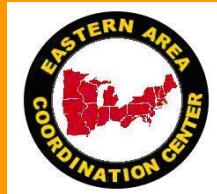


MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

Eastern Area

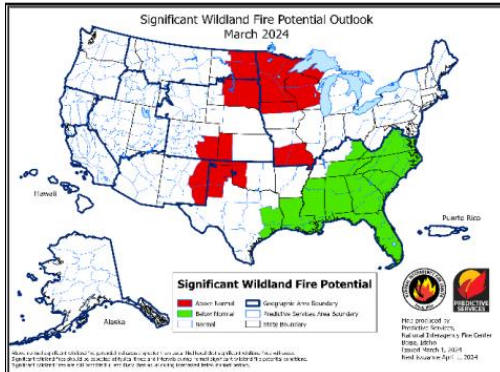


Updated: March 7, 2024

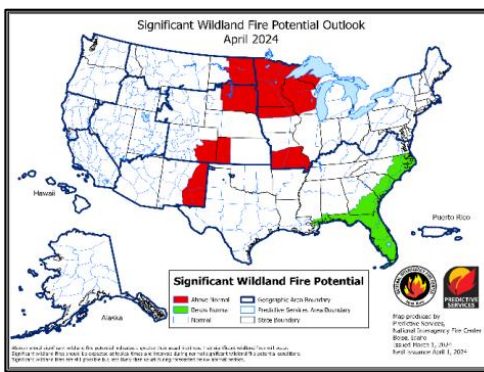
Valid: March - May 2024

Fire Potential Outlooks

March 2024



April 2024



May 2024



Predictive Services Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

Temperature

MAR



APR



MAY



JUN



Below Normal =



Above Normal =



Precipitation

MAR



APR



MAY



JUN

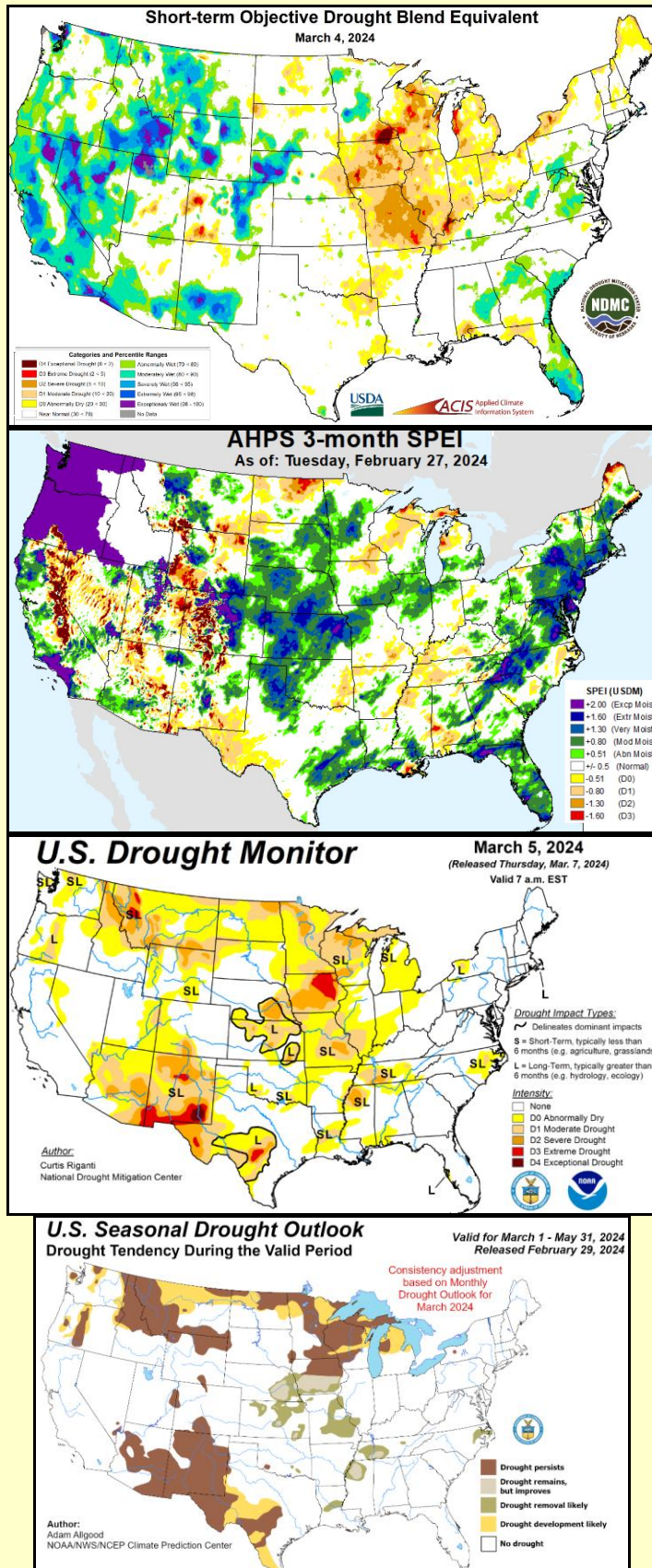


Below Normal =



Above Normal =





Discussion

Normal fire potential is forecast across the majority of the Eastern Area through June 2024, with significant fire activity/above normal wildfire potential across the Upper Mississippi Valley, central Great Lakes, and portions of the western Mid-Mississippi Valley March into April. 30 to 60 day negative precipitation anomalies were indicated across the much of Minnesota, northwestern Wisconsin, the UP of Michigan, and the central and northeastern tiers of the Northeast towards the end of February 2024. Longer term drought remained in place across portions of the Mississippi Valley and the northeastern Great Lakes towards the end of February. In addition, below normal snowpack was in place across the northern tier of the Eastern Area towards the end of February.

Weather/Climate Trend Outlook Discussion:

The El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is forecast to transition from an El Nino to an ENSO neutral sea surface temperature regime this spring into June, and then La Nina conditions through the rest of the summer of 2024. Other sea surface temperature regimes also contribute to global weather patterns adding to some uncertainty in long term weather forecasts. With El Nino conditions expected to persist through the rest of the winter through the spring season, the north central portions of the Lower 48 United States will likely continue to experience above normal temperature trends. Precipitation trends are more uncertain but drier than normal trends across the Upper Mississippi Valley and north central Great Lakes may persist into the spring season.

Fuels:

Normal fire potential is forecast for the eastern tier of the Eastern Area through the outlook period. For the western tier, including Michigan and Indiana, fire season has had an early beginning and potential for increased and potentially significant fire activity is present due to continued above normal temperature trends and snow off conditions normal for April occurring at the end of February. Exposed fine fuels and tall grasses that were not compressed under snow have become available to burn. Hot, dry, windy events and persistently strong winds will be a big determinant in both the potential for increased and significant fire activity during the outlook period. Early green up or lack of curing of grasses from a warm and predominantly snow free fall and early winter may temper the fire potential from an early snow melt in some areas. Long term drought as shown in the Drought Monitor continues to exist in the western tier but is not expected to become a driving factor until green up starts occurring which is likely to be earlier than normal during this outlook period. Environmental conditions for both prescribed burning and wildfire will be present simultaneously during the outlook period trending towards a truncated burning season due to early green up and even early wildlife migration.

Summary:

Longer term drought, negative soil moisture and precipitation anomalies remained in place across portions of the Mississippi Valley and the western and central Great Lakes towards the end of February 2024. If these areas continue to experience below normal precipitation and above normal temperature trends through the 2024 spring season, these areas are likely to experience periods of above normal fire potential. Below normal snowpack was in place over the northern tier of the Eastern Area towards the end of February which is leading to an earlier than normal onset of the 2024 spring fire season.



Eastern Area Predictive Services

Steve Marien: Fire Weather Program Manager

Email: Stephen_Marien@nps.gov

Cheryl Bright: Fire Analyst - Email: Cheryl.Bright@bia.gov