



Drought Information Statement for South Texas

Valid March 2, 2024

Issued By: NWS Corpus Christi, TX

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

- This product will be updated April 07, 2024 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/crp/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor

March 2, 2024
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Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for South Texas

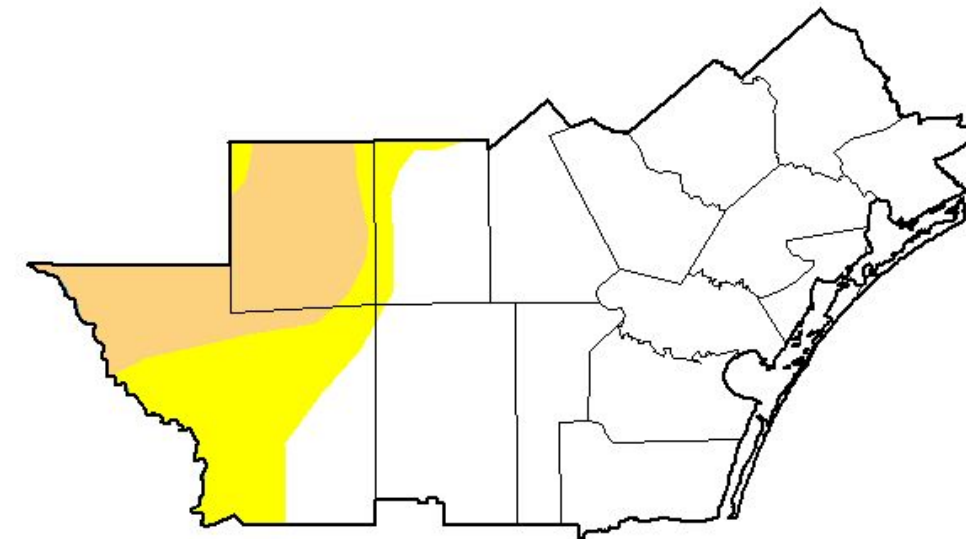
- Majority of South Texas is drought free
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): None
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): None
 - D2 (Severe Drought): None
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Northwest Brush Country
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Southern Brush Country

U.S. Drought Monitor Corpus Christi, TX WFO

February 27, 2024
(Released Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	73.48	26.52	13.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-20-2024	73.48	26.52	13.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-28-2023	57.03	42.97	22.06	1.43	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	45.93	54.07	21.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	4.33	95.67	72.50	35.40	23.70	0.00
One Year Ago 02-28-2023	2.01	97.99	90.76	26.55	0.21	0.00



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



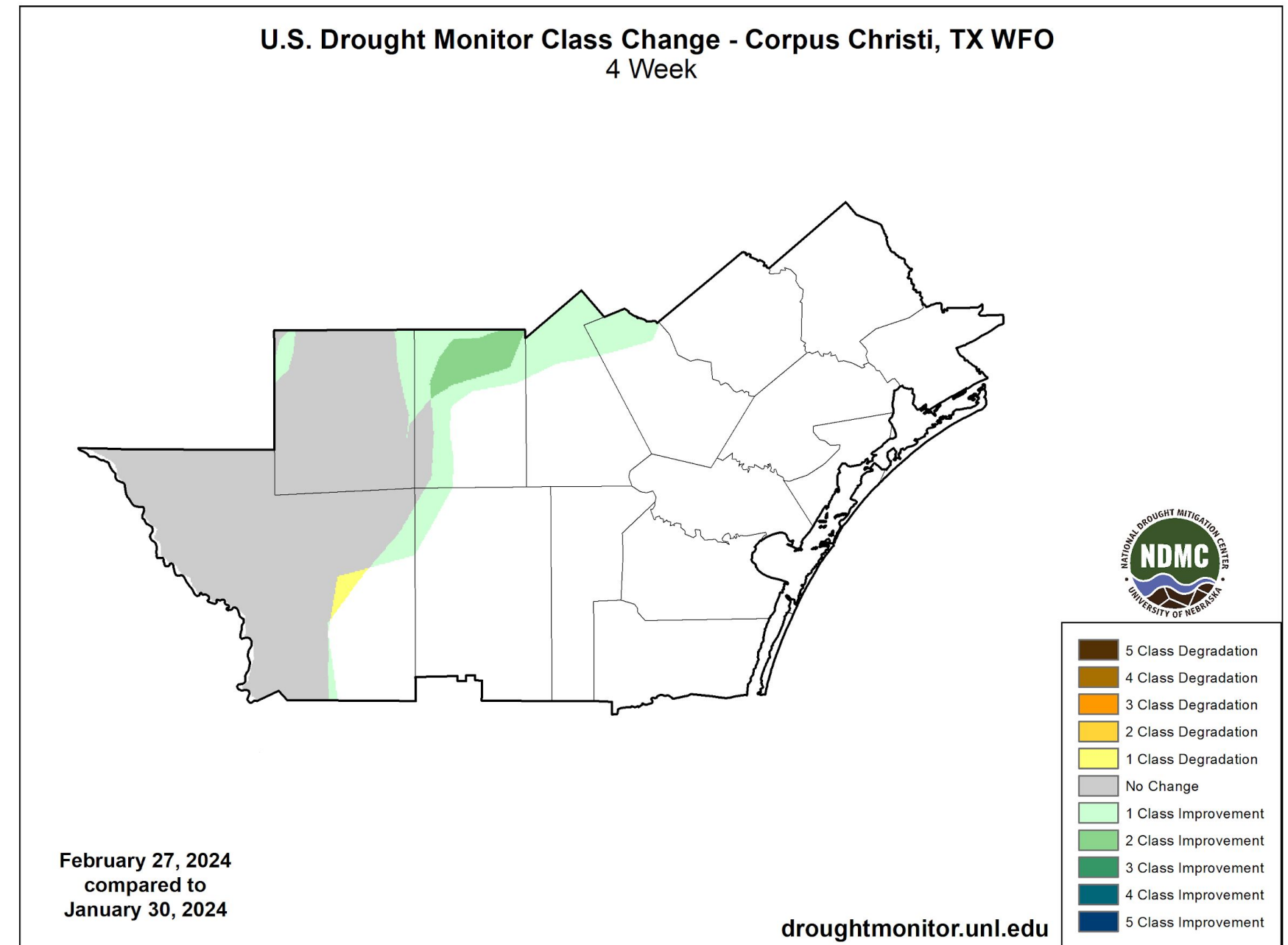


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for South Texas

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Small portion of the Southern Brush Country
 - No Change: Much of the Brush Country
 - Drought Improved: Northern Coastal Plains and portions of the Brush Country



