



# Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid February 4, 2025

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

Contact Information: [nws.elpaso@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.elpaso@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated March 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](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.
  - Cold but dry January worsens drought across western New Mexico as winter precipitation falls short.
  - Drought conditions expected to persist into the spring months. Rough start to the 2025 growing season.





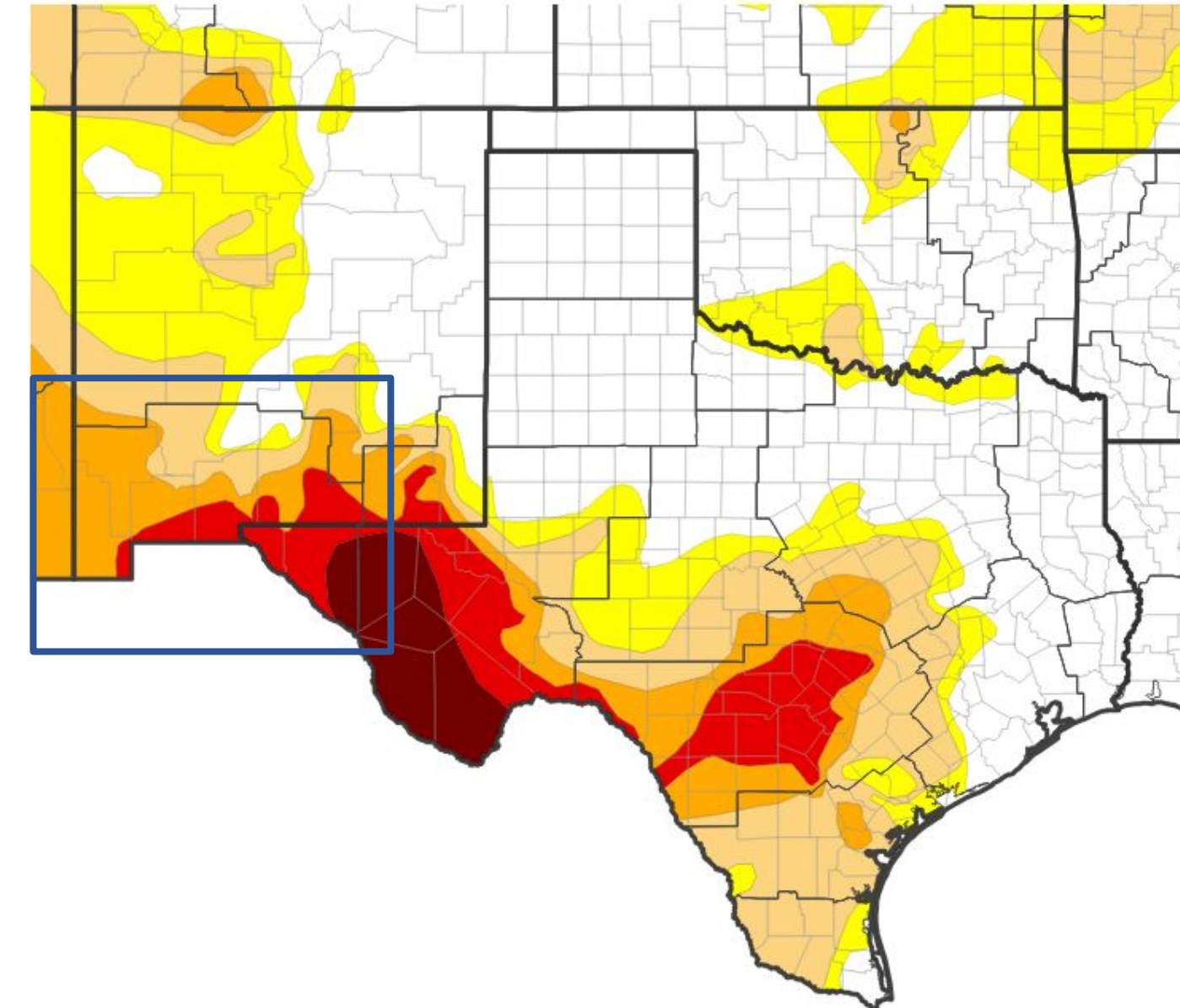


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

## 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 southwest New Mexico including Lincoln and Gila National Forests.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**  
Sierra, Catron Counties (36% of New Mexico, 42% of Texas)
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**  
Northwest New Mexico (65% of New Mexico, 53% of Texas)
- A mostly dry winter has caused drought to worsen across much of the local area. Drought is expected to persist through the upcoming spring season.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 01/28/25





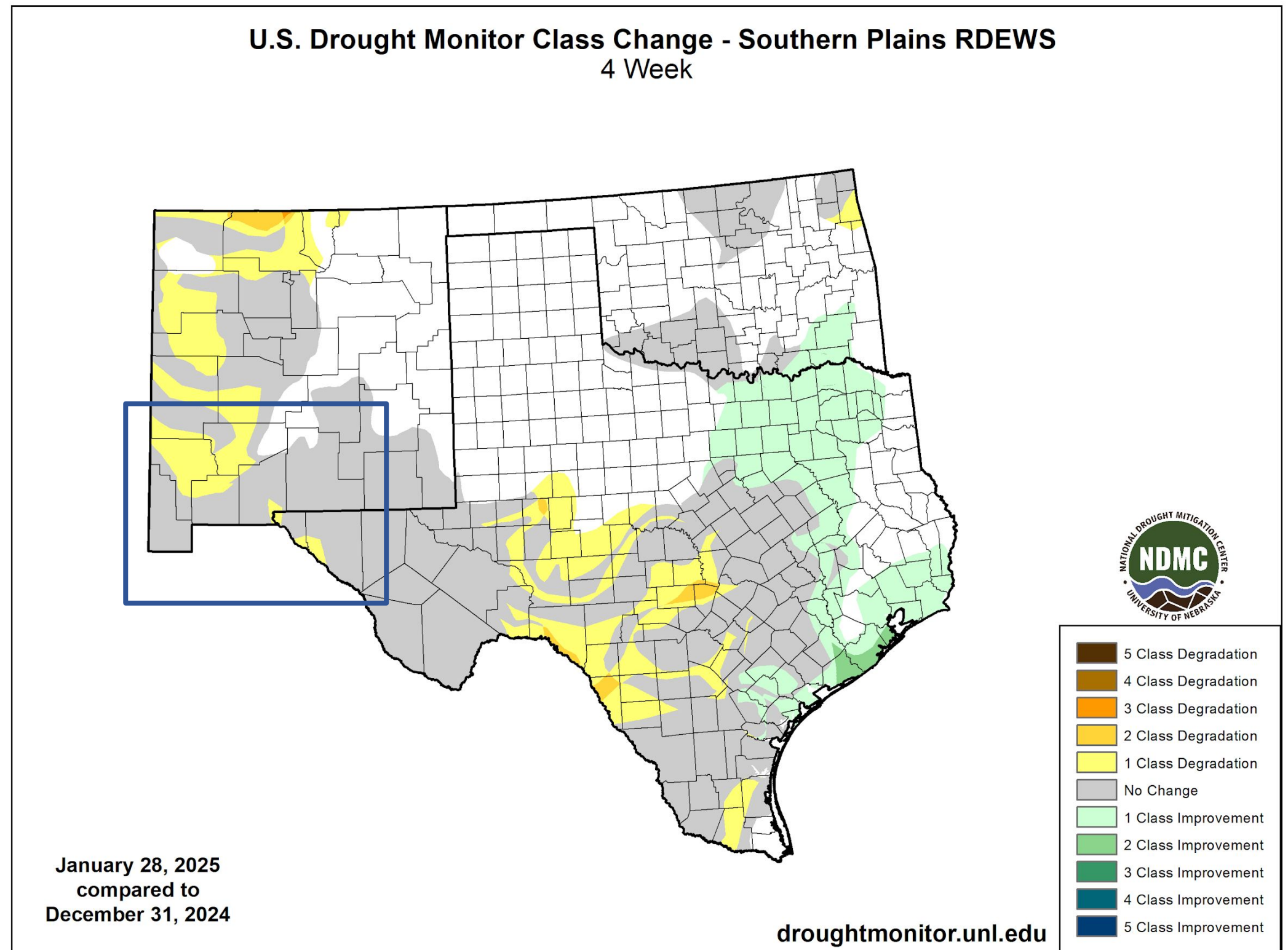
# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

February 4, 2025  
6:41 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:**  
Portions of western New Mexico including Gila National Forest. Lower Rio Grande Valley.
- **Drought Improved:**  
None
- **No Change:**  
Portions of Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas







# Precipitation

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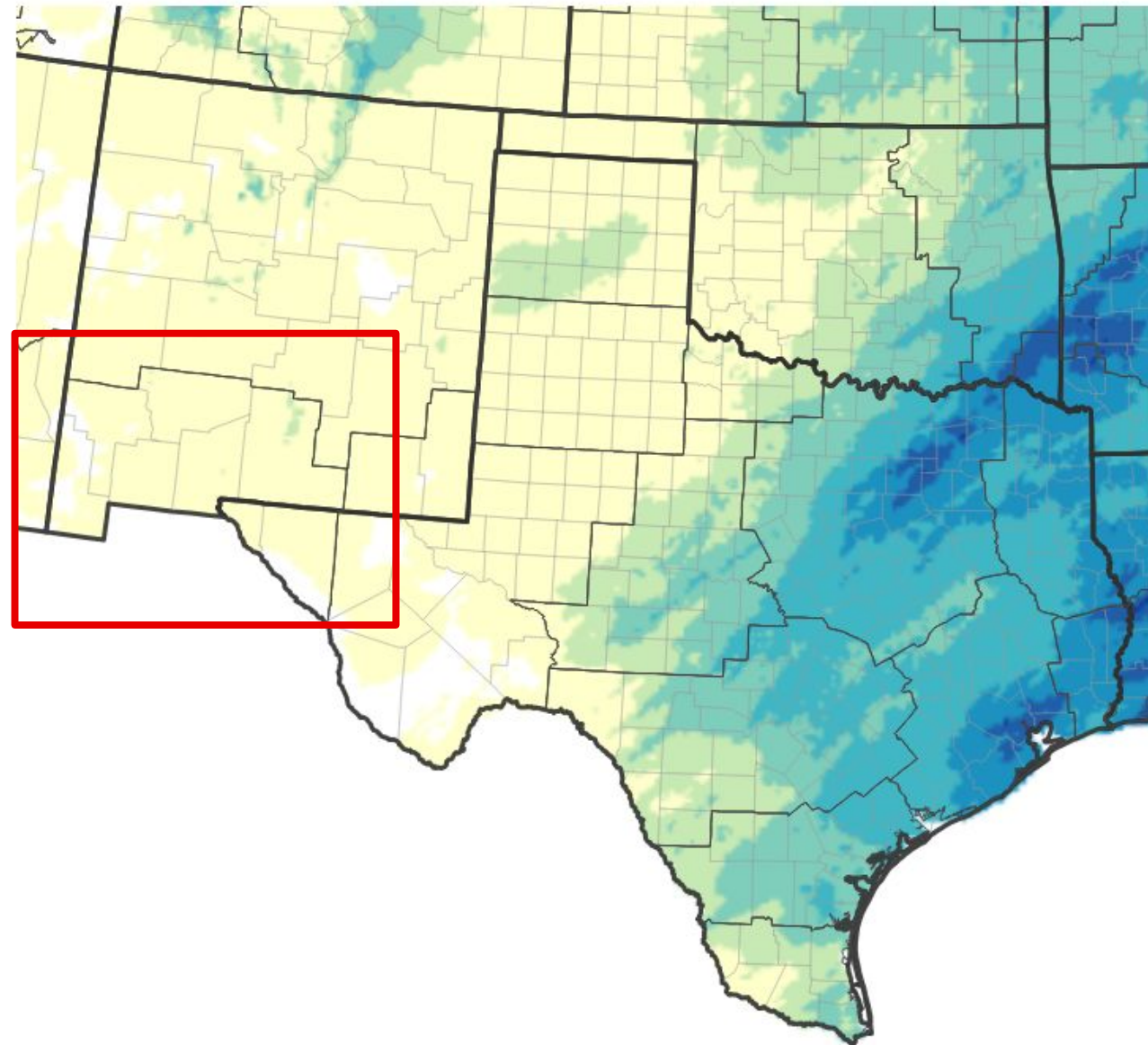
30-day precip totals,  
0.10-0.25" along I-10 corridor.  
0.25-0.50" over mountain  
forests.

90-day precip totals,  
1.00-1.50" along I-10 corridor.  
1.50-2.50" over mountain  
forests.

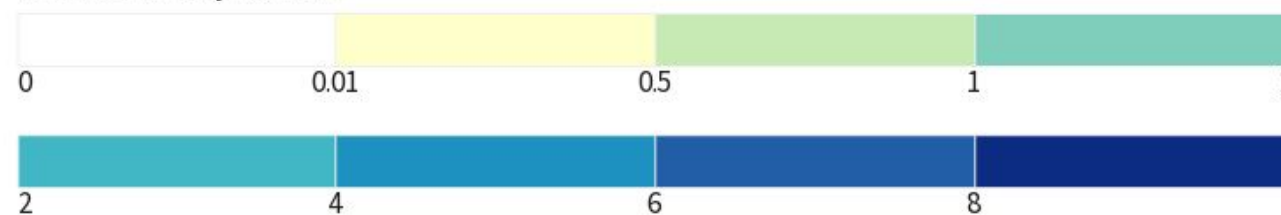
December was almost  
completely dry area wide.

Light rain and snow fell in  
mid-January, but remained  
below normal for the month.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



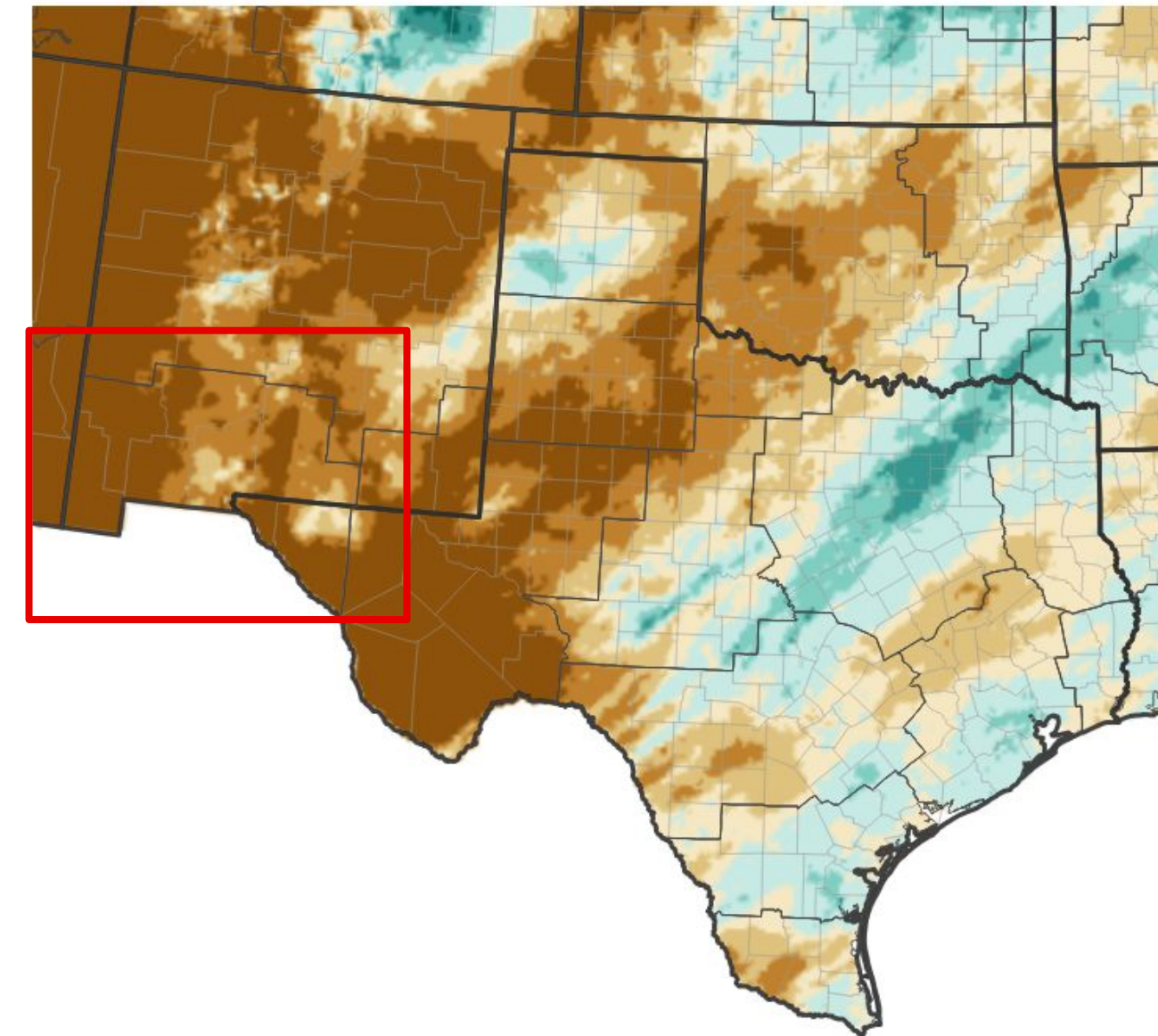
Inches of Precipitation



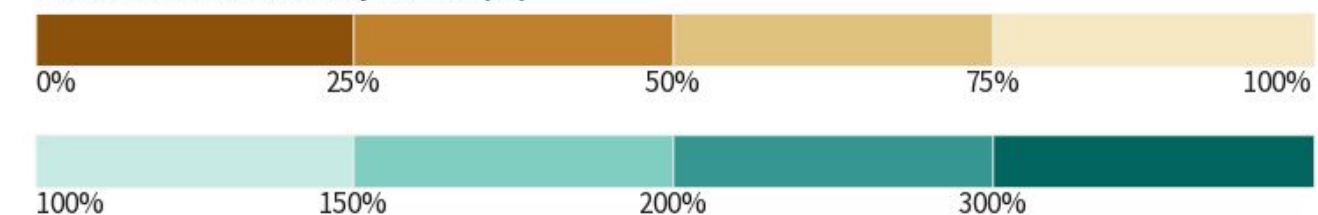
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;  
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/02/25

