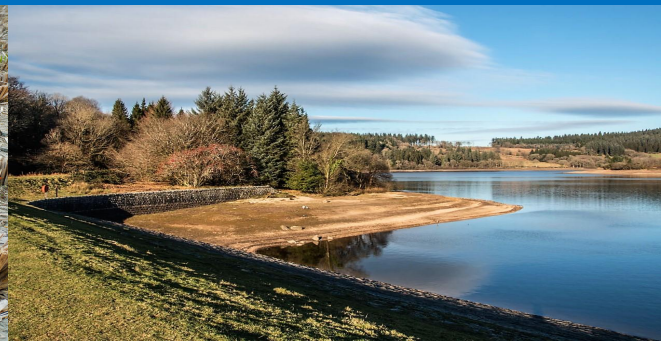
Drought Information Statement for southeast MS, southwest AL, and the western FL Panhandle

Valid 12/07/2023

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

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

- This product will be updated 12/14/2023 (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.

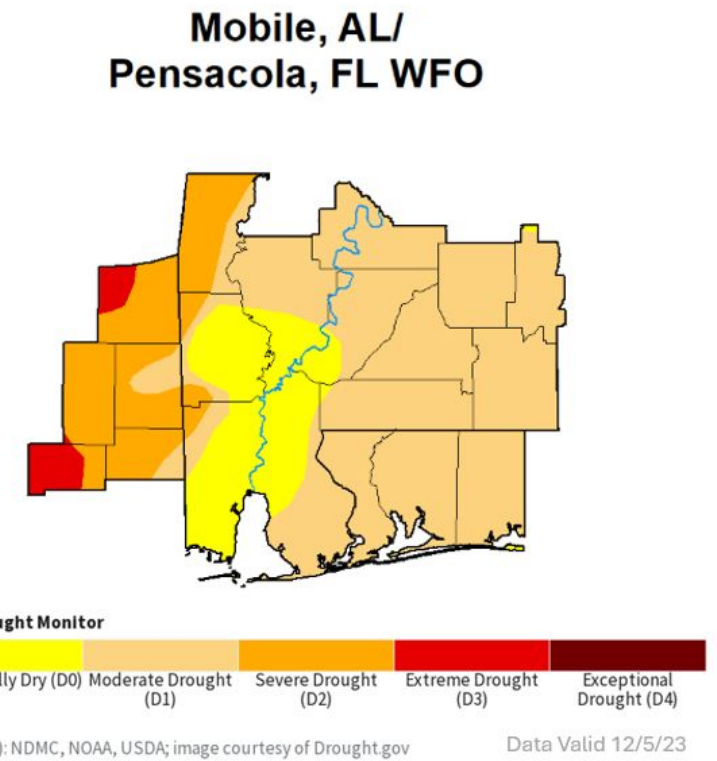


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Recent Heavy Rains Bring Drought Improvement To Much of the Gulf Coast.

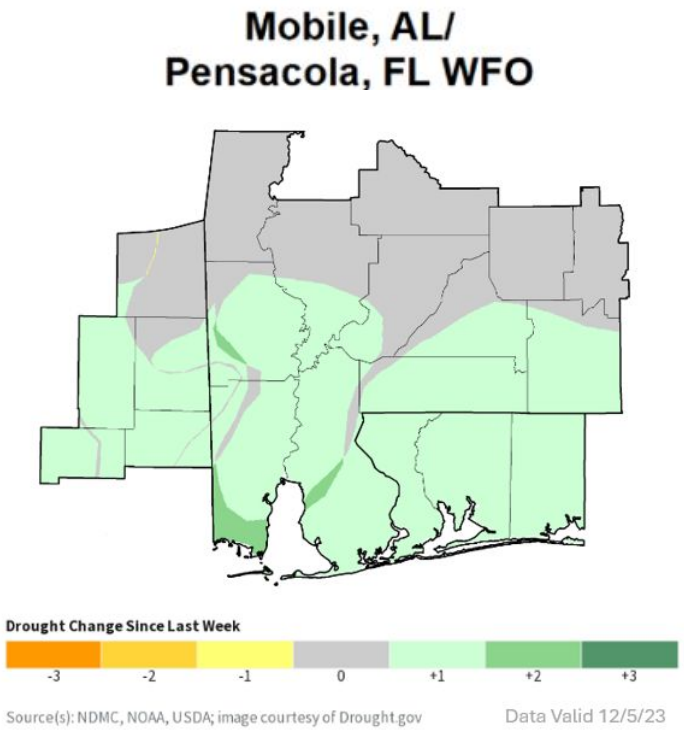
- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)** Western portions of Wayne and Stone counties in southeast MS.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Remainder of southeast MS eastward to across the state line into a small portion of interior southwest AL.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Much of the remainder of southwest AL. All of the western FL panhandle.
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Lower Tombigbee and AL River valleys.



