

CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.



Texas Fire Potential Update

April 26th – May 1st, 2024

Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services

Fire Potential Notes April 26th- May 1st, 2024

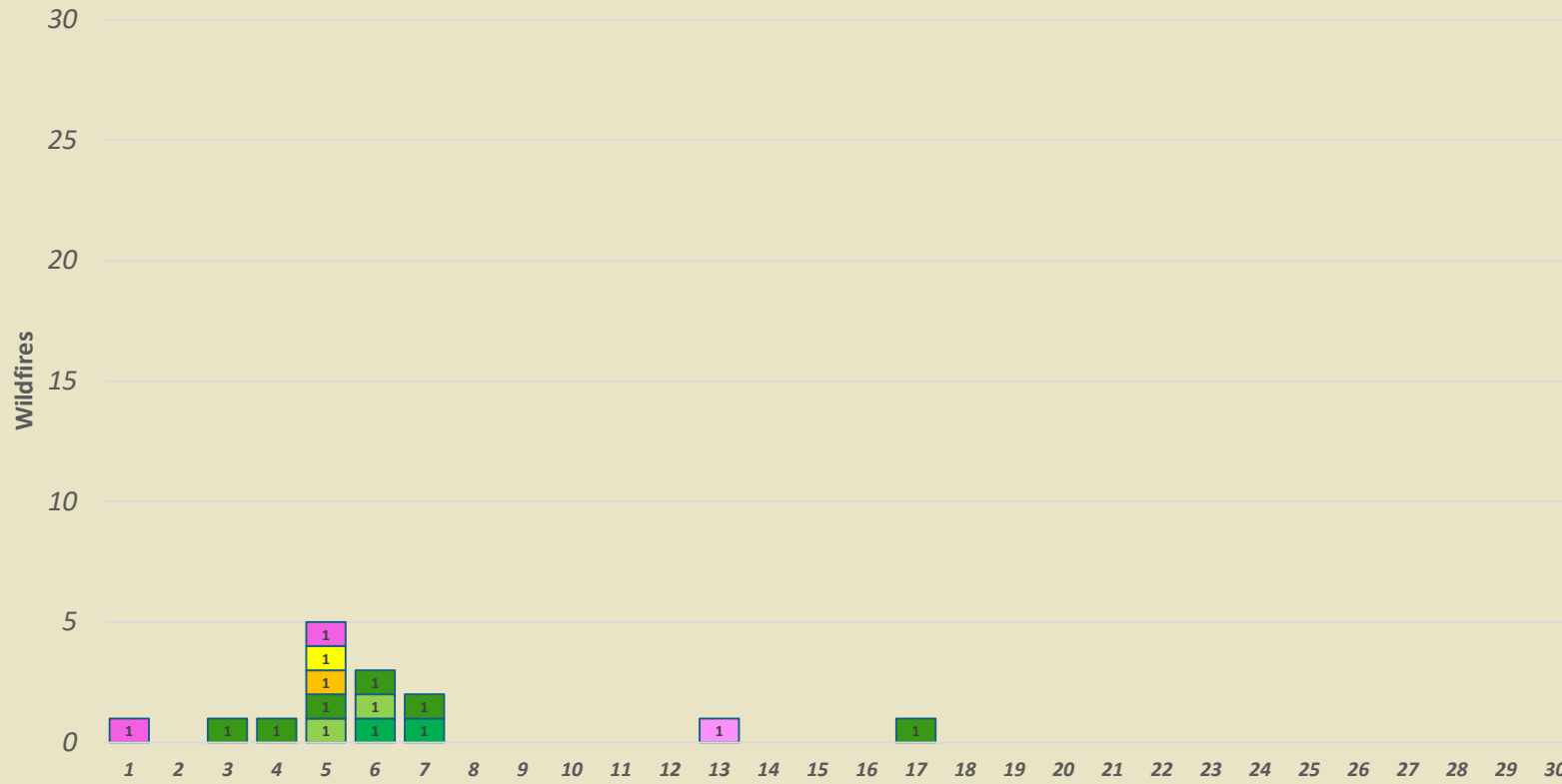


- A progressive pattern characterized by several storm systems Friday-Saturday will bring multiple chances for rain and severe storms for the eastern two thirds of the state. Fire potential will be limited to the western Canadian river valley and upper elevations of the Trans Pecos mountains where cured grasses remain.
- Friday-Saturday elevated to critical fire weather is forecast in the Trans Pecos mountains and western high plains. A fire environment of localized normal to dry fuels will limit significant fire potential.
- On Sunday dry cured grasses may support low potential for initial attack fire with low resistance to control in the northern High Plains and Trans Pecos.
- Monday-Wednesday the High Plains will see increased moisture, limiting fire potential. Upper elevations of the Trans Pecos will see chances for thunderstorms Tuesday and Wednesday which could bring lightning ignitions in dry fuel.

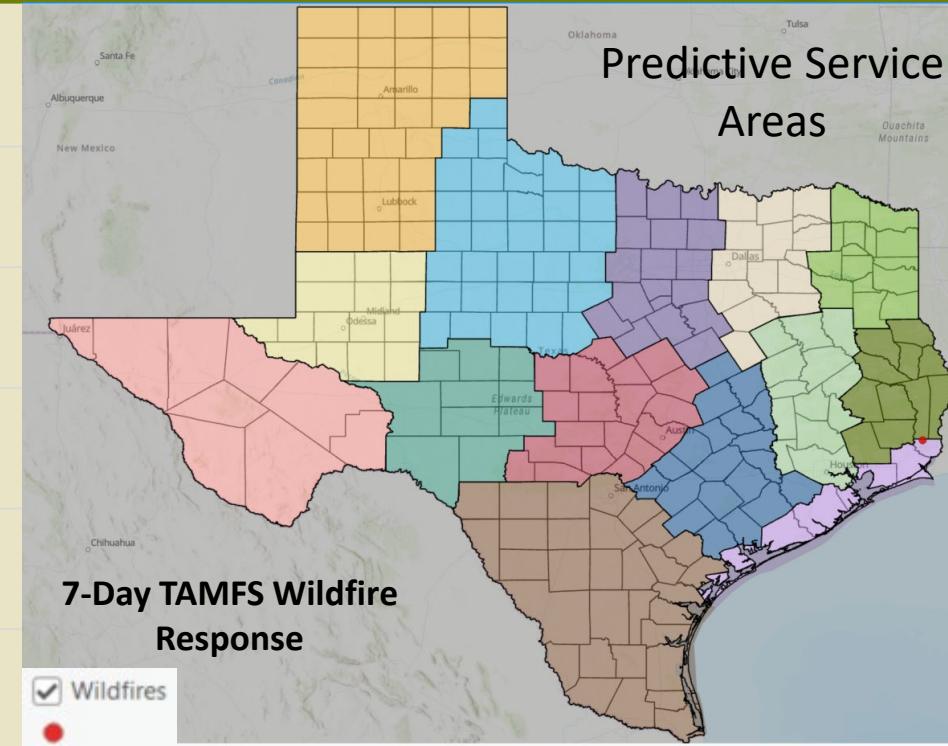
Texas A&M Forest Service has had no requests for assistance since April 17th. Increased greenness of live fuels has reduced fire potential for the majority of the state. Fire potential for the remainder of the outlook is low, and limited to the western Canadian River Valley and Trans Pecos Mountains where dormant grasses remain.



