



# Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid November 16, 2023

Issued By: NWS Birmingham, AL

Contact Information: [sr-bmx.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-bmx.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated December 8, 2023 or as drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/bmx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





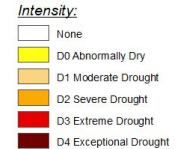
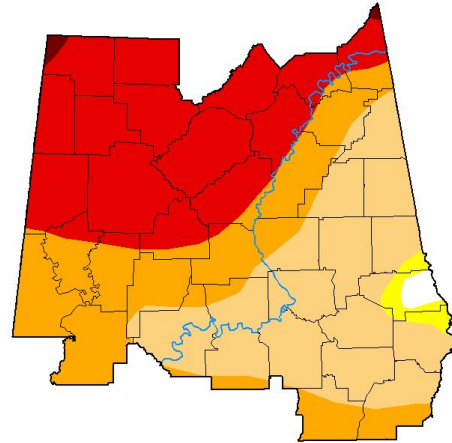
# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for central Alabama

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 Exceptional Drought: Covers the extreme northern tip of Cherokee County as well as northwestern Marion County.
  - D3 Extreme Drought: Now covers much of the area along and north of I-59 and includes Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Gadsden.
  - D2 Severe Drought: Continues to expand across the area and includes Anniston, Clanton, Troy, Livingston and Demopolis.
  - D1 includes Selma, Montgomery and Alex City.
  - D0 is limited to mostly Lee county.
- Overall precipitation trend the next 2 weeks is for normal to below normal rainfall
  - Some signs of a pattern change on the horizon but the systems we are looking are typically fast moving and don't allow for much drought alleviation.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Birmingham, AL WFO

November 14, 2023  
(Released Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



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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U.S. Department of Agriculture



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 9 am CDT Nov 14, 2023.





# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for central Alabama

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Over most of central Alabama and especially over the northern half.
  - No Change: Persistent drought has been more common in the southern locations.
  - Drought Improved: A slight area of improvement was noted in parts of Lee and Russell counties due to a heavy rain event in middle October.

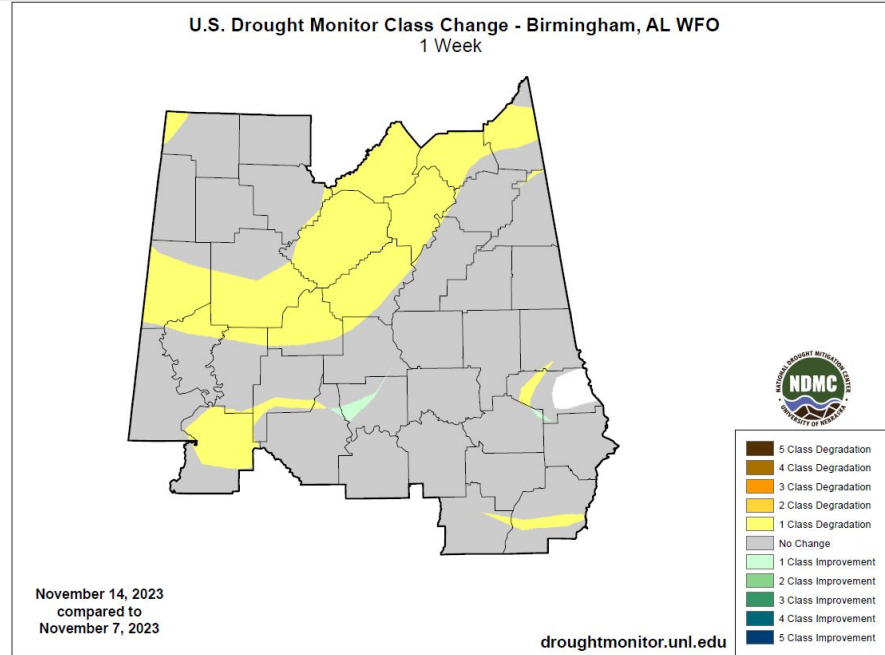


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 9 am CDT Nov 14, 2023





# Precipitation

Last 30 days

- Scattered showers moved through much of the area over the last 30 days and more recently in the past week.
- Much of the area remains 1 to 3 inches below normal over this period.
- Average weekly rainfall for the month of November should be around 1 inch.

