



DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

RICK PERRY
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W. NIM KIDD
Council Chairperson

October 10, 2014

TO: The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor, State of Texas
The Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas
Mrs. Nandita Berry, 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

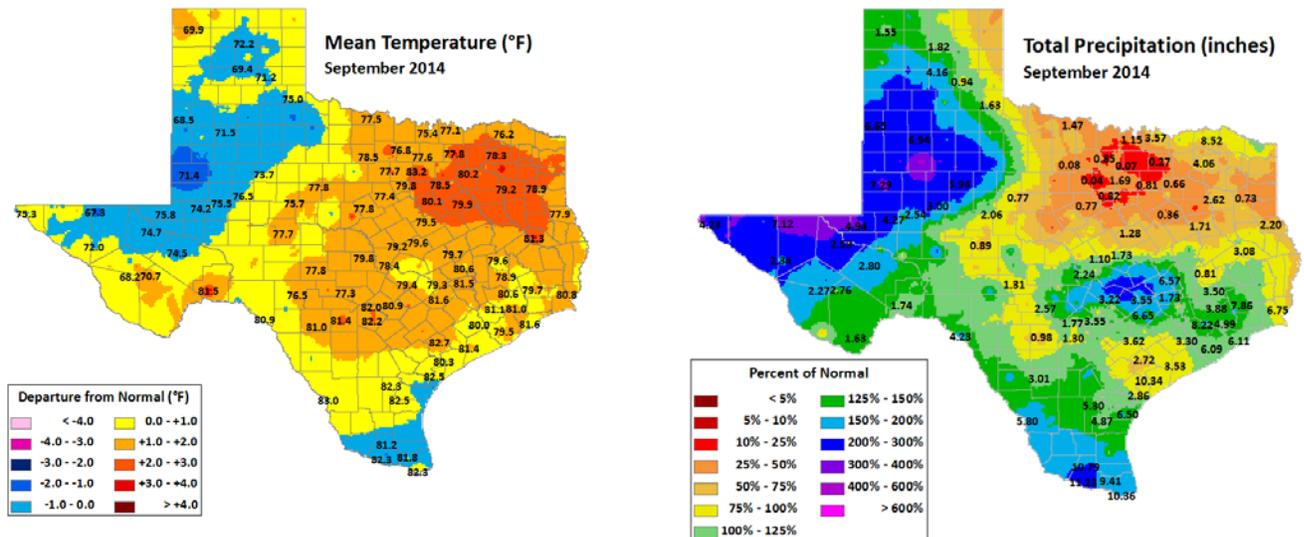
Nim Kidd, Chairman Texas Division of Emergency Mgmt	Sam Hermitte, Member Texas Water Development Board	Steven Bednarz, Member State Soil & Water Conservation Board
Lance Williams, Member Texas Department of Agriculture	Dr. Travis Miller, Member Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service	David Bradsby, Member Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Gilbert Jordan, Member Texas Department of Transportation	David A. Van Dresar, Member Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts	Cliff Lindell, Member Texas Department of State Health Services
Chris Loft, Member Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Mark Ellison, 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	Regina Erales, Member Public Utility Commission of Texas	Marisa Callan, Member Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Kent Saathoff, Member Electric Reliability Council of Texas		Oscar Fogle, Member William Masterson, Member Thomas M. Martine, Member

1. Next Council Meeting

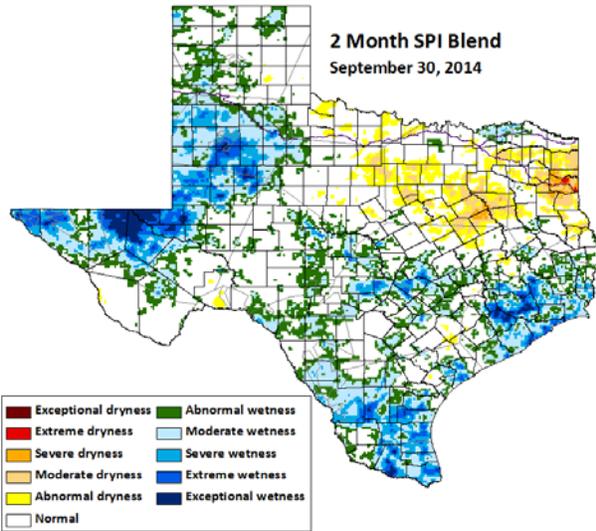
November 13, 2014 at 2:00pm

2. General Conditions

Texas's temperature and precipitation patterns in September were very well correlated, with regions of higher temperatures seeing below-normal precipitation and vice versa. North central Texas and northeast Texas were the driest parts of the state again this month and saw the highest temperatures as compared to normal. Western Texas along the Texas/New Mexico border saw the highest precipitation as compared to normal, though Deep South Texas saw the highest total accumulations. Central Texas fell in between the other region's temperature and precipitation anomalies: not as hot as the northeast and not as cool as the west.

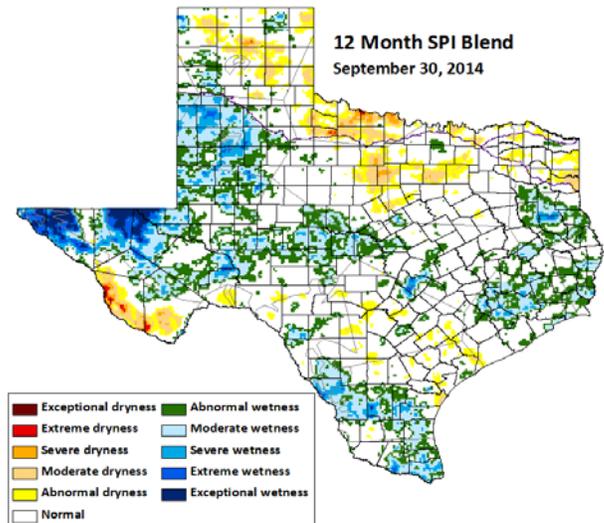
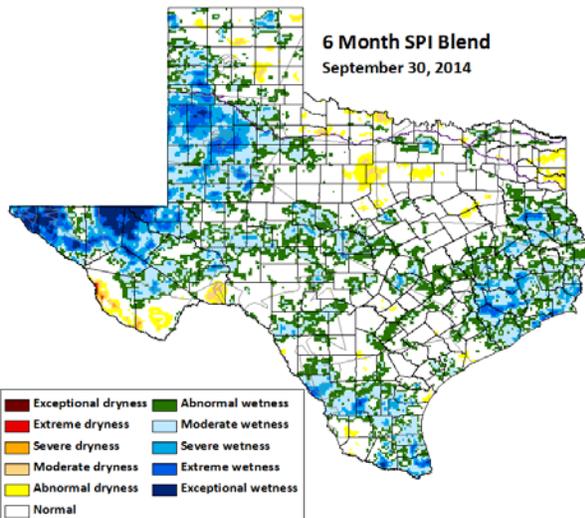


The biggest event of the month came from the remnants of Hurricane Odile from the Eastern Pacific, which made its way over the southwest United States. Instability in the region, combined with the oceanic moisture, led to widespread 10+ inches over much of west Texas near Lubbock. The multiple-day event had a profound impact on the region's short and long-term drought, replenishing soil moisture, returning streamflows to normal, and even filling reservoirs. Red Bluff Reservoir received a 20+ inch run-off in New Mexico, filling it beyond flood stage and adding 100,000 acre-feet of water, while Lakes Alan Henry and J. B. Thomas also saw gains of 20-40%, the latter rising from the dead pool stage to its highest point since the early 1970s.



For the rest of the state, changes were mostly improvements. Frequent rainfall in the Panhandle removed all of the remaining D4 in the area due to its timing with the winter wheat planting, improving short-term hydrological indicators such as streamflow and topsoil moisture. Gulf-driven convection hit much of the Gulf Coast, southern Texas, and the Lower Valley, knocking the D4 out of the Edwards Plateau and improving reservoirs and streamflows there as well. The Coastal Bend remains a problem area, not seeing the accumulations that the Edwards Plateau or Lower Valley saw, and is merely

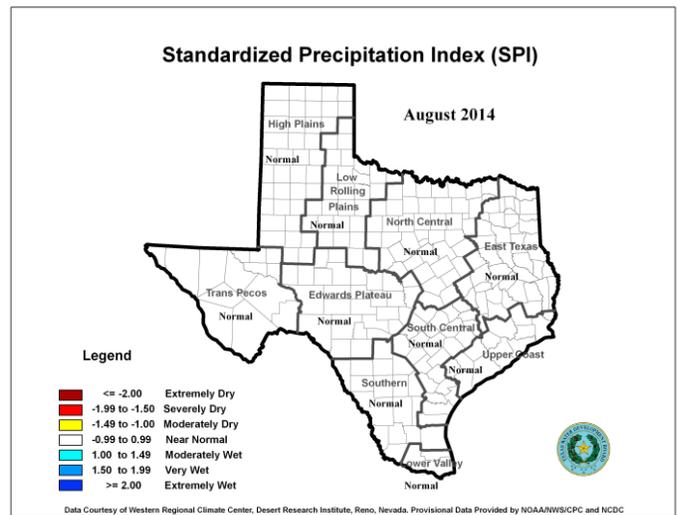
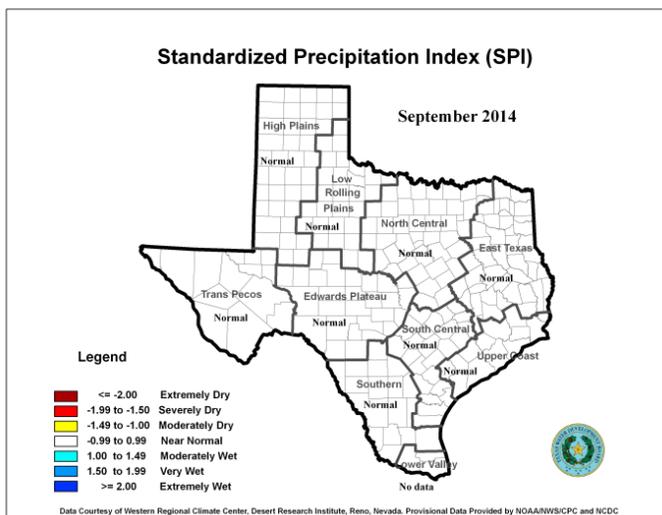
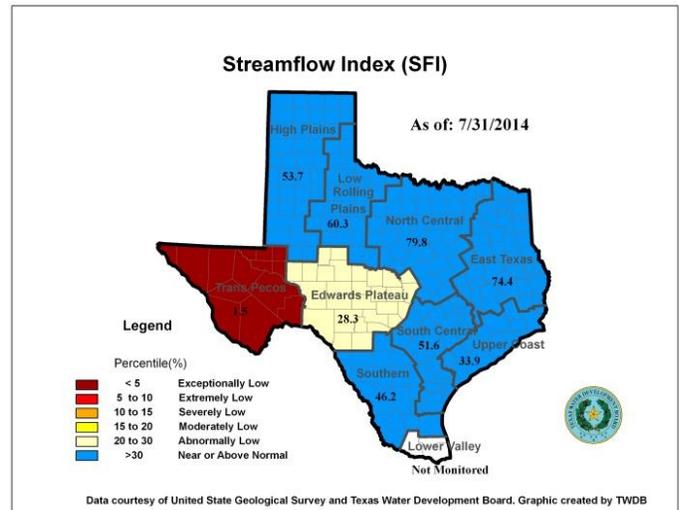
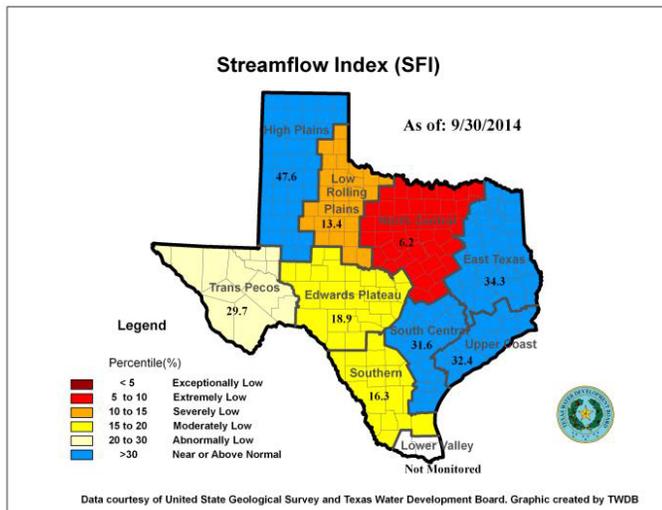
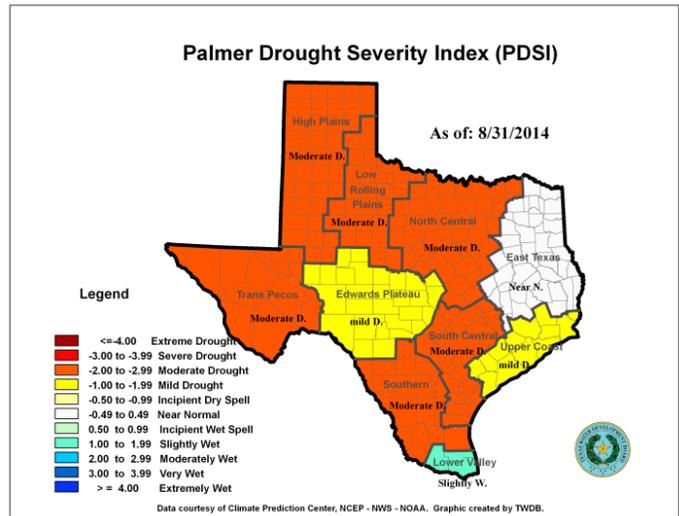
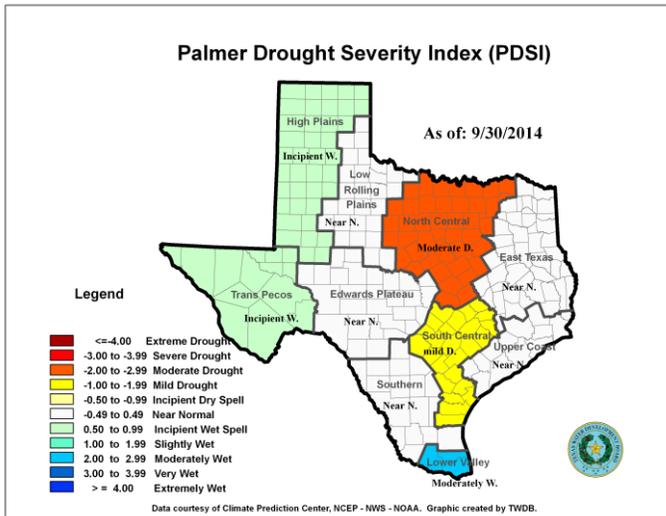
scraping by while still seeing shortages in soil moisture and low streamflow out of the Colorado River. Finally, north and northeast Texas saw little rainfall, exacerbating their short-term drought conditions; that the Metroplex as a whole is seeing its lowest reservoir storage dating back to at least 1990 is troubling.

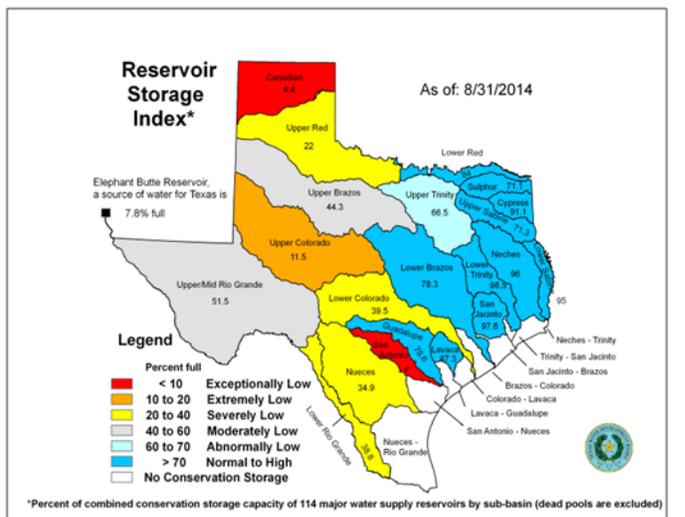
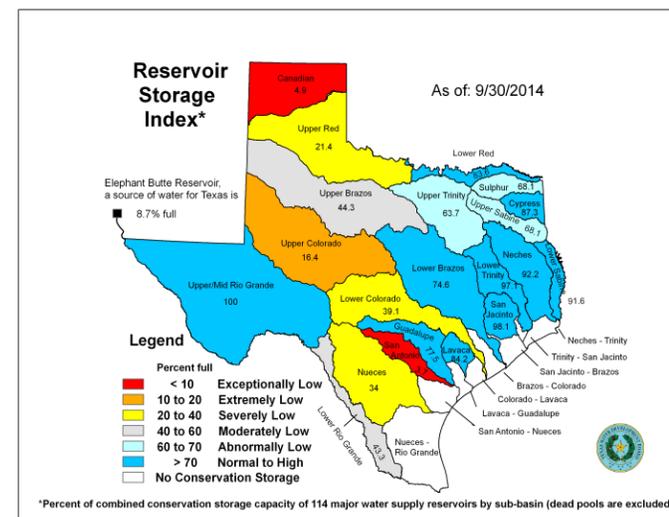
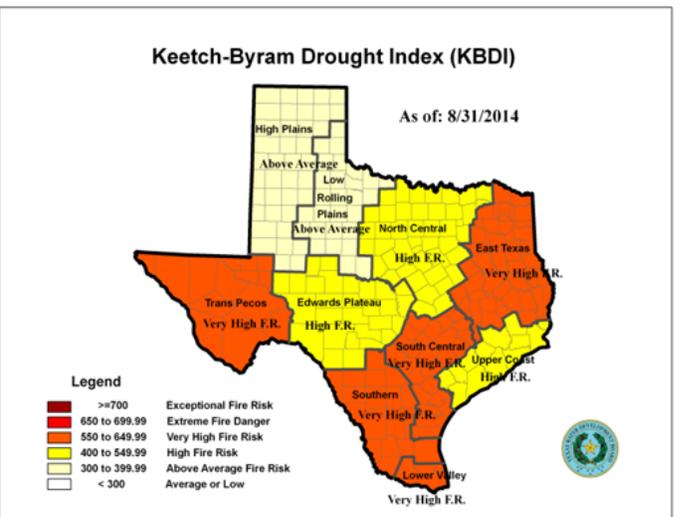
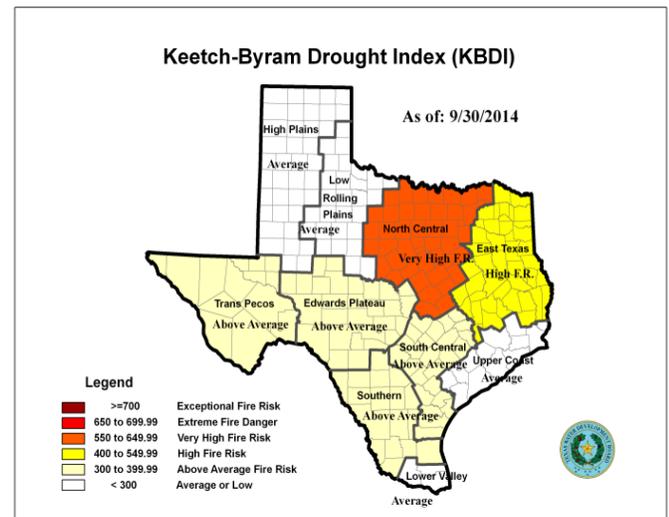
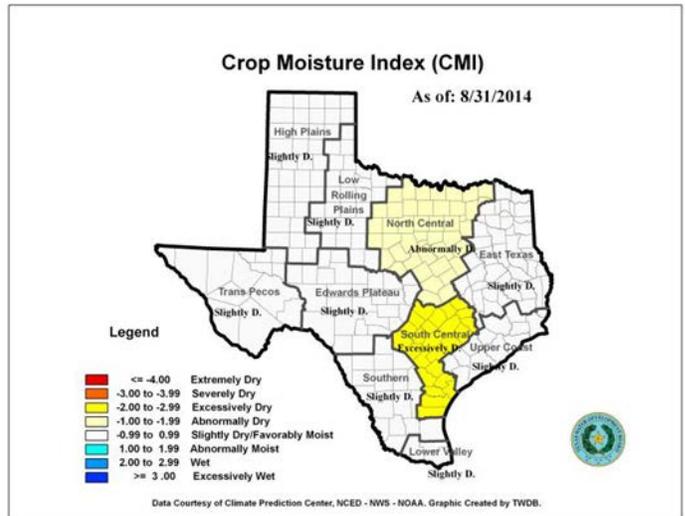
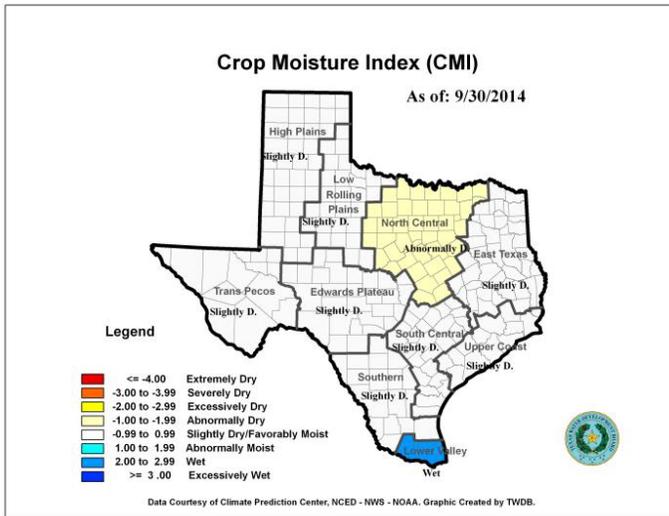


The outlook for October is not particularly optimistic. The southeast half of the state has a greater chance of seeing above normal temperatures with no trend sticking out for the other half. Precipitation is less pronounced, with no part of the state expected to have a higher chance of above or below normal accumulations. Looking farther out, positive phase ENSO conditions are still expected to develop in the winter, leading to most of the state predicted to have a greater chance of above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures, which would coincide well with the beginning of the 2014-2015 water year.

3. Statewide Drought Conditions Update

Selected Drought Index Maps





Drought Status Summary

Texas is in drought now 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	Extreme Dry / Drought	Severe Dry / Drought	Moderate or Excessive Dry / Drought	Abnormal or Mild Dry / Drought	Near or Above Normal Condition
	Exceptional High Fire Risk	Extreme High Fire Risk	Very High Fire Risk	High Fire Risk	Above Average Fire Risk	
PDSI (10)	N/A	0	0	1	1	8
SFI (9)	0	1	1	2	1	4
6 Month SPI (10)	N/A	0	0	0	0	9
CMI (10)	N/A	0	0	0	1	9
KBDI (10)	0	0	1	1	4	4
Number of River Basins / Sub-Basins In Drought Category						
RSI (21)	2	1	3	2	3	10

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	0.13	0.61	0.62	162	5.10	47.60
2	Low Rolling Plains	0.02	-0.45	0.30	275	32.80	13.40
3	North Central	-1.04	-2.27	-0.23	555	64.60	6.20
4	East Texas	0.09	0.41	0.36	533	91.10	34.30
5	Trans Pecos	0.02	0.56	0.27	353	100.00	29.70
6	Edwards Plateau	0.0	-0.47	0.26	391	39.00	18.90
7	South Central	0.08	-1.44	0.13	377	44.20	31.60
8	Upper Coast	0.37	-0.14	0.25	292	91.00	32.40
9	Southern	0.12	0.25	-0.05	306	27.60	16.30
10	Lower Valley	2.67	2.88	No Data	45	No Data	No Data

Drought Index Data

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

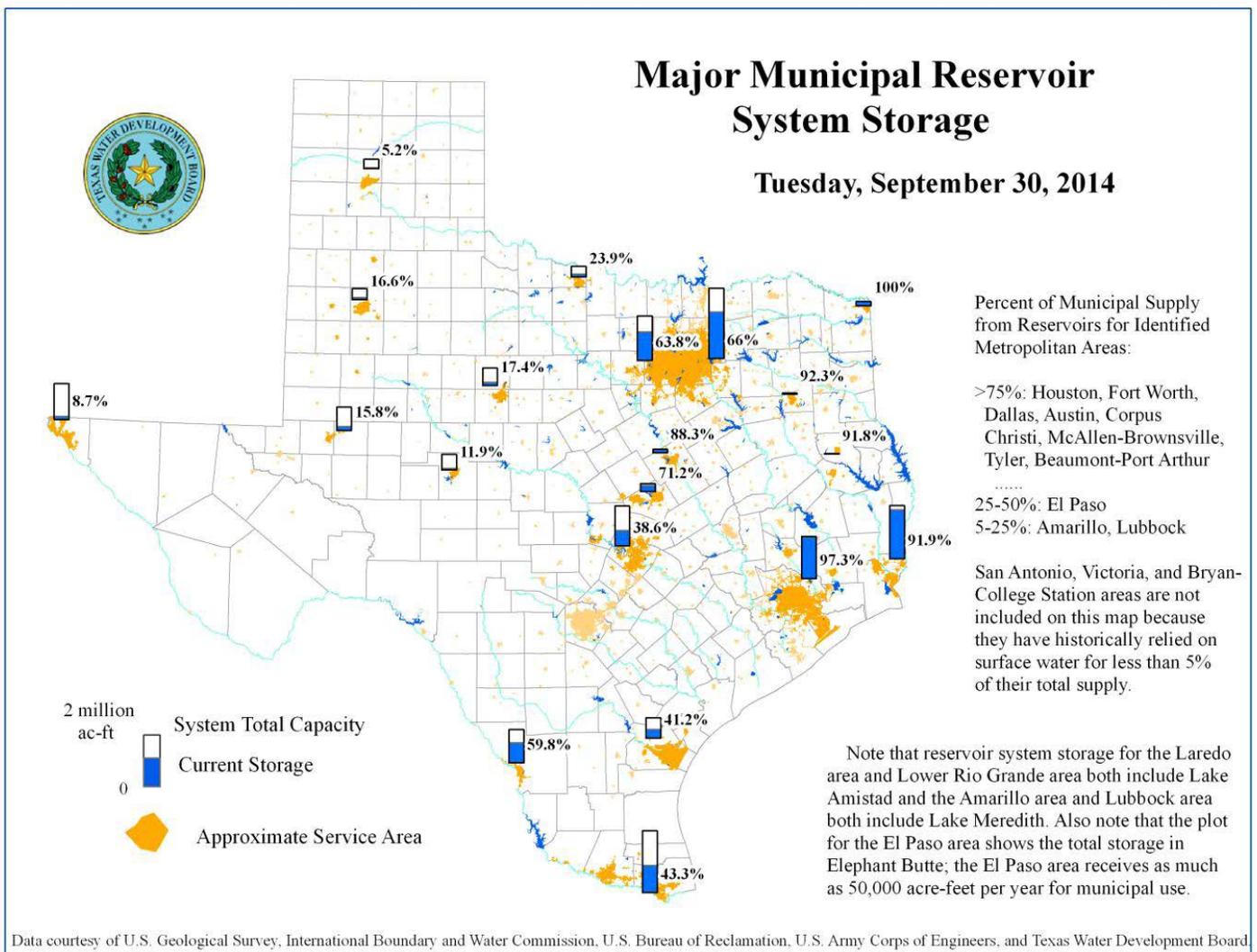
Drought Index	Index Value Improved in # Regions (Bold in table above)	Index Value Deteriorated in # Regions (Italic in table above)	Index Value Unchanged in # Regions
PDSI (10)	10	0	0
SFI (9)	5	4	0
SPI (10)	8	0	1
CMI (10)	10	0	0
KBDI (10)	9	1	0
RSI (21)	4	17	0

Reservoir Storage Condition

Water storage conditions are summarized below by river basins for the 114 of Texas major reservoirs at the end of the month:

- The statewide combined storage was 64% full at 20.06 million acft in total combined storage. This is 232,883 acre-feet less than a month ago.
- By the river basins, storage was lower than normal in 11 basin or sub-basins but Near or Above Normal in all other 10 basin or sub-basins,
- Exceptionally low in Canadian River basin and San Antonio sub-basins,
- Extremely low in Upper Colorado sub-basin basin,
- Severely low in Upper Red River, Lower Colorado, basins and Nueces river basin,
- Moderately low in and Upper Brazos and Lower Rio Grande basin.
- Abnormally low in Upper Trinity sub-basin, Upper Sabine sub-basins and Sulphur Basin
- Near or above Normal in all other 10 basins or sub-basins.

The elephant Butte Reservoir held 171,959 acft of water, at 9% full by the month end. This is 18,342 acre-feet more than a month ago.

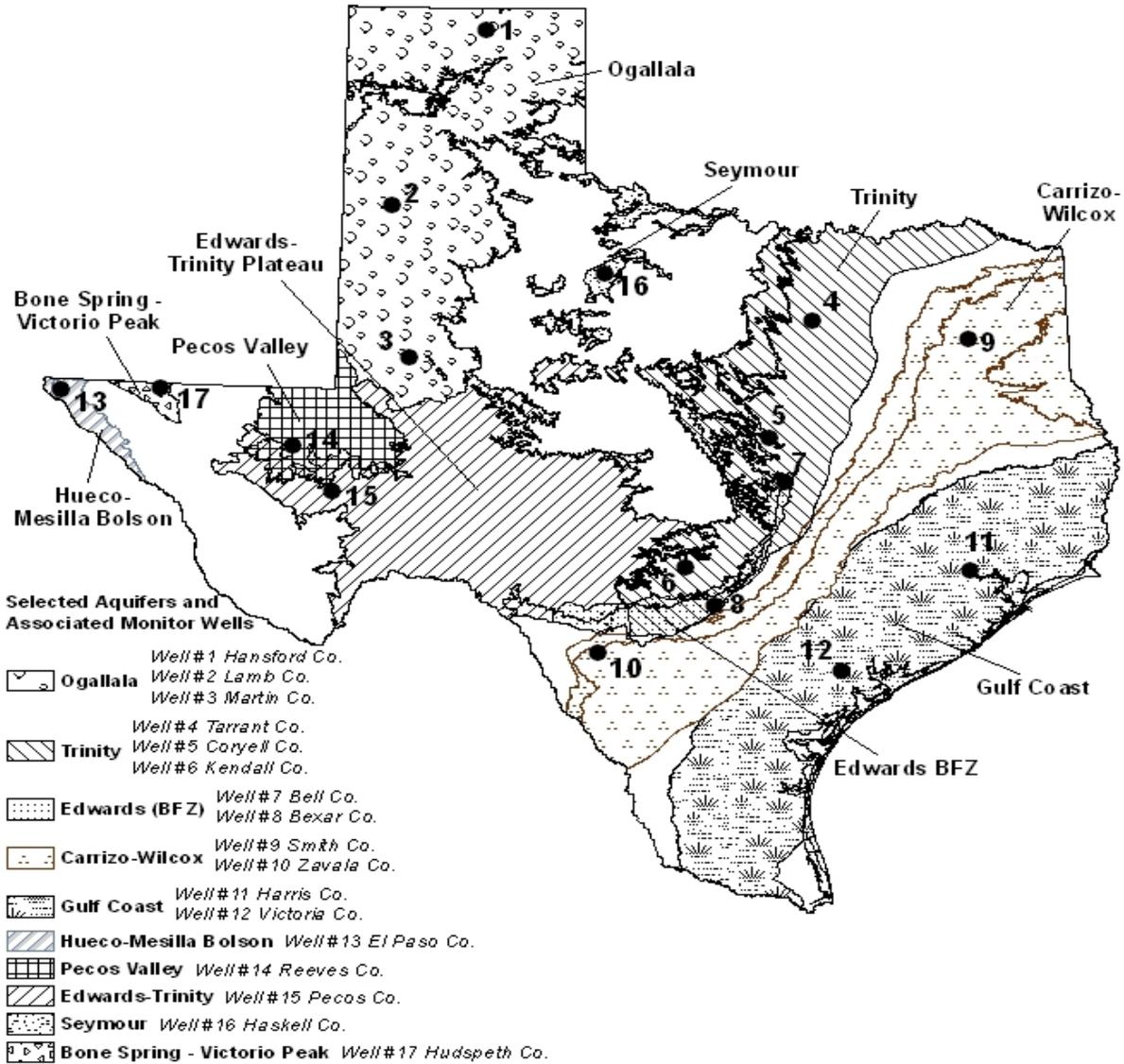


Groundwater Conditions

- Water level measurements were available from all 17 key monitoring wells in the state.
- Water levels rose in nine of the monitoring wells since the beginning of September, ranging from 0.1 feet in the Hansford County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #1) to 19.76 feet in the Pecos County Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifer well (well #15).
- Water levels declined in eight monitoring wells, ranging from 0.05 feet in the Martin County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #3) to 5.83 feet in the Kendall County Trinity Aquifer well (well #6).
- The J-17 well in San Antonio recorded a water level of 100.4 feet below land surface or 630.6 feet above mean sea level. This water level is 9.4 feet below the Stage III critical management level in that segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

Monitoring Well	September	August	Month change	Year change	Historical change
(1) Hansford 0354301	255.24	155.34	0.1	-1.04	-85.12
(2) Lamb 1053602	144.85	144.7	-0.15	-0.8	-116.7
(3) Martin 2739903	143.06	143.01	-0.05	0.62	-38.17
(4) Dallas 3319101	488.96	488.5	-0.46	0.49	-266.96
(5) Coryell 4035404	507.88	513.14	5.26	-3.2	-215.88
(6) Kendall 6802609	159.95	154.12	-5.83	-23.64	-99.95
(7) Bell 5804816	128.73	129.52	0.79	-2.99	-5.6
(8) Bexar 6837203	100.4	105	4.6	-11.8	-53.76
(9) Smith 3430907	440.65	440.13	-0.52	1.25	-74.65
(10) La Salle 7738103	510.46	510.24	-0.22	-20.91	-257.39
(11) Harris 6514409	194.55	194.8	0.25	3.83	-59.05
(12) Victoria 8017502	37.84	37.23	-0.61	1.43	-3.84
(13) El Paso 4913301	295.18	295	-0.18	-0.46	-63.28
(14) Reeves 4644501	157.11	166.61	9.5	-2.48	-65.02
(15) Pecos 5216802	227.82	247.58	19.76	0.49	19.06
(16) Haskell 2135748	49.23	49.51	0.28	-0.76	-7.9
(17) Hudspeth 4807516	148.17	149.8	1.63	-4.51	-44.25

Groundwater Observation Wells Location Map



6. Water Utility Status

Overall, there are **1,184** water systems that are asking their customers to restrict water use (up 12 from a month ago). Of these systems, **794** are asking customers to follow a mandatory watering schedule and **390** are asking customers to follow a voluntary watering schedule. There are currently **63** PWSs that have prohibited all outside watering by their customers. A total of **1,615** water systems have reported to the TCEQ regarding their status using the online form on the TCEQ public website. Seasonal forecasts extending into late December 2014 indicate drought conditions will likely improve in the panhandle region and northern portions of the state and some drought removal is likely in the central area 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 high for the month.

The availability of unappropriated water for new water use permits continues to be limited 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 September 20, 2014, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 40.01% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,357,129 acre-feet, up from 34.13% (1,157,694 acre-feet) of normal conservation a year ago at this time. Overall the system is holding 34.63 % of normal conservation capacity, impounding 2,051,096 acre-feet with Amistad at 41.04% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,344,157 acre-feet and Falcon at 26.71% of conservation capacity, impounding 706,939 acre-feet. Mexico has 27.42% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 693,968 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

Allocations: As of printing of the August, 2014 ownership report, we have allocated 408,836.5146 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 1,010,145 acre-feet at Amistad (54.9%); and approximately 346,000 acre-feet (22.4%) of normal conservation capacity at Falcon. Evaporation and seepage losses at Amistad as of 9/20/2014, are 145,673 acre-feet. For the same period, the U.S. has lost 113,003 acre-feet at Falcon.

Releases to meet demands: In 2014, (through September 20, 2014), Mexico has released 429,161 acre-feet from Amistad and 595,772 acre-feet from Falcon for Mexico needs. The U.S. has released 606,638 acre-feet from Falcon and 433,943 acre-feet from Amistad for U.S. needs. Combined with gains between Amistad and Falcon, U.S. inflows to Falcon have totaled 505,031 acre-feet. The U.S. demand in the lower Rio Grande has been met at a rate of 116.4% by direct Rio Grande inflows and Amistad releases this year.

Upper Rio Grande (New Mexico): Currently, Elephant Butte in New Mexico is storing 169,438 (8.37%) acre feet and Caballo Dam in New Mexico, downstream of Elephant Butte is storing 30,807 (13.57%) acre-feet. This water storage in part is used to meet water needs in the El Paso area.

Outlook: 44% of all accounts began 2014 at 0% water available, 27% of all accounts began 2014 with 0-50% of their usable balance and only 29% of all accounts began 2014 with 50-100% of their usable balance available. The National Weather Service continues to report that moderate to abnormally dry conditions with a few areas still under severe drought conditions are affecting parts of Rio Grande Basin counties.

9. 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Red River near Burkburnett	22	231
Red River near De Kalb	1215	3340

Drought Condition: As of September 30, 84% of the Red River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 12% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Sulphur River near Talco	244	12

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 46% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Little Cypress Creek near Jefferson	2	7

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 10% of the Cypress Creek Basin is experiencing 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Sabine River near Beckville	149	156
Sabine River near Ruliff	2393	1740

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 40% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Angelina River near Alto	65	78
Neches River at Evadale	2311	1295

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 5% of the Neches River Basin is experiencing 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Trinity River at Dallas	496	320
Trinity River near Oakwood	645	769
Trinity River at Romayor	1162	1150

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 68% of the Trinity River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 7% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Double Mountain Fork Brazos River near Aspermont	155	15
Brazos River near Glen Rose	11	276
Little River at Cameron	419	200
Navasota near Easterly	11	9
Brazos near Hempstead	949	1450
Brazos near Rosharon	1351	1815

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 64% of the Brazos River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 7% 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.

Colorado River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Colorado River at Ballinger	40	16
San Saba River at San Saba	48	64
Llano River at Llano	52	125
Pedernales River near Johnson City	52	29
Colorado River at Columbus	1015	1490

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 49% of the Colorado 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, in the Concho Watermaster Area, the Concho Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed.

Guadalupe River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Guadalupe River near Spring Branch	4	105
San Marcos River at Luling	114	182
Guadalupe River at Cuero	187	851
Guadalupe River at Victoria	185	806

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 99% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
San Antonio River at Falls City	112	235
Cibolo Creek at Falls City	21	24

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 93% 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	September mean (cfs)	September historical median (cfs)
Nueces river at Tilden	0	23
Frio River near Derby	0	3
Atascosa River at Whitsett	14	8

Drought Conditions: As of September 30, 43% 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

September 1- 3, 2014

City/Station	Rainfall Totals (in)
Brazos River Basin	
Lubbock	6.94
Abilene	0.77
Waco	1.28
College Station	6.57
Colorado River Basin	
Midland	1.69
San Angelo	0.89
Austin Mabry	6.98
Austin Bergstrom	3.22
Neches River Basin	
Tyler	2.62
Lufkin	3.08
Sabine River Basin	
Longview	0.73
Trinity River Basin	
Dallas/ Fort Worth	0.06

10. Agriculture



AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries for the twelve Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Districts for the week ending October 9, 2014.

Central: About 80 percent of the counties reported soil moisture as fair. Overall, rangeland and pastures were in fair condition too. Crops and livestock were rated 95 percent good. Hot, dry weather continued to strain producers' water supplies. Parts of the region were becoming extremely dry. A few areas received rains, which helped maintain creeks and livestock tanks. The corn harvest was completed in some areas. Small grain planting was underway. Armyworms were reported in some fields. The cotton harvest was ongoing.

Coastal Bend: Recent rains benefited soil moisture. The cotton harvest was wrapping up, but cotton stalk destruction had to be extended due to wet fields. Producers have been busy with fall fieldwork, including preparations for planting wheat and winter grazing. Pastures showed improvement. Cattle were in good condition and should enjoy high quality forages heading into fall.

East: Much of the region continued to dry out. Several counties reported rain, but the high winds evaporated much of the moisture. Henderson County remained under a burn ban as the number of grass fires increased. Many producers were delaying planting winter pastures due to the dry conditions. Hay harvesting was winding down, but supplies were adequate, with some producers having surpluses. Armyworm pressure lessened because of dry weather. In Trinity County, where heavy rains were received, armyworm infestations were heavy. Throughout the region, producers were working cattle and preparing for the fall calving season. Cattle were in good condition. Feral hogs were active.

Far West: The area had cooler nights, with temperatures in the low- to mid-50s, and daytime highs in the mid- to upper-80s and low-90s. Subsoil and topsoil moisture ranged from short to adequate. Pastures were in poor to adequate condition. Corn was 70 to 90 percent harvested, and upland cotton was in poor to good condition, with most bolls opening. Grain sorghum was mature. From 20 to 60 percent of winter wheat was planted, with some of the crop already emerged. In El Paso County, Pawnee pecans were showing shuck separation, while Western

variety pecans showed no signs of shucking. Alfalfa growers were taking a seventh cutting. In Ward County, the Pecos River continued to rise as water flowed out of the Red Bluff reservoir. Water was up to the banks in some areas.

North: Topsoil moisture was mostly short to adequate. A few counties received from 0.5 to 1 inch of rain, while the rest of the region continued to dry out. Rockwall County reported damaged trees and livestock structures from an Oct. 2 thunderstorm. A few farmers began planting small grains, and many livestock producers have planted or were planting winter annual grasses. The cotton harvest was underway, and the soybean harvest ongoing. Overall, cattle were in good condition. Grasshoppers remained an issue in Titus County, and fall armyworms were attacking winter annuals and Bermuda grass in Collin County.

Panhandle: Temperatures were near average. Winter wheat was coming on strong. Peanuts looked better than expected and were being dug, with harvesting expected to begin on most fields soon. Cotton growers started defoliation, and harvest should begin in some counties in the next two weeks. Deaf Smith County silage choppers were working as fast as they could before the crop became too dry. Hay was cut and waiting to be baled. Some of the earlier cut fields were still sitting in the fields with the regrowth 2-3 foot tall because of rain. Food corn harvesting was expected to start soon, depending on the weather. Yield potentials were looking very good. Grain sorghum looked good generally, with most fields still a few weeks from maturity. Sunflowers were approximately 10 days to two weeks from maturity. Sunflower yields promised to be good, but producers had to make an extra one or two insecticide applications this year. Winter wheat was coming along well. Early variety Hansford County corn made 220-225 bushels per acre, while longer-maturing varieties were yielding 245-262 bushels per acre. Rangeland and pastures were in poor to excellent condition, with most counties reporting fair. Cattle were in good condition.

Rolling Plains: Weather patterns were compared to a roller coaster ride. Daytime highs were in the 60s one day and in the 90s the next. The cooler temperatures did not help the cotton crop. With a large portion of the cotton crop already late, producers were worried yields may be poor due to lack of heat units, especially at the last of the growing season when plants need warmer weather the most. Pastures and other crops, however, were still benefiting from rains received during the last couple of weeks. Producers planted more wheat, and much of it had already emerged. However, in the areas passed over by the rains, some farmers were dry-planting wheat while others were waiting on rain. Armyworms were reported in wheat that was already emerged. Livestock were in good condition. Lakes and stock tanks were still low.

South: The first cold front of the season arrived late in the week, bringing showers and slightly lower temperatures. However, daytime highs in the 90s persisted throughout most of the week. In the northern part of the region, conditions were ideal for planting. Some areas received from 0.25 to 0.75 inch of rain. Winter strawberries were doing well, and cotton harvesting was completed in some areas. Peanut producers were tilling fields. Cattle body condition scores

remained fair in McMullen County. Soil moisture conditions ranged from 60 percent short to 100 percent adequate. Rangeland and pastures remained in fair condition. In the eastern part of the region, rain and temperatures boosted forage growth. Kleberg and Kenedy counties received 7 inches of rain. However, more rain was needed for most rangeland and pastures to completely recover from the drought. Though grazing improved, producers were still providing supplemental feed for cattle and wildlife. Cotton harvesting continued in a few areas. Soil moisture varied widely, from 50 percent short to to 70 percent adequate. In the western part of the region, some areas received scattered showers. Maverick County did not receive any rainfall, but conditions were favorable for sorghum and coastal Bermuda grass production. Webb County ranchers were buying hay to stock up for the winter. Dryland wheat and oat producers were planting where subsoil moisture was good. In Zavala County, cabbage and spinach producers were planting, and cotton producers were trying to meet cotton stalk destruction deadlines. Cotton gins were operating in full capacity. Soil moisture ranged from 60 percent short to 100 percent adequate. In the southern part of the district, fields remained saturated. All vegetable crops were progressing well. Soil moisture conditions were excellent throughout all counties.

South Plains: The weather remained mild after the remnants of tropical storm Odile skirted through the region the previous week. High temperatures were mostly in the 70s and 80s, with lows generally in the 50s, but sometimes dropping into the upper 40s. Producers were hoping cotton would receive enough heat units to finish. Floyd County cotton needed another three to four weeks of warm weather to finish. Producers there were worried an early freeze may damage later-planted cotton and grain sorghum. Swisher County had low temperatures in the upper 30s, reinforcing fears of an early October freeze. Corn harvesting was ongoing, some being taken as silage as well as field corn. Winter wheat was in excellent condition after late September rains. Lubbock County cotton bolls were opening across the county, and some producers started defoliating. Lynn County producers were planting wheat when fields dried enough for them to get in. Many Lynn County cotton fields had regrowth after the rains, and producers will have to apply harvest aids before harvesting can begin. Garza County cotton conditions varied widely, depending on maturity and field situations. Some cotton fields there could still make good yields, while others were damaged by the heavy rains. Rangeland and pastures were in mostly excellent condition. Livestock were in mostly good to excellent condition.

Southwest: The eastern half of the district received more rain, benefiting dryland fields and improving topsoil and subsoil moisture. The western half of the district was beginning to dry out. Cotton was in various stages of harvest, depending upon weather conditions. Hayfields were showing regrowth, and some producers may get another cutting. Livestock and pastures were in fair to good condition in most of the district. Forage and browsing availability in deer country was good. Deer were on the move, judging from instances of road kill. Deer hunting was expected to be excellent.

West Central: The region had mild weather with warm temperatures and drier

conditions. Very little moisture was reported. Topsoil moisture was declining. Field activity continued, with producers finishing up preplant fieldwork, and some already planting. Some producers were dry sowing, while others were awaiting more rainfall. Those producers who haven't already planted will likely spend the next few weeks catching up. Cotton continued to mature and began to open bolls. Some cotton producers began defoliating; a few were already harvesting. Some producers were taking a last hay cutting. Rangeland and pastures were in moderate to good condition and showing some regrowth. Livestock remained in fair to good condition. The pecan harvest had not begun, but Pawnee and other early varieties were expected to be ready soon.

Texas Crop Progress and Conditions
 USDA NASS, Texas Field Office Report: Issue TX-CW3614
 Weekly summary for September 29 to October 5, 2014:

Crop	Crop Condition					Index ¹	
	Percent of Acreage					2014	2013
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor		
Corn	18	49	27	5	1	81	75
Cotton	7	25	38	19	11	58	55
Peanuts	9	48	22	12	9	70	71
Rice	7	53	35	5	0	78	75
Sorghum	12	46	31	9	2	76	76
Soybeans	8	44	43	4	1	75	68
Range and Pasture	5	27	40	18	10	--	--

¹ The formula for the condition index is $I = (5V + 25P + 60F + 90G + 110E)/100$ where I = crop condition index and V, P, F, G, E = percentage of crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good, excellent.

Top Soil Moisture Condition by District

District	Topsoil Moisture Condition by District				Subsoil Moisture Condition by District				Days Suitable for Fieldwork
	Percentage of Acreage				Percentage of Acreage				
	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus	
11	19	37	42	2	28	31	39	2	6.6
12	11	15	60	14	10	33	44	13	5.8
21	13	30	48	9	11	37	47	8	6.8
22	24	46	27	3	26	35	36	3	6.0
30	29	51	20	0	37	49	14	0	6.5
40	26	26	45	3	17	36	46	1	6.1
51	14	35	49	2	10	38	49	2	6.5
52	21	21	51	7	19	23	51	7	6.1
60	15	28	54	3	18	37	41	4	7.0
70	20	51	28	1	19	51	29	1	6.7
81	14	45	38	3	19	50	25	6	6.3
82	4	8	58	30	21	33	33	13	3.4
90	5	15	63	17	4	16	62	18	3.5
96	15	47	38	0	10	51	39	0	6.7
97	1	25	48	26	7	25	42	26	5.4
State	17	36	43	4	18	41	37	4	6.1

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>

Sam Hermitte, Texas Water Development Board, (512) 463-5617, fax (512) 475-2053, website: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/>

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

Steven Bednarz, 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. Mark McFarland, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, (979) 845- 4008, 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://txforests.tamu.edu>

Chris Lindell, Texas Department of State Health Services, (512) 801-9816, fax (512) 458- 7111, 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>

Regina Chapline Eroles, Public Utility Commission of Texas, (512) 936-7392, Website: www.puc.texas.gov/

Warren Lasher, Electric Reliability Council of Texas, (512)248-3011, www.ercot.com

