

CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.



# Texas Fire Potential Update

April 17<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Texas A&M Forest Service

Predictive Services

# Fire Potential Notes April 17<sup>th</sup> - April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

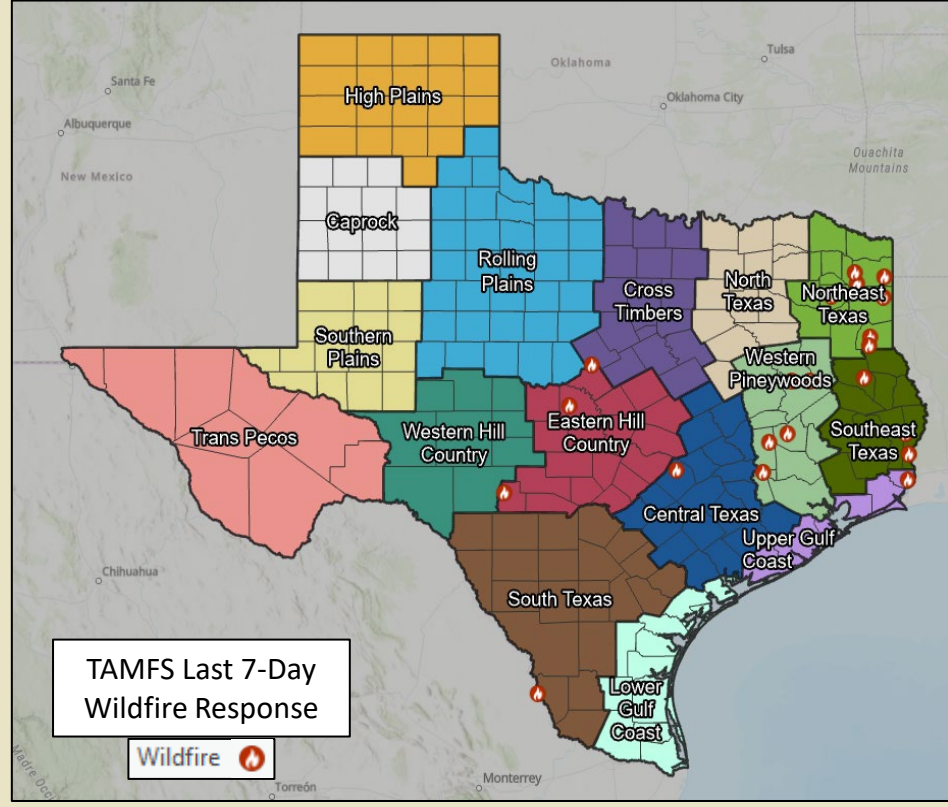
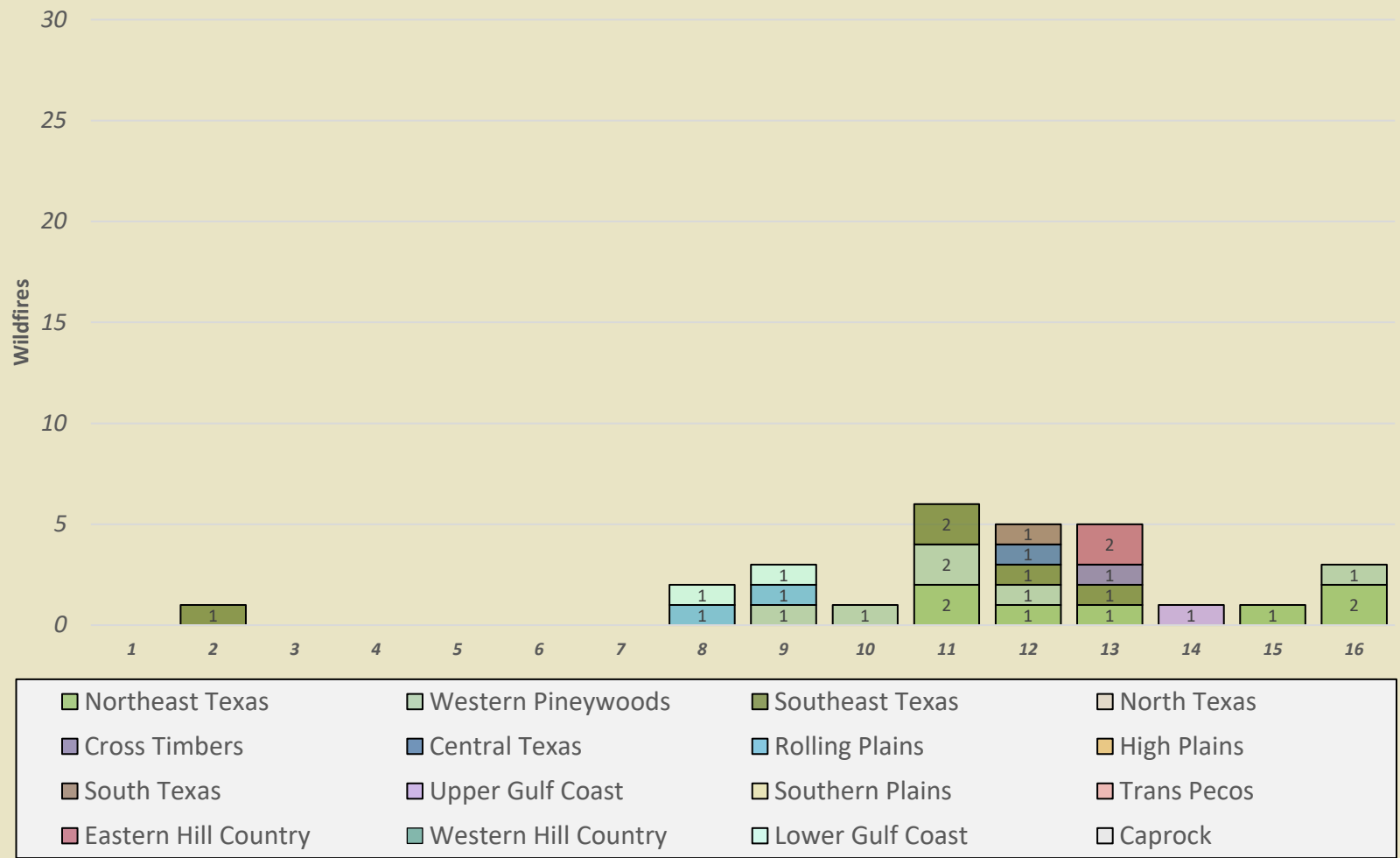


- The fire environment Thursday for the High Plains, Caprock, and Rolling Plains will support low to moderate initial attack fire potential with forecast elevated to extreme fire weather with record breaking max temperatures. Despite today's strong fire weather, widespread ongoing improvements to greenness in herbaceous fuels should keep potential of a large wildfire with high resistance to control low. The fire environment Friday for the High Plains and Caprock will support low initial attack fire potential with forecast elevated fire weather. Friday's fire weather will be confined to the western regions of the High Plains and Caprock.
- Dry pine timber litter fuel will continue to support low potential for initial attack fires in Central and East Texas. Any fire that occurs will exhibit low resistance to control. Pine timber litter fuels will likely moisten up by Friday and through the weekend resulting in limited fire potential.
- The fire environment for the Eastern Hill Country, South Texas, Upper Gulf Coast and Lower Gulf Coast will see improvement in fuel dryness with increasing gulf surface moisture and precipitation chances. This will support limited potential for initial attack fires with low resistance to control throughout the weekend. Thursday and Friday above normal temperatures, dry, and breezy conditions may promote initial attack fires with low resistance to control.
- The fire environment for Trans Pecos and Western Hill Country could support low fire potential for an initial attack fire Friday or Saturday from isolated thunderstorms that may produce an ignition from lightning in dry to critically dry fuels.
- Late Friday through Sunday a slow-moving frontal passage will bring precipitation chances that will increase surface moisture and precipitation chances and improve fuel moisture supporting low to limited fire potential.

Texas A&M Forest Service volume of wildland fire response has decreased since the 13<sup>th</sup> due to improvement of surface fuel moisture, improvement to herbaceous greenness, and lack of widespread extreme fire weather triggers.