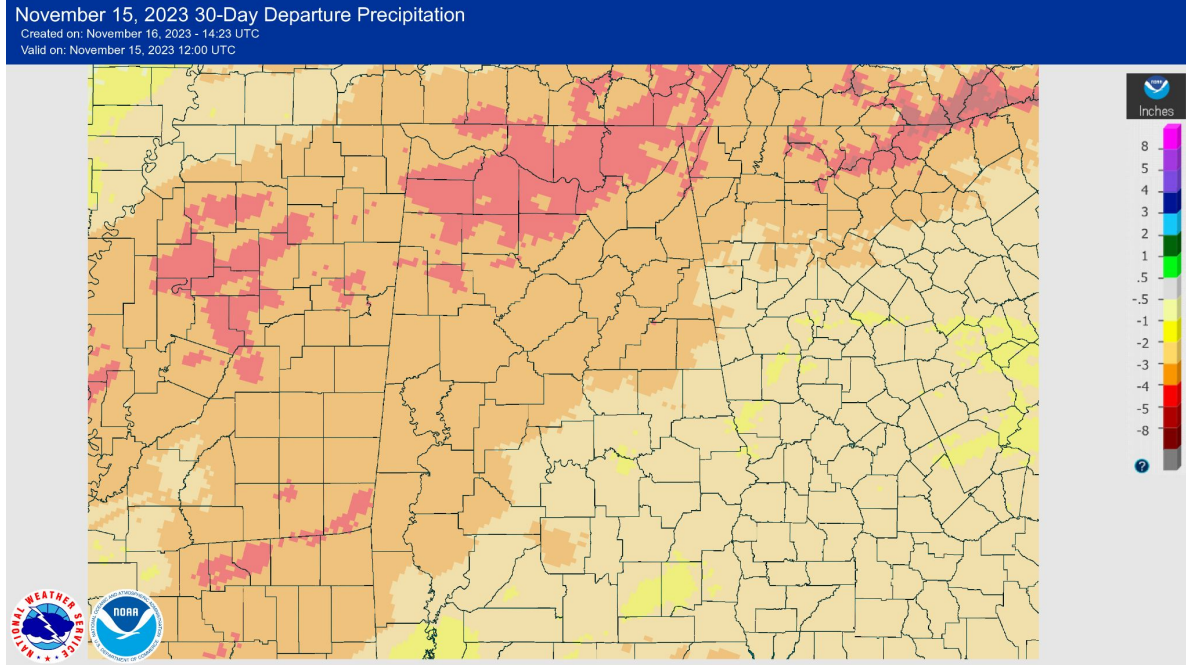


Image Captions:

Map - [Departure from normal map for Alabama](#)

Data Courtesy Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS)

Data over the past 30 days ending November 15, 2023





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain below to much below normal across most basins in the region, and have worsened over the past two weeks. See next slide for more details

## Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest [Crop Report](#) from the USDA.
- Soil Moistures have continued to decrease over the past 7 days with all of the area showing below normal soil moisture. Crop moistures remain significantly dry.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Above normal wildfire activity will be possible through November.
- See slides 8 and 9 for more details

## Other Impacts

- None

## Drought Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows over the past 7 days show a mix normal to much below normal. Any recent increase in streamflows is expected to be temporary as waterways have not been replenished from rainfall over the past week.
- Click the link the right for a full map and legend to the image provided.