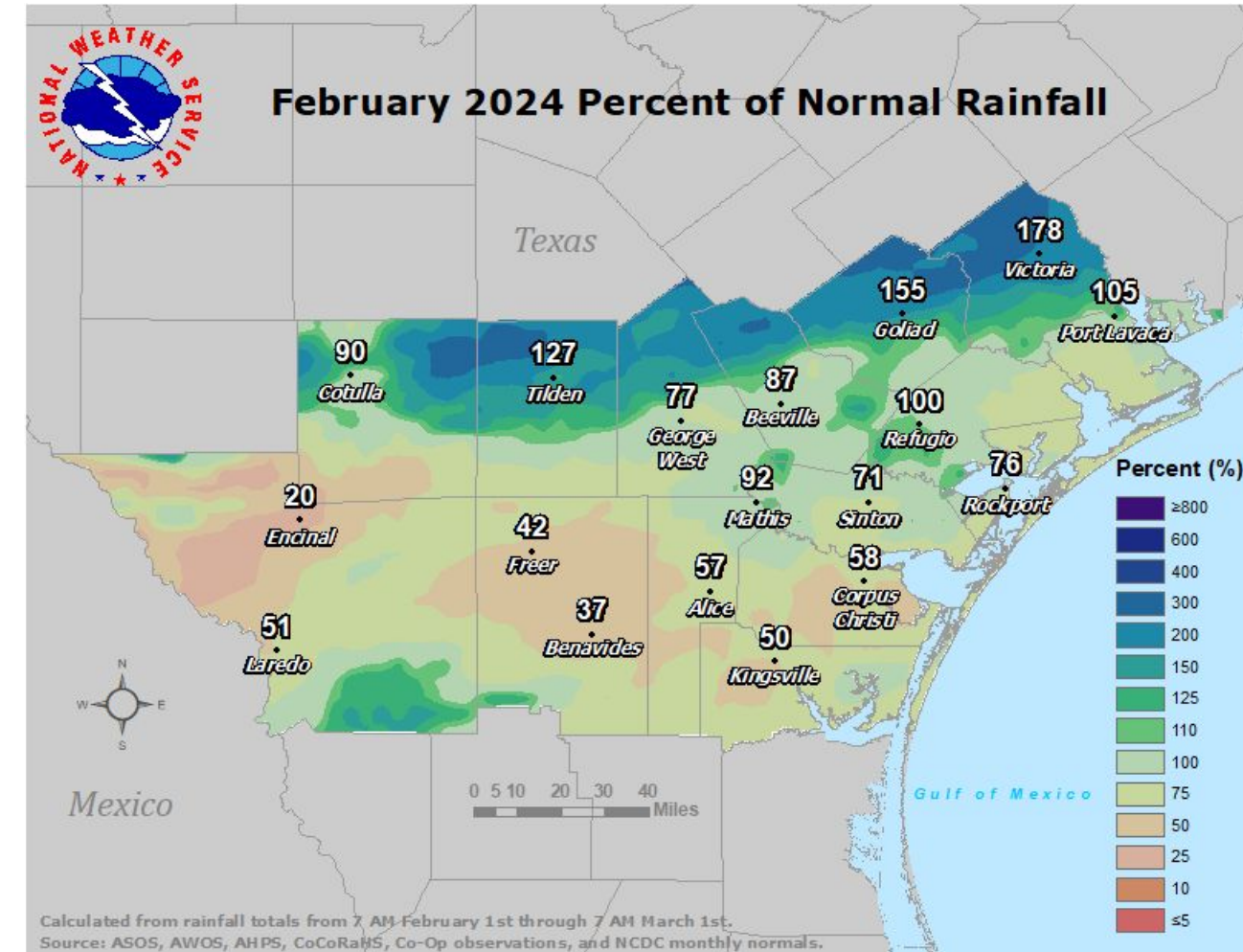
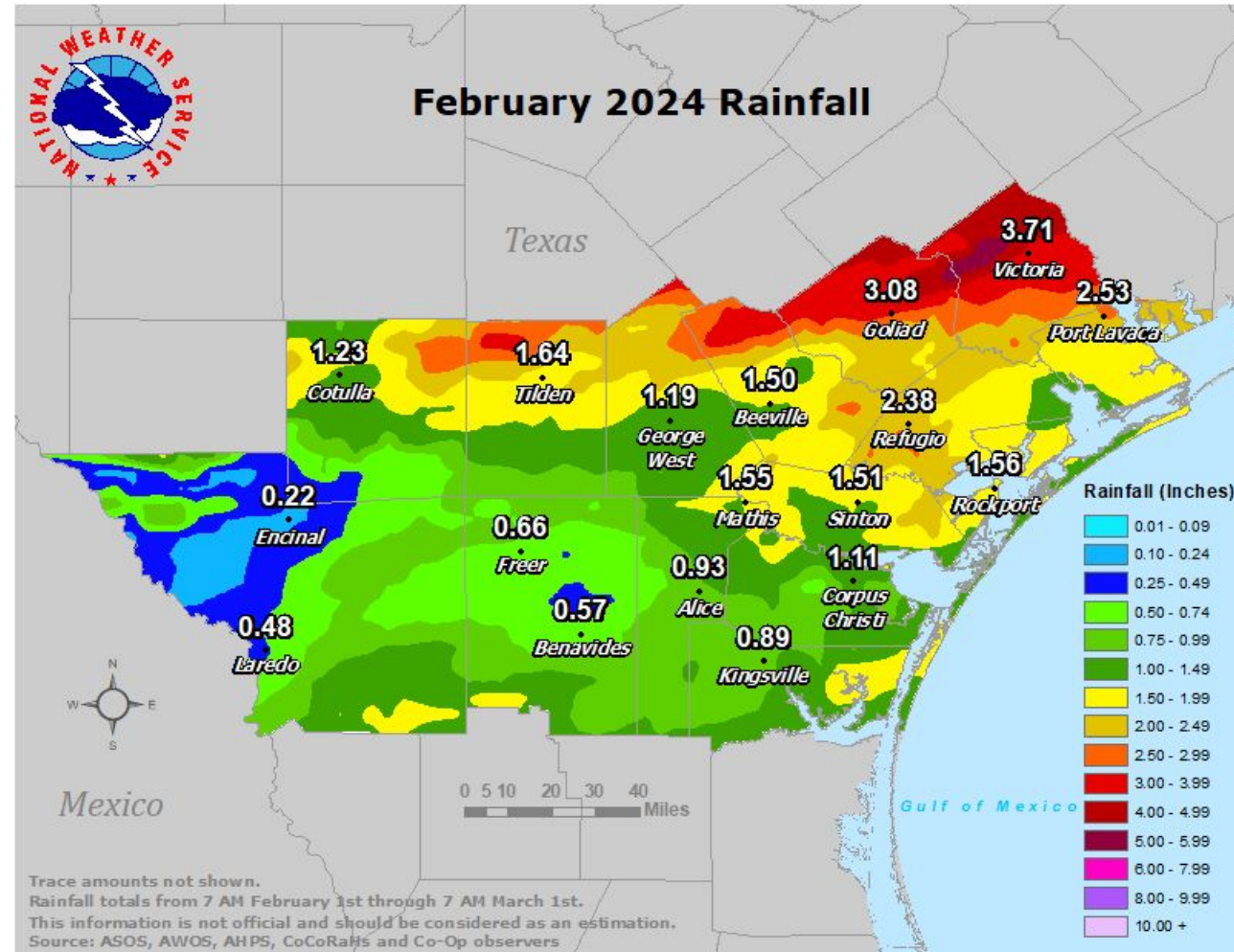


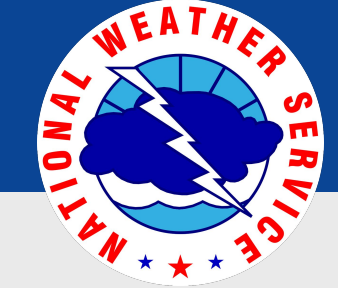
Precipitation

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South Texas Rainfall

- Rainfall amounts ranged from around 0.20" to near 4" throughout the month of February. Much of the region saw below normal rainfall amounts. However, a strip across our northern tier of counties observed 100-200% of normal rainfall.



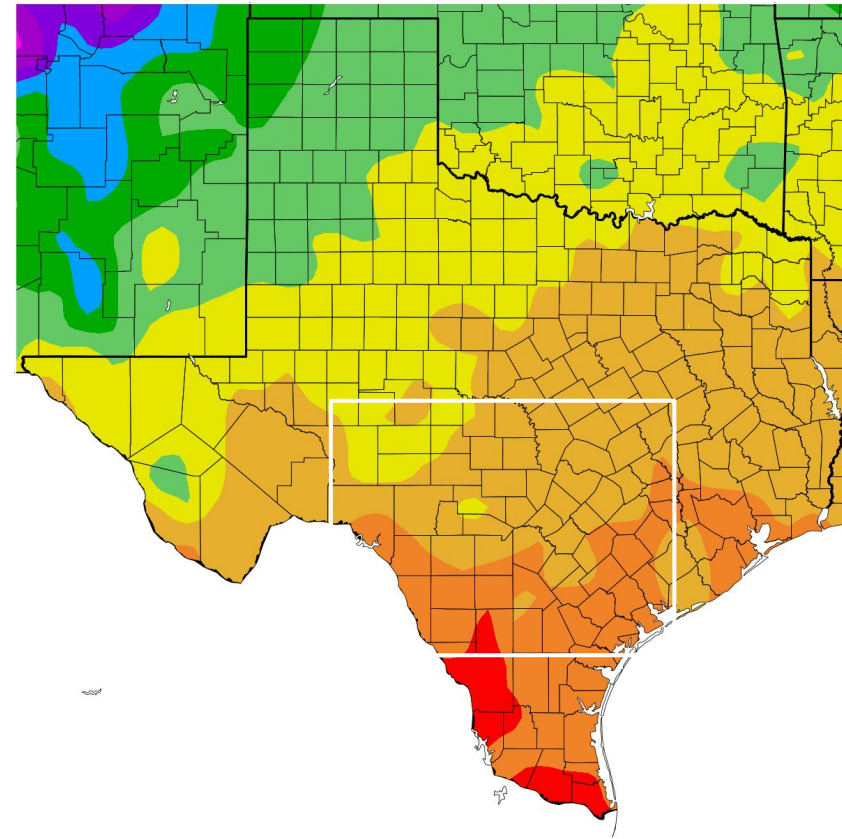


Temperature

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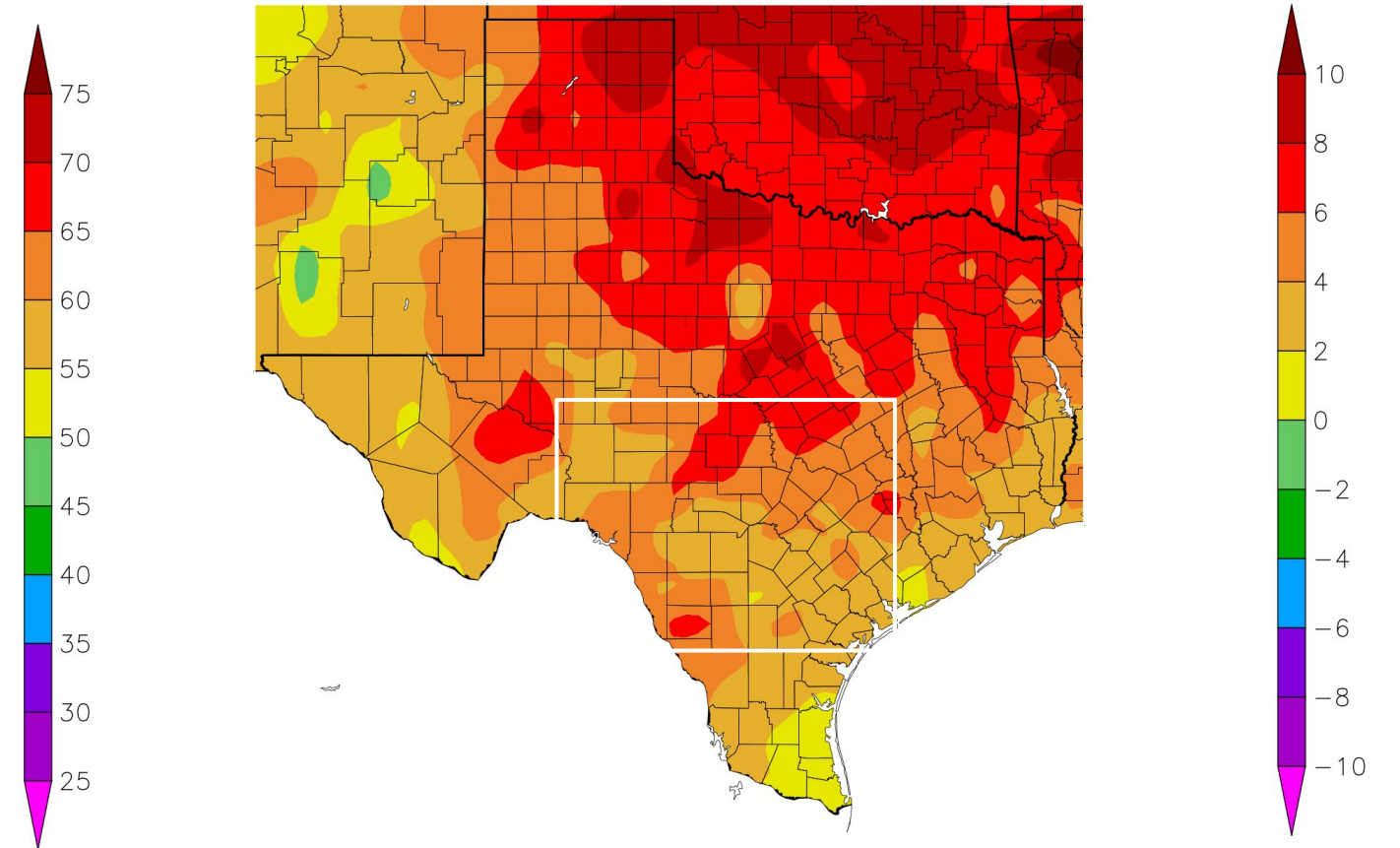
- Temperatures were above normal for February 2024.

Temperature (F)
1/29/2024 – 2/27/2024



Generated 2/28/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/29/2024 – 2/27/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





Summary of Impacts

March 2, 2024

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Low reservoir levels contributing to water restrictions

Agricultural Impacts

- Coastal Bend Region: Weather conditions varied, with windy conditions accelerating topsoil moisture depletion, followed by drying conditions and unseasonably warm weather facilitating planting progress. Crop planting activities were underway, with field crop producers initiating corn planting in drier sandy fields. In Nueces County, favorable planting conditions supported excellent progress for all crops, including corn, sorghum and cotton. Similarly, Refugio County initiated corn and milo planting amidst mild temperatures and decreasing rainfall. Pasture conditions were improving across the region, with annual winter pastures sustaining cattle grazing operations and pastures growing rapidly with warmer weather. Livestock producers continued supplemental feeding amidst hay consumption slowdowns. Cattle maintained good condition and cattle prices remained high on lower inventories, contributing to strong livestock markets.
- South Region: Warm weather encouraged pastures and rangelands to green up and trees to bloom. Producers started planting corn and preparing fields for peanut and cotton planting. Strawberries were producing well. Spinach and cabbage production was coming to an end. Wheat, oat and rye fields were improving. Topsoil and subsoil conditions were adequate due to recent rainfall. Hay prices were still high. Although supplemental feeding continued, producers also started turning livestock on rangelands and pastures. Cattle prices were firm at local markets. Wildlife was very active.





Summary of Impacts

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

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal wildfire potential at this time

Other Impacts

- Corpus Christi under stage 1 water restrictions
- Laredo under stage 2 water restrictions
- Alice under stage 2 water restrictions

Mitigation Actions

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

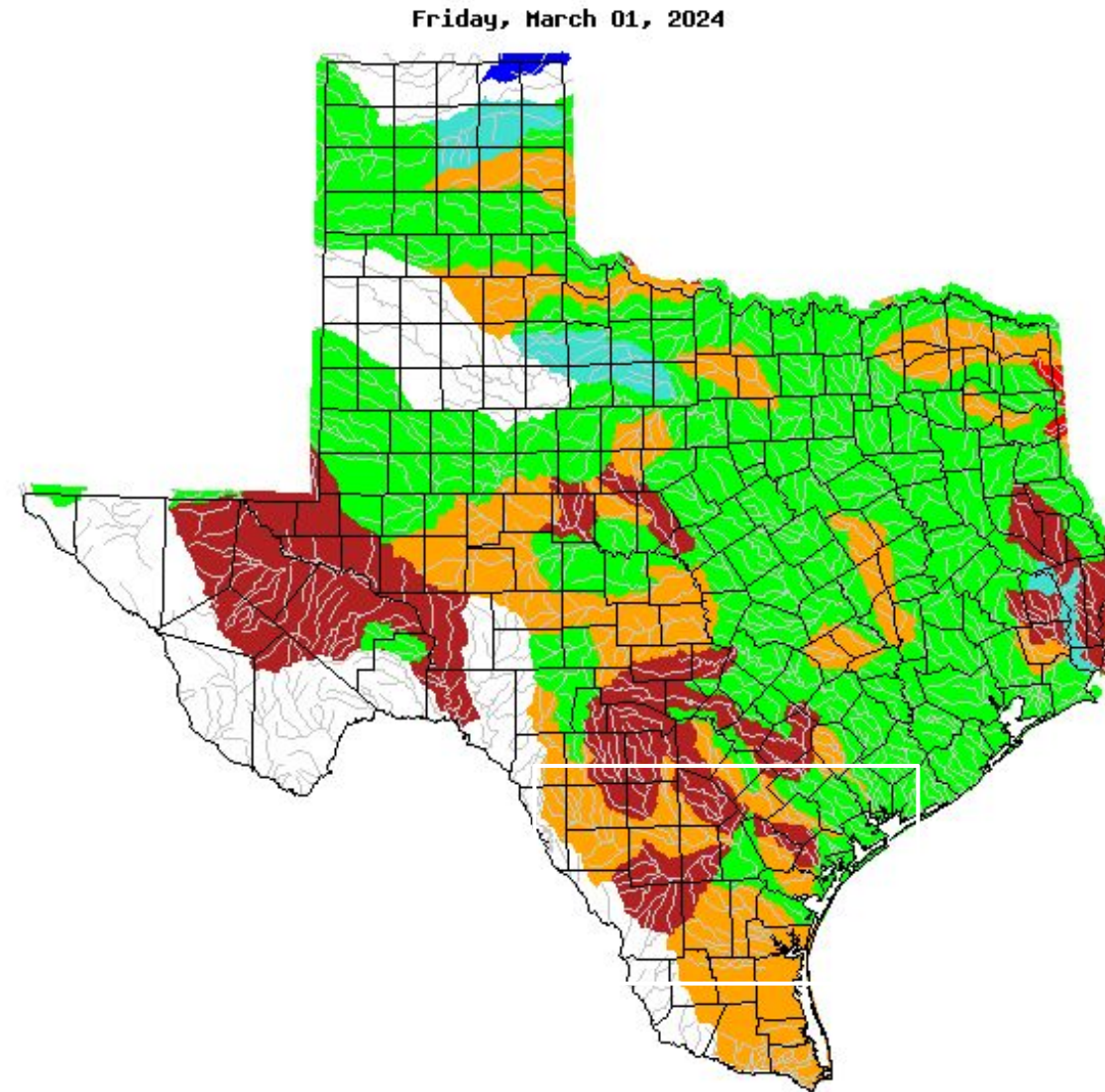


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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USGS 7-Day Avg Streamflow | Texas Reservoirs

- Below to much below normal flows west of Highway 281.
- A few locations of normal flows across the Coastal Bend and Victoria Crossroads.



Explanation - Percentile classes								
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data	
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal			

Reservoir	Pool Elevation (ft)	Current Elevation (ft)
Choke Canyon.	220.5	192.4
Lake Corpus Christi	94.0	85.9
Lake Texana	44.0	43.8
Coleta Creek	98.0	98.4
Canyon Lake	909.0	887.6
Lake Amistad	1117.0	1050.8





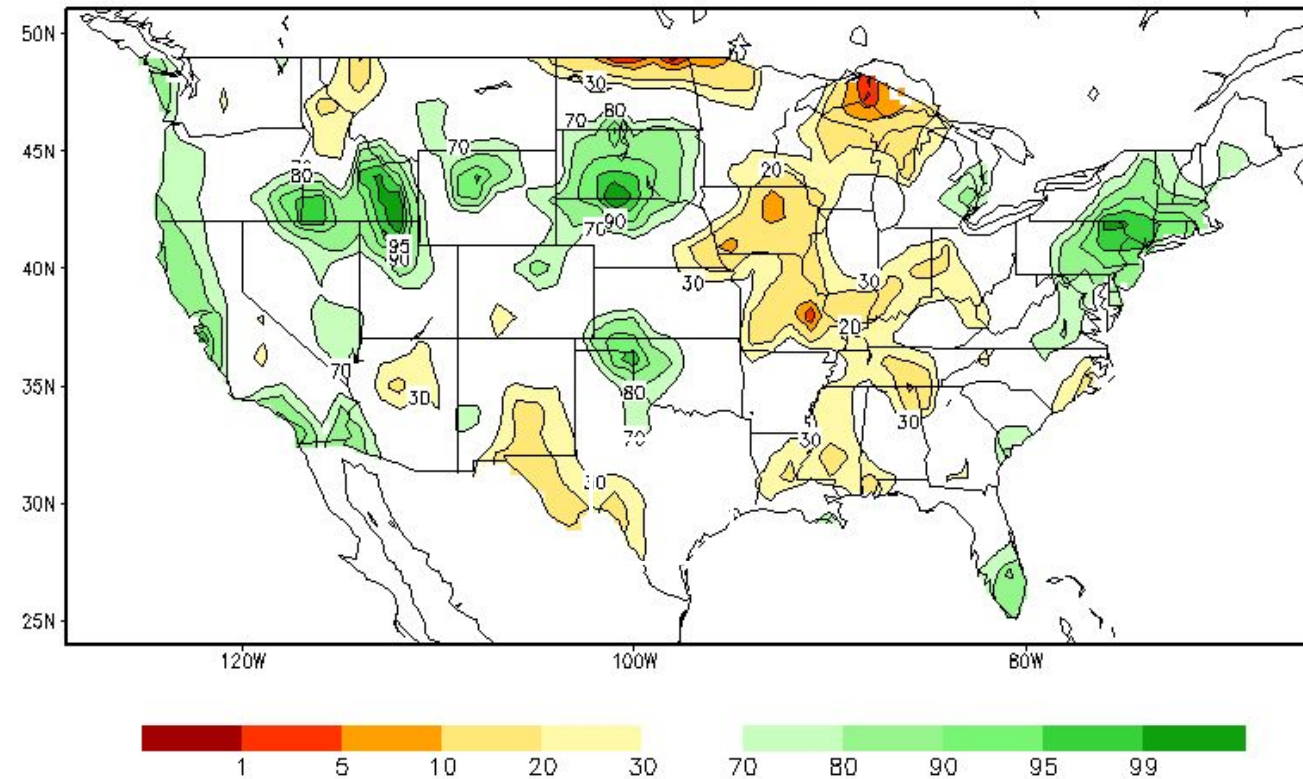
Agricultural Impacts

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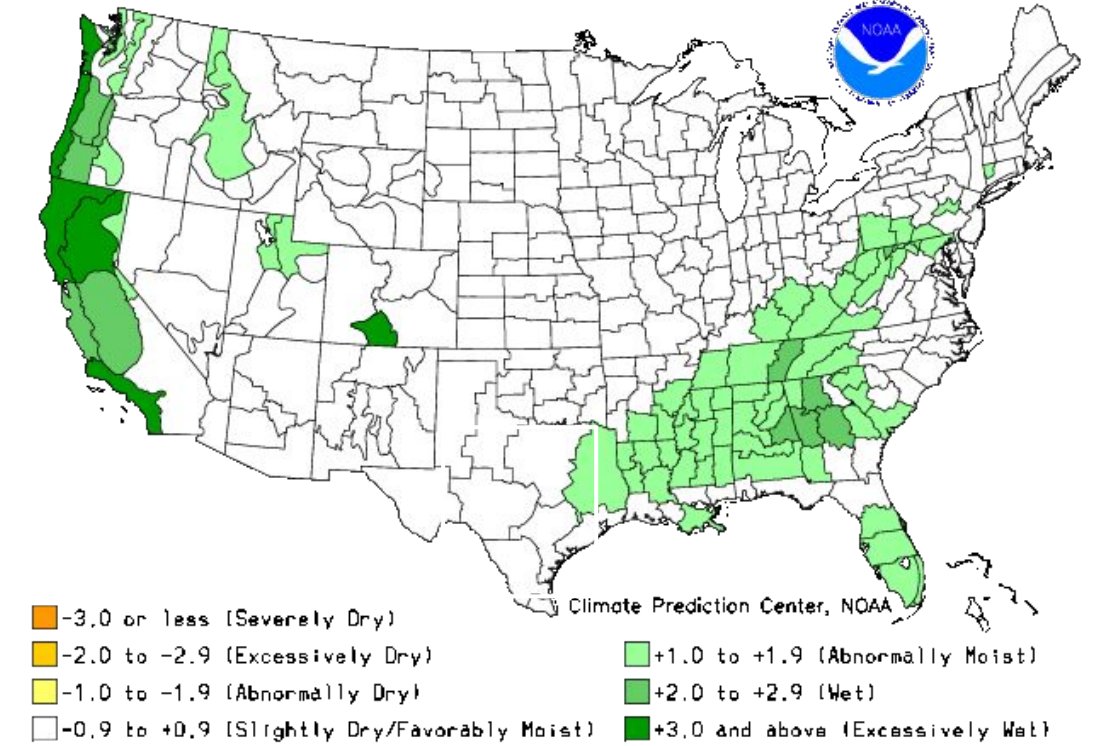
[Soil Moisture](#) | [Crop Moisture](#)

- Soil moisture levels are near normal for much of South Texas.
- Northwest Brush Country currently experiencing slightly below normal soil moisture.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAR 01, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending FEB 24, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile





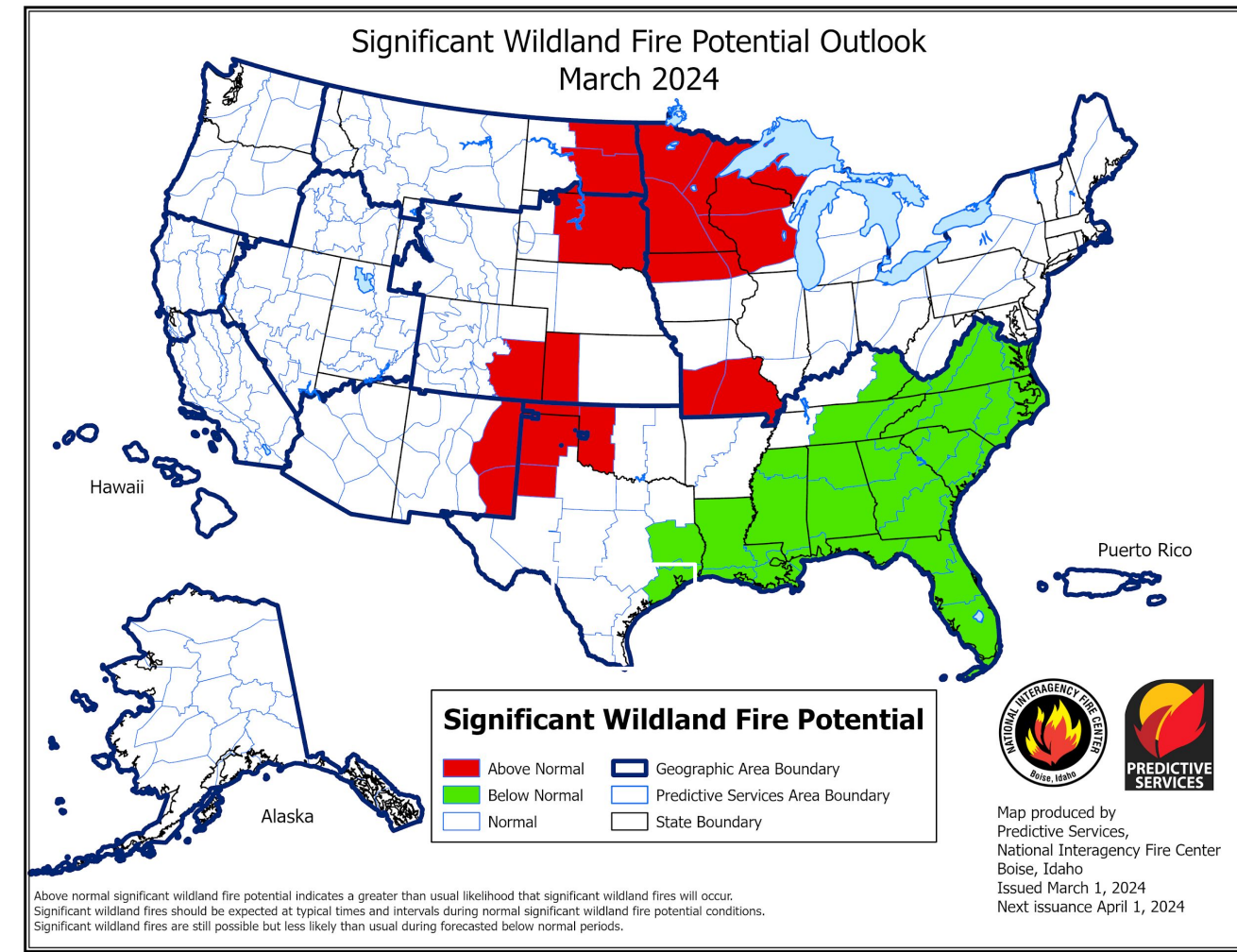
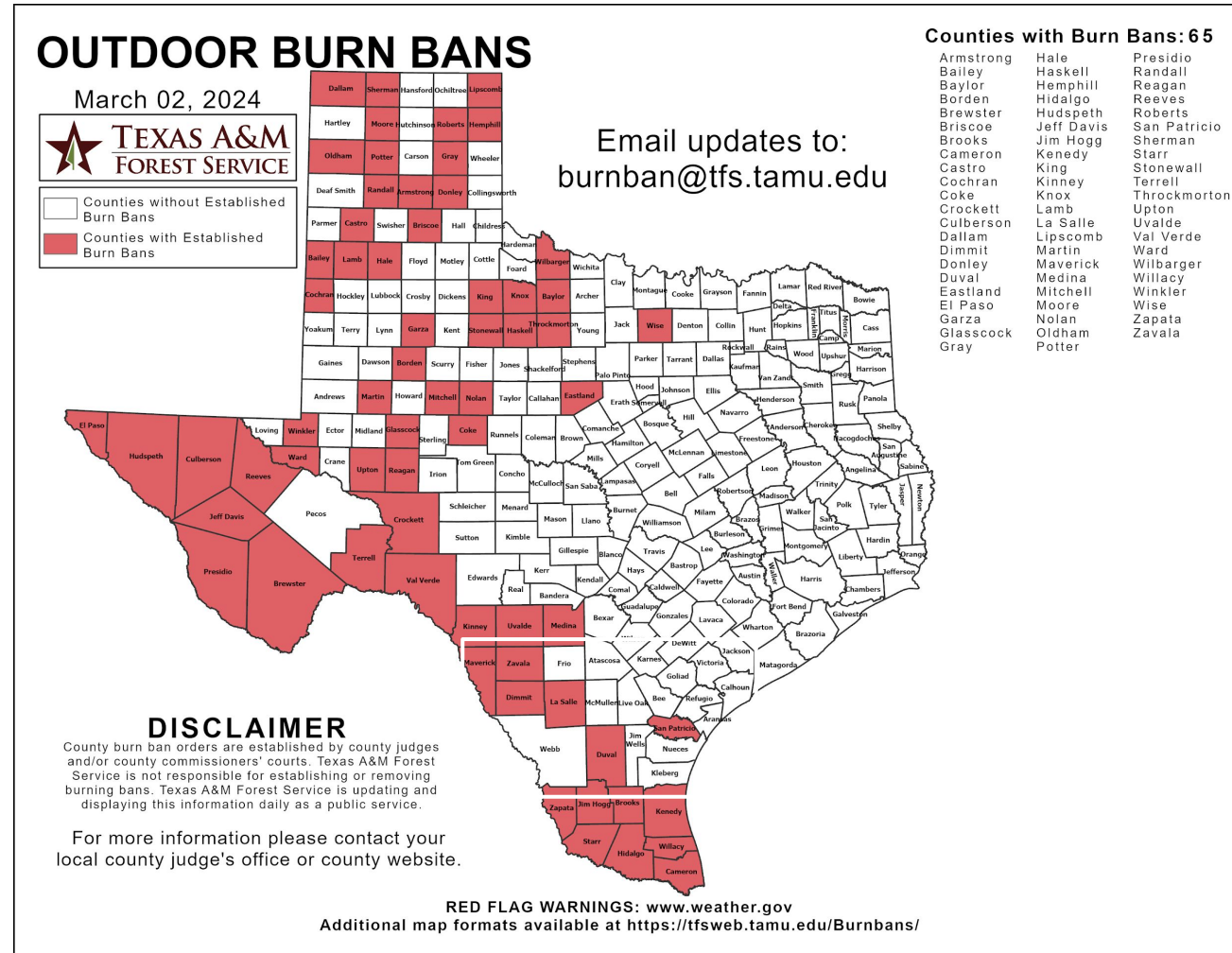
Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Burn Bans in place across portions of South Texas
- Normal significant wildfire potential through the spring

Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here](#).



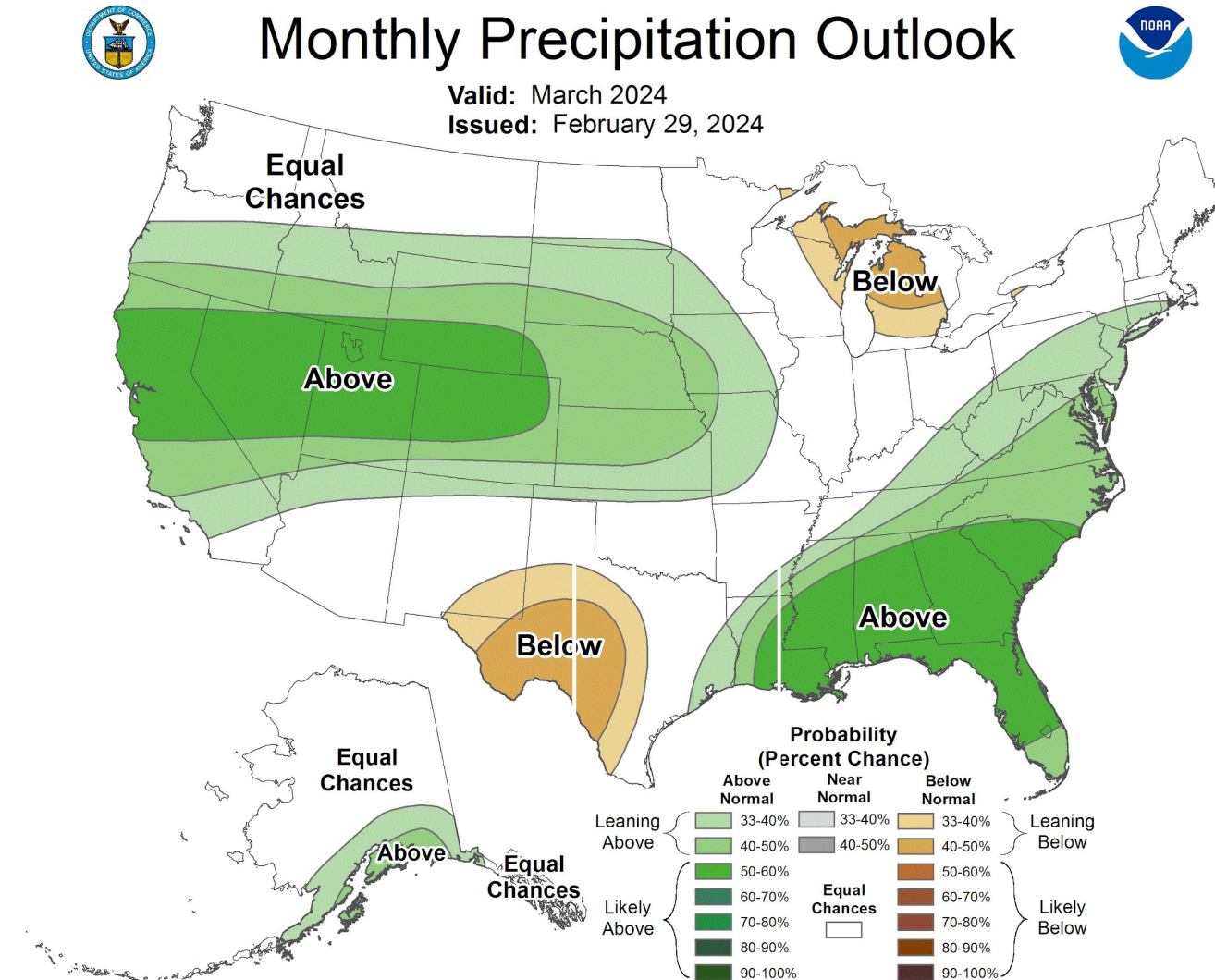
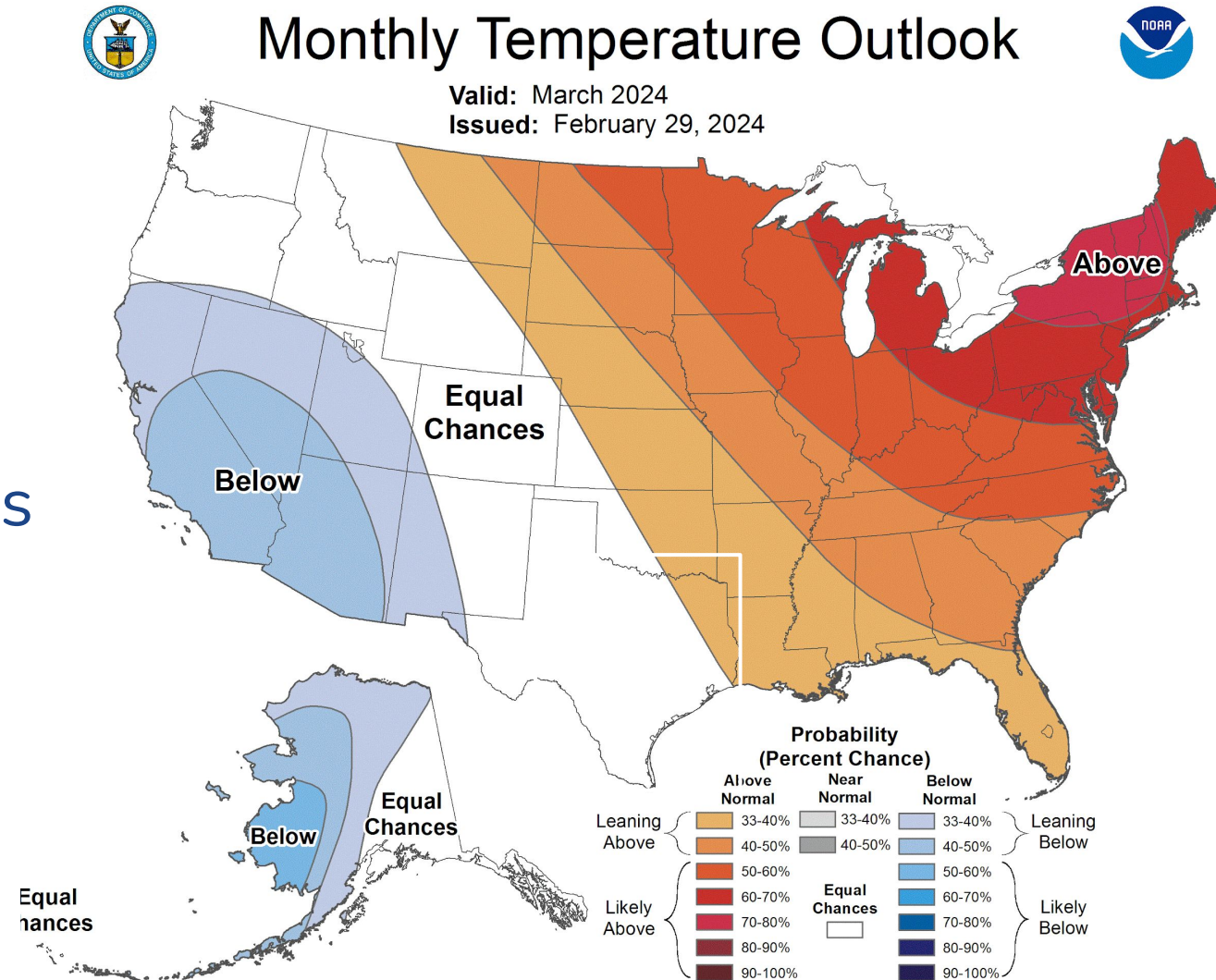


Long-Range Outlooks

March 2, 2024
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Equal chances for above and below normal temperatures.
- Below normal precipitation across the Brush Country.
- Equal chances for above and below precipitation for the Victoria Crossroads and the Coastal Bend.





Drought Outlook

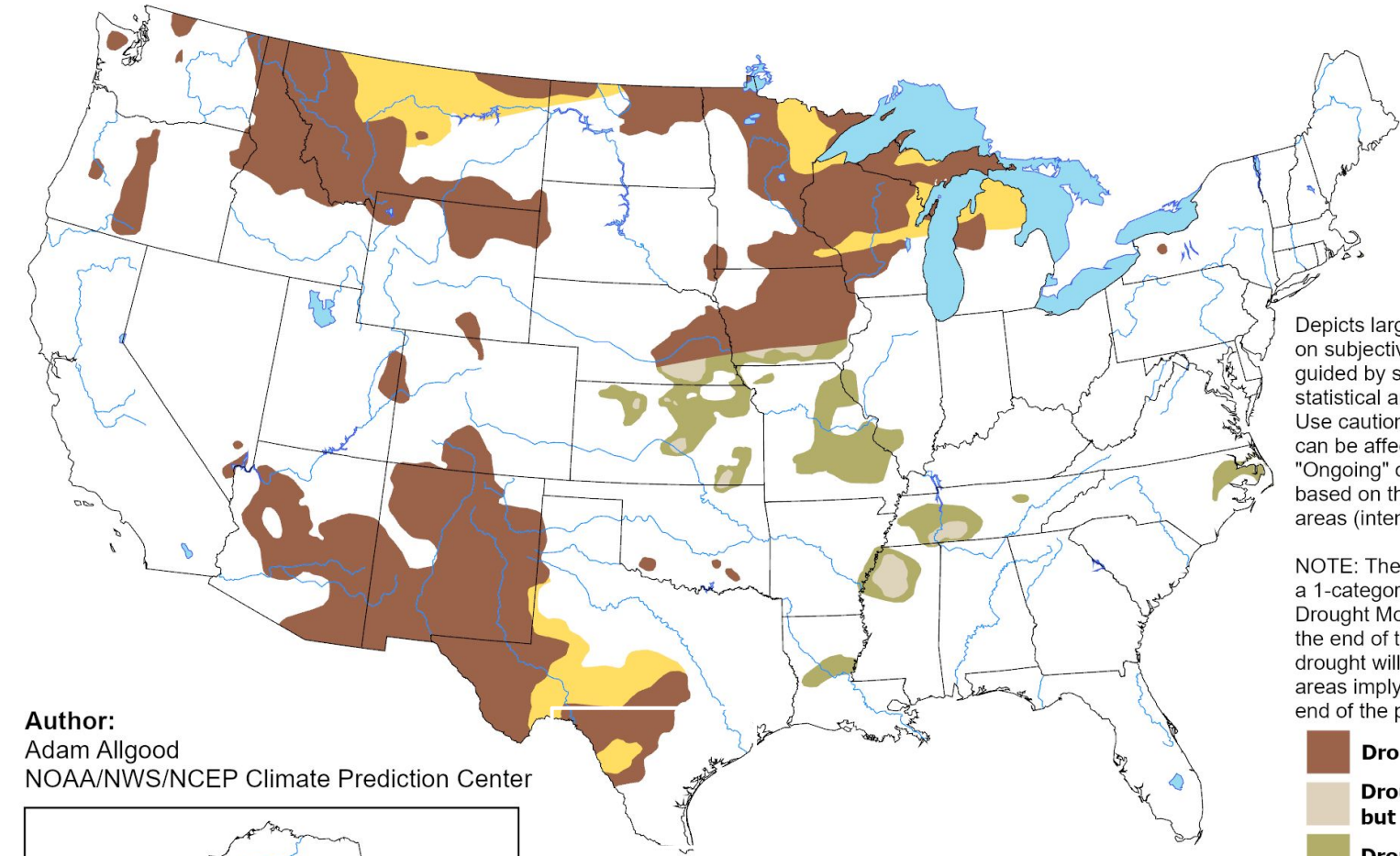
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The latest monthly and seasonal drought outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought is expected to persist across the Brush Country this spring

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

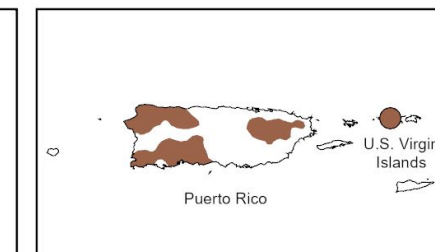
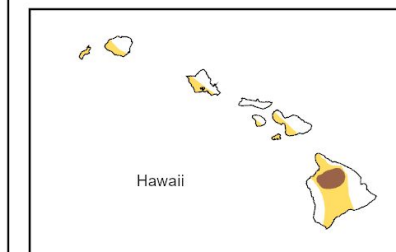
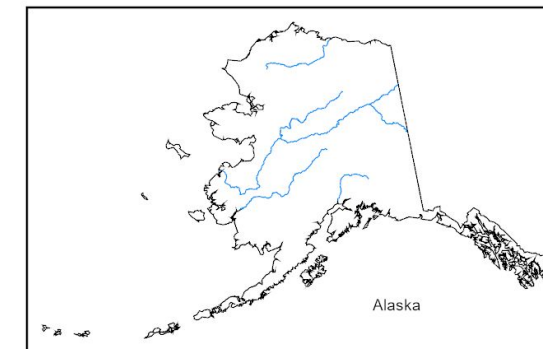
Valid for March 2024
Released February 29, 2024



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:
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NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>

