



# Drought Information Statement for West Texas & Southeast New Mexico

Valid 1/04/2024

Issued By: WFO Midland/Odessa

Contact Information: [sr-maf.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-maf.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated Feb. 4, 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.



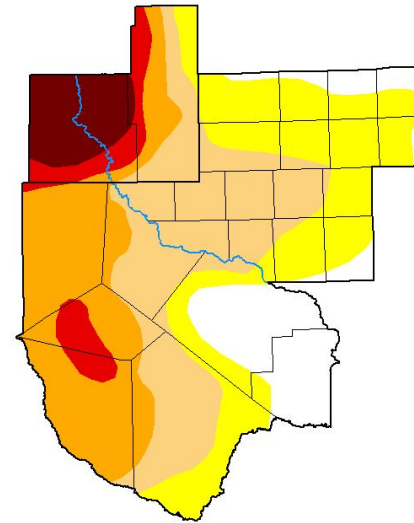


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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



**December 26, 2023**

(Released Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
<b>Current</b>	13.72	25.95	26.91	21.74	5.45	6.24
<b>Last Week</b> 12-19-2023	13.70	25.96	26.91	21.74	5.45	6.24
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 09-26-2023	0.00	5.05	30.07	32.49	23.81	8.58
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-01-2023	14.94	35.76	25.08	20.91	3.31	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-26-2023	0.00	5.05	30.07	32.49	23.81	8.58
<b>One Year Ago</b> 12-27-2022	14.94	35.76	25.08	20.91	3.31	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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NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EST December 26th.



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 across West Texas and southeast New Mexico

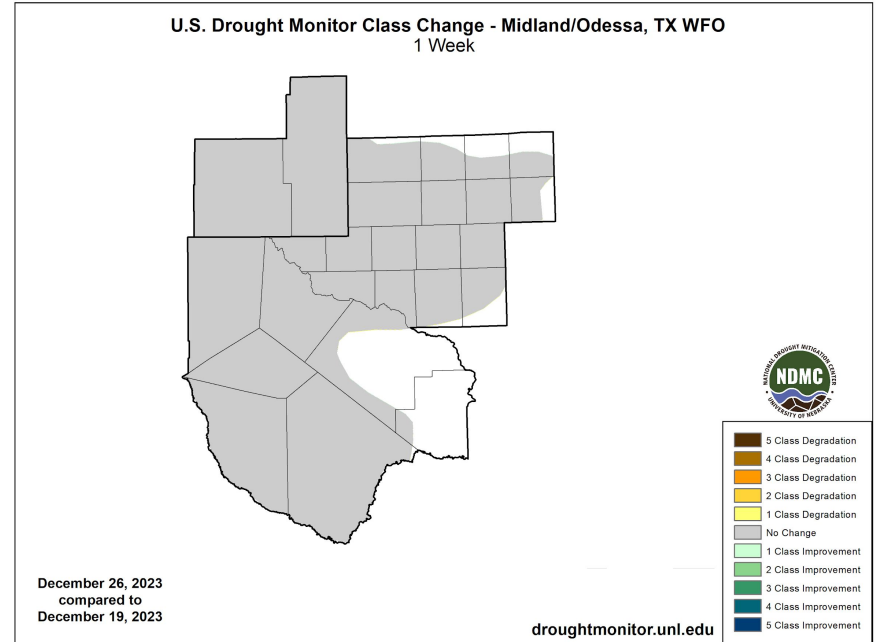


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EST December 26th.

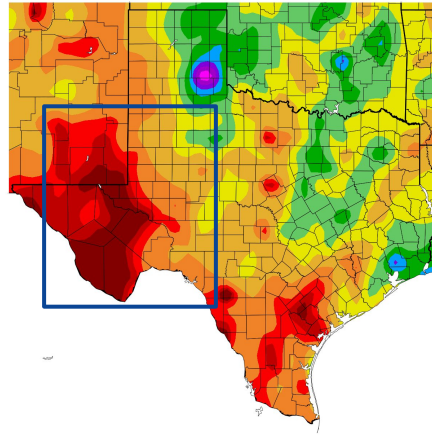




# Precipitation

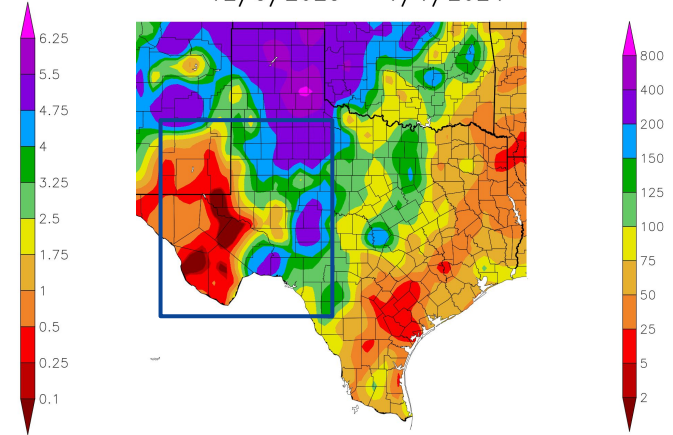
- The month of December saw below normal precipitation across the Presidio Valley, Davis Mountains, and southeast New Mexico. Near and above normal precipitation was observed east of the Pecos River Valley and across the Permian Basin.

Precipitation (in)  
12/3/2023 - 1/1/2024



Generated 1/2/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
12/3/2023 - 1/1/2024



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 January 1, 2024



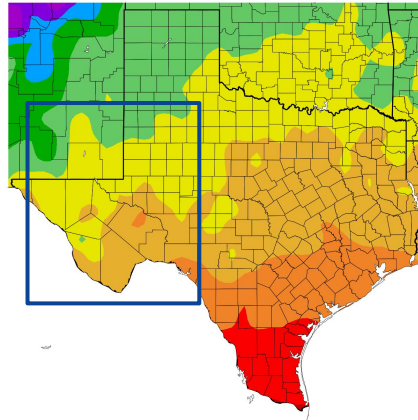




# Temperature

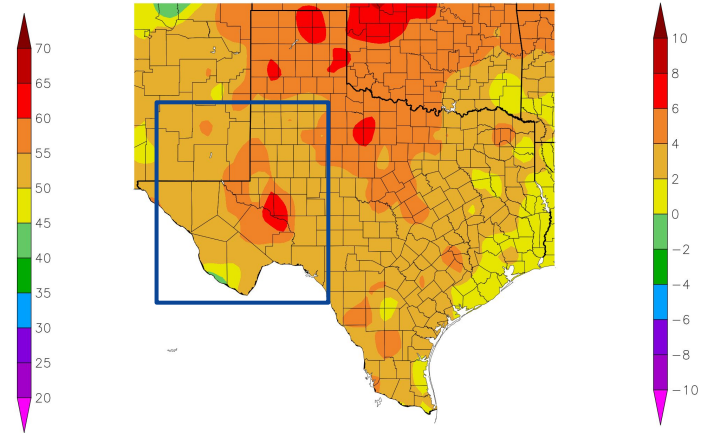
- Moving later into climatological winter, the region has moved into a “dormant” period for plants and grasses with a low sun angle and decreasing average temperatures.
- Temperatures have continued to remain above normal across the region for the past month.

Temperature (F)  
12/3/2023 – 1/1/2024



Generated 1/2/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
12/3/2023 – 1/1/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers <sup>24</sup> 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 January 1, 2024





# 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 48.0% 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

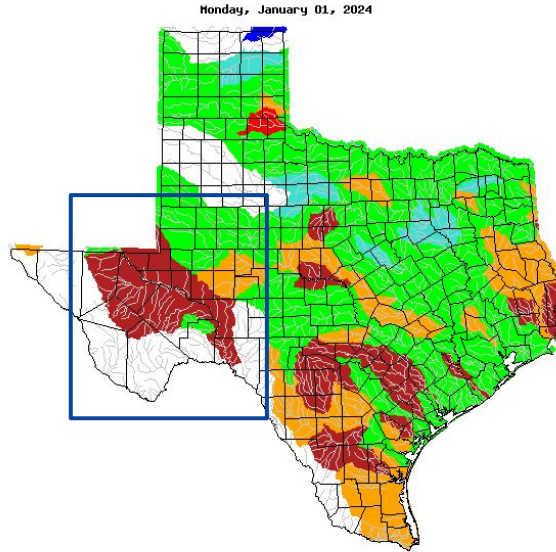
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- The Pecos basin is much below normal
- The Conchos basin is below normal
- All other basins besides the Rio Grande are normal
- [Midland Monthly Hydrology Report for November](#)
- [December 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		

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	% Full
JB Thomas	2258.00	2227.38	22.1
Colorado City	2070.20	2057.33	48.2
Champion Creek	2083.00	2069.34	58.4
Natural Dam Salt Lake	2457.00	2447.28	48.4
Moss Creek	2337.00	2332.15	79.0
Brantley	3256.70	3246.01	45.0
Avalon	3177.40	3174.19	43.0
Red Bluff	2827.40	2811.96	40.2

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day streamflows for Texas](#), valid 1 January 2024

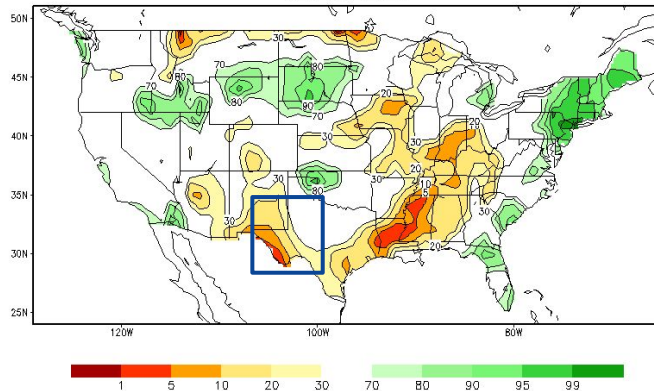




# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture continues to rank below the 10-20th percentiles across much of West Texas and SE NM with the worst conditions over the Marfa Plateau and along the Rio Grande.
- 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 31, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending DEC 30, 2023  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

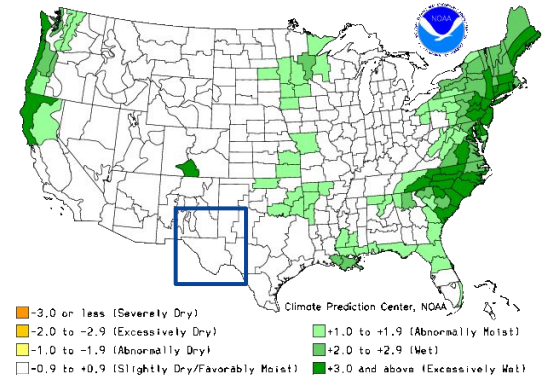


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid December 31, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending December 30, 2023



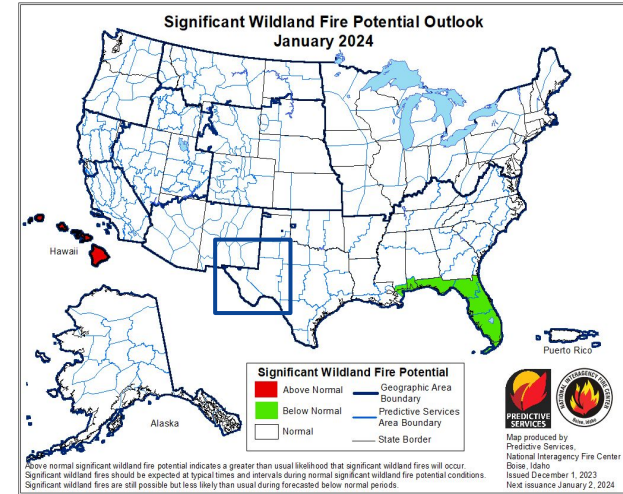
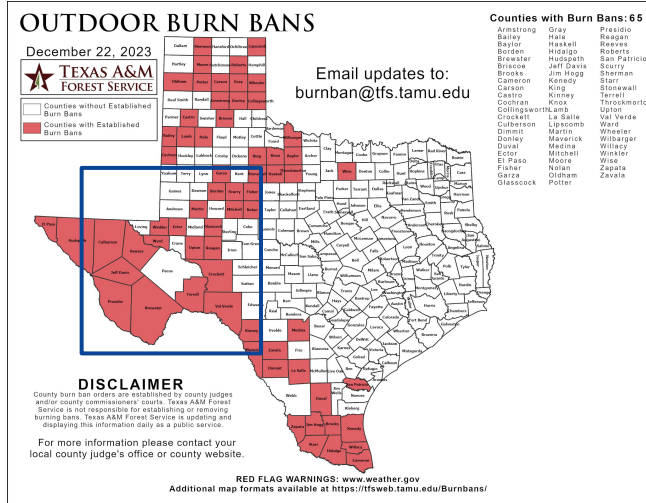




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Overall fire weather concerns will be low to begin the year as fuel moisture remains above normal for the area. Brief increases in wind may bring localized elevated fire weather conditions to the higher elevations for short time periods.
- For the rest of January, 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 January 2024





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Precipitation chances remain quite low for much of the area with light precipitation amounts possible over the next several days.

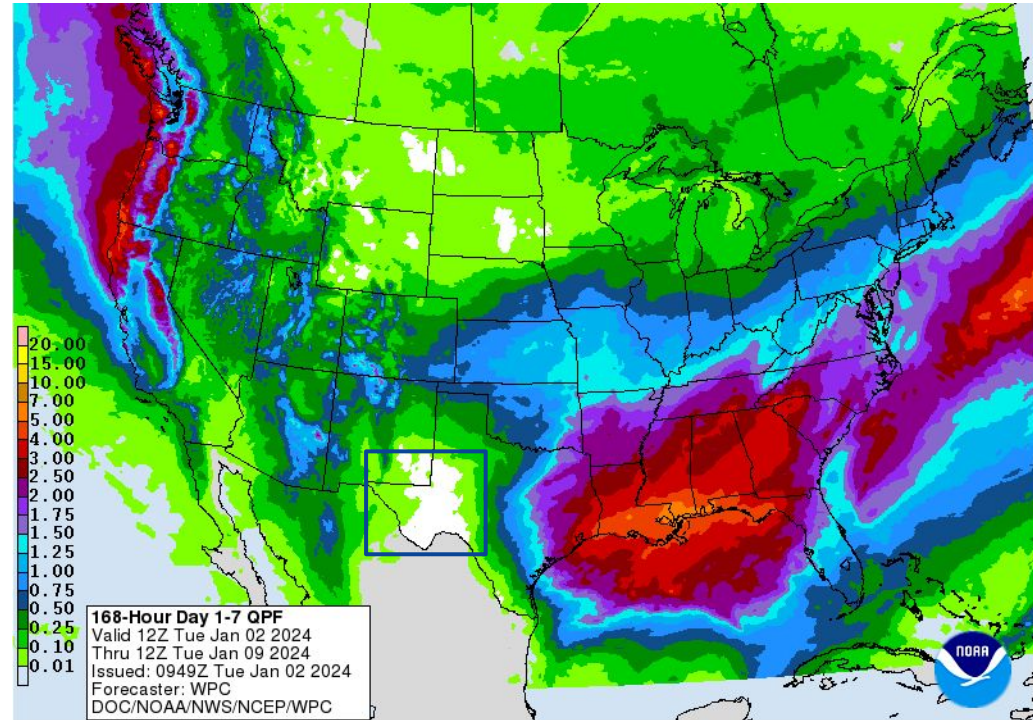


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Tuesday January 2 to Tuesday January 9





# Drought Outlook

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

- January is a typically drier month for West Texas and southeast New Mexico, so drought conditions are not expected to improve over the course of the month.

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

Valid for January 2024  
Released December 31, 2023

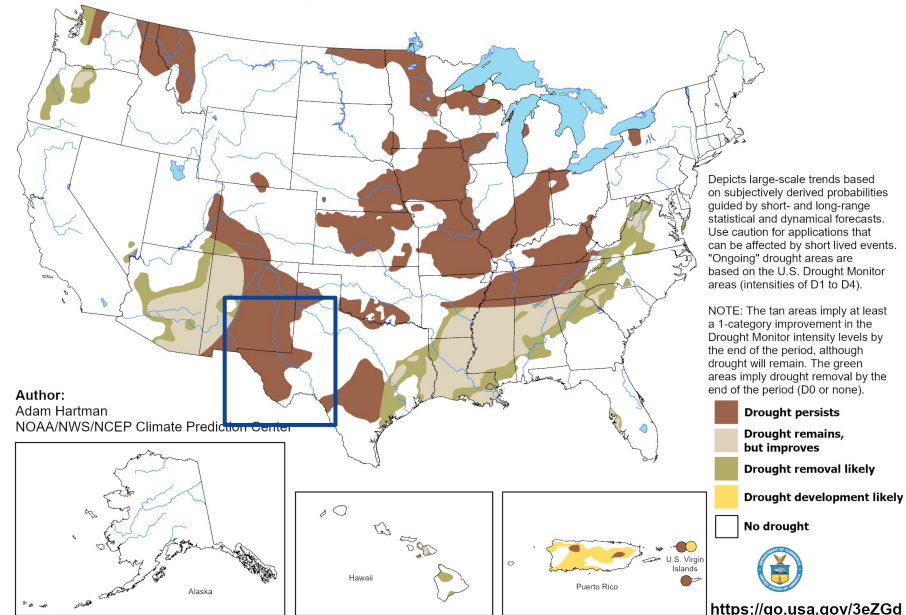


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released 12 31, 2023 valid for 01 2024

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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