



Drought Information Statement for Southeast LA and Southwest MS

Valid September 7th, 2023

Issued By: NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated Sept 14, 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/lix/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- **Exceptional Drought Expands North and East as conditions worsen for much of the region**
- **Drought intensity and Extent**
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought): Most of SW LA and into SE LA and Far Southern MS**
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought): Much of LA and Southern MS**
 - **D2 (Severe Drought): Far SE LA**

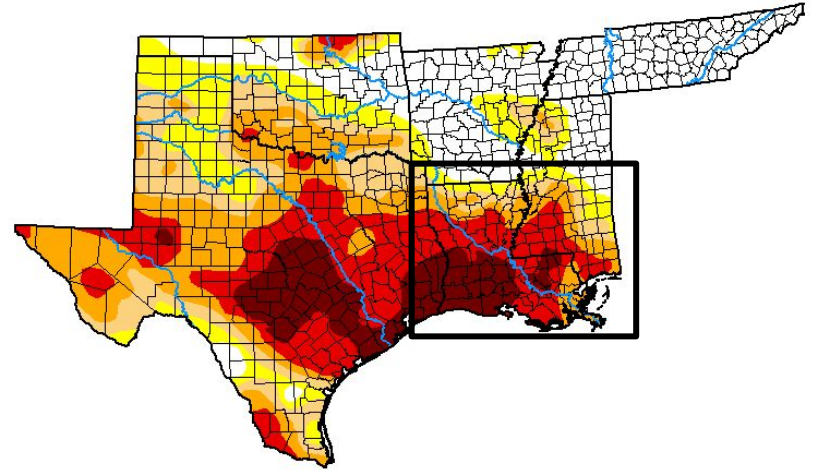


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid Sept 5, 2023 at 7 AM CDT





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: In Central and Northern LA and Southern MS (Yellow)**
- **No Change: Much of the area remains at the same drought level as the previous week (Gray)**
- **Drought Improved: Slight improvement in extreme SE LA (Light Green)**

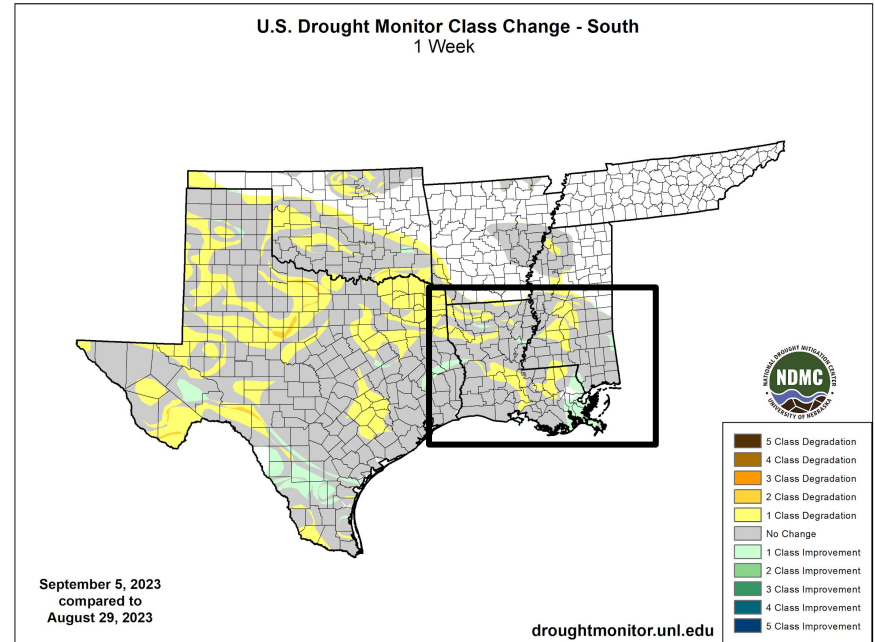


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map Sept 5, 2023 at 7AM CDT

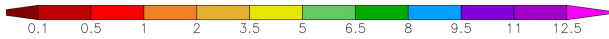
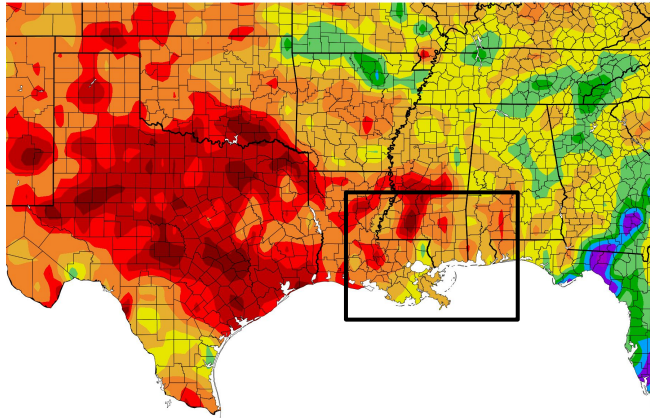




Precipitation

- Rainfall was sparse over the last month with most of the region receiving less than 1-2 inches of rain
- The exception is an extremely small portion of SE LA where heavy rain fell during the last week
- Much of the region remains at less than 25% of normal rainfall
- Drought has worsened as a result

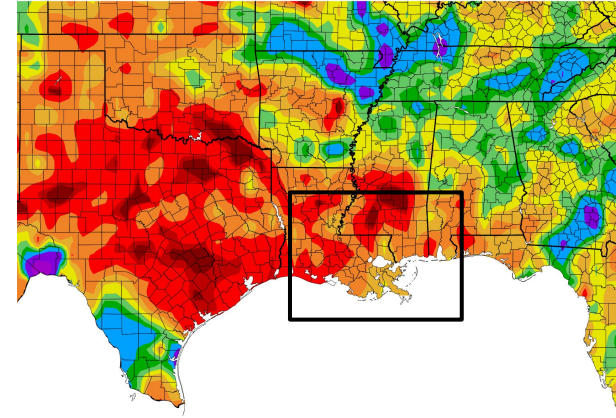
Precipitation (in)
8/8/2023 – 9/6/2023



7/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/8/2023 – 9/6/2023



3 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center

Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for SE LA/S MS
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for SE LA/S MS
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Sept 6, 2023

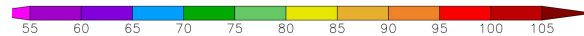
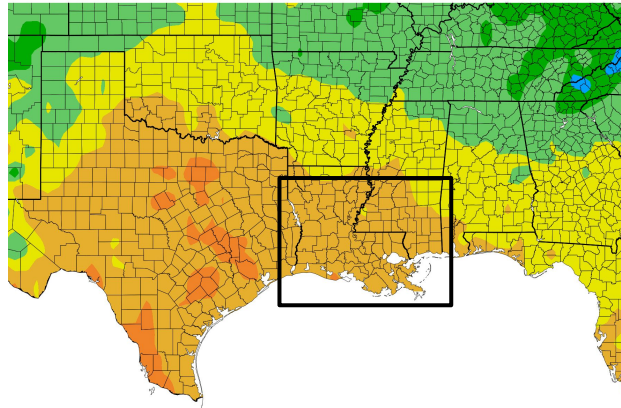




Temperature

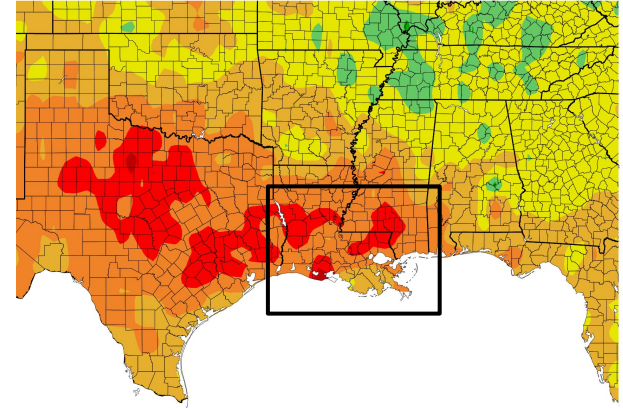
- The extreme heat of the last month lead to well above average temperatures
- Across the region the average daily temperatures were 4 to 8 degrees above average
- These record-breaking temperatures contributed to the loss of soil moisture and deteriorating conditions

Temperature (F)
8/8/2023 - 9/6/2023



/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/8/2023 - 9/6/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 23 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature for SE LA/S MS
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature for SE LA/S MS
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Sept 6, 2023





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Significant wildfires broke out across LA throughout August
- Wildfires also occurred in S MS
- Above normal wildfire conditions are expected to continue through September
- Burn bans remain in effect for all of LA and S MS

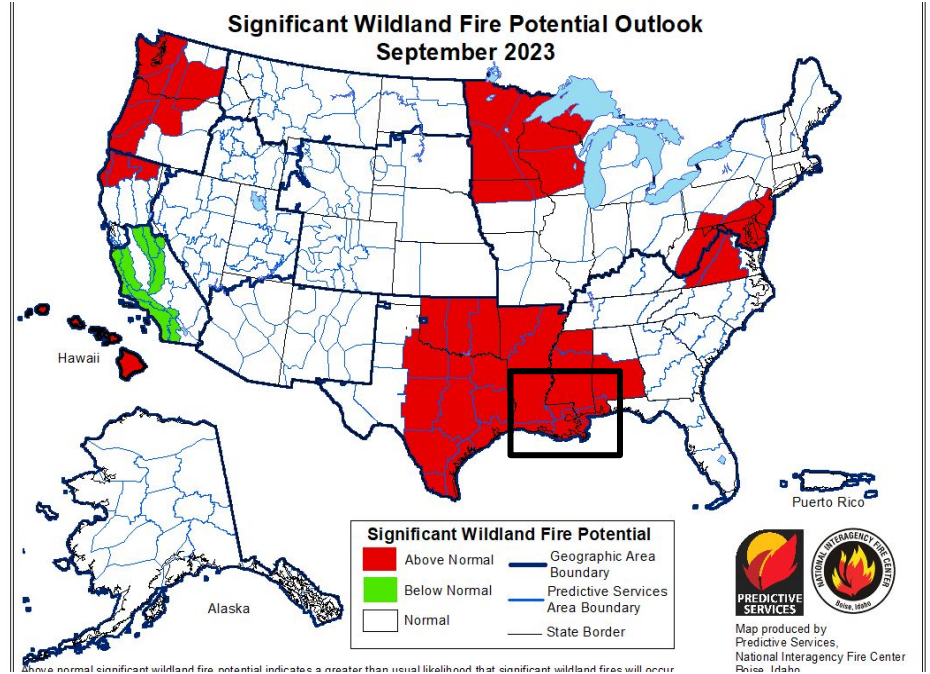


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for September 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Predicted rainfall for the next 7 days remains very low across SE LA and S MS
- Possibly only an inch of rain or less on average
- An isolated shower or thunderstorm could bring more but that would not significantly benefit the region

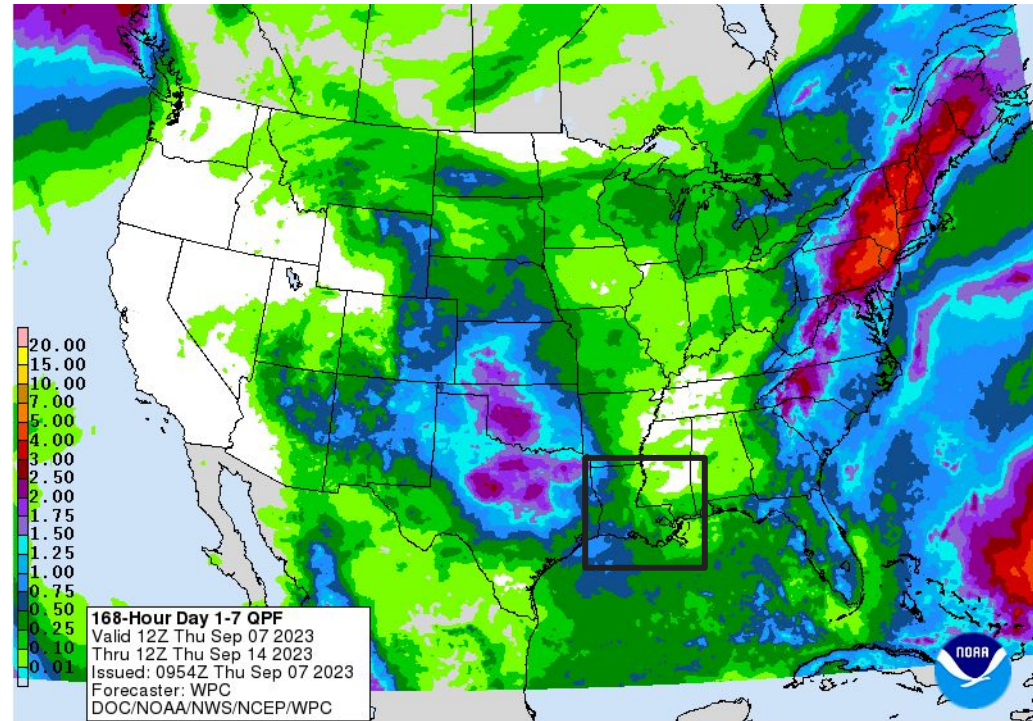


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday Sept 7 to Thursday Sept 14





Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The Climate Prediction Center has high confidence that above normal temperatures will continue through September
- The chances are equal or 50/50 that by the end of the month rainfall could be around average
- Warm temperatures and only near-average rainfall will not improve the drought

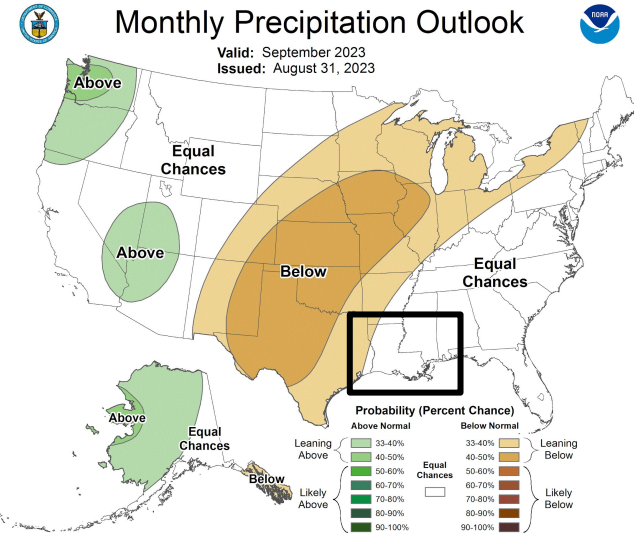
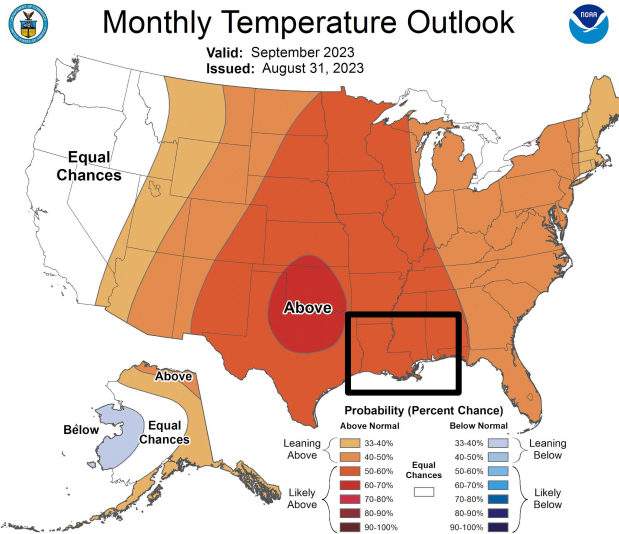


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid September 2023





Drought Outlook

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

- Overall the drought is expected to continue throughout September for much of the region
- Categories may improve or worsen at times depending on temperatures and rainfall
- There could be some slight improvement in far SE LA and Coastal MS

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

Valid for September 2023
Released August 31, 2023

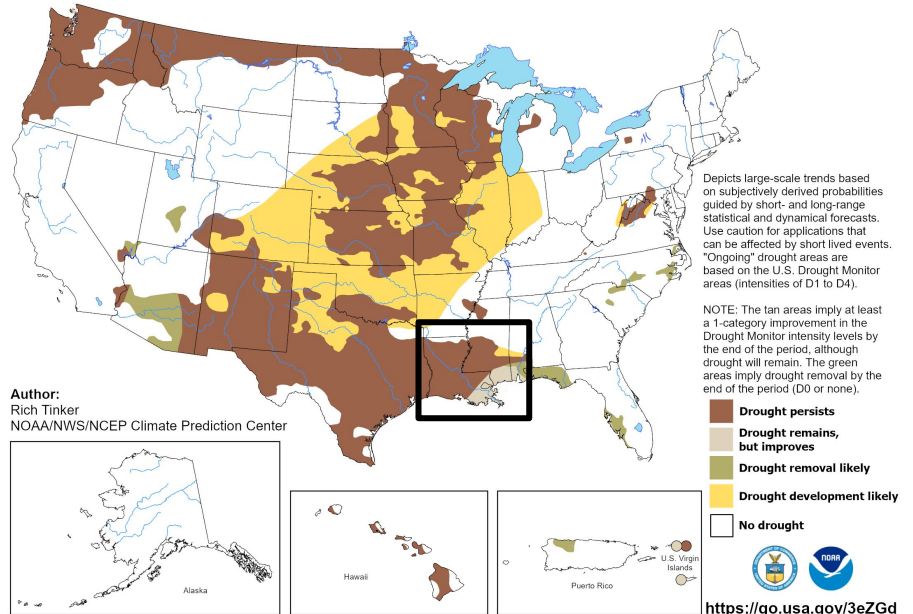


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released
Aug 31, 2023 valid for September 2023

Links to the latest:

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





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Extreme lack of rainfall is significant factor in worsening the drought
- River water level remain low

Agricultural Impacts

- Reports of poor crop conditions and decreased harvests
- Increased livestock sales due to lack of resources

Fire Hazard Impacts

- A significant wildfire threat remains and burn bans will likely continue

Other Information

- Please encourage use of the CMOR (link above)

Mitigation Actions

- Some areas are encouraging water voluntary water restrictions
- Mandatory may become necessary
- Please refer to your municipality or water provider for mitigation information

Email for questions: julie.lesko@noaa.gov

