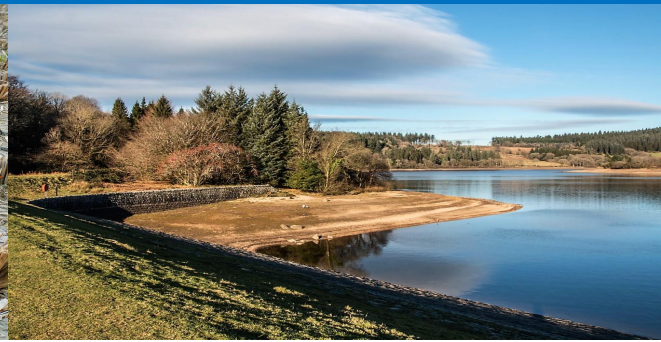
Drought Information Statement for southeast MS, southwest AL, and the western FL Panhandle

Valid 1/18/2024

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola
Contact Information: sr-mob.webmaster@noaa.gov

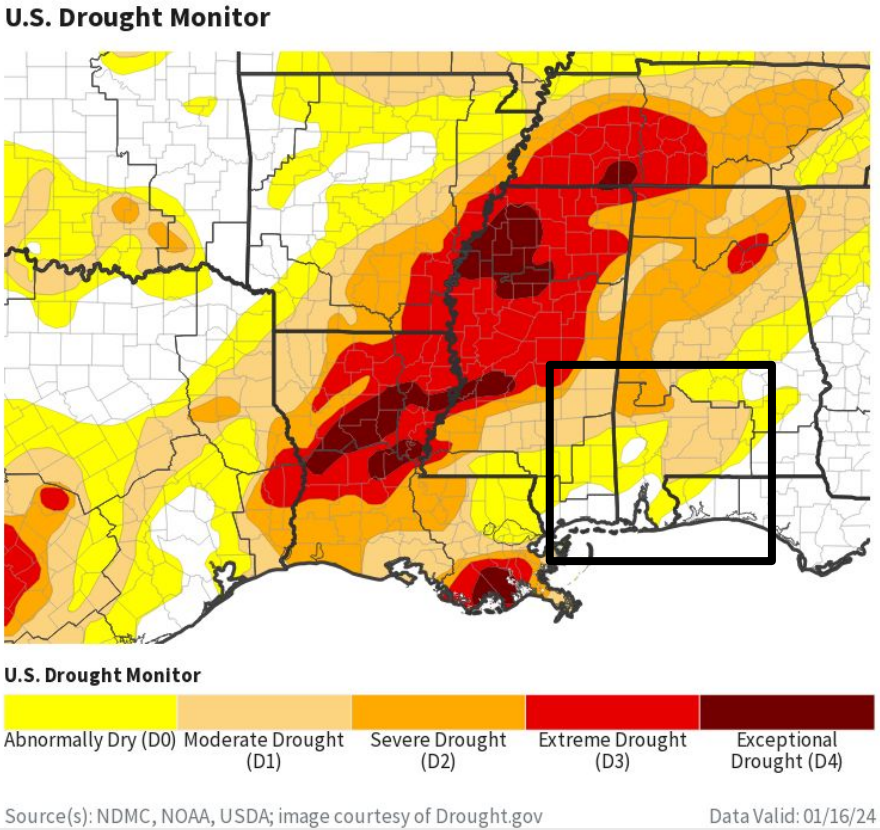
- This will be the final product issued on this event.
- Please see all currently available products at *drought.gov/drought-information-statements*.
- Please visit *weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement* for previous statements.



U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Severe Drought Persists for a Small Portion of Extreme Northern Zones.
- Moderate Drought Lingers along the U.S Highway 84 Corridor southward to east of the Alabama River.
- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Central and Northern 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)**: Remainder of much of the interior, southward to the central and northern portions of much of the coastal counties.