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

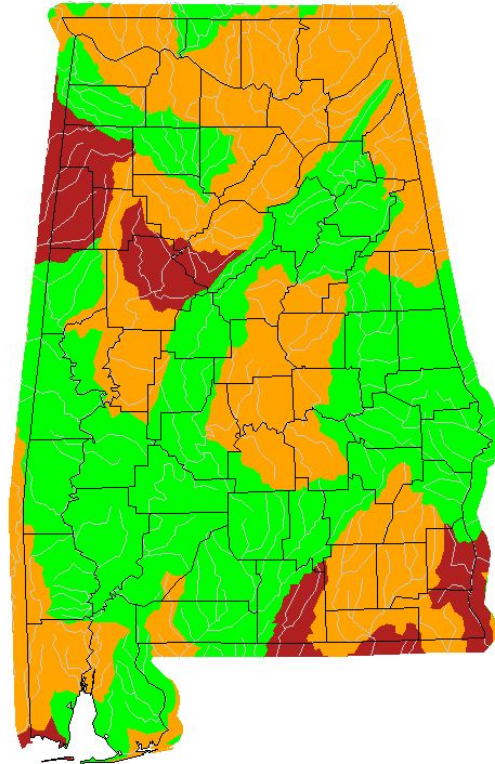


Figure Caption: [USGS 7 day streamflows for Alabama](#), valid Nov 15, 2023



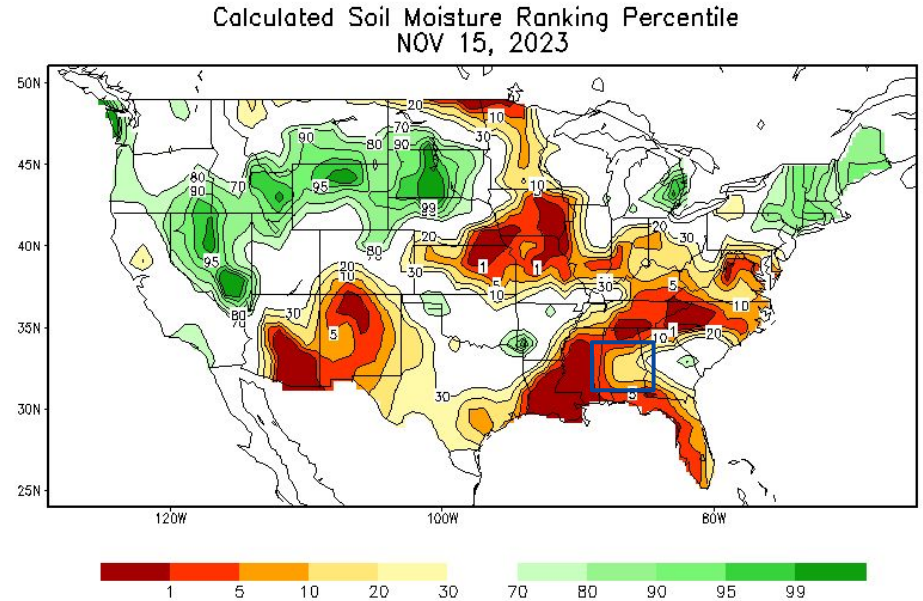


# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil Moistures have continued to decrease over the past 7 days with all of Alabama showing below normal soil moisture. Thus far, the dry weather has prevented planting of winter crops. Cotton, peanut and soybean harvest are near completion.
- Cattle were reported to be in good to fair condition, while pastures were in poor to fair condition. Cattle continue to be fed supplemental hay.
- Crop reports will be discontinued for the winter season starting December.

Image Captions:

Right: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid November 15, 2023





# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- [Keetch Byram Drought Index values](#) are remaining above 500 across the entire area, with a large percentage the area greater than 600.
- Above normal wildland fire activity has been observed over the past several weeks, and outlooks suggest this will continue into December.

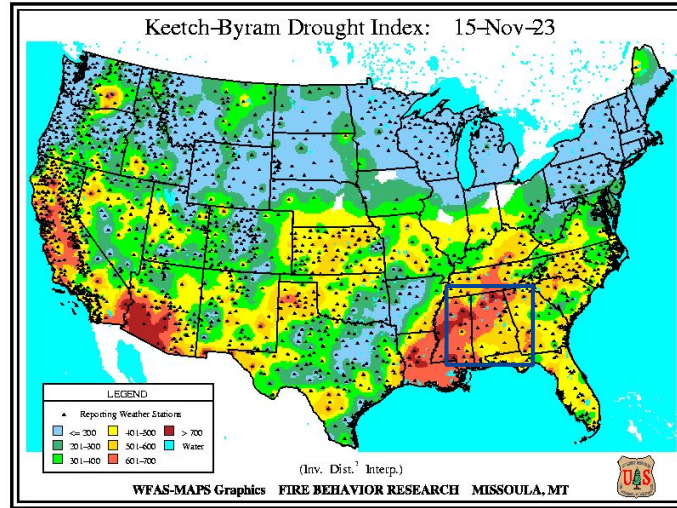


Image caption: National KBDI image released November 15th

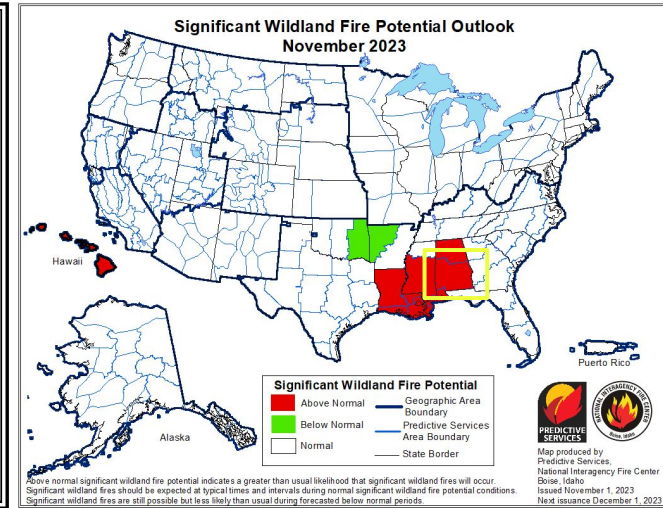


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for November 2023







# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

- In response to the current drought conditions, Governor Kay Ivey has issued a statewide ‘No burn order’.
- The Alabama drought declaration map has most of Alabama in a watch or warning status.
- Click the link above for more information.

