



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

August 18, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

THROUGH: Mr. Gary Jones, Acting Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region VI
Federal Regional Center
Denton, Texas 76209

Dear Mr. President:

The State of Texas, since January 2009, has faced the threat of extreme fire hazard as a result of an ongoing drought across much of the state. To assist Texans affected by the continuing threat of wildfires and exceptional drought, as classified by the U.S. Drought Monitor, I urge you to declare an emergency for the State of Texas under the provisions of Section 501(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.35, beginning July 15, 2009, and continuing. I am specifically requesting Direct Federal Assistance under Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) of FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives; to protect property, public health and safety; or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster. Preliminary estimates of the amount of emergency assistance needed under the Stafford Act, and emergency assistance from certain federal agencies under other statutory authorities, are still being determined.

I submitted a similar request on February 24, 2009, which was denied based on FEMA's determination that the required response and recovery was within the combined capabilities of the state and affected local governments. In addition, FEMA advised the state to take advantage of funding for the pre-positioning of assets provided through the Fire Management Assistance

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Grant Program (FMAGP). The state has continued to leverage this program, and has received 16 FMAGP declarations; however, since my earlier request for FEMA assistance, conditions have become significantly worse. Wildfire activity has been steadily increasing since the first of the year in both number and size. The state now faces a cost of \$45 million in wildfire response, which is \$17.9 million more than the \$27.3 million threshold for a public assistance declaration for the state.

The Texas Forest Service (TSF), the state's primary source in fighting wildfires, incurred a cost of \$36,168,769 on behalf of the state in 2008. Because the Texas Legislature was in session early this year, the state was able to contribute \$28,783,859 toward wildfire response. Unfortunately, this funding left a gap of \$7,384,910 for the end of the 2008 wildfire season, in addition to the \$9,740,655 already incurred for 2009. TSF has also incurred a cost of \$35,071,048 for support requested through the U.S. Forest Service. Other agencies that have been actively involved in wildfire response include the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Governor's Division of Emergency Management and Texas Military Forces, as well as other federal and compact agencies. The cost for local fire department wildfire response totals more than \$5,977,290. Of the total state agency and local fire department costs of \$51,385,538 incurred, it is estimated that only \$3,997,940 will be reimbursed by FEMA under the FMAG program, leaving a deficit of \$47,387,598.

In addition to my request for FEMA assistance, on March 6, 2009, I requested assistance for all 254 counties through the U.S. Department of Agriculture emergency Farm Loan Program, but to date, only 70 counties have been approved, while 184 counties have been deferred.

In response to the ongoing situation, I have issued a disaster declaration effective July 15, 2009, which was renewed on August 13, 2009. This allows for the easier positioning of state assets and allows local governments to expedite response efforts. Copies of the original proclamation and the renewal are enclosed.

State resources have been mobilized and strategically positioned across the state, including 56 dozers, 12 fixed-wing aircraft and 8 helicopters. With the strong winds and low relative humidity values forecast, we expect any fires occurring within critical areas to have a very high difficulty of control, quickly exceeding local resource capability. A multi-agency response will be needed for effective containment. It is further expected that state resource capabilities will be exceeded and additional out-of-state resources will be needed to assist with the response.

With the excessive drought and heat that Texas has experienced this year, the potential wildfire risk has reached an extremely high level within the state due to wild land fuels, critical fire weather and fire occurrence. These have combined to present a serious hazard to the lives and

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property of the citizens of the state. A total of 383 homes have been lost this year due to wildfires in Texas. Counties with major home losses include Bastrop (29 homes), Bexar (15 homes), Jack (25 homes), Live Oak (36 homes), Montague (70 homes), Palo Pinto (21 homes) and Tyler (15 homes), in addition to 635,147 acres burned (992 square miles).

Forty-nine firefighters have been injured in the line of duty this year in fighting wildfires, and seven civilians have been injured.

As a result of the lack of rainfall during this ongoing drought, 240 water systems in Texas are under mandatory water restrictions, including those in or near major metropolitan areas such as San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Austin. An additional 308 communities have asked for voluntary water cutbacks due to the severity of the drought.

Many records, particularly in south Texas, have been broken due to the lack of rain. Since January 2009, San Antonio has received only 24.38" of its normal 55.49" of rain, and Victoria has received only 38.26" of rain its normal 73.23" of rain. Both experienced their driest 23-month periods on record, and each needs significant August 2009 rainfall to avoid extending the record dryness to two years. Victoria's drought situation is marginally aided by the fact that the nine-month period ending in September 2007 was the wettest on record, having received 66.20" of rain in nine months. The past 22 months in Austin saw only 30.49" of its normal 61.42" of rain, resulting in the second-driest 22-month period on record. The year-to-date precipitation ending in July at Port Mansfield was only 1.47" of its normal 11.47" of precipitation, and Sarita has had only 1.96" of its normal 11.72". College Station tied a record by enduring 56 consecutive days without precipitation, ending on July 19. The affected counties have implemented outdoor burn bans and/or local disaster declarations (enclosed).

To compound the situation, Texas has had more than twice its normal days of temperatures above 100 degrees. Several cities set records for the highest average monthly temperature ever recorded in July. Austin, College Station, Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Victoria set records for highest temperatures ever, including each calendar month. Houston had its third-warmest month, while Austin and Galveston had their sixth-warmest months.

Texas continues to experience periods of intense and violent wildfires. Multiple and continuous cold fronts across a wide area of the state characterized by extremely high winds and record low humidity have created optimum conditions for numerous spontaneous and violent wildfires.

The following supporting enclosures are furnished to demonstrate the critical situation the state is in:

The Honorable Barack Obama
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- Texas Forest Service's Fuel Dryness Map
- NOAA's graphic on U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
- U.S. Drought Monitor
- NOAA's graphic on Departure from Normal Temperatures
- NOAA's graphic on Departure from Normal Precipitation
- USDA's Drought Designation Status

I urge your favorable consideration of my request for an emergency declaration for the State of Texas to provide Direct Federal Assistance under Category B of FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:gep

Enclosures



ENCLOSURE

STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

August 13, 2009

The Honorable Esperanza "Hope" Andrade
~~Secretary of State~~
State Capitol Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

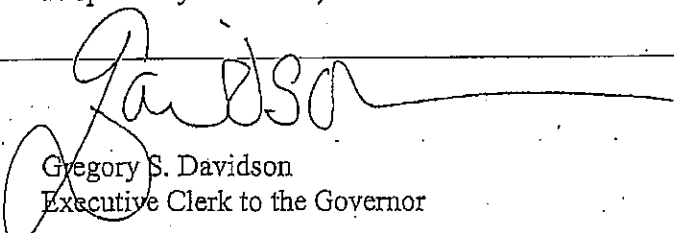
Dear Madame Secretary:

Pursuant to his powers acting as Chief Executive Officer of the State of Texas, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst has issued the following proclamation:

A proclamation certifying that there is an extreme fire hazard that poses a threat of imminent disaster in several counties of Texas.

The original of this proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

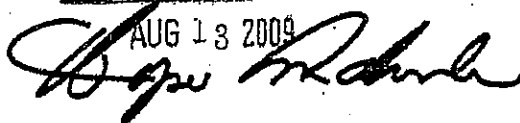

Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD/gsd

Attachment

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
O'CLOCK

AUG 13 2009



PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, RICK PERRY, Governor of the State of Texas, did issue an Emergency Disaster Proclamation on July 15, 2009, certifying that an extreme fire hazard posed a threat of imminent disaster in specified counties in Texas.

WHEREAS, the extreme fire hazard continues to create a threat of disaster for the people in the State of Texas.

WHEREAS, the state of disaster includes the counties of Anderson, Andrews, Angelina, Aransas, Archer, Atascosa, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Baylor, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Brewster, Brooks, Brown, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Callahan, Cameron, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Childress, Clay, Coke, Coleman, Collin, Collingsworth, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Cooke, Coryell, Cottle, Crane, Crockett, Crosby, Dallas, Delta, Denton, DeWitt, Dickens, Dimmit, Dohley, Duval, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Fayette, Fisher, Foard, Fort Bend, Franklin, Freestone, Frio, Galveston, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Grayson, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hardeman, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Haskell, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Hopkins, Houston, Howard, Hudspeth, Hunt, Irion, Jack, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Johnson, Jones, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kenedy, Kent, Kerr, Kimble, King, Kinney, Kleberg, Knox, La Salle, Lamar, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Live Oak, Llano, Lubbock, Lynn, Madison, Marion, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, McCulloch, McLennan, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Milam, Mills, Mitchell, Montague, Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nolan, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Pecos, Polk, Rains, Reagan, Real, Red River, Refugio, Robertson, Rockwall, Runnels, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Shelby, Smith, Somervell, Starr, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Tarrant, Taylor, Terrell, Throckmorton, Titus, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Ward, Washington, Webb, Wharton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Willacy, Williamson, Wilson, Winkler, Wise, Wood, Young, Zapata, and Zavala:

THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, I do hereby renew the Emergency Disaster Proclamation and direct that all necessary measures, both public and private, as authorized under Section 418.017 of the code, be implemented to meet that threat.

As provided in Section 418.016 of the code, all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat are suspended for the duration of the state of disaster.

The renewal of the Emergency Disaster Proclamation becomes effective on August 14, 2009, and shall remain in effect until September 12, 2009, unless renewed or terminated.

In accordance with the statutory requirements, copies of this proclamation shall be filed with the applicable authorities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I
have hereunto signed my name
and have officially caused the

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst
August 13, 2009

Proclamation
Page 2

Seal of State to be affixed at my
Office in the City of Austin,
Texas, this the 13th day of
August, 2009.



David Dewhurst
DAVID DEWHURST
Acting as Governor

Attested by:

Esperanza Andrade
ESPERANZA "HOPE" ANDRADE
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
O'CLOCK

AUG 13 2009



ENCLOSURE

STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

July 15, 2009

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
6pm O'CLOCK

The Honorable Esperanza "Hope" Andrade
Secretary of State
State Capitol Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

JUL 15 2009
Hope Andrade
Secretary of State

Dear Madame Secretary:

Pursuant to his powers as Chief Executive Officer of the State of Texas, Governor Rick Perry has issued the following proclamation:

A proclamation certifying that there is an extreme fire hazard that poses a threat of imminent disaster in several counties of Texas.

The original of this proclamation is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Davidson
Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD/gsd

Attachment

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, RICK PERRY, Governor of Texas, do hereby certify that there is an extreme fire hazard that poses a threat of imminent disaster in the counties of Anderson, Angelina, Aransas, Archer, Atascosa, Austin, Bandera, Bastrop, Baylor, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Brooks, Brown, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Collin, Colorado, Comal, Cooke, Coryell, Crosby, Dallas, Delta, Denton, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, Eastland, Edwards, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Fayette, Fort Bend, Franklin, Freestone, Frio, Galveston, Garza, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Grayson, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hill, Hood, Hopkins, Houston, Howard, Hunt, Irion, Jack, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Johnson, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Lamar, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Live Oak, Llano, Lynn, Madison, Marion, Matagorda, Maverick, McLennan, McMullen, Medina, Midland, Milam, Montague, Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Rains, Real, Red River, Refugio, Robertson, Rockwall, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Scurry, Shackelford, Shelby, Smith, Somervell, Starr, Stephens, Sutton, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Titus, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Uvalde, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Ward, Washington, Webb, Wharton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Willacy, Williamson, Wilson, Wise, Wood, Young, Zapata and Zavala.

THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, I do hereby declare a state of disaster in the counties listed above based on the existence of such threat and direct that all necessary measures both public and private as authorized under Section 418.017 of the code be implemented to meet that threat.

As provided in section 418.016, of the code, all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat are suspended for the duration of the state of disaster.

In accordance with the statutory requirements, copies of this proclamation shall be filed with the applicable authorities.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my Office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 15th day of July, 2009.

Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor

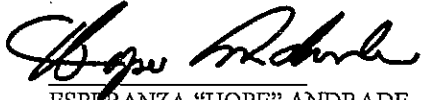
FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
6 AM O'CLOCK

JUL 15 2009

Governor Rick Perry
July 15, 2009

Proclamation
Page 2

Attested by:



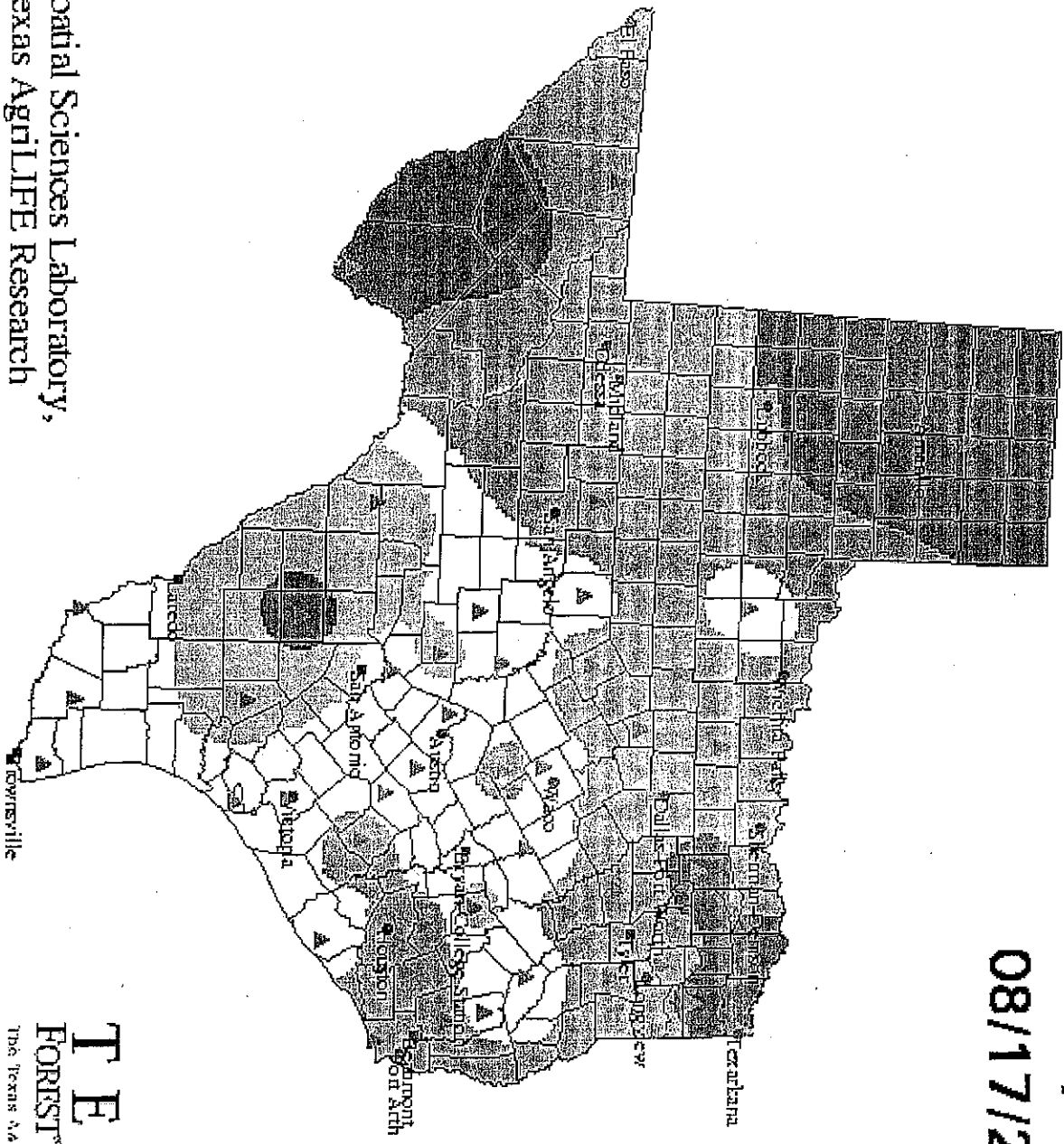
ESPERANZA "HOPE" ANDRADE
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
6:22 O'CLOCK

JUL 15 2009

Fuel Dryness map (based on 100hr & ERC percentile maps)

08/17/2009



- ▲ Weather Stations
- Cities
- Above Normal Moisture
- ▨ Normal Moisture
- Dry
- ▤ Critically Dry
- ▩ Extremely Dry
- No Data

Spatial Sciences Laboratory,
 Texas AgriLIFE Research
<http://www-ssl.tamu.edu>

TEXAS
 FOREST SERVICE
 The Texas A&M University System

AgriLIFE RESEARCH

Texas A&M System



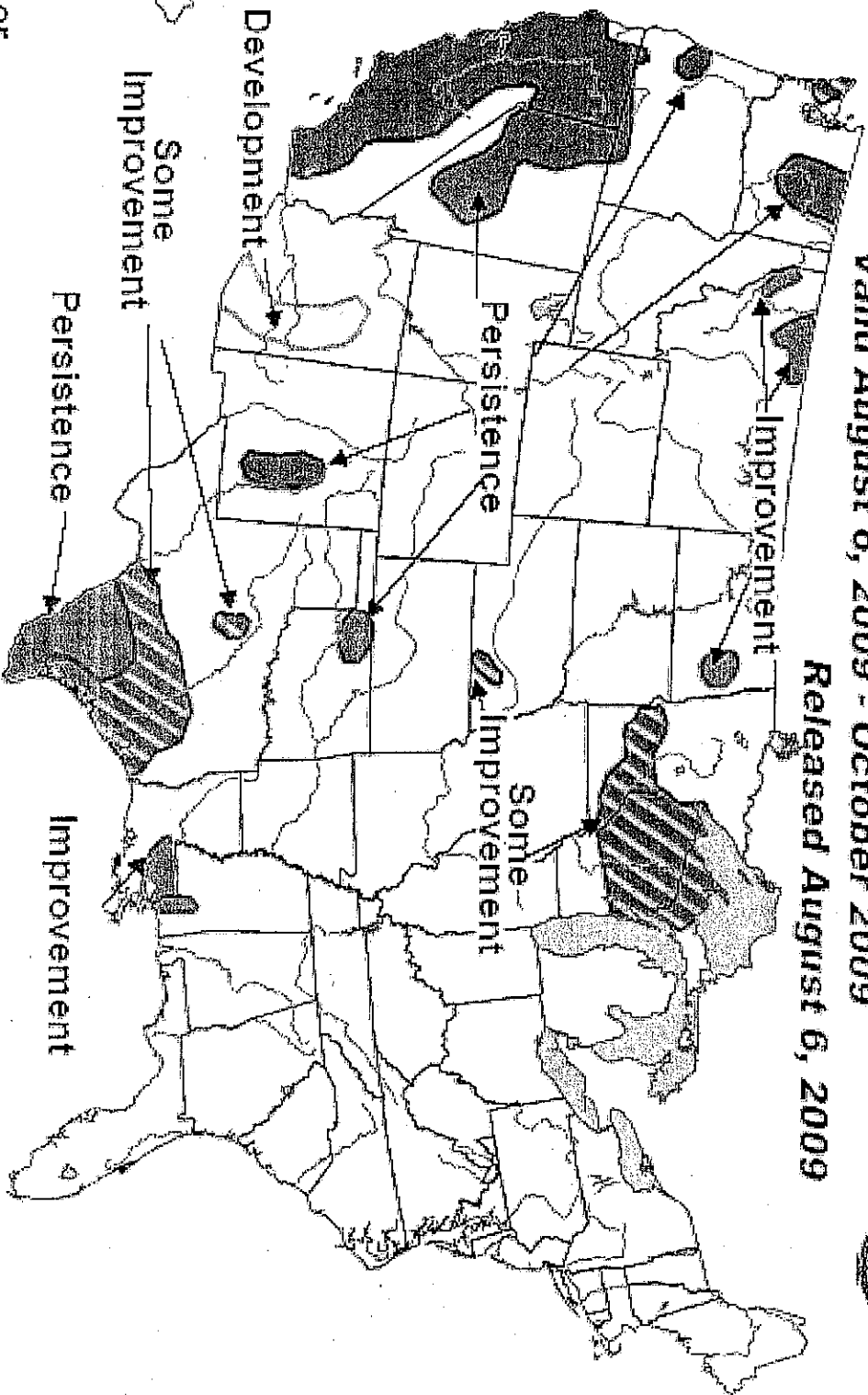
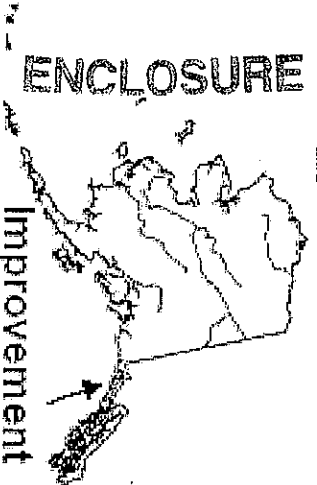


U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook





Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid August 6, 2009 - October 2009

Released August 6, 2009



KEY:

-  Drought to persist or intensify
-  Drought ongoing, some improvement
-  Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
-  Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events.

"Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

U.S. Drought Monitor

South






August 11, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

ENCLOSURE

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

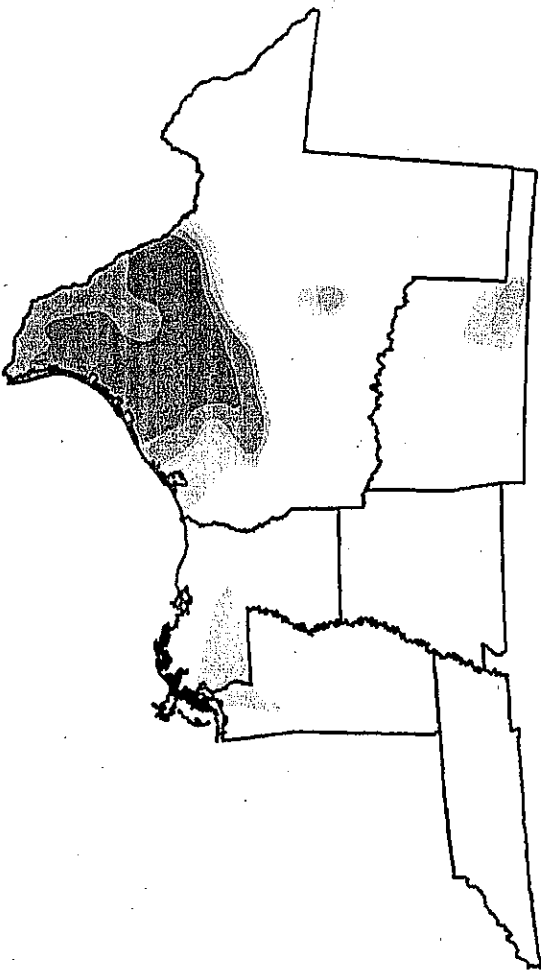
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	63.8	36.2	20.7	15.1	13.4	8.5
Last Week (08/04/2009 map)	63.0	37.0	21.3	15.3	13.4	8.5
3 Months Ago (05/19/2009 map)	64.5	35.5	26.4	18.3	10.3	4.3
Start of Calendar Year (01/06/2009 map)	54.4	45.6	18.0	8.0	4.6	2.1
Start of Water Year (10/07/2008 map)	73.3	26.7	17.3	10.7	2.9	0.0
One Year Ago (08/12/2008 map)	33.9	66.1	40.1	22.8	11.1	2.0


Intensity:

-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Drought - Moderate
-  D2 Drought - Severe
-  D3 Drought - Extreme
-  D4 Drought - Exceptional


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>






USDA
National Drought Mitigation Center



NCEM
National Center for Environmental and Estuarine Science

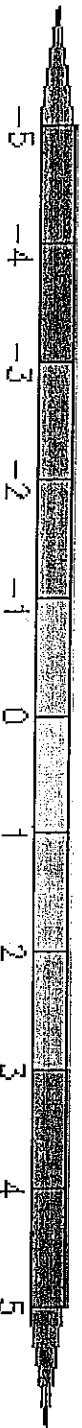
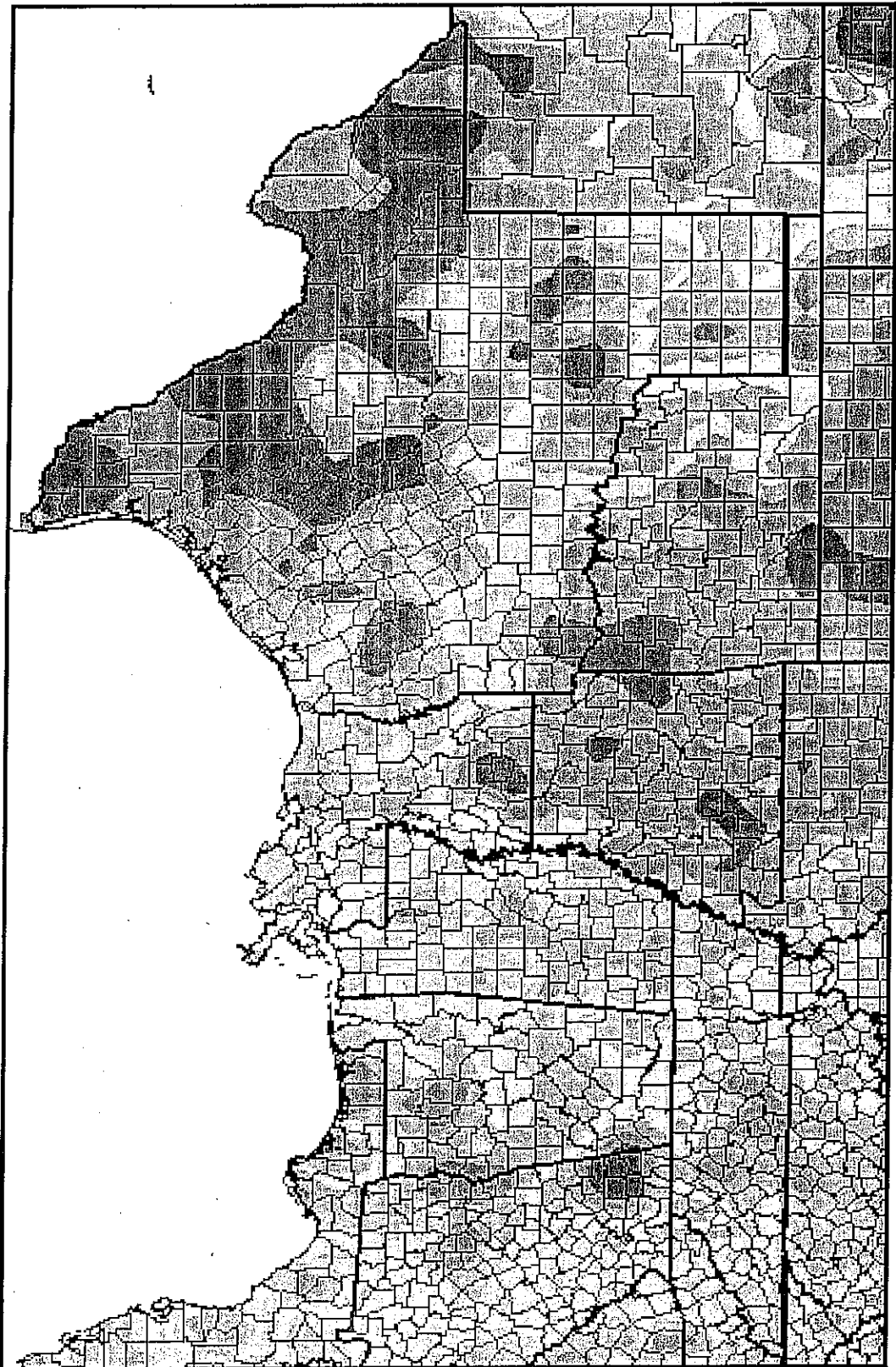


Western Regional Climate Center

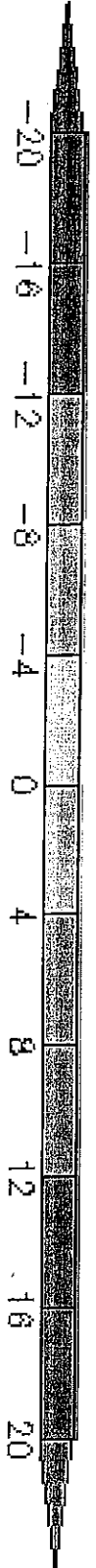
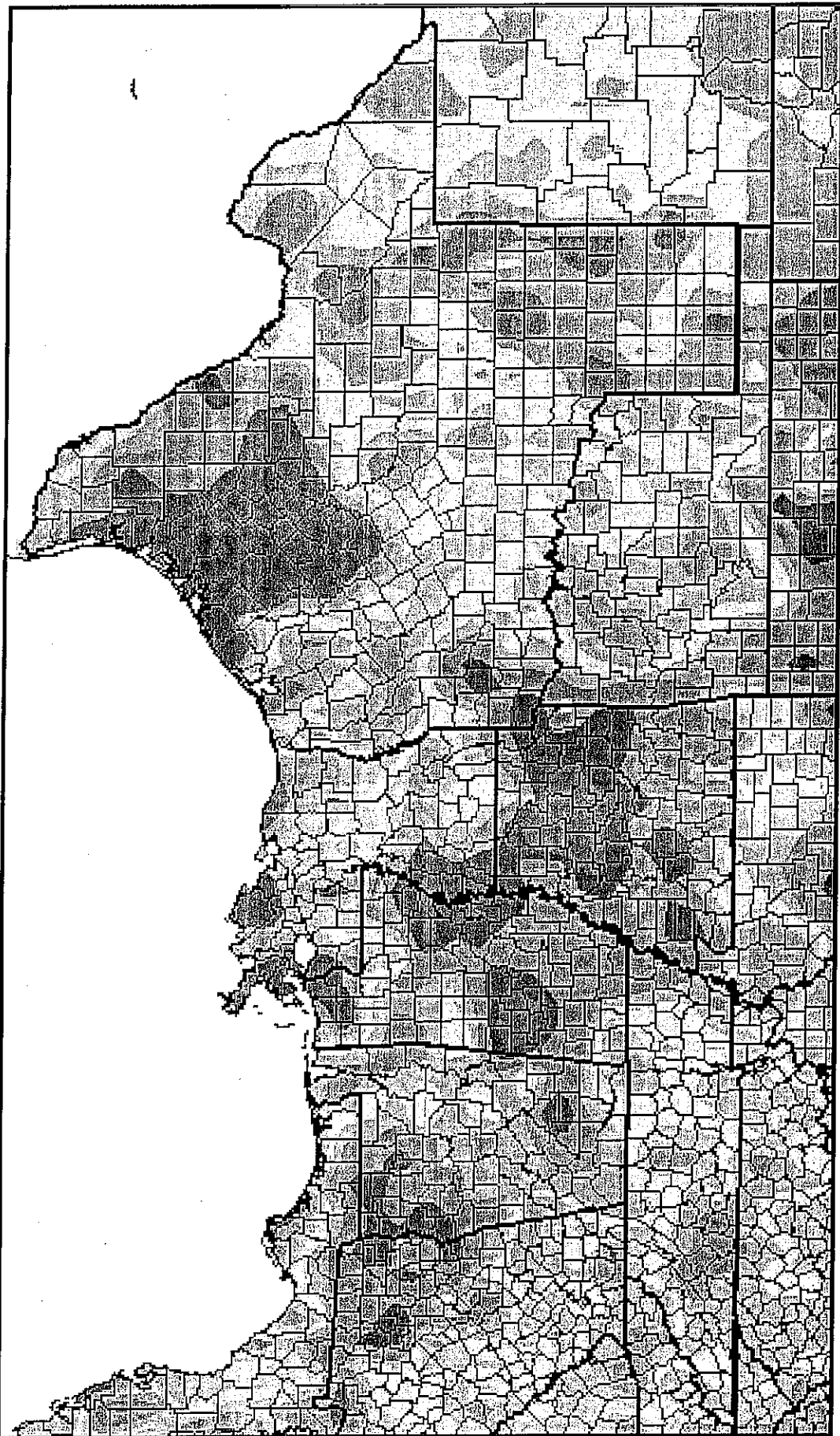
Released Thursday, August 13, 2009

Author: Laura Edwards, Western Regional Climate Center

Departure from Normal Temperatures August 12 - 18, 2009



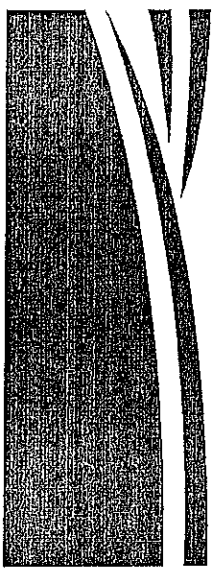
Departure from Normal Precipitation August 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009



Generated 8/11/2009 at HPRCC using provisional data.





NOAA Regional Climate Centers

USDA



ENCLOSURE

2009 Drought Designation Status

-  2009_Drought_Status_Deferred
-  Primary Counties
-  Contiguous Counties
-  Pending_Designations2

2009 Drought

