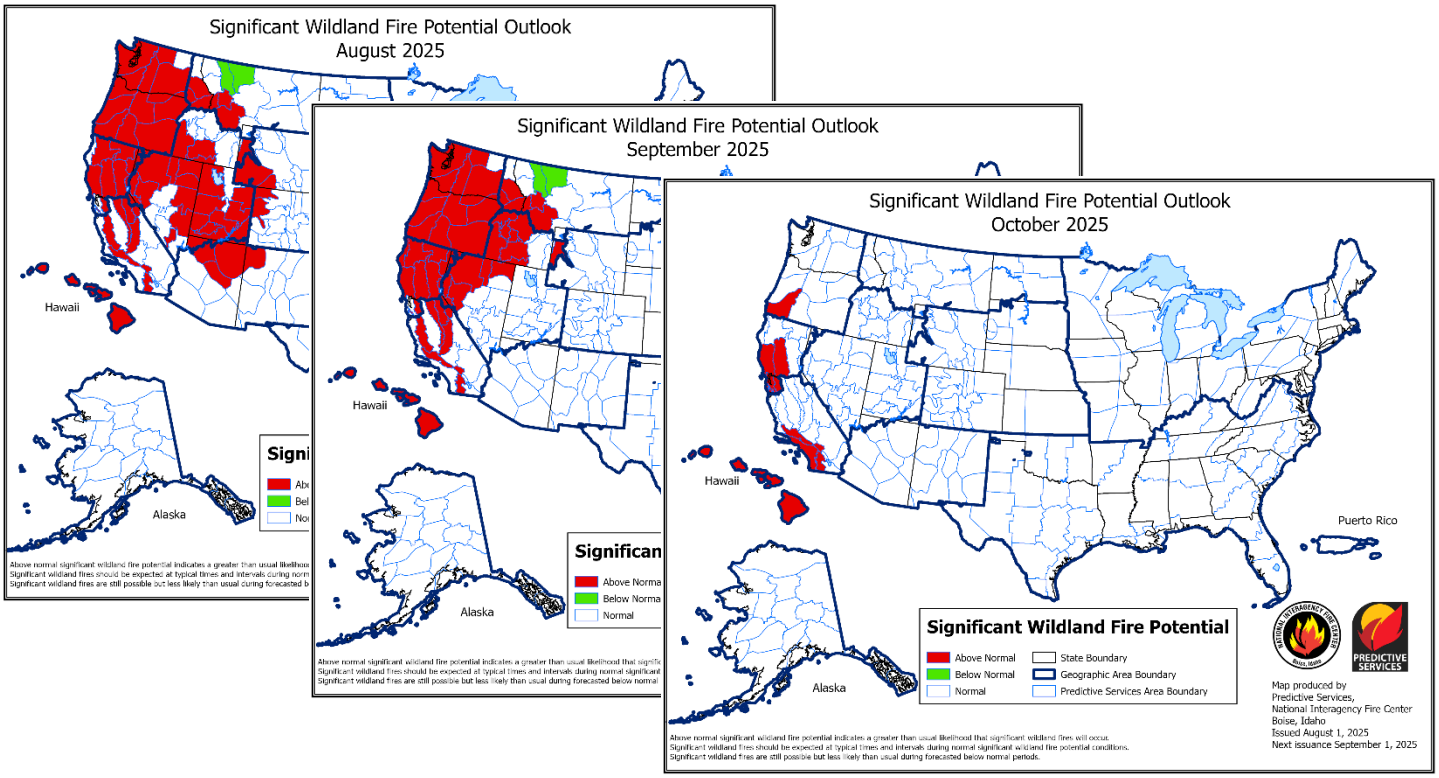
August 2025 - Wildland Fire Outlook

August 3, 2025



National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook *for August, September and October, issued August 1, 2025.*

SUMMARY

The Teton Interagency Dispatch area continued to experience warmer than normal temperatures in July and a mix of below and above normal precipitation. Regional and national outlooks for the TIDC area call for a higher likelihood of warmer and drier than normal weather, particularly in the latter part of August and into September, as a persistent high-pressure ridge is expected to dominate regional weather patterns.

The past 30 days have been warmer than normal with precipitation a mix of wetter and drier than normal. While at least two weather stations in the area received 0.8” in 1-3 hours, the monthly range for July for our key RAWS weather stations ranged from 0.18”-0.96”, for an average of 0.6” for July.

