



Drought Information Statement for West Texas & Southeast New Mexico

Valid 12/06/2023

Issued By: WFO Midland/Odessa

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

- This product will be updated Jan. 10, 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.



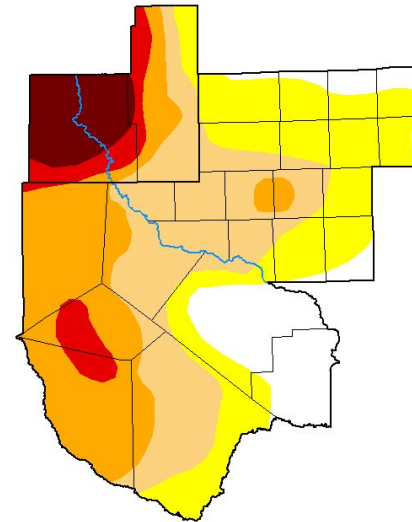


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS IMPROVED FOR W TX 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



November 28, 2023

(Released Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current 11-21-2023	13.70	25.96	26.01	22.64	5.45	6.24
Last Week 11-21-2023	9.90	24.33	19.35	34.73	5.45	6.24
3 Months Ago 08-29-2023	2.26	9.12	14.47	54.62	19.53	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 09-26-2023	0.00	5.05	30.07	32.49	23.81	8.58
One Year Ago 11-29-2022	14.95	34.61	23.95	21.28	5.21	0.00

Intensity:



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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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EST November 28th.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Midland/Odessa



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 much of southeast New Mexico.
 - Large portions of the Permian Basin as well as Pecos County has seen a one class improvement.

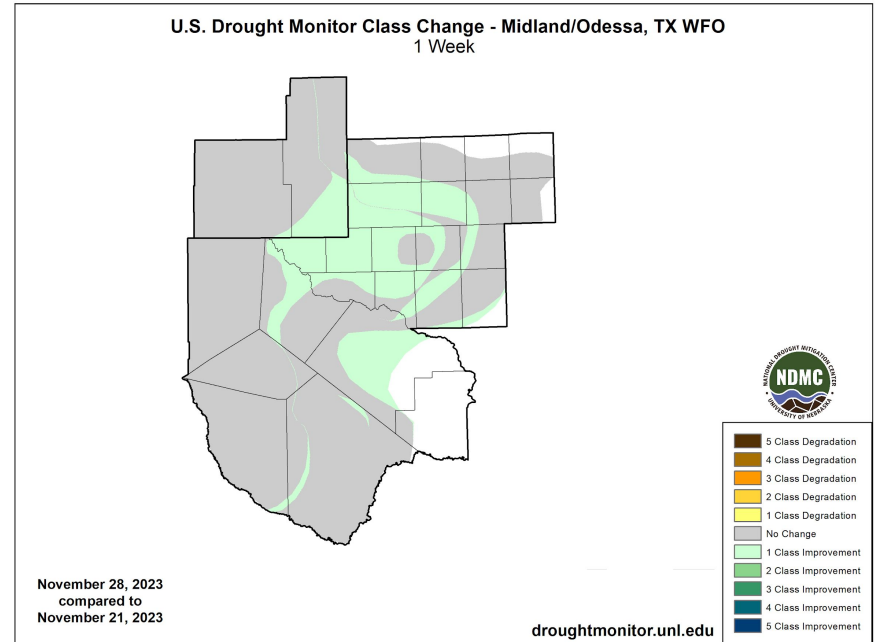


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EST November 28th.

