Predictive Services

Climate and Significant Fire Potential Outlook

Wednesday June 1st 2022
Temperature Forecast vs Observed: May 2022

Characterization: The May temperature outlook verified well with the Pacific Northwest cooler than normal as predicted by CPC.
Characterization: CPC’s outlook verified well. Much of the Pacific Northwest was wetter than typical. Much of the southwest was drier than typical.
Observed since Jan 1st 2022

Temperature

Precipitation

Characterization: Since the beginning of 2022, temperatures have been above average at higher elevations and cooler-than-average in basins. Some areas east of the Cascades remain drier than typical.
Characterization: Snowpack over the Pacific Northwest is declining rapidly but remains well above average for late May due to wet and cool weather in spring.
U.S. Drought Monitor

West

May 25th 2021

May 24th 2022
La Niña Status

Week centered on 09 MAR 2022
SST Anomalies (°C)

Enso Alert System Status: La Niña Advisory

Synopsis: Though La Niña is favored to continue, the odds for La Niña decrease into the late Northern Hemisphere summer (58% chance in August-October 2022) before slightly increasing through the Northern Hemisphere fall and early winter 2022 (61% chance).
June 2022 Outlook

Characterization: Cool and wet is most likely to continue in June for Washington and northern Oregon. No anomaly is foreseen for the rest of Oregon.
Characterization: Hotter and drier than typical is the most likely scenario for the Pacific Northwest for July through August with some possible rainfall in September.
June & July 2022 Outlooks

The risk of outbreaks of large, costly fires should remain at normal levels across most of the Pacific Northwest in June.

However, persistent drought in central Oregon has elevated significant fire potential for PSAs NW06 and NW07 for June. The main concern will be on dry and windy weather days.

In July, elevated risk for large, costly fires will expand to include central Washington, southwest Oregon and southeast Oregon, PSAs NW04, NW05, NW10 and NW12.
August & September 2022 Outlooks

Elevated risk of outbreaks of large, costly fires will expand in August to include more of southwest Oregon and central Washington.

In September lightning tends to decline as a significant contributor to new fire potential. However, dry conditions will likely continue through September over much of the area. Strong easterly winds become more likely from the Cascade Crest westward which could pose a threat to the west side.
Next Outlook:

Around July 1\textsuperscript{st} 2022