



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid January 5, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.elpaso@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated February 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 Southern New Mexico. Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate (D1) drought status affecting Far West Texas.
- No change in drought conditions after very warm and dry December.
- Drought conditions expected to persist or re-develop in January due to below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.



U.S. Drought Monitor

January 5, 2026

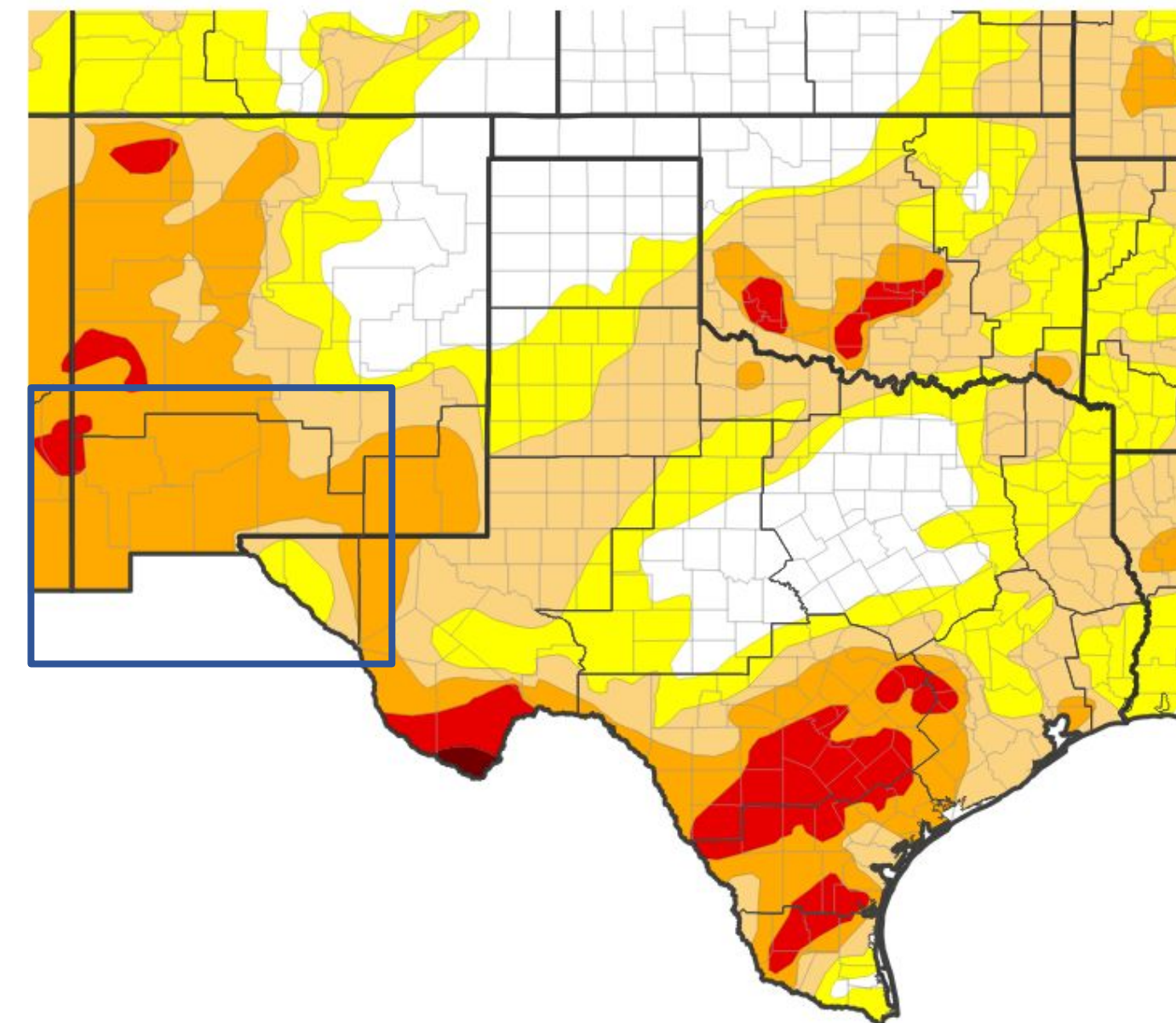
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Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southern New Mexico and far west Texas

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**
None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**
Portions of Western New Mexico including Grant County
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**
Most of Southwest and South-central New Mexico, Gila National Forest
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**
Portions of Far West Texas including El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Lincoln National Forest
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**
Portions of Far West Texas (83% of New Mexico, 80% of Texas)

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 12/30/25



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

National Weather Service
El Paso, TX



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

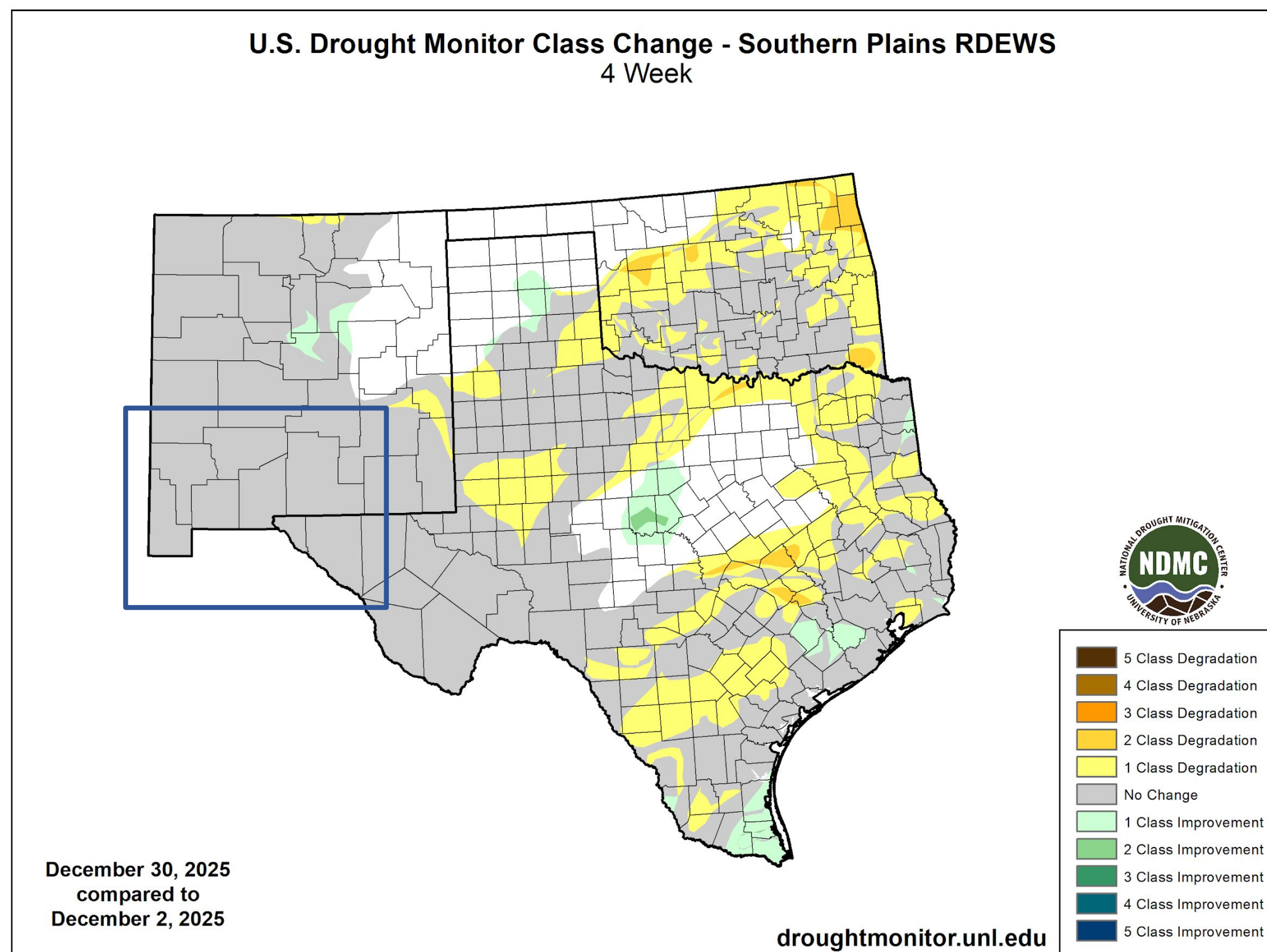
January 5, 2026

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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:**
None
- **No Change:**
Far West Texas and Southern New Mexico





