



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid April 7, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated May 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. No drought status for Far West Texas.
 - Record warmth, below normal precipitation in March.
 - Drought conditions for Southwest New Mexico expected to persist in April with near normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.



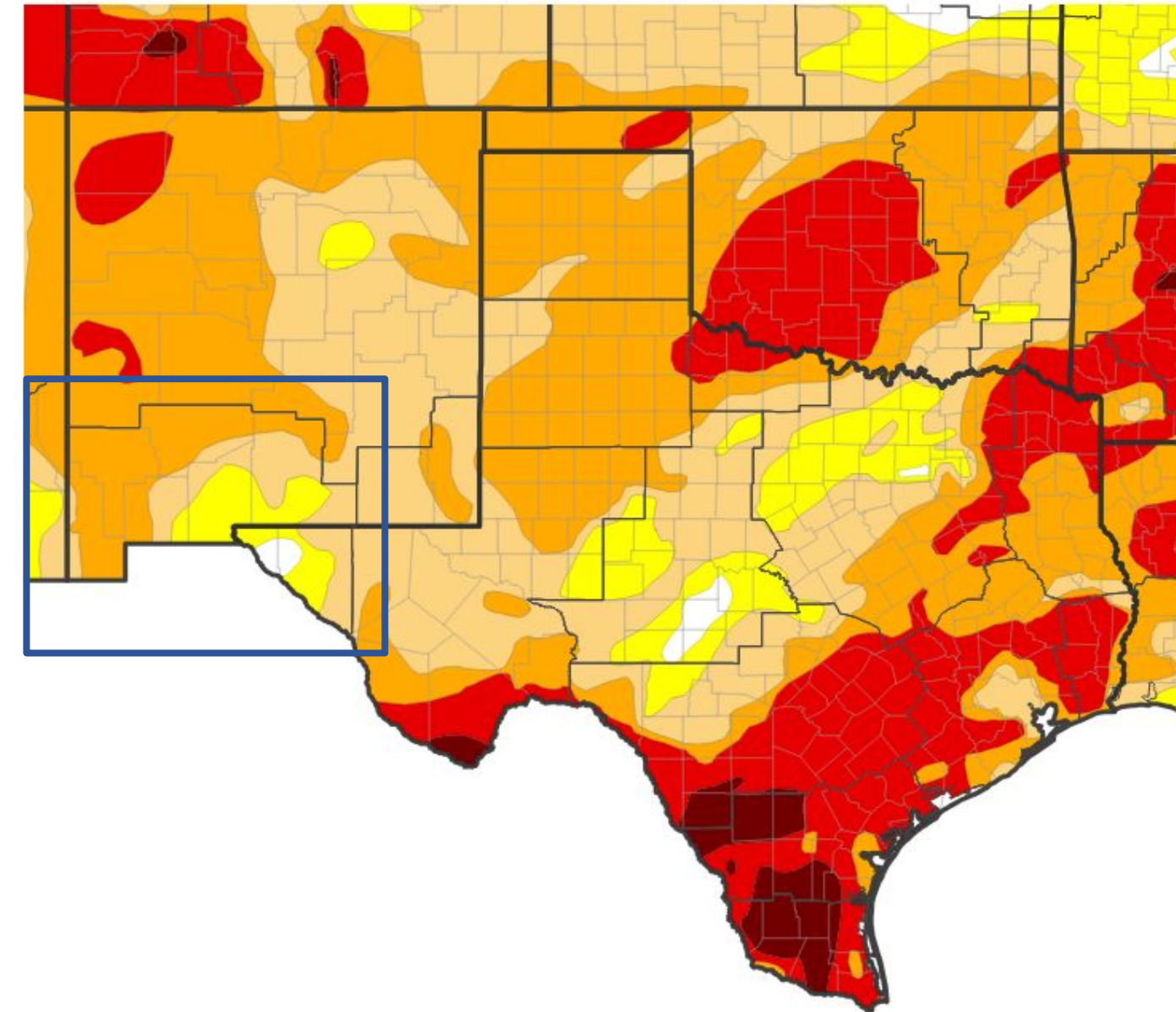


Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
None
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Portions of Southwest New Mexico including Grant, Otero, Sierra, and Hidalgo Counties
Gila and Lincoln National Forests
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Portions of South-Central New Mexico
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
Portions of South-Central New Mexico and Far West Texas

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 03/31/26





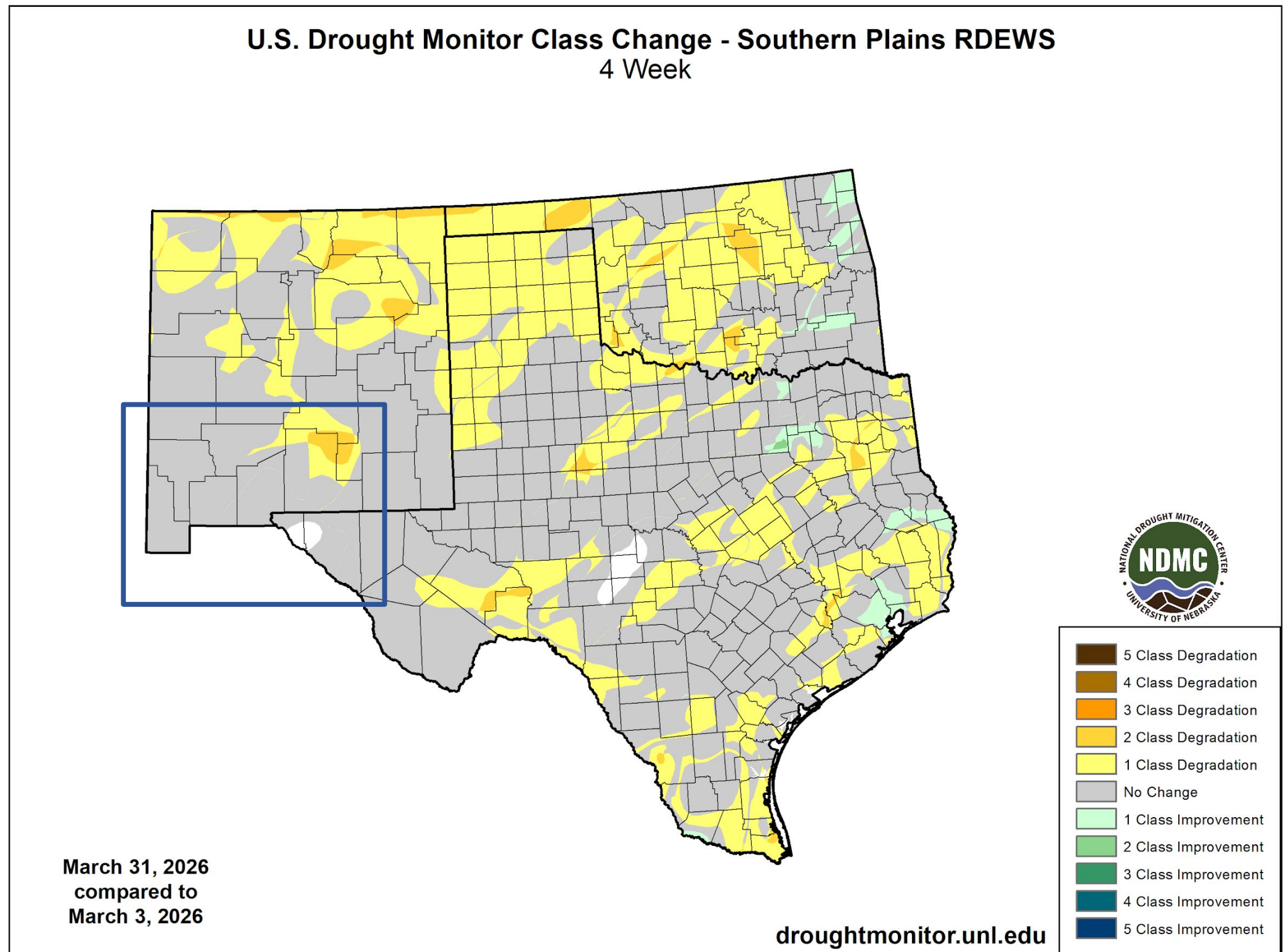
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

April 7, 2026
2:36 AM

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

4-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:**
Portions of Otero County including Lincoln National Forest
- **Drought Improved:**
None
- **No Change:**
Southwest New Mexico, Far West Texas





