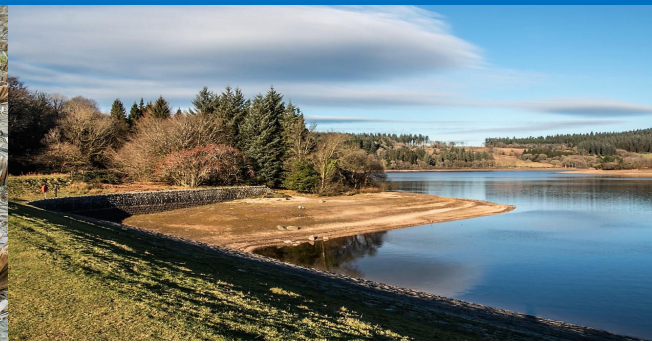
Drought Information Statement for South Central Texas

Valid December 7, 2023

Issued By: NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX

Contact Information: sr-ewx.webmaster@noaa.gov

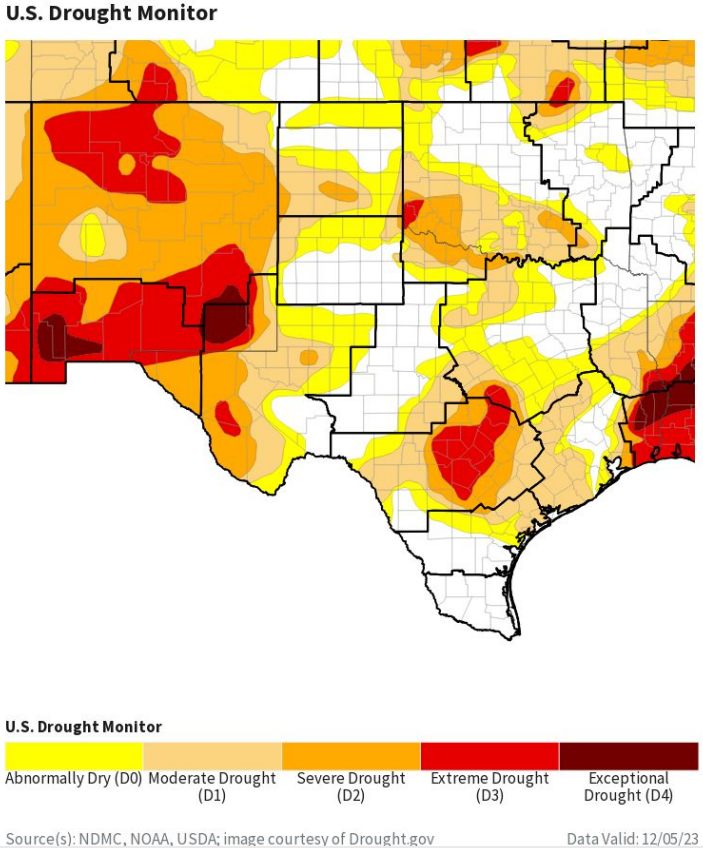
- This product will be updated Jan 3, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ewx/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.



U.S. Drought Monitor

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

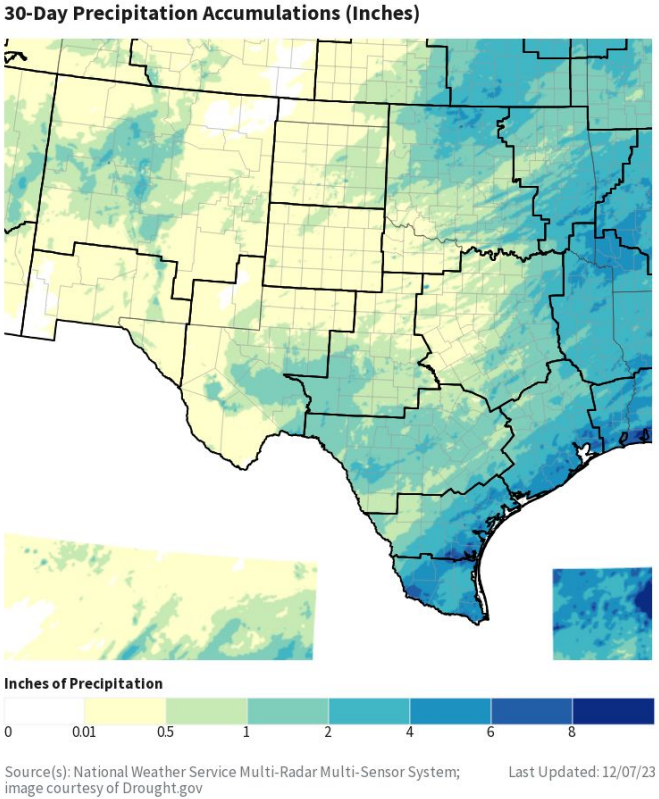
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 Exceptional Drought: Has been removed from all counties
  - D3 Extreme Drought: Covers portions of the Hill County, I-35 corridor, and Coastal Plains
  - D2 Severe Drought: Extends across the Hill Country, I-35 corridor, Coastal Plains, and portions of the Rio Grande Plains.

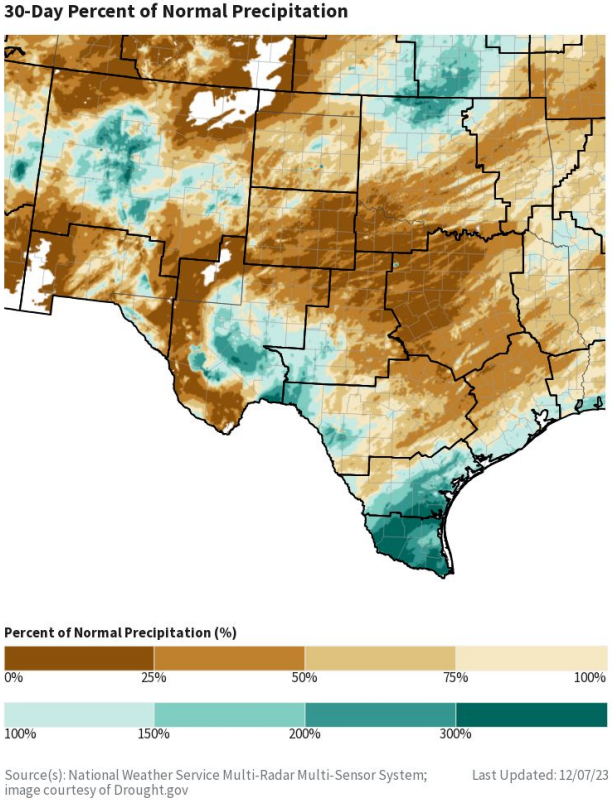


Precipitation

Links to the latest Precipitation Accumulation and Percent of Normal over the past 30 days

- The bulk of the rainfall over the past 30 days occurred over a one week period early in the month of November.
- Portions of the Rio Grande Plains and southern Edwards Plateau saw above normal rainfall while the rest of the service area saw below normal rainfall for the past 30 days.
- Portions of Williamson, Llano, and Burnet Counties saw less than 25% of normal rainfall over the past 30 days.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- While localized basins have seen some improvement in the short term, many basins remain below normal. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest Crop & Weather Report from Texas A&M Agrilife.
- Near normal 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 December. See Fire Hazard page for more details.

Other Impacts

- Canyon Lake continues to set new record low pool elevations.

Drought Mitigation Actions

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

- Select Municipality Restrictions (as of 12/6)
  - City of Fredericksburg: Stage 4
  - City of Kerrville: Stage 3
  - City of Llano: Stage 3
  - City of Georgetown: Stage 3
  - City of Uvalde: Stage 3
  - City of San Antonio: Stage 2
  - City of Universal City: Stage 2
  - City of New Braunfels: Stage 2
  - City of Austin: Stage 2
  - City of Del Rio: Stage 2

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- While localized basins have seen some improvement in the short term, many basins remain below normal
- The lowest streamflows (much below normal) can be found in portions of the Nueces, Frio, Pedernales, and Guadalupe river basins.
- Canyon Lake remains at its lowest level on record.

Additional data:

Edwards Aquifer, Bexar Index Well J-17 as of December 6, 2023:

10 day average: 637.3

Historical November Average: 667.9

Departure from Average: -30.5

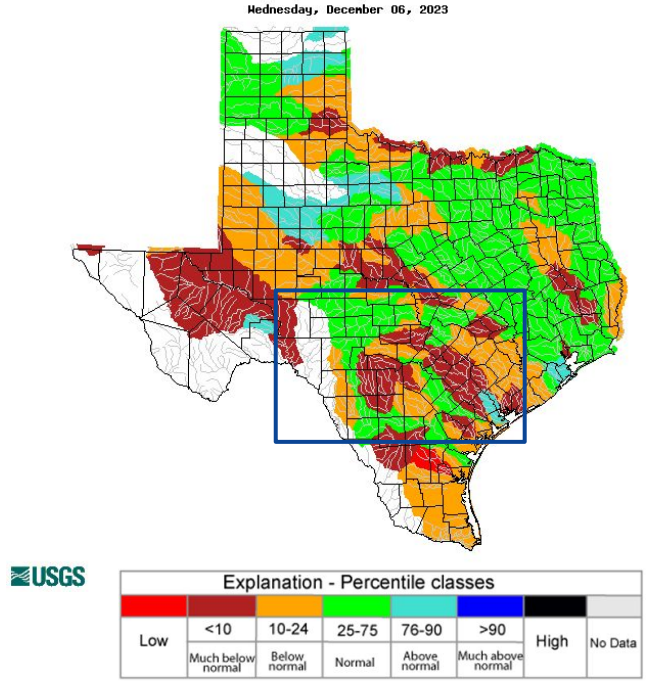


Figure Caption: USGS 7 day streamflows for Texas, valid December 8, 2023

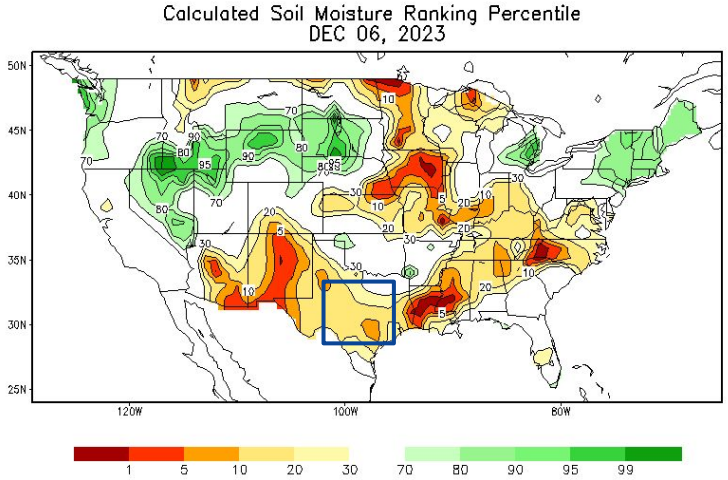
Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	Percent Full
Amistad	1117.00 feet	1061.75 feet	26.8%
Medina Lake	1064.2 feet	975.65 feet	3.5%
Canyon Lake	909.00 feet	888.36 feet	61.5%
Granger Lake	504.00 feet	501.73 feet	83.0%
Georgetown Lake	791.00 feet	771.90 feet	46.6%
Lake Buchanan	1020.00 feet	994.04 feet	44.8%
Lake LBJ	825.00 feet	824.70 feet	98.3%
Lake Marble Falls	738.00 feet	736.25 feet	94.0%
Lake Travis	681.00 feet	631.47feet	38.1%
Lake Austin	492.9 feet	492.13 feet	95.6%

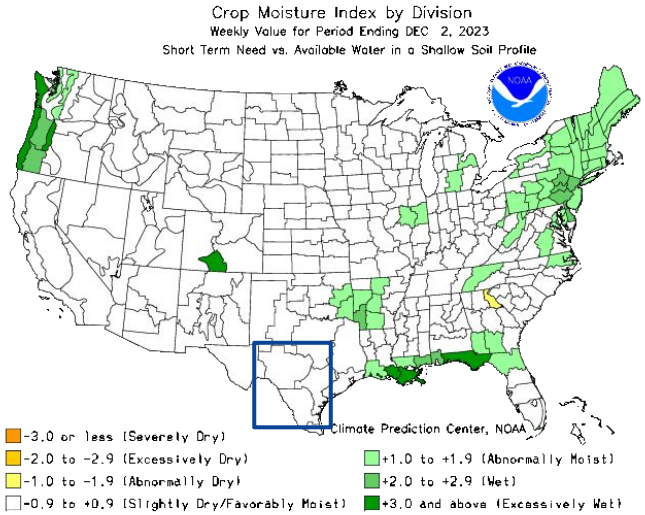
Table caption: TWDB Reservoir conditions as of December 6, 2023

Agricultural Impacts

Links to the latest Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile and Crop Moisture Index by Division.

- Soil moistures have declined across much of the service area with values between 5th and 20th percentile.
- Near normal crop moistures are shown across the three crop divisions within the service area.



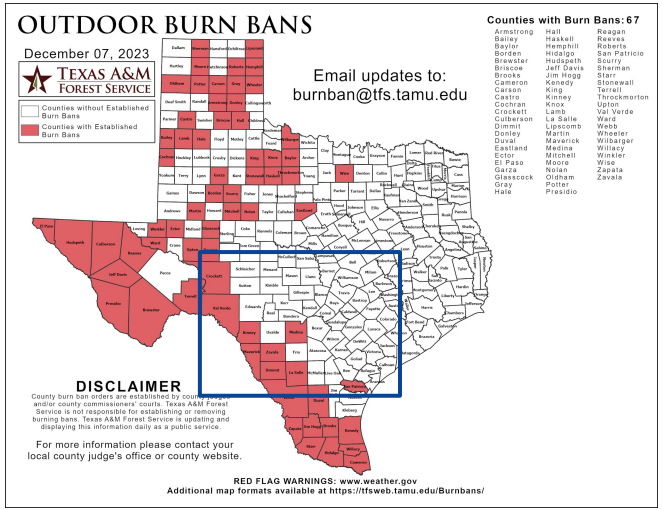


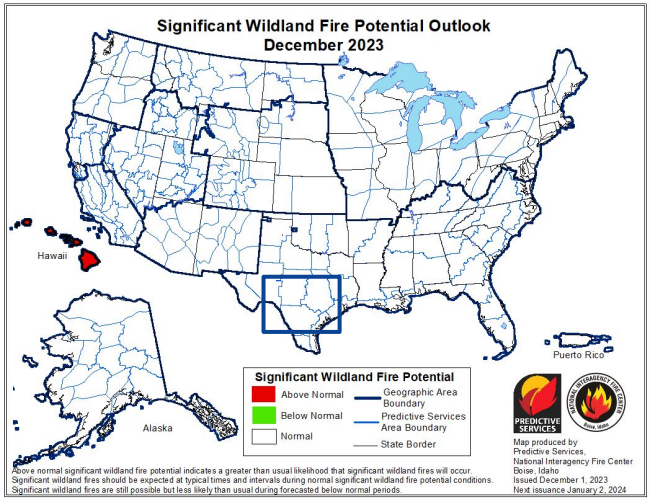
Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch Byram Drought Index values have dropped below 200 across much of the Hill Country, I-35 corridor, Coastal Plains, and southern Edwards Plateau. Values up to 500 are still across portions of the Rio Grande Plains

- Normal wildland fire activity is forecast through the month of December.



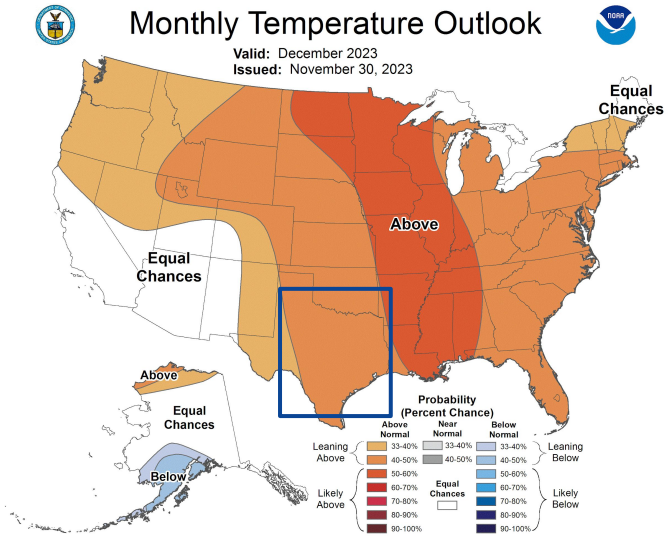


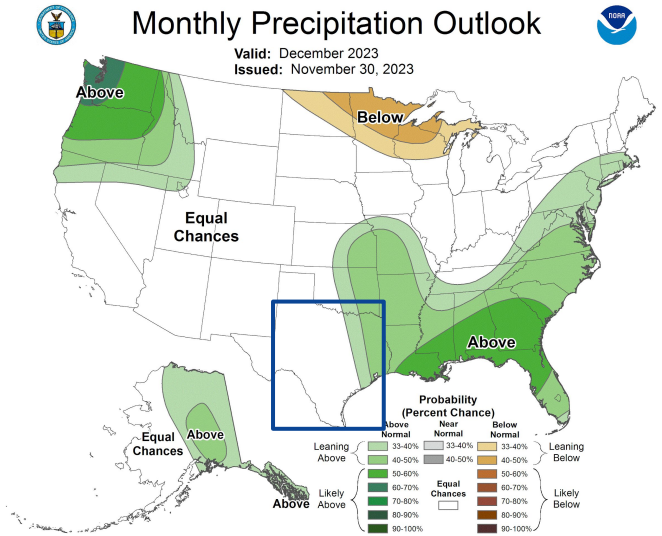
Burn bans remain for 6 of our 33 counties as of December 7, 2023. Latest County Burn Ban map available here.

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 December.
- Chances are equal for above, below, or near normal precipitation for December.



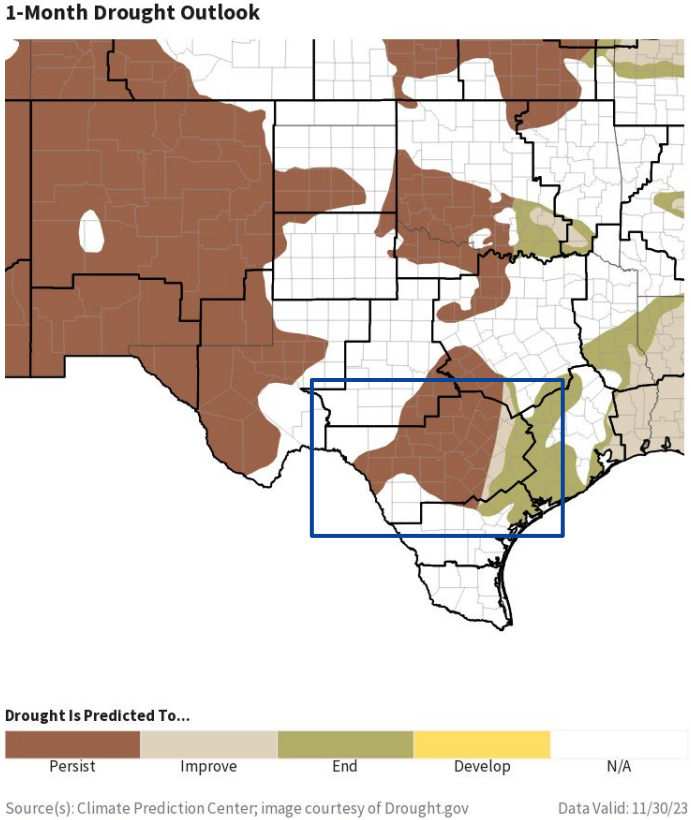


Drought Outlook

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

- The Drought Outlook reflects potential improvement of drought conditions due to ENSO through the month of December across the easternmost portion of the service area.

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across a sizable portion of the I-35 corridor, Hill Country, southern Edwards Plateau and parts of the Coastal Plains through the months of December.



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