Upstate may have dry seasons

Fall, winter look to be warmer, less wet

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Greenville has just experienced the wettest three summer months since 1908 but those weather patterns could be shifting toward a drier, warmer fall and winter, according to the latest climate predictions.

The Upstate appears to be through the worst of the wet weather, though it still could see some strong periods of rain, said Scott Krentz, meteorologist with the National Weather Service station in Greer.

Greenville saw 31.19 inches of rain from June 1 through Aug. 31, according to the weather service. That's second only to 33.33 inches of rain that fell in 1908 over the same time period.

It's been a quiet first week of September with just .02 of an inch of rain recorded in Greenville through Friday, according to the weather service.

The next 30 days show a slight chance for above normal precipitation for western South Carolina aided by the finish of what was predicted to be an active Atlantic hurricane season, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

"It's not going to look anything like June or July," Krentz said. "There's no signals out there for something that's going to be really, really wet but it will be maybe just a little bit above normal precipitation."

The fall and early winter months may be drier and warmer than normal though, said Anthony Artusa, meteorologist with the climate prediction center.

The climate prediction center consults historical climate

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models, long-term trends and sea surface temperatures and takes into account whether an El Nino or La Nina is affecting the weather patterns to provide long-term climate predictions, Artusa said.

For September, there's a "weak signal" that it could be a bit wetter than normal, Artusa said.

There's still an above average chance for a strong finish to the Atlantic hurricane season, which could bring even more rain to the Upstate.

So far this year, Greenville has seen 54.37 inches of rain, more than 21 inches above normal through this point in the year, according to the weather service. Last year, 28.07 inches of rain had fallen in Greenville through the same time period.

No hurricanes or tropical storms are currently being tracked in the Atlantic Ocean, but the NOAA Climate Prediction Center predicted a 70 percent chance of an active Atlantic hurricane season when it last updated its hurricane predictions in early August.

There's potential for 13-19 named storms, including six to nine hurricanes that could form, according to the Climate Prediction Center. Three to five of the storms could develop into major hurricanes. The center does not predict which storms could make landfall.

Four named tropical storms have already come and gone — Andrea, Barry, Chantal, and Dorian.