



# 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**

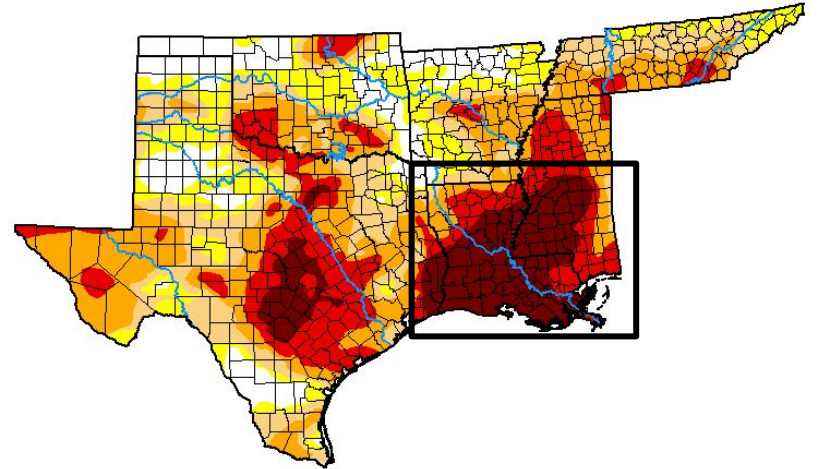


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid Oct 24, 2023 at 7 AM CDT





# 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)**

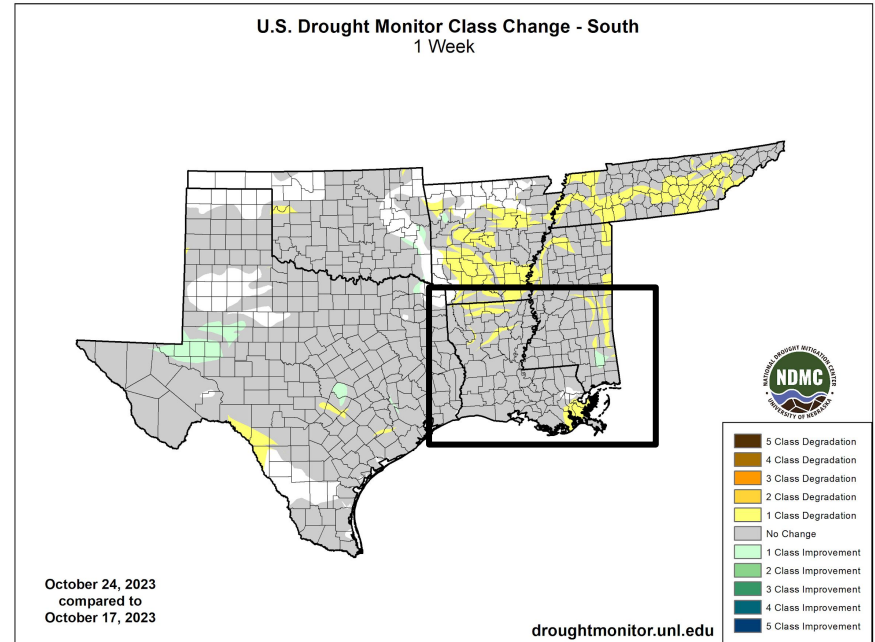


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map Oct 17 , 2023 at 7AM CDT

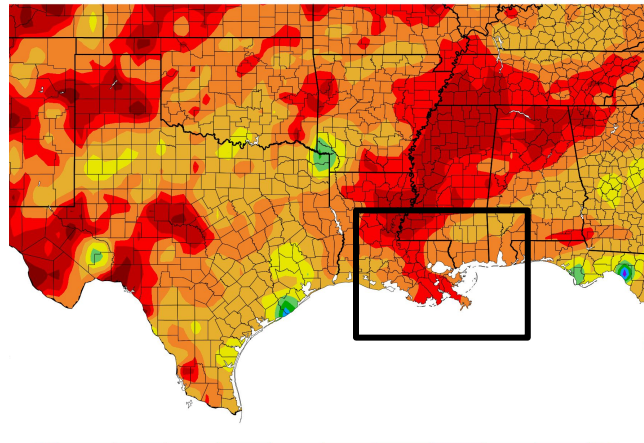




# Precipitation

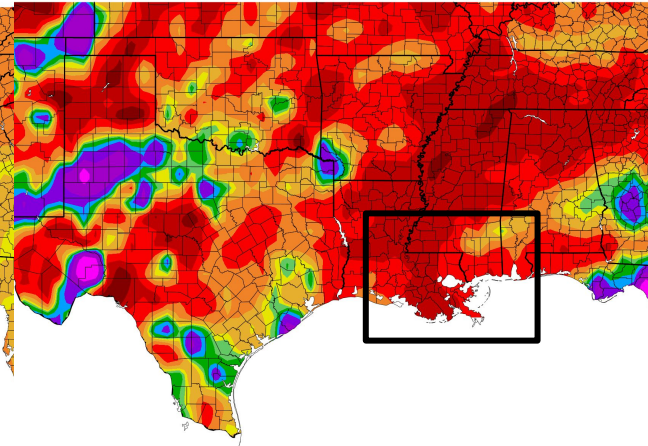
- There has only been and 2” of rainfall across the portion of the Northshore and Coastal MS over the last month.
- Even less rainfall as occurred over Southern MS and other western portions SE LA.
- Much of the region is between 5% to 25% of normal.

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



10/26/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate

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



0/26/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Clir

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

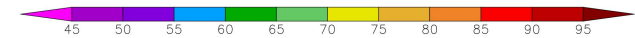
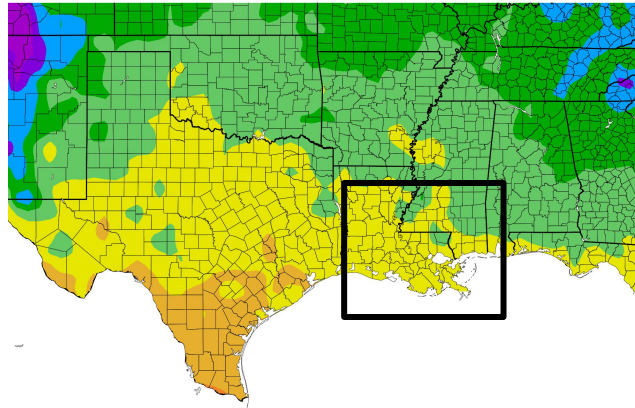




# Temperature

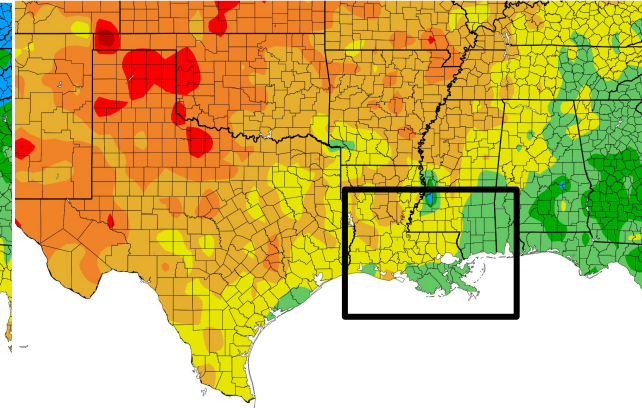
- Temperatures over the last 30 days were averaging near normal or with a few degrees.
- Another cool down is on the horizon towards late October and into November.
- Cooler temperatures allow for less moisture to evaporate from the soils.

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



d 10/26/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

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



NOAA Regional Climated 10/26/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Clim

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

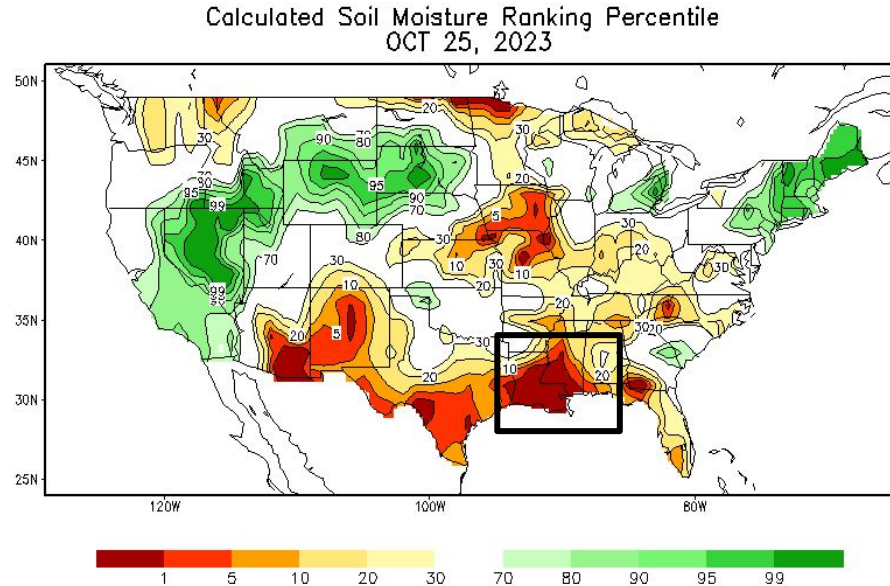


Image Captions: : CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#)  
valid Oct 11, 2023





# 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.

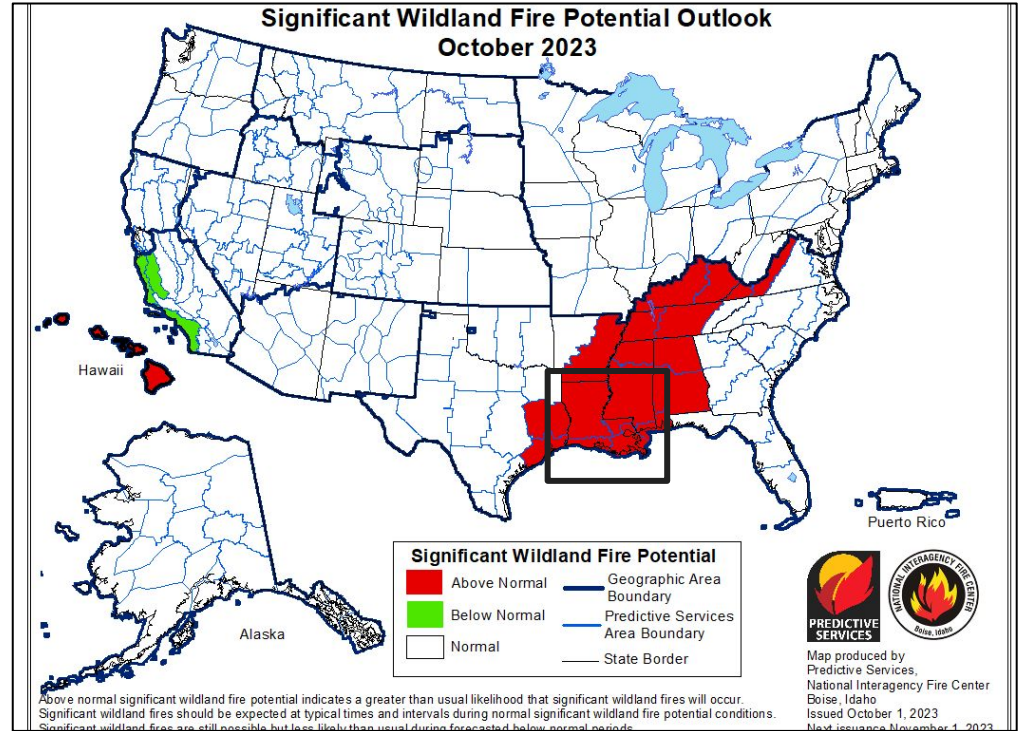


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2023





# 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.

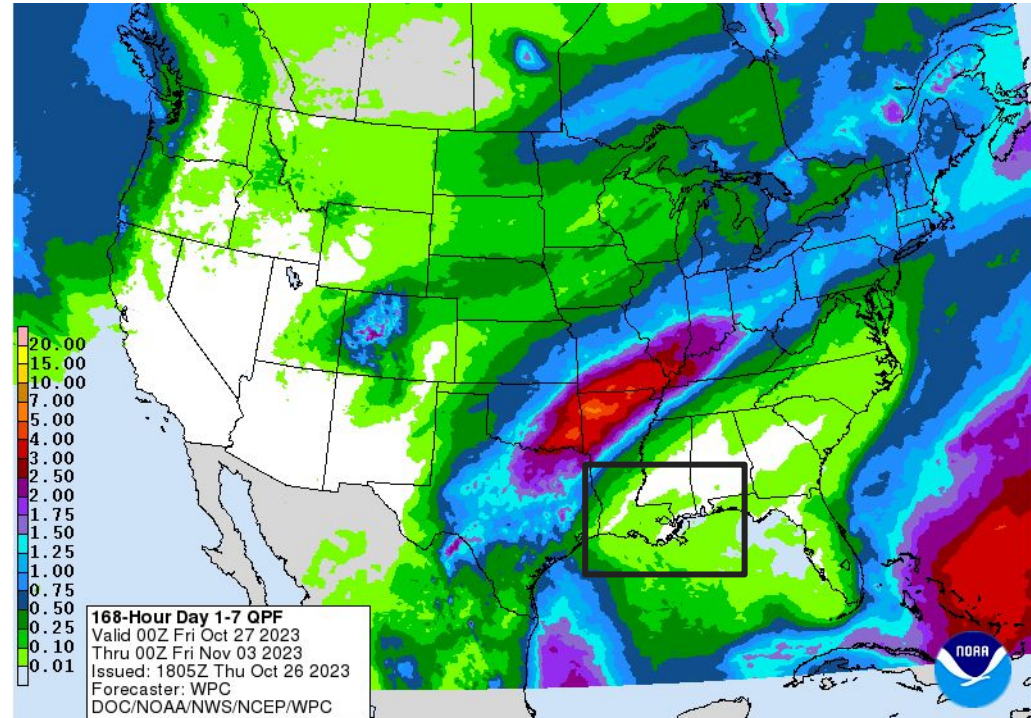


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Friday Oct 27 to Thursday Nov 3







# 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.

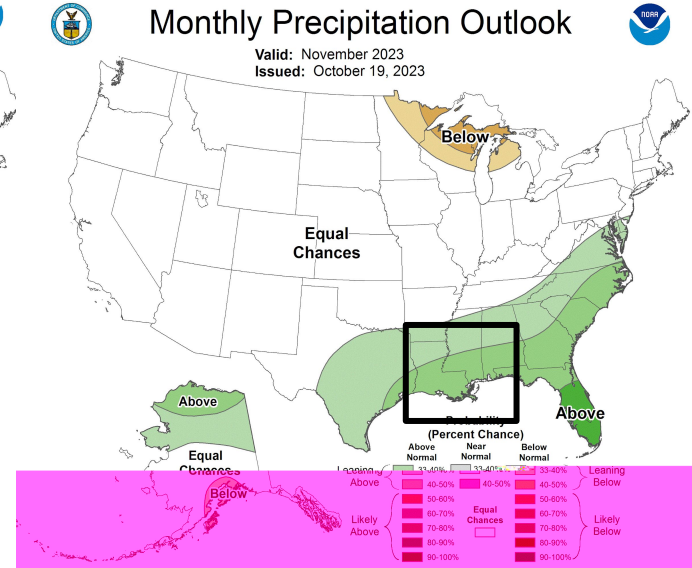
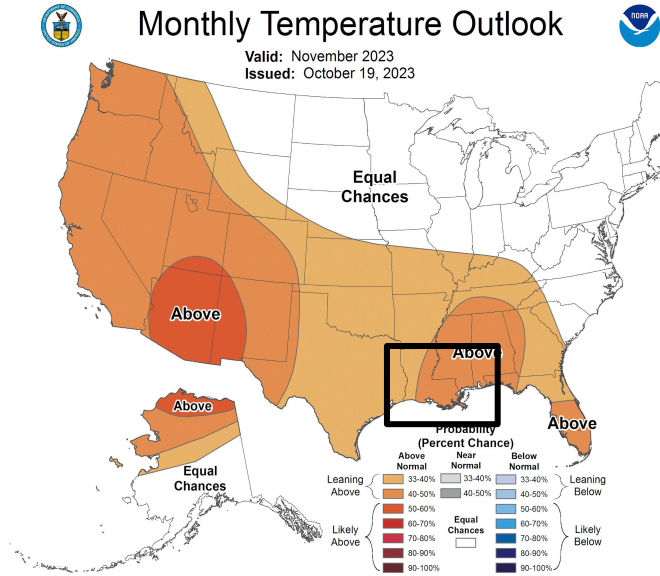


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid October 2023





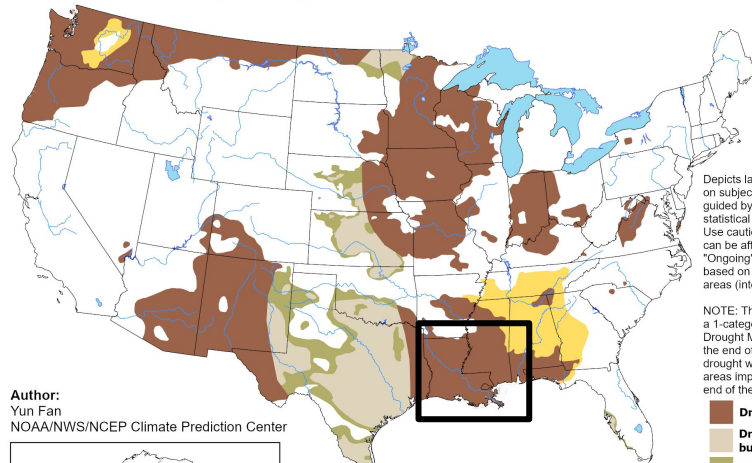
# Drought Outlook

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

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

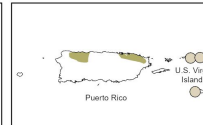
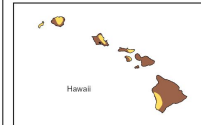
Valid for October 2023  
Released September 30, 2023



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).

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NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought



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

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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