



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid October 4, 2023

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

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

- This product will be updated November 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.



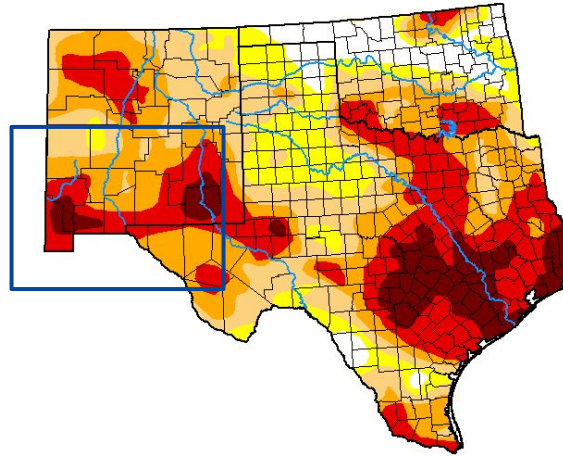


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): Portions of Southwest New Mexico including Mimbres River Basin
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Covering majority of Southern New Mexico and El Paso, TX
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Covering majority of southwest New Mexico and far west Texas (90% of area)
- Some rain is expected this month per CPC outlook, but drought conditions will persist through the fall.

U.S. Drought Monitor Southern Plains RDEWS



September 26, 2023

(Released Thursday, Sep. 28, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7.01	92.99	79.77	57.36	32.68	9.19
Last Week 09-19-2023	6.12	93.88	80.81	58.88	33.75	9.31
3 Months Ago 06-27-2023	36.25	63.75	24.71	7.54	1.53	0.25
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 08-27-2022	8.95	91.05	71.36	41.19	16.85	3.25

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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 Heim
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 26th





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: All of New Mexico and West Texas. Significant worsening in southwest New Mexico.
 - Drought Improved: No drought improvement was observed

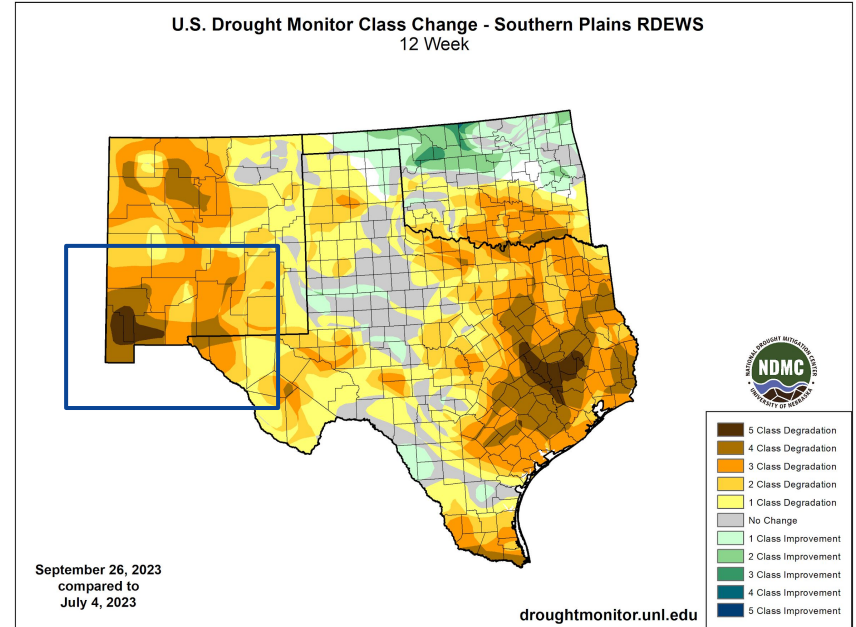


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 3-month change map valid 8am EDT September 26th

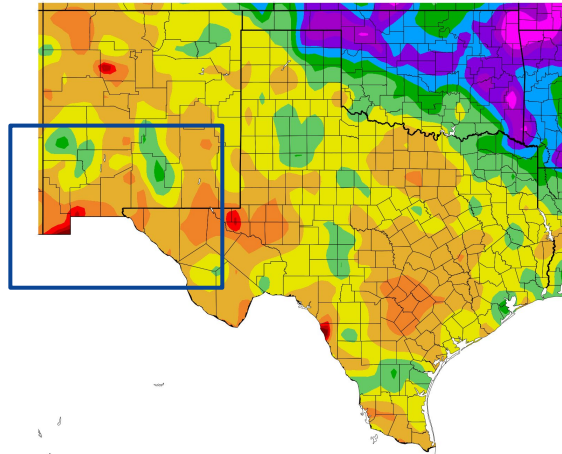




Precipitation

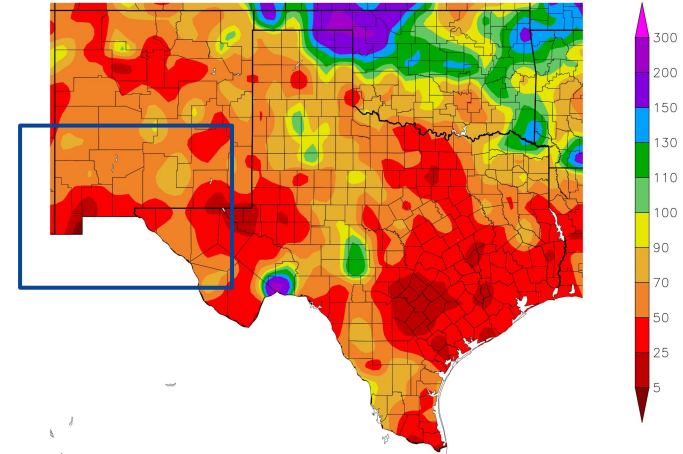
- 90-day rain totals, ranging from 2-3” along I-10 corridor. 7-10” over mountain forests.
- Well below normal rainfall throughout the monsoon season
- Combined below normal rainfall, above normal temperatures, and breezy conditions result in favorable environment for drought persistence

Precipitation (in)
7/1/2023 – 9/30/2023



Generated 10/2/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
7/1/2023 – 9/30/2023



NOAA Regional Generated 10/2/2023 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 09/30/2023

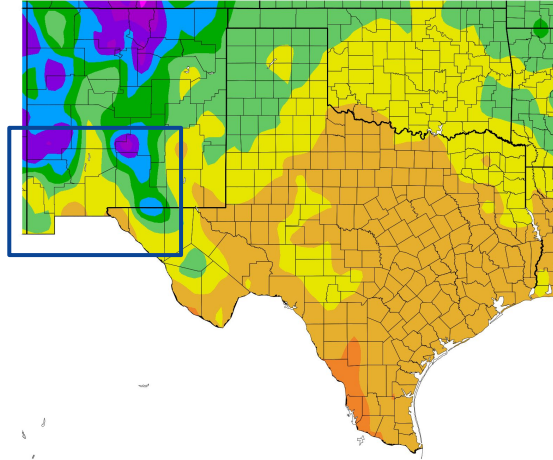




Temperature

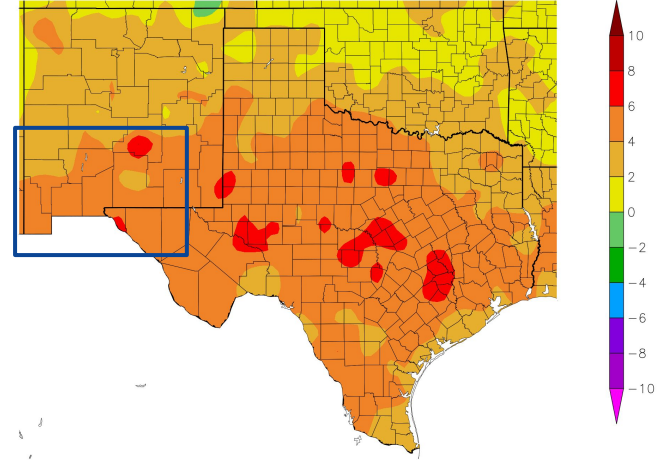
- Record summer heat wave this year, especially through July and early August.
- Average high temperatures 4-6 degrees above seasonal normals

Temperature (F)
7/1/2023 - 9/30/2023



Generated 10/2/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/1/2023 - 9/30/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Center - Generated 10/2/2023 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 09/30/2023





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 river basin streamflows running well below average
- Rio Grande streamflow near normal

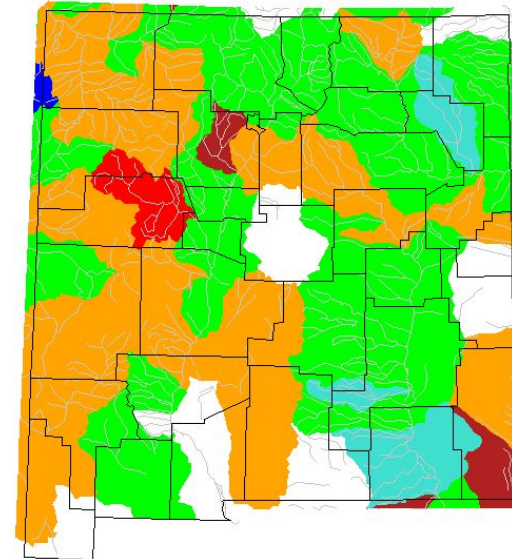
Gila River Stages

Gila 0.81 ft
 Redrock 3.62 ft
 Virden 4.28 ft

Rio Grande Stages

El Paso 3.69 ft

Monday, October 02, 2023



Explanation - Percentile classes							
	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High	No Data

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid October 2nd, 2023

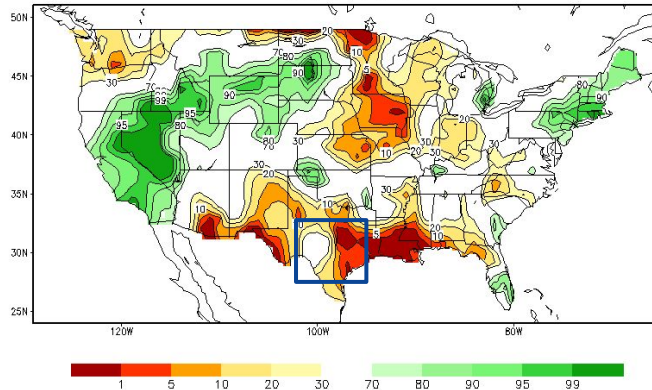




Agricultural Impacts

- Summarize conditions/impacts here

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 02, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 30, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

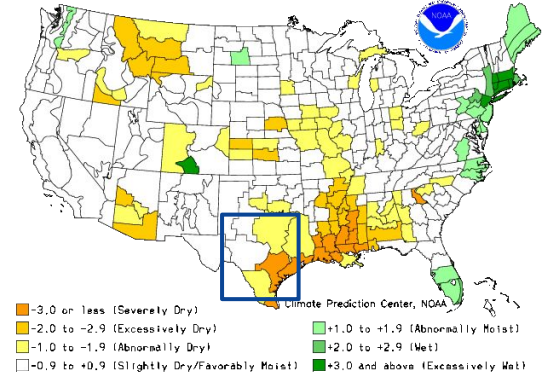


Image Captions:

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

- Mostly dry weather next week, cooler temperatures over the weekend

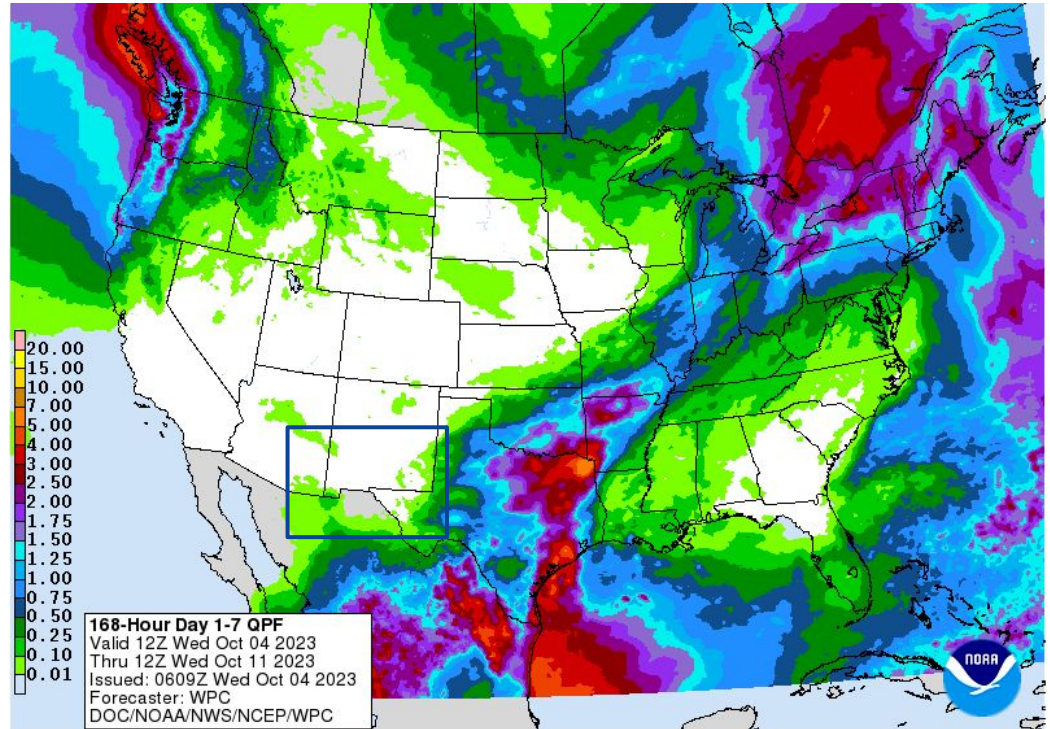


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Oct 4 to Oct 11





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- Continued dry weather and sporadic rain chances will allow drought conditions to persist through the fall



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: 10/11/2023-10/17/2023



Climate Prediction Center
Made: 10/03/2023 3PM EDT

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

Image Caption:
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid Oct 11 to Oct 17





Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal temperatures likely to continue through the month of October
- Forecast leaning toward above normal precipitation, especially across eastern NM plains and TX panhandle

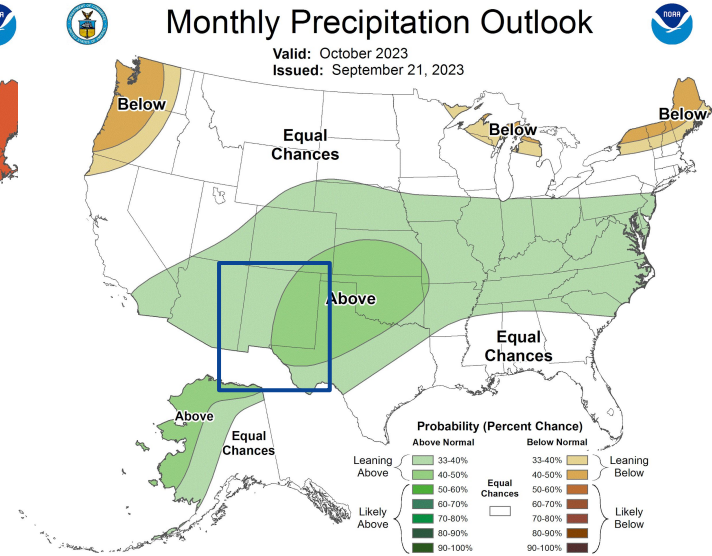
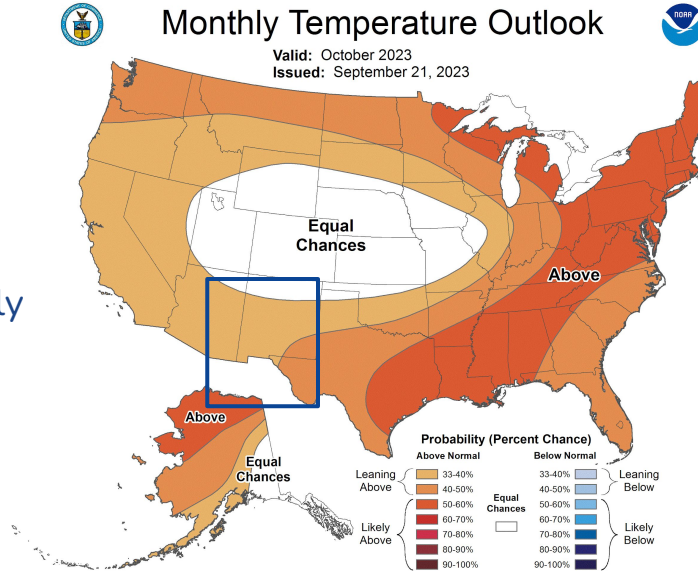


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid October 2023





Drought Outlook

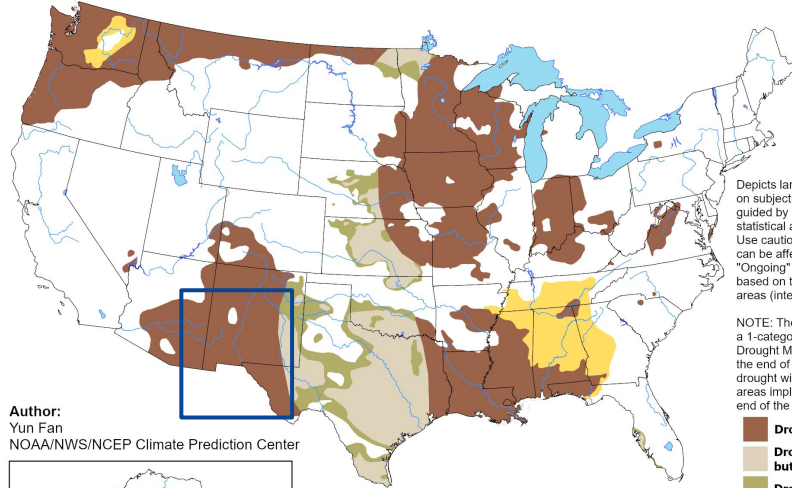
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- 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 October 2023
Released September 30, 2023

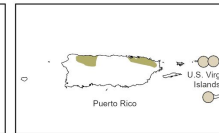
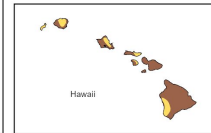


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

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

Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released
September 30 2023 valid for October 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