Precipitation

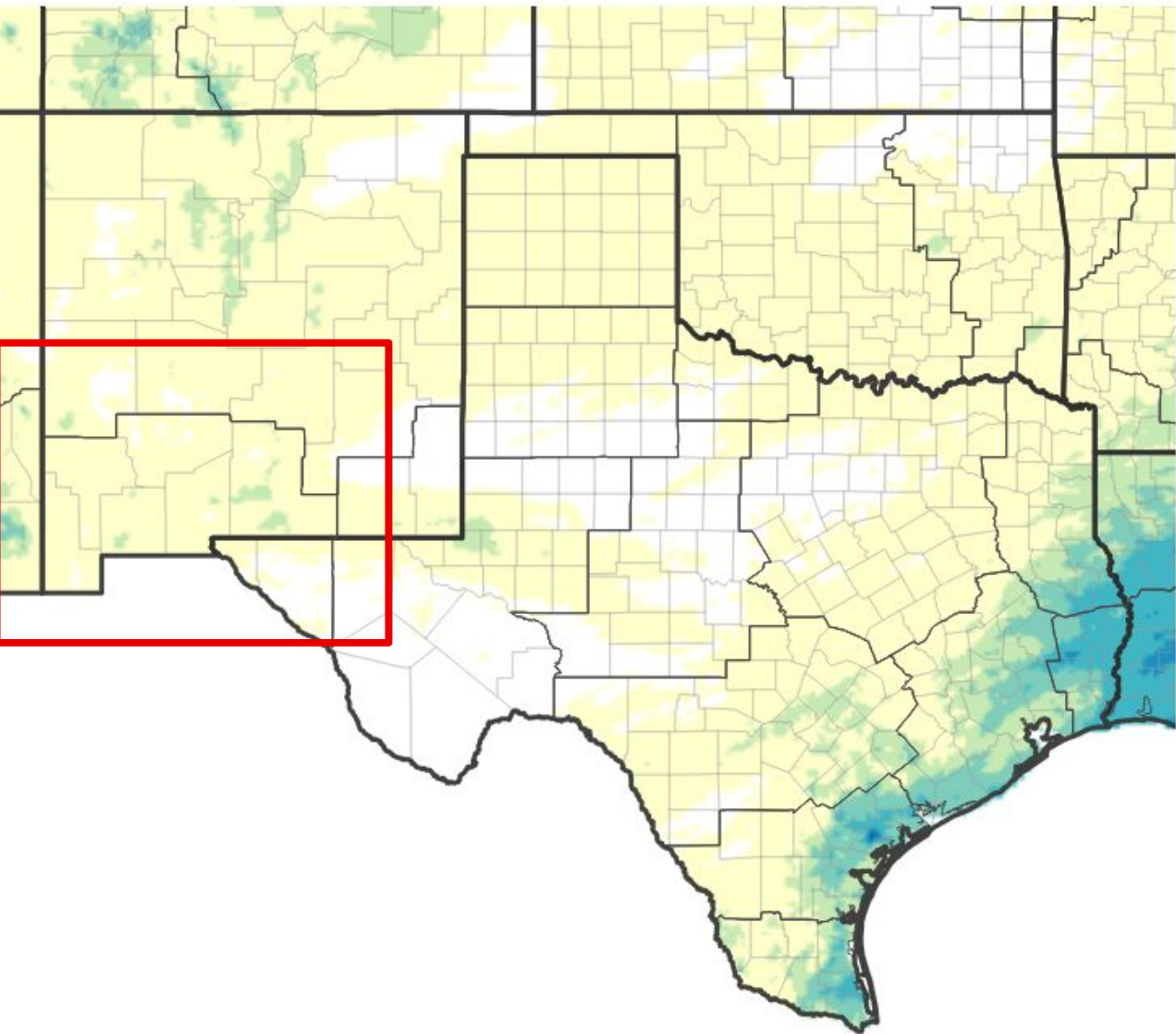
January 5, 2026
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30-day precip totals,
0.05-0.25" along I-10 corridor.
0.10-0.30" over mountain
forests.

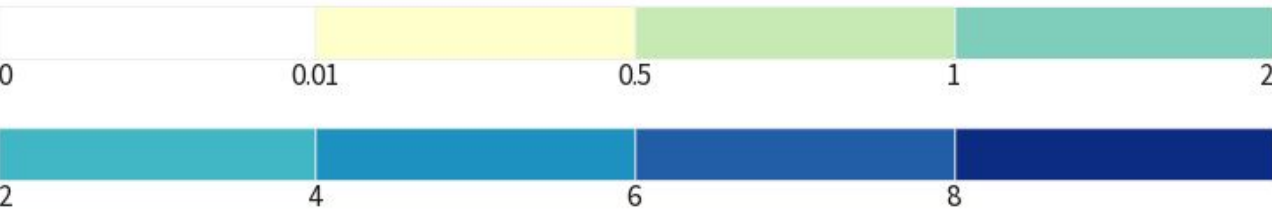
90-day precip totals,
1.00-2.00" along I-10 corridor.
2.00-3.00" over mountain
forests.

Below normal precipitation in
December for all of New
Mexico and Texas.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

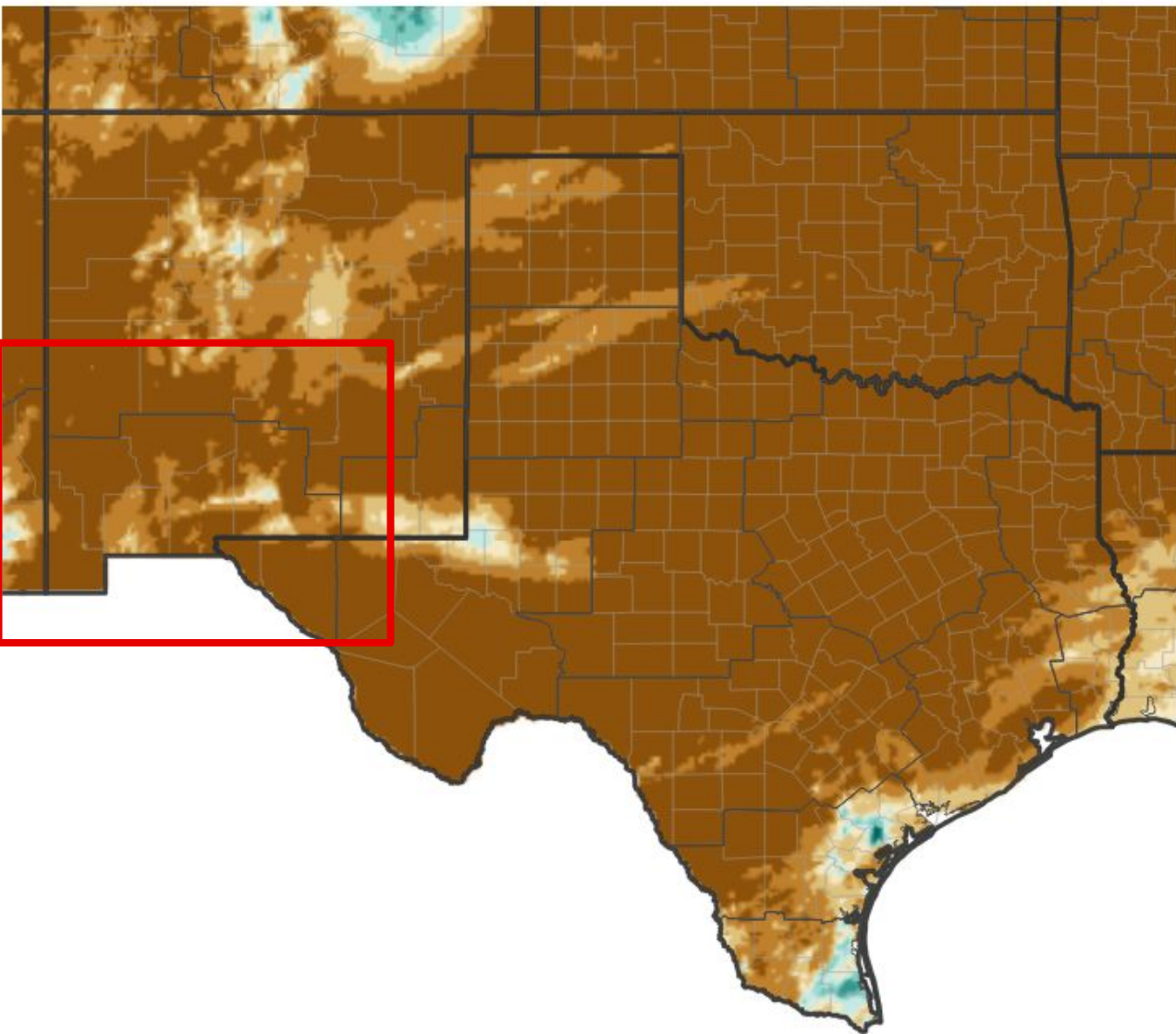


Inches of Precipitation

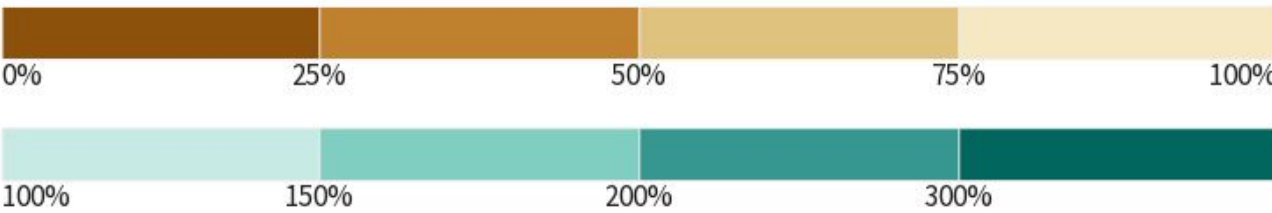


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 01/02/26

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: 01/03/26





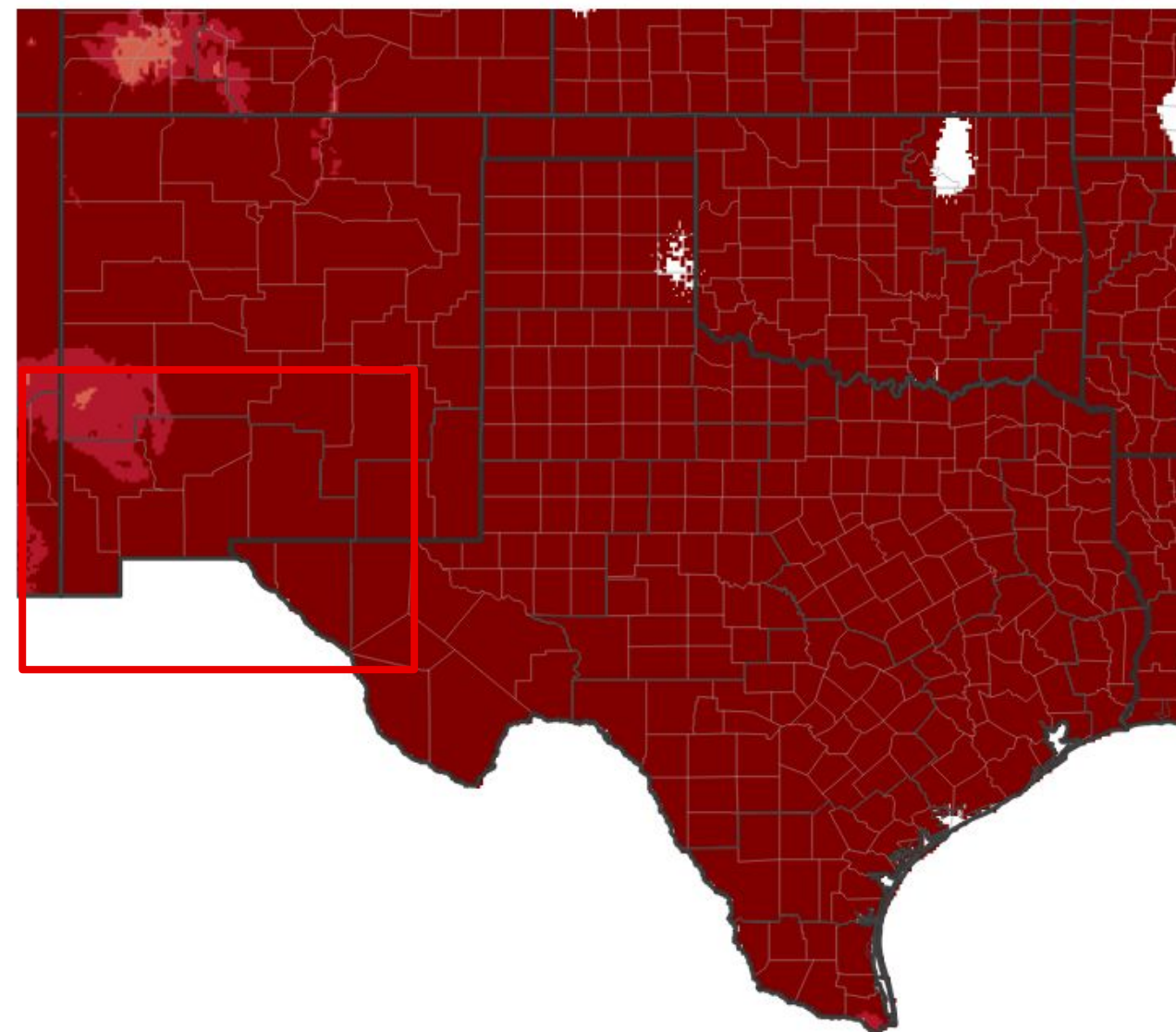
Temperature

January 5, 2026

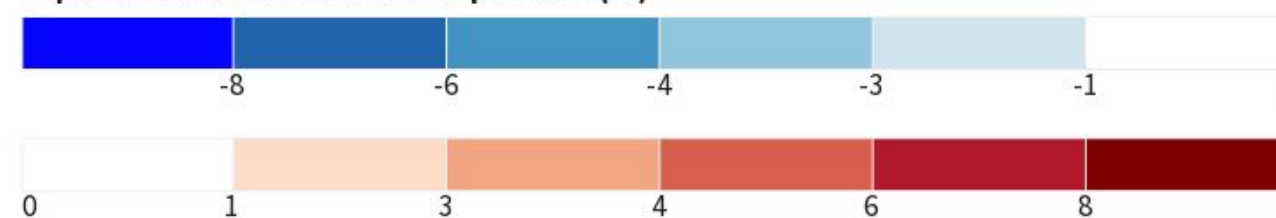
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- Above normal December temperatures for New Mexico and Texas, warmest on record for many locations
- 30-day high temperature anomalies 8-10 degrees above normal
- December mean average temperature 8.8°F above normal at El Paso International (KELP), warmest December on record

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



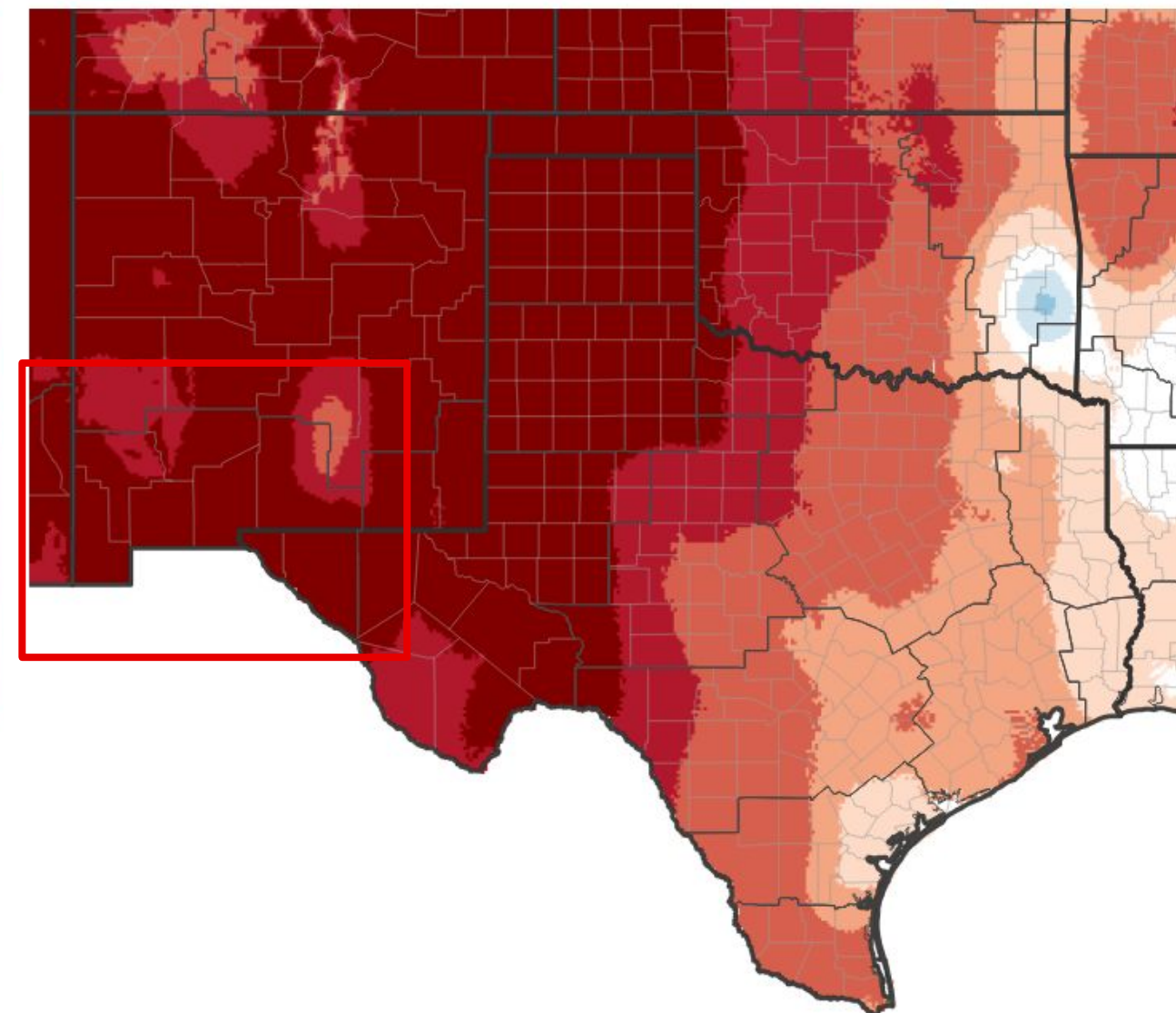
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



