



# Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid May 2, 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 June 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.
- 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
- Seasonal dry and warm conditions increasing wildfire risk, decreasing river streamflow
- Drought conditions expected to persist into the summer months





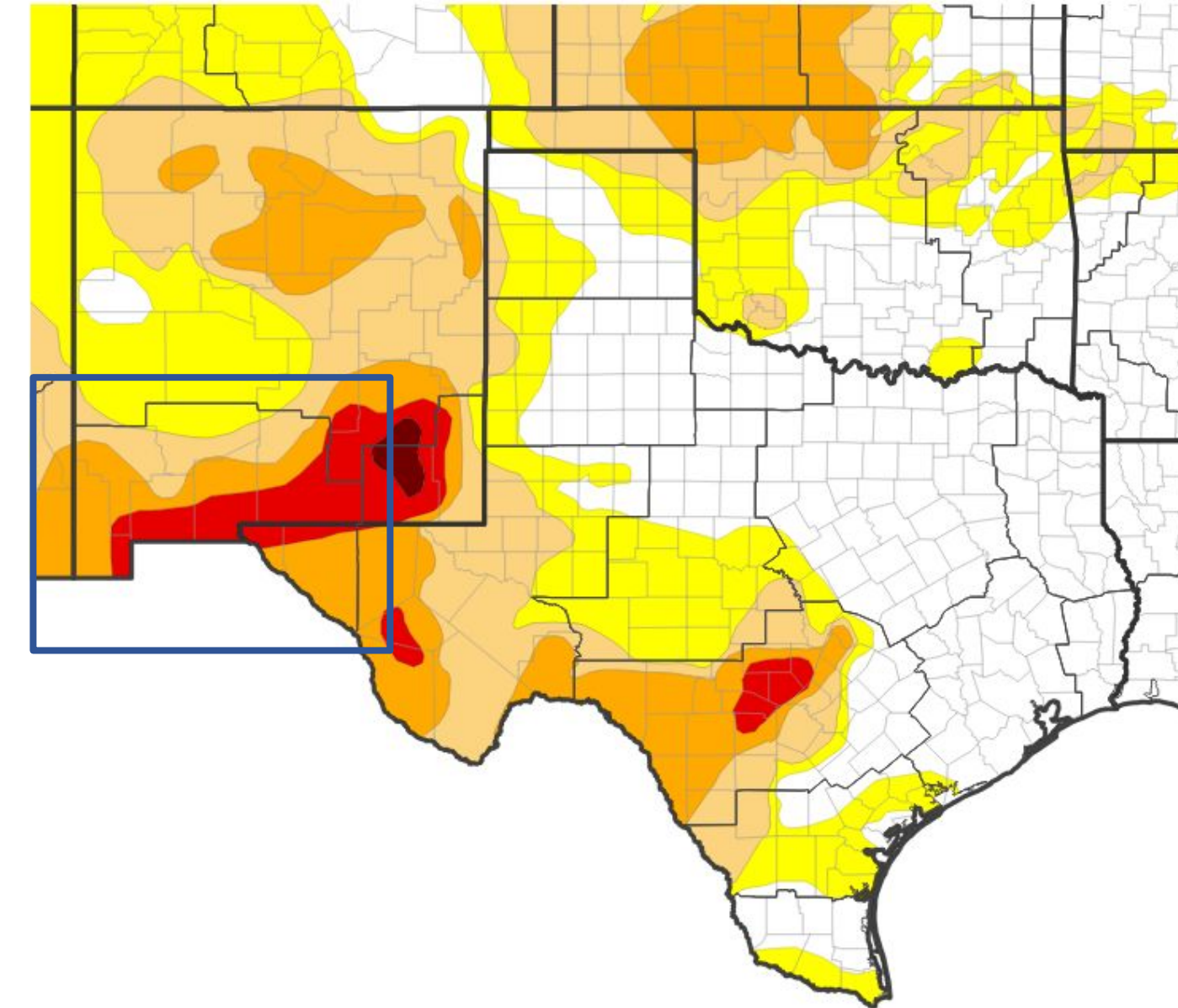


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

## Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**  
Southern New Mexico lowlands including portions of Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero Counties.  
El Paso, TX
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**  
Covering majority of south-central New Mexico and Hudspeth County Texas
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**  
Central New Mexico (74% of state)
- Drought will persist into the summer months in southern New Mexico and west Texas.

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

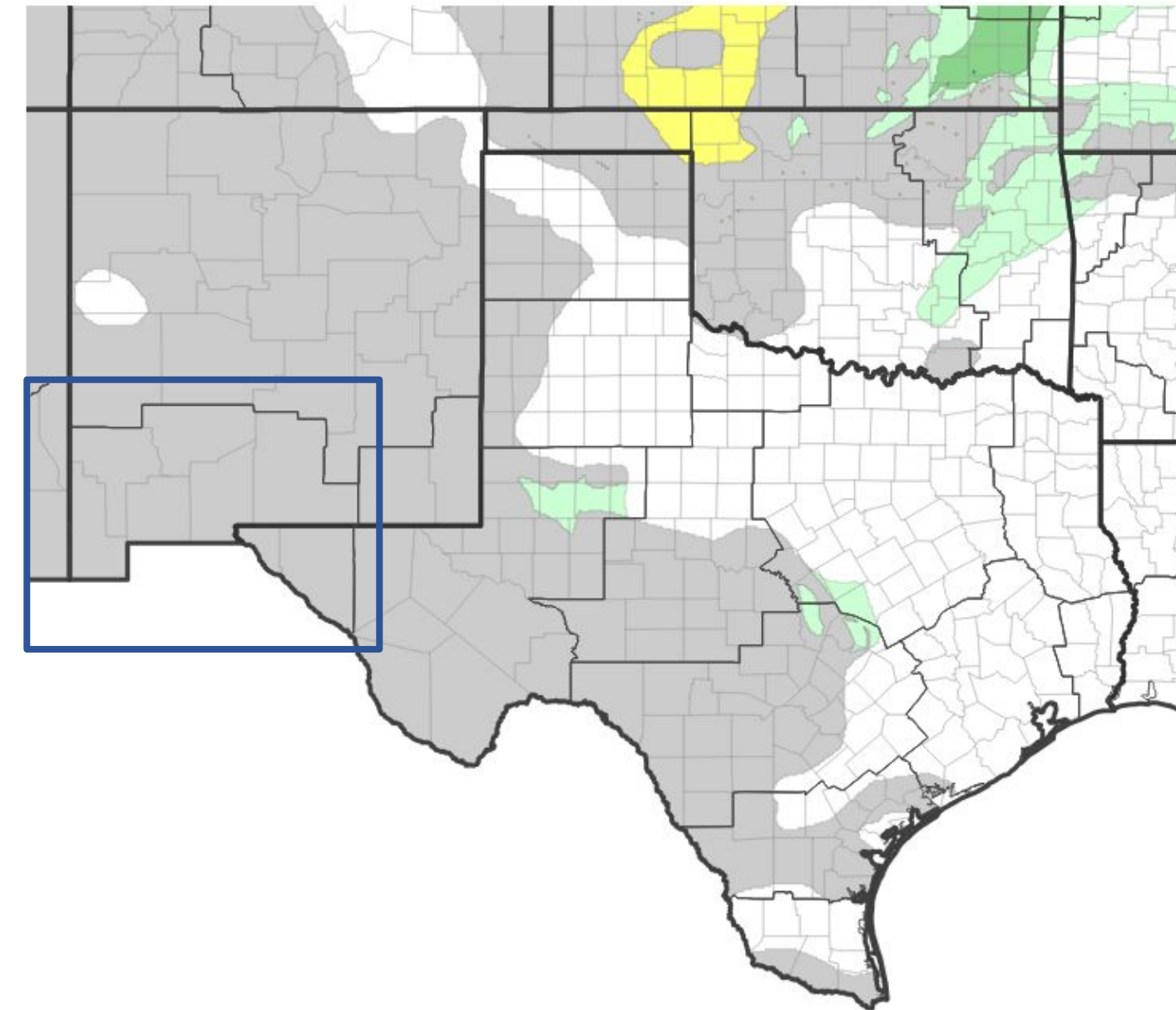
May 2, 2024  
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Link to the latest [3-month change map](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

