

**TEXAS FIRE POTENTIAL UPDATE**  
***JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> – JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2021***  
***PREDICTIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT***

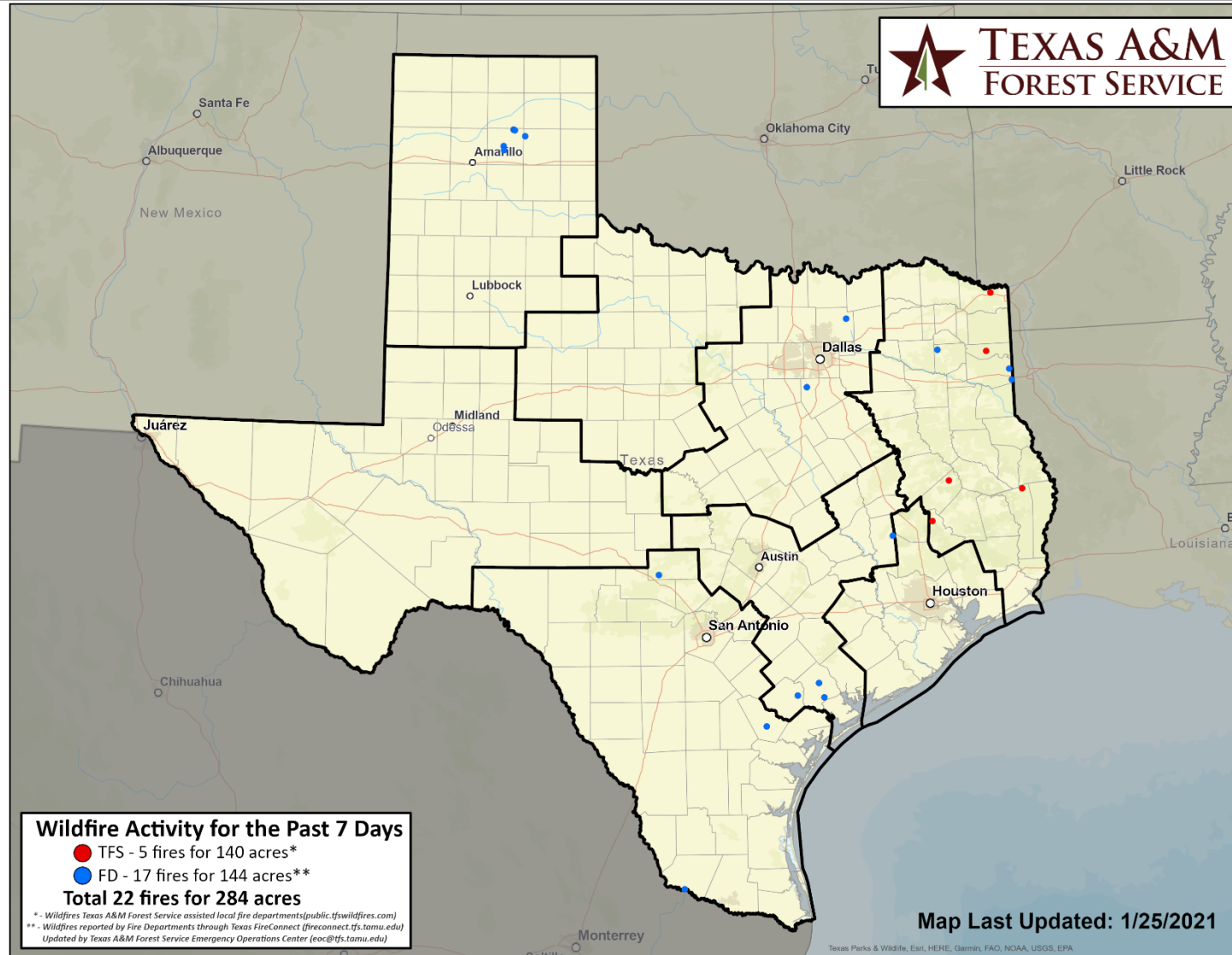


# Fire Potential Notes

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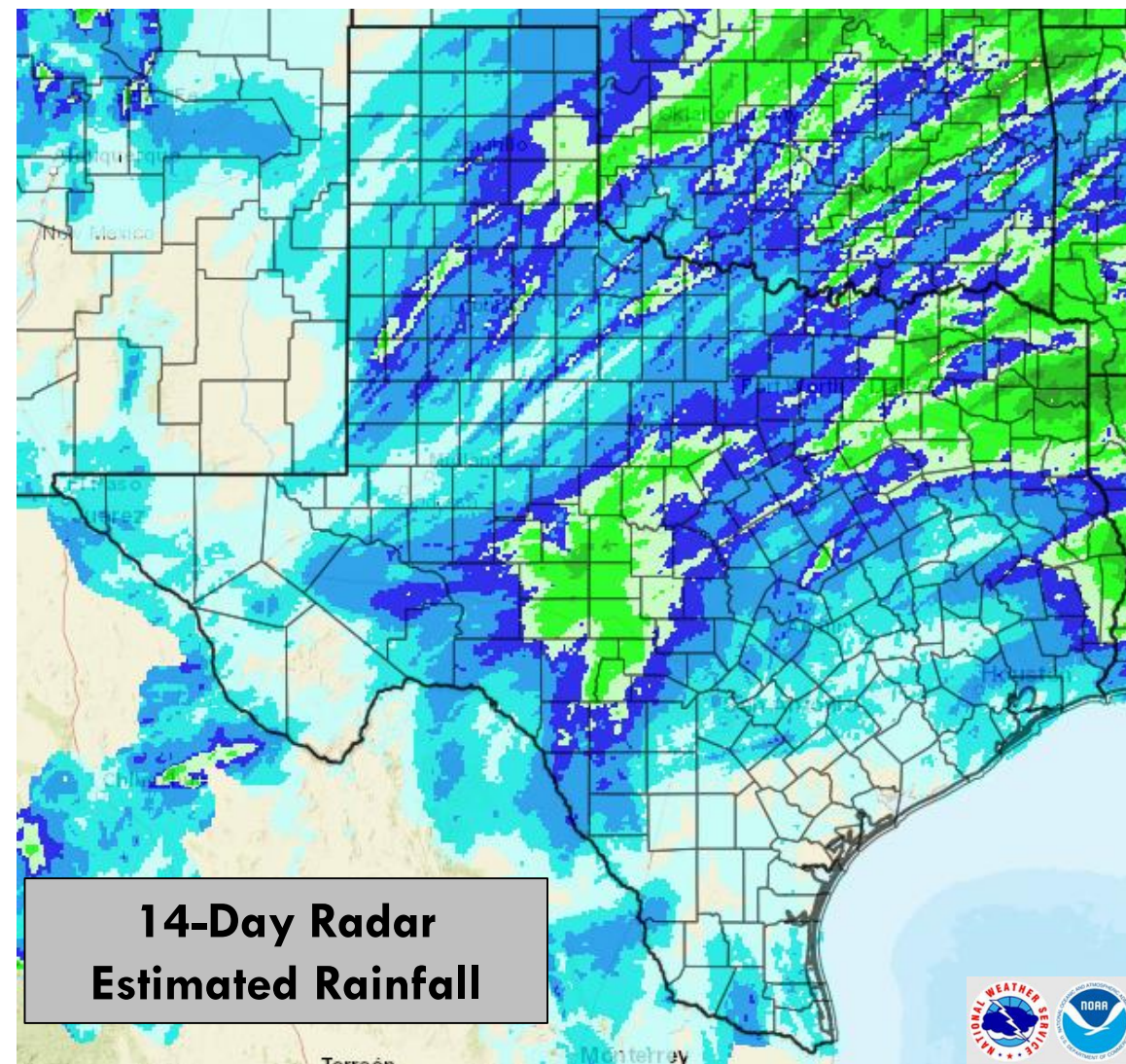
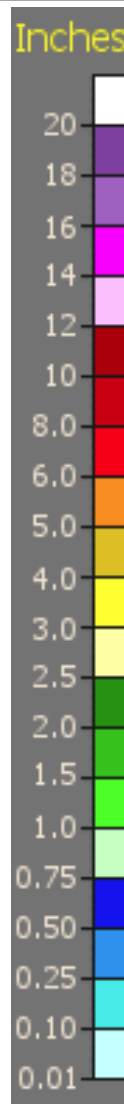
- Dormant season initial attack fire activity revolves around short term drying of cured grasses and increased wind speeds surrounding cold fronts. A series of cold front passages are forecast to impact the state this week with increased pre and post frontal wind speeds producing low to moderate initial attack potential.
- Fuel moistures are currently above normal across the state. Drying potential will be moderate this week outside of areas that observe precipitation in the High Plains and East Texas. Fuel moistures will likely remain near or above normal into the weekend.
- Moderate initial attack is possible Saturday across the Western Plains. A cold front passage may produce a large area of higher wind speeds. Several days of drying in advance of the front will increase the availability of cured grasses.

