



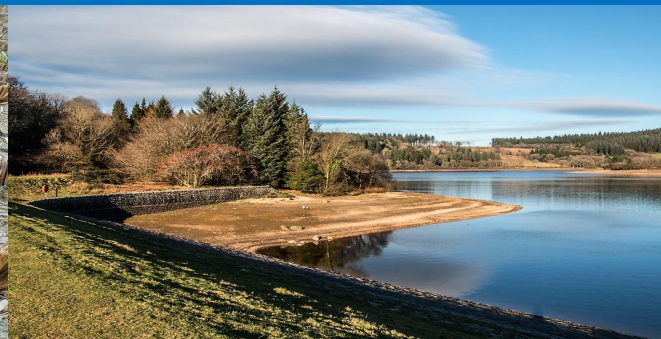
Drought Information Statement for Southwest LA and Southeast TX

December 15, 2023

Issued By: Lake Charles NWS

Contact Information: sr-lch.ops@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated Dec, 29, 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/lch/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





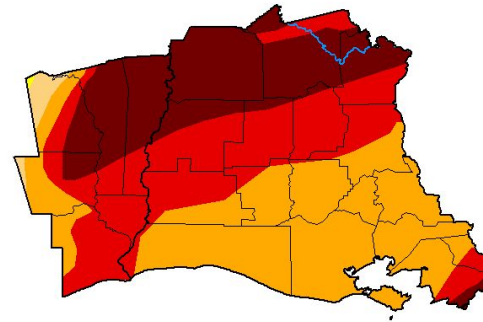
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for SW Louisiana and SE Texas

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE ACROSS THE ENTIRE AREA
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): continues for much of Central Louisiana and the Lakes Region of interior Southeast Texas.
 - D3 (Extreme): for areas north of Highway 190 in Louisiana along with southern St. Mary Parish and much of Jefferson and Orange Counties in Southeast Texas.
 - D2 (Severe): Much of the area south of Highway 190 in Louisiana and western portions of Tyler, Hardin and Jefferson Counties in Texas.

U.S. Drought Monitor Lake Charles, LA WFO

December 12, 2023
(Released Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.94	98.65	59.89	27.61
Last Week 12-05-2023	0.00	100.00	99.93	98.65	94.95	32.69
3 Months Ago 09-12-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	97.11	63.13
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	87.39	12.61	4.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.99	88.86
One Year Ago 12-13-2022	68.84	31.16	14.60	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



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

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am CDT October 17th.





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for SW Louisiana and SE Texas

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - No Change: The vast majority of Central Louisiana and the Lakes Region of interior Southeast Texas.
 - Drought Improved: One to two categories across the southern two-thirds of the region.

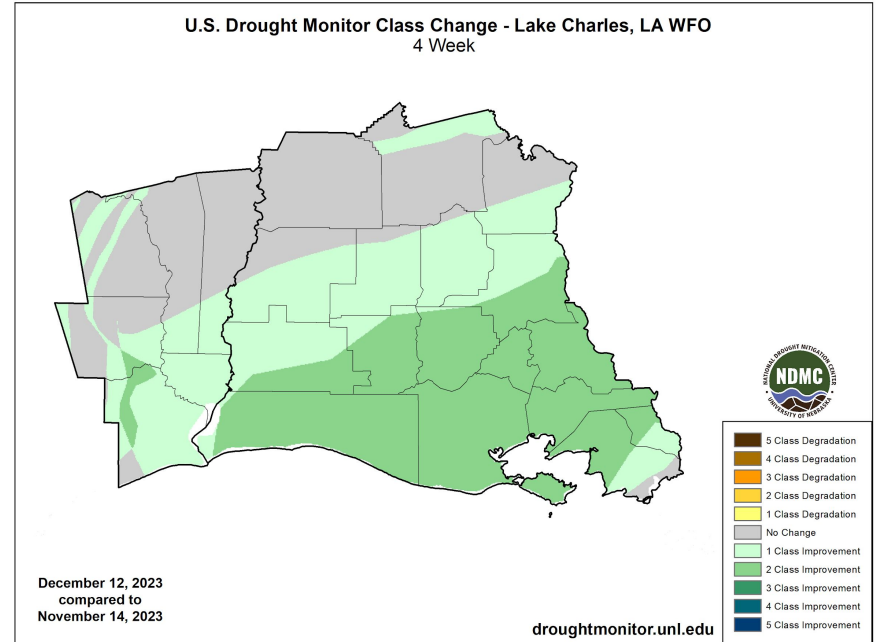


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT December 12th.

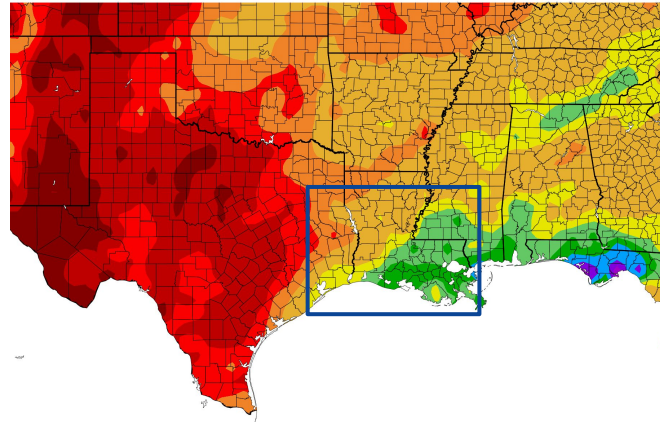




Precipitation

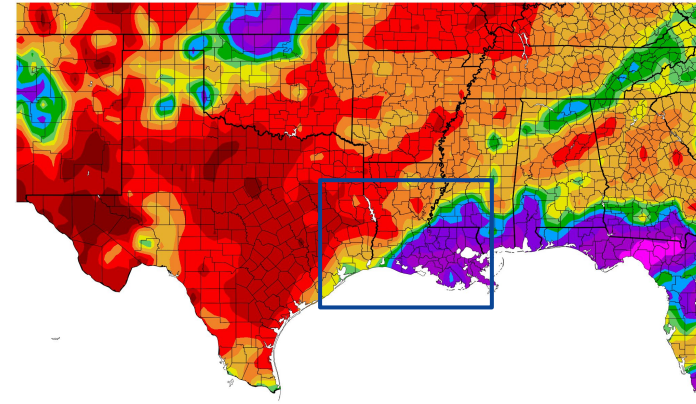
- Precipitation over the last 30 days has ranged from below normal across the northwest half of the area to much above normal across the southeastern half.

Precipitation (in)
11/14/2023 – 12/13/2023



0.1 0.5 1 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16
Generated 12/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/14/2023 – 12/13/2023



5 25 50 70 90 100 110 130 150 200 300
Generated 12/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Ce

Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for the area
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for the area
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Dec 13, 2023

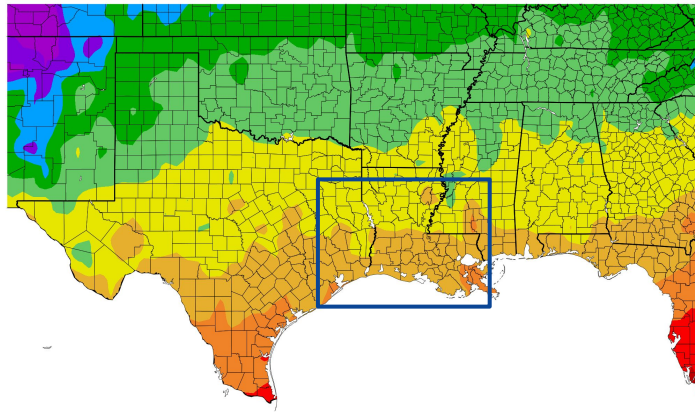




Temperature

- Temperatures have been very close to normal and evaporation rates have decreased substantially across the area.

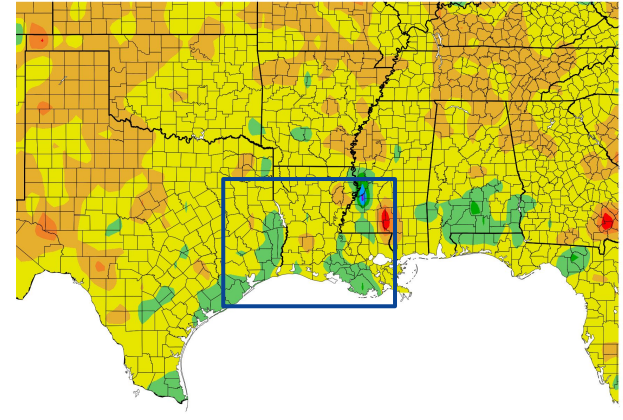
Temperature (F)
11/14/2023 – 12/13/2023



Generated 12/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/14/2023 – 12/13/2023



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 Dec 13, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Many streams continue running below to much below normal.

Agricultural Impacts

- Hay production across the area will not meet winter demands.
- Water sources for livestock remain very low.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire activity will continue to decrease as more precipitation occurs; however, dry cold frontal passages are the main concern at this time.

Mitigation Actions

- None known





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Most major stream watersheds are below normal to well below normal across the area

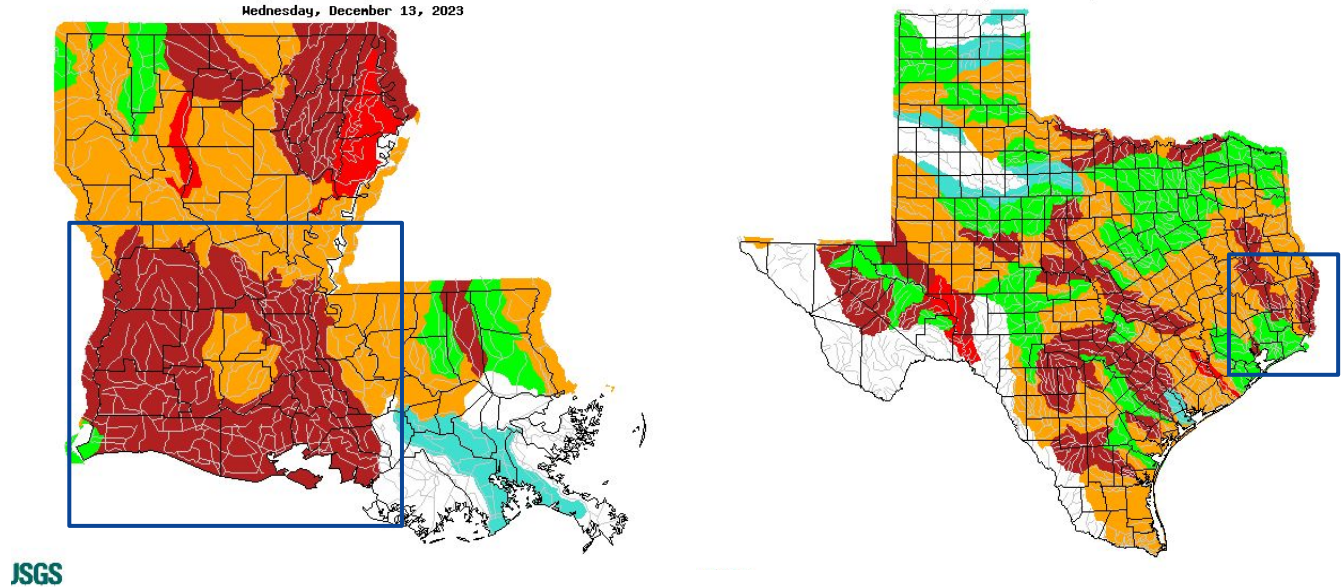


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid Dec 13 2023





Agricultural Impacts

- Agriculture burn bans have been lifted.
- Water sources such as creeks and stock ponds are very low for livestock.

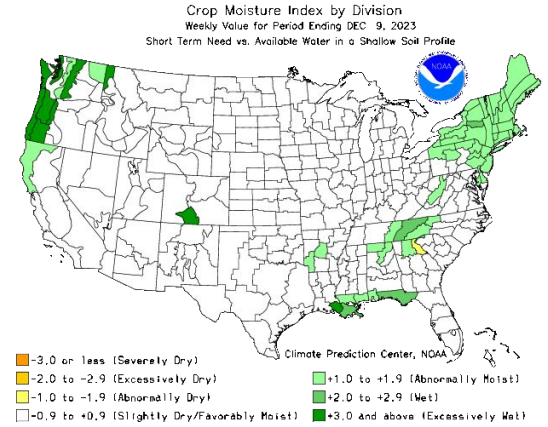
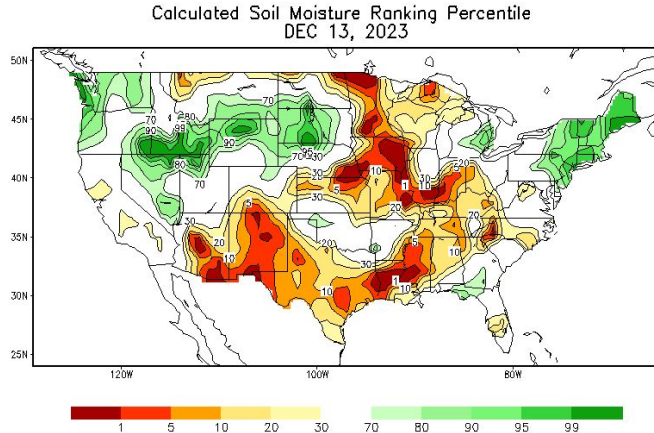


Image Captions:
 Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid December 13 2023
 Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending December 9, 2023



Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- No burn bans are currently in effect across the area.

Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here](#).

Latest LA Burn Ban map available [here](#).

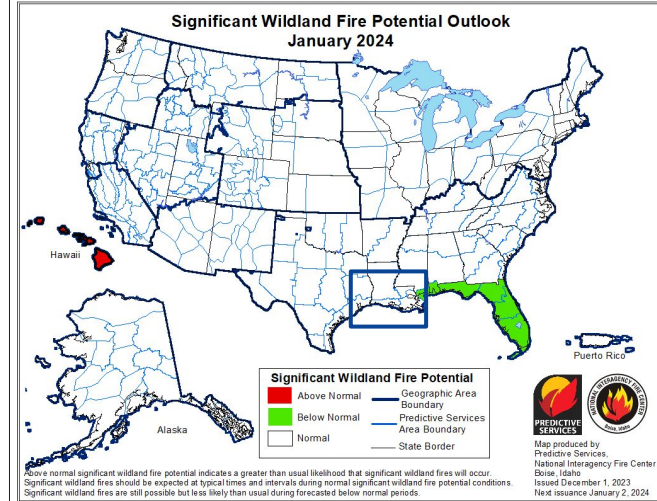
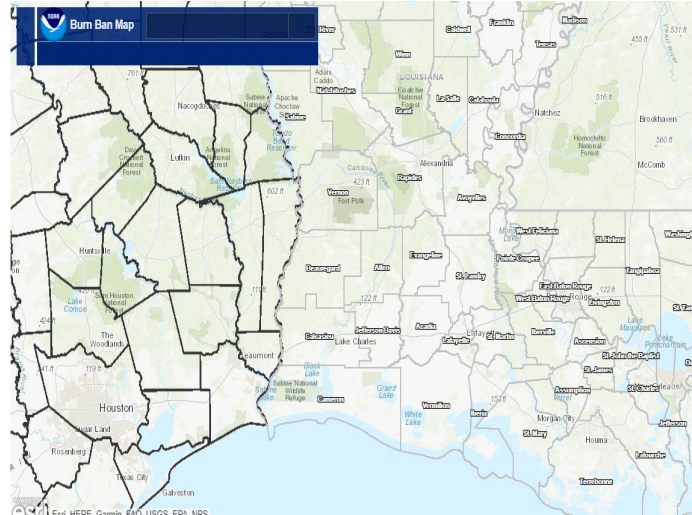


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for January 2024





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Additional wetting rains are expected across the area this weekend.

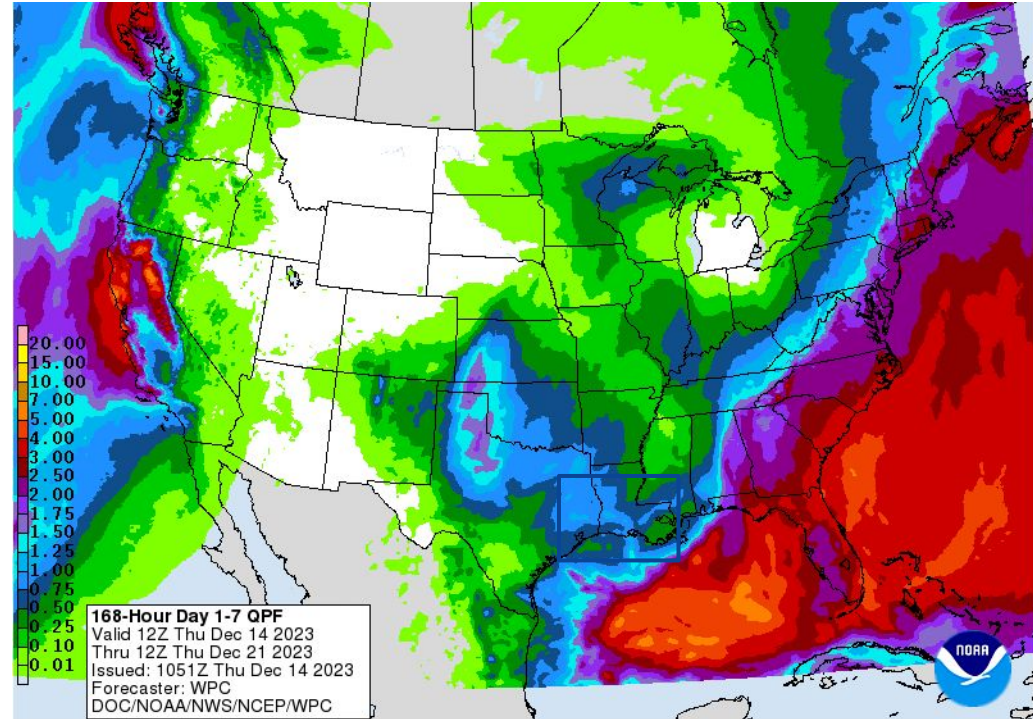


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday morning December 14 to Thursday morning December 21.





Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist into early next year; however, some improvement is likely.



Monthly Temperature Outlook



Valid: December 2023
Issued: November 16, 2023

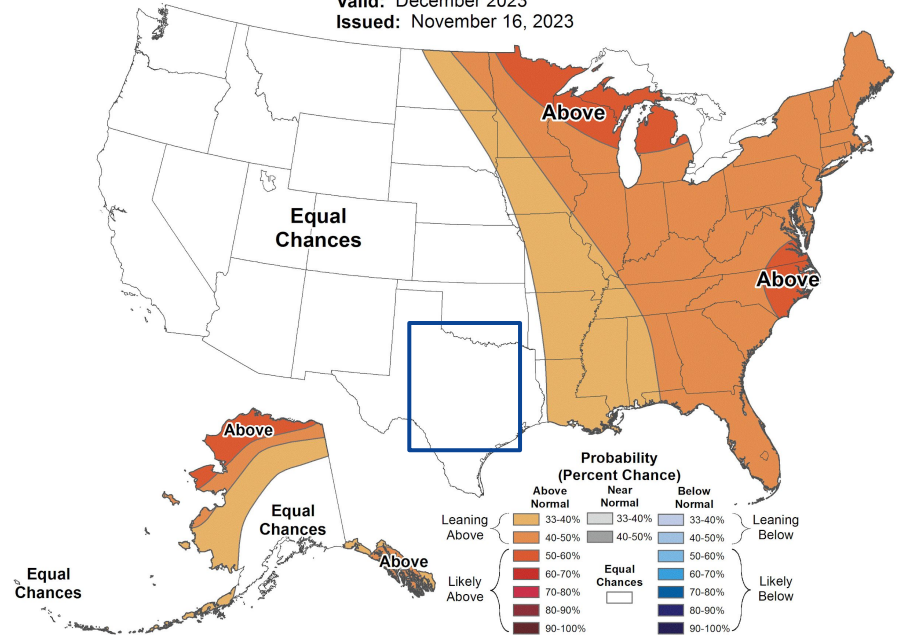


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released November 16, 2023, valid for November 16-February 29, 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
Lake Charles, LA