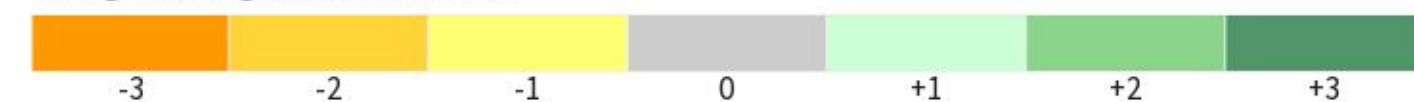
## 12-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:**  
No drought worsening was observed
- **Drought Improved:**  
No drought improvement was observed
- **No Change:**  
All of Far West Texas and New Mexico

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

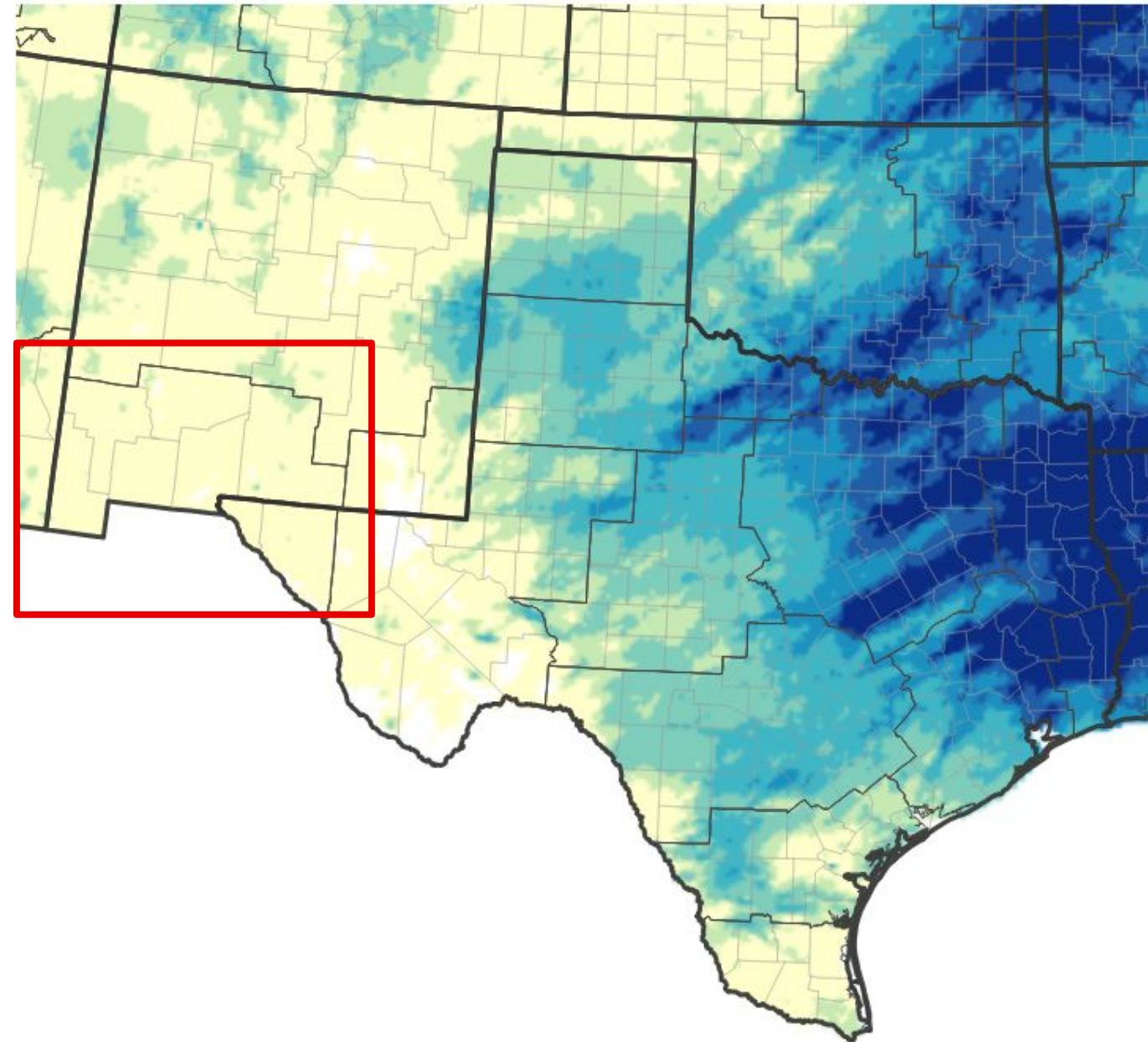
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30-day rain totals, 0.10-0.25” along I-10 corridor. 0.25-0.75” over mountain forests

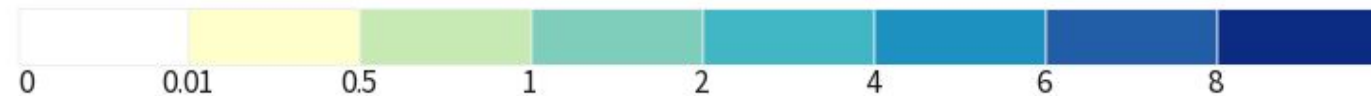
90-day rain totals, 0.50-1.00” along I-10 corridor. 3-4” over mountain forests

Very little precipitation, typical of April climate.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



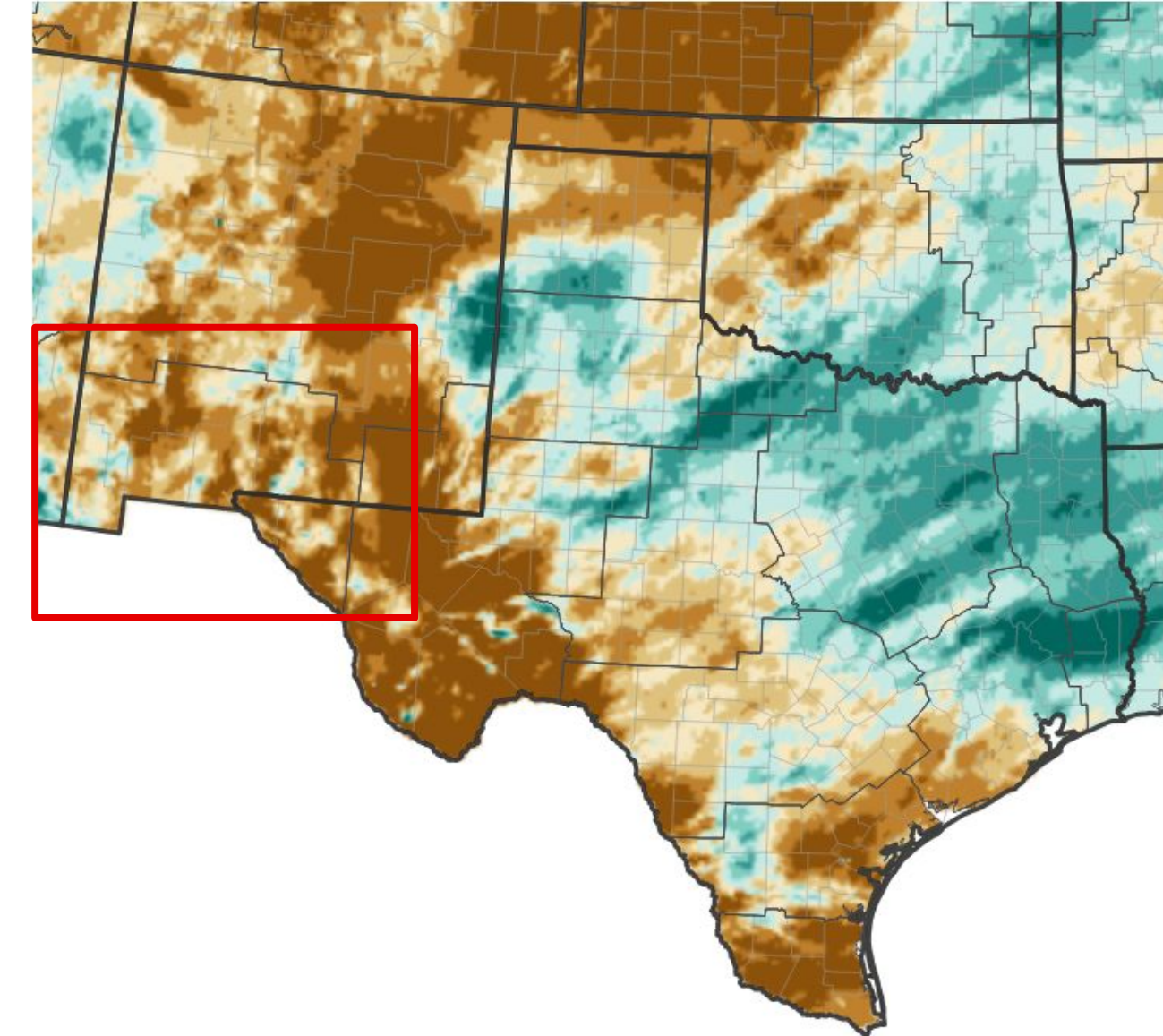
Inches of Precipitation



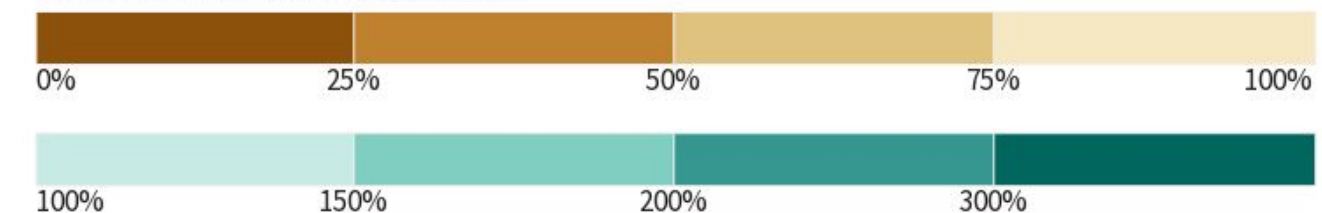
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/01/24

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: 05/01/24





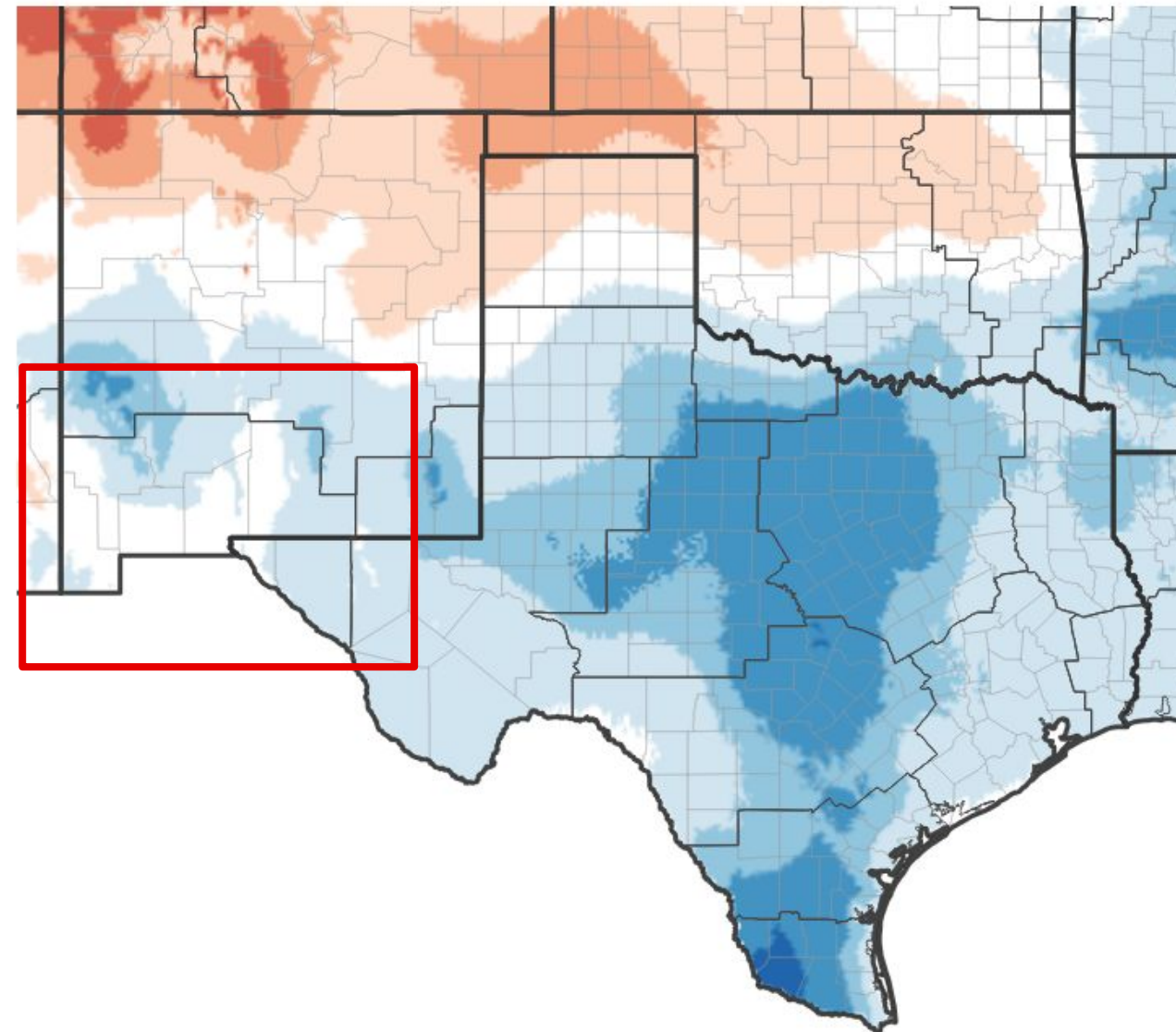


# Temperature

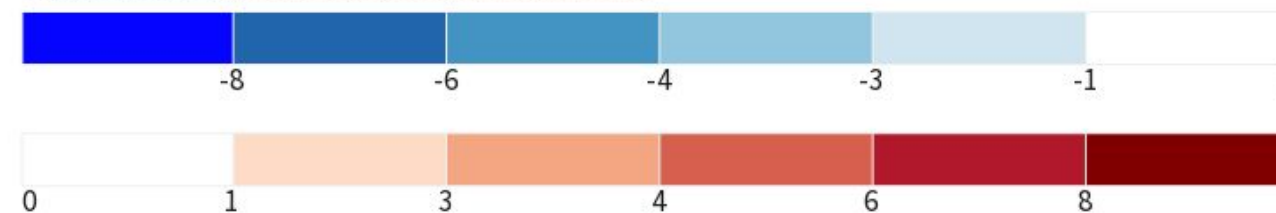
May 2, 2024  
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- Near to slightly below normal spring temperatures. No significant cold snaps this past winter.
- 2023 was hottest year on record for El Paso
- April temperatures 0.6°C above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



