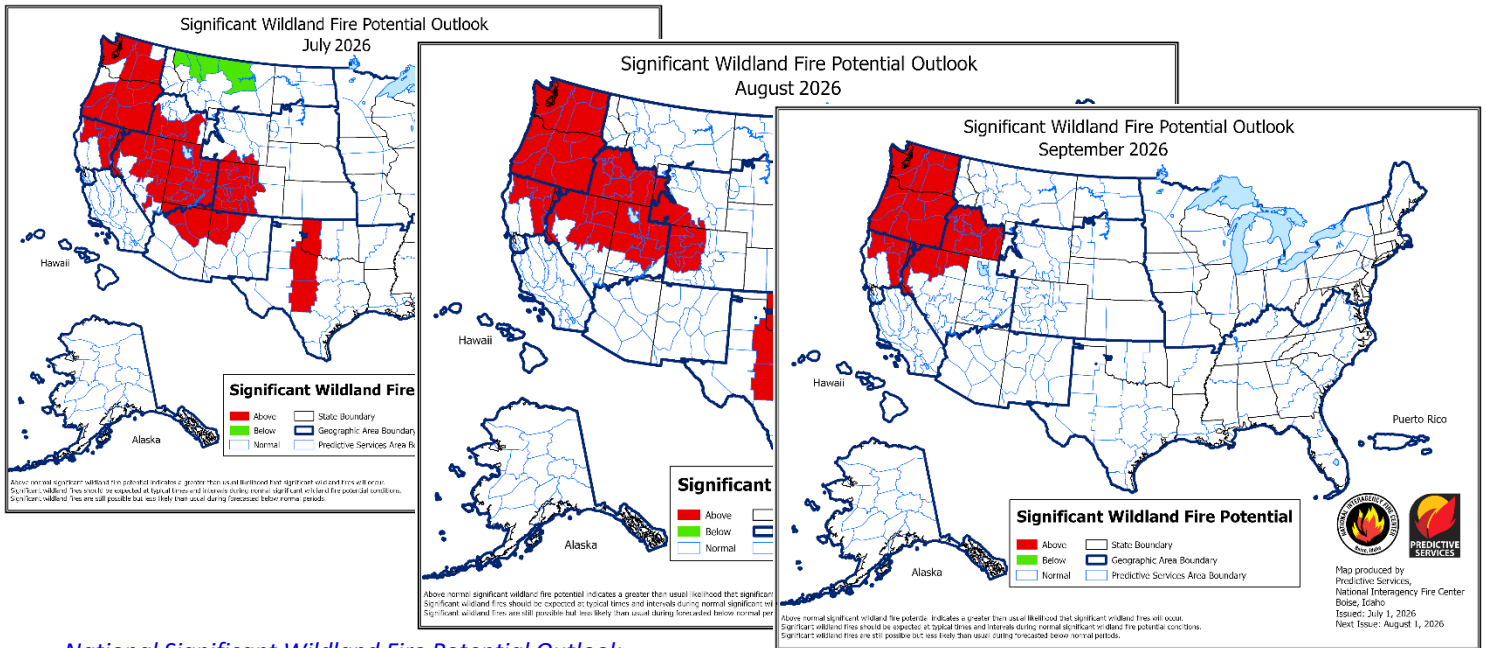


TETON INTERAGENCY FIRE JULY 2026 WILDLAND FIRE OUTLOOK

July 4, 2026



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

SUMMARY

Both late May and late June saw variable but notable precipitation – though not sufficient enough to overcome a moderate green up and fuel moistures in “Approaching Critical” status. All zones in the Teton Interagency Dispatch area are observing live woody conifer fuels at critical burning conditions, and both the Spread Creek fire in May and the Kinky Creek fire in June demonstrated early-season burning in these fuels, and both were managed with Type 3 incident teams. Summer outlooks incorporate strong El Niño conditions, which are adding additional heat to already warmer than normal conditions. These transition conditions may result in increased variability in seasonal weather patterns, including monsoonal moisture flow. While the three-month outlook shows wetter than normal conditions, July outlooks show moisture mostly in the West Zone, with other zones likely to receive normal precipitation (and July is typically the driest month of the year).

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

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

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

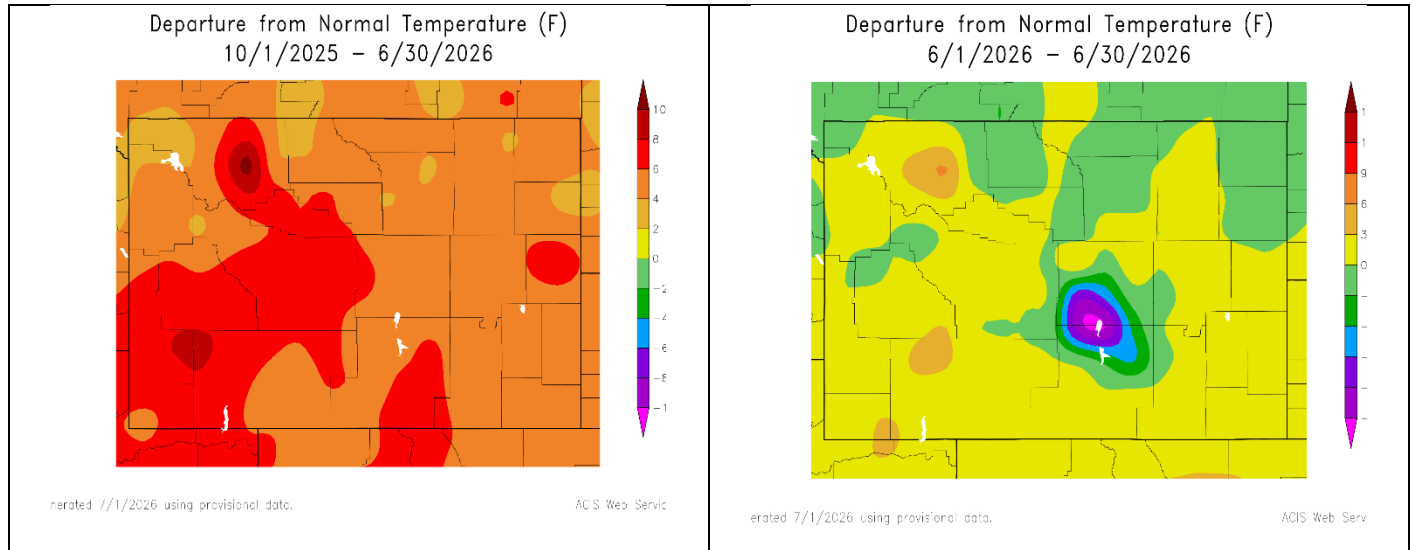
During an average fire season, based on a 20-year fire history from 2001-2020, Bridger-Teton National Forest will average 52 unplanned fires (32 natural starts and 20 human-caused fires per year) for an average of 16,522 acres per year. Grand Teton National Park will average 10 unplanned fires (six natural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

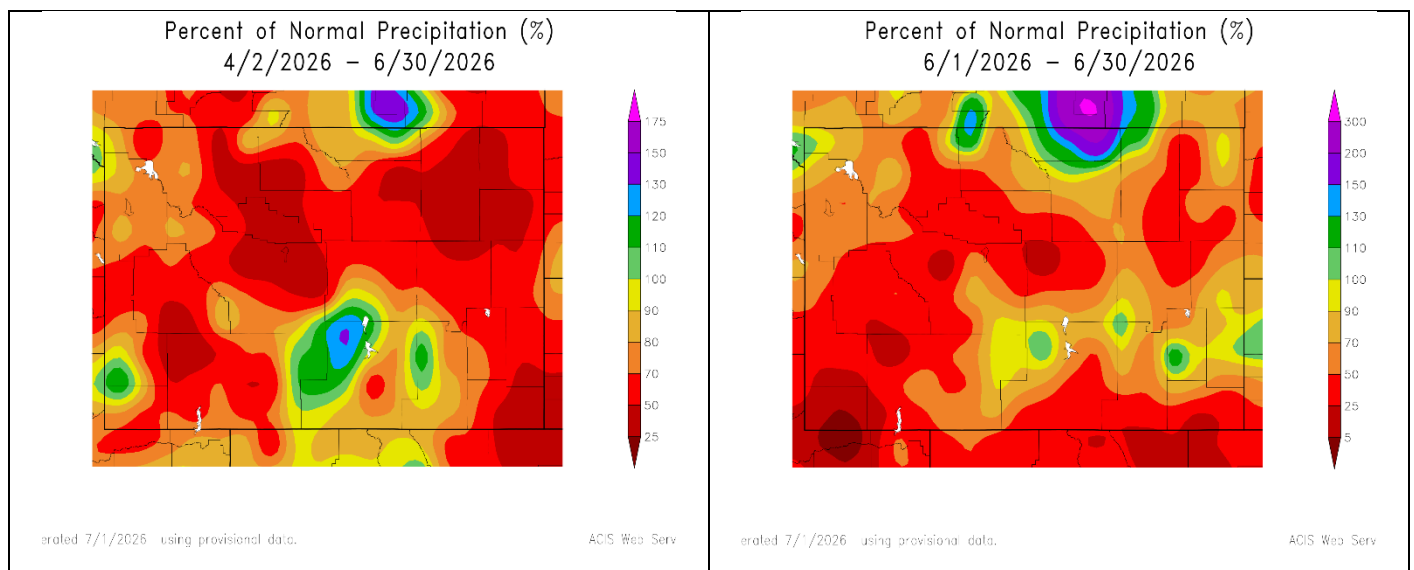
1. Temperature

WATER-YEAR-TO-DATE: For the prior nine months, the TIDC area was 4-10 deg F warmer than normal, with winter temperatures notably warmer than normal (left). **PRIOR 30 DAYS:** In the prior month, the TIDC area was 0-6 deg F warmer than normal for this period, with most of the area at 0-3 deg F warmer (right).

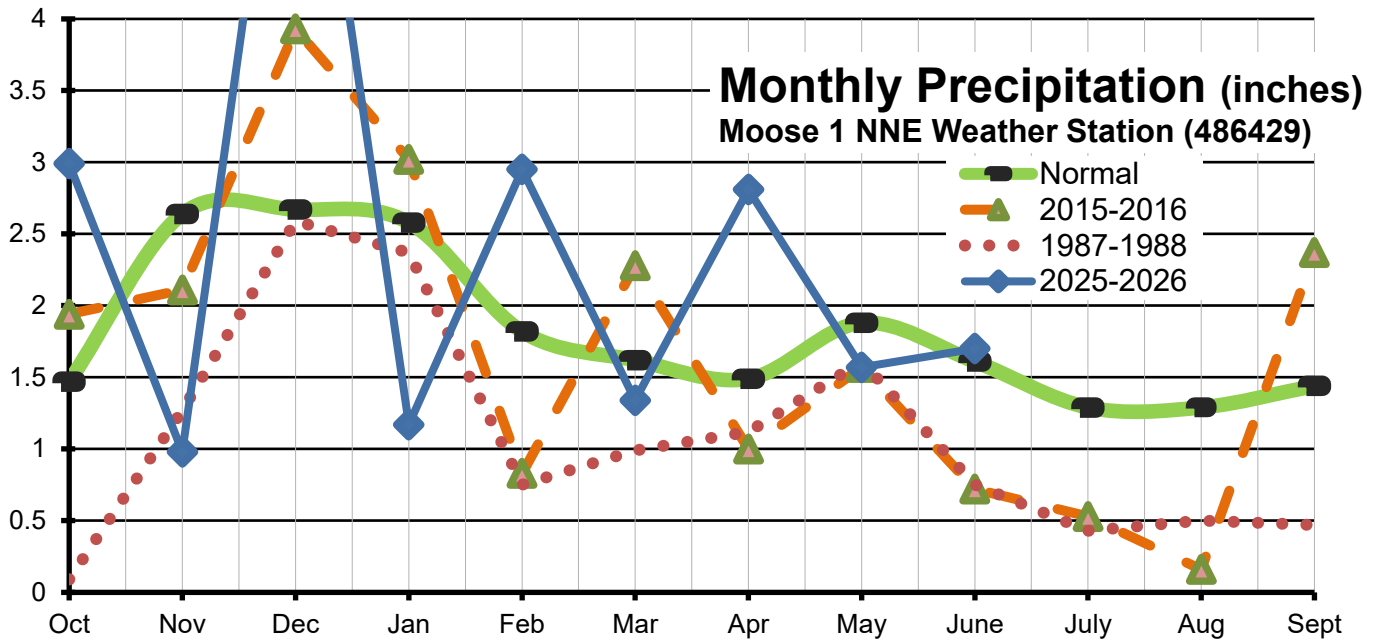


2. Precipitation

The Wyoming Percent of Normal Precipitation map for the prior three months (left) reflects significantly drier than normal precipitation. This period includes areas in western Wyoming that received heavy late-May and late June precipitation with isolated areas in southwest Wyoming above normal. The 30-day Percent of Normal Precipitation (right) shows most of the area receiving from 25-90 percent of normal precipitation.

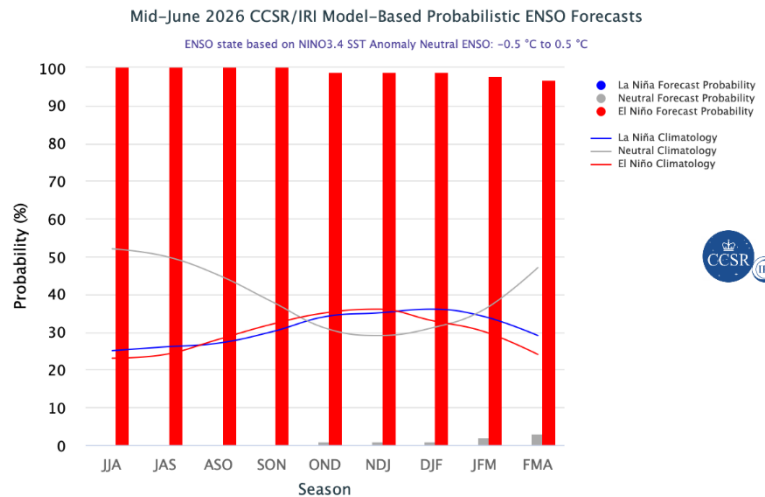


PRECIPITATION TRACKING at the [Moose 1 NNE WY Climate Reference Weather Station](#) serves as a representative site for lower elevations in Grand Teton National Park and BTNF North Zone. The station recorded 124% of 30-year normal for water year-to-date, compared to 126% for last year at this time and 98% for 2016, a prior active fire year. Five of the past nine months recorded above-normal precipitation. *Note that this site was far below normal for June until 1" of rain fell in the last week of the month, similar to a pattern in May.* Also note that precipitation overall in TIDC was variable and below normal at most sites.



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

Excerpts from the [ENSO Forecast, June 2026 Quick Look](#) (International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia Climate School): El Niño conditions are strengthening across the tropical Pacific, with SST anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region showing a steady upward trend. The observed SST anomaly reached +0.48 °C during March–May 2026 and increased to +0.94 °C in May 2026. The latest weekly Niño 3.4 index, centered on June 17, 2026, climbed further to +1.7 °C. Together, these observations indicate that Pacific Ocean conditions have transitioned into El Niño conditions and are continuing to intensify toward a moderate-strength El Niño event.

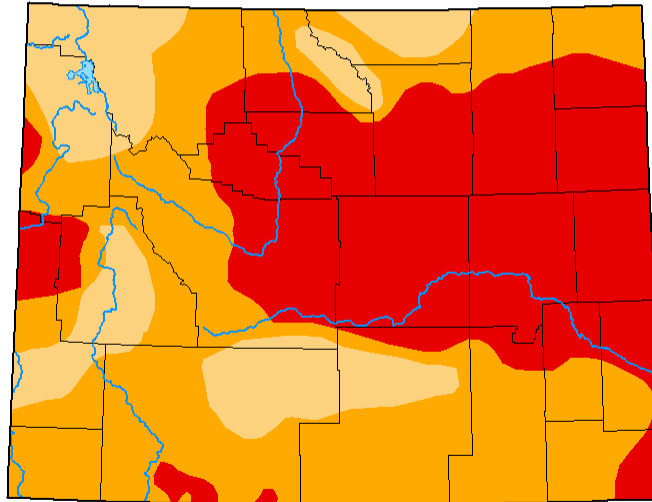


4. Drought Indicators and Impacts

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.

U.S. Drought Monitor Wyoming

June 30, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jul. 2, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

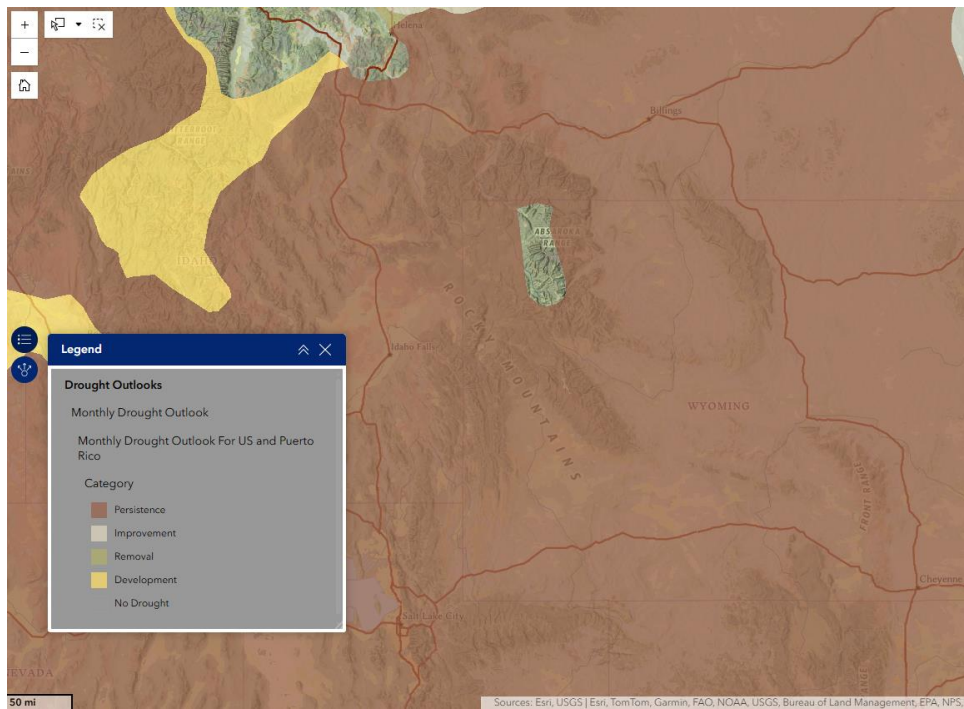
Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



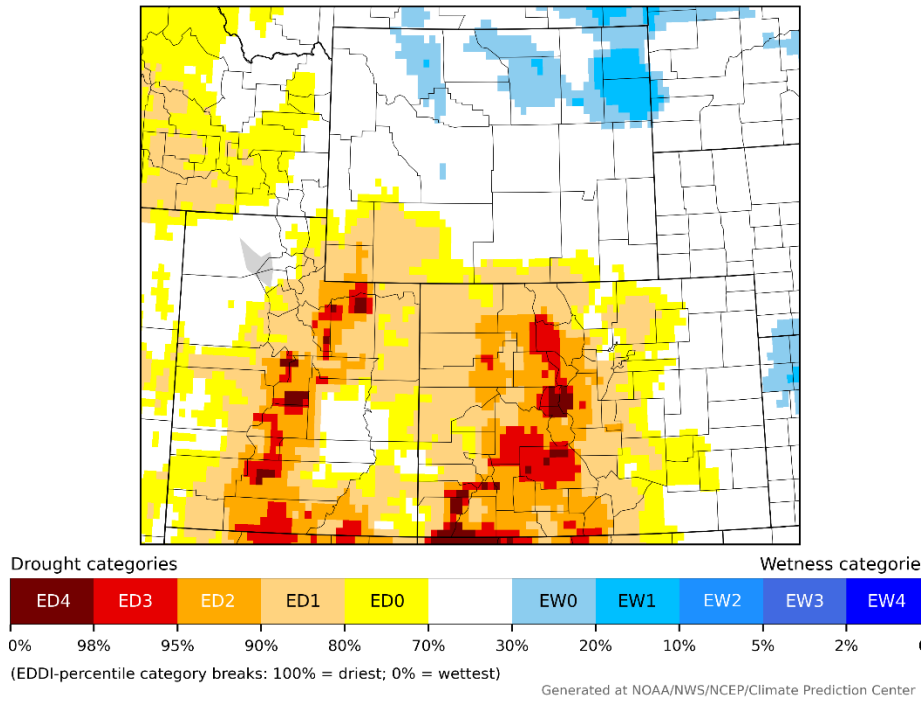
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor – Wyoming – June 23, 2026. [Wyoming | U.S. Drought Monitor \(unl.edu\)](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



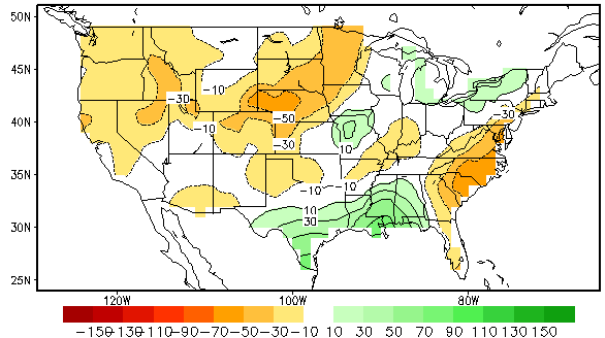
Seasonal Drought Outlook (centered on Wyoming), June 30, 2026: [Drought Outlook Interactive Experience](#)

2-week EDDI categories for June 25, 2026

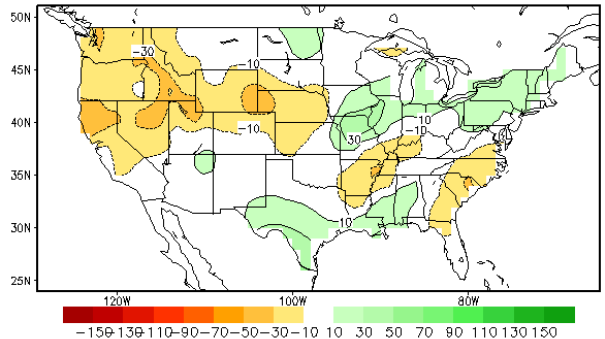


Evaporative Demand Drought Index. The EDDI can reflect recent and longer-term moisture trends and may forecast drought transitions. The 2-week EDDI reflects recent rains compared to the prior month.

Lagged Averaged Soil Moisture Outlook for End of JUL2026
units: anomaly (mm), SM data ending at 20260629



Lagged Averaged Soil Moisture Outlook for End of SEP2026
units: anomaly (mm), SM data ending at 20260629

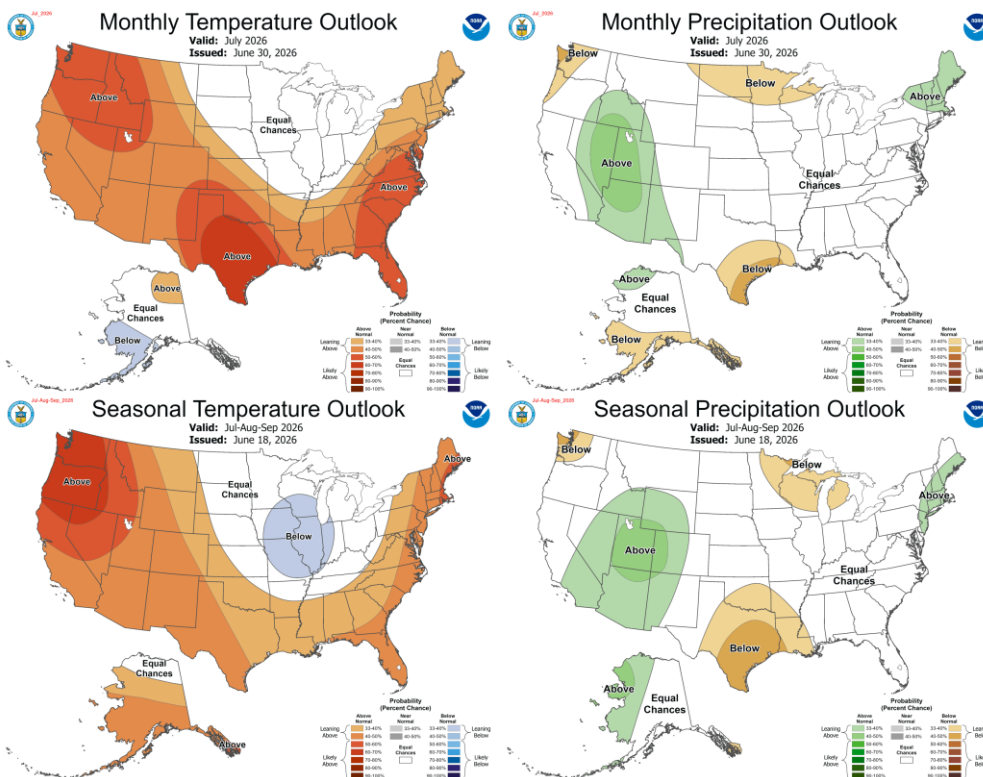
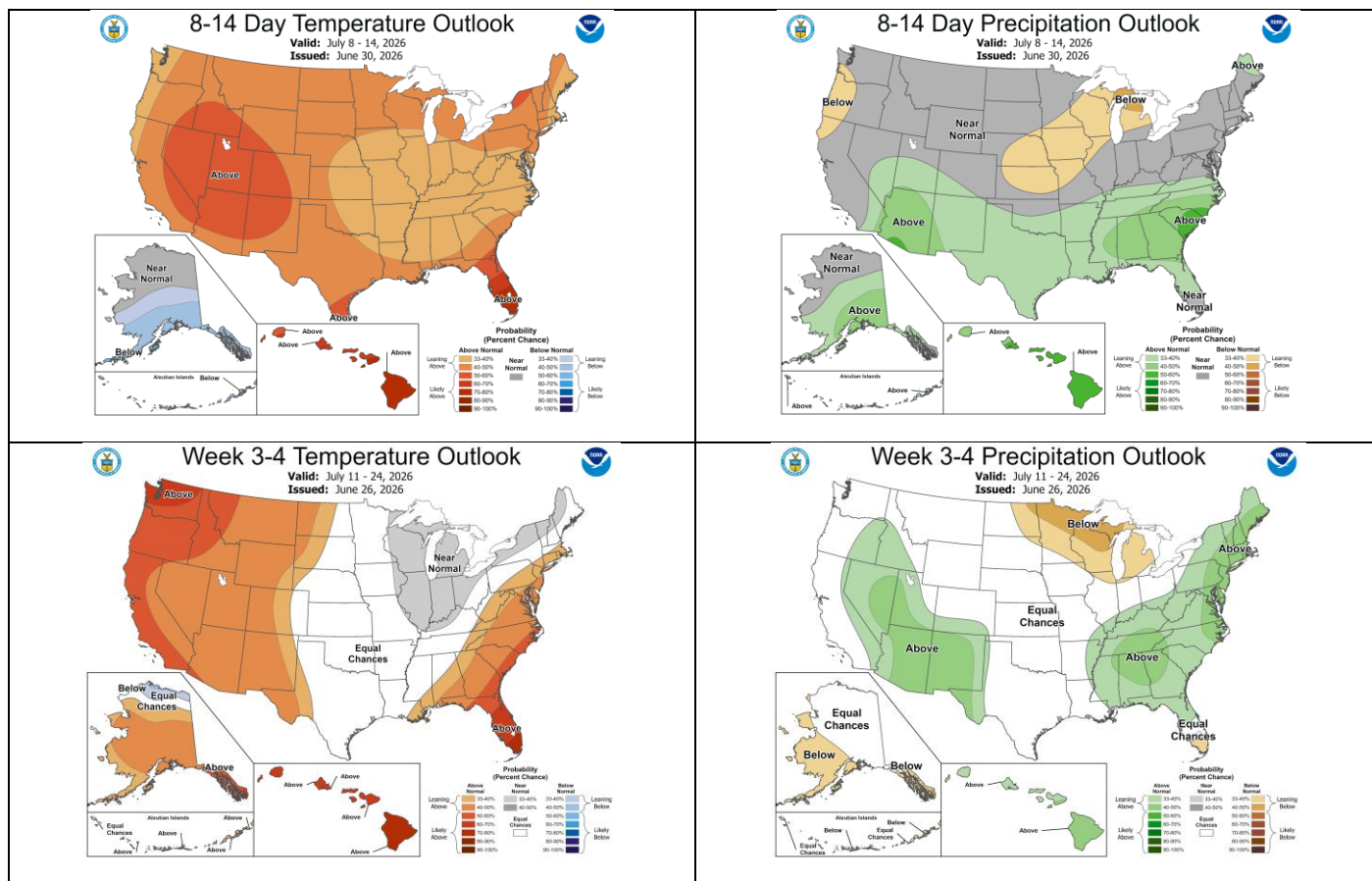


Soil Moisture Outlook for end of July and September 2026. July shows improvement in the northeast of the Dispatch area but dry conditions dominate by the end of September.

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

5. Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

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



6. Critical Fuel Status / Fuel Moisture

Early summer conditions have continued drier than normal, though late June precipitation (from 0.25" to 1+)" supported continued green up in areas that received significant moisture.

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

- **Green: Not 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.

While we are in "Green: Not Critical", a number of criteria are "Approaching Critical" and all samples of live woody conifer show this fuel at "Critical" burning conditions stage. Overall, based on ERCs and fuel moistures, the TIDC zones are "Yellow: Approaching Critical" and have the potential to reach Critical during July.

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 July-September. *Excerpts of National and Regional Outlooks.*

National – Great Basin area excerpts

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

Weather and Climate Outlooks: El Niño developed in June, and sea surface temperatures (SSTs) continue to warm throughout the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. El Niño will continue to strengthen throughout the summer and into the fall. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) forecasts El Niño to persist through the fall and winter, with near 100% confidence. The CPC is forecasting a greater than 60% chance of a strong El Niño by August or September, and a nearly 65% chance of a very strong El Niño by late fall. 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 last month but has weakened as it moves through Indonesia and the Philippines. It is forecast to become very active once again as it moves into the western Pacific in 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 rapid strengthening of El Niño.

Great Basin: A hot and dry start to July is expected. Afterward, the warmest and driest conditions will shift to the northern and western areas of the Great Basin later in the summer as a strong El Niño unfolds, and pulses of monsoon moisture may start to move into the eastern Great Basin mid to late July. Live fuel moisture dropped to record dry levels across the southern half of the Great Basin in June, while dead fuel moisture was below the 10th percentile. Continued dry conditions heading into July across the southern half of the region will keep high fire potential in many areas. However, in the north, parts of Idaho and Wyoming that received significant wetting rain and high elevation snowfall in late June that will reduce potential through at least mid-July. Monsoon moisture pulses may start in mid to late July, which will keep fire potential higher initially with a return of lightning until moisture is more consistent. Overall, fire potential should begin to decrease in the south later in July and August, while remaining higher farther north and west through September.

Great Basin Outlook (excerpts)

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

PAST WEATHER: Temperatures the last 30 days were well above normal for much of the region, with precipitation 10% - 20% of normal, except for parts of the north, from a strong cold front in late June (Fig 1). The cold front also brought exceptionally strong winds, driving fires. Isolated thunderstorms peppered the region at times, but only brought localized rainfall and new fire starts. Snowpack at the late March peak was well below normal, which translated into much drier than normal fuels heading into June. Further north across the ID/WY mountains, peak end of March snowpack was higher, 60-75% of normal, which was still significantly below normal (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 into far northeast Nevada are in exceptional drought, with most of Utah and Nevada expected to see some improvements potentially later in the summer.

FIRE POTENTIAL AND OUTLOOK: Fire activity has picked up significantly in recent weeks, including several large fires in eastern Nevada, Utah, the Arizona Strip and western Wyoming, along with several Critical Incident Management Team mobilizations (Fig 4). Fires are burning in all fuel types and elevations, and have been experiencing extreme to advanced fire behavior, prompting the issuance of a Fuel and Fire Behavior Advisory. Fuel conditions in many areas are 3-6 weeks ahead of schedule, although the late June cold front did moderate fire danger temporarily (Fig 5), and more so in the north.

A hot and dry start to July is expected, along with moisture potentially increasing from the south mid-late month in Utah and the Arizona Strip (Fig 6). Later in the summer, the warmest and driest conditions are expected to shift to the northern and western areas of the Great Basin (Fig 7) as a strong El Nino unfolds (Fig 8). "Above Normal" fire potential is expected across much of the region in July, except in the mountains of the north, as those areas will take time to recover from the late June cold temperatures and precipitation. Above normal fire potential shifts north and west gradually through August and 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 northern Nevada that will allow significant fire spread. The Summer Monsoon should begin to take the edge off large fire potential across southern areas from late July onwards.

CURRENT FIRE ACTIVITY – Teton Interagency Dispatch

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

Area wildland fire activity in early summer typically features an increase in abandoned non-escape campfires and a transition to less active fire spread as live fuels green up and dead fuels maintain seasonal moisture. This June is noted for five lightning-ignited fires, an increase in abandoned campfires compared to prior Junes, and a second Type 3 complexity incident, the Kinky Creek Fire, which has burned 883 acres.

Year-to-Date Fire Activity for Dispatch Center response zones, July 1, 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
	6	5	7	1027.8	8	1889	42

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 \(Riverton, WY\)](#).

Critical Fuel Moisture Trends

Critical Fuel Moisture Trends - Summary	Date				Wyoming FDRA - WY414	Teton FDRA - WY415	Wind FDRA - WY416			
	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	7/4/2026	Green: Not Critical	Green: Not Critical	Green: Not Critical		
WY414	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep	15-Sep	1-Oct	15-Oct
ERC (Wyoming FDRA)	32.7	38.6	35.3							
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Moderate	High							
Critical Fuel Moisture	Not Critical	Not Critical	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)	38	38.2	30.02							
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Low	High							
Critical Fuel Moisture	Not Critical	Not Critical	Not Critical							
WY416	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep	15-Sep	1-Oct	15-Oct
ERC (Wind FDRA)	30	38.6	37.23							
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Moderate	High							
Critical Fuel Moisture	Not Critical	Not Critical								
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	Not Critical	Not Critical	Approaching							

NARRATIVE

East Zone is seeing a marginal downward trend of our dead fuels and pine and spruce. The exception is the sagebrush that appears to be in green up as it is gaining moisture despite the lack of precipitation. Cheat grass appears to be beginning to cure, but is not yet showing purple. At Grand Teton National Park, fuel moisture collection at conifer sites show live herbaceous grasses and live woody conifer entering green up and trending below normal and tracking with the driest 90th percentile for this time of season. The exception to the drying trend are 1000 hour fuels, which trending closer toward normal after late June rains. Both grasses and sagebrush at sagebrush sites show a drier green up than average but remain in low-moderate burning conditions.

Fuel Moistures by Sites			
Snyder Basin (WY414)	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul
1000 Hour - in Conifer	34	10	14
100 Hour - in Conifer	20	7	10
10 Hour - in Conifer		9	11
Live Woody - Conifer	85	92	97
Live Woody - Sagebrush	205	210	194
Hams #1 (WY414)			
1000 Hour - in Conifer	11	15	13
Live Woody - Subalpine	90	83	83
Live Woody - Lodgepole	85	100	100
Live Woody - Sagebrush	175	233	225
Hams #2 (WY414)			
1000 Hour - in Conifer	16	17	19
Live Woody - Subalpine	100	75	100
Live Woody - Lodgepole	100	66	100
GTNP(WY415)			
1000 Hour - in Conifer	21	18	20
1 Hour - in Conifer			
Live Herb - in Conifer	150	134	135
Live Woody - Conifer	88	111	105
LH - Grasses in Sagebrush	136	133	100
Live Woody - Sagebrush	122	141	130
Burno Hill (WY415)			
1000 Hour - in Conifer	12	16.7	17.2
10 Hour - in Conifer	10.3	19.9	15
Live Herb - in Conifer (Snowberry)	216	200	158
Live Herb - Grasses	247	258	232
Live Woody - Douglas Fir	81	85	81
Live Woody - Sagebrush	145	208	158
Cache Creek (WY415)			
1000 Hour - in Conifer	15.8	20.5	15.4
10 Hour - in Conifer	18.5	16.5	26.4
Live Herb - in Conifer (Snowberry)	227	240	151
Live Herb - Grasses	295	277	282
Live Woody - Douglas Fir	86.5	84	85
Live Woody - Sagebrush	160	144	189
Hoback (WY416)			
1000 Hour - in Conifer	28	26.4	17
100 Hour - in Conifer	25	13.6	18
10 Hour - in Conifer	10	10.5	15
Live Woody - Conifer	82	85	101
Live Woody - Sagebrush	175	237	202
Half Moon (WY416)			
1000 Hour - in Conifer	14	12	
100 Hour - in Conifer	11	11.4	
10 Hour - in Conifer	29	28.8	
Live Woody - Conifer	90	87	
Live Woody - Sagebrush	150	190	

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 July 1 sampling period, all live fuel categories in sagebrush and conifer sites were at or below the 90th percentile of dryness, with limited moisture increase during green up. The 1000 Hour dead fuels (fallen logs that are 3-8” in diameter) rose closer to seasonal average after variable rains in and in late June.