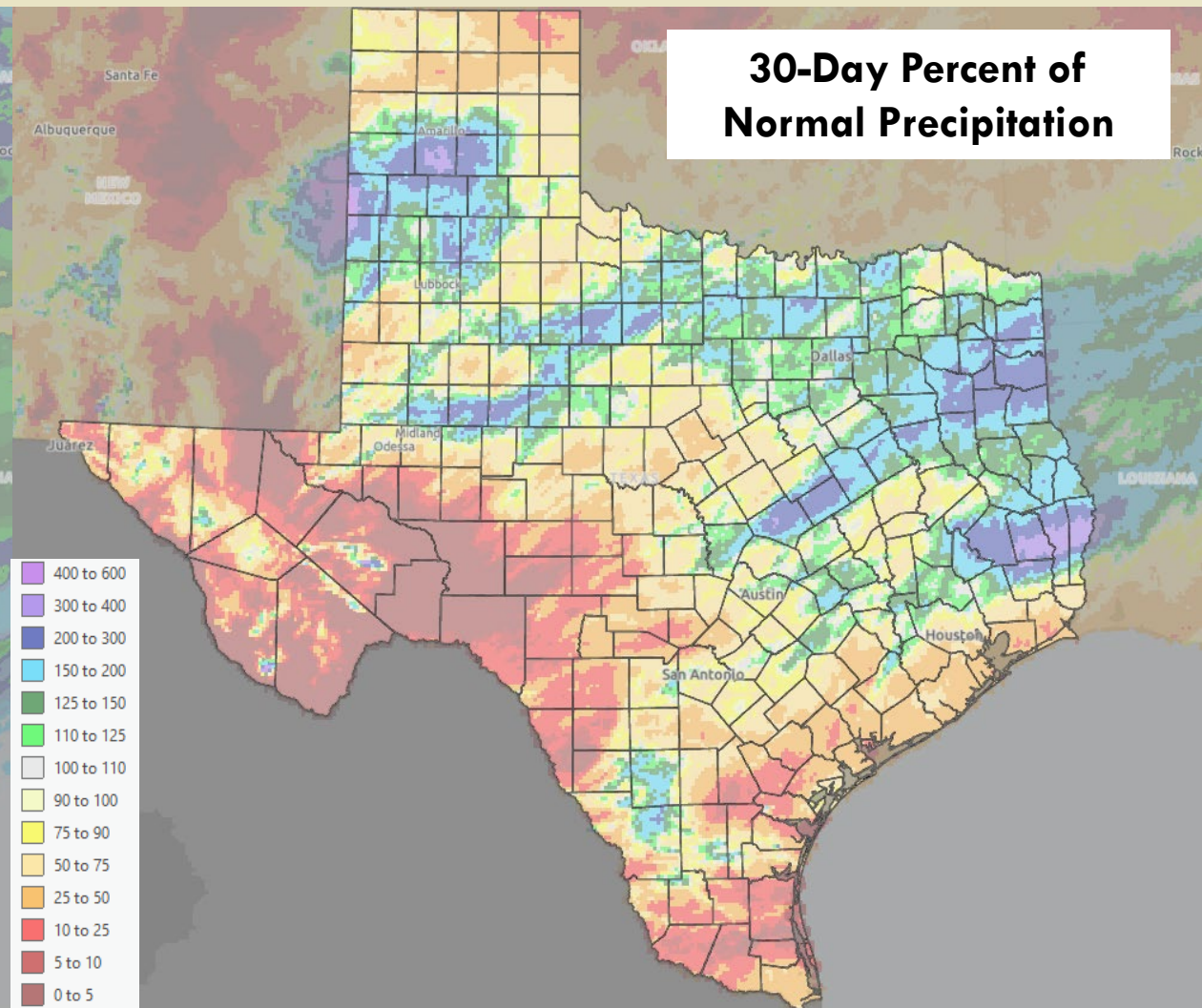
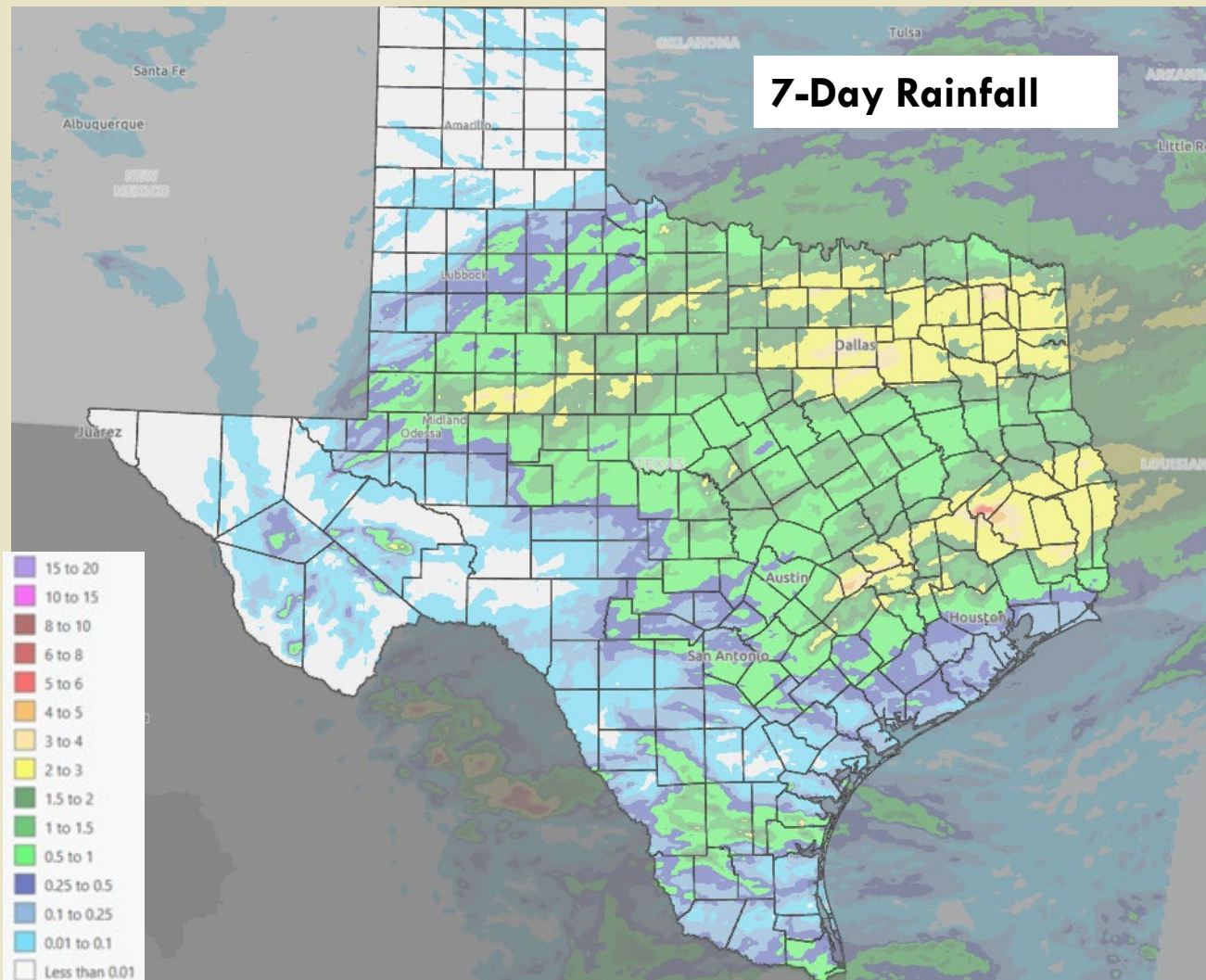
April 1st-April 26th , 2024 TAMFS Wildfire Response by Predictive Service Area



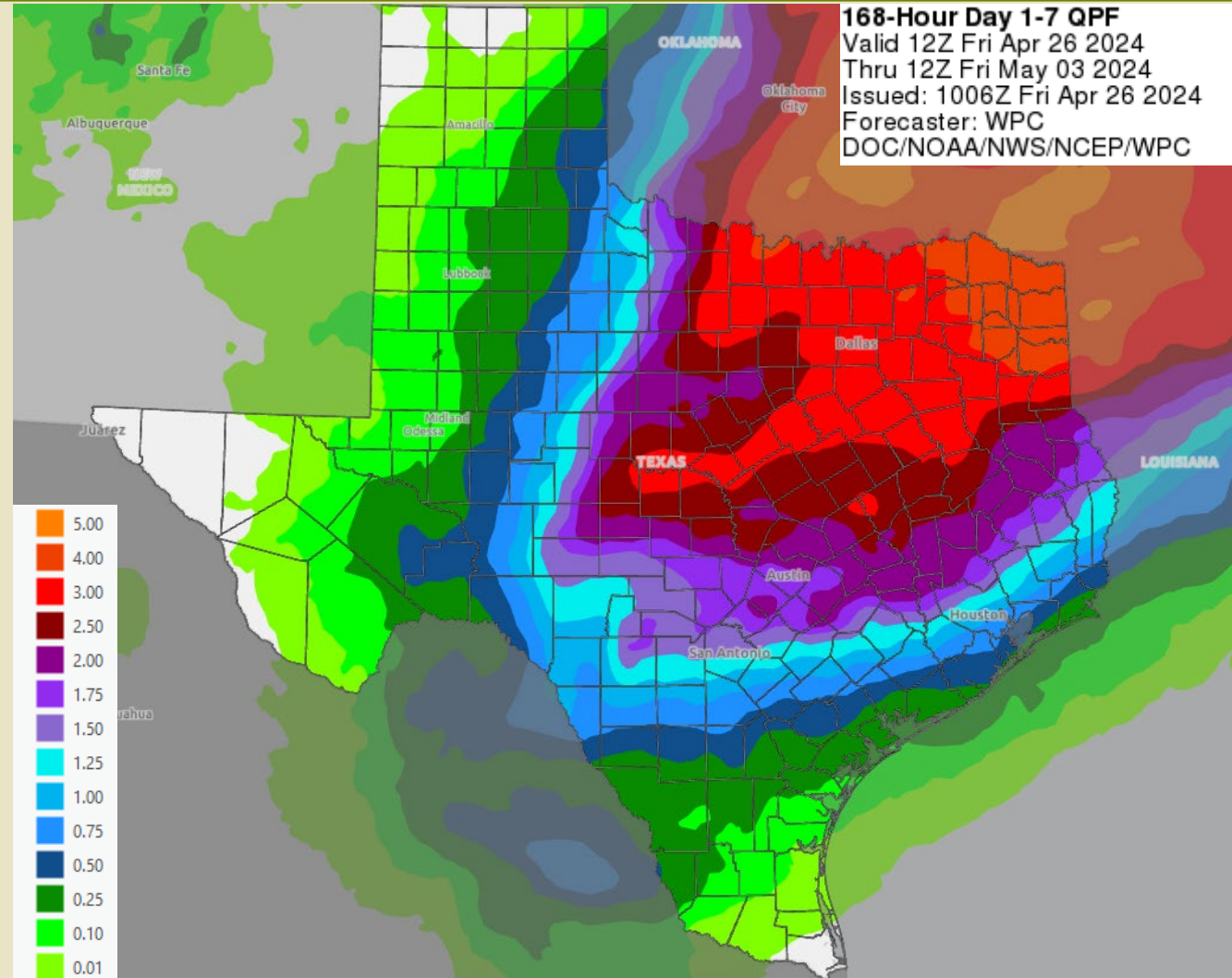
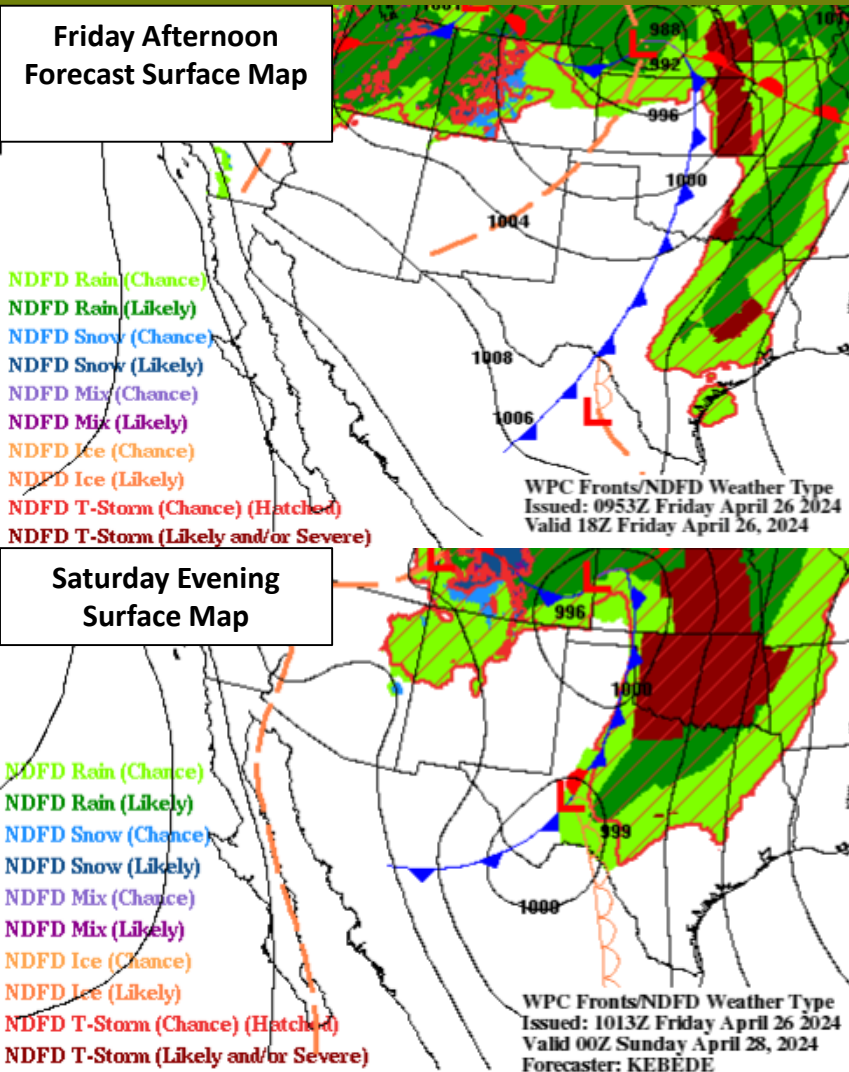
■ Northeast Texas
 ■ Western Pineywoods
 ■ Southeast Texas
 ■ High Plains
 ■ Gulf Coast
 ■ Southern Plains
 ■ Trans Pecos



Over the last 7 days isolated storms occurred in parts of the Trans Pecos, adding pockets of higher fuel moisture. The majority of southwest Texas continues to show 25% or less of normal rainfall over the last 30 days. Rainfall deficits are emerging in South TX and along the Gulf Coast, however increased moisture over the next 7 days will limit fire potential.