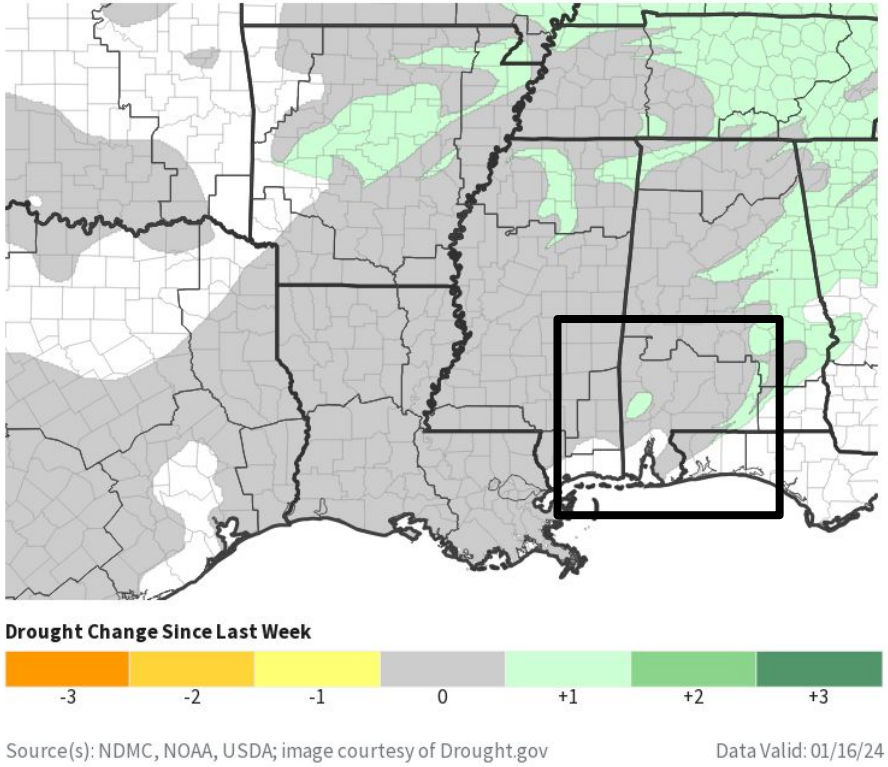


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

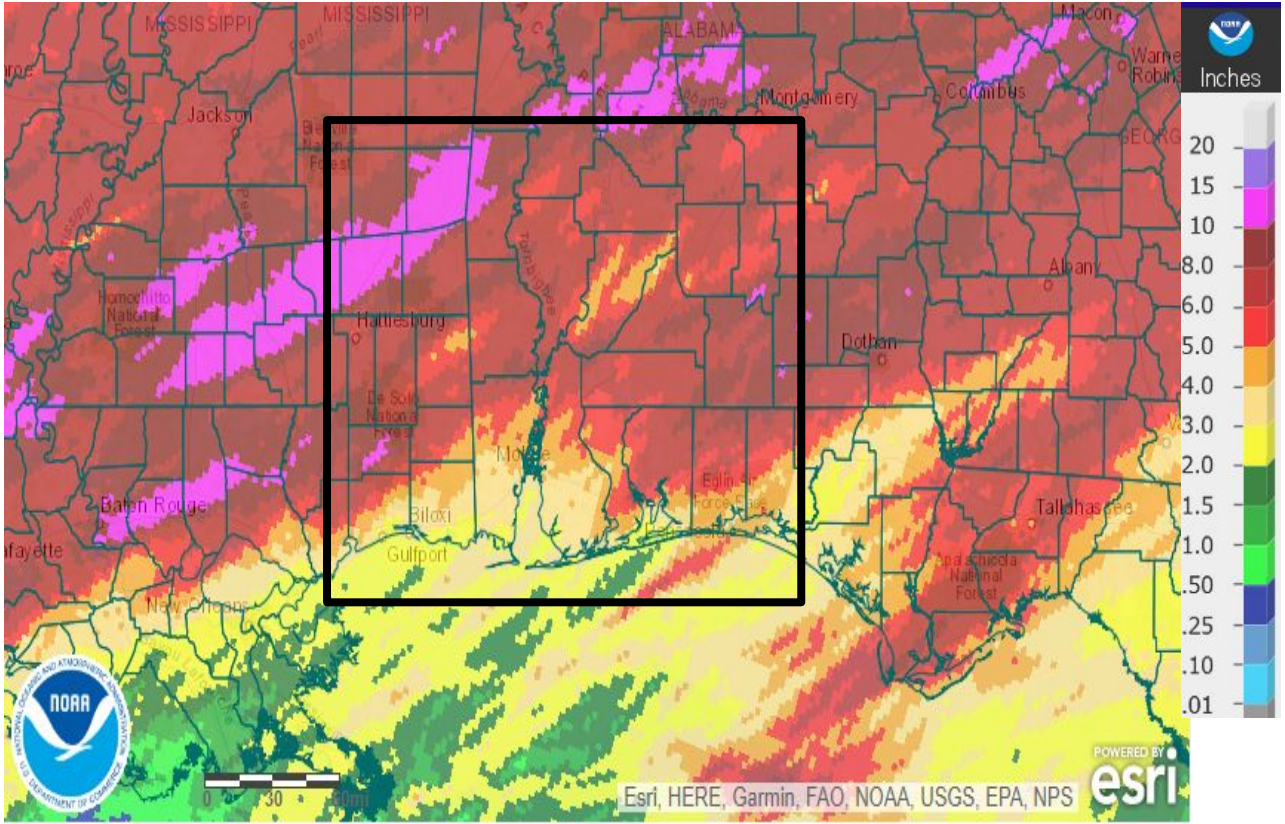
- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **Drought Improved:** A few areas over the interior experienced a one-class improvement in drought intensity compared to the last week.
  - **No Change:** Much of the remainder of the local area, mostly along and north of I-10.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Precipitation

- January has started off wet with the passage of a series of weather systems bringing much needed rainfall to the central Gulf coast.
- The heaviest rainfall footprint has been focused mostly along and north of I-10 with 4 to 6 inches in most areas. Within this footprint, patches of 8 to 10 " are shown.



