



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid September 6, 2023

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

Contact Information: sr-epz.nws@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 7, 2023 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.





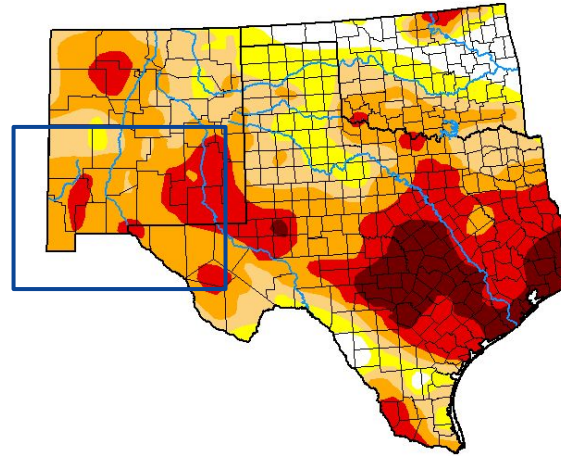
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Covering majority of Southeast New Mexico (Chaves, Eddy, Lea Counties)
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Covering majority of southwest New Mexico and far west Texas (90% of area)
- More hot and dry weather expected the first week of September. Drought conditions expected to worsen by mid-fall

U.S. Drought Monitor Southern Plains RDEWS

September 5, 2023
(Released Thursday, Sep. 7, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	6.06	93.94	81.81	60.71	29.27	8.57
Last Week 08-29-2023	7.45	92.55	73.57	54.10	23.04	7.34
3 Months Ago 06-06-2023	43.15	56.85	31.28	14.36	2.42	0.39
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	18.90	81.10	53.71	32.77	13.89	2.76
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	8.95	91.05	71.36	41.19	16.85	3.25
One Year Ago 08-06-2022	12.19	87.81	74.34	48.02	15.13	0.86

Intensity:



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:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 5th





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- 12-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Majority of southern New Mexico, especially Grant/Hidalgo Counties along AZ state line. Hudspeth County also saw conditions worsening. Significant worsening in El Paso County, Black Range/Gila
 - Drought Improved: No drought improvement was observed

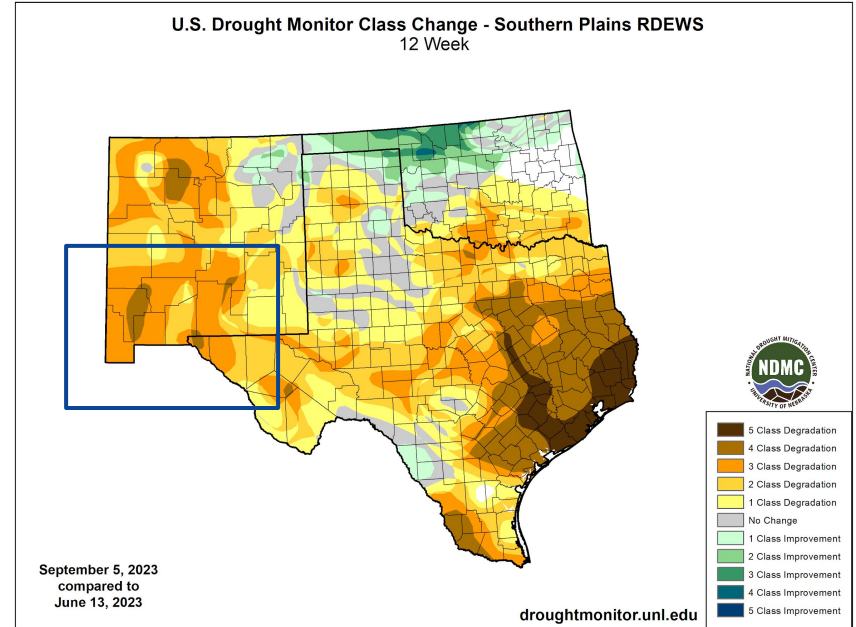


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 3-month change map valid 8am EDT September 5th

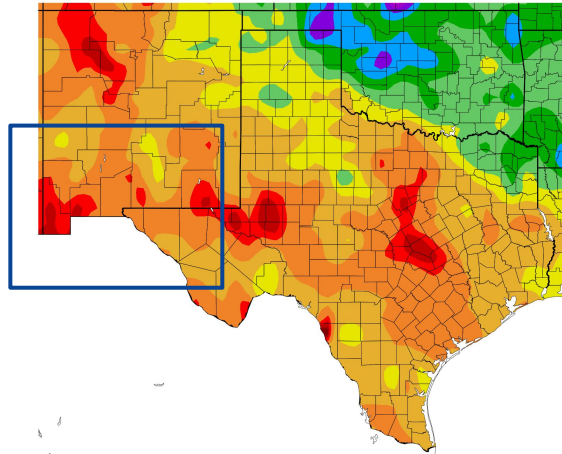




Precipitation

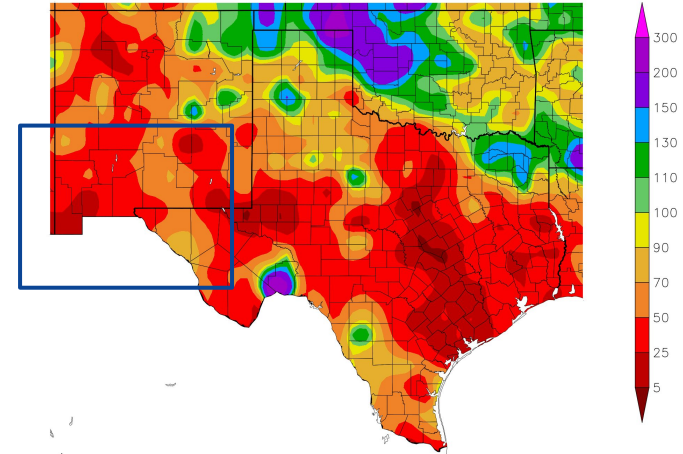
- 90-day rain totals, ranging from 1.5-3.0” along I-10 corridor. 6-8” over mountain forests.
- The majority of the region has seen less than 50% of normal rainfall this summer
- Combined below normal rainfall, above normal temperatures, and breezy conditions result in favorable environment for drought persistence

Precipitation (in)
6/1/2023 – 8/31/2023



Generated 9/6/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
6/1/2023 – 8/31/2023



NOAA Regional Generated 9/6/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending 08/31/2023

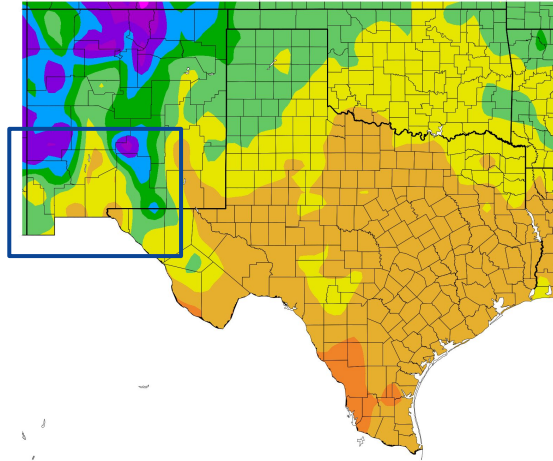




Temperature

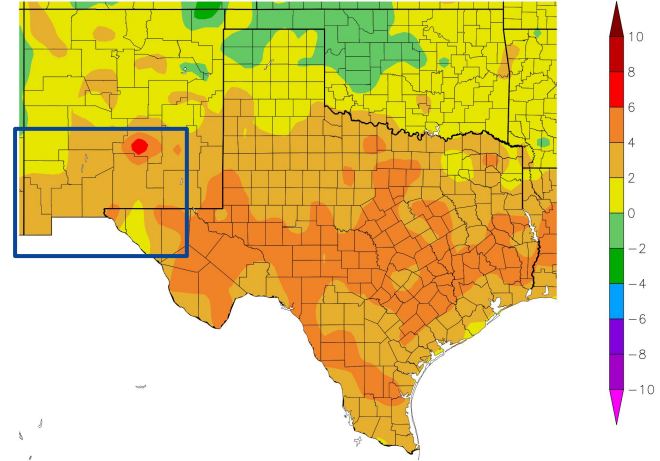
- Extended period of well above normal temperatures began in late June, persisting through early August
- Average high temperatures 4-6 degrees above seasonal normals

Temperature (F)
6/1/2023 - 8/31/2023



Generated 9/6/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
6/1/2023 - 8/31/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Center - Generated 9/6/2023 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 08/31/2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Well below normal streamflows in Gila and Mimbres basins. Gila River levels around 3-4 feet at Redrock and Virden. Rio Grande near normal for early fall, with Elephant Butte storage at 19.5% capacity. River flooding risk is low at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

- Hatch and Mesilla Valley irrigation season has ended, with a season allotment of 14 inches. Below normal precipitation forecasted for the next 3 months. Please refer to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) website or your local municipality for more information.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fuel moisture near record lows has extended the active wildfire season well into September. New lightning starts remain possible over the forested mountains due to dryness.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Gila/Mimbres river basin streamflows running well below average
- Rio Grande streamflow near normal due to favorable Colorado snow melt this Spring

Wednesday, September 06, 2023

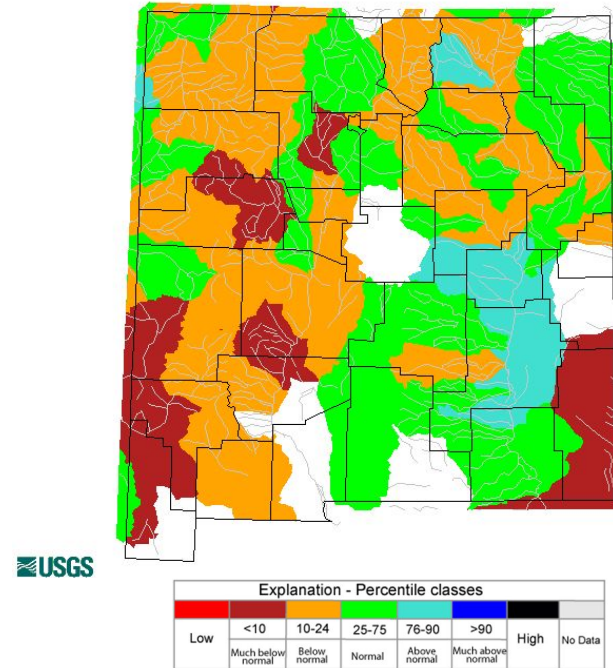


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid September 8th, 2023

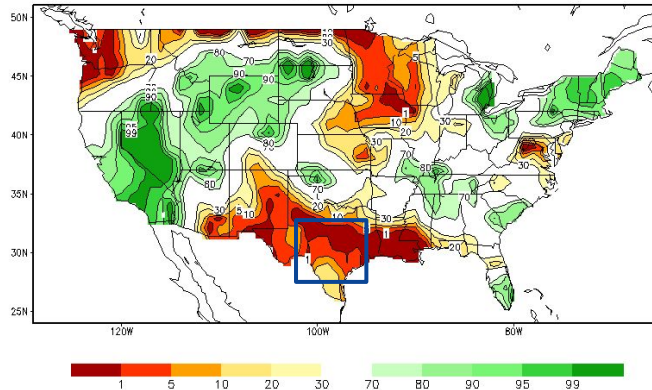




Agricultural Impacts

- Summarize conditions/impacts here

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 06, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 2, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

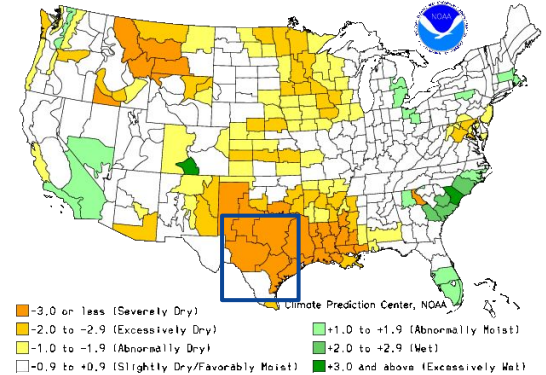


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid April 20, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending April 15, 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Isolated showers and thunderstorms, primarily over the high terrain through next weekend.
- Backdoor cold front bringing more widespread rains early next week. New rain amounts generally below 0.50”.

