



Drought Information Statement for West Texas & Southeast New Mexico

Valid 03/14/2024

Issued By: WFO Midland/Odessa

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

- This product will be updated Apr. 14, 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.



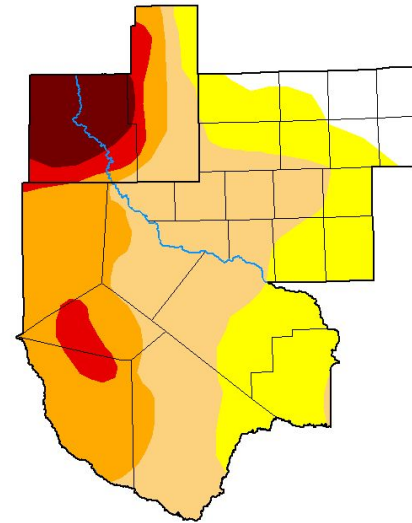


U.S. Drought Monitor

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.

U.S. Drought Monitor Midland/Odessa, TX WFO



March 12, 2024
(Released Thursday, Mar. 14, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current 03-08-2024	7.17	25.59	34.12	21.57	5.31	6.24
Last Week 03-05-2024	7.17	25.59	34.12	21.57	5.31	6.24
3 Months Ago 12-10-2023	13.70	25.96	26.91	21.74	5.45	6.24
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2024	13.72	25.95	26.91	21.74	5.45	6.24
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	0.00	5.05	30.07	32.49	23.81	8.58
One Year Ago 03-14-2023	2.50	27.13	46.10	18.53	5.75	0.00

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>

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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EST March 12th.





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

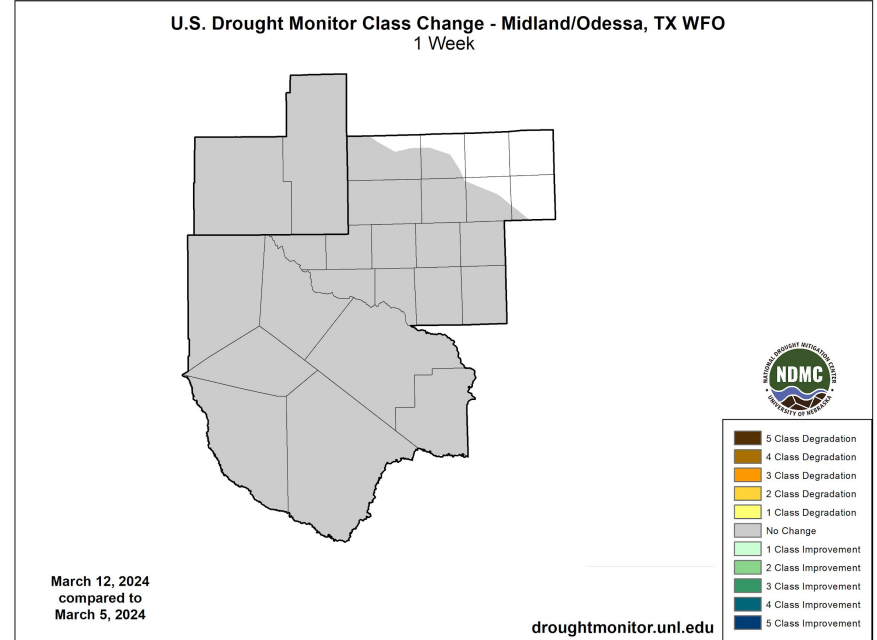


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EST March 12th.

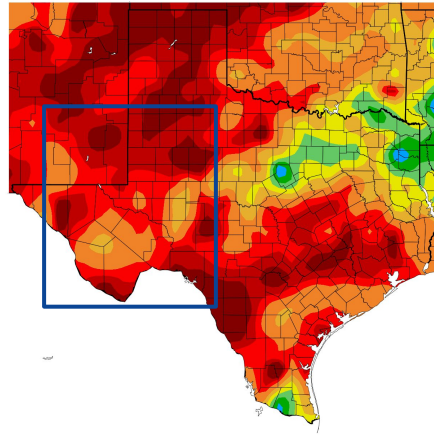




Precipitation

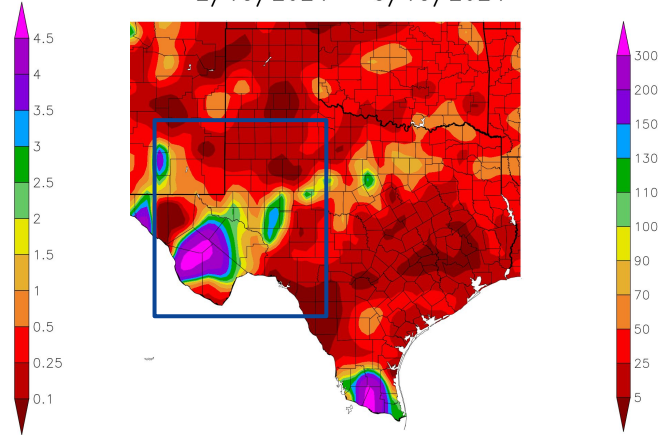
- February and into March remained dry for the most part with above normal rainfall occurring over the Davis Mountains at the end of February. Most other spots saw some rainfall, but remain below normal year-to-date.

Precipitation (in)
2/13/2024 - 3/13/2024



Generated 3/14/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
2/13/2024 - 3/13/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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 March 13, 2024

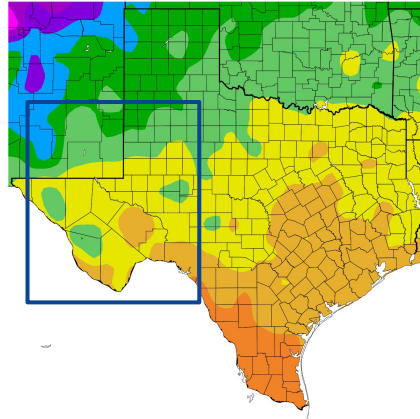




Temperature

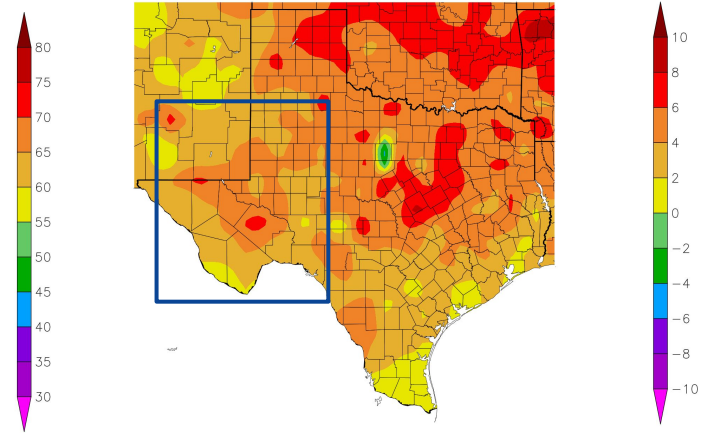
- Daily average temperatures continue to climb as the region headed into late winter and early spring. Much of the area has been at least 2°F above normal with a couple spots around 6°F above normal.

Temperature (F)
2/13/2024 – 3/13/2024



Generated 3/14/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/13/2024 – 3/13/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers ⁰²⁴ 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 March 14, 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 50.1% conservation capacity. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Per Agrilife Texas A&M [Crop and Weather Report](#), the cooler weather has not been good for recently planted corn. Pecan orchards have been pruned and preparation continues for row crops. Livestock are reported to be in fair condition.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- March and into April may see critical fire weather conditions at times (low relative humidity and increased winds), but a lack of fuels in the region will mitigate this risk.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

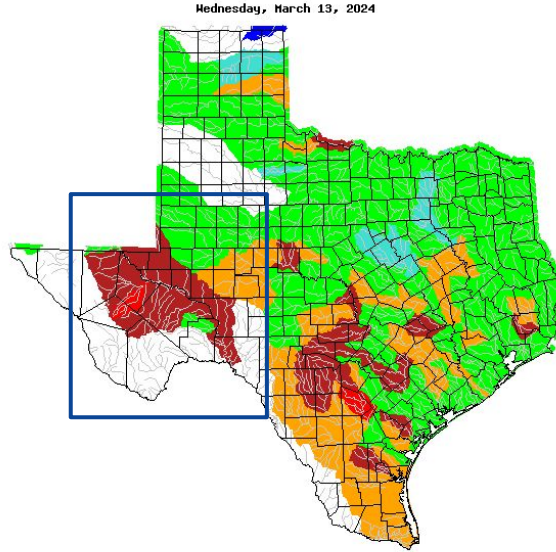
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Toyah Creek is low
- The Pecos and Rio Grande Basins are below to much below normal
- The Conchos basin is below normal
- All other basins are normal
- [Midland Monthly Hydrology Report for January](#)
- [February Rainfall](#)



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

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day streamflows for Texas](#), valid 13 March 2024

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	% Full
JB Thomas	2258.00	2226.63	20.9
Colorado City	2070.20	2056.90	46.7
Champion Creek	2083.00	2068.90	57.3
Natural Dam Salt Lake	2457.00	2447.29	48.4
Moss Creek	2337.00	2331.78	77.0
Brantley	3256.70	3247.92	54.0
Avalon	3177.40	3174.93	55.0
Red Bluff	2827.40	2812.48	41.7

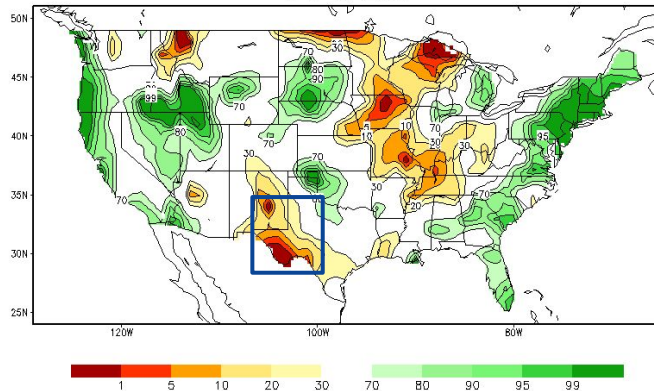




Agricultural Impacts

- 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.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAR 12, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending MAR 9, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

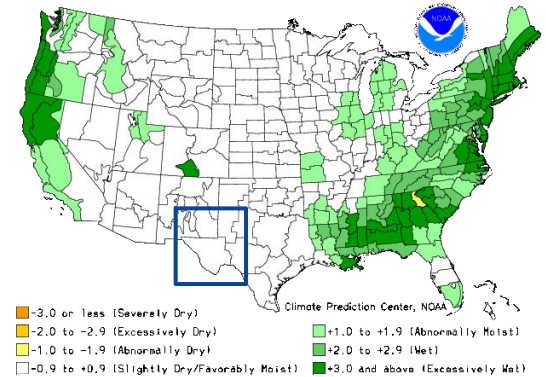


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid March 12, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending March 09, 2023

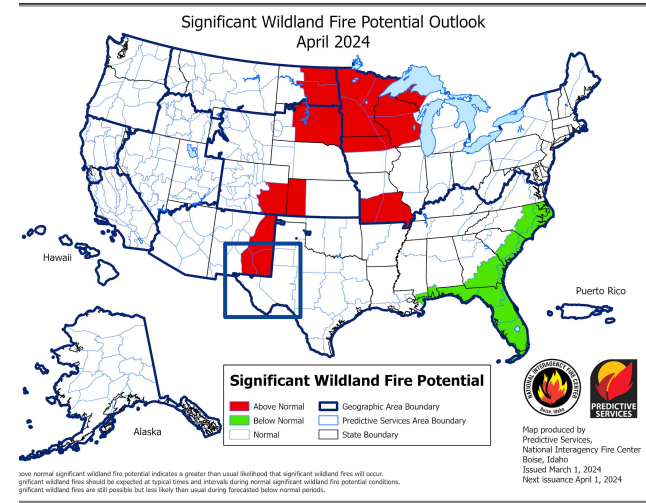
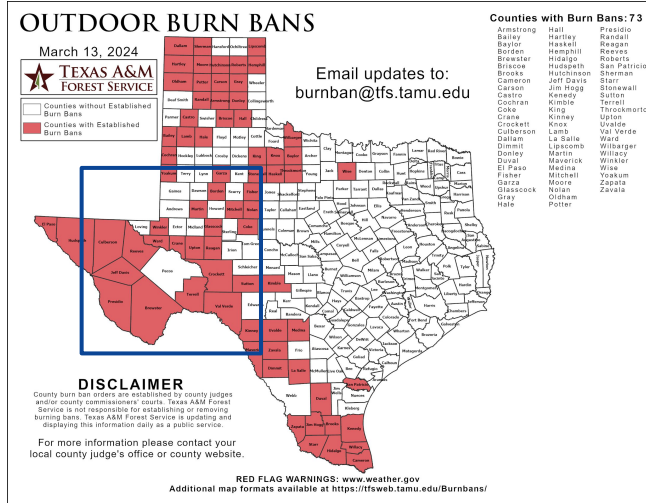




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Significant fire potential outlook look to be near normal for March and April for West Texas. Above normal fire potential for SE NM as dry and warm conditions look to persist.
- As mentioned before, fuels are not plentiful across SE NM and will lessen fire hazard impacts even on days with more favorable fire weather conditions.



Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here](#).

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





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Precipitation chances are elevated over the next several days as an upper level low stalls over the Four Corners region and allows plenty of moisture to pass across West Texas and southeast New Mexico. Amounts will vary across the area, but totals around an inch could be seen in spots by the end of next week.

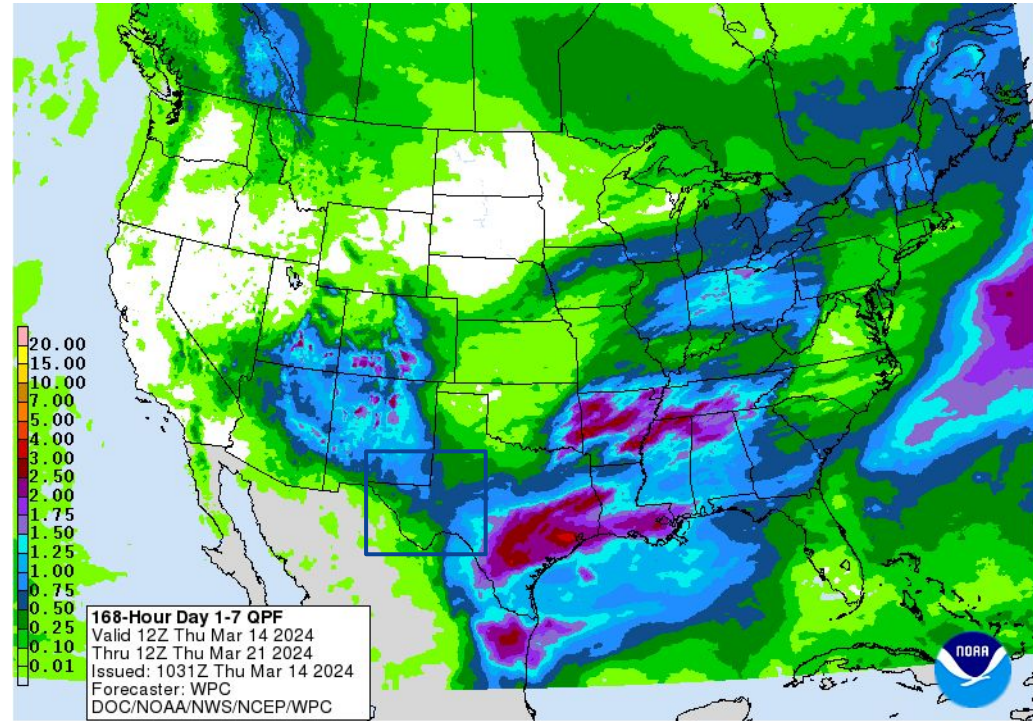


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday March 14 to Thursday March 21





Drought Outlook

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

- March is part of the dry season for West Texas and southeast New Mexico and drought conditions are expected to remain for much of the area even with the prospect of rain. Without near normal precipitation, drought conditions may expand eastward towards the Edwards Plateau.

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 2024
Released February 29, 2024

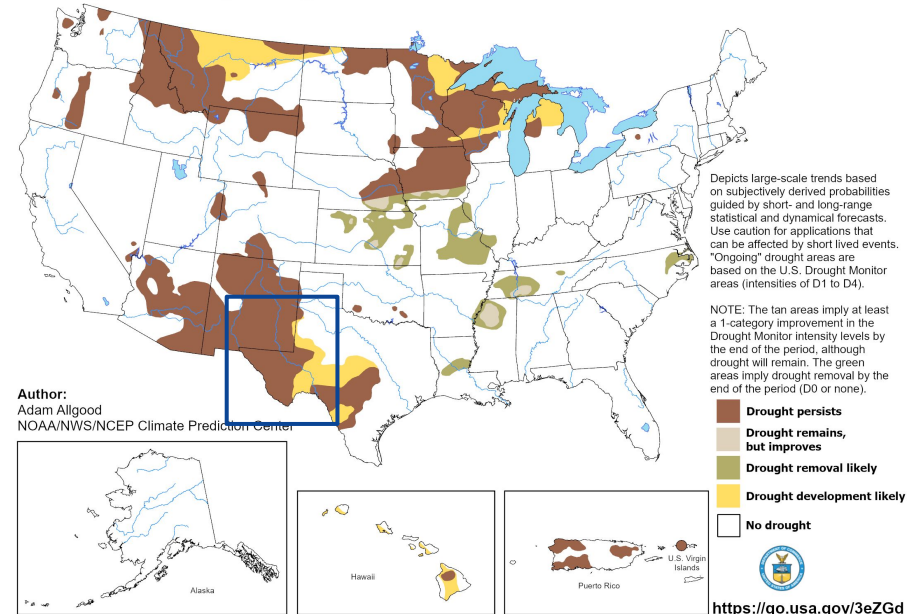


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released 02 29, 2024 valid for 03 2024

Links to the latest:
[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)