



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid October 7, 2024

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

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

- This product will be updated November 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 for regional drought status updates.

- Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) drought status affecting southern New Mexico and far west Texas.
- Dry finish to monsoon season and abnormally warm temperatures worsen drought status across El Paso, Hudspeth Counties.
- Drought conditions expected to persist and possibly worsen through the fall months.

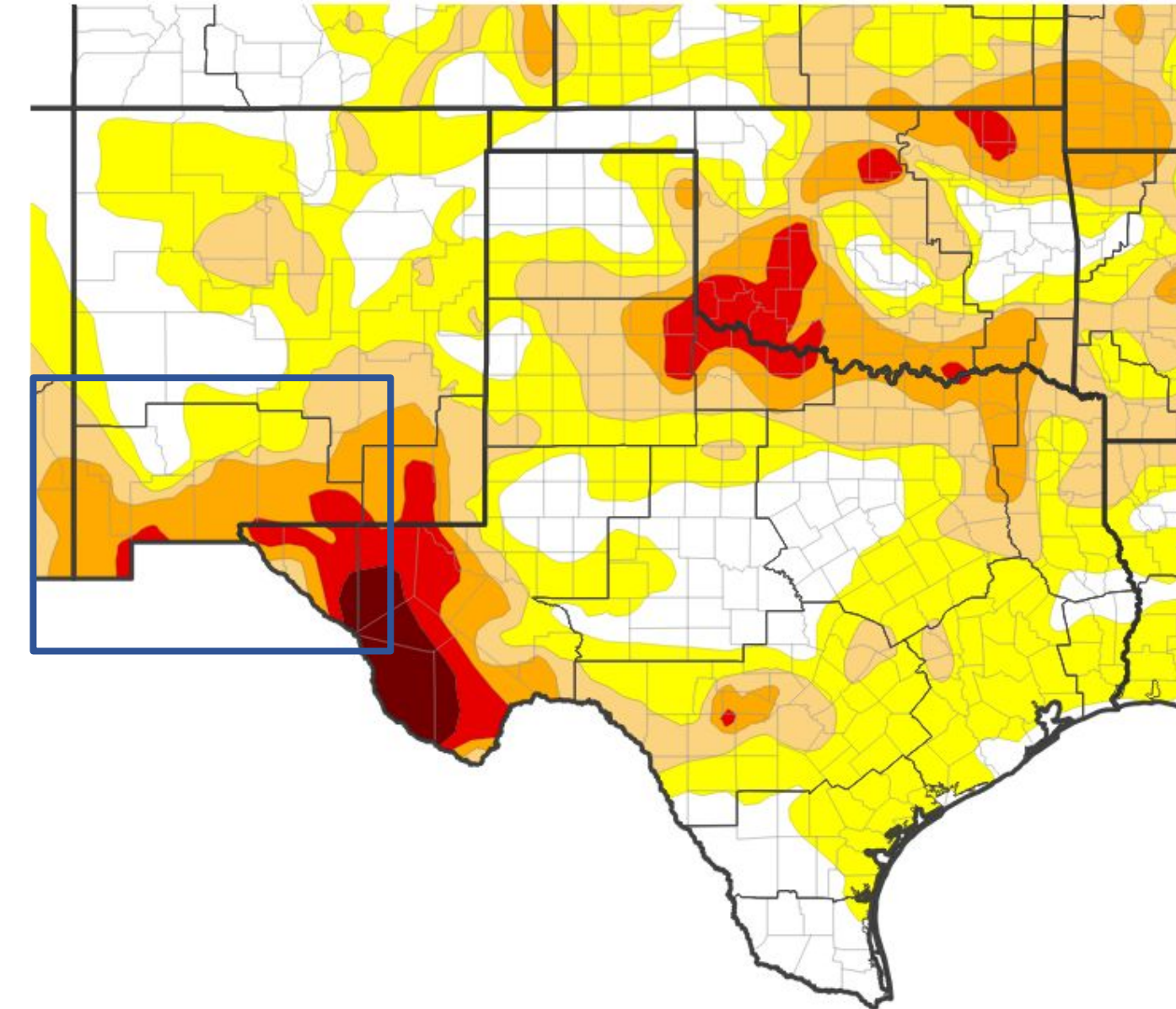


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
Davis Mountains, Big Bend region
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
Portions of far west Texas including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Lowlands of southern and southwest New Mexico including portions of Dona Ana, Otero, Luna, and Hidalgo Counties.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Lincoln and Gila National Forests (35% of New Mexico)
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
Northern and central New Mexico (71% of New Mexico)
- Dry finish to September has caused drought conditions to worsen for some areas. Drought will likely persist through 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: 10/01/24





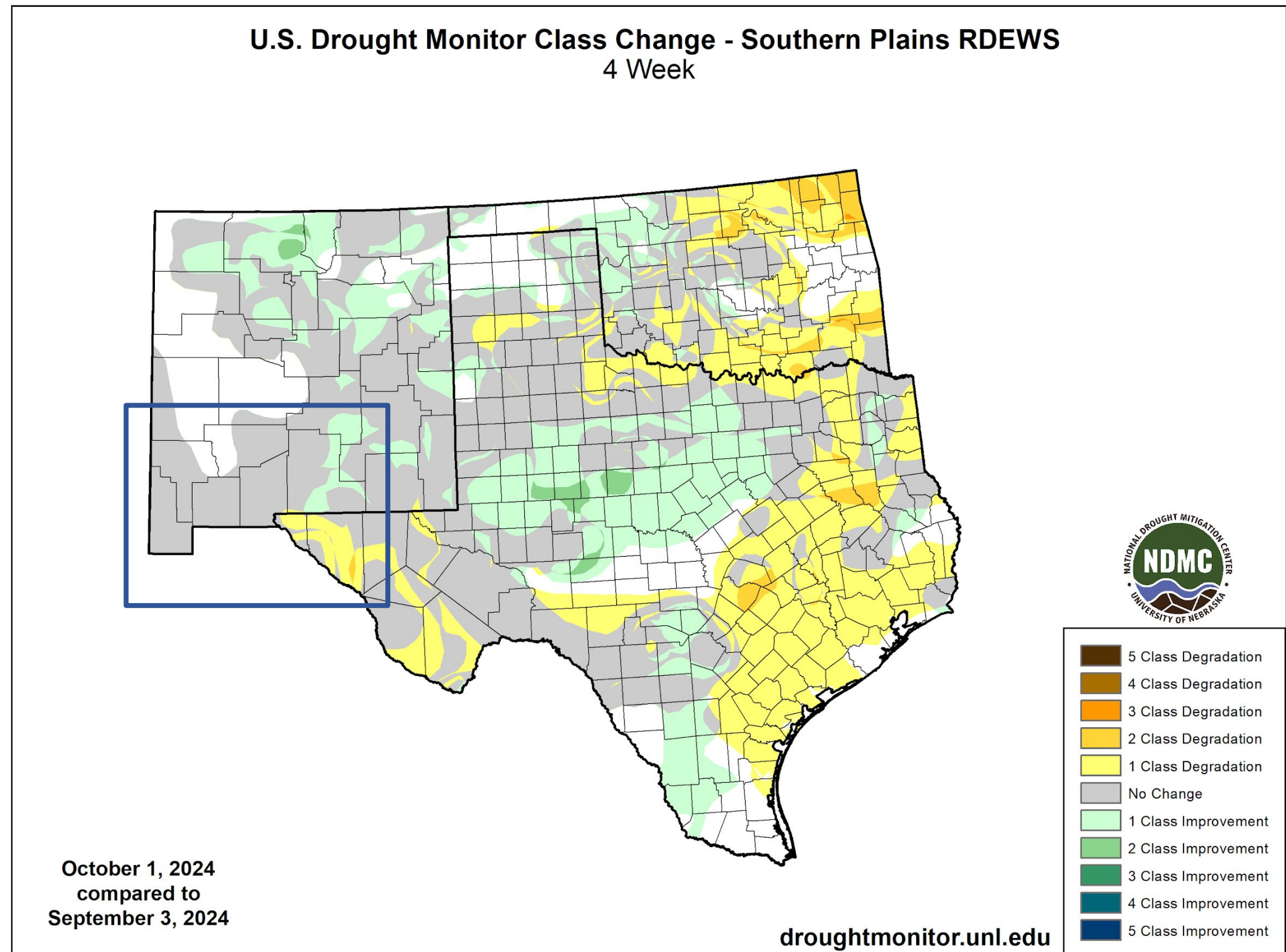
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 7, 2024
4:41 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:**
Far west Texas including El Paso and Sierra Blanca
- **Drought Improved:**
Slight improvement across Otero County New Mexico
- **No Change:**
Most of southwest New Mexico





