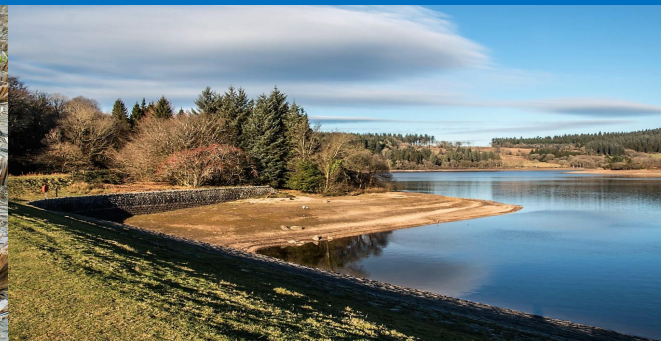
Drought Information Statement for Eastern Washington & North Idaho

Valid November 13, 2023

Issued By: NWS Spokane, WA

Contact Information: w-otx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by December 15, 2023 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/otx/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.

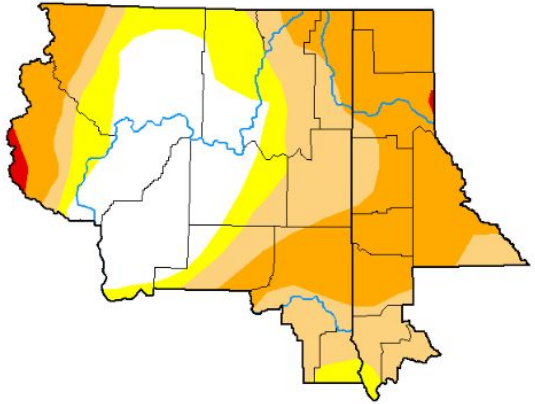


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for eastern Washington and north Idaho

SMALL DROUGHT IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THE INLAND NW

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Near the Cascade crest in Chelan county in WA and the eastern edge of Bonner county in ID, **covering 1%**
  - D2 (Severe Drought): East slopes of the Cascades, northeast WA, WA Palouse, and the Idaho Panhandle, **decreased to 34%**
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Parts of northeast WA, Spokane area, Columbia Basin, and pockets of the southern ID Panhandle, **decreased to 25%**
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Parts of central WA, **near 15%**
  - NONE: **Increased to 25%** in central WA!



U.S. Drought Monitor

Spokane, WA WFO

November 7, 2023

(Released Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	25.00	75.00	60.43	35.18	0.67	0.00
Last Week *10-31-2023*	25.00	75.00	60.66	39.17	0.67	0.00
3 Months Ago *08-08-2023*	18.10	81.90	58.88	22.94	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *01-03-2023*	25.93	74.07	11.42	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year *09-26-2023*	8.61	91.39	70.19	41.54	0.67	0.00
One Year Ago *11-08-2022*	8.49	91.51	45.29	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:

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National Drought Mitigation Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am EDT November 9, 2023

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 3-week change map for eastern Washington and north Idaho

- Three Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - No Change: Much of eastern WA and parts of the Idaho Panhandle.
  - Drought Improved: Parts of central WA and the LC Valley

