

Weather: Temperatures were above normal across the Great Basin over the past month. Precipitation was well below normal over the northern 2/3 of Nevada, northern and eastern Utah and parts of southern Idaho. Only the central Idaho Mountains and southern Nevada, the AZ Strip and southwest Utah saw above normal precipitation for January. **(Figure 1)** Although precipitation was above normal in the south over the last 30 days, very dry conditions continued for the 3+ months prior to January, with overall below normal precipitation for the 2-3 month timeframe. The snowpack saw some minor rises over parts of Nevada and Utah and in southern Idaho over the last 30 days, but still remains 30-50% of normal in Nevada and 40-80% across Utah/southern Idaho. The snowpack is near normal in the Central Idaho Mountains and over western Wyoming. **(Figure 5)** Due to very dry conditions over the last few months, drought has returned to Utah, the AZ Strip and is beginning to return to parts of Nevada. **(Figure 2)**

Fuels: Fuels are predominantly dormant across the area. Carryover fuels are expected to be a concern this year over the northern and western half of Nevada into parts of southern Idaho and northern Utah. There was a significant grass crop in 2017 from record precipitation, and recent warm and dry conditions this winter have limited the amount of low elevation snowfall to compact the fuels. Therefore, a significant carryover grass crop is expected. Although not much new growth is expected as of yet due to drier weather. Sagebrush and larger fuels up to mid elevations are also drier than normal for the time of year. **(Figure 3)**

Fire Potential: Normal large fire potential is expected for all areas of the Great Basin through early April. The only exception will be in the areas of higher grass crop from 2017, after prolonged dry periods and on windy days where more non-natural starts and fire spread are expected through April. As we approach May, warmer and drier weather is expected across much of the area with above normal fire potential is possible over southern Utah. **(Figure 4)** Any snowpack has been minimal, with extremely dry conditions thus far this winter. Therefore, all fuel moistures are expected to be well below normal by April/May. There was not a significant grass crop from 2016/17 in the south, so the main threat after a dry winter would be the mid and higher elevations. Further north, areas will remain normal through April, but areas of above normal fire potential are likely over northern and western Nevada and possibly extending into parts of southern Idaho and northern Utah as early as May and very likely by June. However, confidence at this time is lower for the May time period.

Recent Weather Trend

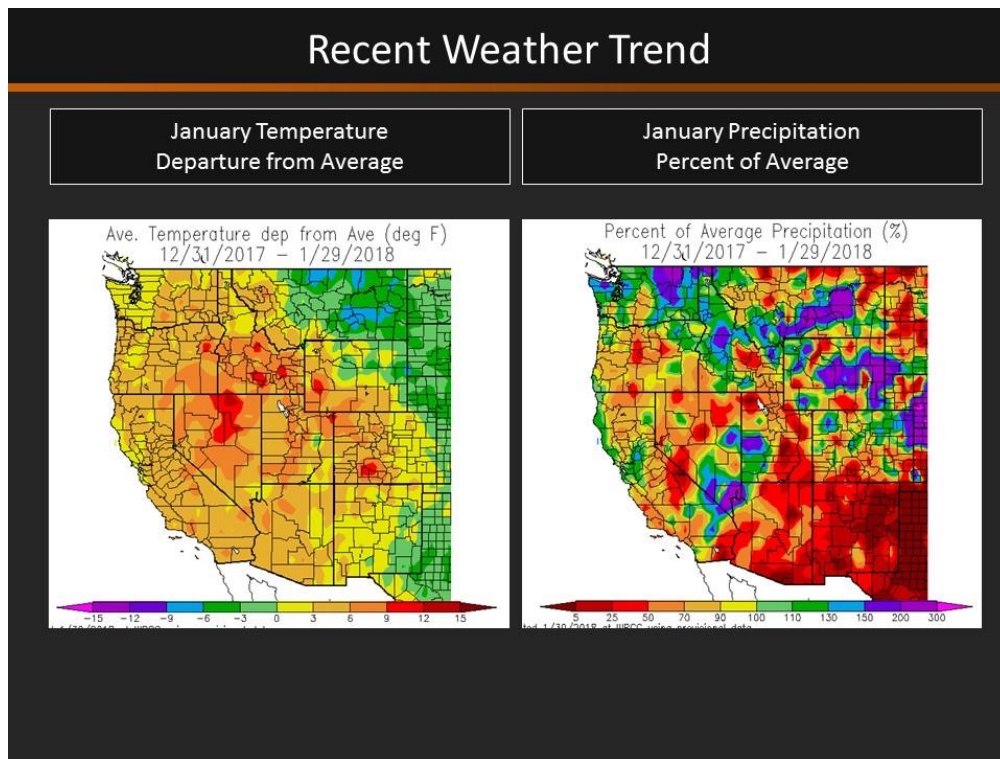


Figure 1 – Recent 30-day temperature and precipitation.

Drought Monitor and Outlook

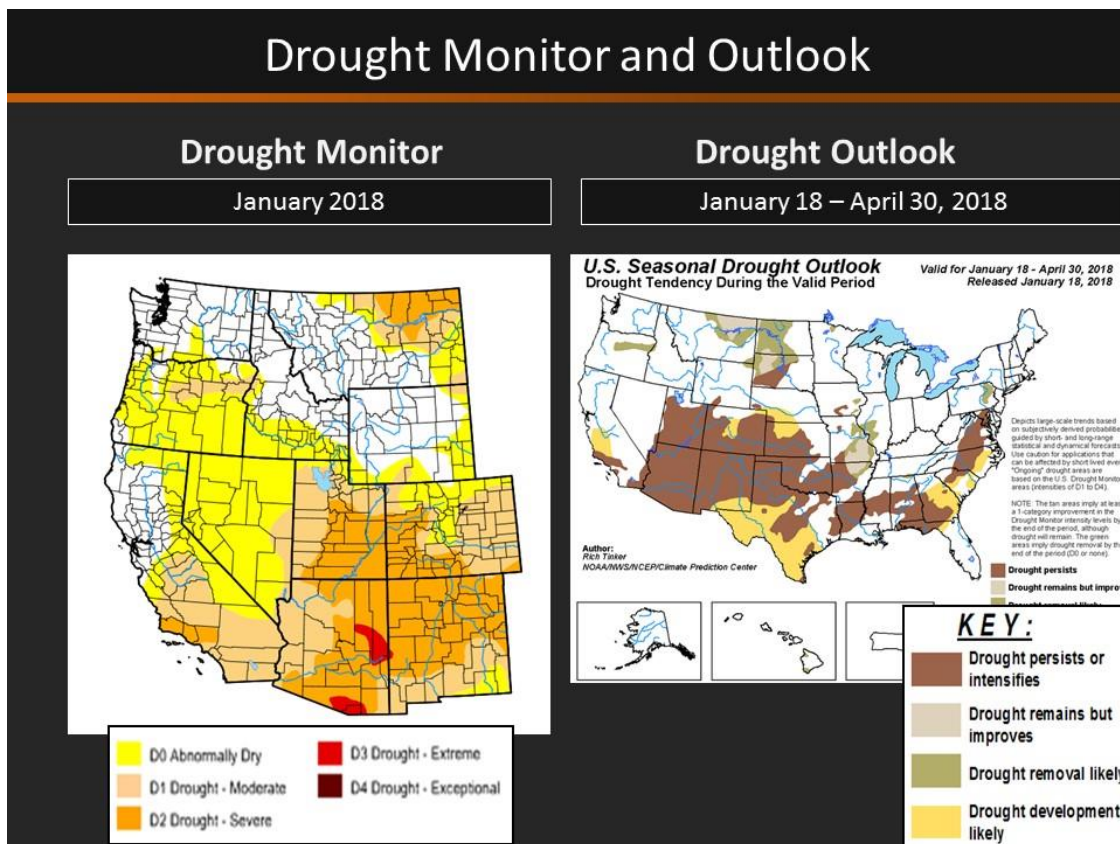


Figure 2 – Drought Monitor and Drought Outlook.

100 Hour Fuels

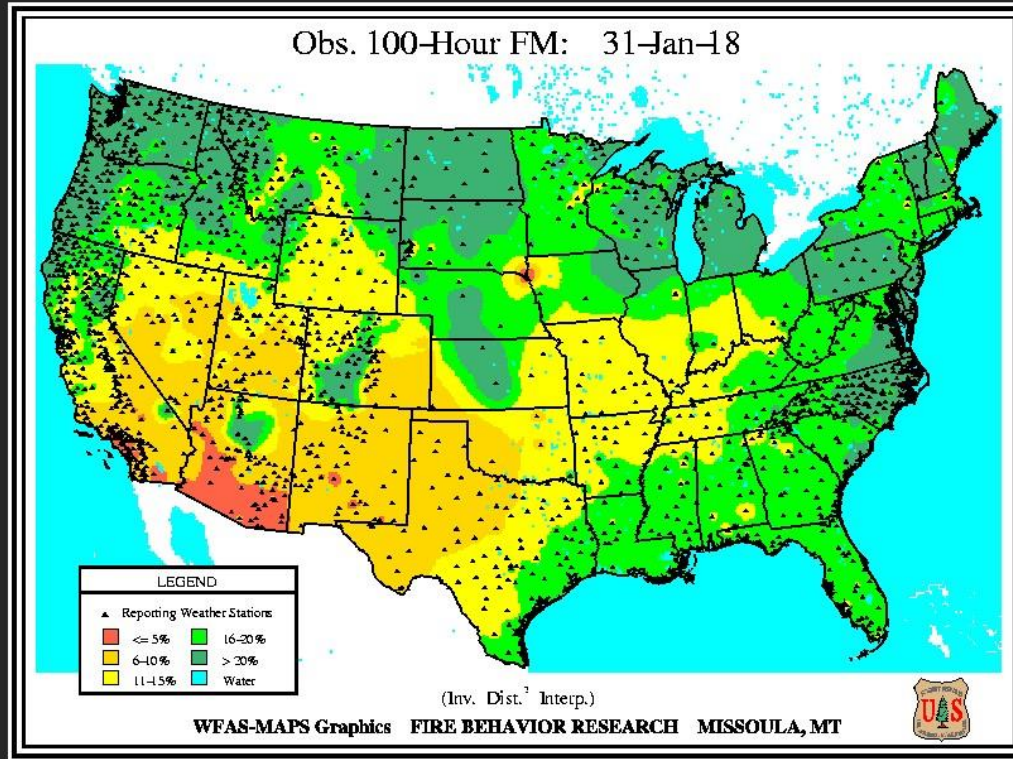


Figure 3 – 100-hr Fuel Moisture.

February through May Weather Outlook

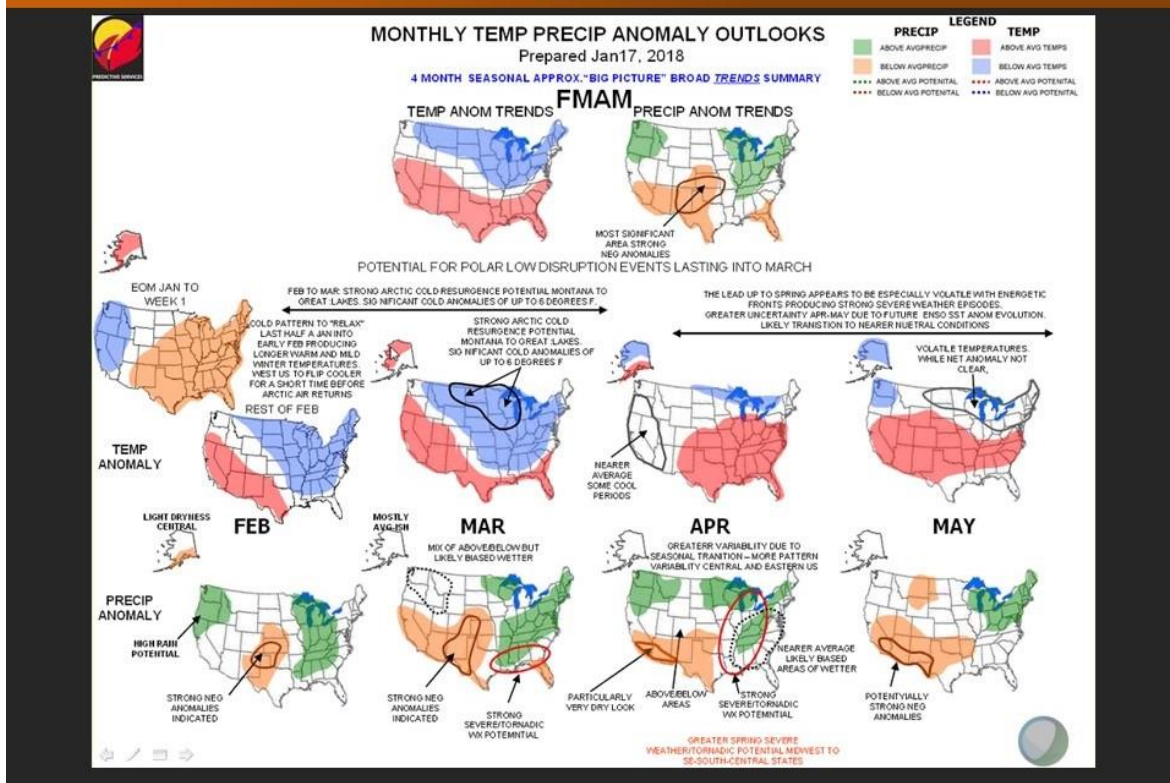


Figure 4 – Temperature and Precipitation Outlook from Predictive Services.

Snowpack

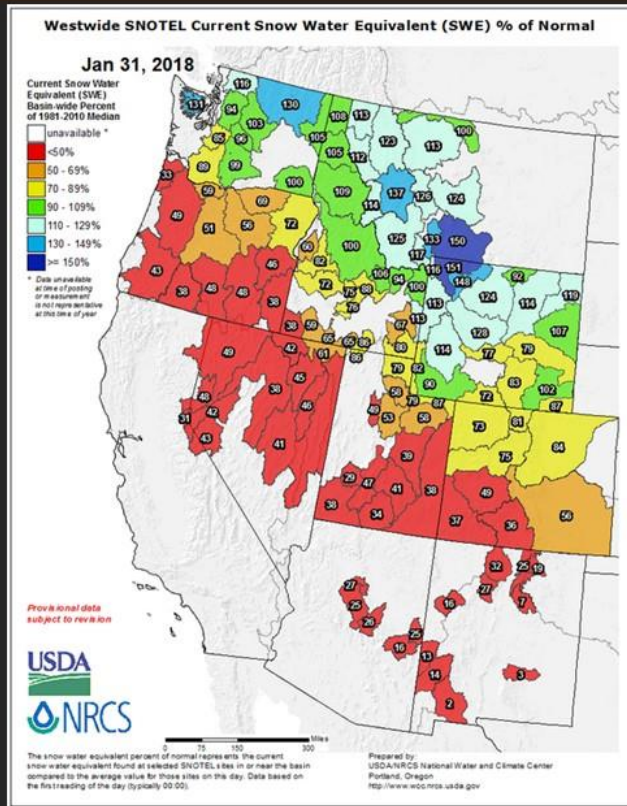


Figure 5 - Snowpack