- Fire danger is Very High for Bridger-Teton National Forest / Grand Teton National Park, based on indices, fuel moisture and fire activity. At this time in the 2024 fire season we were in High fire danger; in 2022-2023 we were in Moderate; and in 2021 we were entering Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.
- Mid-season fires are burning actively in dead and down fuels and torching in conifers, with limited wind-driven runs in sagebrush. All three Fire Danger Rating Area zones are in Critical burning conditions, as is much of the Great Basin. Fuel advisories may be considered for August in the TIDC area.
- **Above Normal fire potential for August, likely to continue into September**, per the Great Basin Coordination Center’s monthly outlook: https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/predictive/docs/monthly.pdf.
- Current information on fire conditions, indices and fire activity is at www.tetonfires.com.

FUELS & CLIMATE OUTLOOK

1. Temperature

WARMER MID-SUMMER. Western Wyoming was 1-2 deg F above normal in July. This may accelerate the curing process, with earlier fuel availability for ignition and spread.

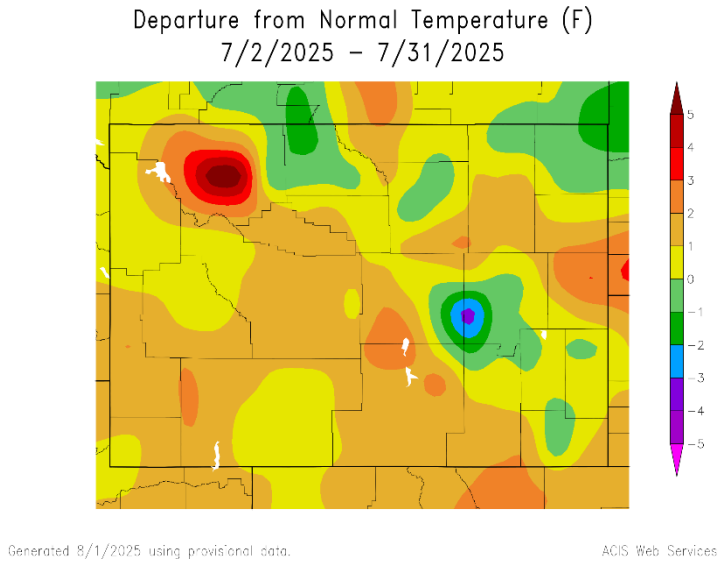


Figure 1a. *Departure from Normal Temperature, Wyoming, prior 30 days through August 1, 2025.* *https://hprcc.unl.edu/products/maps/acis/hprcc/wy/30dTDeptHPRCC-WY.png.*

2. Precipitation

Area precipitation analyses for the past 30 and 90 days illustrate the effect of short- and long-term moisture deficits for the area – with both the 30-day percent normal (Figure 2a) and the 90-day period (Figure 2b) indicating drier than normal conditions from spring into mid-summer.

