



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

Valid 1/11/2024

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

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

- This product will be updated 01/18/2024 (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.



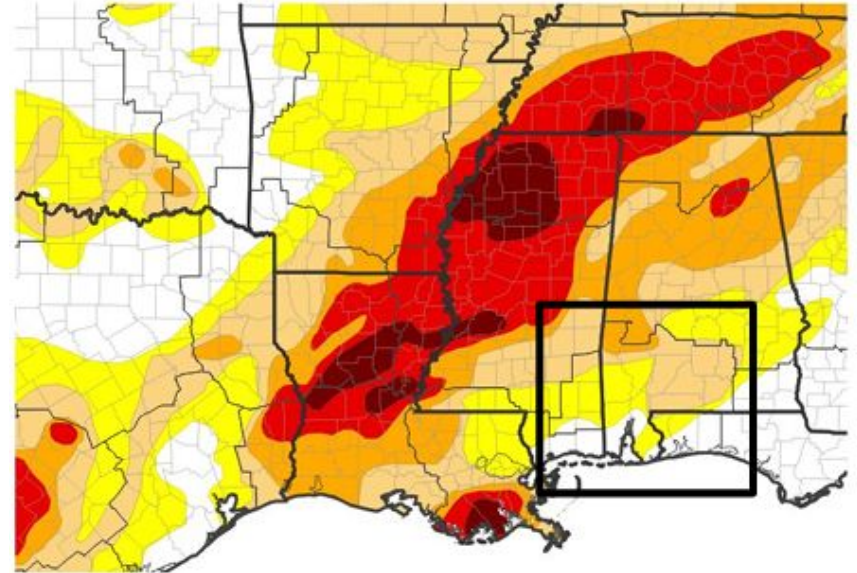


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- Severe Drought Shrinks in Areal Coverage now for a Smaller Portion of Extreme Northern Zones.
- Moderate Drought Areal Coverage Recedes but lingers along the U.S Highway 84 Corridor southward to east of the Alabama River.
- Drought Intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Northern half of Choctaw Co. AL, eastward to Pine Hill AL.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: U.S. Highway 84, southward to east of the Alabama River.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Portions of northern Mobile Co. and central Baldwin Co. in AL, extending into northern Escambia and Santa Rosa Co.'s in FL.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/09/24



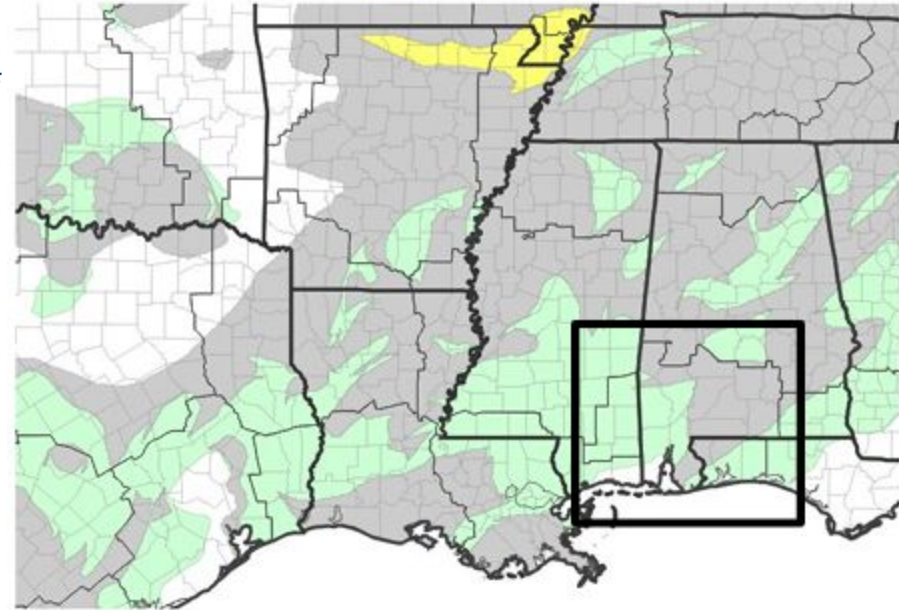


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

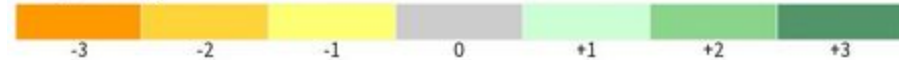
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **Drought Improved:** Southeast MS into much of southwest AL, west of the Alabama River along with locations along and south of a line from Foley to southeast Covington Co. in AL experienced a one-class improvement in drought intensity compared to the last week.
 - **No Change:** The remainder of the local area.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

