



# Drought Information Statement for New Mexico

Valid March 7, 2025

Issued By: NWS Albuquerque

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated April 4, 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/ABQ/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
- 
- Drought is slowly expanding throughout New Mexico due to exceptionally dry winter conditions.
  - Warm temperatures, high winds and low relative humidities are aggravating drought conditions and leading to critical fire weather.



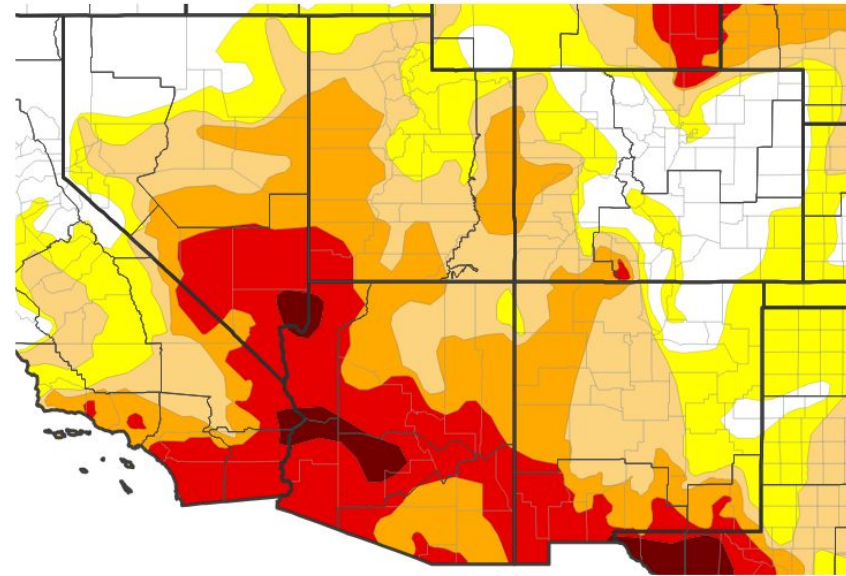


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the southwest U.S.

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: For now, there are no areas of Exceptional Drought.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: A fringe of Extreme Drought exists along the southern border in the SW of the state.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Severe Drought has spread throughout the western edge of the state.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Moderate drought has dramatically expanded throughout central and western NM
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Significant expansion of abnormally dry conditions throughout eastern NM with more expansions expected.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 03/04/25

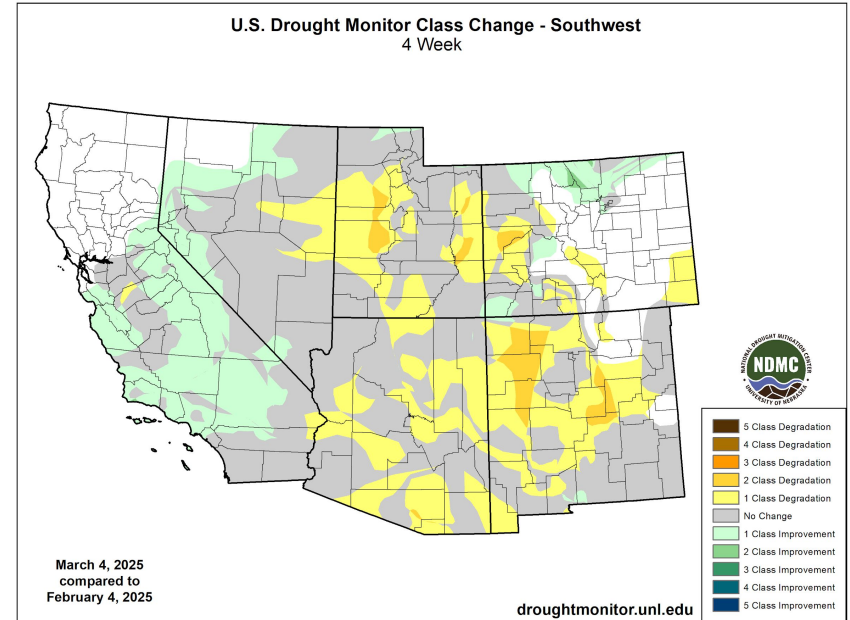




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the southwest U.S.

