

MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

Eastern Area



Updated: February 11, 2013

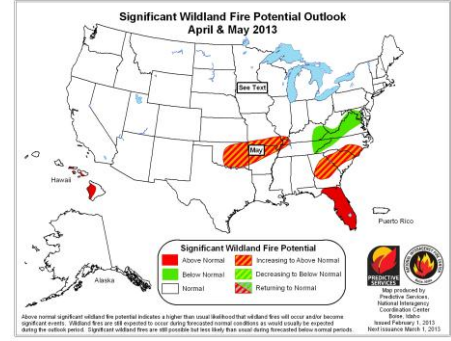
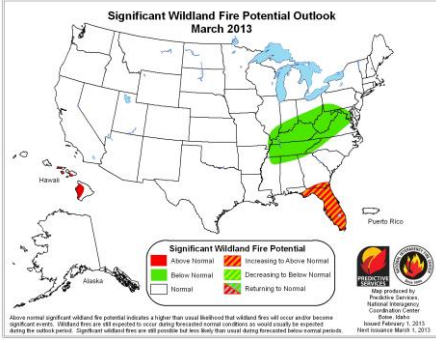
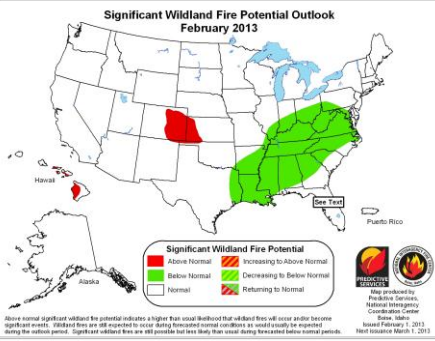
Valid: February 2013 - May 2013

Fire Potential Outlooks

February 2013

March 2013

April - May 2013



Predictive Services Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

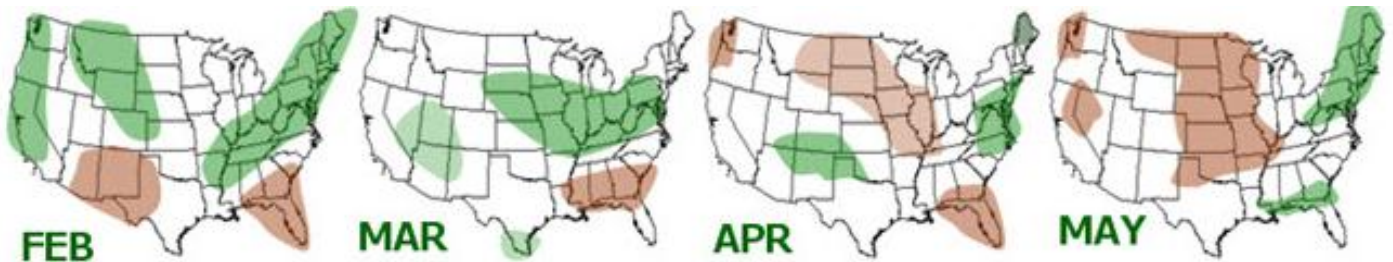
Temperature



Below Normal =

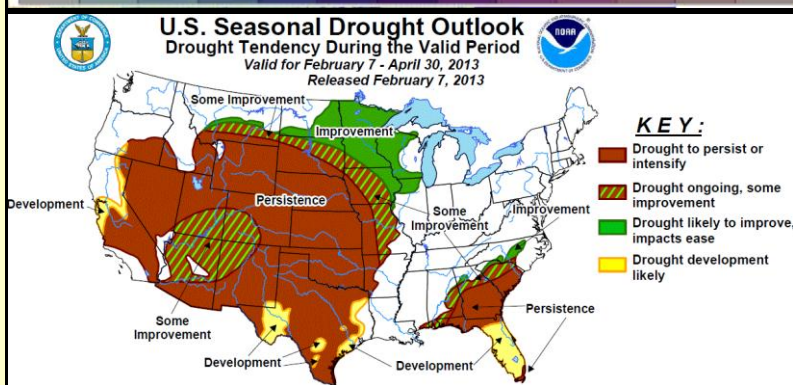
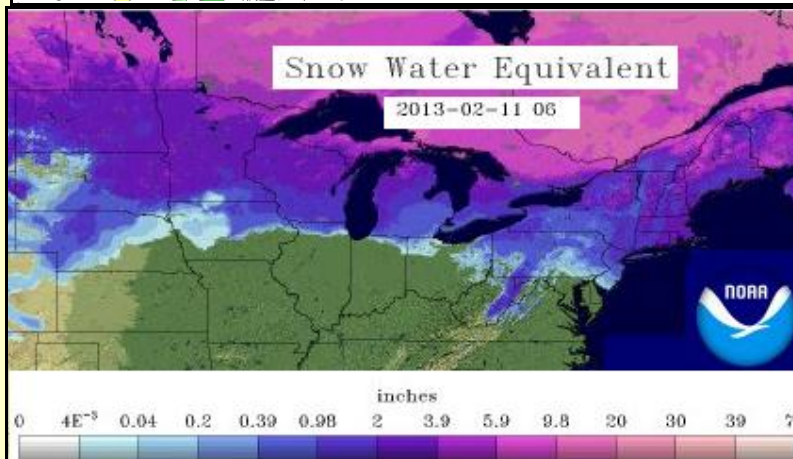
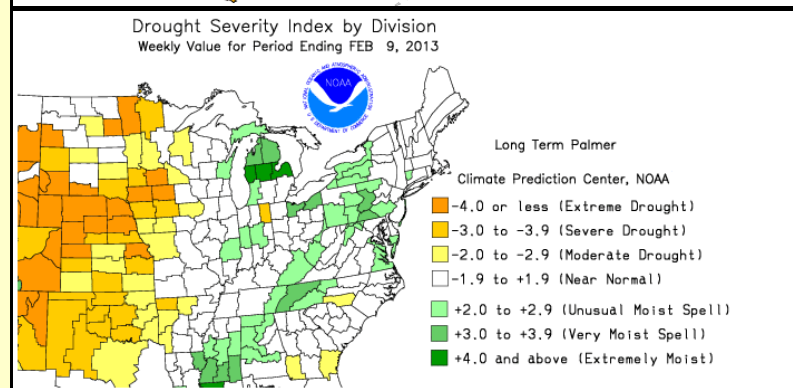
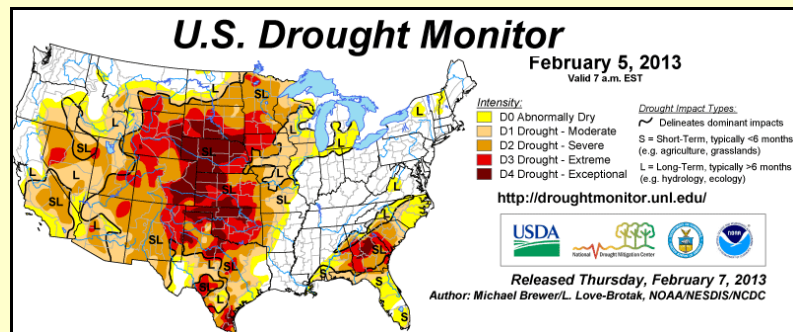
Above Normal =

Precipitation




Below Normal =

Above Normal =



Discussion

- Areas of severe to extreme drought persisted across portions of Minnesota, northwest Iowa, northern Illinois, and western Missouri at the end of January 2013. 90 and 30 Day soil moisture and precipitation anomalies were also below normal at the end of January over these areas.
- Colder than normal conditions are forecast into March across the north central U.S. If this pattern comes to fruition near normal fire potential is expected across the drier portions of the Upper Mississippi Valley through the rest of the winter. A more active precipitation pattern is expected to develop across portions of the Upper and Mid-Mississippi Valley during the late winter season which should increase snow pack across Minnesota and northern Iowa. However, warmer than normal temperature trends are anticipated across these areas in April. This may lead to an earlier than normal start to the 2013 spring fire season. Wetter than normal conditions are forecast across the Ohio Valley through the rest of the 2013 winter. Drier than normal conditions are forecast to develop over the southern Mid-Mississippi Valley in May 2013.
- An earlier than normal start to the spring fire season may occur across drier portions of the Upper and Mid-Mississippi Valley due to below normal snow pack in place at the end of January 2013. These areas are forecast to receive more frequent and widespread precipitation events in March. If this does occur an earlier and above normal fire season is expected across the drier portions of the Upper and Mid-Mississippi Valley. A later than normal start to the spring fire season may occur across the Ohio Valley into the southwestern half of the Mid-Atlantic States if a wetter than normal pattern persists into the end of the 2013 winter. The rest of the Eastern Area is forecast to experience a normal start to the spring fire season.
- Wetter than normal conditions are expected to persist across the Ohio Valley into the southwestern half of the Mid-Atlantic States through the rest of the winter season. This will lead to below normal fire potential across these areas through March 2013. A later start to the spring may also occur over these areas.
- The rest of the Eastern Area has received near to above normal precipitation through the first half of the 2012-13 winter. Drought indicators were also near normal over the majority of the Eastern Area at the end of January 2013. Therefore, near normal fire potential is expected over the majority of the Eastern Area.



Eastern Area Predictive Services

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