Southern Plains
Drought Outlook Summary

Thursday, February 21, 2013

Issued: 0800 CST

National Weather Service

Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

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Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma No Significant changes the past month. Significant rains and some snow this week should lead to short term improvements.
- New Mexico Conditions continue to deteriorate.
- Texas Improvements eastern 1/3 of the state. Little change or slight deterioration elsewhere

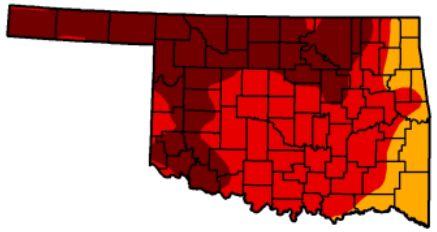
U.S. Drought Monitor

February 19, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Oklahoma

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	86.80	41.64
Last Week (02/12/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	87.00	39.58
3 Months Ago (11/20/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.56	71.86	32.28
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 (02/14/2012 map)	24.91	75.09	66.53	41.79	19.03	3.78



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

USDA National Drought Mitigation Center

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Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- Oklahoma City: imposes more strict water restrictions, withdraws 30,000 acre-feet of water from Canton Lake.
- Oklahoma & Texas: 100% of winter wheat growing area in severe drought or worse.
- Wichita Falls: imposes stage 3 water restrictions due to low reservoir storage.
- New Mexico: statewide reservoir capacity at 20% of normal.
- Texas: statewide reservoir capacity at 67%, lowest since 1990 for this time of year.

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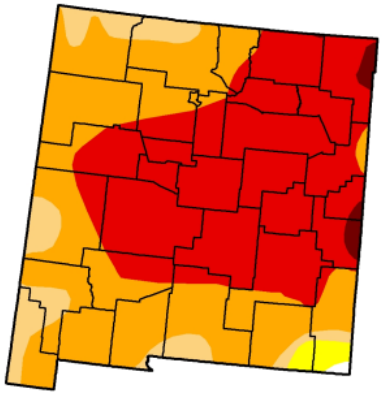
New Mexico

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.20	99.80	98.45	89.85	49.59	1.22
Last Week (02/12/2013 map)	0.20	99.80	98.45	89.85	25.36	0.97
3 Months Ago (11/20/2012 map)	0.07	99.93	98.80	79.05	23.02	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 (02/14/2012 map)	11.69	88.31	81.50	59.57	24.79	8.13



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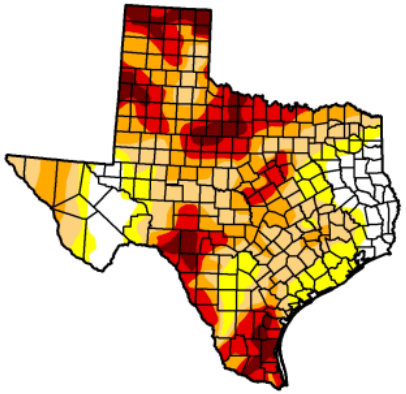
Texas

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	12.01	87.99	73.58	49.06	25.80	7.89
Last Week (02/12/2013 map)	10.84	89.16	75.62	50.05	24.83	7.79
3 Months Ago (11/20/2012 map)	8.65	91.35	75.84	49.09	23.06	7.66
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 (02/14/2012 map)	4.93	95.07	89.08	76.46	53.27	20.41



