



# Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington & North Idaho

Valid October 19, 2023

Issued By: NWS Spokane, WA

Contact Information: [w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated by November 16, 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.





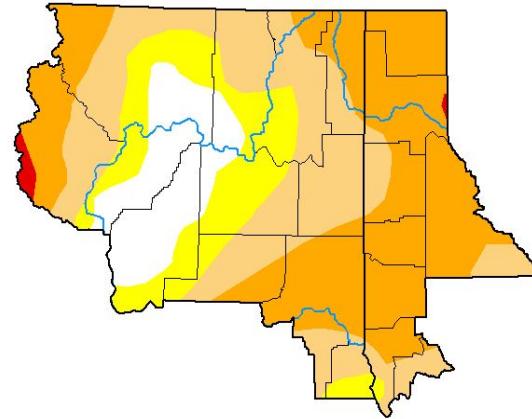
# U.S. Drought Monitor

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

## DROUGHT PERSISTS ACROSS THE INLAND NW

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Near the Cascade crest in Chelan county in WA and the eastern edge of Bonner county in ID, **covering 1%**
  - D2 (Severe Drought): East slopes of the Cascades, northeast WA, much of southeast WA, and the Idaho Panhandle, **covering 38%**
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): A good portion of northern WA, Spokane area, Columbia Basin in WA, and pockets of the southern ID Panhandle, **covering 33%**
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Parts of central WA, **covering 15%**
  - NONE: **13%** of the region is not in drought

### U.S. Drought Monitor Spokane, WA WFO



**October 17, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	13.04	86.96	70.99	39.19	0.67	0.00
Last Week 10-10-2023	13.04	86.96	70.99	39.19	0.67	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-18-2023	23.22	76.78	57.22	9.67	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 09-26-2023	8.61	91.39	70.19	41.54	0.67	0.00
One Year Ago 10-18-2022	0.00	100.00	45.59	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**

None	D0 Abnormally Dry	D2 Severe Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D3 Extreme Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

*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](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 17, 2023





# 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 parts of the Chelan county.
  - No Change: Much of eastern WA and parts of the Idaho Panhandle.
  - Drought Improved: Parts of north-central WA, along with Garfield, and Asotin counties

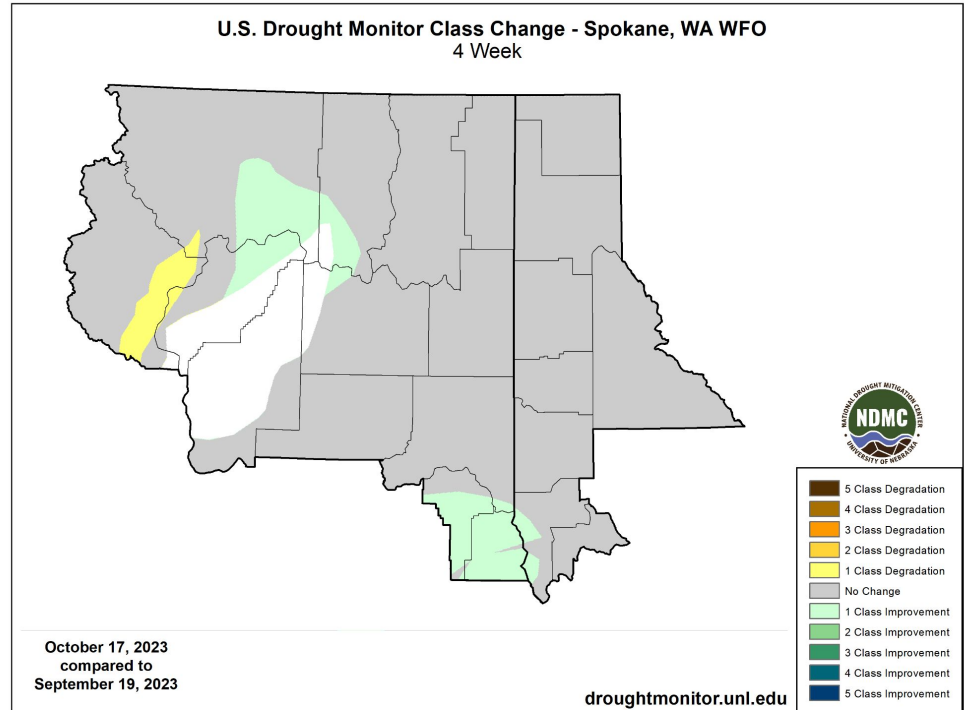


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT October 17, 2023.





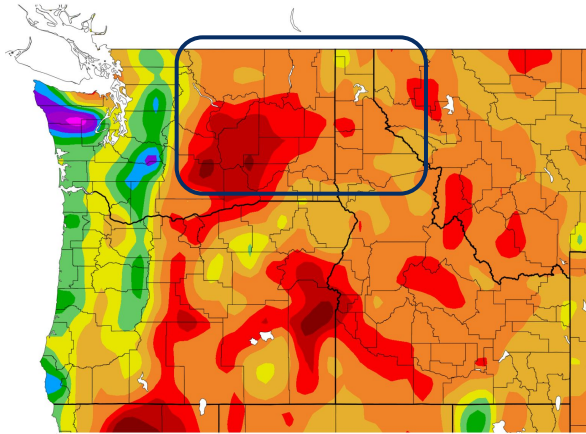
# Precipitation

Last 30 Days

- Rounds of precipitation occurred in late September and mid October.

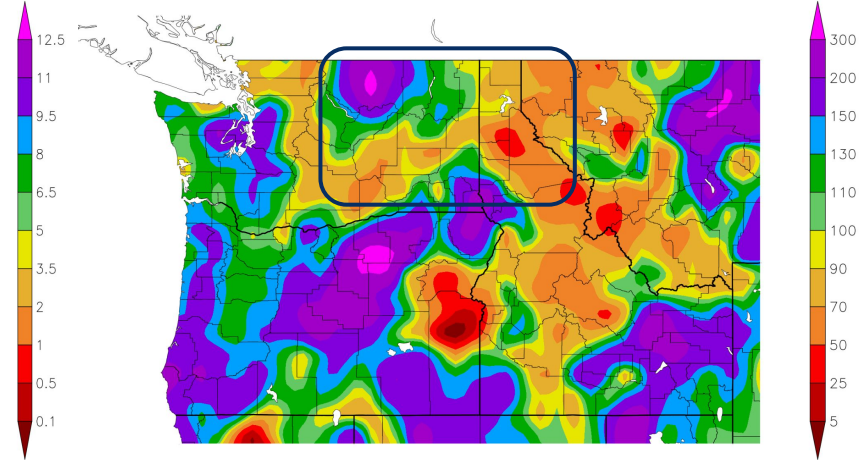
While above normal precipitation fell in north-central WA and southeast WA, much of north Idaho and parts of eastern WA remained below normal.

Precipitation (in)  
9/19/2023 - 10/18/2023



10/19/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
9/19/2023 - 10/18/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers rated 10/19/2023 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 October 19, 2023



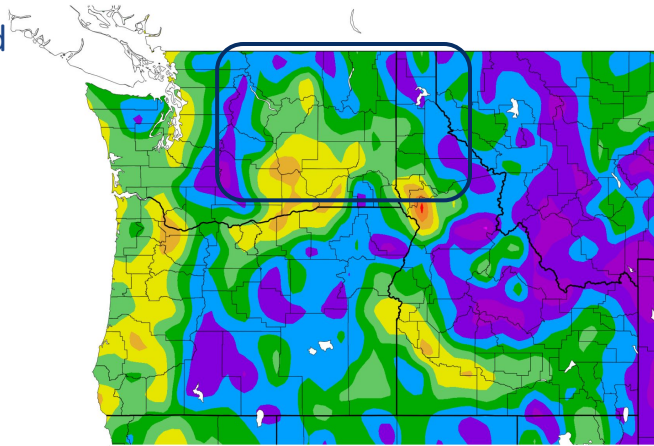


# Temperature

Last 30 Days

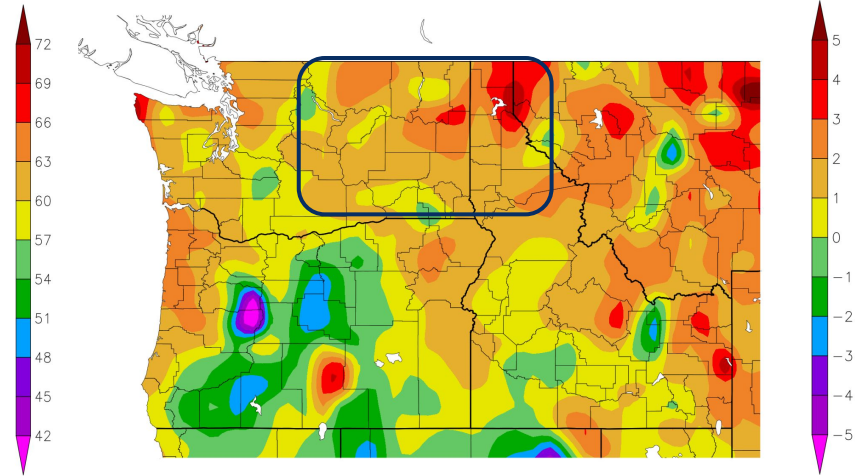
- The previous 30 days remained mild with above normal temperatures by 1 to 4 degrees across the region.

Temperature (F)  
9/19/2023 - 10/18/2023



Generated 10/19/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
9/19/2023 - 10/18/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers ed 10/19/2023 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 October 19, 2023





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Many streamflows remain below to much below normal across parts of eastern WA and the Idaho Panhandle. The low flows impacted recreation with a decrease of river rafting and fish with less activity. There has been some improvements across southeast WA and north central WA with the above normal precipitation over the last 30 days.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains below normal across much of the Inland NW, but has experienced some improvement since August. Irrigated crop yields were down 1/3 from reduced water availability. A grasshopper population explosion this summer also impacted yields. Livestock needed to be moved more frequently due to poor range conditions.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has decreased since early September. All burn bans lifted. No impacts to add.

## Other Impacts and Mitigation Actions

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





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows over the past 7 days show below to much below normal across parts of eastern WA and much of the Idaho Panhandle, although there has been a slow improvement over the last 30 days.
- Several river basins across the region still remain below the 10th percentile for this time of year (shaded in red).

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

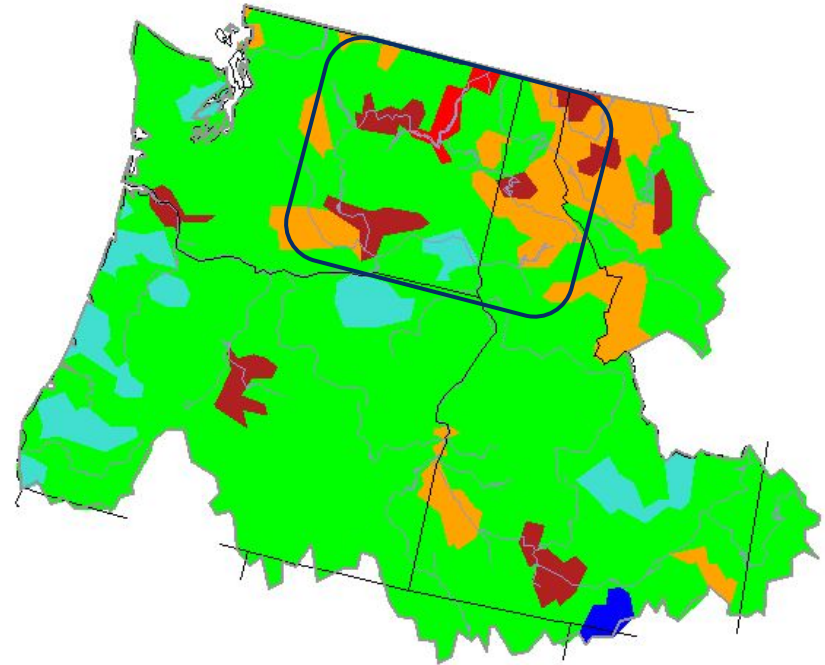


Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map](#) valid October 18, 2023

### 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		

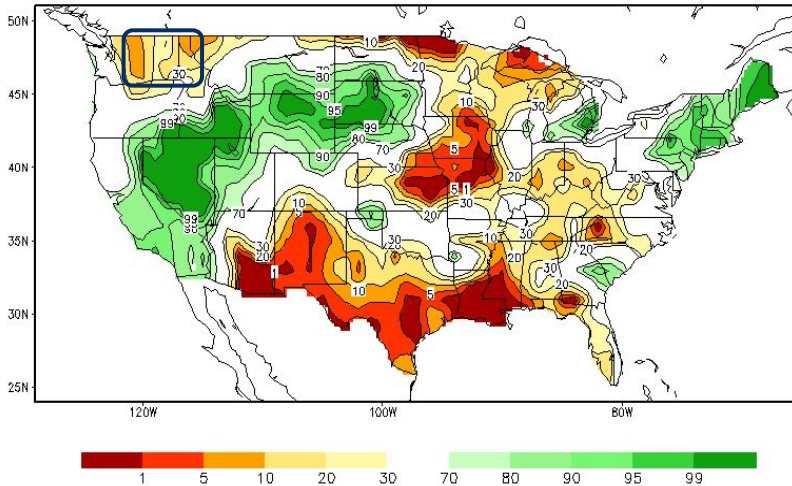




# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains below normal values across the Inland NW, but has seen improvement since early September.
- Crop moisture has seen some improvements and near normal since early September.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
OCT 18, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division  
Weekly Value for Period Ending OCT 14, 2023  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

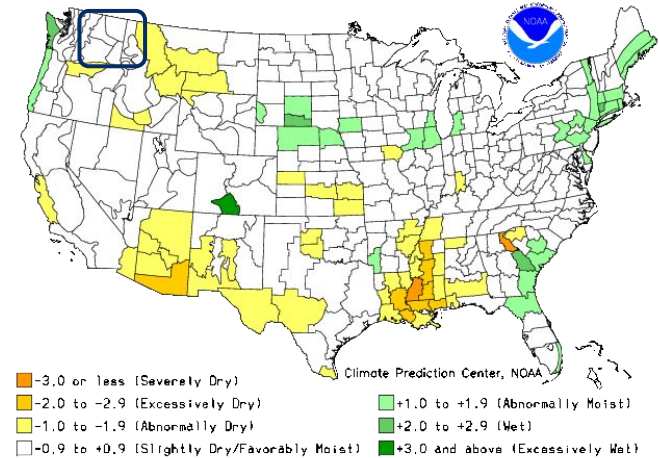


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid October 18, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending October 14, 2023







# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Here is a forecast of precipitation for the Inland NW for the upcoming week. Wetter conditions are forecast for the upcoming week across the Pacific Northwest.

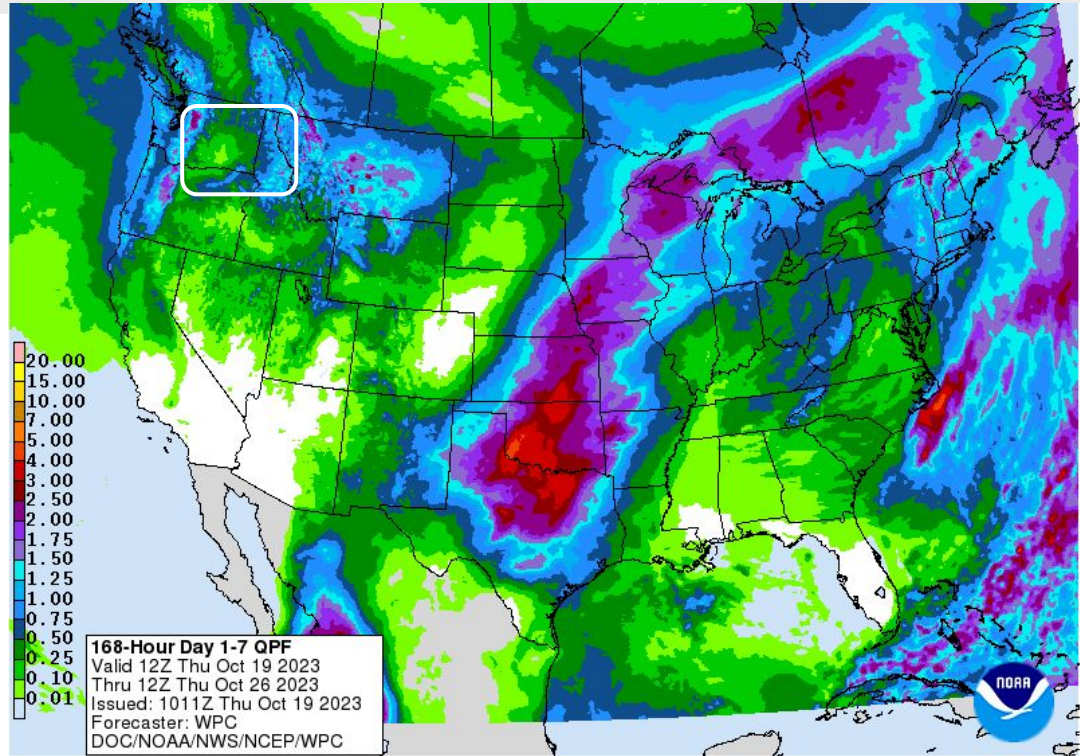


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday, October 19 through Thursday, October 26, 2023





# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The November outlook is calling for a 40% chance of above normal temperatures.
- Precipitation is leaning toward equal chances of at, above, to below normal across the Inland NW.

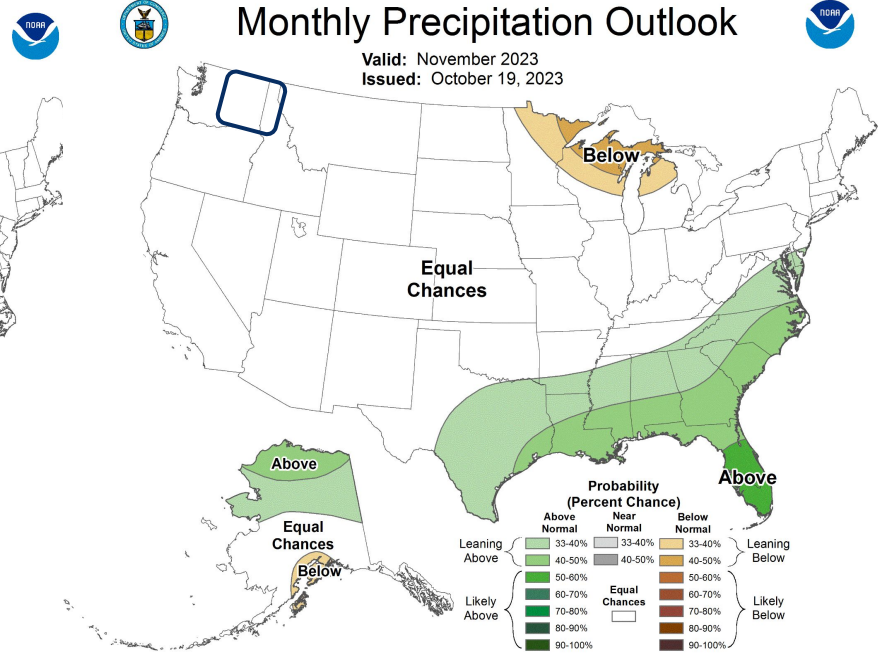
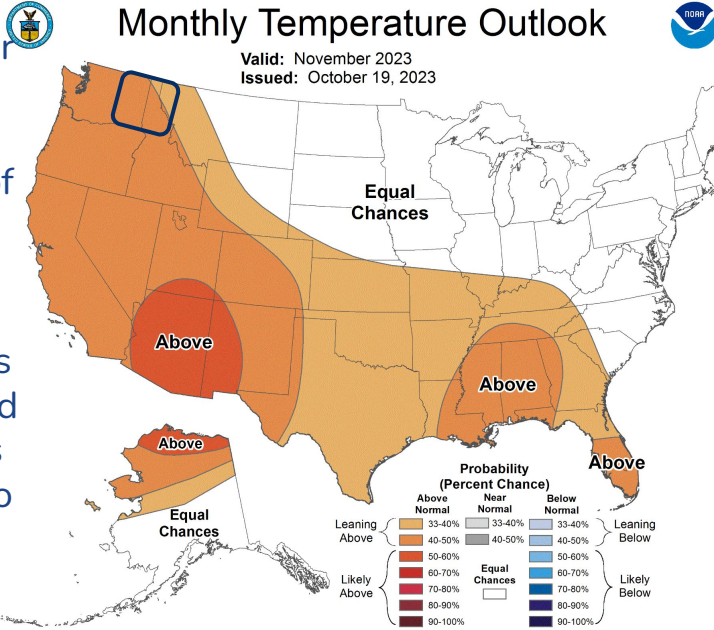


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid November 2023





# Long-Range Outlooks

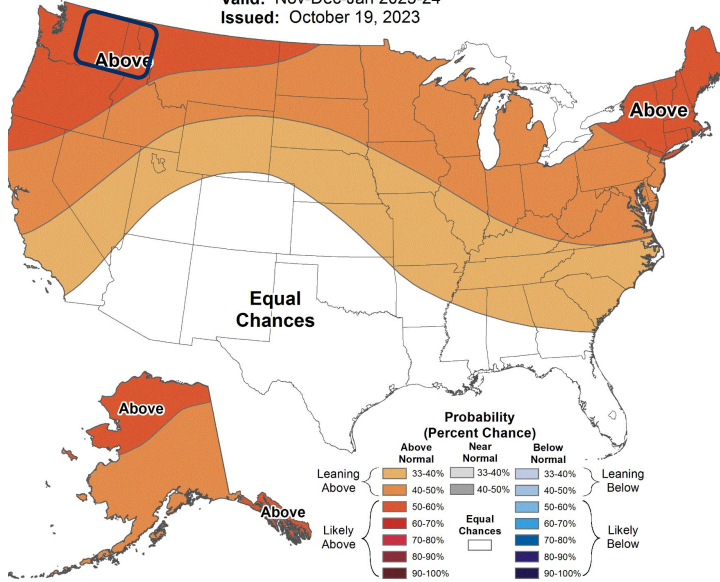
The latest seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



## Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2023-24  
Issued: October 19, 2023



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2023  
Issued: August 17, 2023

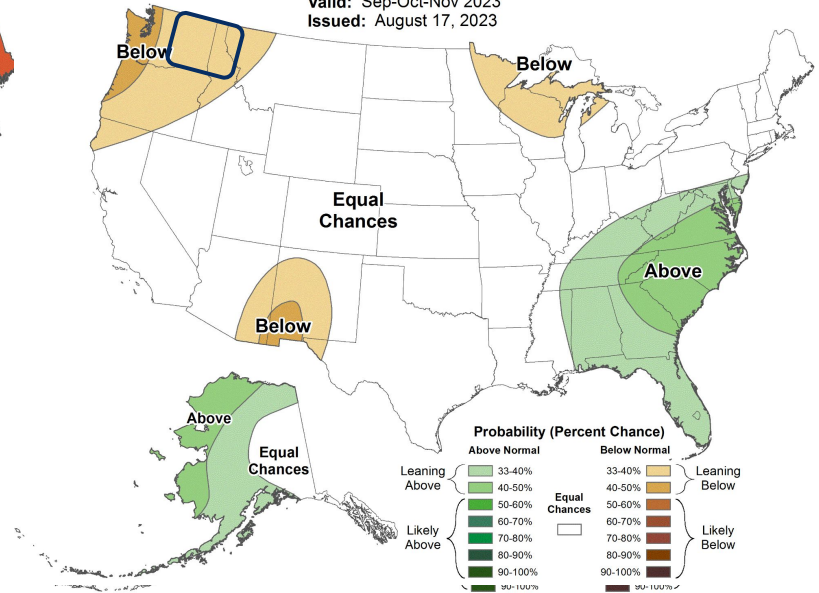


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid Nov-Dec-Jan 2023-24





# Drought Outlook

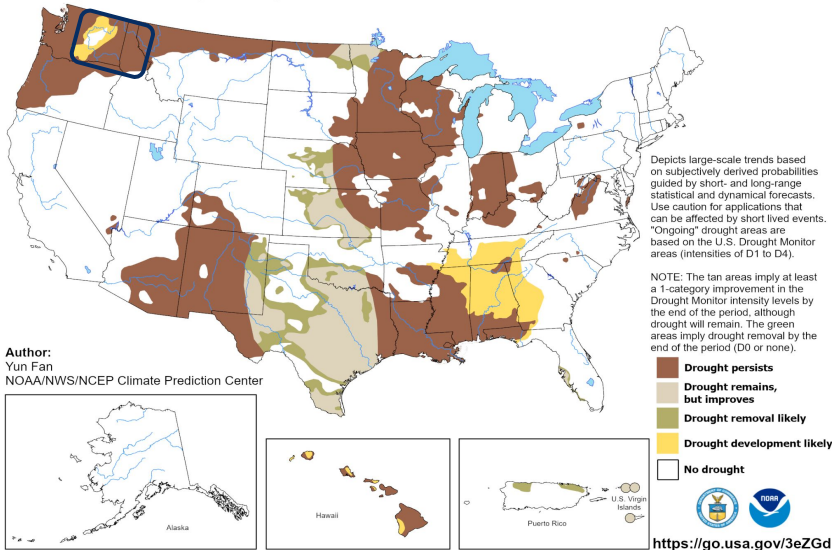
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Areas of drought will persist for the month and the season with drought development likely for parts of central WA this winter.

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 2023  
Released September 30, 2023



## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 19, 2023 - January 31, 2024  
Released October 19, 2023

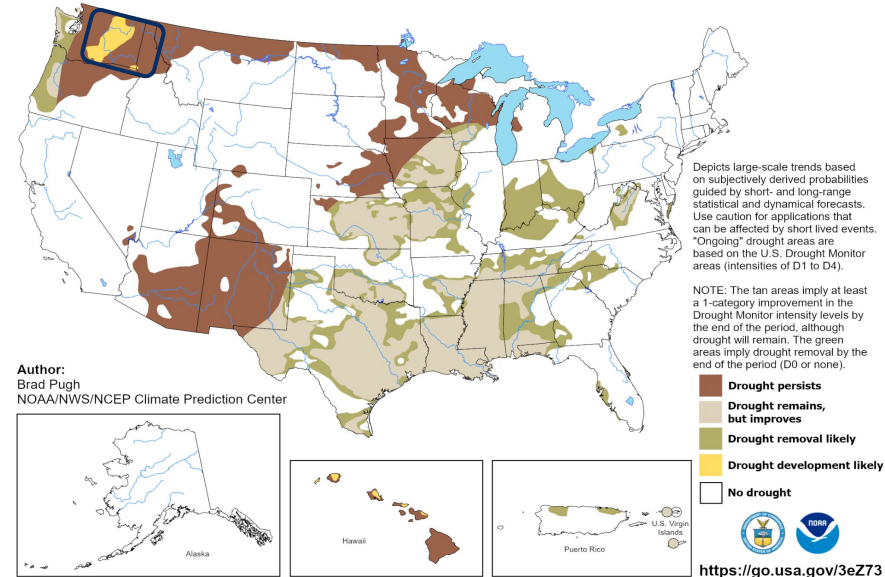


Image Caption:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) Released September 30, 2023 and valid for October 2023

Image Caption:

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) Released October 19, 2023 and valid through January 2024