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: 02/03/25





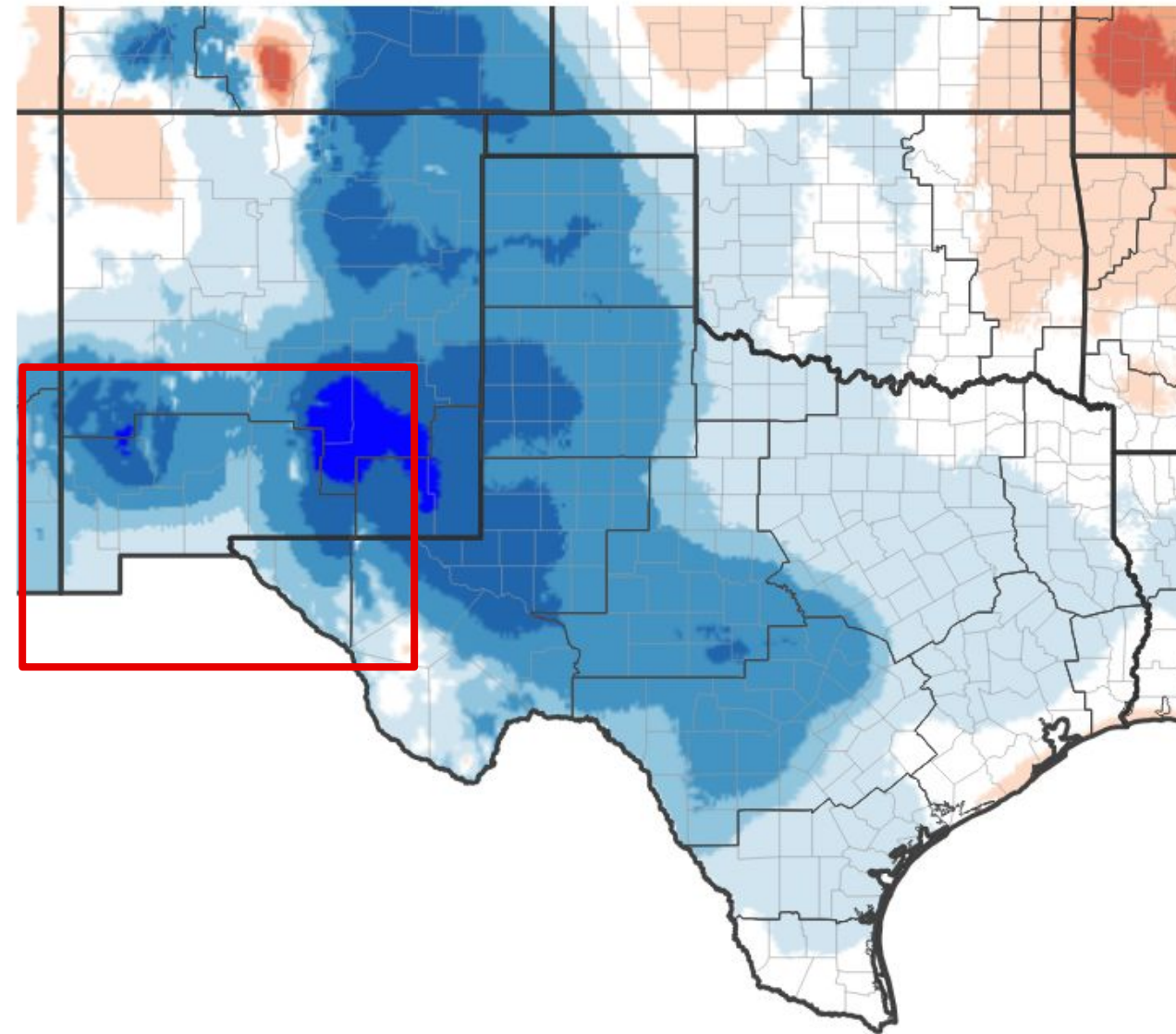


# Temperature

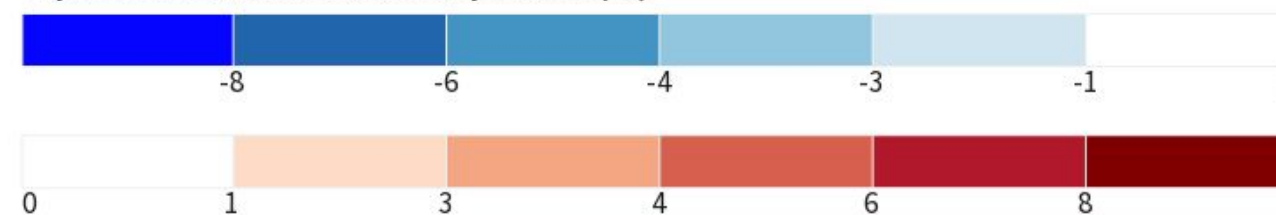
February 4, 2025  
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- Series of strong cold snaps made January below normal area wide. Coolest month since 2013.
- 30-day anomalies 4-8 degrees below normal.
- 2024 was the hottest year on record for El Paso.
- January temperatures 3.4°F below normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



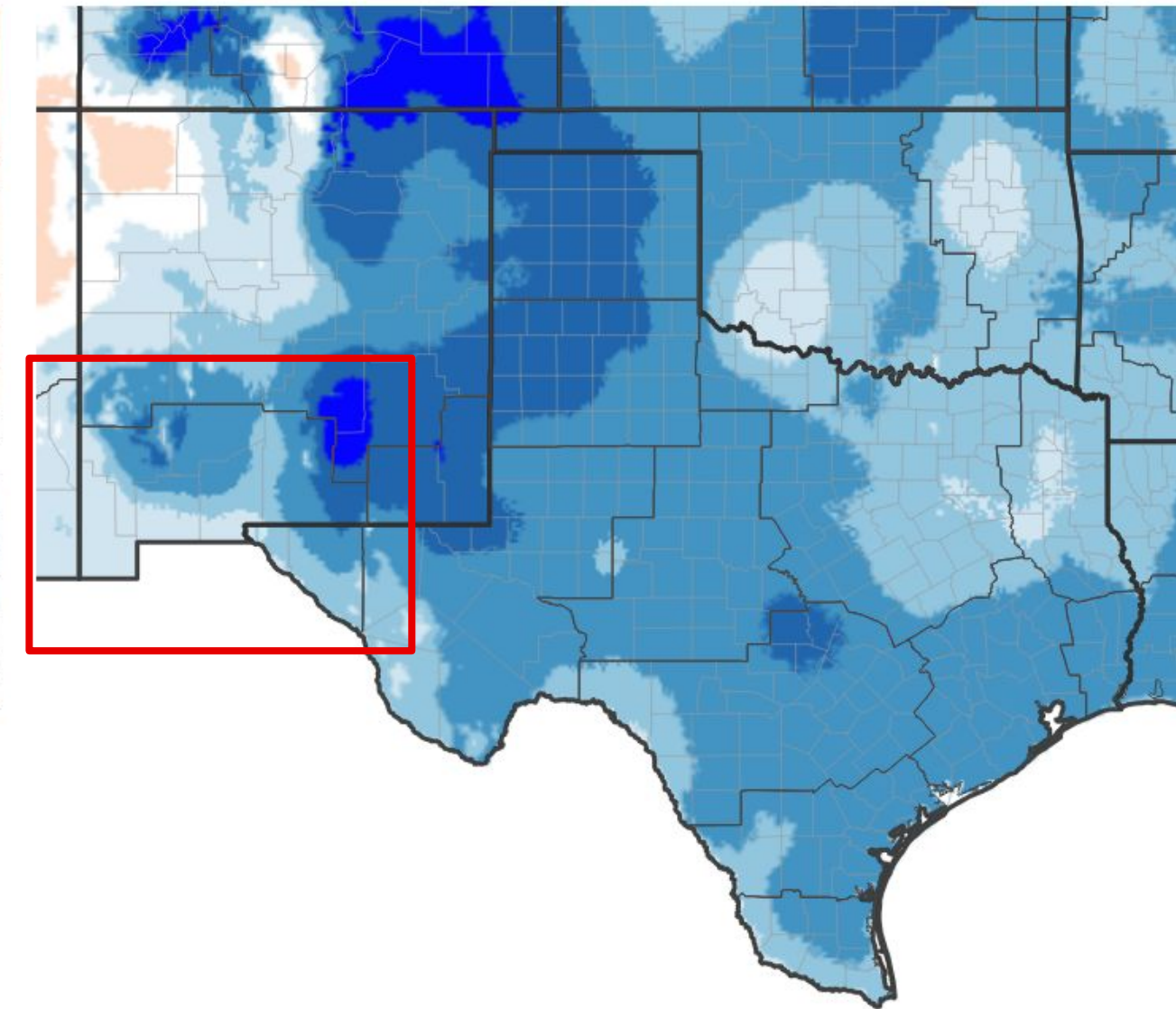
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