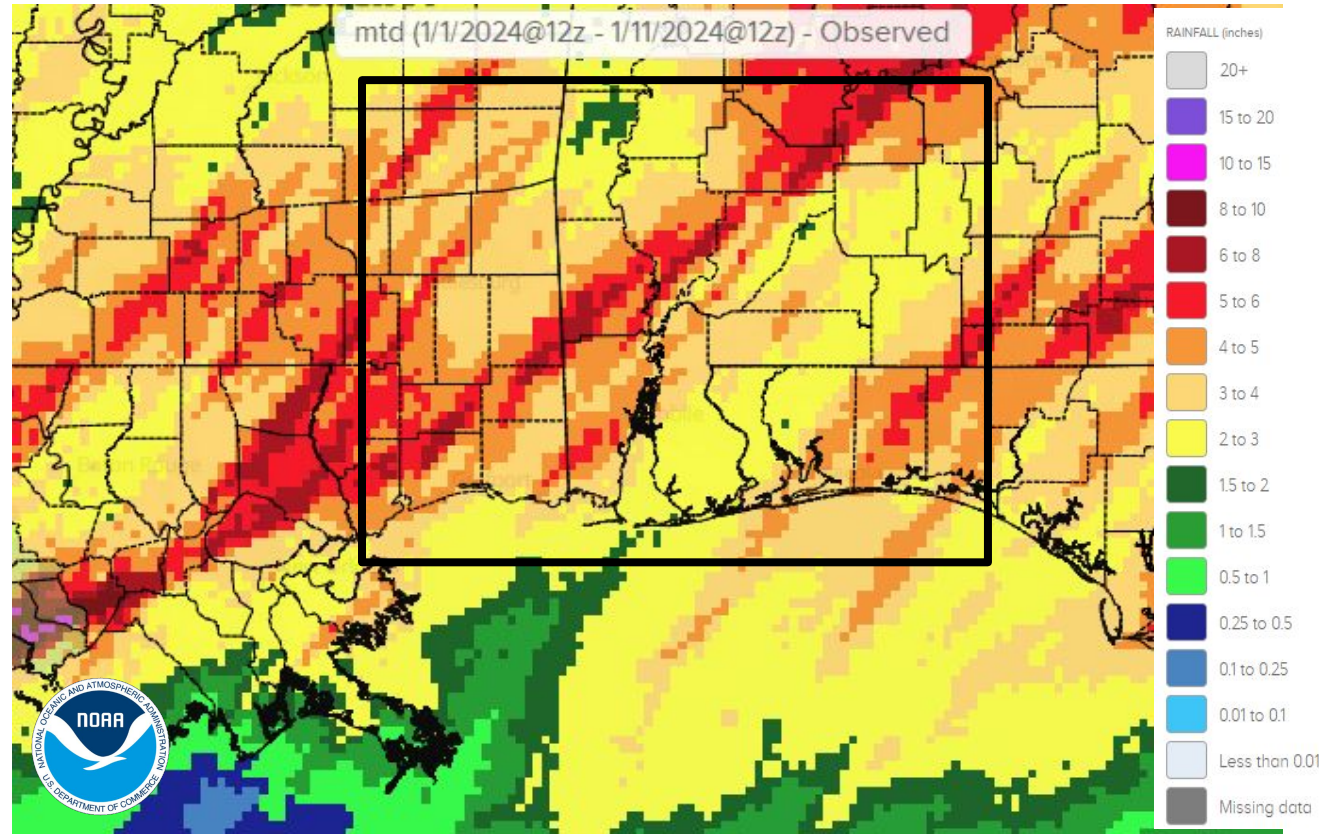
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Precipitation

- The passage of a series of weather systems deposited much needed rainfall to the central Gulf coast.
- The heaviest rainfall footprint was along a narrow strip from southeast MS near Wiggins, northeast to Camden AL. The other was positioned near Crestview FL.
- Within these areas, radar estimates show 5 to 8" storm total rains.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Due to recent heavy rains, the response to flow and stage on area streams and local rivers has flipped to above to much above normal. In some cases some streams and river points are near flood stage, at action levels.

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

- Air-borne allergens likely to create problems for respiratory sensitive groups.

Mitigation Actions

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

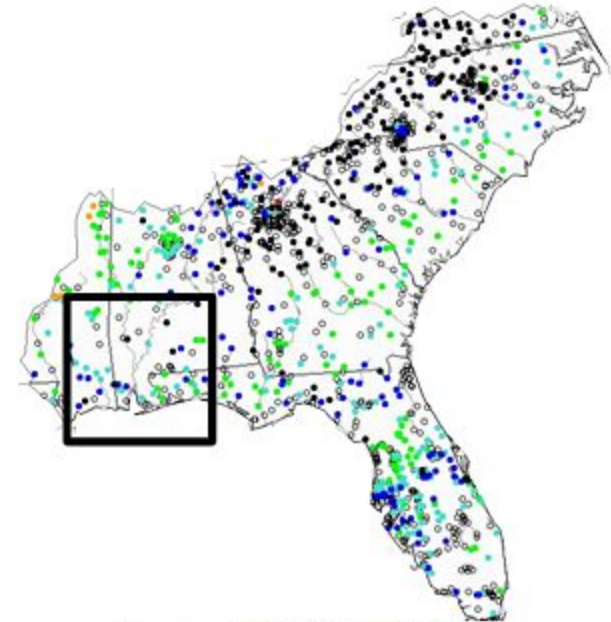




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Local stream and river points are now running above to much above normal over the central Gulf coast.
- To view the most current stages and flow, please visit <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>

