



Drought Information Statement for South Texas

Valid May 4, 2024

Issued By: NWS Corpus Christi, TX

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

- This product will be updated May 7, 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..

- Moderate drought in place across the Brush Country
- Below normal rainfall for much of the area in April



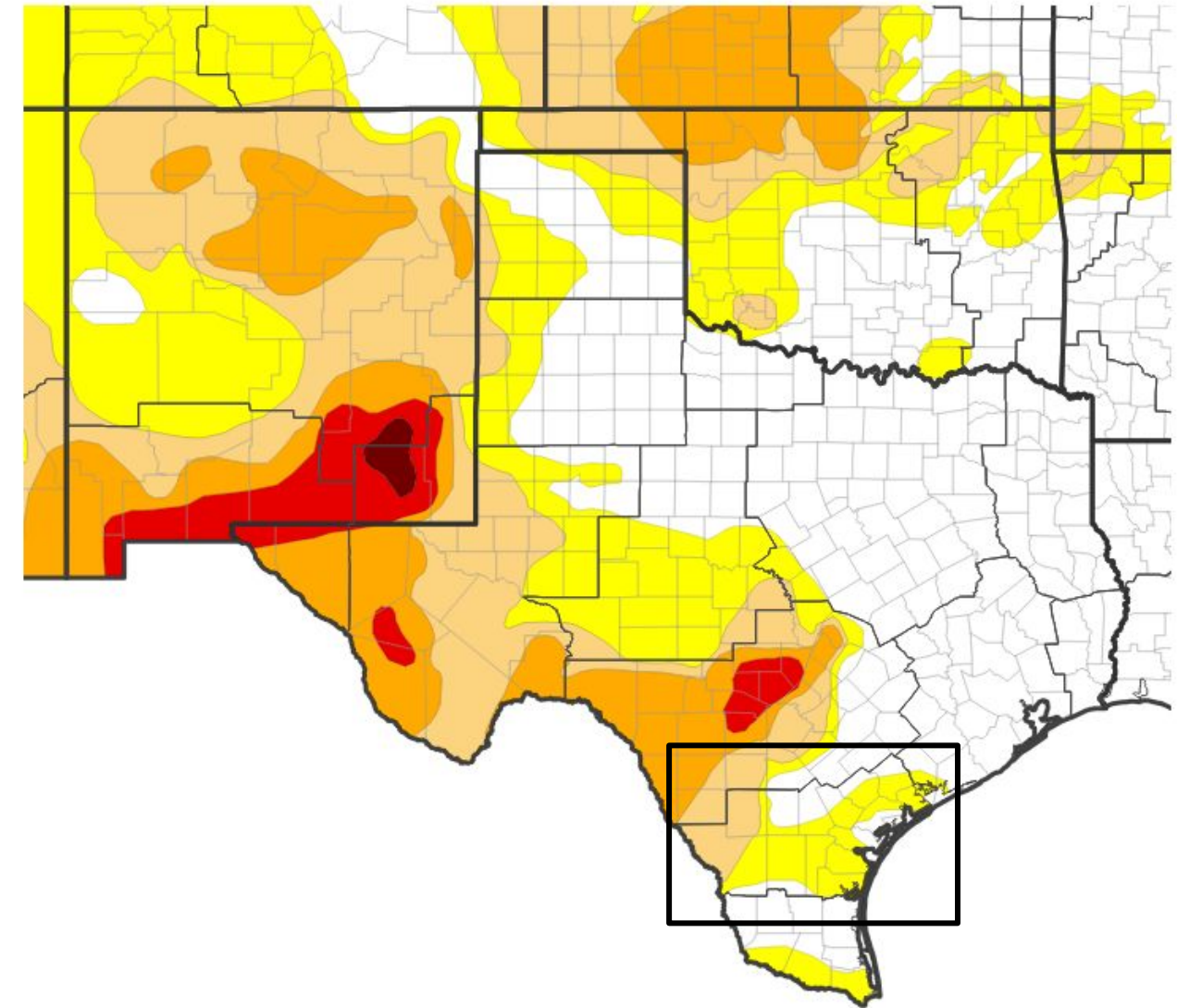
U.S. Drought Monitor

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4:38 PM

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: None
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: None
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Webb and La Salle counties
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Portions of Webb, La Salle, Duval, McMullen, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Live Oak, Bee, Goliad, Victoria, Refugio, Calhoun counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/30/24





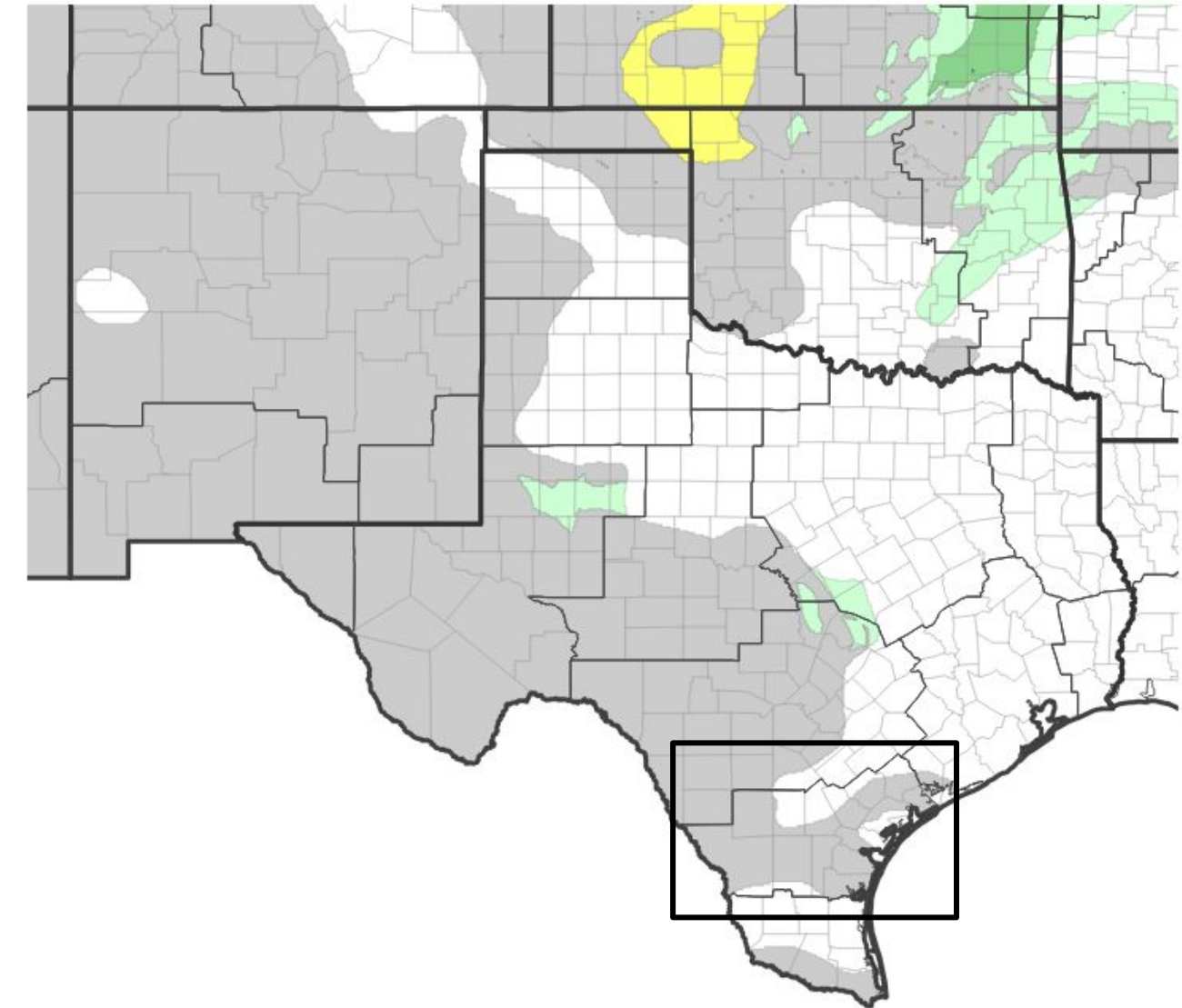
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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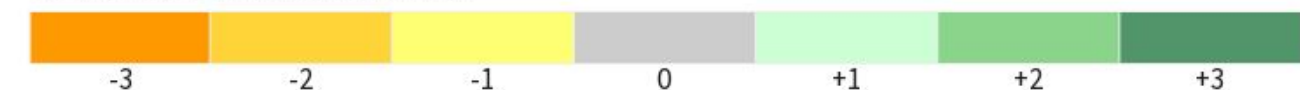
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: None
 - No Change: Portions of Webb, La Salle, Duval, McMullen, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, Live Oak, Bee, Goliad, Victoria, Refugio, Calhoun counties.
 - Drought Improved: None

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 04/30/24





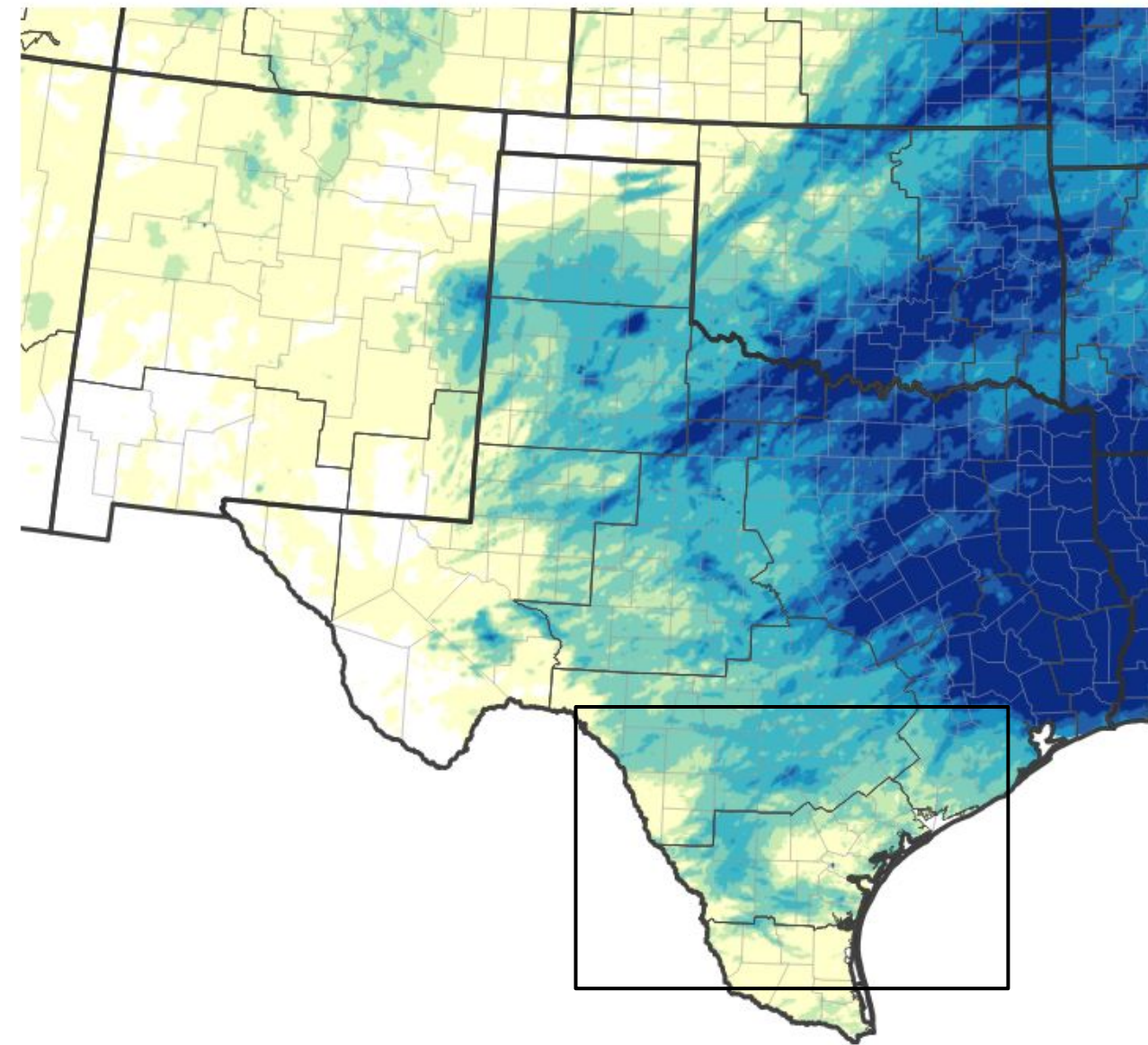
Precipitation

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South Texas Rainfall

- Overall, below normal rainfall was observed during April. Those that saw rain, received 2-4" in a few selected spots, generally across the Brush Country.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



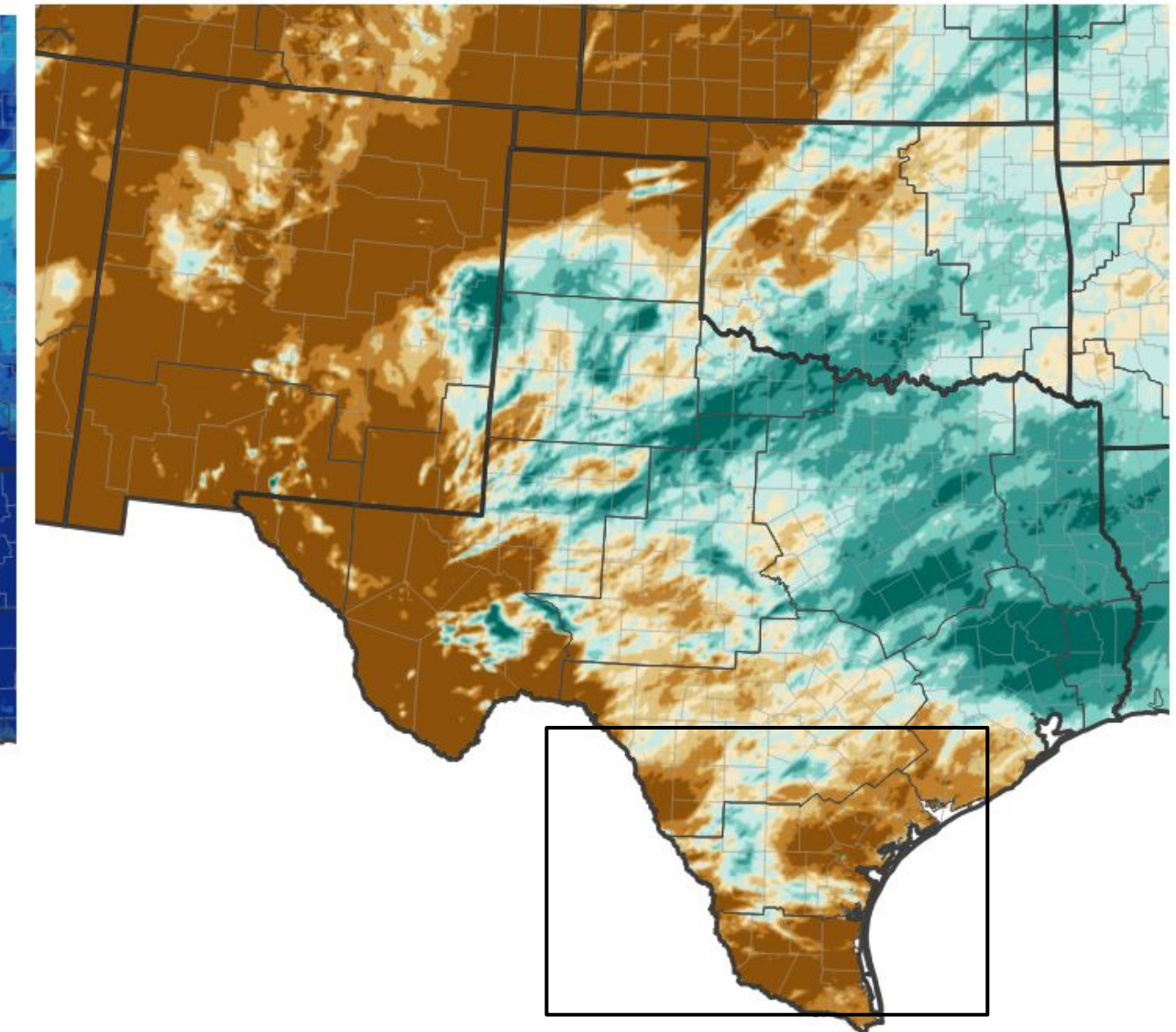
Inches of Precipitation



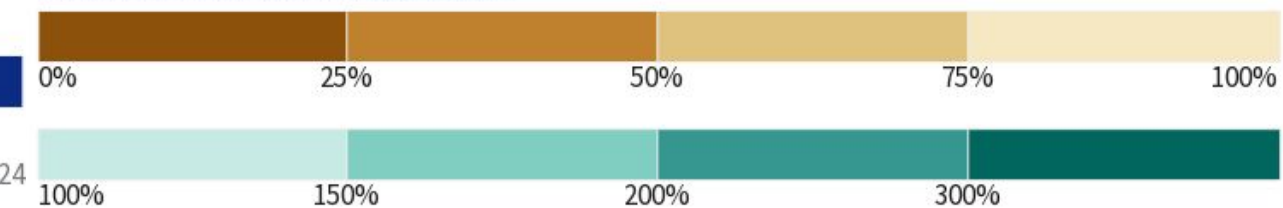
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/04/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/04/24



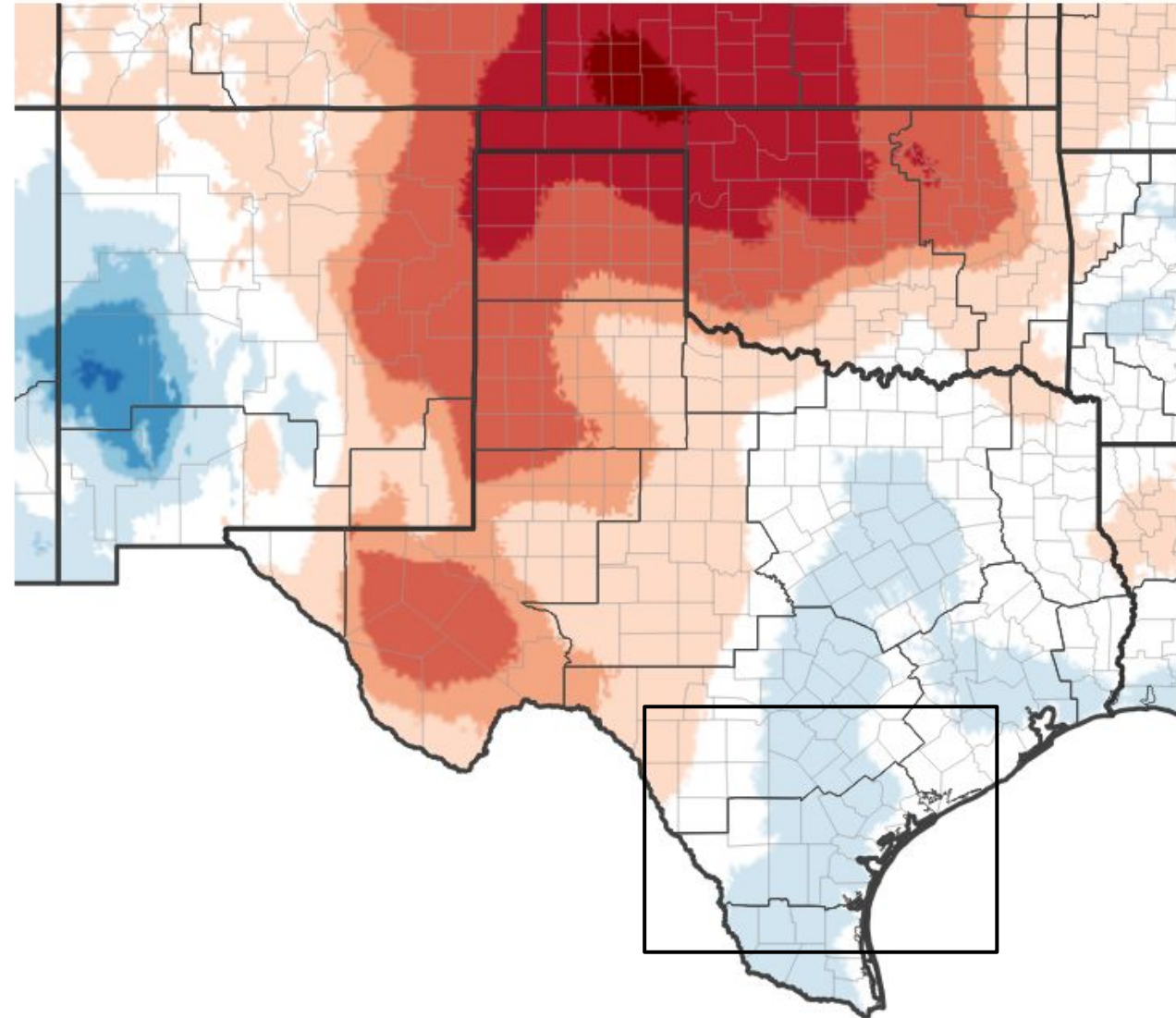


Temperature

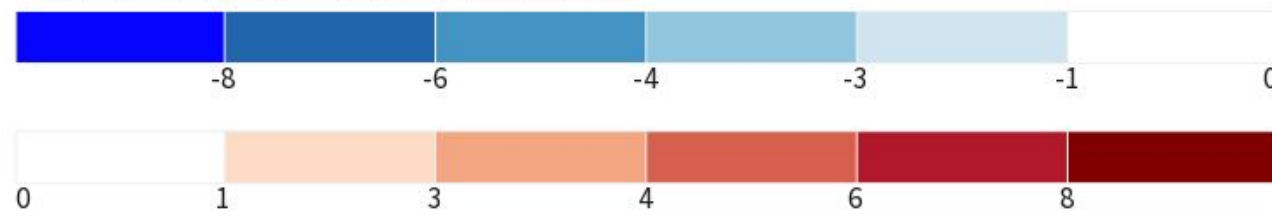
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- Temperatures were slightly below normal over the past week. However, looking at the past month, temperatures were near to slightly above normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



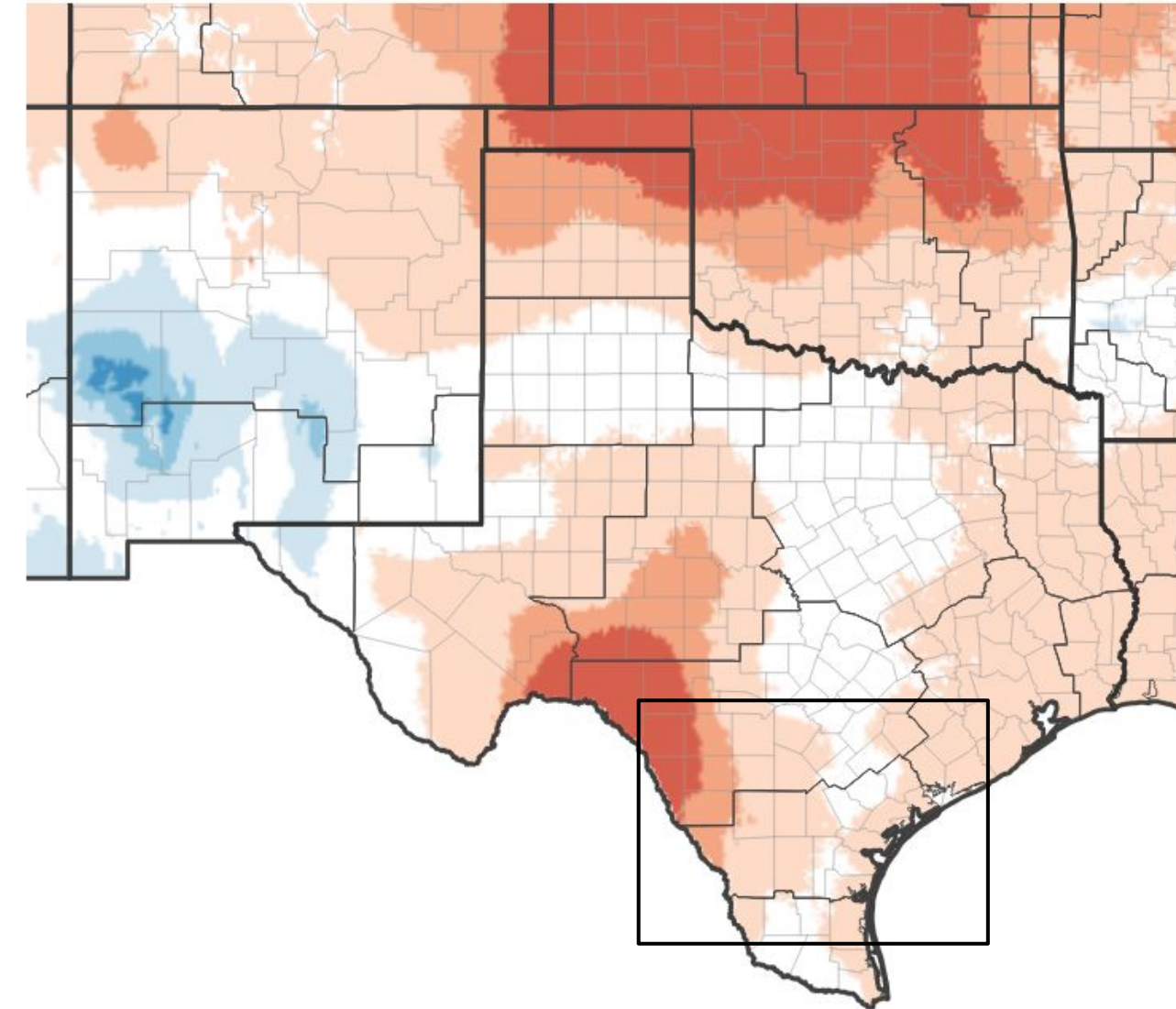
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



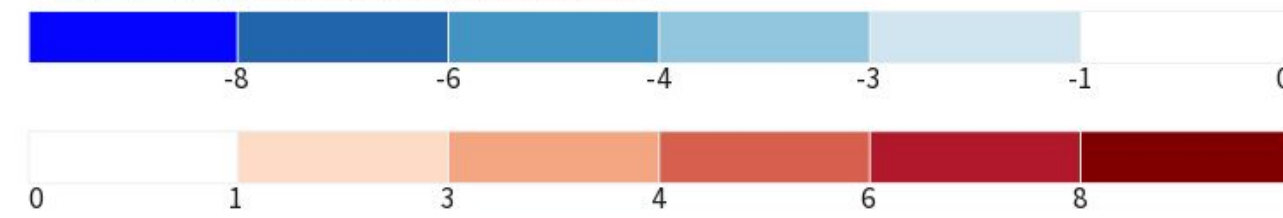
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/30/24

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: 04/30/24





Summary of Impacts

May 4, 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 (<https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/>)

- Coastal Bend: Pasture conditions began to decline, and high winds exacerbated moisture depletion. Fertilizer and herbicide applications continued on hay fields, with some hay cuttings ongoing. Approximately a quarter of the rice crop was flooded. Corn neared tasseling, but additional moisture was needed soon for sustained growth. Cotton producers were scouting and spraying for insects and weeds, with cotton replanting occurring in areas affected by heavy rainfall. Livestock remained decent, with calves gaining weight. Cattle prices remained high, and pastures were drying quickly, prompting many to begin cutting hay for the first time this season.
- South: The rain should benefit forage production and help forage sorghum crops. Strawberry crops were slow. Wheat and oat crops were being prepared for harvest while corn continued to develop and cotton planting was complete in some areas. Corn and grain sorghum crops in some areas were starting to stress and yield potential was shrinking due to windy, warm and dry conditions, while others were progressing well with most corn at the silking stage and grain sorghum in the soft dough stage. Cotton plants were growing well but will need to be watered once plant height increases. Row crops in some areas looked good but will need some rain soon for good yields. Onions were still being harvested and citrus was being irrigated. Some hay meadows were being irrigated and some have been baled. Sugar cane aphids were causing issues for sorghum acres, but other crops remained pest-free for the most part. Beef cattle producers were closely monitoring their herd size to maintain their range and pasture conditions. Beef cattle prices remained high and looked to stay that way due to lower overall numbers. In Live Oak County, ranchers were still actively selling their cattle and prices suffered some due to highly pathogenic avian influenza, which was found in a few dairy herds throughout the U.S. Livestock and wildlife continued to flourish thanks to good range and pasture conditions in late winter and early spring.





Summary of Impacts

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

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Low to moderate fire danger at this time

Other Impacts

- Corpus Christi under stage 2 water restrictions (<https://www.cctexas.com/>)
- Laredo under stage 2 water restrictions (<https://laredoutilities.com/water-conservation-program/>)
- Alice under stage 2 restrictions (<https://www.alicetx.com/2024/03/11/city-of-alice-enters-stage-2-moderate-drought-restriction/#/>)

Mitigation Actions

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

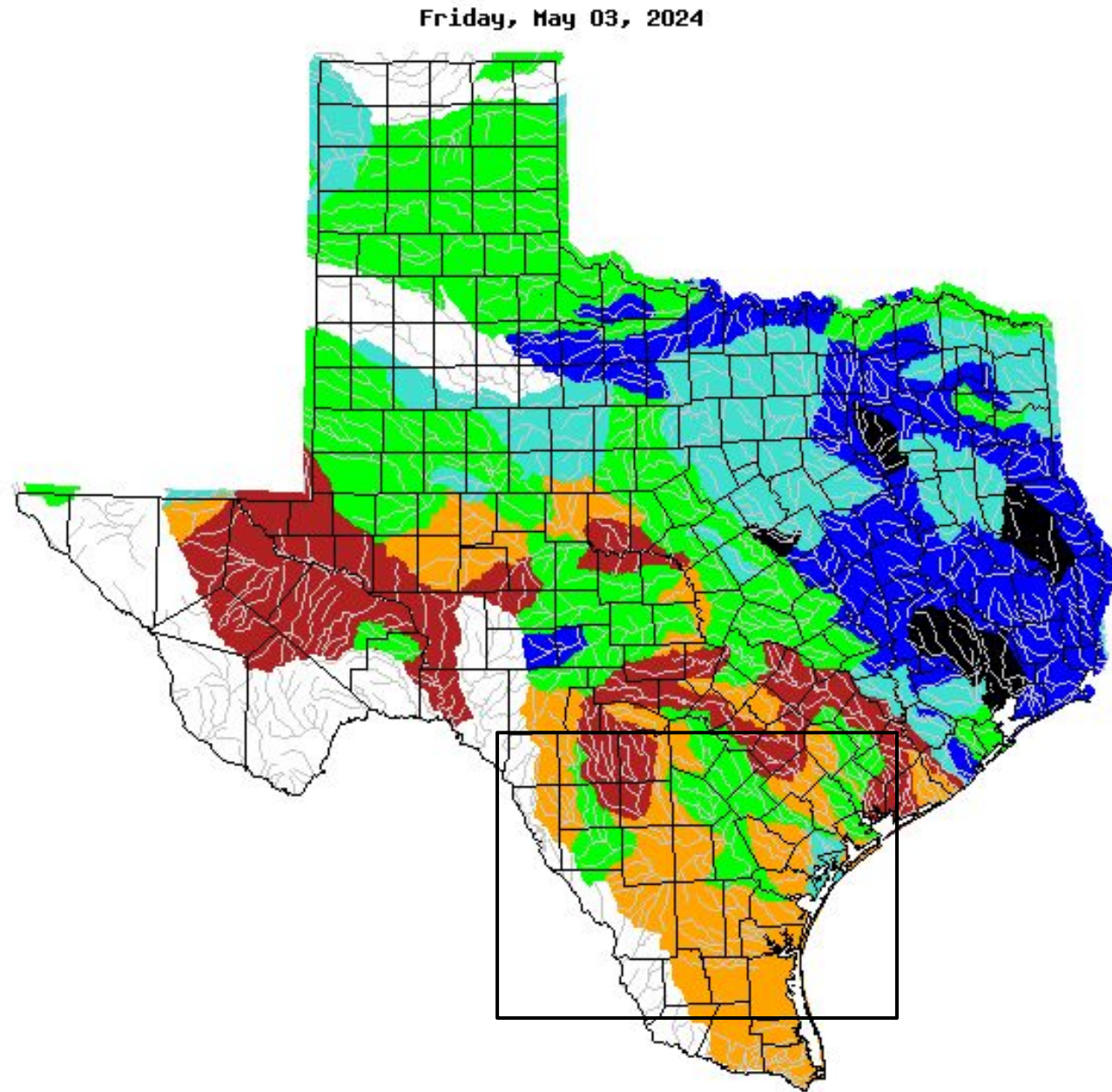


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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USGS 7-Day Avg Streamflow | Texas Reservoirs

- Normal to below normal flows across all of South Texas



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	191.6
Lake Corpus Christi	94.0	84.6
Lake Texana	44.0	43.2
Coleta Creek	98.0	97.5
Canyon Lake	909.0	886.6
Lake Amistad	1117.0	1050.8





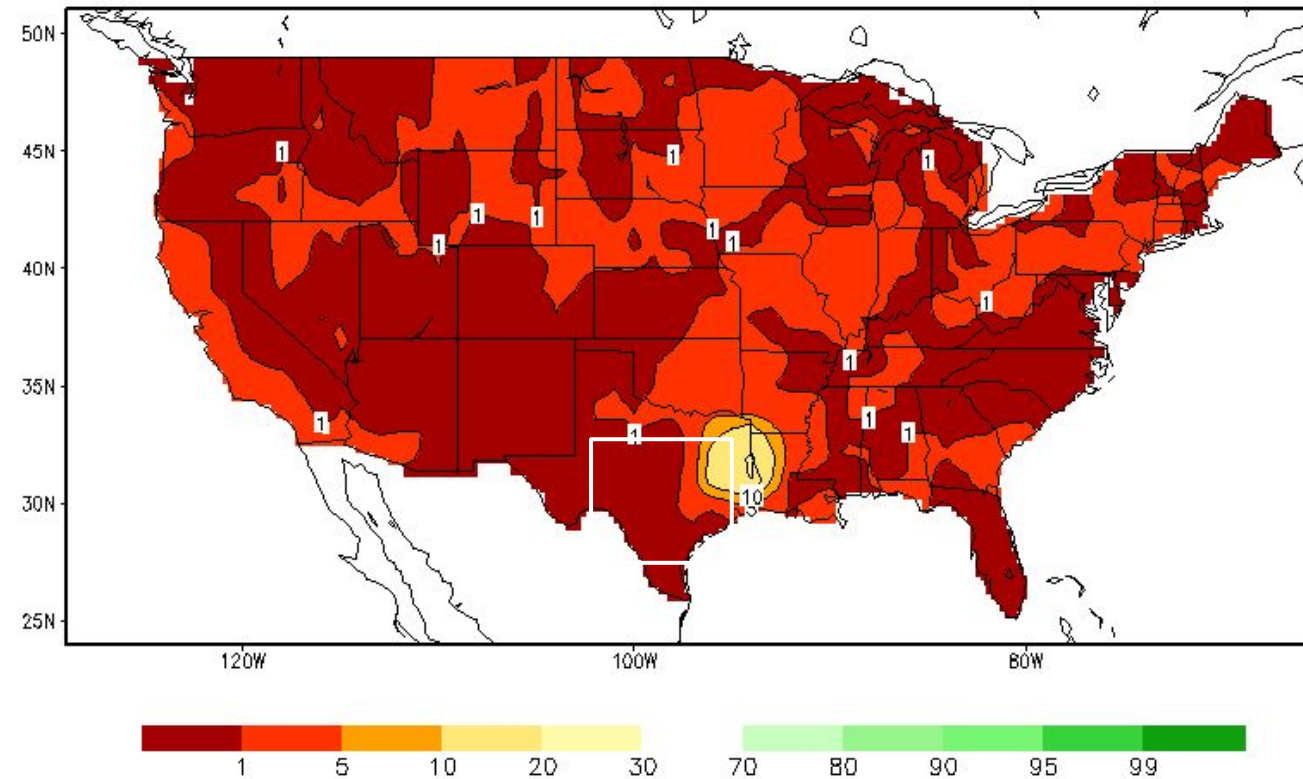
Agricultural Impacts

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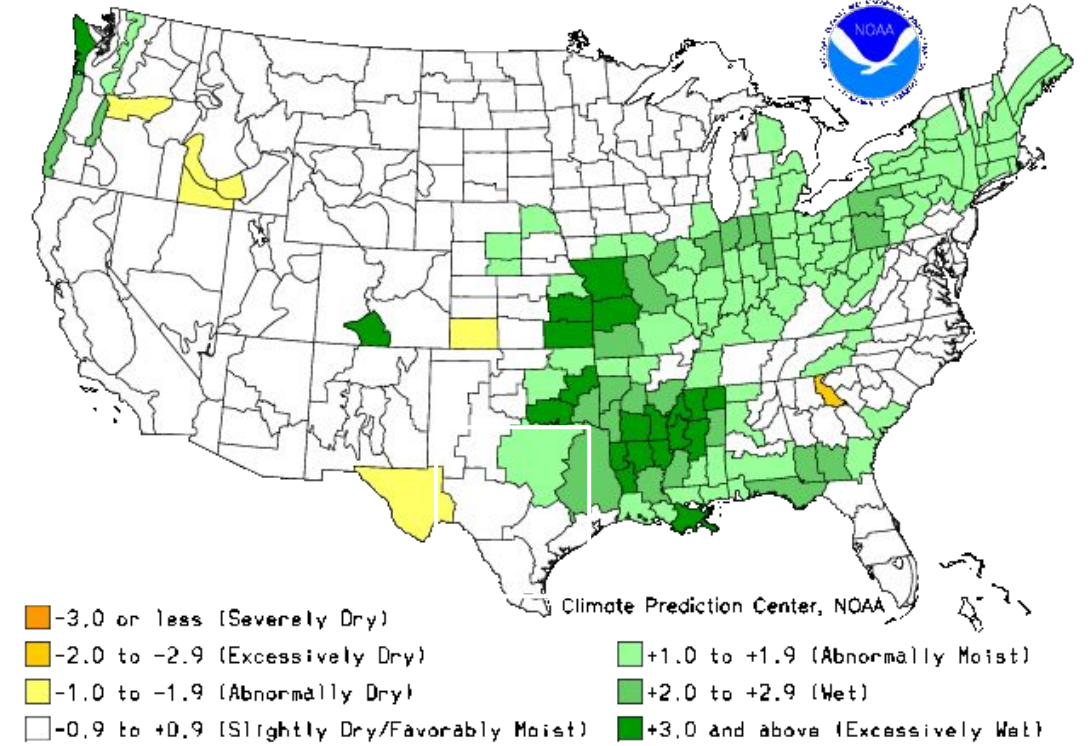
[Soil Moisture](#) | [Crop Moisture](#)

- Soil moisture remains below normal across the region.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAY 03, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending APR 27, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile





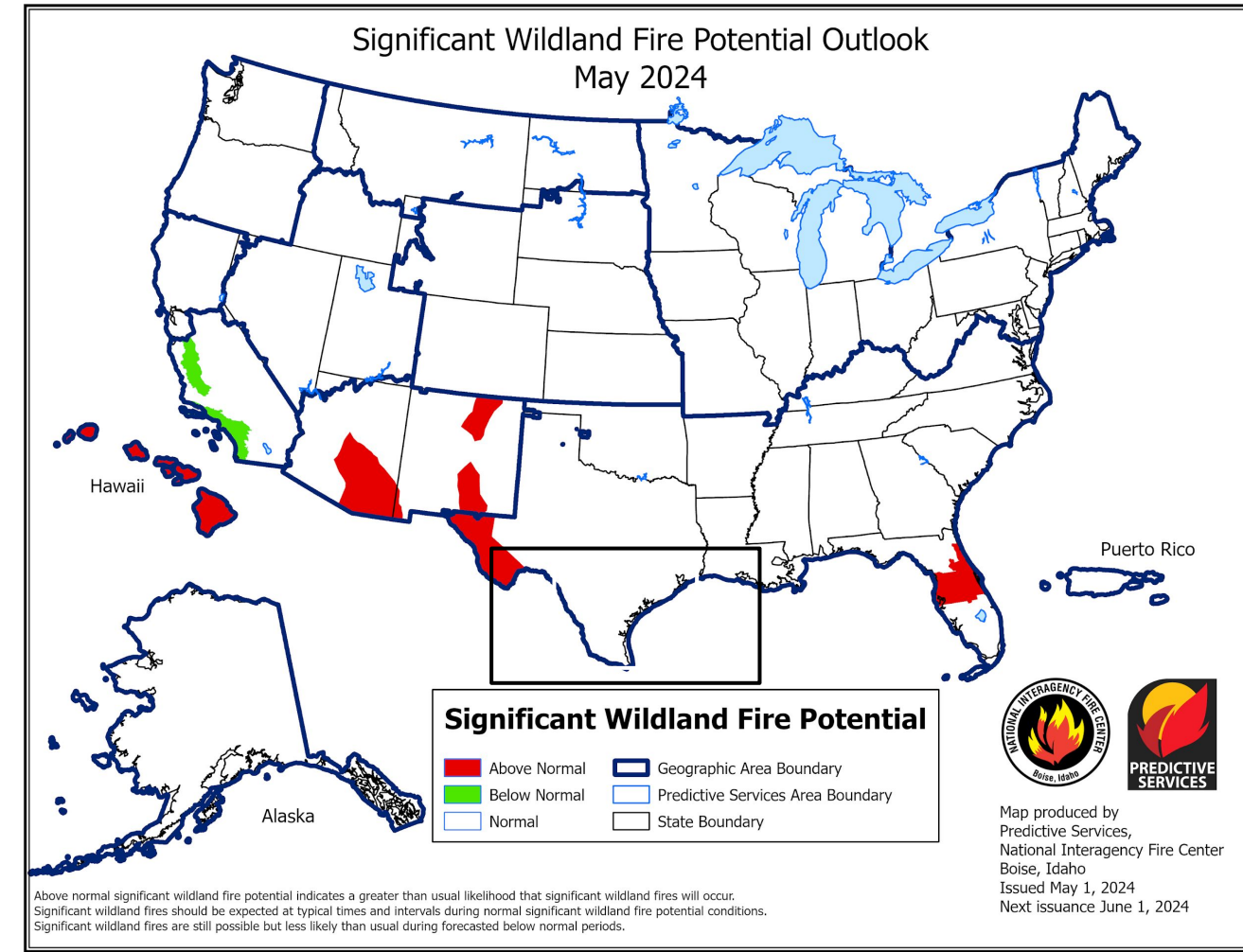
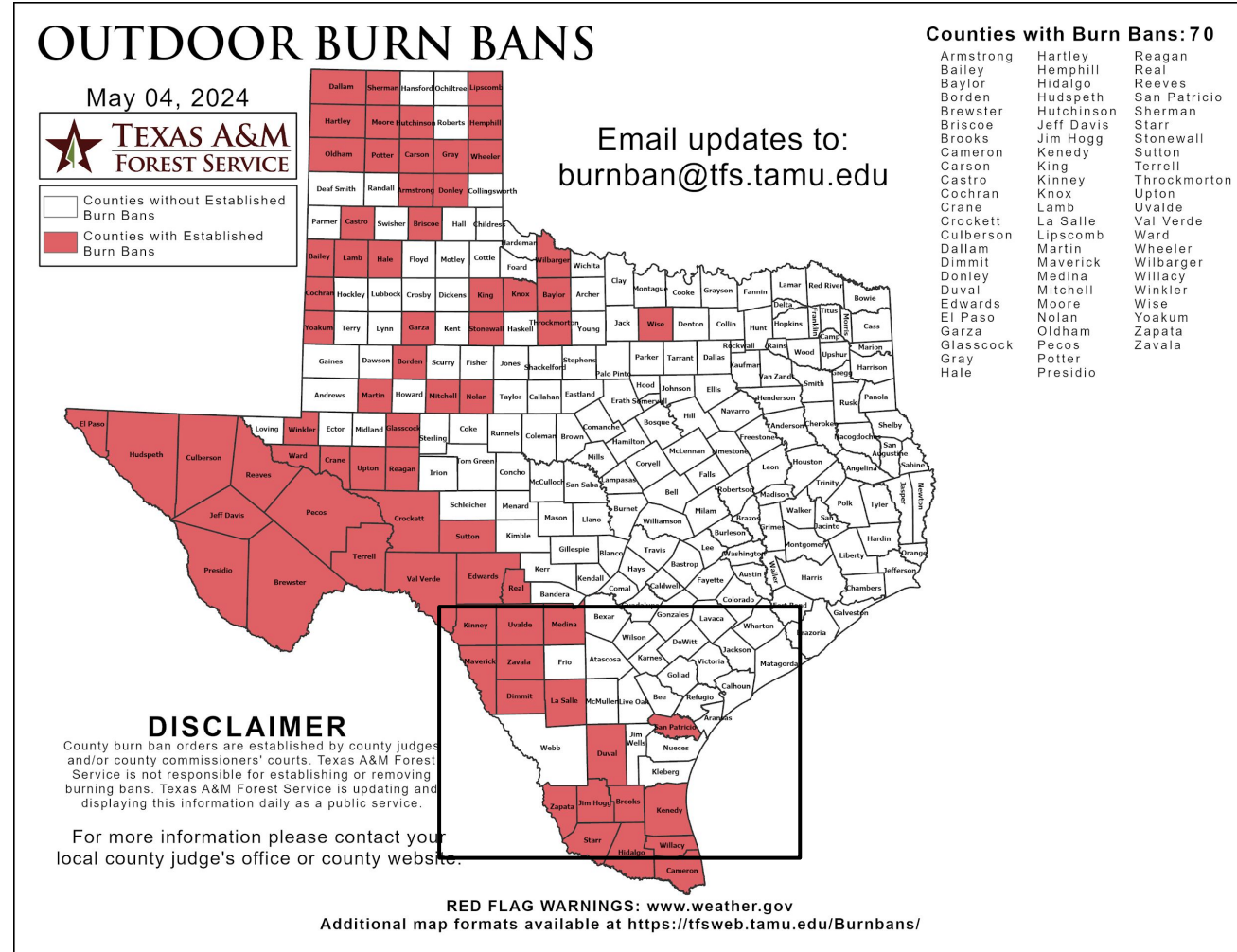
Fire Hazard Impacts

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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 April

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





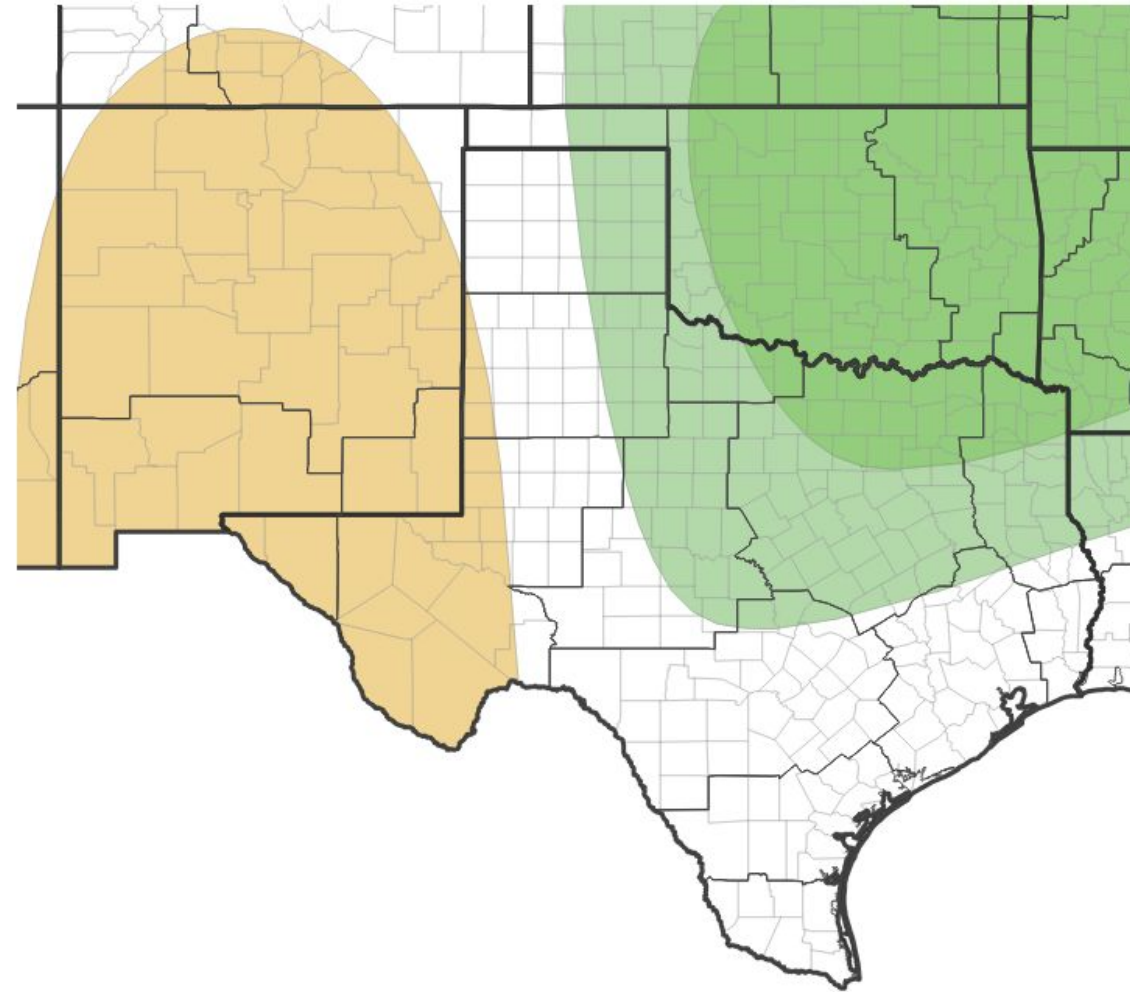
Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Equal chances for above or below normal precipitation through May
- Above normal temperatures for May

Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



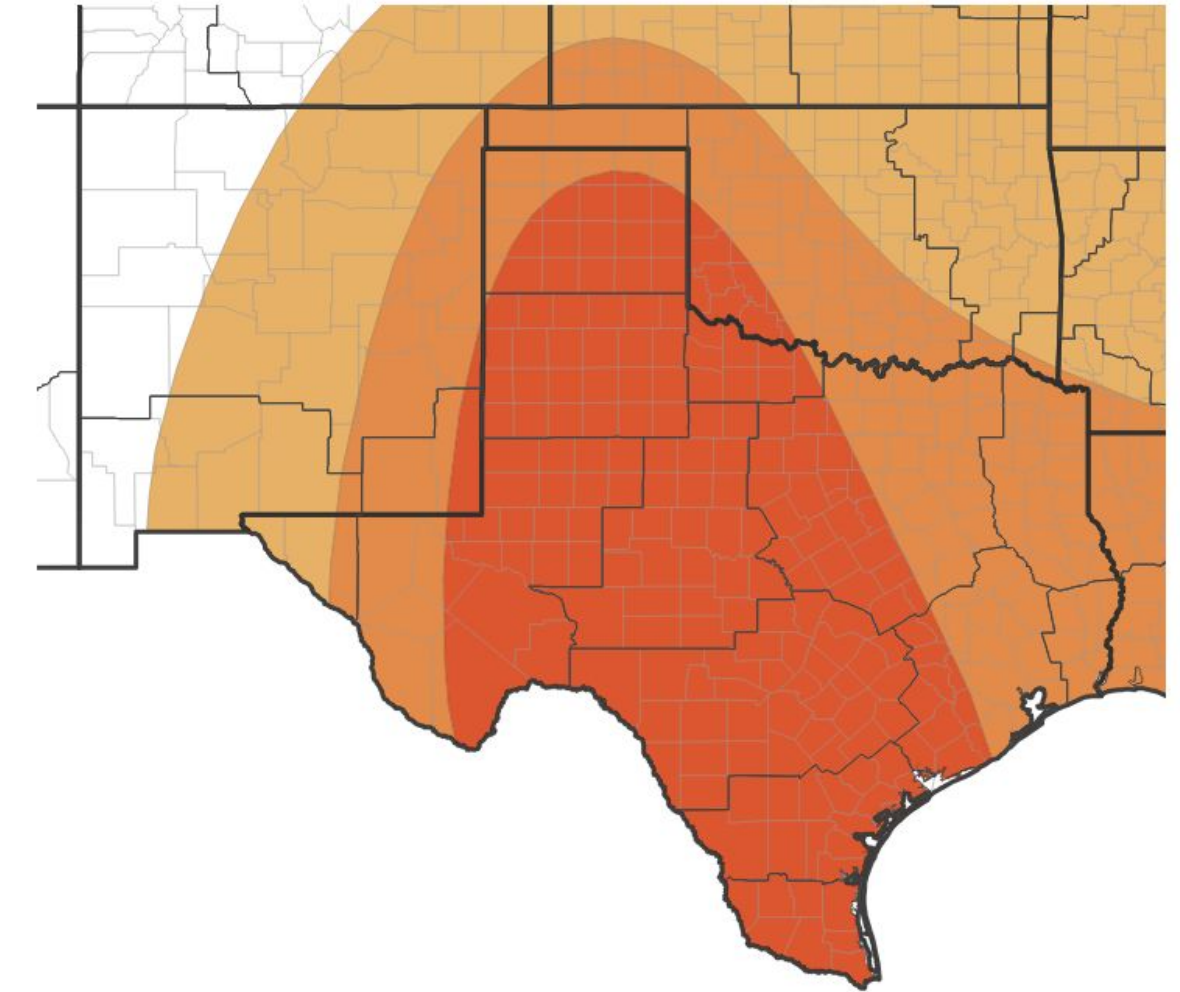
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Data Valid: 04/30/24

Monthly Temperature Outlook



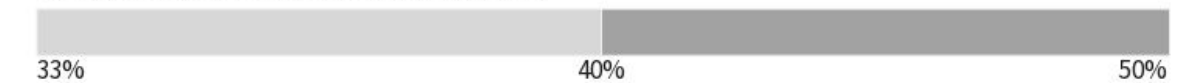
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Data Valid: 04/30/24





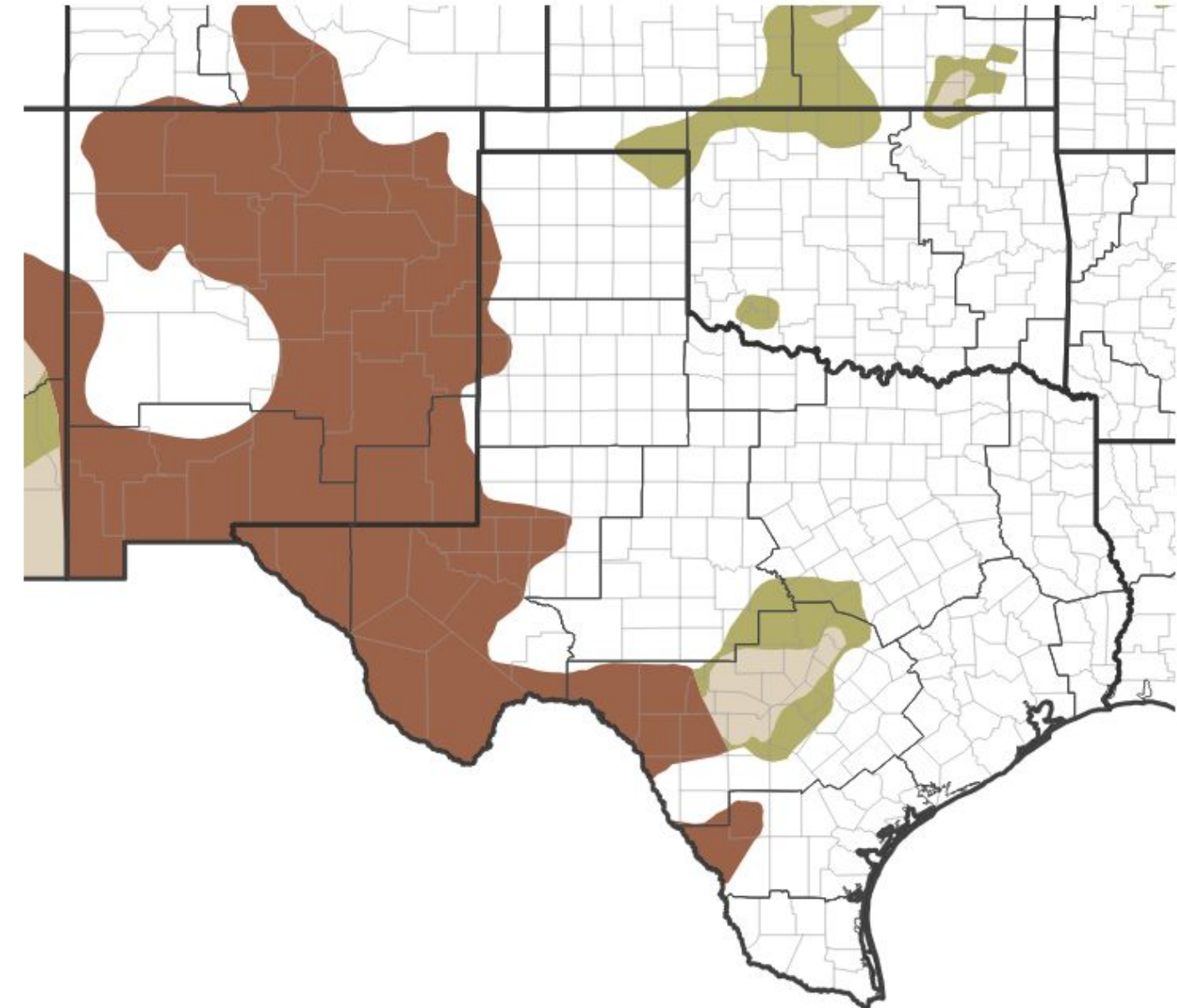
Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is likely to persist across the Northwest Brush Country.

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid: 05/03/24

