# July 2025 - Wildland Fire Outlook

July 1, 2025



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

## SUMMARY

The Teton Interagency Dispatch area experienced drier than normal conditions in June, with a mix of warmer and below normal temperatures. Regional and national outlooks for the TIDC area call for a higher likelihood of warmer and drier than normal weather, particularly in August and September.

The past 30 days have been mostly warmer and drier than normal. The climate station at Moose received 43% of normal June precipitation (and 83% of normal for the prior 90 days). This follows the trend for 2024, though conditions were slightly drier last year. Abnormally dry conditions have expanded to include nearly 2/3rds of Wyoming and drought development is considered likely through September.

- Fire danger is High for Bridger-Teton National Forest / Grand Teton National Park, with indices, fuel moisture and fire activity leaning toward Very High. At this time in 2022-2024 we were in Moderate and in 2021 we were entering Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.
- Fires are burning actively in dead and down fuels and conifer, with less moisture in the green-up and the potential for earlier curing and increased fire activity. Zone 414 has Critical burning conditions and other zones are Approaching Critical.
- Above Normal fire potential for July-August, per the Great Basin Coordination Center's monthly outlook: <u>https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/predictive/docs/monthly.pdf.</u> Note that the Great Basin is considering fuels advisories for July in portions of the GACC, with potential inclusion of the TIDC area.
- Current information on fire conditions, indices and fire activity is at <u>www.tetonfires.com</u>.

## 1. Temperature

**WARMER EARLY SUMMER.** Except for cooler than normal temperature in central Teton County, the past 30 days recorded a transition to warmer than normal temperature for early summer. This may affect green-up intensity and transition to fuel curing, with earlier availability of fuels for ignition and spread.



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

## 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 <u>30-day percent normal (Figure 2a)</u> and the <u>90-day period (Figure 2b)</u> indicating drier than normal conditions for spring and early summer.



Concrated 7/1/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services Generated 7/1/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

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 118% of 30-year normal for water year-to-date, compared to 108% for last year at this time and 94%

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for 2016, a prior active fire year. Four of the past nine months recorded below-normal precipitation. After a wetter than normal winter, the past three months received 83% of normal precipitation. (See Appendix for data charts.)



## 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.

Mid-June 2025 IRI Model-Based Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts ENSO state based on NINO3.4 SST Anomaly Neutral ENSO: -0.5 °C to 0.5 °C



## 4. Drought Monitor

Western Wyoming is in Abnormally Dry, Moderate and Severe Drought conditions to the north and west, with portions of the Upper Green River in normal conditions. Weather outlooks mid- and late summer indicate a likely probability for warmer temperatures and lean toward drier moisture. Combined with seasonal outlooks for developing and persistent drought, we may see fuels curing at normal or slightly earlier than normal rate and becoming available earlier for fire spread at lower elevations and drier sites.



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 below normal precipitation for July into September.



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## 6. Fuel Moisture

Current downward trends in fuel moistures within Zone 414 support moving the zone to Critical. Fire activity within the Horse Fire has predominantly been in the conifer and dead and down. The current Adjective Fuels Danger of "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. Conifers usually start to increase moisture uptake at this time of the season, but with lack of rain they have begun to decline. With limited rain over the past month, it is anticipated that 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 the park sampling sites, all fuel categories are tracking at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile dryness for July 1.

This month we introduce a comprehensive matrix for monitoring critical fuel moisture and fire conditions. This supports our planning as well as our communications on fuels advisories and Red Flag forecasts with the Great Basin Coordination Center and National Weather Service.

Oritical Fuel Mainture	Tranda C	······	D	ate	Wyoming F	DRA - WV/11/	Teton EDB	A - WV/115	Wind EDE	A - WV/16
Childal Fuel Holstule Hellus - 5		summary	7/1/2025		Pod: Critical		Vellow: Approaching Critical		Vellow: Approaching Critical	
			//1/2025		Red. Childat		Teuow. Approaching Chucat		Tellow. Approaching Childar	
WY414	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep	15-Sep	1-Oct	15-Oct
ERC (Wyoming FDRA)	30	33.1	41.3							
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Low	High							
Criitcal Fuel Moisutre	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching							
WY415	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep	15-Sep	1-Oct	15-Oct
ERC (Teton FDRA)	11	25.9	39.9							
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Low	High							
Criitcal Fuel Moisutre	Approaching	Not Critical	Approaching							
WY416	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep	15-Sep	1-Oct	15-Oct
ERC (Wind FDRA)	13	31	43.5							
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Low	High							
Criitcal Fuel Moisutre	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching							
Cumulative Fire Rating	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep	15-Sep	1-Oct	15-Oct
Cumulative Fire Rating	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching							

### **Reference Information**

GYE and Noth Zone (Zone 415)					
Based on Fuel Moisture Sampling	Low to Moderate Burning Conditions	Trans	ition to Critical Burning Con	ditions	Critical Burning Conditions (driest 90th percentile)
1000 Hour - in Conifer	>14%	12	to	14	<12%
10 Hour - in Conifer	>7%	6	to	7	<6%
1 Hour - in Conifer	>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 - Sage	>50%	40	to	50	<40%
Live Woody - Sagebrush	>92%	80	to	92	<80%
ERC (Y)	<41%	41	to	48	>48%

#### East and West Zones (Zones 414, 416)

Based on Fuel Moisture Sampling	Low to Moderate Burning Conditions	Trans	ition to Critical Burning Cond	Critical Burning Conditions (driest 90th percentile)		
1000 Hour - in Conifer	>14%	12	to	14	<12%	
100 Hour - in Conifer	>8%	7	to	8	<7%	
10 Hour - in Conifer	>7%	6	to	7	<6%	
Live Woody - Conifer	>118%	110	to	118	<110%	
Live Woody - Sagebrush	>92%	80	to	92	<80%	
ERC (Y) (Zone 414)	<41%	41	to	48	>48%	
ERC (Y) (Zone 416)	<41%	41	to	45	>45%	

## 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 above normal fire activity in the Teton Interagency Dispatch area for July and August, transitioning in September to normal fire activity.

Excerpts of National and Regional Outlooks from.

## National – Great Basin area excerpts

From <u>National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook (July 1, 2025)</u>: Fire activity is expected to increase to above normal over southern areas of the Great Basin in the mid to higher elevations, which are stricken by long term drought and have seen hot and dry conditions throughout much of June. These drought conditions have also led to a below normal fine fuel crop in the lower elevations in these same southern areas, where fire conditions should remain normal. Pulses of monsoon moisture will start pushing north into the Great Basin in early July, but the moisture looks sporadic and inconsistent through the middle of the month, including southern areas. After hot and dry conditions, and in areas where live and dead fuel moisture is critical, any return of lightning through the first half of July is expected to increase fire potential. Moisture may be more consistent later in July in the south, allowing those areas to return to normal fire potential for August. Farther north, above normal significant fire potential is expected across western and northern Nevada, southern and central Idaho, and western Wyoming from July through September before returning to normal by October.

## Great Basin Outlook

The <u>Seasonal Outlook for July-October 2025</u> from the Great Basin Coordination Center notes that ... Lower elevations of southern Idaho and northern and western Nevada where fine fuel loading is above normal and fuel moisture is very low have seen an increase in fires growing to several hundreds or thousands of acres throughout June. Pulses of monsoon moisture will occur throughout July and mainly be focused in Utah, eastern Nevada, eastern Idaho and Wyoming, but mixed wet and dry thunderstorms will occur in many areas of the Great Basin. However, storms in the western half and northern half of the Great Basin will be mixes of wet and dry with continued increased fire potential.

"Above Normal" large fire potential is expected for July in many areas of the west and north and into southern areas until moisture begins to routinely increase fuel moisture in the south. By August and September Above Normal fire potential is expected to continue in western and northern Nevada and southern Idaho where fine fuels are abundant and live and dead fuel moisture is very low, as well as central Idaho and Wyoming where drought conditions continue to develop and fuel moisture will continue to drop as opportunities for lightning increases. Fire potential is expected to return to normal by October.

## CURRENT FIRE ACTIVITY – Teton Interagency Dispatch

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

To date, 36 abandoned non-escape campfires have been reported, compared to 26 last year.

Year-to-Date Fire Activity for Dispatch Center response zones, July 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
	5	1.4	2	2251.10	7	1228	36

## Supporting Information

Compiled by Tim Sherwin and Ron Steffens with support of district fuels specialists and many who worked on the Critical Fuel Moisture Trends project. For questions or to share additional info, contact your local fuels specialists or Ron Steffens, Fire Analyst, Grand Teton National Park. 307-739-3675. <u>ron steffens@nps.gov.</u>

