



Drought Information Statement for Southern NM/Far West TX

Valid December 5, 2023

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

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

- This product will be updated January 7, 2024 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.



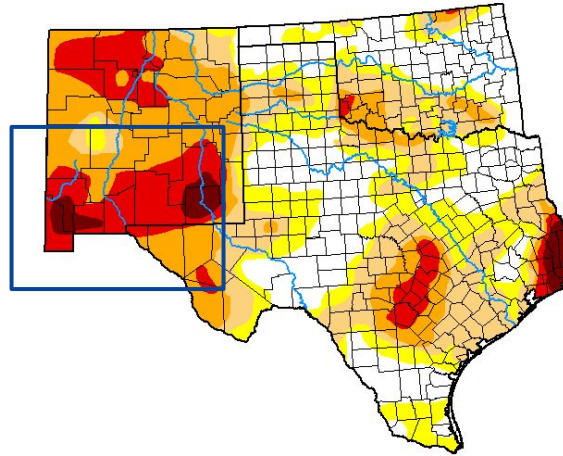


U.S. Drought Monitor

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 (95% of area)
- Winter outlook suggests near normal precipitation, drought conditions will persist through the winter.

U.S. Drought Monitor Southern Plains RDEWS



November 28, 2023
(Released Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	25.65	74.35	55.84	35.77	15.20	2.61
Last Week 11-21-2023	21.62	78.38	57.14	37.74	16.27	2.77
3 Months Ago 08-29-2023	7.45	92.55	73.57	54.10	23.04	7.34
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 11-29-2022	16.82	83.18	55.41	35.06	16.15	3.88

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:
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT November 28



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: Portions of New Mexico, especially southwest New Mexico.
 - Drought Improved: No drought improvement was observed

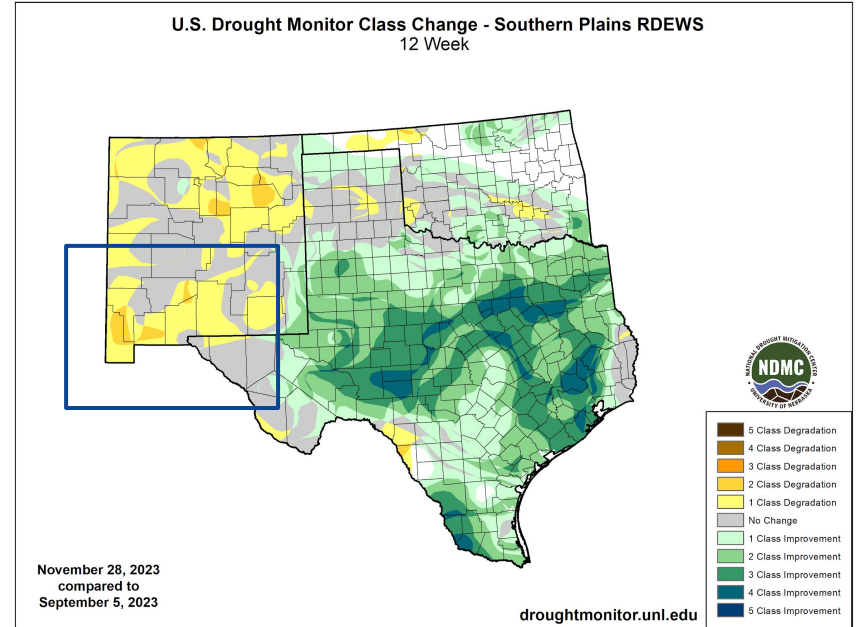


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 3-month change map valid 8am EDT November 28

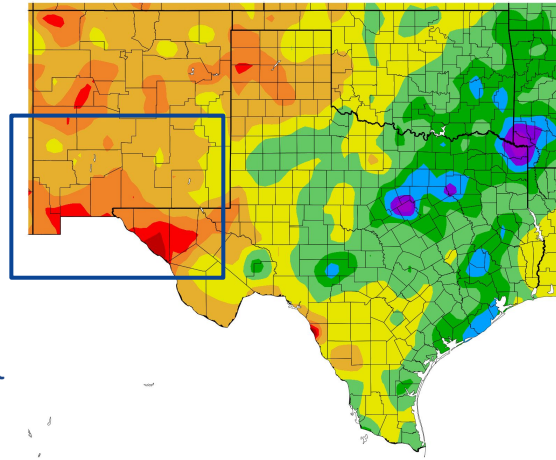




Precipitation

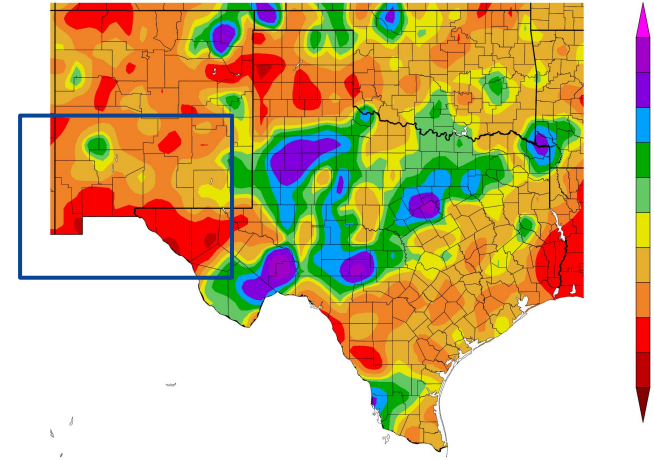
- 90-day rain totals, ranging from 1-2" along I-10 corridor. 2-4" over mountain forests.
- Well below normal rainfall during the fall season (50-70% of normal).
- Combined below normal rainfall, above normal temperatures, and breezy conditions result in favorable environment for drought persistence

Precipitation (in)
9/1/2023 - 11/30/2023



Generated 12/4/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/1/2023 - 11/30/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Center Generated 12/4/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center

Image Captions:
 Left - Precipitation Amount
 Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation
 Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
 Data over the past 30 days ending 11/30/2023

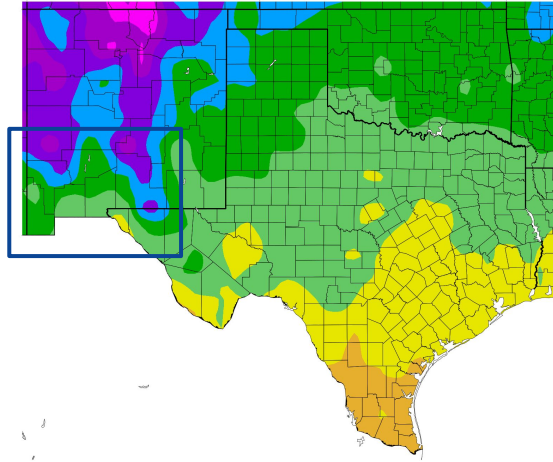




Temperature

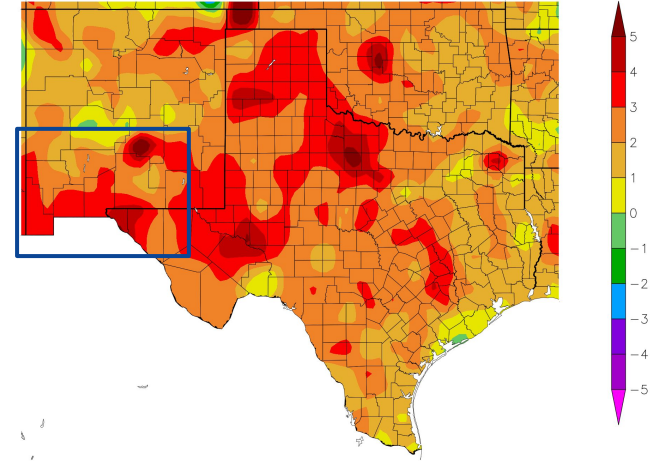
- Record heat from September followed by warm Oct/Nov with short-lived cold snaps.
- Hottest Aug-Oct period in recorded history
- Average high temperatures 3-5 degrees above seasonal normals

Temperature (F)
9/1/2023 - 11/30/2023



Generated 12/4/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/1/2023 - 11/30/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Center - Generated 12/4/2023 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 11/30/2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows in Gila and Mimbres basins remain quiet as we enter the winter season. Gila River levels remain around 4-5 feet at Redrock and Virden, a slight uptick from a month ago. Rio Grande has dried up below the Caballo Dam with no streamflow. Elephant Butte storage at 19.3% 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 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 late fall, allowing for several prescribed fires in the Gila and Lincoln Forests. Elevated fire danger may return early in 2024 pending the mountain snowpack.

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

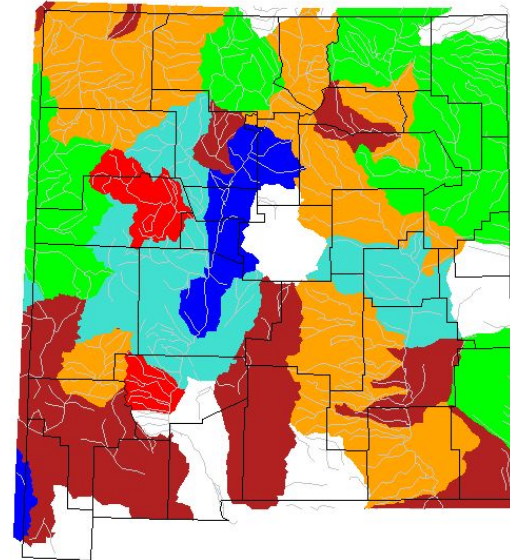
Gila River Stages

Gila 1.26 ft
 Redrock 4.10 ft
 Virden 5.60 ft

Rio Grande Stages

El Paso Low Stage

Monday, December 04, 2023



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid December 4, 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](#)

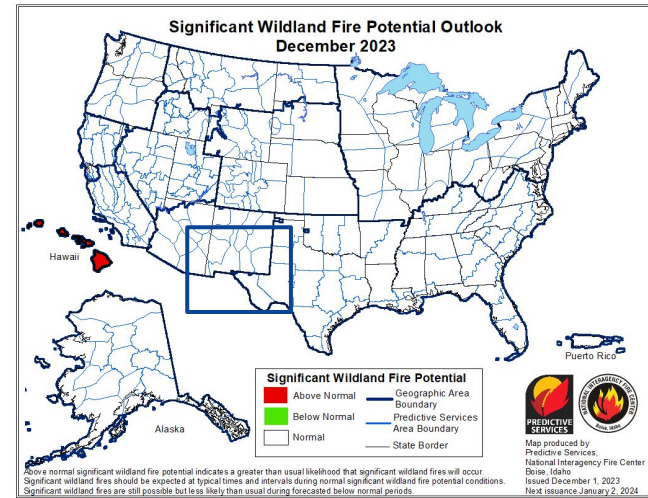
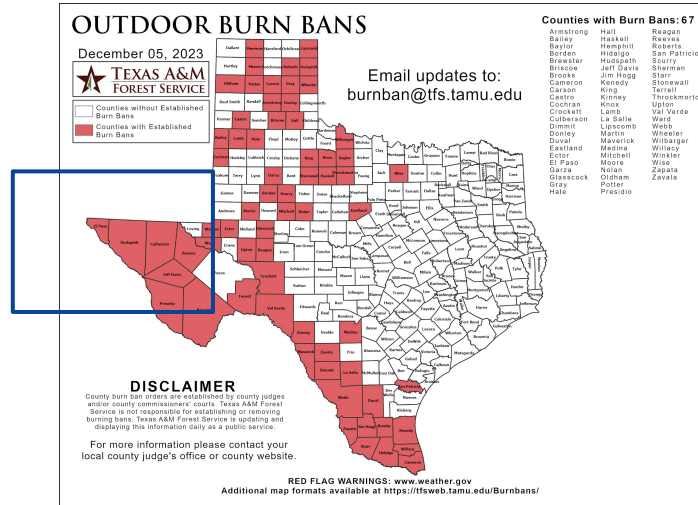


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for December 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- No precipitation expected in the next 7 days. Likely remaining dry well into mid-December.
- Drought status likely to persist.

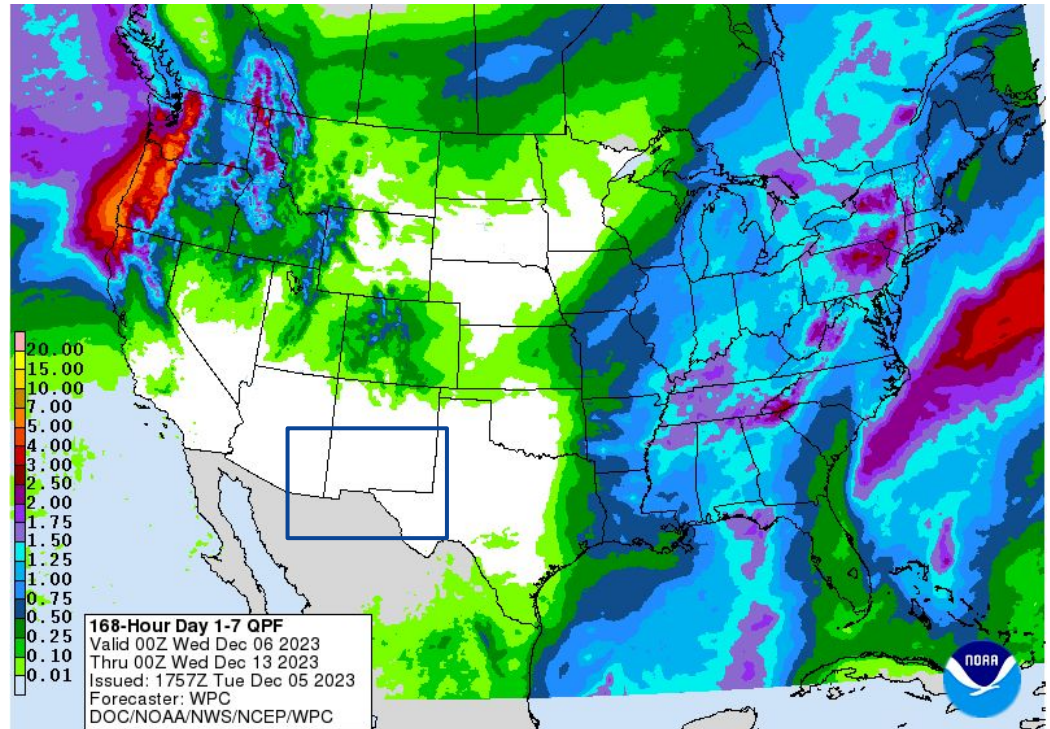


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Dec 6 to Dec 13





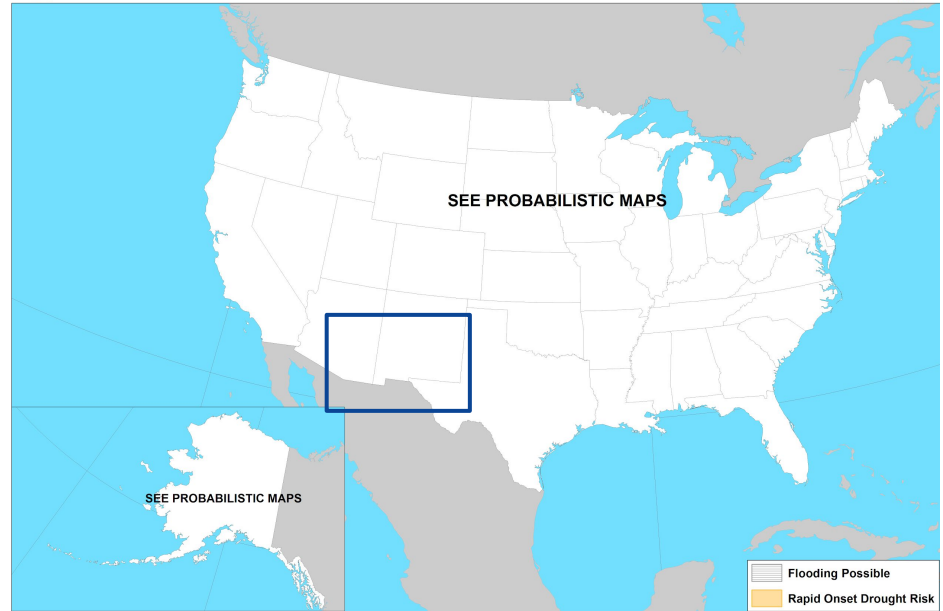
Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Sporadic precipitation chances in late December may provide temporary relief, however drought conditions are expected to persist through the winter season.



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: 12/12/2023-12/18/2023



Climate Prediction Center
Made: 12/04/2023 3PM EST

Follow us:
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

Image Caption:
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid Dec 12 to Dec 18





Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Equal chances for temperatures (likely near normal) through the month of December.
- Equal chances for precipitation (monthly average for El Paso: 0.63")
- NOAA's official Winter Outlook can be found [here](#)

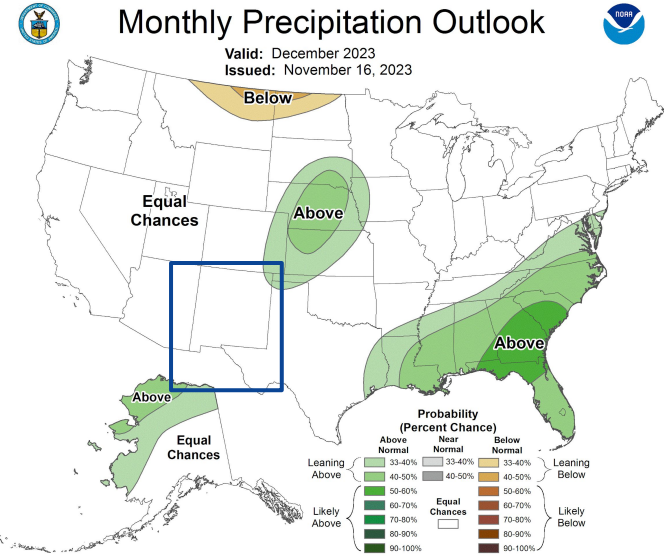
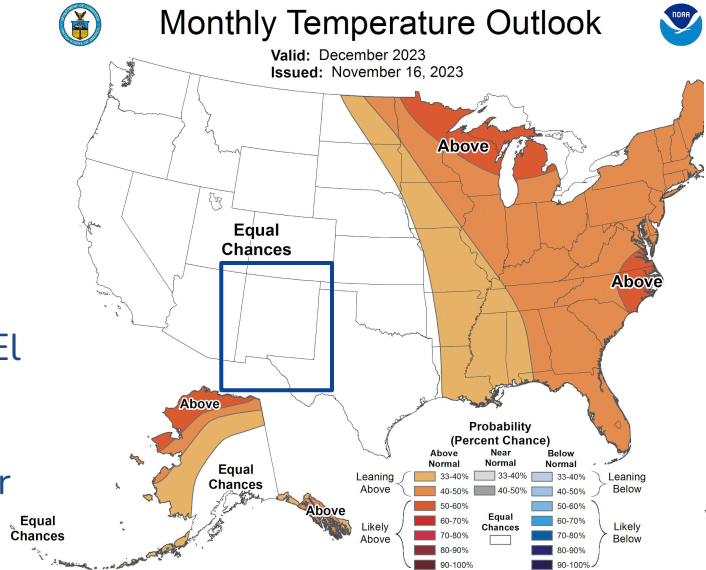


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid December 2023





Drought Outlook

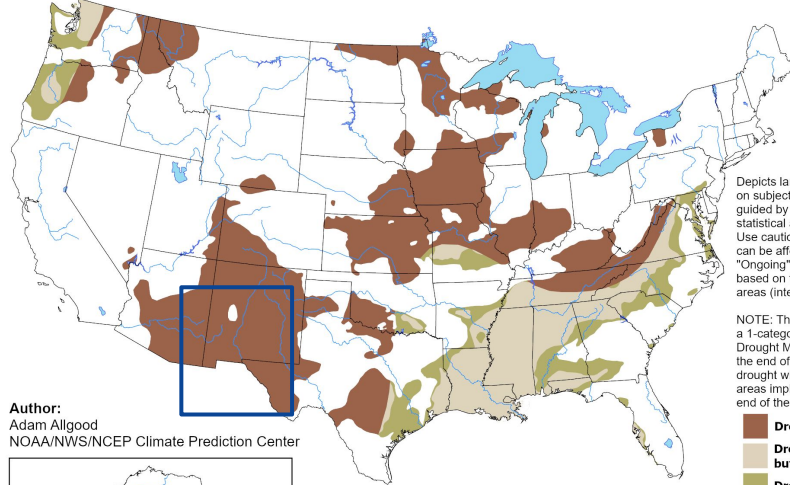
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions expected to persist through the winter.

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 2023
Released November 30, 2023

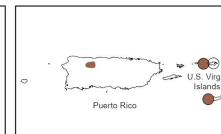
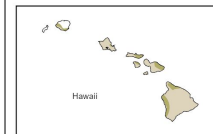


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to 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:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released November 30 2023 valid for December 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