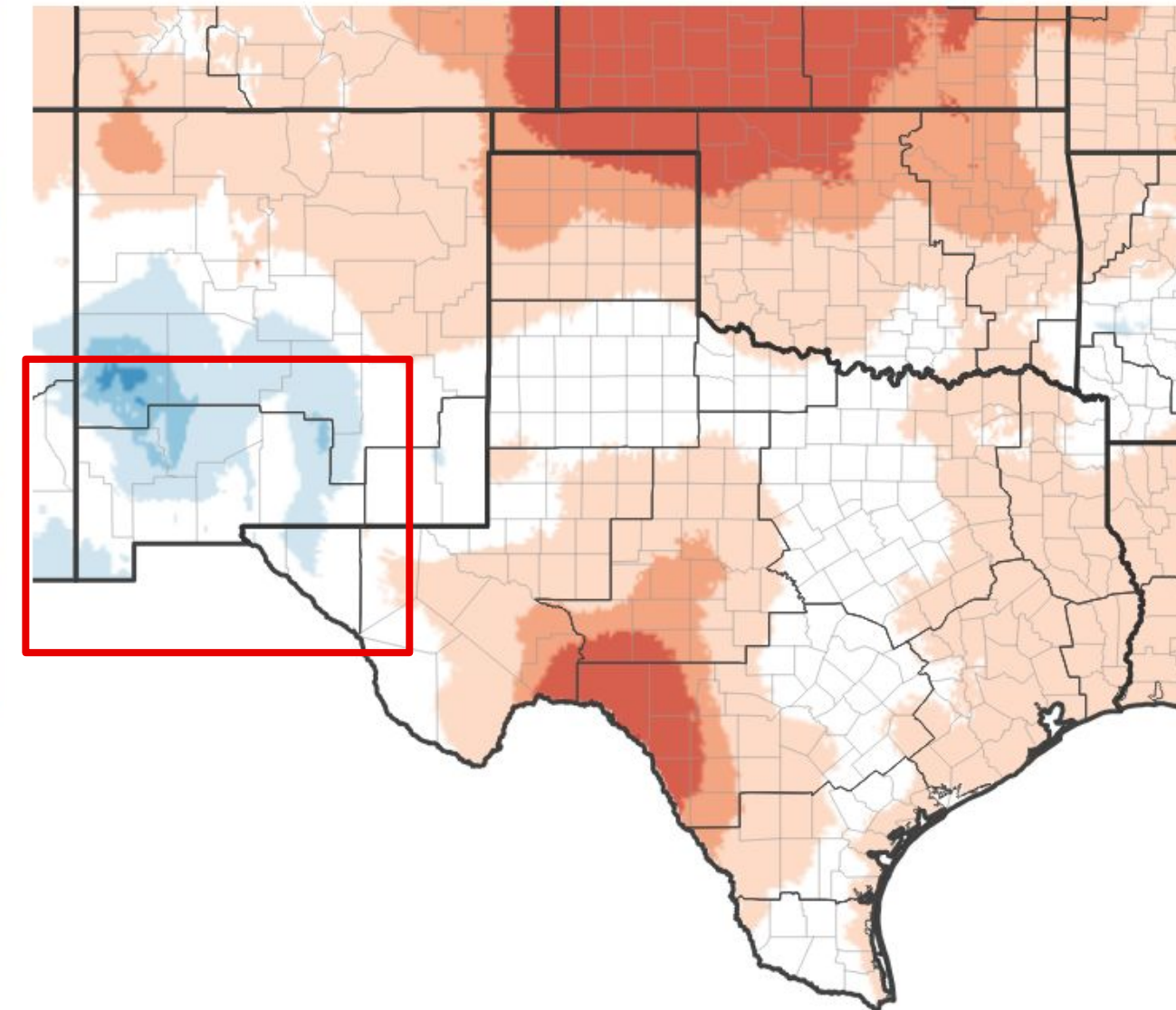
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



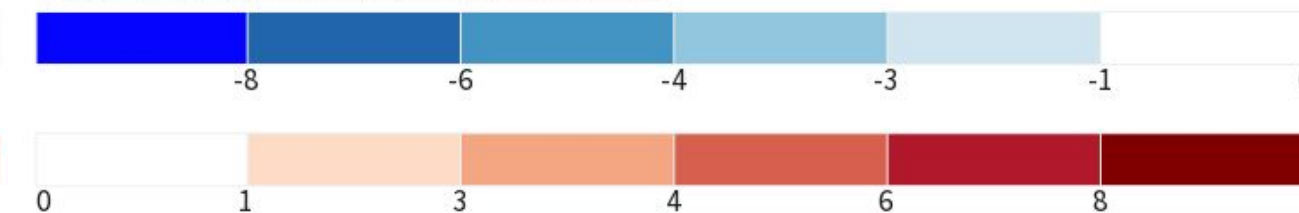
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/28/24

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: 04/28/24





# Summary of Impacts

May 2, 2024

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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 have decreased this past month but remain near to slight above climate averages as mountain snowmelt finishes for the season. Rivers are expected to decrease in stage this month due to lack of precipitation. Gila River levels have decreased to 4-5 feet at Redrock and Virden. Rio Grande water was released below the Caballo Dam in early March with normal streamflow expected through the end of summer. Elephant Butte storage sits at 21.9% 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

- Fuel moisture has rapidly decreased due to last month's prolonged period of very dry air and breezy wind. Gila/Lincoln Forest Service conducting multiple prescribed fires this month. High fire danger expected in May/June with fuels now primed for fire start along with continued warm/dry/windy weather conditions.







# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

May 2, 2024  
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- Gila river basin streamflows running slightly above climate averages
- Rio Grande/Mimbres basin streamflows near normal

## Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
Gila	2.19 ft	11.00 ft
Redrock	4.89 ft	20.00 ft
Virden	5.51 ft	15.00 ft

## Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
El Paso	4.24 ft	8.50 ft

Gauge stage recorded on 5/2/2024

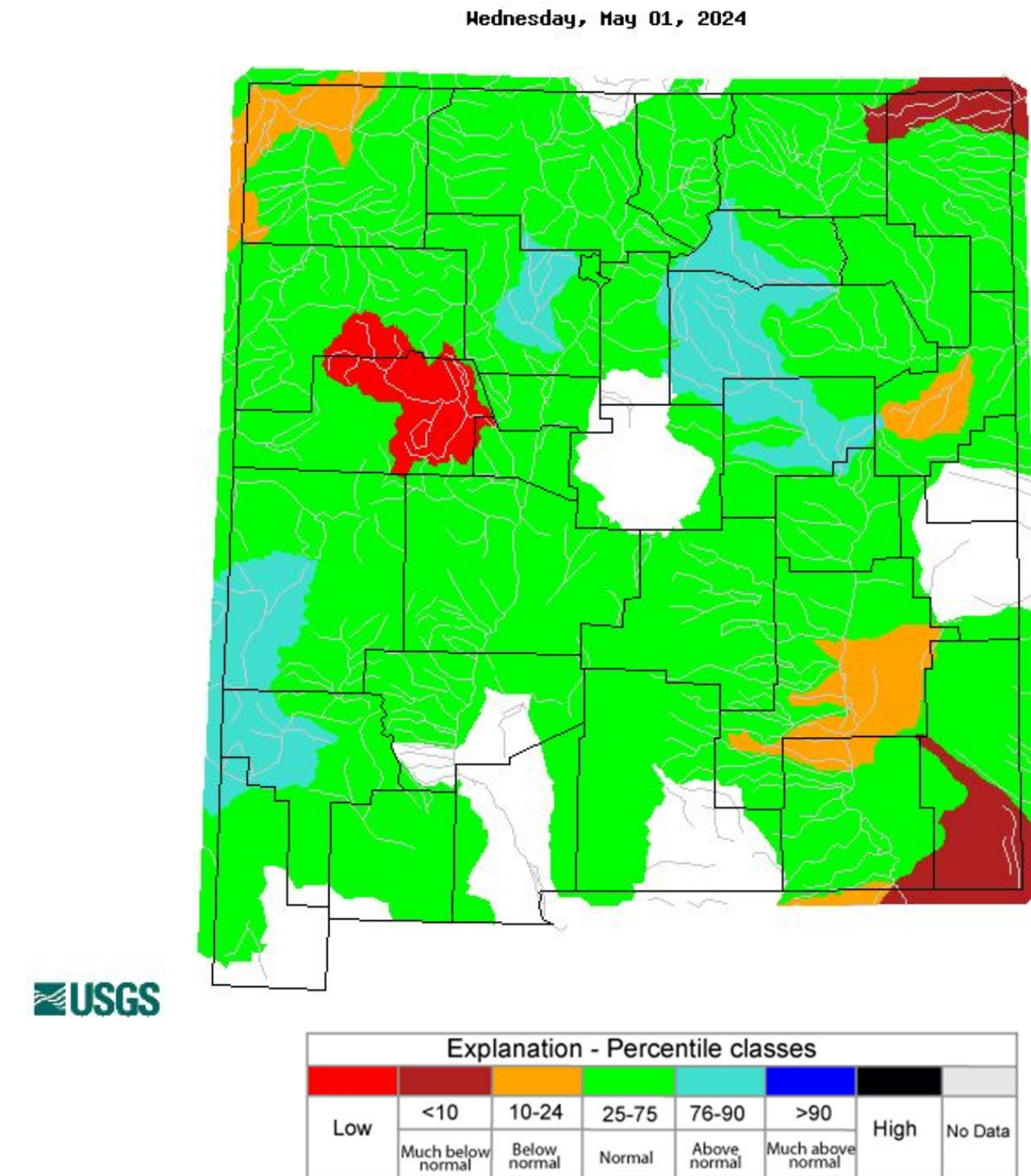


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid May 1, 2024



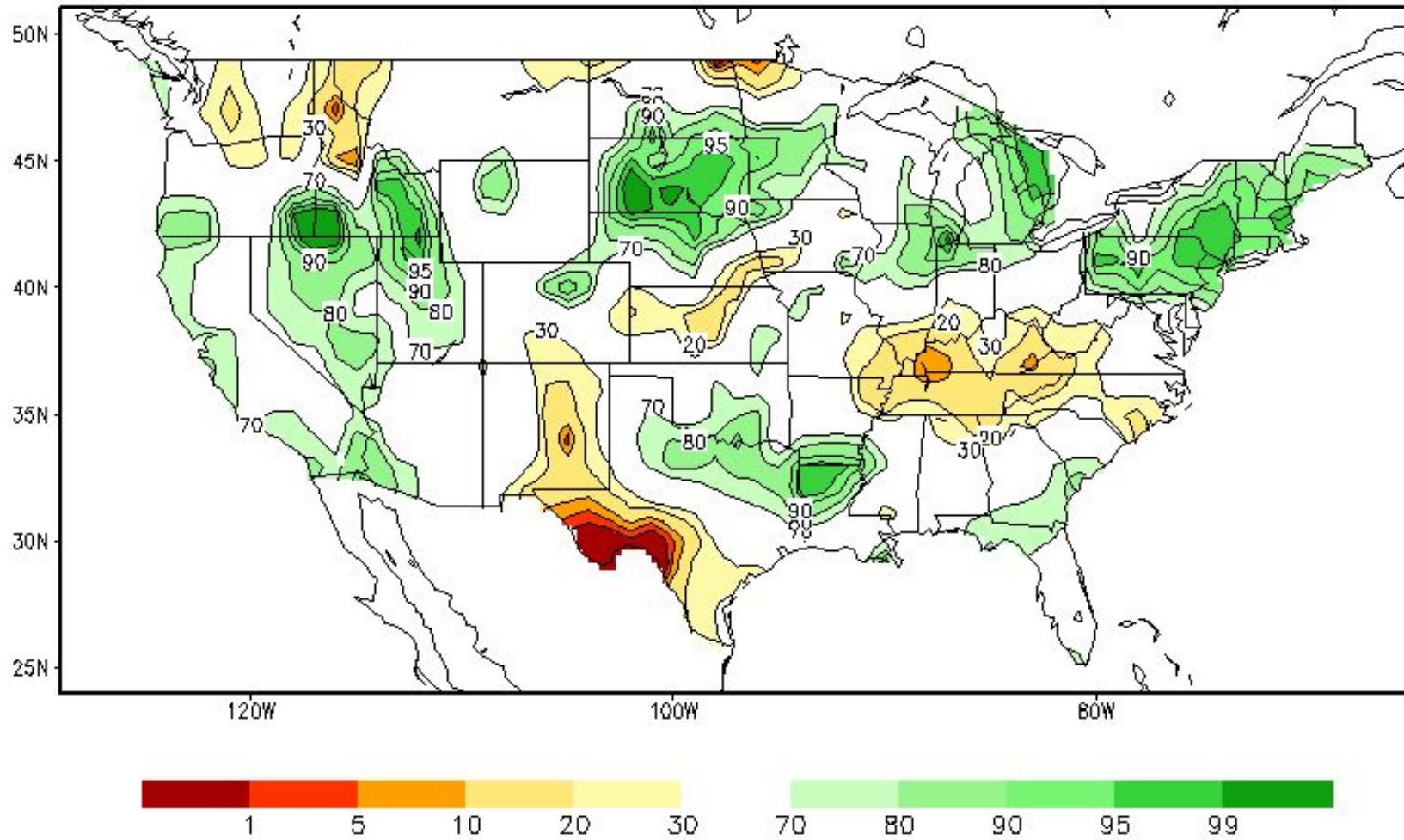




# Agricultural Impacts

May 2, 2024  
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Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
MAY 01, 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

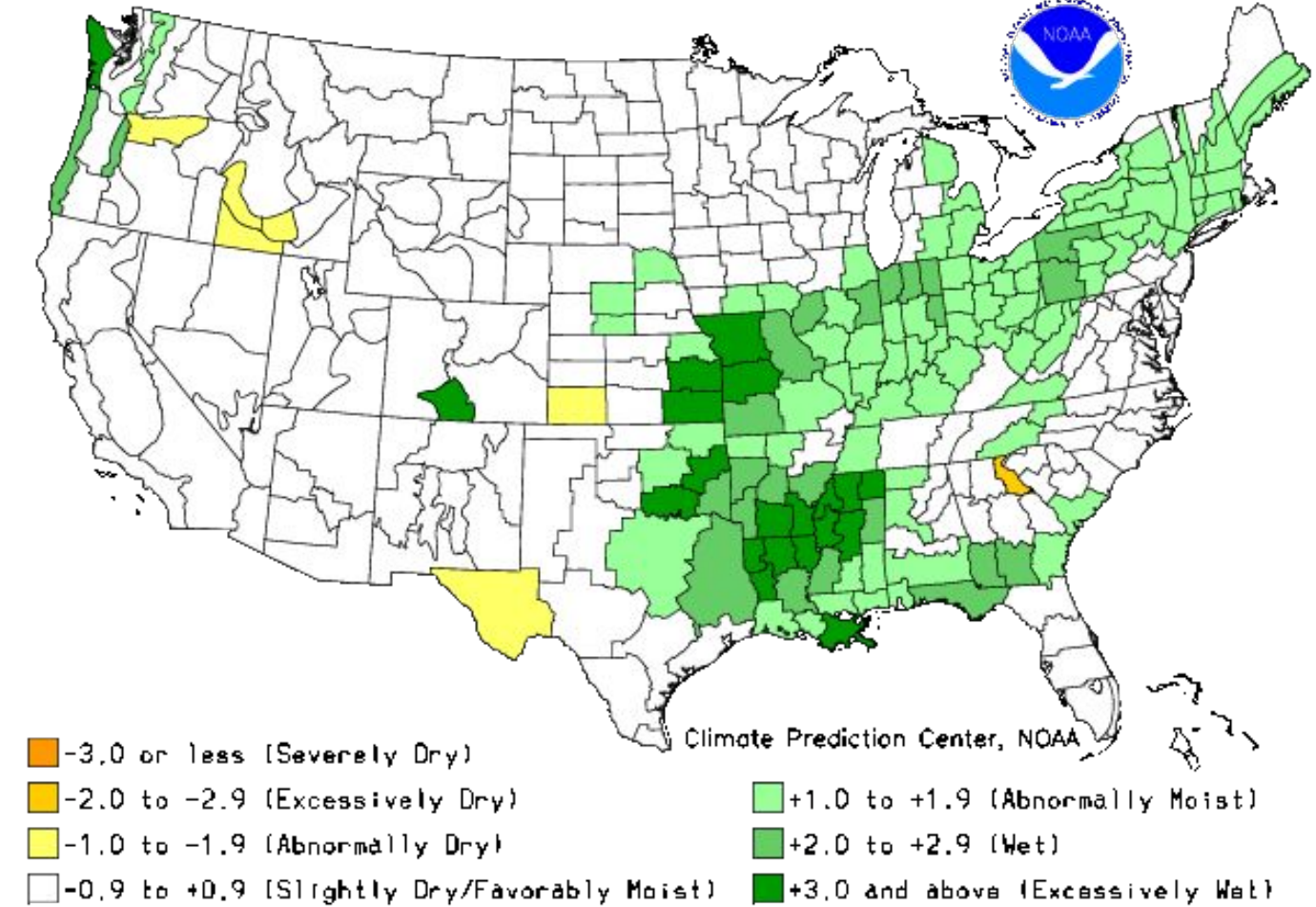


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid May 1, 2024

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending April 27, 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](#)

