



NORTHERN ROCKIES GEOGRAPHIC AREA



Northern Rockies Fire Behavior Outlook

Forecast Valid for: July 30 – August 5, 2016	Date/Time Issued: 07/29/16 @ 1200 MDT
Next Update: as warranted	Signed: Brenda Wilmore - Fire Behavior Analyst

This is a general fire behavior outlook covering the entire Northern Rockies Geographic Area. Firefighters must use onsite observations and spot weather forecasts to calculate site-specific fire behavior for individual wildland fires.

The Northern Rockies Coordination Centers Predictive Services web site provides the most current links to observed and predicted weather and fuels information:

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/>

Fire Behavior Outlook:

- Live fuels are generally still a heat sink and are not contributing to fire spread or intensity. In the mid and higher elevations this is expected to continue for the next one to two weeks.
- Fine dead fuels are becoming more readily receptive to ignition in the lower elevations. Expect more ignitions to become active with a continued absence of precipitation and as relative humidity recovery diminishes.
- Large dead fuels are slowly becoming available for combustion and may contribute marginally to fire intensity and resistance to control through the next one to two weeks.
- Standing dead fuels (beetle kill areas) are likely still very dry from previous drought.
- Active beetle and disease stressed foliage can act as fine dead fuel contributing to fire spread, spotting and fire intensity.

Observed Fire Behavior:

- The lightning storms have been wet keeping the probability of ignition low.
- Most ignitions are currently exhibiting low rates of spread and low to moderate flame lengths enabling successful IA.
- Lower elevations with abundant cured fine fuels are starting to become active but large scale growth requires the assistance of wind or slope.
- In drier areas in SW MT, single tree and group torching have been observed.

BASE ALL ACTIONS ON CURRENT AND EXPECTED BEHAVIOR OF THE FIRE