



Drought Information Statement for West Texas & Southeast New Mexico

Valid 09/16/2023

Issued By: WFO Midland/Odessa

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

- This product will be updated Oct. 16, 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/maf/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



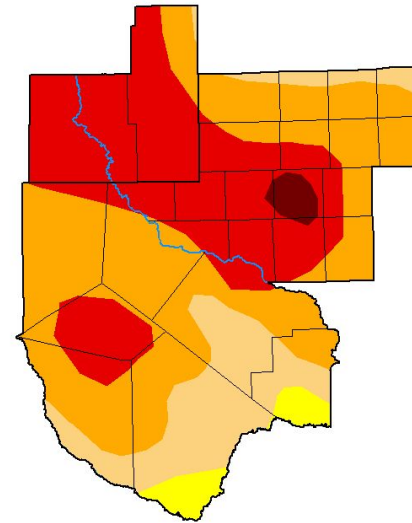


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS UNCHANGED FOR W TX AND SE NM.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): Midland, Ector, and Upton Counties.
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Eddy and Lea Counties, as well as portions of the Davis Mountains and just east of the Pecos River in Texas.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Northern Permian Basin, Marfa Plateau, Davis Mountain Foothills
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Stockton Plateau and portions of Big Bend.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Small portions of the Rio Grande in Terrell and Lower Brewster Counties.

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



September 12, 2023
(Released Thursday, Sep. 14, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.00	3.22	16.24	43.54	35.53	1.46
Last Week 09-05-2023	0.00	3.22	16.24	43.54	35.53	1.46
3 Months Ago 06-13-2023	6.15	46.13	23.60	24.11	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	14.94	35.76	25.08	20.91	3.31	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	7.53	25.26	36.95	14.70	14.38	1.17
One Year Ago 09-13-2022	7.53	22.39	38.94	15.59	14.38	1.17

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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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CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 14th.





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

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

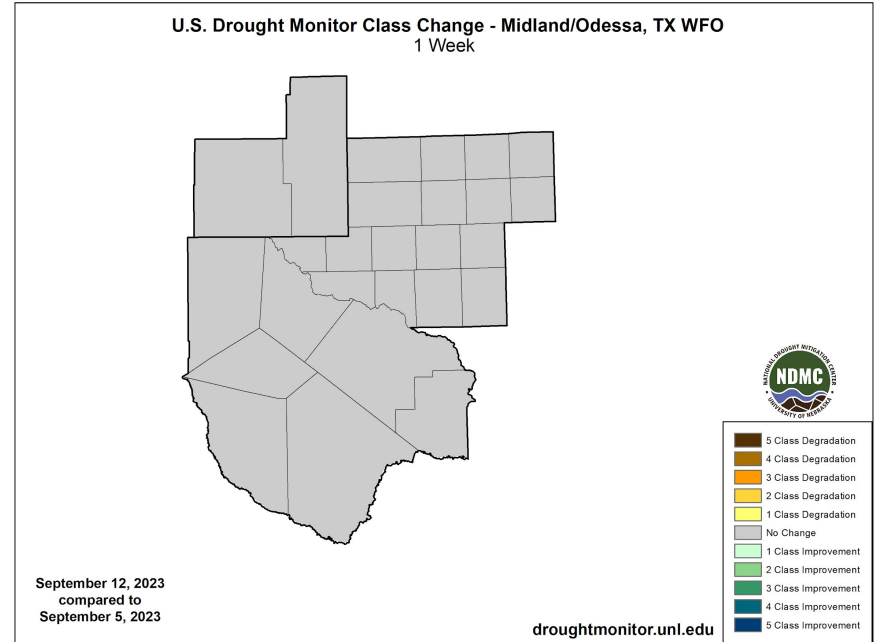


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EDT September 12th.

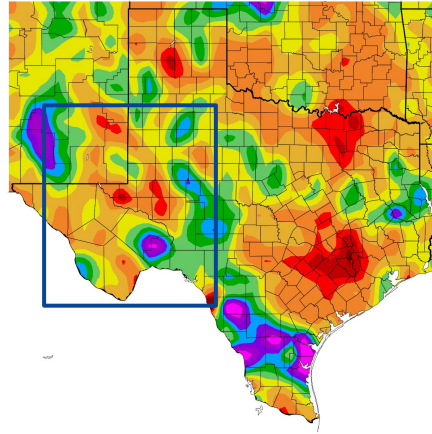




Precipitation

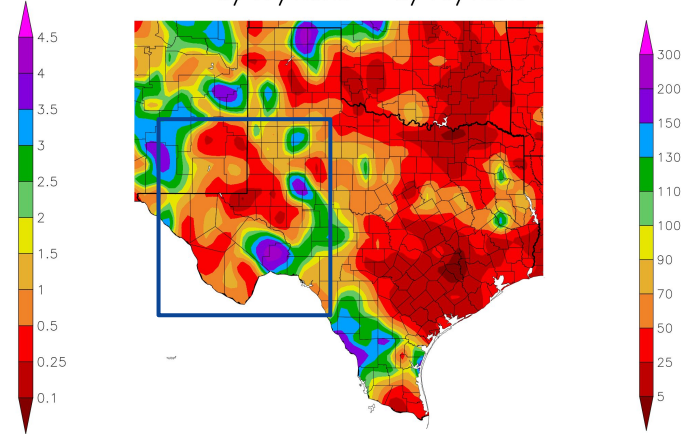
- Much of West Texas and SE NM have seen well below normal precipitation between August and the middle of September with the notable exception of Terrell County where the remnants of Tropical Storm Harold brought 5 inches of rain over a two day period on August 22nd and 23rd.

Precipitation (in)
8/17/2023 – 9/15/2023



Generated 9/16/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/17/2023 – 9/15/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 23 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate

Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for [area]
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for [area]
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending September, 15, 2023

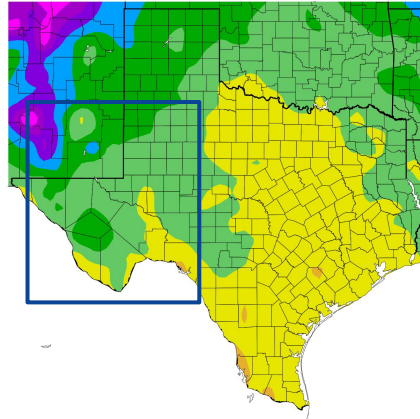




Temperature

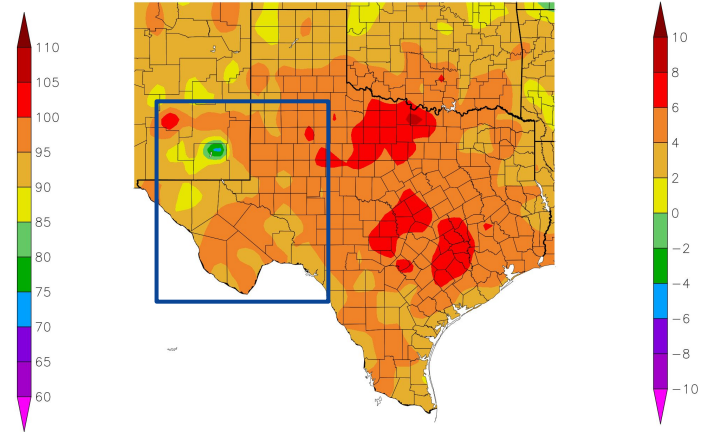
- Temperatures have continued to remain above normal across the region for the past month with only portions of Eddy County seeing near normal temperatures.
- This summer period (Jun-Aug) has ranked 2nd warmest at 86.6°F a degree behind 2011 for warmest.

Temperature (F)
8/17/2023 – 9/15/2023



Generated 9/16/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/17/2023 – 9/15/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers ⁰²³ 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 September, 15, 2023





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 47.6% conservation capacity. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Per Agrilife Texas A&M [Crop and Weather Report](#), cotton crop condition declined quickly over the last month. Cattle condition was fair to poor in the area. Corn and sorghum have been completely harvested.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

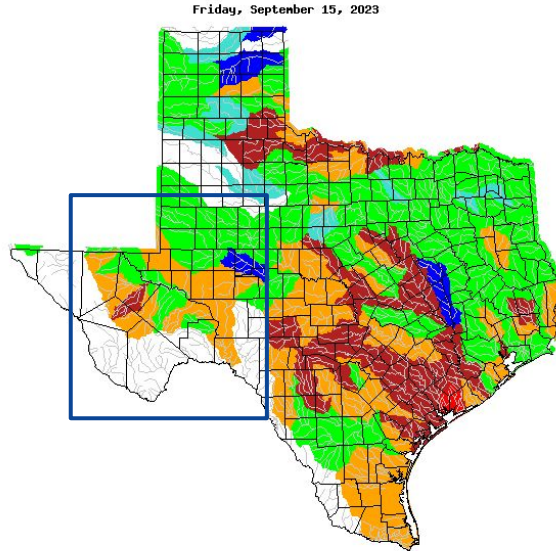
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- The North Concho River is much above normal
- Toyah & Limpia Creeks are much below normal
- All other rivers and tributaries are at normal or baseflow
- [Midland Monthly Hydrology Report for August](#)
- [August 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 September 7, 2023

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	% Full
JB Thomas	2258.00	2225.18	18.6
Colorado City	2070.20	2057.79	49.7
Champion Creek	2083.00	2067.06	52.8
Natural Dam Salt Lake	2457.00	2447.29	48.4
Moss Creek	2337.00	2331.58	77.0
Brantley	3256.70	3248.35	56.0
Avalon	3177.40	3173.43	32.0
Red Bluff	2827.40	2813.99	46.2

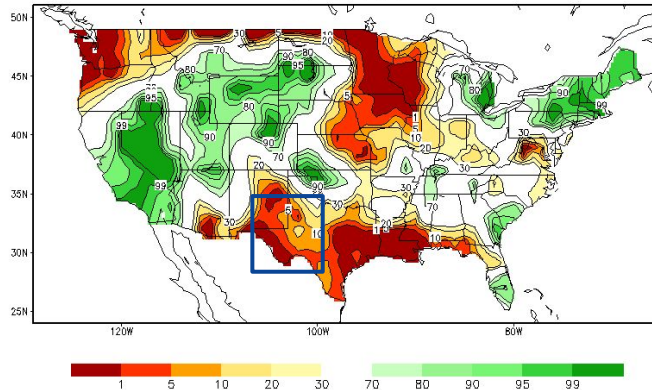




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture continues to rank below the 10-20th percentiles across the Permian Basin with even lower percentiles along the Rio Grande. This, combined with above average temperatures, will keep crops on the abnormally dry to severely dry side resulting in early harvests and poor cattle conditions.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 15, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 9, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

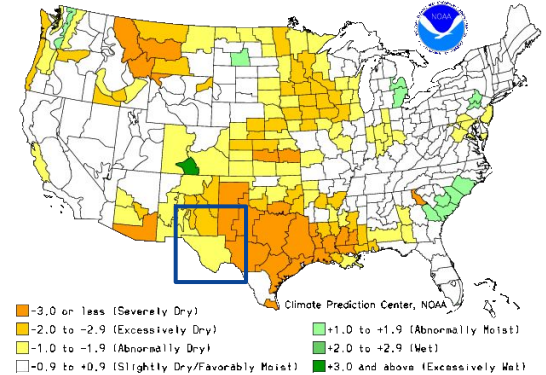


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 15, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending September 9, 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Precipitation chances will be low overall for the coming week across West Texas and southeast New Mexico. An upper level ridge begins to build back and will limit shower and storms chances despite available moisture.

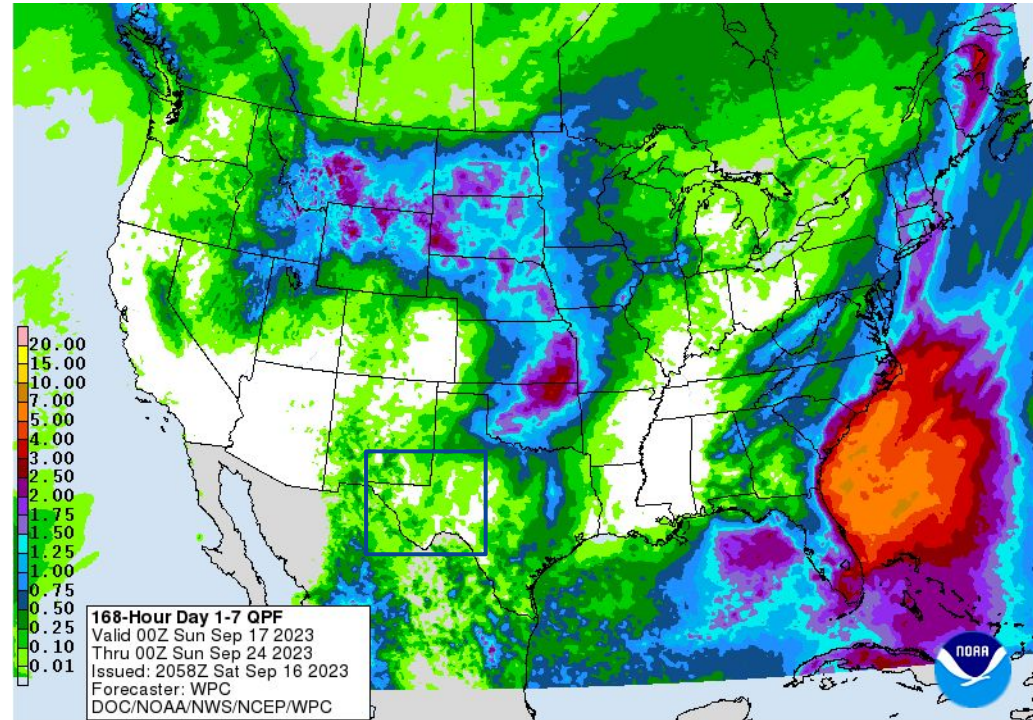


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Sunday September 17 to Sunday September 24





Drought Outlook

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

- For the rest of September, drought conditions look to persist. While recent rains have at least slowed worsening drought conditions, without more consistent rainfall, the drought will not improve much if at all.

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

Valid for September 2023
Released August 31, 2023

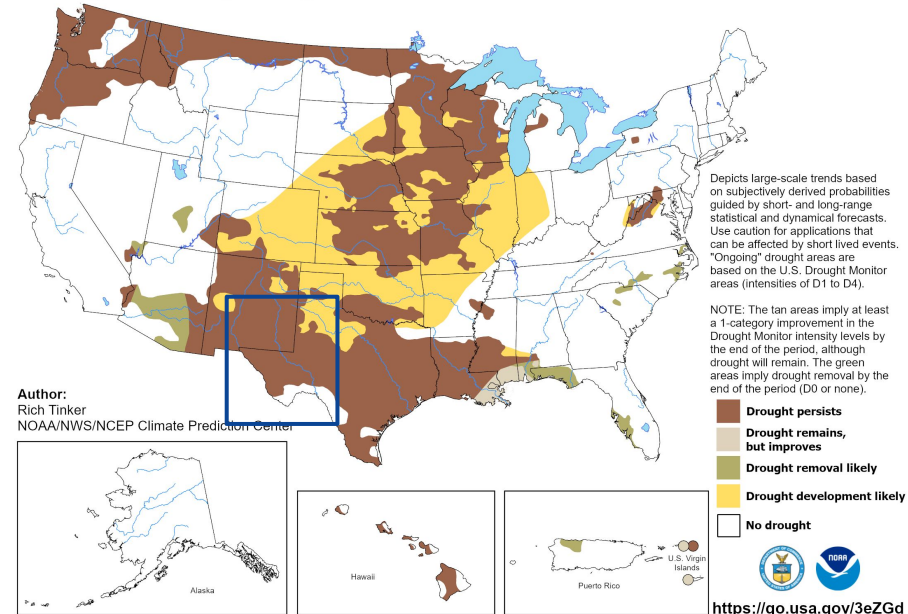


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released 08 31, 2023 valid for 09 2023

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