Reported fire activity over the past 7-days was low statewide. Last week's moist fire environment kept fuel moistures elevated, limiting fire activity. Initial attack fire activity will likely increase this week with short term drying and increased winds surrounding frontal passages.



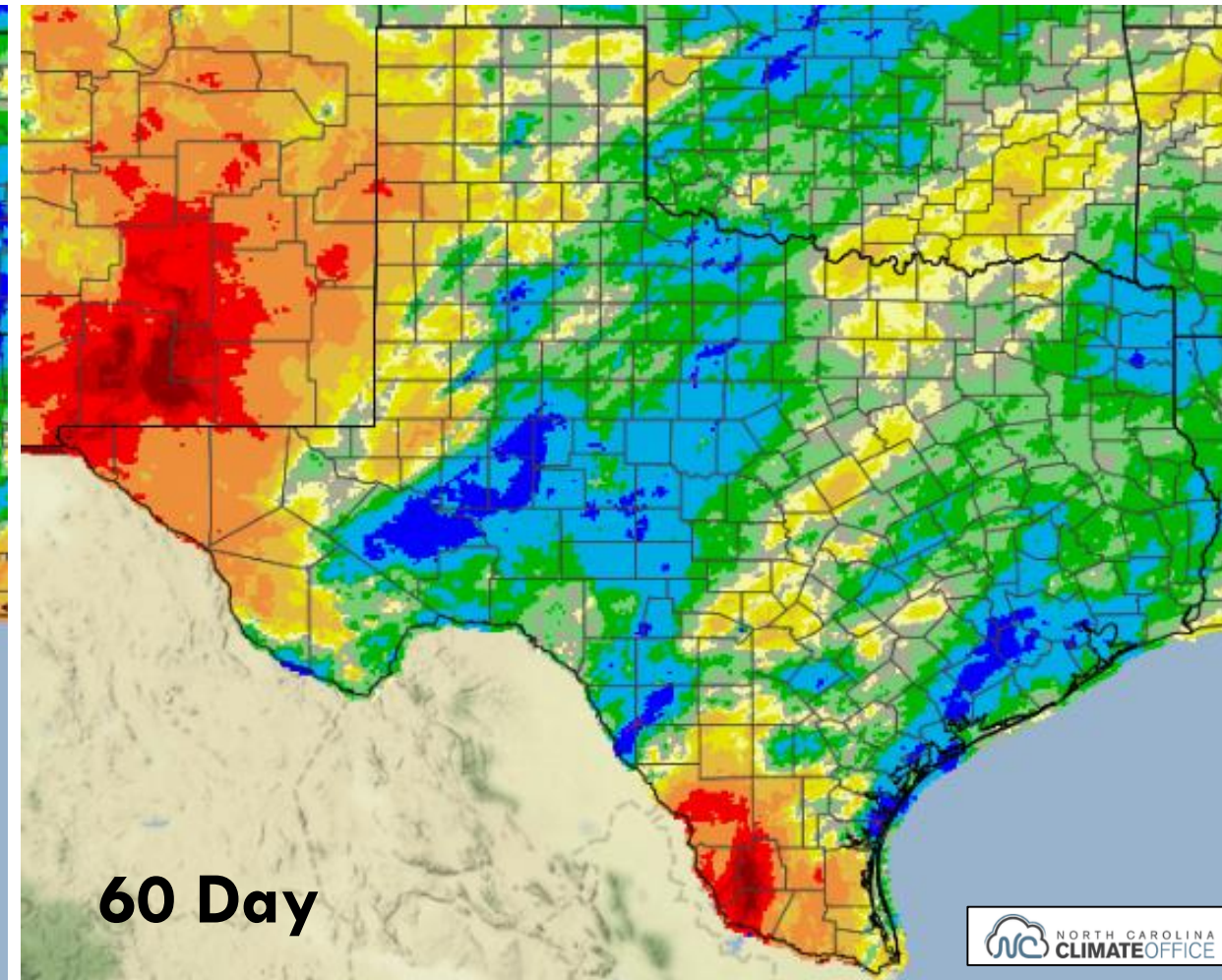
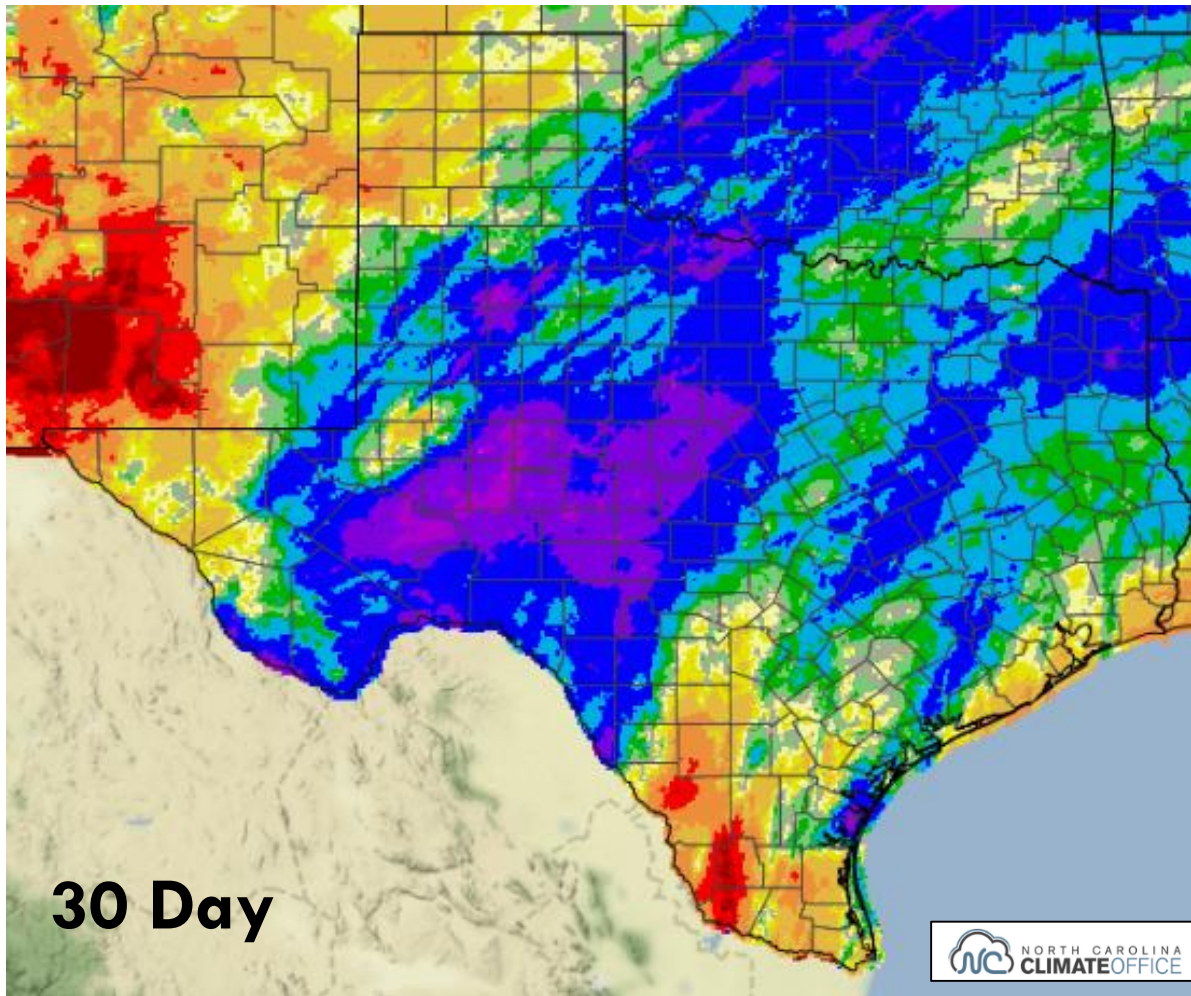


Both the 7 and 14 day estimated rainfall maps are nearly identical as little to no precipitation was observed January 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Rainfall was observed last week over the Hill Country with some 1+ inch amounts. Rainfall was observed for parts of the High Plains Sunday evening with a few isolated 1 inch amounts.