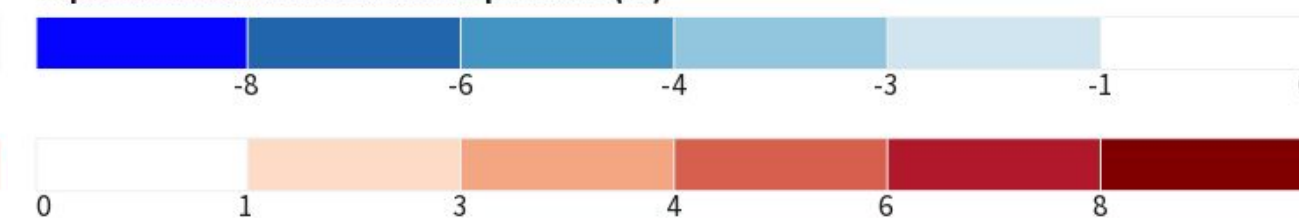
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 12/31/25

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: 12/31/25





Summary of Impacts

January 5, 2026

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Gila River running much below normal. Mimbres River and Rio Grande south of the Caballo Dam have both dried up and will likely remain dry through the winter and spring seasons. River levels will remain low through the winter due to lack of precipitation. Spring snowmelt may lead to rises. Elephant Butte storage sits at 8.4% capacity, higher than last month but well below the historical 30-year average. ([Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains below normal through the typically drier winter and spring seasons. Outlook points to near normal precipitation in January. 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 this month due to dry conditions and above normal temperatures. ERCs are above normal for January across both Gila and Lincoln forests. Fire risk will begin to increase in the coming months as the spring wind season begins. Periods of strong winds could lead to large fire growth in January as mostly dry conditions prevail.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

January 5, 2026
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- Gila River running much below normal. No sudden rises occurred in December. Mimbres River, Rio Grande below Caballo Dam have both run dry for the season.

Gila River Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
Gila	1.40 ft	11.00 ft	73 ft ³ /s
Redrock	4.44 ft	20.00 ft	77 ft ³ /s
Virden	5.18 ft	15.00 ft	67 ft ³ /s

