

MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

Eastern Area



Updated: December 10, 2018

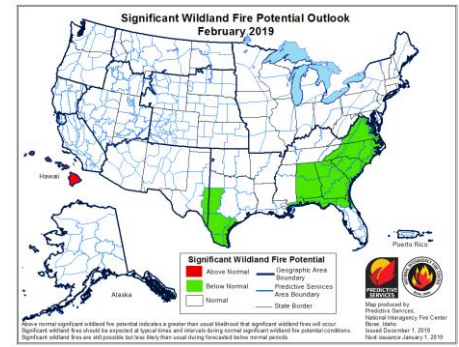
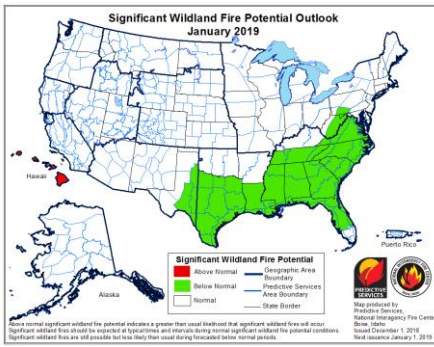
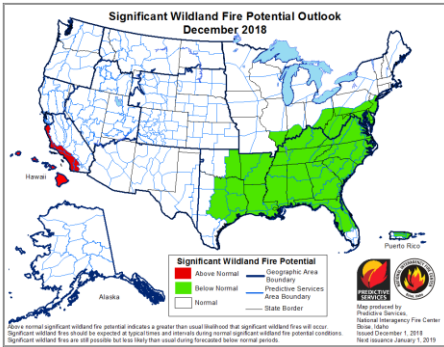
Valid: December 2018 - March 2019

Fire Potential Outlooks

December 2018

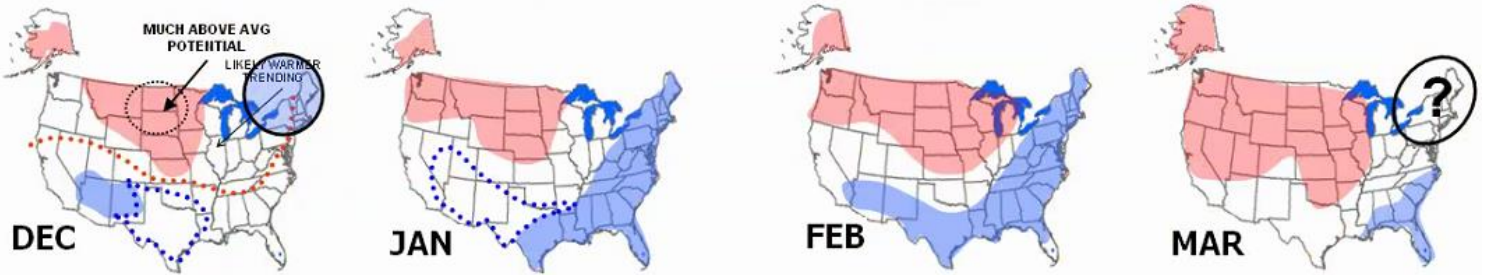
January 2019

February 2019



Predictive Services Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

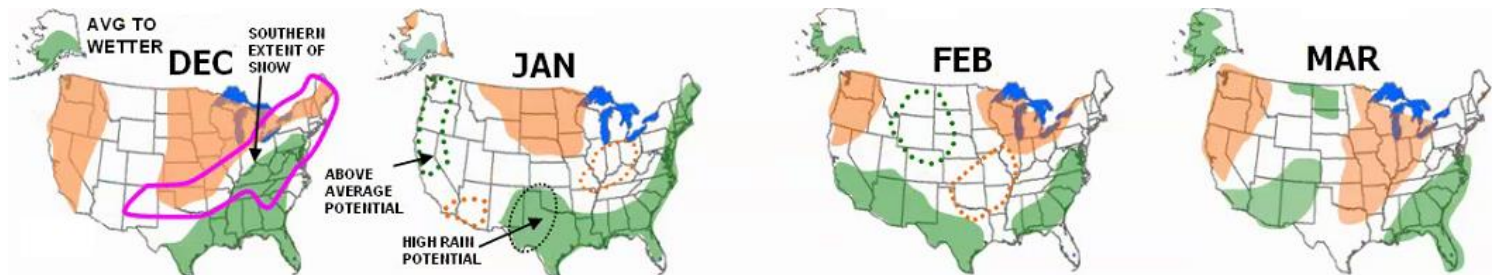
Temperature



Below Normal =

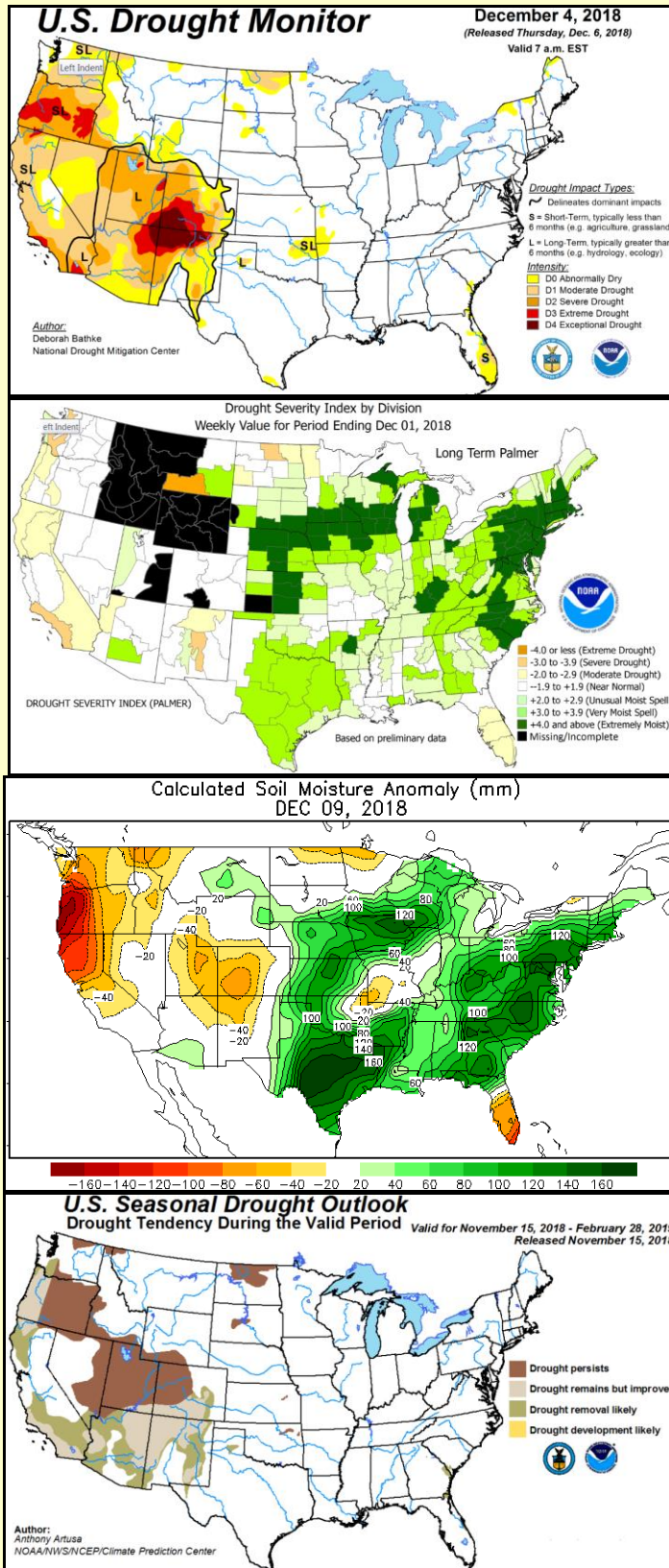
Above Normal =

Precipitation



Below Normal =

Above Normal =



Discussion

- **Past Weather and Drought:** 30 day soil moisture and precipitation anomalies were slightly below normal across parts of northwestern Minnesota and southwestern Missouri at the beginning of December 2018. Near normal to well above normal precipitation and soil moisture 30 day anomalies were in place over much of the remainder of the Eastern Area.
- **Weather and Climate Outlook:** Drier than normal conditions overall are forecast across portions of the western half of the Eastern Area this winter into the early spring of 2019. Wetter trends are expected along the Ohio Valley and Appalachians in December 2018 and along the Atlantic Coast in January 2019.
- Above normal temperatures trends are expected to spread eastward over the western tier of the Eastern Area through the winter into the early spring as a moderate El Nino episode lingers into early 2019. Below normal temperatures are forecast across the eastern half of the Eastern Area January into February 2019.
- **Fuel Conditions:** 100 and 1000 hour fuel moistures as well as Energy Release Components or Canadian Build-Up Indices were near or above/below seasonal normal levels respectively towards the end of November over the majority of the Eastern Area.
- **Fire Season Timing:** The spring 2019 fire season may begin earlier than normal across parts of the Mississippi Valley if the forecast warmer and drier conditions come to fruition.
- **Area Discussion:** Near to below normal fire potential is expected over the majority of the Eastern Area through the much of the 2018-19 winter. However, above normal potential may develop over parts of the Mississippi Valley later this winter into the early spring fire season.



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