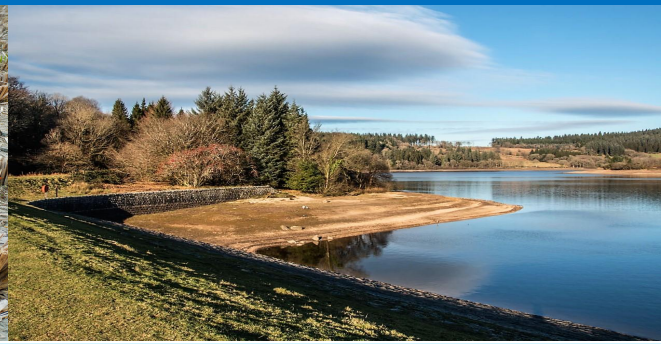
# Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

## Valid November 8, 2023

Issued By: NWS El Paso (Santa Teresa, NM)

Contact Information: sr-epz.nws@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated December 7, 2023 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/EPZ/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.



# U.S. Drought Monitor

**Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for southern New Mexico and far west Texas**

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 (Exceptional Drought): Portions of Southwest New Mexico including Mimbres River Basin
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Covering majority of Southern New Mexico and El Paso, TX
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Covering majority of southwest New Mexico and far west Texas (90% of area)

- Some rain is expected this month per CPC outlook, but drought conditions will persist into the winter.

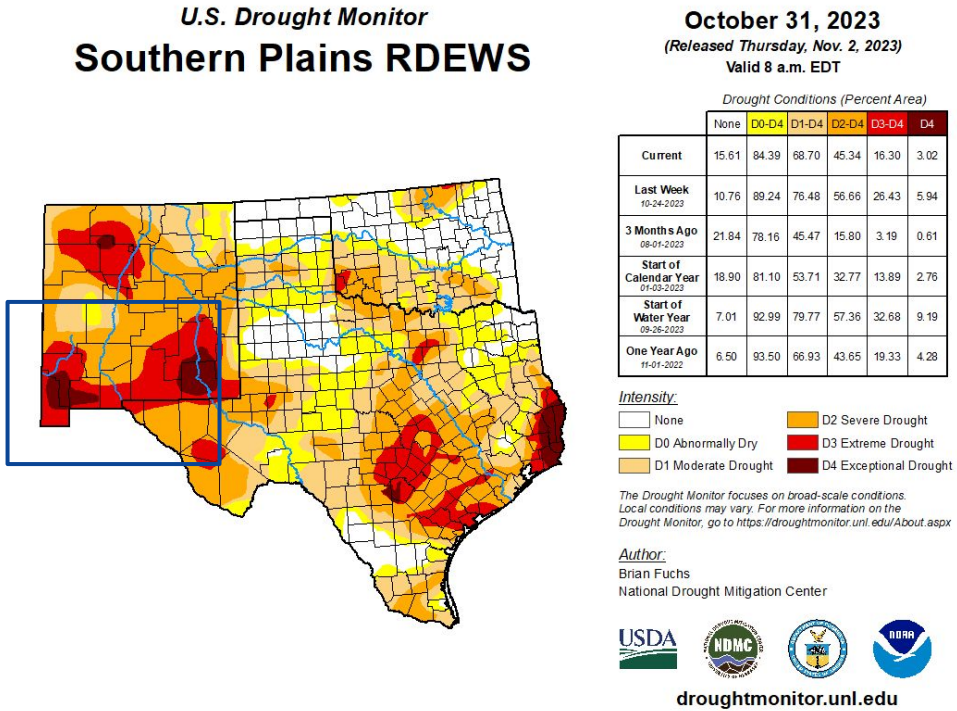



Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 31

# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

**Link to the latest 3-month change map for southern New Mexico and far west Texas**

- 12-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: All of New Mexico and West Texas. Significant worsening in southwest New Mexico.
  - Drought Improved: No drought improvement was observed

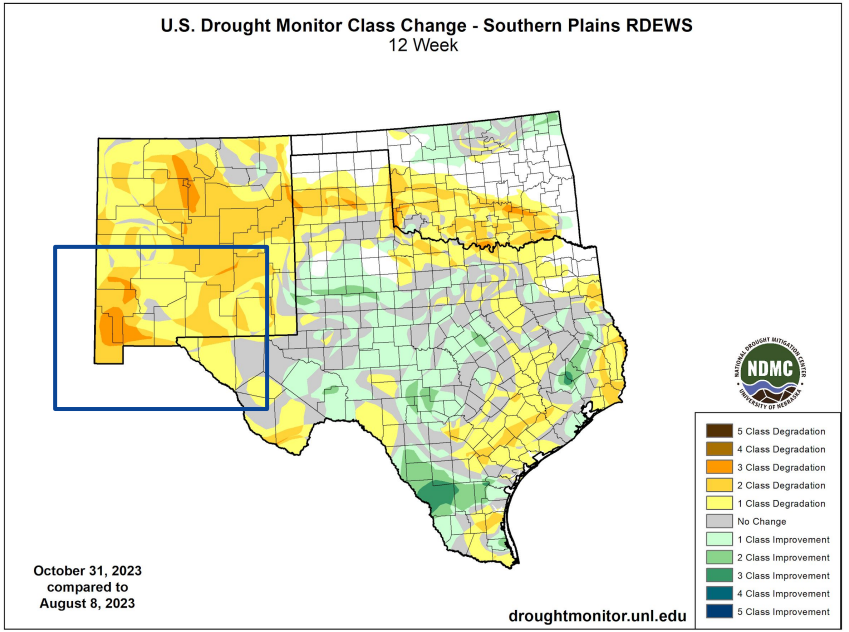
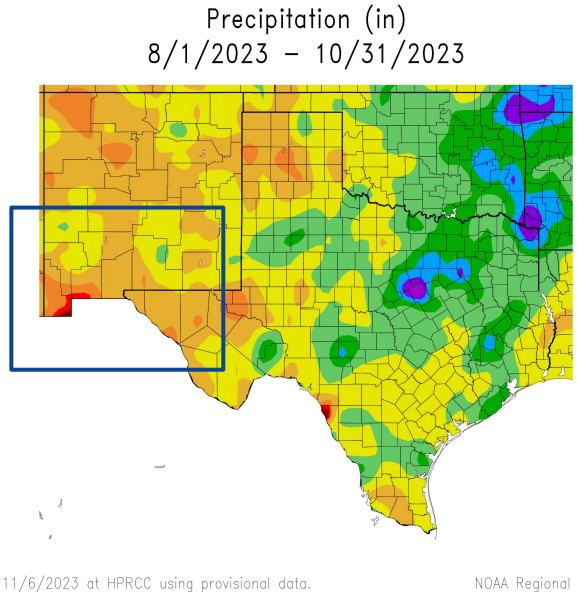



Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 3-month change map valid 8am EDT October 31

# Precipitation

- 90-day rain totals, ranging from 2-3” along I-10 corridor. 3-5” over mountain forests.
- Well below normal rainfall from the monsoon season, continuing into autumn
- Combined below normal rainfall, above normal temperatures, and breezy conditions result in favorable environment for drought persistence



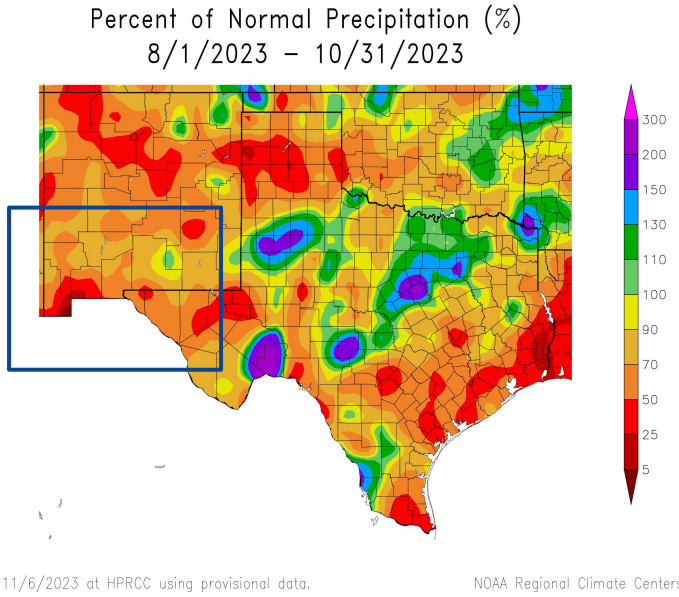
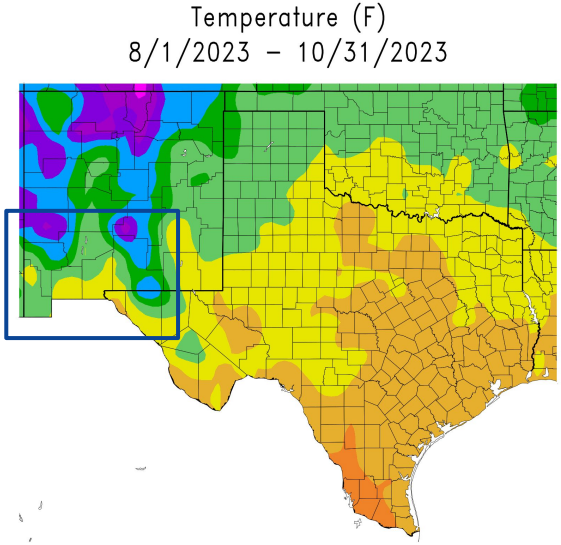




Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending 10/31/2023

# Temperature

- Record heat wave began in July, with heat continuing into November.
- Hottest Aug-Oct period in recorded history
- Average high temperatures 4-6 degrees above seasonal normals



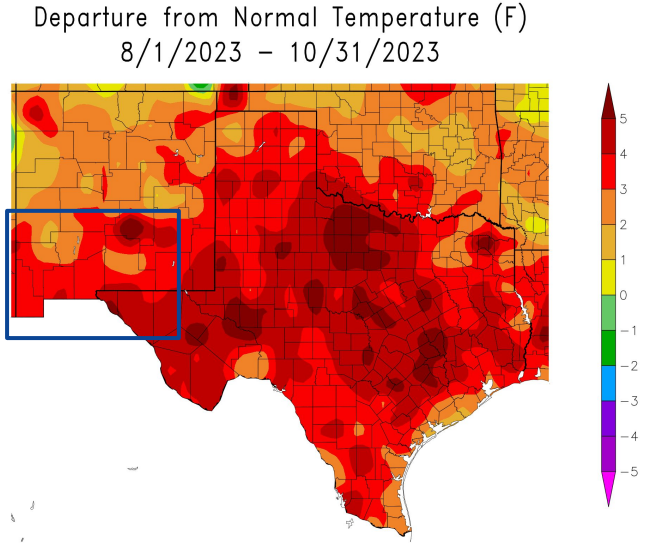




Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center
Data over the past 30 days ending 10/31/2023

# Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Below normal streamflows in Gila and Mimbres basins. Gila River levels around 4-5 feet at Redrock and Virden. Rio Grande has dried up below the Caballo Dam with no streamflow. Elephant Butte storage at 16.8% capacity. River flooding risk is low at this time.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Hatch and Mesilla Valley irrigation season has ended, with a season allotment of 14 inches. Near or slightly above normal precipitation forecasted over the next 30 days. Please refer to the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) website or your local municipality for more information.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fuel moisture was below normal for much of early fall, allowing for several prescribed fires in the Gila and Lincoln Forests. Fire season has ended.

## Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Gila and Mimbres river basin streamflows running well below average
- Rio Grande has dried up below the Caballo Dam with no streamflow

**Gila River Stages**

| | |
|---|---|
| Gila | 1.12 ft |
| Redrock | 3.97 ft |
| Virden | 5.48 ft |

**Rio Grande Stages**

| | |
|---|---|
| El Paso | Low Stage |

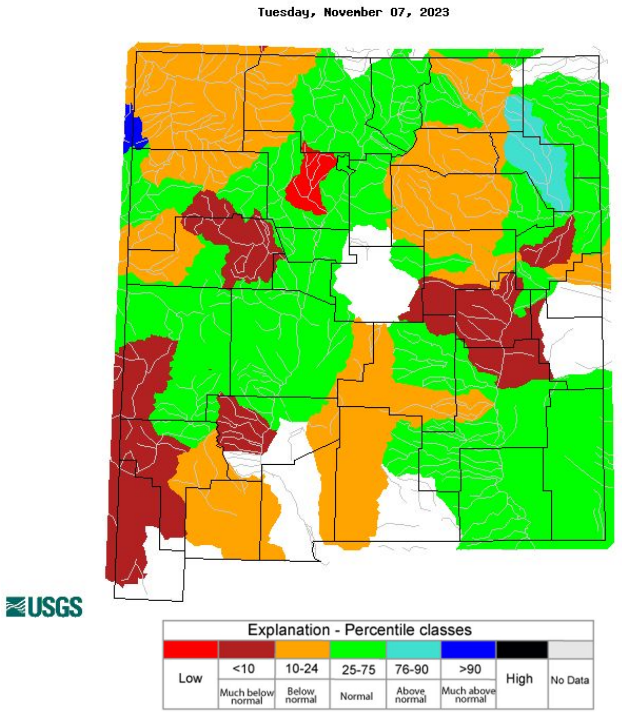


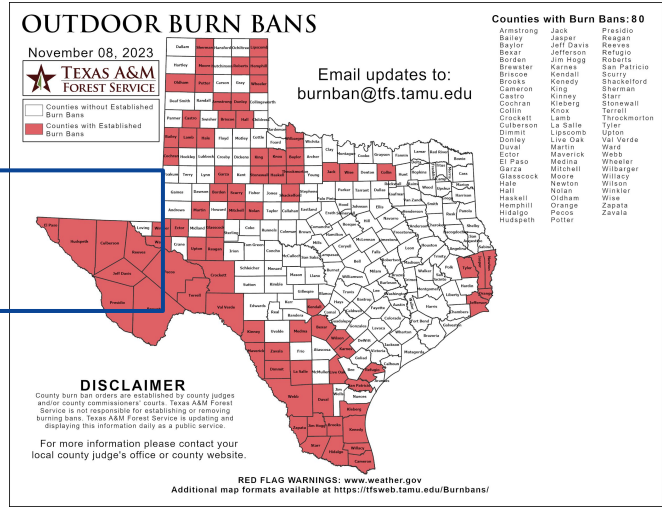

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid November 7, 2023

# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here]

Latest NM Fire Restrictions available [here]



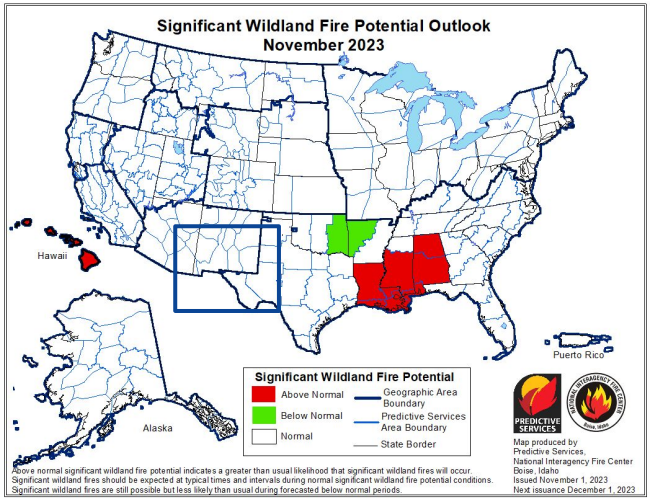




Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook] for November 2023

# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Scattered rain showers this week, focusing on southern NM and far west TX. New precipitation amounts 0.25-0.50” through mid-November
- Temporary drought relief expected with this rainfall, however drought status likely to persist.

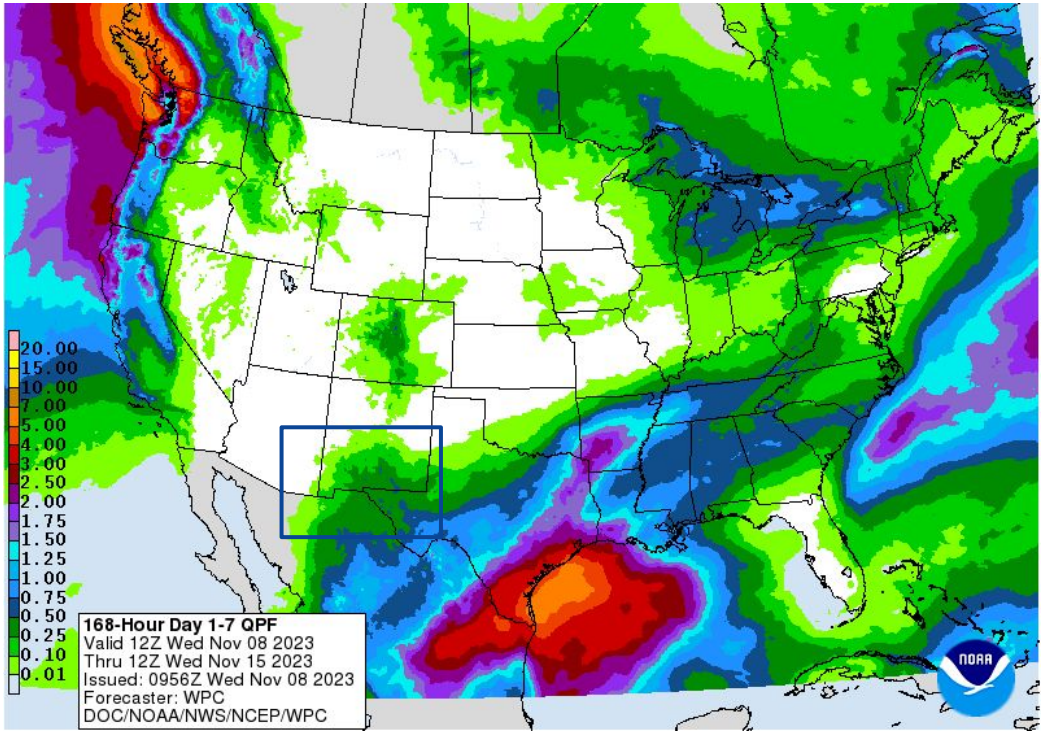



Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid Nov 8 to Nov 15

# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

**Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.**

- Sporadic precipitation chances through November may provide temporary relief, however drought conditions are expected to persist into the winter.

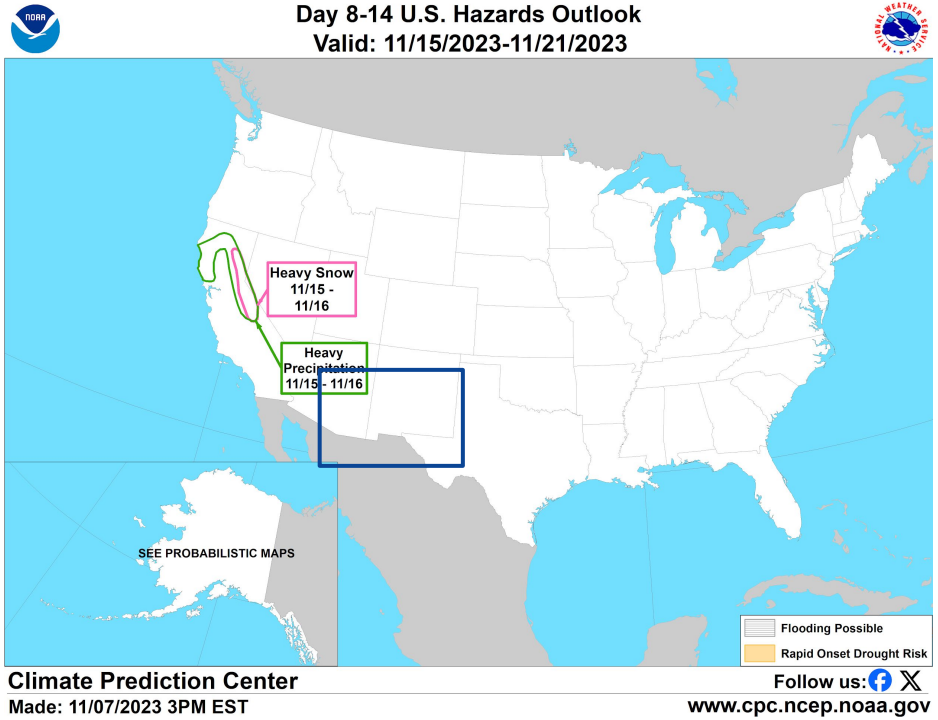
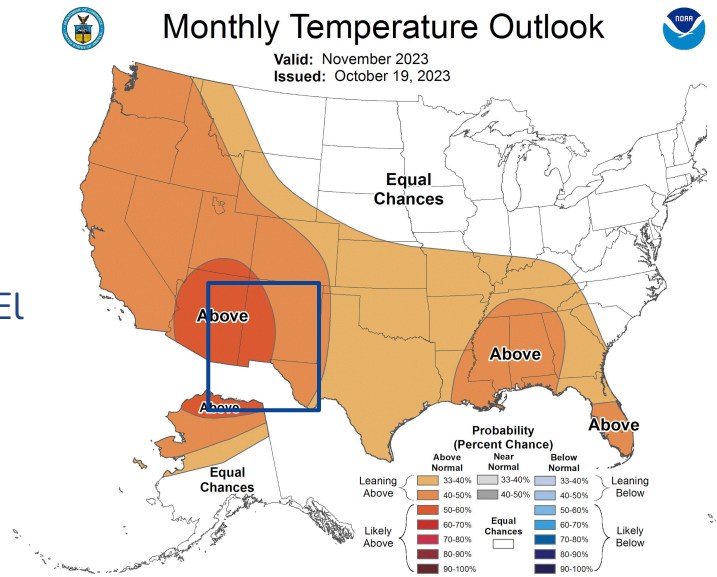



Image Caption:
Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid Nov 15 to Nov 21

# Long-Range Outlooks

**The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage**

- Above normal temperatures likely to continue through the month of November
- Equal chances for precipitation (monthly average for El Paso: 0.43")



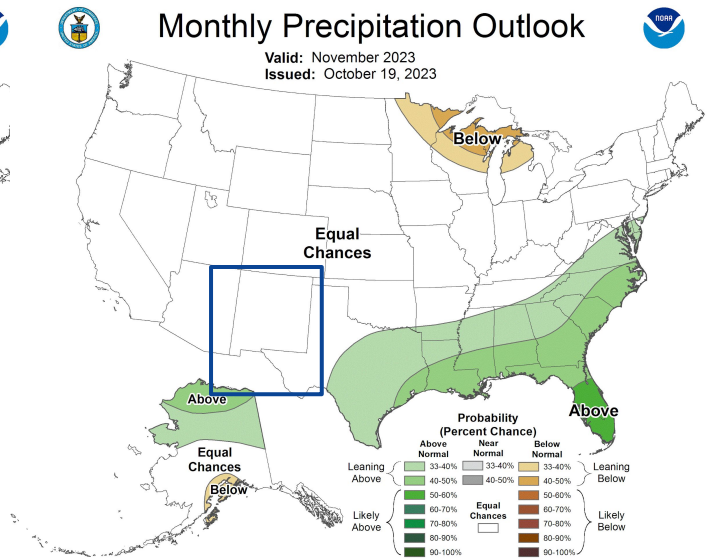
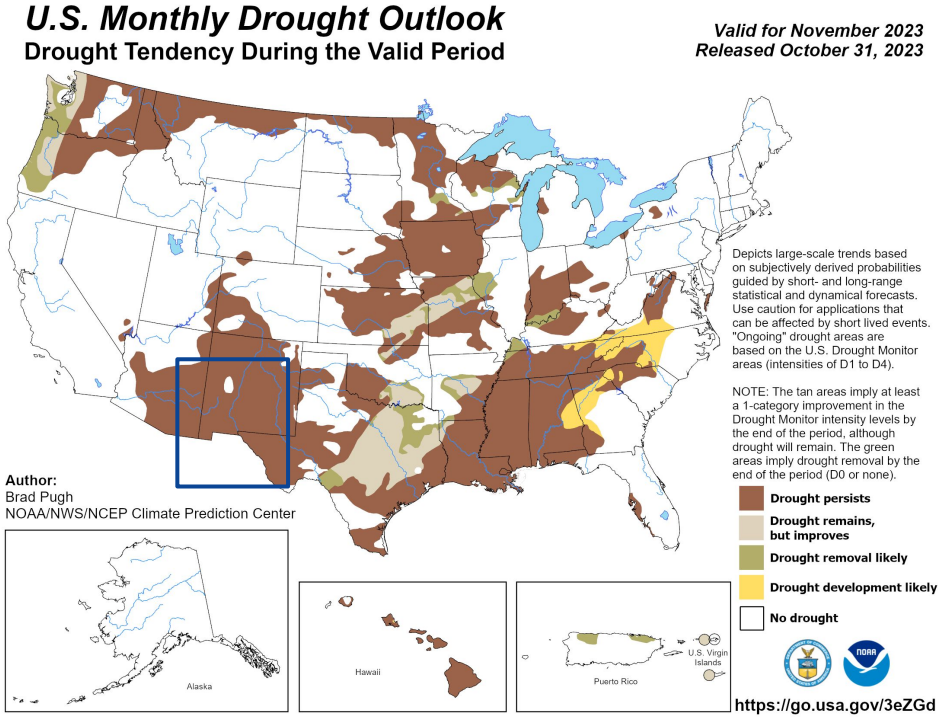




Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook.
Valid November 2023

# Drought Outlook

**The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage**

- Drought conditions expected to persist into the winter. May slightly improve depending on winter precipitation.




Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released October 31 2023 valid for November 2023