



# National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

Predictive Services  
National Interagency Fire Center



Issued: June 1, 2019  
Next Issuance: July 1, 2019

## Outlook Period—June, July, August and September 2019

### Executive Summary

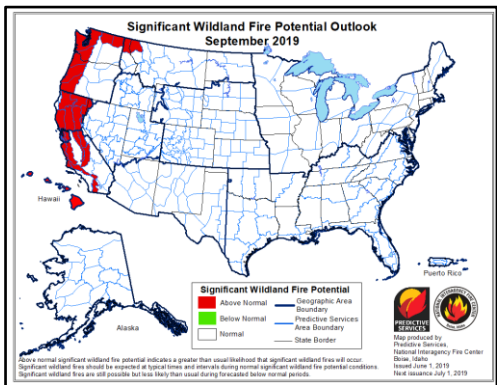
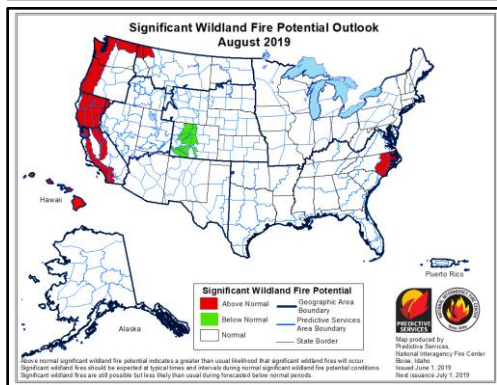
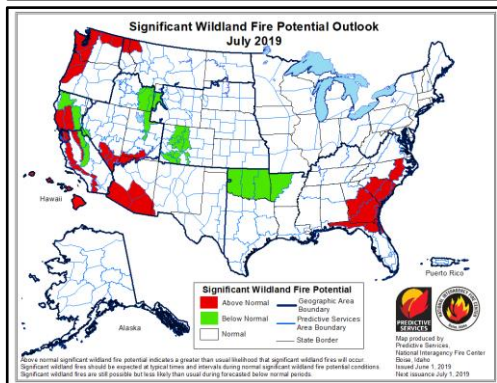
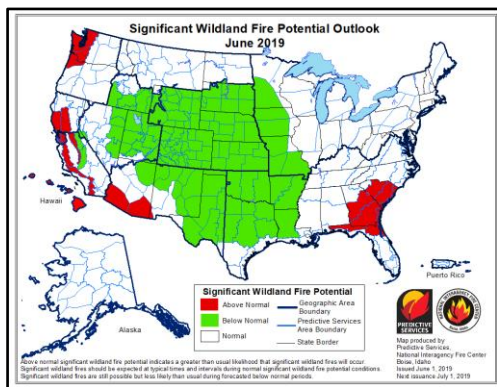
The significant wildland fire potential forecasts included in this outlook represent the cumulative forecasts of the ten Geographic Area Predictive Services units and the National Predictive Services unit.

Fire activity continued to be well below average during May as a cool, wet pattern redeveloped over the West during the second week of the month and persisted through month's end. High elevation locations in many areas received late season snowfall that further slowed snowpack melting rates. Middle and lower elevations continued to see the development of a robust, continuous grass crop. Drought continued to recede except across Washington State where it persisted and across the Southeast where a slight intensification was observed. Alaska gradually entered its fire season as fuels began to dry and as convective weather patterns developed. With high pressure becoming more entrenched over the eastern Interior as the month progressed, fire activity began to pick up. Entering June, the driest areas remain areas along the Mexican Border, Washington State, and the Southeast.

Greenup is peaking in many areas except across the Southwest where curing and drying has begun to occur already. Elsewhere, the process is progressing at an average or slower than average rate. The ongoing weather pattern has been mostly beneficial to the fire environment, and long-range data does not suggest unusually long lasting hot and dry ridge events across the West in June. The intensity and duration of such events have accelerated the process in recent years. Also, mountain snowpack continues to melt off at a slower than average rate in most areas except along the Canadian Border. The developing grass crop is a concern, especially across portions of California.

As June progresses, the fine fuels will begin to cure and dry from south to north across the West. Lingering high elevation snowpack should be lost. Wildfire activity should begin to increase by late month as peak of the fire season begins to arrive as July and August approach. As is the case with the lower elevation fuels, the high elevation heavy fuels will also experience a delayed entry into the season except along the Canadian Border in Washington State where overall dryness will lead to an average start with a potential for above normal activity. Alaska will reach its peak in June and begin to wind down in July.