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:** The southern half of the local area saw a one-class improvement over the past week. Portions of Washington Co., southern Mobile Co., and central Baldwin Co. shows a two-class improvement.
  - **No Change:** The remainder of the local area experienced no change in the drought intensity compared to the past week.

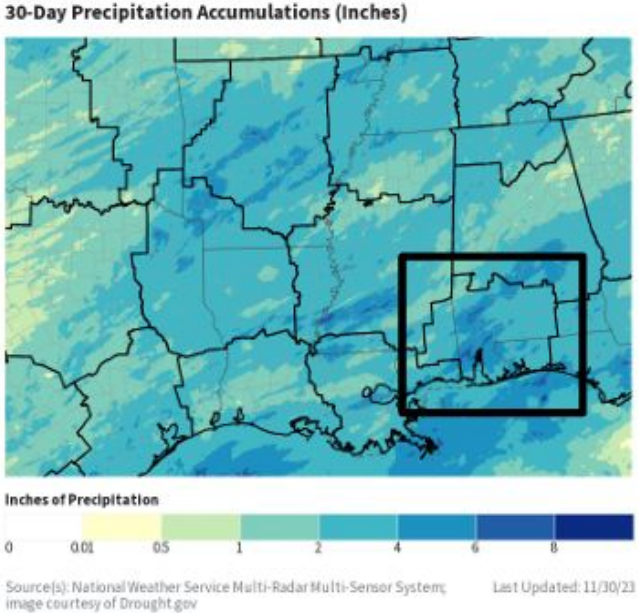


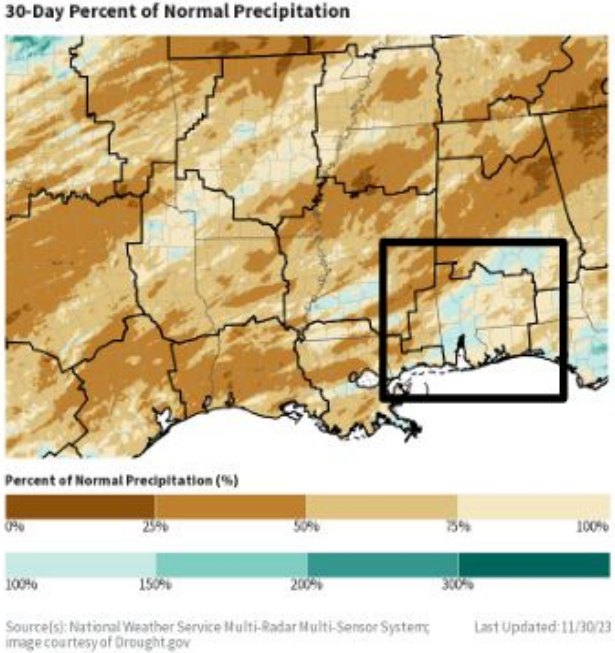
Precipitation

Table of 2023 Annual Accumulated Rainfall (Inches) from Select Locations - Updated Wed. 12/6/23

