



Drought Information Statement for Southeast LA and Southwest MS

Valid September 28th, 2023

Issued By: NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated Oct 5, 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

- **No changes this week for SE Louisiana and SW Mississippi**
- **Exceptional Drought remains in place across 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

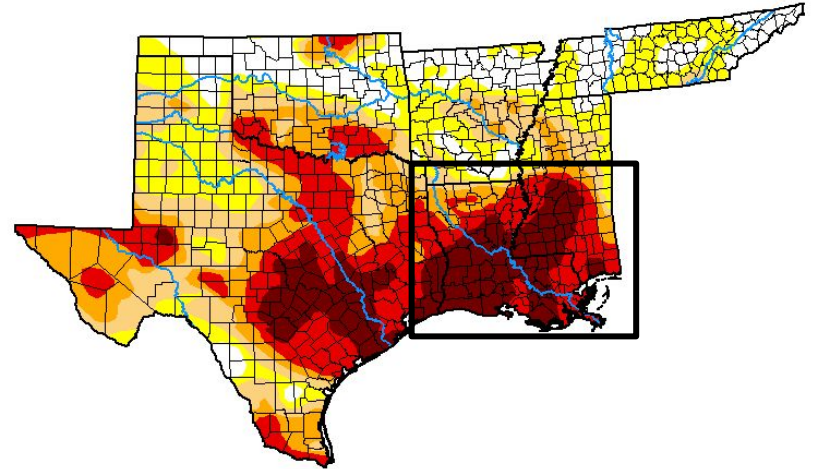


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid Sept 26, 2023 at 7 AM CDT





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**
 - **No Changes:** Our region has stayed at the same drought level as the previous week (Gray)
- **Key Takeaway:** Although there was periodic rain in the last week, it was not enough to improve local drought conditions.

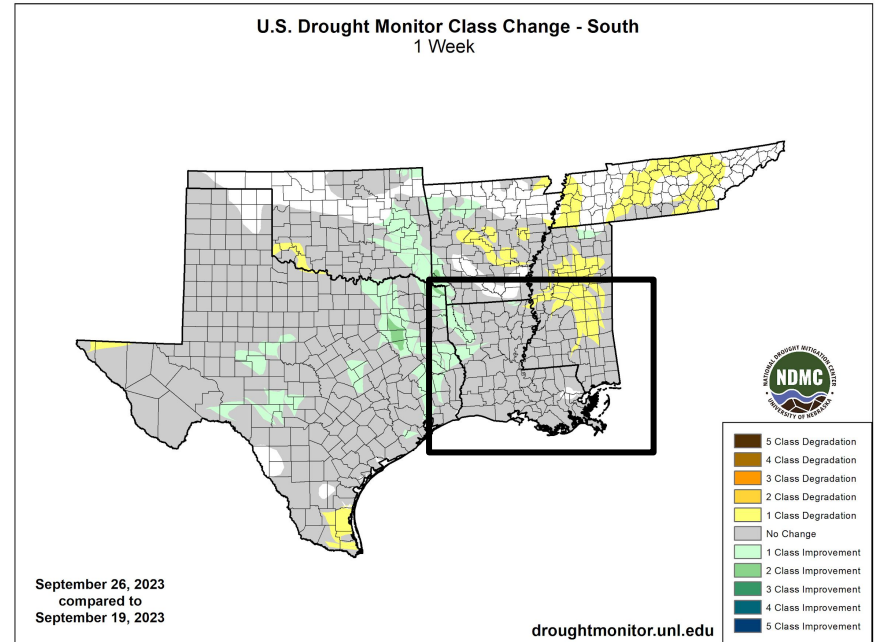


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid Sept 19 , 2023 at 7AM CDT





Precipitation

- Rainfall amounts increased over locations along the Northern Shore of Lake Pontchartrain during the last week.
- A deficit remains across central LA and SW and Coastal MS
- 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)
8/29/2023 – 9/27/2023

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/29/2023 – 9/27/2023

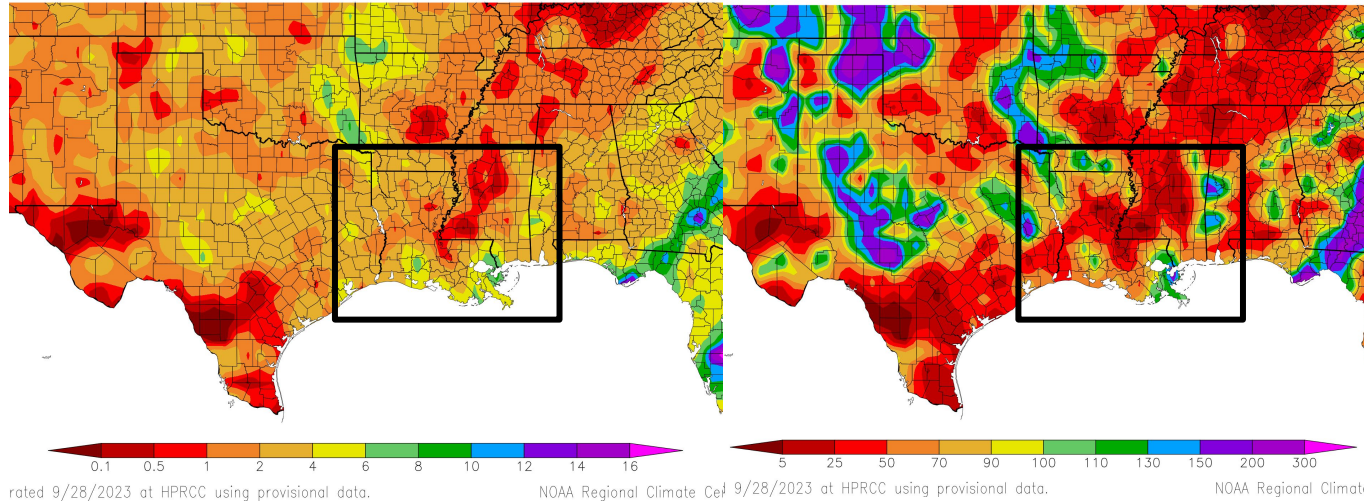


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for SE LA/S MS
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for SE LA/S MS
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Sept 27, 2023

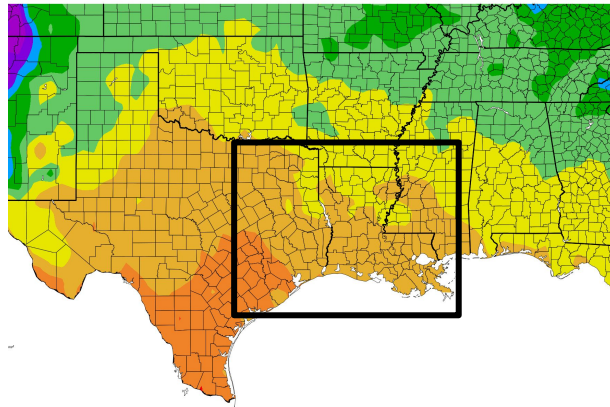




Temperature

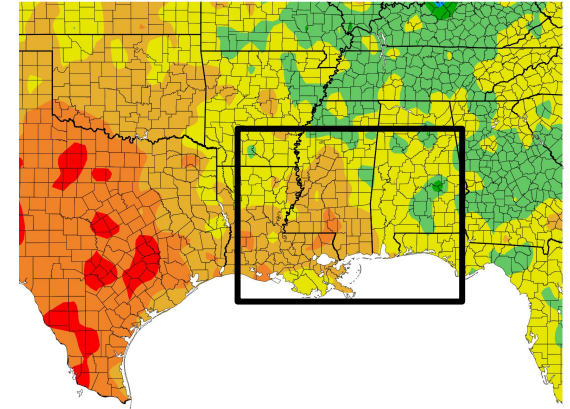
- Temperatures have become more seasonal for early fall
- Some areas are still continue to be 2 to 4 degrees above normal, with a few pocket of higher values
- Temperatures closer to normal generally help drought conditions.

Temperature (F)
8/29/2023 – 9/27/2023



9/28/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate

Temperature from Normal Temperature (F)
8/29/2023 – 9/27/2023



PRCC 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 27, 2023





Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains 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

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 27, 2023

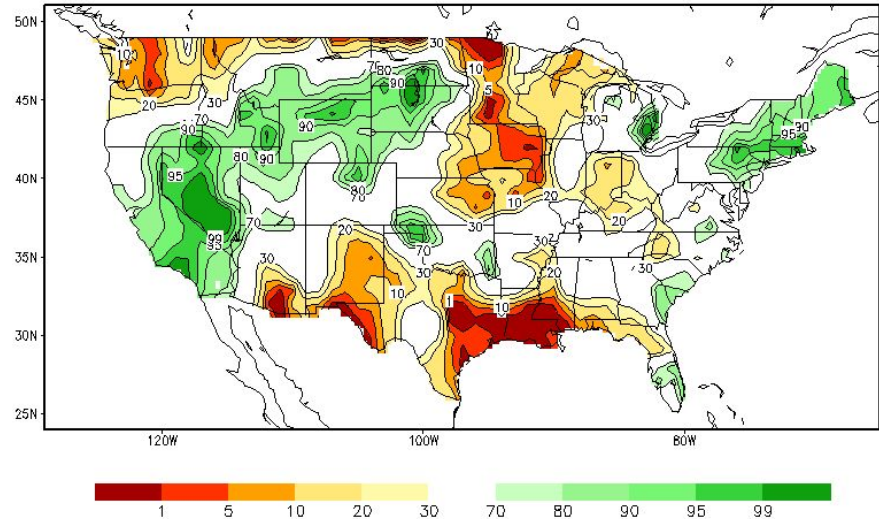


Image Captions: : CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#)
valid Sept 27, 2023





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Some improvement to wildfire conditions could occur through October
- However, burn bans remain in effect for all of LA and S MS
- Burning should be discouraged

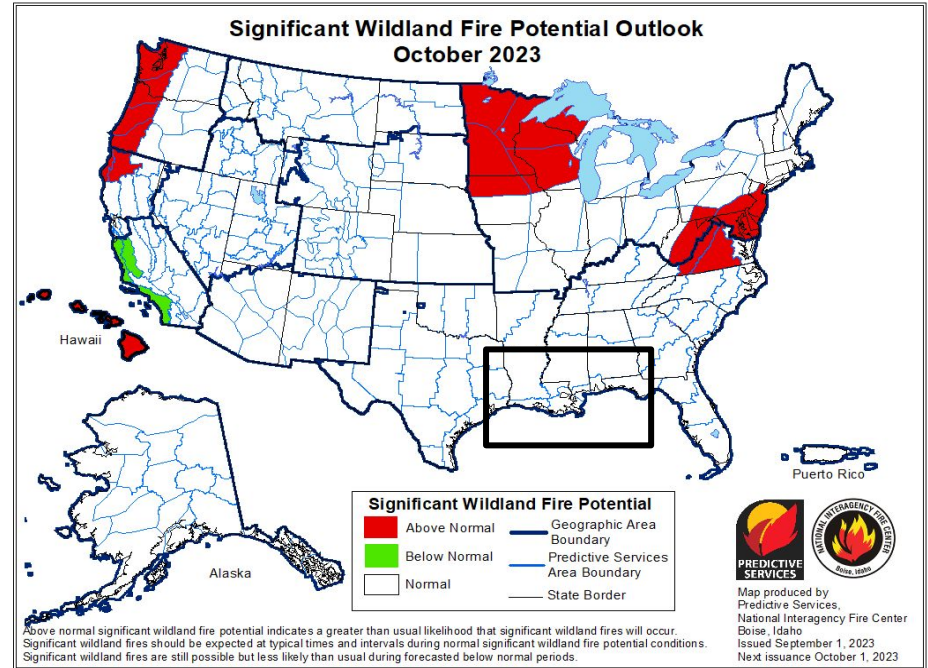


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Little to no rainfall is expected across southern portions of Louisiana and Mississippi over the next 7 days.
- Any isolated amounts will not significantly benefit the region.
- **Key Takeaway:** No improvement to the drought is expected due to lack of forecasted rainfall.

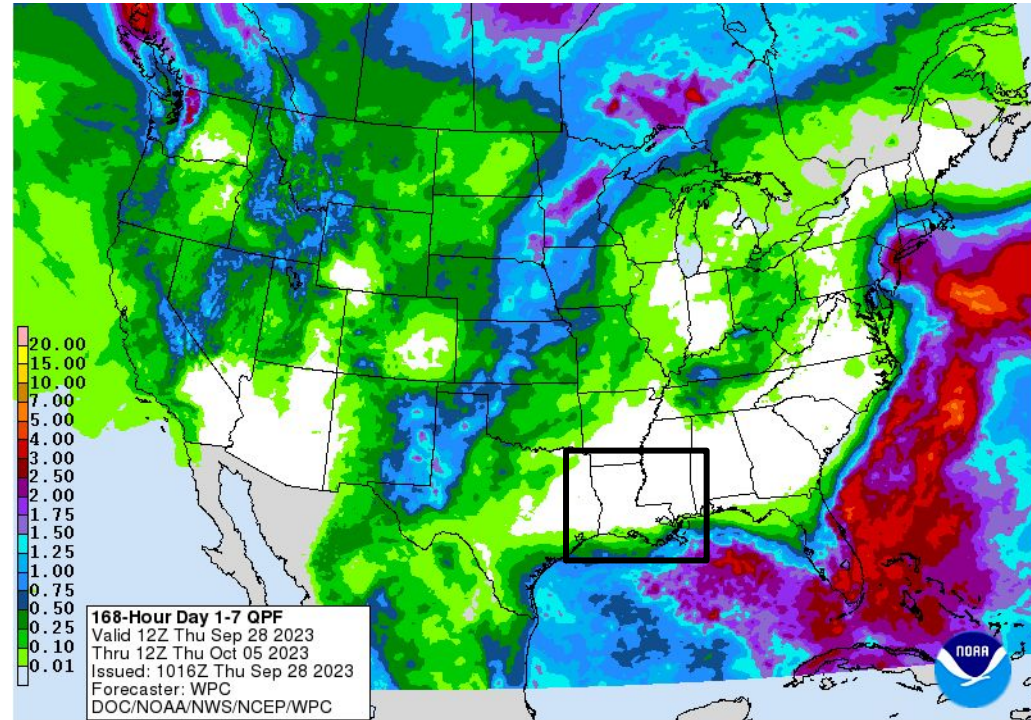


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday Sept 28 to Thursday Oct 5





Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Moving into October: there is still high confidence that above normal temperatures will continue.
- There are equal chances that rainfall can be either above or below normal.
- With above normal rainfall chances across the Middle Plains, it may be possible that more active weather could push south.

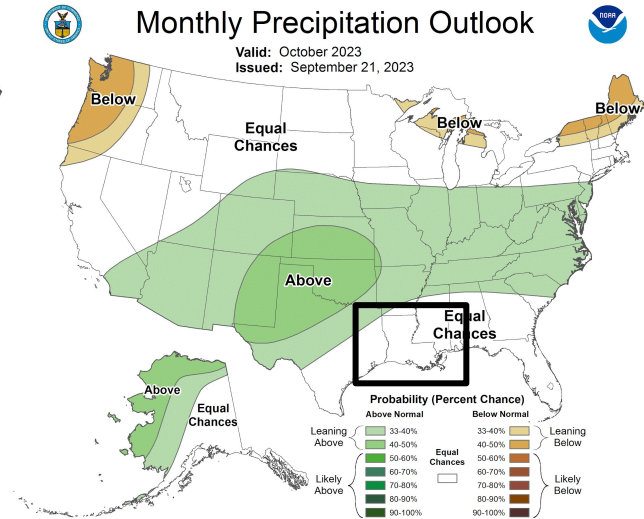
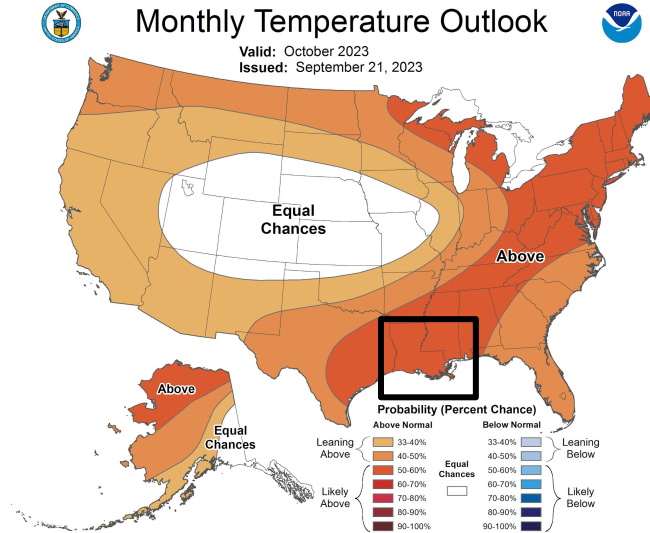


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid October 2023





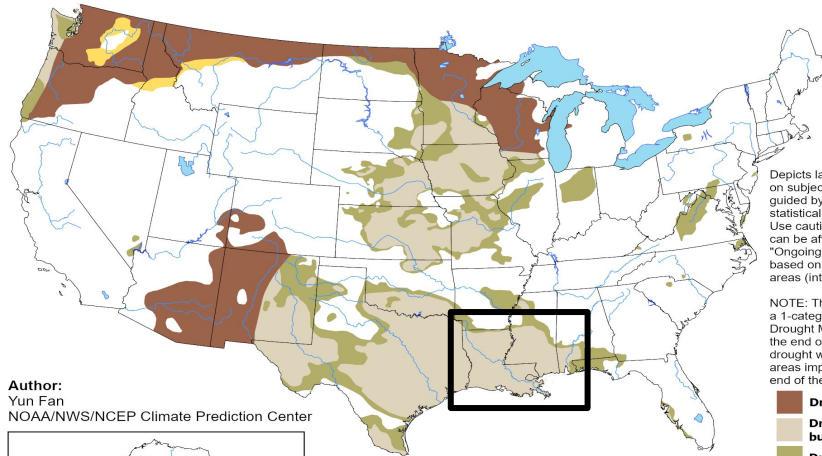
Drought Outlook

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

- The Seasonal Drought Outlook has drought remaining through the end of the year but with possible improvement.
- The October Monthly Outlook will be released next week.
- 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 September 21 - December 31, 2023
Released September 21, 2023

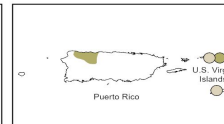
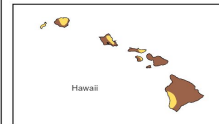


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

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

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released Sept 21, 2023 valid for Sept 21- Dec 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

- Drinking water has been compromised for some communities along the Mississippi River due to 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 wildfire threat remains and burn bans will likely continue

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, water provider, and local Emergency Management for mitigation information

Other Information

- Please encourage use of the CMOR (link above) to report drought impacts





For Questions or comments please contact:

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