Precipitation

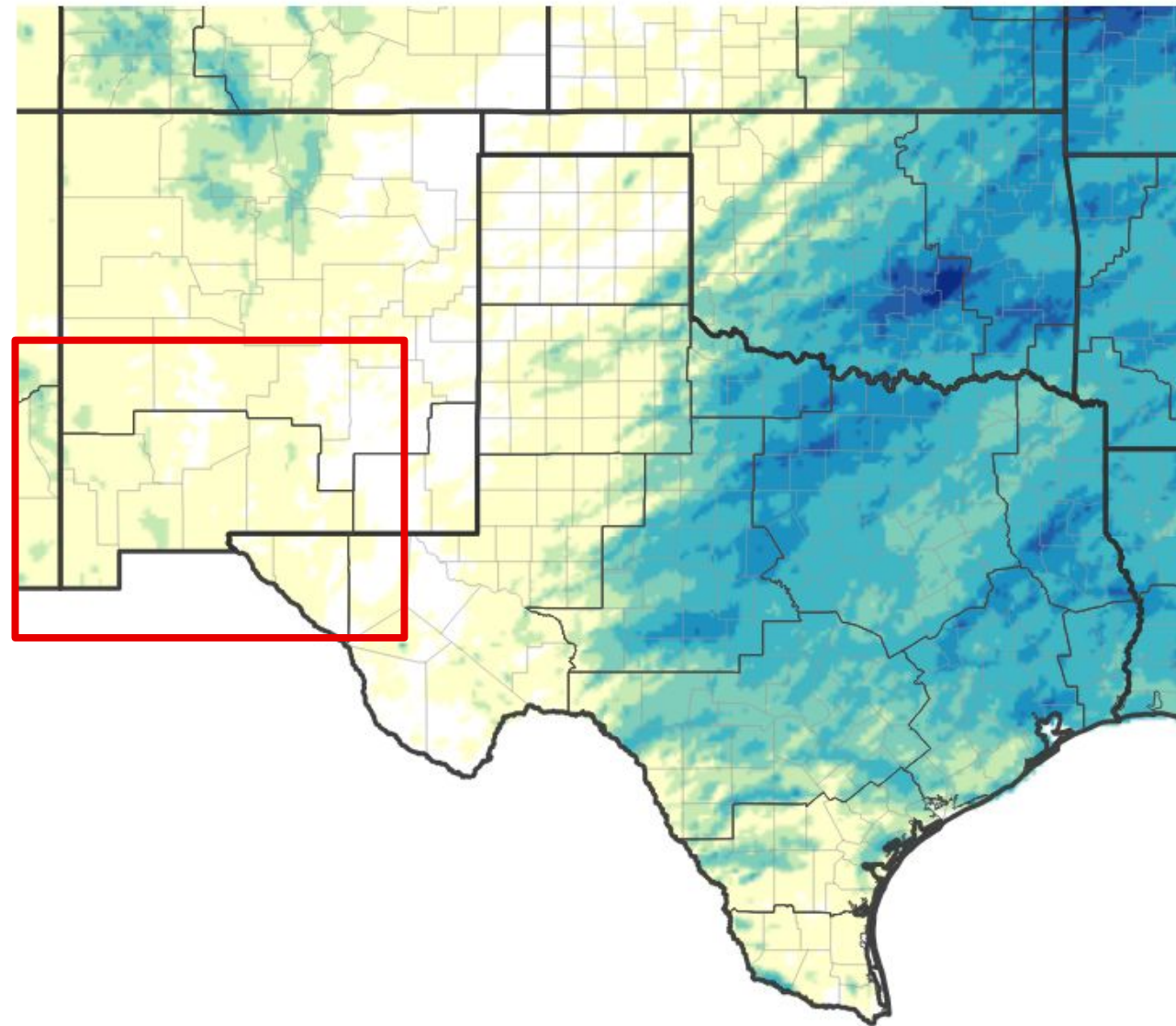
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30-day precip totals:
0.15-0.45" for Southwest
New Mexico. **0.01-0.15"** for
South-Central New Mexico
and Far West Texas.

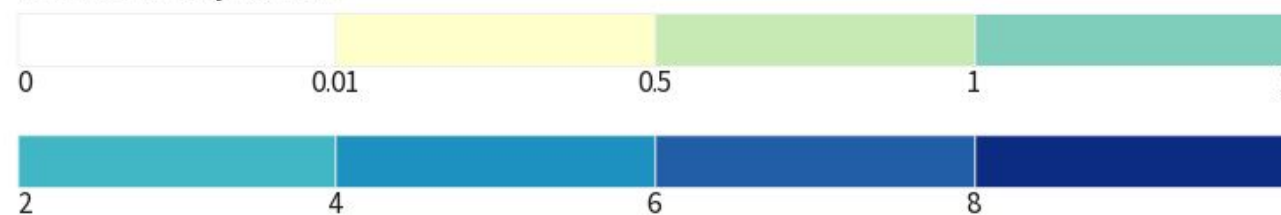
90-day precip totals:
1.50-2.50" along I-10
corridor. **2.50-4.00"** over
mountain forests.

Near normal March
precipitation **75-100%** for
portions of Southwest New
Mexico, below normal
25-50% for most areas along
and east of the Rio Grande.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



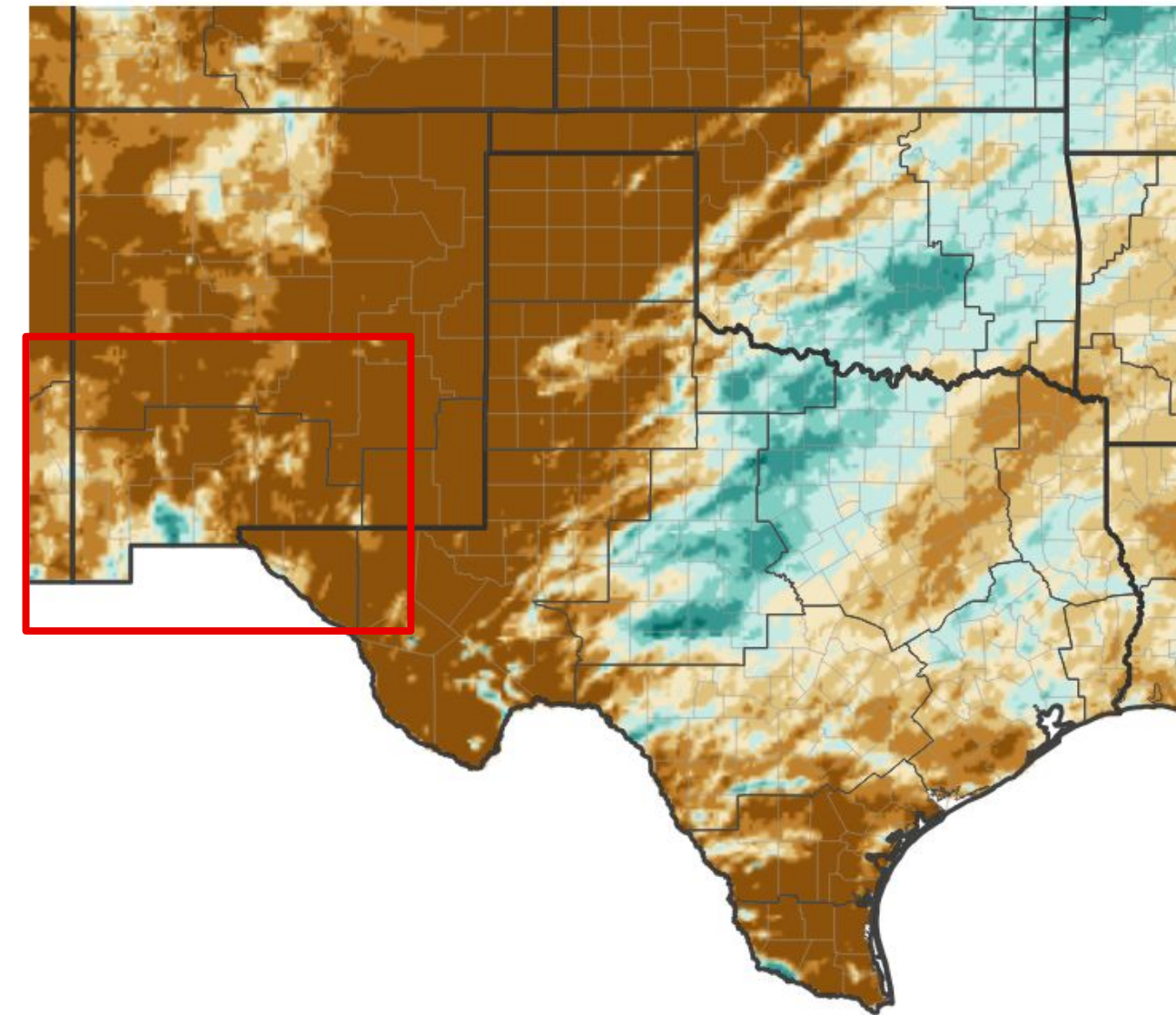
Inches of Precipitation



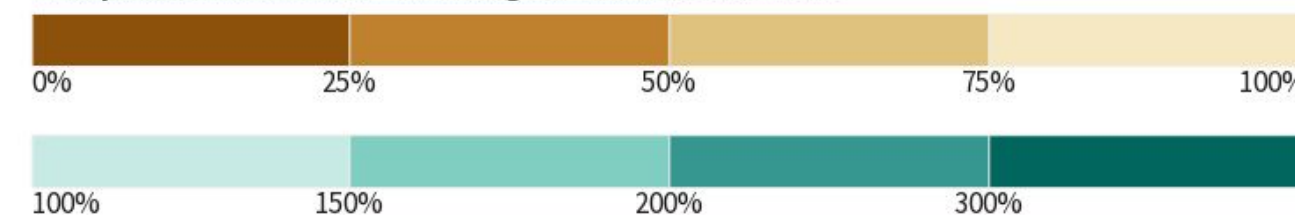
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/04/26

