



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid February 3, 2026

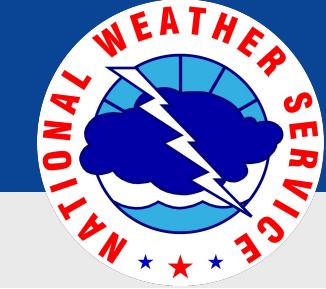
Issued By: NWS El Paso (Santa Teresa, NM)

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated March 7, 2026 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/EPZ/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=132 for regional drought status updates.

- Severe (D2) drought status affecting Southwest New Mexico. Drought status removed for Far West Texas.
- Improvement to drought conditions after abnormally wet January.
- Drought conditions for Southwest New Mexico expected to persist in February due to near normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.





U.S. Drought Monitor

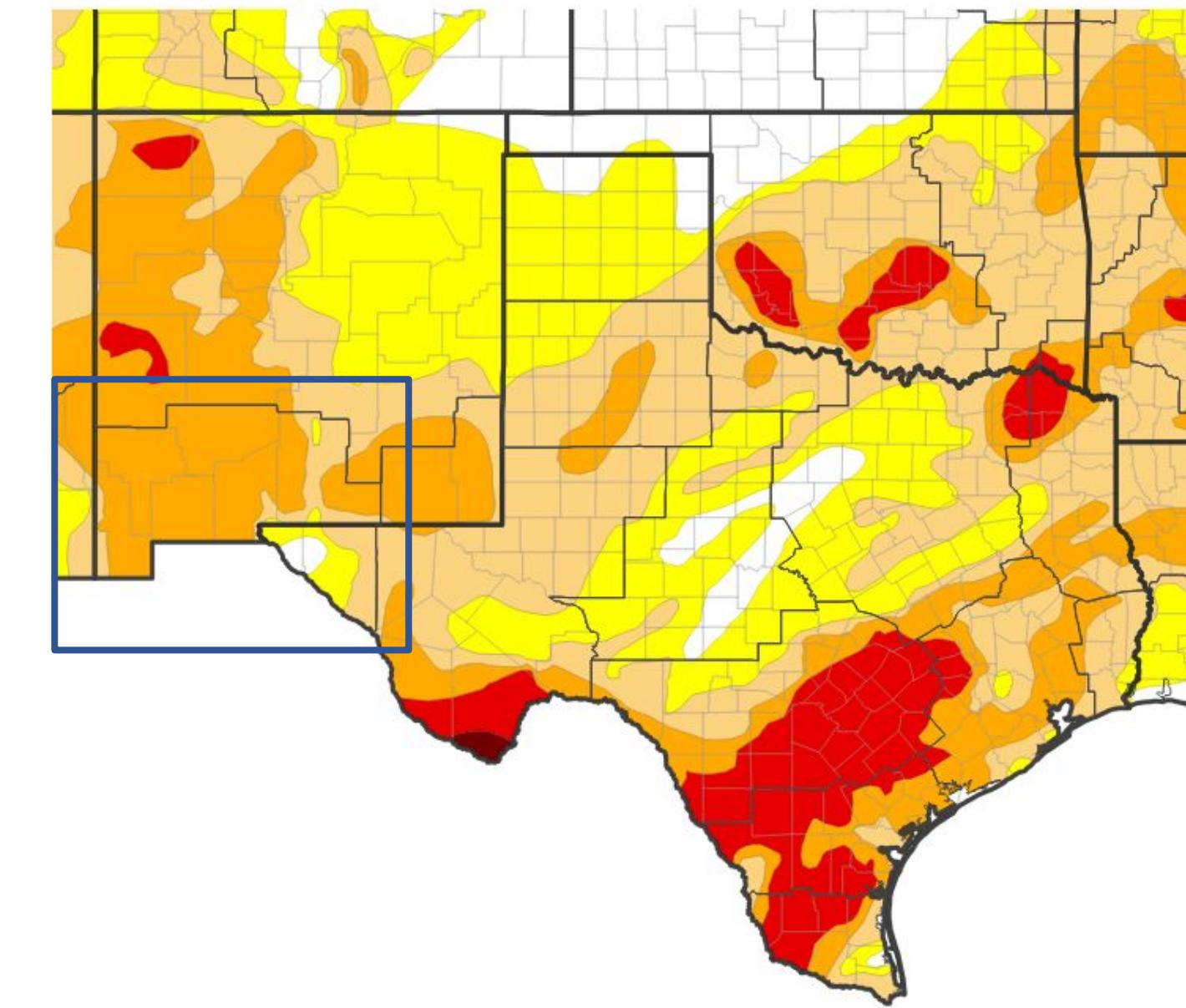
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Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
None
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Most of Southwest and South-Central New Mexico, Gila National Forest
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Portions of Southeast New Mexico, Lincoln National Forest
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
Portions of Far West Texas (99% of New Mexico, 95% of Texas)

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/27/26



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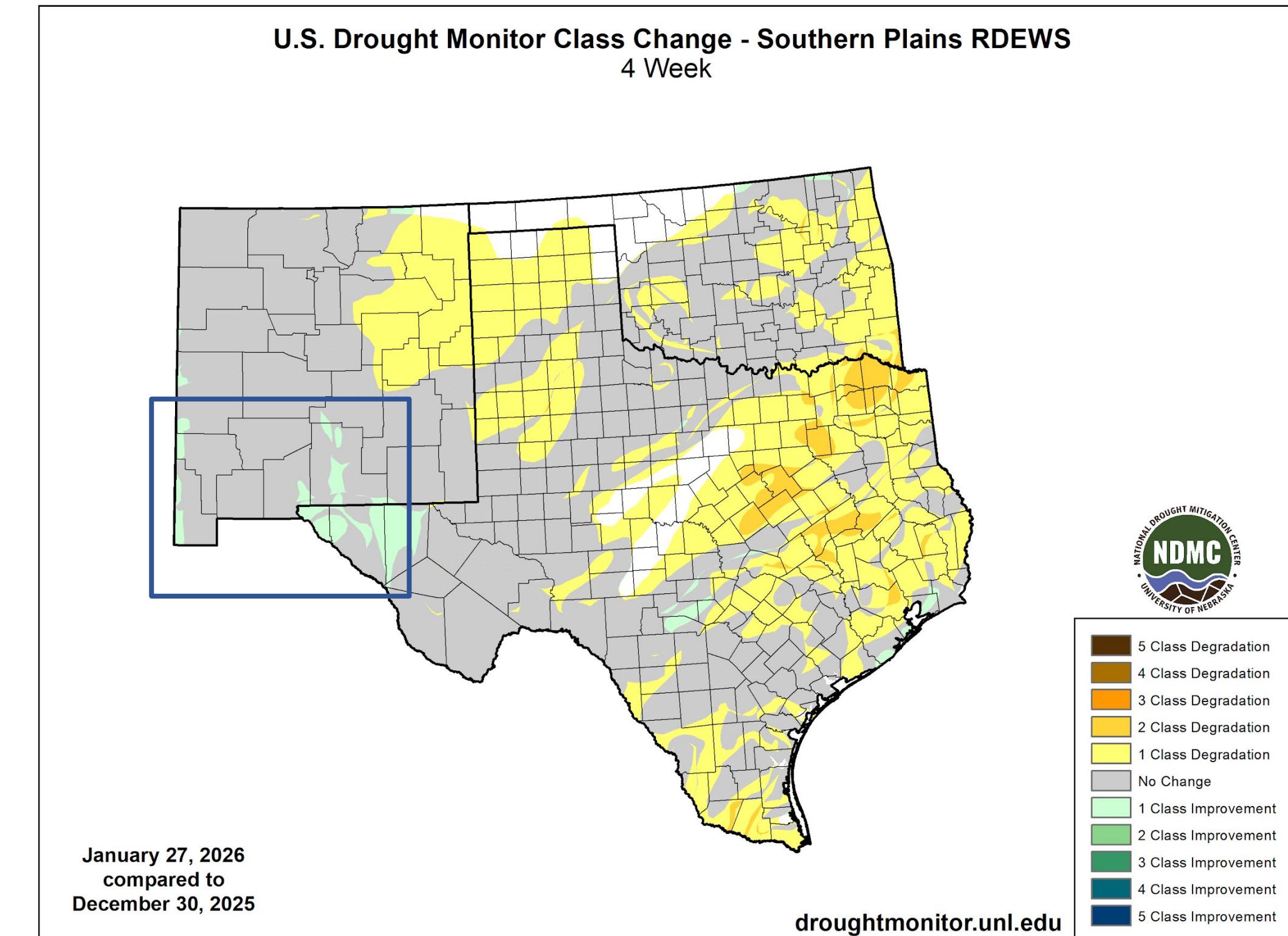
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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Link to the latest [1-month change map](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

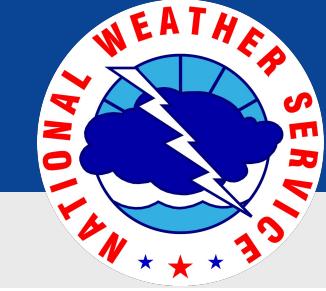
4-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:**
None
- **Drought Improved:**
Portions of South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas
- **No Change:**
Portions of Southwest New Mexico



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Precipitation

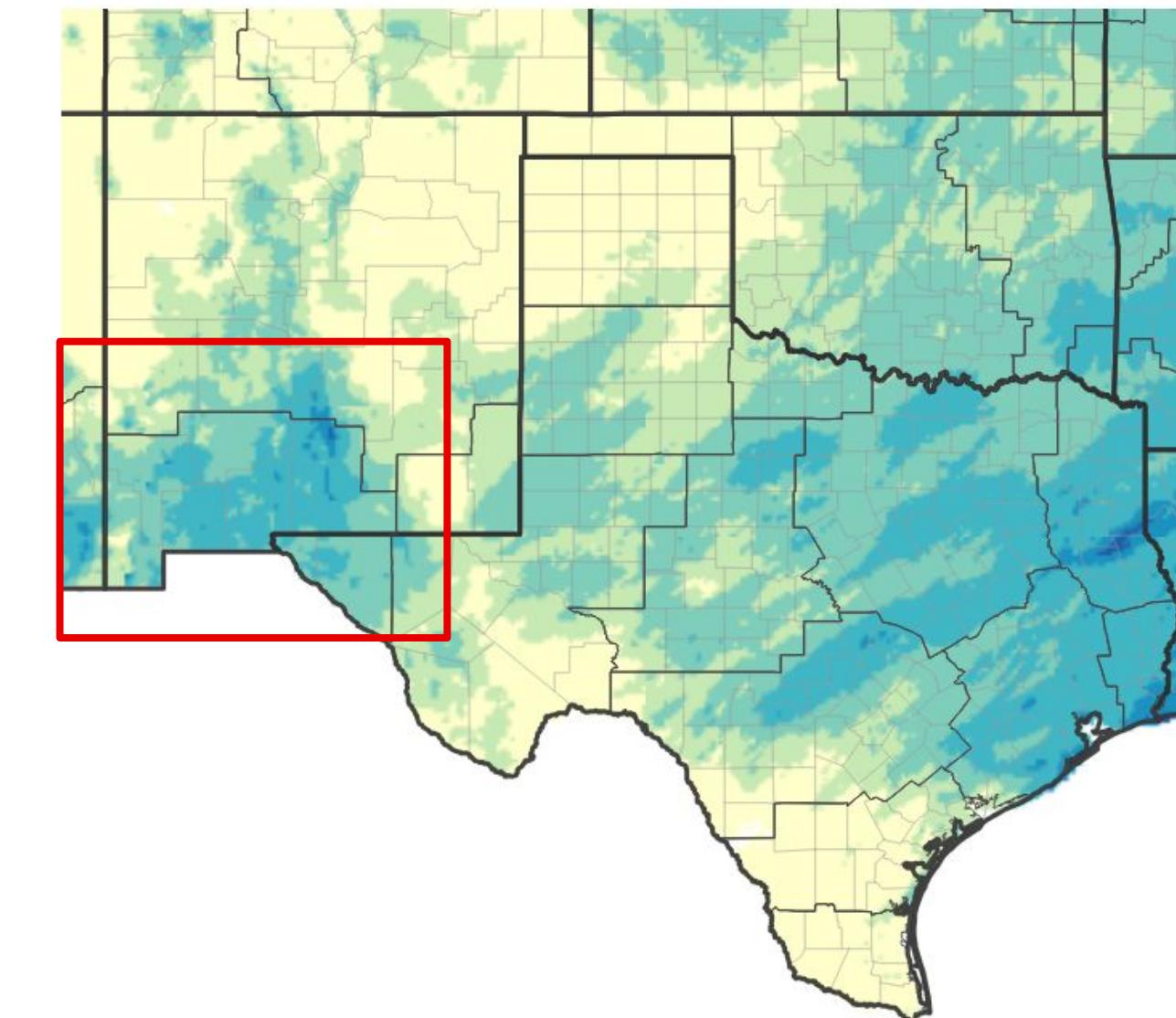
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30-day precip totals,
1.50-3.00" along I-10 corridor.
2.50-4.00" over mountain
forests.

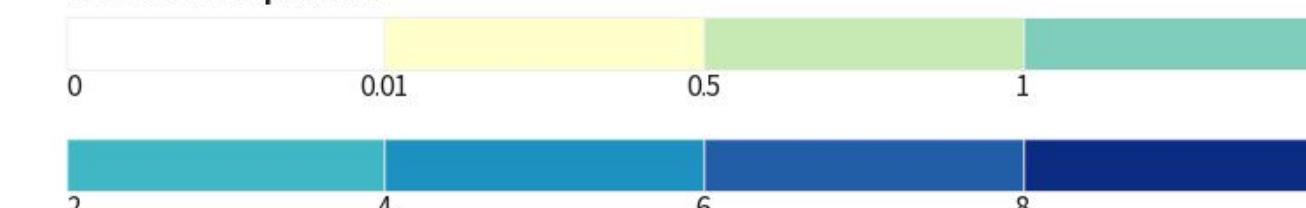
90-day precip totals,
2.50-3.50" along I-10 corridor.
4.00-5.00" over mountain
forests.

Precipitation **300-500%**
above normal in January for
Southern New Mexico and Far
West Texas. Majority of
precipitation fell 1/23-1/25.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

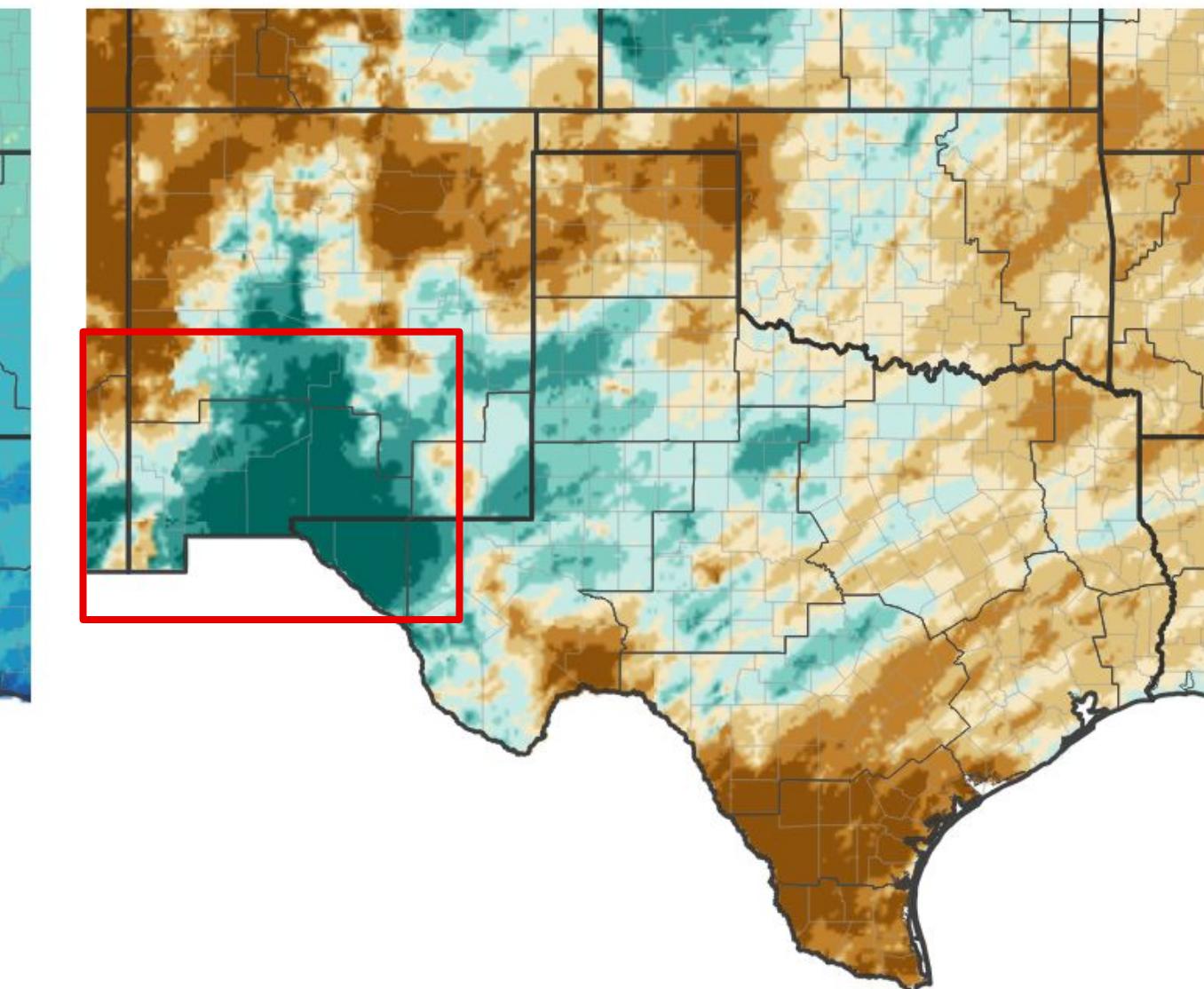


Inches of Precipitation

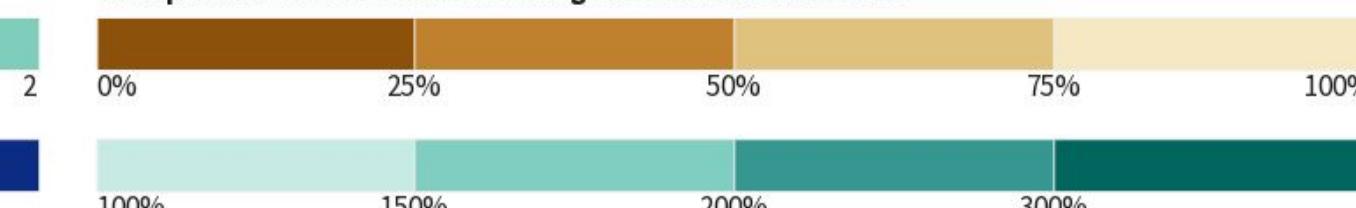


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



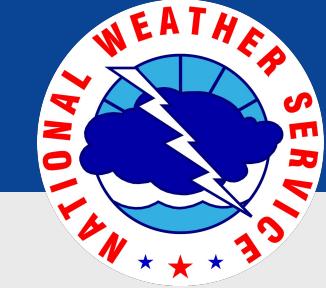
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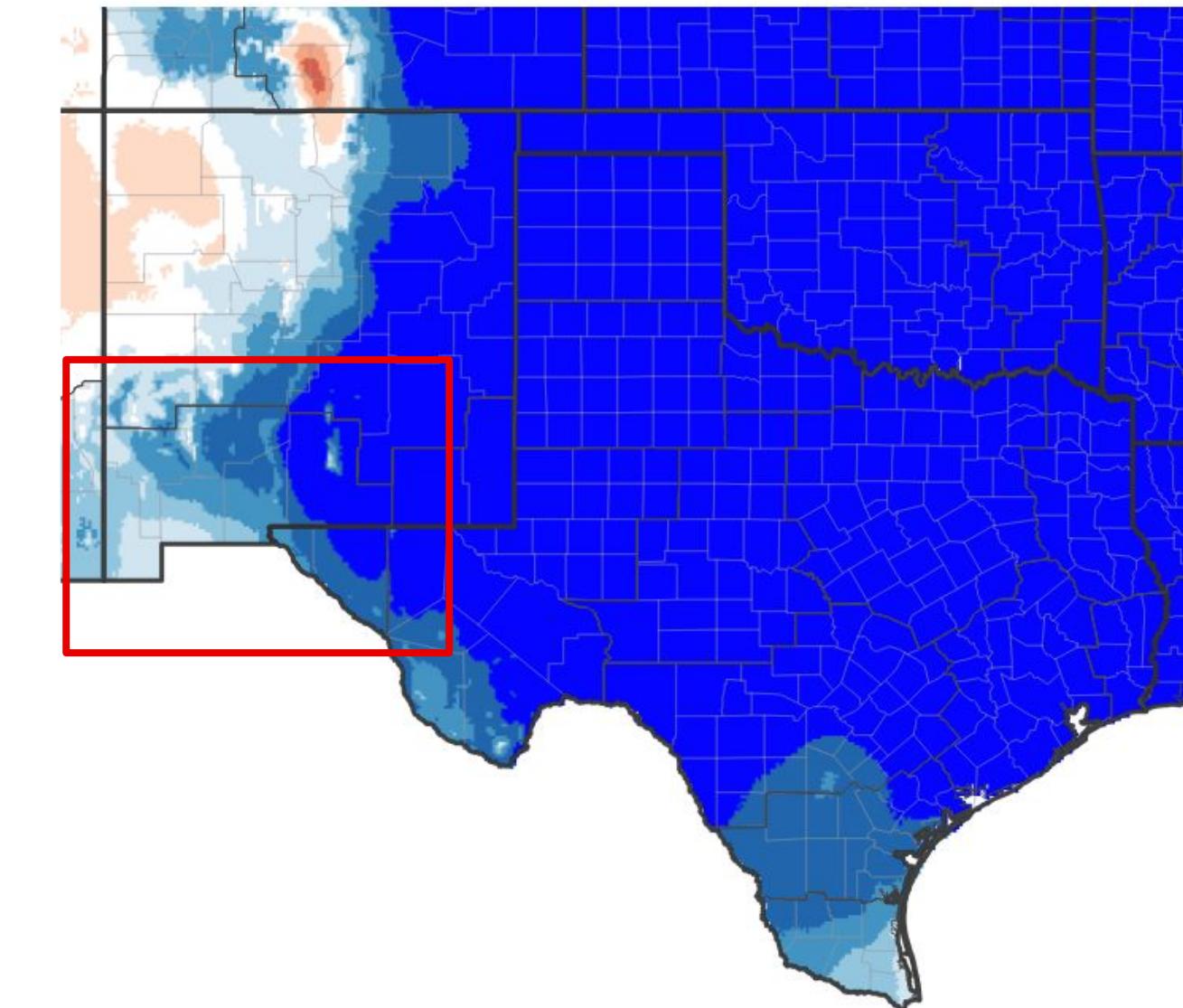


Temperature

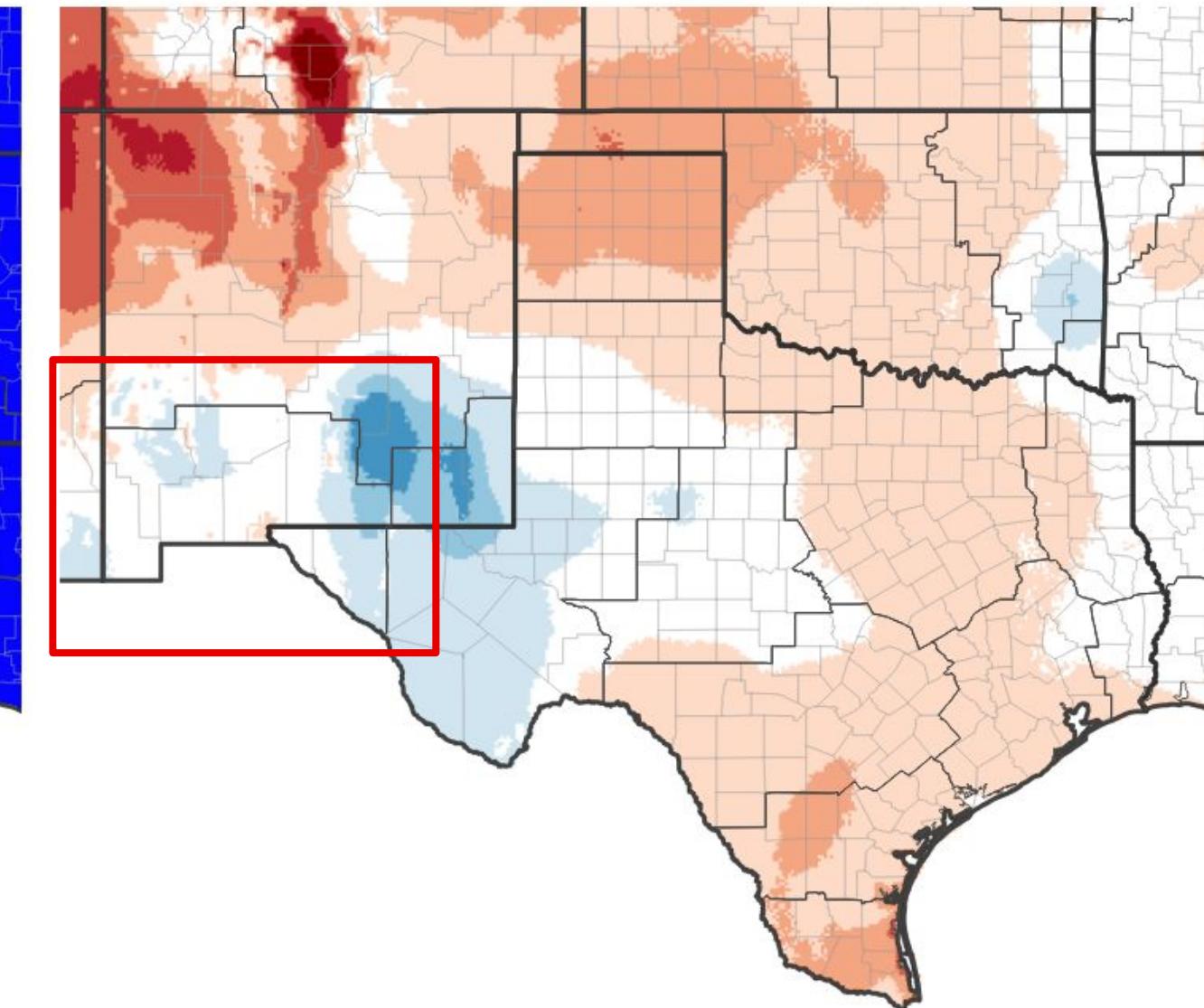
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- Late January cold snap, but near normal January temperatures for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas
- 30-day high temperatures near normal
- January mean average temperature 1.3°F above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

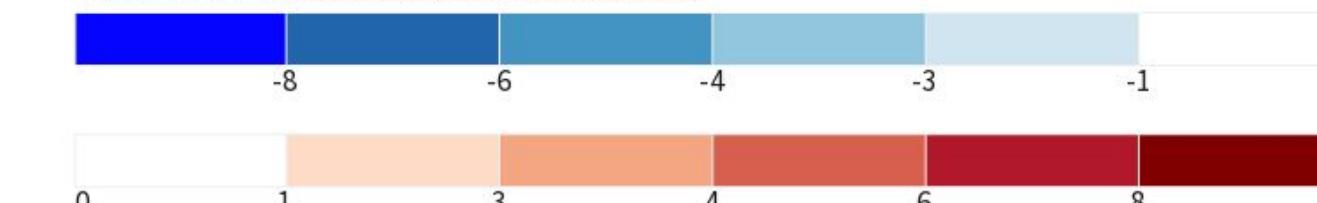
7-Day Temperature Anomaly



30-Day Temperature Anomaly

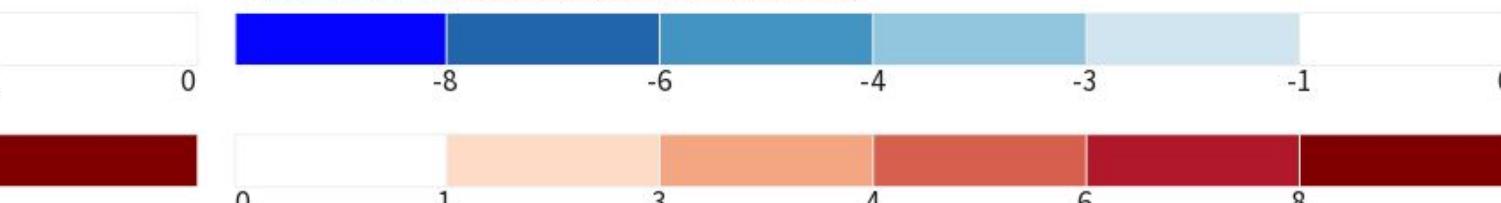


Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov



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Summary of Impacts

February 3, 2026
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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Gila River running slightly below normal. Mimbres River and Rio Grande south of the Caballo Dam have both dried up and will likely remain dry through the spring and early summer seasons. Seasonal snowpack running below normal (40-60%), but spring snowmelt may lead to rises. Elephant Butte storage at 10.7% capacity, higher than last month but well below the historical 30-year average. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is near normal after abnormally wet January. Outlook points to near normal precipitation in February. 2025 Rio Grande irrigation season ended with a surface water allotment of six inches (6") per acre. Please refer to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District ([EBID](#)) website or your local municipality for more information.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Periods of elevated fire danger possible in February as winds increase. ERCS are below normal for February across both Gila and Lincoln forests. Fire risk will increase in the coming months as the spring windy season begins. Periods of strong winds could lead to large fire growth in February as mostly dry conditions prevail.



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Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

February 3, 2026
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- Gila River running slightly below normal. No sudden rises occurred in January. Mimbres River, Rio Grande below Caballo Dam have both run dry for the season.

Gila River Stages

| | Latest | Flood Stage |
|---------|---------|-------------|
| Gila | 1.52 ft | 11.00 ft |
| Redrock | 4.72 ft | 20.00 ft |
| Virden | 5.36 ft | 15.00 ft |

Rio Grande Stages

| | Latest | Flood Stage |
|---------|-----------|-------------|
| El Paso | Low Stage | 8.50 ft |

Gauge data recorded on 2/3/2026

Sunday, February 01, 2026

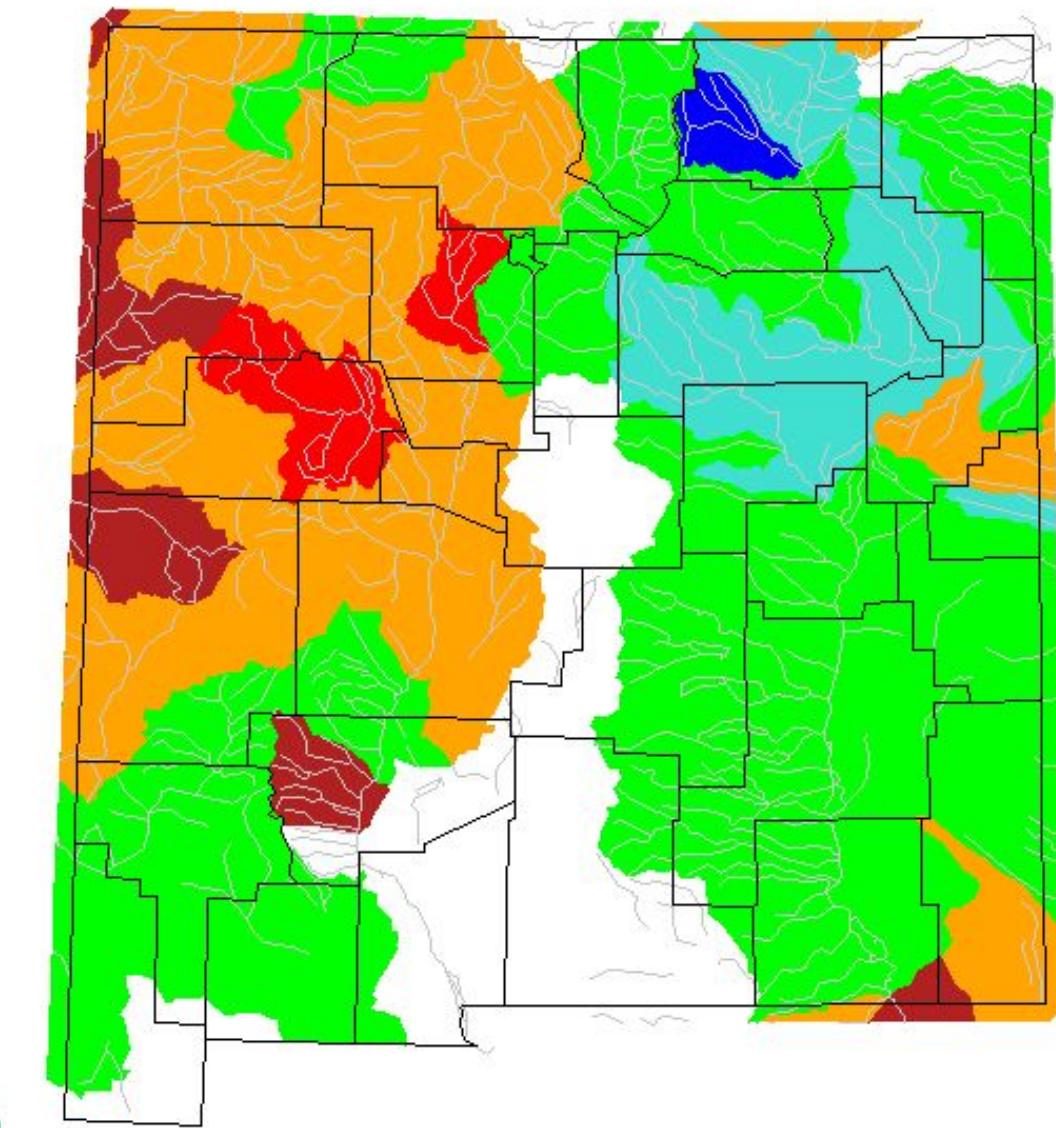
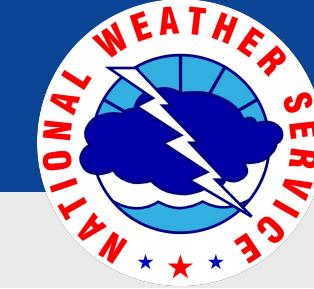


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid February 1, 2026



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Agricultural Impacts

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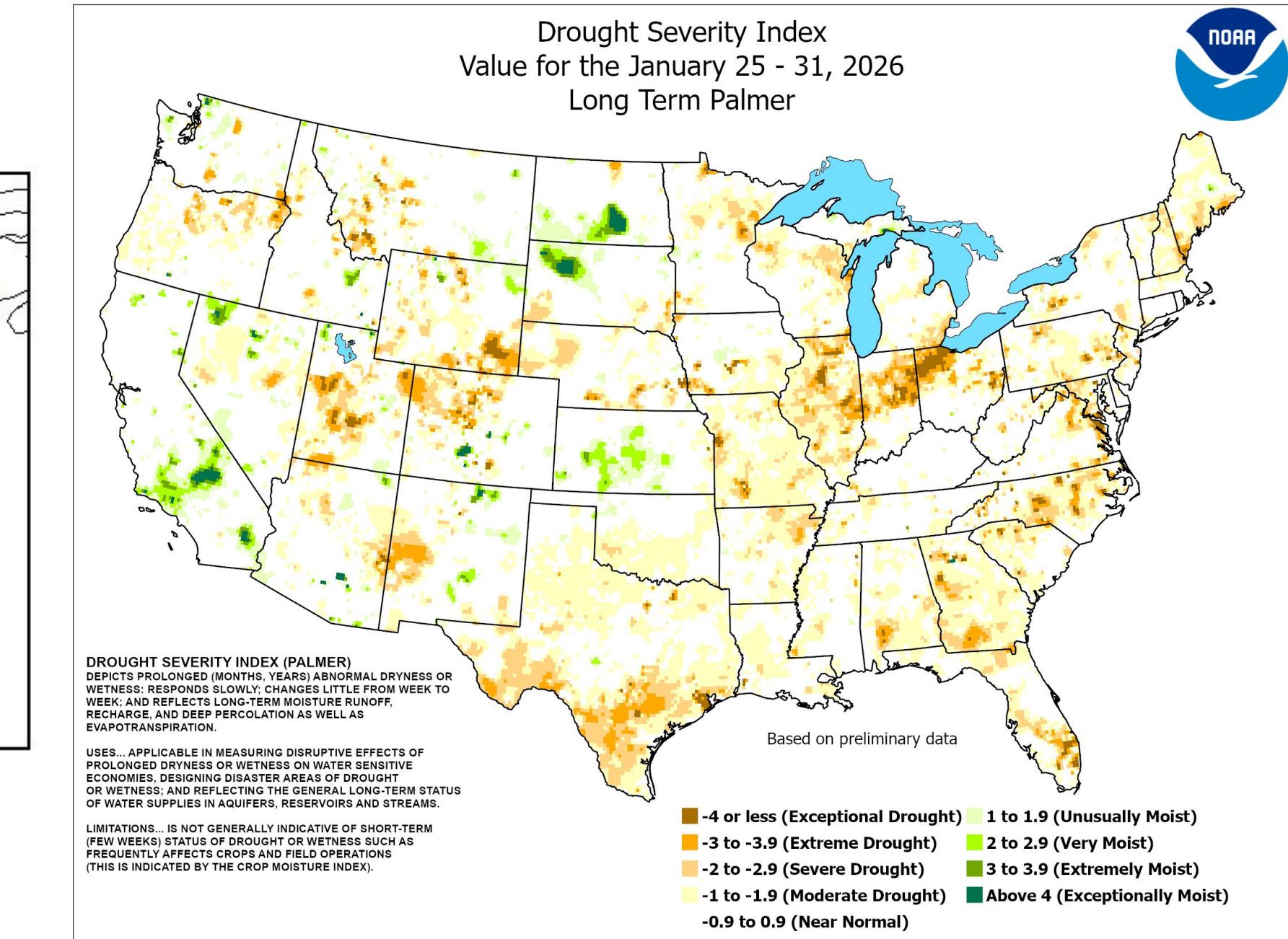
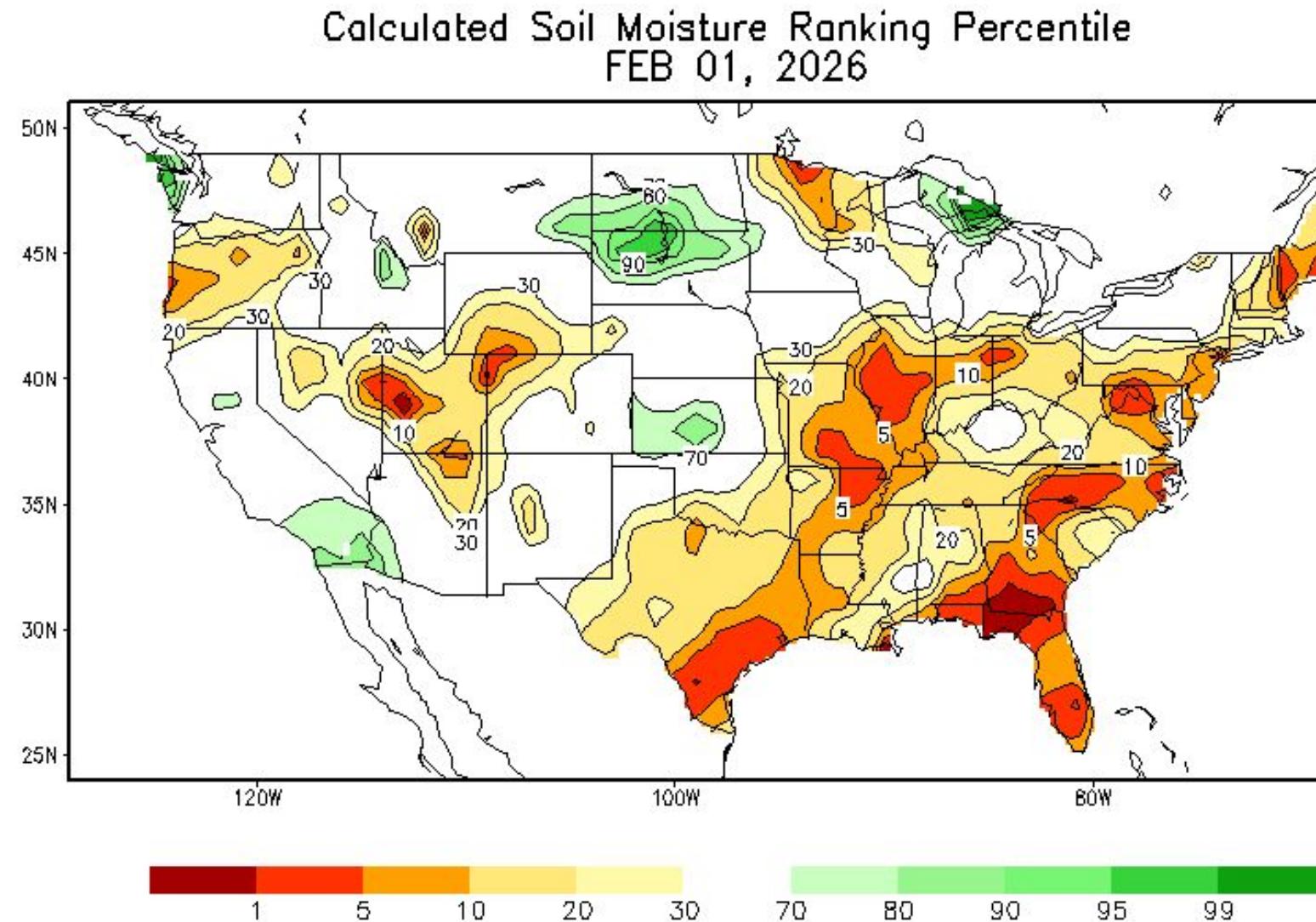


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid February 1, 2026

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#) valid January 25-31, 2025



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Fire Hazard Impacts

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

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

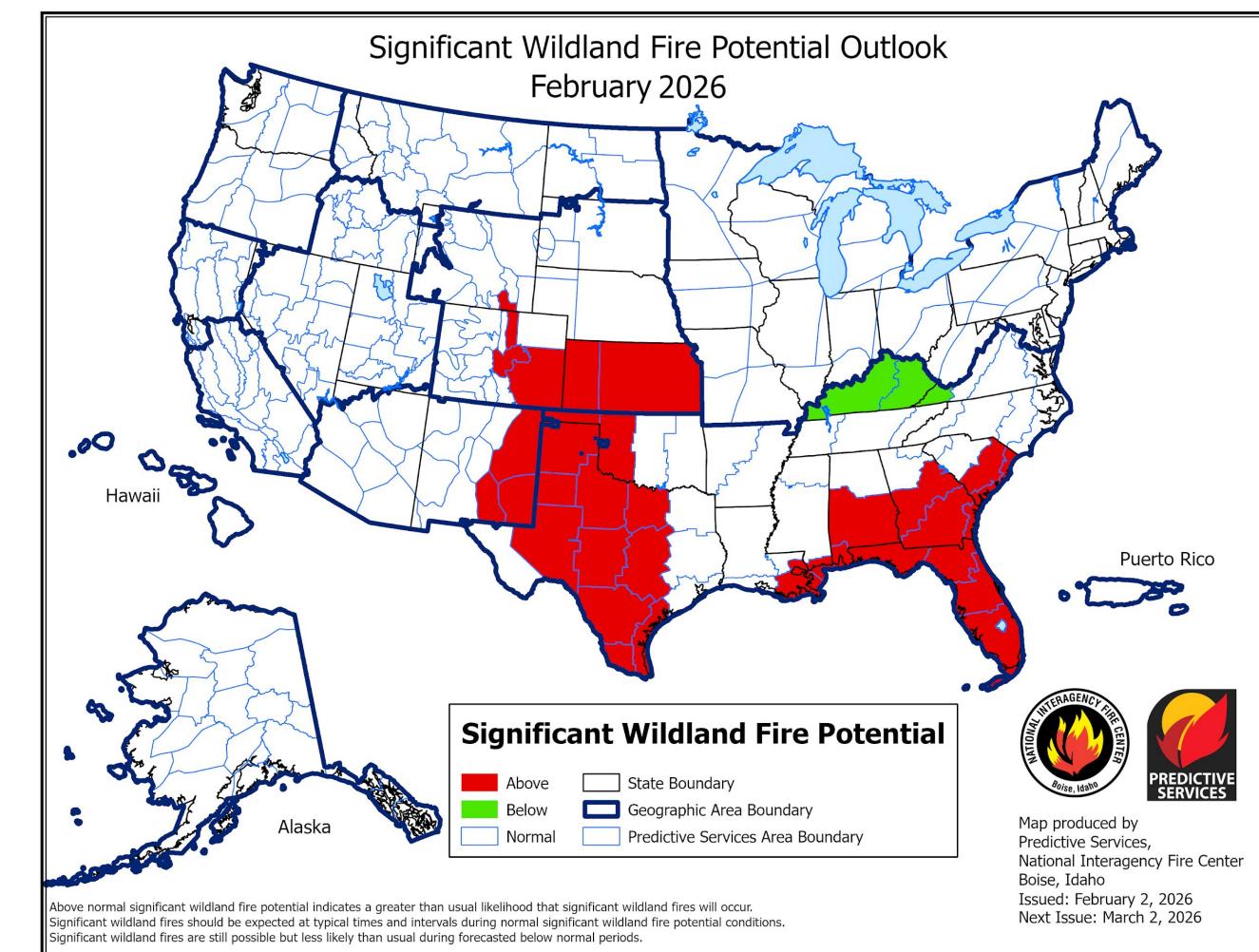
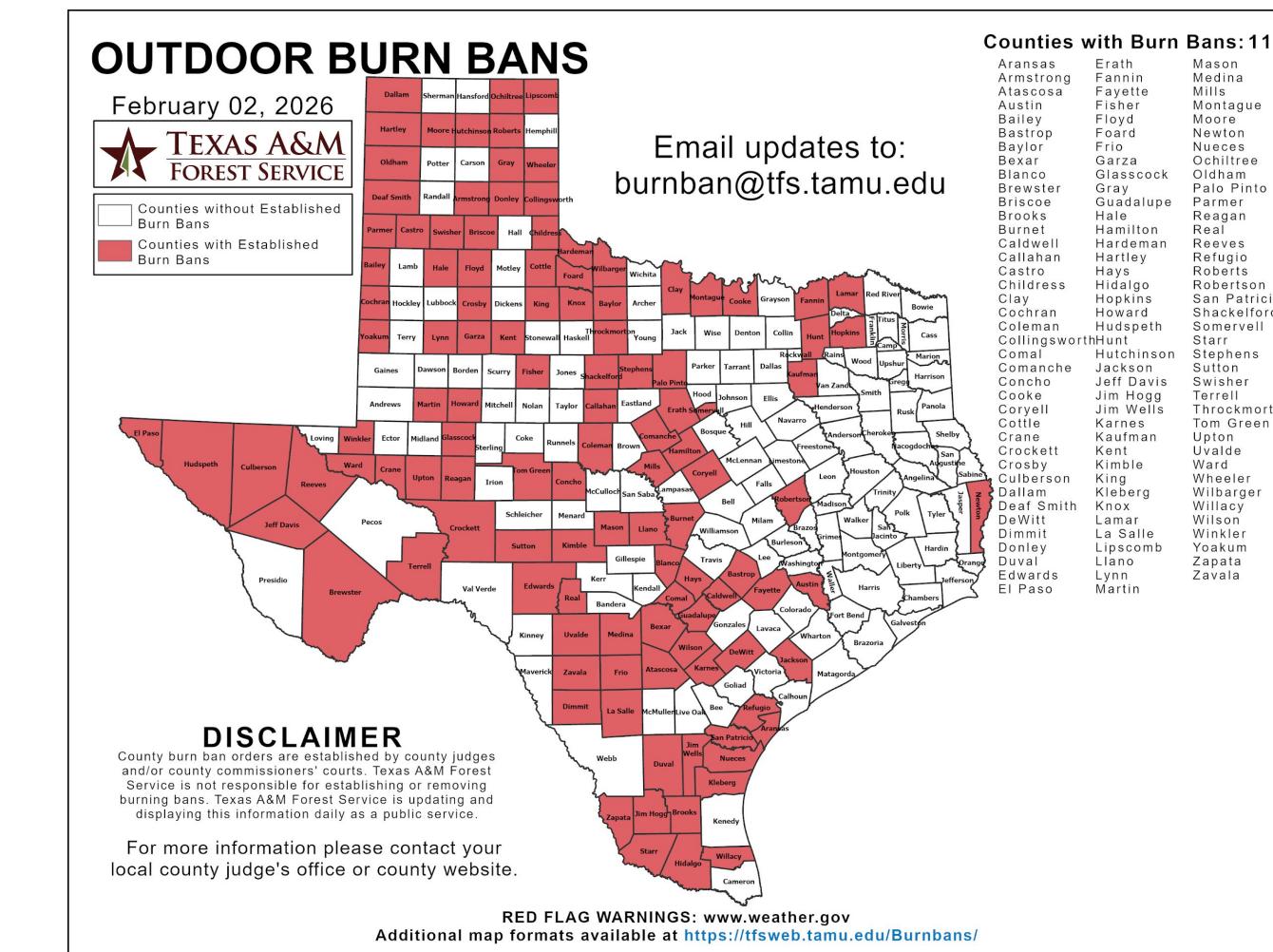
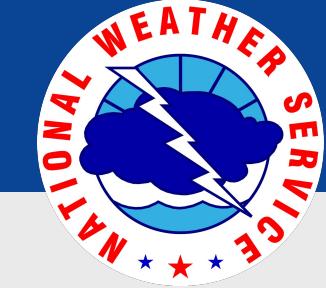


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for February 2026



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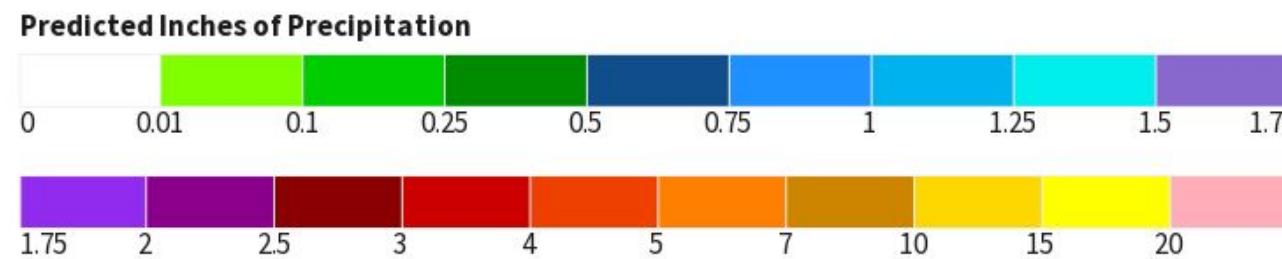
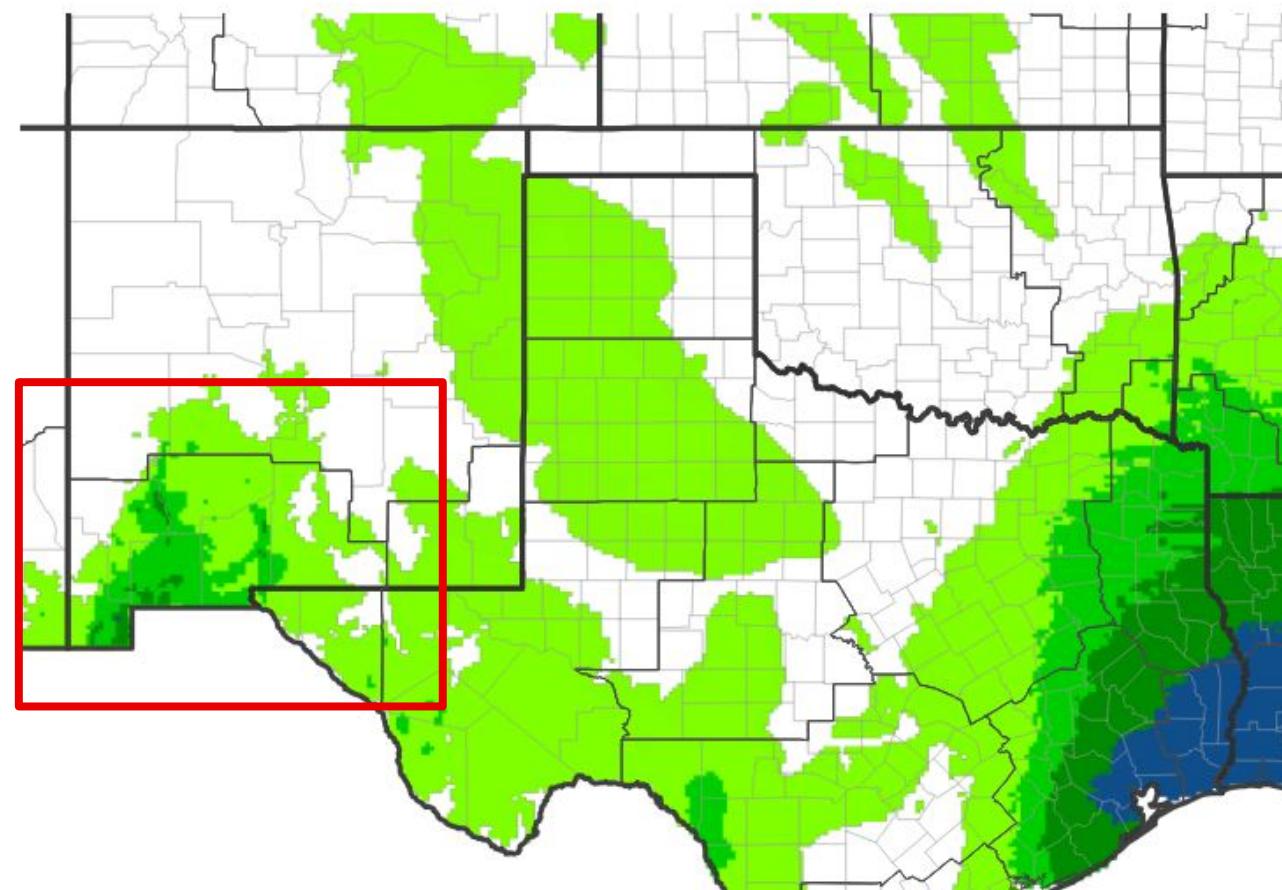


