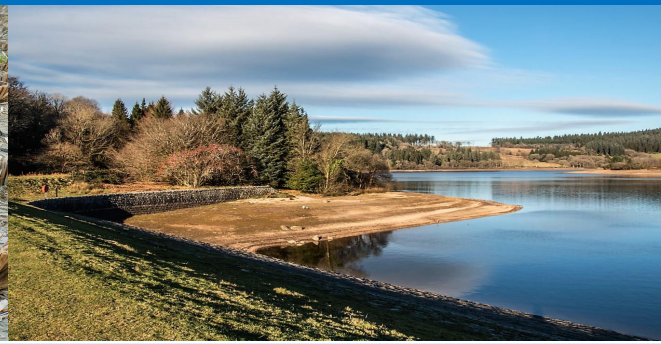
Drought Information Statement for Southeast LA and Southwest MS

Valid September 21st, 2023

Issued By: NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated Sept 28, 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 now dominates more than half of Louisiana and much of Southwestern Mississippi.**
- **Drought intensity and Extent**
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought): Nearly all of the Southern two-thirds of LA and portions of SW and Coastal MS**
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought): The remaining portions of SE LA and SW MS**

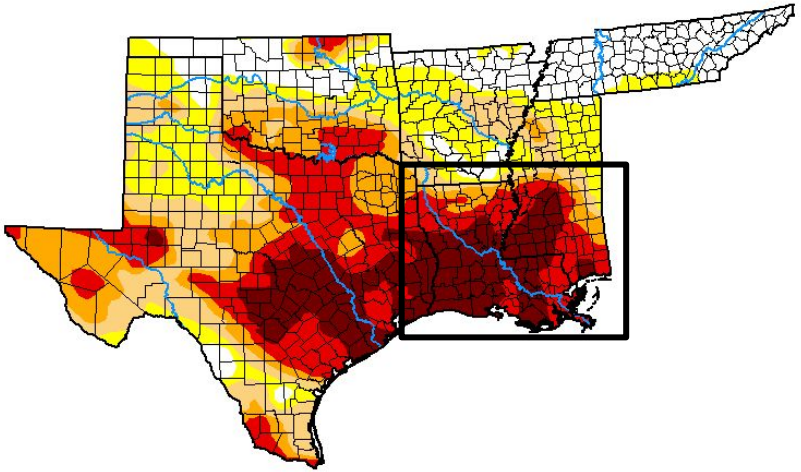


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid Sept 19, 2023 at 7 AM CDT

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: A significant portion of LA and MS worsened (Yellow)
  - No Change: Only some of the region has stayed at the same drought level as the previous week (Gray)
  - Drought Improved: There was no improvement (Light Green)
- Key Takeaway: The drought continues to steadily worsen across Louisiana and Mississippi.

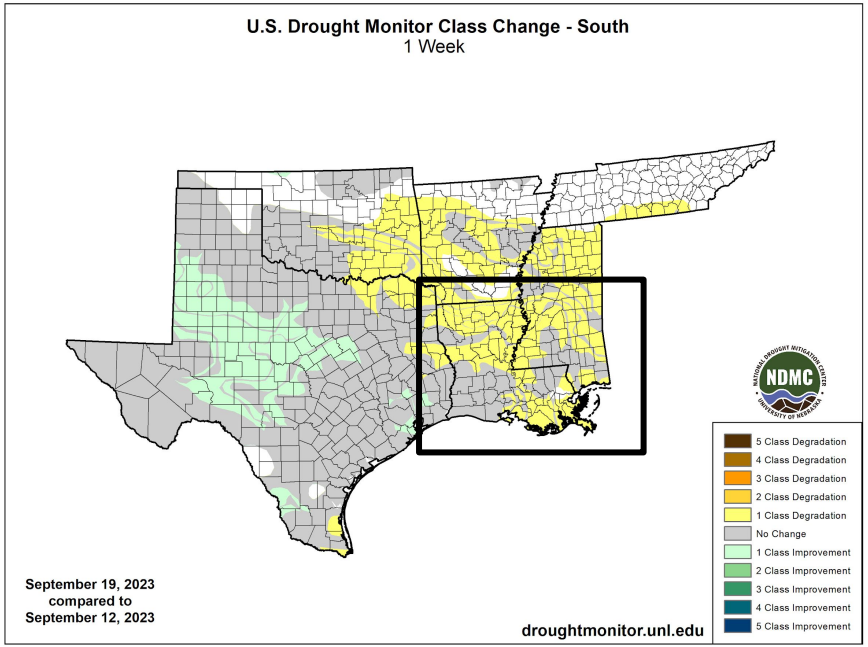
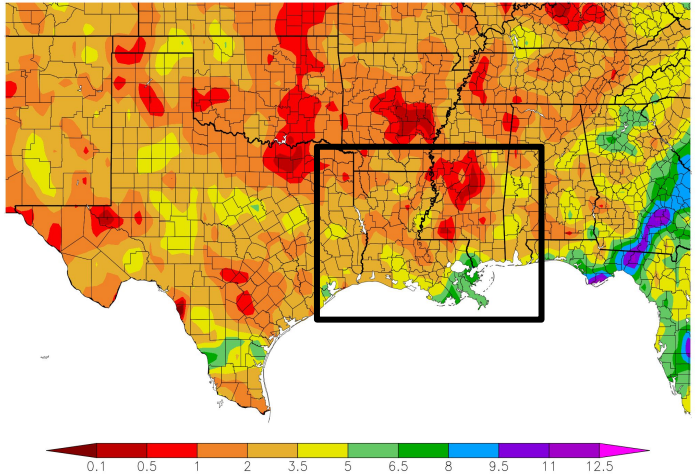


