



# Drought Information Statement for Southeast LA and Southwest MS

Valid September 14th, 2023

Issued By: NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated Sept 21, 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 continues to spread across the Florida Parishes into Southern MS**
- **Drought intensity and Extent**
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought): Most of SW LA and into SE LA and Southern MS**
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought): Much of LA and Southern MS**
  - **D2 (Severe Drought): Portions of Far S and SE LA**

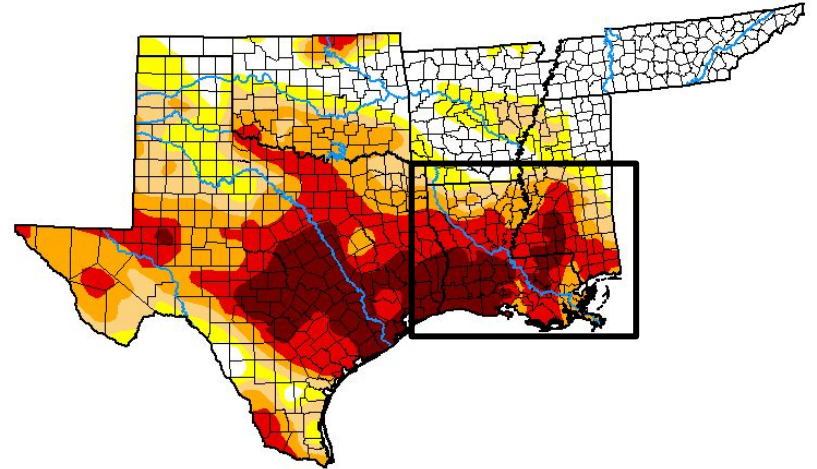


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid Sept 12, 2023 at 7 AM CDT





# 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: Across 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 the Atchafalaya River Basin in Southern LA (Light Green)**

- **Key Take-Away: The drought continues to spread and worsen faster than any improvement.**

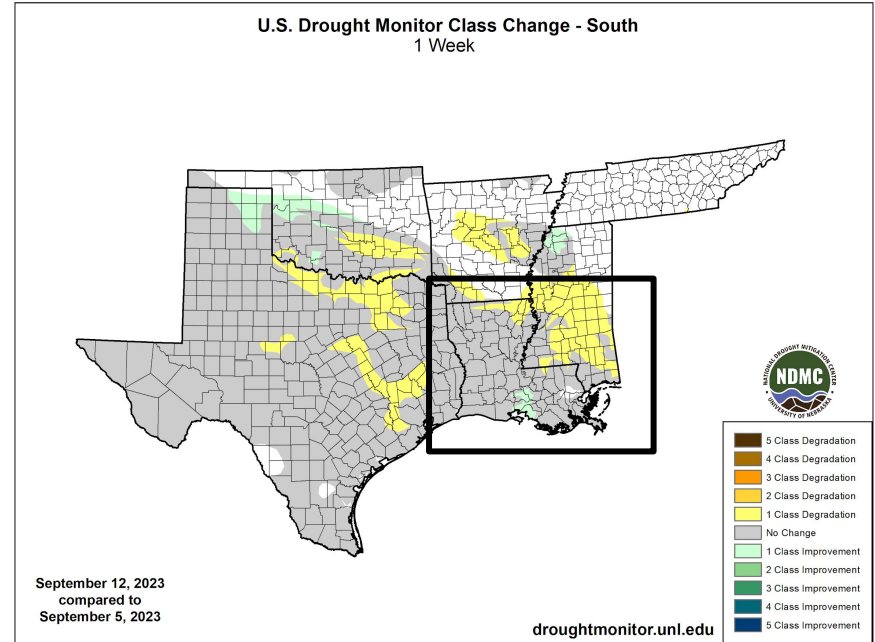


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid Sept 12 , 2023 at 7AM CDT

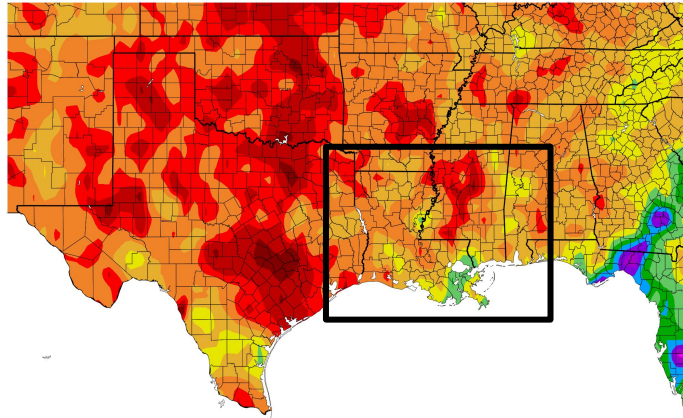




# Precipitation

- Rainfall was still underdone over the last 30 days with average amounts less than 2 inches.
- A small portion of SE LA had periodic heavy rain falling during the last 10 days with amounts near 5 to 8 inches
- Much of the region continues at less than 25% of normal rainfall
- Isolated rainfall will not reduce the drought

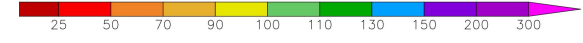
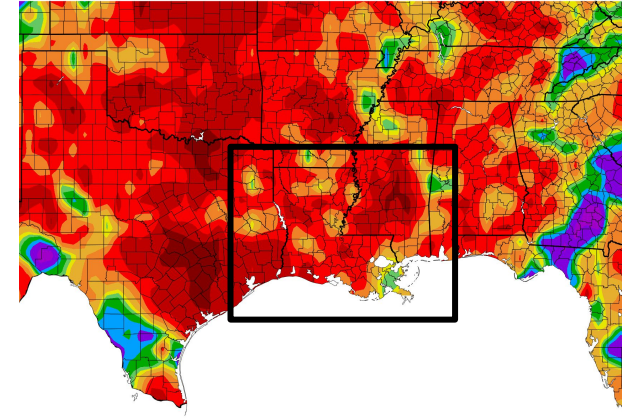
Precipitation (in)  
8/15/2023 – 9/13/2023



Generated 9/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
8/15/2023 – 9/13/2023



23 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 13, 2023

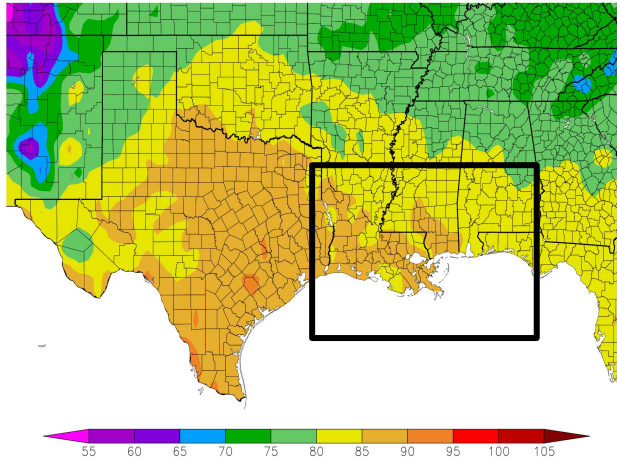




# Temperature

- Temperatures were slightly cooler from mid August through mid September
- However the average daily temperatures were 2 to 6 degrees above normal
- These warmer than normal temperatures contribute to the loss of soil moisture and deteriorating conditions

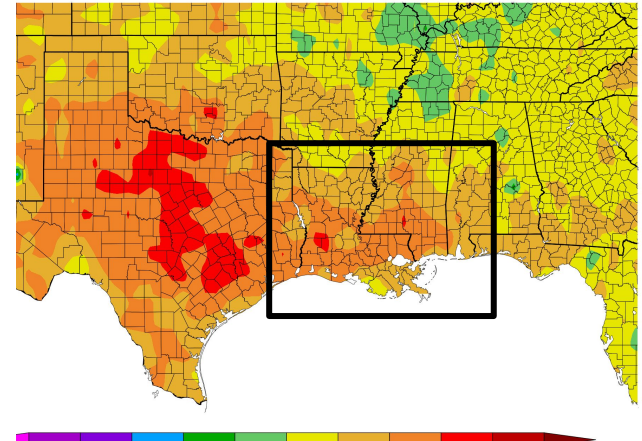
Temperature (F)  
8/15/2023 – 9/13/2023



Generated 9/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
8/15/2023 – 9/13/2023



Generated 9/14/2023 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 13, 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
- Burning should be discouraged

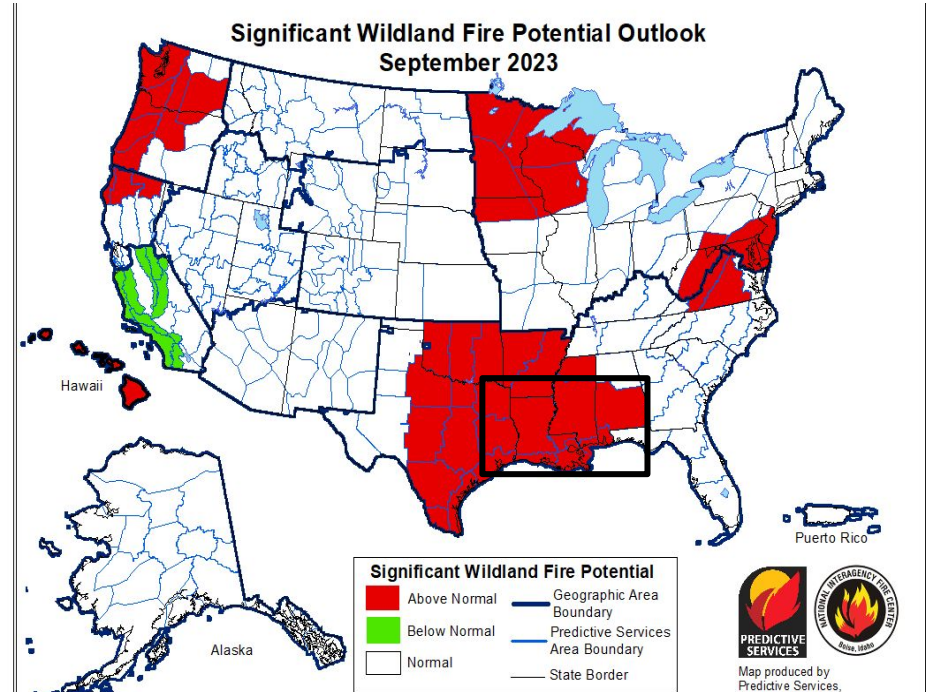


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for September 2023





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Predicted rainfall for the next 7 days across SE LA and S MS is forecasted to be slightly more than the previous week
- However overall amounts of only an inch to 2 inches are expected
- A heavier shower or thunderstorm could bring more such as the higher amounts in SE LA over the last 10 days
- Isolated higher amounts will not significantly benefit the region

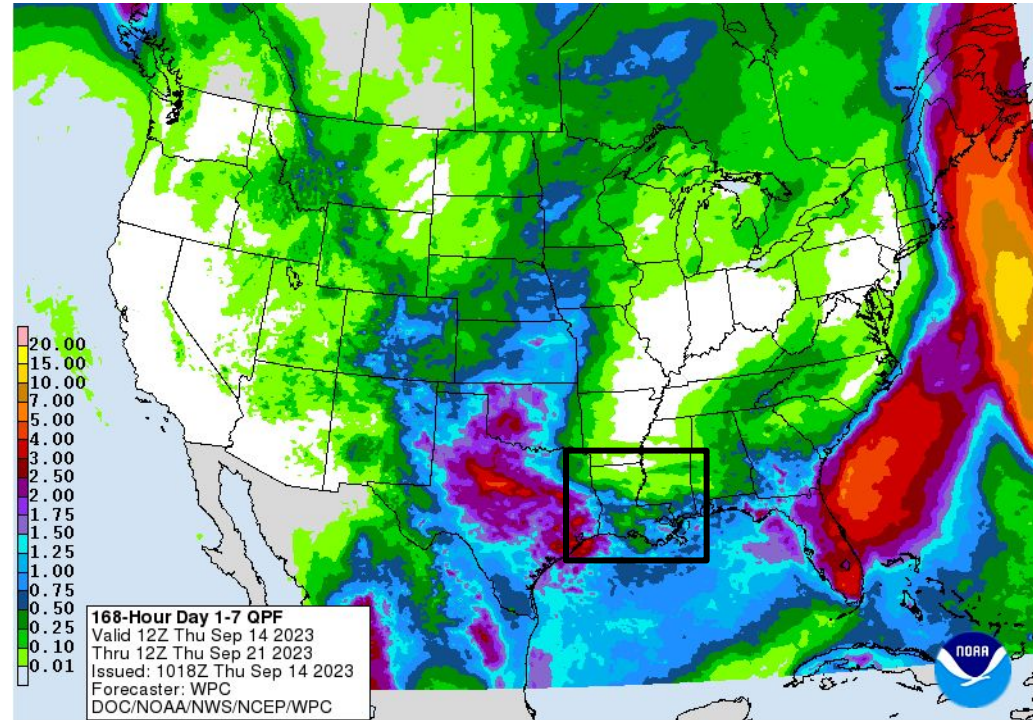


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday Sept 14 to Thursday Sept 21





# 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

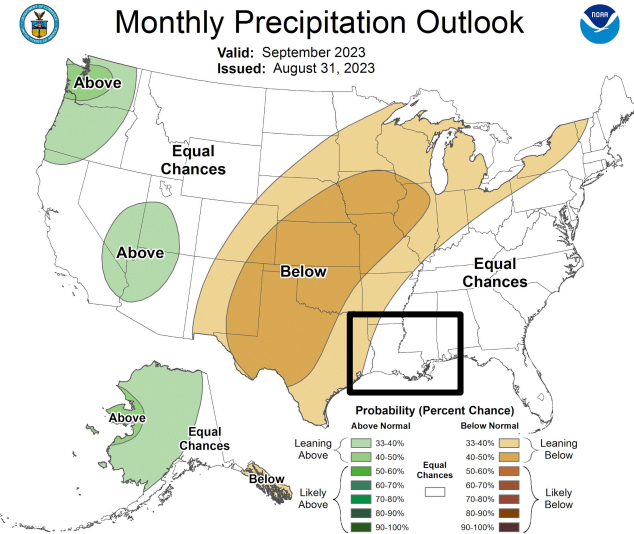
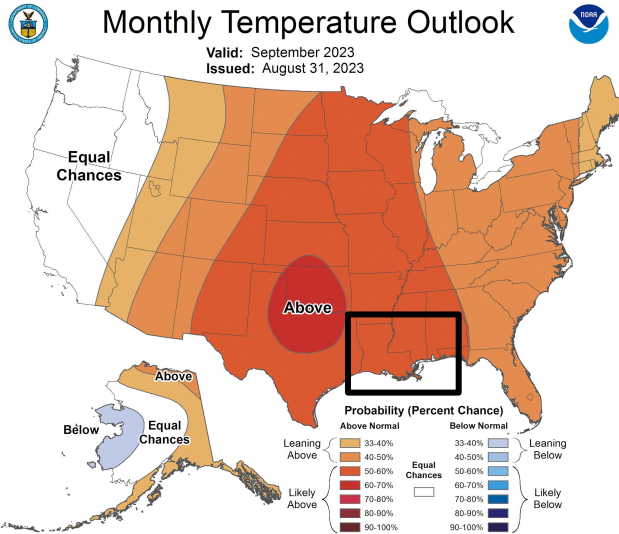


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid September 2023







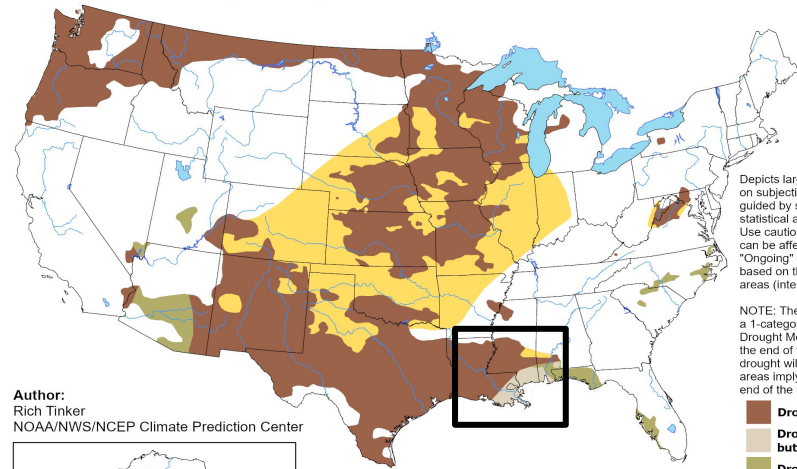
# Drought Outlook

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

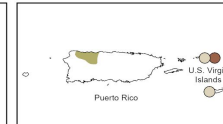
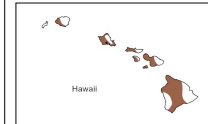
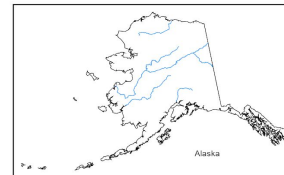


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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



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

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](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA



# 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
- More drinking water may be compromised from salt water intrusion
- Recreational boating and commercial industry navigation impacted by low water levels

## Agricultural Impacts

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

## 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
- Water Conservation is encouraged in drought areas
- Please refer to your municipality or water provider for mitigation information





For Questions or comments please contact:

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