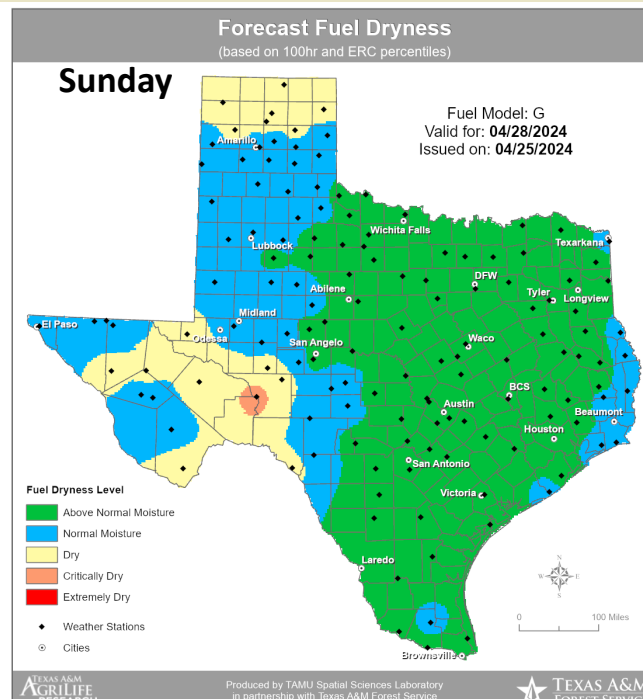
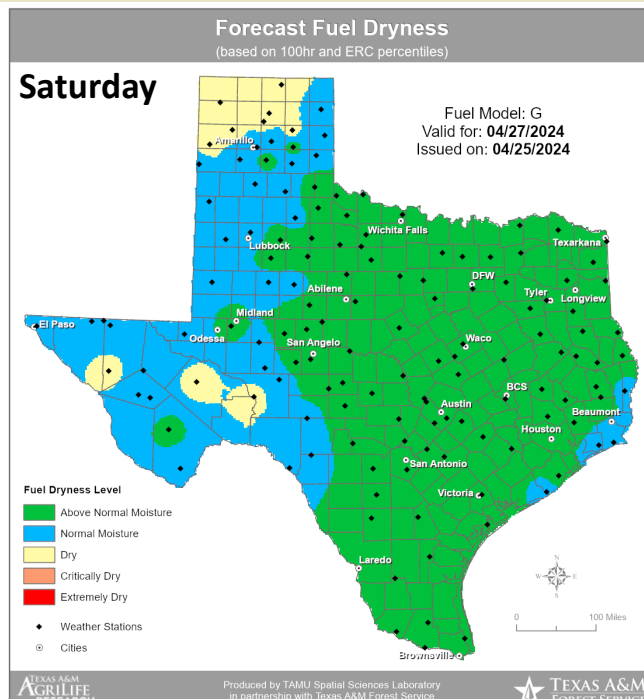
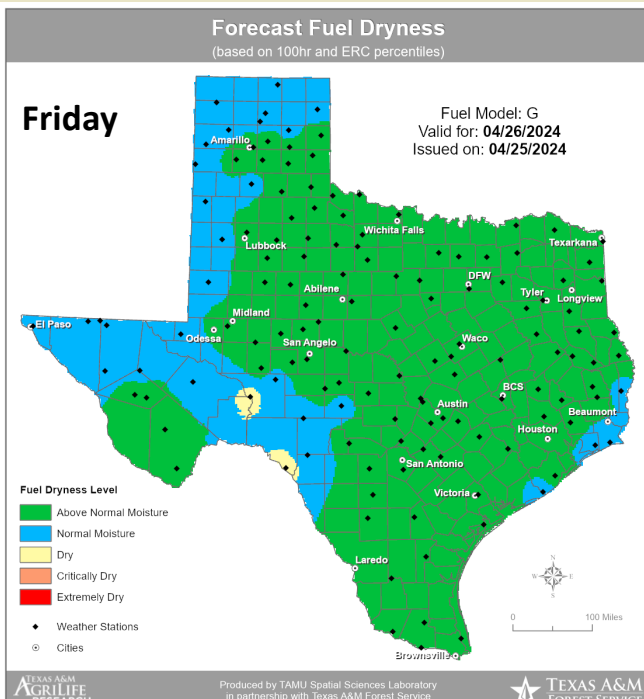
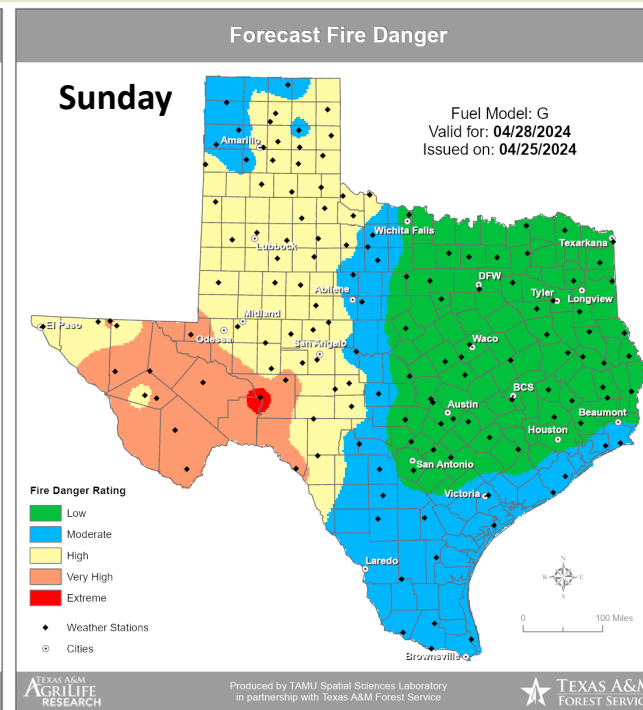
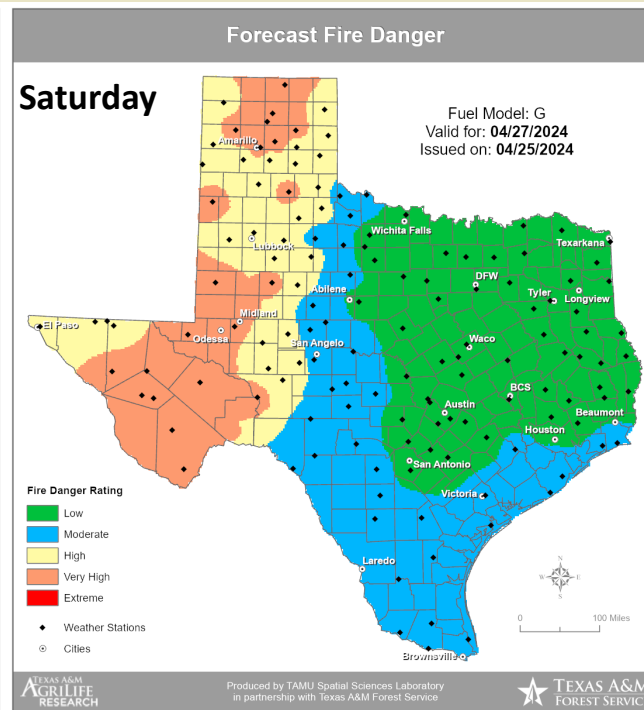
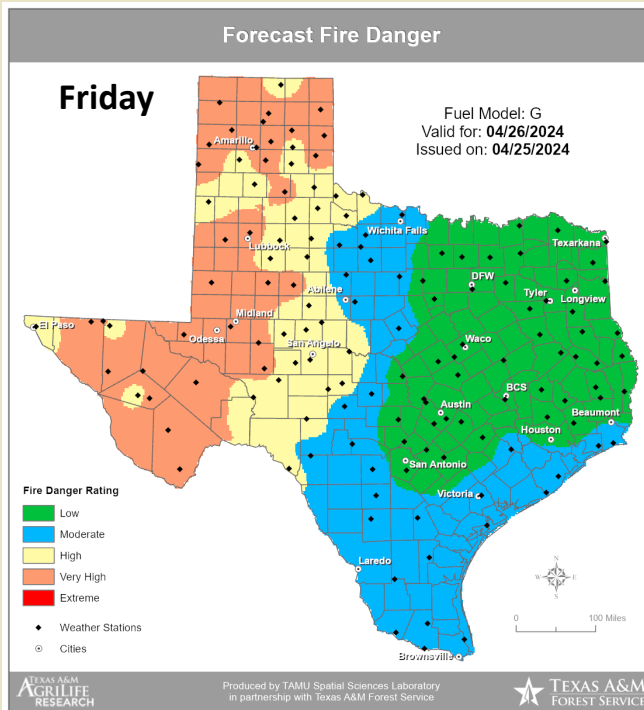
A progressive pattern characterized by several storm systems Friday-Saturday will bring multiple chances for rain and severe storms for the eastern two thirds of the state. Elevated to critical fire weather will exist west of the dryline Friday and Saturday.



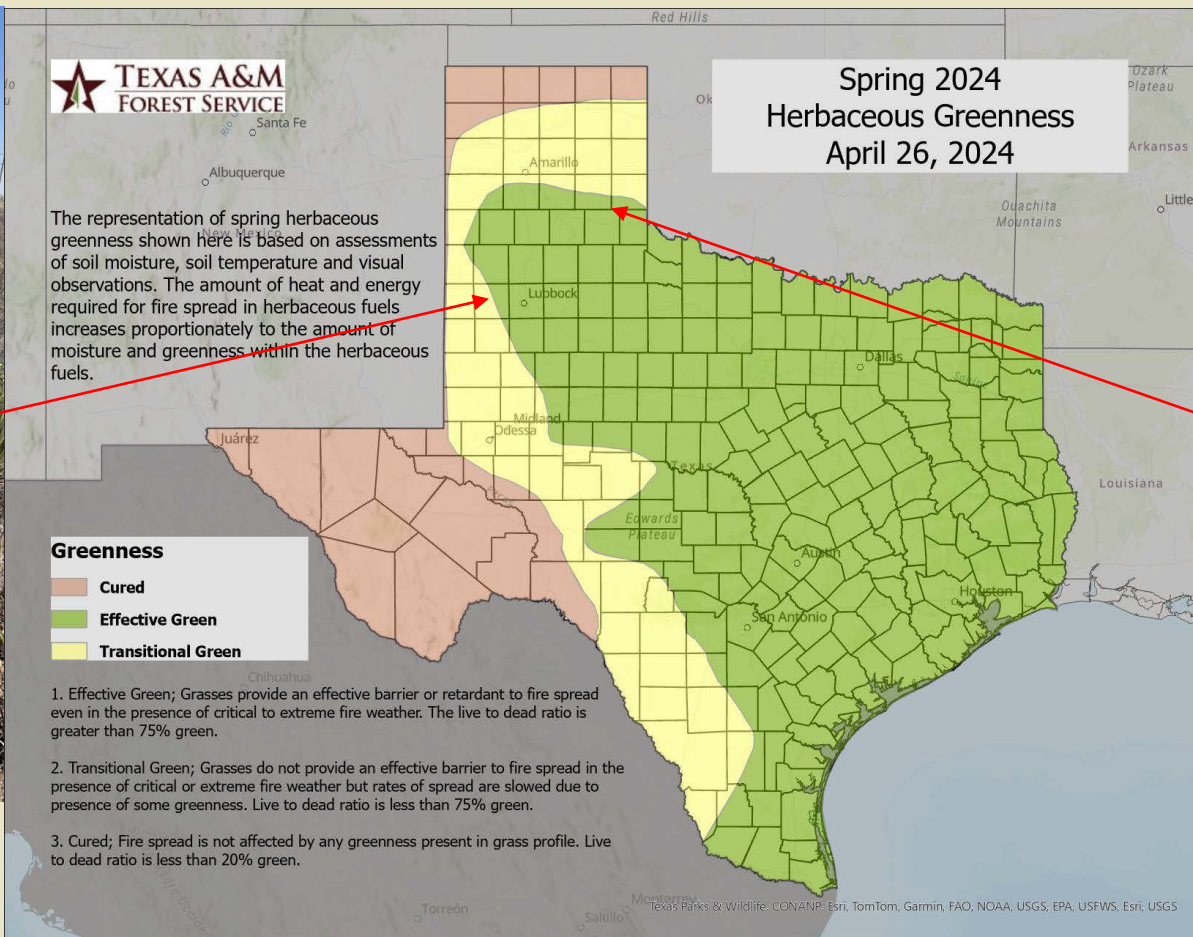


Although fire danger shows high to very high for west Texas driven by a warm and dry environment, forecast fuel moisture that are near to above normal will limit overall fire potential.

Friday and Saturday there is low fire potential for the Western Canadian River Valley in Oldham, Hartley, Potter and Moore Counties where high fuel loading of cured grasses will overlay the fire weather. Fuel moisture levels near normal indicate fuel may limit growth potential and keep resistance to control efforts low to moderate.



Grasses remain transitional in areas of the plains that have received rainfall less than 1 inch. Effective green grasses are being observed in the eastern regions of the plains where 2-4 inches of rain fell on April 9th.



Effective green grasses SW of Childress.
Photo by Erin Miles 4/22/2024

Transitional Grasses Southwest of Lubbock.
Photo by M. Monk 4/22/2024

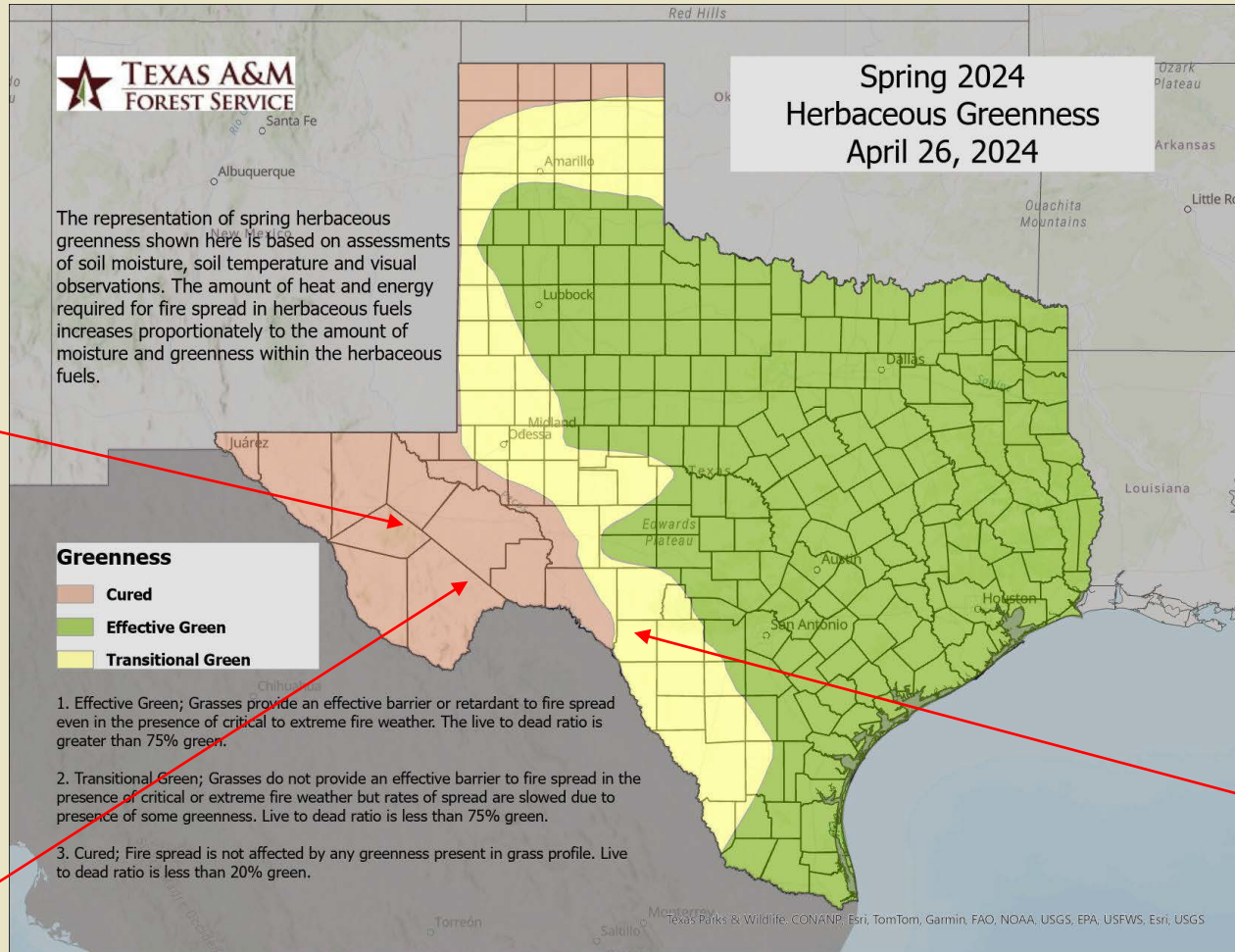
Cured grasses remain in the higher elevations of the Trans Pecos mountain ranges where fire activity is possible if exposed to lightning. Transitional green up of grasses continues in the western region of South Texas.



Cured grasses in higher elevations of the Davis Mountains
Photo by J. Petrie 4/23/2024

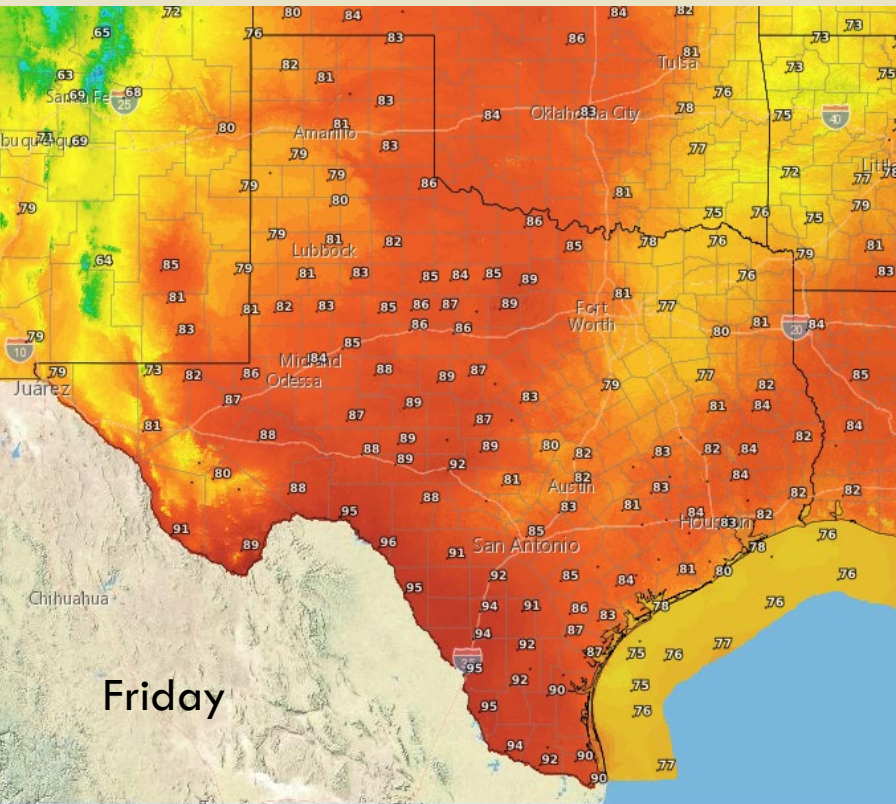


Greener grasses on the foothills of the Glass Mountains near Marathon, TX
Photo by C. Lambert 4/24/2024