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

February 3, 2026
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- First week of February was dry, precipitation chances return in mid-February. Majority of February looks dry for New Mexico and West Texas, but near seasonal normals.
- 2025 autumn season rainfall finished near or above normal for southern New Mexico and far west Texas. January precipitation ranged from 300-500% above normal. Recent precipitation has allowed drought conditions to improve over the past 6 months. Drought conditions are likely to persist for Southwest New Mexico through the spring season.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 2, 2026–February 9, 2026



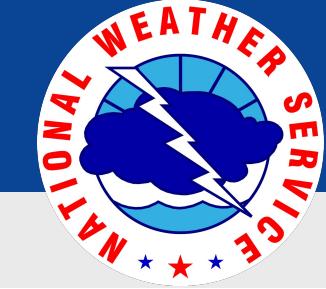
Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.

- Moderate to Severe Drought is already in place across Southwest New Mexico. Rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to persist across Southwest New Mexico through the spring season.

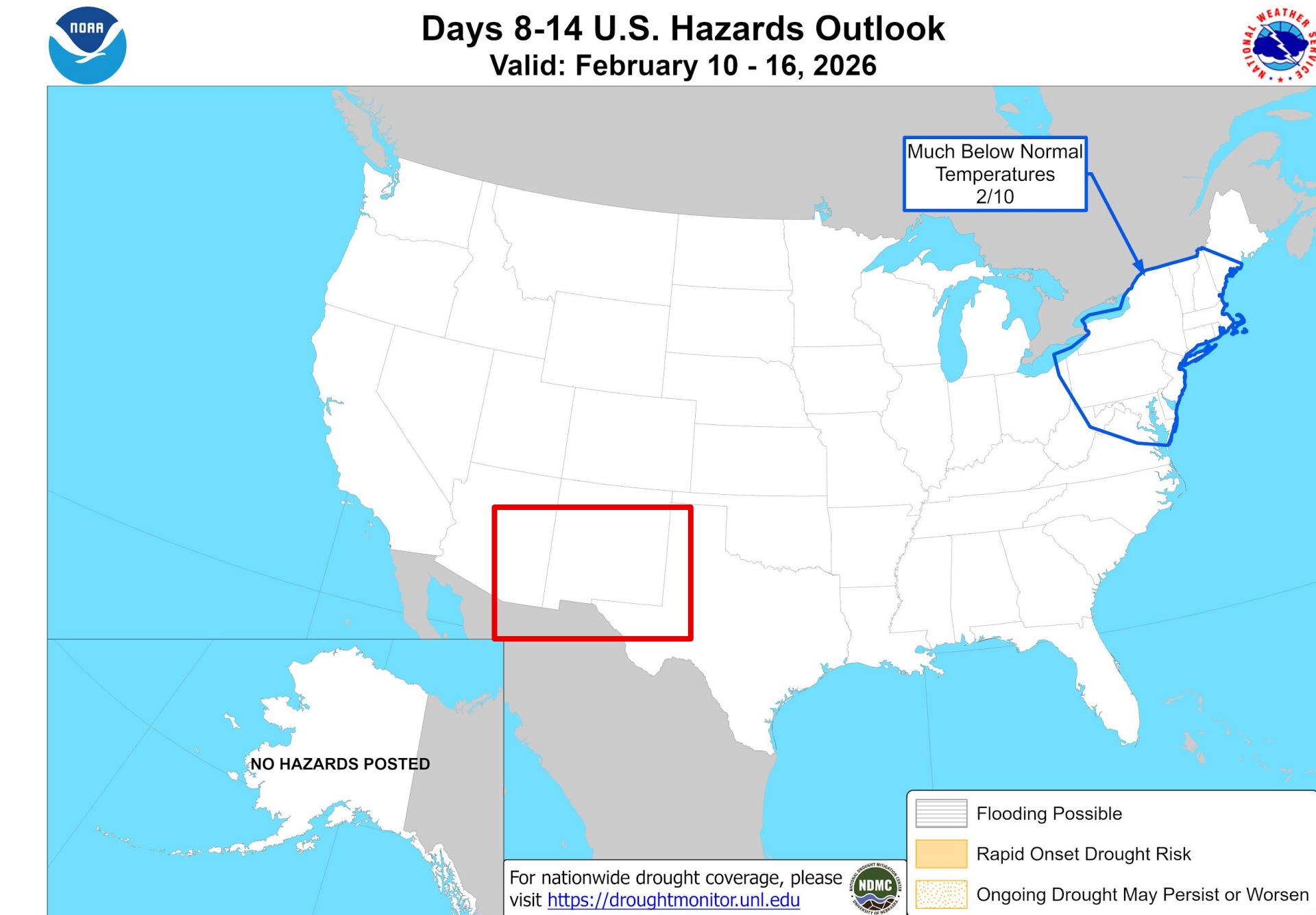


Image Caption:
Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid February 10-16



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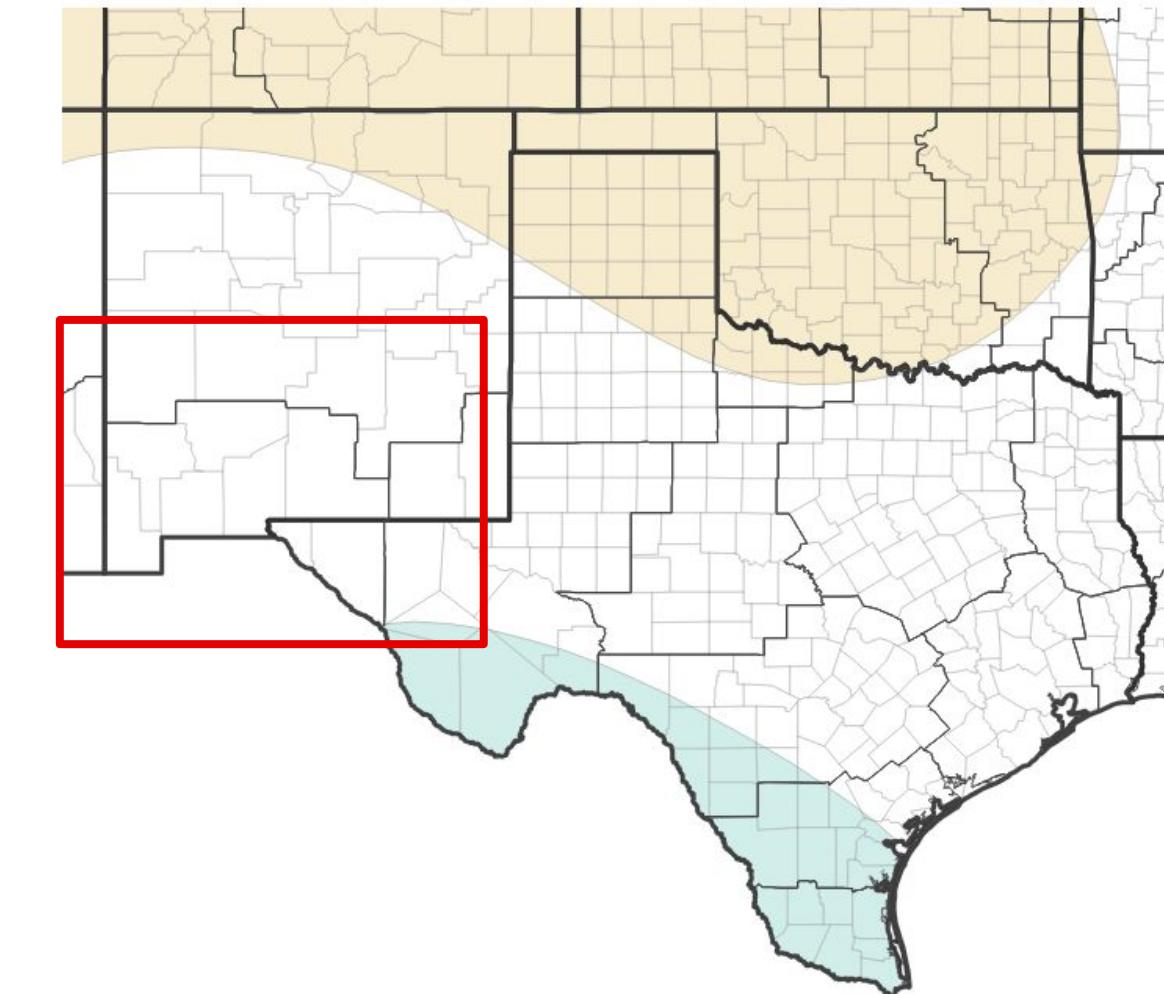
Long-Range Outlooks