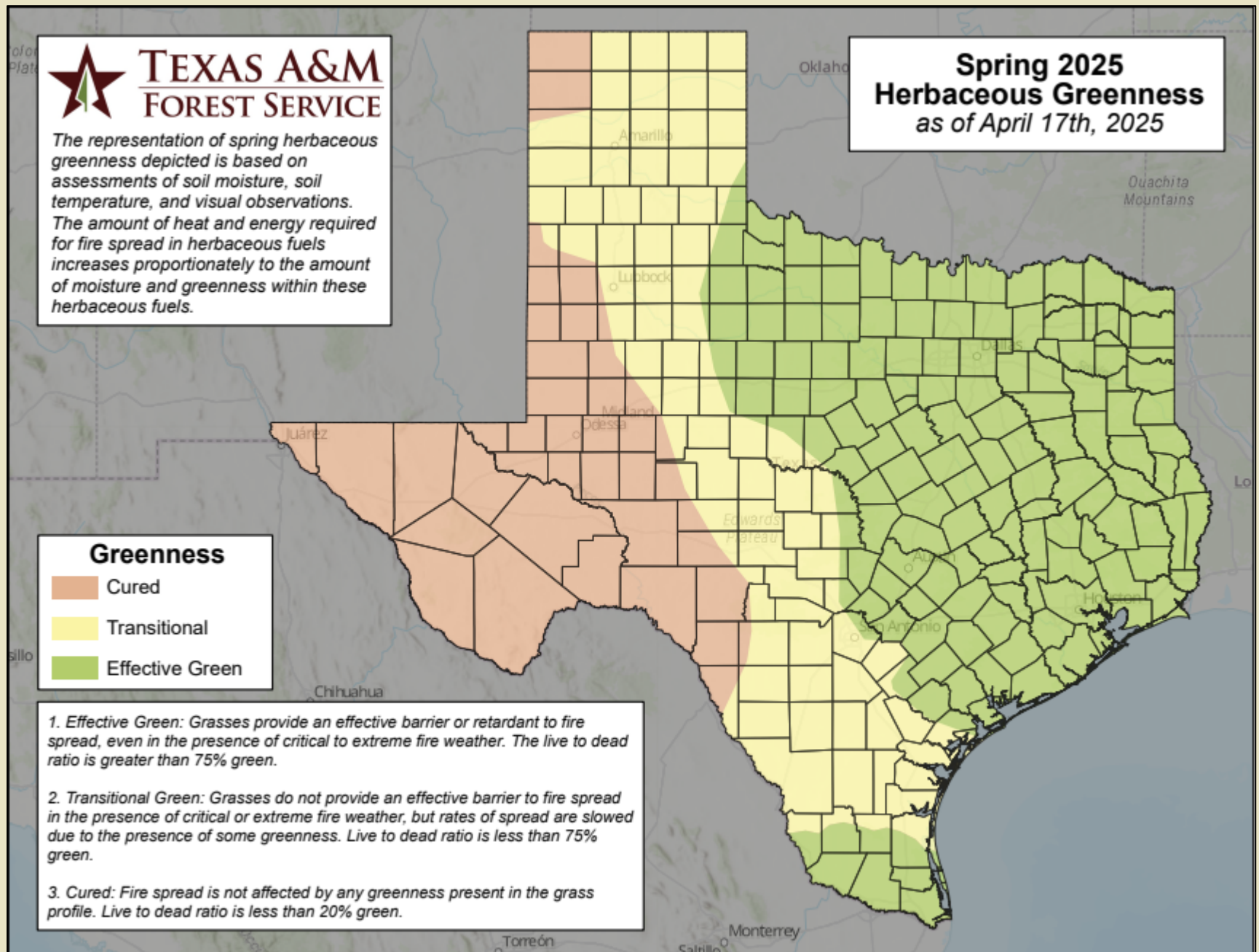
### April 1<sup>st</sup> - April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Texas A&M Forest Service Wildfire Response by Predictive Service Area



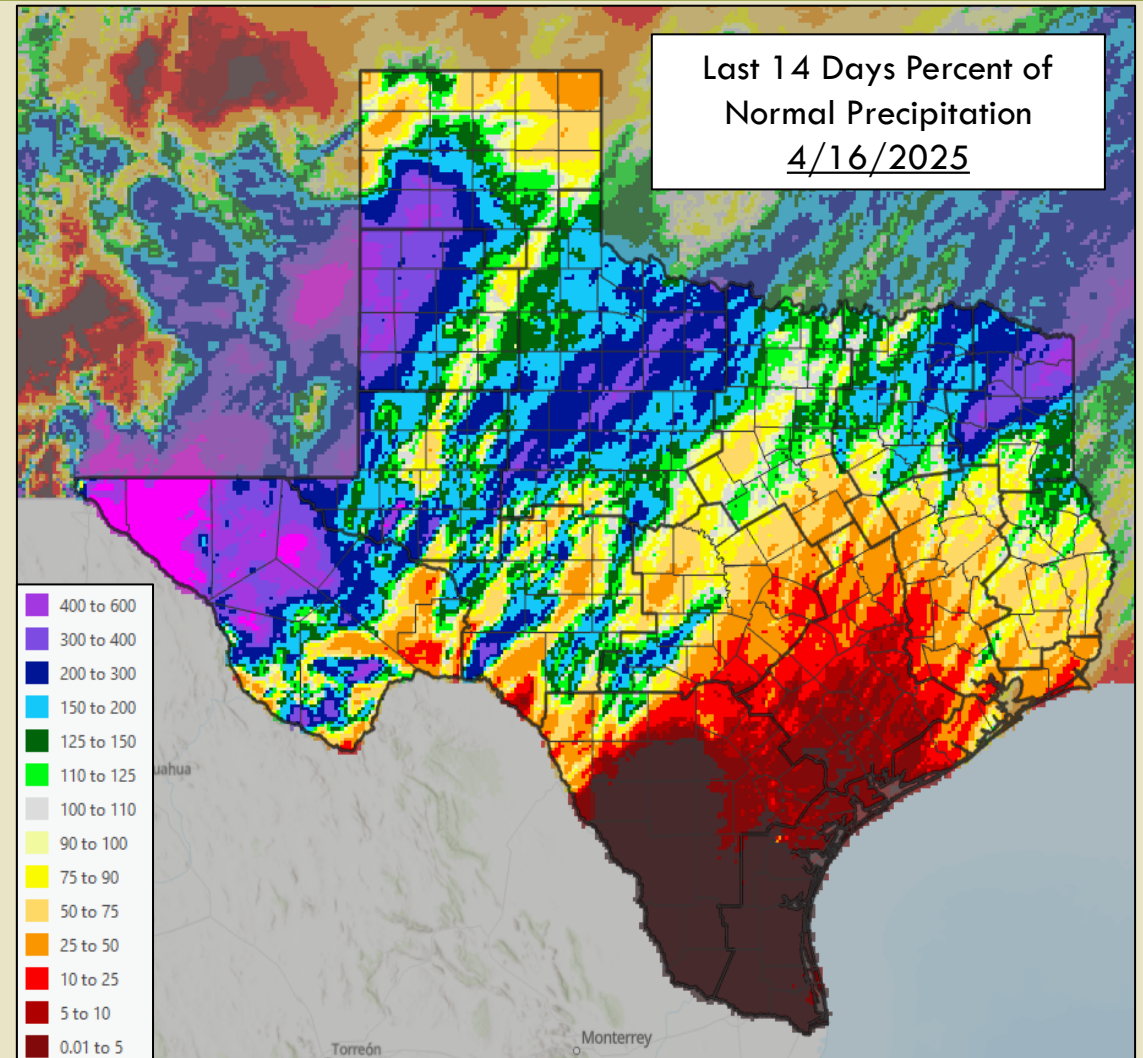
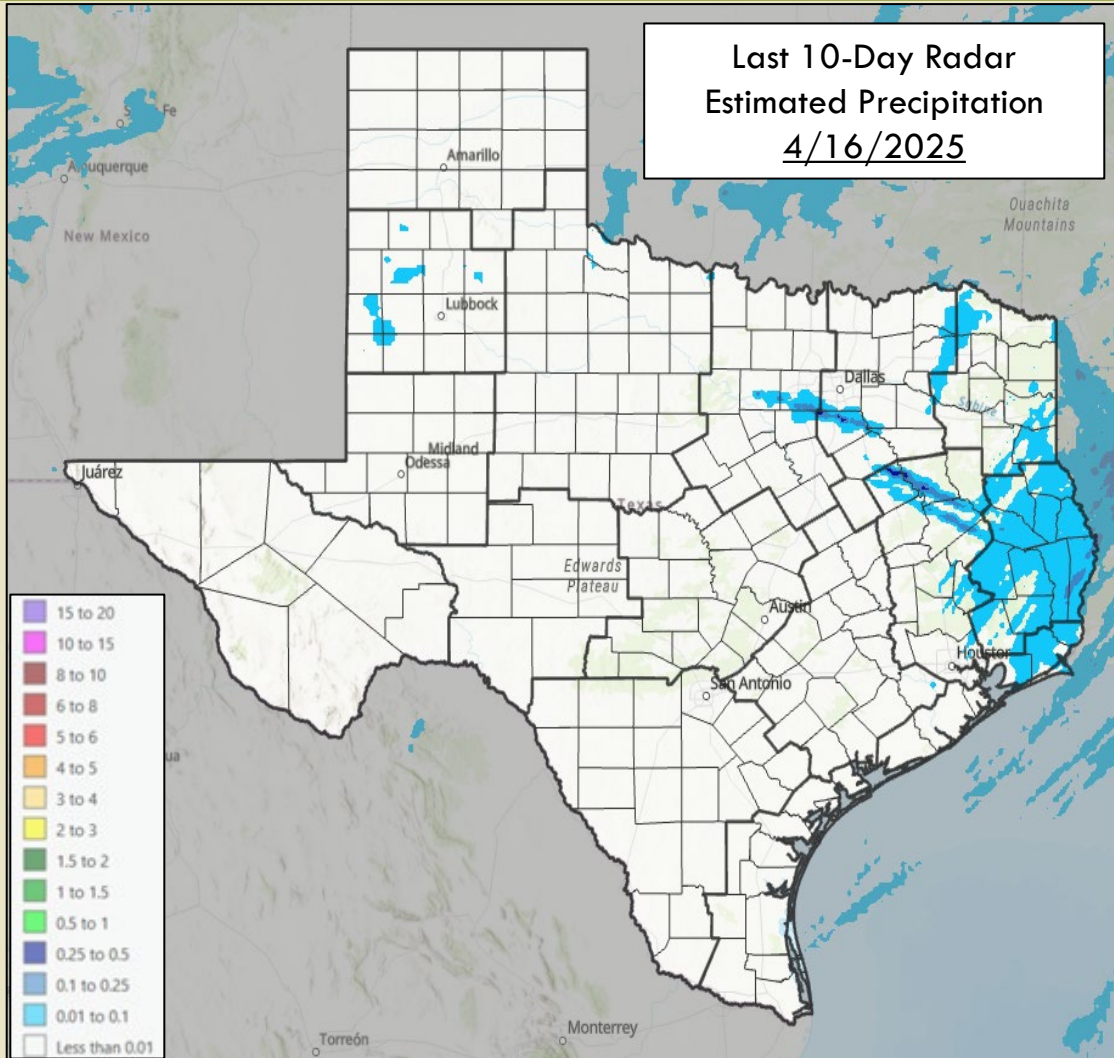


Following widespread rainfall observed in the past 2-3 weeks, expansion of transitional green grasses has been observed across the Rolling Plains, Lower Gulf Coast, and South Texas.

Transitional grasses do not provide an effective barrier to fire spread in the presence of critical to extreme fire weather, but rates of spread are slowed due to the presence of some greenness.

