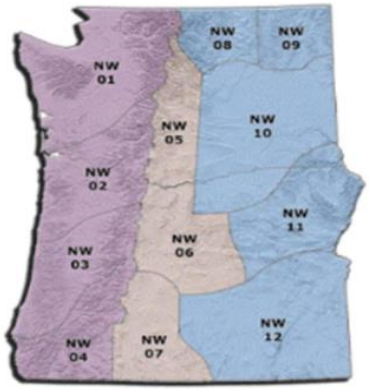
NWCC Northwest Interagency Coordination Center

Fuel Status

Northwest Predictive Service Areas



West Side PSAs:	NW01	NW02	NW03	NW04	
Central PSAs:	NW05	NW06	NW07		
East Side PSAs:	NW08	NW09	NW10	NW11	NW12

Updated: Wednesday, Oct 18, 2023, 10:16

Geographic Area Wide:

A series of significant fronts crossed the geographic area in late September bringing widespread precipitation. From the Cascades westward, heavy rains zeroed out the ERCs. Precipitation was lighter east of the Cascades and ERCs dropped to the minimal values typical for late September.

With above average temperatures the first part of October, fuels dried out and returned to below average values west of the Cascades and average values on the east side. Another series of fronts passed pushing fuel moistures to above average values for mid-October. Thousand-hour fuels moved above the threshold for significant fires in all areas except the central PSAs.

The drought status has shown improvement west of the Cascades over the last several weeks whereas drought status on the east side has changed very little.

Recent large fire activity has been minimal. The number of new ignitions for October is below average. Mountain snow has begun to accumulate.

The weather outlook is for a frontal system to bring another round of moisture followed by a warm and dry trend. Fuels are expected to remain close to average values for late October. Shorter days will limit the amount fuel drying.

NW01

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW01	ERC 6 1,000 hr. 22 100 hr. 26	Average Average Above	Several series of widespread wetting rains brought relief and improved drought conditions for the PSA. Precipitation totals ranged from 2-7 inches over the last 3 weeks and zeroed out ERCs in late October. The abundant precipitation penetrated the thick old growth canopies. Cured fuels and leaf fall have increased the fine fuel loading but moist conditions will keep the probability of new fires low for the short term. Forecasted warmer and drier conditions will allow ERCs and fuel moistures to rebound close to average vaules for the time of year. Existing monitor fires have shown minimal activity.	10/18/2023

NW02

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW02	ERC 5 1,000 hr. 21 100 hr. 27	Below Below Above	Widespread wetting rains brought relief and improved drought conditions for the PSA. Precipitation totals ranged from 2-7 inches over the last 3 weeks and zeroed out ERC values in early October. High elevation snow has occured. Cured fuels and leaf fall have increased the fine fuel loading but moist conditions will keep the probability of new fires low for the short term. Forecasted warmer and drier conditions will allow ERCs and fuel moistures to rebound close to average vaules for the time of year. The Camp Creek fire has shown minimal activity.	10/18/2023

NW03

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW03	ERC 5 1,000 hr. 21 100 hr. 27	Below Average Above	Multiple rounds of moisture brought 2-5 inches of precipiation over the last 3 weeks and zeroed out ERC values in early October. Persistent large fires in the PSA increased in containment and have not shown any recent growth. East wind events have not been strong so far this fall and large fires have not been tested under warm, dry and windy conditions. Cured fuels and leaf fall have increased the fine fuel loading but moist conditions will keep the probability of new fires low for the short term. Forecasted warmer and drier conditions will allow ERCs and fuel moistures to rebound close to average values for the time of year.	10/18/2023

NW04

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW04	ERC 15 1,000 hr. 19 100 hr. 25	Below Above Above	Widespread wetting rains have brought 2-5 inches of precipiation over the last 3 weeks and improved drought conditions for the PSA. Persistent large fires in the PSA increased in containment and have not shown any recent growth. East wind events have not been strong so far this fall and large fires have not been tested under warm, dry and windy conditions. Cured fuels and leaf fall have increased the fine fuel loading but moist conditions will keep the probability of new fires low for the short term. Forecasted warmer and drier conditions will allow ERCs and fuel moistures to rebound close to average values for the time of year.	10/18/2023

NW05

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW05	ERC 22 1,000 hr. 17 100 hr. 18	Below Above Above	Recent precipitation dropped ERC values to below average levels keeping the probability of new fires low for the short term. Forecasted warmer and drier conditions will allow ERCs to rebound to above average levels for late October. 1000-hour fuel moistures are below the threshold for significant fires. Fuels at the lower elevations may have some periods of dryness that support fire activity. Overnight recovery will limit the ability for fires to burn for more than one burn period.	10/18/2023

NW06

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW06	ERC 16 1,000 hr. 18 100 hr. 21	Below Above Above	Drought impacts are continuing to affect fuels. 1000-hour fuel moistures are near the significant fire threshold. Recent precipitation dropped ERC values to seasonal minimal levels keeping the probability of new fires low for the short term. Forecasted warmer and drier conditions will allow ERCs and fuel moistures to rebound. Fuels at the lower elevations may have some periods of dryness that support fire activity in fine fuels and brush for a short duration. Overnight recovery and freezing overnight temperatures will limit the ability for fires to burn for more than one burn period.	10/18/2023

NW07

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW07	ERC 22 1,000 hr. 17 100 hr. 18	Below Above Above	Recent precipitation dropped ERC values to seasonal minimal levels keeping the probability of new fires low for the short term. Forecasted warmer and drier conditions will allow ERCs to rebound to average or above average values. 1000-hour fuel moistures are below the threshold for significant fires. Fuels at the lower elevations may have some periods of dryness that support fire activity in fine fuels and brush for a short duration. Overnight recovery and freezing overnight temperatures will limit the ability for fires to burn for more than one burn period.	10/18/2023

NW08

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW08	ERC 18 1,000 hr. 19 100 hr. 18	Below Above Above	ERCs are hovering near minimum values. Forecasted warmer and drier conditions will allow ERCs and fuel moistures to rebound close to average vaules for mid-October. Fuels at the lower elevations may have some periods of dryness that support fire activity in fine fuels and brush for a short duration. Overnight recovery will limit the ability for fires to burn for more than one burn period.	10/18/2023

NW09

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW09	ERC 11 1,000 hr. 20 100 hr. 22	Below Above Above	Fire potential overall has decreased after recent preciptitation. ERCs have remained below average. Periods of dryness have not allowed ERC to rebound to average values. Increased fire activity may occur with stronger winds or slope alignment.	10/18/2023

NW10

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW10	ERC 20 1,000 hr. 18 100 hr. 20	Below Above Above	The Columbia Basin has received less than half as much of the recent precipiatation as the surrounding areas. New starts have been minimal despite the drier conditions. Even with the forecasted warmer and drier conditions, ERCs and fuels not expected to recover to average conditions. Increased fire activity may occur with stronger winds or slope alignment.	10/18/2023

NW11

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW11	ERC 18 1,000 hr. 18 100 hr. 17	Below Above Above	Fire potential overall has decreased after recent preciptitation. ERC has remained below average. Periods of dryness have not allowed ERC to rebound to average values. Increased fire activity may occur with stronger winds or slope alignment.	10/18/2023

NW12

Back to top

PSA	ERC, 1000, 100 (average of Key Stations)	Relative to this time of Year	Remarks	Updated
NW12	ERC 21 1,000 hr. 16 100 hr. 16	Below Above Above	ERC values dropped to record low values due to the effects of Hurricane Hilary in late August and have had a hard time recovering since then. Increased fire activity may occur with stronger winds or slope alignment.	10/18/2023