Rainfall from Sunday has reduced the coverage of 25% or less than normal precipitation deficits across the High Plains. Underlying dryness remains along the New Mexico border in the High Plains and Trans Pecos. A pocket of underlying dryness continues to persist in South Texas.



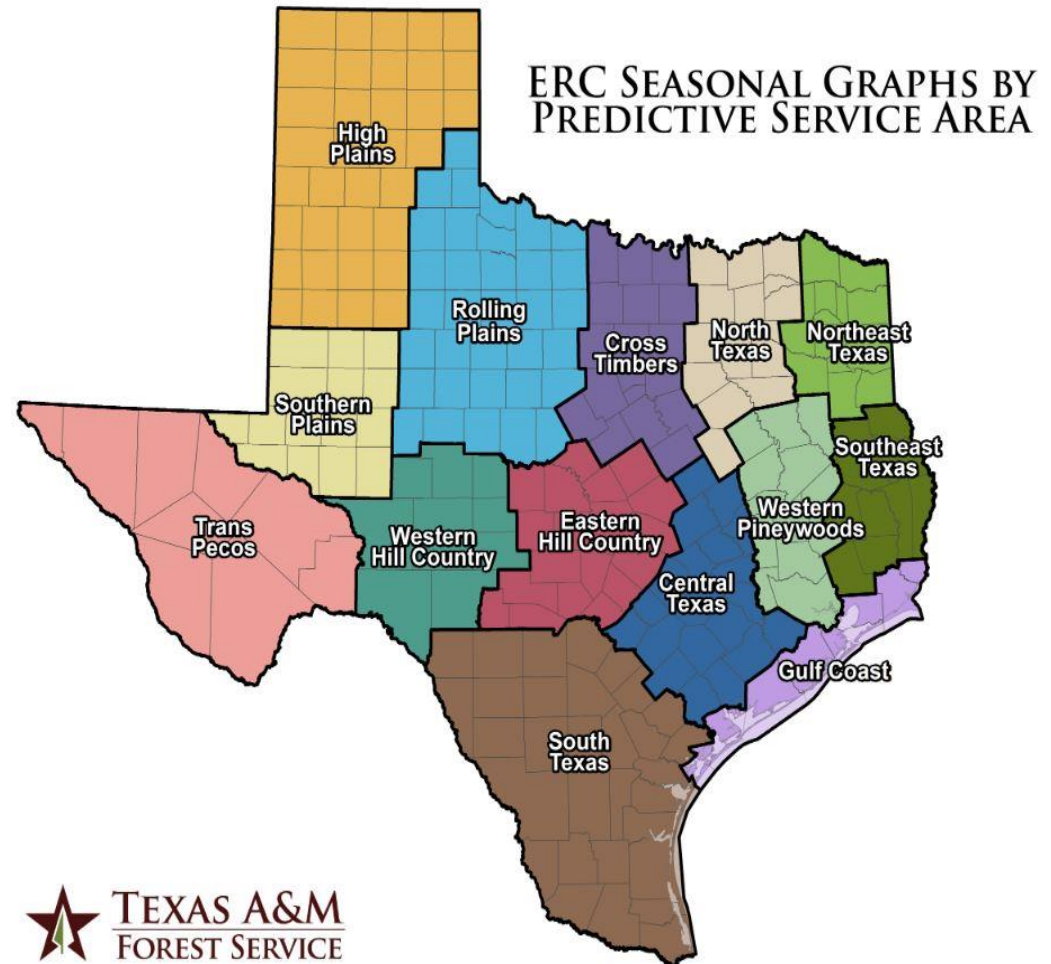
Percent of Normal Precip. (%)



The moist environment that affected much of the state last week has decreased ERC values to below normal in all 14 PSAs. Moderate drying potential this week may increase ERC values back to near normal in many PSA.



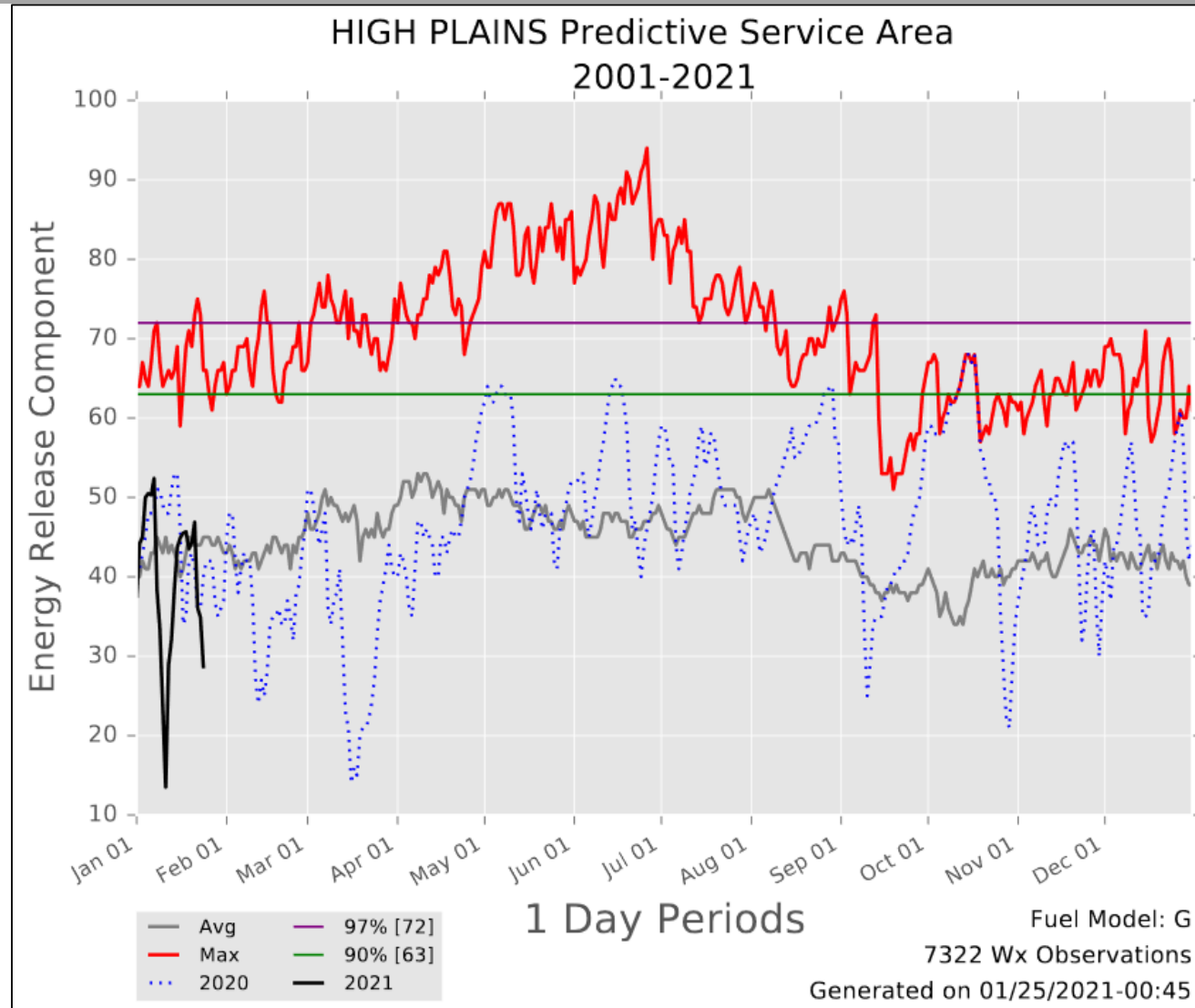
PSA	Observed
High Plains	Below Normal
Southern Plains	Below Normal
Trans Pecos	Below Normal
Western Hill Country	Below Normal
Rolling Plains	Below Normal
Eastern Hill Country	Below Normal
Cross Timbers	Below Normal
Central Texas	Below Normal
North Texas	Below Normal
Western Pineywoods	Below Normal
Northeast Texas	Below Normal
Southeast Texas	Below Normal
South Texas	Below Normal
Gulf Coast	Below Normal



