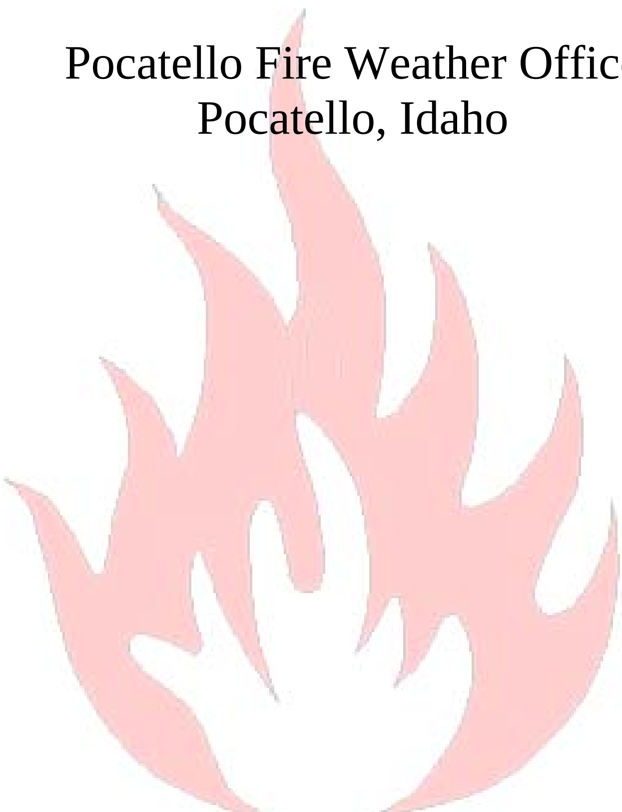
# Fire Weather Annual Report
## Southeast Idaho
## 2005

Pocatello Fire Weather Office
Pocatello, Idaho



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

# *2005 Fire Weather Annual Report*

## *National Weather Service – Pocatello Fire Weather Office*

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*National Weather Service*
*1945 Beechcraft Ave.*
*Pocatello, ID 83204*

## 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.

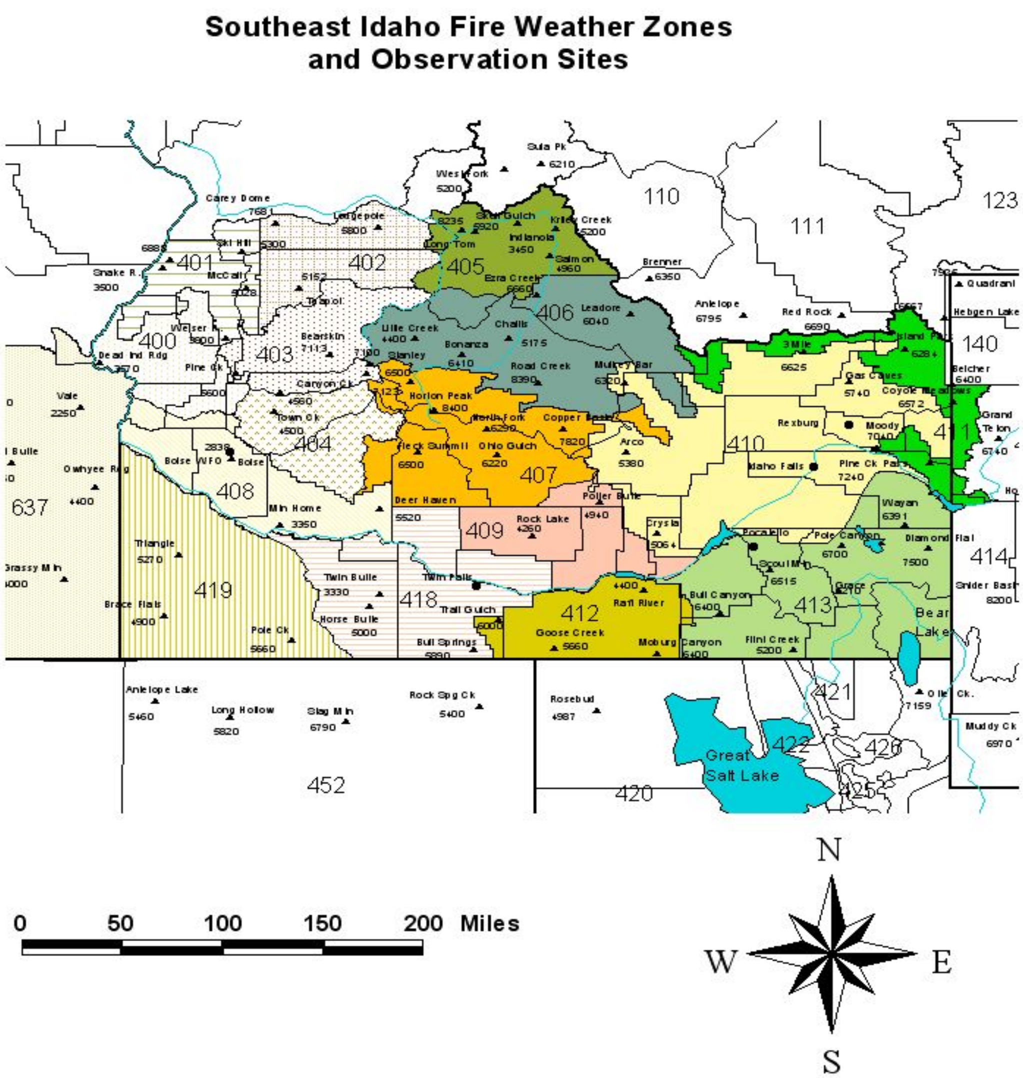


**Figure 1 WFO Pocatello Fire Weather area of responsibility (solid colors).**

## 2. Overview of the fire season:

The El Nino/Southern Oscillation Index indicated that water temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific were slightly above normal (El Nino) the later half of 2004 through about March of 2005 and trended towards neutral the remainder of the year. This helped strengthen the jet stream across the Eastern Pacific and bring several storm systems into the southwestern United States during February and March. An area of persistent high pressure off the Pacific Northwest coast effectively diverted storm systems either north of Idaho or much further south of the state. Precipitation and mountain snow pack made a late season recovery from the middle of March through the first week of June when several Pacific storm systems crossed Nevada and southern Idaho.

> 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.

Basin averaged snow pack and precipitation during the winter of 2004-2005 was above normal for the Bear River Basin and areas south of the Snake River, but decreased sharply to the north. The Salmon and Big Wood Basins barely managed 50 to 60 percent of normal snow pack much of the winter (Figures 2.1a and b). The late season storms of April and May resulted in springtime temperatures one to three degrees Fahrenheit below normal which contributed to a more seasonable melt of the snow pack into late June (Figure 2.2). The down side of this is more rain fell than mountain snow resulting in quick runoff rather than sustained stream flows.

Near normal annual precipitation in 2004 followed by above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures in 2005 (Figures 2.2 through 2.4) helped remedy 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. Recovery from the long-term period of drought between 1999 and 2003 shows continuous progress (Figure 2.4).

The National Weather Service has maintained precipitation records for the Weather Office at Pocatello, Idaho since July 1, 1899. Based on the water year beginning in October of each year, four of the driest years on record occurred since 2000. The annual precipitation and observed trend based on thirty years climatic data (Figures 2.3 and 2.4) help keep perspective on the ongoing drought situation in Southeast Idaho. The Weather Forecast Office in Pocatello recorded 14.36 inches of precipitation for the water year. The accumulative precipitation deficit over the past six years is 18.99 inches and likely reflects more long term drought affects, i.e. reservoir storage and ground water depletion as indicated in the Drought Monitor (Figure 2.6). Strong recovery from long term drought south of the Snake River is evidenced in the Drought Monitor; the modified Palmer

Hydrologic Drought Index (Figure 2.7); and the Palmer Drought Severity Index (Figures 2.8a and b).

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

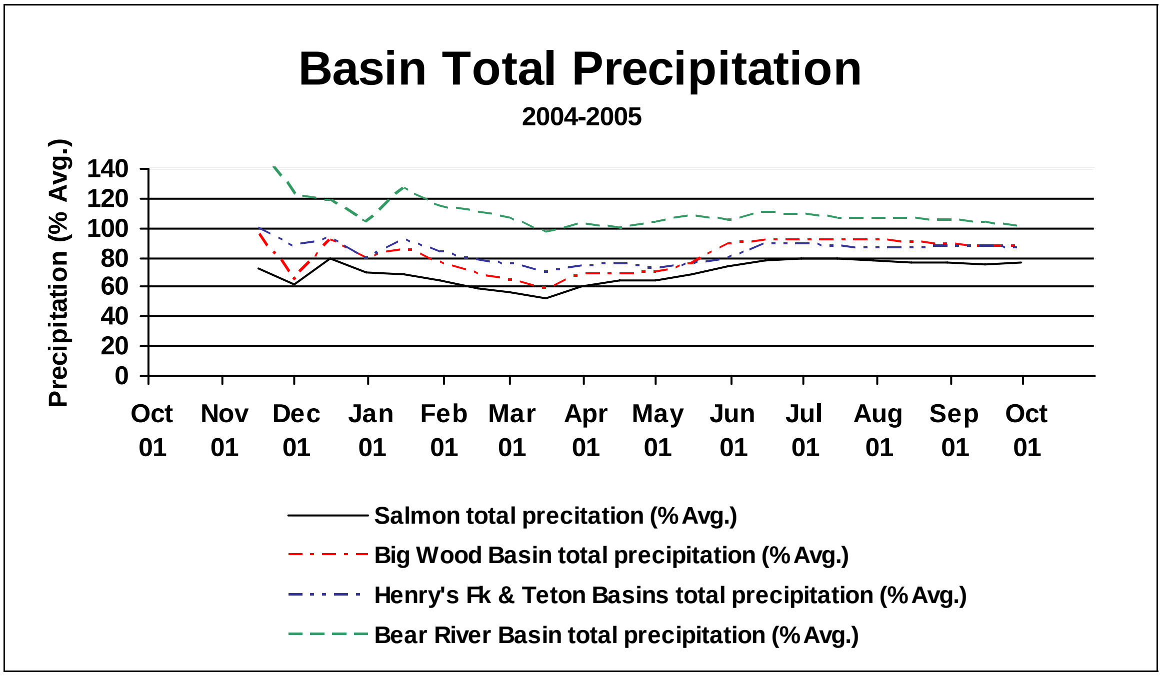


**Figure 2 .1(a) Total precipitation for select Southeast Idaho Basins expressed as a percent of average. From USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Water and Climate Center, Portland Oregon.**

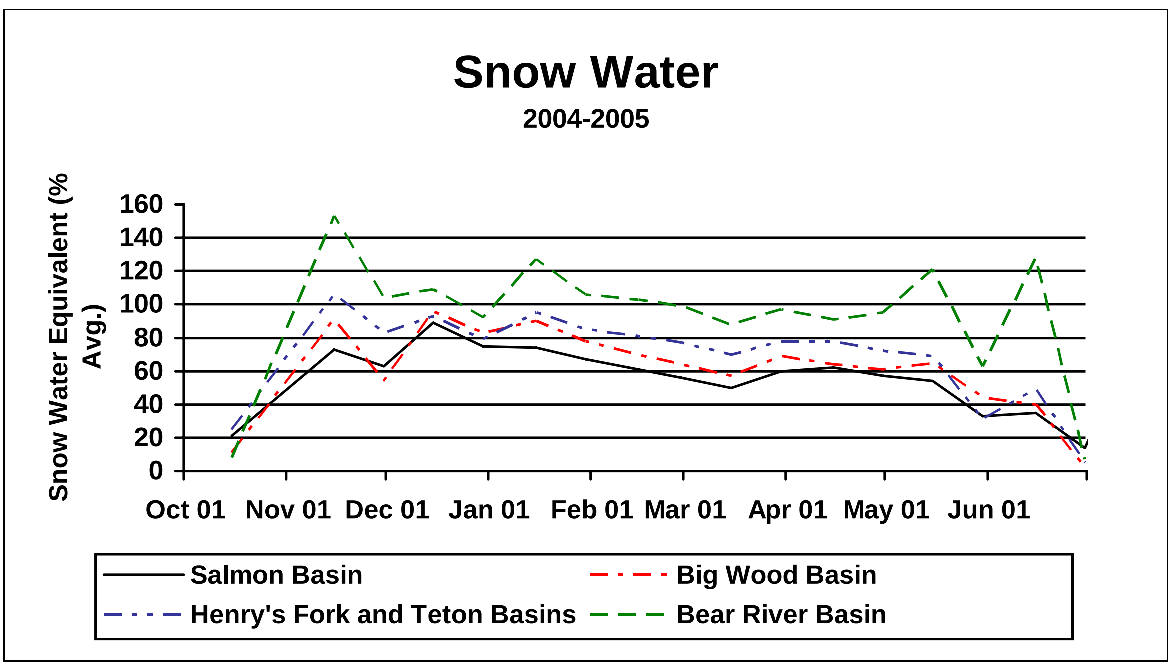


**Figure 2.1(b) Snow water equivalent for select Southeast Idaho basins. From USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Water and Climate Center, Portland Oregon.**

