



# Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid September 3, 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 October 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.

- Moderate (D1) to Severe (D2) drought status affecting southern New Mexico and far west Texas.
- Near normal precipitation across southwest New Mexico in August, much drier than normal conditions across west Texas.
- Drought conditions expected to persist into the fall season.



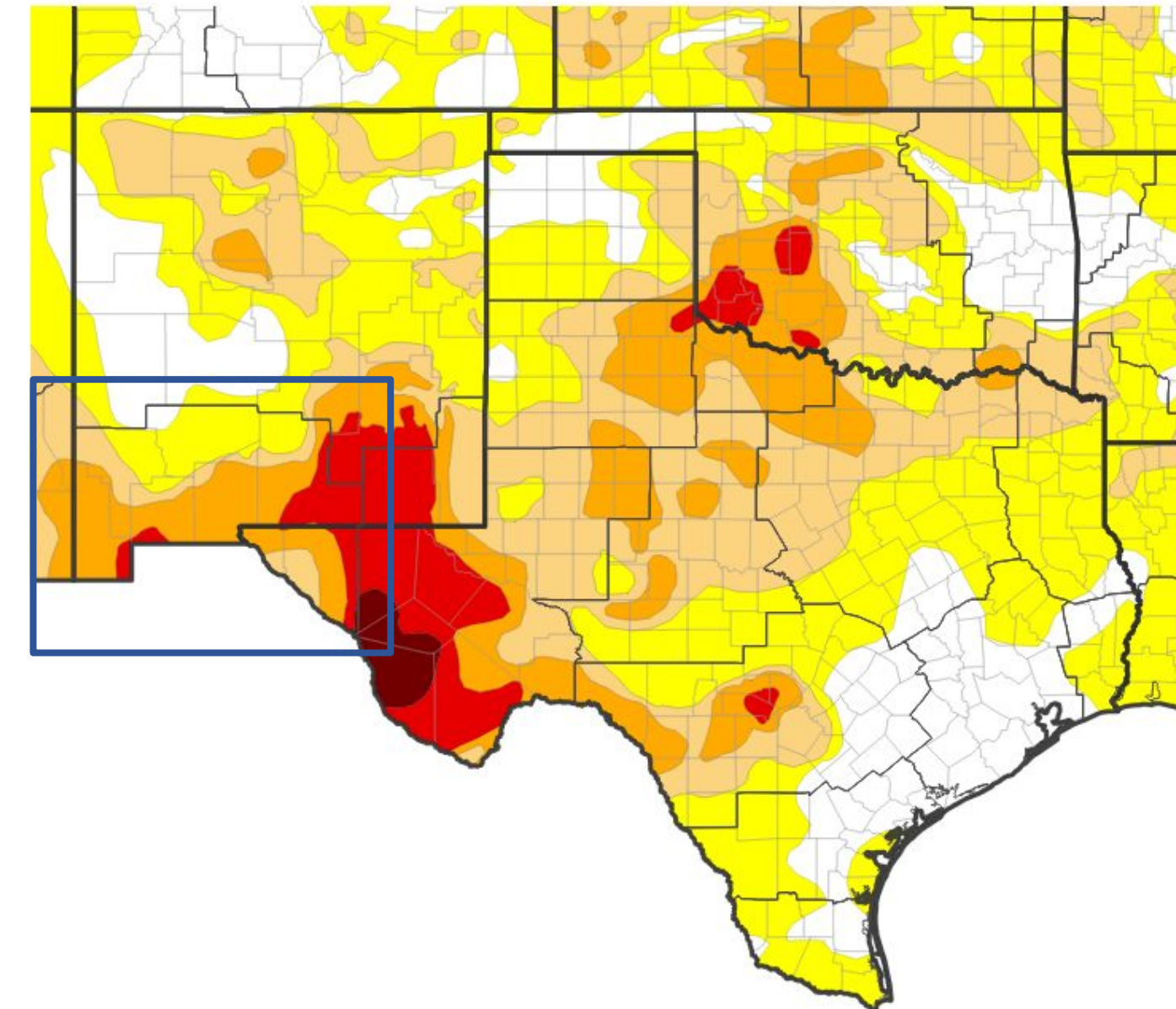


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

## Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**  
Southeast New Mexico including portions of Otero County.  
Trans-Pecos region including far eastern Hudspeth County.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**  
Lowlands of southern and southwest New Mexico including portions of Dona Ana, Otero, Luna, and Hidalgo Counties.  
Far west Texas including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**  
Lower Valley, Gila National Forest (45% of New Mexico)
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**  
Northern and central New Mexico (82% of New Mexico)
- Near normal August precipitation in New Mexico has kept conditions mostly the same, but lack of rain in west Texas has intensified drought this month. Drought will persist into the fall months across 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: 08/27/24







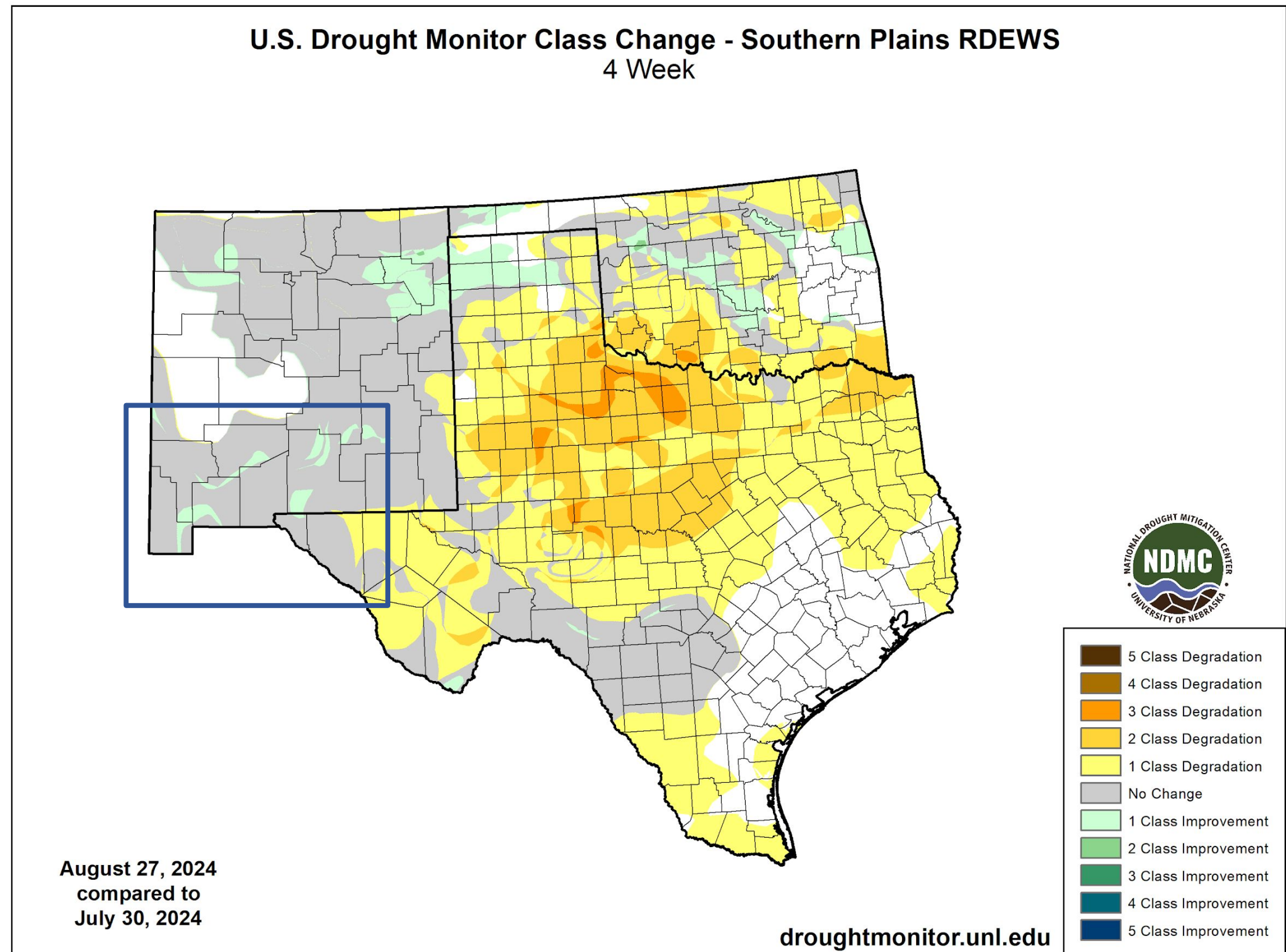
# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

September 3, 2024  
3:21 AM

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

## 4-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:**  
Trans-Pecos region including eastern Hudspeth County
- **Drought Improved:**  
Slight improvement across southern New Mexico
- **No Change:**  
Most of New Mexico and far west Texas







# Precipitation

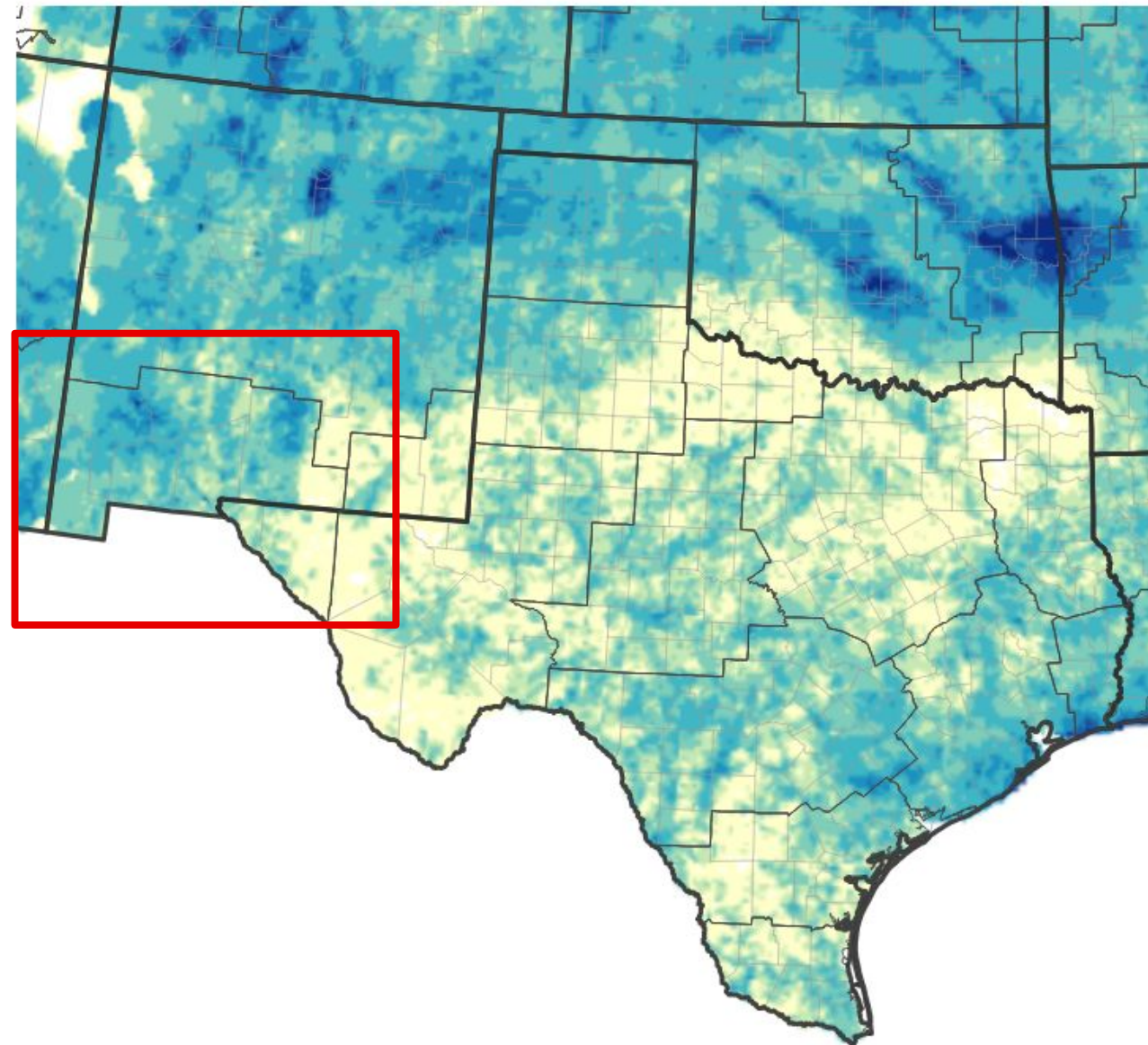
September 3, 2024  
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30-day rain totals, 0.50-1.50" along I-10 corridor. 2-4" over mountain forests

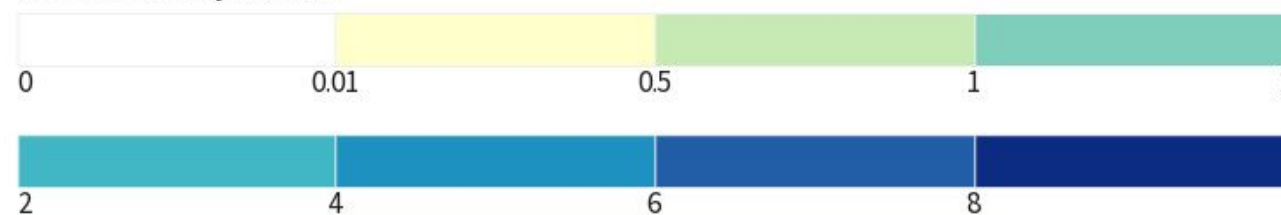
90-day rain totals, 2-4" along I-10 corridor. 6-9" over mountain forests

Drier than usual August for much of Texas, especially Trans-Pecos region and Big Bend. Near normal across southwest New Mexico.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