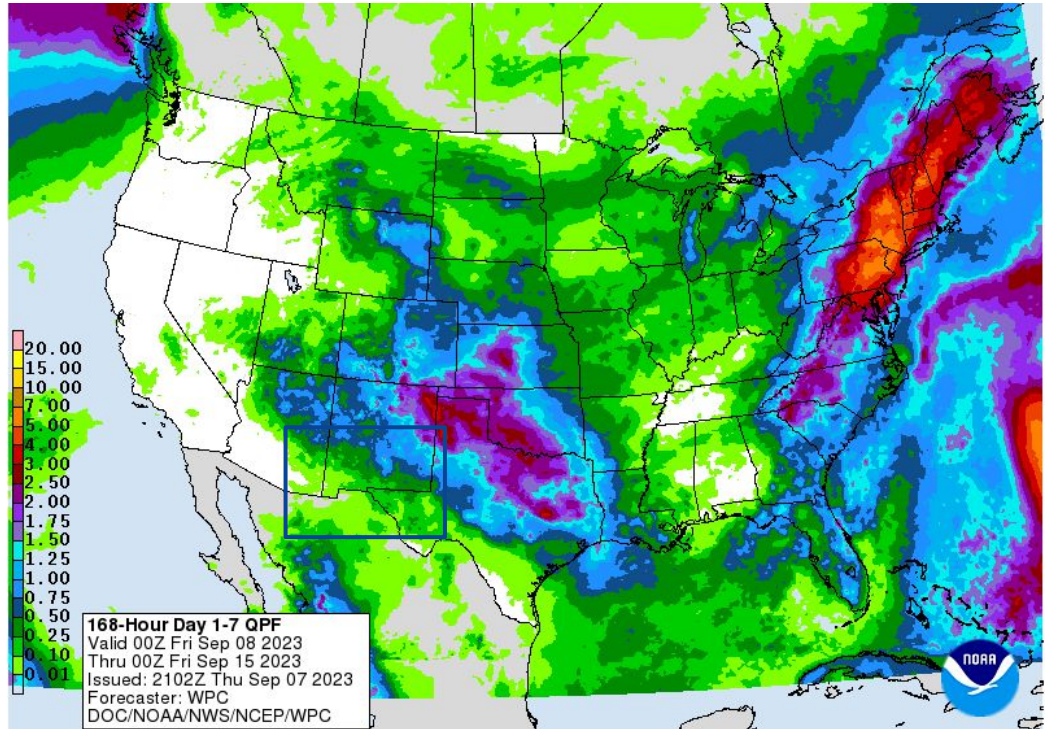


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Sept 8 to Sept 15





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- Continued hot temperatures through the rest of the week will maintain or worsen drought conditions in southern NM/west TX
- Slight cooldown possible next week with backdoor cold front



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: 09/15/2023-09/21/2023



Climate Prediction Center
Made: 09/07/2023 3PM EDT

Follow us:
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

Image Caption:
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid Sept 15 to Sept 21





Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal temperatures are likely to continue through the month of September
- Equal chances for above/below normal precipitation

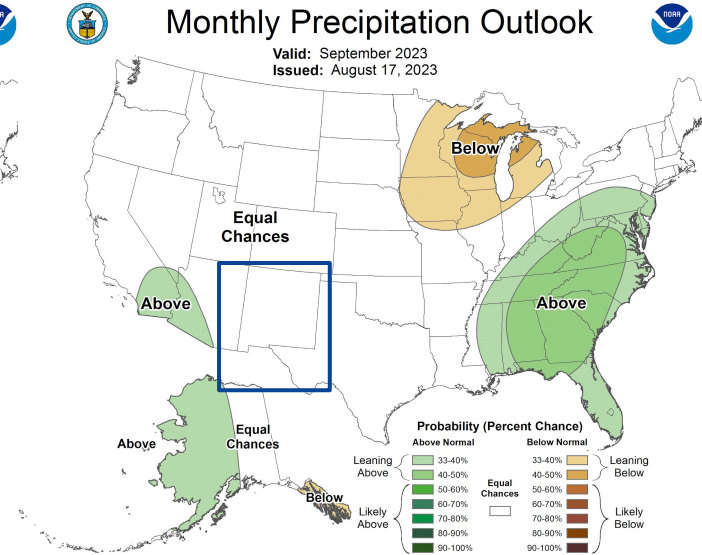
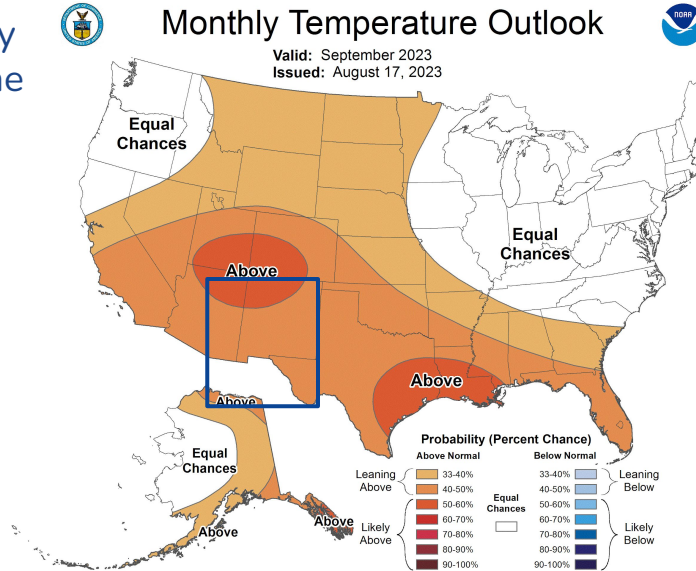


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid September 2023





Drought Outlook

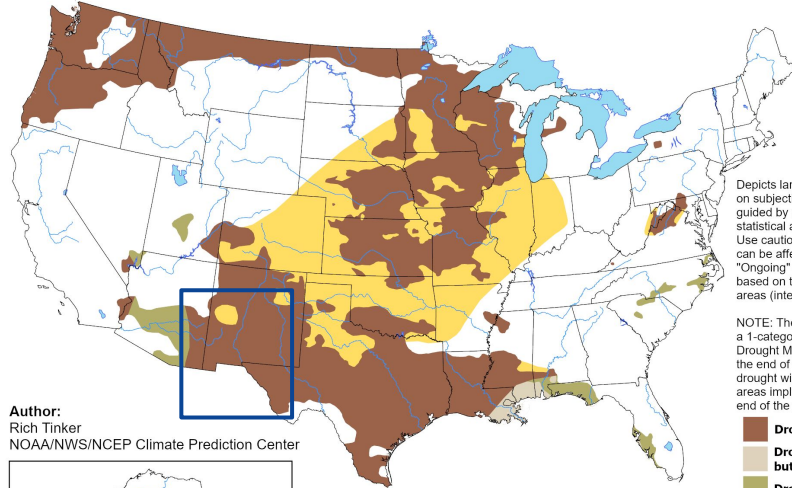
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions expected to persist through the fall. May worsen due to below normal summer rainfall.

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 2023
Released August 31, 2023

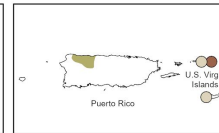
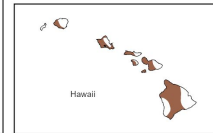


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to 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).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

Author:
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NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released August 31 2023 valid for September 2023

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