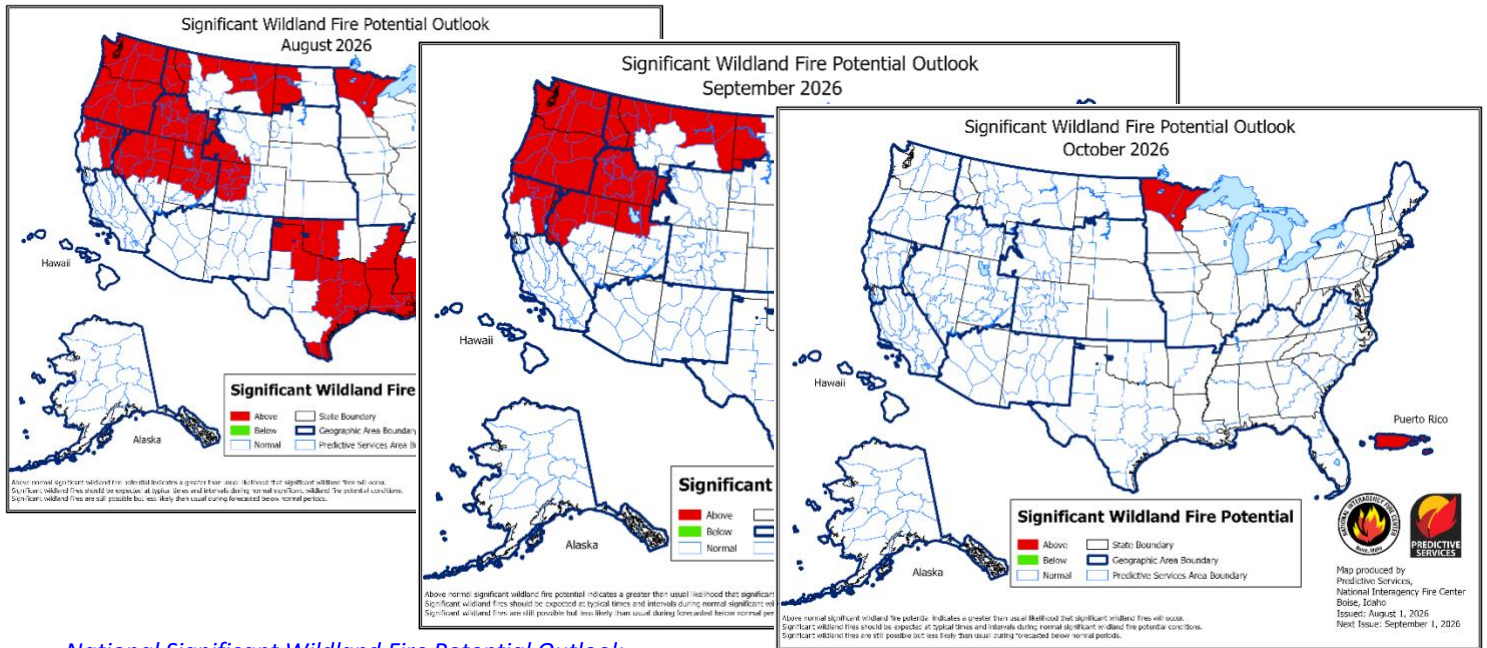


TETON INTERAGENCY FIRE AUGUST 2026 WILDLAND FIRE OUTLOOK

August 15, 2026



[National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook.](#)

SUMMARY

A pattern of drier-than-normal periods followed with late-month storms in May, June and July produced variable but notable precipitation – with most fuels registering at or nearing critical levels up until mid-August, when monsoonal moisture moderated Energy Release Component (ERCs). Most stations in the TIDC zones had reached the 90th-97th percentile before the mid-August rains and fell to below the 50th percentile afterwards, with a projected return to the 80th percentile within a week. All three zones were “Approaching Critical” fuel status prior to recent precipitation and most zones are experiencing drier than normal fuel moisture samples. Outlooks for the second half of August into September indicate wetter and warmer than normal conditions.

The [Seasonal Outlook](#) from the Great Basin Coordination Center expects the TIDC area to experience:

- **Above Normal fire potential for August and September**
- **Normal fire potential for October**

For daily GBCC Fire Potential Briefings and related outlooks, see <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/outlooks.php>.

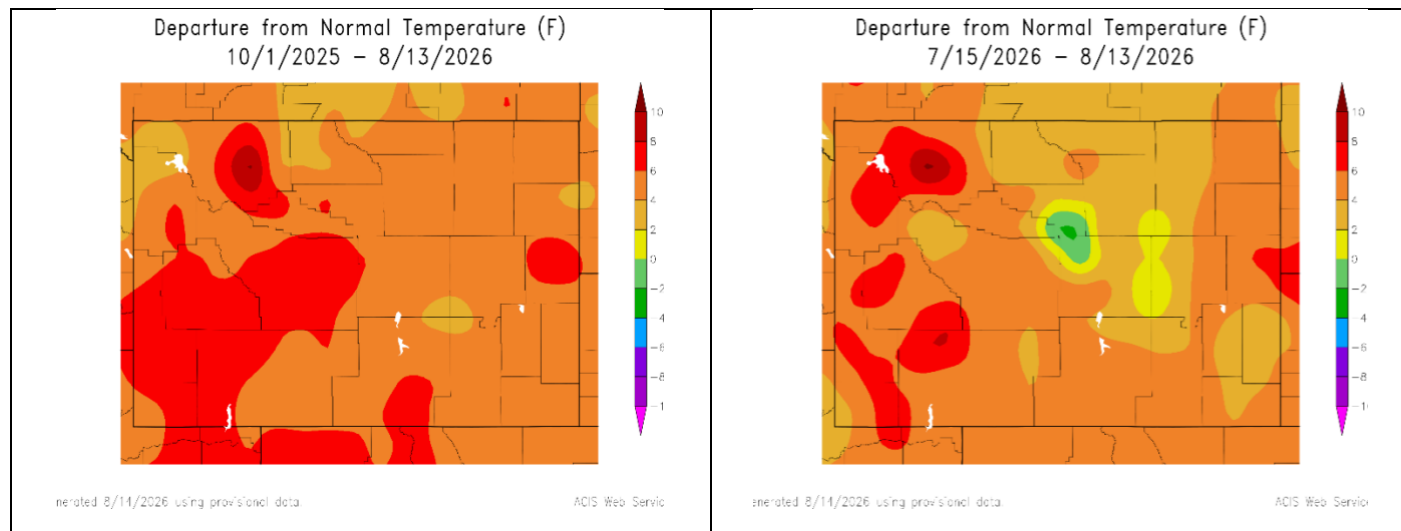
During an average fire season, based on a 20-year fire history from 2001-2020, Bridger-Teton National Forest will average 52 unplanned fires (32 natural starts and 20 human-caused fires per year) for an average of 16,522 acres per year. Grand Teton National Park will average 10 unplanned fires (six natural starts and four human-caused fires per year) for an average of 1332 acres per year.

The Teton Interagency Wildland Fire Outlook *is updated monthly during fire season. Current information on fire conditions, fire indices and activity can be found at www.tetonfires.com, with local, regional and national outlooks at <https://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/dispatch/wy-tdc/home/predictive-services/outlooks>.*

CLIMATE & FUELS OUTLOOK

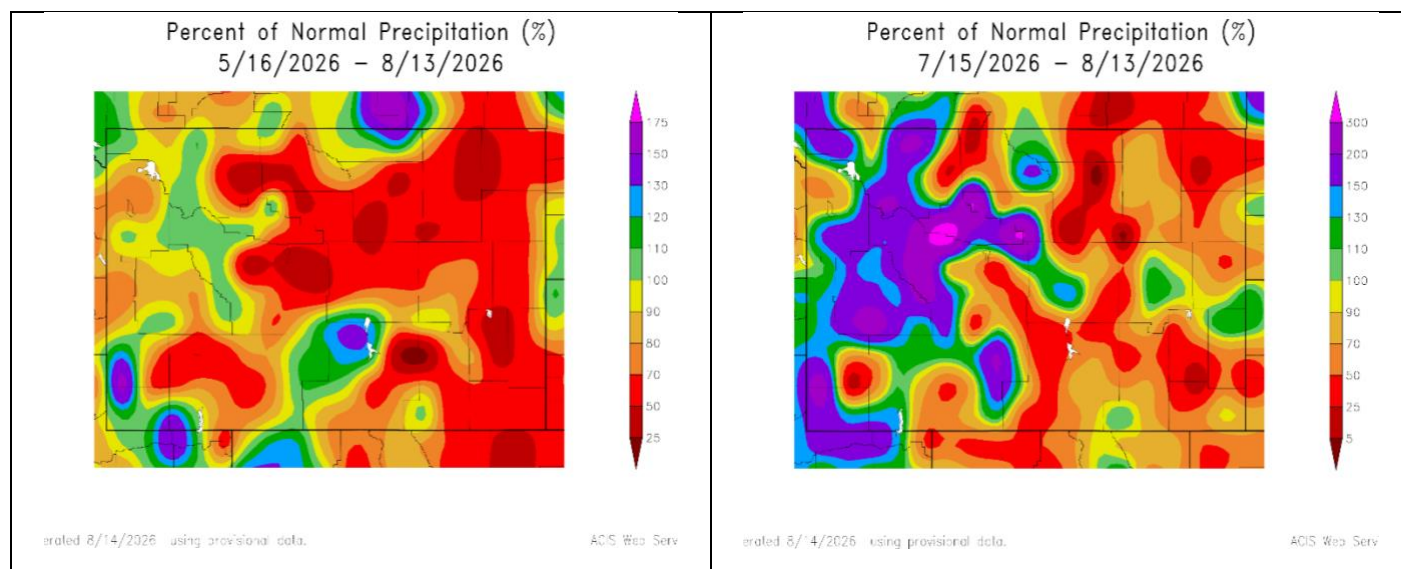
1. Temperature

WATER-YEAR-TO-DATE: For the prior nine months, the TIDC area was 2-6 deg F warmer than normal, with winter temperatures notably warmer than normal (left). **PRIOR 30 DAYS:** In the prior month, the TIDC area was 4-6 deg F warmer than normal for this period (right).

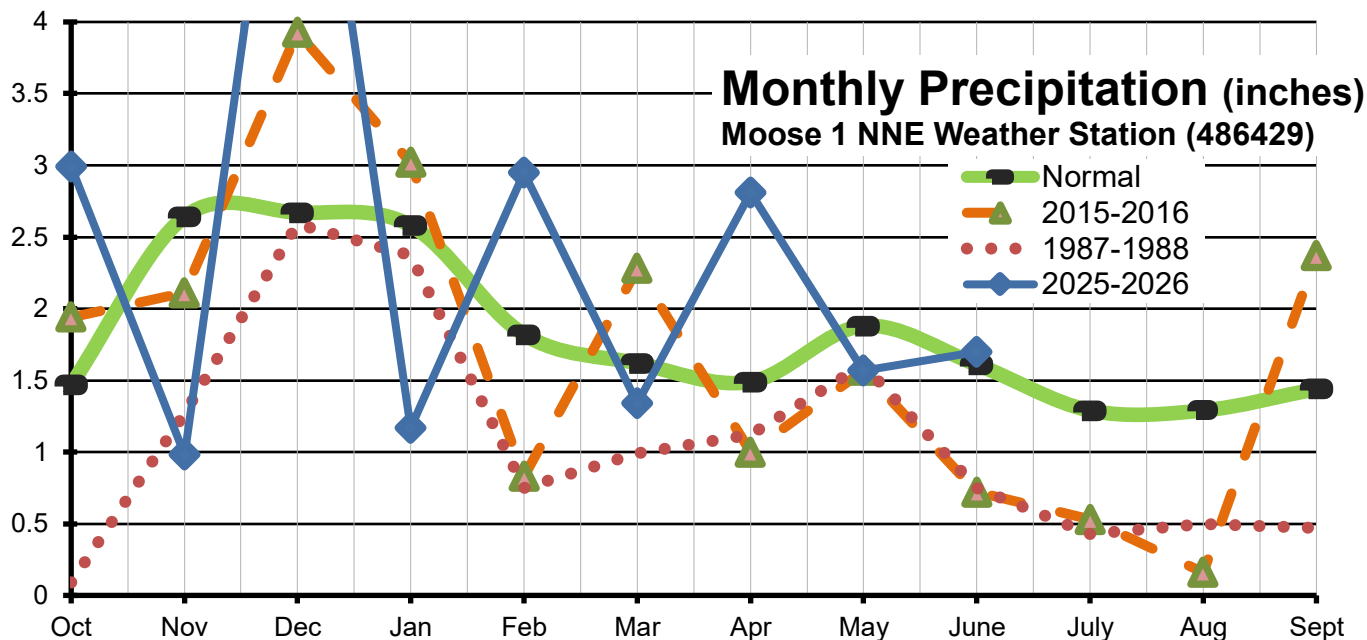


2. Precipitation

The Wyoming Percent of Normal Precipitation map for the prior three months (left) reflects drier than normal precipitation countered with areas wetter than normal. The 30-day Percent of Normal Precipitation (right) shows most of the area receiving significantly above-normal precipitation with the exception of drier zones in northern Grand Teton NP/Teton Wilderness and near Kemmerer.



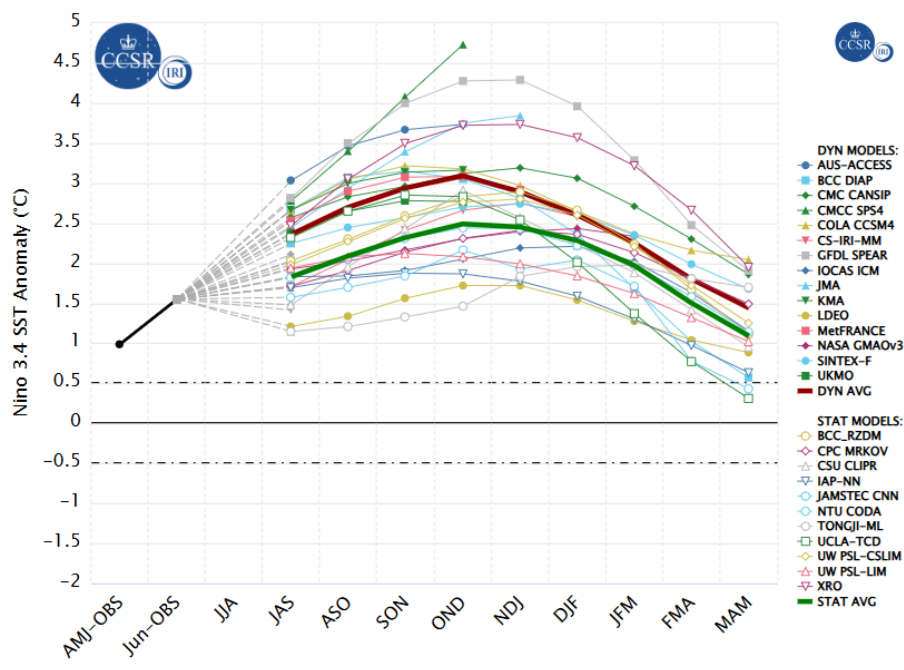
PRECIPITATION TRACKING at the [Moose 1 NNE WY Climate Reference Weather Station](#) serves as a representative site for lower elevations in Grand Teton National Park and BTNF North Zone. The station recorded 129% of 30-year normal for water year-to-date, compared to 125% for last year at this time and 94% for 2016, a prior active fire year. Six of the past 10 months recorded above-normal precipitation. *Note that this site, as many, has seen dry periods followed by isolated but at times intense rain. This site received nearly ¾" of rain on both July 29 and 30, which resulted in the site receiving 190% of normal for July. Also note that precipitation overall in TIDC was variable, though with monsoonal moisture flow reaching most sites.*



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

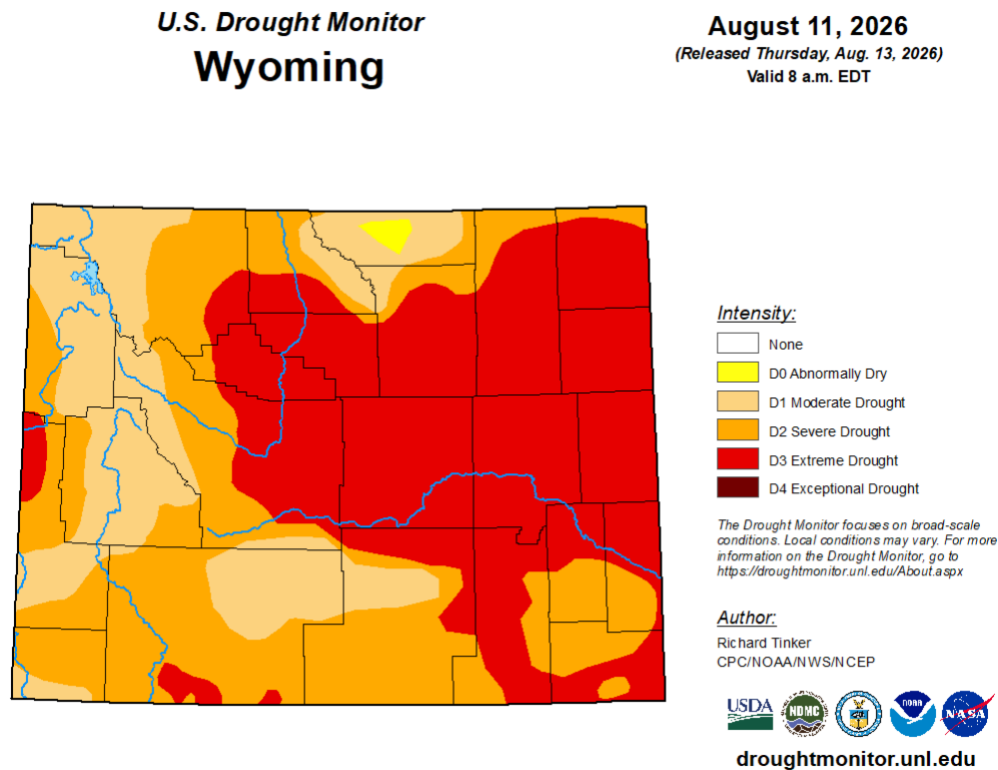
Excerpts from the [ENSO Forecast, July 2026 Quick Look](#) (International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia Climate School):

El Niño conditions are strengthening across the tropical Pacific, with sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region showing a steady upward trend. The observed SST anomaly averaged +0.98 °C during April–June 2026 and increased to +1.55 °C in June 2026. The latest weekly Niño 3.4 index, centered on July 15, 2026, climbed further to +2.1 °C. Together, these Pacific Ocean SST observations indicate that El Niño conditions continue to intensify, suggesting the event is evolving toward a very strong El Niño.

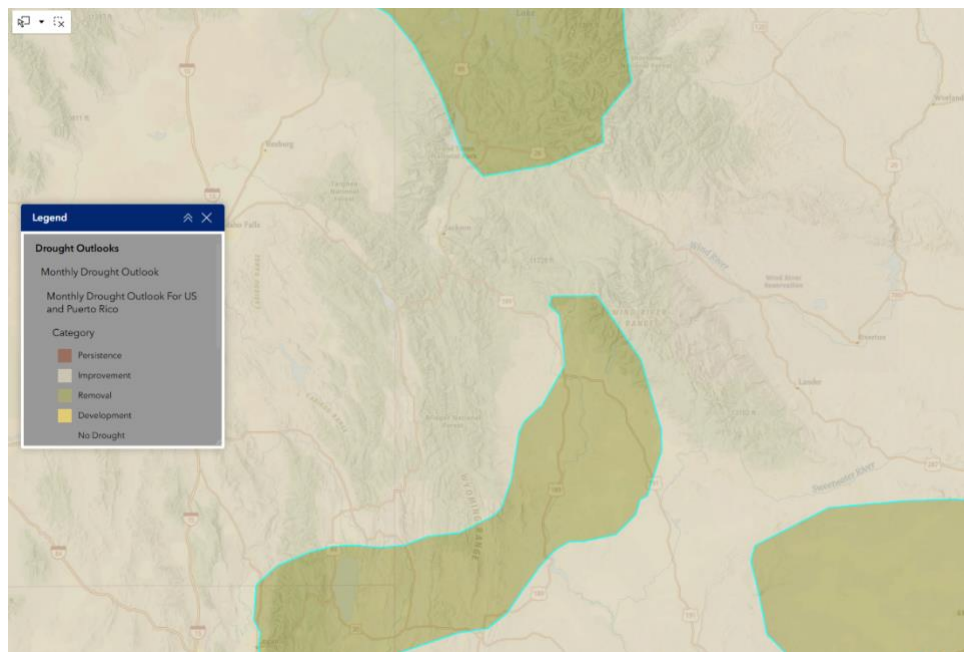


4. Drought Indicators and Impacts

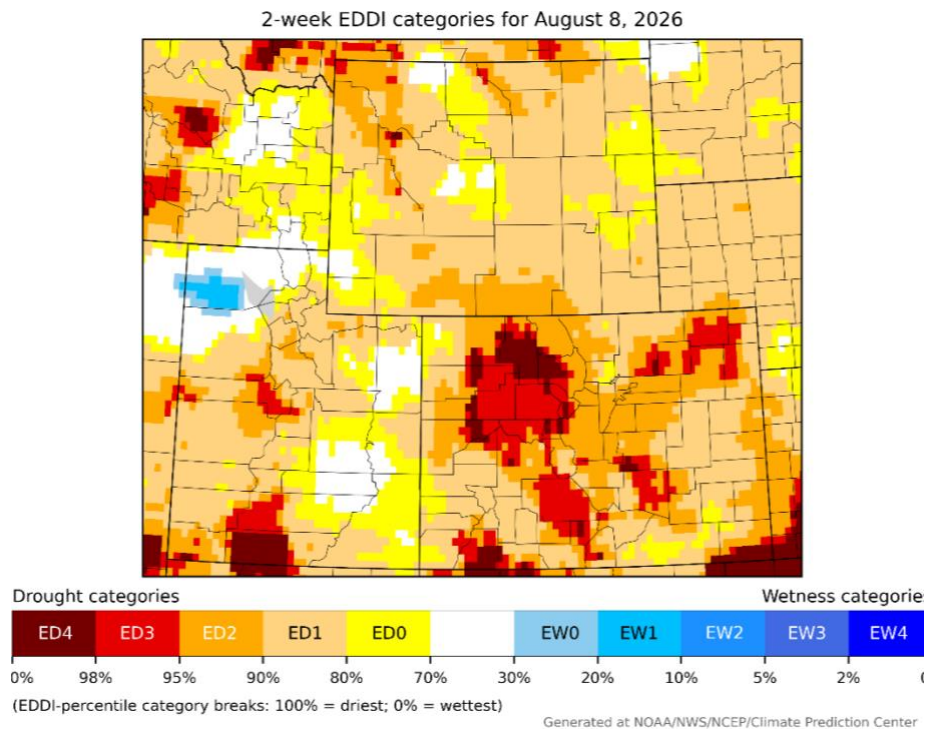
PERSISTENT DROUGHT: Western Wyoming is primarily in Moderate to Extreme Drought and all Wyoming is in some state of drought. Seasonal outlooks indicate persistent drought conditions throughout the fire season.



[Wyoming | U.S. Drought Monitor \(unl.edu\)](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

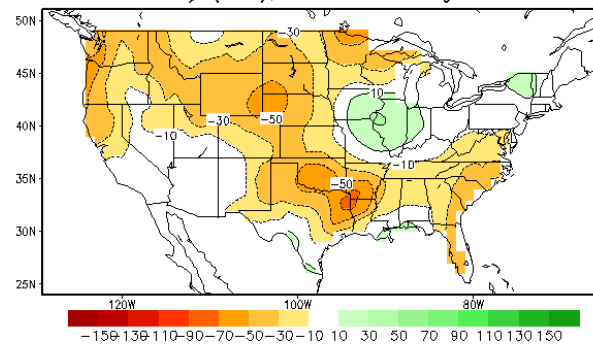


Seasonal Drought Outlook (centered on Wyoming), August 13, 2026, indicates potential for improvement or removal of drought in western Wyoming: [Drought Outlook Interactive Experience](#)

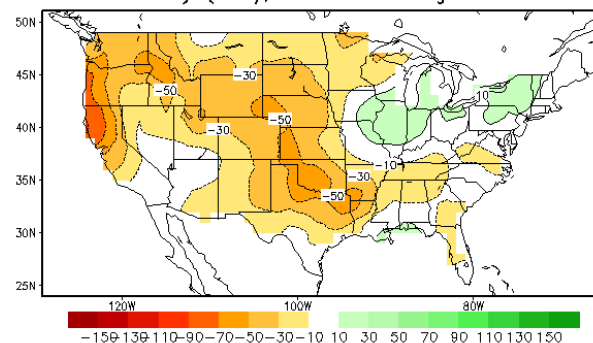


Evaporative Demand Drought Index. The EDDI can reflect recent and longer-term moisture trends and may forecast drought transitions. The current 2-week EDDI reflects a drying trend compared to late July, which exhibited Normal to EW1 wetness that reflected July monsoon moisture flow.

Lagged Averaged Soil Moisture Outlook for End of SEP2026
units: anomaly (mm), SM data ending at 20260812



Lagged Averaged Soil Moisture Outlook for End of NOV2026
units: anomaly (mm), SM data ending at 20260812

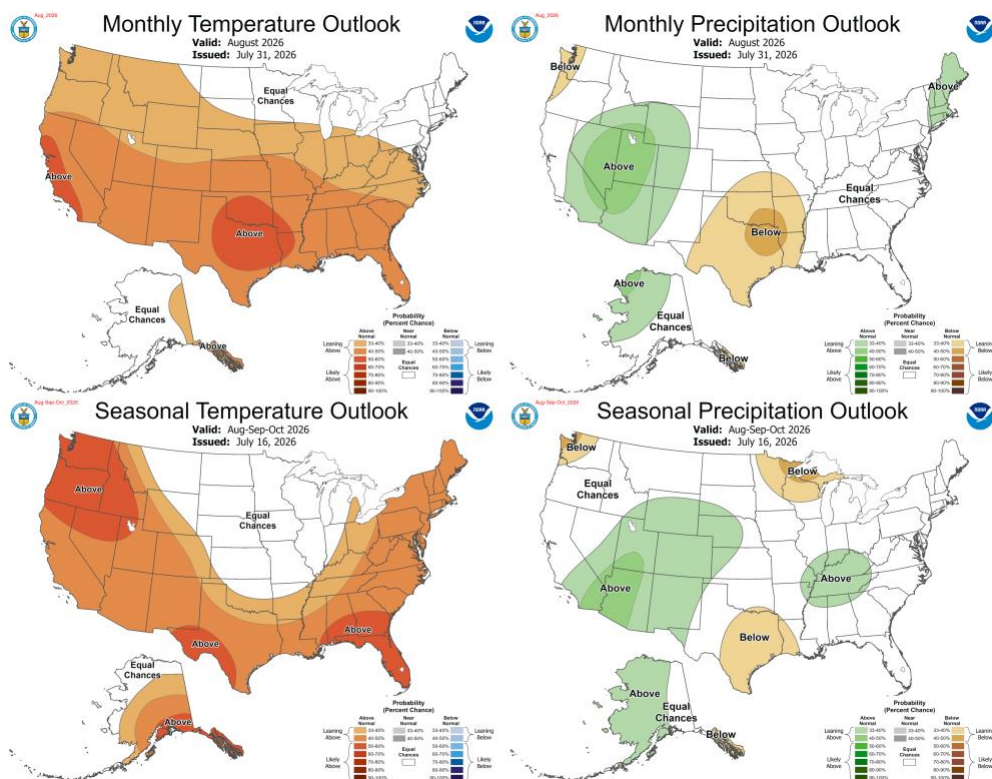
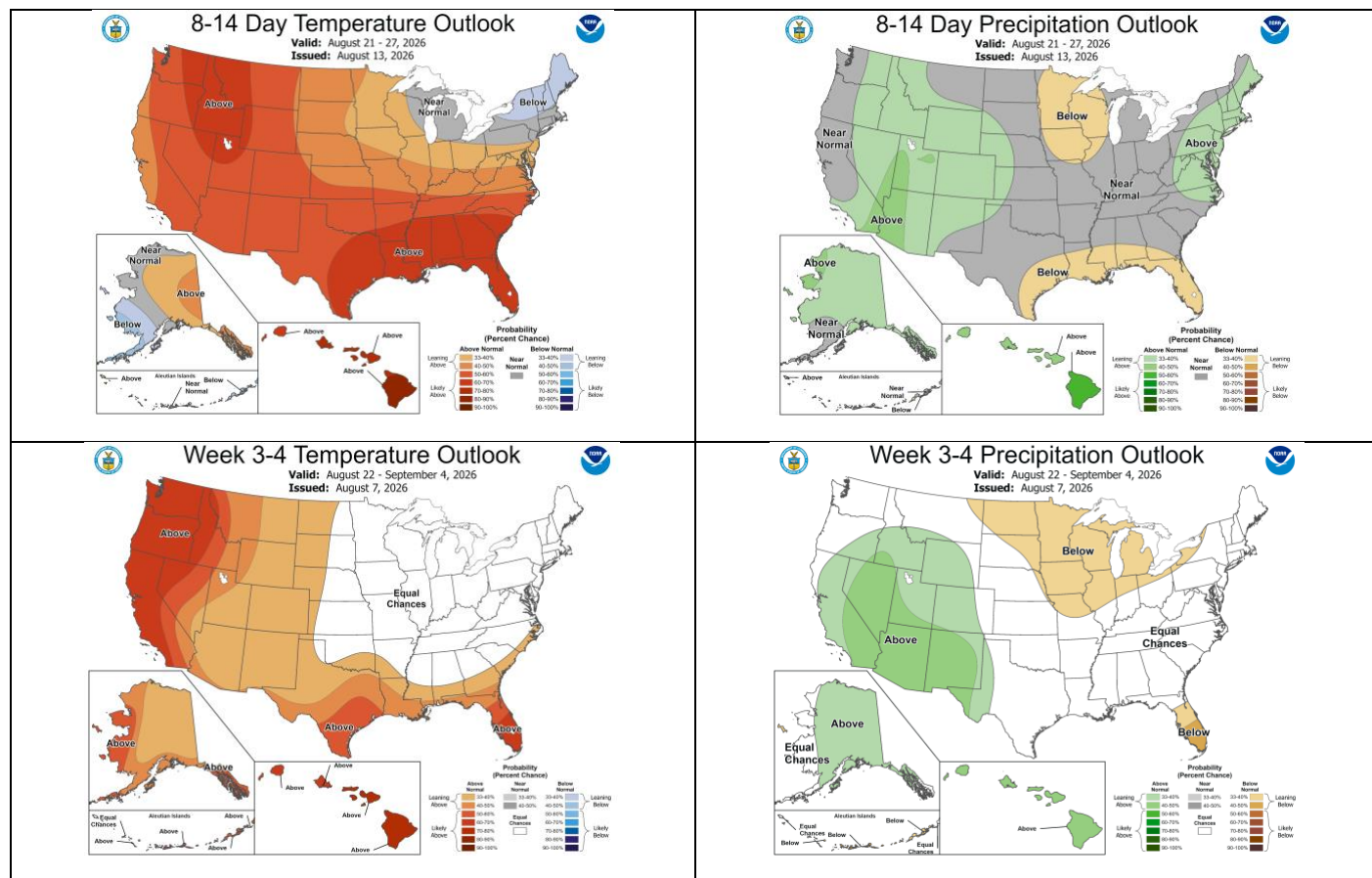


Soil Moisture Outlooks call for 30-50% drier than average at the end of September and November 2026.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Soilmst_Monitoring/US/Outlook/CAS/SM.shtml

5. Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

HOTTER, WITH NORMAL PRECIPITATION: From August through September, outlooks indicate conditions hotter than normal with normal to above normal precipitation.



6. Critical Fuel Status / Fuel Moisture

Early-August conditions continued drier than normal, though widespread mid-August precipitation (from 0.25" to 1+") offers a period of moderating fuel conditions and moderating ERCs.

August 1 – Critical Fuels Status: All TIDC zones are in

- **Yellow: Approaching Critical.**

The Critical Fuels Status is informed by zone fire danger, trends in Energy Release Component and locally sampled fuel moistures. This status offers guidance to the National Weather Service for Red Flag forecasts.

See "Supporting Information" for critical fuel moisture trends and status.

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 activity trends. Outlooks for Teton Interagency Dispatch indicate normal fire activity for June and above normal for August-September. *Excerpts of National and Regional Outlooks.*

National – Great Basin area excerpts

From the [National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook](#) (August 1, 2026):

Weather and Climate Outlooks: El Niño developed in June and continues to strengthen, with central Pacific sea surface temperature anomalies now approaching 1.5 C above average, the threshold for a strong El Niño. El Niño is forecast to continue to strengthen throughout the summer and into the fall by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC). The CPC forecasts El Niño to persist through the fall and winter, with 100% confidence. Moreover, the CPC is forecasting a greater than 95% chance of a strong El Niño by September, and a greater than 80% chance of a very strong El Niño by November. In fact, many of the models used by the CPC and internationally show a better than 50% chance of this El Niño being the strongest on record. Most of these models show the central Pacific sea surface temperature anomaly exceeding 3 C October through December.

The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) remains in a negative phase and is likely to remain negative through the outlook period. The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) was active in the western Pacific Ocean into the Atlantic last month but weakened when it moved into the Indian Ocean. The MJO is forecast to become active once again as it moves into the western Pacific in mid-August, although not as strong as it was in early to mid-July. This active phase of the MJO will have an impact on the outlook for much of July, but the main climate driver for the outlook will be the strong El Niño.

Great Basin: Above normal significant fire potential is expected to continue in August across all but portions of southern Nevada, central and southern Utah, and the Arizona Strip. Above normal potential will then move mostly into Idaho, Wyoming, northern and western Nevada by September, with a return to normal conditions by October regionwide. The North American Monsoon was active in July in Utah and eastern Nevada but has since dwindled heading into August. The dry and hot conditions will return to much of the Great Basin to peak summer fire danger, except for southern areas of Nevada, Utah, and the Arizona Strip that will see sporadic moisture pulses from the monsoon to keep fire danger lower.

Great Basin Outlook (excerpts)

From the [Great Basin Seasonal Outlook for August-October 2026](#) (references are to figures in online document):

PAST WEATHER: Temperatures the last 30 days were well above normal for much of the region with periods of near record heat, especially in the east and north. Precipitation was above normal in parts of northern and eastern Nevada, Utah and the Arizona Strip due to an extended period of showers and thunderstorms associated with the monsoon (Fig 1). Snowpack at the late March peak was well below normal, which translated into much drier than normal fuels heading into the fire season. (Fig 2). The drought continues with most of the Geographic Area in severe to extreme drought, except for parts of Central Idaho and western Nevada (Fig 3). Portions of

southwest Idaho remain in exceptional drought, with most of Utah, eastern Nevada and possibly into Idaho and Wyoming expected to see some improvements potentially later in the summer or fall.

FIRE POTENTIAL AND OUTLOOK: Fire activity remains high with light to moderate initial attack nearly every day, despite a brief notch downward in fire danger the last half of July due to moisture. Several large fires are ongoing across the Great Basin and Critical Incident Management Team mobilizations continue (Fig 4). Fuel conditions in many areas were 3-6 weeks ahead of schedule prior to July moisture moderating fire danger temporarily. Although, a return to hot and dry weather regionwide late in July into August allowed fire danger to quickly rebound (Fig 5).

A very hot and dry start to August is expected, along with moisture potentially increasing from the south by mid-month in Utah and the Arizona Strip (Fig 6). Dry lightning may be a concern in the south initially before moisture pushes north. However, the main concerns much of August into September will be the northern 2/3 of the Great Basin where more persistent hot and dry weather is expected (Fig 7) as a strong El Nino unfolds (Fig 8). “Above Normal” fire potential is expected across the northern 2/3 of the region in August, then shifts north and west gradually through September with a return to normal fire potential by October. The main concerns in much of the region are the mid-upper elevations due to a dry and warm winter and low snowpack with especially dry brush, Pinyon-Juniper and timber. There have even been reports of high elevation tall grass due to the poor snowpack. However, there are some areas of above normal low elevation fine fuel loading in southern Idaho and far northern Nevada that will allow significant fire spread. We will continue to monitor October if dryness persists for any prolonged fire potential in the north as the likelihood of windy conditions with fall cold fronts increases.

CURRENT FIRE ACTIVITY – Teton Interagency Dispatch

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

Area wildland fire activity in late July/early August typically features an increase in abandoned non-escape campfires and a transition to more active fire spread as live fuels begin transition to cured and dead fuels reflect typical seasonal drying and long-term drought. This July-early August is noted for an increase in abandoned non-escape campfires and a third Type 3 complexity incident for the TIDC, the Bare Fire, which has burned 370 acres.

Year-to-Date Fire Activity for Dispatch Center response zones, August 15, 2026. [2026 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
	12	6.15	21	1509.5	8	1889	89

Supporting Information

Compiled by Tim Sherwin (Fire Management Specialist - Prescribed Fire/Fuels, Bridger-Teton National Forest), Paul Hood (Fire Ecologist, US Wildland Fire Service/Bridger-Teton National Forest), 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, US Wildland Fire Service GB Unit 4: Grand Teton National Park/National Elk Refuge/Teton Interagency Fire) at ron_steffens@nps.gov.

Selected Sources

- Precipitation tracking: <https://water.weather.gov/precip/>
- Snowpack precipitation tracking focused on [Wyoming Snotel sites](#)
- [Home | Climate Toolbox](#). <https://climatetoolbox.org/>
- 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://www.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 \(Riverton, WY\)](#).

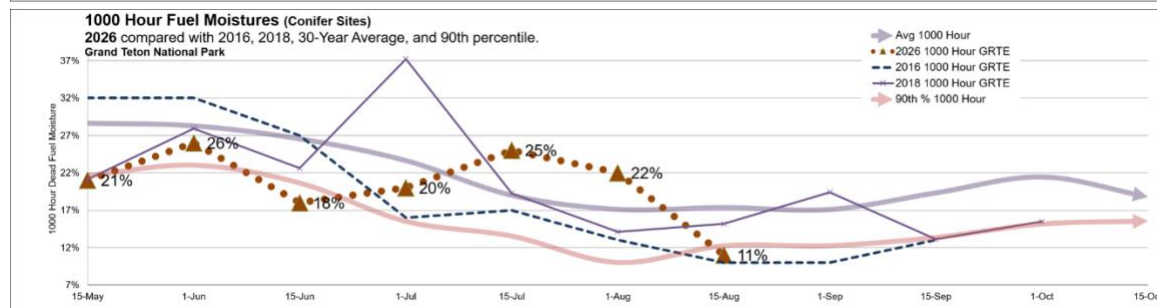
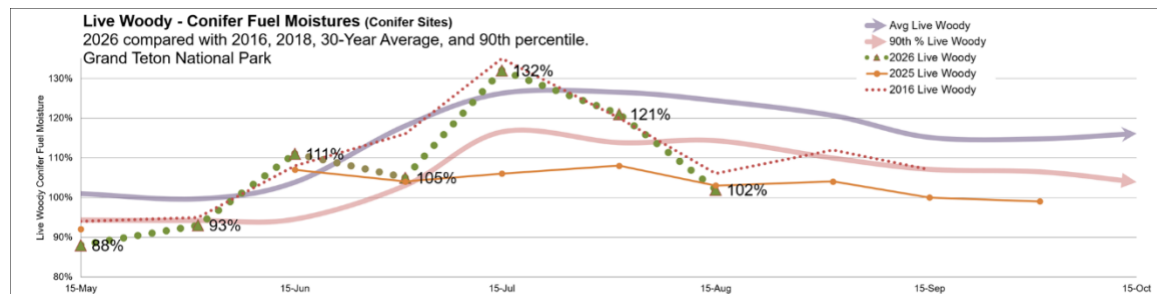
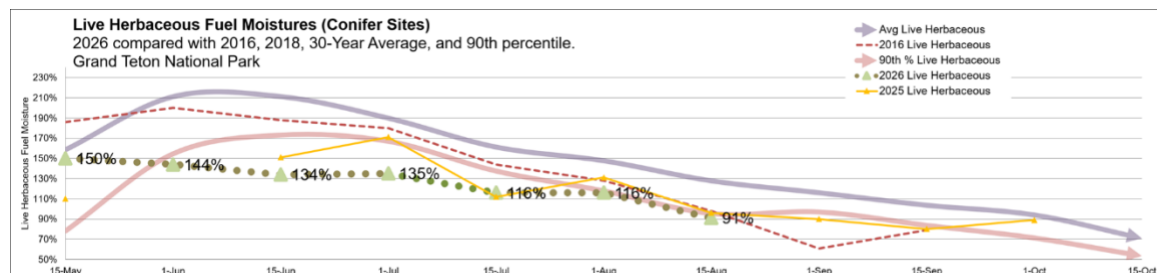
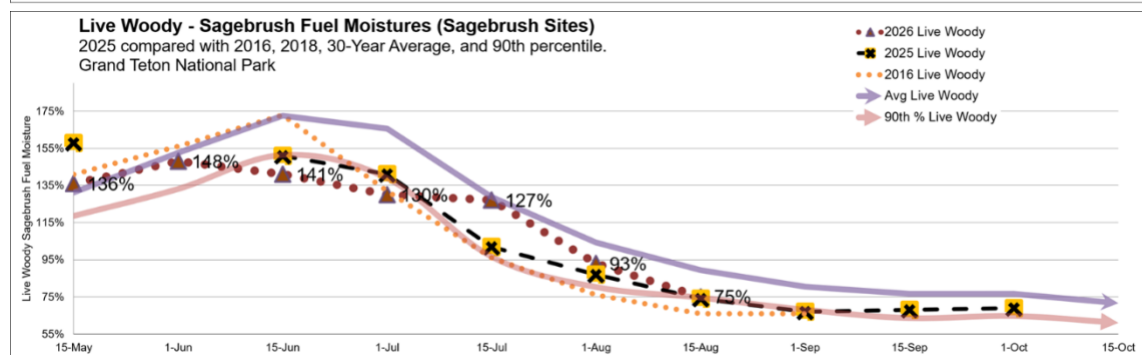
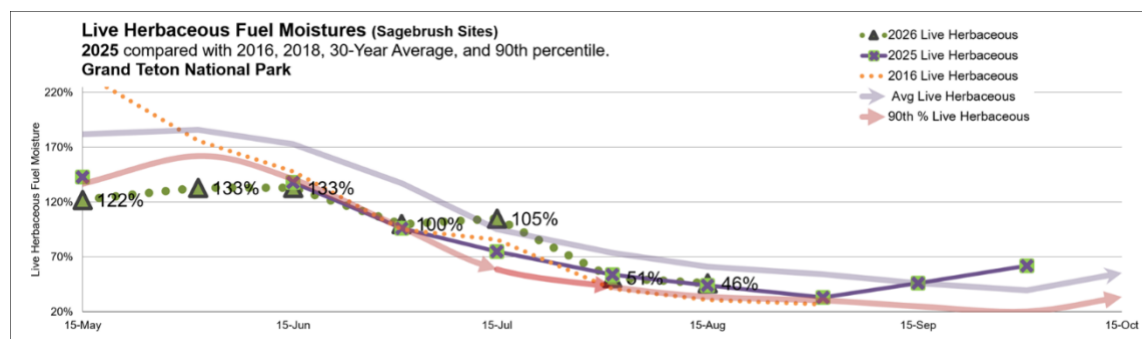
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Critical Fuel Moisture Trends

Some fuel moisture inputs were not available as a result of remote work locations and conflicting assignments. For current ERC and BI status, trends and forecasts for TIDC zones, see the Teton Fires [Intelligence](#) page. See below for current fuel moistures for West Zone, Bridger-Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park.

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 the August 15 sampling period, live fuel in sagebrush and conifer sites were near or below the 90th percentile of dryness. The 1000 Hour dead fuels (fallen logs that are 3-8” in diameter) are also at 90th percentile dryness. Moisture levels, particularly in 1000-hour dead fuels, are likely to increase after mid-August rains.



Moisture Analysis – West Zone, Bridger-Teton National Forest

West Zone: Bridger-Teton National Forest (2026) - Fire Weather Zone 414

Hams #1 (WY414)	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug
1000 Hour - in Conifer	11	15	13	15	14	6
Live Woody - Subalpine	90	83	83	100	125	80
Live Woody - Lodgepole	85	100	100	100	100	100
Live Woody - Sagebrush	175	233	225	200	166	116
ERC (Wyoming FDRA)	32.7	38.6	35.3	44.2	34.2	50.2
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Moderate	High	High	High	High
Hams #2 (WY414)	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug
1000 Hour - in Conifer	16	17	19	14	15	12
Live Woody - Subalpine	100	75	100	75	100	80
Live Woody - Lodgepole	100	66	100	88	140	100
ERC (Wyoming FDRA)	32.7	38.6	35.3	44.2	34.2	50.2
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Moderate	High	High	High	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	14	<12%
Live Woody - Conifer	>118%	110	118	<110%
Live Woody - Sagebrush	>92%	80	92	<80%
ERC (Y)	<41%	41	45	>45%