

CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.



Texas Fire Potential Update

April 15th –April 20th, 2024

Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services

Fire Potential Notes April 15th- April 20th, 2024

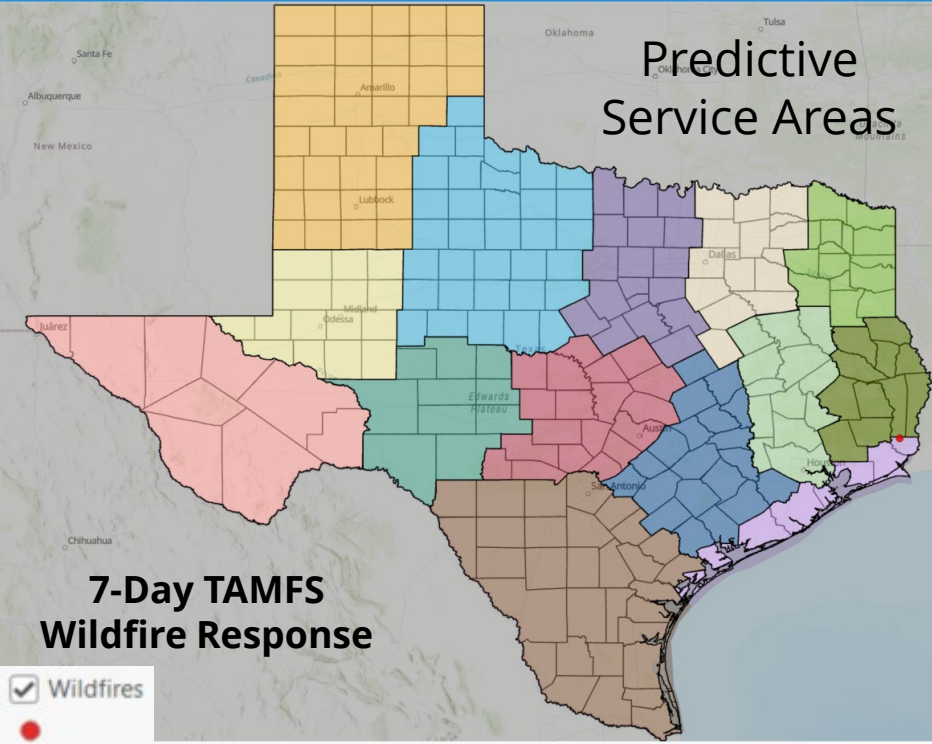
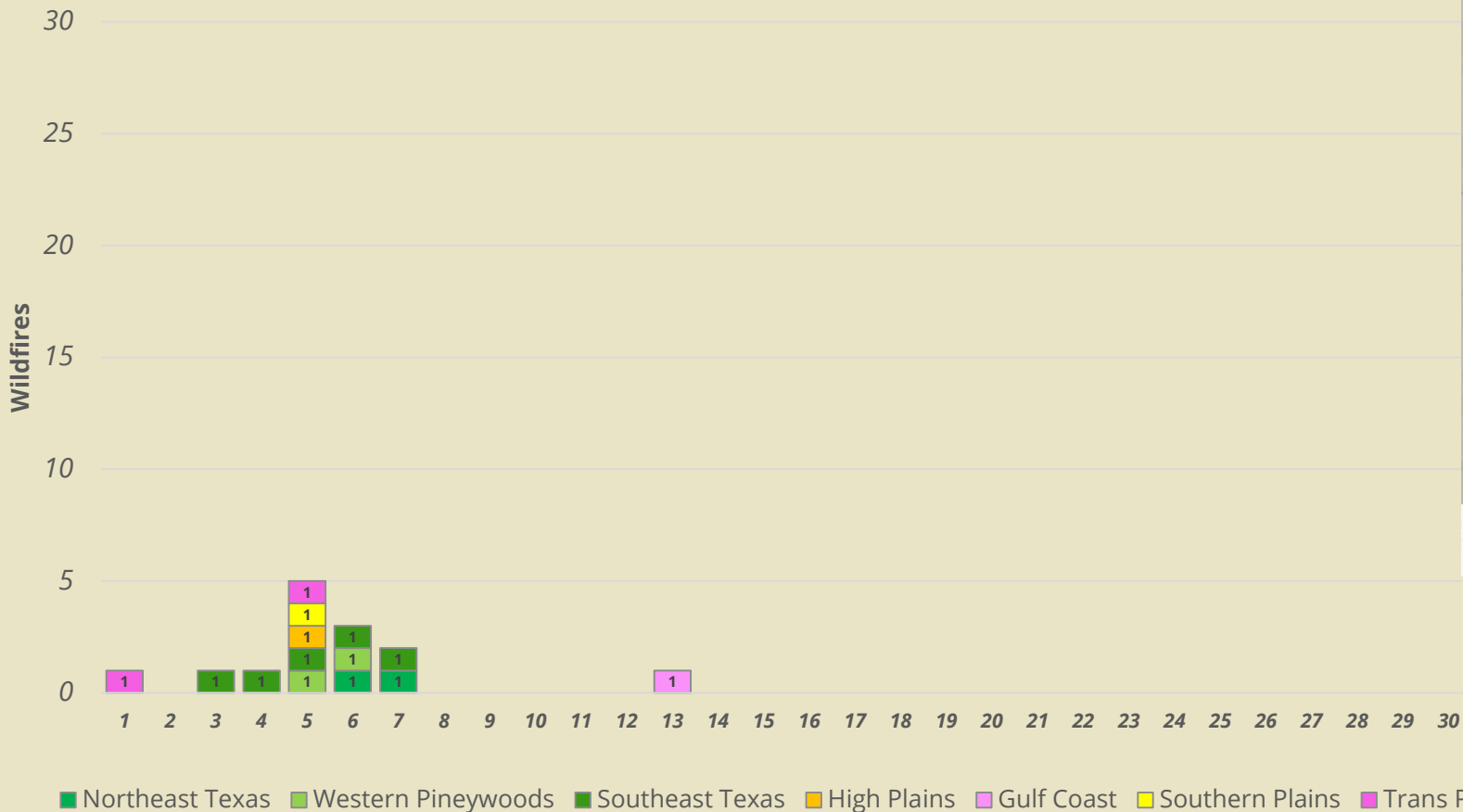


- Grasses slowly continue to show signs of improving greenness that will act as a barrier to slow wildfire spread along and south of Interstate-40 from the 1-3 inches of rainfall observed April 9th. Areas northwest of Amarillo and in the northeast quarter of the High Plains that observed $< \frac{1}{2}$ inch rainfall will likely see limited green up and continue to support fire activity in cured or low-end transition grasses. The burn scars from the February 26th and 27th wildfires will also provide barriers to wildfire spread in the eastern Canadian River Drainage. Dormant grasses are still observed along and west of the Pecos River. Grass loading is lower in low elevation areas of the Trans Pecos which can provide opportunities for success during initial attack. Normal to above normal grass loading is common in the Davis Mountains and Glass Mountains.
- Critical fire weather is expected to develop west of dryline **Monday** in the Trans Pecos and High Plains before a Pacific cold front moves east. The position of the dryline and thunderstorm initiation along the dryline could produce lightning ignitions in dry fuel in the lower Pecos River Valley Monday. Dry, cured or low end transition grasses and critical fire weather in the northern High Plains may support moderate potential for initial attack wildfire activity with low potential for a significant fire with high resistance to control.
- Tuesday** will feature a dry and breezy post-frontal environment over dry to critically dry fuel in the northern High Plains where moderate initial attack fire potential and low potential for a significant fire will continue. Wind speeds are forecast peak late-morning and decrease during the afternoon. Low potential for wildfire activity will continue in the Trans Pecos and lower Pecos River Valley Tuesday. If thunderstorms occur near the lower Pecos River valley Monday evening, there will be potential for lightning ignitions to emerge.
- A cold front is forecast to move south through Texas Thursday through Saturday. A cool and moist fire environment is likely to develop across most of Texas Friday, Saturday, and Sunday resulting in low fire potential statewide as fuel moisture increases.

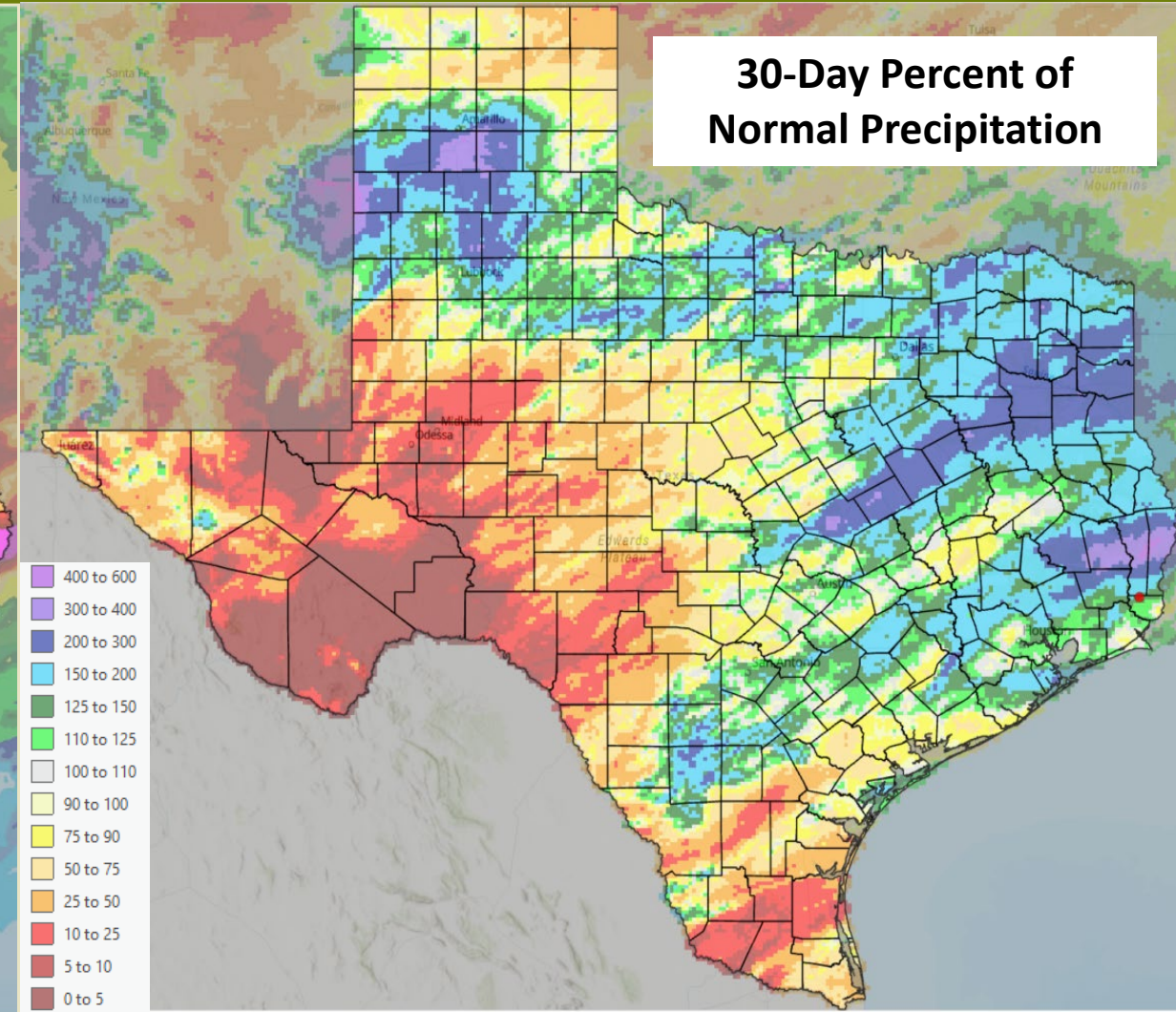
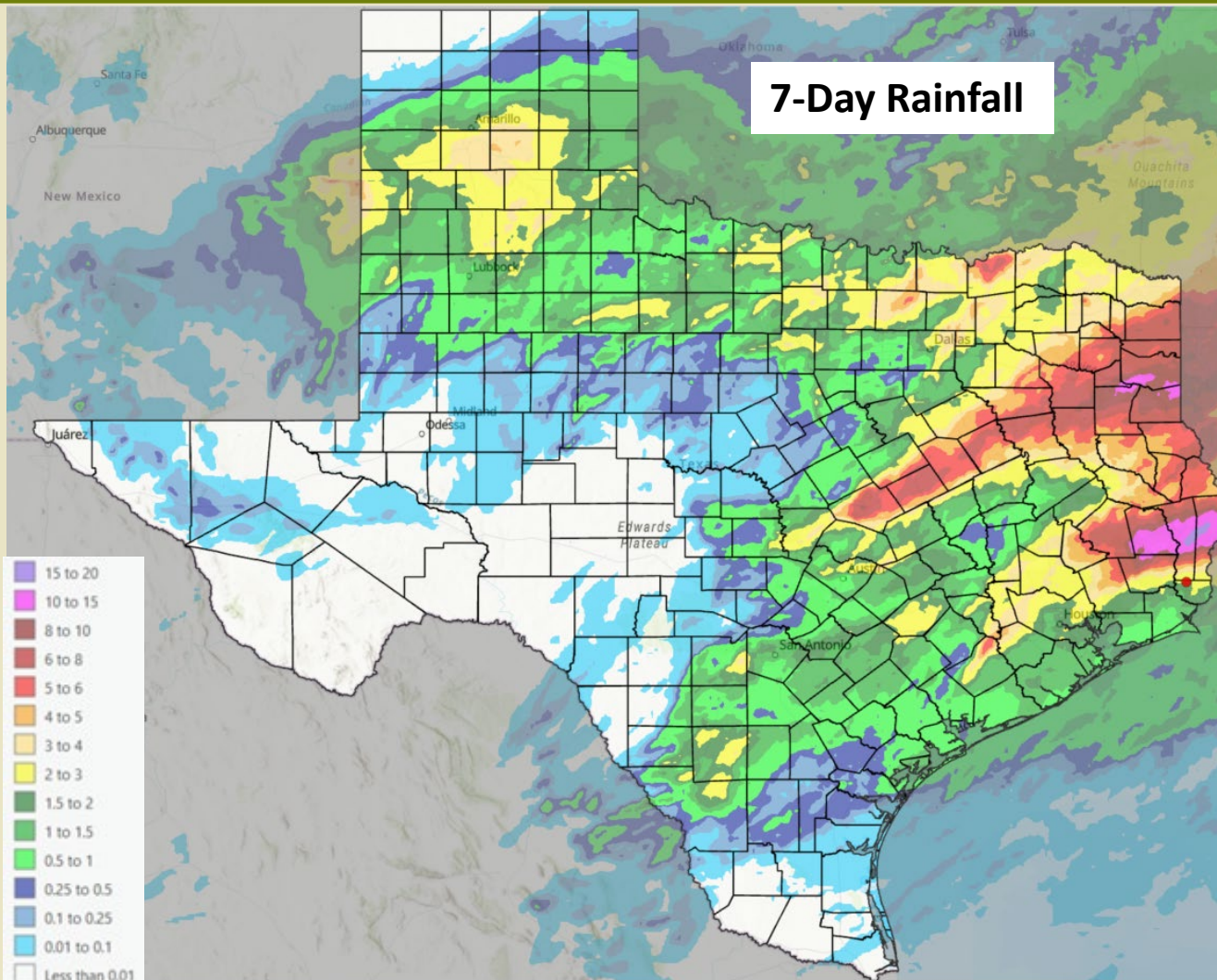


Texas A&M Forest Service Wildfire response continues to remain low as fuel moisture improved from rainfall observed last week. The focus for wildfire potential this week will be over the northern High Plains and into the Trans Pecos where little rainfall was observed. Fuel will be dry to critically dry and exposed to elevated and critical fire weather in these regions Monday and Tuesday.

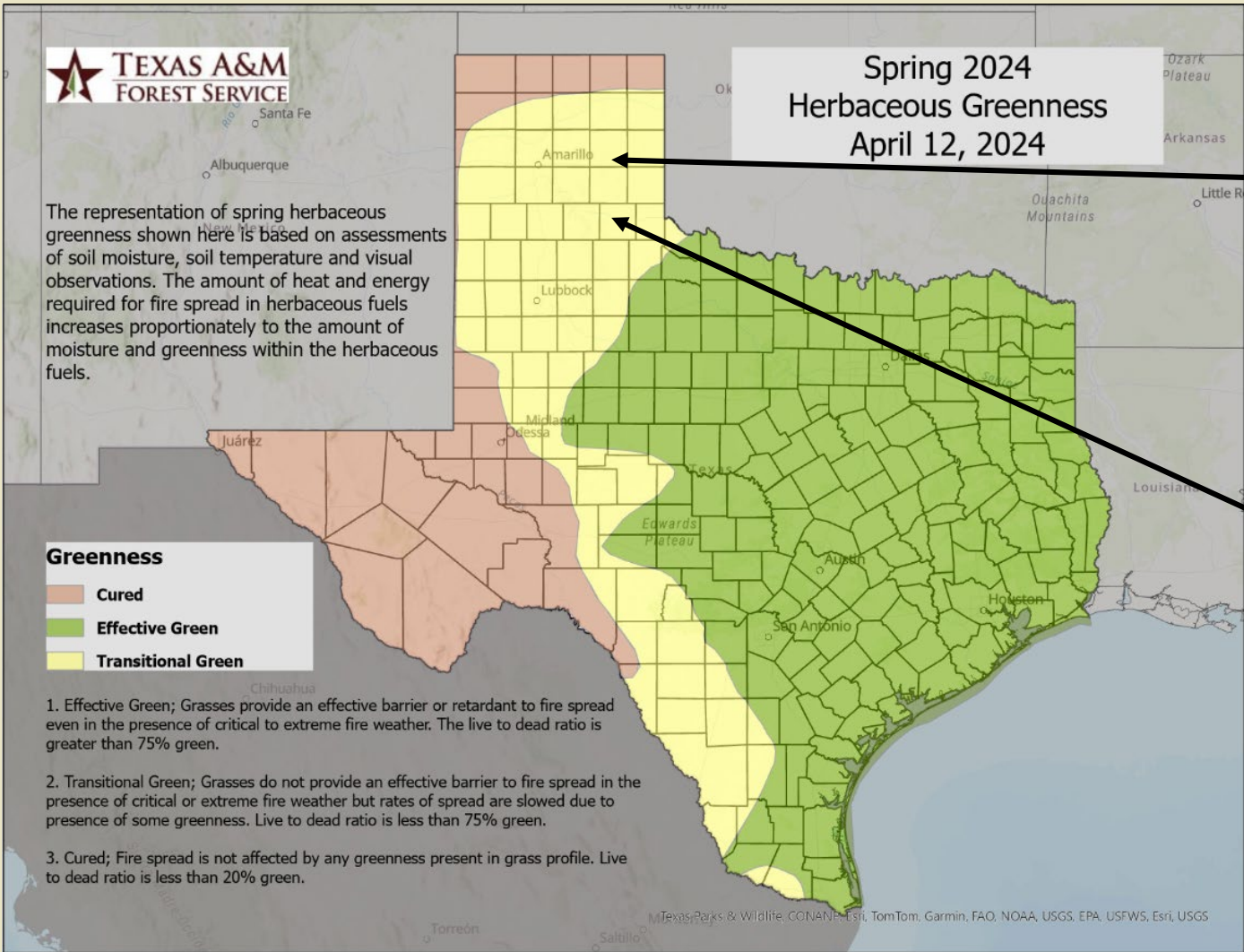
April 1st-April 14th , 2024 TAMFS Wildfire Response by Predictive Service Area



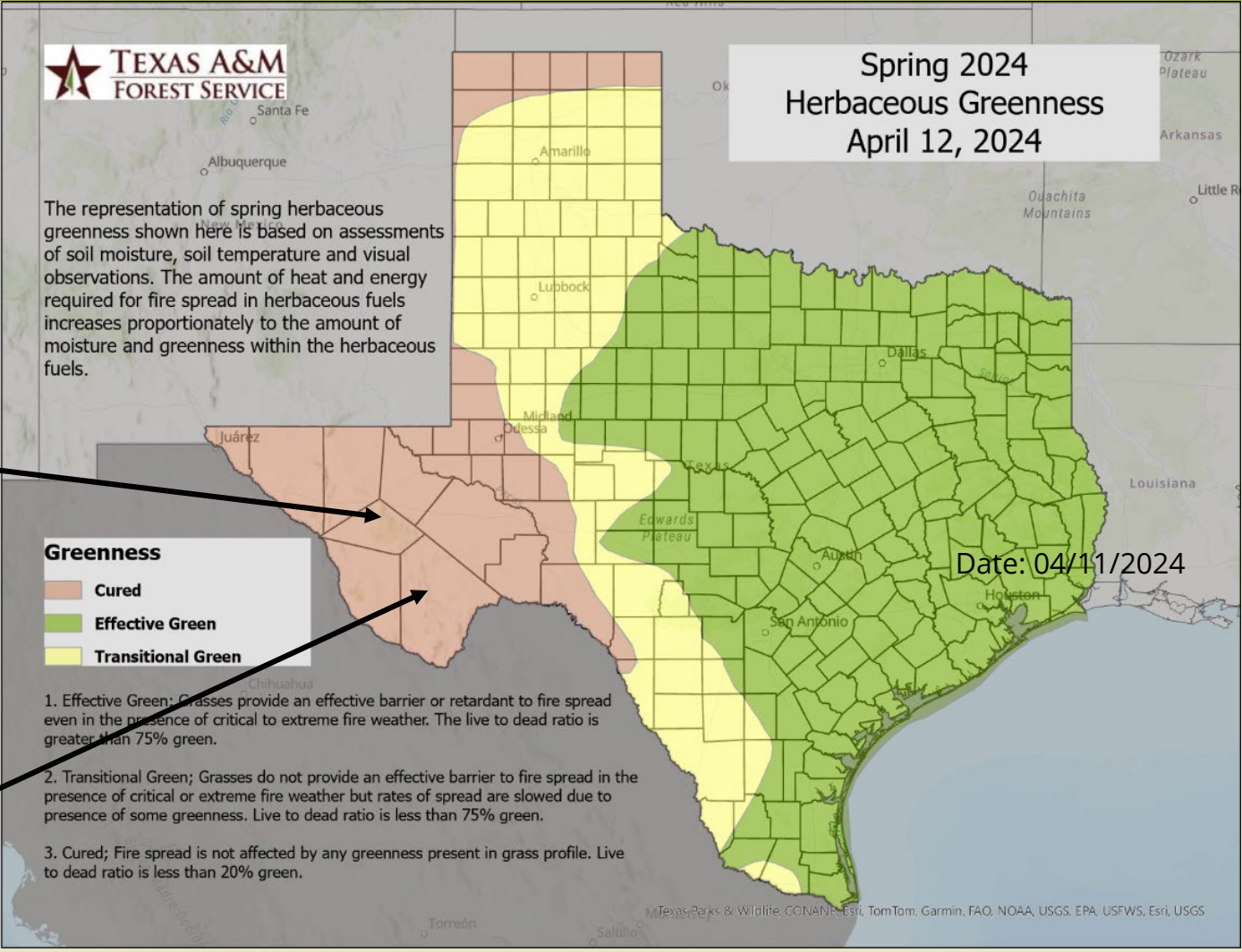
Long duration rainfall on Tuesday April 9th of 1-3 inches decreased rainfall deficits and has slowly initiated green-up for the High Plains along and south of Interstate-40. Much of the northern High Plains and Southwest Texas missed out on last week's rainfall. Underlying dryness will continue to be focused on Trans Pecos and Lower Pecos River Valley where less than 25% of normal precipitation is observed.



Grasses slowly continue to show signs of improving greenness that will act as a barrier to slow wildfire spread along and south of Interstate-40 from the 1-3 inches of rainfall observed April 9th. Areas northwest of Amarillo and in the northeast quarter of the High Plains that observed <1/2 inch rainfall will likely see limited green up and continue to support fire activity in cured or low-end transition grasses. The burn scars from the February 26th and 27th wildfires will also provide barriers to wildfire spread in the eastern Canadian River Drainage.



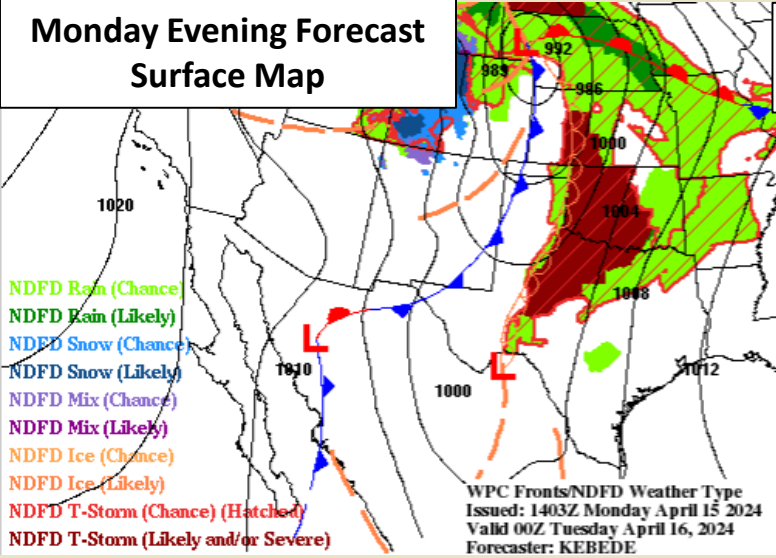
Dormant grasses are still observed along and west of the Pecos River. Grass loading is lower in low elevation areas of the Trans Pecos which can provide opportunities for success during initial attack. Normal to above normal grass loading is common in the Davis Mountains and Glass Mountains.



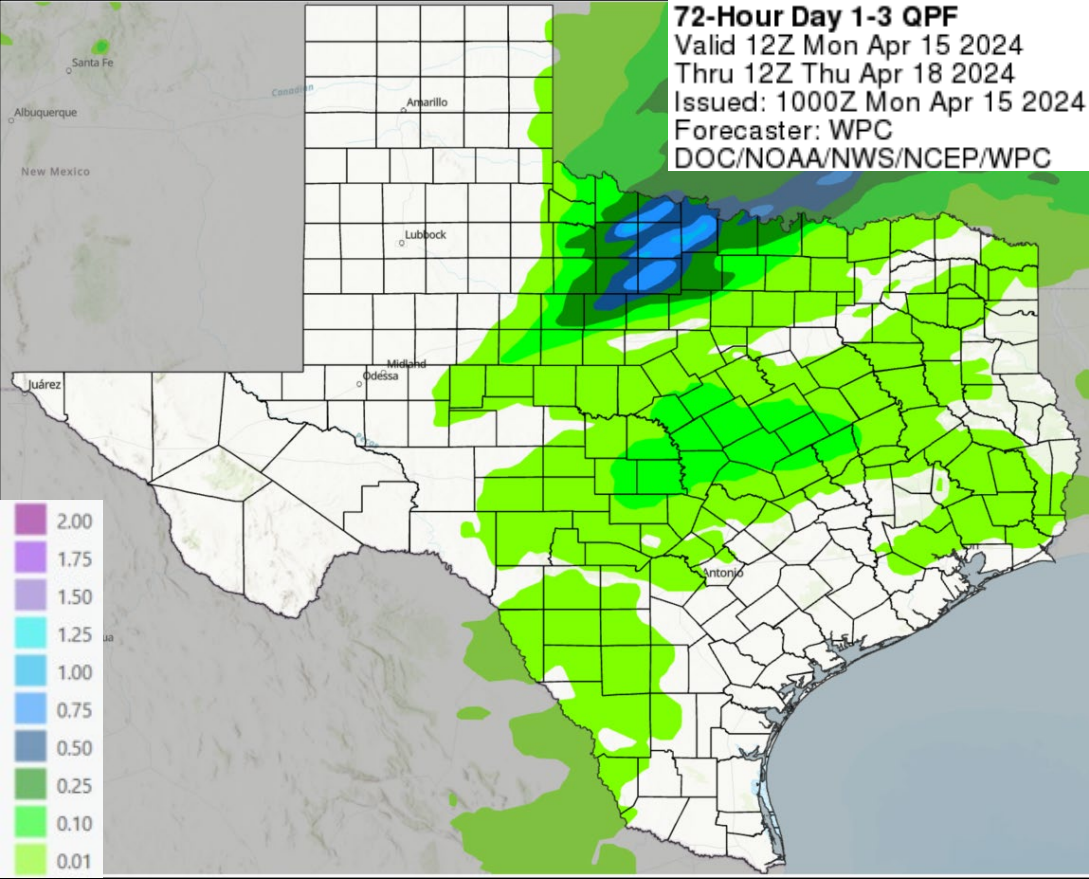
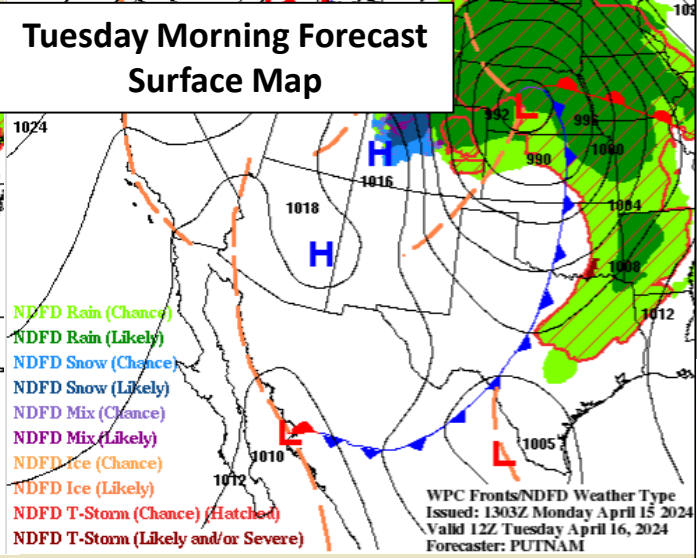


A storm system in the Central U.S. Plains will move east Monday and Tuesday. A wedge of critical fire weather will materialize between a dryline and Pacific cold front Monday afternoon in the High Plains, extending south into the Trans Pecos. If isolated thunderstorms develop into the lower Pecos River Valley, lightning ignitions could occur in dry fuel and emerge Tuesday. Breezy post-frontal conditions will continue across the Texas High Plains through late-morning as the parent storm system and Pacific cold front progress east.

Monday Evening Forecast
Surface Map



Tuesday Morning Forecast
Surface Map



Monday's fire environment of dry fuel exposed to critical fire weather in the northern High Plains will support moderate potential for wildfire activity with low potential for a large fire that is resistant to control. Dry fuel and critical fire weather in the Trans Pecos will support low potential for a large wildfire. **Tuesday's fire environment** of critically dry fuel exposed to elevated/critical fire weather in the northern High Plains will support moderate potential for wildfire activity with low potential for a large fire that is resistant to control. Critically dry fuel and elevated fire weather in the Trans Pecos will support low potential for a large wildfire. The dissipation of a widespread fire weather trigger **Wednesday** will limit significant fire potential. Critically to locally extremely dry fuel may support low initial attack fire potential Southwest Texas.

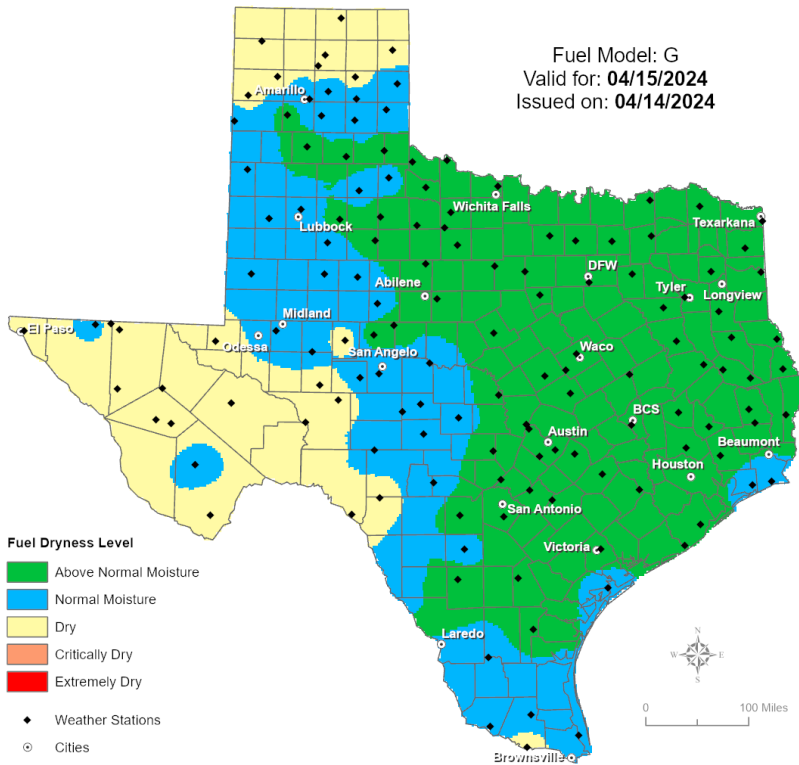


Monday

Forecast Fuel Dryness

(based on 100hr and ERC percentiles)

Fuel Model: G
Valid for: **04/15/2024**
Issued on: **04/14/2024**

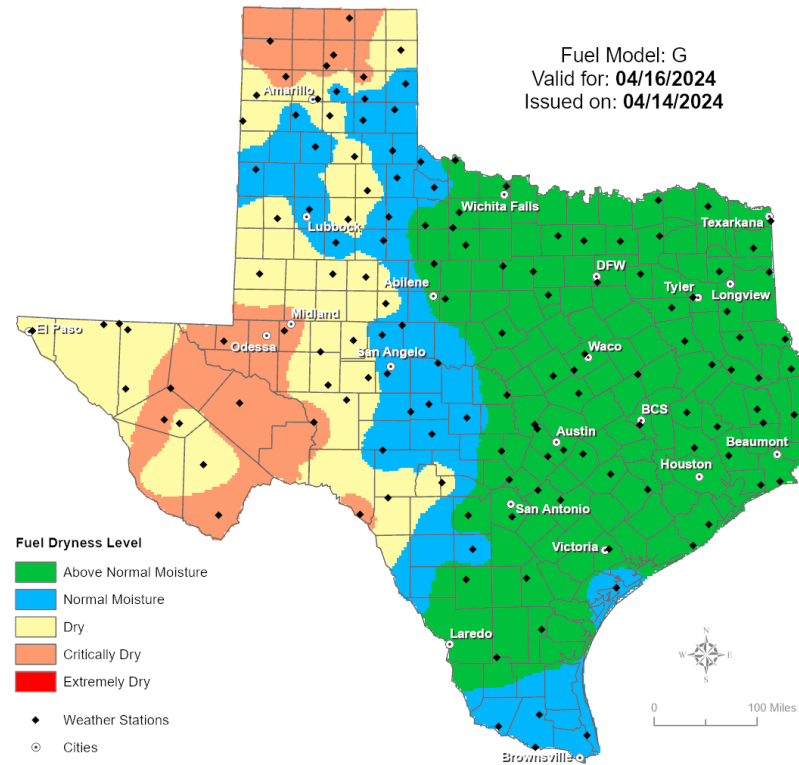


Tuesday

Forecast Fuel Dryness

(based on 100hr and ERC percentiles)

Fuel Model: G
Valid for: **04/16/2024**
Issued on: **04/14/2024**

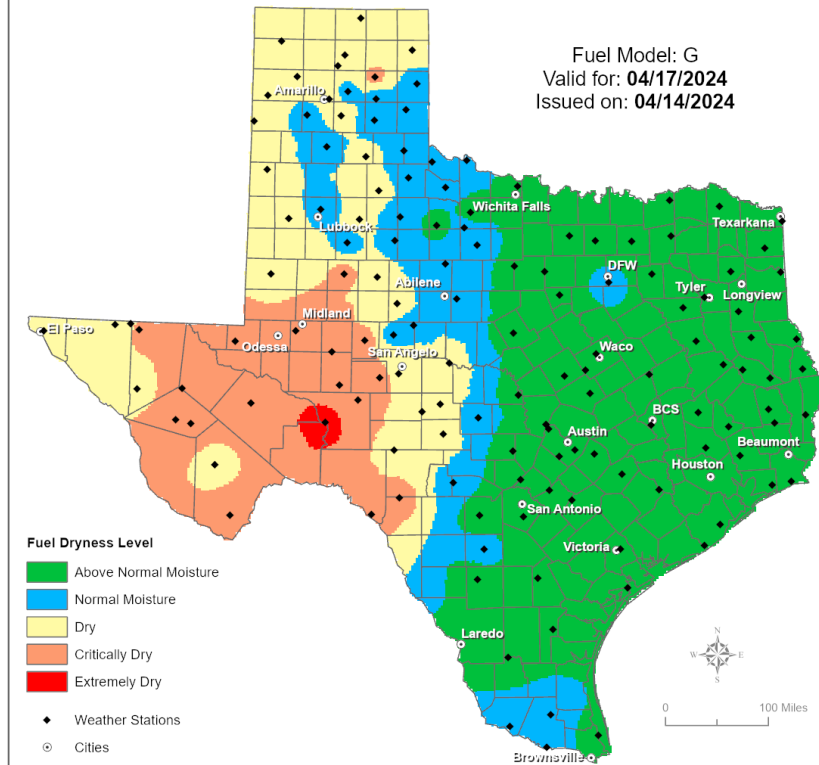


Wednesday

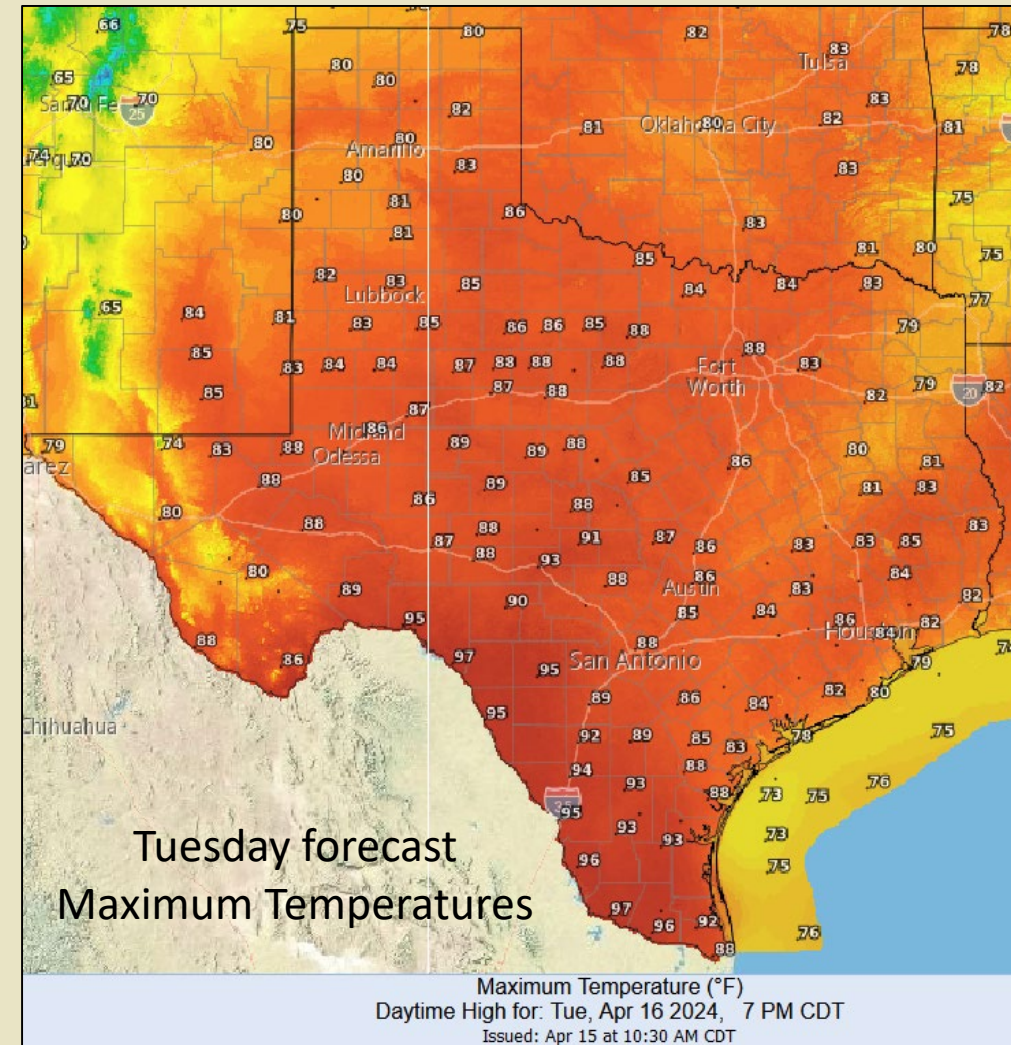
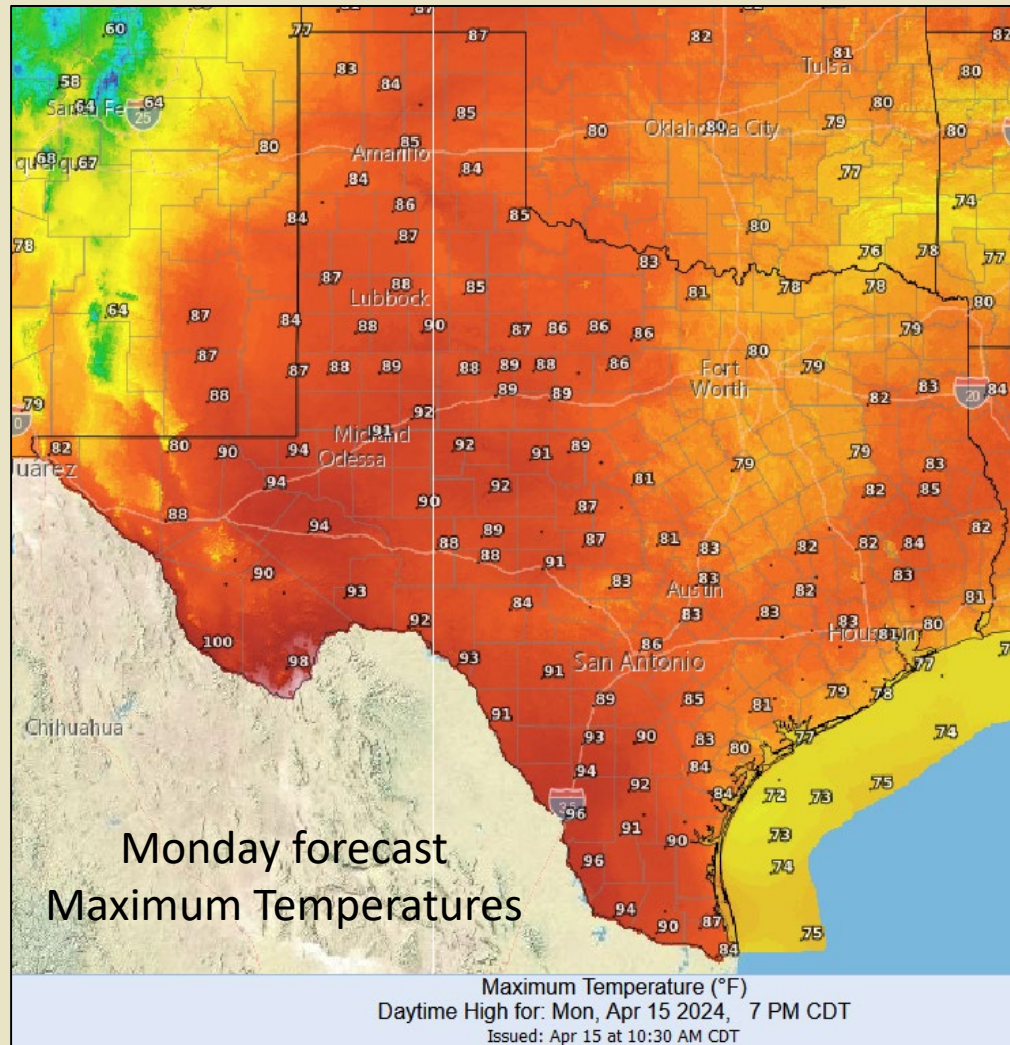
Forecast Fuel Dryness

(based on 100hr and ERC percentiles)

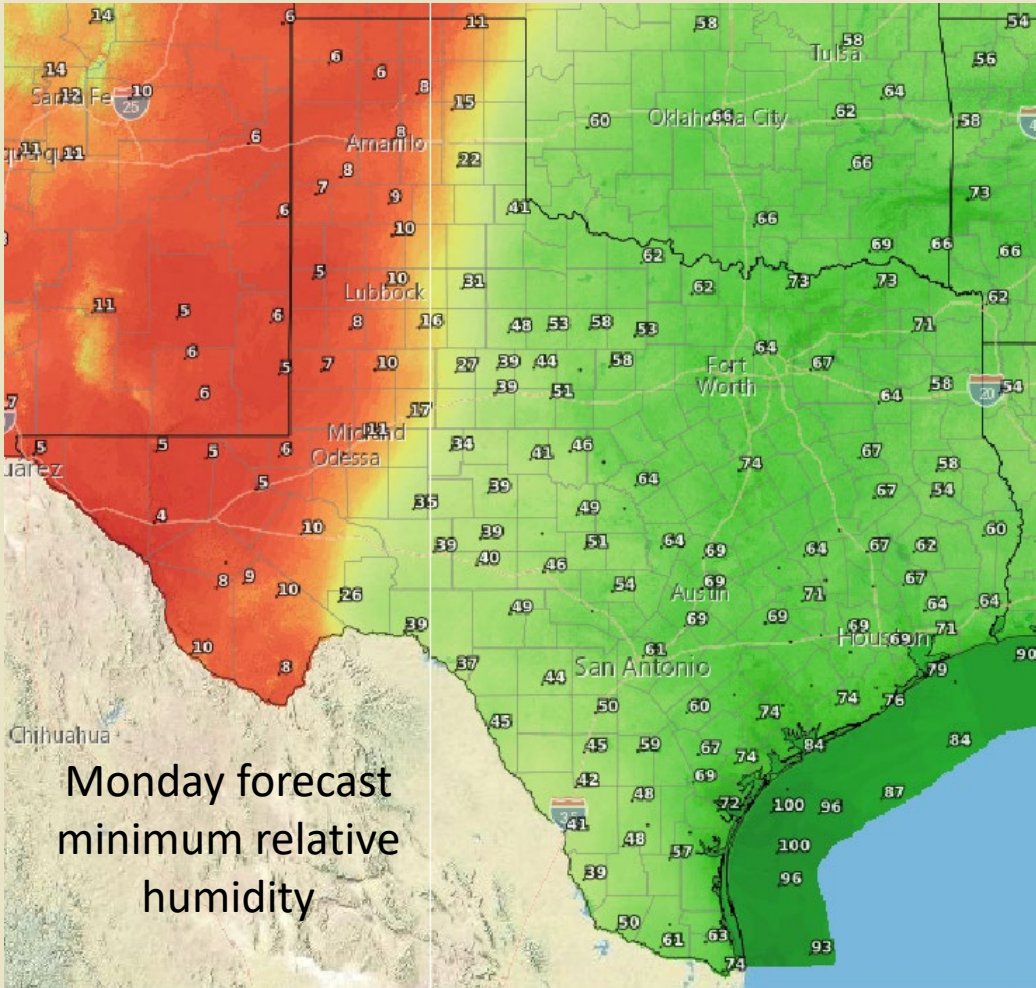
Fuel Model: G
Valid for: **04/17/2024**
Issued on: **04/14/2024**



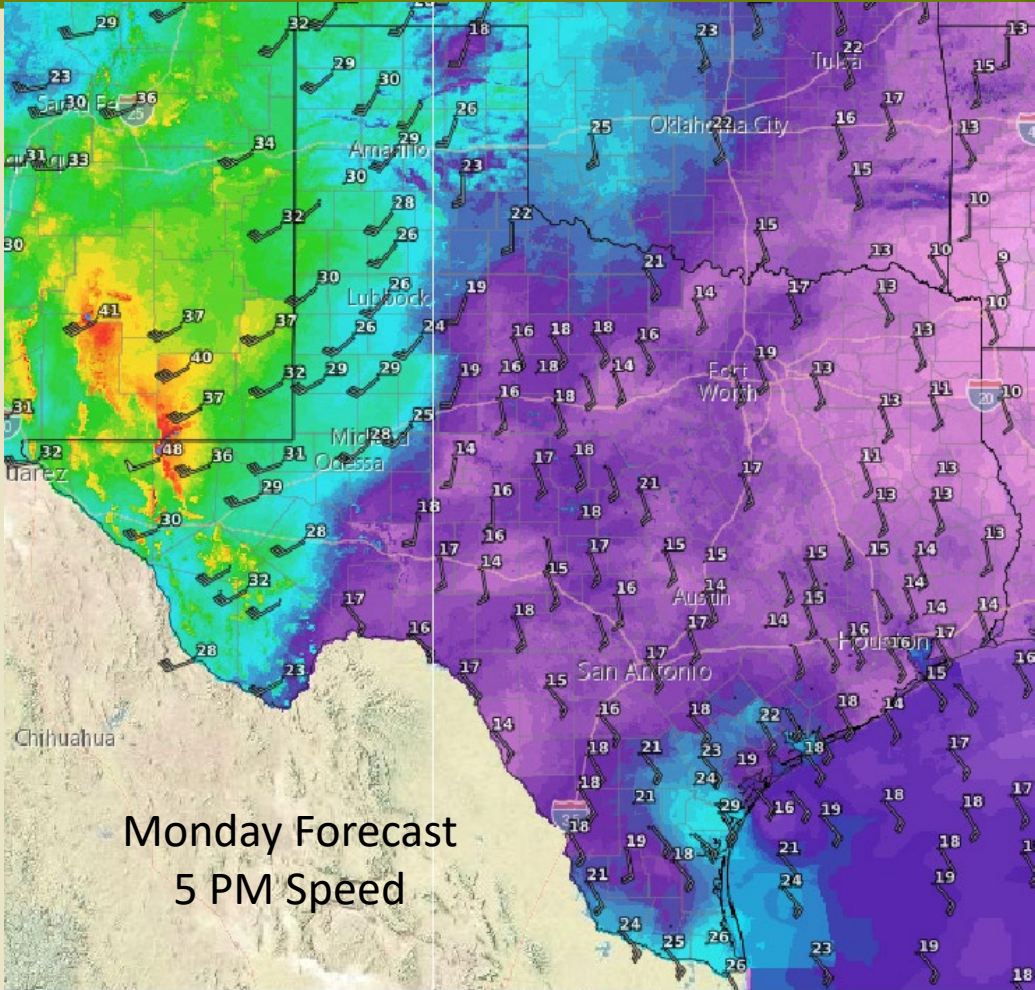
Above normal temperatures are forecast Monday. Minimal cooling is expected Tuesday after the passage of the Pacific cold front.



Critical fire weather is forecast to emerge west of the dryline Monday afternoon. The duration of the critical fire weather over dry fuel will be focused over the northern High Plains generally north and west of Amarillo.

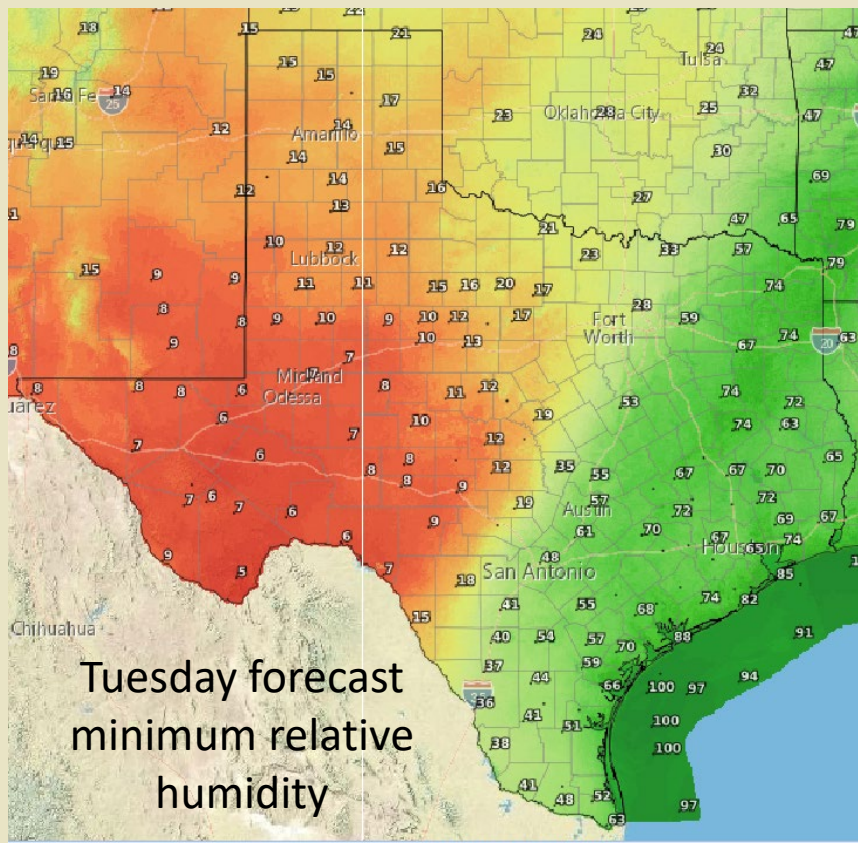


Relative Humidity (%)
Valid at: Mon, Apr 15 2024, 5 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 15 at 10:30 AM CDT



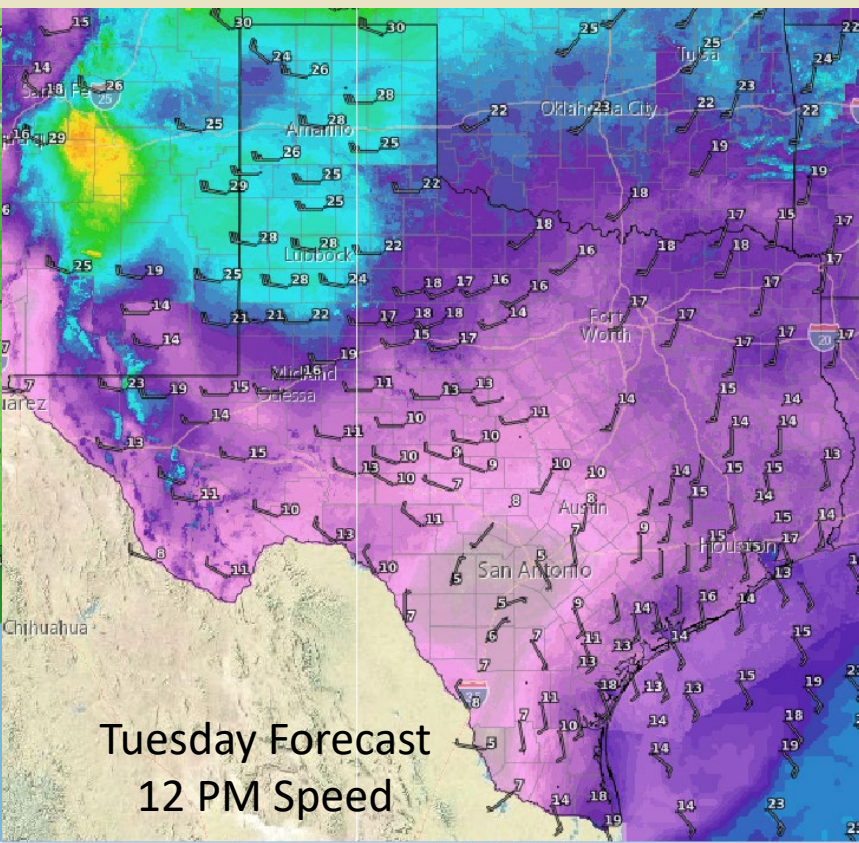
Wind Speed (mph)
Valid at: Mon, Apr 15 2024, 5 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 15 at 10:30 AM CDT

Dry and windy post-frontal conditions will continue Tuesday through late morning in the northern High Plains before wind speeds decrease during the afternoon. Dry to critically dry fuel and elevated to near critical fire weather will support moderate initial attack fire potential with low significant fire potential in the northern High Plains. Dry to critically dry fuel coupled with elevated fire weather in the Trans Pecos may support low potential for a wildfire in complex terrain. A wildfire could emerge Tuesday from heat produced by lightning if thunderstorms are able to develop near the lower Pecos River Valley Monday evening.



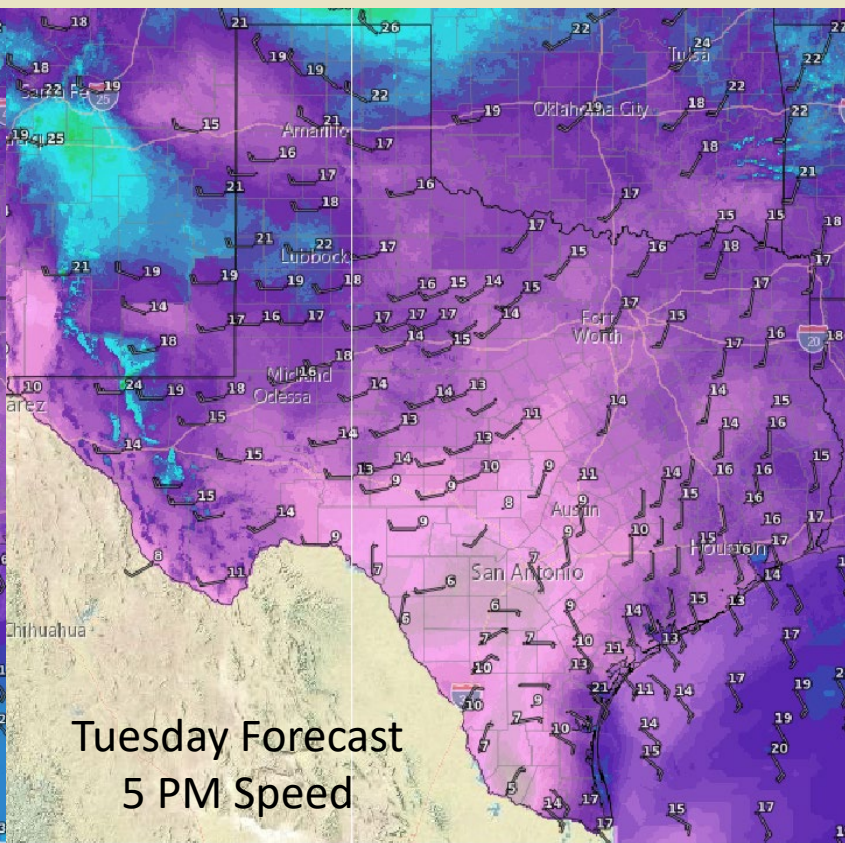
Tuesday forecast
minimum relative
humidity

Relative Humidity (%)
Valid at: Tue, Apr 16 2024, 5 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 15 at 10:30 AM CDT



Tuesday Forecast
12 PM Speed

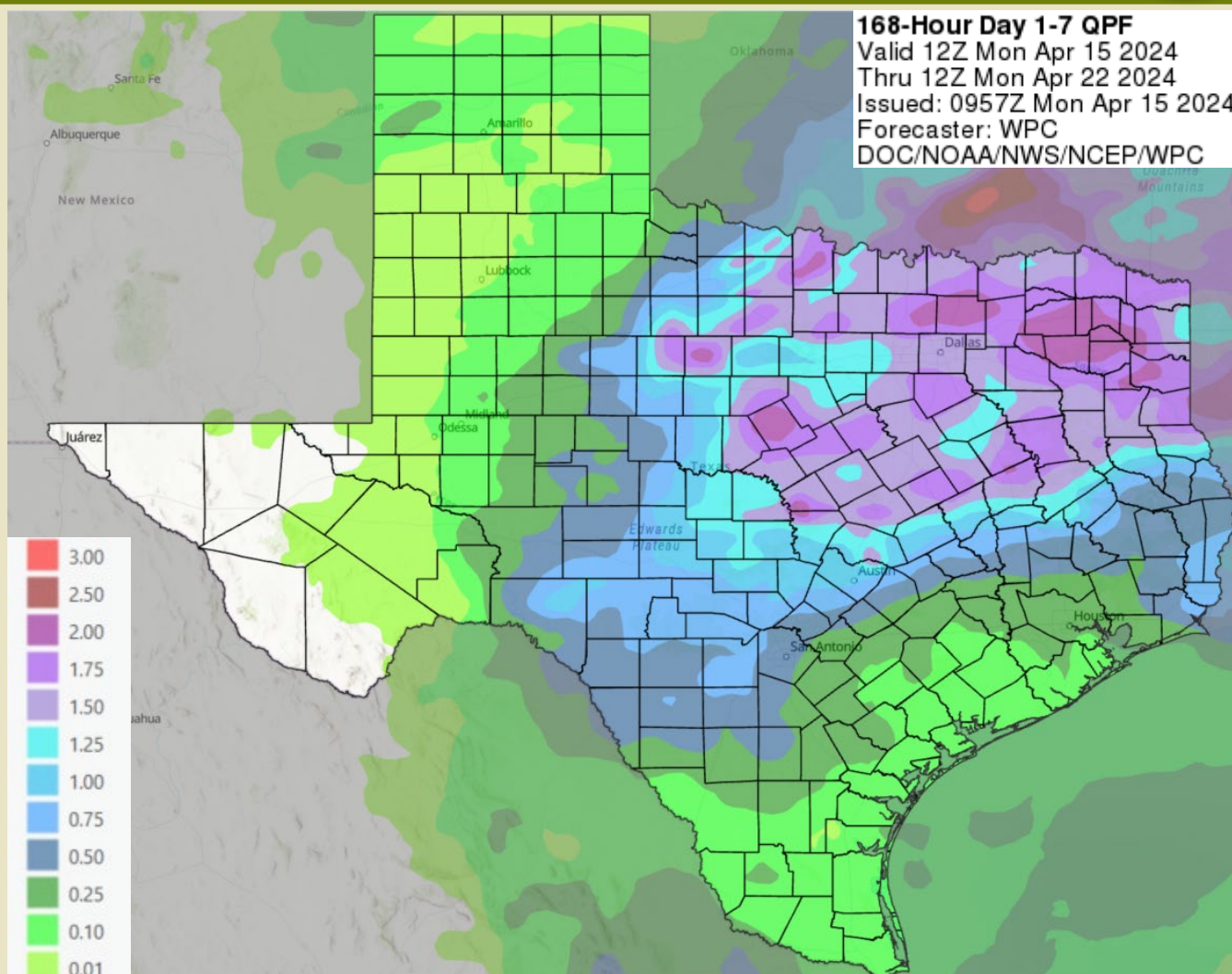
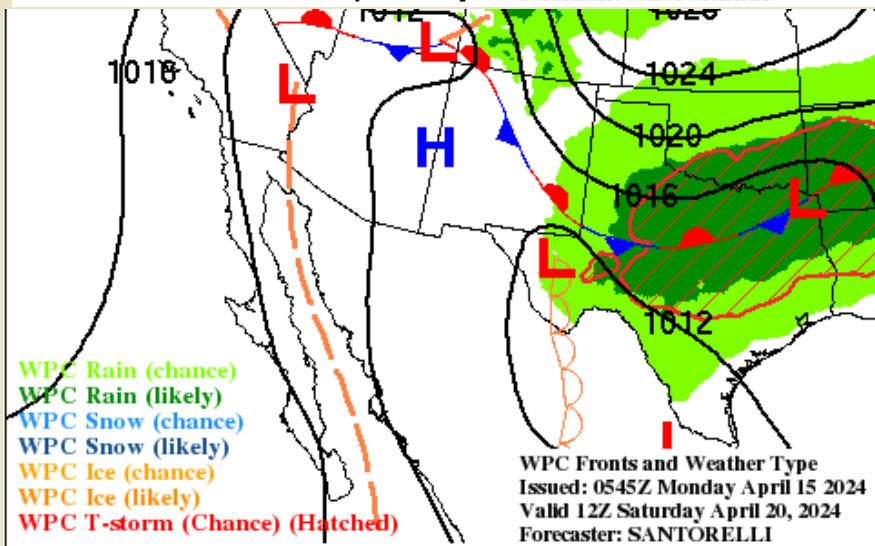
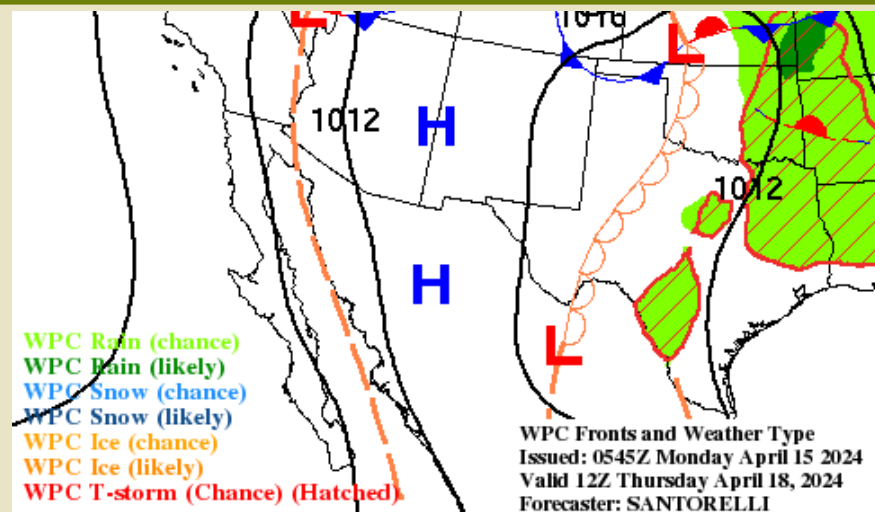
Wind Speed (mph)
Valid at: Tue, Apr 16 2024, 12 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 15 at 10:30 AM CDT



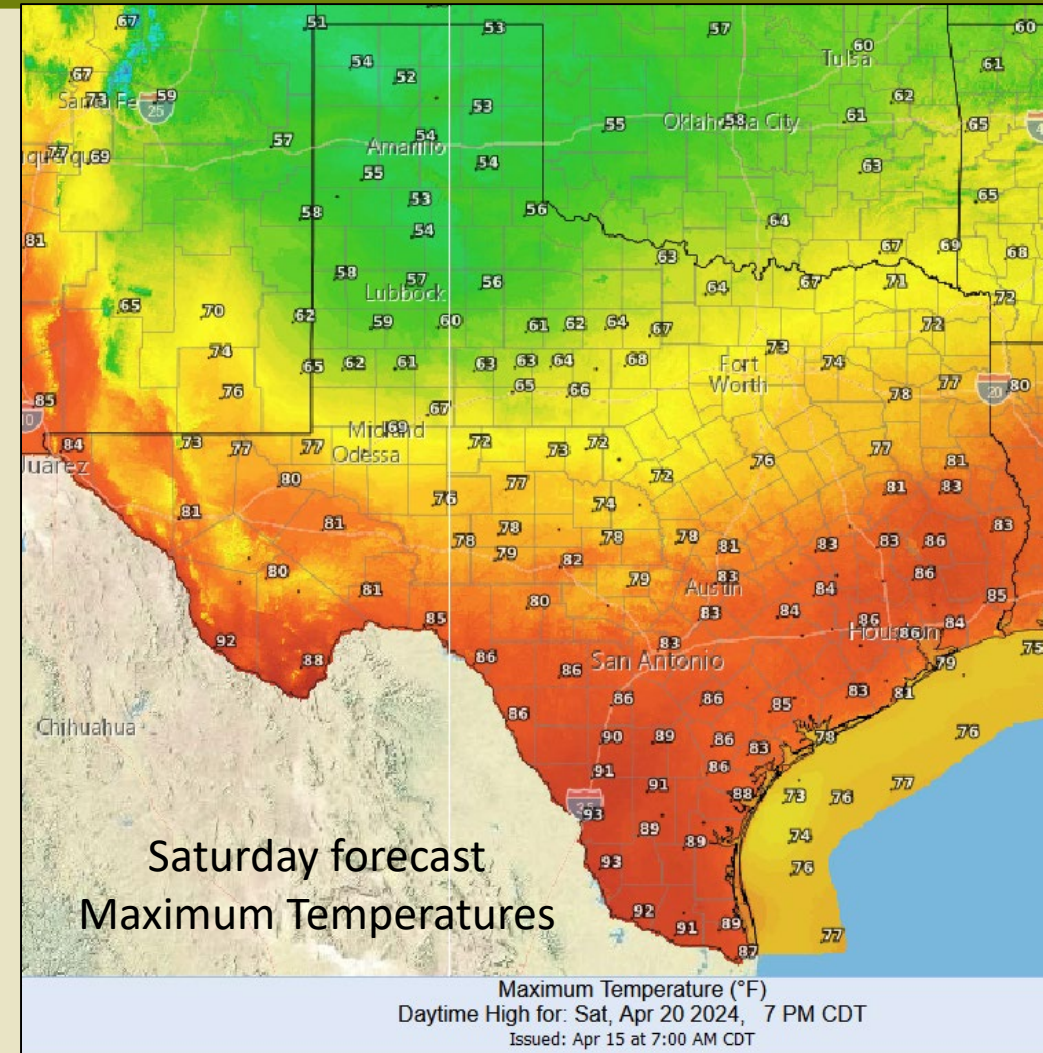
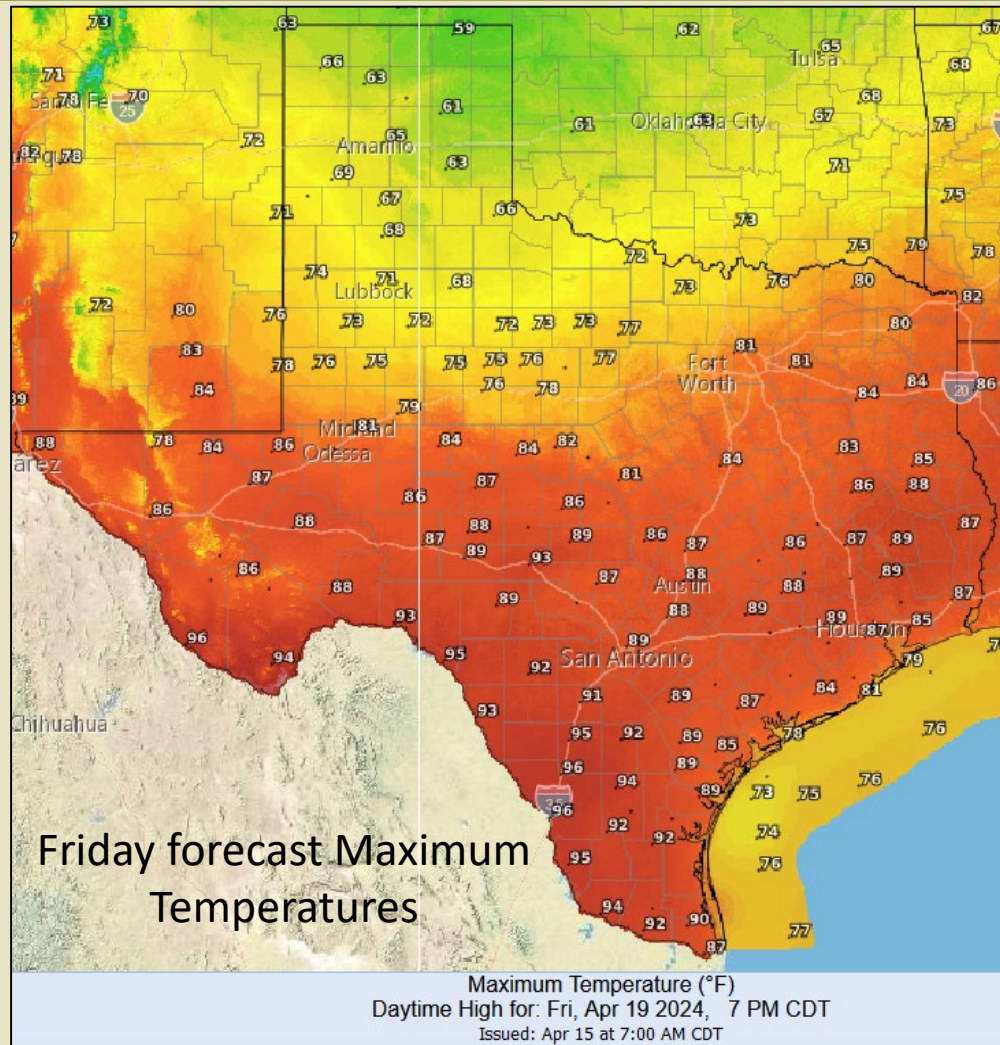
Tuesday Forecast
5 PM Speed

Wind Speed (mph)
Valid at: Tue, Apr 16 2024, 5 PM CDT
Issued: Apr 15 at 10:30 AM CDT

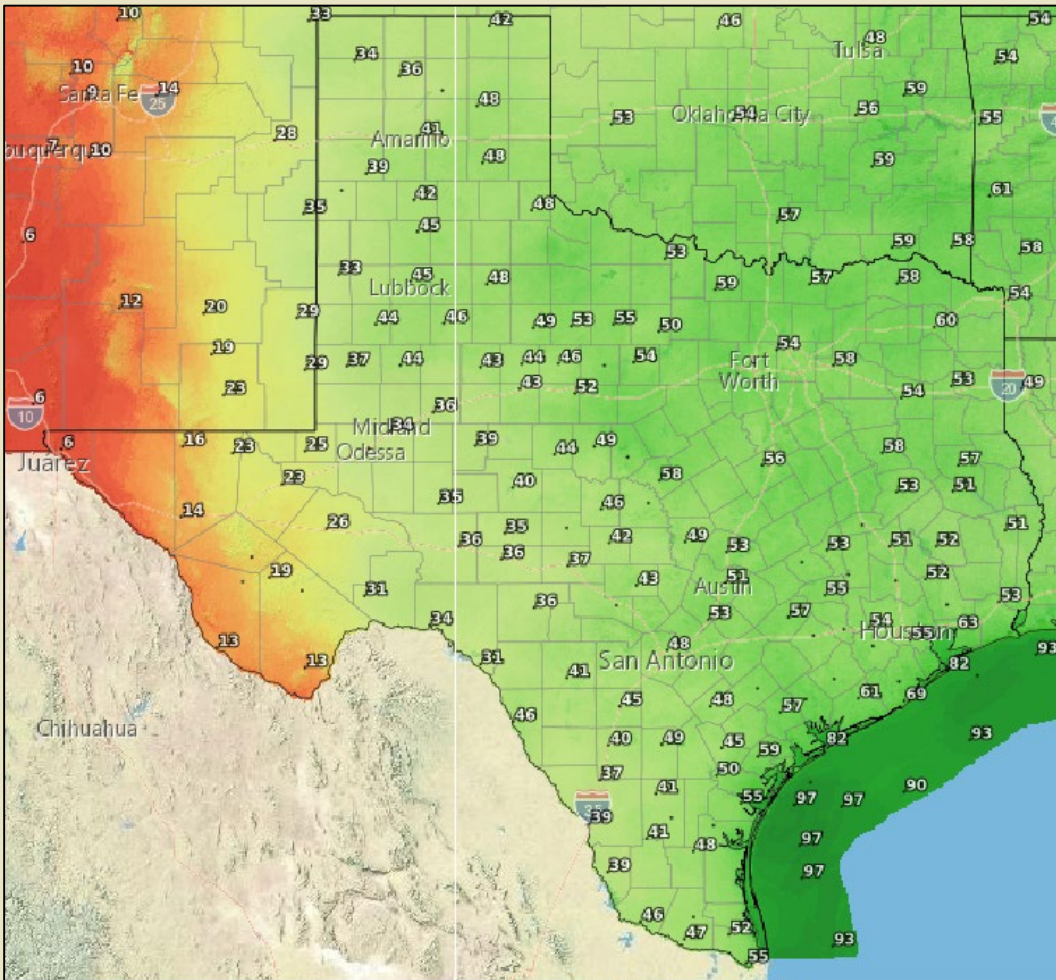
A cold front is expected to move south through Texas Thursday through Saturday resulting in a cool and moist fire environment.



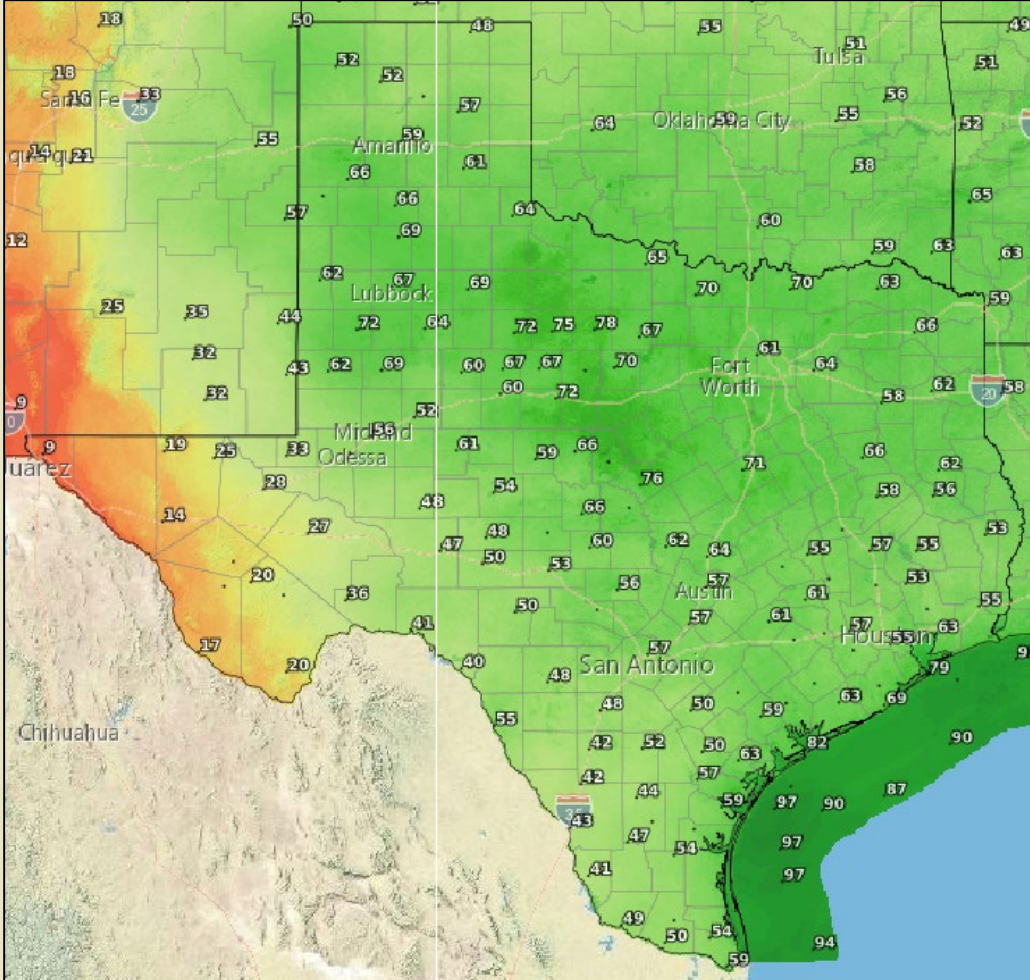
Temperatures will trend 5-15 degrees below normal across the northern half of the state by Saturday.



Increased moisture in the environment Thursday through Saturday will help increase fuel moisture, resulting in low fire potential across the majority of Texas. The western half of the Trans Pecos will likely remain dry.



Minimum Relative Humidity (%)
12 hours ending at: Sat, Apr 20, 2024, 1 AM CDT
Issued: Apr 15 at 7:00 AM CDT

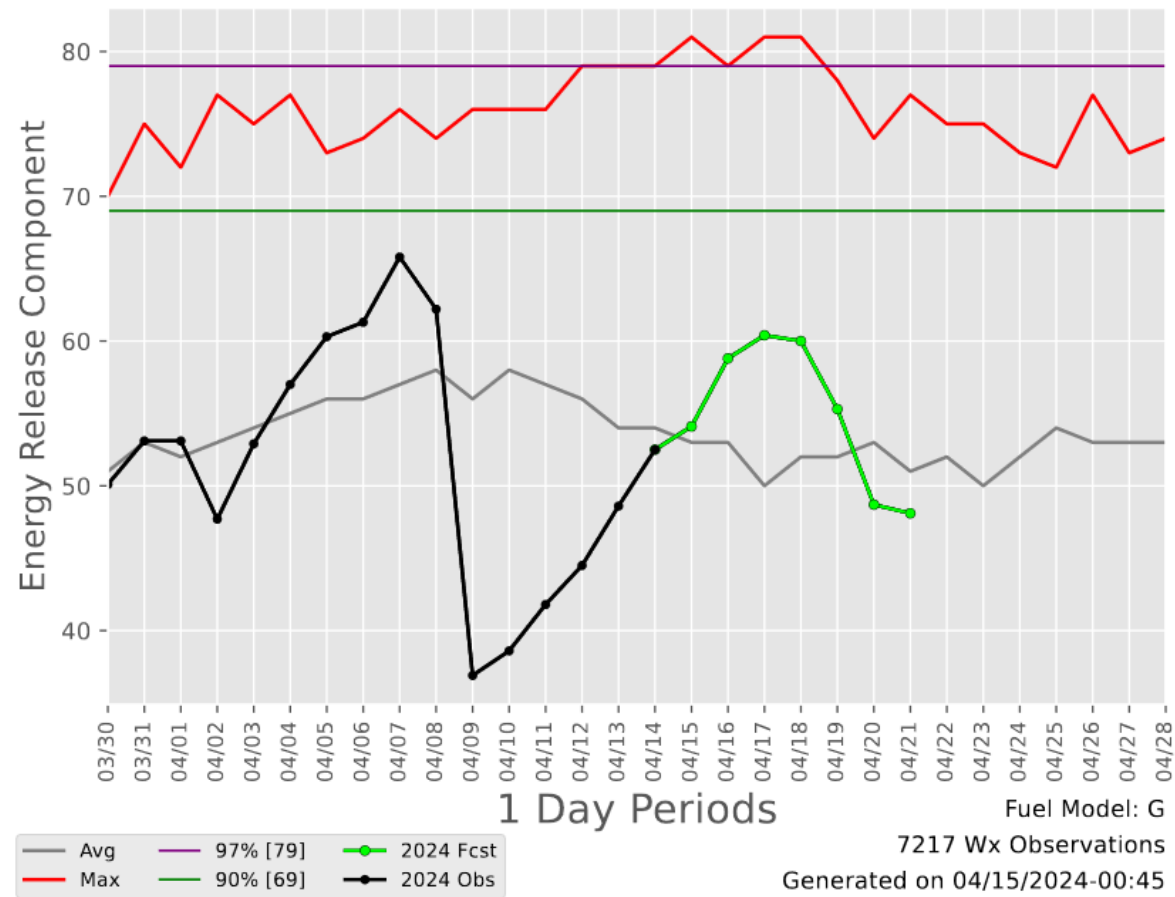


Minimum Relative Humidity (%)
12 hours ending at: Sun, Apr 21, 2024, 1 AM CDT
Issued: Apr 15 at 7:00 AM CDT

Energy Release Component forecast trends show high drying that will continue through Thursday before the late week cold front injects moisture into the environment and begins to moisten fuel, decreasing ERC values and reducing fire potential for the weekend.



HIGH PLAINS Predictive Service Area
2007-2024 - 30 Day Depiction



TRANS PECOS Predictive Service Area
2007-2024 - 30 Day Depiction