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



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

Data Valid: 04/05/26



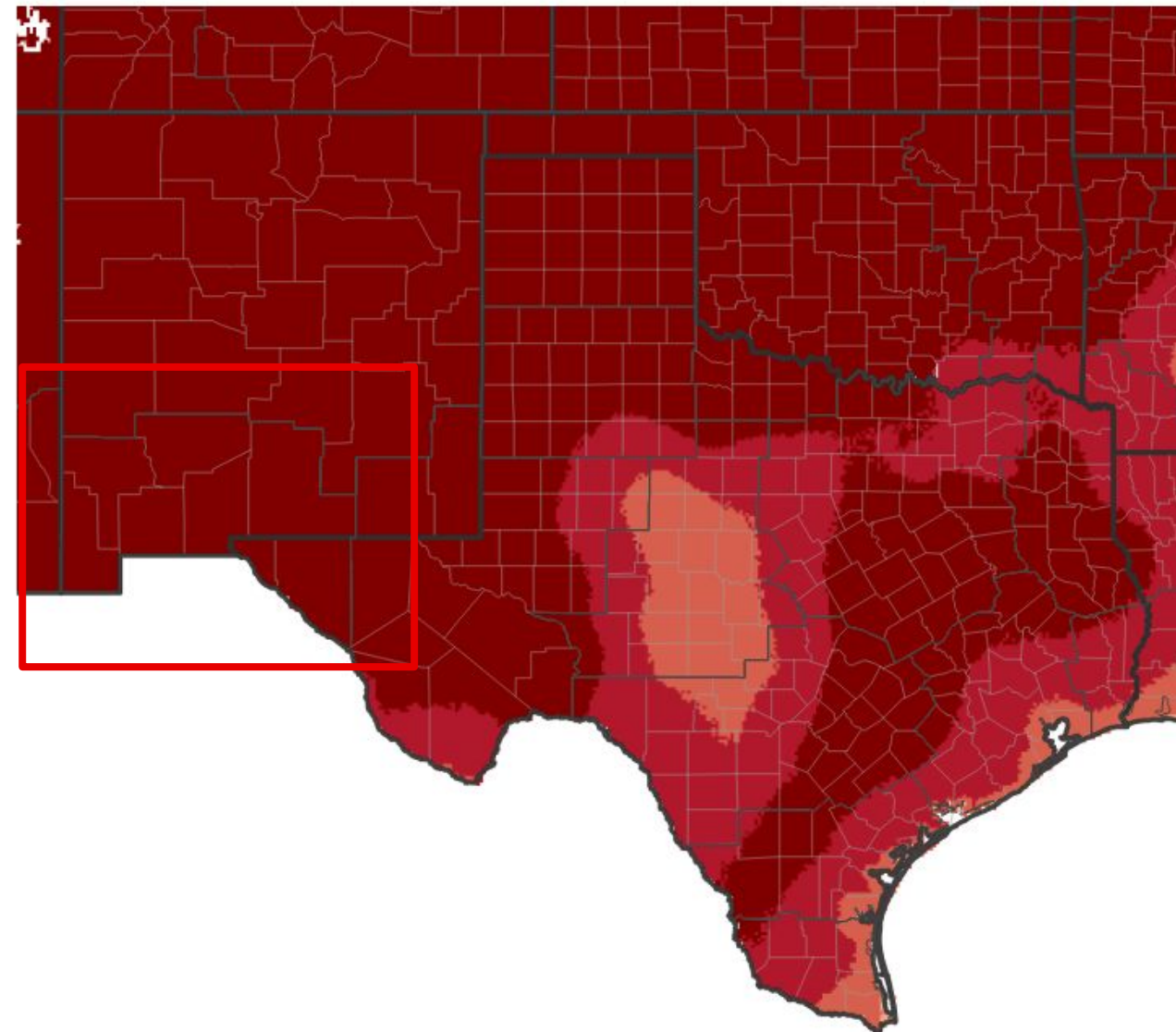


Temperature

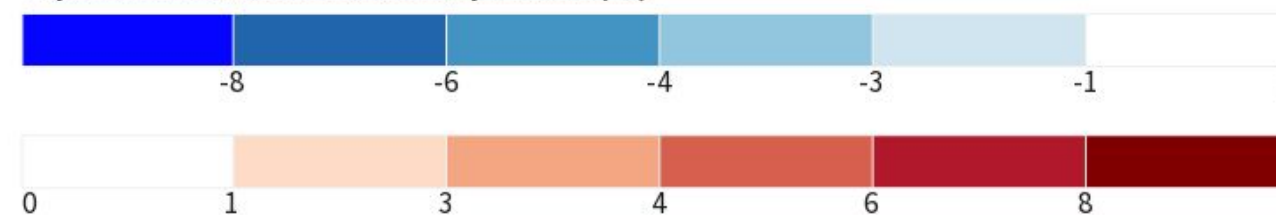
April 7, 2026
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- Record-setting March warmth for all of New Mexico and West Texas.
- 30-day high temperatures **7-10 degrees** above normal
- March mean average temperature **7.5°F** above normal at El Paso International (KELP), new monthly record high.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



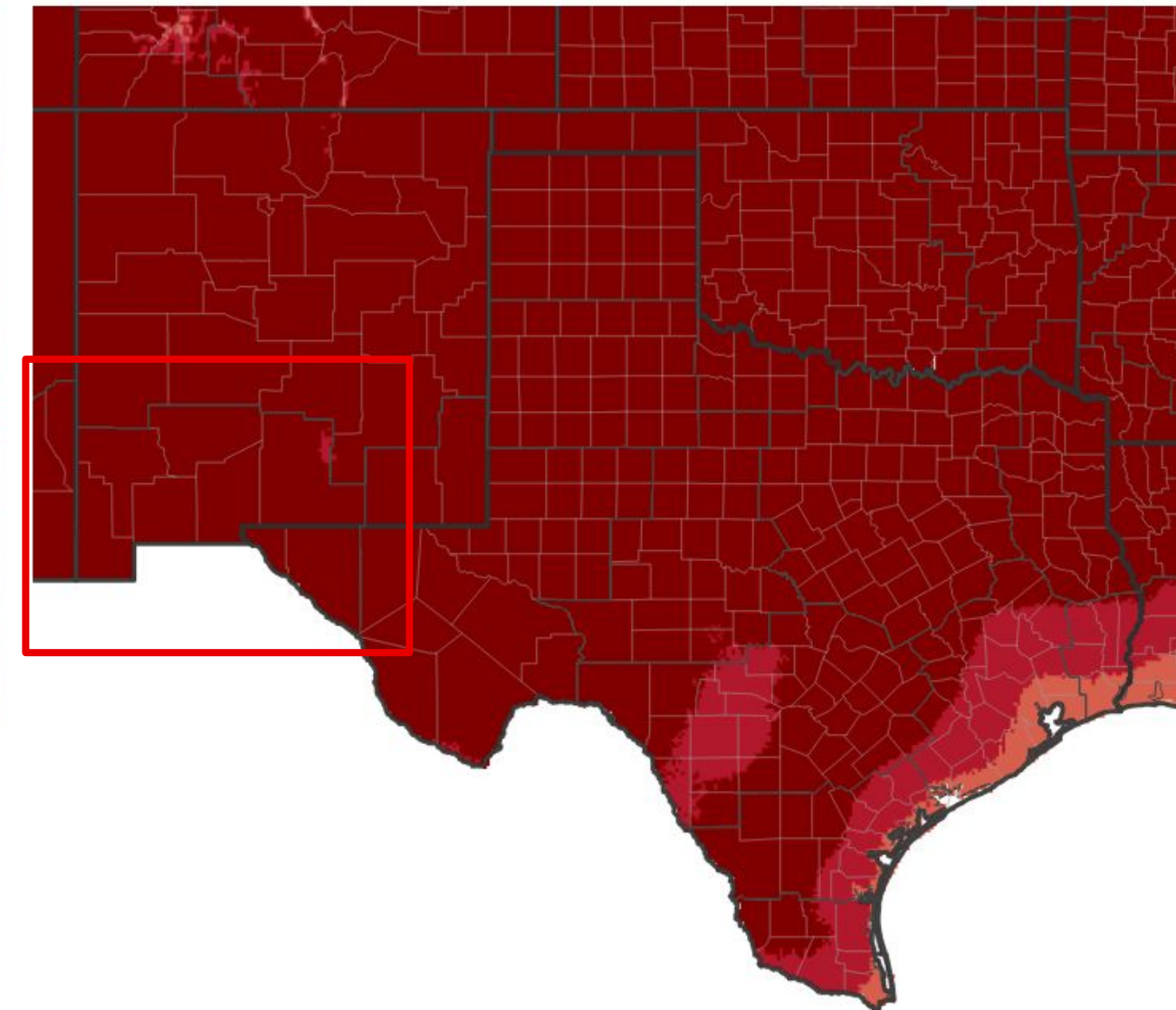
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