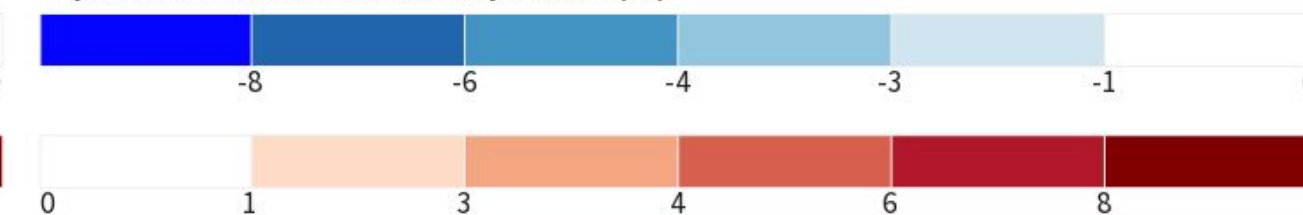
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/31/25

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: 01/31/25







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 spring. Mountain snowpack is practically non-existent to start February, which will keep the spring melting and runoff to a minimum. No sudden rises occurred in January. Flow remains normal out of Lincoln National Forest. River levels will remain steady into the spring season with only temporary rises due to rain or snow melt but long-term river levels should remain consistent into next summer's Monsoon season. Rio Grande water has dried up south of the Caballo Dam and will remain dry before opening in May/June. Elephant Butte storage sits at 11.8% 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 February, with short-lived cold snaps. Outlook points to a very dry Spring season and rough start to the 2025 growing season. 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

- Near-record ERCs exist across the National Forests due to recent dryness. Soil moisture remains very low. Lack of winter snowpack may limit the spring greenup especially under forest canopies. Large fire risk is Elevated with any breezy to windy days going forward.







- Very little snowpack over area mountains as of February 1. Lack of mountain snow will minimize flood risk this spring as no excessive rainfall is expected through February and March. River flooding season will begin again next summer.

## Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
Gila	1.21 ft	11.00 ft
Redrock	4.05 ft	20.00 ft
Virden	4.77 ft	15.00 ft

## Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft

Gauge stage recorded on 2/4/2025

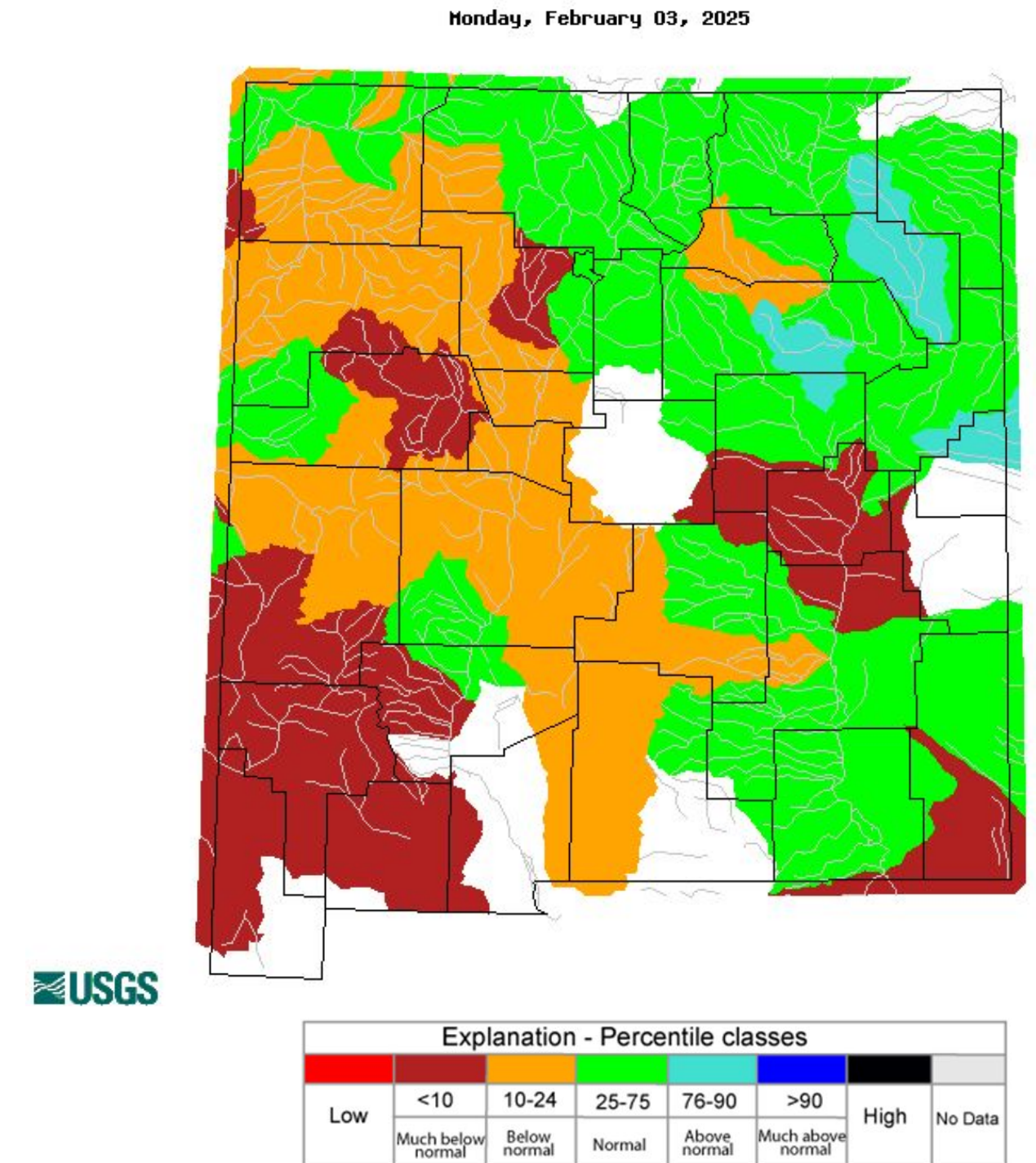


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid February 3, 2025

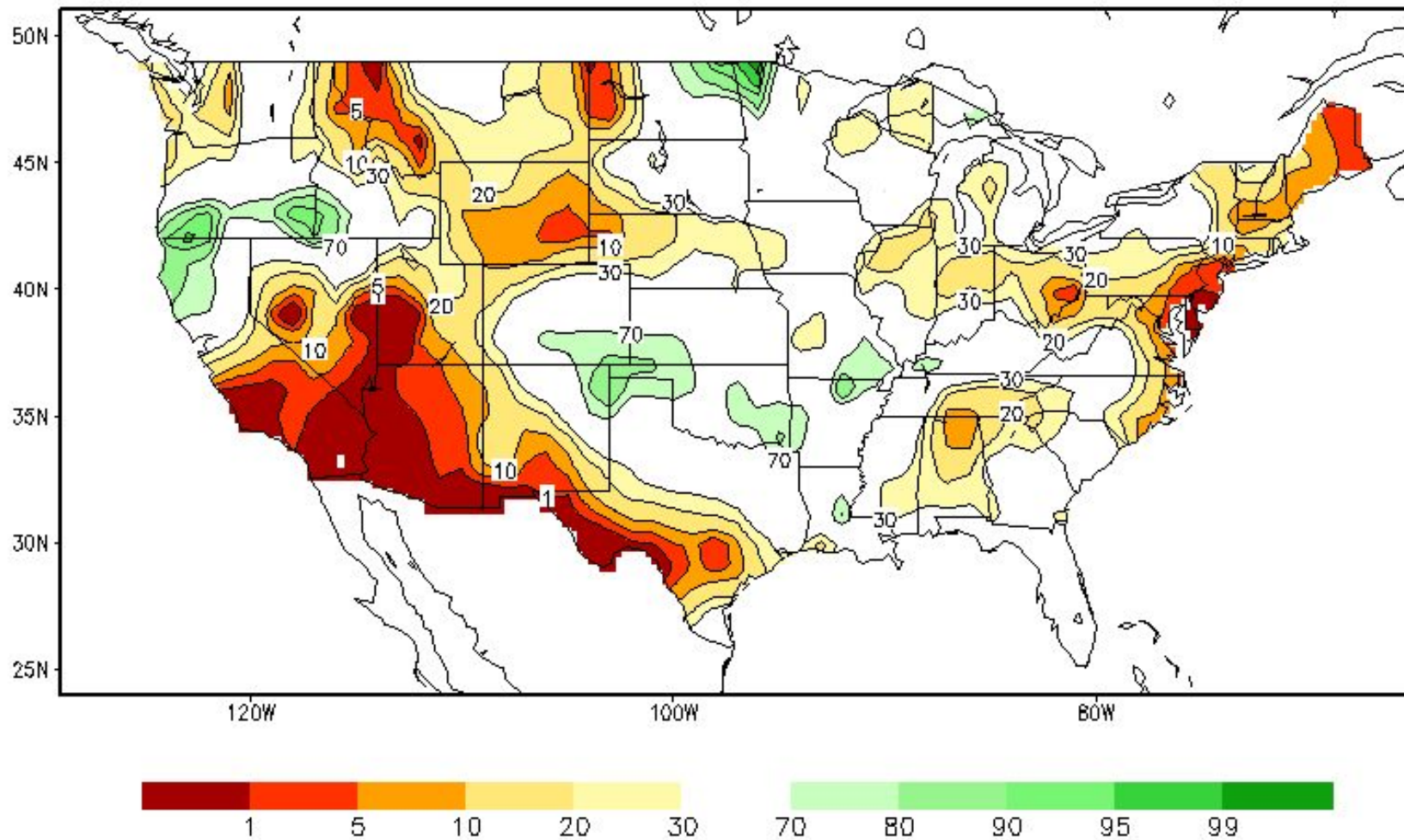




# Agricultural Impacts

February 4, 2025  
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Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
FEB 03, 2025



Drought Severity Index  
Value for the January 26 - February 1, 2025  
Long Term Palmer

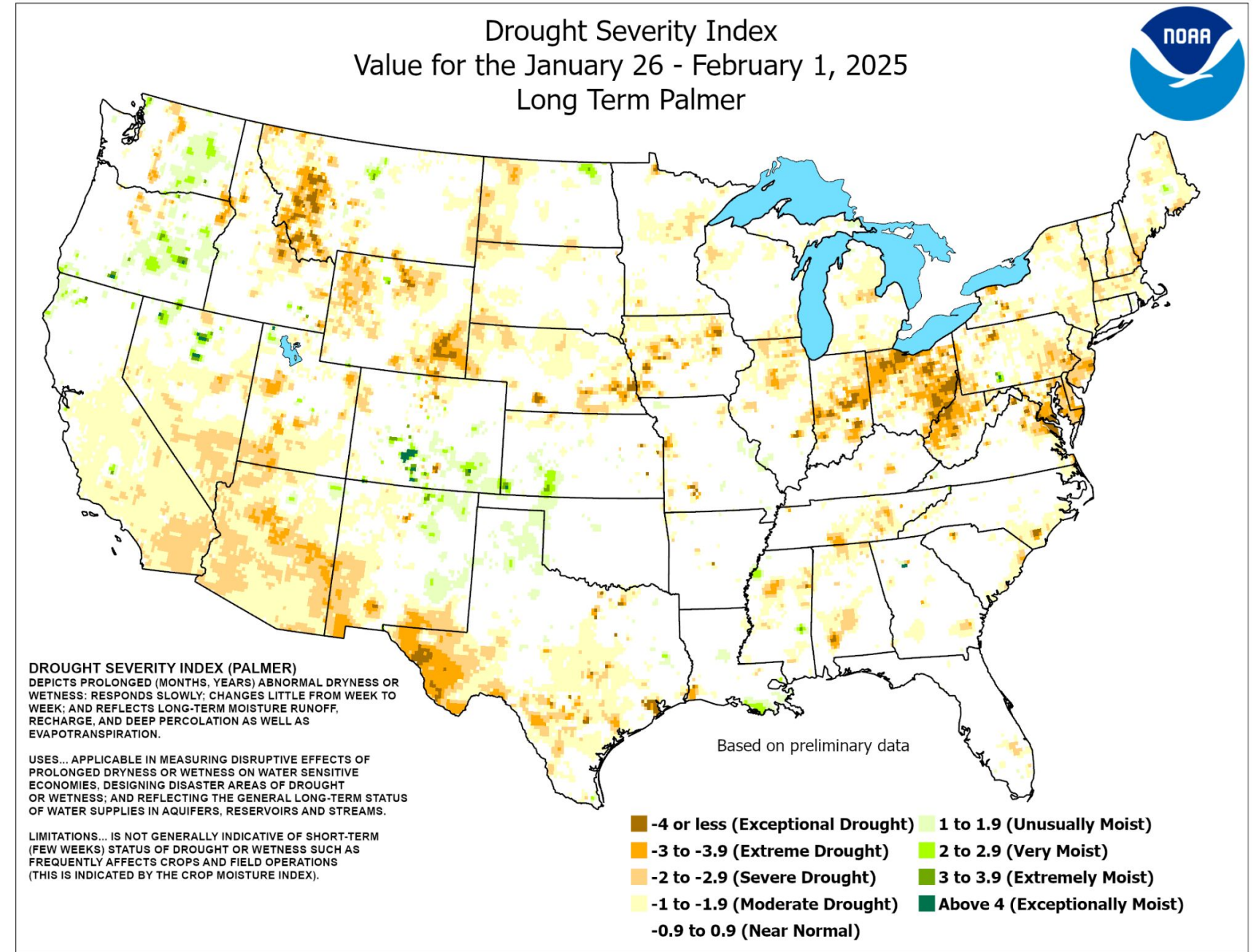


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid February 3, 2025

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#). Weekly value for period ending February 1, 2025







# 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](#)

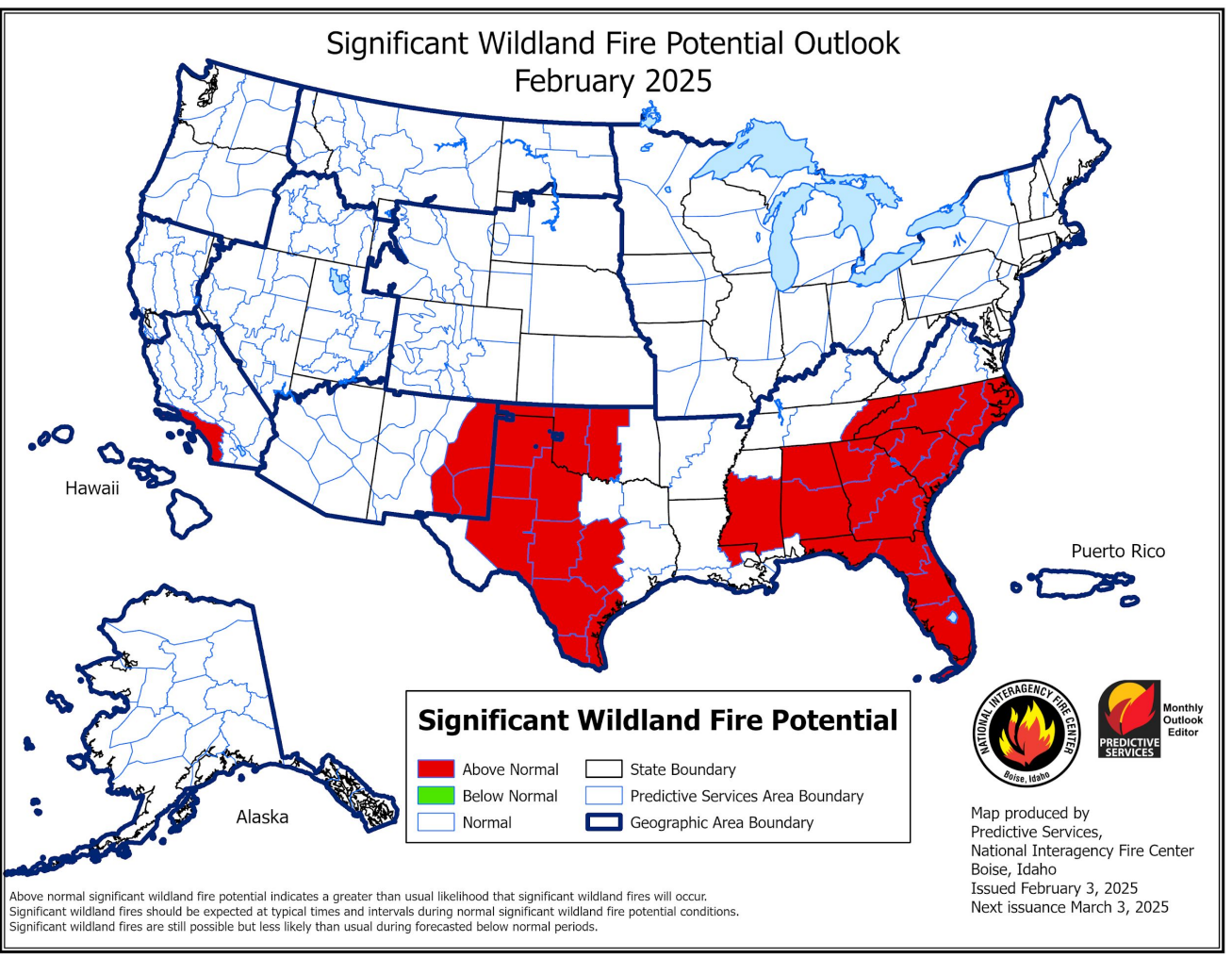
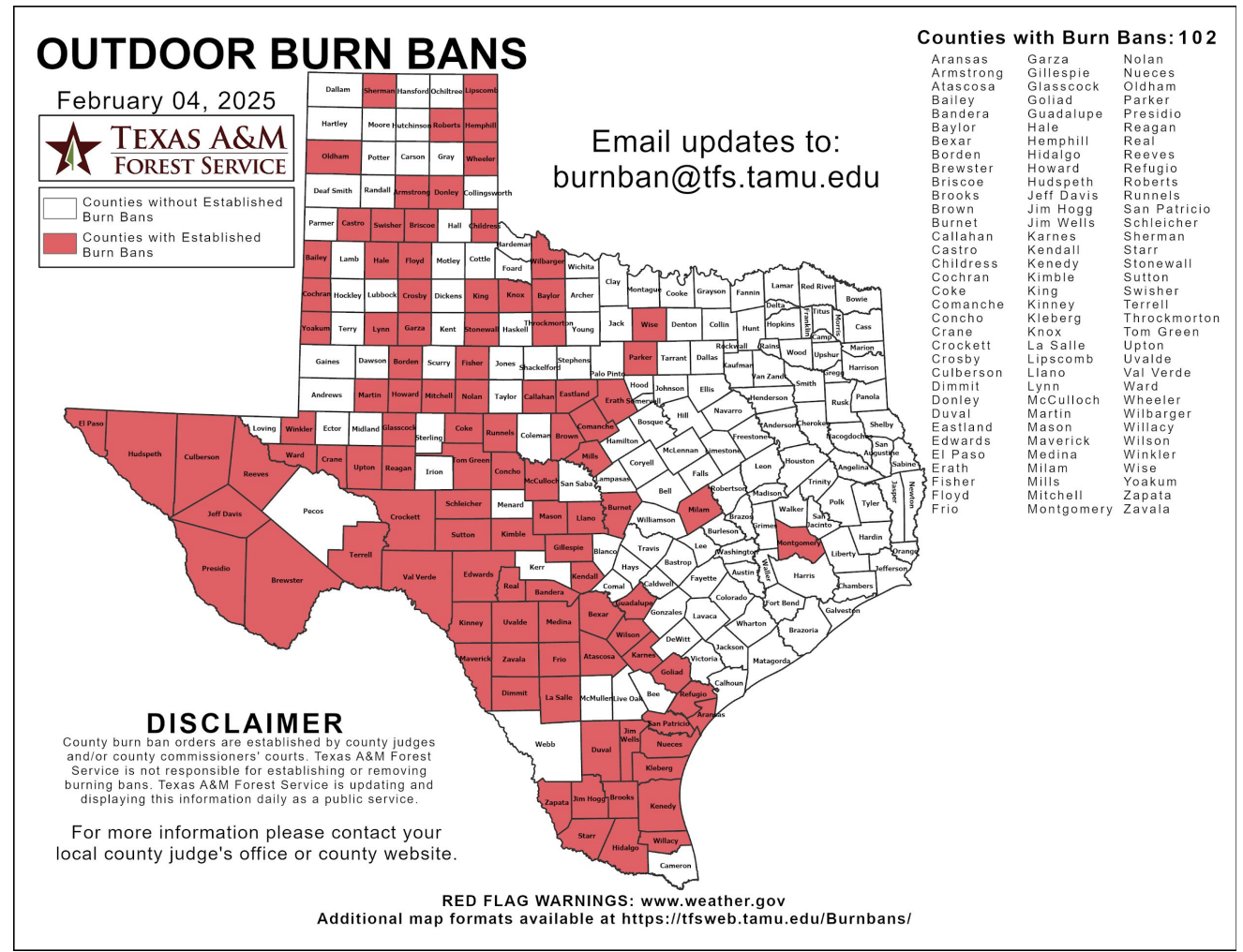


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for February 2025



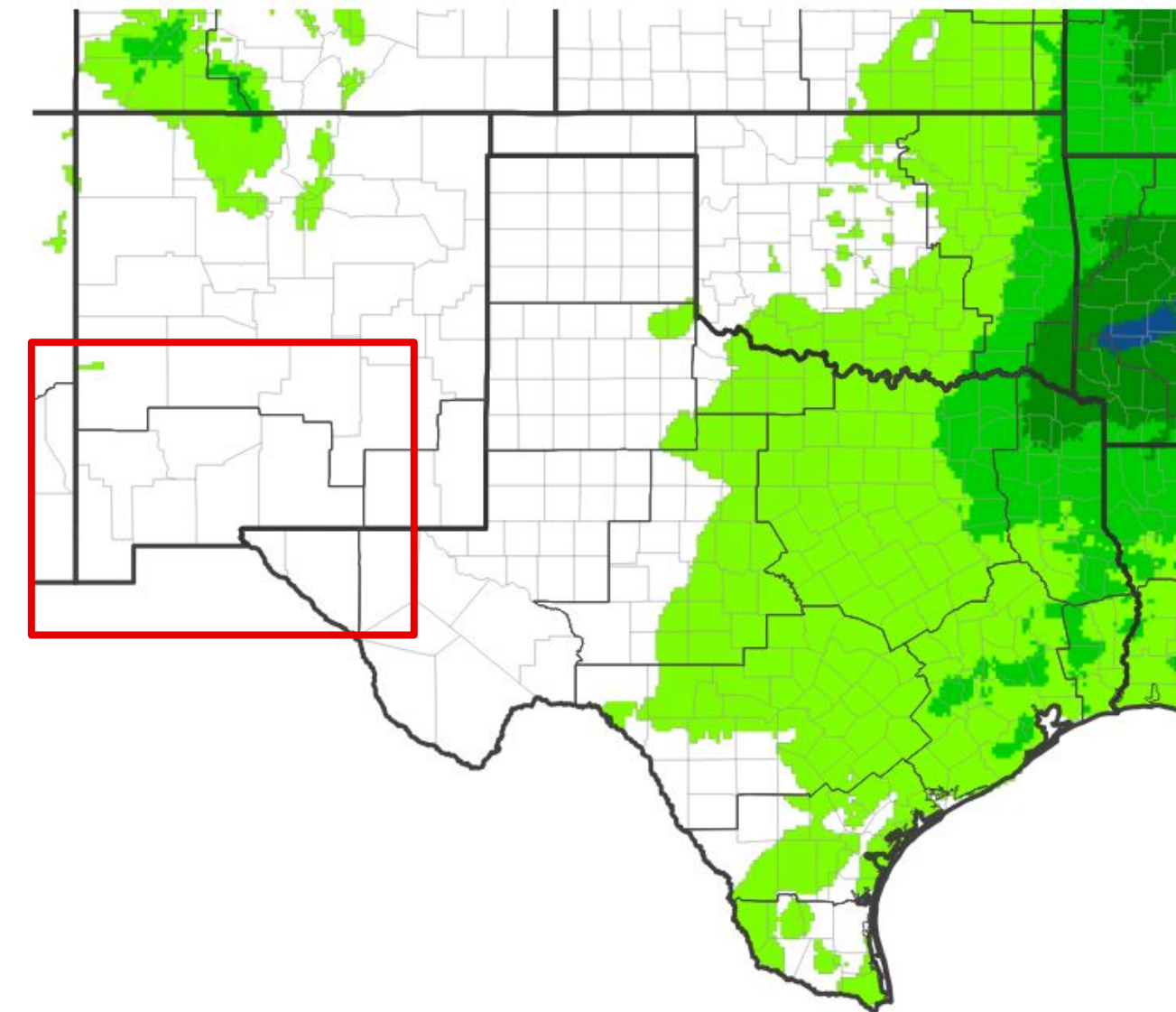


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

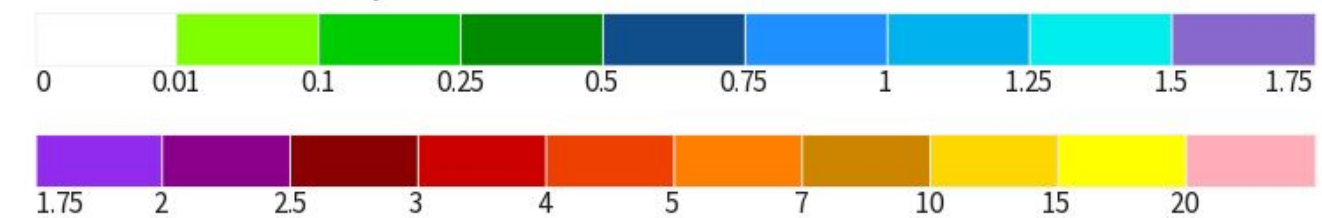
February 4, 2025  
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- After a mostly dry January, the upcoming spring season is expected to be very dry with few chances for widespread precipitation. Rest of February leans drier and warmer than normal.
- 2024 finished below normal for precipitation area wide. Drought conditions are likely to linger into the spring season.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 4, 2025–February 11, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/04/25





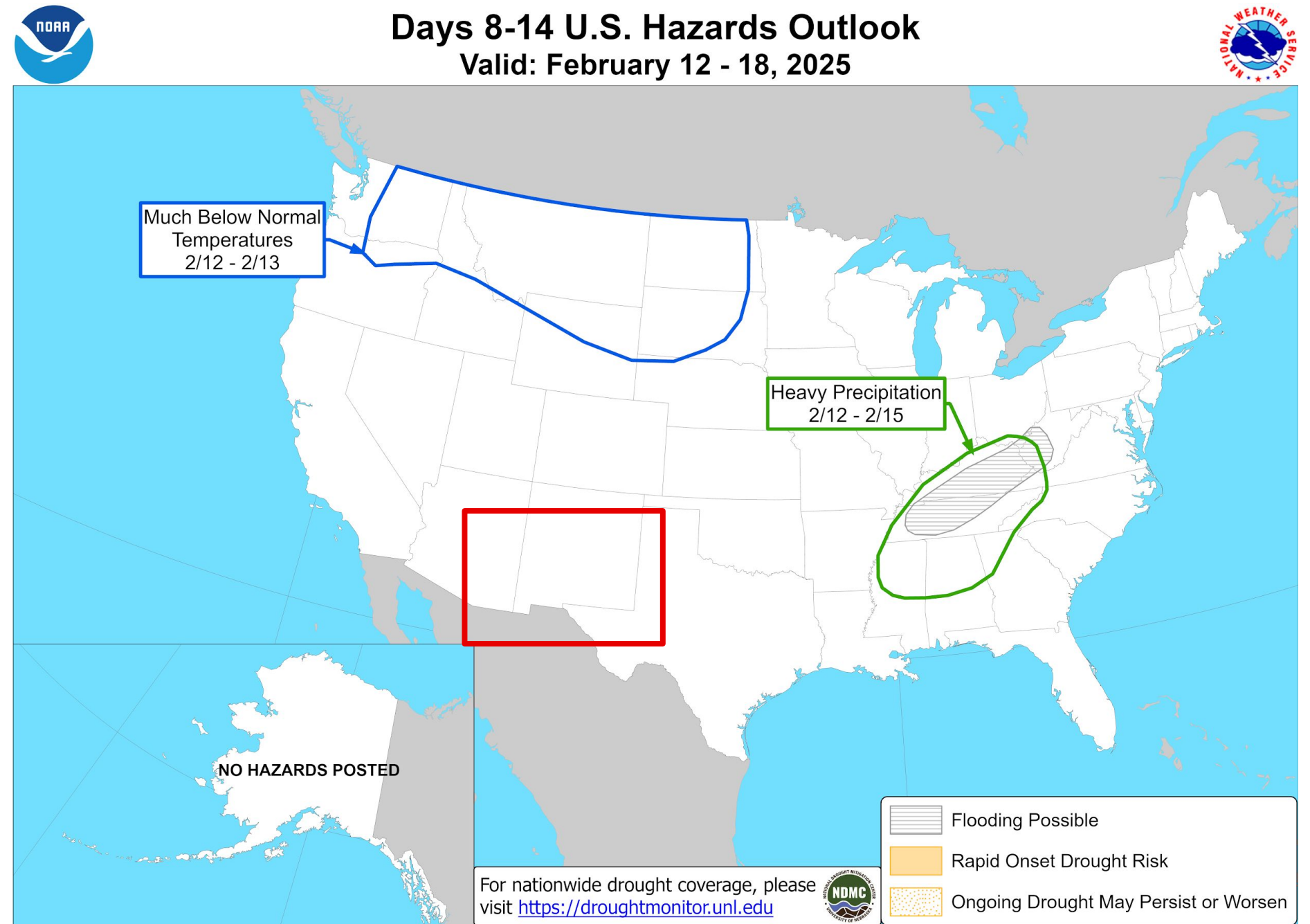


# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

February 4, 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 into the spring season.



**Climate Prediction Center**  
Released: February 4, 2025 3:00 PM EST

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Image Caption:  
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid February 12 to 18





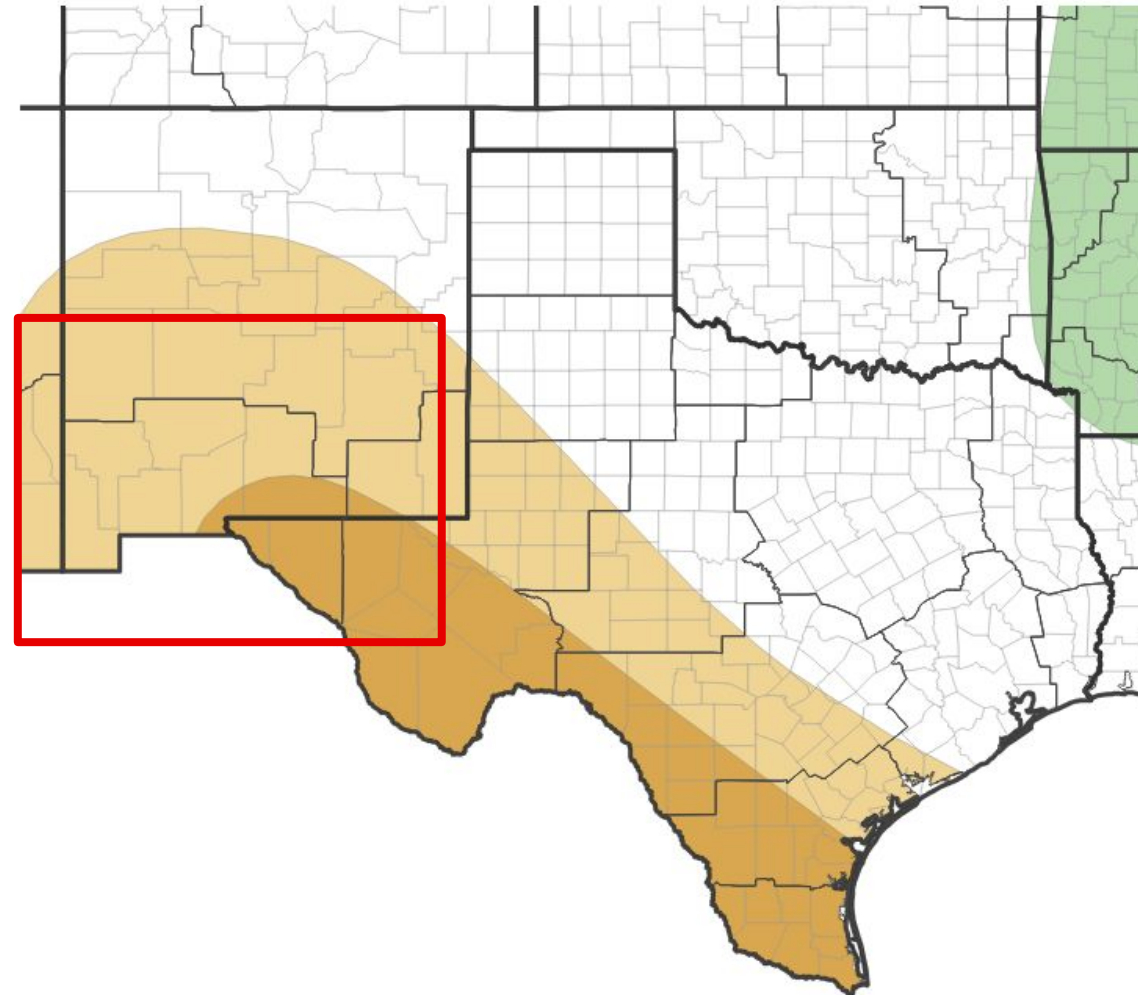
# Long-Range Outlooks

February 4, 2025  
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- 40-50% chance for below normal precipitation across far west Texas, 33-40% chance for southern New Mexico
- Monthly average for El Paso: 0.40"
- 50-60% chance for above normal temperatures across west Texas and southern New Mexico, short-lived cold snaps.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for February 1, 2025–February 28, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



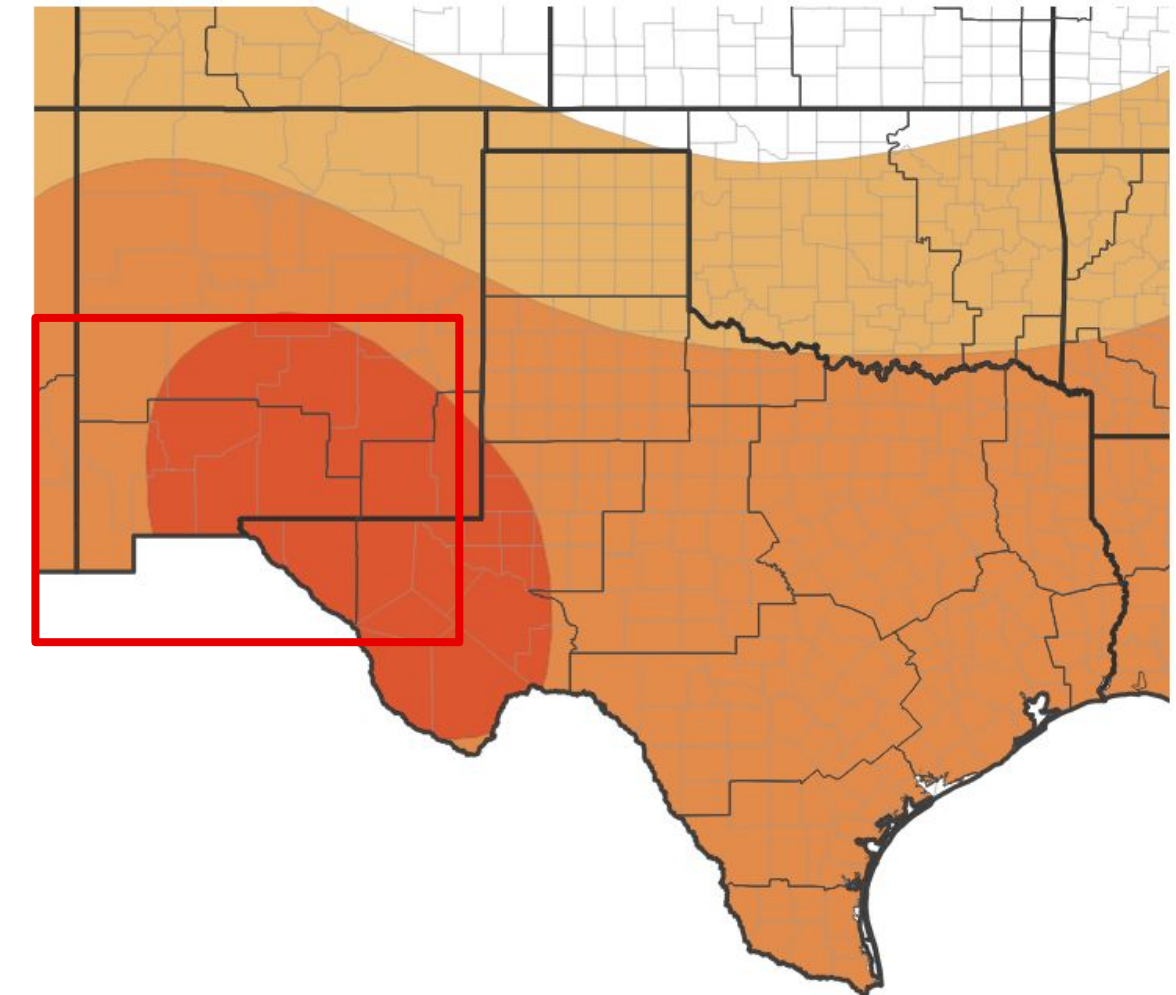
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 01/31/25

Monthly Temperature Outlook for February 1, 2025–February 28, 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: 01/31/25







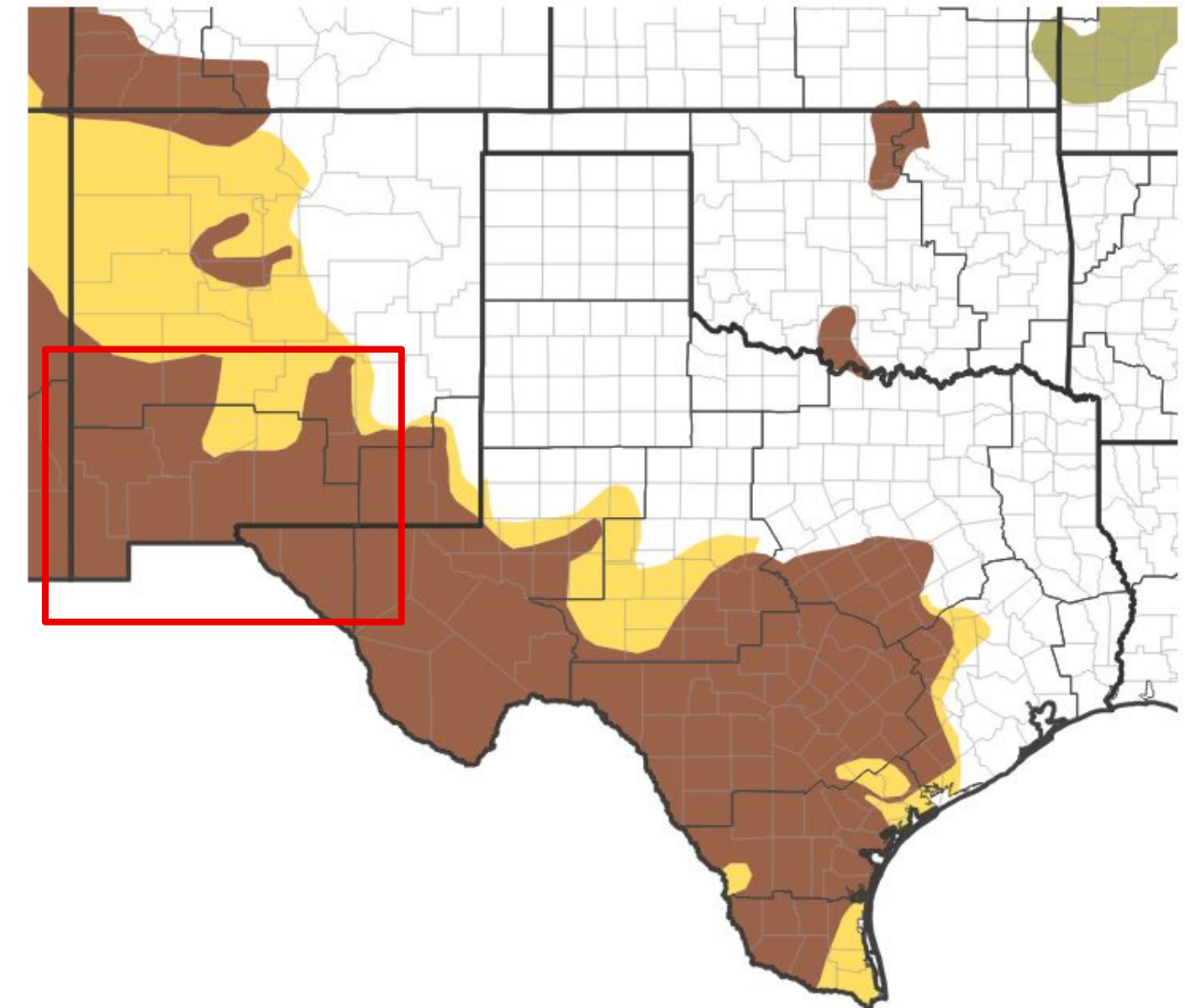
# Drought Outlook

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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 re-developing further north into Central New Mexico this month

1-Month Drought Outlook for February 1, 2025–February 28, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 01/31/25

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