



# Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid October 4, 2025

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

Contact Information: [nws.elpaso@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.elpaso@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated November 7, 2025 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](https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=132) for regional drought status updates.
- 
- Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) drought status affecting Southwest New Mexico and Far West Texas.
  - Slight drought improvement in September due to thunderstorms. Monsoon season finishes near normal for most of the region.
  - Drought conditions expected to persist in October due to below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.







# U.S. Drought Monitor

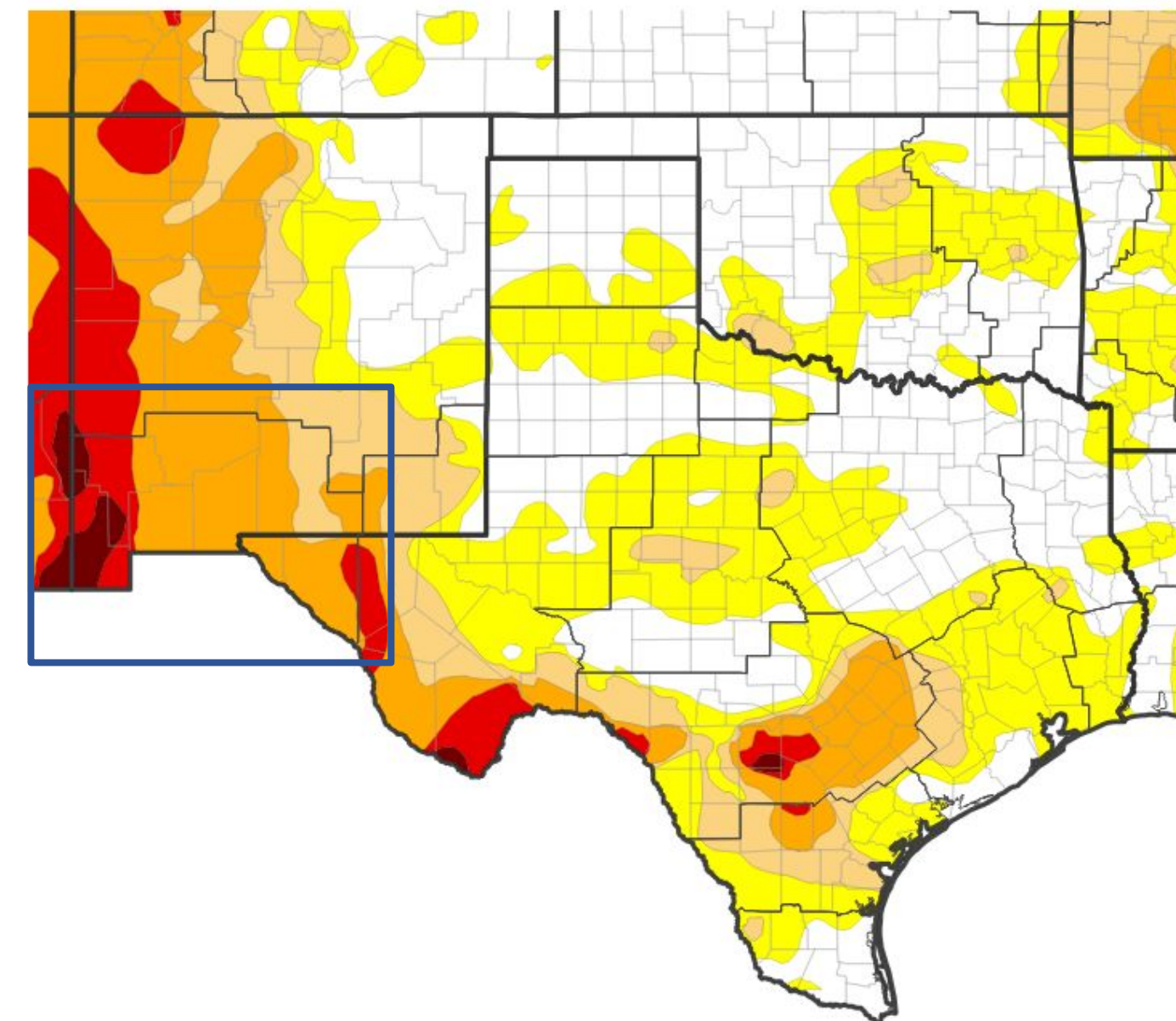
October 4, 2025  
12:35 AM

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

## Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**  
Southwest New Mexico along the AZ/NM state line.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**  
Portions of Southwest New Mexico including Grant and Hidalgo Counties. Gila National Forest.
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**  
Portions of South-Central New Mexico including Dona Ana, Sierra, Luna, and Otero Counties. Far West Texas including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**  
Lincoln National Forest.  
Southeast New Mexico (69% of New Mexico, 24% of Texas)
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**  
Northeast New Mexico (80% of New Mexico, 63% of Texas)

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/30/25



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

National Weather Service  
El Paso, TX



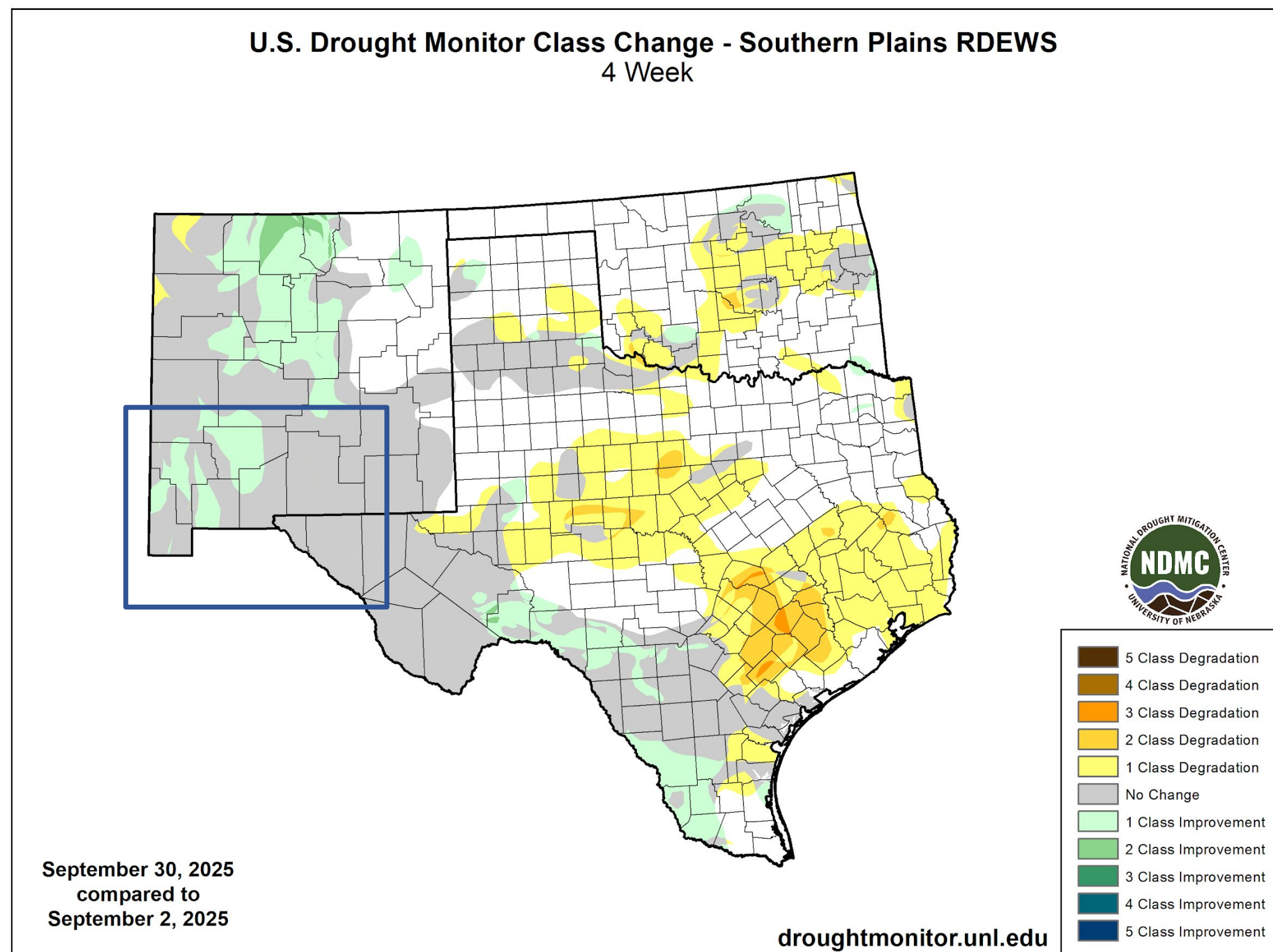
# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 4, 2025  
12:35 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:**  
None
- **Drought Improved:**  
Portions of Southwest New Mexico
- **No Change:**  
Most of Southern New Mexico, Far West Texas