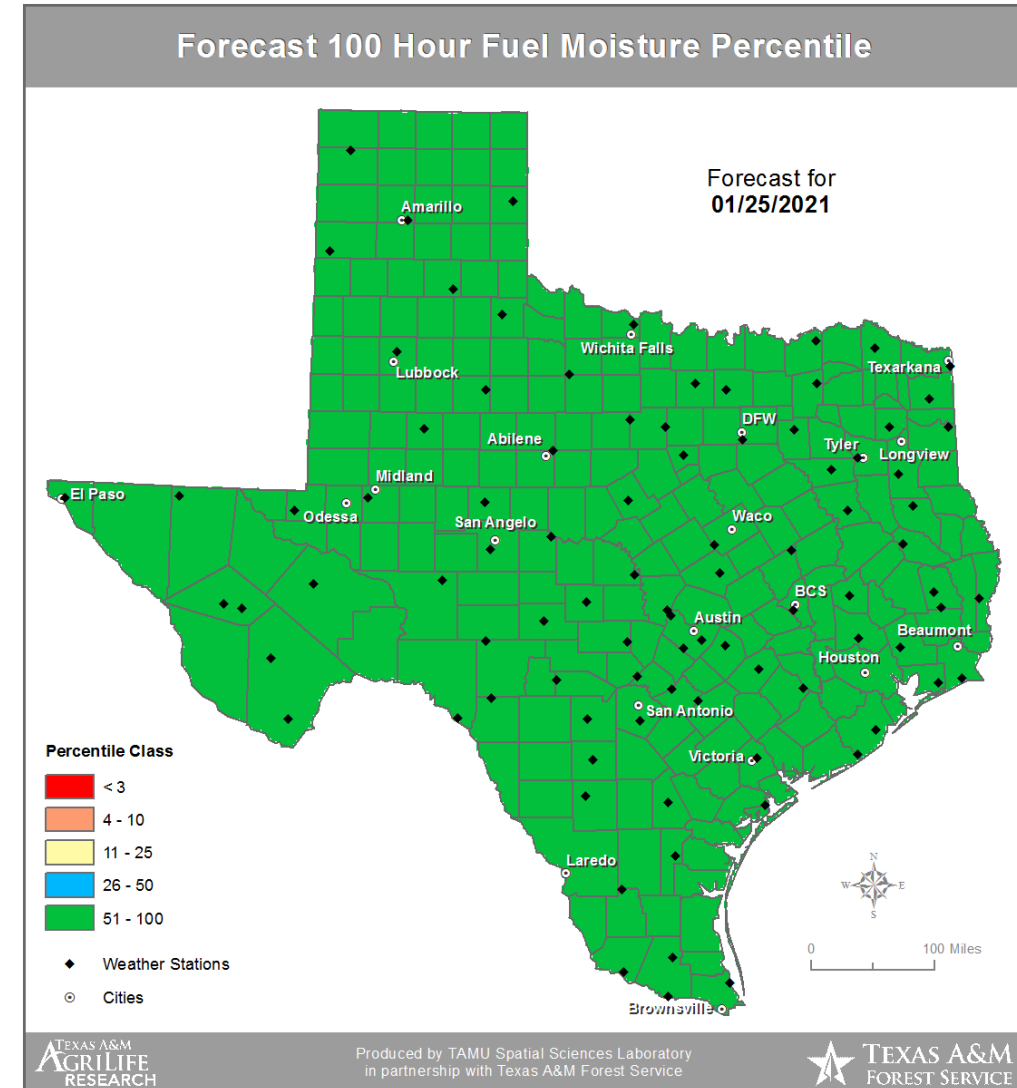
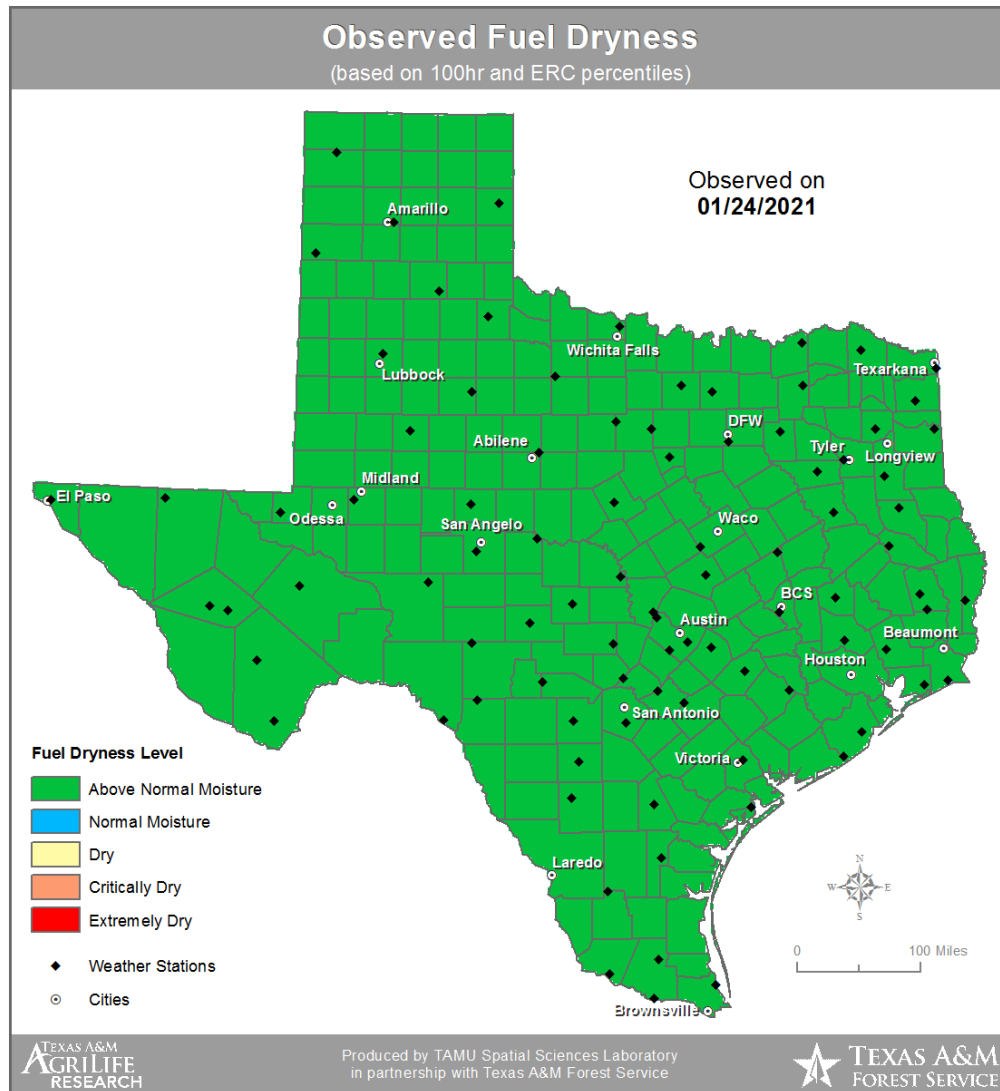
[Link to ERC Seasonal Graphs](#)



ERC values will continue to decrease in the High Plains due to rainfall from Sunday evening and potential snow Tuesday. Moderate drying potential will return Wednesday and continue into the weekend. ERC values may rebound back to near normal by Saturday.



The moist fire environment over the past week has increased fuel moistures to above normal for the entire state. Moderate drying potential this week may decrease fuel moisture back to near normal for a few stations in the Western Plains and Hill Country. Another way to track short term drying this week is the forecast 100-Hr fuel moisture map. Stations forecast at or below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile by late in the week will provide guidance where the greatest drying has occurred.