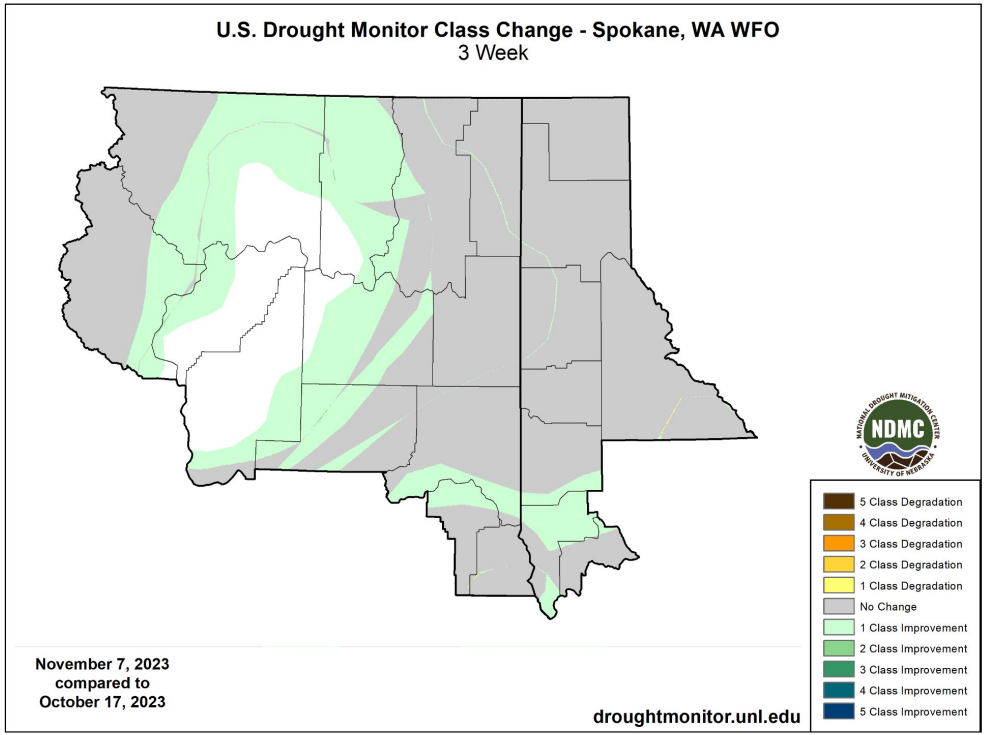


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 3-week change map valid 7am EDT November 7, 2023.

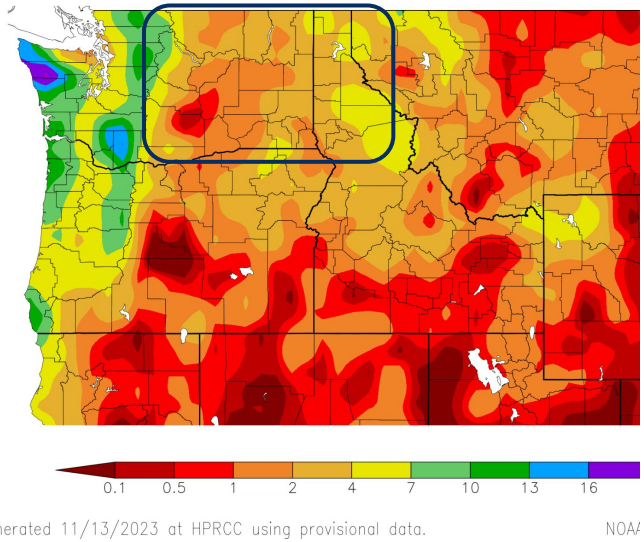
Precipitation

Last 30 Days

- Rounds of precipitation occurred mid October into early November

  Still pockets of below normal precipitation were found in northeast WA and parts of the Idaho Panhandle.

