

# Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid April 6, 2024

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

Contact Information: [sr-epz.nws@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-epz.nws@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/EPZ/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





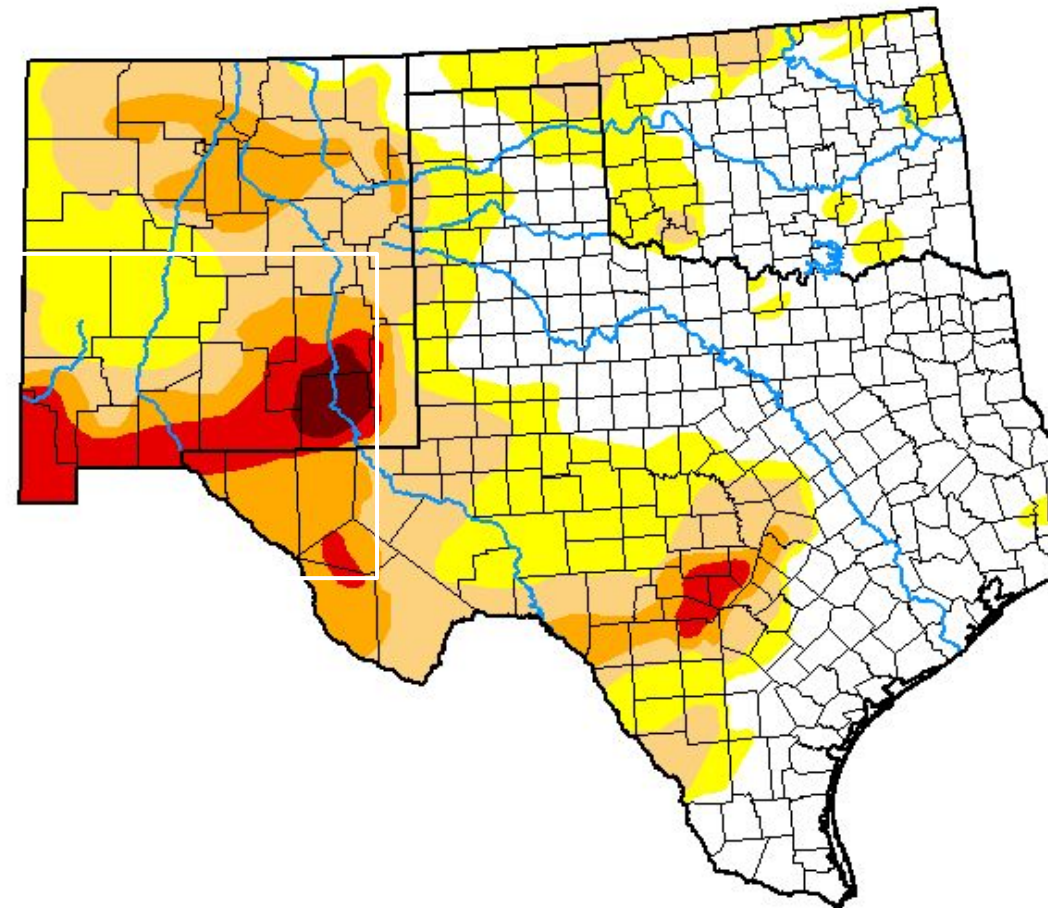
Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

## Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**  
Southern New Mexico lowlands including portions of Otero, Dona Ana, Luna, Grant, and Hidalgo Counties.  
El Paso, TX
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**  
Covering majority of south-central New Mexico and Hudspeth County Texas
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**  
Central New Mexico (76% of area)
- Winter precipitation and mountain snowpack has allowed drought status to improve across western New Mexico.

Drought will persist through the Spring in southern New Mexico and west Texas.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Southern Plains RDEWS



April 2, 2024  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 4, 2024)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.73	58.27	36.17	15.78	5.60	0.93
Last Week 03-26-2024	42.67	57.33	36.23	15.81	5.60	0.93
3 Months Ago 01-02-2024	31.65	68.35	51.27	31.88	13.52	2.12
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	31.65	68.35	51.27	31.88	13.52	2.12
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	7.01	92.99	79.77	57.36	32.68	9.19
One Year Ago 04-04-2023	29.74	70.26	55.62	37.89	17.95	4.82



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:  
Brad Pugh  
CPC/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid April 2



# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

April 5, 2024  
9:24 PM

Link to the latest [3-month change map](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

## 12-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:**  
No drought worsening was observed
- **Drought Improved:**  
Improvement across western and central New Mexico and the Gila/Lincoln National Forests. Winter precipitation was well above seasonal normals in those areas.
- **No Change:**  
Much of the I-10 corridor and International Border. Far West Texas including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

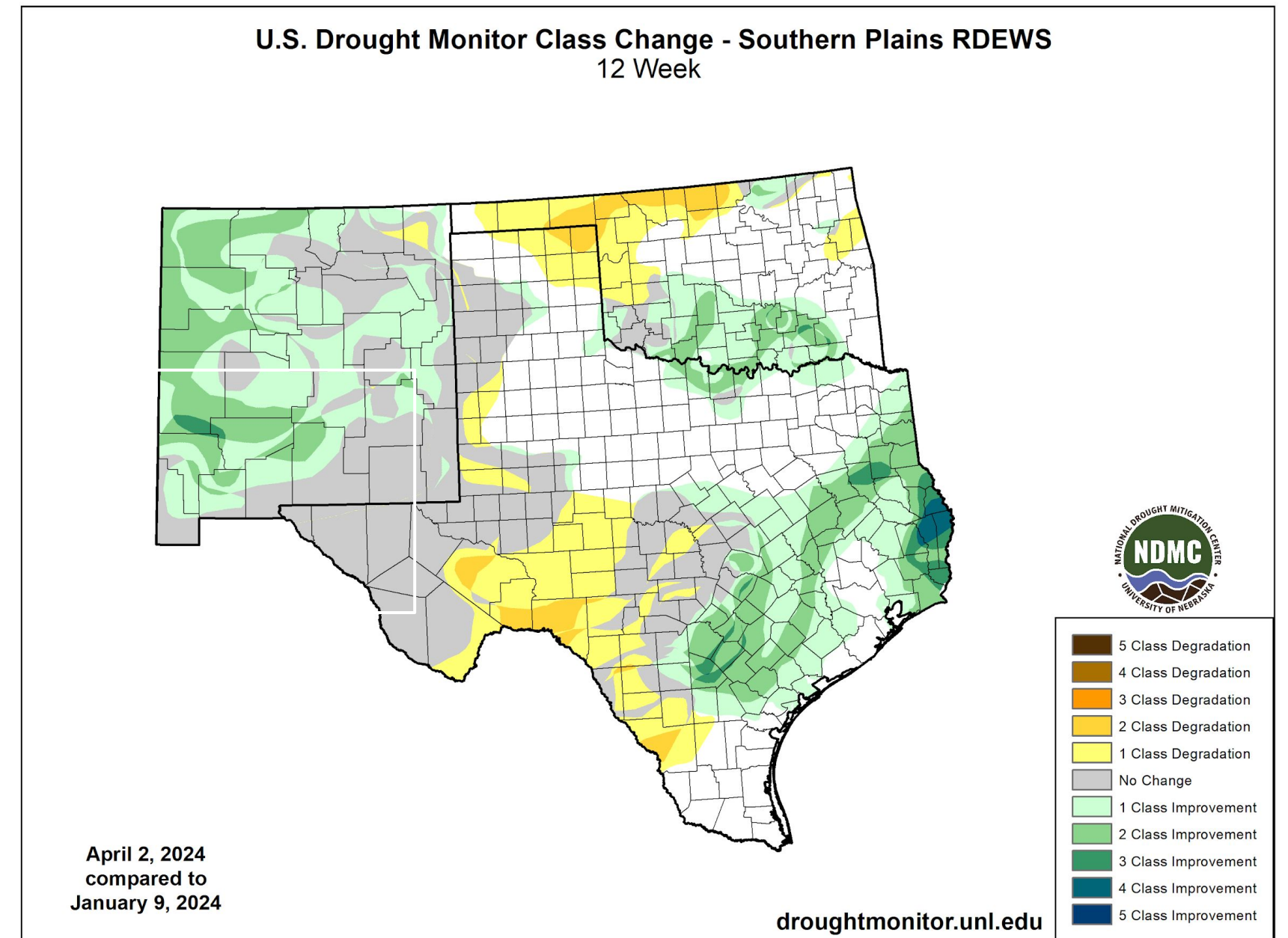


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 3-month change map valid April 2