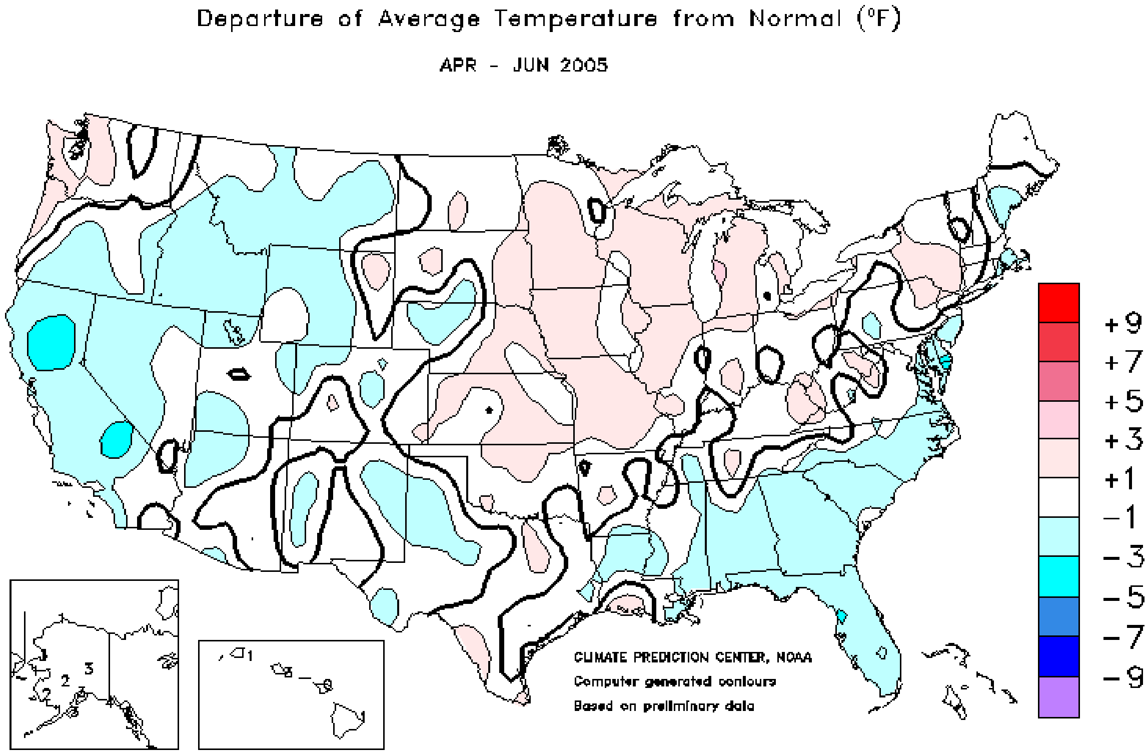


**Figure 2.2 Departure from normal for 90 day averaged temperatures centered on May 2005, from Climate Prediction Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.**

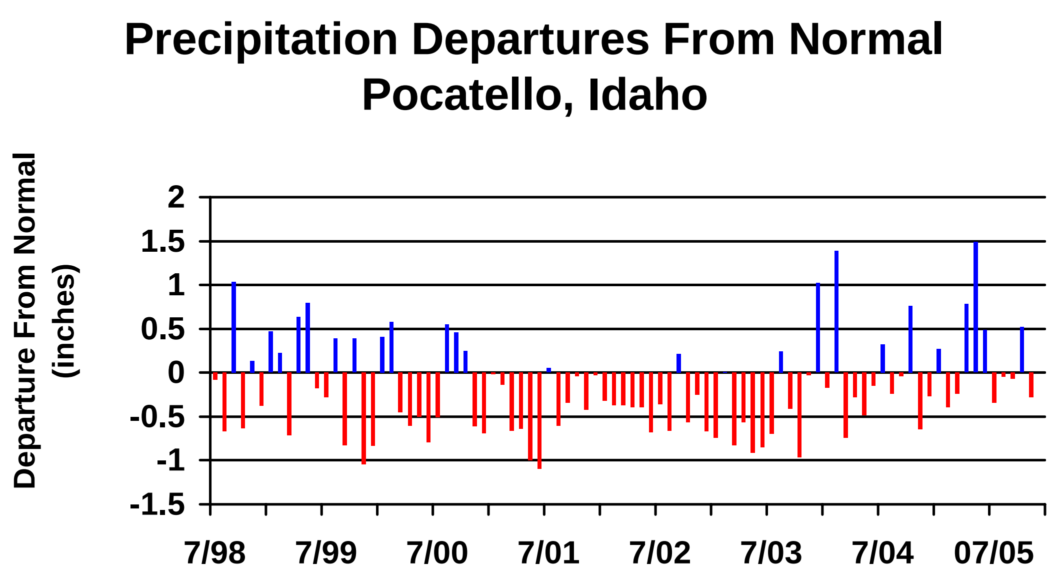


**Figure 2.3 Precipitation departures from normal at Pocatello, Idaho. Based on thirty-year normals of temperature data from 1971 to 2000 archived at the National Climatic Data Center.**

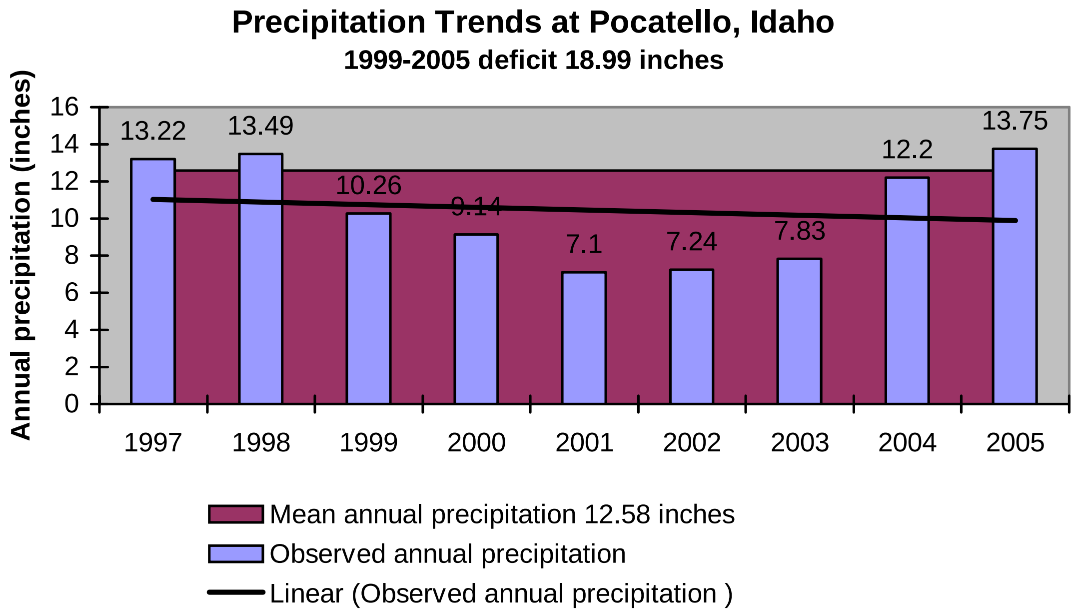


**Figure 2.4 Water year (Oct. 1 to Sep. 30) precipitation at Pocatello, Idaho.**

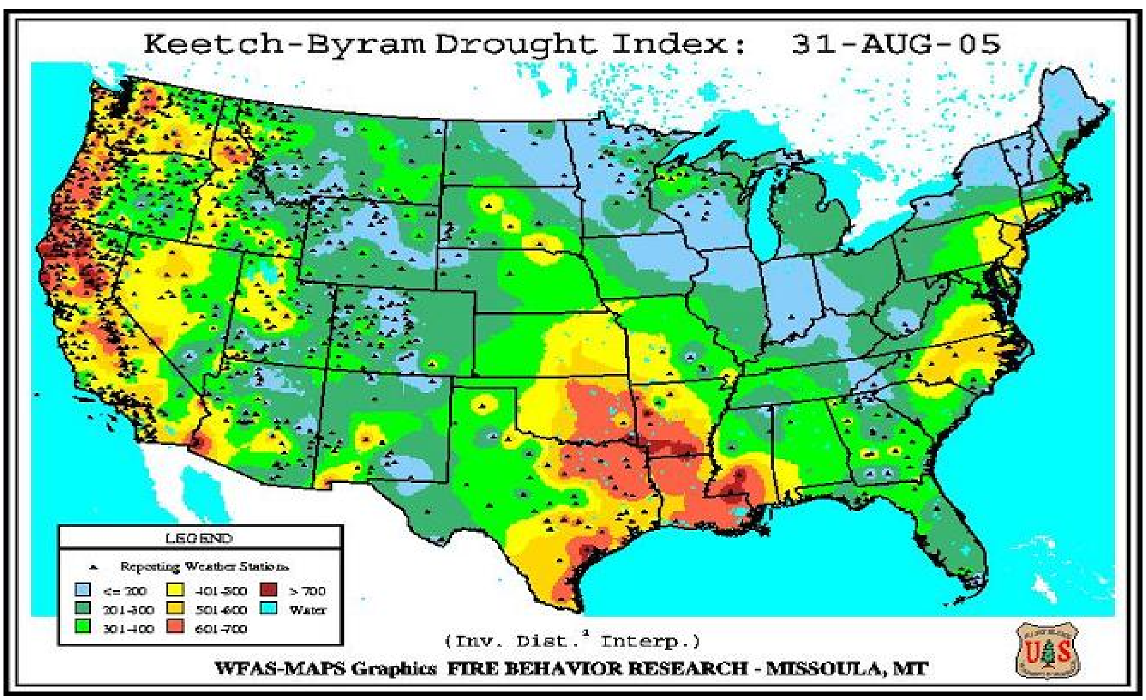


**Figure 2.5 Keetch-Byram Drought Index reflecting more short term drought conditions, i.e. evapotransporation and near surface soil moisture.**

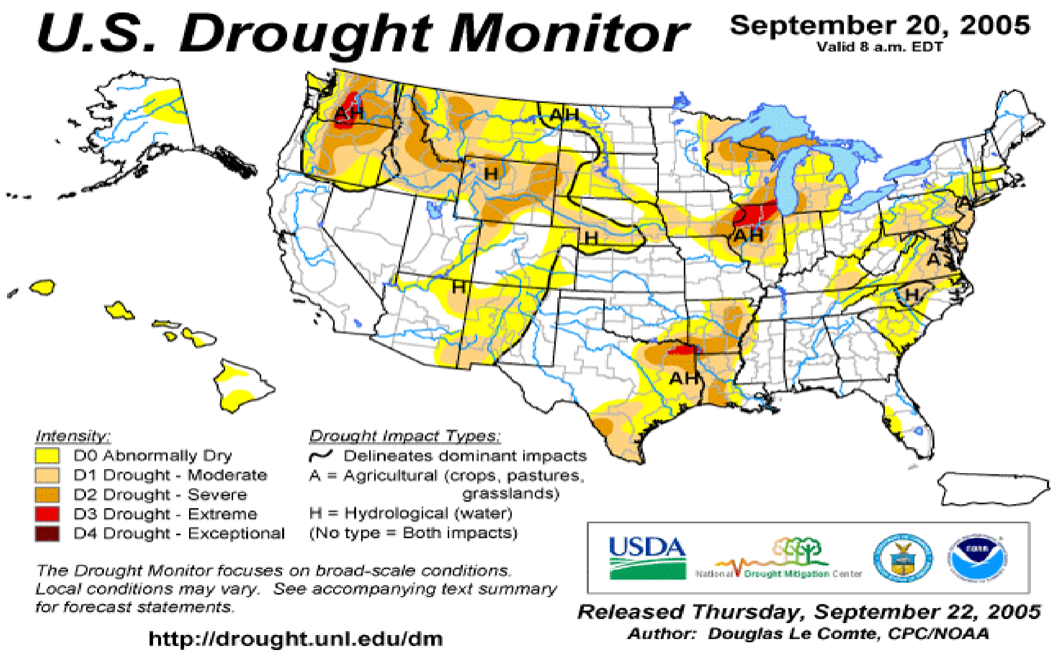


**Figure 2.6 Drought summary map is based on a multi-index drought classification scheme and produced jointly by the National Drought Mitigation Center (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and several federal partners including Joint Agricultural Weather Facility (U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department 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).**

