Southern Plains
Drought Outlook Summary

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Issued: 0800 CST

National Weather Service

Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

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Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma Significant improvement in eastern third of state. Status quo to minor improvement elsewhere.
- New Mexico Conditions continue to deteriorate.
- Texas Continued short-term dryness leads to deteriorating conditions with exceptional drought expanding across deep South Texas and from Lake Amistad downstream along the Rio Grande.

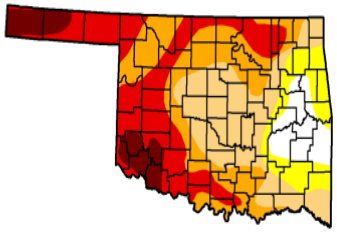
U.S. Drought Monitor

April 16, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Oklahoma

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.09	91.91	81.91	57.61	33.47	7.62
Last Week (04/09/2013 map)	0.70	99.30	85.01	61.00	36.44	8.56
3 Months Ago (01/15/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	91.80	38.86
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.89	37.06
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.98	95.33	42.09
One Year Ago (04/10/2012 map)	66.53	33.47	18.37	9.72	3.35	0.01



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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David Miskus, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico: 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs at less than 15% of storage. The largest, Elephant Butte, at only 9% of capacity. Snow Water Equivalent generally less than 50% of normal statewide.
- Texas: Will likely enter the summer of 2013 with the least stored water in at least 25 years. Statewide reservoir capacity currently at 66%, or 12% less than same time in 2012.
- Rio Grande: Many agricultural water districts, which normally provide conveyance for municipal water with their irrigation water, may run out of water in 60 days.
- Oklahoma: Altus Lake at 17% of capacity. City of Altus now in Stage 3 water conservation.

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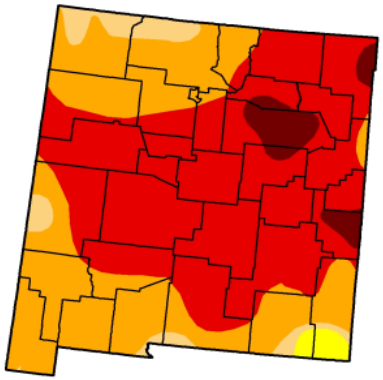
New Mexico

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	98.68	93.95	58.73	4.36
Last Week (04/09/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.68	93.30	58.73	4.36
3 Months Ago (01/15/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.45	92.97	31.76	0.97
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.83	94.05	31.88	0.97
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	62.56	12.25	0.66
One Year Ago (04/10/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	80.46	58.60	24.94	9.03



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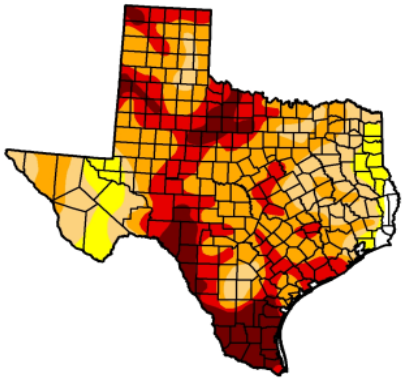
Texas

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.29	98.71	91.31	72.30	34.82	12.19
Last Week (04/09/2013 map)	0.44	99.56	89.44	69.35	29.91	11.56
3 Months Ago (01/15/2013 map)	9.48	90.52	74.01	50.49	20.84	6.72
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (04/10/2012 map)	17.41	82.59	64.60	51.55	31.15	13.42



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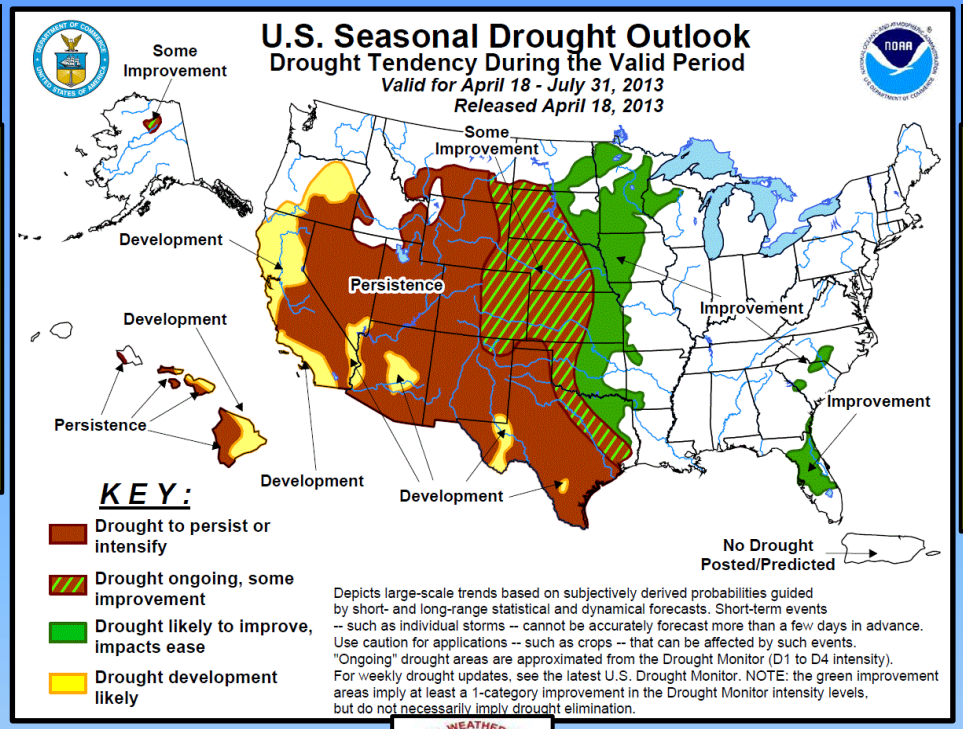
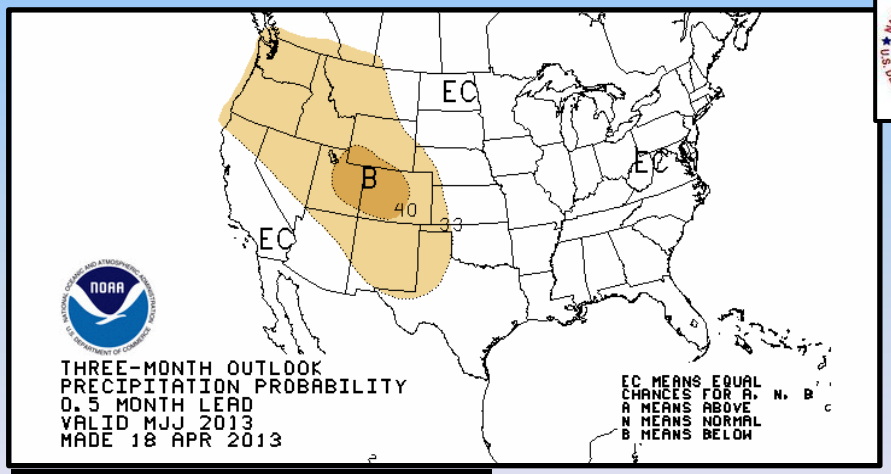
3-month Outlook Precipitation

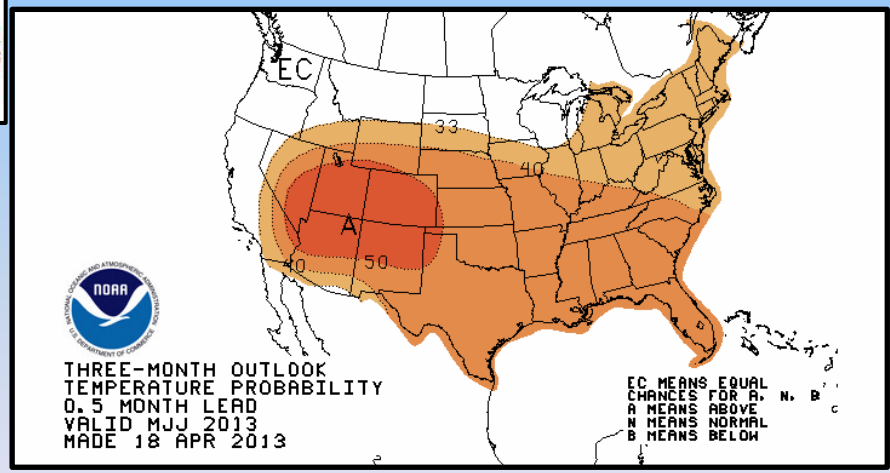
- Below Normal Precipitation expected for the most of New Mexico and Texas/ Oklahoma Panhandles for May/June/July (MJJ).
- Equal Chances of Above, Normal, or Below Normal Precipitation for the rest of Oklahoma and Texas



3-month Outlook Temperature

- High Confidence for Above Normal Temperatures for all of the Southern Plains during May/June/July (MJJ)
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures … further exacerbating surface reservoir levels.





Southern Plains Drought Summary

- **Continued improvement in drought conditions forecast across the eastern half of Oklahoma into northeast TX. Some improvement forecast for central Oklahoma and north central TX.**
- **Drought expected to persist through at least July across the remainder of TX and all of New Mexico.**

Information provided by:

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