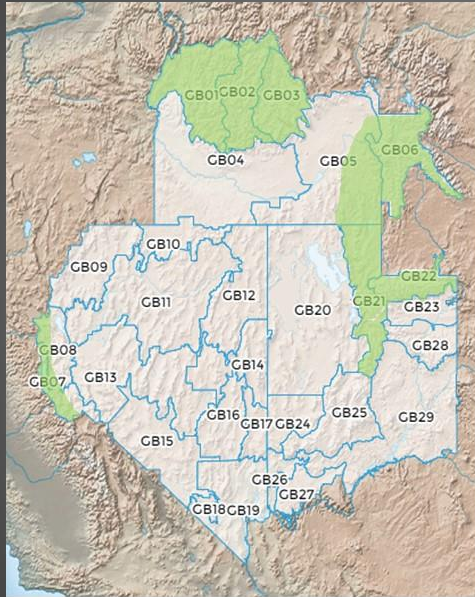
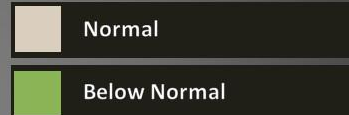


Seasonal Outlook for May - August 2017

May and June Outlook



Large Fire Potential



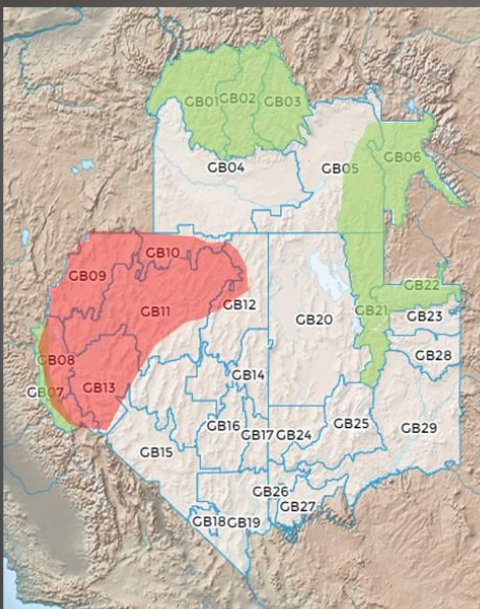
RECENT WEATHER/FIRE POTENTIAL:

Weather: After an anomalously wet winter with some areas seeing record precipitation, March dried significantly across the Great Basin, with precipitation increasing again over the Northern 2/3 of the Great Basin in April. (See Figures 1 and 2.) April precipitation increased to 150-200% of normal in the north and remained below 25-70% of normal over Southern/Central Nevada, the AZ Strip and Eastern Utah. Temperatures were also above normal in the south and below normal in the north. The precipitation over the last 1-2 years has successfully brought the Great Basin out of drought conditions (See Figure 4).

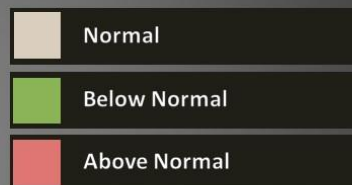
Fuels: A healthy snowpack is in place across the area, with most high elevation sites reporting SWEs above 130% of normal. (Figure 3) The exception to this is across central and southern Utah where SNOTEL sites are reporting SWE at 20-80% of normal. A robust grass crop has been reported or is expected across the lower elevations of the northern half of the Great Basin. Fuel Specialists have reported that as of April, fine fuels are in green up in the low elevations of the southern half of the Great Basin and starting green up further north. This grass crop is expected to play a significant role later in the season.

Outlook: Climate outlooks call for above normal temperatures and dry conditions across the southern half of the Great Basin in May, with wet/cooler weather potential over the southern and eastern half of the Great Basin June-August (Figure 5). Drier than normal weather is expected for the western and northern areas of the region from June through August. If the anomalously dry weather and warm temperatures come to fruition, one would expect the abundant fine fuel crop to begin curing towards the end of June, and possibly sooner if temperatures are warmer than expected. During May and June as temperatures warm and fuels continue to dry, it is possible that during warm and windy conditions, especially after a prolonged dry period, there could be brief periods of increased fire potential, especially with high grass loading. Additionally, there have been reports of grasses extending higher in elevation than is typical, which would allow fires to make bigger than expected upslope runs in fine fuels before 1000-hr fuels and sagebrush have sufficiently dried. There is concern regarding elevated fire potential in July/August across the lower elevations northern and western Nevada and possibly into southwest Idaho due to increased fuel loading.

July / August Outlook



Large Fire Potential



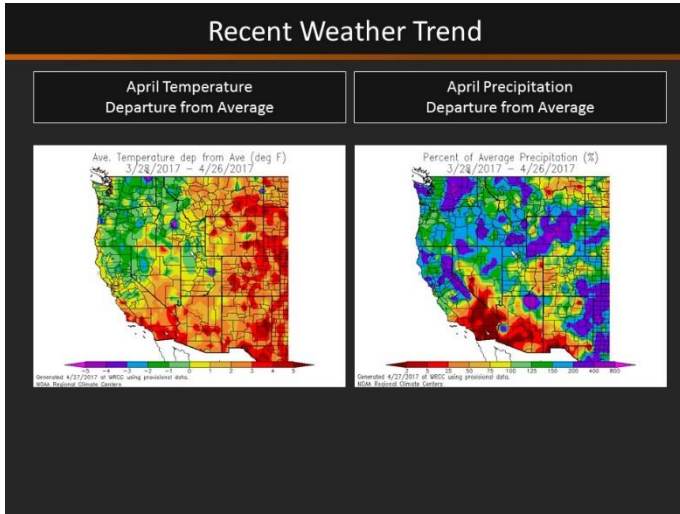


Fig 1. (Precipitation and Temperature)

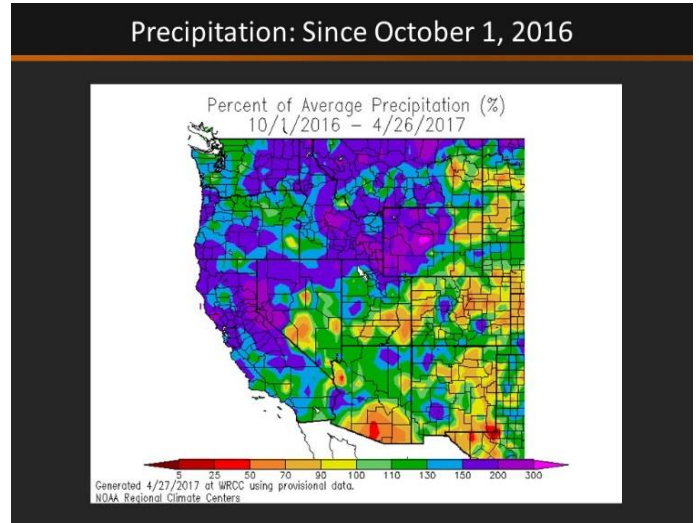


Fig 2. (Precipitation since October 1, 2016)

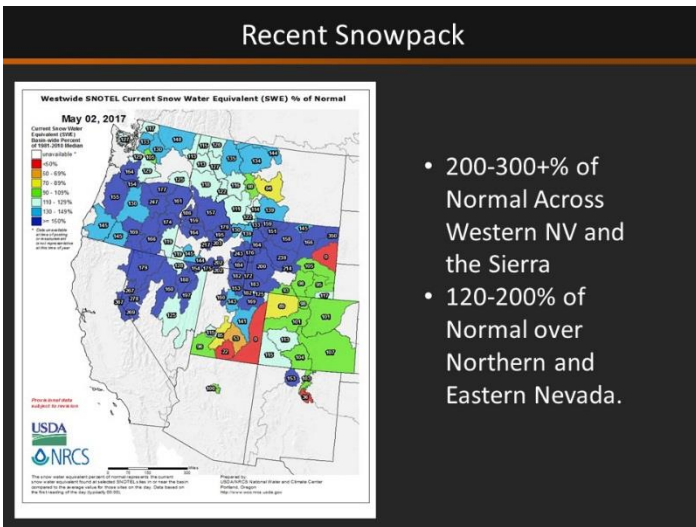


Fig 3. (Current Snowpack)

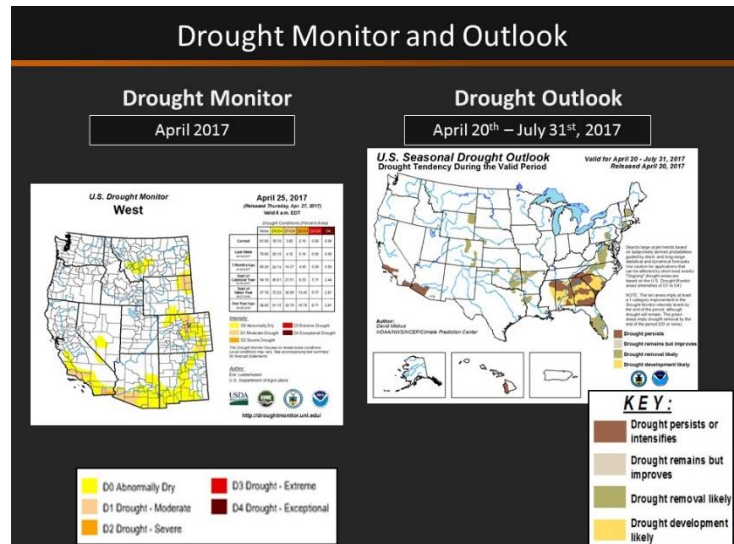


Fig 4. (Drought)

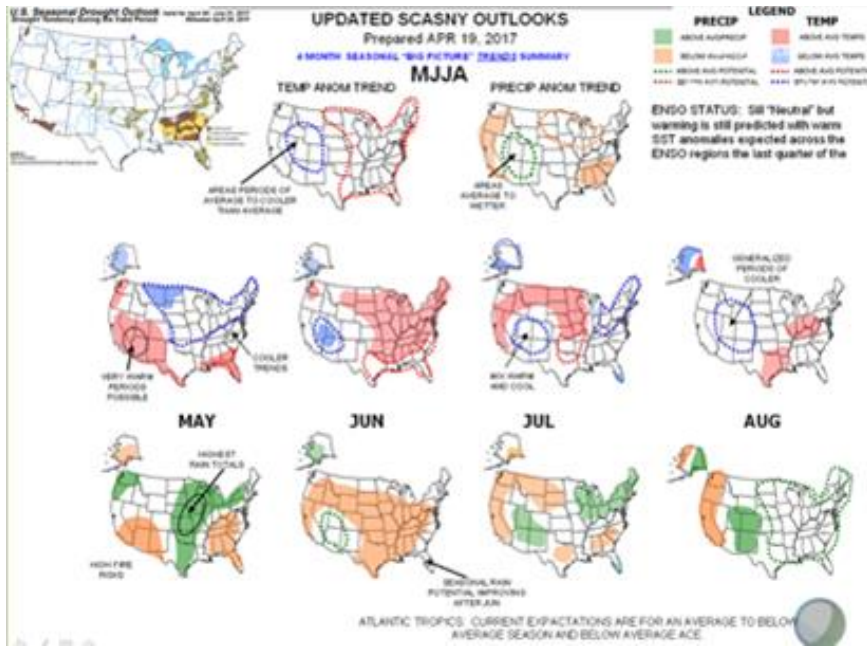


Fig 5. (Predictive Services National 4-Month Weather Outlook)



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