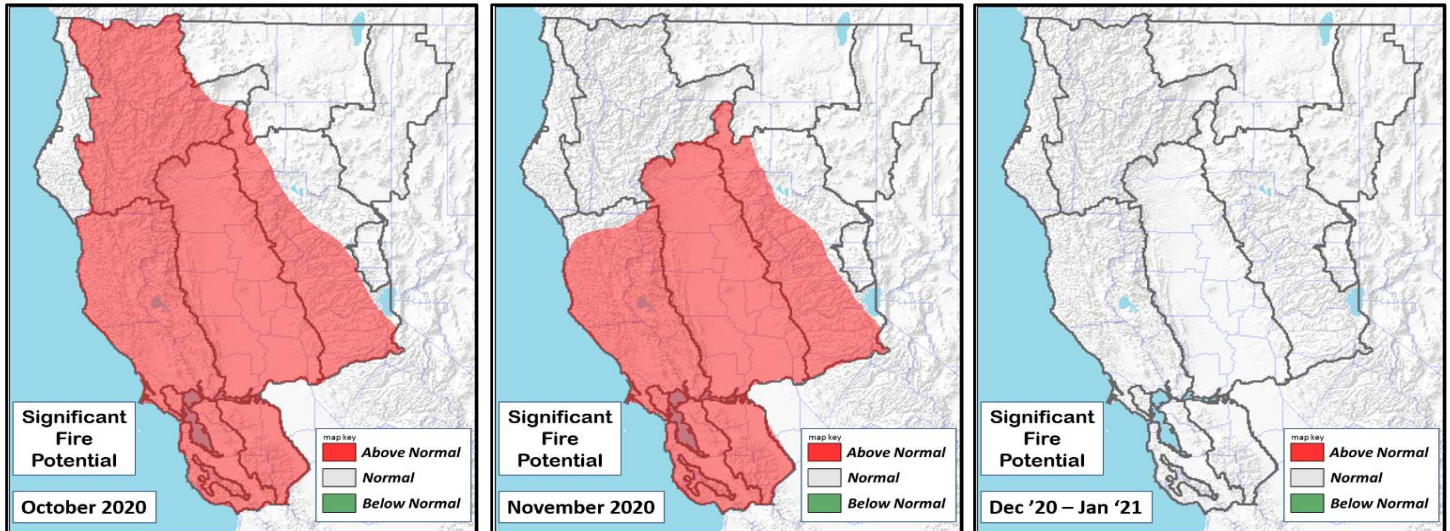


SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL**Oct '20 - Jan '21 North Ops Highlights**

- *Live and dead fuels of all size classes are near average to drier than average, with further drying expected in early Oct.*
- *Above normal loading of cured fine fuels below 3000 ft el.*
- *Warmer and drier than average weather through December, then closer to normal in January.*
- *N-NE/Offshore wind events pose the primary threat for large wildfires into early/mid Nov, mainly from western Cascade-Sierra slopes to the coast from Mendocino County south*
- ***Above Normal Significant Fire Potential most areas W of the Cascade-Sierra crest in Oct.***
- ***Above Normal most of the same areas early/mid November.***
- *Normal all areas December-January.*

WEATHER DISCUSSION

September was warmer than average (Fig 1). Two weak cold fronts brought rain to the far NW corner of California. No lightning was recorded within the North Ops region in September. Only Del Norte, Humboldt, and western Siskiyou Counties received more than a quarter of an inch of rain for the month (Fig 2), and only a few small spots in these counties were close to normal for the month, while the remainder of the North Ops region was notably drier than average (Fig 3). Through the middle of October we expect a continuation of the weather pattern and track of low and high pressure systems that we saw develop in September. Weak low pressure troughs and cold frontal systems will move through the region at a rate of about once per week and only likely only produce light to moderate rainfall in far northwestern and northern areas. Dry N-NE/Offshore wind events will tend to follow the frontal systems and possibly produce high risk conditions from the western Cascade-Sierra slopes to the coast - the areas not likely to receive rain. In the tropical eastern Pacific a weak La Niña event is underway and is expected to last through the winter (Fig 4). This could lead to warmer and drier than average weather through the end of 2020.

