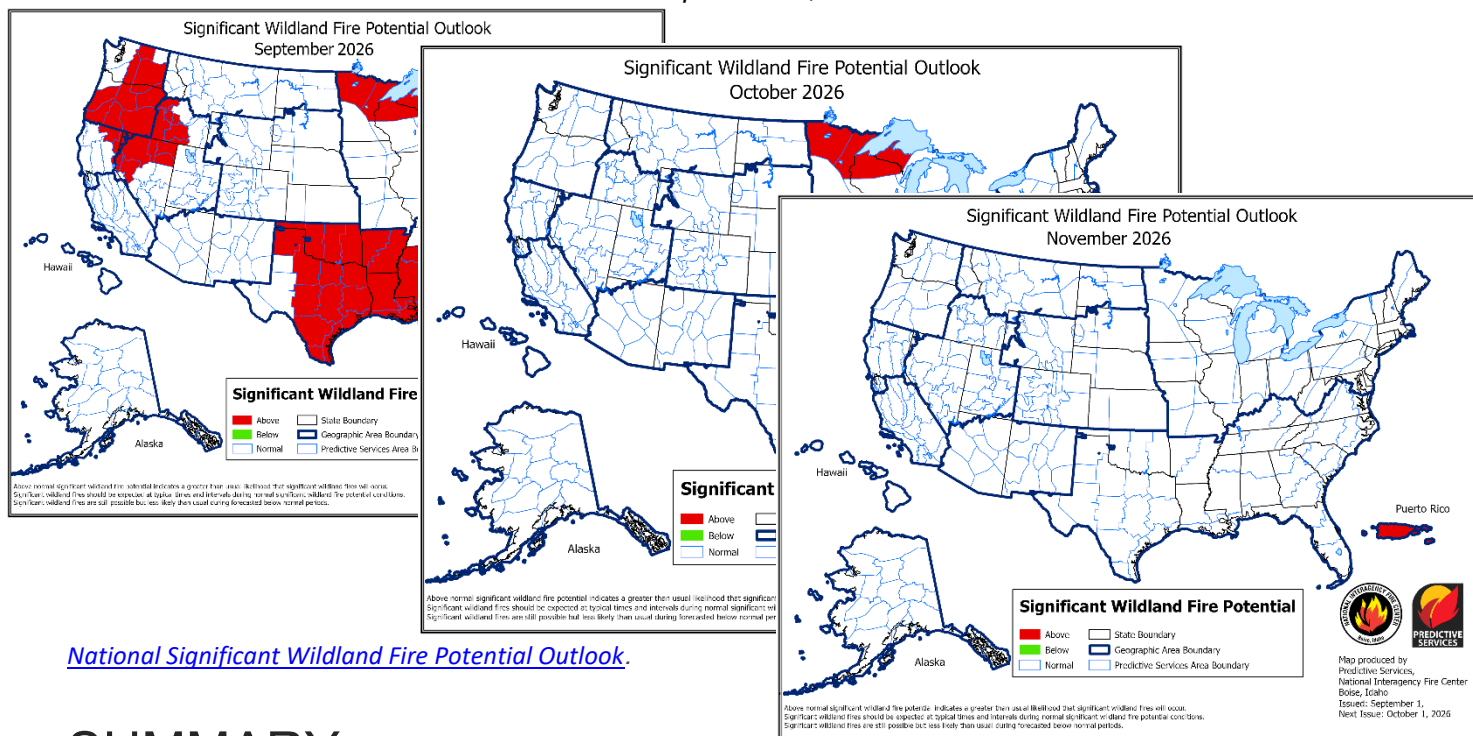


TETON INTERAGENCY FIRE SEPTEMBER 2026 WILDLAND FIRE OUTLOOK

September 2, 2026



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

SUMMARY

Monsoonal flow in later July and into August moderated fire activity, though fuels remained at Approaching Critical and fire indices (particularly Energy Release Component) remained elevated if not at record levels for the first half of August.

Outlooks for the first half of September indicate continued warmer than normal temperatures accompanied by wetter than normal conditions, with the last half of September returning to normal conditions. Overall, the September-November fall months are expected to see warmer than normal conditions and normal precipitation.