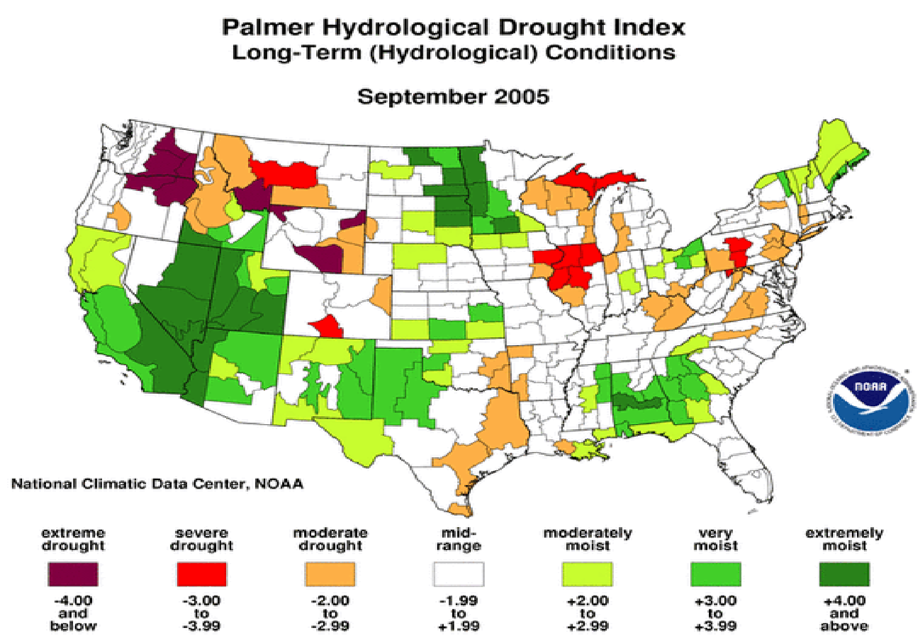


**Figure 2.7 Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index measuring more long term hydrologic impacts, i.e. ground water.**

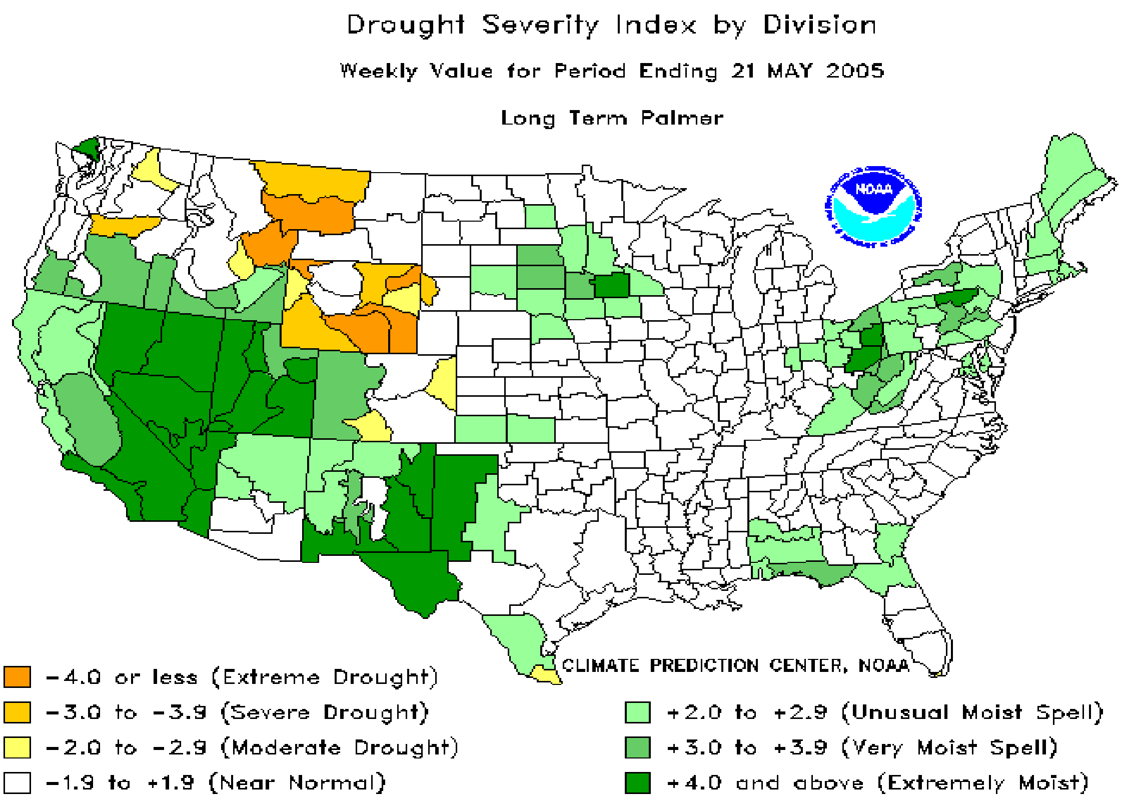


**Figure 2.8(a) Palmer Drought Severity (May 21, 2005).**

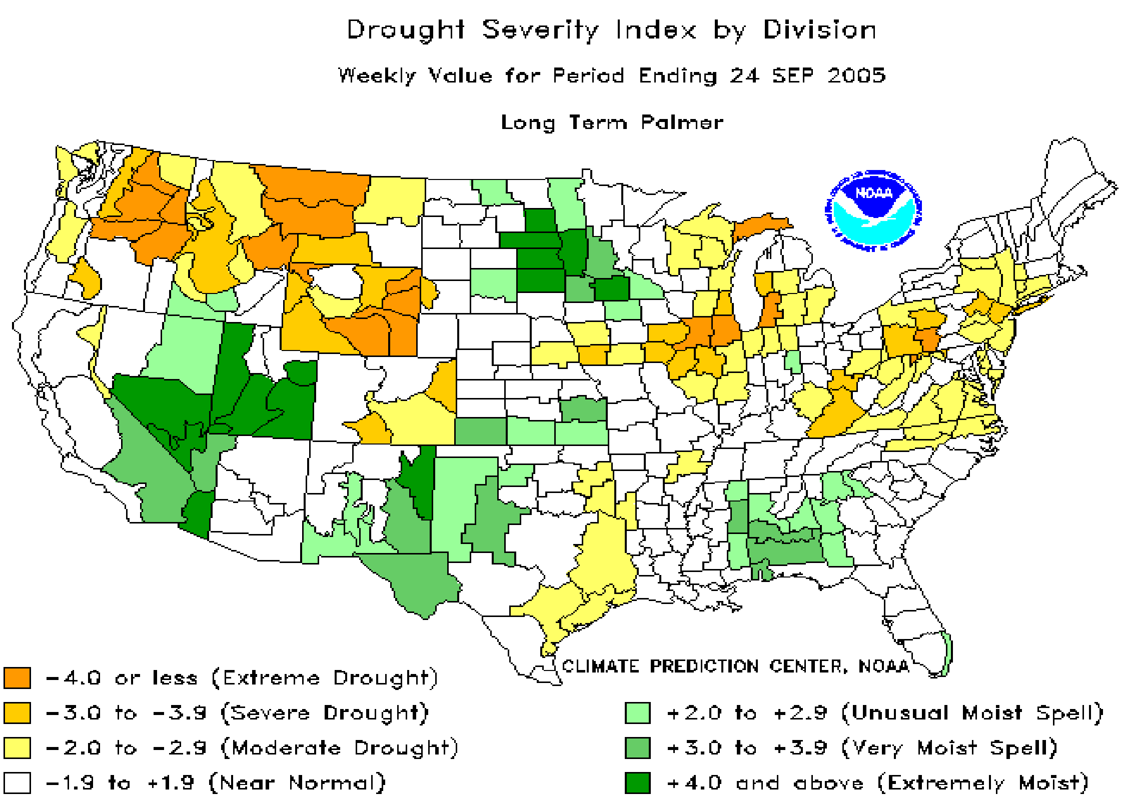


**Figure 2.8(b) Palmer Drought Severity (September 24, 2005).**

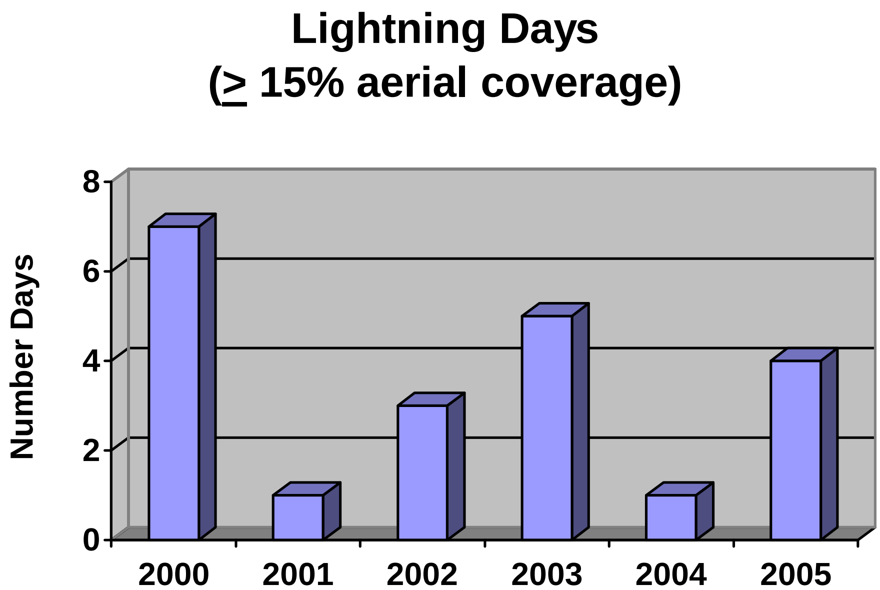


**Figure 2.9 Number of days when dry thunderstorm and lightning activity in Southeast Idaho was judged to be significant as part of the Red Flag Event verification process.**

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## 3. Weather in review:

*October2004:*
A persistent ridge of high pressure during the first half of the month gave way to low pressure for the second half of the month, with light rains from the 17th to the 19th. Two high elevation snow storms crossed southeast Idaho, one on the 23rd and the second on the 28th and 29th. Precipitation for the month was well above normal and helped bring the 2004 fire season to an end. Monthly averages were 60 to 80 percent above normal – a promising start to the "water year" (October 1st to September 30th).

*November to late December 2004:*
As abundant as the precipitation was in October, November was a complete opposite. The upper level low over the western states slid farther south, over southern California. This kept the jet stream over the North American west coast separated into polar and subtropical branches for much of the month. This meant that Canada and the southwestern United States received much of the precipitation for this month, leaving the eastern Great Basin in an extremely dry area. In November, the most significant storm crossed central and eastern Idaho on the 18th and 19th with a weaker storm on the last day of the month. Areas south of the Snake River did better than other areas, with 50 to 60 percent of normal precipitation. Hardest hit was the upper Snake River basin (upstream of the confluence of the South Fork and Henry's Fork), where precipitation was only 20 to 30 percent of normal. The Idaho Falls municipal airport (Fanning Field) received 0.03 inches of precipitation during the entire month of November, only 3 percent of normal!

For most of December, the ridge of high pressure returned to the west coast of North America. If any storms entered Idaho, they generally came from the interior of Canada. Storms coming out of this area are generally cold and carry little moisture. However, the presence of mainly clear skies kept temperatures for December well above normal. Temperatures at Stanley, Idaho, were more than 8 degrees above normal. A single storm system moved through southern Idaho in the early part of December, on the 7th and 8th.

*Late December 2004 to mid-January 2005:*
This was the one period during the winter months that produced large amounts of precipitation. Low pressure moved through the southern Great Basin, spreading precipitation mainly in areas south of the Snake River plain. The month of December ended with precipitation anywhere from 80 percent to 120 percent of normal. The most significant winter storm of January occurred from the 7th through the 9th. The Pocatello Municipal Airport received more than 8 inches of snow from that storm system, setting a record for the largest 24 hour accumulation of snow during the month of January.

*Mid-January to mid-March 2005:*
By the middle of January southeastern Idaho reverted to a dry weather pattern with strong high pressure over the western states. Most storm system passed well north of Idaho or to the south through southern California. There was enough variation that allowed two moderate-sized storms to occur in February, one on the 12th and 13th, and the second on

the 19th. February precipitation generally ranged from 20 percent to 60 percent of normal. Clear skies and very warm weather prevailed for the first two weeks of March.

*Mid-March to mid-June 2005:*

Shortly before spring officially arrived on the 20th, the storm track entering North America was finally aimed at the Pacific Northwest and the state of Idaho. This began a very active period of weather where one storm system after another rolled through the state over a period of three months. By the end of March, precipitation since the previous October ranged from 60 percent of normal in the central mountains of Idaho to just over normal precipitation for the Bear Lake region. Winter storms on the 20th – 21st, the 23rd and the 28th brought significant precipitation, although only a portion of it ended up as high elevation snow. May was even wetter; with rainfall amounts nearly double the climatic normals for the month. The National Weather Service Office in Pocatello recorded 3.00 inches of liquid precipitation during the month of May. Normal precipitation for this time period is just 1.49 inches. The Bear River Basin and areas south and east of the Snake River continued to fare the best. In the upper Salmon River basin, precipitation ranged from slightly below normal to slightly above in places like Challis. The cooler temperatures experienced during this wet spring aided the preservation of mountain snow pack. Stormy weather continued into early June before the storm track began a seasonal northward shift to Canada, bringing much needed rain to central Idaho and the panhandle area on its way.

*Remainder of June2005*

A trough of low pressure along the Oregon coast combined with strong high pressure over the central part of the nation provided dry southwest air flow into southern Idaho. Dry cold fronts crossed southeast Idaho, on the 22nd and again on the 28th, in this weather pattern. June's precipitation ended up near normal in areas south of the Snake River and above normal for areas north and west. Temperatures during the month of June were much colder than normal. Average temperatures at National Weather Service observation stations averaged from 3 to 7 degrees below normal for June.

*July and August 2005:*

High pressure over the southern tier of the nation became the dominant weather pattern, typical for the summer months. This allowed clearer skies and temperatures climbed to near or above normal for the first time since December. A surge of subtropical moisture spread into southern Idaho on the 23rd, but otherwise the month was extremely dry. The town of Challis only managed 0.04 of an inch of precipitation, compared to its normal July total of 0.78 of an inch. Significant dry cold fronts swept across eastern Idaho on the 2nd and the 16th. This dry pattern continued through the month of August. Weather stations reported less than normal precipitation for the month. A strong and dry cold front passed through the region on the 9th – 10th, a second on the 24th, and a third on the 30th. August temperatures hovered near normal.

*September and October 2005:*

As the storm track started its general shift to the south, and back over the Pacific Northwest, the increased cloud cover kept the end of summer and beginning of autumn cool.  On October 1st, the last temperature warmer than 80 degrees occurred at the Pocatello Weather Service office, just prior to a strong cold front moving through the area.  In spite of the cloud cover and cool temperatures, precipitation continued below normal for September.  For October, however, precipitation over areas south and east of the Snake River once again surged above normal.  Low pressure systems and their accompanying fronts tended to push through northern Utah during this period, putting southern Idaho closer to the storm track and wetter as a result.  In the Salmon-Challis and northern Sawtooth National Forests, there was no real “season ending” event, with a very dry end to October.  Temperatures just slowly cooled as winter approached.

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## 4. Precipitation and Dry 1000 hour fuels by zone:

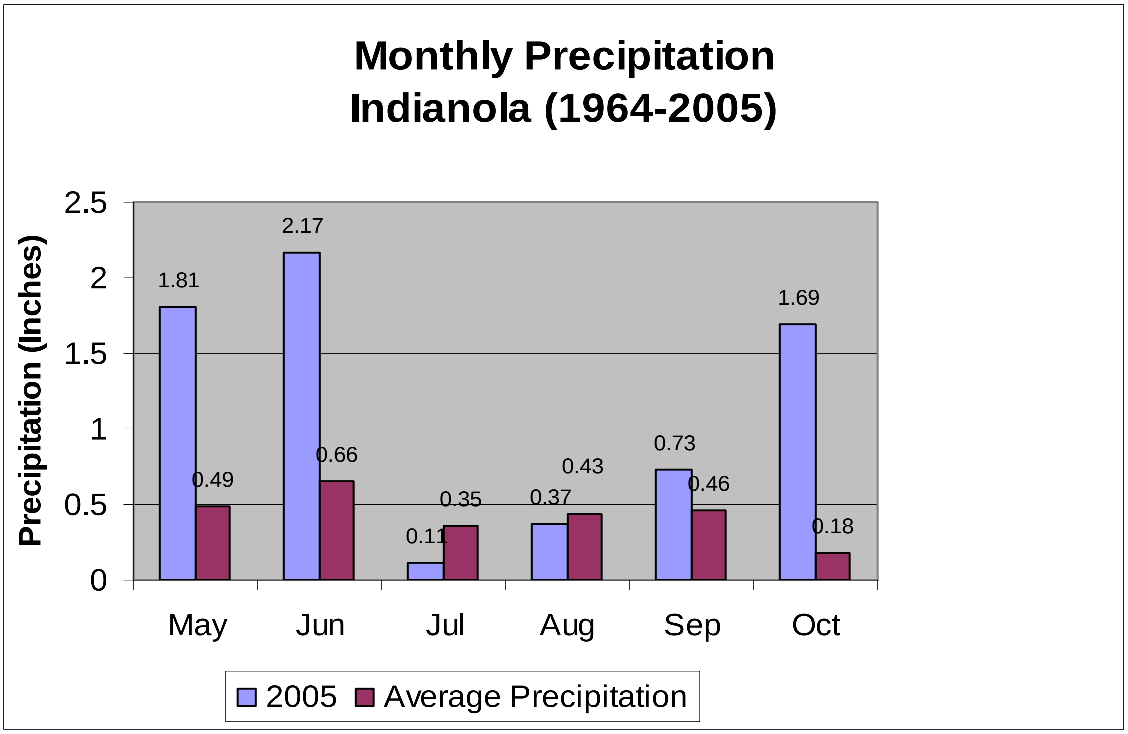


**Figure 4.1(a) Observed and average precipitation at Indianola RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 405.**

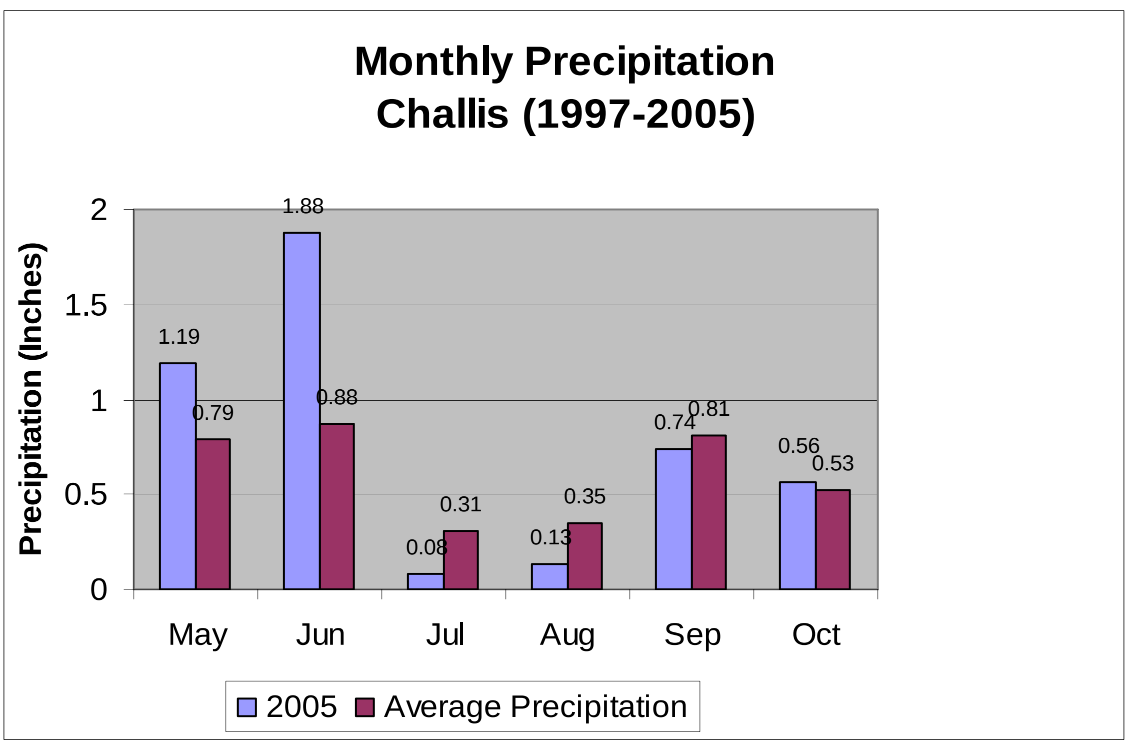


**Figure 4.1(b) Observed and average precipitation at Challis RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 406.**

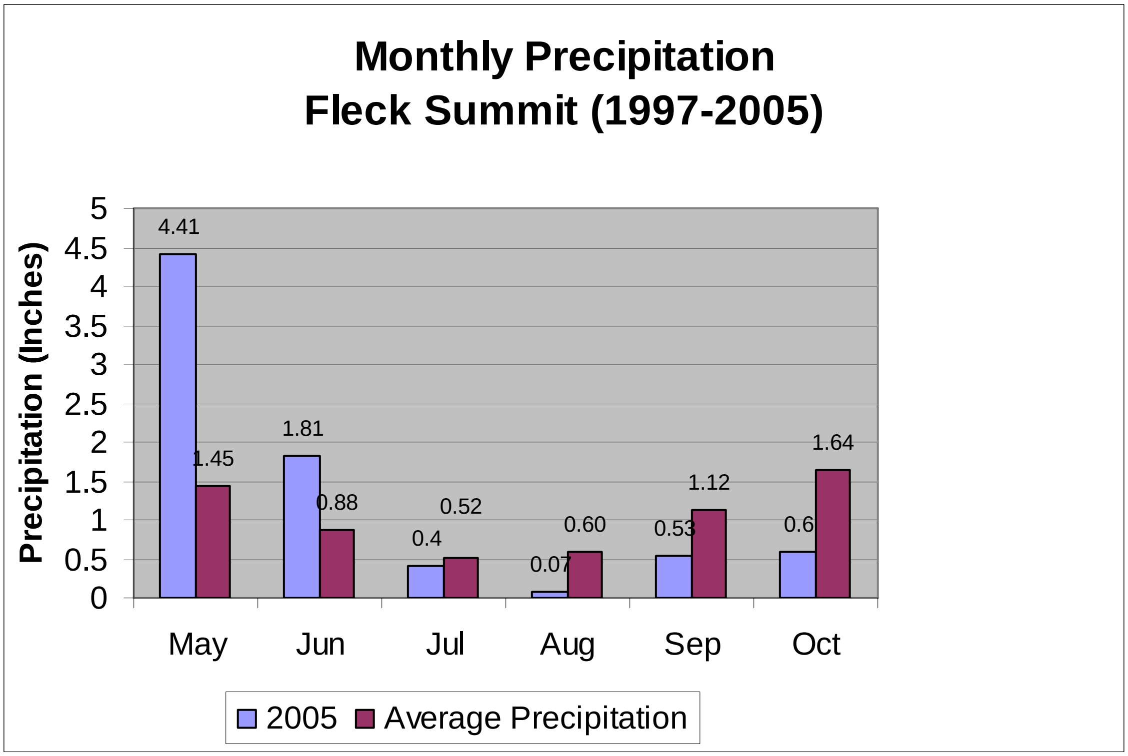


**Figure 4.1(c) Observed and average precipitation at Fleck Summit RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 407.**

