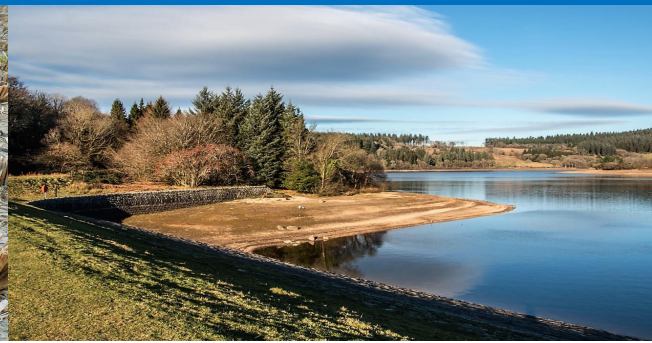
Drought Information Statement for South Central Texas

Valid October 5, 2023

Issued By: NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX
Contact Information: sr-ewx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated Oct. 05, 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/ewx/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for south central Texas

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 Exceptional Drought: Resides over much of the Hill Country, the I-35 Corridor, and portions of the Coastal Prairies
  - D3 Extreme Drought: Covers the remainder of the Coastal Prairies and Hill Country (not already in D4).
  - D2 Severe Drought: Extends from portions of the southern Edwards Plateau south-eastwards into portions of the Rio Grande Plains.

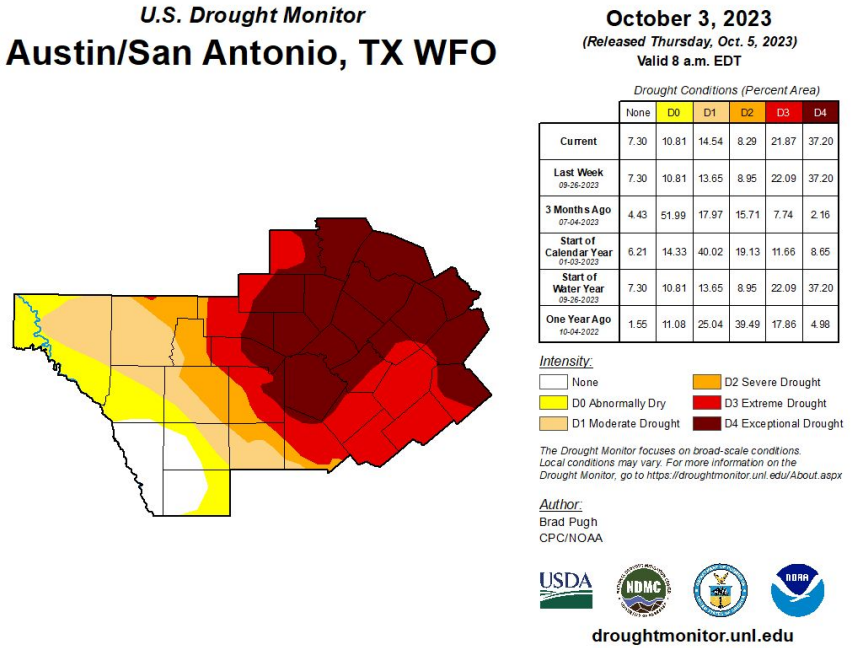


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 5, 2023.

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for south central Texas

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: No degradation of drought conditions were observed over the past 30 days.
  - No Change: Cross much of the Hill Country, I-35 corridor, Coastal Praries, and Rio Grande Plains.
  - Drought Improved: Portions of the Rio Grande Plains, Hill Country, and southern Edwards Plateau.

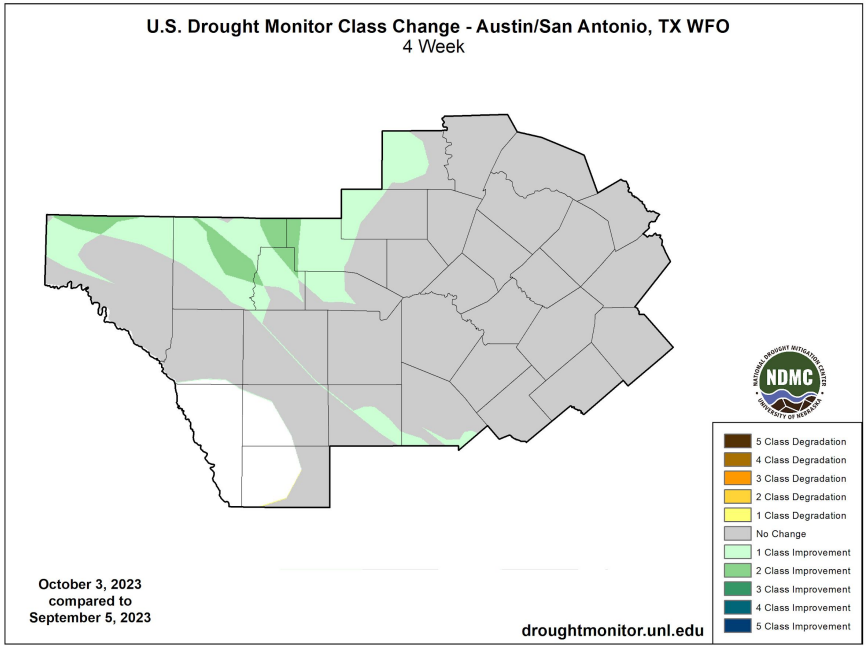


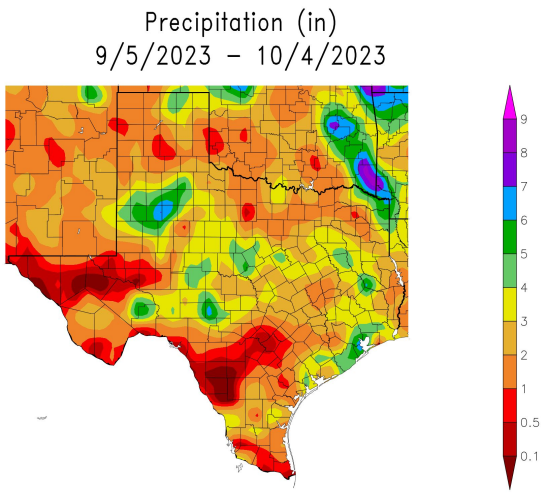
Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT October 5, 2023

Precipitation

Last 30 days

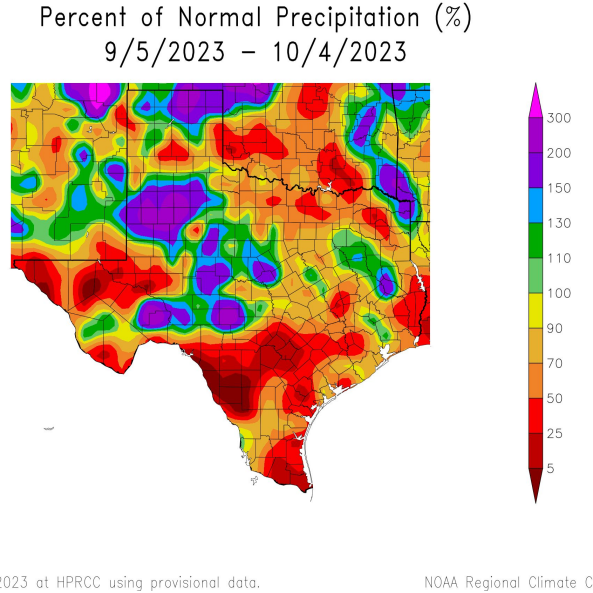
- Late September thunderstorms brought locally heavy rainfall to portions of the Hill Country and southern Edwards Plateau to help provide some short term relief.

- The vast majority of the area saw less than half of normal rains in the past 30 days. Zavala/Dimmit counties are 2 to 3 inches below normal for the past 30 days.



erated 10/5/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Cen



ated 10/5/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate C

Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount Map for south-central Texas
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for south-central Texas
Data Courtesy Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS)
Data over the past 30 days ending October 4, 2023

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain below to much below normal across most basins in the region. Inflows to the Highland Lakes have been essentially zero. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest Crop & Weather Report from Texas A&M Agrilife.
- A mixture of crop moistures are shown across the three crop divisions within the service area.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal wildland fire activity is expected for the month of October. More details below.

Other Impacts

- Water recreation is severely impacted on Lake Medina, Lakes Travis and Amistad as well as the Guadalupe, Frio, Pedernales, and Blanco rivers.