Precipitation

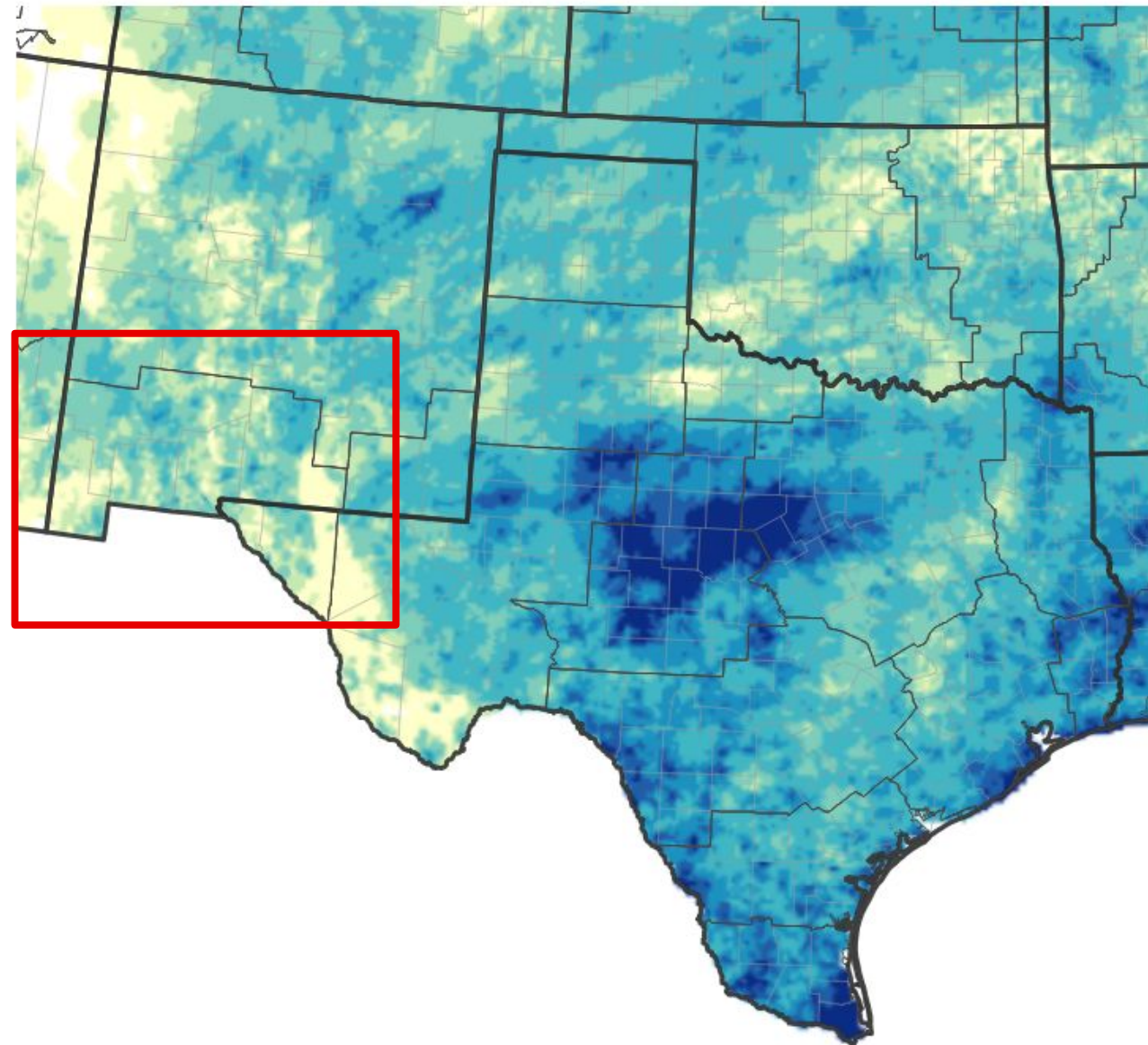
October 7, 2024
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30-day rain totals, 0.10-0.50” along I-10 corridor. 0.25-0.75” over mountain forests

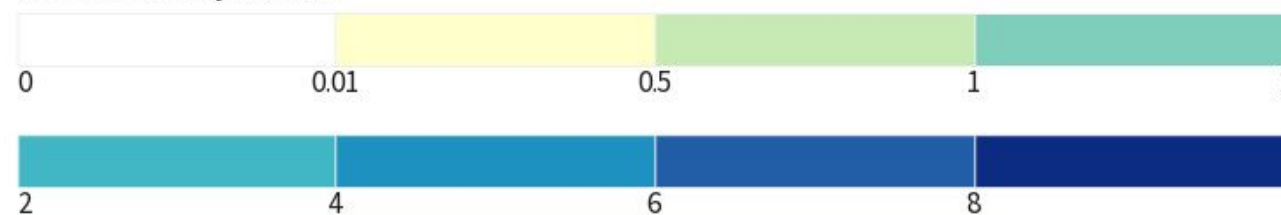
90-day rain totals, 2-3” along I-10 corridor. 5-8” over mountain forests

Very dry finish to September after wet first week. Most locations finished at or below normal. Monsoon season ended early, contributing to past 5 dry weeks.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

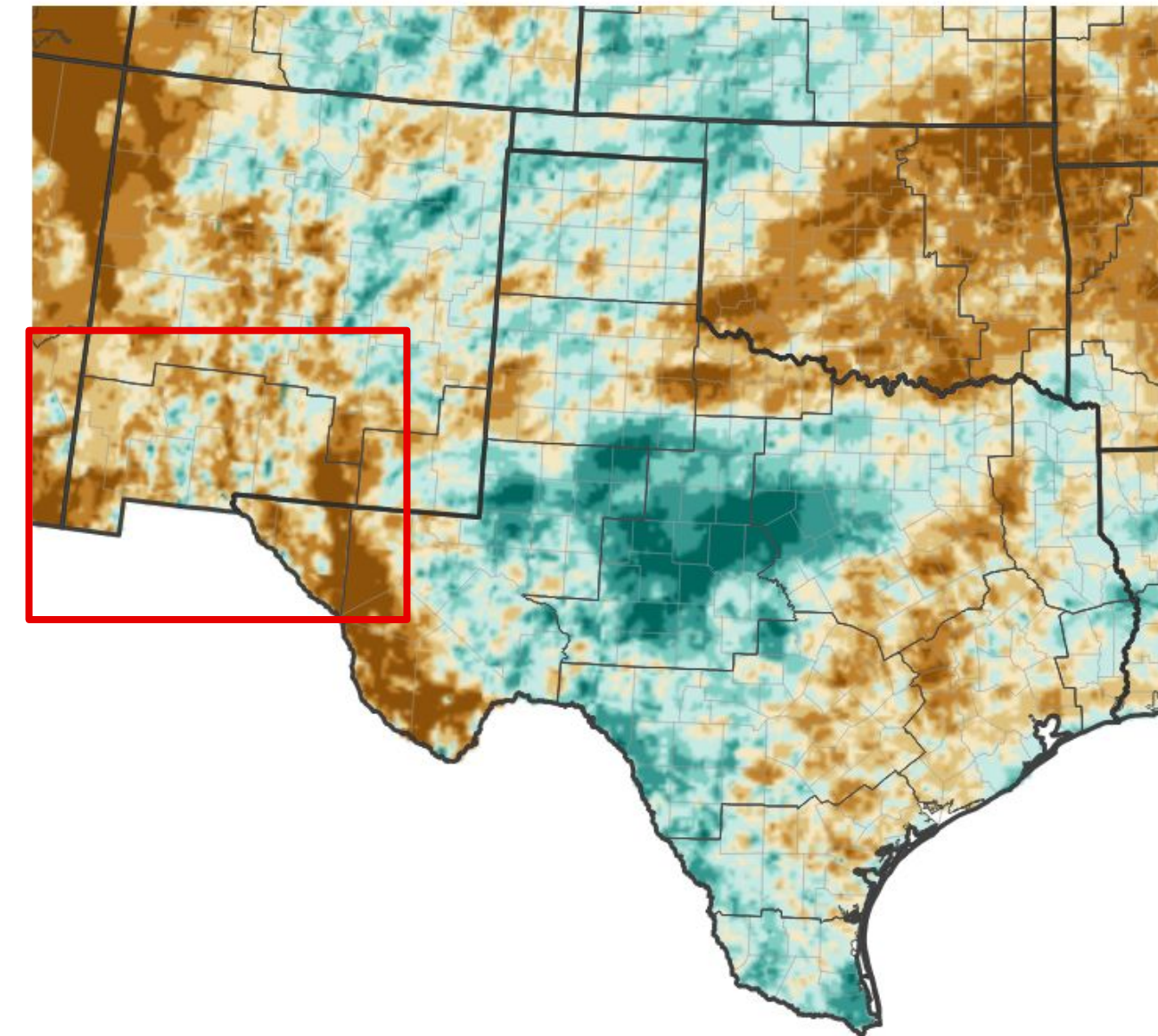


Inches of Precipitation

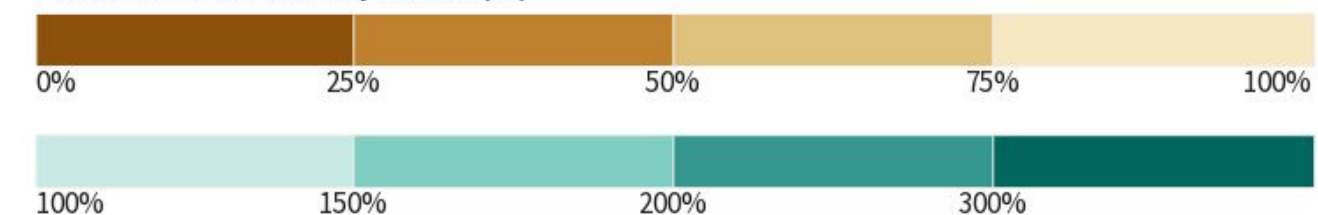


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 09/26/24

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: 09/26/24



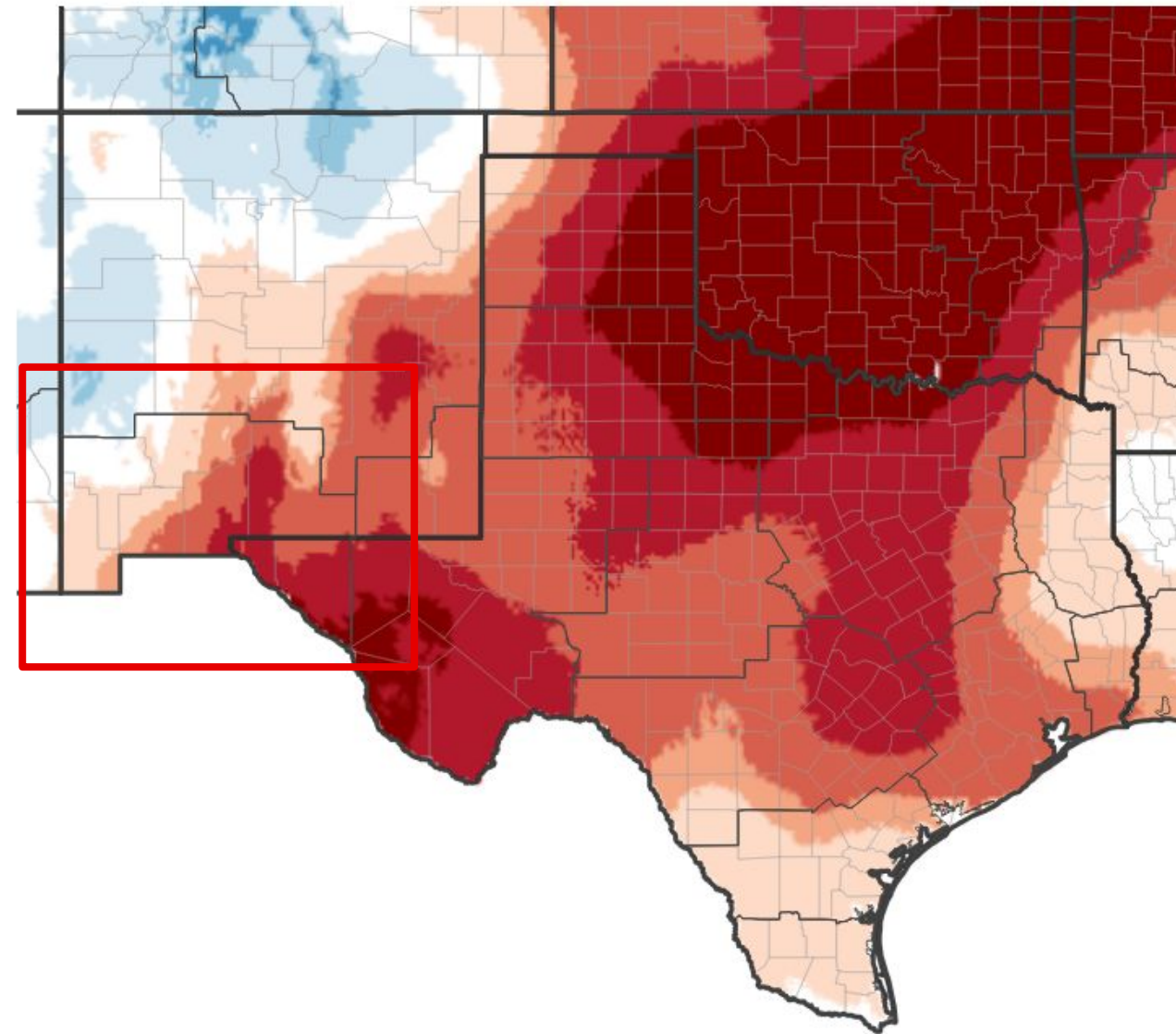


Temperature

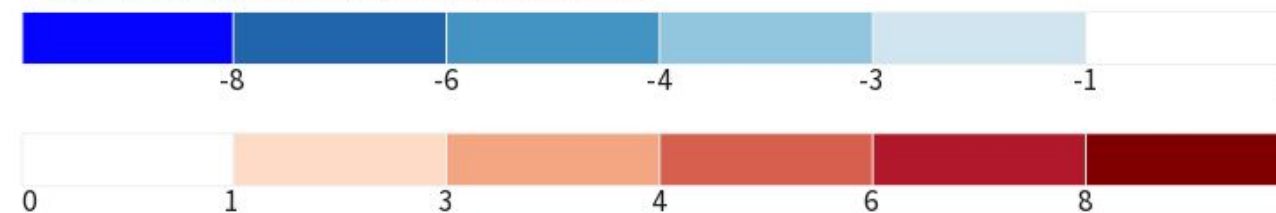
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- Slightly above normal September temperatures along Rio Grande Valley, eastern New Mexico. Record-setting start to October.
- 2024 is still on track to become the hottest year on record for El Paso. September was 4th hottest on record.
- September temperatures 3.4°C above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



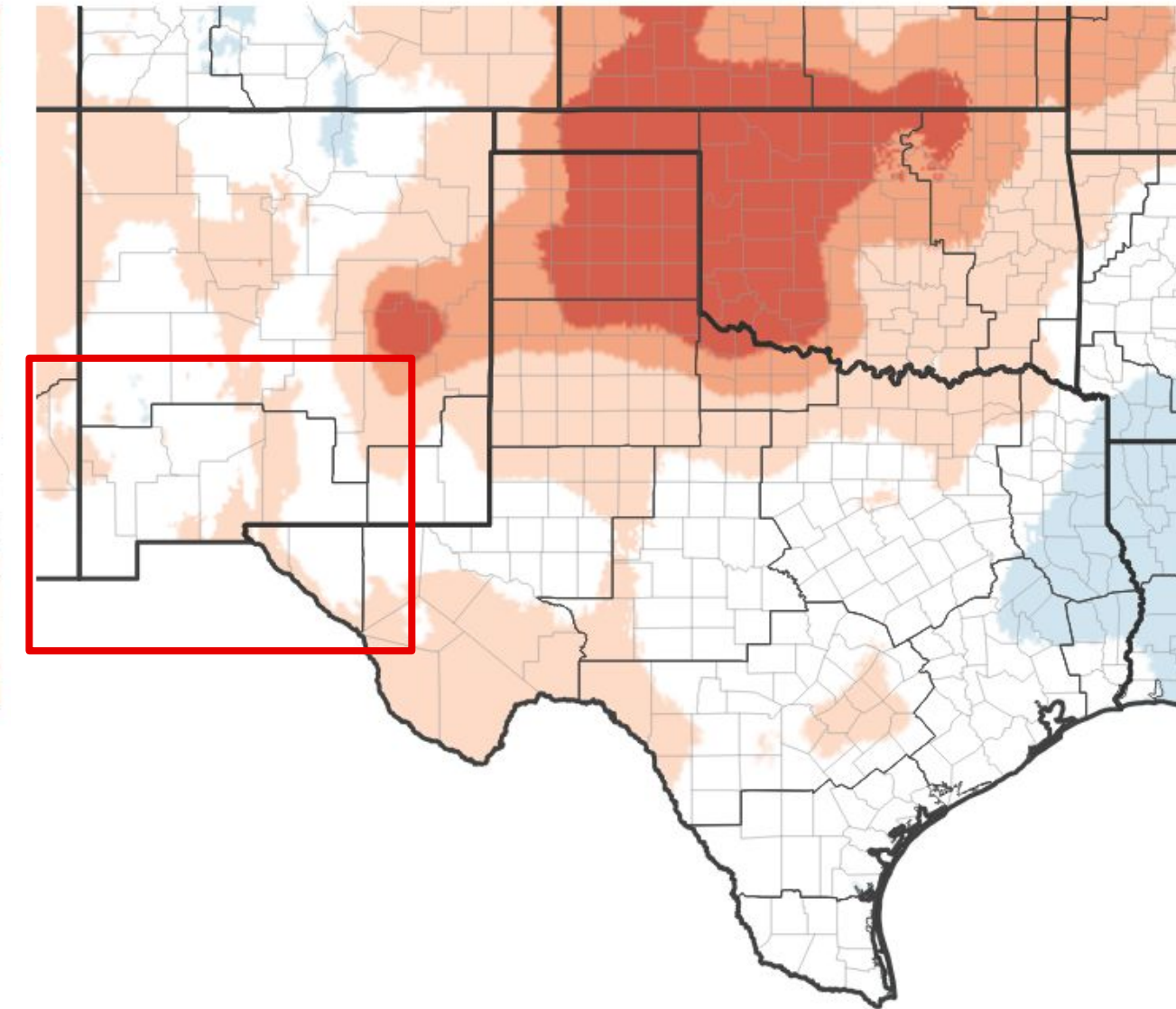
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



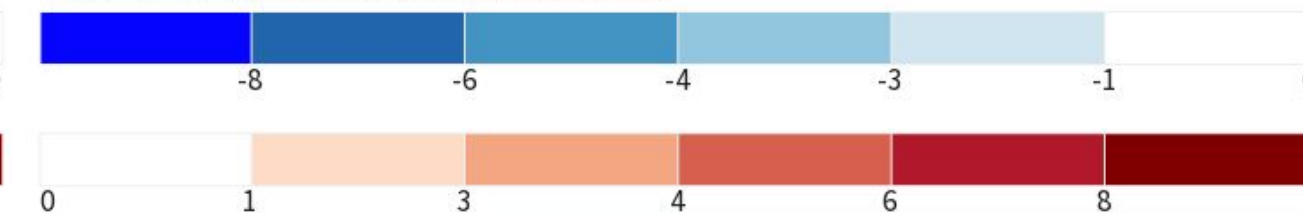
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/23/24

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: 09/23/24





Summary of Impacts

October 7, 2024

4:41 AM

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows in Gila and Mimbres basins are well below normal with no flooding issues expected the rest of the year. Temporary rises occurred September 5th and 17th due to thunderstorms, but flow returned to normal quickly. Flow remains higher out of Lincoln National Forest due to recent rains. River levels will continue to fall through the fall season with only temporary rises due to rainfall. Rio Grande water has mostly dried up south of the Caballo Dam and will likely remain dry through next Spring. Elephant Butte storage sits at 5.7% capacity, a decrease from last month and well below 30-year median. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

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 near historical lows due to heat and lack of late-summer rains, leading to unusually dry fuels and risk of fire starts. Large fire growth is low this time of year due to lighter winds. Four wildfires in New Mexico (South Fork, Indios, Blue 2 and Salt) exceeded 3000 acres in size in 2024.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

October 7, 2024
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- River flooding season has likely ended as river stages ran low all summer long and no excessive rainfall is expected through the rest of the year.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
Gila	0.72 ft	11.00 ft
Redrock	3.75 ft	20.00 ft
Virden	4.08 ft	15.00 ft

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage
El Paso	2.61 ft	8.50 ft

Gauge stage recorded on 10/7/2024

Saturday, October 05, 2024

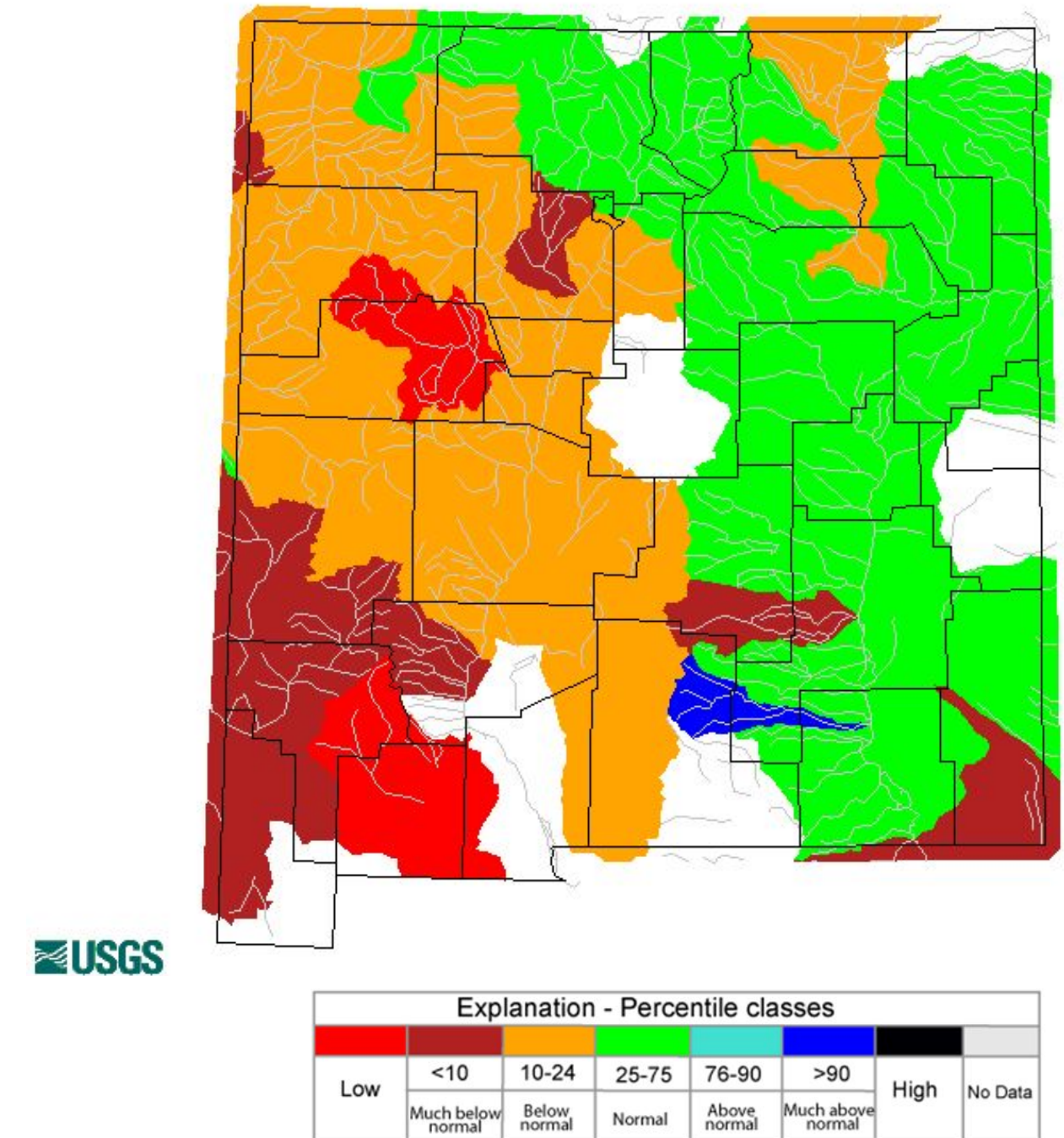


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid October 5, 2024

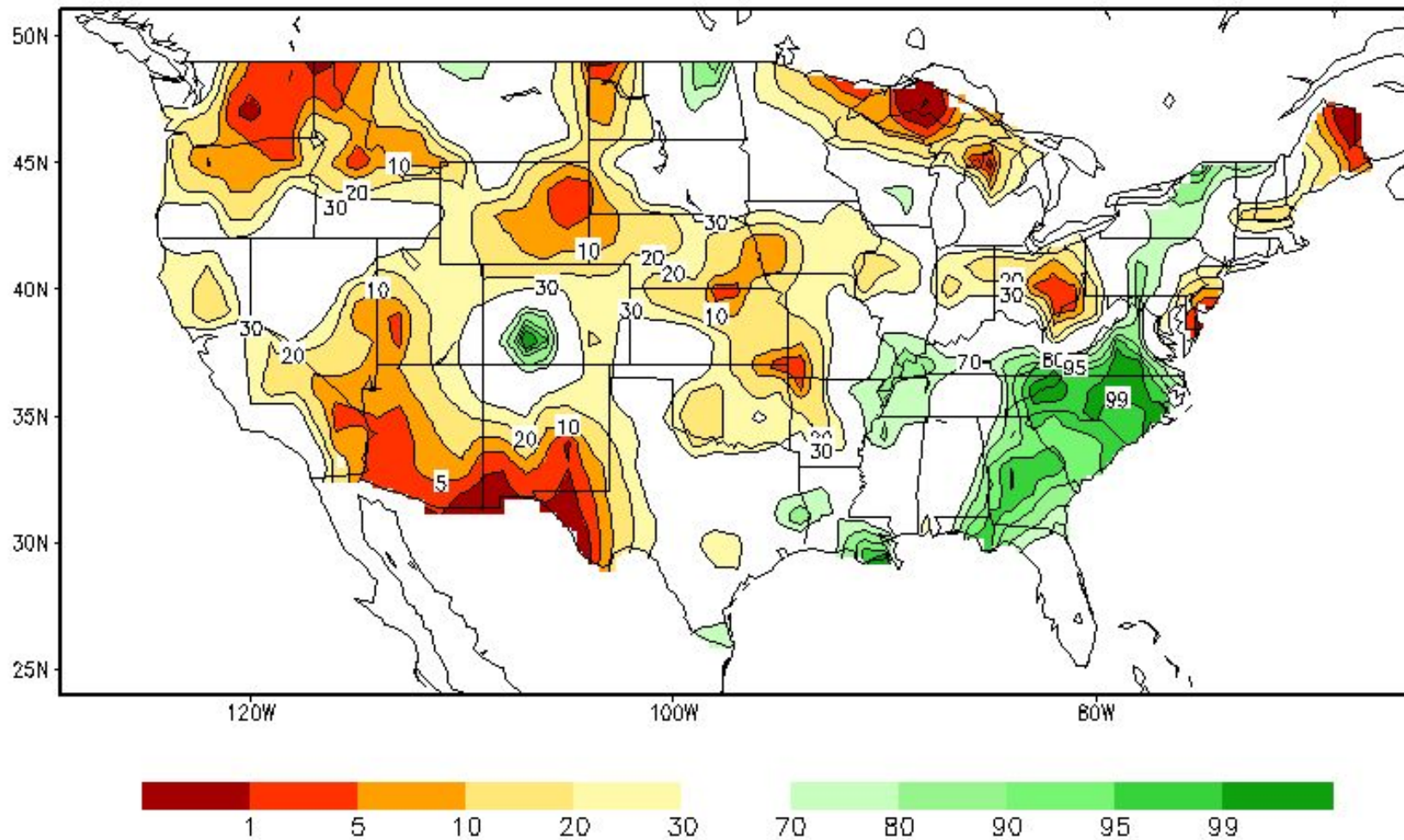




Agricultural Impacts

October 7, 2024
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Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 04, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 28, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

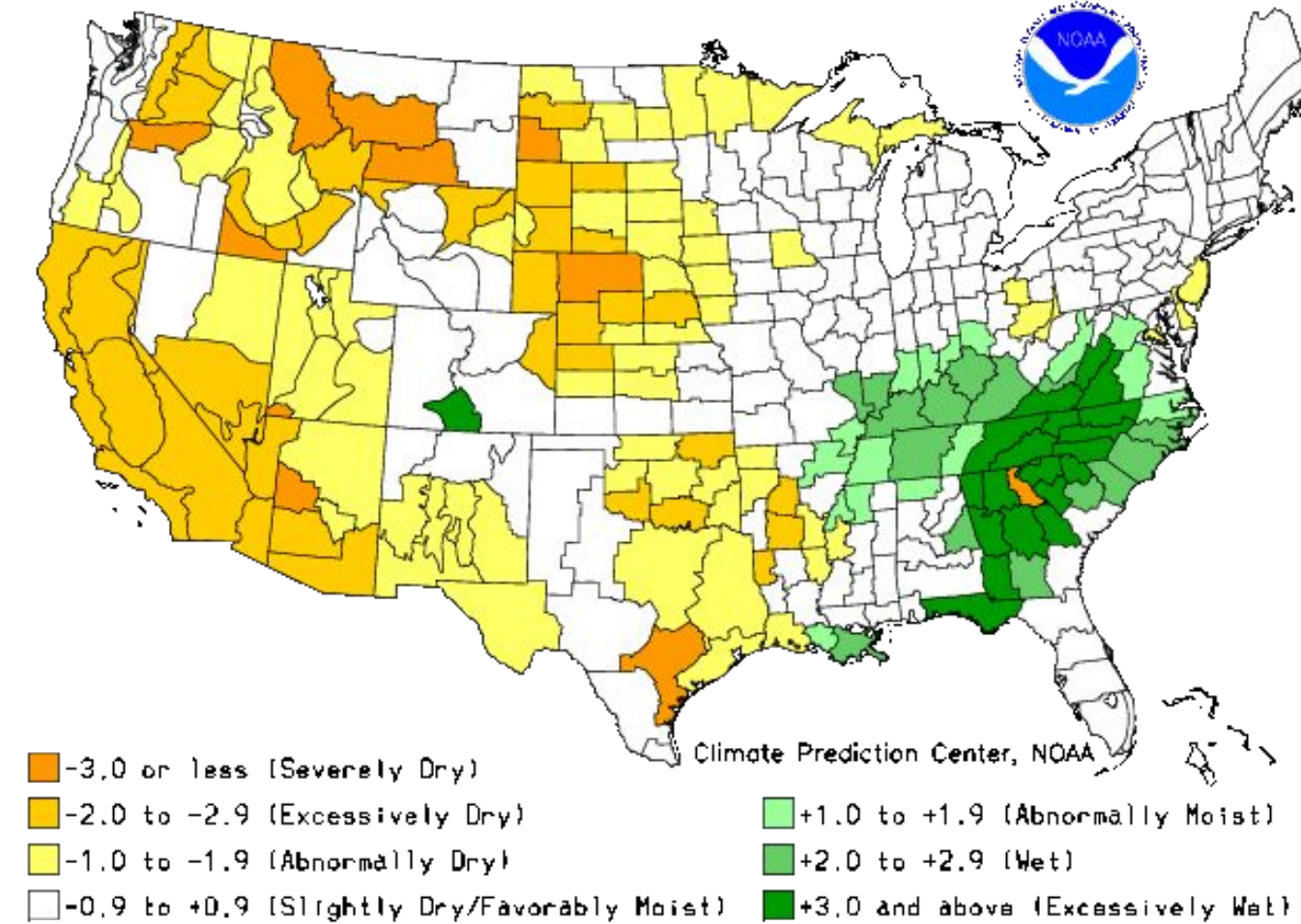


Image Captions:

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

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending September 28, 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](#)

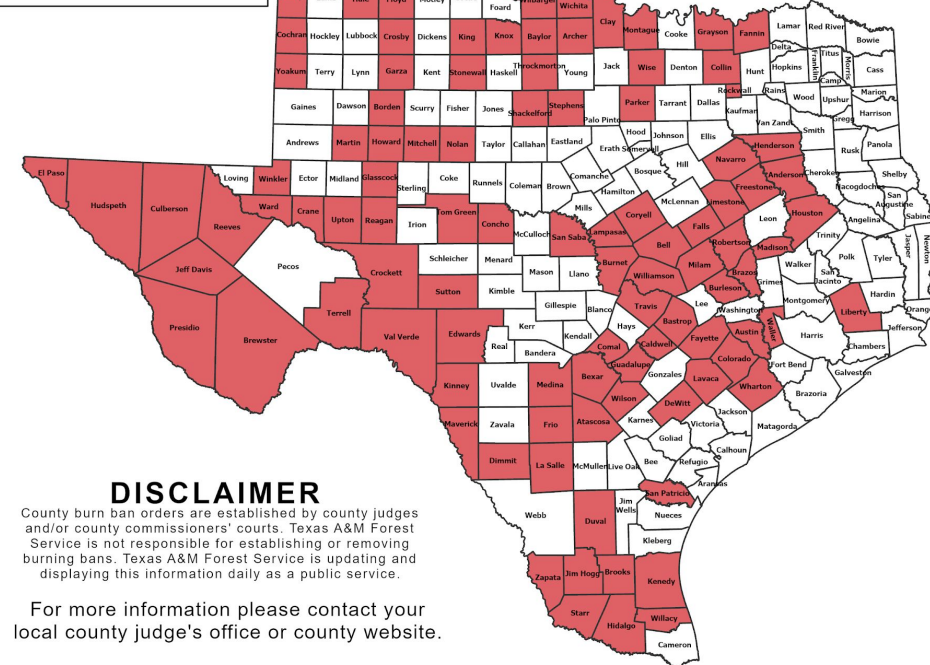
OUTDOOR BURN BANS

October 04, 2024



Counties without Established Burn Bans
Counties with Established Burn Bans

Email updates to: burnban@tfs.tamu.edu



DISCLAIMER
County burn ban orders are established by county judges and/or county commissioners' courts. Texas A&M Forest Service is not responsible for establishing or removing burning bans. Texas A&M Forest Service is updating and displaying this information daily as a public service.

For more information please contact your local county judge's office or county website.

RED FLAG WARNINGS: www.weather.gov
Additional map formats available at <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/Burnbans/>

Counties with Burn Bans: 115

- Anderson
- Archer
- Armstrong
- Atascosa
- Austin
- Bailey
- Bastrop
- Baylor
- Bell
- Bexar
- Borden
- Brazos
- Brewster
- Briscoe
- Brooks
- Burleson
- Burnet
- Caldwell
- Carson
- Castro
- Childress
- Clay
- Cochran
- Collin
- Colorado
- Comal
- Concho
- Coryell
- Crane
- Crockett
- Crosby
- Culberson
- DeWitt
- Dimmit
- Donley
- Duval
- Edwards
- El Paso
- Falls
- Fannin
- Fayette
- Floyd
- Freestone
- Frio
- Garza
- Glasscock
- Grayson
- Guadalupe
- Hale
- Hall
- Hardeman
- Hemphill
- Henderson
- Hidalgo
- Houston
- Howard
- Hudspeth
- Hutchinson
- Jeff Davis
- Jim Hogg
- Kenedy
- King
- Kinney
- Knox
- Lampasas
- La Salle
- Lavaca
- Liberty
- Limestone
- Lipscomb
- Madison
- Martin
- Maverick
- Medina
- Milam
- Mitchell
- Montague
- Navarro
- Nolan
- Oldham
- Parker
- Presidio
- Reagan
- Reeves
- Roberts
- Robertson
- Rockwall
- San Patricio
- San Saba
- Shackelford
- Sherman
- Starr
- Stephens
- Stonewall
- Sutton
- Swisher
- Terrell
- Trockmorton
- Tom Green
- Travis
- Upton
- Val Verde
- Waller
- Ward
- Wharton
- Wheeler
- Wichita
- Wilbarger
- Willacy
- Williamson
- Wilson
- Winkler
- Wise
- Yoakum
- Zapata

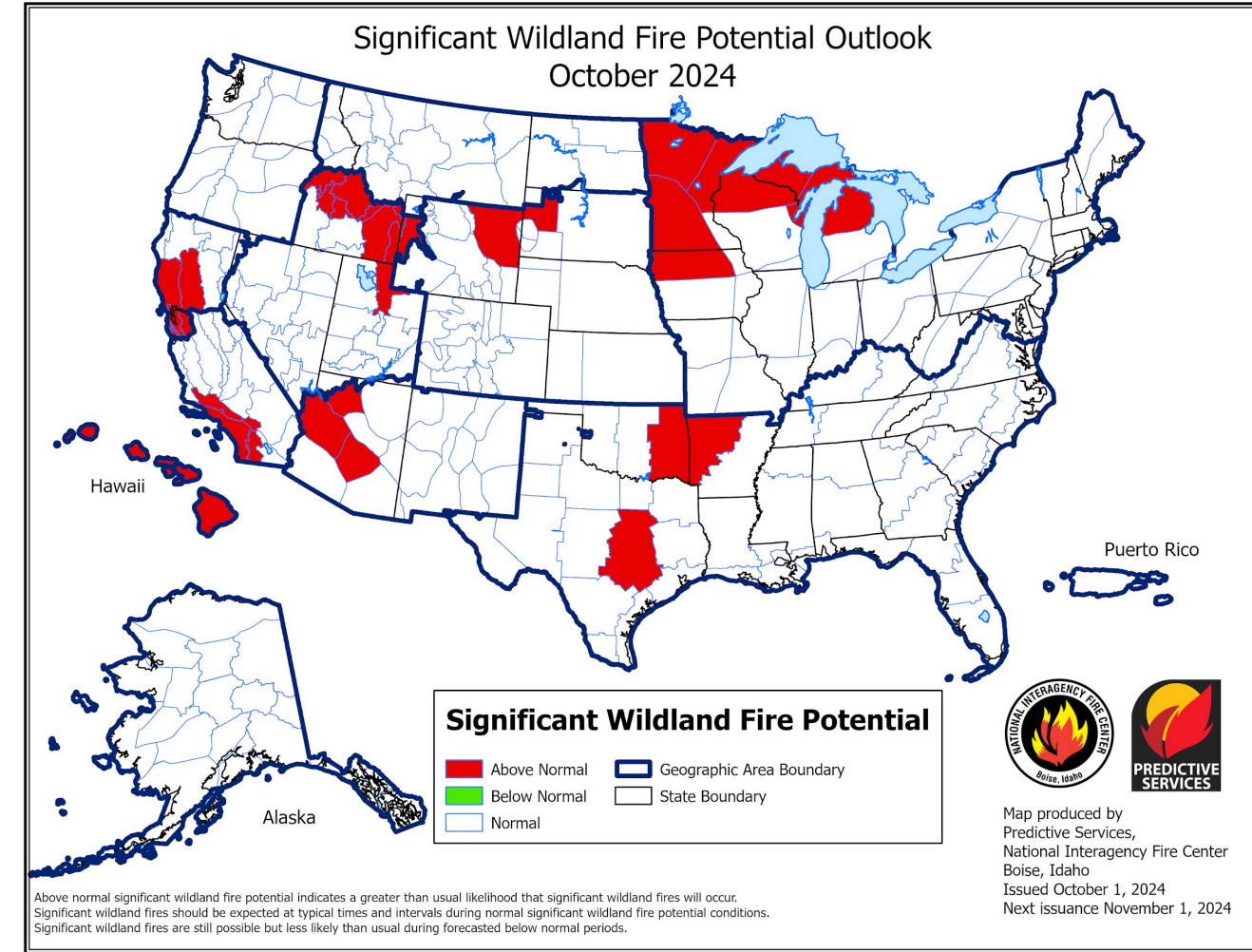


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2024



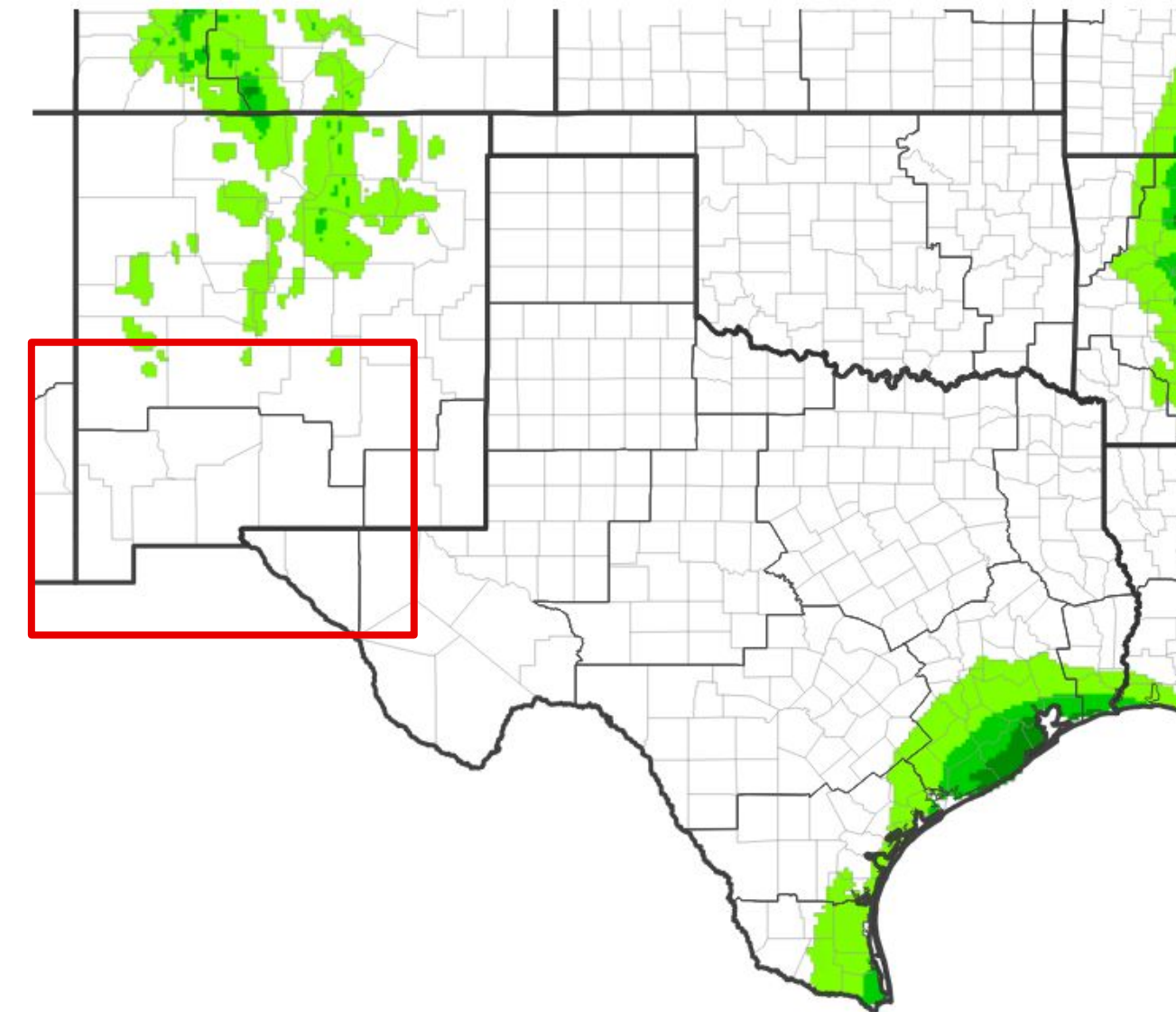


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

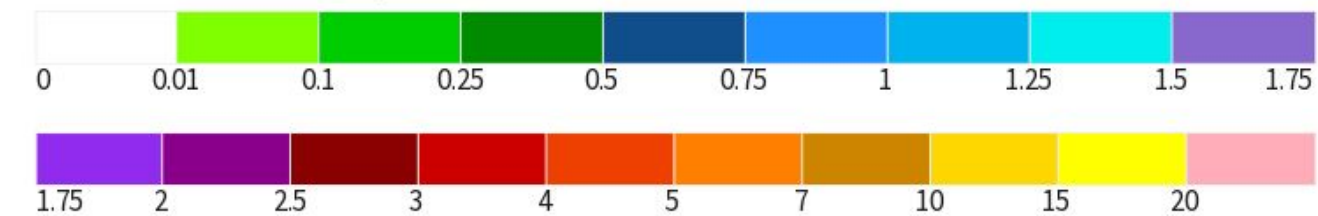
October 7, 2024
4:41 AM

- Virtually no rainfall over past 3 weeks, first half of October looks completely dry as well. Monsoon season has ended and rain totals will be lower through the rest of the year.
- 2024 is likely to finish below normal for precipitation area wide. Drought conditions are likely to linger through the rest of the year barring a wet winter season.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 27, 2024–October 4, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/27/24



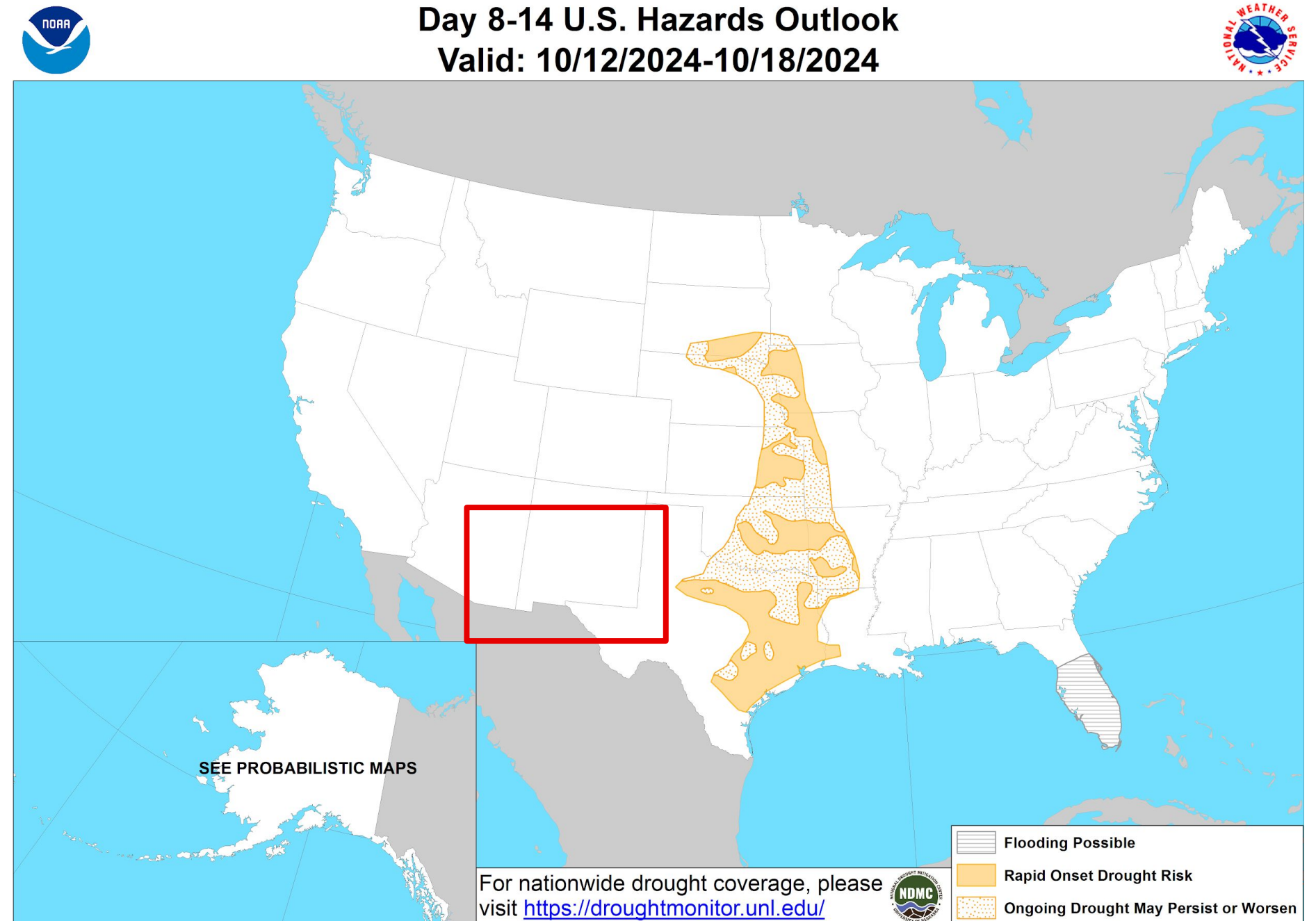


Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

October 7, 2024
4:41 AM

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

- Below normal precipitation fell this past Monsoon season. While below normal precipitation totals are still expected through October, rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to persist through the fall season.



Climate Prediction Center
Made: 10/04/2024 3PM EDT

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Image Caption:
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid October 12 to 18



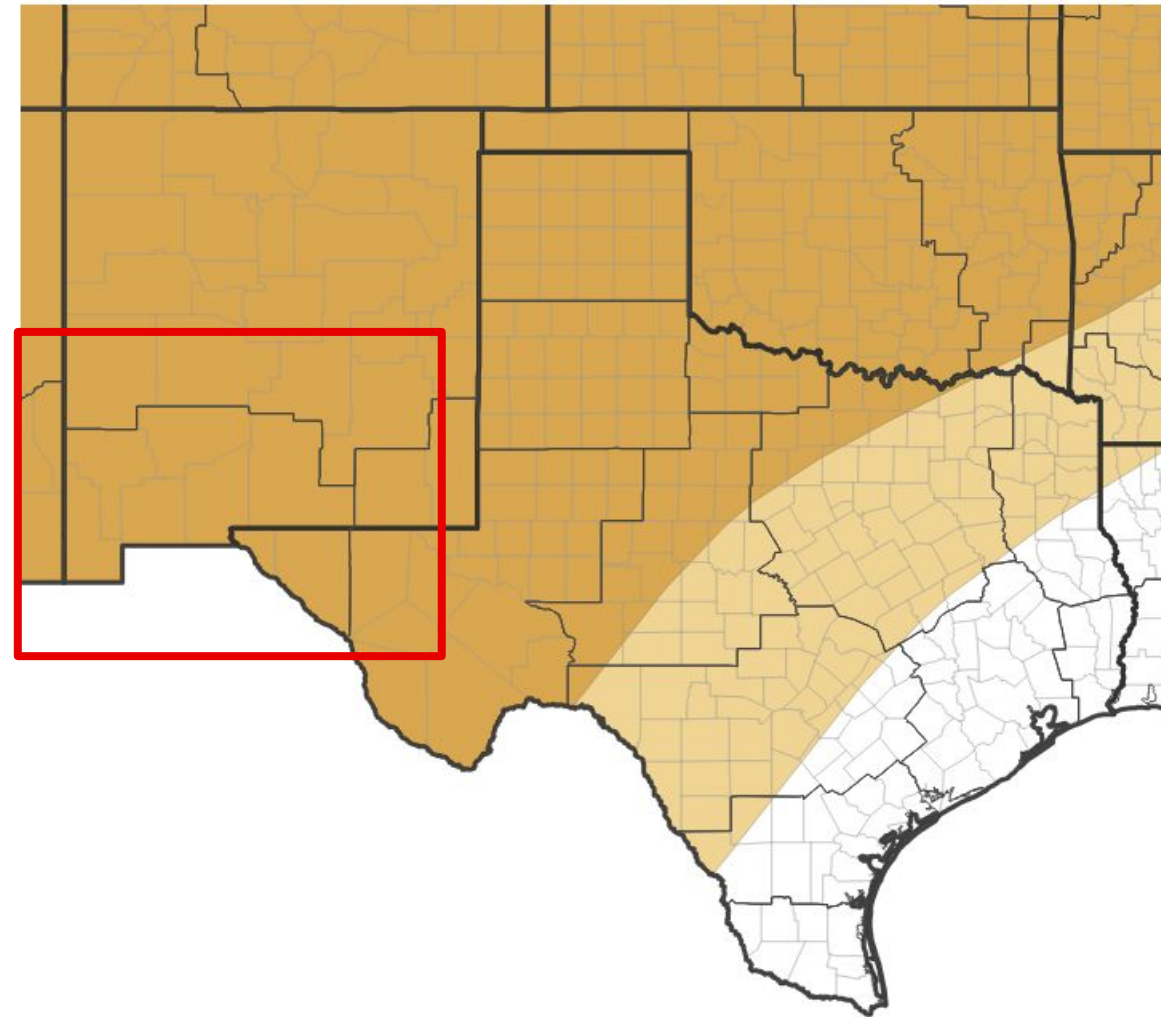
Long-Range Outlooks

October 7, 2024
4:41 AM

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

- 40-50% chance of below normal precipitation across New Mexico, west Texas.
- Monthly average for El Paso: 0.59".
- 40-50% chance for above normal temperatures across New Mexico and west Texas. Heat waves likely.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2024–October 31, 2024



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

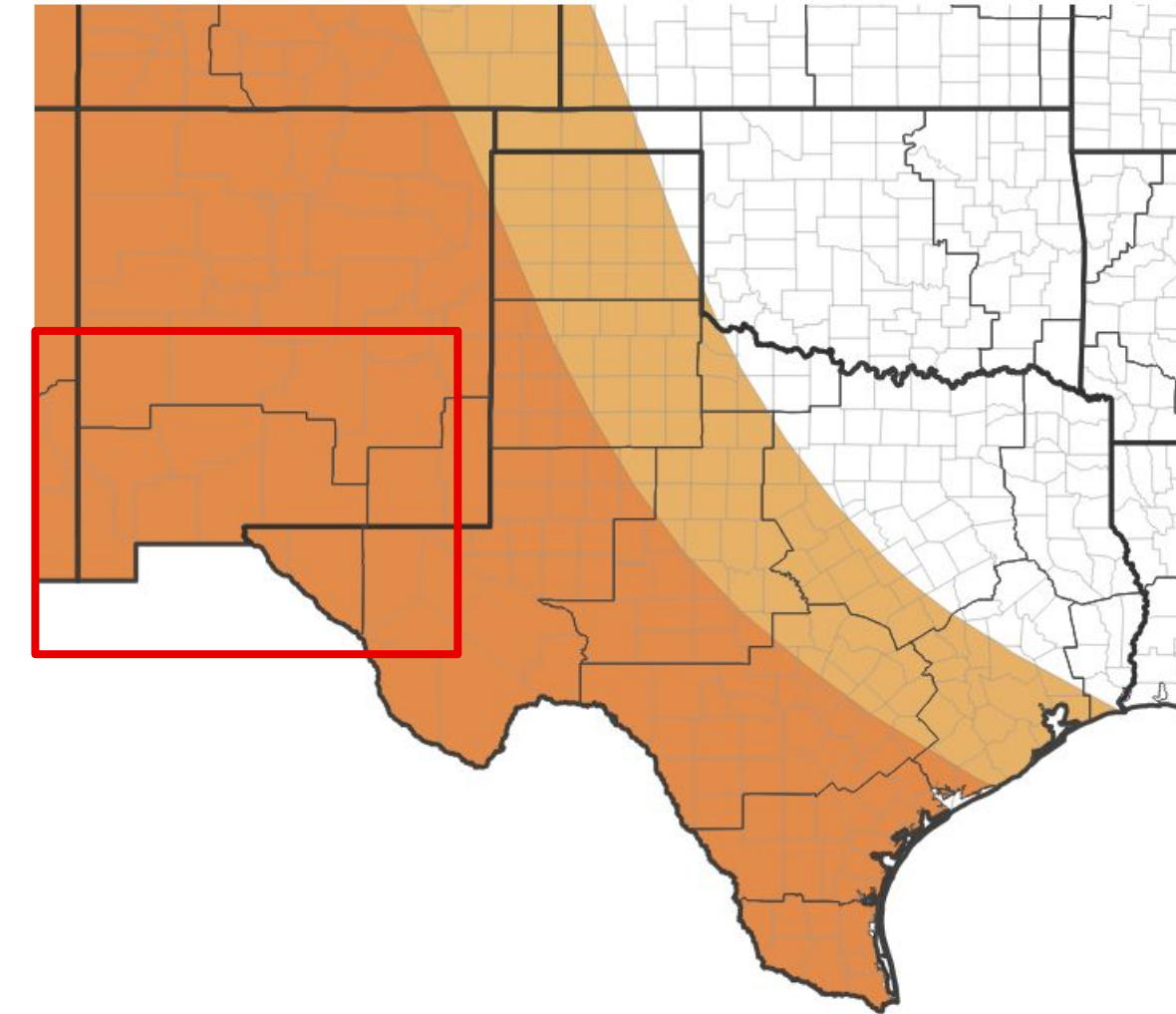


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center image courtesy of Drought.gov. Last Updated: 09/19/24

Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2024–October 31, 2024



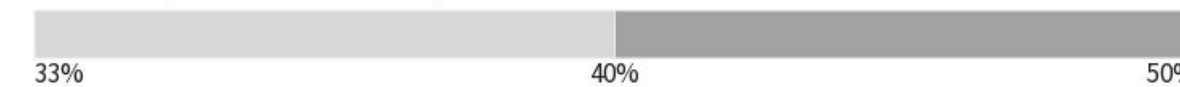
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center image courtesy of Drought.gov. Last Updated: 09/19/24





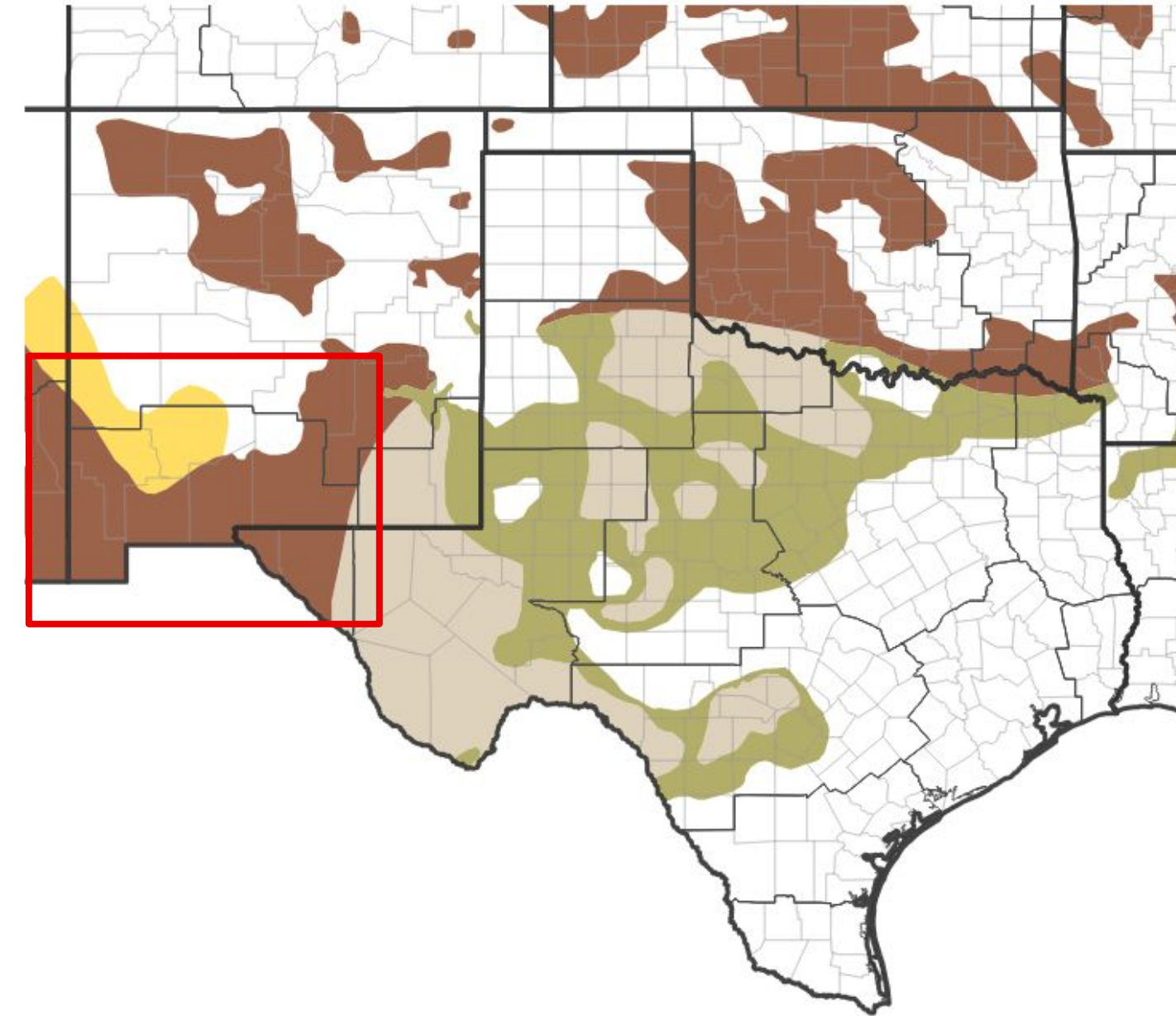
Drought Outlook

October 7, 2024
4:41 AM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist through October, with further development and intensification possible.

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](#)