# Precipitation

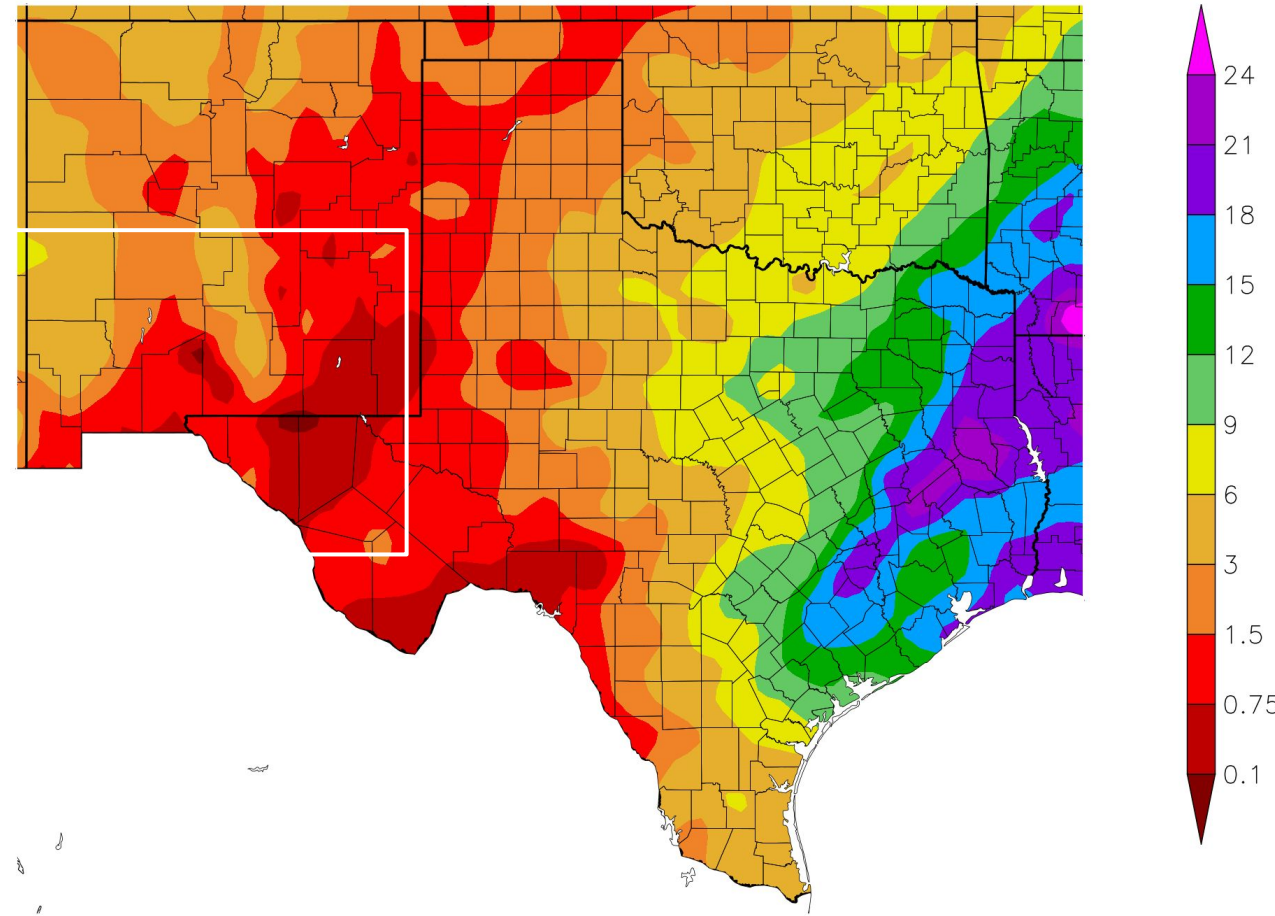
April 5, 2024  
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90-day rain totals, 0.75-2.00” along I-10 corridor. 4-8” over mountain forests and western New Mexico

Precipitation greatly favoring western New Mexico (150-200% of normal)

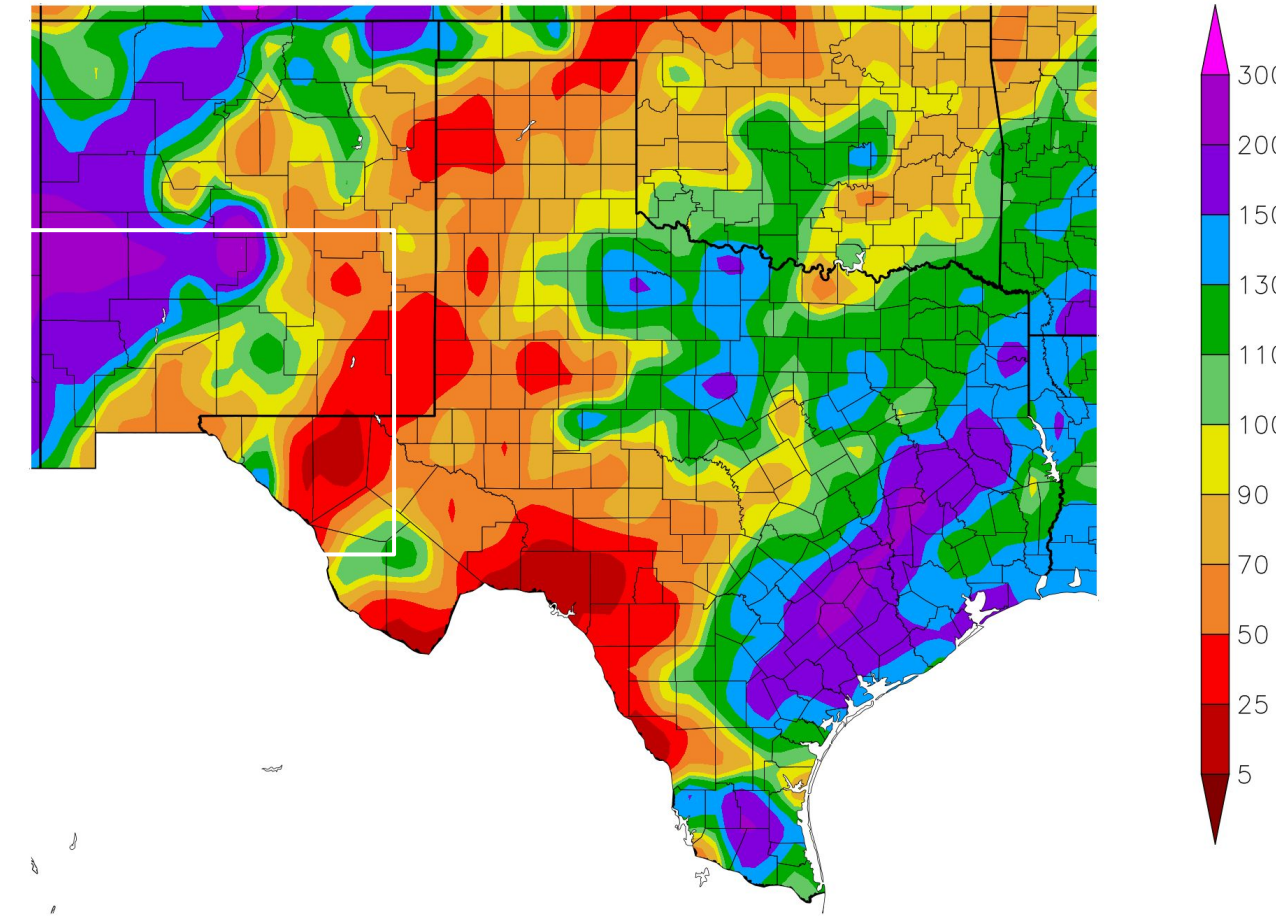
Much drier across far west Texas down to Big Bend (50-90% of normal).

Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2024 – 3/31/2024



Generated 4/4/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
1/1/2024 – 3/31/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Center Generated 4/4/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center

Image Captions:  
Left - Precipitation Amount  
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation  
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.  
Data over the past 30 days ending 3/31/2024



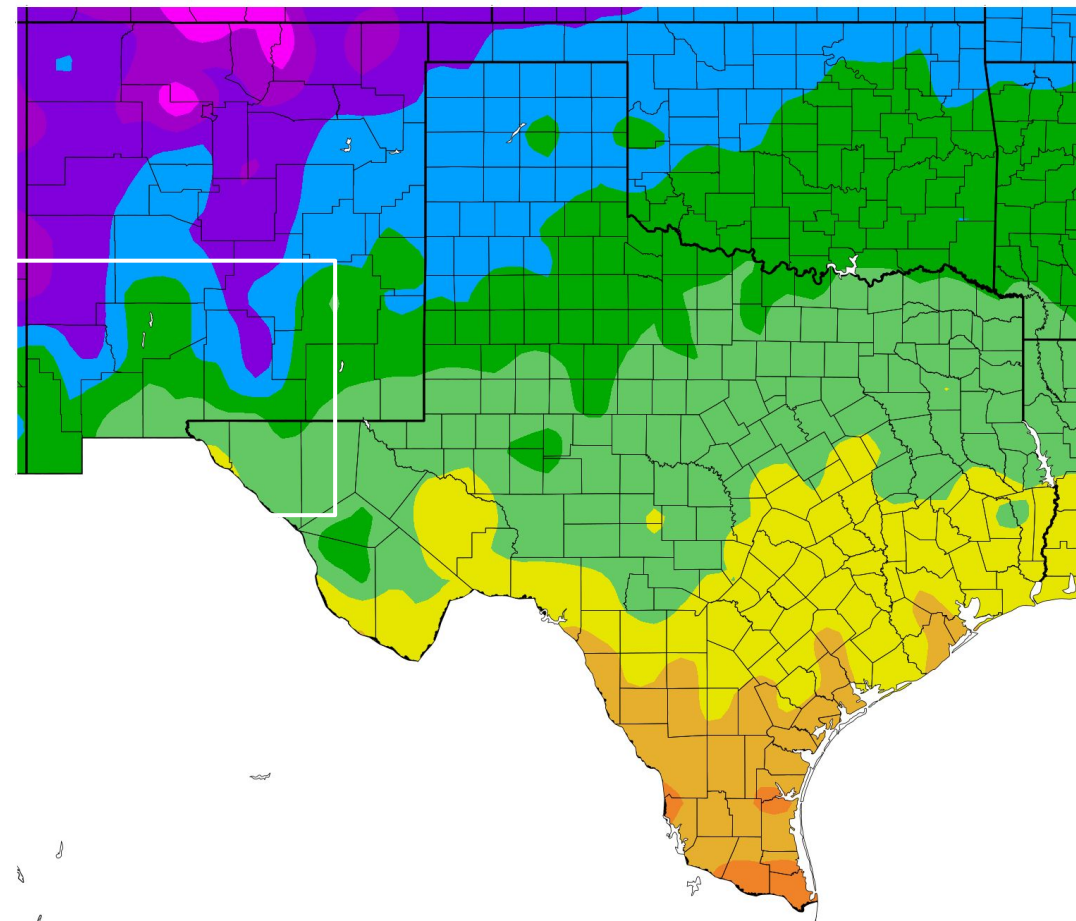


# Temperature

April 5, 2024  
9:24 PM

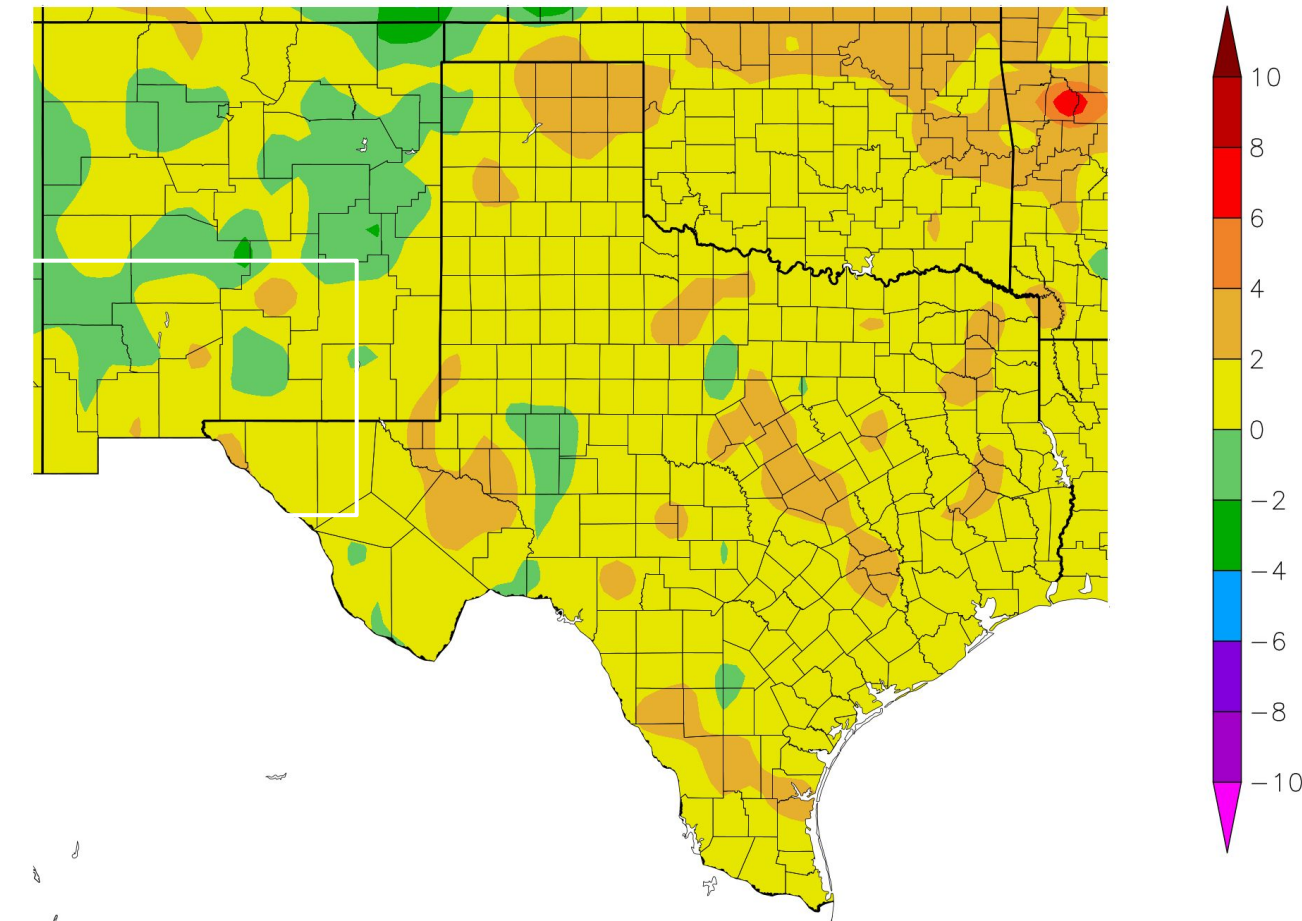
- Slightly above normal winter temperatures. No significant cold snaps this year.
- 2023 was hottest year on record for El Paso
- Average high temperatures 1-3 degrees above seasonal normals

Temperature (F)  
1/1/2024 - 3/31/2024



Generated 4/4/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
1/1/2024 - 3/31/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Cen Generated 4/4/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:  
 Left - Average Temperature  
 Right - Departure from Normal Temperature  
 Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center  
 Data over the past 30 days ending 3/31/2024





# Summary of Impacts

April 5, 2024

9:24 PM

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows in Gila and Mimbres have picked up as mountain snowmelt begins. Expect a steady river rise in the next few months, with rapid surges possible due to mountain rains. Gila River levels have increased to 5-6 feet at Redrock and Virden. Rio Grande water has been released below the Caballo Dam in early March with streamflow expected through the end of summer. Elephant Butte storage sits at 21.8% capacity (slightly below 30-year median flow). River flooding risk is low at this time.

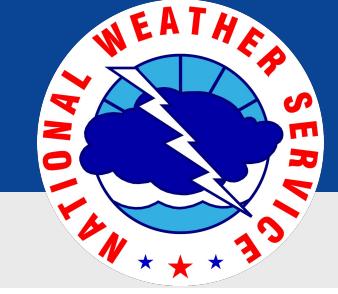
## Agricultural Impacts

- Rio Grande headwater snowpack remains above climate normals, which aided in the early release from Caballo Dam. Drought status will keep demand high. 2023 season allotment was 14 inches and a potential 2024 season allotment of 12 inches. Please refer to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) website or your local municipality for more information.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Short-term fuel moisture has been higher recently, allowing for several prescribed fires in the Gila and Lincoln Forests this month. High fire danger expected in April/May as fuels dry due to high winds and low humidity.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

April 5, 2024  
9:24 PM

- Gila and Mimbres river basin streamflows running near climate averages
- Rio Grande basin streamflows near normal as well

## Gila River Stages

Gila 2.75 ft  
 Redrock 5.68 ft  
 Virden 6.23 ft

## Rio Grande Stages

El Paso 4.15 ft

Thursday, April 04, 2024

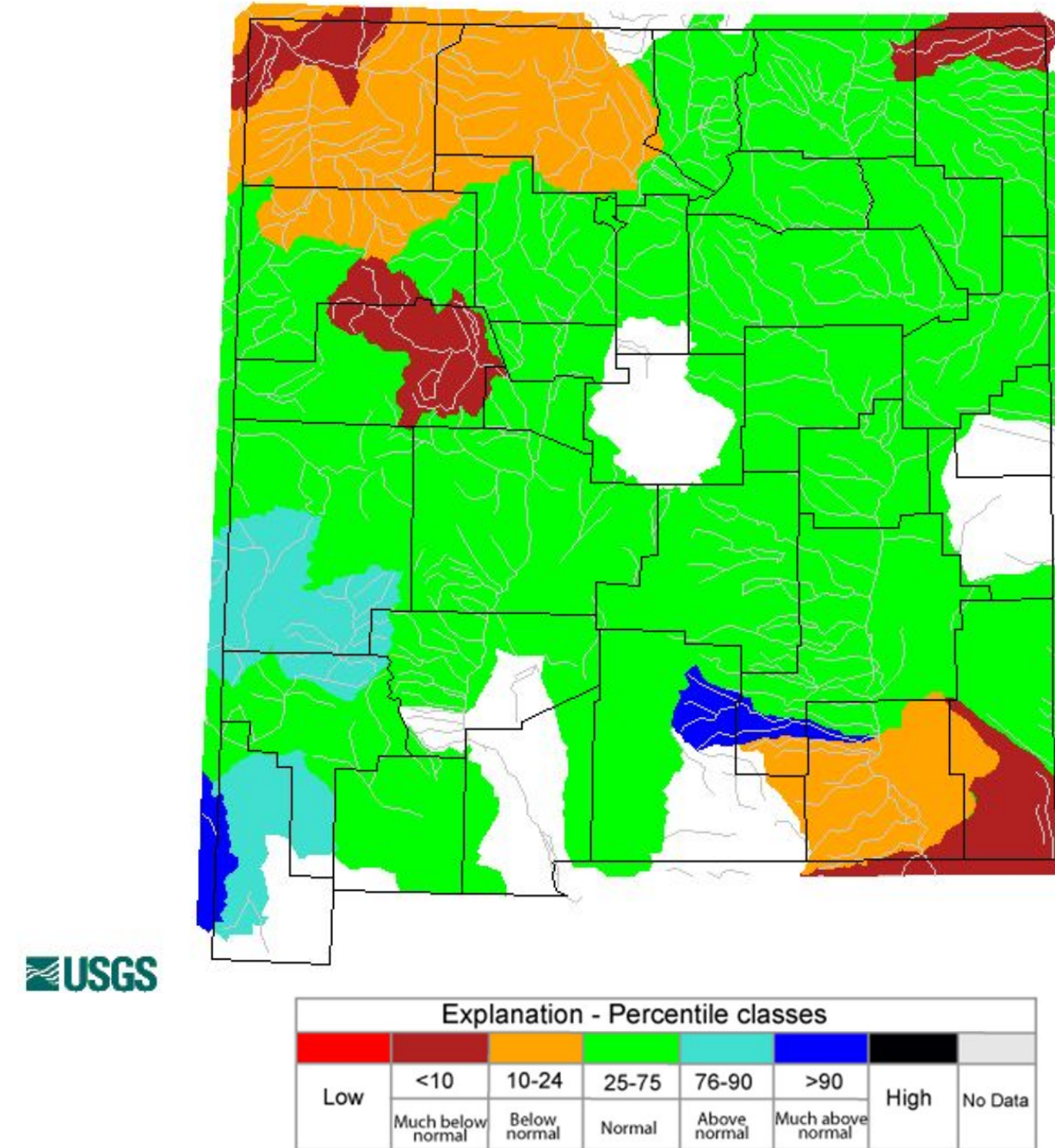


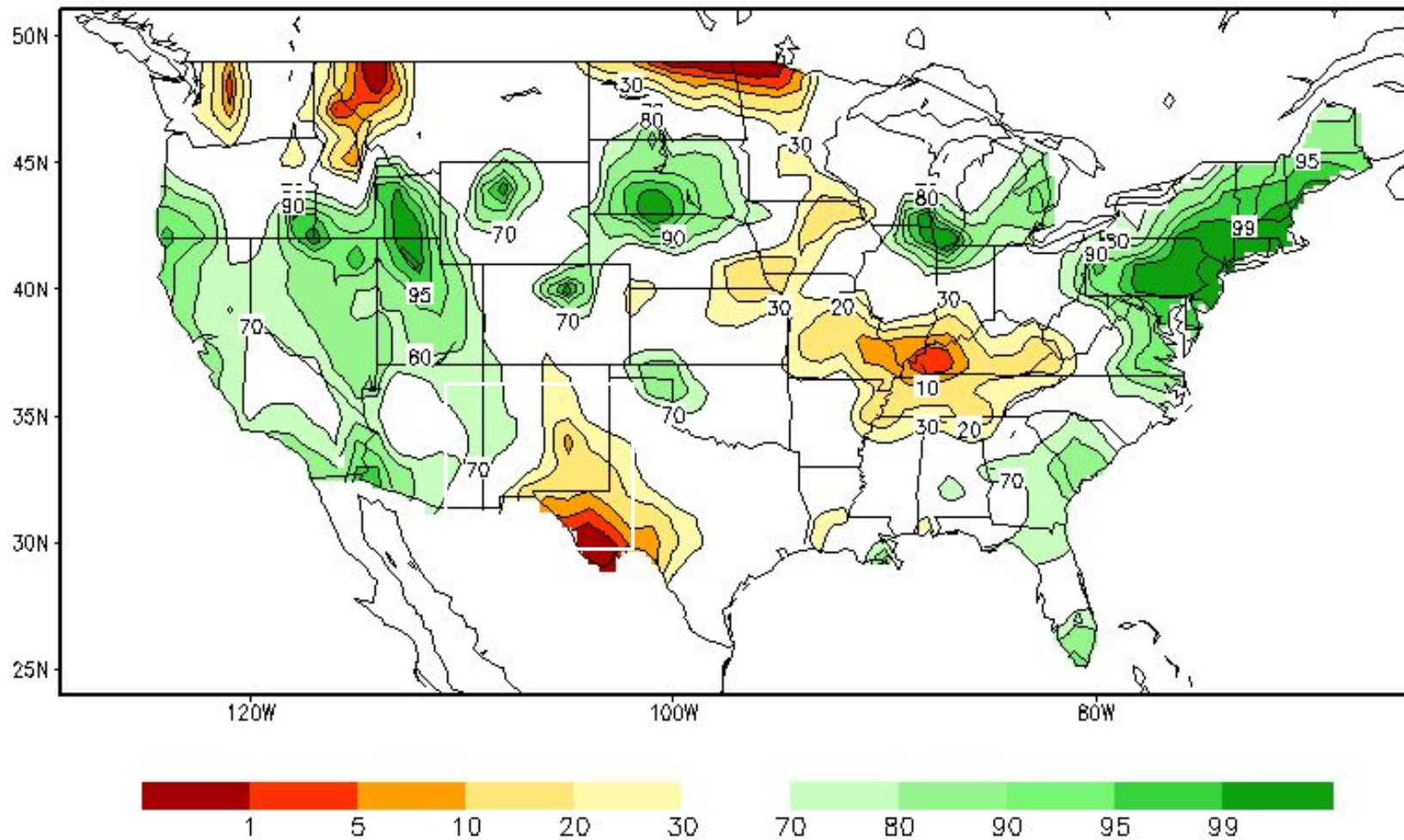
Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid April 4, 2024



# Agricultural Impacts

April 5, 2024  
9:24 PM

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
APR 04, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending MAR 30, 2024  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