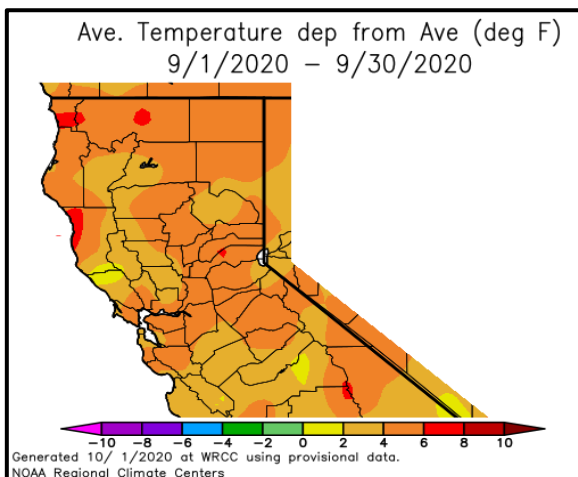


Fig 1: Temps in Sept (Dept from ave.)

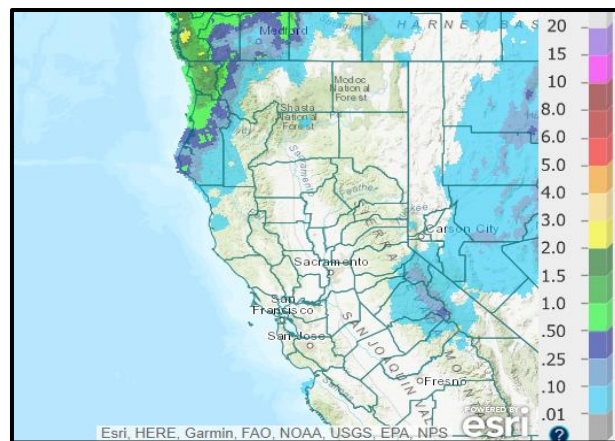


Fig 2: Est. Rainfall amounts in Sept

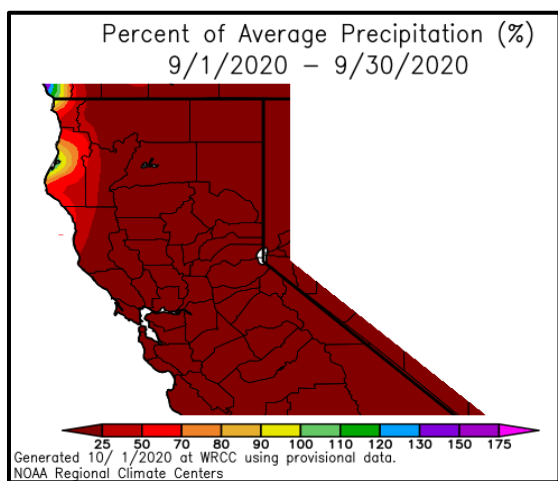


Fig 3: Pcpn in Sept (% of Ave.)

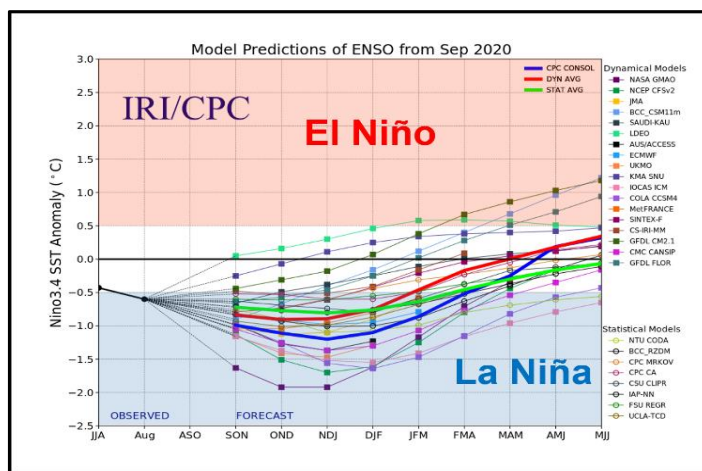


Fig 4: ENSO Status - La Niña underway



FUELS AND DROUGHT

The U. S. Drought Monitor for California shows the impact of the drier than normal rainy season. Portions of northern CA are considered to be in Extreme Drought, and the remainder of the region is in Moderate or Severe Drought (Fig 5). To the west of the Cascade-Sierra crest the spring fine fuel crop came in more robust than usual and it is now cured. Dead fuel moisture values in all size classes are near to below normal for the date. In fact, in most areas they dried beyond the seasonal peak reading of the normal curve several weeks ahead of usual. Without significant precipitation they will not see fuel moisture values increase at the same rate as they typically do this time of year (Fig 6). Live fuels have now dried to critically dry levels in most areas. The Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) (Fig 7) shows the stress on vegetation from the below average rainy season. This chart is a good indicator of where fire danger is the highest as the fire season progresses. Higher EDDI values can be seen in the southern portion of the region.

