Fire Weather Annual Report
Southeast Idaho
2006

Pocatello Fire Weather Office
Pocatello, Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

2006 Fire Weather Annual Report

National Weather Service – Pocatello Fire Weather Office

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Pocatello, ID 83204

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1. Introduction:

The National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office at Pocatello, Idaho has Fire Weather Forecast responsibility for portions of Idaho serviced by the Central, Eastern and Southern Interagency Dispatch Centers (Figure 1). The Pocatello Fire Weather Office produces this Annual Fire Weather Report. Previous reports are maintained up to five years.

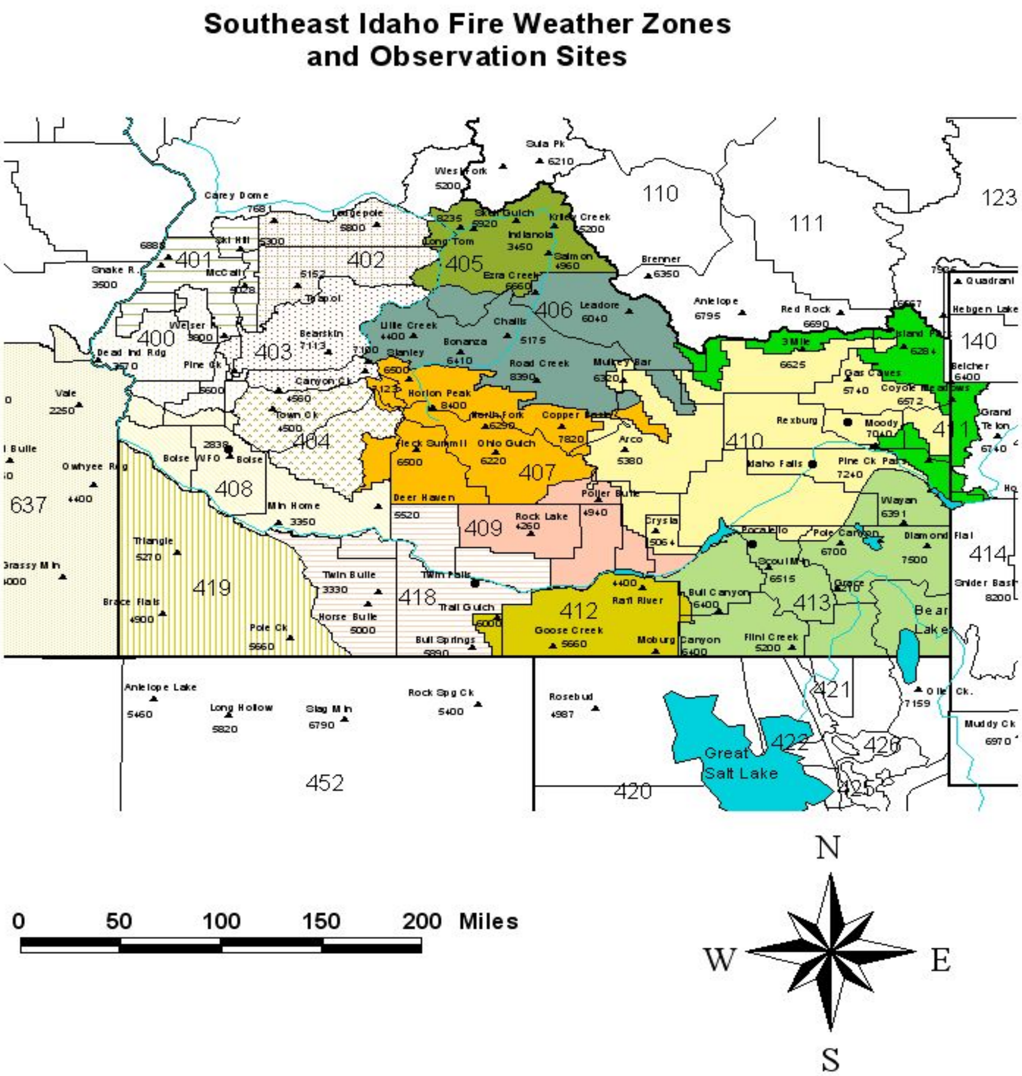

Figure 1 WFO Pocatello Fire Weather area of responsibility (solid colors).

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2. Overview of the fire season:

The El Nino/Southern Oscillation Index indicated that water temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific were near neutral from February 2005 through September 2006 then warmed above normal (moderately strong El Nino) the remainder of the year. During the spring of 2006 most storm systems originated in the Eastern Pacific where weak westerly winds helped transport them in west to east fashion across Idaho. This is typical of an ENSO neutral weather pattern. The maritime influence helped moderate temperatures through the season and prolong melting of an above normal mountain snow pack well into June.

> The El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle occurs over a two to seven year period and refers to conditions of sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Researchers have identified other cyclic patterns besides ENSO around the globe that may affect long term weather patterns. Some of these cyclic patterns may span 10 or even 30 years. La Nina (colder than normal) and El Nino (warmer than normal) are terms associated with extremes in the ENSO cycle.

The end of June through the month of July a ridge of high pressure dominated the weather over the intermountain west and several seasonably hot days followed. Monsoon like moisture surged northward at times from old Mexico a bit ahead of the more typical middle July to middle September time period. By early August the onshore westerlies across Idaho resumed and continued through much of the rest of summer. This once again helped moderate temperatures and limit the northward extent of monsoon moisture. By years end the water temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific warmed substantially above normal (El Nino). This resulted in a much stronger than normal jet stream across the eastern Pacific and helped bring a couple of fall storm systems into Idaho.

Another cyclic phenomena known as the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) often comes into play when the ENSO pattern is weak. The MJO cycle attempts to track an area of convection moving from the Indian Ocean into the western Pacific as far to the east as the Hawaiian Islands. This occurs over a period of about 45 days. If tropical moisture is drawn into a southwesterly jet stream near Hawaii it will move quickly into the Pacific Northwest Coast, and is often called the “Pineapple Express”. The MJO became particularly active in late September and early October when significant rains helped bring the fire season to an end.

Above average rainfall and snow pack in Southeast Idaho for the second year in a row went a long way towards ending the drought conditions of recent years. Basin averaged snow pack during the winter of 2005-2006 was 120 to 140 percent above normal for all basins in Southeast Idaho. Mountain snow pack in the Big Wood Basin was exceptionally good considering this area only received about 50 percent of normal snow the previous winter. The central mountains faired quite well with respect to precipitation overall. Those areas receiving below normal snow were limited mostly to the panhandle of the state. Abundant snow pack and temperatures near or slightly below normal prolonged the snow melt in all but the Bear River Basin until almost Independence Day (Figure 2.1a). Basin total precipitation was 120-150 percent of normal in the period from January to May and remained at or above normal through the summer for all basins (Figures 2.1b and 2.2). Springtime flooding on the Portneuf and Big Wood Rivers was the most significant since 1997.

Near normal annual precipitation in 2004 followed by above normal precipitation in both 2005 and 2006 (Figures 2.2 through 2.4) brought an end to the short term drought situation, i.e. evapotranspiration and near surface soil moisture content, as evidenced by the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (Figure 2.5). Grassy fuels likely benefited from the moist surface conditions again this year. By summers end the National Drought Mitigation Center (Figure 2.6) indicated only abnormally dry conditions for central and eastern Idaho with some hydrologic concern. Ground water will likely take a longer period to completely recover however, the Palmer Drought Index (Figures 2.7 and 2.8a and b) show substantial improvement in this respect as well.

Thunderstorm activity was moderate this season. Significant (greater than 15% of aerial coverage) “dry” lightning occurred on four different days this fire season, three in August and one day in September (Figure 2.9). The Red Flag Event criteria for lightning associated with thunderstorms producing little precipitation (< .10 inch by local criteria) and at least 15 percent aerial coverage has remained constant for Southeast Idaho since the 2000 fire season.

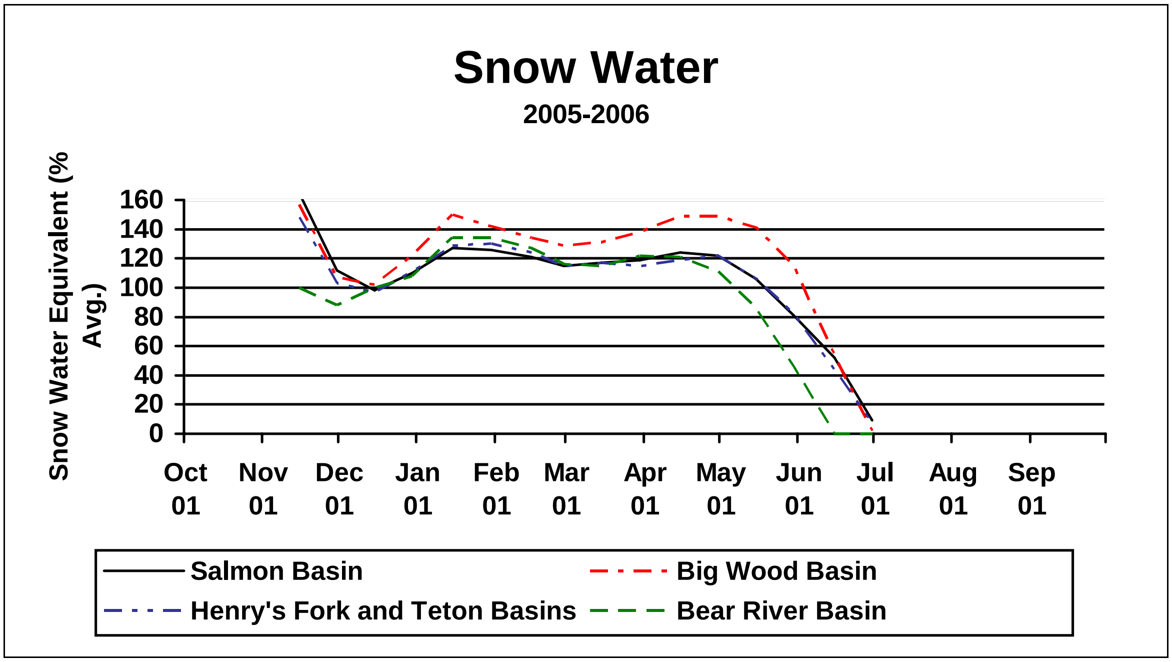

Figure 2.1(a) Snow water equivalent for select Southeast Idaho basins. From USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Water and Climate Center, Portland Oregon.

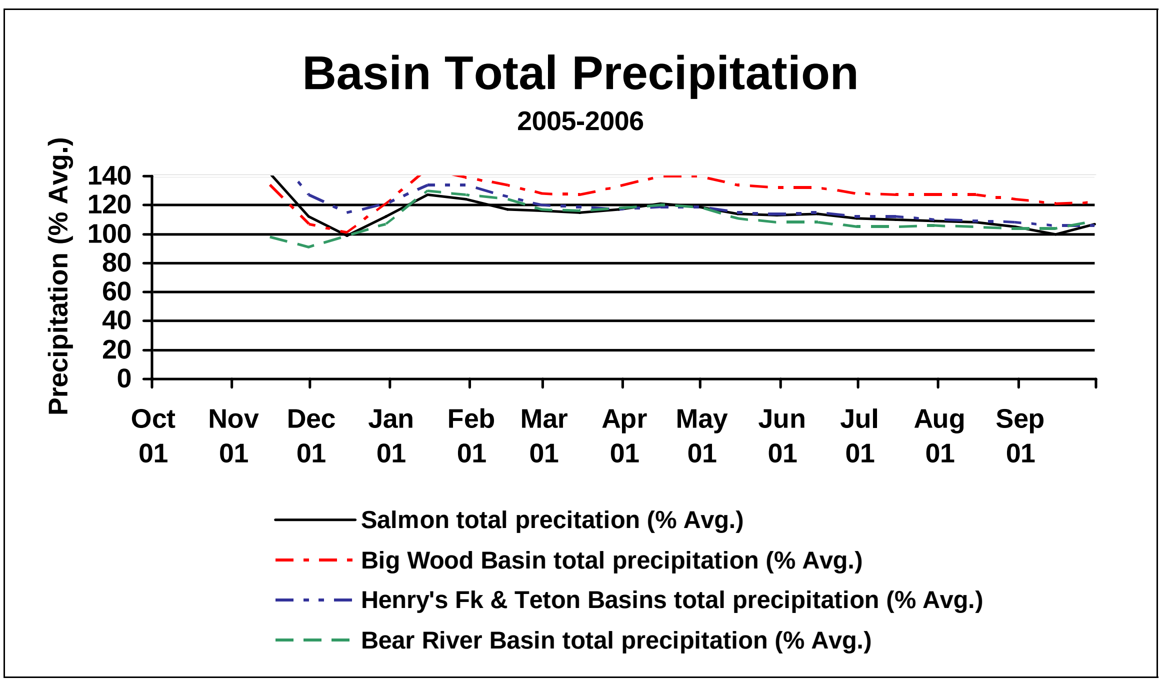

Figure 2.1(b) Total precipitation for select Southeast Idaho Basins expressed as a percent of average. From USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Water and Climate Center, Portland Oregon.

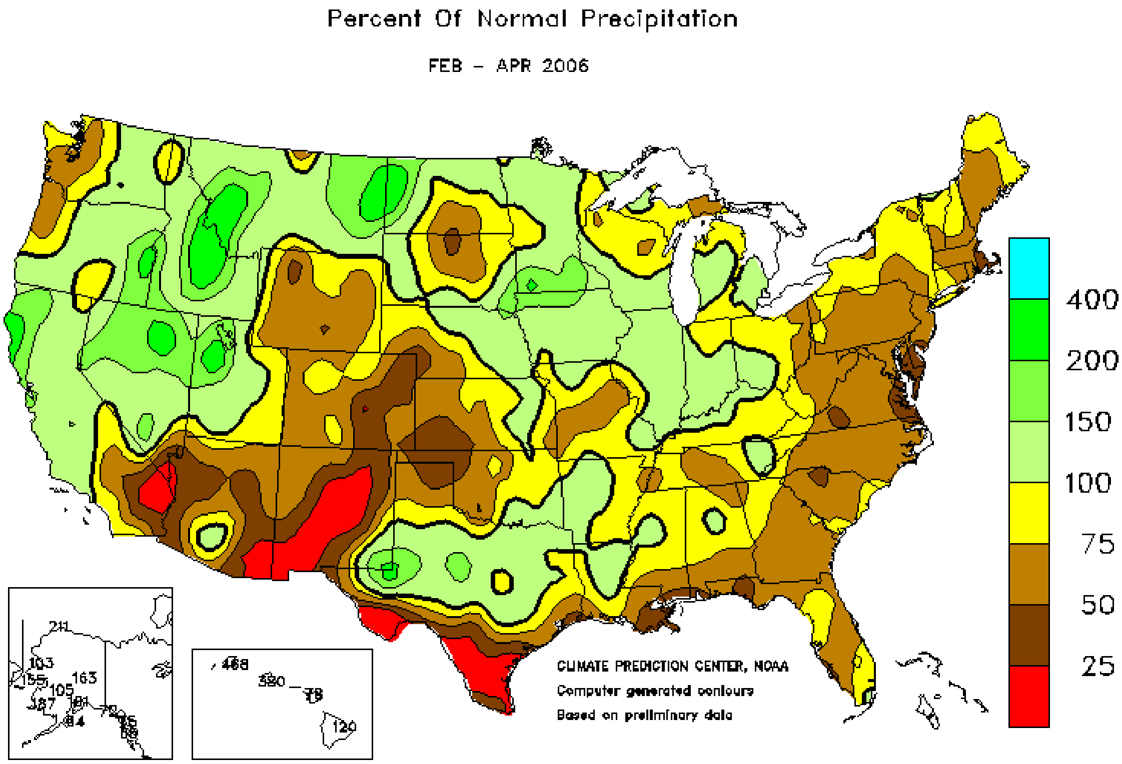

Figure 2.2 Precipitation as a percentage of normal for a 90 day period centered on March 2006, from Climate Prediction Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

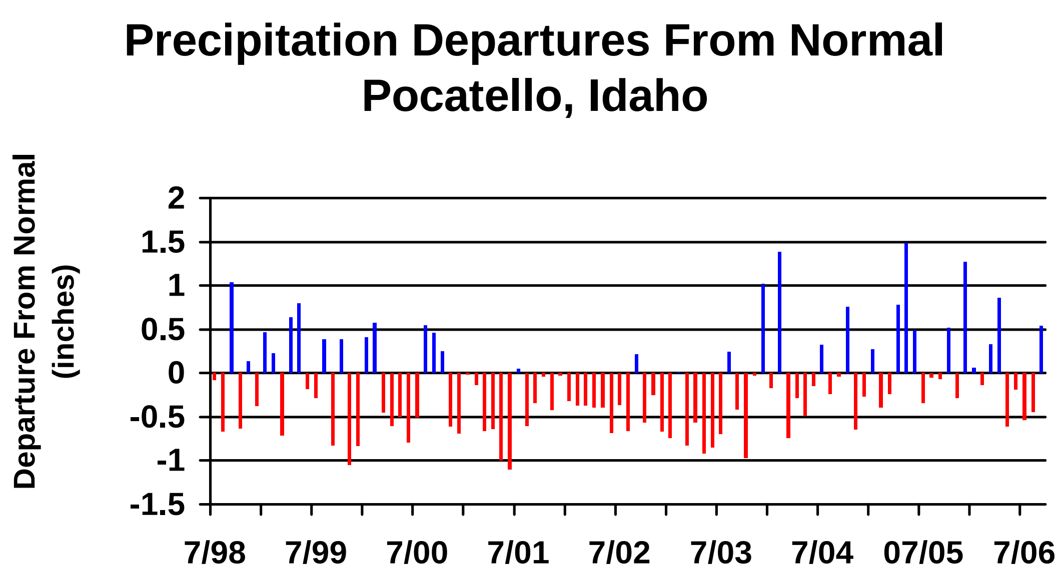

Figure 2.3 Precipitation departures from normal at Pocatello, Idaho based on thirty-year normals of data from 1971 to 2000 archived at the National Climatic Data Center.

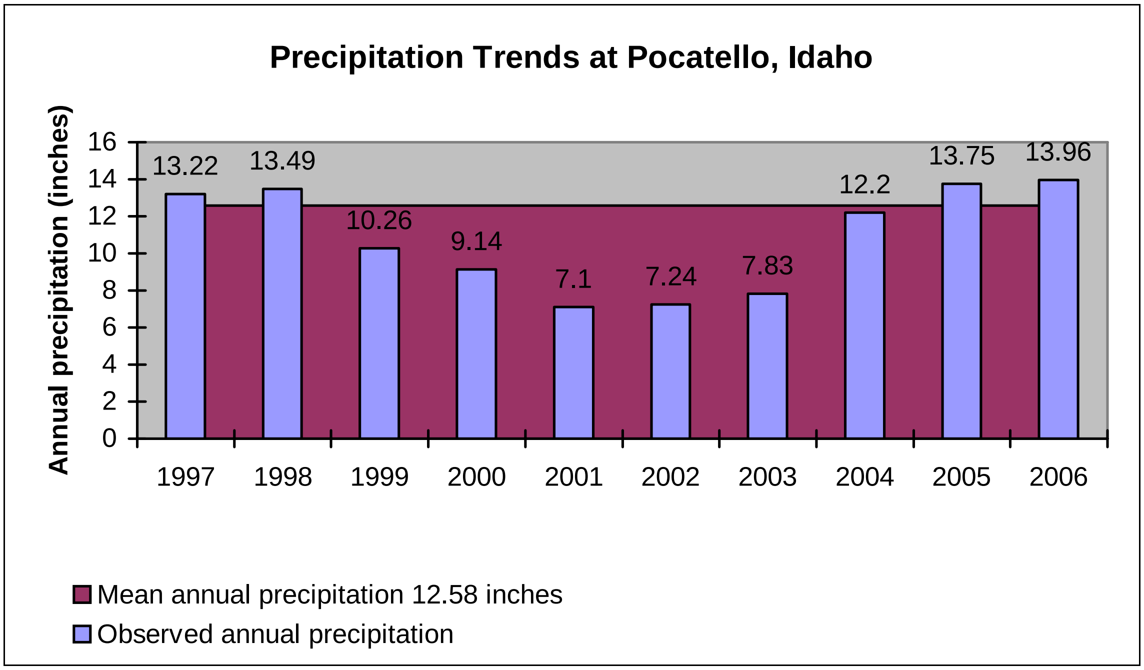

Figure 2.4 Water year (Oct. 1 to Sep. 30) precipitation at Pocatello, Idaho.

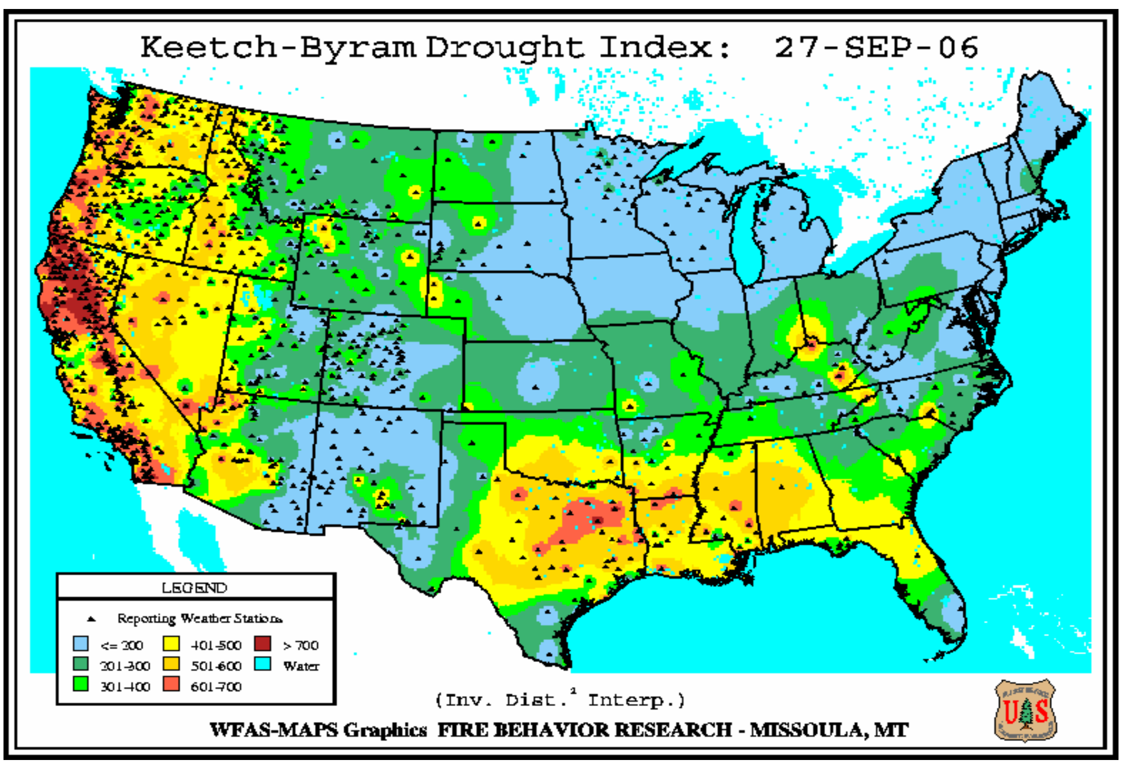

Figure 2.5 Keetch-Byram Drought Index reflecting more short term drought conditions, i.e. evapotransporation and near surface soil moisture.

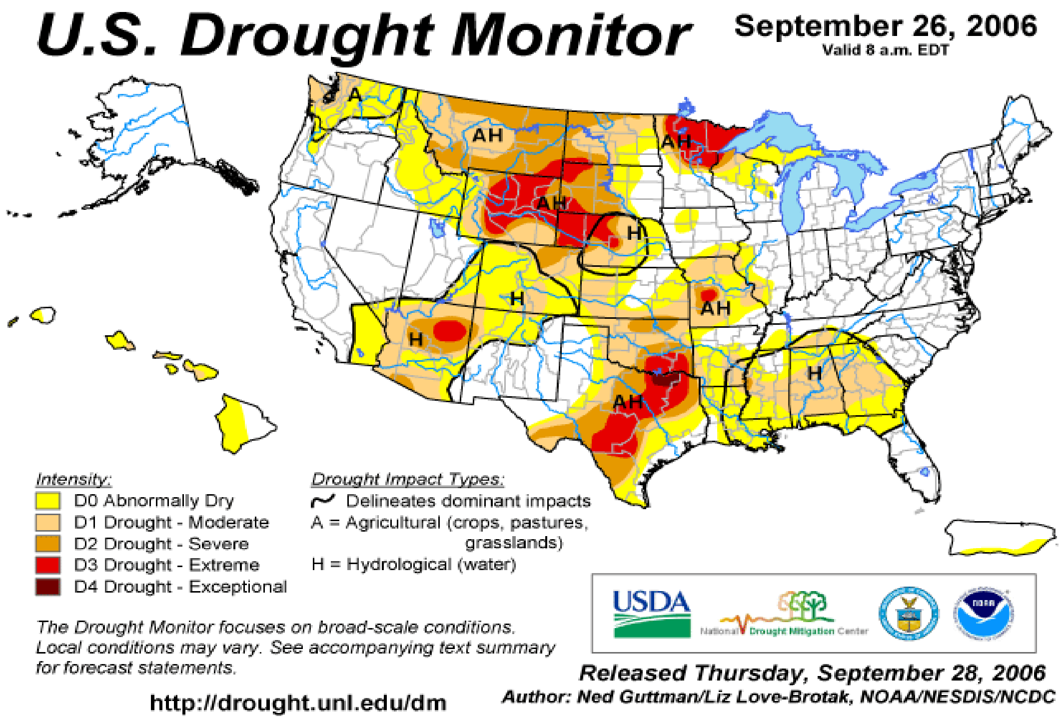

Figure 2.6 Drought summary map is based on a multi-index drought classification scheme and produced jointly by the National Drought Mitigation Center (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and several federal partners including Joint Agricultural Weather Facility (U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), Climate Prediction Center (U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA/National Weather Service), and National Climatic Data Center (DOC/NOAA).

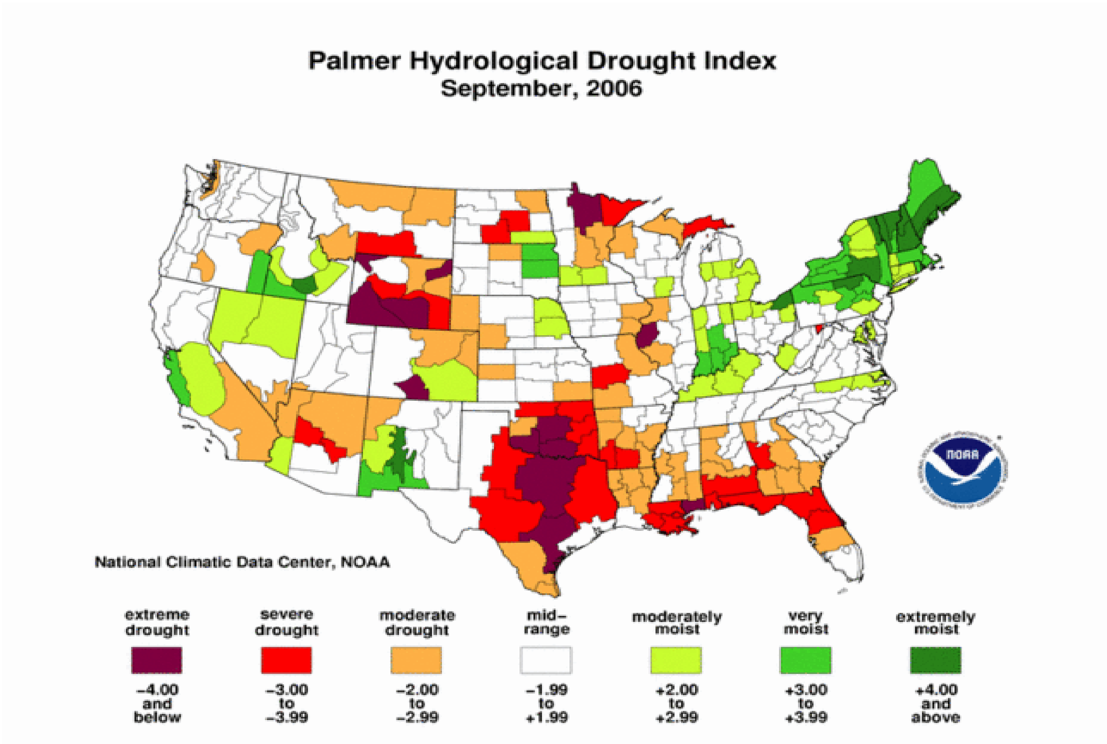

Figure 2.7 Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index measuring more long term hydrologic impacts, i.e. ground water.

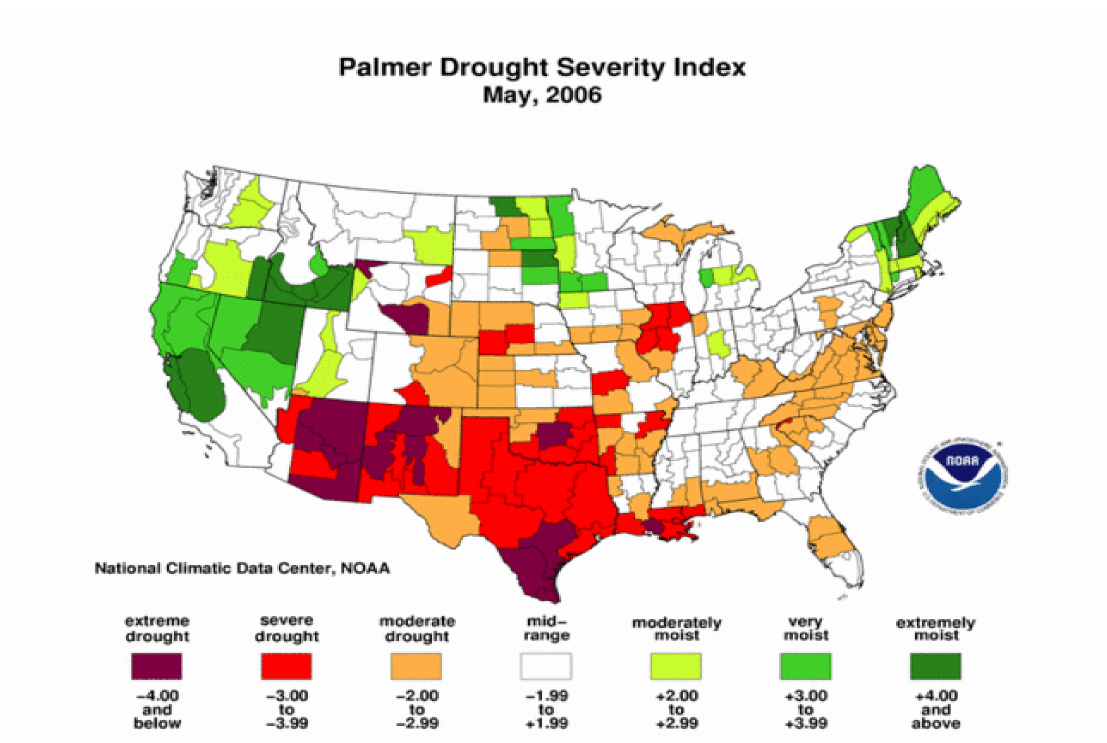

Figure 2.8(a) Palmer Drought Severity (May 2006).

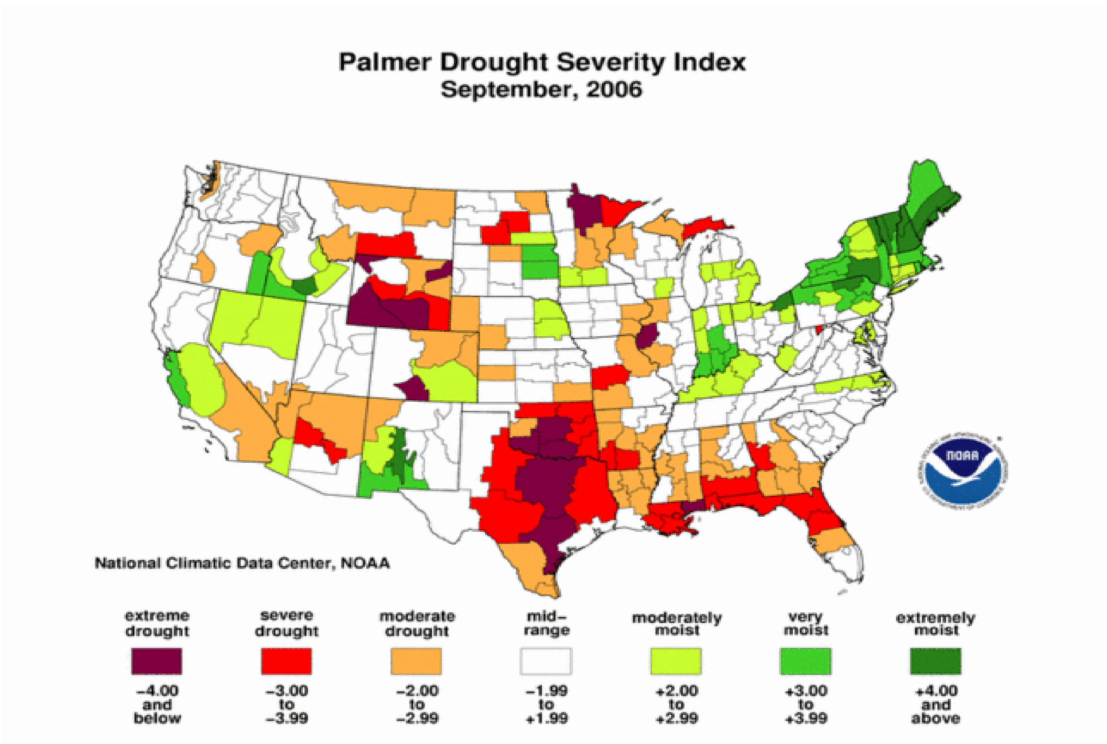

Figure 2.8(b) Palmer Drought Severity (September 2006).

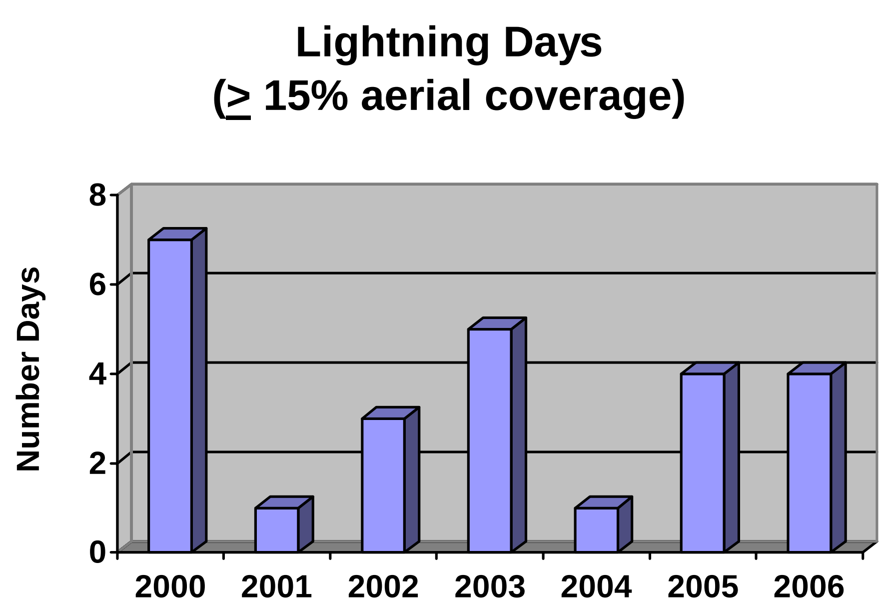

Figure 2.9 Number of days when dry thunderstorm and lightning activity in Southeast Idaho was judged to be significant as part of the Red Flag Event verification process.

3. Weather in review: November 2005 – October 2006

Mid to late November 2005: The late fall season got off to a good start in early November as persistent zonal flow off the Pacific brought several systems to the region. Zonal flow favored highland areas of central and eastern Idaho, with relatively high snow levels. By the middle of November a large high pressure dome began to build along the Pacific coast and led to a pronounced dry and cool period for most of the region.

Late November 2005 to early January 2006: By late November the ridge of high pressure had retrograded westward over the Pacific Ocean. This westward movement allowed the Polar Jet to sag southward across the region making for some active weather and cool temperatures. Several impressive storm systems blasted through the region, with one of the most impressive storms occurring around Thanksgiving. This large storm tracked through northern Utah and left close to a foot of snow on the benches south and east of Pocatello, with highland areas of Southeast Idaho gaining more than a foot of the white stuff. The Portneuf/Blackfoot river drainage registered 59 percent of normal snow water equivalent before the storm, with an increase to 77 percent after!

Mid January to early March 2006: A very active winter weather pattern settled over the region during this period. In general, weak high pressure settled over the western states with west to southwest wind flow aloft. Numerous weather systems bounded through the northern and mid sections of the ridge providing copious amounts of precipitation to highland areas. Snow levels generally remained above 6500 feet, with valley rain and mountain snow common. The pattern became more and more amplified with time, and the main storm track shifted southward over northern and central California. Southeast Idaho snow pack levels saw a dramatic increase during this period and by early March the basin wide average stood at 124 percent of normal!

Mid March to early April 2006: Early in this period a ridge of high pressure began to build out in the Pacific, and active zonal flow returned. Snow levels were again high and a series of systems moved through the region very quickly. By late March the flow became more and more amplified with several larger, but less frequent, systems affecting the region. Record precipitation was reported at eleven SNOTEL sites in the central mountains. Most of the amplifying storm systems did so in the Eastern Pacific. This allowed a semi-permanent ridge of high pressure to settle overhead. Over time, the amplification of this ridge led to a splitting onshore flow pattern and storms tracking into central and southern California.

Mid April to mid May 2006: Amplification of the upper-level pattern continued with a REX block affecting the region early in the period. A REX block is a semi-permanent feature where an area of low pressure cuts-off below a big ridge of high pressure creating a blocking pattern that can persist for a week or more. Sometimes it is referred to as a "high over low" pattern. In this case the ridge was parked over the northern Rockies, and the low pressure/storm track was well to the south over the southwestern US. By early May the REX block had broken down and a zonal pattern had settled over the

US/Canadian border. This made for mild temperatures and fast moving systems that brought little precipitation to the area.

Late May through Late June 2006: Active spring weather moved into the region as several large "early spring-like" systems moved through. These systems were quite amplified and tapped into sub-tropical moisture found over the Pacific. In addition to the moisture-tap these storms enjoyed, they also tracked along a very favorable pattern for precipitation generation for the Northern Rockies. This track generally is from eastern Oregon eastward across southern Idaho and into northwest Colorado. This storm track provided good lift and high moisture content to produce plenty of precipitation in the central Mountains. During this period the recorded precipitation at both Indianola and Challis RAWS sites were more than 0.50 inches above normal.

July to early August 2006: When the heart of summer rolled in, high pressure began to dominate the weather across the western US. During this period a few weak weather systems, mainly producing winds, affected the region. This dominant high pressure regime led to below normal precipitation readings for many areas, as well as very warm temperatures. With only a few exceptions, precipitation was nearly 1/2 of average during this dry spell. In addition to the lack of precipitation, temperatures between late June and early August averaged nearly 3 degrees above climatological norms for most locations.

August 2006: After fuels had dried during the previous month of warm temperatures, the upper-level ridge gave way and several active weather systems impacted the region during August. With a dry "summer-time" airmass in place many of these systems produced very little precipitation leading toward the beginning of a very active fire season across the west. The most prolific lightning event to affect eastern Idaho occurred during the early morning hours before sunrise on the 15th of August. This nocturnal thunderstorm event generated nearly 3000 lightning strikes across the Southern Sawtooth and Caribou National Forests including portions of the Upper Snake River Valley, and started numerous fires.

September to late October 2006: High pressure rebounded across the west during the beginning of September, and active fires were treated to mild temperatures and dry conditions. By mid to late September a more "fall-like" pattern began to shape up with a general trough of low pressure settling over the west, as high pressure retrograded westward over the Pacific. Temperatures fell sharply about 15 to 20 degrees and remained much cooler through the third week of September. The cool temperatures along with the precipitation produced by this low generally put to bed the active fire season. October weather was seasonable with an active storm pattern early in the month followed by a ridge of high pressure and dry conditions by months end.

4. Precipitation and Dry 1000 hour fuels by zone:

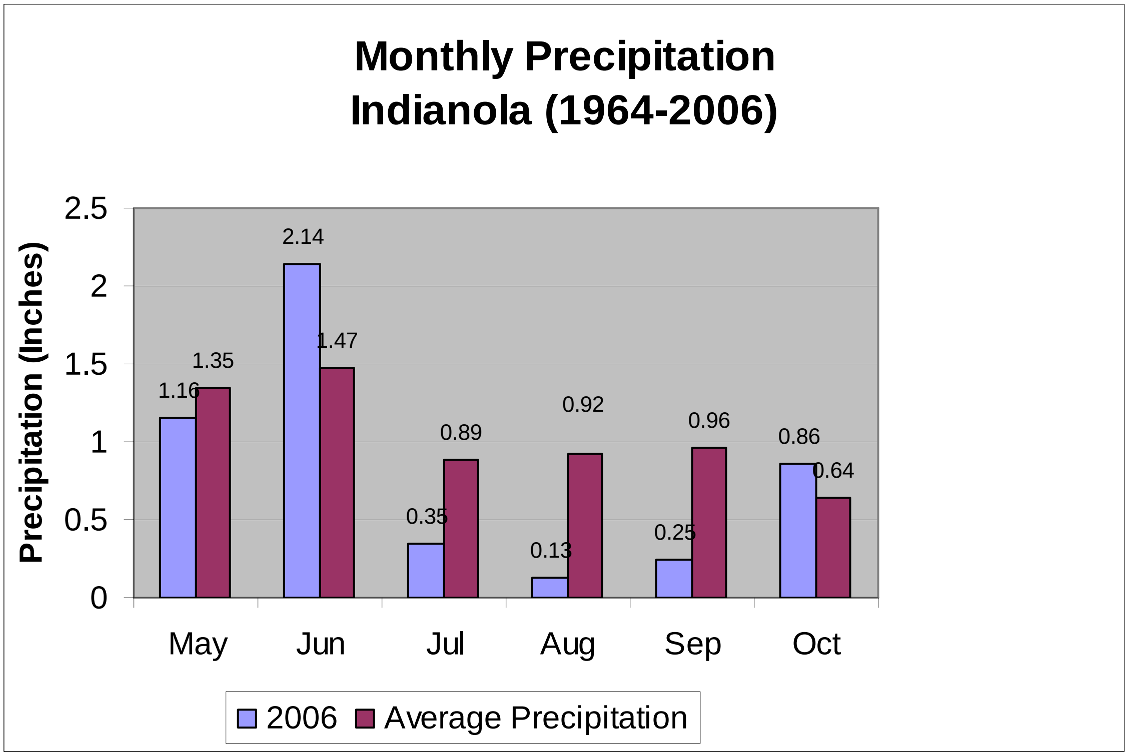

Figure 4.1(a) Observed and average precipitation at Indianola RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 405.

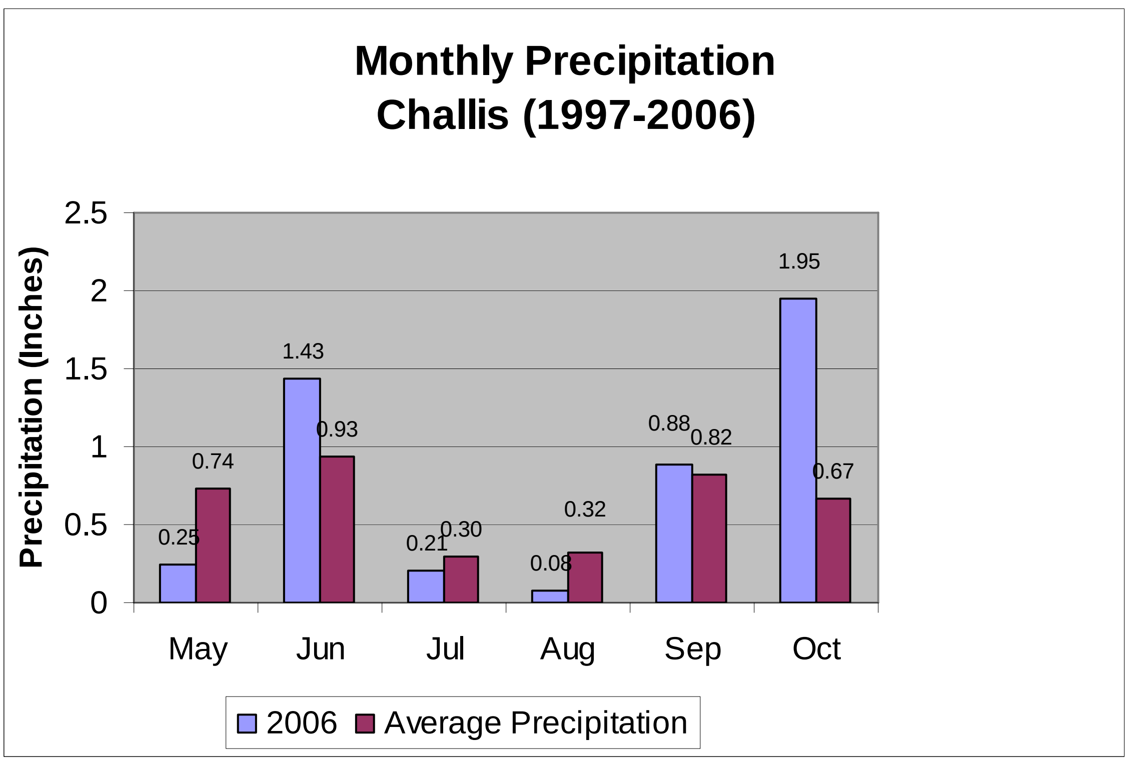

Figure 4.1(b) Observed and average precipitation at Challis RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 406.

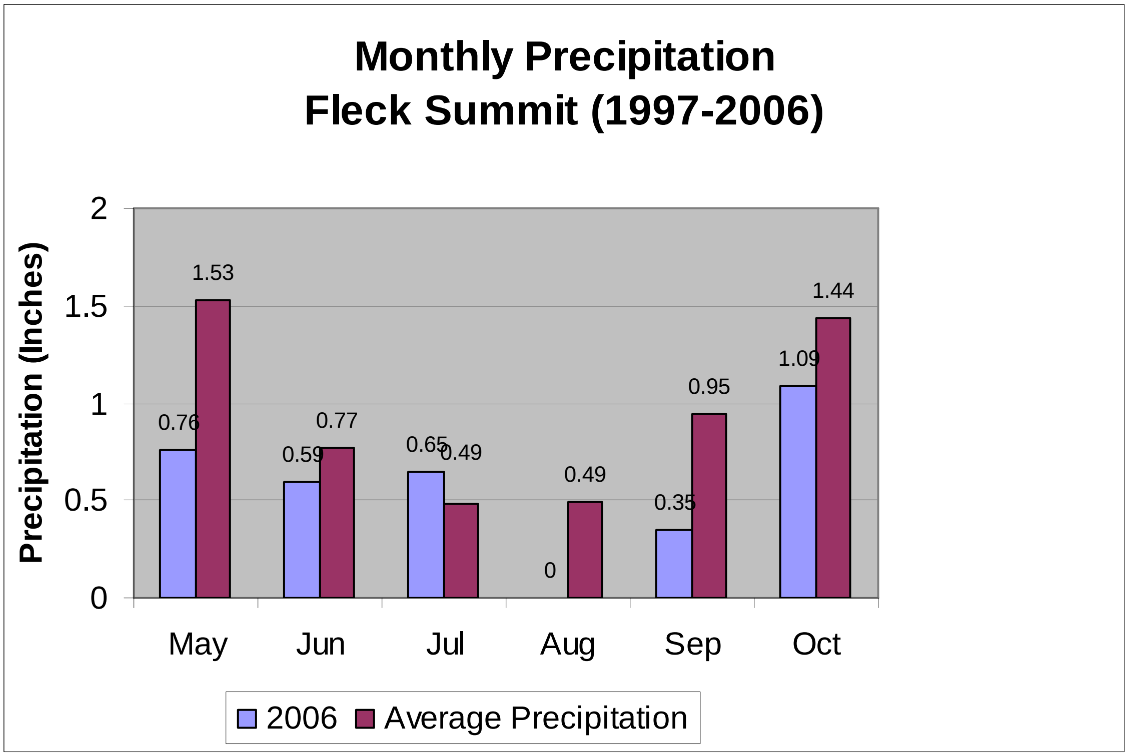

Figure 4.1(c) Observed and average precipitation at Fleck Summit RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 407.

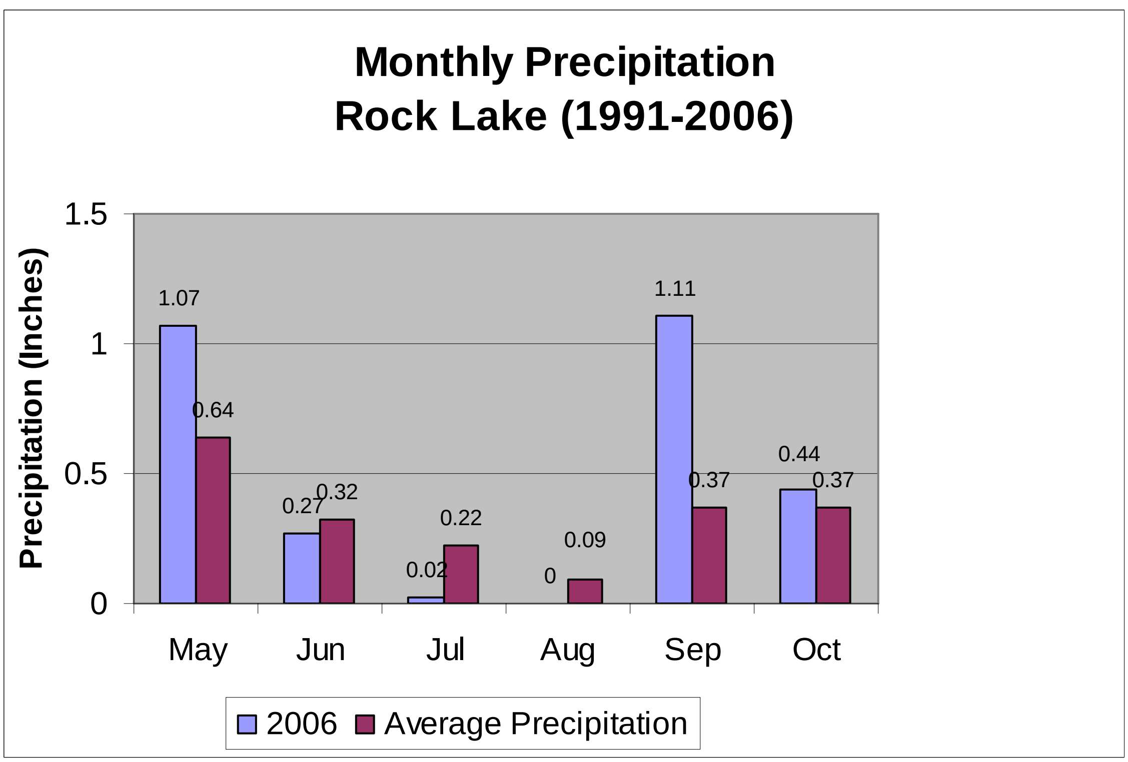

Figure 4.1(d) Observed and average precipitation at Rock Lake RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 409.

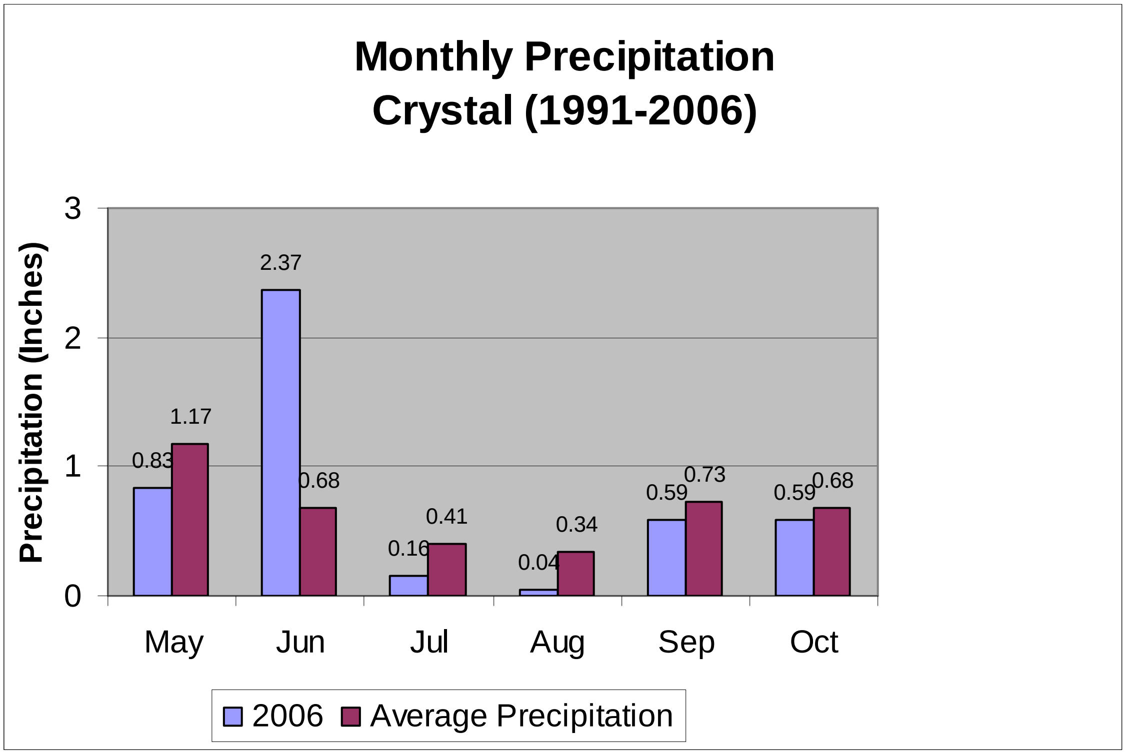

Figure 4.1(e) Observed and average precipitation at Crystal RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 410.

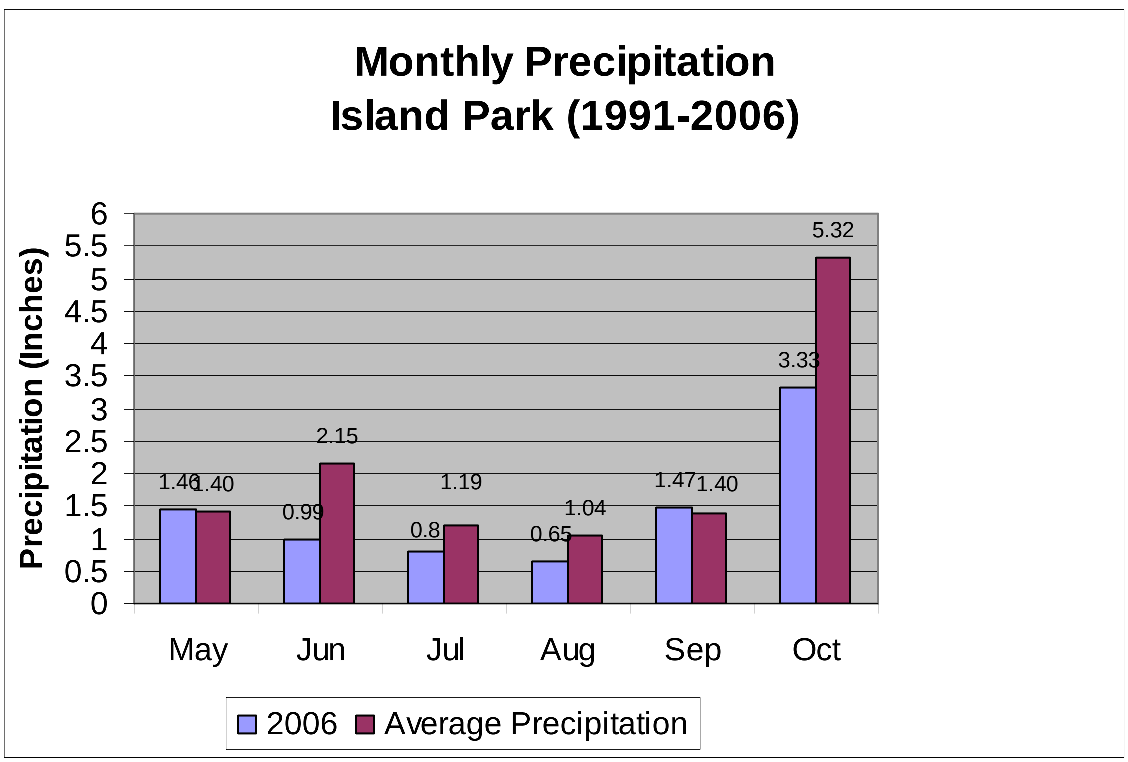

Figure 4.1(f) Observed and average precipitation at Island Park RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 411.

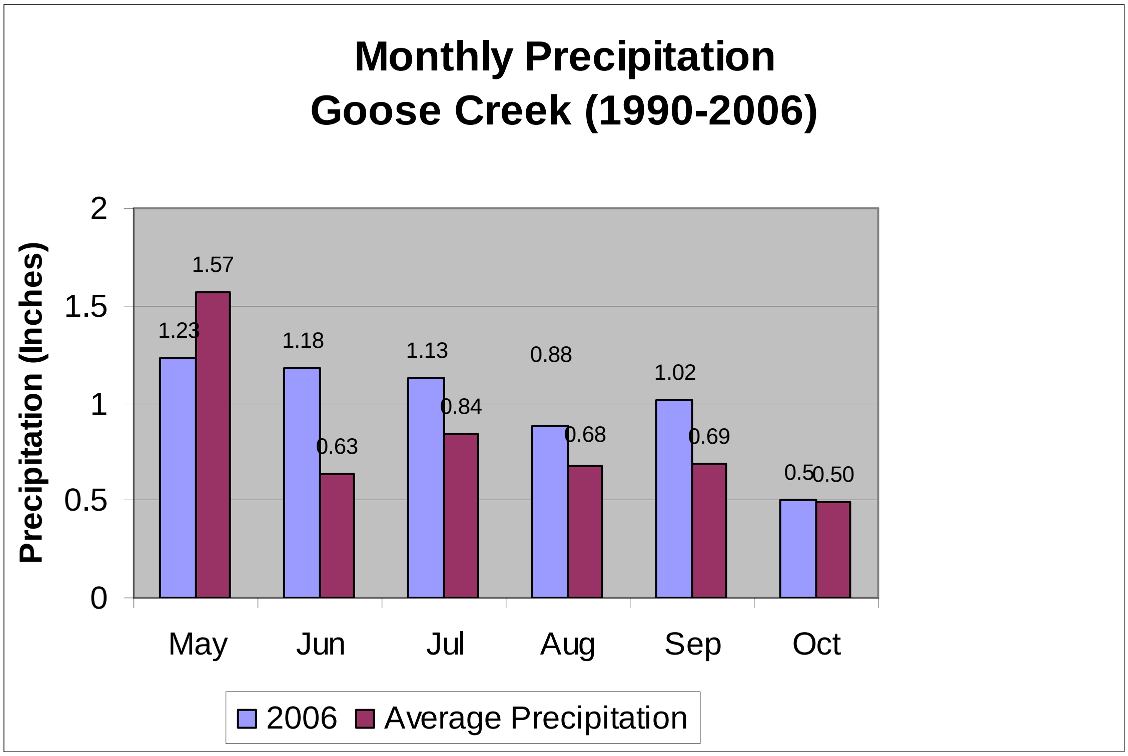

Figure 4.1(g) Observed and average precipitation at Goose Creek RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 412.

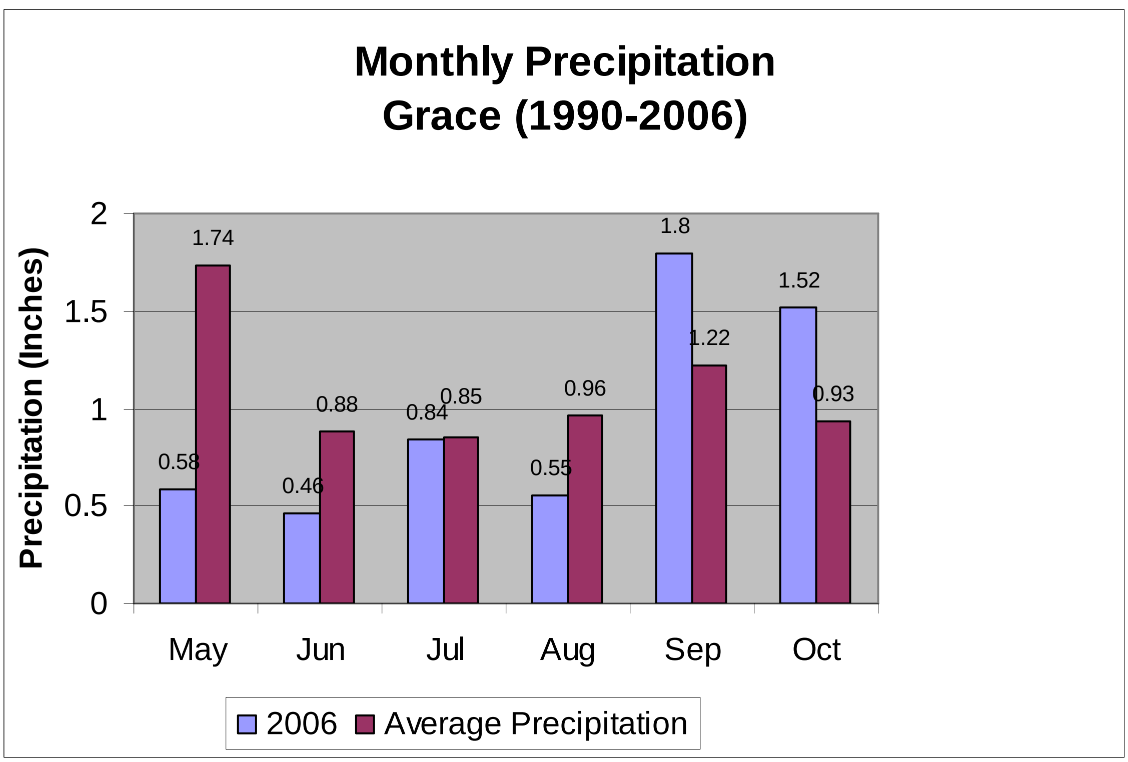

Figure 4.1(h) Observed and average precipitation at Grace RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 413.

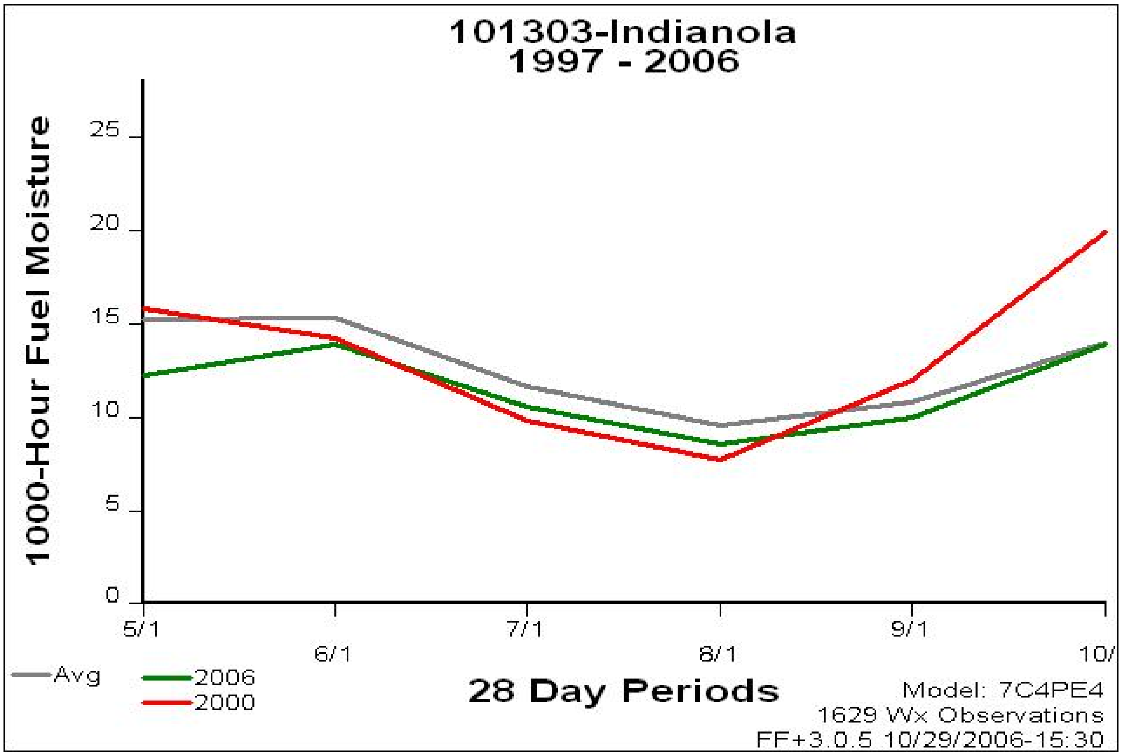

Figure 4.2(a) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Indianola RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 405.

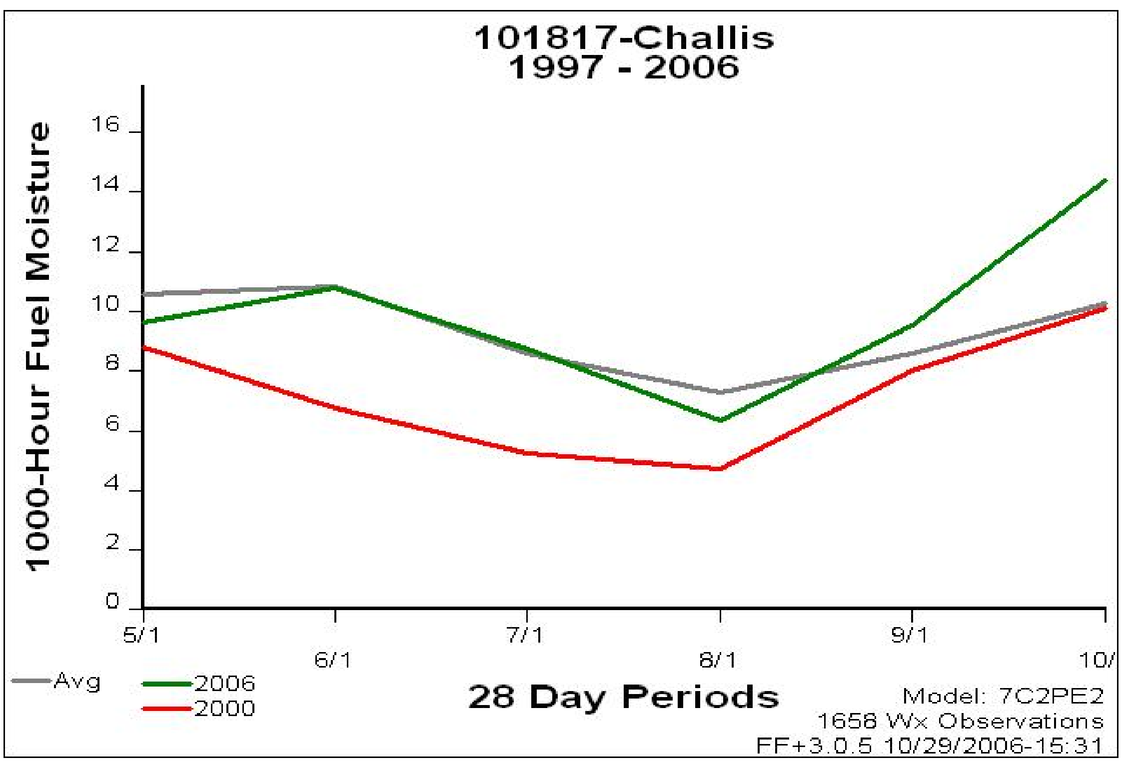

Figure 4.2(b) Observed and average 1000 Fuel Moisture at Challis RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 406.

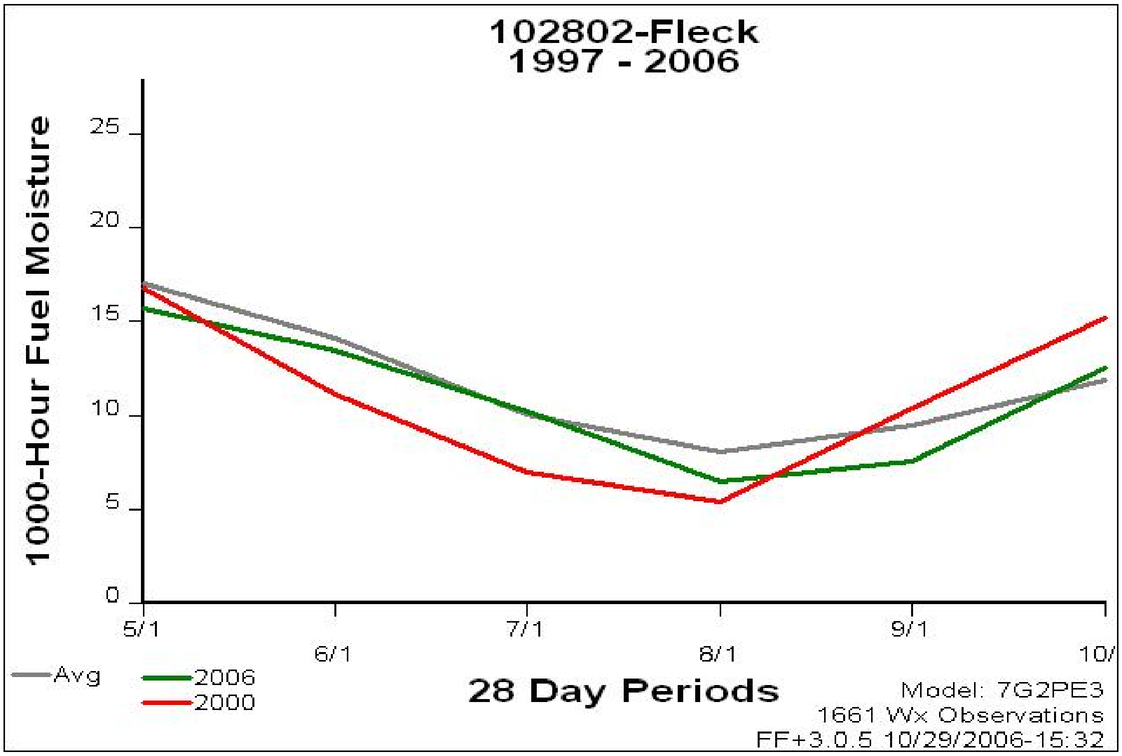

Figure 4.2(c) Observed and average 1000 Fuel Moisture at Fleck Summit RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 407.

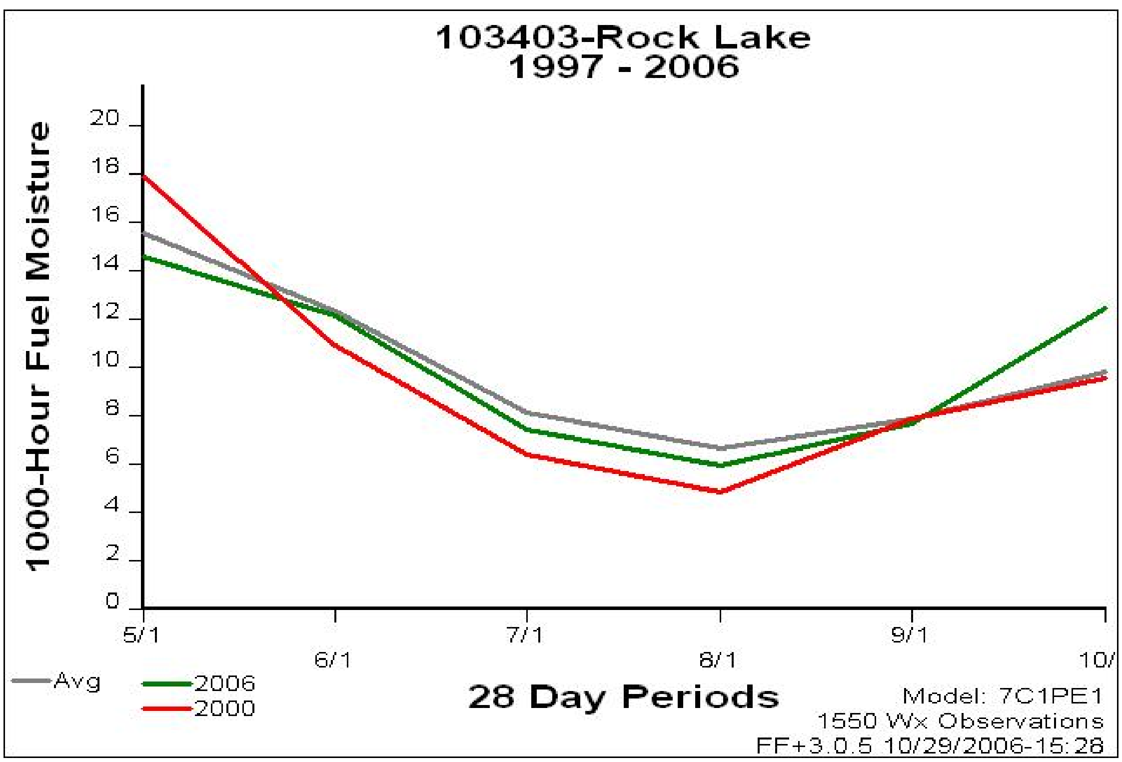

Figure 4.2(d) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Rock Lake RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 409.

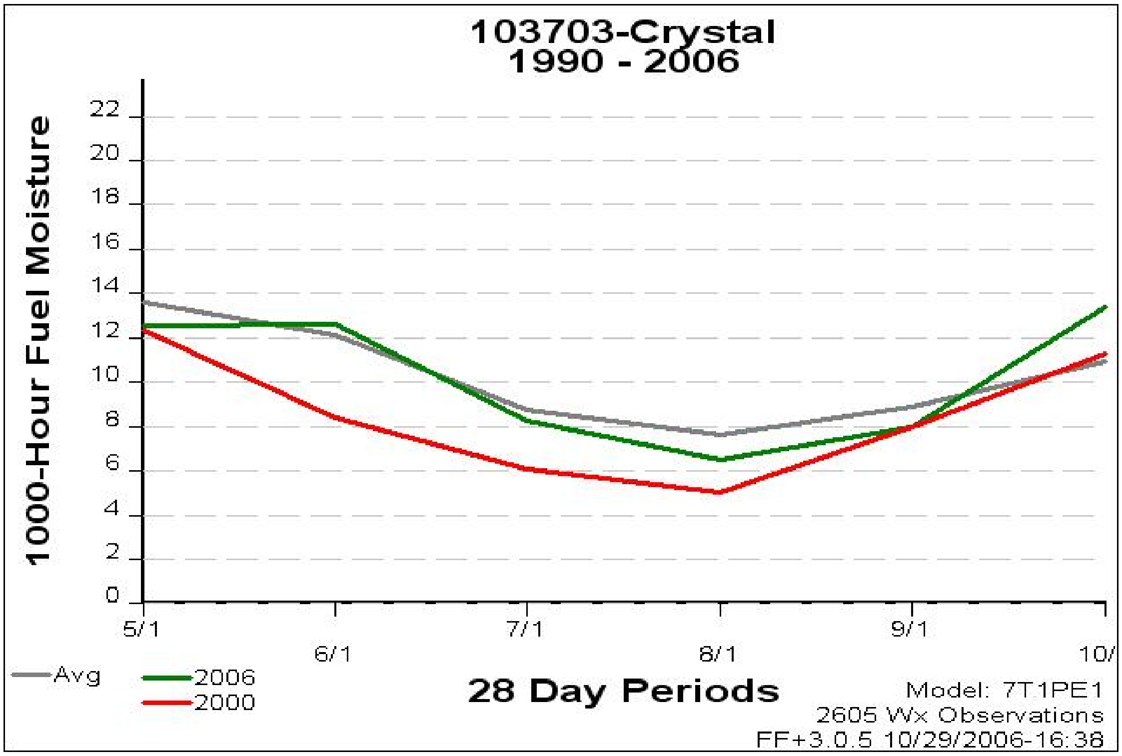

Figure 4.2(e) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Crystal RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 410.

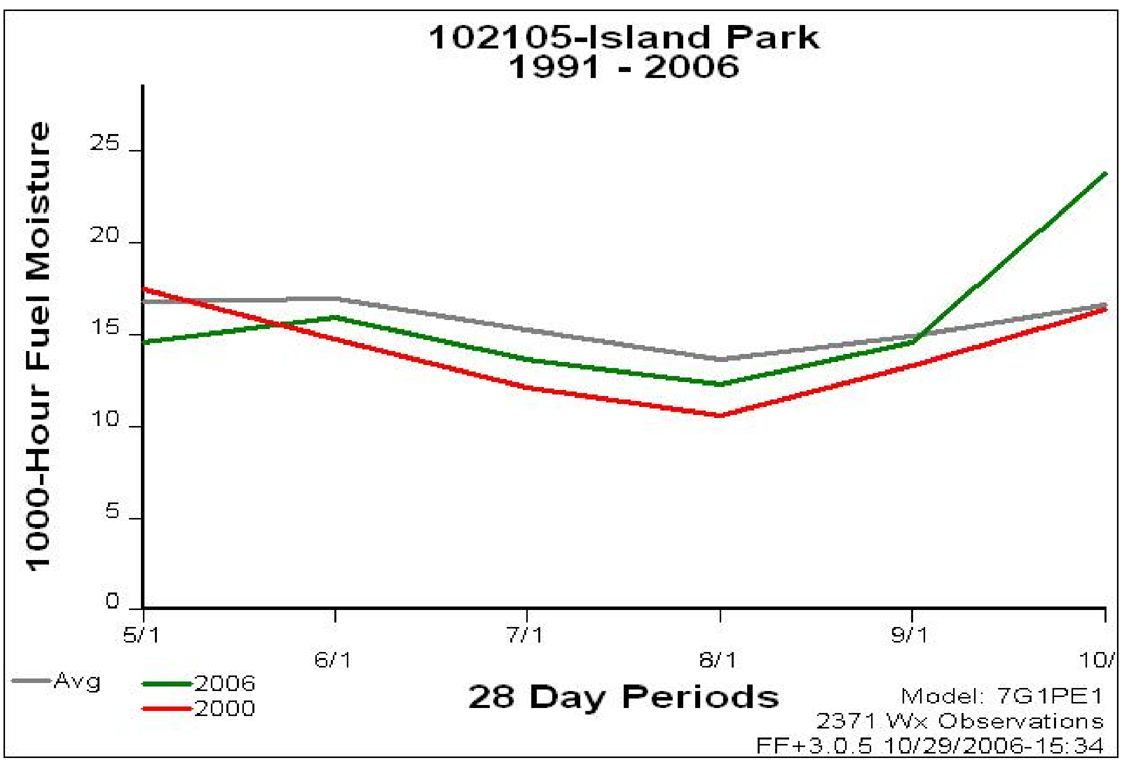

Figure 4.2(f) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Island Park RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 411.

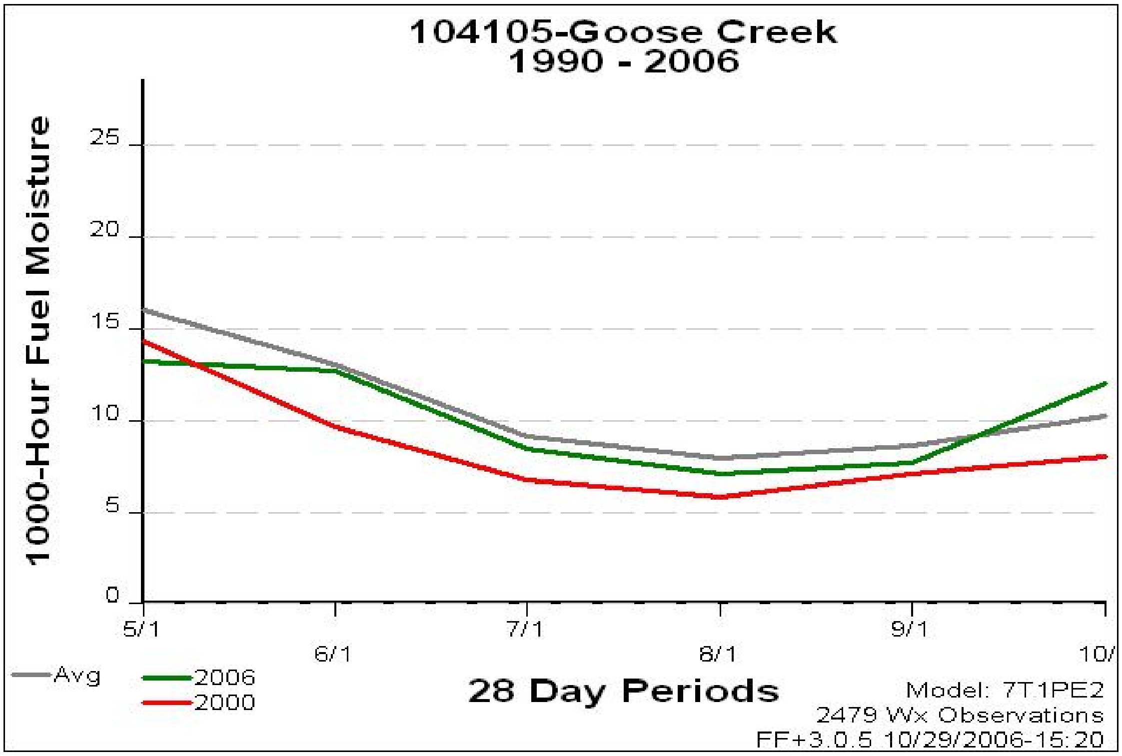

Figure 4.2(g) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Goose Creek RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 412.

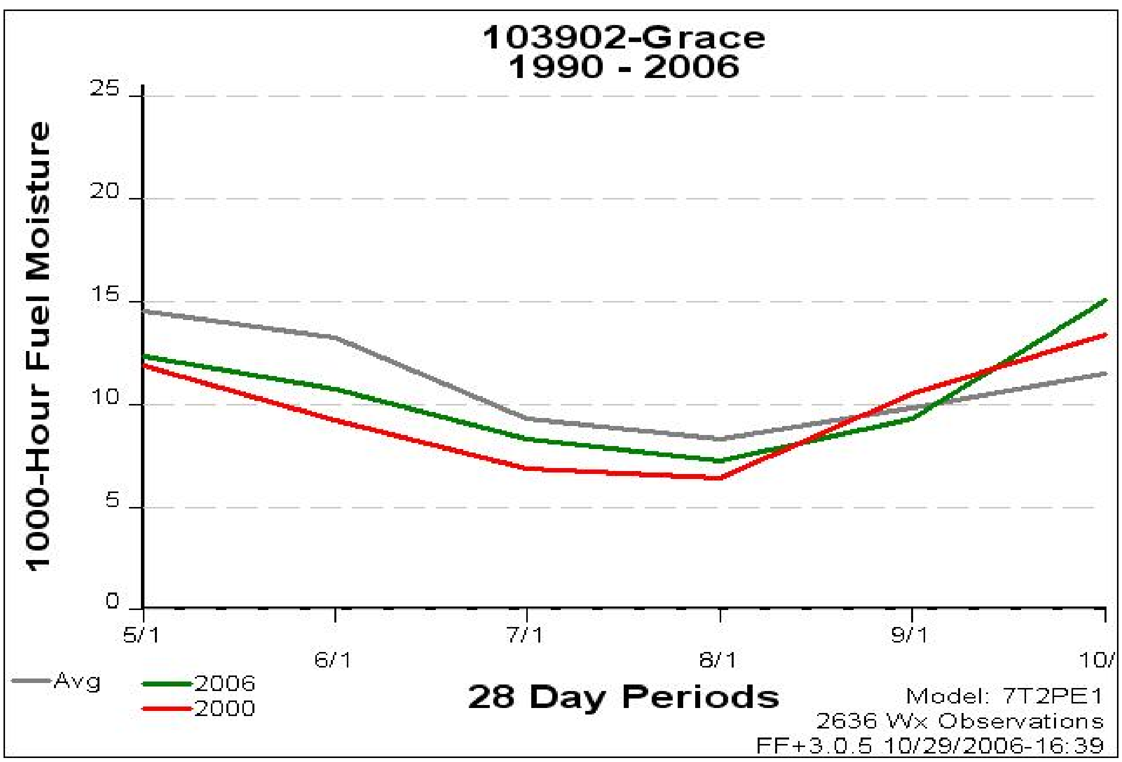

Figure 4.2(h) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Grace RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 413.

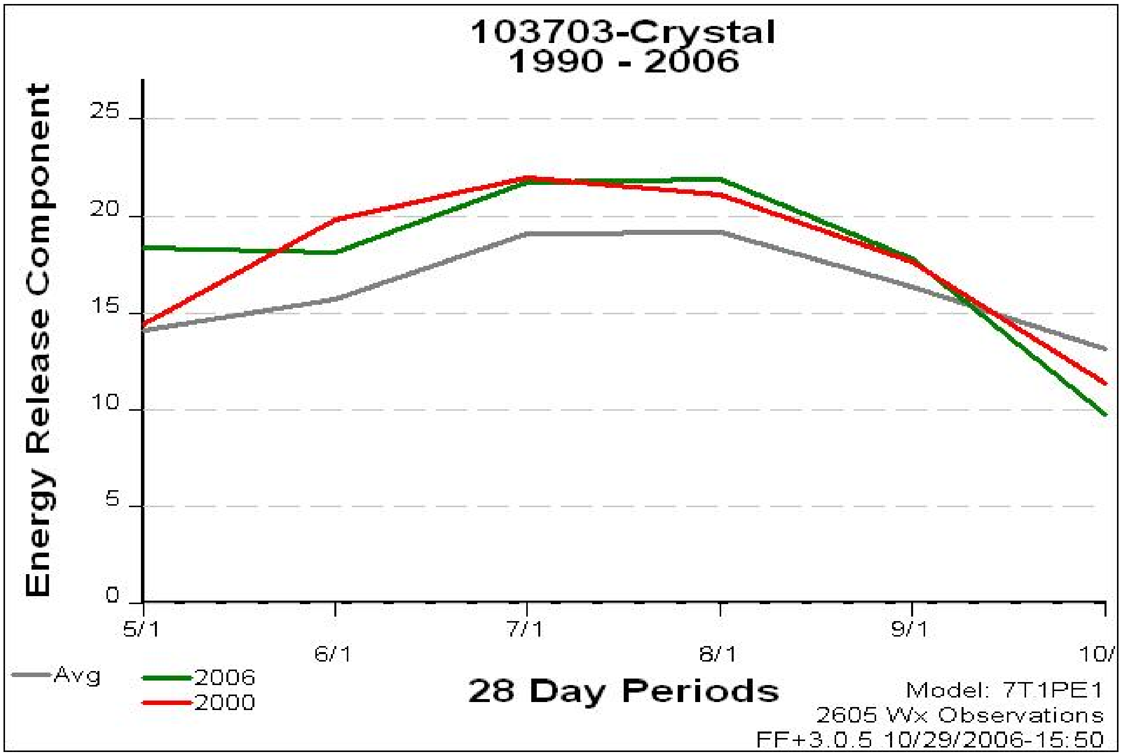

Figure 4.3 Calculated Energy Release Component at Crystal RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 410.

5. Office Operations:

5.1 Red Flag Verification

1. Formal verification of Red Flag Warnings in Southeast Idaho began with the 2000 fire season and is now a permanent part of the fire weather program. Verification is based on current Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Watch criteria that has been coordinated with local land management agencies and published in the Great Basin Annual Operating Plan for Fire Weather and Predictive Services. Current criteria for the Pocatello Fire Weather District are shown in paragraph 5.1.2 below.

Events considered "short fused" or having time lengths typically less than six hours (Dry Lightning) were split out from other events occurring over a longer time period, reference tables 5.1 (a-d) below.

2. Conditions that indicate a Red Flag Event:

Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings, are issued for conditions of <u>very high or extreme fire danger</u> (as determined by land management agencies) and <u>dry fuels</u>, in combination with one of the following:

a. Widely scattered or greater (≥ 15% of aerial coverage) "dry" thunderstorm activity. A thunderstorm is considered "dry" if it produces little or no precipitation (< 0.10 inch).

b. Winds gusts for any three or more hours ≥ 25 mph for Southeast Idaho Mountains, ≥ 30 mph for the Snake River Plain and relative humidity is ≤ 15 percent.

c. In the judgment of the forecaster, weather conditions will create a critical fire control situation. These conditions may include strong microburst winds, passage of a cold front or a strong wind shift.

Red Flag criteria are developed from a local knowledge of fuel types, terrain, weather conditions common or unusual to the area, historical fire behavior, and judgment of the local land management agencies. Because the criteria for issuing Red Flag products can vary from one district to another, these verification results are not necessarily comparable with all other forecast offices.

3. Methodology:

Verification of Red Flag Warnings was conducted on a zone by zone basis. Example: If a warning for strong wind was issued for fire weather zones 409 and 410, but strong winds were observed only in zone 410, then this counts as two warnings, one that verified and one false alarm. Also, if strong winds were observed in zone 412, but no warning was issued, then this would be counted as one missed event.

Sources of verification included Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS), Meteorological Reporting Stations (METAR), lightning data, WSR-88D Doppler Weather Radar estimated precipitation, volunteer weather spotter information such as heavy rain events, and reports of observed fire behavior from personnel in the field.

Local MESONET reporting networks maintained by Idaho Department of Transportation and the Idaho National Laboratory were not used as a source of verification for wind events during the 2006 fire season since there are differences in observing standards at these sites.

Statistical parameters were calculated as follows:

Probability of Detection	POD = a/(a+c)
Critical Success Index	CSI = a/(a+b+c)
False Alarm Rate	FAR = 1-[a/(a+b)]

where

a = the number of correct warnings (verified)
b = the number of incorrect warnings (not verified)
c = the number of events not warned

4. Sources of error:

Red Flag criteria for wind events in the Great Basin were modified based on interagency agreement set forth in the Great Basin Fire Weather Operating Plan for 2005 and continue without change for the 2006 fire season. The mid-point of a forecast range serves as the break point for watch/warning issuance. This effectively adds an element of representativeness to the verification process. Therefore, any inference of trends from verification results prior to 2005 must consider this change as well as changes made to the established criteria for a Red Flag Event and verification procedures in past years. Please reference past issues of this Fire Weather Annual Report.

Forecaster skill level and confidence may be lower for peak wind gusts over sustained wind speed. Downward transport of momentum in the atmosphere, complex terrain, inversions of temperature lapse rate, variations in surface insolation owing to vegetative ground cover, reflectivity, absorption, and transmissivity of the atmosphere and the energy phase change of water in the atmosphere all impact the observed peak surface wind gust.   Not all of these processes are sufficiently represented by available computer modeling and operational forecaster techniques.

Personal judgment was required to determine when “dry lightning” was more than an isolated event, and when thunderstorms with wetting rain were significant in areal coverage.

Field observation of fire behavior may serve as an important indicator of Red Flag conditions. On rare occasion this may affect the best judgment of the forecaster and land management personnel. On days or in locations where there were no on-going fires this information was not available.

In paragraph 2d above, judgment of the forecaster and land management personnel is permitted to over ride the strict criteria of relative humidity and wind gusts. The general consensus is there is enough uncertainty in the fire environment (fuel, weather and topography) and this should remain a necessary and important element of the Red Flag criteria. This also requires a certain amount of judgment in the verification process.

Both RAWS and METAR stations report instantaneous wind gusts, but the observing standards for height of the wind sensor can vary.

On rare occasion the fuels were defined as critical at an elevation below that of existing RAWS and METAR stations.

Skill and lead-time vary with the type of event.

5. Decision Criteria

Wind – The number of available RAWS and METAR sites varied both with the area warned and location where fuels were defined as critical. Every attempt was made to judge the representativeness of wind conditions.

Lightning – Archived lightning data was used to determine verification. A good deal of judgment was needed to determine if the observed lightning was more than an isolated event.

Wet versus dry thunderstorms – National Weather Service WSR-88D Doppler Weather Radar precipitation estimates and surface observations were used in the verification process. Once again a fair amount of judgment was required to determine which events qualified as “dry lightning” events. The number of reported fire starts is not a reliable indicator since lightning strikes can occur outside the thunderstorm precipitation shield striking drier fuels and a single thunderstorm can be long lived producing numerous strikes over some distance.

Other – Reports of observed fire behavior from personnel in the field continue to be useful when dealing with long-term drought conditions and days of reported low relative humidity. If sustained fire runs are observed but available observations do not necessarily support warning criteria the judgment would likely fall on the side of safety of life and property.

6. Results:

Red Flag Warning criteria were met on a total of 16 different days during this fire season in the Pocatello Fire Weather District. Twelve of these days were the result of low relative humidity and gusty winds. There were 4 days when Red Flag Warning criteria were met somewhere in the Pocatello Fire Weather District without a warning in effect however, warnings may have been in effect in adjoining areas.

	May-June	July	August	September-October	Total
Total # of watches	0	4	25	5	34
Total # of warnings	0	9	49	10	68
Verified warnings that were preceded by a watch	0	2	18	5	25
Warnings verified (a)	0	6	31	7	44
Warnings not verified (b)	0	3	18	3	24
Events not warned (c)	0	0	4	1	5

Table 5.1(a). Combined synoptic (long term) and short fused Red Flag event products issued in the WFO Pocatello Fire Weather District during the 2006 season.

	May-June	July	August	September-October	Total
Total # of watches	0	4	25	5	34
Total # of warnings	0	9	45	10	64
Verified warnings that were preceded by a watch	0	2	18	5	25
Warnings verified (a)	0	6	27	7	40
Warnings not verified (b)	0	3	18	3	24
Events not warned (c)	0	0	1	0	1

Table 5.1(b). Synoptic scale Red Flag event products issued in the WFO Pocatello Fire Weather District during the 2006 season. Example cold fronts, low relative humidity, strong pressure gradient related winds.

	May-June	July	August	September-October	Total
Total # of watches	0	0	0	0	0
Total # of warnings	0	0	4	0	4
Verified warnings that were preceded by a watch	0	0	0	0	0
Warnings verified (a)	0	0	4	0	4
Warnings not verified (b)	0	0	0	0	0
Events not warned (c)	0	0	3	1	4

Table 5.1(c). Short fused Red Flag event products issued in the WFO Pocatello Fire Weather District during the 2006 season. Example: lightning events associated with “dry thunderstorms” and strong micro burst winds.

Red Flag verification resulted in the following:

	Synoptic Events	Short Fused Events (Dry Lightning)	All Events
Probability of detection POD =	.98	.50	.90
Critical success index CSI =	.62	.50	.60
False alarm rate FAR =	.38	0	.35
Average lead time for Warnings =	14 hrs. 06 min.	0 hrs. 13 min.	11 hrs. 50 min.
Average lead time for verified watches =	37 hrs. 41 min.	N/A	37 hrs. 41 min.

Table 5.1(d). Combined synoptic (long term) and short fused Red Flag event products issued in the WFO Pocatello Fire Weather District during the 2006 season.

7. Implications:

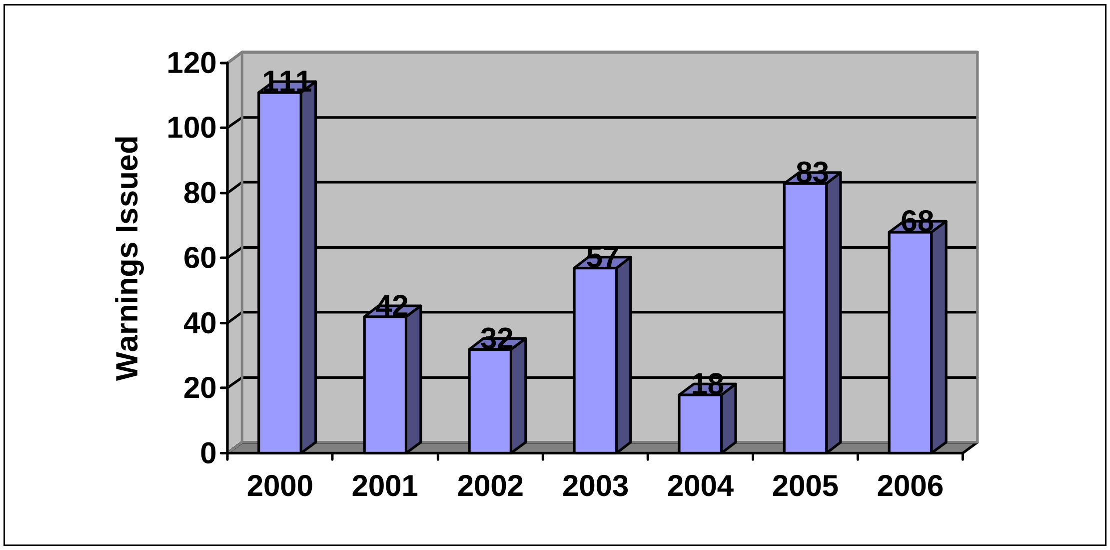

Figure 5.2 Historical Red Flag Warnings in Southeast Idaho.

The 2000 fire season was historically a very active year in Southeast Idaho while fire activity and fuel conditions were minimal in 2004 (Figure 5.2). The Weather Forecast Office in Pocatello achieved a probability of detection of .90 but this was off set by a false alarm rate of .35 this year, up from .24 in 2005.

The Red Flag Event criteria and verification procedures changed in 2002, 2004, and 2005. In 2005 the wind criteria changed from a sustained wind of 20 mph to a wind gust value of 25 mph for the mountains and 30 mph for the Eastern Magic and Upper Snake River Valley. While there are numerous meteorological reasons why forecasting wind gusts should be more complicated than sustained winds, the results above do not show a substantial degradation of service. What does seem apparent is the impact on the local land management agencies. The total number of Red Flag Warnings issued can be rather variable from year to year (Table 5.2). One of the goals in 2005 was to increase the sensitivity of Red Flag criteria in mountainous areas where sustained 20 mph winds may not be observed but critical fire behavior could be. It appears that goal has been met.

	Synoptic wind events using 25 (30) mph gust criteria	***Synoptic wind events using a 20 mph sustained wind criteria***	***Number of days a warning was in effect for wind gusts***	***Number of days a warning would have been in effect for sustained winds***
2005	61	17	12	7
2006	64	5	14	3

Table 5.2 Subjective comparison of former sustained wind criteria to the current wind gust criteria. Location and number of sensors, methods for determining critical fuel areas, etc. may impact the numbers here.

5.2 Spot Forecasts prepared by WFO Pocatello:

Wildfires	144
Prescribed Fires	147
SAR	2
Total	293

(Verbal telephone briefings = 44, special FARSITE data stream requests = 3)

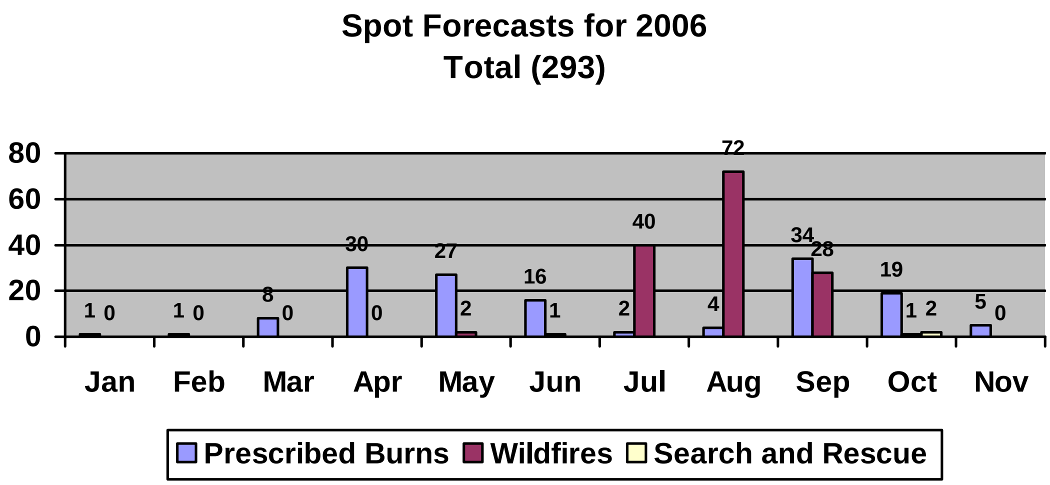

Figure 5.3(a) Spot Forecasts prepared by the Pocatello Fire Weather District during the 2006 fire season.

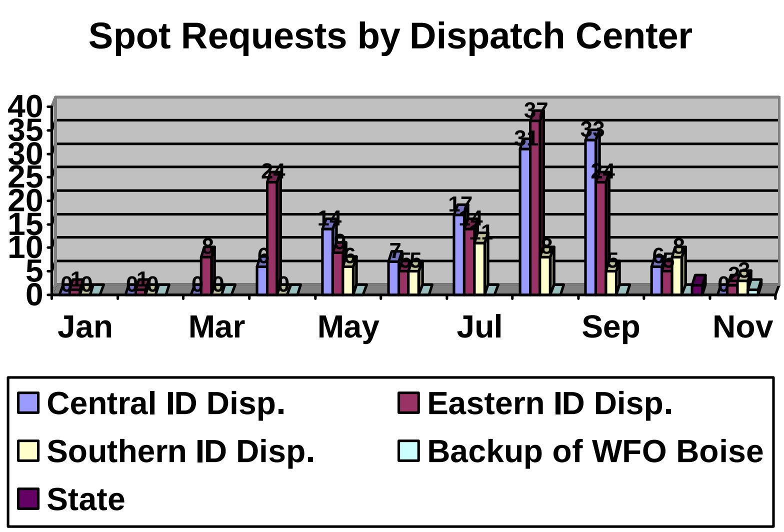

Figure 5.3(b) Spot Forecasts requested by dispatch area during the 2006 fire season in Southeast Idaho.

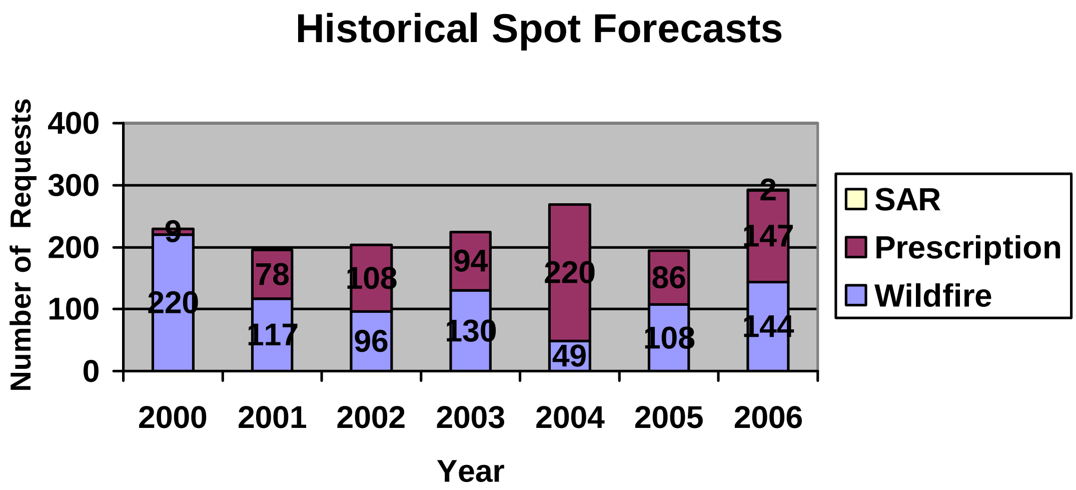

Figure 5.4 Historical trends in Spot Forecast requests for the Pocatello Fire Weather District.

5.3 Fire Dispatches Supported by WFO Pocatello: There were a total of 7 IMET dispatches resulting in 54 man days served out of the office.

Date	*Dispatch Location*	*Incident Meteorologist*
June 22 to June 25, 2006	Lion Creek Fire, Manti-Lasal NF, About 3 miles northwest of Paradox, Colorado	Bob Survick
June 26 to July 2, 2006	Jarvis Fire, Beaver Dam Mountains, about 10 miles north of Beaver Dam and Littlefield, Arizona	Bob Survick
July 24 to July 28, 2006	Trident Fire. Near Denio, Nevada	Jack Messick
July 29 to August 4, 2006	Winters Fire, Near Midas, Nevada	Jack Messick
August 8 to August 23, 2006	Potato Fire, Near Stanley, Idaho	Bob Survick
August 24 to August 30, 2006	Messenger Wildfire, Payette NF Council, Idaho	Jack Messick
August 31 to September 7, 2006	Uncles Complex Wildfire, Klamath NF, Fort Jones, California	Jack Messick
September 18 to September 24, 2006	Rattlesnake Complex Wildfire, Boise NF, Garden Valley, Idaho	Jack Messick

Table 5.3 Incident Meteorologist Dispatches by WFO Pocatello

5.4 Training: WFO Pocatello staff participated in the following training courses during the 2006 season.

Forecaster	Training situation
Rick Dittmann	Instructor S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, May 22 and 23, 2006 held at the College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, Idaho.
Rick Dittmann	Instructor S-190 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior, June 5, 2006 hosted by the Sawtooth NF at the Sawtooth United Methodist Camp located about 25 miles north of Fairfield, Idaho.
Michael Cantin	Completed the S-591 Fire Weather Forecasters Course, February 28 to March 3, 2006 held in Boise, Idaho.
Bob Survick and Jack Messick	National Incident Meteorologist Workshop held March 13 through 17, 2006 in Boise, Idaho.
Bob Survick and Jack Messick	Incident Meteorologist All Hazards Workshop held May 21-26, 2006 in Boise, Idaho.

5.5 Field Visits: The staff at WFO Pocatello participated in twelve interagency meetings this year.

Location	Dates
Eastern Great Basin Fire Weather Operating Plan was accomplished through conference calls.	January 19 and 30, 2006 March 22, 2006
Ground Hog Day Chili Cook-off National Weather Service Office including EIIFC and SIIFC, Pocatello, Idaho	February 2, 2006
Fire Weather pre season meeting Central Idaho Interagency Fire Center Salmon, Idaho	March 6, 2006
WFO Boise and Pocatello joint Fire Weather pre season meeting South Central Idaho Interagency Fire Center Shoshone, Idaho	March 7, 2006

Fire Weather pre season meeting Sawtooth National Forest Twin Falls, Idaho	March 7, 2006
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Hall visit to the National Weather Service, Pocatello, Idaho	March 17, 2006
FMO and Dispatch Meeting Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center Idaho Falls, Idaho	April 17, 2006
FMO and Dispatch Meeting South Idaho Interagency Fire Center Shoshone, Idaho	May 2, 2006
Spring Operations Meeting Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center Idaho Falls, Idaho	June 1, 2006
Fire Weather pre season meeting Oregon Trail Center Montpelier, Idaho	June 26, 2006
Fire Weather Post Season Meeting Craters of the Moon Nat. Monument Arco, Idaho	November 16, 2006
Eastern Great Basin Predictive Services Post Season Meeting Salt Lake City, Utah	December 7, 2006

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