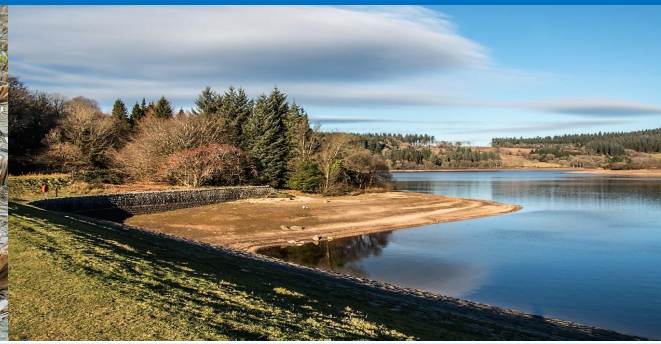
Drought Information Statement for West Texas & Southeast New Mexico

Valid 04/11/2024

Issued By: WFO Midland/Odessa

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

- This product will be updated May. 11, 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, western portions of the Permian Basin and much of Brewster County.
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Eastern portions of the Permian Basin and Lower Trans Pecos

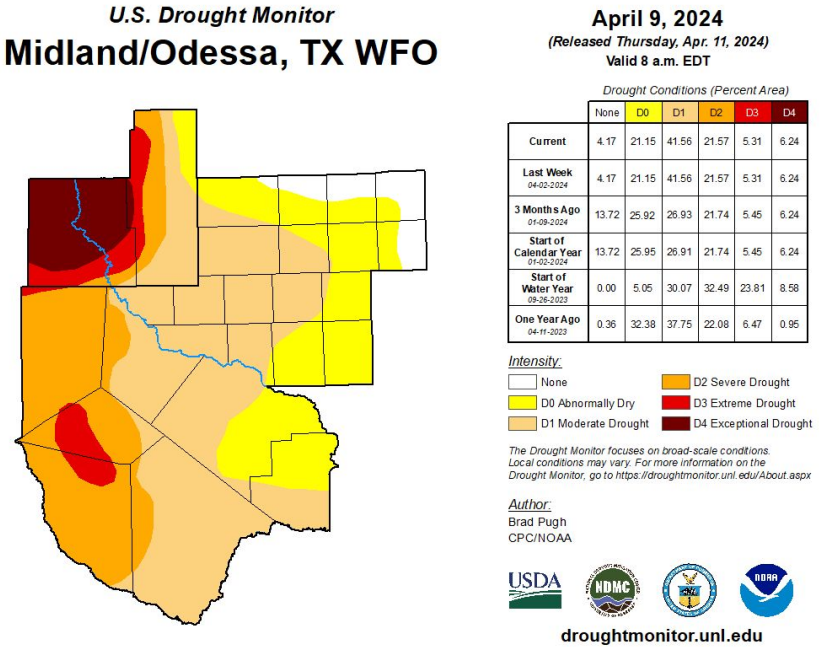


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EST April 11th.

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - No changes in the last week.

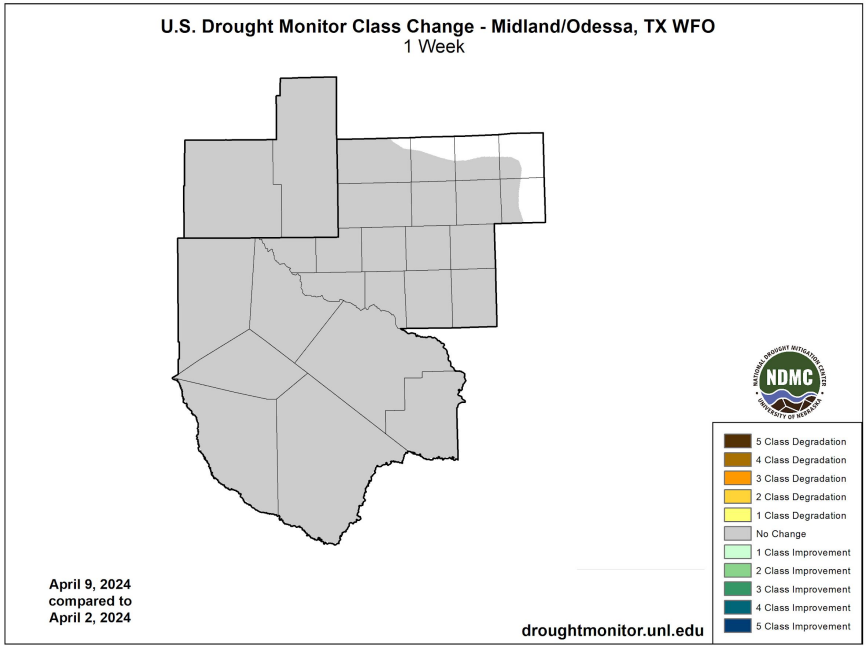
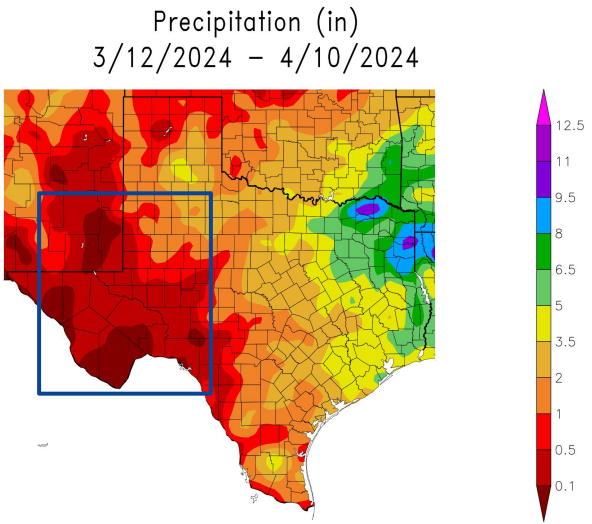


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EST April 11th.

Precipitation

- Little precipitation fell during the second half of March and into early April with the Rio Grande Valley and much of southeast New Mexico falling well below normal. The Permian Basin ended up receiving much of their April rainfall over the last several days.



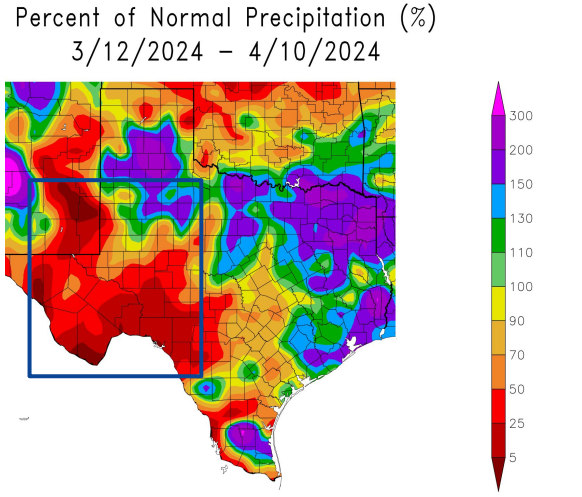
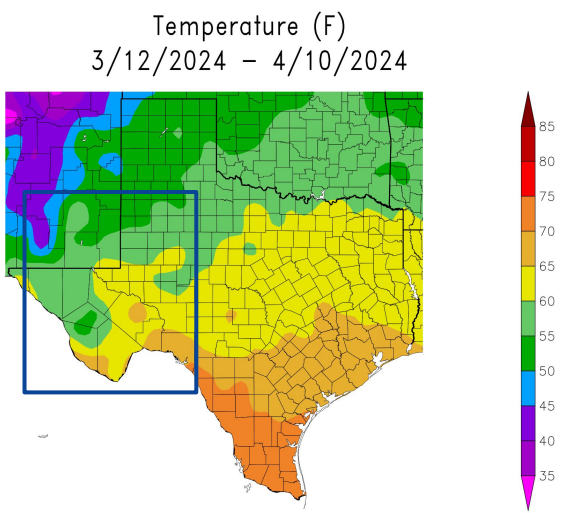


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for West Texas and SE NM
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for West Texas and SE NM
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending April 10, 2024

Temperature

- Daily average temperatures continue to climb as the region heads into the middle of spring. Cooler than normal conditions, by about 2-3 degrees, prevailed across the Marfa Plateau and portions of southeast New Mexico.



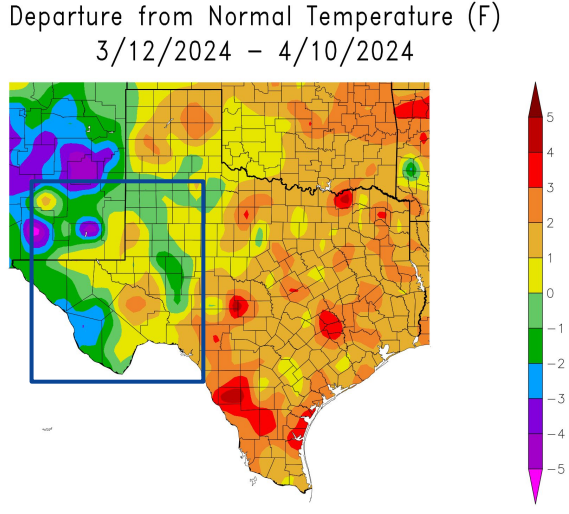


Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending April 11, 2024

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 46.1% conservation capacity. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Per Agrilife Texas A&M Crop and Weather Report, corn has had less than ideal growing conditions due to the wind over the last couple weeks. Cotton growers consider whether or not to irrigate as conditions remain dry. Livestock was still being supplemented with grain and hay.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Late April and into May will continue to see times where critical fire weather conditions develop. Fuel load remains low over SE NM and parts of West Texas.

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 below to much below normal
- The Conchos basin is below normal
- All other basins are normal
- Midland Monthly Hydrology Report for February
- March Rainfall

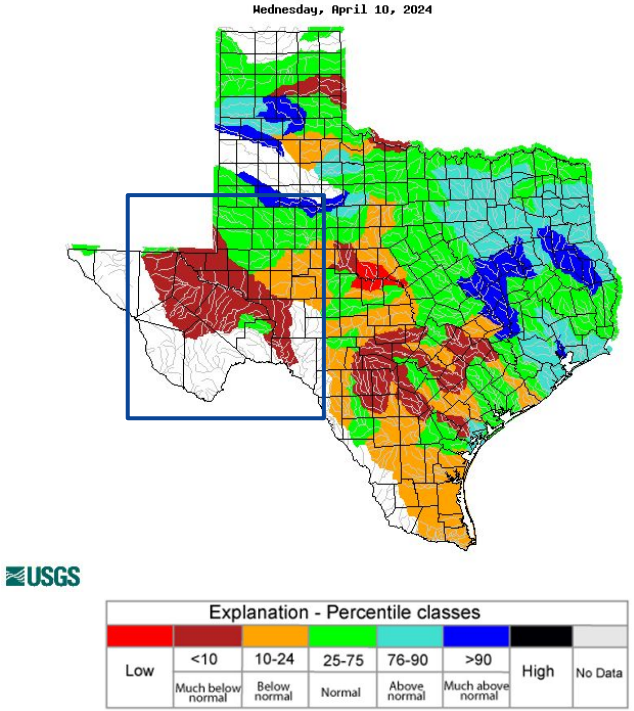
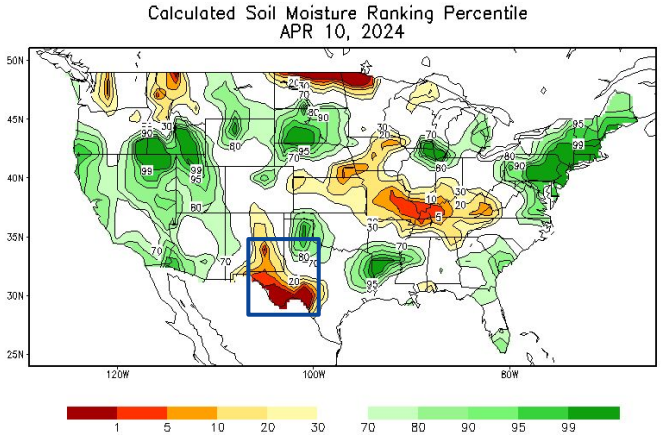


Image Caption: USGS 7 day streamflows for Texas, valid 10 April 2024

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	% Full
JB Thomas	2258.00	2226.04	20.0
Colorado City	2070.20	2056.59	45.7
Champion Creek	2083.00	2068.65	56.6
Natural Dam Salt Lake	2457.00	2447.28	48.4
Moss Creek	2337.00	2332.20	79.0
Brantley	3256.70	3246.59	49.0
Avalon	3177.40	3173.27	29.0
Red Bluff	2827.40	2812.33	41.3

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 become noted as being abnormally dry as below normal precipitation has occurred.



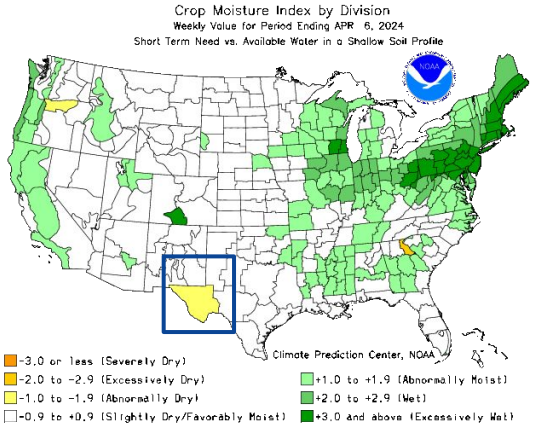
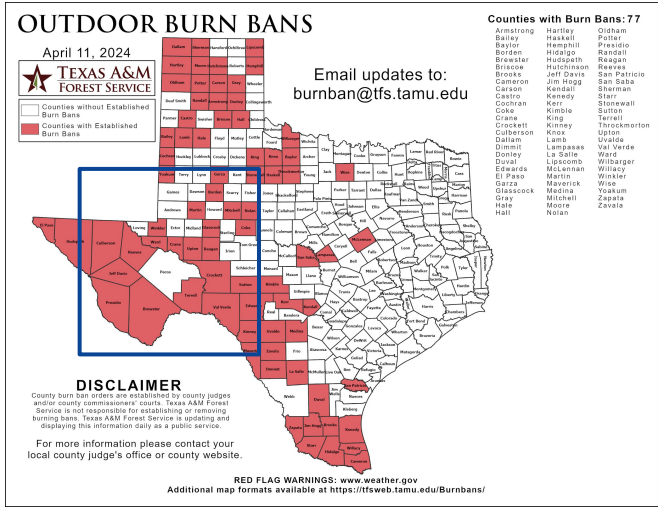


Image Captions:
Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid April 11, 2024
Right: Crop Moisture Index by Division. Weekly value for period ending April 06, 2024

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Significant fire potential outlook look to be above normal for May for West Texas and SE NM as dry and warm conditions look to persist.
- As mentioned before, fuels are not plentiful across much of SE NM and West Texas 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 May 2024

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Precipitation chances are slim for southeast New Mexico and West Texas with the best chance for rain with the dryline along the eastern fringes of the Permian Basin and Lower Trans Pecos. An upper level system passes to the north of the area on Monday, but only brings drier air into next week.

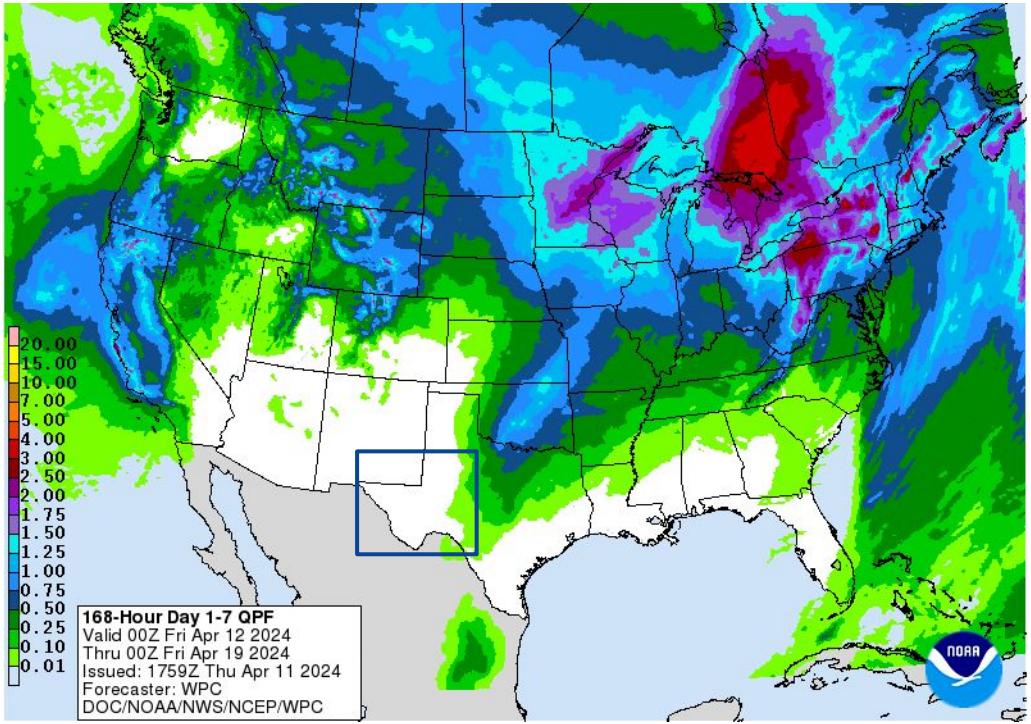
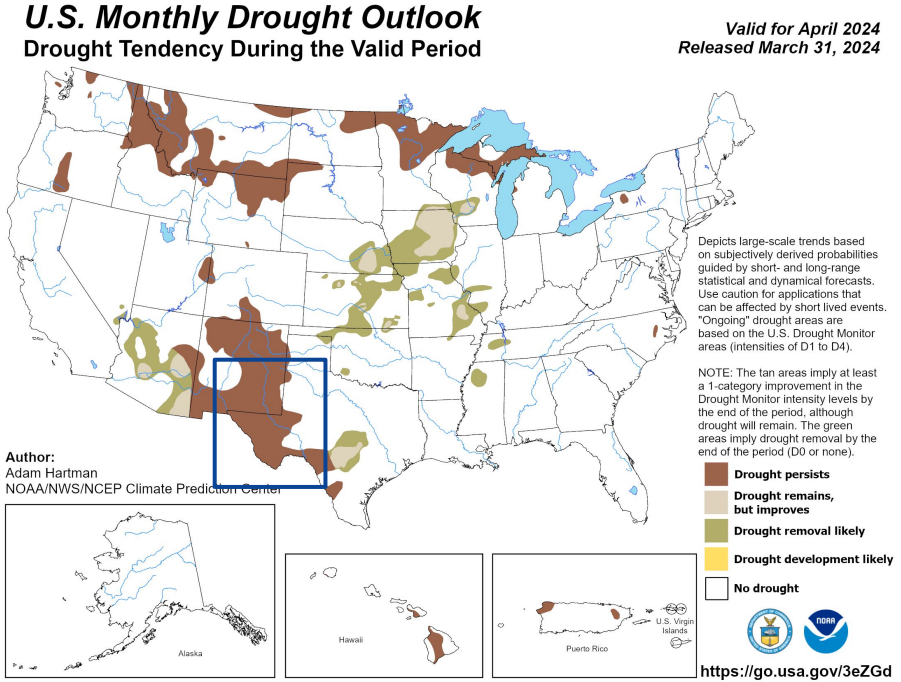


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid Friday April 12 to Friday April 19

Drought Outlook

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

- April typically sees more precipitation for the month compared to March, but remains on the drier side compared to the summer months. Drought conditions look to persist through April with below normal precipitation expected.



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 03 31, 2024 valid for 04 2024