



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid January 5, 2025

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

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated February 7, 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/EPZ/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=132 for regional drought status updates.
-
- Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) drought status affecting southern New Mexico and far west Texas.
 - No change in drought status despite abnormally warm and dry December.
 - Drought conditions expected to persist and possibly worsen through the winter months. Outlook points to prolonged drought conditions.



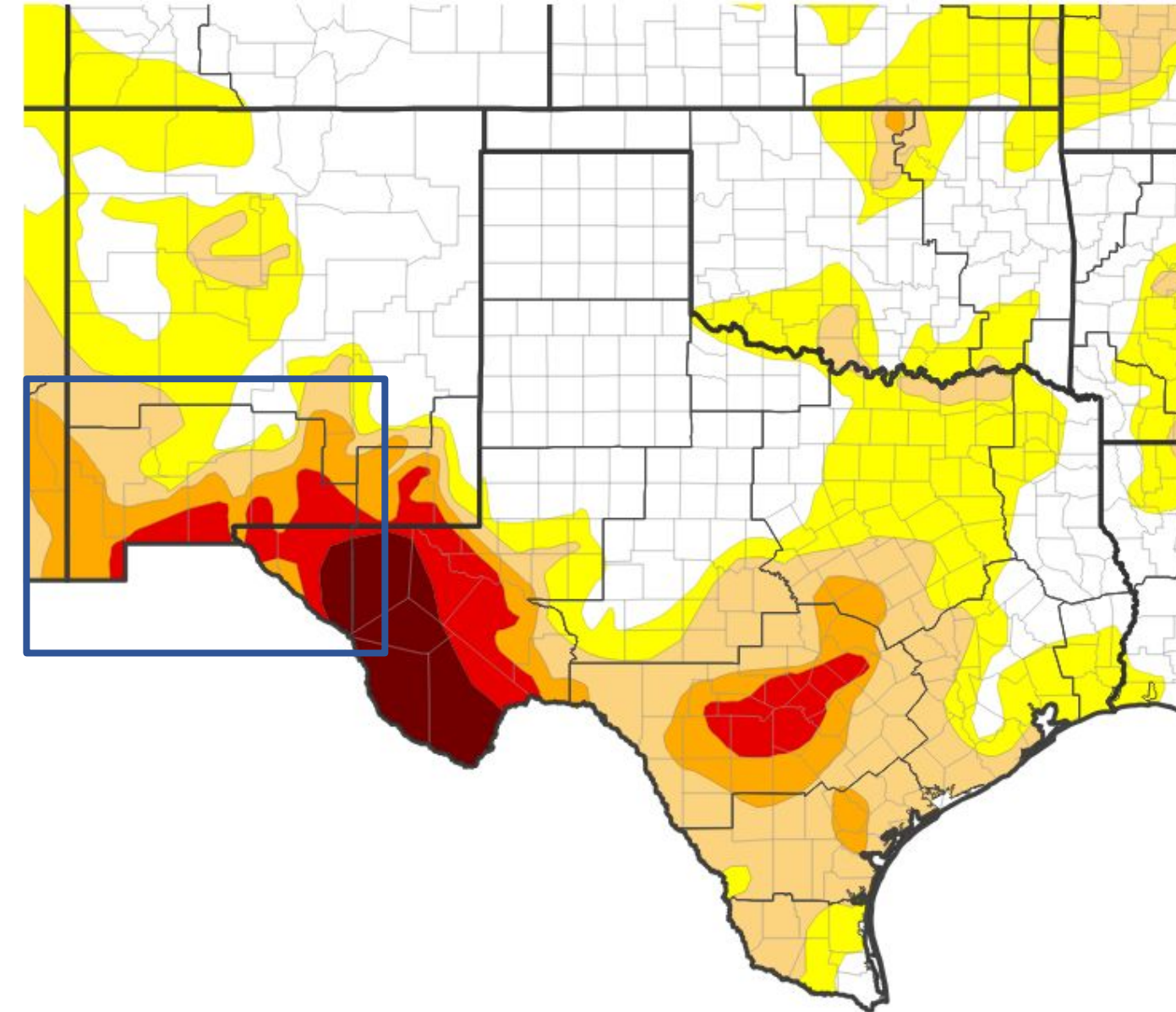


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
Davis Mountains, Big Bend region
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
Most of far west Texas including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. Southern Dona Ana, Otero, and Luna Counties.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Portions of southern New Mexico including Dona Ana, Otero, Luna, and Hidalgo Counties. Lincoln National Forest.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Gila National Forest (29% of New Mexico)
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
Central New Mexico (56% of New Mexico)
- No major change since last update, despite abnormally dry and warm conditions in December. Drought will persist through the winter months locally.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 12/31/24





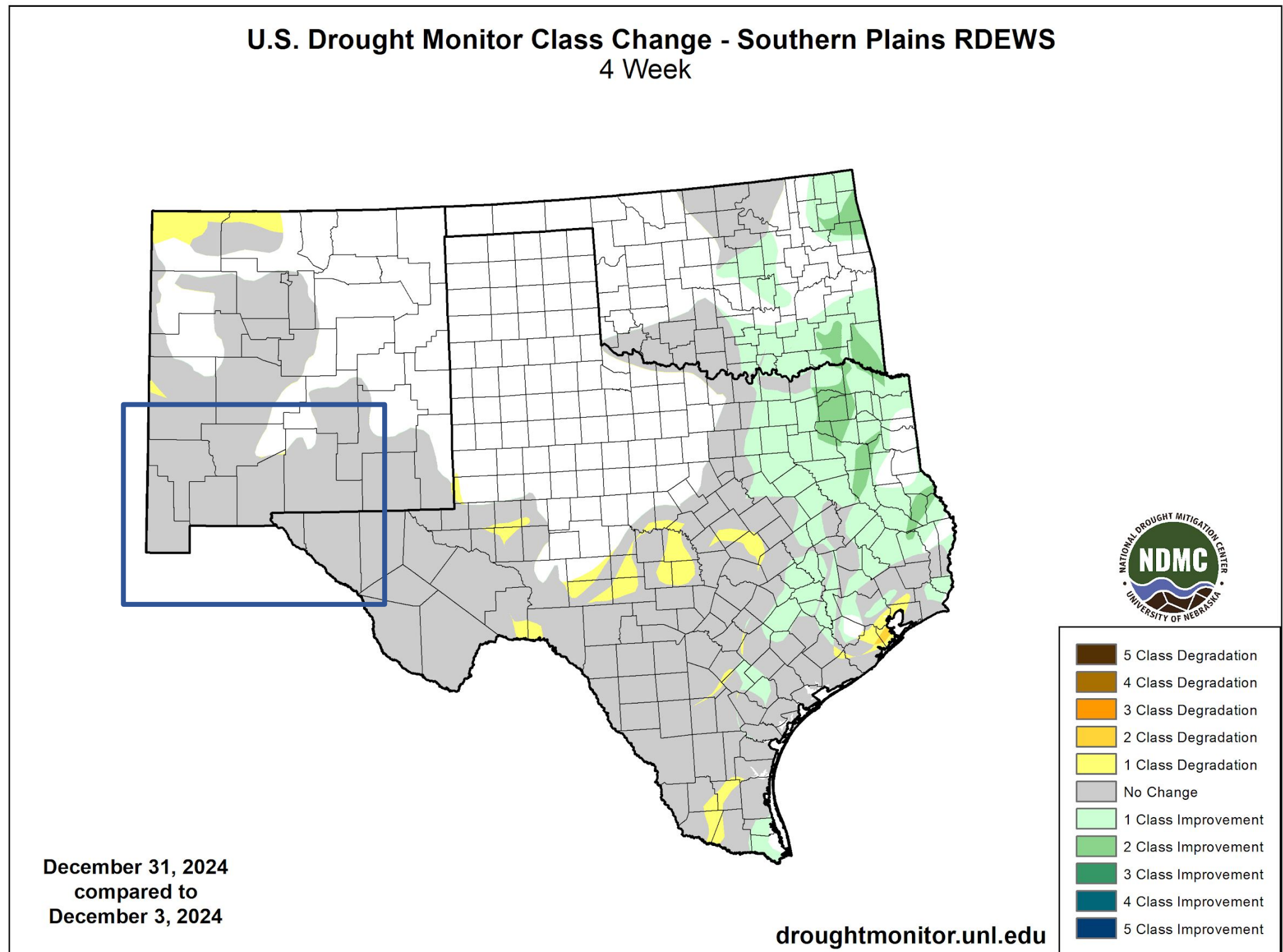
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

January 5, 2025
5:16 PM

Link to the latest [1-month change map](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

4-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:**
None
- **Drought Improved:**
None
- **No Change:**
Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas





Precipitation

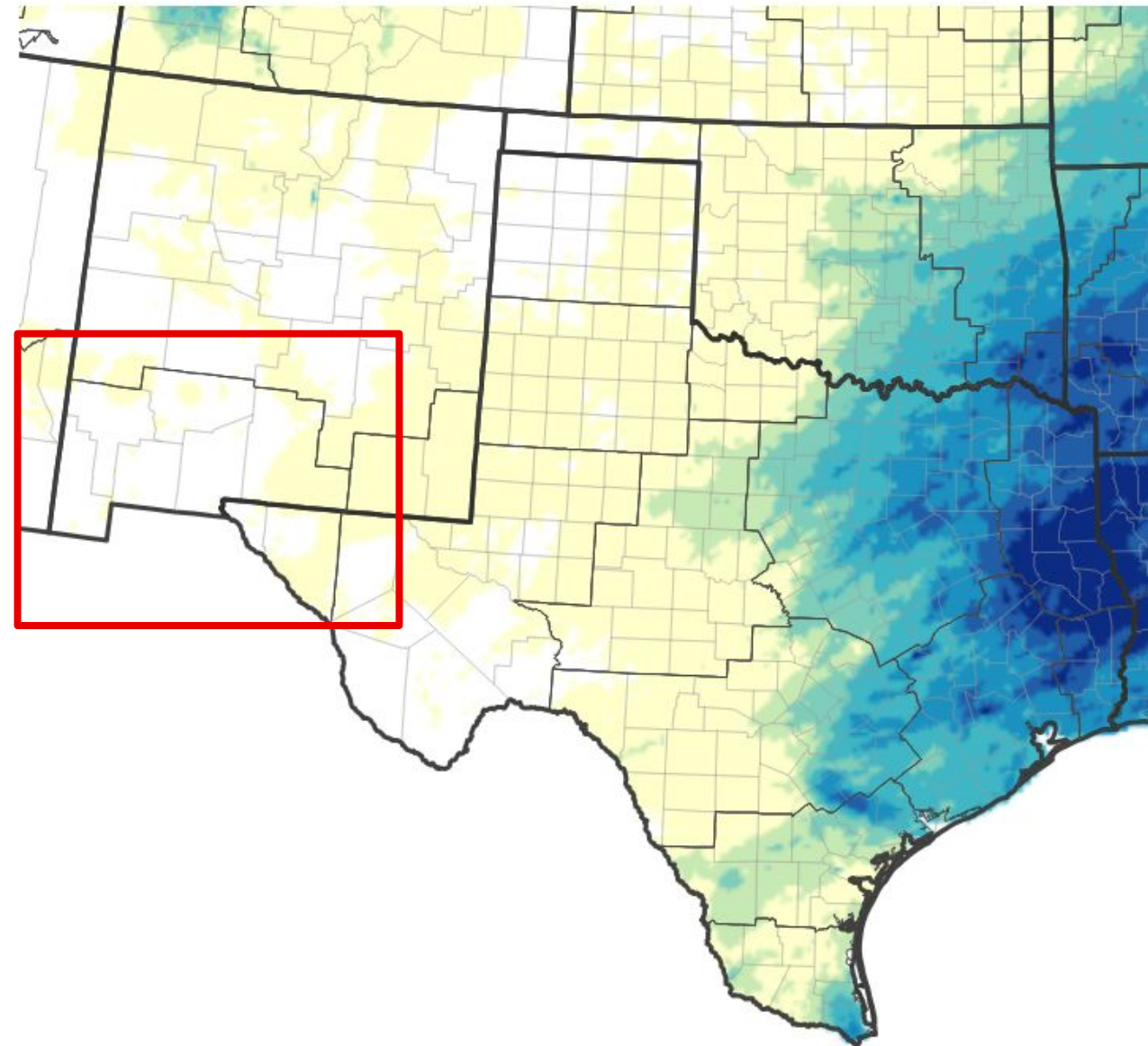
January 5, 2025
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30-day rain totals, 0.00" along I-10 corridor. 0.00" over mountain forests.

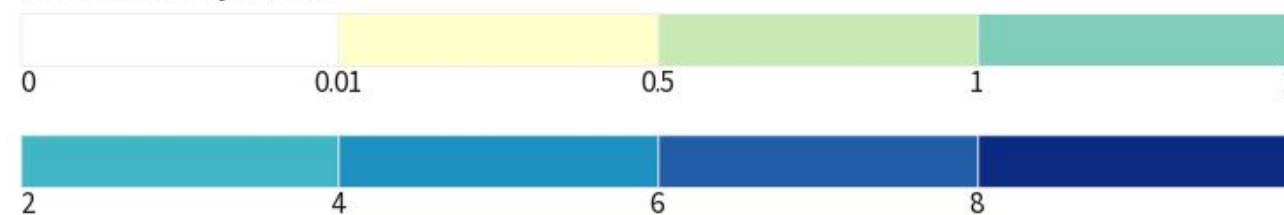
90-day rain totals, 0.50-1.50" along I-10 corridor. 1.00-3.00" over mountain forests.

December was almost completely dry area wide.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



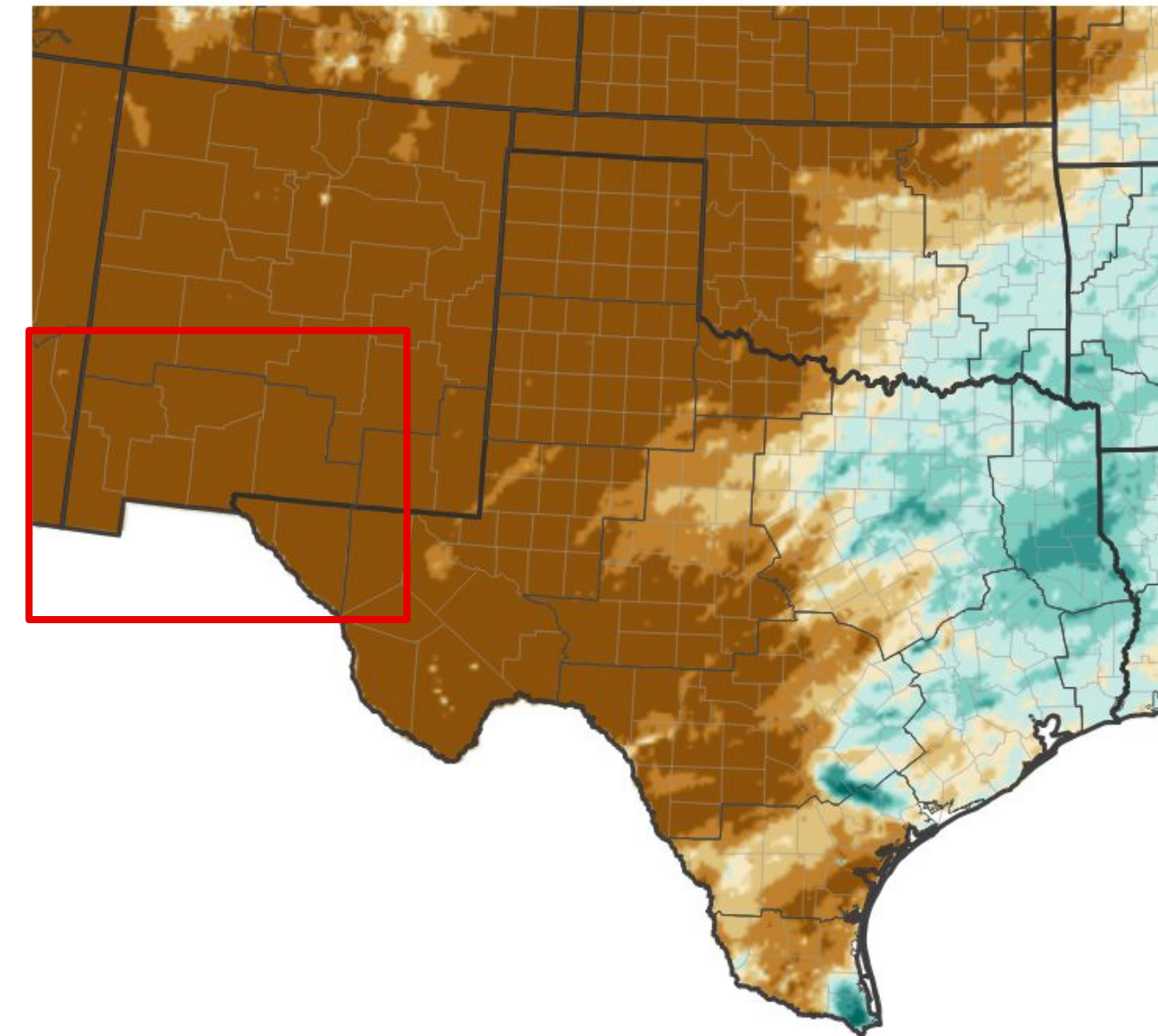
Inches of Precipitation



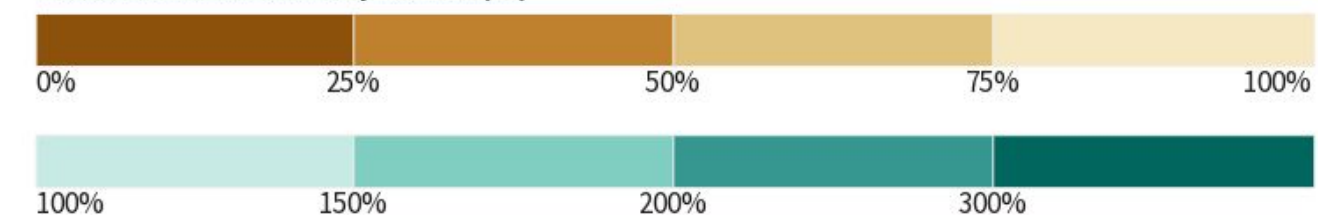
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/03/25

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/04/25



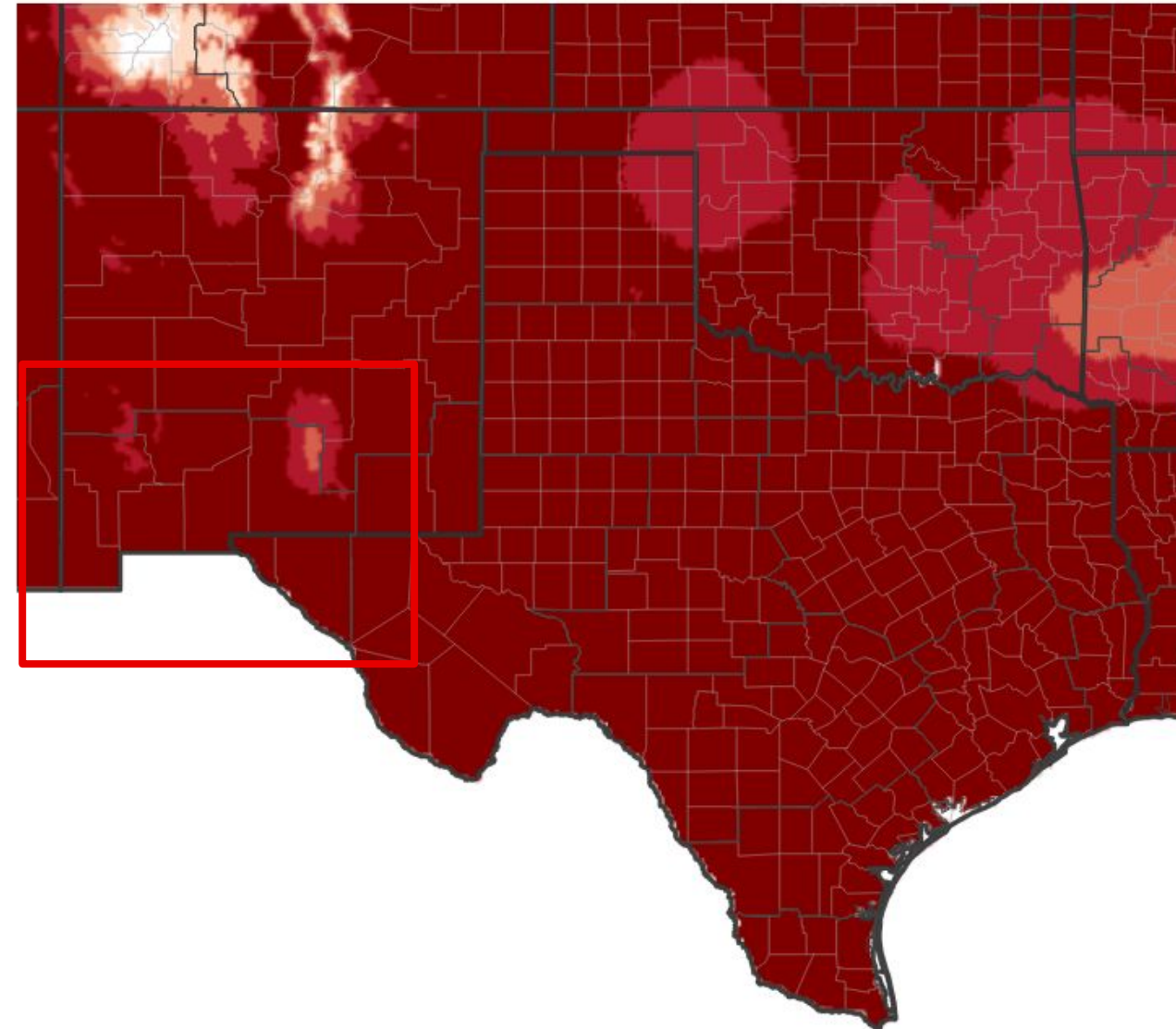


Temperature

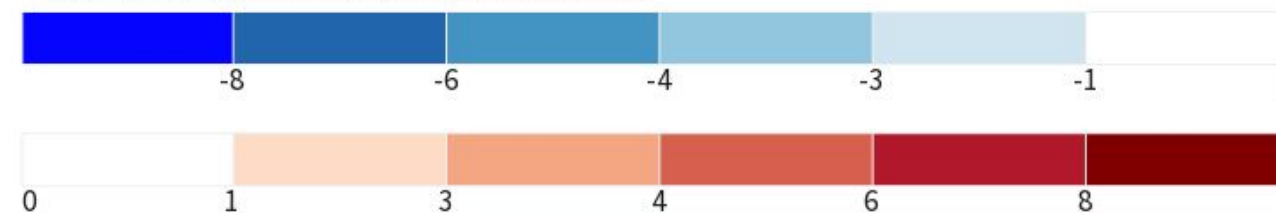
January 5, 2025
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- 3rd warmest December on record for El Paso. 30-day anomalies 5-7 degrees above normal.
- 2024 was the hottest year on record for El Paso.
- December temperatures 6.3° C above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



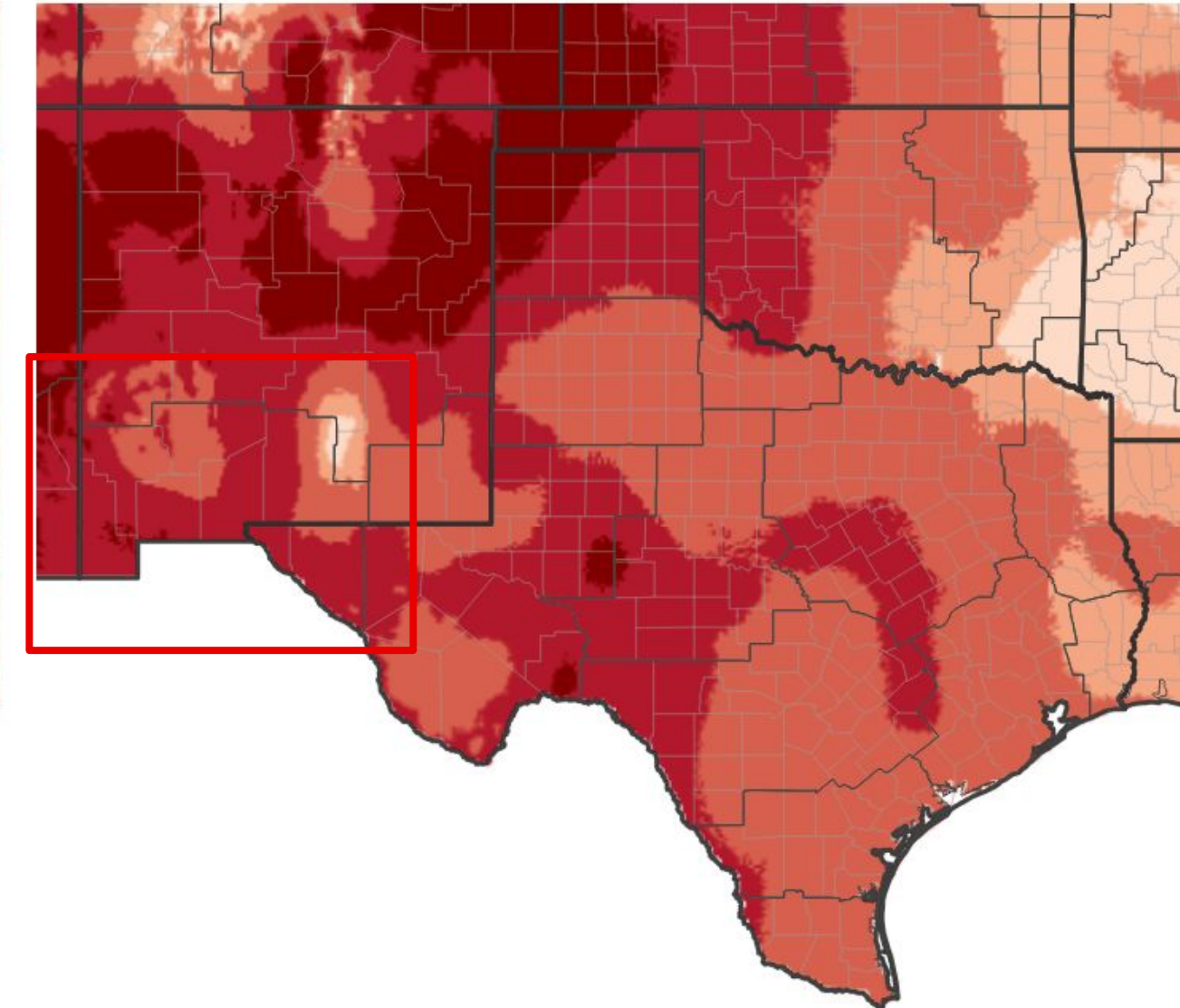
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



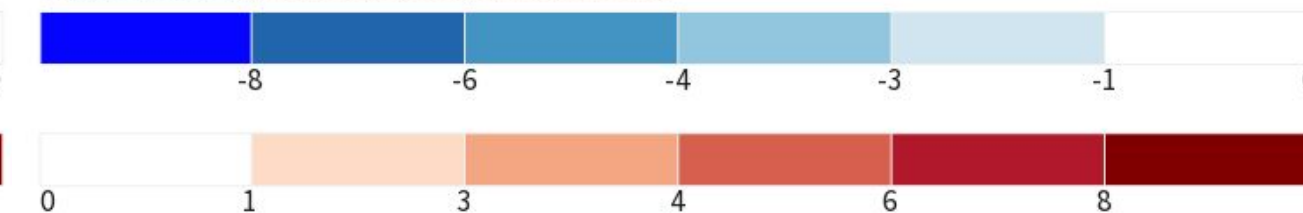
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 12/31/24

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: 12/31/24





Summary of Impacts

January 5, 2025

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows in Gila and Mimbres basins are well below normal with no flooding issues expected through the winter. Mountain snowpack is practically non-existent to start January, but snowpacks are expected to develop by the end of the month, with some melting and runoff. No sudden rises occurred in December. Flow remains normal out of Lincoln National Forest. River levels will remain steady through the winter season with only temporary rises due to rain or snow melt but long-term river levels should remain consistent into next Spring's melting season. Rio Grande water has mostly dried up south of the Caballo Dam and will remain dry through next Spring. Elephant Butte storage sits at 9.8% capacity, an increase from last month but well below 30-year median. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Warmer and drier than usual winter weather expected in January, with occasional cold snaps. The 2024 Rio Grande irrigation season ended on August 16th with a season surface water allotment of 12 inches. Please refer to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District ([EBID](#)) website or your local municipality for more information.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Recent dryness has increased ERCs above seasonal normals for January. Soil moisture remains very low. Winter snows may help decrease fire conditions temporarily. Large fire risk is low. Four wildfires in New Mexico (South Fork, Indios, Blue 2 and Salt) exceeded 3000 acres in size in 2024.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

January 5, 2025
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- River flooding season has ended as river stages ran low all summer long and no excessive rainfall is expected through the winter. No snowpack over area mountains as of January 1.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
Gila	1.22 ft	11.00 ft
Redrock	4.03 ft	20.00 ft
Virden	4.92 ft	15.00 ft

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft

Gauge stage recorded on 1/5/2025

Saturday, January 04, 2025

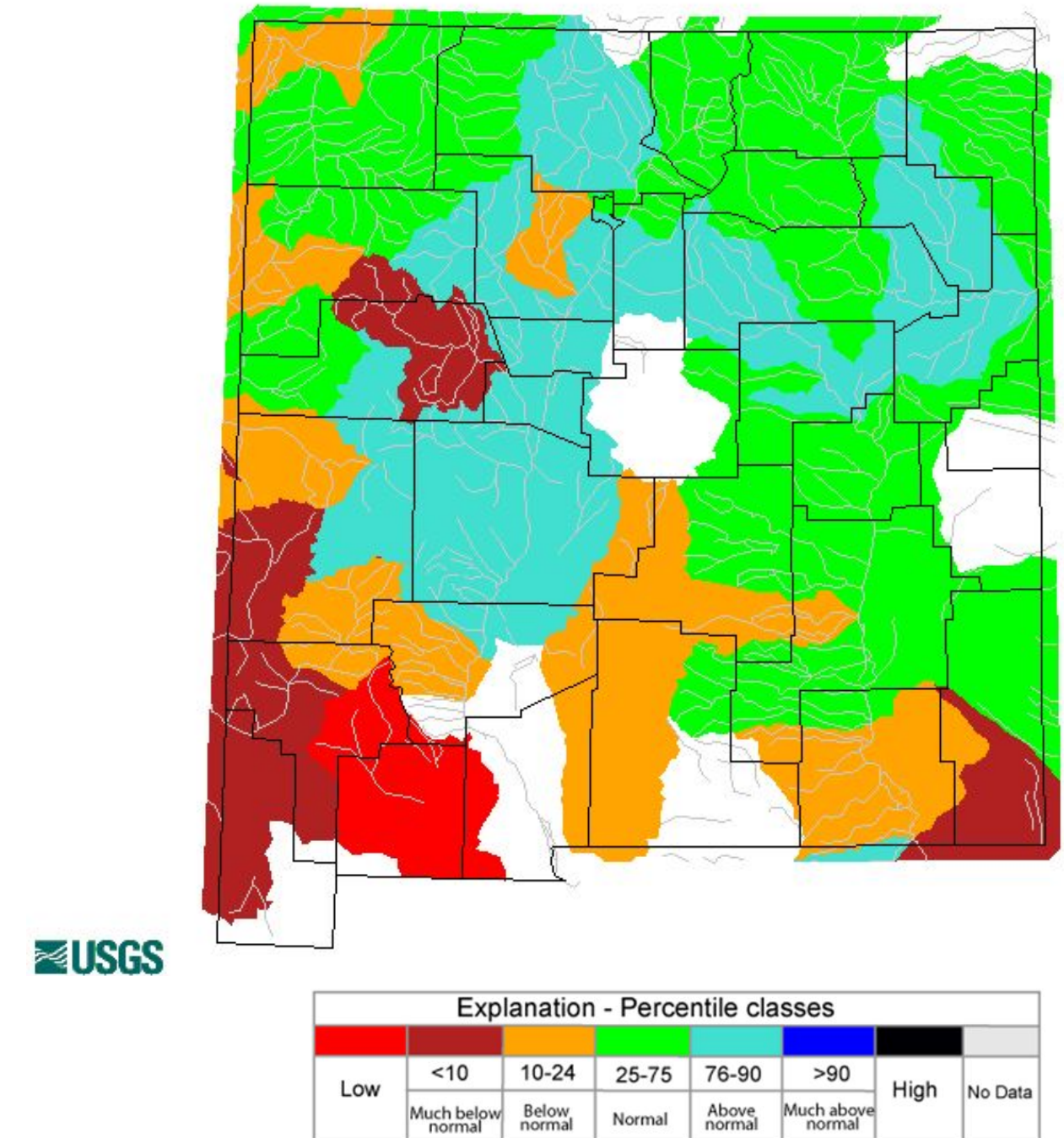
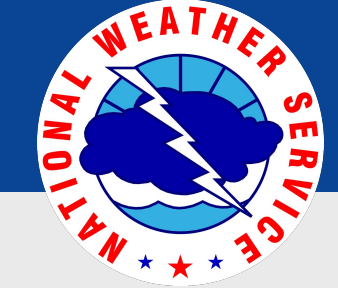


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid January 4, 2025

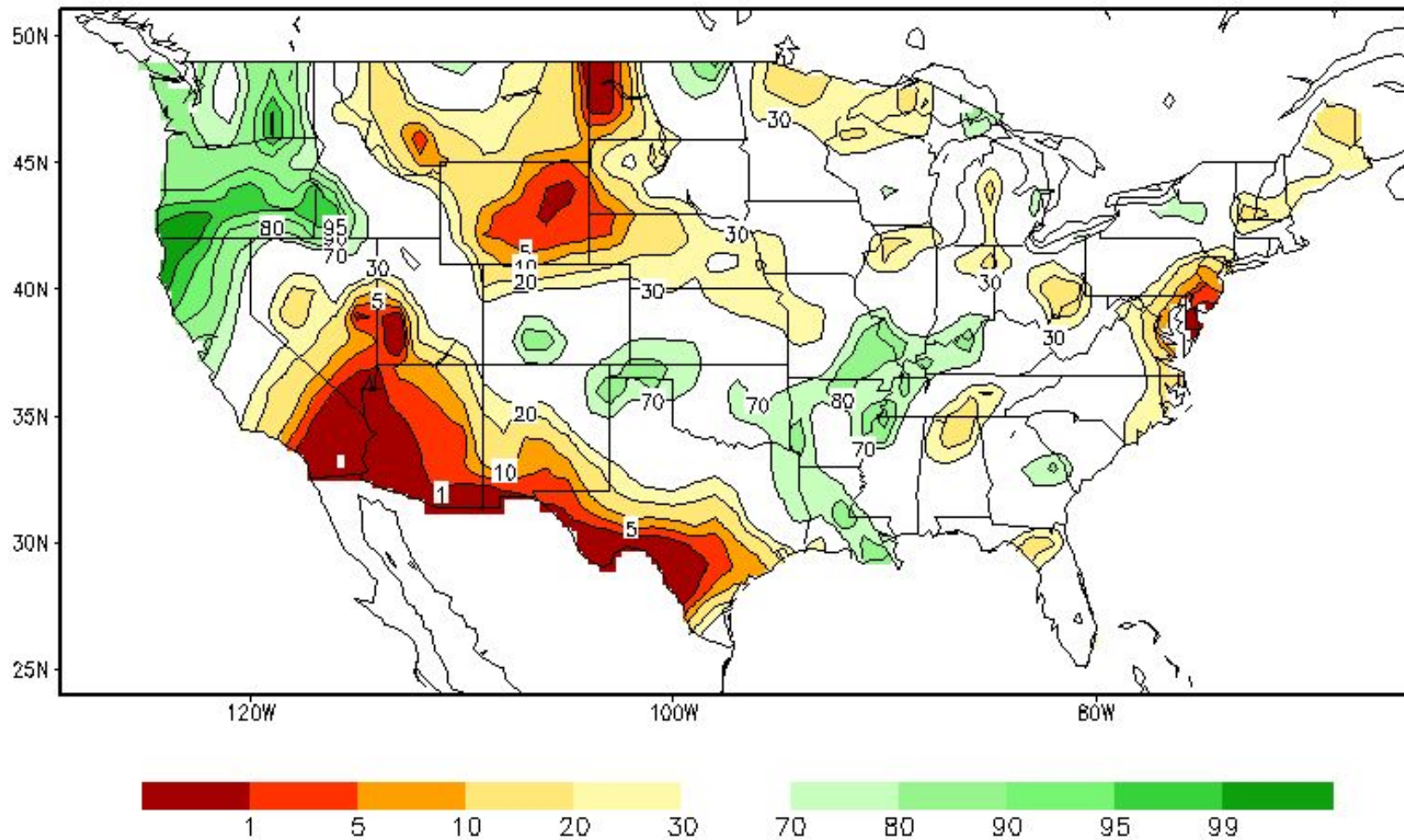




Agricultural Impacts

January 5, 2025
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Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
JAN 04, 2025



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending OCT 26, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

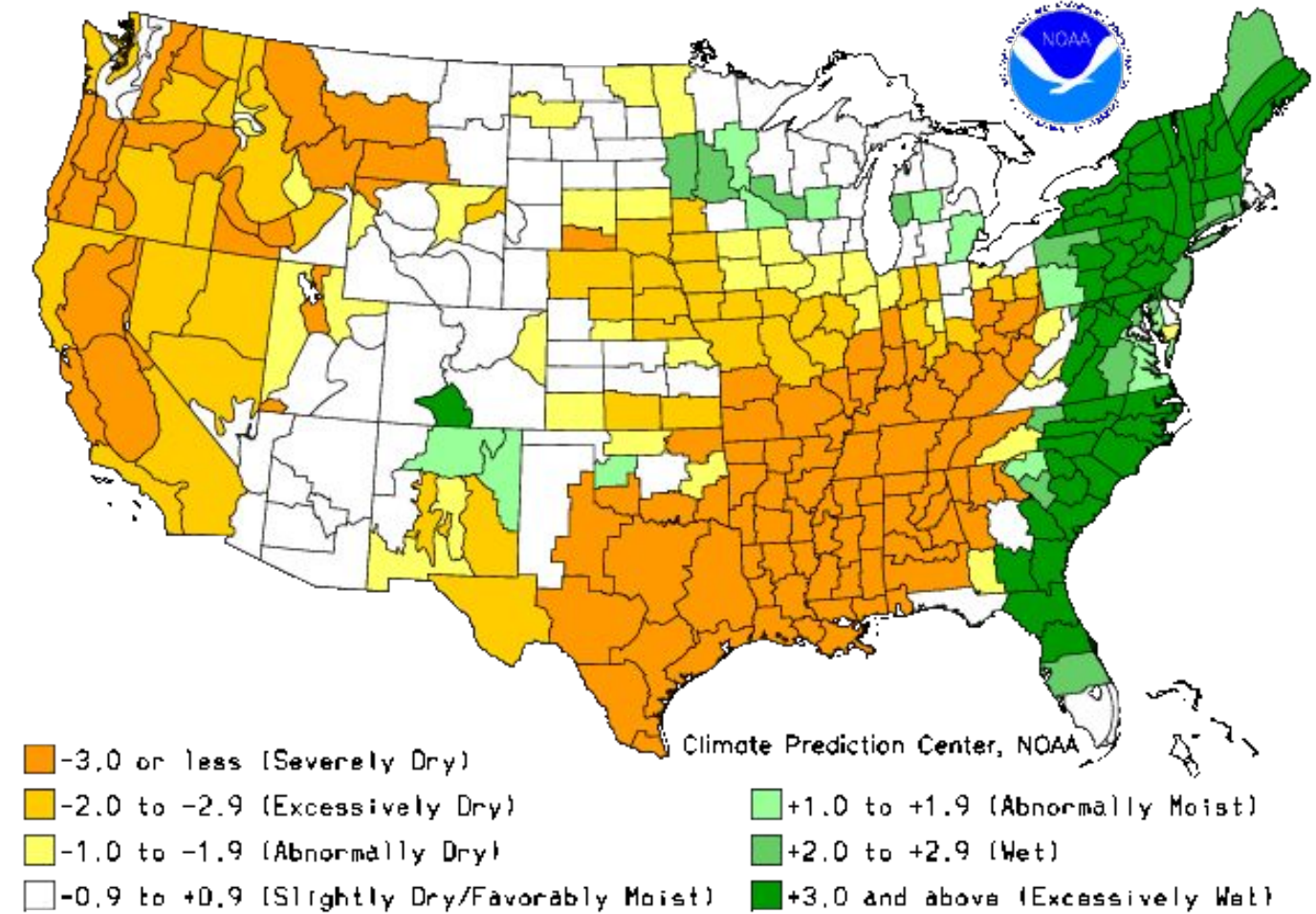


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid January 4, 2025

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending October 25, 2024





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](#)

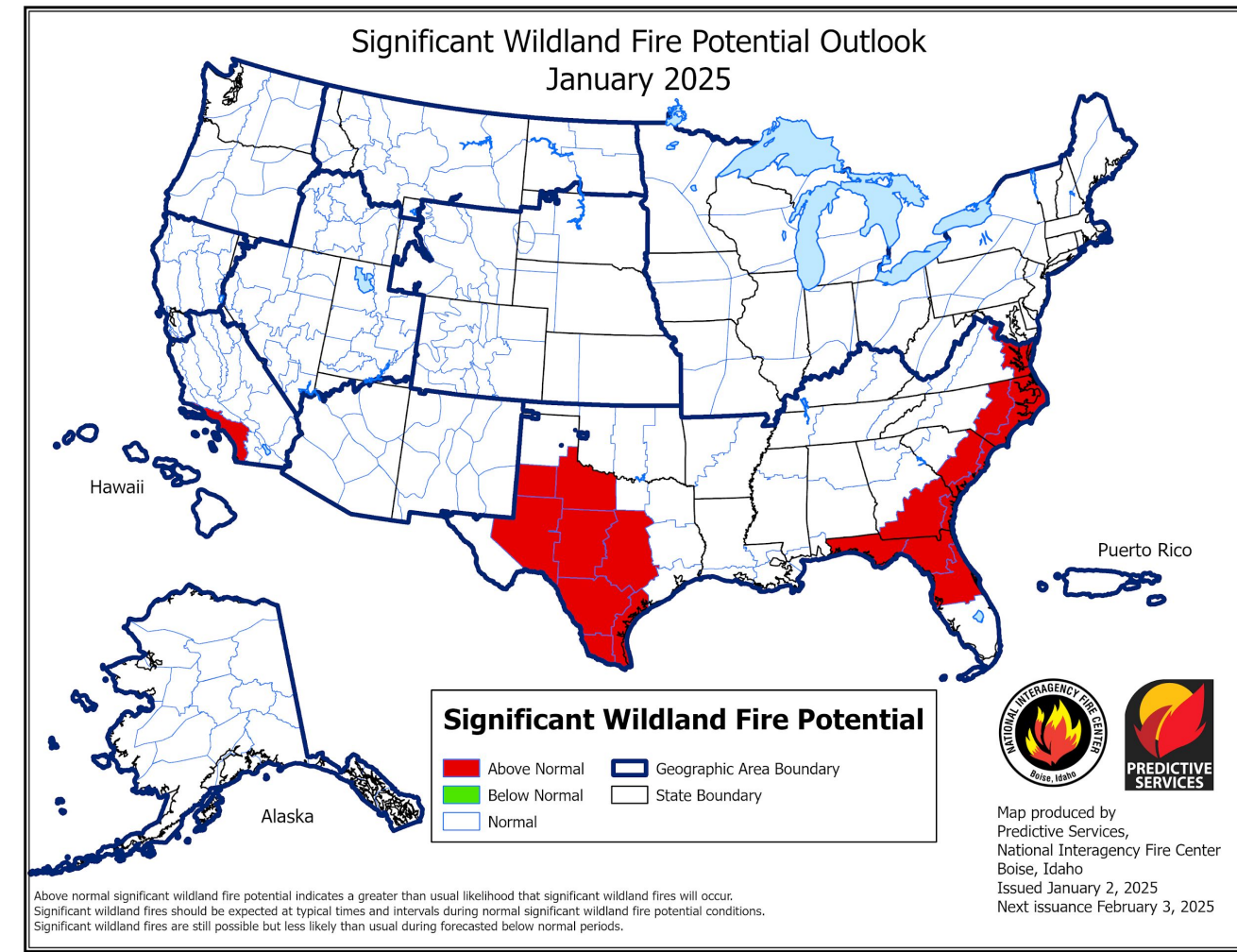
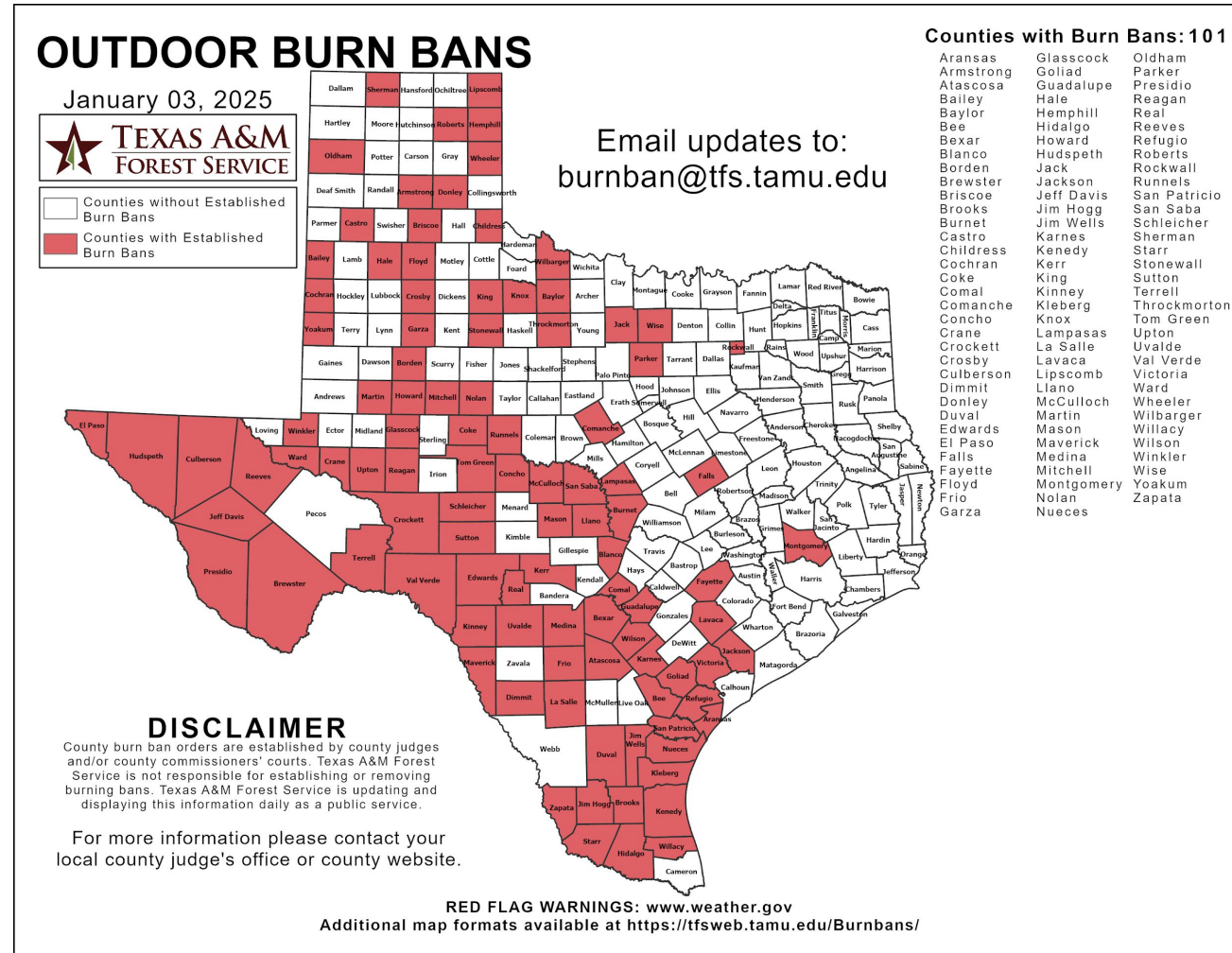


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for January 2025



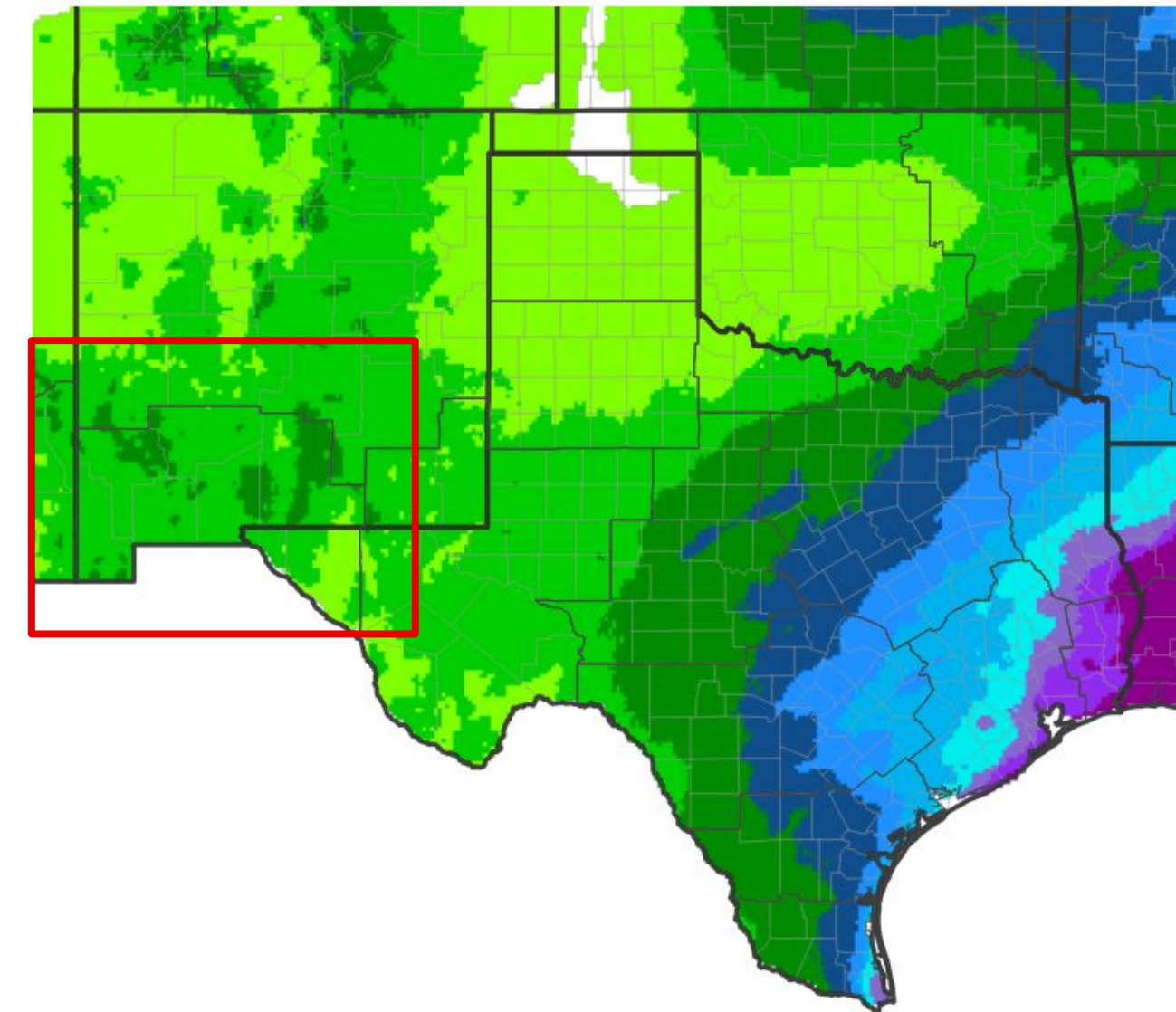


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

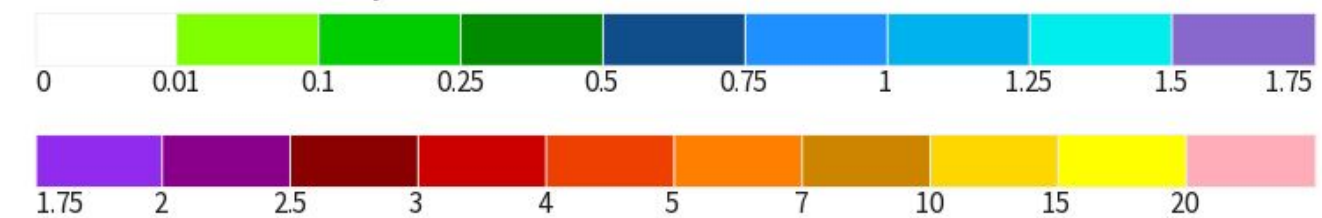
January 5, 2025
5:16 PM

- After a completely dry December, wintry weather is expected this week with widespread snow. Rest of January still leans drier and warmer than normal, with only occasional rain/snow chances.
- 2024 finish below normal for precipitation area wide. Drought conditions are likely to linger through the rest of winter.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for January 5, 2025–January 12, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 01/05/25





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

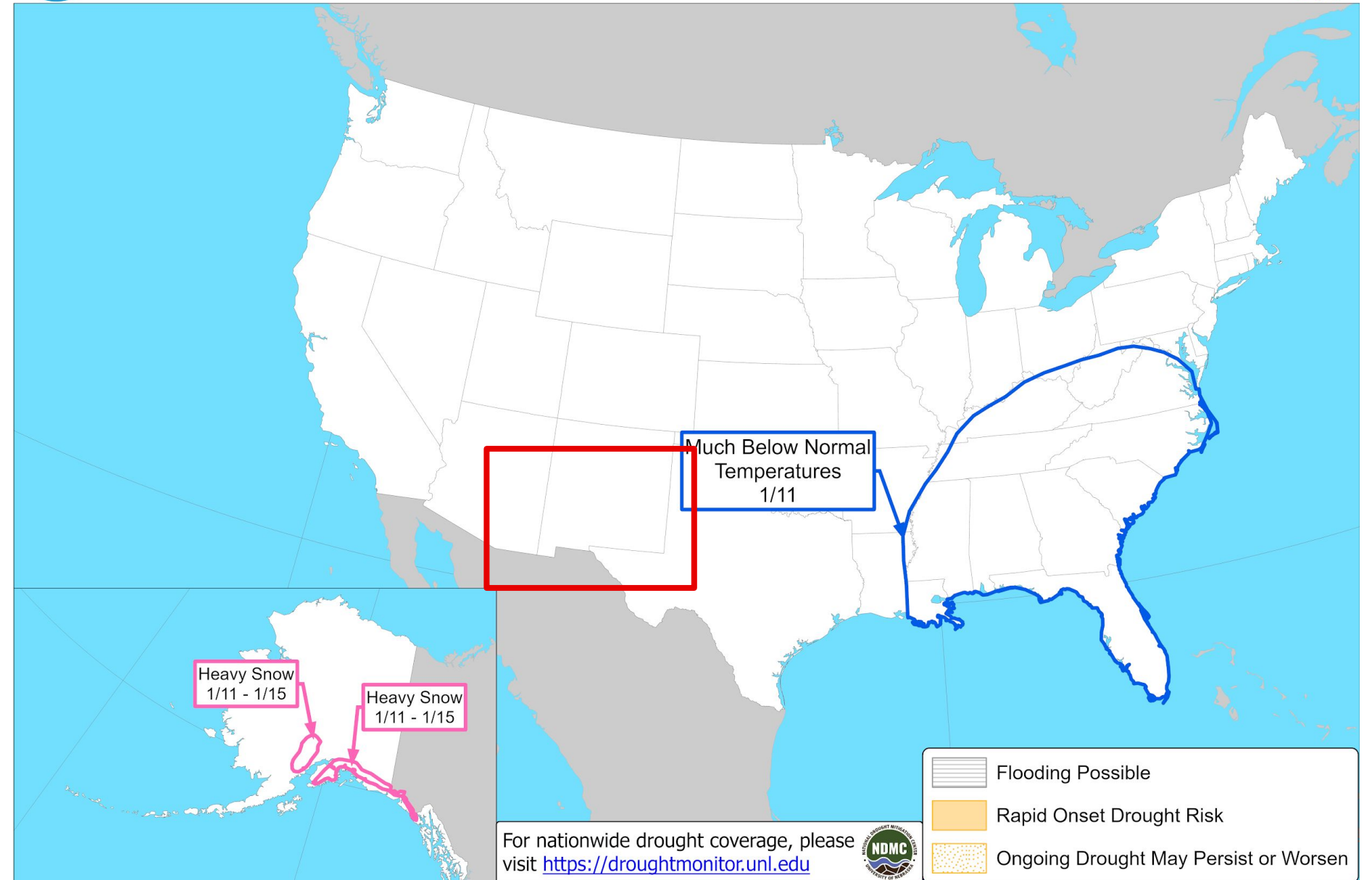
January 5, 2025
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Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- While below normal precipitation totals are still expected through the winter season, rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to persist through the winter season.



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



Climate Prediction Center

Released: January 3, 2025 3:00 PM EST

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Image Caption:

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





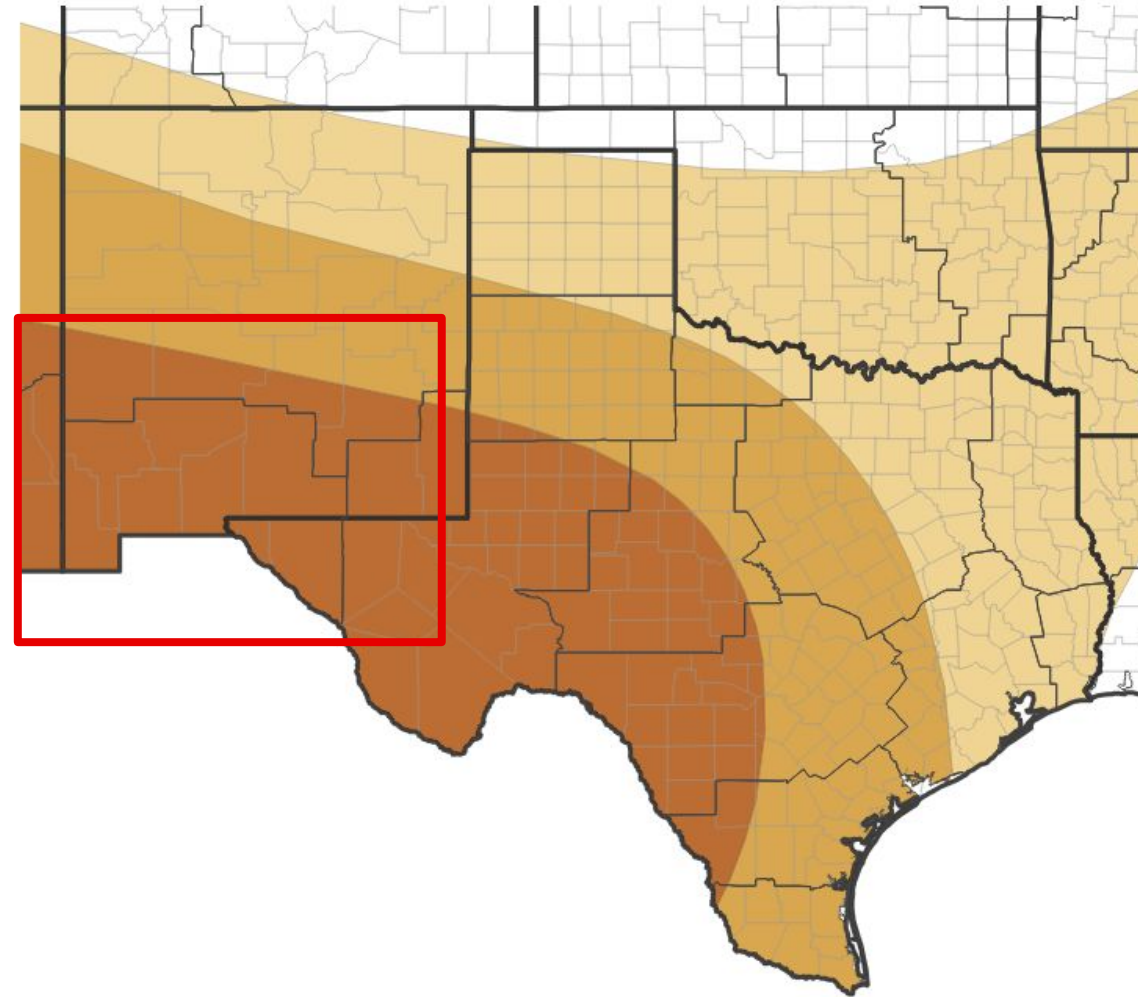
Long-Range Outlooks

January 5, 2025
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- 50-60% chance for below normal precipitation across west Texas, southern New Mexico
- Monthly average for El Paso: 0.39"
- 50-60% chance for above normal temperatures across west Texas, occasional cold snaps.
- NOAA Winter Outlook can be viewed [here](#)

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

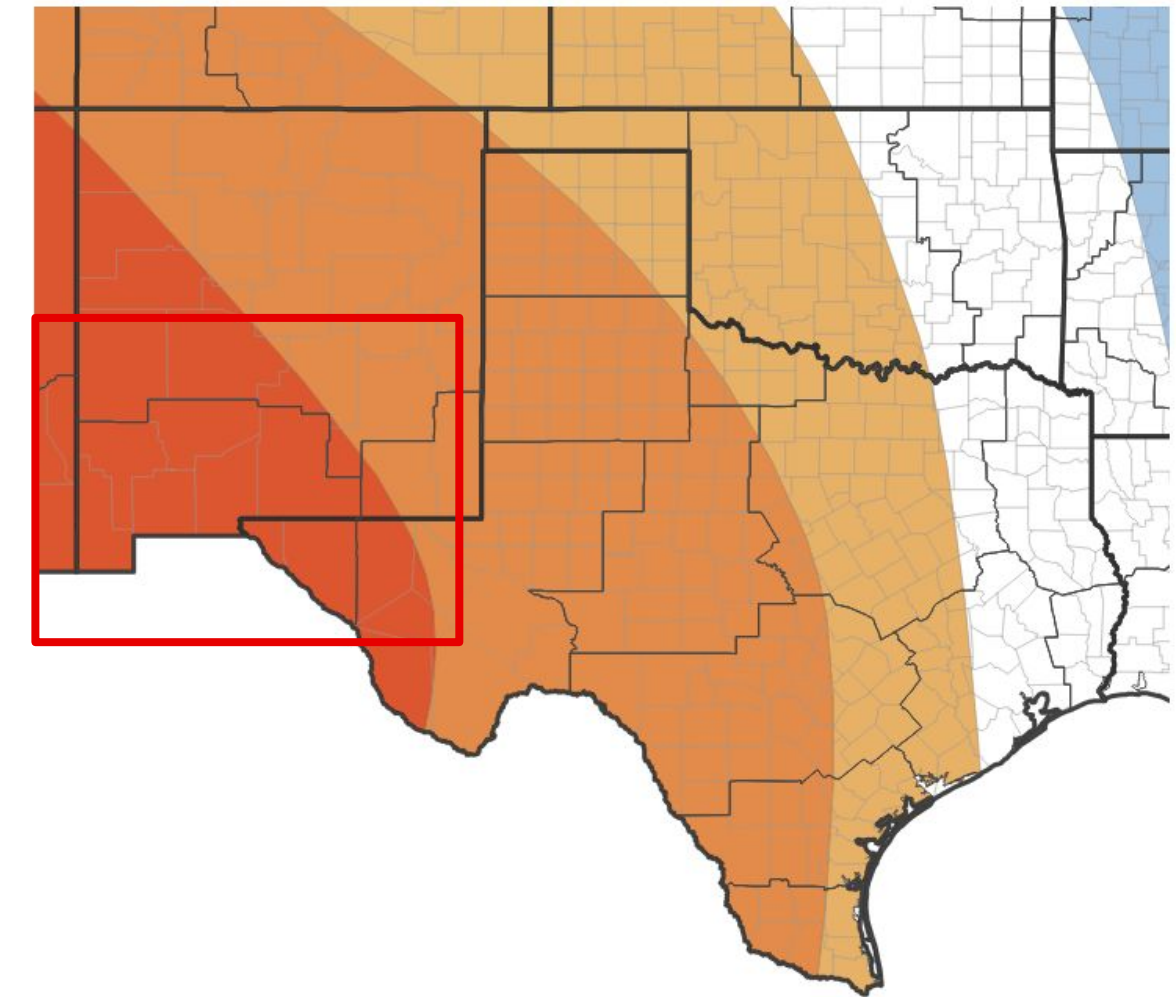


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/31/24

Monthly Temperature Outlook for January 1, 2025–January 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: 12/31/24





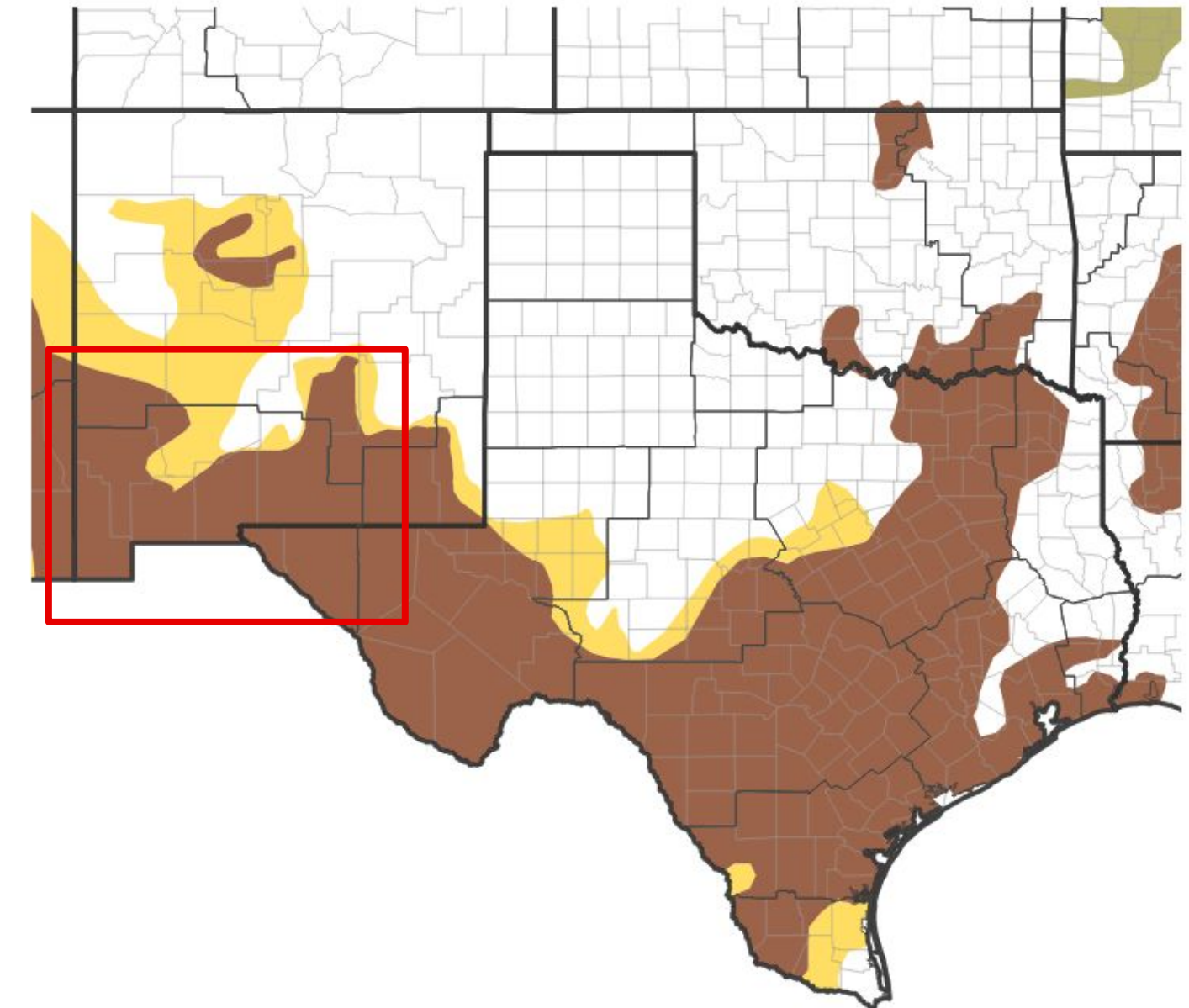
Drought Outlook

January 5, 2025
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions are expected to persist through December, possibly developing further north into Central New Mexico this month

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



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 12/31/24

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
El Paso, TX