



Drought Information Statement for southeast Mississippi, southwest Alabama, and the western Florida Panhandle

Valid: September 24, 2026

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

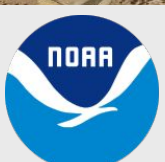
Contact Information: sr-mob.webmaster@noaa.gov

- *This product will be updated **October 22, 2026** (or sooner) if drought conditions change significantly*

- All currently available products: drought.gov/drought-information-statements
- Previous local statements: weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement
- Regional Drought Status Updates: <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates>

HIGH INTENSITY DROUGHT RETURNS

- *Persistent dryness over the long term has resulted in a return to drought.*
- *Moderate drought in place for much of the interior. Pockets of severe drought have developed over portions of interior southwest Alabama and southeast Mississippi.*





U.S. Drought Monitor

September 24, 2026

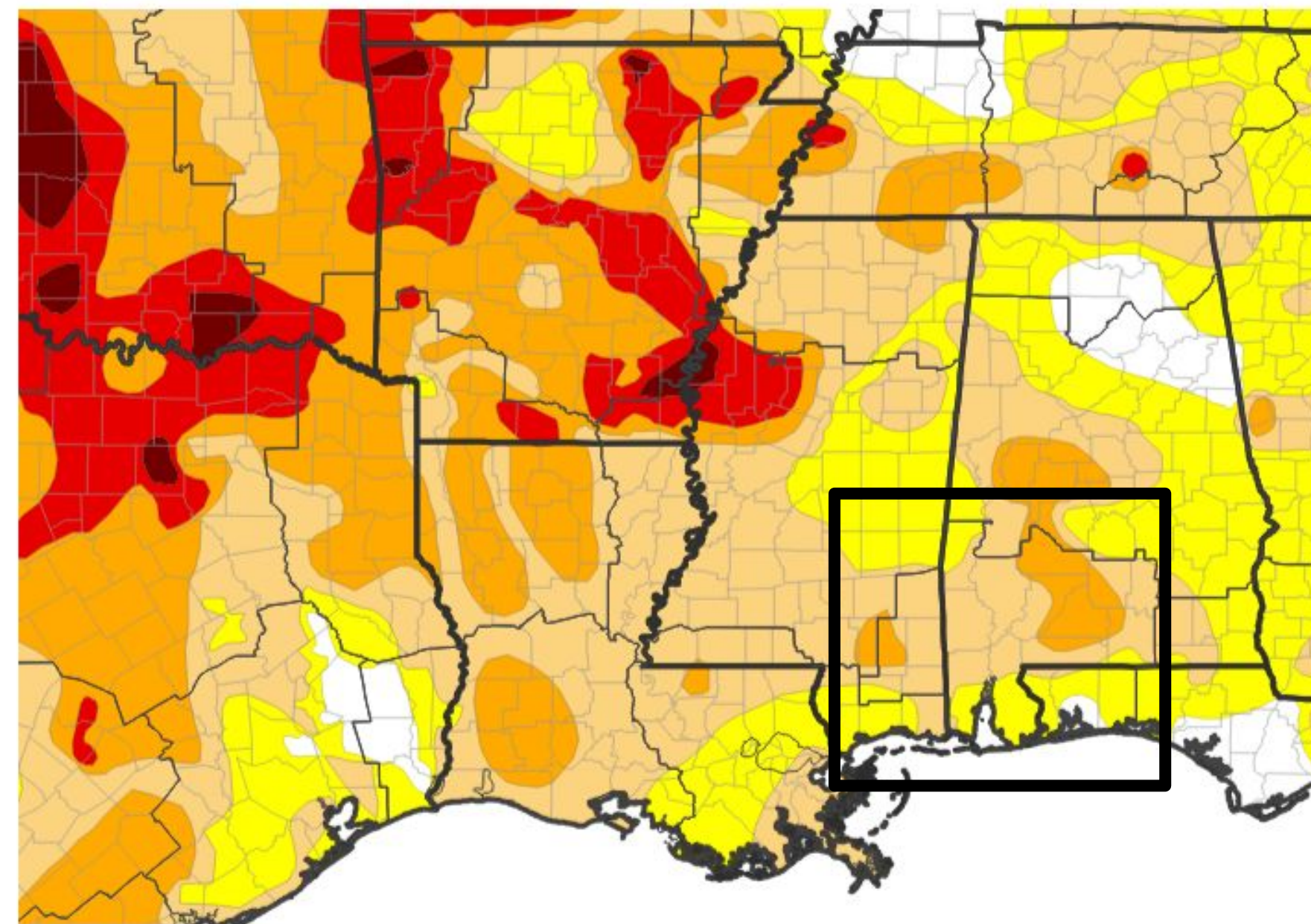
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Latest [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Southeast US and central Gulf Coast

Drought Intensity and Extent:

- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Develops over much of Wilcox, eastern Monroe, all of Conecuh, western Butler, northwest Covington and northern Escambia counties in Alabama. Much of Perry county in southeast Mississippi
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Much of the remainder of the interior, north of the I-10 corridor.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Much of the coastal counties, along and south of the I-10 corridor.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/22/26