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Many area river and stream points have seen a drop off in stage and flow to below normal levels. Typically in these cases, deeply submerged objects will likely be closer to the water's surface or in some cases exposed, presenting a waterway hazard for 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

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

Mitigation Actions

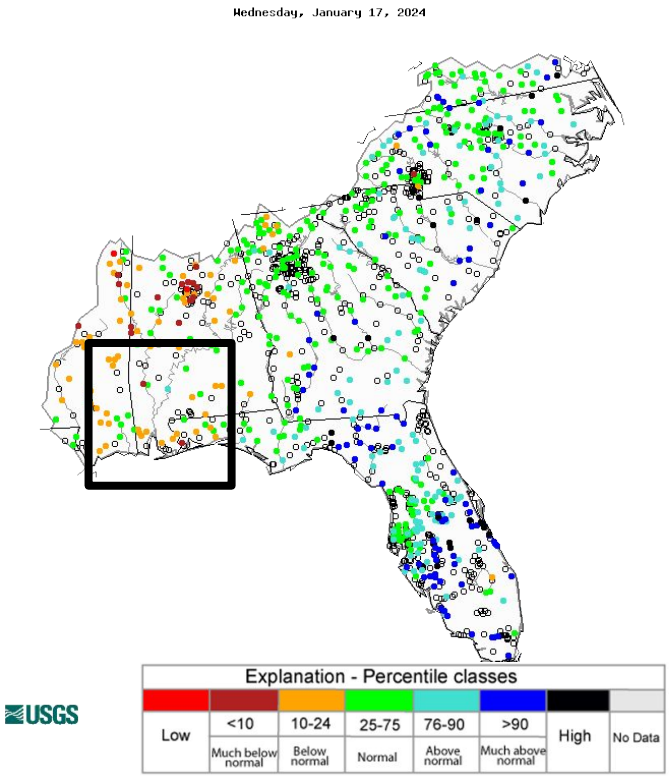
- Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged where drought continues to linger. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Local water restriction ordinances may be in place.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Many local stream and river points over the coastal counties are now running below normal over the central Gulf coastal counties, with a few over the interior also running below normal .

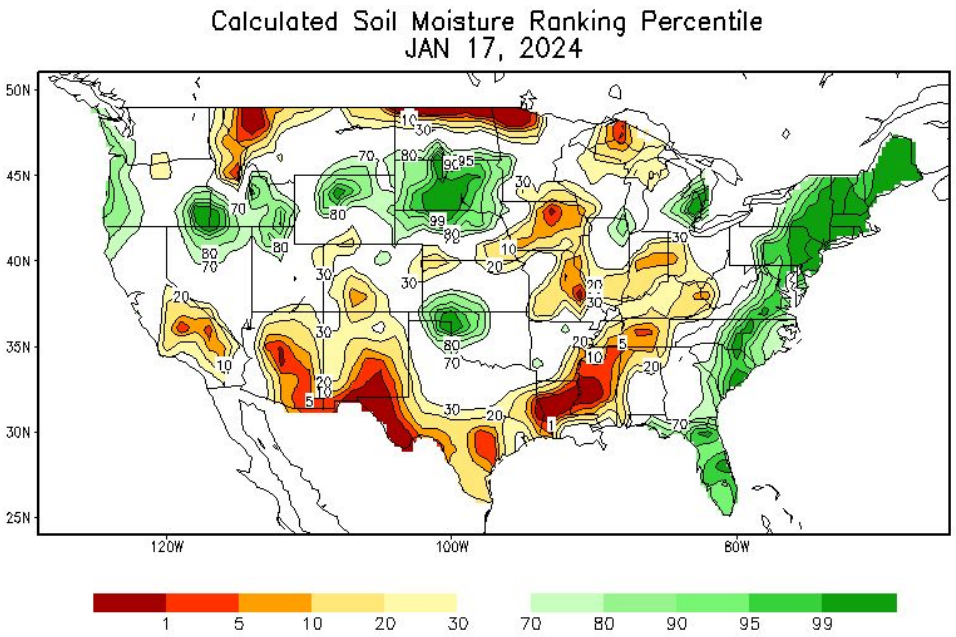
- To view the most current stages and flow for each state's, stream and river points, please visit:

  MS: https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=ms&m=real
  AL: https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=al&m=real
  FL: https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=fl&m=real



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.**

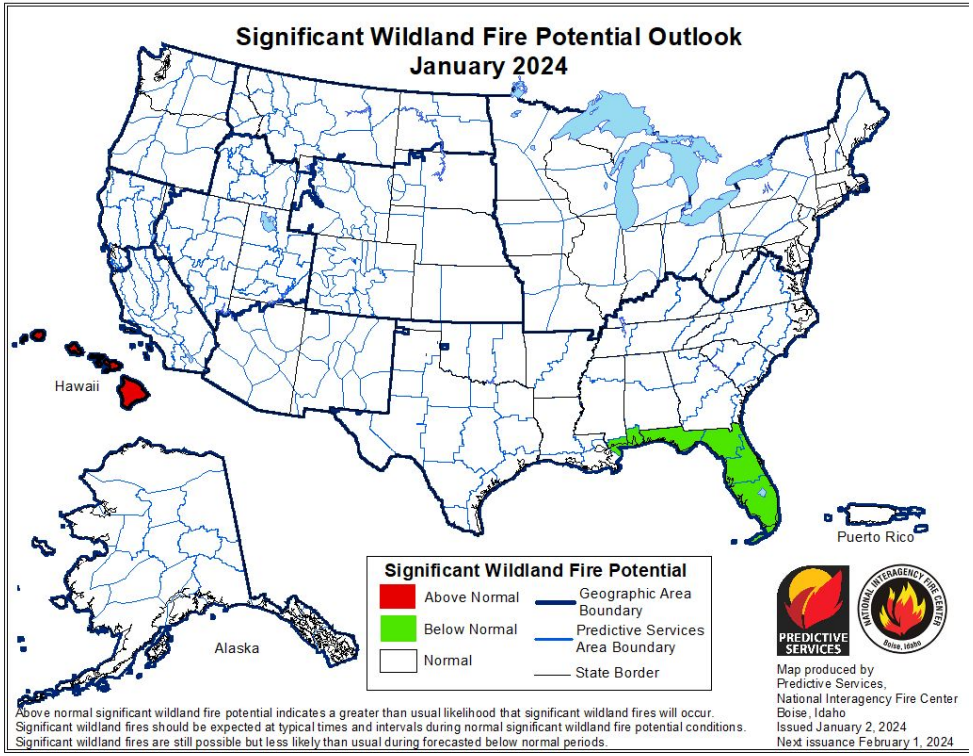


Fire Hazard Impacts

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.

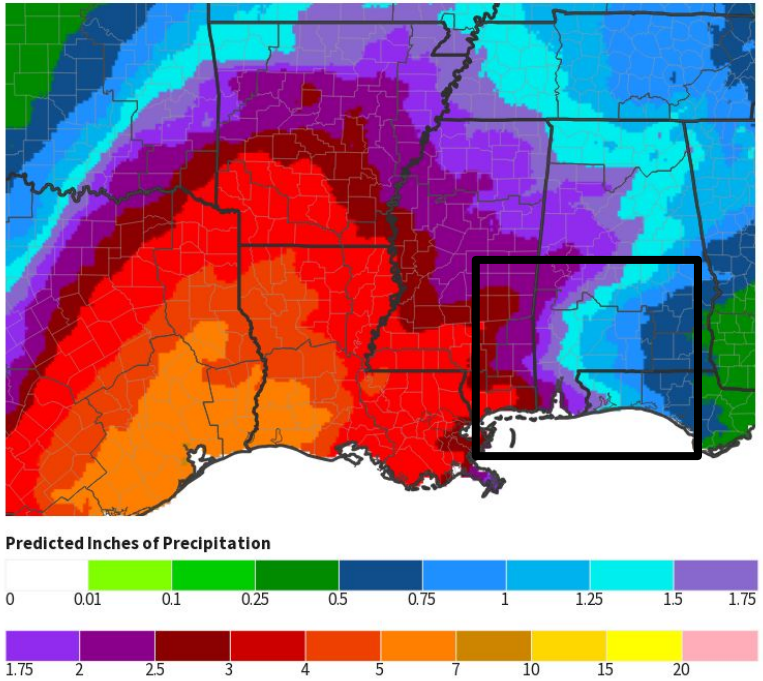
Latest Burn Bans and/or Advisories By State:
Mississippi and Alabama and Florida



Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The week of January 21st transitions to one that becomes more unsettled.
- Rainfall through the next seven day period is favored to range one to three inches with the highest in this range more focused over the western half of the local area.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



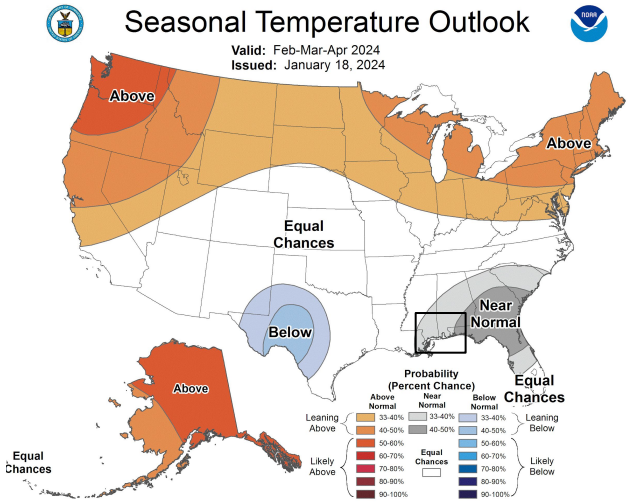
Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

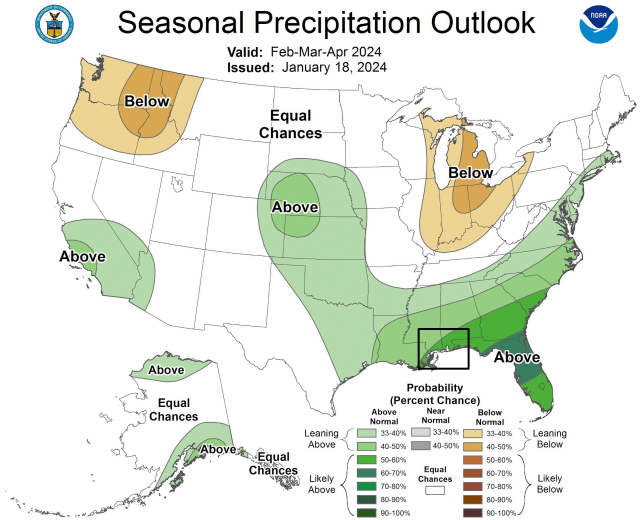
Data Valid: 01/18/24

Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The boxed inset indicates that near normal temperatures are favored to be near normal as we move into the Spring months.
- The precipitation outlook continues to lean likely above normal from the deep south to the southeast U.S.



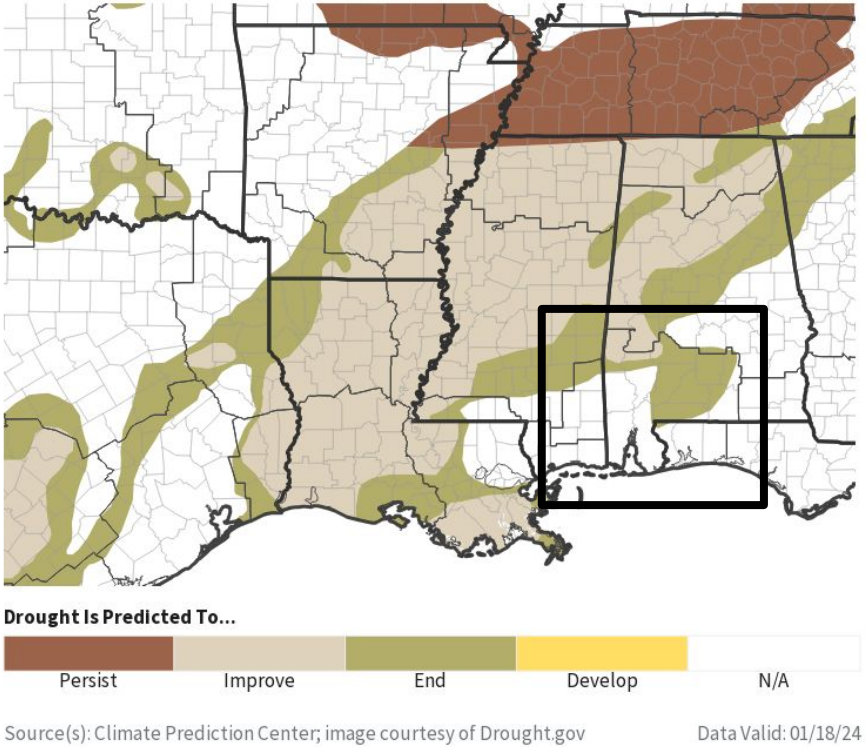


Drought Outlook

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