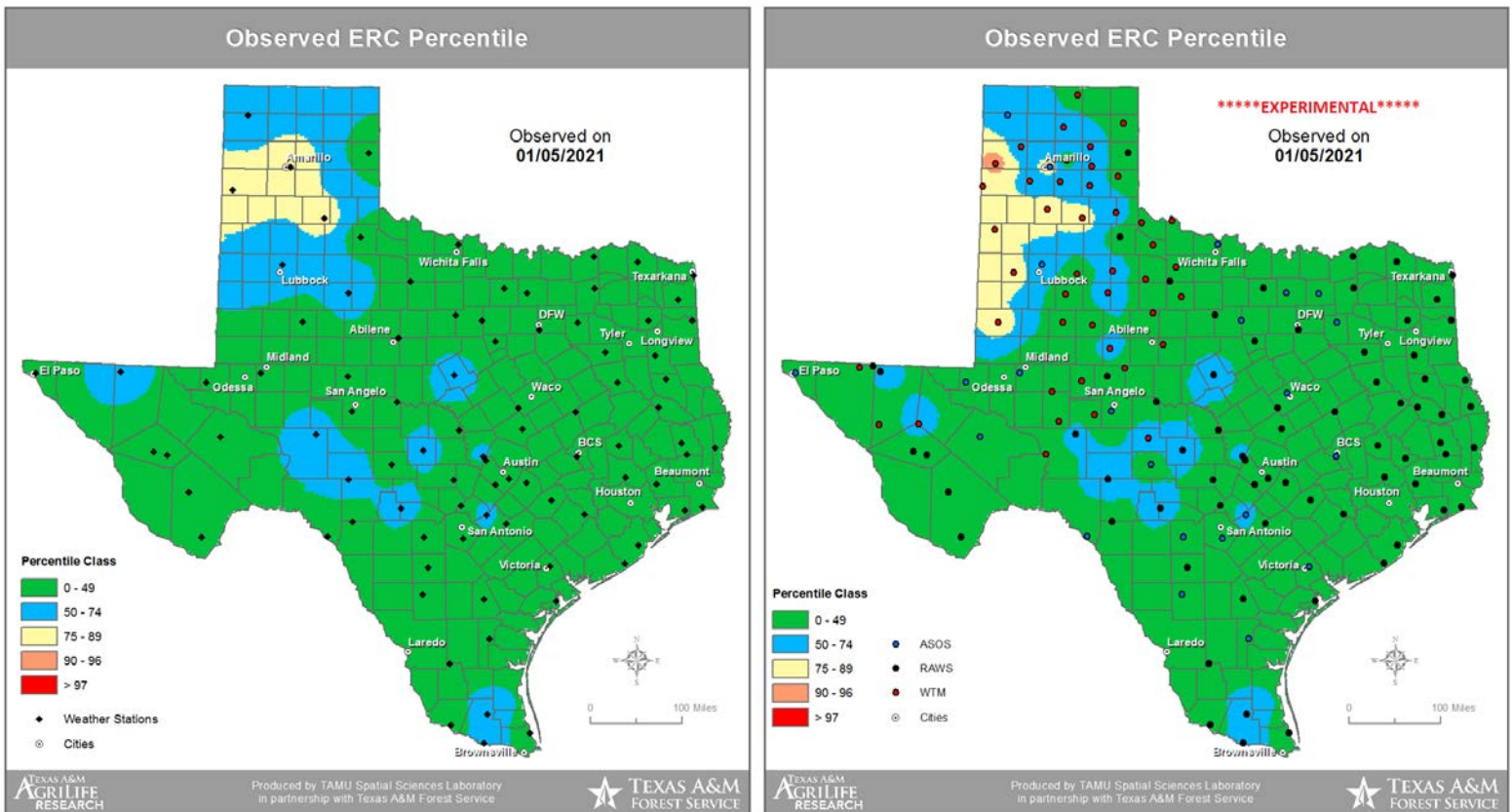# Expanding Fire Weather Station Network

Following the 1998 fire season, the Texas A&M Forest Service established the Predictive Services Department as a permanently staffed unit to provide short and long-term forecasts and analysis utilized at the national, state and local level by firefighters, elected officials and public administrators. Since 1998, the Predictive Services Department has continually sought to improve the resolution of its fire danger products. In 2017, twenty Automated Surface Observation Systems (ASOS) weather stations were added to enhance fire danger products.

The Energy Release Component map above left, displays the current resolution. The ERC map above right, reflects the resolution of our future fire danger products. In November of 2020, forty-six weather stations from the West Texas Mesonet were added and are currently being evaluated to help improve product resolution. Predictive Services has added the *****EXPERIMENTAL***** tag to the ERC test map so users know to use with caution since these products are in a test phase.

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