WILDLAND FIRE POTENTIAL WINTER/SPRING 2018

Capitol Area Council of Governments

Prepared
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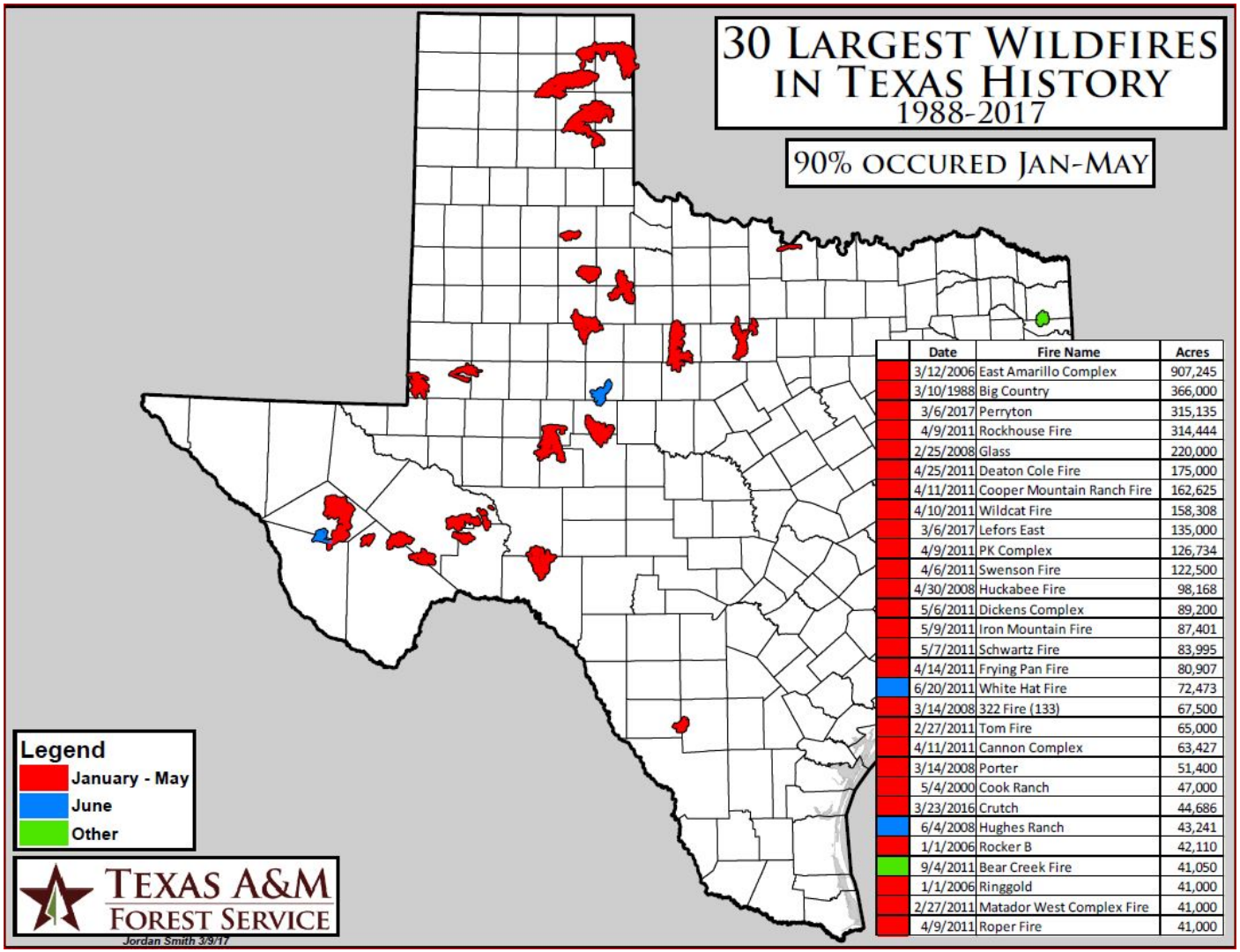
TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Brad Smith **Wildland Fire Analyst**