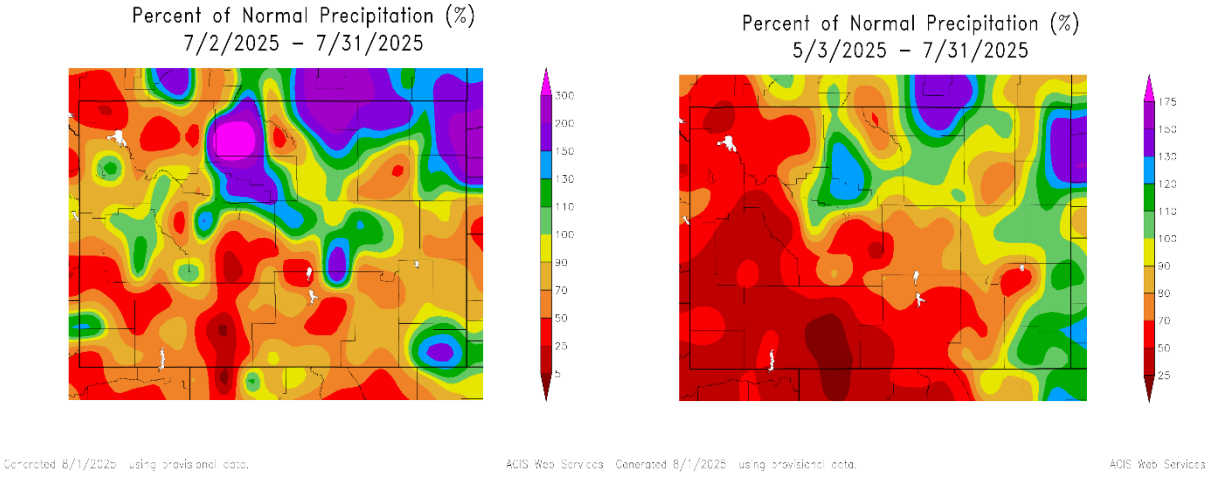
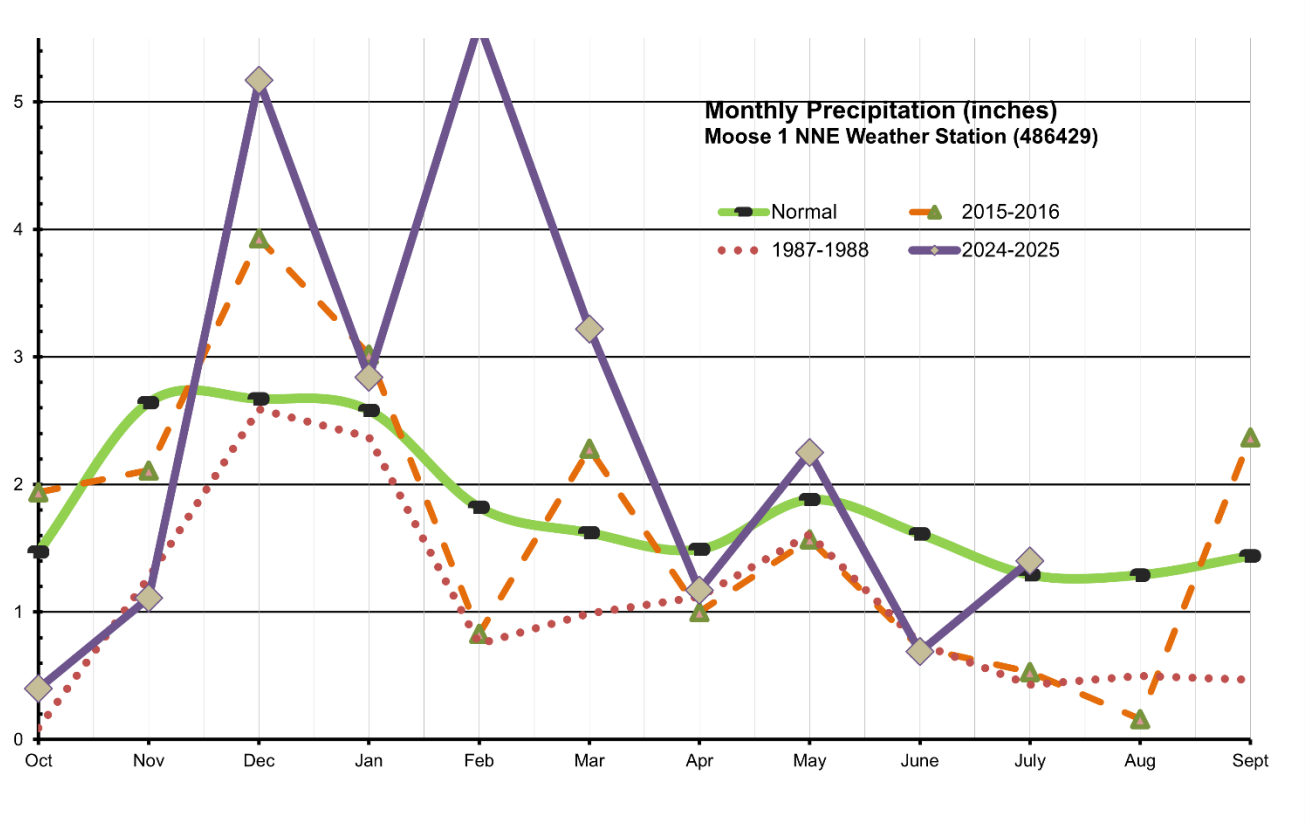


Figure 2a (left) and 2b (right). *Wyoming, Percent of Normal Precipitation, past 30 and 90 days.*

