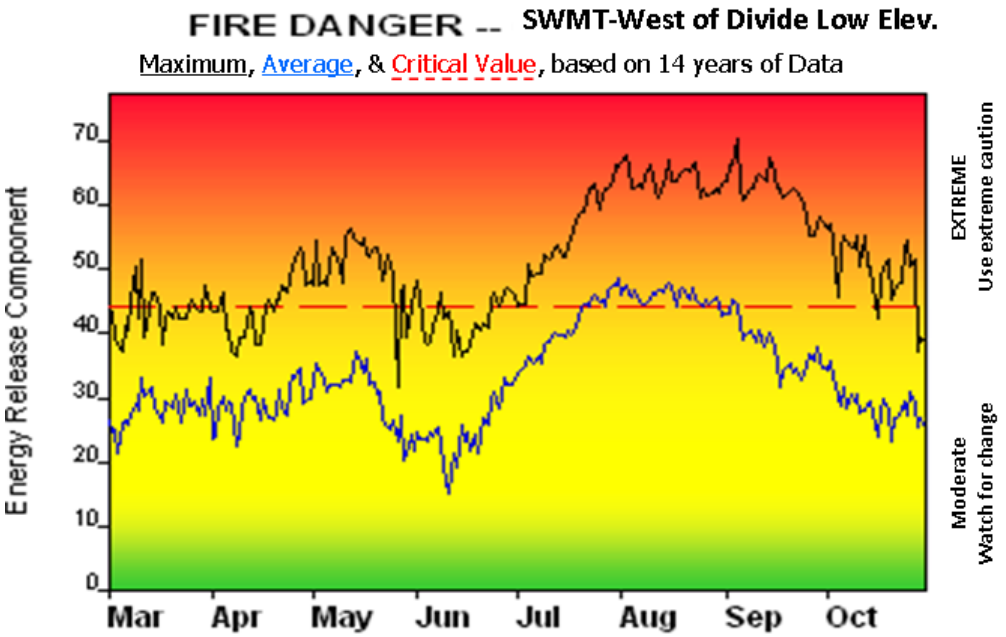
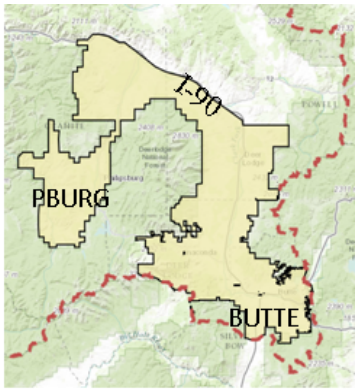


Fire Danger Area

- SWMT West of Divide low Elev. (Timbered & Mountainous)
- Fire Wx Zones MT 110
- RAWS: Anaconda(24402), Garrison(243108), PBURG(243002)



Fire Danger Interpretation

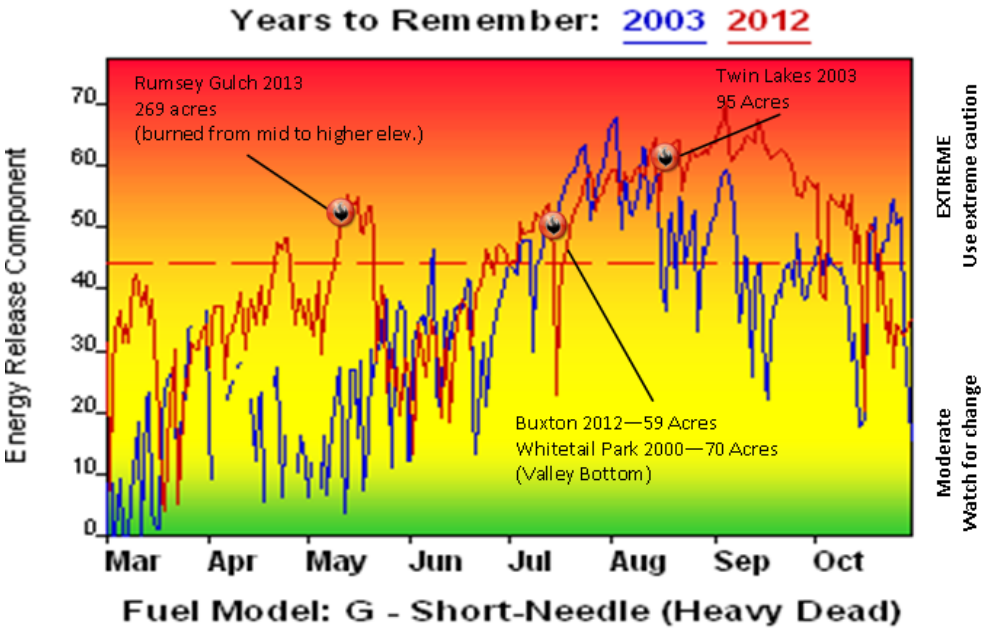
Maximum—Highest ERC by day for 2000-2013
Average— shows peak fire season over 14 years (3333observations)
Critical Value– Fire activity increases rapidly above ERC >43 and increase of large fire potential with ERC > 54. 21% of the 3333 days from 2000-2013 had ERC above 43.

Energy Release Component (ERC)

Serves as a good characterization of local seasonal fire danger trends resulting from the area's fuel moisture conditions. The ERC is a relative index and should be compared to historic trends and thresholds on the pocket card. The ERC relies heavily on large and live fuels, has low variability, and is not affected by wind speed.

Local Thresholds—WATCH OUT: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior.

20' wind speed over 15 mph
RH Less than 20%,
Temperature over 80°
1000 hr fuels < 12%



Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

☑Energy Release Component gives seasonal trends calculated from 2 pm temperature, humidity, daily temperature & rh ranges, and precipitation duration.
☑Wind is NOT part of ERC calculation
☑Watch local conditions & variations across the landscape—Fuels, Weather & Topography
☑Listen to forecasts—especially WIND

Past Experience:

This area includes low grass and brush and mid elevation open timber fuel types in the upper elevation. Heavy loadings exist after wet springs, and curing usually begins around early July. When dry, windy & cured expect very rapid rates of spread. Generally, fire danger fluctuates hourly with summer monsoonal moisture. Fire activity generally increases above an ERC of 43. Fire growth potential tends to increase after short drying periods (7 days) with a combination of ERC > 54, and 1000 hour fuel moisture < 12%. Slope and wind alignment can increase spread by a factor of 15X. Rumsey Gulch in 2013 was ignited by power lines and quickly became a running crown fire threatening homes. Buxton and Whitetail Park burned rapidly in valley bottom grass/brush fuel types also threatening homes, and transitioned to crown fuels. Twin Lakes was ignited by lightning and burned with a rapid rate of spread. Fuels effected by mountain pine beetle may exhibit faster rates of spread (5X-10X), may have more receptive fuel bed to spotting and transition more quickly from a surface fire in both the red and gray stages. Surface fuel loads also increase within 5 to 10 yeas after MPB due to falling snags. Watch long duration fires during fall frontal passage. Fires in this area have higher potential to include WUI increasing complexity and hazards.

Developed by the SWMT Interagency NFDRS Team *FF+ build 1321 05/05/2014*