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: 1 category deterioration in most of NM. 2 category deterioration observed in western and central NM.
  - No Change: Bands of no change mostly observed in southeast and far east NM.
  - Drought Improved: No improvement found anywhere in the state.



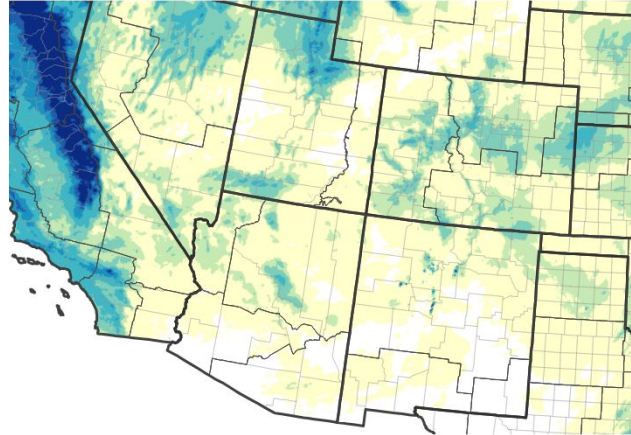


# Precipitation

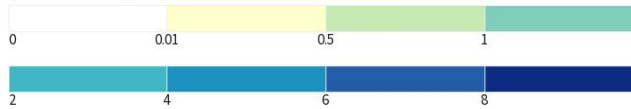
EXTREMELY DRY CONDITIONS OVER THE LAST 30 DAYS.

- Apart from some extremely localized points in the mountains, the state has largely seen no more than 0.01-0.5" of precipitation in the last 30 days.
- Roughly half of the state is showing 0-25% of what would be considered a normal amount of precipitation in the last 30 days.
- Far NE NM is the only area in the last month that approaches a normal or above normal amount of precipitation.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

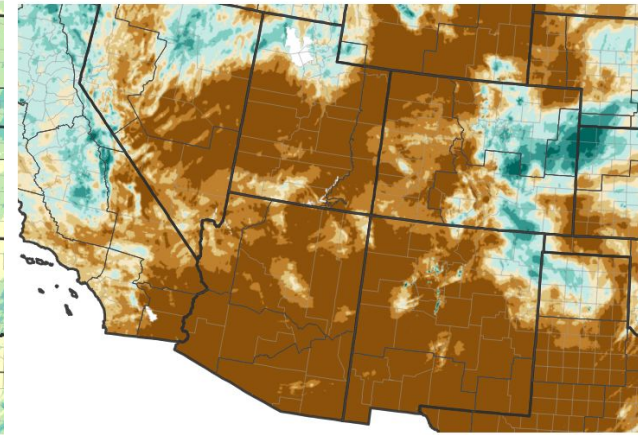


Inches of Precipitation

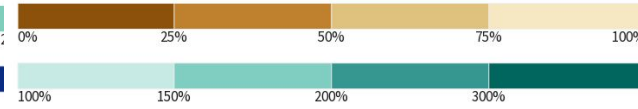


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 03/06/25

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 03/06/25  
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Image Caption: (Left) 30-day Precip (Right) 30-day Percent of Normal ending 03/06/25.



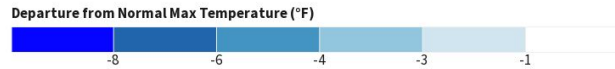
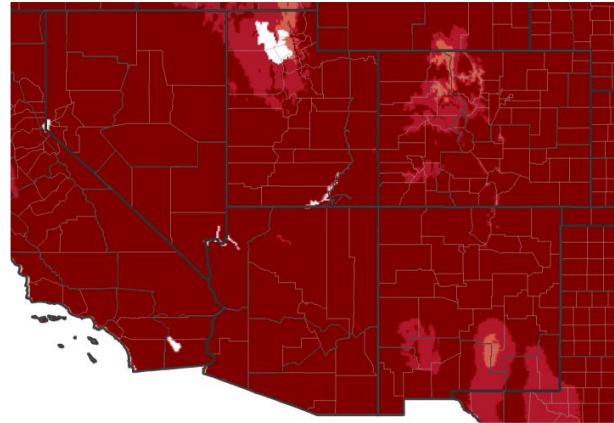


# Temperature

[Link to HPRCC](#)

- After a cold January, we saw an exceptionally warm February.
- In the last 30 days we've seen the western 2/3rd of the state see maximum temperatures that were 6-10° above normal.
- In the last week, nearly the entire state was at least 8° above normal for daily high temperatures.