Wednesday, January 10, 2024



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		

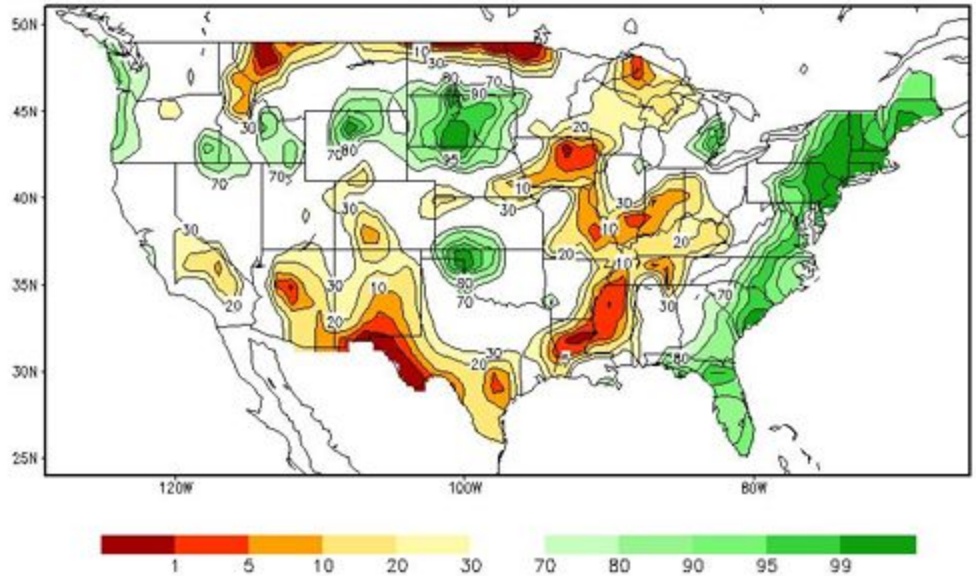




Agricultural Impacts

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

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
JAN 10, 2024



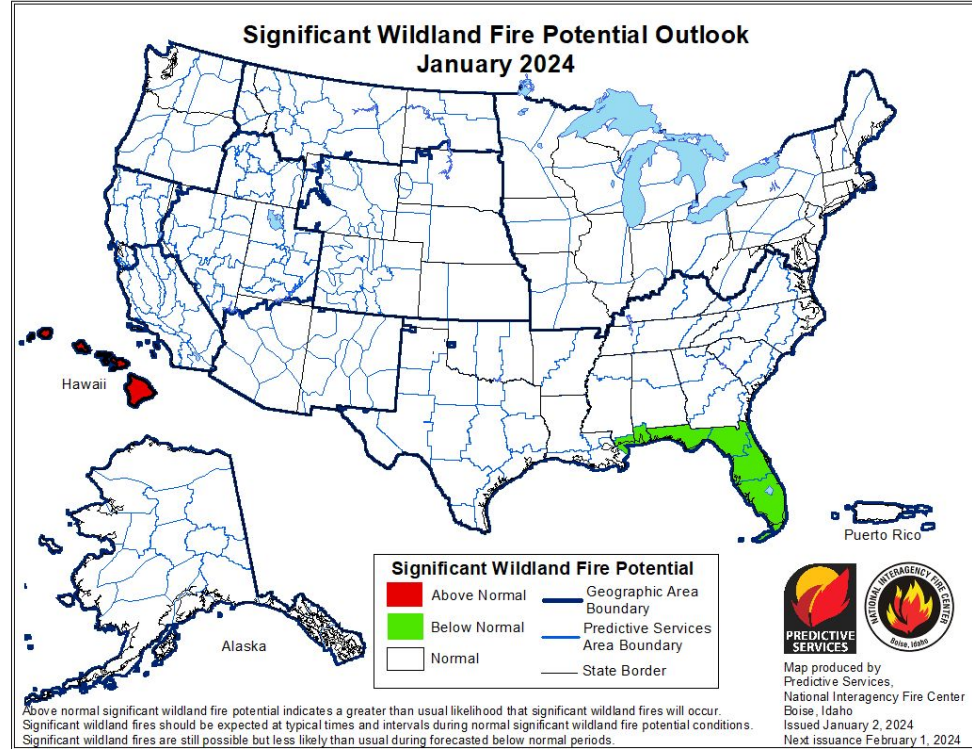


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Significant wildland fire potential for January 2024 is favored to be below normal for coastal Alabama, eastward into the state of Florida.
- 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](#)

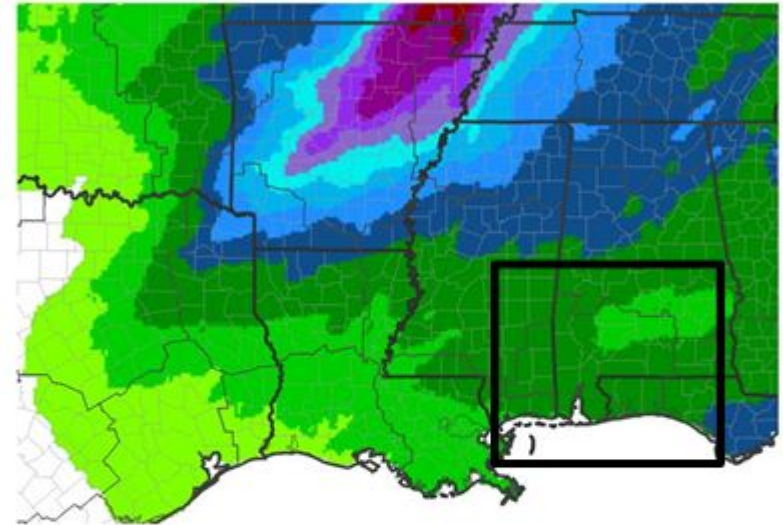




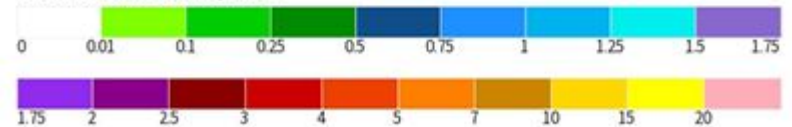
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A couple of cold frontal passages are forecast to sweep across the Gulf coast, each bringing a swath of precipitation. The first will be Friday Jan. 12th and the second, on Monday Jan. 15th.
- Event total rains from these systems look to range a half inch or less.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/11/24

