

ANDREWS, Texas — Aug. 1, 2026

Two longtime West Texas residents say this summer has brought less rainfall than they expected despite repeated National Weather Service forecasts calling for increased chances of showers and thunderstorms across the region.

Andrews County is within the National Weather Service's Midland/Odessa forecast area, where forecast discussions throughout July noted multiple opportunities for showers and thunderstorms while cautioning that rainfall would be scattered and uneven across the region.

Discussion surrounding the developing El Niño pattern led some residents to expect a wetter summer, but the two Andrews County residents interviewed for this article said those expectations did not match the conditions they observed locally.

Gregory Young, an Andrews County resident of 26 years, said he measured rainfall himself and believes the anticipated increase in precipitation never materialized in his area. He also said humidity has changed little compared with last year.

Marieca Young, who has also lived in West Texas for 26 years, said she noticed little difference from the previous summer and believes rainfall has remained below what many people expected.

Although official forecasts pointed to periods of increased rain potential, some Andrews County residents perceived little overall change in local conditions. Their observations highlight how weather conditions may differ across different areas of West Texas. Scattered thunderstorms may produce rain in one area, while leaving other areas significantly dry.

According to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, El Niño is developing during 2026, with its strongest influence on Texas generally occurring during the fall and winter rather than the summer. Seasonal impacts on rainfall may therefore become more noticeable later in the year. Whether rainfall increases later this year remains to be seen, but weather forecasts and local observations will continue providing residents with information about changing conditions across West Texas.

Sources for Instructor Reference:

National Weather Service Midland/Odessa Forecast Discussions

NOAA Climate Prediction Center – El Niño Advisory

Interview with Gregory Young, Aug. 1, 2026

Interview with Marieca Young, Aug. 1, 2026