



# Drought Information Statement for North Louisiana, East Texas, Southwest Arkansas, and Extreme Southeast Oklahoma

Valid February 5th, 2024

Issued By: NWS Shreveport

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- This product will be updated by late February 2024 unless drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/shv/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

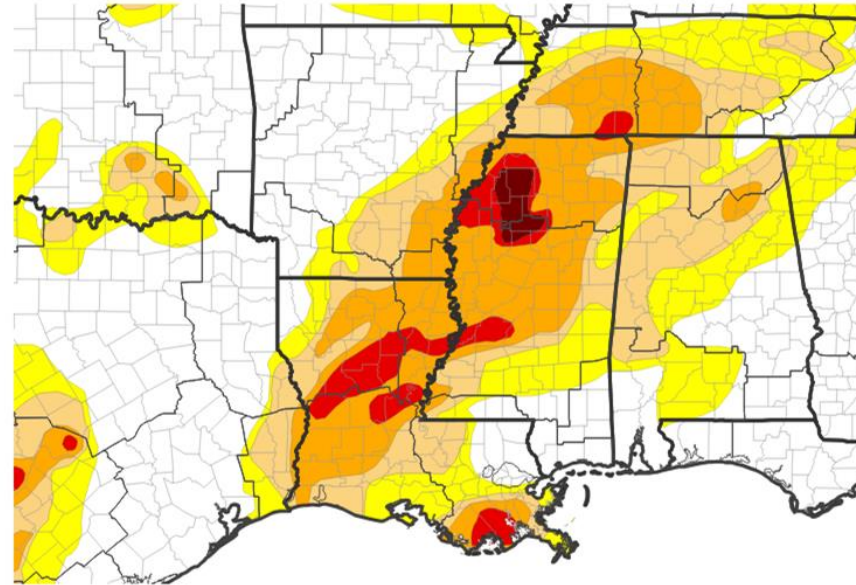




# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast OK, Southwest AR, East TX, and North LA

- An extended period of rainfall across all of the Four State Region during the 3rd week of January has led to Drought Improvement Areawide and Removal across portions of East Texas, Southwest Arkansas, and extreme Northwest Louisiana.
- Severe to Extreme Drought continues though across Northcentral and Northeast Louisiana.
- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Central and Eastern LA
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Much of Northcentral LA
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Sabine County TX into Northwest LA and Southcentral AR
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Northwest LA and Southcentral AR



U.S. Drought Monitor

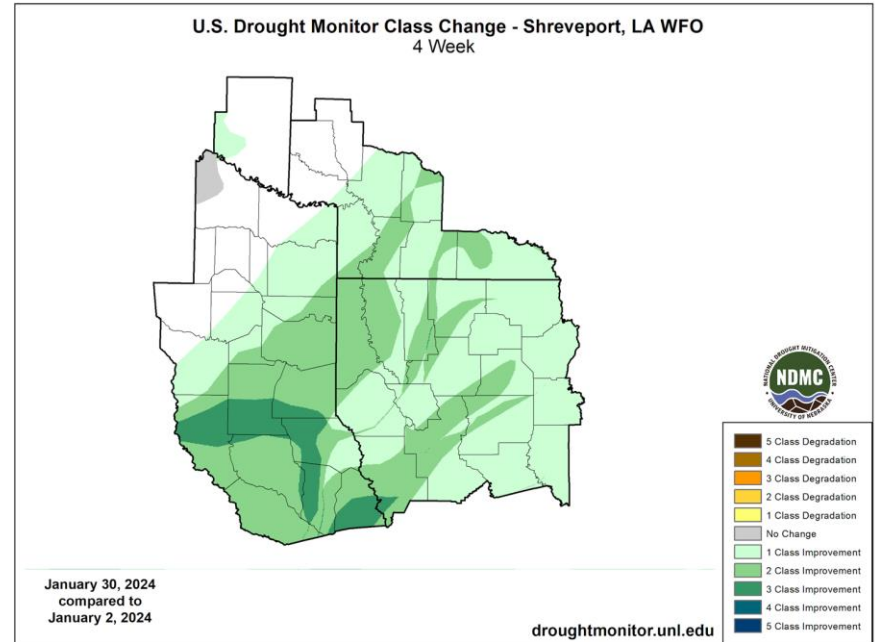




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast OK, East TX, Southwest AR, and North LA

- 4 Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Widespread rainfall amounts of 5-10+ inches fell areawide during January, with 8-12+ inches falling over the drought stricken areas of Deep East Texas into North Louisiana and Southern Arkansas. This has led to a 1-3 category improvement in drought across these areas, with drought removal over much of Lower East Texas, extreme Northwest Louisiana, and portions of Southwest Arkansas.
  - Northeast Texas, McCurtain County Oklahoma, and adjacent sections of Southwest Arkansas remain drought-free.



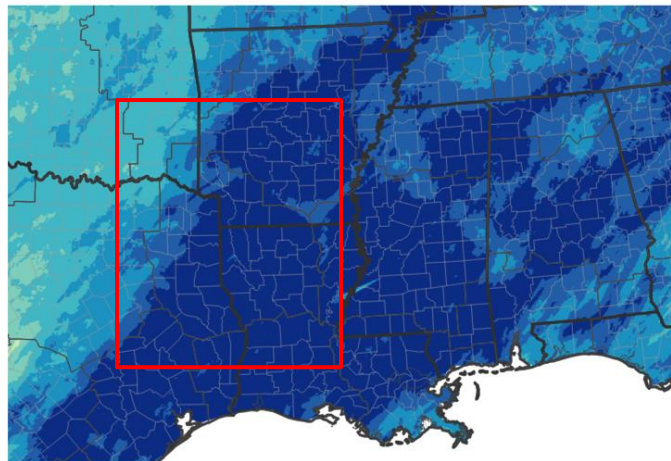


# Precipitation

- In the last 30 days (since early January), widespread rainfall amounts of 5-10+ inches have fallen across the region, with isolated higher amounts of 10-12+ inches observed across Lower East Texas, Northwest Louisiana, and Southern Arkansas.
- These totals have ranged from 2-3 times above the monthly norms.

## 30 Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



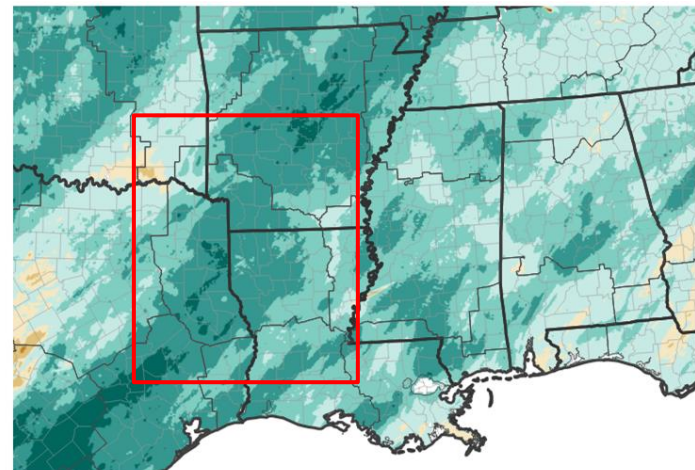
Inches of Precipitation



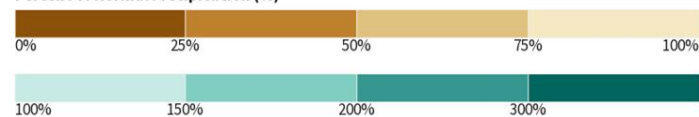
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/05/24

## 30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



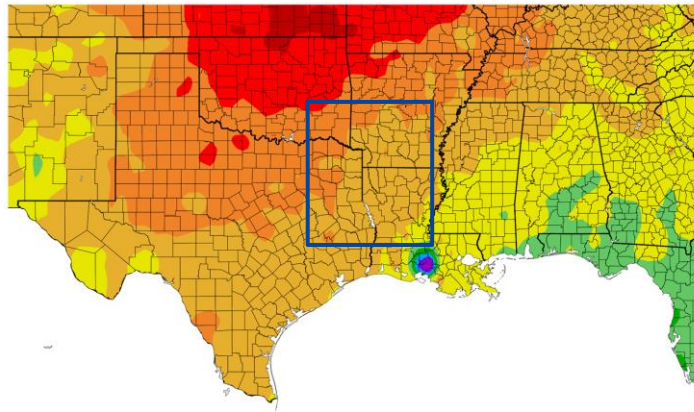


# Temperature

Imagery from the High Plains Regional Climate Center

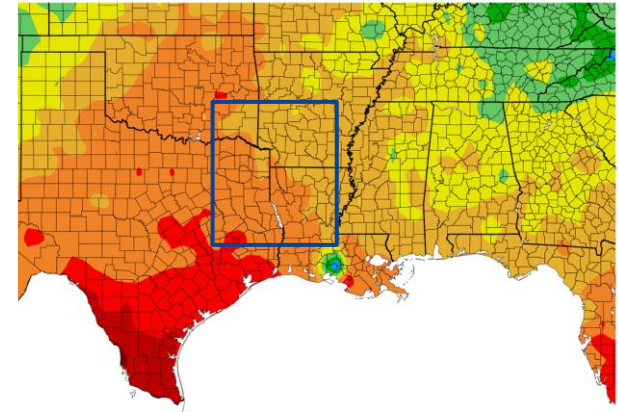
- Below normal temperatures were recorded across the Southern Plains and Lower Mississippi Valley (including the Four State Region) during January, with temperatures ranging from 2-4+ degrees below normal.
- However, much above normal temperatures have been observed through the first several days of February, with readings some 7-11+ degrees above normal areawide.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
2/1/2024 - 2/4/2024



Generated 2/5/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Temperature (F)  
2/1/2024 - 2/4/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 4 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Considerable improvement has been observed to area creeks, streams, bayous, and lakes areawide, given the much above normal rainfall observed since the third week of January. In fact, the majority of area waterways have return to near if not above normal streamflow and pool stage. Portions of the Sabine and Neches Rivers in East Texas, as well as Bayou Dorcheat and Bayou Bodcau Lake in Northwest Louisiana have risen above flood stage, with minor flooding ongoing.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Area pastures remain dormant in wake of widespread freezes in early November and the 2nd week of December, as well as a prolonged (multiple day) period of subfreezing temperatures in mid-January that accompanied an icestorm that crippled much of East Texas, extreme Southern Arkansas, and North Louisiana. Supplemental feeding of cattle continues across North Louisiana and East Texas. The majority of stock ponds across Deep East Texas and North Louisiana have been recharged in wake of the much above normal rainfall observed over the last 2 weeks. 10-40 cm and 40-100 cm soil moisture has also been recharged, and are exhibiting near to above normal levels areawide.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- These rains have also resulted in wet fuels areawide, with a low fire danger present across the Four State Region.

## Mitigation Actions

- Smaller communities have enacted water restrictions due to excessive use or lower than normal well/aquifer levels. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

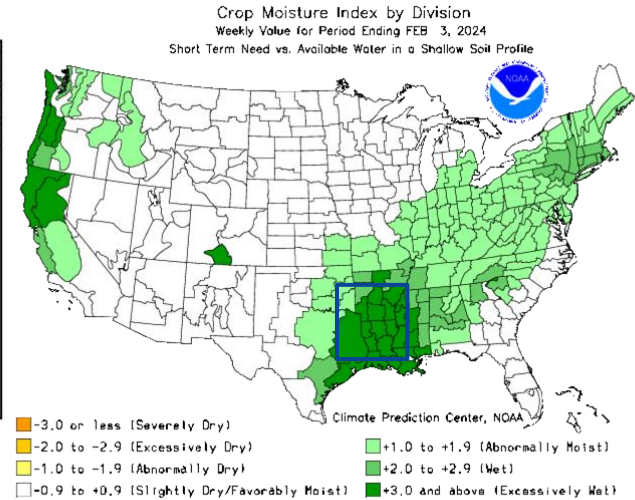
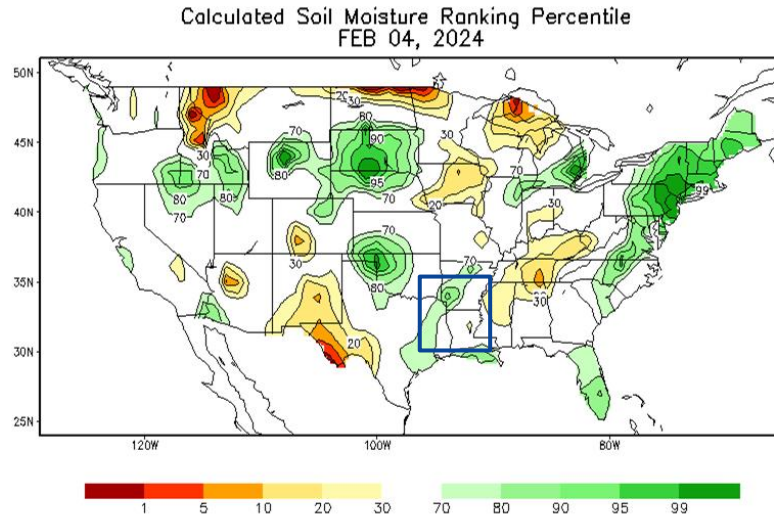




# Agricultural Impacts

Left Image: Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile for Feb. 4th from CPC; Right Image: Crop Moisture Index Ending Feb. 3rd from CPC.

- Soil moisture has returned to near or above normal across the current and previous drought stricken areas of Deep East TX and North LA.
- Above normal soil moisture exists elsewhere across Northeast TX, Southeast OK, Southwest AR, and Northwest LA.

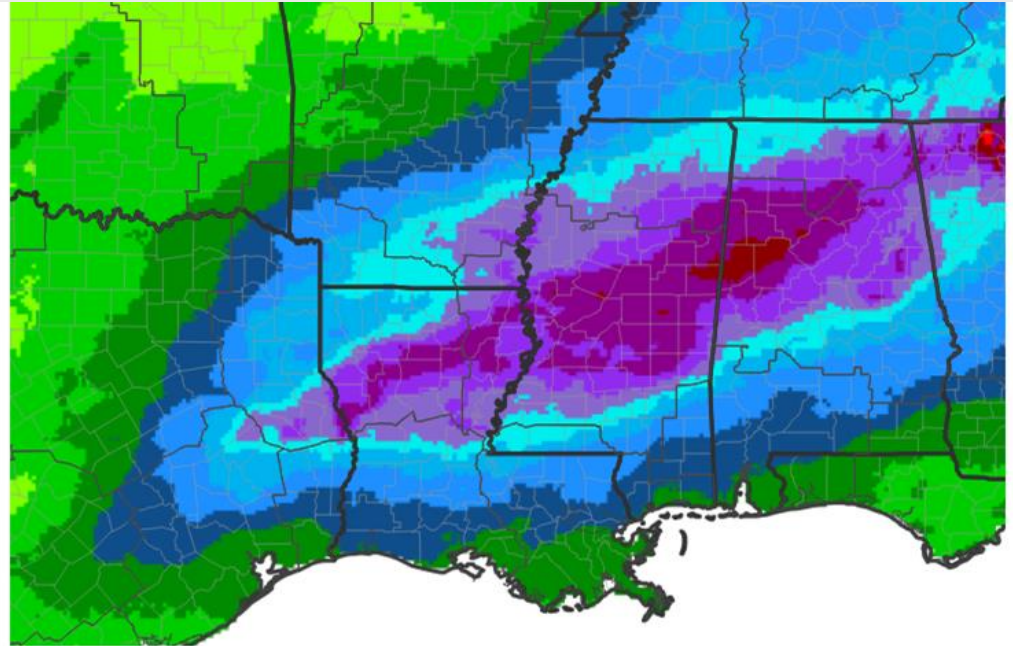




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

Imagery Below: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) Valid Monday, February 5th to Monday, February 12th

- An extended period of above normal temperatures are expected throughout the first full week of February. A drying trend is also expected, before an unsettled weather pattern develops over the region Thursday, February 8th through at least Sunday, February 11th.
- Widespread rainfall amounts of 0.50-1.50+ inches are possible from the 8th through at least mid-month.
- Additional improvement to drought is expected over the next week and longer.



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



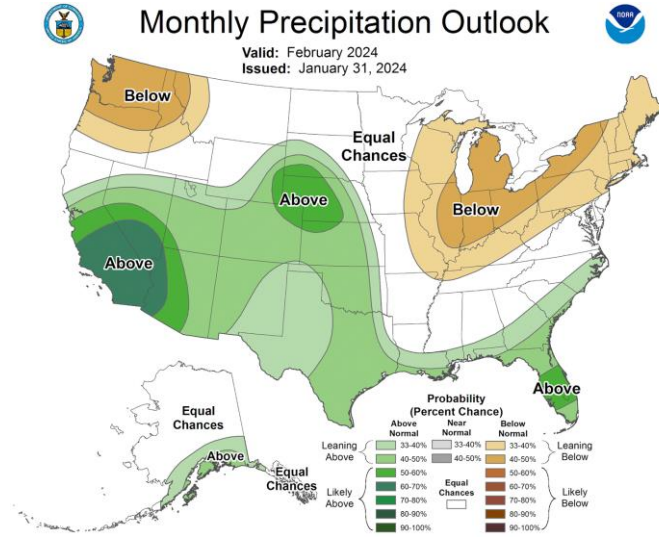
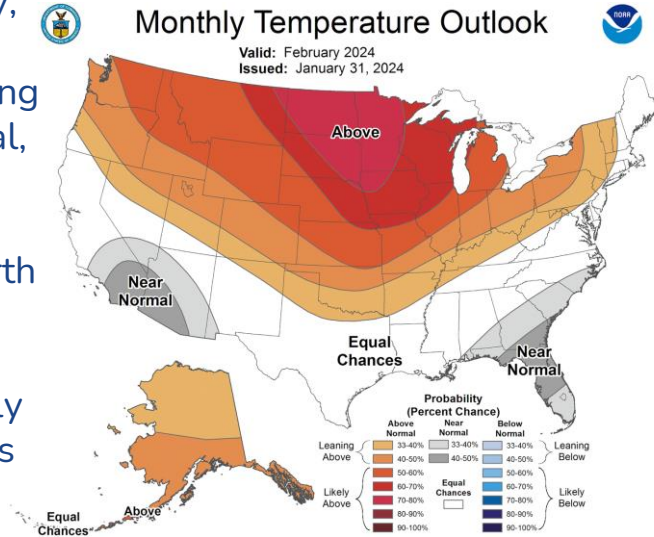




# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- No skill level exists for forecasting monthly temperatures for February, as “Equal Chance” probabilities exist for seeing above normal, near normal, or below normal temperatures across East TX, Southern AR, and North LA.
- “Equal Chances” to slightly above normal probabilities exist for seeing above normal rainfall areawide through the end of February.

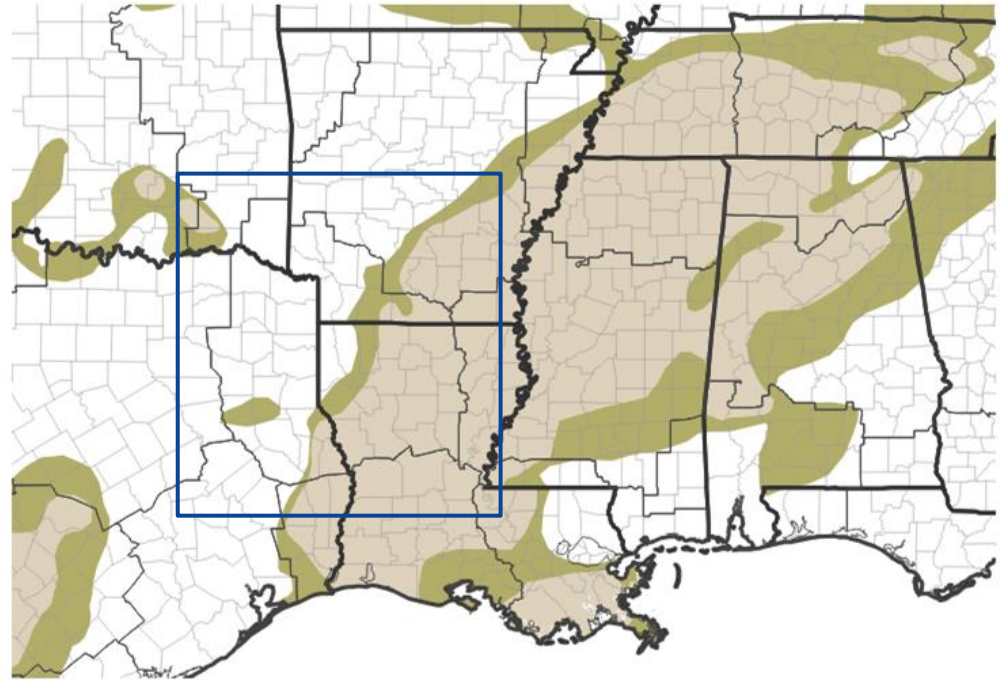




# Drought Outlook

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released January 31, 2024 - Valid through February 2024

- Additional drought improvement and drought removal are expected through February across the Lower Toledo Bend Country of Deep East TX, North LA, and into Southern AR.



Drought is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

