OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 26, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Tony Russell, Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region VI
Federal Regional Center
Denton, Texas 76209

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 44 CFR §206.46, I wish to appeal the May 3, 2011, FEMA decision to deny my request for a major disaster declaration for the State of Texas. Wildfires have continued to plague large portions of our state since my initial disaster declaration of December 21, 2010.

The tinder-dry conditions in Texas continue to spawn thousands of wildfires. Since the beginning of wildfire season, November 15, 2010, jurisdictions across the state have responded to more than 10,000 wildfires that have burned more than 2.7 million Texas acres. More than 10,000 homes have been threatened. Unfortunately, 425 of them were destroyed, and two firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty.

On May 4, 2011, a FEMA team began its assessment of cumulative costs associated with the current wildfire season. This team has completed its disaster assessment, and the results provide even greater support for approval of this appeal. Excluding the $18,598,466, which represents the 75 percent federal reimbursement associated with Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) approved for the state, the final results showed that the state had incurred $50,435,354 in non-FMAG costs between December 21, 2010, and May 3, 2011. The assessment indicated 90 Texas counties that were directly affected and surpassed their county thresholds, as established by FEMA, for receiving the assistance I have requested.

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Qualifying counties include: Andrews, Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Borden, Bosque, Brewster, Briscoe, Brooks, Brown, Callahan, Carson, Castro, Clay, Cochran, Coleman, Concho, Cottle, Crane, Crockett, Crosby, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Duval, Eastland, Edwards, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Hall, Hardeman, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Howard, Irion, Jack, Jackson, Jeff Davis, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kent, King, La Salle, Lampasas, Lipscomb, Loving, Lynn, Marion, Martin, Mason, Mills, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Nolan, Pecos, Potter, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Terrell, Terry, Throckmorton, Tom Green, Trinity, Tyler, Val Verde, Ward, Wheeler, Willacy, Yoakum, Young, Zapata and Zavala.

Wildfires continue to burn today, and the costs continue to rise. Using the methodology agreed to by FEMA during its damage assessment ($38.18/acre), the total estimated cost to the state is now in excess of $107 million.

Currently, 28 FMAGs have been approved for the State of Texas. While these 28 fires have been responsible for the destruction of 1,044,254 acres, the Texas Forest Service (TFS) estimates that any financial assistance generated by these grants will only cover approximately 21 percent of the total local and state agency costs associated with battling wildfires. It should be noted that the first four FMAGs granted were not funded because the state had not yet met the FEMA specified FMAG threshold for the year. This percentage was calculated by dividing the estimated FEMA cost share of currently known eligible costs from declared FMAGs by the total cost for all fires this year.

The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, as described in the enclosure, indicates that La Niña conditions are expected to dominate the weather pattern well into July. Above-normal temperatures and below-average rainfall from this weather pattern have been compounded by unusually strong winds in recent months, thus maintaining the potential for large and destructive wildfire occurrences. Additionally, as laid out in the *Spring Wildfire Risk Decision Support Document* enclosure, TFS has indentified other primary causes for the increased wildfire threat including:

- strong winds due to progressive fronts;
- above-normal vegetation and critically dry fuels (grass and brush);
- existing and continued drought;
- increasing fire activity, size and risk; and
- Southern Plains Wildfire Outbreak.

Without a doubt, ongoing drought conditions have compounded the situation in Texas. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, currently 80 percent of the state is experiencing drought conditions that are rated either "extreme" or "exceptional." Additionally, the enclosed *U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook* from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center forecasts the drought to "persist or intensify" through July 31, 2011.

NASA has validated the global drought perspective for Texas, and the enclosed graphic depicts drought settling over the state in late 2010 and early 2011. This resulted in the in the driest March on record. In addition to the higher-than-normal temperatures, dry vegetation combined with high winds and low humidity created extremely dangerous fire conditions. As a major component of our wildland fire fuels, grass causes fires to grow very rapidly. No matter how extensive the rangeland may be, given the right conditions, these fires, if left uncontrolled, can have a devastating effect on homes and communities.

According to 44 CFR §206.37, FEMA can take into account additional considerations regarding a state's request for assistance. I strongly believe that localized impacts and recent multiple disasters are major factors that should be considered in the decision-making process for this appeal.

Many of the rural low-population counties in Texas have been overwhelmed with extensive fire response costs, with no outside financial assistance available. Most counties are restrained by limited tax bases. Some counties have volunteer fire departments that operate independently from any tax revenue. Many of the volunteer fire departments generate their revenue through fundraising events or direct donations. Brooks and Andrews counties are prime examples of this dilemma. Brooks County, in South Texas, has two volunteer fire departments that have battled wildfires that torched more than 3,600 acres, <u>all without FMAG support</u>. Andrews County, in West Texas, has one volunteer fire department that has battled 121,966 acres of wildfire activity without the support of an FMAG from FEMA. Supported on FEMA-based burned acreage, it is estimated that Brooks and Andrews counties have incurred more than $4,790,000 wildfire response costs.

Additionally, consideration should be given to the factors listed below that have had a tremendous influence on the wildfire situation for state and local jurisdictions:

- The high cost of diesel fuel: In 2010, the price of diesel fuel, as depicted in the enclosure, was $2.99 per gallon. The same release lists the current cost of diesel at $3.89 per gallon — a 30.1 percent increase. These costs are devastating to first responder budgets, especially in smaller communities with limited sources of revenue.

- Economic impact: Based on information provided by the Texas Public Utilities Commission, private and cooperative utilities throughout the burned areas have experienced significant damages to infrastructure and/or economic loss totaling $15.6 million.

Over the last 12 months, Texas has suffered its fair share of natural disasters, for many of which FEMA assistance was either not requested or denied. These events, including Tropical Storm Hermine, have taken a toll on the response and recovery capabilities at both the state and local levels. These incidents have seriously depleted the already-drained resources of state agencies and small communities with limited budgets. The denial of a major disaster declaration request was a devastating blow to the severely affected communities of our state.

Your favorable consideration of this appeal would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:jhp

Enclosures
Texas Preliminary Damage Assessment
ENSO Diagnostic Discussion
Spring Wildfire Risk Decision Support Document
U.S. Drought Monitor
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
NASA Earth Observatory Graphic
Short-term Energy Outlook

TEXAS
PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

County	Debris Category A	Emergency Protective Measures Category B	Roads & Bridges Category C	Water Contol Facilities Category D	Buildings & Equipment Category E	Utilities Category F	Parks, Rec. Facilities & Other Category G	Cat. A-G Total	Required $ Threshold	Percent of Threshold Met
Anderson	$ -	$ 30,088.53	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 30,088.53	$ 168,082.45	17.90%
Andrews	$ -	$ 4,657,078.58	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,657,078.58	$ 39,662.20	11741.86%
Angelina	$ -	$ 22,833.68	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 22,833.68	$ 244,396.50	9.34%
Aransas	$ -	$ 267.28	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 267.28	$ 68,615.85	0.39%
Archer	$ -	$ 343,421.65	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 343,421.65	$ 27,004.70	1271.71%
Armstrong	$ -	$ 128,792.66	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 128,792.66	$ 6,551.40	1965.88%
Atascosa	$ -	$ 39,367.10	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 39,367.10	$ 117,815.40	33.41%
Austin	$ -	$ 3,856.53	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,856.53	$ 71,949.50	5.36%
Bailey	$ -	$ 840,837.01	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 840,837.01	$ 20,111.70	4180.84%
Bandera	$ -	$ 114.55	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 114.55	$ 53,817.25	0.21%
Bastrop	$ -	$ 26,232.01	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 26,232.01	$ 176,085.65	14.90%
Baylor	$ -	$ 276,906.14	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 276,906.14	$ 12,483.65	2218.15%
Bee	$ -	$ 43,490.91	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 43,490.91	$ 98,694.95	44.07%
Bell	$ -	$ 6,796.65	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,796.65	$ 725,820.70	0.94%
Bexar	$ -	$ 5,345.68	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,345.68	$ 4,248,439.55	0.13%
Blanco	$ -	$ 6,262.08	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,262.08	$ 25,674.90	24.39%
Borden	$ -	$ 80,643.38	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 80,643.38	$ 2,223.45	3626.95%
Bosque	$ -	$ 63,231.74	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 63,231.74	$ 52,472.20	120.51%
Bowie	$ -	$ 15,884.30	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 15,884.30	$ 272,383.30	5.83%
Brazoria	$ -	$ 6,491.18	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,491.18	$ 737,389.35	0.88%
Brazos	$ -	$ 5,192.94	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,192.94	$ 464,865.75	1.12%
Brewster	$ -	$ 1,989,814.20	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,989,814.20	$ 27,041.30	7358.43%
Briscoe	$ -	$ 305,467.33	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 305,467.33	$ 5,459.50	5595.15%
Brooks	$ -	$ 139,369.47	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 139,369.47	$ 24,326.80	572.91%
Brown	$ -	$ 242,846.53	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 242,846.53	$ 114,905.70	211.34%
Burleson	$ -	$ 21,229.98	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 21,229.98	$ 50,233.50	42.26%
Burnett	$ -	$ 5,765.70	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,765.70	$ 104,148.35	5.54%
Caldwell	$ -	$ 12,371.43	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 12,371.43	$ 98,191.70	12.60%
Calhoun	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 62,973.35	0.00%
Callahan	$ -	$ 85,454.49	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 85,454.49	$ 39,360.25	217.11%
Cameron	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,022,442.35	0.00%
Camp	$ -	$ 4,314.73	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,314.73	$ 35,224.45	12.25%
Carson	$ -	$ 1,667,851.63	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,667,851.63	$ 19,873.80	8392.21%
Cass	$ -	$ 14,318.78	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 14,318.78	$ 92,835.90	15.42%
Castro	$ -	$ 114,550.25	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 114,550.25	$ 25,269.25	453.32%
Chambers	$ -	$ 3,551.06	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,551.06	$ 79,394.55	4.47%
Cherokee	$ -	$ 11,302.29	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,302.29	$ 142,309.95	7.94%
Childress	$ -	$ 6,873.01	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,873.01	$ 23,448.40	29.31%

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Clay	$ -	$ 871,994.68	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 871,994.68	$ 33,568.30	2597.67%
Cochran	$ -	$ 198,553.77	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 198,553.77	$ 11,376.50	1745.30%
Coke	$ -	$ 10,844.09	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,844.09	$ 11,785.20	92.01%
Coleman	$ -	$ 114,817.53	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 114,817.53	$ 28,166.75	407.64%
Collin	$ -	$ 11,913.23	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,913.23	$ 1,499,608.75	0.79%
Collingsworth	$ -	$ 6,109.35	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,109.35	$ 9,778.30	62.48%
Colorado	$ -	$ 4,009.26	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,009.26	$ 62,189.50	6.45%
Comal	$ -	$ 1,260.05	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,260.05	$ 237,964.05	0.53%
Comanche	$ -	$ 16,800.70	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 16,800.70	$ 42,779.30	39.27%
Concho	$ -	$ 77,245.05	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 77,245.05	$ 12,096.30	638.58%
Cook	$ -	$ 16,686.15	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 16,686.15	$ 110,907.15	15.05%
Coryell	$ -	$ 88,547.34	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 88,547.34	$ 228,682.90	38.72%
Cottle	$ -	$ 57,389.67	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 57,389.67	$ 5,807.20	988.25%
Crane	$ -	$ 15,540.65	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 15,540.65	$ 12,187.80	127.51%
Crockett	$ -	$ 2,225,253.15	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,225,253.15	$ 12,501.95	17799.25%
Crosby	$ -	$ 31,195.85	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 31,195.85	$ 21,569.60	144.63%
Culberson	$ -	$ 38.18	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 38.18	$ 9,073.75	0.42%
Dallam	$ -	$ 47,385.62	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 47,385.62	$ 18,977.10	249.70%
Dallas	$ -	$ 1,183.69	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,183.69	$ 6,767,641.95	0.02%
Dawson	$ -	$ 1,181,776.74	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,181,776.74	$ 45,704.25	2585.70%
Deaf Smith	$ -	$ 118,750.43	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 118,750.43	$ 56,611.05	209.77%
Delta	$ -	$ 2,100.09	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,100.09	$ 16,247.35	12.93%
Denton	$ -	$ 8,820.37	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 8,820.37	$ 1,320,576.80	0.67%
DeWitt	$ -	$ 10,920.46	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,920.46	$ 61,039.65	17.89%
Dickens	$ -	$ 19,244.44	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 19,244.44	$ 8,424.10	228.45%
Dimmitt	$ -	$ 6,491.18	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,491.18	$ 31,256.40	20.77%
Donley	$ -	$ 85,989.05	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 85,989.05	$ 11,675.40	736.50%
Duval	$ -	$ 152,199.10	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 152,199.10	$ 40,016.00	380.35%
Eastland	$ -	$ 280,189.91	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 280,189.91	$ 55,805.85	502.08%
Ector	$ -	$ 5,383.86	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,383.86	$ 369,425.15	1.46%
Edwards	$ -	$ 15,502.47	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 15,502.47	$ 6,594.10	235.10%
El Paso	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,072,847.10	0.00%
Ellis	$ -	$ 11,722.31	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,722.31	$ 339,648.00	3.45%
Erath	$ -	$ 78,161.45	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 78,161.45	$ 100,653.05	77.65%
Falls	$ -	$ 4,009.26	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,009.26	$ 56,656.80	7.08%
Fannin	$ -	$ 14,127.86	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 14,127.86	$ 95,288.10	14.83%
Fayette	$ -	$ 9,087.65	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 9,087.65	$ 66,502.20	13.67%
Fisher	$ -	$ 190,420.70	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 190,420.70	$ 13,249.20	1437.22%
Floyd	$ -	$ 43,834.56	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 43,834.56	$ 23,701.55	184.94%

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Foard	$ -	$ 10,156.79	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,156.79	$ 4,947.10	205.31%
Fort Bend	$ -	$ 2,138.27	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,138.27	$ 1,081,078.60	0.20%
Franklin	$ -	$ 114.55	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 114.55	$ 28,846.90	0.40%
Freestone	$ -	$ 13,402.38	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 13,402.38	$ 54,494.35	24.59%
Frio	$ -	$ 43,720.01	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 43,720.01	$ 49,568.60	88.20%
Gaines	$ -	$ 916.40	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 916.40	$ 44,124.35	2.08%
Galveston	$ -	$ 420.02	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 420.02	$ 762,981.90	0.06%
Garza	$ -	$ 1,525,618.41	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,525,618.41	$ 14,859.60	10266.89%
Gillespie	$ -	$ 262,396.44	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 262,396.44	$ 63,482.70	413.34%
Glasscock	$ -	$ 47,118.34	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 47,118.34	$ 4,288.30	1098.76%
Goliad	$ -	$ 7,140.30	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 7,140.30	$ 21,130.40	33.79%
Gonzales	$ -	$ 12,485.98	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 12,485.98	$ 56,815.40	21.98%
Gray	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 69,369.20	0.00%
Grayson	$ -	$ 4,391.09	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,391.09	$ 337,314.75	1.30%
Gregg	$ -	$ 5,612.96	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,612.96	$ 339,705.95	1.65%
Grimes	$ -	$ 16,189.77	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 16,189.77	$ 71,833.60	22.54%
Guadalupe	$ -	$ 2,711.02	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,711.02	$ 271,520.15	1.00%
Hale	$ -	$ 6,185.71	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,185.71	$ 111,636.10	5.54%
Hall	$ -	$ 58,038.79	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 58,038.79	$ 11,535.10	503.15%
Hamilton	$ -	$ 21,917.28	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 21,917.28	$ 25,098.45	87.33%
Hansford	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 16,375.45	0.00%
Hardeman	$ -	$ 50,745.76	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 50,745.76	$ 14,408.20	352.20%
Hardin	$ -	$ 73,770.36	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 73,770.36	$ 146,622.65	50.31%
Harris	$ -	$ 3,283.77	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,283.77	$ 10,371,762.90	0.03%
Harrison	$ -	$ 11,264.11	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,264.11	$ 189,435.50	5.95%
Hartley	$ -	$ 309,171.12	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 309,171.12	$ 16,887.85	1830.73%
Haskell	$ -	$ 13,020.55	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 13,020.55	$ 18,583.65	70.06%
Hays	$ -	$ 687.30	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 687.30	$ 297,646.45	0.23%
Hemphill	$ -	$ 730,219.66	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 730,219.66	$ 10,220.55	7144.62%
Henderson	$ -	$ 27,682.98	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 27,682.98	$ 223,494.85	12.39%
Hidalgo	$ -	$ 125,661.62	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 125,661.62	$ 1,736,862.15	7.23%
Hill	$ -	$ 30,775.83	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 30,775.83	$ 98,579.05	31.22%
Hockley	$ -	$ 458,124.63	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 458,124.63	$ 69,283.80	661.23%
Hood	$ -	$ 3,360.14	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,360.14	$ 125,355.00	2.68%
Hopkins	$ -	$ 305.47	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 305.47	$ 97,478.00	0.31%
Houston	$ -	$ 23,291.88	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 23,291.88	$ 70,714.25	32.94%
Howard	$ -	$ 253,270.60	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 253,270.60	$ 102,562.35	246.94%
Hudspeth	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,199.20	0.00%
Hunt	$ -	$ 2,291.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,291.00	$ 233,617.80	0.98%

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Hutchinson	$ -	$ 31,195.85	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 31,195.85	$ 72,763.85	42.87%
Irion	$ -	$ 432,007.17	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 432,007.17	$ 5,401.55	7997.84%
Jack	$ -	$ 88,470.98	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 88,470.98	$ 26,727.15	331.02%
Jackson	$ -	$ 139,178.55	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 139,178.55	$ 43,892.55	317.09%
Jasper	$ -	$ 44,292.76	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 44,292.76	$ 108,592.20	40.79%
Jeff Davis	$ -	$ 8,285.80	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 8,285.80	$ 6,731.35	123.09%
Jefferson	$ -	$ 12,447.79	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 12,447.79	$ 768,755.55	1.62%
Jim Hogg	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 16,107.05	0.00%
Jim Wells	$ -	$ 794,520.53	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 794,520.53	$ 119,944.30	662.41%
Johnson	$ -	$ 2,634.66	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,634.66	$ 386,773.55	0.68%
Jones	$ -	$ 52,922.22	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 52,922.22	$ 63,394.25	83.48%
Karnes	$ -	$ 5,880.25	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,880.25	$ 47,110.30	12.48%
Kaufman	$ -	$ 2,100.09	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,100.09	$ 217,504.65	0.97%
Kendall	$ -	$ 2,061.90	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,061.90	$ 72,416.15	2.85%
Kenedy	$ -	$ 500,279.12	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 500,279.12	$ 1,262.70	39619.79%
Kent	$ -	$ 57,275.12	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 57,275.12	$ 2,619.95	2186.12%
Kerr	$ -	$ 30,126.72	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 30,126.72	$ 133,141.65	22.63%
Kimble	$ -	$ 534.57	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 534.57	$ 13,627.40	3.92%
King	$ -	$ 1,660,673.15	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,660,673.15	$ 1,085.80	152944.66%
Kinney	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,305.95	0.00%
Kleberg	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 96,224.45	0.00%
Knox	$ -	$ 5,727.51	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,727.51	$ 12,971.65	44.15%
La Salle	$ -	$ 56,053.26	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 56,053.26	$ 17,891.30	313.30%
Lamar	$ -	$ 17,220.72	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 17,220.72	$ 147,921.95	11.64%
Lamb	$ -	$ 37,152.46	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 37,152.46	$ 44,862.45	82.81%
Lampasas	$ -	$ 61,360.75	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 61,360.75	$ 54,174.10	113.27%
Lavaca	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 58,590.50	0.00%
Lee	$ -	$ 10,194.97	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,194.97	$ 47,753.85	21.35%
Leon	$ -	$ 1,374.60	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,374.60	$ 46,771.75	2.94%
Liberty	$ -	$ 14,700.62	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 14,700.62	$ 213,969.70	6.87%
Limestone	$ -	$ 10,271.34	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,271.34	$ 67,255.55	15.27%
Lipscomb	$ -	$ 1,265,932.99	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,265,932.99	$ 9,323.85	13577.36%
Live Oak	$ -	$ 11,302.29	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,302.29	$ 37,542.45	30.11%
Llano	$ -	$ 5,192.94	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,192.94	$ 51,984.20	9.99%
Loving	$ -	$ 45,820.10	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 45,820.10	$ 204.35	22422.36%
Lubbock	$ -	$ 304,092.73	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 304,092.73	$ 740,015.40	41.09%
Lynn	$ -	$ 80,452.46	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 80,452.46	$ 19,977.50	402.72%
Madison	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 39,467.00	0.00%
Marion	$ -	$ 68,691.97	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 68,691.97	$ 33,370.05	205.85%

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TEXAS
PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

County	Debris Category A	Emergency Protective Measures Category B	Roads & Bridges Category C	Water Contol Facilities Category D	Buildings & Equipment Category E	Utilities Category F	Parks, Rec. Facilities & Other Category G	Cat. A-G Total	Required $ Threshold	Percent of Threshold Met
Martin	$ -	$ 151,053.60	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 151,053.60	$ 14,475.30	1043.53%
Mason	$ -	$ 216,156.32	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 216,156.32	$ 11,400.90	1895.96%
Matagorda	$ -	$ 4,963.84	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,963.84	$ 115,768.85	4.29%
Maverick	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 144,255.85	0.00%
McCulloch	$ -	$ 16,113.40	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 16,113.40	$ 25,025.25	64.39%
McLennan	$ -	$ 10,767.72	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,767.72	$ 651,226.85	1.65%
McMullen	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,595.55	0.00%
Medina	$ -	$ 52,654.93	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 52,654.93	$ 119,877.20	43.92%
Menard	$ -	$ 381.83	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 381.83	$ 7,198.00	5.30%
Midland	$ -	$ 207,946.89	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 207,946.89	$ 353,827.45	58.77%
Milam	$ -	$ 3,169.22	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,169.22	$ 73,925.90	4.29%
Mills	$ -	$ 114,550.25	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 114,550.25	$ 15,710.55	729.13%
Mitchell	$ -	$ 564,541.81	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 564,541.81	$ 29,578.90	1908.60%
Montague	$ -	$ 18,060.76	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 18,060.76	$ 58,306.85	30.98%
Montgomery	$ -	$ 14,204.23	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 14,204.23	$ 895,992.40	1.59%
Moore	$ -	$ 2,995,145.37	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,995,145.37	$ 61,369.05	4880.55%
Morris	$ -	$ 572.75	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 572.75	$ 39,796.40	1.44%
Motley	$ -	$ 1,628,560.90	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,628,560.90	$ 4,349.30	37444.21%
Nacagdoches	$ -	$ 10,996.82	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,996.82	$ 180,569.15	6.09%
Navarro	$ -	$ 22,146.38	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 22,146.38	$ 137,628.20	16.09%
Newton	$ -	$ 28,064.81	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 28,064.81	$ 45,969.60	61.05%
Nolan	$ -	$ 131,083.67	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 131,083.67	$ 48,196.10	271.98%
Nueces	$ -	$ 1,489.15	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,489.15	$ 956,617.25	0.16%
Ochiltree	$ -	$ 15,273.37	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 15,273.37	$ 27,468.30	55.60%
Oldham	$ -	$ 1,527.34	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,527.34	$ 6,664.25	22.92%
Orange	$ -	$ 16,915.25	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 16,915.25	$ 259,146.30	6.53%
Palo Pinto	$ -	$ 52,425.83	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 52,425.83	$ 82,429.30	63.60%
Panola	$ -	$ 4,925.66	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,925.66	$ 69,405.80	7.10%
Parker	$ -	$ 82,514.36	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 82,514.36	$ 269,909.75	30.57%
Parmer	$ -	$ 38.18	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 38.18	$ 30,548.80	0.12%
Pecos	$ -	$ 2,615,640.40	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,615,640.40	$ 51,267.45	5101.95%
Polk	$ -	$ 11,225.92	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,225.92	$ 125,455.65	8.95%
Potter	$ -	$ 1,718,024.64	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,718,024.64	$ 346,315.30	496.09%
Presidio	$ -	$ 235,668.05	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 235,668.05	$ 22,277.20	1057.89%
Rains	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 27,873.95	0.00%
Randall	$ -	$ 118,941.34	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 118,941.34	$ 318,151.60	37.39%
Reagan	$ -	$ 229,100.50	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 229,100.50	$ 10,144.30	2258.42%
Real	$ -	$ 4,467.46	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,467.46	$ 9,293.35	48.07%
Red River	$ -	$ 20,275.39	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 20,275.39	$ 43,657.70	46.44%

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TEXAS
PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

County	Debris Category A	Emergency Protective Measures Category B	Roads & Bridges Category C	Water Contol Facilities Category D	Buildings & Equipment Category E	Utilities Category F	Parks, Rec. Facilities & Other Category G	Cat. A-G Total	Required $ Threshold	Percent of Threshold Met
Reeves	$ -	$ 73,884.91	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 73,884.91	$ 40,067.85	184.40%
Refugio	$ -	$ 725.48	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 725.48	$ 23,875.40	3.04%
Roberts	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,705.35	0.00%
Robertson	$ -	$ 4,429.28	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,429.28	$ 48,800.00	9.08%
Rockwall	$ -	$ 305.47	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 305.47	$ 131,394.00	0.23%
Runnels	$ -	$ 26,155.64	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 26,155.64	$ 35,059.75	74.60%
Rusk	$ -	$ 11,149.56	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,149.56	$ 144,484.60	7.72%
Sabine	$ -	$ 6,834.83	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,834.83	$ 31,930.45	21.41%
San Augustine	$ -	$ 10,767.72	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,767.72	$ 27,285.30	39.46%
San Jacinto	$ -	$ 32,532.27	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 32,532.27	$ 67,850.30	47.95%
San Patricio	$ -	$ 190.92	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 190.92	$ 204,770.90	0.09%
San Saba	$ -	$ 80,910.66	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 80,910.66	$ 18,867.30	428.84%
Schleicher	$ -	$ 50,058.46	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 50,058.46	$ 8,951.75	559.20%
Scurry	$ -	$ 925,642.38	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 925,642.38	$ 49,901.05	1854.96%
Shackelford	$ -	$ 99,276.88	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 99,276.88	$ 10,071.10	985.76%
Shelby	$ -	$ 11,187.74	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,187.74	$ 76,933.20	14.54%
Sherman	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 9,717.30	0.00%
Smith	$ -	$ 13,822.40	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 13,822.40	$ 532,853.30	2.59%
Somervell	$ -	$ 4,467.46	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,467.46	$ 20,767.45	21.51%
Starr	$ -	$ 71,823.01	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 71,823.01	$ 163,470.85	43.94%
Stephens	$ -	$ 105,118.95	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 105,118.95	$ 29,505.70	356.27%
Sterling	$ -	$ 42,459.96	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 42,459.96	$ 4,248.65	999.38%
Stonewall	$ -	$ 85,454.49	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 85,454.49	$ 5,163.65	1654.92%
Sutton	$ -	$ 181,218.49	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 181,218.49	$ 12,434.85	1457.34%
Swisher	$ -	$ 23,673.72	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 23,673.72	$ 25,552.90	92.65%
Tarrant	$ -	$ 10,271.34	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 10,271.34	$ 4,410,967.95	0.23%
Taylor	$ -	$ 68,539.23	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 68,539.23	$ 385,992.75	17.76%
Terrell	$ -	$ 137,269.38	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 137,269.38	$ 3,297.05	4163.40%
Terry	$ -	$ 152,733.67	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 152,733.67	$ 38,921.05	392.42%
Throckmorton	$ -	$ 272,095.03	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 272,095.03	$ 5,642.50	4822.24%
Titus	$ -	$ 5,269.31	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,269.31	$ 85,759.90	6.14%
Tom Green	$ -	$ 636,059.35	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 636,059.35	$ 317,230.50	200.50%
Travis	$ -	$ 1,832.80	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,832.80	$ 2,477,454.00	0.07%
Trinity	$ -	$ 54,144.08	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 54,144.08	$ 42,025.95	128.83%
Tyler	$ -	$ 292,866.80	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 292,866.80	$ 63,656.55	460.07%
Upshur	$ -	$ 11,989.59	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,989.59	$ 107,637.55	11.14%
Upton	$ -	$ 38.18	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 38.18	$ 10,382.20	0.37%
Uvalda	$ -	$ 46,392.85	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 46,392.85	$ 79,074.30	58.67%
Val Verde	$ -	$ 6,797,640.90	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 6,797,640.90	$ 136,810.80	4968.64%

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TEXAS
PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

County	Debris Category A	Emergency Protective Measures Category B	Roads & Bridges Category C	Water Contol Facilities Category D	Buildings & Equipment Category E	Utilities Category F	Parks, Rec. Facilities & Other Category G	Cat. A-G Total	Required $ Threshold	Percent of Threshold Met
Van Zandt	$ -	$ 1,069.14	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,069.14	$ 146,827.00	0.73%
Victoria	$ -	$ 25,621.07	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 25,621.07	$ 256,468.40	9.99%
Walker	$ -	$ 22,986.42	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 22,986.42	$ 188,361.90	12.20%
Waller	$ -	$ 610.93	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 610.93	$ 99,622.15	0.61%
Ward	$ -	$ 50,096.64	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 50,096.64	$ 33,272.45	150.56%
Washington	$ -	$ 11,455.02	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 11,455.02	$ 92,637.65	12.37%
Webb	$ -	$ 152.73	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 152.73	$ 589,006.85	0.03%
Wharton	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 125,623.40	0.00%
Wheeler	$ -	$ 123,790.64	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 123,790.64	$ 16,116.20	768.11%
Wichita	$ -	$ 123,217.89	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 123,217.89	$ 401,575.20	30.68%
Wilbarger	$ -	$ 18,633.51	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 18,633.51	$ 44,761.80	41.63%
Willacy	$ -	$ 350,218.30	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 350,218.30	$ 61,250.10	571.78%
Williamson	$ -	$ 3,818.34	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 3,818.34	$ 762,399.35	0.50%
Wilson	$ -	$ 19,358.99	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 19,358.99	$ 98,844.40	19.59%
Winkler	$ -	$ 2,481.92	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,481.92	$ 21,877.65	11.34%
Wise	$ -	$ 23,406.43	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 23,406.43	$ 148,818.65	15.73%
Wood	$ -	$ 22,490.03	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 22,490.03	$ 112,093.60	20.06%
Yoakum	$ -	$ 112,832.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 112,832.00	$ 22,332.10	505.25%
Young	$ -	$ 239,142.74	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 239,142.74	$ 54,726.15	436.98%
Zapata	$ -	$ 47,156.52	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 47,156.52	$ 37,155.10	126.92%
Zavala	$ -	$ 36,961.55	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 36,961.55	$ 35,380.00	104.47%
TOTALS	$ -	$ 50,186,068.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$50,186,068.00		
Percentage of dan	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			

State Population	20,851,820		*Total damages needed for declaration: $1.30 x Pop.*	*$ 27,107,366.00*		State Cost per Capita	$ 2.41

	Indicates Sub-Division of County
	Indicates exceeds Threshold

5/25/2011

National Weather Service
Climate Prediction Center

EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION

issued by
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER/NCEP
5 May 2011

ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Advisory

Spanish Version

Synopsis: **ENSO-neutral conditions are expected to develop during May-June 2011 and continue through the Northern Hemisphere summer 2011.**

During April 2011, La Niña continued to weaken as indicated by increasing surface and subsurface temperature anomalies across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The latest weekly Niño indices reflected below-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central and east-central Pacific (−0.6°C in Nino-4 and Nino-3.4 regions), and near-average to above-average SSTs in the eastern Pacific (−0.1°C in Nino-3 and +0.8°C in Nino-1+2 regions; Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). The subsurface oceanic heat content anomalies (average temperatures in the upper 300m of the ocean, Fig. 3) increased slightly, due to an expanded area of above-average temperatures at thermocline depth (Fig. 4). Consistent with other transitions to ENSO-neutral conditions, the atmospheric circulation anomalies related to La Niña remained considerable over the tropical and subtropical Pacific. Convection was enhanced over much of Indonesia and suppressed over the western and central equatorial Pacific (Fig. 5). Also, anomalous low-level easterly and upper-level westerly winds have persisted in this region. Collectively, these oceanic and atmospheric anomalies reflect a weakening La Niña, but with ongoing global impacts.

Current observed trends, along with forecasts from nearly all of the ENSO models, indicate La Niña will continue to weaken in the coming months, with a return to ENSO-neutral during May-June-July 2011 (three-month average in the Nino-3.4 index between −0.5°C and +0.5°C; Fig. 6). Thereafter, the majority of models and all multi-model forecasts (shown by the thick lines) predict ENSO-neutral conditions to continue through the remainder of 2011. However, the status of ENSO beyond the Northern Hemisphere summer remains uncertain

due to lower model forecast skill at longer lead times.

La Niña will continue to have global impacts even as the episode diminishes. Expected La Niña impacts during May-July 2011 include suppressed convection over the west-central tropical Pacific Ocean, and enhanced convection over Indonesia. Potential La Niña impacts in the United States include an enhanced chance for below-average precipitation across southeastern Texas and Louisiana, and an increased chance of below-average temperatures for the Pacific Northwest (see 3-month seasonal outlook released on April 21st, 2011).

This discussion is a consolidated effort of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), NOAA's National Weather Service, and their funded institutions. Oceanic and atmospheric conditions are updated weekly on the Climate Prediction Center web site (El Niño/La Niña Current Conditions and Expert Discussions). Forecasts for the evolution of El Niño/La Niña are updated monthly in the Forecast Forum section of CPC's Climate Diagnostics Bulletin. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for 9 June 2011. To receive an e-mail notification when the monthly ENSO Diagnostic Discussions are released, please send an e-mail message to: ncep.list.enso-update@noaa.gov.

Climate Prediction Center
National Centers for Environmental Prediction
NOAA/National Weather Service
Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE

The Texas A&M University System

Spring Wildfire Risk Decision Support Document

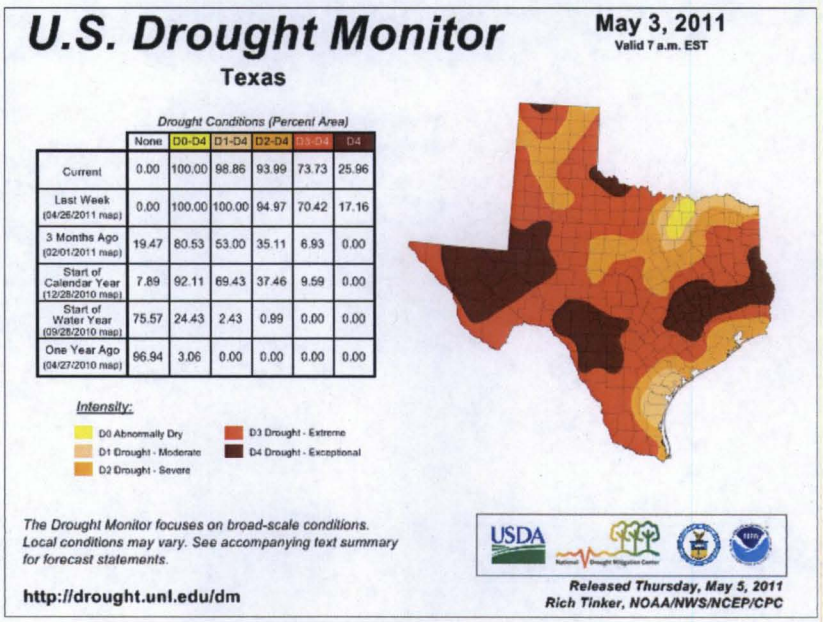
May 11, 2011

Weather and fuel indices indicate that the 2011 Winter Fire Season has now transitioned into an active Spring Fire Season. La Nina conditions are expected to dominate the weather pattern into June. This will keep the potential for large and destructive wildfire occurrence over the state at an elevated level, and represents a serious threat to citizen safety. The primary causes for this increased threat are:

- Existing and continued drought
- Strong winds due to progressive fronts
- Southern Plains Wildfire Outbreak
- Above normal vegetation & Critically dry fuels (grass and brush)
- Increasing fire activity, size and risk

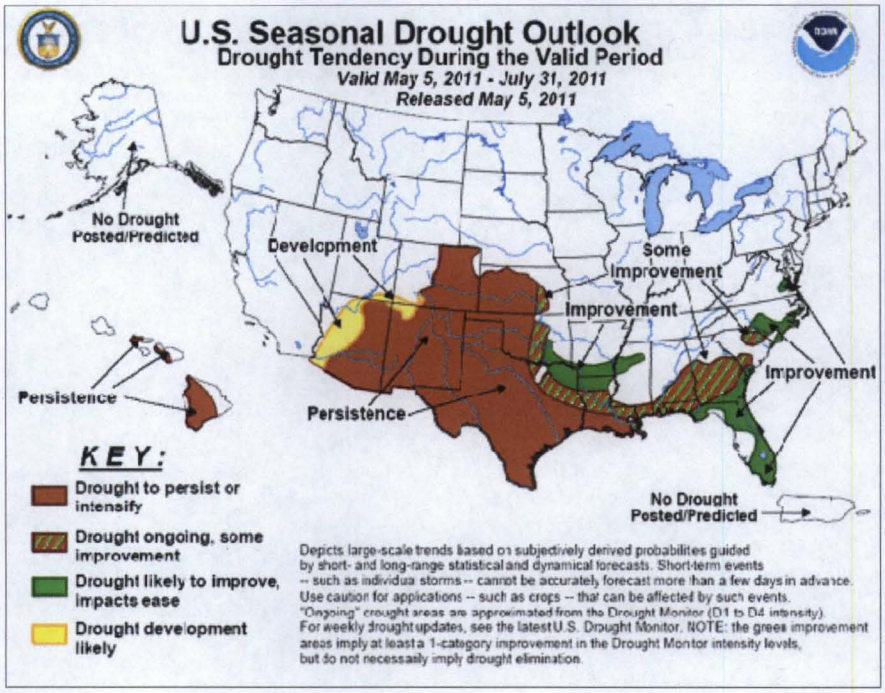
Existing and continued drought

The ongoing drought across the state continues to deepen to historic levels. As can be seen in the image below, drought at the D0 level or higher now covers 100% of the state. Since the National Drought Monitor has been keeping records, this has occurred only twice before, in September 2000, and June 2006. Both of those years saw severe droughts and active fire seasons within the state. The National Weather Service Southern Region Climate Program Manager said, "The seven-month precipitation total from October 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011 will be about 6.00 inches. This will be the driest such seven-month period ever on record. Data extends back to 1895. The previous record was 6.36 inches in 1950-1951." Unfortunately, it does not look like there is any relief on the horizon. The national drought forecast, shown at the top of the next page, indicates that drought is expected to persist and intensify across all but the extreme northeastern corner of the state through July, 2011.



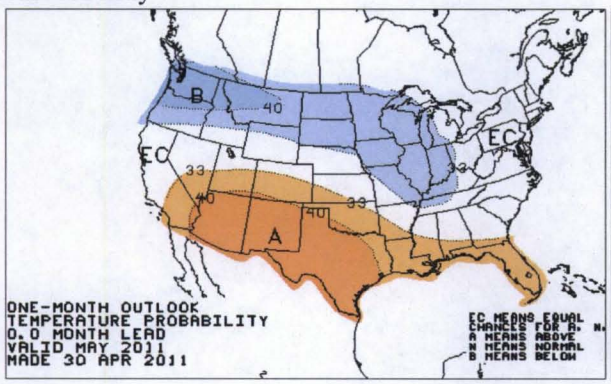
Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

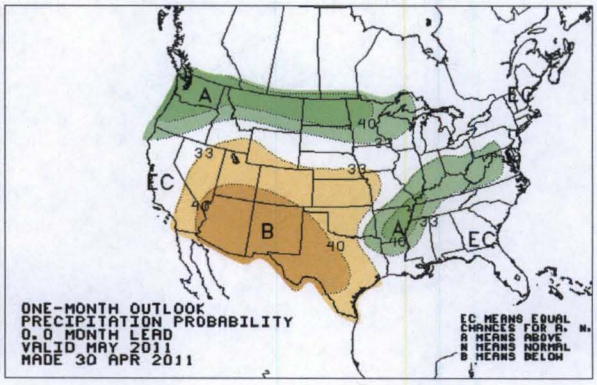
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	98.86	93.99	73.73	25.96
Last Week (04/26/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	94.97	70.42	17.16
3 Months Ago (02/01/2011 map)	19.47	80.53	53.00	35.11	6.93	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	7.89	92.11	69.43	37.46	9.59	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	75.57	24.43	2.43	0.99	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (04/27/2010 map)	96.94	3.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



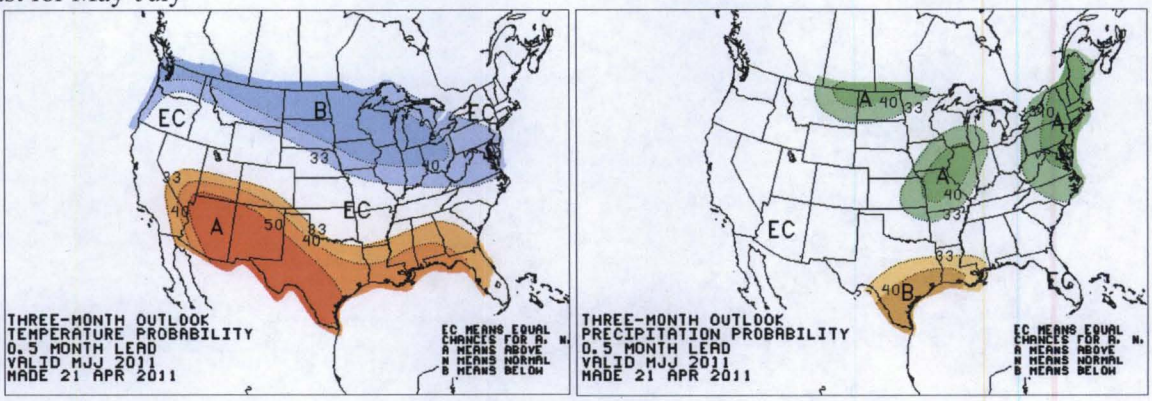
The suite of El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) models predicts that La Nina conditions will persist into July. The impact of the continued La Nina conditions can be seen on the following National Weather Service seasonal forecast products which are predicting temperatures that are significantly above average and below average rainfall in May, June, and July.

Forecast for May





Forecast for May-July



High Pressure to Continue Over the State

According the National Weather Service fire weather forecaster in Houston:

May is typically a good month for rain across Texas, but the outlook for the month indicates that high pressure will be the dominant weather maker for the state. A mild Canadian Cold front will move through the state near the middle of May but then as the ridge of high pressure builds, the cold fronts will change to fast-moving Pacific fronts that typically do not bring as much rainfall and only rarely into South Texas. Temperatures should continue to be above normal as they have been for several months. So, little relief from the drought is expected except for a portion of North and East Texas. Given these forecasts, the threat of elevated fire danger for West Texas and the Hill Country is likely to last well into June. In June, rainfall tends to be dominated by passing cold fronts across the northern portions of the state and by storms along the afternoon sea breezes. Rainfall may finally bring some relief to Southeast Texas and the Coastal Bend region during the month of June. Seasonal dry lightning is expected across Southwest Texas into July.

Southern Plains Wildfire Outbreak

A team of NWS meteorologists recently identified a weather phenomenon called the Southern Plains Wildfire Outbreak where specific weather components combine to create conditions conducive to catastrophic fire losses. Southern Plains Wildfire Outbreaks occur during the winter and spring. This has occurred at least 12 times since December 27, 2005 and the statistics are significant:

330 major wildfires
3 million acres burned
22 fatalities
1,243 structures destroyed

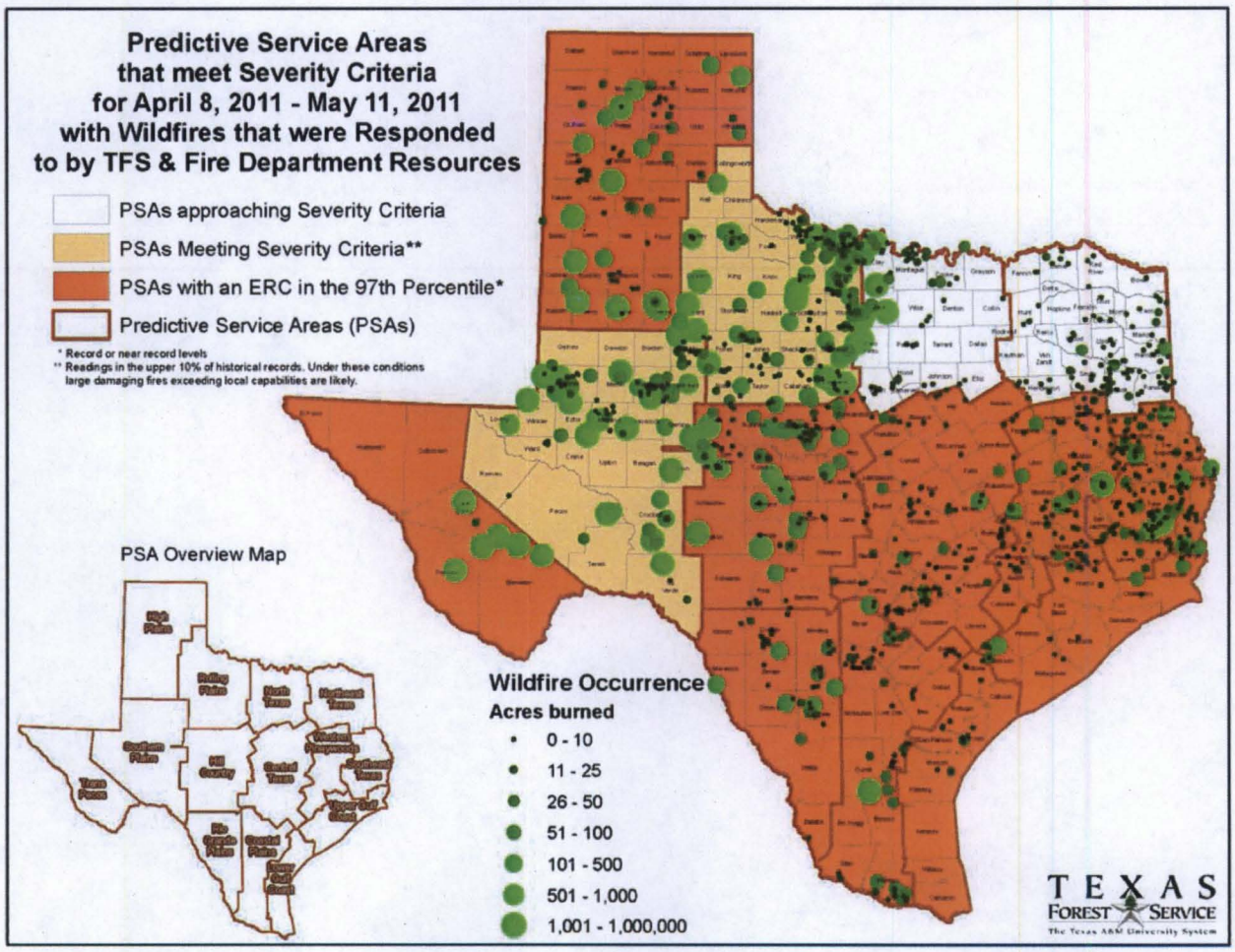
The fires included Cross Plains, December 27, 2005; Amarillo East Complex, March 12, 2006, North Texas Fires, April 9, 2009, February 27th, 2011, and April 9th, 2011.

Above normal amounts of vegetation & critically dry fuels across the state

Most of Texas currently is supporting an increased amount of fine fuel loading due to above normal rainfall during the spring and late summer of 2010. The late summer precipitation, associated with four tropical systems has especially caused a flush of growth in the grasses.

The increased fuel loading now provides a continuous blanket of tall, dead grass across the surface that makes it easier for fires to ignite and spread, even with low to moderate wind speed. Fire intensities also can be expected to increase with this above normal fuel loading, and exhibit a higher resistance to control - requiring additional resources for effective containment. The fire season is in a transition phase from a winter wind-driven event to a summer season where fires are fuel driven. Rates of spread will not be as dramatic, but fire behavior can be more explosive with a higher difficulty of control.

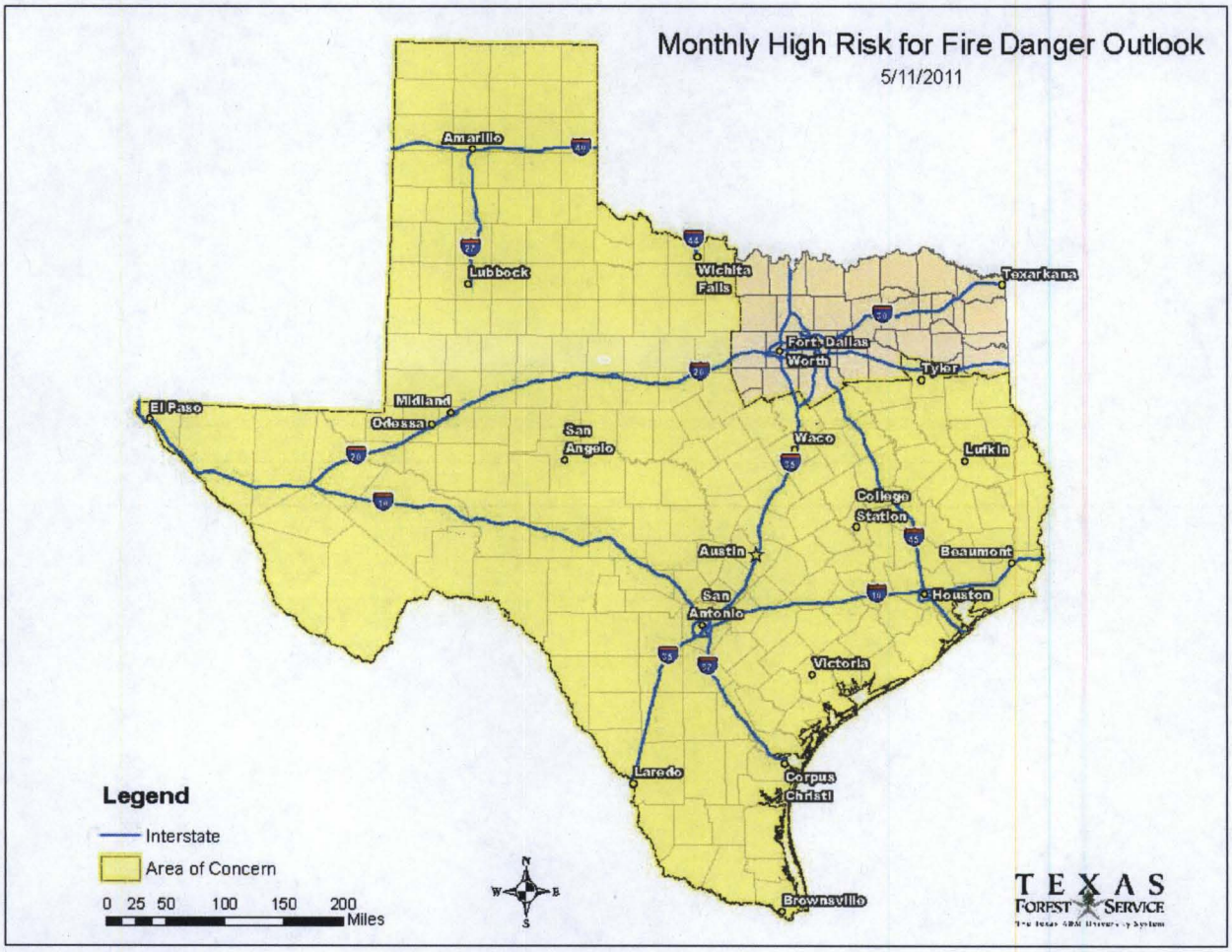
As we exit the driest seven-month period on record, the fuels across most of the state are at critical fuel dryness levels. The map below shows that all but two Predictive Service Areas in the state are in the upper 10% of historical Energy Release Component (ERC) readings, with most above the upper 3% of historical readings. The Energy Release Component of the National Fire Danger Rating System is a measure of the amount of heat generated within a specified area, and correlates well to the potential intensity and difficulty of control of a wildfire. When ERC's are within the top 10% of historical readings, wildfires can be expected to burn with high intensities and have a very high difficulty of control, requiring multiple firefighting resources for effective containment. The map also shows wildfires where state resources were involved in suppression action. As the map indicates, all regions of the state are at risk to large and damaging fires due to the ongoing drought and critical fuel dryness.



An example of what can happen when critical fuel dryness and critical fire weather are present is the 175,000-acre Deaton Cole Fire that started on April 25th in Val Verde County and rapidly spread into Crockett County. On May 8th, the city of Alpine quickly became threatened as the 4,550-acre Gage Holland Fire moved toward the city limits. Since April 6th, TFS has responded to a total of 388 fires for 1.6 million acres and saved more than 3,400 homes.

State Fire Danger Outlook

Based on current and forecast conditions, state and national fire analysts are expecting significant fire risk with the potential for large, damaging fires to continue through May and into June. The area of concern includes the entire state.

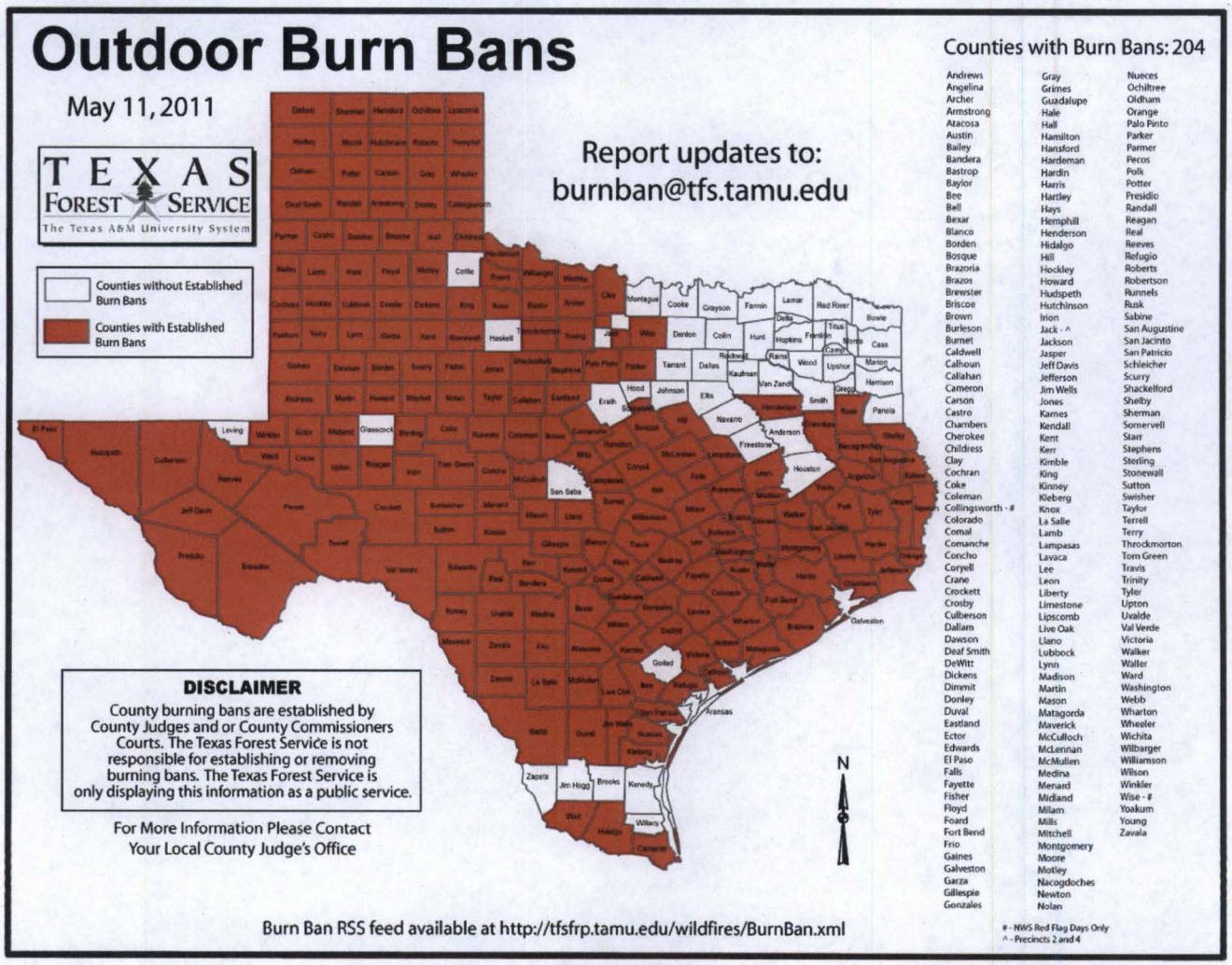


Fire Activity

TFS and Fire Department fires since start of fire season – November, 15, 2010

Date Range	AGENCY	Fires	Acres	Homes Saved	Other Structures Saved	Total Saved	Homes Lost	Other Structures Lost	Total Lost
11/15/2010 - 5/10/2011	FD	8,734	599,369	5,790	6,469	12,259	135	1,052	1,187
11/15/2010 - 5/10/2011	TFS	1,155	1,957,747	5,453	1,939	7,392	355	250	605
Fire Season Total		**9,889**	**2,557,117**	**11,243**	**8,408**	**19,651**	**490**	**1,302**	**1,792**

Burn Ban Map



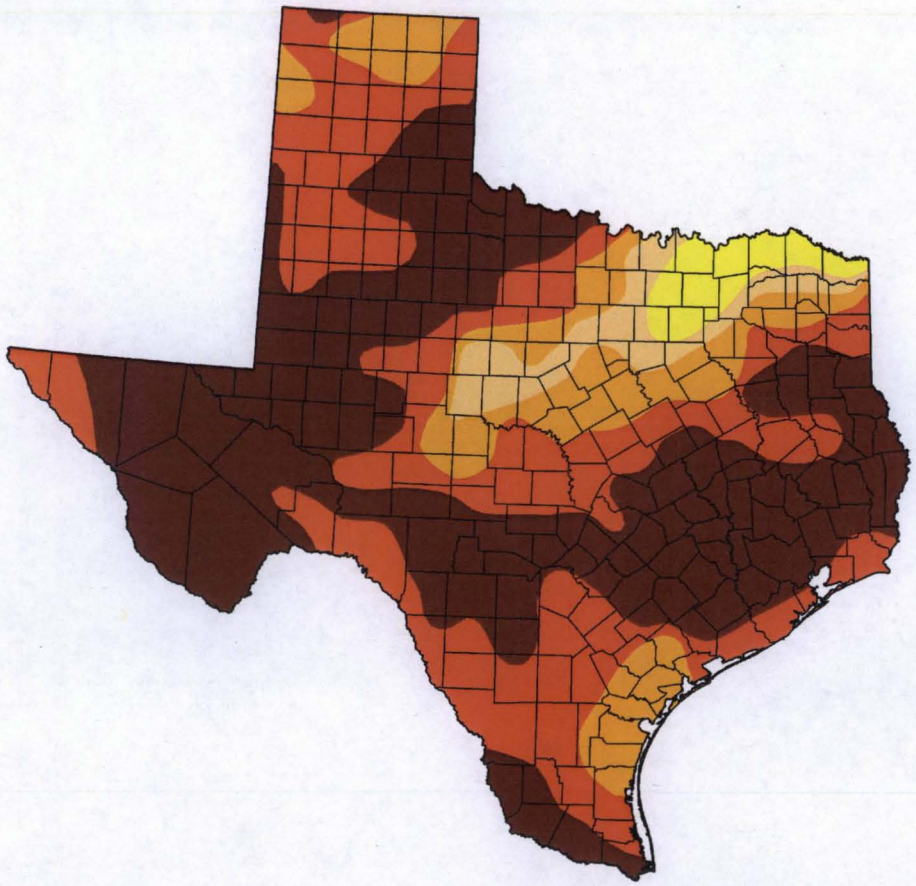
U.S. Drought Monitor

Texas

May 17, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.01	92.40	80.02	47.87
Last Week (05/10/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	97.78	93.89	82.06	47.55
3 Months Ago (02/15/2011 map)	12.52	87.48	58.11	37.35	7.78	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	7.89	92.11	69.43	37.46	9.59	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	75.57	24.43	2.43	0.99	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (05/11/2010 map)	83.84	16.16	3.44	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- *D0 Abnormally Dry*
- *D1 Drought - Moderate*
- *D2 Drought - Severe*
- *D3 Drought - Extreme*
- *D4 Drought - Exceptional*

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Released Thursday, May 19, 2011

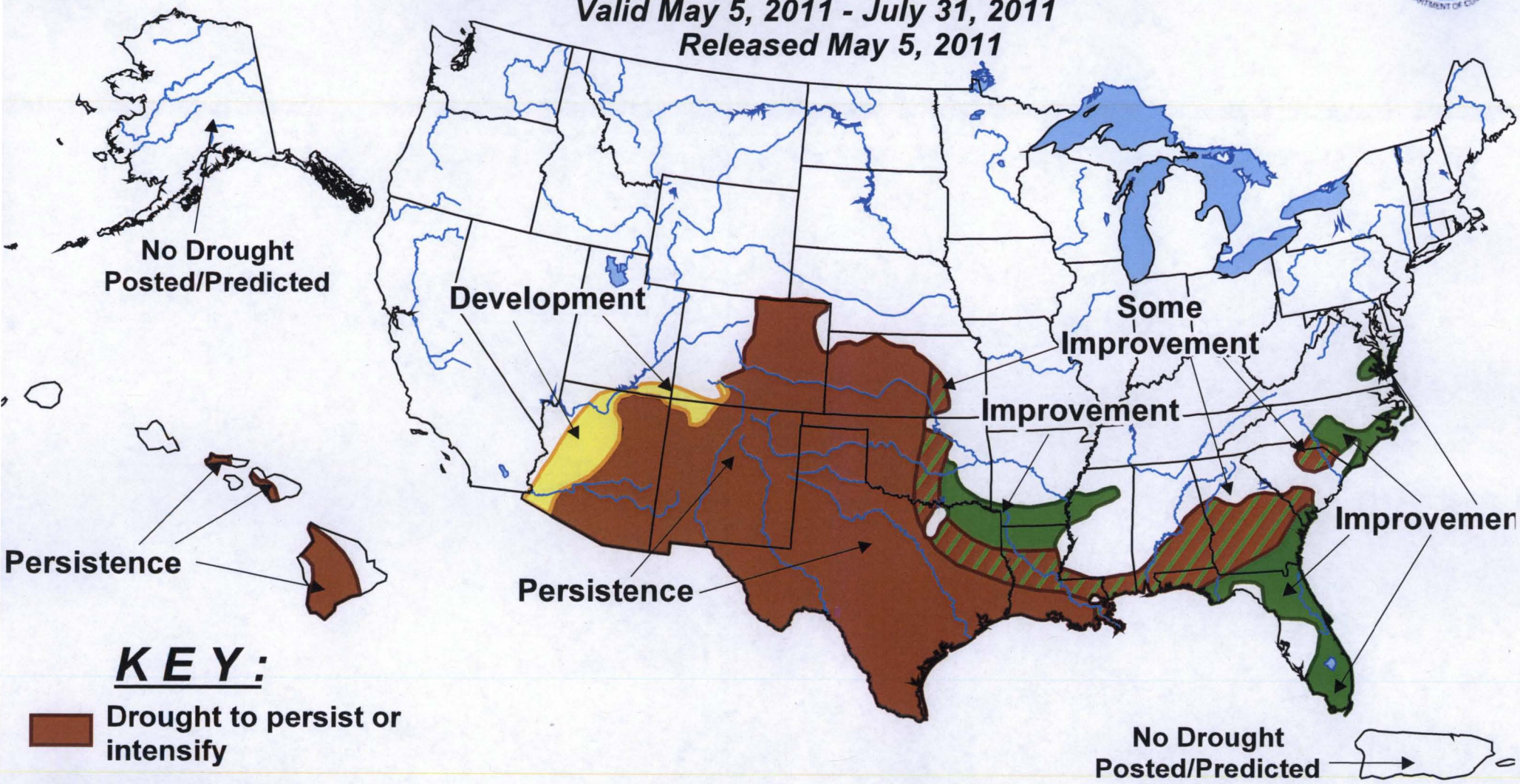
David Miskus, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid May 5, 2011 - July 31, 2011

Released May 5, 2011



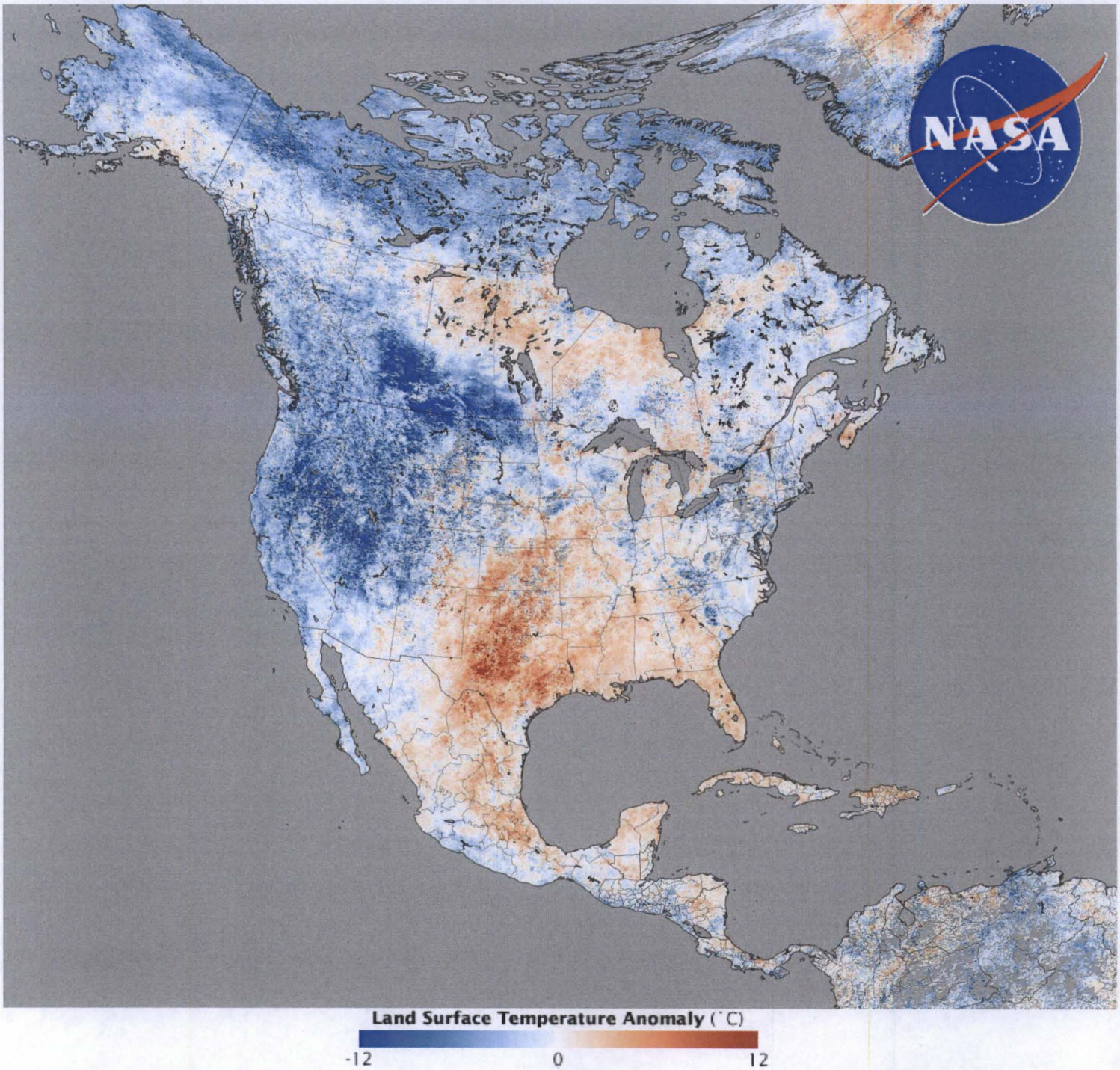
KEY:

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

NASA Earth Observatory

Drought and Heat Create Hazardous Fire Conditions in Texas



NASA Satellite image demonstrates extreme drought and high heat impact on Texas. *(April 22, 2011)*

Short-Term Energy Outlook

May 10, 2011 Release
(Next update June 7, 2011)

Price Summary

	Year				Percent Change		
	2009	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**09-10**	**10-11**	**11-12**
WTI Crude[a] ($/barrel)	**61.65**	**79.40**	*102.67*	*107.00*	**28.8**	*29.3*	*4.2*
Gasoline[b] ($/gal)	**2.35**	**2.78**	*3.63*	*3.66*	**18.4**	*30.5*	*0.9*
Diesel[c] ($/gal)	**2.46**	**2.99**	*3.89*	*3.93*	**21.5**	*30.1*	*0.8*
Heating Oil[d] ($/gal)	**2.52**	**2.97**	*3.76*	*4.00*	**17.8**	*26.3*	*6.6*
Natural Gas[d] ($/mcf)	**12.12**	**11.18**	*11.36*	*12.22*	**-7.8**	*1.6*	*7.5*
Electricity[d] (cents/kwh)	**11.51**	**11.58**	*11.84*	*11.85*	**0.6**	*2.3*	*0.1*

[a] West Texas Intermediate. [b] Average regular pump price.
[c] On-highway retail. [d] U.S. Residential average.

http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/steo/pub/contents.html