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

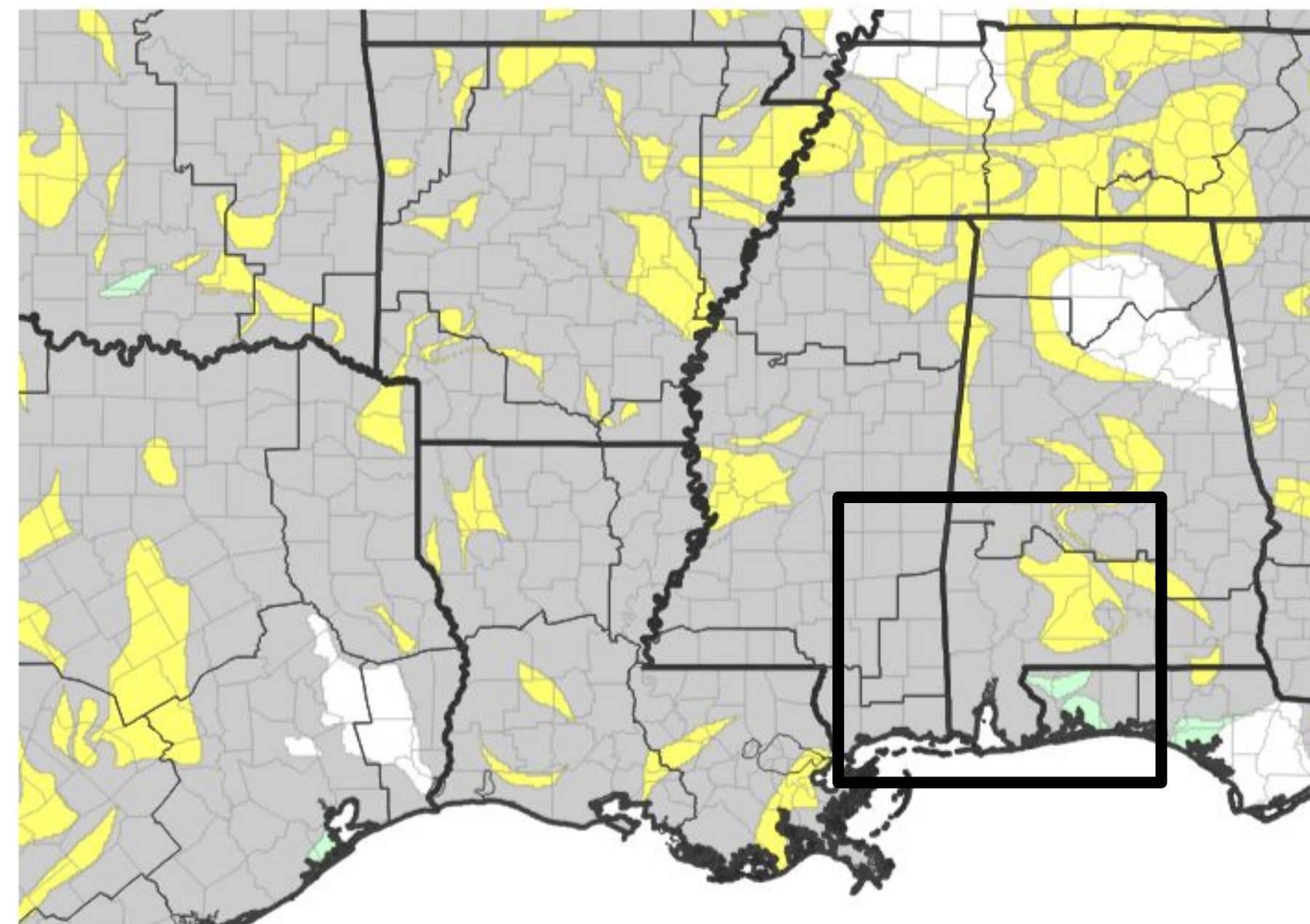
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Latest [1-week change map](#) for the Southeast US and central Gulf Coast

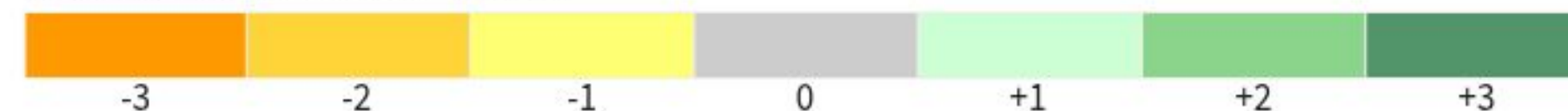
One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:

- **Drought Worsened:** Interior of southwest Alabama over the I-65 corridor.
- **Drought Improved:** Some improvement over southern Santa Rosa County over the northwest Florida Panhandle.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



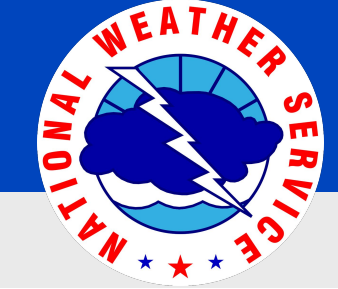
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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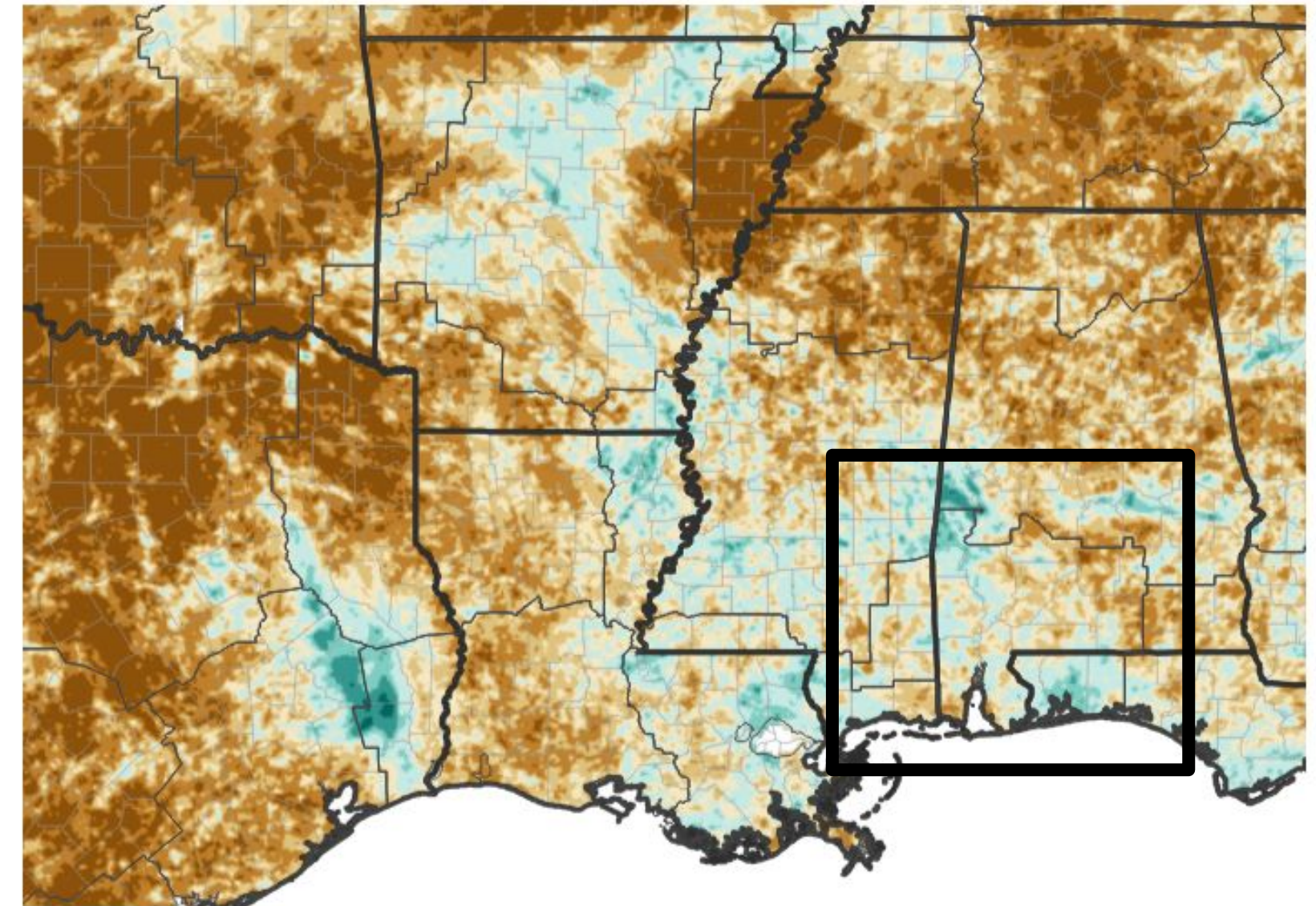
Precipitation

September 24, 2026
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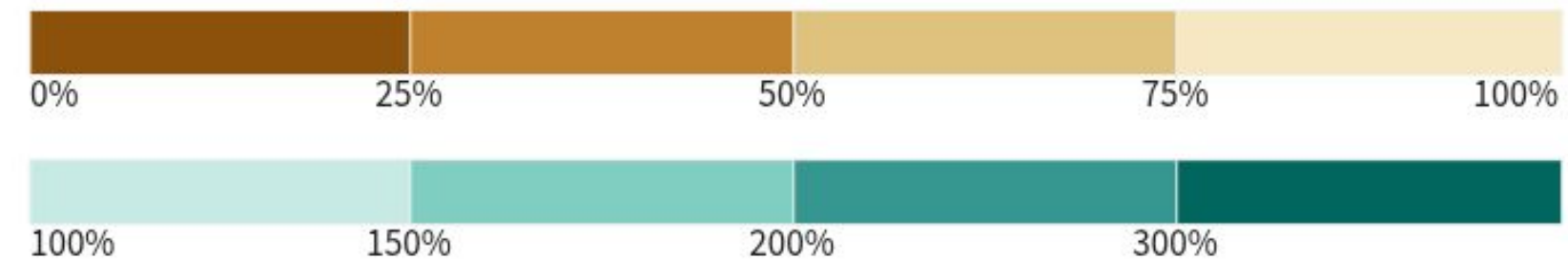
Summary of conditions and impacts:

- Since late August, rainfall has been in short supply over the interior along with southeast Mississippi to the Alabama coastal counties.
- The largest deficits against the 30-day means were most prevalent along the I-65 corridor and eastern U.S. Highway 84 corridors of southwest and south-central Alabama where 50% and less of normal rainfall was focused.
- The better surplus of rains, 150% + of normal, was confined to Choctaw County in Alabama and a small portion of the south-central sections of the northwest Florida Panhandle.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



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

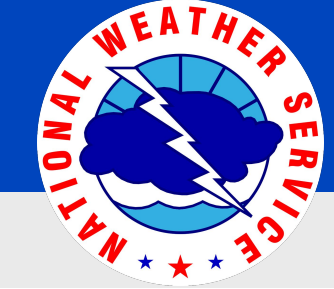
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Summary of Impacts

September 24, 2026
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See [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- The US Geological Survey (USGS) indicates stages on several local river and/or stream points are below to much below normal. Rivers and streams that are experiencing low water levels will likely result in what is typically deeply submerged objects being likely closer to the water's surface or in many cases completely exposed. This presents increased waterway hazards for safe recreational boating and commercial navigation.

Agricultural Impacts

- Crop condition in the driest of areas is poor, more susceptible to disease and insect damage. Supplemental feeding will likely be needed to maintain livestock health.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Although the risk of significant wildland fire is above normal from the state of Mississippi westward, know the law before you burn. Anyone who burns a field, grassland, or woodland without a burn permit may be subject to significant fines or prosecution for committing a Class B misdemeanor.

Mitigation Actions

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





Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

September 24, 2026

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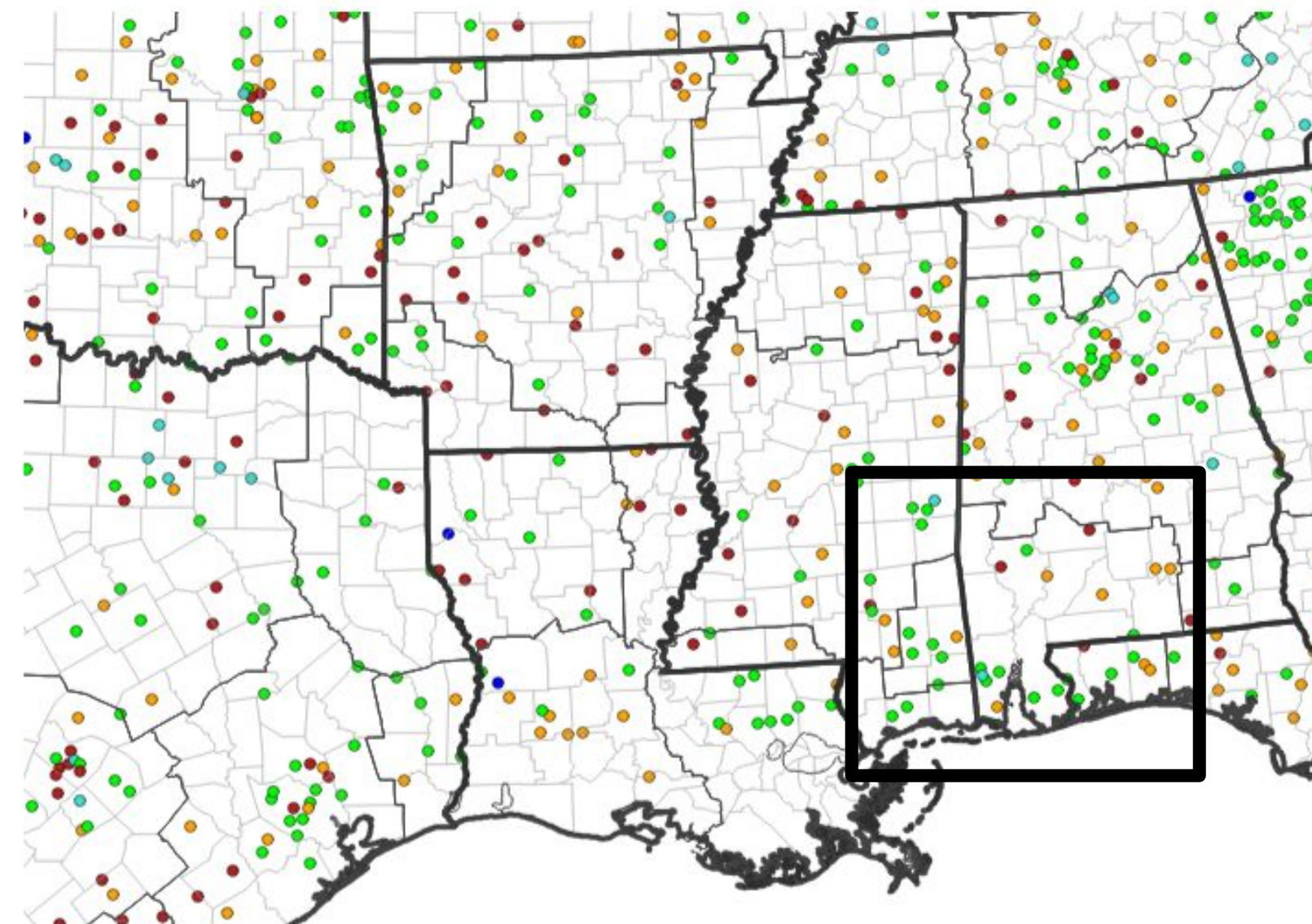
Select River/Creek Data

Summary of conditions and impacts:

- Several local waterway flows are at below to much below normal levels.
- Rivers and streams that are experiencing low water levels will likely result in what is typically deeply submerged objects being likely closer to the water's surface or in some cases completely exposed presenting a waterway hazard for safe recreational boating and commercial navigation.

Most current stages and flow for each state's stream and river points: [Mississippi](#) and [Alabama](#) and [Florida](#)

1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey; image courtesy of Drought.gov

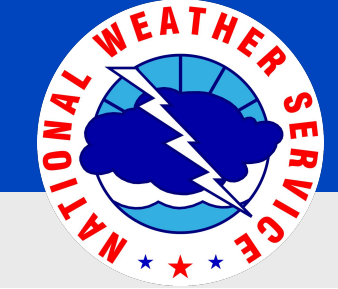
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Agricultural Impacts

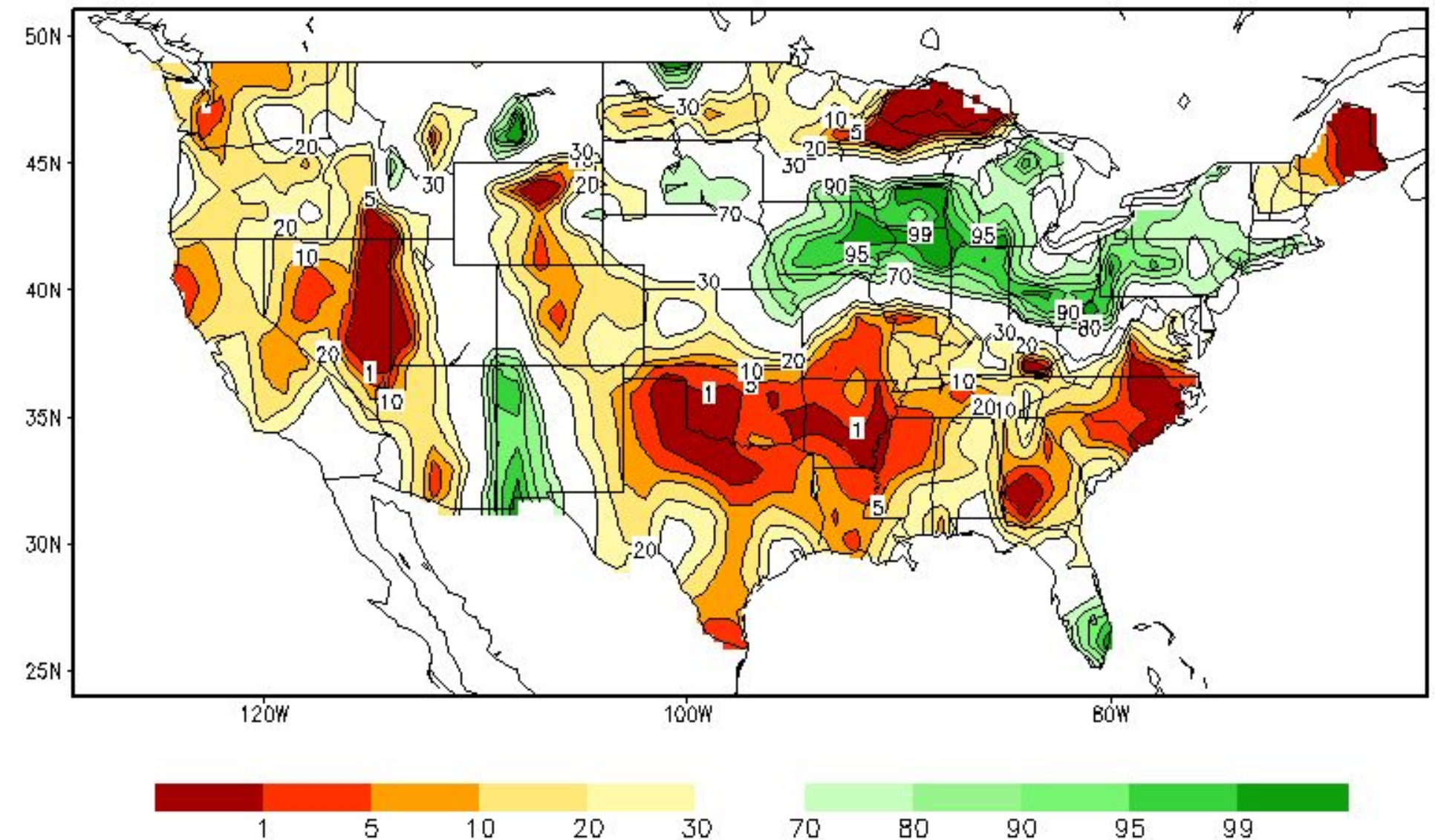
September 24, 2026
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Summary of conditions and impacts:

- Per latest data from the USDA September 22, 2026, top and subsoil moisture strata reflects greatest areal deficits in Mississippi and Alabama.
- Topsoil/Subsoil Moisture % Short to Very Short:
Mississippi - 77% / 75%
Alabama - 47% / 46%
Mississippi - 11% / 15%
- Crop condition in the driest of areas is poor, more susceptible to disease and insect damage. Supplemental feeding will likely be needed to maintain livestock health.

It is recommended that farmers reach out to local USDA office for details on available funding assistance.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 23, 2026





Fire Hazard Impacts

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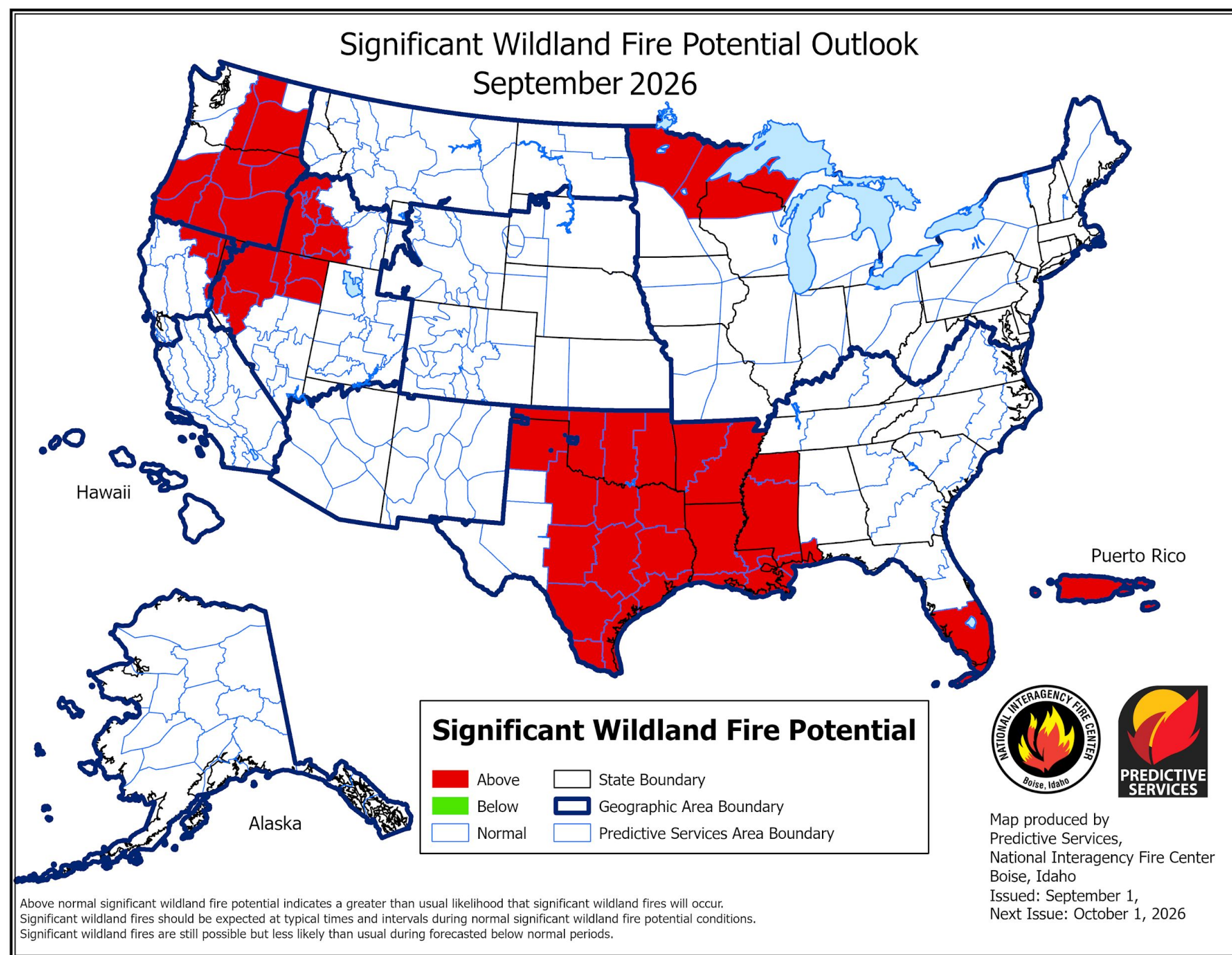
Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center

Summary of conditions and impacts:

- The risk of significant wildland fire is above normal from the southern Plains, east Texas to across the Lower Mississippi Valley through September.
- It's important to know the law before burning. Anyone who burns a field, grassland, or woodland without a burn permit may be subject to significant fines or prosecution for committing a Class B misdemeanor.

Latest Burn Bans and/or Advisories By State:

[Mississippi](#) and [Alabama](#) and [Florida](#)



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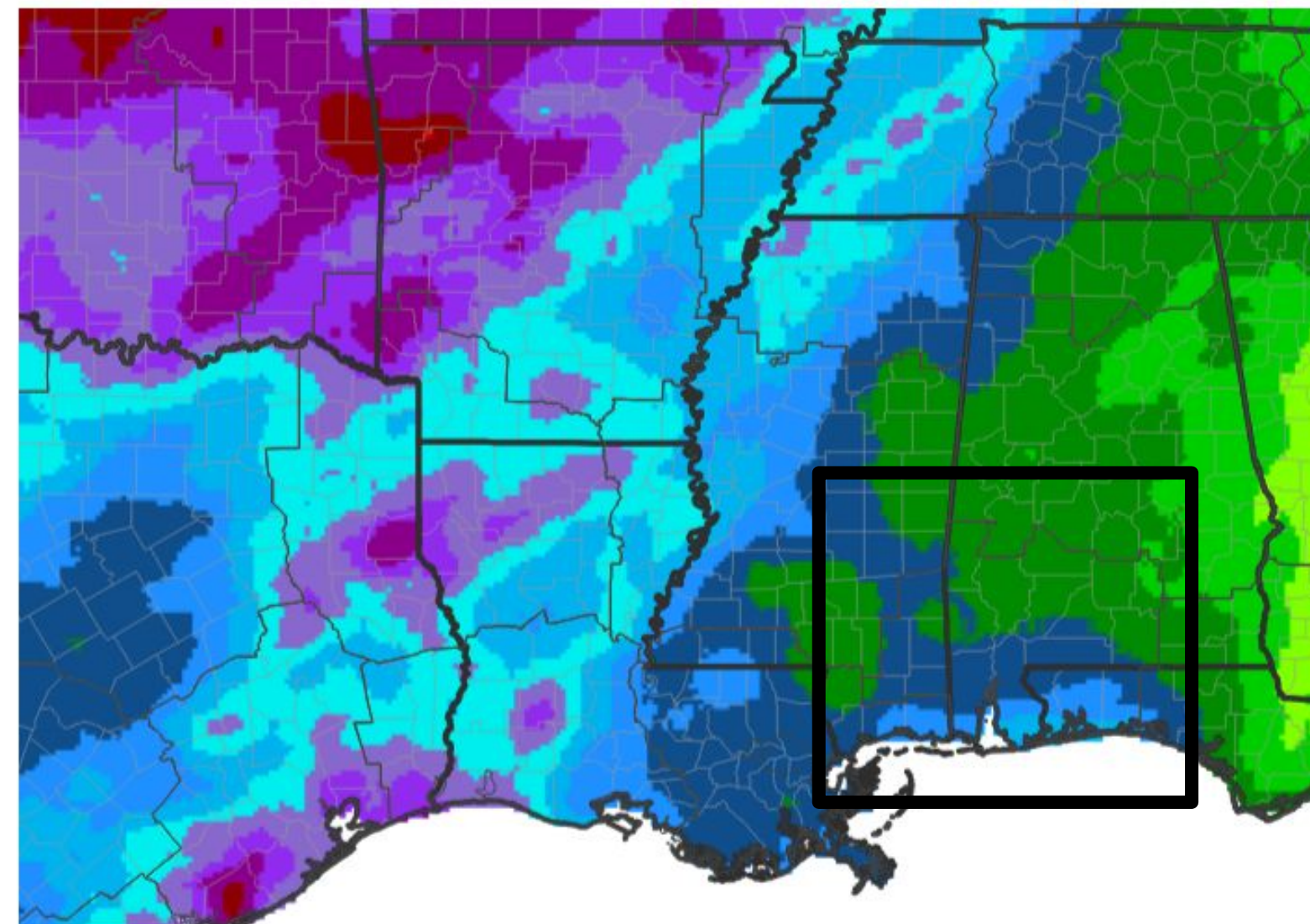
7-Day Precipitation Forecast

September 24, 2026
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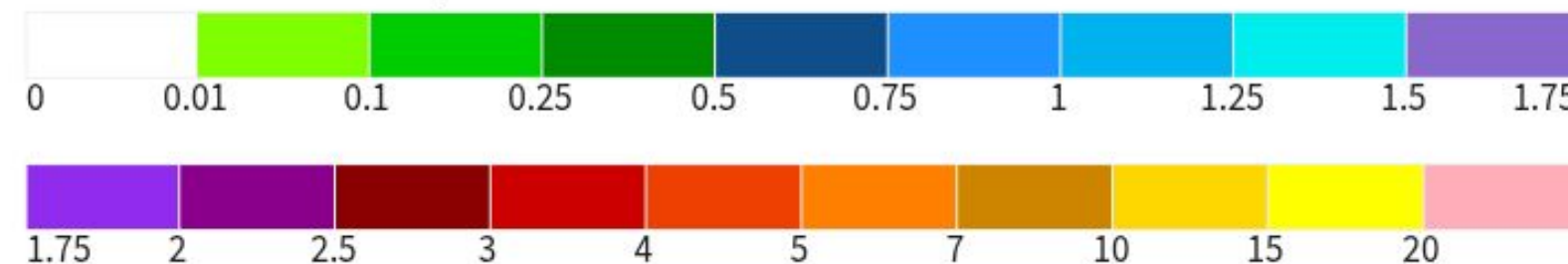
Summary of conditions and impacts:

- An approaching weather system brings an uptick in rain chances to close out the month of September.
- Rainfall totals could add up to around an inch along the Gulf coast and generally a half inch or less over the interior the next seven days. Even so, any improvement in drought in the shorter term is not expected.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 24, 2026–October 1, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

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Long-Range Outlooks

September 24, 2026

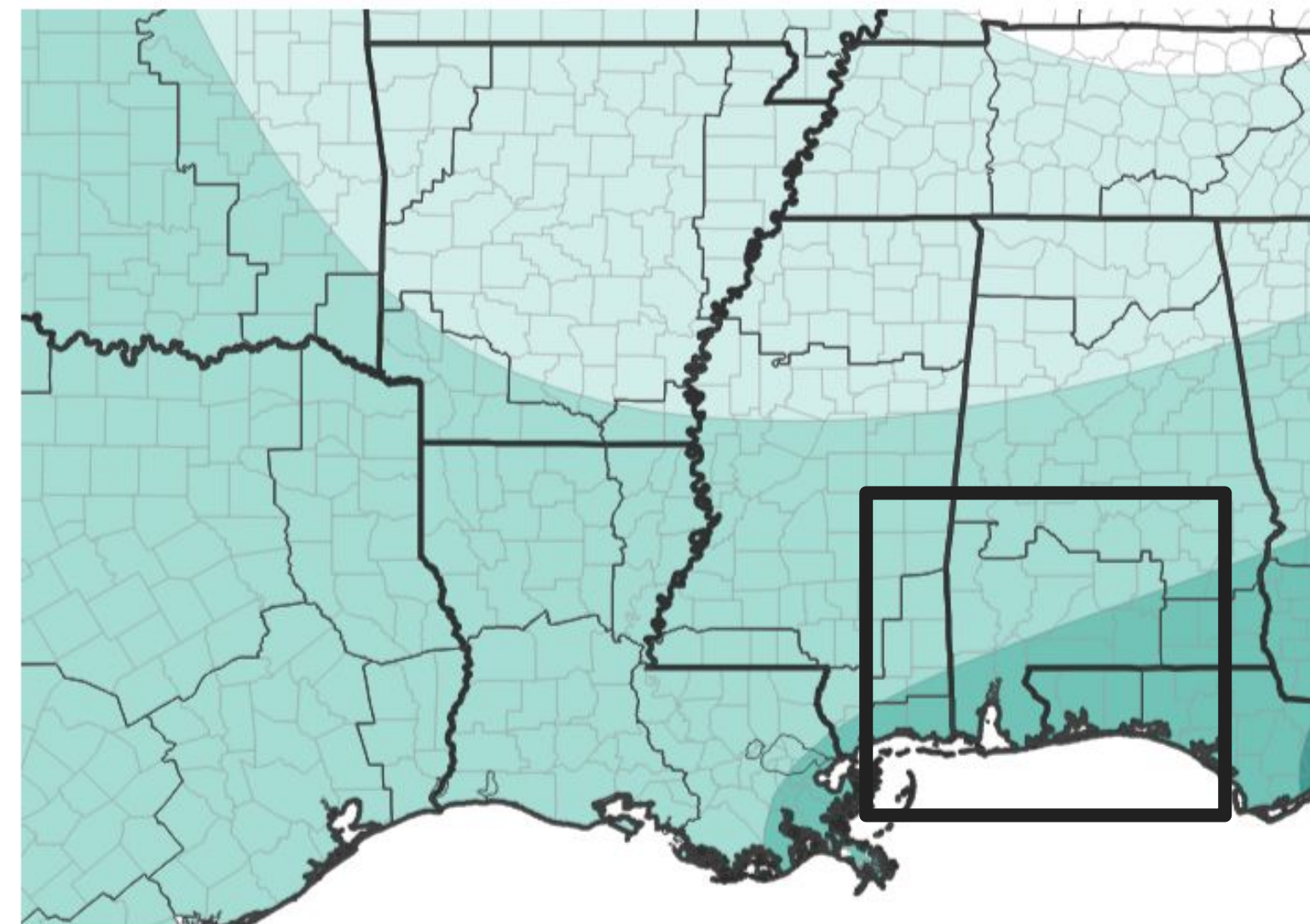
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Latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC](#) webpage

Summary of conditions and impacts:

- May be some good news on the horizon in the longer term regarding precipitation.
- To close out the year, rainfall is favored to lean above normal (40 to 60%) over the local area during the October 1st to December 31st time-frame.

2026-December 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation





Drought Outlook

September 24, 2026

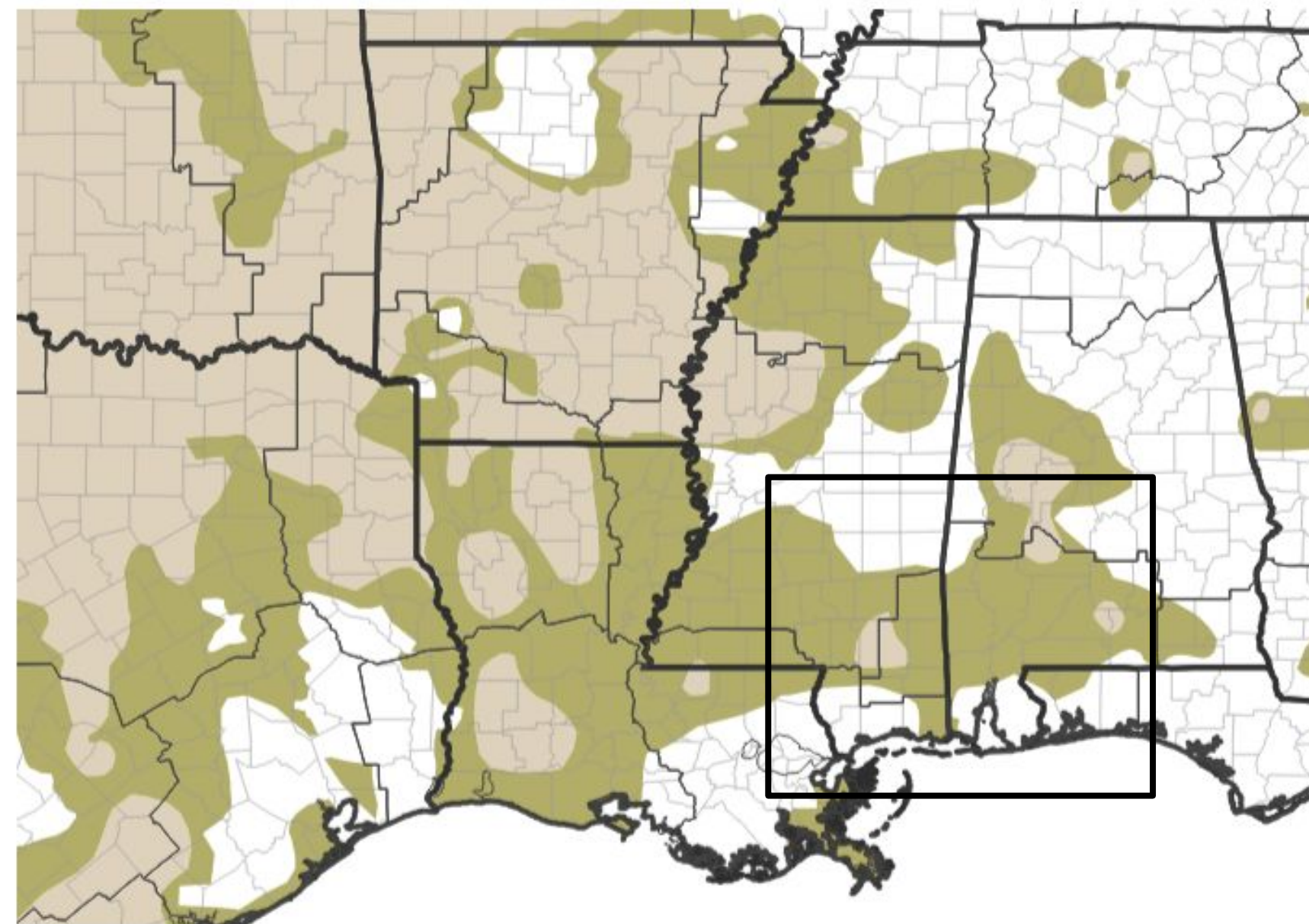
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Latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC](#) webpage

Summary of conditions and impacts:

- The seasonal outlook calls for drought to improve or end entirely over the local area by December 31st.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 17, 2026–December 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 09/17/26

Latest Climate Prediction Center Drought Outlooks:

[Monthly Outlook](#) and [Seasonal Outlook](#)



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