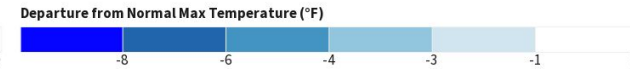
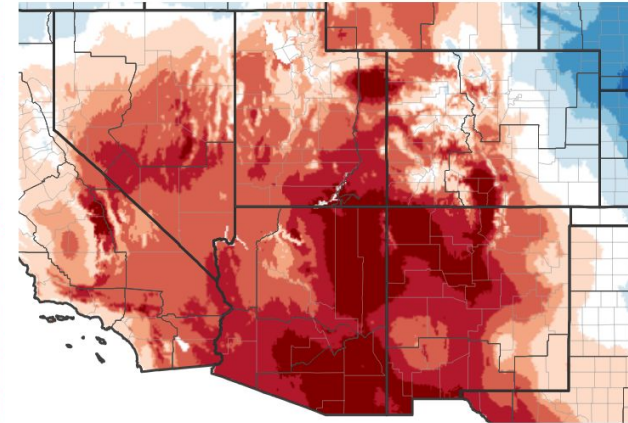
7-Day Temperature Anomaly



0 1 3 4 6 8

Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 03/02/25

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



0 1 3 4 6 8

Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 03/02/25

Image Caption: (Left) 7-day Temp Anomaly (Right) 30-day Temp Anomaly ending 03/02/2025.





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow conditions are difficult to monitor at this time of year due to ice impacts on river gages. However, the USGS has determined that roughly half of the state is seeing below to much below normal streamflow.

## Agricultural Impacts

- At this point in the year agricultural impacts can be muted. However the latest report from the USDA points to several concerns including:
  - 90% of the state is reporting topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions rated as poor or very poor.
  - 49% of pasture and rangeland is listed as poor or very poor.
  - 21% of the winter wheat crop is listed as poor.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- As per the Southwest Coordination Center most of the state is seeing an Energy Release Component in the 75th or 90th Percentile. Only select areas are seeing values as low as the 50th percentile.
- This indicates that much of the state is critically vulnerable to rapid fire development with fuel moisture less than 10% of normal throughout the entire state.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- This map shows how various river basins are performing compared to a 7-day average streamflow for the week of September 3 (30-year climatology).
- Roughly half of the state is below the 25th percentile for streamflow, with only a few pockets of the state reading as above the 75th percentile.
- It is important to keep in mind that the major river systems of New Mexico are largely controlled by dams and reservoirs and that “performance” is heavily influenced by human activity.
- It is also important to note that data quality during the winter is negatively impacted by ice effects on the stream gages that lead to those data being ignored in this analysis.