Dormant Season
Fire Potential Considerations

- **Drought**
  - Persistent
  - Emerging
- **Fine Fuel Condition**
  - Below-Normal-Above Normal Loading
- **Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation**

Significant fires are more likely to occur in the grass dominant fuelscape of the western Texas Plains during the dormant season



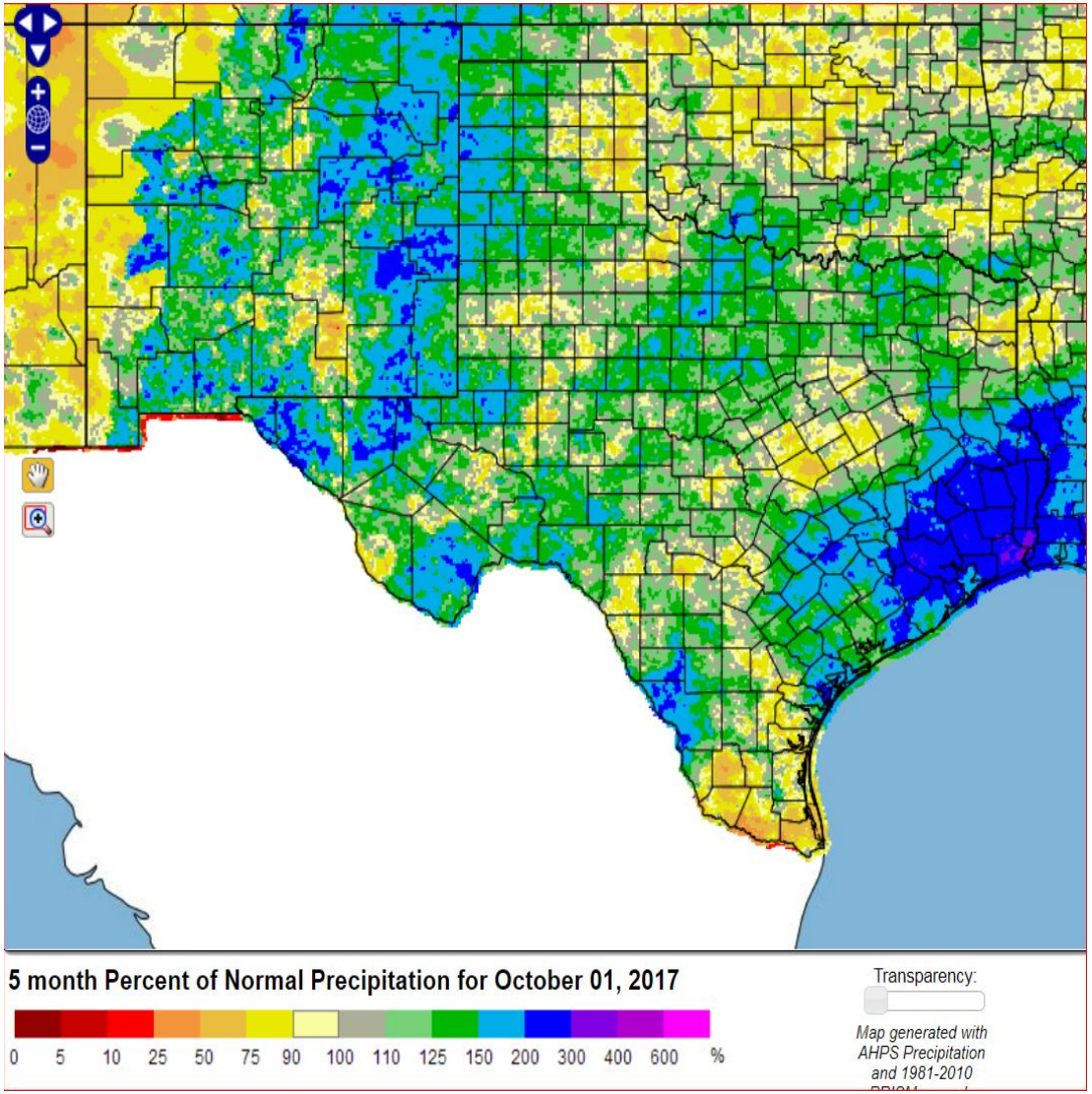
	Date	Fire Name	Acres
	3/12/2006	East Amarillo Complex	907,245
	3/10/1988	Big Country	366,000
	3/6/2017	Perryton	315,135
	4/9/2011	Rockhouse Fire	314,444
	2/25/2008	Glass	220,000
	4/25/2011	Deaton Cole Fire	175,000
	4/11/2011	Cooper Mountain Ranch Fire	162,625
	4/10/2011	Wildcat Fire	158,308
	3/6/2017	Lefors East	135,000
	4/9/2011	PK Complex	126,734
	4/6/2011	Swenson Fire	122,500
	4/30/2008	Huckabee Fire	98,168
	5/6/2011	Dickens Complex	89,200
	5/9/2011	Iron Mountain Fire	87,401
	5/7/2011	Schwartz Fire	83,995
	4/14/2011	Frying Pan Fire	80,907
	6/20/2011	White Hat Fire	72,473
	3/14/2008	322 Fire (133)	67,500
	2/27/2011	Tom Fire	65,000
	4/11/2011	Cannon Complex	63,427
	3/14/2008	Porter	51,400
	5/4/2000	Cook Ranch	47,000
	3/23/2016	Crutch	44,686
	6/4/2008	Hughes Ranch	43,241
	1/1/2006	Rocker B	42,110
	9/4/2011	Bear Creek Fire	41,050
	1/1/2006	Ringgold	41,000
	2/27/2011	Matador West Complex Fire	41,000
	4/9/2011	Roper Fire	41,000

Growing Season
Percent of Normal Rainfall

Above normal rainfall during the May through September growing season has produced a widespread crop of abundant grasses.

An above normal crop of grass or fine fuel loading on the grass dominant fuelscape of the Texas Plains increases the underlying risk for wildfire occurrence through the winter and spring season ahead.

The type of wildfire that occurs (initial attack or significant fire) depends on the amount of drying prior to the ignition and the fire weather present at the time of ignition.



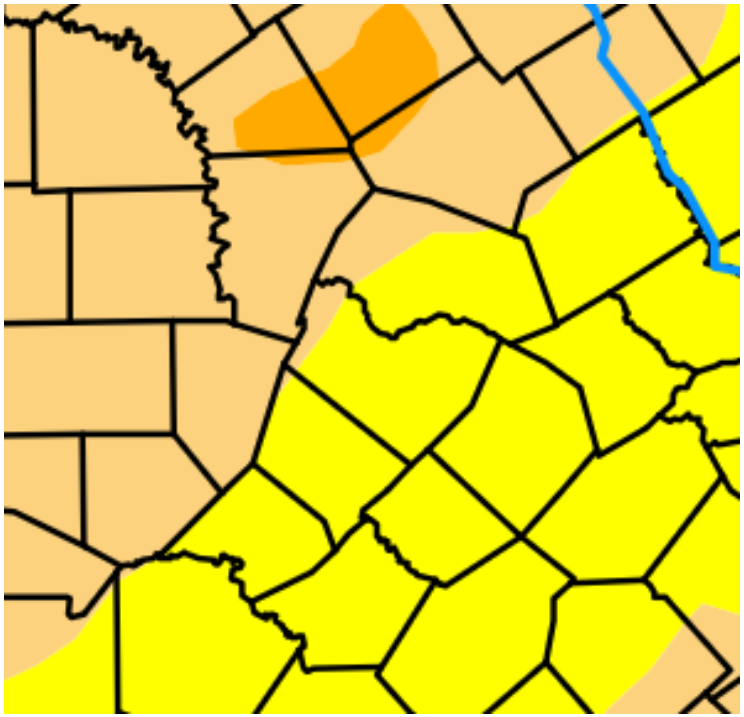
Above normal grass loading can lower the fire weather and fuel dryness thresholds normally required to produce wildland fire activity.

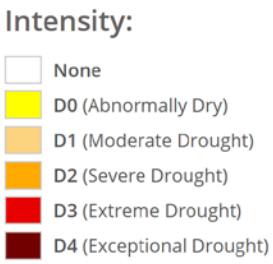
East Travis County

Burnet County

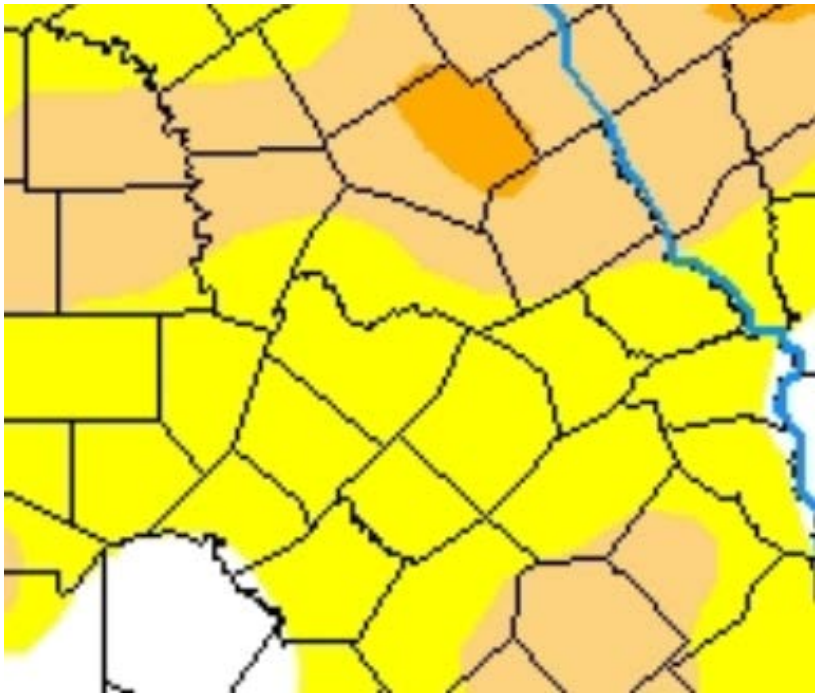
Emerging drought in Central Texas raises the possibility of above normal fire activity through the dormant season. If drought continues to build, post frontal conditions can increase significant fire potential with Fuel Dryness levels dry to extremely dry.

January 23rd 2018
Drought Monitor

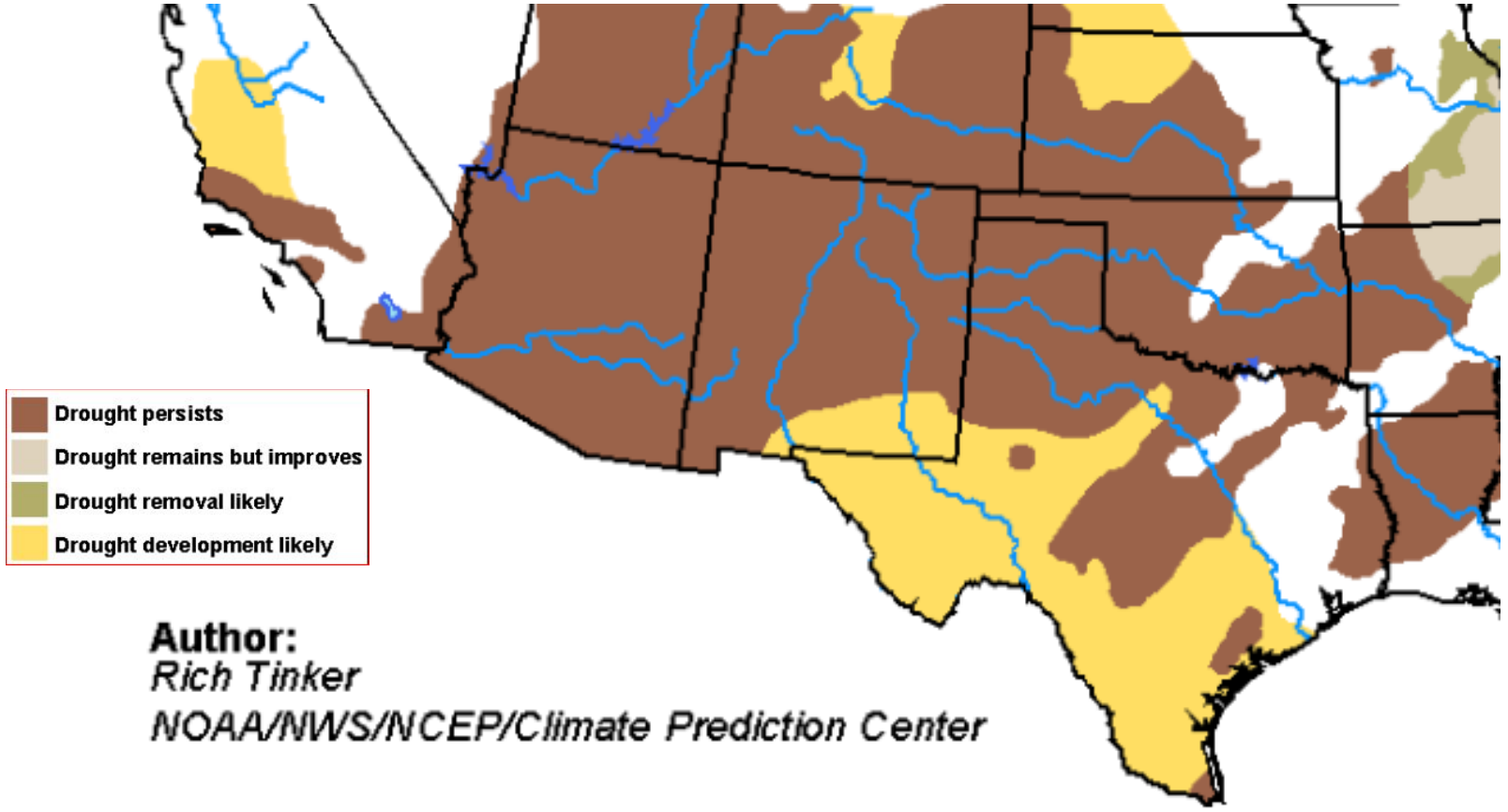




December 12th 2017
Drought Monitor



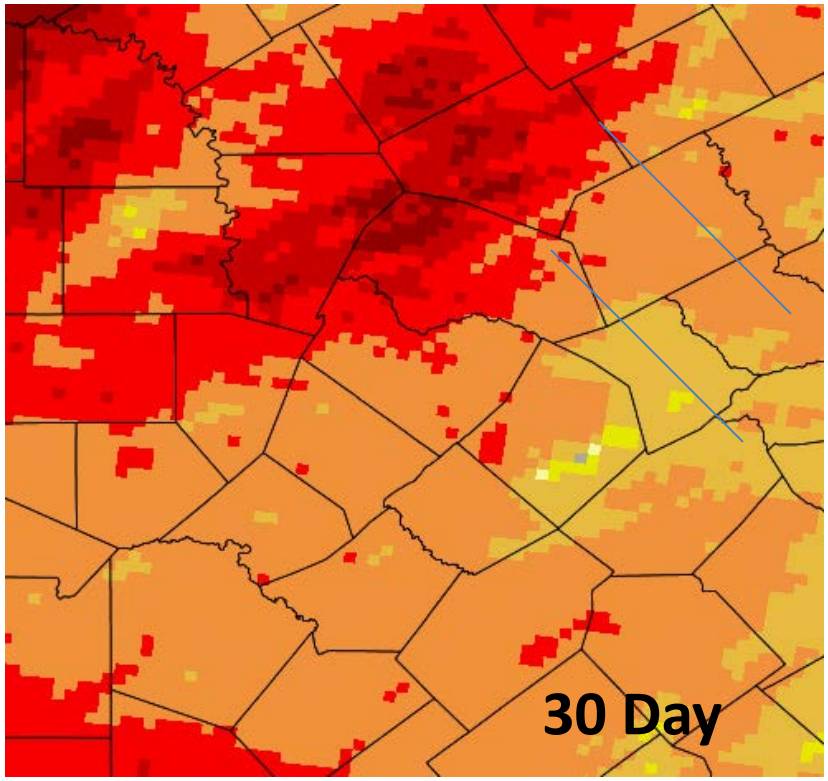
The Climate Prediction Center seasonal drought outlook shows increasing drought development in the state. This outlook should be updating sometime this week. Drought is the key to above normal fire activity in Central Texas. Grass loading contributes to fire potential but is not as important as the drought factor in an area that has a higher component of timber fuels

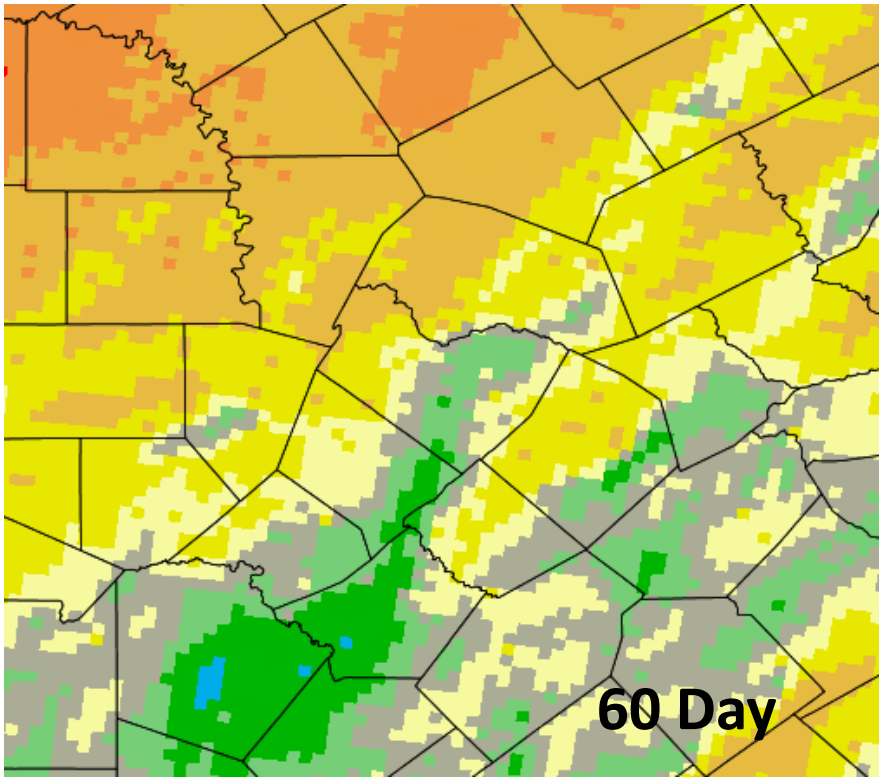


Released January 18th 2018

Percent of Normal Rainfall

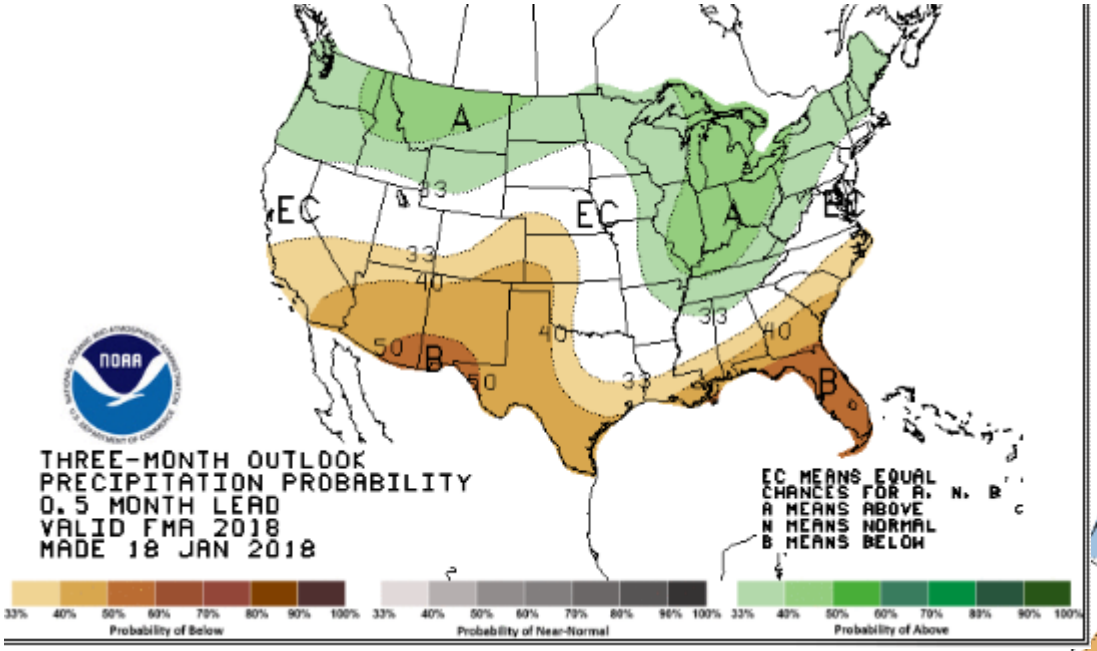
Emerging rainfall deficits are shown on the 30 day map. Most of the rainfall surplus on the 60 day map was built from December 10th through Christmas. Central Texas will see scattered rainfall with the passing fronts but it will be short duration and will not be widespread in coverage. Expect rainfall deficits in the 60 day window to slowly increase over the next 30 days.

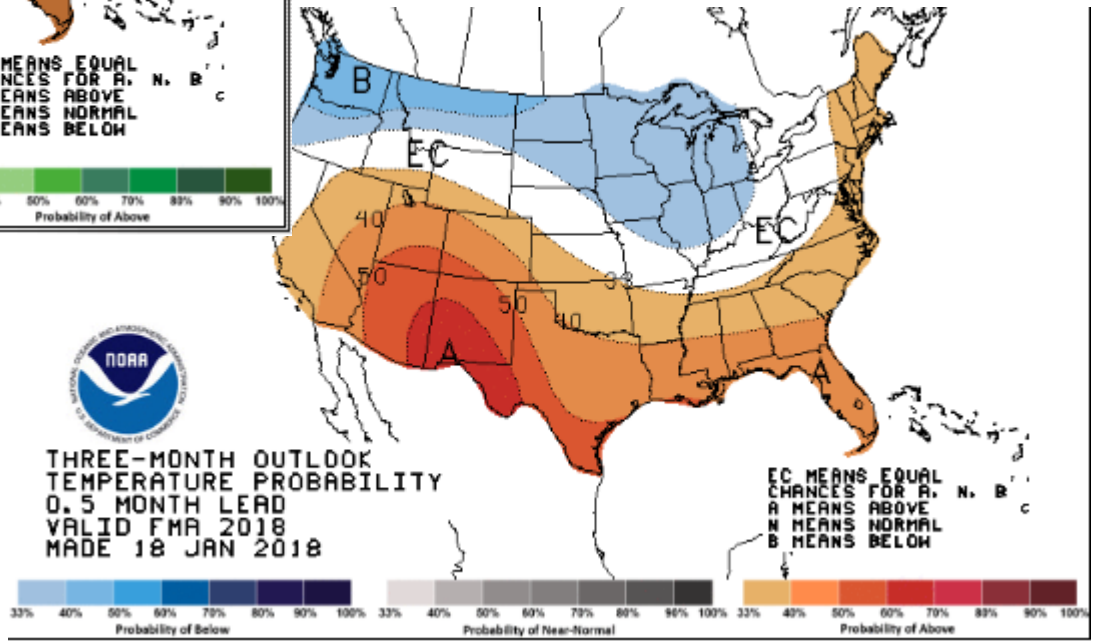




Updated January 28th 2018

Precipitation and Temperature Outlook for February, March and April





2018 Dormant Season Summary

- Emerging drought raises the possibility of above normal fire activity through the dormant season.

- Above normal grass loadings are a factor for increased fire activity but drought will be the key in a fuelscape that has a large component of timber and brush fuels.

- The recipe for significant fire activity in Central Texas is the presence of drought, fuel dryness at the dry level, and strong post frontal conditions. This is the set up that produced the Wilderness Ridge fire in February of 2009.