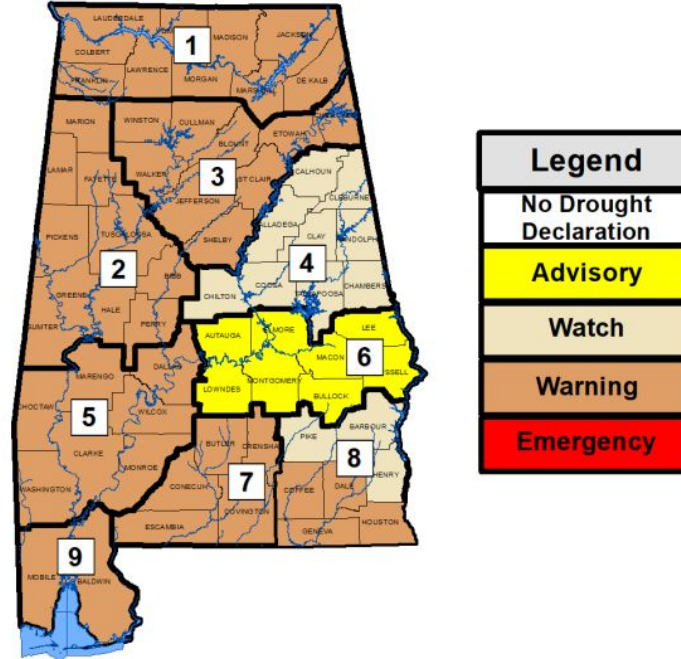


Image caption: [Alabama drought declaration map image](#)





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall amounts over the next 7 days are expected to be around 1 inch. This would be the typical average rainfall for central Alabama and would be beneficial in keeping the drought from worsening.

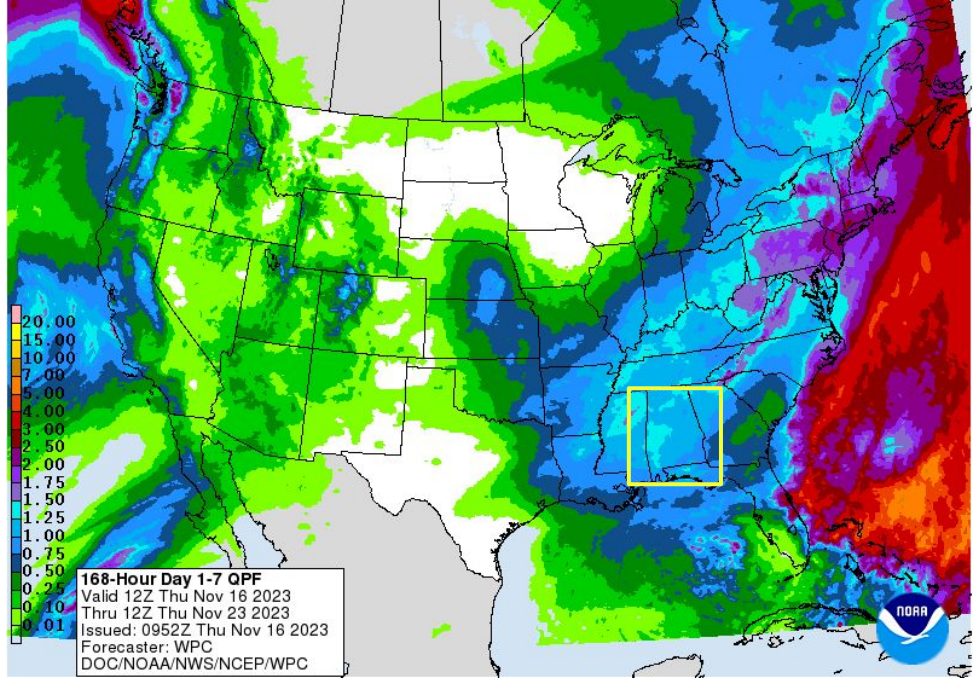


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday Nov 16th to Thursday Nov 23rd.



# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The outlook over the next 6 to 10 days will call for below normal temperatures across the area. This will generally help prevent the spread of drought conditions.
- A change in the overall weather pattern is trying to develop. Rainfall amounts are expected to be near normal over the next 6 to 10 days. This should be enough to keep the drought from worsening going into December.

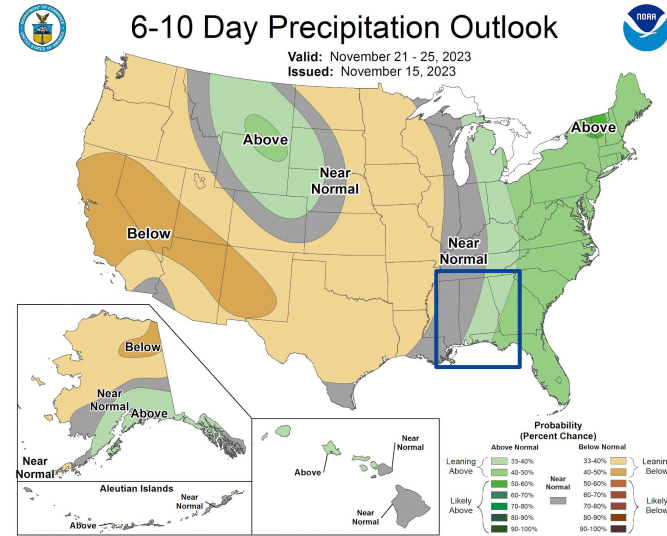
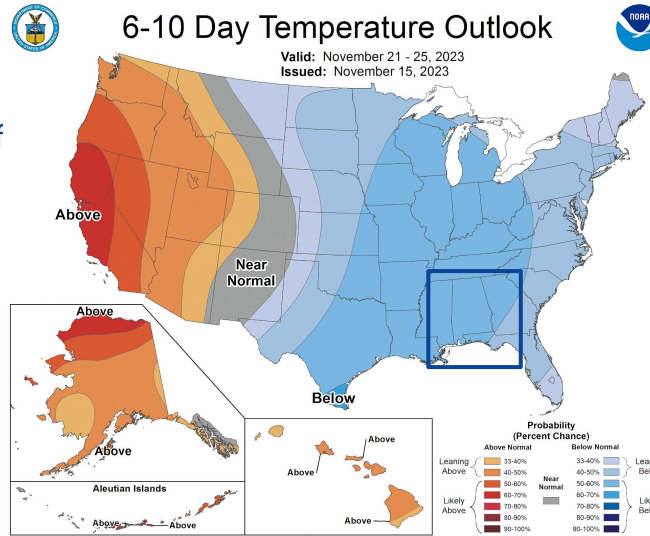


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center 6 to 10 day Temperature Outlook.](#)

Right - [Climate Prediction Center 6 to 10 day Precipitation Outlook.](#)



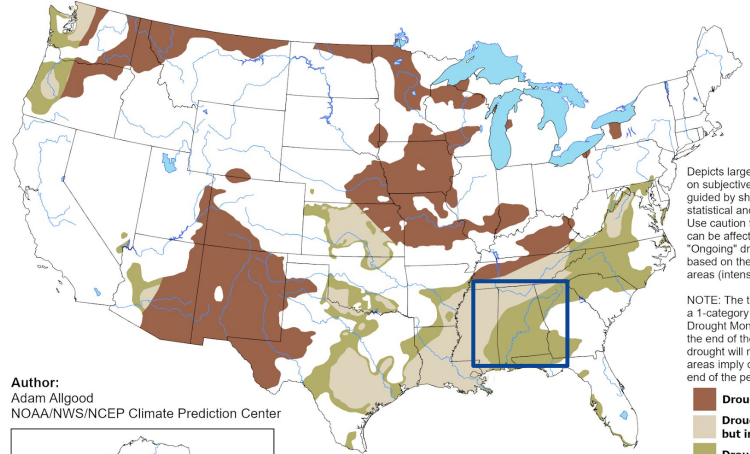


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drought will persist throughout central Alabama for the next several weeks.
- Drought impacts are expected to slowly improve as the weather pattern gradually changes to allow for more rainfall.

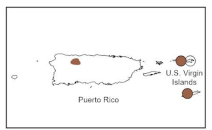
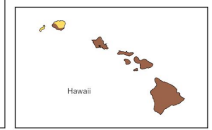
## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Valid for November 16, 2023 - February 29, 2024 Drought Tendency During the Valid Period Released November 16, 2023



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:  
Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Image Caption:  
CPC Seasonal Drought Outlook Released November 16, 2023  
and valid now through February 2024