



# DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

RICK PERRY  
Governor

5805 N. Lamar Blvd.  
P.O. Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78773-0220  
Phone: (512) 424-2138

W. NIM KIDD  
Council Chairperson

**September 27, 2013**

**TO:** The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor, State of Texas  
The Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas  
Mr. John Steen, Secretary of State, State of Texas  
The Honorable Leticia R. Van de Putte, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, State of Texas  
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, State of Texas  
The Honorable Tommy Williams, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Troy Fraser, Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Craig Estes, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs & Homeland Security, State of Texas  
The Honorable Joseph Pickett, Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety, State of Texas  
The Honorable Jim Pitts, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Allan Ritter, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Tracy O. King, Chairman, House Agriculture & Livestock Committee, State of Texas  
The Honorable Abel Herrero, Chairman, House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, State of Texas  
Mr. Jeff Boyd, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Mr. Steven McCraw, Director, Texas Department of Public Safety

**FROM:** Assistant Director Nim Kidd, Texas Division of Emergency Management

**SUBJECT:** Statewide Drought Situation Report

Nim Kidd, Chairman  
Texas Division of Emergency Mgmt

Brenner Brown, Member  
Texas Water Development Board

Mel Davis, Member  
State Soil & Water Conservation Board

Lance Williams, Member  
Texas Department of Agriculture

Dr. Travis Miller, Member  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

David Bradsby, Member  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Gilbert Jordan, Member  
Texas Department of Transportation

David A. Van Dresar, Member  
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Priscilla Boston, Member  
Texas Department of State Health Services

Chris Loft, Member  
Texas Commission on Environmental  
Quality

Tad Curtis, Member  
Office of the Governor  
Economic Development & Tourism

Dr. John W. Nielsen-Gammon, Member  
Office of the State Climatologist

Michael Dunivan, Member  
Texas A & M Forest  
Service

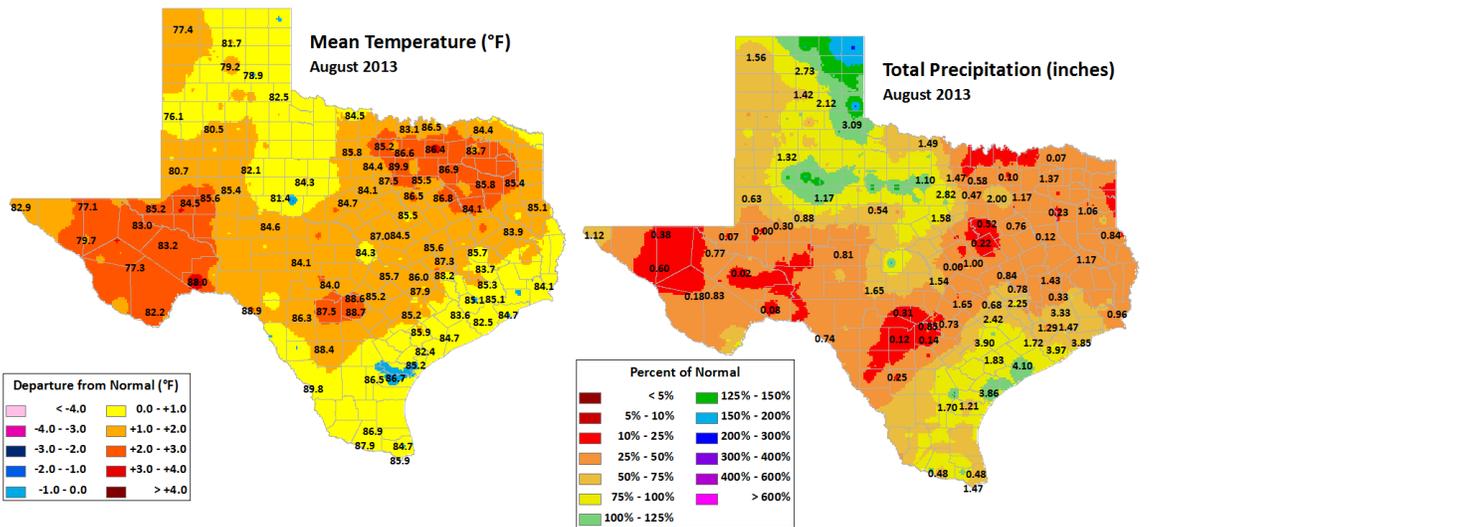
Marisa Callan, Member  
Texas Department of Housing and  
Community Affairs

# 1. Next Council Meeting

October 10, 2013 at 2:00pm

# 2. General Conditions

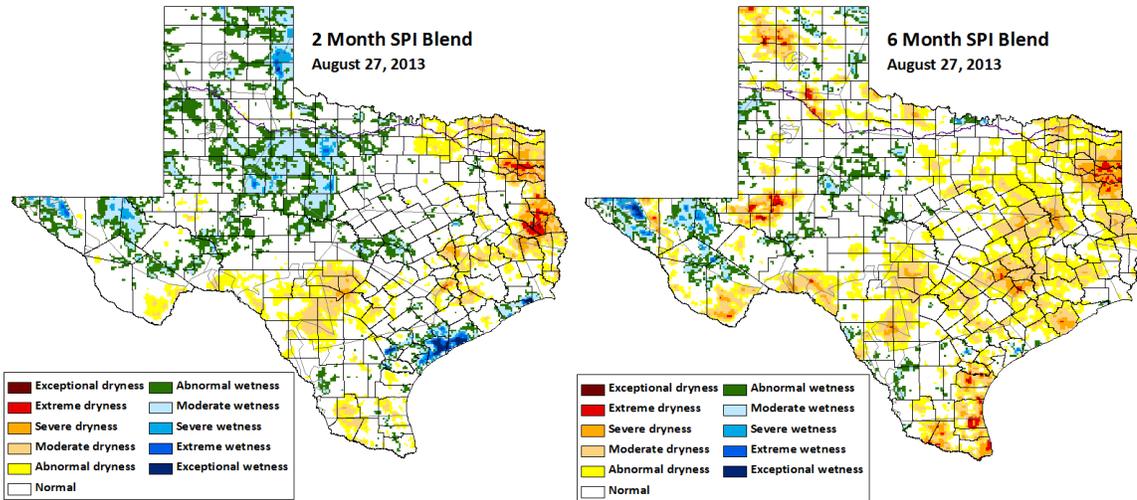
August started and ended warm across much of the state, with temperatures pushing triple digits for several days throughout the month. A frontal passage during the middle weeks helped moderate conditions somewhat, but overall a ridging pattern was prevalent for much of the month. The Panhandle, the Low Rolling Plains, and the Gulf Coast were the only regions that saw above normal or close to normal rainfall during the month. The precipitation pattern matches well with the temperature pattern, in that regions were generally either cool and wet or warm and dry.



In terms of new drought patterns arising, eastern and southern Texas saw the most notable changes. Dry conditions that had been developing along the Texas/Louisiana/Arkansas borders and along the Brazos River were exacerbated by lack of rainfall and several days of triple digit heat. New dry conditions have also developed over the Edwards Plateau near San Antonio, complicating an already concerning hydrological drought. The J-17 test well of the Edwards Aquifer dropped by 4 feet to 633.1 feet by the end of the month, putting it only 21.6 feet above the all-time minimum level set back in 1956. In all of these regions, soil moisture profiles have dropped significantly and plant health has declined, resulting in very high fire risk.

For the rest of the state, conditions changed more moderately. The Gulf Coast saw persistent sea breeze thunderstorms throughout the month, cutting away short-term deficits along the Upper Coast. West Texas saw rainfall from the remnants of the Southwest Monsoon, eliminating what was left of the short-term deficits for much of the region from Pampa to Abilene. Much of the state is still seeing streamflows below the 25th percentile, however, particularly west and southern Texas, and statewide reservoir levels have not responded well to the small rainfall accumulations and high heat.

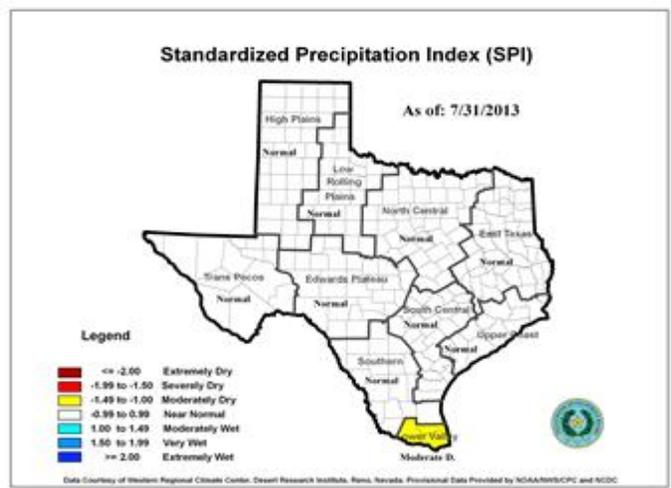
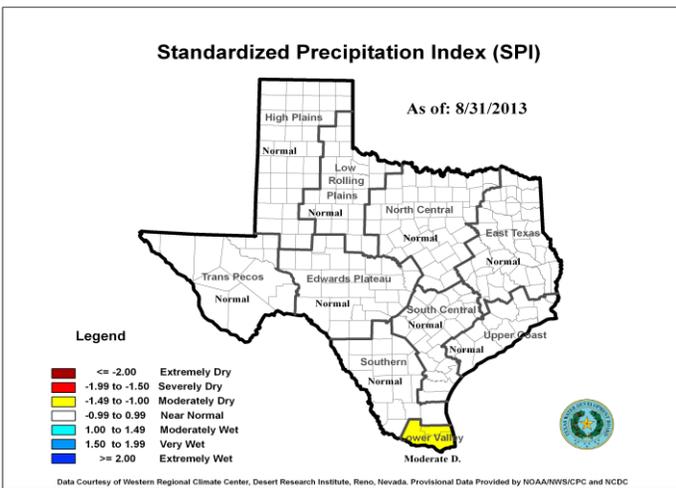
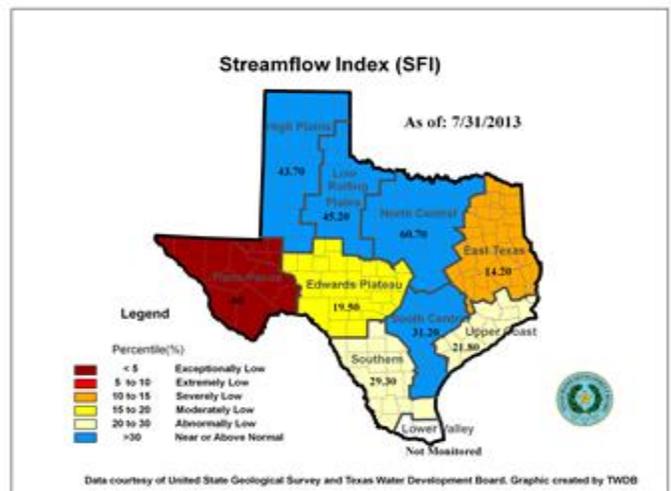
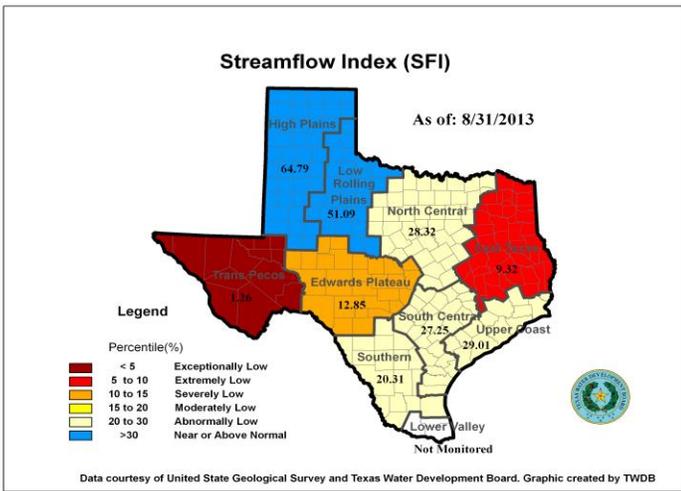
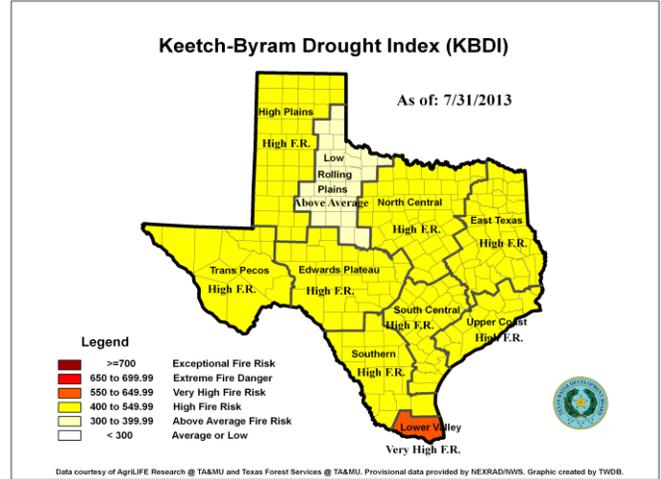
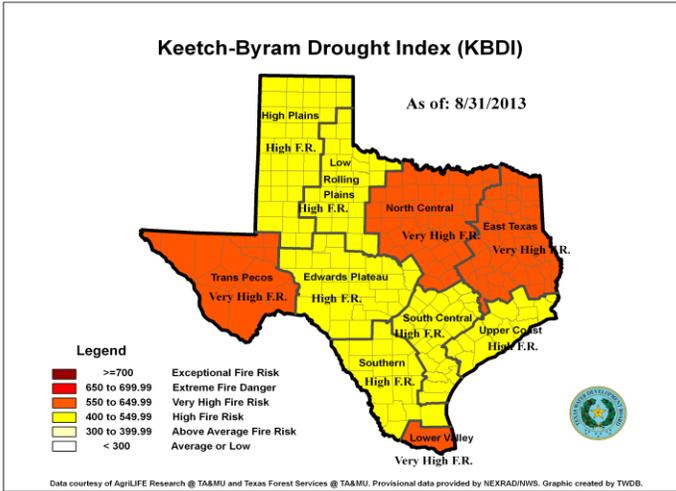
Statewide conservation storage is at 60.0 percent of capacity, down around five percent from last month, and only a few percent above the all-time minimum set back in 2011.

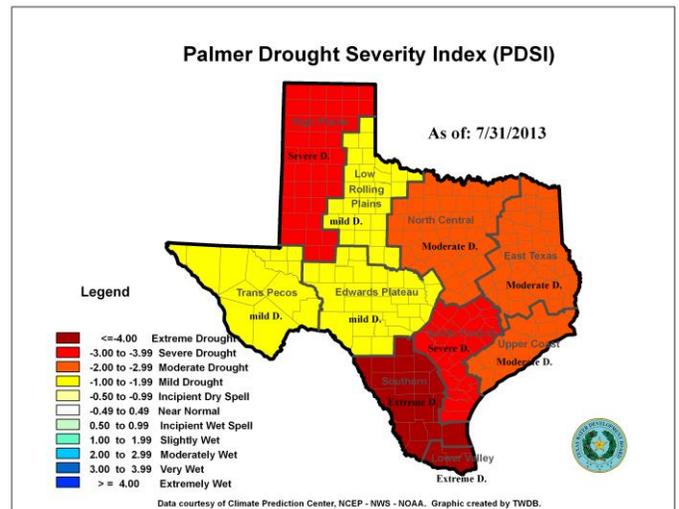
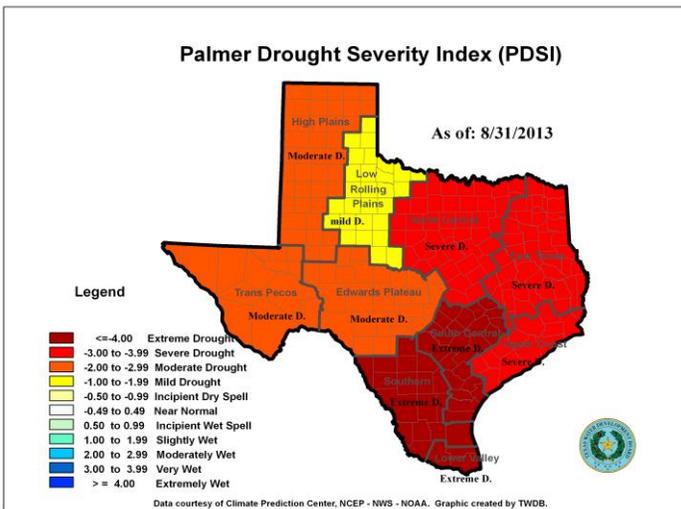
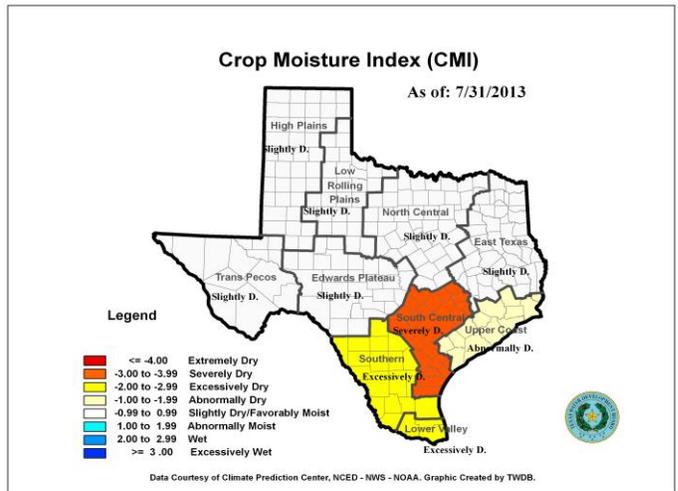
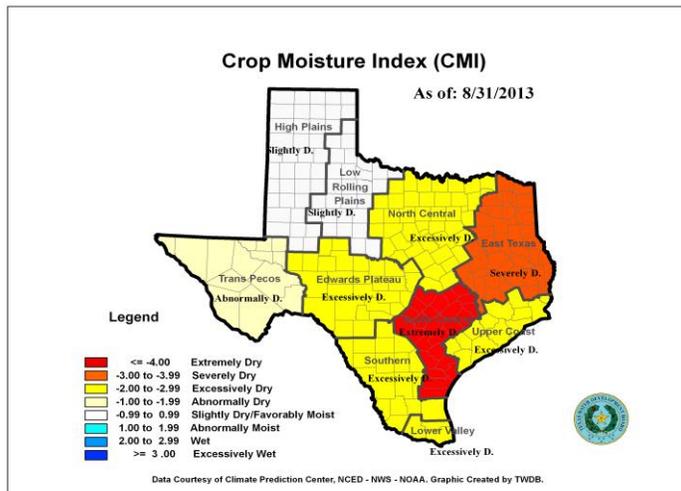
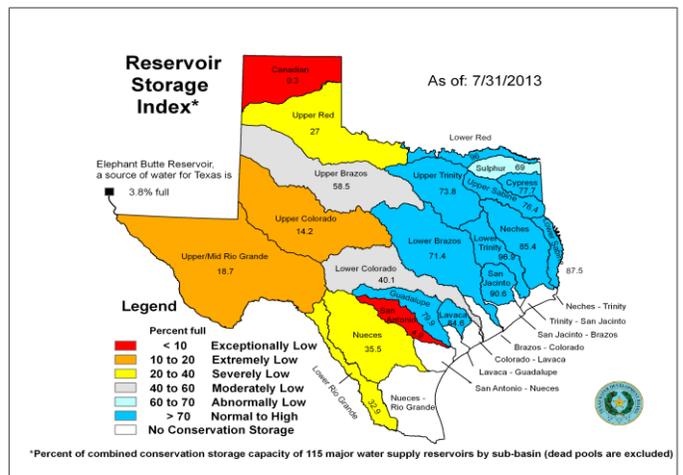
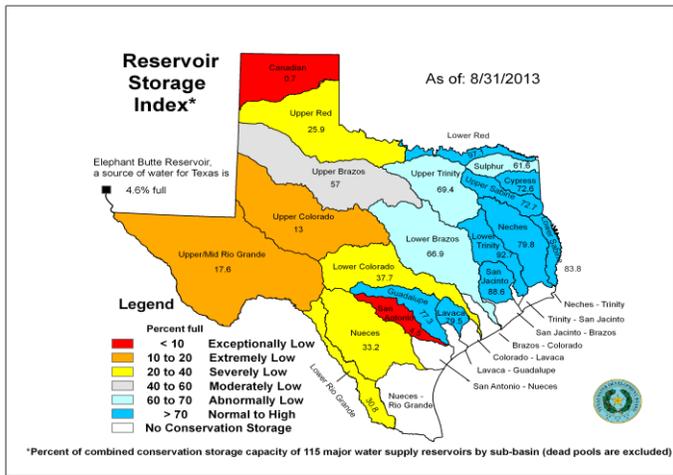


The outlook for September is middling. The current ridge pattern that has settled over much of the eastern U.S. is not expected to break down for at least a week or so, meaning the likelihood of greater than average temperatures is higher than the alternatives. There is less indication of a trend in precipitation. Drought conditions across the state are expected to persist through the month.

# Statewide Drought Conditions Update

## 1. Selected Drought Index Maps





## 2. Drought Status Summary

Statewide degradation present in five of six drought indices. The entire state is in drought as indicated by the Palmer Drought Severity Index.

Number of Regions In Drought Category						
Drought Index	High Drought			Lower Drought		Not in Drought
	Exceptional Dry / Drought ----- Exceptional High Fire Risk	Extreme Dry / Drought Extreme High Fire Risk	Severe Dry / Drought Very High Fire Risk	Moderate or Excessive Dry / Drought High Fire Risk	Abnormal or Mild Dry / Drought Above Average Fire Risk	Near or Above Normal Condition
PDSI (10)	N/A	3	3	3	1	0
SFI (9)	1	1	1	0	4	2
SPI (10)	N/A	0	0	1	0	9
CMI (10)	N/A	1	1	5	1	2
KBDI (10)	0	0	4	6	0	0
Number of River Basins / Sub-Basins In Drought Category						
RSI (21)	2	2	4	1	3	9

## 3. Drought Index Data

Region ID	Region Name	Crop Moisture Index	Palmer Drought Severity Index	Standardized Precipitation Index	Keetch-Byram Drought Index	Reservoir Storage Index	Streamflow Index
1	High Plains	-0.66	-2.98	-0.50	435.00	1.02	64.79
2	Low Rolling Plains	0.08	-1.33	-0.23	414.00	25.72	51.09
3	North Central	-2.11	-3.07	-0.70	618.00	70.11	28.32
4	East Texas	-3.13	-3.33	-0.99	645.00	82.37	9.32
5	Trans Pecos	-1.69	-2.63	-0.48	574.00	17.56	1.26
6	Edwards Plateau	-2.08	-2.45	-0.35	508.00	31.00	12.85
7	South Central	-4.12	-4.20	-0.75	524.00	39.85	27.25
8	Upper Coast	-2.29	-3.12	-0.57	498.00	87.78	29.01
9	Southern	-2.89	-4.30	0.49	461.00	24.60	20.31
10	Lower Valley	-2.65	-4.21	-1.23	590.00	No Data	No Data

The comparison of index values with last month is summarized below:

Drought Index	Index Value Improved in # Regions (Bold in table above)	Index Value Deteriorated in # Regions (Italic in table above)	Index Value Unchanged in # Regions
PDSI (10)	<b>2</b>	<i>8</i>	0
SFI (9)	<b>4</b>	<i>5</i>	0
SPI (10)	<b>4</b>	<i>6</i>	0
CMI (10)	<b>1</b>	<i>9</i>	0
KBDI (10)	<b>2</b>	<i>8</i>	0
RSI (21)	<b>2</b>	<i>19</i>	0

#### 4. Reservoir Storage Condition

Water storage conditions are summarized below by river basins for the 115 of Texas major reservoirs at the end of the month:

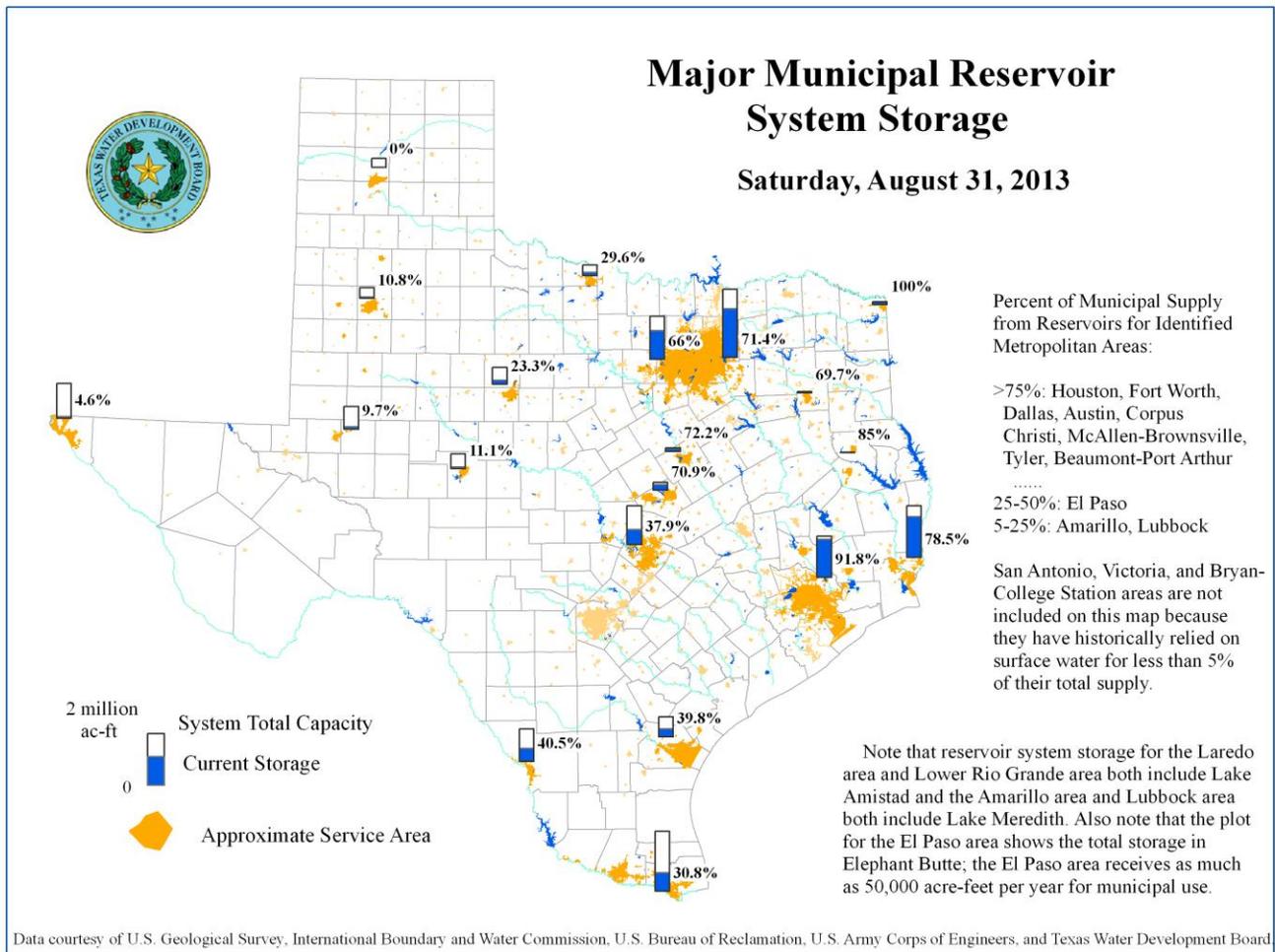
The statewide combined storage was 60% full (4% less than last month), at 18.98 million acre feet in total combined storage. This is 1.015 acre-feet less than a month ago.

By river basins, storage was lower than normal in 12 basins or sub-basins but Near or Above Normal in all other 9 basin or sub-basins.

- Exceptionally low in Canadian River basin and San Antonio sub-basins,
- Extremely low in Upper Colorado and Upper-Mid Rio Grande sub-basin basins,
- Severely low in Upper Red River, Lower Colorado, Lower Rio Grande sub-basins and Nueces river basin,
- Moderately low in Upper Brazos
- Abnormally low is Sulphur basin, Upper Trinity and Lower Brazos sub basins
- Near or Above Normal in all other 9 basin or sub-basins.

Elephant Butte Reservoir was approximately 5% full by the month's end (up from 4% last month).

## Reservoir Status for Major Metropolitan Centers

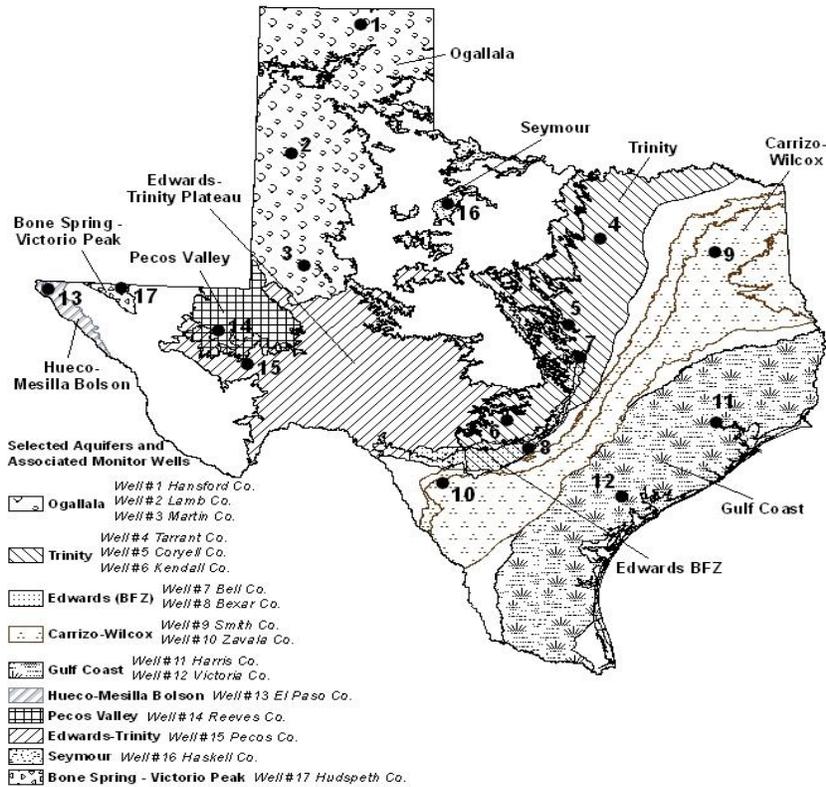


### 5. Groundwater Conditions

- Water level measurements were available from all 17 key monitoring wells in the state.
- Water levels rose in two of the monitoring wells since the beginning of August, ranging from 0.01 feet in the Martin County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #3) to 0.06 feet in the Hansford County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #1).
- Water levels declined in fifteen monitoring wells, ranging from 0.14 feet in the Lamb County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #2) to 7.19 feet in the Pecos County Edwards-Trinity Plateau Aquifer well (well #15).
- The J-17 well in San Antonio recorded a water level of 97.2 feet below land surface or 633.8 feet above mean sea level. This water level is 6.2 feet below the Stage III critical management level in that segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

<b>Monitoring Well</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Month Change</b>	<b>Year Change</b>	<b>Historical Change</b>
(1) Hansford 0354301	154.14	154.2	0.06	-0.25	-84.02
(2) Lamb 1053602	143.86	143.72	-0.14	-2.30	-115.71
(3) Martin 2739903	142.31	142.32	0.01	-1.91	-37.42
(4) Dallas 3319101	488.21	488.02	-0.19	-0.19	-266.21
(5) Coryell 4035404	508.33	506.18	-2.15	3.29	-216.33
(6) Kendall 6802609	151.76	147.97	-3.79	4.07	-91.76
(7) Bell 5804816	129.59	128.53	-1.06	-3.80	-6.46
(8) Bexar 6837203	97.20	94	-3.20	-7.00	-50.56
(9) Smith 3430907	441.53	439.62	-1.91	-4.57	-75.53
(10) La Salle 7738103	487.71	484.47	-3.24	-54.88	-234.68
(11) Harris 6514409	196.55	194.63	-1.92	5.97	-61.05
(12) Victoria 8017502	37.53	35.48	-2.05	-0.63	-3.53
(13) El Paso 4913301	295.25	293.97	-1.28	-4.24	-63.35
(14) Reeves 4644501	157.95	156.1	-1.85	-6.91	-65.86
(15) Pecos 5216802	238.77	231.58	-7.19	-0.60	8.11
(16) Haskell 2135748	48.79	48.05	-0.74	-0.36	-7.46
(17) Hudspeth 4807516	151.08	147.32	-3.76	-1.02	-47.16

# Groundwater Observation Wells Location Map



## **6. Water Utility Status**

Overall, there are 1,158 water systems that are asking their customers to restrict water use, compared with 1,057 a month ago. Of these systems, 765 are asking customers to follow a mandatory watering schedule and 393 are asking customers to follow a voluntary watering schedule. There are currently 48 PWSs that have prohibited all outside watering by their customers. The seasonal forecasts are for the drought to persist or intensify in the majority of the state with some improvement in the northern and eastern portions of the state.

## **7. Water Rights – Statewide**

New temporary water use permit applications are being reviewed on a site-specific basis and issued if there is sufficient surplus water at the requested source. The number of applications for new water use permits and amendments to existing permits was normal for the month.

On August 14, 2013, TCEQ informed Public Water Systems statewide that they are encouraged to take reasonable actions to increase conservation to extend water supplies and should review their Drought Contingency Plans and be prepared to implement restrictions.

The availability of unappropriated water for new water use permits continues to decrease in all river basins in the State, and the search for long-term, dependable alternate sources of water remains a high priority issue.

## **8. Water Rights – Lower Rio Grande / Rio Grande Watermaster (RGWM)**

### **Current Conditions:**

On August 24, 2013, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 30.98% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,050,680 acre-feet, down from 44.31% (1,503,056 AF) of normal conservation a year ago at this time. Overall the system is holding 27.12% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,606,017 acre-feet with Amistad at 34.25% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,122,023 acre-feet and Falcon at 18.29% of conservation capacity, impounding 483,994 acre-feet. Mexico has 21.95% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 555,336 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

**Allocations:** As of printing of the July, 2013 ownership report, we have allocated 263,308.6656 acre-feet to Class A & B water rights this year, which include irrigation, mining and recreation.

**Storage & Loss Amistad vs. Falcon:** The U.S. is currently storing approximately 744,000 acre-feet at Amistad (40.4%); and approximately 306,000 acre-feet (19.8%) of normal conservation capacity at Falcon.

**Releases to meet demands:** In 2013, (through 8/24/13), Mexico has released 503,118 acre-feet from Amistad and 746,444 acre-feet from Falcon for Mexico needs. The U.S. has released 749,091 acre-feet from Falcon and 576,964 acre-feet from Amistad for U.S. needs. Combined with gains between Amistad and Falcon, U.S. inflows to Falcon have totaled 658,045 acre-feet. The U.S. demand in the lower Rio Grande has been met at a rate of 88% by direct Rio Grande inflows and Amistad releases this year.

**Upper Rio Grande (New Mexico):** Elephant Butte in New Mexico is currently storing 89,178 (4.41%) acre feet and Caballo Dam in New Mexico, downstream of Elephant Butte is storing 10,539 (4.64%) acre-feet. This water storage in part is used to meet water needs in the El Paso area.

**Outlook:** 41% of all accounts began 2013 at 0% water available, 17% of all accounts began 2013 with 0-50% of their usable balance and 42% of all accounts began 2013 with 50-100% of their usable balance available. The National Weather Service continues to report that moderate to extreme drought conditions are affecting much of Rio Grande Basin counties.

## 8. River Basin Reports

Stream flow conditions vary widely across the state. When considering drought conditions, United State Geological Survey (USGS) streamflow data are commonly used as a metric for comparison. This report uses monthly mean river flows in cubic feet per second (cfs) to represent average monthly conditions within each river basin. The historical median flow value for the month (the discharge which is equaled or exceeded 50% of the time) is used to prevent the inclusion of high flow values that would skew the data.

## Red River Basin:

### Streamflow Conditions:

Site	August Mean (cfs)	August Historical Median (cfs)
Red River near Burkburnett	99	196
Red River near De Kalb	1,668	3,950

**Drought Condition:** As of September 3, 99% of the Red River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 4% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

## Sulphur River Basin:

### Streamflow Conditions:

Site	August mean (cfs)	August Historical median (cfs)
Sulphur River near Talco	0.51	9.10

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 100% of the Sulphur River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

## Cypress Creek Basin:

### Streamflow Conditions:

Site	August Mean (cfs)	August Historical Median (cfs)
Little Cypress Creek near Jefferson	0.00	6.60

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 100% of the Cypress Creek Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Sabine River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	August Mean (cfs)	August Historical Median (cfs)
Sabine River near Beckville	40	140
Sabine River near Ruliff	1,647	2,420

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 98% of the Sabine River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Neches River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	August mean (cfs)	August historical median (cfs)
Angelina River near Alto	13	70
Neches River at Evadale	1,889	1,650

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 95% of the Neches River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Trinity River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	August mean (cfs)	August historical median (cfs)
Trinity River at Dallas	475	306
Trinity River near Oakwood	856	708

Trinity River at Romayor	1,227	1,210
--------------------------	-------	-------

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 99% of the Trinity River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

**Brazos River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	August Mean (cfs)	August Historical Median (cfs)
Double Mountain Fork Brazos River near Aspermont	126	506
Brazos River near Glen Rose	17	281
Little River at Cameron	330	190
Navasota near Easterly	10	6
Brazos near Hempstead	502	1,360
Brazos near Rosharon	382	1,190

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 100% of the Brazos River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 1% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights below Possum Kingdom with a priority date of February 14, 1942 or later have been suspended or adjusted including some water rights for municipal use, and power generation. Water rights in this area that are senior to February 14, 1942 are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

## Colorado River Basin:

### Streamflow Conditions:

Site	August Mean (cfs)	August Historical Median (cfs)
Colorado River at Ballinger	0.09	10
San Saba River at San Saba	11	44
Llano River at Llano	10	88
Pedernales River near Johnson City	0.00	18
Colorado River at Columbus	295	1,600

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 96% of the Colorado River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water Rights in the San Saba watershed with a priority date of January 1, 1900 or later along with term and temporary permits are being suspended or adjusted. Water rights in the rest of the Basin are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits however, the Concho Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed.

## Guadalupe River Basin:

### Streamflow Conditions:

Site	August Mean (cfs)	August Historical Median (cfs)
Guadalupe River near Spring Branch	1.31	77
San Marcos River at Luling	98	170
Guadalupe River at Cuero	167	731
Guadalupe River at Victoria	188	703

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 100% of the Guadalupe River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits however, some water rights in the upper Guadalupe River Basin can only divert on a limited schedule. The South Texas Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits are being reviewed on a case by case basis.

**San Antonio River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	August mean (cfs)	August historical median (cfs)
San Antonio River at Falls City	92	178
Cibolo Creek at Falls City	11	18

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 100% of the San Antonio River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits however, the South Texas Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflows conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits are being reviewed on a case by case basis.

**Nueces River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	August mean (cfs)	August historical median (cfs)
Nueces river at Tilden	1.12	0.50
Frio River near Derby	0.00	0.10
Atascosa River at Whitsett	2	5

**Drought Conditions:** As of September 3, 100% of the Nueces River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

**Drought Restrictions:** Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits however, the South Texas Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits are being reviewed on a case by case basis.

## Statewide Rainfall Totals

**August 1 - 31, 2013**

City/Station	Rainfall Totals (in)
<b>Brazos River Basin</b>	
Lubbock	1.32
Abilene	0.54
Waco	0.22
College Station	0.78
<b>Colorado River Basin</b>	
Midland	1.18
San Angelo	0.81
Austin Mabry	0.27
Austin Bergstrom	1.65
<b>Neches River Basin</b>	
Tyler	0.23
Lufkin	1.17
<b>Sabine River Basin</b>	
Longview	1.06
<b>Trinity River Basin</b>	
Dallas/ Fort Worth	1.32

## 10. Agriculture

After some significant and widespread rain in July, August for the most part was hot and dry, with the notable exception of the counties along the Gulf Coast and a few counties in west-central Texas. The July rains did much to improve crop and pasture conditions in the Rolling Plains and High Plains, but with the hot weather observed August and general dry conditions, crops and forages are once beginning to stress again. Most corn and sorghum have been harvested in the Rio Grande Valley, the Gulf Coast and the Blackland Prairie. Grain crops that were not irrigated were mostly abandoned South Texas and the lower parts of the Gulf Coast due to drought, but conditions were better in the upper coastal regions. Cotton harvest was rapidly progressing in the Valley and the Gulf Coast and into the Central Texas Blacklands.

The rains along the coast brought some relief to livestock operations, as grass is responding well to the moisture. Most of southwest Texas remains dry and ranchers are providing supplemental feeding and continuing to cull herds.

With the hot and dry weather, crops are rapidly maturing in the Rolling Plains and High Plains. Most dryland crops are showing stress. The early season drought resulted in the loss of about 50% of the planted cotton acres on the High Plains. Stands that survived until the July rains are thin and skippy and yields will reflect this.

Wheat farmers in the plains that had adequate moisture are beginning to plant the new crop. Many are waiting for moisture for planting.

The following are summaries from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension District reporters for the week ending September 7, 2013:

**Central:** Some areas received showers, with accumulations from 0.5 inch to 2 inches. Overall, conditions were dry. All field crops were harvested except for cotton. Cotton is showing some drought damage. Some producers were planting small grains for winter grazing. Stock-water tanks were very low. Burn bans were in effect throughout the region.

**Coastal Bend:** Parts of the region received scattered showers, with some damage reported from high winds. The corn harvest was complete, and the first rice harvest was almost done. Some rice farmers flooded fields for a ratoon crop, but due to water restrictions, rationing was very limited. Lake levels continued to drop. The cotton harvest was ongoing. Soybeans yields were average. Preliminary yield reports for sesame were 200 to 500 pounds per acre, but many better fields were yet to be harvested. Livestock producers continued to provide supplemental feed to cattle, and were expected to continue culling herds this fall. Harvesting of hay continued, but yields were very low. Grasshoppers remained plentiful. Ponds were low or dry in most areas. Pecan yields were expected to be low in most areas.

[East:](#) The region remained hot and dry with many counties under burn bans. Drought conditions continued to worsen. Most counties received no rain. Cotton had 40 percent open bolls and was looking good. Dryland corn yields were about 110 bushels per acre. Pecans were in fair to good condition. Grazing was drying up and many producers were feeding hay, protein and energy supplements. Hay sales increased. Armyworms and grasshoppers continued to plague hayfields. Many producers put field preparations for winter pastures on hold until soil-moisture levels improved. Ponds and creeks were drying up, forcing producers to find other water sources and/or move livestock around to pastures with better water. Livestock were in fair to good condition with supplemental feeding.

[Far West:](#) Hot and dry conditions prevailed. Several days of triple-digit heat caused rangeland conditions to worsen across most of the region. Some areas received scattered showers with accumulations from a trace to 0.2 inch. Pasture forages continued to decrease in nutritional value from the lack of rain. Dryland cotton was opening bolls; irrigated cotton was getting close to being harvest-ready.

[North:](#) There were a few spotty showers, bringing some of the counties as much as 0.5 inch of rain, but generally, weather was hot and dry, and soil-moisture levels continued to be very short. Pastures were becoming extremely dry. Fertilized pastures were in decent shape, but unfertilized pastures were looking very rough. Stock-water tank levels were dropping quickly. Some producers were providing supplemental feed to cows due to the lack of or low quality of forage. Livestock were showing signs of heat stress. Livestock producers were waiting for rain to start preparing for planting winter annual pastures. The corn and grain sorghum harvests were nearly completed. A few late-planted soybean fields remained to be harvested. Cotton bolls were opening. Grasshoppers remained an issue.

[Panhandle:](#) The region was hot with no rain reported. Temperatures were in the mid 90s all week, which increased water use and evaporation. Some producers were either already planting or preparing to plant winter wheat. Producers were trying to finish up irrigating corn, grain sorghum and cotton so they can start watering the early planted wheat crop. The corn harvest was expected to start soon. Rangeland and pastures showed improvement, though growth was slowing down as summer ended. However, forage conditions remained way below normal for the region. Cattle were in good condition. Livestock producers continued weaning spring calves or preparing for the fall calving season.

**Rolling Plains:** Hot, dry conditions persisted across the region, which began to take a toll on cotton. Plants were beginning to drop bolls and show signs of heat stress in the afternoons. Producers feared that without any moisture, this year's crop may look good, but not produce. Soil-moisture levels were low, and daytime temperatures were still topping out in the high 90s. Not only were these conditions causing problems for cotton, but they were also severely stressing haygrazer. Some producers were going ahead and baling haygrazer before they lost everything. Pasture conditions remained in fair condition, but without any rain will soon become poor. Livestock were in good condition as producers began to feed hay and supplements. Some producers fear that their limited supply of hay won't last through the winter. Fall cattle work began. Stock-water tanks needed runoff water. Wheat growers were planting in some counties, but many producers were waiting for moisture before planting. Burn bans were in effect in a number of counties.

**South:** Soil-moisture conditions varied throughout the region. Many counties reported short to very short soil-moisture levels, but a few had adequate levels due to frequent spotty showers, such as Atascosa and Maverick counties. In the southern part of the region, Cameron County reported 90 percent adequate levels, and Willacy County 55 percent adequate and 45 percent surplus. Livestock supplemental feeding was light though steady in areas with improved forages. Rangeland and pastures improved quite a bit in areas that received more rain. In Atascosa County, the cotton harvest was underway, and peanut producers continued irrigating the crop, which was setting pods. In Frio County, cotton was nearly mature, with defoliation of early planted cotton expected to begin mid-September. In Zavala County, dryland oat and wheat producers were actively planting, taking advantage of limited soil moisture, which had been boosted by recent rain showers. Also in that county, cotton harvesting was active, with the two cotton gins very busy. Cameron County farmers were planting onions. In Hidalgo County, 1 inch to 2 inches of rain temporarily halted some cotton and sorghum harvests. Cotton harvesting, though, was completed there. In Starr County, fall cropland preparations continued.

**South Plains:** Only Lubbock County received rain, and then only as isolated showers, bringing as much as 1 inch to the southwest corner of the county. All other counties reported warm, dry conditions. Crops were maturing, with some dryland cotton showing drought stress by midday. Some cotton opened bolls. The corn harvest in Hockley County began with decent yields. Most producers were still irrigating crops, with many trying to decide when to stop pumping. Peanut producers reported average and above-average yields. Late-planted sunflowers were heading out, with some in very early bloom. Some producers began planting wheat in fields where there may not be enough moisture for germination. Pasture and rangeland needed rain to maintain current grazing levels and recover from fire damage. Livestock were mostly in good condition.

**Southeast:** Overall, soybeans were in good condition and cotton fair. Soil-moisture levels were short to very short, while rangeland and pastures were in very poor condition, with the exception of Brazoria and San Jacinto counties. In those counties, soil moisture was adequate, and rangeland and pastures good to excellent. The cotton harvest began in many areas. Montgomery County received a few showers that helped forages and trees. Some of the showers were heavy, but most brought less than 1 inch of rain. Burleson, Brazoria, Lee and Walker counties received limited scattered showers in some areas. Fort Bend County received 0.75 inch of rain, scattered across the county.

**Southwest:** The region received scattered showers, with some areas getting 1.5 inches and others getting none. The light rains maintained soil-moisture levels, but were not enough to prevent a decrease in overall available grazing in pastures and rangeland. Surface and groundwater supplies remained significantly low. The cotton harvest began with good yields reported. Sesame was in full bloom. Fall corn began to tassel and looked good. Overall, livestock remained in fair condition.

**West Central:** Hot, dry, windy conditions persisted. Highs remained in the mid to upper 90s. A few areas reported scattered showers. Soil-moisture levels continued to rapidly decline. Cotton was doing well in most areas. Some producers began planting wheat and oats. Preparations for fall planting were well underway. Corn was harvested in most areas, with yields reported poor to fair. Though growth was slow, rangeland and pastures continued to improve from recent rains. Livestock were in fair to good condition. Producers continued to cull herds due to drought conditions and the expense of increased supplemental feeding and water hauling. Stock ponds were extremely low. Pecan growers were irrigating orchards and expecting good yields.

Texas Crop Progress and Conditions  
 USDA NASS, Texas Field Office Report: Issue TX-CW 3013  
 Weekly summary for September 2- to 8, 2013

**Top Soil Moisture Condition by District – September 8, 2013**

District	Percentage of Acreage				District	Percentage of Acreage			
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus		Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
<b>1-N</b>	34	61	5	0	<b>6</b>	46	43	11	0
<b>1-S</b>	12	71	15	2	<b>7</b>	35	47	18	0
<b>2-N</b>	18	55	27	0	<b>8-N</b>	54	37	9	0
<b>2-S</b>	14	71	15	0	<b>8-S</b>	35	33	22	10
<b>3</b>	24	59	17	0	<b>9</b>	14	31	47	8
<b>4</b>	49	42	9	0	<b>10-N</b>	35	43	21	1
<b>5-N</b>	44	42	14	0	<b>10-S</b>	25	20	41	14
<b>5-S</b>	36	52	7	5	<b>State</b>	35	48	16	1

**Crop Condition by District- September 8, 2013**

Crop	Percent of Acreage					Index	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	2013	2012
<b>Corn</b>	13	41	35	10	1	75	70
<b>Cotton</b>	6	27	37	17	13	58	47
<b>Rice</b>	12	36	47	5	0	75	74
<b>Sorghum</b>	12	46	33	8	1	76	68
<b>Soybean</b>	9	33	45	10	3	69	65
<b>Range &amp; pasture</b>	1	10	30	32	27	-	-

\*The formula for the condition index is  $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 110E) / 100$  where I=crop condition index and VP, P, F, G, E= the percentage of the crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good and excellent.

**The Drought Preparedness Council is comprised of state agencies concerned with the effects of drought and fire on the citizens of the State of Texas.**

The attached information was compiled and provided by representatives listed below. Points of contact, telephone numbers, and web site addresses are also provided.

Nim Kidd, Texas Division of Emergency Management, (512) 424-2436, fax (512) 424-2444, website: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem>

Brenner Brown, Texas Water Development Board, (512) 475-1128, fax (512) 475-2053, website: <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us>

Chris Loft, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (512) 239- 4715, fax (512) 239-4770, website: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us>

Mel Davis, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board, (254) 773- 2250, fax (254) 773-3311, website: <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us>

Lance Williams, Texas Department of Agriculture, (512) 463-3285, fax (800) 835-2981, website: <http://agr.state.tx.us>

Dr. Travis Miller, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, (979) 845- 4808, fax (979) 845-0456, website: <http://texasextension.tamu.edu>

David Bradsby, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, (512) 912-7015, fax (512) 707-1358, website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

Gilbert Jordan, Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 416-3270, fax (512) 416-2941, website: <http://www.txdot.state.tx.us>

Michael Dunivan, Texas A&M Forest Service, (830) 997-5426, website: <http://txforestservice.tamu.edu>

Priscilla Boston, Texas Department of State Health Services, (512) 776-6695, fax (512) 458- 7211, website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/>

Tad Curtis, Office of the Governor, Economic Development & Tourism, (512) 936-0047, website: <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/ecodev>

David A. Van Dresar, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, (979) 968-3135, fax (979) 968-3194, website: <http://www.texasgroundwater.org/>

Dr. John W. Nielsen-Gammon, Office of the State Climatologist, (979) 862-2248, fax (979) 862-4466, website: <http://www.met.tamu.edu/osc/>

Marisa Callan, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, (512) 475-3964, website: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us>