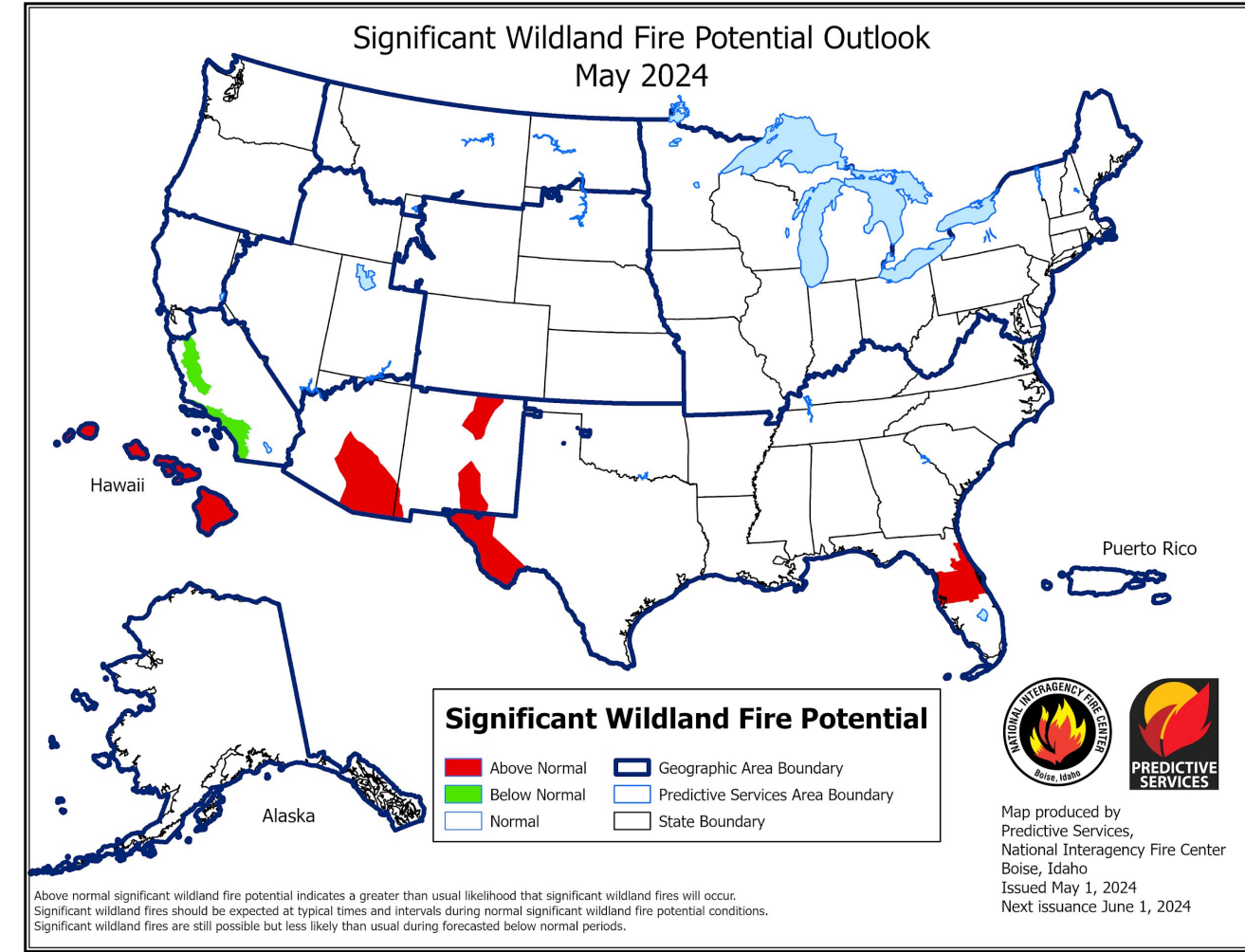
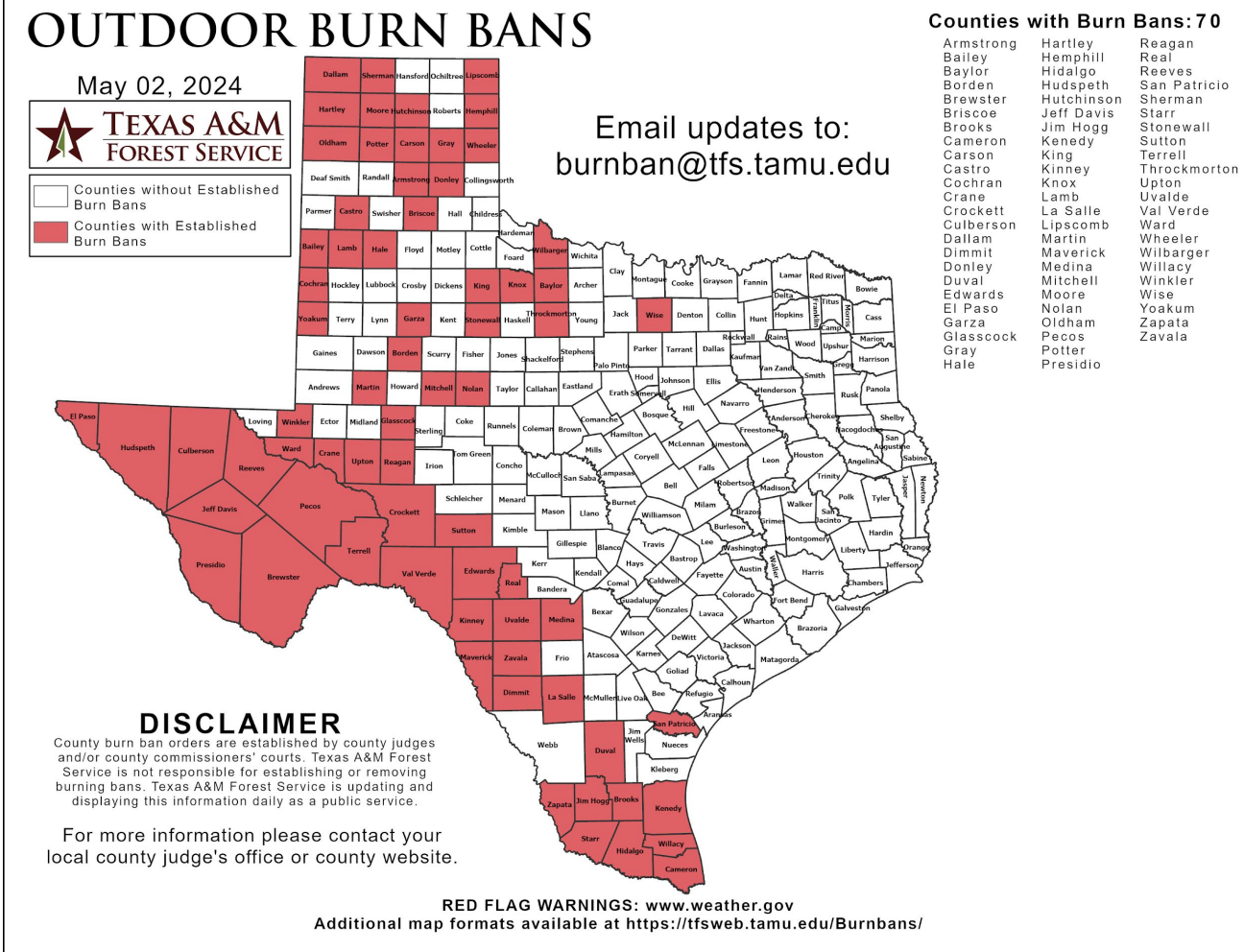