Thursday, March 06, 2025

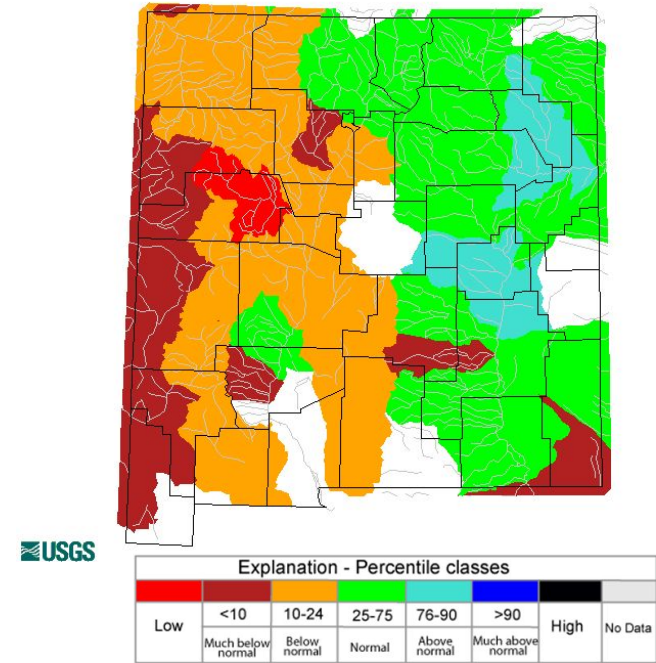


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 3/6/2025

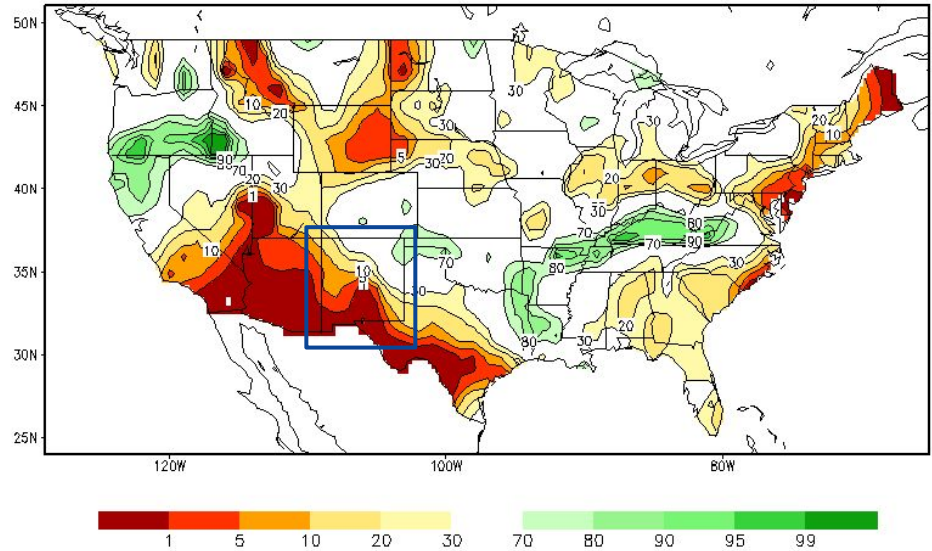




# Agricultural Impacts

- NWS analysis of soil moisture is not as extreme as the ground-truthed data reported by the USDA, but it is showing extremely dry conditions throughout the southeastern half of the state.
- Crop moisture conditions are not reported during the winter months by the Climate Prediction Center.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
MAR 06, 2025



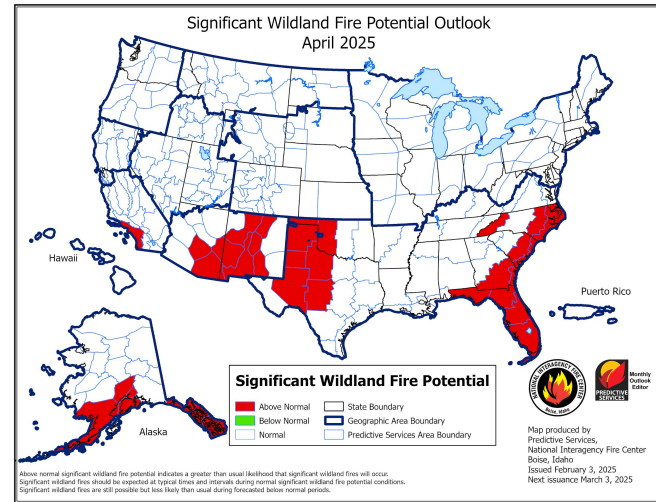
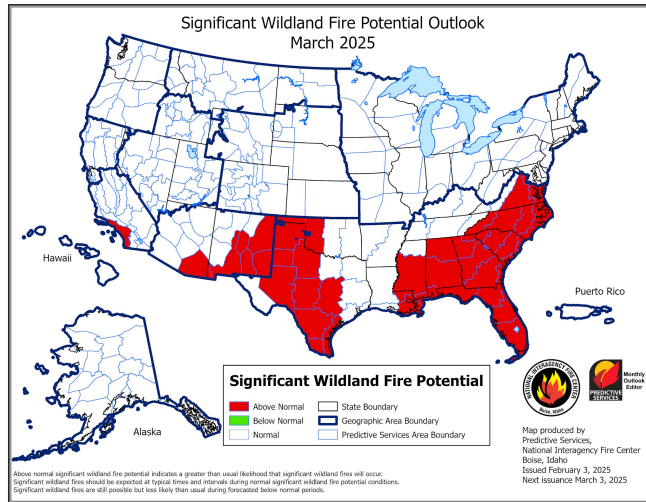
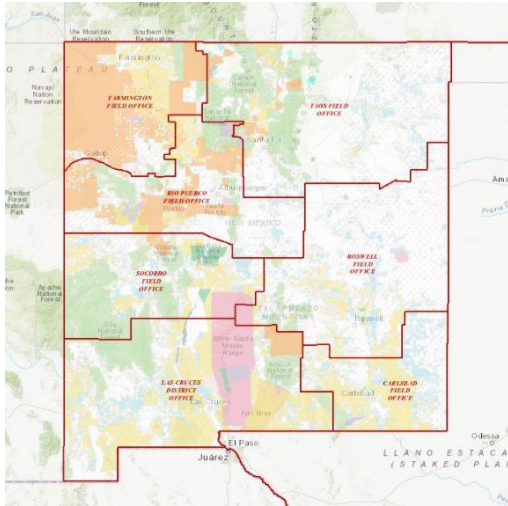




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- The latest March and April 2025 significant wildland fire potential outlooks shows above normal fire potential spreading throughout the eastern part of the state in march and the central to western part of the state in April.



Detailed information available on the interactive map Above.

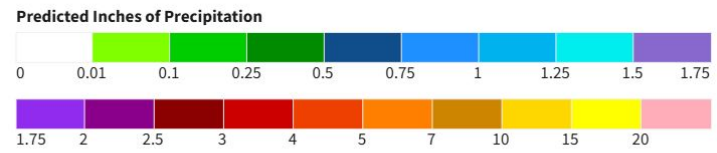
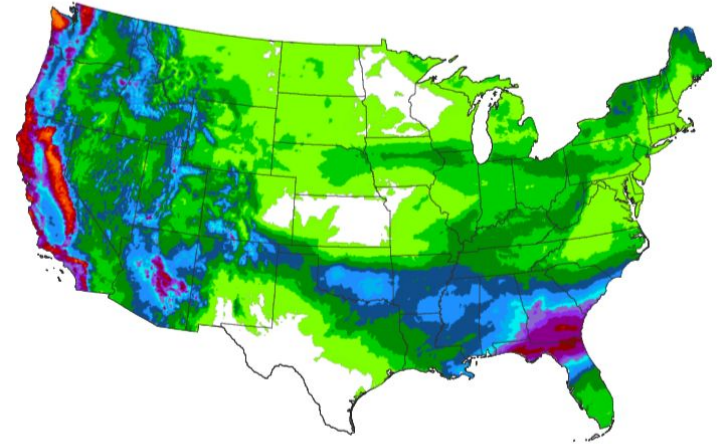




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- 7 day forecasts for precipitation are skewed somewhat by an incoming winter storm that is capable of producing up to 2” of precipitation in the northern and western edges of the state.
- Beyond the next 24 hours NM is forecast to return to an almost completely dry pattern, with some signals indicating the return of some moisture on Thursday the 13th.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 6-13, 2025



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 03/06/25

**Drought.gov**



# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The latest CPC monthly precipitation outlook for March shows a slightly increased chance of below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.

