

# 2017 Wildfire Outlook



**DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL**

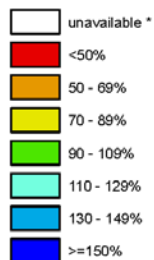


# Current Snow Pack

Apr 18, 2017

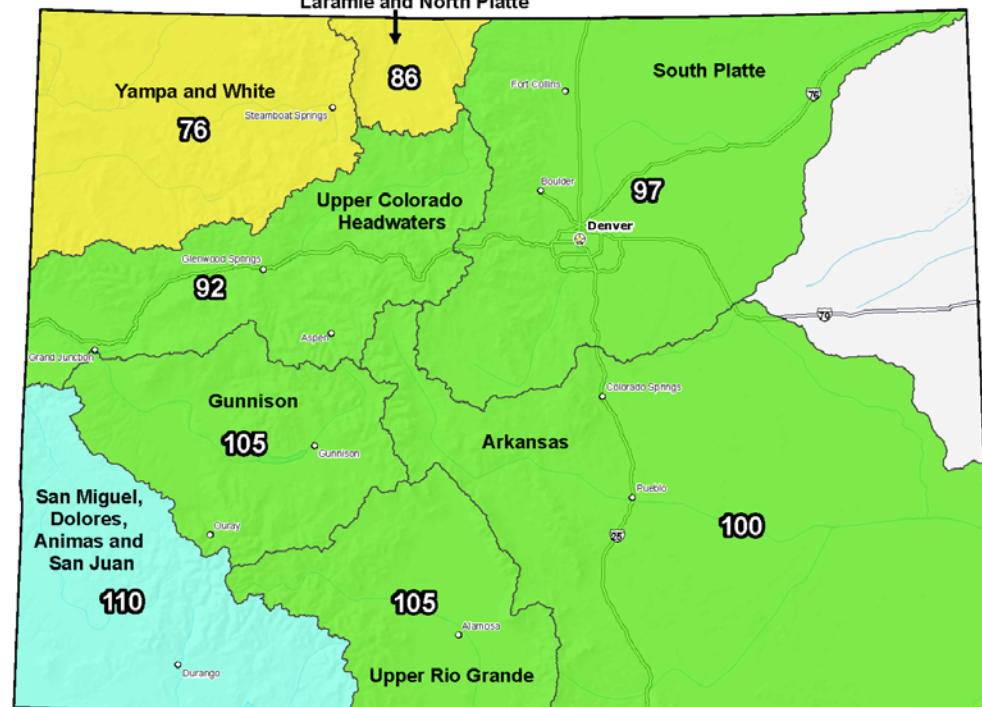
Colorado  
SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal  
Laramie and North Platte

Current Snow Water  
Equivalent (SWE)  
Basin-wide Percent  
of 1981-2010 Median



\* Data unavailable at time  
of posting or measurement  
is not representative at this  
time of year

Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision



0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current  
snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin  
compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on  
the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

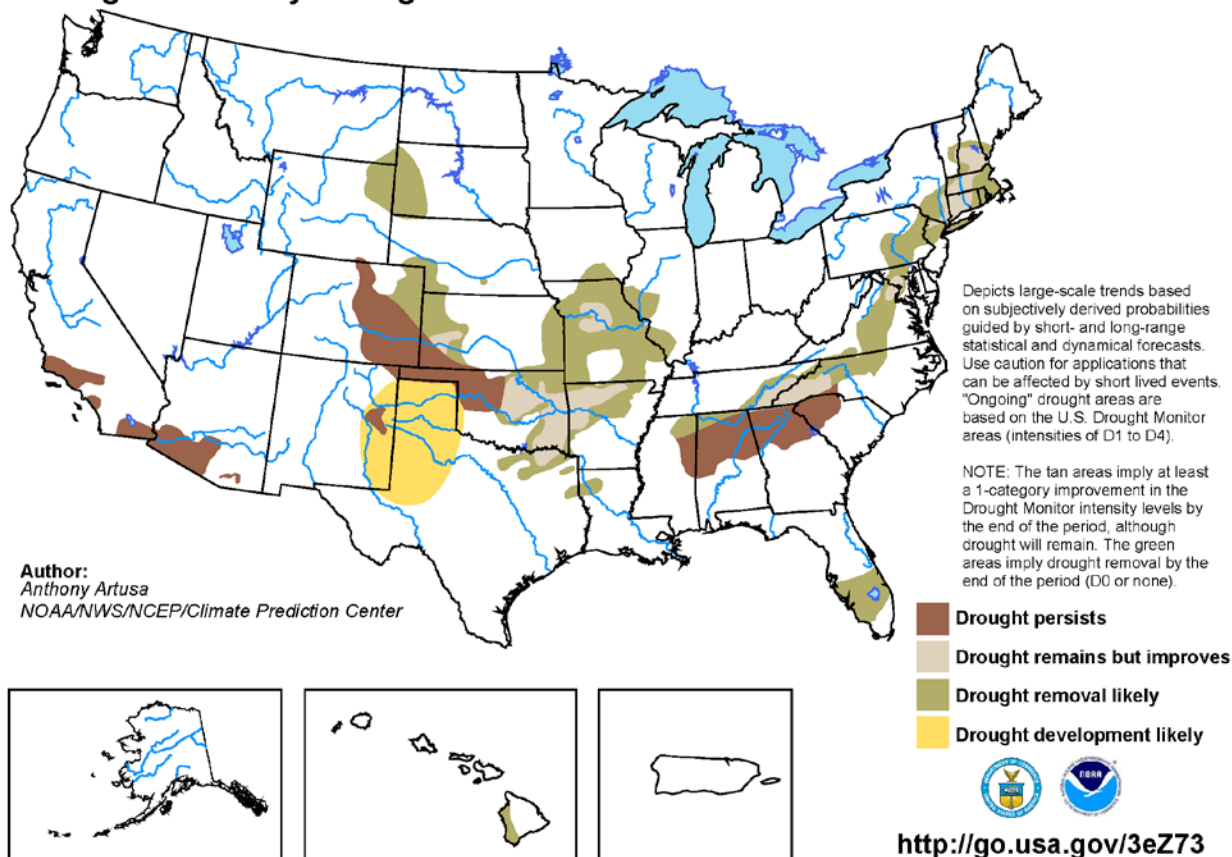
Prepared by:  
USDANRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>



# Drought Outlook

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

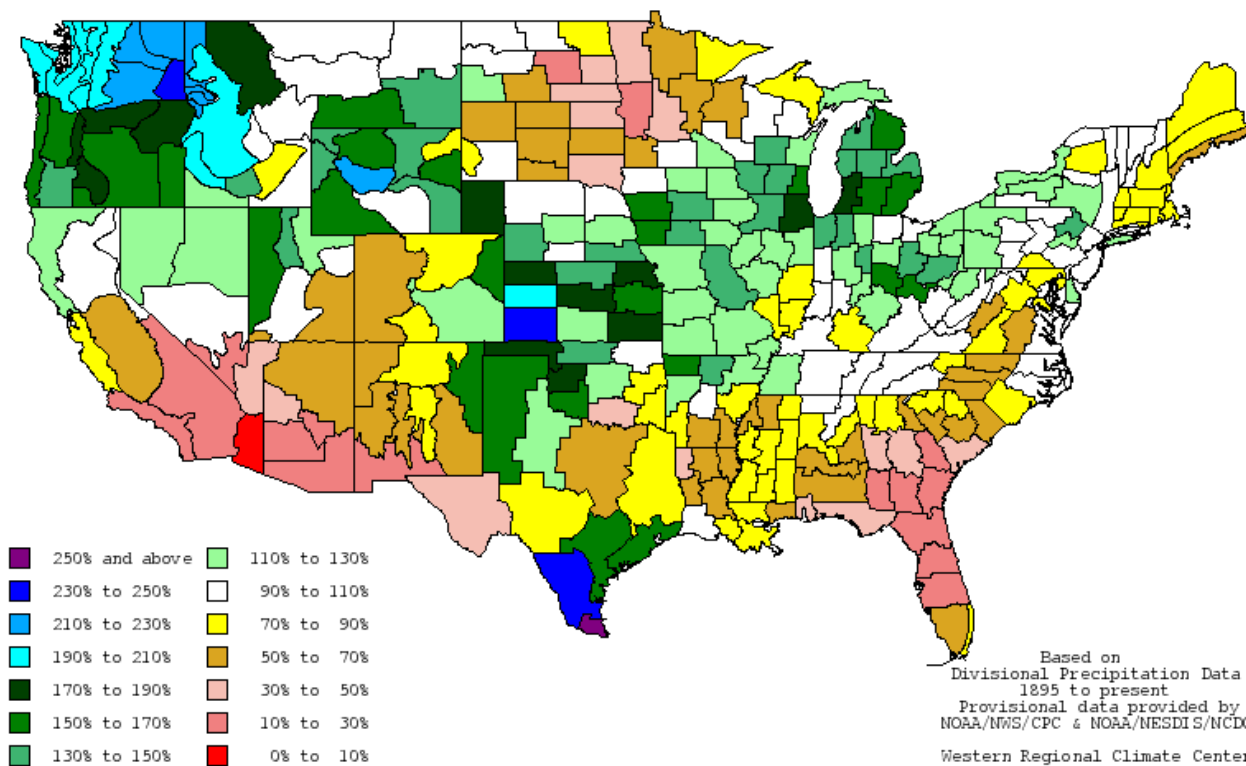
Valid for March 16 - June 30, 2017  
Released March 16, 2017





# 30 Day % of Average Precip

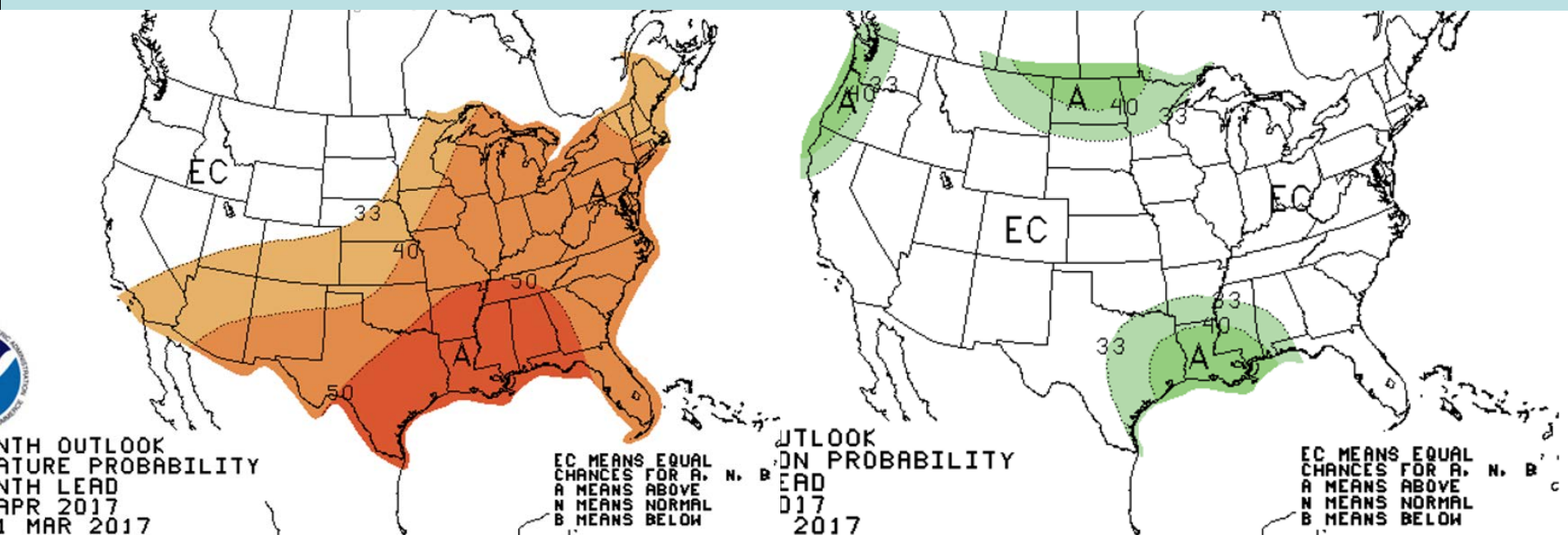
1-month Percent of Average Precipitation through the end of March 2017



Based on  
Divisional Precipitation Data  
1895 to present  
Provisional data provided by  
NOAA/NWS/CPC & NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC  
Western Regional Climate Center  
Desert Research Institute  
Reno, Nevada

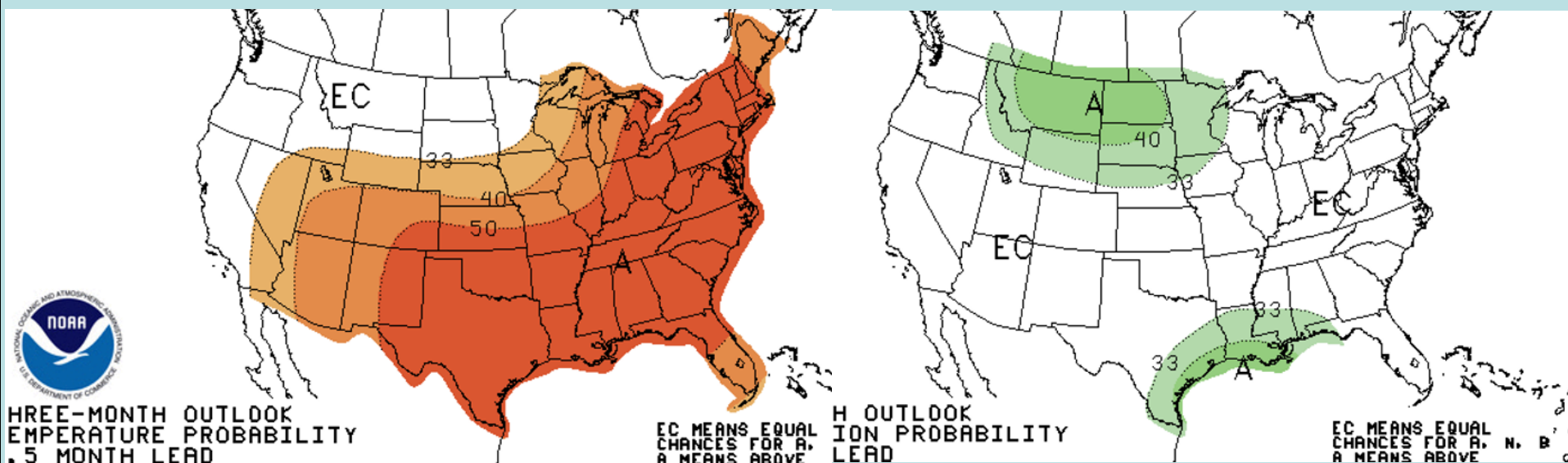


# Temp and Precip Outlooks (30)





# Temp and Precip Outlooks (90)

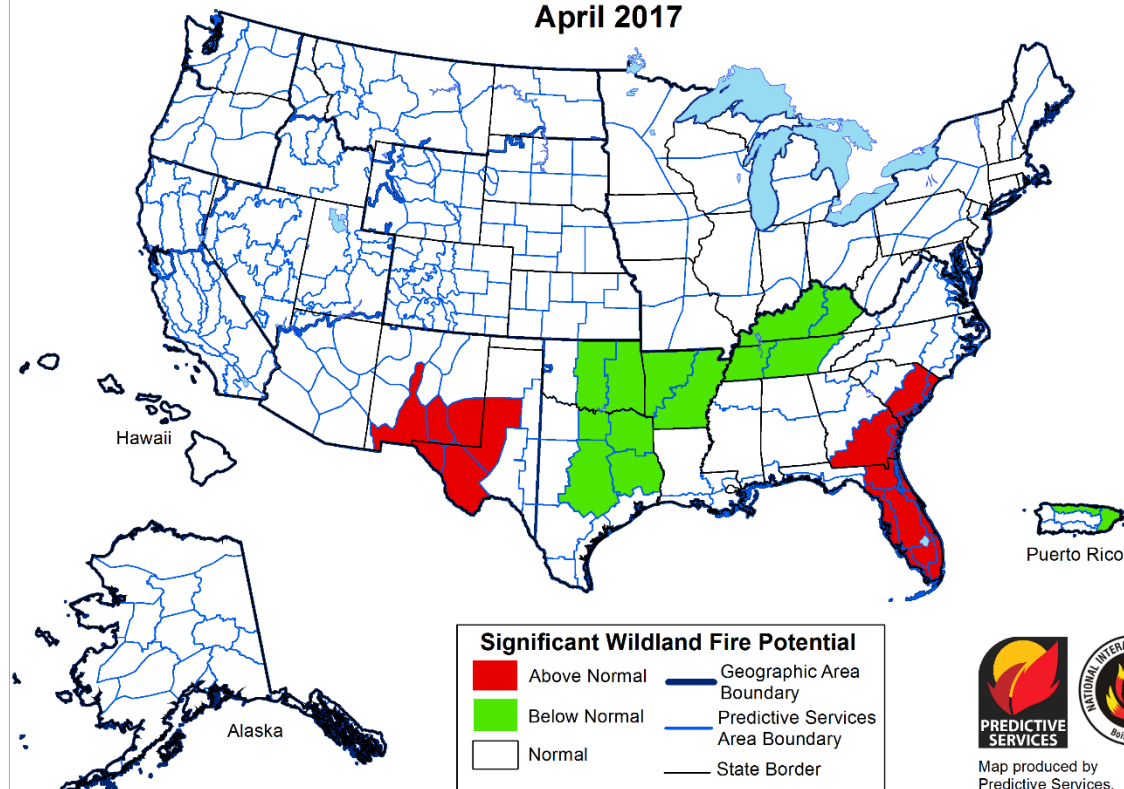


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# Fire Potential Outlooks

## Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook April 2017



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

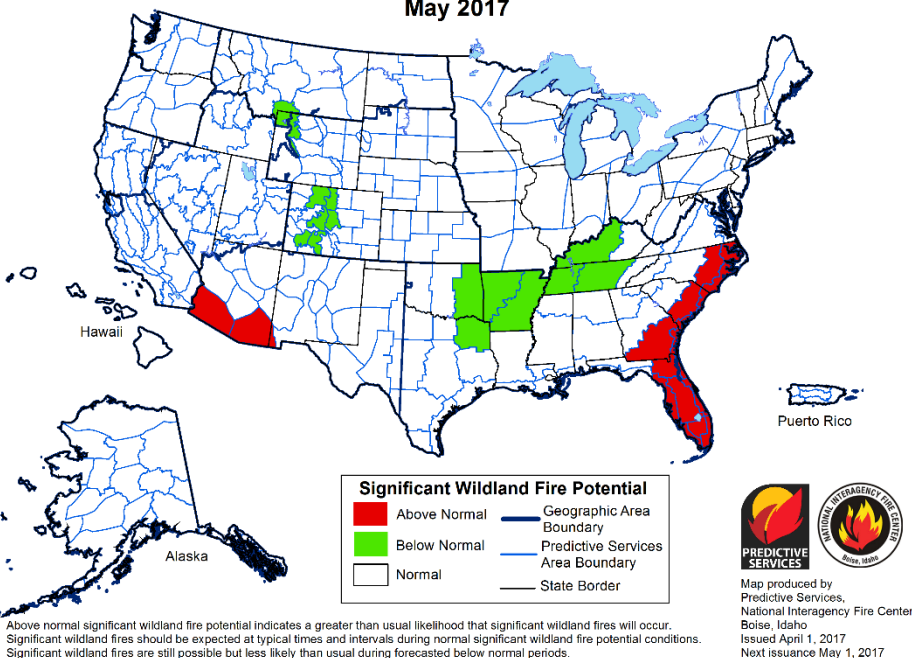


Map produced by  
Predictive Services,  
National Interagency Fire Center  
Boise, Idaho  
Issued April 1, 2017  
Next issuance May 1, 2017

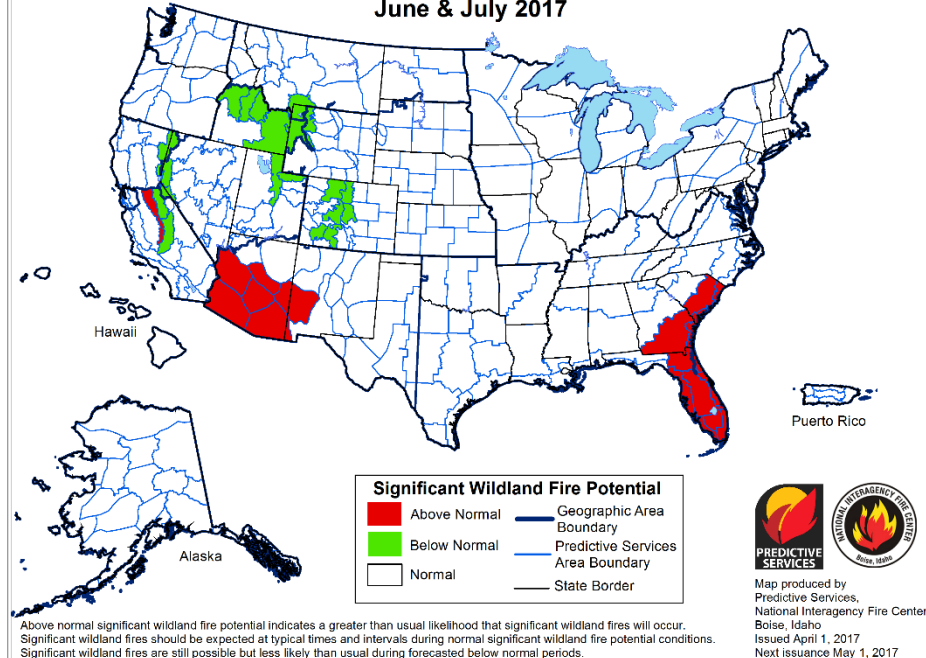


# Fire Potential Outlooks

**Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
May 2017**



**Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
June & July 2017**





# Outlooks

## Fuels:

An abundant dead grass and brush fuel component remains in place in the lower elevations and foothills of the Rocky Mountain Area. However, green-up conditions are anticipated to expand in the lower elevations and grasslands during April, reducing the threat of fire activity as the month progresses. Fuel-beds are under snow cover across most RMA mountain locations, with snowpack values above to well above the historical median.



# Outlooks

## Considerations:

As a result of precipitation received during the second half of March into early April, and also forecast through mid April, the large fire risk forecast for April this year is for an average trend of decreasing potential as green-up expands during the month in the lower elevations.



# Outlooks

However, until green-up becomes more prevalent, expect pre-frontal warm, dry and windy conditions at times to keep short duration grass fires a threat across the grasslands of the eastern plains, although not as extreme as what was experienced in February and March.

Large fire risk in the mountains of western Wyoming and Colorado is anticipated to get off to a later than average start to its' core fire season, and overall below average large fire risk is predicted from May through June as a result of recent and forecast precipitation as well as from residual effects of above median snowpack lingering during the spring.

For the lower elevations and foothills of the RMA, the expectation is for average large fire potential during the entire 120 day (April-July) period.



# Questions/Comments



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