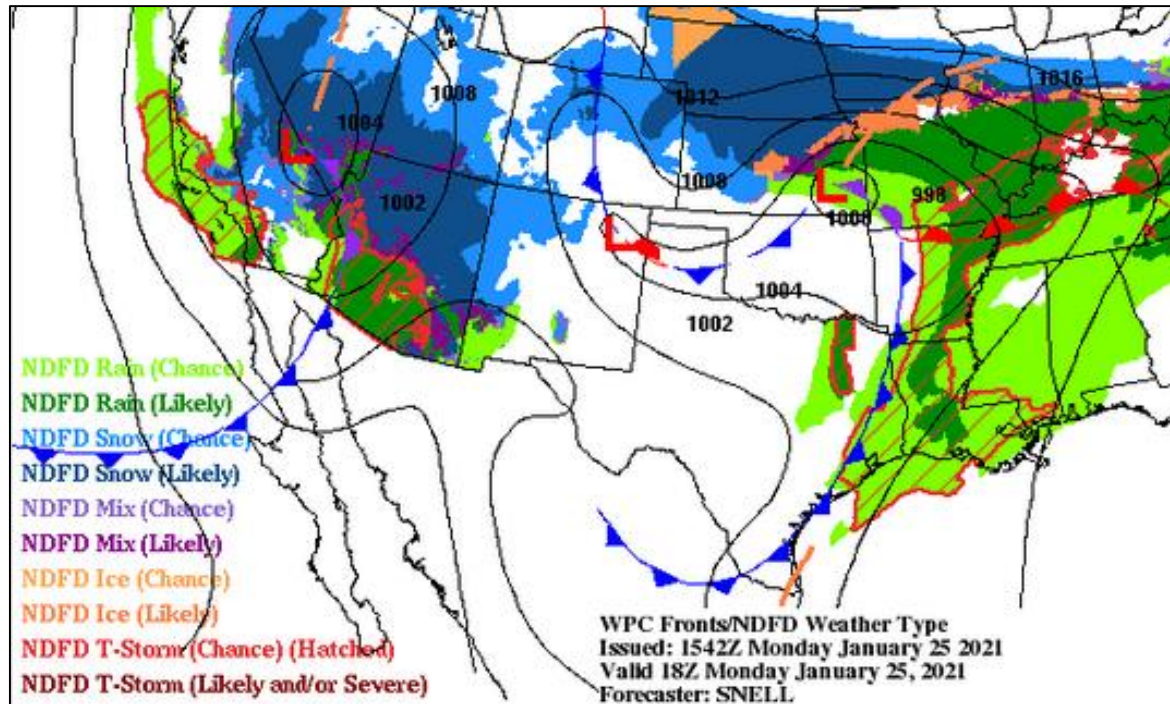




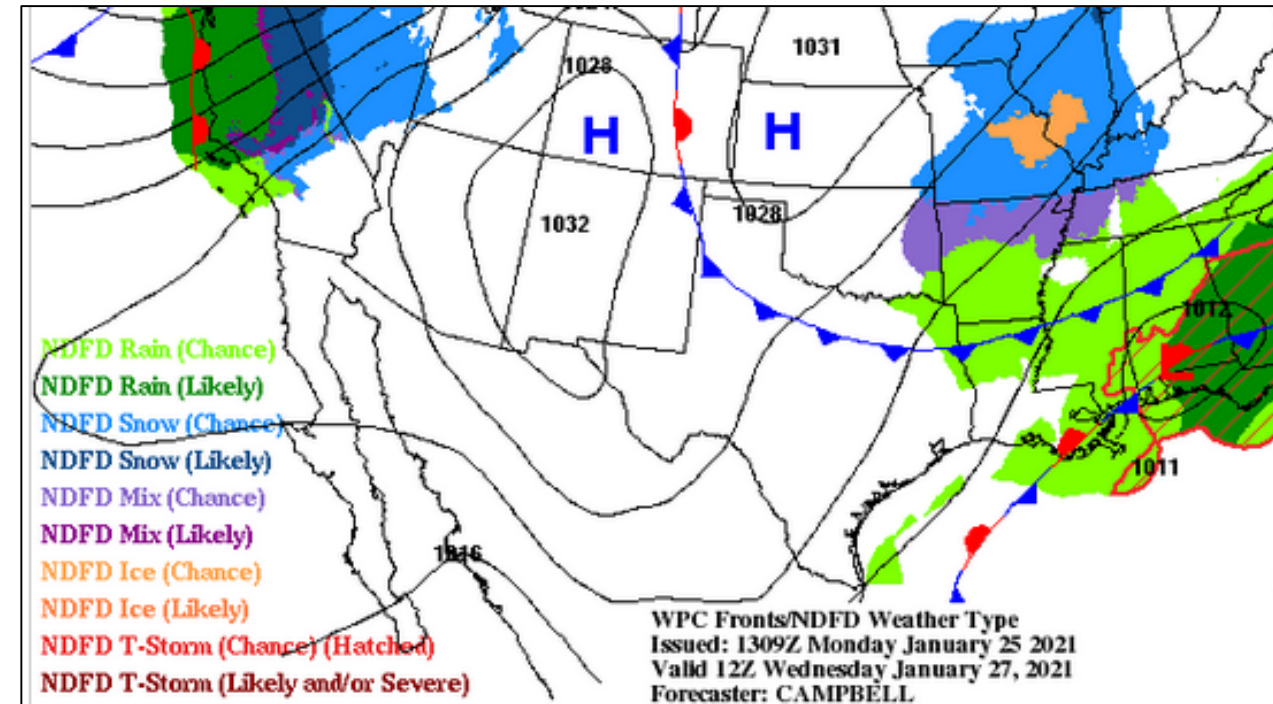
A series of cold fronts will be impacting the state this week. A cold front is forecast to exit the state Monday evening. Another cold front is expected to move south through the state on Wednesday.