Precipitation (in)
10/14/2023 – 11/12/2023



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/14/2023 – 11/12/2023

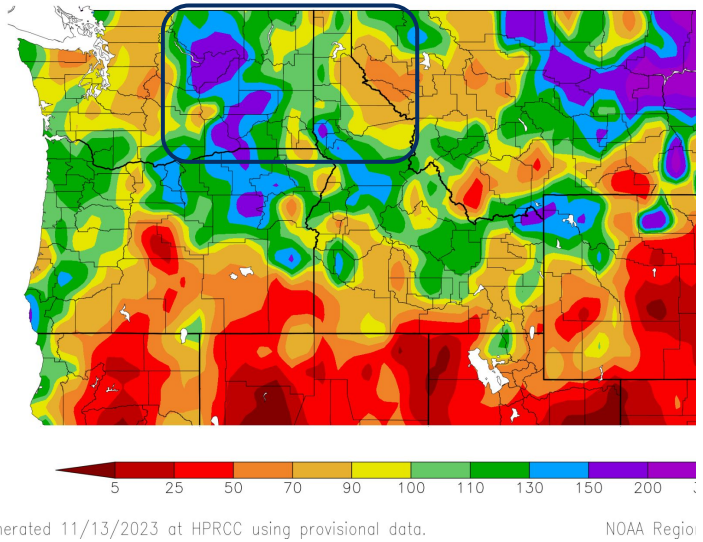


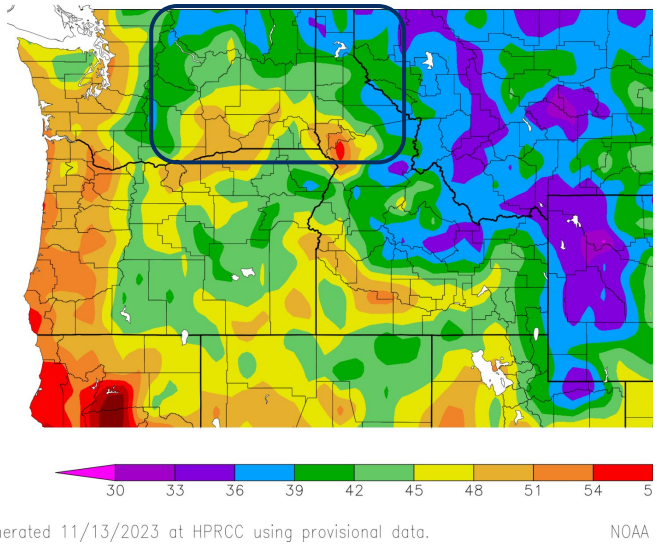
Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for Pacific NW
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Pacific NW
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center
Data over the past 30 days ending November 12, 2023

Temperature

Last 30 Days

- The previous 30 days continued to remain mild with near to above normal temperatures by 0 to 2 degrees across the region.

Temperature (F)
10/14/2023 – 11/12/2023



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
10/14/2023 – 11/12/2023

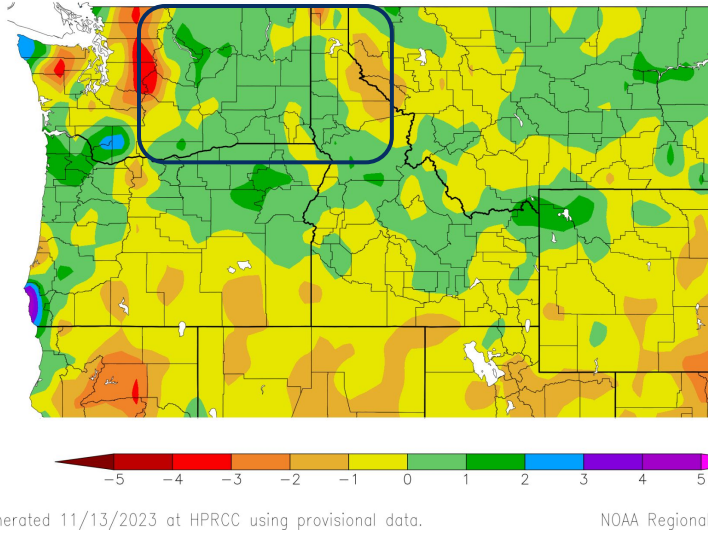


Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature for the Pacific NW
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature for the Pacific NW
Data Courtesy [High Plains Regional Climate Center]
Data over the past 30 days ending November 12, 2023

Snow Water Equivalent

- Autumn precipitation has fallen in the form of mountain snow with the Cascades and Okanogan Highlands receiving the bulk of the snow early this season.

- The snow has been limited across the central ID Panhandle into southeast WA through mid November.

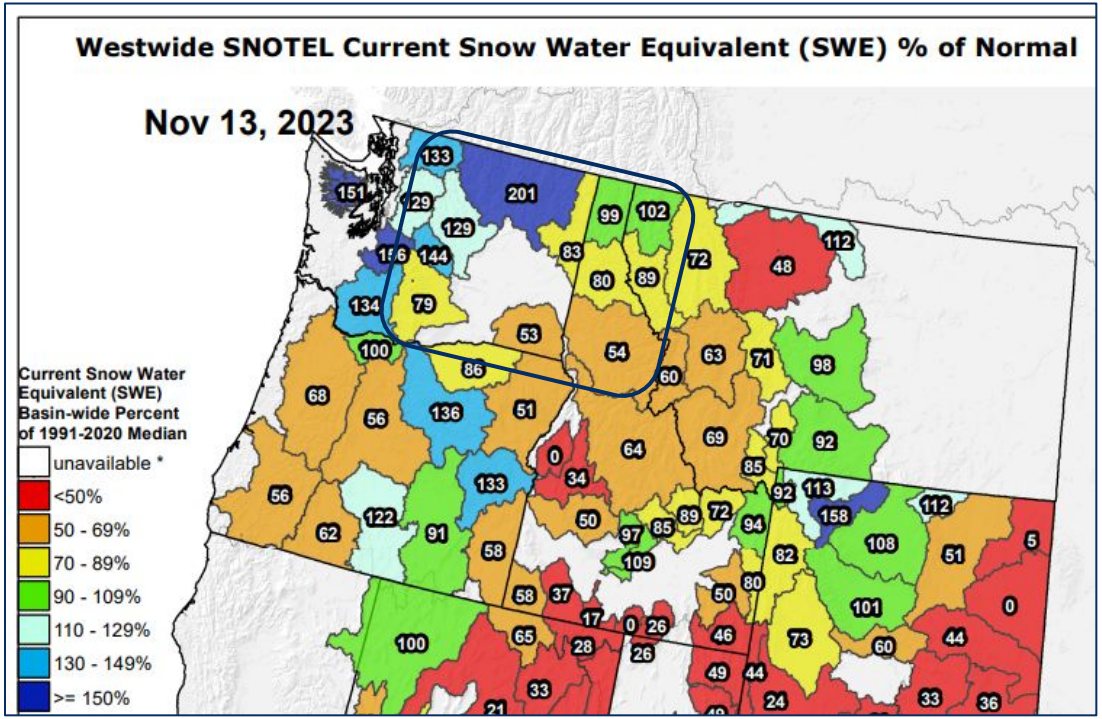


Image Captions:
Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent percentage .
Daily value ending November 13, 2023

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Many streamflows remain below to much below normal across parts of northeastern WA and the far northern Idaho Panhandle. There's been improvements across southeast WA and north central ID with the above normal precipitation over the last few weeks.

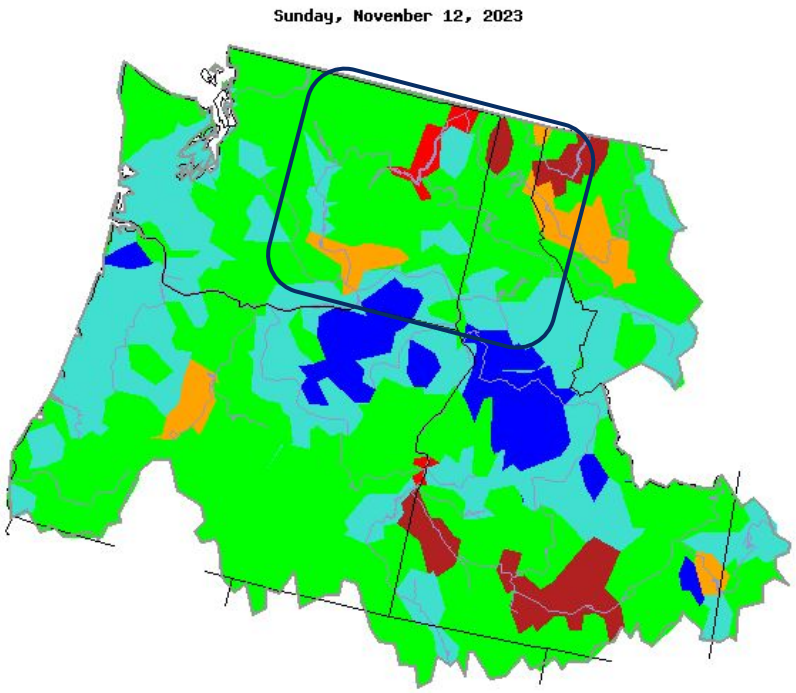
Agricultural Impacts

- Autumn precipitation has increased soil moisture and crop moisture across the region, especially with above normal levels in the east slopes of the Cascades.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows over the past 7 days have been variable, ranging from below normal flows in the north to above level flows across the south. There's been improvements across southeast WA and north central ID with the above normal precipitation over the last few weeks.

- A few river basins across the region still remain below the 10th percentile for this time of year (shaded in red) in northeast WA and the far northern ID Panhandle.



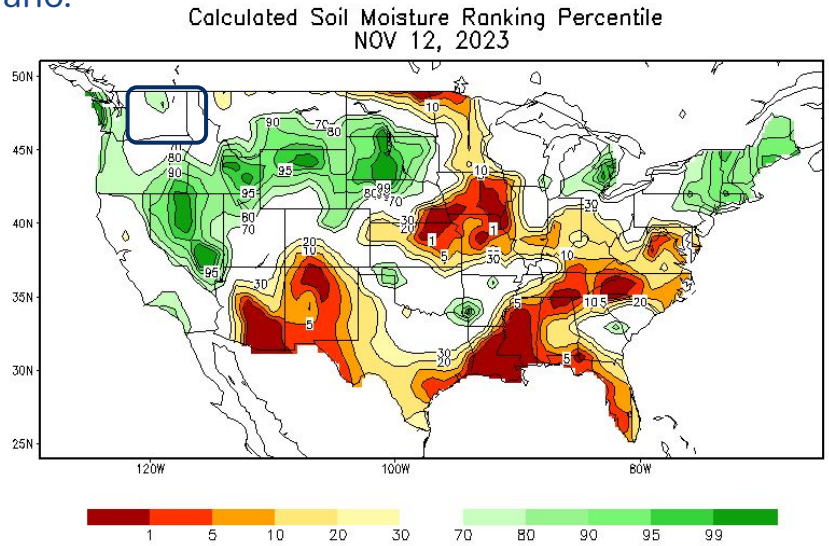
USGS

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid November 12, 2023

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture has improved over the last month with more seasonal levels!
- Crop moisture has also improved across the region with above normal levels in the east slopes of the Cascades and north Idaho.



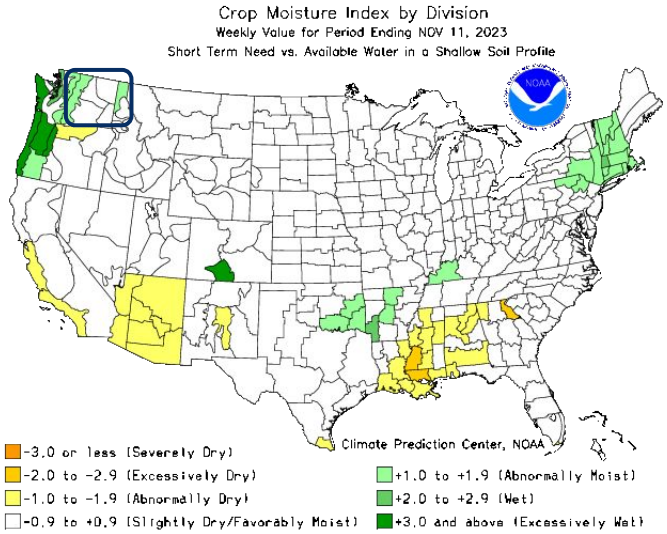


Image Captions:
Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid November 12, 2023
Right: Crop Moisture Index by Division. Weekly value for period ending November 11, 2023

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Here is a forecast of precipitation for the Inland NW for the upcoming week.

- Light precipitation will track across the region for the first half of the week, followed by wetter weather by the weekend and into early next week. This includes low elevation rain and mountain snow.

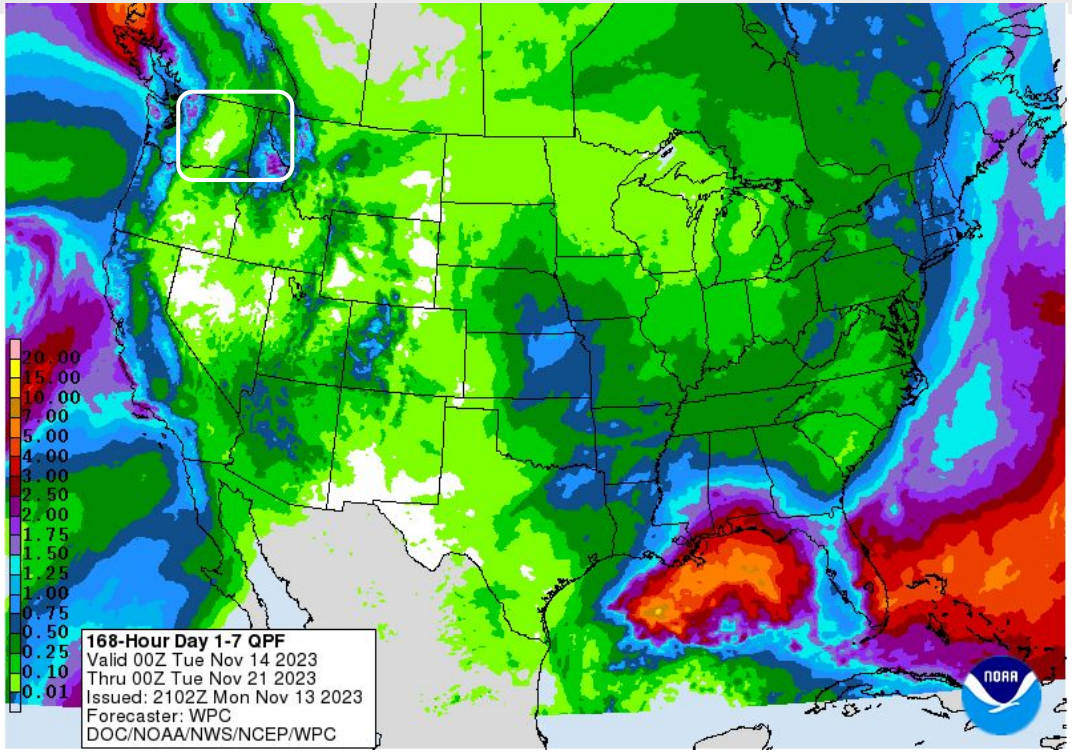


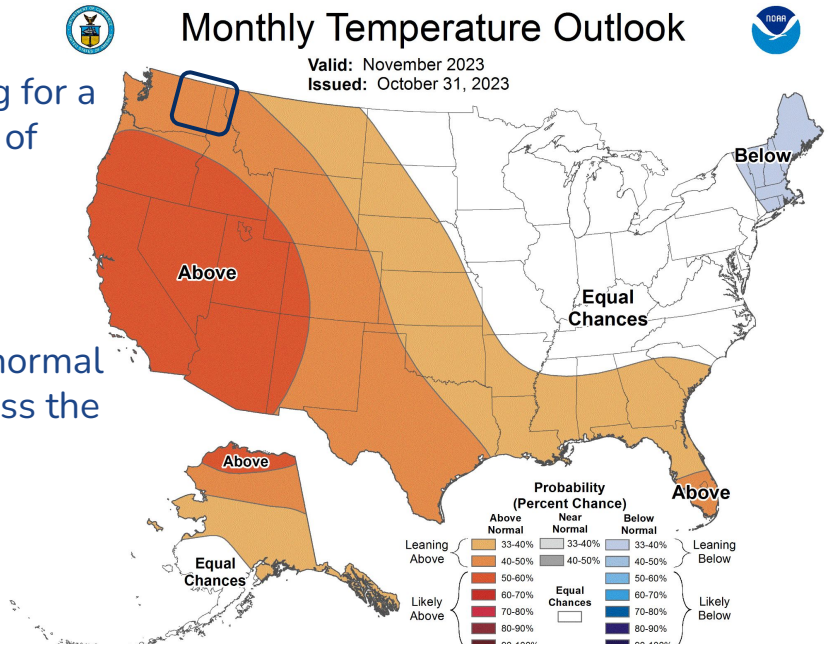
Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid Tuesday, November 14 through Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

The November outlook is calling for a 40-50% chance of above normal temperatures.

Precipitation is favoring above normal by 40-60% across the Pacific NW.



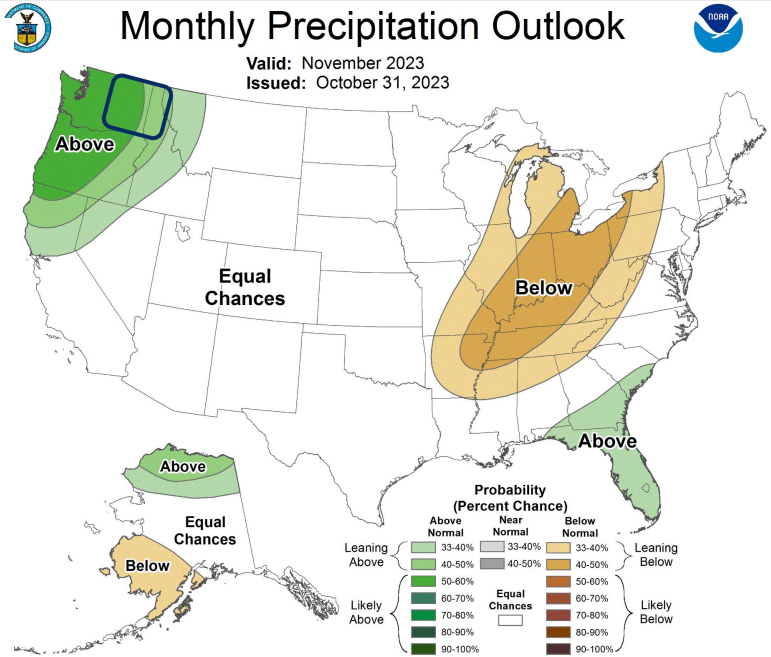


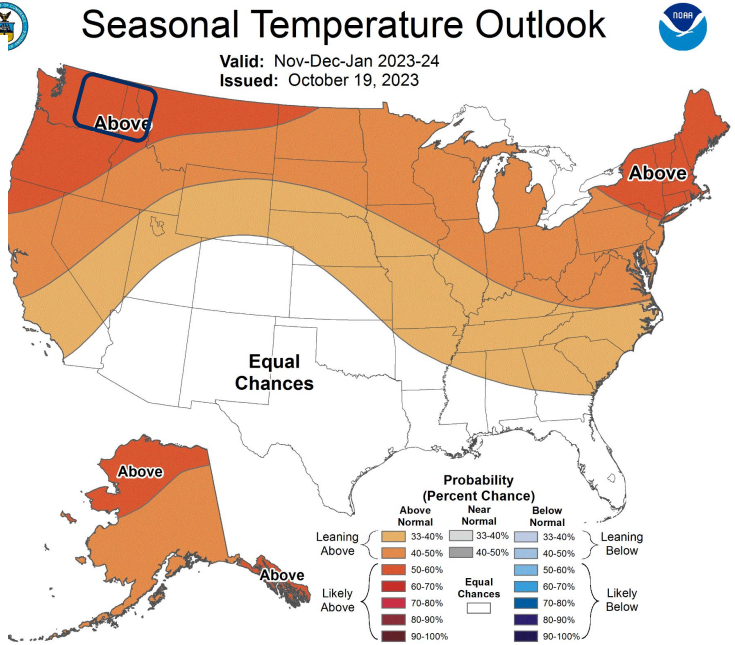
Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook.
Valid November 2023

Long-Range Outlooks

The latest seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

The NOV-DEC-JAN outlook is calling for a 40-60% chance of above normal temperatures.

Precipitation is leaning toward a 33-50% of below normal region wide for the upcoming season.



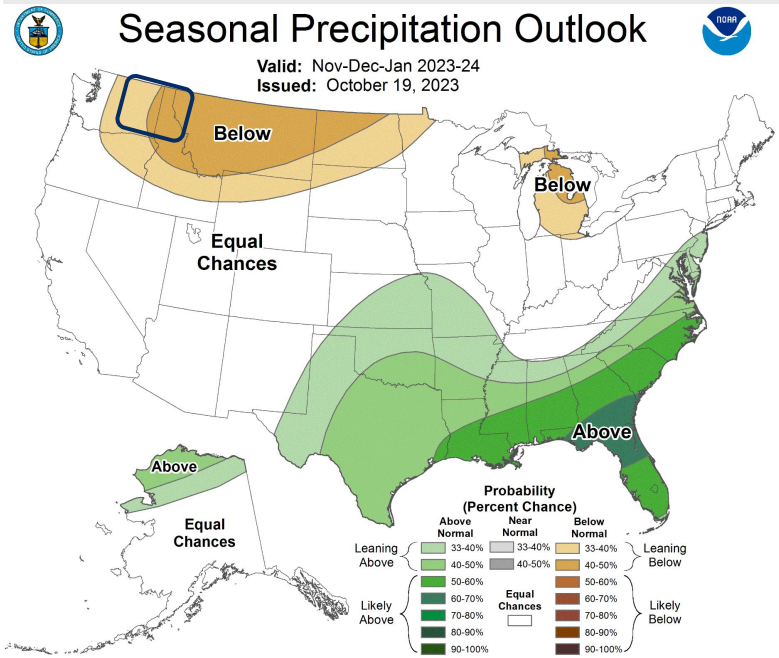


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Valid Nov-Dec-Jan 2023-24

Drought Outlook

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

Areas of drought will persist for the month and the season with drought development likely for parts of central WA this winter.

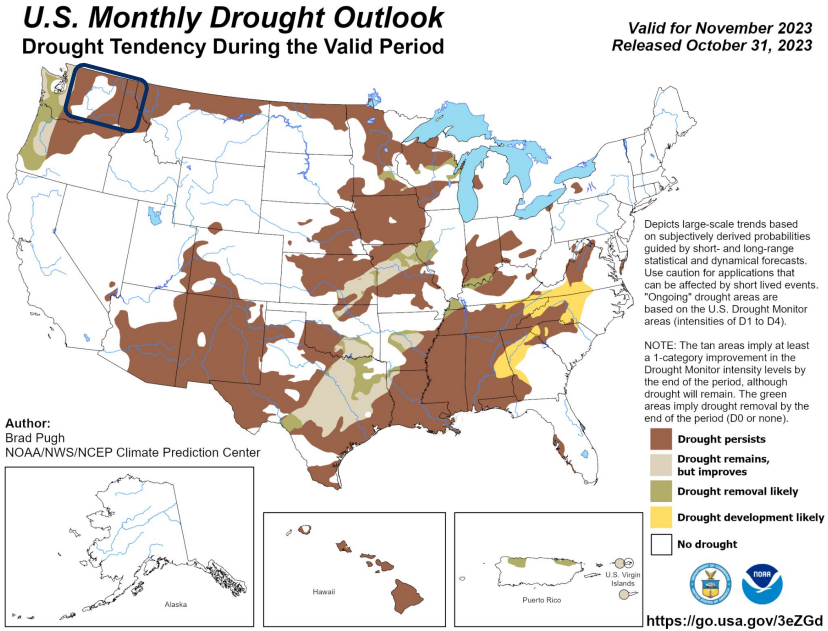


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released October 31, 2023 and valid for November 2023

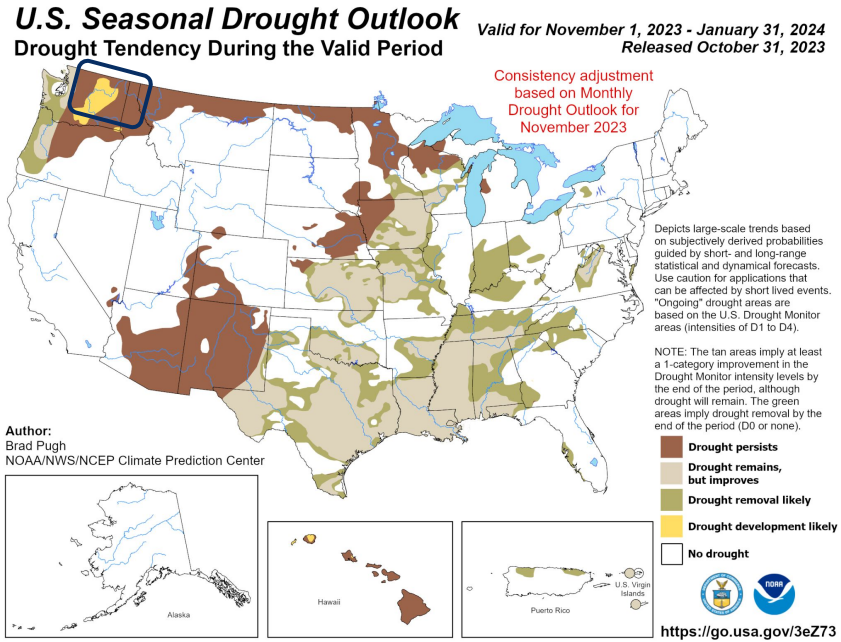


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released October 31, 2023 and valid through January 2024