Drought Mitigation Actions

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

- Select Municipality Restrictions (as of 10/4)
  - Kerrville: Stage 4
  - Fredericksburg: Stage 3
  - City of Llano: Stage 3
  - City of Georgetown: Stage 3
  - San Antonio: Stage 2
  - Universal City: Stage 2
  - New Braunfels: Stage 2
  - Austin: Stage 2

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows remain well below normal in most areas, including at all-time lows in a few basins and sub-basins.
- Much of the streamflow across the area is in the less than 10th percentile for this time of year (maroon shading on the map).
- Canyon Lake is at its lowest level on record.

Additional data:

Edwards Aquifer, Bexar Index Well J-17 as of October 4, 2023:

10 day average: 630

Historical Sept Average: 663.1

Departure from Average: -33.2

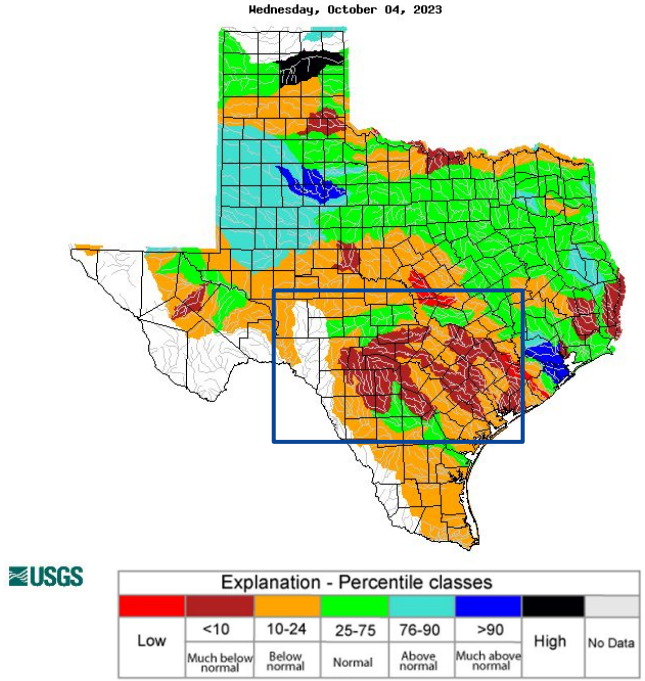


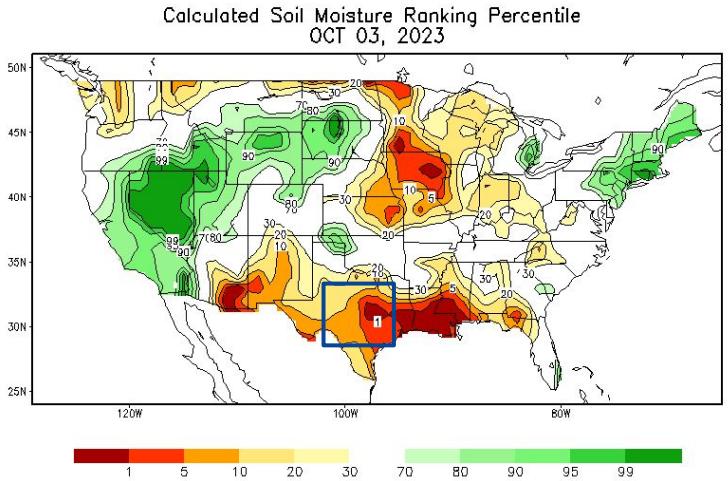
Figure Caption: USGS 7 day streamflows for Texas, valid October 4, 2023

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	Percent Full
Amistad	1117.00 feet	1065.9 feet	33.5%
Medina Lake	1064.2 feet	977.2 feet	4.0%
Canyon Lake	909.00 feet	890.6 feet	65.0%
Granger Lake	504.00 feet	500.5 feet	74.7%
Georgetown Lake	791.00 feet	771.2 feet	45.1%
Lake Buchanan	1020.00 feet	992.6 feet	45.0%
Lake LBJ	825.00 feet	824.7 feet	98.2%
Lake Marble Falls	738.00 feet	736.4 feet	94.9%
Lake Travis	681.00 feet	628.5 feet	36%
Lake Austin	492.9 feet	492.1 feet	95.7%

Table caption: TWDB Reservoir conditions as of October 4, 2023

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moistures remain in the below to well below normal for much of the area.
- A mixture of crop moistures are shown across the three crop divisions within the service area. Severely dry conditions are across the east, abnormally dry across the south and slightly dry across the west.



