



## NWCC Predictive Services Fire Behavior Outlook

FORECAST VALID FOR: <b>October 24 to October 31, 2022</b>	DATE/TIME ISSUED: October 24, 2022 1200 hrs
NEXT UPDATE: November 1, 2022	Ruth Johnson – Fire Analyst

*This is a general fire behavior outlook covering the entire Northwest Geographic Area. It is intended to provide wildland fire managers with an overall view of fire behavior potential and to help wildland firefighters with making informed decisions and maintaining situational awareness based on current and expected fire behavior. Firefighters must use onsite observations and spot weather forecasts to calculate site-specific fire behavior for individual wildland fires.*

### Fire Weather Summary:

Over the weekend, significant precipitation was received in the Oregon and southern Washington Cascades. Most of the geographic area received wetting rains with the exception of a rain shadow in central Washington.

Temperatures have cooled down considerably and are below average. Overnight temperatures have been freezing above 3,000 feet in elevation. Snow is beginning to accumulate at higher elevations.

A series of fronts is expected to bring more precipitation to the valleys and high mountain snow this week. Increased winds expected with the frontal passages.

### Fuel Conditions

The historic high levels ERCs in much of the northern Cascades and Olympic Mountains of Washington have dropped with the recent precipitation. The geographic area is currently holding on to above average ERC values with those values expected to decline to during the week to minimal levels.

Large dead fuels are seeing improved moisture content following the recent rain. Thousand-hour fuels are coming up from record low values to average and above average values by next week. Live shrubs are in their dormant mode and will continue to be at low fuel moisture values until they begin to green up in the spring. Shorter days and cooler weather will limit drying of fuels through the off season.

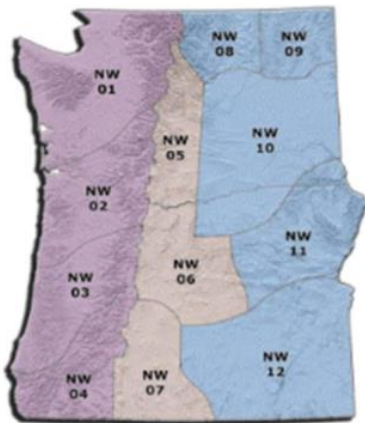
Moderate to extreme drought conditions persist throughout much of Oregon with abnormally dry to severe drought conditions throughout Washington. Fuels remain drought stressed and will need above average precipitation for an extended period to recover. Removal or improvement in drought status is predicted over the next three months.

### *Fire Behavior Potential*

Fire behavior potential will remain low in all forest fuels. Rangelands may support fire spread under sunny and dry conditions. Fire activity in unburned pockets of existing large fires or fires that become established in slash fuels could support some fire spread near intense heat, but fire spread will be limited to areas near intense heat. Large fuels are dry enough to smolder and burn for a long period of time.

Forecasted precipitation and cool temperatures will keep the threat of new starts low. Burn periods are expected to remain shortened by the increased moisture and decreased day length.

Northwest Predictive Service Areas



#### **Westside PSAs - (1, 2, 3, & 4)**

Existing large fires in PSAs 1 and 2 will have limited time for activity. Most active behavior will be in isolated areas that are sheltered and/or have accumulations of heavy fuels. Minimal fire behavior expected.

#### **Central PSAs - (5, 6, & 7)**

These areas did not receive as much precipitation, but more is in the forecast. Existing large fires in PSAs 5 will have limited time for activity. Lower elevation grasses and brush may support fire spread under and dry conditions. Minimal fire behavior expected.

#### **Eastside PSAs - (8, 9, 10, 11, & 12)**

Portions of PSA 8 sat in a rain shadow and will still support fire spread in lower elevation grasses and brush. The remainder of the eastside PSAs saw wetting rains and snow at higher elevations. Low overnight temperatures are becoming common. Minimal fire behavior expected

**ALWAYS BASE ACTIONS ON CURRENT AND EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR GIVEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN YOUR LOCAL AREA. MAINTAIN SITUATIONAL AWARENESS FOR CHANGING CONDITIONS AS YOU CHANGE LOCATIONS (FUEL, WEATHER, AND TOPOGRAPHY).**