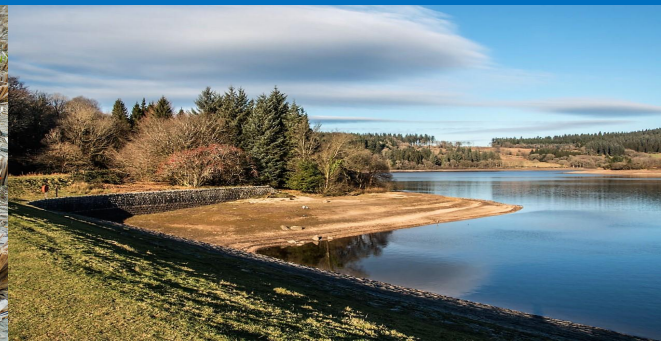
Drought Information Statement for southeast MS, southwest AL, and the western FL Panhandle

Valid 1/4/2024

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

Contact Information: sr-mob.webmaster@noaa.gov

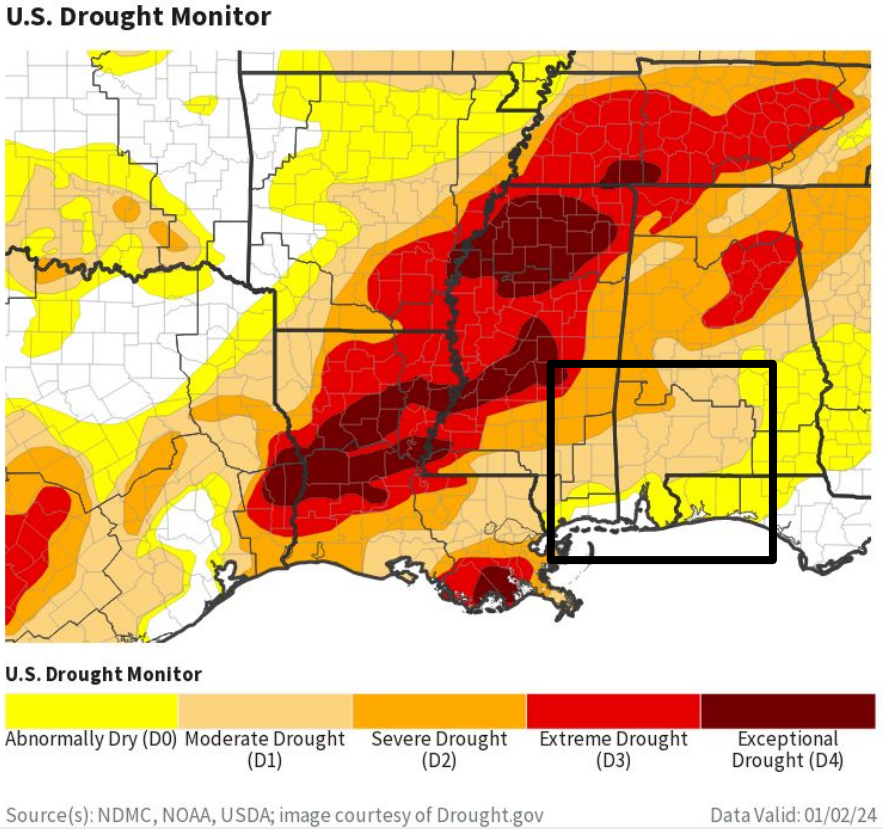
- This product will be updated 01/11/2024 (or sooner) if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at *drought.gov/drought-information-statements*.
- Please visit *weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement* for previous statements.



U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

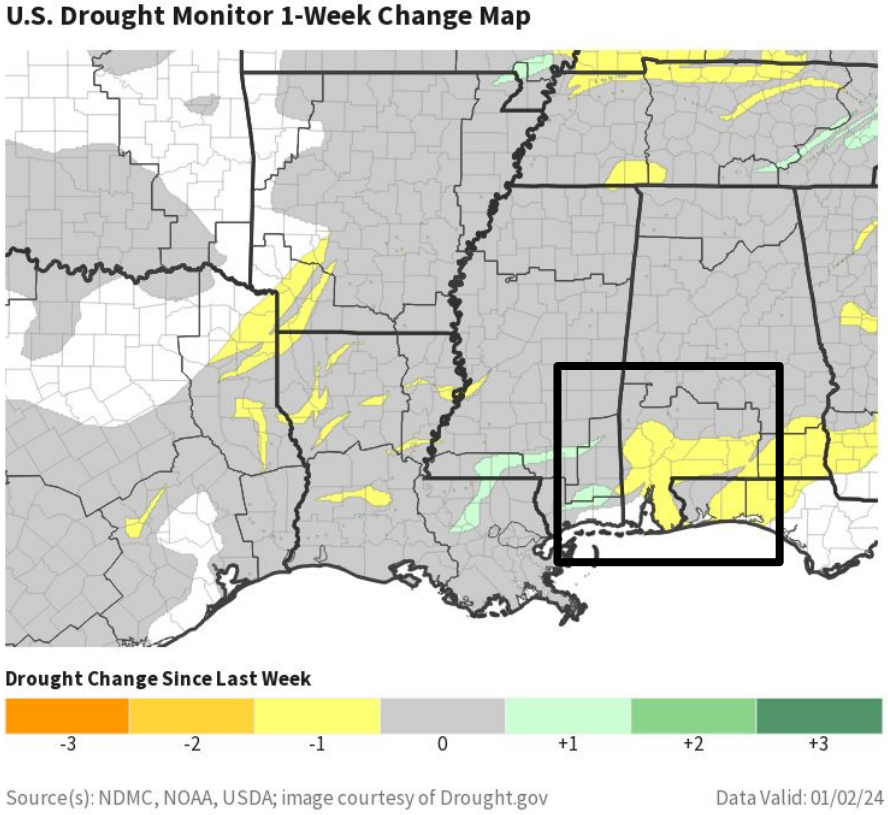
- Severe Drought Remains in Place For Portions of Extreme Northwest Zones.
- Moderate Drought For Much of the Remainder of the Area North of I-10.
- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Remains in place along and north of a line from Runnelstown MS, to Pine Hill AL.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Much of Area North of I-10.
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Much of the Coastal Counties.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **Drought Worsened:** The interior of southwest Alabama, mainly south of U.S. Highway 84 to portions of coastal southwest Alabama and portions of the western Florida panhandle experienced a one-class degradation in drought intensity compared to the last week.
  - **No Change:** Much of the remainder of the local area.



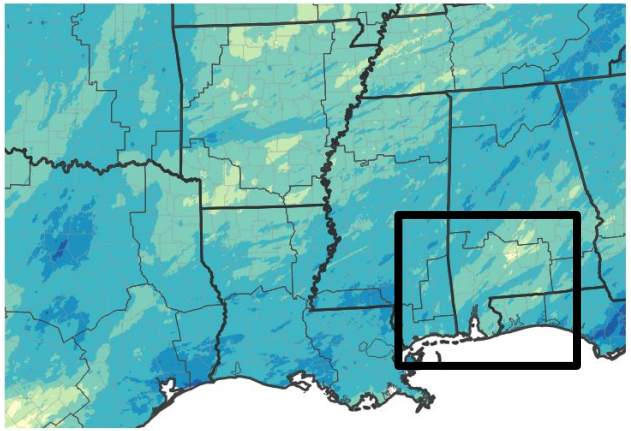
Precipitation

Table of 2023 Annual Accumulated Rainfall (Inches) from Select Locations

Station	Rainfall	Normal	% of Normal
Downtown Mobile AL	58.43	60.52	96.5%
Leakesville MS 6WSW	59.78	63.74	93.8%
Waynesboro MS 2W	54.02	60.05	90.0%
Pensacola FL	59.19	68.31	86.6%
Mobile AL	56.75	67.08	84.6%
Pensacola FL 7NNE	54.28	67.84	80.0%
Crestview FL	50.82	63.60	79.9%
Niceville FL	57.91	73.36	78.9%
Bay Minette AL	48.49	71.82	67.5%
Middleton Field Evergreen AL *	35.30	55.28	63.9%

Sites include NWS Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) and COOP.
* Indicates Record Lowest To Date.

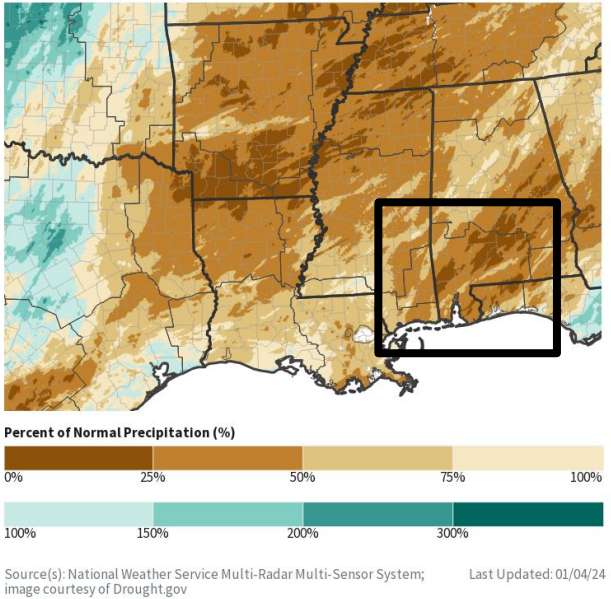
30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



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

Last Updated: 01/04/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 01/04/24

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Flow and stage on many streams and local rivers are running below to much below normal. Low stages bring a multitude of hazards. Typically, deeply submerged objects will likely be closer to the water's surface or in some cases exposed, presenting a waterway hazard for safe recreational boating and commercial navigation.

Agricultural Impacts

- In areas where drought lingers, winter crop is still suffering and supplemental feeding initiatives are required to maintain livestock condition.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The outlook for January 2024 indicates the risk of significant wildfire drops off to below normal levels over the coastal counties. The risk remains at normal levels over the interior.

Societal Impacts

- Increase in air-borne allergens likely to create problems for respiratory sensitive groups.

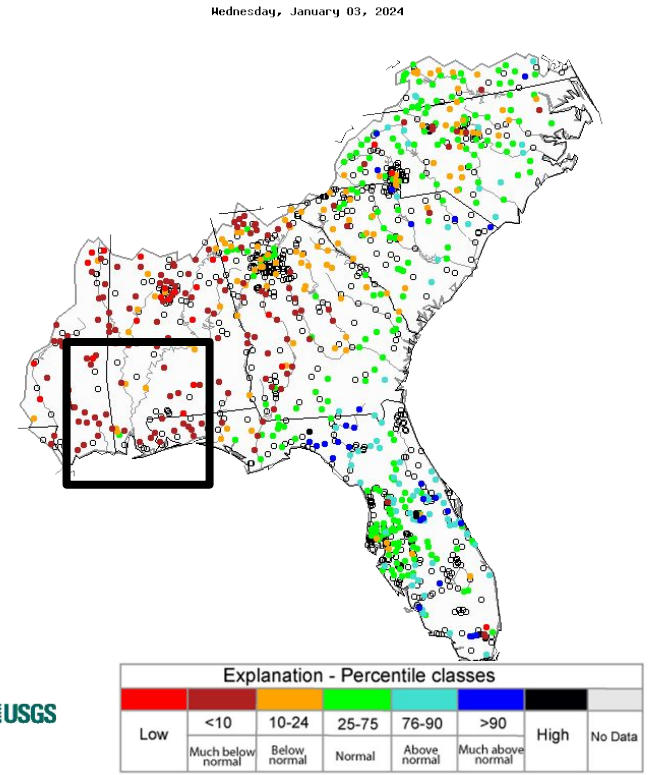
Mitigation Actions

- Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged in drought areas. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Local water restriction ordinances may be in place.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

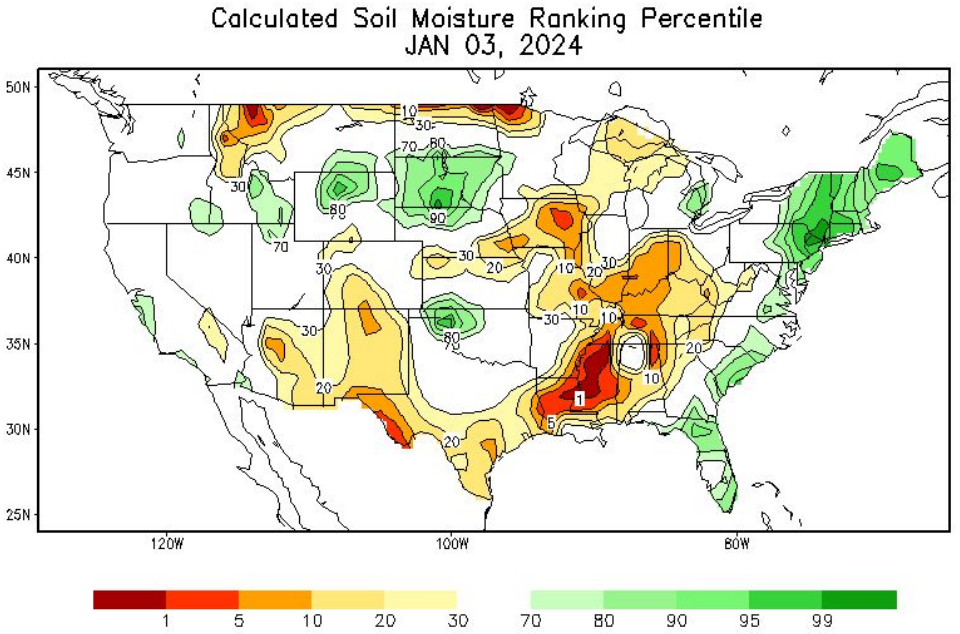
- The following select river and stream points are running below to much below normal in flow and stage as of 930 AM CST 1/4/24. To view the most current stages and flow, please visit https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

River/Stream Point	Discharge(cfs)	Stage(ft)	%Class, Rating
Chickasawhay River at Leakesville MS	857	8.73	4, Much Below Normal
Leaf River near New Augusta MS	1050	2.29	2, Low
Pascagoula River at Merrill MS	2360	3.49	3, Much Below Normal
Chickasaw Creek near Kushla AL	102	3.64	4, Much Below Normal
Styx River near Elsanor AL	168	2.13	4, Much Below Normal
Pine Barren Creek near Snow Hill AL	49	2.73	3, Much Below Normal
Tombigbee River near Coffeeville AL	6240	33.16	3, Much Below Normal
Escambia River near Century FL	1400	3.84	2, Low
Eleven Mile Creek near West Pensacola FL	33	5.08	7, Much Below Normal
Big Coldwater Creek Near Milton FL	296	2.55	5, Much Below Normal
Yellow River at Milligan FL	372	1.29	3, Much Below Normal
Blackwater River near Baker FL	87	1.19	2, Low



Agricultural Impacts

- Winter crop grade is poor to very poor where drought intensity remains elevated. Livestock stress can still be high. **It is recommended that farmers reach out to local USDA office for details on available funding assistance.**

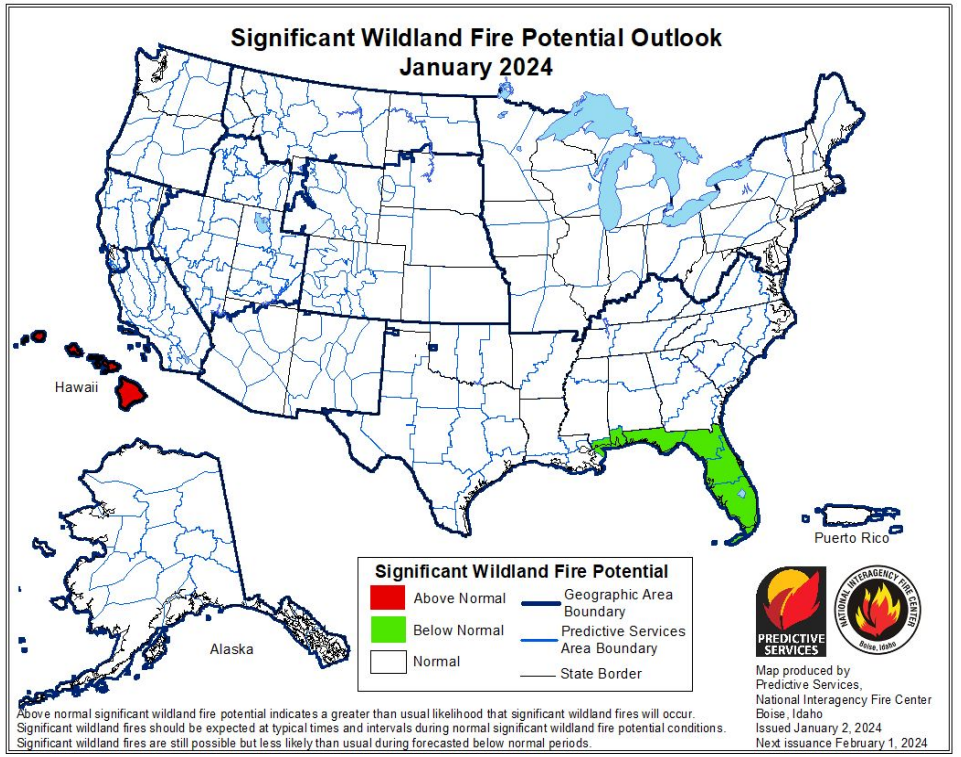


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

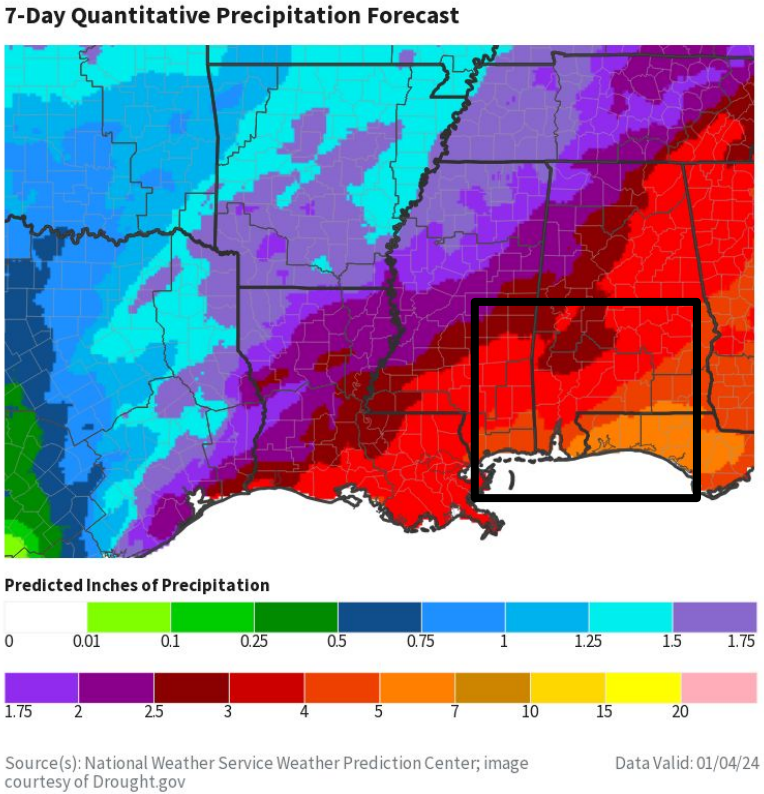
- Significant wildland fire potential is anticipated to lower through January 2024 with the outlook for coastal Alabama, eastward into the state of Florida reflecting below normal levels.
- It's important to note that in the event of strong cold frontal passages, periods of critically low daytime humidity in combination with gusty northerly winds will bring periods of increased wildfire potential.
- To view the seven day significant fire potential maps, please refer to the link above.

Latest Burn Bans and/or Advisories By State:
Mississippi and Alabama and Florida



Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A series of weather systems moving eastward across the deep south through Jan 11th look to bring some significant and beneficial rainfall amounts to the coastal plain.
- Much of the area generally northwest of the I-65 corridor could see storm totals 3 to 5 inches.
- Perhaps 4 to 7 inches southeast of the interstate.

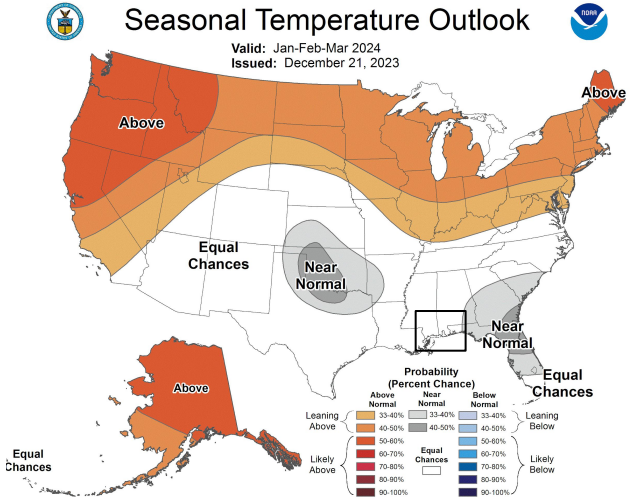


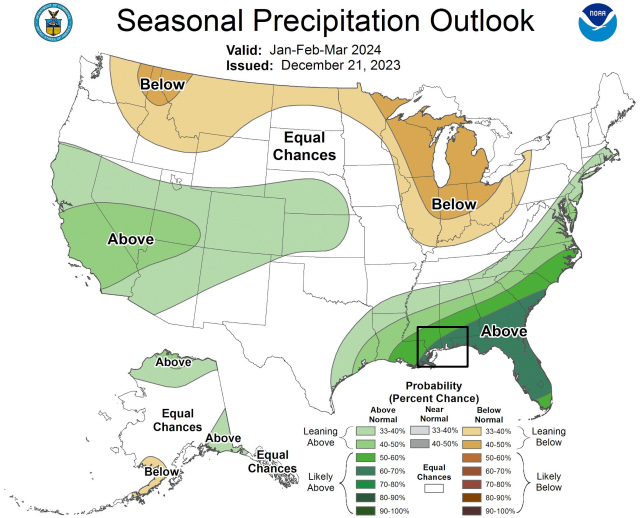
Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The boxed inset indicates that equal chances of above or below normal temperatures are favored from Jan-Feb-Mar 2024.

- The precipitation outlook over the same period leans likely above normal from the deep south to the southeast U.S.



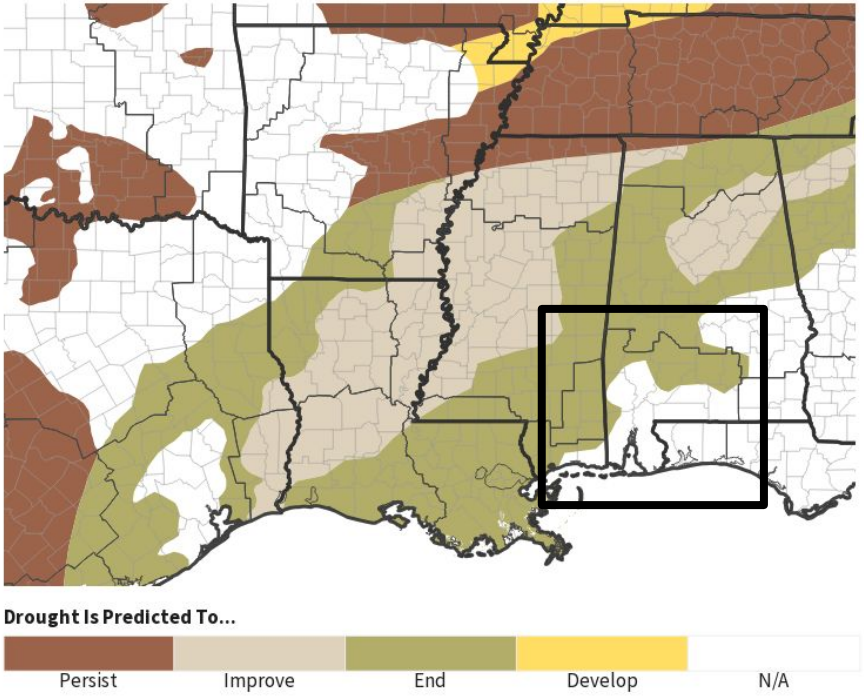


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Indications in the longer term outlook reflects an end to drought.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Links to the latest:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook