



# 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 18, 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

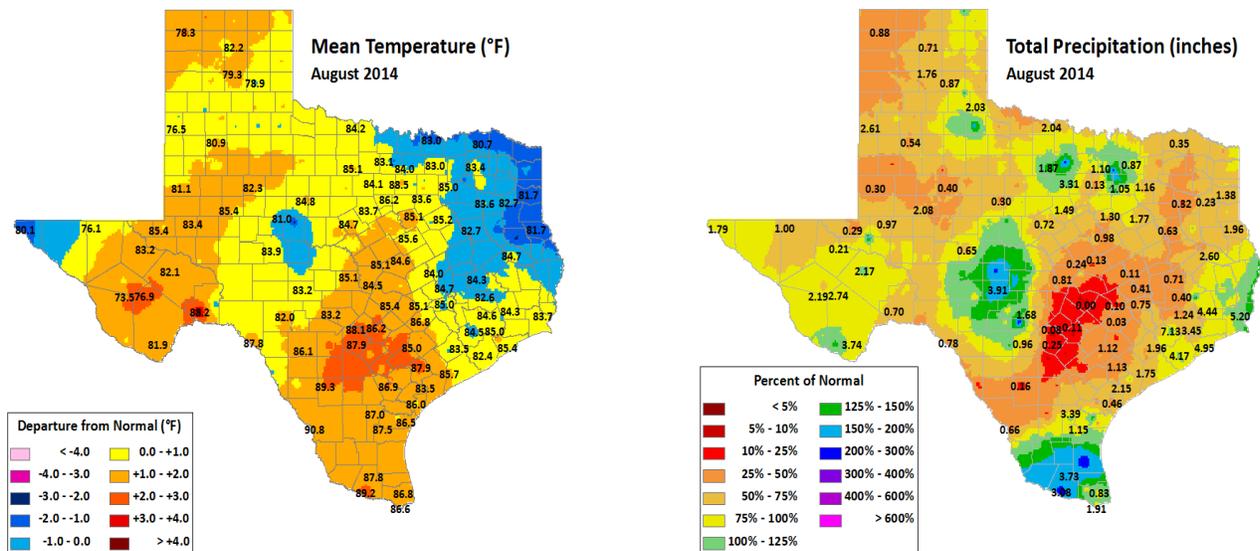
Nim Kidd, Chairman Texas Division of Emergency Mgmt	Sam Hermitte, Member Texas Water Development Board	Steven Bednarz, Member State Soil & Water Conservation Board
Lance Williams, Member Texas Department of Agriculture	Dr. Travis Miller, Member Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service	David Bradsby, Member Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Gilbert Jordan, Member Texas Department of Transportation	David A. Van Dresar, Member Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts	Priscilla Boston, 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 Erasles, 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

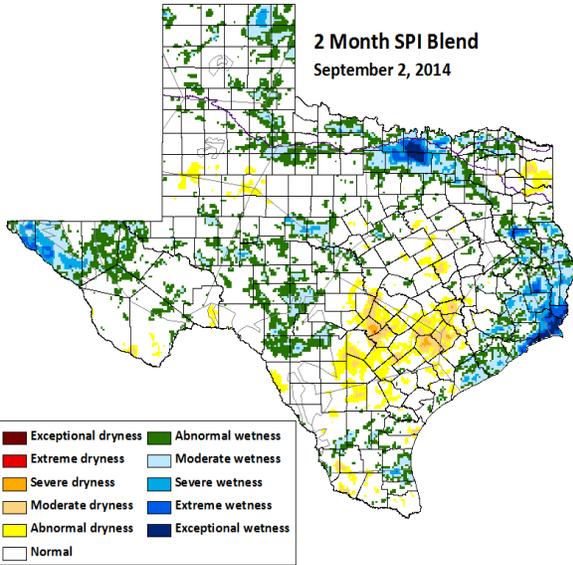
October 9, 2014 at 2:00pm

## 2. General Conditions

Most of the state was above normal average temperature, with peak anomalies in the Trans-Pecos and Southern Texas regions; however parts of central Texas and the far east and west corners of the state did come in below normal. For precipitation, tropical convection in the Lower Valley and single events of persist, heavy rainfall in central and north central Texas helped bring above normal accumulations to these regions, while the rest of the state was below normal to varying degrees, with east central Texas near Austin seeing no rainfall at all.

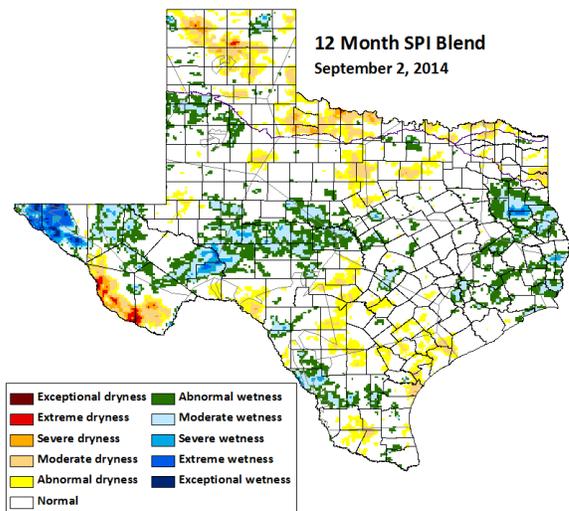
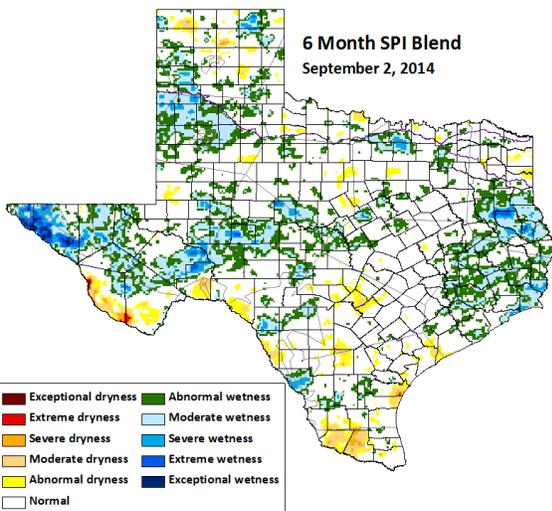


With the return of summer conditions to the state, short-term deficits and impacts are starting to build very quickly across the drier parts of the state. Notably, south central Texas north of Laredo into east central Texas near Waco, above-normal temperatures and low rainfall accumulations for multiple months are driving short-term impacts here. Total column soil moisture and topsoil moisture have declined across south central Texas and the Coastal Bend as have reservoir levels; Corpus Christi is nearly as low as it was this time last year despite a nearly 20% jump in November of 2013, and reservoirs across Temple, Killeen, and Austin have also declined since the beginning of August.



North central Texas is facing an interesting combination of conditions due to large rainfall accumulations since July. Much of the region missed out on that rainfall, though soil moisture as a whole has held up through the summer. Streamflow in the area is a mix of normal, above normal, and well-below normal, though run-off into lakes and reservoirs saw minimal: Fort Worth and Dallas both ended the month at or very near their record low for this time of year. The corners of the state mostly held firm, with northeast and the Upper Coast seeing generally dry conditions, but not enough to push them into drought designation yet. The Lower Valley

saw tropical rainfall that was generally beneficial, but started the month very dry and thus ended almost exactly as it began. West Texas generally worsened as the month went on, with new short-term impacts to soil moisture hitting the Lubbock and Midland/Odessa regions, stacking on top of already poor long-term hydrological impacts in the area. Finally, the Trans-Pecos saw decent monsoonal rainfall, which helped carve away at some near-drought regions, but mostly remained as it was.

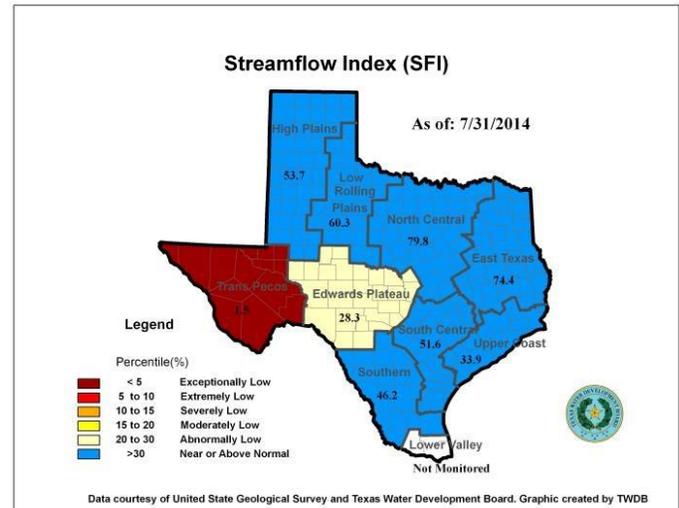
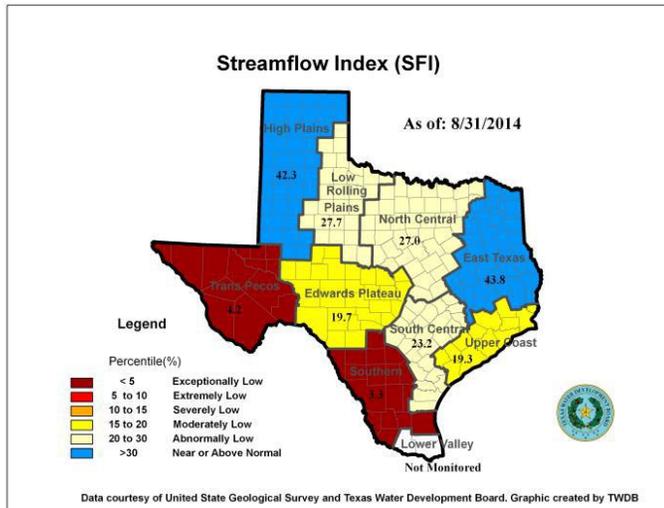
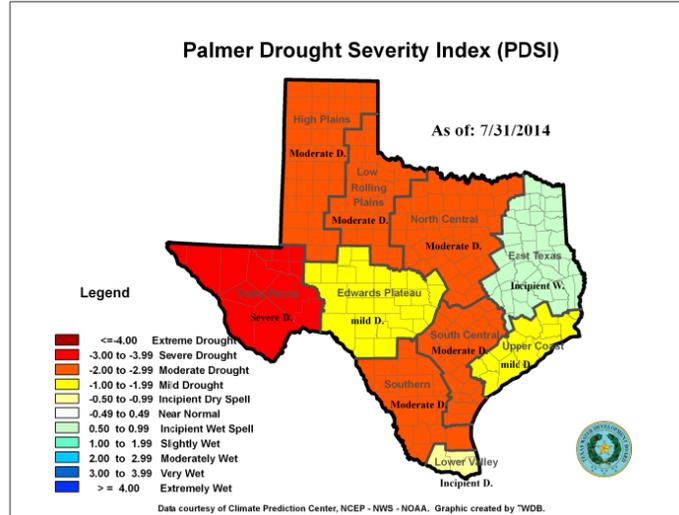
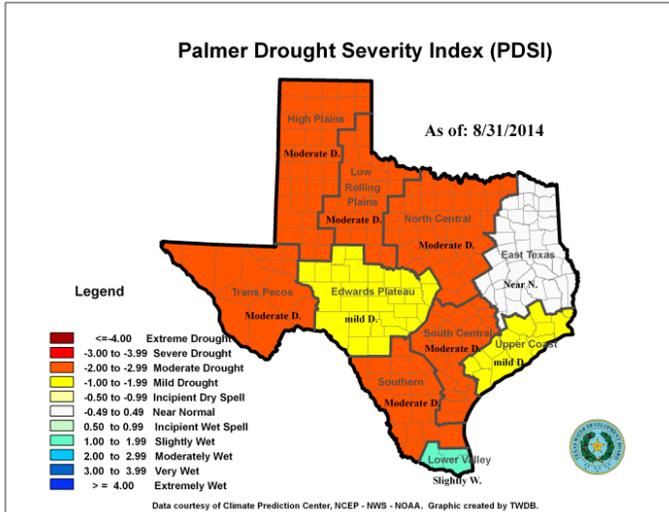


The outlook for the September and fall are optimistic. September itself is a mixture of warm and wet predictions, with the CPC estimating a higher chance of above normal temperatures and rainfall along the Gulf Coast, with equal chances for the rest of the state. Beyond September, however, a positive phase ENSO is forecasted to develop by the end of December (forecast probability of 65%) which,

though expected to be mild, is forecasted to being cooler than normal temperatures and well-above-normal accumulations to the entire state. Given that September and October are the wettest months for parts of the state, this bodes well for the drought situation statewide.

### 3. Statewide Drought Conditions Update

#### Selected Drought Index Maps

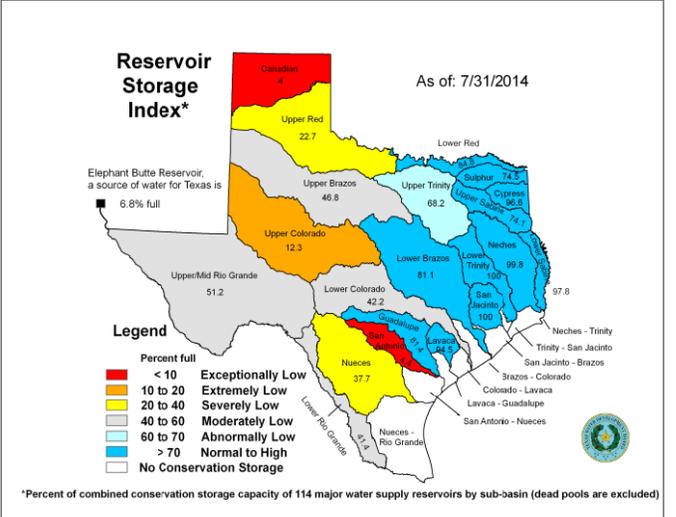
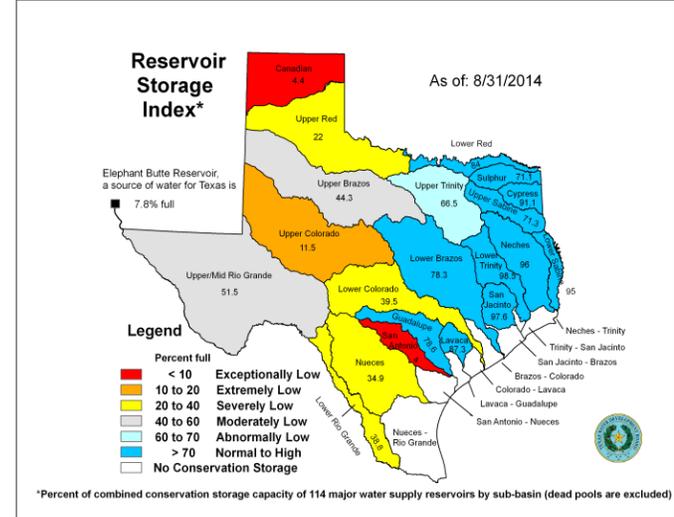
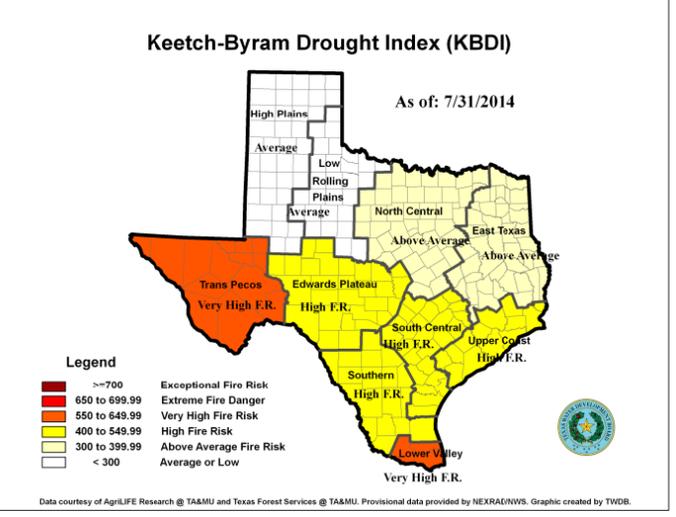
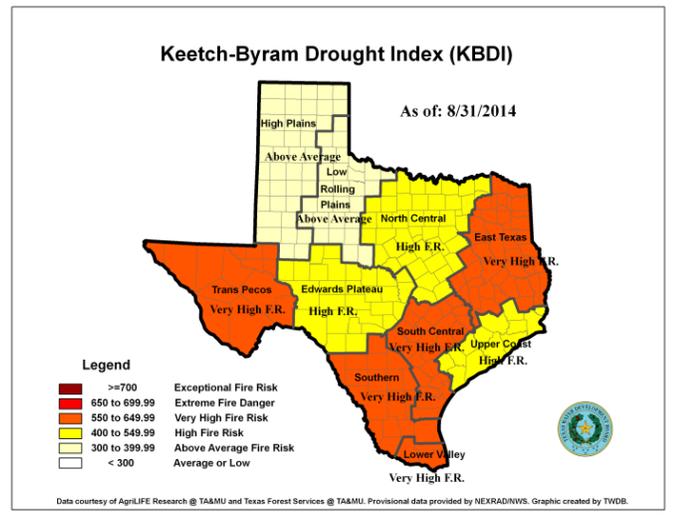
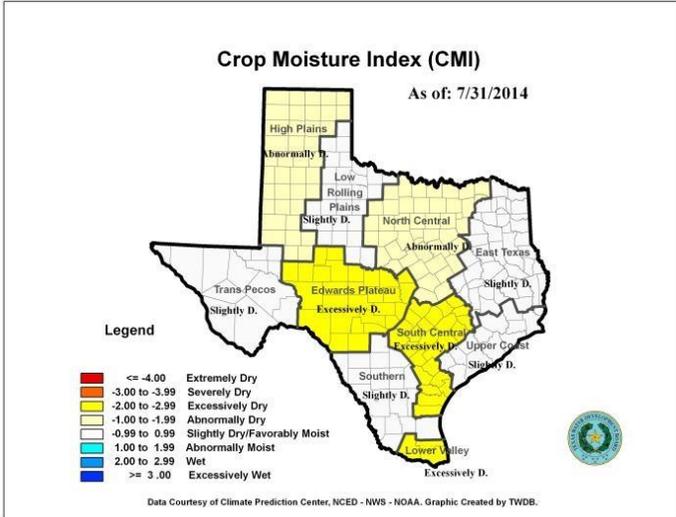
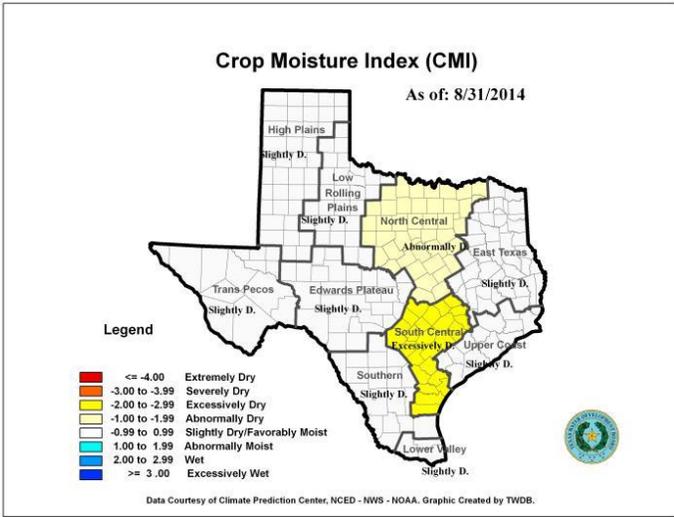


**Standardized Precipitation Index**

Data not available at time of report

**Standardized Precipitation Index**

Data not available at time of report



## 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 ----- 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	0	0	6	2	2
SFI (9)	2	0	0	2	3	2
6 Month SPI (10)	N/A	0	0	0	2	8
CMI (10)	N/A	0	0	1	1	8
KBDI (10)	0	0	5	3	2	0
Number of River Basins / Sub-Basins In Drought Category						
RSI (21)	2	1	4	2	1	11

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	0.01	-2.29	-0.39	323	4.60	42.30
2	Low Rolling Plains	0.01	-2.17	-0.2	365	21.10	27.70
3	North Central	-1.07	-2.39	-0.23	525	66.90	27.00
4	East Texas	-0.51	-0.42	0.18	579	94.10	43.80
5	Trans Pecos	0.00	-2.12	-0.64	626	51.50	4.20
6	Edwards Plateau	-0.02	-1.24	-0.46	471	36.50	19.70
7	South Central	-2.18	-2.74	-0.36	627	44.10	23.20
8	Upper Coast	-0.50	-1.65	-0.23	515	92.30	19.30
9	Southern	-0.34	-2.65	-0.55	591	26.60	3.30
10	Lower Valley	0.32	1.07	-0.43	591	No Data	No Data

## Drought Index Data

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

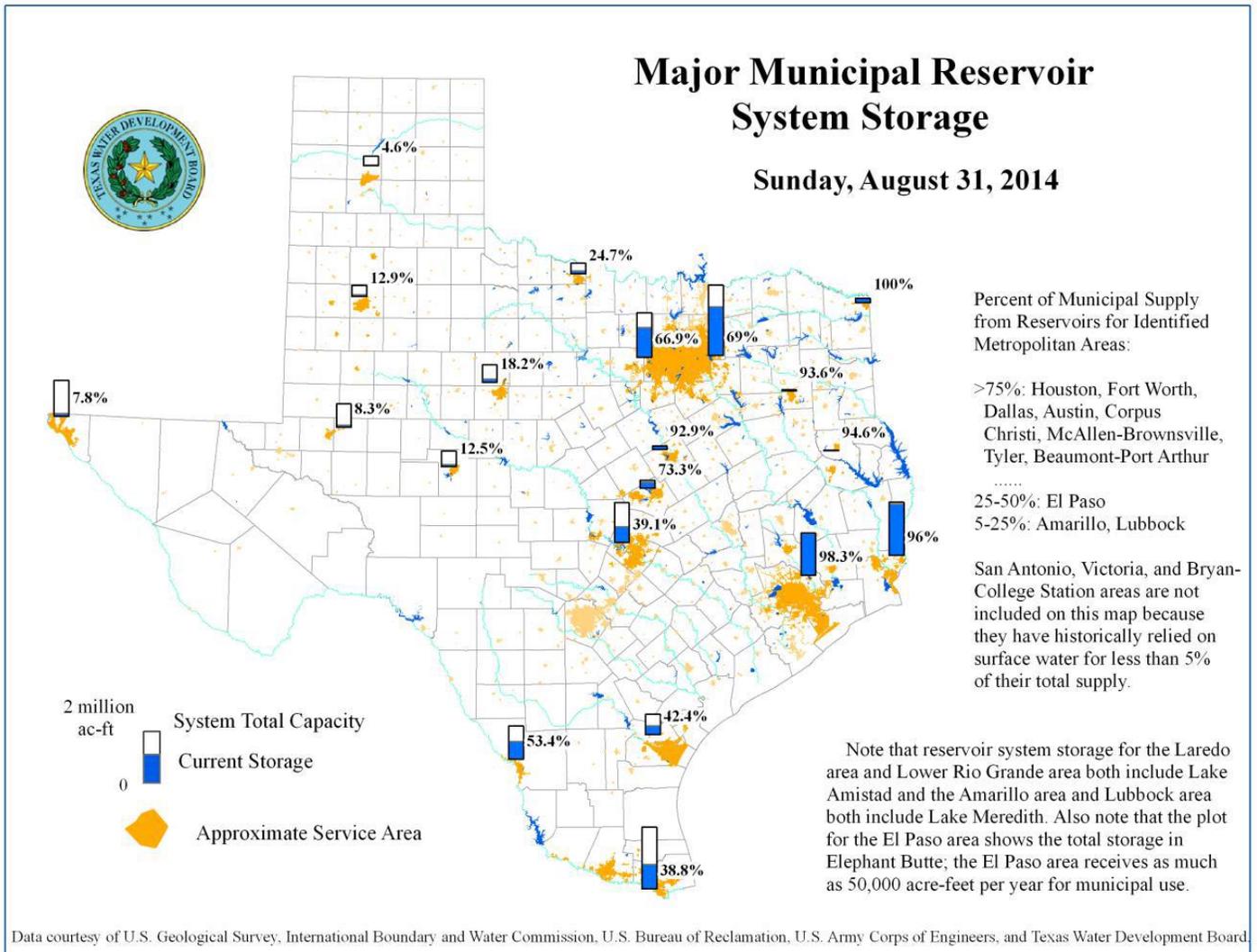
Drought Index	Index Value Improved in # Regions (Bold in table above)	Index Value Deteriorated in # Regions (Italic in table above)	Index Value Unchanged in # Regions
<b>PDSI (10)</b>	3	8	0
<b>SFI (9)</b>	1	8	0
<b>SPI (10)</b>	4	4	2
<b>CMI (10)</b>	8	2	0
<b>KBDI (10)</b>	2	8	0
<b>RSI (21)</b>	4	17	0

## 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 65% full at 20.3 million acft in total combined storage. This is 742,812 acre-feet less than a month ago.
- By the river basins, storage was lower than normal in 10 basin or sub-basins but Near or Above Normal in all other 11 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, Lower Rio Grande sub-basins and Nueces river basin,
- Moderately low in and Upper Brazos and Upper Rio Grande basin.
- Abnormally low in Upper Trinity sub-basin,
- Near or above Normal in all other 11 basins or sub-basins.

The elephant Butte Reservoir held 153,617 acft of water, at 8% full by the month end. This is 18,950 acre-feet more than a month ago.

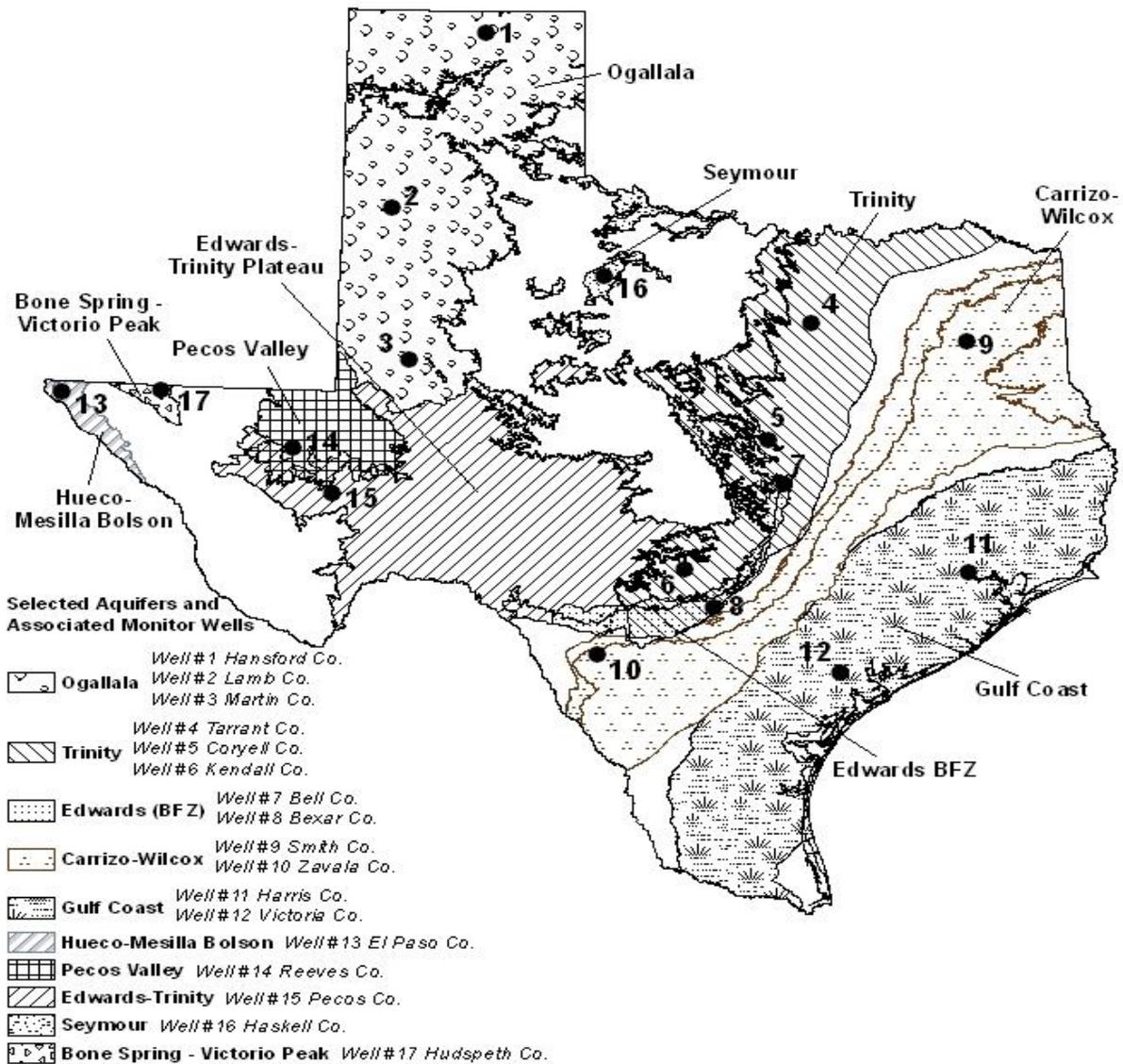


## Groundwater Conditions

- Water level measurements were available from all 17 key monitoring wells in the state.
- Water levels rose in one of the monitoring wells since the beginning of August with a 0.06 foot increase in the Martin County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #3).
- Water levels declined in sixteen monitoring wells, ranging from 0.02 feet in the Hansford County Ogallala Aquifer well (well #1) to 11.26 feet in the Coryell County Hosston Formation -Trinity Aquifer well (well #5).
- The J-17 well in San Antonio recorded a water level of 105 feet below land surface or 626 feet above mean sea level. This water level is 14 feet below the Stage III critical management level in that segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

Monitoring Well	July	June	Month change	Year change	Historical change
(1) Hansford 0354301	155.34	155.32	-0.02	-1.2	-85.22
(2) Lamb 1053602	144.7	144.55	-0.15	-0.84	-116.55
(3) Martin 2739903	143.01	143.07	0.06	-0.7	-38.12
(4) Dallas 3319101	488.5	487.31	-1.19	-0.29	-266.5
(5) Coryell 4035404	513.14	501.88	-11.26	-4.81	-221.14
(6) Kendall 6802609	154.12	153.85	-0.27	-2.36	-94.12
(7) Bell 5804816	129.52	127.28	-2.24	0.07	-6.39
(8) Bexar 6837203	105	97.2	-7.8	-7.8	-58.36
(9) Smith 3430907	440.13	439.11	-1.02	1.4	-74.13
(10) La Salle 7738103	510.24	503.02	-7.22	-22.53	-257.17
(11) Harris 6514409	194.8	193.95	-0.85	1.75	-59.3
(12) Victoria 8017502	37.23	36.95	-0.28	0.3	-3.23
(13) El Paso 4913301	295	294.48	-0.52	0.25	-63.1
(14) Reeves 4644501	166.61	164.04	-2.57	-8.66	-74.52
(15) Pecos 5216802	247.58	241.94	-5.64	-8.81	-0.7
(16) Haskell 2135748	49.51	49.09	-0.42	-0.72	-8.18
(17) Hudspeth 4807516	149.8	148.73	-1.07	1.28	-45.88

## Groundwater Observation Wells Location Map



## 6. Water Utility Status

Overall, there are 1,185 water systems that are asking their customers to restrict water use (up 12 from a month ago). Of these systems, 795 are asking customers to follow a mandatory watering schedule and 390 are asking customers to follow a voluntary watering schedule. There are currently 59 PWSs that have prohibited all outside watering by their customers. A total of 1,614 water systems have reported to the TCEQ regarding their status using the online form on the TCEQ public website. Seasonal forecasts extending into late November 2014 indicate drought conditions will likely persist or intensify in the southern most portion of the state. Drought conditions may improve in the northern most portions of the panhandle region and 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 normal 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 August 23, 2014, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 39.22% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,330,375 acre-feet, up from 30.98% (1,050,680 AF) of normal conservation a year ago at this time. Overall the system is holding 34.02 % of normal conservation capacity, impounding 2,014,614 acre-feet with Amistad at 39.55% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,295,515 acre-feet, and Falcon at 27.17% of conservation capacity, impounding 719,100 acre-feet. Mexico has 27.04% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 684,239 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

**Allocations:** As of printing of the July, 2014 ownership report, we have allocated 387,246.2363 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 984,000 acre-feet at Amistad (53.5%); and approximately 346,000 acre-feet (22.3%) of normal conservation capacity at Falcon. Evaporation and seepage losses at Amistad as of August 23, 2014, are 128,609 acre-feet. For the same period, the U.S. has lost 103,937 acre-feet at Falcon.

**Releases to meet demands:** In 2014, (through August 23, 2014), Mexico has released 420,055 acre-feet from Amistad and 575,065 acre-feet from Falcon for Mexico needs. The U.S. has released 576,507 acre-feet from Falcon and 391,794 acre-feet from Amistad for U.S. needs. Combined with gains between Amistad and Falcon, U.S. inflows to Falcon have totaled 467,137 acre-feet. The U.S. demand in the lower Rio Grande has been met at a rate of 119.2% by direct Rio Grande inflows and Amistad releases this year.

**Upper Rio Grande (New Mexico):** Currently, Elephant Butte in New Mexico is storing 151,603 acre-feet (7.49%) and Caballo Dam in New Mexico, downstream of Elephant Butte, is storing 21,889 acre-feet (9.64%). 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 to extreme 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	August mean (cfs)	August historical median (cfs)
Red River near Burkburnett	108	1980
Red River near De Kalb	2,100	3,930

**Drought Condition:** As of August 26, 93% 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	August mean (cfs)	August historical median (cfs)
Sulphur River near Talco	166	9

**Drought Conditions:** As of August 26, 24% 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	30	7

**Drought Conditions:** As of August 26, 0% 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	August mean (cfs)	August historical median (cfs)
Sabine River near Beckville	336	140
Sabine River near Ruliff	2,280	2,420

**Drought Conditions:** As of August 26, 16% of the Sabine River Basin is experiencing at least moderate 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	189	70
Neches River at Evadale	2,129	1,680

**Drought Conditions:** As of August 26, 0% of the Neches River Basin is experiencing moderate 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	674	309
Trinity River near Oakwood	868	708
Trinity River at Romayor	1,328	1,220

**Drought Conditions:** : As of August 26, 55% 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:**

<b>Site</b>	<b>August mean (cfs)</b>	<b>August historical median (cfs)</b>
Double Mountain Fork Brazos River near Aspermont	2	6
Brazos River near Glen Rose	10	271
Little River at Cameron	134	189
Navasota near Easterly	12	6
Brazos near Hempstead	409	1,340
Brazos near Rosharon	626	1,170

**Drought Conditions:** As of August 26, 78% of the Brazos 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.

## **Colorado River Basin:**

### **Streamflow Conditions:**

<b>Site</b>	<b>August mean (cfs)</b>	<b>August historical median (cfs)</b>
Colorado River at Ballinger	5	10
San Saba River at San Saba	31	43
Llano River at Llano	38*	86
Pedernales River near Johnson City	0.28	17
Colorado River at Columbus	328	1,600

\* Data not available for 8/31/14. Mean was calculated using data from 8/1/14 – 8/30/14.

**Drought Conditions:** As of August 26, 81% 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, 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	August mean (cfs)	August historical median (cfs)
Guadalupe River near Spring Branch	0.40	76
San Marcos River at Luling	112	169
Guadalupe River at Cuero	136	723
Guadalupe River at Victoria	143	695

**Drought Conditions:** As of August 26, 100% of the Guadalupe River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 4% 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	85	178
Cibolo Creek at Falls City	18	18

**Drought Conditions:** As of August 26, 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:**

<b>Site</b>	<b>August mean (cfs)</b>	<b>August historical median (cfs)</b>
Nueces river at Tilden	0.01	0.4
Frio River near Derby	0.00	0.01
Atascosa River at Whitsett	0.5	5

**Drought Conditions:** As of August 26, 51% 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, 2014

City/Station	Rainfall Totals (in)
<b>Brazos River Basin</b>	
Lubbock	0.54
Abilene	0.30
Waco	0.98
College Station	0.41
<b>Colorado River Basin</b>	
Midland	0.77
San Angelo	0.65
Austin Mabry	0.12
Austin Bergstrom	Trace Amount
<b>Neches River Basin</b>	
Tyler	0.32
Lufkin	2.60
<b>Sabine River Basin</b>	
Longview	0.23
<b>Trinity River Basin</b>	
Dallas/ Fort Worth	4.34

## 10. Agriculture



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

**Central:** More than three-fourths of the counties reporting had fair soil moisture, and rangeland and pasture conditions. Most rated crops and livestock in good condition. Parts of the region had two to three inches of rain, which benefited pastures. The corn and grain sorghum harvests were finished. Cotton harvesting began. The rain and cooler temperatures were expected to help finish pecan nut-fill. Stock-water tank levels were dropping. Producers were reporting armyworms and grasshoppers in pastures.

**Coastal Bend:** Showers in the region slowed cotton harvesting in the eastern counties. Yields ranged from two to three bales per acre. Row crop harvest was mostly completed, and producers were preparing pastures for planting winter forages. Sesame was in good condition and maturing. The scattered showers were beneficial to pastures. Where grazing was limited, ranchers were feeding hay and selling spring calves.

**East:** Spotty showers swept across the region, with accumulations ranging from zero to 3.5 inches. Lake and pond levels were still fairly good but beginning to drop. Landowners were dealing with aquatic weeds. Fields were drying out in some areas, but the hay harvest continued, though more slowly. Producers were mowing pastures to clean up weeds and brush that did not respond to chemical controls. Winter forages were being planted for livestock and white-tailed deer. Fertilizer prices were up. Armyworm and grasshopper infestations continued to be a problem for some producers. The pecan crop looked promising. Pecans in the water/dough stage had some hickory shuckworm damage. Water-stressed trees showed some leaf scorch. Some pecan varieties had scab and powdery mildew. Timber was dying or dead from earlier drought stress. Cattle remained in good condition. Weaning and selling of spring calves and cull cows continued. Cattle prices remained strong.

**Far West:** Temperatures hit the triple digits early in the week but cooled to the 80s and 90s by the weekend. Upton County received scattered showers, with accumulations of 1.2 inches in some parts of the county. Subsoil and topsoil moisture remained poor to very poor, except in Andrews and Glasscock counties where it was fair to poor. Corn was maturing. Upland cotton was in good to excellent condition in El Paso County; fair to poor in Glasscock, Martin and Upton counties. Grain sorghum was mature. Winter wheat was planted. Pastures and rangeland remained in poor to very poor condition throughout the region.

**North:** Topsoil moisture was very short to short in most counties, with a few areas reporting adequate levels. Scattered showers fell across the region with amounts varying from a trace to less than 0.25 inch. Temperatures rose to the mid- to high-90s, which dried out soils. The dry weather allowed the hay, corn and grain sorghum harvests to continue. Wheat growers were preparing fields for planting. Due to hot dry weather, pastures and hay meadows dried out. Overall, cattle were in good condition. Armyworms and grasshoppers continued to pose problems for producers. Sugarcane aphids damaged sorghum-Sudan hay. Feral hog activity continued.

**Panhandle:** The region remained hot and dry, with temperatures near average for most of the week. However, cooler temperatures and rain came at the end of the week. Amounts ranged from a trace to as much as 4.5 inches in some isolated areas. Soil moisture was rated short to adequate. Deaf Smith County reported the recent moisture would help finish out corn and cotton. The grain sorghum crop was coming along well, but there were many late fields that needed heat units to finish. Wheat growers were planning to start planting in earnest as soon as fields dried out. Silage harvesting and haying activities were at a standstill after the rains. Hall County reported cotton starting to finish out and looking good. Most irrigation ceased for corn. Irrigation of cotton, soybeans and grain sorghum continued. Cotton was making bolls, soybeans setting pods and grain sorghum changing color. Dryland grain sorghum did not look good and some fields may not make a crop. Wheat planting was expected to begin soon. Randall County corn dried down rapidly, and the harvest was projected to begin soon. The silage harvest there was currently underway with average yields. Hutchinson County reported recent rains came too late to be beneficial to dryland crops. Rangeland and pastures were in poor to excellent condition, with most counties reporting fair to good and a few reporting excellent. Cattle were in good condition.

**Rolling Plains:** Parts of the region received some rain. Cotton was in fair condition with most of the dryland crop flowering at the tops. Wheat producers planned to begin planting soon. Cattle continued to be in good condition going into the fall calving season. Hay supplies were good. Pecan growers were spraying for pecan weevils. The pecan crop looked promising in most orchards. Areas that did have rain reported grasses were really starting to burn up and stock-water tank levels were dropping rapidly.

**South:** Tropical Storm Dolly brought substantial rains to parts of the region. The eastern and southern counties received good rains, while others received only

trace amounts. In the northern part of the region, spotty showers gave relief from hot temperatures, but did little to improve soil moisture, which remained short. Peanuts were doing well, sorghum harvesting continued and cotton harvesting began. Rangeland and pastures remained in poor condition, and supplemental feeding of livestock continued at a steady pace. In the eastern part of the region, good rains in much of the area helped green up rangeland and pastures and slightly improved soil moisture. In Jim Wells County, some parts of the county received 7 inches while others only saw light showers. Other than a few fields of cotton, sesame is the only commodity left in the area to be harvested. Soil moisture throughout the area remained short to very short in Jim Hogg and Jim Wells counties and adequate in Brooks, Kleberg and Kenedy counties. In the western part of the region, isolated showers brought from a trace to 0.5 inch of moisture. Coastal Bermuda grass was in good condition and being baled for hay. Pecans under irrigation progressed well. Cotton harvesting was active, and producers with irrigation capacity were pre-watering fields before planting wheat. Soil moisture conditions remained short to very short throughout the area. Supplemental feeding and light culling of livestock continued. In the southern part of the region, fieldwork halted due to wet conditions. Fall onions and tomatoes were in good condition. Starr County received from 1.75 inch to 2.5 inches of rain. Rangeland and pastures remained in good to excellent condition.

**South Plains:** The region received much-needed rain, from 0.5 inch to as much as 5 inches near the Texas/New Mexico border. In Bailey County, producers were harvesting corn silage and planting wheat. Lynn County producers shut down irrigation on cotton and planned to begin planting wheat within a week. Lubbock County producers were also planning to cut off irrigation on cotton. The rain there came too late to benefit most dryland cotton. Cotton continued to progress in Garza County; the moisture helped fill older bolls and retain smaller ones. Rangeland will benefit with moisture for both warm and cool season grasses. Cattle are in mostly good condition. After being slowed by rain, Floyd County producers were harvesting corn. Some producers are concerned they may not get enough heat units for cotton to make a strong finish, but all were glad to have the rain.

**Southeast:** Soil moisture was mostly in the adequate to short range, except for Hardin County, which reported 100 percent adequate. Rangeland and pastures were mostly in fair to poor condition, with good ratings being the most common. In Brazoria County, livestock were in good condition. A countywide rain was good for pastures and livestock, but slowed the cotton harvest. In Chambers County, rain delayed some rice harvesting and maturing. Harvesting soon continued, but the rain left fields in less than desirable condition. In Orange County, more moderate temperatures enhanced forage growth. In Walker County, the scattered showers had little impact on the dry conditions. In Brazos County, the small-grain harvest neared completion. Yields exceeded expectations, and storage is at capacity.

[Southwest:](#) Weather in the eastern half of the district began to cool a little. Much of the district received spotty showers. The cooler weather and the showers helped stabilize topsoil and subsoil moisture. The grain sorghum harvest was wrapped up, with average yields reported. The corn harvest was mostly finished, with fair to poor yields. Cotton was in various stages of defoliation, with a few areas gearing up to strip or pick. Both pasture and forage crops in the eastern part of the region needed rain. Livestock and pastures remained in fair condition in the western counties. Dove numbers were solid. Forage availability and browsing for deer was good, and a good acorn crop was predicted, which promised an excellent deer hunting season.

[West Central:](#) A few areas reported some scattered showers, but generally the weather was hot, dry and windy throughout the week. Cotton was progressing very well. Most grain sorghum was harvested. Hay production was ongoing on irrigated fields. Producers increased field preparations for fall planting. Grasshoppers continued to be a problem in some areas. Rangeland and pastures remained in fair condition but began to show signs of heat and moisture stress. Stock-tank water levels continued to drop. Livestock remained in good condition, though numbers were low.

**Texas Crop Progress and Conditions**  
 USDA NASS, Texas Field Office Report: Issue TX-CW3614  
 Weekly summary for September 8-14, 2014:

Crop	Crop Condition					Index <sup>1</sup>	
	Percent of Acreage					2014	2013
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor		
Corn	18	49	27	5	1	81	75
Cotton	9	25	39	19	8	61	55
Peanuts	8	48	34	9	1	75	72
Rice	7	53	35	5		78	75
Sorghum	12	46	31	9	2	76	76
Soybeans	7	45	43	4	1	75	68
Range and Pasture	4	24	36	23	13	--	--

<sup>1</sup> 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	26	28	45	1	31	29	33	7	5.2
12	23	24	49	4	24	45	29	2	4.3
21	15	26	50	9	15	38	41	6	6.1
22	30	52	17	1	34	50	16	0	5.4
30	30	48	21	1	34	47	19	0	6.4
40	34	29	32	5	28	35	35	2	5.8
51	12	33	52	3	8	31	58	3	5.8
52	27	30	38	5	21	36	38	5	6.2
60	31	32	36	1	24	51	24	1	6.7
70	23	48	27	2	23	47	28	2	5.6
81	35	46	17	2	39	49	11	1	6.0
82	26	17	31	26	29	46	21	4	5.0
90	5	36	47	12	6	21	62	11	4.0
96	25	53	22	0	26	55	19	0	5.1
97	0	29	44	27	6	65	5	24	4.8
State	25	39	33	3	25	44	28	3	5.2

**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://txforestservation.tamu.edu>

Priscilla Boston, 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/](http://www.puc.texas.gov/)

Warren Lasher, Electric Reliability Council of Texas, (512)248-3011, [www.ercot.com](http://www.ercot.com)