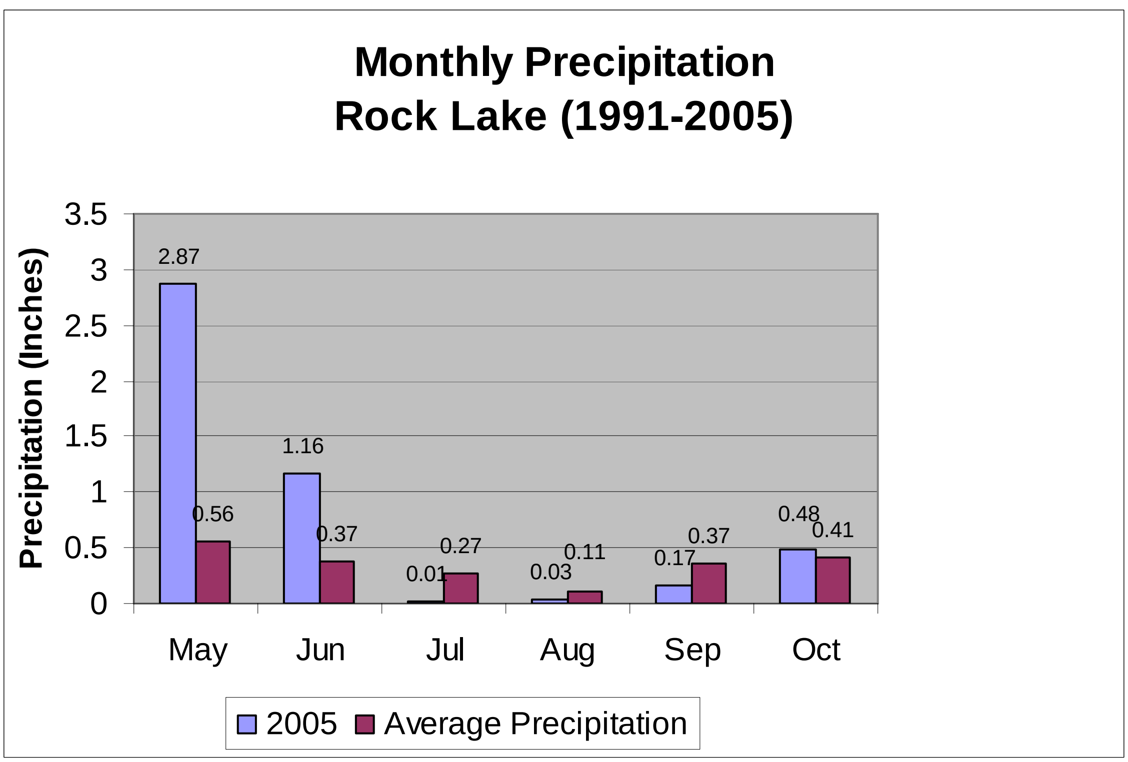


**Figure 3.1(d) Observed and average precipitation at Rock Lake RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 409.**

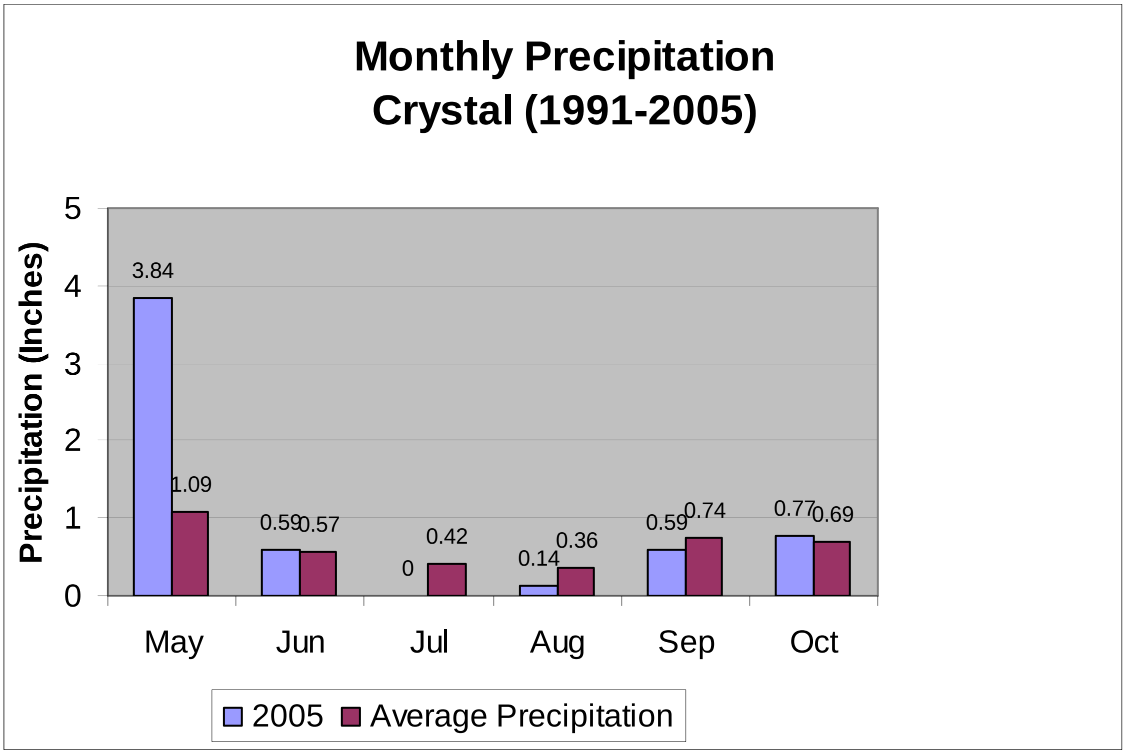


**Figure 4.1(e) Observed and average precipitation at Crystal RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 410.**

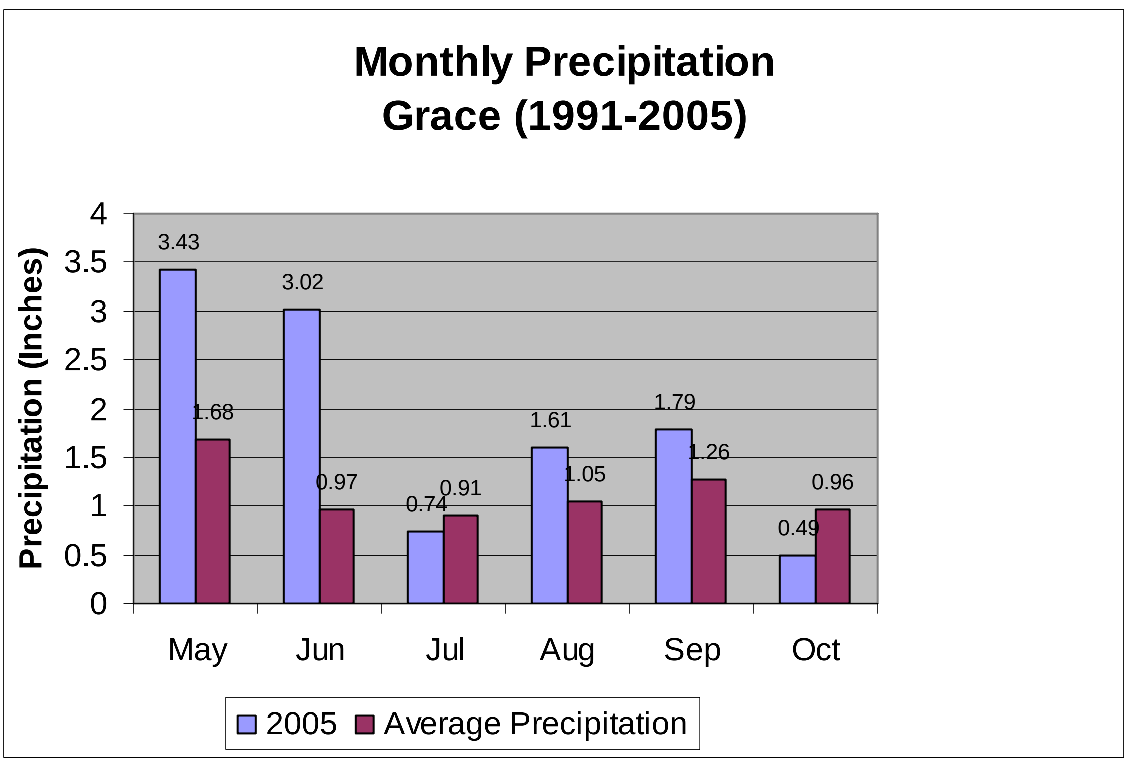


**Figure 4.1(f) Observed and average precipitation at Island Park RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 411.**

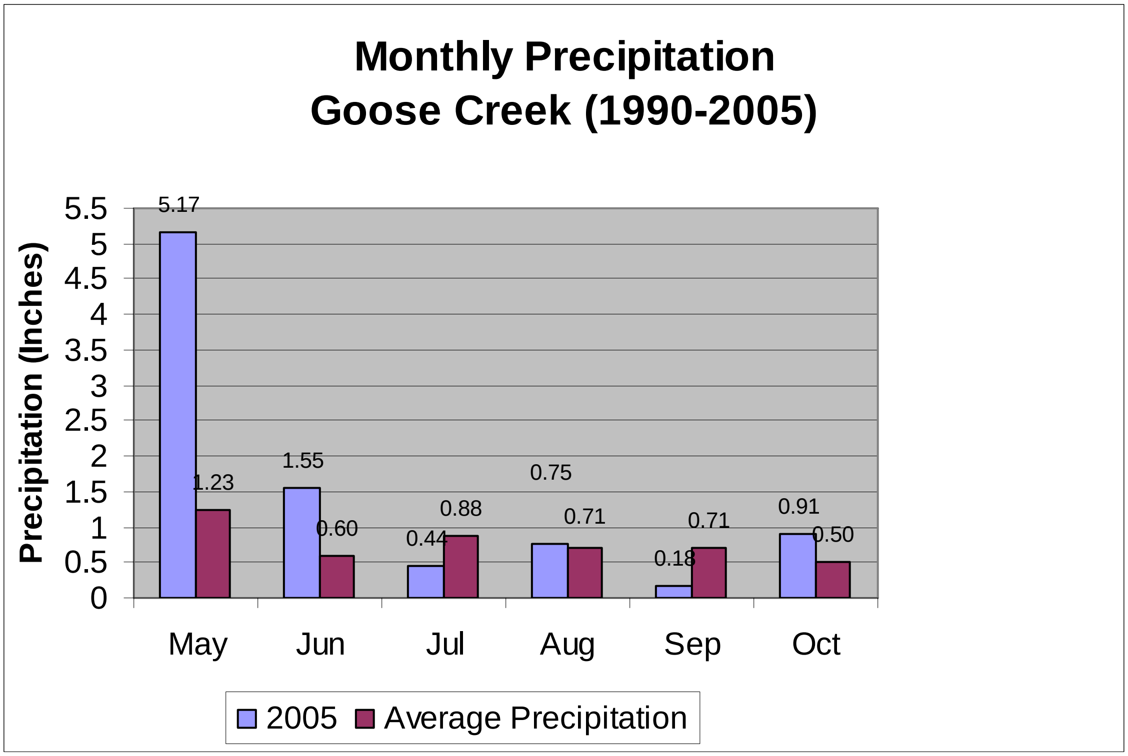


**Figure 4.1(g) Observed and average precipitation at Goose Creek RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 412.**

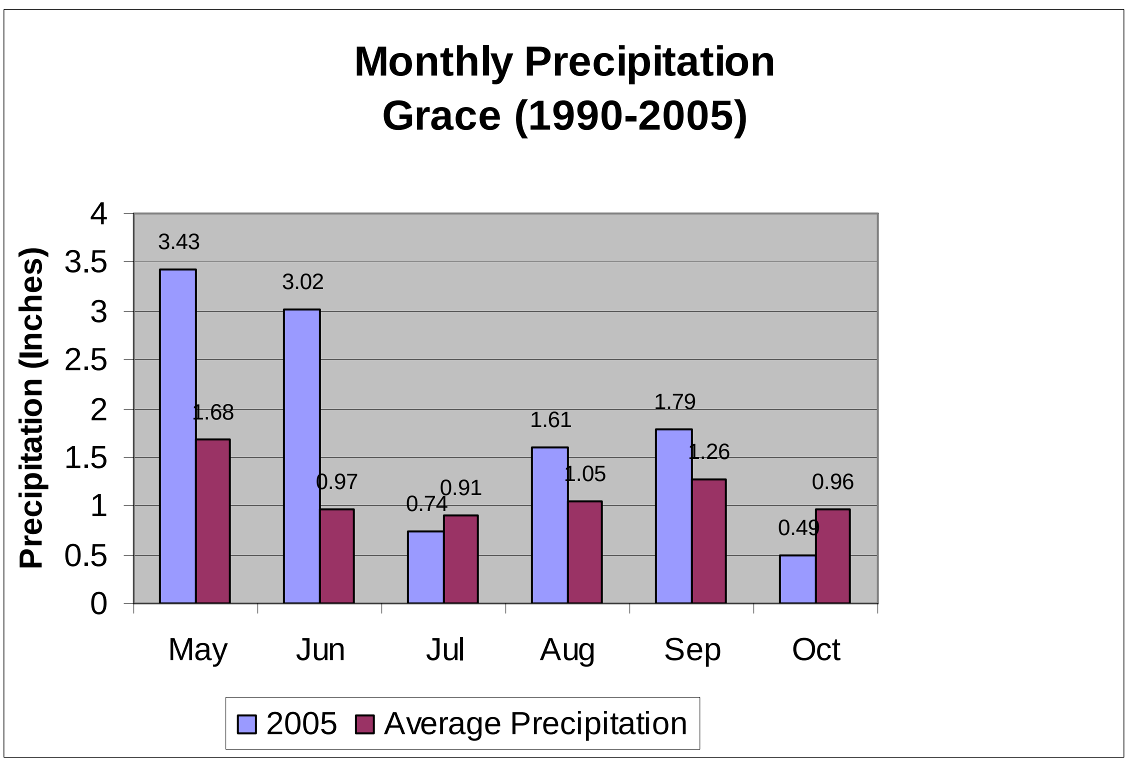


**Figure 4.1(h) Observed and average precipitation at Grace RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 413.**

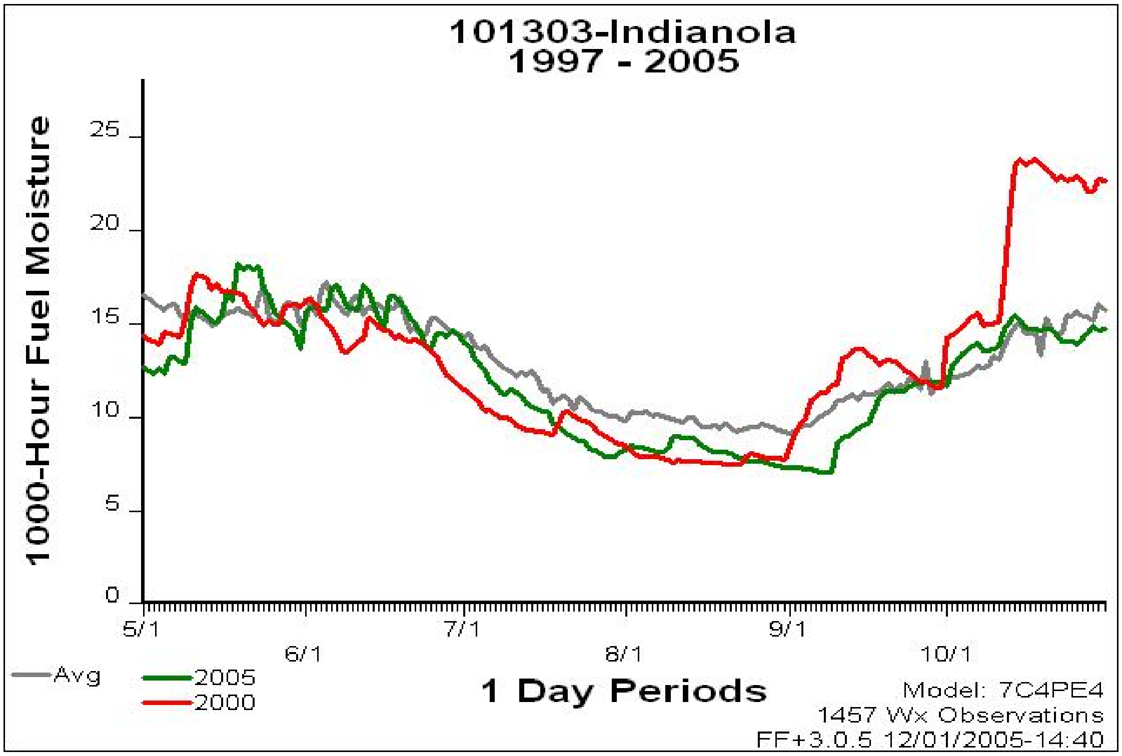


**Figure 4.2(a) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Indianola RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 405.**

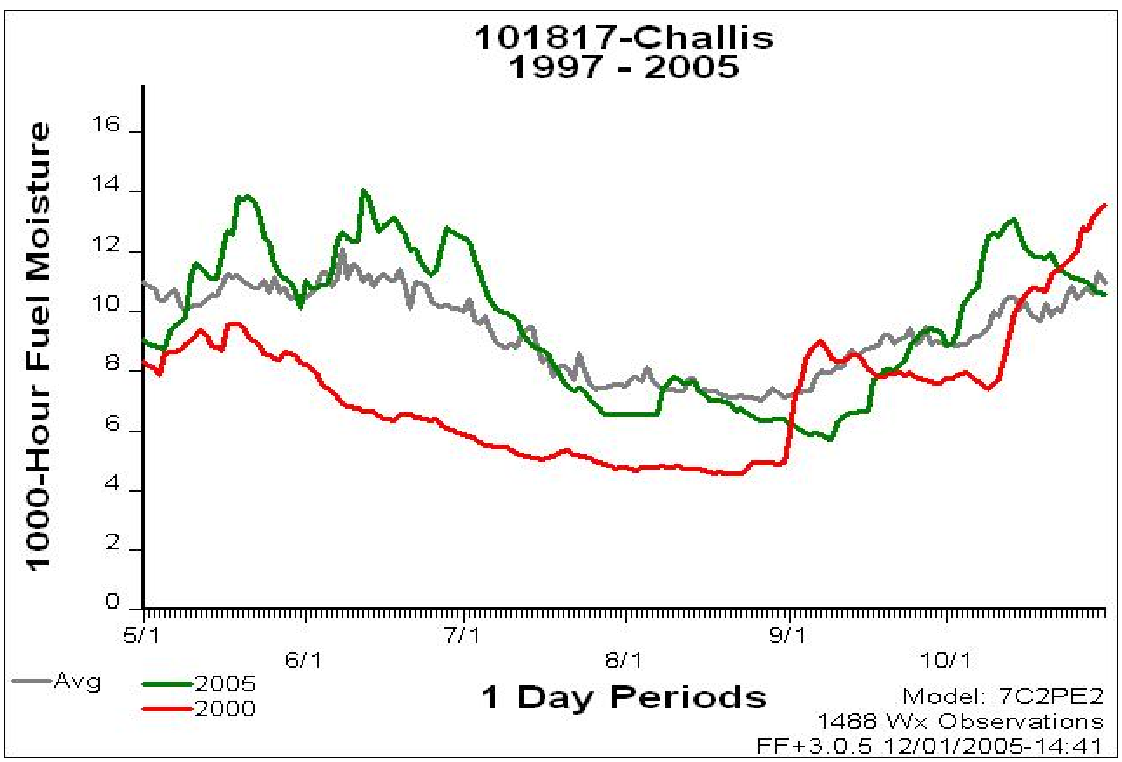


**Figure 4.2(b) Observed and average 1000 Fuel Moisture at Challis RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 406.**

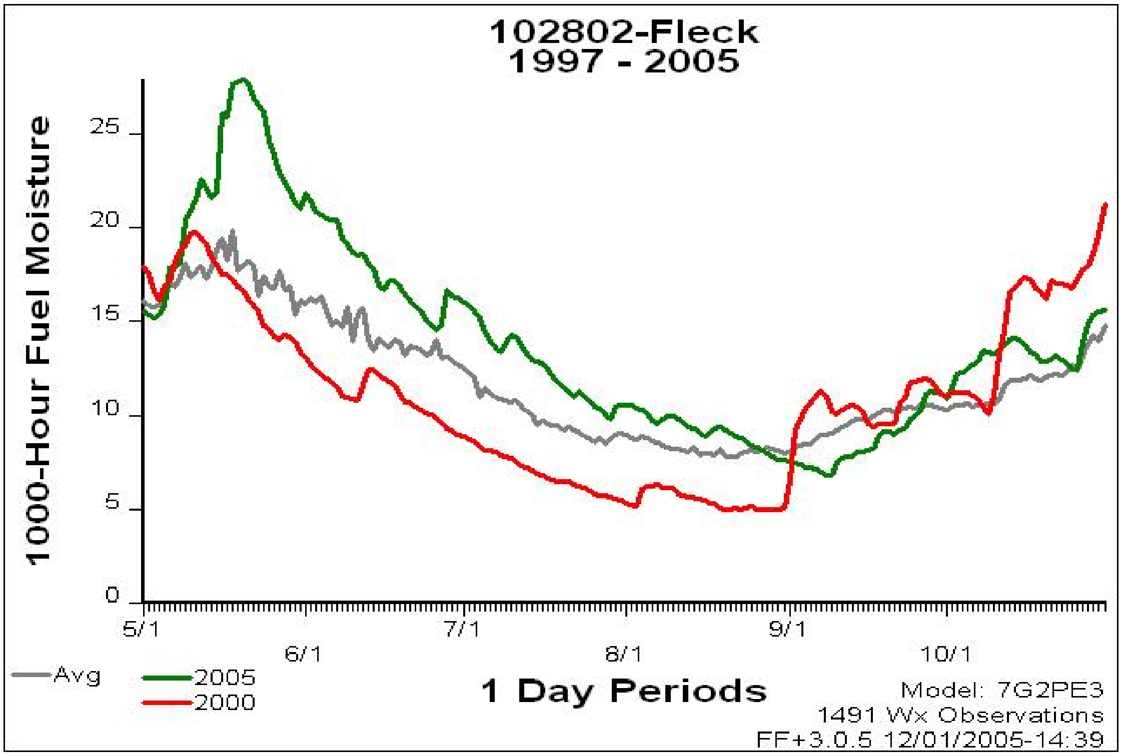


**Figure 4.2(c) Observed and average 1000 Fuel Moisture at Fleck Summit RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 407.**

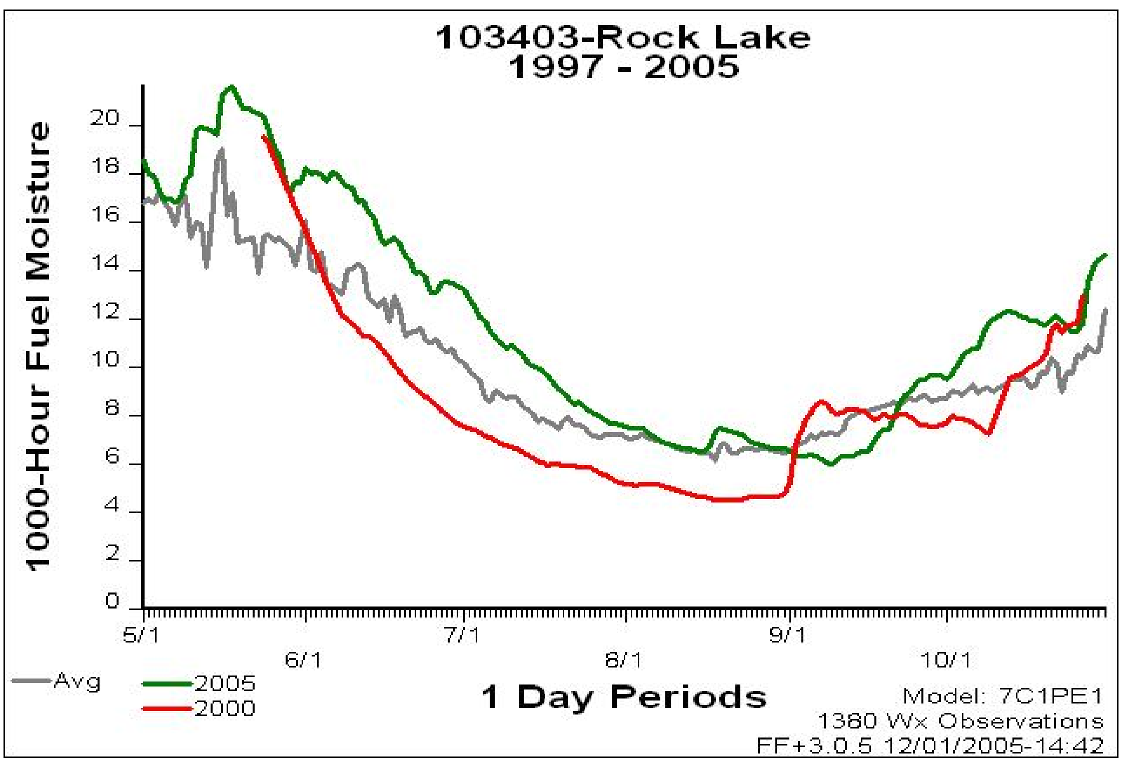


**Figure 4.2(d) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Rock Lake RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 409.**

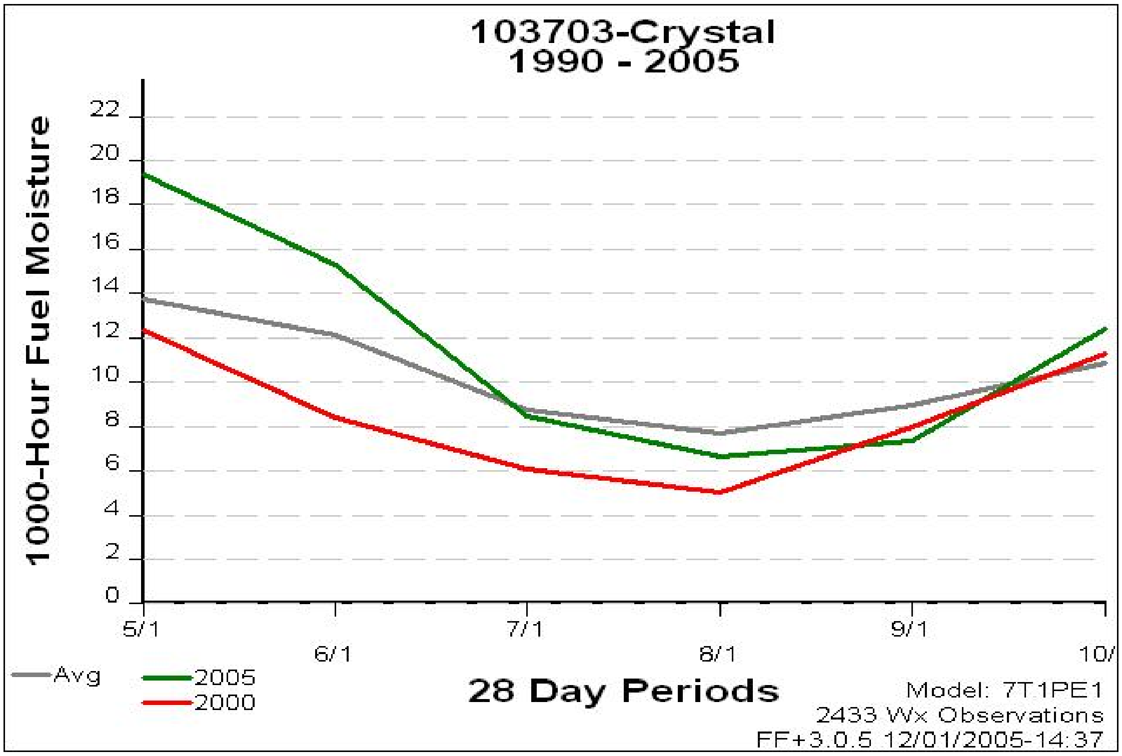


**Figure 4.2(e) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Crystal RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 410.**

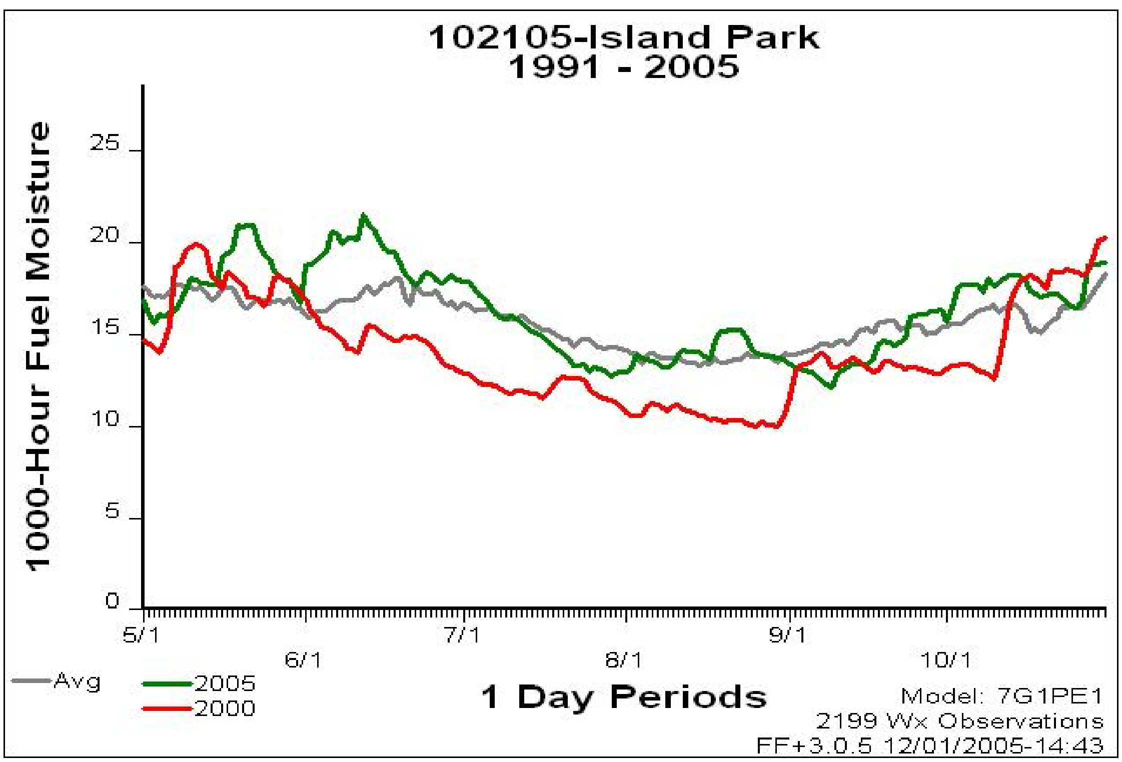


**Figure 4.2(f) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Island Park RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 411.**

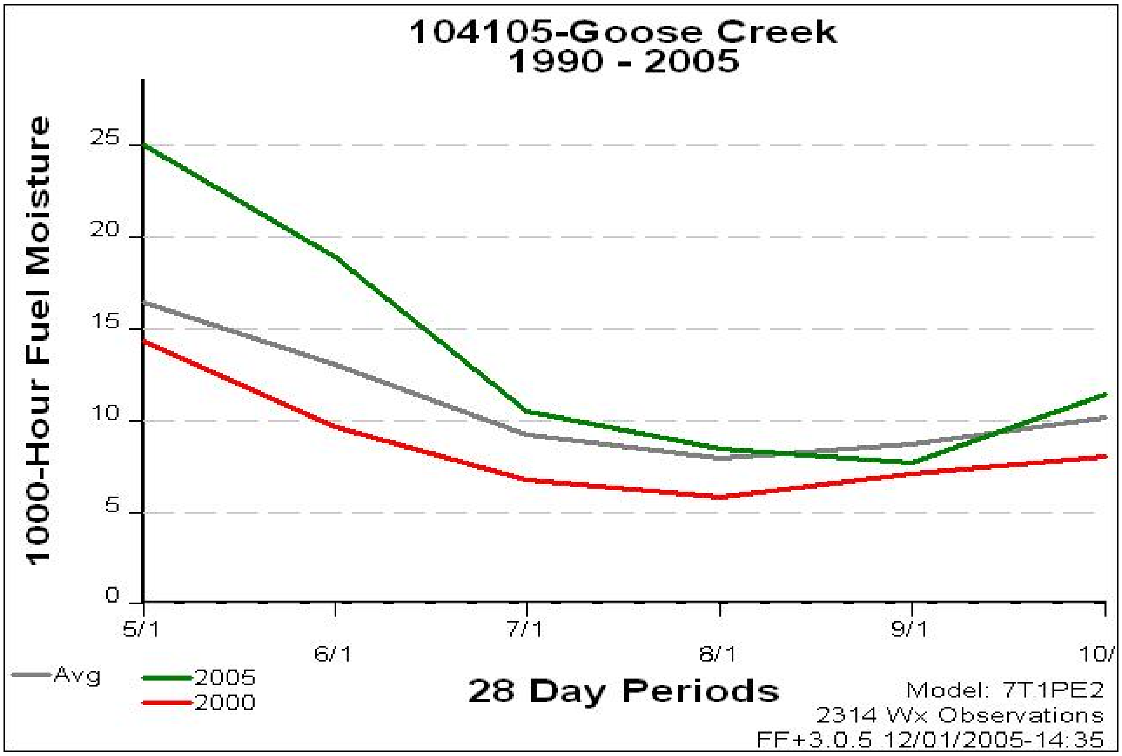


**Figure 4.2(g) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Goose Creek RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 412.**

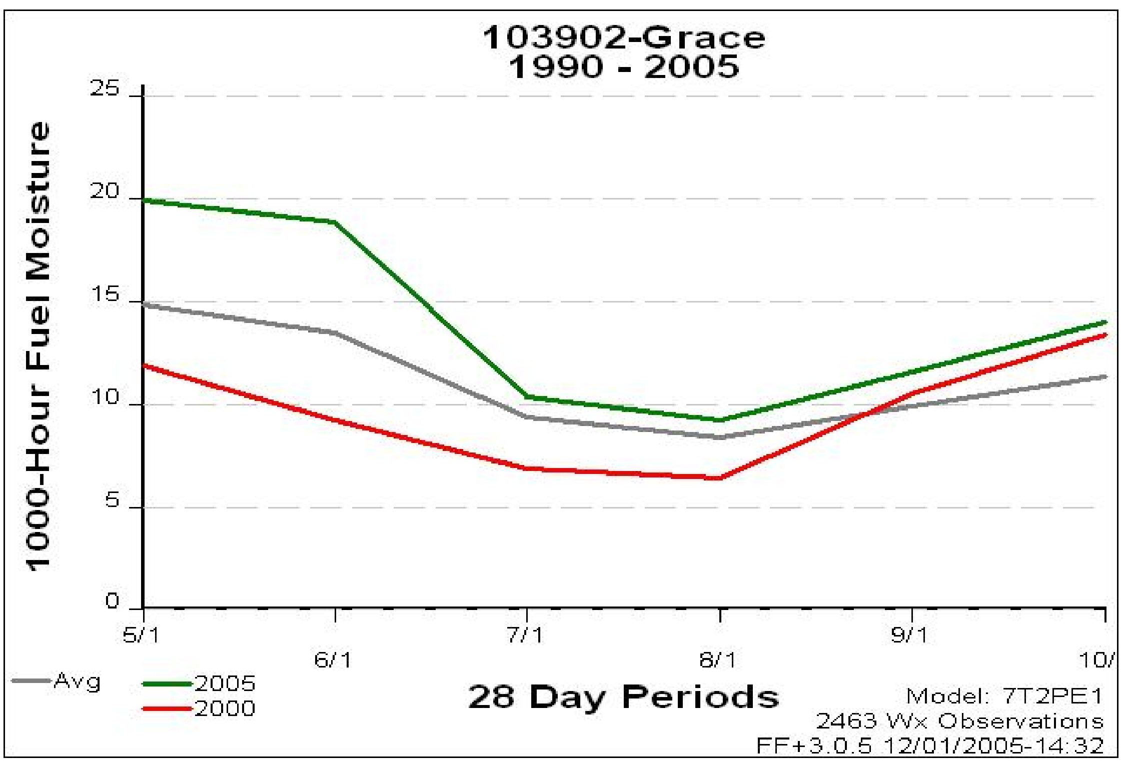


**Figure 4.2(h) Observed and average 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture at Grace RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 413.**

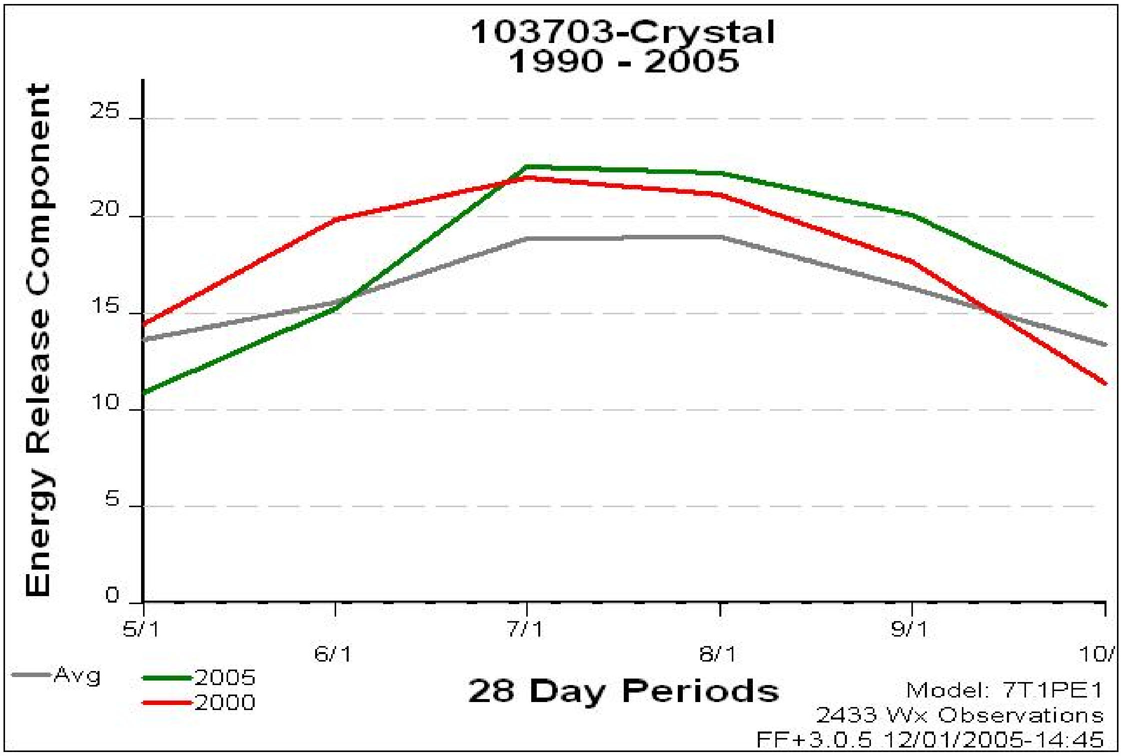


**Figure 4.3 Calculated Energy Release Component at Crystal RAWS site, Fire Weather Zone 410.**

## 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 Fire Weather Operating Plan. Current criteria for the Pocatello Fire Weather District are shown in paragraph 4.1.2 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 4.1 (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).

c. 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.

d. 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 2005 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. 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 in past years 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 substantially 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.

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 3 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 | 16 | 18 | 5 | 39 |
| Total # of warnings | 0 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 83 |
| Verified warnings that were preceded by a watch | 0 | 13 | 16 | 5 | 34 |
| Warnings verified (a) | 0 | 23 | 19 | 21 | 63 |
| Warnings not verified (b) | 0 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 20 |
| Events not warned (c) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 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 2005 season.**

| | May-June | July | August | September-October | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total # of watches | 0 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 23 |
| Total # of warnings | 0 | 17 | 18 | 26 | 61 |
| Verified warnings that were preceded by a watch | 0 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 19 |
| Warnings verified (a) | 0 | 13 | 10 | 21 | 44 |
| Warnings not verified (b) | 0 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 17 |
| Events not warned (c) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 |

**Table 5.1(b) Synoptic scale Red Flag event products issued in the WFO Pocatello Fire Weather District during the 2005 season. Example cold fronts, low relative humidity, strong pressure gradient related winds.**

| | May-June | July | August | September-October | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total # of watches | 0 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 14 |
| Total # of warnings | 0 | 12 | 10 | 0 | 22 |
| Verified warnings that were preceded by a watch | 0 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 15 |
| Warnings verified (a) | 0 | 10 | 9 | 0 | 19 |
| Warnings not verified (b) | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Events not warned (c) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Table 5.1(c) Short fused Red Flag event products issued in the WFO Pocatello Fire Weather District during the 2005 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 = | .90 | 1.00 | .93 |
| Critical success index CSI = | .67 | .86 | .71 |
| False alarm rate FAR = | .28 | .14 | .24 |
| Average lead time for Warnings = | 10 hrs. 43 min. | 6 hrs. 12 min. | 9 hrs. 27 min. |
| Average lead time for verified watches = | 36 hrs. 11 min. | 20 hrs. 03 min. | 29 hrs. 04 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 2005 season.**

7. Implications:

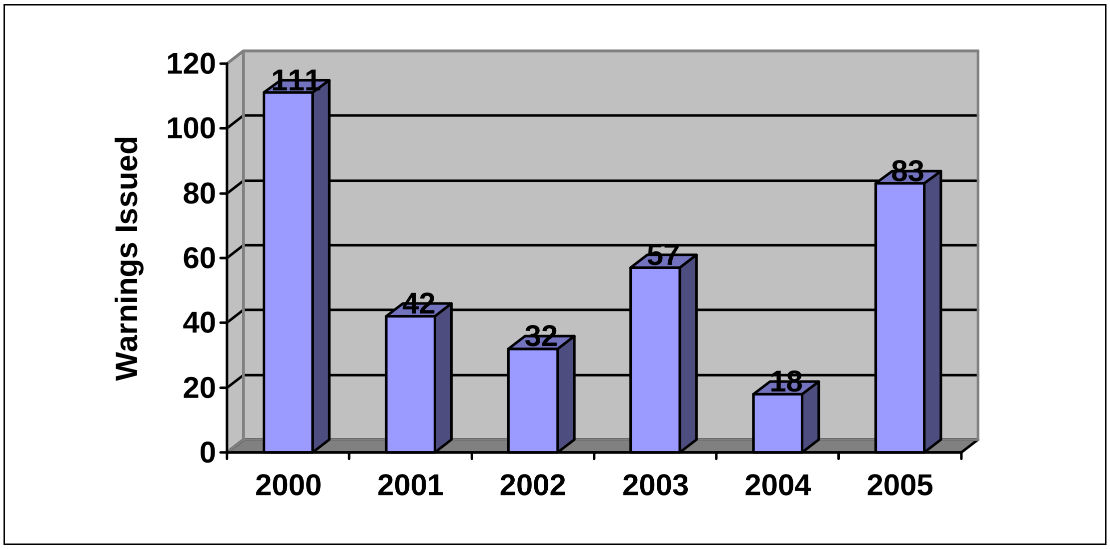


**Figure 5.2 Historical Red Flag Warnings in Southeast Idaho.**

The Red Flag Event criteria and verification procedures changed in 2002, 2004, and 2005. The 2000 fire season was historically a very active year in Southeast Idaho while fire activity and fuel conditions were minimal in 2004. The Weather Forecast Office in Pocatello achieved a probability of detection of .93 even though there are significant limitations to forecasting wind gust speeds, especially in complex mountainous terrain. The false alarm rate of .25 was only slightly higher than last year.

The current Red Flag Event criteria and verification procedure appears to represent an overall increase in the frequency of warnings issued. A total of 83 Red Flag Warnings were issued this season. Red Flag Warnings were in effect on a total of 16 days. Using the 20 mph (10-minute average) wind criteria of 2003, only 7 days and 17 of these events would qualify as meeting Red Flag criteria.

**5.2 Spot Forecasts prepared by WFO Pocatello:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Wildfires | 108 |
| Prescribed Fires | 86 |
| Other | 0 |
| Total | 194 |

(Verbal telephone briefings = 38)

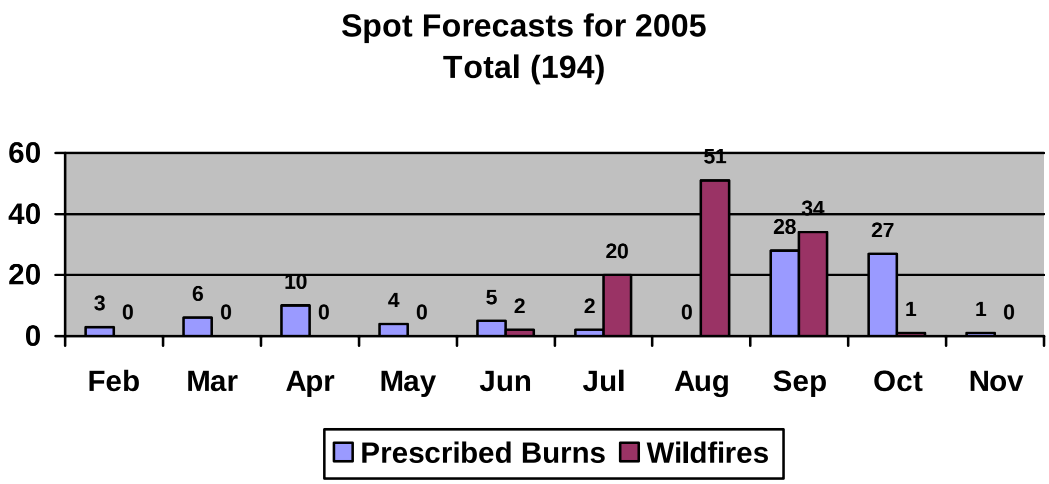


**Figure 5.1 Spot Forecasts prepared by the Pocatello Fire District during the 2005 fire season.**

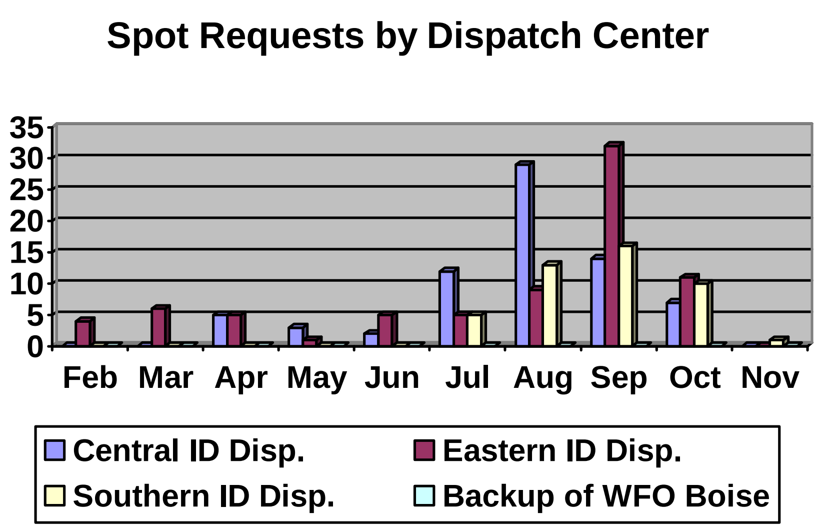


**Figure 5.2 Spot Forecasts requested by dispatch area during the 2005 fire season in Southeast Idaho.**

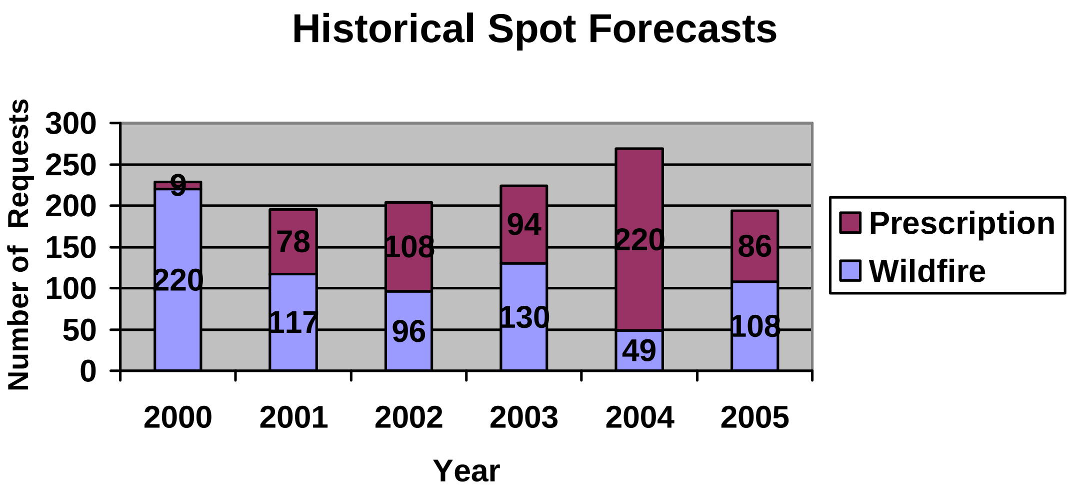


**Figure 5.3 Historical trends in Spot Forecast requests for the Pocatello Fire Weather District.**

5.3 Fire Dispatches Supported by WFO Pocatello: There were a total of two IMET dispatches resulting in 16 man days served out of the office.

| *Date* | *Dispatch Location* | *Incident Meteorologist* |
|---|---|---|
| July 23 to July 26, 2005 | Tank Complex Fire, Arizona Strip District, About 40 miles south of St. George, Utah | Bob Survick |
| August 8 to August 19, 2005 | Cadagan Complex Fire, Salmon-Challis NF, near North Fork, Idaho | Jack Messick |

**Table 5.1 Incident Meteorologist Dispatches by WFO Pocatello**

**5.4 Training:** WFO Pocatello staff participated in the following training courses during the 2005 season.

| Forecaster | Training situation |
|---|---|
| Bob Survick | Instructor S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, June 6 through 9, 2005 held at the Eastern Idaho Technical College, Idaho Falls, Idaho. |
| Bob Survick<br>Jack Messick | Completed the S-390 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations, January 25 to 27, 2005 in Boise, Idaho. |

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

| Location | Dates |
|---|---|
| Great Basin Fire Weather Operating Plan meeting held at Salt Lake City, Utah | February 15, 2005 |
| Fire Weather pre season Meeting at Central Idaho Interagency Fire Center | May 6, 2005 |
| Fire Weather pre season Meeting at South Central Idaho Fire Center | May 9, 2005 |
| Fire Weather pre season Meeting at Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center | May 13, 2005 |
| Survey potential site for RAWS station, BLM Montpelier, Idaho | May 26, 2005 |