

CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.



# **Texas Fire Potential Update**

**May 6<sup>th</sup> –May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services**

# Fire Potential Notes May 6<sup>th</sup>- May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

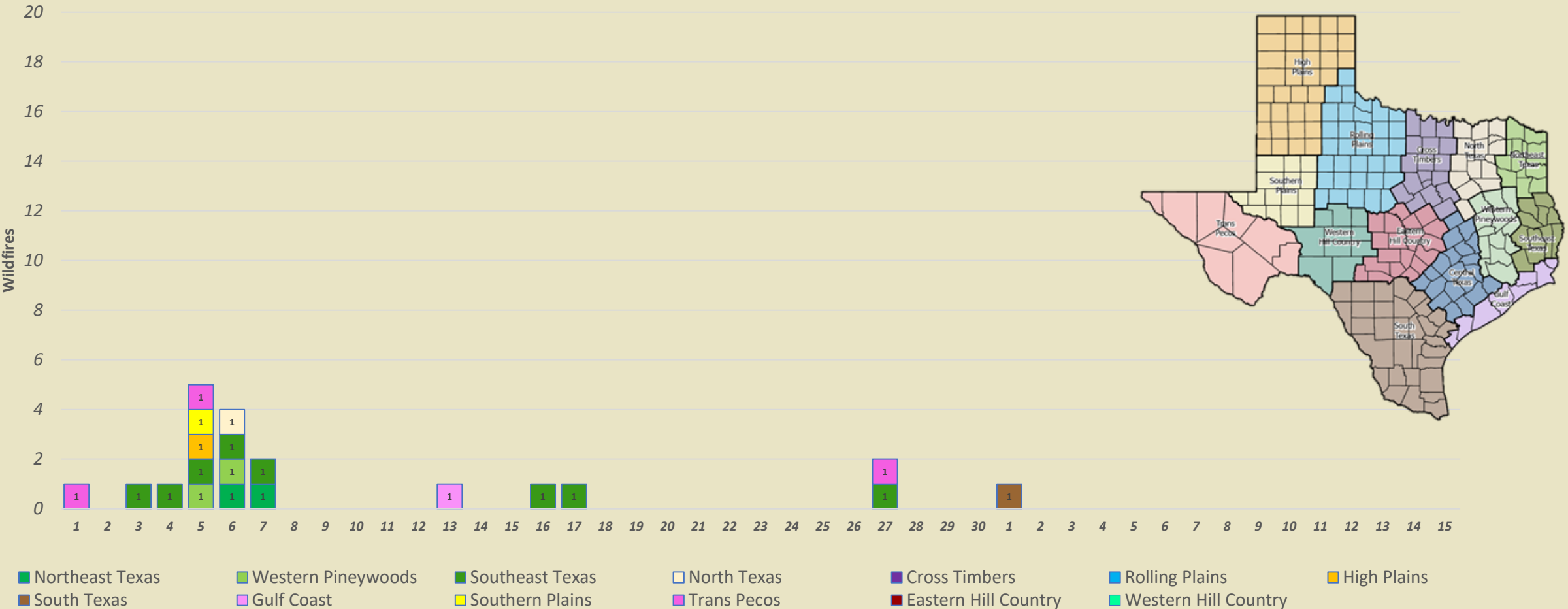


- The fire environment this week will support low to limited wildfire potential and be focused across the northwest High Plains/western Canadian River drainage, Trans Pecos mountain ranges, and far South Texas.
- Above normal to normal fuel moisture will serve as a buffer to limit large wildfire potential in the northwest High Plains Monday and Tuesday when exposed to periods of elevated to critical fire weather. Initial attack fire potential will be low Monday and Tuesday. A fire in the western Canadian River drainage could support low to moderate resistance to control in cured, above normal grass loading.
- Grasses are showing signs of drought stress in far South Texas with more transition green grasses observed. Hot temperatures Wednesday and Thursday will continue to wilt grasses and support increased ignition potential where low initial attack fire potential is expected. Resistance to control should remain low.
- The environment will remain warm, dry, and breezy across the central and western Trans Pecos where low fire potential will exist throughout the week as fuel moisture decreases. Lightning ignition potential should remain limited as no widespread thunderstorms are expected through Saturday.

Statewide wildfire activity and Texas A&M Forest Service fire response continues to trend below normal due to the limited areas of increase risk due to greening herbaceous fuel, frequent rainfall, and normal to above normal fuel moisture.

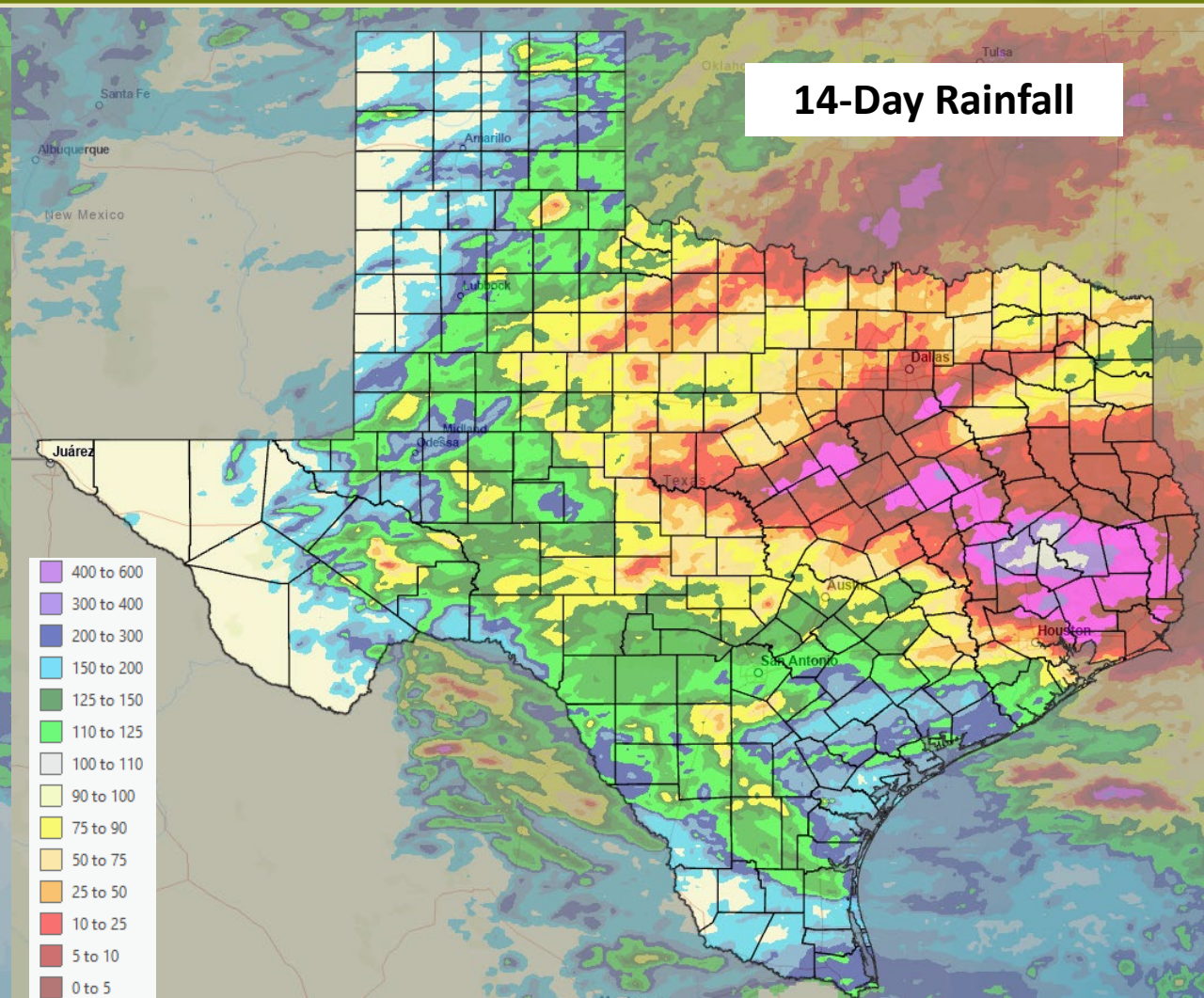
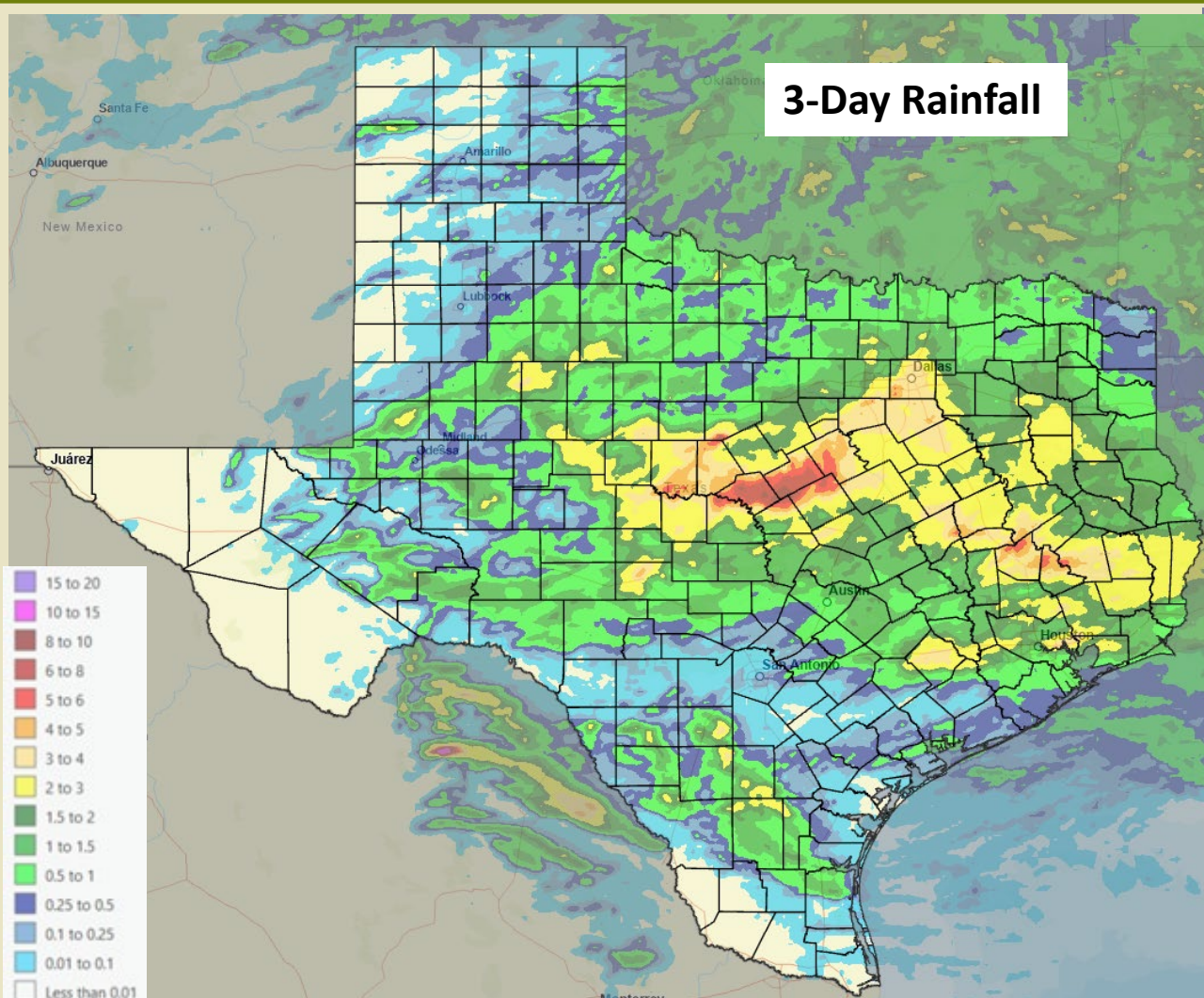


