



BI-MONTHLY FUELS DISCUSSION

For Southern and Central California

Updated: **Thursday, February 21, 2013**

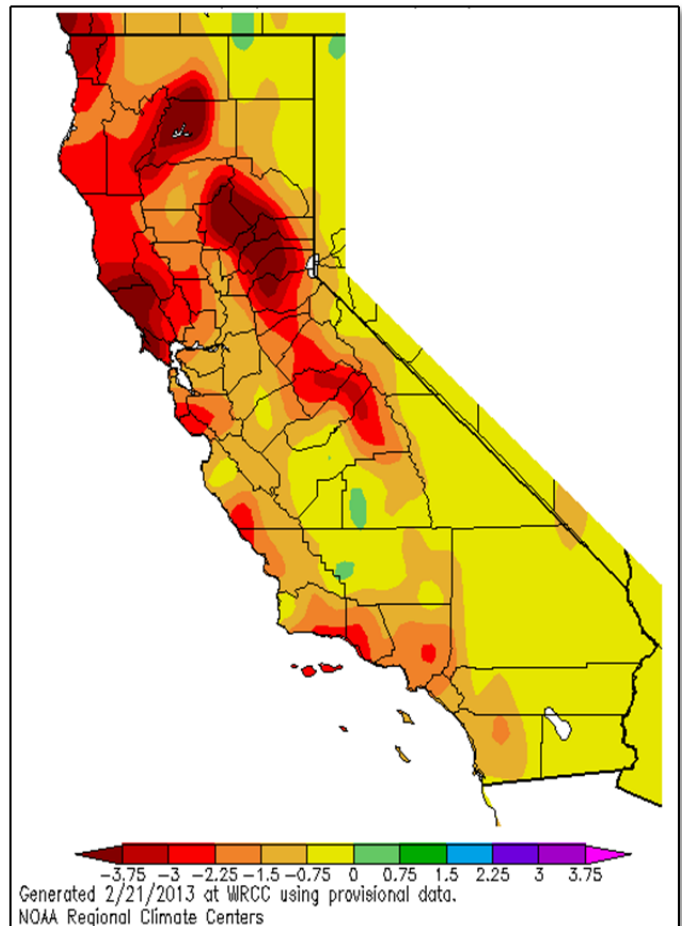
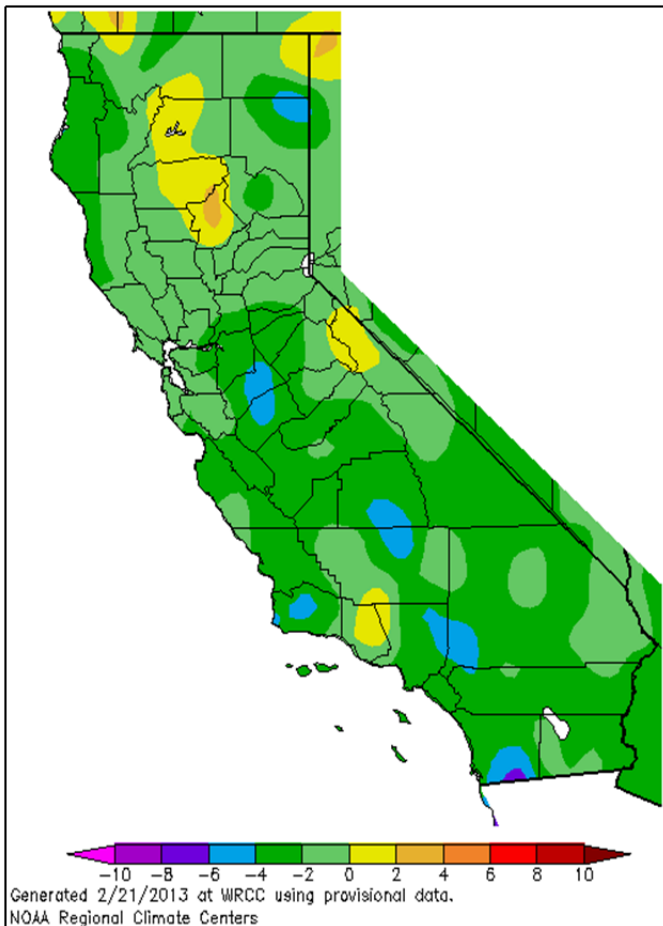
Next Update: **Thursday, March 7, 2013**

