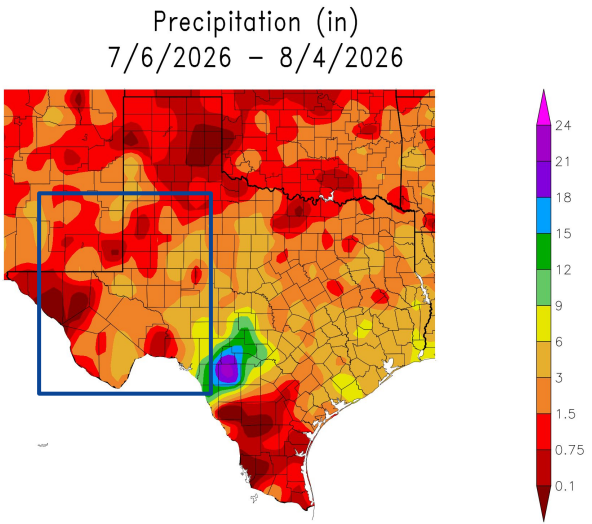


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EST July 28th.

Precipitation

- Precipitation amounts were near to above normal for about two-thirds of the region over the course of July. The western third of the CWA saw mainly below normal precipitation.



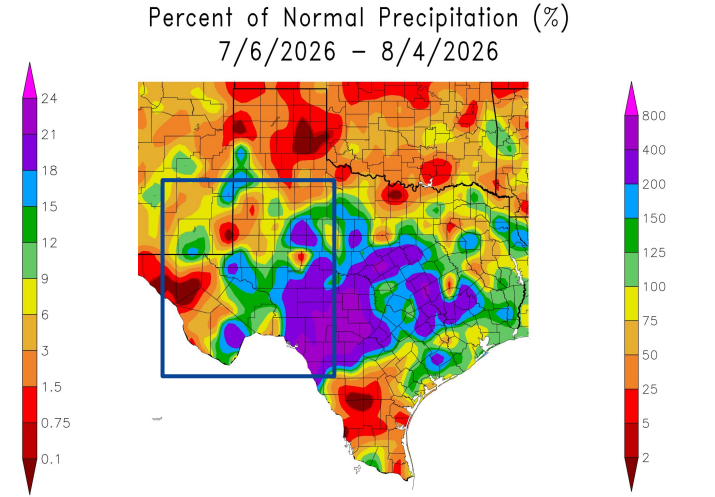
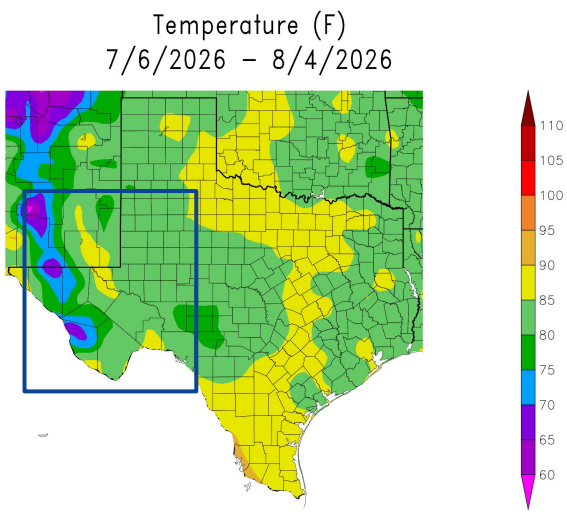


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for West Texas and SE NM
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for West Texas and SE NM
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending August 5, 2026

Temperature

- Mirroring the precipitation maps, temperatures were near to below normal across the eastern two-thirds of the area for much of July with the Big Bend seeing average monthly temperatures a degree or two below normal.
- Just like with precipitation, the western third of the region saw temperatures a degree or two above normal as drier conditions prevailed for most of July.



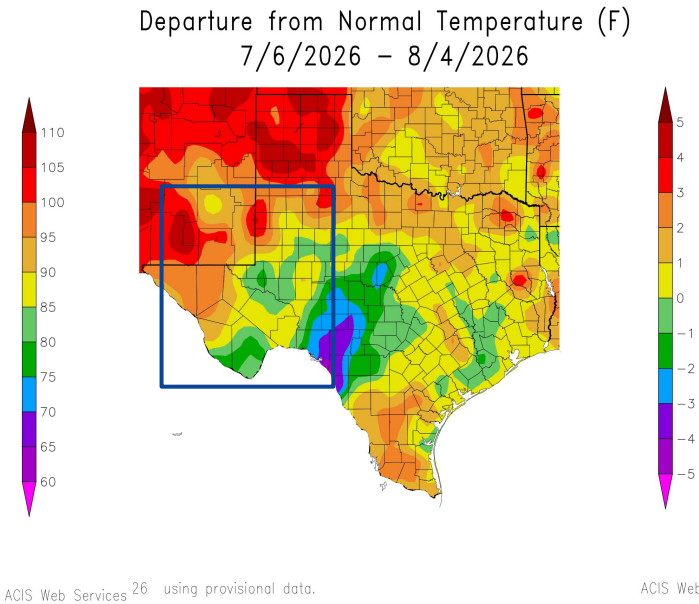


Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending August 4, 2025

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most area rivers and tributaries remain near baseflow. Area reservoirs are at 39.1% conservation capacity. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- A mix of impacts on crops and cattle for July as some areas saw above normal rainfall that helped crops. Other areas saw above normal temperatures, likely hampering certain yields. Further impacts are detailed in the "Texas Crop and Weather Report".

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire weather impacts will be low through August, despite some areas receiving below normal precipitation amounts through July.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- The Pecos River and Rio Grande are below to extremely below normal. However, associated tributaries are normal to above normal.
- All other river and tributary basins are normal.
- Midland Monthly Hydrology Report for June
- July Rainfall

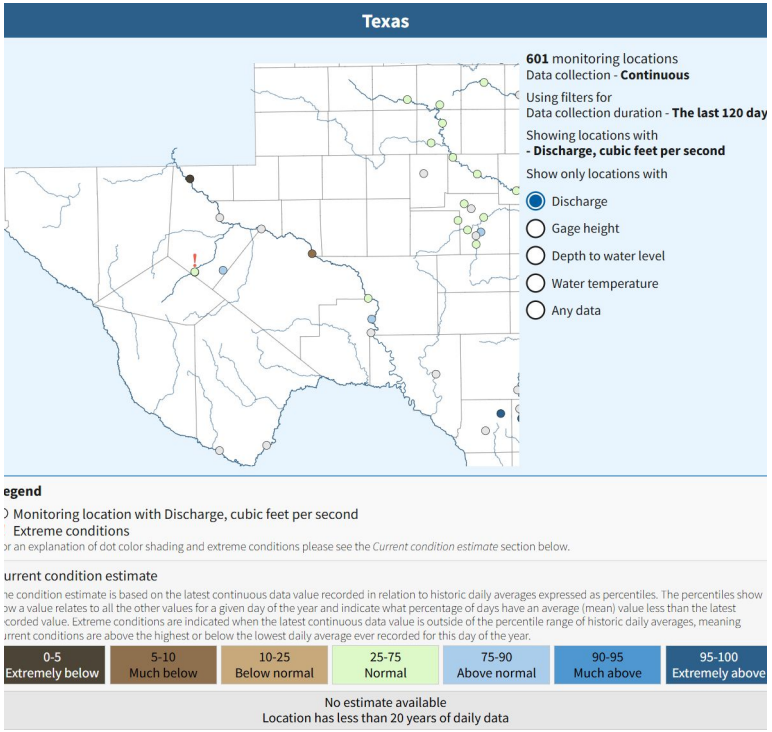


Image Caption: USGS Daily Historical Percentile Discharge, valid 1 August 2026

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	% Full
JB Thomas	2258.00	2228.39	23.7
Colorado City	2070.20	2060.07	57.7
Champion Creek	2083.00	2063.69	44.9
Natural Dam Salt Lake	2457.00	M	M
Moss Creek	2337.00	2330.97	74.0
Brantley	3256.70	3239.50	24.0
Avalon	3177.40	3175.45	1.0
Red Bluff	2827.40	2815.54	48.2

Agricultural Impacts

- Crop moisture remains below normal, particularly west of the Pecos River Valley where less rain has fallen over the last month. Some areas around the Big Bend have near normal moisture thanks to better rain and slightly below normal average temperatures.

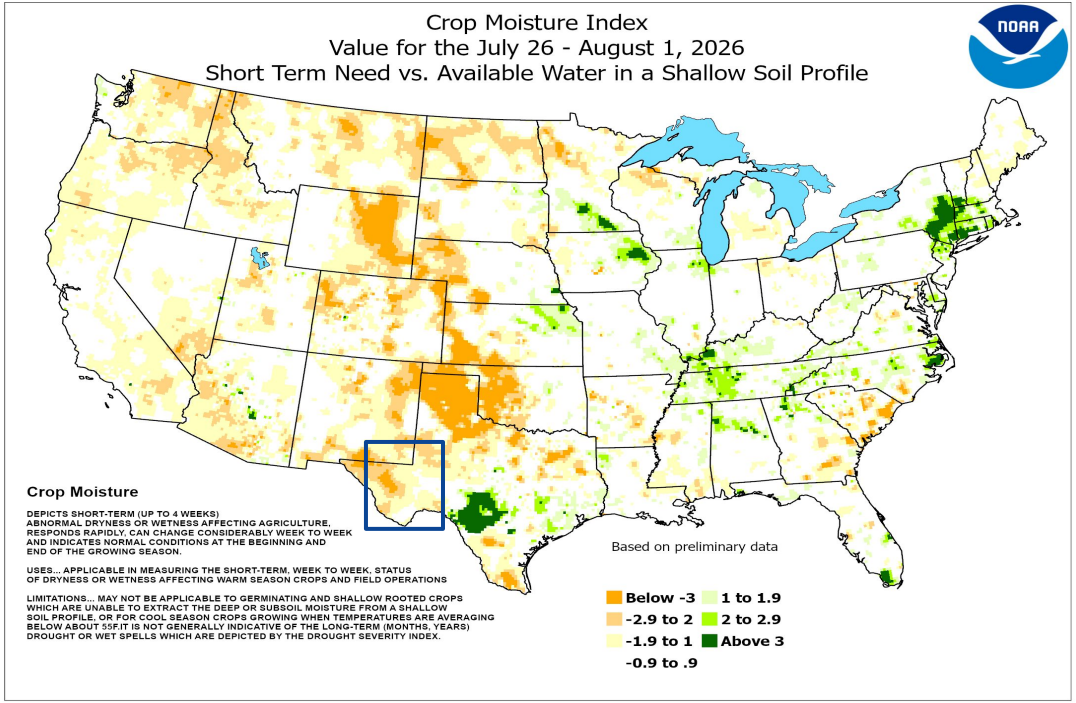
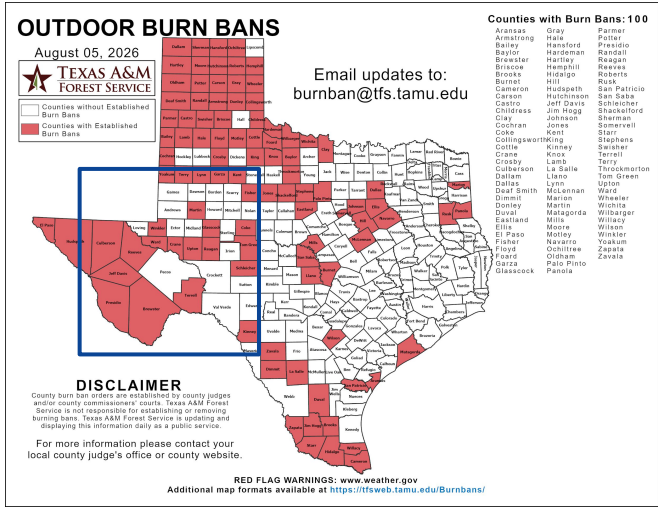


Image Caption:
Right: Crop Moisture Index by Division. Weekly value for period ending Aug. 1, 2026

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Wildfire potential remains normal for the region through September. This may change over the next month and half depending on how consistent rain will be during that time. Above normal temperatures may also aid in curing fuels that could lead to easier starts of small fires.



Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here.]

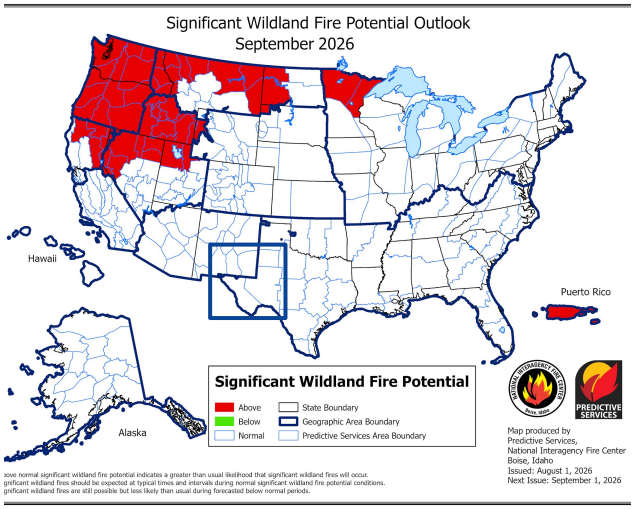


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook] for September 2026

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Little precipitation is forecasted for the region over the next week. The Davis Mountains southward into Big Bend have the best chance to see some measurable precipitation, but forecasted amounts are currently not enough to significantly change drought conditions.

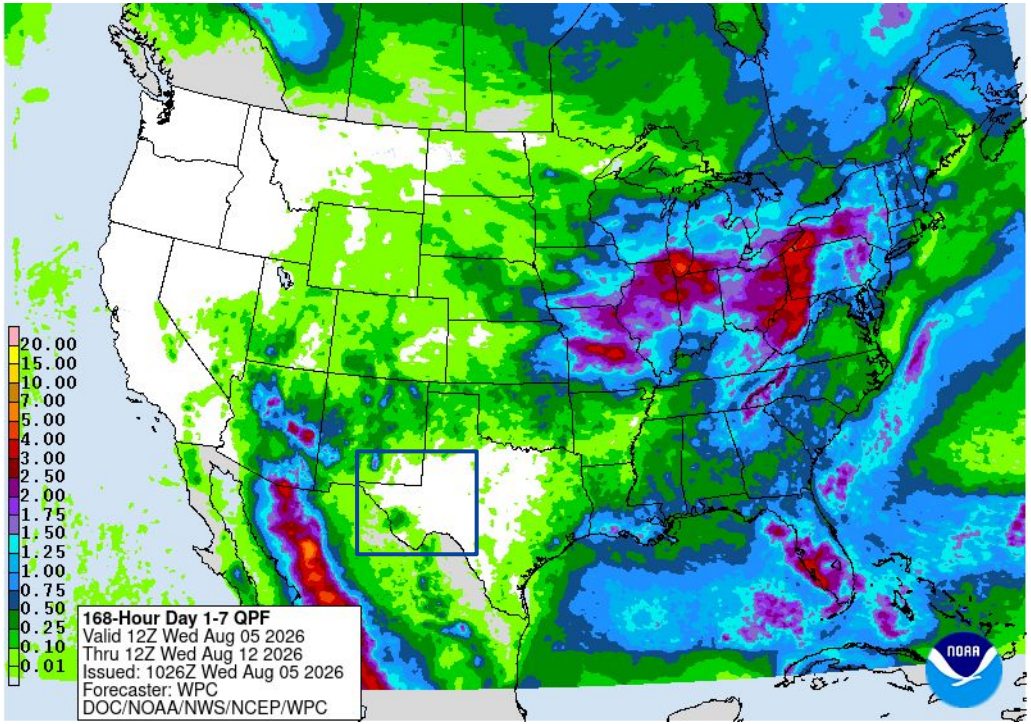
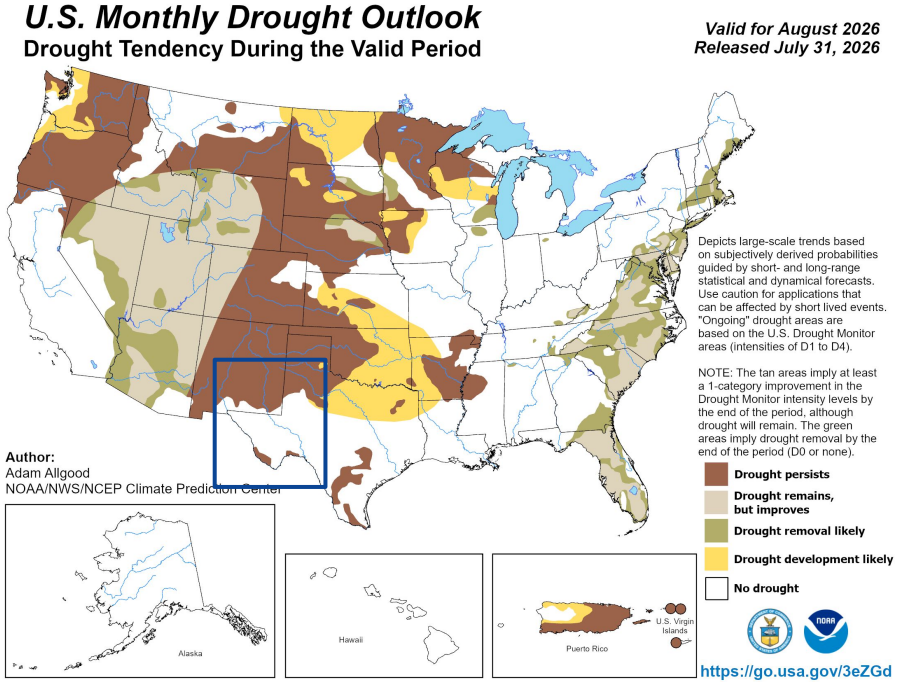


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast] valid Wednesday August 05 to Wednesday August 12

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The outlook for the rest of the month shows drought persisting across West Texas and southeast New Mexico as medium to long term forecasts show little in the way of significant precipitation.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released 07 31, 2026 valid for 08 2026