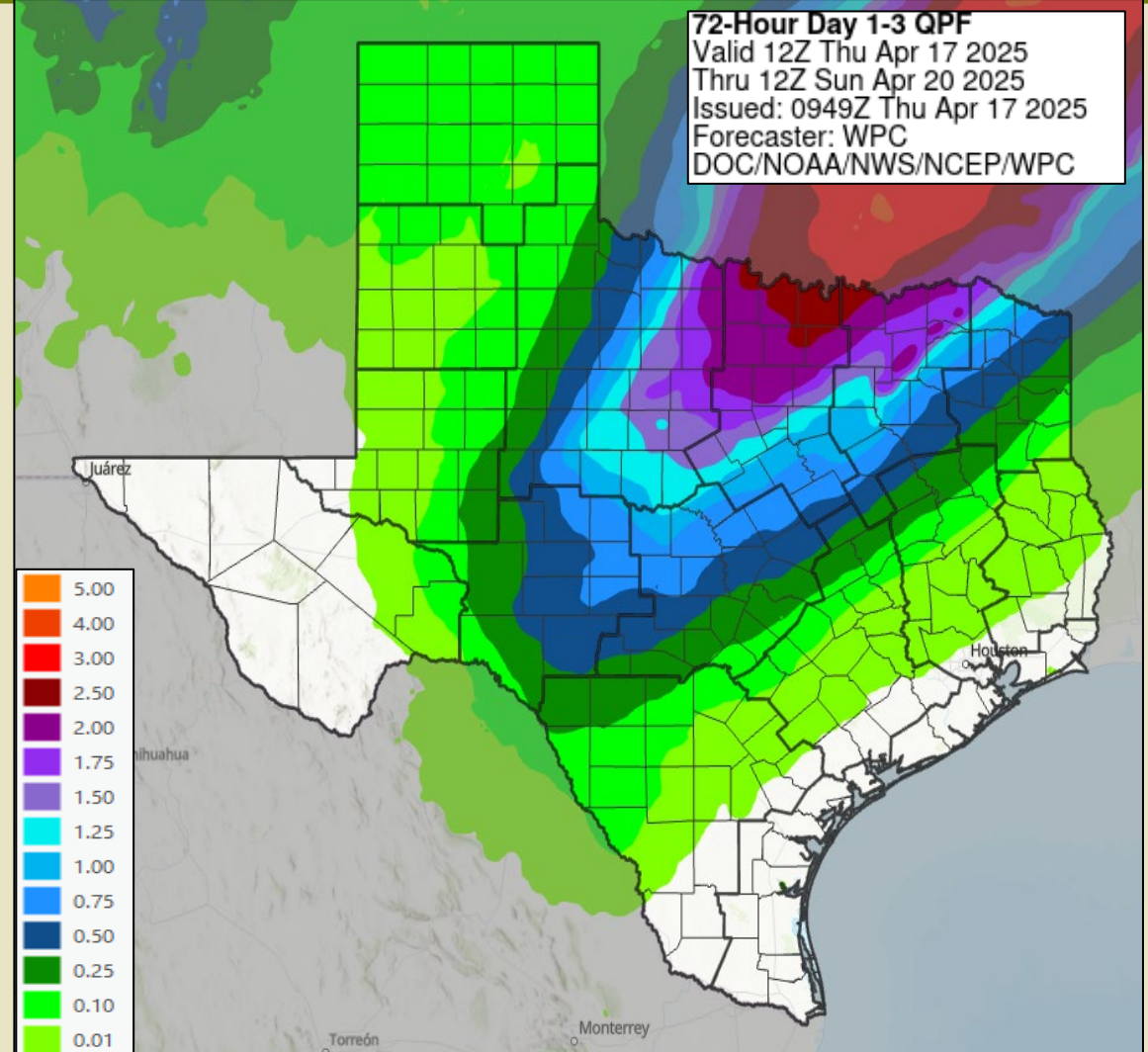
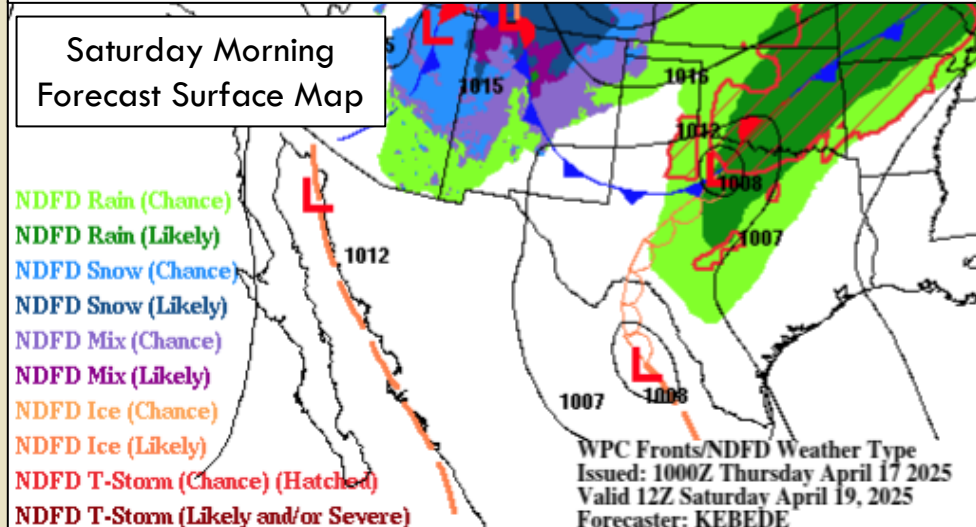
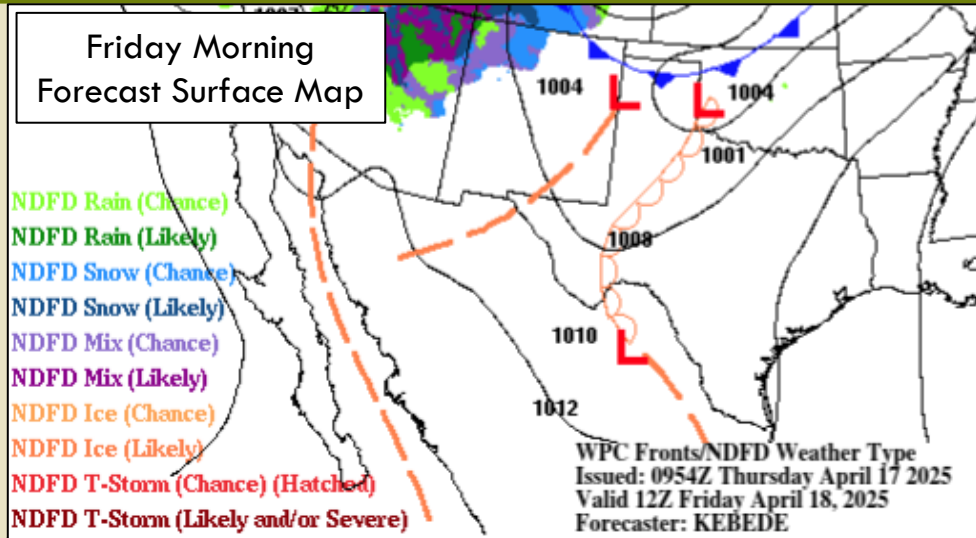


Short-term dryness continues in the northern High Plains, South Texas, Lower Gulf Coast, Eastern Hill Country, Central Texas, lower Cross Timbers, and parts of East Texas based on less than 25% of normal precipitation deficits over the past 14 days. The lack of widespread precipitation occurrence in the last 10-Days and above normal temperatures have subjected surface fuels in these areas to a short drying trend.



Friday pre-frontal conditions will impact the state by bringing elevated to critical fire weather to the High Plains and Caprock.

Saturday, a slow-moving front will increase precipitation chances, improve fuel moisture, and limit fire potential. Isolated thunderstorms along a dryline and cold front may present a low risk for lightning to provide the source of a wildfire ignition in the Trans Pecos and Western Hill Country.





Thursday, 4/17/25

Friday, 4/18/25

Saturday, 4/19/25

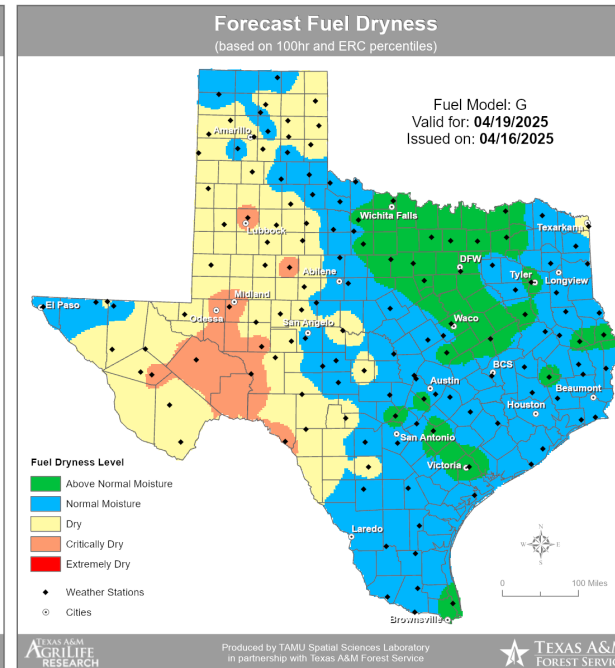
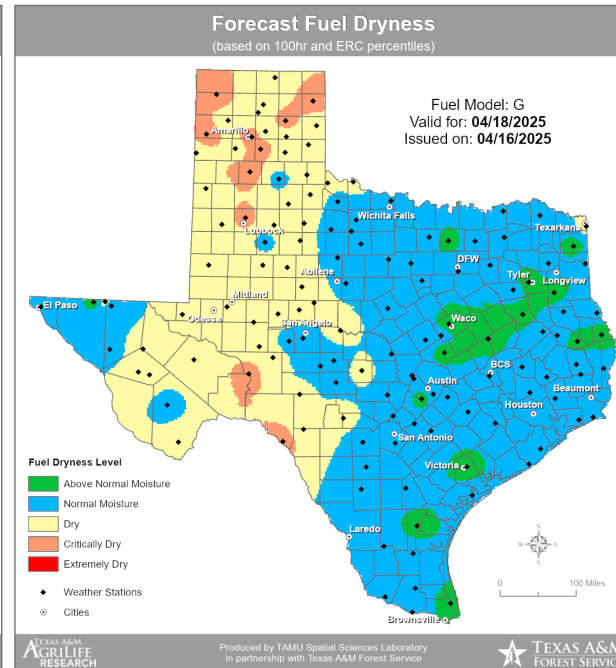
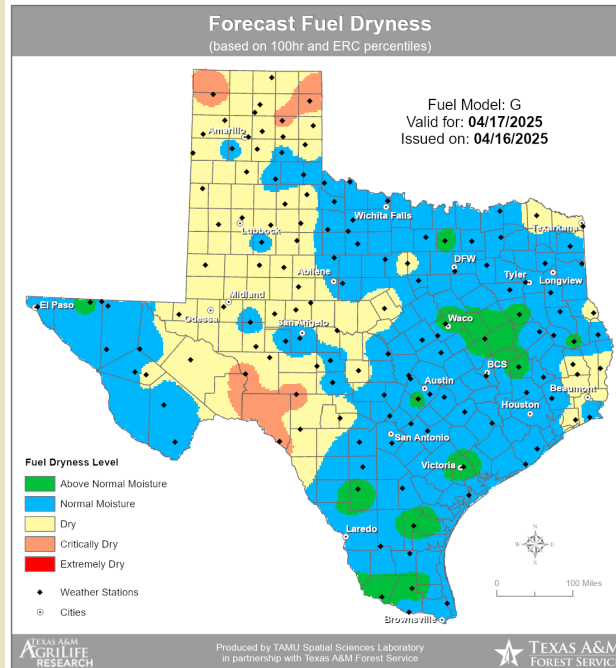
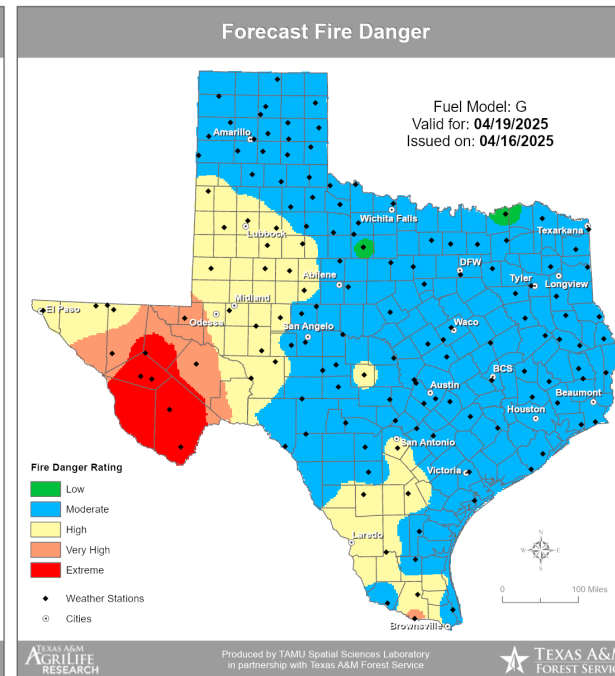
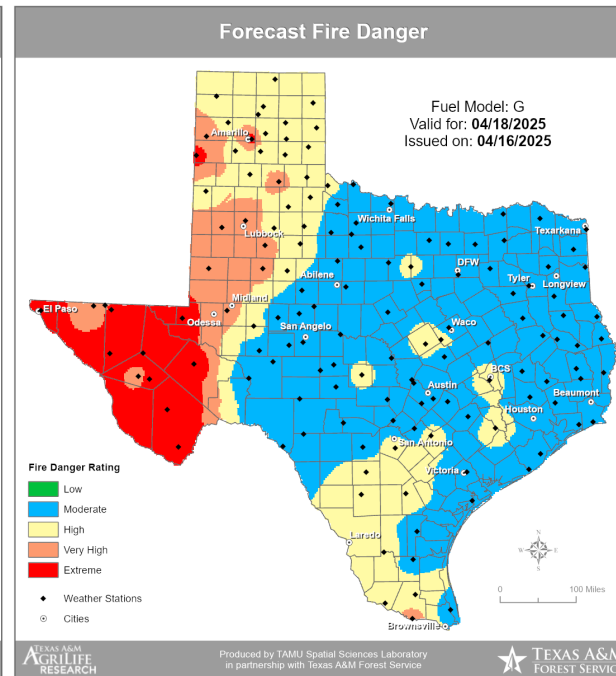
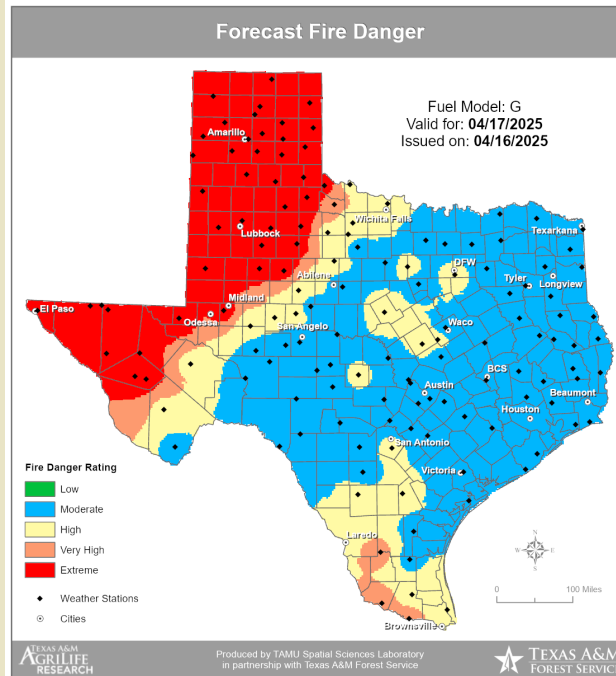
Fire Environment Forecast  
Thursday through Saturday

Through Saturday the fire environment will support low to limited fire potential as fuel dryness improves in South Texas, Upper/Lower Gulf Coast, Eastern Hill Country, Central Texas, Cross Timbers, North Texas, and East Texas. Fire weather concerns are confined to High Plains, Caprock, Southern Plains, and Trans Pecos.

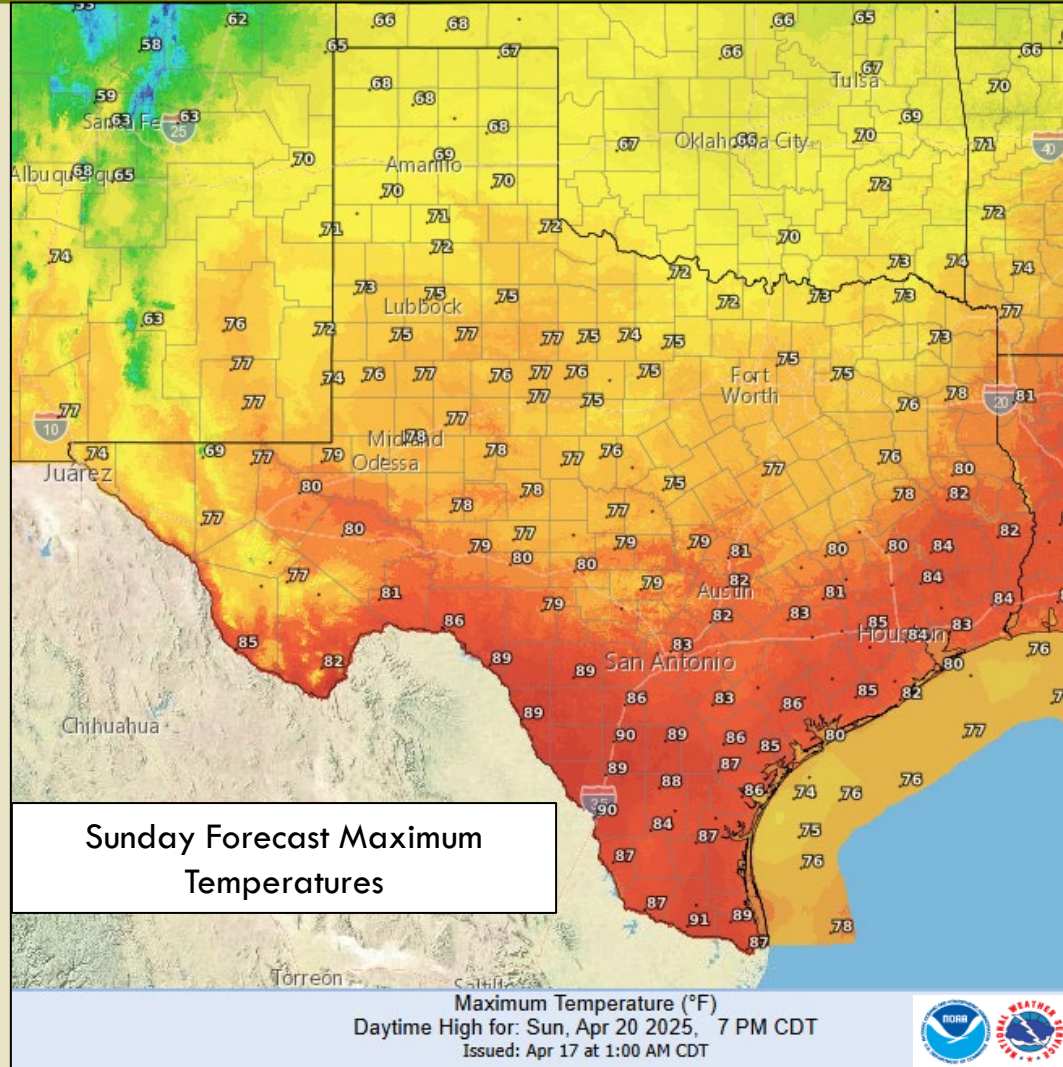
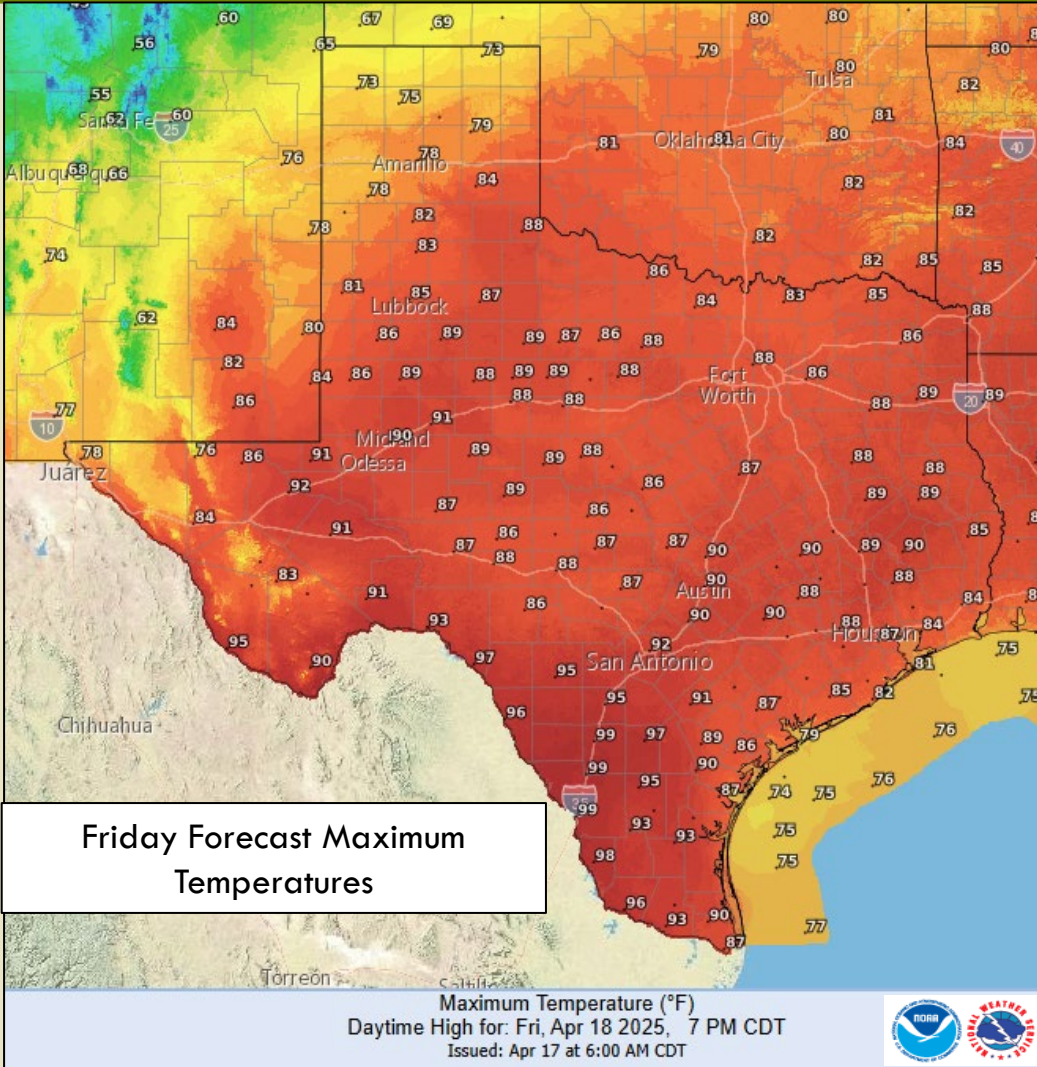
Despite today's extreme fire weather, widespread ongoing improvements to greenness in herbaceous fuels should keep potential of a large wildfire with high resistance to control low.

The fire environment for Trans Pecos and Western Hill Country could support low fire potential for an initial attack fire Friday or Saturday from isolated thunderstorms that may produce an ignition from lightning in dry to critically dry fuels.

Maps found at Texas Weather Connection website:  
<https://twc.tamu.edu/>

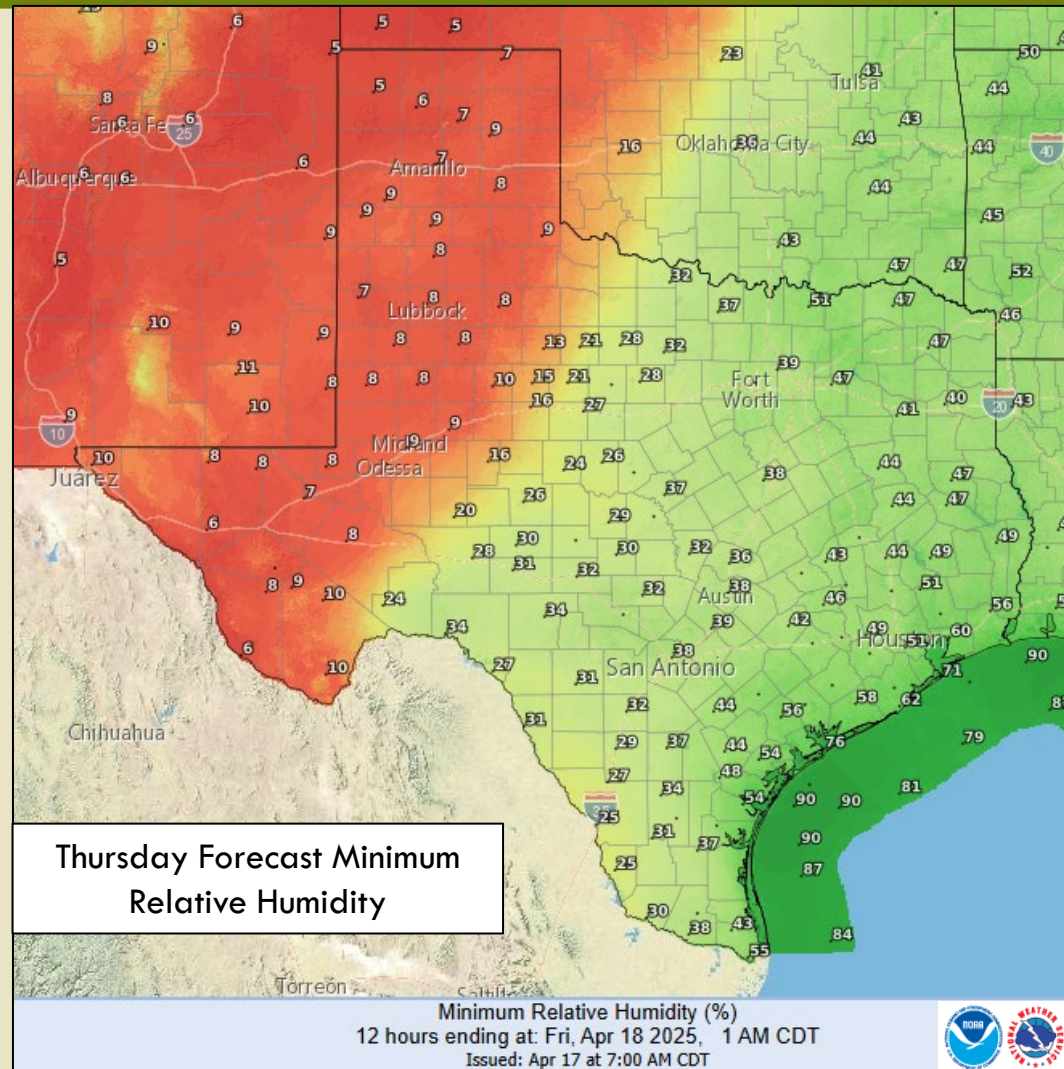
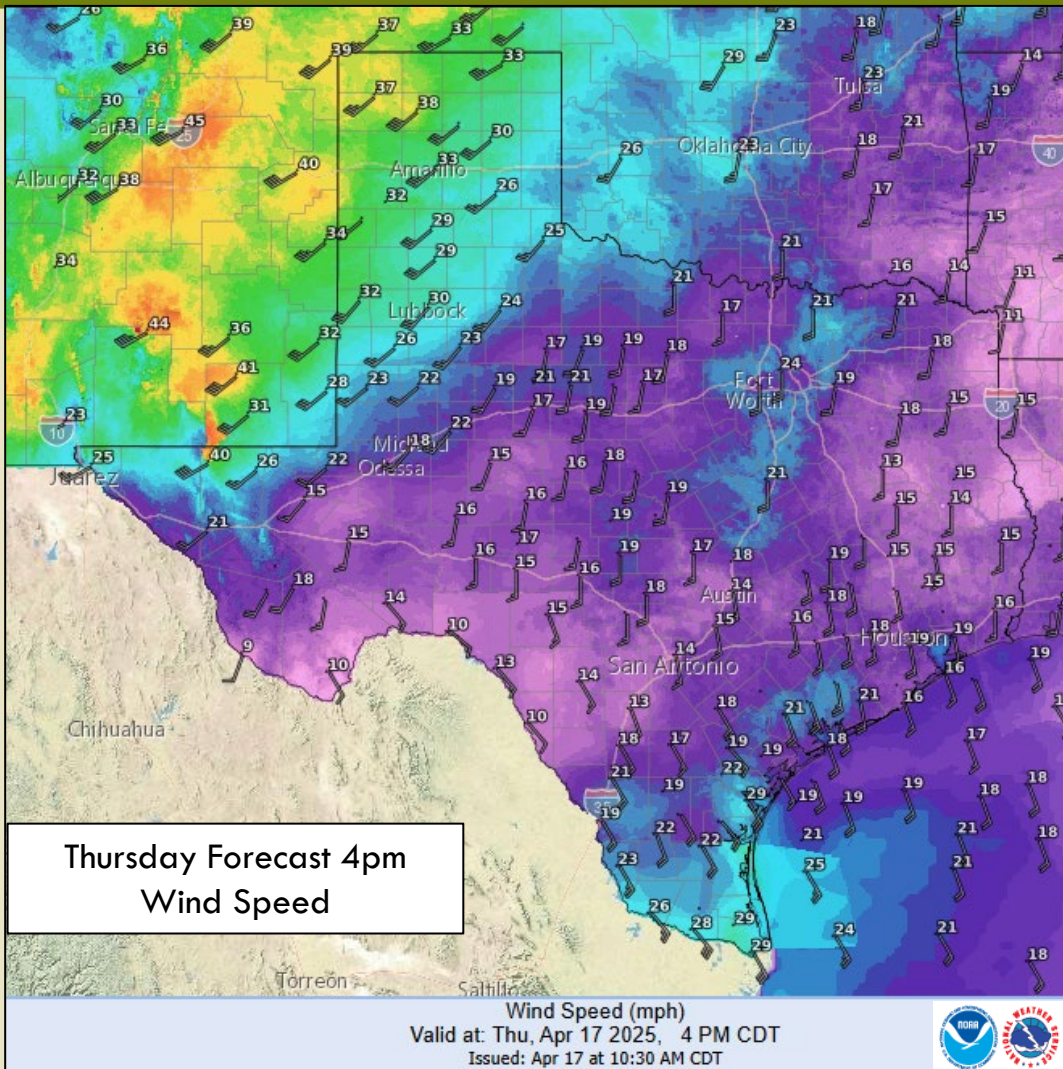


Temperatures will continue to trend above normal statewide until Sunday when a frontal passage will moderate temperatures. Temperatures are expected to rebound near April averages starting Monday.

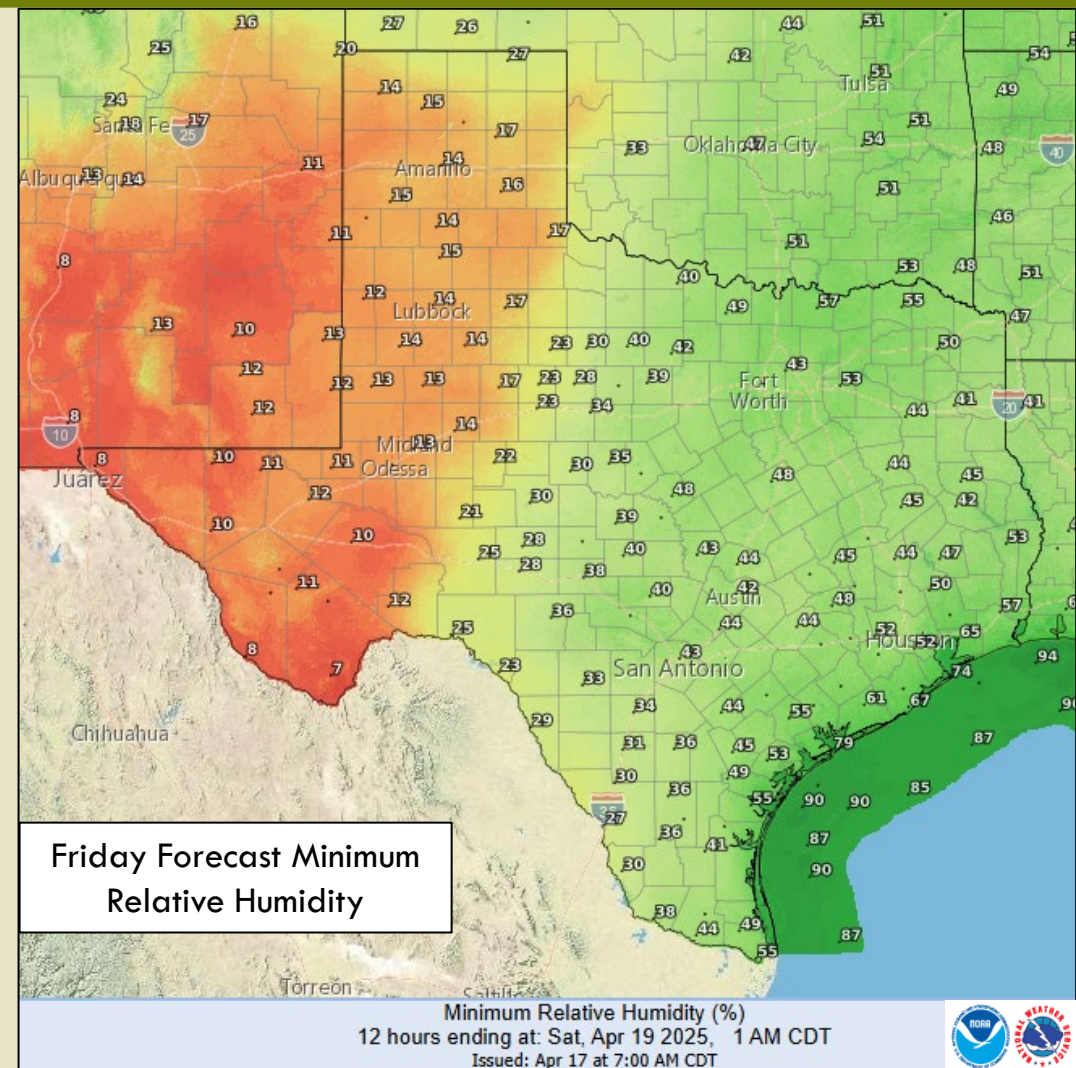
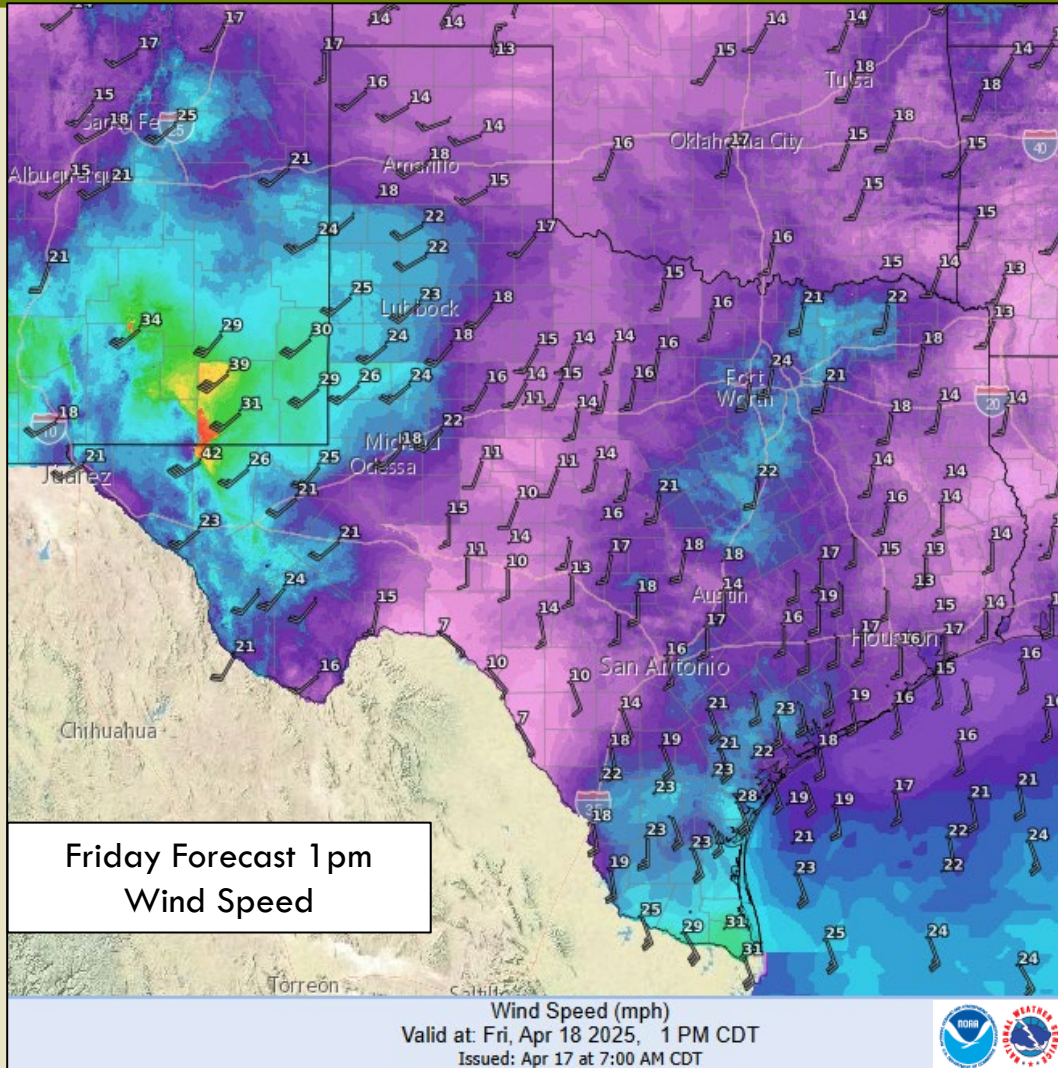




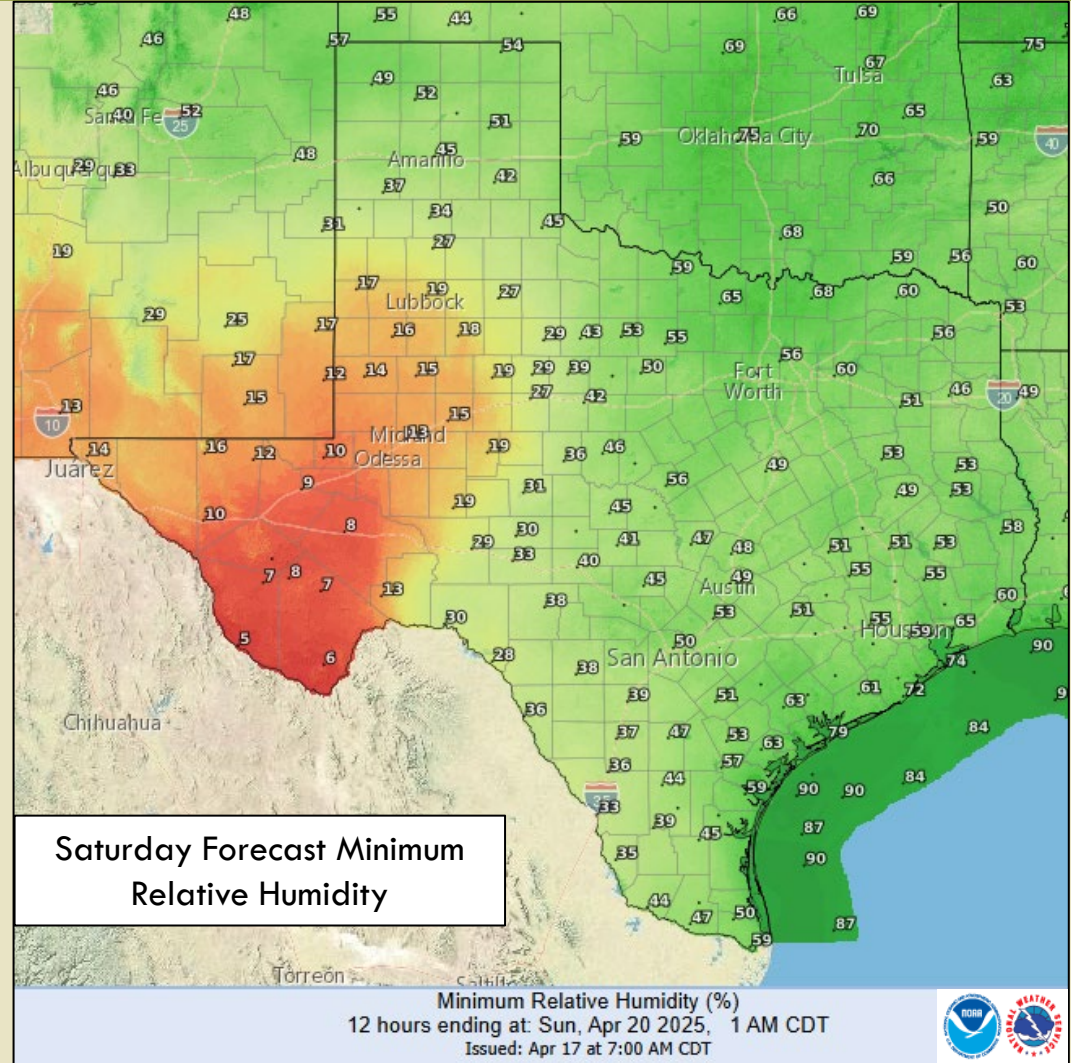
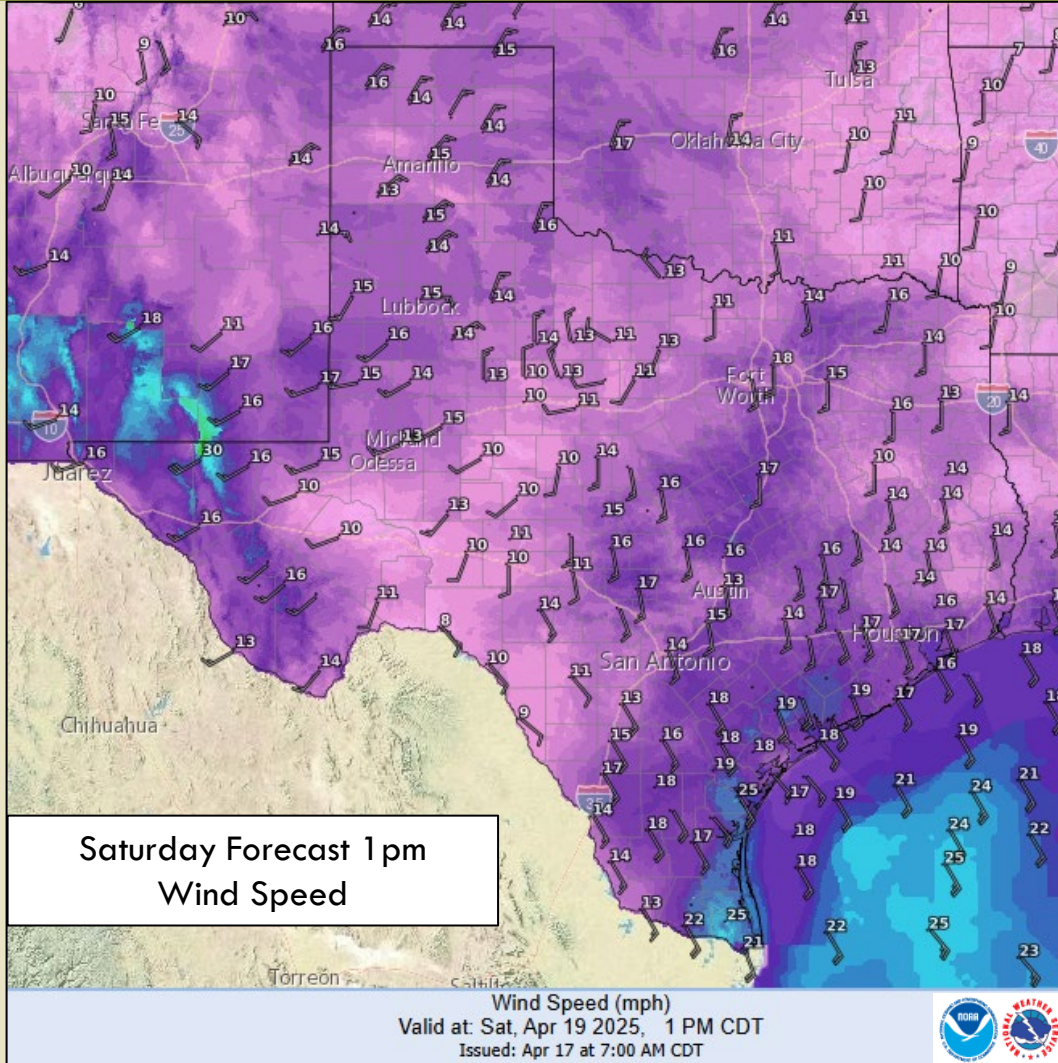
Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, elevated to extreme fire weather is forecast for the High Plains, Caprock, Rolling Plains, and Trans Pecos with sustained wind speeds above 20 mph and minimum relative humidities below 10%. Warm and dry conditions with dry to critically dry surface fuels will support low to moderate initial attack fire potential. However, widespread ongoing improvements to greenness in herbaceous fuels should keep potential of a large wildfire with high resistance to control low.



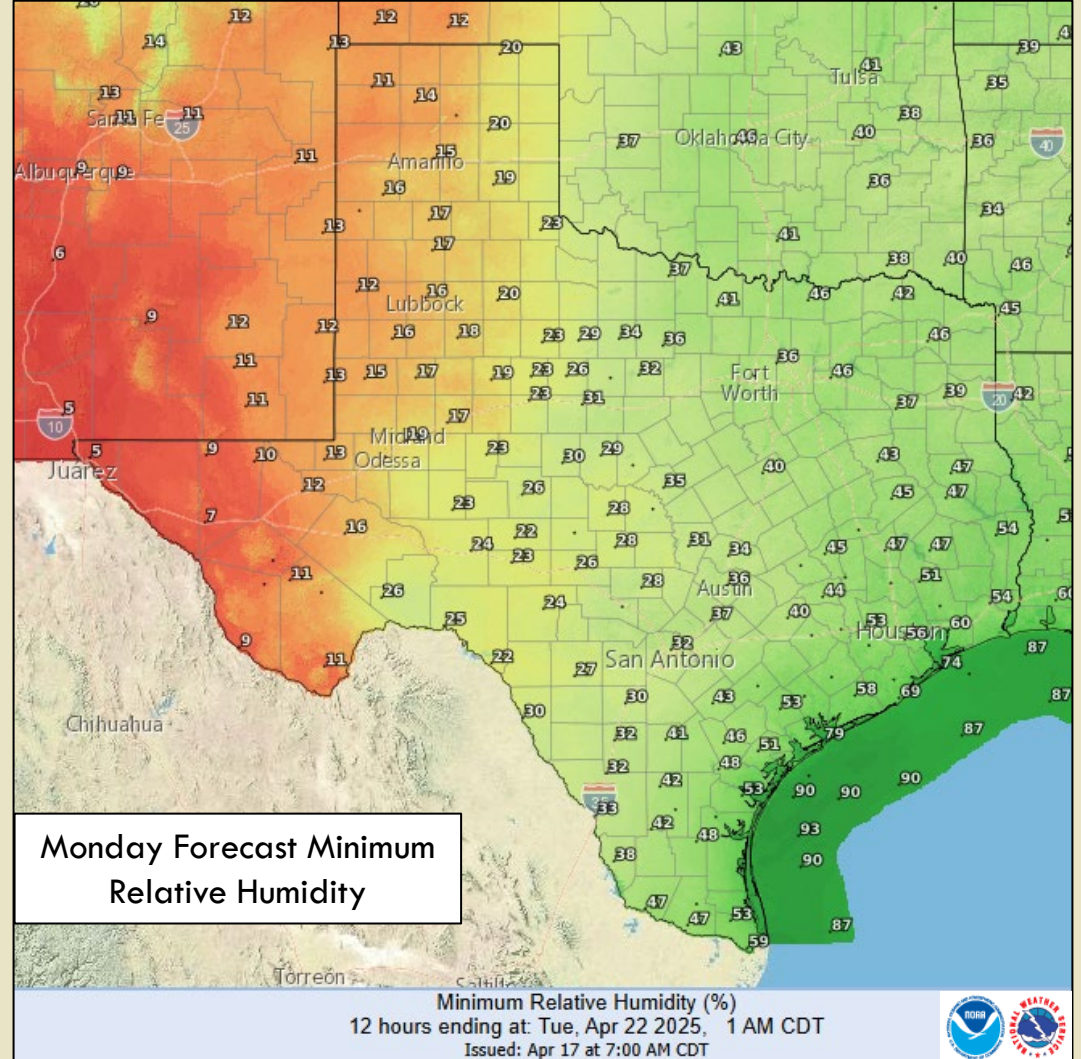
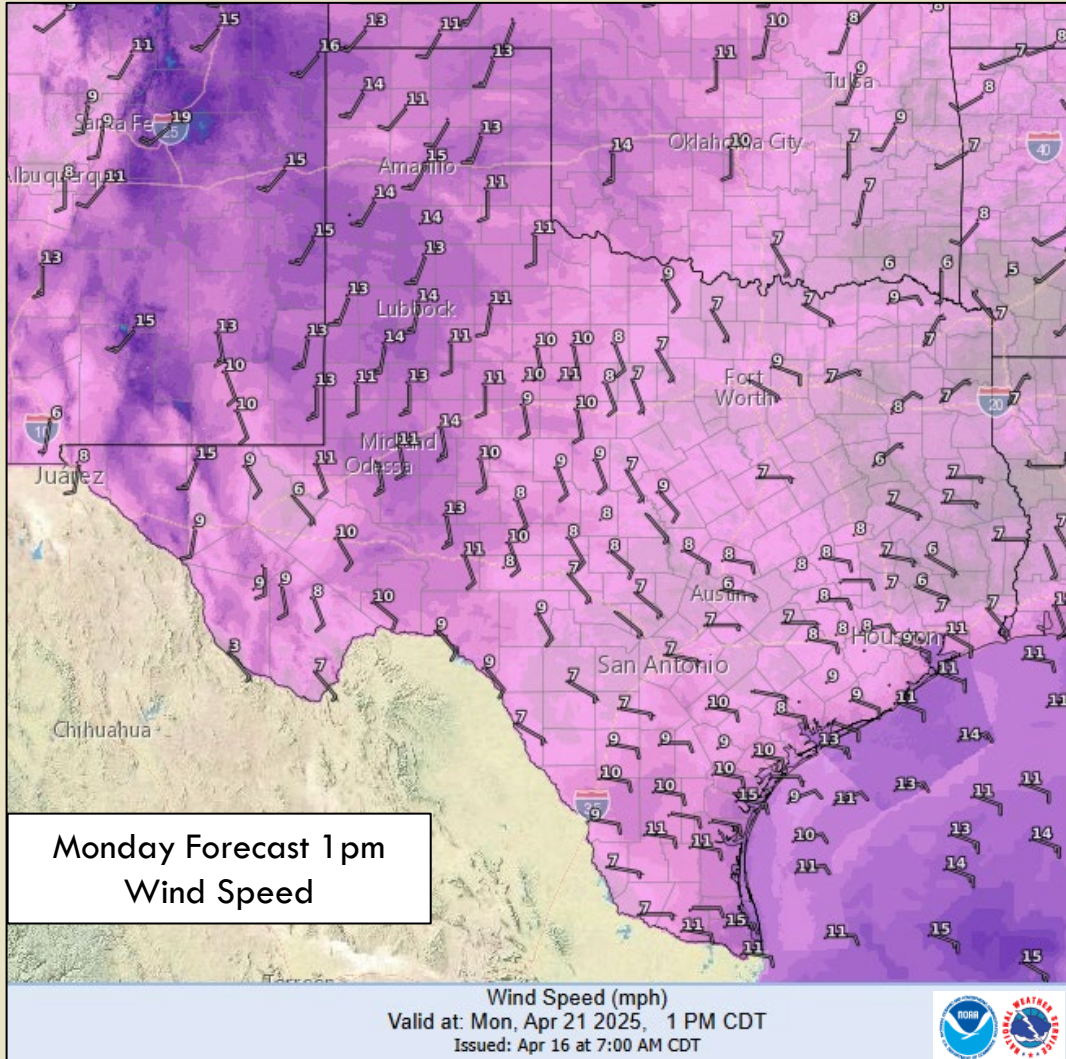
Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, southerly winds will increase gulf surface moisture inland for the eastern half of the state and slowly improve fuel moisture. However, prefrontal conditions with warm, dry, and breezy conditions will impact the Caprock, Southern Plains, and Trans Pecos. Wind speeds above 20 mph and minimum relative humidities below 15% will continue to support low potential for initial attack fires in dry to critically dry surface fuel. Transition green herbaceous fuel will serve as a heat sink to reduce a fire's resistance to control.



Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the fire environment will feature limited warm, dry, and breezy conditions confined to the Trans Pecos, and Southern Plains. Fire potential should remain limited and any fires that occur will have low resistance to control.



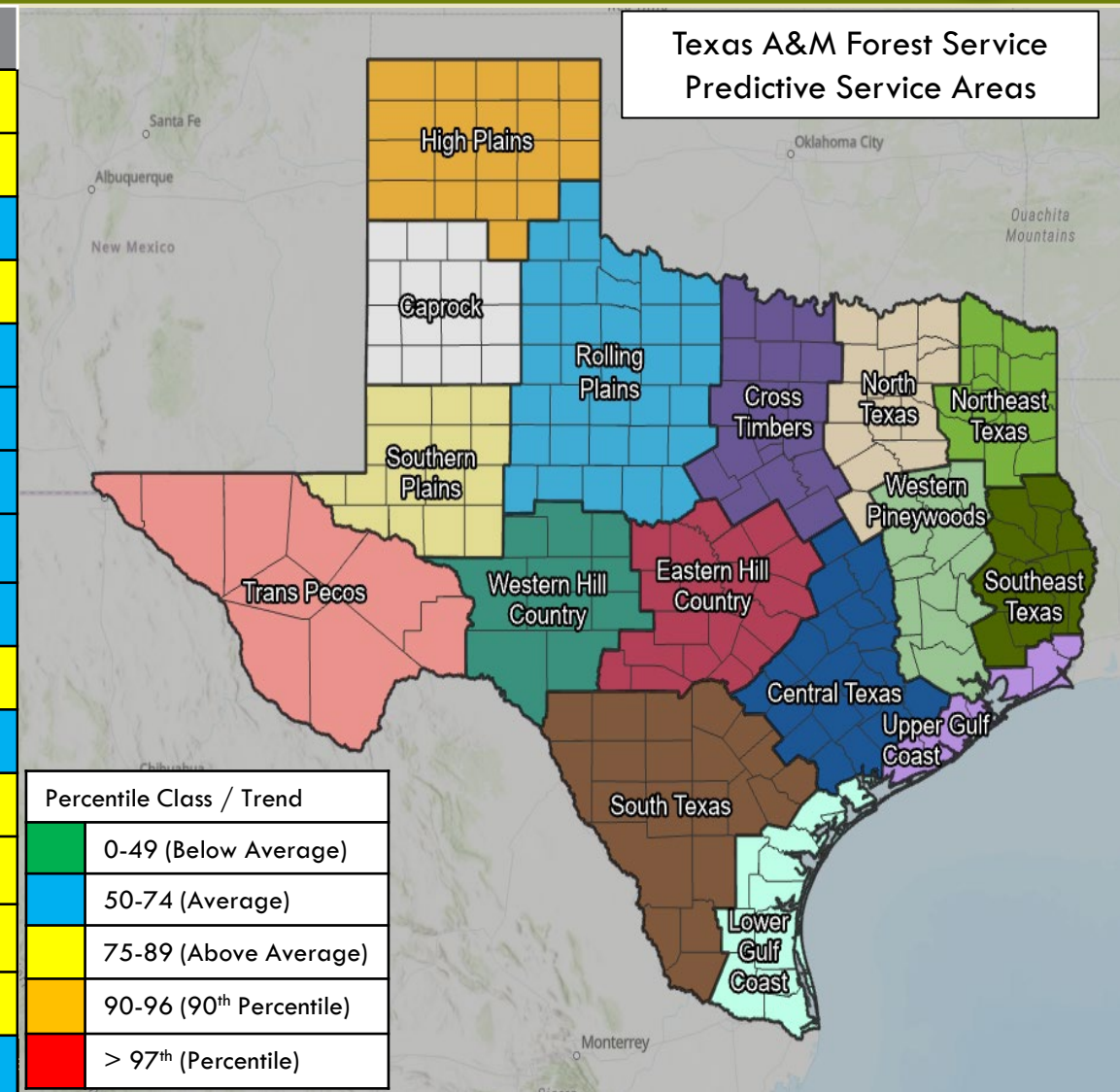
Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the fire environment will feature southerly winds near 15 mph and minimum relative humidities below 20% in the High Plains, Caprock, Rolling Plains, and Trans Pecos. Fire potential will be low to limited depending on observed rainfall and any fires that occur will have low resistance to control.



Energy Release Component forecast trends indicate the recent short-term and continue drying of surface fuels statewide through Sunday (4/23). Forecast trends over the next 7 days show modest drying for some Predictive Service Areas (PSA) as ERC values increase. The forecast precipitation chances over the next 7 days have other PSA's trending below and near average as ERC values decrease.



PSA	04/17/25 Observed ERC	7 Day Forecast Trend
Caprock	Above Average	Stays Above Average
Central Texas	Above Average	Stays Above Average
Cross Timbers	Above Average	Drops to Near Average
Eastern Hill Country	Above Average	Stays Above Average
High Plains	Above Average	Drops to Near Average
Lower Gulf Coast	Average	Stays Near Average
North Texas	Above Average	Drops to Near Average
Northeast Texas	Average	Stays Near Average
Rolling Plains	Above Average	Drops to Near Average
South Texas	Above Average	Stays Above Average
Southeast Texas	Average	Stays Near Average
Southern Plains	Above Average	Stays Above Average
Trans Pecos	Average	Stay Above Average
Upper Gulf Coast	Above Average	Stays Above Average
Western Hill Country	Above Average	Stay Above Average
Western Pineywoods	Average	Stays Near Average



Starting Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>, another frontal passage will bring precipitation chances that will continue to improve surface moisture and precipitation chances which will limit fire potential.