Station	Rainfall	Normal	% of Normal
Downtown Mobile AL	55.92	56.04	99.8%
Beaumont MS	55.58	58.72	94.7%
Waynesboro MS	51.66	55.03	93.9%
Pensacola FL	57.05	63.90	89.3%
Mobile AL	54.35	62.52	86.9%
Atmore AL	49.83	59.10	84.3%
Pensacola FL 7NNE	52.89	63.11	83.8%
Crestview FL	49.19	59.55	82.6%
Niceville FL	51.96	68.68	75.7%
Fairhope AL 2NE	47.82	65.02	73.5%
Bay Minette AL	46.79	67.09	69.7%
Evergreen AL *	34.26	50.73	67.5%

Sites include NWS Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) and COOP.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Area streams and local rivers that are running below normal brings 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 recreational boating and commercial navigation.

Agricultural Impacts

- With drought easing over much of the local area, agricultural impacts have lessened but have not gone away entirely. In areas where drought lingers, winter crop is still suffering and supplemental feeding initiatives are required to maintain livestock condition.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The risk of significant wildfire has lowered to normal levels.

Societal Impacts

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

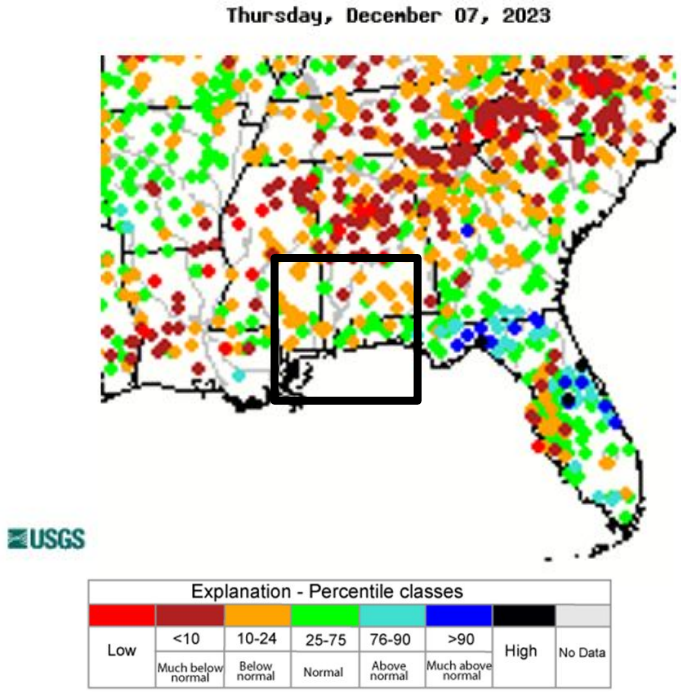
Mitigation Actions

- 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

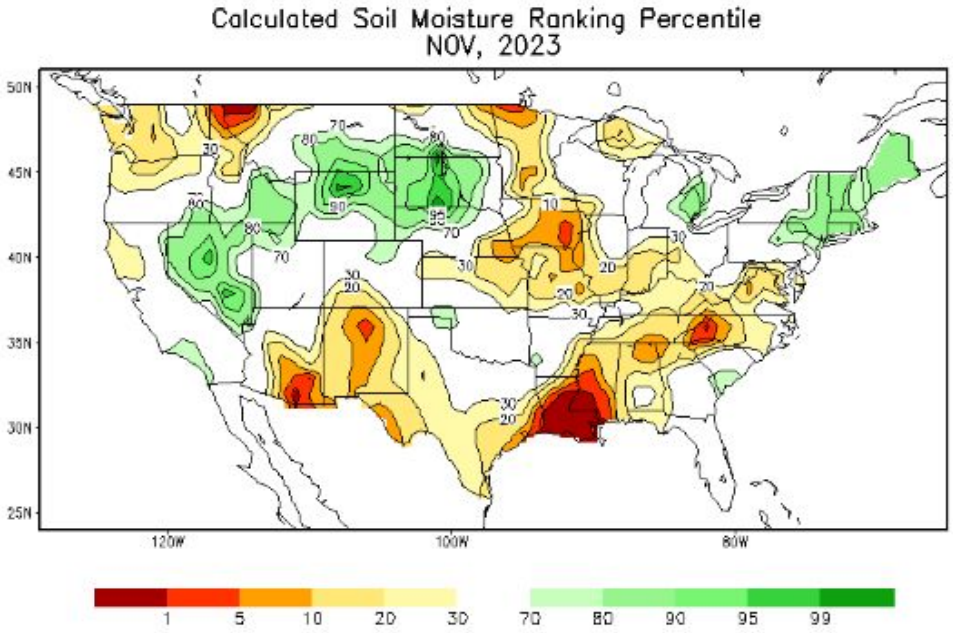
- The following select river and stream points are running below normal in flow and stage.

River/Stream Point	Discharge(cfs)	Stage(ft)	%Class, Rating
Leaf River near McClain MS	1450	3.85	25, Below Normal
Leaf River near New Augusta MS	999	2.51	22, Below Normal
Big Creek at Co. Rd 63 near Wilmer AL	22	2.02	16, Below Normal
Claiborne L&D near Monroeville, AL	3460	34.33	3, Much Below Normal
Pine Barren Creek near Snow Hill AL	49	2.73	14, Below Normal
Escambia River near Century FL	1590	4.18	15, Below Normal
W. Pensacola FL at Elevenmile Creek	35	5.13	16, Below Normal



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.**



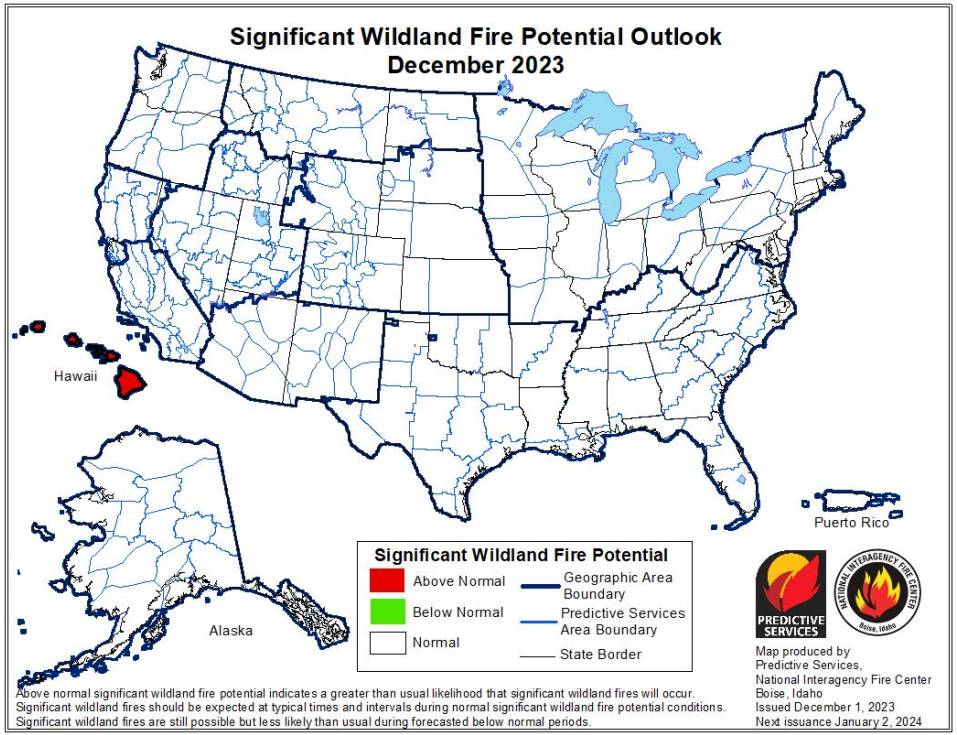
Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Significant wildland fire potential is anticipated to be at normal levels over the deep south through the month of December. 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.

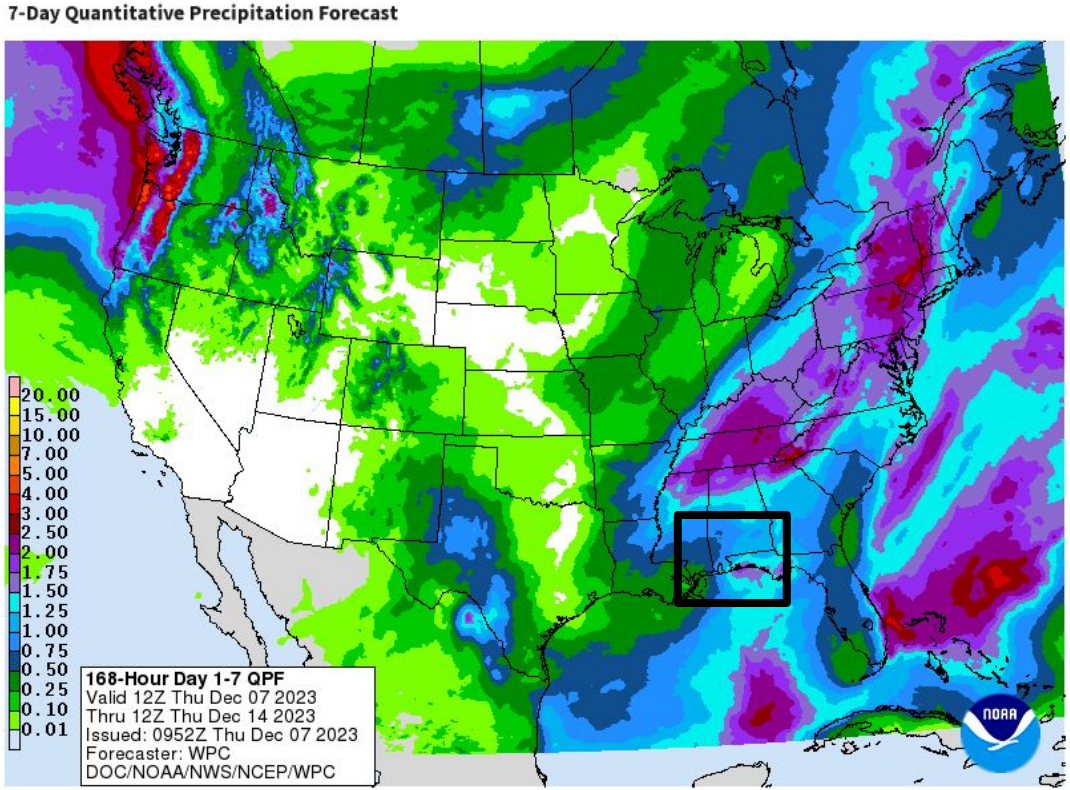
- To view the seven day significant fire potential maps, please refer to the link above.

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



Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- New rainfall over the deep south through Thursday December 14th is expected to range from 0.5 to 1.50” over much of the central Gulf coast.
- Locally higher amounts appear focused over the western Florida panhandle through the period.

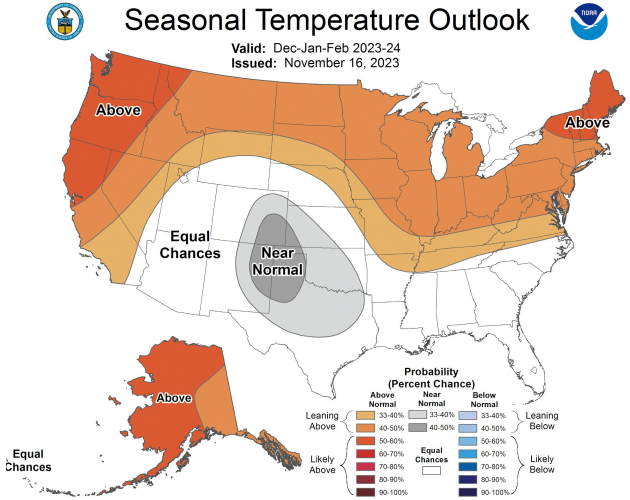


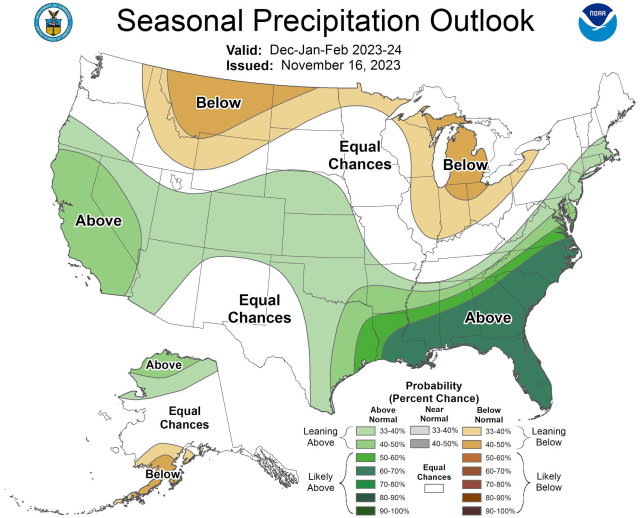
Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Equal chances of above or below normal temperatures are favored from Dec-Jan-Feb 2023-24.

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





Drought Outlook

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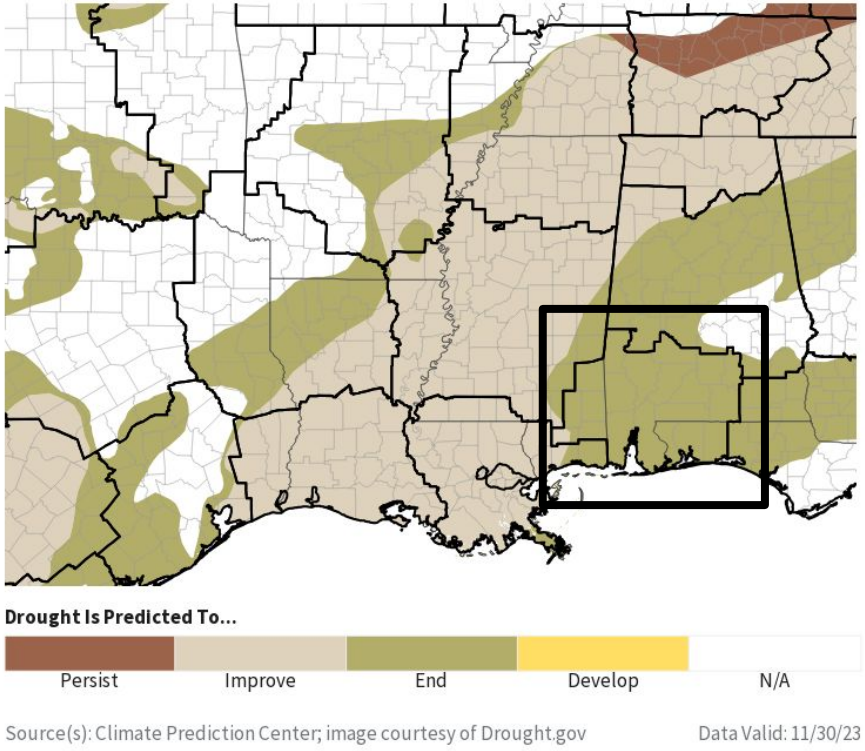
- Indications in the longer term outlook, closing out 2023 and entering the beginning of 2024, reflects an improvement or perhaps an end to drought.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Links to the latest:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook