



# Drought Information Statement for Southeast LA and Southwest MS

Valid September 21st, 2023

Issued By: NWS New Orleans/Baton Rouge

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated Sept 28, 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 now dominates 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

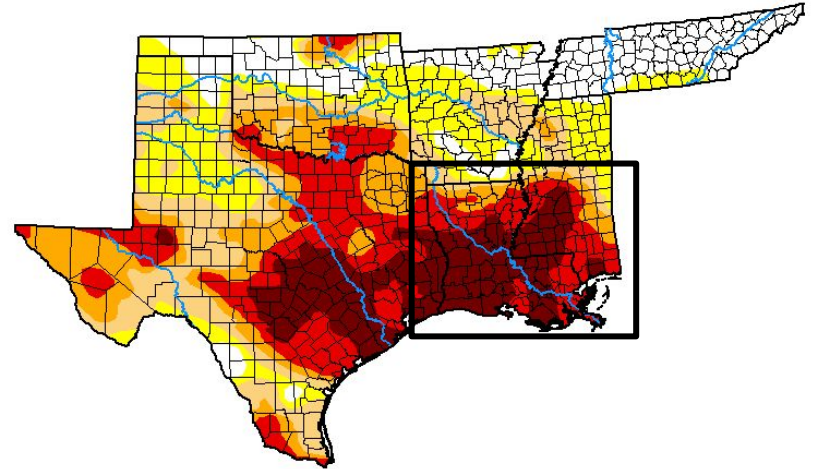


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid Sept 19, 2023 at 7 AM CDT





# 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: A significant portion of LA and MS worsened (Yellow)**
  - **No Change: Only some of the region has stayed at the same drought level as the previous week (Gray)**
  - **Drought Improved: There was no improvement (Light Green)**
- **Key Takeaway: The drought continues to steadily worsen across Louisiana and Mississippi.**

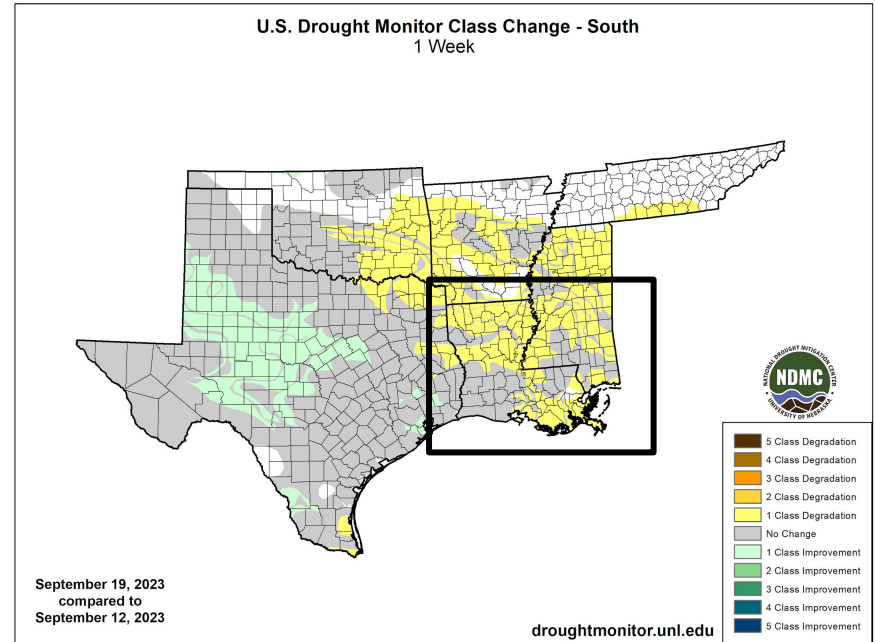


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid Sept 19 , 2023 at 7AM CDT

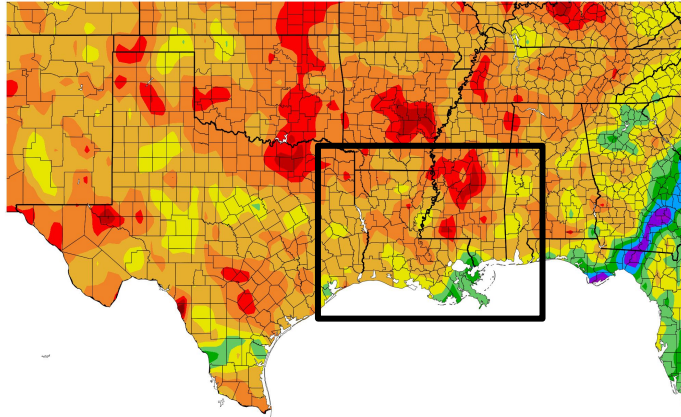




# Precipitation

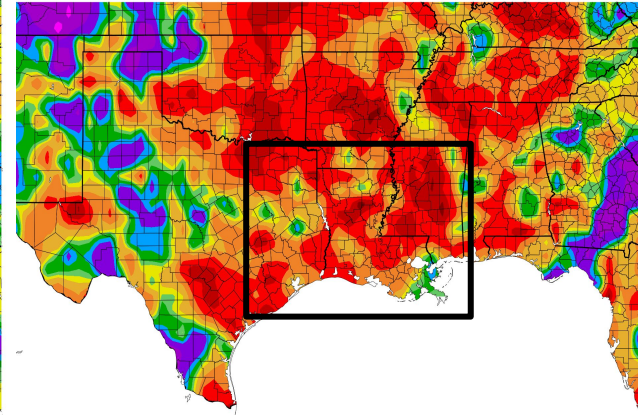
- Rainfall was still underdone over the last 30 days with average amounts less than 2 inches.
- Much of the region continues at less than 25% to 50% of normal rainfall.
- There are some areas that are between 5% to 25% of normal.

Precipitation (in)  
8/22/2023 – 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 9/21/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center

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 20, 2023

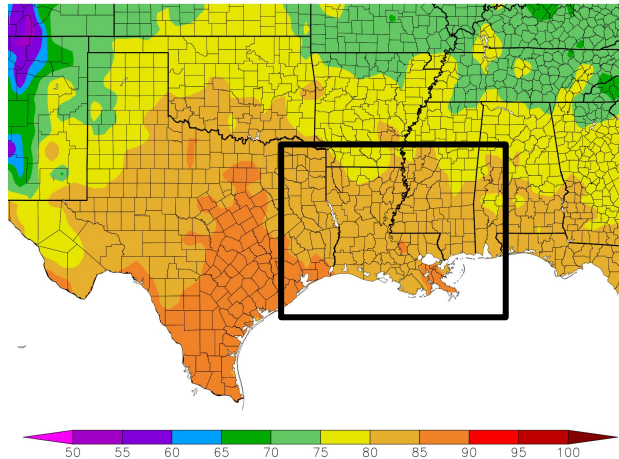




# Temperature

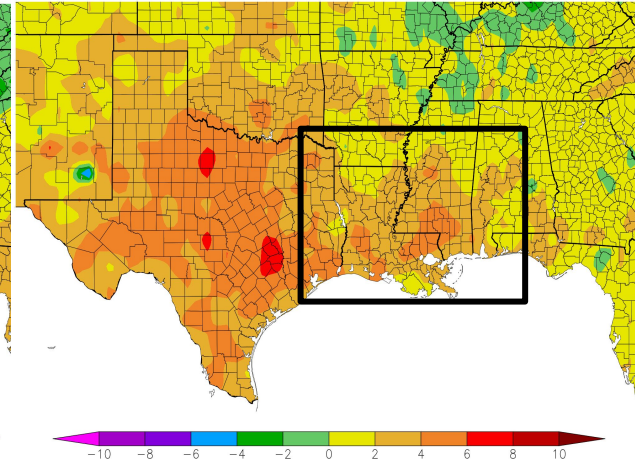
- Temperatures have been slightly cooler over the last 30 days
- Average daily temperatures continue to be 2 to 6 degrees above normal
- Warmer than normal temperatures contribute to the loss of soil moisture and deteriorating conditions

Temperature (F)  
8/22/2023 – 9/20/2023



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

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



NOAA Regional Climate Center dated 9/21/2023 at HPRCC 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 20, 2023





# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is extremely 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

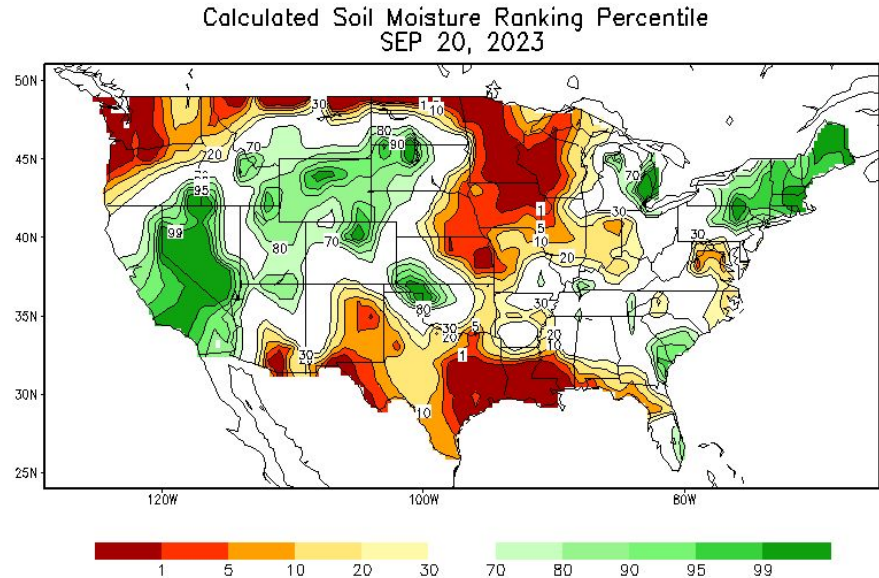


Image Captions: : CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#)  
valid Sept 20, 2023





# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Above normal wildfire conditions are expected to continue through September
- Burn bans remain in effect for all of LA and S MS
- Burning should be discouraged

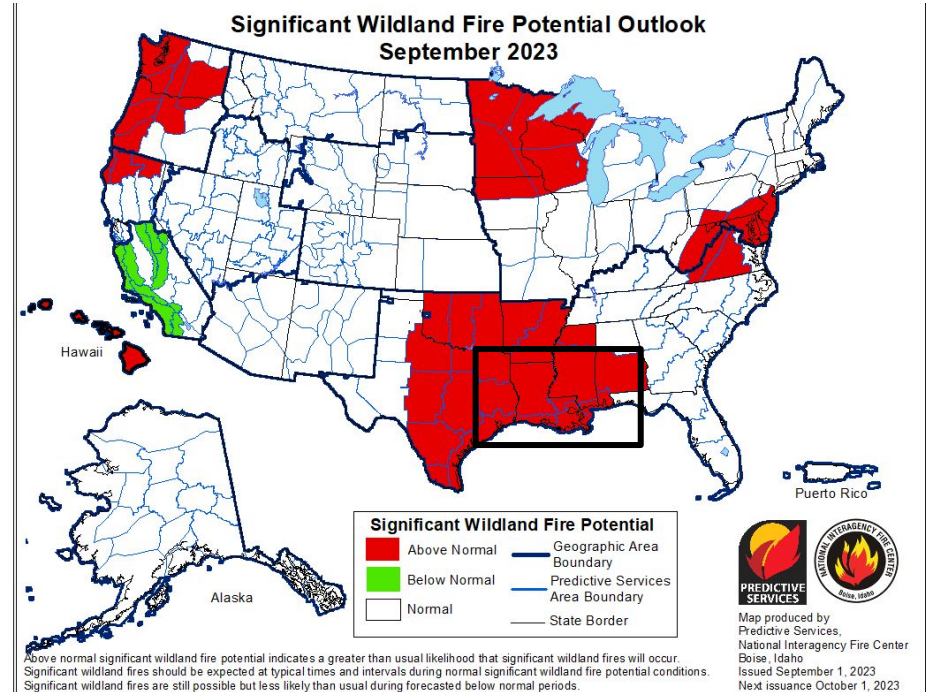


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for September 2023





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A more active weather pattern could bring better rain chances to Northern and Central LA. Amounts of 1 to 2 inches are possible.
- Southeast LA and Southern MS may not receive much at all. Generally less than an inch is expected.
- Any isolated higher amounts will not significantly benefit the region.
- Key Takeaway: It is unlikely that rainfall over the next 7 days will provide any improvement to the drought.

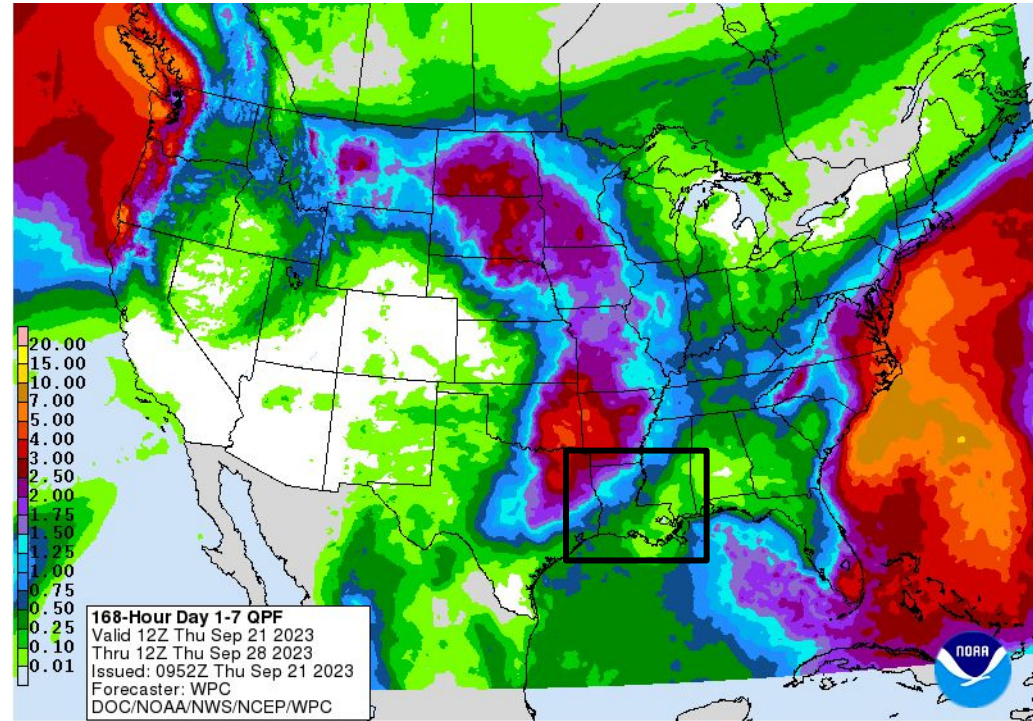


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday Sept 21 to Thursday Sept 28







# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The Climate Prediction Center has high confidence that above normal temperatures will continue through the end of September.
- Rainfall has been below average so far this month and that trend is likely to continue over the next 10 days.

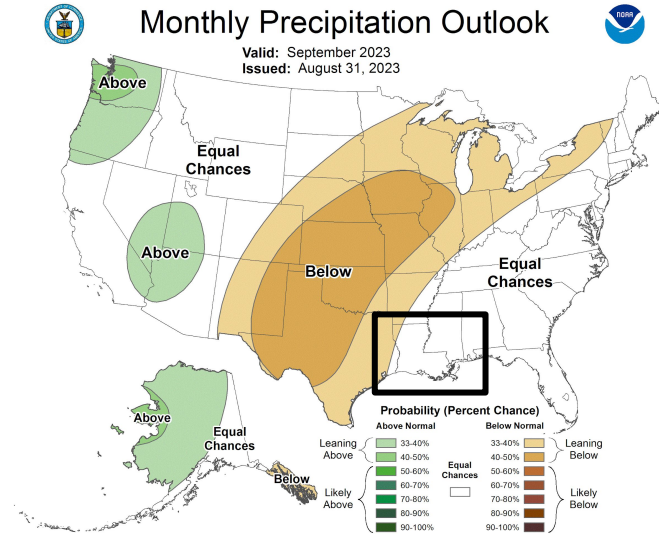
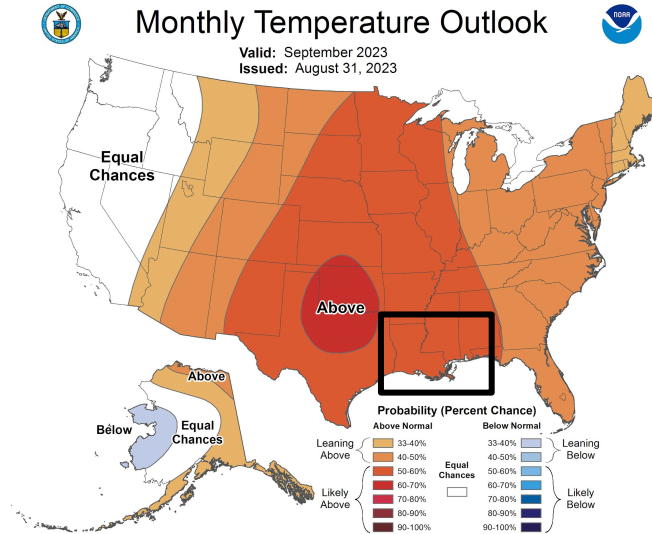


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid September 2023





# Drought Outlook

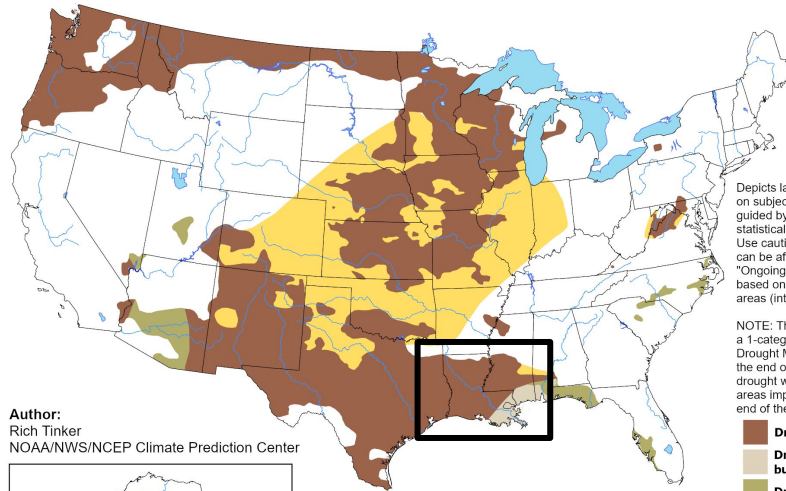
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought has persisted through September as expected
- Drought is likely to continue into October
- Categories may improve or worsen at times depending on temperatures and rainfall

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

### Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 2023  
Released August 31, 2023

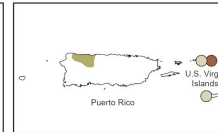
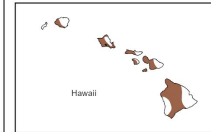


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

Author:  
Rich Tinker  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released  
Aug 31, 2023 valid for September 2023

Links to the latest:

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





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Extreme lack of rainfall is significant factor in worsening the drought
- More drinking water may be compromised from salt water intrusion along the Mississippi River
- 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 significant wildfire threat remains and burn bans will likely continue

## Other Information

- Please encourage use of the CMOR (link above)

## 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 or water provider for mitigation information





For Questions or comments please contact:

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