

Mid-East Texas GCD Drought Report – October 30, 2025

Pursuant to the Mid-East Texas Groundwater District's Management Plan:

Management Goal 6 – Addressing Drought Conditions

6.1 Objective – Each month, the district will download available drought information, for the counties in the district, from available websites on the internet.

6.2 Performance Standard – Quarterly, the District will assess the status of drought in the district and prepare a quarterly briefing for the Board of Directors. The downloaded maps reports, and information will be included with copies of the quarterly briefings and combined with results of groundwater monitoring data and permitted pumping data in the District Annual Report to the Board of Directors.

This report attempts to accomplish the goal of indicating drought conditions from two (2) sources. On page 2 is a map obtained from the *U.S. Drought Monitor* for the State of Texas. Also, on page 2 is a map indicating the *Palmer Drought Severity Index* for the United States. The area of interest is indicated by a bold black circle. An explanation of each of these maps is found on page 3.

Also included on page 3 is a map indicating the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook showing drought tendency during the valid period. This map was released on October 16, 2025 and is valid from October 16, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

Located on page 4 are maps showing the current water levels for two (2) reservoirs that are within the district. The first chart is for Lake Limestone located in western Leon County. The other chart is for Richland-Chambers Reservoir located in northeastern Freestone County.

Based on this information and analysis by the district, the following assessments for drought are:

U.S. Drought Monitor – According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Freestone County is showing Abnormally Dry while Leon and Madison are in Moderate to Severe Drought.

Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) – The District is in a “Near Normal” state.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook – Drought development is likely and may persist in some areas of the District in the predictive period of October 16, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

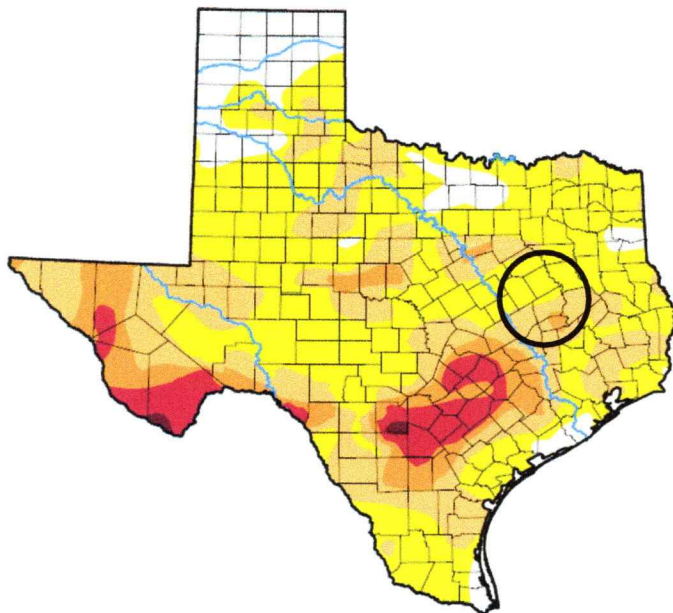
Lake Levels – Limestone is 9.1% full as of 10/28/2025; Richland-Chambers is 94.1% full as of 10/28/2025.

Prepared by David M. Bailey, General Manager - METGCD

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U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

October 21, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	10.94	89.06	42.59	15.03	6.06	0.29
Last Week 10-14-2025	13.05	86.95	30.25	12.04	4.74	0.29
3 Months Ago 07-22-2025	72.89	27.11	21.10	13.10	7.84	0.52
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	36.81	63.19	43.63	21.45	13.26	6.30
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	37.15	62.85	23.67	13.00	3.33	0.29
One Year Ago 10-22-2024	9.51	90.49	66.69	25.64	13.27	4.58

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>.

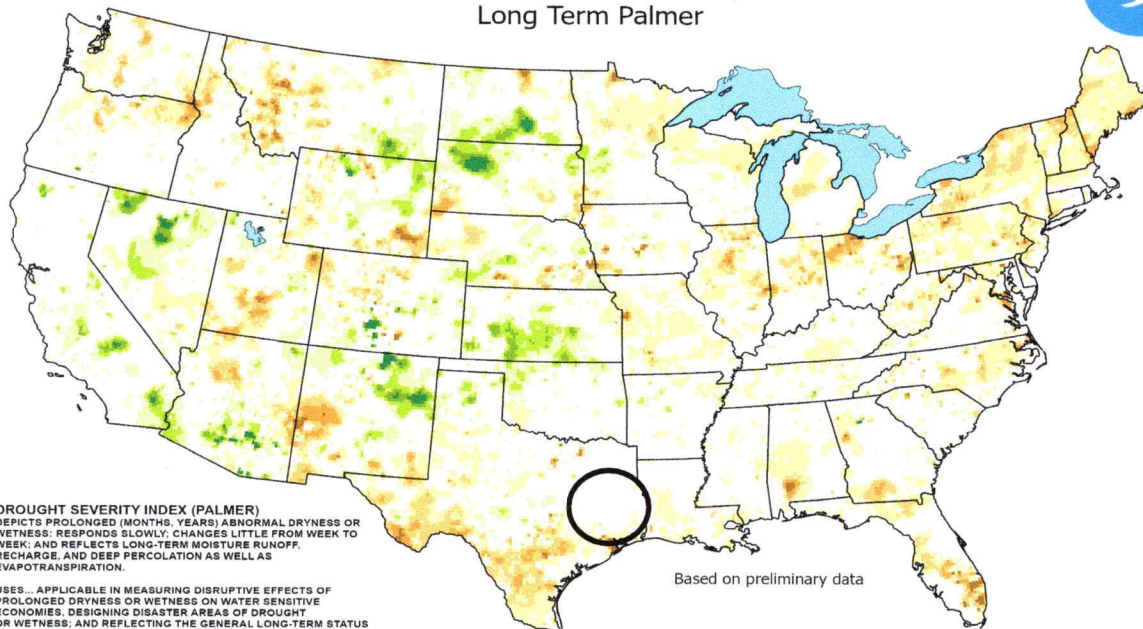
Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Severity Index Value for the October 19 - 25, 2025 Long Term Palmer



DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX (PALMER)
DEPICTS PROLONGED (MONTHS, YEARS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS; RESPONDS SLOWLY; CHANGES LITTLE FROM WEEK TO WEEK; AND REFLECTS LONG-TERM MOISTURE RUNOFF, RECHARGE, AND DEEP PERCOLATION AS WELL AS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION.

USES... APPLICABLE IN MEASURING DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED DRYNESS OR WETNESS ON WATER SENSITIVE ECONOMIES, DESIGNING DISASTER AREAS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS, AND REFLECTING THE GENERAL LONG-TERM STATUS OF WATER SUPPLIES IN AQUIFERS, RESERVOIRS AND STREAMS.

LIMITATIONS... IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF SHORT-TERM (FEW WEEKS) STATUS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS SUCH AS FREQUENTLY AFFECTS CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS (THIS IS INDICATED BY THE CROP MOISTURE INDEX).

Based on preliminary data

-4 or less (Exceptional Drought)	1 to 1.9 (Unusually Moist)
-3 to -3.9 (Extreme Drought)	2 to 2.9 (Very Moist)
-2 to -2.9 (Severe Drought)	3 to 3.9 (Extremely Moist)
-1 to -1.9 (Moderate Drought)	Above 4 (Exceptionally Moist)
-0.9 to 0.9 (Near Normal)	

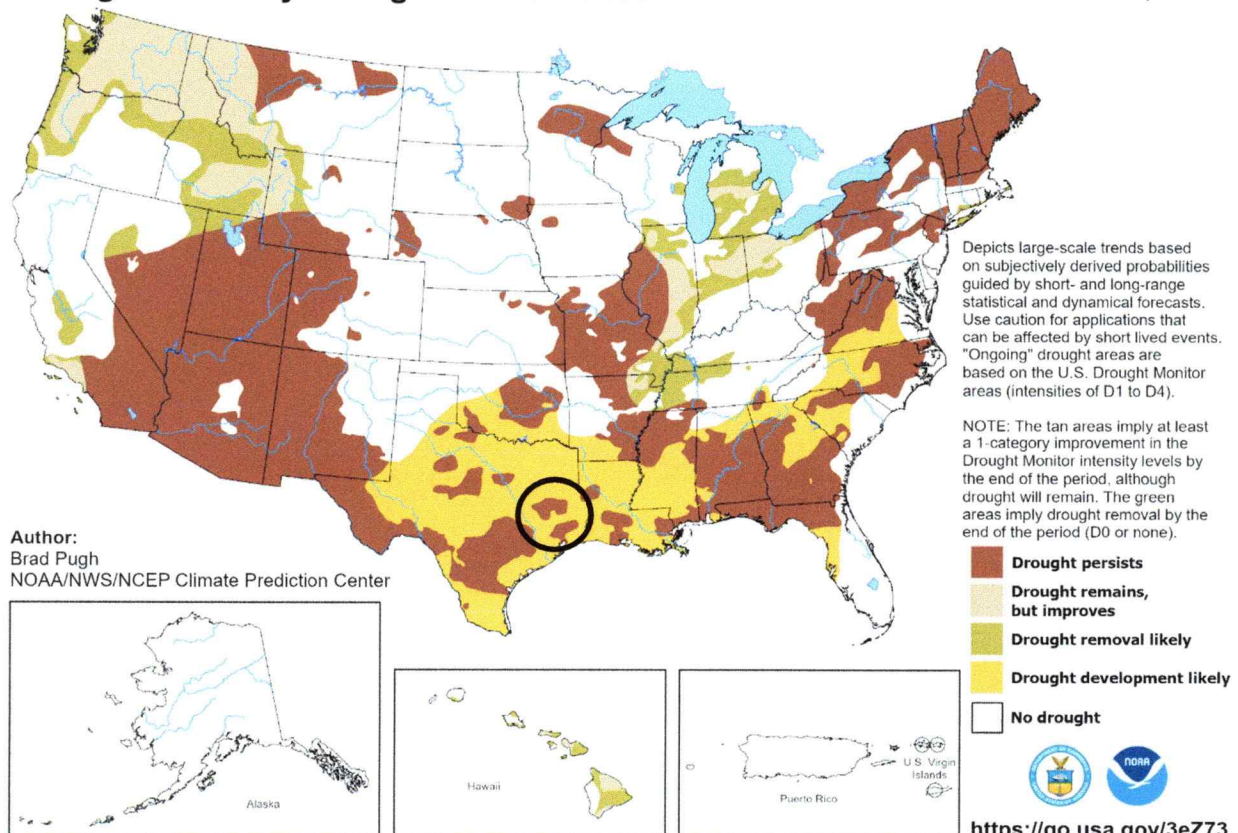
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The **U.S. Drought Monitor**, established in 1999, is a weekly map of drought conditions that is produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The U.S. Drought Monitor website is hosted and maintained by the NDMC. The map is based on measurements of climatic, hydrologic and soil conditions as well as reported impacts and observations from more than 350 contributors around the country. Eleven climatologists from the partner organizations take turns serving as the lead author each week. The authors examine all the data and use their best judgment to reconcile any differences in what different sources are saying.

The **Palmer Drought Severity Index** (PDSI) is a meteorological drought index based on recent precipitation and temperature and is used to assess the severity of dry or wet spells of weather. It is a soil moisture algorithm calibrated for relatively homogeneous regions. The PDSI is a long-term cumulative indicator for drought and wet conditions. PDSI values generally range from -6 to +6, with negative values denoting dry spells, and positive values denoting wet spells. Note: the methodology used to calculate the weekly PDSI is different from that used to calculate the monthly PDSI and the numbers are not comparable.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

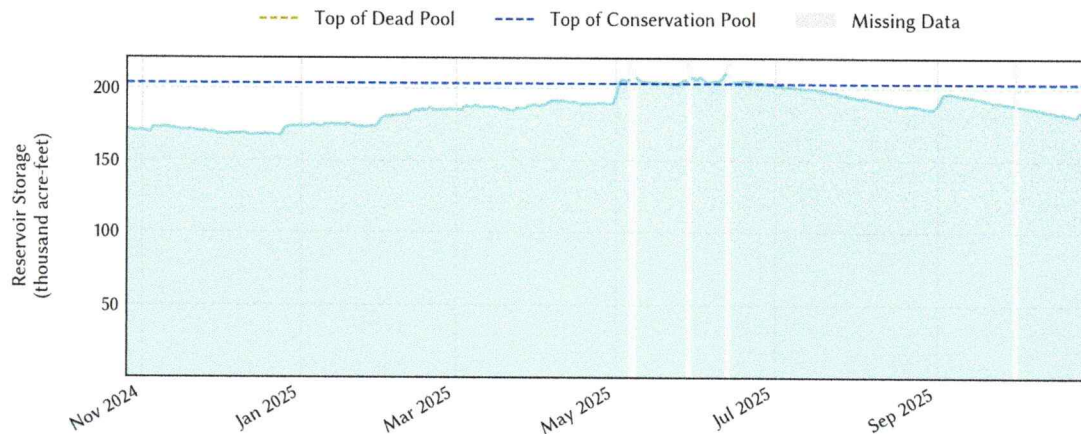
Valid for October 16, 2025 - January 31, 2026
Released October 16, 2025



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Lake Levels for Limestone and Richland-Chambers Reservoirs

Lake Limestone is 90.1% full as of 2025-10-28.

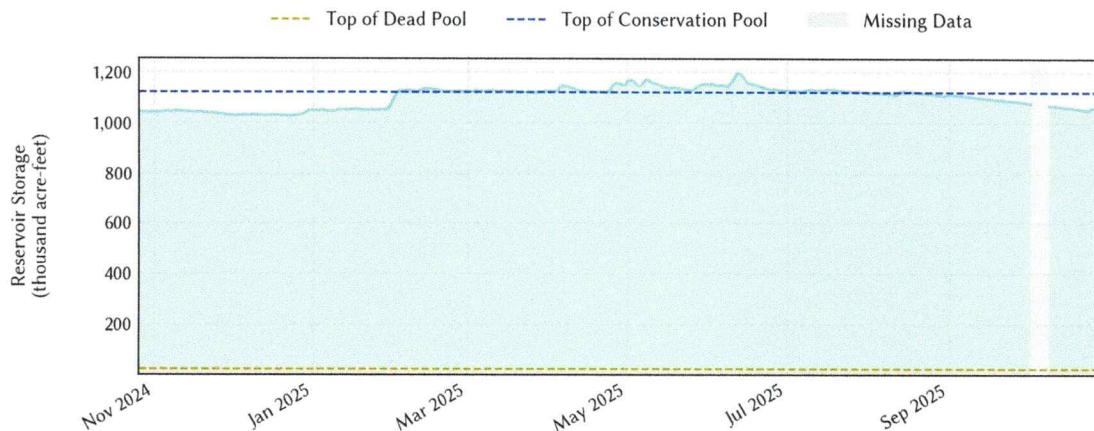


Impoundment Date – 1978-01-01
Conservation Pool Elevation – 363 feet
Dead Pool Elevation – 322 feet

Lake Level as of 2025-10-28

361.33 Feet

Richland-Chambers Reservoir is 94.1% full as of 2025-10-28.



Impoundment Date – 1987-01-01
Conservation Pool Elevation - 315 feet
Dead Pool Elevation – 266 feet

Lake Level as of 2025-10-28

313.50 Feet