



## DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

RICK PERRY  
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W. NIM KIDD  
Council Chairperson

**February 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

Richard Egg, 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

Suzanne Burnham, 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 Forest Service

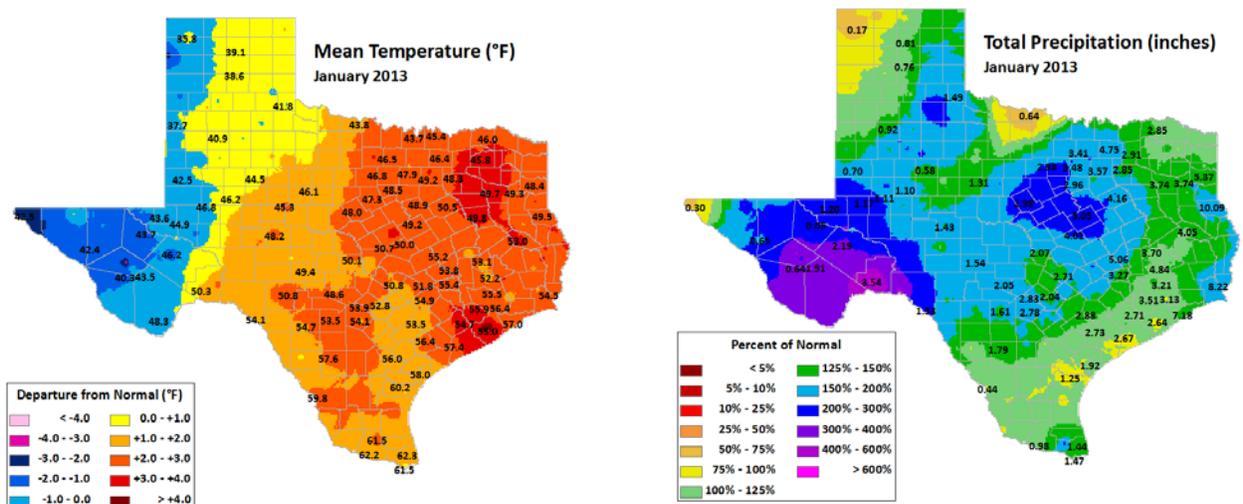
Marisa Callan, Member  
Texas Department of Housing and  
Community Affairs

## Next Council Meeting

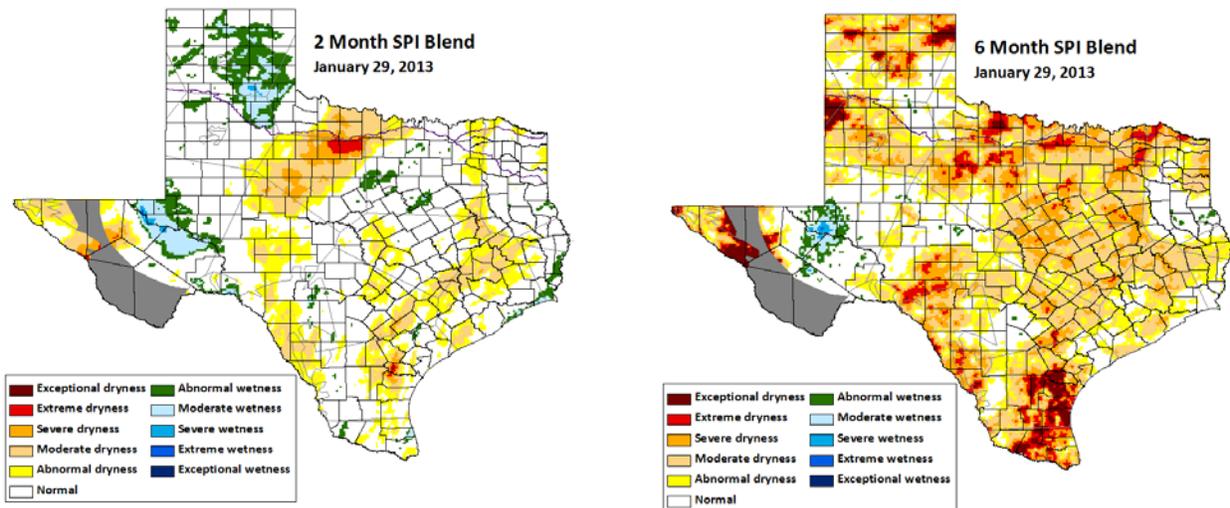
March 14, 2013 at 2:00pm

## General Conditions

January ended generally above average in temperature and precipitation. Temperatures were warmest in the east, extending down into the southern reaches of the state, with closer to average temperatures in the eastern Panhandle and average to below average temperatures along the TX/NM border. Precipitation accumulations were above average for all but a few regions, notably near Wichita Falls, El Paso, and the northwest Panhandle. Much of the precipitation came from a system that intensified over northern Mexico, allowing Gulf moisture to mix with the developing surface low over Texas. The result was a month's worth of rain in a single weekend and snow afterward.



Of particular concern now is water supply across the state. Since mid-summer 2012, statewide conservation storage percent has dropped near steadily, with only two small increases in late September and mid January. By the end of the month, daily records for lowest conservation storage percent since 1990 were being set. In terms of reservoir storage, the worst regions remain central Texas near San Angelo and the Panhandle, but Wichita Falls and South Texas are now facing particularly poor reservoir storage, with Wichita Falls' planning region at 34% of conservation reservoir storage, with Wichita Falls' planning region at 34% of conservation storage and Lake Corpus Christi at 15.7% of conservation storage.



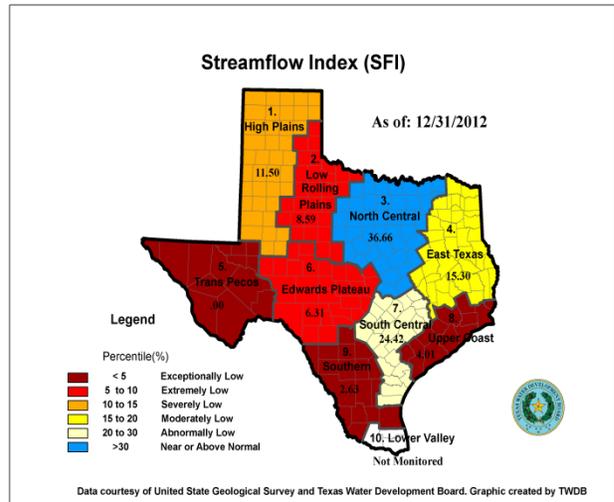
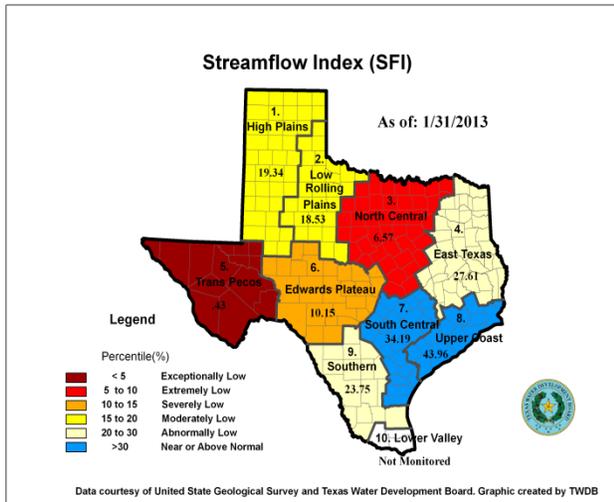
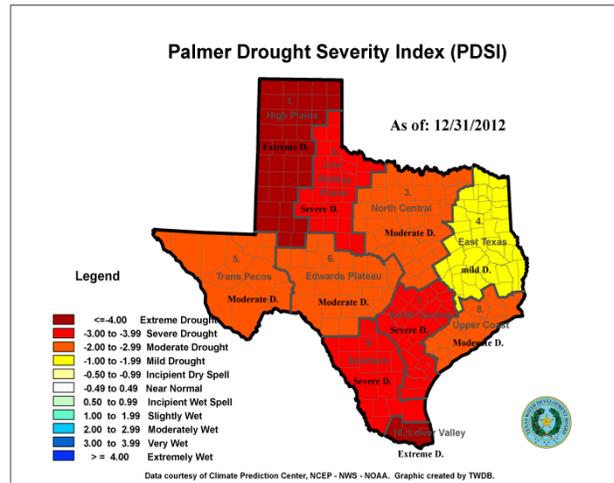
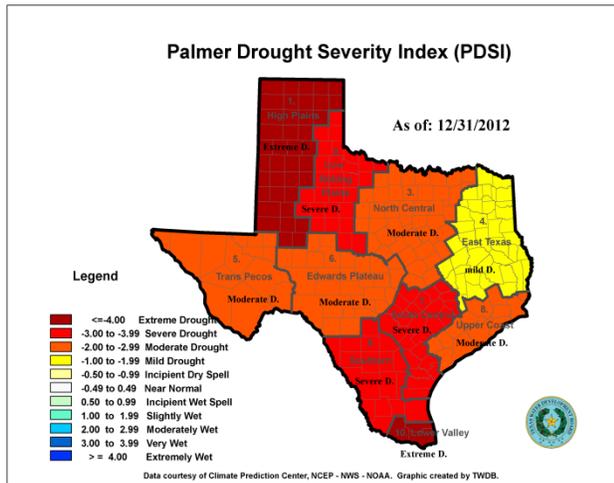
For the rest of the state, growing short-term deficits were largely eliminated by the heavy January storm. The worst short-term conditions exist in the Low Rolling Plains south of Wichita Falls and in south Texas west of Corpus Christi, with some conditions persisting in east central Texas and along the Rio Grande River. South Texas saw above average temperatures and high winds at the end of the month, causing rapid soil moisture loss as well, which is not reflected in the SPI blend. Overall, though, much of the longer-term deficits remain, leaving winter crop harvests a concern and tempering the impacts of short-term gains in the Panhandle and central Texas.

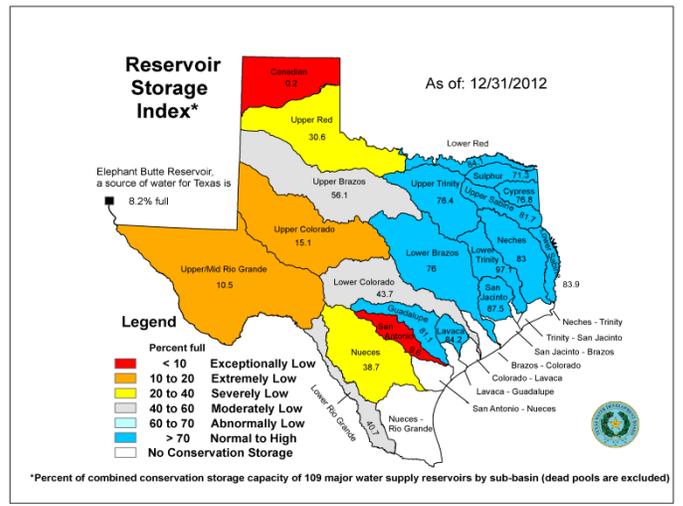
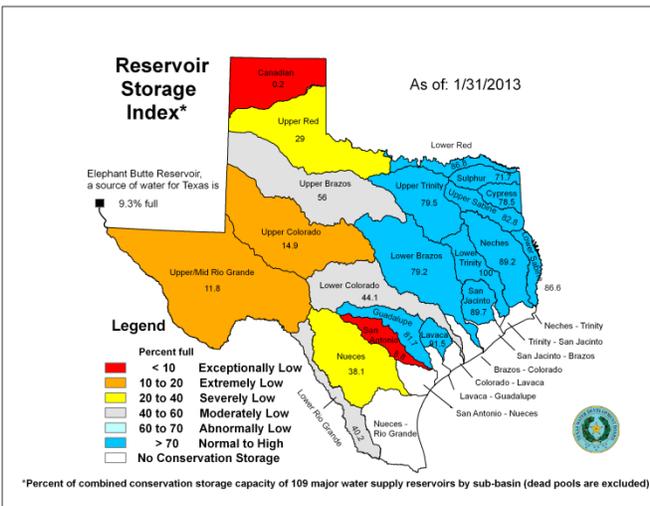
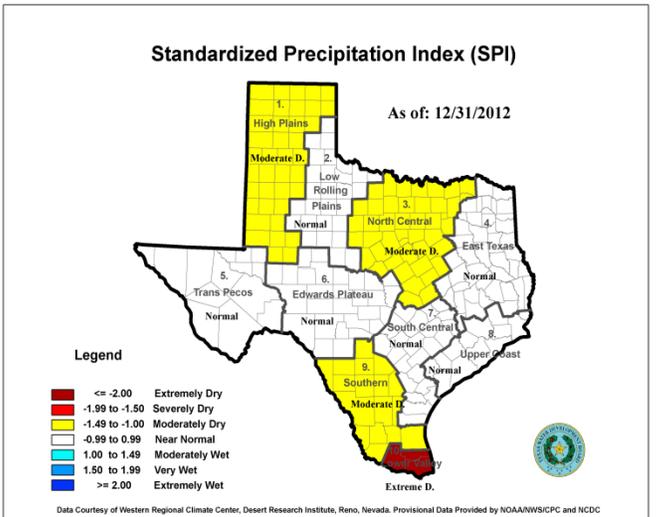
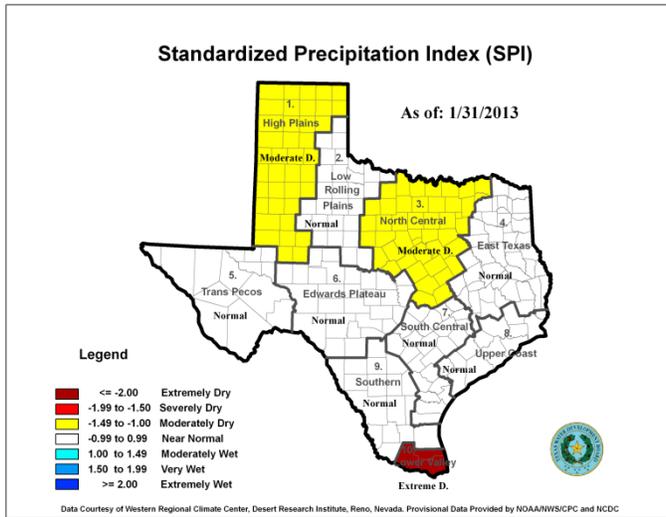
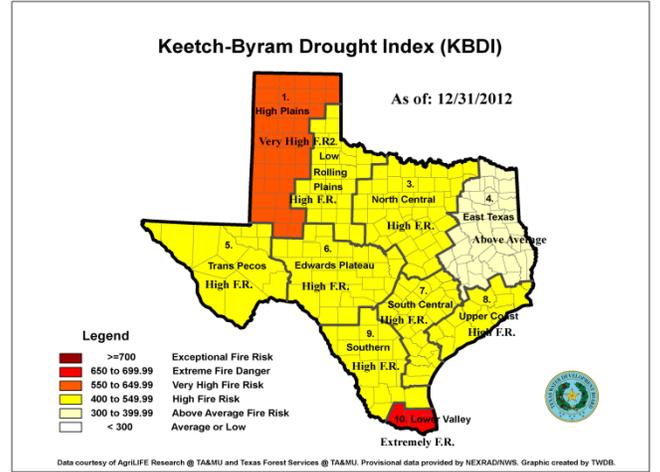
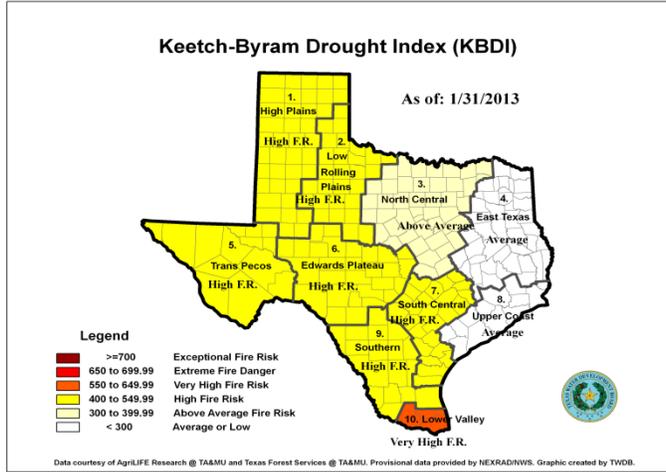
Conditions for the next month are not expected to be conducive for mitigation. ENSO neutral conditions persist, so no likelihood for above or below average precipitation is expected except along the Upper Coast, which has a slightly better chance to be drier than normal. Temperatures, however, have a higher probability of being above normal not for the entire state. It seems likely that most of the state will see their current drought conditions persist at best or worsen at worst, particularly where short-term deficits continue to be an issue.

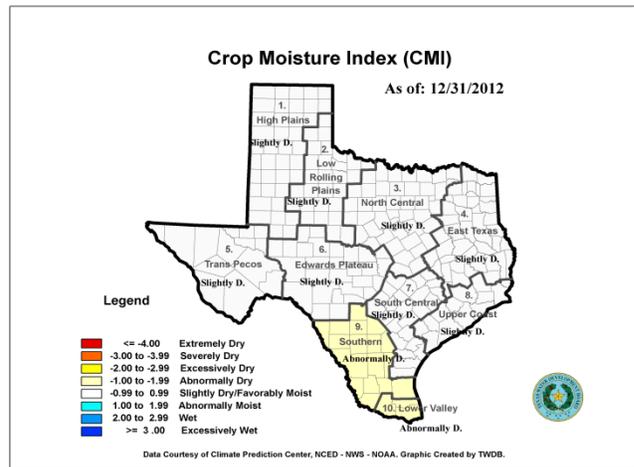
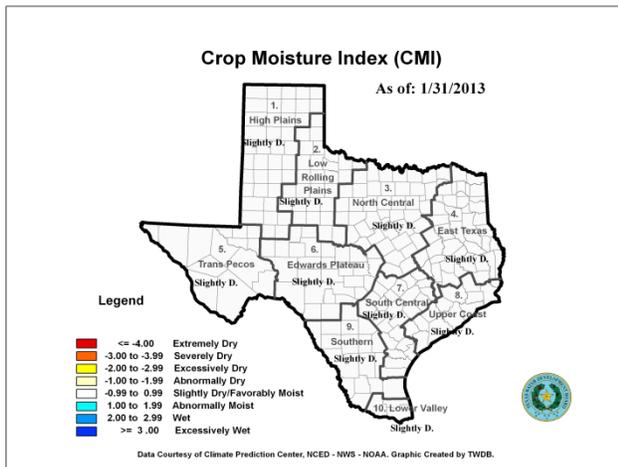
# Overall Statewide Drought Conditions

## Statewide Drought Condition Update January 31, 2013

### 1. Selected Drought Index Maps







## 2. Drought Status Summary

Drought has come back, indicated by all except SPI. The drought status is summarized below:

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	
PDSI (10)	N/A	0	2	3	3	2
SFI (9)	1	1	1	2	2	2
SPI (10)	N/A	1	0	2	0	7
CMI (10)	N/A	0	0	0	0	10
KBDI (10)	0	0	1	6	1	2
RSI (9)	1	1	3	1	0	3
Number of River Basins / Sub-Basins In Drought Category						
RSI (21)	2	2	2	3	0	12

### 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	-0.02	-3.48	-1.41	521.00	0.89	19.34
2	Low Rolling Plains	-0.05	-2.67	-0.76	426.00	25.54	18.53
3	North Central	-0.08	-1.84	-1.16	365.00	76.29	6.57
4	East Texas	0.98	-0.86	-0.50	185.00	89.49	27.61
5	Trans Pecos	0.00	-0.93	-0.33	402.00	11.83	0.43
6	Edwards Plateau	-0.07	-1.37	-0.70	406.00	36.33	10.15
7	South Central	-0.09	-2.20	-0.85	418.00	48.31	34.19
8	Upper Coast	0.52	-1.42	-0.46	255.00	95.29	43.96
9	Southern	0.00	-2.86	-0.89	416.00	34.36	23.75
10	Lower Valley	0.01	-3.62	-2.06	591.00	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)	10	0	0
SFI (9)	9	1	0
SPI (10)	2	8	0
CMI (10)	10	0	0
KBDI (10)	10	0	0
RSI (9)	6	3	0

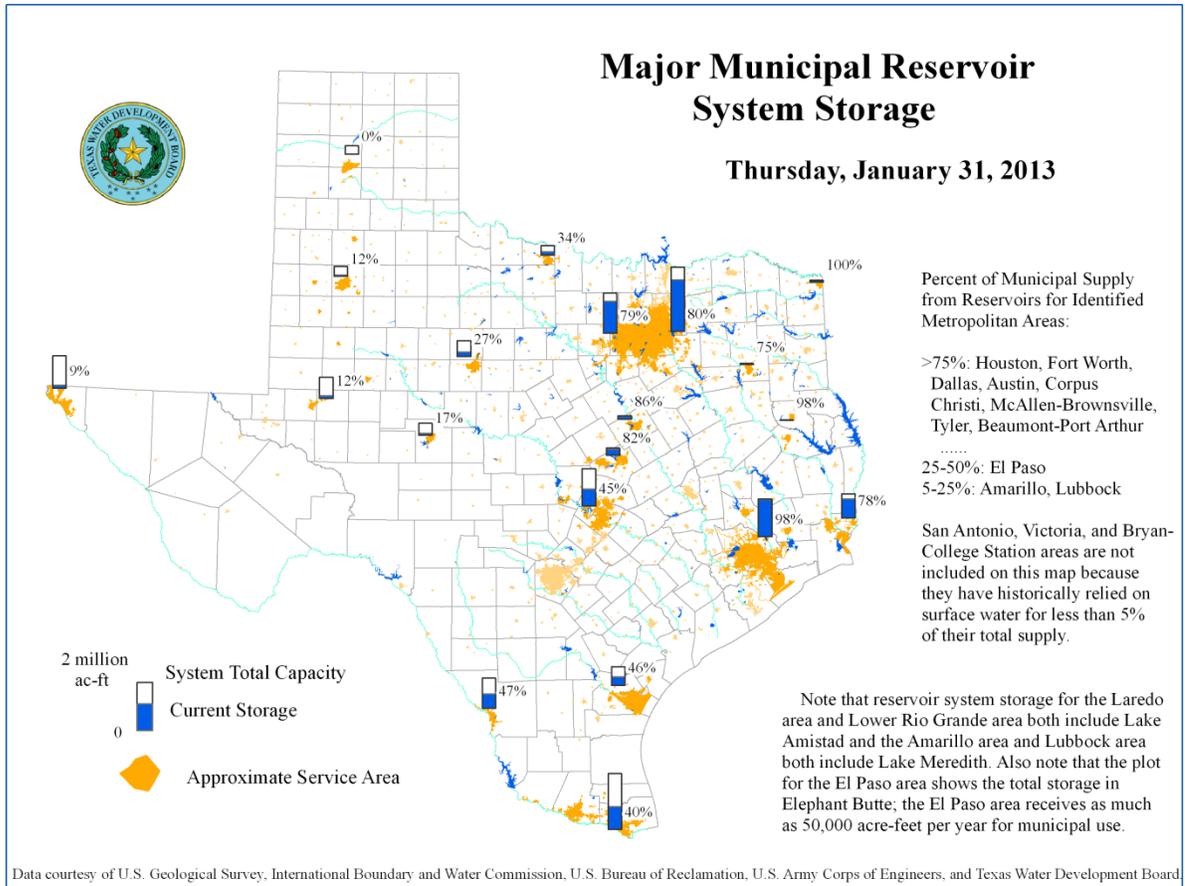
### 4. Reservoir Storage Condition

Water storage conditions are summarized below by river basins for the 109 of Texas major reservoirs at the end of the month:

- The statewide combined storage was 67% full, 0.19 million acre-feet less than a month ago.
- According to the river basins, storage was lower than normal in 9 basins or sub-basins, but at Near or Above Normal in all other 12 basins or sub-basins
- Exceptionally low storage conditions in the Canadian River and San Antonio sub-basins
- Extremely low in Upper Colorado and Upper-Mid Rio Grande sub-basins,
- Severely low in Upper Red River sub-basin and Nueces river basin,
- Moderately low in Upper Brazos sub-basin, Lower Colorado, and Lower Rio Grande sub-basins,

- Near or above Normal in all other 12 basin or sub-basins.
- Elephant Butte Reservoir was 9% full by the month end.

## Reservoir Status for Major Metropolitan Centers



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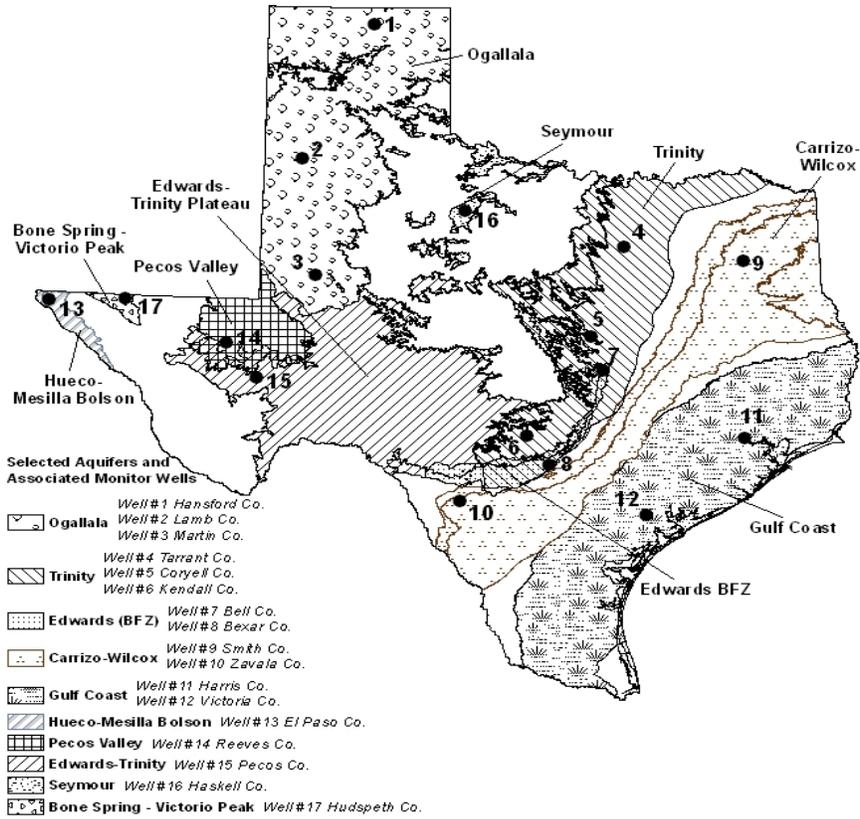
## 5. Groundwater Condition

Water level measurements were available from all 17 key monitoring wells in the state.

- Water levels rose in eleven of the monitoring wells since the beginning of January, ranging from 0.27 feet in the Hansford County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #1) to 13.18 feet in the La Salle County Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer well (well #13).
- Water levels declined in six monitoring wells, ranging from 0.04 feet in the Lamb County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #2) to 2.57 feet in the Smith County Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer well (well #9).
- The J-17 well in San Antonio recorded a water level of 77.1 feet below land surface or 653.9 feet above mean sea level. This water level is 6.1 feet above the Stage I critical management level in that segment of the Edwards Aquifer. Stage I restrictions were declared by the EAA on December 13th when the ten-day average rose above the 650-foot elevation, or 81 feet below land surface.

Monitoring Well	Jan	Dec	Month Change	Year Change	Historical Change
(1) Hansford 0354301	153.4	153.67	0.27	-0.93	-83.28
(2) Lamb 1053602	142.53	142.49	-0.04	-1.97	-114.38
(3) Martin 2739903	140.44	140.75	0.31	-0.28	-35.55
(4) Dallas 3319101	491.52	491.41	-0.11	-5.98	-269.52
(5) Coryell 4035404	500.83	505.84	5.01	-9.37	-208.83
(6) Kendall 6802609	126.69	134.73	2.47	1.28	-74.73
(7) Bell 5804816	125.52	125.89	0.37	-0.37	-2.39
(8) Bexar 6837203	77.1	80.00	2.9	-3.42	-30.46
(9) Smith 3430907	444.32	441.75	-2.57	-9.77	-78.32
(10) La Salle 7738103	448.06	461.24	13.18	-54.19	-194.99
(11) Harris 6514409	205.89	203.71	-2.18	-0.43	-70.39
(12) Victoria 8017502	35.37	37.02	1.65	2.29	-1.37
(13) El Paso 4913301	293.22	292.93	-0.29	-3.44	-61.32
(14) Reeves 4644501	146.25	147.79	1.54	-0.78	-54.16
(15) Pecos 5216802	190.67	202.26	11.59	3.66	56.21
(16) Haskell 2135748	47.67	47.57	-0.1	-1.78	-6.34
(17) Hudspeth 4807516	133.75	136.91	3.16	-1.06	-29.83

# Groundwater Observation Wells Location Map



## 6. Water Utility Status

Overall, there are **1,014** water systems that are asking their customers to restrict water use, compared with **1,028** a month ago. Of these systems, **641** are asking customers to follow a mandatory watering schedule and **373** are asking customers to follow a voluntary watering schedule. There are currently **33** PWSs that have prohibited all outside watering by their customers. A total of **1,263** water systems have reported to the TCEQ regarding their status using the online form on the TCEQ public website. Recent rains in parts of the state have allowed some water systems to relax their water use restrictions. The seasonal forecasts show ongoing drought areas will continue to persist and intensify while new development is likely in other areas throughout 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.

On January 8, 2013 TCEQ provided additional guidance to suspended junior water right holders in the Brazos River Basin allowing for temporary diversions during certain higher flow levels. On January 15, 2013 TCEQ notified certain junior water right holders in the Brazos River Basin that their water right was now either suspended or adjusted based on information they provided in response to the priority call. On January 24, 2013 TCEQ notified water right holders in the Brazos River Basin that Dow Chemical Company had rescinded its priority call; therefore, allowing junior water rights holders to resume operating under the terms of each respective water right.

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 January 26, 2013, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 40.20% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,363,614 acre-feet, down from 62.60% (2,123,249 AF) of normal conservation a year ago at this time. Overall the system is holding 33.09% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,959,486 acre-feet with Amistad at 38.29% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,254,168 acre-feet and Falcon at 26.65% of conservation capacity, impounding 705,318 acre-feet. Mexico has 23.55% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 595,872 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

**Allocations:** As of printing of the December, 2012 ownership report, we have allocated 218,040.4539 acre-feet to Class A & B water rights, which include irrigation, mining and recreation.

**Storage & Loss Amistad vs. Falcon:** The U.S. is currently storing approximately 866 thousand acre-feet at Amistad (47.1%); and approximately 496 thousand acre-feet (32.0%) of normal conservation capacity at Falcon.

Evaporation and seepage losses at Amistad, as of 1/25/13, are 21,451 acre-feet. For the same period, the U.S. has lost 24,453 acre-feet at Falcon.

**Releases to meet demands:** In 2013, (through 1/25/13), Mexico has released 181,053 acre-feet from Amistad and 170,187 acre-feet from Falcon Mexico needs. The U.S. has released 49,771 acre-feet from Falcon and 63,673 acre-feet from Amistad for U.S. needs. Combined with gains between Amistad and Falcon, U.S. inflows to Falcon have totaled 64,324 acre-feet. The U.S. demand in the lower Rio Grande has been met at a rate of 100% by direct Rio Grande inflows and Amistad releases this year.

**Upper Rio Grande (New Mexico):** Currently, Elephant Butte in New Mexico is currently storing 181,599 (8.97%) acre feet and Caballo Dam in New Mexico, downstream of Elephant Butte is storing 8,107 (3.57%) 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. When compared to last year we are starting off 2013 with about 60% less water over all. The National Weather Service continues to report that moderate to severe drought conditions are affecting much 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	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Red River near Burkburnett	39	250
Red River near De Kalb	1,014	5,825

**Drought Condition:** As of February 5, 100% of the Red 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.

**Sulphur River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Sulphur River near Talco	118	90

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 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	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Little Cypress Creek near Jefferson	214	215

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 52% 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	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Sabine River near Beckville	985	985
Sabine River near Ruliff	11,590	3,780

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 28% 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	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Angelina River near Alto	744	446
Neches River at Evadale	2,549	2,830

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 2% 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	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Trinity River at Dallas	1,225	375
Trinity River near Oakwood	2,363	1,360
Trinity River at Romayor	3,148	2,630

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 84% of the Trinity 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.

**Brazos River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Double Mountain Fork Brazos River near Aspermont	2	5
Brazos River near Glen Rose	26	202
Little River at Cameron	396	323
Navasota near Easterly	104	25

Brazos near Hempstead	2,420	2,170
Brazos near Rosharon	2,712	3,610

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 98% of the Brazos River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 15% 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	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Colorado River at Ballinger	.21	13
San Saba River at San Saba	47	91
Llano River at Llano	91	168
Pedernales River near Johnson City	33	54
Colorado River at Columbus	443	900

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 94% of the Colorado River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 1% 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 Concho Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed.

**Guadalupe River Basin:**

**Streamflow Conditions:**

Site	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Guadalupe River near Spring Branch	87	153
San Marcos River at Luling	150	202
Guadalupe River at Cuero	556	916
Guadalupe River at Victoria	513	941

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 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	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
San Antonio River at Falls City	421	279
Cibolo Creek at Falls City	50	30

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 61% 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	January mean (cfs)	January historical median (cfs)
Nueces river at Tilden	0	2
Frio River near Derby	0	8
Atascosa River at Whitsett	21	11

**Drought Conditions:** As of February 5, 77% of the Nueces River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 2% 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 have been suspended.

## 10. Agriculture Concerns

Drought still dominates conditions for most of Texas agriculture. Spring crop planting time is here in the Rio Grande Valley, Southwest Texas and the Gulf Coast but dry soil conditions are limiting planting progress. Most of South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley remain in extreme or exceptional drought conditions. Soil profiles are depleted of water and there is little or no planting moisture. Irrigation water supplies are very limited for the Rio Grande Valley and farmers are assessing the best time to use the meager allocation available. While some rain has fallen, vast areas of South Texas and the Rolling Plains remain critically dry. Much of the northern High Plains received excellent snowfall on February 25, with rains extending across Central and North Texas, but this pattern did not give the south Plains, the trans Pecos or the Rolling Plains any significant precipitation.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries for the week of Feb. 18-25:

Central: Conditions were dry with unseasonably warm weather. Winter wheat looked good after January and February rains. Cherry oat aphids were causing some issues, transmitting barley yellow dwarf viruses. Otherwise, oats were doing well. Growers were planting corn and sunflowers. Livestock were in good condition with producers continuing to supplement with hay.

Coastal Bend: The eastern part of the region received some rain, but the western counties continued to suffer from drought. All counties reported livestock producers were continuing supplemental feeding of cattle with hay and protein cubes. Warmer temperatures and light rains in the eastern counties caused ryegrass and oat pastures to show additional growth. Some counties reported that producers were just beginning to plant corn and grain sorghum.

East: After substantial rains, soil-moisture levels and pond levels were up, and winter forages were in good shape. Cattle were in good condition. Winter wheat was in good condition. Producers were taking soil-test samples in preparation for spring planting of pastures and gardens. Ryegrass began to grow.

Far West: Warm, dry and very windy conditions continued, and most of the region remained on high alert for wildfires. Some counties had rain, from a trace to 0.3 inches. Overall, rain or any form of precipitation was still badly needed. Land preparation for spring planning was ongoing.

North: Thanks to good rains, soil-moisture levels were adequate to surplus. Winter wheat looked weak in December, but rain in January and early February stimulated growth. Ryegrass also started to show growth, and it appeared most counties will have sufficient grazing from the last of winter and into spring. Livestock were in fair to good condition. Producers were still supplying supplemental feed and hay, waiting for the winter pastures to become available for grazing. Stock ponds remained low.

Panhandle: On Feb. 25, a blizzard brought heavy snows and high winds to the region, with accumulations forecast to be as much as 18 inches. Previous snows had dumped as much as 6 to 8 inches to some counties. Before activities ceased

due to the blizzard, producers were preparing fields for spring plantings and irrigating wheat, hoping to get more grazing from the crop. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Most herds remained in fair to good condition.

Rolling Plains: The region received scattered rains, the most winter precipitation some counties had received in several years. Winter wheat broke dormancy and was responding very well to the rains. With a few sunny days, the wheat crop was expected to quickly green up and start growing, but if it stops raining and the weather turns windy, soils will dry out and growth will stop. Wheat producers were applying fertilizer and herbicides and deciding whether to pull cattle off wheat for grain production. Some counties reported extremely dry conditions, and cotton producers were strip-tilling seed beds on last year's wheat ground. Livestock producers were selling cattle or providing full supplemental feed. Spring foaling and calving began.

South: Throughout the region, daytime temperatures were mild with cool nights. There was no rainfall, and high evaporation rates and strong winds dried out soils. Soil moisture levels were short to very short, stymieing forage growth on rangeland and pastures. Ranchers increased supplemental feeding. In Webb County, ranchers were very lightly stocked or totally de-stocked. In Frio County, potatoes emerged, and wheat and oats were in fair to good condition. In Zavala County, wheat and oats were stressed by the extremely dry weather. Also in that county, growers were actively irrigating cabbage, carrots, spinach and onions. Harvesting of processing and fresh market spinach continued, while the cabbage harvesting slowed. In Starr County, spring vegetable and row-crop planting was under way. In Willacy County, sorghum planting halted.

South Plains: Floyd and Hale counties reported snow, from a trace to about 2 inches, which was expected to help dryland winter wheat that was not in very good shape. Irrigated wheat was in fair condition there. Crosby, Lynn, Lubbock and Garza counties received rain, from 0.2 to 1 inch. This moisture was expected to improve wheat and promote field preparation for spring planting. Some producers were applying pre-plant fertilizer to cotton fields. Rangeland and pastures were in fair to poor condition. Stocking rates were reduced on most ranches in the past couple of years and were expected to continue to decline without rain before spring. Stock-tank water is critical in some areas. Livestock were in mostly fair to good condition with continued supplemental feeding.

Southeast: Montgomery County had moderate temperatures that promoted good growth of winter annuals. Rains there have been moderate as well, with less than 1 inch for the week, but that was enough to promote grass growth. Trees were budding out. Waller County had unusually warm weather. In Burleson County, the cool season grasses and legumes were also growing. Fort Bend County had scattered showers, with accumulations of as much as 0.5 inch. Temperatures there ranged from lows in the 30s to highs in the 70s. In Orange County, soils were saturated due to heavy rainfall.

West Central: Conditions remained very dry and windy, with mild daytime temperatures and cold nights. A few counties reported showers but without significant accumulations. Wheat was in poor to fair condition. All crops needed moisture soon to survive. Farmers were wondering whether to plant cotton or grain

sorghum because of price variances and soil-moisture requirements between the crops. Rangeland and pasture conditions continued to decline, with very little winter grass and vegetation remaining. Stock-water tanks were at critically low levels. Producers continued supplemental feeding of livestock.

USDA-National Ag Statistics Service  
Texas Crop Progress and Condition

**Crop Condition by Percentage of Acreage**

Crop	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
Wheat	1	13	37	26	23
Range and Pasture	1	15	31	30	23

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\* 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.

**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>

Richard Egg, 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>

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