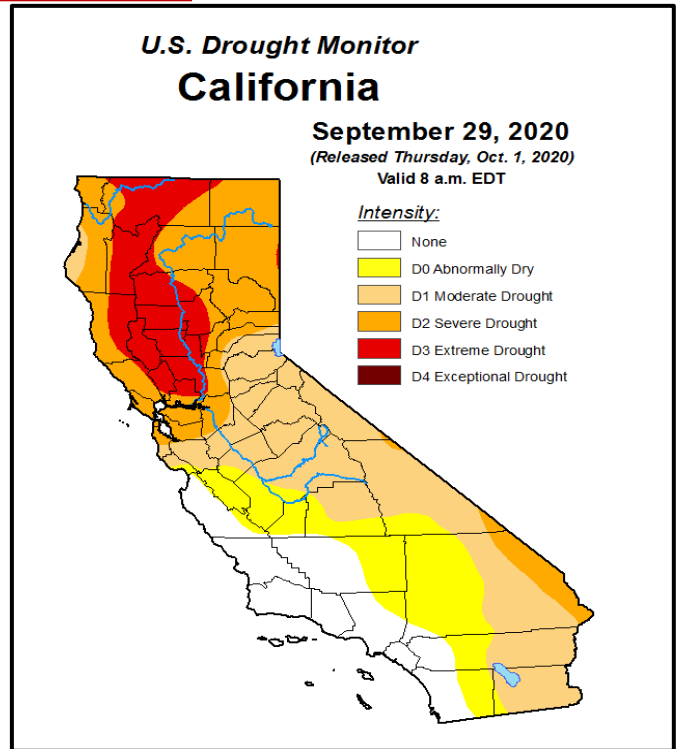


Fig 5: California Drought Monitor

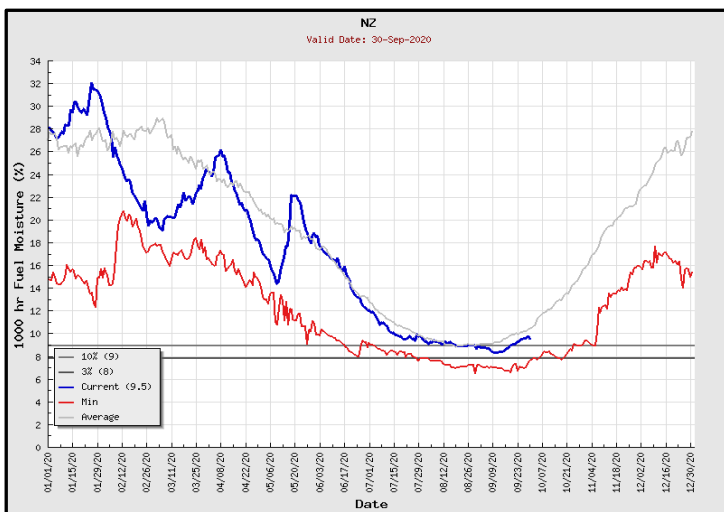


Fig 6: North Ops 1000 hr FM Sept 30, 2020
blue = 2020 grey = average red = record

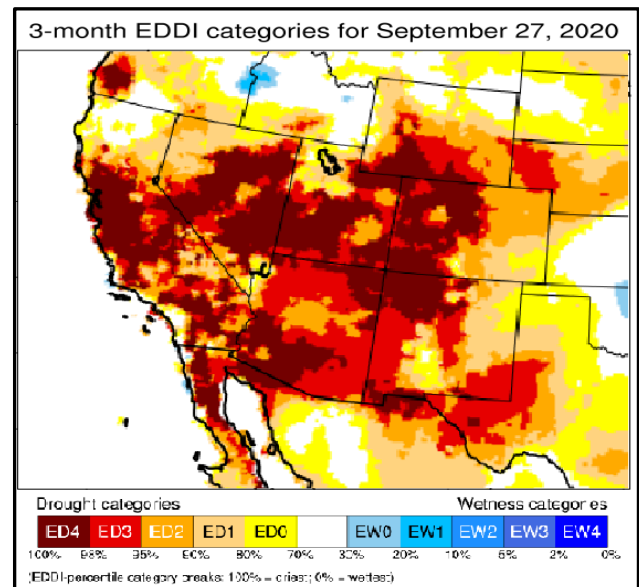


Fig 7: Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) - July - September

NORTHERN OPERATIONS MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

ISSUED OCTOBER 1, 2020

VALID OCT '20 - JAN '21



NORTH OPS OUTLOOK

The official Predictive Services outlook calls for drier and warmer than average conditions in the North Ops region through December, followed by near normal conditions in January (Fig 8). The above normal cured fine fuel crop will be vulnerable to rapid spread rates and extreme fire behavior during dry breezy weather events, which tend to peak in intensity in October and November. **In October most areas from the western Cascade-Sierra slopes to the coast have Above Normal Significant Fire Potential. In November it is expected that enough rain will have fallen in far NW CA to bring that area back to normal, but Above Normal Potential will continue west of the crest to the coast from Mendocino County south until significant rain arrives, likely in the early to middle part of November.** Areas not mentioned above have "Normal" significant fire potential through November, and all areas have Normal Significant Fire Potential in December and January.

In October "Normal Significant Fire Potential" is defined as 1.2 or fewer large fires per PSA. All PSAs average below 1 large fire from November through January.

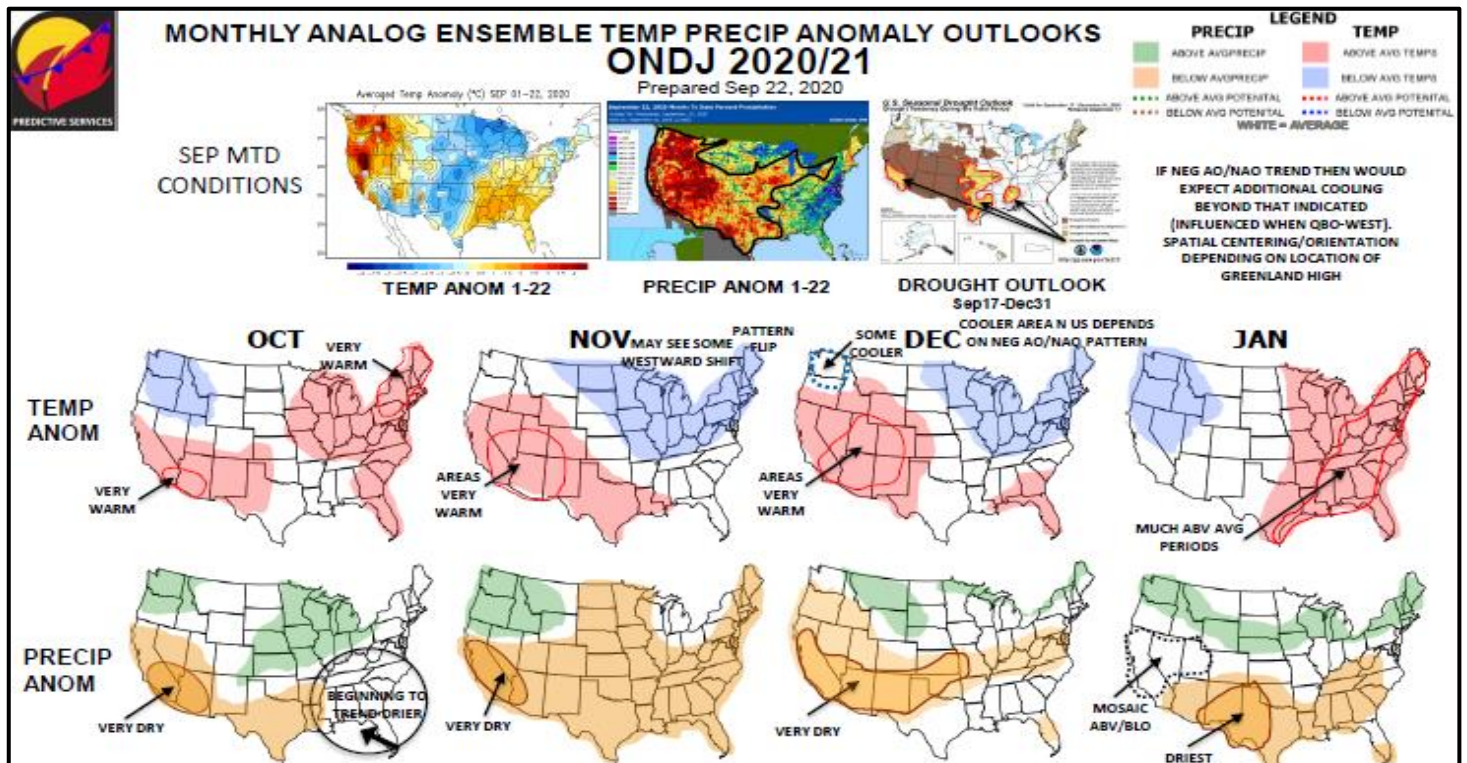


Fig 8: Predictive Services graphical Outlook for October 2020 - January 2021