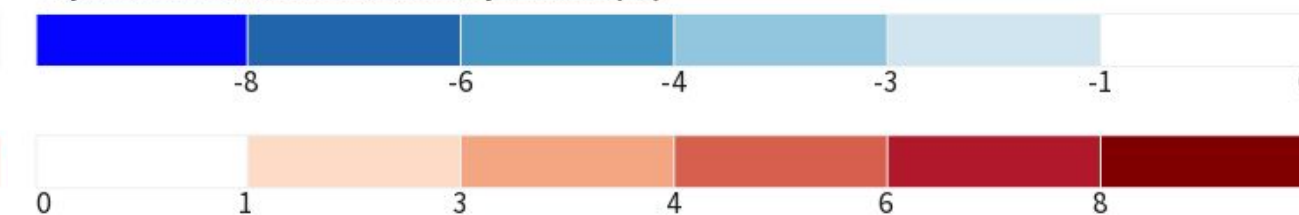
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/31/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 03/31/26





Summary of Impacts

April 7, 2026

2:36 AM

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Gila River running below normal due to lack of available snowmelt. Mimbres River and Rio Grande south of the Caballo Dam are dry and will likely remain dry through the spring and early summer seasons. Seasonal snowpack is finishing well below normal (10-20%) for the Gila and Rio Grande watersheds. Elephant Butte storage at 12.8% capacity, slightly higher than last month but well below the historical 30-year average. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is slightly below normal after a dry March. Outlook points to near normal precipitation in April. 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 critical fire danger are expected in April due to high wind and low humidity. ERCs rose quickly in March due to record warmth and dry conditions, but may decrease across both Gila and Lincoln National Forests due to April precipitation. Fire risk will remain high over the next few months with the spring windy season and early summer heat. Further drying and periods of strong winds could lead to large fire growth in May as mostly dry conditions prevail.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

April 7, 2026
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- Gila River running below normal due to lack of Spring snowmelt. No sudden rises occurred in March. Mimbres River, Rio Grande below Caballo Dam have both run dry for the season.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	1.32 ft	11.00 ft	47 ft ³ /s
Redrock	4.59 ft	20.00 ft	94 ft ³ /s
Virden	5.15 ft	15.00 ft	59 ft ³ /s