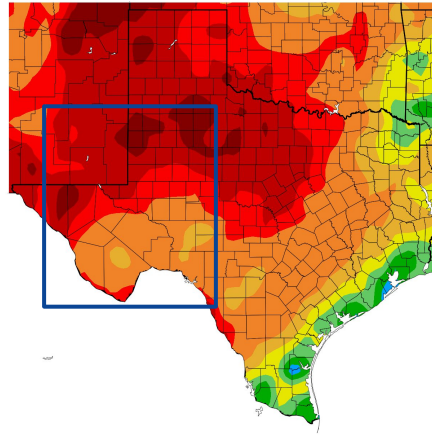




Precipitation

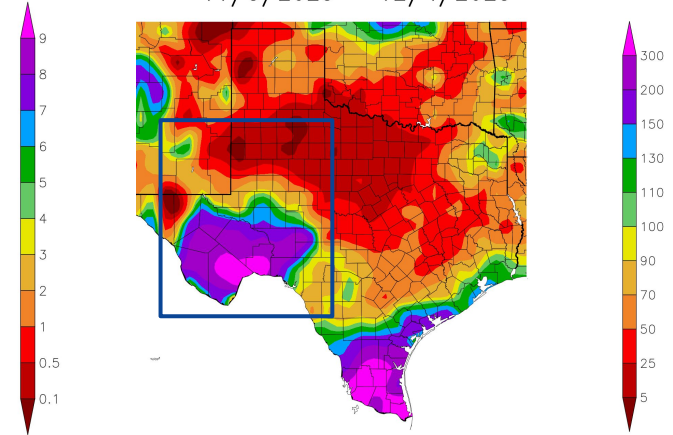
- Near normal precipitation was seen across the northern half of the CWA (Permian Basin and SE NM) during November. However, much above normal precipitation fell across the Big Bend, Stockton Plateau, and Pecos River Valley during the same time frame.

Precipitation (in)
11/5/2023 - 12/4/2023



Generated 12/5/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/5/2023 - 12/4/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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 December 4, 2023

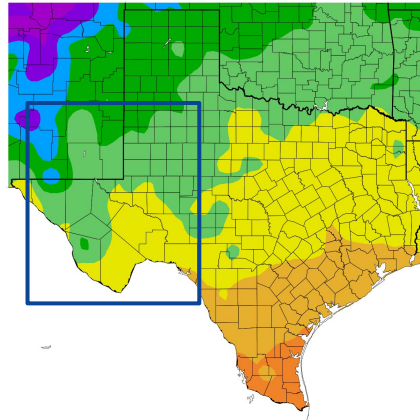




Temperature

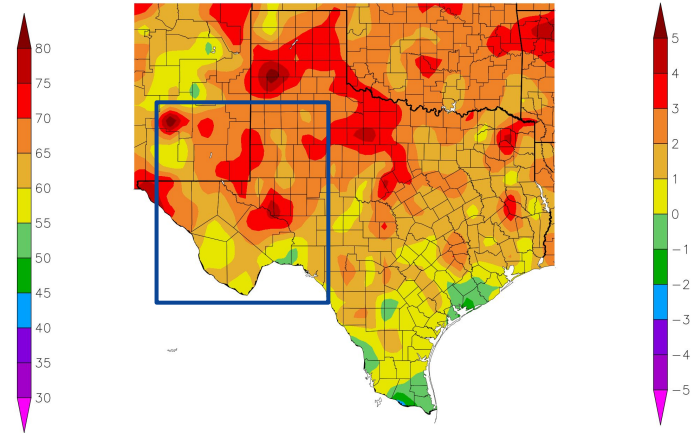
- Moving into climatological winter, average temperatures continue to decrease, as expected, and help to slow evaporation and transpiration of water from the ground and plants.
- Temperatures have continued to remain above normal across the region for the past month despite an uptick in overall precipitation.

Temperature (F)
11/5/2023 - 12/4/2023



Generated 12/5/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/5/2023 - 12/4/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers ²⁰²³ 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 December 4, 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 46.6% conservation capacity. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Per Agrilife Texas A&M [Crop and Weather Report](#), Cotton harvest is winding down. Wheat planting continues behind cotton harvest with emergence good where quality seed was used. 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

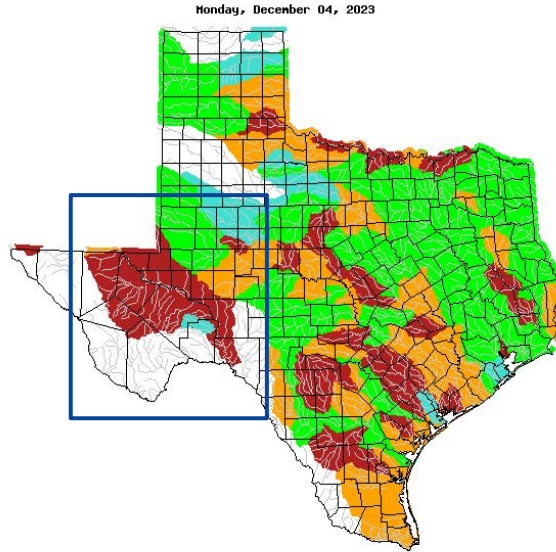
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- The North Fork Brazos River, Colorado River, and Independence Creek are above normal
- The Beals Creek watershed is normal
- The Pecos and Conchos watersheds are below normal
- [Midland Monthly Hydrology Report for October](#)
- [November 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 4 December 2023

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	% Full
JB Thomas	2258.00	2227.51	22.3
Colorado City	2070.20	2057.53	48.8
Champion Creek	2083.00	2069.46	58.8
Natural Dam Salt Lake	2457.00	2447.28	48.4
Moss Creek	2337.00	2331.66	77.0
Brantley	3256.70	3245.46	43.0
Avalon	3177.40	3173.63	35.0
Red Bluff	2827.40	2811.82	39.8

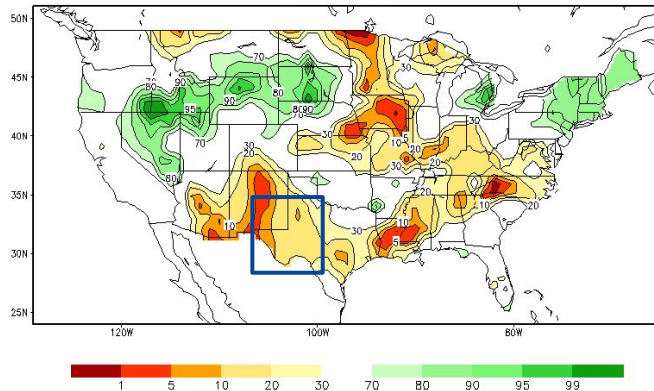




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture continues to rank below the 10-20th percentiles across West Texas and SE NM.
- During the past month, crop moisture has improved somewhat and ranges from slightly dry to favorably moist across the region.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
DEC 04, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending DEC 2, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

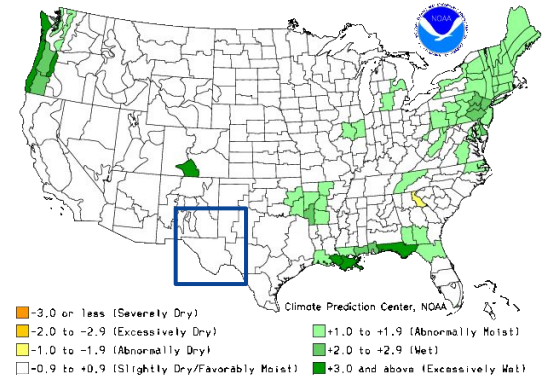


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid December 4, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending December 2, 2023

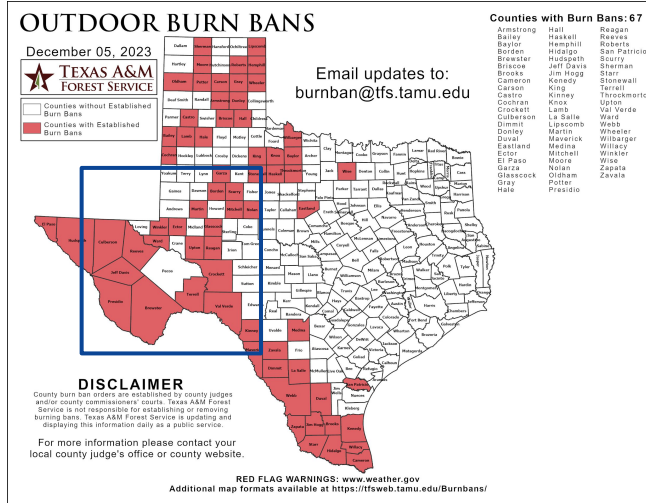




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Fire weather conditions temporarily increase heading into the coming weekend as winds increase in tandem with low daytime humidities. Fuel moisture continues to be on the higher side and recoveries will be good to excellent each night. Longer term fire weather concerns will be low given better fuel moisture content and cooler winter temperatures.



- For the rest of December, lower winter temperatures and normal moisture outlook keep expected fire weather conditions low.

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

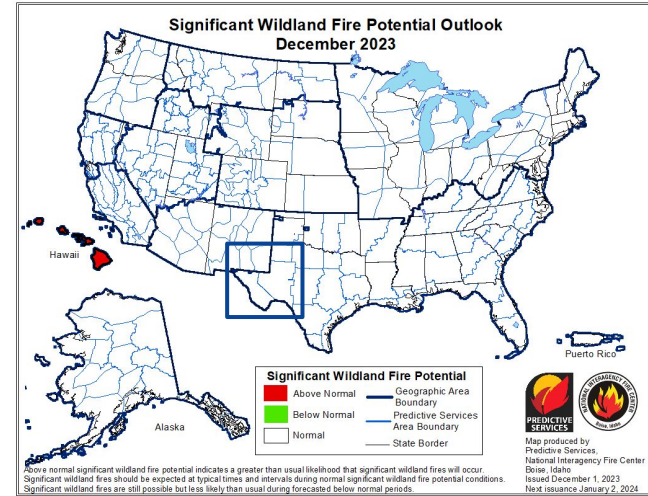


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for November 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Precipitation chances remain near zero through this weekend as an upper level trough swings just north of West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. Precipitation amounts, if any, will be low over the course of this week.

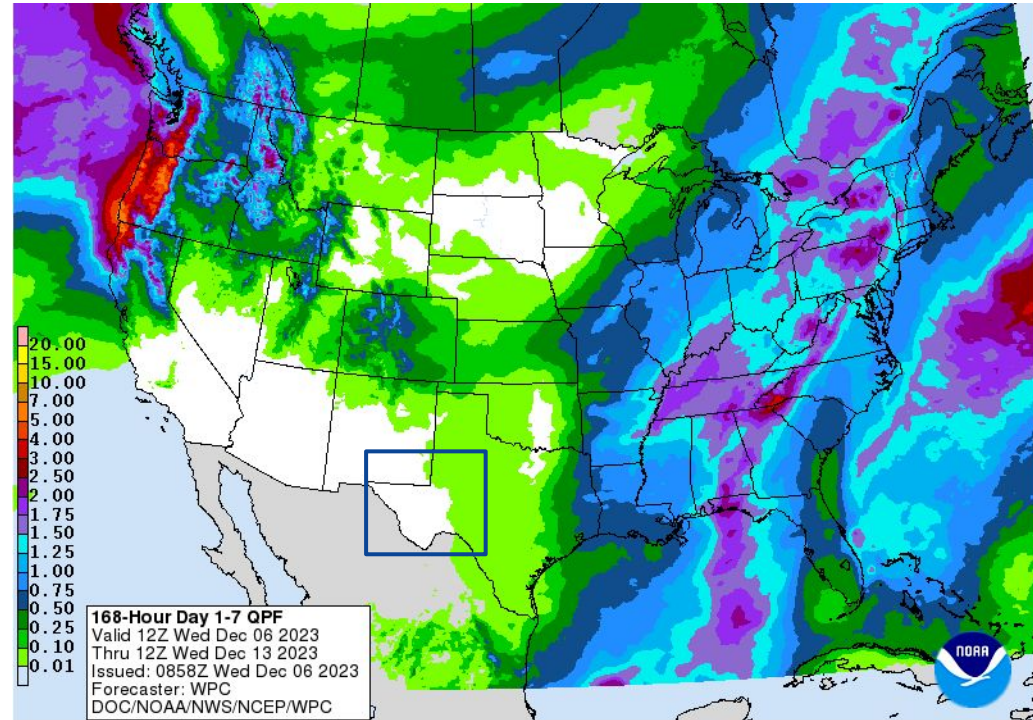


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Wednesday December 6 to Wednesday December 13





Drought Outlook

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

- While precipitation is in the forecast and overall monthly outlook for December, drought conditions look to persist for West Texas and southeast New Mexico as expected precipitation amounts will not be consistent or high enough to significantly alleviate drought conditions.

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

Valid for December 2023
Released November 30, 2023

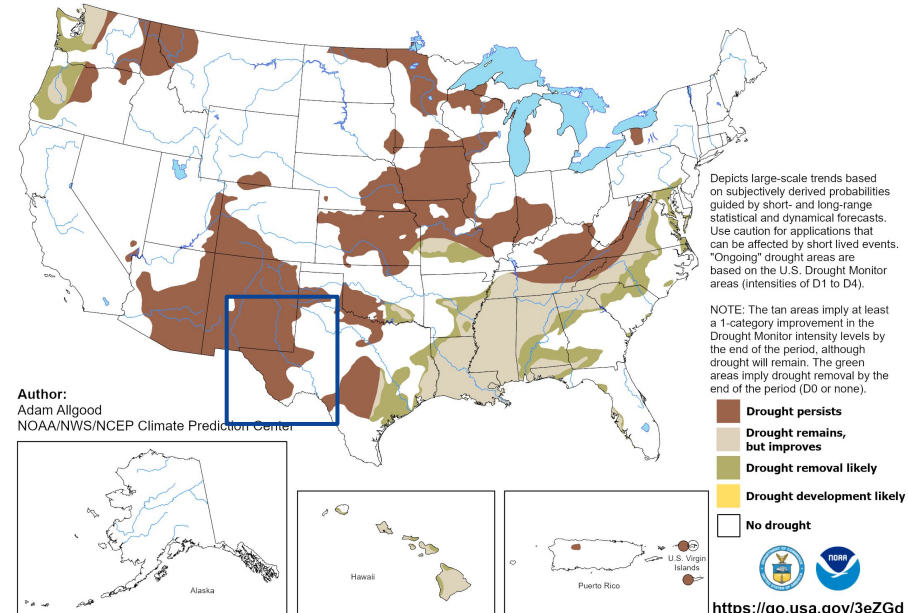


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released 11 30, 2023 valid for 12 2023

Links to the latest:

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