General Discussion:

A strong high pressure ridge remained off the coast during the past two weeks. This ridge continued to keep the storm track to the north of the district and precipitation was light during the past two weeks. The precipitation deficit was most noticeable in the northern half of the state which hasn't seen much precipitation since the first of the year. Southern California experienced a couple of weak storms, each of which brought around a half inch of rain to areas toward the coast. Temperatures remained below average due to a trough which remained over the Great Basin during much of the first half of the month. While precipitation has been light, the cool temperatures have kept seasonal grasses from curing. Dead fine fuels continue to see fuel moisture rise and fall during the passage of each trough. The storms have been frequent enough to maintain growth on native shrubs and brush. However, snowpack numbers in the Sierra have fallen to near or slightly below normal due to the dry weather. The next two weeks look very similar with the district lying between the strong ridge off to the west and the deep trough over the Central Rockies.

Departure from Average Temperature 2/7/13 – 2/20/13

Departure from Average Precipitation 2/7/13 – 2/20/13

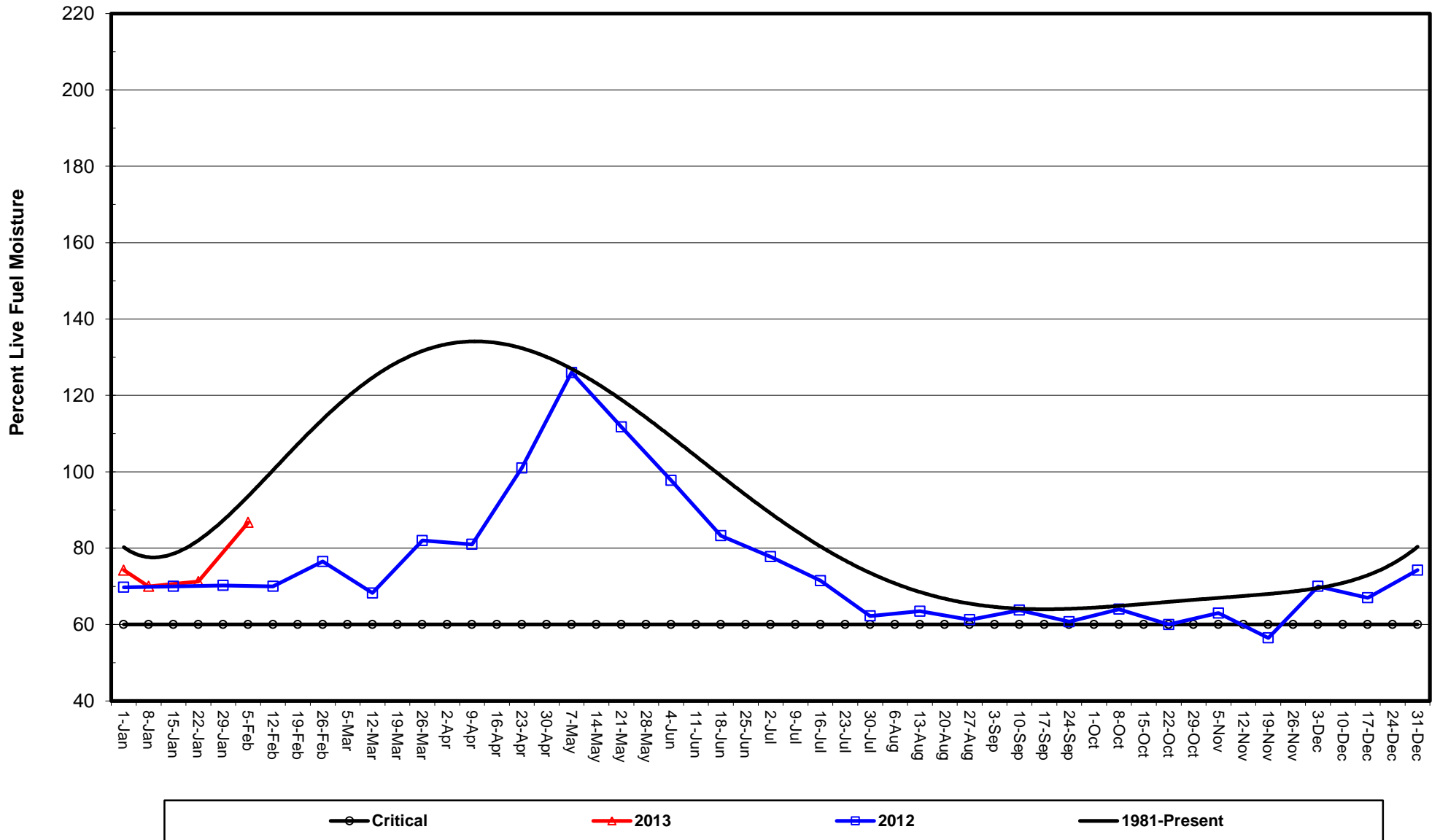




Vegetation Management Program

Live Fuel Moisture 1981-2013

Santa Clarita Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*)

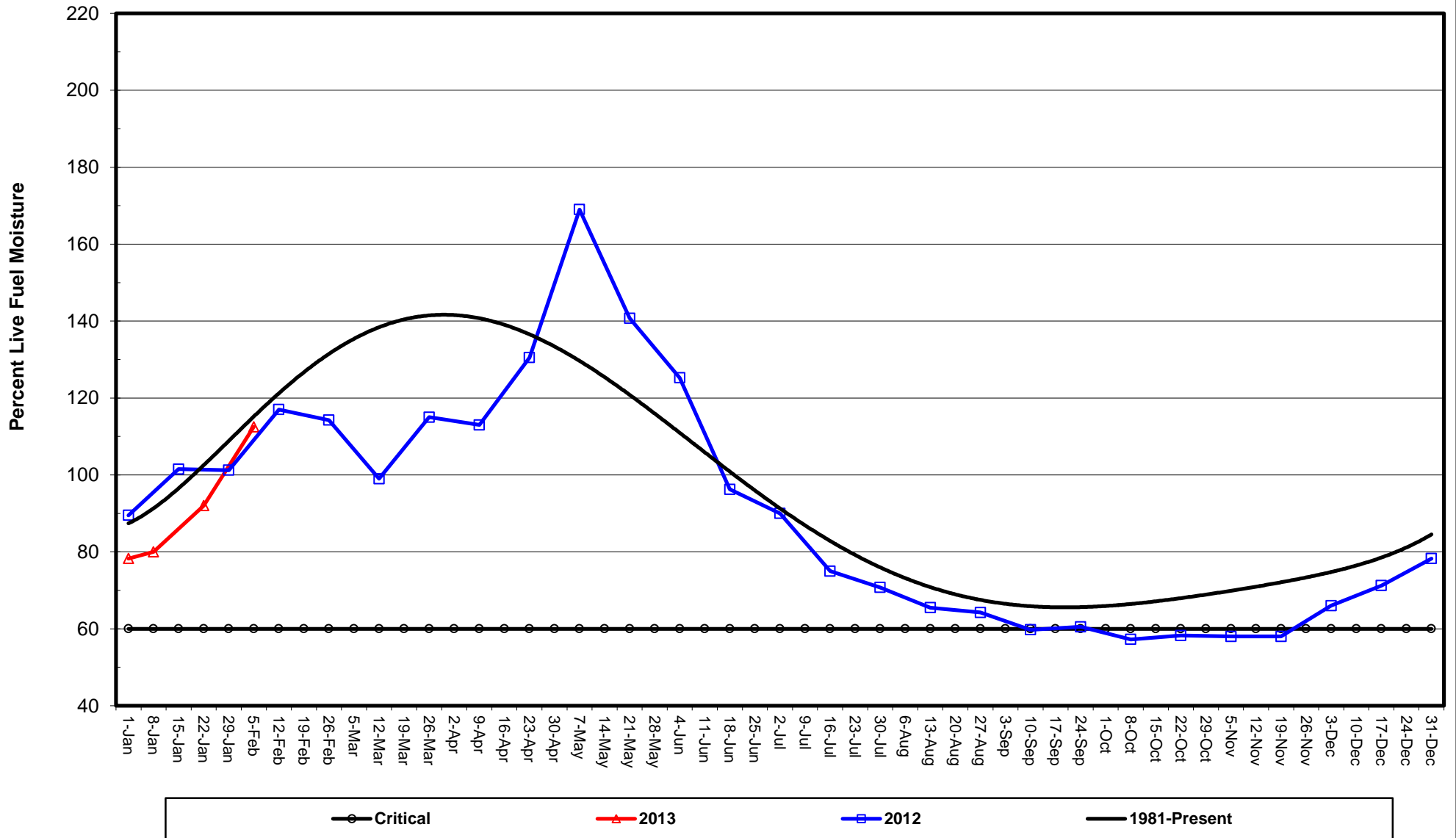




Vegetation Management Program

Live Fuel Moisture 1981-2013

Malibu Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*)

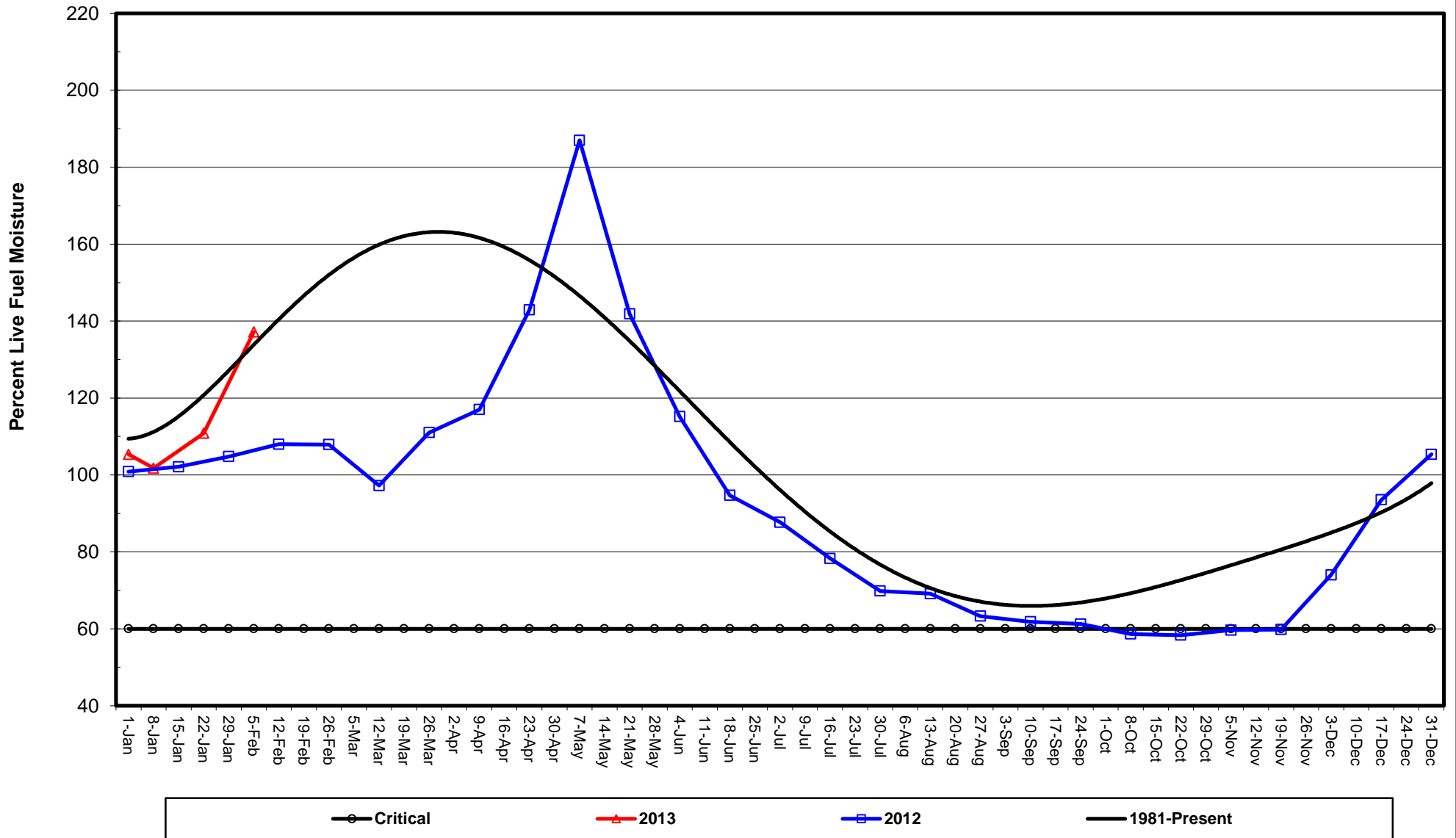




Vegetation Management Program Live Fuel Moisture 1981-2013



All Areas, All Fuels - Chamise, Ceanothus, Sages, Sagebrush



County of Los Angeles Fire Department Prevention Services Bureau / Forestry Division



Vegetation Management Unit
12605 Osborne Street
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Live Fuel Moisture Summary February 8, 2013

LOCATION	THOMAS GUIDE	SPECIES	LIVE MOISTURE		
			CURRENT	PREVIOUS	CHANGE
BOUQUET CANYON, SAUGUS	4461 G1	CHAMISE	78%	70%	8%
PEACH MOTORWAY, SANTA CLARITA	4640 J5	CHAMISE	101%	72%	29%
PLACERITA CANYON, SANTA CLARITA	4642 B2	CHAMISE	87%	63%	24%
BITTER CANYON, CASTAIC	4370 A4	CHAMISE	81%	80%	1%
CLARK MOTORWAY, MALIBU	586 G7	CHAMISE	118%	93%	25%
SCHUEREN ROAD, MALIBU	629 E1	CHAMISE	114%	90%	24%
TRIPPET RANCH, TOPANGA	590 B6	CHAMISE	129%	93%	36%
STUNT ROAD, CALABASAS	589 D5	CHAMISE	89%	92%	-3%
GLENDORA RIDGE, GLENDORA	569 E1	CHAMISE	100%	79%	21%
LA TUNA CANYON, TUJUNGA	503 J5	CHAMISE	94%	77%	17%
LAUREL CANYON, MT. OLYMPUS	593 A1	CHAMISE	132%	74%	58%
BITTER CANYON, CASTAIC	4370 A4	BLACK SAGE	175%	190%	-15%
BITTER CANYON, CASTAIC	4370 A4	PURPLE SAGE	188%	156%	32%
TRIPPET RANCH, TOPANGA	590 B6	BLACK SAGE	405%	297%	108%
BITTER CANYON, CASTAIC	4370 A4	CALIFORNIA SAGEBRUSH	199%	121%	78%
CLARK MOTORWAY, MALIBU	586 G7	BIGPOD CEANOTHUS	147%	137%	10%
GLENDORA RIDGE, GLENDORA	569 E1	HOARYLEAF CEANOTHUS	95%	100%	-5%
MALIBU CHAMISE (average)			113%	92%	21%
SANTA CLARITA CHAMISE (average)			87%	71%	16%
ALL AREAS ALL FUELS (average)			137%	111%	26%

- LFM is calculated by the formula (Live Sample Weight–Dry Sample Weight)/Dry Sample Weight.
- 60 % is generally recognized as approaching a critical level of live-fuel moisture.
- The North County sites were sampled 2/7/13, West County 2/5/13 and East 2/6/13.

Angeles National Forest

Date	Location	Elevation	Species	Old	New	Average	Trend
2/3/13	Mt. Baldy Village	4,279	Manzanita			93%	+7
2/3/13	Glendora Motorway	2,400	Chamise			81%	+11
1/13/13	Lake Hughes	2,090	Chamise	65%	83%	74%	+14
2/1/13	Gold Creek (Little T)	2,000	Chamise	69%	72%	70%	+4

Riverside Unit (No Report)

Orange County

Fuels continue to show signs of growth and increasing moisture, with the sage showing significant increase. The new growth chamise has finally begun to exhibit an increase in fuel moisture, though the old growth still seems reluctant to move too far toward green-up. ERC values bumped during the warm, dry weather recently, but have dropped back to below average. The finer fuels remain green. There are some areas showing a freeze-kill in the sumac and to a lesser extent, the live oak, which has added additional dead fuel loading. At the higher elevations, chamise is also showing signs of freeze-kill. **Within Orange County, expect minimal fire potential within the narrow burn period of winter.**