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft	None

Gauge data recorded on 4/7/2026

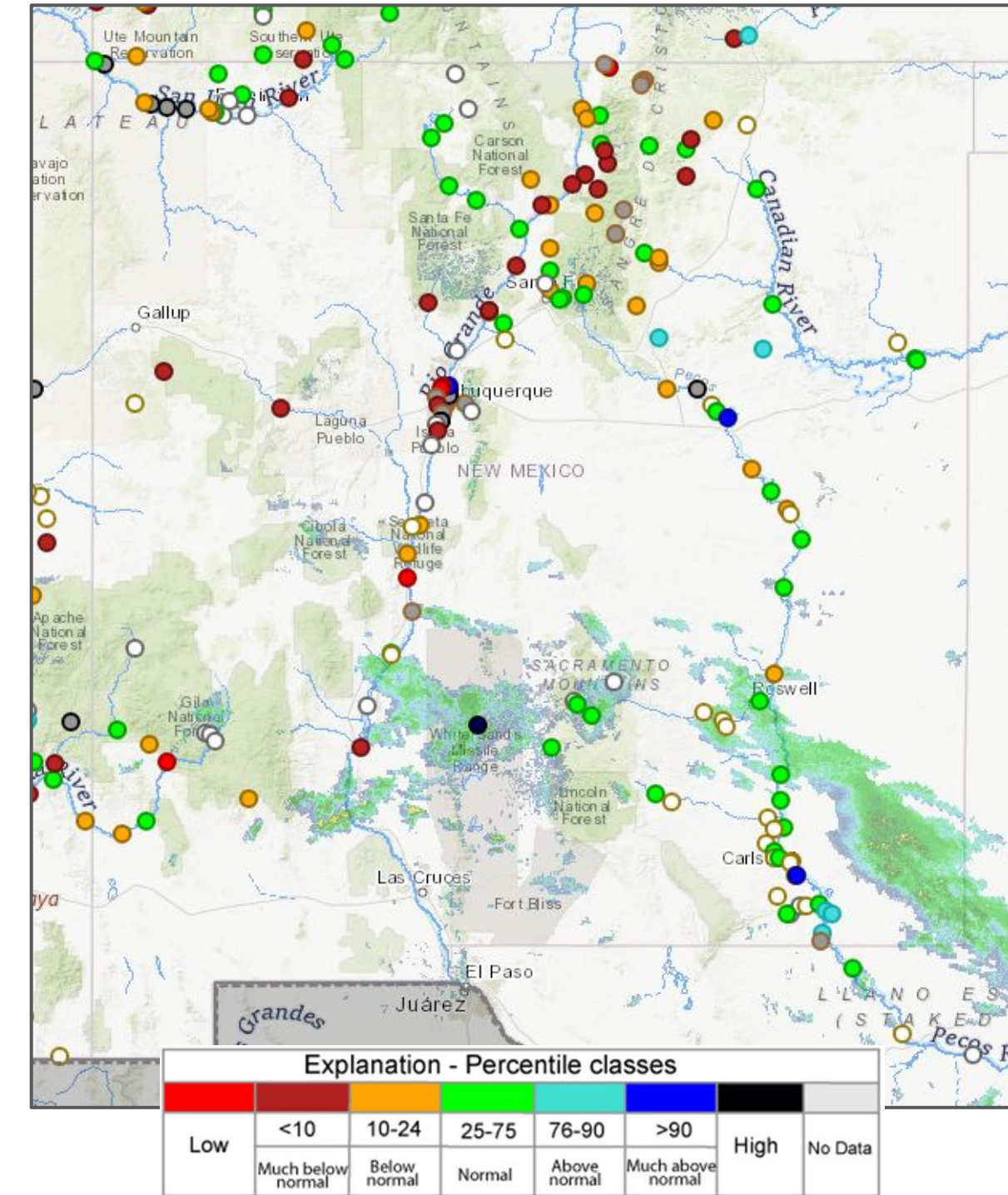


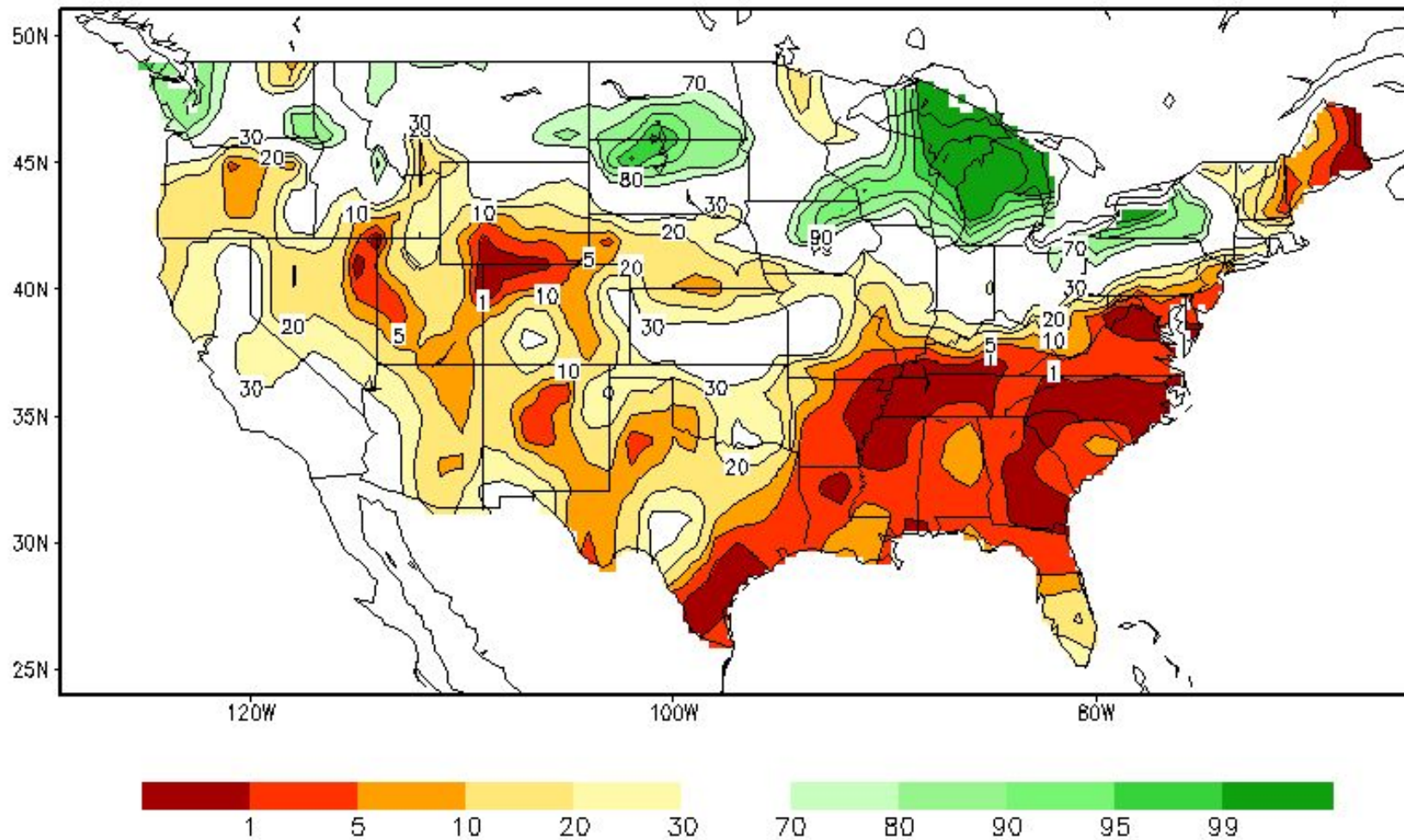
Image Caption: USGS 7 day Streamflow Status valid April 7, 2026



Agricultural Impacts

April 7, 2026
2:36 AM

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
APR 05, 2026



Drought Severity Index
Value for the March 29 - April 4, 2026
Long Term Palmer

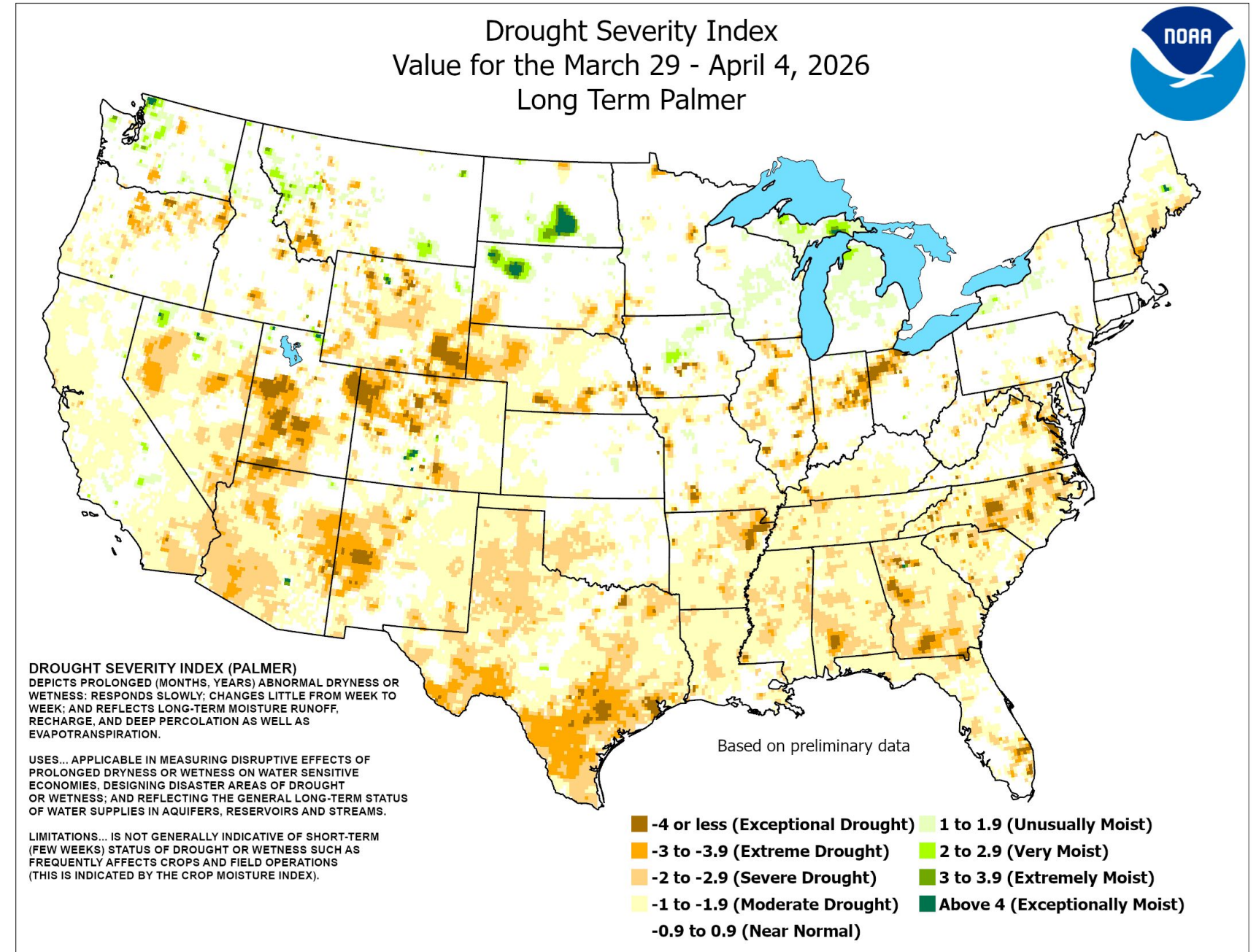


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid April 5, 2026

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#) valid March 29-April 4, 2026





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](#)

Latest NM Fire Restrictions available [here](#)

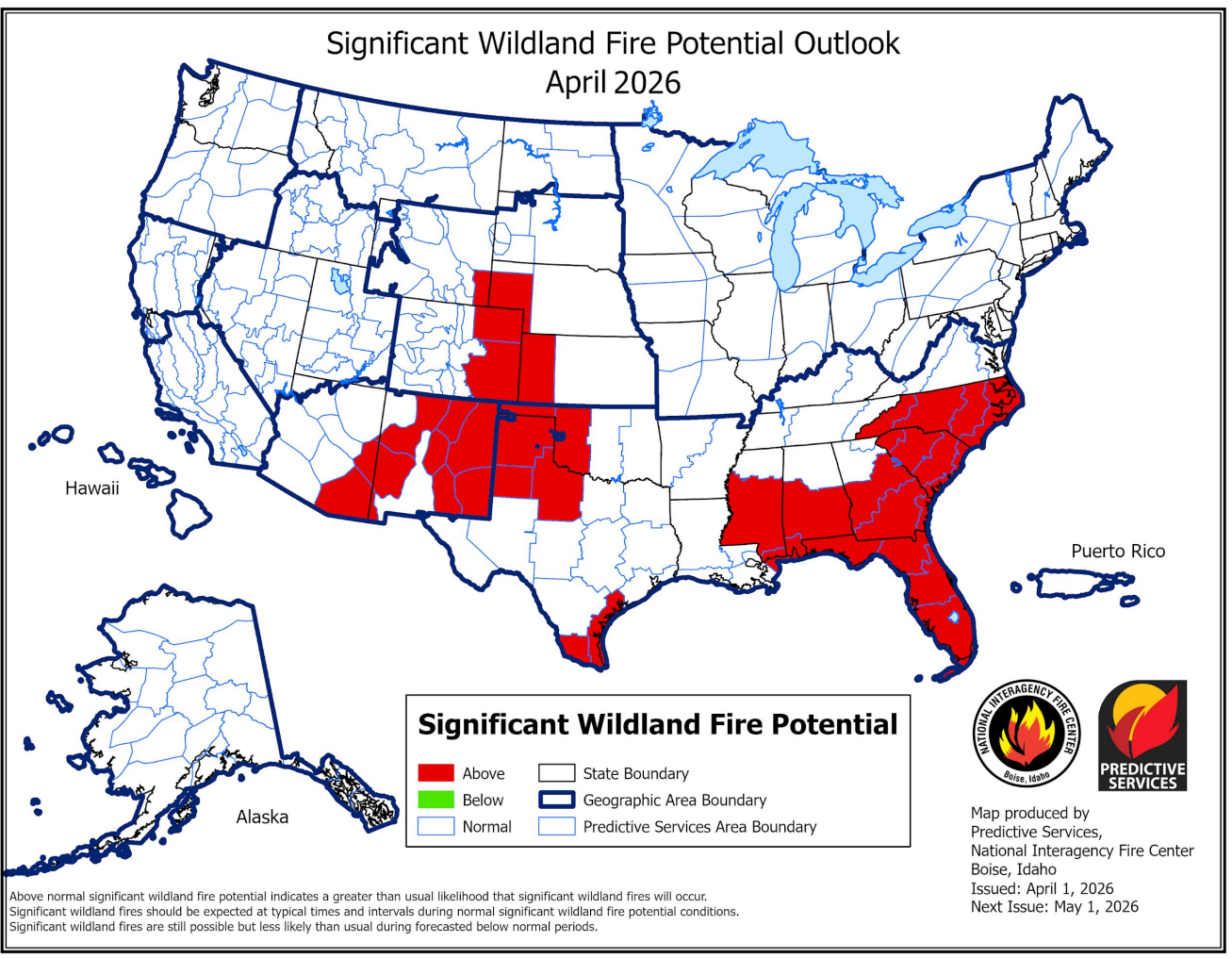
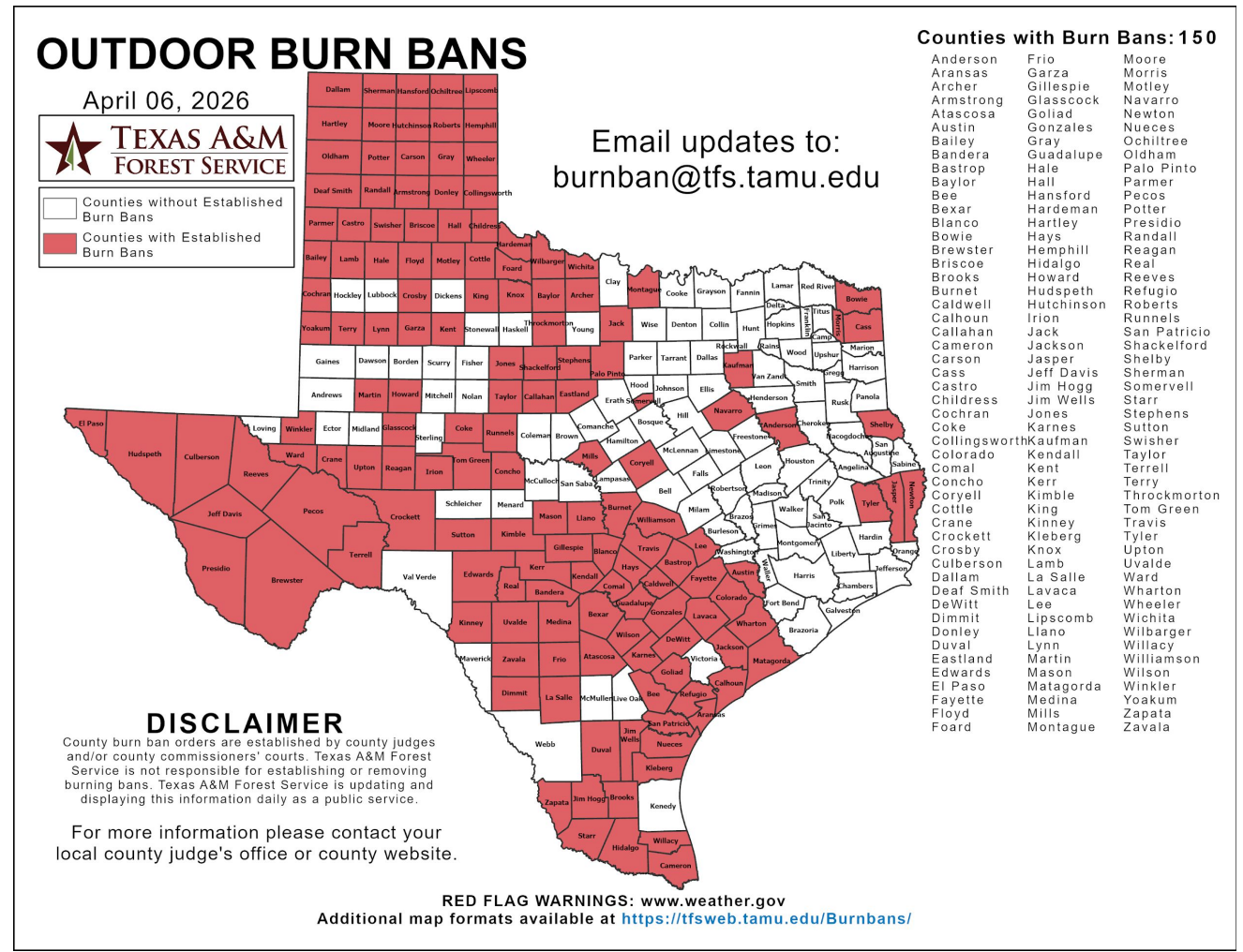


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for April 2026

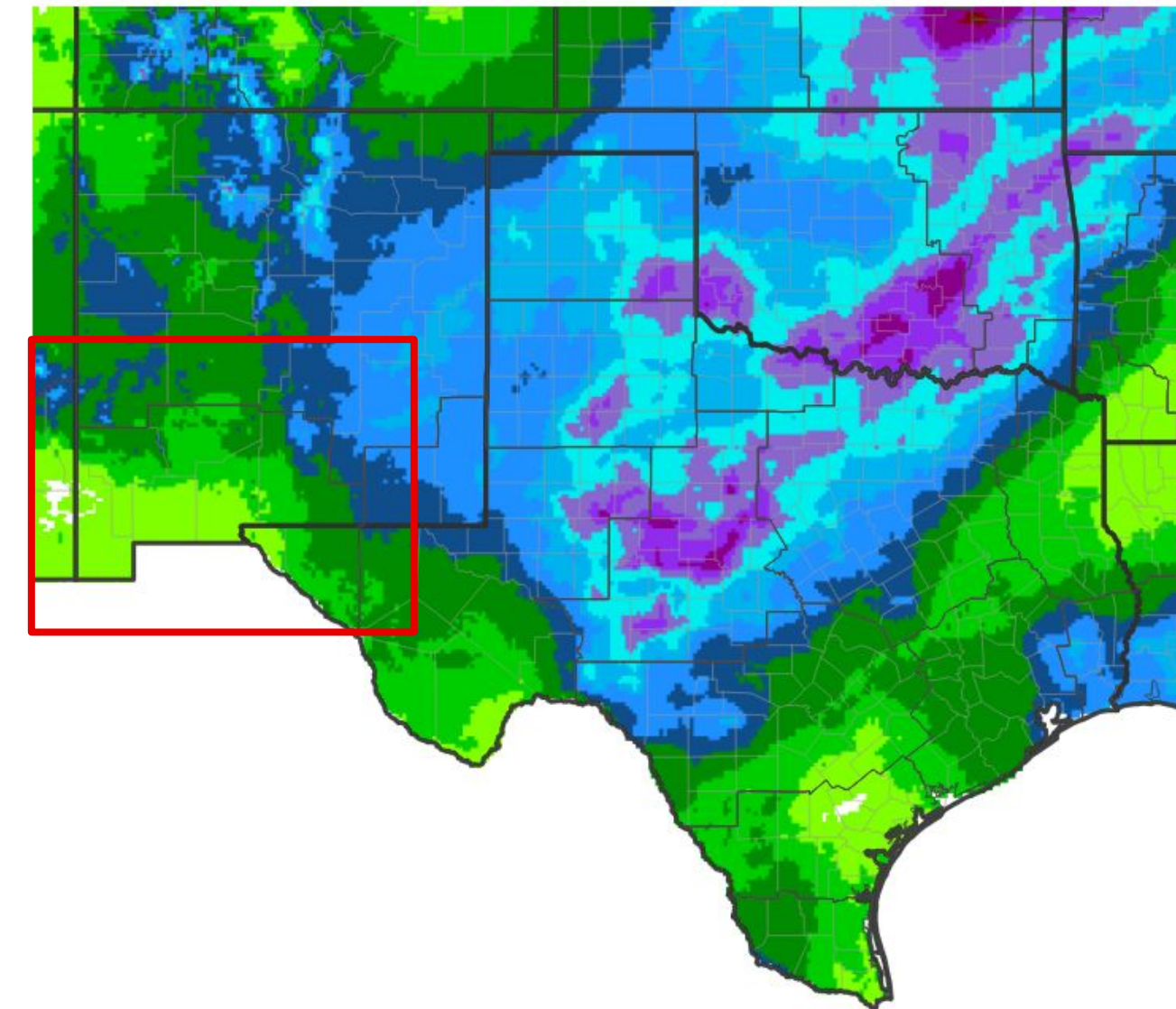


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

April 7, 2026
2:36 AM

- Light rain showers through early April, especially over the Sacramento Mountains and South-Central New Mexico. Monthly forecast leans toward near to above normal April precipitation, which may help short-term drought conditions.
- 2025-26 winter season precipitation finished above normal for south-central New Mexico and far west Texas, but slightly below normal for western New Mexico.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 6, 2026-April 13, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/06/26





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

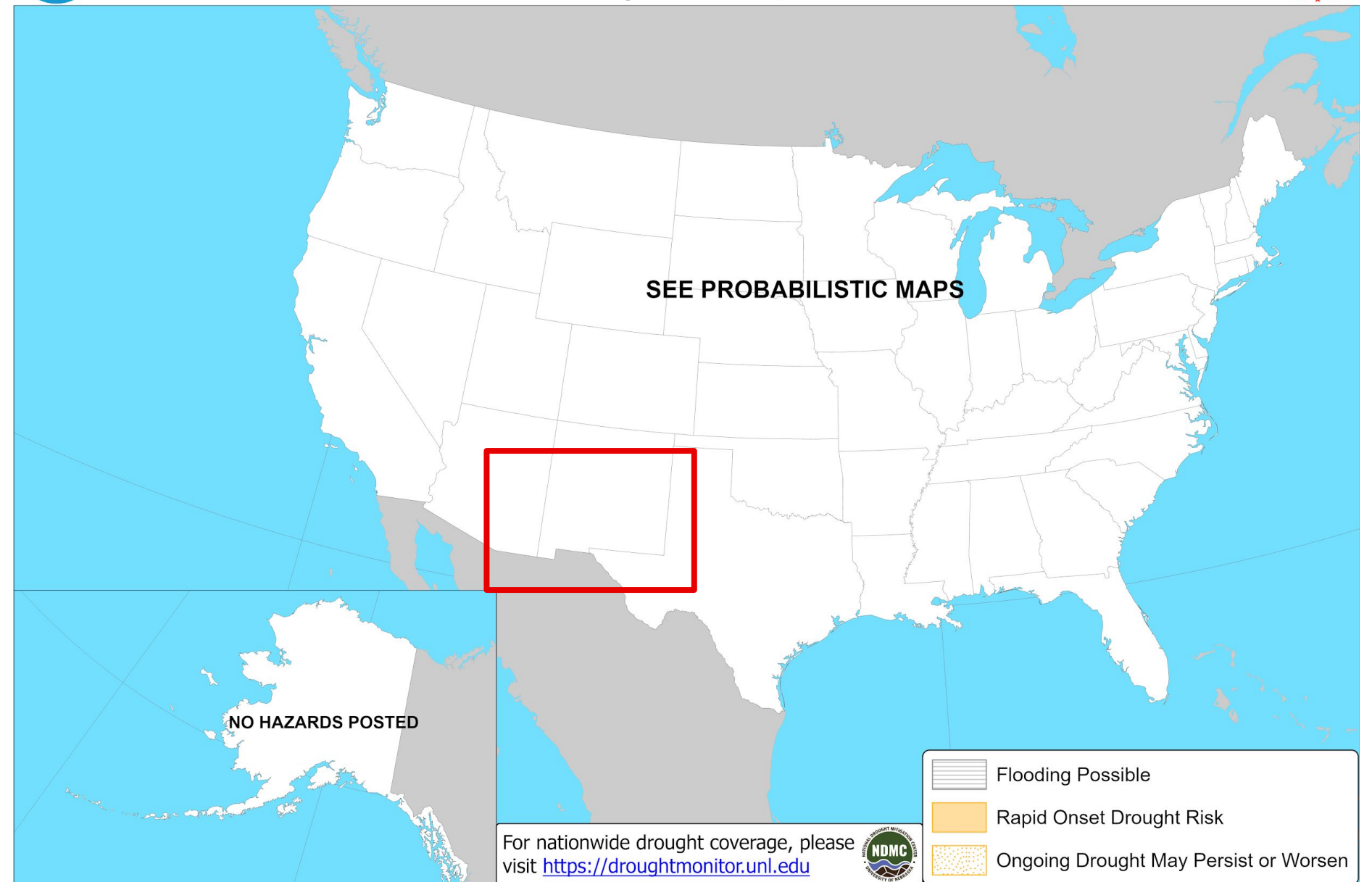
April 7, 2026
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Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- 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.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: April 14 - 20, 2026



Climate Prediction Center
Released: April 6, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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Image Caption:
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid April 14-20





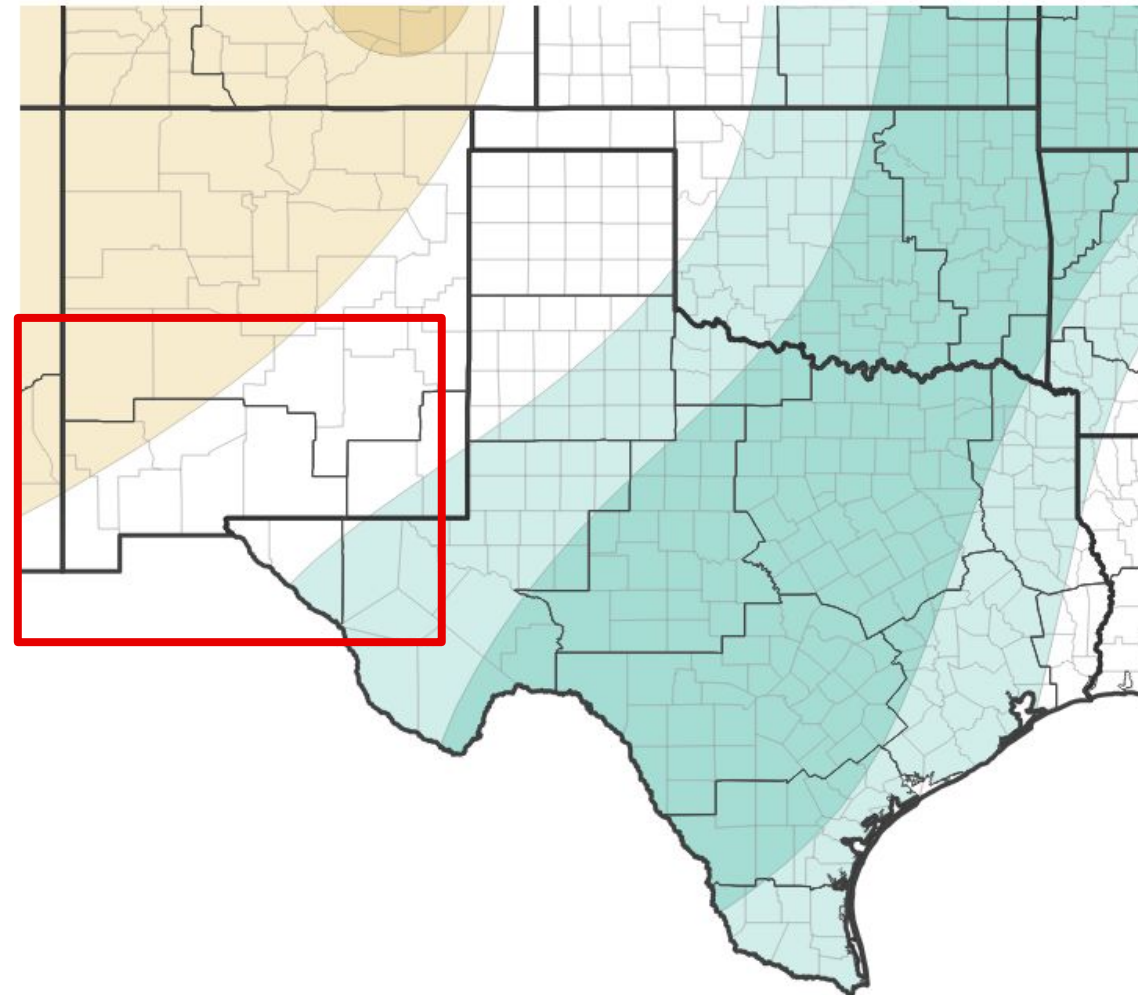
Long-Range Outlooks

April 7, 2026
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- **Equal chances** for precipitation for Southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: **0.17"**
- **50-60%** chance of above normal temperatures for Southern New Mexico, **40-50%** chance for above normal temperatures for Far West Texas.
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: **80.0°**

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



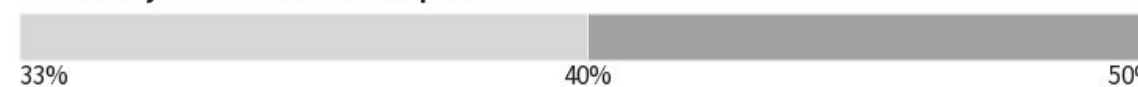
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



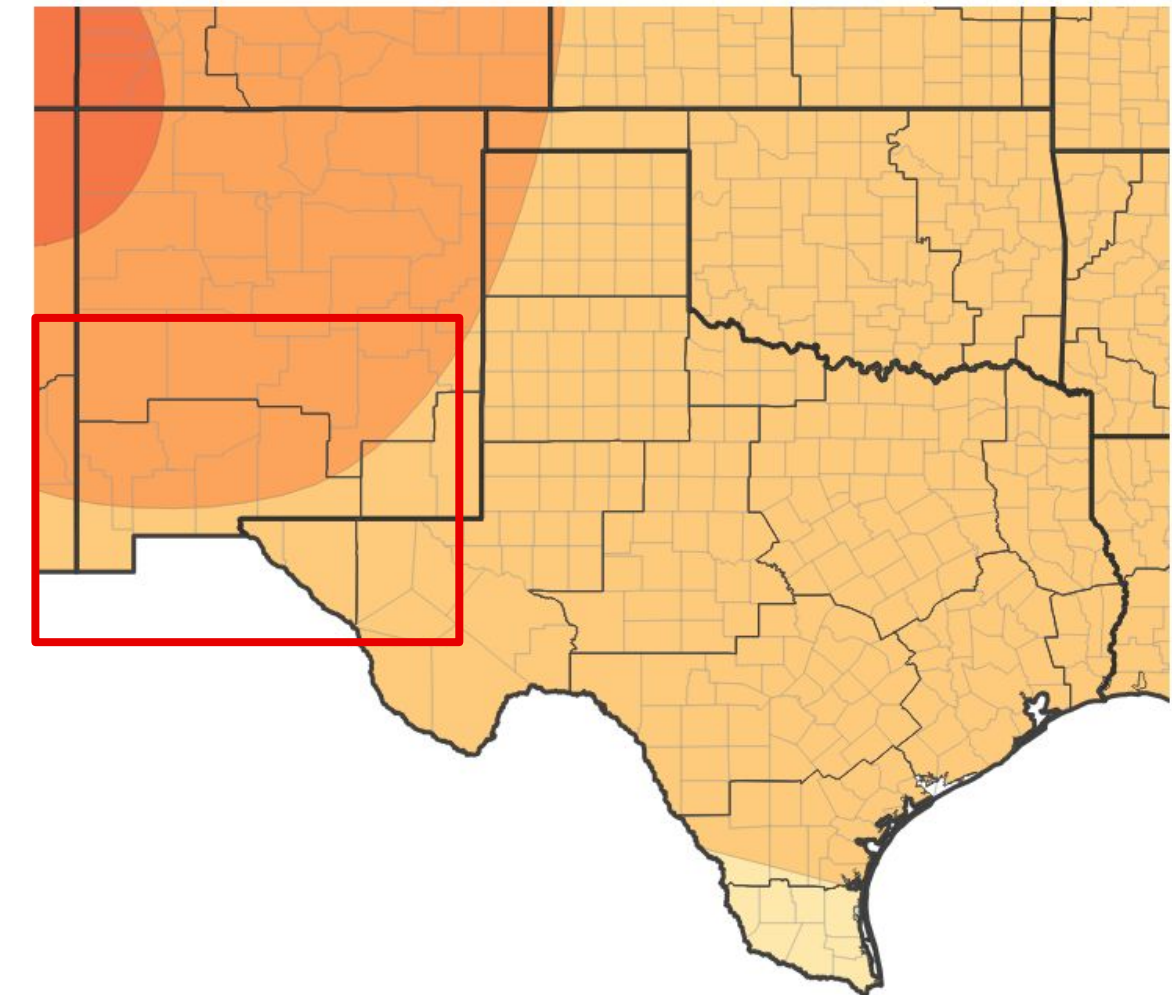
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 03/31/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



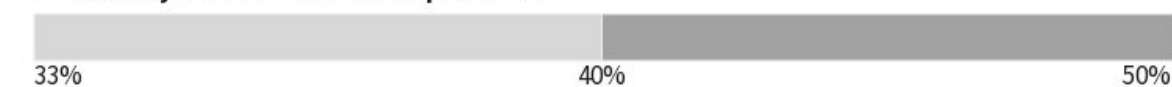
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 03/31/26





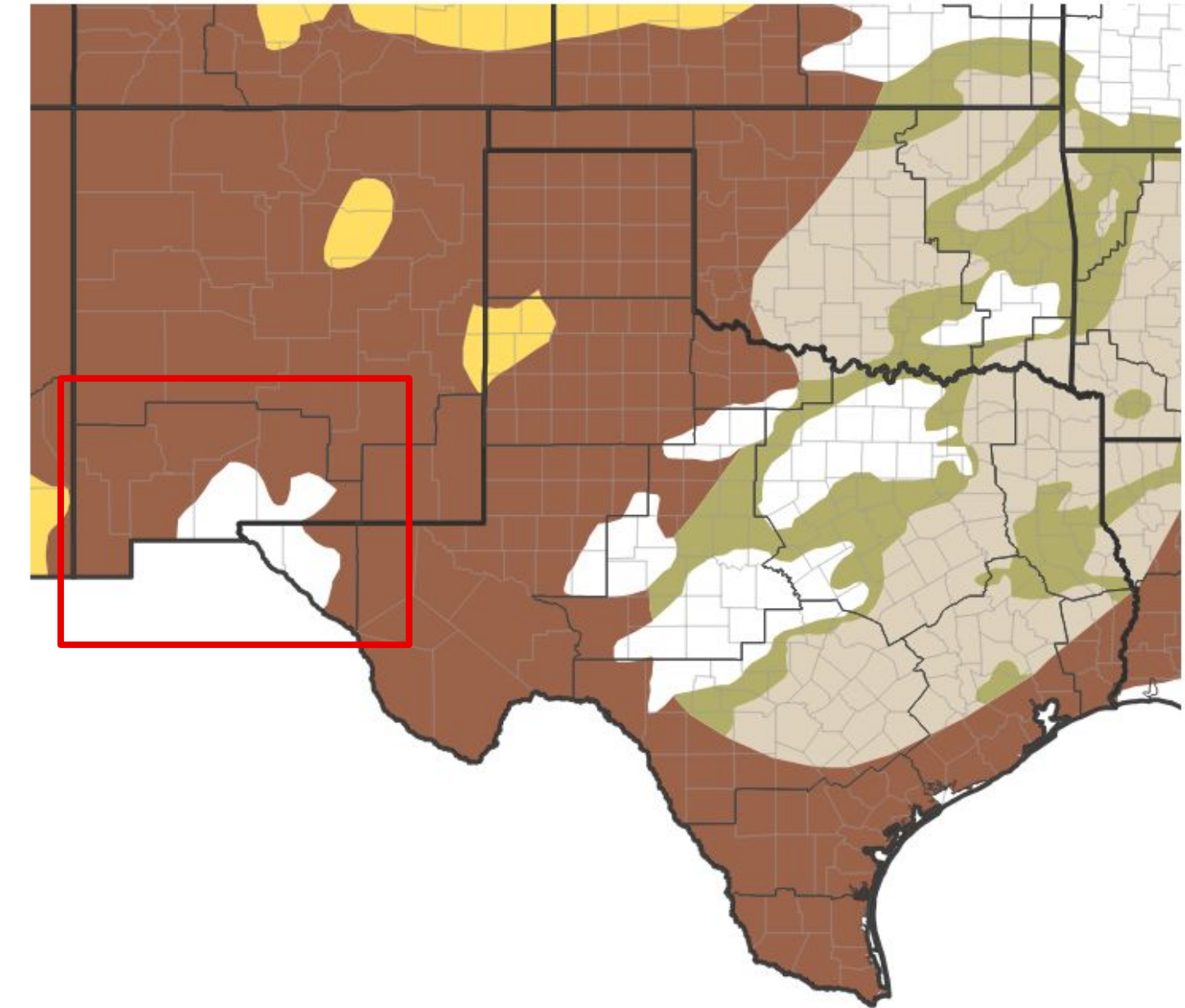
Drought Outlook

April 7, 2026
2:36 AM

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

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

1-Month Drought Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 03/31/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX