



## Winter 2026

Vol. 11 - 4



Welcome to

The

Texas CoCoRaHS

Observer Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep observers informed of the latest news, events, training, and happenings related to the CoCoRaHS program here in Texas, as well as news about the latest weather patterns affecting each region of Texas seasonally.

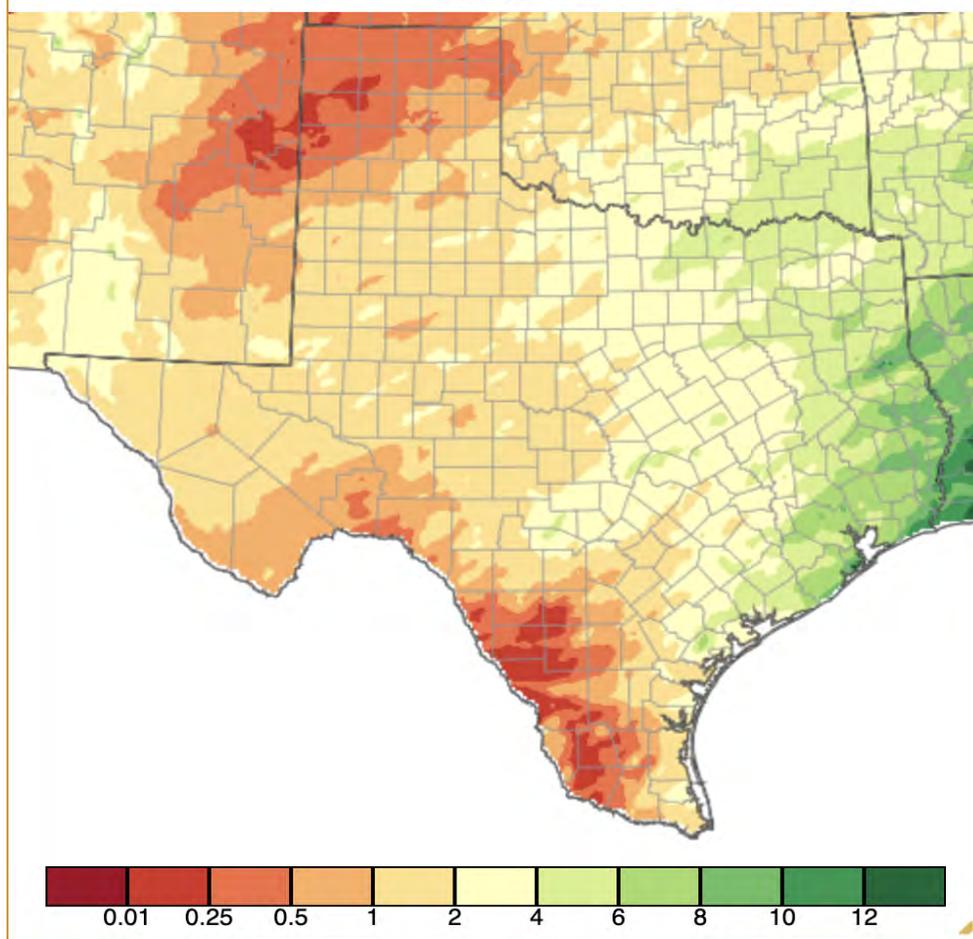
## Texas Winter Weather Summary

*By: John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist*

### Inside this Edition

<b>Texas State Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>By: John Nielsen-Gammon</i>	
<b>West TX Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>By: James DeBerry</i>	
<b>El Paso-Far West TX Summary</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>By: Conner Dennhardt</i>	
<b>Austin/San Antonio Summary</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>By: Mack Morris</i>	
<b>Rio Grande Valley Summary</b>	<b>18</b>
<i>By: Barry Goldsmith</i>	
<b>East Texas Summary</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>By: Davyon Hill</i>	
<b>North Texas Summary</b>	<b>32</b>
<i>By: Greg Story</i>	
<b>Wichita Falls Summary</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>By: Charles Kuster</i>	
<b>Abilene/San Angelo Summary</b>	<b>42</b>
<i>By: Joel Dunn</i>	
<b>Brazos Valley Summary</b>	<b>47</b>
<i>By: Preston Testerman</i>	
<b>Southeast Texas Summary</b>	<b>48</b>
<i>By: Ron Havran</i>	
<b>Corpus Christi Summary</b>	<b>55</b>
<i>By: Nicholas Price</i>	
<b>Amarillo Summary</b>	<b>62</b>
<i>By: Sam Soloeri</i>	
<b>Spring Weather Outlook</b>	<b>64</b>
<i>By: Bob Rose</i>	
<b>Scheduled CoCoRaHS Webinars</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Webinars &amp; Contact Information</b>	<b>67</b>

**Total Precipitation - December 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026**



**Figure 1:** Texas seasonal precipitation, Dec 2025 through Feb 2026. Image generated by the Applied Climate Information System with data from PRISM.

What's it like to record less than two inches of precipitation across an entire season? For some CoCoRaHS observers in far West Texas, it sounds quite normal, but this past winter more than half the state received less than 2.00" of precipitation.

Continued on page 2 >

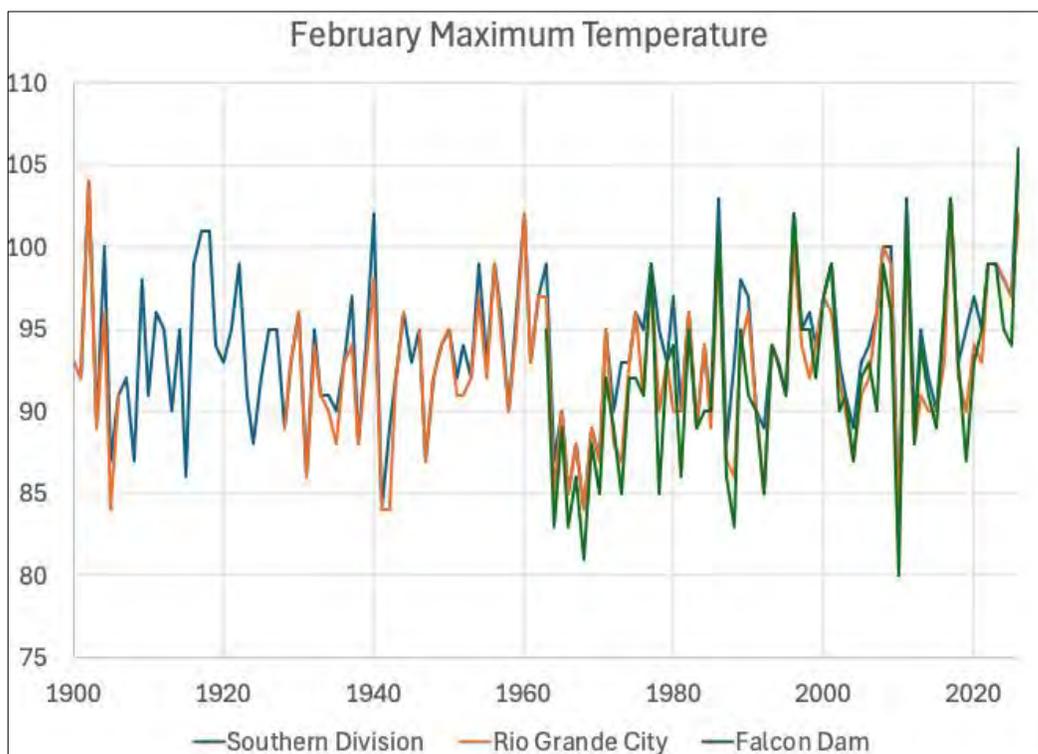
***"Because Every Drop Counts, As Do All Zeros"***

## Texas Winter Summary (continued)

Some might blame it on La Niña, because after all, La Niña is correlated with dryness in the winter in Texas and there was a La Niña in place for the past several months. But it was dry even by La Niña standards.

It was also warm. For starters, it was the warmest winter on record for most stations in the Texas Panhandle and High Plains. In addition, the majority of other stations in Texas had this winter come in as among the five warmest, including second-warmest in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio. Sure, we had some cold in the middle of January, but that was pretty much the only cold of the season. We ought to have some cold; it's winter, after all.

But Nature saved the best for last. On February 27, the Cooperative Observer station at Falcon Dam, south of Laredo, recorded a maximum temperature of 106 °F. That turns out to be the hottest temperature ever officially recorded in wintertime anywhere in the United States! It broke the previous record of 104 °F, set back in 1902 in Rio Grande City, also down south along the border with Mexico. A contributing factor this year was probably the ridiculously low seasonal precipitation totals we saw in southwestern Texas. Bone-dry soils bake more easily.



**Figure 2:** Hottest temperature in February at any station in the Southern Climate Division of Texas and at stations Rio Grande City and Falcon Dam. Data from the Applied Climate Information System.

A look at temperatures within the Southern Climate Division of Texas, where both records were set, reveals that we tended to have triple-digit temperatures about every decade or two during the 1900s, but it has been happening about twice a decade in the 2000s. Probably part of that is real, while another part is the greater number of stations now compared to the early 1900s. But even if you pick a single station, such as Rio Grande City, you see four instances in about 80 years of records in the 1900s and four instances already in the 2000s.

To me, the most impressive thing is that 106 °F is only 14 degrees below the all-time maximum temperature record for Texas, set once in spring and once in summer. Sometimes it's hard to tell the seasons apart! What about the fall record? Ah, you look it up, I've done enough historical weather data analysis already this season. I'm going to go outside and enjoy the warm winter-like weather.

## West Texas Regional Summary

### Winter 2025-26 Climate Summary for West Texas and Southeast New Mexico

Very Dry Season across the Region

By James DeBerry, Meteorologist, Hydrology Program Manager, NWS Midland, CoCoRaHS Coordinator

#### December

December was relatively dry, and no notable hydrologic events occurred, except for a snow event late in the month.

Monthly radar rainfall estimates were truly abysmal, with most of West Texas and Southeast New Mexico reporting no precipitation. In fact, the snow even was the only notable precipitation, as shown on the map below. Highest precipitation estimates were up to 1" over Winkler County. The highest observed precipitations were 0.65" at Brantley Dam in Mitchell County. The average of precipitation reported across West Texas and Southeast New Mexico was only 0.07".

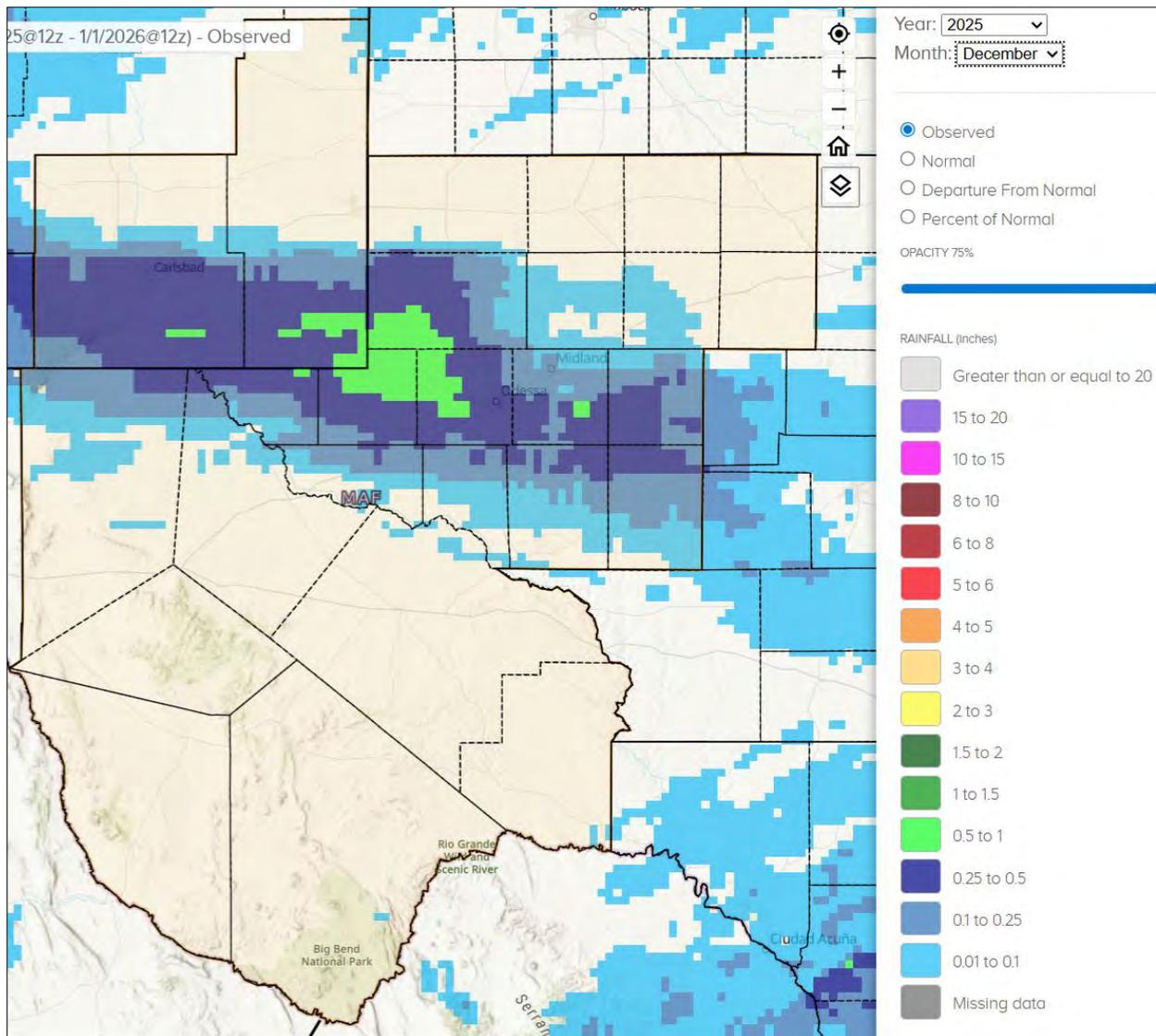


Figure1: December Precipitation

## West Texas Regional Summary (continued)

### January

January was uneventful except for the first major winter event in several years, occurring mainly on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The lacking ingredient for just about every winter storm in West Texas and Southeast New Mexico is low-level moisture. However, for this storm, precipitable water increased to near the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile, yielding a mix of rain, freezing rain, sleet, and snow for most of the HSA. It was truly a wintry mix for most locations. Many locations exceeded their monthly averages, getting a head start on annual precipitation. Snowfall totals ranged as high as 8" in northern Eddy and Lea Counties.

Monthly radar precipitation estimates ranged from as little as 0.01" over Terrell County to up 3.00" in northwest Culberson County. Indeed, the highest reported precipitation was 3.49" at Pine Springs in Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Culberson County. The average precipitation reported across West Texas and Southeast New Mexico was 0.80".

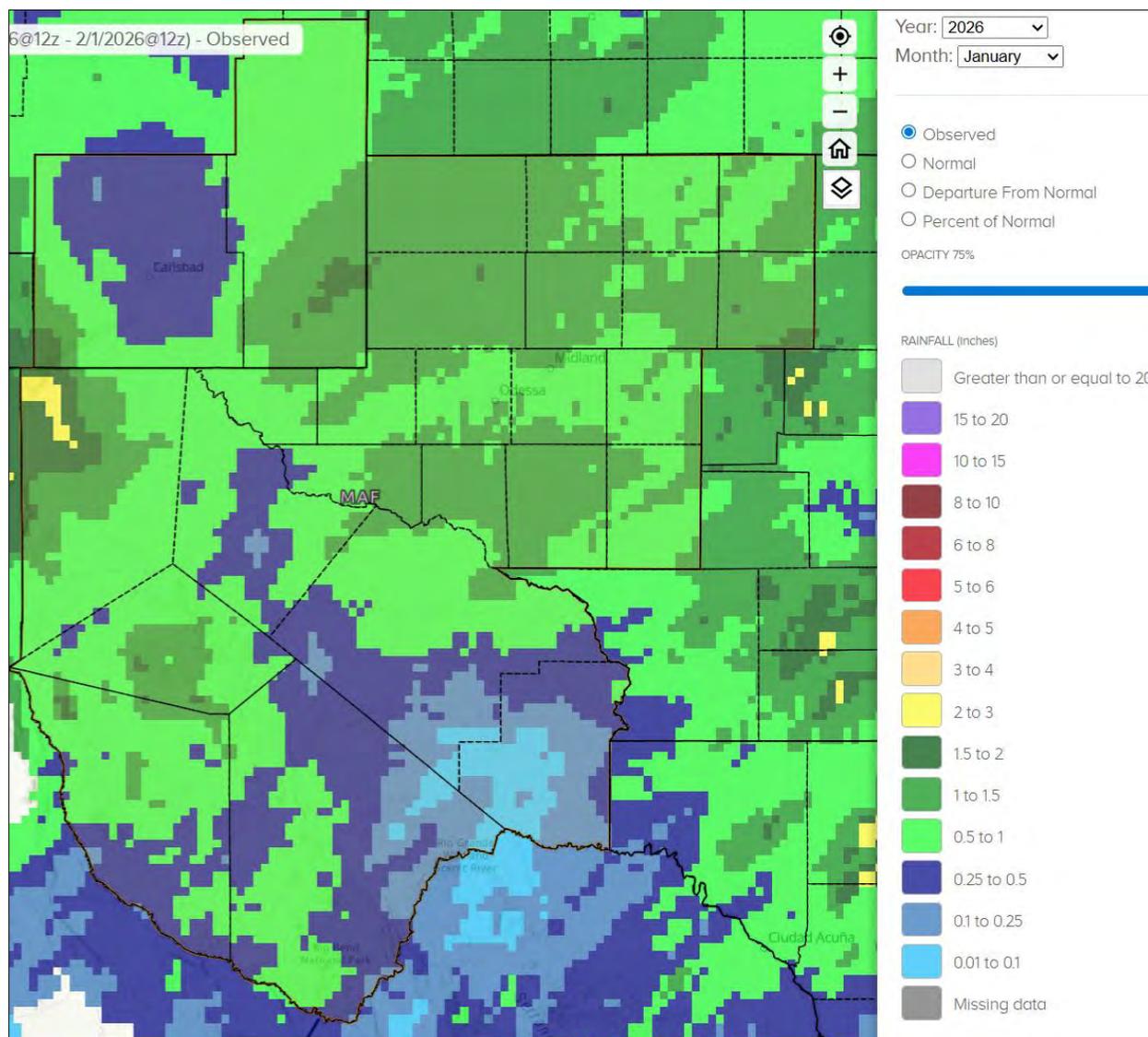


Figure 2: January Precipitation

## West Texas Regional Summary (continued)

### February

February was uneventful, hydrologically. Only one event was noted. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, heavy showers developed over the Permian Basin, resulting in street flooding in Gardendale and Odessa in Ector County and Midland in Midland County.

Monthly radar rainfall estimates ranged from nothing in isolated areas west of the Pecos to up to 2" in eastern Reagan County. However, the highest observed rainfall was 1.52" at Lamesa in Dawson County. The average precipitation reported across West Texas and Southeast New Mexico was 0.35".

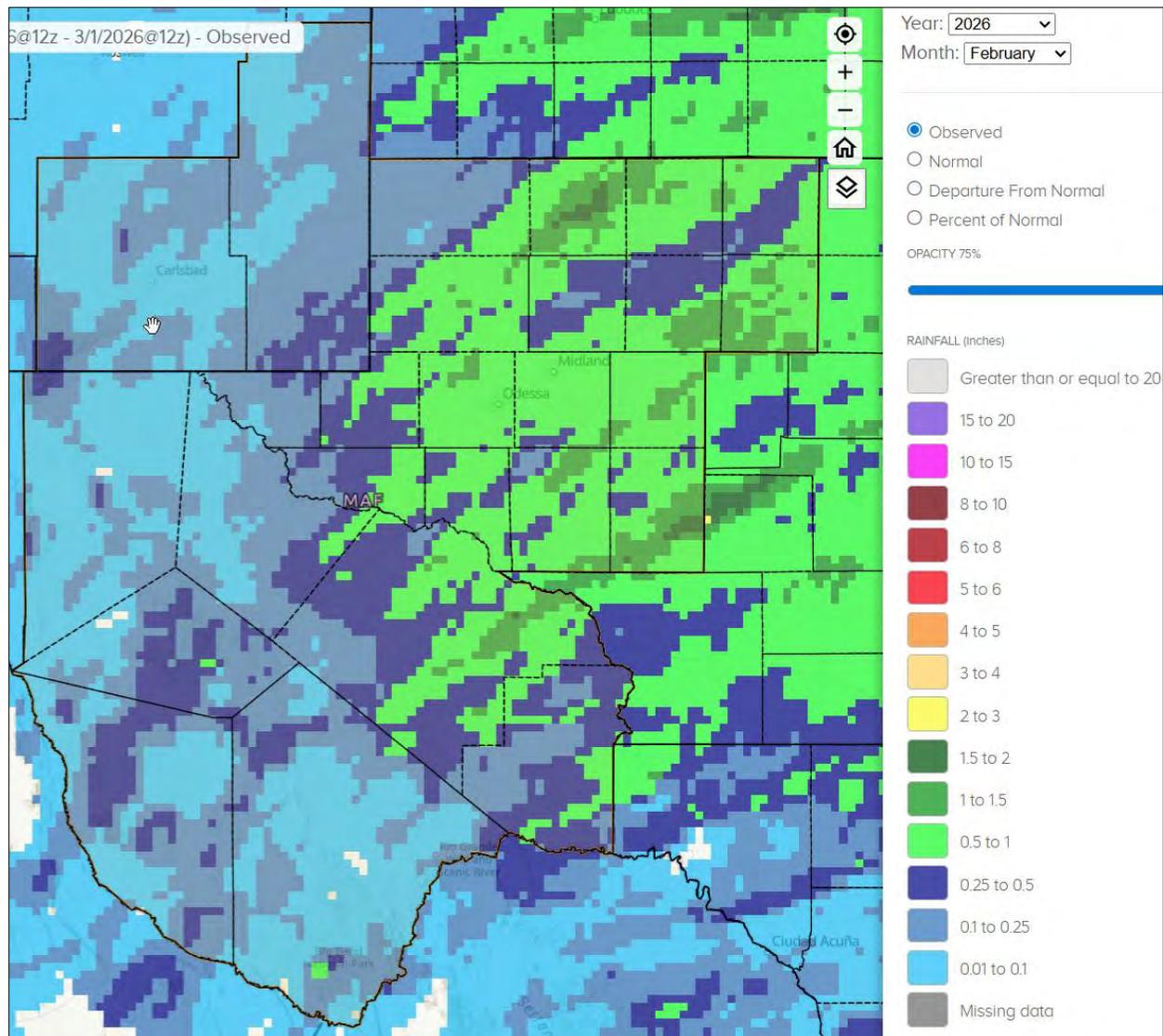


Figure 3: February Precipitation

As of the end of February, area reservoirs averaged 45.9% of conservation capacity.

### West Texas Regional Summary (continued)

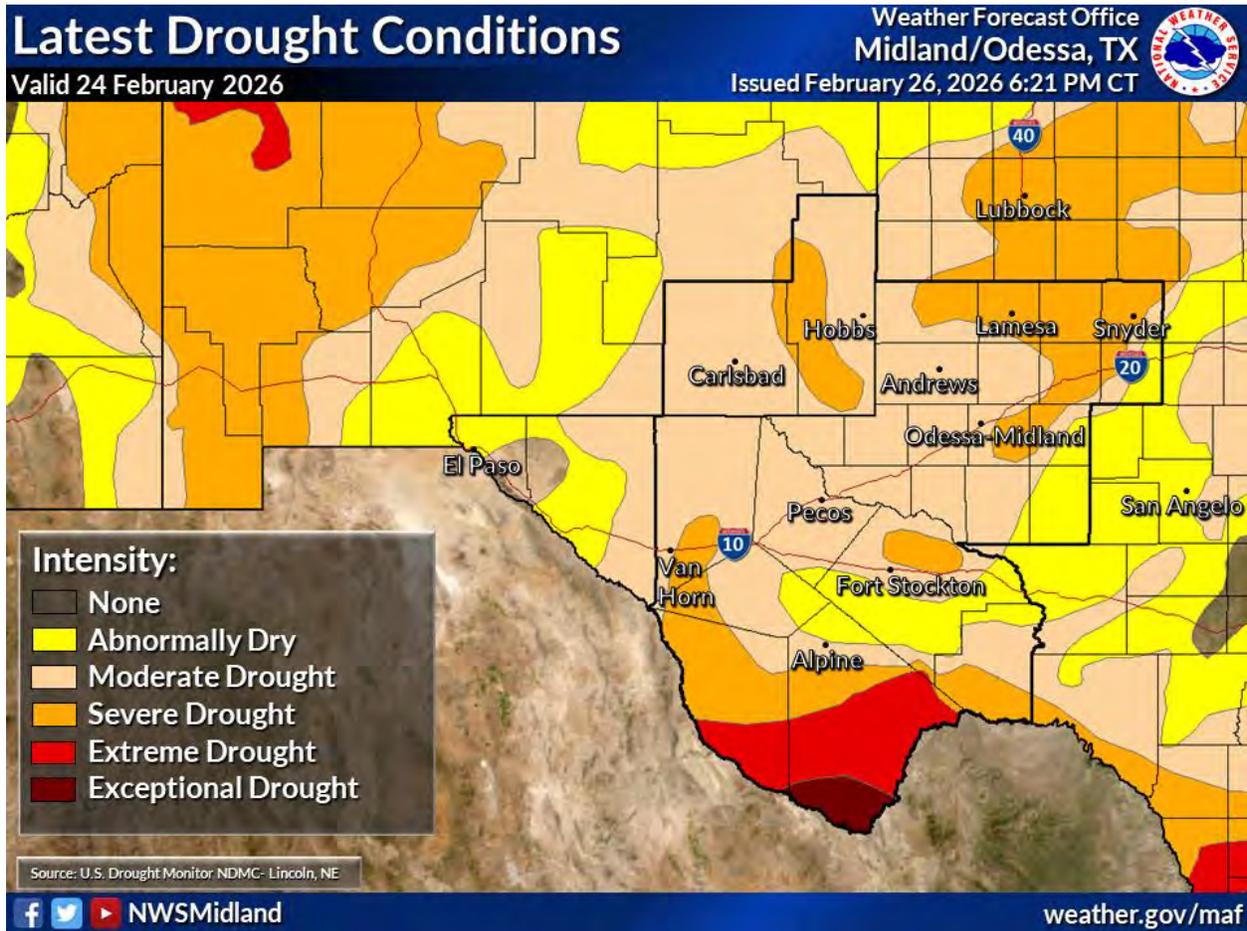


Figure 4: Drought conditions across western Texas at the end of the winter season.

## Far West Texas/El Paso Weather Summary

### Late January Winter Storm Brings Rain, Snow, and Ice to West Texas

*By: Connor Dennhardt, Lead Meteorologist - National Weather Service El Paso*

Winter is a typically dry time of year for far west Texas and southern New Mexico. Winter storms are infrequent and rarely cold enough for accumulating snow. Any precipitation that does fall is usually light. This rule-of-thumb was generally followed over the course of the 2025-26 season, with the exception occurring in late January. The most notable winter storm of the season brought heavy rain and even some flooding in El Paso County, TX and several inches of snowfall in Hudspeth County, TX. Drought conditions improved further, with 6-month precipitation amounts near normal for far west Texas. El Paso County has been removed from any drought status, and only eastern Hudspeth County remains in Moderate Drought (D1) status. Precipitation totals finished slightly above the 90-day (Dec-Feb) normal of **1.42"**. The official climate station at El Paso, TX recorded **1.77"**, but other CoCoRaHS stations around El Paso County ranged from **2.00-3.00"**, well above normal.



*Figure 1: Light snow dusts the rooftops of El Paso, TX and the southern end of the Franklin Mountains on January 25, 2026*

December was a warm and dry month for far west Texas, with the only days of measurable precipitation occurring on December 28-29. Local CoCoRaHS stations reported rainfall totals **0.05-0.15"**. December 2025 finished below normal precipitation, about half an inch under the monthly average of **0.63"**. A new monthly record was also set, becoming the warmest December on record for El Paso. The average high temperature of 69.1 degrees was 9 degrees warmer than usual.

The first half of January continued with this run of warm and dry conditions. Light rain showers occurred January 7-8, with another round of rainfall totals **0.05-0.15"**.

### Far West Texas/El Paso Weather Summary (continued)

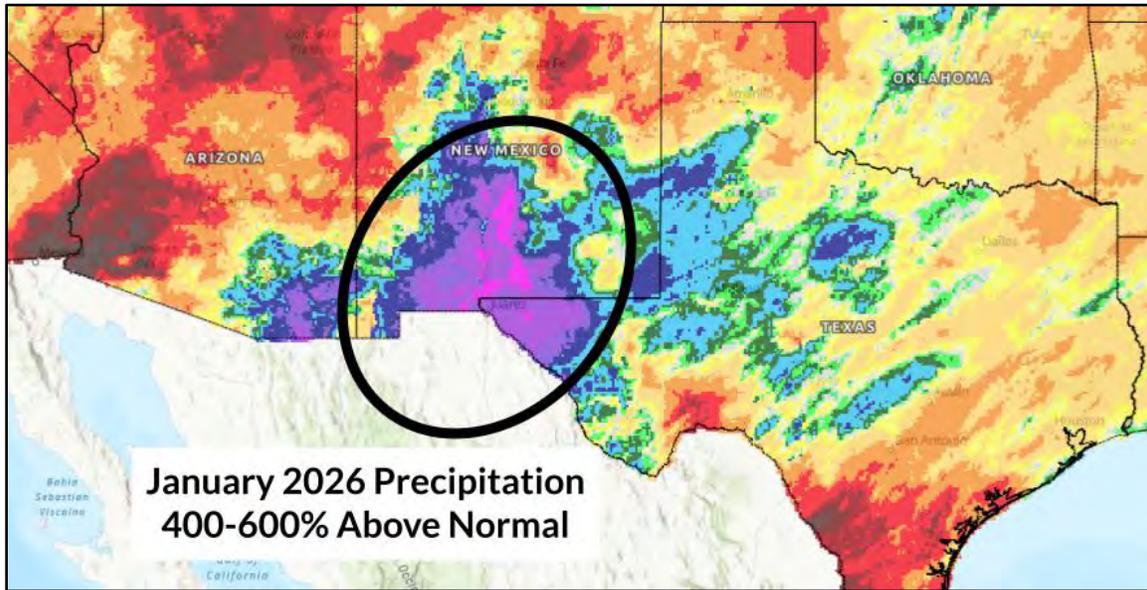


Figure 2: Percent of Normal Precipitation for the month of January 2026.

The most notable precipitation event of the 2025-26 winter season occurred January 23-25. Accounting for over 90% of the season’s total precipitation for El Paso and generating a large swath of snow, ice, and sleet across the central and southern United States, the January 2026 winter storm affected almost every corner of Texas. Beginning as a low pressure system off the Pacific coast, that storm strengthened as it moved east onshore and combined with an outbreak of arctic air across the central United States. Pulling abundant moisture from the south, the system brought widespread rain and snow showers to the area. Precipitation began as mostly rain on January 23 for El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, with even some heavier showers mixed in. Drizzle and light rain continued through the day on January 24. That evening, periods of moderate to heavy rain occurred and even caused ponding and minor flooding in El Paso.

Cold air seeping into far west Texas from east caused freezing rain across portions of Hudspeth County, causing the closure of US Highway 62-180 due to icy roads. El Paso’s snow occurred the morning of January 25, with snow flurries sticking to grasses and rooftops. CoCoRaHS snowfall reports ranged from **1-2"**. Storm total precipitation ranged from **1.50-3.00"** for El Paso County observers, far exceeding the monthly normal of just **0.39"**.

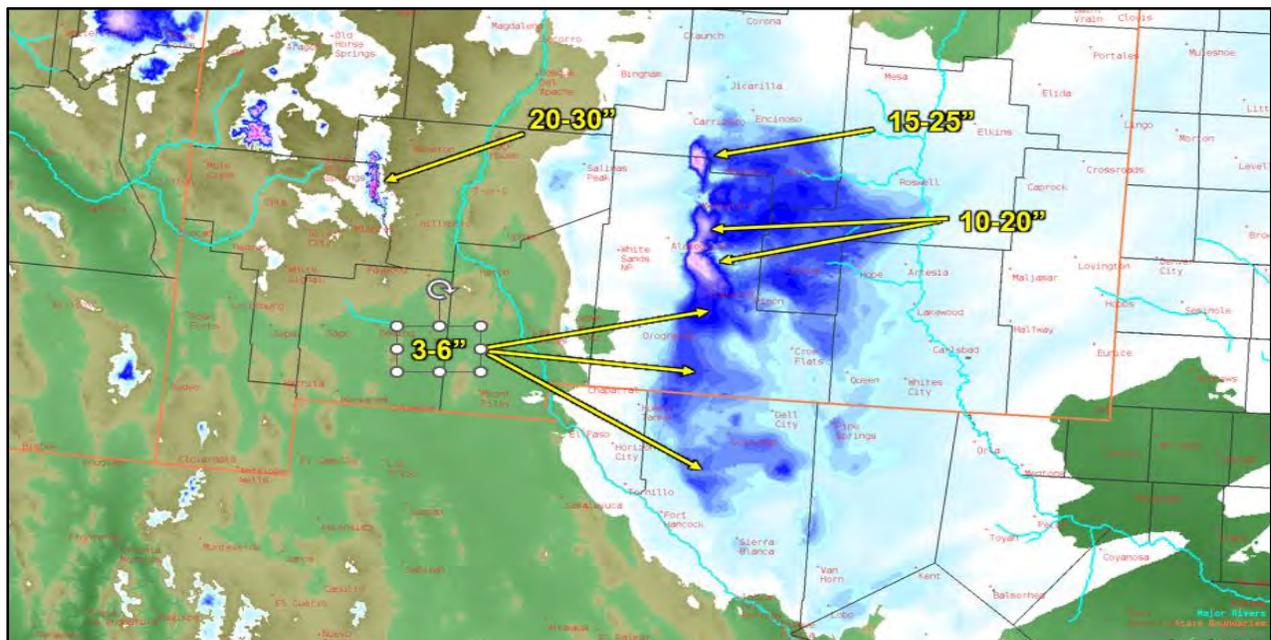
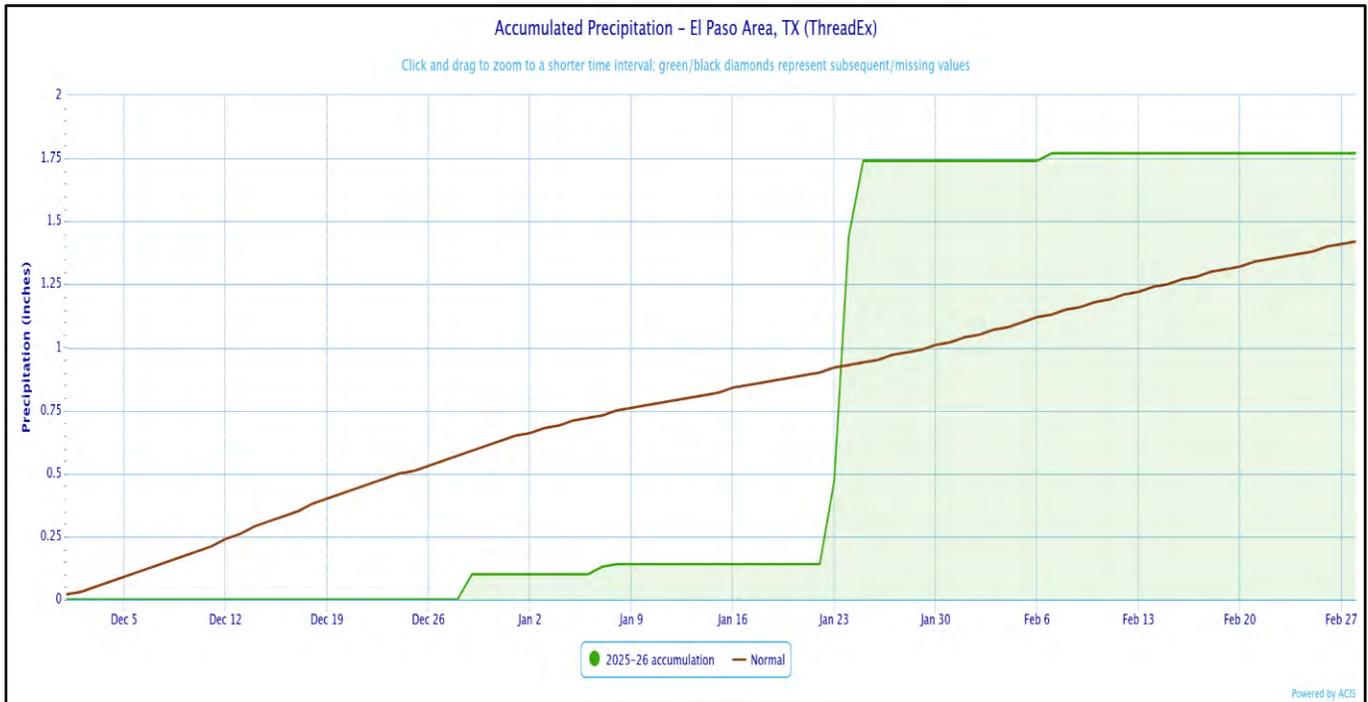


Figure 3: Snowfall analysis for the January 23-25, 2026 winter storm event. Heavy snow fell over the Sacramento Mountains, Otero Mesa, and Hudspeth Highlands. Freezing rain fell across much of Hudspeth County, TX on January 24-25.

## Far West Texas/El Paso Weather Summary (continued)

February featured the return of dry conditions for far west Texas. Very light rain occurred on February 7, with CoCoRaHS observers reporting **Trace-0.05"**. Another series of light rain showers occurred on February 13 with CoCoRaHS observers reporting **0.01-0.15"**. The latter half of February was dry with temperatures warming up and breaking several daily record highs the final week of the winter season.



**Figure 4:** 2025-26 winter precipitation in El Paso, TX compared to climate normals (1991-2020). The late January winter storm is most noticeable.

The winter season was warmer than normal for far West Texas. El Paso, TX set a new record for winter (Dec-Feb) mean average temperature of 53.3 degrees. The average high temperature was 66.8 degrees, also a new seasonal record. There were a few cold snaps, but temperatures in El Paso International fell below freezing only 13 times this season. The upcoming spring season looks to lean toward the warmer and drier-than-normal side with a weak La Niña transitioning to ENSO-neutral by the summertime. The Climate Prediction Center's spring outlook highlights a 60-70% chance of above normal temperatures and a 50-60% chance of below normal precipitation through May.

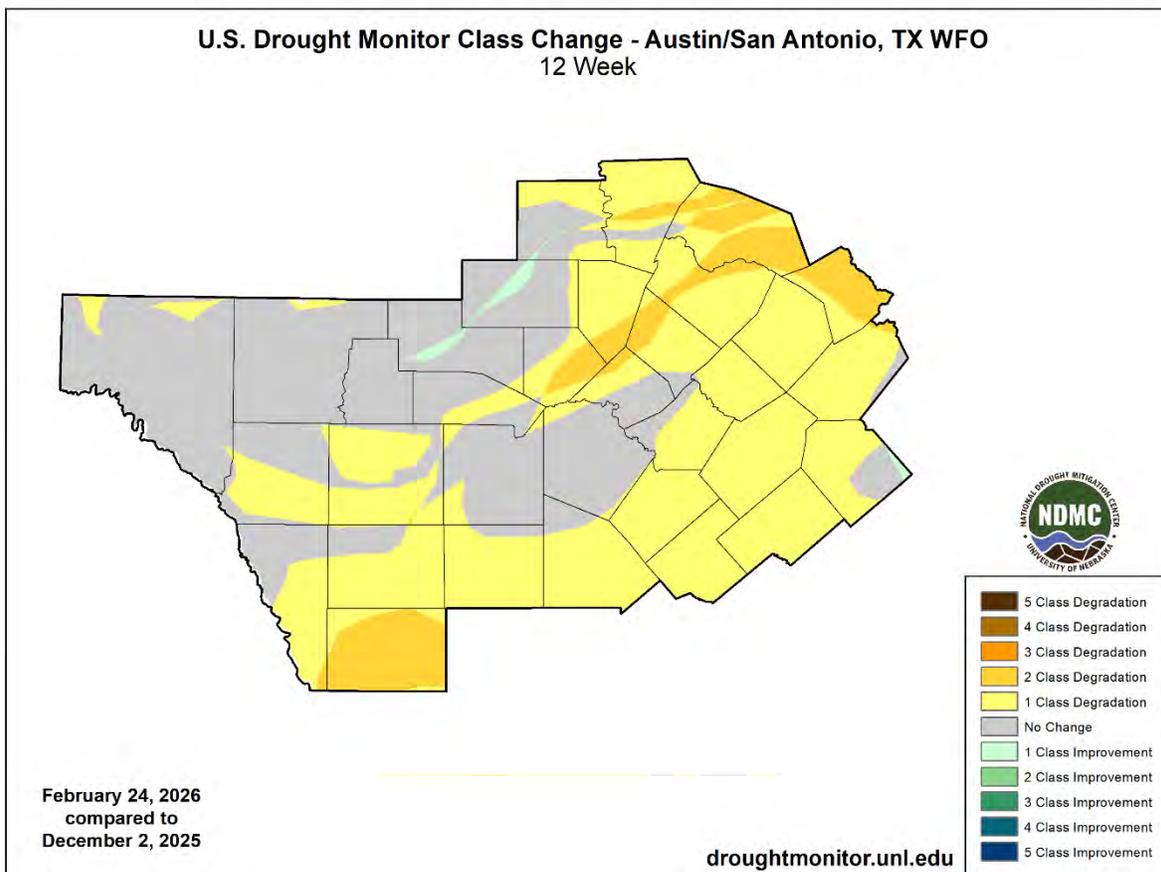
90-day precipitation totals ranged from **2.00-3.00"**. For all stations, this season finished well above normal. The winter season featured 34 active observers in El Paso County, and 1 in Hudspeth County. A total of 1,822 daily reports were submitted, along with 20 multi-day reports. Less than 12% of total reports had measurable precipitation, which means our regional observers continue to do a great job reporting days with 0.00". No Condition Monitoring or Significant Weather Reports were submitted. Thanks again to all our local observers who participated in the 2025-26 winter season!

### Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary

**Another very warm winter for South Central Texas along with worsening drought conditions due to lack of meaningful rainfall.**

**By Mack Morris, Meteorologist at NWS Austin/San Antonio**

Winter 2025-2026 will go down as one of the top 5 warmest winters in South Central Texas. Temperatures were 3-5 degrees above normal for the season. The area saw continued drought degradations despite a very wet summer for many locations in the Hill Country and Edwards Plateau. Those areas noted little to no change in drought, whereas areas that did not receive as much rainfall in July and August saw 1-2 class degradations this winter.



**Figure 1: 12 Week Drought Monitor Class Change**



## Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

### December 2025

December ended up being yet another dry month for most locations as our very warm and dry fall bled into the winter months. Overall, the month would go down as a top 10 warmest December at all four Climate sites. The only notable rainfall event of the month occurred December 16-17th, with amounts ranging from as much as 0.25" to 1" over the Coastal Plains. Several observers in Lavaca County received 0.50-1.00" of rainfall from this event, but those were the highest amounts observed.

The remainder of December was rather dry and mild, particularly December 22-28th, when high temperatures climbed into the upper 70s to middle 80s. Christmas Day even saw highs in the 80s. Warm and dry weather was the norm for December, and that would continue into the New Year.

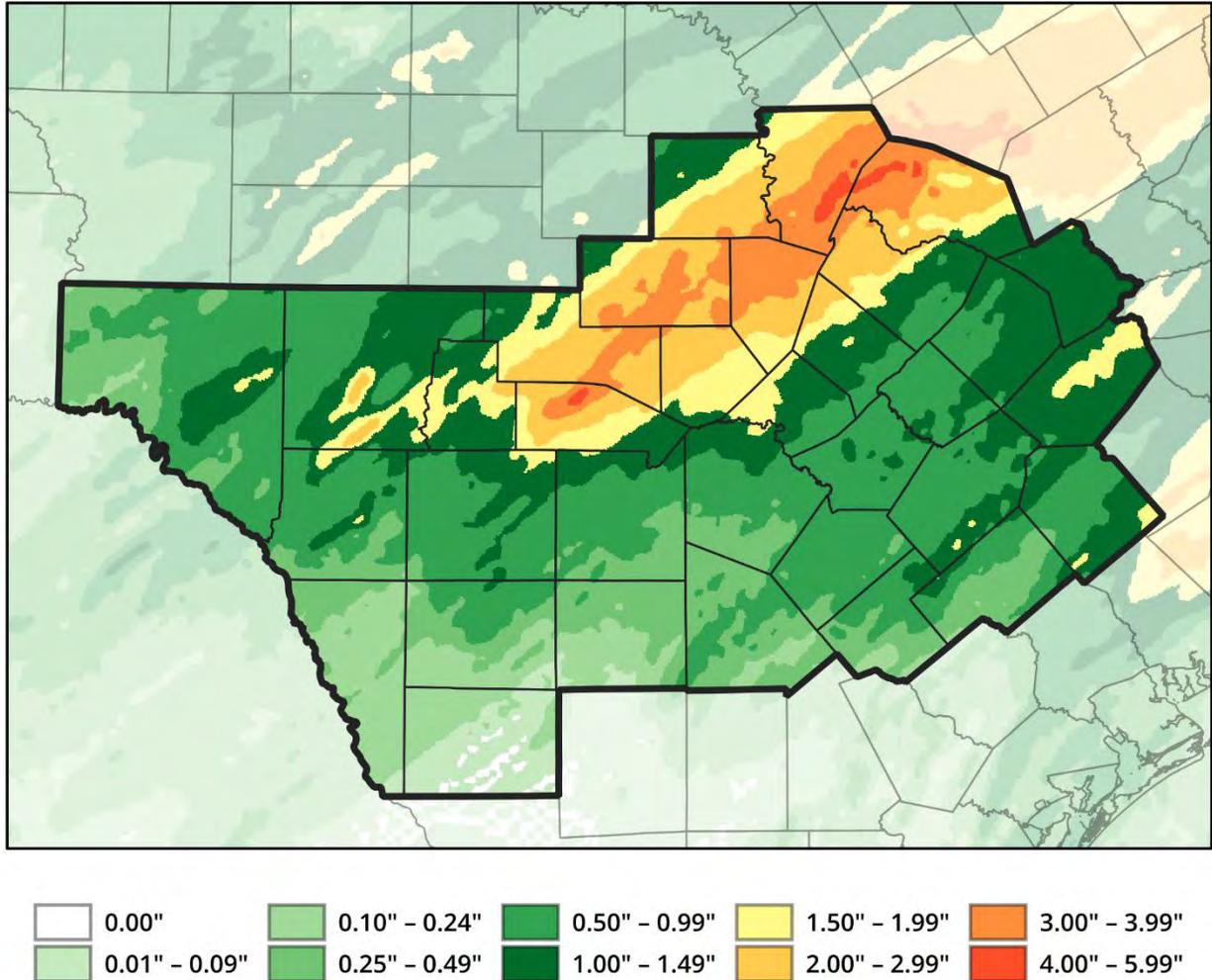
### January 2026

The New Year began with unseasonable warmth, as record-breaking high temperatures were observed at Austin Camp Mabry (88°F) and San Antonio International (89°F) on January 2nd. This warm trend persisted through much of the month with very little rainfall. Aside from measurable precipitation on January 9th, 12th, and 13th—most notably in Lavaca County where totals reached 1.4" near Hallettsville—conditions remained largely dry until late in the month.

Despite the warm and relatively dry stretch from mid-December to mid to late-January, an arctic airmass invaded South Central Texas January 23-24th. Significant rainfall occurred the afternoon and evening of the arctic frontal passage on January 23rd, with a swath of 2-4" observed over the Edwards Plateau, Hill Country and western Williamson/Travis Counties. Multiple reports from CoCoRaHS on the south and western portions of Kerrville reported between 4.25-4.60" with these storms, leading to some minor flooding and the issuance of a Flash Flood Warning late in the evening. An even higher total near 5" was reported in extreme north-central Bandera County, in agreement with radar estimates in the area. Fortunately, with a lack of significant rainfall in months, flooding was minimal and rainfall was beneficial.

## Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

January 23-26, 2026 Rainfall

Observed Precipitation  
Includes liquid-equivalent

**Figure 4: Total Rainfall January 23-26th**

In late January, the combination of unseasonably high moisture content and a cold arctic airmass spilling southward into the region resulted in freezing rain and sleet across South Central Texas. Freezing rain and drizzle began on the morning of the 25th in the Hill Country and then spread south and east through the day. Bands of mixed sleet and freezing rain moved in during the evening hours and continued through the early morning of January 26th. Pockets of 1 to 2" of combined sleet and freezing rain occurred over portions of Travis and Williamson Counties. Several CoCoRaHS observers wrote in the notes section for their daily observations about the amount of sleet observed and ice accumulations. Most noted up to 1 inch of sleet over the Hill Country, with some freezing rain mixed in at times. The reason for sleet/freezing rain vs snow comes down to the atmospheric temperature profile with increasing height. A strong temperature inversion/warm nose developed above the surface, resulting in the sleet and freezing rain vs snow as seen in the image below.

### Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

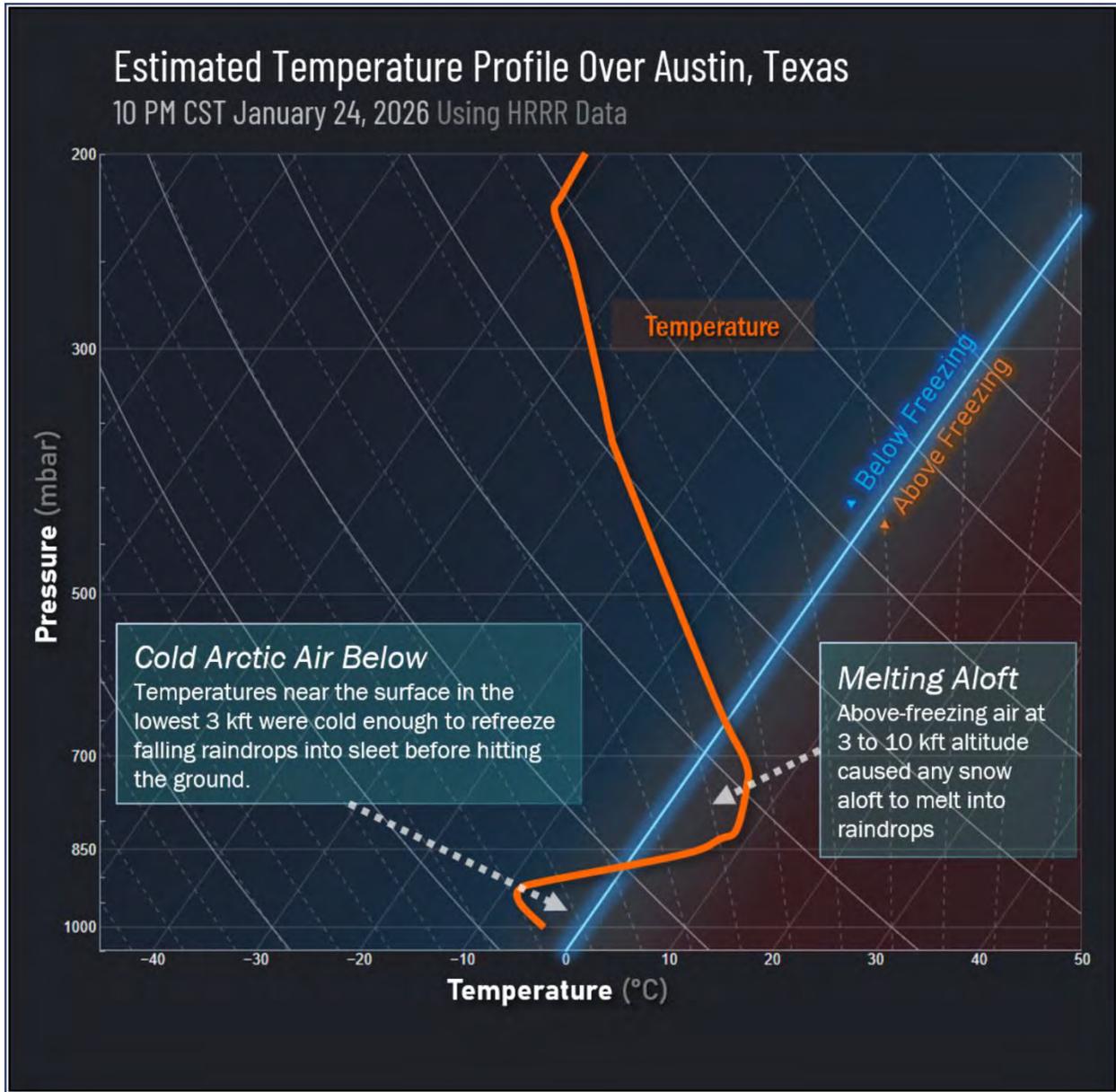


Figure 5: Atmospheric profile over Austin, Texas on January 24th

### Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

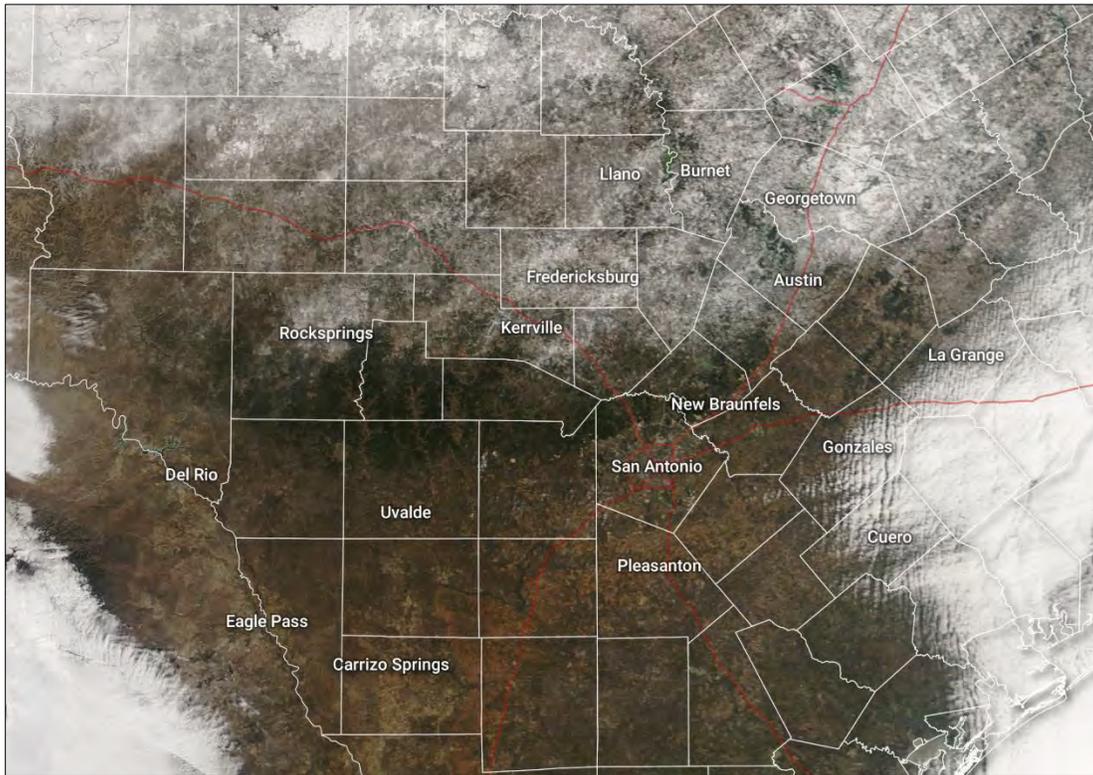


Figure 6: Visible Satellite Imagery showing sleet/ice cover over the Hill Country/I-35 Corridor

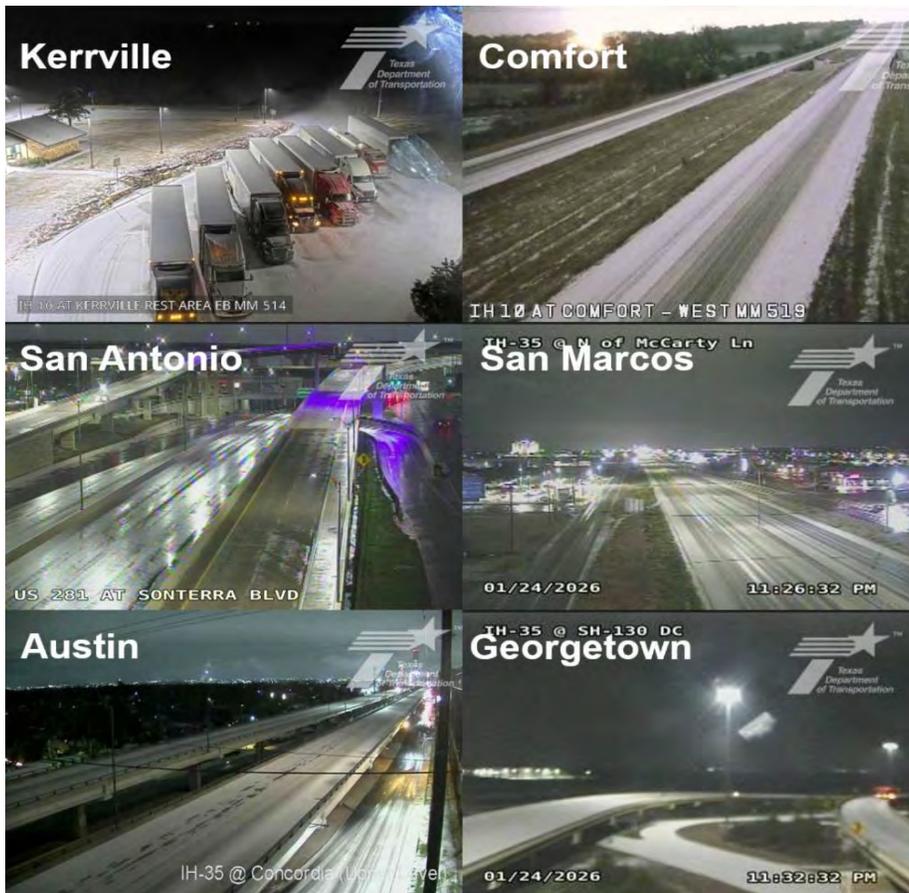
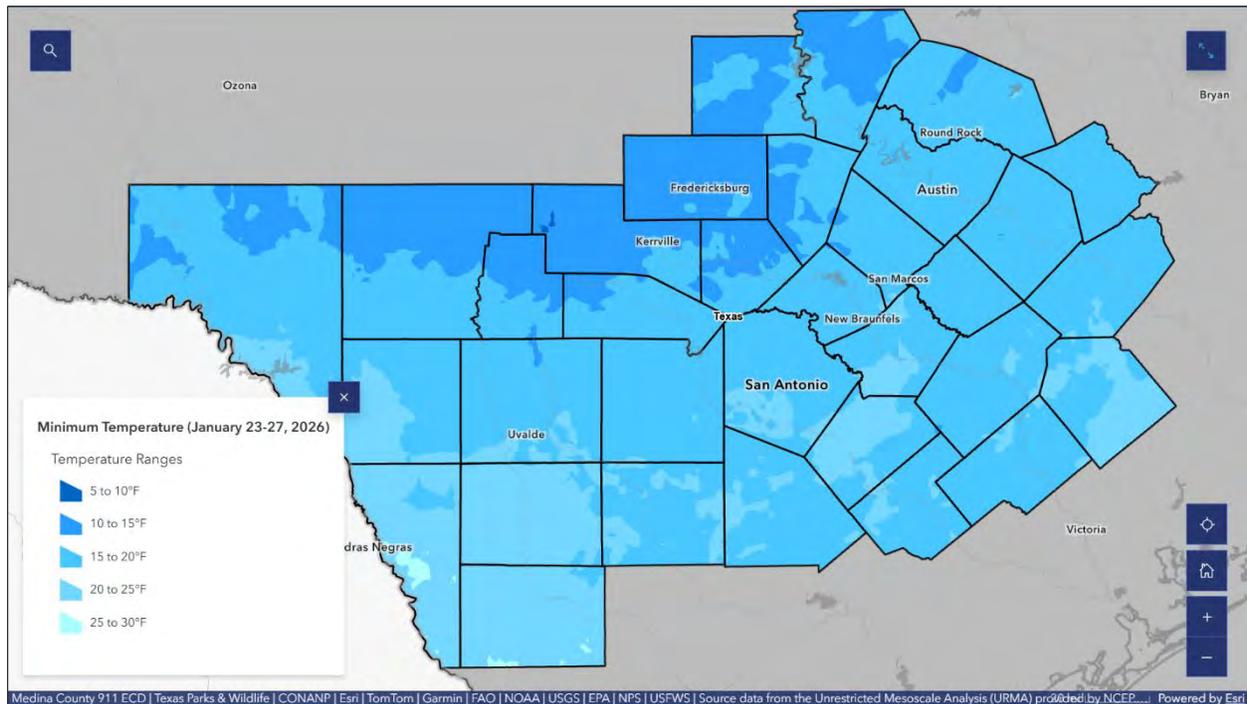


Figure 7: Ice and Sleet coverage on area highway, bridges, and overpasses.

## Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

Temperatures in this arctic airmass were very cold and resulted in the issuance of Extreme Cold Warnings for all of South-Central Texas with wind chills in the -5 to 15 degree range the morning of the 24th, 25th, and 26th. Actual air temperatures were quite cold as well, with many locations over the Hill Country dipping to as low as 10 to 15 degrees on the morning of the 26th. Lowest temperatures observed during the event can be seen below.



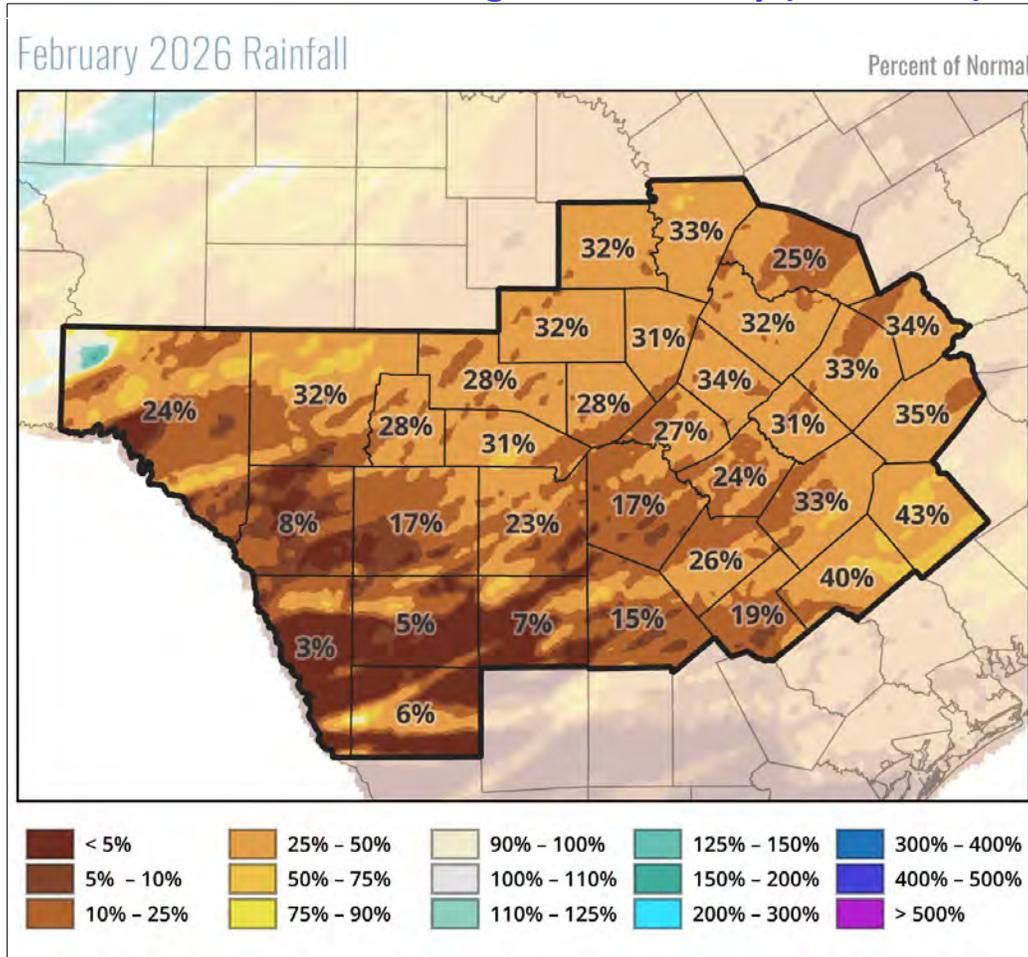
**Figure 8: Lowest temperatures observed from January 23-27th**

From January 27-31st, the atmosphere took some time to moderate, as mornings at or below freezing continued through the 29th. In fact, it wasn't until Monday, February 2nd that the region got back near normal for high and low temperatures.

### February 2026

The final month of Winter 2025-2026 would go down as the 2nd warmest at San Antonio, Austin Camp Mabry, and Del Rio, and the 4th warmest at Austin Bergstrom, as well as one of the top 20 driest February's at both Austin sites and Del Rio. The warm and dry trend was noted over all of South-Central Texas with the drought continuing to worsen.

### Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)



**Figure 9: Percent of Normal Precipitation for the month of February**

The only meaningful precipitation event occurred on Valentine’s Day of all days. Most locations received between 0.5” and 1” of rainfall from the event, but unfortunately, it did little to alleviate continued drought over South Central Texas.

Month	Notable Temperature Events	Rainfall Highlights
December	Top 10 warmest; Highs in 80s on Christmas	Mostly dry; max 1" in Lavaca County
January	Record highs (88-89°F) followed by Arctic blast	Flash flooding (4-5") followed by 1" ice/sleet
February	2nd warmest at San Antonio & Austin	One of top 20 driest February’s

#### Winter 2025-2026 Conclusion

Ultimately, the season will be remembered as one of the top 5 warmest winters for South Central Texas, with temperatures averaging 3–5°F above seasonal normals. While a significant arctic blast provided a brief period of extreme cold and ice in January, the dominant theme was a dry, warm winter that intensified regional drought conditions.

### Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

#### Winter 2025/2026 Weather Story for the Rio Grande Valley: Spring in Winter, With Little Rainfall

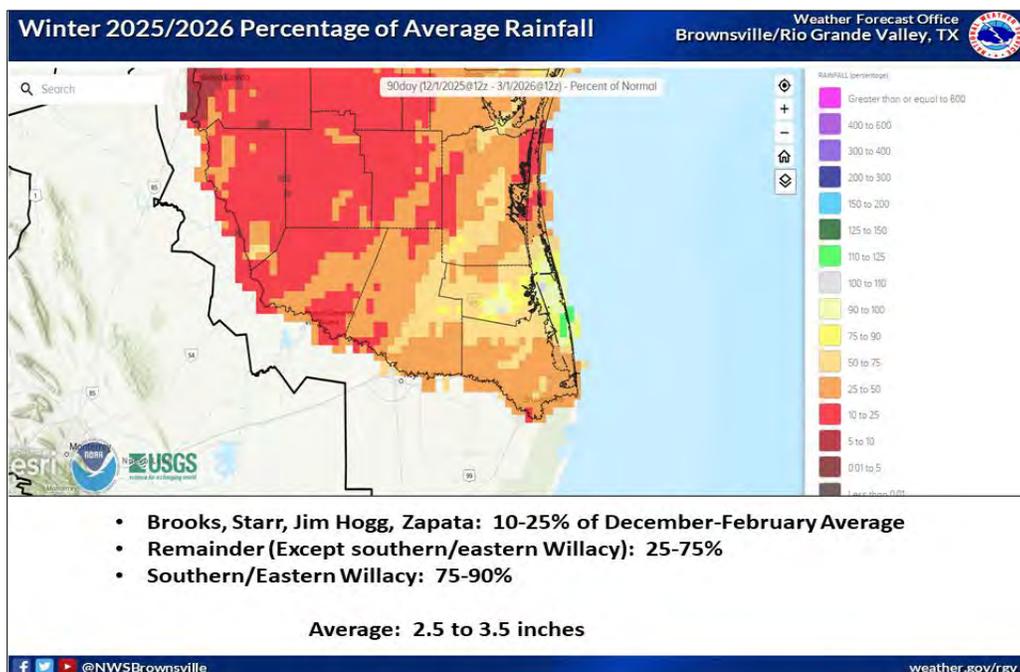
Top-Ten Heat and Widespread Dryness Worsens Drought, Impacts Ranchers

By Barry Goldsmith

Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley

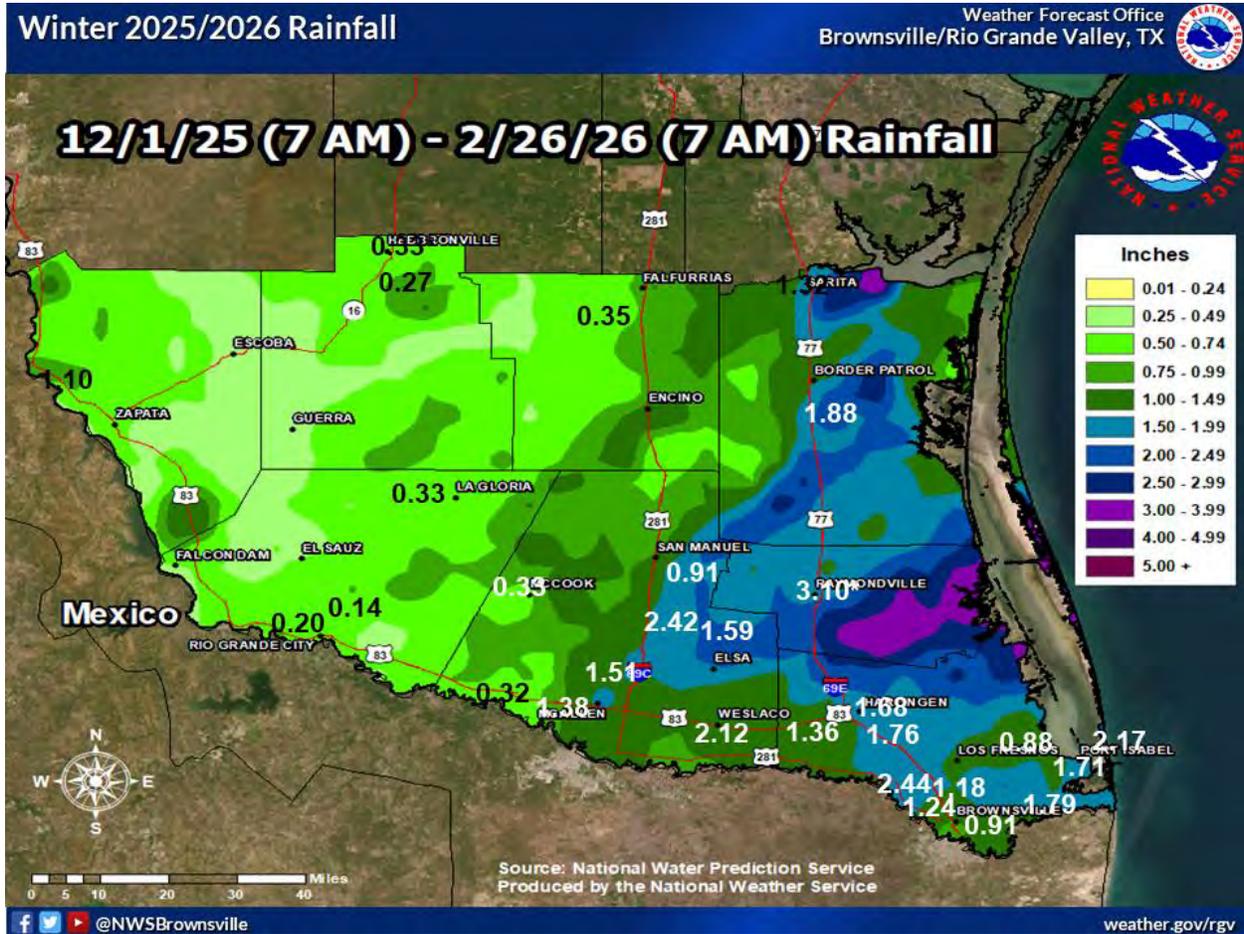


**Above Picture1:** Parched ground and dried grasses – a result of steadily worsening drought with “freeze-cured” grasses in late January – at Estero Llano Grande State Park near Weslaco, TX, in late February 2026.

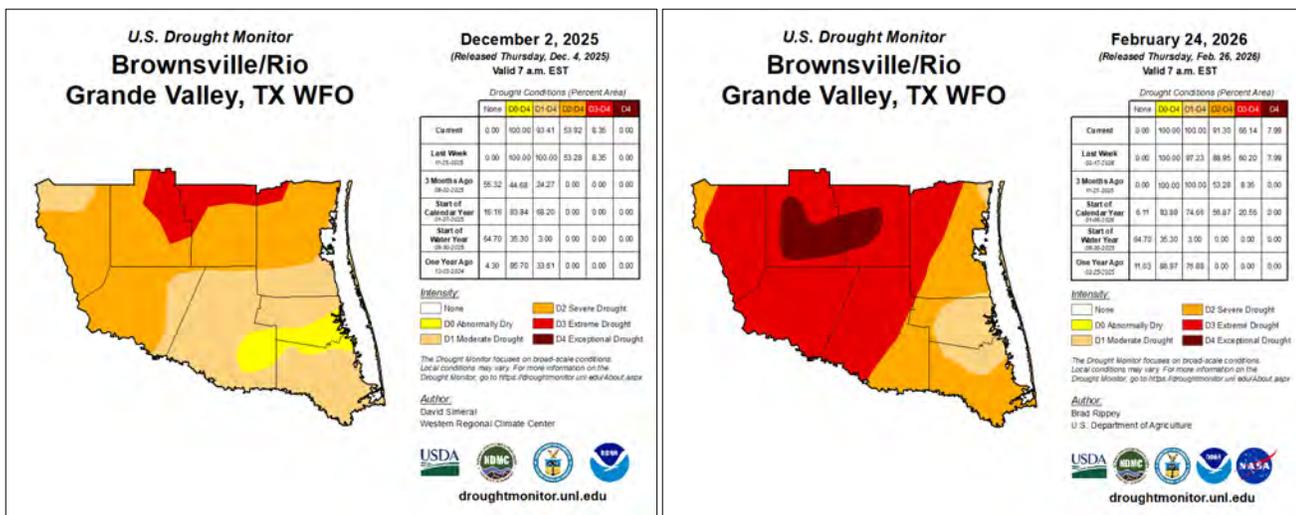


**Figure 1.** Rainfall percentage of average, December 1 2025 through March 1 (7 AM) 2026. Other than a few moderate rain events in December and January, favoring southern and eastern Willacy, the vast majority of the Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas Ranchlands ended up at 10-50% of seasonal averages.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)



**Figure 2.** Annotated rainfall map for winter 2025/2026 across the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep South Texas ranch region. Annotated values (in inches) are from selected Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) observers, along with several cooperative (COOP), Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS), and Texas Mesonet stations with sufficient and trusted values for the season. Map was produced on February 26; no rain fell thereafter.



**Figure 3.** U.S. Drought Monitor differences between December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 and February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Top-ten heat combined with below average rainfall (including top ten driest mainly along/west of IH-69C and US 281) enhanced evaporation rates, worsening already drying soil-moisture conditions headed out of November. By the end of February, all of the region was in some level of drought. Extreme or greater drought expanded from less than 10% of the area to 66% of the region by the end of February.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

### Winter 2025/2026: Jackrabbit Warm Start

January 18: 26-27 Freezes Not Enough to Disrupt Overall Top-Ten Heat

Weather Forecast Office  
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

#### Maximum 3-Month Mean Avg Temperature for Brownsville Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	69.7	1890-02-28	0
2	68.9	2017-02-28	0
3	68.1	1950-02-28	0
4	68.0	2026-02-28	0
5	67.8	1971-02-28	0
6	66.7	1952-02-29	0
7	66.2	1957-02-28	0
8	66.1	2000-02-29	0
9	66.0	1972-02-29	0
10	66.0	1923-02-28	0

Period of record: 1878-01-01 to 2026-03-02

#### Maximum 3-Month Mean Avg Temperature for McAllen Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	70.2	2017-02-28	0
2	68.7	1950-02-28	0
3	68.5	2026-02-28	0
4	66.8	1952-02-29	0
5	66.6	2023-02-28	0
6	66.5	1971-02-28	0
7	66.5	1957-02-28	0
8	66.4	2000-02-29	0
9	66.3	2013-02-28	0
10	66.1	2020-02-29	0

Period of record: 1941-06-01 to 2026-03-02

#### Maximum 3-Month Mean Avg Temperature for HARLINGEN, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	68.1	2017-02-28	3
2	67.9	1950-02-28	0
3	67.5	1957-02-28	5
4	66.5	1952-02-29	1
5	65.9	1916-02-29	5
6	65.7	1934-02-28	0
7	65.6	2020-02-29	4
8	65.5	1927-02-28	1
9	65.4	2000-02-29	1
10	65.3	1923-02-28	0
11	65.1	1932-02-29	2
12	65.0	2026-02-28	4
13	64.6	1956-02-29	2
14	64.6	2013-02-28	2
15	64.4	1935-02-28	1

Period of record: 1912-02-07 to 2026-03-03

#### Maximum 3-Month Mean Avg Temperature for RIO GRANDE CITY, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	67.2	1950-02-28	1
2	66.0	1932-02-29	0
3	64.8	2017-02-28	6
4	64.6	1957-02-28	1
5	64.1	2023-02-28	4
6	64.0	1952-02-29	0
7	63.8	2026-02-28	2
8	63.8	2025-02-28	3
9	63.7	2000-02-29	2
10	63.6	1933-02-28	1

Period of record: 1897-01-01 to 2026-03-03

#### Other Locations:

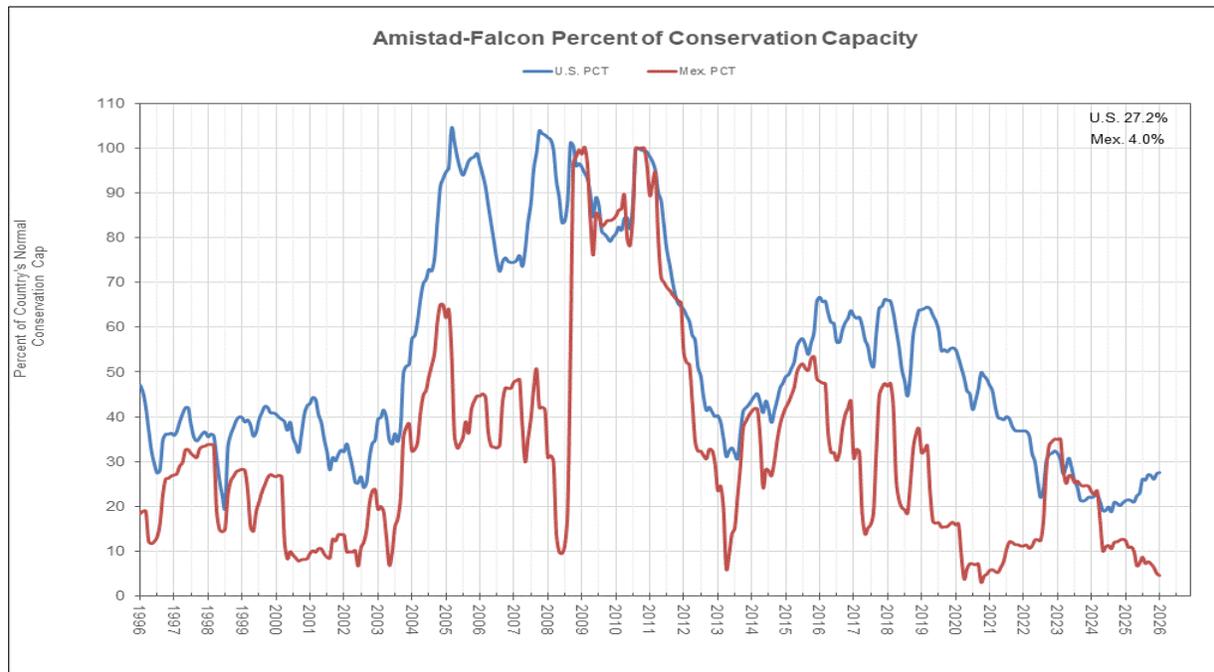
- Weslaco: 11<sup>th</sup> (since 1914)
- Raymondville: 13<sup>th</sup> (since 1913)
- Port Mansfield: 2<sup>nd</sup> (since 1959)
- McCook: 8<sup>th</sup> (since 1941)

\*Some data removed for accuracy.

@NWSBrownsville

weather.gov/rgv

**Figure 4.** Top-ten warmest conditions that featured in December returned in February, locking in a top-ten warmest December 2025-February 2026 period across the Lower Rio Grande Valley. A late January “Arctic Express” event wasn’t enough to overcome the persistent warmth that was featured in Winter 2025/2026. This continued the trend of top-ten warmest seasons, from [autumn 2025](#).



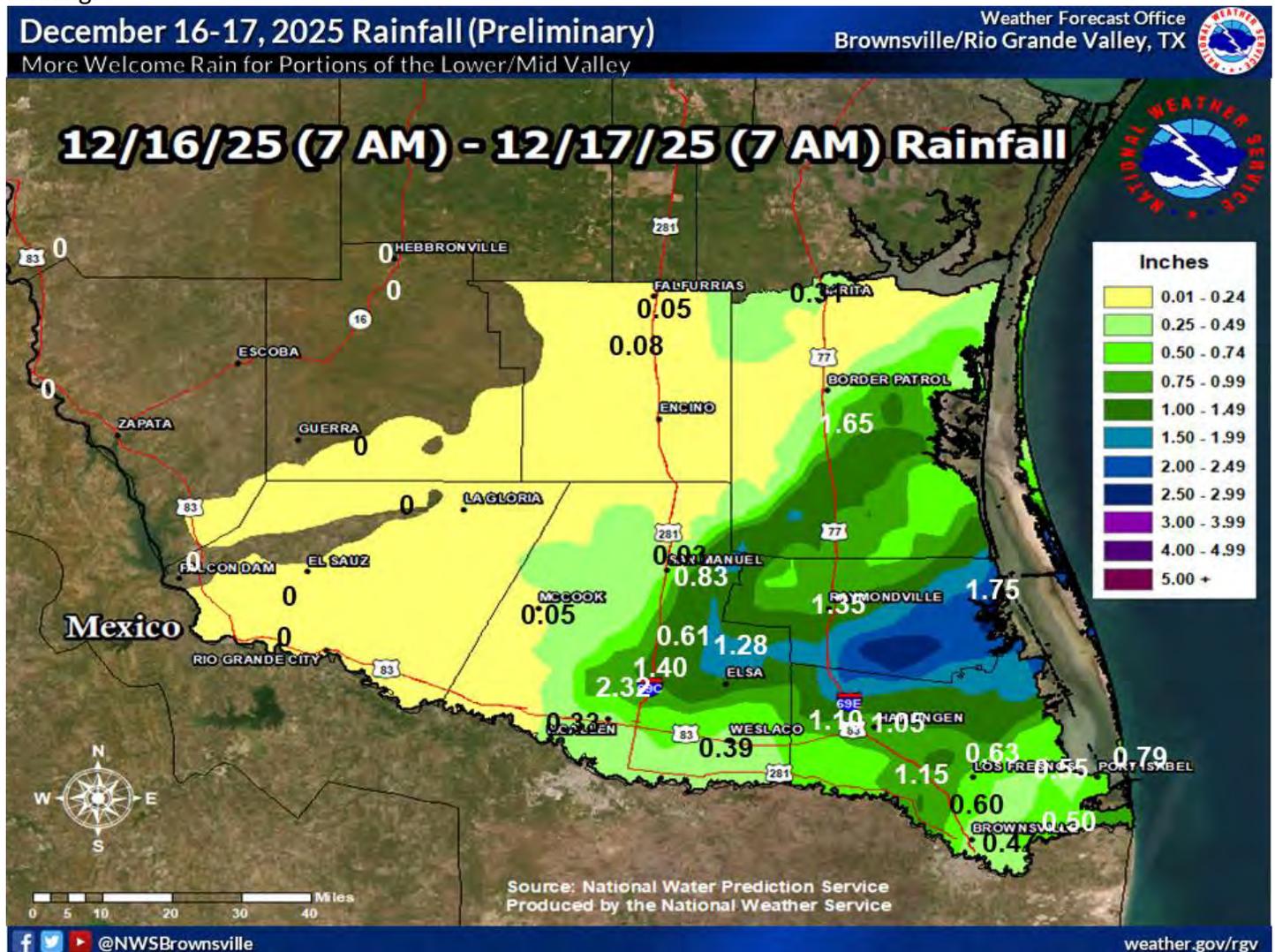
**Figure 5.** U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) combined percentage of conservation capacity for Amistad and Falcon International Reservoirs at the start of March 2026 continued to show dire conditions for total water share. While the US percent of conservation hovered just above 25%, Mexico’s share dipped to 4%. The total values remained just around or just above seasonal records set in autumn 2024. Falcon was constituted in 1954; Amistad in 1971.

## Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

### Month-by-Month Summary

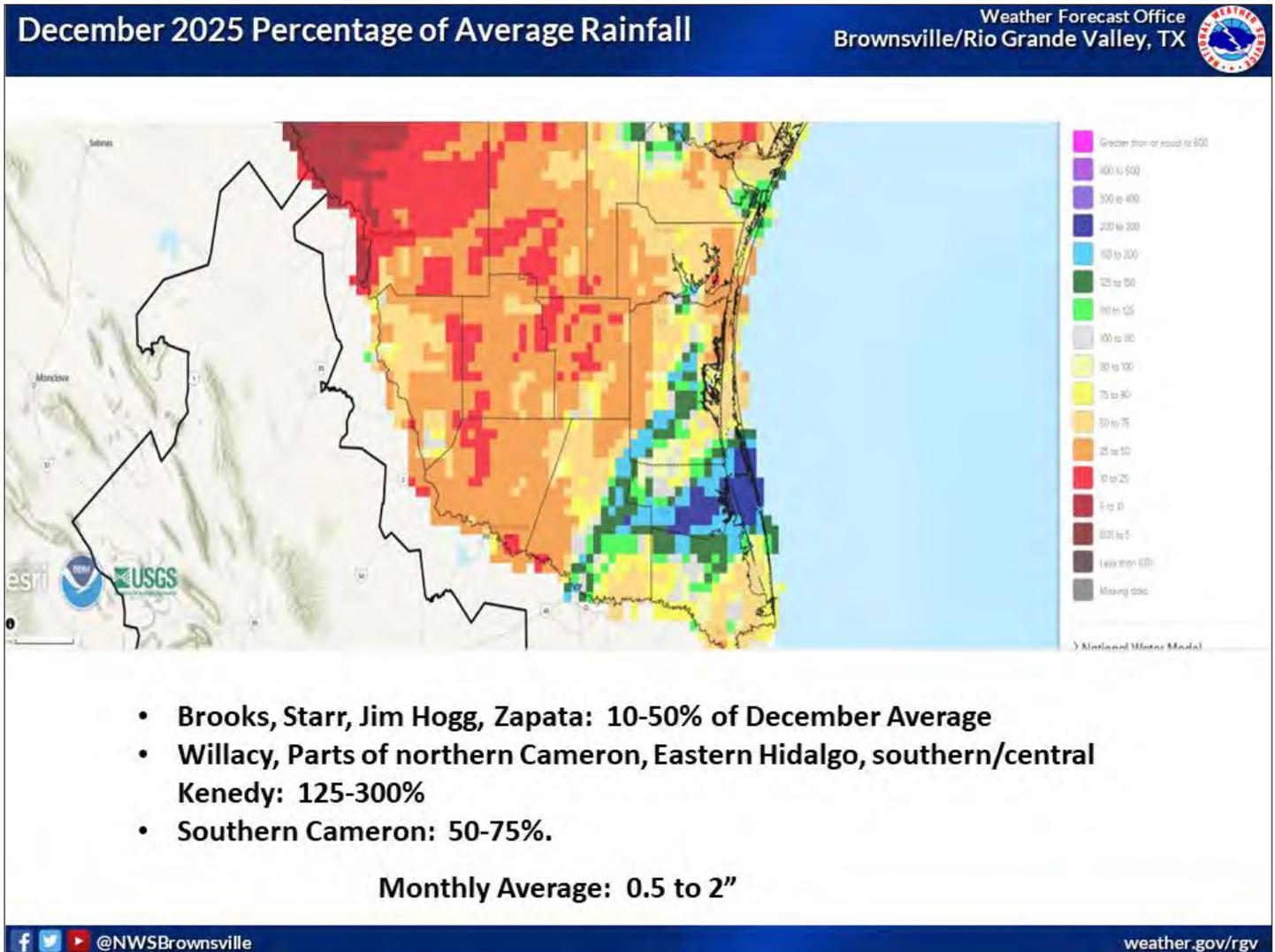
**December 2025** was fairly non-descript, with dryness/drought gradually increasing in coverage through the month across the Brush Country and mid/upper Valley. “Just-in-time” rainfall between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, courtesy of a weak surface trough along the coast, induced by a weak but notable upper-level trough that slid across south Texas early on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The rainfall (Figure 6), which provided 1” to nearly 3” across southern Willacy, southeastern Hidalgo, and northern Cameron County, actually improved dryness/drought by one category in these areas – from abnormal dryness (drought level 0 of 4) to no category, and from moderate drought (level 1 of 4) to abnormal dryness (level 0 of 4).

Otherwise, the warm to occasionally hot conditions that prevailed in November didn’t miss a beat in December, with temperatures generally ranking among the top-ten warmest on record across the Valley. The nine days surrounding Christmas/Christmas Eve (December 20-29) felt more like the end of April than late December, ensuring the high ranking.

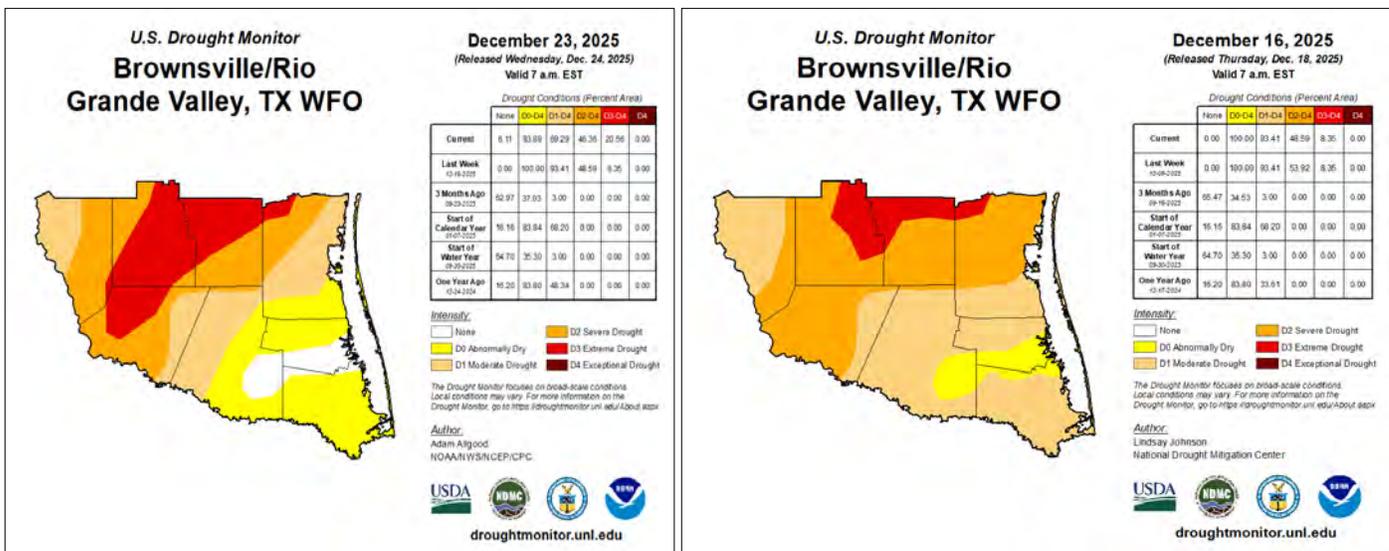


**Figure 6.** Annotated rainfall map for December 16-17, 2025, showing locally heavy rain from showers/thunderstorms associated with a coastal low pressure area across Willacy, northern Cameron, and portions of eastern Hidalgo and southern Kenedy County. This was the only substantial rain event in the region during December, but sufficient to reduce drought/dryness across the “lower” Valley to close the month.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)



**Figure 7.** Rainfall percentage of average December 2025. As the region had seen many times in 2025 and prior years, “just-in-time” rainfall occurred near the coast – in this case, a swath of Willacy, eastern Hidalgo, northern Cameron, and southern Kenedy – to briefly improve drought/dryness conditions in these regions (Figure 8).



**Figure 8.** Drought/dryness improvement (left, December 23 Drought Monitor) following rainfall on December 16-17 in the lower Valley (Cameron, Willacy, eastern Hidalgo) northward into southern Kenedy County.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

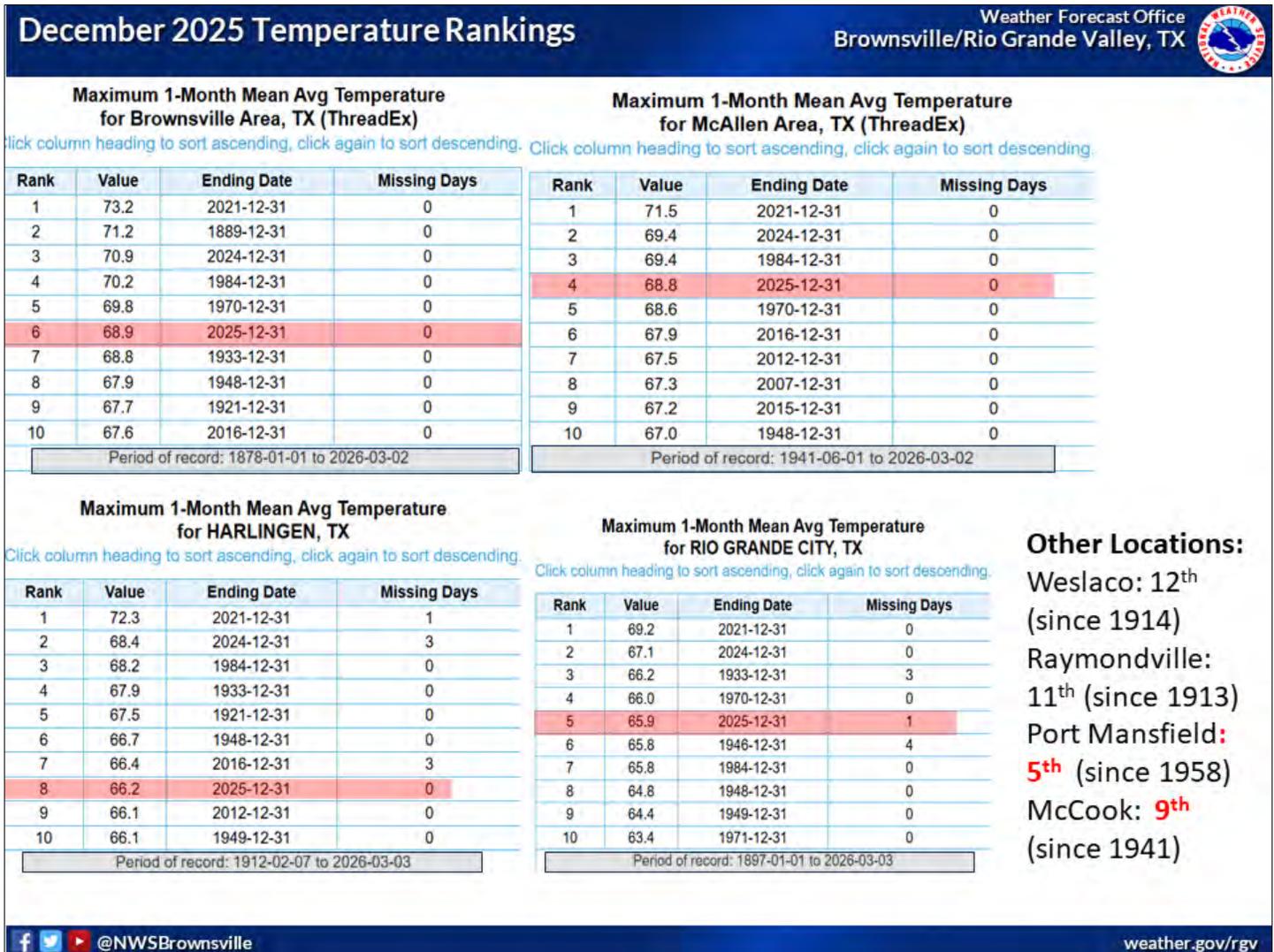


Figure 9. December 2025 temperature rankings (period of record in gray box) for selected Lower Rio Grande Valley locations. Rankings for most available locations ended up in the top 15 warmest on record, dating back more than 100 years for some. Several spots ended up in the top ten hottest, a continuation of autumn’s (September–November) heat.

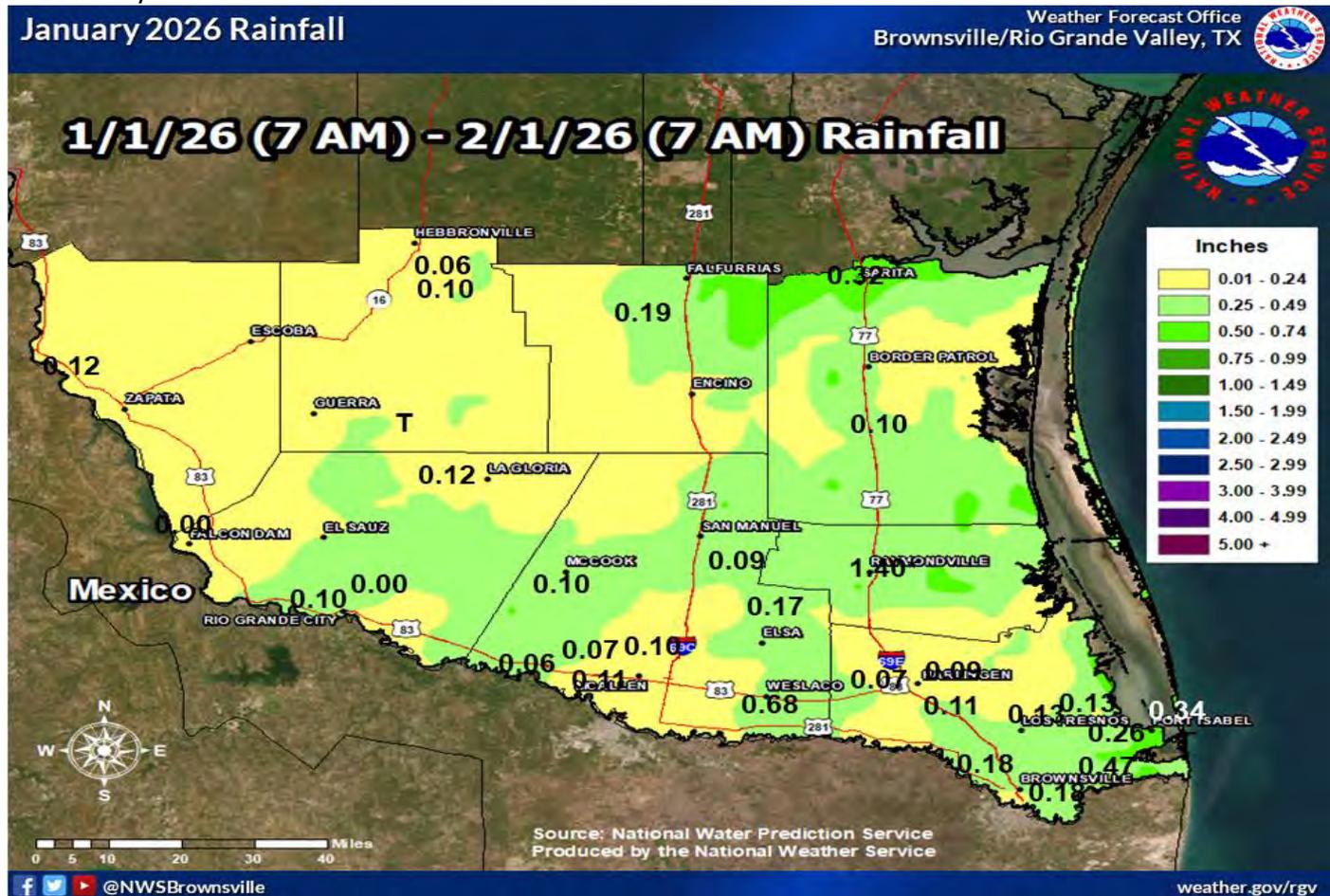
January 2026 will be remembered as a tale of multiple seasons – from a “jackrabbit” hot start (through the 9<sup>th</sup>) before back-and-forth cooling and warming preceded the season’s first freezes – initially, a light freeze across the Hebbronville through Sarita area on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, before a true “Arctic Express” arrived during the afternoon and evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> into the 25<sup>th</sup>, which led to back-to-back mornings of hard freezes (<28°F for 2 hours or more) across the rural Valley mainly north of Interstate 2, with freezes in all other areas on the 26<sup>th</sup> and for all but the Cameron and southeast Willacy County coast, including Brownsville, on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Very low wind chill temperatures accompanied the freeze and hard freeze on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Figures 10 and 11 show the January 26<sup>th</sup> observed low temperatures and observed minimum wind chill, respectively.



### Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

The hard freeze, anticipated as a reasonable probability (20-40%) between late December and mid-February in the [pre-season outlook](#), combined with the gradually worsening drought to “freeze-dry” already yellowing grasses and brush, especially along and west of IH-69C/US 281 from Brooks/Hidalgo into northwest Kenedy County and out to Zapata County. The sharp cold, which featured temperatures that failed to reach 50°F near the coast for more than 60 hours, neutralized much of the month’s top-ten warmth through the 24<sup>th</sup> – but it was not enough to derail a top 25-50% warmest-on-record finish for the month.

January rainfall continued to be paltry across the upper Valley, Brush Country, and Rio Grande Plains – but was also low across the remainder of the region, leading to gradual worsening of drought conditions in most areas by the start of February.



**Figure 12.** January 2025 rainfall map, including selected annotated values from CoCoRaHS observers, NWS cooperative observers, and Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) data, and the Texas Mesonet. Note that the shown value in Raymondville (1.40”, an NWS cooperative observer location), is likely in error.

**February 2026** restored the “heat beat” following the brief interlude of ‘winter’, Valley-style that closed January. Once again, temperatures came back on the warm highway that was so common during the last four months of 2025, with readings among the top five-to-ten warmest on record in most areas, including top five for Brownsville and McAllen. Equally notable was the literal lack of rainfall (Figure 13), where the only measured rain was across eastern Brooks and northern Kenedy County – with the only observed total to display being 0.07” in Sarita (Texas Mesonet location). The combination of warmth and dryness gradually worsened drought across the entire region, with the highest category (Exceptional, level 4 of 4) appearing across Jim Hogg and Brooks County – which would expand further across the ranchlands/upper Valley by March 3 (not shown). The combination of increasingly parched grass and brush, along with periodic gusty winds and low to very low humidity at times during the afternoon, aided a few documented wildfires in Hidalgo (two), Cameron (one), and Starr (one). None of the wildfires grew to over 100 acres.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

The combination of warmth and dryness gradually worsened drought across the entire region, with the highest category (Exceptional, level 4 of 4) appearing across Jim Hogg and Brooks County – which would expand further across the ranchlands/upper Valley by March 3 (not shown). The combination of increasingly parched grass and brush, along with periodic gusty winds and low to very low humidity at times during the afternoon, aided a few documented wildfires in Hidalgo (two), Cameron (one), and Starr (one). None of the wildfires grew to over 100 acres.

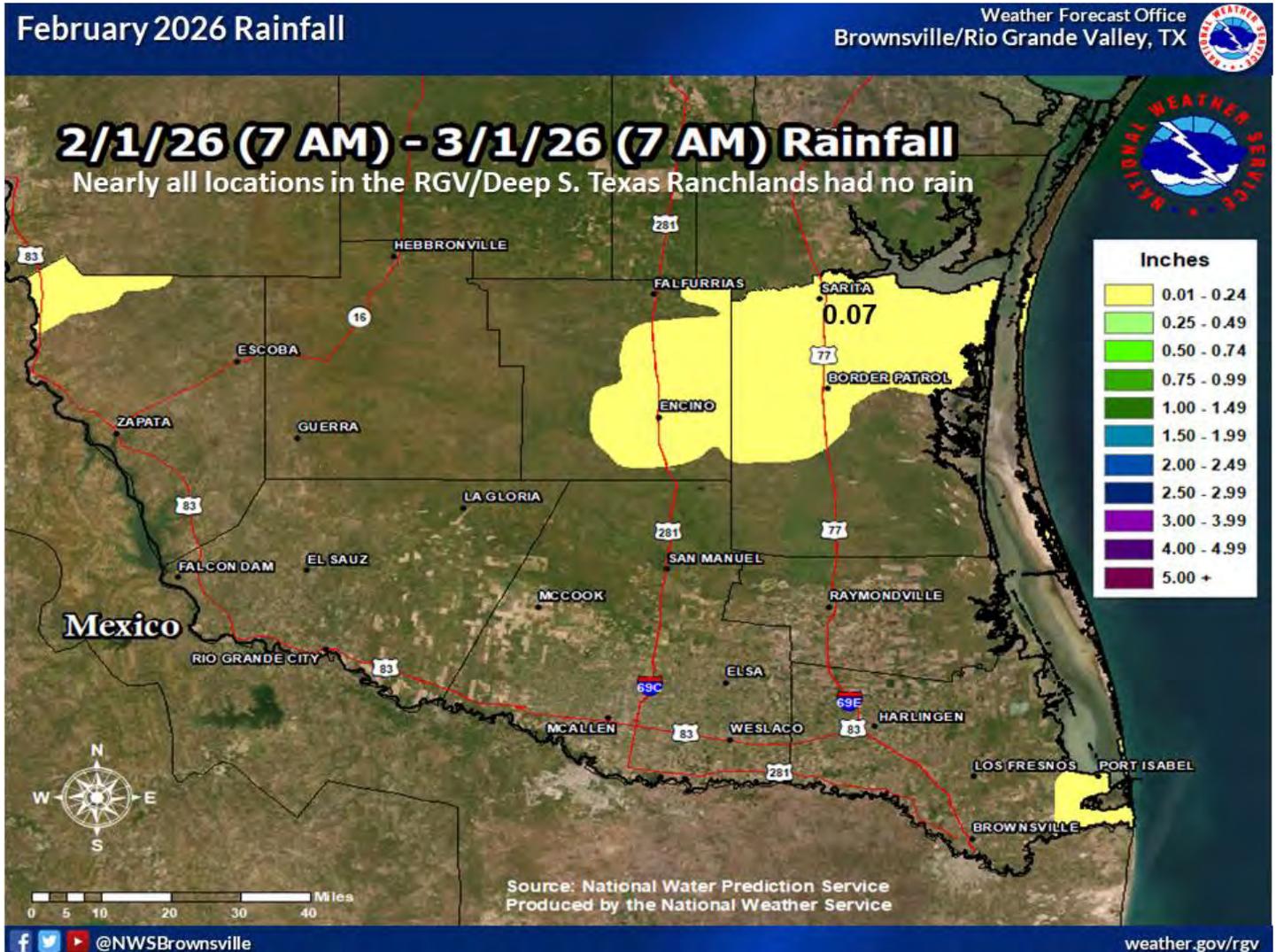


Figure 13. February 2026 rainfall map, including selected annotated values from CoCoRaHS observers, NWS cooperative observers, and Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) data, and the Texas Mesonet.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

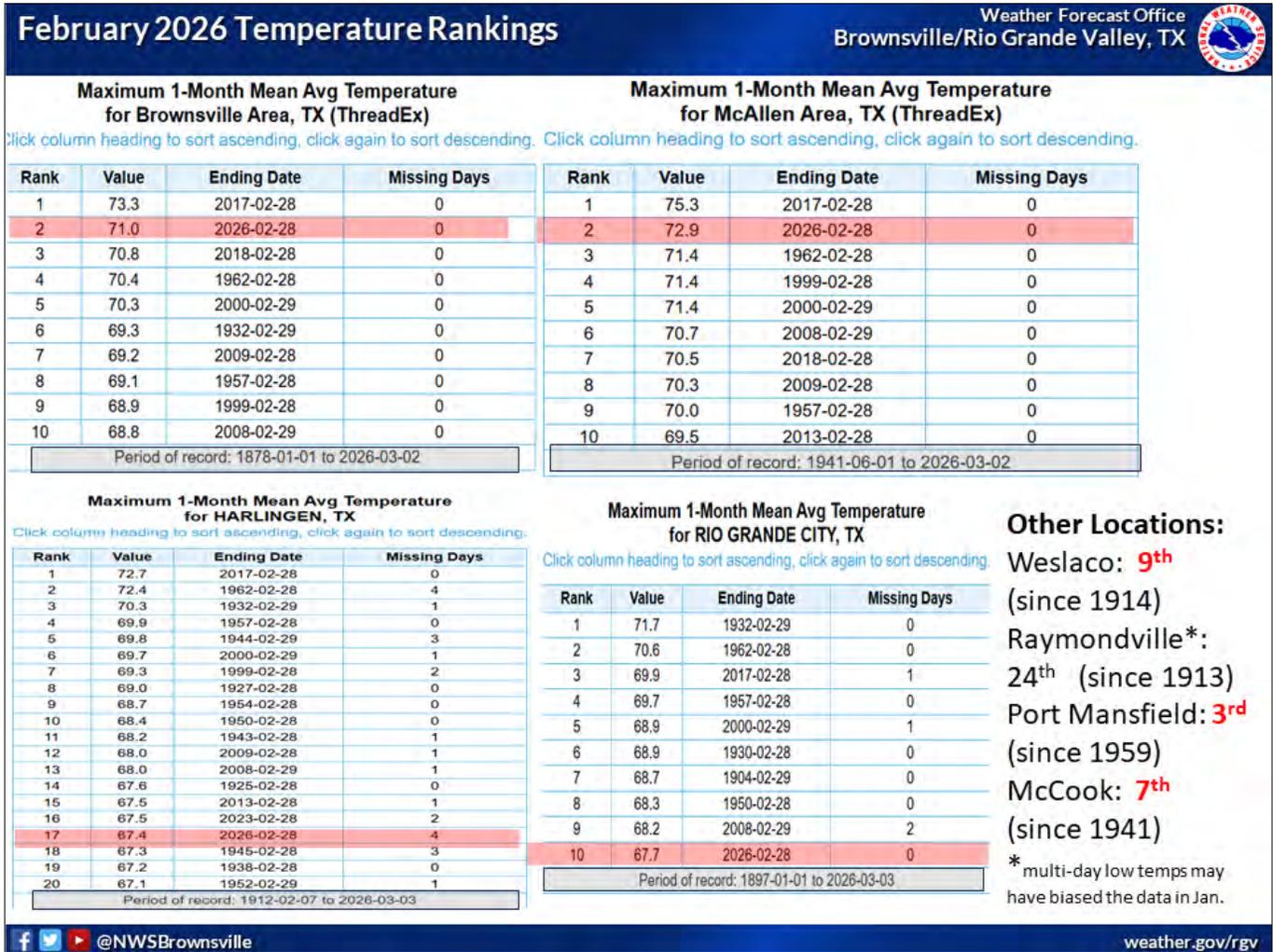


Figure 14. February 2026 temperature rankings (period of record in gray box) for selected Lower Rio Grande Valley locations. Rankings for most available locations ended up in the top-ten hottest on record, dating back more than 100 years for some

Winter 2025/2026 picked up where autumn 2025 left off – warm and dry overall, with one not-surprising freeze/hard freeze during late January, a situation that has occurred despite generally warm and dry winters since the winter of 2022/2023 (four in a row). Aside from the welcome rain near the coast on December 16-early December 17, there were no notable rainfall (or precipitation, for that matter) during the season.

The big story was the steady worsening of drought, for which Extreme (level 3 of 4) to Exceptional (level 4 of 4) covered 66% of the Rio Grande Valley/Deep South Texas ranchland region by the end of February. The forecast for spring (March-May) offered some hope for drought-relieving rainfall – particularly from late March through April – but this remains to be seen. As we saw in 2025 (historic rainfall and flooding) and in 2023 (at least five wind/tornado/hail events), spring rains often come with unwelcome hazards from water and wind – so something to be mindful of as we move deeper into meteorological spring 2026.

The warmth and drought had an increasing negative impact on farming and ranching across the Deep South Texas ranch country and Lower Rio Grande Valley. According to the March 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Crop and Weather Report for the region, soil moisture conditions were extremely poor, and many were delaying spring planting until adequate moisture arrived. Spring green-up, which typically begins in mid to late February, did not begin on time. Those beginning spring planting were expecting a critical irrigation need to sustain any growth.

## Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

Rangeland was in poor condition, to the point that ranchers were reducing cattle herds, and in some cases, liquidating them. The report can be found [here](#).

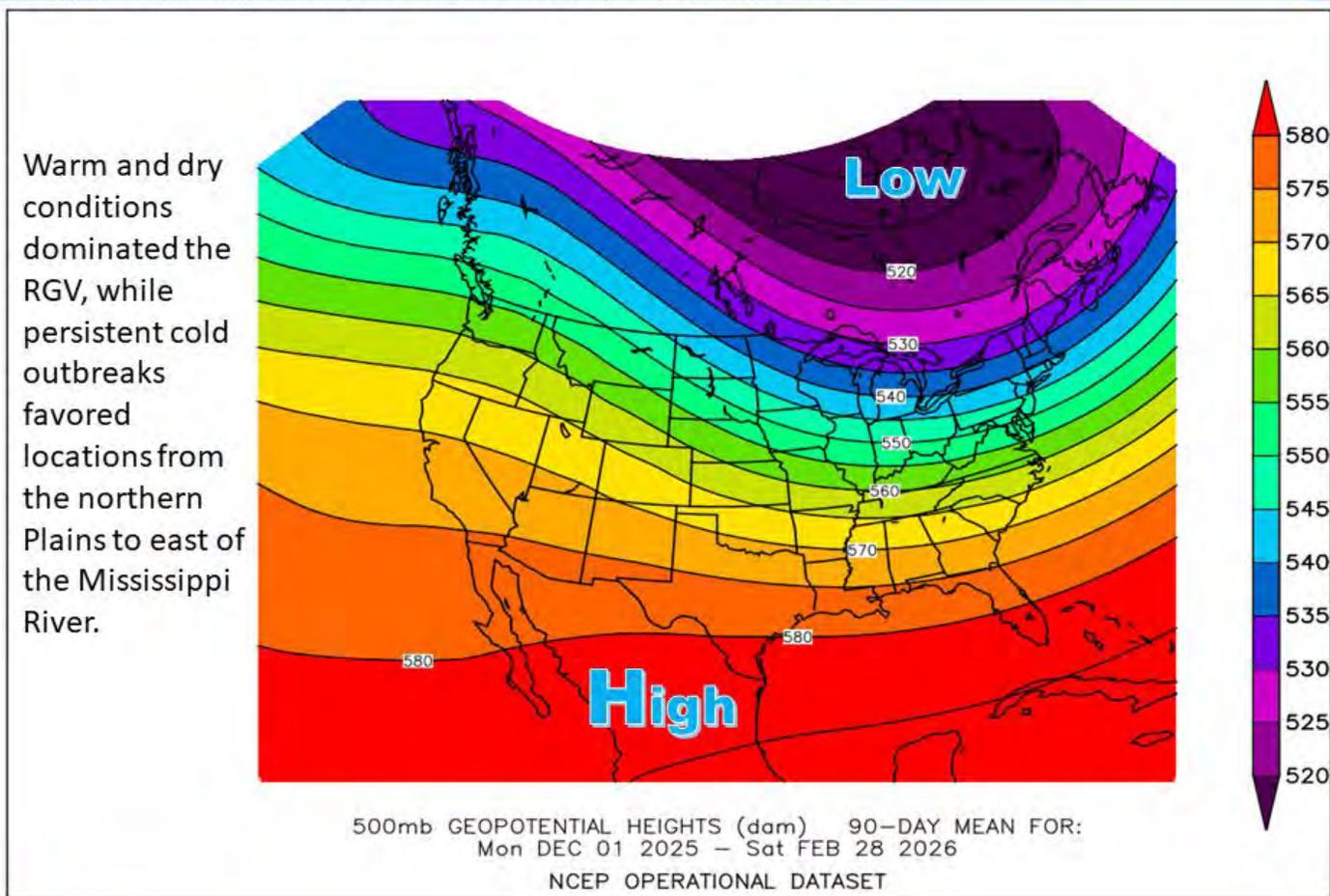
Should the rains *not* come, drought will remain steady or worsen further, and water shortage issues are likely to expand. With the reservoirs that supply up to 90% of water currently used by agriculture and several municipalities across the Rio Grande Valley still sitting at or just above seasonal low records, additional rainfall deficits would be felt by farmers, ranchers, and even residents/businesses in the form of water restrictions. The drought, if combined with strong, drying winds, could create favorable wildfire spread/growth conditions through spring.

### Winter 2025/2026 Steering Pattern

Weather Forecast Office  
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



Flat high pressure ridge stretched from northern Mexico through the RGV



[f](#) [t](#) [v](#) @NWSBrownsville

[weather.gov/rgv](http://weather.gov/rgv)

**Figure 15.** December-February mean 500-mb steering pattern (~18,000 ft.). High pressure ridge had flattened as is typical in winter, but still remained in play across northern Mexico and far south Texas, the key driver of the expected top-ten warmest and for many, top-ten driest winter on record. While there was the expected freeze/hard freeze window between January 18 and 27, the vast majority of cold air slid east-southeast from the arctic through the upper Midwest, Great Lakes, and northeast U.S.

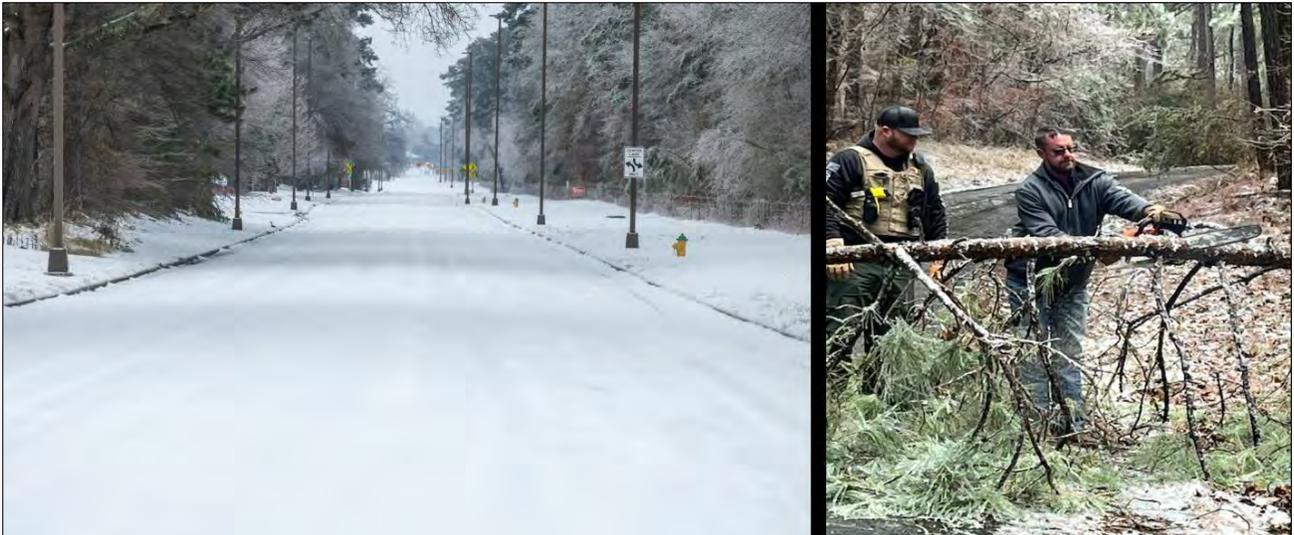
## East Texas Regional Summary

### Mostly Warm and Dry conditions bring on Drought

*By: Davyon Hill (Lead Meteorologist/National Weather Service-Shreveport)*

The start of winter 2025-2026 for East Texas looked promising from a precipitation perspective, as the region saw widespread rainfall during the first four days of the month. Unfortunately, the remainder of the month of December was characterized by dry weather and above normal temperatures. In fact, several temperature records were set during the last 10 days of the month at National Weather Service climate locations, including the all-time highest December temperature of 85° at Texarkana, and the second all-time highest December temperatures of 83° at both Tyler and Longview.

Dry conditions, along with record warmth at National Weather Service climate sites, continued across East Texas through the first eight days of January, before a cold front moved into the region on the 9th. This front brought cooler temperatures, along with much needed rainfall. Nearly all of our CoCoRaHS sites recorded precipitation with this front, with many recording between 1" to 2" of rain. Unluckily, dry conditions return across the region for another stretch of days, until a cold front brought a return of widespread rainfall on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month. Behind this system is where the weather pattern took a drastic shift. A strong cold front arrived during the afternoon and evening hours of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, bringing an arctic airmass to the region. Behind the front, a surface low formed along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf coasts and several upper-level disturbances moved across the region. This resulted in a few rounds of wintry precipitation over most of East Texas on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Most of the precipitation fell in the form of sleet, although our Deep East Texas counties saw a significant amount of freezing rain as well. Many locations near and north of Interstate 20 saw sleet accumulations from 1" to 4", with areas across Deep East Texas seeing freezing rain amounts ranging from ½" to ¾". This event paralyzed to region for the following week due to icy roads area wide, along with widespread power outages across Deep East Texas.

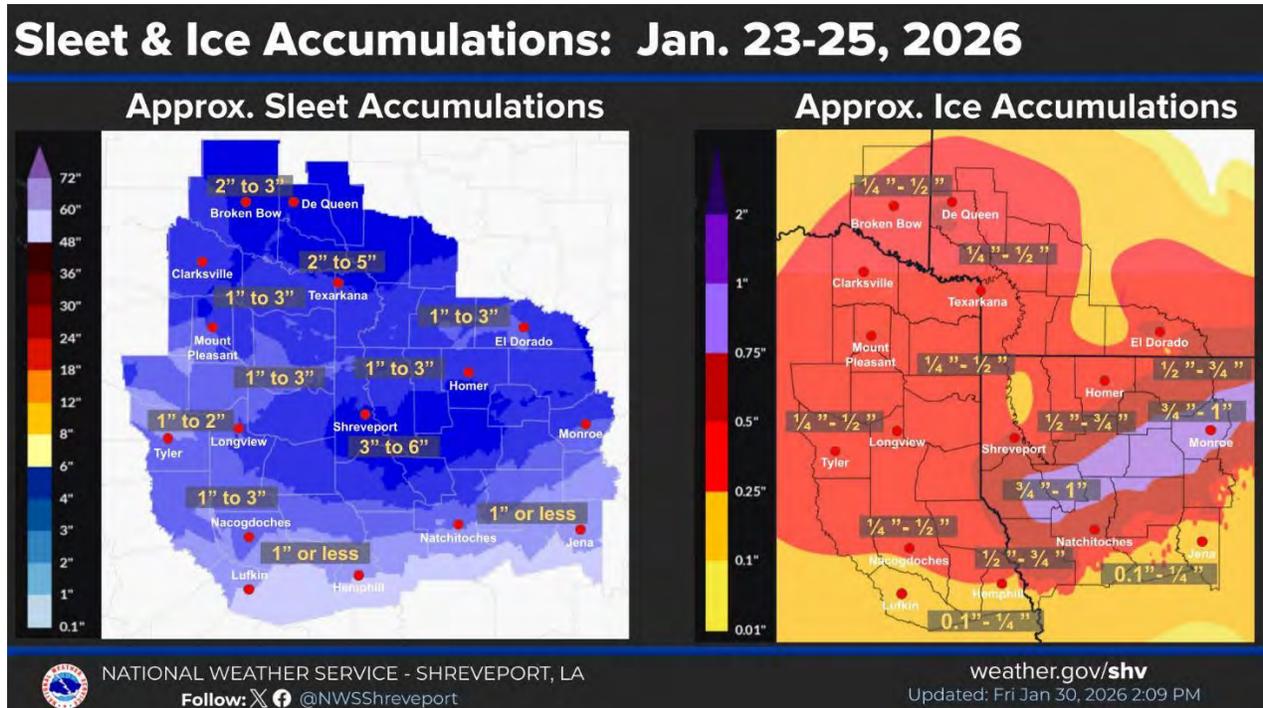


**Fig.1: Sleet/Ice Photos – January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Winter Storm**

**Left:** Sleet covered road, Texarkana, TX – (Courtesy of TXK Today)

**Right:** Freezing rain causing downed trees, Sabine County TX (Courtesy of Sabine Sheriff Dept.)

East Texas Regional Summary (continued)



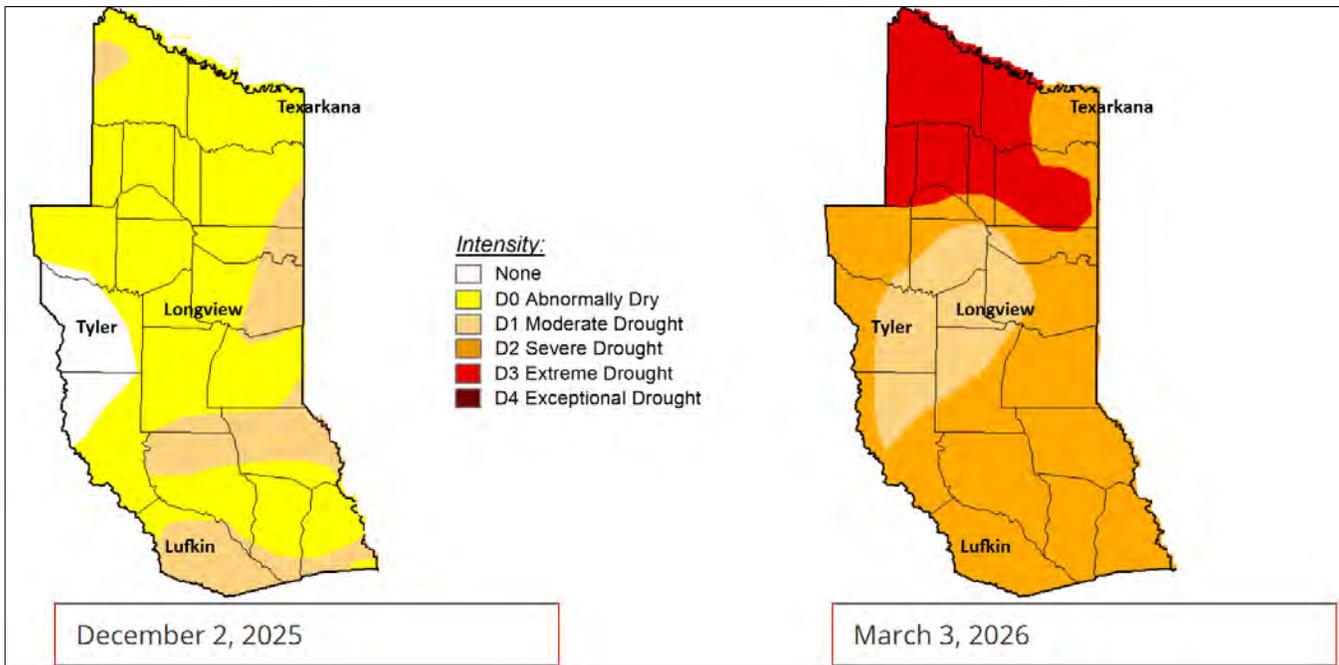
**Fig.2: Total Sleet & Ice Accumulations – January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Image Courtesy of National Weather Service - Shreveport**

Dry conditions return to the region in wake of the winter storm with rain not returning until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February with the passage of a cold front. Although precipitation amounts were generally around a 0.10” at most locations, a couple of sites in southern San Augustine County produced 1.06” and 2.53” respectively. Outside of the 1”-2” rainfall event with the passage of an upper-level trough on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>, which did produce some severe weather, including a brief EF-1 tornado in Shelby County, dry and above normal conditions dominated the month. Because of the dry conditions throughout the winter months, severe and extreme drought conditions developed across the region.

East Texas Regional Summary (continued)



**Fig.3: Shelby County EF-1 Tornado – February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
Snapped trees at a residence about 6 miles NE of Center, TX  
**Images Courtesy of the National Weather Service - Shreveport**



**Fig.4: Drought Monitor**  
Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 – Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
**Image Courtesy of National Drought Mitigation Center**

## North Texas Regional Summary

### Most of North Texas Very Dry this Season

*By Greg Story, North Texas CoCoRaHS Regional Coordinator*

Reviewing the weather of the past several months, in July there was much above normal rainfall across Central Texas. The remainder of the state experienced near to below normal amounts. In August above normal rainfall fell over northern and eastern Texas, as well as over portions of the Hill Country. There was near to below normal precipitation elsewhere in the state. In September most of Texas was dry with below normal rainfall. A small part of extreme North Texas and the far west portions had above normal precipitation. In October it continued to be dry over most of the state, especially over Deep South Texas. In November there was above normal rainfall from west central into north central parts of the state. Meanwhile there was near to below normal rainfall over the remainder of Texas. In December it was very dry across most of Texas with below normal precipitation. Only did Deep South Texas have near normal precipitation near the Gulf coast. In January 2026 it continued to be dry over southern and eastern Texas, but some areas over the western parts received above normal precipitation. In February it continued to be dry over most of Texas except for a few locations over west Texas.

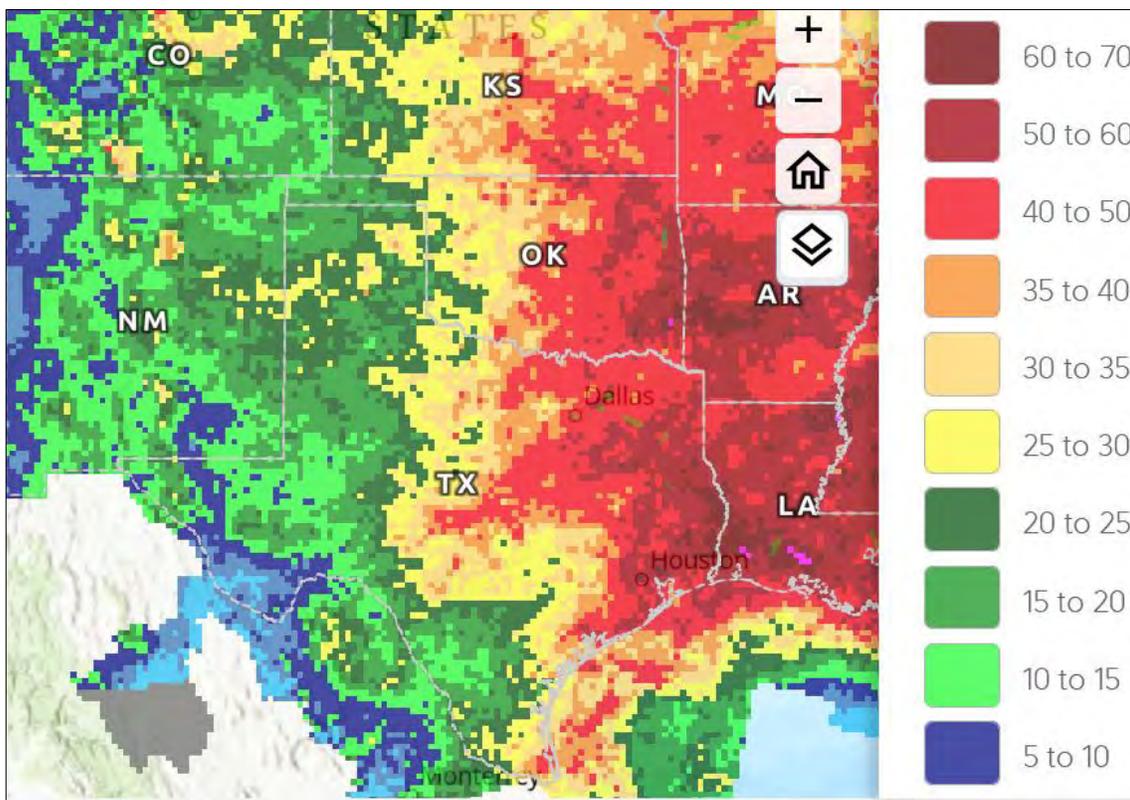
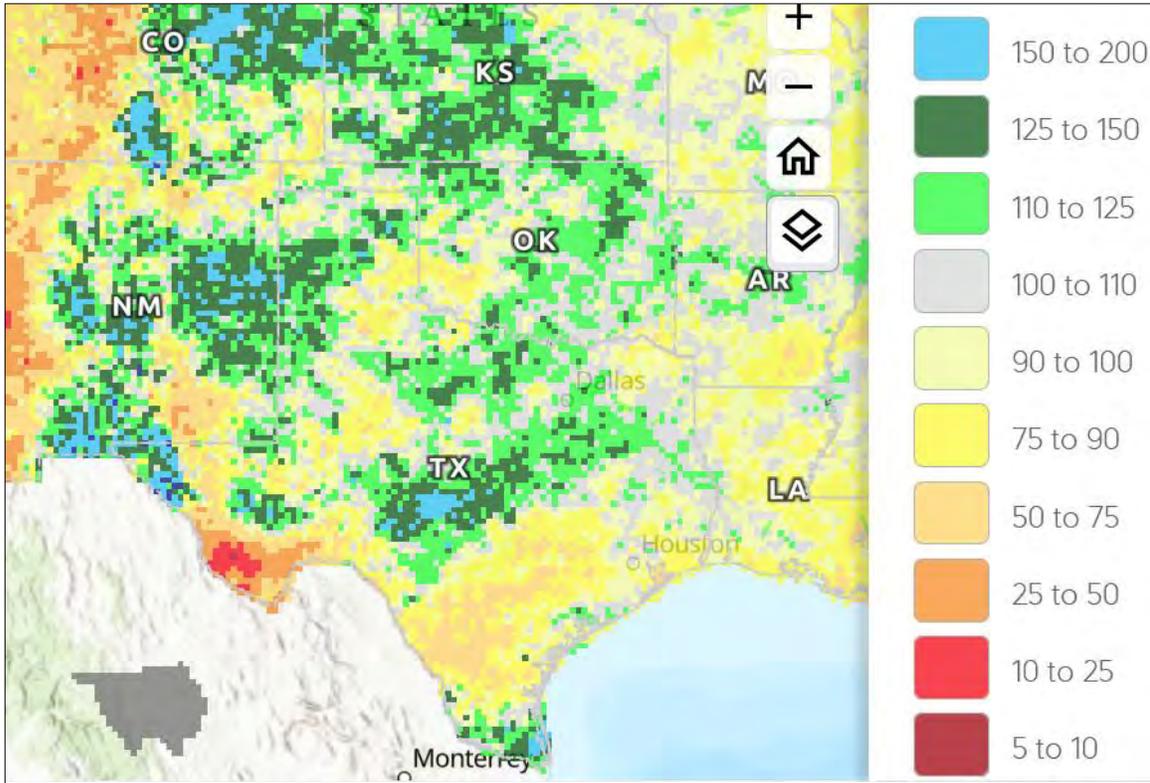


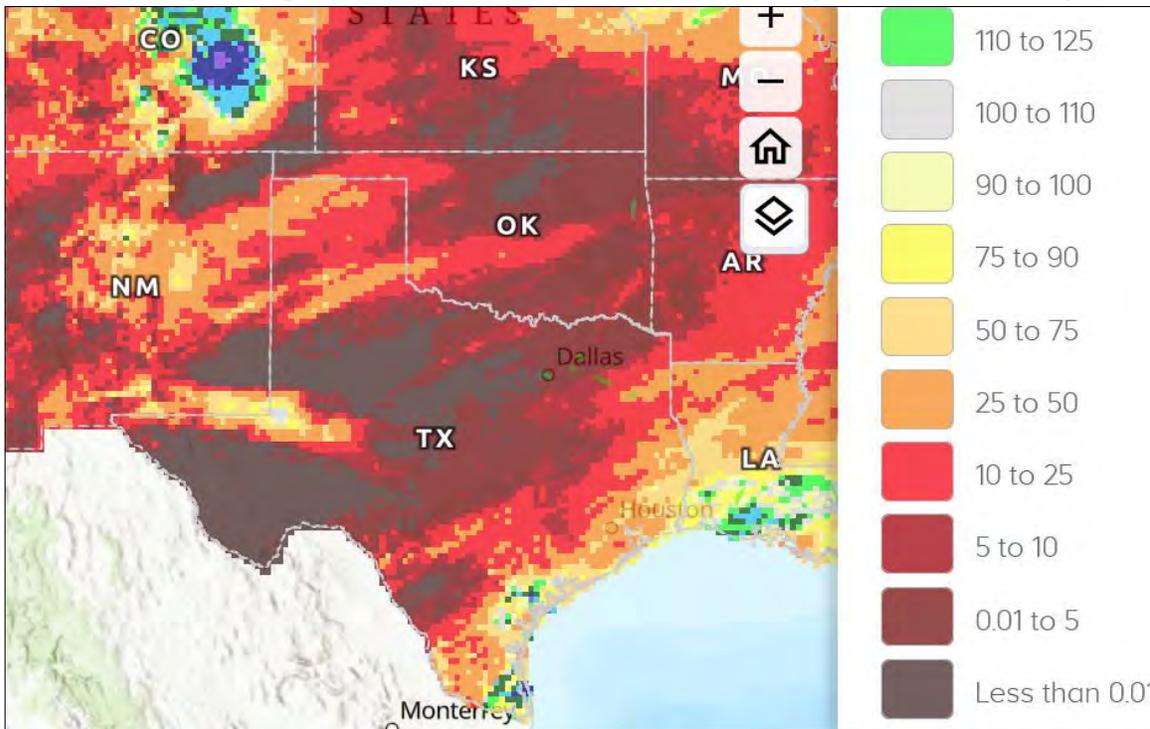
Figure 1: Observed precipitation amounts for 2025.

### North Texas Regional Summary (continued)



**Figure 2: Percent of Normal Precipitation map for 2025.** Note the area in the Texas Hill Country had the highest percentage above normal (4<sup>th</sup> of July floods), while most of the remainder of Texas had near to below normal amounts.

For the calendar year 2025 DFW airport received 38.31” of precipitation. The normal January through December amount is 37.01” so DFW was +1.30” above normal for the year. For 2025 Waco received 36.35” of precipitation. The normal January through December amount is 36.40” this is very close to a normal year in Waco at -0.05”.



**Figure 3: Percent of Normal Precipitation for December 2025.** The dark green, blue and purple colors indicate above normal precipitation; the beige, yellow and light green colors indicate near normal, while the orange, red, dark red and brown colors indicate below normal precipitation. In December it was very dry across most of Texas with below normal precipitation. Only did Deep South Texas have near normal precipitation near the Gulf coast.

## North Texas Regional Summary (continued)

At DFW airport in December 2025 there was 0.08" of rainfall. The normal amount of rainfall in December at DFW is 2.84" so this is -2.76" much below normal for the month. DFW experienced its 6th driest December on record with their monthly precipitation total of 0.08". The driest December in DFW was in 1950 when only a Trace was recorded. So DFW had the driest December in 75 years.

In Waco for December 2025, there was 0.13" of precipitation. The normal amount of rain in Waco for December is 2.87" so this is much below normal at -2.74" for December. Waco had its 7th driest December on record with a monthly precipitation of 0.13". The driest Decembers in Waco were in 1916, 1917, and 1922 when only a Trace was observed.

For each month, I will highlight the more significant weather events. I know I am giving you a lot of information, and it is my intent for you to pick your "favorite" storm or to look at a particular date each month to see what happened. Which days did you report your heaviest precipitation amounts? You can read about those days here and compare what you observed against the maximum amounts.

There were two storm systems which affected our weather in December. Here are the highlights of the weather for the month.

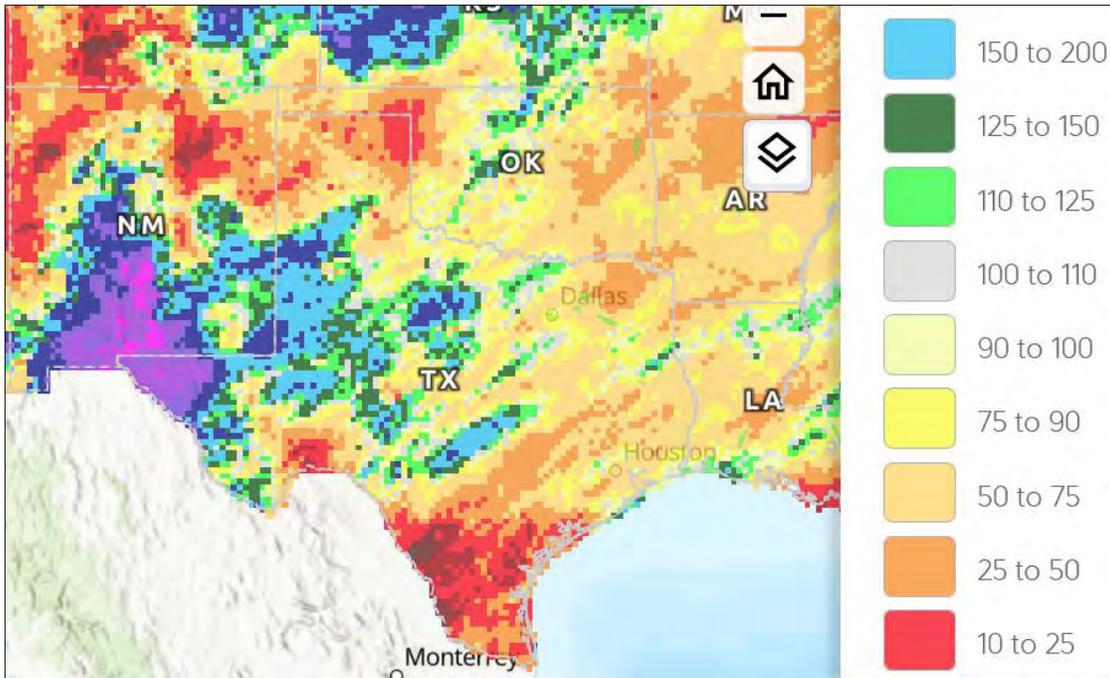
### December 1:

A cold front moved rapidly across Texas on the 1st. Most of the rainfall which occurred with the passage of the front was light, however in Southeast Texas there was 1.85" north northwest of Beaumont and 1.65" west northwest of Lumberton.

### December 3 - 5:

An upper air low pressure system moved from west to east across Texas from the 3rd through the 5th. Ahead of this low, showers and a few thunderstorms developed over the southeast third of Texas on the 3rd. Additionally, snow fell over the Texas panhandle behind a cold front. Light precipitation moved into North Texas late on the 3rd into the 4th, which included some reports of sleet along the Red River. The maximum rainfall reports on the 3rd were over Southeast Texas where 2.71" fell at Newton and 2.67" was measured at McFadden. The rainfall became even lighter and more scattered as a cold front crossed Texas on the 4th into the morning of the 5th. The precipitation reports were light on the 4th, with 0.44" reported at Logansport LA and 0.36" observed at Marshall. The remaining rainfall on the 5th was confined to the Gulf coast and was light.

## North Texas Regional Summary (continued)



**Figure 4: January 2026 percent of Normal Precipitation map.** The dark green, blue and purple colors indicate above normal precipitation; the light yellow and light green colors indicate near normal, while the brown, orange, red and dark red colors indicate below normal precipitation. In January 2026 it continued to be dry over southern and eastern Texas, but some areas over the western parts received above normal precipitation.

At DFW airport in January 2026 there was 0.93" of precipitation. The normal amount of precipitation in January at DFW is 2.53" so this is -1.60" below normal for the month. This total included 2.4" of snow. The normal amount of snow in January is 0.1".

In Waco for January 2026, there was 1.47" of precipitation. The normal amount of precipitation in Waco for January is 2.59" so this is -1.12" below normal for the month. This included 0.3" of snow. In a normal January, Waco doesn't receive measurable snowfall.

There were four storm systems which affected our weather in January. Here are the highlights of the weather for the month.

January 8:

A strong upper level low pressure system passed north of Texas on the 8th. Since the main forcing from this storm was to our north, very little rainfall occurred. However, this storm did push a dryline across North and Central Texas which produced a few showers and thunderstorms. Prior to dawn on the 8th, they received almost 0.50" northwest of Knox City. The rainfall measured during the day on the 8th was all less than 0.25".

January 9 - 10:

A second low pressure system developed on the 9th over the Oklahoma panhandle. This storm pushed a strong cold front across Texas late on the 9th and into the 10th. Well out ahead of this low, more organized showers and thunderstorms developed. They formed over Central Texas by the late morning of the 9th, and this rain moved into much of eastern Texas during the afternoon and nighttime hours. Most rainfall amounts over North Texas on the 9th were under 0.50". But elsewhere in the state they received 2.33" southwest of Diboll and 2.19" at Hawkins. The rain pretty much ended early on the 10th except for extreme South Texas. In those locations the residual rainfall amounts were very light.

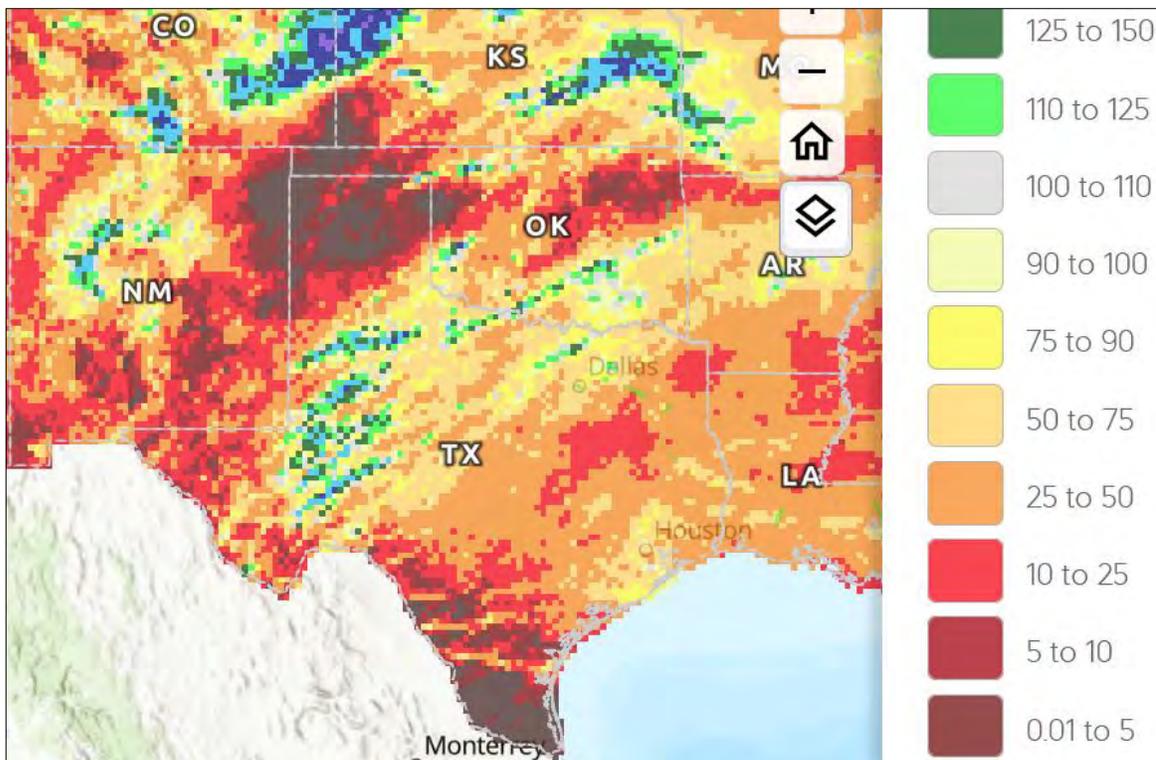
## North Texas Regional Summary (continued)

January 21:

A weak upper air disturbance passed through Texas which generated some showers, especially over the southeast half of the state. The maximum rainfall was 3.00" at McFadden and 1.81" north northwest of High Island.

January 23 – 25:

An arctic cold front passed through Texas on the 23rd, bringing the coldest temperatures of the winter season. Ahead of the front rain developed before dawn on the 23rd over the southwest half of Texas. The rain was heaviest over the lower Rio Grande valley where 1.30" fell at Raymondville and 0.42" at Progresso. Meanwhile, a strong upper level low pressure system moved east from Baja California late on the 23rd into the 24th and produced widespread precipitation. It began as light rain over the state on the 23rd, but as cold air rushed in a mixture of snow, freezing rain and sleet developed late on the 23rd into the 24th. Very heavy rainfall occurred over the Texas Hill Country, with 4.95" falling north of Medina and 4.56" southwest of Kerrville. Meanwhile, a couple inches of snow fell over northwest Texas. Over North Texas on the 23rd the heaviest water equivalent precipitation amounts were 1.72" west southwest of Mertens on Richland Creek and 1.70" at Hillsboro. Widespread precipitation continued through the 24th, with rain over East Texas and a wintry mixture elsewhere. Over East and Southeast Texas, they received 4.37" at Logansport on the Texas border with Louisiana and 3.86" at Freeport. North Texas was in general 1 - 3" of sleet and snow on the 24th, with the maximum amount being 6.5" in Callisburg in Cooke County. And some freezing rain occurred especially across Central Texas. All the heavier precipitation moved out of Texas by the morning of the 25th. Some light snow lingered over especially North Texas, during the day on the 25th. A daily record snowfall of 0.9" was set at Dallas Fort Worth on the 25th. This broke the old record of 0.1" set in 1949. And in Waco the daily record snowfall of a Trace was tied on the 25th. The record snowfall of a Trace was last recorded in 1948. Residual precipitation totals (snow water equivalent) for the 25th in Texas included 1.89" northeast of Town Bluff at B A Steinhagen Lake and 0.96" southwest of Mexia.



**Figure 5: Percent of normal precipitation map for February 2026.** The dark green, blue and purple colors indicate above normal precipitation; the beige, light yellow and light green colors indicate near normal, while the brown, orange, red and dark red colors indicate below normal precipitation. In February it continued to be dry with below normal precipitation over most of Texas except for a few locations over the west.

## North Texas Regional Summary (continued)

At DFW airport in February 2026 there was 1.31" of precipitation. The normal amount of precipitation in February is 2.76" so DFW was -1.45" below normal for the month.

In Waco for February 2026, there was 0.65" of precipitation. The normal amount of rain in Waco for February is 2.68" so this is -2.03" much below normal for the month.

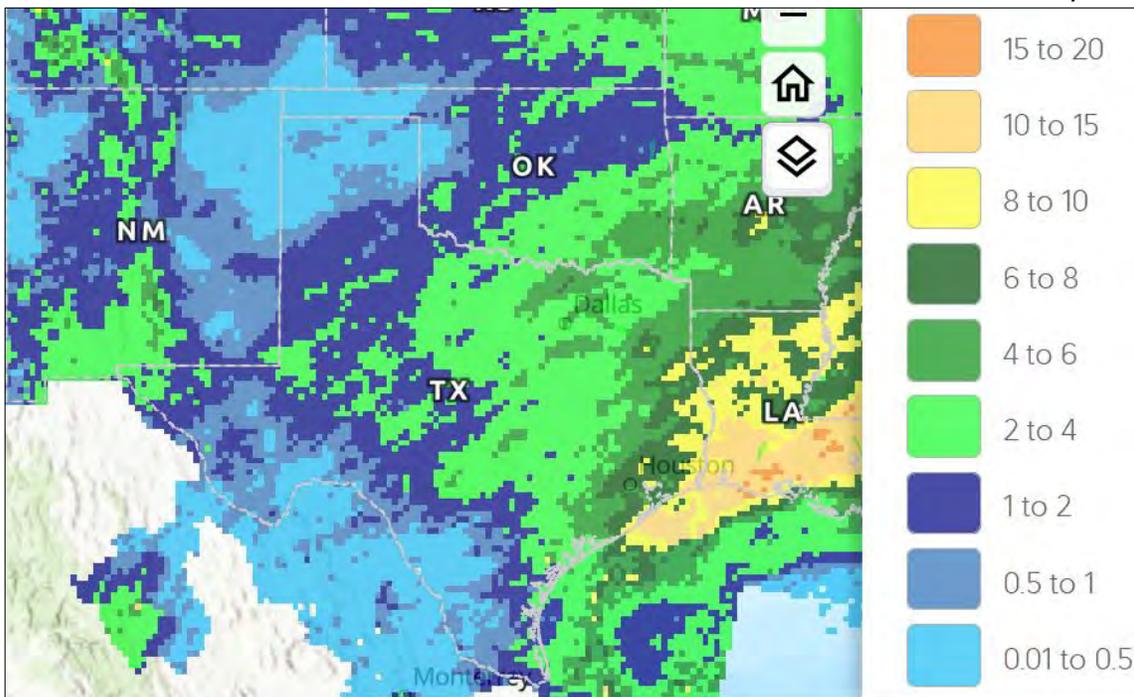
There were two significant storm systems which affected our weather in February. Here are the highlights of the weather for the month:

February 3:

A cold front moved across Texas on the 3rd. As the front encountered better moisture it produced some showers and thunderstorms, particularly over Southeast Texas. The heaviest rainfall totals on the 3rd were 1.96" south southwest of Friendswood and 1.63" at Arcola.

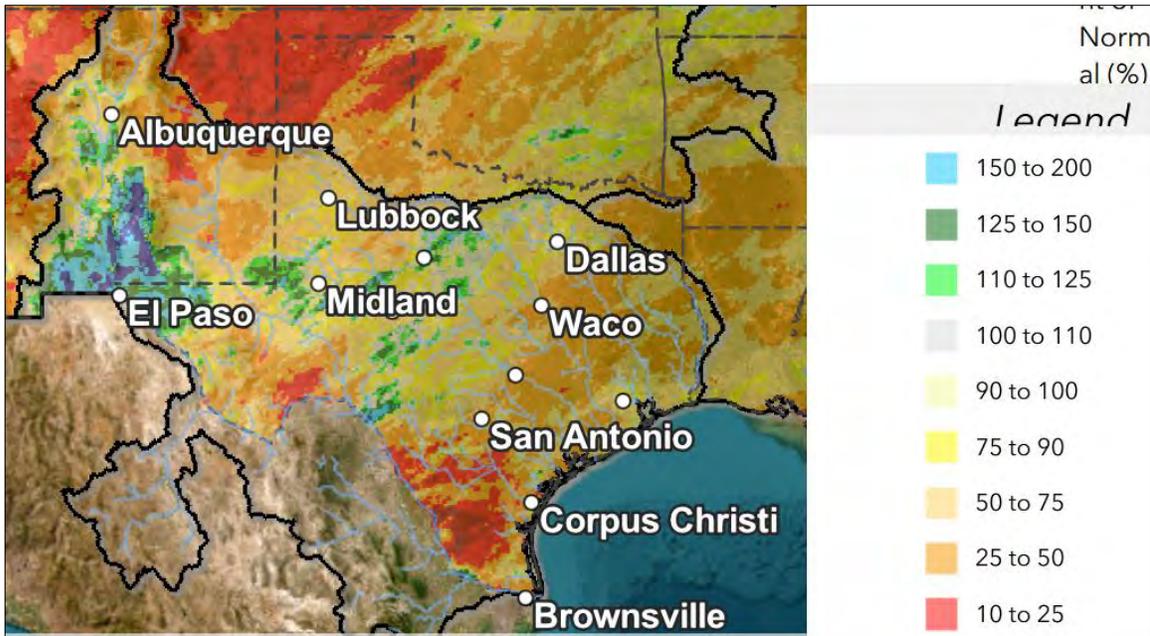
February 13 - 15:

A rather strong upper level low pressure system moved out of the western US and across Texas from the 13th through the 15th. Showers and thunderstorms initially developed during the afternoon and evening on the 13th over west Texas. The maximum rainfall amounts on the 13th were 1.55" southwest of Dickens and 1.48" southeast of Lamesa. The showers and thunderstorms progressed eastward during the day on the 14th, and there was some locally very heavy rainfall north and northeast of the DFW metroplex. Three to four inches fell from Grayson into Fannin counties, with the maximum being 4.12" northwest of Sherman. There was 2.85" east northeast of Decatur. At the DFW airport a daily record rainfall record of 1.30" was set for February 14 (wettest Valentine's Day of record). This broke the old record of 1.19" set in 2017. The showers and storms moved out of Texas in the very early morning hours of the 15th.



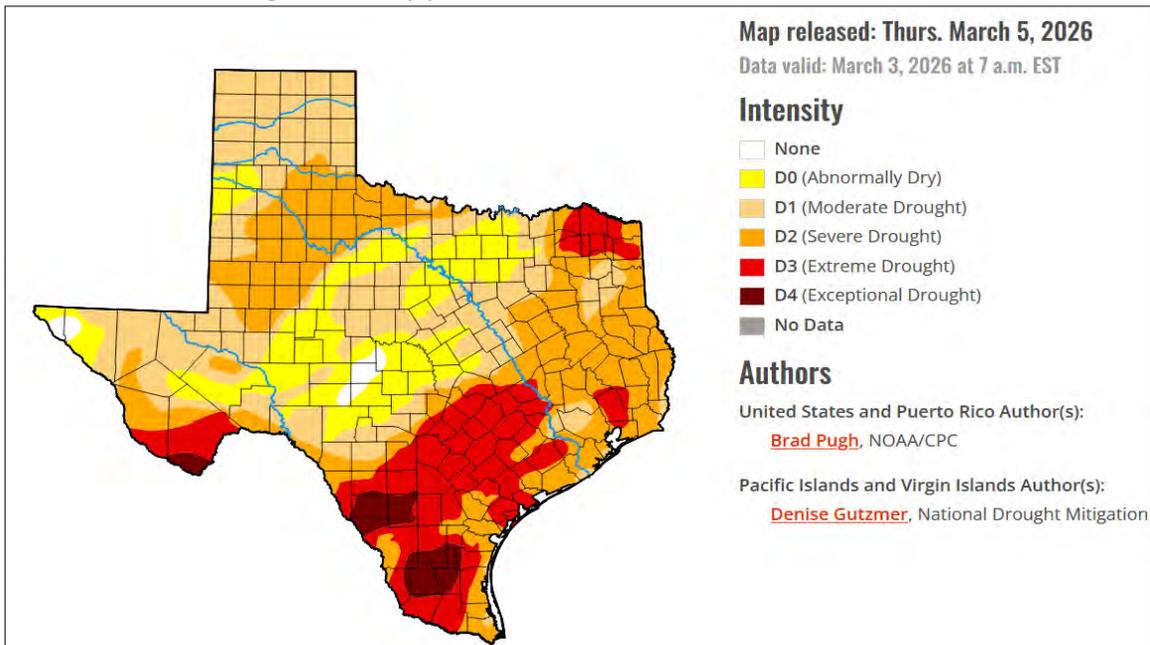
**Figure 6: Winter season observed precipitation map for 2025-26.** The red, brown, and tan colors indicate the higher precipitation totals, while the light green, navy and light blue colors show the lightest amounts. Note that extreme southeastern Texas experienced the heaviest rainfall for the season.

North Texas Regional Summary (continued)



**Figure 7: Percent of Normal Precipitation map for winter 2025-26.** The purple, blue and dark green colors indicate above normal precipitation. The brown, orange, and red colors indicate below normal amounts. As you can see, it was a dry winter season for much of Texas except for a couple parts of west Texas. It was severely dry over the Deep South portions of the state.

At DFW airport for the December through February winter season there was 2.32” of rainfall. The normal amount of precipitation for winter at DFW is 8.13” so this is -5.81” much below normal for the season. DFW had its 11th driest winter of record. In Waco for the winter season, there was 2.25” of rainfall. The normal amount of precipitation for the December through February period is 8.14” so there was -5.89” much below normal for the season.



**Figure 8: Current Drought Monitor for Texas as of March 5.** The results of the wet weather of the past show up fairly well on this drought monitor, with moist soil moisture conditions over parts of the Texas Hill Country and far west Texas. But the results of the lack of significant precipitation from this past fall and winter show up well over much of Texas. The areas in Texas that are abnormally dry (or worse) increased from 76% to 99% in the past three months. This means only 1% of the state has moist soil moisture conditions. About 82% of the state is experiencing some level of drought. Portions of the Big Bend region of Texas, the lower Rio Grande valley and Deep South Texas are experiencing the worst drought category, which is exceptional drought, and it covers 3% of the state.

## North Texas Regional Summary (continued)

Thanks again for your dedication in making all your weather observations! I'd like to share a few reminders in closing. First, we know there will be days you may not be home to report your 24-hour observations. Upon your return, you can make a multi-day accumulation report. Simply submit the total amount of precipitation in your gage that fell while you were away. There is a link on the CoCoRaHS reporting page you can use for this purpose (multi-day accumulation under the "enter my new reports" column). See below. Second, all CoCoRaHS data is quality controlled each day. The intent is for us to recognize reporting errors that may occur. So, one of us may contact you on occasion in case we have any question about one of your reports. If you have difficulty making your observations or have questions on how to report them, please feel free to contact me or your county coordinator. Third, be confident in knowing your rainfall reports are used every day. As one example, CoCoRaHS data is incorporated by the National Weather Service at the West Gulf River Forecast Center for use in their soil moisture accounting flood forecasting models. So please continue to submit your reports. The more rainfall reports that are collected, the better the chances of determining the highest rainfall totals during rainfall events and the potential for flooding. And when it doesn't rain on a particular day, please report zero. Your zero reports make it easier to determine the exact location of and the magnitude of drought. Plus, when you report zero rainfall on the days it did not rain, it keeps you in the habit of reporting each day.

Thanks to all of you!

Greg Story

### Multi-Day Precipitation Form

If you are away on vacation or out of town this is the form for you.

Just put in the dates that you were gone and record what you found in the gauge.

There is no need to file an additional daily report.

**CoCoRaHS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK**  
"Because every drop counts"

Home | States | View Data | Maps      My Data | My Account | Admin | Logout

**My Data Entry : Multi-Day Precipitation Report Form**

**Multiple Day Accumulation Form**      Submit Data      Reset

Station Number : CO-LR-610

Station Name : Fort Collins 3.5 SW

5/20/2014      First day of accumulation period. This day should be one day after your last report.

5/27/2014      Date the rain gauge was emptied.

8:00 AM      Time the rain gauge was emptied.

Yes  No Report was taken at registered location?

2.15 in. Multi Day Precipitation (in inches), or T for trace, or NA for unknown.

in. Total Depth of Snow on Ground (in inches)

in. Core Precipitation (in inches)

**Notes**

Was away for a week. Looks like we had some beneficial rain while we were on vacation!

Submit Data      Reset

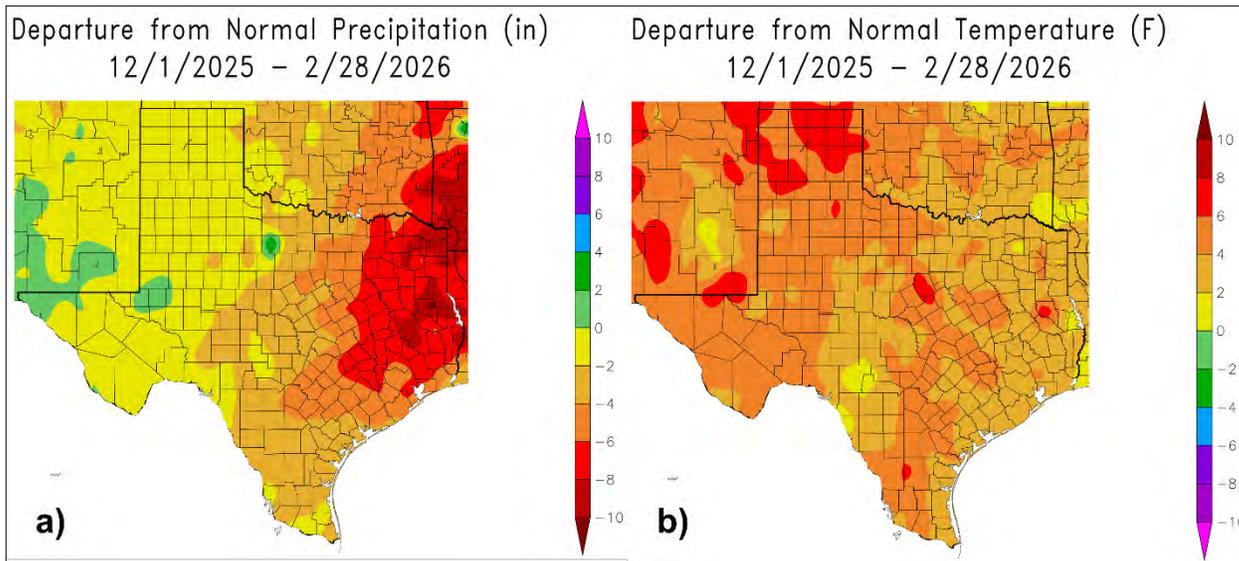
**Figure 9: Multi-Day Precipitation Report Form.** Learn about all the different reports we have on our website.

## Wichita Falls Regional Summary

### Dry Conditions Take Hold This Winter

*By Charles Kuster, Meteorologist for the National Severe Storms Laboratory*

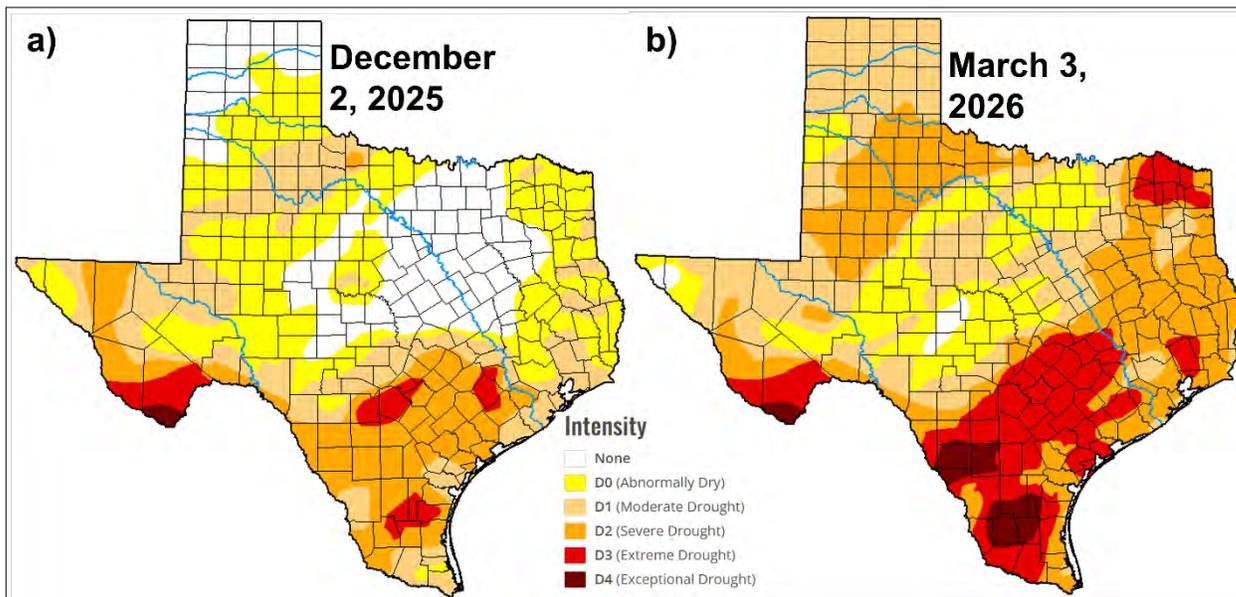
Our region experienced below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures this winter (Figure 1). The season started off especially dry with every single day in December being a dry day (all CoCoRaHS stations reported less than 0.05"). Across our region and across much of Texas, we saw less than 25% of our normal precipitation for the season. We saw only three wet days (at least one CoCoRaHS station reported 0.05" or more) in January, but two of those days were wet due to snowfall in the area. On January 23–24, CoCoRaHS stations in the Wichita Falls area reported 1–3" of snow, while CoCoRaHS stations in Foard County reported around 2" of snow.



**Figure 1.** Departure from normal a) precipitation and b) temperature for the beginning of December 2025 through the end of February 2026. Warm colors indicate below normal precipitation (a) and above normal temperatures (b), while cool colors indicate above normal precipitation (a) and below normal temperatures (b).

## Wichita Falls Regional Summary (continued)

February also saw only three wet days with the heaviest precipitation occurring during the 24-hour period ending at 7am on February 14<sup>th</sup>. In total, our region saw 84 dry days and 6 wet days this winter. For comparison, our region saw 77 dry days and 13 wet days last winter. Due to the dry winter conditions, drought has intensified in our area, with a majority of the area now experiencing severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (available at <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>). With all of the dry days, we want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who sent in so many 0.00 reports this winter. These data are valuable for tracking things like drought development.



**Figure 2.** Change in the U.S. Drought Monitor from near the beginning of the winter (left) to near the end of the winter (right)

## Abilene/San Angelo Regional Summary

### One-In-A-Century Dry Spell

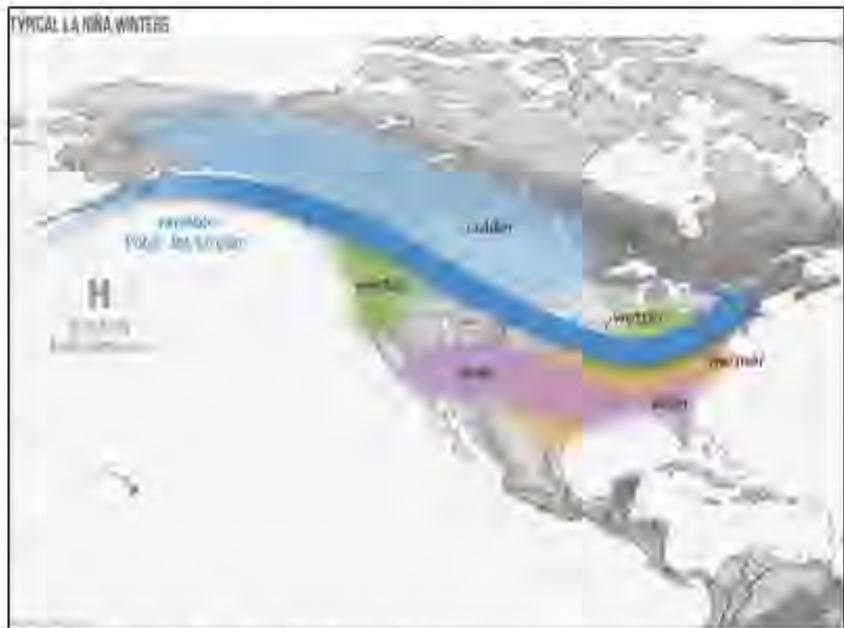
By Joel Dunn – Observation Program Lead, NWS Abilene/San Angelo

#### December 2025

---

Looking back at December 2025, the data confirms what many of us felt while wearing shorts to holiday dinners: it was an exceptionally warm and dry month. Across West Central Texas, average temperatures soared 5 to 6°F above normal. This wasn't just a mild stretch; it was a sustained period of unseasonable warmth that redefined our expectations for early winter, driven by a persistent ridge of high pressure that refused to budge.

The primary architect of this weather story was a persistent La Niña pattern. In our neck of the woods, La Niña typically acts as a gatekeeper, pushing the jet stream further north and leaving the Southern Plains warmer and drier than average. We saw this classic setup play out in real-time as storm systems were steered well away from us, leaving our local atmosphere stagnant and parched.



**Image 1** - Illustration of a typical La Nina winter

The holiday season provided the "peak" of this warmth, with record temperatures on Christmas Day. Abilene hit 81°F, tying its warmest Christmas on record. San Angelo reached 82°F, securing its second-warmest Christmas on record (falling short of the 86°F mark set in 2021), while Junction landed its 6th warmest Christmas. It was certainly more "sunblock" than "snowmen" for families across the area.

---

Abilene/San Angelo Regional Summary (continued)

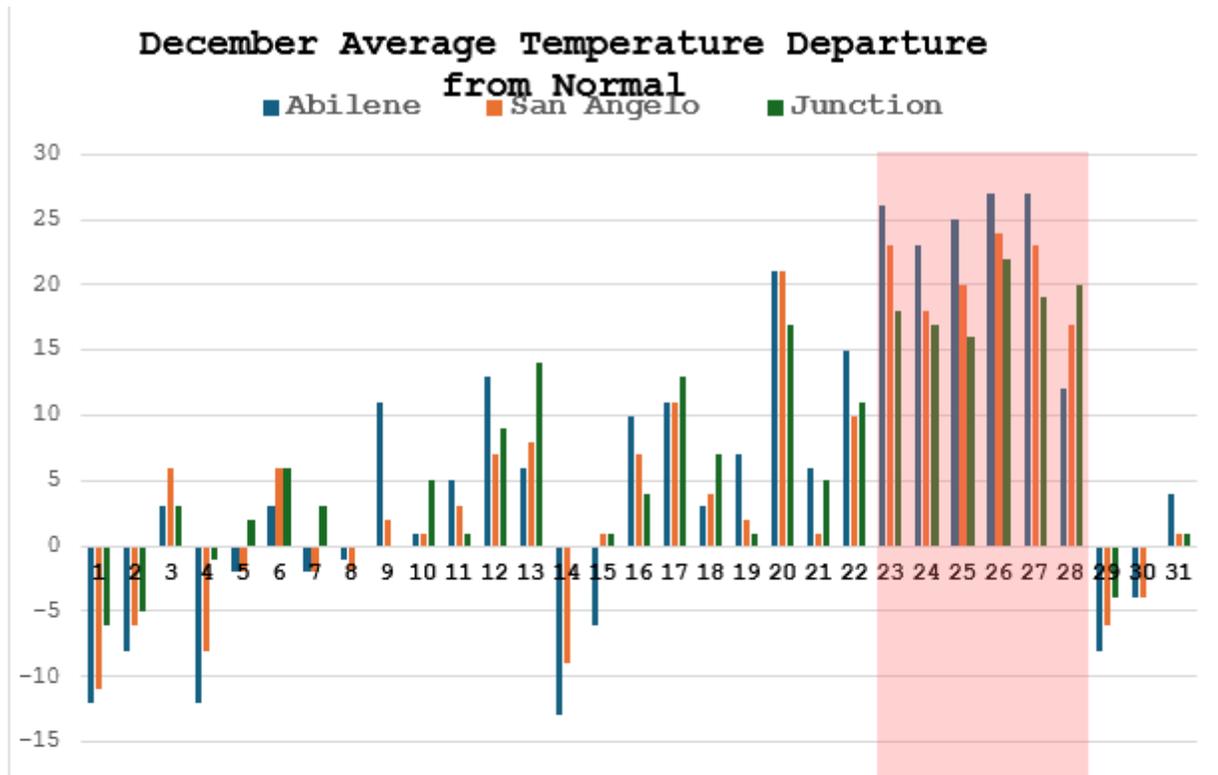


Chart 1 - December Daily Departure from Normal

On the moisture front, the numbers were frankly staggering—or rather, the lack thereof. We ended the month well below normal for precipitation, with deficits exceeding an inch in most spots. San Angelo and Junction scraped by with a mere 0.01” of rainfall. When you see totals that low, you aren't looking at a rainy day; you're looking at a light drizzle that barely registered on the gauges.

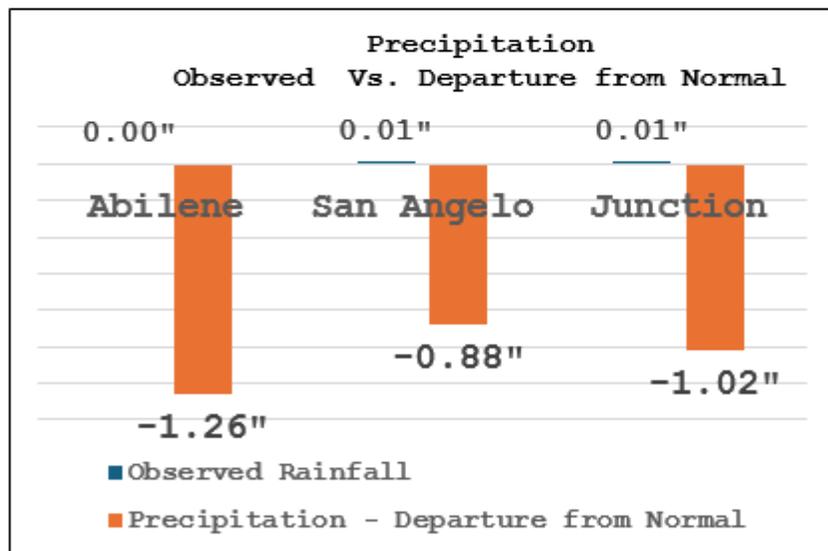


Chart 2 - December Precipitation vs. Departure from Normal

However, the most historic headline belongs to Abilene, which recorded 0.00” of rainfall for the entire month. To put that into perspective, Abilene’s records go back to 1886, and a bone-dry December has only happened once before—all the way back in 1908. We have just lived through a one-in-a-century dry spell that will likely have lingering effects on our soil moisture as we head deeper into 2026.

### Abilene/San Angelo Regional Summary (continued)

#### January 2026

If December was the month winter forgot, January was the month it came back with a vengeance. While the overall dry pattern remained a concern for much of the month, the persistent high-pressure ridge finally broke down, allowing a brutal Arctic cold front to plunge deep into West Central Texas. This wasn't just a brief cool-down; it was a wholesale change in the air mass that transformed our dusty landscapes into a frozen, white-and-grey landscape.

The arrival of the Arctic air coincided with a surge of Pacific moisture, resulting in a complex mess of frozen precipitation. For several days, travel across the region ground to a halt as sleet, snow, and freezing rain coated the roadways. San Angelo saw significant impacts, recording nearly an inch of mixed frozen precipitation. Meanwhile, the Big Country felt the brunt of the storm, as Abilene measured a more substantial 2.5" of sleet and snow.

This winter event wasn't just notable for its ice; it was historically cold. The temperature plummeted so dramatically that San Angelo experienced its 8th coldest January day on record, while Abilene recorded its 15th coldest. These rankings are impressive given the century-plus of data we have for both cities. After the record heat of Christmas, the sudden transition to sub-freezing daytime highs was a shock to both the local infrastructure and the surrounding agricultural environment.

Interestingly, this single winter storm essentially *was* the month's weather. Because the rest of January remained so parched, the precipitation gathered during those few days of sleet, snow, and freezing rain ended up being the entire total for the month. It's a classic example of "all or nothing" Texas weather, where a single significant event has to do the heavy lifting for the entire 31-day period.

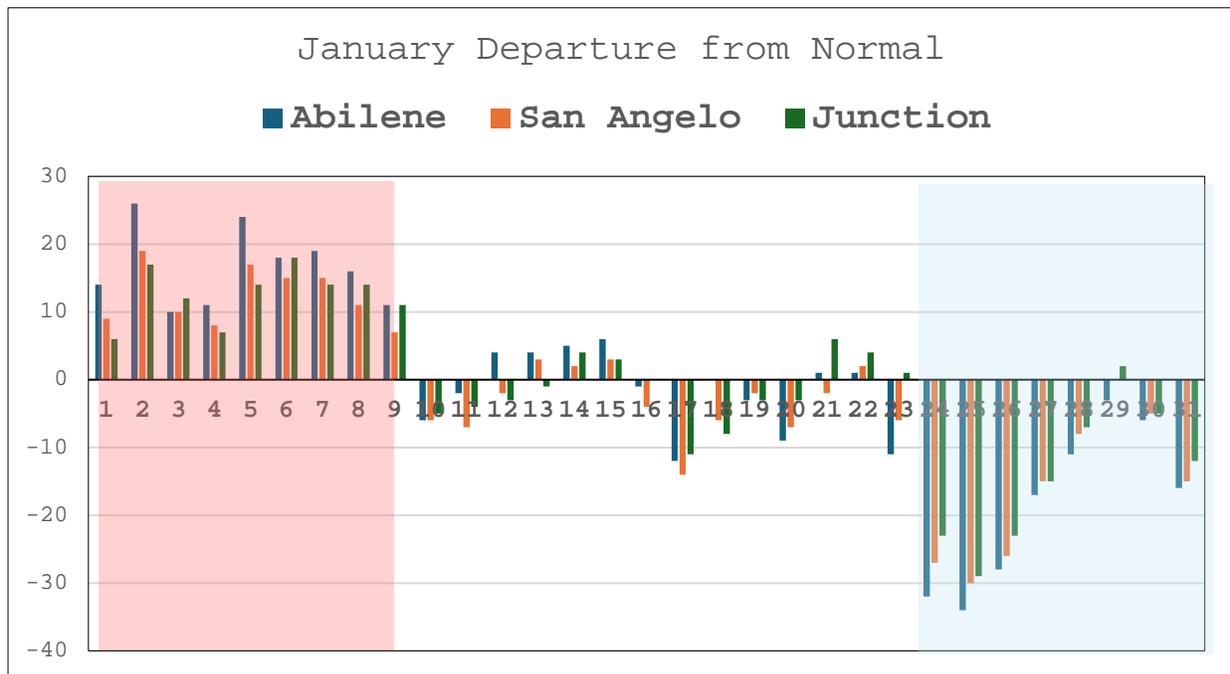


Chart 1 - January Daily Departure from Normal

## Abilene/San Angelo Regional Summary (continued)

Ultimately, the sheer intensity of this Arctic blast acted as a powerful statistical balancer. The cold was so extreme and the moisture so concentrated that it dragged the monthly averages back toward climatological normal. Despite starting the month with a warm-and-dry bias, the final numbers for January 2026 ended up near normal for both temperature and precipitation. It was a wild, icy ride that proved winter wasn't finished with us just yet.

February 2026

---

The calendar may have said February, but the afternoon high temperatures across West Central Texas were screaming "late March." After the brief icy interlude of January, the atmosphere performed a complete 180-degree turn. The familiar dry, warm pattern we saw in December didn't just return; it intensified, effectively sidelining winter for the remainder of the season.

The numbers for the month are truly historic. West Central Texas finished a staggering 6 to 8°F above normal, a departure that pushed the regional climate into uncharted territory. As a result, both Abilene and San Angelo experienced their warmest February on record. This persistent heat was driven by a recurring thermal ridge that brought desert-like air into the Concho Valley and the Big Country, day after day.

City	Average Temperature	Departure from Normal
Abilene	58.5°	+8.4°
San Angelo	58.1°	+6.6°
Junction	58.4°	+6.1°

*Table 1 - February's Average Temperature and Departure from Normal*

Perhaps the most visible sign of this heat was in the local landscape. Despite the lack of significant rainfall, vegetation began to green up across the region. Grasses and early-season buds likely reacted to the unseasonably high afternoon temperatures rather than soil moisture. This "false spring" is a phenomenon we watch closely, as it leaves local flora vulnerable to any late-season freezes that might still occur in March.

On the precipitation front, the dry trend remained firmly in place. While the region felt parched, the actual statistical deficit wasn't as dramatic as what we saw in December. Because February is climatologically one of our driest months, the lack of rain resulted in a deficit of just over 0.50" below normal. In the world of climate statistics, it's a "dry month getting drier," which kept our drought concerns front and center.

City	Observed Precipitation	Departure from Normal
Abilene	0.96"	-0.33"
San Angelo	0.53"	-0.67"
Junction	0.50"	-0.62"

*Table 2 - February Observed Precipitation and Departure from Normal*

## Abilene/San Angelo Regional Summary (continued)

February 2026 served as a punctuation mark on a very unusual winter. With record-breaking heat and a landscape prematurely waking up, the transition into spring has started weeks ahead of schedule. We are now entering the windier months with a significant moisture debt and a temperature profile that looks more like April than the end of winter.

It has certainly been a winter of extremes for West Central Texas. To wrap up our look at the 2025-2026 season, I've put together a side-by-side comparison of these three very different months.

It's rare to see a "Top 2" warmest December followed immediately by an Arctic event that sets "Top 10" cold records, only to finish with the warmest February ever recorded. This "atmospheric whiplash" is a hallmark of a powerful La Niña influence battling with strong polar outbreaks.

<i>Feature</i>	<b>December 2025</b>	<b>January 2026</b>	<b>February 2026</b>
<i>Primary Theme</i>	Record-Breaking Warmth	Arctic Blast & Ice	Record February Heat
<i>Temp. Departure</i>	+5°F to +6°F	Near Normal (Overall)	+6°F to +8°F
<i>Precipitation</i>	Trace to 0.00"	Near Normal (All in 1 storm)	≈0.50" Below Normal
<i>Key Event</i>	Warmest Christmas (ABI: 81°F)	2.5" Sleet/Snow in Abilene	Warmest February on Record
<i>Landscape</i>	Dormant/Brown	Frozen/Icy	Early Green-up

*Table 3 - Winter 2025-2026 Summary of Events*

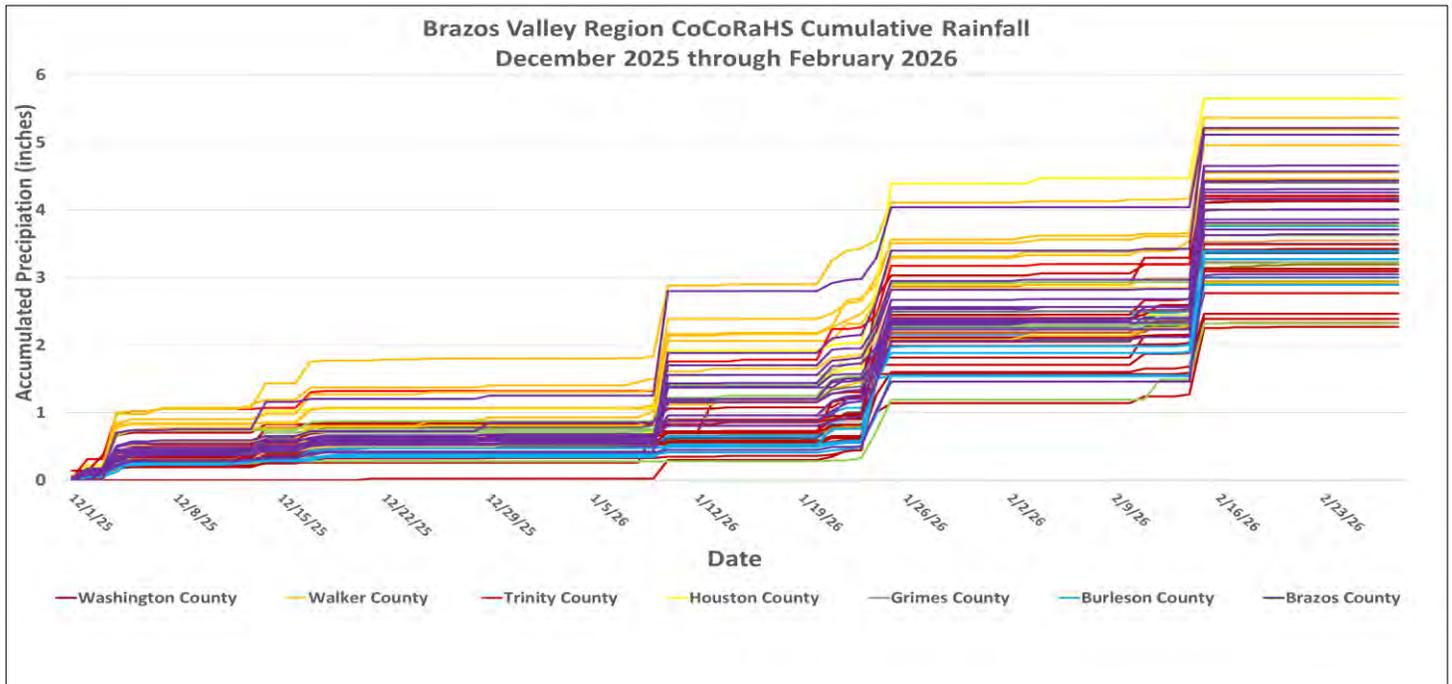
Looking ahead to spring, the big concern for meteorologists and agricultural producers alike is the moisture debt. We are entering our windier, higher-evaporation months with very little subsoil moisture. Additionally, that "Early Green-up" we saw in February is a double-edged sword; if we get a typical "late freeze" in March or April, it could be devastating to the vegetation that transitioned out of dormancy too early.

## Brazos Valley Regional Summary

### Winter 2025-2026 Precipitation Summary

#### Bryan-College Station / Brazos Valley Region, Texas

Preston Testerman, Texas A&M University, Office of the State Climatologist of Texas



#### Summary:

From December 1st through February 28th, the Brazos Valley region experienced a winter marked by dry stretches and several rainfall events. Much of December saw infrequent precipitation that was light in nature, which led only to gradual increases in seasonal totals. Rainfall events became more numerous in January, with a notable winter weather event affecting the Brazos Valley in mid-January. The most significant event of the season occurred in mid-February, when widespread rainfall brought one of the wettest periods of the winter season. This late season rainfall event accounted for a large share of the season's precipitation and was the last precipitation event of the season.

#### Observer Statistics:

A total of 61 CoCoRaHS stations across the Brazos Valley provided usable precipitation data for the winter 2025-2026 season. Observer participation remained valuable throughout the season, helping capture both the extended dry stretch and the active rainfall events that periodically occurred throughout the season. Twenty stations reported with no missing days, and an additional 17 stations missed fewer than three days out of the three-month-long season.

#### Season Statistics:

*Wettest Day:* 1.93", February 15th, Brazos County

*Wettest Seasonal Total:* 5.65", Houston County

*Driest Seasonal Total:* 2.00", Washington County

*Soggy Socks Award (Longest Wet Spell):* 6 days, January 21st - 26th, Burleson County

*Dusty Soles Award (Longest Dry Spell):* 37 days, December 15th - January 20th, Grimes County

### Southeast Texas Regional Summary

**Warm and Dry conditions continued overall with briefly Cold Temperatures in January**  
*By Ron Havran, Southeast Texas CoCoRaHS Regional Coordinator, HCFCO Hydrologist Technician*

#### December

This was the driest month of the winter season across Southeast Texas. All Southeast Texas was much below normal except for a few areas along the coastline from Jackson County over to the Golden Triangle. Amounts were the most in a few counties in the Golden Triangle such as Jasper and Orange. These rainfall totals were still below normal in these areas. See tables 1 and 2 for details of each county in the two sections of Southeast Texas. Houston/Galveston County section average was only 1.18".

Temperatures were very warm at all locations as early autumn like temperatures continued to the end of the year. Drought conditions developed in the western parts of the Houston/Galveston Section with warm temperatures and lack of rainfall.

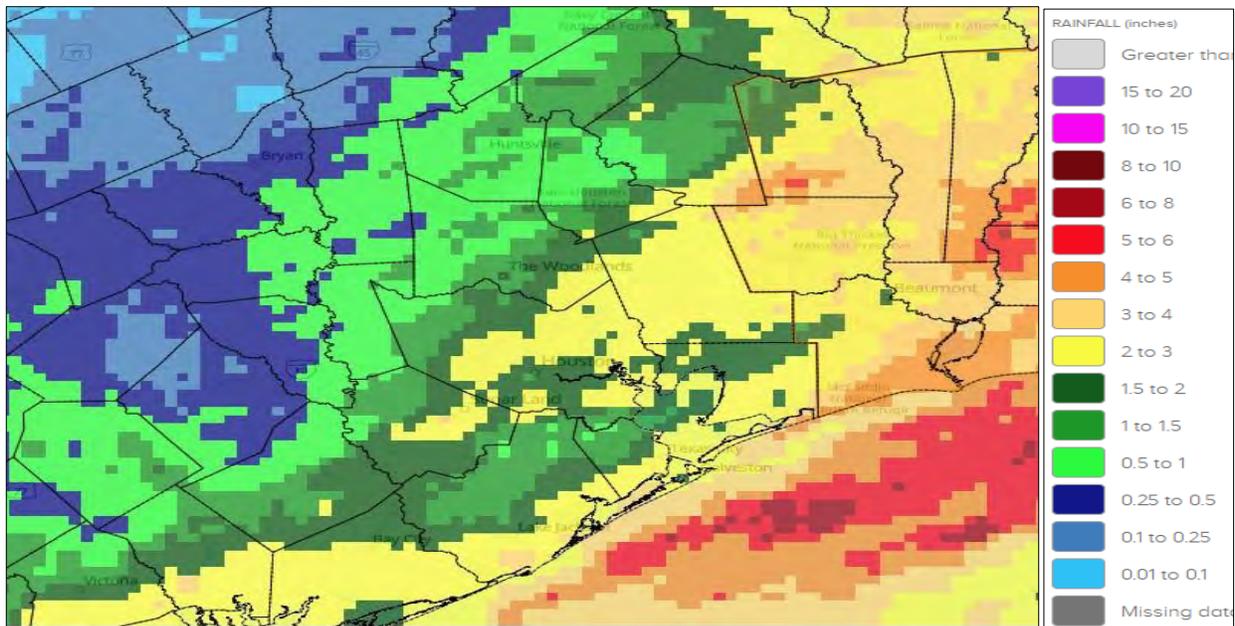


Figure 1: December 2025 Precipitation for Southeast Texas

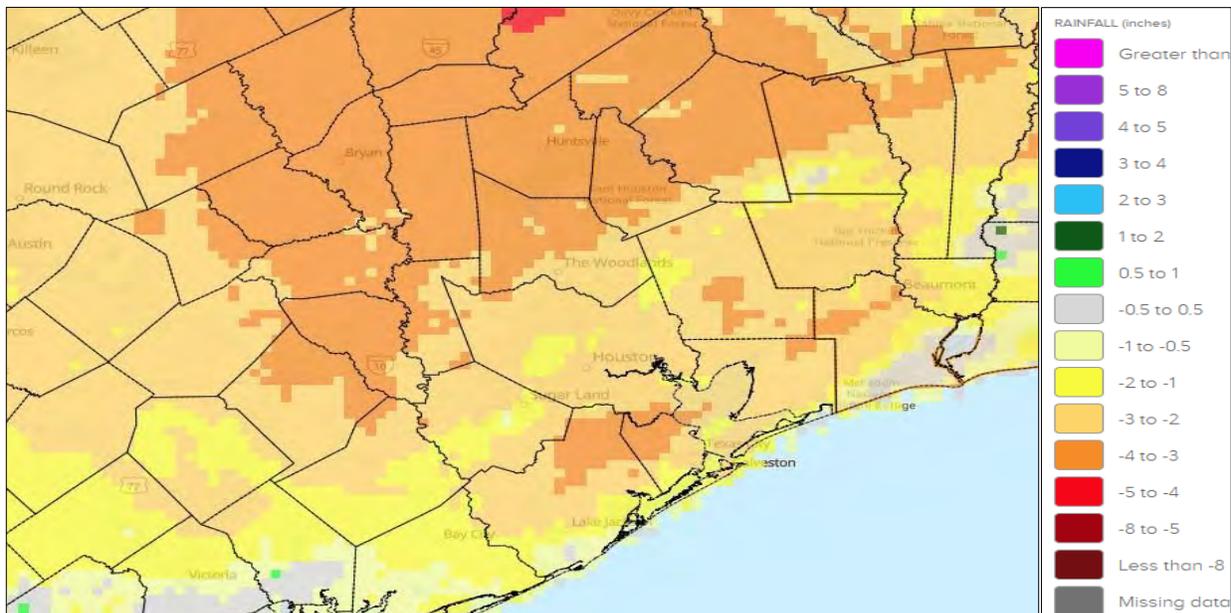


Figure 2: December 2025 Precipitation Departure from Normal for Southeast Texas

### Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

#### January

The warm conditions in December continued into January. A few storm systems started crossing the state with some rainfall and cooler conditions but not enough to reduce drought conditions in parts of the region. Eventually an arctic air outbreak brought much colder conditions on the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of the month with temperatures for the month ending up near normal. January was the wettest month of the winter season in both sections. The precipitations amounts averaged near normal for a few areas while most areas were 1 to 2 inches below normal for the month.

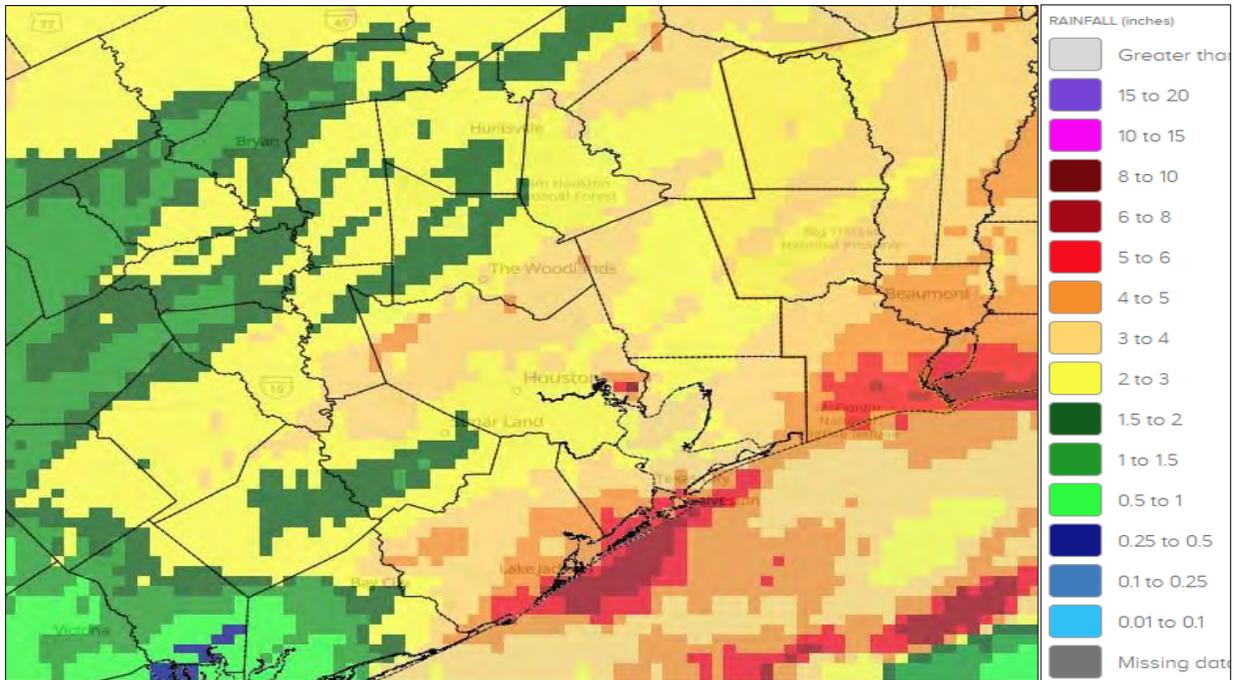


Figure 3: January 2026 Precipitation for Southeast Texas

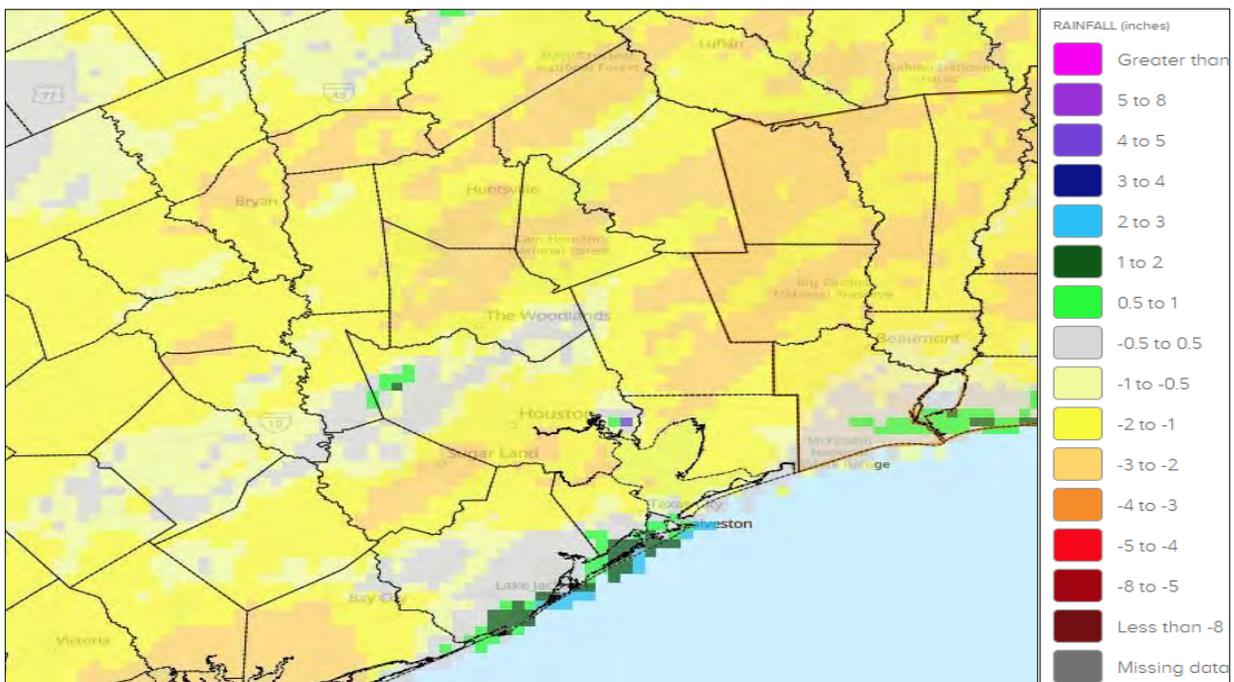


Figure 4: January 2026 Precipitation Departure from Normal for Southeast Texas

### Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

#### February

Temperatures in February were above normal from 3 to 6 degrees over all Southeast Texas. Very dry conditions over both sections in Southeast Texas. Only 2 days of significant rainfall in February from two storm systems that crossed all Southeast Texas. County average rainfall in the Houston/Galveston section was 1.76" while the Golden Triangle Section was 1.65". All areas were well below normal rainfall except in a small part of Galveston and Harris counties.

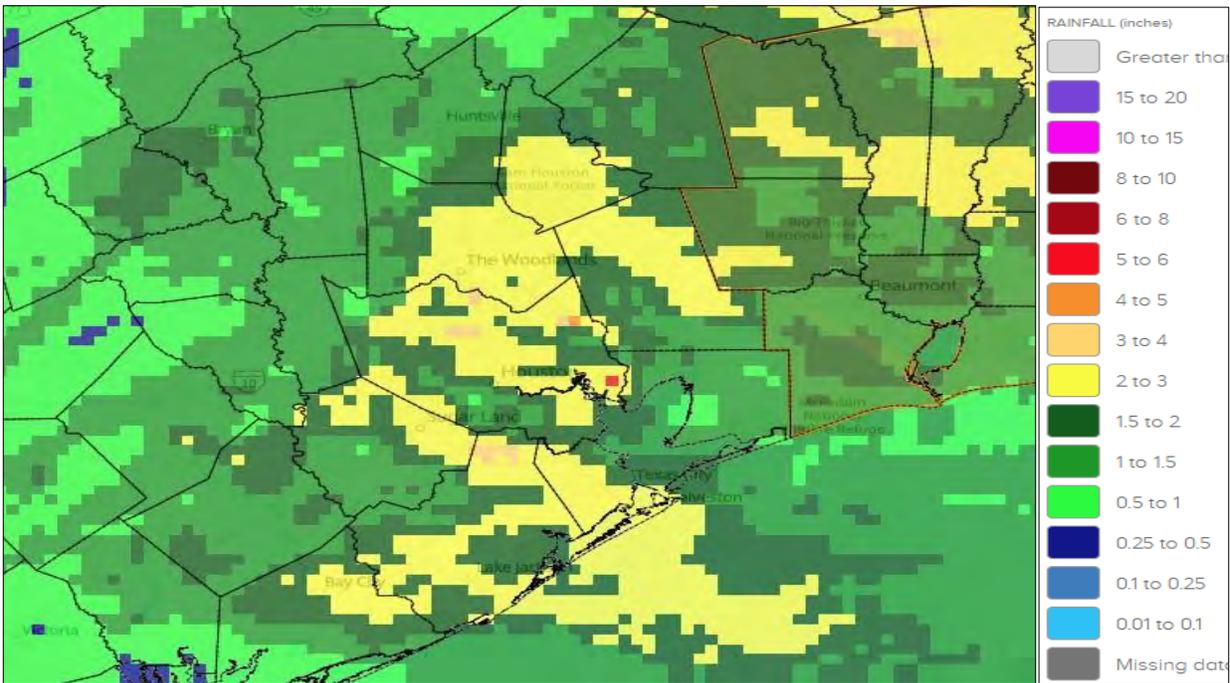


Figure 5: February 2026 Precipitation for Southeast Texas

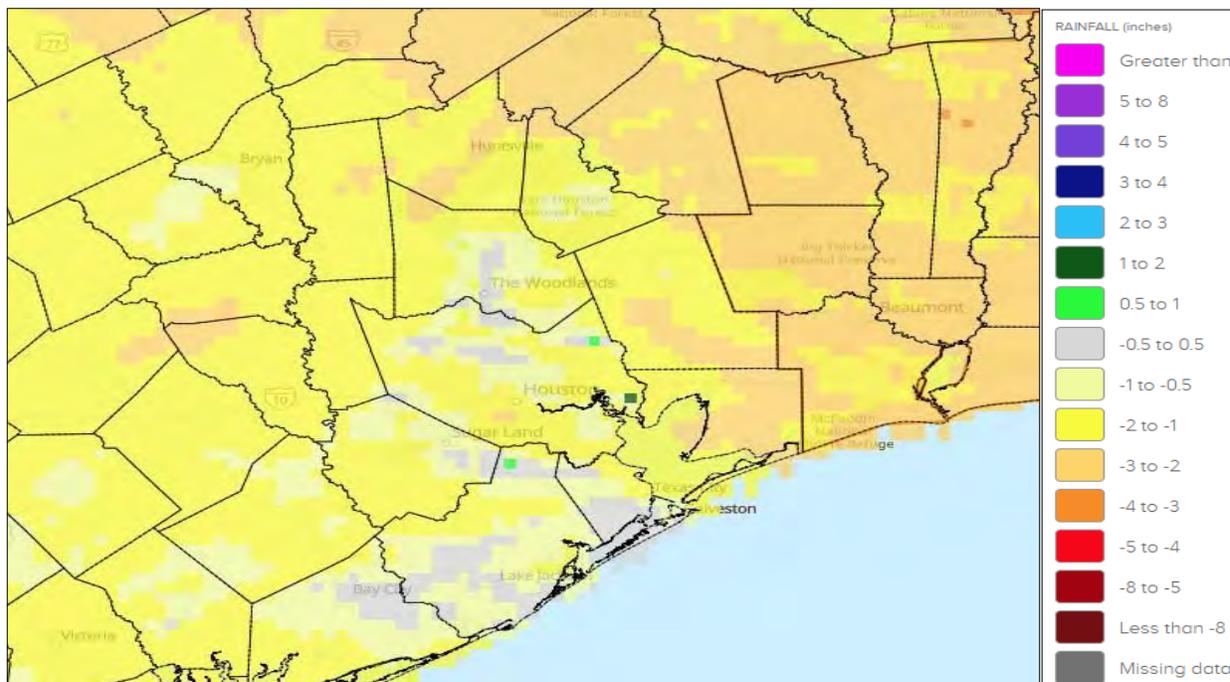


Figure 6: February 2026 Precipitation Departure from Normal for Southeast Texas

**Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)**

**CoCoRaHS Observer average Rainfall by counties for the 2026 Winter Season**

**Winter 2026 CoCoRaHS SE Texas Houston/Galveston Section Rainfall**  
CoCoRaHS Station measured county rainfall averages in inches per month

County	December	January	February	Winter Total
	AVG.	AVG.	AVG.	Dec. -Feb.
Austin	0.48	1.93	0.96	3.37
Brazoria	1.30	2.15	2.14	5.59
Chambers	1.84	2.41	2.43	6.68
Colorado	0.54	1.74	0.98	3.26
Fort Bend	1.50	2.04	1.94	5.48
Galveston	1.51	3.33	2.21	7.05
Harris	1.41	2.33	2.34	6.08
Jackson	0.68	1.52	1.40	3.60
Liberty	1.13	2.42	1.48	5.03
Matagorda	1.74	0.73	1.65	4.12
Montgomery	0.99	2.08	1.82	4.89
Polk	1.08	2.29	1.84	5.21
San Jacinto	1.33	2.36	2.42	6.11
Wharton	0.97	1.51	1.05	3.53
<b>Region Totals</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>1.76</b>	<b>5.00</b>

Color indicates highest avg. rainfall total for a county in a month  
 Color indicates lowest avg. rainfall total for a county in a month  
*Note: Counties without a significant # of observers reporting are not listed on the chart.*

*Table 1: Houston/Galveston county observer Rainfall averages for Southeast Texas*

**Winter 2026 CoCoRaHS SE Texas Golden Triangle Section Rainfall**  
CoCoRaHS Station measured county rainfall averages in inches per month

County	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Winter Total
	AVG.	AVG.	AVG.	Dec. -Feb.
Hardin	2.28	2.68	1.52	6.48
Jasper	3.29	2.66	1.90	7.85
Jefferson	2.58	3.92	1.31	7.81
Orange	2.98	4.37	1.43	8.78
Tyler	2.59	2.24	2.08	6.91
<b>Region Totals</b>	<b>2.74</b>	<b>3.17</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>7.57</b>

Color indicates highest avg. rainfall total for a county in a month  
 Color indicates lowest avg. rainfall total for a county in a month  
*Note: Counties without a significant # of observers reporting are not listed on the chart.*

*Table 2: Golden Triangle county observer Rainfall averages for Southeast Texas*

### Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

**Houston/Galveston Temperature & Rainfall Data for 2026 Winter Season**

December Climate							
Site Location (record start)	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Bush Airport (1888)	69.4	49.4	59.4	4.0	1.84	4.03	-2.19
Hobby Airport (1930)	69.8	51.5	60.6	3.7	1.64	4.34	-2.70
Galveston (1871)	67.4	54.0	60.7	2.2	1.81	4.23	-2.42
Sugar Land (2000)	71.2	49.8	60.5	4.0	1.38	3.76	-2.38
January Climate							
Site Location (record start)	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Bush Airport (1888)	65.1	44.2	54.7	0.9	2.87	3.76	-0.89
Hobby Airport (1930)	65.7	46.1	55.9	0.9	1.93	4.09	-2.16
Galveston (1871)	63.2	49.8	56.5	0.5	4.42	4.30	0.12
Sugar Land (2000)	67.0	44.2	55.6	0.8	0.78	3.63	-0.83
February Climate							
Site Location (record start)	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Bush Airport (1888)	75.4	52.1	63.8	6.1	1.67	2.97	-1.30
Hobby Airport (1930)	74.8	54.0	64.4	5.6	1.59	2.85	-1.26
Galveston (1871)	69.1	55.7	62.4	3.1	2.16	2.14	0.02
Sugar Land (2000)	76.7	52.0	64.4	5.6	1.92	2.83	-0.91

*Table 3: Houston/Galveston temperature and rainfall climate data at select stations*

**Golden Triangle Temperature & Rainfall Data for 2026 Winter Season**

December Climate							
Site Location	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Beaumont Port Arthur	67.9	48.3	58.1	2.5	3.04	4.98	-1.94
Beaumont Research Center	66.1	46.8	56.5	2.3	3.00	5.04	-2.04
Orange 9N	63.9	44.2	54.0	1.8	5.42	5.26	0.16
January Climate							
Site Location	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Beaumont Port Arthur	64.3	42.9	53.6	-0.1	4.34	5.32	-0.98
Beaumont Research Center	63.8	40.7	52.2	0.1	4.23	4.77	-0.54
Orange 9N	61.5	38.9	50.2	-0.3	4.24	5.65	-1.41
February Climate							
Site Location	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Beaumont Port Arthur	73.3	51.8	62.6	5.1	1.39	3.09	-1.70
Beaumont Research Center	71.7	49.3	60.5	4.6	1.04	3.62	-2.58
Orange 9N	68.7	46.8	57.7	3.7	1.49	4.18	-2.69

*Table 4: Golden Triangle temperature and rainfall climate data at select stations*

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

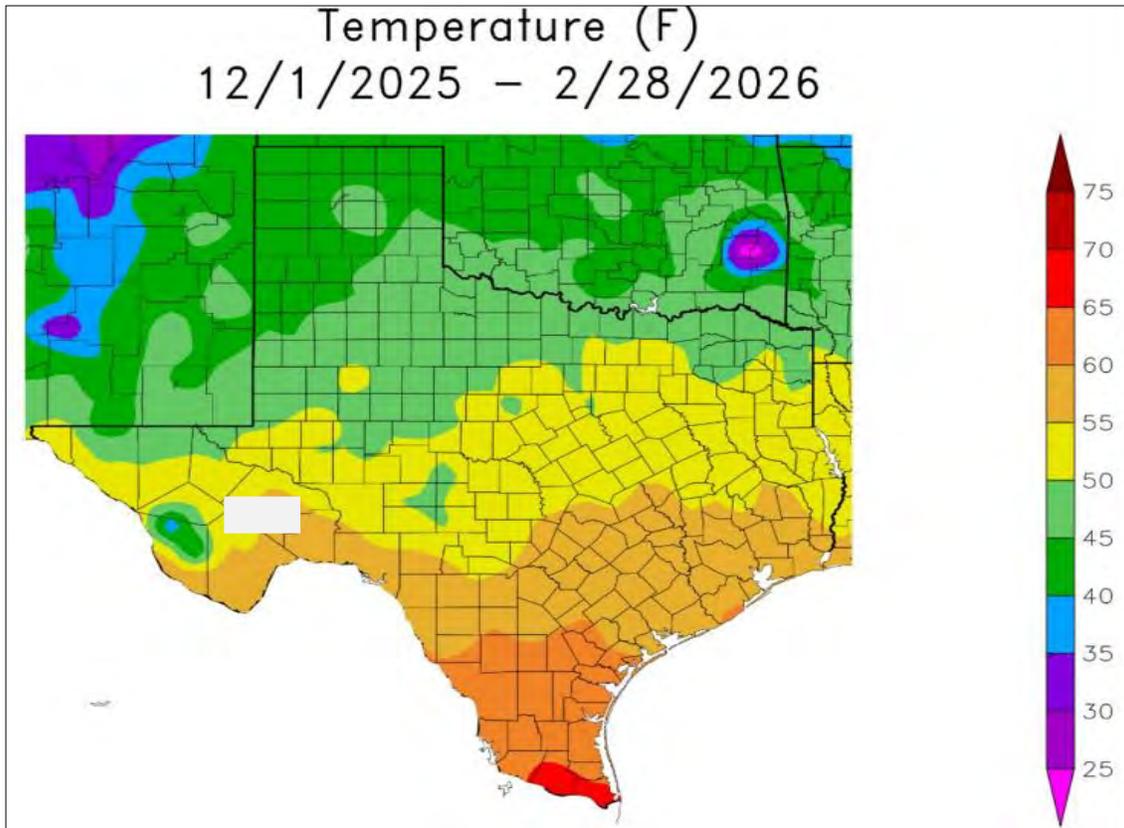


Figure 7: Observed Winter 2026 Average Temperature for December - February across Texas

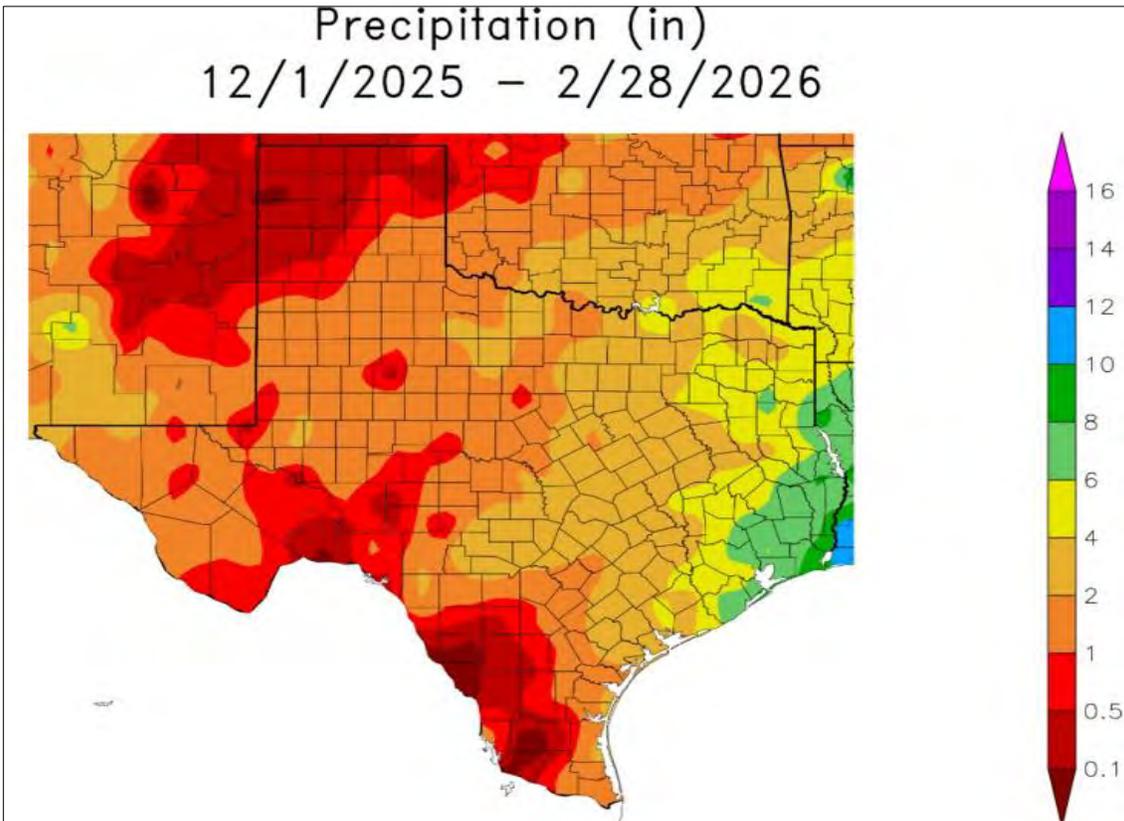
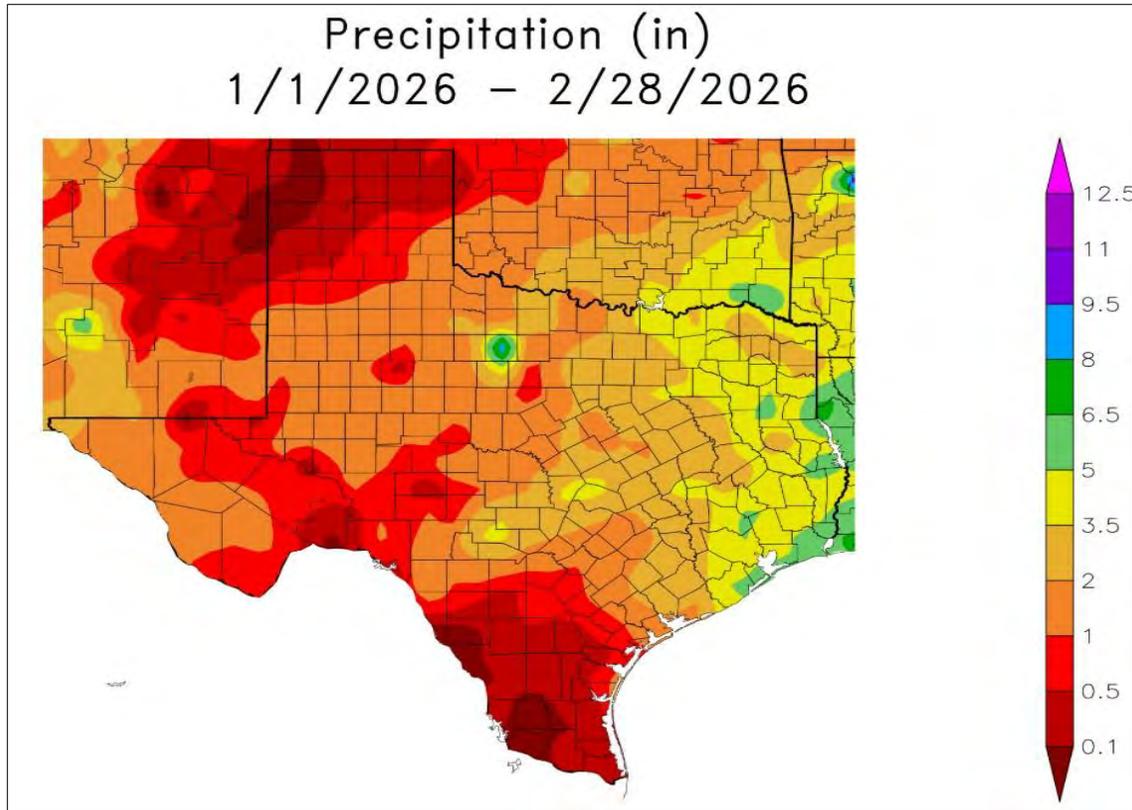
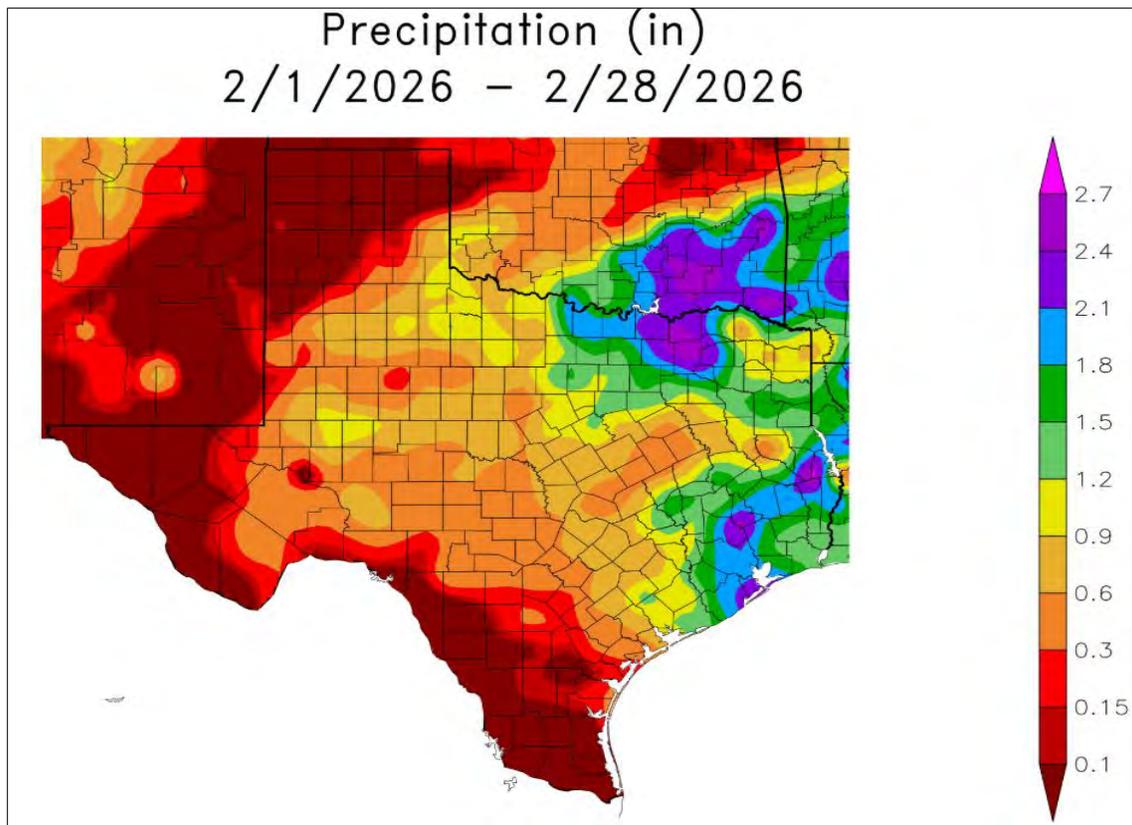


Figure 8: Observed Winter 2026 Average Precipitation for December - February across Texas

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)



**Figure 9:** Precipitation totals across Texas for January - February. Please take note of the different range of values in each legend for a map.



**Figure 10:** Precipitation totals across Texas in February. Please take note of the different range of values in each legend for a map.

## Corpus Christi Regional Summary

### Worsening Drought across South Texas

By Nicholas Price, Meteorologist, National Weather Service Corpus Christi

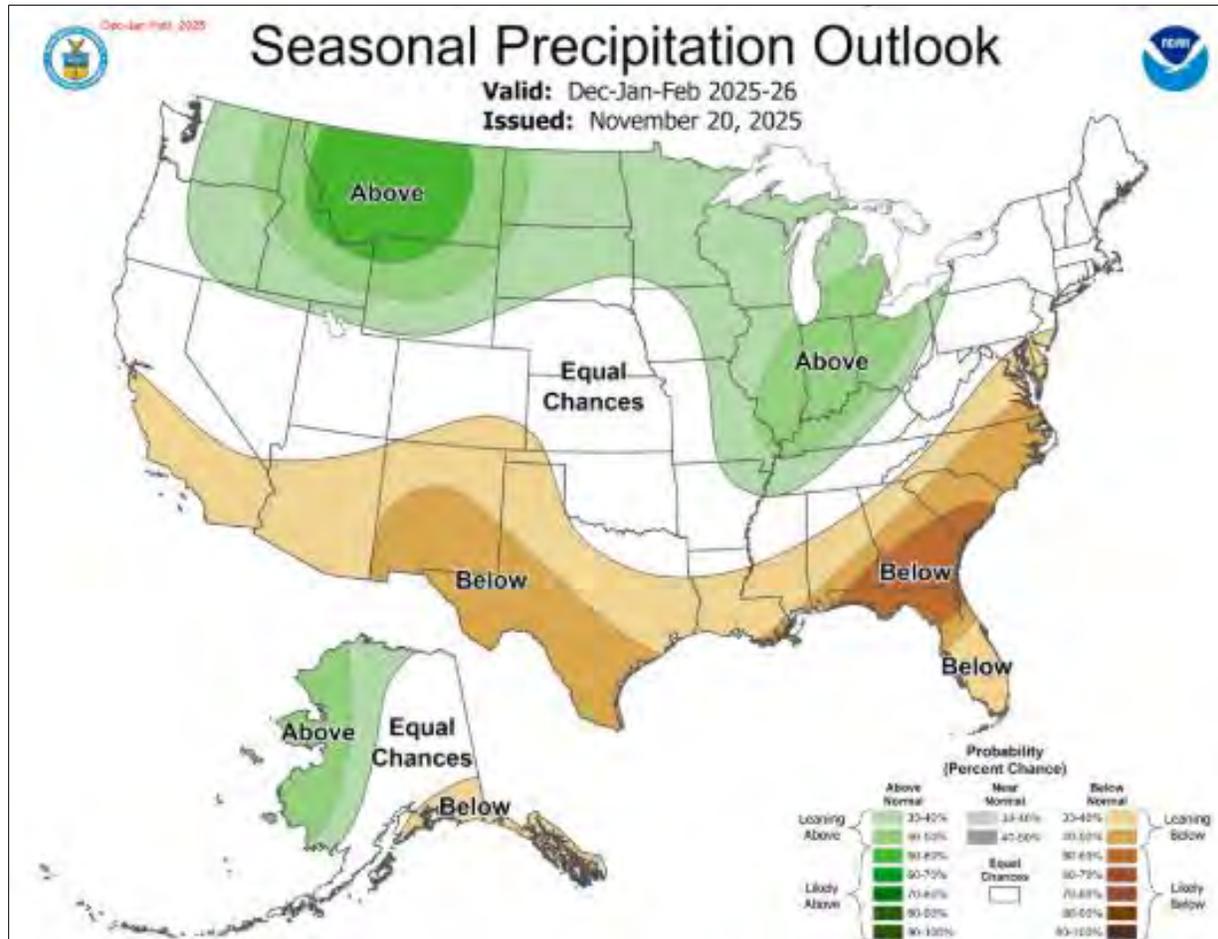


Figure 1: Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Winter Season Precipitation Outlook

There wasn't much rain to speak of for the area during the month of December. As we look into the CPC Outlook for the Winter Season, South Texas was included in the Below Normal category for expected rainfall for winter (Figure 1). Considering the antecedent conditions this will not bode well for the season. Most of the area seen around 1 in of rainfall, with certain areas around the Victoria Crossroads seeing 1-3 inches with isolated slightly higher amounts (Figure 2). December was the beginning of one of our driest seasons of the year climatologically and it definitely lived up to the hype. Observers saw about a 1-2 inch departure from normal in most spots (Figure 3). Surprisingly, even with majority of the rain falling in portions of the Victoria Crossroads observers saw around a 1.5 to 2.5 inch departure from normal rainfall. Passing disturbances with above normal moisture around the middle of the month lead to the rain that we did receive in the region. Unfortunately, the region saw worsening drought conditions across the area and additionally further prolonged the water crisis in Corpus Christi. The biggest change during this month Drought monitor was Extreme drought conditions spreading across the north portions of the area (Figure 4).

### Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

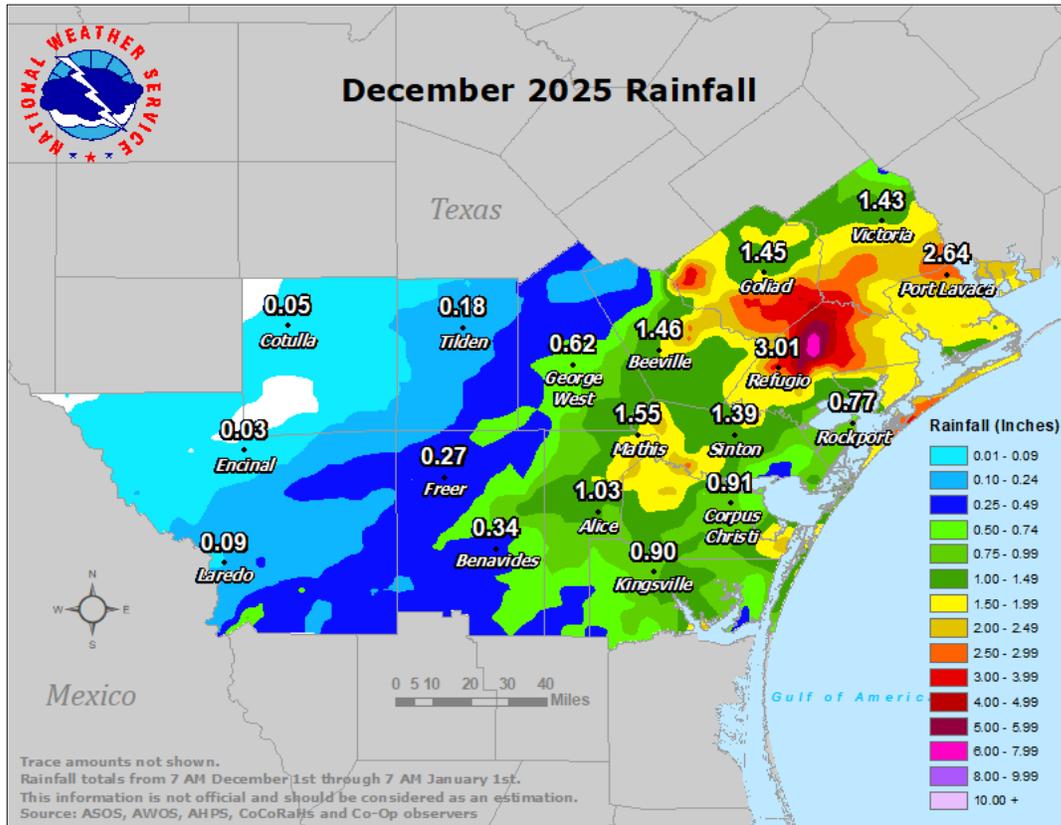


Figure 2: December 2025 Estimated Rainfall Totals

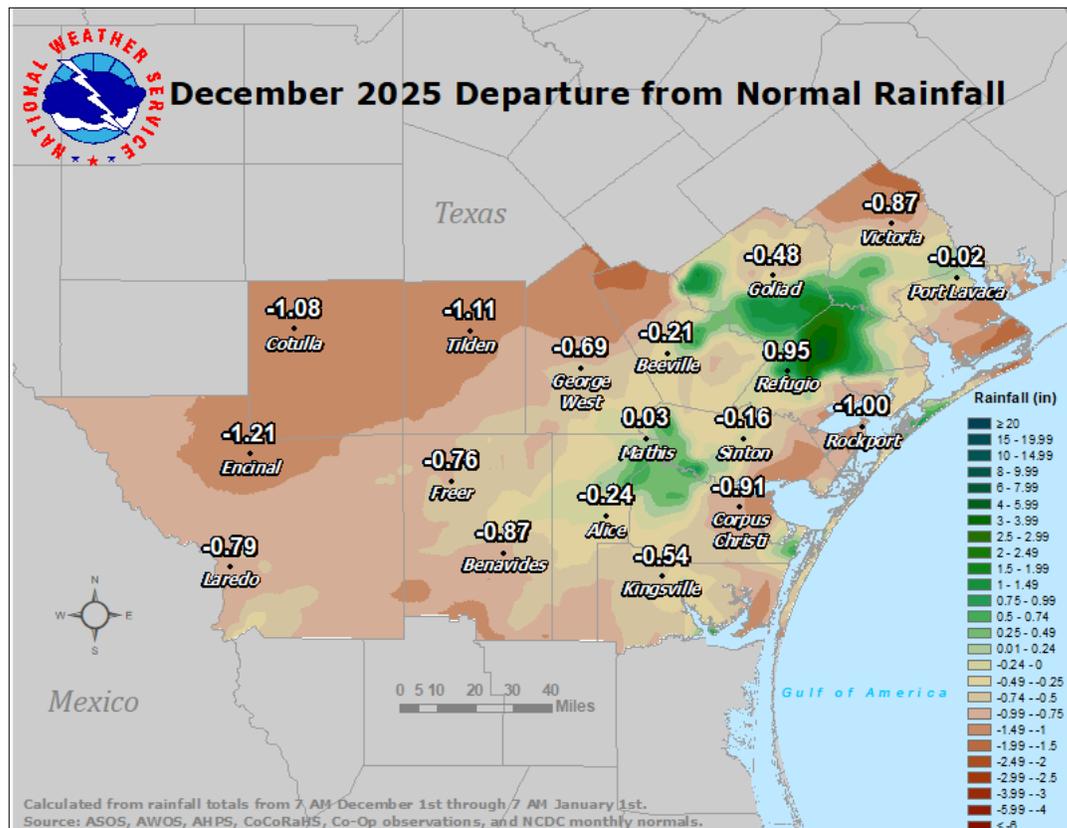


Figure 3: December 2025 Estimated Departure from Normal Rainfall

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

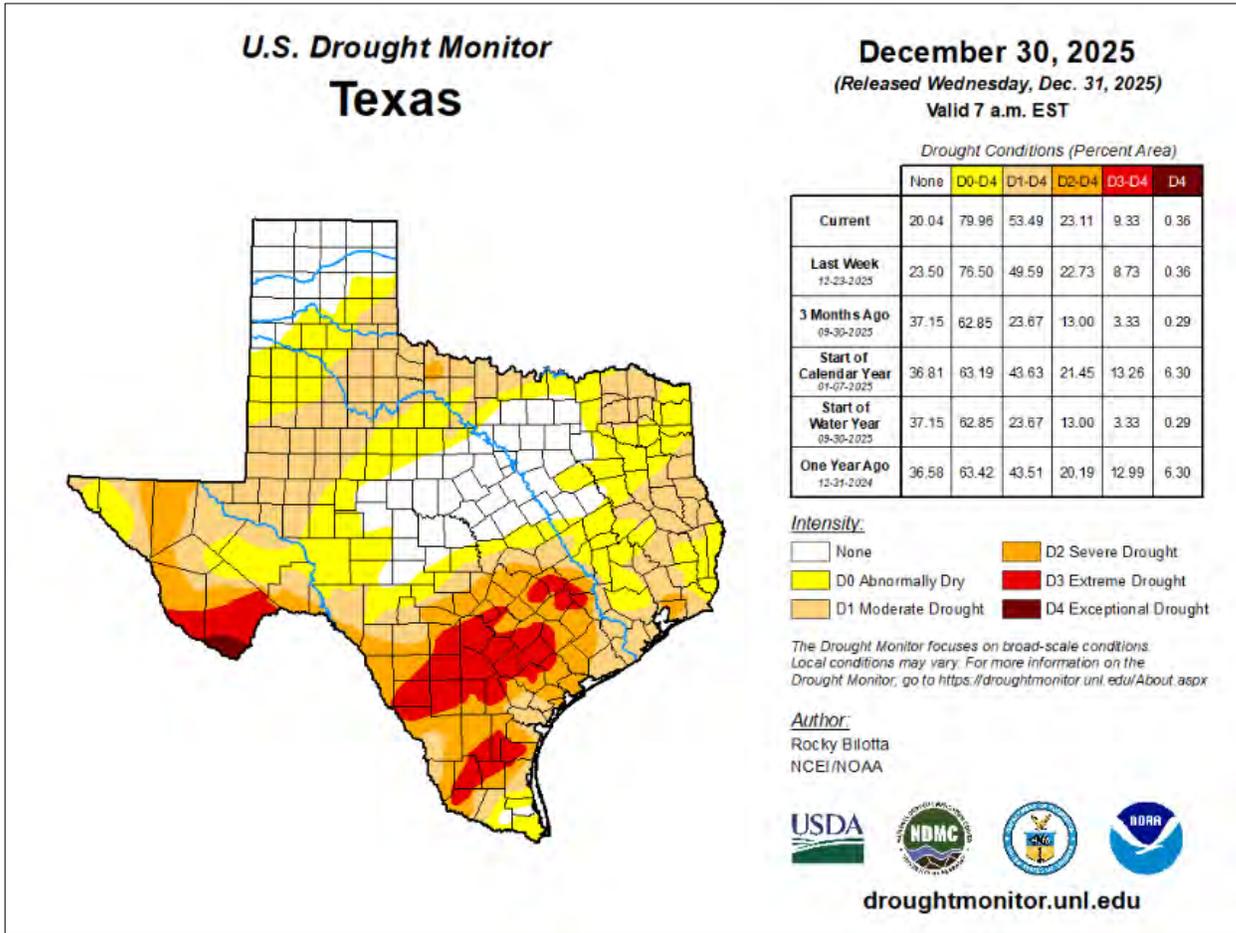
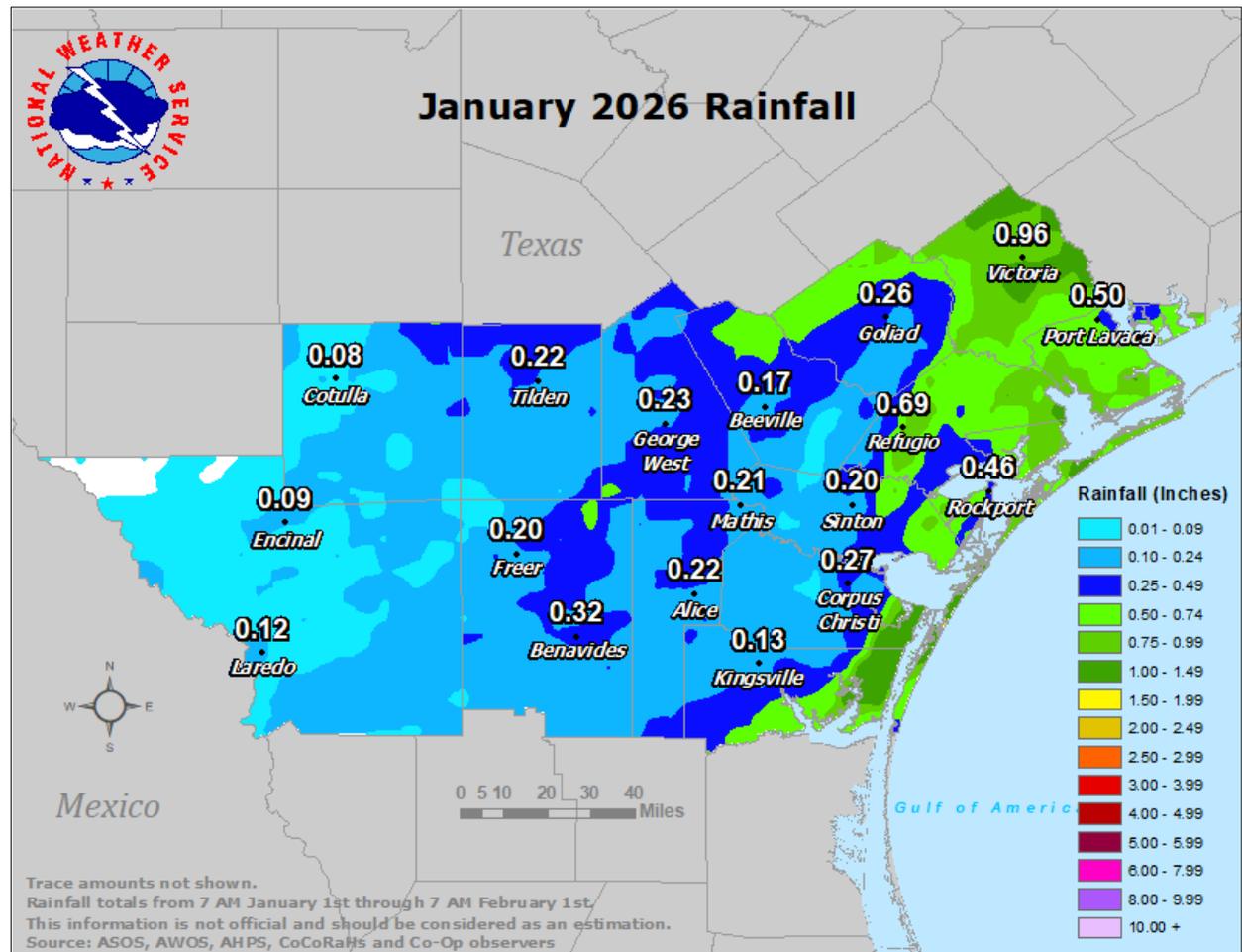


Figure 4: U.S. Drought Monitor Summary for the month of December

## Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)



**Figure 5: January 2026 Estimated Rainfall Totals**

In terms of January, it was a similar story of not much rain across much of the region. Observers across the region saw rainfall totals only up to an inch for the entire month (Figure 5)! Majority of that rainfall fell along the Southern Coastal Bend during the latter portions of the month. This led to a pretty decent departure from normal rainfall total similar to last month. Values were around 1 up to 2.5 inches (Figure 6)! The cause of the rainfall we received was actually from an arctic air mass with an accompanied front moving into the area combining with above normal moisture. This interaction allowed for some showers to produce measurable rainfall along the coastal areas. With minimal rain throughout the month once again, Extreme drought conditions spread even further across the area (Figure 7). Majority of South Texas is now experiencing Severe to Extreme drought conditions with no end in sight!

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

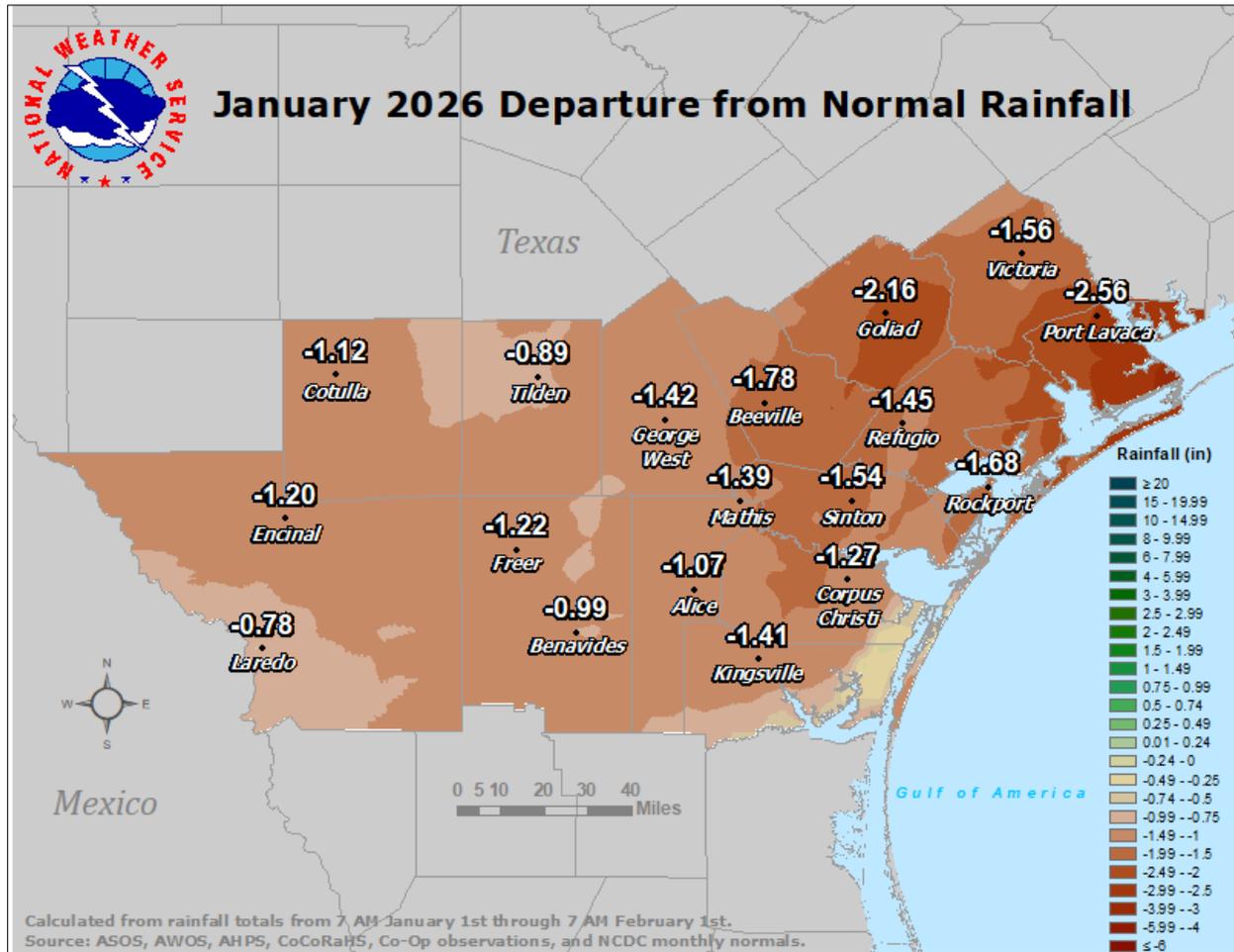


Figure 6: January 2026 Estimated Departure from Normal Rainfall

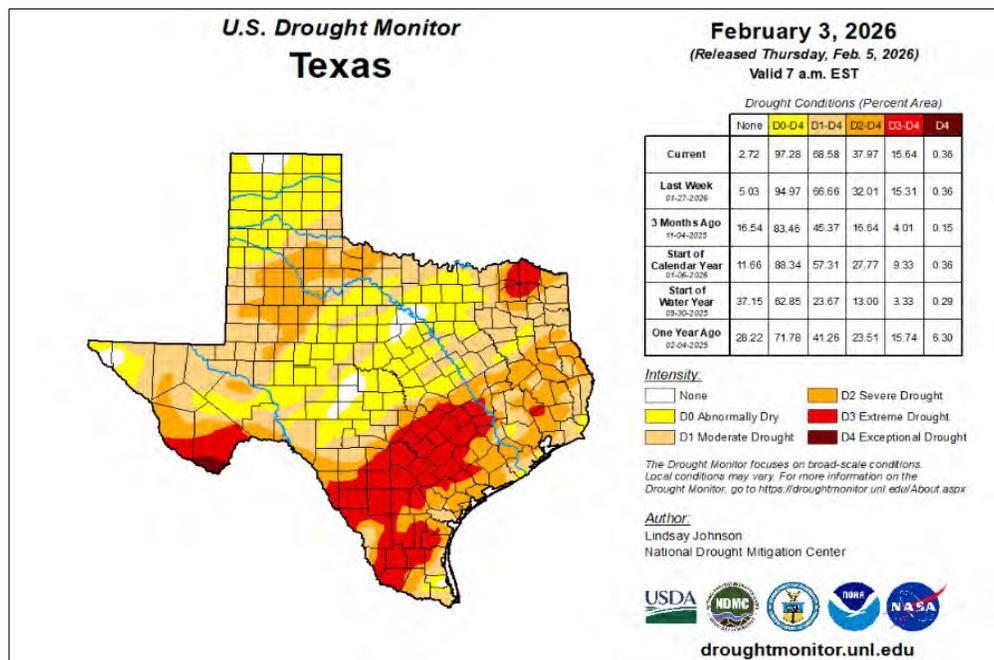


Figure 7: U.S. Drought Monitor Summary for the month of January

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

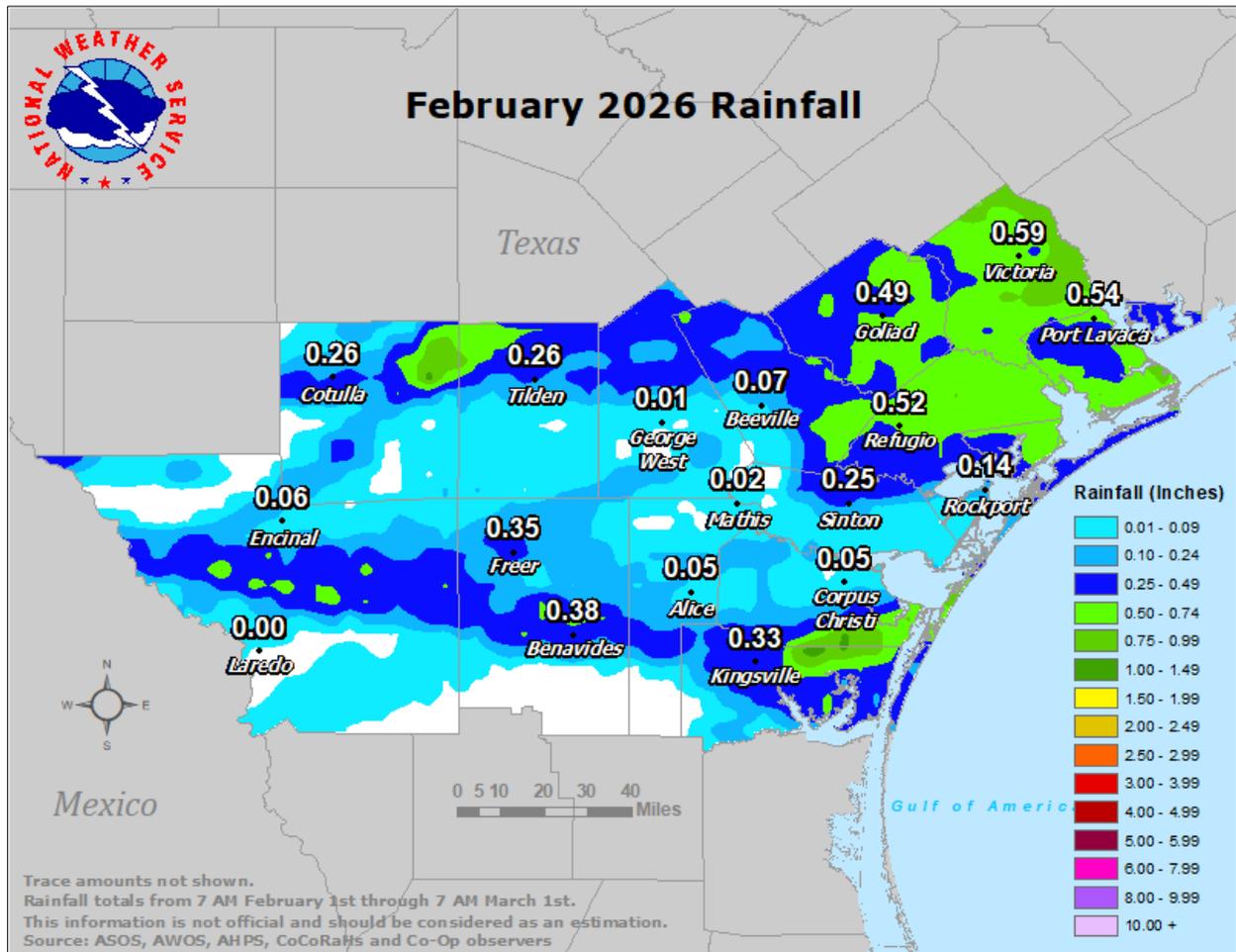


Figure 8: February 2026 Estimated Rainfall Totals

The month of February brought less rain than both of the previous months. Observers in the region only saw about 0.5 to 0.75 inches for the entire month (Figure 8). This was due to the lack of our typical systems that bring us rainfall. The confirmation of this was the departures from normal for this month. The average across the area was about a 1+ inch departure from normal rainfall across the entire area (Figure 9). Especially along the Coastal Bend, there was close to a 2 inch departure from normal rainfall at Sinton, Rockport, Port Lavaca, and Corpus Christi (Figure 9). This allowed for a further deterioration in drought conditions. By the beginning of March, the region saw an increased spread of Extreme drought and severe drought with the introduction of Exceptional drought conditions in the Brush Country (Figure 10).

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

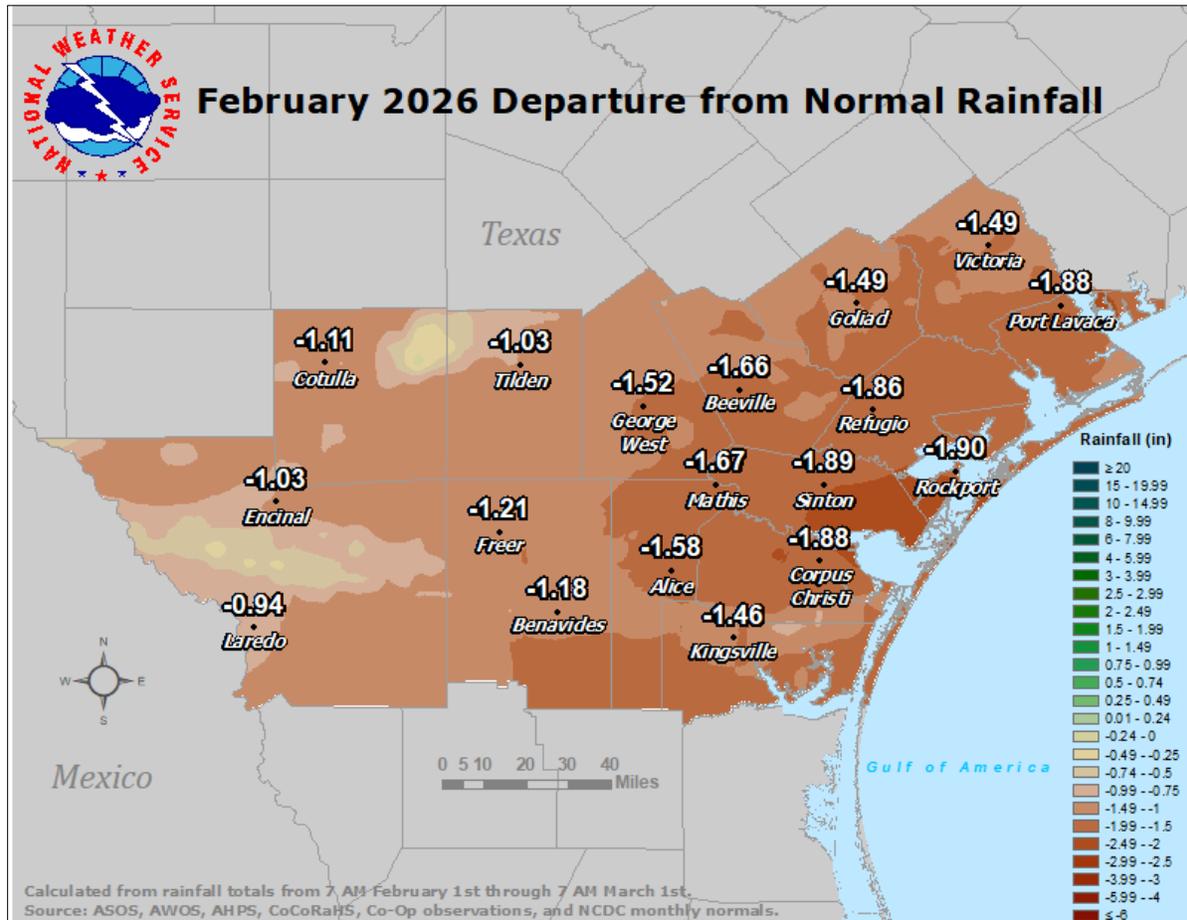


Figure 9: February 2026 Estimated Departure from Normal Rainfall

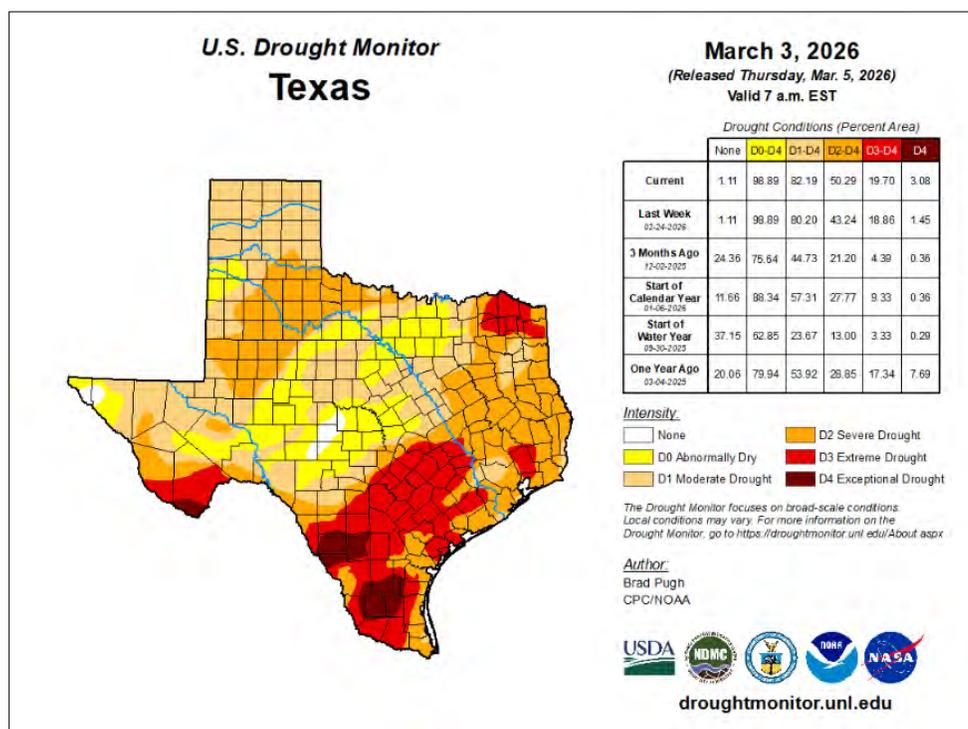


Figure 10: U.S. Drought Monitor Summary for the month of February

## Amarillo Regional Summary

### 2025-26 Winter was one of the Hottest and Driest Winter Seasons on Record for the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles

*Samuel Scoleri, Meteorologist, National Weather Service Amarillo, Texas*

The 2025-2026 winter season for the combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles was one of the hottest and driest winter seasons on record. In fact, both the months of December and February were the warmest on record for our four climate sites, dating back to 1892 for Amarillo, 1949 for Dalhart and Borger, and 1999 for Guymon, OK. During these months all four climate sites observed average temperatures in the 40's to 50's for those months. These averages were 7.3-7.9 degrees warmer than normal during December and 8.6 degrees warmer than normal for February. In addition, the observation site in Borger, Texas observed an average temperature that was 9 degrees warmer than normal for the month of February. Unfortunately, all four climate sites reported precipitation that was below normal throughout the entire winter season. This led to a net loss of almost a full inch of our normal precipitation amounts for the season with the Amarillo, TX site observing a full 1.49 inches below normal.

Warmer & Drier Than Normal For December						
*All-time record for December	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature	Average Temperature	Departure From Normal	Total Precipitation	% From Normal
Amarillo <i>(Records since 1892)</i>	84°F*	19°F	46.7°F 3rd Warmest	+7.9°F	0.05"	7%
Dalhart <i>(Records since 1949)</i>	82°F*	12°F	43.6°F 1st Warmest	+7.5°F	T	0%
Borger <i>(Records since 1949)</i>	84°F*	19°F	48.0°F 2nd Warmest	+7.7°F	0.03"	4%
Guymon <i>(Records since 1999)</i>	86°F*	15°F	43.7°F 2nd Warmest	+7.3°F	0.11"	19%

Hot and Dry for the Month of February							
	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature	Average Temperature	Departure From Normal	Total Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Ranking for Warmest February
Amarillo <i>(Records since 1892)</i>	86°F	19°F	50.4°F	8.6°F	T	-0.53"	#1
Dalhart <i>(Records since 1949)</i>	86°F	12°F	47.4°F	8.6°F	T	-0.35"	#1
Borger <i>(Records since 1949)</i>	85°F	19°F	52.1°F	9.0°F	T	-0.52"	#1
Guymon <i>(Records since 1999)</i>	85°F	24°F	47.9°F	8.6°F	T	-0.29"	#1

Figure 1 and 2: Climate summaries for the combined Panhandles official sites during the months of December 2025 & February 2026

Not all the winter season was hot and dry. We did have one winter storm event in late January. This prolonged event saw snow intermittently fall across the Panhandles starting the morning of January 23rd and finally taper off by the late afternoon of January 25th. There was a large area of the northwest Panhandles that received low snow accumulations while the heaviest amounts occurred across the southeast Texas Panhandle. Using observation reports from the public, including some of our local CoCoRaHS observers, we noted that while the highest accumulation occurred in the southeast Texas Panhandle, there was a sharp gradient between the higher amounts of 10 inches and amounts of around three to four inches, sometimes even in the same county. This event also brought in a rather arctic airmass, which kept the Panhandle below freezing for an estimated 80 hours. The afternoon high temperatures on January 24th only reached the single digits and teens, while

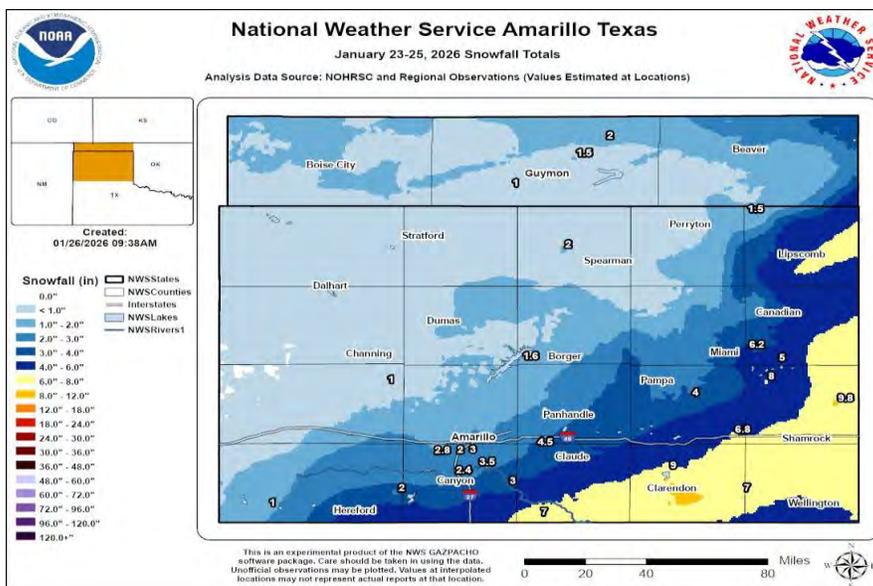


Figure 3: A 72-hour snow total map for January 23 to 25, 2026 winter event. Image generated by the National Weather Service in Amarillo, TX

## Amarillo Regional Summary (continued)

overnight lows dipped below zero in many locations. For our climate sites, this deviation was enough to decrease the average temperature back closer to our normal with sites reporting only a degree warmer. Overall, this one event helped to regulate the temperatures for January after the month started as warm as December ended. Unfortunately, the precipitation this event brought did not make much of a dent in the state of our drought, with February only worsening these conditions.

After a wet spring and summer in 2025, much of this ground moisture was lost this winter by the lack of additional

precipitation and continued above normal temperatures. This can be seen very well by comparing the drought monitor done on October 28, 2025, to March 17, 2026. In October the only areas experiencing abnormally dry conditions, D0, were the southern Texas Panhandle with a couple of areas transitioning to Moderate Drought, D1. However, by the beginning of March, almost the entire Panhandles expanded to Moderate Drought conditions with area of Severe Drought, D2 now present. As a result of the lost soil moisture and the persistent La Niña conditions present this winter, there has been an abundance of exceptionally dry grasses that have created heightened fire danger through much of the

latter portions of the winter season into the early spring. Due to these dry conditions, the Panhandles have experienced multiple large fires since mid-February, including the Ranger Road Fire that started in Beaver County Oklahoma and moved into southern Kansas, and the Lavender and Yellow fires that occurred in Potter and Oldham counties in Texas. Thankfully current forecasts favor the present La Niña to weaken with a transition to El Niño by the summer or fall. While this would favor the potential to see a wetter summer season, it does leave the spring season in a bit of a neutral pattern. Unfortunately, a neutral pattern does not bode well as years with similar conditions tend to favor below normal precipitation continuing, which is something present Climate Prediction Center Outlooks also agree on.

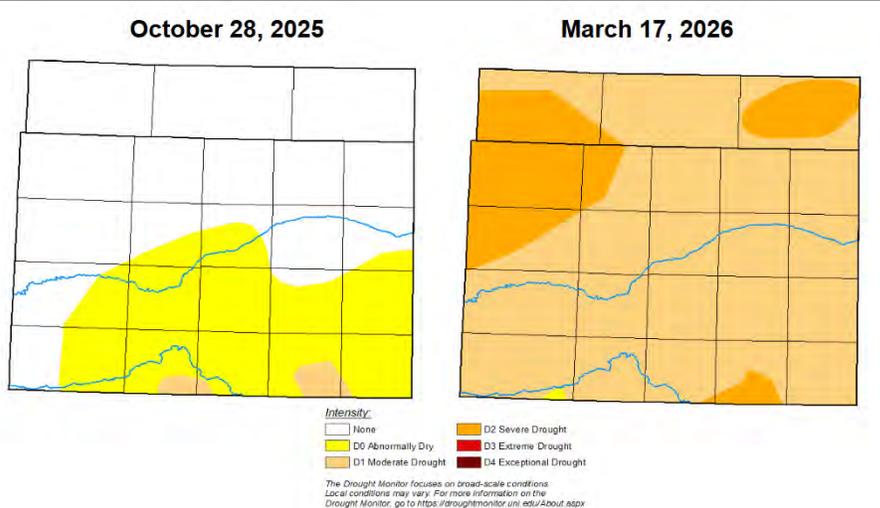


Figure 4: Images of the drought outlook for October 28, 2025, and March 17, 2026. Data and images provided by the National Drought Mitigation Center

## Texas Spring Weather Outlook

*By Bob Rose, Lower Colorado River Authority Meteorologist*

Spring weather in Texas is a transitional period that features blooming wildflowers, increasing temperatures, longer days, and a higher likelihood of severe thunderstorms. The clash between retreating cool air, advancing warm air, and plentiful Gulf moisture can often produce periods of moderate to heavy rain. For most parts of Texas, spring is the wettest season of the year when heavy rain can sometimes turn into floods.

Since last summer, much of the state has seen the development of drought due to the lack of rain. Despite numerous cold fronts over the winter, rainfall generally averaged well below normal. At the same time, winter temperatures were among the warmest on record. One of the biggest influences on Texas weather since last summer has been a weak La Niña. La Niña is a phenomenon where waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific become cooler than normal, influencing the atmospheric circulation pattern around the globe. Across North America, La Niña helps steer most Pacific storm systems north into western Canada rather than allowing them to track east through California, Mexico, and Texas. Over the winter, this resulted in fewer storm systems and fewer outbreaks of cold air.

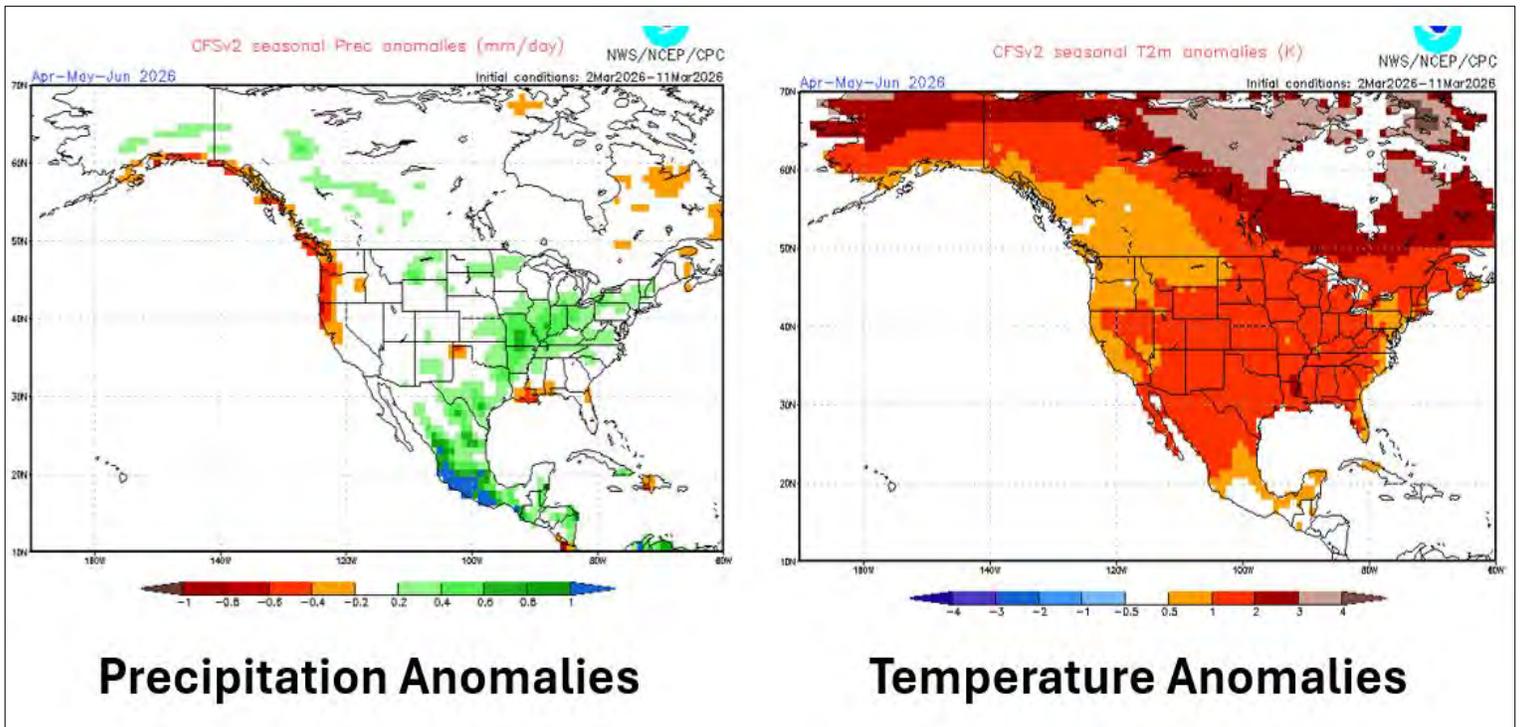
Changes from the winter weather pattern are on the horizon. Observations in early March indicated waters in the tropical Pacific were warming quickly and La Niña was on its way out. Climate Prediction Center forecasters predict La Nina will end in March, with the Pacific returning to a neutral state mid and late spring, where neither La Niña nor El Niño will be in place. The Pacific waters are forecast to continue warming through spring and an El Niño is likely to develop this summer.

With La Niña dissipating, the dry influence we've seen for the last several months should slowly diminish, allowing the storm track to take on a more normal configuration. As that occurs, a more typical springtime weather pattern is expected to develop across the state. Meanwhile, springtime temperatures look to stay warmer than normal and could even trend summer-like late May into June.

NOAA's seasonal forecast model, the "Climate Forecast System, or CFSv2" agrees with a neutral Pacific being developing this spring. The model's outlook for April-May-June calls for near-normal to slightly above normal across Texas. The model's temperature outlook calls for readings to average 1-2 degrees warmer than above normal.

## Texas Winter Weather Outlook (continued)

By Bob Rose, Lower Colorado River Authority Meteorologist



***NOAA's Climate Forecast System Version 2 Precipitation and Temperature Anomaly  
Forecast for April-May-June***

Do note this is an outlook for general conditions that can be expected this spring. There will likely be dry stretches, big storms, and even some brief cooldowns from time to time. But overall, a return to more typical springtime conditions can be expected. Hopefully, these more typical conditions will bring drought improvement to most areas.

## CoCoRaHS Webinars & Information

**Webinar #95** - April 1, 2026 - 1 PM EDT

### **Exploring the Enigma that is Drought**

**Mark Svoboda**

*Director National Drought Mitigation Center*

*Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Lincoln, NE*



#### [Biography](#)

*"In this talk, we will discuss all things drought and how the NDMC, which celebrated its 30th year in 2025, has provided services here in the U.S. and around the world focused on drought monitoring/early warning, impact assessment, and policy and planning."*

## CoCoRaHS Webinars &amp; Information (continued)

**Webinar #96 - May 27, 2026 - 1 PM EDT**

**Atlantic basin hurricane variability and outlook for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season**

**Phil Klotzbach**

Senior Research Scientist  
Department of Atmospheric Science  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO



"This presentation will discuss in detail the large-scale climate drivers of Colorado State University's outlook for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, including El Nino and Atlantic Ocean/Atmosphere conditions. In addition, we will examine short- and long-term trends in Atlantic and global hurricane activity."

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Texas CoCoRaHS Observer</b> The official newsletter of Texas CoCoRaHS</p>
	<p><b>Newsletter Editor:</b> <b>Ron Havran</b>, Regional Coordinator - Houston/Galveston Region Assistant State Coordinator <a href="mailto:cocorahs.hou.galv@gmail.com">cocorahs.hou.galv@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Texas CoCoRaHS:</b> <b>Bill Runyon</b>, Texas State Coordinator <a href="mailto:texas@cocorahs.org">texas@cocorahs.org</a></p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div data-bbox="394 1759 511 1820"> </div> <div data-bbox="511 1759 893 1820"> <p>Texas CoCoRaHS</p> </div> <div data-bbox="893 1759 1010 1820"> </div> <div data-bbox="1010 1759 1472 1820"> <p>@Texas CoCoRaHS</p> </div> </div>	

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions about this newsletter are welcomed at the above email addresses.