



Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

Eastern Oregon & Washington below 7,000'

July 24, 2024

Subject: The recent high pressure over the Pacific Northwest has rapidly dried both live and dead fuels across the Geographic Area. Fuels in eastern Oregon have above average fine fuel loading with excellent fuel continuity. **The very dry fuels coupled with the abundant fuel loading has supported rapid fire growth and aggressive fire behavior especially when aligned with wind and slope.**

Discussion: Local observations include:

- **ERCs for most areas east of the Cascades continue to be above the 97th percentile and in many cases near maximum values.**
- All fuels are available below 7000' except far northeast Washington.
- Lightning efficiency has been very high during recent lightning events.

Difference from normal conditions: Multiple years of above average grass production in rangelands has resulted in above normal fuel loading and continuity. Seasonal drying of fuels is ahead of schedule and reaching record values for the time of year. **Recent fire behavior has been greater than anticipated.** Fires have exhibited extreme resistance to control. Large fire growth has occurred with minimal alignment with slope and wind, and across all fuel types.

Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:

- **Unstable conditions with winds over 10 mph have resulted in extreme fire behavior.**
- Sagebrush fires will exhibit extreme rates of spread and moderate to long range spotting.
- Direct attack has been unsuccessful in the middle of the burn period. Night operations have been very successful.
- Do not expect retardant to be effective without immediate backup from ground personnel. The above average grass crop is reducing retardant effectiveness.
- Outflow gusts from thunderstorms has drastically increased rates of spread and changes in direction.
- **Do not underestimate fire spread potential, even in the absence of alignment with wind or slope.**

Mitigation Measures:

- **Validate safety zones and escape routes frequently.**
- Obtain a new spot weather forecast when conditions become unrepresentative.
- Burning Index is an excellent predictor of daily fluctuations influencing fire danger and growth potential.

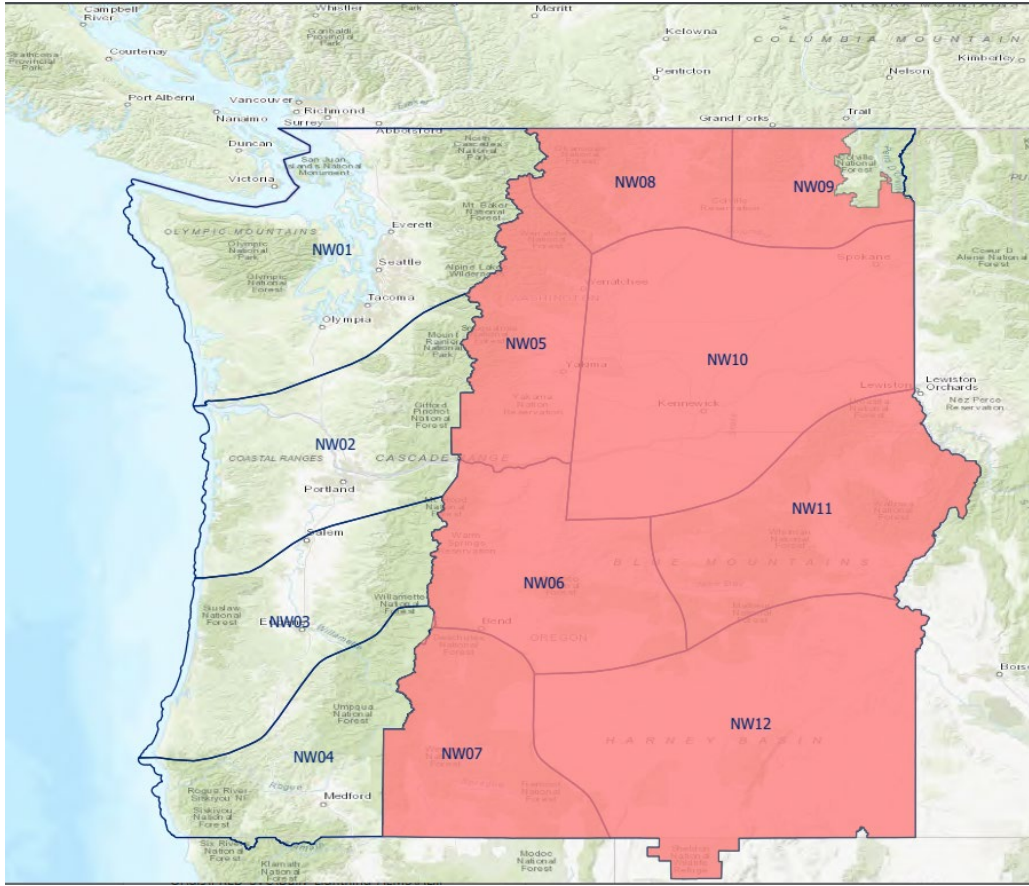
Area of Concern: Eastern Oregon and Washington, except for far northeast below 7,000'.

Issued By: Northwest Coordination Center Predictive Services

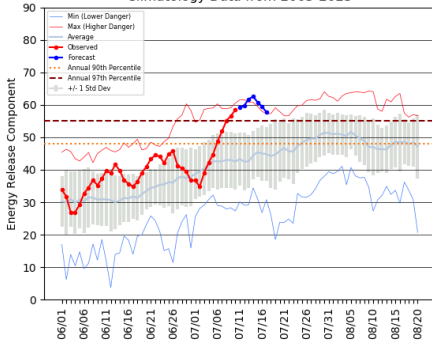
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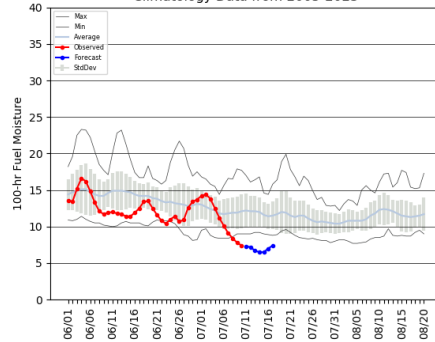
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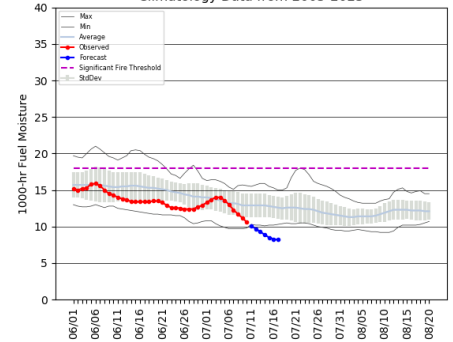
ERC-Y for PSA NW06 - NFDRSv4
Last Observation: 10 July 2024
Climatology Data from 2005-2023



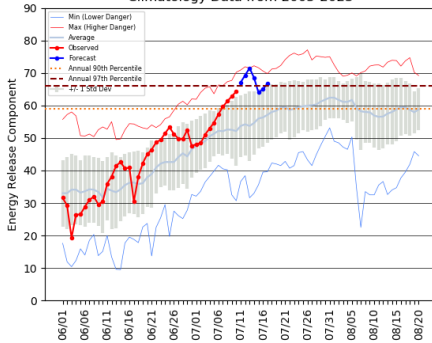
100-hr Fuel Moisture for PSA NW06 - NFDRSv4
Last Observation: 10 July 2024
Climatology Data from 2005-2023



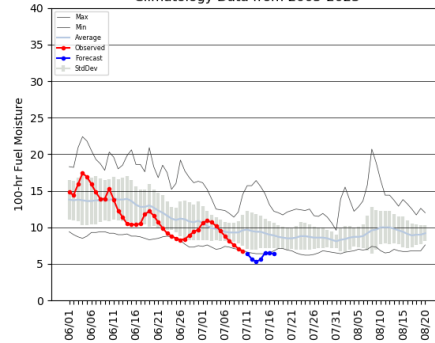
1000-hr Fuel Moisture for PSA NW06 - NFDRSv4
Last Observation: 10 July 2024
Climatology Data from 2005-2023



ERC-Y for PSA NW12 - NFDRSv4
Last Observation: 10 July 2024
Climatology Data from 2005-2023



100-hr Fuel Moisture for PSA NW12 - NFDRSv4
Last Observation: 10 July 2024
Climatology Data from 2005-2023



1000-hr Fuel Moisture for PSA NW12 - NFDRSv4
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