Rio Grande Stages

	Latest	Flood Stage	Discharge
El Paso	Low Stage	8.50 ft	None

Gauge data recorded on 1/5/2026

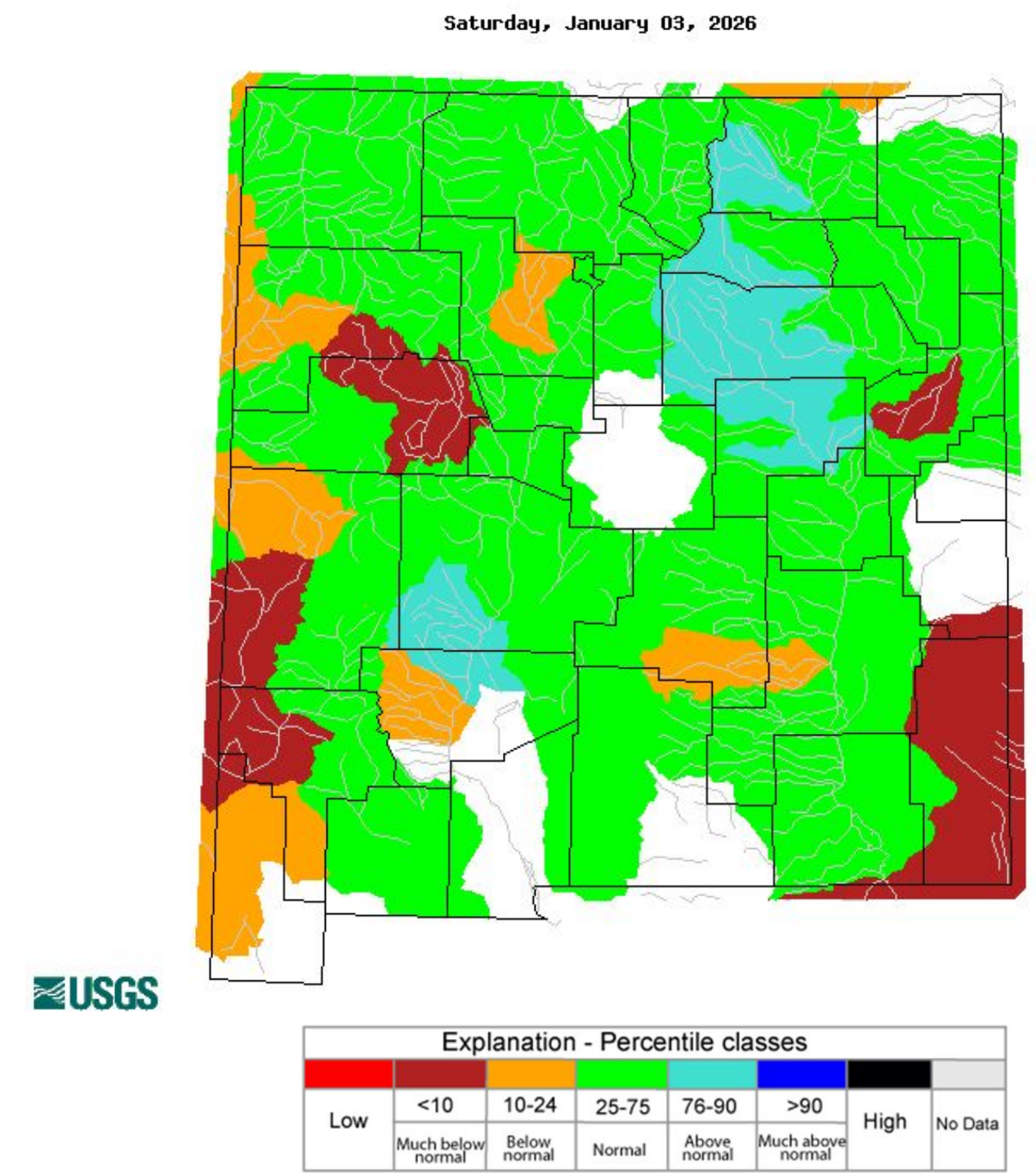


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid January 3, 2026





Agricultural Impacts

January 5, 2026
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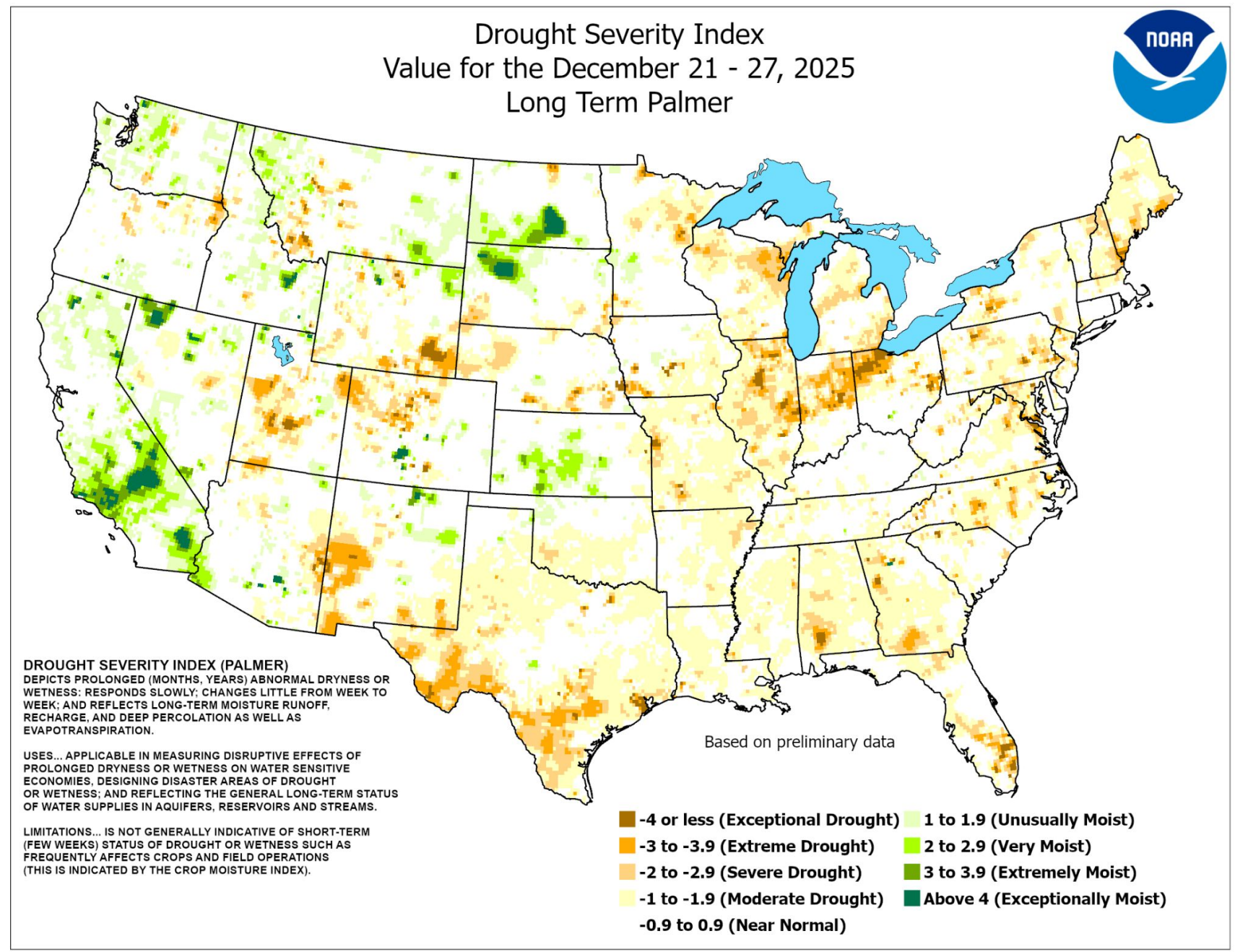
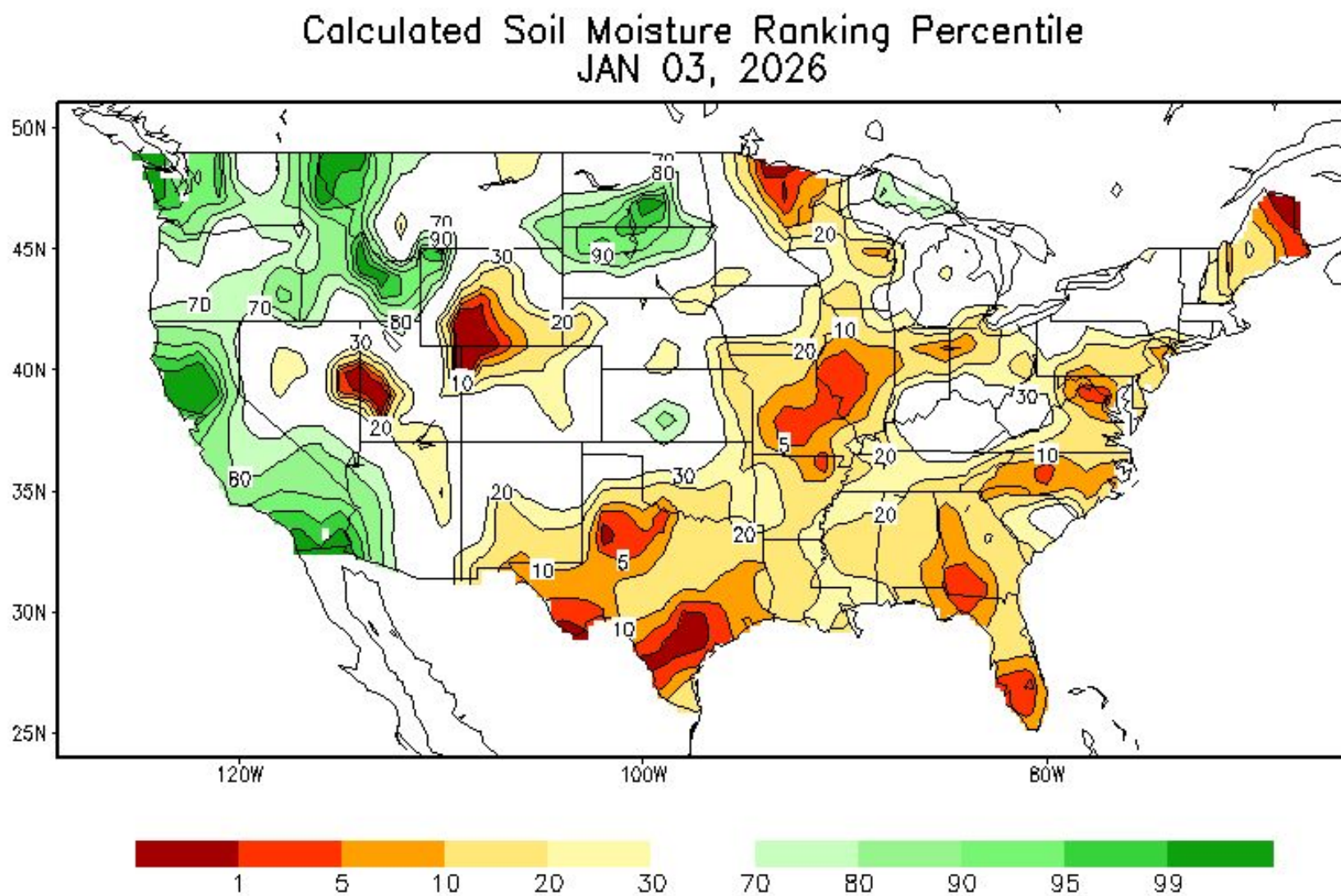


Image Captions:
Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid January 3, 2026
Right: [Palmer Drought Severity Index](#) valid December 21-27, 2025





Fire Hazard Impacts

January 5, 2026
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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](#)

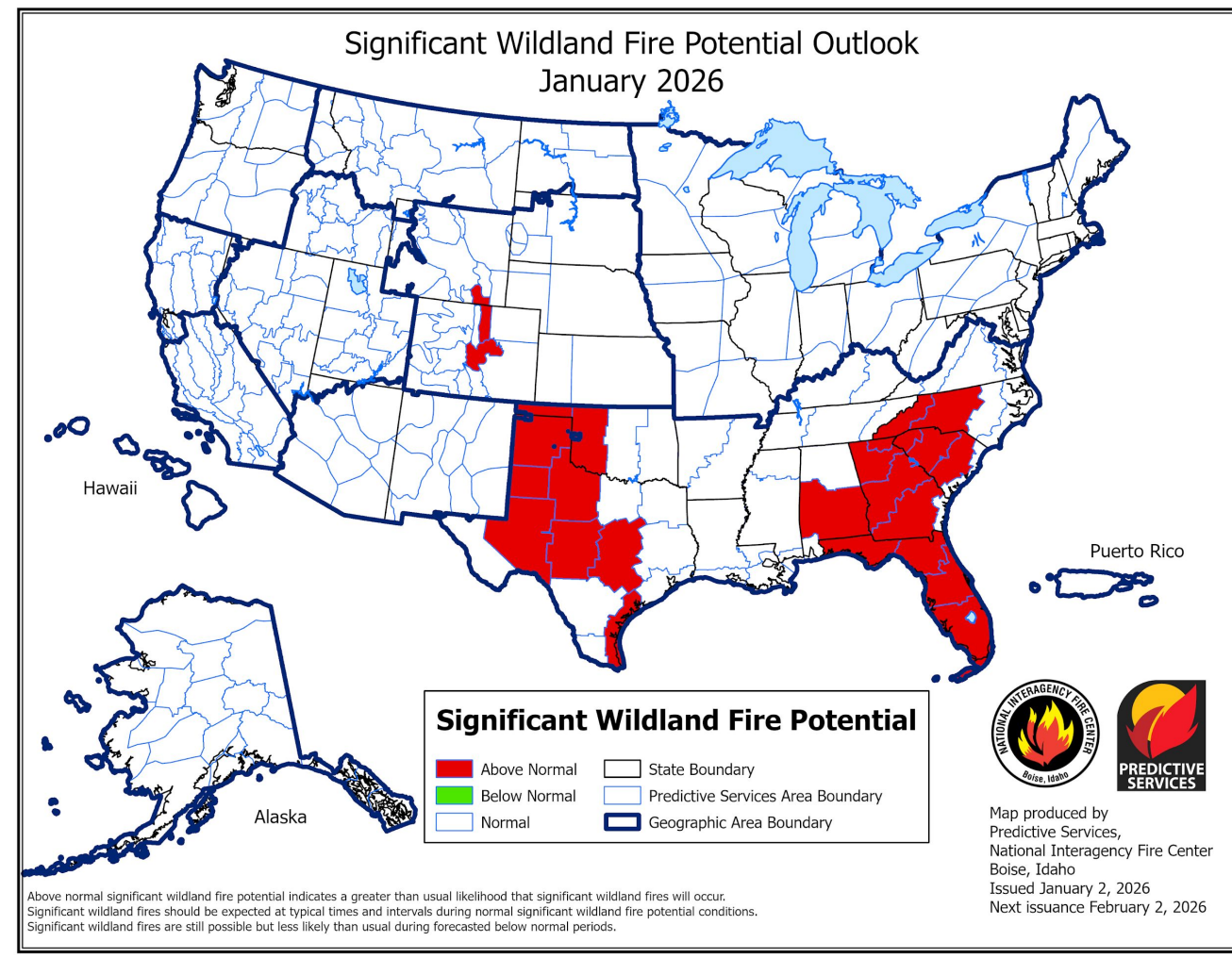
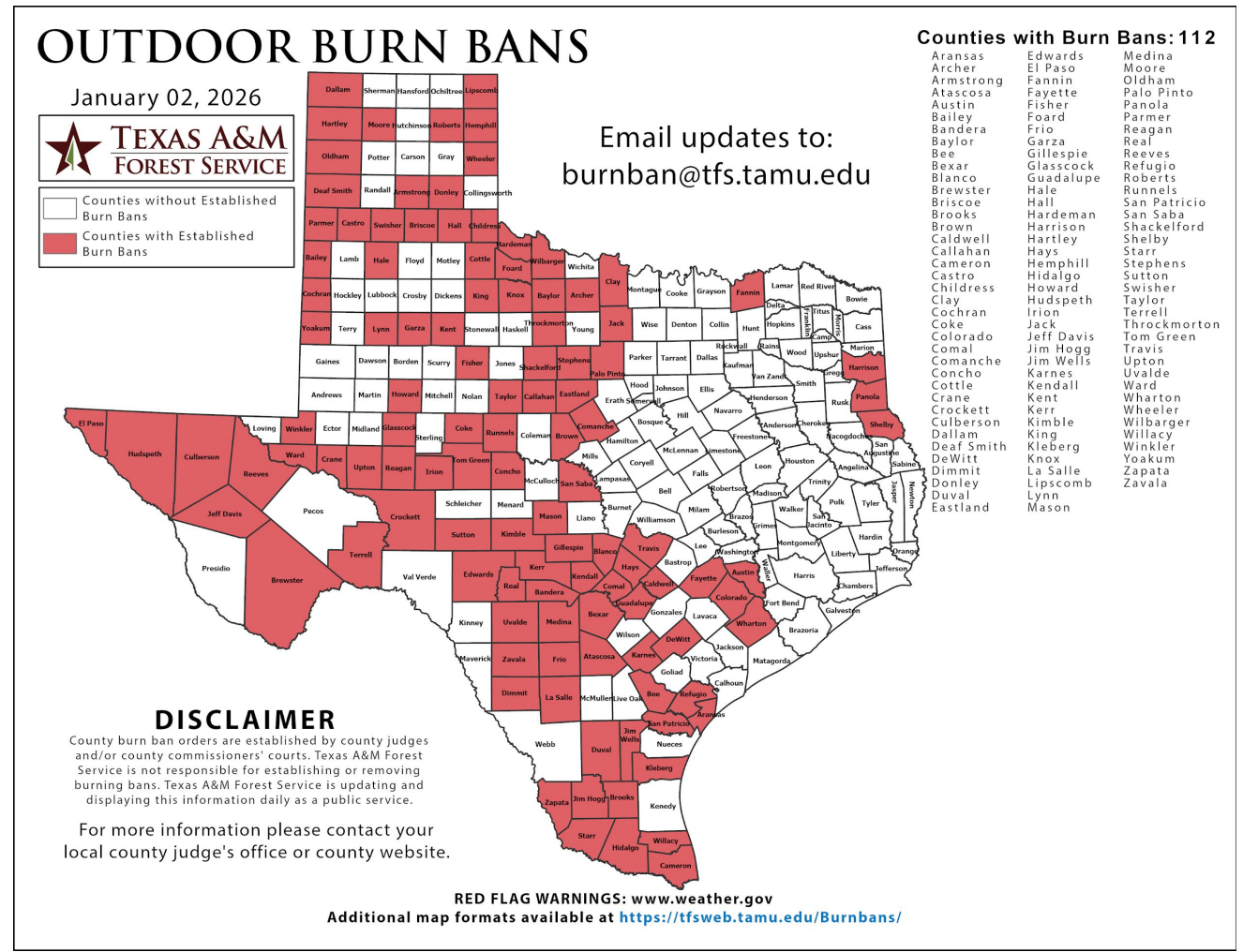


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for January 2026



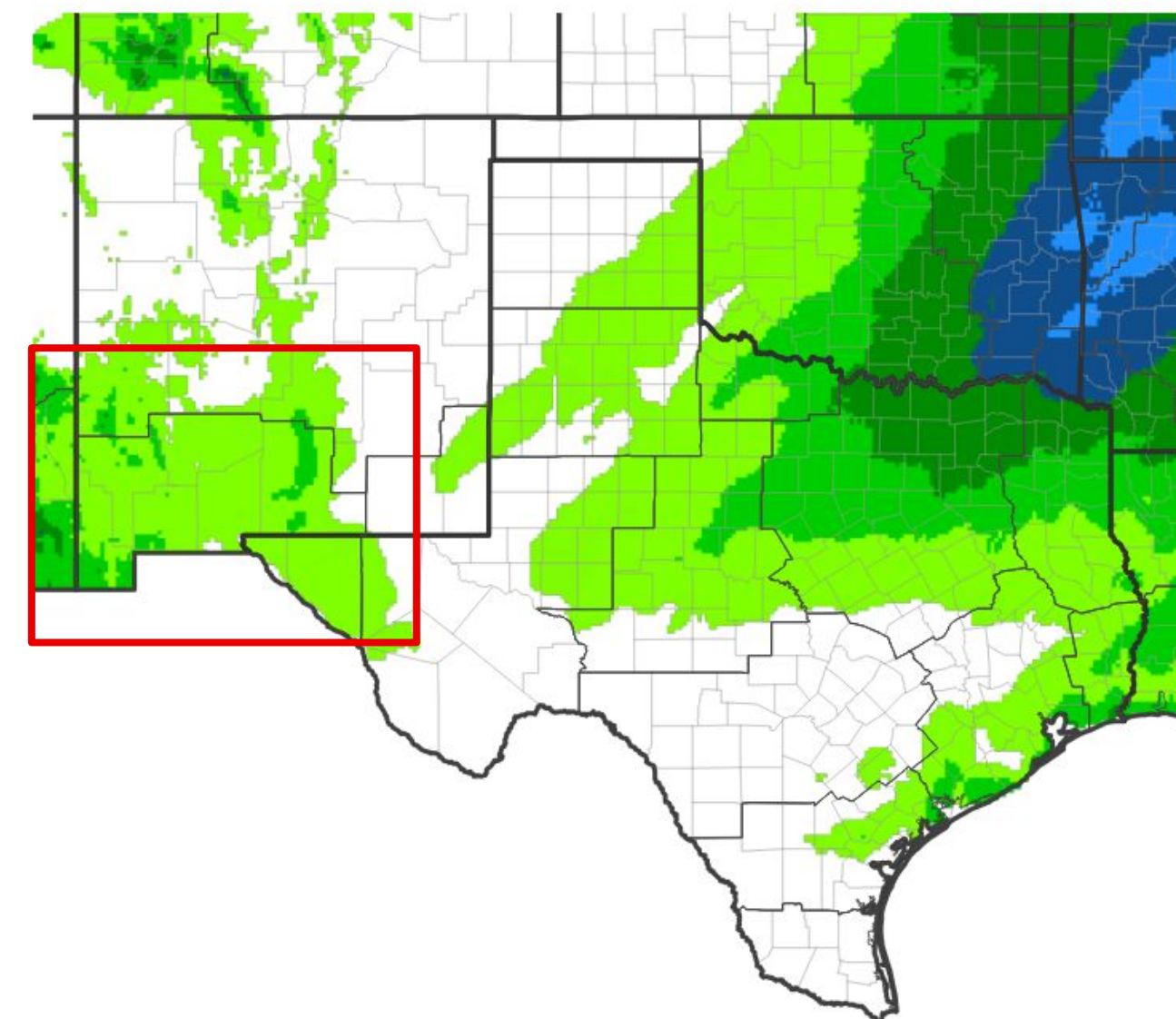


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

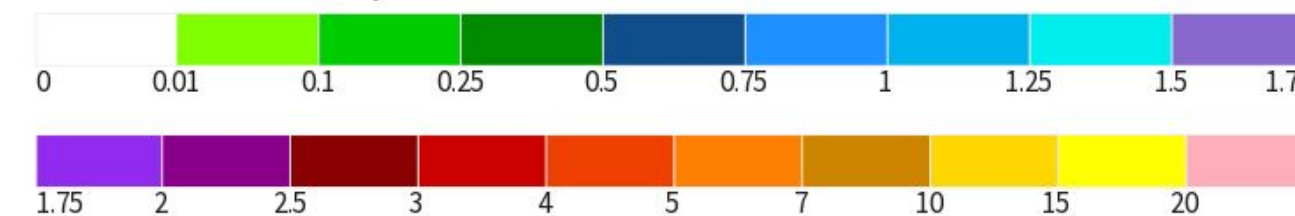
January 5, 2026
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- Light rain showers and mountain snow expected this week, followed by mostly dry conditions the second week of January. Majority of January looks dry for New Mexico and west Texas, but near seasonal normals.
- 2025 autumn season rainfall finished near or above normal for southern New Mexico and far west Texas. Precipitation ranged from 90-170% of normal. Drought conditions are likely to persist through the winter season.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for January 4,
2026–January 11, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 01/04/26





