



Drought Information Statement for Southeast LA and Southwest MS

Valid January 4 , 2024

Issued By: NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge

Contact Information: sr-lix.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated Jan 11, 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/lix/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



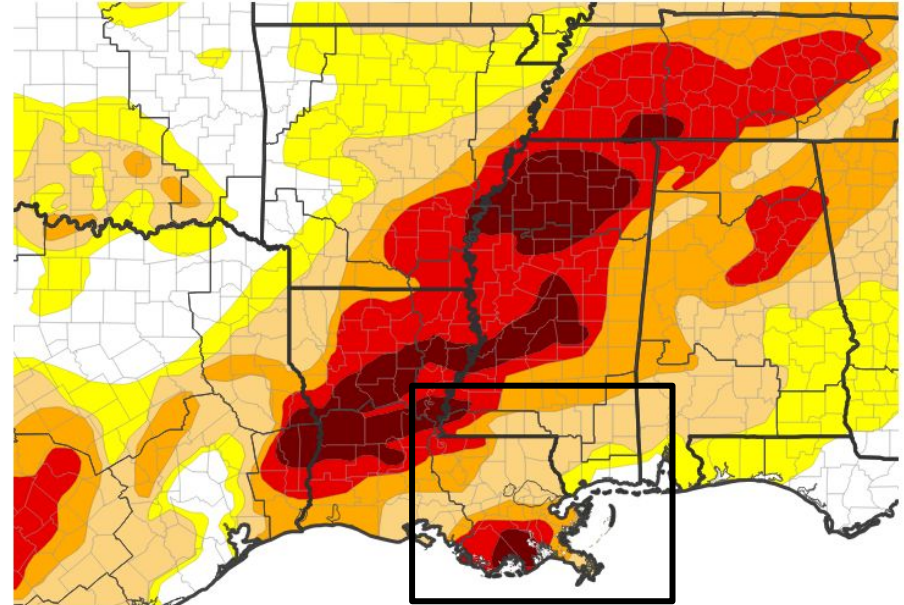


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- **Current drought conditions have improved across much of the region.**
- **Drought intensity and extent**
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** A small portion remains along the SE LA Gulf parishes
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought) to D2 (Severe Drought):** These areas remain is far SE LA and portions of SW MS into the MS/LA border.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought) to D0 (Abnormally Dry)** South-Central LA and near Coastal MS

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/07/24

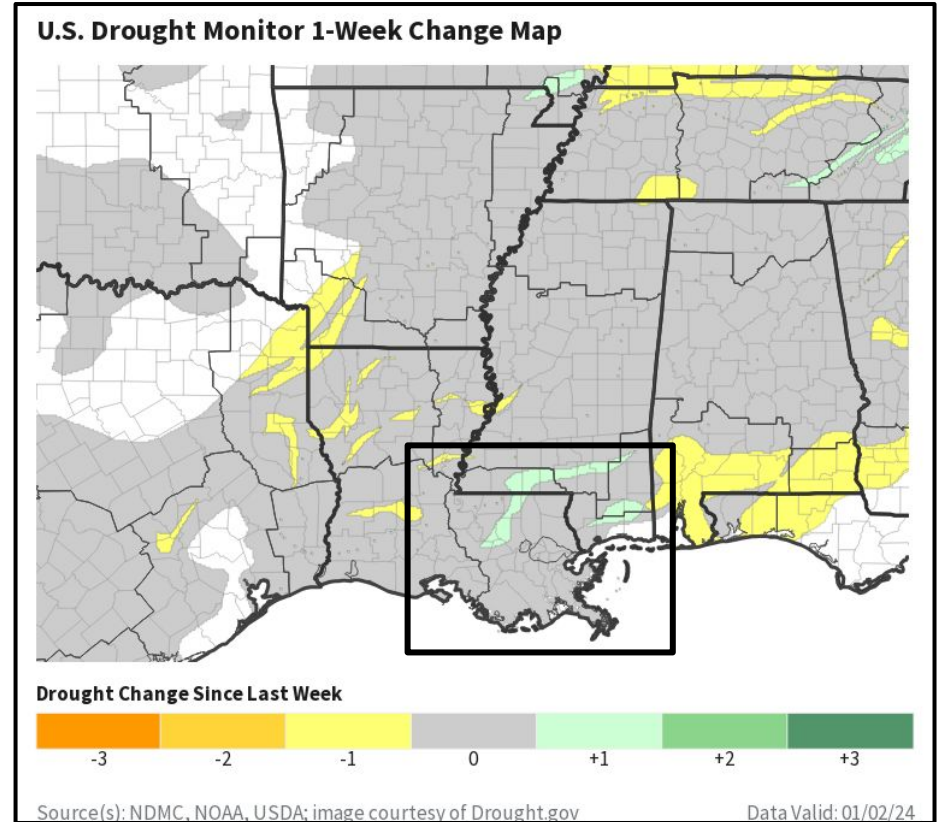




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- **One Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
 - **Drought Worsened: No Change (Yellows)**
 - **No Change: Much of the region noted no change. (Gray)**
 - **Drought Improved: There was a small area of one-category improvement near Baton Rouge and north into the MS border. (Greens)**

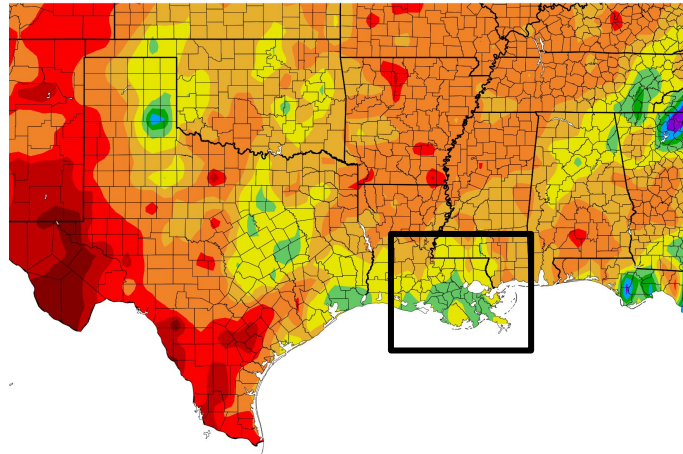




Precipitation

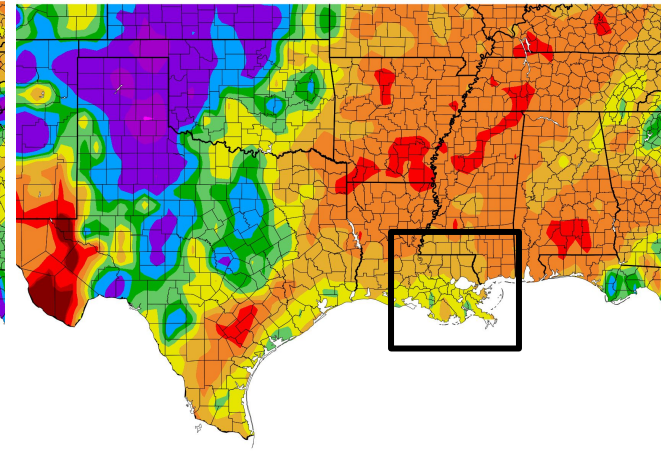
- Rainfall over the last 30 help improve the dry soil conditions.
- The departure from normal percentages are currently well above 100% for much of the southern half, but northern and western areas remain below normal.
- However, many areas still have only received half of their average rainfall amounts since the beginning of 2023.

Precipitation (in)
12/5/2023 – 1/3/2024



0.1 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1/4/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Clima

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
12/5/2023 – 1/3/2024



2 5 25 50 75 100 125 150 200 400 800
/4/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Clir

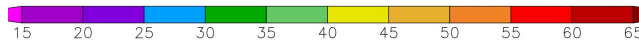
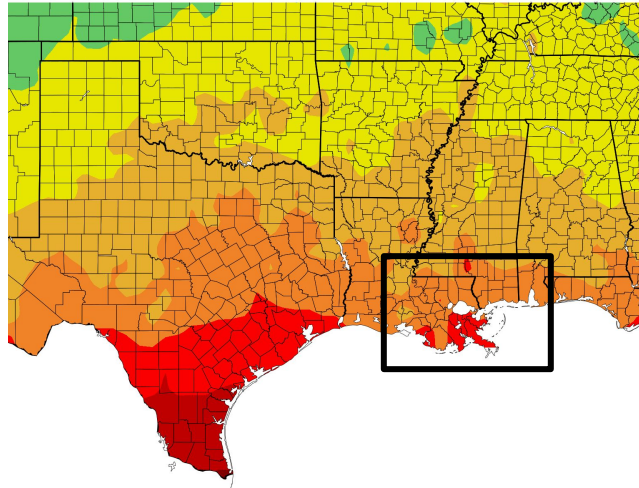




Temperature

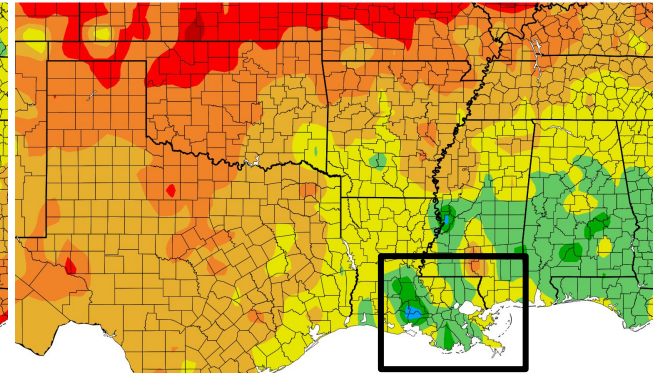
- The recent cold fronts have kept temperatures much more seasonable over the last 30 days.
- Temperatures are generally within a few degrees of normal for this time of year.

Temperature (F)
12/5/2023 – 1/3/2024



2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/5/2023 – 1/3/2024



NOAA Regional 2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional

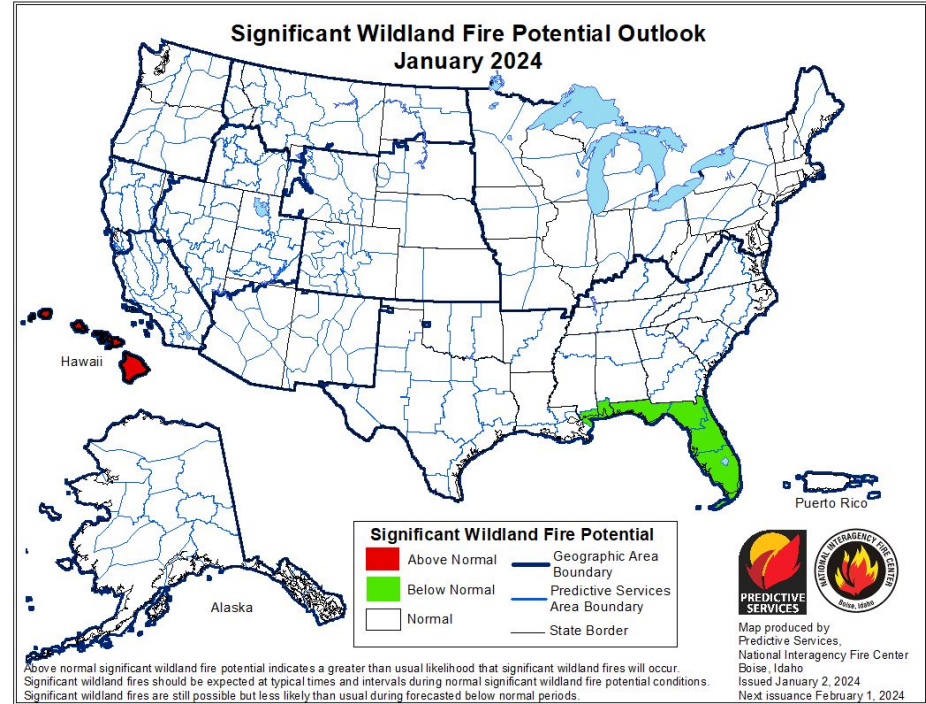




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

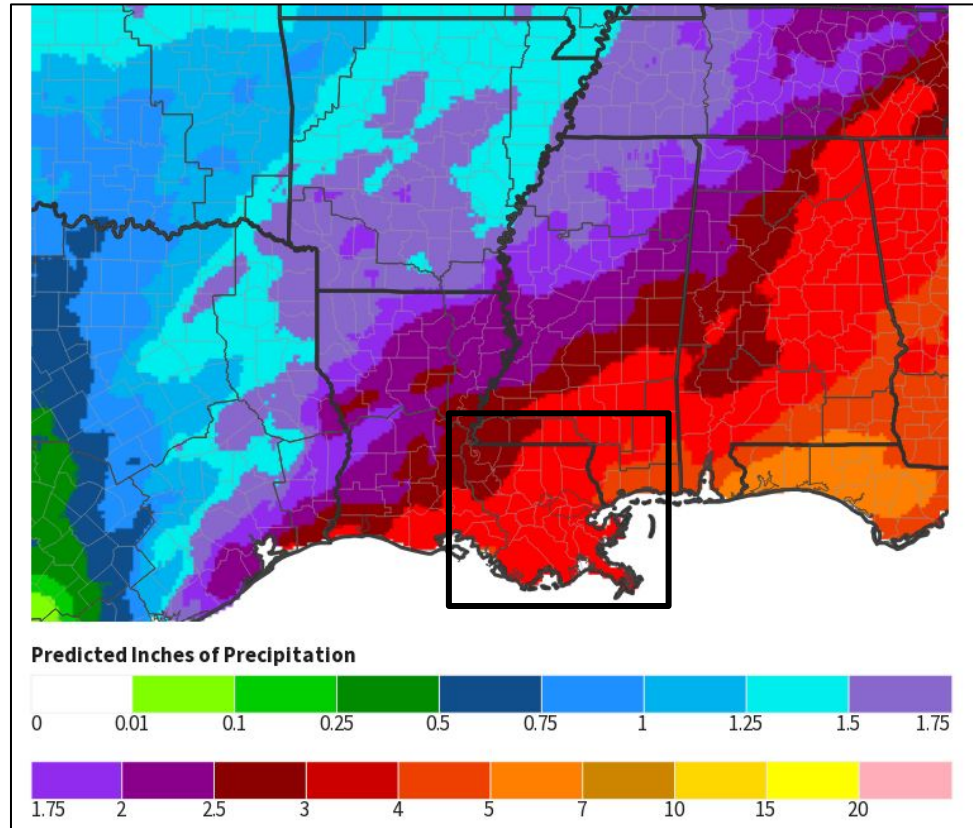
- The outlook for January depicts that chances for wildfires are still around average to even below normal along the MS coast given recent rainfall.
- Predicted rainfall over the next few days will help keep wildfire condition to minimal.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The next seven day period indicates two rounds of rainfall, one Friday into Saturday and another Monday into Tuesday of the coming week.
- Together, these two weather systems have the potential to bring 2” to 4” inches of rain across the local area. Some areas could receive more.
- This rain would be significantly beneficial to the soil moisture recovery.

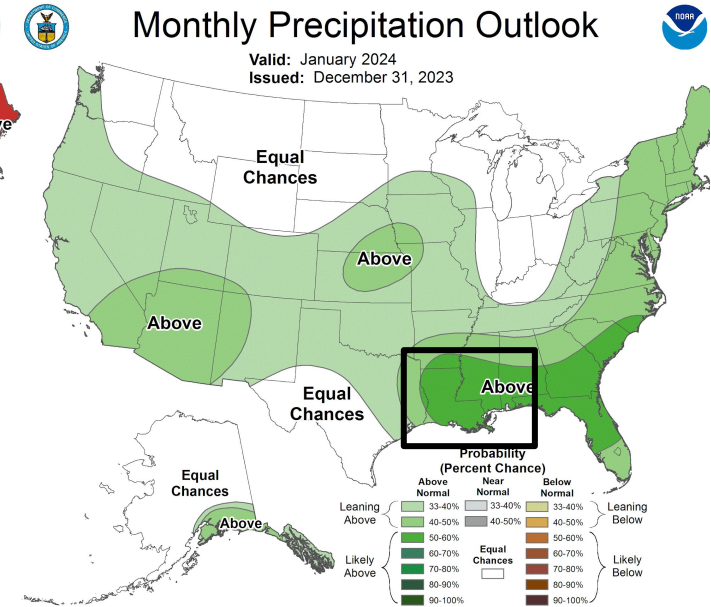
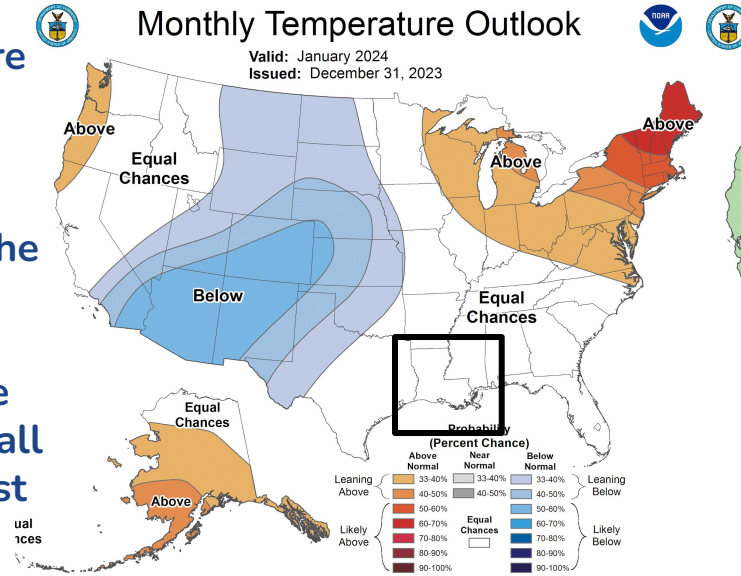




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- January's temperature outlook shows that there are equal chances for either slightly above or below normal temperatures through the month
- There is high confidence that above normal rainfall will occur during the first month of 2024.





Drought Outlook

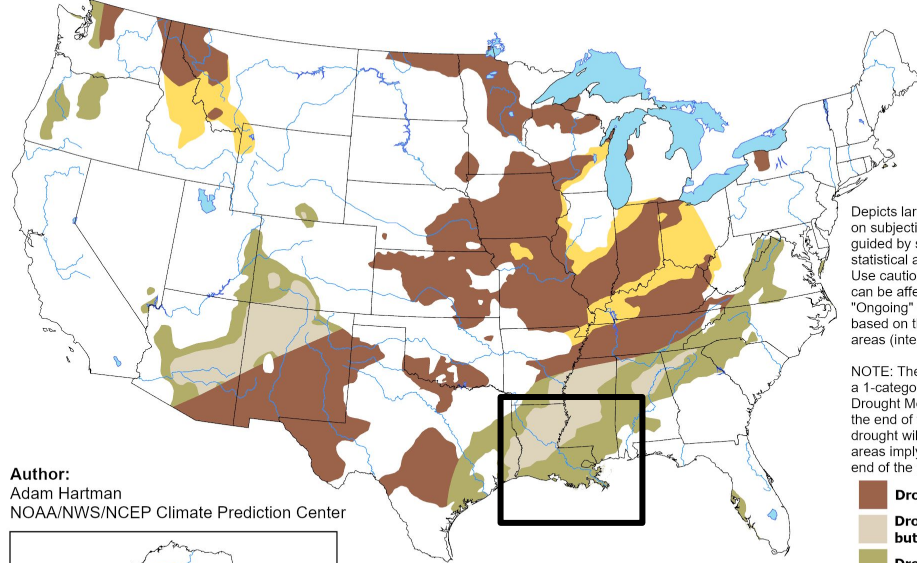
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- The seasonal drought outlook thru March indicates the drought conditions may improve completely.
- Categories may improve or worsen at times depending on temperatures and rainfall.

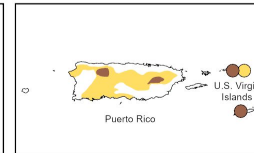
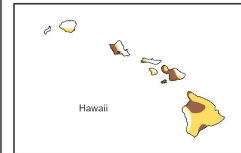
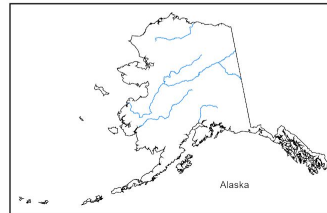
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 21, 2023 - March 31, 2024
Released December 21, 2023



Author:
Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Drinking water has been compromised for some communities in Plaquemines Parish due to salt water intrusion
- Recreational boating and commercial industry navigation are impacted by low water levels

Agricultural Impacts

- Winter planting could be delayed and crops affected

Fire Hazard Impacts

- None known at this time.

Mitigation Actions

- Water Conservation is encouraged in drought areas
- Please refer to your municipality, water provider, and local Emergency Management for mitigation information

Other Information

- Please use and encourage others to report drought impacts at CMOR (link above). Reports help improve the accuracy of the Drought Monitor.





For Questions or comments please contact:

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