



Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington & North Idaho

Valid December 14, 2023

Issued By: NWS Spokane, WA

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

- This product will be updated when 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

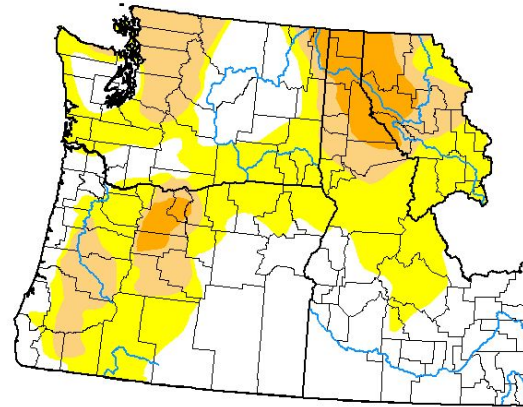
Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for eastern Washington and north Idaho

GRADUAL IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THE INLAND NW

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Northeast WA and the Idaho Panhandle, **decreased to 6%**
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Near the Cascade Crest, parts of northeast WA, and areas of the southern ID Panhandle, **decreased to 16%**
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Parts of east slopes of Cascades, LC Valley, Blue Mountains, and rest of extreme eastern WA, **near 33%**
 - NONE: **Increased to 45%** in central WA!

U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS

December 12, 2023
(Released Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	45.19	32.85	15.73	6.23	0.00	0.00
Last Week 12-05-2023	46.75	28.65	17.52	7.07	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-12-2023	33.69	15.22	26.80	20.06	4.24	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2023	14.80	36.36	24.82	14.74	8.80	0.50
Start of Water Year 09-26-2022	34.73	15.16	21.42	21.21	7.48	0.00
One Year Ago 12-13-2022	7.43	39.40	29.69	14.18	8.80	0.50

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am EDT December 12, 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.
 - No Change: Extreme northeast WA and parts of the Idaho Panhandle.
 - Drought Improved: East slopes of the Cascades, southeast WA, LC Valley, and parts extreme WA.
 - Drought degraded: A sliver of the central ID Panhandle.

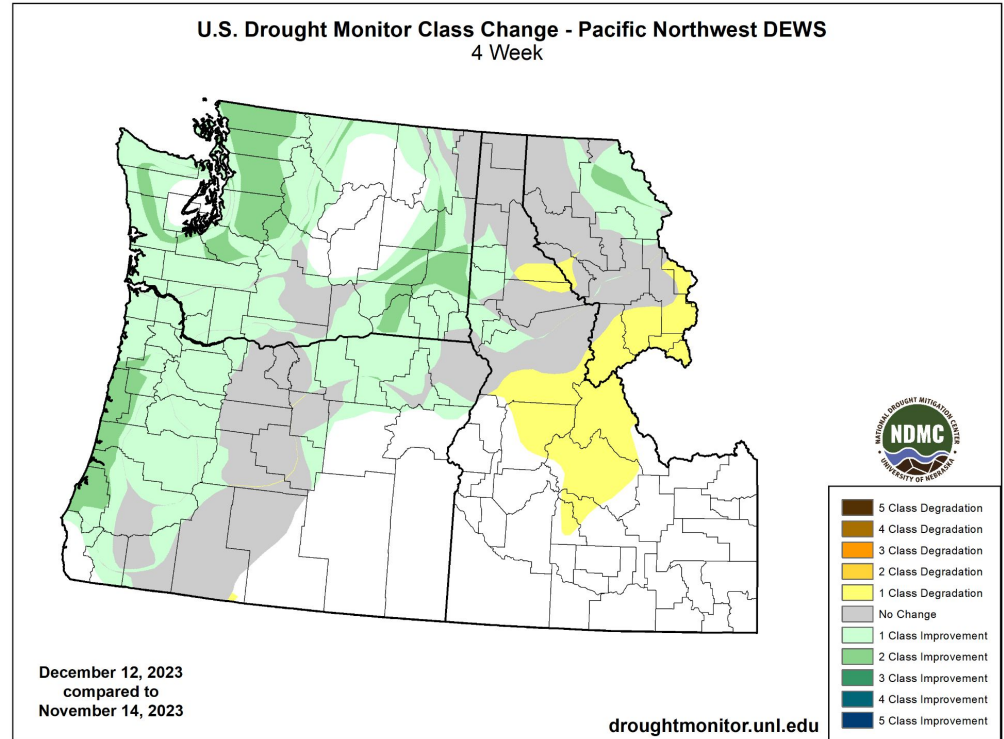


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 3-week change map valid 7am EDT December 12, 2023.





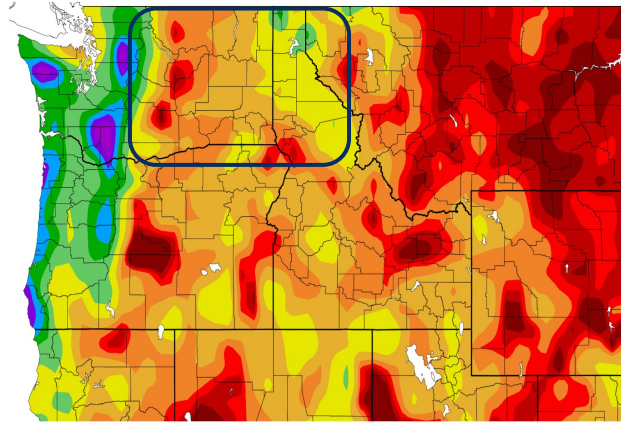
Precipitation

Last 30 Days

- Rounds of precipitation occurred since mid November, especially with the mild and wet period in early December. This brought above normal precipitation across much of eastern WA.

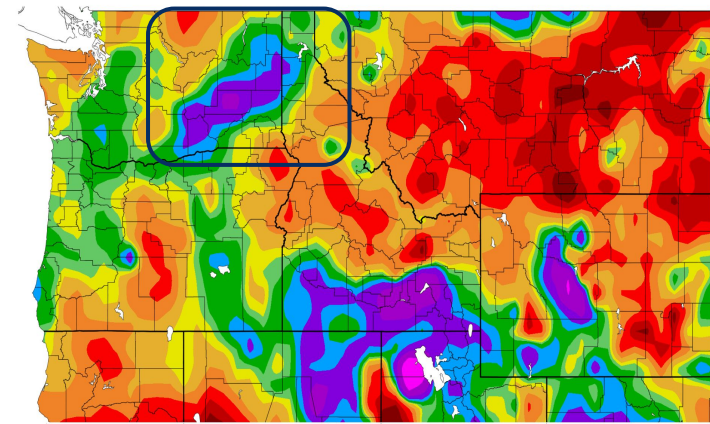
Still pockets of below normal precipitation persist in the Idaho Panhandle.

Precipitation (in)
11/14/2023 – 12/13/2023



Generated 12/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/14/2023 – 12/13/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers (Generated 12/14/2023 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 December 13, 2023



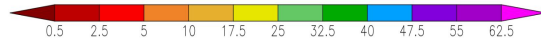
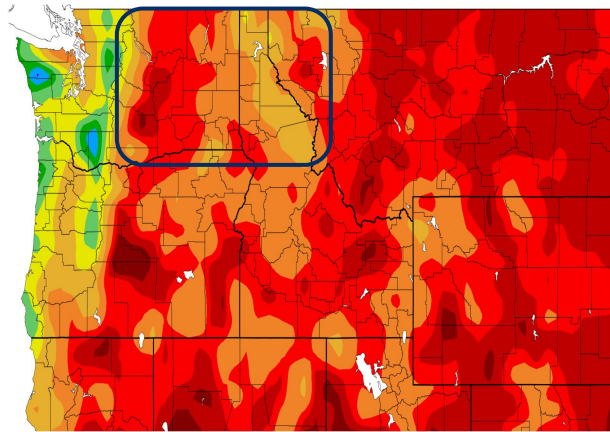


Precipitation

For the Water Year - since Oct 1, 2023

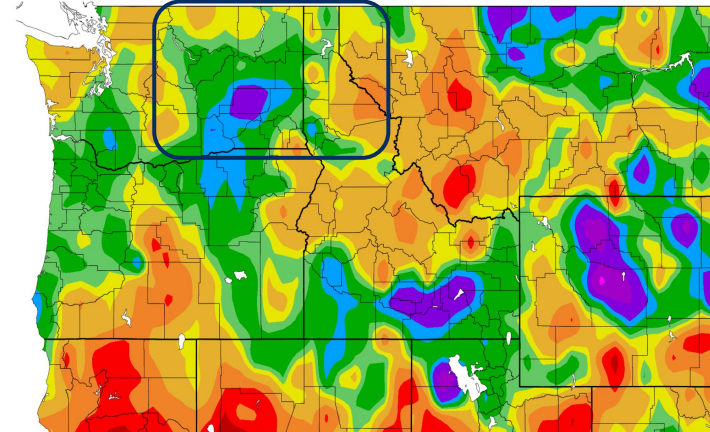
- The precipitation of the last month was the main driver for the current Water Year totals, with range from above normal precipitation in eastern Washington and below normal values in north Idaho.

Precipitation (in)
10/1/2023 - 12/13/2023



erated 12/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2023 - 12/13/2023



erated 12/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Clim.

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 December 13, 2023



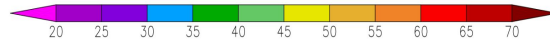
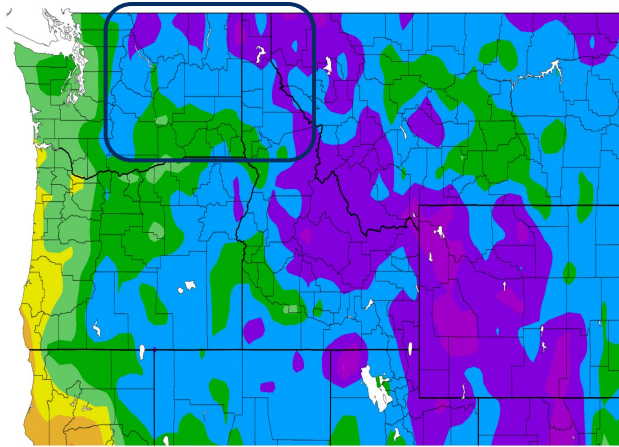


Temperature

Last 30 Days

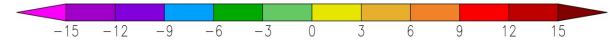
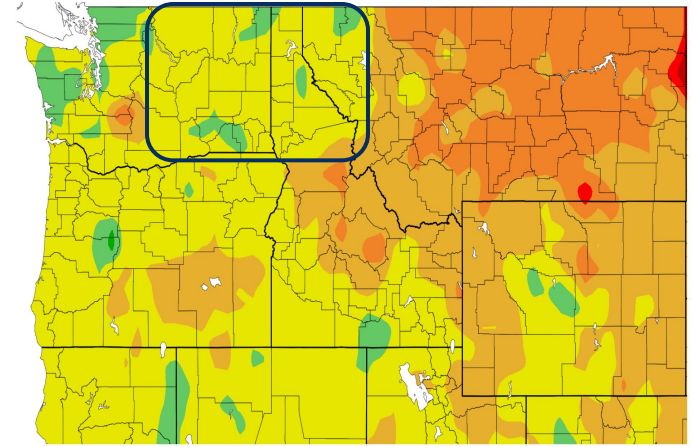
- The mild trend continued for the last 30 days with temperatures running slightly above normal regionwide.

Temperature (F)
11/14/2023 - 12/13/2023



Generated 12/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/14/2023 - 12/13/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers Generated 12/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

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 December 13, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows have returned to normal levels on many of the unregulated rivers and streams in the region.

Agricultural Impacts

- Recent precipitation increased soil moisture and crop moisture across the region to above normal levels. According the crop reports, all fall work was wrapped up in late November. Winter wheat conditions were good, ranged from 40% to 80% across the region.

Snowpack Impacts

- Local ski resorts aimed for Thanksgiving openings, yet mild and wet weather led to delays and partial openings region-wide.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows over the past 7 days have seen an increase, ranging from normal to above normal across most of the unregulated rivers and streams across the region. More variable steam flows are seen on the controlled rivers especially along the mid Columbia River.

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

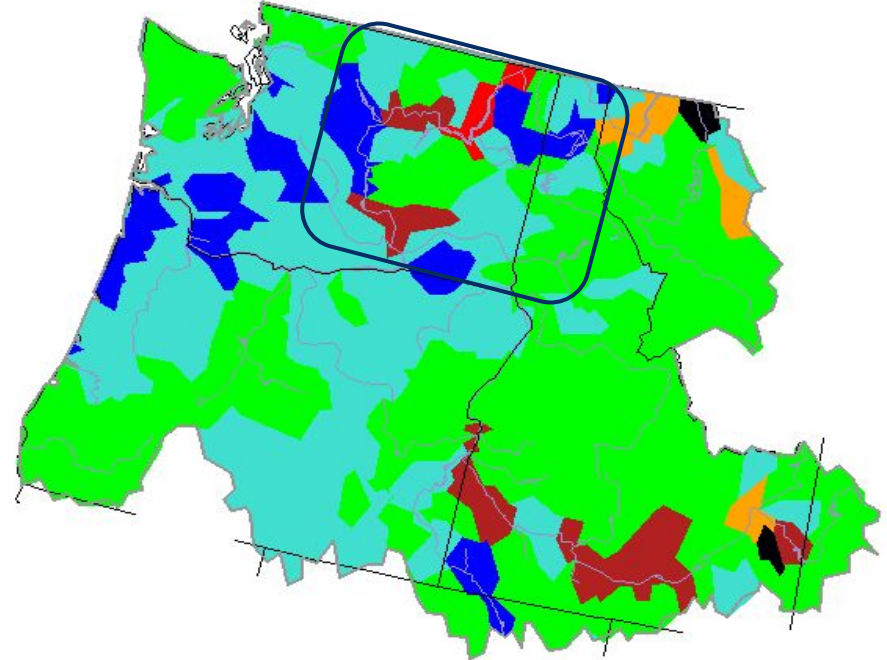


Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map](#) valid December 13, 2023

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			

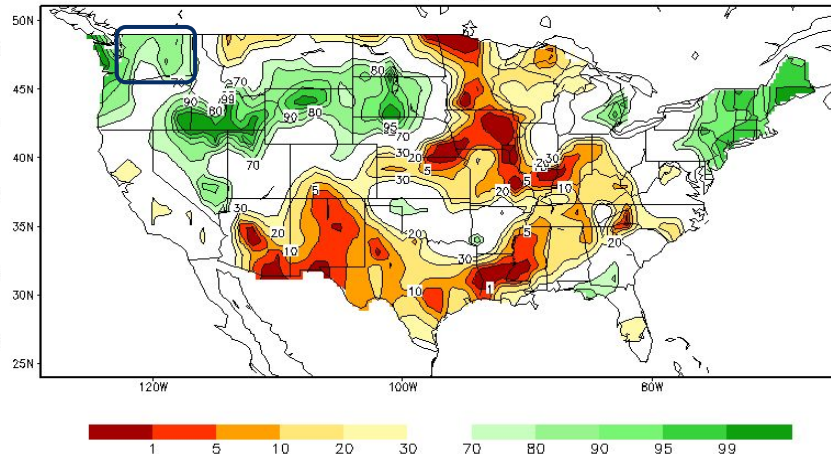




Agricultural Conditions and Impacts

- Soil moisture has greatly improved over the last month with above normal levels, especially across Washington state.
- Crop moisture has also improved across the region with above normal levels in the east slopes of the Cascades and northern Idaho Panhandle. According to crop reports, all fall agricultural work was complete.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
DEC 12, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending DEC 9, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

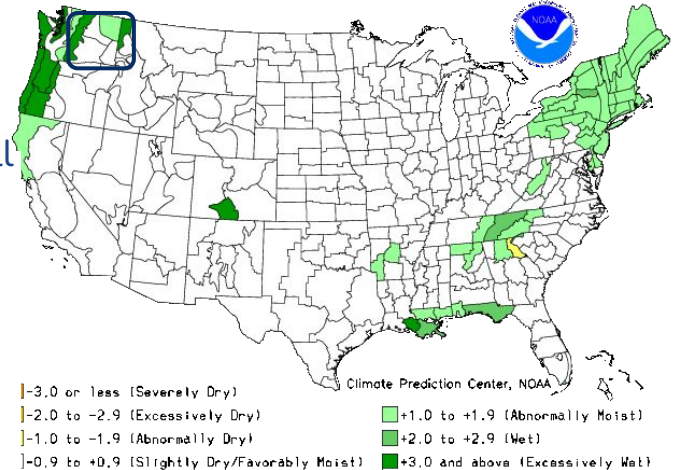


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid December 12, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending December 9, 2023





Mountain Snowpack Conditions and Impacts

- The early snowpack from the autumn decreased, especially due to the mild and wet weather of early December.
- Much of the snowpack lingers below normal across the Inland NW spanning from 65% to 85%.
- Local ski resorts are partially open with on average half of the skis run available.

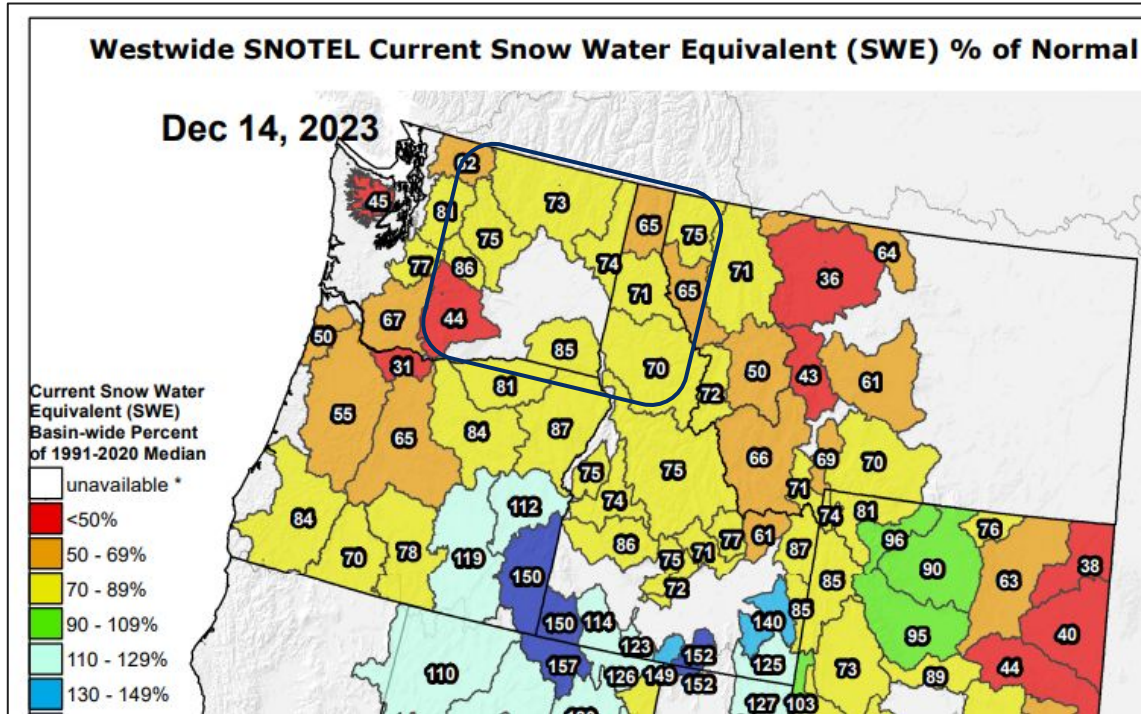


Image Captions:
[Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent](#) percentage .
Daily value ending December 14, 2023



Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Here is a forecast of precipitation for the Inland NW for the upcoming week.
- Light precipitation will track across the Inland NW the week before the Christmas weekend in the form of lowland rain and mountain snow.
- The 8-14 day outlook leans toward seasonal chances of precipitation through the end of the month with above normal temperatures.
- The threat for heavy precipitation across the Inland NW remains low.

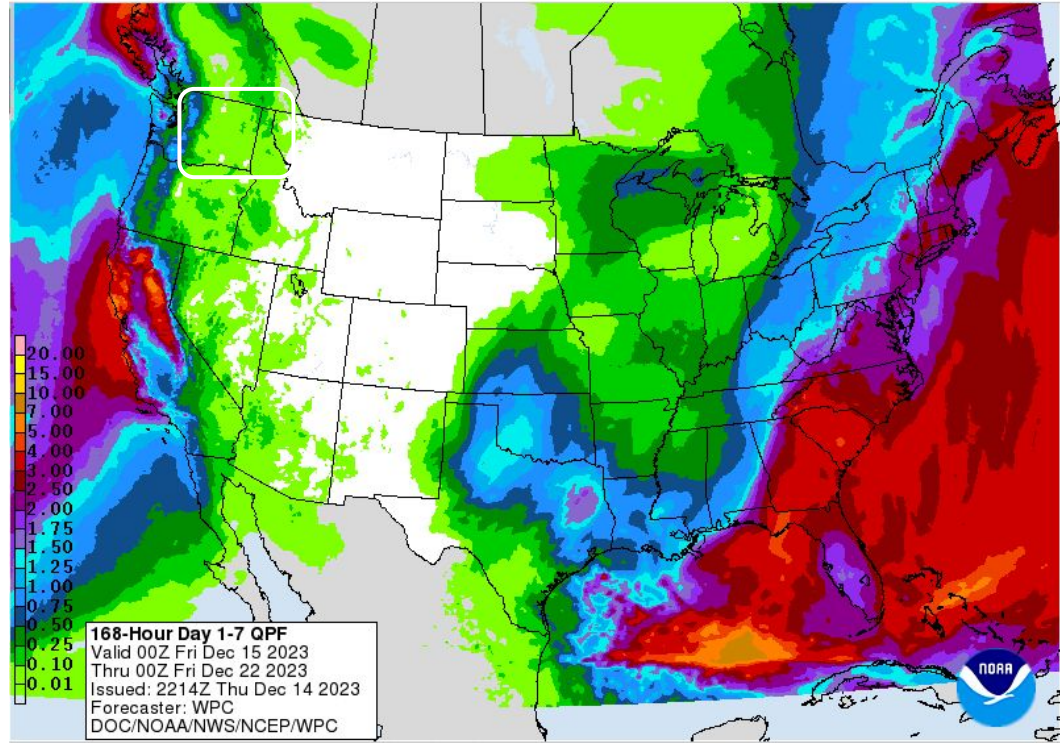


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid December 15 through December 22, 2023





Long-Range Outlooks

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

The DEC-JAN-FEB outlook leans toward a 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures.

Precipitation is leaning toward Equal Chances to a 33-50% of below normal region wide.

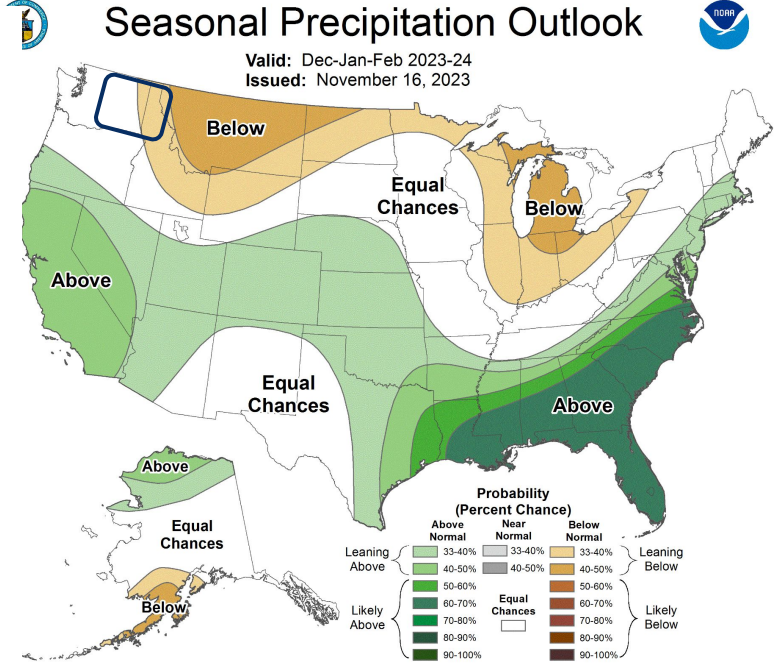
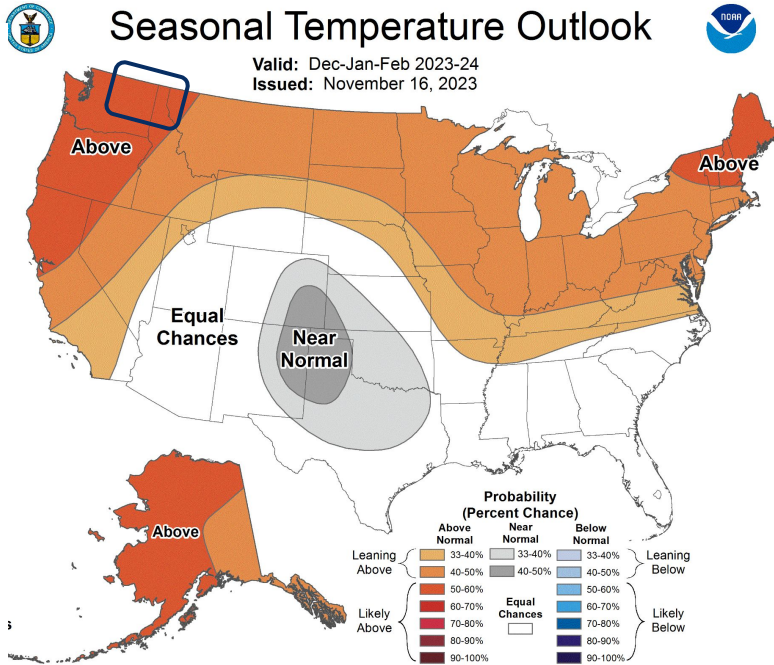
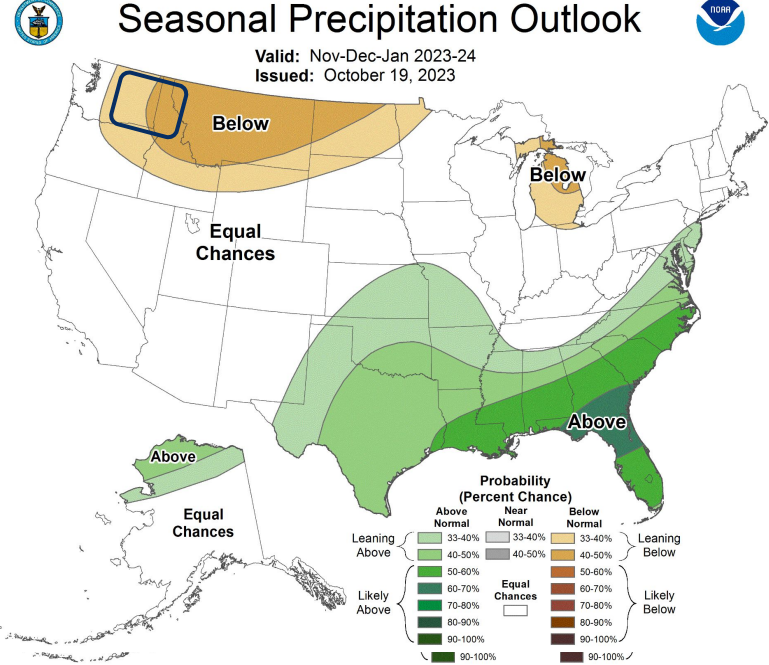
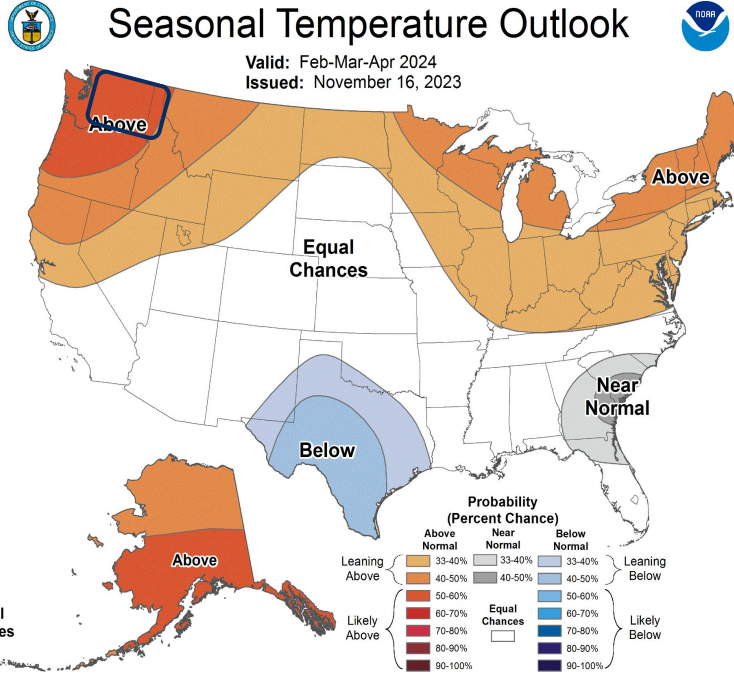


Image Captions:
Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).
Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).
Valid Dec-Jan-Feb 2023-24



Long-Range Outlooks

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



The FEB-MAR-APR outlook continues the mild trend with a 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures.

Precipitation is leaning toward a 33-50% of below normal or more region wide.

Image Captions:

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

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

Valid Feb-Mar-Apr 2023-24





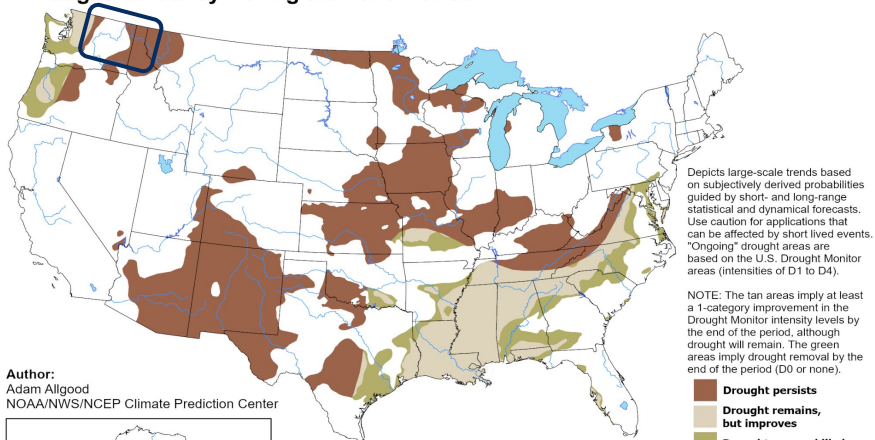
Drought Outlook

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

Areas of drought will persist for the month and the season especially across north Idaho and southeast WA.

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

Valid for December 2023
Released November 30, 2023

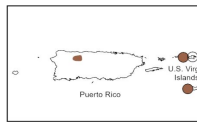
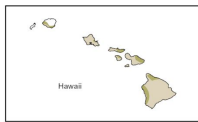


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

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

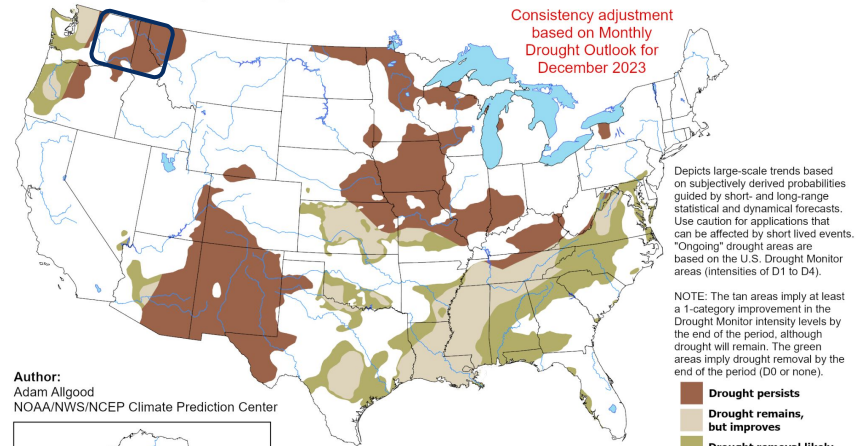
Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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

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

Valid for December 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024
Released November 30, 2023



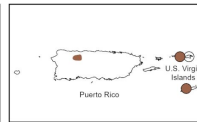
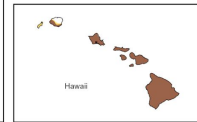
Consistency adjustment based on Monthly Drought Outlook for December 2023

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).

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

Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Image Caption:

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

Image Caption:

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#) Released November 30, 2023 and valid through February 2024

