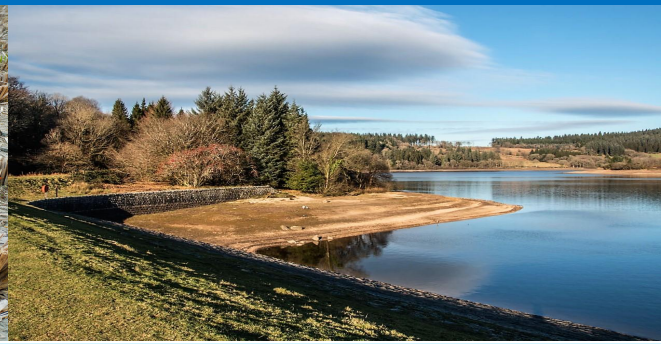
Drought Information Statement for Southeast LA and Southwest MS

Valid October 26th, 2023

Issued By: NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated Nov 2, 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 remains in place across portions of South Central Louisiana and Southwest Mississippi.**
- **Drought intensity and extent**
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought): Almost all of Southern and Far SE LA and Far Southern MS**
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought): Much of LA and Southern MS**

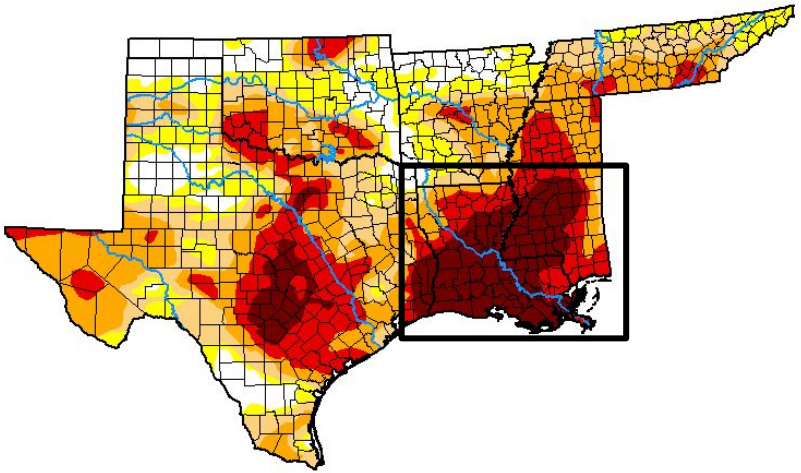


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid Oct 24, 2023 at 7 AM CDT

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: D4 drought has spread back into Far SE Louisiana (Yellow)
  - No Change: Otherwise, a large portion of the region remains unchanged (Gray)
  - Drought Improved: No improvement was noted this week (Light Green)

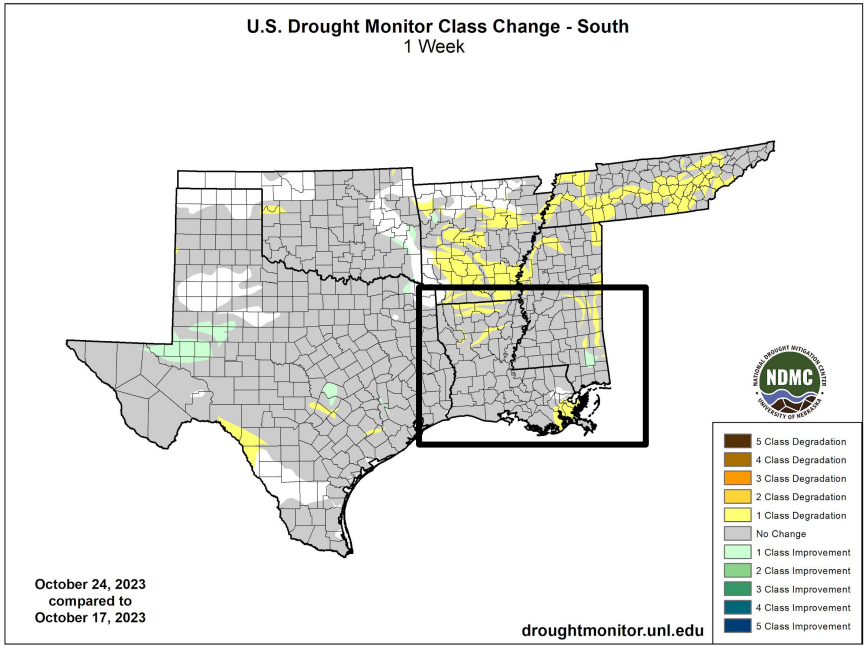
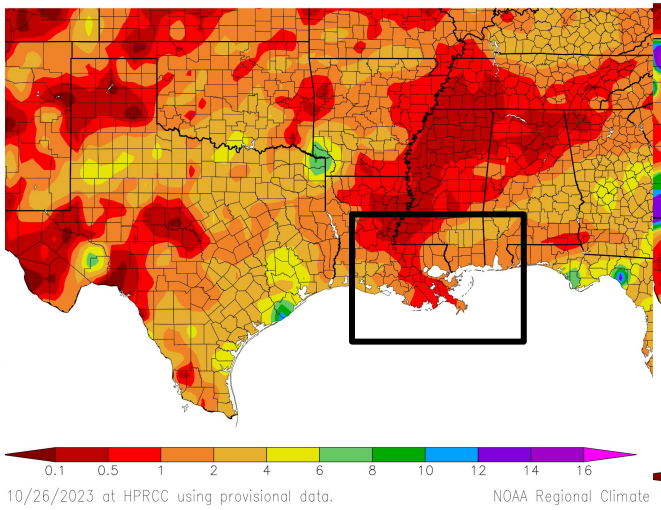


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map Oct 17 , 2023 at 7AM CDT

Precipitation

- There has only been and 2” of rainfall across the portion of the Northshore and Coastal MS over the last month.
- Even less rainfall as occurred over Southern MS and other western portions SE LA.
- Much of the region is between 5% to 25% of normal.

Precipitation (in)
9/26/2023 – 10/25/2023



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/26/2023 – 10/25/2023

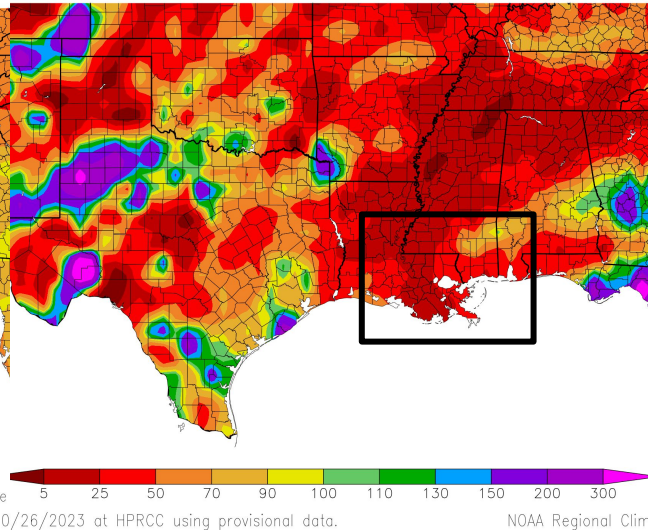
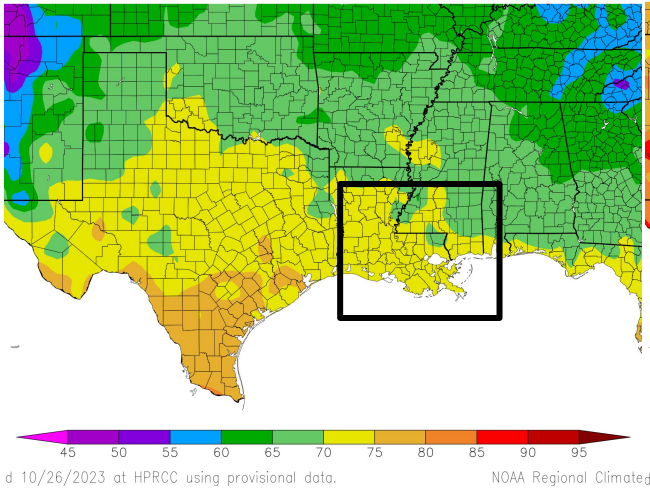


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for SE LA/S MS
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for SE LA/S MS
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Oct 25, 2023

Temperature

- Temperatures over the last 30 days were averaging near normal or with a few degrees.
- Another cool down is on the horizon towards late October and into November.
- Cooler temperatures allow for less moisture to evaporate from the soils.

Temperature (F)
9/26/2023 – 10/25/2023



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/26/2023 – 10/25/2023

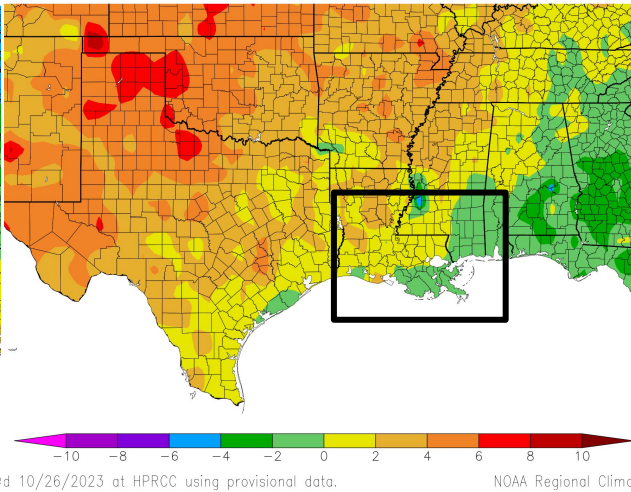


Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature for SE LA/S MS
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature for SE LA/S MS
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Oct 25, 2023

Agricultural Impacts

- Regardless, soil moisture remains depleted across LA and Southern MS
- There has been significant impacts to agriculture
  - Reduced crop yields
  - Livestock sales
  - Poor grazing pasture conditions
  - Winter planting may be delayed

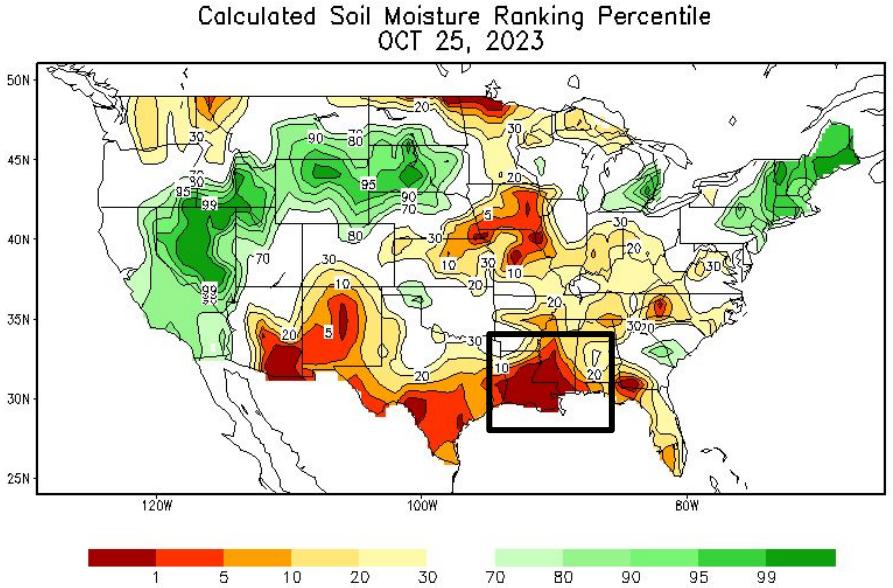


Image Captions: : CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid Oct 11, 2023

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- The updated Outlook for October has the wildfire potential remaining high.
- Burn bans remain in effect for all of LA and S MS.
- Burning should be discouraged as forest fuels are dry.

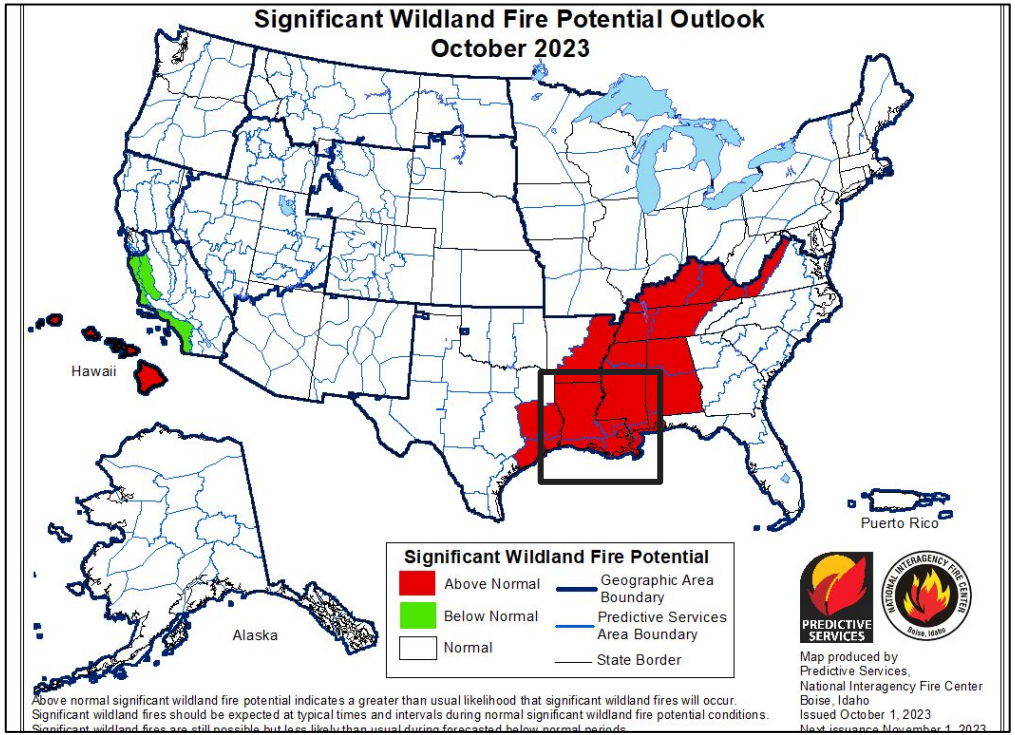


Image Caption: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for October 2023

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Although weather systems are more progressive, recent cold fronts have not brought any beneficial rain.
- Rainfall amounts will be low over the next 7 days with generally less than 0.25” to 0.50” expected.
- It is likely that there will no improvement to the drought over the next 7 days.

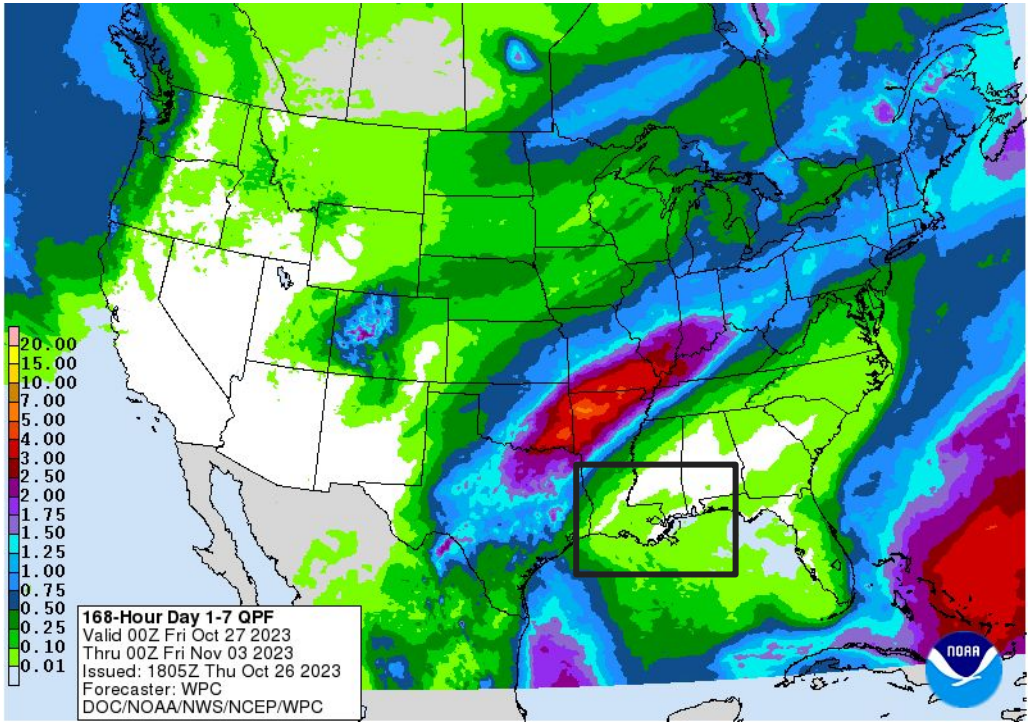
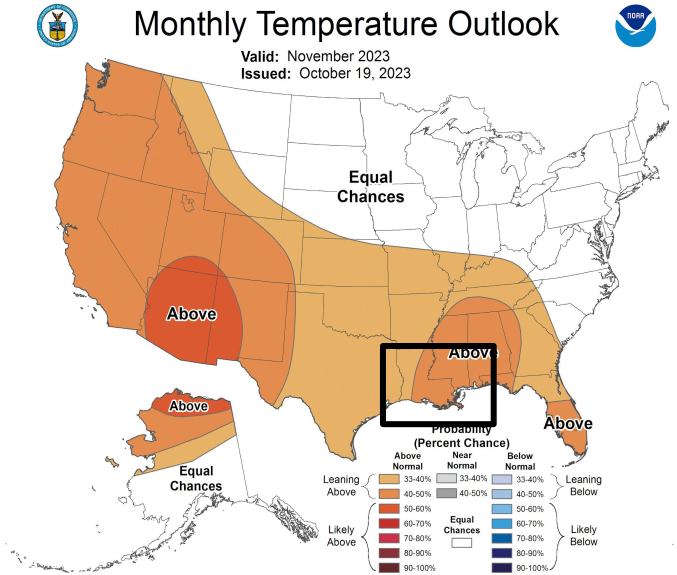


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid Friday Oct 27 to Thursday Nov 3

Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Heading into November, above normal temperature could be noted though the month.
- However, there is some slight confidence that rainfall could be above average.



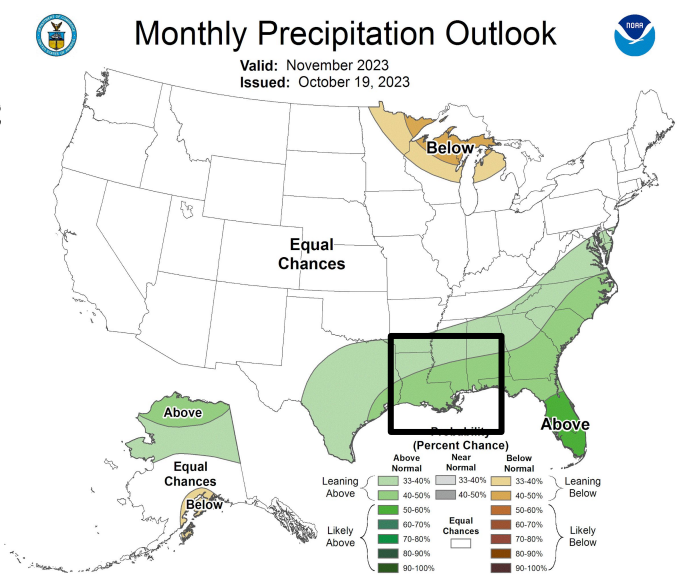
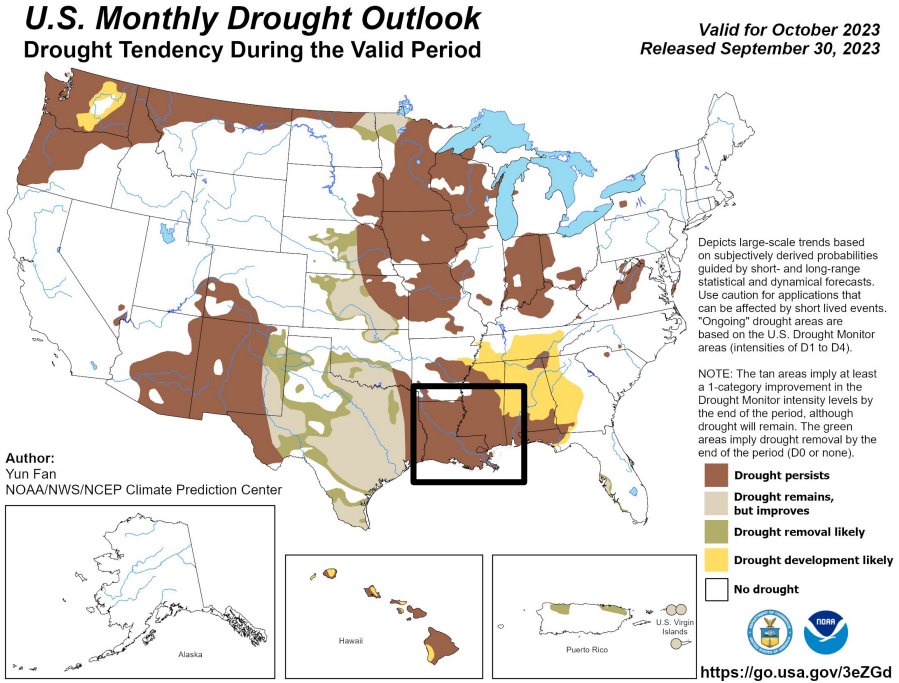


Image Captions:
Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook.]
Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook.]
Valid October 2023

Drought Outlook

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

- The Monthly Drought Outlook for October has the drought conditions persisting.
- October tends to be dry.
- Categories may improve or worsen at times depending on temperatures and rainfall
- The November outlook will be released next week



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 Sep 30, 2023 valid for October 2023

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 are 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
- Winter planting could be delayed and crops affected

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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