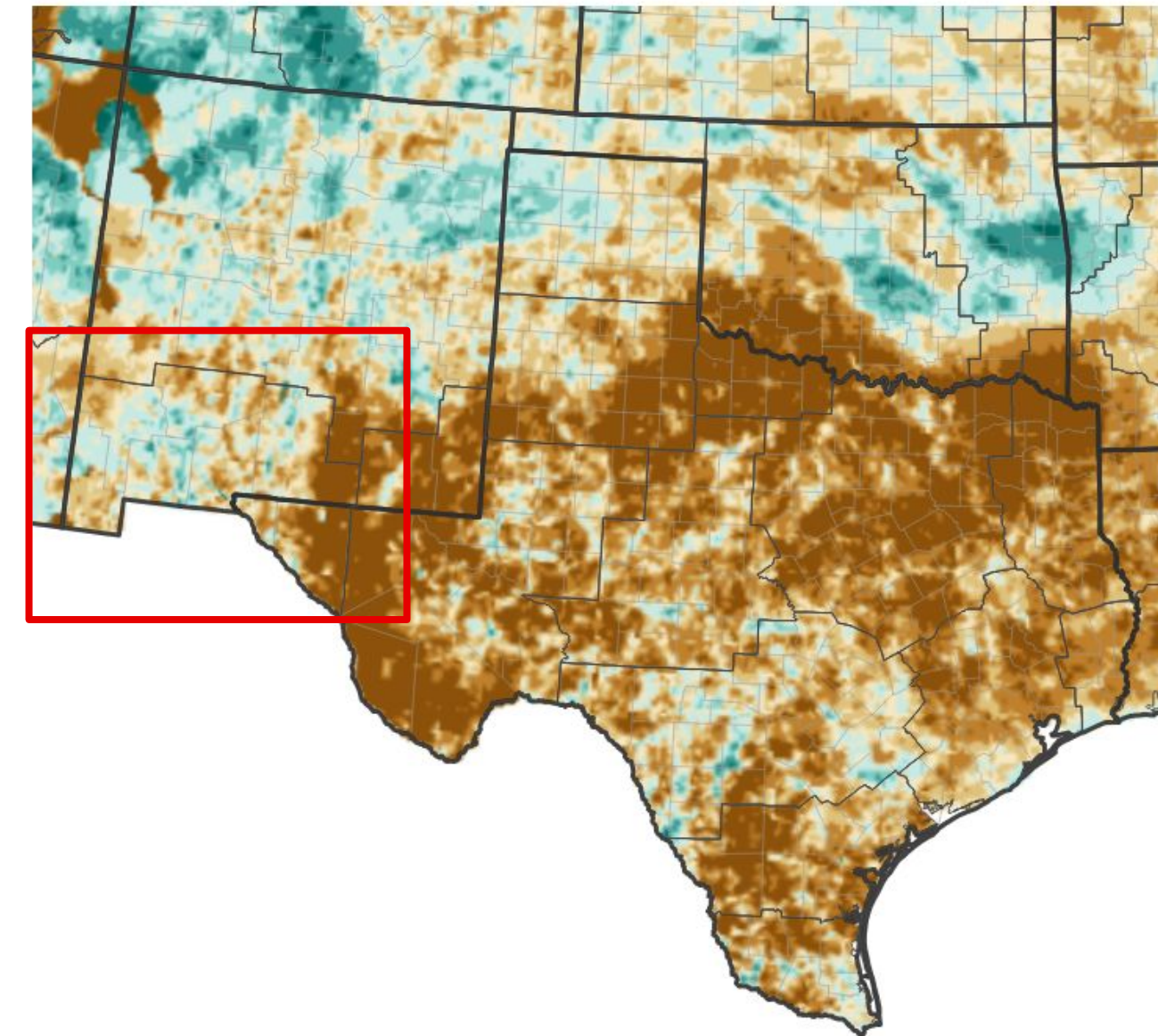


Inches of Precipitation

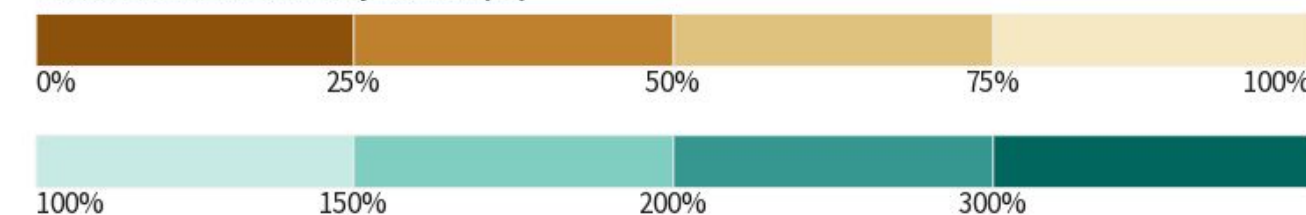


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 09/01/24

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: 09/01/24





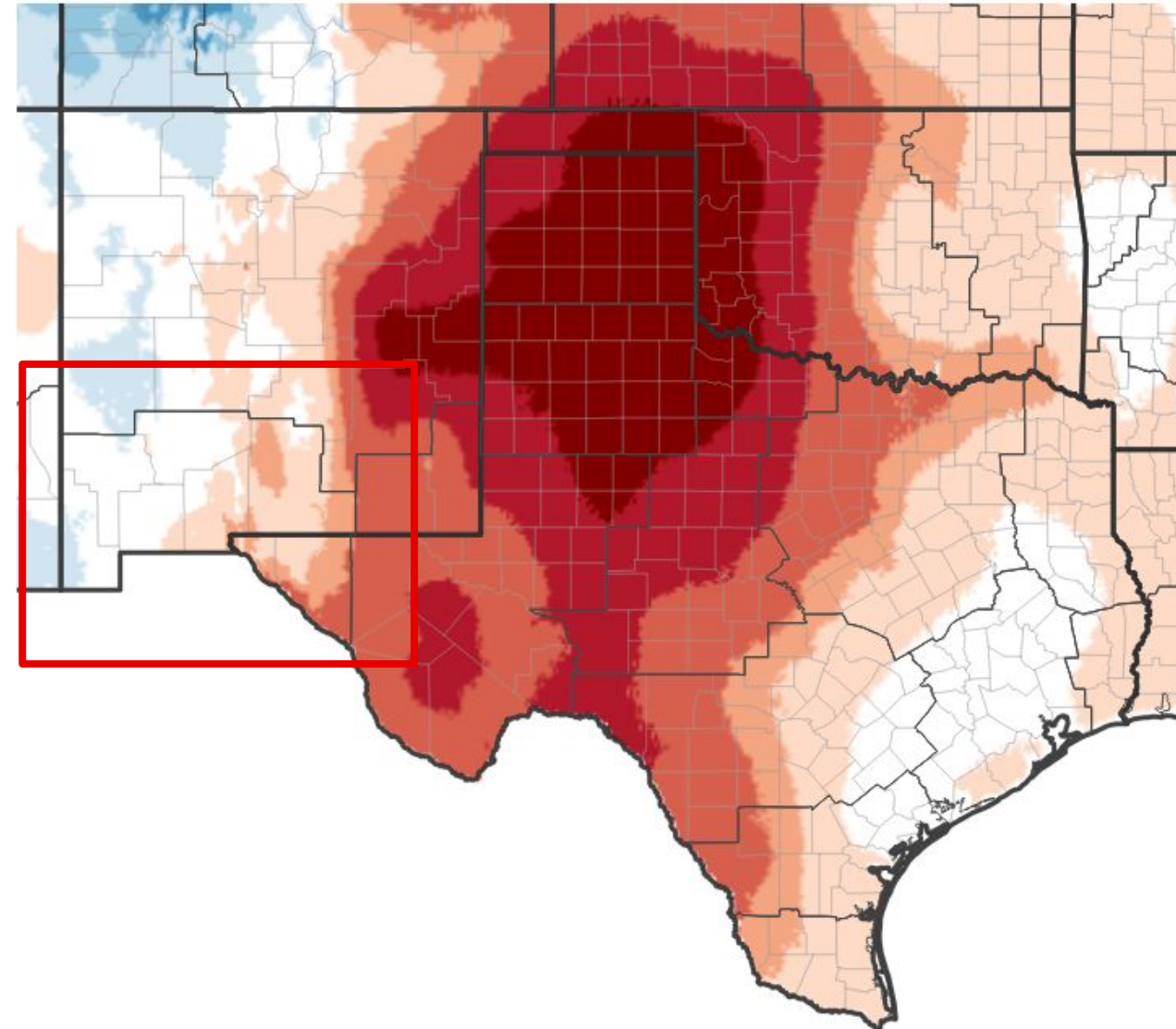


# Temperature

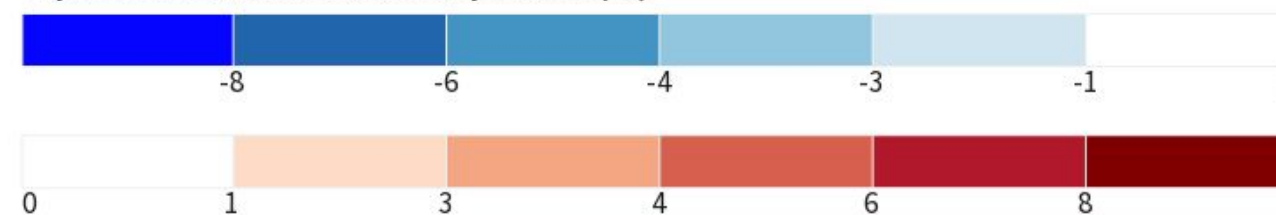
September 3, 2024  
3:21 AM

- Above normal August temperatures across eastern New Mexico and west Texas, closer to normal along AZ/NM state line.
- 2024 is on track to become the hottest year on record for El Paso. August was 2nd hottest on record.
- August temperatures 5.3°C above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



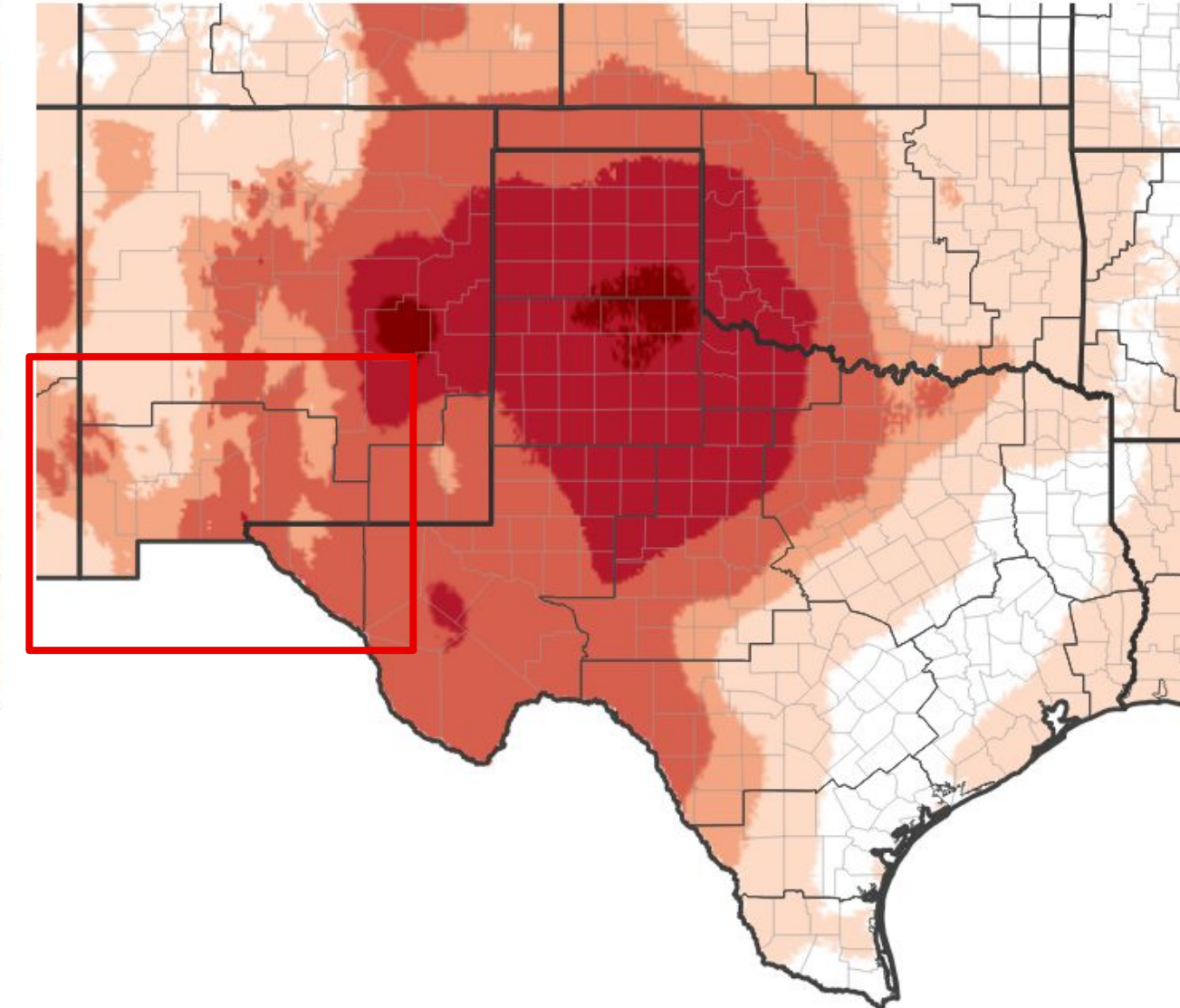
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