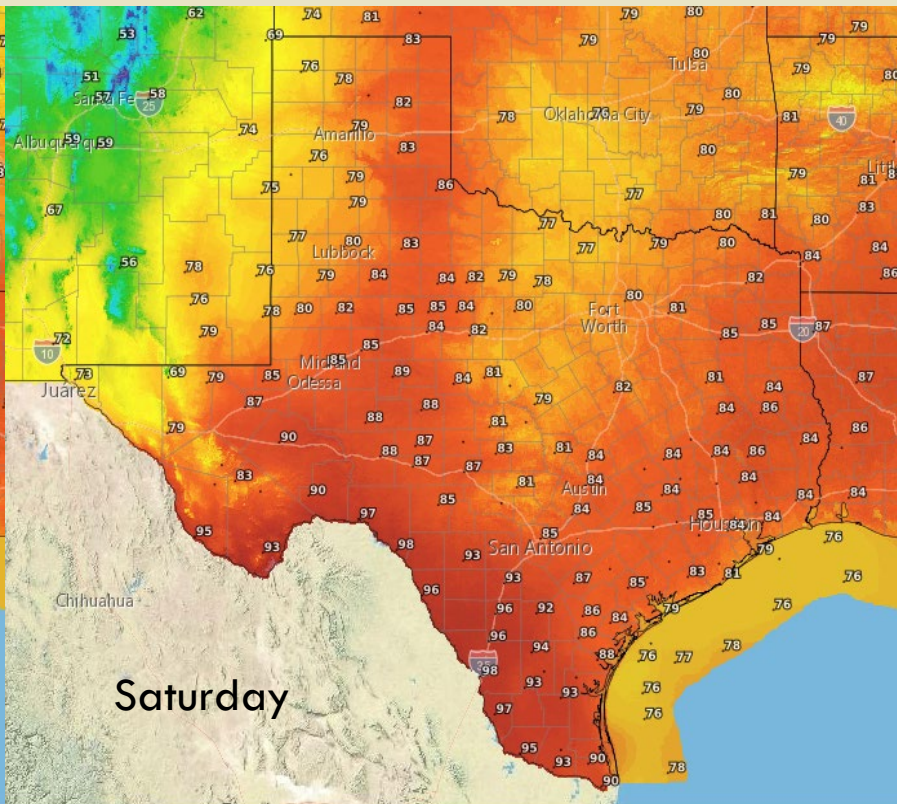


Transitional Grasses near Uvalde
Photo by M. Williams 4/24/2024

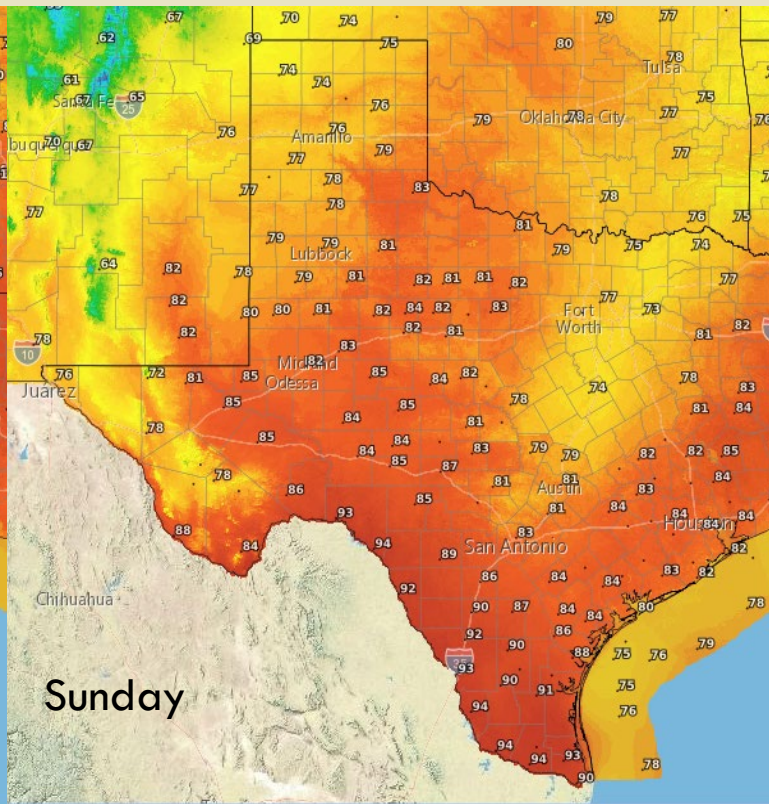
Surface drying of fuels through the weekend will be limited by widespread cloud cover east of the dryline. Temperatures will be variable depending on thunderstorm development in the afternoon.



Maximum Temperature (°F)
Daytime High for: Fri, Apr 26 2024, 7 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 8:30 AM CDT

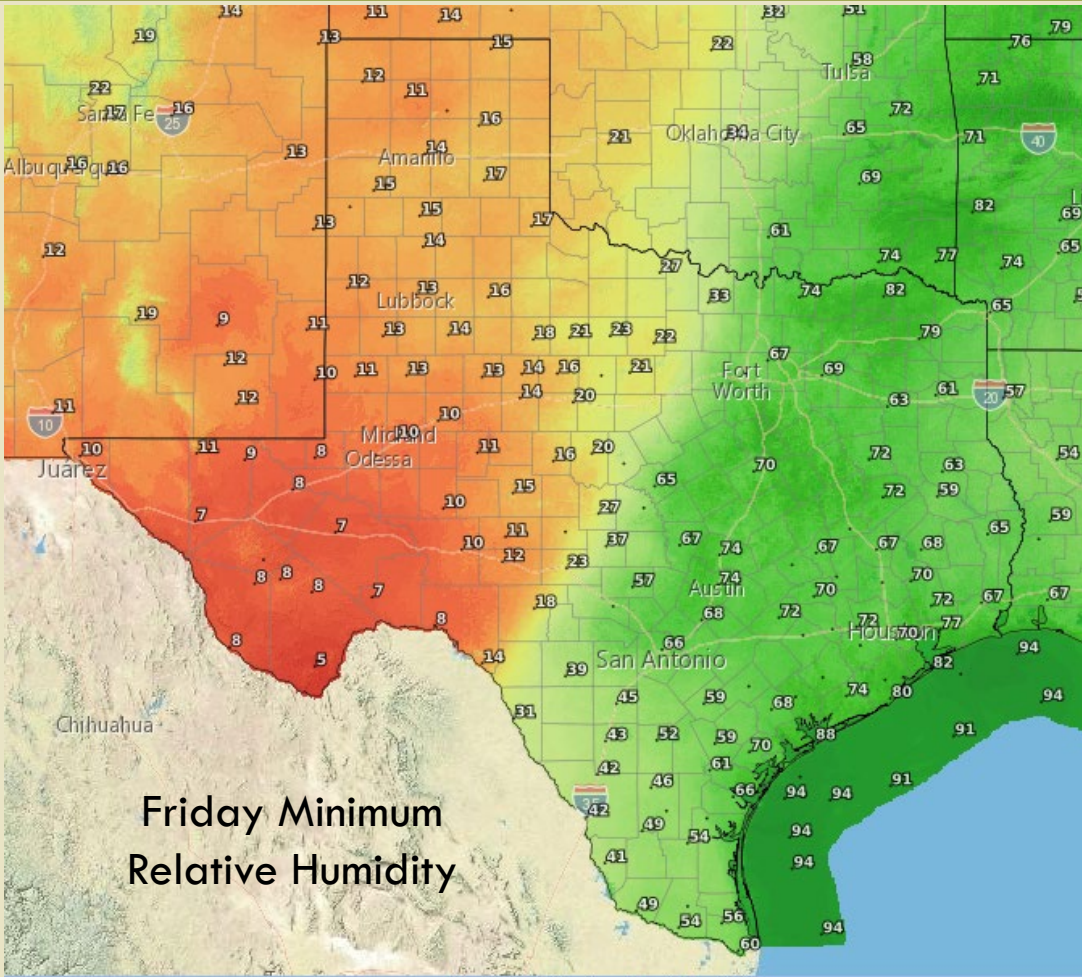


Maximum Temperature (°F)
Daytime High for: Sat, Apr 27 2024, 7 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 8:30 AM CDT



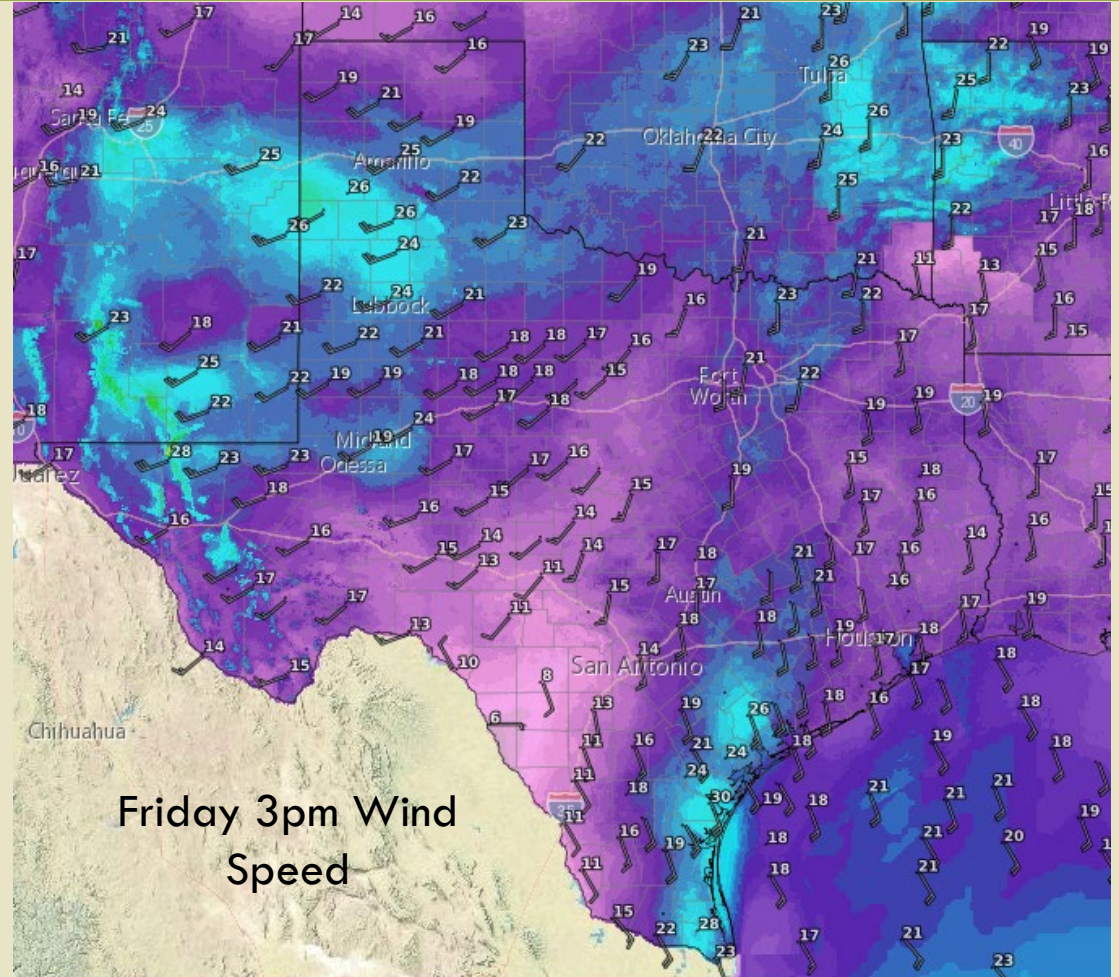
Maximum Temperature (°F)
Daytime High for: Sun, Apr 28 2024, 7 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 8:30 AM CDT

Friday's fire environment will feature elevated to critical fire weather in the Trans Pecos and northwestern High Plains where cured dormant grasses are present, however normal to above normal fuel moisture will keep fire potential low.



Friday Minimum
Relative Humidity

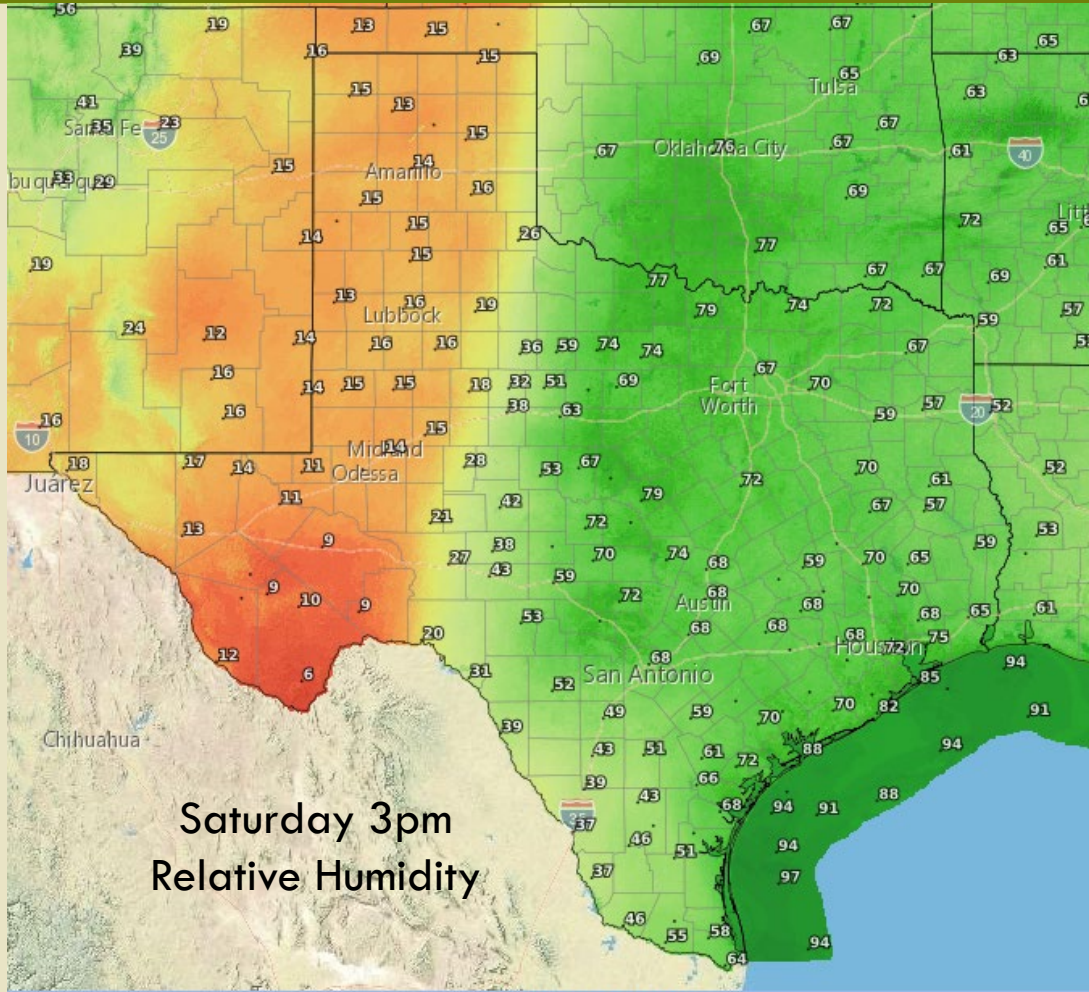
Minimum Relative Humidity (%)
12 hours ending at: Sat, Apr 27 2024, 1 AM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 12:30 PM CDT



Friday 3pm Wind
Speed

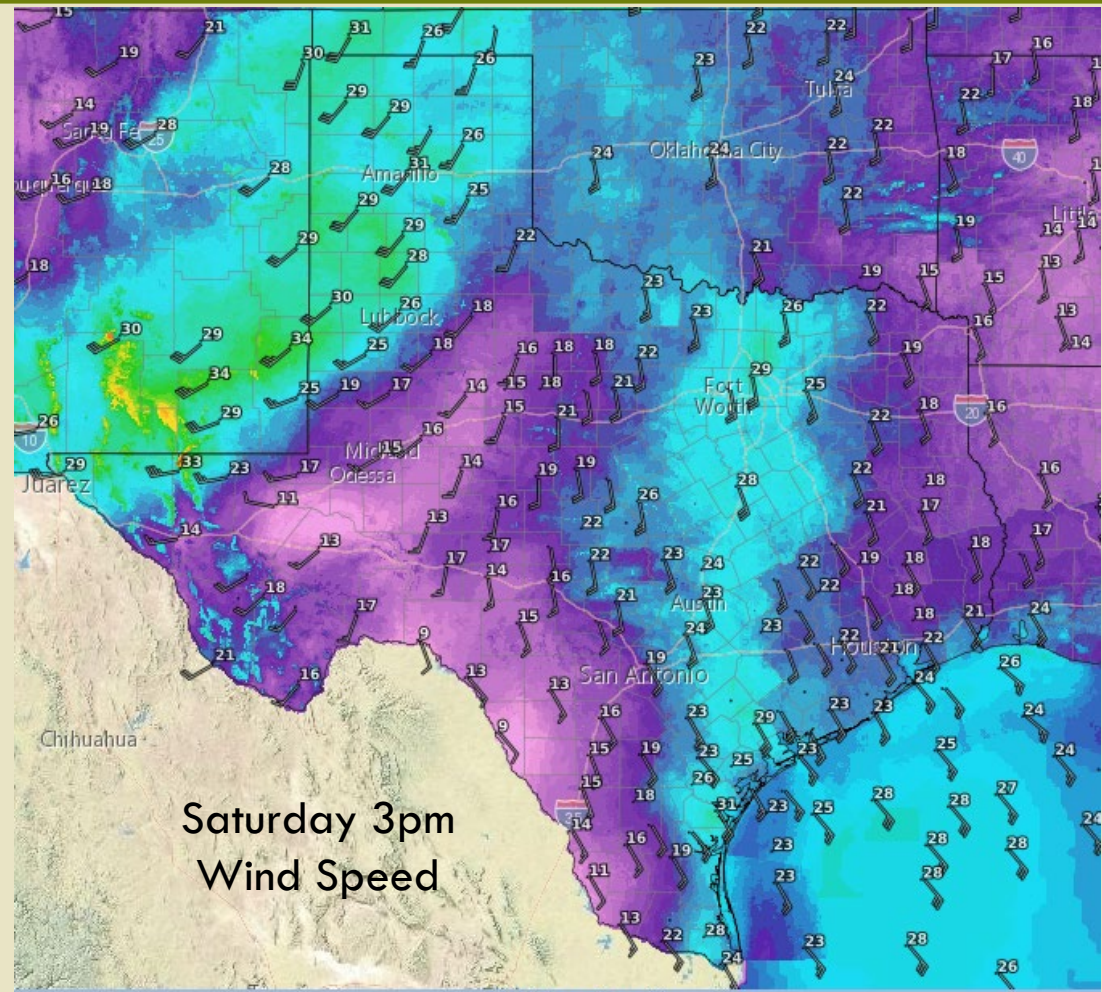
Wind Speed (mph)
Valid at: Fri, Apr 26 2024, 3 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 8:30 AM CDT

Saturday the dryline moves further east producing elevated to critical fire weather across much of the High Plains. Locally dry fuel in the western Canadian River drainage may support low fire potential. Any fires that do occur will have low to moderate resistance to control in higher grass loading.



Saturday 3pm
Relative Humidity

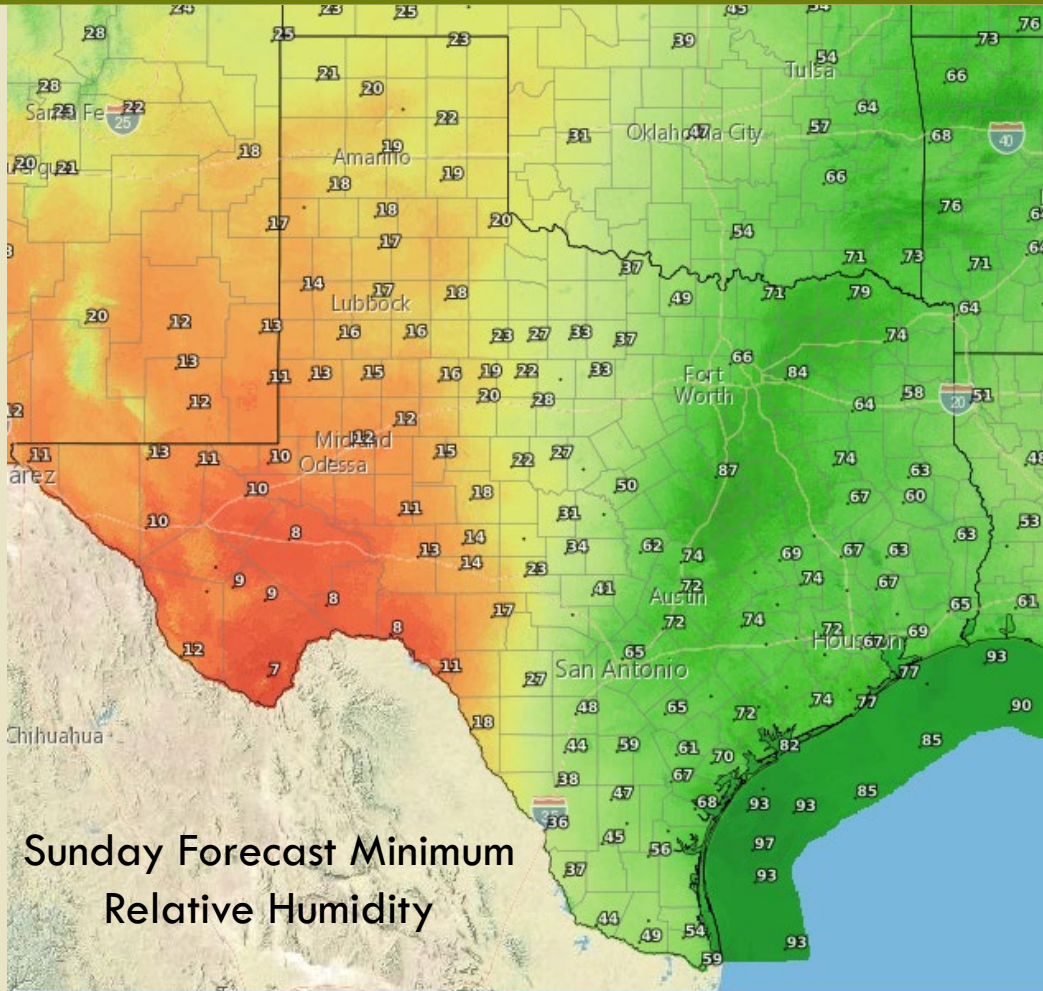
Relative Humidity (%)
Valid at Sat, Apr 27 2024, 3 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 8:30 AM CDT



Saturday 3pm
Wind Speed

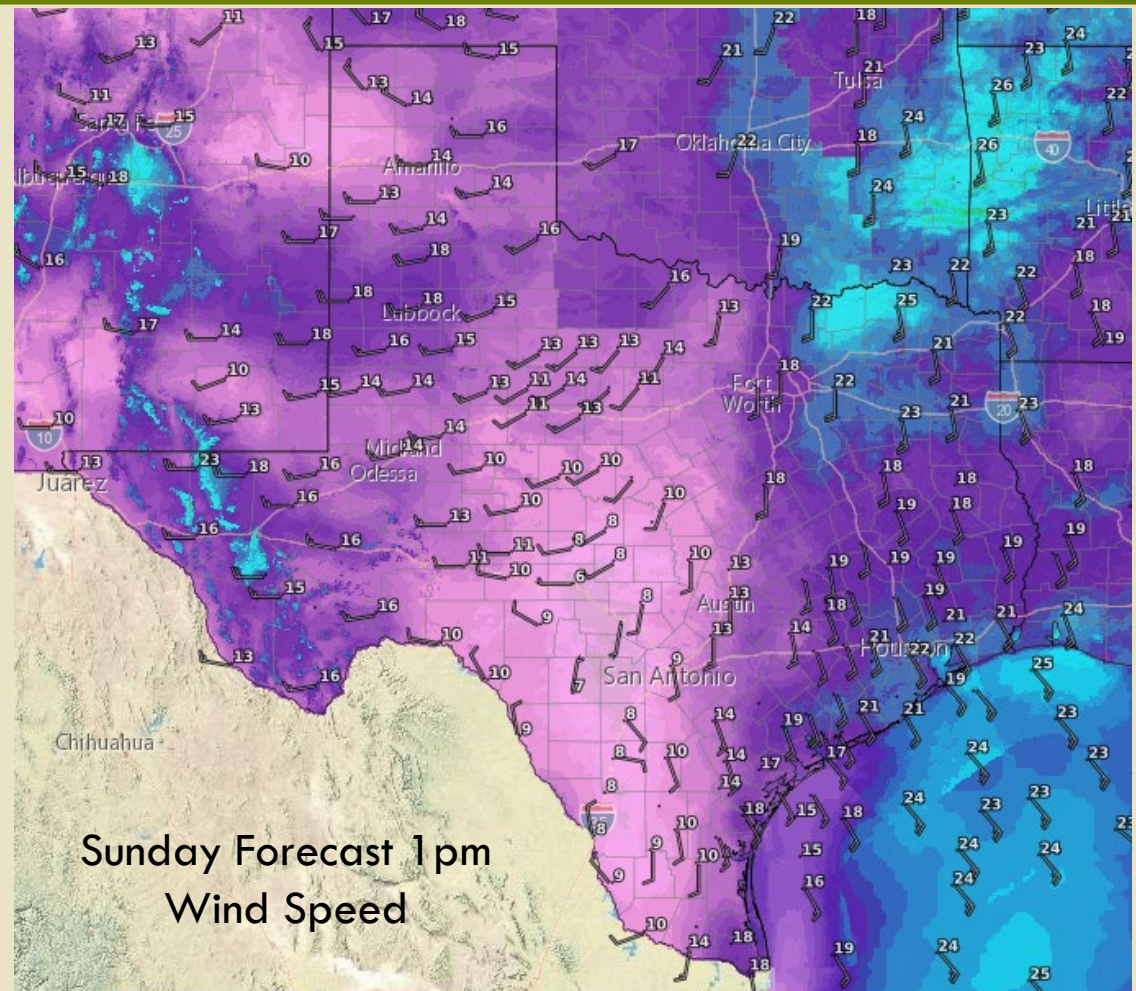
Wind Speed (mph)
Valid at Sat, Apr 27 2024, 3 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 7:00 AM CDT

Wind speeds will be lower on Sunday, and relative humidity values lower than 10% will be mostly confined to the Trans Pecos. Lack of thunderstorms and lightning potential over the Trans Pecos will keep fire potential low Sunday.



Sunday Forecast Minimum Relative Humidity

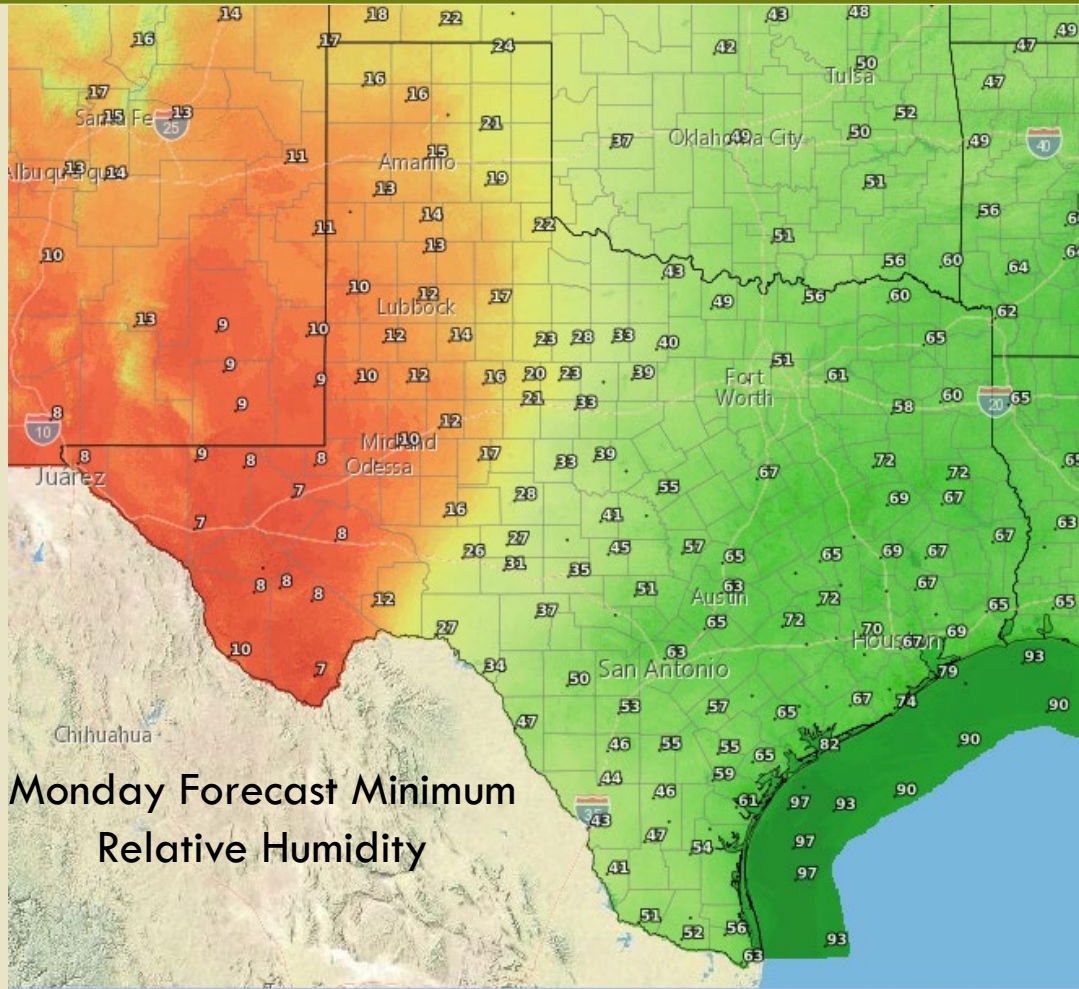
Minimum Relative Humidity (%)
12 hours ending at: Mon, Apr 29 2024, 1 AM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 7:00 AM CDT



Sunday Forecast 1 pm Wind Speed

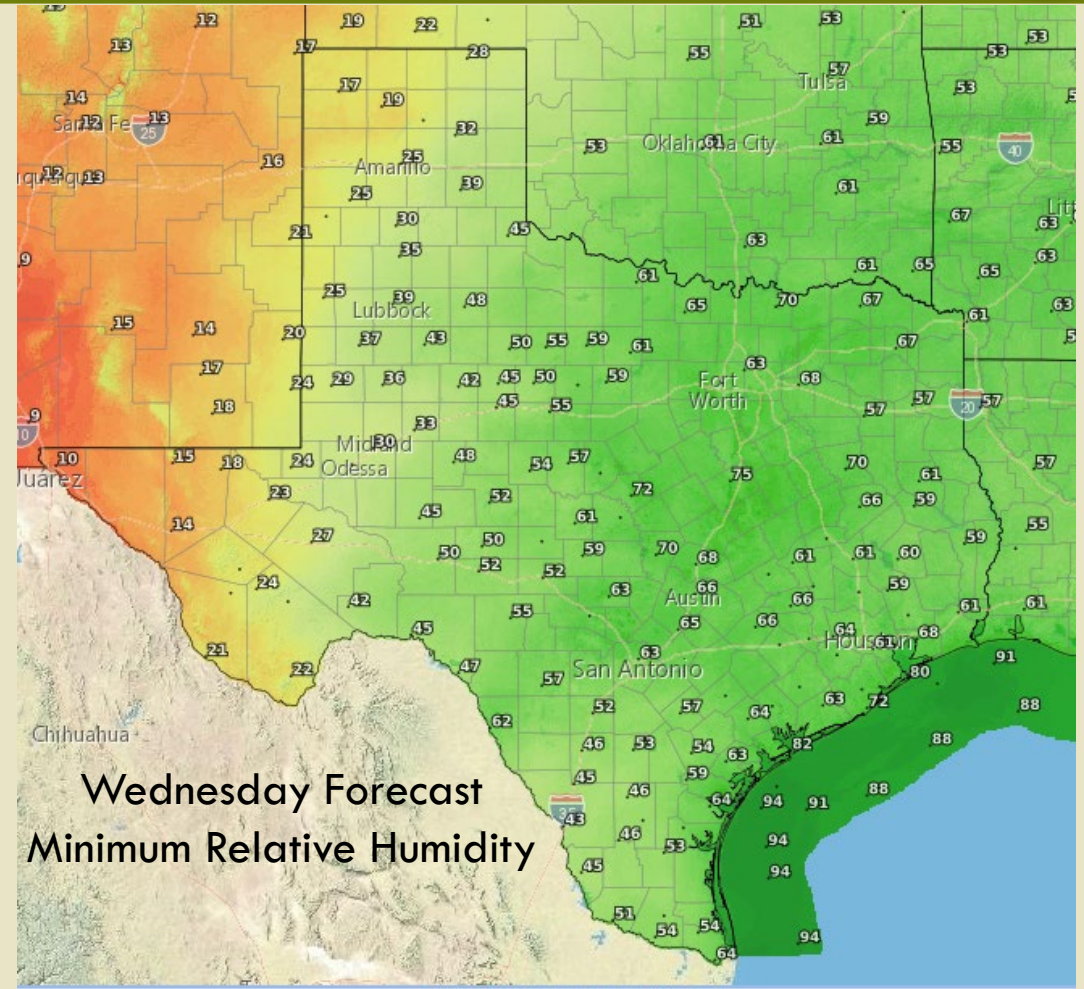
Wind Speed (mph)
Valid at: Sun, Apr 28 2024, 1 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 8:30 AM CDT

The dryline will hold over the Trans Pecos and High Plains before moving west on Wednesday. Wind speeds should remain less than 20mph in these areas through Wednesday. Low humidity over areas of dry cured grasses in the Trans Pecos will have low potential of lightning ignitions beginning Tuesday.



Monday Forecast Minimum Relative Humidity

Minimum Relative Humidity (%)
12 hours ending at: Tue, Apr 30 2024, 1 AM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 7:00 AM CDT



Wednesday Forecast Minimum Relative Humidity

Minimum Relative Humidity (%)
12 hours ending at: Thu, May 2 2024, 1 AM CDT
Issued: Apr 26 at 7:00 AM CDT

Energy Release Component in the Davis Mountains will rise through the weekend but remain below the 90th percentile. Dry dormant grasses may support fire activity when exposed to lightning activity from thunderstorms.

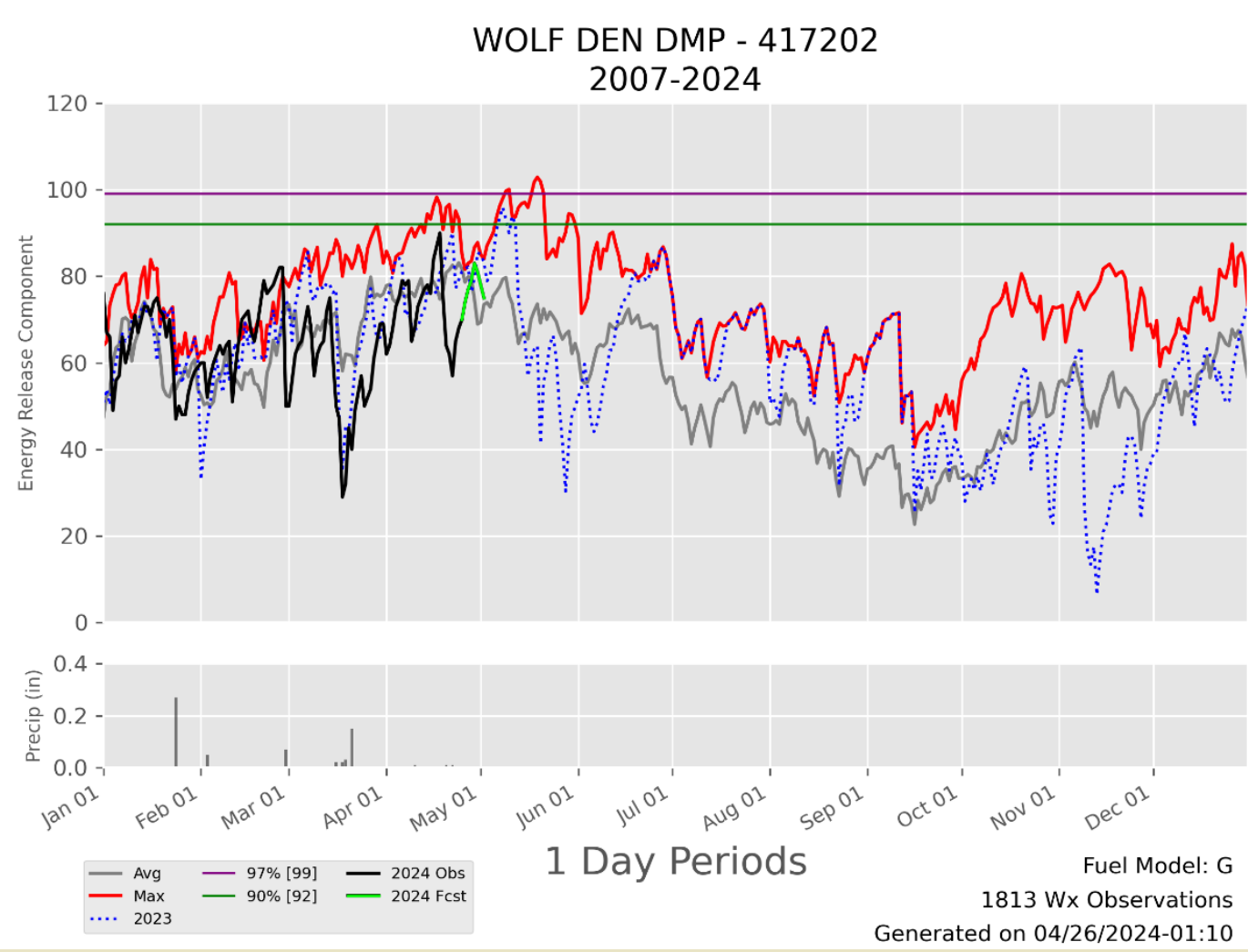
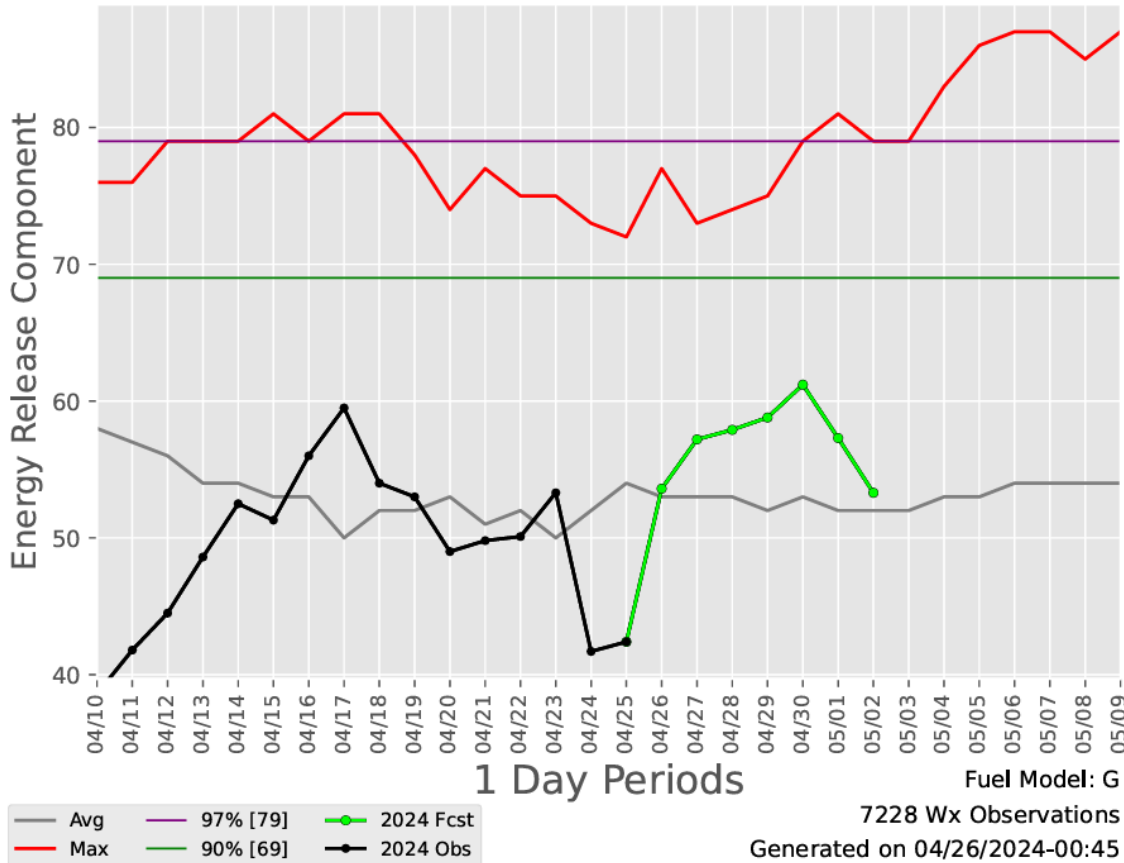


Photo taken near Wolf Den RAWS in Jeff Davis County 04/24/24 by C. Lambert.

By Wednesday, the High Plains PSA will be showing signs of improved moisture and continuing transitional green up resulting in limited fire potential. ERC percentiles in the Trans Pecos show signs of improvement but remain above the 80th percentile. The focus of fire potential will transition to the Trans Pecos by midweek as potential for thunderstorms will create lightning over dry fuels.



HIGH PLAINS Predictive Service Area
2007-2024 - 30 Day Depiction



TRANS PECOS Predictive Service Area
2007-2024 - 30 Day Depiction

