



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

Valid: October 1, 2026

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

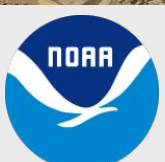
Contact Information: sr-mob.webmaster@noaa.gov

- *This product will be updated **October 29, 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>

DROUGHT WORSENS OVER THE INTERIOR

- *Extreme drought develops over portions of the area, north of U.S. Highway 84.*
- *Severe drought gradually expands over the I-65 corridor.*





U.S. Drought Monitor

October 1, 2026

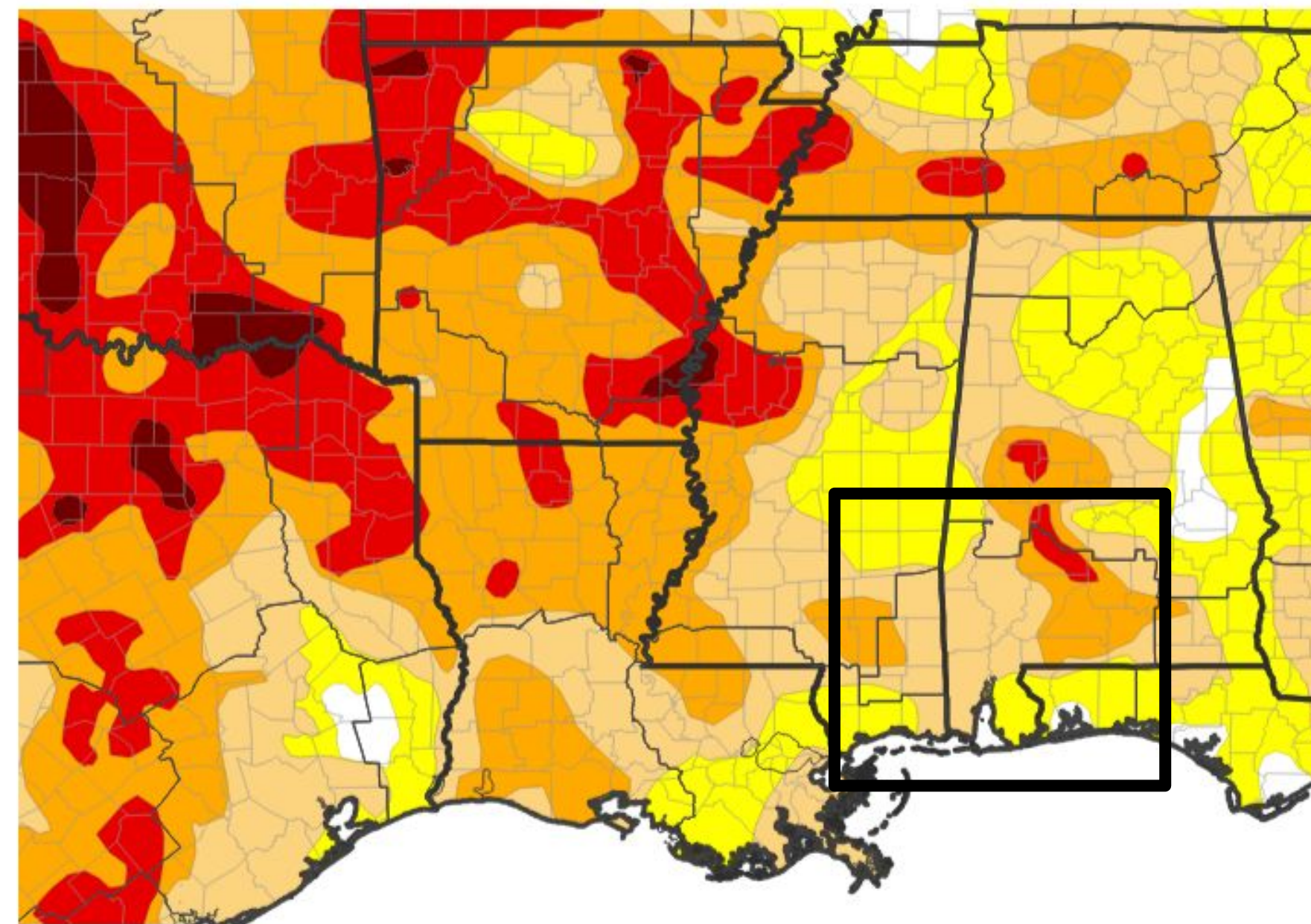
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Latest [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Southeast US and central Gulf Coast

Drought Intensity and Extent:

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Develops over eastern Wilcox into a small portion of west central Butler Counties in Alabama.
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Inside of a line from Pine Hill to Georgiana to Brantley to Andalusia to Brewton to Beatrice Alabama. Much of Perry County Mississippi.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Much of the remainder of southwest Alabama and southeast Mississippi.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Much of the northwest Florida Panhandle westward to southern Baldwin County in Alabama.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/29/26