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

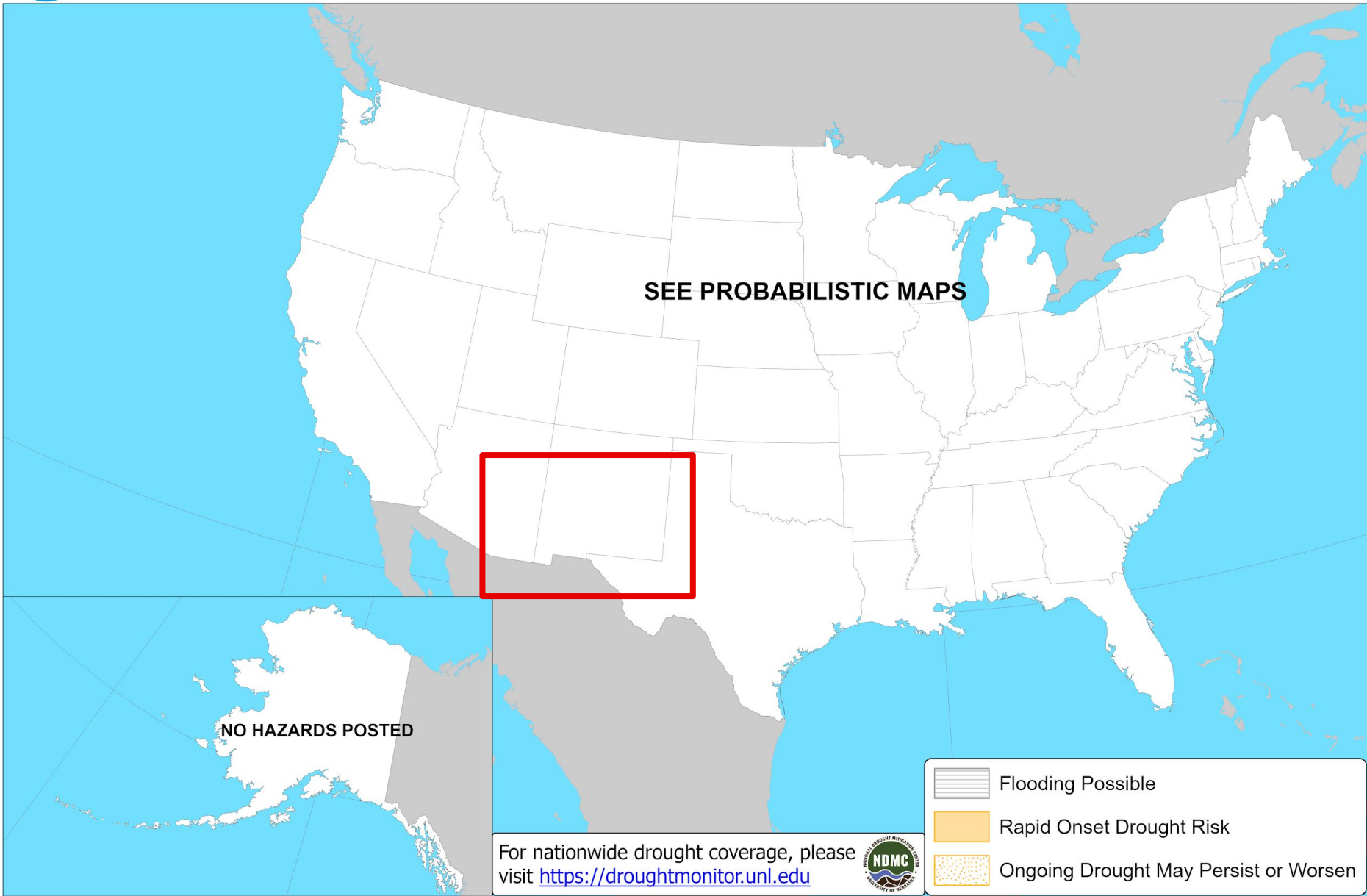
January 5, 2026
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Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

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



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: January 12 - 18, 2026



Climate Prediction Center
Released: January 4, 2026 3:00 PM EST

Follow us:
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Image Caption:
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid January 12 to 18





Long-Range Outlooks

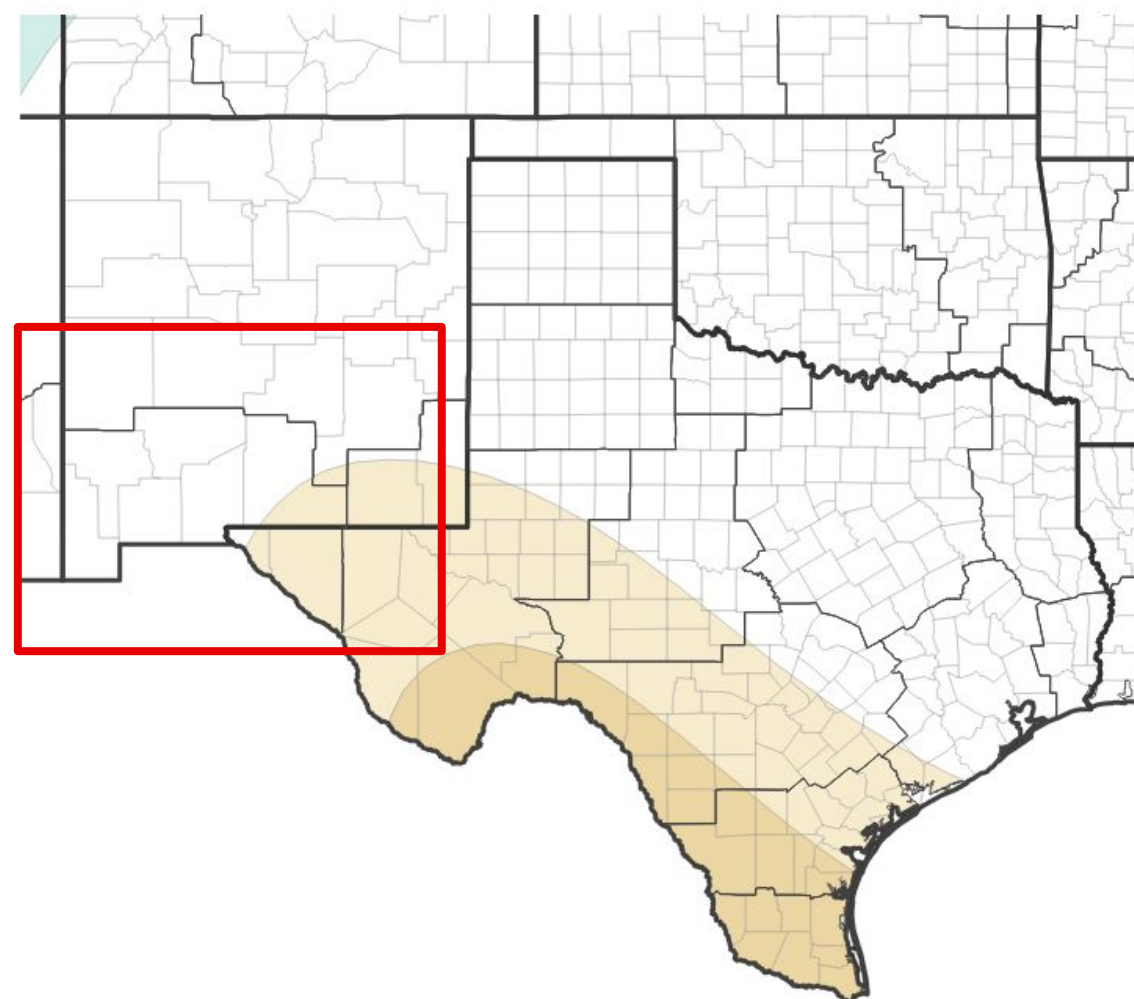
January 5, 2026

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

- Equal chances of precipitation for southwest New Mexico. 33-40% of below normal precipitation across far west Texas and southeast New Mexico.
- Monthly average precipitation for El Paso: 0.39"
- 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures for southern New Mexico and Far West Texas.
- Monthly average high temperature for El Paso: 58.6°

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for January 1, 2026–January 31, 2026



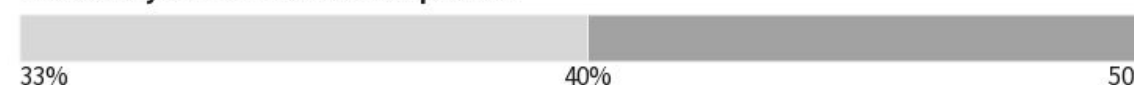
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



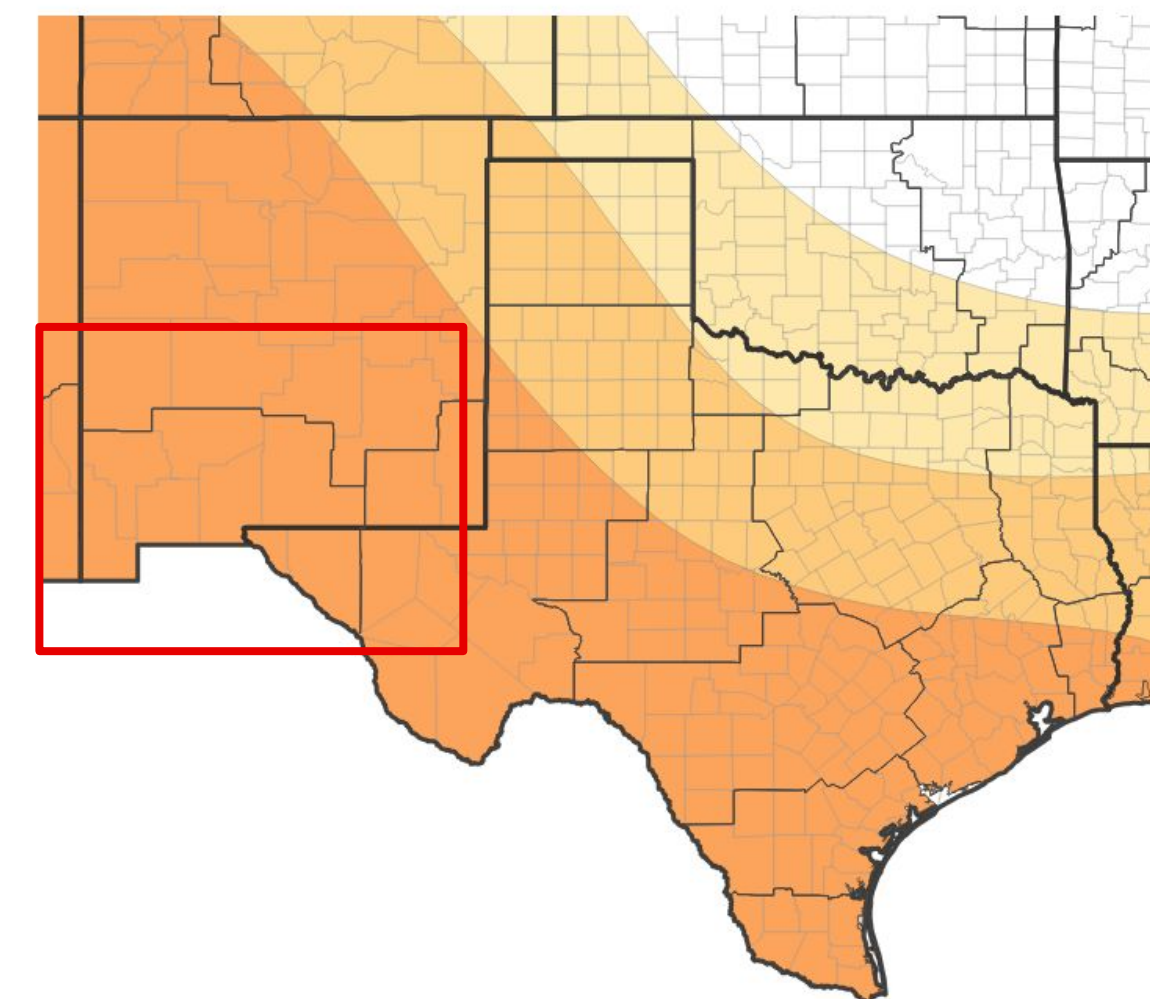
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



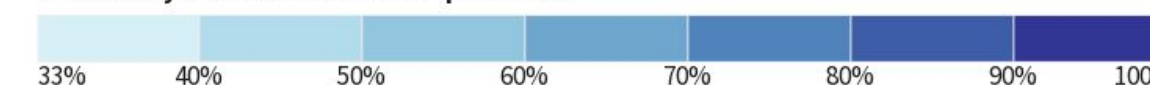
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 12/31/25

Monthly Temperature Outlook for January 1, 2026–January 31, 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: 12/31/25



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Drought Outlook

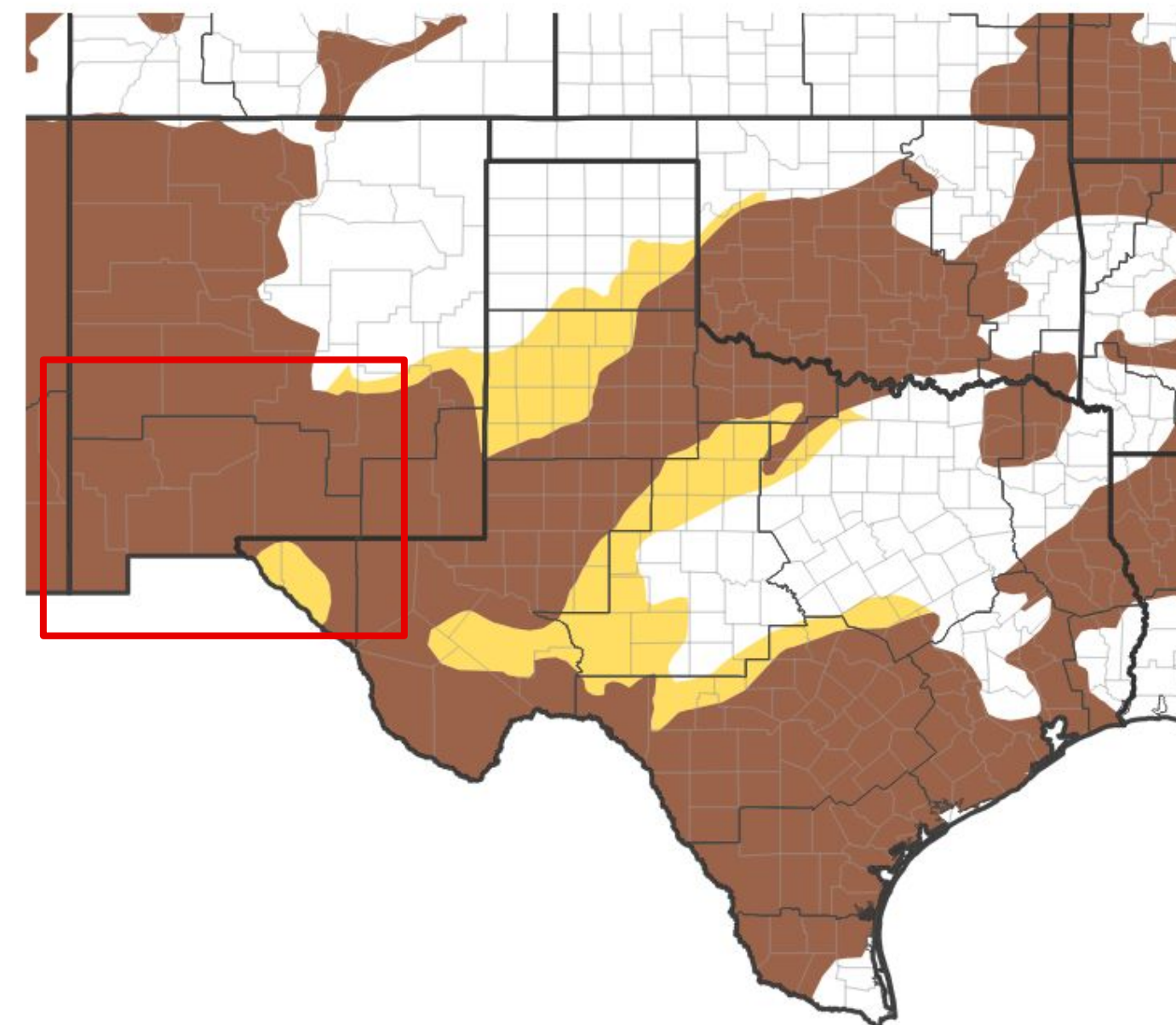
January 5, 2026

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist or re-develop through January due to seasonally dry conditions and above normal temperatures.

1-Month Drought Outlook for January 1, 2026–January 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 12/31/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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