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for May 2024





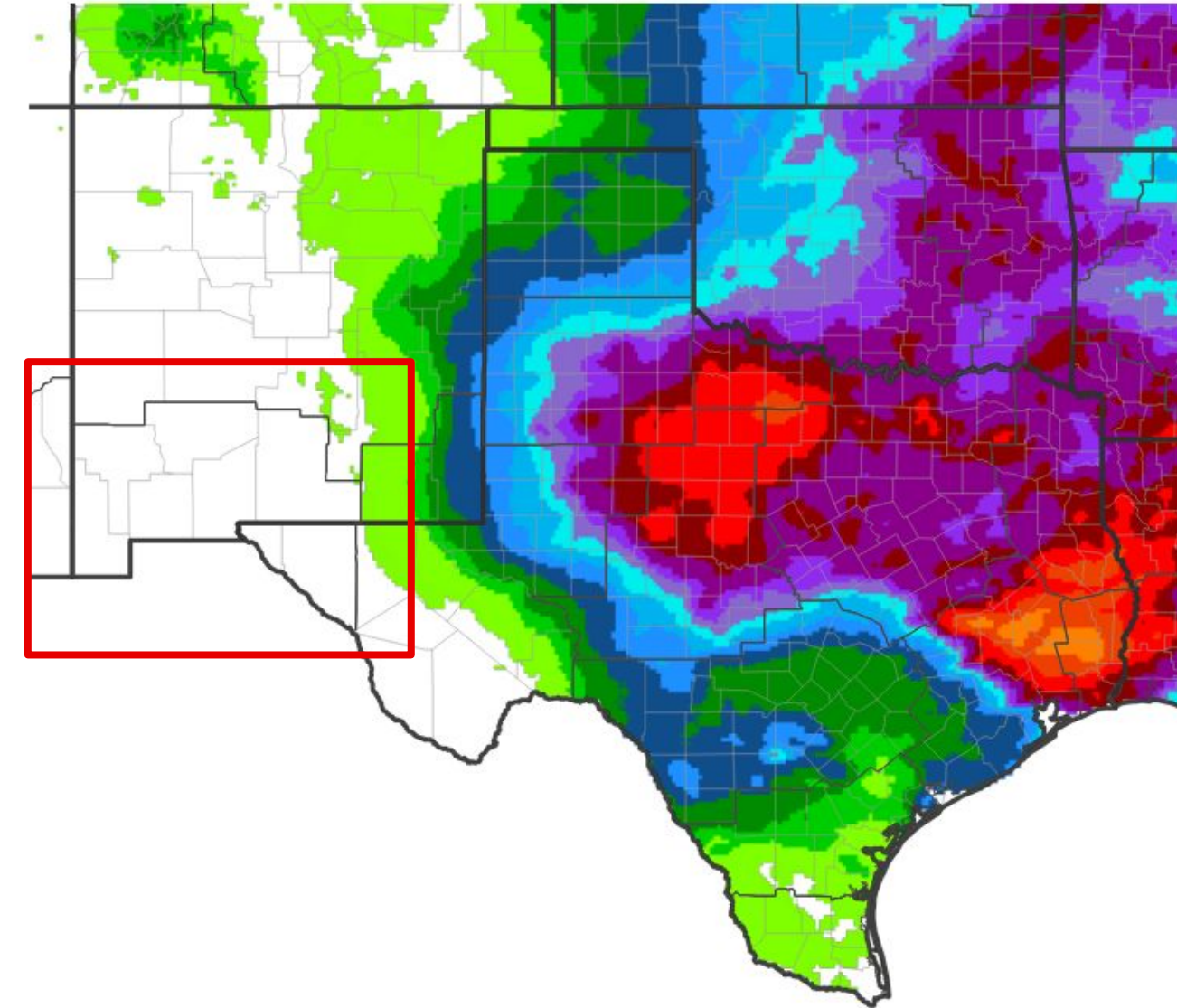


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

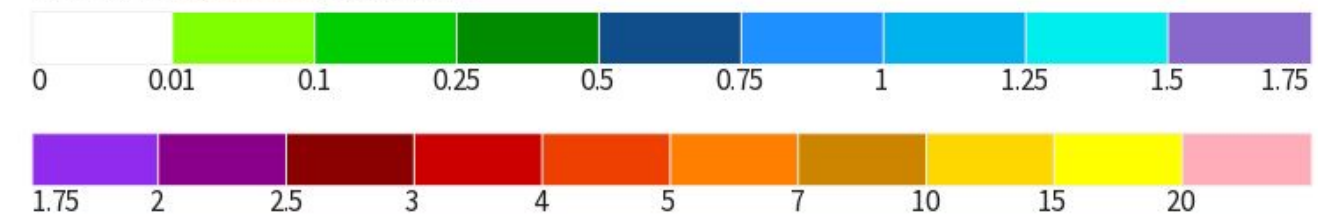
May 2, 2024  
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- No precipitation expected through early May.
- Gila Region seasonal snowmelt almost complete.
- No major changes in drought status expected this month due to seasonal dry time of year.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 05/02/24







# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

May 2, 2024  
6:24 PM

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

- Sporadic precipitation chances in May may provide temporary relief, however drought conditions are expected to persist into the summer season.



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook  
Valid: 05/10/2024-05/16/2024



Climate Prediction Center  
Made: 05/02/2024 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 May 10 to May 16







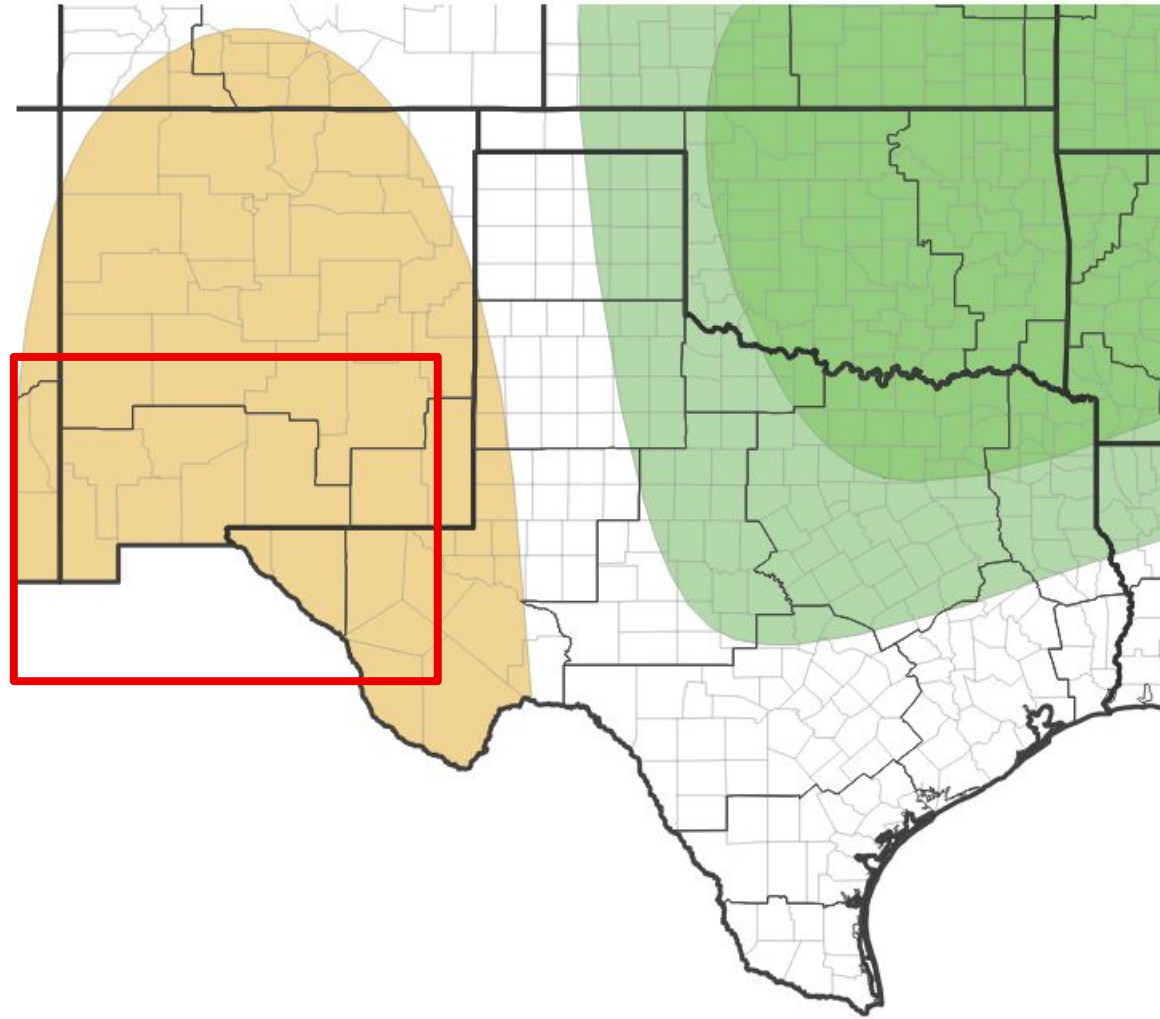
# Long-Range Outlooks

May 2, 2024  
6:24 PM

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

- 33-40% chance for below normal precipitation across New Mexico and far west Texas (monthly average for El Paso: 0.43")
- 33-40% chance for above normal temperatures across south-central New Mexico and far west Texas, closer to normal further west toward Arizona.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



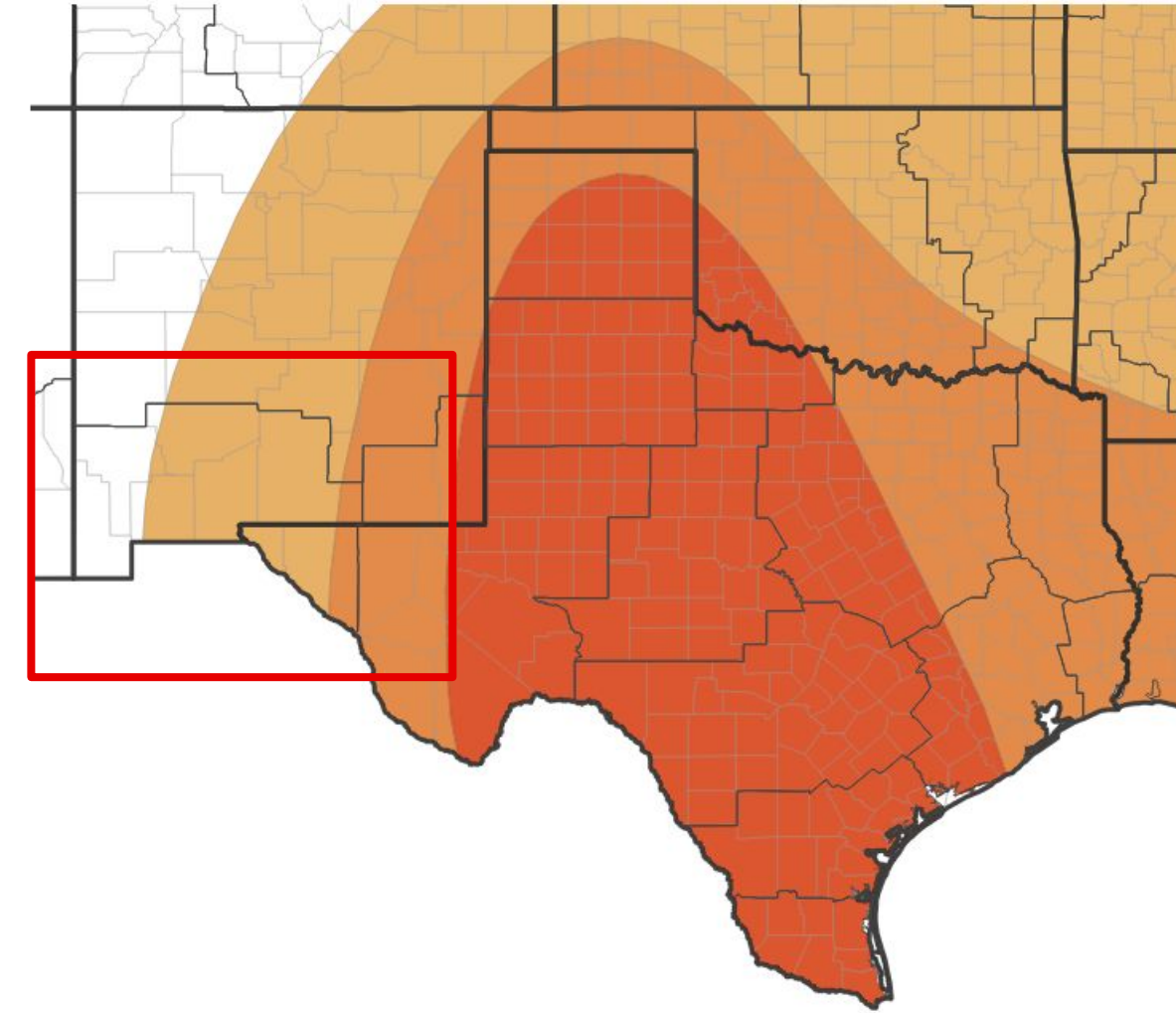
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Data Valid: 04/30/24

Monthly Temperature Outlook



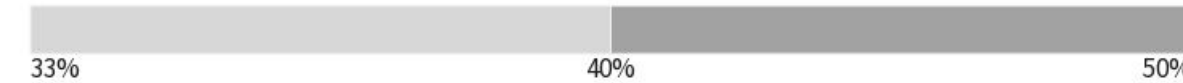
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



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







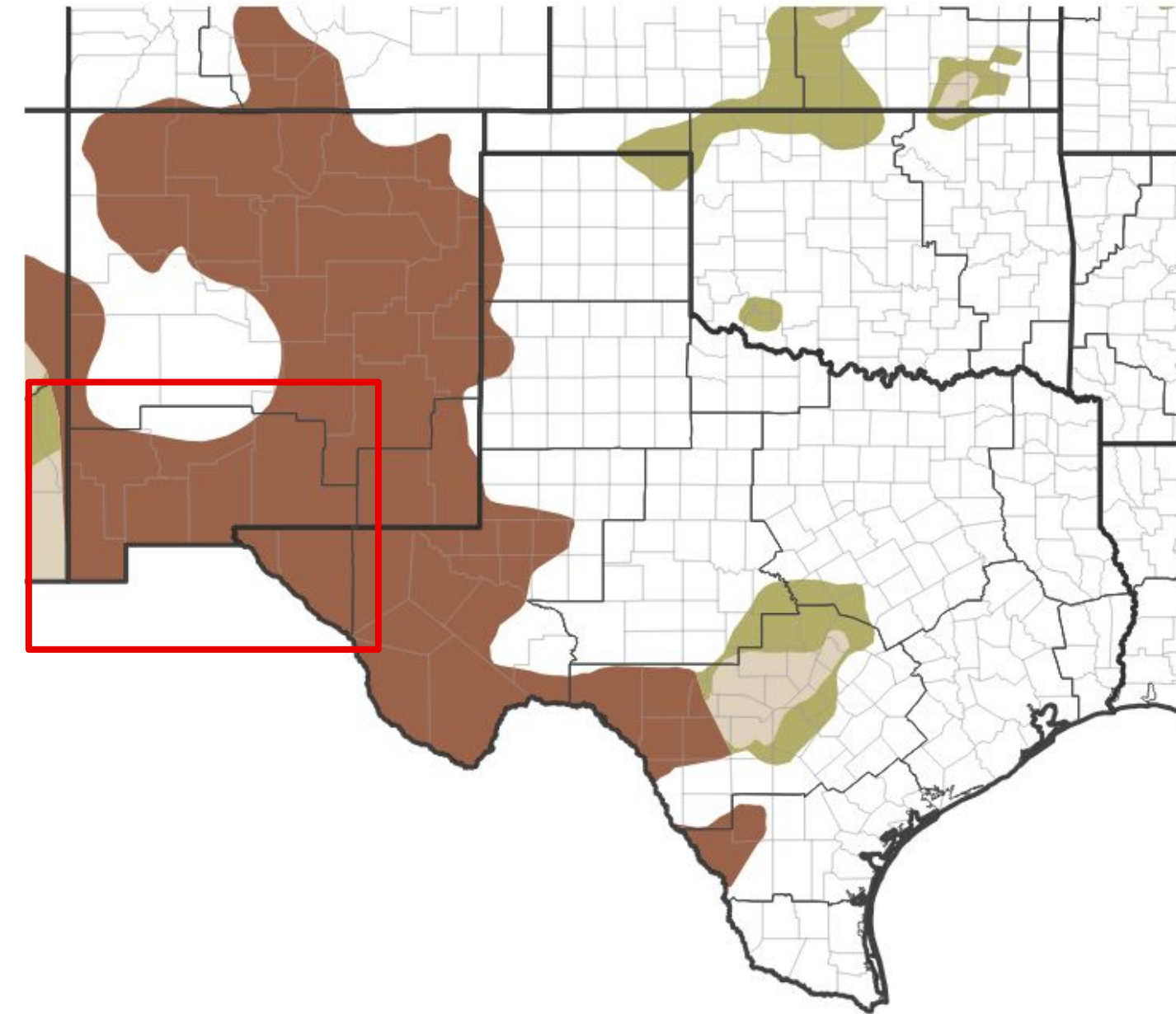
# Drought Outlook

May 2, 2024  
6:24 PM

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

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

## 1-Month Drought Outlook



### Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid: 05/02/24

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