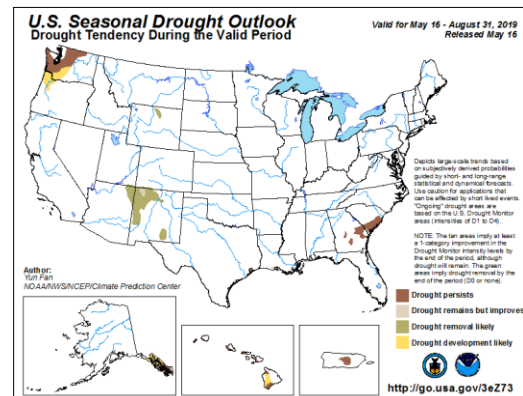
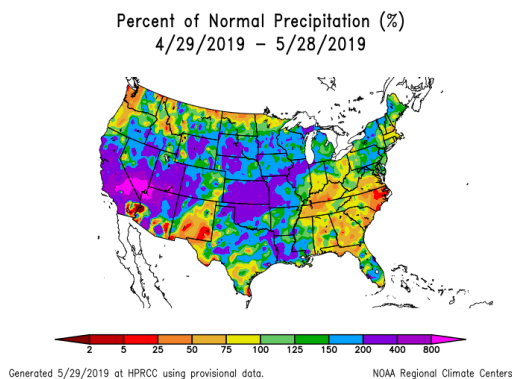
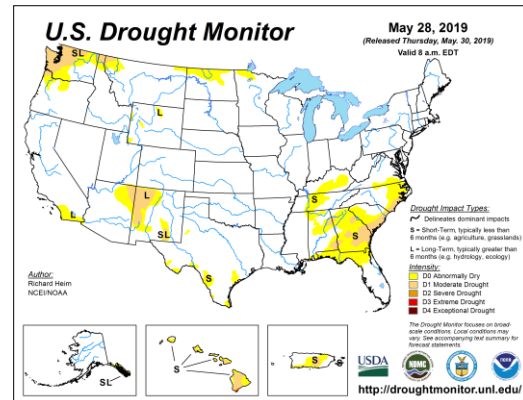
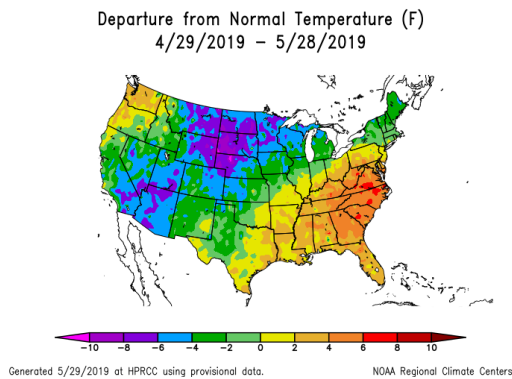
Looking ahead to August and September the fire potential and resulting activity should increase to Normal in most areas except along the West Coast where Above Normal significant large fire potential is expected due to fuel loading and preexisting dry conditions. A traditional winding down of the Western fire season is expected in Mid-September as fall moisture begins to arrive.



## Past Weather and Drought

May was an active month that was mostly wet and cool for large portions of the West. The month began with a transition to a strong ridge of high pressure that became entrenched over the Pacific Northwest and a series of wet low pressure systems that continued moving east from the Pacific Ocean across Southern California and the Southwest. The passage of these systems kept fuels from becoming excessively dry and receptive to fire activity, though it was windy for extended periods. The ridge of high pressure over the northwestern states gave way mid-month and allowed for a very moist and cool pattern to develop for most of the west. A series of strong, cold low pressure systems moved into the West from the Gulf of Alaska. Record setting rainfall and high elevation snowfall was observed, especially across California where nearly the entire state experienced a weeklong period mid-month where precipitation received was 800% or greater! Other locations in the West generally received 200% or greater precipitation during the period. Two areas of exception were across western Washington State and along the Mexican Border where drier than average conditions continued. The overall wetter than average conditions continued through month's end except along the Mexican Border where the ongoing breezy and dry conditions began to translate into increased fire activity. Temperatures were generally 2 to 6 degrees below average west of the Mississippi River. East of the Mississippi River, temperatures were generally 3 to 6 degrees above average. Conditions across Alaska were generally warmer but wetter than average, though a strong ridge of high pressure centered along the border with the Yukon Territory during the latter third of the month did provide for enough drying to allow for fire activity to increase late month.

Little change occurred in drought conditions across the country in May. What little change occurred was an overall improvement in the marginal areas of drought observed across the West. Latest drought outlook products suggest that a slight southward expansion of the preexisting drought across western Washington may occur and will include northwestern Oregon.



Left: Departure from Normal Temperature (top) and Percent of Normal Precipitation (bottom) (from High Plains Regional Climate Center). Right: U.S. Drought Monitor (top) and Drought Outlook (bottom) (from National Drought Mitigation Center and the Climate Prediction Center)

## Weather and Climate Outlooks

Latest sea surface temperature anomalies across the equatorial Pacific Ocean indicate that the weak El Niño continues but has slightly weakened in recent weeks. Latest forecast data suggests continued slight weakening might be observed through August before a reaching a steady state this fall around +.5 degrees Celsius. Latest data from the models introduces uncertainty into the event beginning mid-autumn as the various model solutions begin to diverge.

Medium to long range model data suggests that a less amplified pattern might continue through the summer months and into the early fall. This would indicate summer temperatures that are less hot than recent years and it might indicate that the Southwestern monsoon might be delayed, perhaps a little weaker, and more easterly-focused than most years. While shorter duration hot high pressure ridge events are to be expected, an increase in the number of westerly flow events could translate to overall breezier conditions and an increase in lightning activity coming in from the West Coast. Storms coming from this source region tend to have better chances of containing some moisture than the monsoonal storms that more typically move north across the West from the Southwest.

In Alaska, long-range outlooks suggest a continuance of warmer than average conditions along with a higher probability for above average precipitation, especially across the state's interior.

### Geographic Area Forecasts

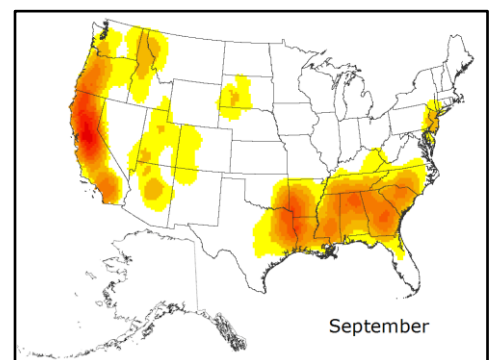
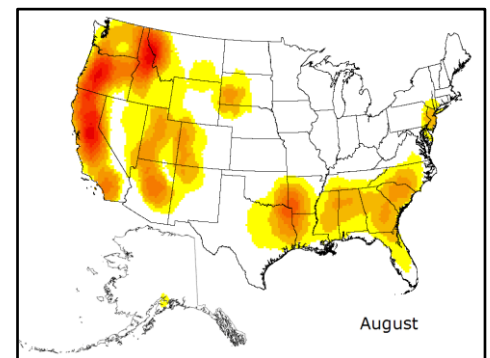
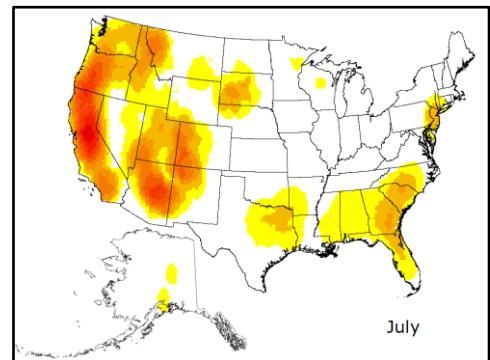
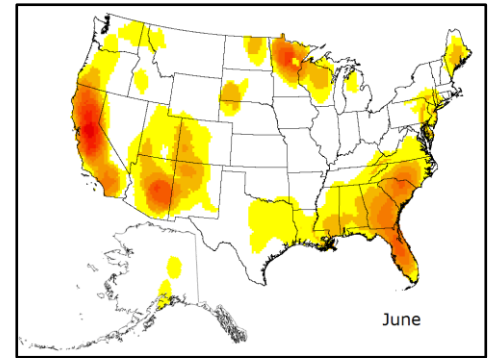
**Alaska:** Normal significant wildland fire potential during the outlook period.

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows drought in the Panhandle. This drought has held steady for some time now, and is expected to continue based on long-range forecasts. The remainder of the state shows as normal on drought products.

CPC outlook maps are forecasting warmer than normal conditions for all of Alaska this summer, which has been typical of the last three years. All of the long-range forecasts are indicating the likelihood for higher than normal precipitation across some of the state through the next 12 months.

Calculations of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System indicate that most fine surface fuels are ready for burning, but the deeper layers are only starting to come into play in the eastern and central Interior. Forecasts indicate no significant rainfall north of the Alaska Range to dampen those deeper layers. Alaska is well into fire season, with June typically the busiest part of the season; this looks to be a reasonable expectation for this summer. We are gradually transitioning from the human starts of early summer to lightning starts that crescendo towards the summer solstice.

**Northwest:** Normal significant large fire potential is expected across the region during the outlook period except west of the Cascade crest in Washington and Oregon through August where Above Normal significant large fire potential is expected. The Above Normal potential in



Normal fire season progression across the contiguous U.S. and Alaska shown by monthly fire density (number of fires per unit area). Fire size and fire severity cannot be inferred from this analysis. (Based on 1999-2010 FPA Data)



these areas will gradually spread southward and eastward along the Canadian Border from northwestern Washington as the season progresses.

The first half of May was quite warm and dry as upper level ridging set in over the eastern Pacific Ocean and the Pacific Northwest. Temperatures rose to be well above normal in the first half of the month with corresponding low relative humidity levels. A major shift to cooler, wetter weather occurred in the second half of May. Temperatures reversed to below normal and precipitation occurred over various parts of the region at intervals along with scattered wet thundershowers.

Energy Release Component values climbed well above average for all areas in the first half of May with the onset of warm, dry weather. Later they then fell back to near average in Washington and below average in Oregon in the second half of the month due to the onset of cooler, wetter conditions. Thousand hour dead fuels remain well above average in southwestern and eastern Oregon. Thousand hour dead fuels are near average elsewhere going into June. Live fuel moisture surged upward in late May due to the combination of longer daylight, extra moisture, and warmer temperatures that propelled green up. This is expected to continue through mid-June.

Outlooks through the summer continue to indicate warmer than average temperatures are the most likely scenario west of the Continental Divide, particularly along the West Coast. Above average precipitation is most likely over the Rocky Mountains and Great Basin, possibly extending into eastern Oregon and Washington. West of the Cascades in Washington the most likely scenario favors less summer rainfall than usual.

Fire danger indices will rise early in June in Washington but more slowly for Oregon, which has been cooler and wetter. The potential for large and costly fires is expected to ramp up to be above average in northeastern Washington by July and linger through the fire season. For the west side, the risk of large, costly fires is expected to spread southward from western Washington into Oregon through fire season to include all the west side by August

**Northern California and Hawaii:** Above normal significant wildland fire potential is expected across the Bay Areas, Sacramento Valley and foothills, and the Mid Coast except the Mendocino National Forest in June and July. Below Normal significant wildland fire potential is expected across the northwestern mountains and the northern Sierra in July. For August and September, Normal significant wildland fire potential is expected across the North Coast and the northern Sierra. All other areas can expect Above Normal fire potential. Hawaii can expect Above Normal significant wildland fire potential during the entire outlook period.

The region has received well above normal precipitation since January 1, and this trend continued for most of the region in May. Entering June, the high elevation snowpack remains well above average. Temperatures averaged cooler than normal in most areas during May. Cooler than average weather into early April led to a delayed growing season throughout the region. Once warmer temperatures arrived fine fuels and brush, especially at elevations below 3000 feet grew enough to produce a fourth straight year of above average fine fuel crop. Most of the annual grasses below 3000 feet have now cured, and following any rainfall they become ready to carry fire after only a couple of days of sunny dry weather. Periods of cool, wet weather are expected in June. The snow pack will melt of more gradually in this pattern, and not fully melt off until July. Additionally, in mid-February a significant heavy snow event in the northern Sacramento Valley caused extensive damage to plants and trees of all sizes, leading to a large amount of dead and down fuels that will enhance the potential of significant wildfires starting in June.

Due to the down and dead fuel loading in the northern Sacramento Valley, the heavy new brush growth, and the mostly cured robust fine fuel crop at lower elevations, the Bay Area, Sacramento Valley, and Mid Coast PSAs (except the Mendocino National Forest) have Above Normal significant large fire potential beginning in June and continuing through October. All other areas will continue to have Normal significant large fire potential in June. However, the higher elevations will likely be on the quiet side of the normal range in June, and that will continue into July, due to the time it takes for the snow pack to melt. Since it is typical for large fire activity to increase at higher elevations in July, the northwestern mountains and the

northern Sierra have Below Normal potential in July. All other areas remain Normal in July. In August elevations above 6000 feet, especially in the northern Sierra, will move to the Normal significant large fire potential category. Most areas below 6000 feet in the region will be Above Normal in August and September, with the exception of the North Coast, which will be Normal.

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) surrounding the Hawaiian Islands have been near to slightly warmer than average in May. Rainfall was below average in the outer islands, but above average throughout most of the central islands. El Niño conditions are now expected to continue in the equatorial Pacific through the summer, and this will likely lead to dry conditions. Fuel loading remains above average, and wildfire activity has been above average during the winter and spring, especially on the lee sides of the islands. The long range weather outlook calls for warmer and drier than normal conditions to continue through the rest of spring and summer.

**Southern California:** Normal significant large fire potential is expected across the region during the outlook period except in the foothills and coastal mountains where Above Normal significant large fire potential is expected June through September. Below Normal significant wildland fire potential is expected in the southern Sierra in June and July.

One of the rainiest May's in state history passed into the record books as storm after storm brought significant wetting rains. Widespread rainfall amounts over 2 inches fell over the valleys (more than double of normal) while many mountainous areas experienced over 6 inches of rainfall. Across the Geographic Area, rainfall generally ranged from 200-400% of normal with the greatest departures occurring over Southern California. Temperatures were also below normal during most of May with no notable periods of offshore winds.

The unusually cool, wet weather arrested the drying of fine fuels across the state. While the grass crop already cured out over most of Southern California by early May, much of coastal Central CA and the Sierras continued to see some seasonal grasses remain uncommonly green. Further up in the mountains, several feet of snowpack remain. Fuel moisture values across most areas outside the valley are at historically high values (records at most of these stations go back 35-45 years) and it will likely be a delay in seeing much fire activity compared to recent years. However, toward the end of June, interior areas should see larger diameter dead fuels become dry enough to accept ignition from any new start in the cured grasses or other fine fuels. Large fire potential will begin to climb to above normal levels, mainly due to the overlay of a heavy cured grass crop with a large stand of bark beetle killed trees. The highest elevations of the Sierras may not see much activity until August, or later, due to wet soils and snowpack. However, other areas away from the coast will see elevated conditions, mainly because of the multiyear drought and the poor vegetative health of many areas.

Long-range models continue to depict an active monsoon season that may remain well to the east of the district again this year. There will likely be a fewer than usual number of storms in most areas outside the desert. Most models continue to promote a warmer than average summer, but a prolonged southwest flow and a more sustained onshore flow may maintain near to slightly cooler than average conditions along the coast.

**Northern Rockies:** Normal significant large fire potential is expected across the region during the outlook period except across the northern Idaho Panhandle and Northwestern Montana where Above Normal significant large fire potential is expected in July through early September.

The Continental Divide is where the line was drawn in May with significantly colder than average temperatures for the eastern areas, but slightly warmer than average west of the Divide. This was because a broad-scale upper level trough pattern established itself over the eastern plains and Dakotas, with several bouts of cool and moist weather. In this pattern, the northern third of North Dakota and northeastern Montana received much less precipitation than average along the Canadian border, but southern Montana and southern North Dakota got about twice their monthly average. Much of that fell as late season snowfall in the higher elevations and as rain on the plains. Further west, a ridge of high pressure was more prominent across the Pacific Northwest and affected both Idaho and northwestern Montana with warmer

and drier than average conditions. It was also dry across central Idaho and along the Bitterroot Divide. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook does not depict any of these areas through as being a major concern in the current outlook period.

Analog patterns from previous weak El Niño years favor a somewhat cooler and wetter summer weather pattern for the Northern Rockies. Monthly and seasonal temperature outlooks through September depict a probability of above average temperatures in the western half of the region, including all of Montana. Near to below average temperature probabilities are shown in the outlooks for North Dakota for the same time, through the core fire season. In terms of precipitation, the long-term outlooks continue to suggest above average precipitation for much of the region this summer, with the driest areas remaining in Northern North Dakota.

Greenup is currently peaking at the lower elevations of northern Idaho and western Montana, and is fully underway east of the Continental Divide. Although short term dryness has been prominent over the northern halves of central-eastern Montana and North Dakota, much cooler than average temperatures this spring have limited evaporative moisture loss, and soil moisture deficits are only slightly dry. Thus, even in these areas fine fuels and live fuels are still green, and will likely remain so moving into at least the first half of June. Mountain snowpack is rapidly diminishing over the western areas, perhaps a little faster than average, but their moisture influence for live fuel growth and health will persist through June at the middle and higher elevations, though dead fuel moistures are drier than average over northern Idaho and northwestern Montana where snowpack was below average this past season. Latest monthly outlooks and shorter-term model forecasts suggest warmer and drier than average conditions will occur in June west of the Continental Divide. Thus fine fuels curing will accelerate in June over the lower elevations, especially in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana, while dead fuel moistures will remain below average in these areas, but will be closer to normal over the rest of the western areas.

Since green up has occurred east of the Continental Divide, fire potential there will remain typically low in the Plains region until at least the middle to end of June. If the long range temperature outlooks of above normal temperatures verify in northern Idaho over the coming month, then further through the summer, Above Average significant large fire potential will be likely in heavily timbered areas across the northwestern corner of the region in the Idaho panhandle and the Kootenai region of northwestern Montana in July and then through August into September, even if average precipitation occurs, as the outlooks forecast. For the rest of the region, near to above the outlooks from July into September for Montana and most of North Dakota forecast average precipitation. Which often does occur in weak El Niño summers. This should help to keep fire potential at “average” levels in July through September in those areas, as well as the in the rest of northern Idaho. The western most areas will need monitoring however. If above average temperatures do occur there in June through August, even with average precipitation, fire potential can quickly increase to Above Normal by mid to late July and persist into September.

**Great Basin:** Normal significant large fire potential is expected across the region during the outlook period except across the central and eastern portion of the region in June when Below Normal significant wildland fire potential is expected. The Below Normal potential will continue across the eastern Mountains of Utah in July while Above Normal potential will develop across the southern boundary of the region along the Arizona Strip.

The majority of the Region is at or above average as far as precipitation over the past 2-3 months. The storm track favored the southern two thirds of the region much of the winter into early spring, then shifted north in April, before bringing more precipitation to the southern two thirds of the Region in May. Temperatures were also much cooler than normal across the region over the last 30 days, especially across Utah and the southern half of Nevada. Snowpack is over 200-300% of normal in the higher elevations of Nevada, Utah and into southern and eastern Idaho and Wyoming due to continued colder storms moving through the region bringing additional rain and high elevation snowfall. There have been several cold, low elevations snowfalls this winter and spring over the northern half of Nevada into Utah. This has compacted some of the carryover fuels we have seen from the last two years, which in turn has reduced fuel-loading going into fire season. However, wet weather has occurred off and on much of the winter and spring, with outlooks showing continued wet conditions, which potentially could last into the

early part of the summer. This has already allowed for new fine fuel growth, which may be continuous, albeit grasses are relatively short in many areas. However, if a significant amount of carryover fuels is lost, loading will still be reduced than in previous years, but still likely be above average in some areas, especially the southern half to two thirds of the region. The potential also exists for multiple crops of fine fuel through June. This expected wet weather pattern, and reduced carryover fuels is expected to keep things fairly quiet early in the fire season across many areas that have seen well above normal fire activity the last few years. However, smaller fires will continue to increase during drier periods in the fine fuels and will have some spread potential especially with wind.

The unusually wet winter and spring has led to an above average grass crop across southern Nevada, southern Utah and parts of the Arizona Strip, along with additional new fine fuel growth in the lower elevations of the northern half of Nevada into northern Utah. The grass height has been stunted with each cooler weather system that moves through, however moisture is abundant. Prolonged warmer and drier weather may hold off until the latter half of June into July, with the exception of shorter periods of drying and warmer temperatures until that point. Vegetation will begin to dry and cure during the drier periods, with above average fuel loading expected to be available later in June in the south and further north into July. The monsoon is expected to be somewhat delayed this year, which will bring potentially drier weather to southern areas of the region later in June into July. With this in mind, above average fire activity is expected across southern areas later in June into July. The length of the drier conditions will likely determine the potential for fire activity in the south. Further north, an early fire season is not anticipated with wet weather expected to periodically affect the northern two thirds of the region through at least much of June, if not longer. Small fires can be expected to increase during periods of dry and warm weather across the lower elevations in the fine fuels; however, storm systems will likely still move across the region every week or so and bring periods of cooler and wet weather, which will keep burning periods short. The storms may continue later into June and July, which could further limit the fire potential in the north. The deep snowpack will also delay fire season in the higher elevations of the Sierra into Nevada, Utah, and eastern Idaho. Therefore, Below Normal fire potential is expected in the higher terrain in June and July and across the lower elevations of eastern and southern Nevada into southern Idaho and much of Utah in June. Currently, Normal fire potential is expected in the lower elevations of northern and western Nevada into northern Utah beyond June. If drier weather resumes by July and August, some areas of Above Normal fire potential may be needed in the lower elevations, which could last into September.

**Southwest:** Below Normal significant large fire potential is expected in areas east of the Continental Divide in June. Above normal significant large fire potential is expected across southern Arizona through July followed by Normal potential for August and September. Elsewhere, expect Normal significant large fire potential during the outlook period.

Since mid-February, high temperatures have been slightly below to below average across most areas of the region while areas across southern New Mexico into far West Texas experienced high temperatures slightly above average. The region has seen a mix of wet and dry conditions the past three months with wetter than average conditions across the northern tier of Arizona into the Four Corners as well as much of the western half of New Mexico. Far West Texas has also been wetter than average as well as most areas across the Texas panhandle. The driest part of the region over the past 90 days has been across south central Arizona overall where precipitation has averaged between 20-50% of average.

Parts of the southeastern half of New Mexico have received below average precipitation from late fall through the present. However, over the past month these areas have begun to receive precipitation as return moisture from the Gulf of Mexico has begun to occur. The present El Niño episode is expected to remain in the weak-moderate category through at least the early-mid summer months and likely longer. Historically, this leads towards a higher frequency of below average to average high temperatures focused across New Mexico and a higher likelihood of areas of average to above average precipitation area-wide, but especially along and east of the Continental Divide as spring continues into early summer. Further west, expect high temperatures to oscillate between average and above average, especially by middle to late June with drier conditions overall compared to areas further east.

The late spring and early summer period has increased potential for moisture to be drawn west northwestward through New Mexico towards and west of the divide region. This will temper down significant large fire potential to Below Normal across most, if not all, areas along and east of the divide region late spring into early summer. However, it will also bring the potential for some lightning along and west of the divide that could eventually lead to areas of significant large fire potential primarily in the low to middle elevations of Arizona. These areas have dried out the most recently and will continue to dry out further by late spring and early summer. With the expected drier areas regionally to be focused west of the divide, some higher elevation areas across Arizona could begin to experience a significant large fire potential increase by late June into July before the monsoonal moisture arrives.

Monsoonal coverage and timing is coming into better focus as June approaches with stronger indications that the monsoonal onset could be at least slightly delayed this summer and focused more east of the divide than usual overall. Significant Fire Potential west of the divide could linger a bit longer than usual this July. By later in July, especially August, monsoonal moisture is expected to be adequate (downright robust some areas) where significant large fire potential will be diminished. Some indications show a wet September for areas west of the divide compared to both July and August.

**Rocky Mountain:** Below Normal significant wildland large fire potential is expected across the entire region in June followed by Below Normal potential across Central and Southwestern Colorado in July. Elsewhere, expect Normal significant wildland fire potential during the outlook period.

The combination of the recent cool and wet spring and the expected average to wetter and cooler than average long-range predictions through the summer are tilting the odds toward average to below average large fire risk across portions of the region. In addition, the heavy snowpack in the central to southern Colorado mountains has delayed the onset of core fire season that typically sees an increase in fire activity by late May. Below Normal large fire potential is predicted for the entire geographic area in June, with Below Normal large fire potential becoming constrained to the mountains of Colorado during July and August. Historical trends show that fire activity from June to July has a tendency to increase across western Colorado, Wyoming, and western South Dakota and Northwestern Nebraska. Conversely, decreasing trends are often the case in July across the southern Colorado Front Range. Statistically speaking, above median snowpack on June 1 in Colorado has in all but one year been followed by below average large fire activity in June through August (since 1992) in Colorado from the Front Range westward. However, the correlation is not as tilted towards below average fire risk over Wyoming where there's been a few cases where above median snowpack on June 1 was followed by average to above average acres burned. The current El Niño correlates historically with a below average fire season across the entire region for June through September in terms of large fire acres burned, with only one year since 1992 that wasn't below average.

**Eastern Area:** Below Normal significant large fire potential is forecast along southwestern portions of the Upper Midwest during June. Normal significant wildland fire potential is expected elsewhere during the outlook period.

30 to 90 day soil moisture and precipitation anomalies were near to well above average across the majority of the Eastern Area towards the end of April. Some shorter term drying had occurred over portions of the eastern Mid-Atlantic States up into the New England Metro towards the end of May.

Cooler and wetter than average trends are forecast to persist over the western Mississippi Valley into June with wetter than average conditions possibly lingering through the rest of the summer from the Plains into the Upper Mississippi Valley. Warmer and drier conditions overall are forecast to spread northward from the Mid-Atlantic States into the Northeast as the summer progresses possibly creating periods of above normal summer fire potential.

100 and 1000 hour fuel moistures as well as Energy Release Components or Canadian Build-Up Indices were near or seasonal average levels respectively towards the end of May over the majority of the Eastern Area. Near to below normal fire potential is expected over the majority of the region through the summer.



However, periods of Above Normal potential may develop over parts of the eastern half of the region later this summer into the fall season if warmer and drier trends develop.

**Southern Area:** Above Normal significant large fire potential is expected across eastern South Carolina and southeastern Georgia in June. This area will expand southward to include extreme northeastern Florida and north to include extreme eastern North Carolina in July. Normal potential should return to these areas by September. Below Normal significant large fire potential is expected across portions of Texas and Oklahoma in June and July. In areas or periods not mentioned above, expect Normal significant fire potential.

A much drier and warmer weather pattern emerged across the southeast during late May and enhanced developing drought conditions along portions of the Atlantic Coast of southeastern Georgia and South Carolina. Drought conditions are currently expanding southward into northern Florida. Puerto Rico continues to be under the influence of moderate drought conditions as well. These drought areas, along with the drier and warmer forecast over summer for our southeast will likely keep and produce periods of elevated fire risk as well as above average fire danger a threat over summer. The extent of medium and fine fuel drying will need to be monitored for their impacts on larger and higher energy release fire activity.

The current El Nino is expected to continue to result in a weather pattern that keep warm and dry conditions in place over the eastern portion of the outlook area and overall cooler and decreasingly wetter than average conditions across western and northern portions of the region. Long-range model data continues to support previous forecasts that is leading to higher than average confidence. For Puerto Rico, an average tropical Atlantic weather pattern is expected to become more dominate which should result in some easing of the drought conditions with an increase in the potential for island-wide rain activity. However, some drought is expected to linger across the island beyond the outlook period.

Despite an increase in fire activity in the southeast observed during the persisting warming and drier weather pattern of May, overall activity remained. The warmer and drier weather expected across the southeast should be expected to create a higher threat ignition and fire threat environment, especially with elevated ERC-G values that are expected to be above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile. For these reasons, and without a tropical rain producing event or event(s), areas of the southeast will experience Above Normal fire potential as outlined on our monthly maps with otherwise a broader area of elevated risk in our southeast as denoted by the area outlined in red.

### ***Outlook Objectives***

The National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook is intended as a decision support tool for wildland fire managers, providing an assessment of current weather and fuels conditions and how these will evolve in the next four months. The objective is to assist fire managers in making proactive decisions that will improve protection of life, property and natural resources, increase fire fighter safety and effectiveness, and reduce firefighting costs.

***For questions about this outlook, please contact the National Interagency Fire Center at (208) 387-5050 or contact your local Geographic Area Predictive Services unit.***

**Note:** Additional Geographic Area assessments may be available at the specific GACC websites. The GACC websites can also be accessed through the NICC webpage at:

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/outlooks/outlooks.htm>