February 3, 2026
2:27 AM

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

- Equal chances of precipitation for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: 0.40"
- 33-40% chance of above normal temperatures for South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas. 40-50% chance of above normal temperatures for Western New Mexico.
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: 64.1°

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for February 1, 2026–February 28, 2026



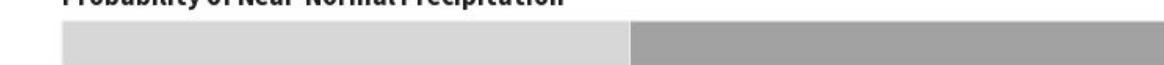
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



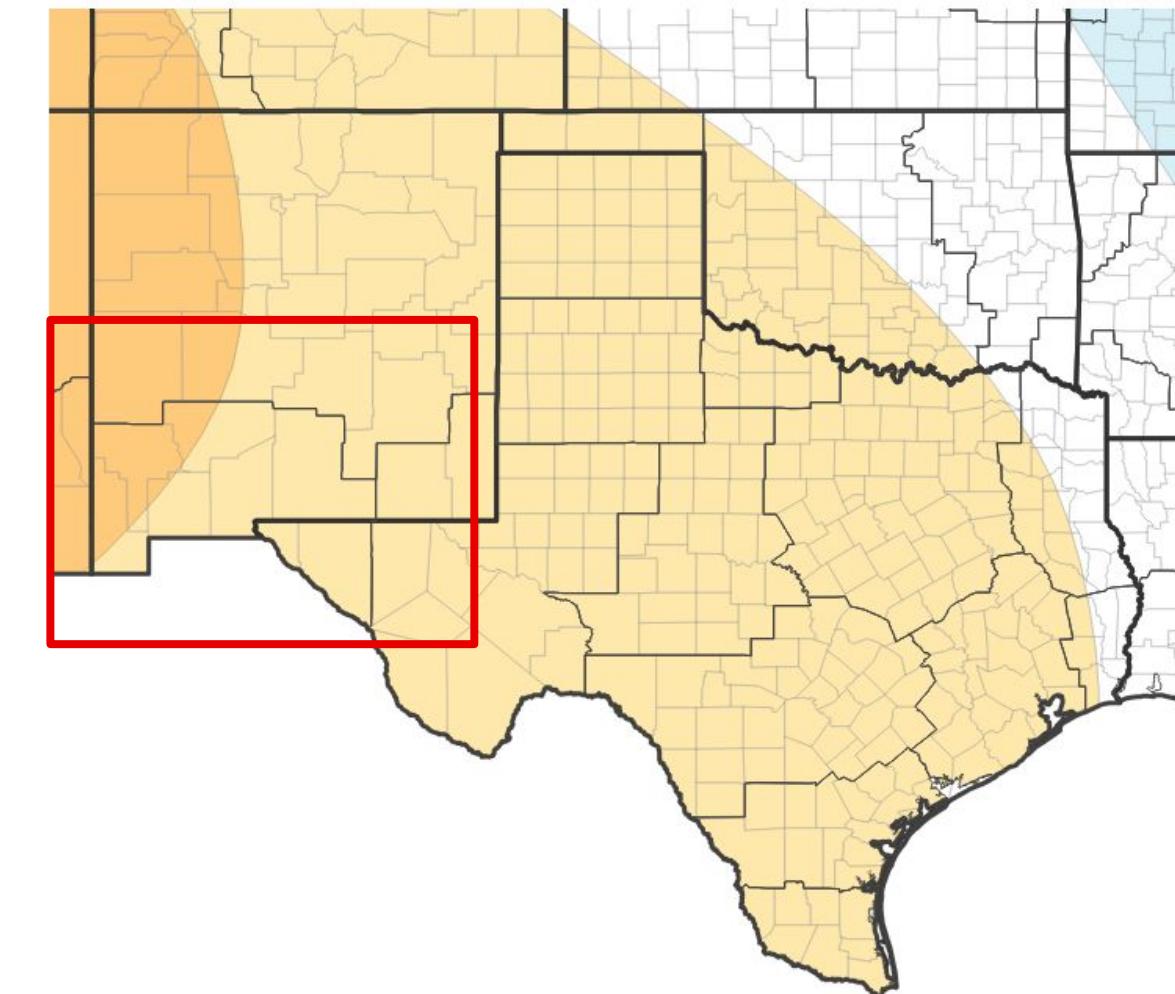
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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Monthly Temperature Outlook for February 1, 2026–February 28, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



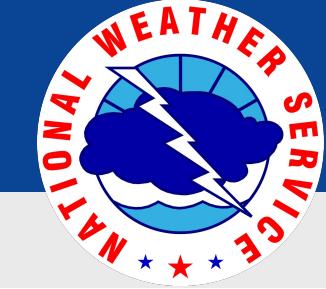
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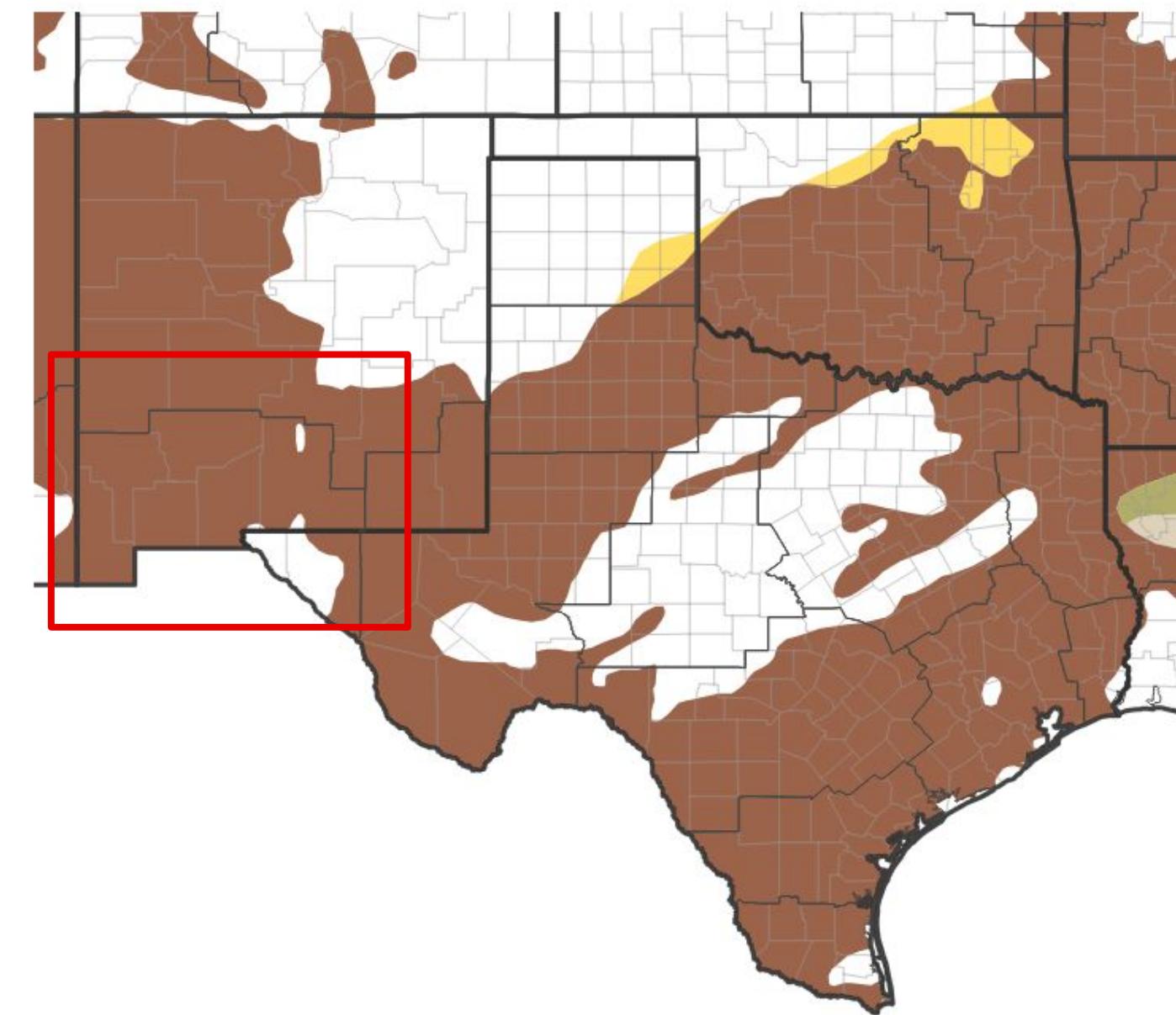
Drought Outlook

February 3, 2026
2:27 AM

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across Southwest and South-Central New Mexico. No drought status for Far West Texas. Typical February precipitation expected.

1-Month Drought Outlook for February 1, 2026–February 28, 2026



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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