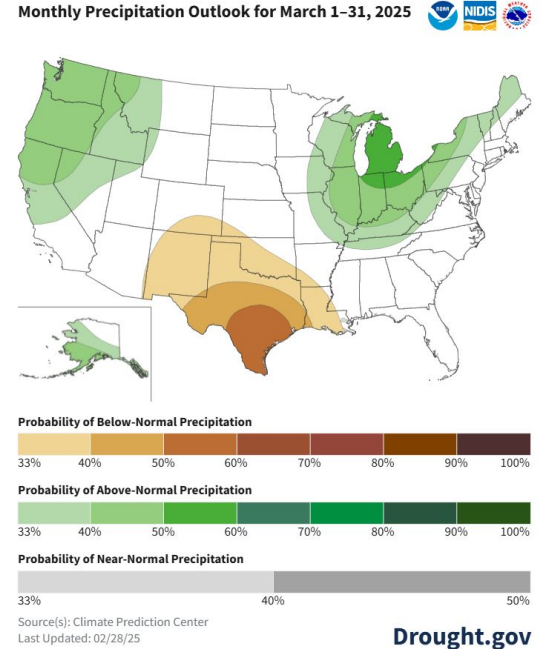
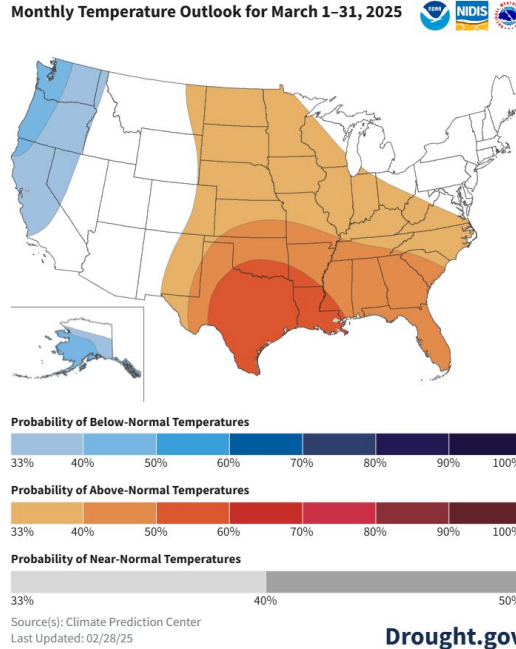


Image Caption: (Left) March Temp Outlook and (Right) Precipitation Outlook



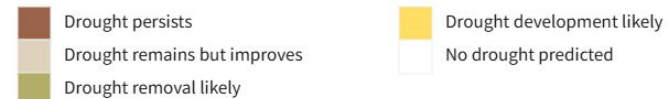
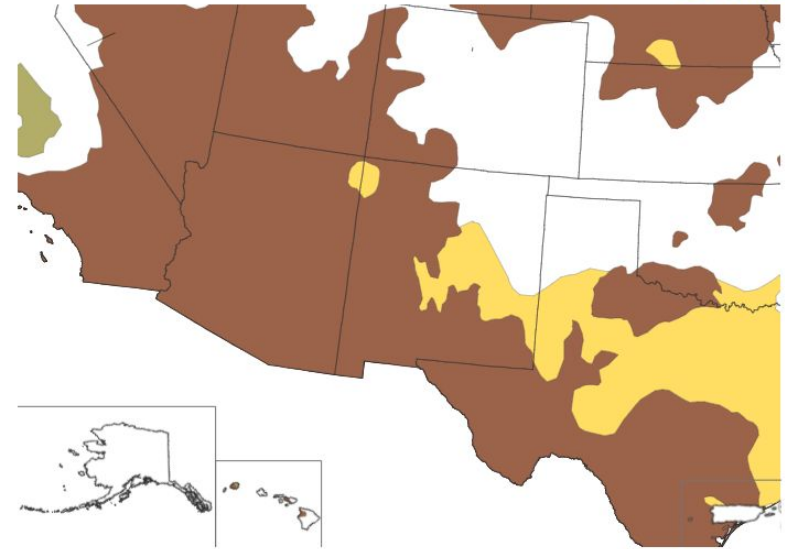


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to **PERSIST** or **DETERIORATE** throughout much of the state in March.
- We are already seeing expansion of drought in areas not captured by this forecast, specifically the NE portion of New Mexico.

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Updates Monthly: 02/28/25

**Drought.gov**

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  
Albuquerque