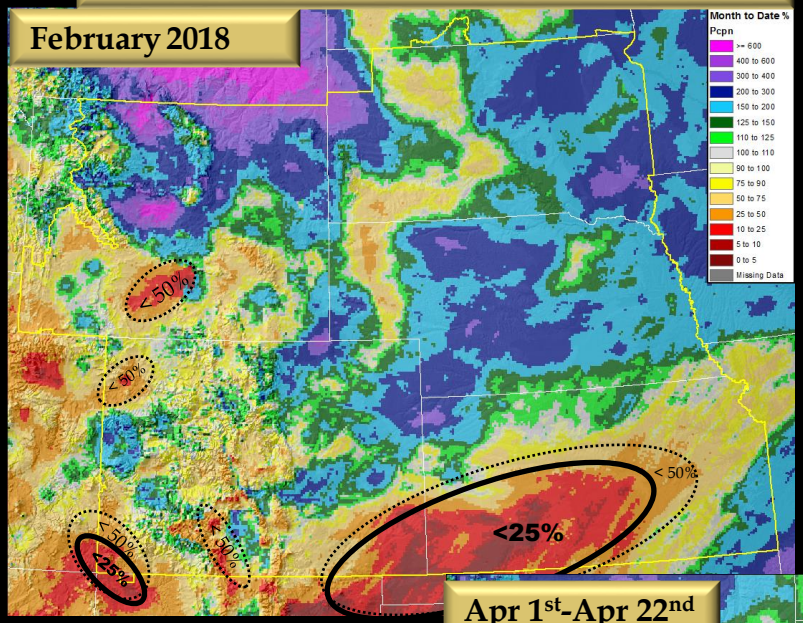
30-120 Day Outlook *Percent of Average Precipitation*

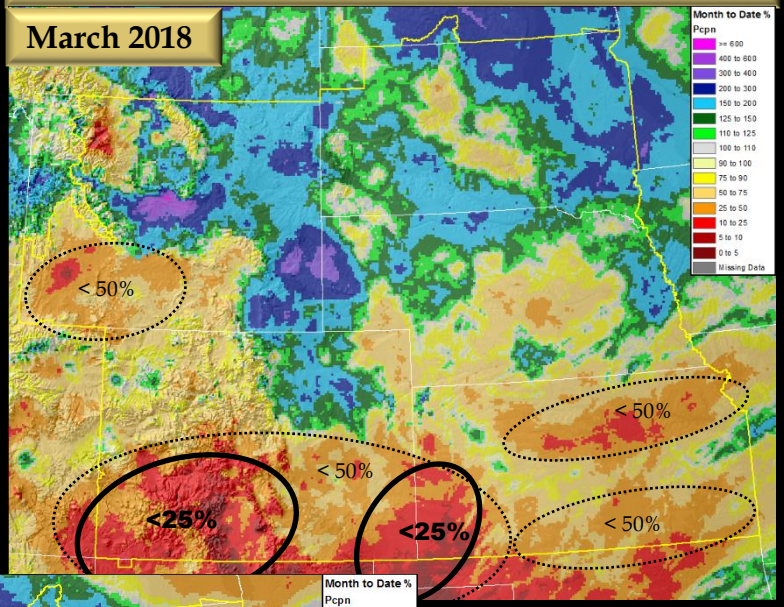
PREDICTIVE SERVICES

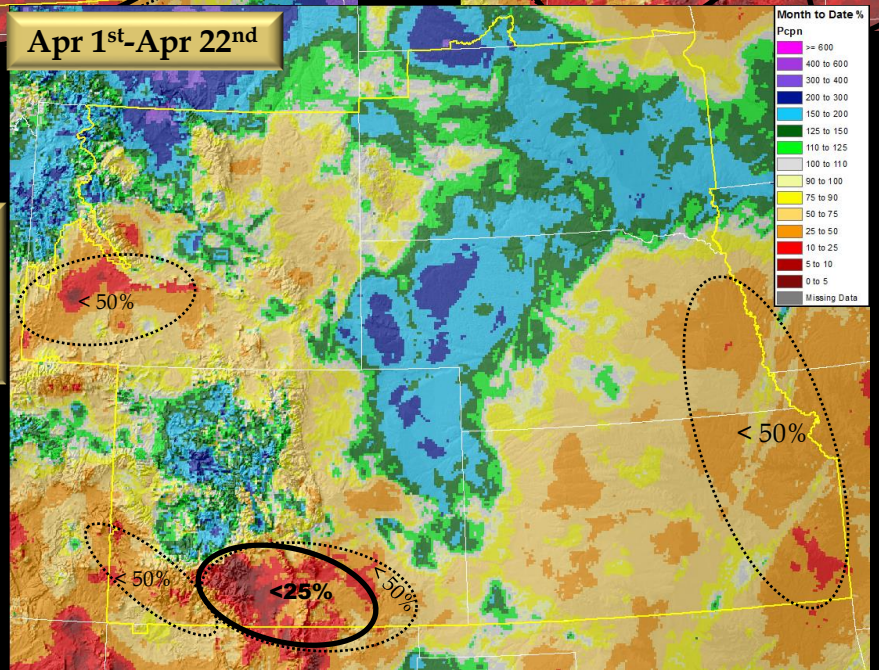
Significantly below average February amounts were in place across southwest/south-central KS, and in areas west of the continental divide (mainly southwest CO).

Precipitation decreased in March with large areas of deficits across the southern half of CO, and to a lesser degree scattered across western and southern portions of the RMA.