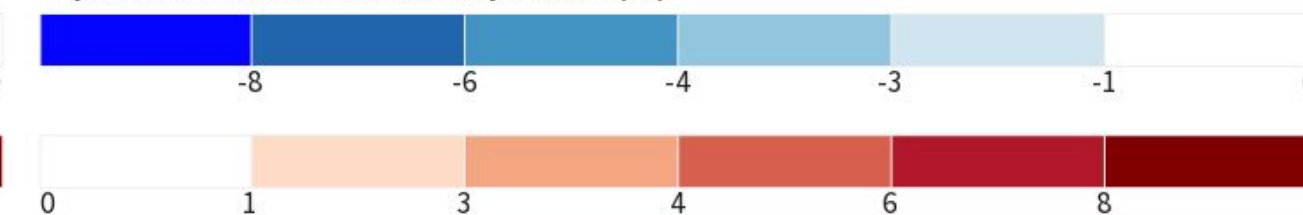
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/29/24

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: 08/29/24







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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows in Gila and Mimbres basins are below normal with no flooding issues. Temporary rises occurred August 7, 22, and 28 with stronger storms, but flow returned to normal quickly. Flow is higher out of Lincoln National Forest due to recent thunderstorms and ongoing burn scar flooding. River levels will continue to rely on thunderstorm output the next few weeks before the monsoon season ends. Rio Grande water was released below the Caballo Dam in early March with normal streamflow this summer. Elephant Butte storage sits at 7.9% capacity, a decrease from last month and well below 30-year median. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)). River flooding risk is low.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Above normal temperatures will increase heat stress on local agriculture. Rapid curing and possible over-drying before harvest is possible. 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

- Soil moisture is below normal due to lack of late-summer rains, but wildfire risk is low this time of year. Four wildfires in New Mexico (South Fork, Indios, Blue 2 and Salt) have exceeded 3000 acres in size. Low fire danger in September and the risk for new lightning starts is low due to forest greenup.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

September 3, 2024  
3:21 AM

- Gila river basin streamflows running below normal, with a decrease in flow since July. Temporary increases last month due to excessive thunderstorm rainfall. Above normal flow out of the Sacramento Mountains/Rio Penasco basins.

## Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
Gila	1.00 ft	11.00 ft
Redrock	3.79 ft	20.00 ft
Virden	4.67 ft	15.00 ft

## Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
El Paso	4.73 ft	8.50 ft

Gauge stage recorded on 9/3/2024

Sunday, September 01, 2024

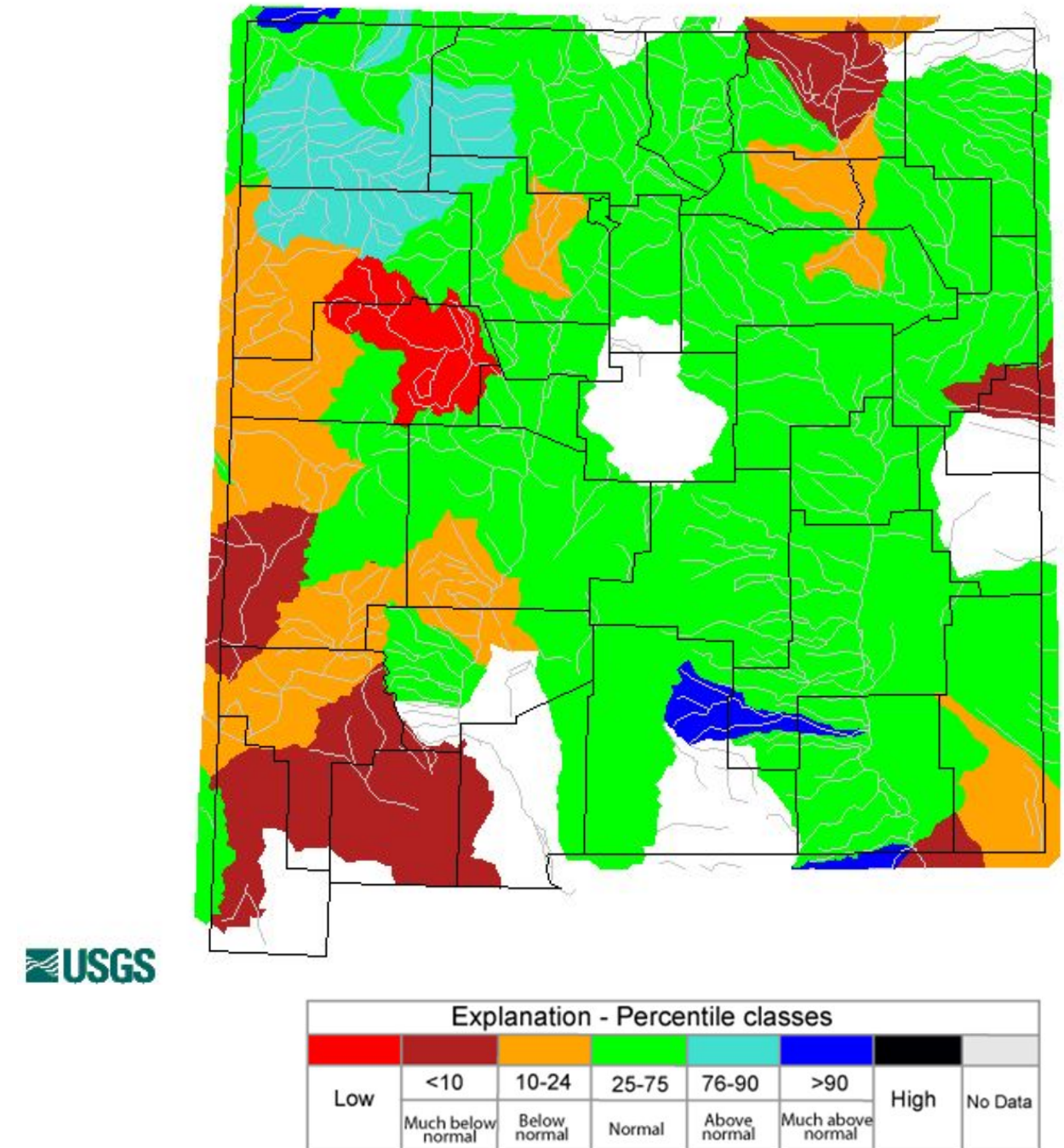


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid September 1, 2024



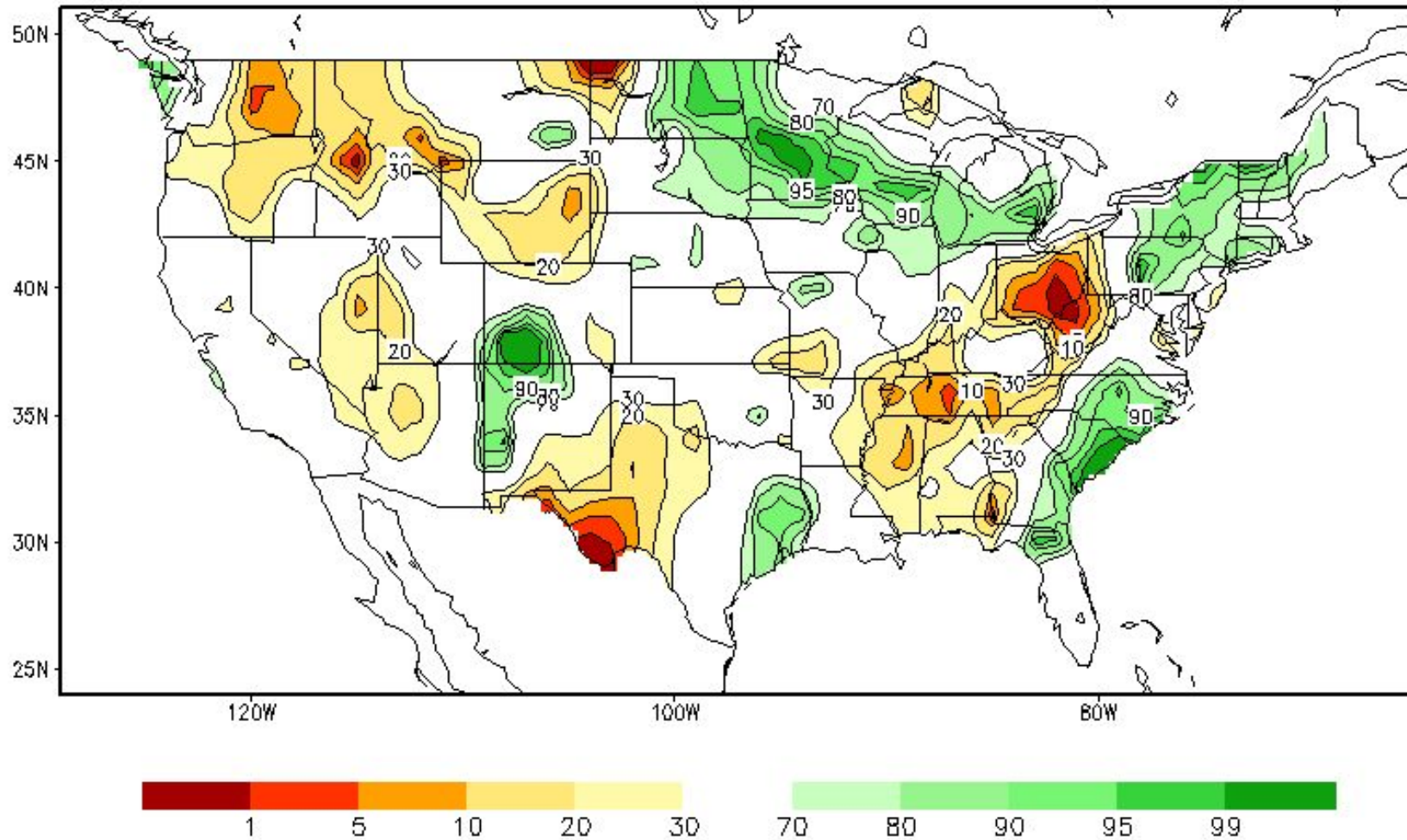




# Agricultural Impacts

September 3, 2024  
3:21 AM

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
SEP 01, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending AUG 31, 2024  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

