

National Wildland Fire Outlook

June 1 - 30, 2007

ALASKA - Potential: Normal to Above Normal

Precipitation: Drier than normal conditions are expected the first part of June with near normal rainfall the rest of the month.

Temperature: Above normal.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Fuels are rapidly drying statewide. Recent showers have reduced fire danger in the central and southern portions of the state while the north remains very dry. A current and persistent pattern of weather systems into the Gulf of Alaska coast is keeping south-central Alaska moist even though the precipitation on the western Kenai Peninsula has been limited. The forecast of above normal temperatures for June combined with a dry spring in the interior are pointing to a large area of above normal fire potential particularly in the northern interior. June is typically the start of the lightning season in Alaska; warmer than normal temperatures will increase lightning and wildfire activity.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire activity normally decreases in June.

Miscellaneous: No issues.

NORTHWEST - Potential: Normal to Above Normal

Precipitation: Near normal.

Temperature: Warmer than normal on the east of the Cascades and normal temperatures on the west side.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Drying typically accelerates in June and the potential for large fires increases. The low snowpack at lower elevations melted faster than normal through late May. Fire danger indices are approaching levels adequate to support large fires in some areas.

Prescribed Fire: No concerns.

Miscellaneous: No issues.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - Potential: Normal to Above Normal

Precipitation: Below normal.

Temperature: Near to above normal inland and normal coastal sections.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Little snowpack remains except at the highest elevations. Live fuel types are greening up earlier than normal this year, and they have or soon will start their seasonal declines in fuel moisture. Much of the grass in lower valleys and foothill areas is in the late to final stages of curing. Dead fuel moistures are lower than normal. The 1000 hour fuels are well below normal levels with some areas approaching historic lows. Additionally, Energy Release Component (ERC) values are above normal with some areas at or above record levels. Wildfires on south and east facing slopes can expect to see good consumption of ground litter and fuels. Due to the extremely dry fuels, fire behavior may not moderate when burning into live fuels. Localized frost-killed brush has added a dead component to the fuel regime that will contribute to more active fire behavior.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire activity will likely be limited to projects in the more moist areas.

Miscellaneous: Some 2006 burn piles have rekindled due to the relatively dry winter with light snowpack.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - Potential: Normal to Above Normal

Precipitation: Near to below normal

Temperature: Above normal.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Much of the Area will see above normal fire potential due to extremely dry fuels.

Prescribed Fire: No concerns.

Miscellaneous: No issues.

NORTHERN ROCKIES - Potential: Normal

Precipitation: Below normal.

Temperature: Above normal.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Initial attack is expected to increase due to warmer, drier weather, and increased thunderstorm activity. However, overall fire potential will be near normal.

Prescribed Fire: Full greenup may hamper prescribed fire activity.

Miscellaneous: Drought conditions are expected to continue over portions of the Area.

EASTERN GREAT BASIN - Potential: Normal to Above Normal

Precipitation: Normal except below normal western Utah and southern Idaho.

Temperature: Above normal.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Fire potential is expected to be above normal in western Utah and southern Idaho with near normal conditions elsewhere.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire activity may be impacted by continued curing of grasses and wind events.

Miscellaneous: Early snowmelt and drying at higher elevations will lead to early start to fire season in timbered areas.

WESTERN GREAT BASIN - Potential: Normal to Above Normal

Precipitation: Above normal except normal for the western third of Nevada

Temperature: Above normal.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Fuels are in greenup, but extensive dead carryover fuels will keep fire danger high for most of the state except for desert areas in south-central Nevada.

Prescribed Fire: No concerns.

Miscellaneous: The two previous winters were wetter than normal and produced a large amount of fine fuels while this winter and spring have been quite dry. There is the potential for a very active fire season with fast rates of spread in the dead carryover grass.

SOUTHWEST - Potential: Below Normal to Above Normal

Precipitation: Near normal.

Temperature: Above normal.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Above normal significant fire potential is expected across most of Arizona into far southwestern New Mexico while below normal fire potential is expected generally from the New Mexico central mountain chain eastward. A steady increase in fire potential is expected generally west of the Continental Divide as periods of unusually strong and dry westerly flow will be interspersed with period of hot, dry weather. These trends will hasten the curing of the abundant fine herbaceous fuels and continue to dry out mid-upper elevation larger fuels. Across the remainder of the Area, fine herbaceous fuels will cure from west to east and from south to north through the month, though they have already begun to cure quickly across parts of Arizona.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire is likely to be minimal across much of Arizona, where fuels are very dry. In New Mexico, opportunities will exist to undertake projects which might have normally been done in April or May. Any projects planned for eastern New Mexico and west Texas could be faced by rather quick transitions from green-up to a cured condition and then possibly back to green-up in a heavy fine fuel loading environment. Smoke dispersion problems should be minimal due to wind and instability.

Miscellaneous: The beginning of the monsoon in July is forecast to be -2 weeks late and will generally be focused west of the Continental Divide.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN - Potential: Normal

Precipitation: Normal to below normal.

Temperature: Above normal.

Fuels / Fire Danger: June is climatologically one of the drier months for Colorado and typically the beginning of fire season for the state. The first part of June looks particularly hot and dry, especially across western Colorado. Occasional precipitation episodes should continue across northern sections of the Area through June, which is common for this time of year. Look for fire season to become more active in June across western Colorado and possibly southwest Wyoming.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire activity typically decreases in June.

Miscellaneous: No issues.

EASTERN - Potential: Normal

Precipitation: Near normal.

Temperature: Near normal.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Frequent rainfall in late May has allowed for green-up and a significant reduction of fire potential across the Minnesota, Wisconsin and portions of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. However, due to the long term drought still in place at many locations in this region, any prolonged warm and dry periods may produce periods of elevated significant fire potential

Prescribed Fire: No concerns.

Miscellaneous: No issues.

SOUTHERN - Potential: Below Normal to Above Normal

Precipitation: Normal to above normal.

Temperature: Above normal over most of the Area.

Fuels / Fire Danger: Current and projected fire potential will remain high across portions of the Southeast, especially for southeast Georgia/northeast Florida and in portions of the southern Appalachian Mountains due to long term drought conditions.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire activity will likely be limited due to ongoing drought, dry fuels, and smoke impacts.

Miscellaneous: The upcoming tropical season, which begins June 1 and runs through November 30, may be the mechanism for improving the long term hydrologic drought situation.

National Note: Based on reported data so far this year, nationally there were 112% of the average numbers of fires, burning approximately 142% of the average acres. The following table displays historical, current and predicted information pertaining to fire statistics.

MAY 31, 2007 Reported Year-To-Date	Average reported for JUNE	Projection for June YTD+Forecast	Average Reported YTD JUN 30	Historical Low YTD JUN 30	Year of Low	Historical High YTD JUN 30	Year of High
ALASKA							
Fires	168	152	351	326	197	2006	432
Acres	39,819	585,562	625,381	659,667	87,936	1998	1,616,418
NORTHWEST							
Fires	305	363	741	558	299	1997	926
Acres	2,564	21,870	26,621	23,902	1,914	2003	113,902
NORTH OPS							
Fires	218	634	978	1,070	312	1998	1,597
Acres	3,696	5,808	12,409	8,926	196	1998	26,516
SOUTH OPS							
Fires	1,560	774	2,721	1,585	963	1998	3,155
Acres	13,396	20,526	38,027	31,920	3,115	1998	75,733
NORTHERN ROCKIES							
Fires	740	219	981	804	399	1997	1,359
Acres	15,628	17,418	33,046	17,806	3,558	1997	36,356
EAST BASIN							
Fires	149	314	557	415	116	1997	617
Acres	2,343	49,389	46,793	54,355	8,556	1997	138,227
WEST BASIN							
Fires	130	141	384	205	64	1998	294
Acres	8,144	102,541	161,955	106,275	449	1998	731,377
SOUTHWEST							
Fires	1,100	953	2,243	2,198	1,542	2004	3,010
Acres	40,934	152,684	193,618	289,400	45,178	2001	836,005
ROCKY MOUNTAIN							
Fires	436	439	919	870	522	2001	1,485
Acres	10,218	39,340	41,690	71,110	6,010	2003	365,333
EASTERN AREA							
Fires	6,781	873	7,654	9,029	6,760	2004	11,024
Acres	160,318	2,522	162,840	87,737	53,917	1997	172,246
SOUTHERN AREA							
Fires	25,130	3,307	29,098	22,932	10,757	2003	37,090
Acres	1,037,612	78,362	1,178,663	595,572	185,030	2003	2,273,271
NATIONALLY							
Fires	36,717	8,168	46,627	39,990	26,880	2003	57,248
Acres	1,334,672	1,076,023	2,521,044	1,946,669	728,615	2003	3,656,940

The information above was obtained *primarily* from the Incident Management Situation Report from 1998-2007, however, some inaccuracies and inconsistencies have been corrected. Therefore, the data may not reflect other historic records and should NOT be considered for statistical purposes.

Prepared June 1, 2007 by the National Interagency Coordination Center – Predictive Services