



Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington & North Idaho

Valid September 21, 2023

Issued By: NWS Spokane, WA

Contact Information: w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by October 19, 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/otx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for eastern Washington and north Idaho

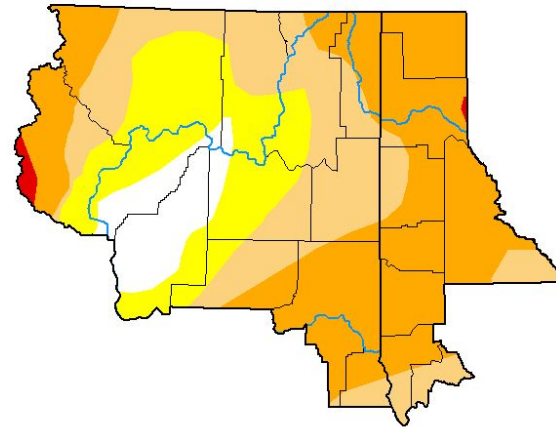
- DROUGHT SLOWLY EXPANDS ACROSS THE INLAND NW
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Near the Cascade crest in Chelan county in WA, covering 1%
 - D2 (Severe Drought): East slopes of the Cascades, northeast WA, much of southeast WA, and the Idaho Panhandle, covering 41% of the region
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): A good portion of northern WA, Spokane area, Columbia Basin in WA, and pockets of the southern ID Panhandle, covering 29% of the region
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Parts of central WA, covering 20% of the region.

U.S. Drought Monitor Spokane, WA WFO

September 19, 2023

(Released Thursday, Sep. 21, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.61	91.39	70.19	41.54	0.67	0.00
Last Week 09-12-2023	8.61	91.39	70.19	29.26	0.08	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-20-2023	48.88	51.12	37.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	25.93	74.07	11.42	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	12.86	87.14	34.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-20-2022	18.77	81.23	19.44	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 19, 2023



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Spokane, WA



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for eastern Washington and north Idaho

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Across north central WA and parts of southeast WA into the central Idaho Panhandle.
 - No Change: Much of eastern WA and parts of the Idaho Panhandle.
 - Drought Improved: None

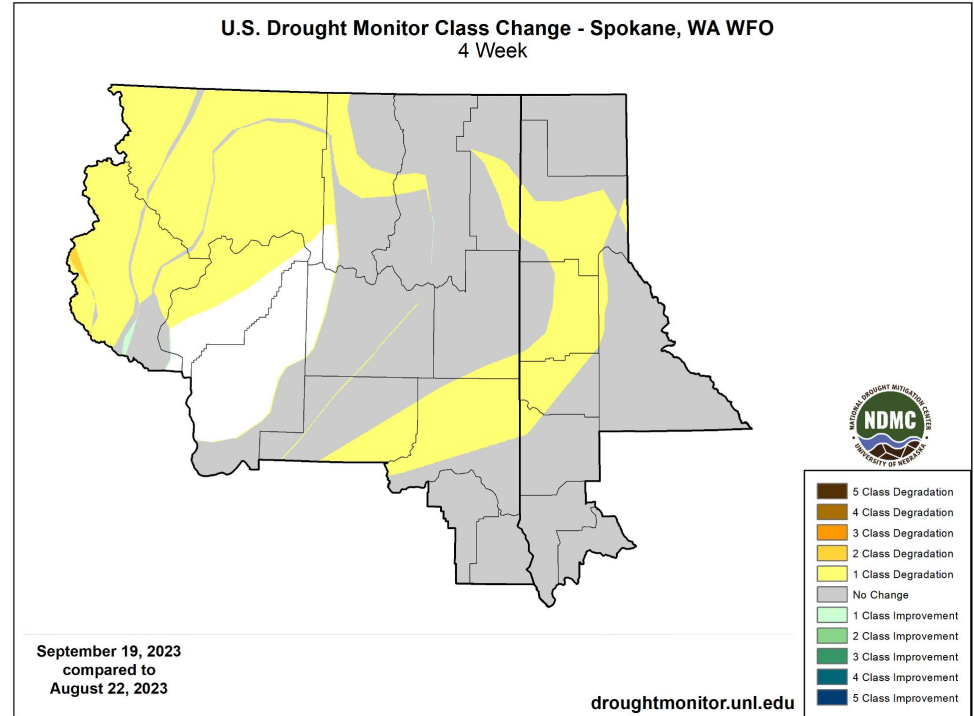


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT September 19, 2023.





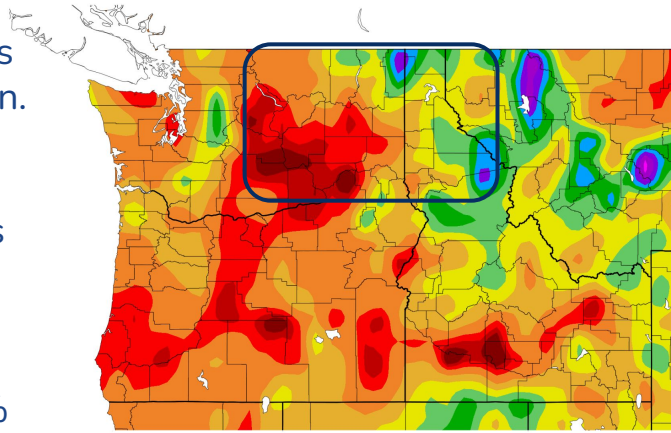
Precipitation

Last 30 Days

- The last 30 days featured several rounds of precipitation.

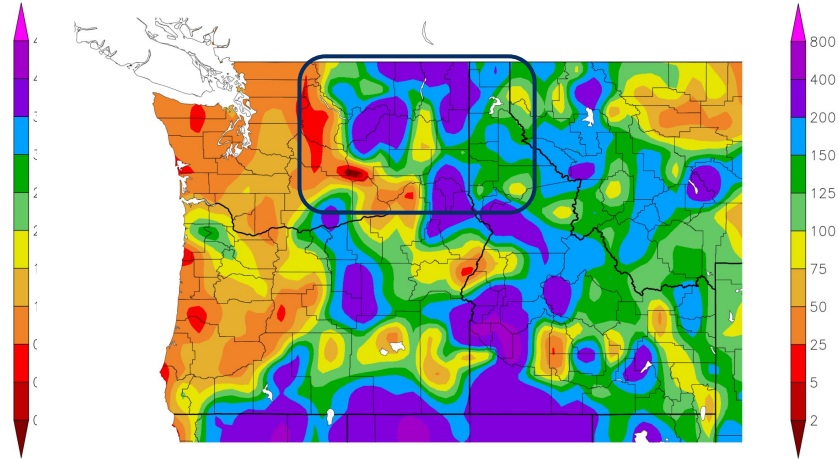
The central Cascades was the driest portion of the region with less than 50% of precipitation for the month.

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



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

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



NOAA Regional Climate Center Generated 9/21/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Data Courtesy [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)
Data over the past 30 days ending September 20, 2023



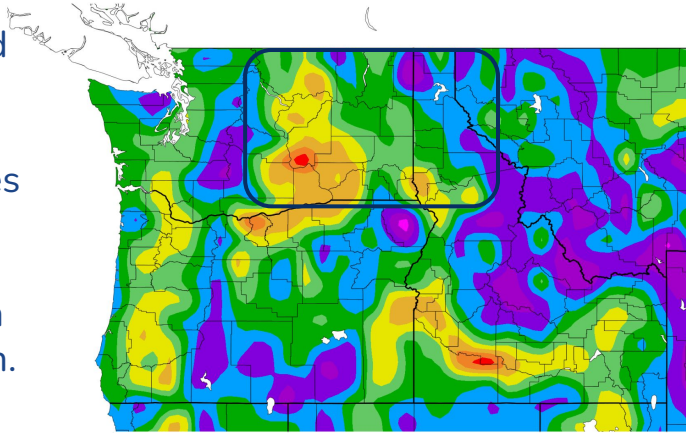


Temperature

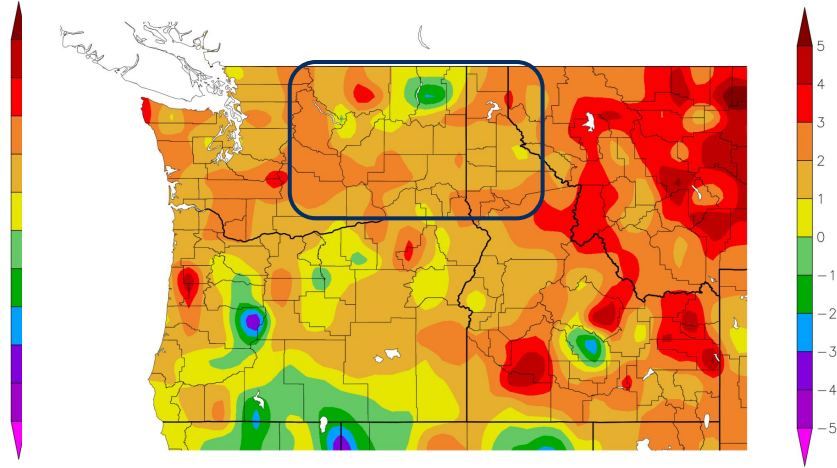
Last 30 Days

- The previous 30 was a warm period with above normal temperatures by 1 to 3 degrees across much of the region.

Temperature (F)
8/22/2023 – 9/20/2023



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



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

NOAA Regional Climate C

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

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:

Left - Average Temperature for the Pacific NW

Right - Departure from Normal Temperature for the Pacific NW

Data Courtesy [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)

Data over the past 30 days ending September 20, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most streamflows remain below to much below normal across much of north central WA and parts of the Idaho Panhandle. This has worsened over the last 30 days.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains below normal across much of the Inland NW. Crop moisture is abnormally low for the east slopes of the Cascades.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has continued over the last 30 days. Burn bans are in effect for parts of WA

Other Impacts

- [Washington State Drought Advisory](#) in effect. A [Drought Emergency](#) remains in effect for Okanogan county.

Mitigation Actions

- None reported at this time.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows over the past 7 days are below to much below normal across north central WA and part of the Idaho Panhandle
- Several river basins in central WA are Low or are below the 10th percentile for this time of year (shaded in red).

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

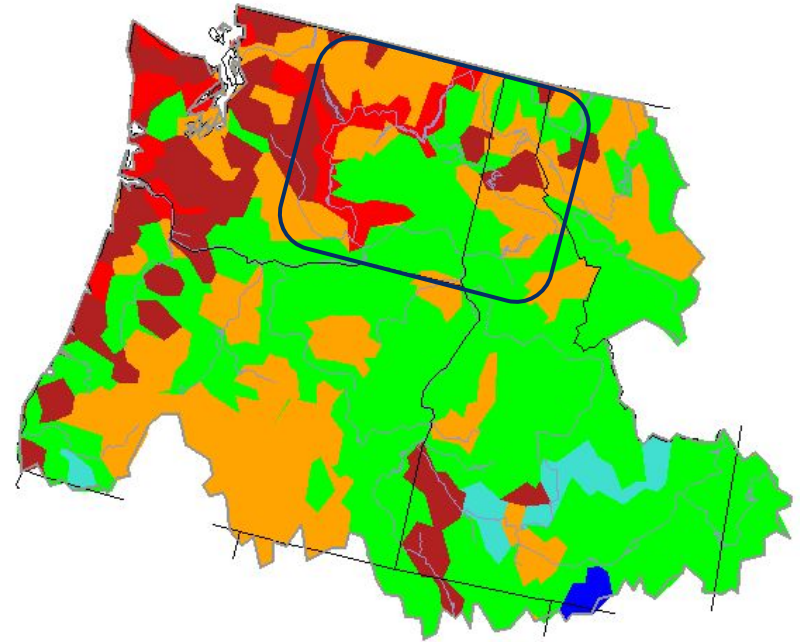


Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map](#) valid September 20, 2023

Explanation - Percentile classes

Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

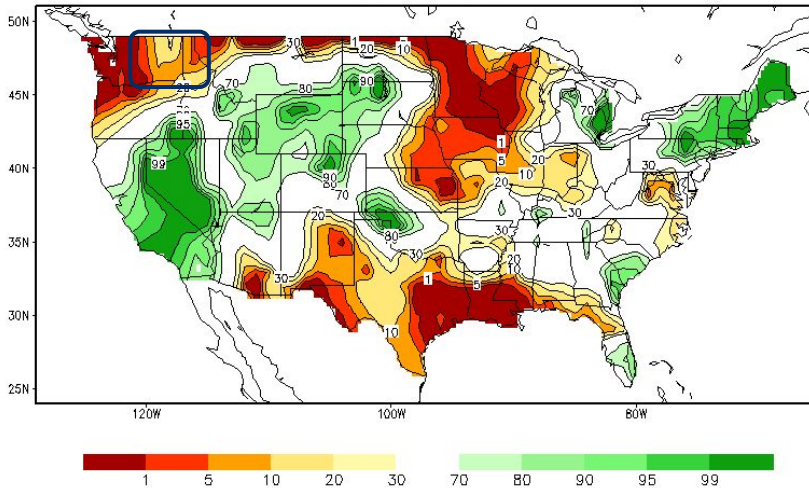




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains below normal values across the Inland NW.
- Crop moisture remains abnormally dry for the east slopes of the northern Cascades

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 20, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 16, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

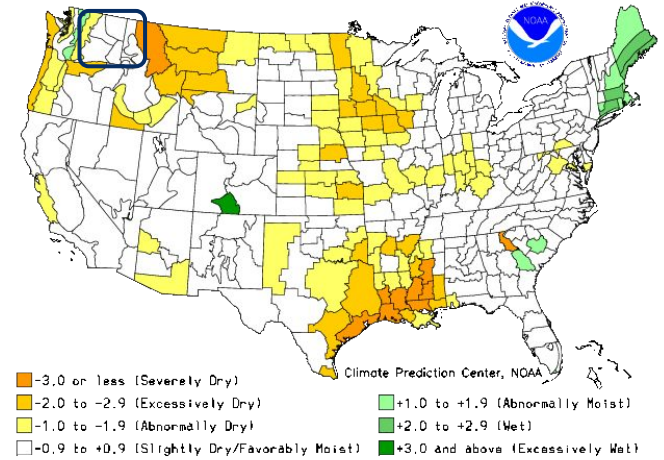


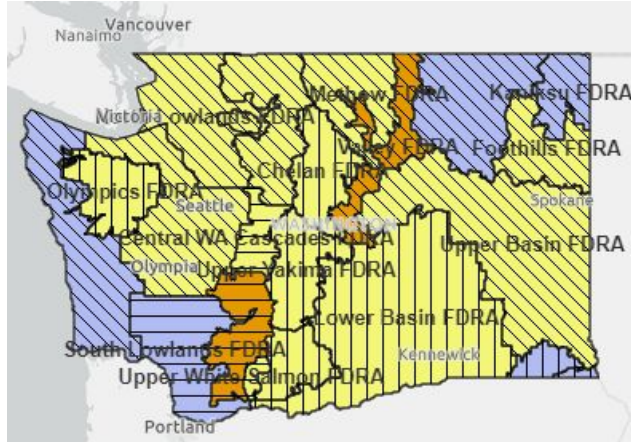
Image Captions:
 Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 20, 2023
 Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending September 16, 2023



Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Wildland fire activity decreased to near normal for much of the Inland NW by mid September and will likely continue into October.
- Burn bans are in effect for much of eastern WA.
- There are no burn bans in ID at this time.



Burn Bans

- Rule Burns are banned
- Rule and Permit Burns are banned
- Rule, Permit and Recreation Burns are banned
- Other Combination, described
- No burn ban in effect

Image caption: Latest [WA DNR Burn Ban](#) map and the [ID Fire Restriction](#) map

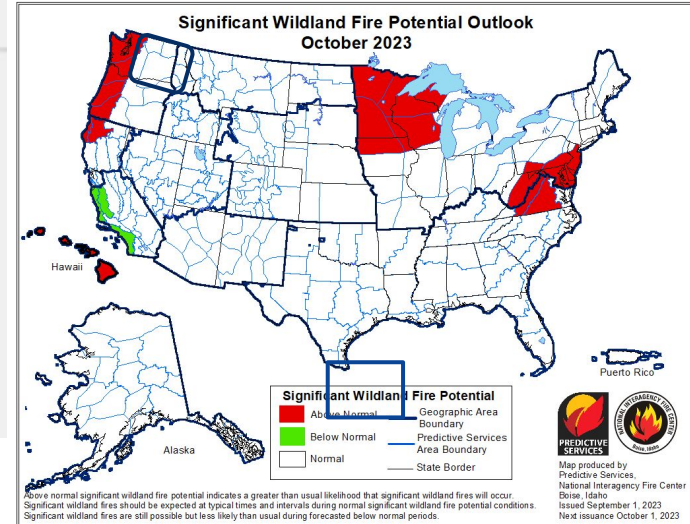


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Here is a forecast of precipitation for the Inland NW for the upcoming week.

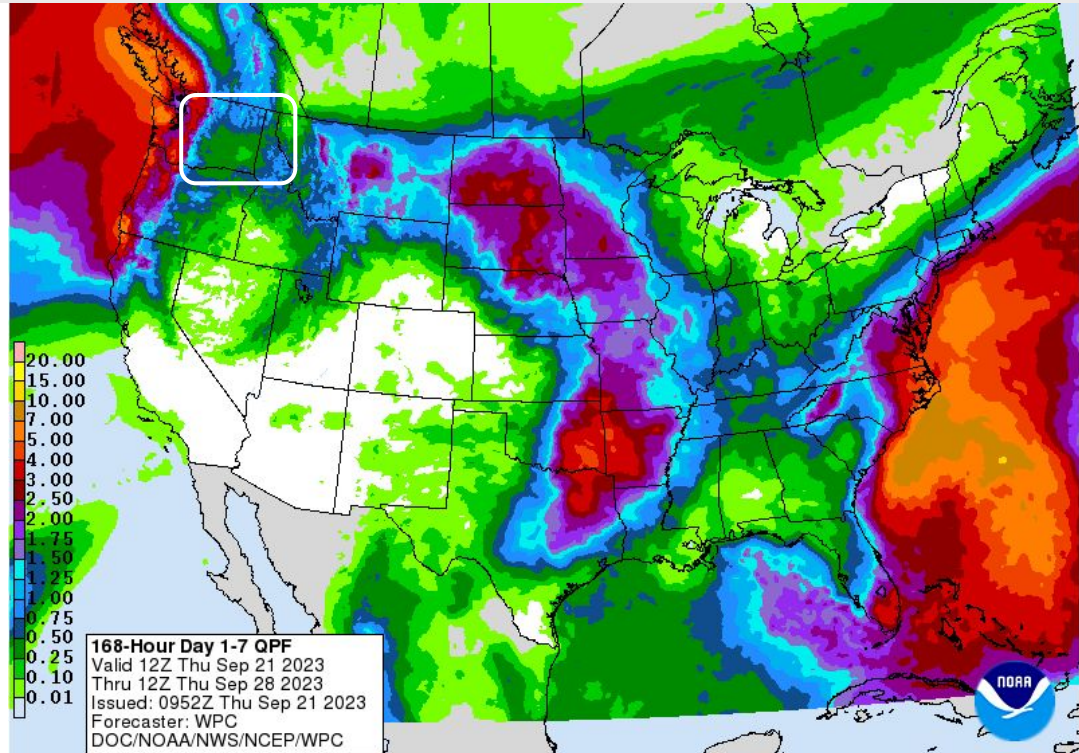


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday, September 21 through Thursday, September 28, 2023





Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The Sept-Oct-Nov outlook is calling for a 40% chance of above normal temperatures.
- Precipitation is leaning toward a 33% of below normal region wide.

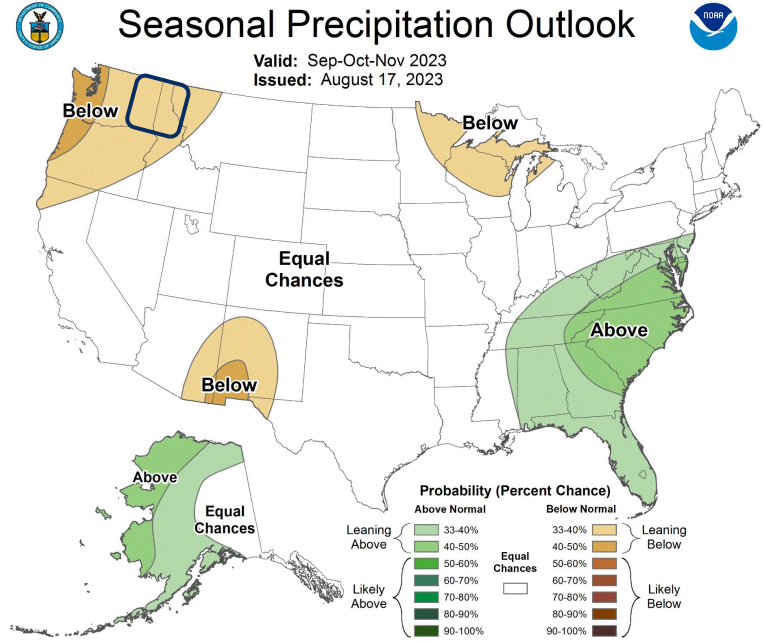
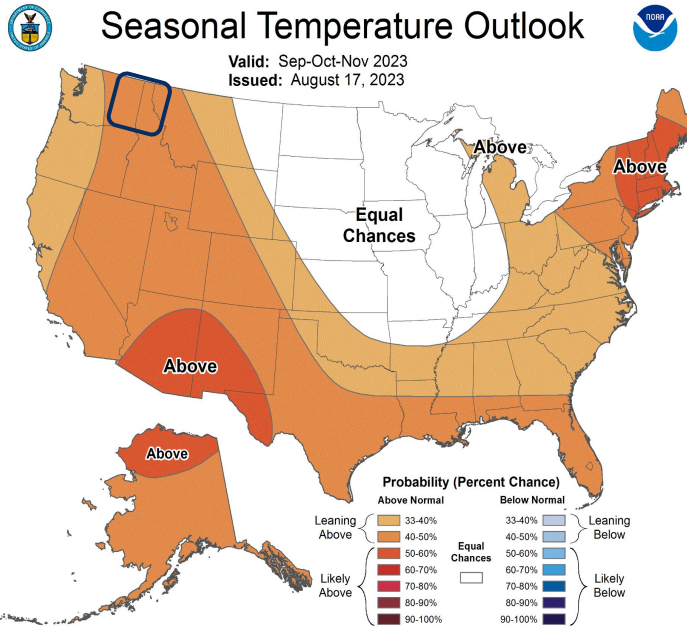


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid Sep-Oct-Nov 2023





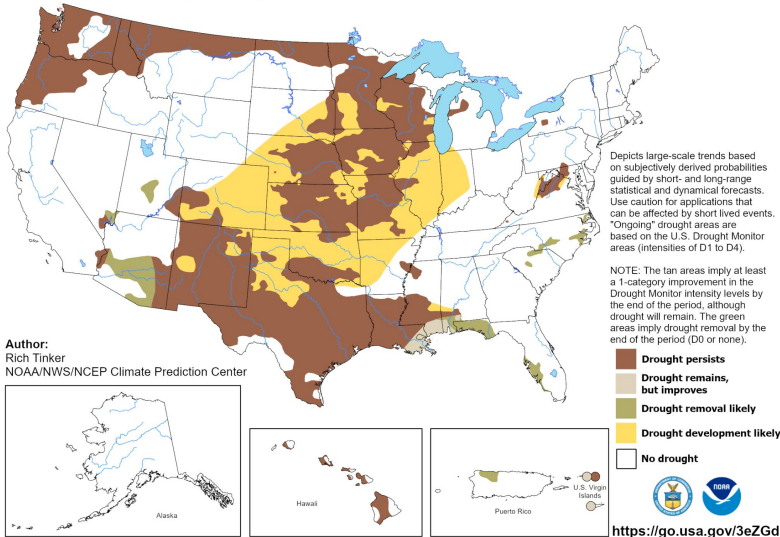
Drought Outlook

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

- For areas in drought, it will persist for the month. Drought development is likely for parts of central WA.

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

Valid for September 2023
Released August 31, 2023



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

Valid for September 21 - December 31, 2023
Released September 21, 2023

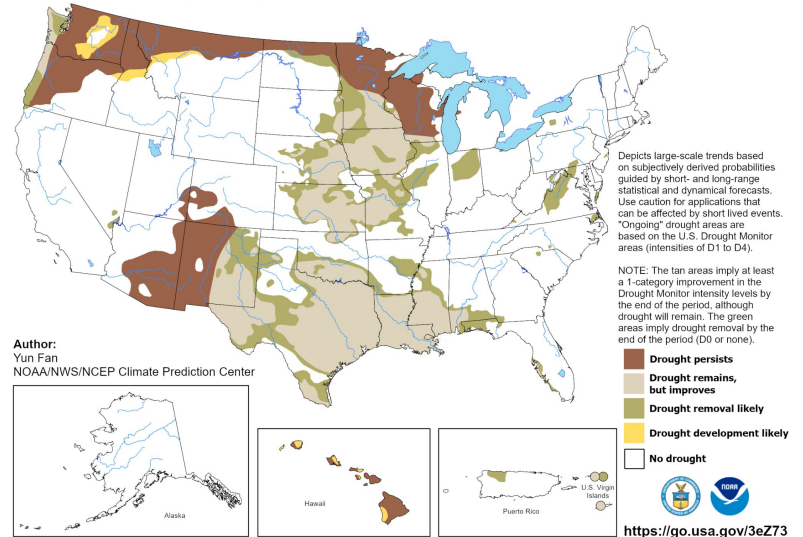


Image Caption:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) Released August 31, 2023 and valid for September 2023

Image Caption:

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) Released September 21, 2023 and valid through December 2023