**Surface Forecast Monday Afternoon**



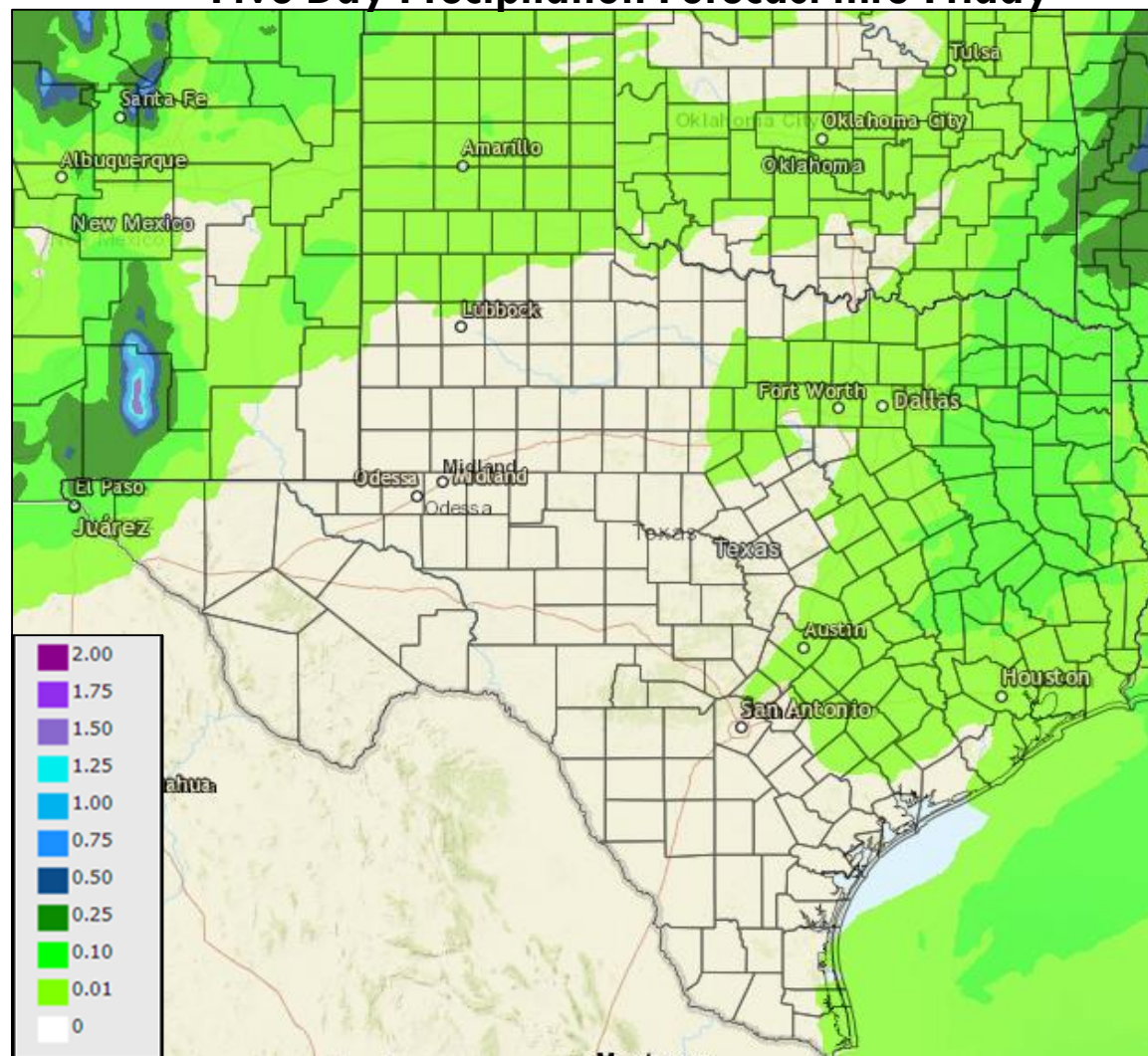
**Surface Forecast Wednesday Morning**



The frontal passages Monday and Wednesday will produce rainfall amounts less than 1 inch primarily for East Texas. Several inches of snow are possible across the High Plains Tuesday and Tuesday night. The rest of the state is forecast to remain dry through Friday.

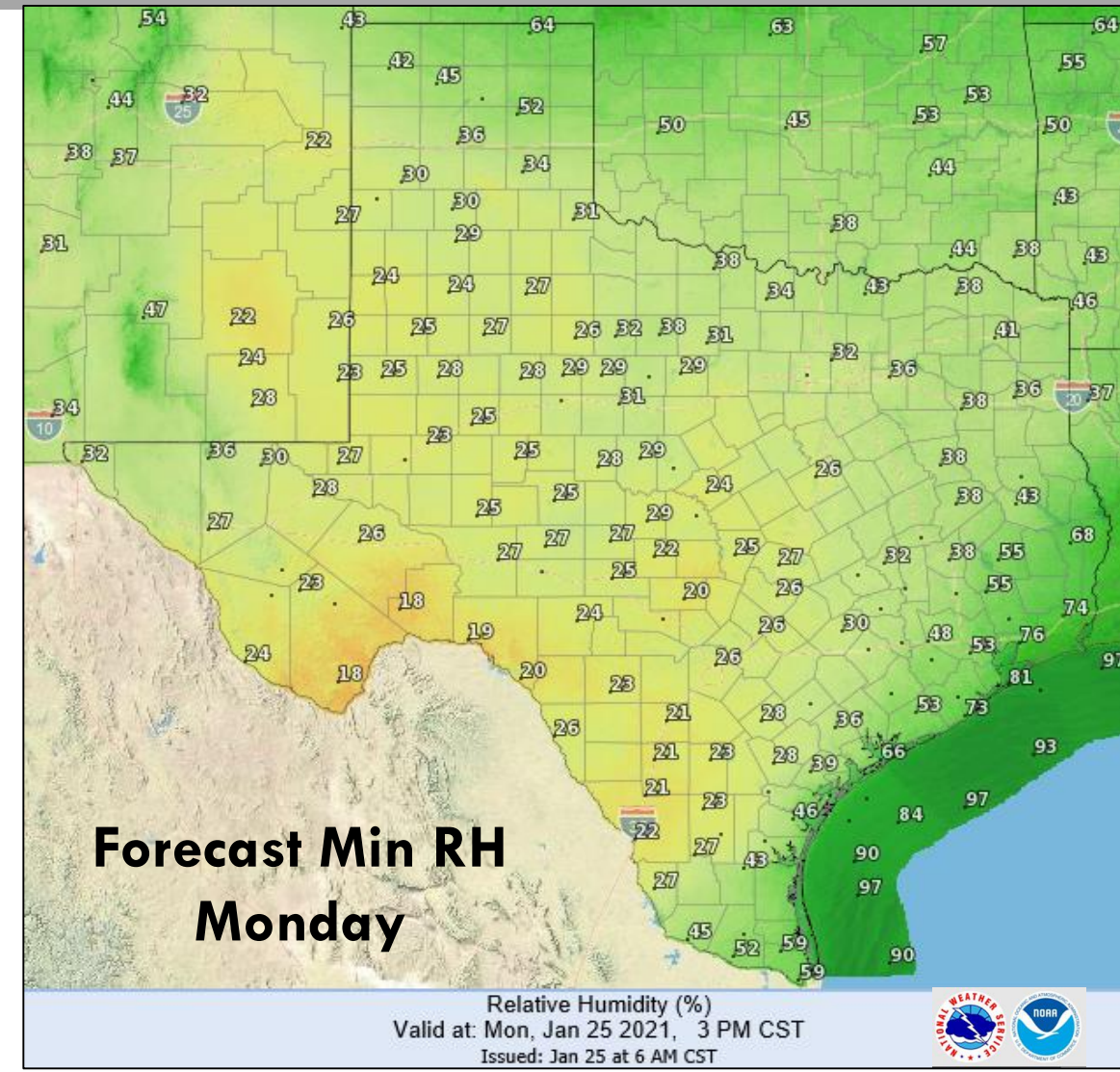
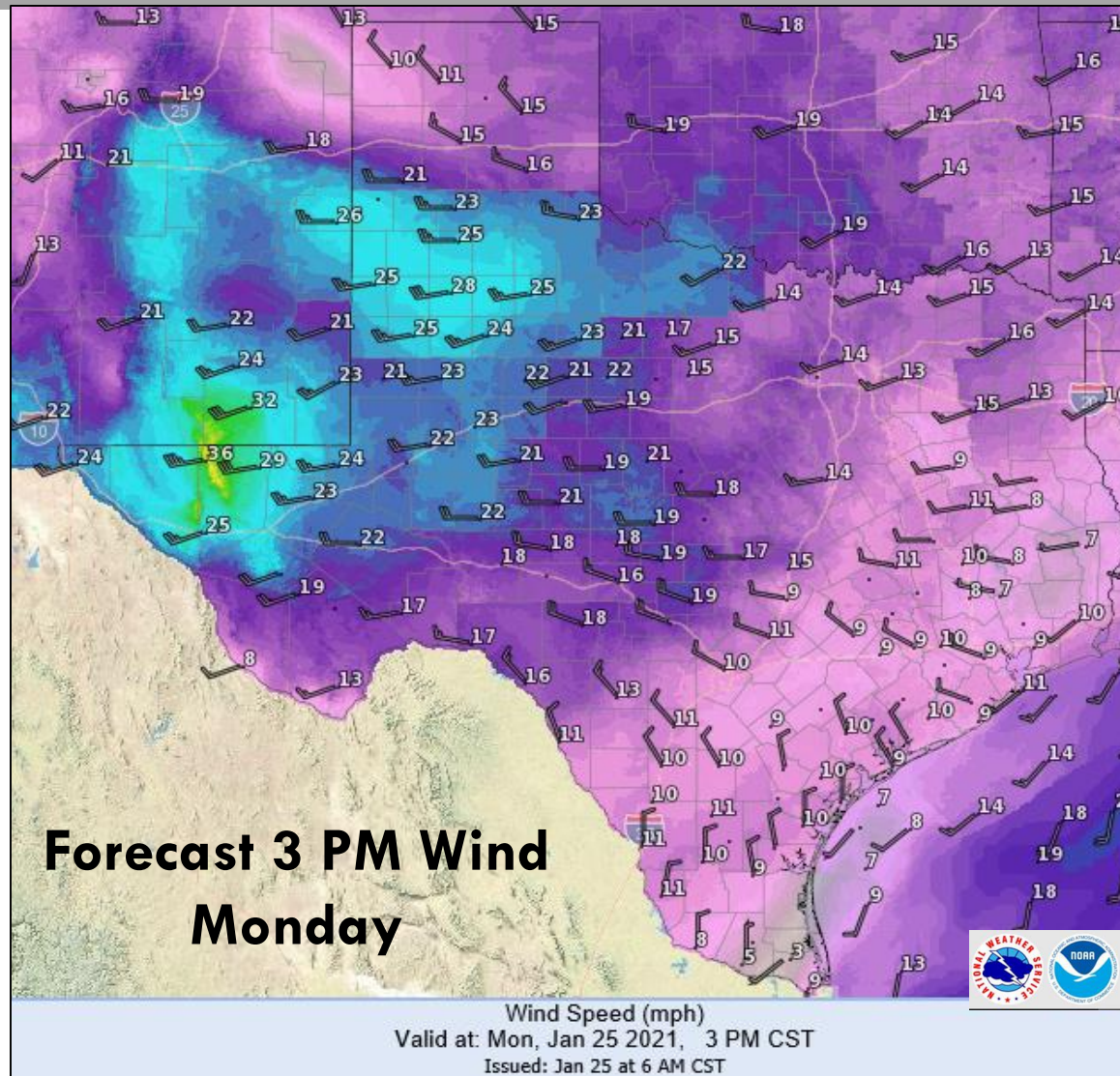


