



Drought Information Statement for North Louisiana, East Texas, Southwest Arkansas, and Extreme Southeast Oklahoma

Valid March 8th, 2024

Issued By: NWS Shreveport

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

- This product will be updated by early April 2024 unless drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/shv/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

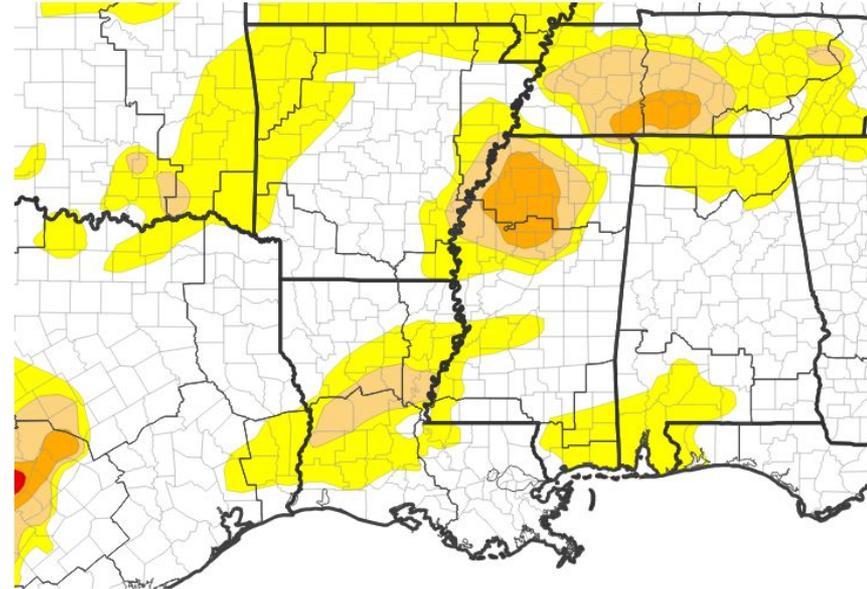




U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast OK, Southwest AR, East TX, and North LA

- An extended period of rainfall across all of the Four State Region through much of January and the first 11 days of February has led to Drought Removal across East Texas, much of Southwest Arkansas, and North Louisiana. However, a three week period of above normal temperatures and little rainfall has led to the redevelopment of Abnormally Dry conditions across portions of extreme Northeast Texas, Southeast Oklahoma, and adjacent sections of Southwest Arkansas.
- Moderate Drought to Abnormally Dry conditions continue though across Central and Northeast Louisiana.
- Drought Intensity and Extent
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Central LA
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Central and Northeast LA, extreme Northeast TX, Southeast OK, and adjacent sections of Southwest AR.



U.S. Drought Monitor

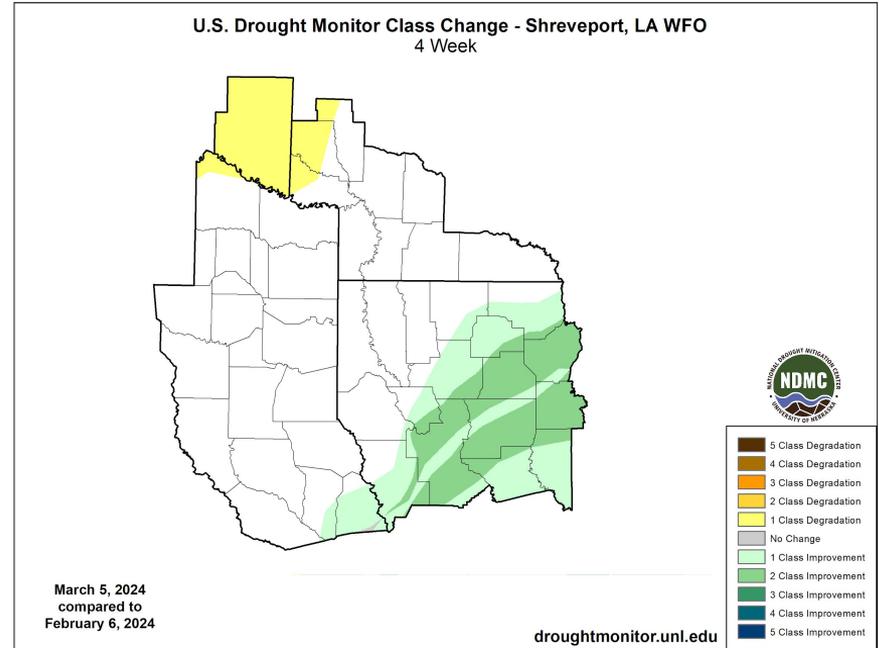




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast OK, East TX, Southwest AR, and North LA

