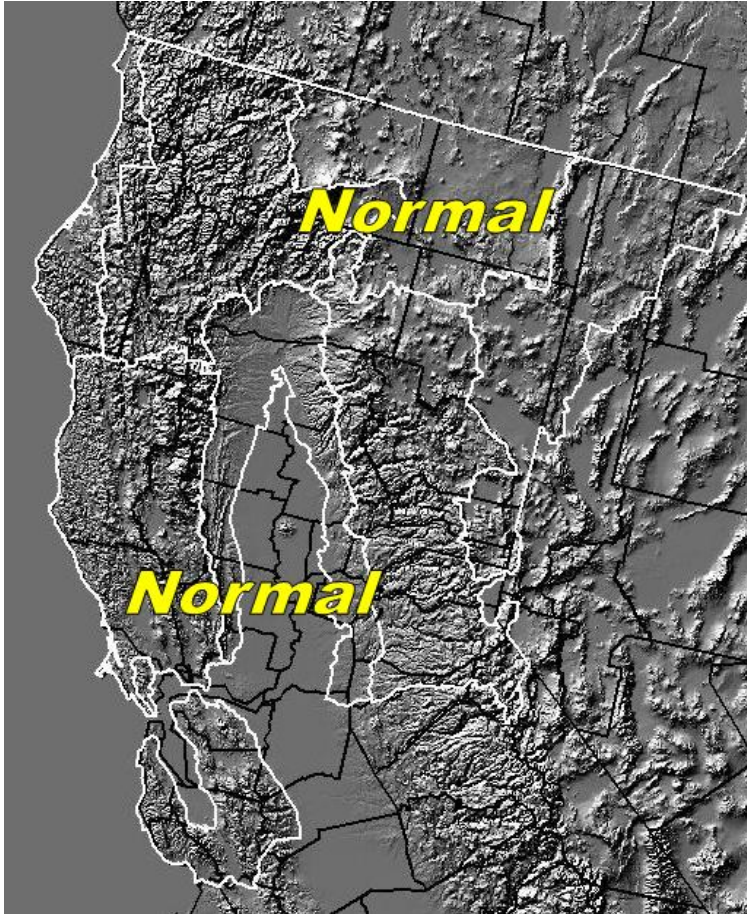


MONTHLY OUTLOOK

For Northern California and Hawaii

Issued: January 31st 2013

Valid for: February 2013



Summary

- **Drier than Normal** Fuel Moisture expected
- **Normal Temperatures (-1° to +2°) & Below Normal Precipitation (30-60%)** expected for February
- **Normal (minimal) Large Fire Potential** expected for all areas, but fuel levels could get unseasonably dry by mid-month

Weather Discussion

REVIEW OF JANUARY 2013 WEATHER:

Temperatures were slightly cooler than normal across the region (Fig 1). High pressure dominated the weather for most of the month, resulting in clear skies which produced ideal nighttime cooling conditions. So despite the sunny warm afternoons with above normal high temperatures, the overnight lows were so cold in many areas that they swayed the overall monthly temperatures to the cooler side of normal. This was especially true across the snow covered areas of the Sierra/Cascades. Other than one or two short duration precipitation events, it was a very dry month, with most of the region receiving less than 25% of normal precipitation, with only some localized areas across NE CA being the wettest at 50-75% of normal precipitation (Fig 2). There was a light to moderate precipitation event on the 23rd-24th that (at least temporarily) brought fuel moisture levels back up to near normal levels by months end.

Fuel/Fire Potential Discussion

Dead fuels moisture levels across Northern California have returned to near normal winter levels. They actually became drier than normal by the middle of the month before a widespread moderate precipitation event in late January. The first State Snow Survey of the winter (Fig A) shows the higher terrain snowpack to be at about 55-59% of the April 1st average levels (usually the deepest of the season). This actually comes out to "normal" snowpack for the end of January. However, with continued dry weather, it is anticipated that the snowpack will shrink both in depth and retreat to slightly higher elevations during the course of February. Also, longer term drought conditions have begun to encroach back into Northeast CA (Fig B), and will likely expand in coverage through February. By mid-month dead fuels could reach critically dry levels (for winter) and will have to be monitored closely with regards to ongoing burn projects and any dry wind events.

Weather Discussion (continued)

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
1/1/2013 – 1/30/2013

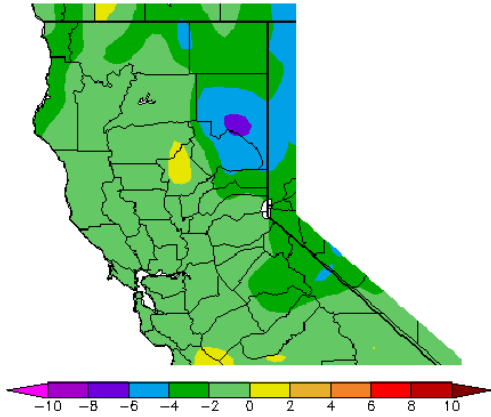


Fig 1: January Temp Departure from Normal (Deg F°)

Fuel/Fire Potential (continued)

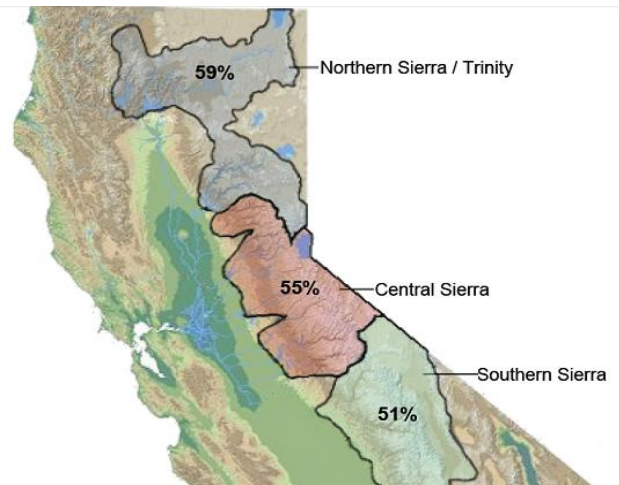


Fig A: CA End of January Snowpack (% of April 1st Avg)

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
1/1/2013 – 1/30/2013

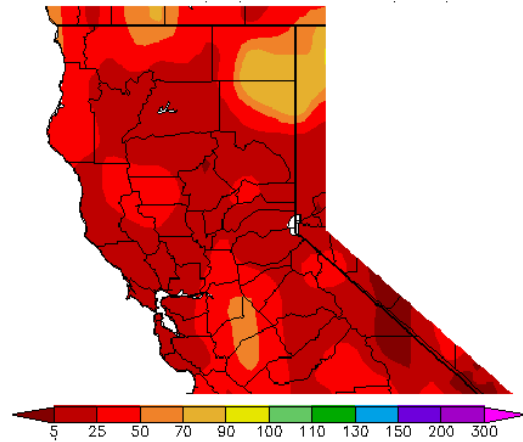


Fig 2: January Precipitation Percent of Average (%)

U.S. Drought Monitor

California

January 29, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Intensity:



Fig B: US Drought Monitor Nrn CA as of Jan 29th

FORECAST DISCUSSION FOR FEBRUARY 2013:

Other than a moderate scale storm during the first week of the month, computer models show a prolonged high pressure pattern for much of the first 3 weeks of the month. This would extend the long term dry pattern that began in early January. Even though fuels will begin near normal levels, it is likely that dead and dormant fuels could reach near record dry levels for this time of year. If this happens, any dry wind event could pose localized problems regarding escapes of any burn projects. Otherwise, near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation are expected. **NORMAL (Minimal) LARGE FIRE POTENTIAL** for February is expected.

Prescribed Fire/Fuel&Fire Data

PRESCRIBED FIRE IMPLICATIONS:

Fuels have dried considerably and areas below 4000 ft might be ready for larger scale burn projects. If we stay as dry as expected, this level could go up to 5000 ft by late in the month. Snowpack has begun to shrink and should be below normal by the middle of the month. Conditions should become favorable for both broadcast and pile burns.

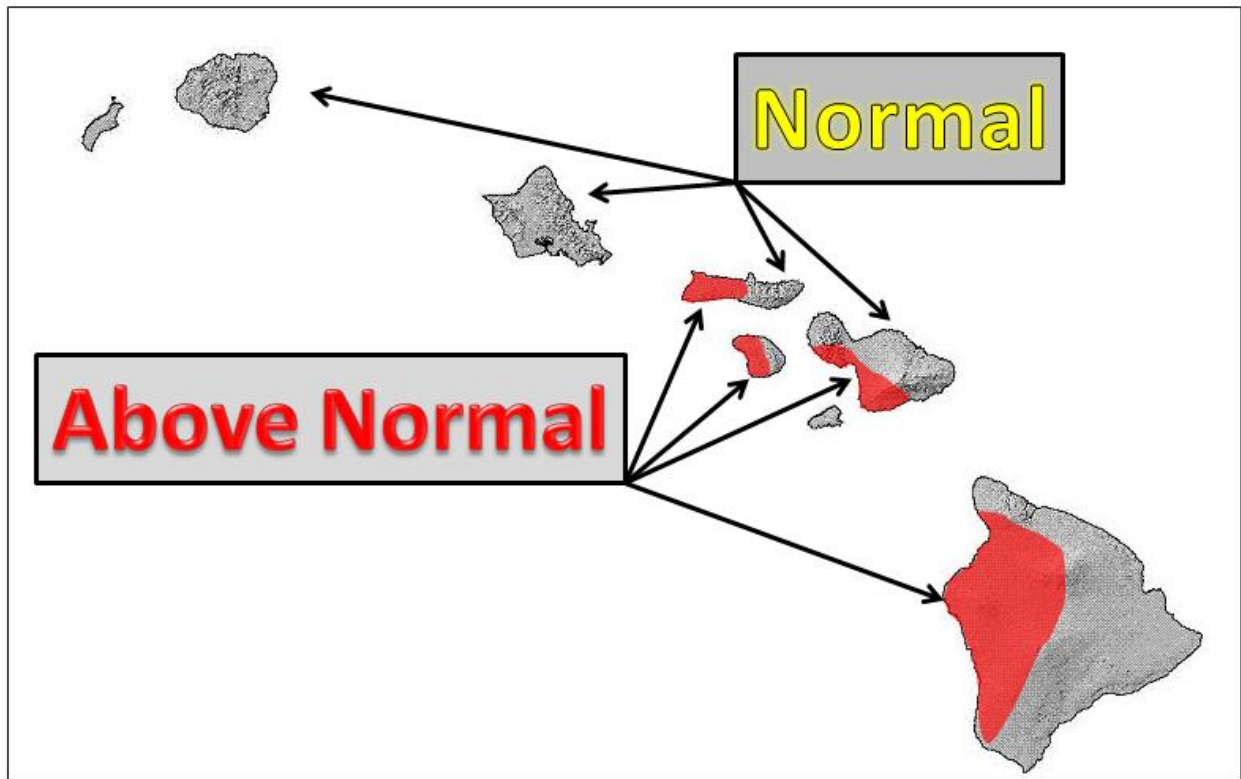
FUELS:

Live Woody Fuel Moisture: N/A
100-Hour Dead Fuel Moisture: 13% to 25%
1000-Hour Dead Fuel Moisture: 18% to 25%

FIRE OCCURRENCE / ACRES BURNED YTD:

Fires 24
Acres 303

Hawaii Monthly Outlook February 2013



February Discussion:

Drought conditions continue across the lower islands, despite recent rainfall. Those areas will continue with ***Above Normal Fire Potential*** for February.



This Product was developed by the Predictive Services group, located at the North Zone Coordination Center in Redding, California

Basil Newmerzhycky

Phone: (530) 226-2730

Fax: (530) 226-2742