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

- **Normal fire potential for September through November**

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

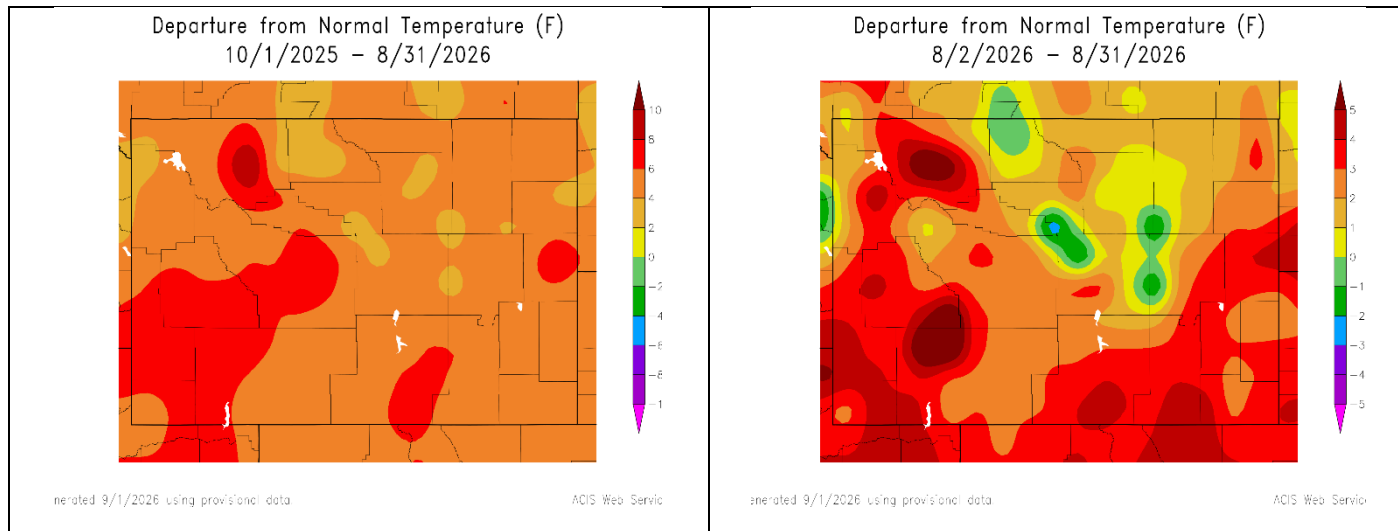
During an average fire season, based on a 20-year fire history from 2001-2020, Bridger-Teton National Forest will average 52 unplanned fires (32 natural starts and 20 human-caused fires per year) for an average of 16,522 acres per year. Grand Teton National Park will average 10 unplanned fires (six natural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

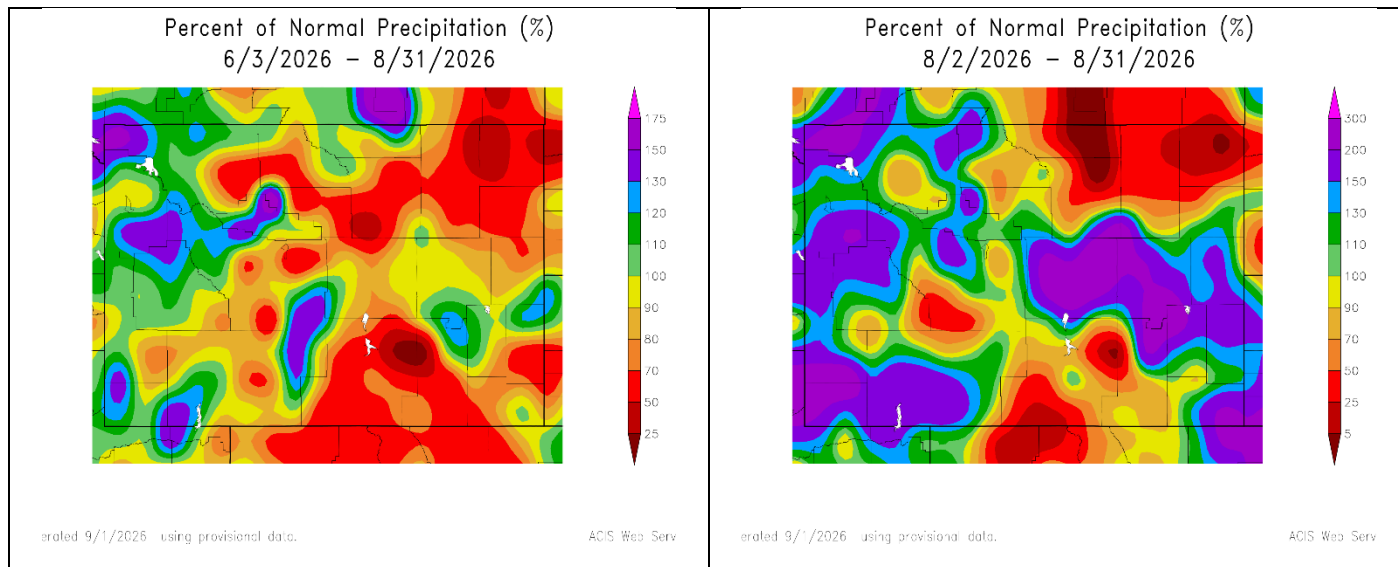
1. Temperature

WATER-YEAR-TO-DATE (left): For the prior 11 months, the TIDC area was 2-6 deg F warmer than normal, with winter to mid-summer temperatures notably warmer than normal. **PRIOR 30 DAYS (right):** In the prior month, the TIDC area was 0-4 deg F warmer than normal, which is cooler than prior months.

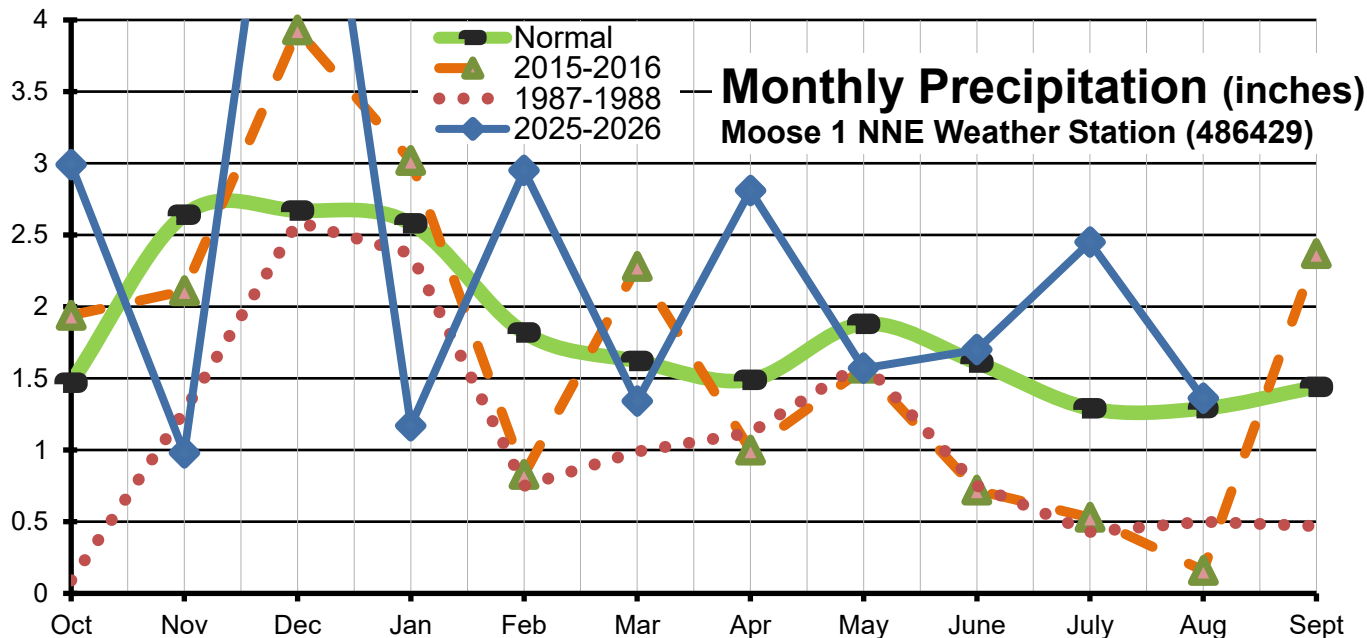


2. Precipitation

The Wyoming Percent of Normal Precipitation map for the prior three months (left) and 30 days reflects a transition from some areas with drier than normal precipitation into generally above-normal precipitation area-wide with the exception of drier zones near Kemmerer and in the southeast Wind River range.



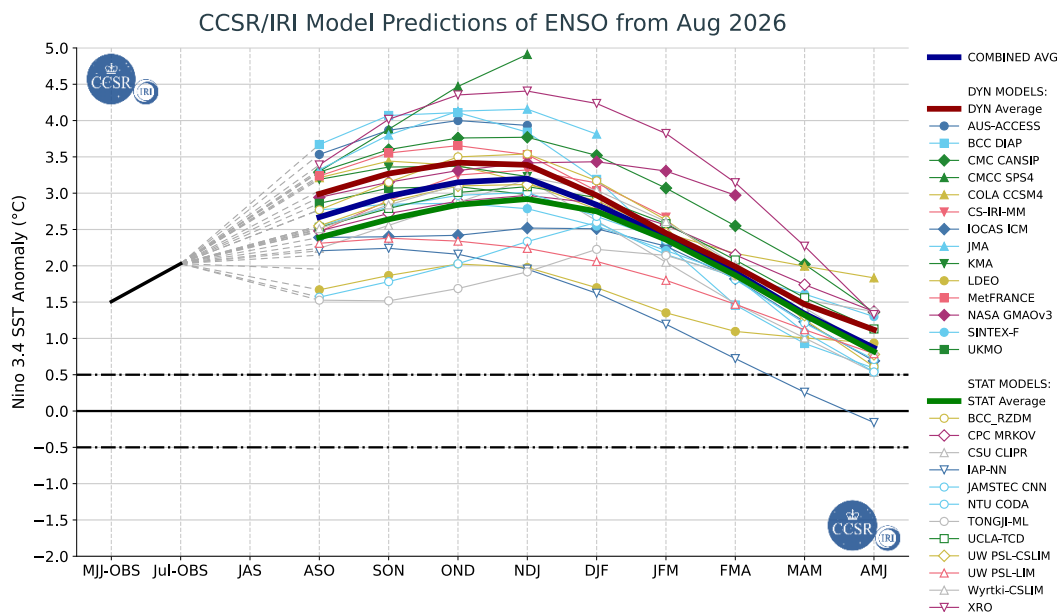
PRECIPITATION TRACKING at the [Moose 1 NNE WY Climate Reference Weather Station](#) serves as a representative site for lower elevations in Grand Teton National Park and BTNF North Zone. The station recorded 127% of 30-year normal for water year-to-date, compared to 126% for last year at this time and 89% for 2016, a prior active fire year. Seven of the past 11 months recorded above-normal precipitation. *Note that this site, like many, has seen dry periods followed by isolated but at times intense rain. In August this site received nearly 1/2" of rain in mid-August and then again in late-August. 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, August 2026 Quick Look](#) (International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia Climate School):

The 2026 El Niño event continues to intensify across the central-eastern equatorial Pacific. The traditional Niño 3.4 index shows a clear and sustained increase, with the most recent seasonal mean reaching +1.51 °C during May–July 2026 and the July monthly value increasing to +2.03 °C. The latest weekly Niño 3.4 index, centered on August 12, 2026, reached +2.7 °C. Together, these observations indicate that El Niño is strengthening further and evolving toward a very strong event.

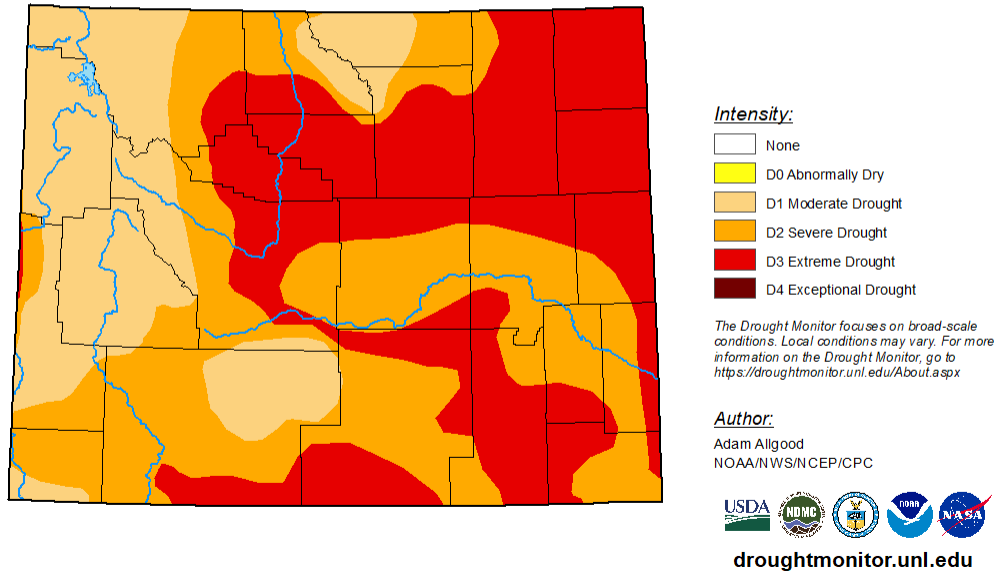


4. Drought Indicators and Impacts

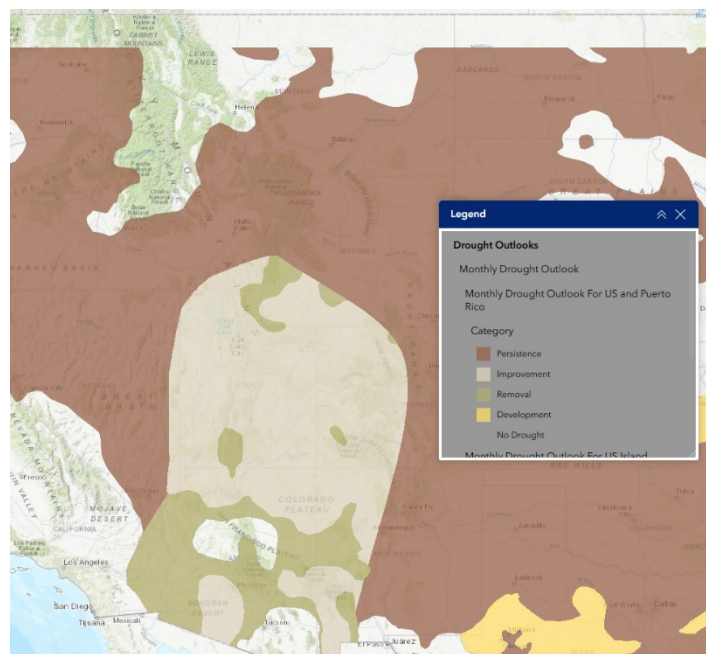
PERSISTENT DROUGHT: Western Wyoming is primarily in Moderate to Extreme Drought and all Wyoming is in some state of drought. Seasonal outlooks indicate persistent drought conditions throughout the fire season.

U.S. Drought Monitor Wyoming

August 25, 2026
(Released Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

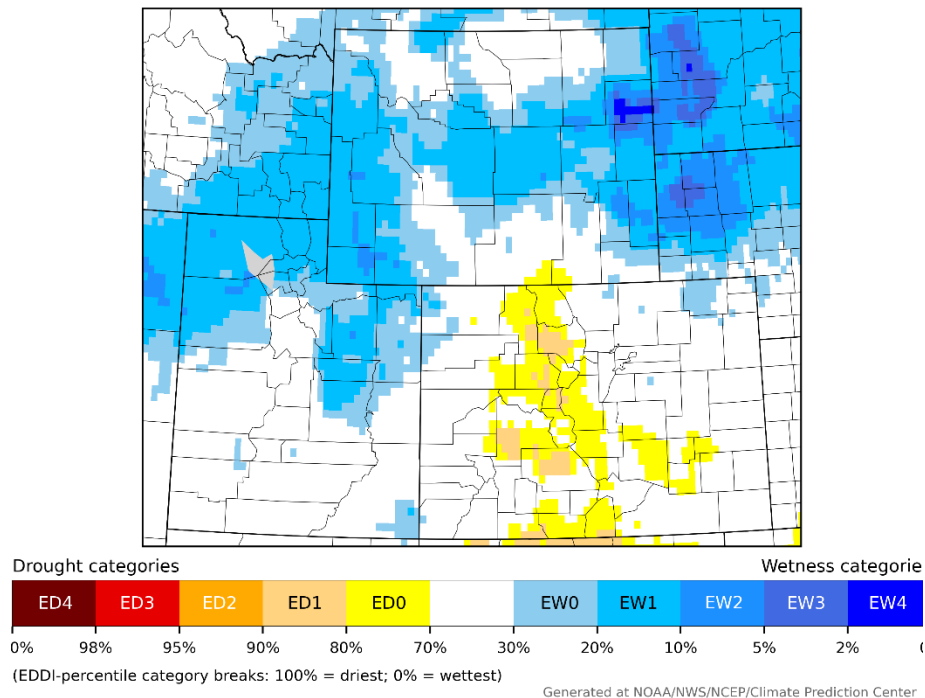


[Wyoming | U.S. Drought Monitor \(unl.edu\)](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



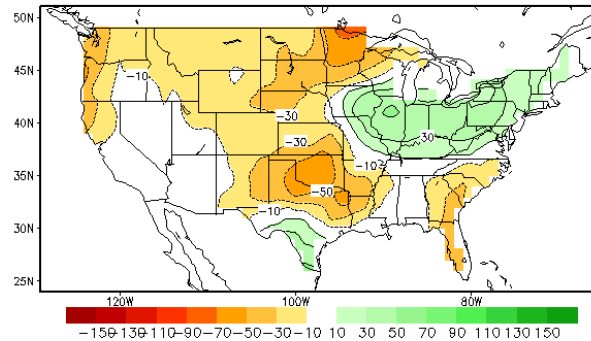
Seasonal Drought Outlook (westwide, centered on Wyoming), September 1, 2026, indicates potential for improvement in southwest Wyoming and continuing drought in northwest Wyoming: [Drought Outlook Interactive Experience](#)

2-week EDDI categories for August 25, 2026

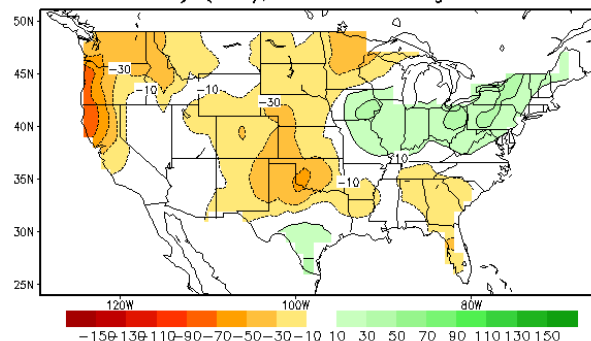


Evaporative Demand Drought Index. The EDDI can reflect recent and longer-term moisture trends and may forecast drought transitions. The current 2-week EDDI reflects a moister trend compared to prior periods.

Lagged Averaged Soil Moisture Outlook for End of SEP2026
units: anomaly (mm), SM data ending at 20260829



Lagged Averaged Soil Moisture Outlook for End of NOV2026
units: anomaly (mm), SM data ending at 20260829

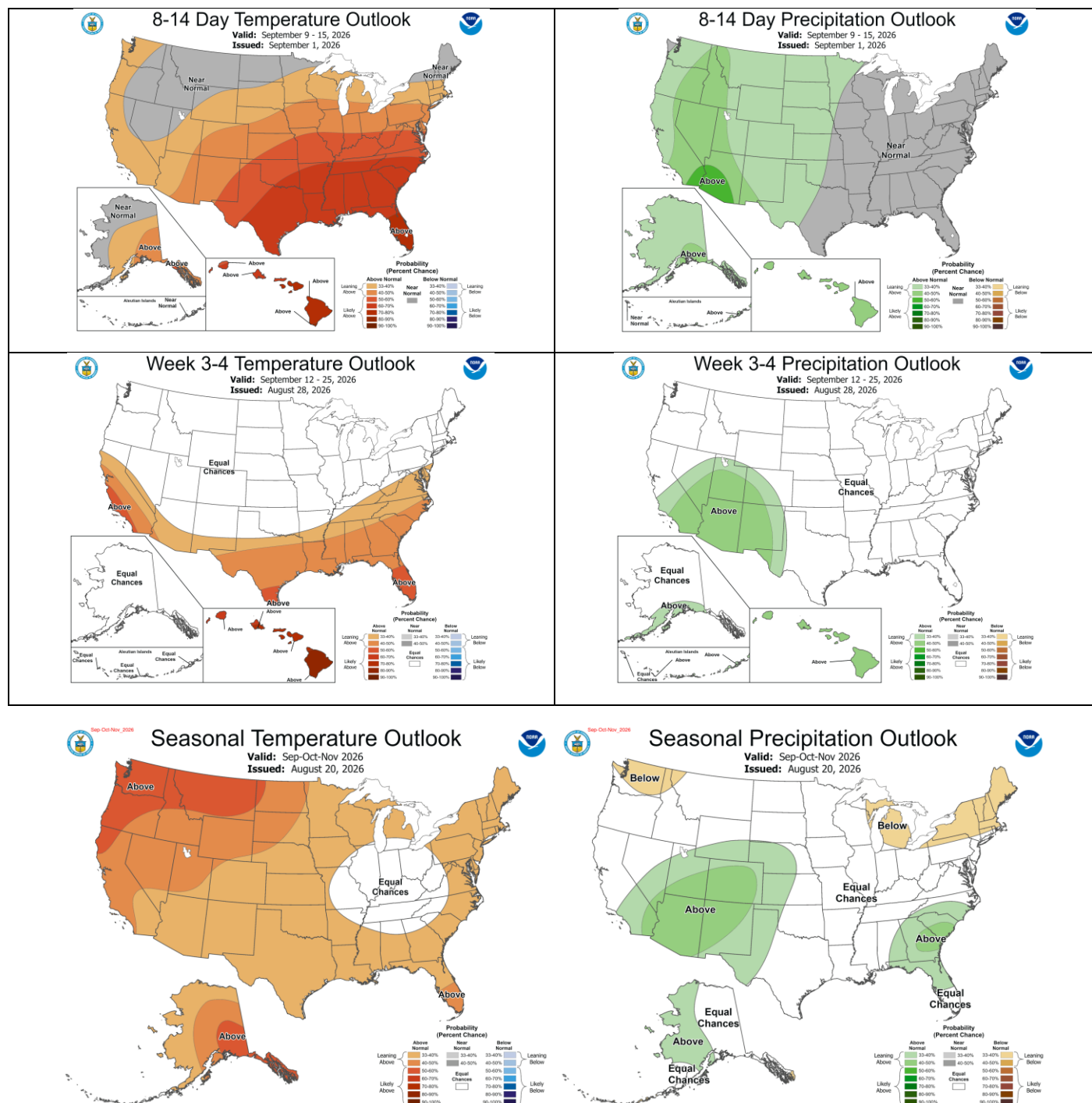


Soil Moisture Outlooks call for 10-30% drier than average at the end of September, with a trend by end of November toward normal moisture north and below normal south.

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

5. Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

Near normal temperatures (warmer south), with above-normal precipitation in first half of September.



6. Critical Fuel Status / Fuel Moisture

August conditions continued drier than normal in live and dead fuels, though widespread precipitation has begun to moderate fuel conditions and ERCs.

- September 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” at the end of this outlook for critical fuel moisture trends and status.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OUTLOOKS

Teton Interagency Dispatch is in the Great Basin Geographic Area, 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 September-October.

Excerpts of National and Regional Outlooks.

National – Great Basin area excerpts

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

Weather and Climate Outlooks: El Niño continues to rapidly strengthen in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Central Tropical Pacific sea surface temperature anomalies are more than 1.5 C above average, the threshold for a strong El Niño, and are nearing the 2 C threshold for a very strong El Niño. El Niño is forecast to continue to strengthen into the fall by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC). The CPC forecasts El Niño to persist through the fall and winter, with 100% confidence, with a greater than 95% chance of a very strong El Niño by November that could last through the winter. In fact, most of the models used by the CPC and internationally show this El Niño to be the strongest on record, and the CPC forecast is for a 69% chance that the strength would exceed the previous strongest El Niño since 1950. The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) remains in a weakly negative phase and is likely to remain negative through the outlook period. The Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) was generally weak in August except for some brief enhanced activity in the western Pacific. The MJO is forecast to remain weak in September, and its impact is often significantly less during an El Niño. Therefore, the main climate driver for the outlook will be the very strong El Niño.

Great Basin: Fire activity in August was very active overall, especially at the start of the month with the Great Basin going to preparedness level five (on a scale of 1–5). Then some mid-month moisture reduced large fire growth, allowing a brief return to preparedness level three before activity made a significant uptick late in the month, prompting an upgrade back to preparedness level four. A secondary push of monsoon moisture toward the end of August moistened fuels considerably across the eastern Great Basin. However, in a pattern also observed in July, some areas of recent wetting rains have seen fire activity resume, increasing quickly after only a few warm and dry days, likely the ramifications of this past winter’s snow drought.

A wet start to September is expected, including the possibility of at least one tropical storm being pulled inland across the Southwest into the southern and central areas of the Great Basin. Afterward, an area of strong high pressure is expected to reform across the West by mid-September, with increasingly warm and dry conditions likely for much of the latter part of the month. This high pressure will begin to get suppressed by increased shortwaves dropping down from the Pacific Northwest by the end of September into October. Afterward, the outlook becomes increasingly uncertain as the strongest El Niño on record may begin to influence our weather. Due to the recent above-normal fire activity, plus the pattern of rapidly resuming fire activity after every ensuing brief dry spell, above normal significant fire potential was kept for the northwestern half of the Great Basin in September. Confidence is too low from October onward regarding any deviation from normal, especially with the record strong El Niño likely to bring extreme weather conditions later this year.

Great Basin Outlook (excerpts)

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

PAST WEATHER: Temperatures the last 30 days were 3-6 degrees above normal for most areas, while precipitation was drier than normal in the south & northwest but wetter than normal in central & eastern areas (Fig 1). The overall monsoon rainfall (since July 1st) was wetter than normal in most areas, but with drier pockets across southern Nevada, far southeast Utah and western Idaho (Fig 2). The US Drought Monitor the most extreme drought levels across the Idaho/Nevada border into northwest Utah (Fig 3). By the end of August, prolonged monsoonal showers along with higher humidity modified fuels across most areas, while far southern Nevada and western Idaho remained the driest (Fig 4). Meanwhile, El Nino conditions rapidly strengthened during August, with models predicting the strongest/warmest El Nino in modern history (Fig 5).

FIRE POTENTIAL AND OUTLOOK: Fire activity was intense at the start of the month but steadily decreased thru late August as persistent monsoonal moisture overspread the region from mid-August onwards. However, due to the prolonged drought, fire activity briefly picked up after only a few dry/warm days.

A moist start to September is expected as a cool, moist upper low drops down from the Pacific Northwest, and absorbs deep subtropical moisture from Tropical Storm (and soon forecast to become a hurricane) Marie (Fig 6). Afterwards there is likely to be some warming/drying later in September, but with all the moisture that occurs in the first 7-10 days of month, September is still expected to be wetter than normal (Fig 7). The weather outlook for October and beyond becomes more uncertain as the very strong El Nino unfolds and peaks. The overall expectation is drier/warmer weather in the north while wetter weather develops in the south (Fig 8), but due to the strength of the current El Nino (expected to peak as the strongest ever) there could be wetter than normal conditions much further north. However this should be irrelevant to any large-scale fire concerns as we head into the offseason. The main concern is for September, as extreme long term drought conditions persist in western Idaho and northern Nevada, and as this past summer has shown, fire activity picks up quickly after rainfall in these drought-stricken areas.

CURRENT FIRE ACTIVITY – Teton Interagency Dispatch

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

Area wildland fire activity in August into early September typically features an increase in abandoned non-escape campfires and active fire spread as live fuels transition to cured and dead fuels reflect typical seasonal drying and long-term drought. This August is noted for an increase in abandoned non-escape campfires and fuels approaching but not reaching critical status, with large fire growth constrained in part by intermittent precipitation.

Year-to-Date Fire Activity for Dispatch Center response zones, September 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
	14	6.35	30	1510.47	8	1889	110

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		
9/1/2026	Yellow: Approaching Critical		Yellow: Approaching Critical		Yellow: Approaching Critical		

WY414	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep
ERC (Wyoming FDRA)	32.7	38.6	35.3	44.2	34.2	50.2	24.6
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Moderate	High	High	High	High	High
Critical Fuel Moisture	Not Critical	Not Critical	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching

WY415	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep
ERC (Teton FDRA)	38	38.2	30.02	43	34.2	30	23
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Low	High	High	High	High	High
Critical Fuel Moisture	Not Critical	Not Critical	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching

WY416	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep
ERC (Wind FDRA)	30	38.6	37.23	43.02	42	31.12	26.01
Adjective Fire Danger	Low	Moderate	High	High	High	High	High
Critical Fuel Moisture	Not Critical	Not Critical	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching

Cumulative Fire Rating	1-Jun	15-Jun	1-Jul	15-Jul	1-Aug	15-Aug	1-Sep
Cumulative Fire Rating	Not Critical	Not Critical	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching	Approaching

Narrative:

[Teton Interagency Fire](#)

We remain near critical levels overall, though some of our sage and lodgepole sites are showing improved fuel moisture. Most of our 1000-hour fuels remain non-critical. Fuel moistures are trending at average to above-average for this time of year. Forecasted ERCs are tracking in the 50th to 70th percentile range. We should still expect wind-driven runs in the timber, but longer-range spotting should be reduced as receptive fuels have gained moisture.

Moisture Analysis – Grand Teton National Park

Five fuel moisture types in Grand Teton National Park are compared to a 30+ year sampling average. For the September 1 sampling period, live fuels in sagebrush and conifer sites were near or below the 90th percentile of dryness, with the exception of grasses in sagebrush sites, which are exhibiting a late-season green up. Moisture in 1000 Hour dead fuels (fallen logs that are 3-8" in diameter) has increased, trending toward normal for late summer. Moisture levels are likely to increase after late August rain that occurred after the current samples were collected.

