Current Drought Situation

- Drought conditions (D1 or worse) now cover more than 70% of OK and TX, and more than 90% of NM.
- The likelihood of an El Nino event developing continues to increase. Now near 80%.
- El Nino development would have limited drought impacts through the summer but likely drought relief in the fall/winter for NM and TX.

For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to: http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home

Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- Over 2/3 of the winter wheat crop in TX and OK is in poor to very poor condition.
- Oklahoma’s harvest is projected to be the worst since the 1950’s. (source: USDA)
- Statewide, Texas reservoirs at lowest levels since 1990. (source: TWDB)
- Wichita Falls TX considering Stage 5 water restrictions and exploring re-use of wastewater for drinking. (source: wichitafallstx.gov)
- 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs in NM at 18% or less of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 18% of capacity.

Website: http://www.srh.noaa.gov Twitter: @NWS_Southern_US
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Despite some short term improvements in south and east Texas this past week, overall drought conditions in the Southern Plains remain dire.
Since October 2010, it has been the driest such period in over a century in west TX & southwest OK
(Note: “driest such period” is defined as any consecutive 42 month period)

Some relief is hoped for:
• June is typically the wettest month in Texas and 2nd wettest in Oklahoma (see graphs below)
• The potential for El Nino development by the fall continues. Texas and New Mexico have a strong signal for above normal precipitation in the fall and winter during El Nino events.

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Southern Plains Drought Summary

• The geographic extent of extreme and exceptional drought has increased over six-fold in Texas, over ten-fold in Oklahoma, and nearly ten-fold in New Mexico since the start of the calendar year.
• Since October 2010, when the Southern Plains drought began, it has been the driest comparable 42-month period in over a century in many parts of west Texas and southwest Oklahoma.
• Potential relief does lie ahead; June is one of the wettest months of the year climatologically in Oklahoma and Texas. June also marks the onset of the summer wet season in New Mexico. Parts of New Mexico typically get up to 50% of their yearly precipitation during June/July/August.
Information provided by:
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This information along with other drought resources also available on the Southern Plains drought.gov web portal

http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home