Valid: Aug - Sept 2007
Issue Date: July 2, 2007

2007 ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA FIRE SEASON OUTLOOK

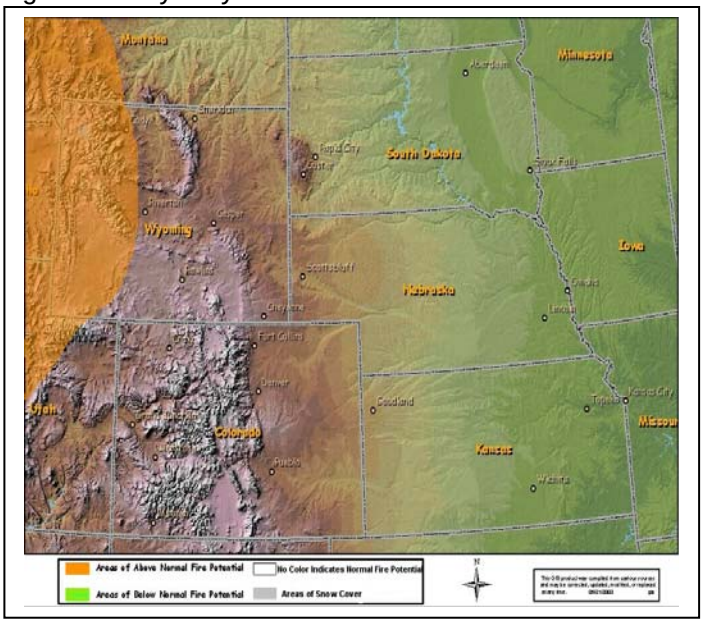
PRODUCT INTENT & DESCRIPTION

Fire season potential is predicted for the period August – September, in terms of the "Potential" for significant fire events that may require mobilization of additional resources from outside the area in which they originate.

SUMMARY

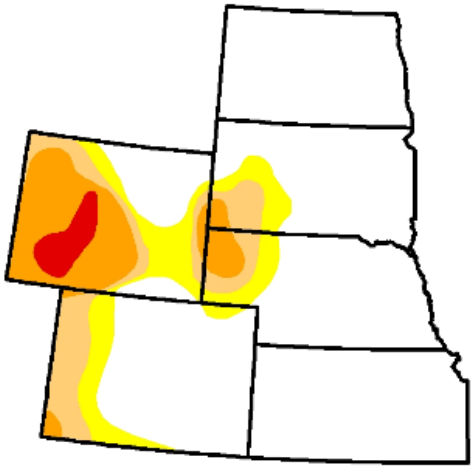
"Above Average" fire potential is forecast for extreme western Wyoming, August through September, otherwise "Average" potential for significant wildland fire activity is forecast for the 2007 Rocky Mountain Area fire season. Typically during an "Average" fire season, the RMA will experience both short-lived active and inactive fire periods. The 10 year averages for the RMA included 10,607 fires and 514,875 acres burned.

- Drought conditions have worsened over western Colorado, western Wyoming, South Dakota and western Nebraska compared to a year ago.
- A hot and dry month of June across the RMA (especially western sections of Colorado and Wyoming) increased fire potential leading into early July.
- Some moderation in fire potential expected during July in terms of moisture (relative humidity and/or wet thunderstorms) decreases the above normal fire potential coverage into the western portion of Wyoming, with normal potential elsewhere.
- In spite of a hot and dry month of June, compared to last year at the same time, the RMA is wetter (so far) in 2007.
- La Nina has not developed, and will not likely have any impact on the fire season forecast until possibly this fall. Otherwise, climate outlooks and analysis support near average precipitation, except below average precipitation regimes mainly in July for over Wyoming (mainly west) and portions of northwest Colorado.

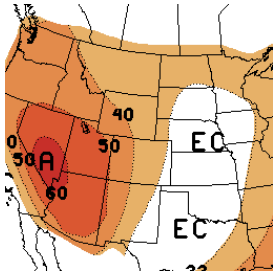


- Fine fuel loading is above average this season, especially east of the divide.
- **Fire potential may continue at "Above Average" over portions of extreme western Wyoming August-September. "Average" fire potential is forecast for the remainder of the RMA.**

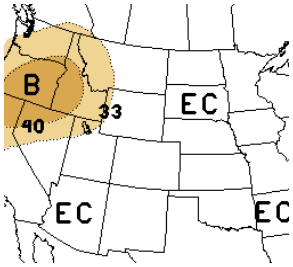
SUPPORTING INPUT DATA



Most recent (June 26, 2007) RMA Drought Monitor image shows portions of western Wyoming, southwest South Dakota, and western Nebraska in Severe to Extreme drought. Long term drought acts to increase dead fuel loadings, deplete fuel moisture values in dead fuels (especially heavier fuels), and can also lead to unusually low fuel moisture values in live fuels. Drought conditions in portions of the RMA are worse than they were a year ago.

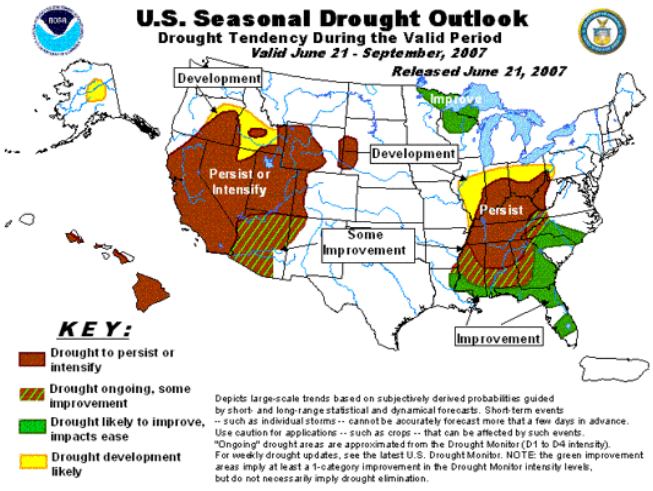


Temperature Anomaly



Precipitation Anomaly

Outlook for the months of July-August-Sep from the Climate Prediction Center shows warmer than average condition in the western half of the RMA, especially western Wyoming and western Colorado. Precipitation anomalies suggest drier than average conditions just nudging into western Wyoming.



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook shows the effects of forecast conditions on the current drought situation as shown earlier by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Current drought conditions across the Colorado western slope, western Wyoming, and the southern Black Hills are expected to persist or intensify on the whole through September.

Predictive Services Group
Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center