



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

Valid 12/28/2023

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

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

- This product will be updated 01/04/2024 (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.



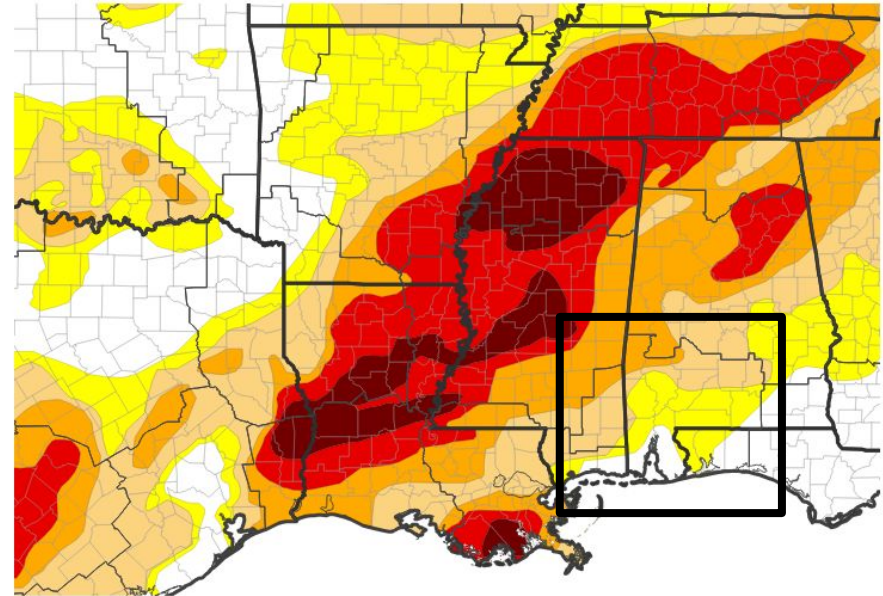


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- Severe Drought Continues to Shrink in Areal Coverage.
- Drought Intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Along and north of a line from Runnelstown MS, to Pine Hill AL.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Remainder of southeast MS to the eastern Highway 84 Corridor over interior southwest AL.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Elsewhere for much of the local area north of the coast.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 12/26/23



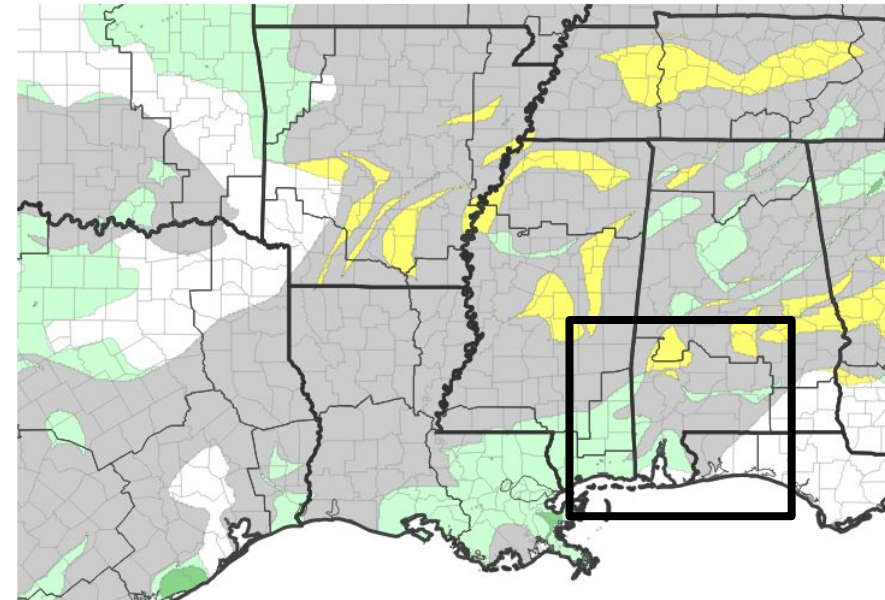


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

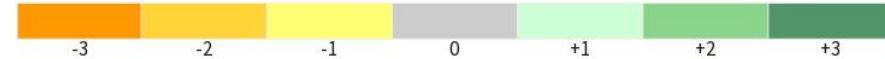
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **Drought Worsened:** A small part of eastern Choctaw county, east into far western Wilcox county saw a one class degradation in drought intensity compared to the last week.
 - **Drought Improved:** Much of southeast MS, along with central Mobile and Baldwin counties saw a one class improvement.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 12/26/23





Precipitation

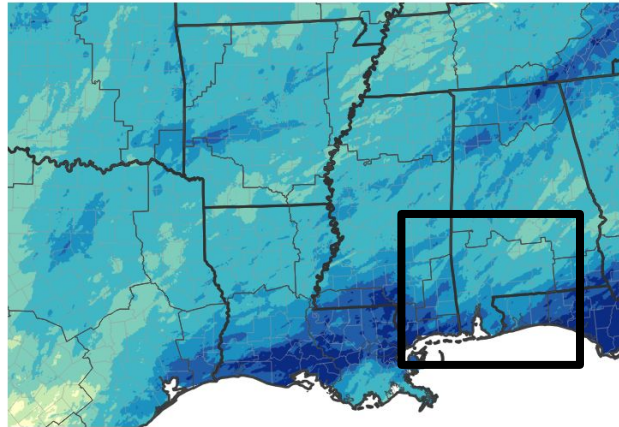
Table of 2023 Annual Accumulated Rainfall (Inches) from Select Locations - Updated Wed. 12/27/23

Station	Rainfall	Normal	% of Normal
Downtown Mobile AL	58.43	59.83	97.7%
Leakesville MS 6WSW	59.78	62.91	95.0%
Waynesboro MS 2W	54.02	59.21	91.2%
Pensacola FL	59.19	67.61	87.5%
Mobile AL	56.75	66.30	85.6%
Pensacola FL 7NNE	54.28	67.16	80.8%
Crestview FL	50.82	62.93	80.8%
Niceville FL	56.56	72.59	77.9%
Bay Minette AL	48.49	71.02	68.3%
Middleton Field Evergreen AL *	35.30	54.54	64.7%

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

* Indicates Record Lowest To Date.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

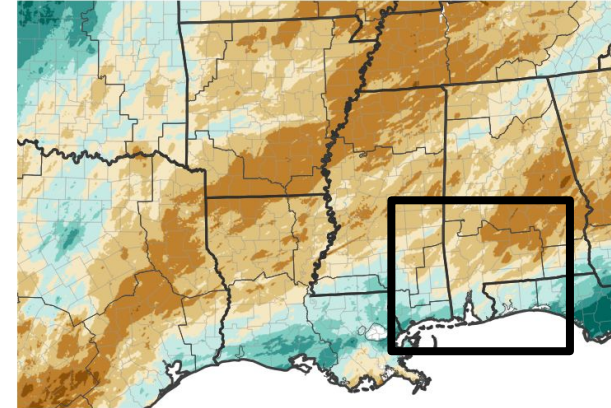


Inches of Precipitation

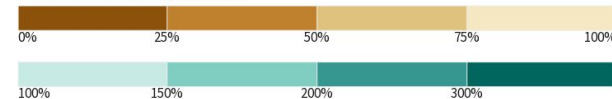


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/28/23

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/28/23





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Flow and stage on many streams and local rivers are running below to much below normal. 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 safe 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

- 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.



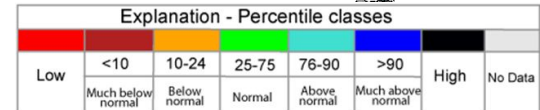
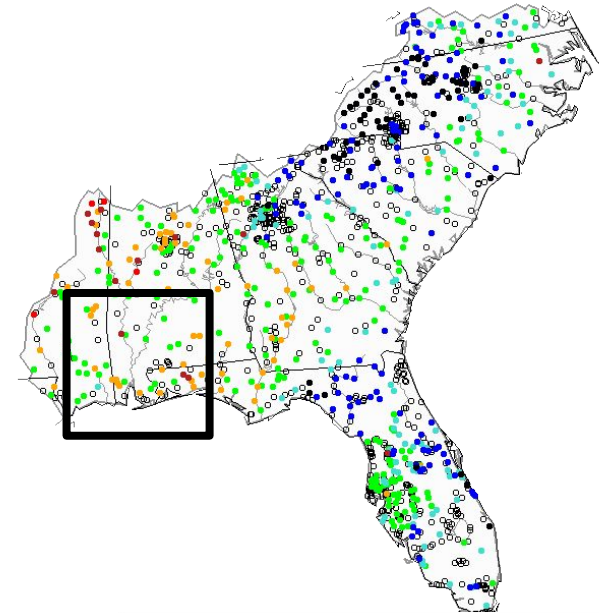


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

River/Stream Point	Discharge(cfs)	Stage(ft)	%Class, Rating
Chickasawhay River at Leakesville MS	1700	10.36	21, Below Normal
Big Creek at Co. Rd. 63 near Wilmer AL	25	1.98	9, Much Below Normal
Chickasaw Creek near Kushla AL	118	3.84	15, Below Normal
Fish River near Silverhill AL	61	1.14	14, Below Normal
Pine Barren Creek near Snow Hill AL	93	3.25	17, Below Normal
Tombigbee River near Coffeerville AL	5630	33.14	9.9, Much Below Normal
Escambia River near Century FL	2280	5.30	14, Below Normal
Eleven Mile Creek near West Pensacola FL	30	5.00	6, Much Below Normal
Big Coldwater Creek Near Milton FL	340	2.83	15, Below Normal
Yellow River at Milligan FL	407	1.44	4, Much Below Normal
Blackwater River near Baker FL	103	1.35	5, Much Below Normal

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

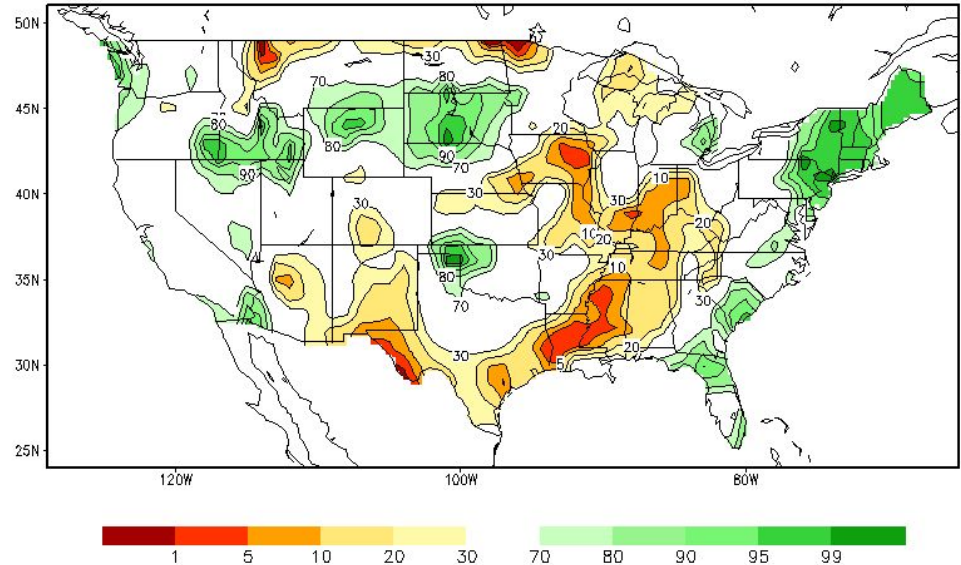




Agricultural Impacts

- 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.**

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
DEC 27, 2023



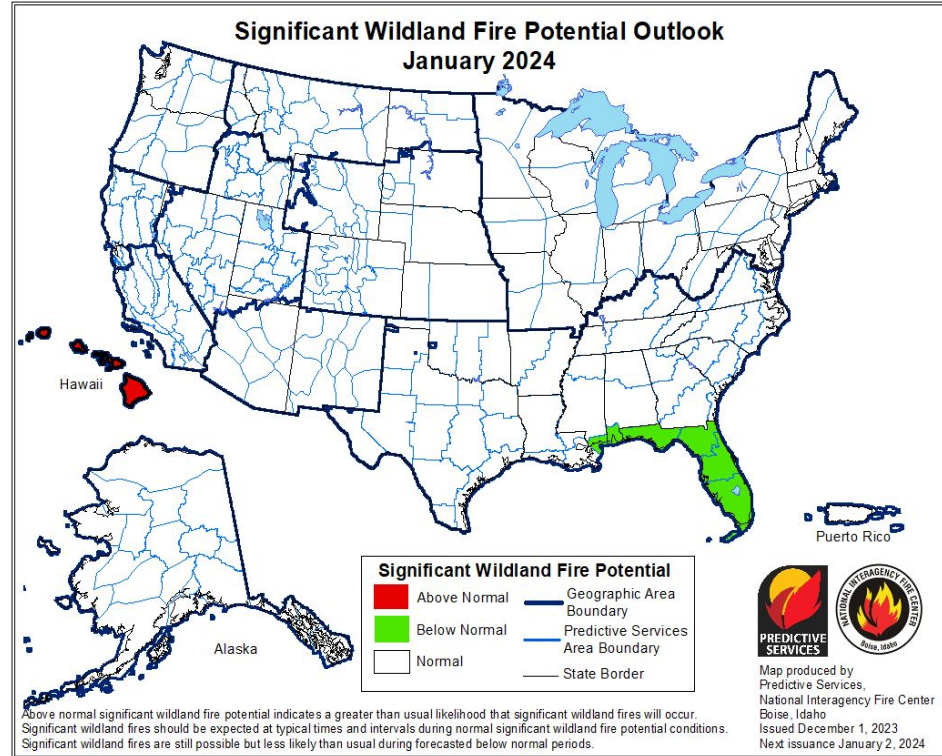


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Significant wildland fire potential is anticipated to lower going into January 2024 with the outlook for coastal Alabama, eastward into the whole state of Florida reflecting below normal levels.
- 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](#)

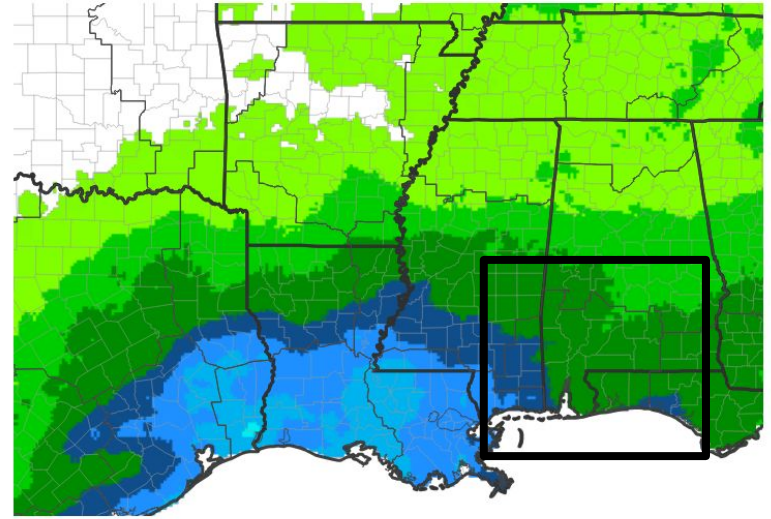




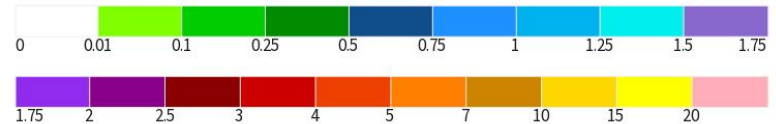
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A series of weather systems moving eastward across the deep south to open up the new year look bring upwards of a half to one inch of rainfall mostly focused over southeast MS.
- For southwest AL and the western FL Panhandle, lower rainfall amounts are anticipated of generally less than a half inch through Thursday January 4th.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Data Valid: 12/28/23

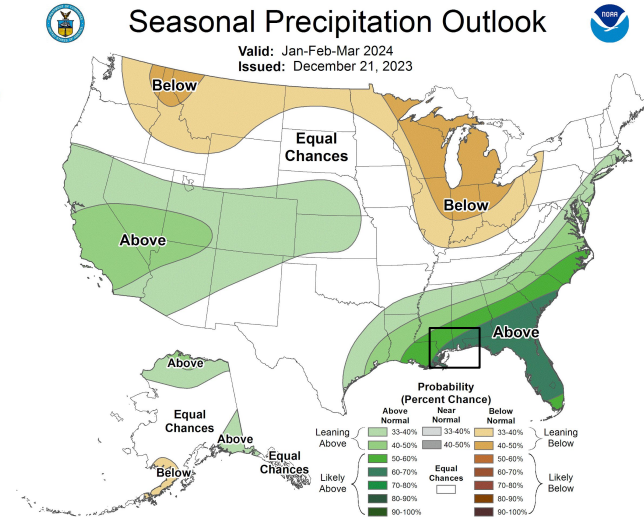
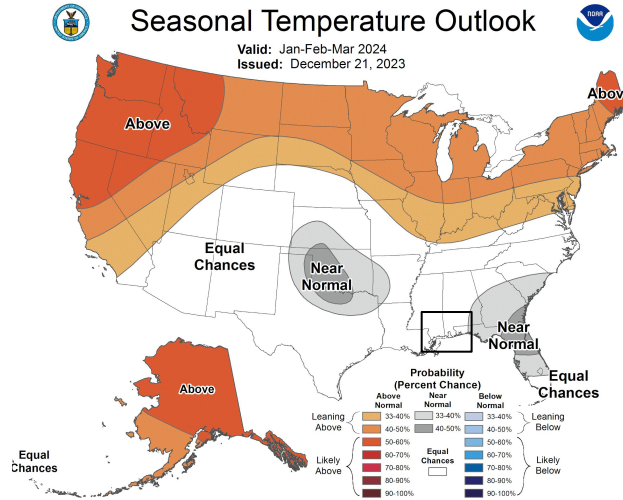




Long-Range Outlooks

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



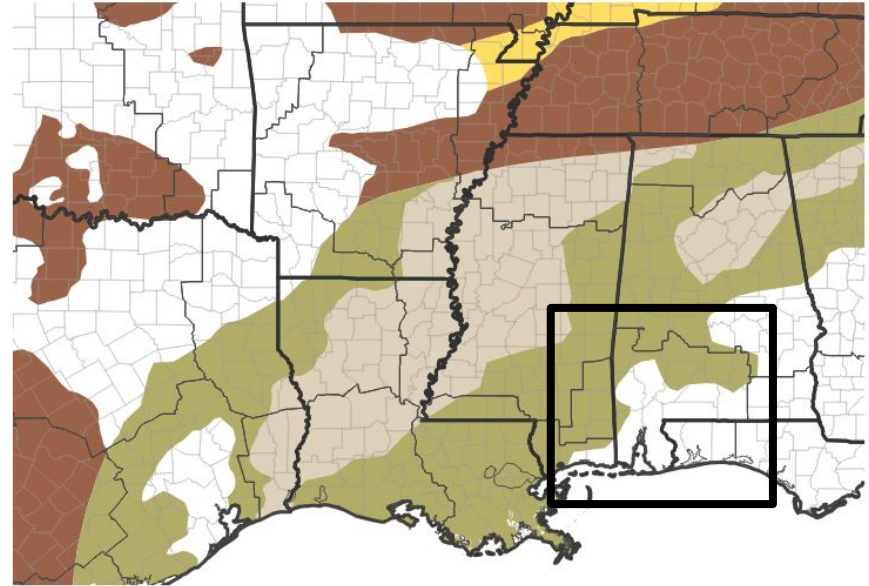


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

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

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid: 12/21/23

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
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