



# Drought Information Statement for Western and North Central Nebraska

Valid December, 21, 2023

Issued By: WFO North Platte, Nebraska

Contact Information: [nws.northplatte@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.northplatte@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated January, 18, 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/LBF/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





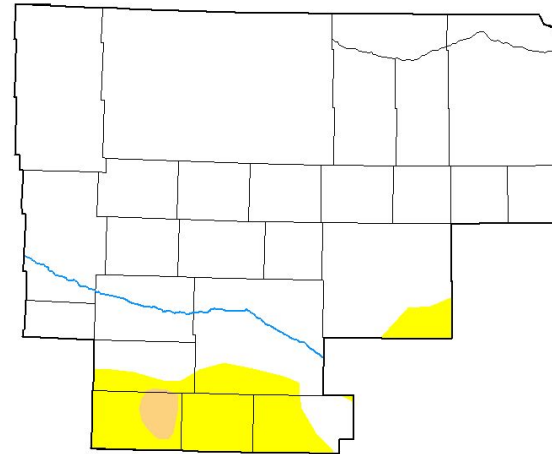
# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the High Plains

- Drought continues to improve across the area.
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 (Exceptional Drought): No areas.
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): No areas.
  - D2 (Severe Drought): No areas.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Eastern Chase County.
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Portions of the following counties: Custer, Lincoln, Chase, Frontier, Hayes, and Perkins.

## U.S. Drought Monitor North Platte, NE WFO

**December 19, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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:**

Curtis Riganti  
National Drought Mitigation Center



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

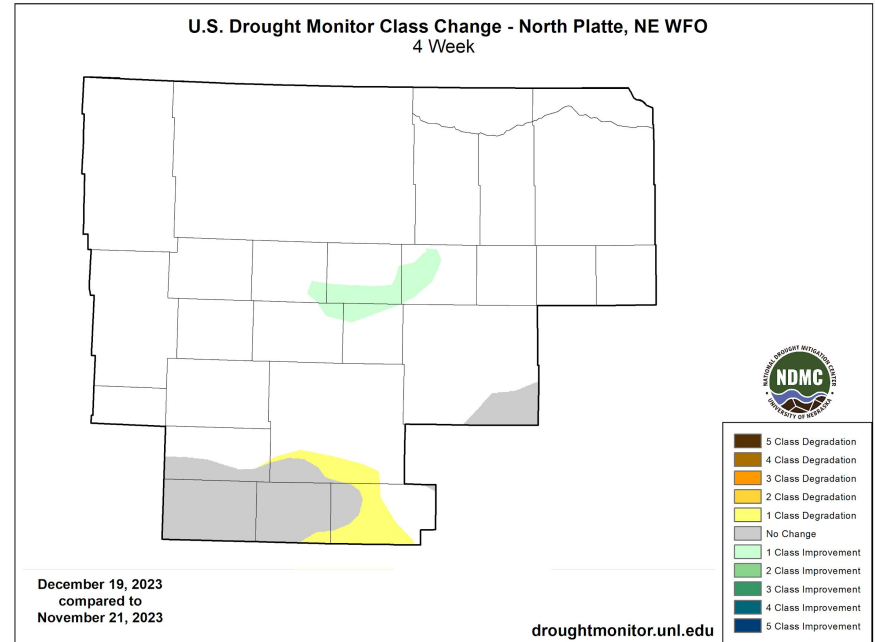




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the High Plains

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Some one category degradation was noted over Hayes, Lincoln, and Frontier Counties.
  - No Change: portions of Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Perkins, Custer and Lincoln Counties.
  - Drought Improved: Portions of McPherson, Hooker, Logan, Thomas and Blaine Counties.

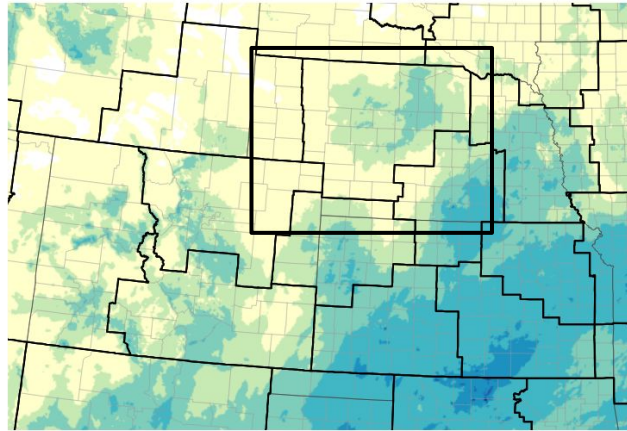




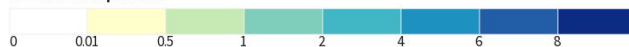
# Precipitation

- Conditions were driest over southwestern and far northern Nebraska with precipitation generally 25 to 75 percent of normal.
- Elsewhere, above normal precipitation fell over the past 30 days, mainly over the Sandhills.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



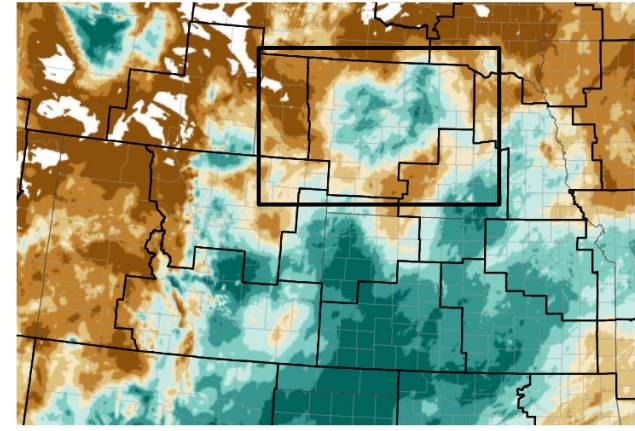
Inches of Precipitation



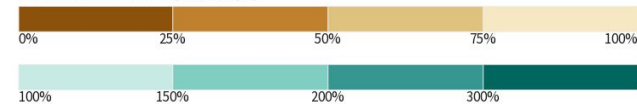
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 12/21/23

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 12/21/23





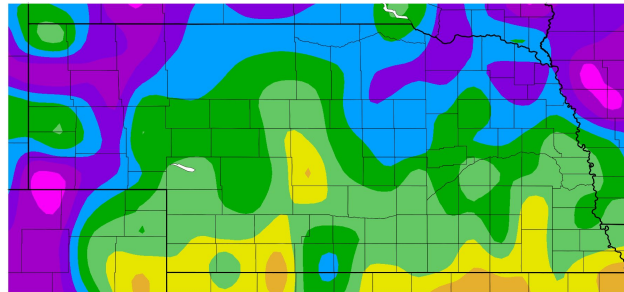


# Temperature

[Link to HPRCC](#)

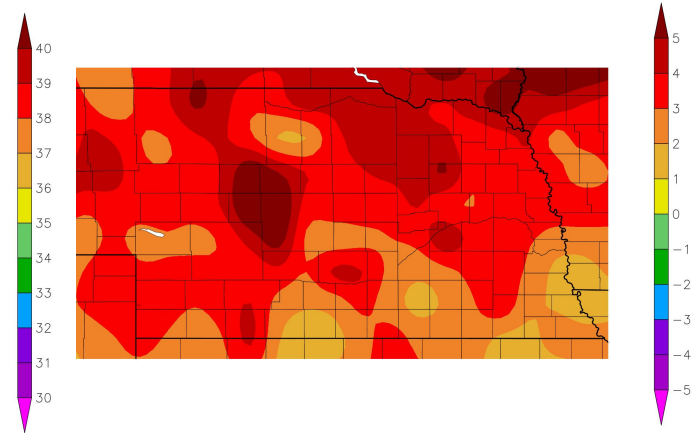
- Temperatures over the past 30 days were above normal across all of western and north central Nebraska.
- Temperatures during this period were generally 3 to 5 degrees above normal.

Temperature (F)  
11/20/2023 – 12/19/2023



Generated 12/20/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
11/20/2023 – 12/19/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

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

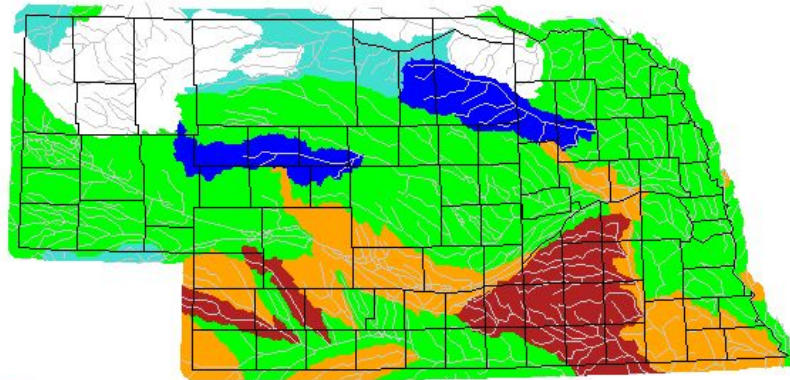




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Near or above normal streamflow was noted in the basins across the Sandhills.
- Generally below normal streamflow spanned southwest Nebraska and middle Platte basins.

Wednesday, December 20, 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 20, 2023

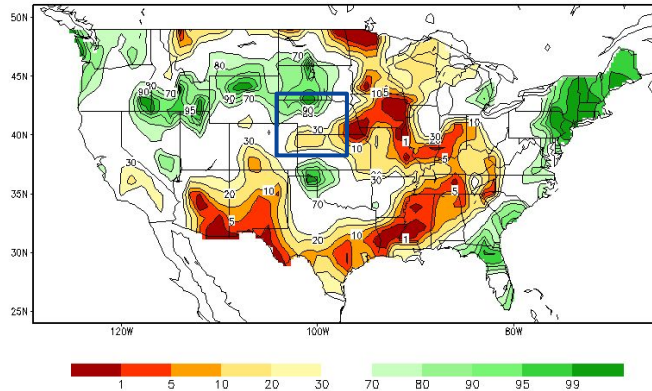




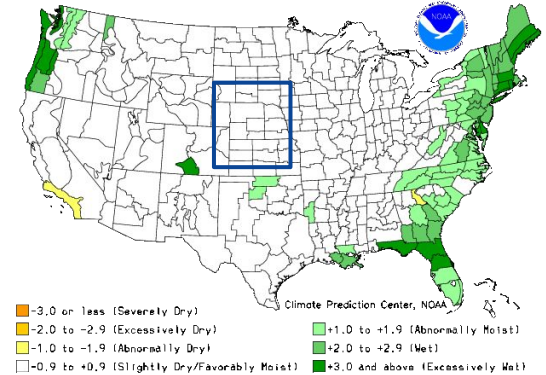
# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture continues to remain adequate across most of western and north central Nebraska. There is some dryness noted over SW Nebraska, generally south of Interstate 80.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
DEC 20, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending DEC 16, 2023  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



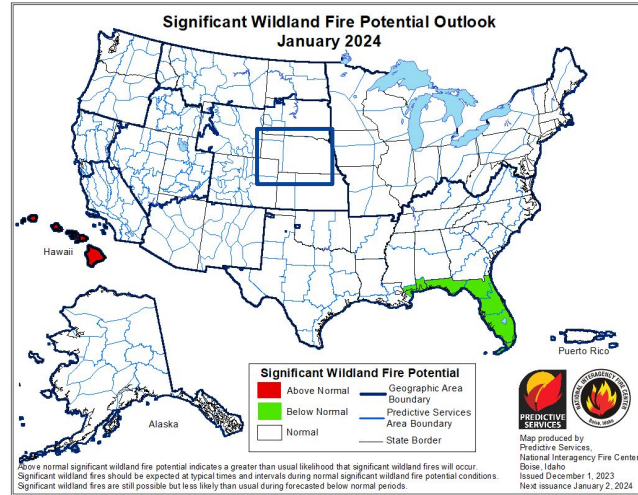




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Wildfire potential across western and north central Nebraska remains normal for this time of year. Given optimal low relative humidity and gusty winds, fires could spread rapidly across the area.

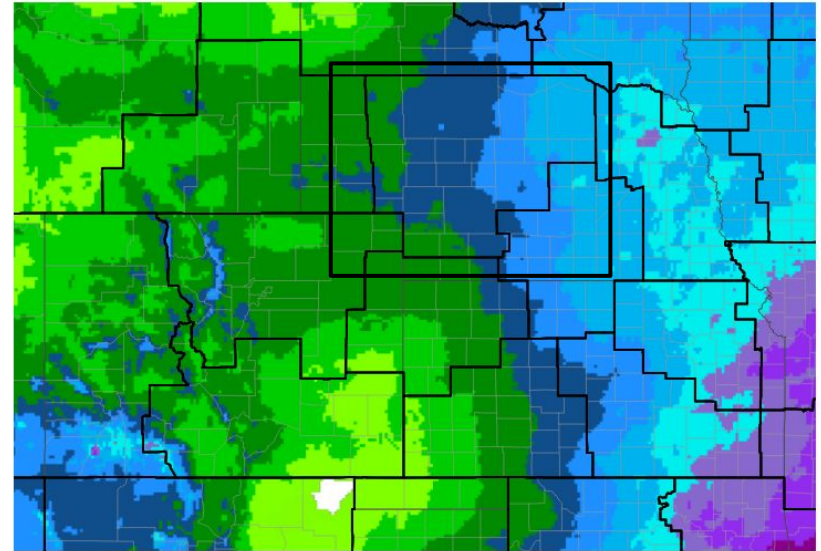




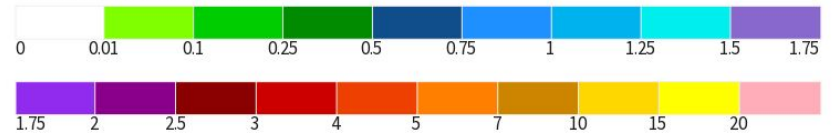
# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- There is a decent chance for 0.25" to 1.00" of precipitation over the next 7 days. The best chances are generally east of highway 83.

## 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 12/21/23





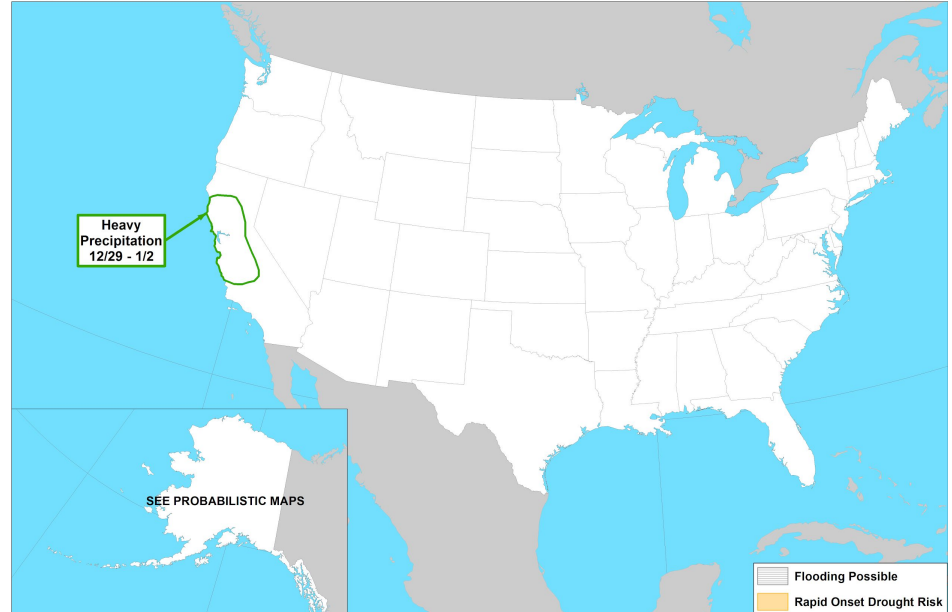
# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- Rapid onset of drought is not expected.



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook  
Valid: 12/29/2023-01/04/2024



Climate Prediction Center  
Made: 12/21/2023 3PM EST

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

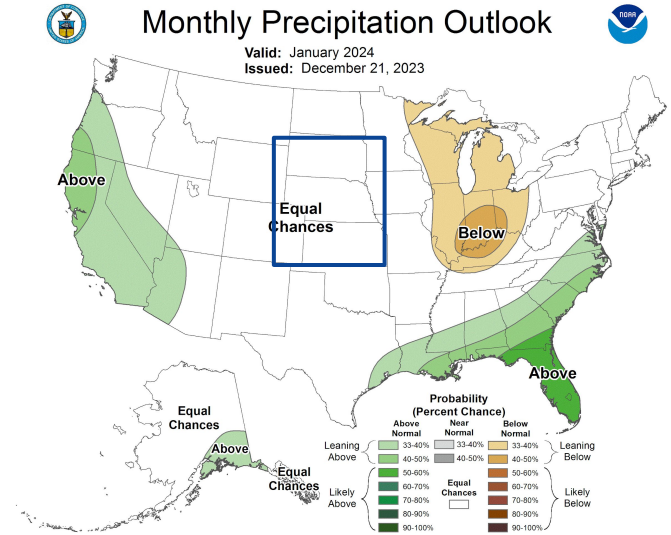
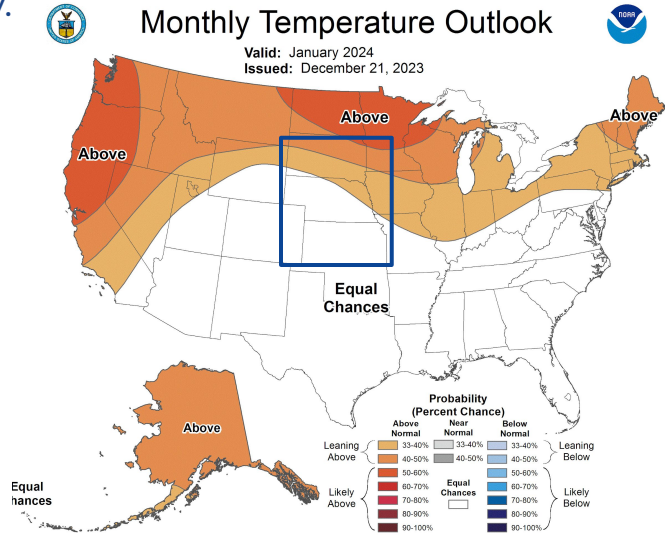




# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Equal chance of above, below, and near normal temperatures for January.
- Equal chance of above, below or near normal precipitation for January.



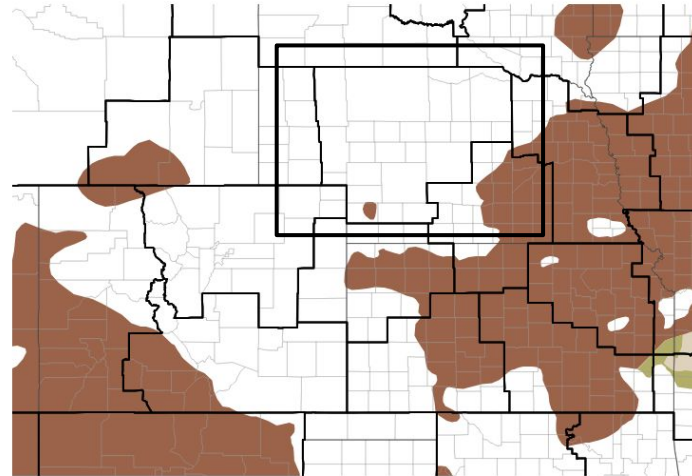


# Drought Outlook

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

- The small areas of D1 drought in Chase County will likely persist for the next month.

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 11/30/23

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