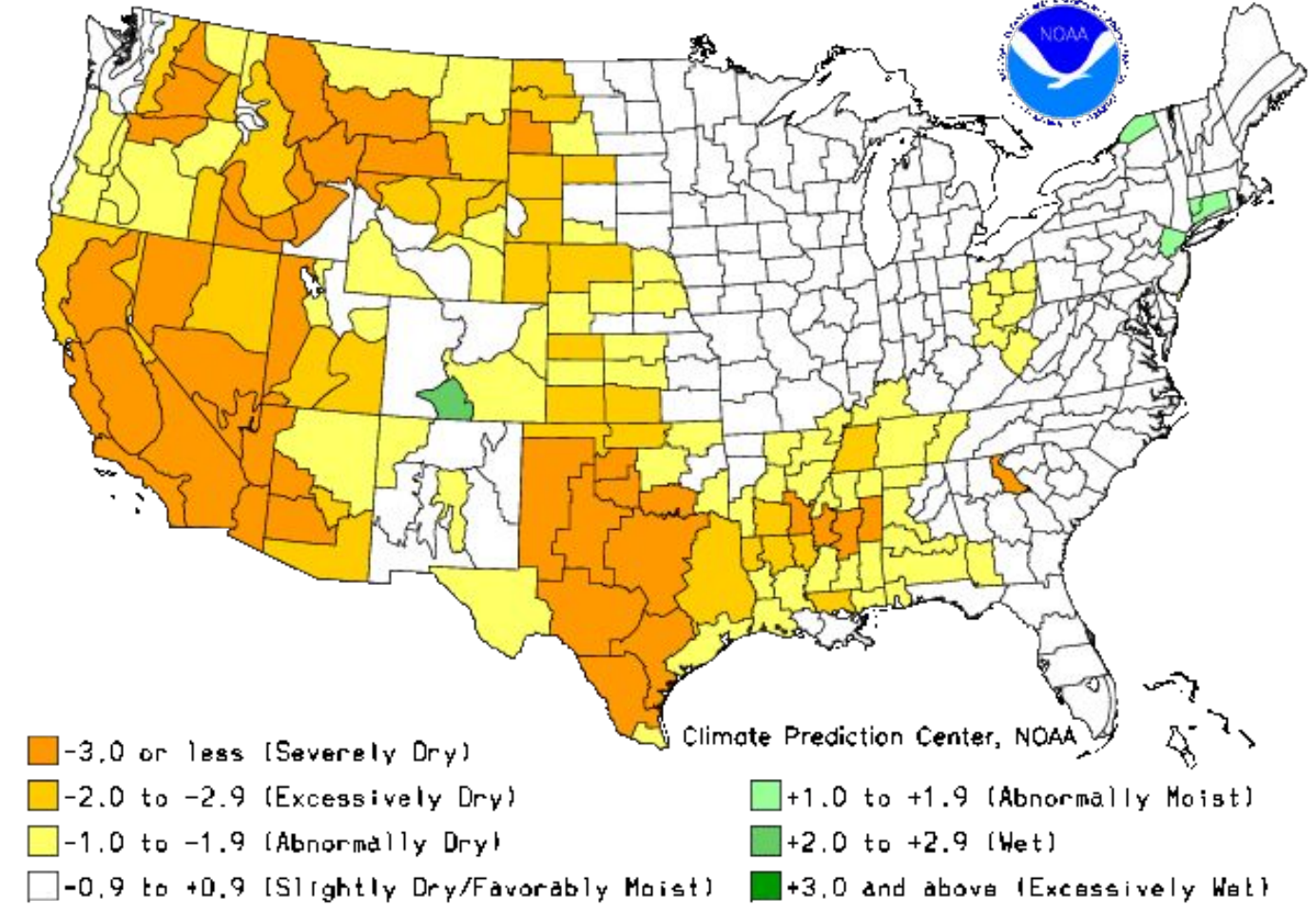


Image Captions:

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

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending August 31, 2024





# Fire Hazard Impacts

September 3, 2024  
3:21 AM

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

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

Latest NM Fire Restrictions available [here](#)

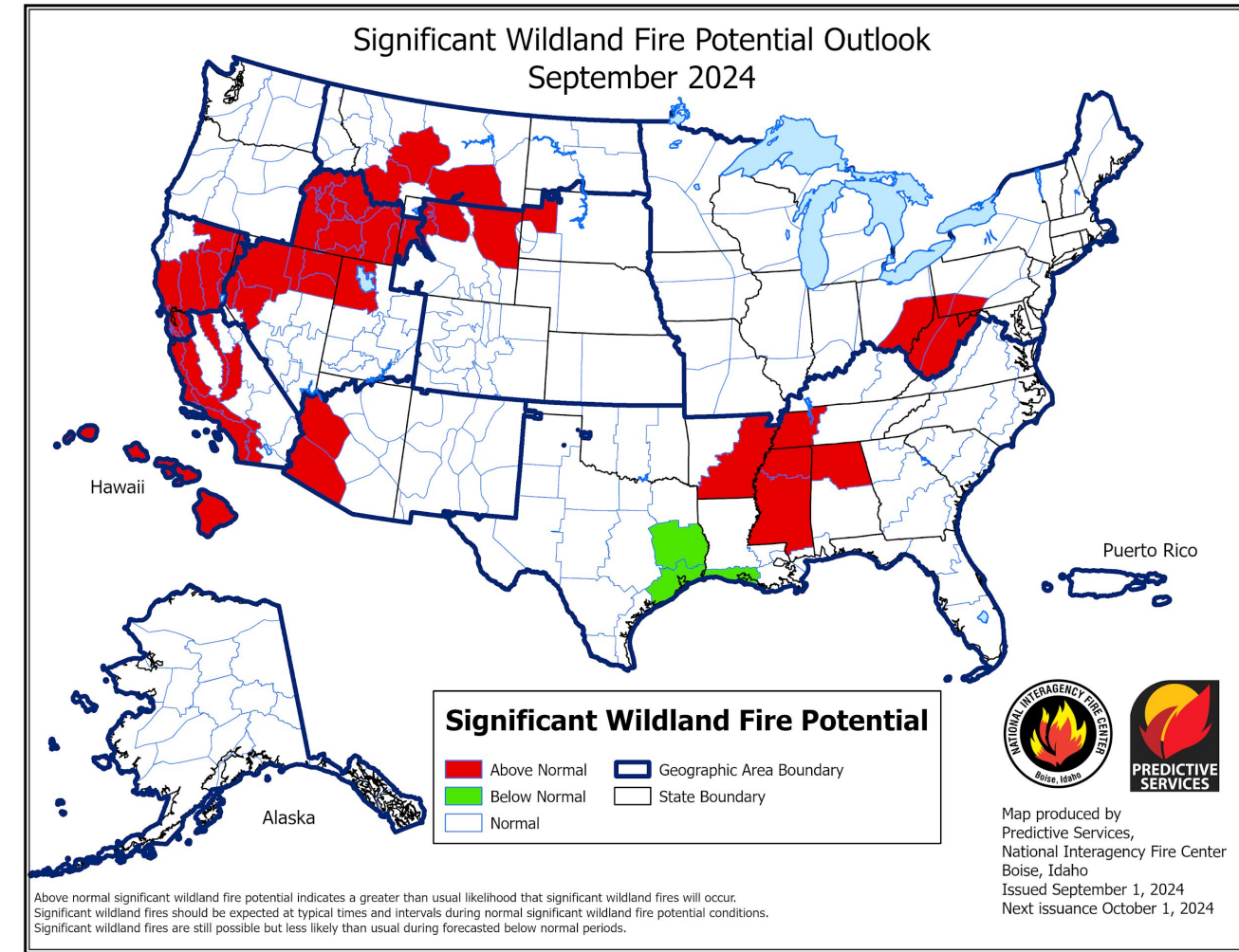
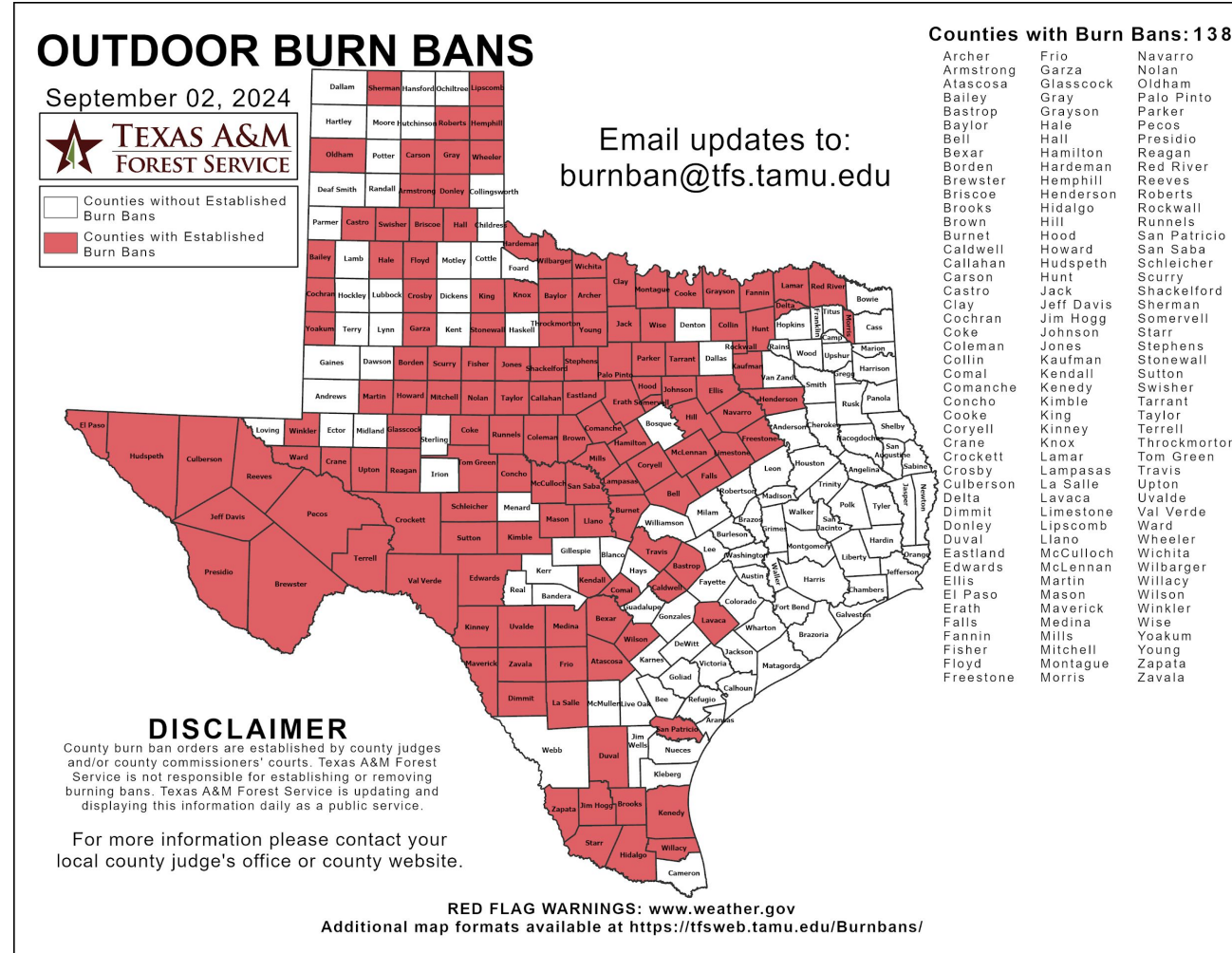


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for September 2024





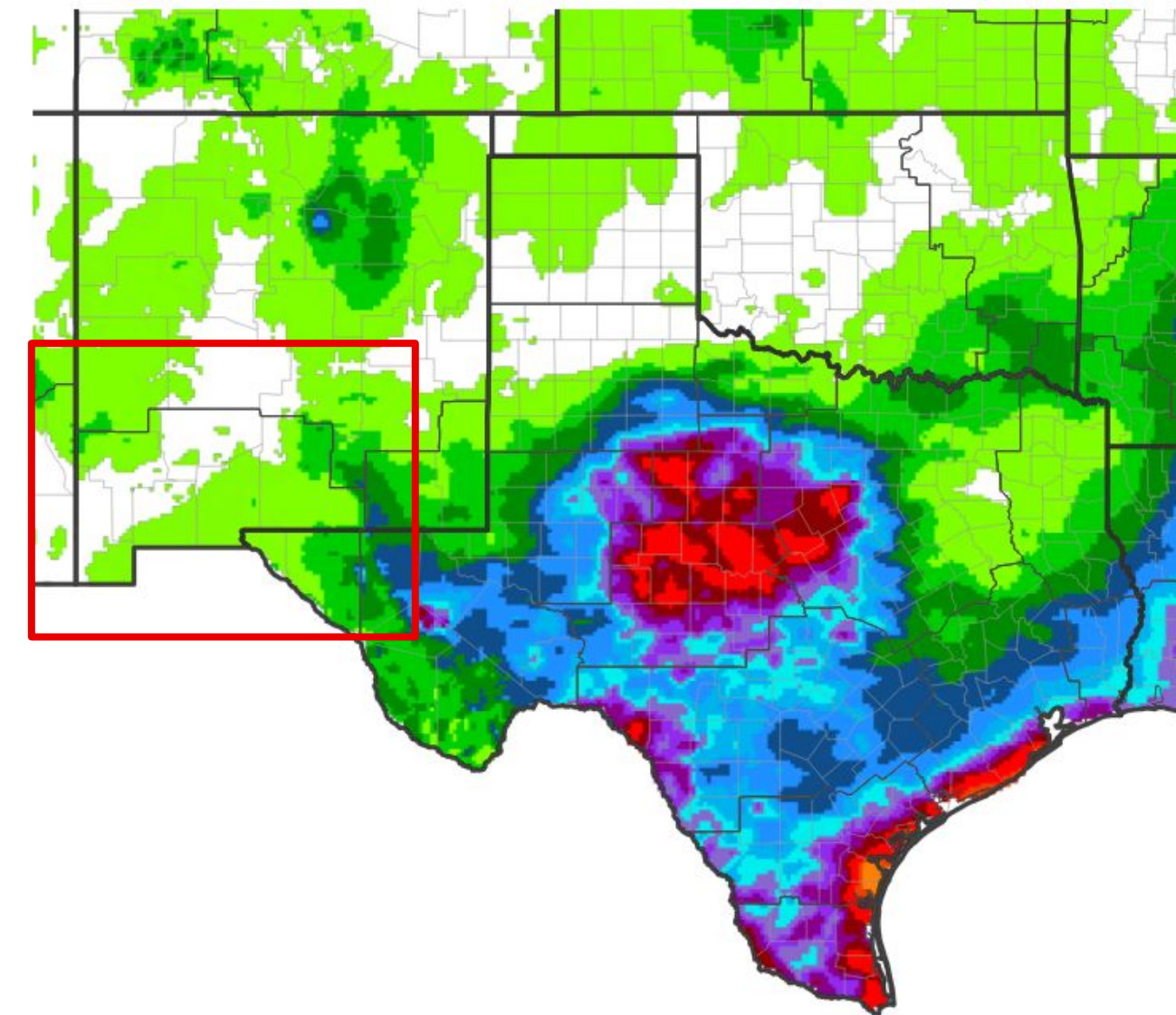


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

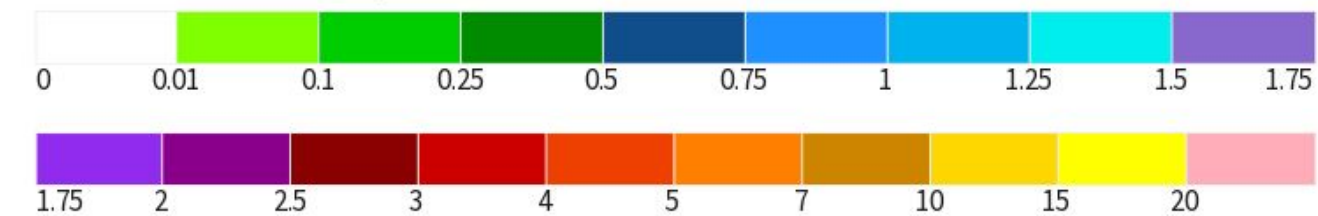
September 3, 2024  
3:21 AM

- Better rain chances for west Texas, mostly dry across New Mexico as high pressure builds over the Southern Rockies. Isolated showers and thunderstorms over area mountains, but mostly dry lowlands.
- 2024 monsoon season is likely to finish below normal for much of west Texas and southern New Mexico, near to above normal for northern New Mexico. Drought conditions are likely to linger through the rest of the year barring a wet autumn season.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 2, 2024–September 9, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/02/24





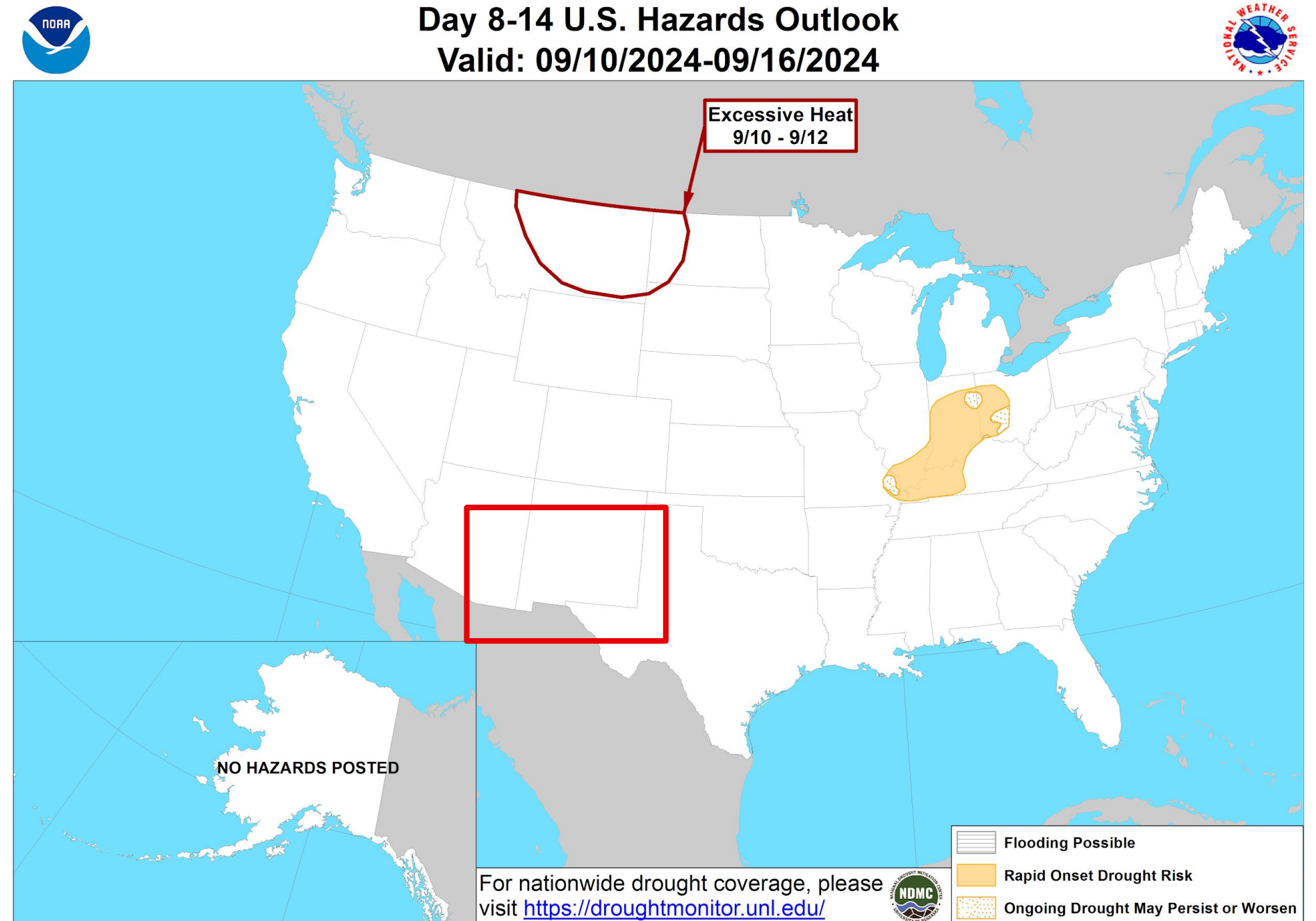


# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

September 3, 2024  
3:21 AM

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

- Monsoon began in mid-June and was closer to normal precipitation through late June/mid July timeframe. While below normal precipitation totals are still expected through August-September, rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to persist into the fall season.



Climate Prediction Center  
Made: 09/02/2024 3PM EDT

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

Image Caption:  
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid September 10 to 16





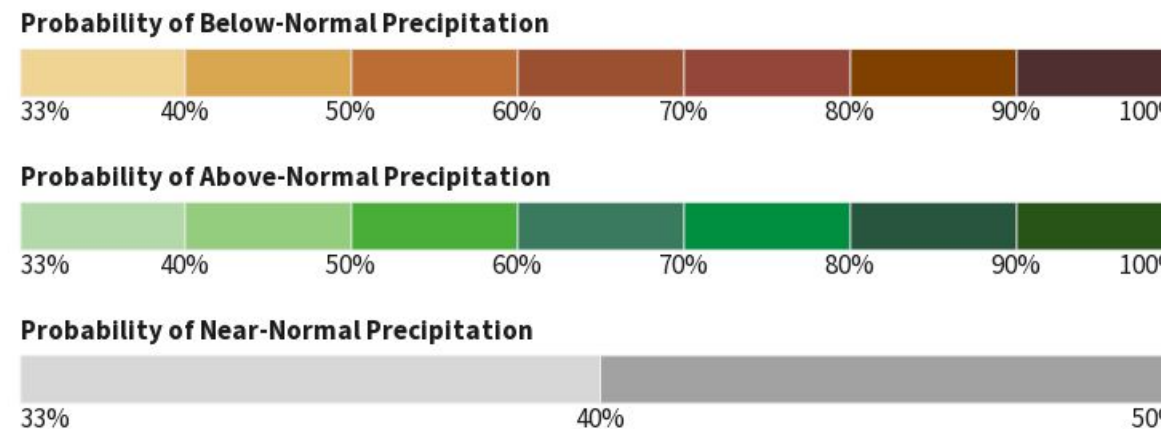
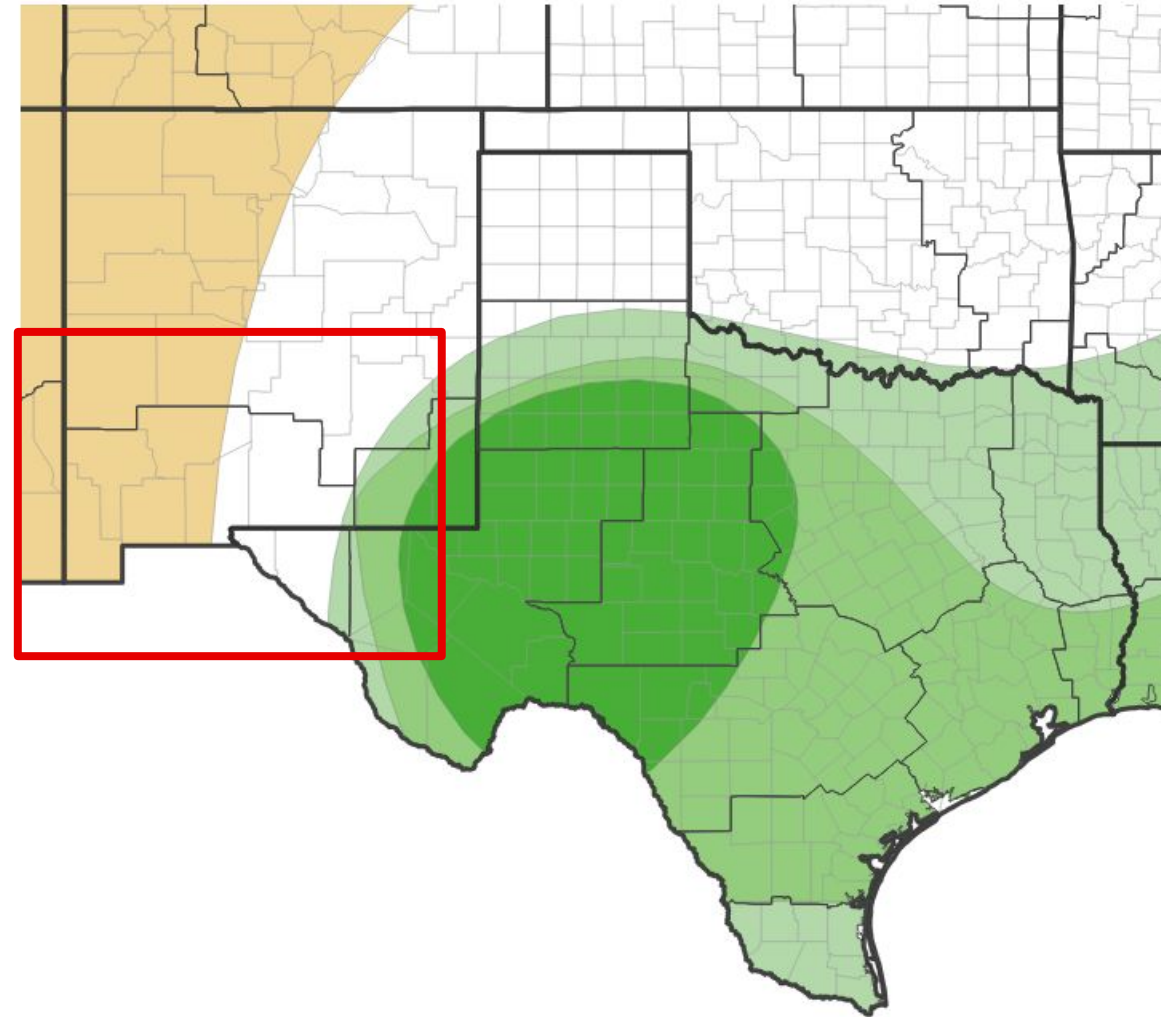
# Long-Range Outlooks

September 3, 2024  
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

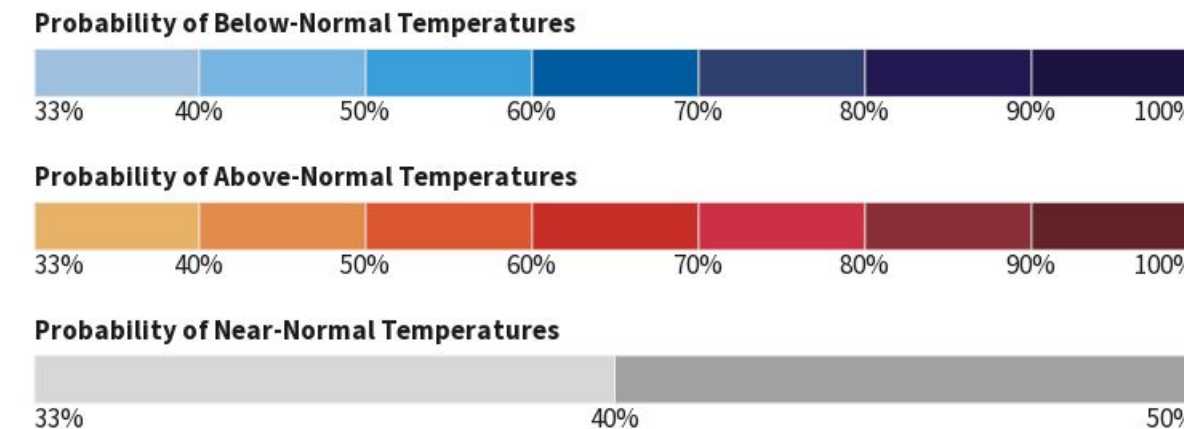
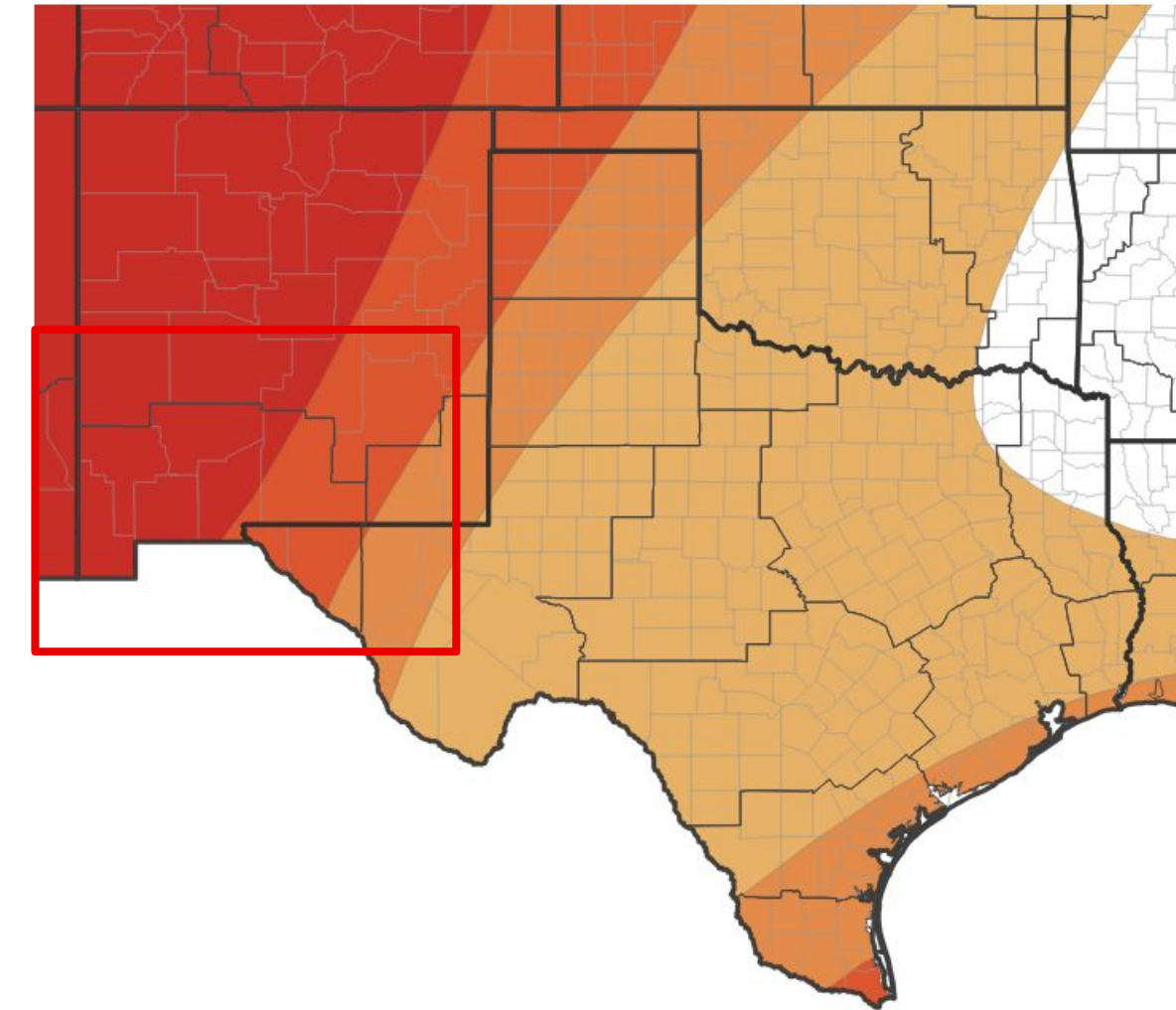
- 33-40% chance of below normal precipitation across southwest New Mexico, above normal precipitation across west and central Texas.
- Monthly average for El Paso: 1.52".
- 60-70% chance for above normal temperatures across New Mexico and far west Texas. Heat waves likely.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for September 1, 2024-September 30, 2024



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center image courtesy of Drought.gov. Last Updated: 08/21/24

Monthly Temperature Outlook for September 1, 2024-September 30, 2024



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center image courtesy of Drought.gov. Last Updated: 08/21/24







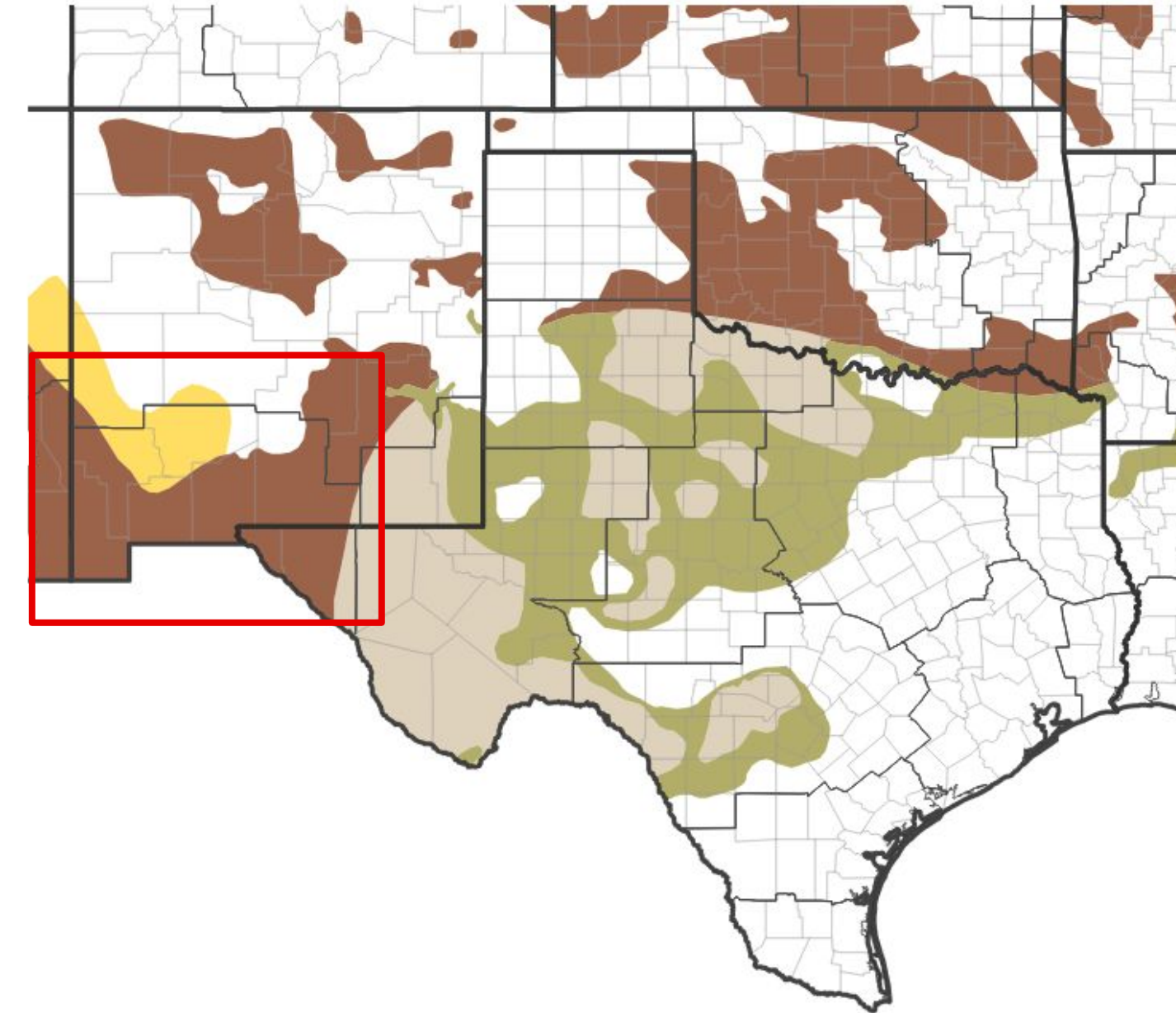
# Drought Outlook

September 3, 2024  
3:21 AM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist through September, with further development and intensification possible. Ongoing monsoon will greatly influence the next few outlooks.

1-Month Drought Outlook for September 1, 2024–September 30, 2024



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov. Last Updated: 08/31/24

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