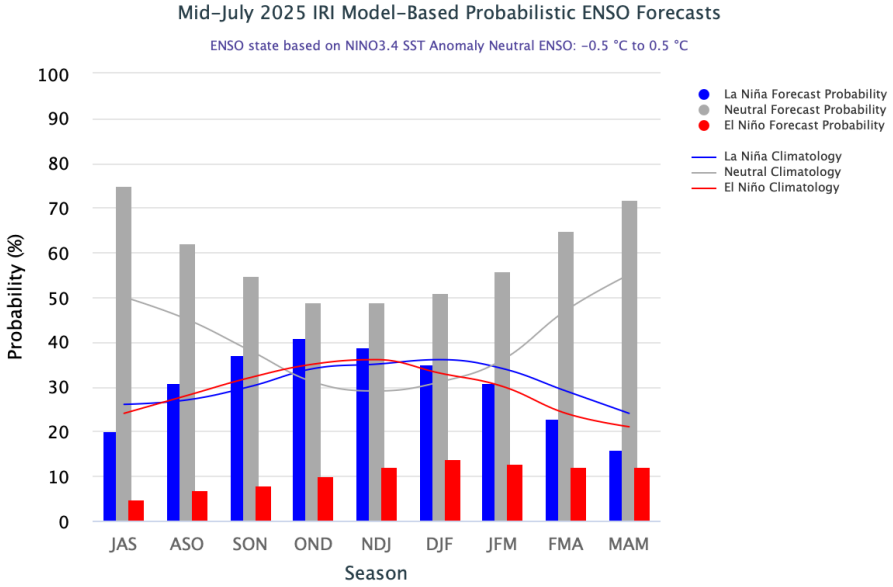
PRECIPITATION TRACKING at the Moose 1 NNE WY Climate Reference Weather Station is representative for lower elevation sites in Grand Teton National Park and North Zone sites. The station recorded 125% of 30-year normal for water year-to-date, compared to 96% for last year at this time and 94% for 2016, a prior active fire year. Four of the past 10 months recorded below-normal precipitation. After a wetter than normal winter, the past three months received 91% of normal precipitation. *(See Appendix for data charts.) Note that this weather*

station was significantly below normal for July until an isolated thunderstorm on July 31 added 0.85" of rain in two hours. The nearby Grand Teton RAWS station, three miles north, received 0.04" on the same day.



3. El Niño/ La Niña (ENSO-Southern Oscillation)

The mid-month ENSO Forecast (IRI – International Research Institute for Climate and Society | Quick Look (columbia.edu) tracks *El Niño* (warm) and *La Niña* (cool) events in the tropical Pacific. Neutral conditions are forecast through the summer, with the probability increasing for *La Niña* (cool) conditions this winter.



4. Drought Monitor

Western Wyoming is in Moderate and Severe Drought conditions. Weather outlooks for late summer and early fall indicate a likely probability for warmer temperatures and lean equal chances of drier, normal or wetter conditions. These outlooks may support more active, rapid fire spread as the drought continues and intensifies.

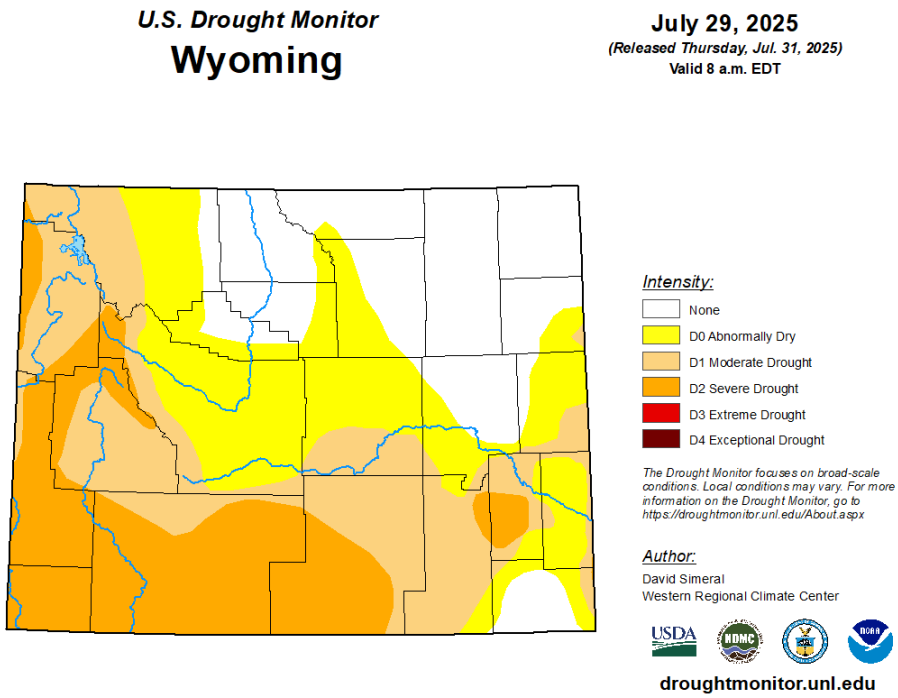


Figure 4a. U.S. Drought Monitor – Wyoming – June 17, 2025. [Wyoming | U.S. Drought Monitor (unl.edu)]

