



North Dakota Drought Briefing

August 31, 2023
5:00 PM

Small Area of Extreme Drought in Northern North Dakota

Key Messages

- Drought continues to expand and intensify across northern North Dakota.
- Above normal temperatures are favored across the state through the month of September, with no strong indication that it will be wetter or drier than normal.

NEW What Has Changed

- D3 (Extreme Drought) has been introduced across parts of Bottineau, McHenry, Rolette, Pierce, Benson, Towner, Ramsey and Cavalier counties.

Next Scheduled Update

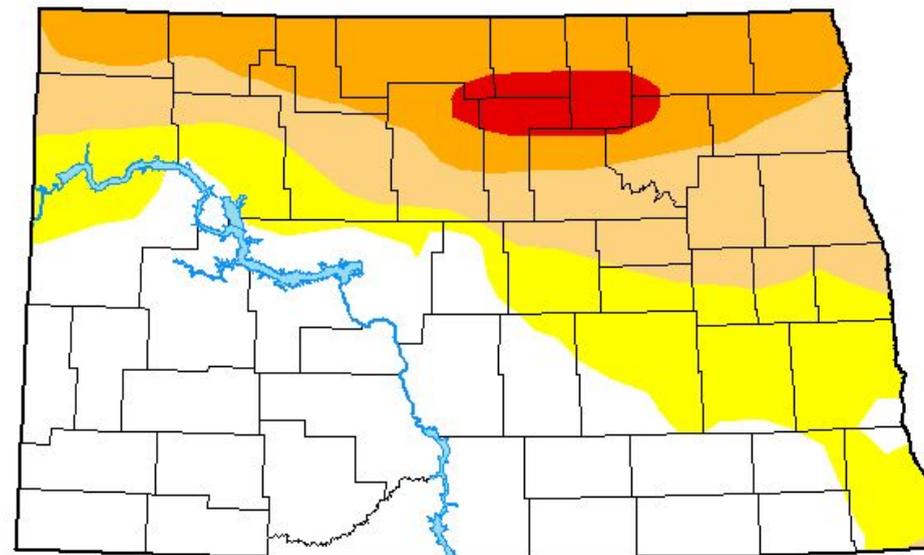
- Early October 2023.

U.S. Drought Monitor North Dakota

August 29, 2023
(Released Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	46.68	53.32	34.59	17.67	2.56	0.00
Last Week 08-22-2023	46.68	53.32	31.04	15.35	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-30-2023	78.76	21.24	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	0.00	100.00	79.69	17.35	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	1.13	98.87	71.59	12.21	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-30-2022	71.88	28.12	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00



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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu



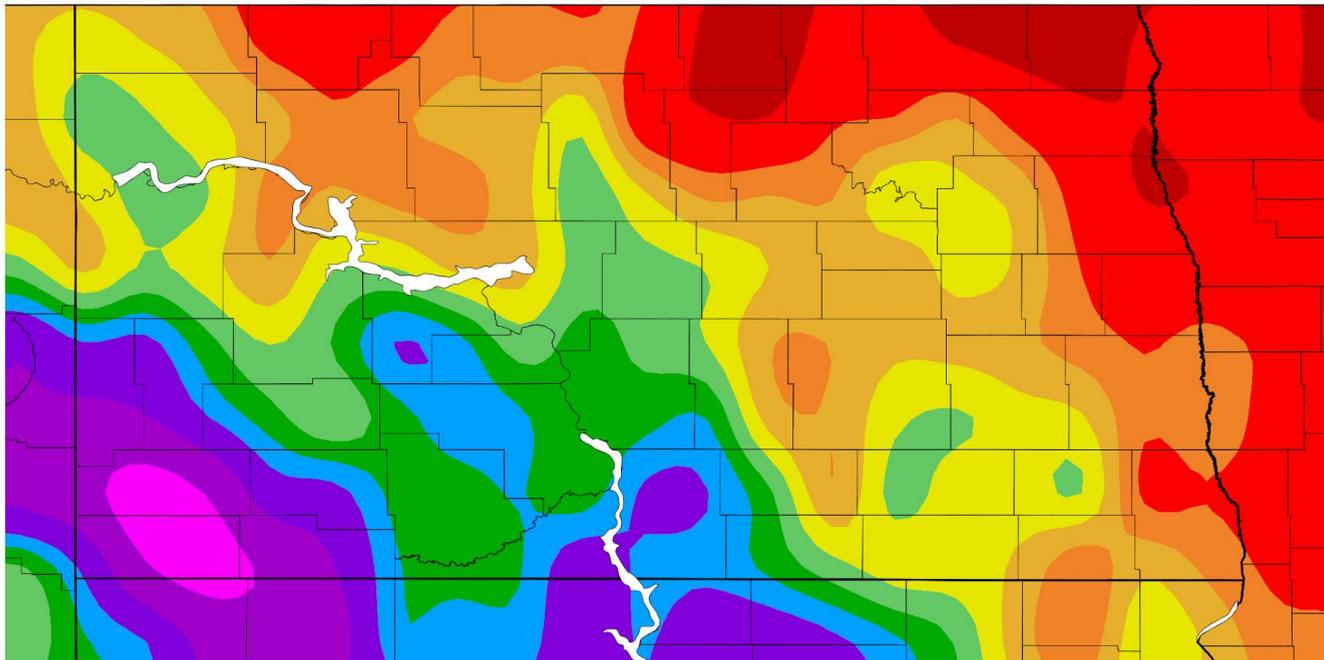
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Past Conditions

Over the past 120 days, almost all of North Dakota has had above average temperatures. In comparison, there are significant differences across the state in regards to precipitation amounts, with parts of north central and northeast North Dakota receiving as little as 25% of normal precipitation.

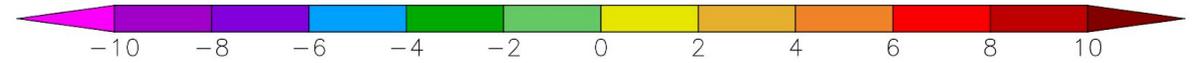
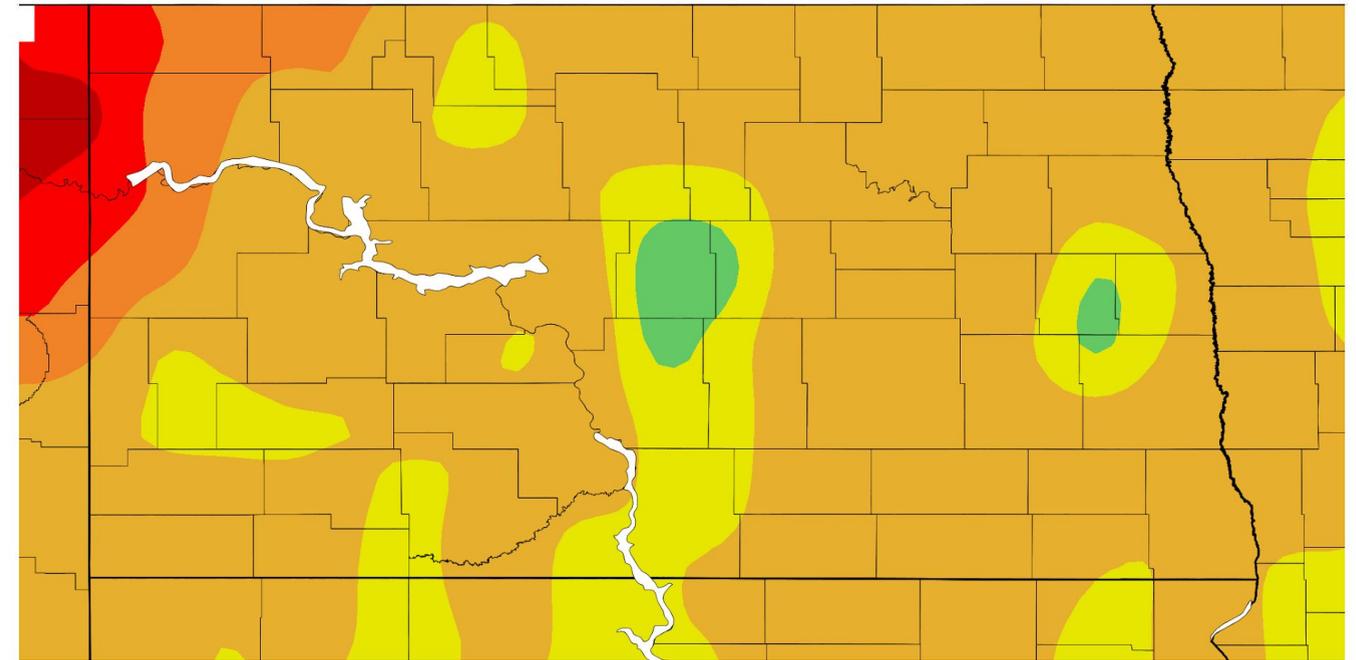
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
5/3/2023 - 8/30/2023



Generated 8/31/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/3/2023 - 8/30/2023



Generated 8/31/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

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Potential Impacts

Climate

- Above normal temperatures are favored in September, but this will transition into the equal chances category for above, below, or near normal temperatures over the 3-month period of September, October, and November. The majority of the meteorological fall season has no strong signal for precipitation, so there are overall equal chances for above, below, or near normal precipitation.
- Ongoing El Niño conditions favor the winter season to be warmer and drier than normal.

Hydrology

- Few to no significant impacts are observed on major rivers and streams, but ephemeral wetlands and streams, along with dugouts and livestock dams are beginning to dry up.
- Larger reservoirs (Lake Sakakawea, Jamestown Dam, Lake Tschida) have generally near normal water levels.

Fire Weather

- While spared large wildfires thus far, fire starts have been taking place as early small grain crops and native vegetation begin to dry out. A seasonably-normal increase in wildfire risk is expected this fall as grasses cure. The risk could increase if the coming weeks end up being drier than normal and if any strong wind events occur once vegetation has cured.





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Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Monthly Outlook For September 2023

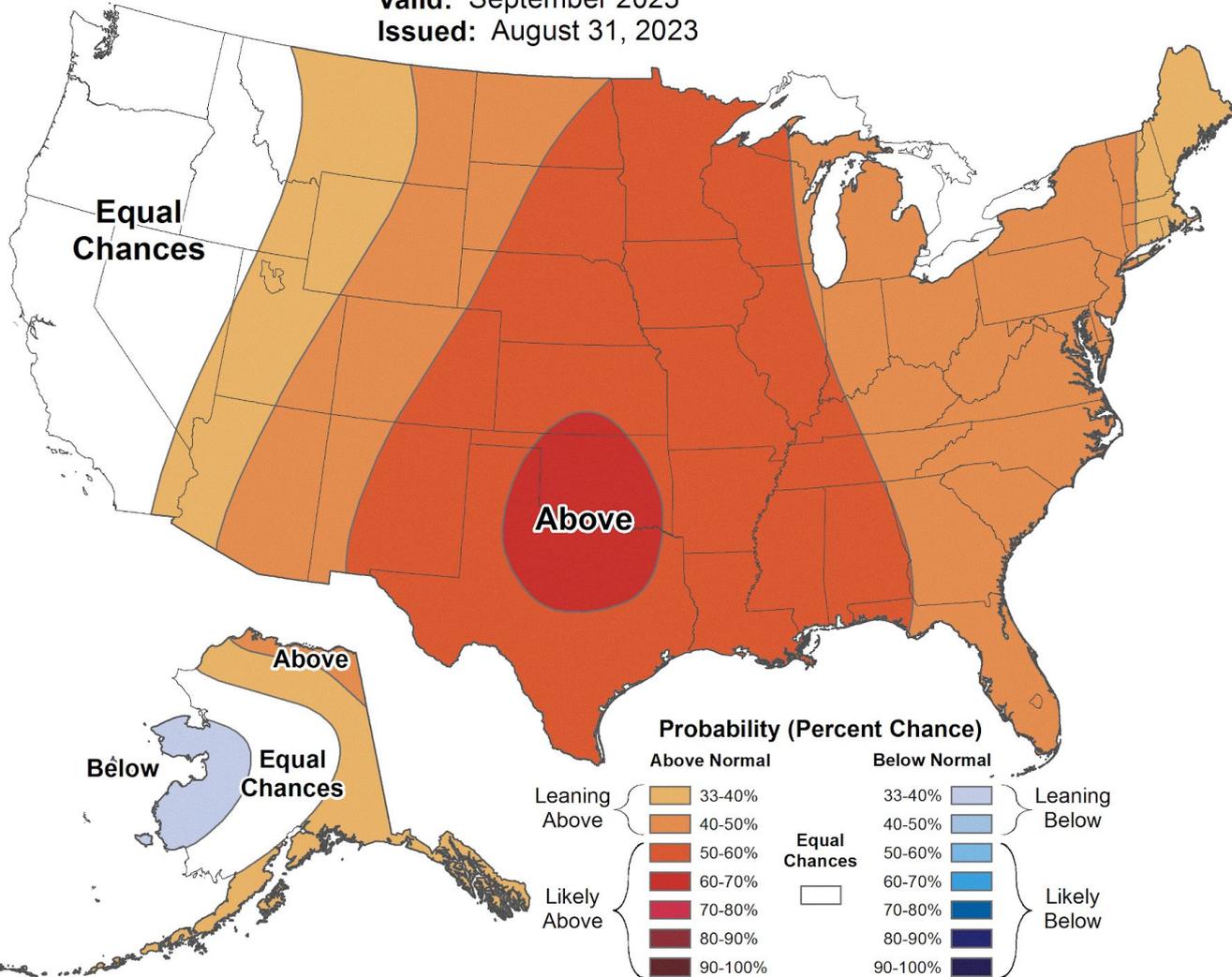
Image Source: Climate Prediction Center



Monthly Temperature Outlook



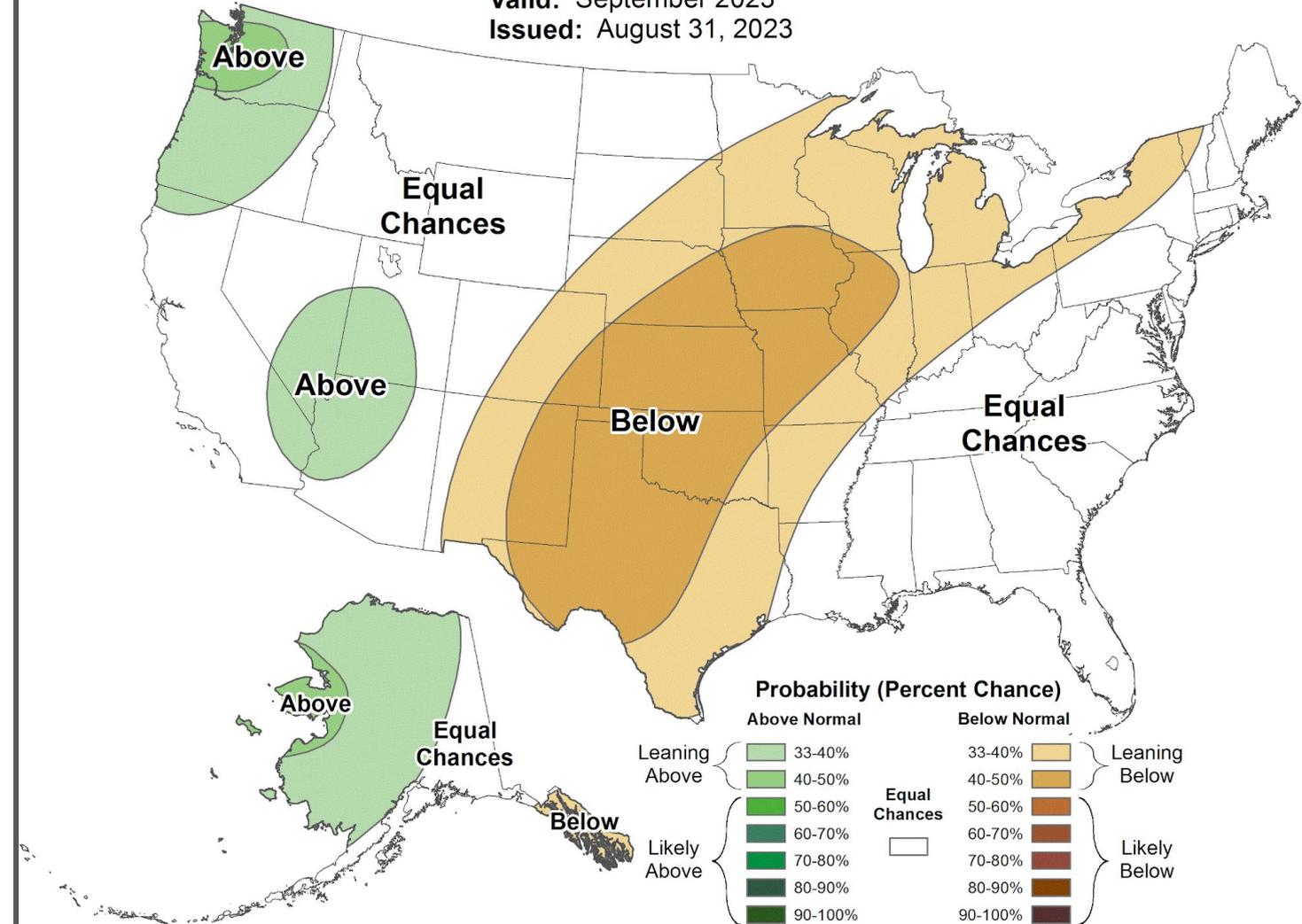
Valid: September 2023
Issued: August 31, 2023



Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: September 2023
Issued: August 31, 2023



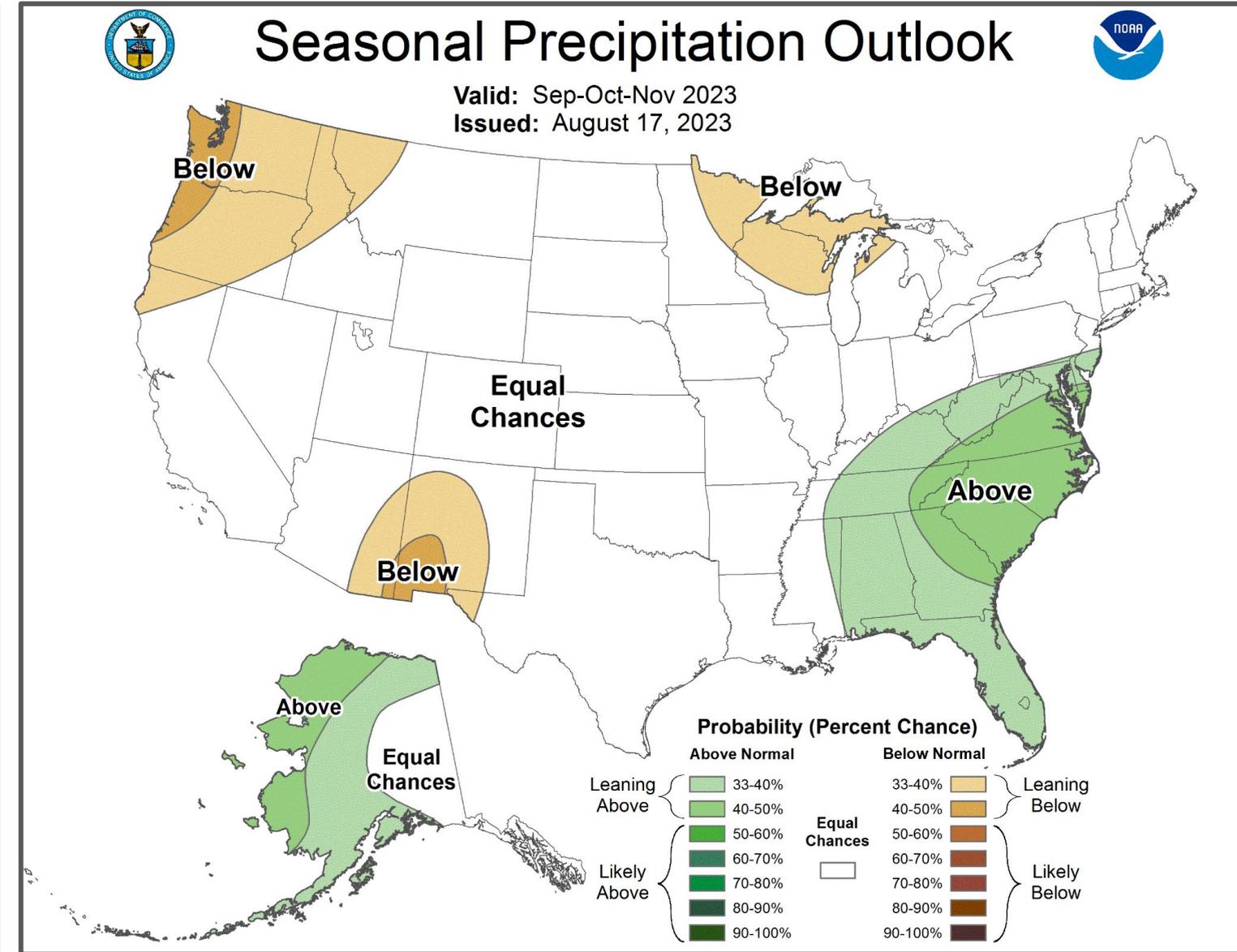
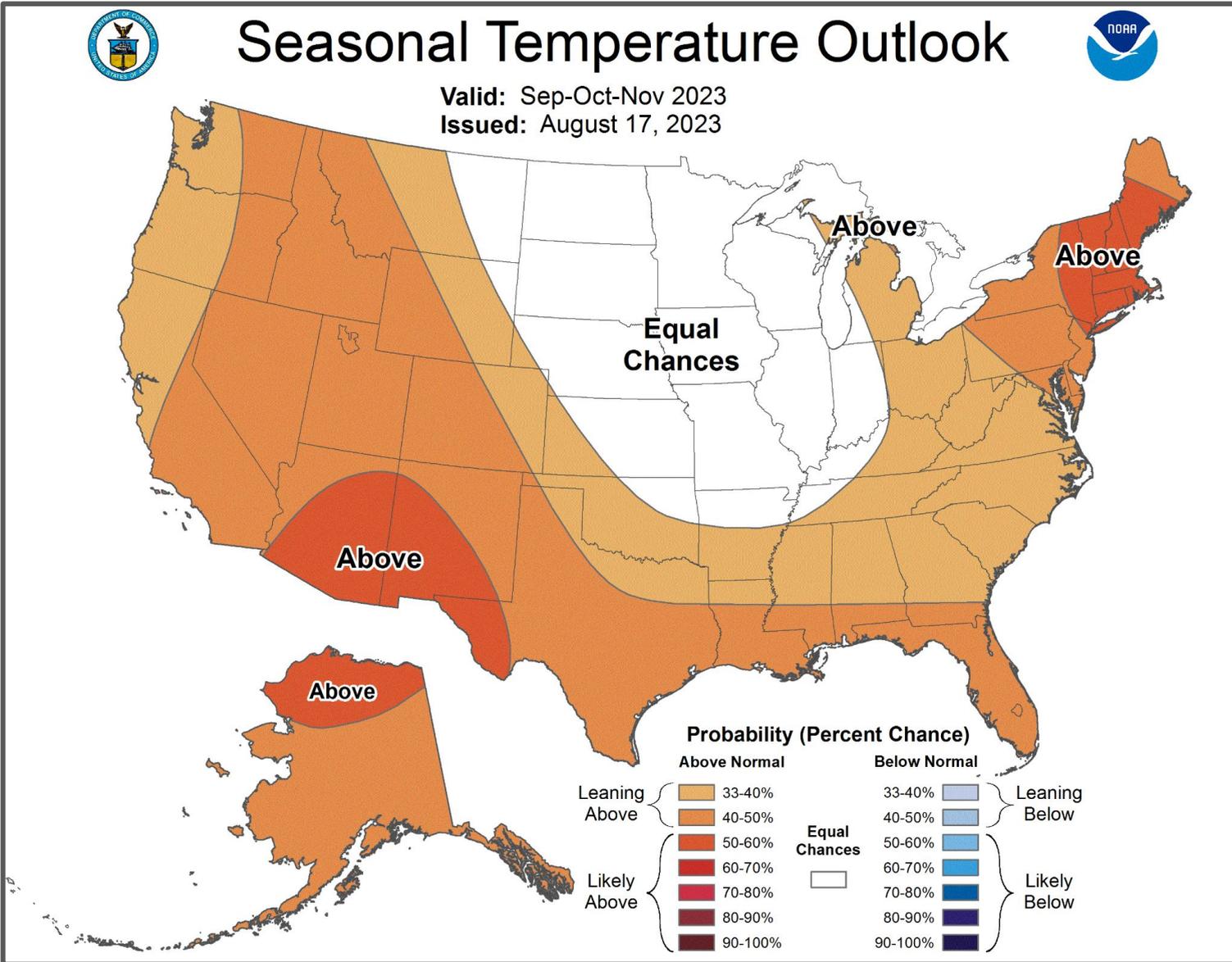


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CPC Seasonal Outlook for September, October, November 2023

Image Source: Climate Prediction Center





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Resources and Partner Links

National Drought Mitigation Center - <https://drought.unl.edu/>
National Integrated Drought Information System - <https://www.drought.gov/drought/>
USDA Climate Hubs - <https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northern-plains>
US Forest Service, Wildland Fire Assessment System - <https://www.wfas.net/>
US Geological Survey - <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>
High Plains Regional Climate Center - <https://hprcc.unl.edu/>
Midwestern Regional Climate Center - <https://mrcc.purdue.edu/>
ND Response Burn Bans and Fire Danger Maps - <https://www.ndresponse.gov/burn-ban-restrictions-fire-danger-maps/>
Report Drought Conditions - <https://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/>
View Drought Reports - <https://droughtreporter.unl.edu/map/>

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