### Selected Sources

- Precipitation tracking: <u>https://water.weather.gov/precip/</u>
- Snowpack precipitation tracking focused on <u>Wyoming Snotel sites</u>
- Climate Prediction Center, Three-Month Outlooks: <u>https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/</u>
- Drought.gov Portal / Fire: <u>https://www.drought.gov/drought/data-maps-tools/fire</u>
- Drought.gov Portal / Wyoming: <a href="https://www.drought.gov/states/wyoming">https://www.drought.gov/states/wyoming</a>
- Intermountain West Climate Dashboard: <u>https://wwa.colorado.edu/climate/dashboard.html</u>
- 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: <u>https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/outlooks.php</u>.
- Rocky Mountain Area Predictive Services/Outlooks: <u>https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/outlooks1.php</u>.
- Teton Interagency Dispatch: <u>www.tetonfires.com</u> / <u>https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/</u>.
- National Weather Service <u>Fire Weather (Riverton, WY)</u>.

Monthly									YTD	Prior 3
Precipitation		Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	total	months
(inches)	1987-88	2.59	2.37	0.75	0.99	1.12	1.61	0.75	11.54	3.48
	2015-16	3.93	3.02	0.83	2.28	1	1.57	0.72	17.4	3.29
	2023-24	1.39	1.32	4.06	4.36	0.76	1.72	0.59	18.13	3.07
	Normal	1.62	1.49	1.88	2.58	1.82	1.62	1.61	17.78	4.98
	2024-25	5.17	2.84	5.61	3.22	1.17	2.25	0.69	22.46	4.11
% Normal	1987-88	97%	92%	41%	61%	75%	86%	47%	63%	70%
	2015-16	147%	117%	46%	141%	67%	84%	45%	94%	66%
	2023-24	52%	51%	223%	269%	51%	91%	37%	108%	61%
	2024-25	194%	110%	308%	199%	79%	120%	43%	118%	83%

### Precipitation Tracking – Moose Climate Station

### 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 July 1, all fuel categories are tracking at or near the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of dryness.



# **Fuel Moisture Data – Teton Interagency Fire Danger Rating Areas** See "6. Fuel Moisture" for Reference Information for the relevant criteria.

Fuel Moistures by Sites							
Snyder Basin (WY414)	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul				
1000 Hour - in Conifer	46	12.6	10.59				
100 Hour - in Conifer	7	8	7.38				
10 Hour - in Conifer	8	7	8.69				
Live Woody - Conifer	95	89	92.13				
Live Woody - Sagebrush	143	152	141.68				
Hams #1 (WY414)		•					
1000 Hour - in Conifer	22	15	10				
Live Woody - Subalpine	66	83	100				
Live Woody - Lodgepole	87	100	100				
Live Woody - Sagebrush	216	225	225				
Hams #2 (WY414)							
1000 Hour - in Conifer	22	14	16				
Live Woody - Subalpine	100	100	100				
Live Woody - Lodgepole	100	100	100				
GTNP(WY415)							
1000 Hour - in Conifer	46	26	14				
1 Hour - in Conifer	7	9	7.5				
Live Herb - in Conifer	118	151	171				
Live Woody - Conifer	95	99	104				
LH - Grasses in Sagebrush	177	146	96				
Live Woody - Sagebrush	143	157	141				
Burro Hill (WY415)	210	207					
1000 Hour - in Conifer	30	41.2	11.8				
Live Herb - in Conifer (Snowberry)	220	236	167				
Live Woody - Douglas Fir	87	103	102				
Live Woody - Sagebrush	160	190	178				
Cache Creek (WY415)	100	100	1/0				
1000 Hour - in Conifer	16	20.5	19.4				
Live Herb - in Conifer (Snowberry)	295	184	158				
Live Woody - Douglas Fir	80	01.3	90				
Live Woody - Sagebrush	211	221	162				
Hoback (WY416)	211	221	102				
1000 Hour- in Conifer	20	18.64	14.02				
100 Hour - in Conifer	20	12.73	10.45				
10 Hour - in Conifer	2	14.42	10.45				
Live Woody - Copifer	05	00.10	10.55				
Live Woody - Comier	142	190.02	102.06				
Half Moon (WV/16)	143	100.93	192.00				
1000 Hour in Conifer	46	14	9.61				
100 Hour in Conifer	40	14	9.01				
10 Hour - In Conifer	/	11	4./				
10 Hour - In Conifer	8	10	4.29				
Live Woody - Conifer	95	89	8/				
Live Woody - Sagebrush	143	170	153.76				

Additional fuel moisture data is available at the Fire Environment Mapping System (FEMS) (password required, via FamAuth) and an archive is hosted at the Fuel Moisture Repository Web portal.