April 1<sup>st</sup>-May 5<sup>th</sup> ,2024 Daily Texas A&M Forest Service Wildfire Response by Predictive Service Area



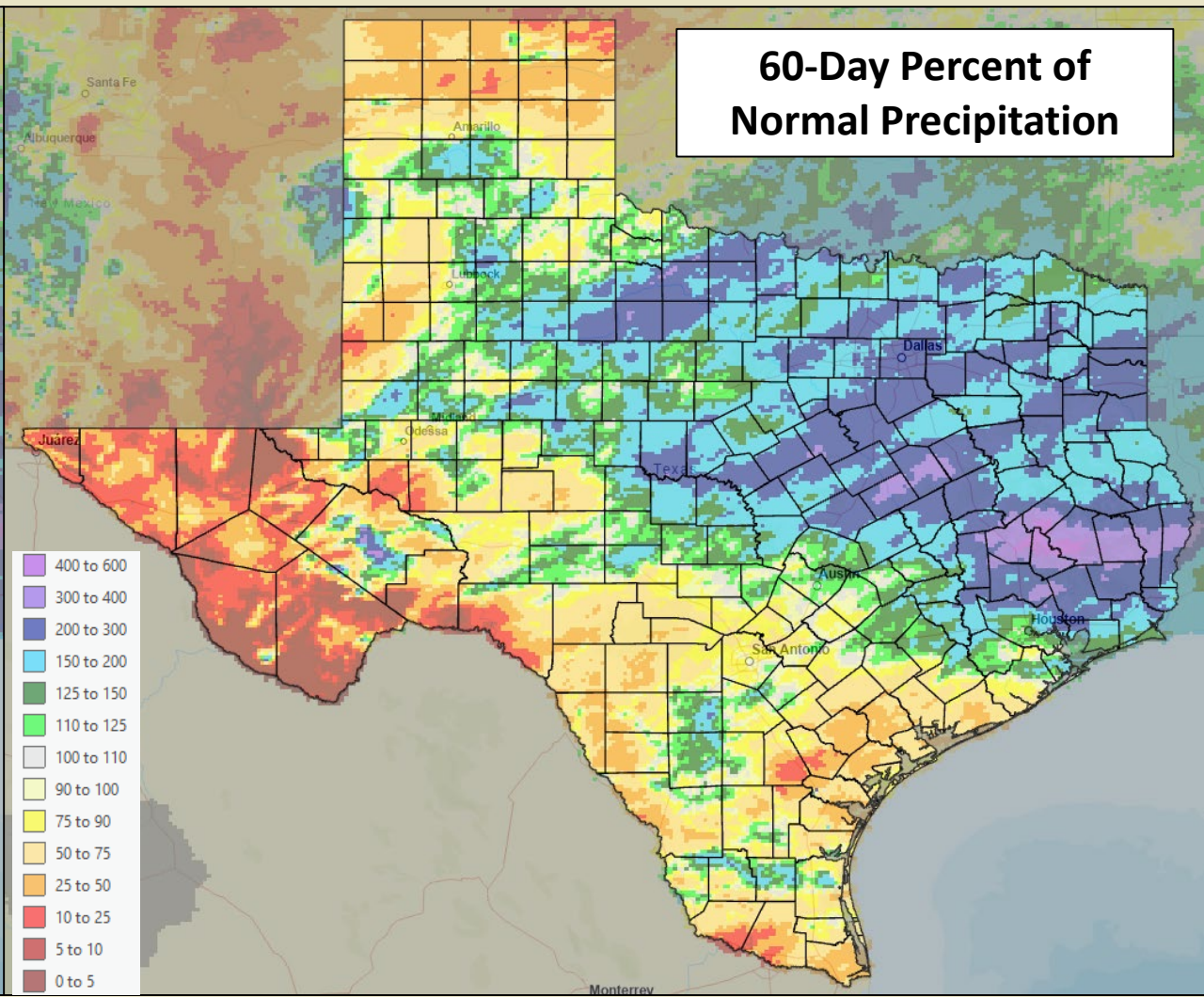
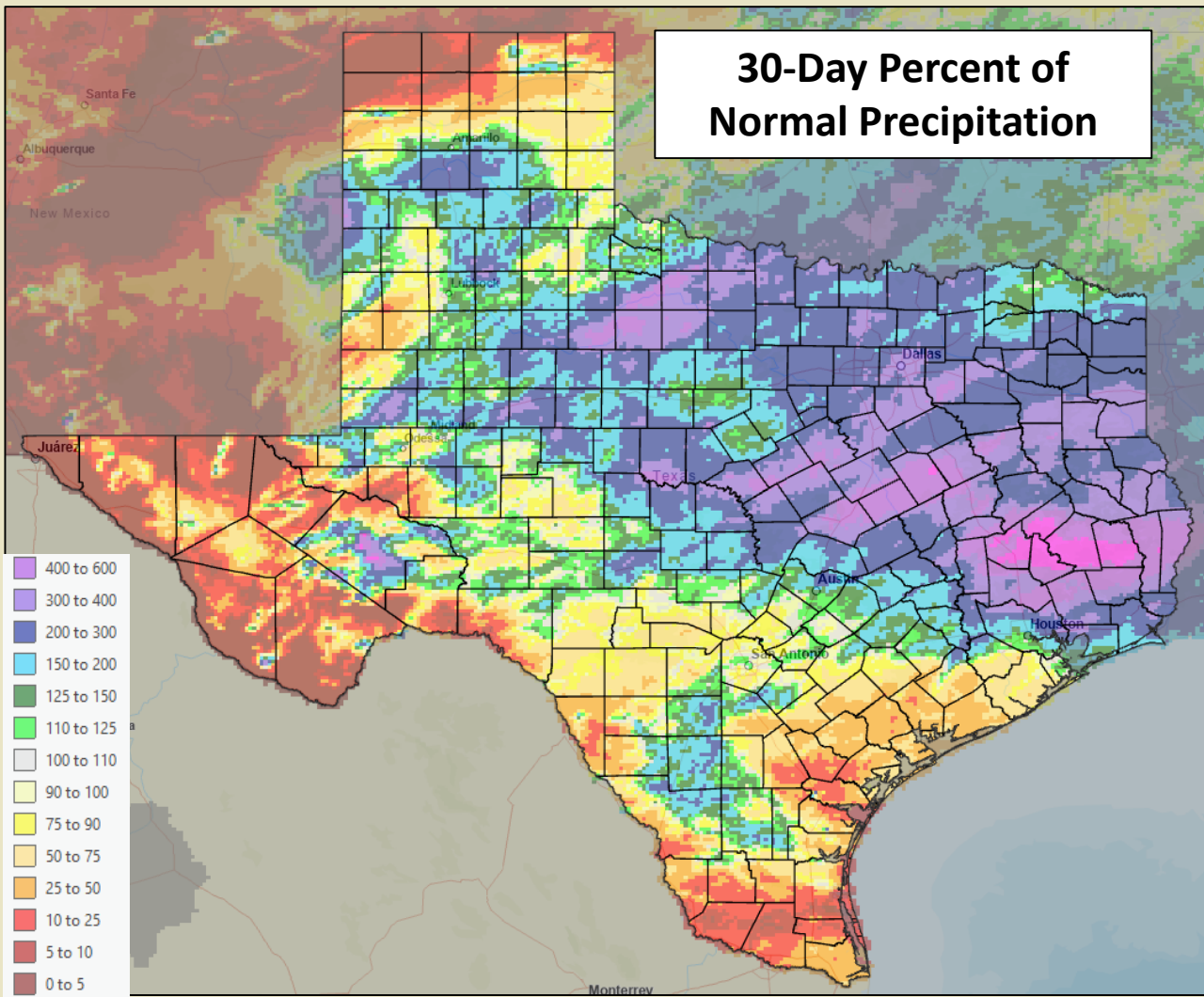


An active period of rain and storms occurred this past weekend with heavy rain and severe weather from the Rolling Plains and into South and East Texas. Only isolated storms and rainfall has been observed in the northwest High Plains, Trans Pecos, and far South Texas over the past 14-days.





Rainfall deficits over the past 30 and 60 days are greatest in the northern High Plains, Trans Pecos, and far South Texas where cured or transition green grasses are present.





Rainfall deficits in far South Texas are causing grasses to fade into transition green. This fading of herbaceous greenness will continue this week for far south Texas with the onset of hot temperatures exceeding 100 degrees. Transition grasses will support fire activity as live fuel moisture decreases.



Starr County west of La Gloria  
Photo submitted by John Lazaro 5/3/24



Linn County west of Linn  
Photo submitted by Stephen Tanner 5/3/24

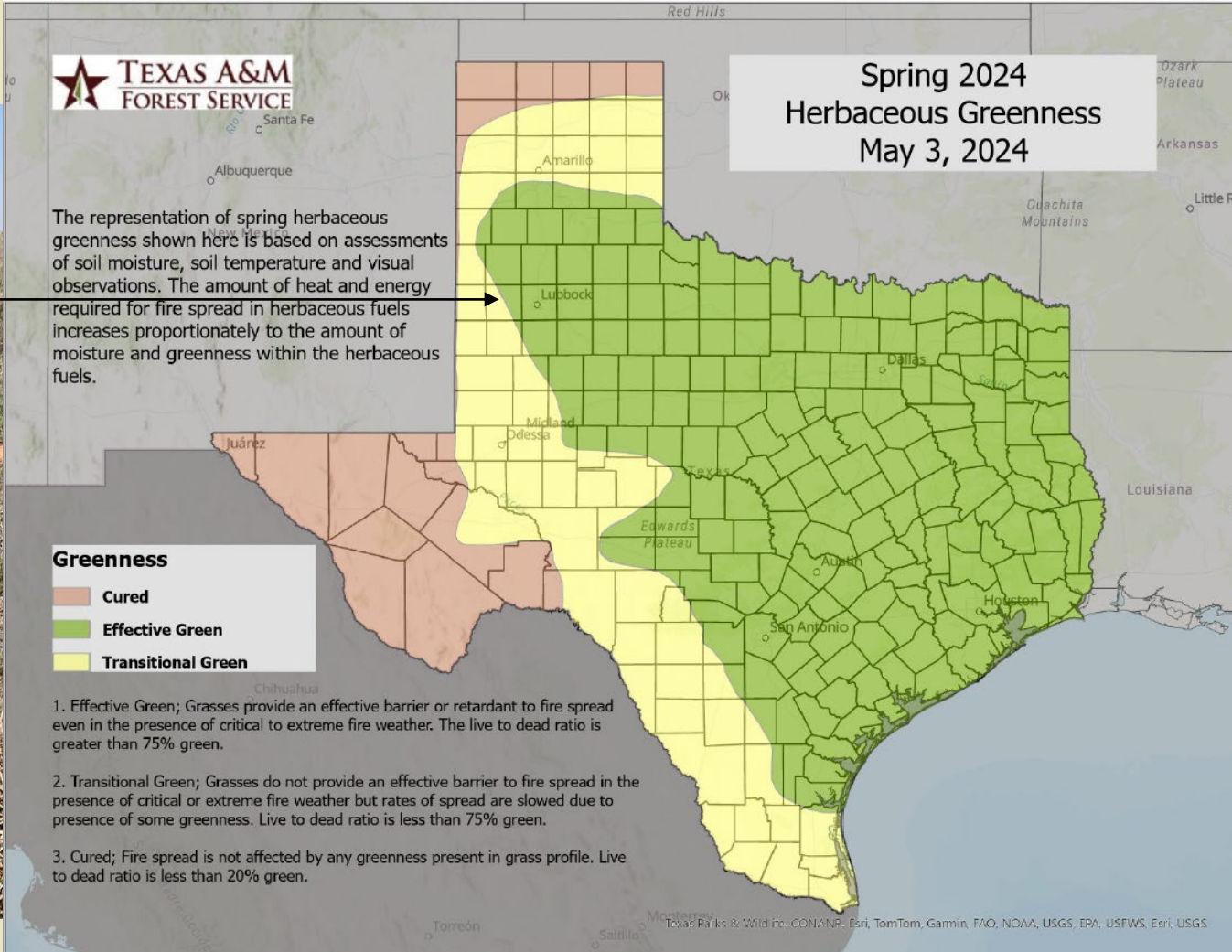




Transition or cured grasses are still present across portions of the High Plains and Southern Plains and could support wildfire activity if fuel becomes dry and exposed to critical fire weather



5/3/24 Hockley County west of Levelland  
Photo Submitted by Josh Torres





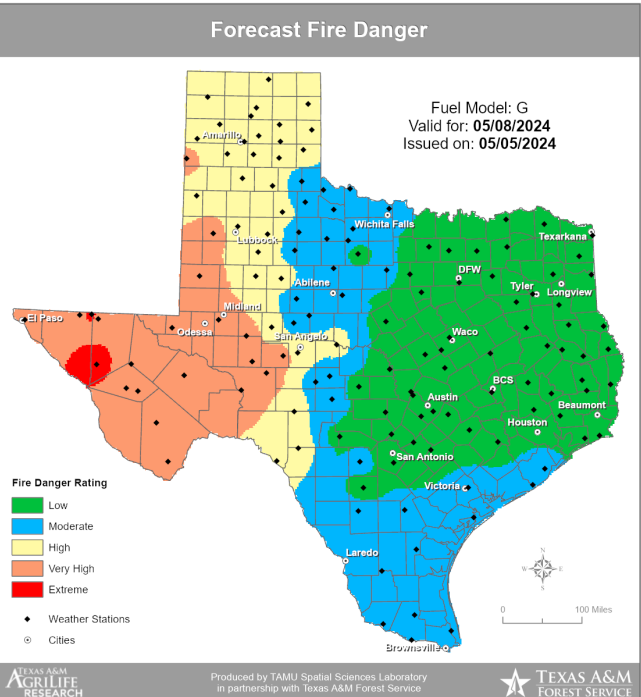
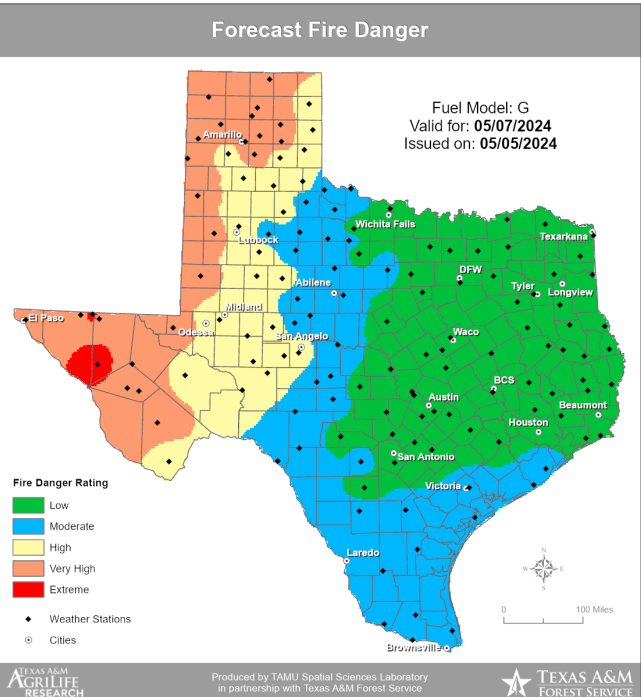
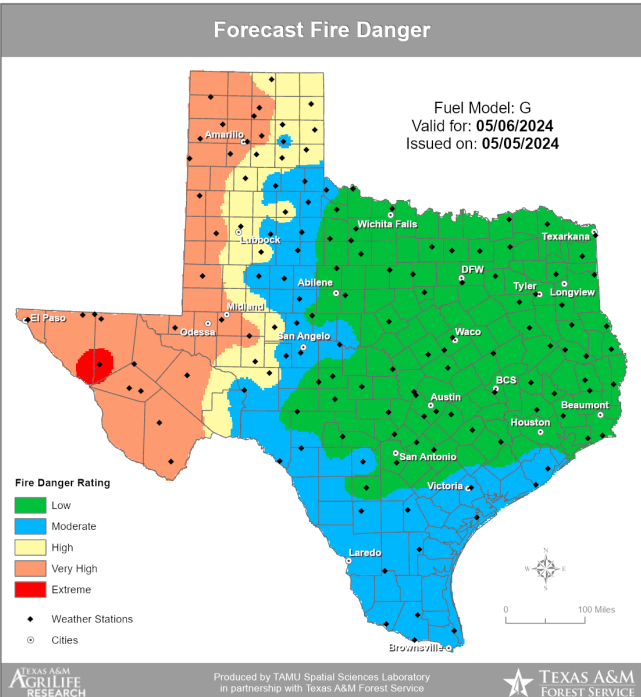
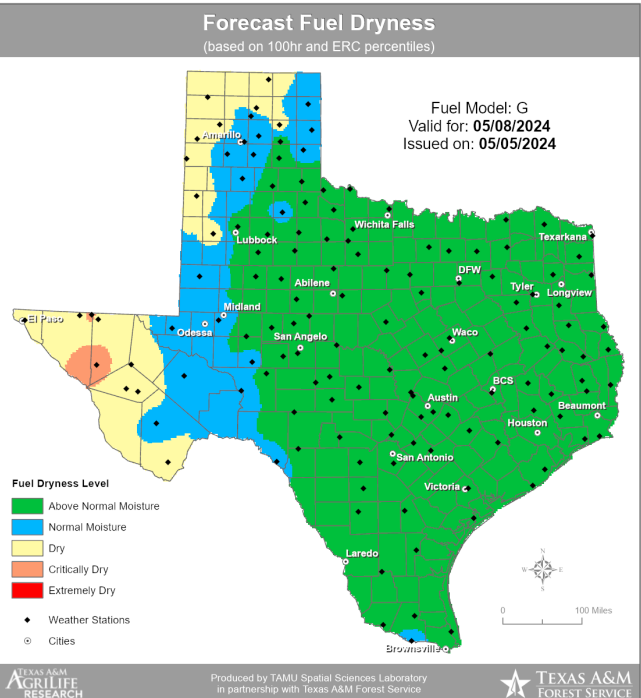
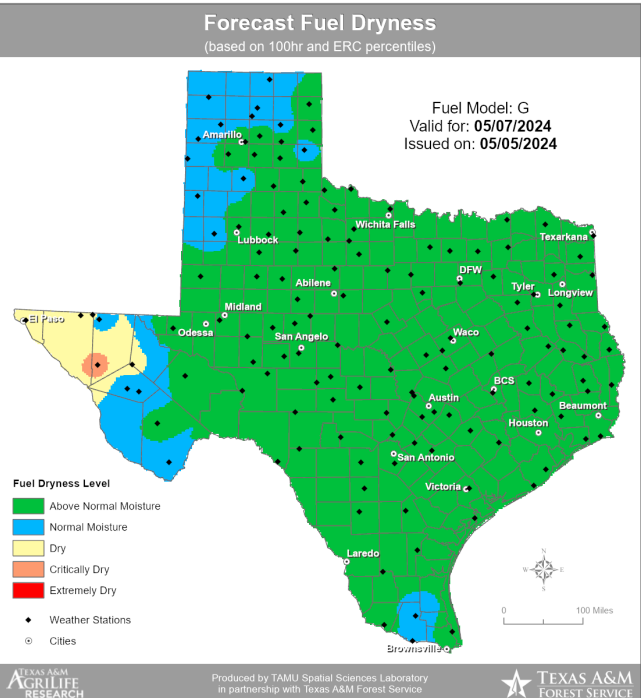
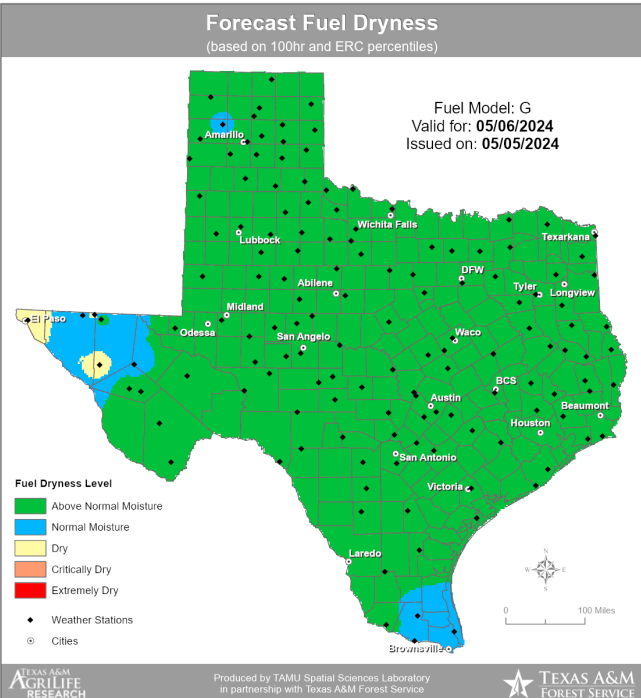


Moist fuel will provide a buffer to significant fire potential Monday and Tuesday in the western Plains and Trans Pecos.

Low initial attack fire potential is expected in the northwest High Plains and Trans Pecos when moist fuel is exposed to high to very high fire danger.

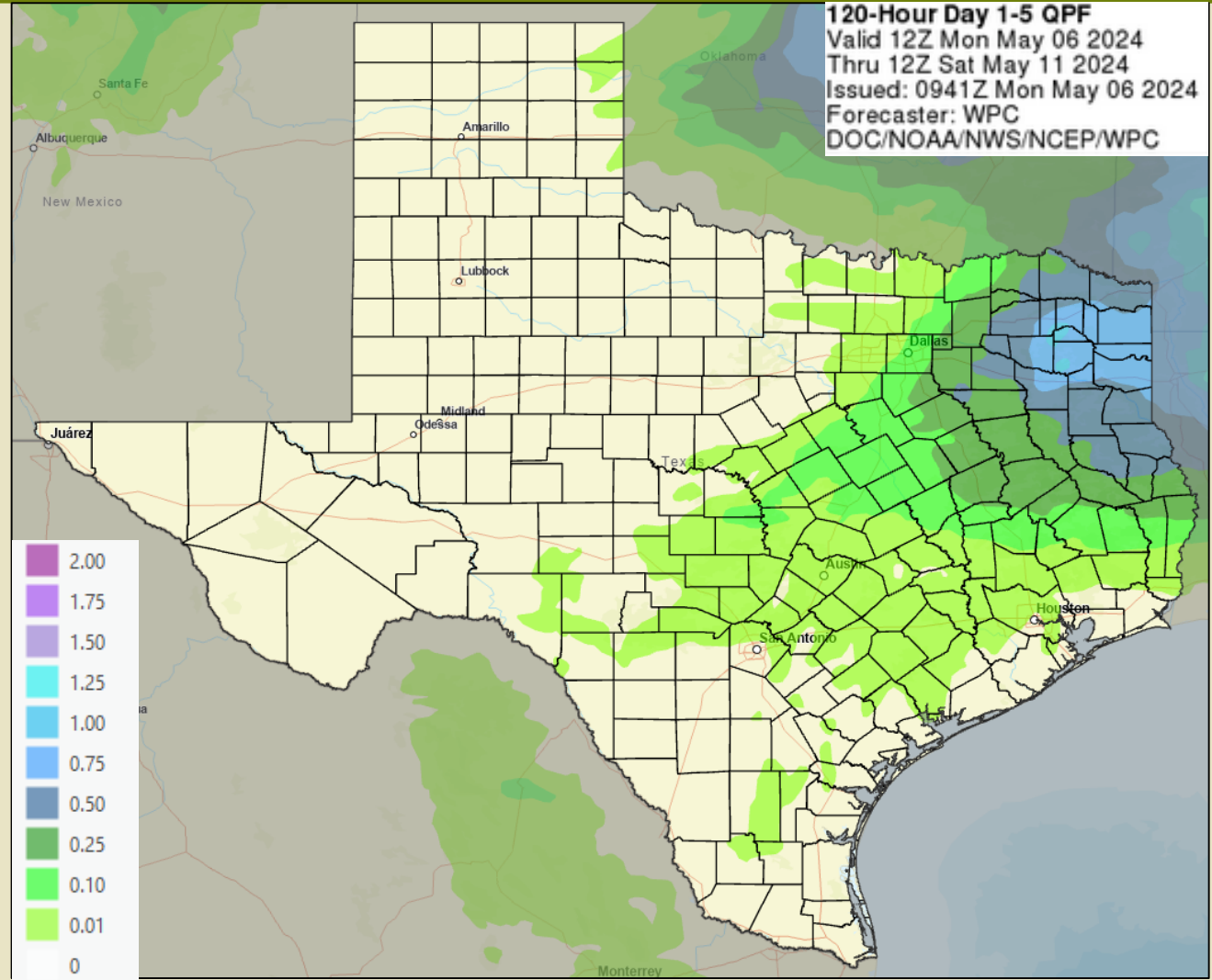
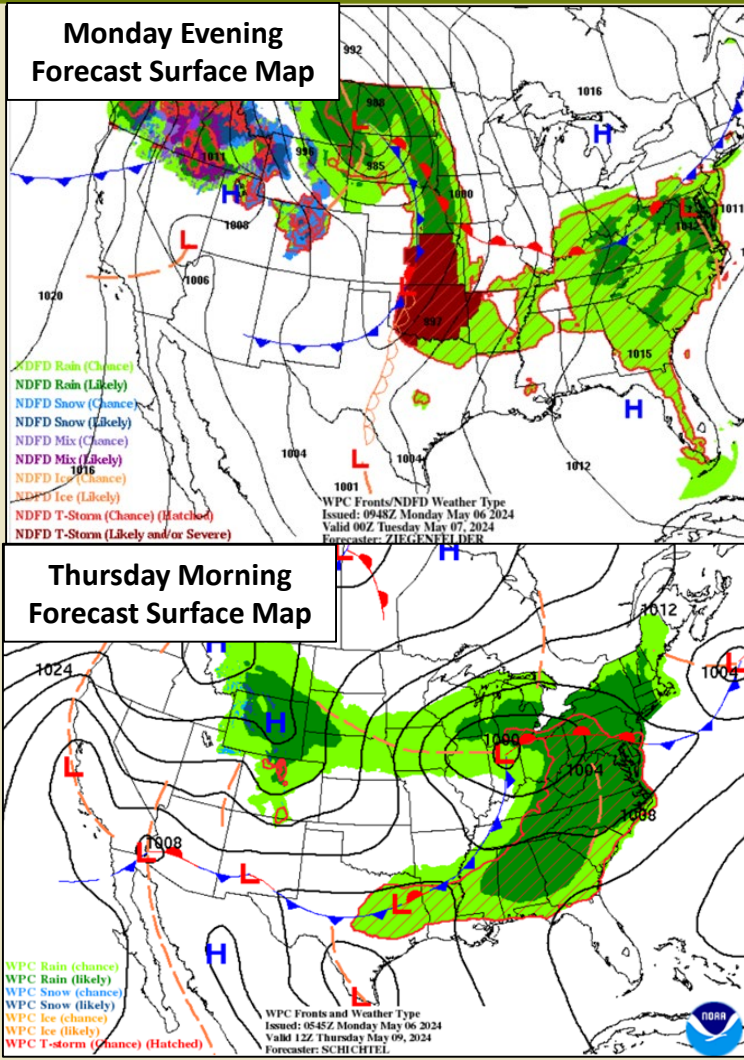
Limited fire potential is expected Wednesday in the northwest High Plains as dry fuel emerges on the landscape, but wind speeds decrease to near or below 15 mph.

Continued low IA potential in Trans Pecos throughout the week as fuel moisture decreases