### Five Day Precipitation Forecast thru Friday





Post-frontal conditions behind Monday's cold front will produce increased wind speeds nearly statewide. Recent precipitation and above normal fuel moisture will keep initial attack potential low in cured grasses. Winds speeds are forecast to decrease Tuesday with the driest air remaining in the Trans Pecos and Western Hill Country.

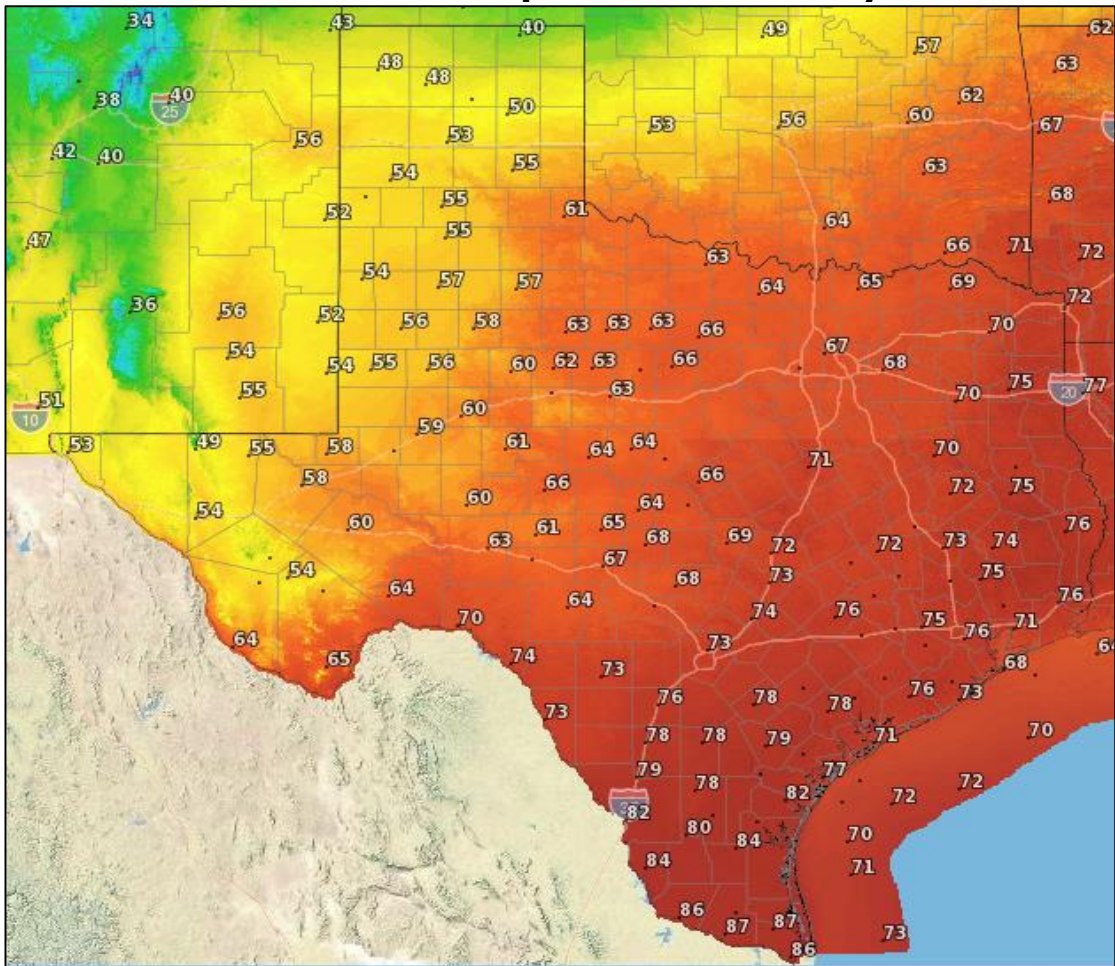






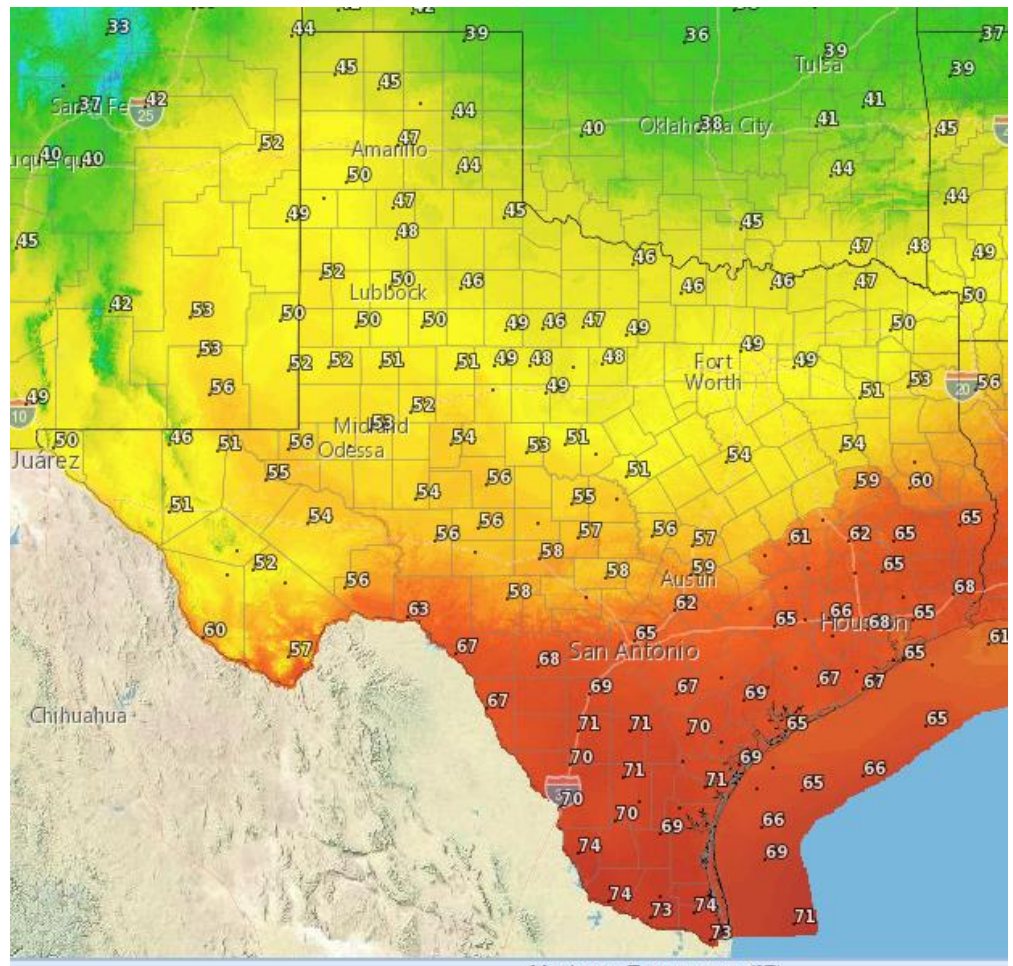
Temperatures are forecast to be above normal Monday and Tuesday, except for the High Plains. Wednesday's cold front will send temperatures back to near normal through Thursday before increasing back above normal by Friday. Above normal temperatures and mostly sunny skies will promote moderate drying in surface fuel.