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid Sept 19 , 2023 at 7AM CDT

Precipitation

- Rainfall was still underdone over the last 30 days with average amounts less than 2 inches.
- Much of the region continues at less than 25% to 50% of normal rainfall.
- There are some areas that are between 5% to 25% of normal.

Precipitation (in)
8/22/2023 – 9/20/2023



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/22/2023 – 9/20/2023

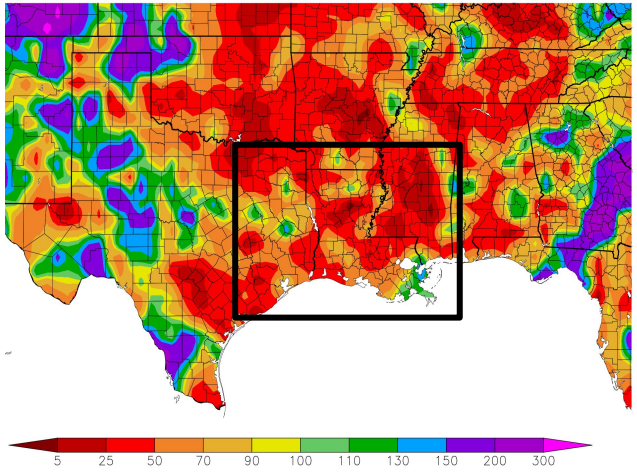
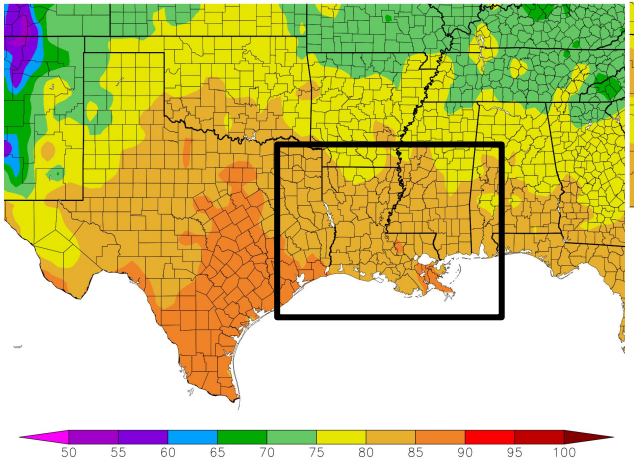


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for SE LA/S MS
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for SE LA/S MS
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Sept 20, 2023

Temperature

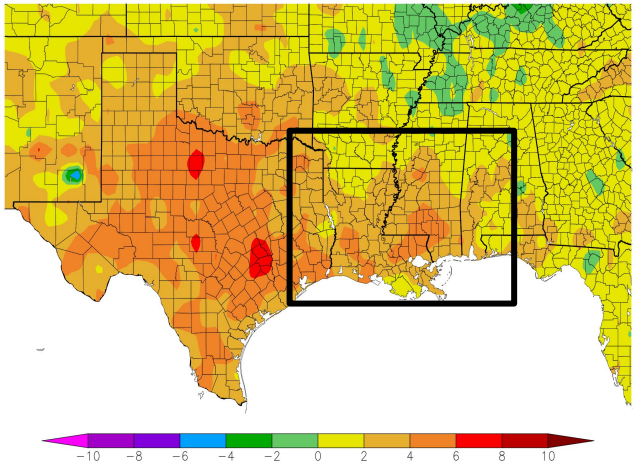
- Temperatures have been slightly cooler over the last 30 days
- Average daily temperatures continue to be 2 to 6 degrees above normal
- Warmer than normal temperatures contribute to the loss of soil moisture and deteriorating conditions

Temperature (F)
8/22/2023 – 9/20/2023



ed 9/21/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/22/2023 – 9/20/2023



NOAA Regional Climateerated 9/21/2023 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 20, 2023

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is extremely depleted across LA and Southern MS
- There has been significant impacts to agriculture
  - Reduced crop yields
  - Heat stress on crops
  - Reduced irrigation
  - Livestock sales
  - Poor grazing pasture conditions

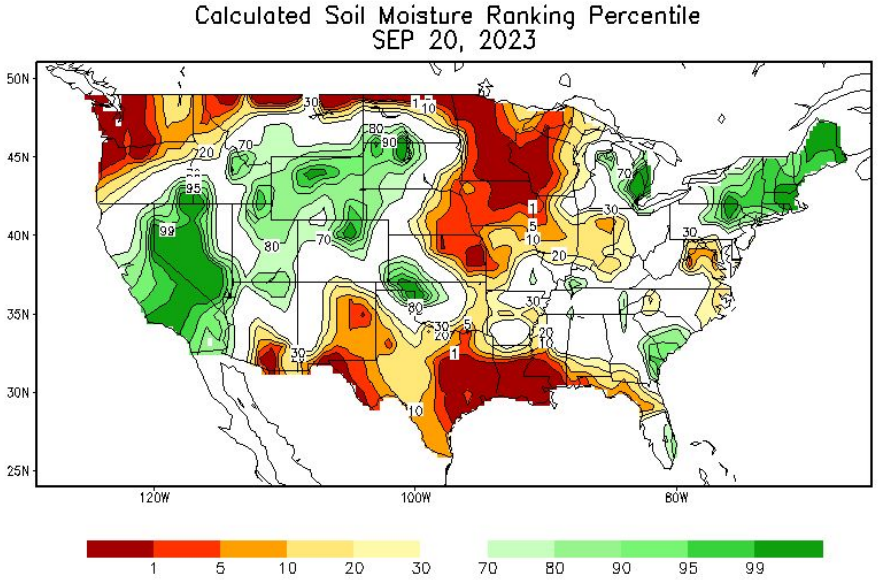


Image Captions: : CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid Sept 20, 2023

Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.

- 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

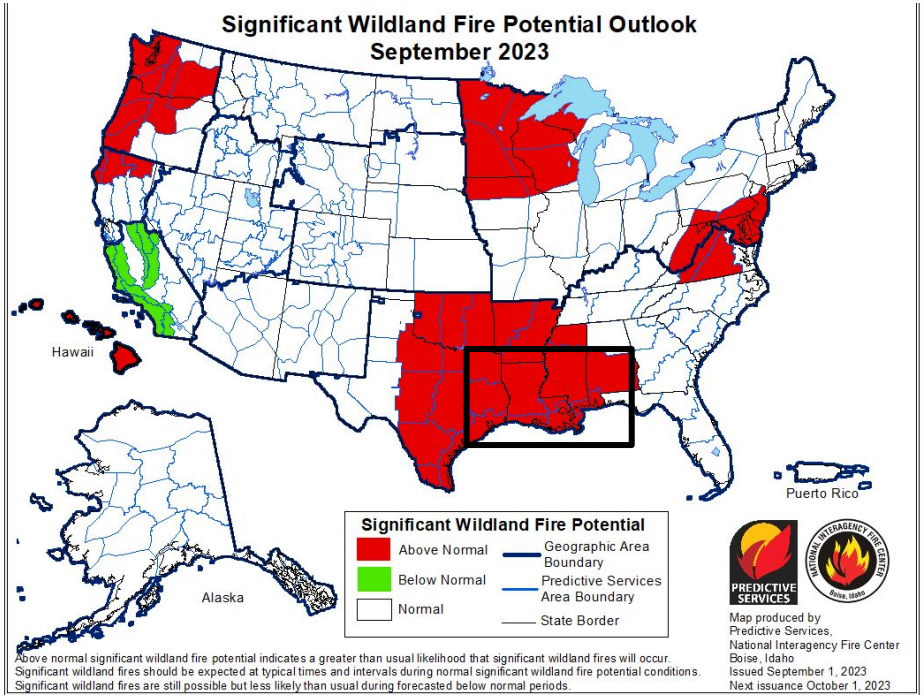


Image Caption: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for September 2023

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A more active weather pattern could bring better rain chances to Northern and Central LA. Amounts of 1 to 2 inches are possible.
- Southeast LA and Southern MS may not receive much at all. Generally less than an inch is expected.
- Any isolated higher amounts will not significantly benefit the region.
- Key Takeaway: It is unlikely that rainfall over the next 7 days will provide any improvement to the drought.

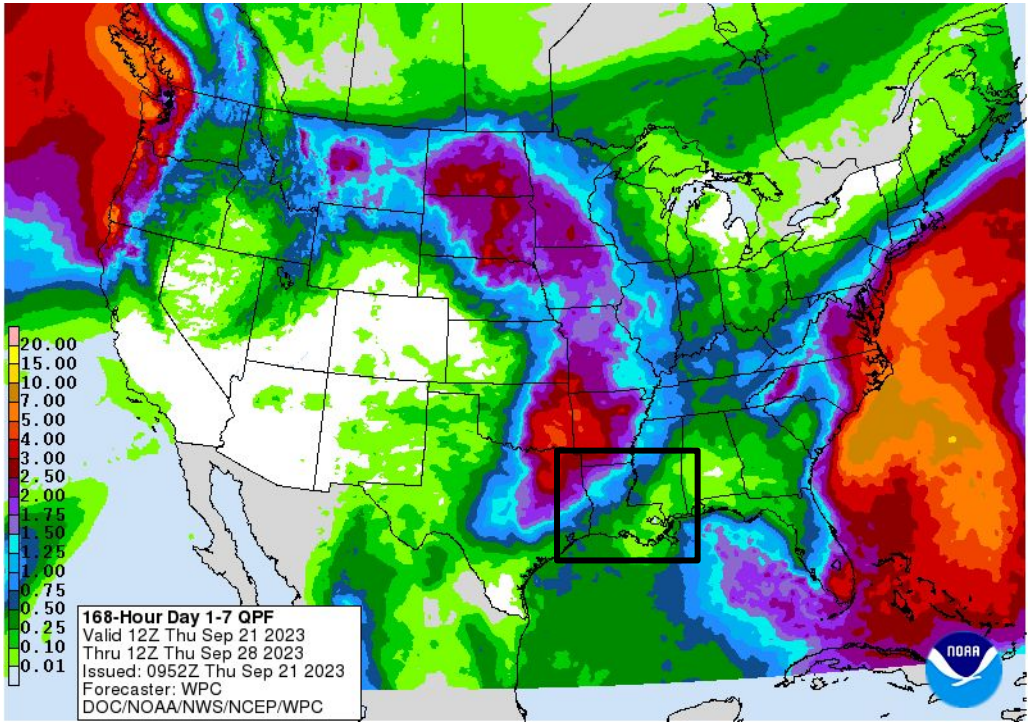
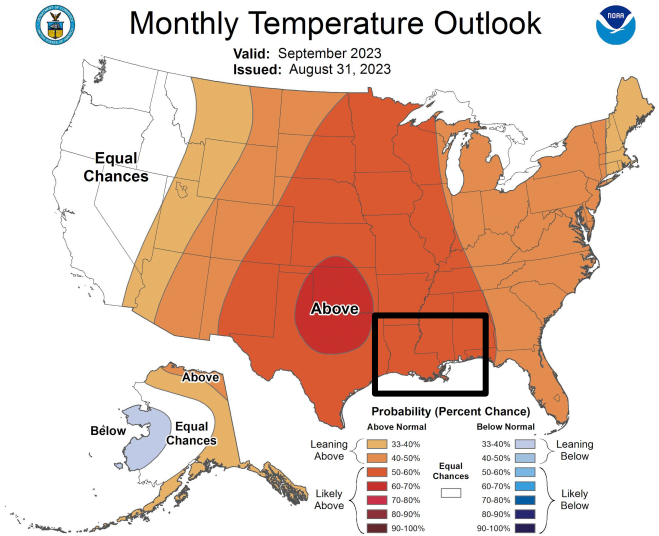


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid Thursday Sept 21 to Thursday Sept 28

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 the end of September.
- Rainfall has been below average so far this month and that trend is likely to continue over the next 10 days.



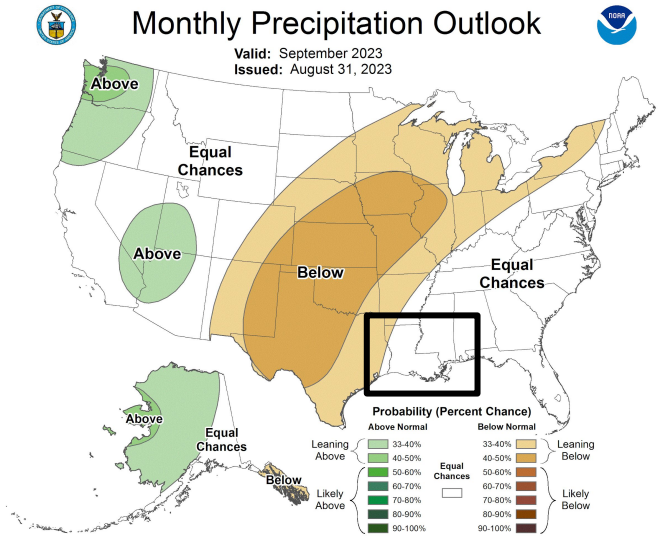
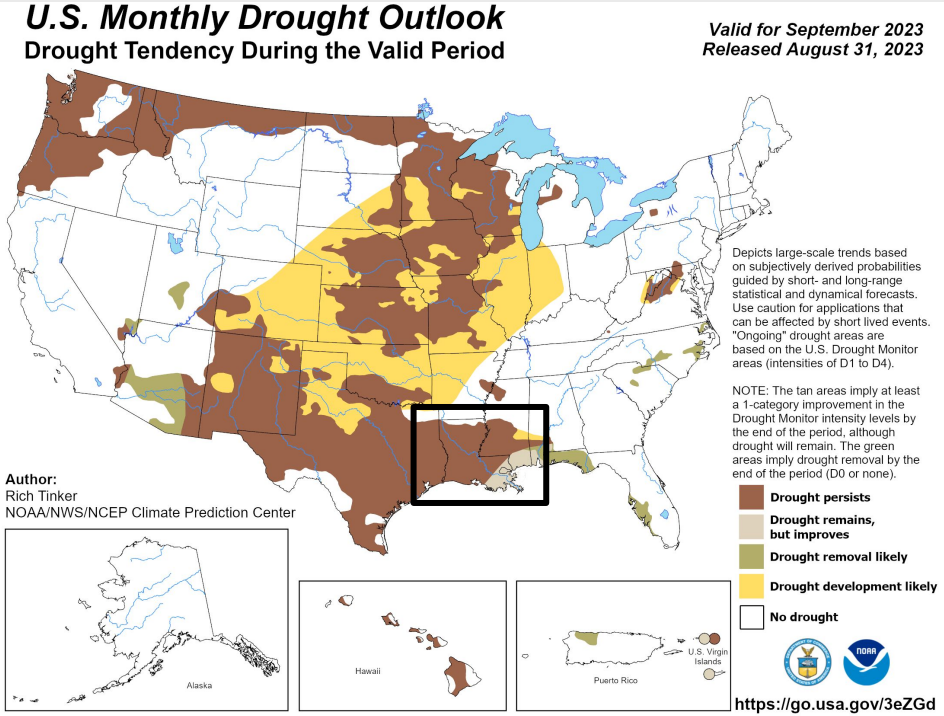


Image Captions:
Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook.]
Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook.]
Valid September 2023

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Drought has persisted through September as expected
- Drought is likely to continue into October
- Categories may improve or worsen at times depending on temperatures and rainfall



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

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

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 along the Mississippi River
- 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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