# Precipitation

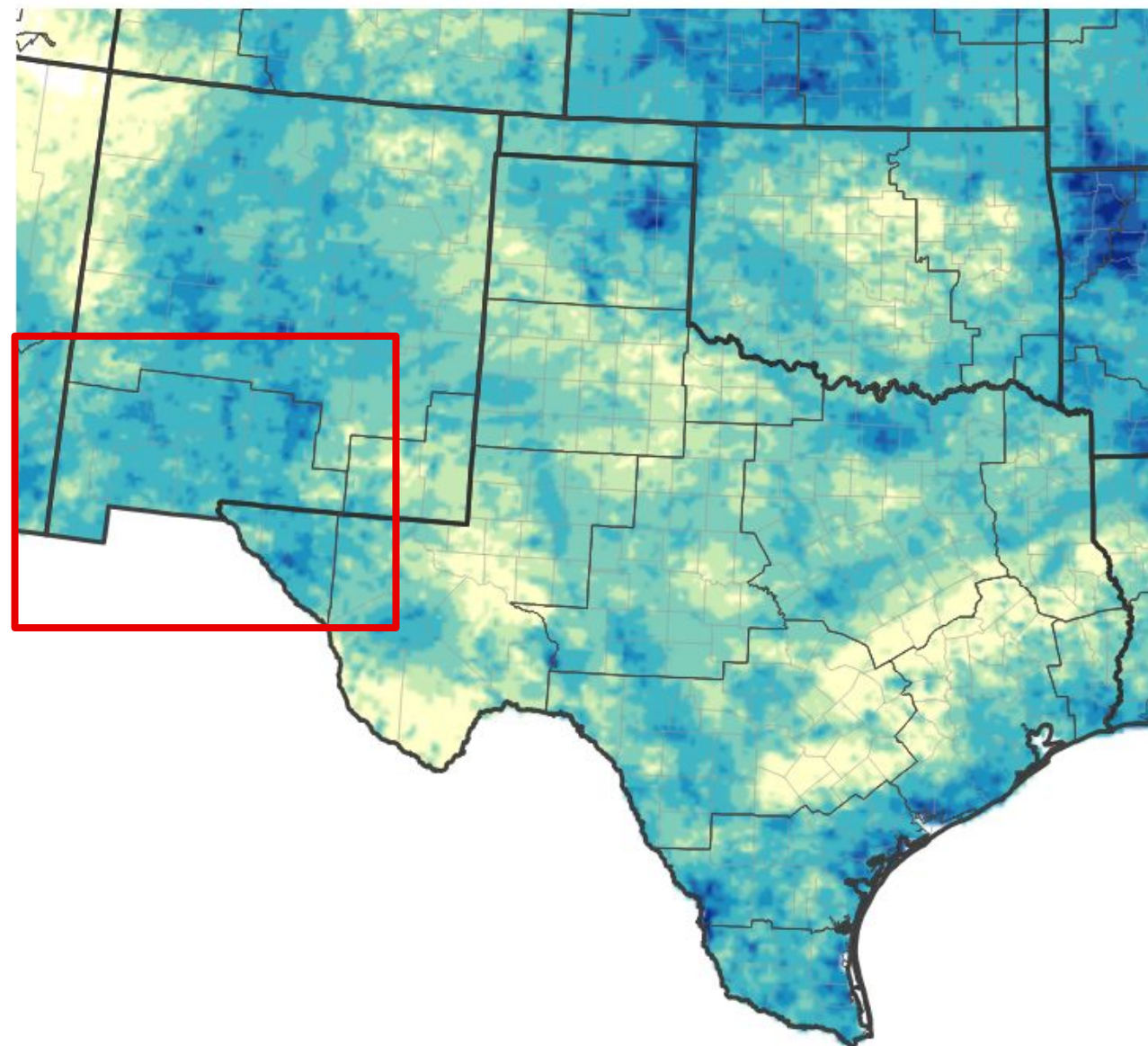
October 4, 2025  
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30-day precip totals,  
1.50-3.00" along I-10 corridor.  
3.00-5.00" over mountain  
forests.

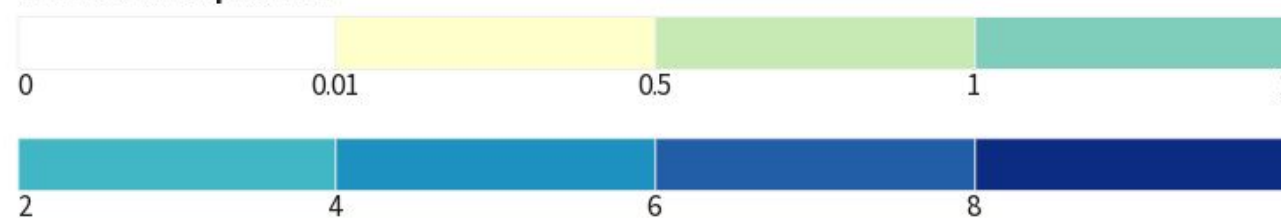
90-day precip totals,  
5.00-7.00" along I-10 corridor.  
8.00-11.00" over mountain  
forests.

Majority of region saw above  
normal rainfall in September,  
improving drought conditions.  
Summer monsoon season  
near normal, drier along  
AZ/NM state line.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



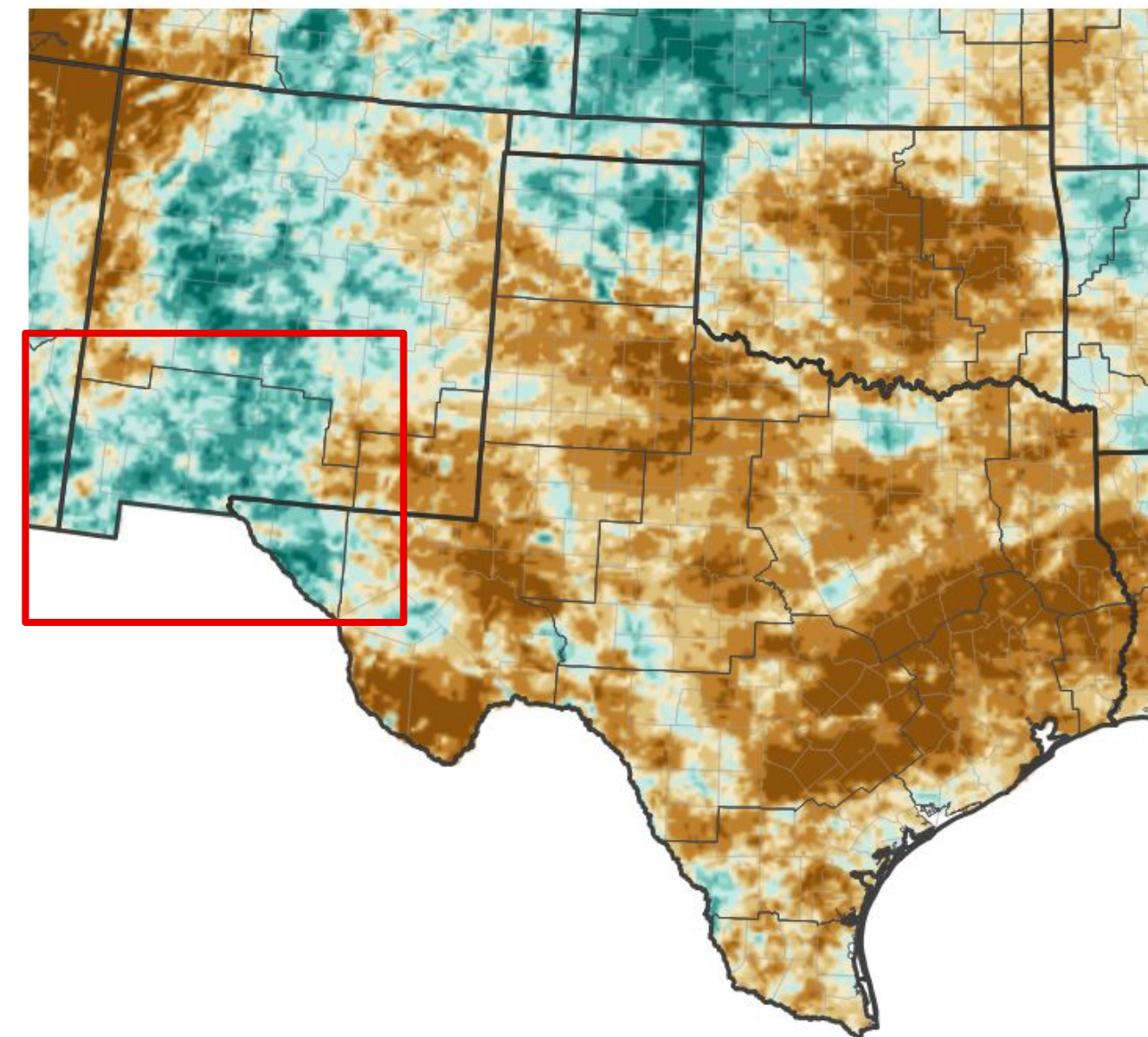
Inches of Precipitation



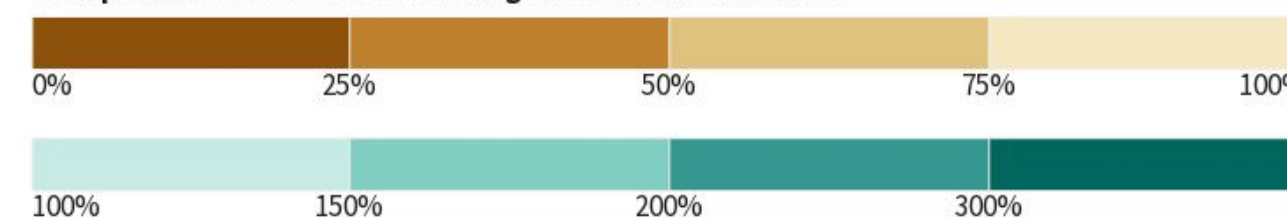
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;  
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/01/25

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: 10/02/25





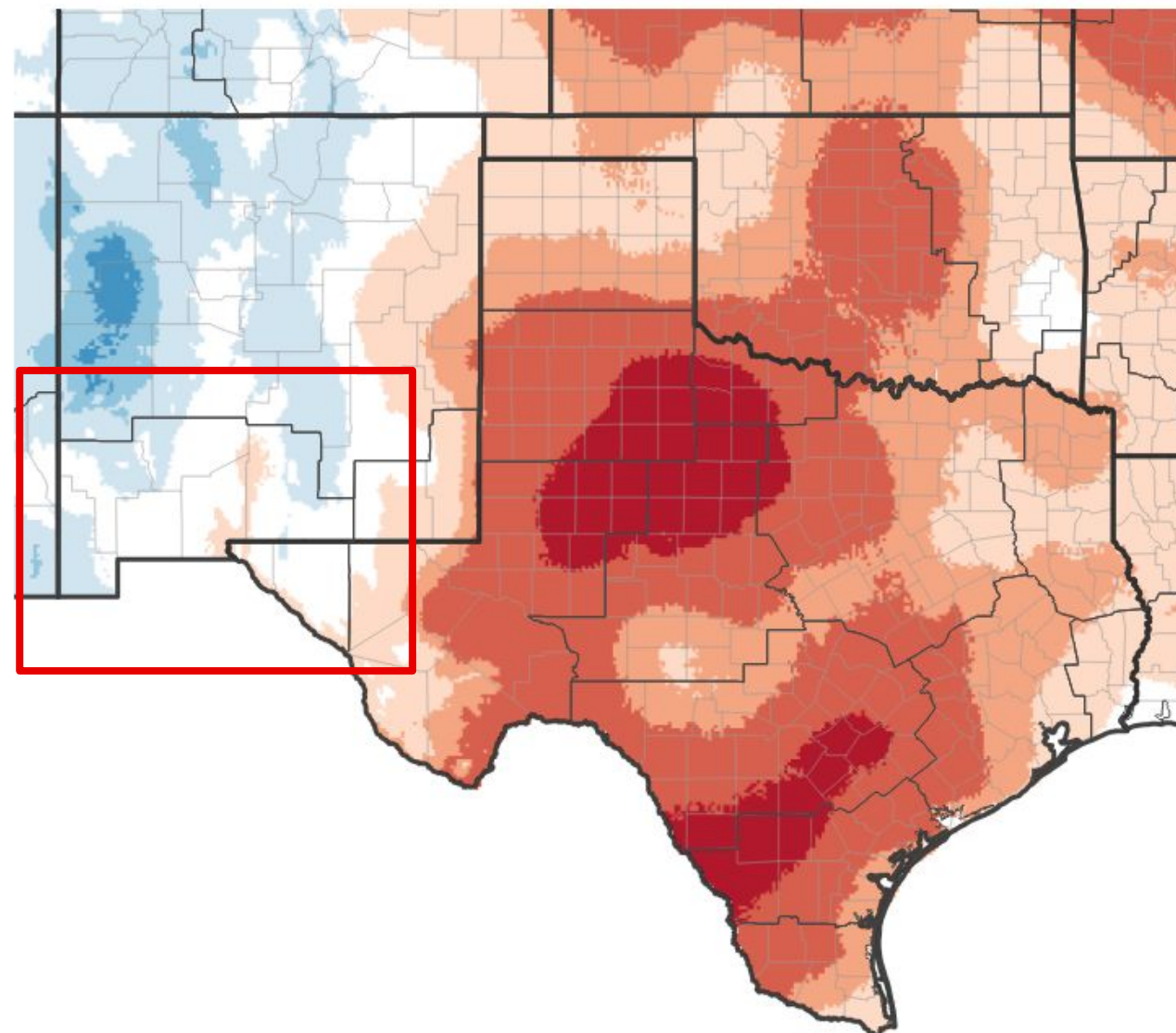


# Temperature

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- Near normal September for New Mexico and Far West Texas
- 30-day high temperature anomalies near normal
- September mean average temperatures 2.5°F above normal at El Paso International (KELP)

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



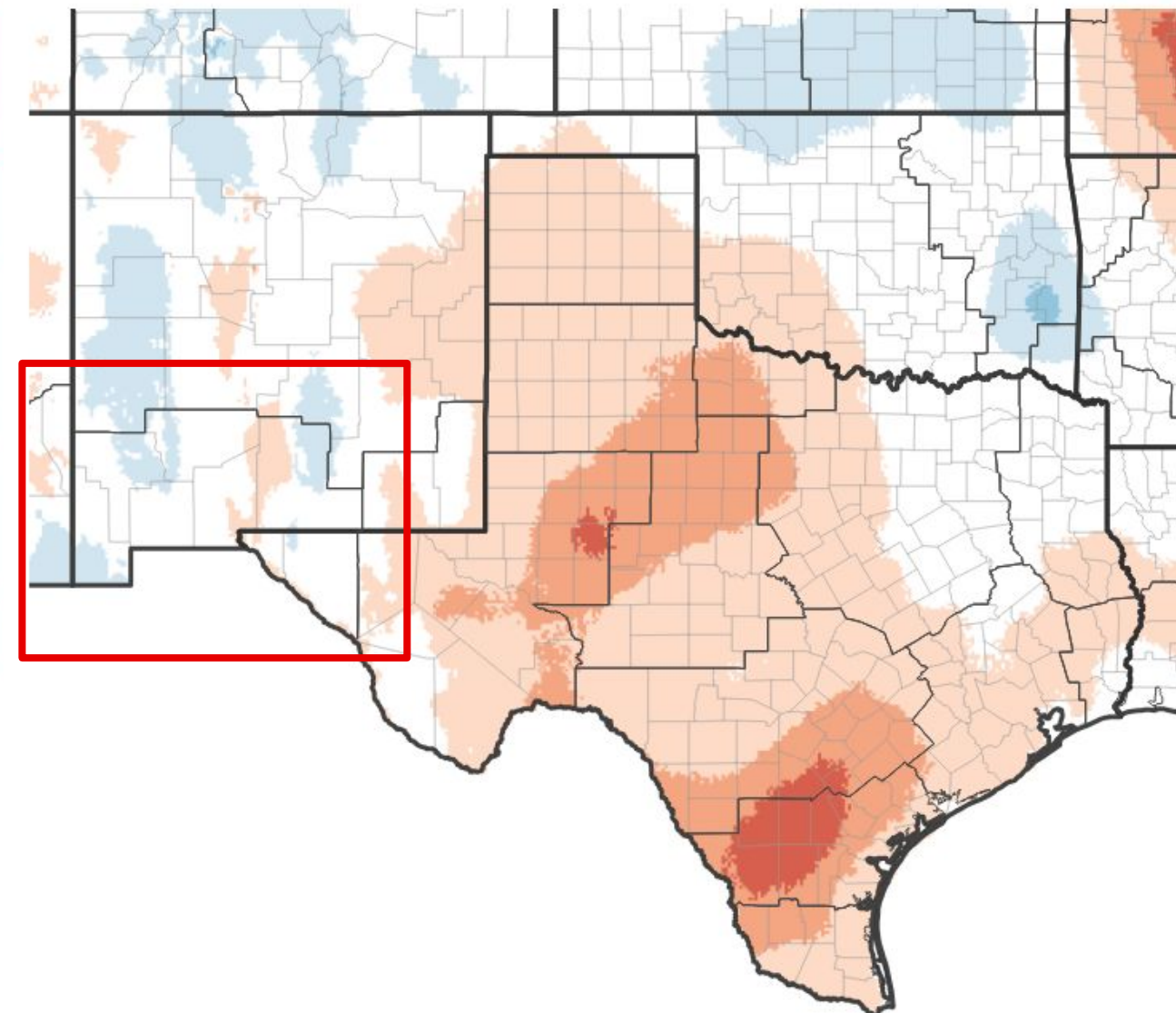
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



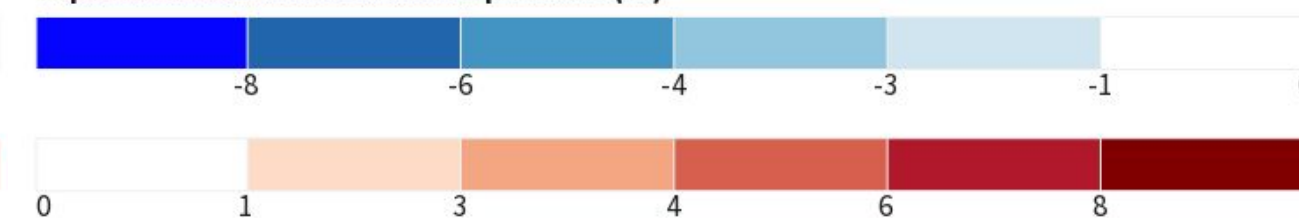
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/29/25

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: 09/29/25



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El Paso, TX





# Summary of Impacts

October 4, 2025  
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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Gila River running near normal after being below normal most of the year. Mimbres River running above normal but receding as the monsoon ends. River levels will be mostly consistent through the fall season, likely falling to below normal by the end of the year. Rio Grande has dried up south of the Caballo Dam, reaching Low Stage at El Paso in mid-August. Elephant Butte storage sits at 3.4% capacity, slightly lower than last month and well below 30-year median. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

## Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains below normal despite summer rains. Further drying is expected this season. Outlook points to below normal precipitation in October. 2025 Rio Grande irrigation season has 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

- Low fire danger due to summer rainfall and ERCs near normal for October. Peak fire season has ended with low risk of additional lightning starts this month. No risk of large fire growth in October due to rain and light prevailing winds.







# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

October 4, 2025  
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- Gila River running closer to normal after summer thunderstorms. Gila River spikes occurred September 13, 19, and 26 but remaining below action stage. Mimbres River running above normal with spikes on September 13, 17, and 25. Rio Ruidoso basins running near normal. Rio Grande below Caballo Dam has dried up.

## Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	0.83 ft	11.00 ft	33 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
Redrock	3.73 ft	20.00 ft	13 ft <sup>3</sup> /s
Virden	4.69 ft	15.00 ft	14 ft <sup>3</sup> /s

## Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft	6 ft <sup>3</sup> /s

Gauge data recorded on 10/4/2025

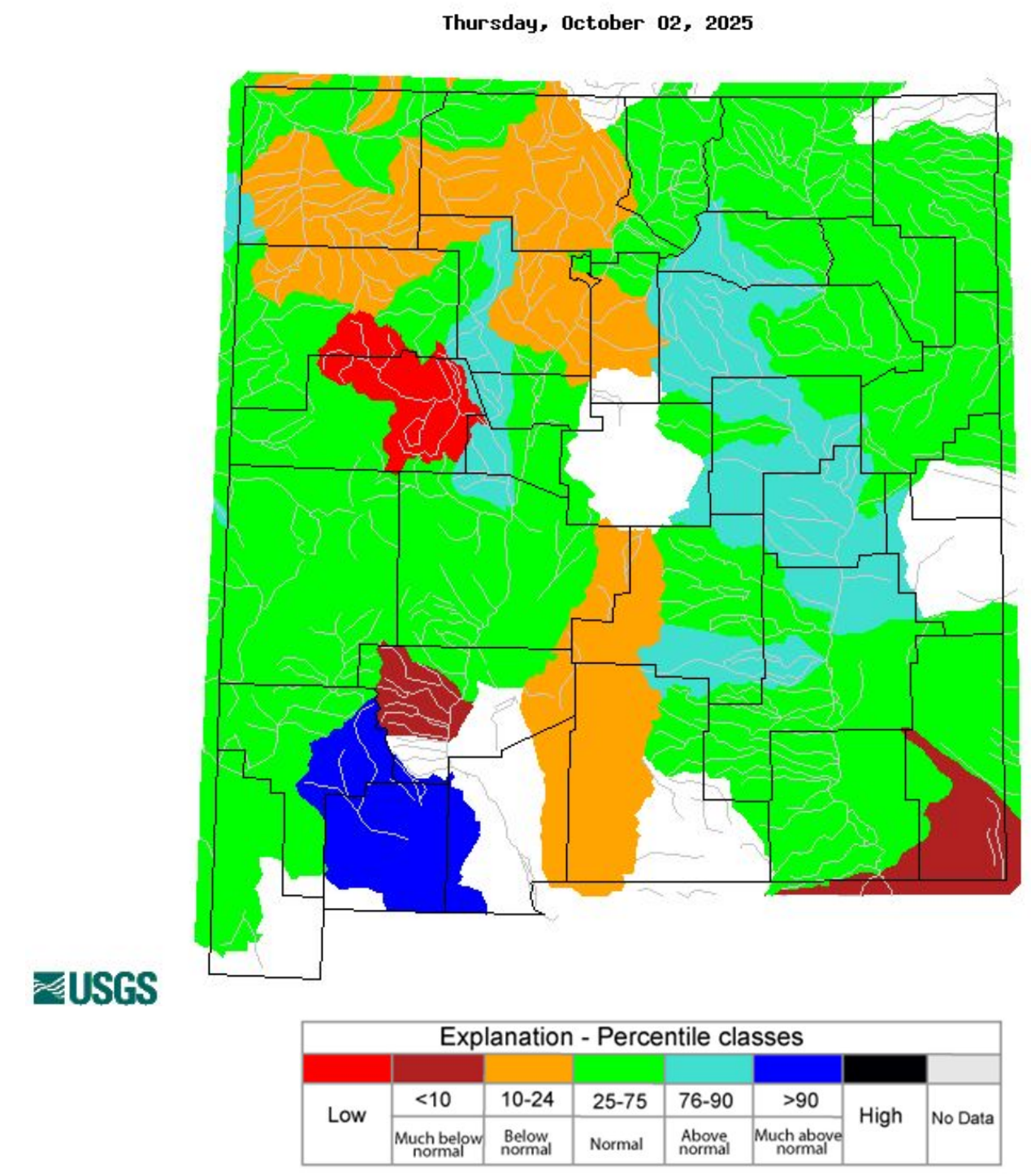


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid October 2, 2025







# Agricultural Impacts

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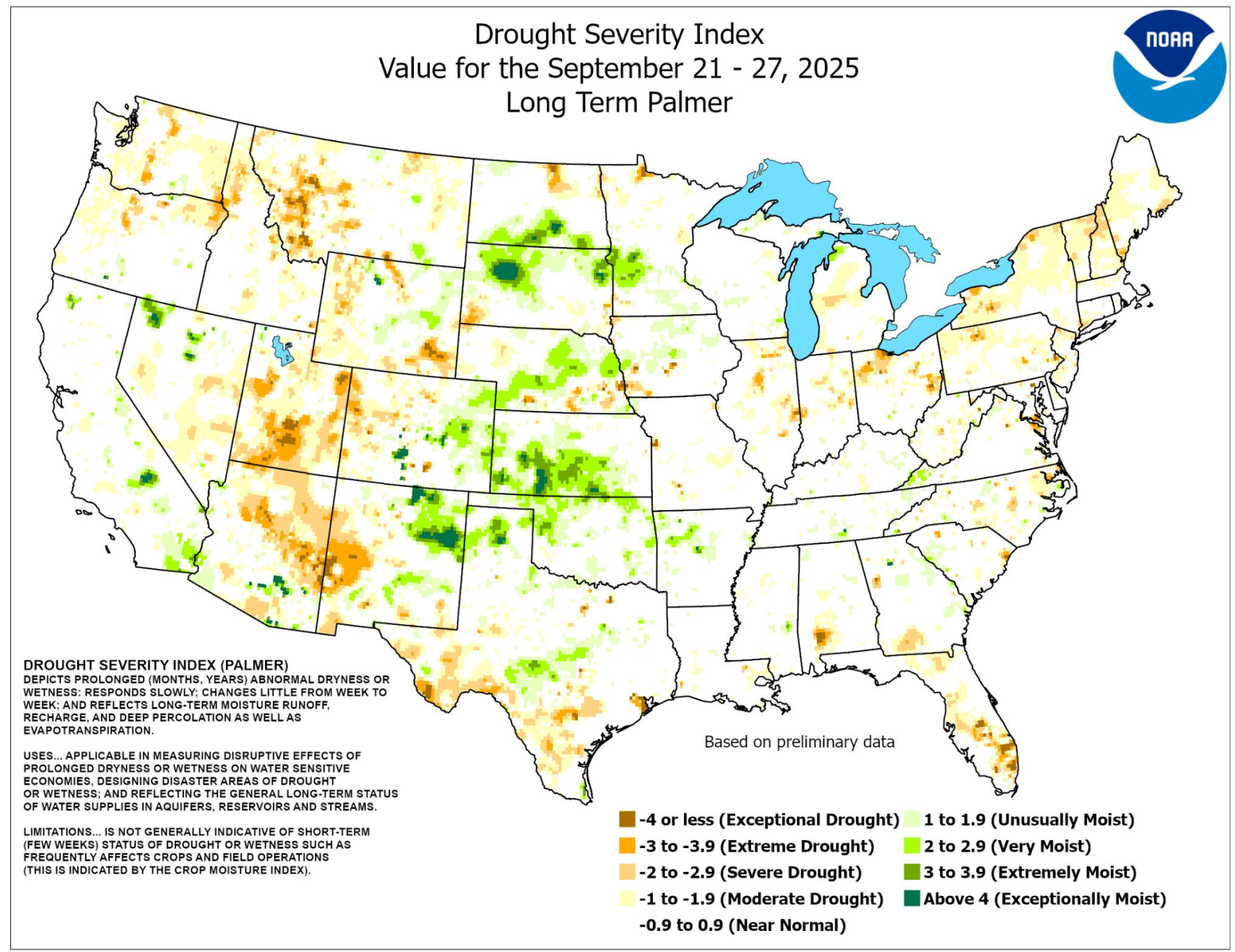
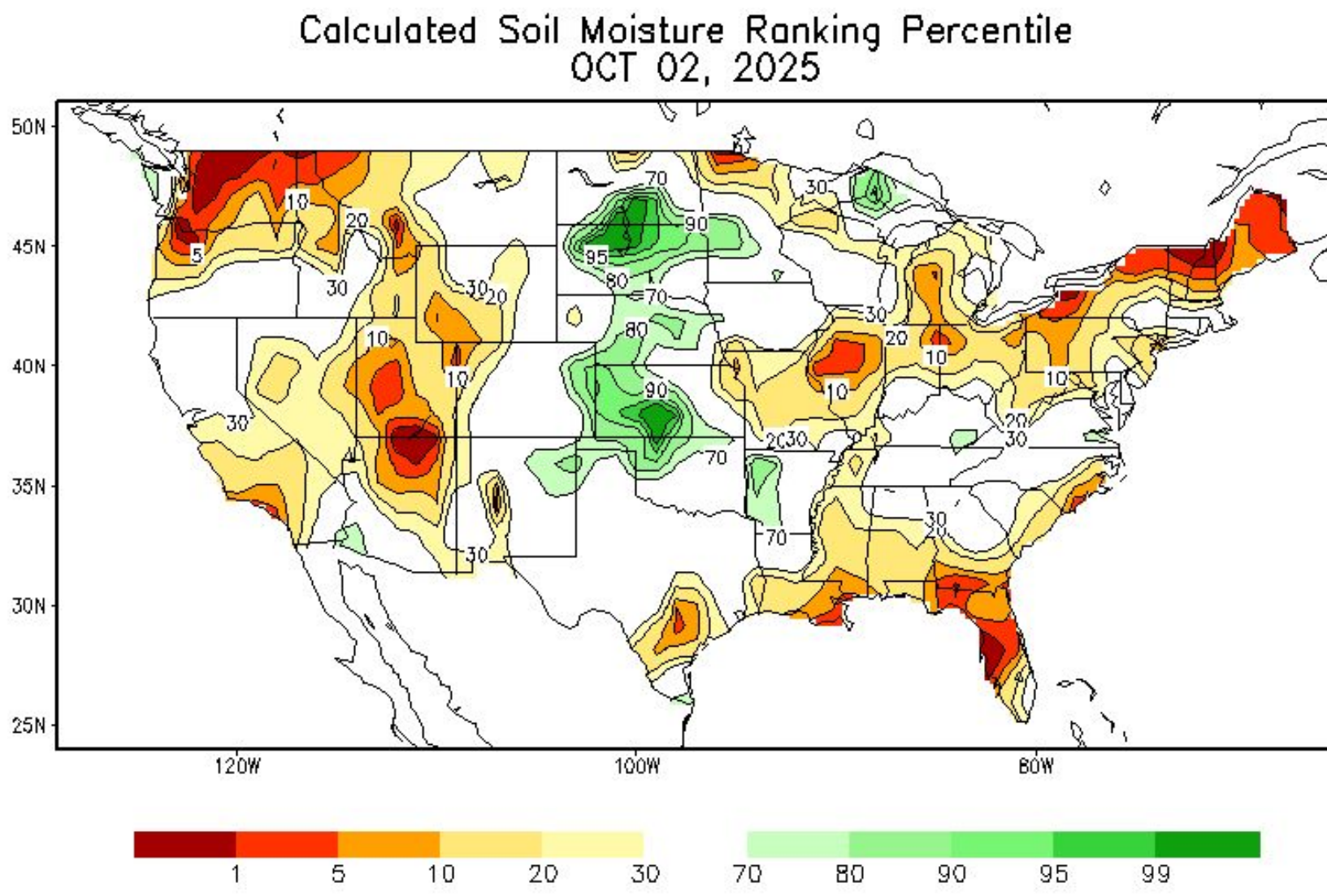


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid October 2, 2025

Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#). Weekly value for period ending September 27, 2025







# 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](#)

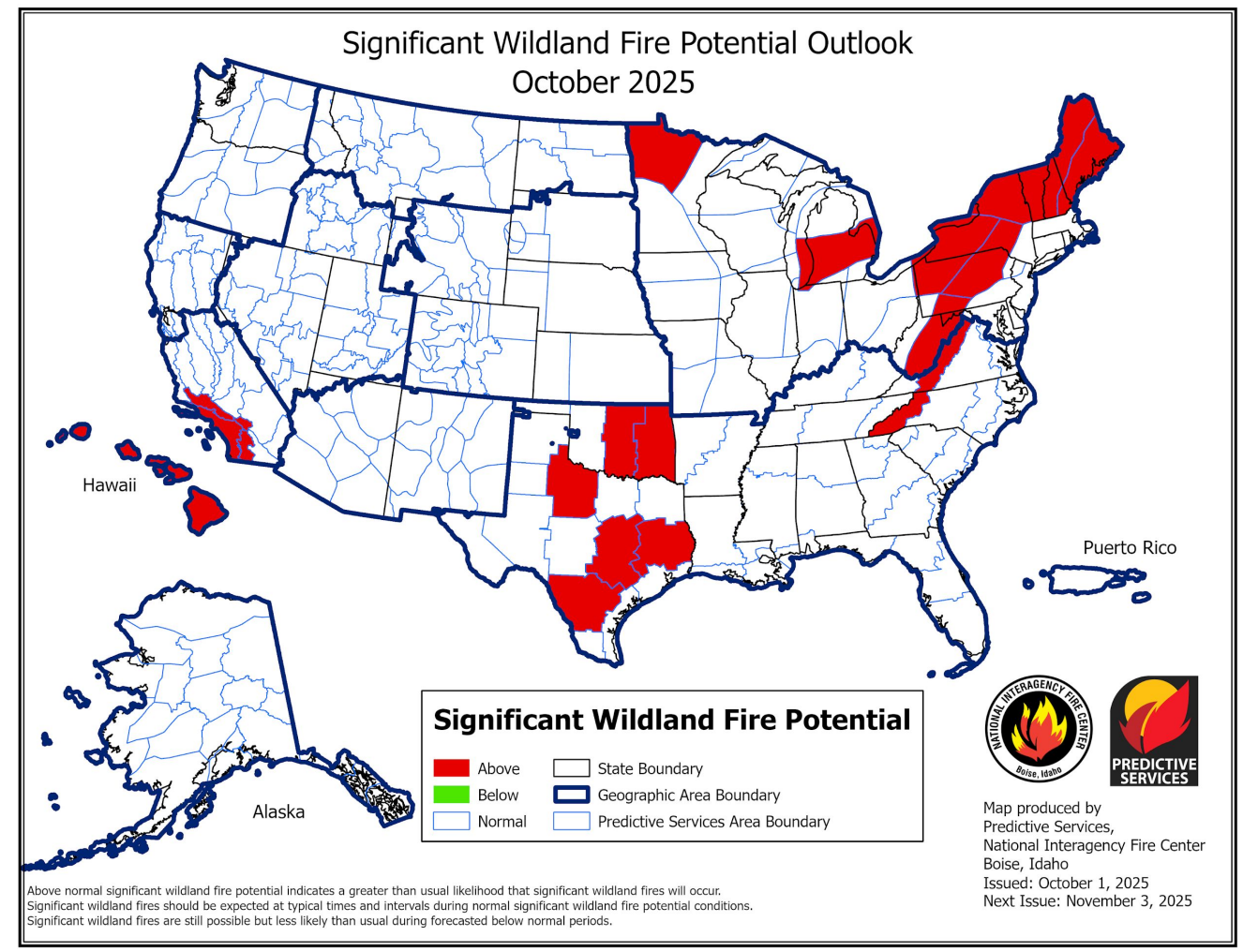
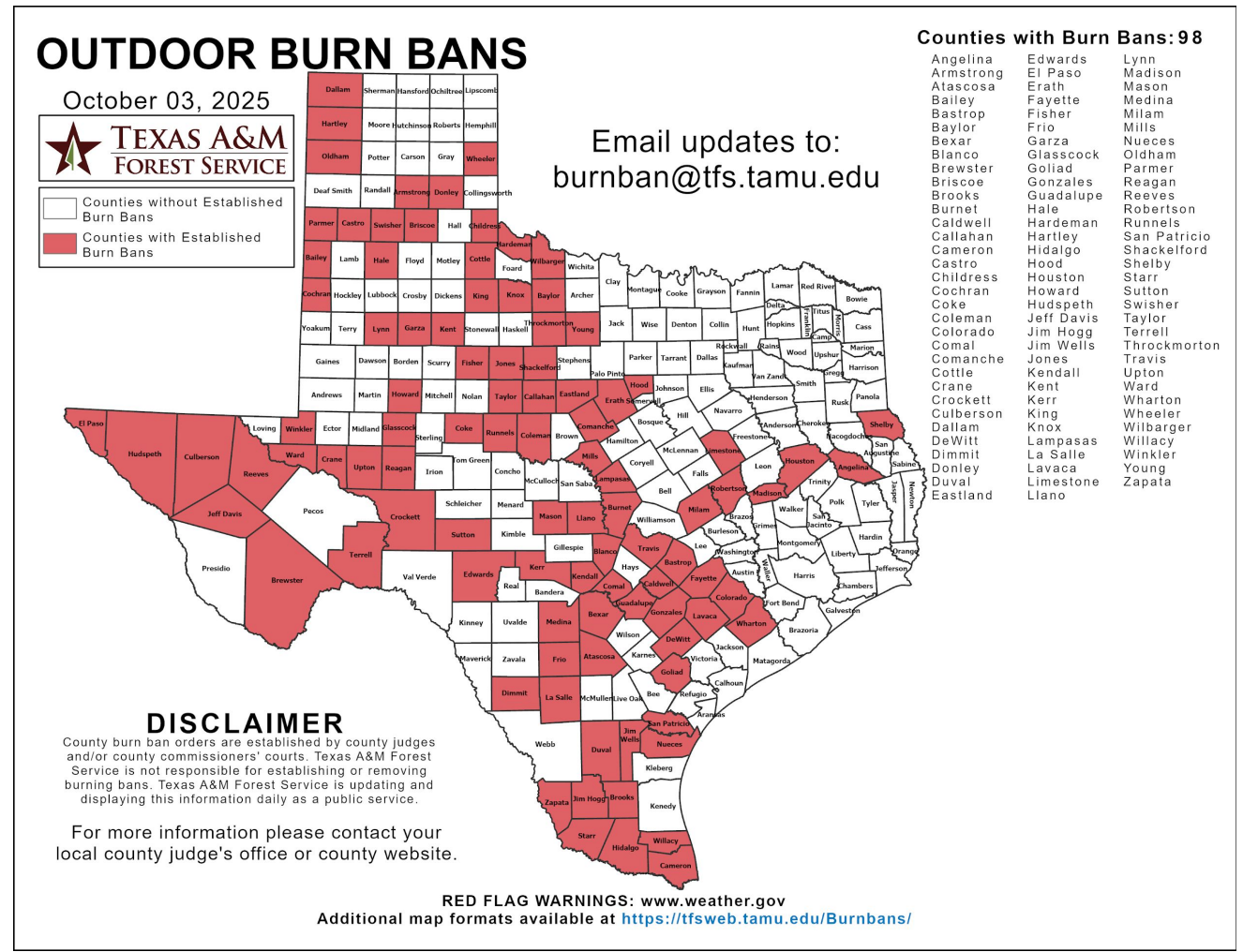


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2025





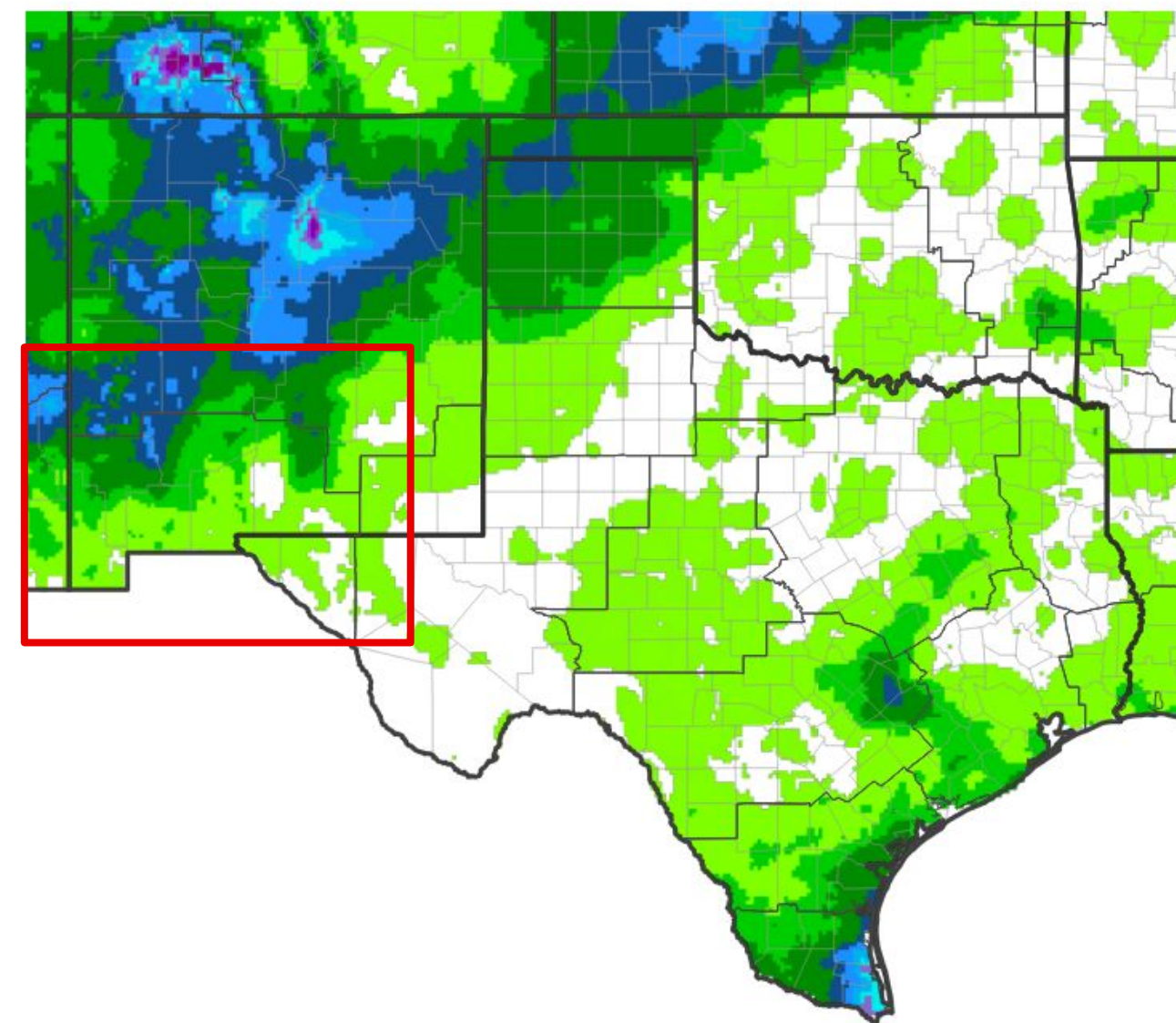


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

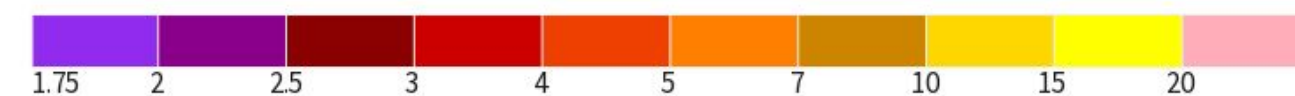
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- Isolated showers and thunderstorms expected (10/7-10/9). Mostly dry conditions expected the rest of the month. Climate outlook for October leans toward warmer than normal temperatures and drier than normal precipitation.
- 2025 monsoon season finished near normal for most of southern New Mexico and far west Texas. Precipitation was highly variable, but ranged from 80-150% of normal. Drier (50-75% of normal) along the AZ/NM state line. Drought conditions are likely to persist through the autumn season.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 3,  
2025–October 10, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/03/25







# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

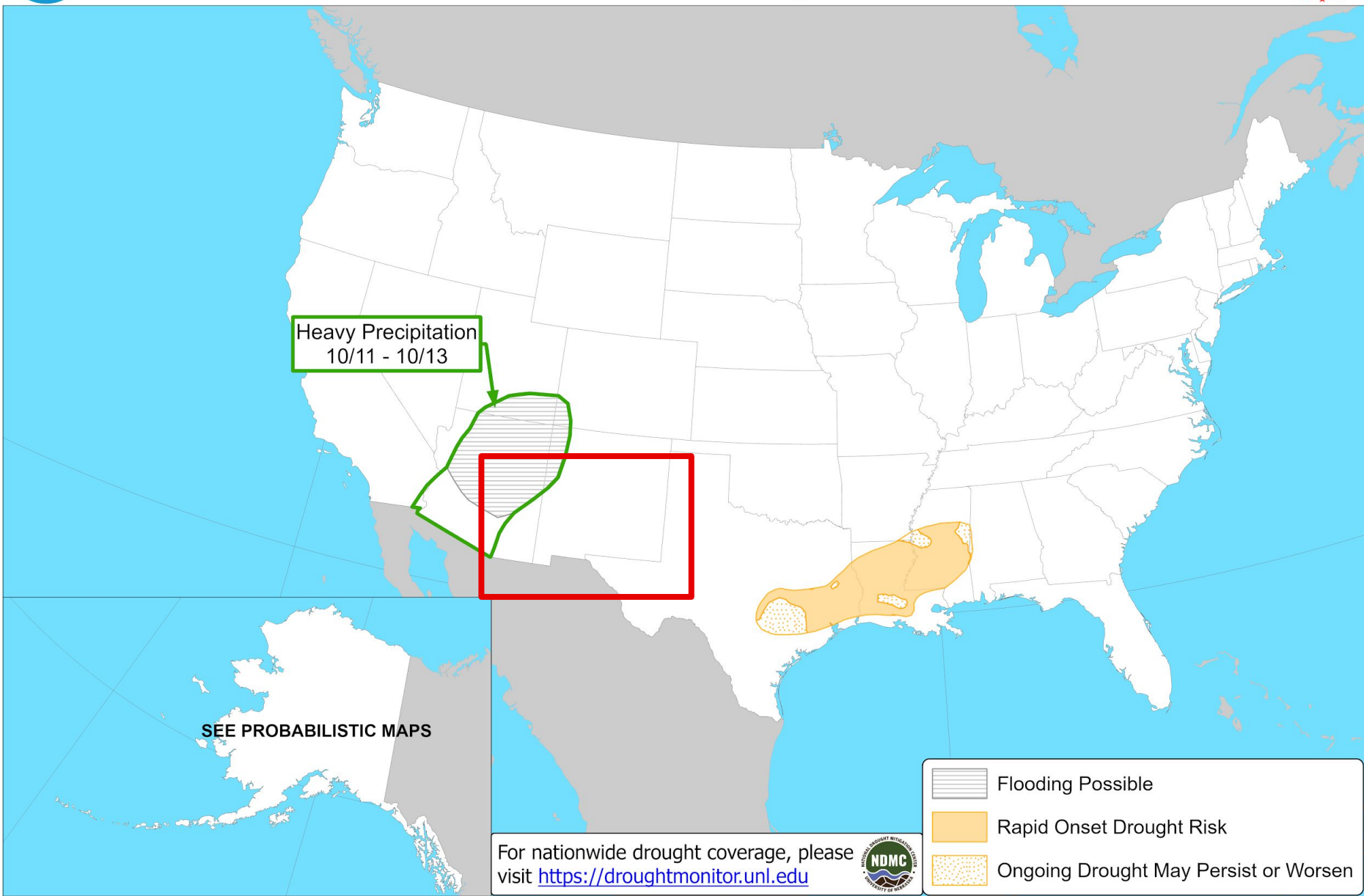
October 4, 2025  
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Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Severe to Extreme Drought is already in place across southern New Mexico and far west Texas. Rapid onset drought is not expected. Drought conditions are expected to persist through the autumn season.



## Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: October 11 - 17, 2025



Climate Prediction Center  
Released: October 3, 2025 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:   
[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

Image Caption:  
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid October 11 to 17







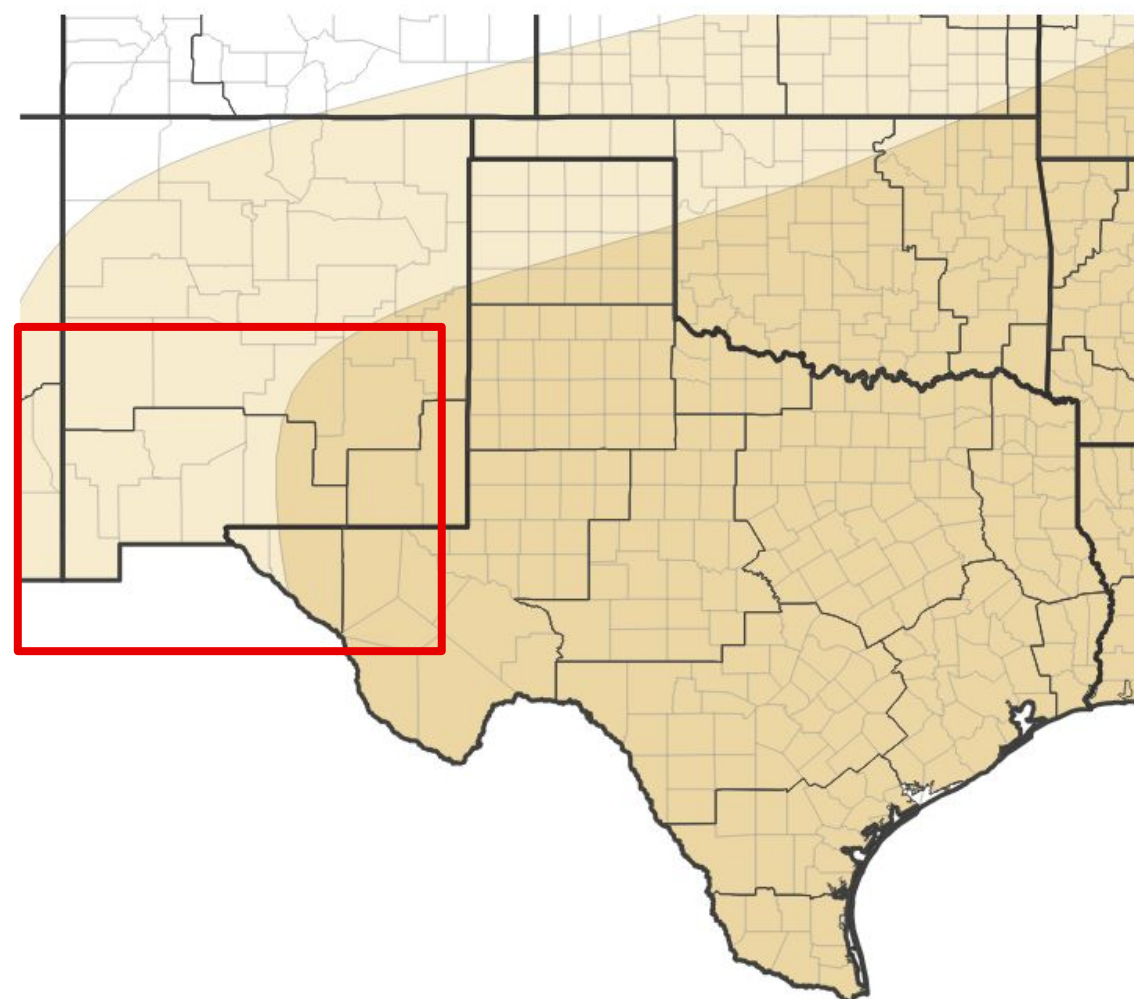
# Long-Range Outlooks

October 4, 2025  
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- 33-40% chance of below normal precipitation for Southwest and South-Central New Mexico, 40-50% chance of below normal precipitation for most of Texas.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: 0.59"
- 40-50% chance of above normal temperatures for Southwest New Mexico. 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures for Eastern New Mexico and Texas.
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: 79.4°

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2025–October 31, 2025



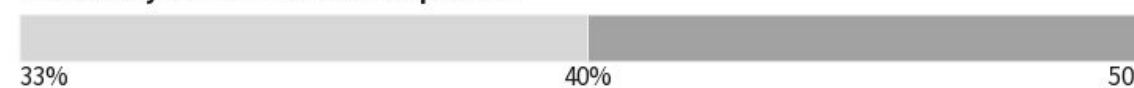
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



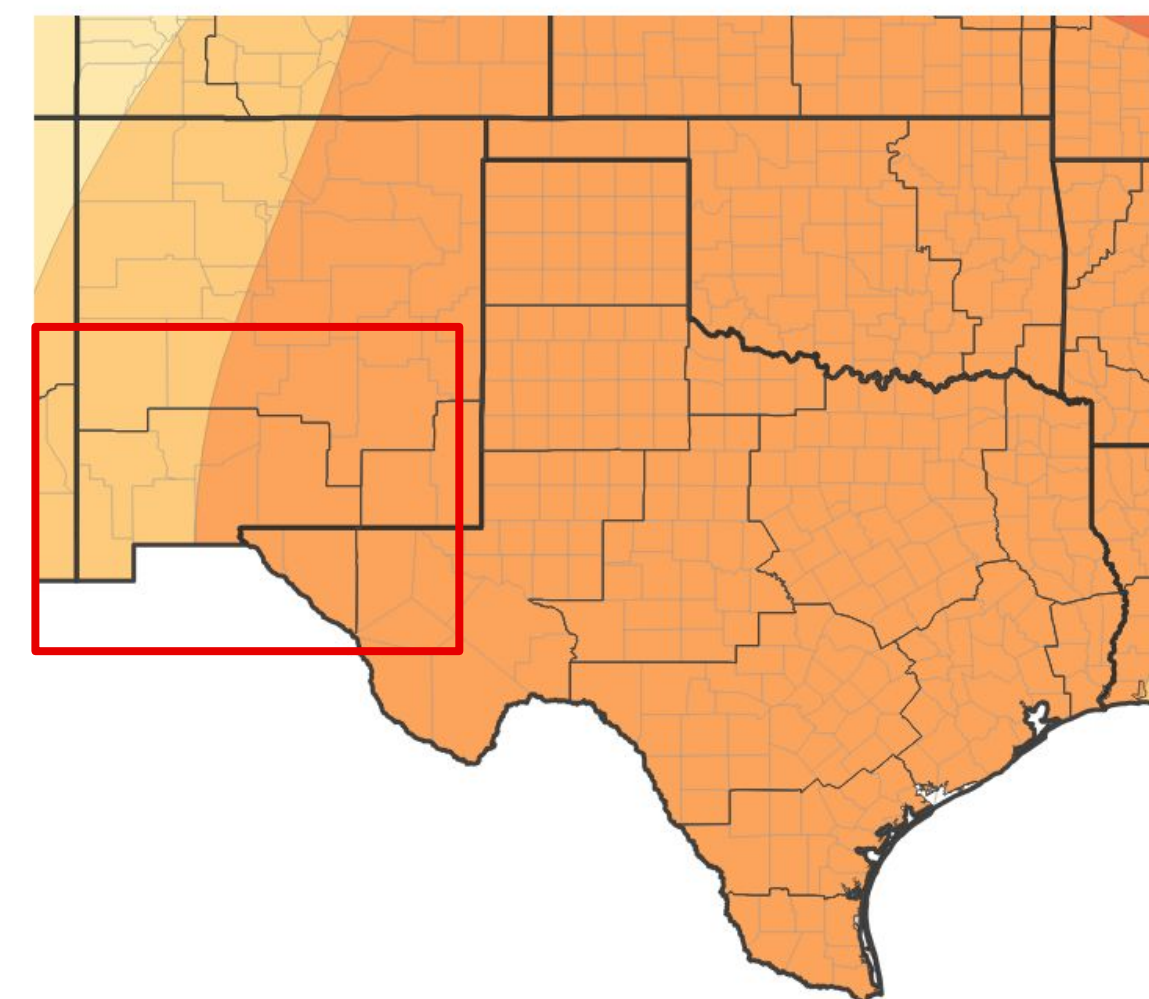
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



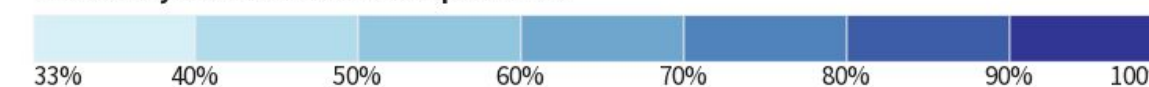
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/30/25

Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2025–October 31, 2025



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: 09/30/25



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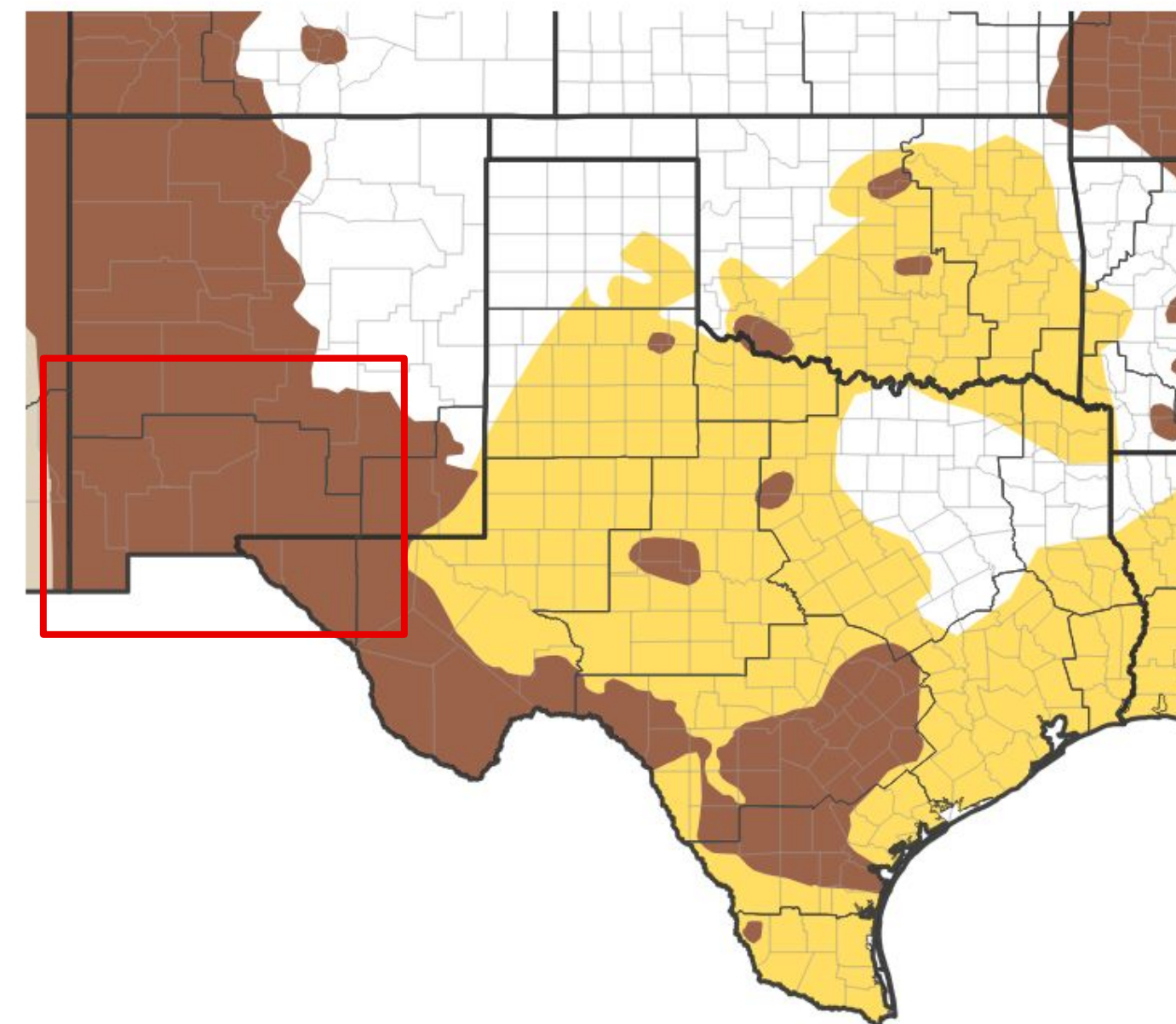
# Drought Outlook

October 4, 2025  
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- Drought conditions are expected to persist through October due to drier than normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.

1-Month Drought Outlook for October 1, 2025–October 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 09/30/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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