

CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.



Texas Fire Potential Update

March 25th – March 31st 2024

Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services

Fire Potential Notes March 25th- March 31st, 2024

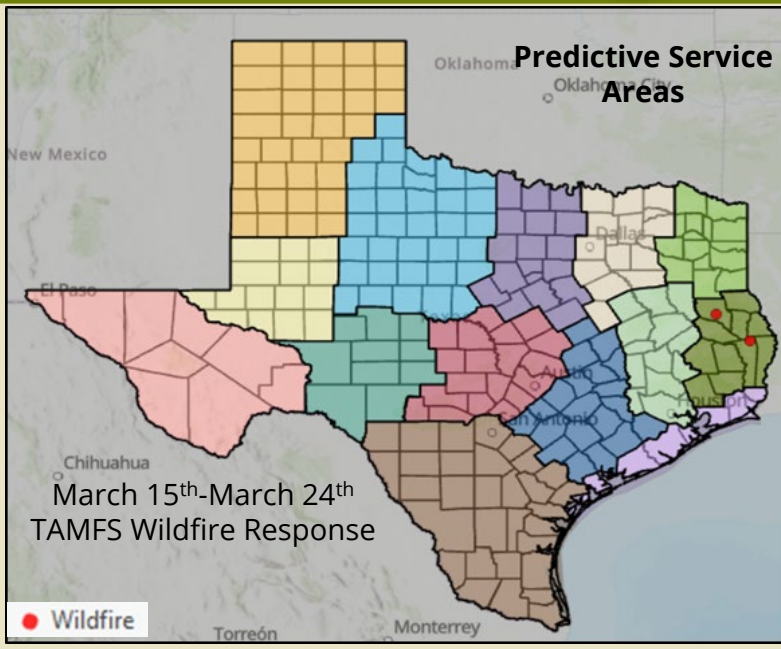
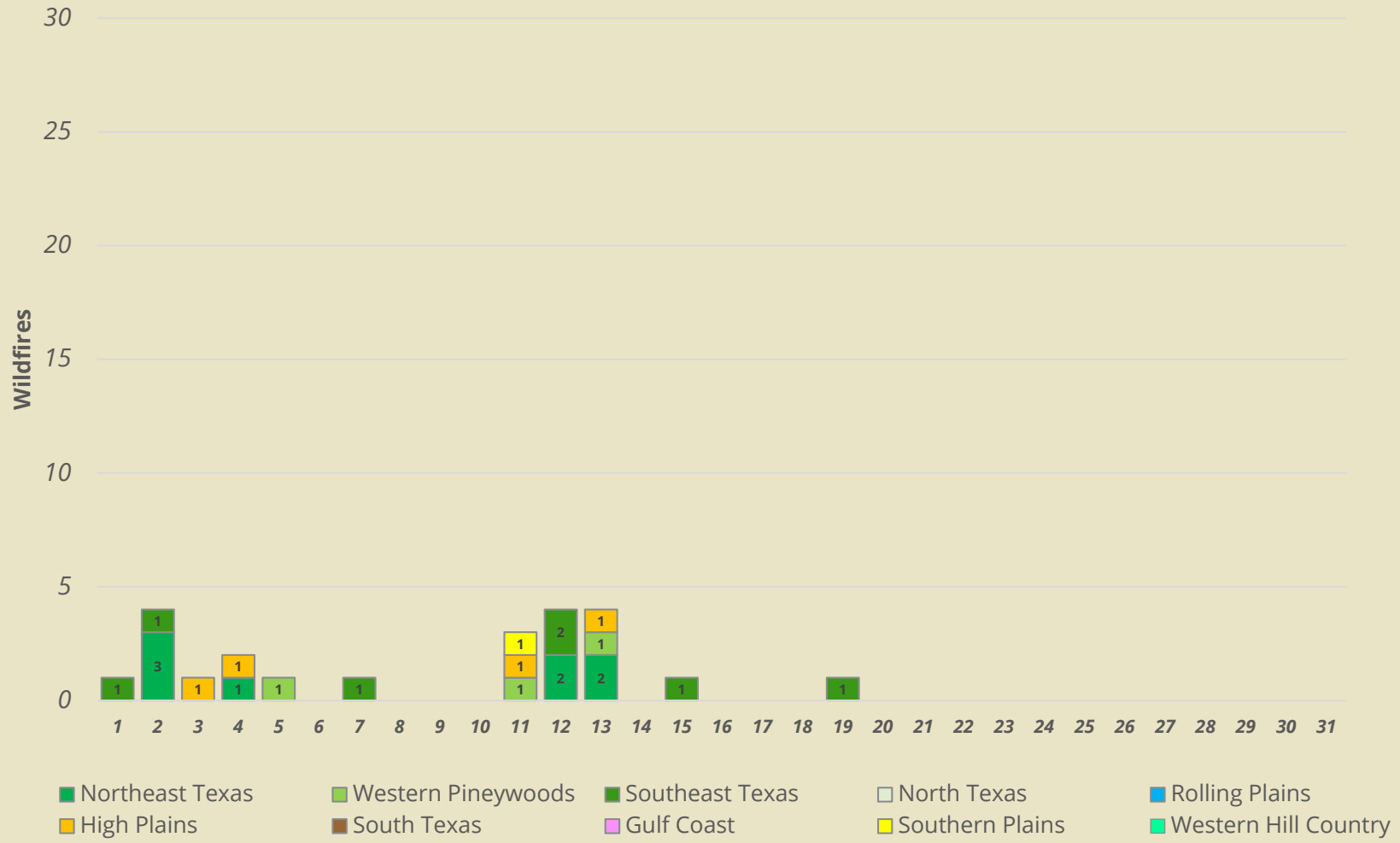


- The fire environment through Friday will support limited potential for large wildfires across the state as widespread dry to critically fuel will not be exposed to critical fire weather.
- Low initial attack potential is possible Monday in the Trans Pecos and near the Pecos River Valley where localized dry fuel and near critical fire weather is forecast. Below normal grass loading will limit the potential for any large fires. Morning rainfall, transition green grasses, and normal to above normal fuel moisture, and delayed onset of increased post-frontal fire weather will limit fire potential in the Western Hill Country and South Texas Monday afternoon.
- The passage of cold front and associated rainfall Monday morning will continue to support increased green up of grasses in the Cross Timbers and Eastern Hill Country near the I-35 corridor this week. Cooler temperatures and dry conditions are expected Tuesday through Thursday across the state. A warming and drying trend is forecast Friday through Sunday.
- Above normal temperatures and increased drying of surface fuel are expected in the High Plains Friday through Sunday where pockets of dry fuel could reemerge Sunday and be exposed to elevated or critical fire weather resulting in increased wildfire potential.

Recent rainfall and improved dead and live fuel moistures has limited wildfire activity over the last 7 days. Through March 24th, 2024 TAMFS fire response is 19% of normal March fire response statewide with only 1% of normal acres burned. March is historically the second most active month of wildfire activity in Texas. August is the historically most active month for wildfire occurrence across Texas.



March 1st – March 24th, 2024 TAMFS Wildfire Response by Predictive Service Area



Statewide March 2024 TAMFS Wildfire Occurrence and Acres burned is well below normal through March 24th

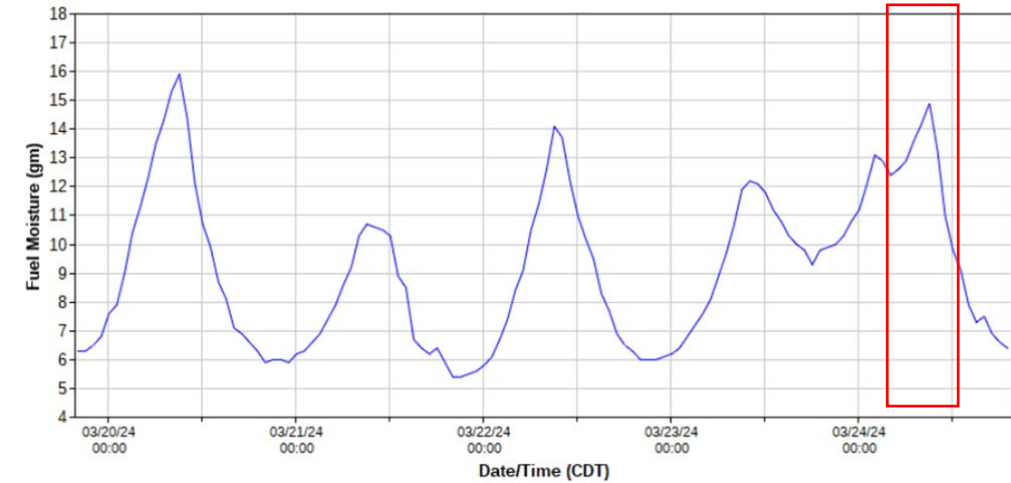
March 2024	March Normal	2024 % of Normal
23 Fires	119 Fires	19%
596 Acres	62,370 Acres	1%

March is historically the 2nd most active month for wildfire occurrence in Texas (August is #1)

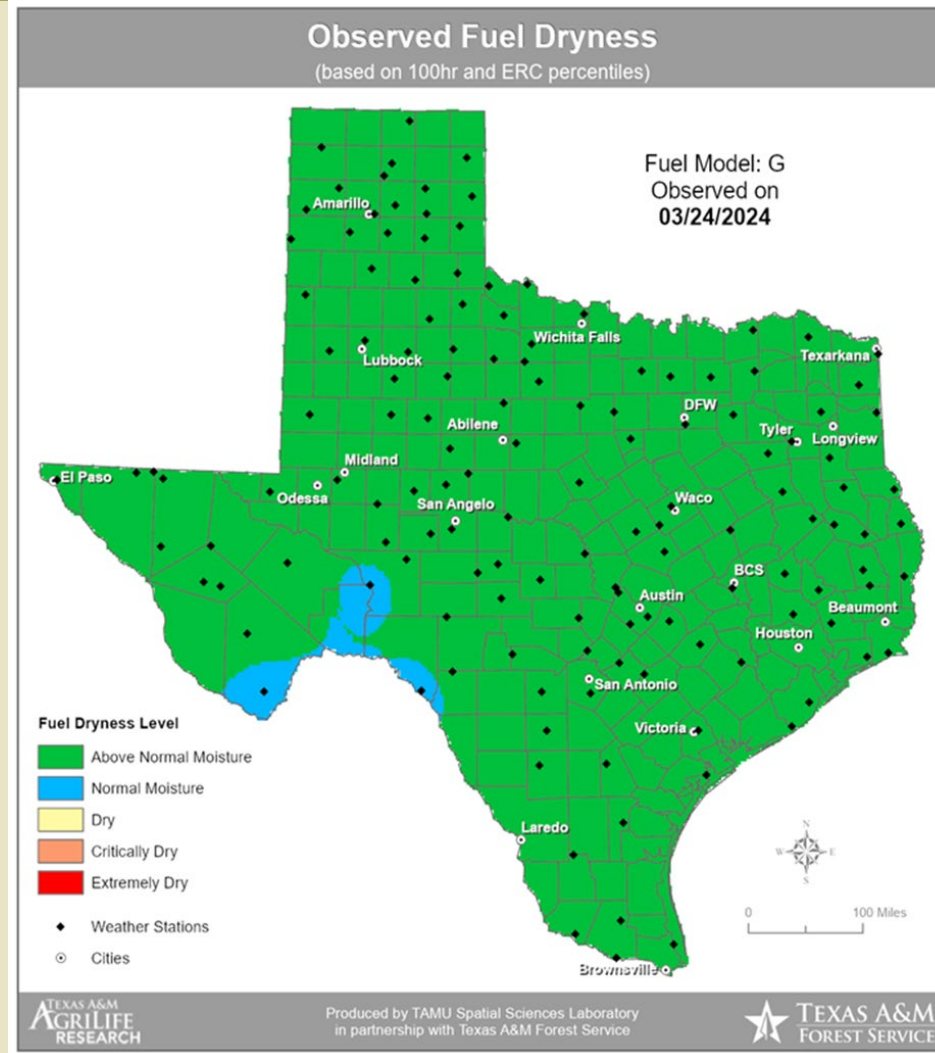
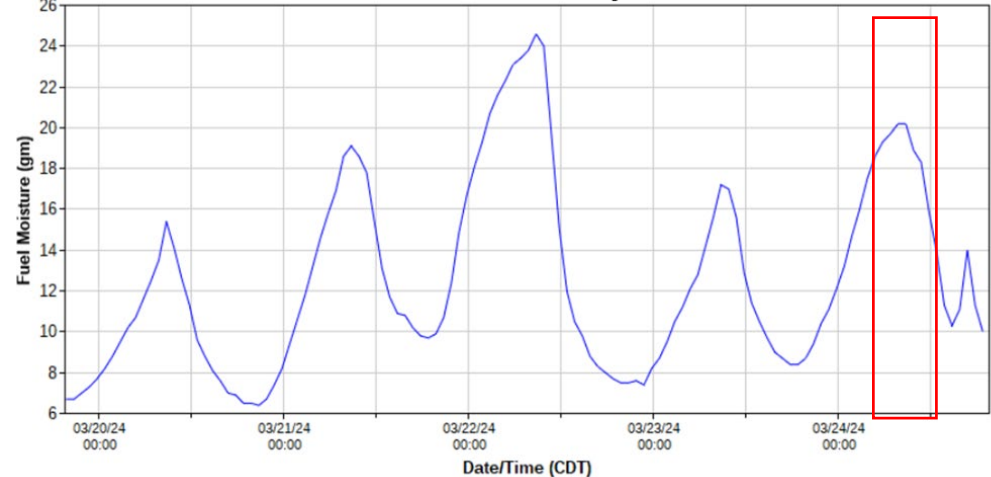
Texas A&M Forest Service responded to no wildfires on Sunday, March 24th. Sunday featured a battle of the fire environment spectrum with normal to above normal fuel moisture versus high end critical fire weather. Normal to above normal fuel moisture, including good overnight moisture recovery (see observed 10-hr fuel moisture sticks from Bootleg RAWS on the Western High Plains and Wheeler RAWS on the Eastern High Plains) provided a heat sink and barrier to wildfire ignitions and spread.



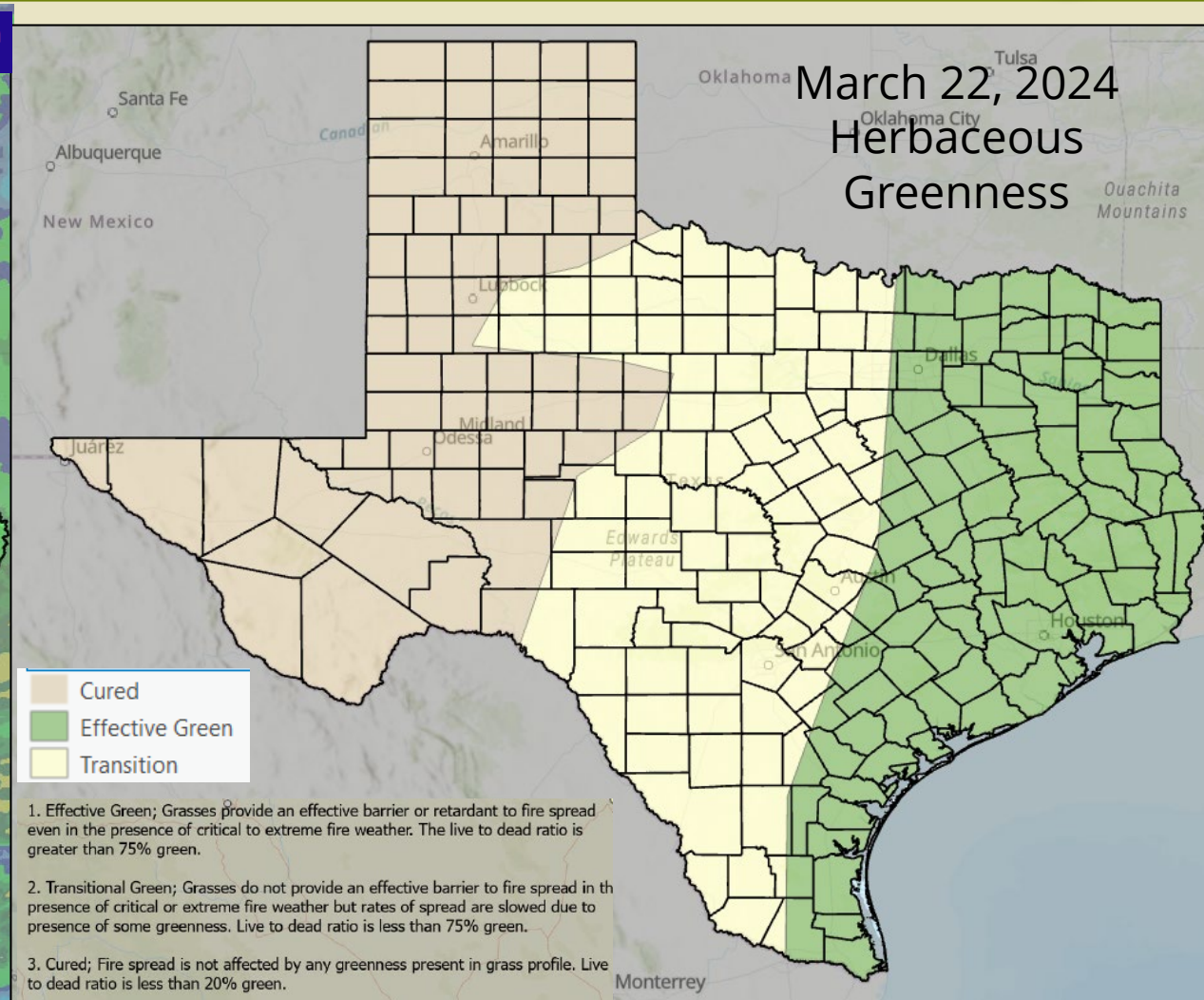
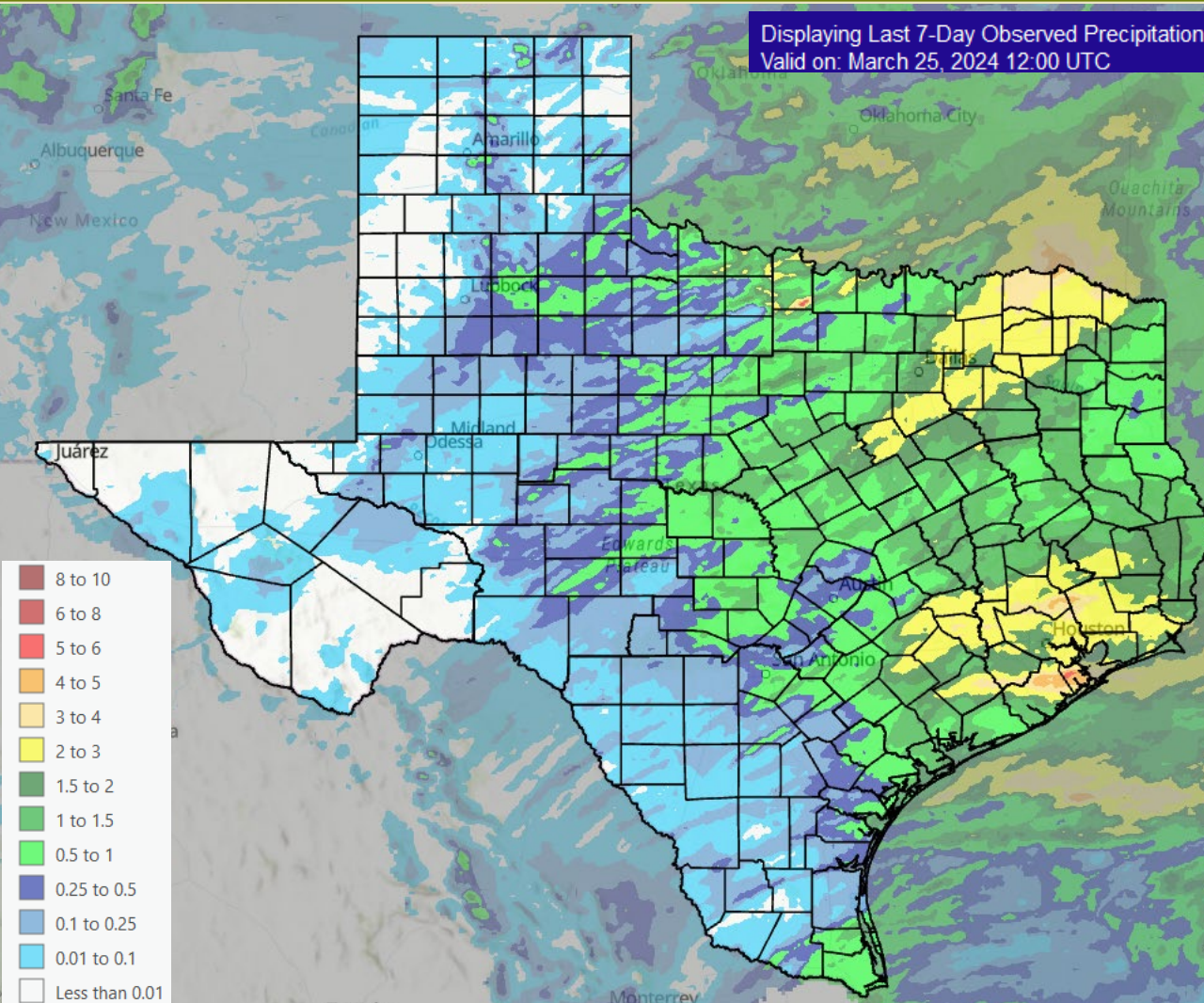
BOOTLEG (BLGT2) 5 Day 10-hr fuel moisture stick obs



WHEELER RAWS (WHRT2) 5 Day 10-hr fuel moisture stick obs



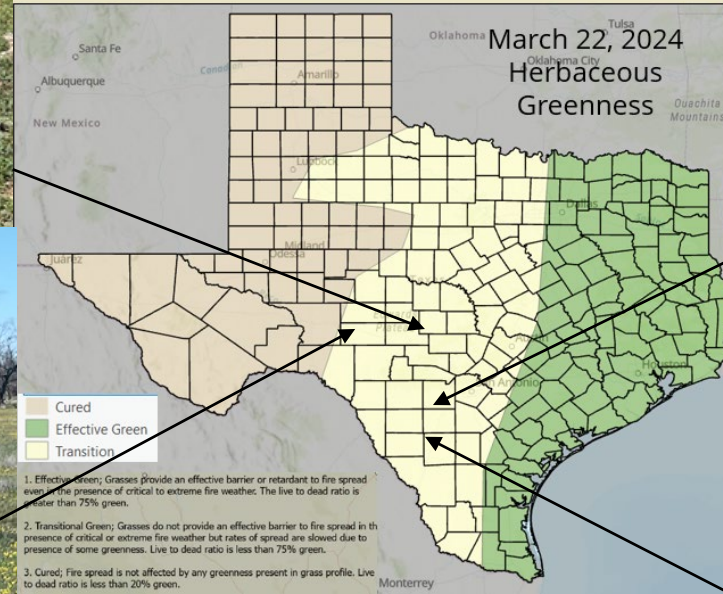
Rainfall over the past 7 days combined with warming daytime and night time temperatures and field reports indicate herbaceous fuel is effective green for the eastern third of Texas and into eastern South Texas. Transition herbaceous fuel is expected to trend toward effective green into the Cross Timbers and parts of the Eastern Hill Country west of I-35 this week where frequent rainfall has been observed.





Herbaceous Greenness Observations 3/22/24

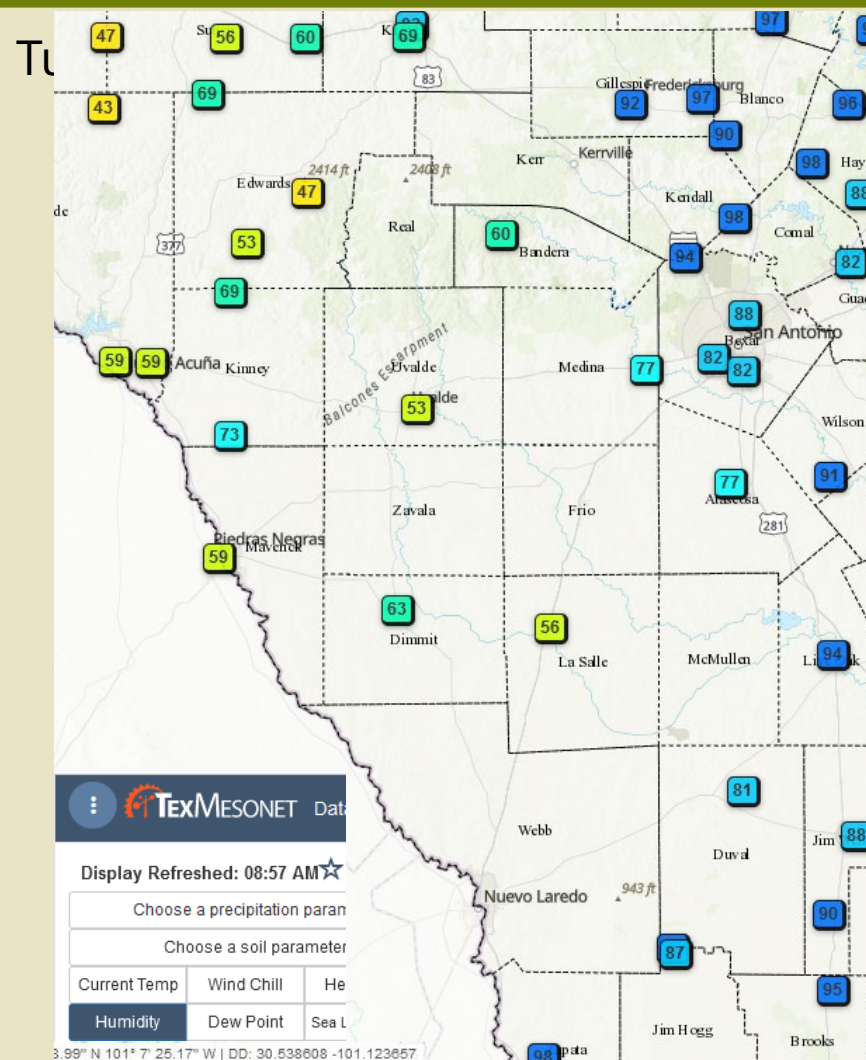
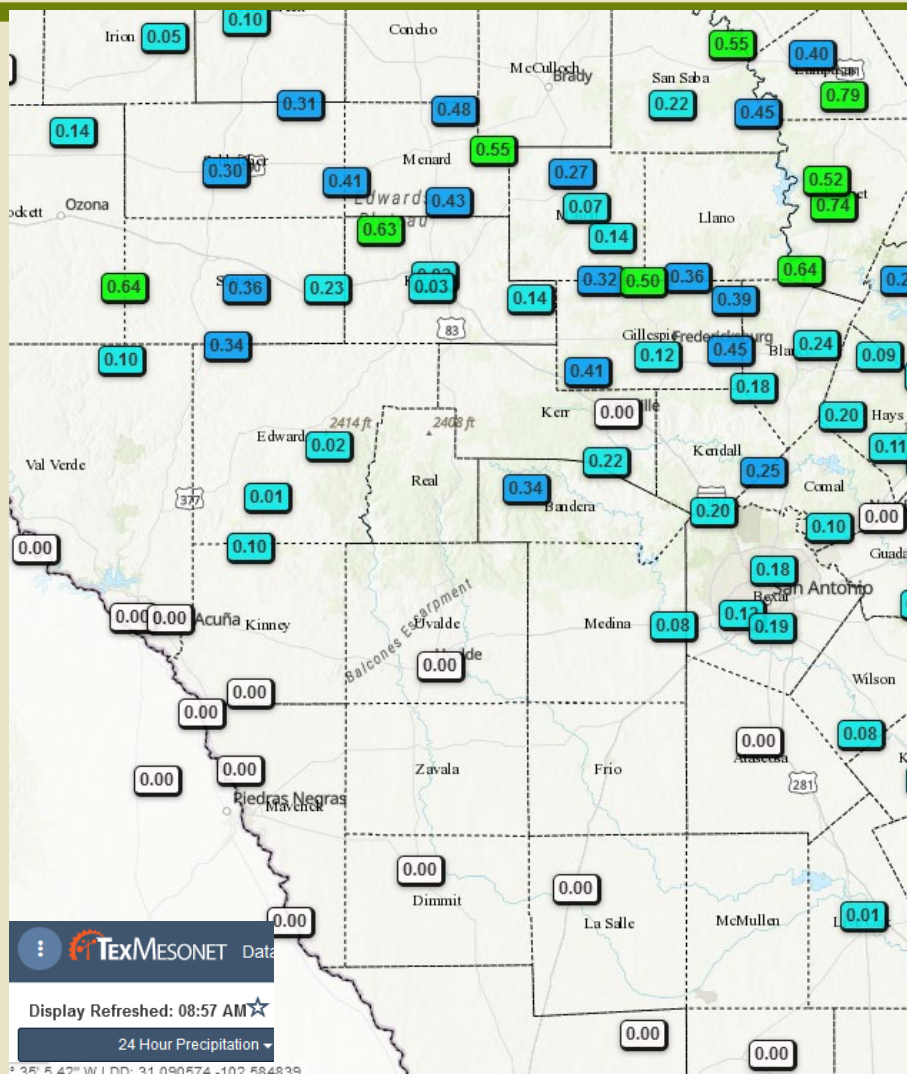
A wide range of transition green is found in portions of the Eastern Hill Country. Transition green grasses combined with below normal grass loading in the Hill Country will mitigate the potential for large fires.



Transition green and normal to above normal fuel moisture will limit wildfire potential in South Texas.



Observed rainfall Sunday night/Monday morning in the Western Hill Country combined with transition green grasses will provide enough moisture in surface fuel to limit wildfire activity Monday afternoon when elevated to critical fire weather develops. Good overnight moisture recovery, above normal fuel moisture, and transition green grasses will limit wildfire potential in South Texas Monday.



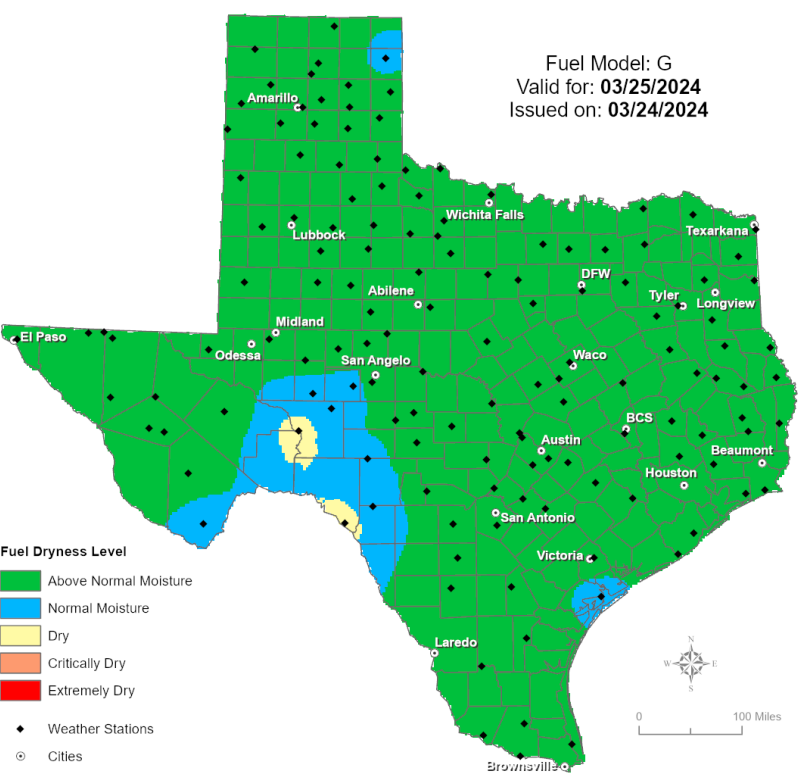


Low initial attack potential is possible Monday in the Trans Pecos and near the Pecos River Valley where localized dry fuel and critical fire weather is forecast. Below normal grass loading will limit the potential for any large fires. Drying of surface fuel is expected near Del Rio, but lower grass loading and decreasing fire weather will keep initial attack fire potential low Tuesday and Wednesday.

Monday

Forecast Fuel Dryness

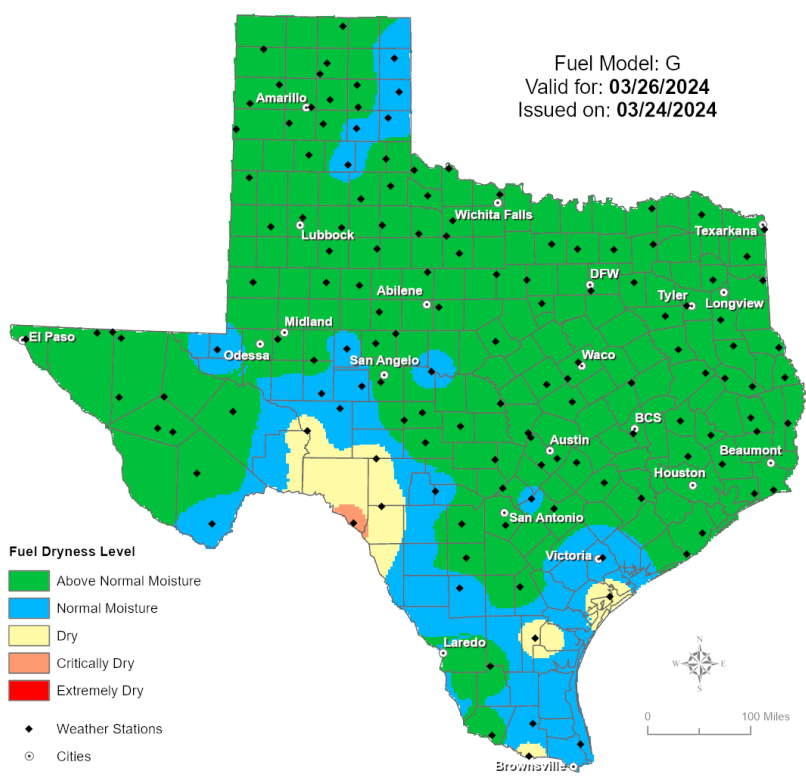
(based on 100hr and ERC percentiles)



Tuesday

Forecast Fuel Dryness

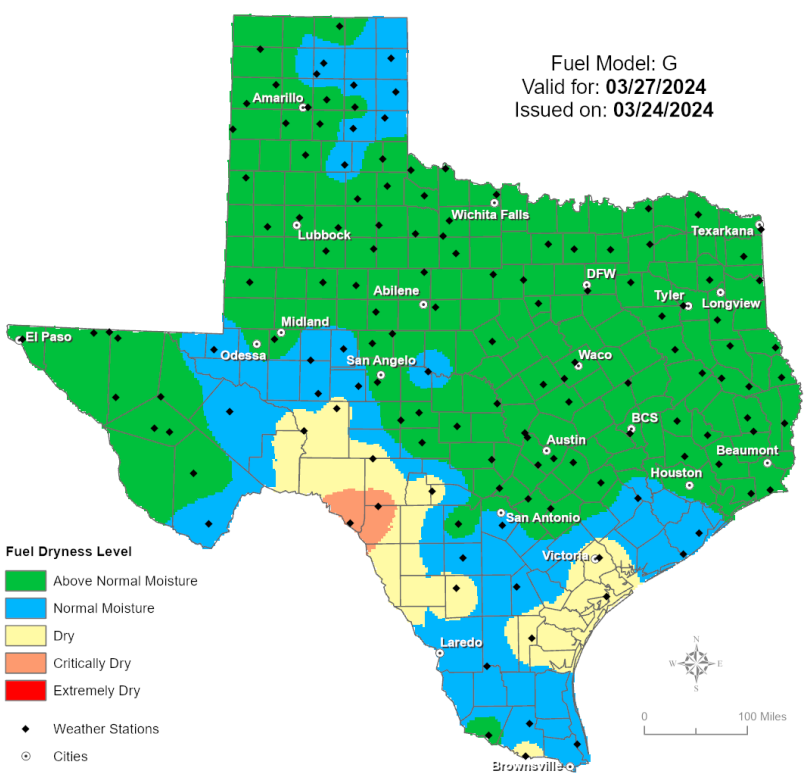
(based on 100hr and ERC percentiles)



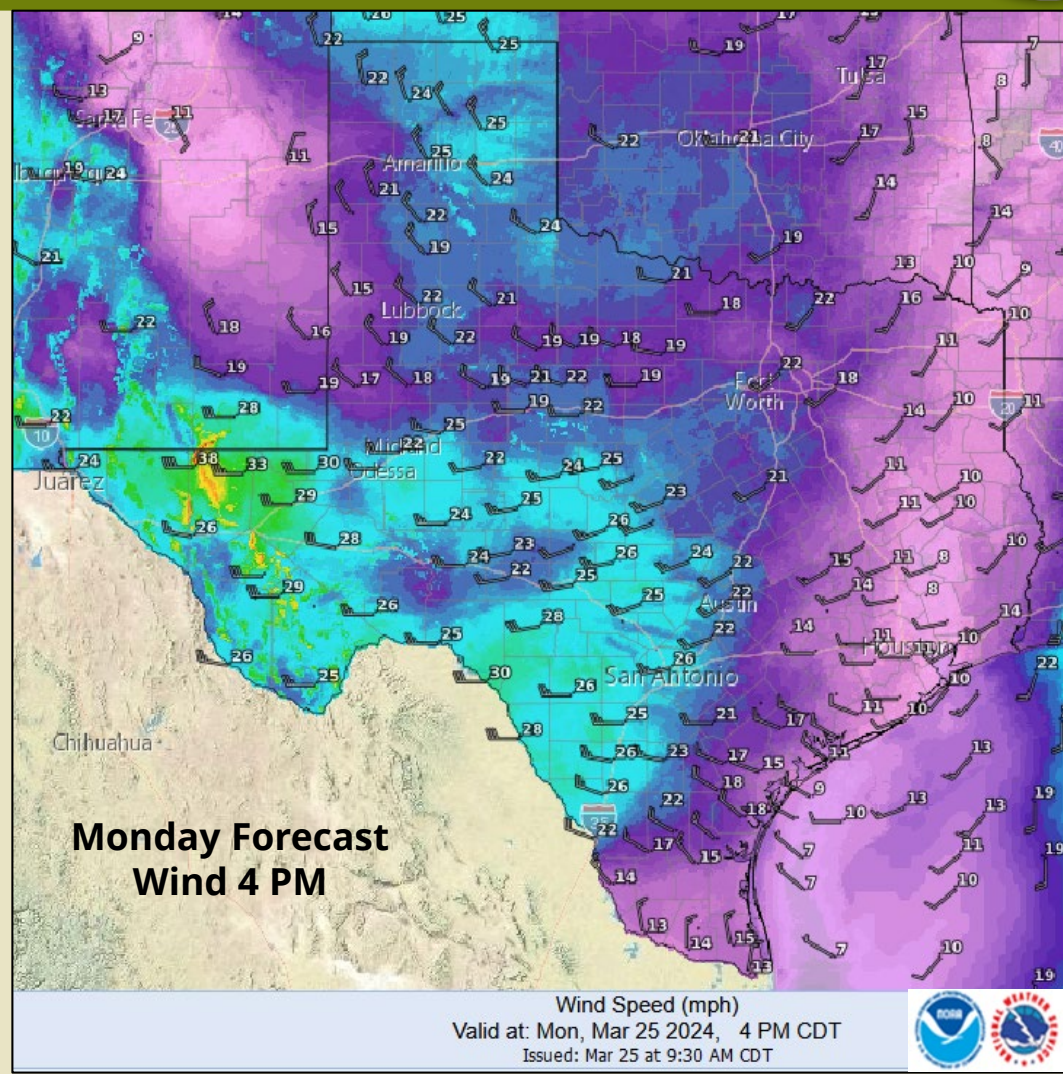
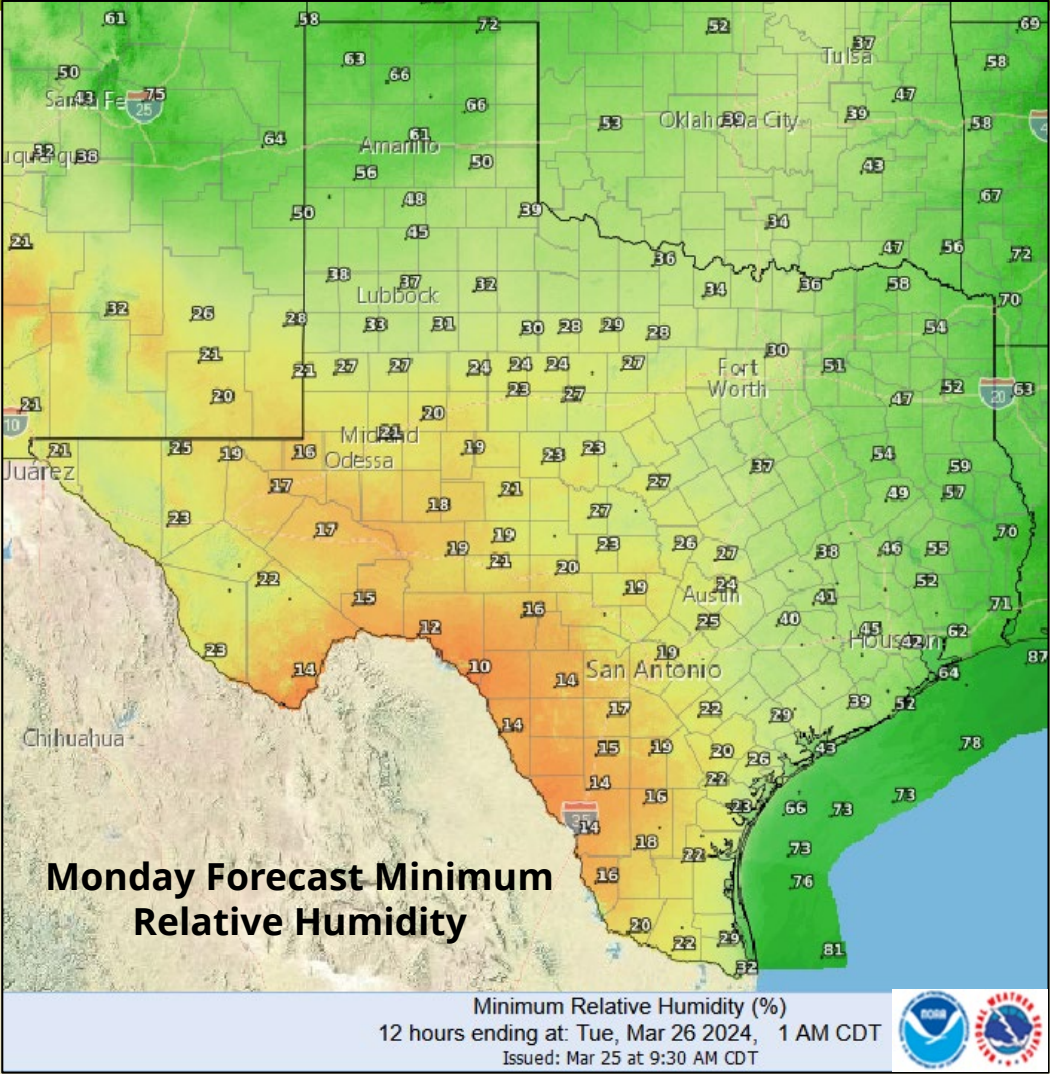
Wednesday

Forecast Fuel Dryness

(based on 100hr and ERC percentiles)

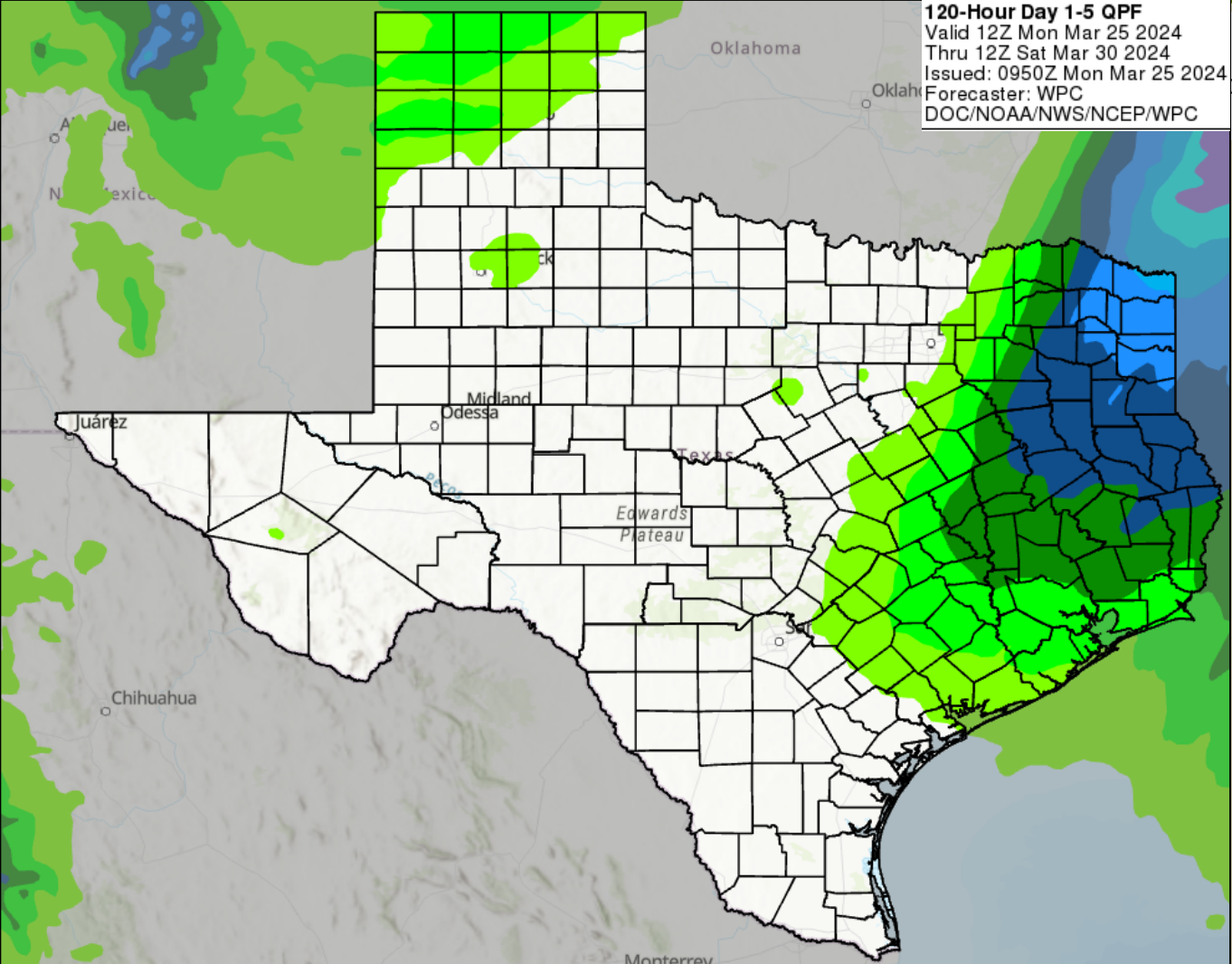
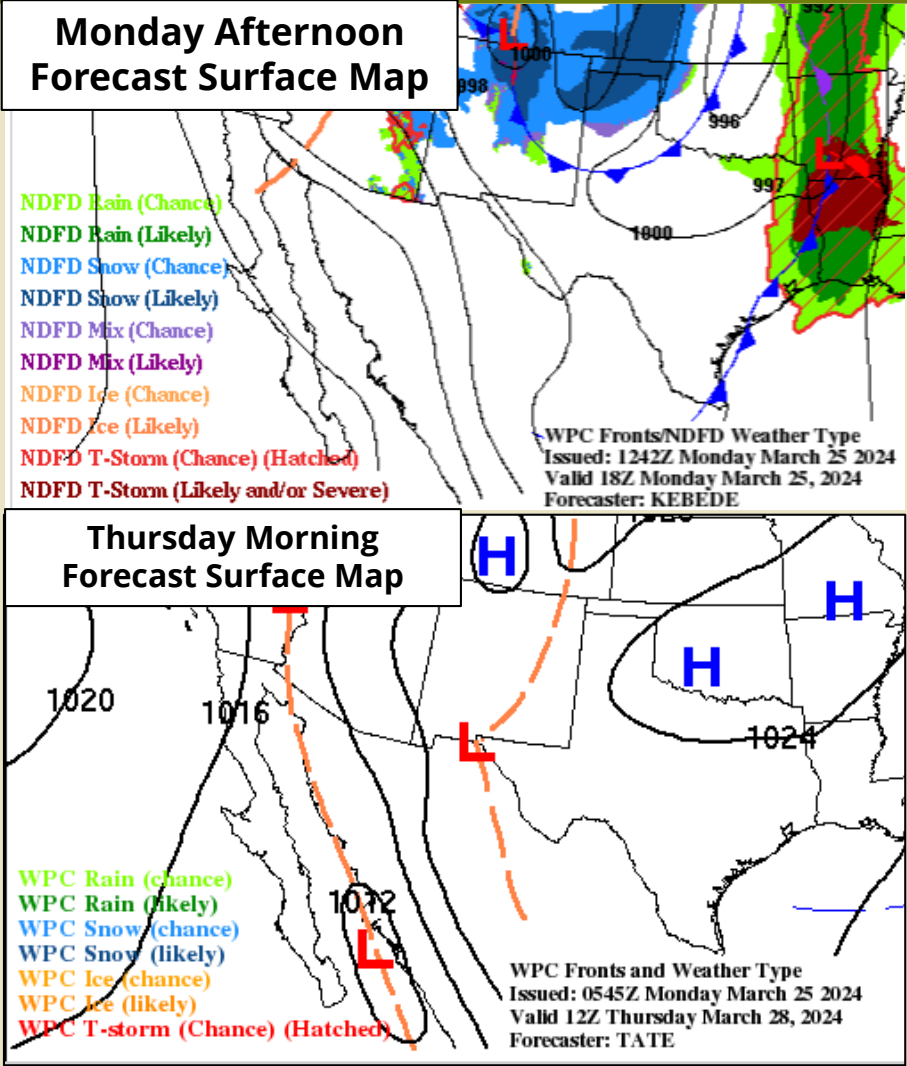


Monday's fire environment shows elevated to critical fire weather forecast in the Trans Pecos and into parts of the Hill County and South Texas. Normal to above normal fuel moisture, recent rainfall, and transition green grasses should limit the potential for any large wildfires that are resistant to control.

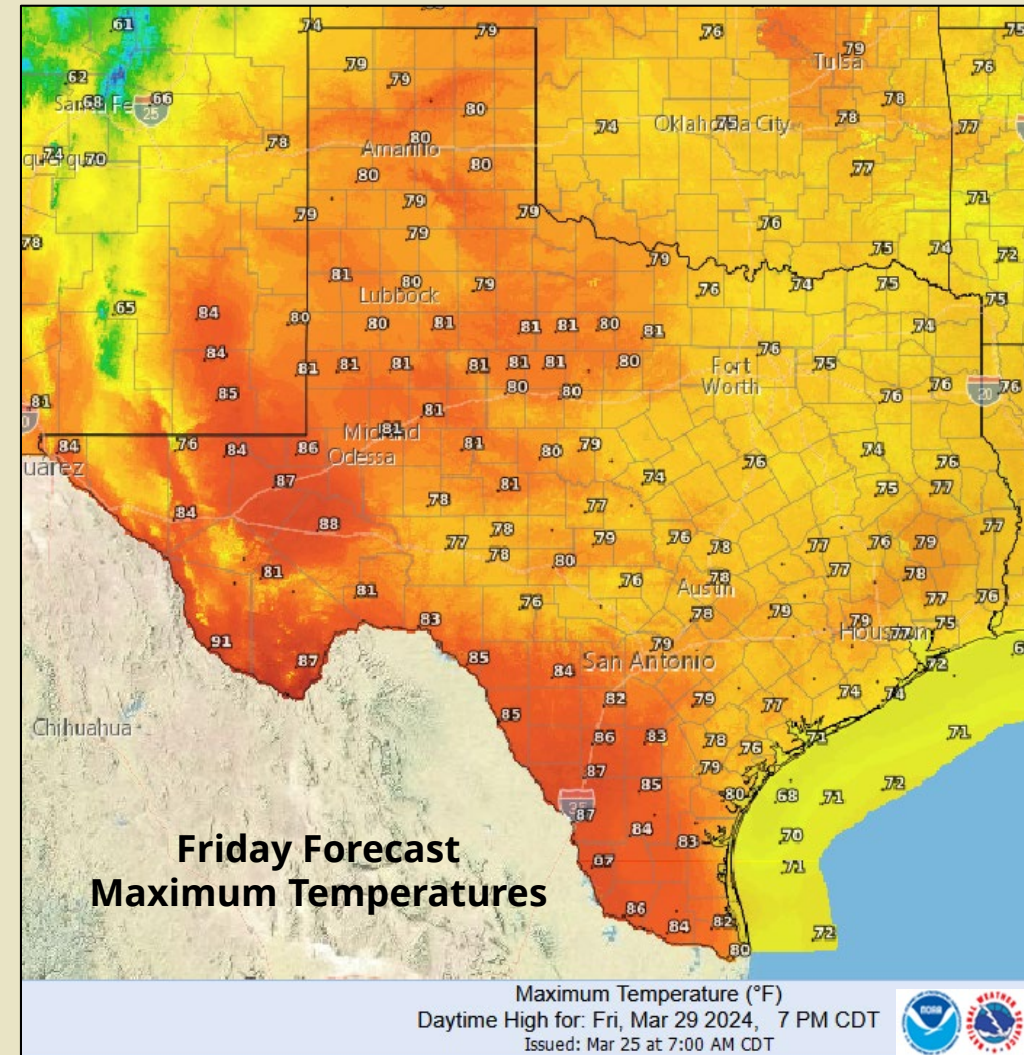
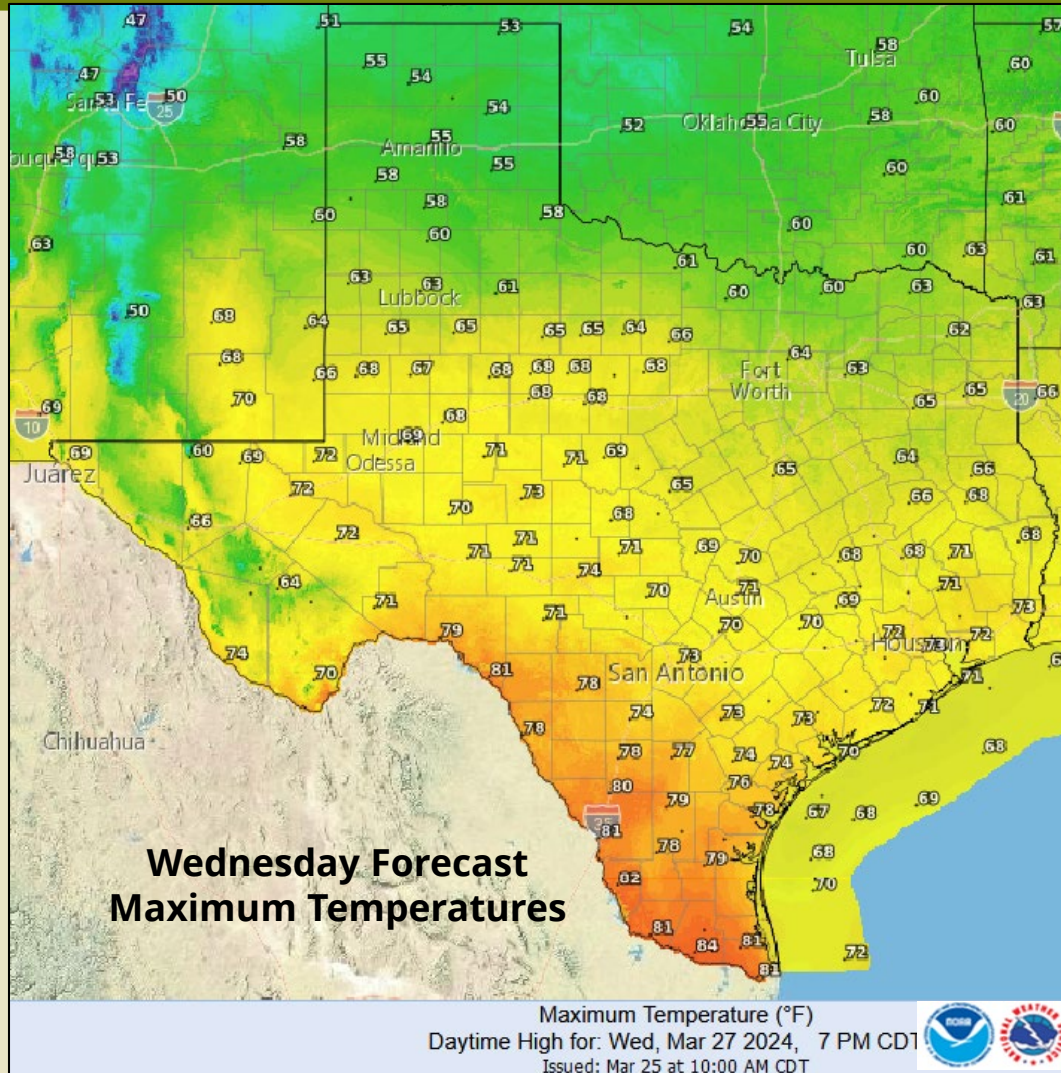




Monday will feature winter weather in the Texas High Plains with rain and thunderstorms in East Texas. Tuesday through Saturday is expected to be mostly dry across Texas.



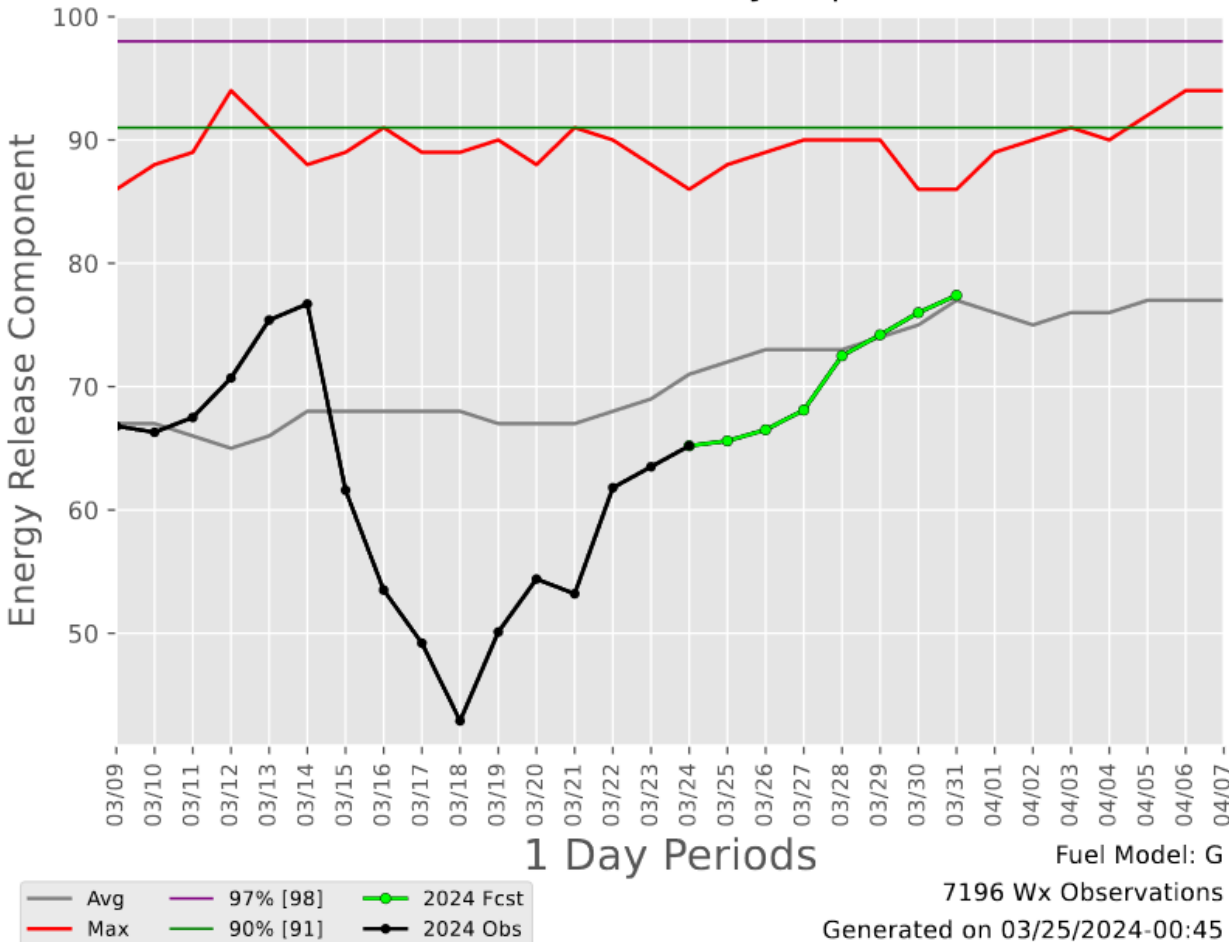
Temperatures Tuesday through Thursday will trend near or slightly below average for late March. By Friday, temperatures will begin to trend above average across much of the state.



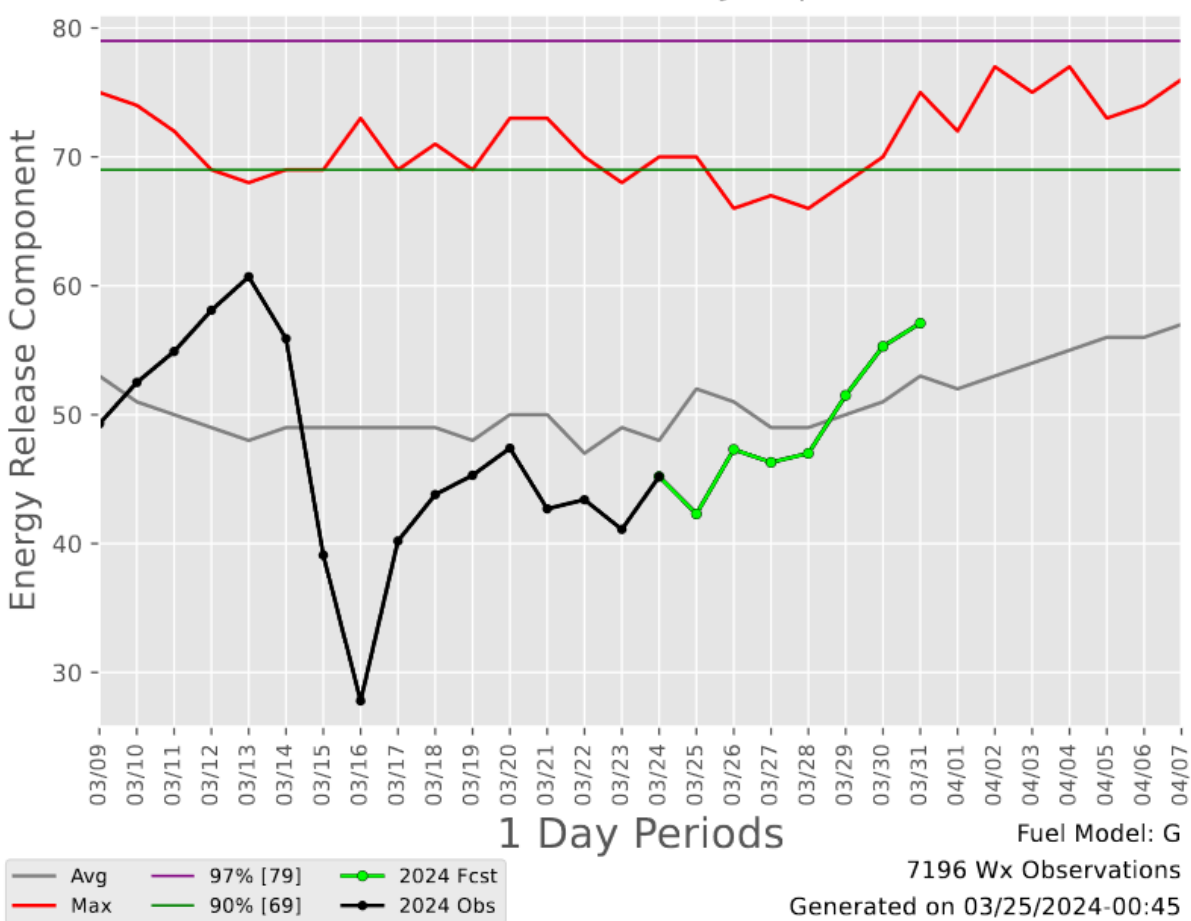


Forecast energy release component trends indicate drying of surface fuel will be ongoing in the Trans Pecos through next week. Drying of surface fuel will not begin in the High Plains until Friday once temperatures begin trending above normal. Moderate to high drying of surface fuel is possible Friday through Sunday in the High Plains with ERC values forecast to increase above normal this weekend.

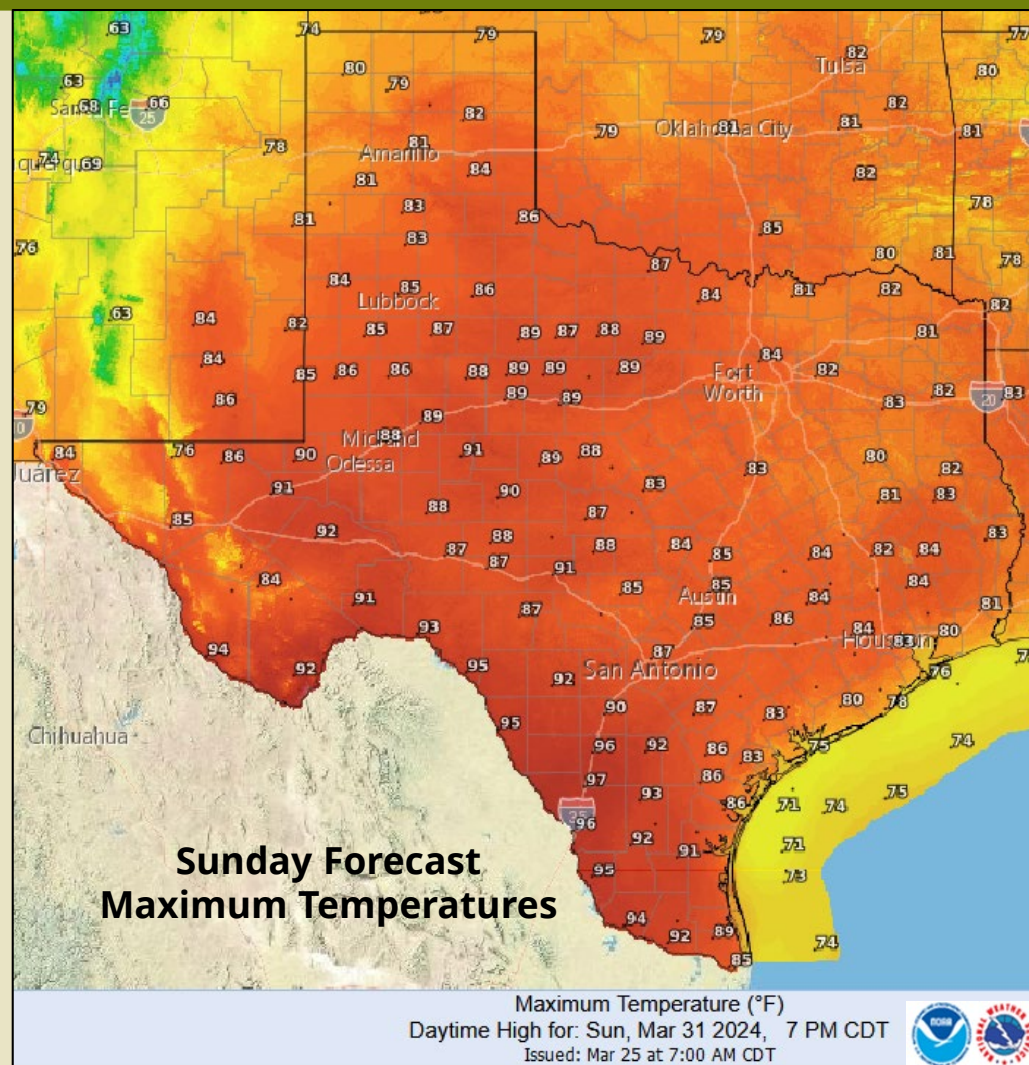
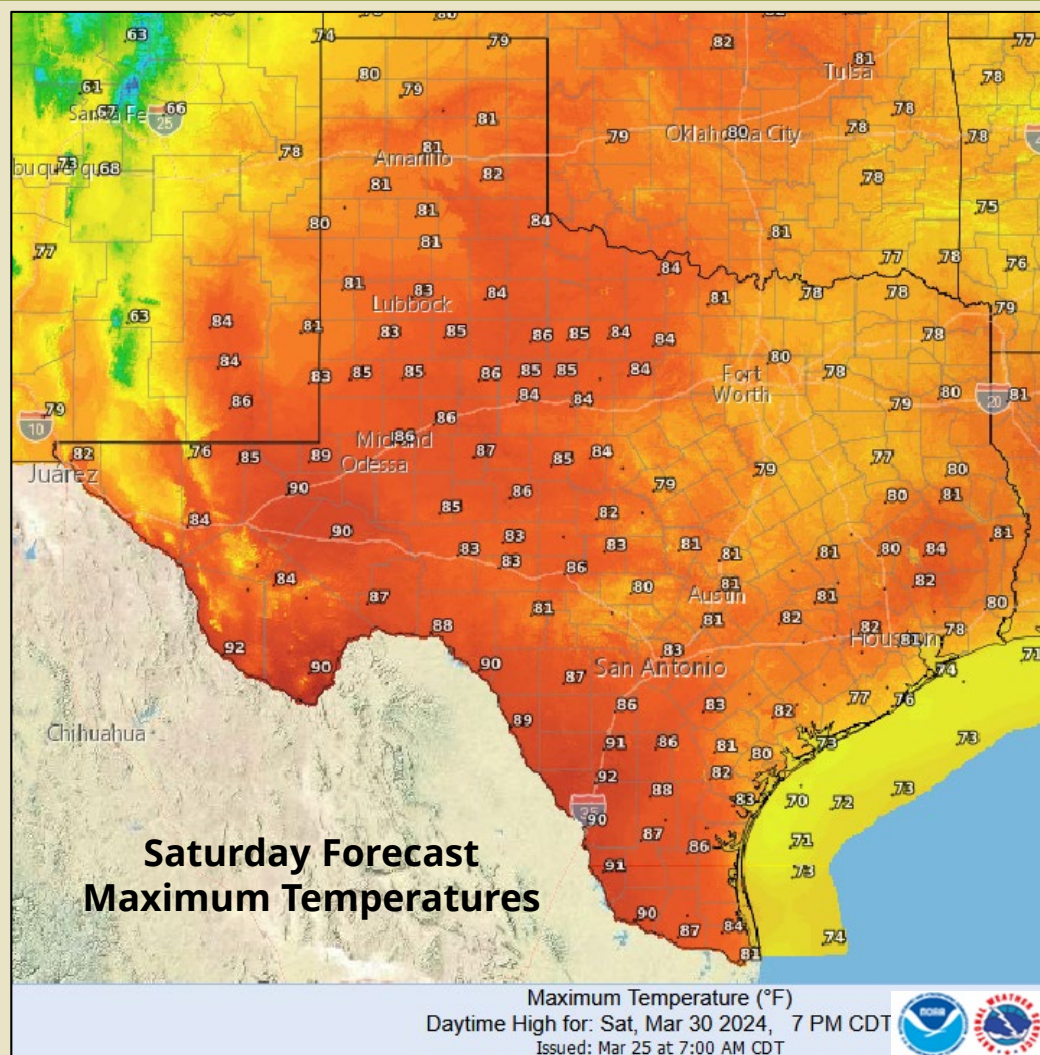
TRANS PECOS Predictive Service Area
2007-2024 - 30 Day Depiction



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



Forecast high temperatures Saturday and Sunday may be 10-15°F above normal across the state with low to mid-80s in the High Plains and low 90's in the Trans Pecos.



Current forecast guidance suggest increasing wind this weekend in the High Plains and Trans Pecos. Pockets of dry fuel may emerge in the High Plains by Sunday where increased winds and above normal temperatures may serve as the fire weather trigger for increased wildfire potential.