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 1, 2026

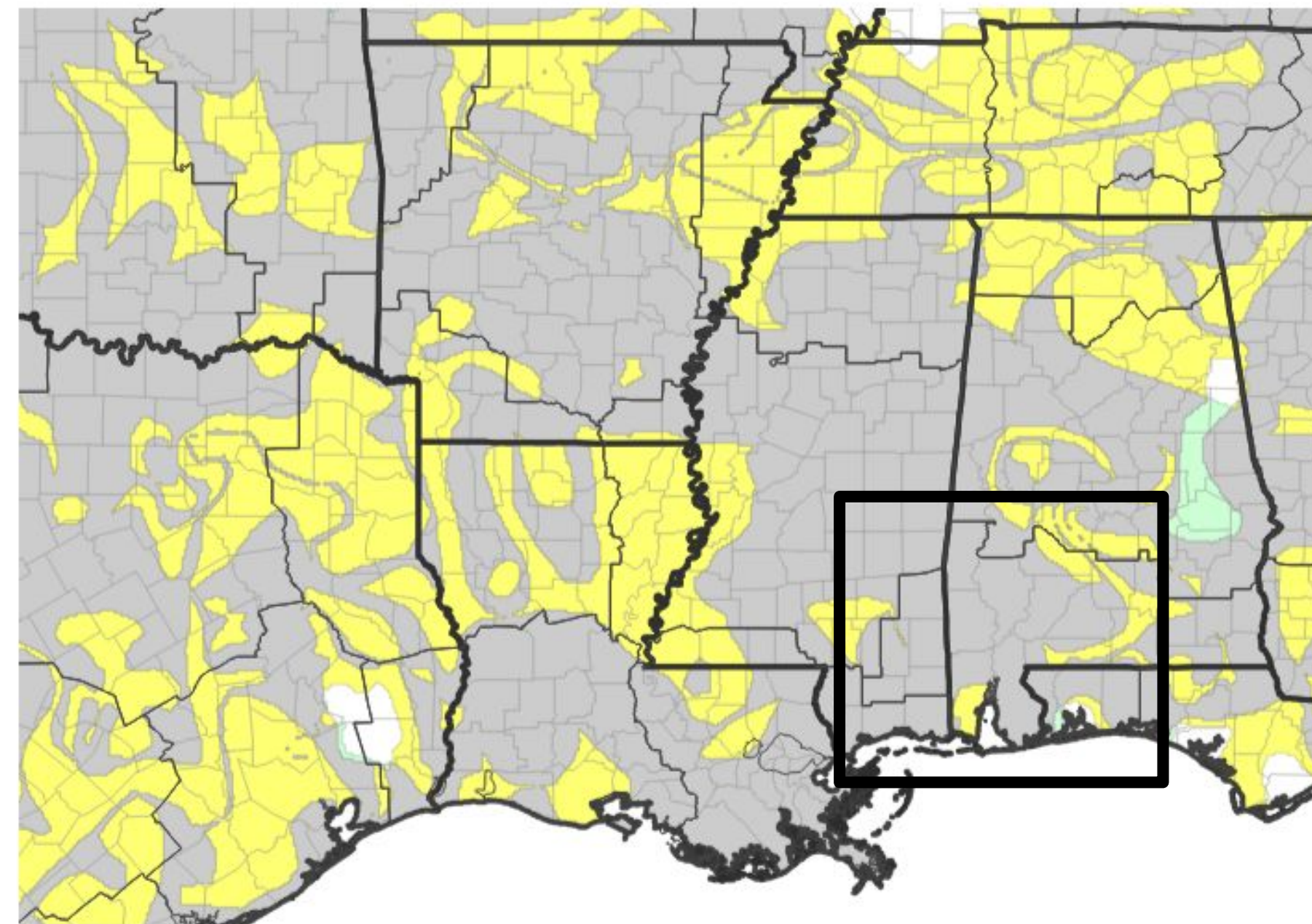
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Latest [1-week change map](#) for the Southeast US and central Gulf Coast

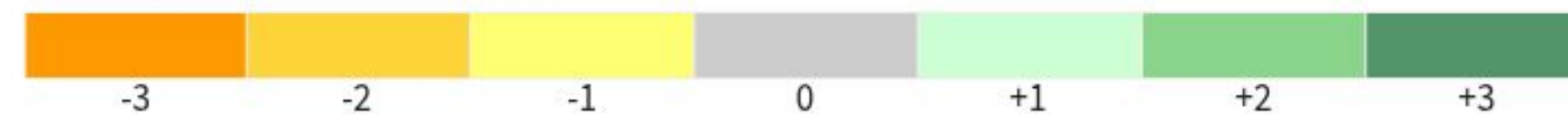
One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:

- **Drought Worsened:** Portions of far interior southwest Alabama to portions of south central Alabama, east of I-65. Southern Mobile county in Alabama.
- **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, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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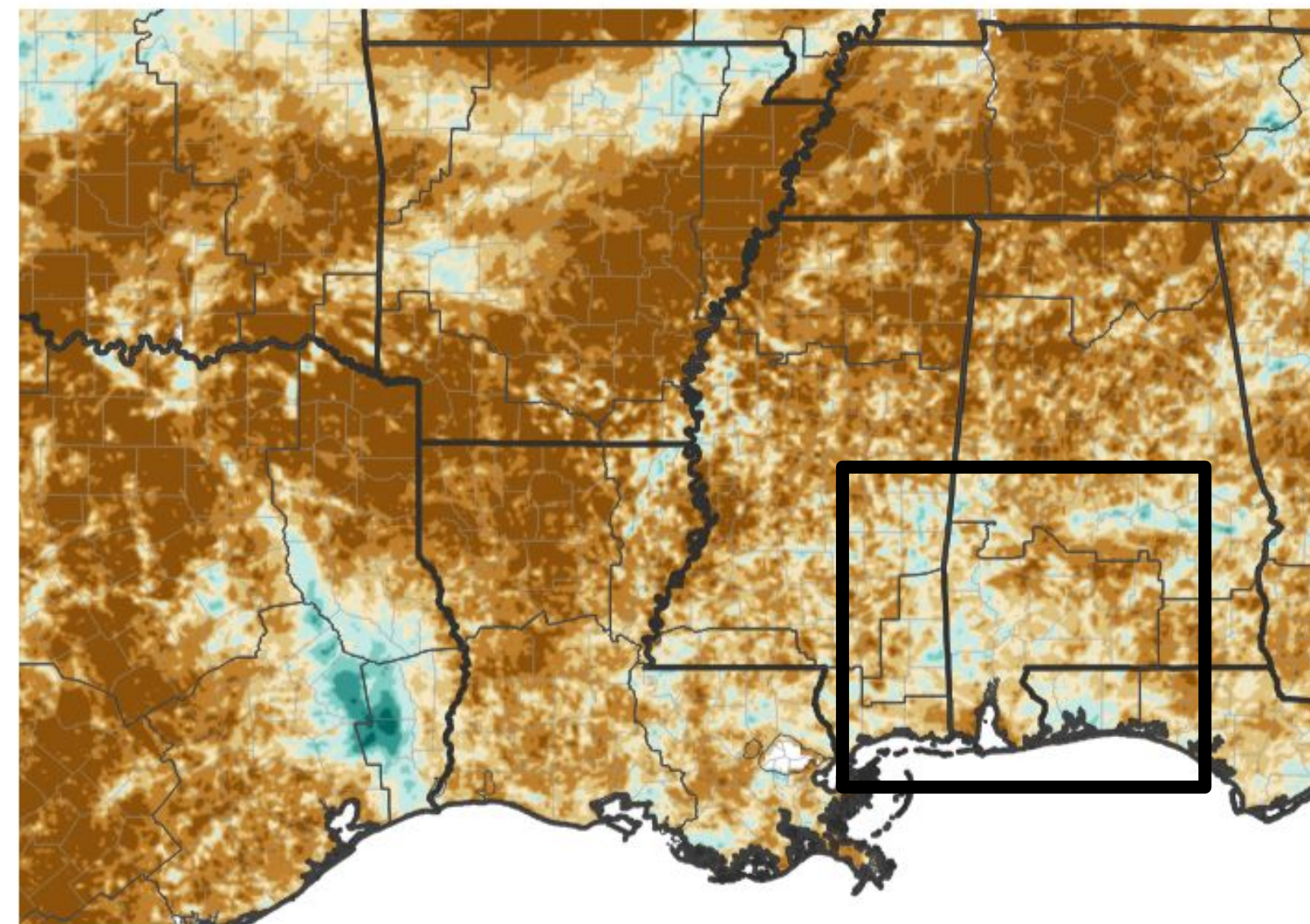
Precipitation

October 1, 2026
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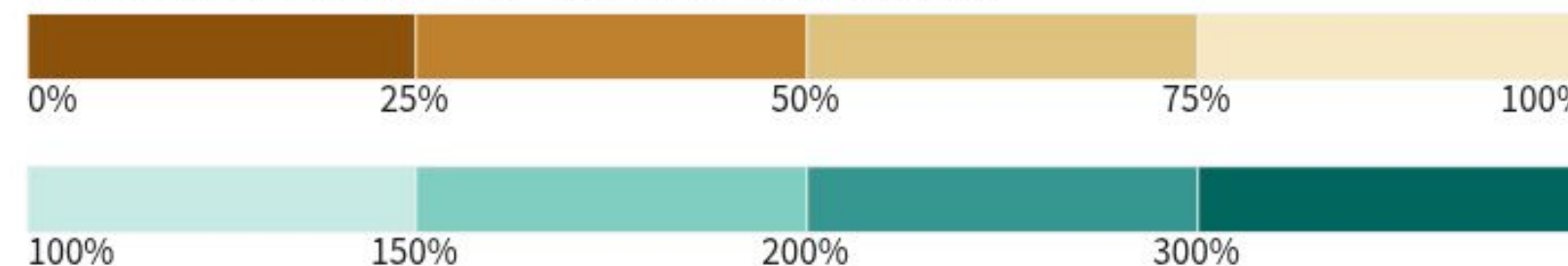
Summary of conditions and impacts:

- Since September 1st, only a few pockets of near to above normal rainfall or 100 to 200% of normal has occurred over the northwest Florida Panhandle and the state borders of southwest Alabama and interior southeast Mississippi.
- 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 evolved.

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

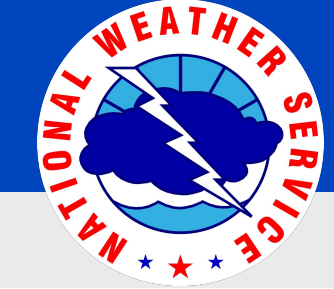
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Summary of Impacts

October 1, 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.

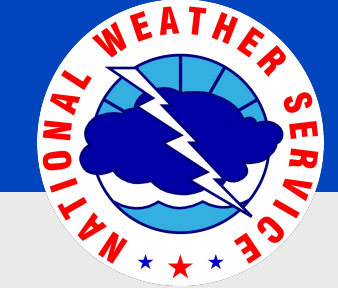
Fire Hazard Impacts

- 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

Select River/Creek Data

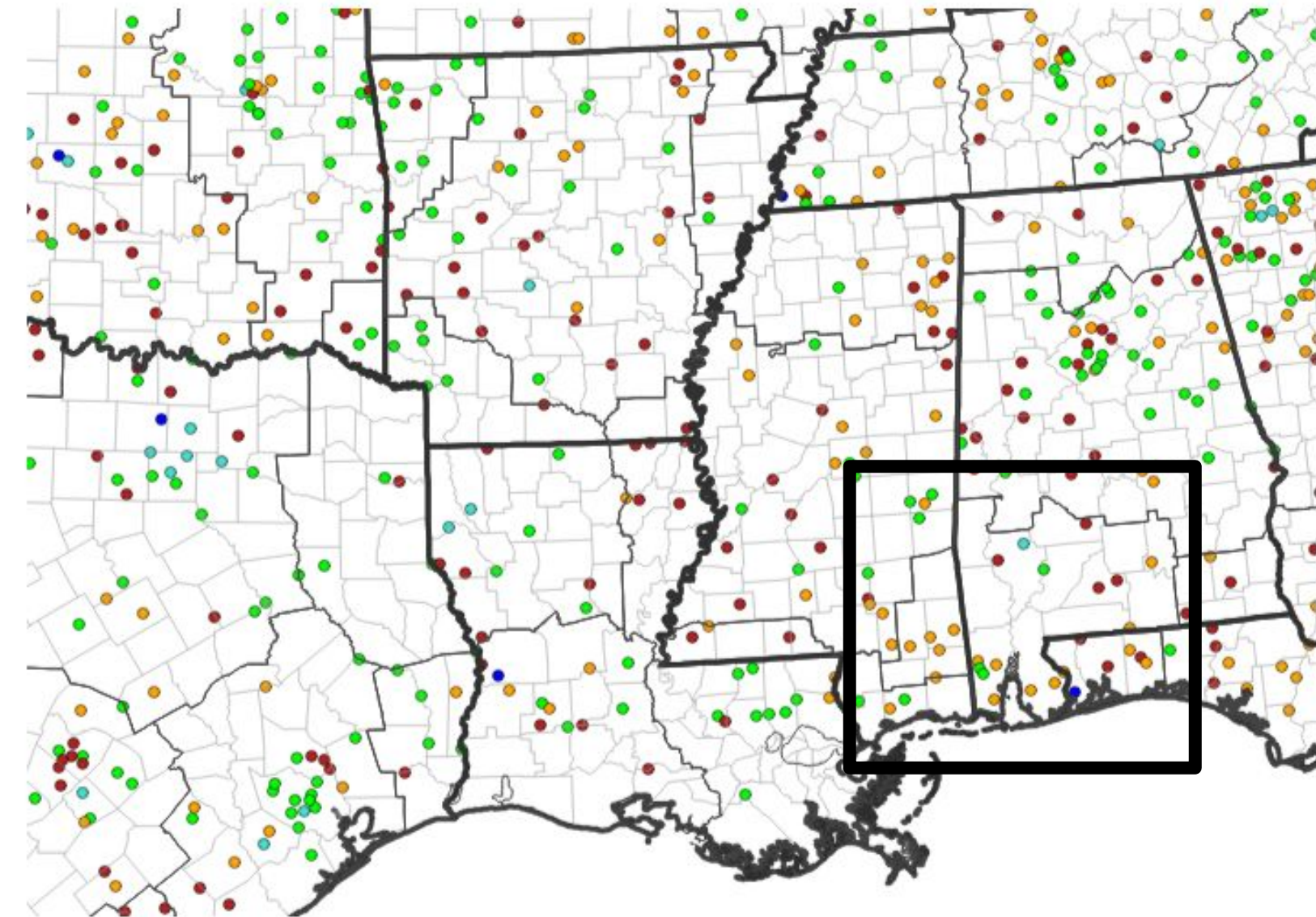
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Summary of conditions and impacts:

- 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

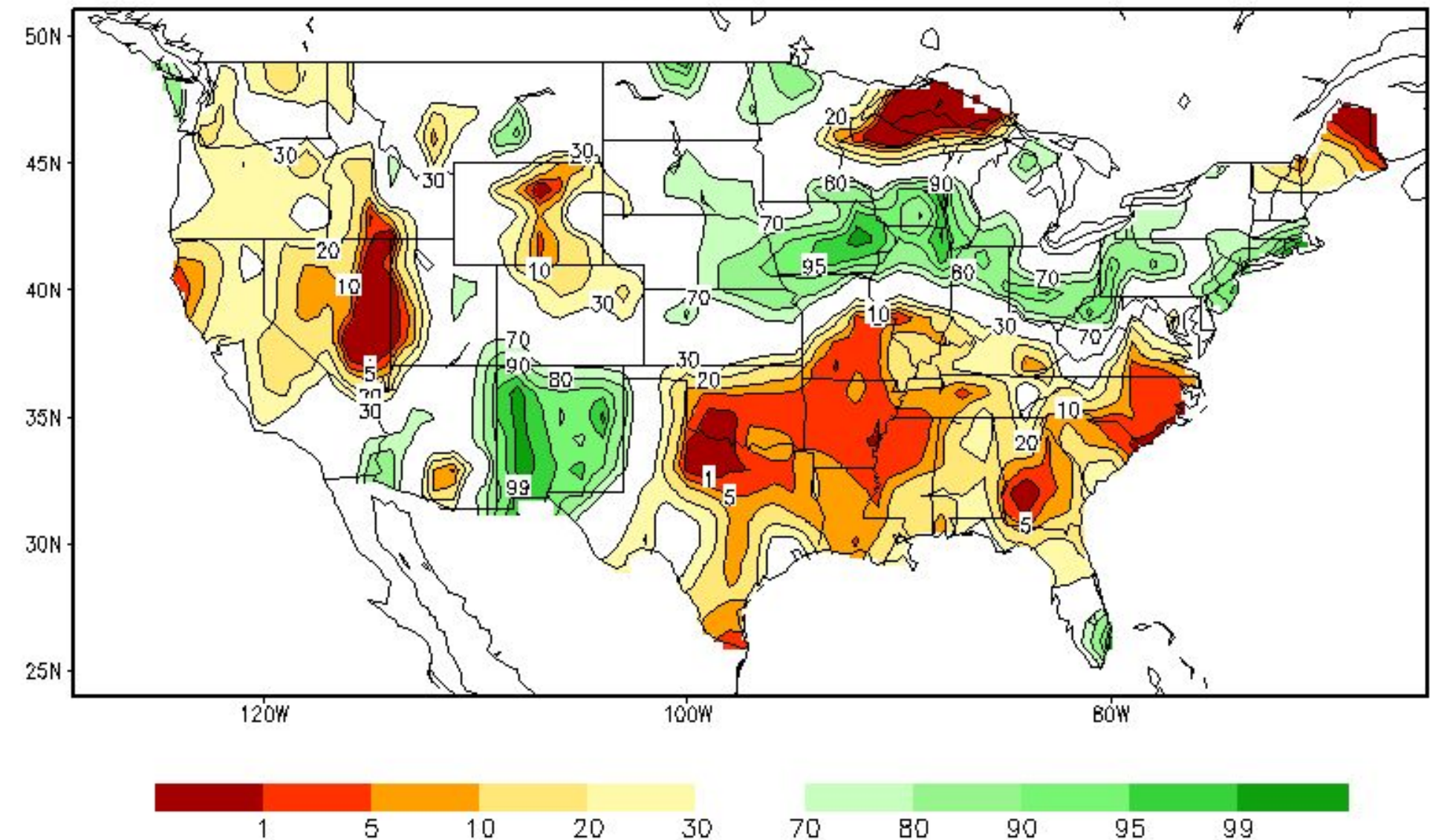
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Summary of conditions and impacts:

- Per latest data from the USDA September 27, 2026, top and subsoil moisture strata reflects greatest areal deficits in Mississippi and Alabama.
- Topsoil/Subsoil Moisture % Short to Very Short:
Mississippi – 84% / 79%
Alabama – 56% / 52%
Mississippi – 25% / 24%
- 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 30, 2026





Fire Hazard Impacts

October 1, 2026

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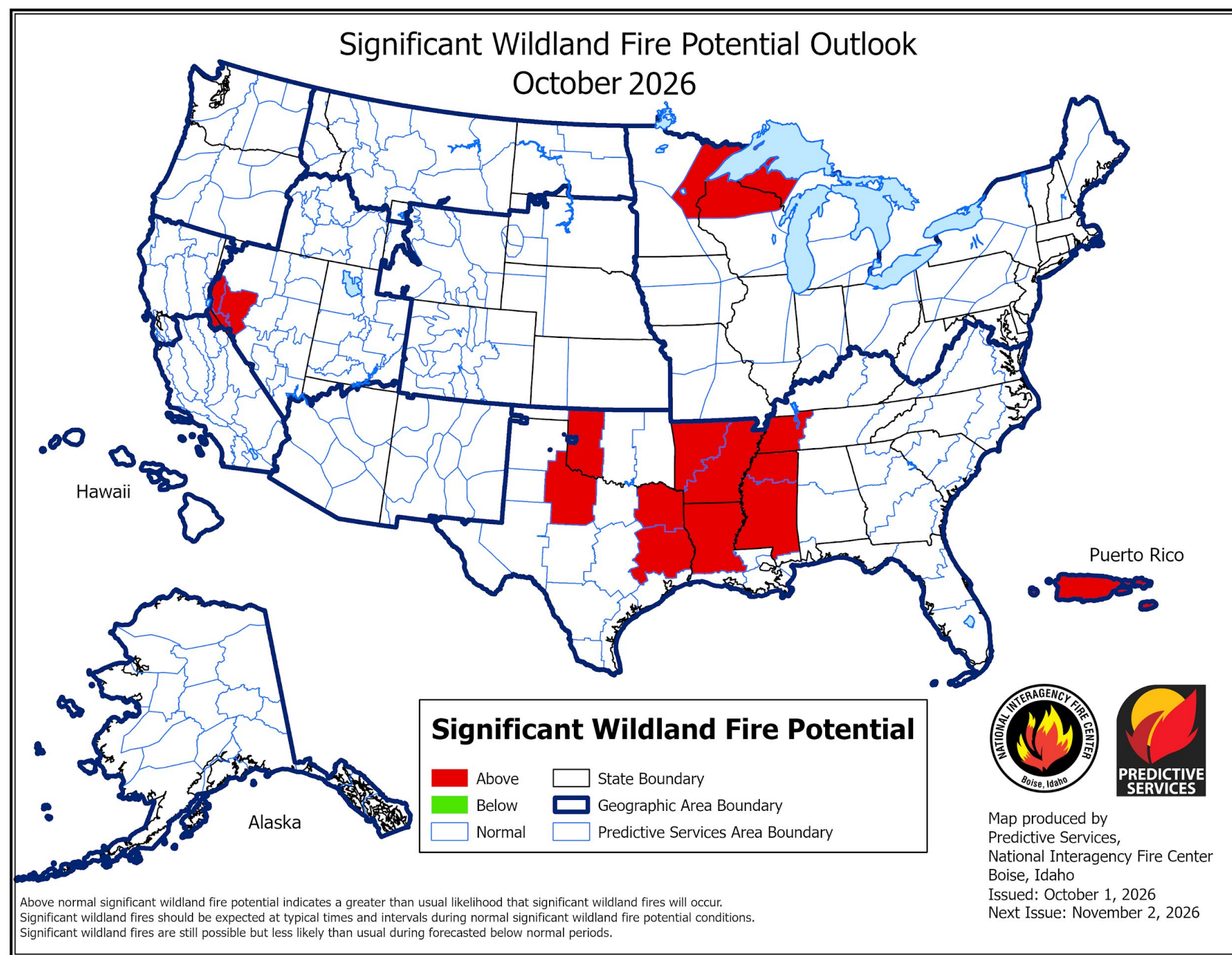
Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center

Summary of conditions and impacts:

- The risk of significant wildland fire is above normal from east Texas to across the Lower Mississippi Valley through October.
- 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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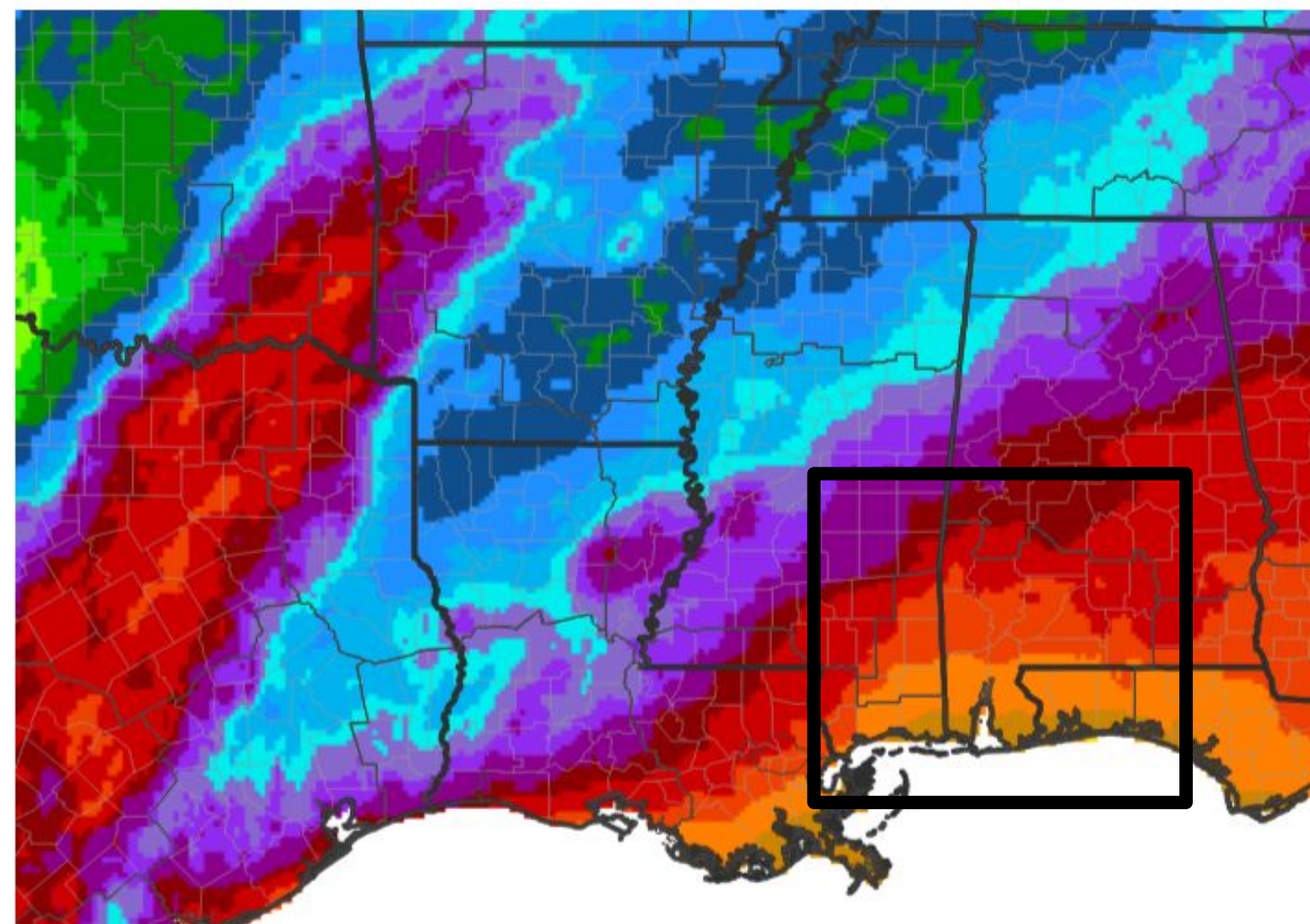
7-Day Precipitation Forecast

October 1, 2026
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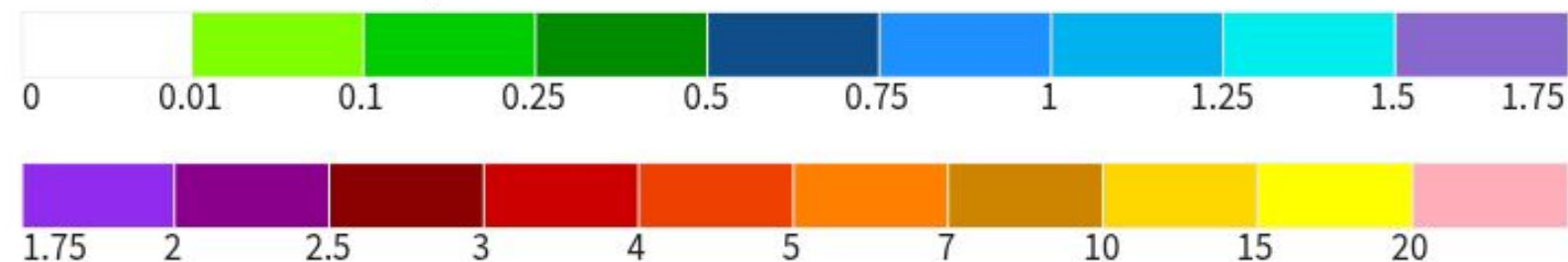
Summary of conditions and impacts:

- A slow moving front, combined with a slow moving upper level storm system brings a period of extended rainfall, some of which potentially heavy, to the deep south through the first week of October.
- Storm total rainfall for the period Friday to Monday October 2nd to the 5th, could add up to 3 to 5 inches over the interior to 5 to 10 inches toward and south of the I-10 corridor. Locally higher rainfall above these amounts cannot be ruled out.
- There is increasing confidence of flash flooding, especially in urban, lower lying areas that are subject to rapid water rises during heavy rain events.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 1, 2026–October 8, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

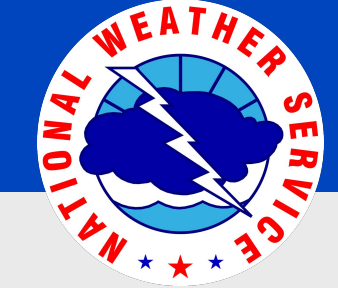
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Long-Range Outlooks

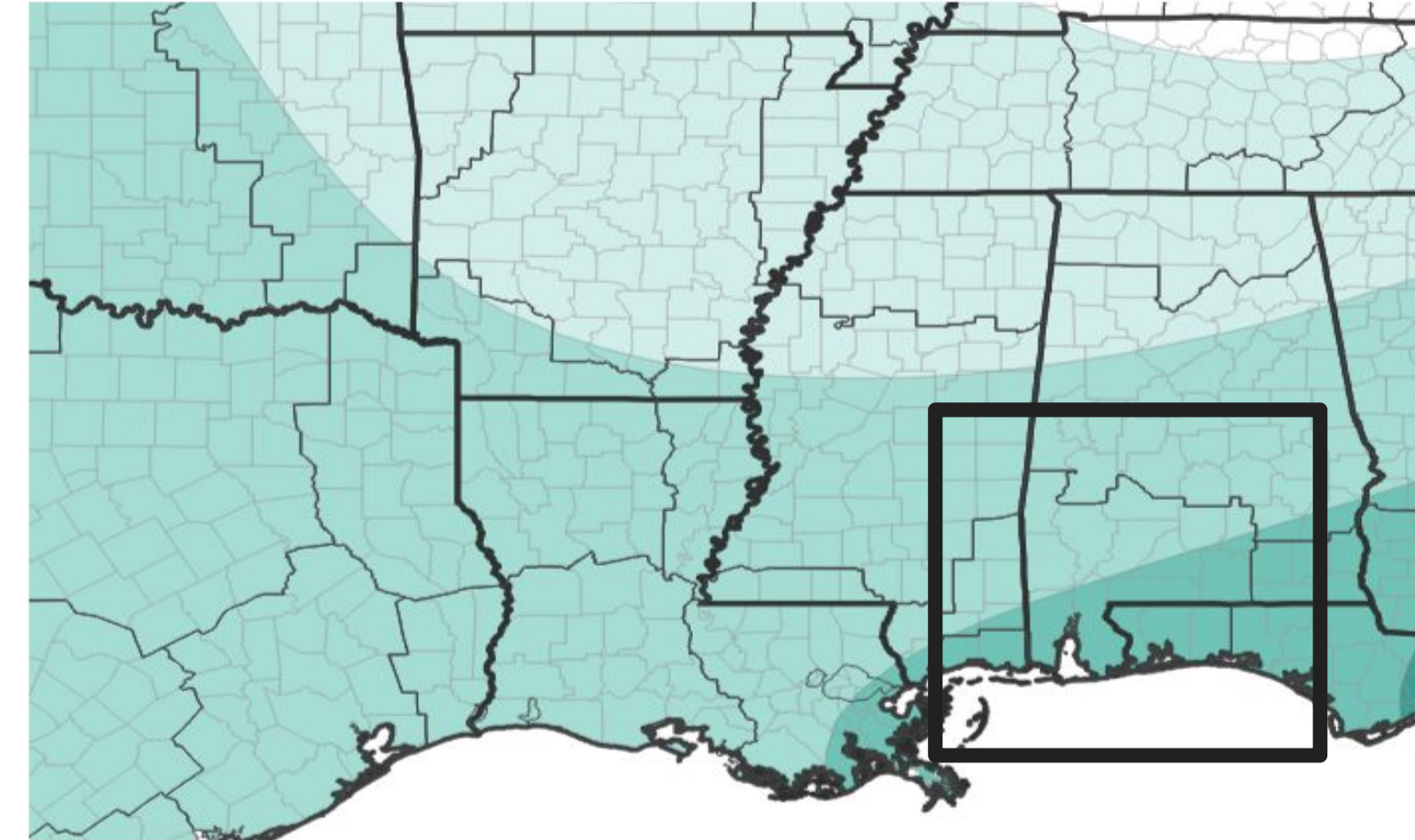
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Latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC](#) webpage

Summary of conditions and impacts:

- A pattern shift looks to be setting up and suggests 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.

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2026–December 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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Drought Outlook

October 1, 2026

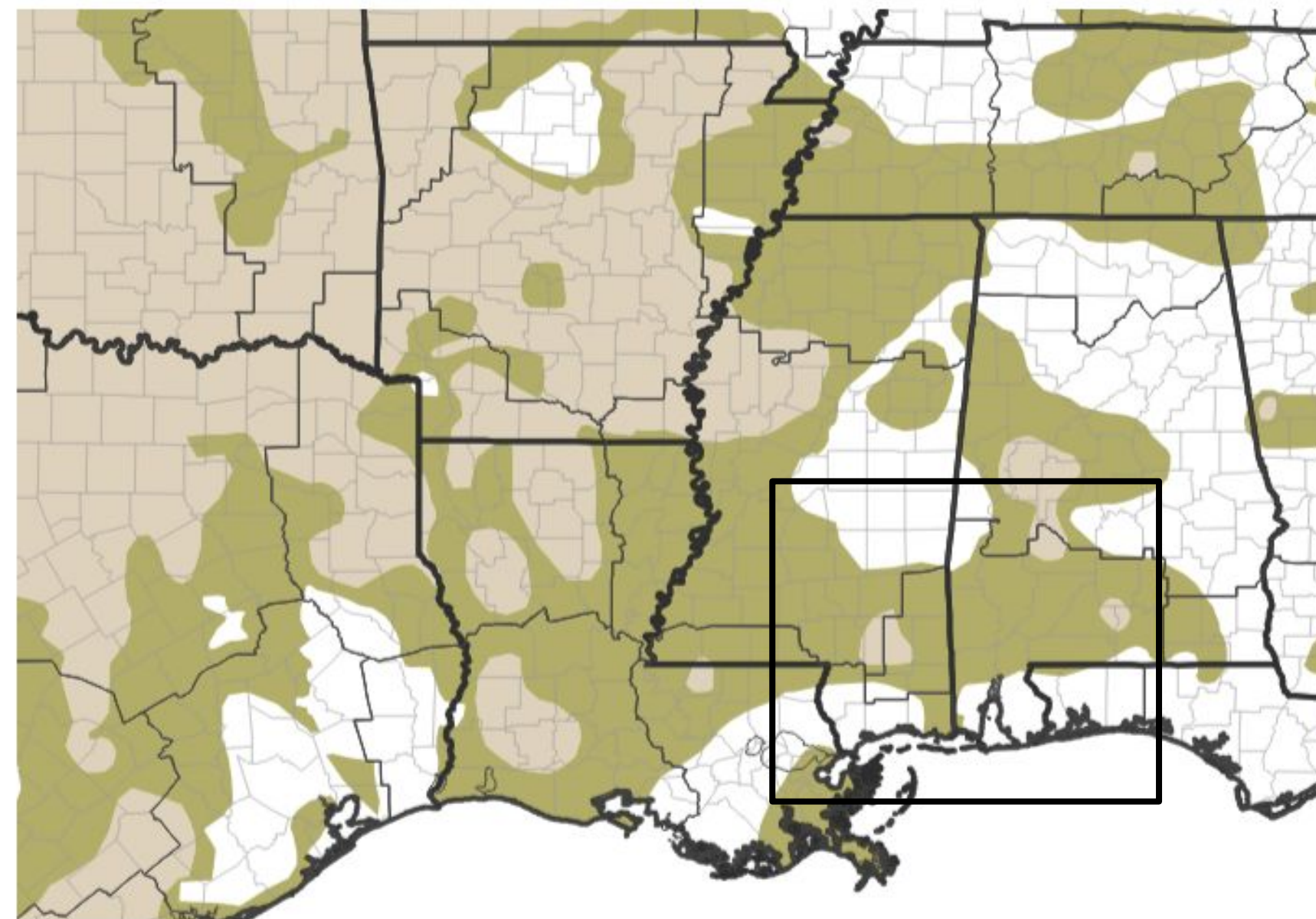
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Latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC](#) webpage

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 30, 2026–December 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

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Latest Climate Prediction Center Drought Outlooks:

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



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