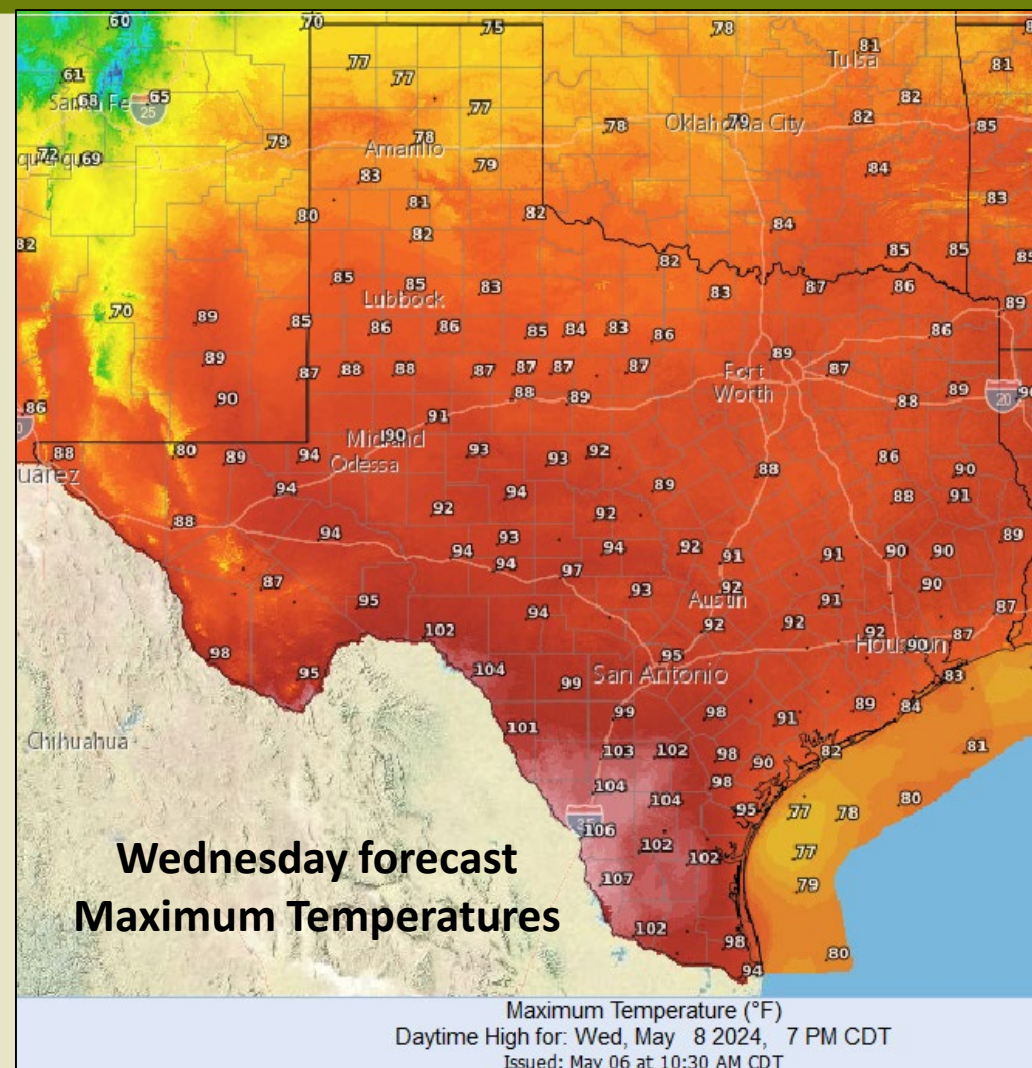
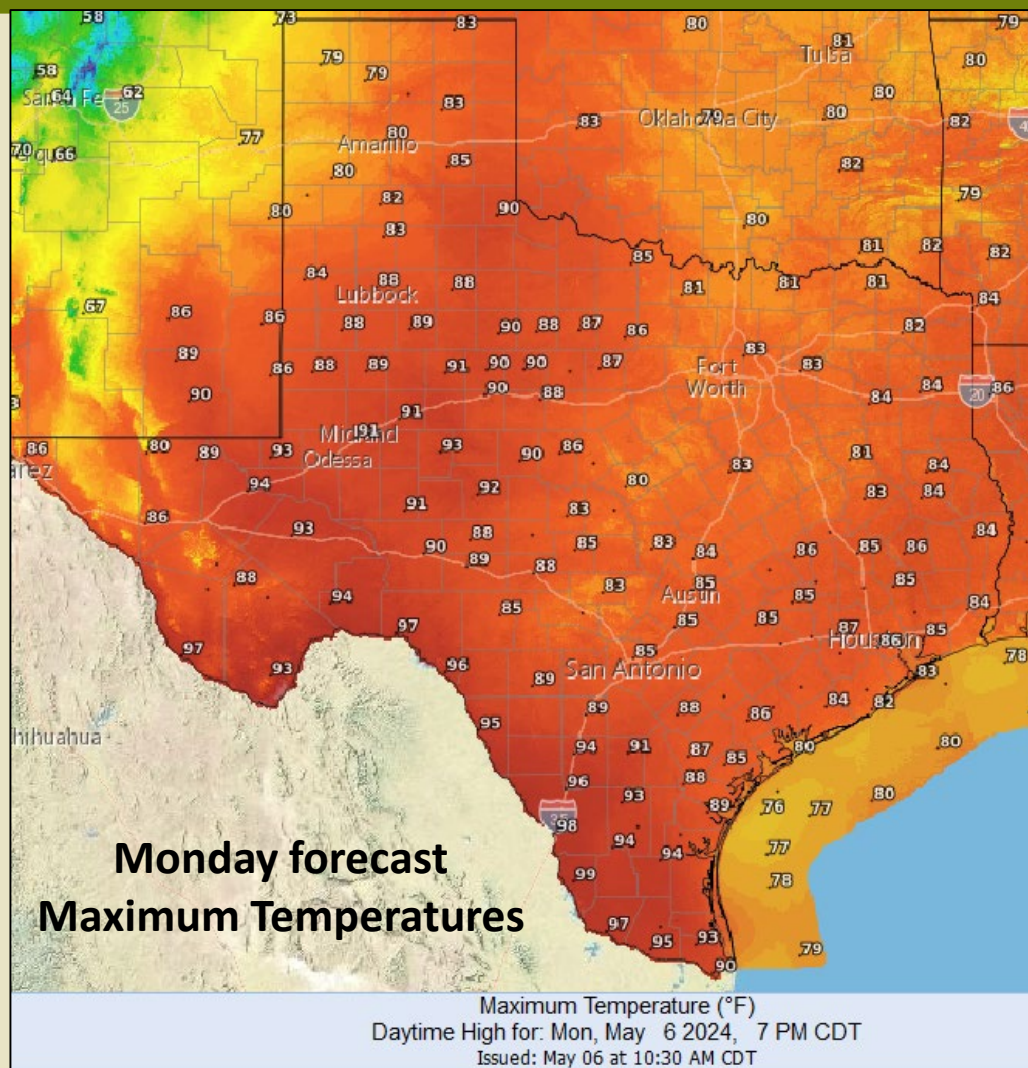


This week will remain active with several opportunities for severe weather across north, central, and east Texas Monday through Thursday. The majority of rainfall associated with thunderstorm activity will be focused across the eastern half of Texas. The High Plains, Trans Pecos, and far South Texas will remain dry through Saturday morning. A cold front will move south through the state Wednesday through Friday, resulting in cooler temperatures Friday and Saturday.



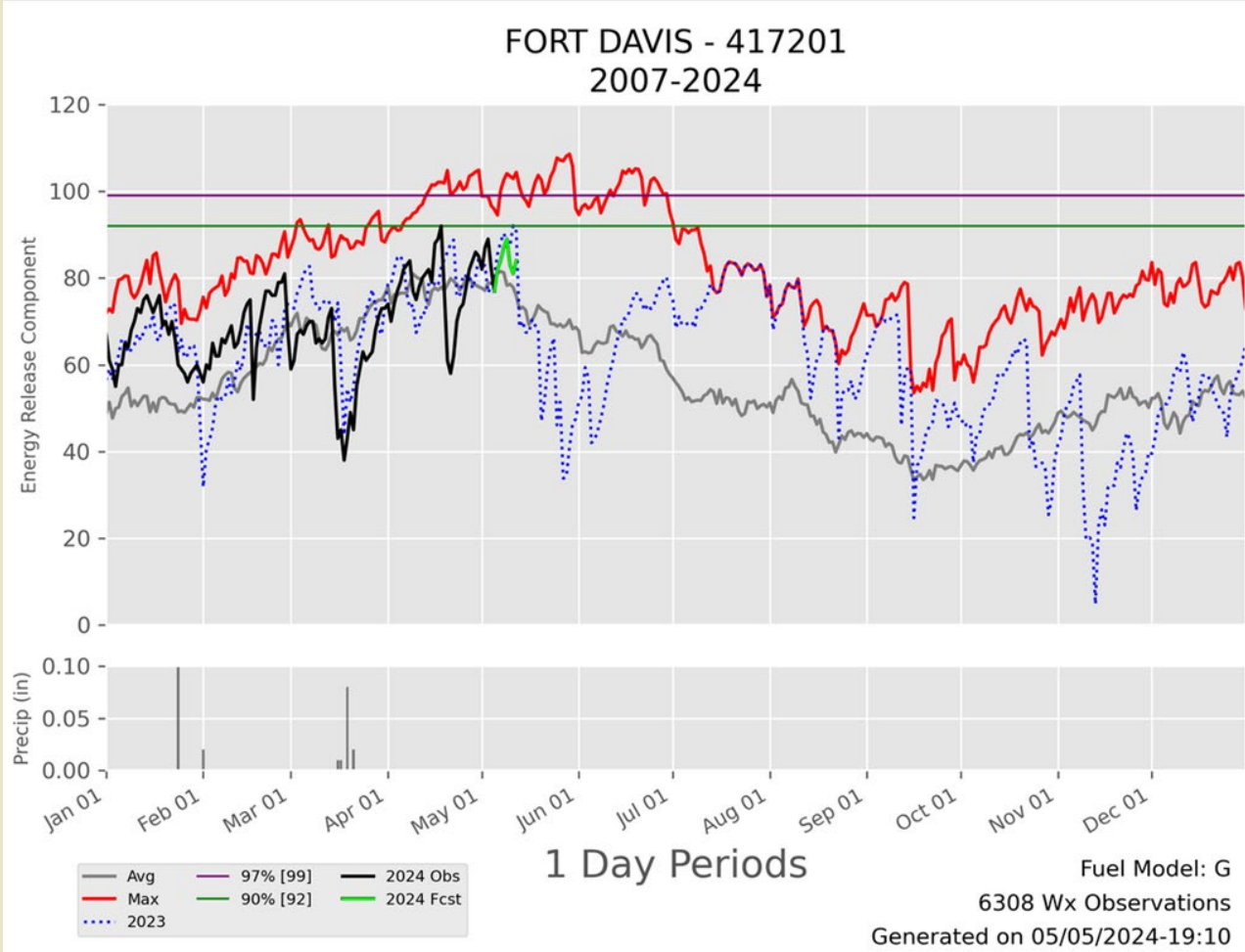
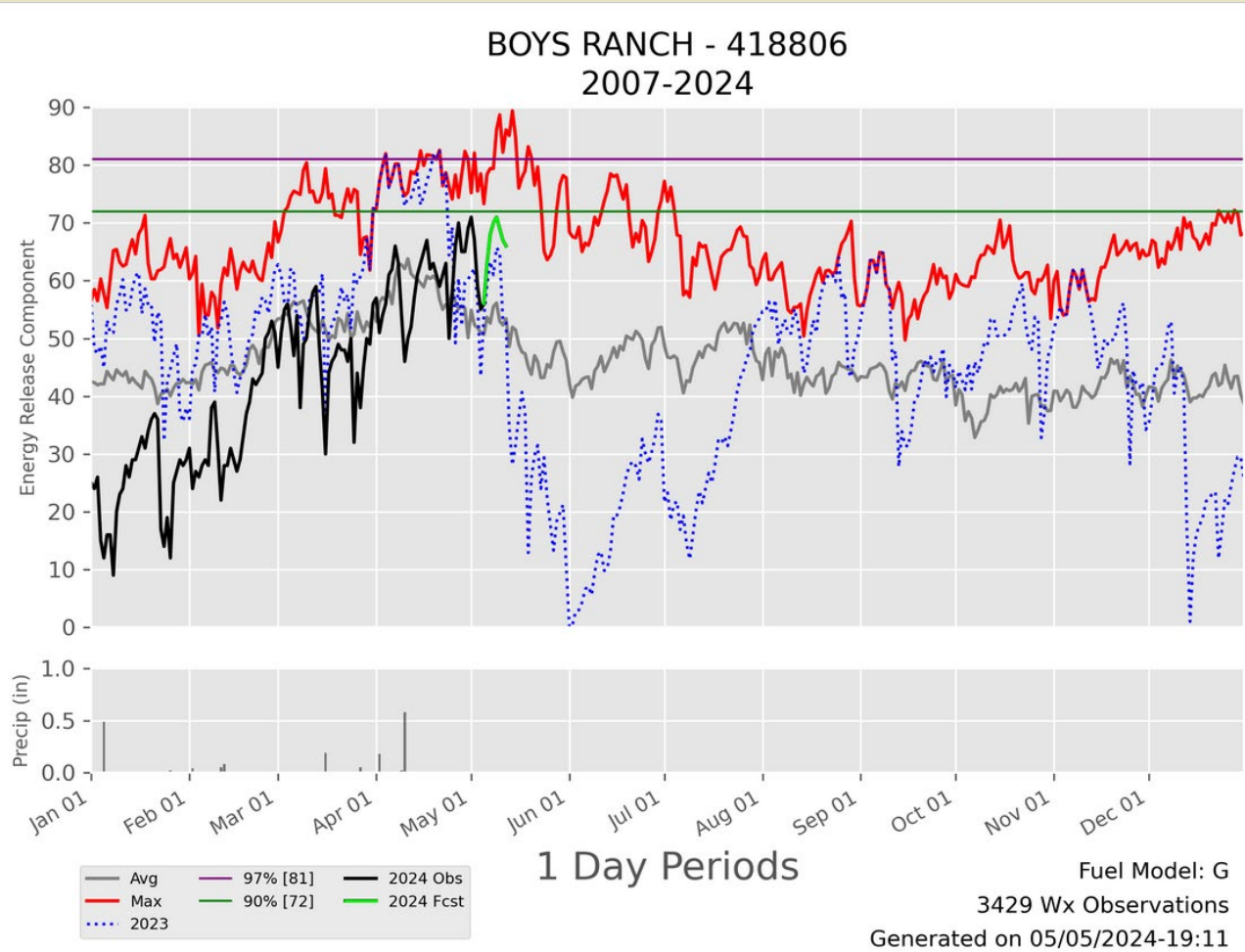


Warm temperatures will be common across the state through mid-week. Hot temperatures exceeding 100 degrees are likely across South Texas Wednesday. The hot temperatures will continue to wilt grasses and support increased ignition potential resulting in low initial attack fire potential in far South Texas Wednesday.



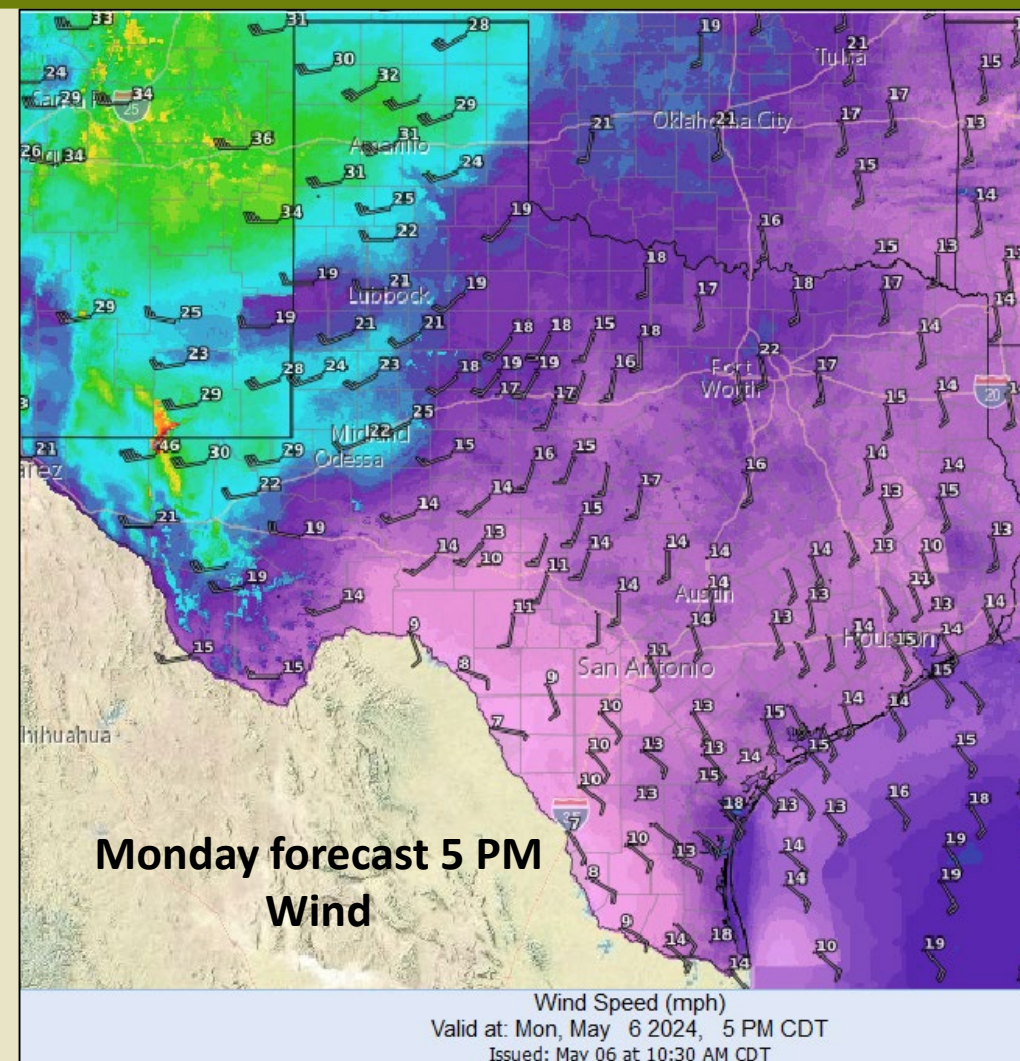
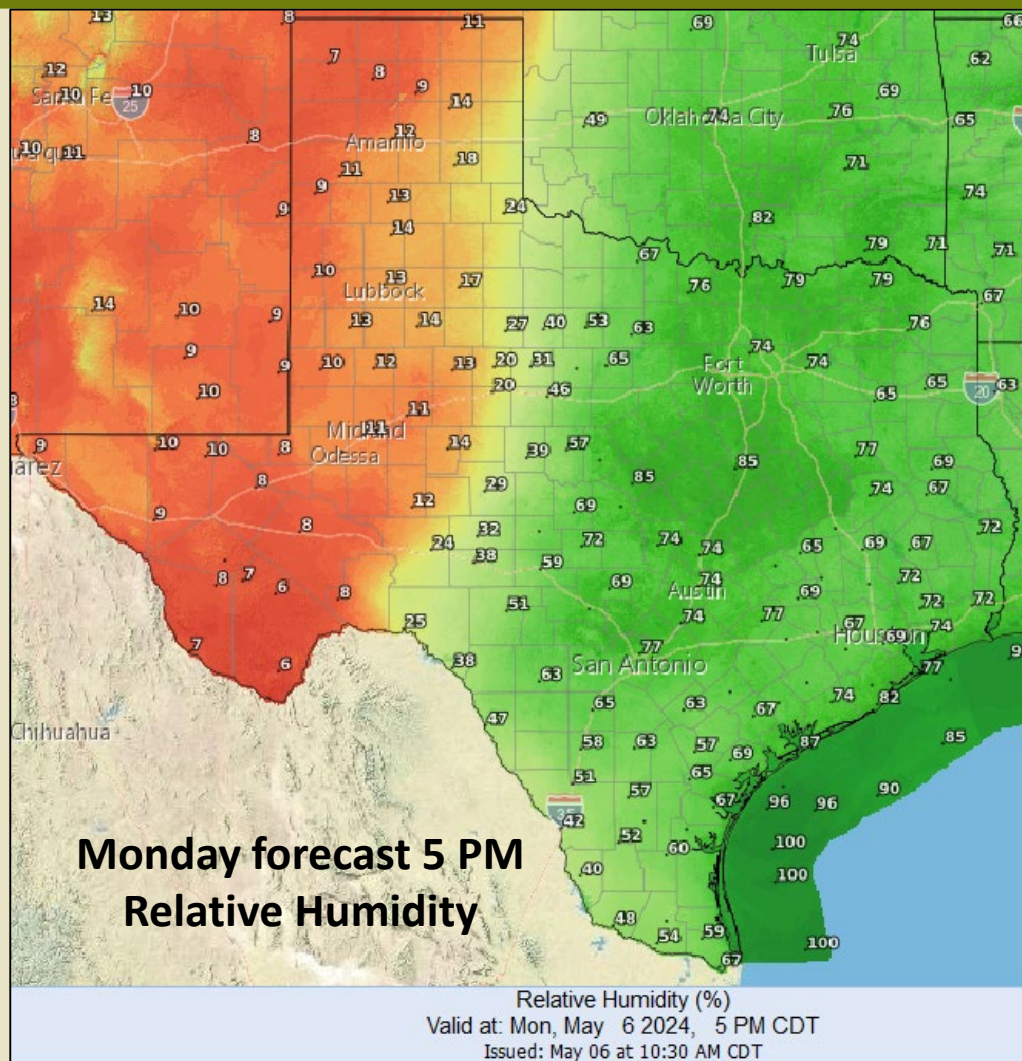


Local energy release component (ERC) trends from individual fire weather stations in the northwest High Plains (Boys Ranch West Texas Mesonet) and the Trans Pecos (Fort Davis remote automated weather station) highlight the increase in fuel moisture over the weekend due to a cooler and moist environment. Each station observed minimal rainfall since mid-April, allowing ERC values to rebound to above average this week with the forecast of warm and dry conditions.



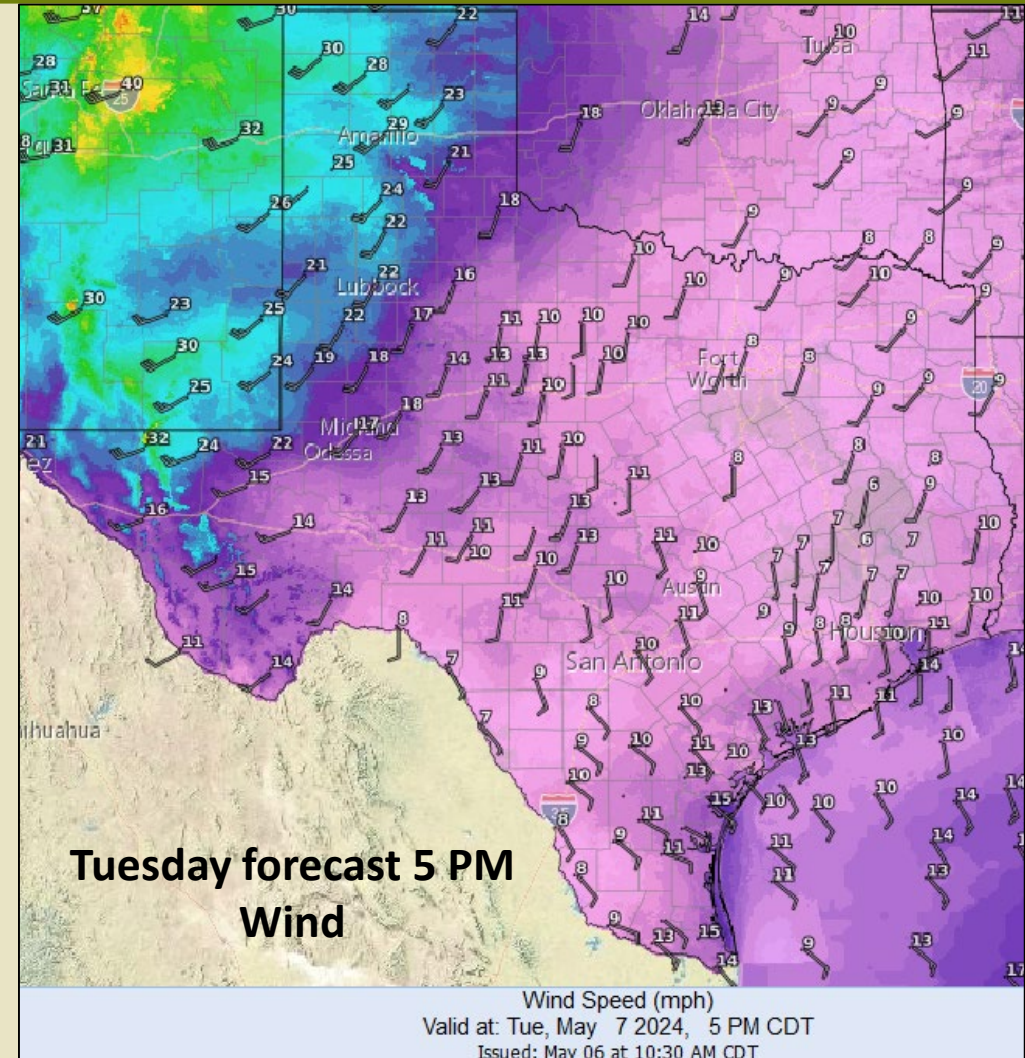
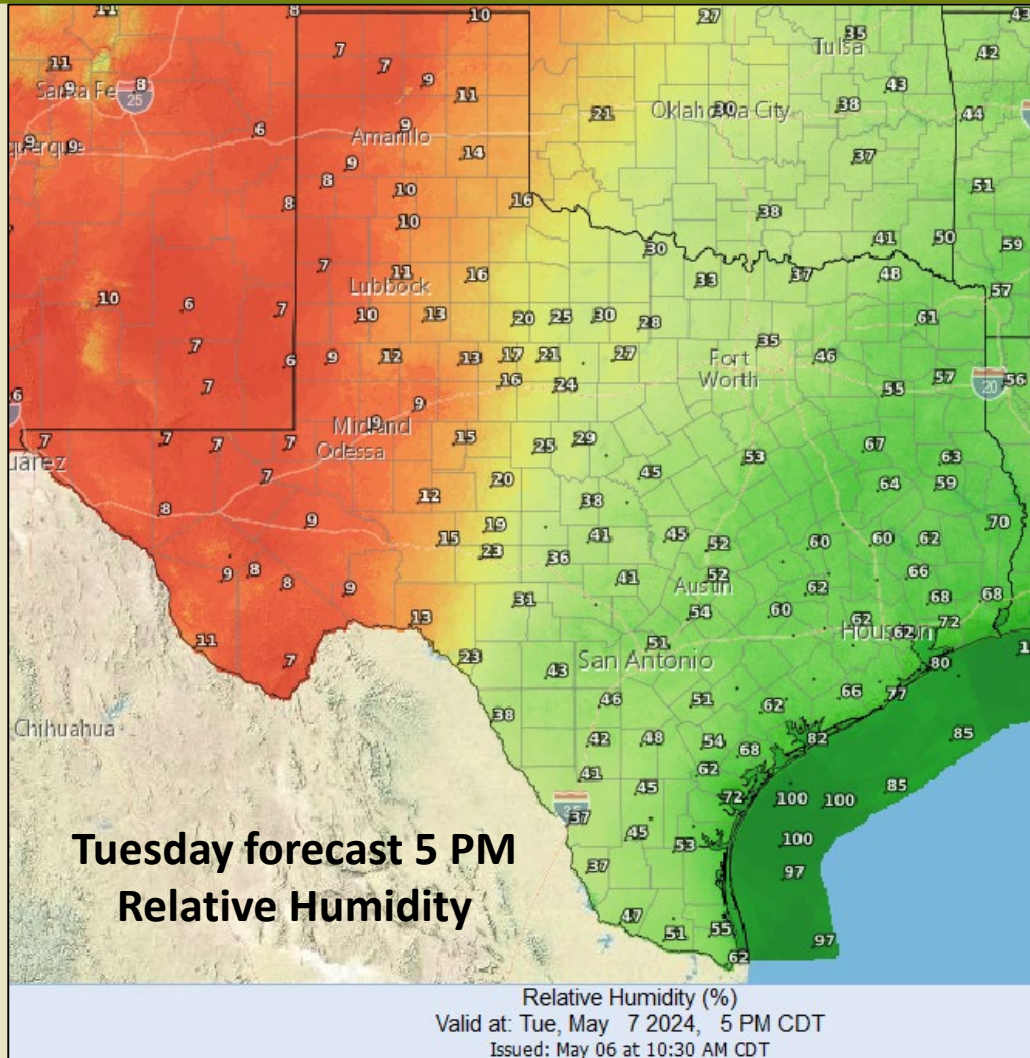


Elevated to critical fire weather is expected in the western Plains Monday afternoon. Excellent overnight moisture recovery and above normal fuel moisture will limit the potential for large wildfires. Low initial attack fire potential is expected in the northwest High Plains/western Canadian River drainage where a fire could produce low to moderate resistance to control in above normal grass loading.



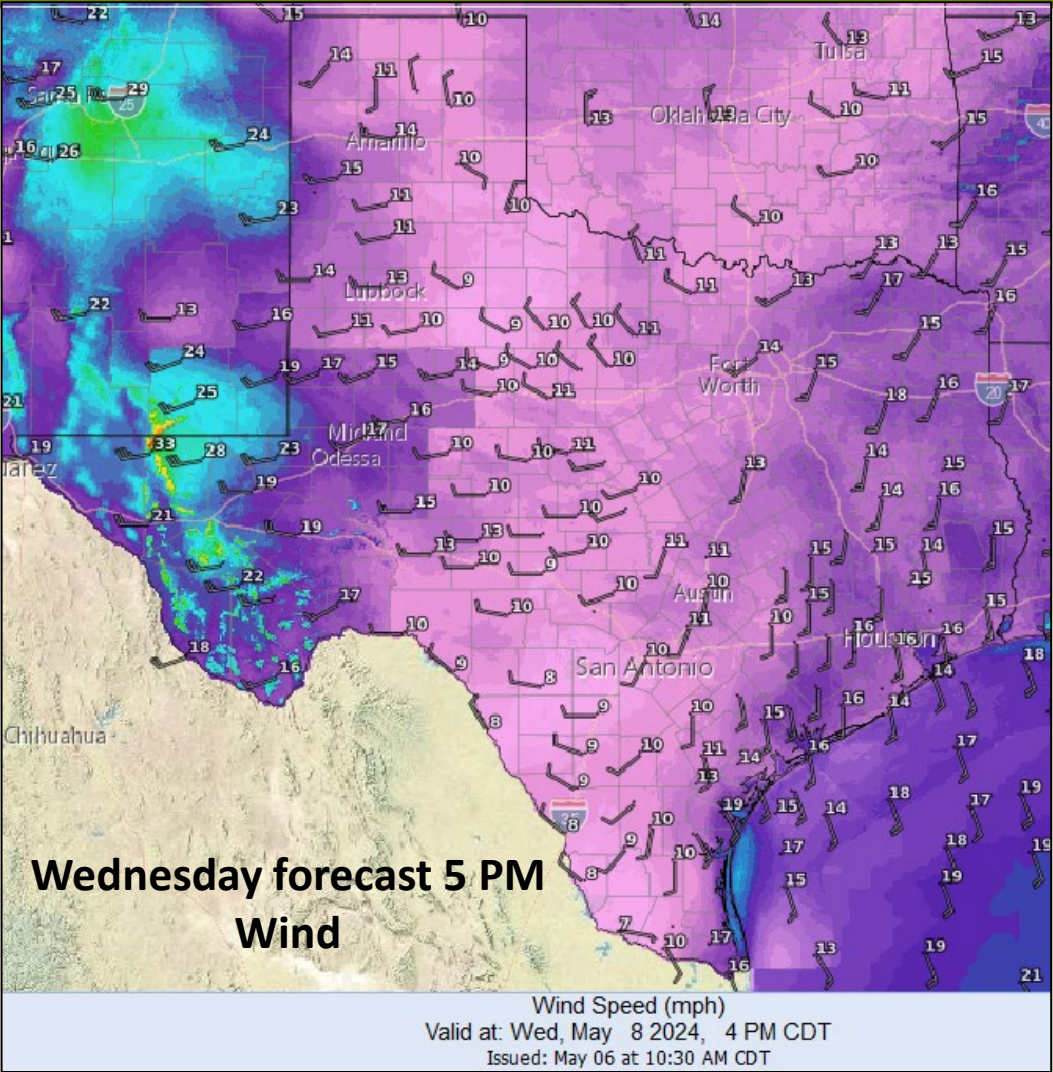
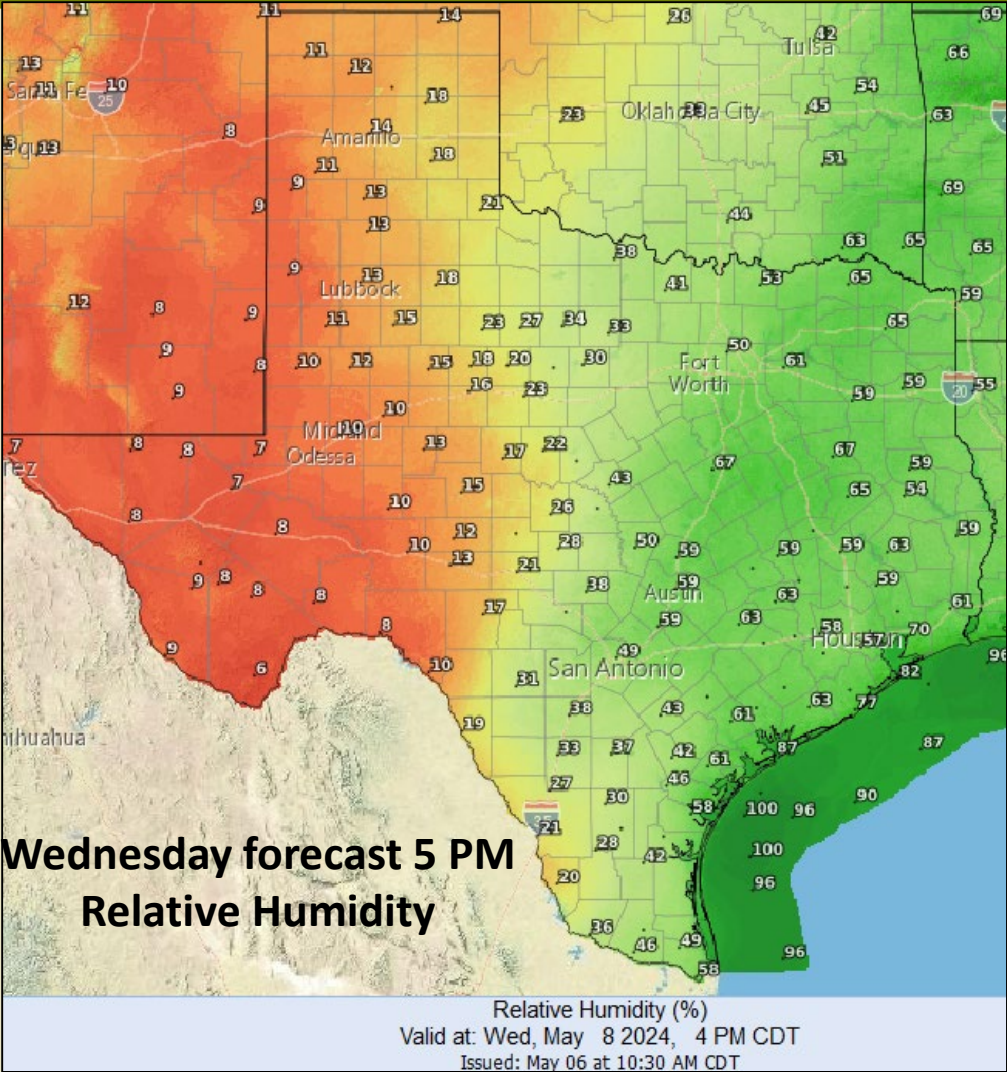


Moisture recovery will be poor in the High Plains and Trans Pecos Tuesday morning. Normal to above normal fuel moisture will be exposed to elevated to critical fire weather supporting low initial attack fire potential in the northwest High Plains and Trans Pecos.



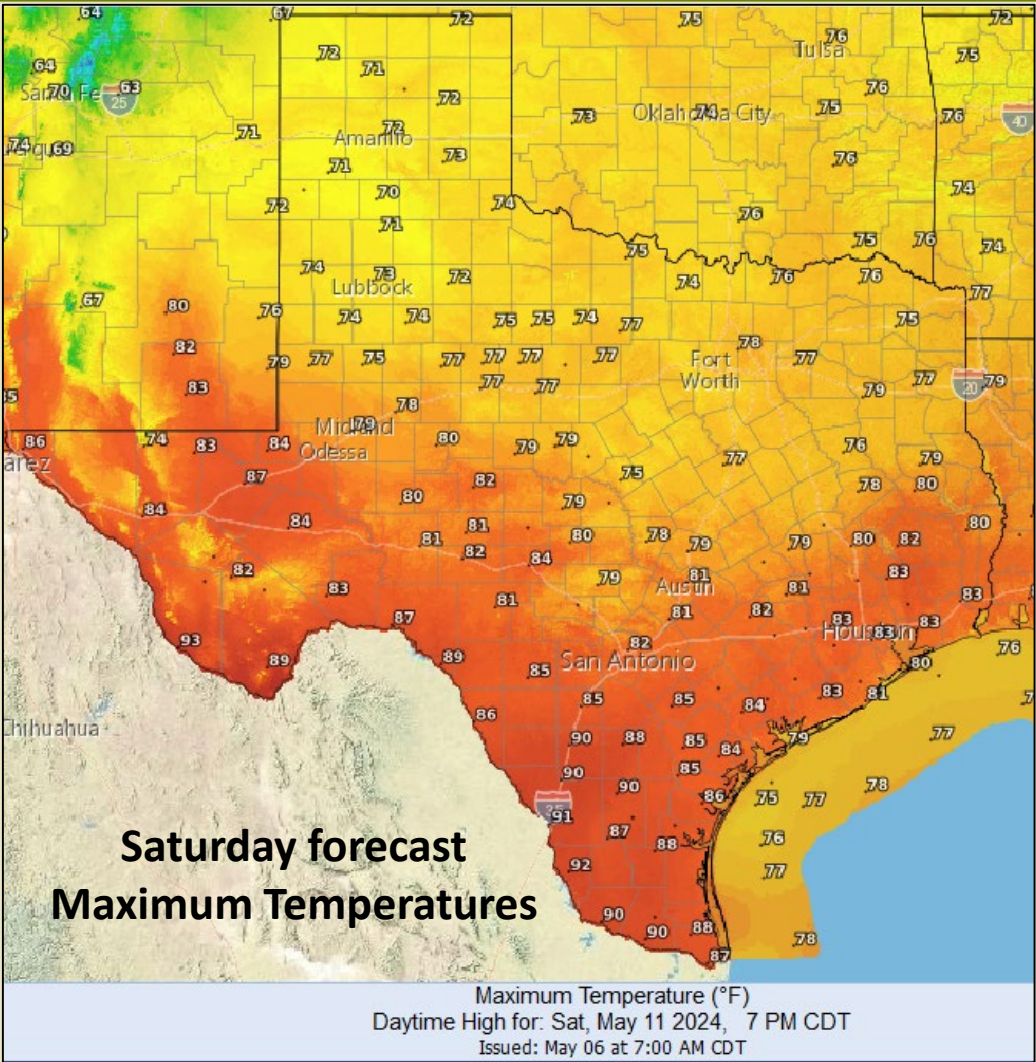
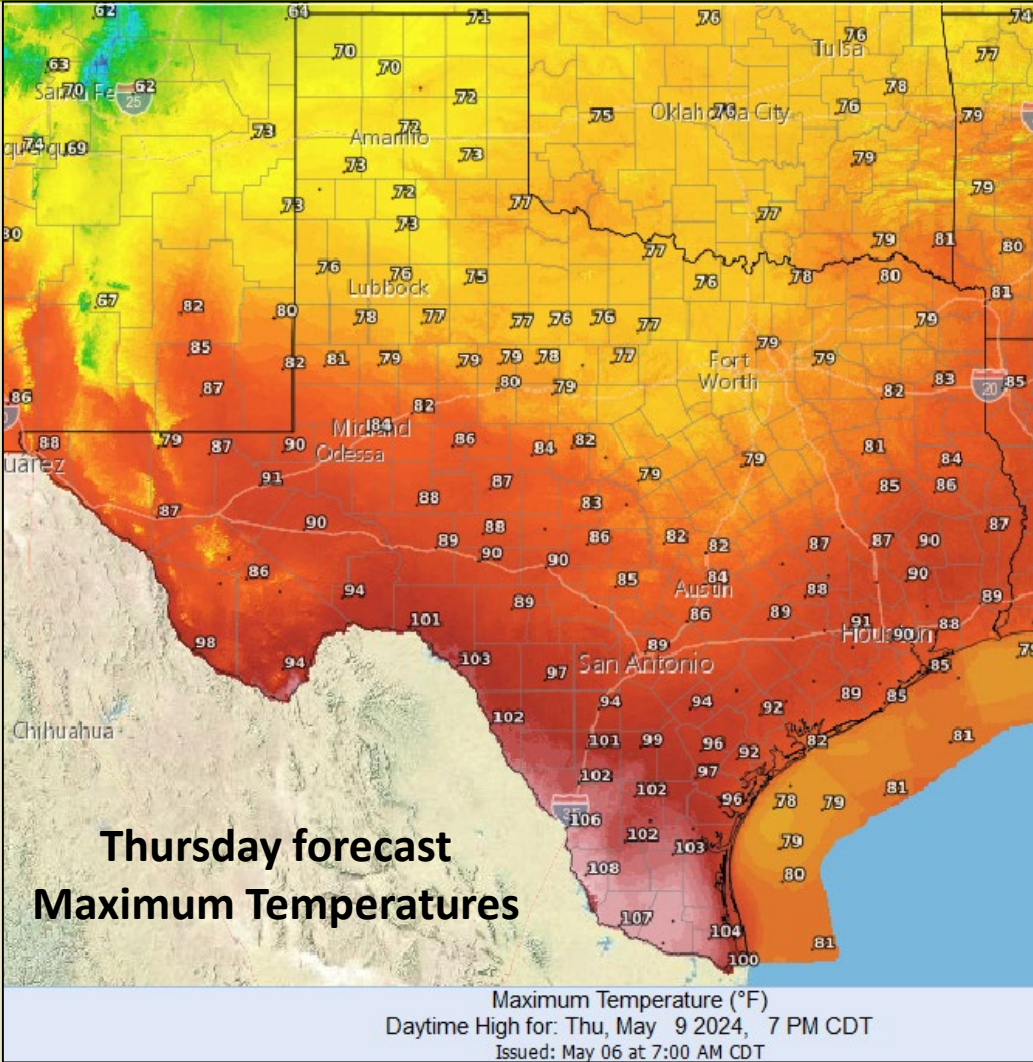


Wind speeds are forecast to decrease Wednesday in the High Plains as a cold front moves south. Elevated fire weather over dry fuel may support low IA potential in the central and western Trans Pecos. Hot temperatures and drier air nudging into far South Texas may support low initial attack fire potential in transition green grasses. Low resistance to control is expected as winds are forecast to remain below 10 mph.





Compressional warming Thursday ahead of the cold front will result in hot temperatures potentially exceeding 105°F in South Texas causing increased ignition potential and low initial attack fire potential. Temperatures will cool to near or below normal for much of Texas Friday and Saturday. An isolated thunderstorm is possible Thursday in the Trans Pecos as the cold front shift south. Widespread thunderstorms are not expected in the Trans Pecos, limiting the potential for lightning ignitions.





Wildfire potential will be limited Saturday and Sunday as no widespread fire weather is expected over dry fuel. A moist and seasonably cool environment is expected statewide. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are possible Sunday from the High Plains and into north and Central Texas Sunday.