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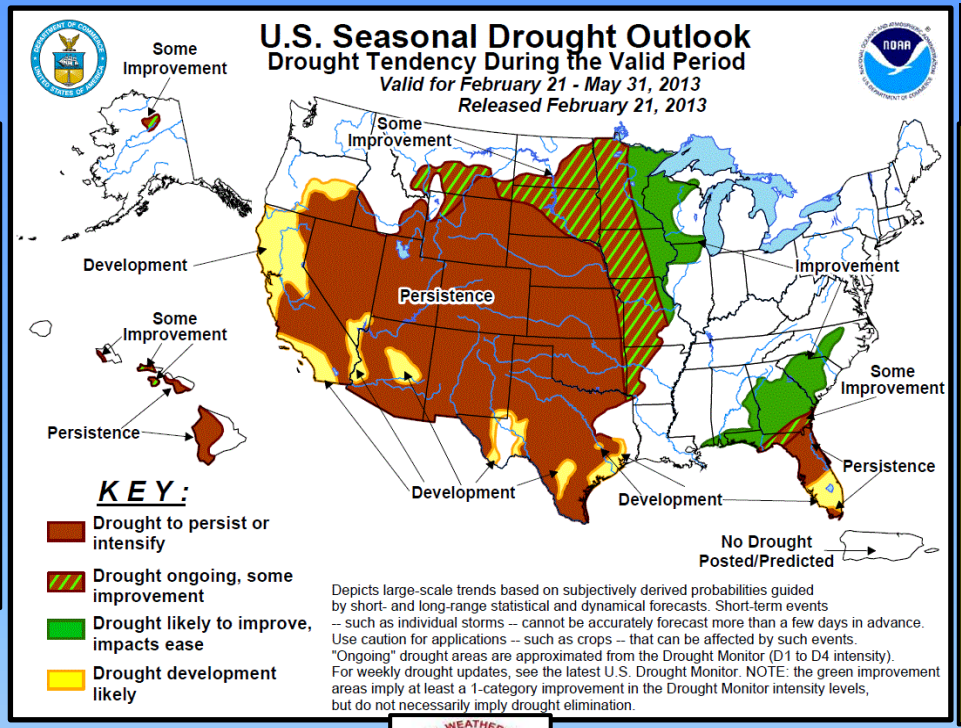
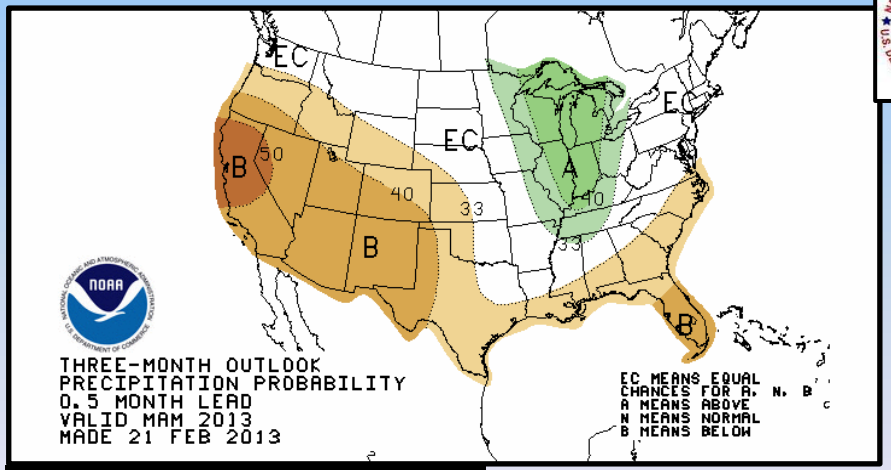
3-month Oulook Precipitation

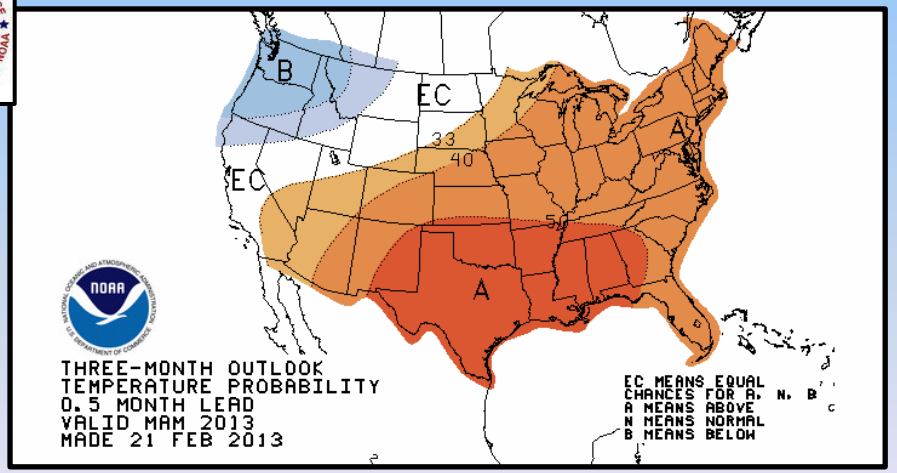
- Below Normal Precipitation expected for the majority of the Southern Plains for March/April/May (MAM).
- Highest Confidence for Below Normal Precipitation over New Mexico and West Texas.
- Equal Chances of Above Normal or Below Normal Precipitation for Central/Eastern Oklahoma and Northeast Texas.



3-month Outlook Temperature

- Above Normal Temperatures expected for all of the Southern Plains for March/April/May (MAM)
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures … further exacerbating surface reservoir levels.
- High Confidence for Above Normal Temperatures for all of Southern Plains except slightly lower confidence for Western ½ of New Mexico.





Southern Plains Drought Summary

- **Drought expected to persist through May across all of Oklahoma and New Mexico and persist or develop over most of Texas (except East Texas & portions of Big Bend).**
- **April and May are 2 of the wettest months for Oklahoma and Texas. Given this precipitation outlook, significant long term relief would appear unlikely.**

Information provided by:

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