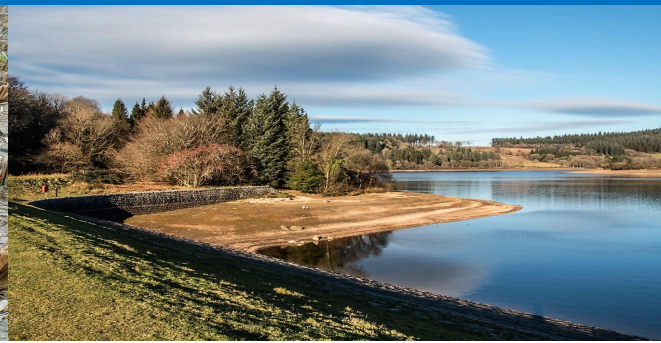
Drought Information Statement for southeast MS, southwest AL, and the western FL Panhandle

Valid 12/21/2023

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

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

- This product will be updated 12/28/2023 (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.

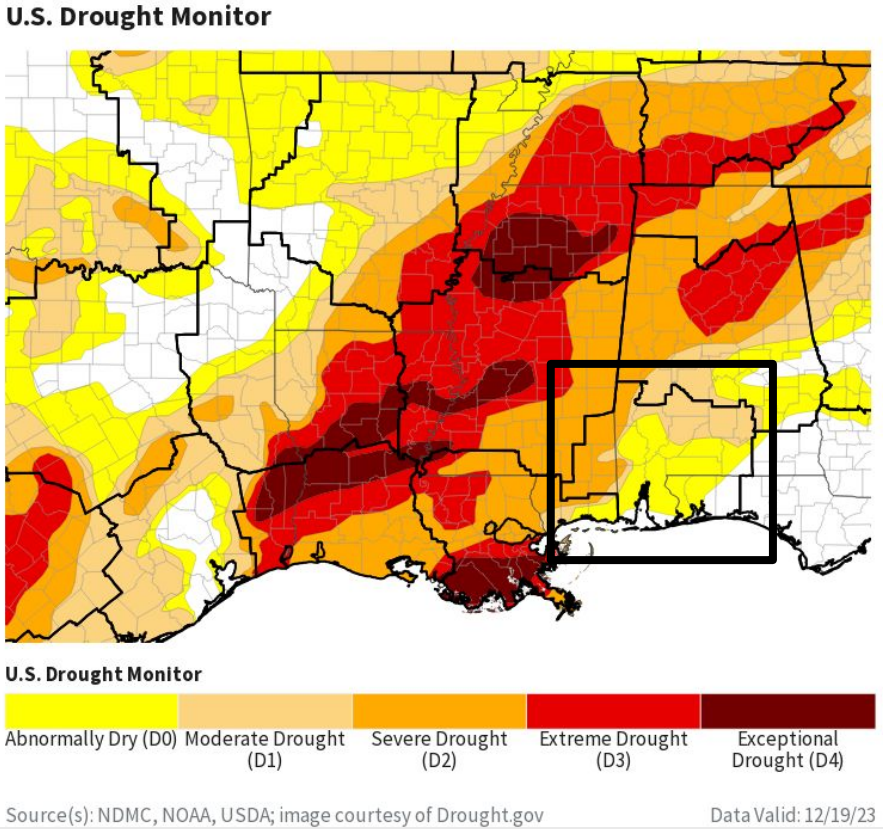


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Moderate to Severe Drought Lingers On over the Northern and Western Zones.

- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: State border of southwest AL, west into Southeast MS.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Along and north of the U.S. Highway 84 Corridor.
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Remainder of much of southwest and South-central AL. Portions of the western Florida Panhandle.

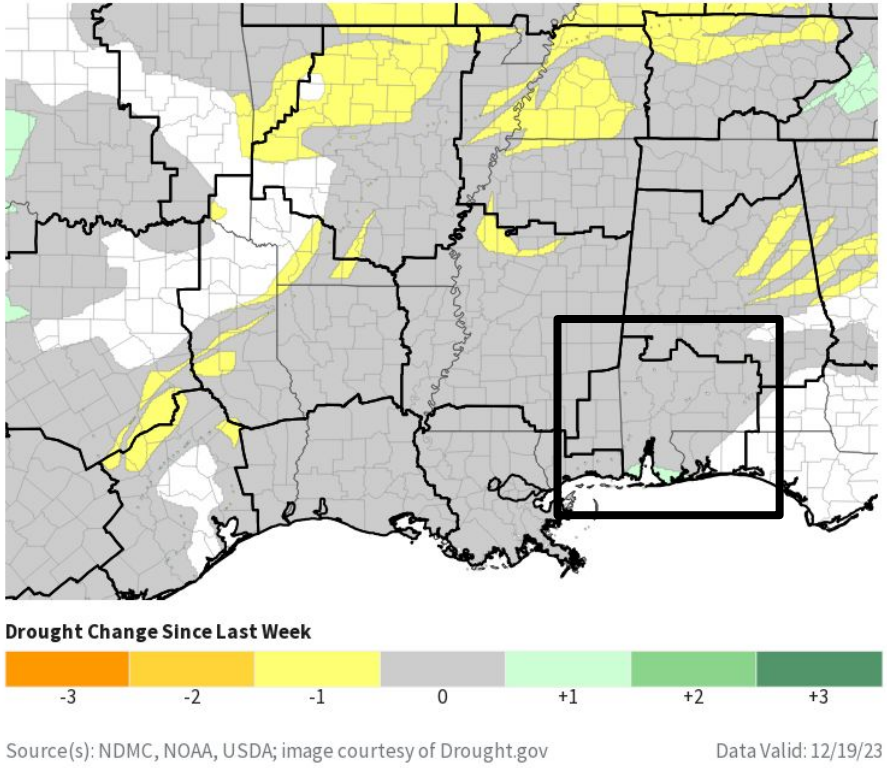


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **Drought Improved:** Coastal Mobile and Baldwin counties saw a one class improvement.
  - **No Change:** The remainder of the local area experienced no change in the drought intensity compared to the past week.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map

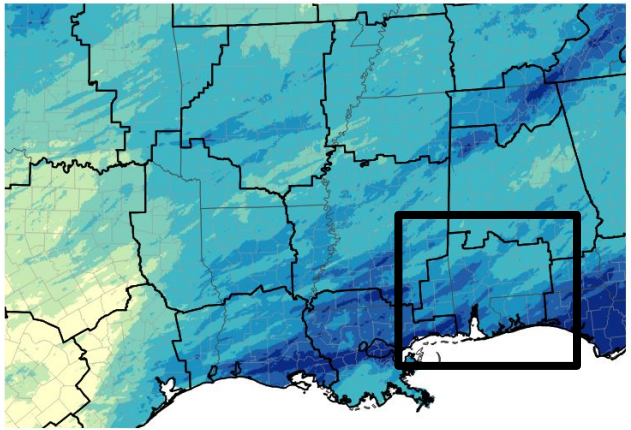


Precipitation

Table of 2023 Annual Accumulated Rainfall (Inches) from Select Locations - Updated Wed. 12/20/23

Station	Rainfall	Normal	% of Normal
Downtown Mobile AL	56.16	58.47	96.0%
Leakesville MS 6WSW	57.43	61.51	93.4%
Waynesboro MS 2W	52.82	57.73	91.5%
Pensacola FL	58.51	66.21	88.4%
Mobile AL	55.16	64.94	84.9%
Atmore AL	50.99	61.41	83.0%
Pensacola FL 7NNE	53.37	65.82	81.1%
Crestview FL	50.00	61.76	81.0%
Niceville FL	54.53	71.26	76.5%
Bay Minette AL	47.35	69.60	68.0%
Evergreen AL	34.59	53.13	65.1%

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



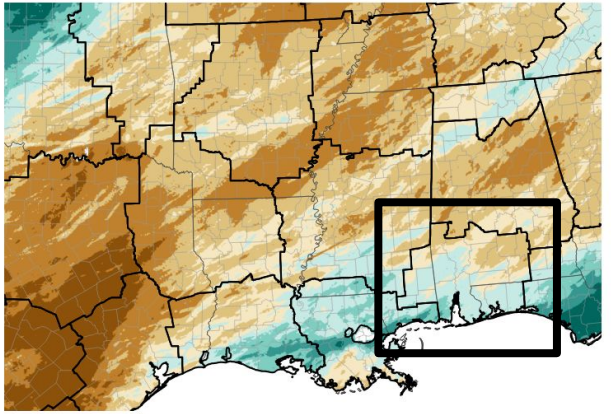
Inches of Precipitation

0 0.01 0.5 1 2 4 6 8

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

Last Updated: 12/21/23

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

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

Last Updated: 12/21/23

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

- Most area streams and local rivers have returned to running below to much below normal in flow and stage. Low stages bring 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

- 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.

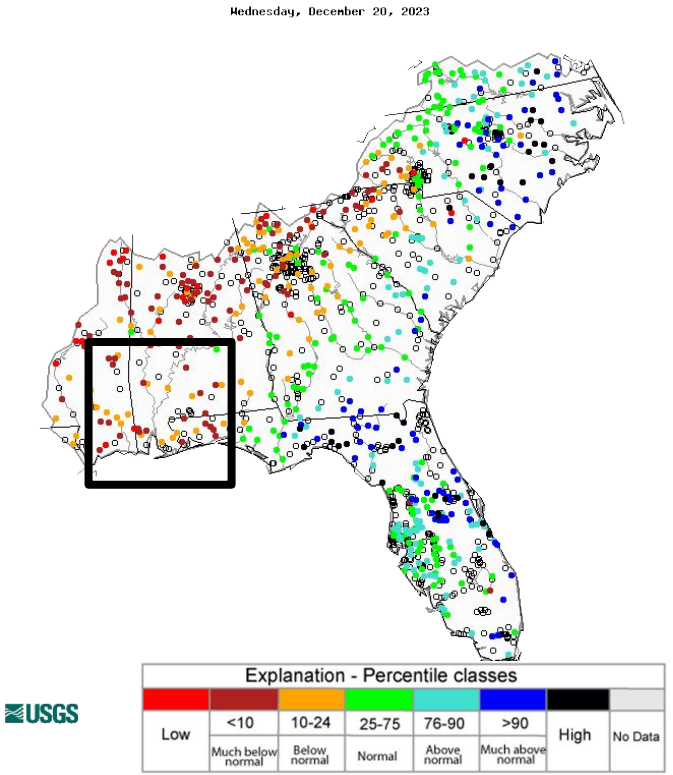
Mitigation Actions

- 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

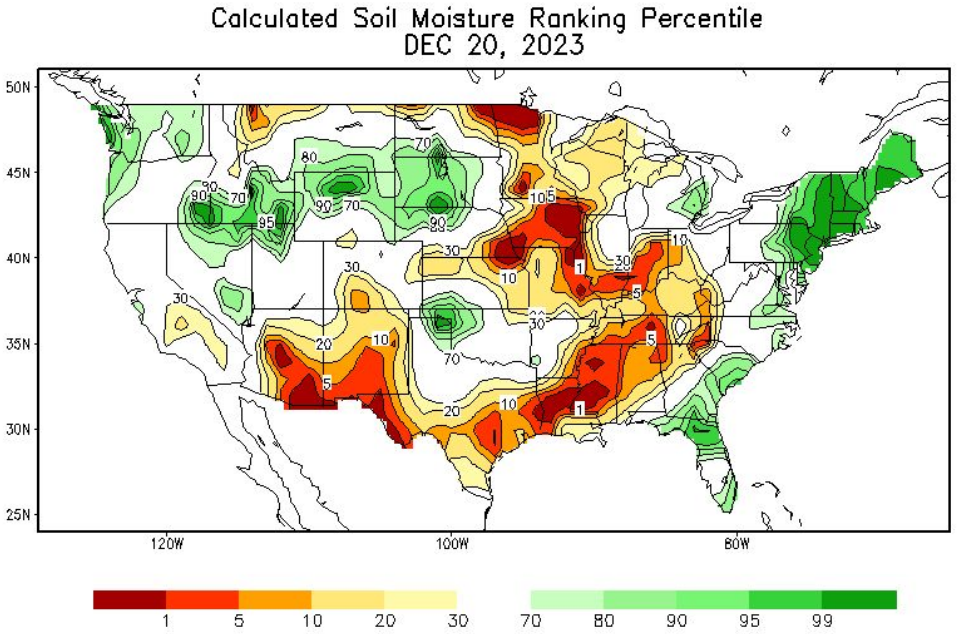
- The following select river and stream points are running below normal in flow and stage.

River/Stream Point	Discharge(cfs)	Stage(ft)	%Class, Rating
Cyprus Creek at Janice MS	15	5.88	5, Much Below Normal
Red Creek at Vestry MS	229	4.85	5, Much Below Normal
Chickasawhay River at Leakesville MS	627	8.37	8, Much Below Normal
Big Creek at Co. Rd 63 near Wilmer AL	22	1.80	3, Much Below Normal
Chickasaw Creek near Kushla AL	72	3.21	2, Much Below Normal
Styx River near Elsanor AL	158	1.95	12, Below Normal
Pine Barren Creek near Snow Hill AL	42	2.64	4, Much Below Normal
Alabama River at Claiborne L&D	4500	34.79	3, Much Below Normal
Escambia River near Century FL	1280	3.62	2, Much Below Normal
Eleven Mile Creek near West Pensacola FL	25	4.83	Low
Big Coldwater Creek Near Milton FL	279	2.43	11, Below Normal
Juniper Creek near Niceville FL	60	6.32	9, Much Below Normal
Blackwater River near Baker FL	82	1.14	3, Much 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.**



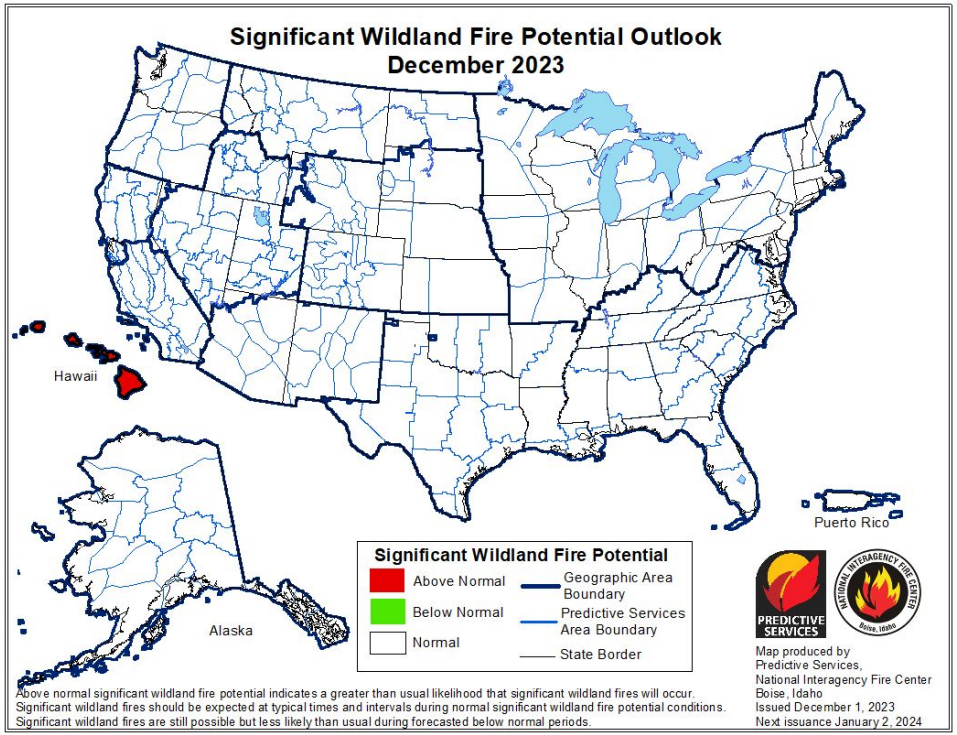
Fire Hazard Impacts

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 remainder of 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.

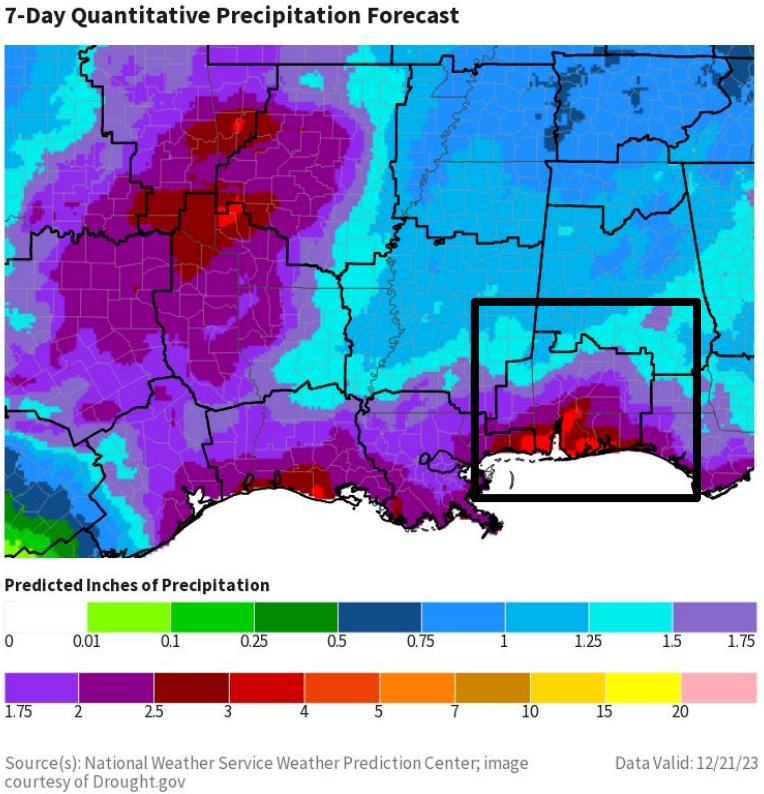
- To view the seven day significant fire potential maps, please refer to the link above.

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



Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The next significant rainfall maker for the deep south will be a storm system that makes passage Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- New storm total rainfall over the deep south from this system shows a few inches of additional rainfall.
- The higher values appear focused along the coastal counties.

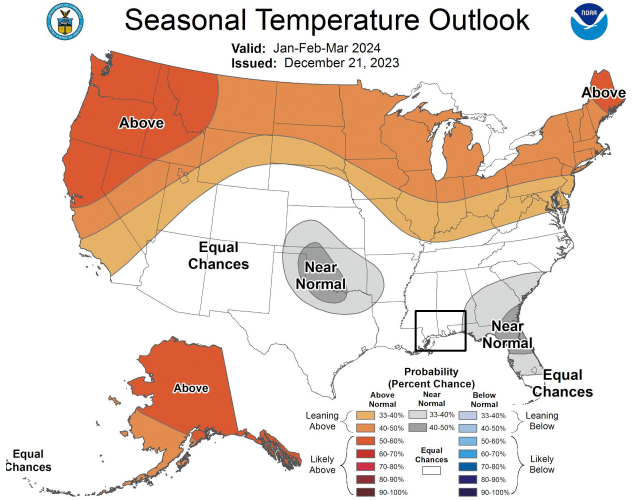


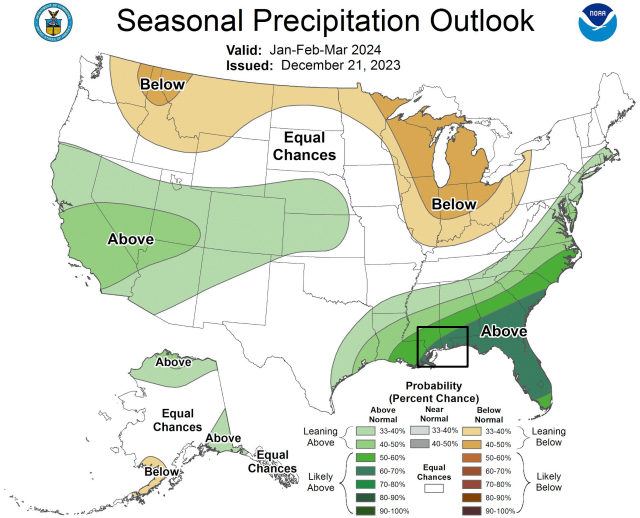
Long-Range Outlooks

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 from Jan-Feb-Mar 2024.

- The 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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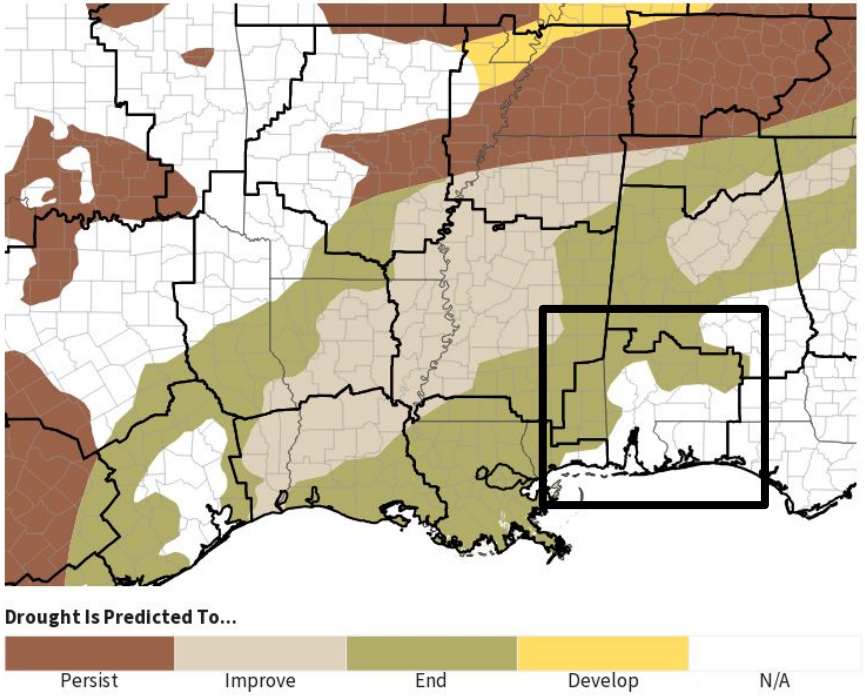
- Indications in the longer term outlook, entering the beginning of 2024, reflects an end to drought.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook