



# 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](mailto: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.



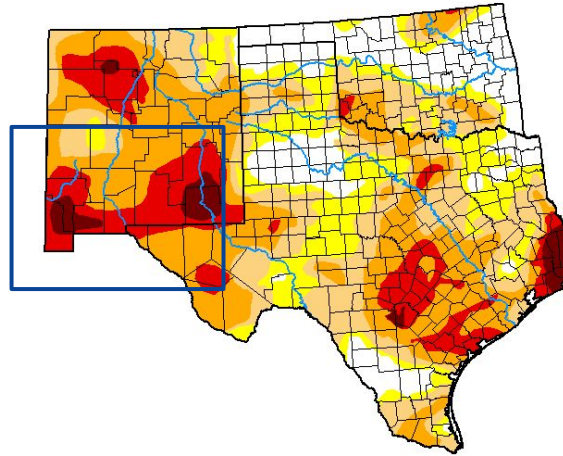


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Southern Plains RDEWS



**October 31, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	15.61	84.39	68.70	45.34	16.30	3.02
Last Week 10-24-2023	10.76	89.24	76.48	56.66	26.43	5.94
3 Months Ago 08-01-2023	21.84	78.16	45.47	15.80	3.19	0.61
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	18.90	81.10	53.71	32.77	13.89	2.76
Start of Water Year 09-26-2022	7.01	92.99	79.77	57.36	32.68	9.19
One Year Ago 11-01-2022	6.50	93.50	66.93	43.65	19.33	4.28

**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:**  
Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

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

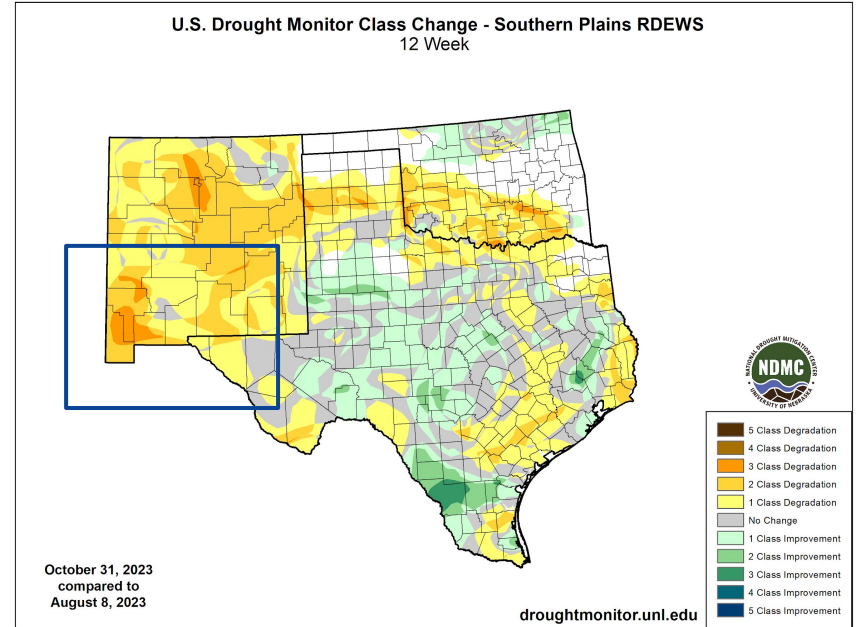


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 3-month change map valid 8am EDT October 31

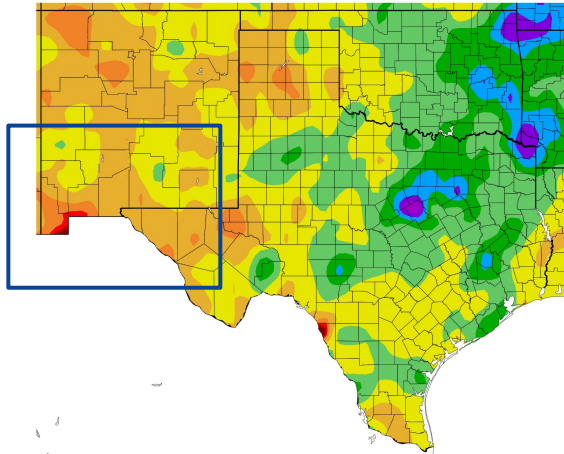




# Precipitation

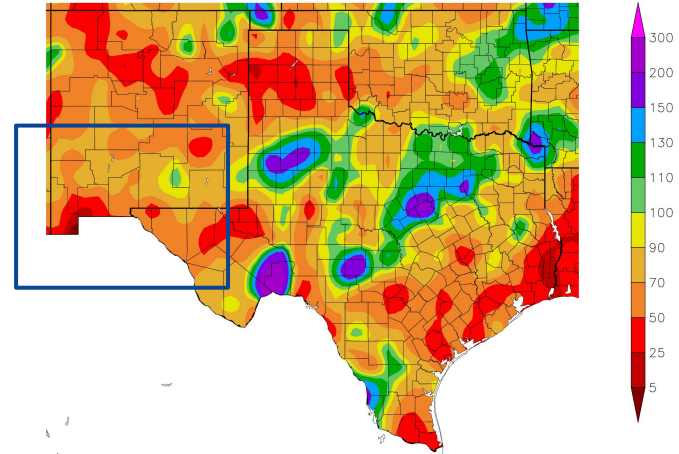
- 90-day rain totals, ranging from 2-3" along I-10 corridor. 3-5" over mountain forests.
- Well below normal rainfall from the monsoon season, continuing into autumn
- Combined below normal rainfall, above normal temperatures, and breezy conditions result in favorable environment for drought persistence

Precipitation (in)  
8/1/2023 - 10/31/2023



Generated 11/6/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
8/1/2023 - 10/31/2023



NOAA Regional Generated 11/6/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

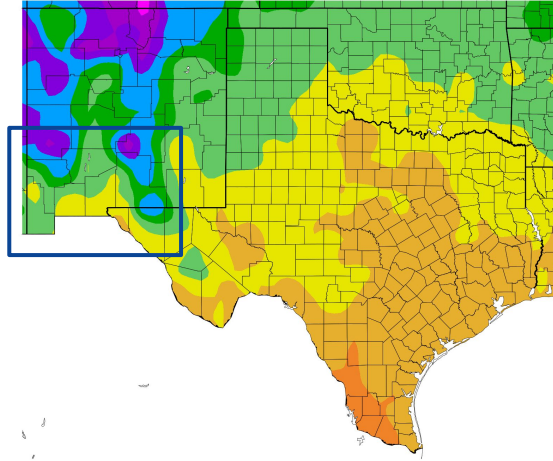




# Temperature

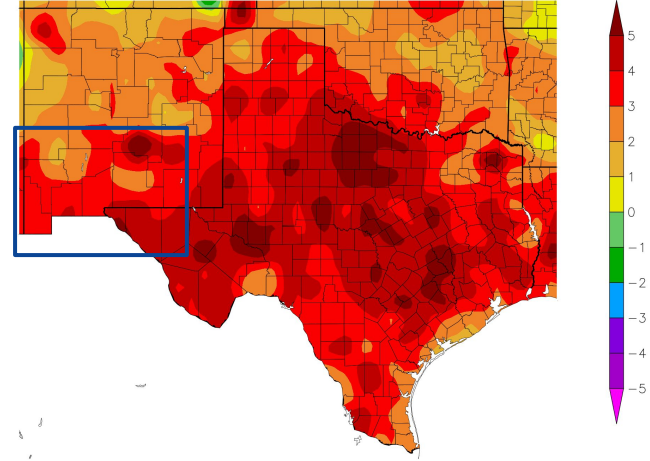
- Record heat wave began in July, with heat continuing into November.
- Hottest Aug-Oct period in recorded history
- Average high temperatures 4-6 degrees above seasonal normals

Temperature (F)  
8/1/2023 - 10/31/2023



Generated 11/6/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
8/1/2023 - 10/31/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Center - Generated 11/6/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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

Tuesday, November 07, 2023

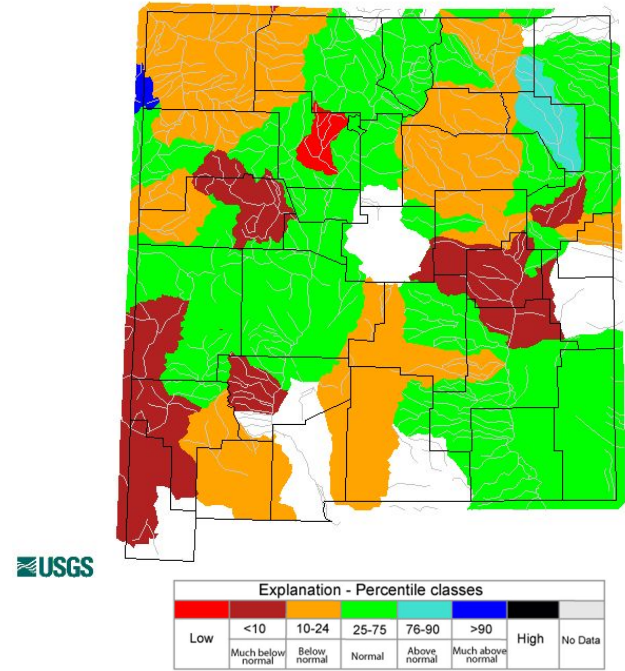


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid November 7, 2023



# 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](#)

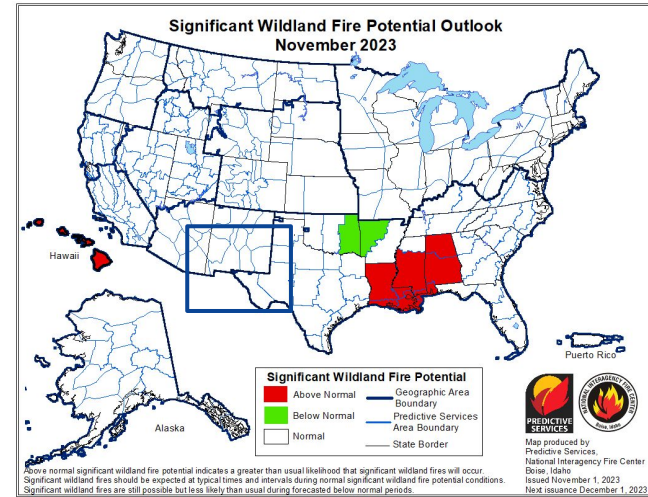
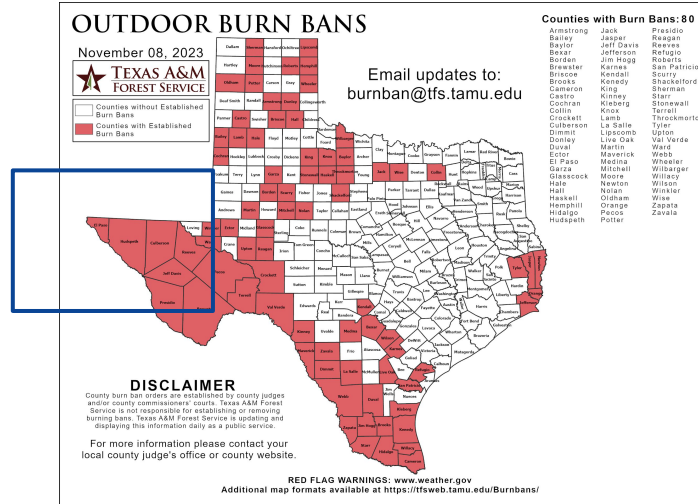


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for November 2023







# 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.

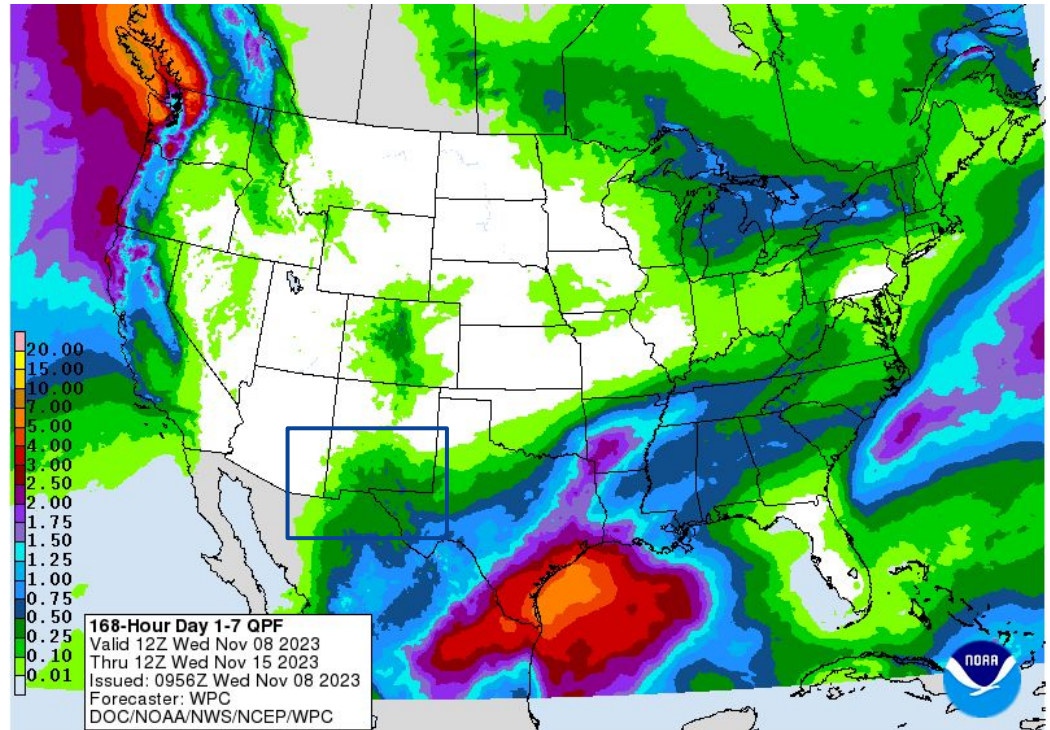


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Nov 8 to Nov 15





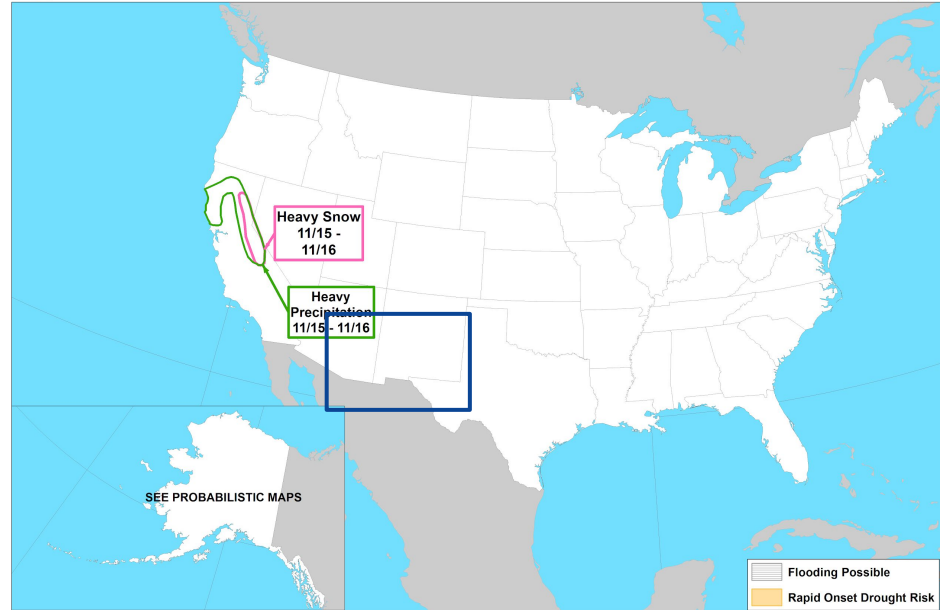
# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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.



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook  
Valid: 11/15/2023-11/21/2023



Climate Prediction Center  
Made: 11/07/2023 3PM EST

Follow us:   
[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

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")

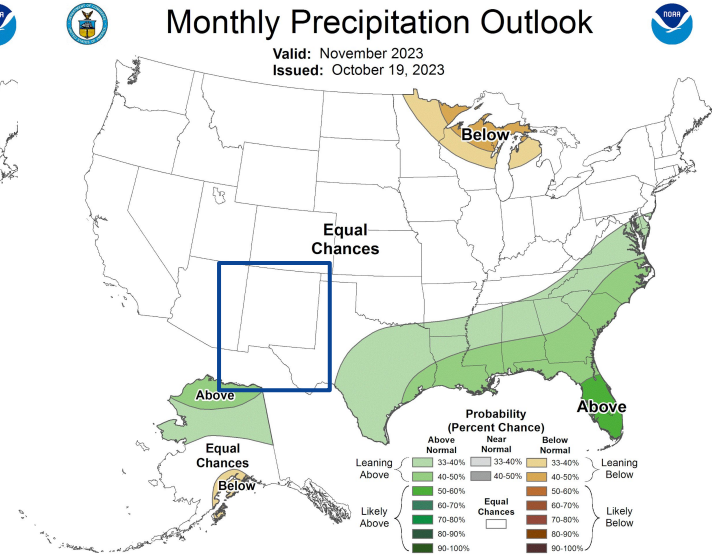
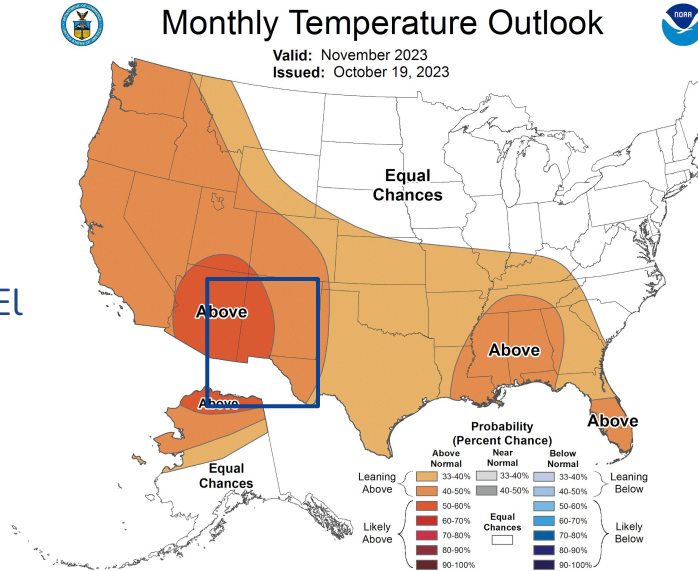


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#),

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid November 2023





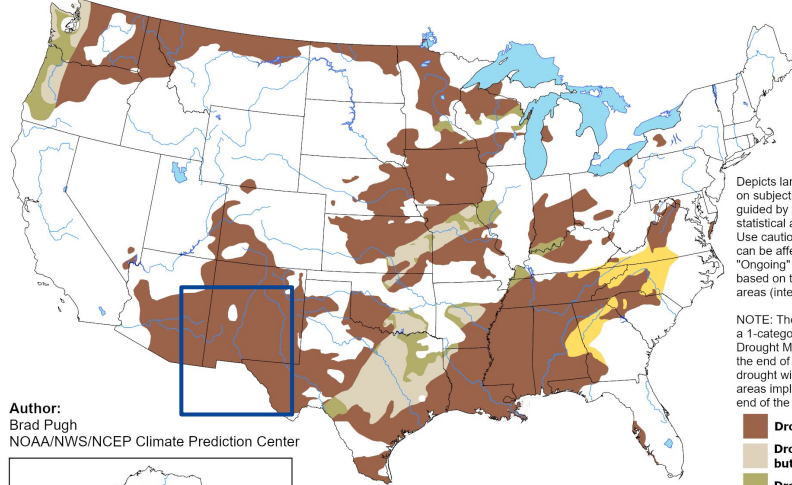
# Drought Outlook

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.

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for November 2023  
Released October 31, 2023

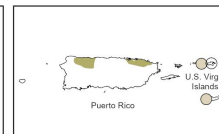
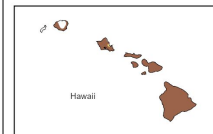


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

Author:  
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<https://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>

Image Caption:

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

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
El Paso, TX