Maximum Temperatures Monday



Maximum Temperature (°F)  
Daytime High for: Mon, Jan 25 2021, 6 PM CST  
Issued: Jan 25 at 5 AM CST

Maximum Temperatures Wednesday



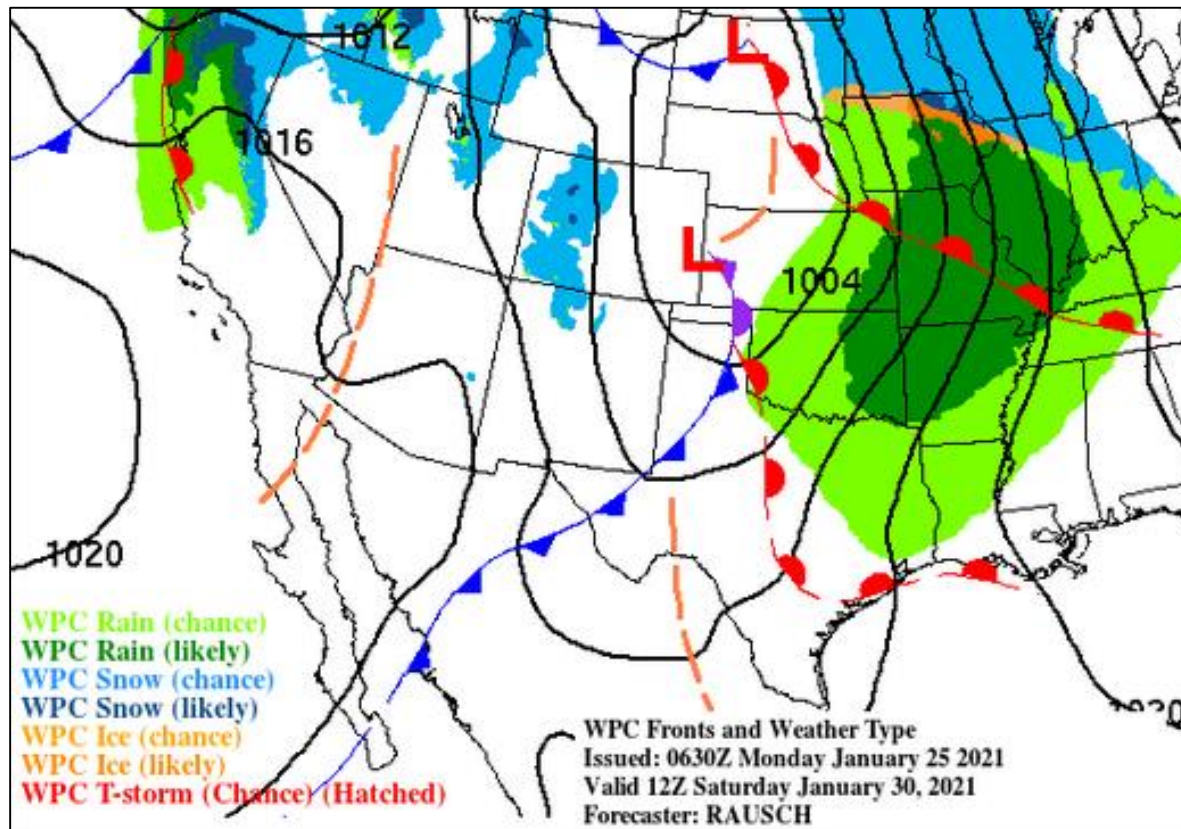
Maximum Temperature (°F)  
Daytime High for: Wed, Jan 27 2021, 6 PM CST  
Issued: Jan 25 at 10 AM CST



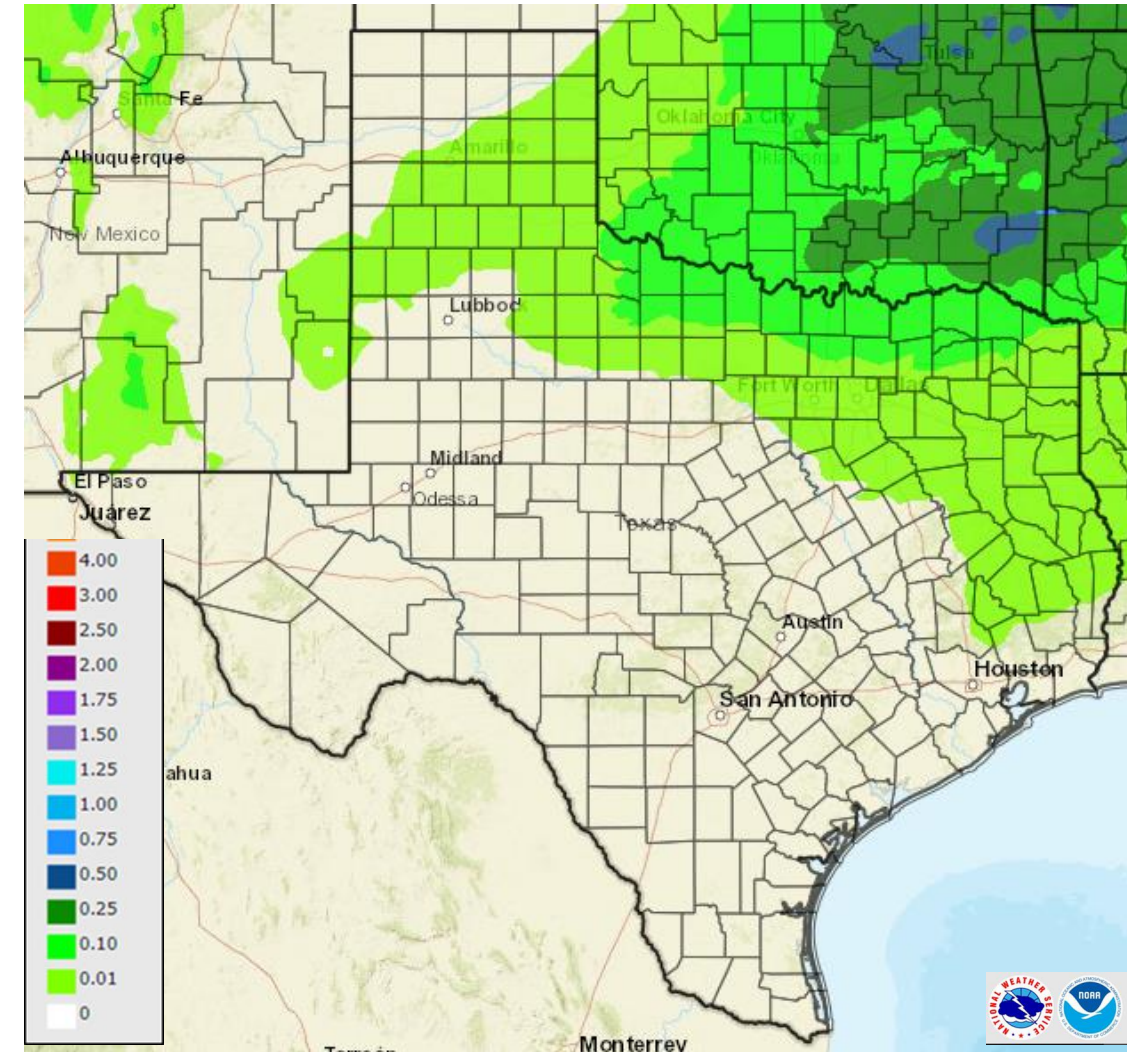
A cold front is forecast to move East across the state on Saturday. Timing, strength, and rainfall associated with the front is likely to change as the forecast is refined during the week.



### Surface Forecast Saturday Morning



### Precipitation Forecast Saturday





Post-frontal conditions on Saturday may produce a large wind field with higher wind speeds across the Western Plains. Several days of drying prior to the frontal passage will likely increase the availability of cured grasses producing moderate initial attack potential Saturday afternoon.

