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## Forecast calls for sunny, dry weather this week

By Jennifer Crossley Howard

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ANDERSON — October begins with a forecast that's expected of one of the driest months: sunny and clear and zero chance of rain. Highs range from the 70s to low 80s and not even a hint of rain comes around until Sunday, said Jeffrey Taylor, meteorologist at the National Weather Service. Lows fall to the 40s and 50s in the evening.

Such weather makes for cloudless skies and barely a need for a coat, but the Upstate's lakes and streams are hurt by drought, some down several feet from their average pool levels. On Thursday, the state Drought Response Committee decided to leave Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties in moderate, second-level drought and to downgrade other county statuses to moderate.

About 4 inches of rain fell in Anderson County in September, just above the monthly average.

But that was not enough to bring Hartwell Lake to its full pool level of 660 feet. The lake stood at 652.77 feet on Monday, according to the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. Lake Jocassee was 27 feet below full pool level, and Lake Keowee was 5 feet below full pool level.

The October outlook for rain does not look promising. The month receives 3.44 inches on average, slightly less than November, which receives 3.71 inches on average.

"It's drier than some months, but it's not that different if you average it out," Taylor said.

Mild temperatures are normal for this time of year, he said, and records indicate they will persist for a couple of more weeks.

There's a 50 percent chance the season's first frost will happen by Oct. 22 and a 90 percent chance by Nov. 4.