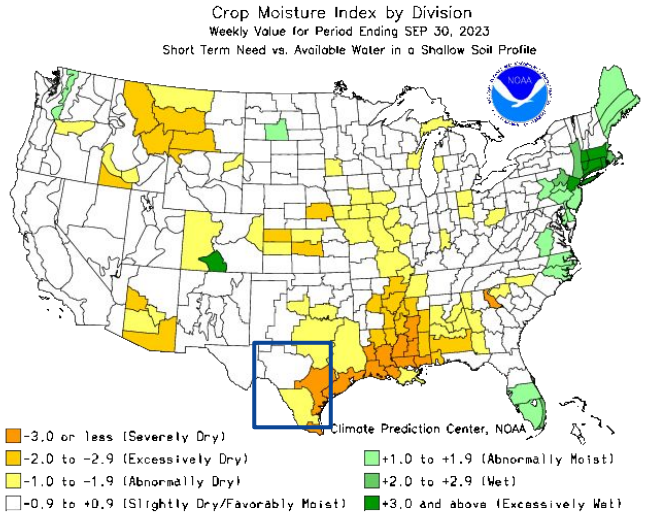


Image Captions:
Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid October 3, 2023
Above: Crop Moisture Index by Division. Weekly value for period ending September 30, 2023

Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.

- Keetch Byram Drought Index values have increased above 400 across much of the area, and are as high as 700+ across Hays, Comal, Bexar, Guadalupe, Wilson, Karnes, and Gonzales counties.
- Normal wildland fire activity has been observed over the past several weeks, and outlooks suggest this will continue into October.

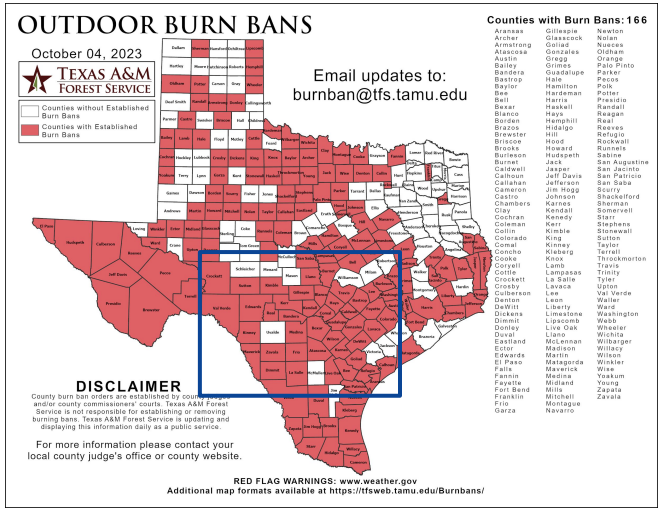


Image caption: Burn bans have expanded to encompass all but 2 of our 33 counties as of October 4th, 2023. Latest County Burn Ban map available here.

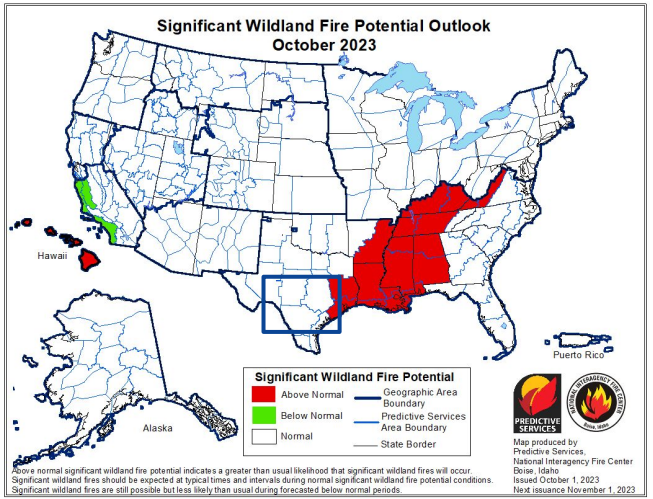
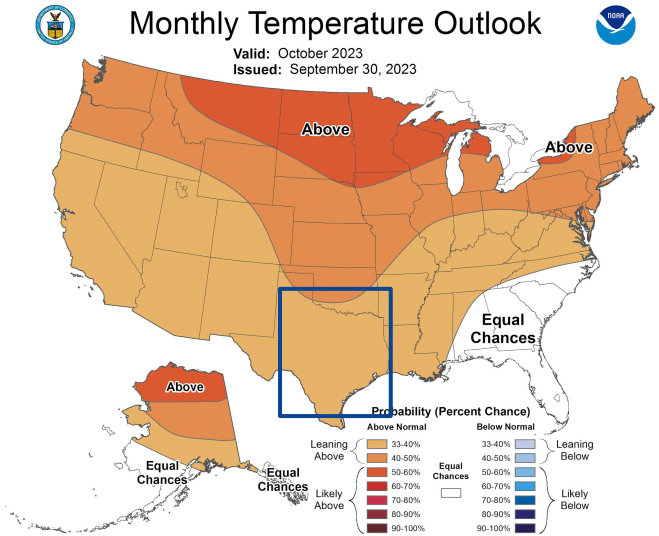


Image Caption: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for October 2023

Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Odds lean towards above normal temperatures to continue on average through the month of October.
- Above normal precipitation are favored across the area for October.



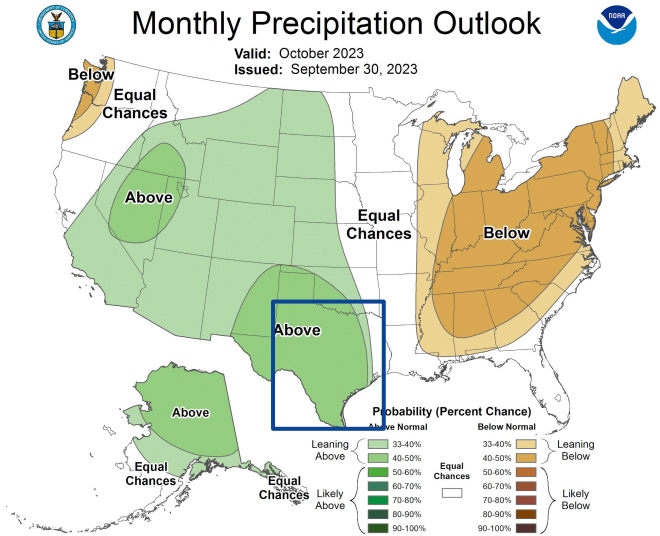
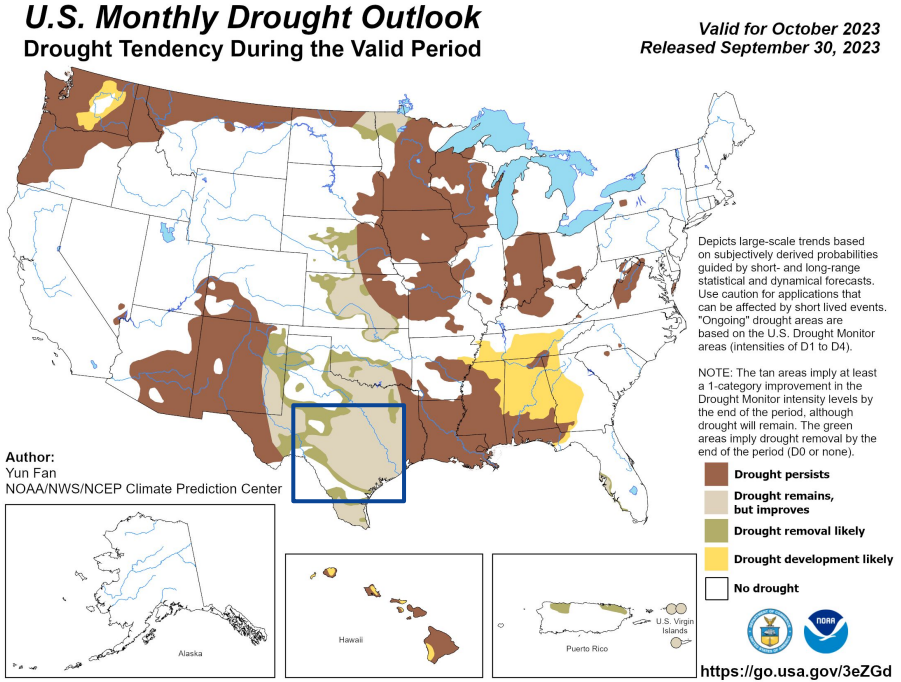


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook.
Valid October 2023

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The Drought Outlook reflects the expected impact of ENSO on drought conditions through the month of October.
- While there is only a narrow sliver of the area that might see drought conditions be removed much of the area is forecast to remain in drought while seeing some improvement.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

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