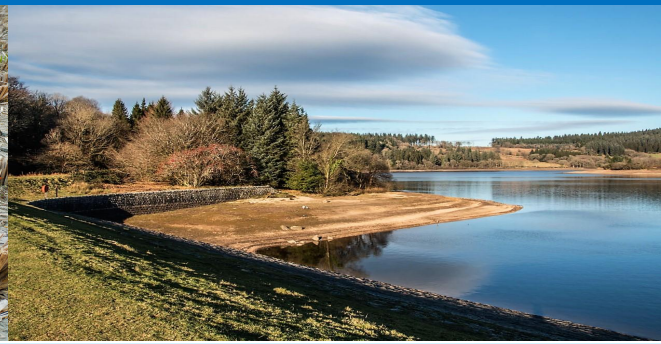
Drought Information Statement for West Texas & Southeast New Mexico

Valid 2/09/2024

Issued By: WFO Midland/Odessa

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

- This product will be updated Mar. 9, 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/maf/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.



U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for [region]

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS UNCHANGED FOR WEST TEXAS AND SE NM.

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 (Exceptional Drought): Much of Eddy County and Western Lea County
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Portions of the Davis Mountains.
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Marfa Plateau, Culberson County and portions of Eddy and Lea counties.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Davis Mountain Foothills, portions of the Permian Basin and Central Brewster County.
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Small portions of the Rio Grande in Terrell and Lower Brewster Counties. Much of the Permian Basin.

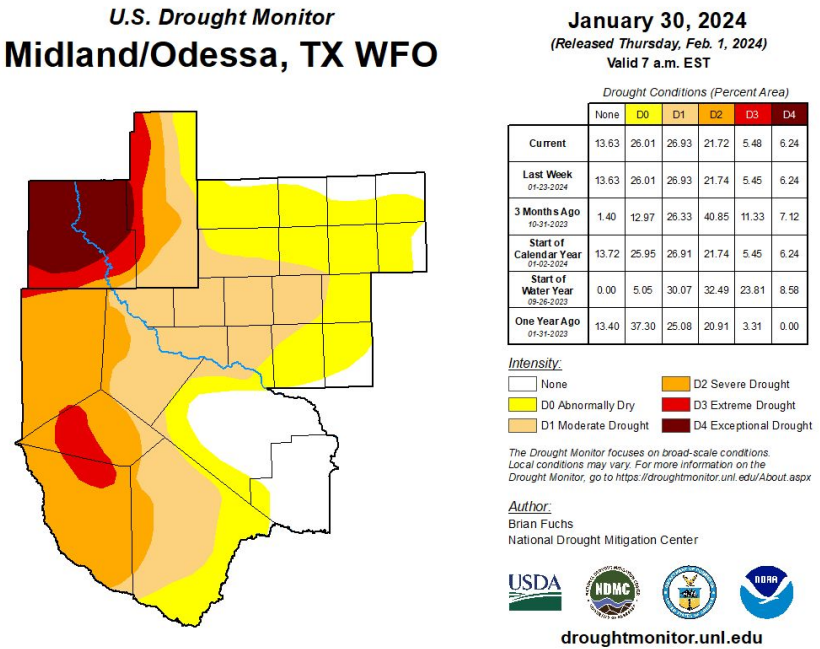


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EST January 30th.

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map for [region]

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - No changes across West Texas and southeast New Mexico

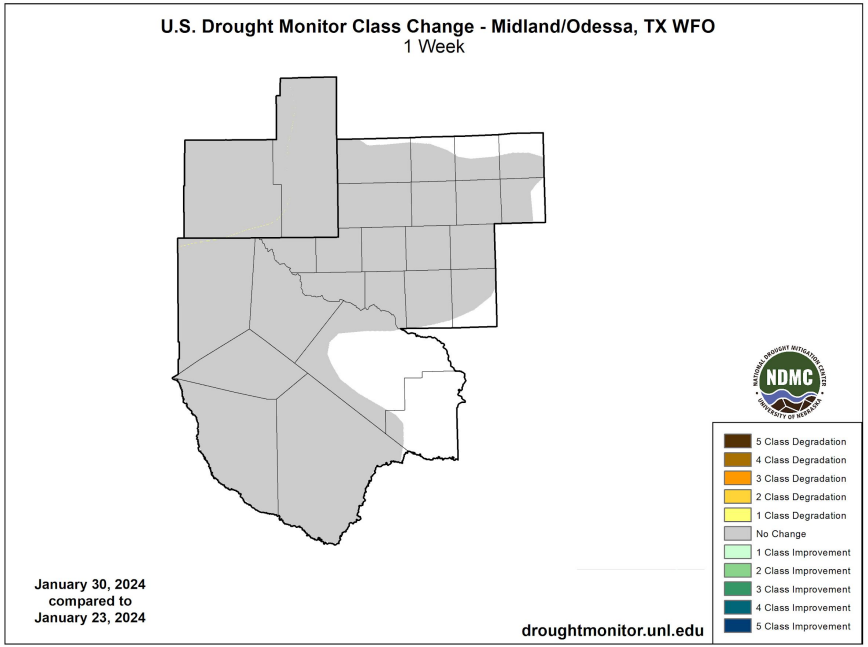
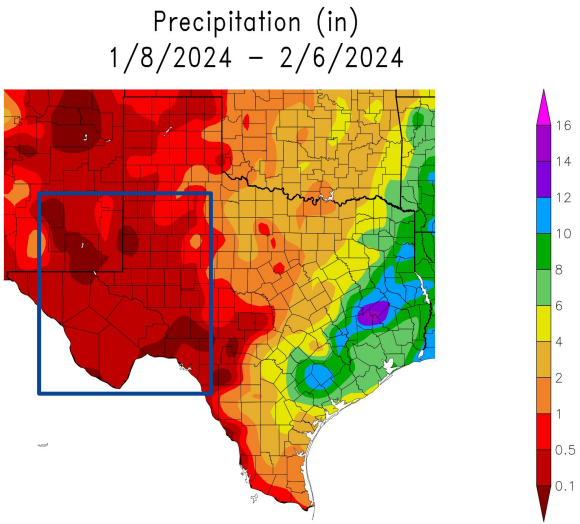


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EST January 30th.

Precipitation

- January is one of the drier months for the area (KMAF averages about 0.60”), but even then precipitation was below normal for the month with many areas seeing less than a half inch of rain for the month.



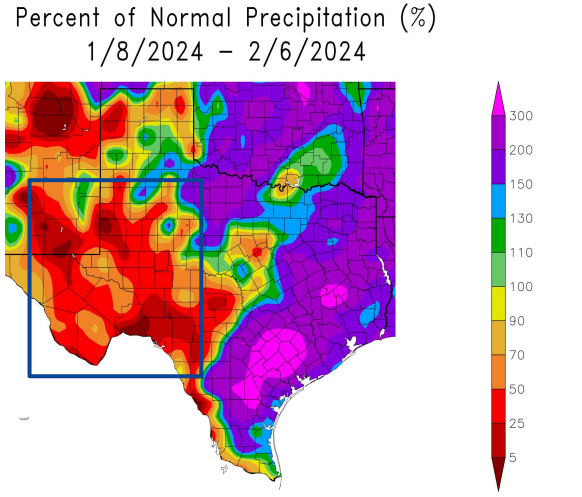
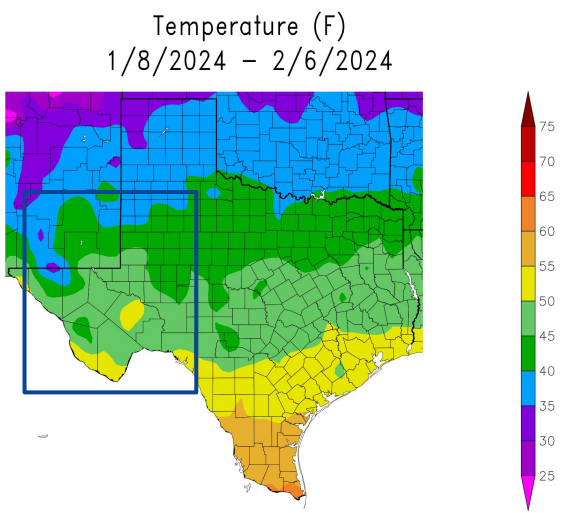


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for West Texas and SE NM
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for West Texas and SE NM
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending February 6, 2024

Temperature

- Outside of a few spots, January was on the colder side for much of the region. January into February sees average temperatures gradually increase heading into late winter.



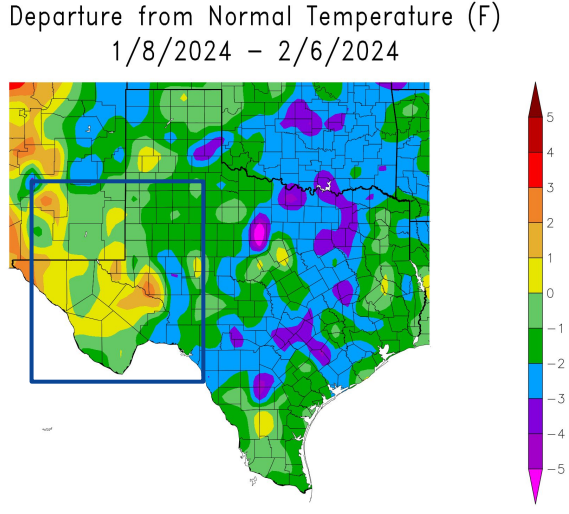


Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending February 9, 2024

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most area rivers and tributaries remain near baseflow. Area reservoirs are at 48.9% conservation capacity. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Per Agrilife Texas A&M Crop and Weather Report, Cotton and pecan harvest has finished, aside from late pecan harvesting at some orchards. Livestock conditions were fair.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

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

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- The Pecos and Rio Grande Basins are low to much below normal
- The Conchos basin is below normal
- All other basins are normal
- Midland Monthly Hydrology Report for December
- January Rainfall

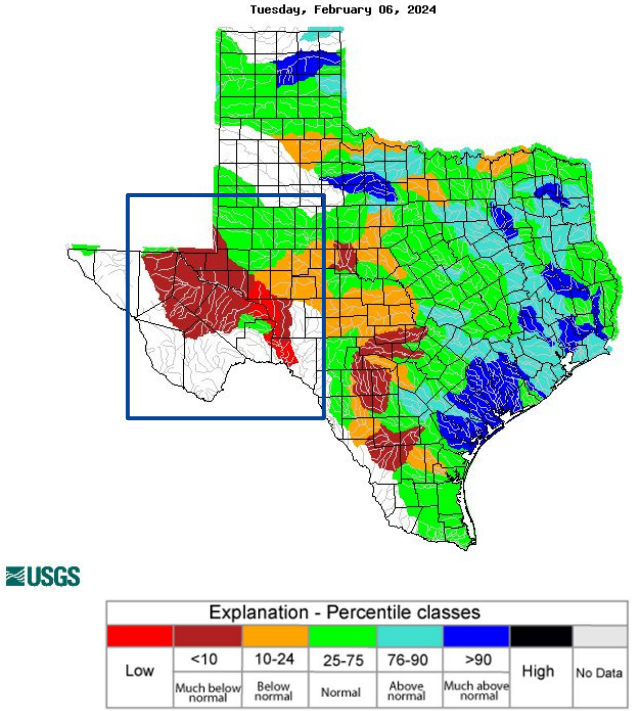
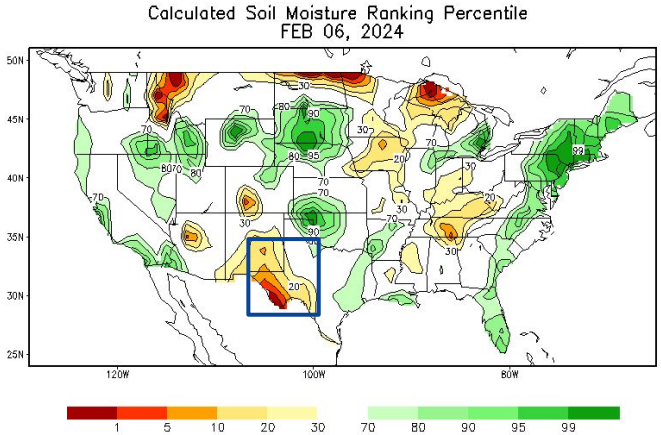


Image Caption: USGS 7 day streamflows for Texas, valid 6 February 2024

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	% Full
JB Thomas	2258.00	2227.08	21.6
Colorado City	2070.20	2057.14	47.5
Champion Creek	2083.00	2069.17	58.0
Natural Dam Salt Lake	2457.00	2447.29	48.4
Moss Creek	2337.00	2332.26	75.0
Brantley	3256.70	3246.99	49.0
Avalon	3177.40	3174.66	50.0
Red Bluff	2827.40	2812.54	41.9

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture continues to rank below the 10-20th percentiles across much of West Texas and SE NM with the worst conditions over the Marfa Plateau and along the Rio Grande.
- During the past month, crop moisture has remained unchanged and ranges from slightly dry to favorably moist across the region.



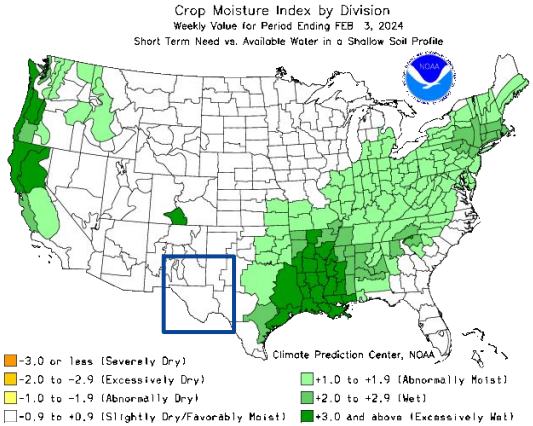
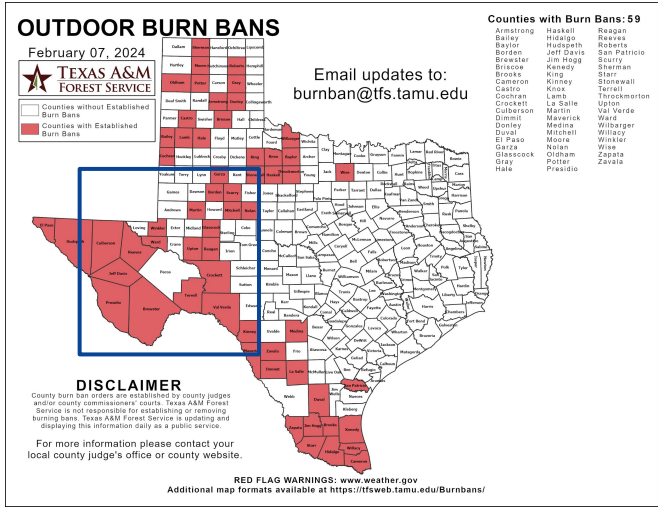


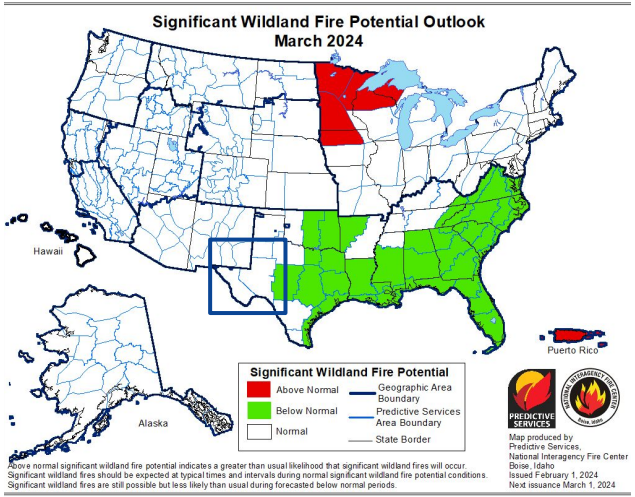
Image Captions:
Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid February 06, 2023
Right: Crop Moisture Index by Division. Weekly value for period ending February 03, 2023

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Significant fire potential outlook continues to remain below normal for February and March for West Texas and SE NM. Temperatures look to remain near or below normal through March. Precipitation looks to be near or above average through February and March.





Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here.]

Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook] for March 2024

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Precipitation chances remain quite low for much of the area with light precipitation amounts possible over the next several days.

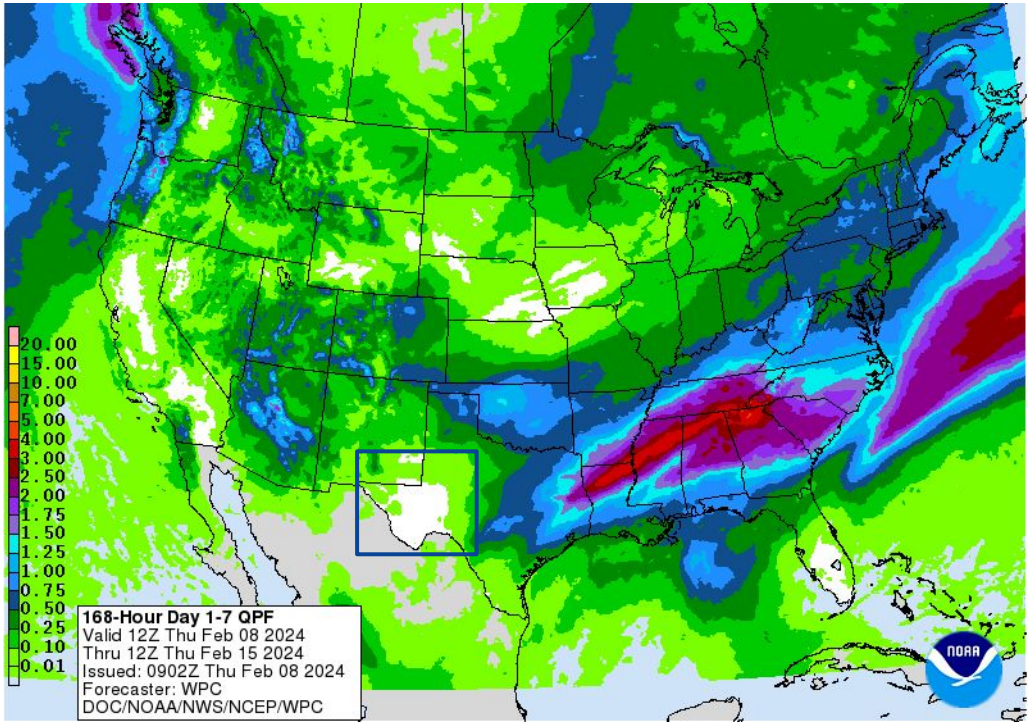
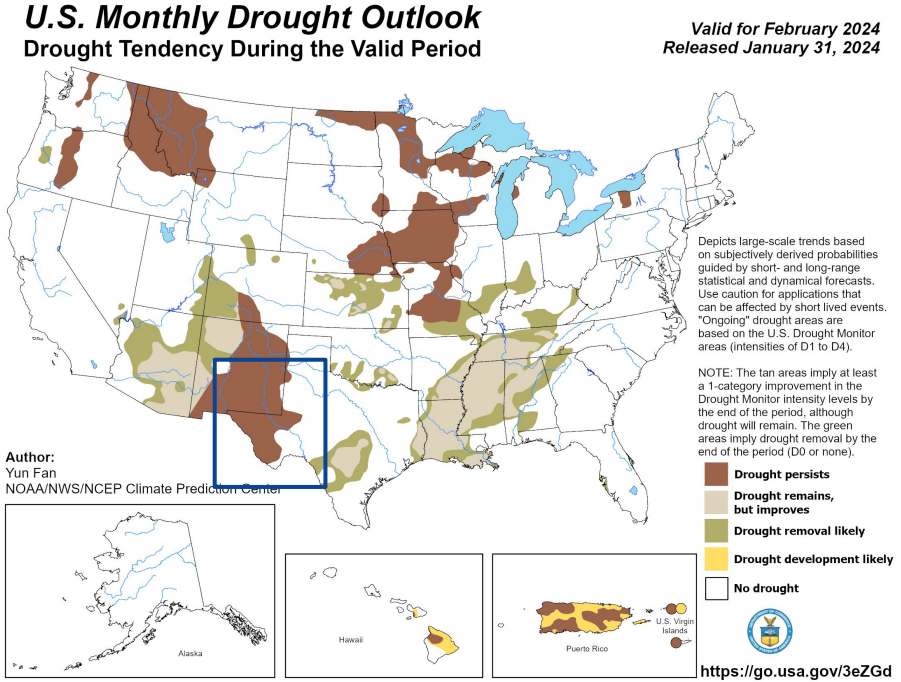


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid Thursday February 8 to Thursday February 15

Drought Outlook

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

- February is one of the drier months for West Texas and southeast New Mexico, so drought conditions are not expected to improve over the course of the month.



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 01 31, 2024 valid for 02 2024