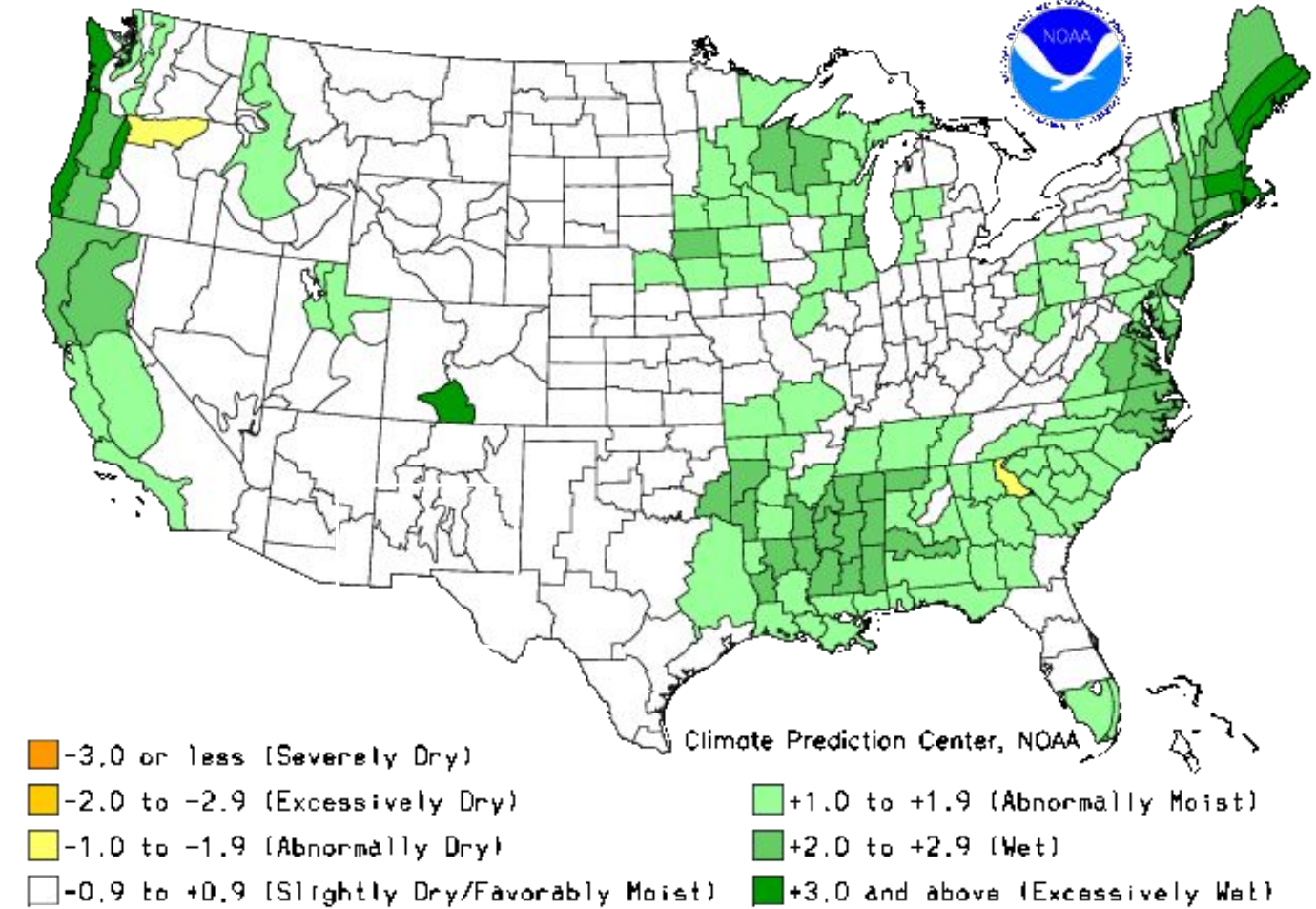


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid April 4, 2024

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending March 30, 2024







# Fire Hazard Impacts

April 5, 2024  
9:24 PM

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

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

Latest NM Fire Restrictions available [here](#)

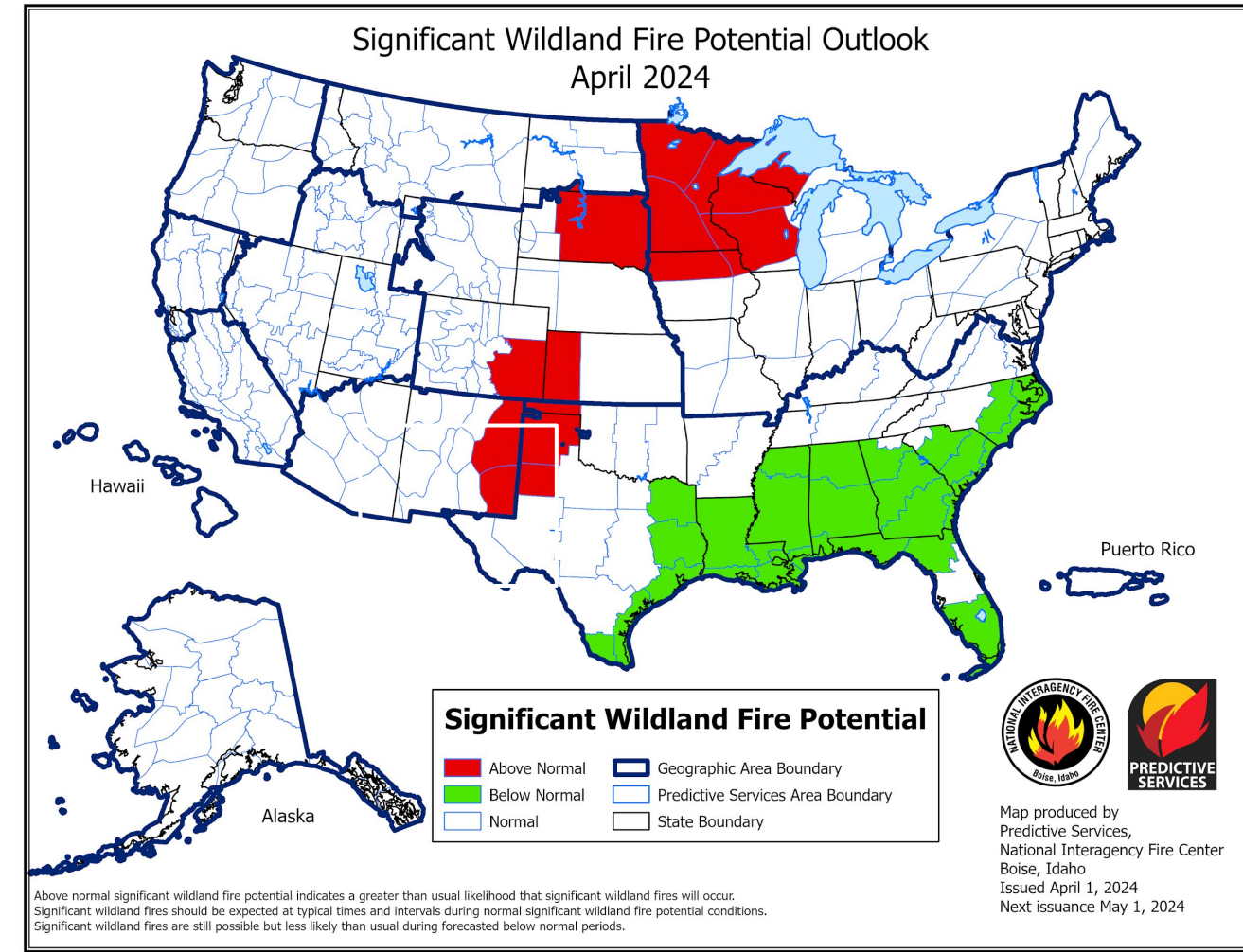
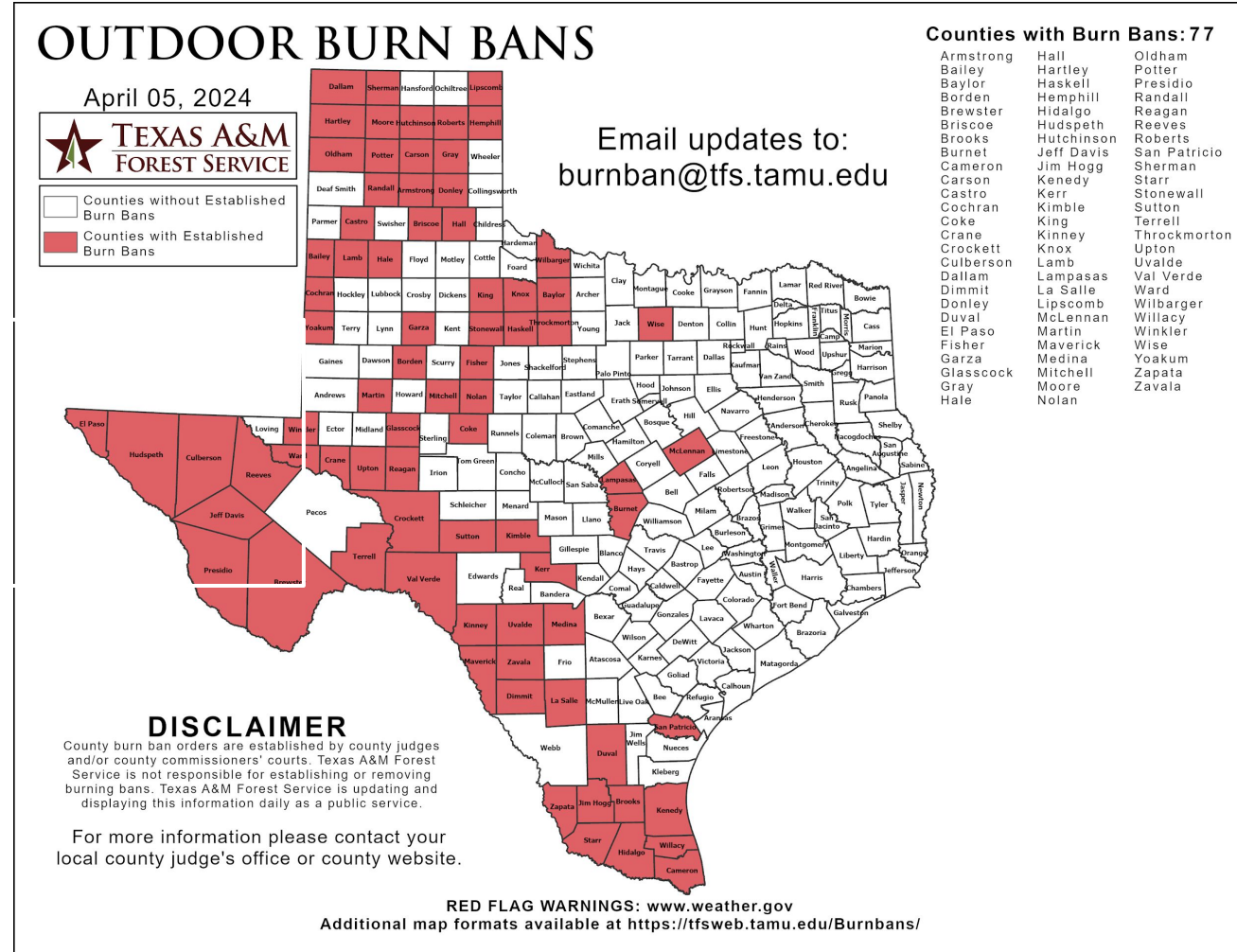