- 4 Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Near to slightly above normal rainfall fell since early February across portions of Deep East Texas, Northwest and Northcentral Louisiana. Thus, a 1-2 category improvement in drought has been observed across Northcentral Louisiana and Sabine County Texas.
 - Below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures during the last month over McCurtain County Oklahoma and adjacent sections of Southwest Arkansas has led to the reintroduction of Abnormally Dry conditions for this area.



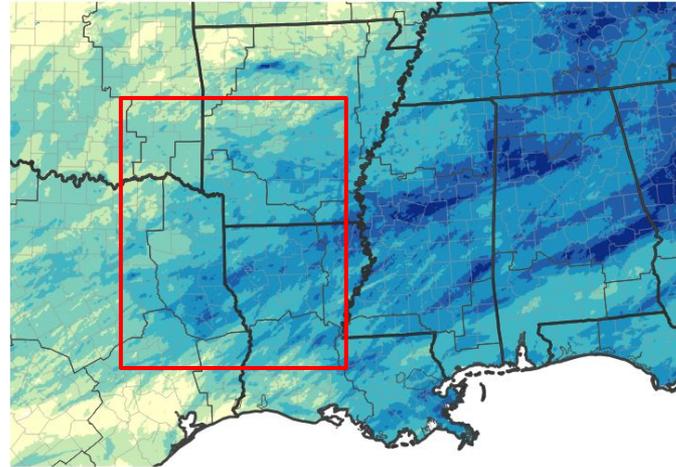


Precipitation

- Widespread rainfall amounts of 2-4 inches fell areawide since early February, with isolated higher amounts in excess of 5 inches observed across portions of Deep East Texas, Northwest and Northcentral Louisiana. These higher totals are very near or slightly above normal, with below normal rainfall observed elsewhere across the region.

30 Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



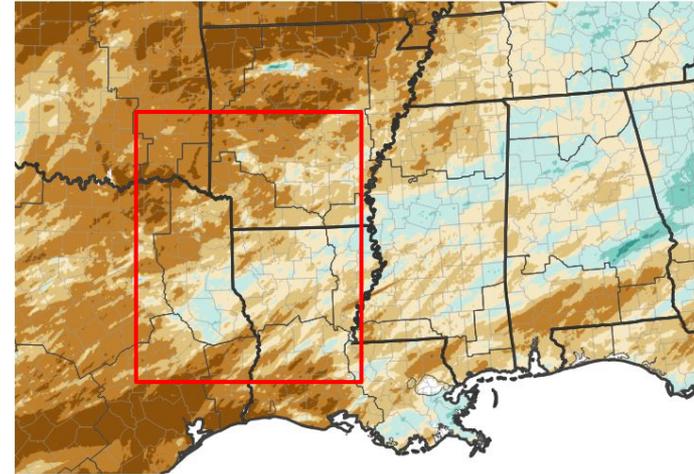
Inches of Precipitation



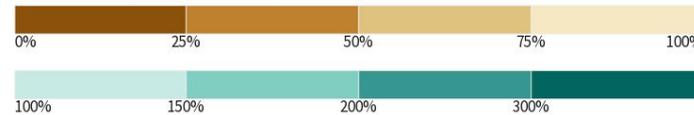
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/08/24

30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



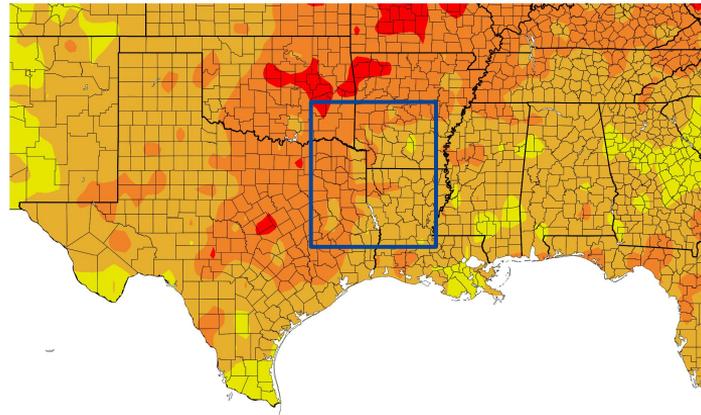


Temperature

Imagery from the High Plains Regional Climate Center

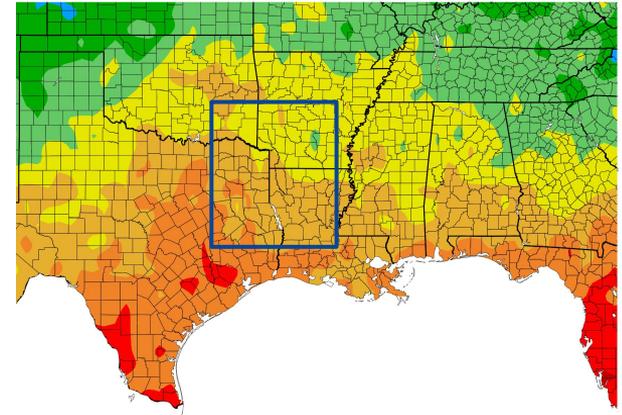
- After observing much above normal and near record monthly temperatures across the region during February, this trend has continued through the first week of March, with average temperatures ranging from 5-9+ degrees below normal areawide.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/1/2024 – 3/7/2024



Generated 3/8/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Temperature (F)
3/1/2024 – 3/7/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 4 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Despite the dry conditions over the last month, near normal streamflow continue across much of the area, although below normal streamflow has developed across the smaller creeks and bayous in Northcentral Louisiana.

Agricultural Impacts

- Area pastures remain mostly dormant in wake of widespread freezes this winter. Supplemental feeding of cattle continues across North Louisiana and East Texas. The majority of stock ponds across Deep East Texas and North Louisiana have been recharged in wake of the much above normal rainfall observed since January. 10-40 cm and 40-100 cm soil moisture is near normal across Lower East Texas, North Louisiana, and Southcentral Arkansas, but some dryness has developed across Northeast Texas north of I-20, as well as Southeast Oklahoma and much of Southwest Arkansas.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The recent heavy rainfall generally along and north of Interstate 20 in East TX and North Louisiana has helped reduce the extent of fuel dryness across these areas. Thus, low fire danger exists across much of these areas, with a moderate fire danger present across Lower East Texas and the southern sections of Northcentral Louisiana.

Mitigation Actions

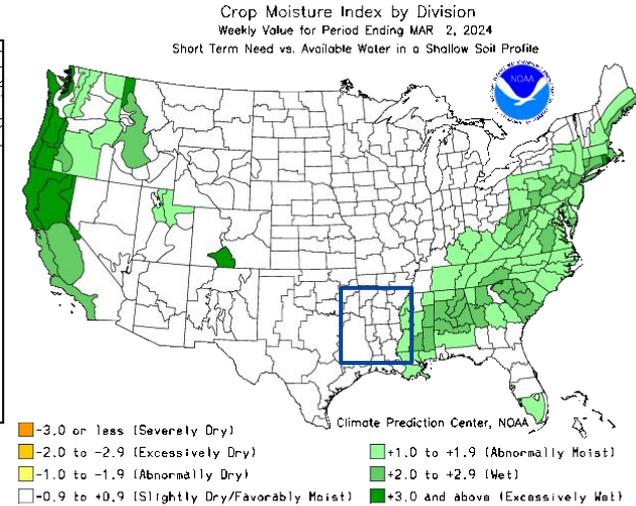
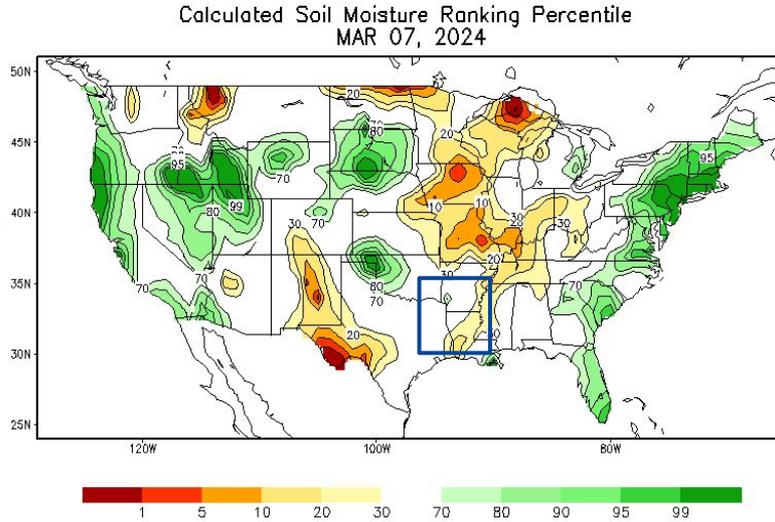
- Smaller communities have enacted water restrictions due to excessive use or lower than normal well/aquifer levels. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.



Agricultural Impacts

Left Image: Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile for Mar. 6th from CPC; Right Image: Crop Moisture Index Ending Mar. 2nd from CPC.

- Soil moisture has returned to near normal over most areas, although some deeper soil moisture deficits remain across portions of Central and Northeast Louisiana.

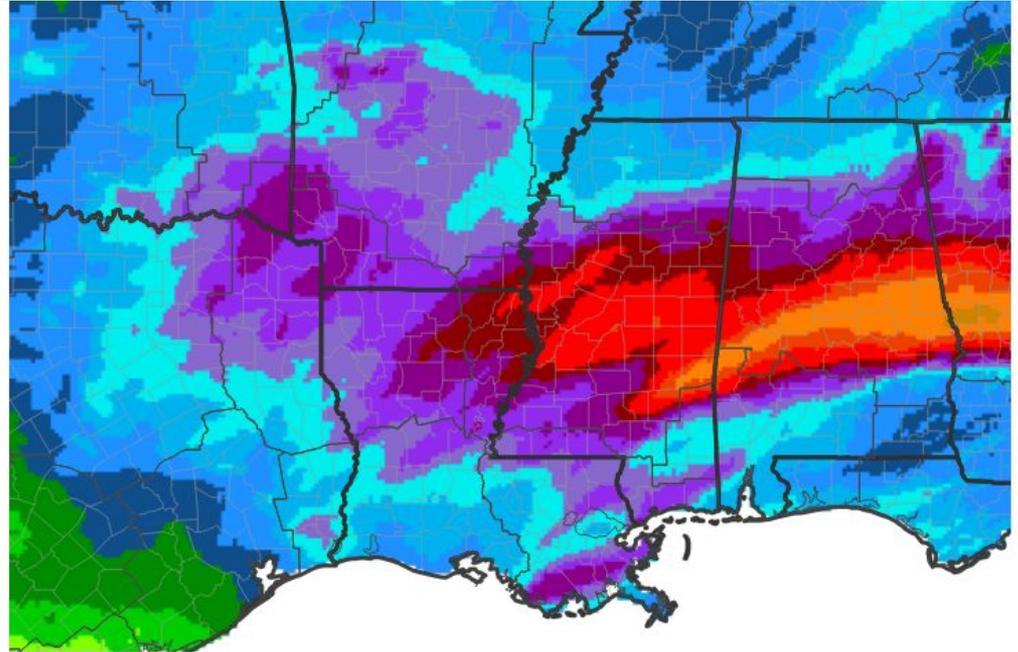




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

Imagery Below: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) Valid Friday, March 8th to Friday, March 15th

- Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are expected to affect areas generally along and north of I-20 in East TX, Southeast OK, Southwest AR, and North LA Friday night, along and behind a strong cold front that will sweep through the region through Saturday morning. Below normal temperatures are expected this weekend, before a gradual warming trend commences Monday, March 11th through much of next week. The potential for additional showers and thunderstorms appear to increase late Thursday into Friday, March 14th-15th.
- Widespread rainfall amounts of 1.50-2.00+ inches are possible through Friday night, March 15th areawide.
- Little to no improvement to drought is expected over the next week and longer.



Predicted Inches of Precipitation

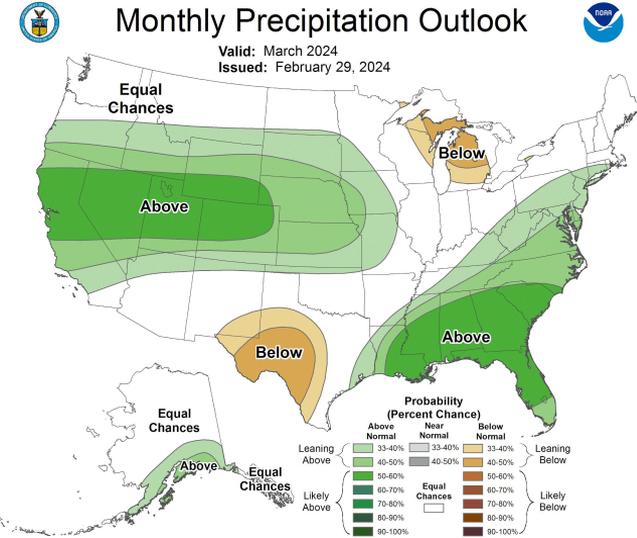
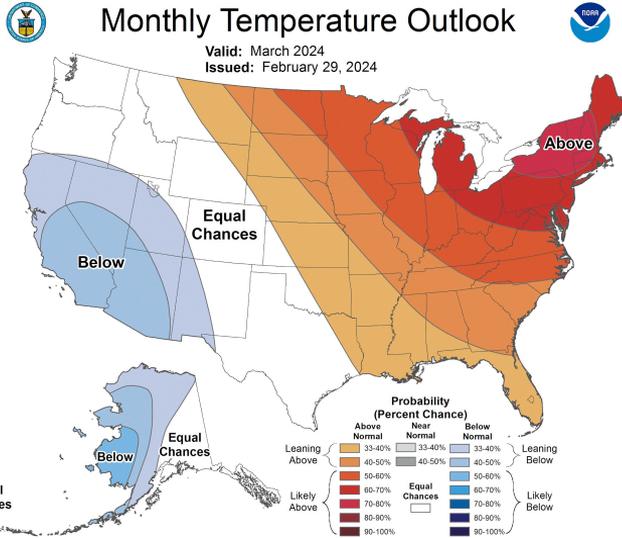




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal probabilities exist for above normal temperatures areawide during March.
- Slightly above normal probabilities exist for seeing above normal rainfall through March over North LA and portions of Deep East TX. No skill level exists elsewhere across East TX, Southeast OK, and Southwest AR, with “Equal Chance” probabilities for seeing below normal, near normal, or above normal rainfall through March.

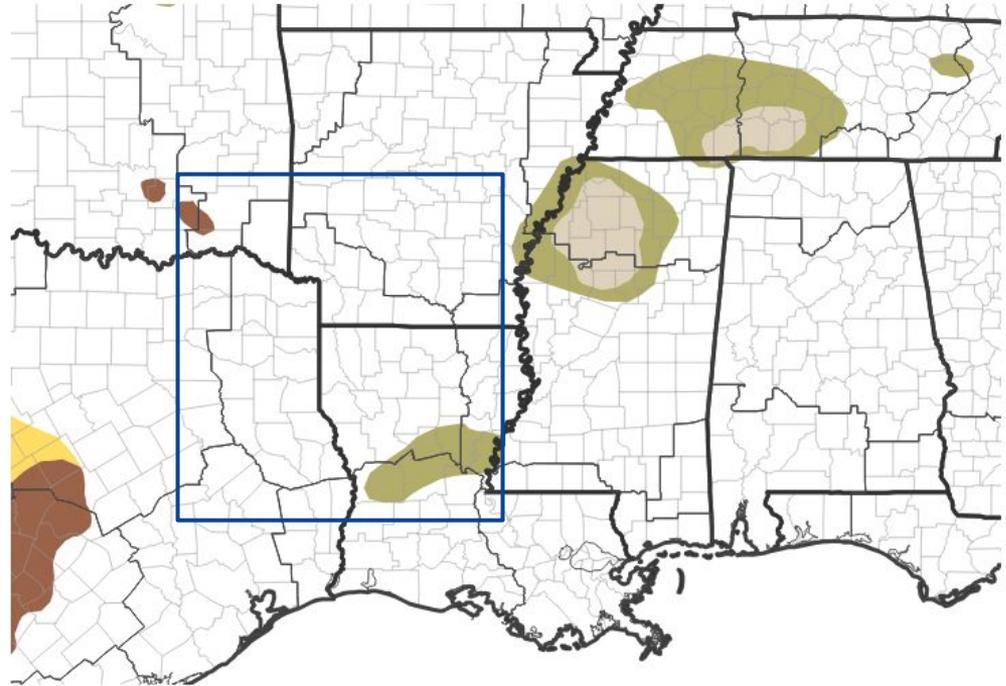




Drought Outlook

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released February 29, 2024 - Valid through March 2024

- The potential exists for additional drought improvement and possibly drought removal by the end of March across Central LA.



Drought is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