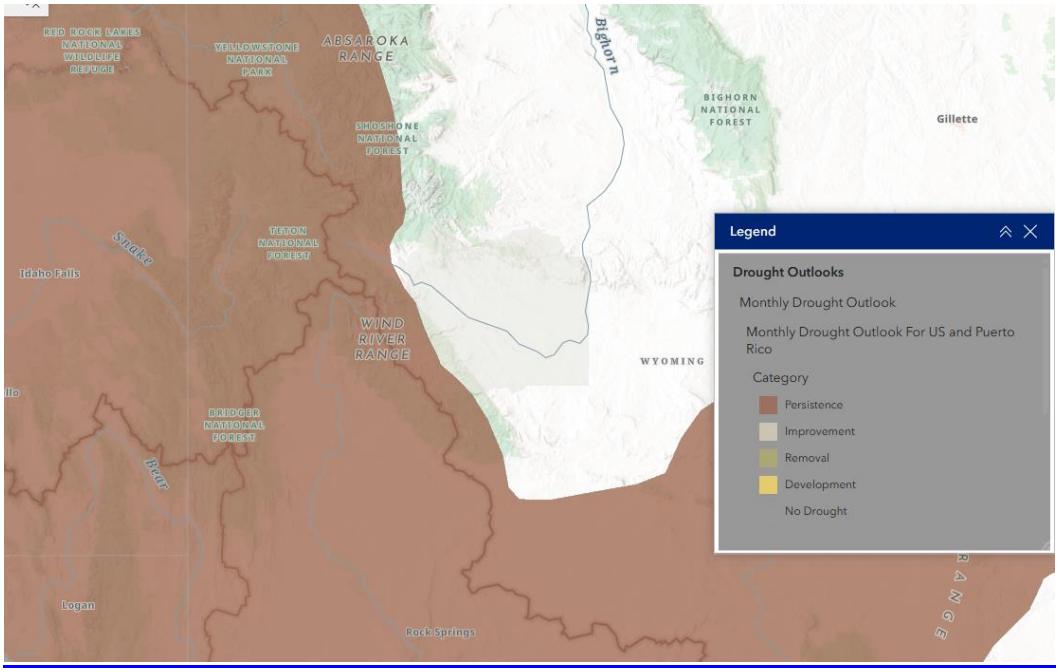
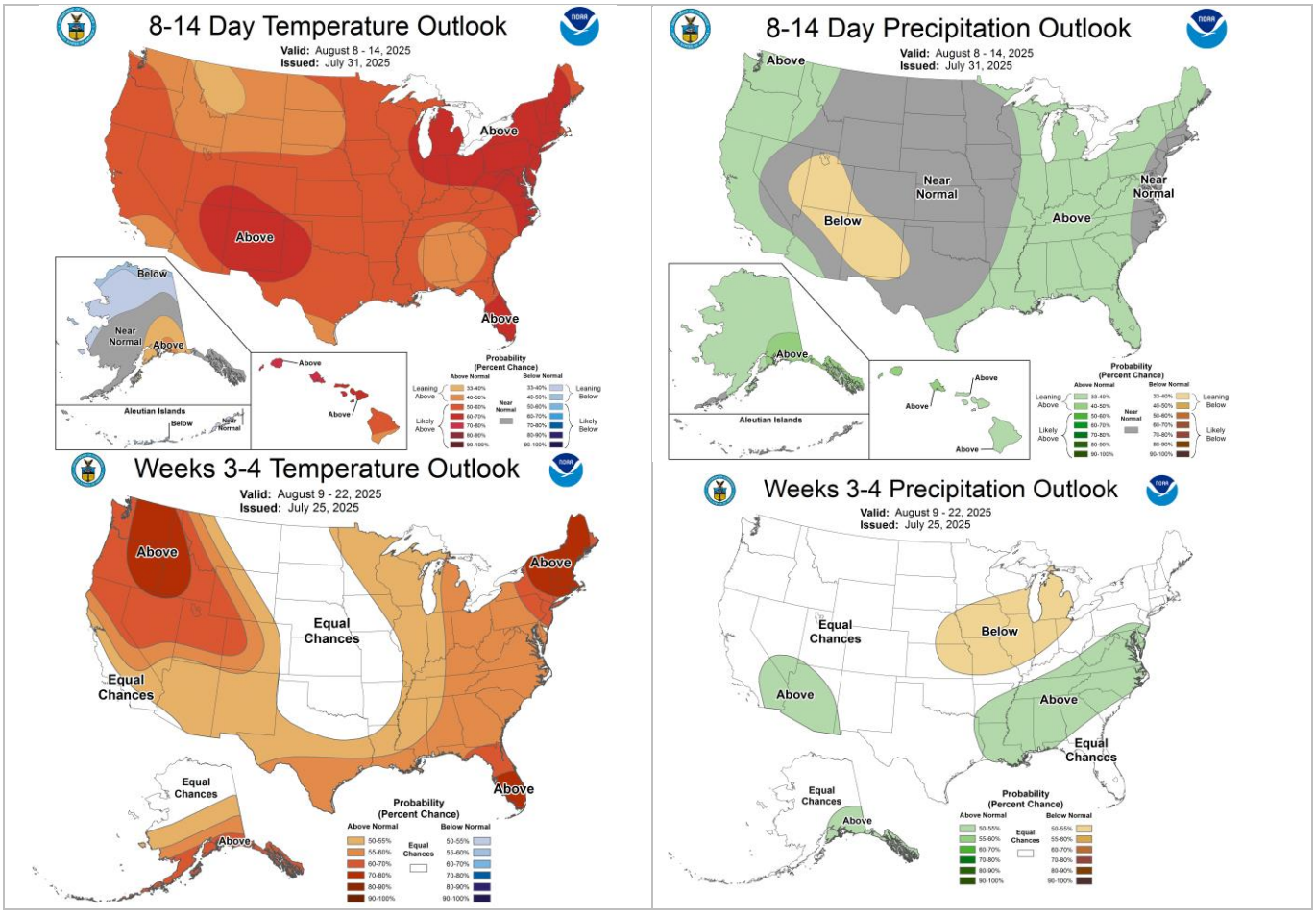
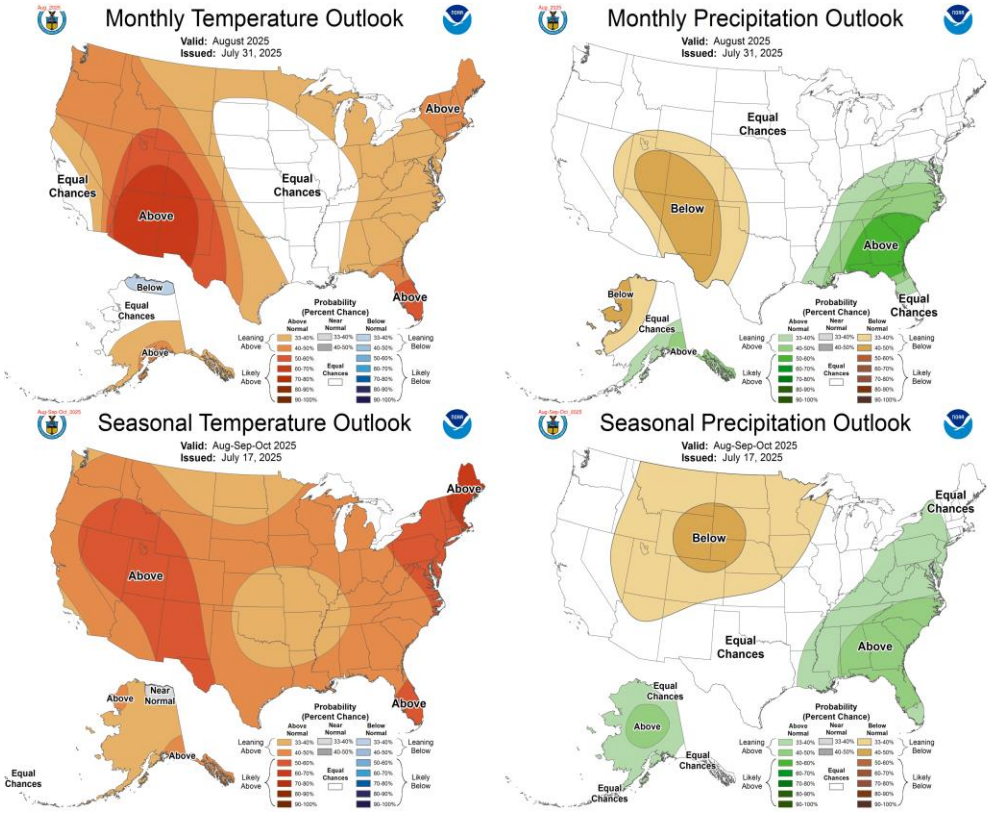


Figure 4b. Seasonal Drought Outlook (Wyoming Focus): [*Drought Outlook Interactive Experience*]

5. Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

Outlooks call for warmer temperatures and from normal to drier chances precipitation for August into October.





6. Fuel Moisture

Drying trends in fuel moistures supported placing all TIDC zone in Critical fuels status, which offers guidance to the National Weather Service when considering Red Flag forecasts. A Red Flag Warning was issued for Zones 414 and 416 for August 3.

With drying fuels, fire activity increased in July, with fires exhibiting active spread in dead and down fuels, with group torching and spotting distances up to 300-400 feet. Meadows and sagebrush sites have carried fire when wind-driven. The current Adjective Fuels Danger of “Very High” indicates that these fuels will continue to support an increase in fire behavior within all zones.

Sagebrush and grass fuels moistures are dropping in most locations. With limited and widely dispersed rain over the past month, followed by continued drying, a rapid drop in fuel moistures will likely occur, resulting in increased fire behavior across all zones.

See “Supporting Information” for current fuel moistures by site, and graphs of fuel moisture trends in Grand Teton National Park compared to a 30-year sampling average. For August 1, sagebrush fuels categories are tracking near the 90th percentile of dryness. At conifer sites, all fuels are at or below 90th percentile except live herbaceous fuels, which have greened up with scattered precipitation.

Additional information from other zones will be shared via email when compiled.

For Grand Teton National Park, three of the eight Critical Fuel Moisture Trends have reached Critical Burning Conditions and three are in Transition to Critical.

Critical Fuel Moisture Trends

Grand Teton National Park (2025)

	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug
1000 Hour - in Conifer	46	29	14	9	11	
1 Hour	7	9	7.5	6	6	
Live Herb - in Conifer	110	151	171	112	131	
Live Woody - Conifer	95	99	104	106	108	
LH - Grasses in Sagebrush	177	146	96	75	54	
Live Woody - Sagebrush	143	157	141	102	87	
ERC (Teton FDRA)	9	25.9	39	42	44	
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Low	High	Very High	Very High	

Based on Fuel Moisture Sampling	Low to Moderate Burning Conditions	Transition to Critical Burning Conditions			Critical Burning Conditions (driest 90th percentile)
1000 Hour – in Conifer	>14%	12	to	14	<12%
1 Hour	>6%	5	to	6	<5%
Live Herb – in Conifer	>118%	90	to	118	<90%
Live Woody – Conifer	>118%	110	to	118	<110%
Live Herb – Grasses (in Sage)	>50%	40	to	50	<40%
Live Woody – Sagebrush	>92%	80	to	92	<80%
ERC (Y)	<41%	41	to	48	>48%

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OUTLOOKS

Teton Interagency Dispatch is in the Great Basin Geographic Area and adjacent to Rocky Mountain and Northern Rockies geographic areas, which converge in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) and share fire trends. Outlooks forecast normal fire activity in the Teton Interagency Dispatch area for August with transition to above normal activity in September. *Excerpts of National and Regional Outlooks.*

National – Great Basin area excerpts

From *National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook (August 1, 2025)*: Above normal [significant fire] potential is forecast for much of eastern Nevada, Utah, northern Arizona, northwest Colorado, western Wyoming, central Oklahoma, and North Texas in August before returning to normal in September. Above normal potential is forecast to spread into central Idaho in September while persisting for the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Great Basin Outlook

From the Seasonal Outlook for August-November 2025 from the Great Basin Coordination Center notes that …

PAST WEATHER: Temperatures overall in July were near normal in most areas. However, precipitation was lower than normal in most areas as well, most notably in southern and eastern areas that normally get monsoonal relief through July. The drier conditions in the south were a continuation of the past winter. Drought conditions have slowly expanded in both southern and northern areas, converging on central areas pf the Great Basin, with most areas in moderate to severe drought, and some pockets of “Extreme” drought appearing in southern and northern areas.

FIRE POTENTIAL AND OUTLOOK: Long range models indicate the potential of a strong, semi-permanent high-pressure ridge along much of the West by the middle of August, bringing heat and dryness for the rest of August and going into September and part of October. This high should rapidly dry out areas of Idaho and Wyoming and thus they were added to the

Above Normal Large Fire Potential Outlook for September. Normal conditions are expected for October and November right now, in the absence of concise climate model outlooks.

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory includes Southwest Wyoming:
https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/predictive/advisories/Fuels-fire-behavior-advisory_UT_AZ_CO_2025.pdf

CURRENT FIRE ACTIVITY – Teton Interagency Dispatch

https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/predictive-services/intelligence

To date, 71 abandoned non-escape campfires have been reported, compared to 51 last year.

Year-to-Date Fire Activity for Dispatch Center response zones, August 1, 2025. 2025 TIDC Fire Statistics.

Teton Interagency Fire Management Area Totals	Human Fires	Human Acres	Natural Fires	Natural Acres	RX Fires	RX Acres	Abandoned Non-escape Campfires
	7	1.6	11	2801.32	7	1228	71

Supporting Information

Compiled by Tim Sherwin and Ron Steffens with support of district fuels specialists. For questions and to share additional info, contact your local fuels specialists or Ron Steffens, Fire Analyst, Grand Teton National Park. 307-739-3675. ron_steffens@nps.gov.

Selected Sources

- Precipitation tracking: https://water.weather.gov/precip/
- Snowpack precipitation tracking focused on Wyoming Snotel sites
- Climate Prediction Center, Three-Month Outlooks: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/
- Drought.gov Portal / Fire: https://www.drought.gov/drought/data-maps-tools/fire
- Drought.gov Portal / Wyoming: https://www.drought.gov/states/wyoming
- Intermountain West Climate Dashboard: https://wwa.colorado.edu/climate/dashboard.html
- Regional outlooks from "National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook" (first of each month during fire season, NIFC Predictive Services): https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/outlooks/monthly_seasonal_outlook.pdf.
- Great Basin Area – Predictive Services/Outlooks: https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/outlooks.php.
- Rocky Mountain Area – Predictive Services/Outlooks: https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/outlooks1.php.
- Teton Interagency Dispatch: www.tetonfires.com / https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/.
- National Weather Service – Fire Weather (Riverton, WY).

Precipitation Tracking – Moose Climate Station

Monthly Precipitation		**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**YTD total**	**Prior 3 months**
(inches)	1987-88	2.37	0.75	0.99	1.12	1.61	0.75	0.43	11.97	4.78
	2015-16	3.02	0.83	2.28	1	1.57	*0.72*	0.53	17.93	3.06
	2023-24	1.32	4.06	4.36	0.76	1.72	0.59	0.15	18.22	2.46
	Normal	*1.49*	*1.88*	*2.58*	*1.82*	*1.62*	*1.61*	*1.29*	*19.07*	*4.02*
	2024-25	**2.84**	**5.61**	**3.22**	**1.17**	**2.25**	**0.69**	**1.4**	**23.86**	**4.34**
% Normal	1987-88	92%	41%	61%	75%	86%	47%	33%	63%	58%
	2015-16	117%	46%	141%	67%	84%	45%	41%	94%	67%
	2023-24	51%	223%	269%	51%	91%	37%	12%	96%	51%
	2024-25	**110%**	**308%**	**199%**	**79%**	**120%**	**43%**	**109%**	**125%**	**91%**

Fuel Moisture Analysis – Grand Teton National Park

The tracking of five fuel moisture types in Grand Teton National Park is compared to a 30-year sampling average. For August 1, sagebrush fuels categories are tracking near the 90th percentile of dryness. At conifer sites, all fuels are at or below 90th percentile except live herbaceous fuels, which have greened up with scattered precipitation.