Precipitation in April saw some relief where it has been dry over southwest KS and the southeast corner of corner of CO. Otherwise, deficits this month are most notable in south-central CO.



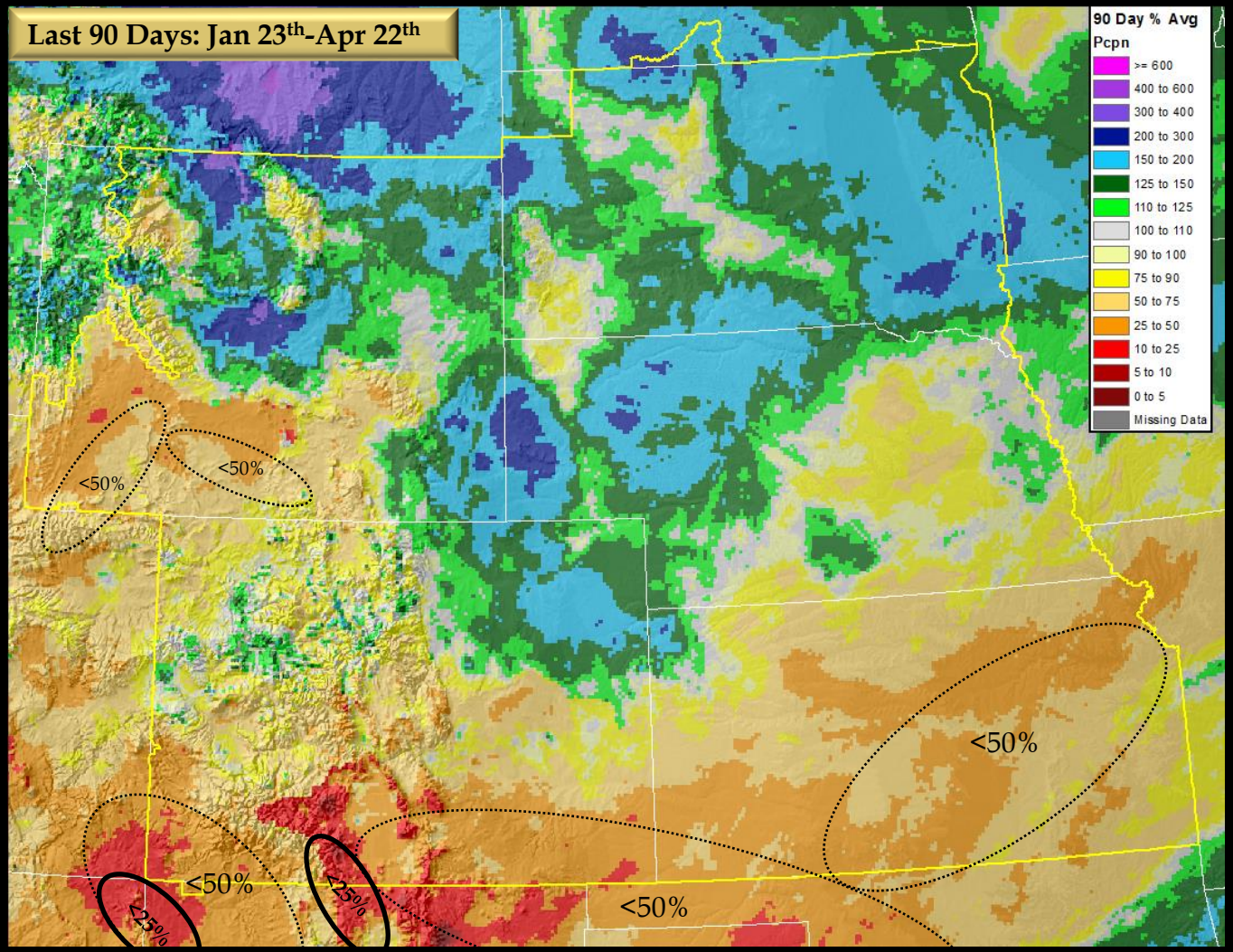




30-120 Day Fire Potential Outlook

Long Term Percent of Average Precipitation

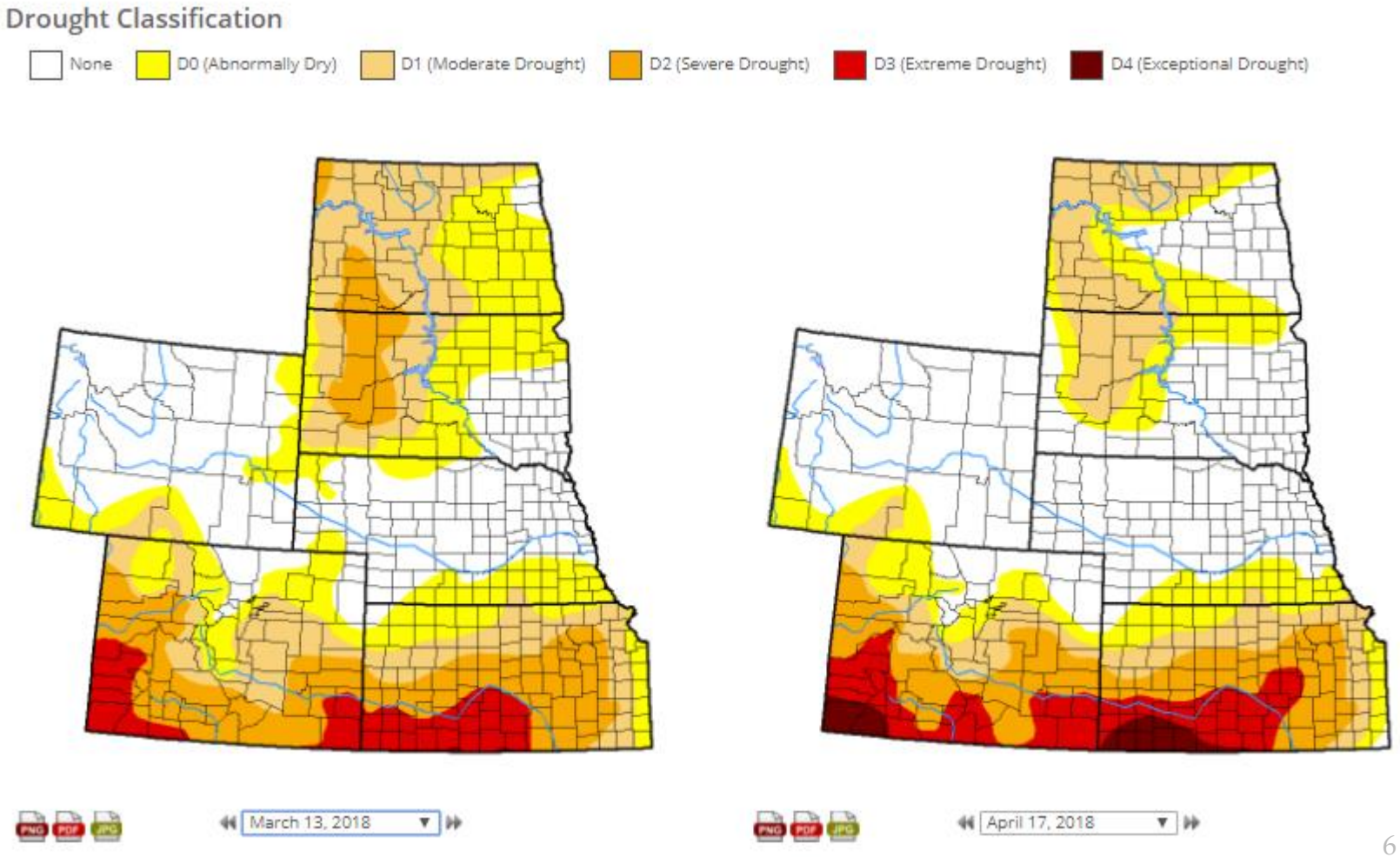
Long range precipitation deficits are greatest across southern portions of the geographic area, especially with below 25% of average in portions of south-central and southwest CO.



30-120 Day Fire Potential Outlook

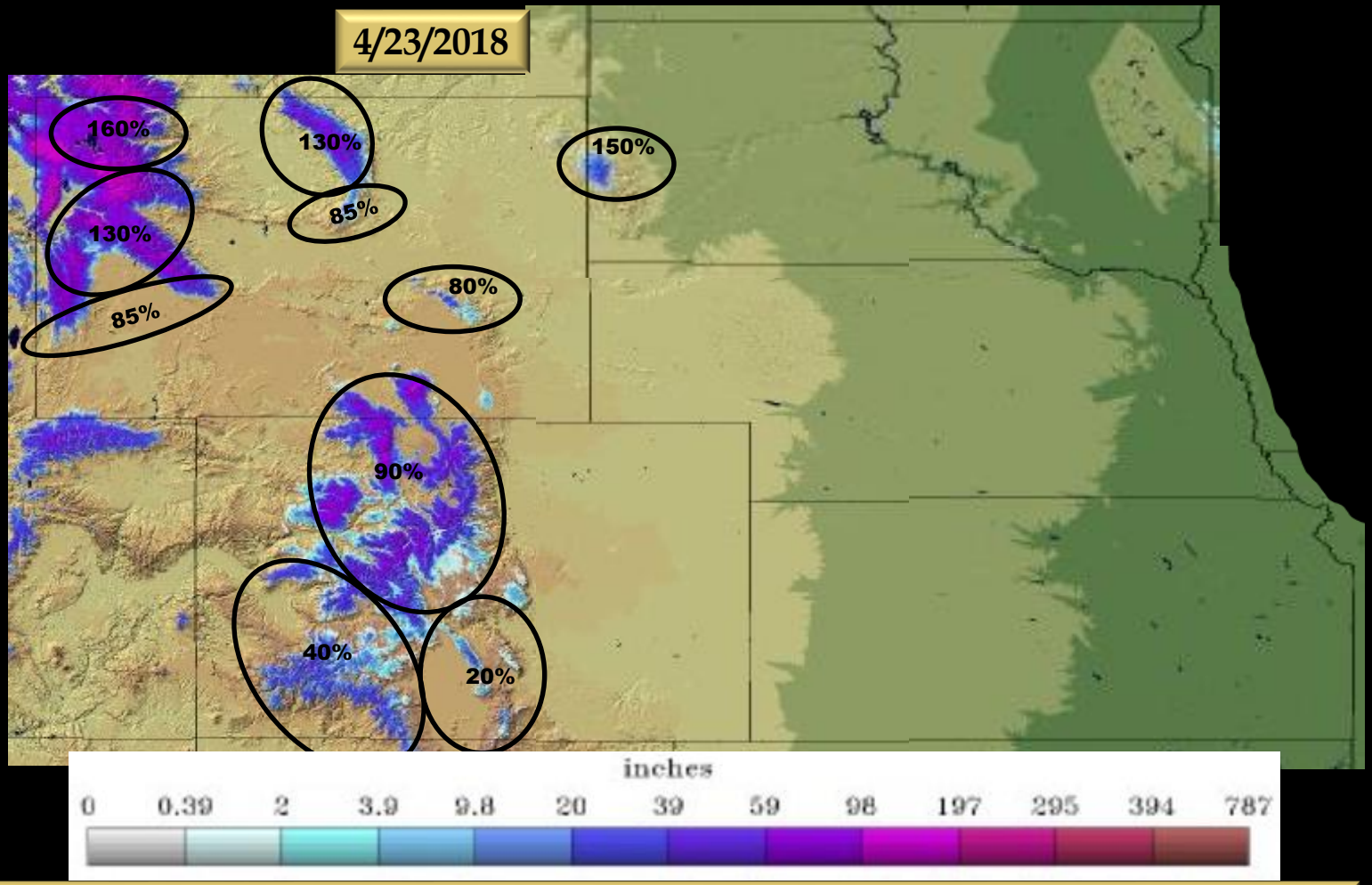
Long Term Drought from the National Drought Mitigation Center

Long range drought trends have shown worsening indices in southern portions of the area, with worst case "Exceptional" ratings over southwest KS and southwest CO. Drought in northern portions of the RMA have shown improvement over the last 30 days.



30-120 Day Fire Potential Outlook

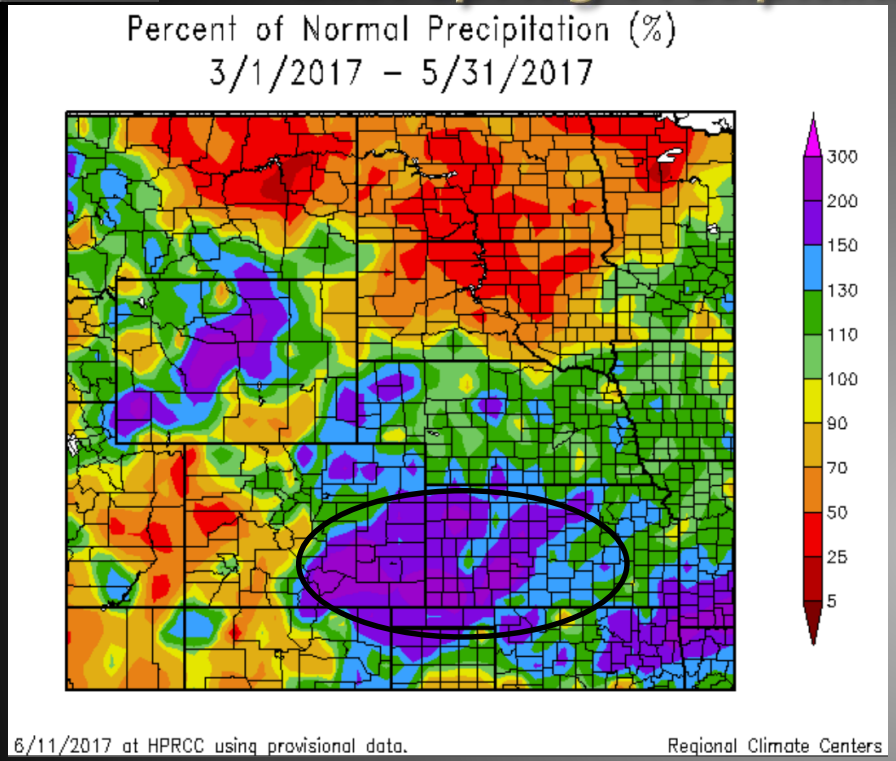
Snow Depth and Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Median

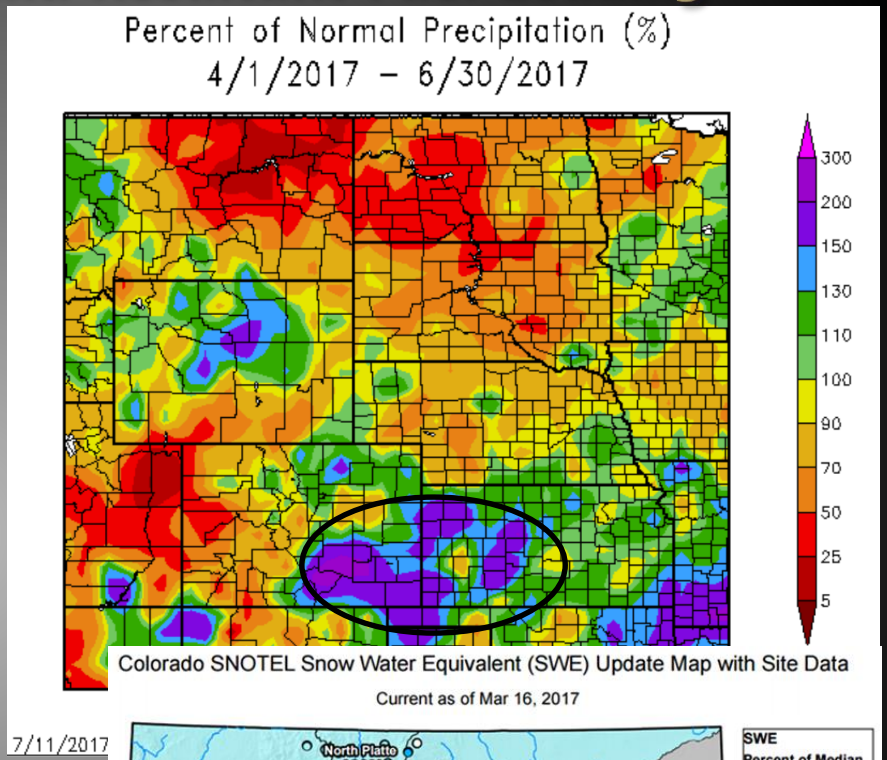


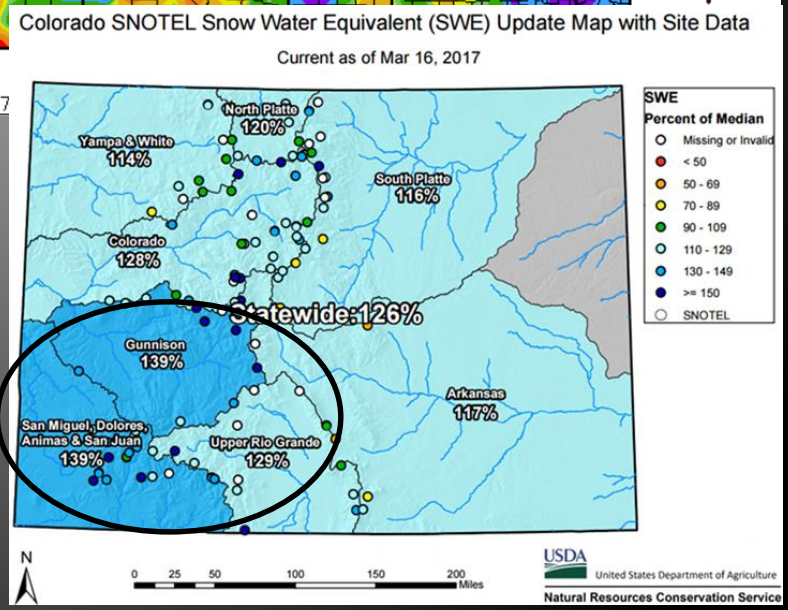
Snow depth analysis (NOAA, Office of Water Prediction) shows in excess of 60″-100″ across the mountains of northern CO into southern WY **(90% of median)**, and also 60″-100″ in the Big Horns of northern Wyoming **(130% of median).** In the southwest CO mountains depths were 20″-50″ **(40% of median),** and only 10″-30″ in the southern CO front range **(20% of median).** Across the Black Hills (mainly north) there was 20″-60″ **(150% of median)**. Northwest Wyoming mountains showed amounts over 100″ **(130% to 160% of median),** with 20″ to 60″ **(80-85% of median)** across central Wyoming Mountains.

Seasonal Outlook

Last Spring Precipitation and Resultant Fuel Loading



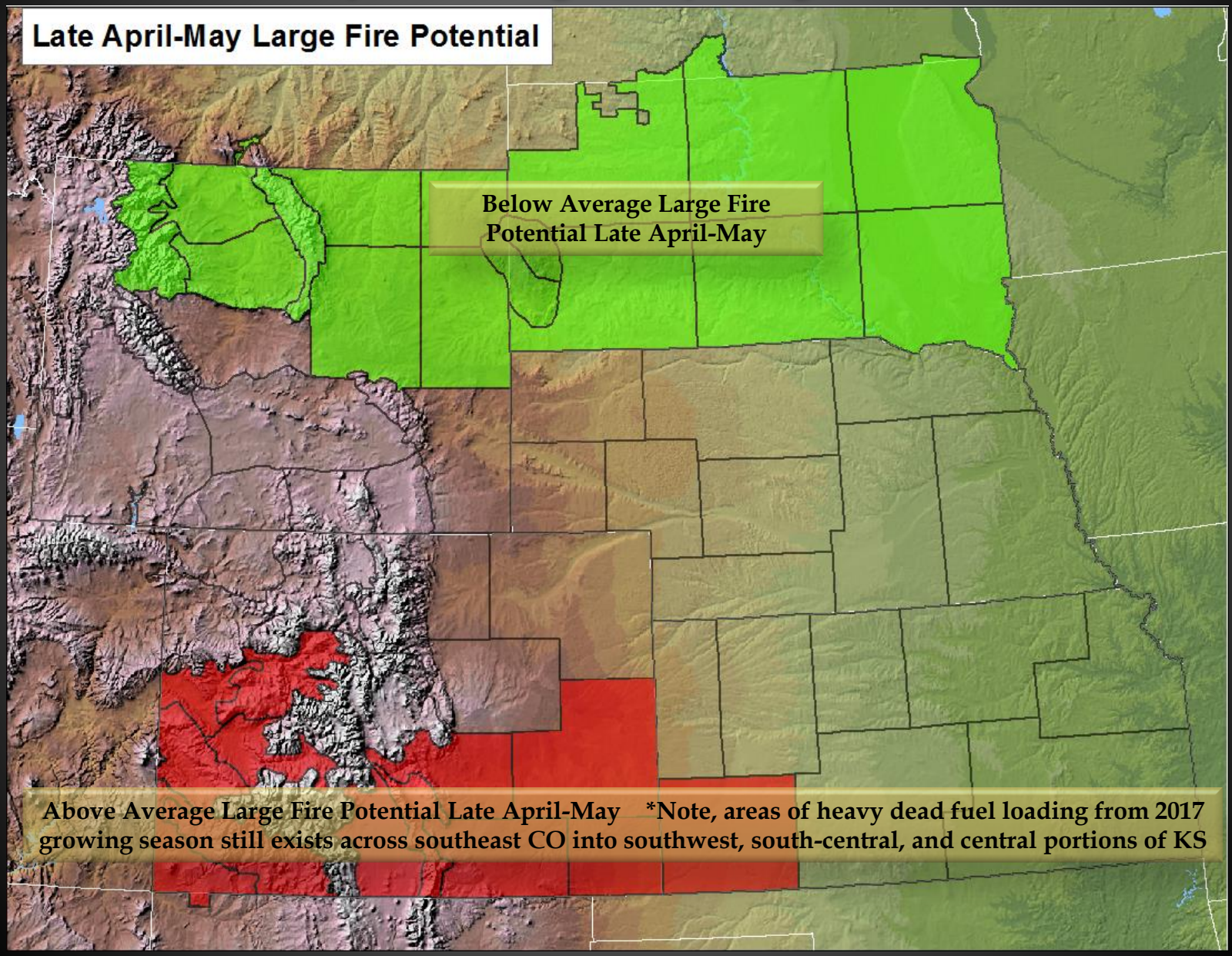




2017 spring precipitation and associated growing season have contributed to above average fuel loads this year across southeast Colorado and much of Kansas. Across west-southwest Colorado, 2017 snowpack was above average producing average to above average fuel loading in the mountains, especially considering limited compaction of fuels from the lack of snowpack this year.

30-120 Day Fire Potential Outlook

Late April through May Large Fire Potential

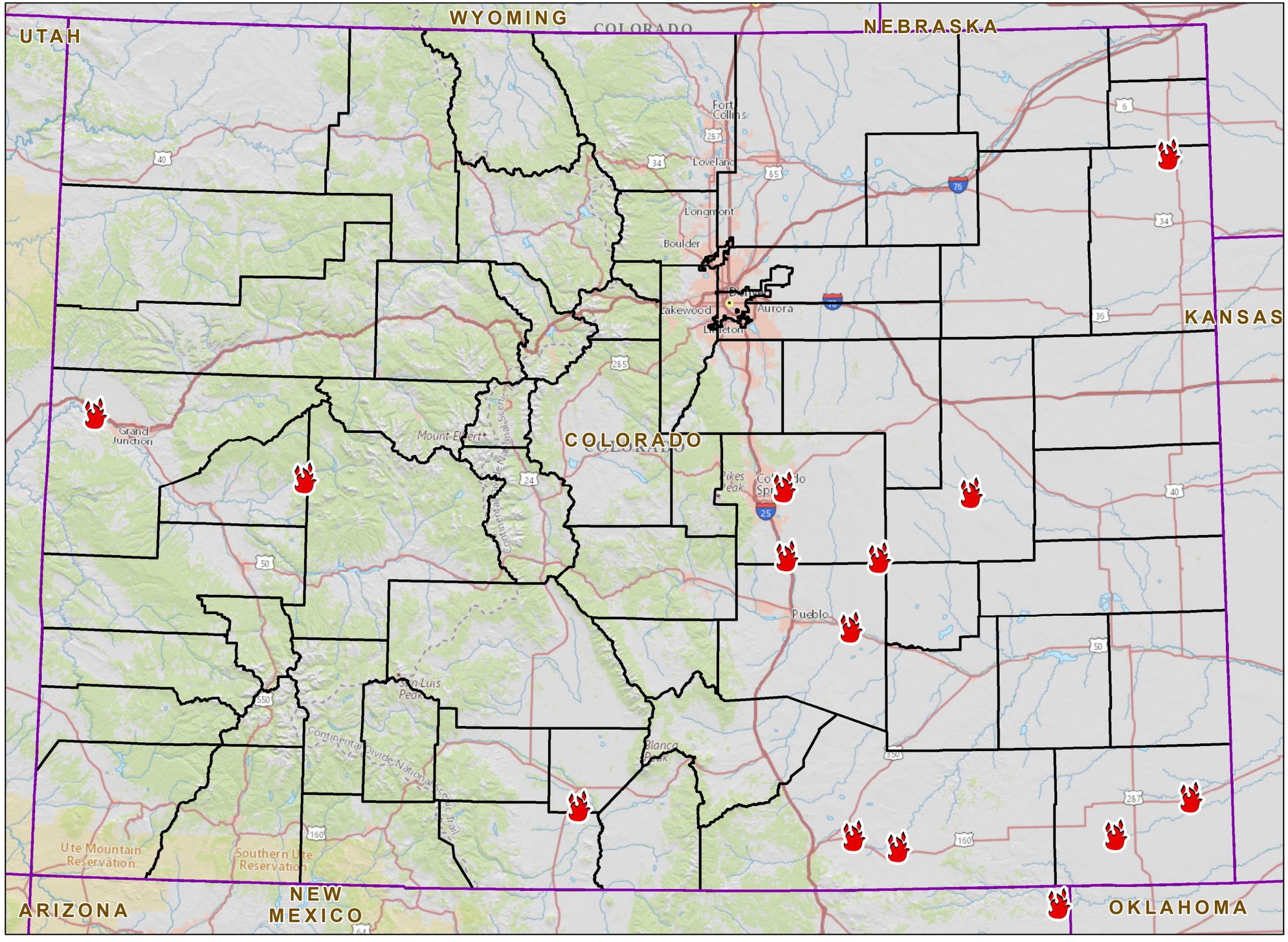


COLORADO
Division of Fire Prevention & Control
Department of Public Safety

April Large Fires

County Boundaries

State Boundaries



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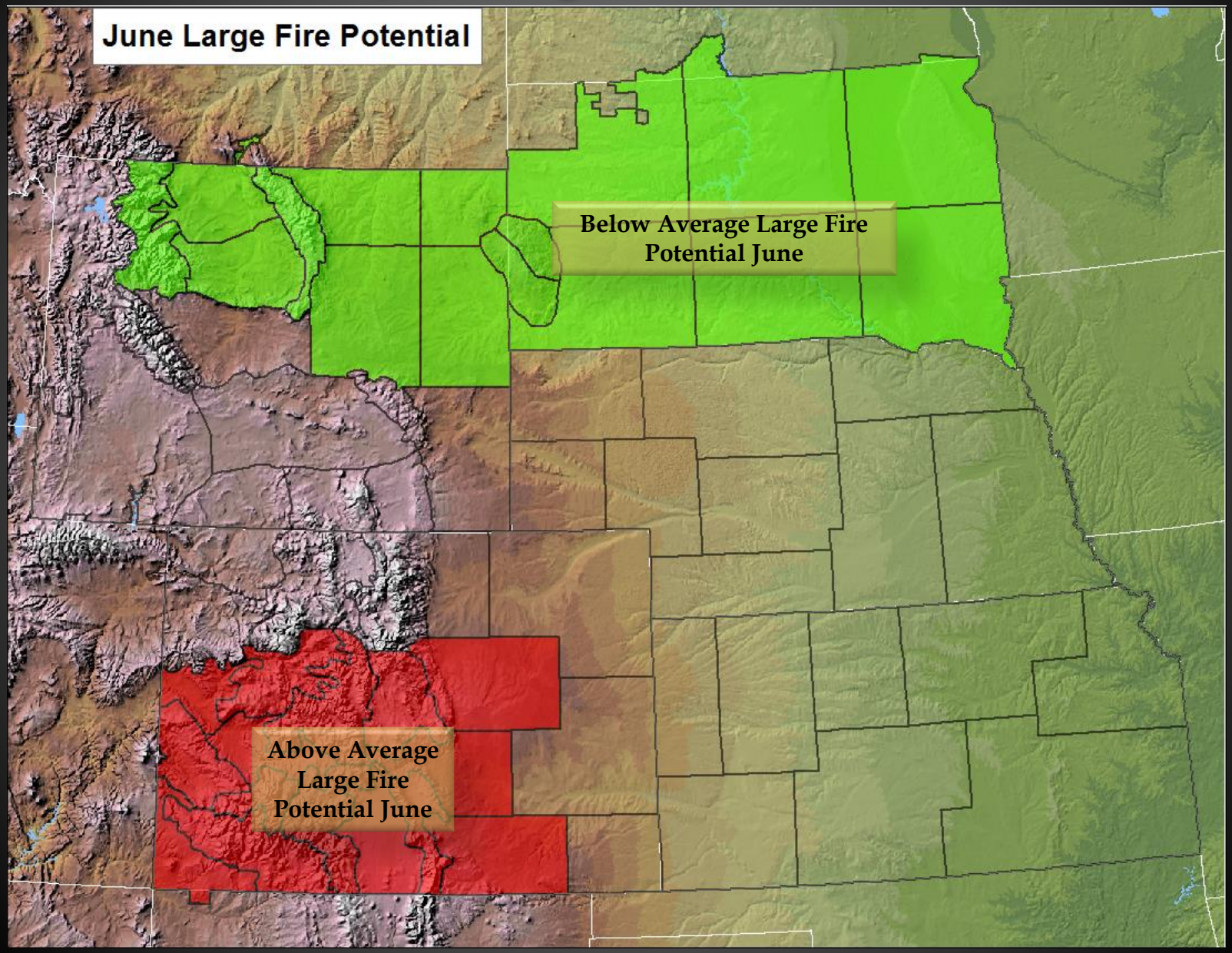
0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

Fire	Date	Acreage	Fuel
Highway 24	4/3/2018	385.00	Grass
Double Fork	4/14/2018	788.00	Grass/Timber
County Road 56	4/15/2018	1,783.00	Grass
Badger Hole	4/19/2018	50,529.00	Grass
Broken Ranch	04/18/2018	4,774.00	Grass
Edison	04/18/2018	5,065.00	Grass
Hwy 94	04/17/2018	7,243.00	Grass
MM 117	04/18/2018	42,564.00	Grass
Skipper Island	04/20/2018	219.00	Grass/Timber
Alamosa	04/17/2018	285.00	Grass/Timber
Trinchera	04/18/2018	726.00	Grass
		114,361.00	

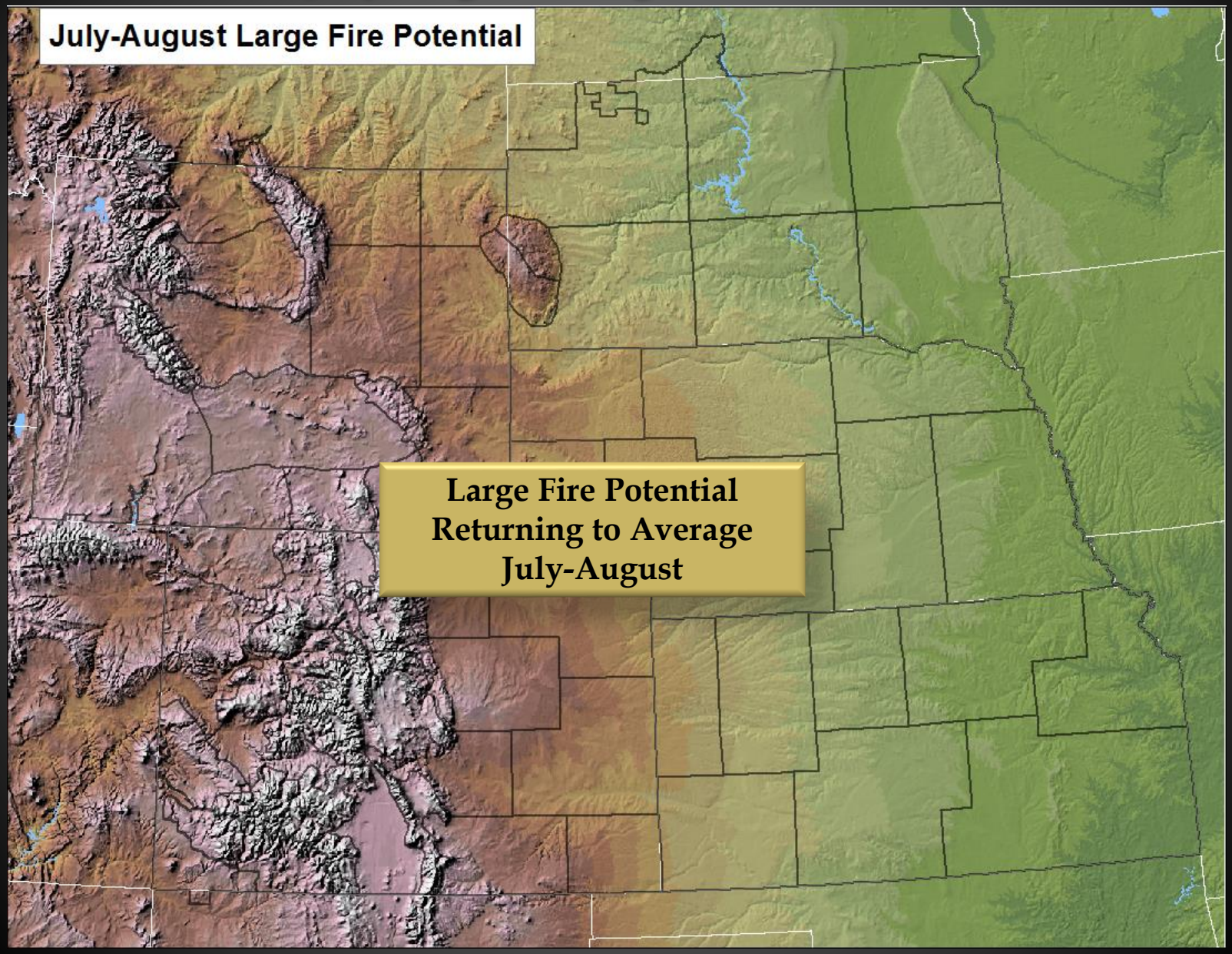
30-120 Day Fire Potential Outlook

June Large Fire Potential



30-120 Day Fire Potential Outlook

July-August Large Fire Potential



30-120 Day Fire Potential Outlook-Summary

Current Climatology

Long/medium range precipitation deficits are greatest across southern portions of the geographic area, especially with below 25% of average in portions of south-central and southwest CO. Exceptional to extreme drought exists across southern portions of the Rocky Mountain area. Drought improvement trends have occurred across northern portions of the RMA where precipitation has been significantly above average.

Fuels

Fuels available to burn this time of year are primarily categorized by dry grass and brush in the lower elevations of the geographic area. Unusually dry conditions have resulted in a late/stunted green-up across southern Colorado and Kansas. Average green-up conditions are expected across the remainder of the area from south to north as spring progresses. Wetter than average spring months in 2017 have resulted in significant fuel loading across the plains, especially where green-up struggles to overtake existing dead grasses from central to south-central and southwest Kansas into southeast Colorado. Fuel loading in the mountains of southern Colorado are expected to exhibit above average fuel loading as a result of above average 2017 snowpack, especially considering compaction of these dead fuels is limited due to year's very low to historically low snowpack. Snow-pack deficits in the southern Colorado mountains are resulting in exposed fuels that are typically under snow this time of year.

Weather Predictions

Short term model forecast precipitation for late April into early May are reflective of an active storm track across the geographic area generating rain and mountain snow at times, which could help with short-term green up, but little with long term drought. In the southern portion of the RMA, long range forecasts favor above average temperatures in combination with drier than average conditions for May and June. Moisture from the southwest monsoon is expected to moderate fire potential back into the average range over southern Colorado after the early portion of July, and continuing through August.

Considerations and Fire Season Outlook

Above average fire activity is expected to continue through May over southeast portions Colorado into southwest Kansas, and expand across much of west-central and southern Colorado as a result of extreme to exceptional drought and a late/stunted green-up. Continued drought and predicted temperature and precipitation patterns during May, above average fuel loading, and occasional warm, dry and windy periods are expected to exacerbate the above average fire risk areas at times. Areas of heavy fuel loading is most notable across central to south-central and southwest Kansas into southeast Colorado where green-up struggles to overtake existing dead grasses. During June above average fire risk is predicted to expand across much of central to southern Colorado due to continued drought with persistent warm and dry forecasts overall. A seasonal increase in moisture from the southwest monsoon is predicted to moderate large fire risk closer to average during July and August across central to southern Colorado. Snowpack is near historical minimums over the mountains of southern Colorado, and above average large fire activity (especially June) is highly correlated to years with very low spring snowpack; conversely several reporting sites over northern Wyoming (especially northwest) show values at or near historical maxima. The high snowpack and a wetter than average spring in combination with average precipitation and temperatures forecasts point towards below average large fire risk across northern portions of the area through June. The RMA forecast for large fire acres burned during the core fire season (June-August) is near to above average, and well above the median value. Core fire season acres burned for the geographic area has not been above average since 2012.