

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

Southeast Oregon below 5,500' & Central Oregon below 3,500'

July 12, 2024



Subject: The recent heat dome over the Pacific Northwest has rapidly dried both live and dead fuels across the Geographic Area. Low elevation fuels in central and southeast Oregon have above average fine fuel loading with excellent fuel continuity. **The very dry fuels coupled with the abundant fuel loading has increased the potential for rapid fire growth and aggressive fire behavior especially when aligned with wind and slope.**

Discussion: Local observations include:

- Sustained daily temperatures over 100 degrees with single digit RHs and poor overnight recoveries has accelerated drying of live and dead fuels.
- **ERCs for NW06 and NW12 are currently at or near maximum values.**
- 100 and 1000-hr fuels are at or near record low values. Fine fuel loading is above average.
- Sagebrush live fuel moistures are below 100% with some samples below 75%.

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 an increased resistance to control. Large fire growth has occurred with minimal alignment with slope and wind.

Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:

- **Extreme fire behavior has occurred in areas with continuous fine fuels and should be expected on emerging incidents.**
- Sagebrush fires will exhibit extreme rates of spread and moderate to long range spotting.
- Direct attack may be ineffective given current conditions. Consider alternative tactics.
- Poor overnight recoveries will extend burn periods and allow fires to burn actively through the night.
- Resistance to control will continue to increase in the absence of substantial precipitation.
- Outflow gusts from thunderstorms can result in drastic increases in fire spread and changes in direction.
- **Do not underestimate fire spread potential, even in the absence of alignment with wind or slope.**

Mitigation Measures:

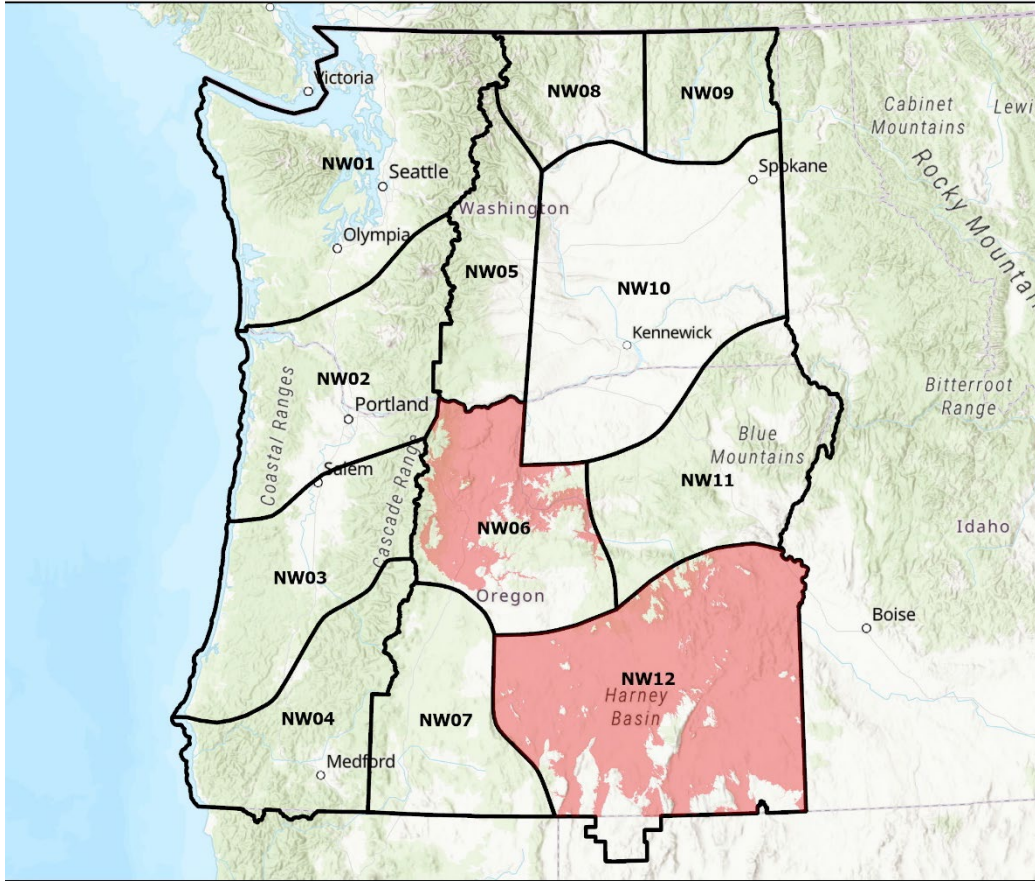
- **Validate safety zones and escape routes frequently.**
- Obtain a new spot weather forecast when conditions become unrepresentative.
- Burning Index is an excellent predictor of daily fluctuations influencing fire danger and growth potential.

Area of Concern: Southeast Oregon below 5,500 feet and Central Oregon below 3,500 feet in elevation.

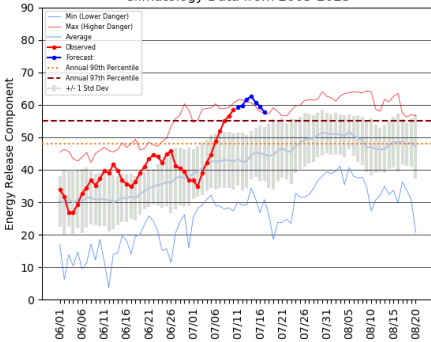
Issued By: Northwest Coordination Center Predictive Services

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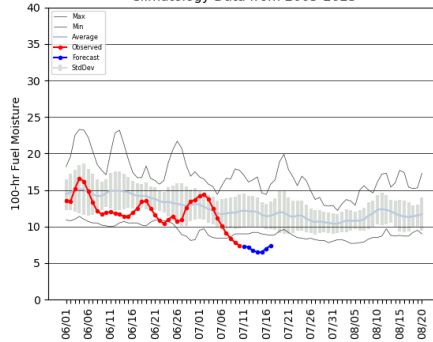
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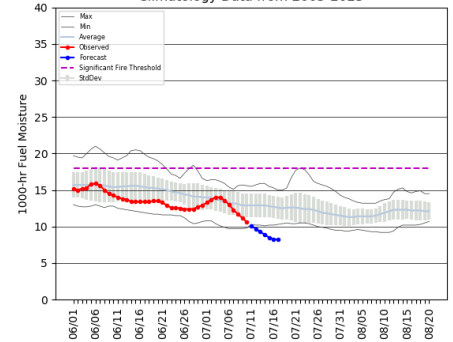
ERC-Y for PSA NW06 - NFDRSv4
Last Observation: 10 July 2024
Climatology Data from 2005-2023



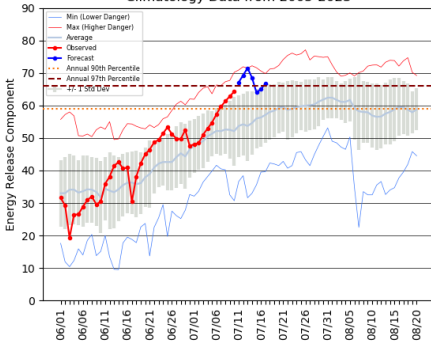
100-hr Fuel Moisture for PSA NW06 - NFDRSv4
Last Observation: 10 July 2024
Climatology Data from 2005-2023



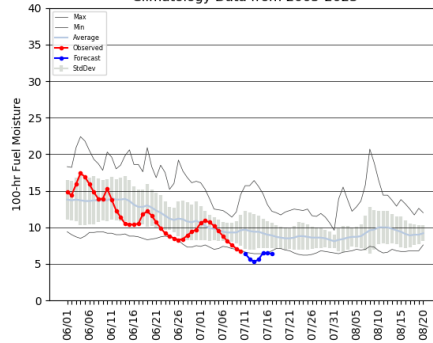
1000-hr Fuel Moisture for PSA NW06 - NFDRSv4
Last Observation: 10 July 2024
Climatology Data from 2005-2023



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
Last Observation: 10 July 2024
Climatology Data from 2005-2023