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for April 2024





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

April 5, 2024  
9:24 PM

- Precipitation chances this week limited to northern New Mexico and area mountains. Dry conditions through the first half of April for the lowlands.
- Gila Region snowmelt likely to improve streamflow this month, closer to normal over Lincoln National Forest.
- No major change in drought stats expected this month due to seasonal dry time of year.

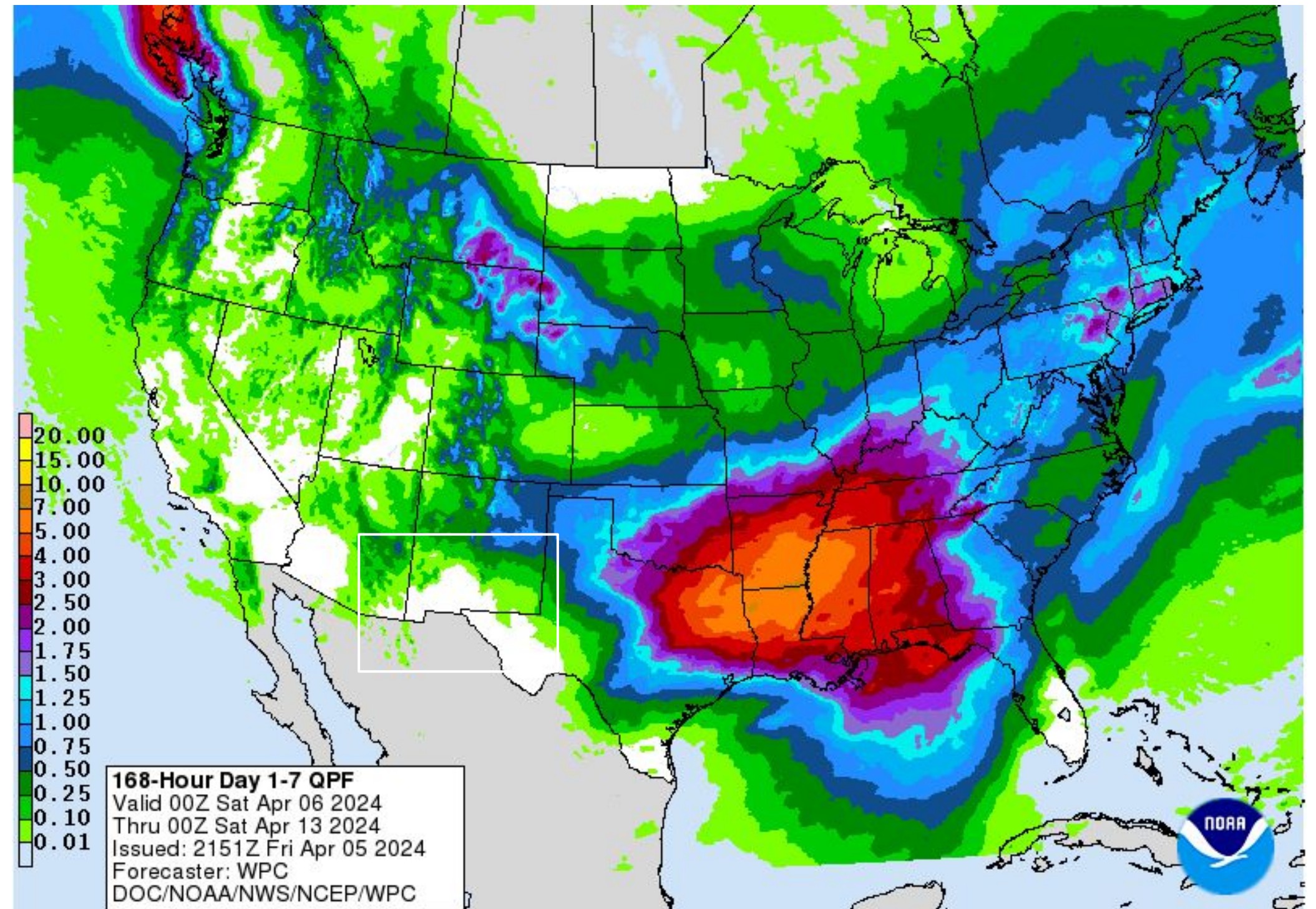


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Apr 8 to Apr 13





# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

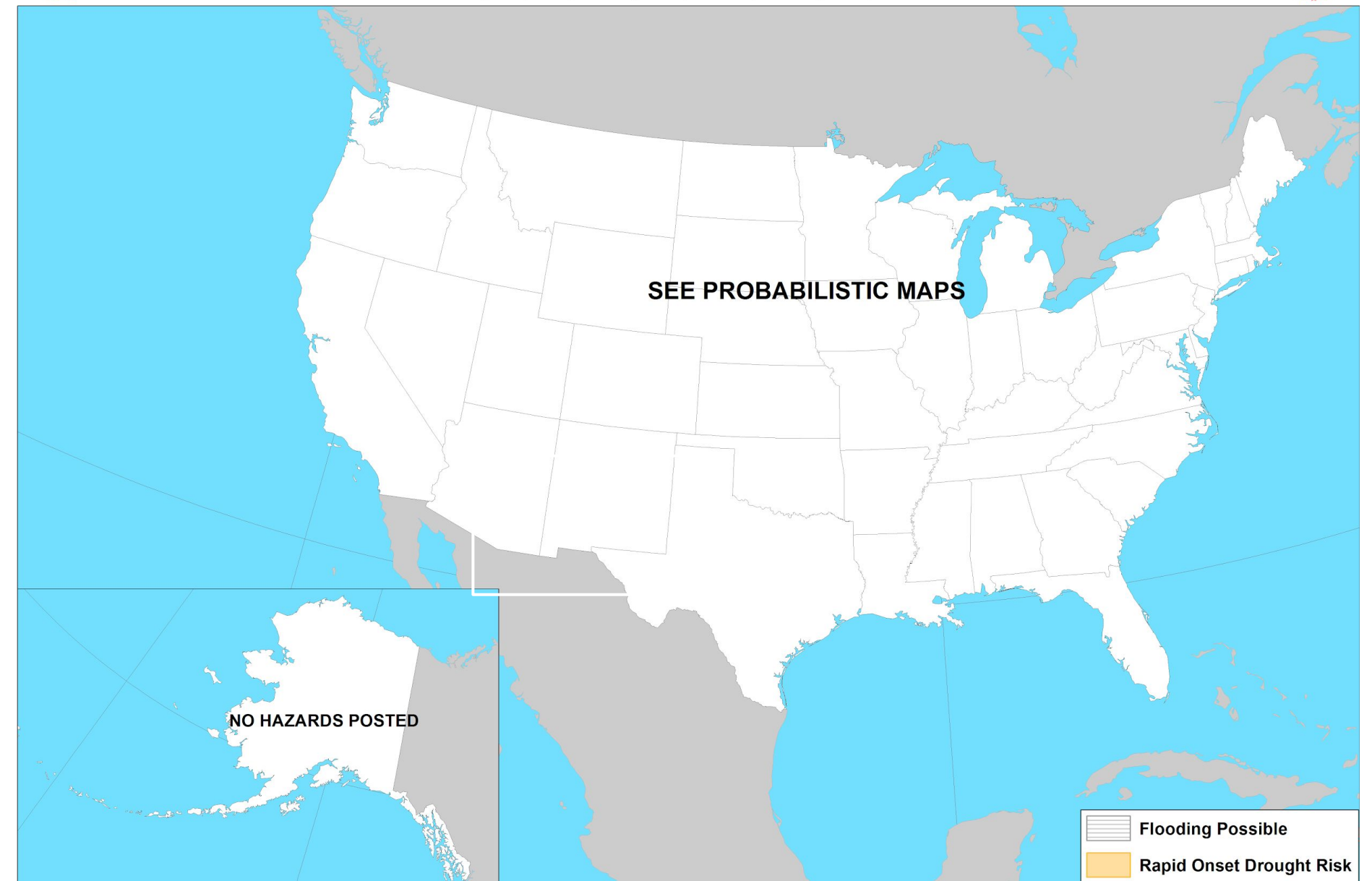
April 5, 2024  
9:24 PM

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

- Sporadic precipitation chances in April may provide temporary relief, however drought conditions are expected to persist through the Spring season.



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook  
Valid: 04/13/2024-04/19/2024



Climate Prediction Center  
Made: 04/05/2024 3PM EDT

Follow us:   
[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

Image Caption:  
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid Apr 13 to Apr 19





# Long-Range Outlooks

April 5, 2024  
9:24 PM

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

- Equal chances for temperatures through the month of April, likely near normal.
- 40-50% chance for above normal precipitation westward into Arizona. Likely closer to normal for far west Texas (monthly average for El Paso: 0.17")

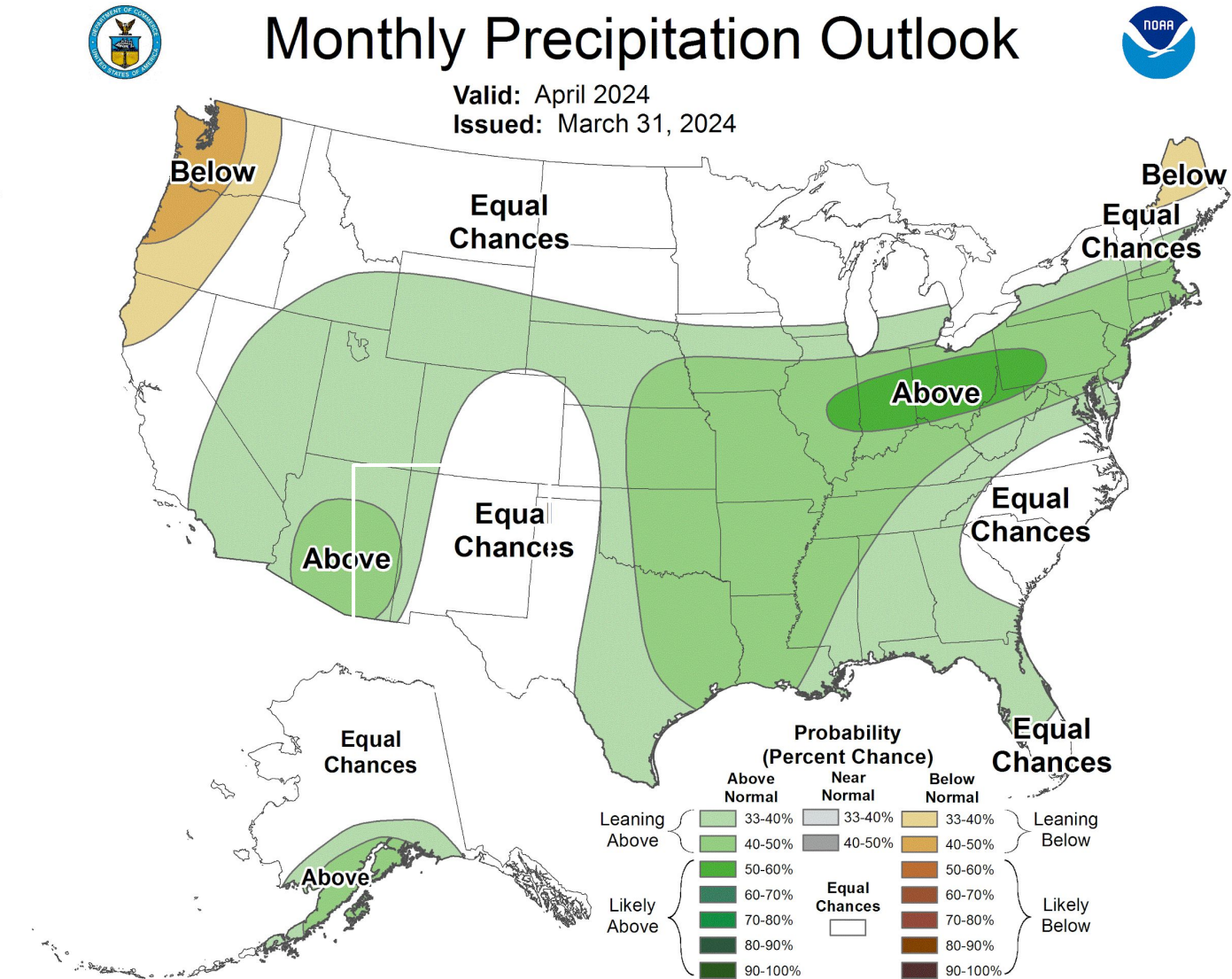
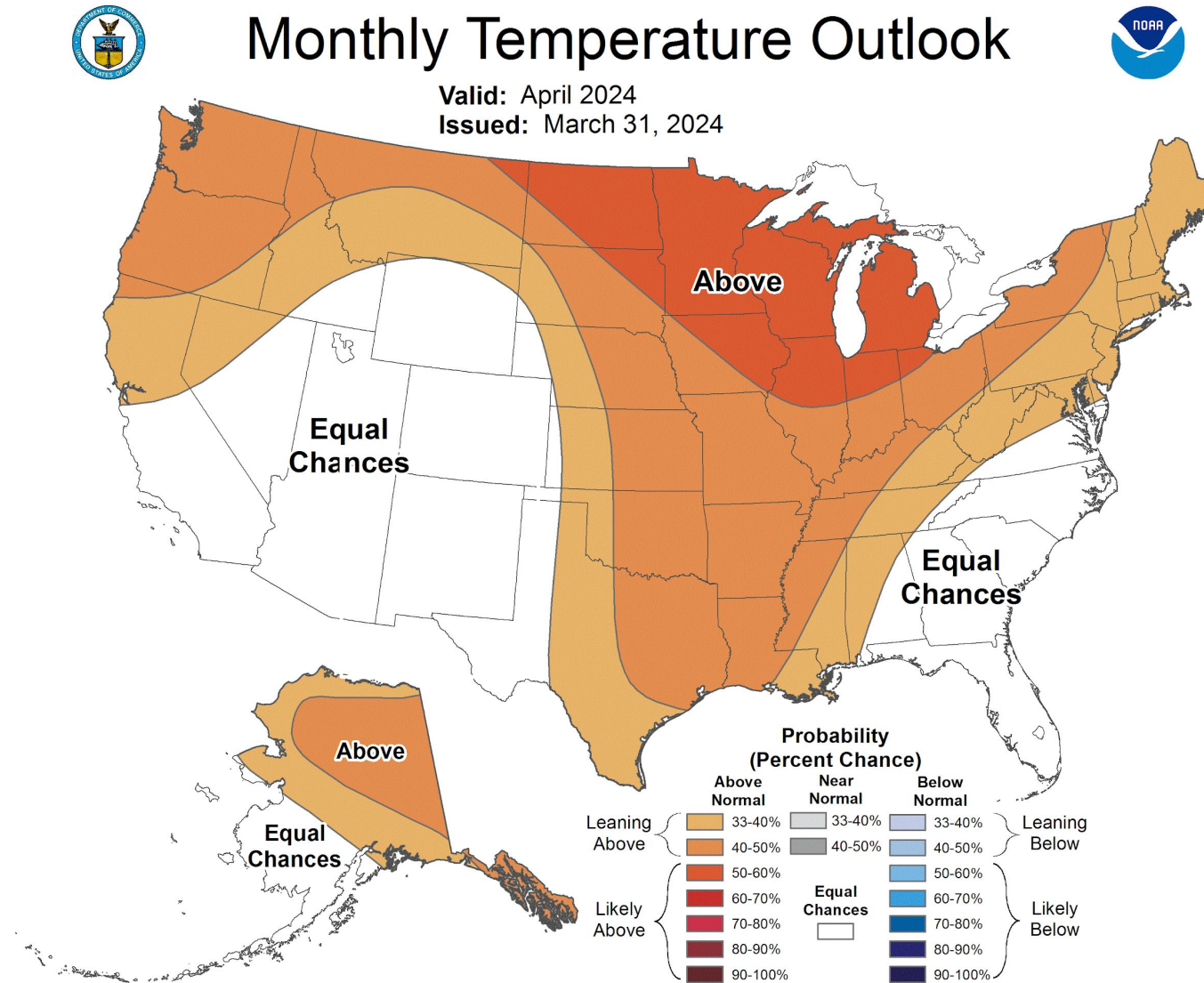


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook.](#)

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook.](#)

Valid April 2024





# Drought Outlook

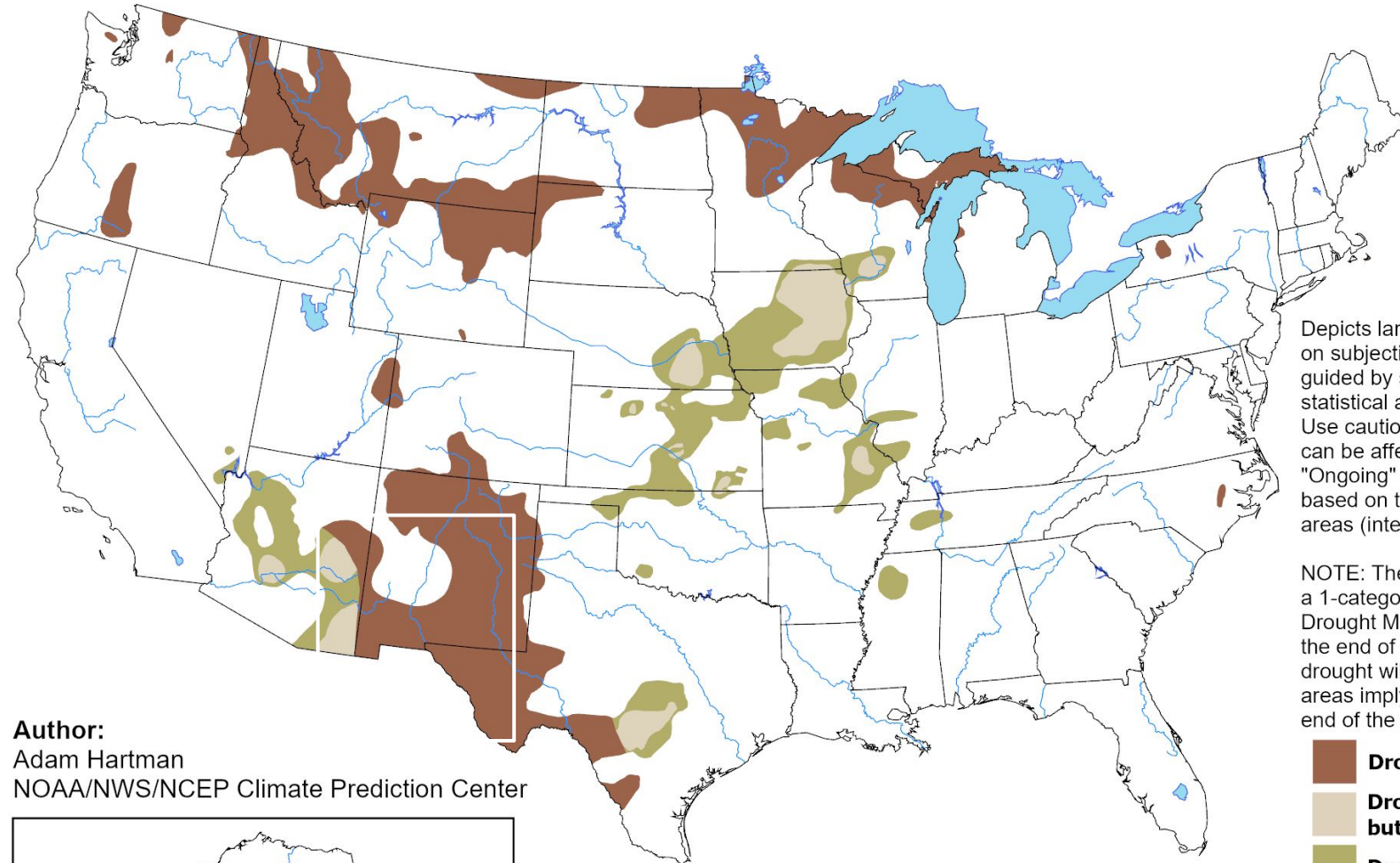
April 5, 2024  
9:24 PM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist through April, with few changes.

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

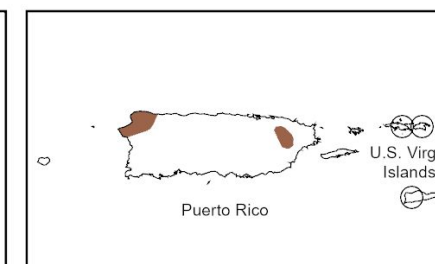
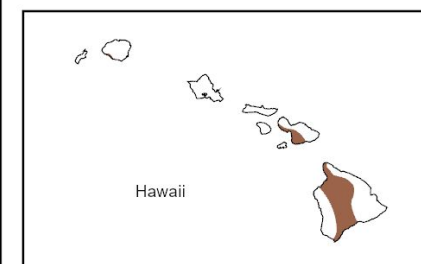
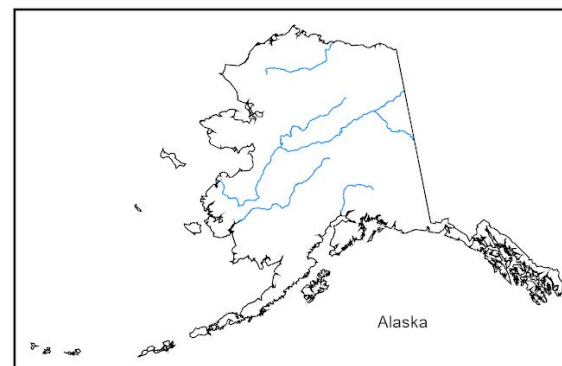
Valid for April 2024  
Released March 31, 2024



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:  
Adam Hartman  
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>

Image Caption:  
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook  
valid for April 2024

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)