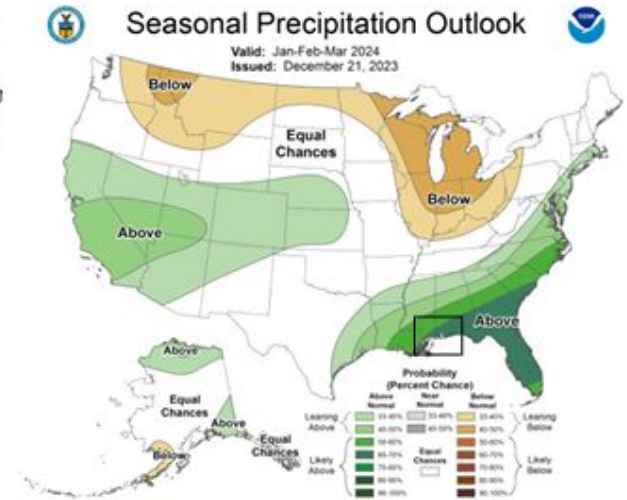
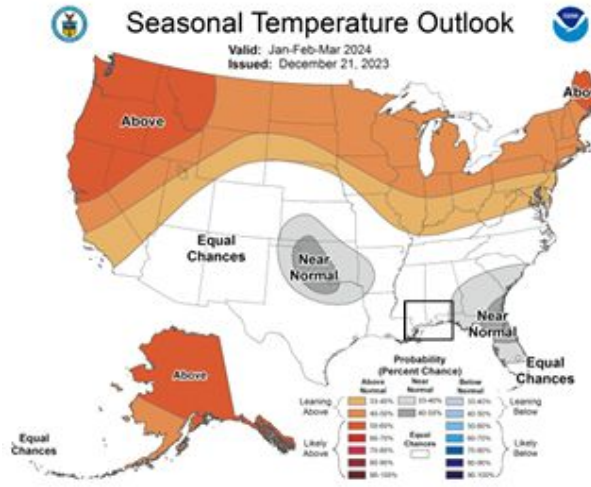




Long-Range Outlooks

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 through March 2024.
- The precipitation outlook over the same period leans likely above normal from the deep south to the southeast U.S.



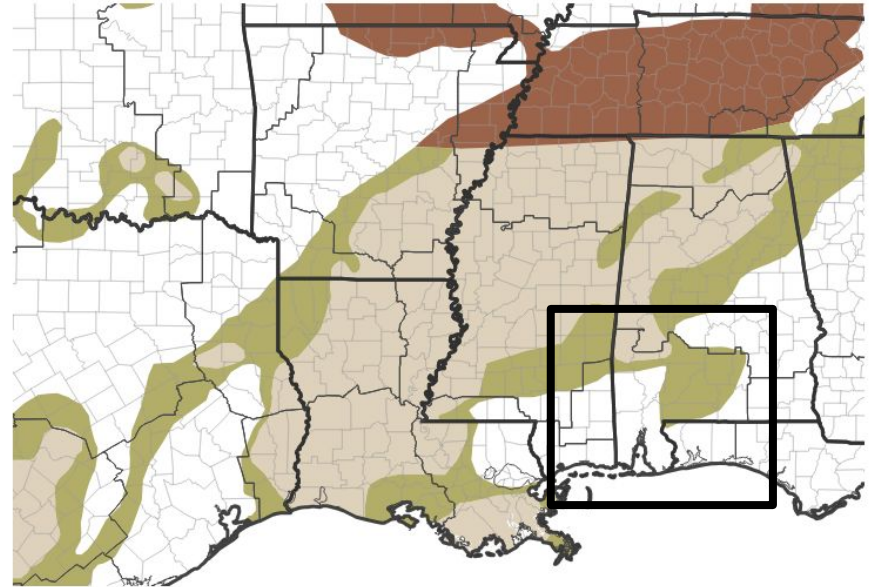


Drought Outlook

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



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/18/24

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
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