BI-MONTHLY FUELS DISCUSSION

For Southern and Central California

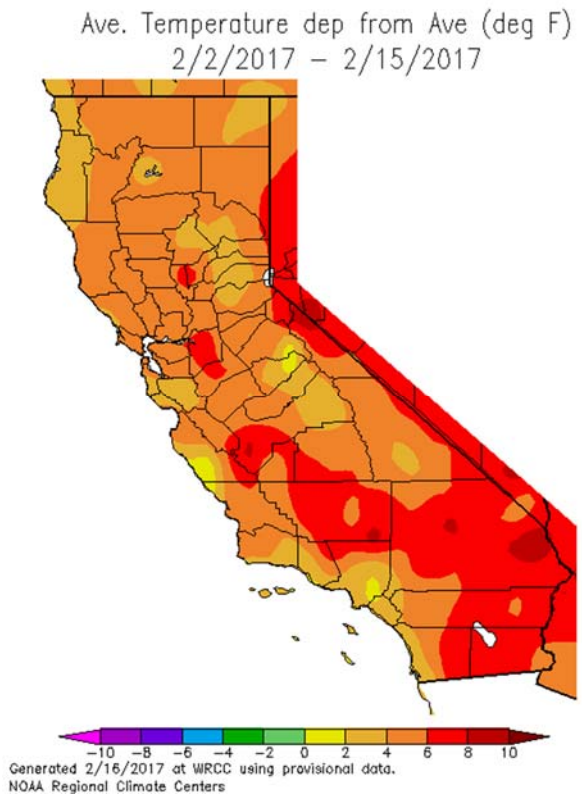
Updated: Thursday, February 16nd, 2016
Next Routine Update: Thursday, March 2nd, 2016

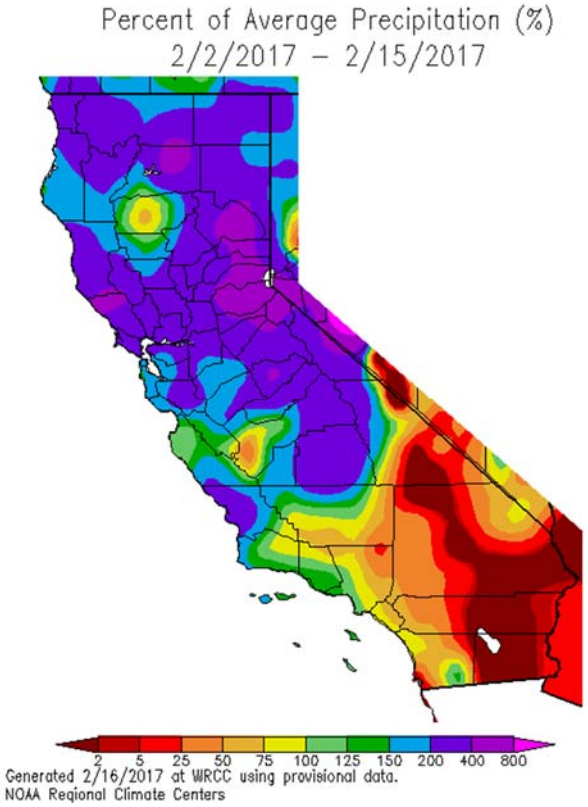
General Discussion:

Heavy rain inundated the northern half of the state as several strong storms moved through the Pacific Northwest. Very heavy, intense rain occurred over Northern California where some flooding and damage to infrastructure was observed. Further south, precipitation amounts were less, but still near to above normal across the coastal and upland areas. Strong ridging off the coast kept temperatures above normal over most of the state despite the frequent passage of storm systems.

Significant progress in drought recovery continues across the district. At the time of this writing, only 20% of the state is in a D2 (serious) drought state with only a sliver of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties at the D3 (extreme) level. No areas are currently in a D4 drought. (This compares with over 60% of the state in a D4 (exceptional) drought at this time in 2016). An expected strong storm on the 17th-18th may further reduce these areas.

The widespread precipitation should allow for continued growth of fine fuels and grasses during the next two week. Snowpack continues to pile up at higher elevations where some record depths have been recorded, but areal snow coverage is closer to normal due to unusually high snow levels. No wildfire activity is expected the next two weeks.

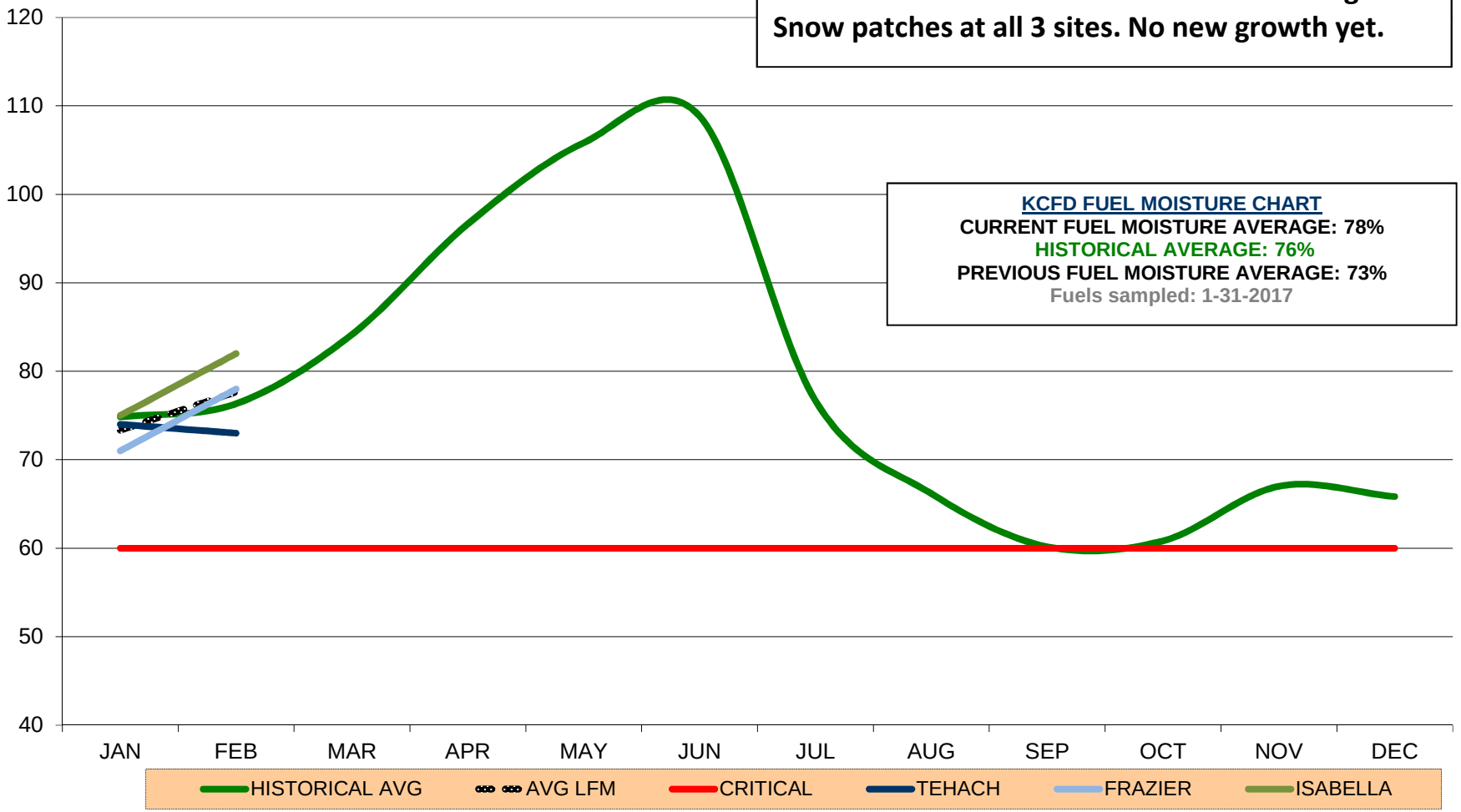




KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
LIVE FUEL MOISTURE FEBRUARY 2017
AVERAGE OF DOMINANT FUELS

Fuels/Fire Discussion

Fuels measured were Mtn Mahagony, Ceanothus, Sage and Manzanita between 3400'-4600'. LFM's continue to rise. Now above historical average. Snow patches at all 3 sites. No new growth yet.



Los Padres Fuel Moisture Bi-Monthly Discussion

North Forest (Monterey District)

Plots in red are above 2,900 feet

-Nacimiento-
Location: N35° 56'39" X W121° 24'28"
Elevation: 2,904
Aspect: Southwest
Sample Date: 1/30/2017

-Ponderosa-
Location: N36° 0'17" X W121° 23'11"
Elevation: 1,600
Aspect: South
Sample Date: 1/30/2017

Discussion: 1/30/2017

The fuel samples went up a little from last time. Still no new growth at both sites, also rain totals for the Nacimiento are 50 inches.

Los Padres Fuel Moisture Bi-Monthly Discussion

South Forest (Main Divide)

Plots in red are above 2,900 feet

-Gifford (Santa Lucia District)-
Location: 35° 06’32” X 120° 04’35”
Elevation: 1,450
Aspect: South
Sample Date: 01/31/2017

-San Marcos (Santa Barbara District)-
Location: 34° 30’33” X 119° 48’20”
Elevation: 2,675
Aspect: South
Sample Date: 01/27/2017

-Upper Oso (Santa Barbara District)-
Location: 34° 33’15” X 119°46’02”
Elevation: 1,166
Aspect: South
Sample Date: N/A

-Rose Valley (Ojai District)-
Location: 34°33’02” X 119°10’35”
Elevation: 3,595
Aspect: South
Sample Date: 01/29/2017

-Oak Flat (Ojai District)-
Location: 34°28’17” X 118°54’39”
Elevation: 2,817
Aspect: South
Sample Date: 02/27/2017

-Reyes Creek (Mt Pinos District)-
Location: 34°40’42” X 119°18’35”
Elevation: 4,045
Aspect: South
Sample Date: 01/31/2017

-Los Alamos (Mt Pinos District)-
Location: 34°42’05” X 118°49’07”
Elevation: 3,090
Aspect: South
Sample Date: 01/31/2017

Los Padres Fuel Moisture Bi-Monthly Discussion

Discussion: 02/01/2017

Gifford: The fuel plot is reproducing population. The new growth is only growing from the ground from new bushes. They are coming up from the shade of the old dead bushes. No new growth coming out of the old population yet. New bushes are getting to be approximately 1 foot high. This is a change in the fuels that I have not seen yet.

San Marcos: 12/28/16 was 71.95 up 6.67% in 30 days.

Upper Oso: Not able to perform Fuel Sample at Upper Oso, due to the 1st crossing being closed.

Rose Valley: Fuel Moisture up 6.04% since 12/30/16 Rose Valley has received 17.63" of rain since Oct. 1st, 2016.

Oak Flat: N/A

Reyes Creek: N/A

Los Alamos: – Taken on the East Aspect, no new growth found.

Vandenberg Air Force Base

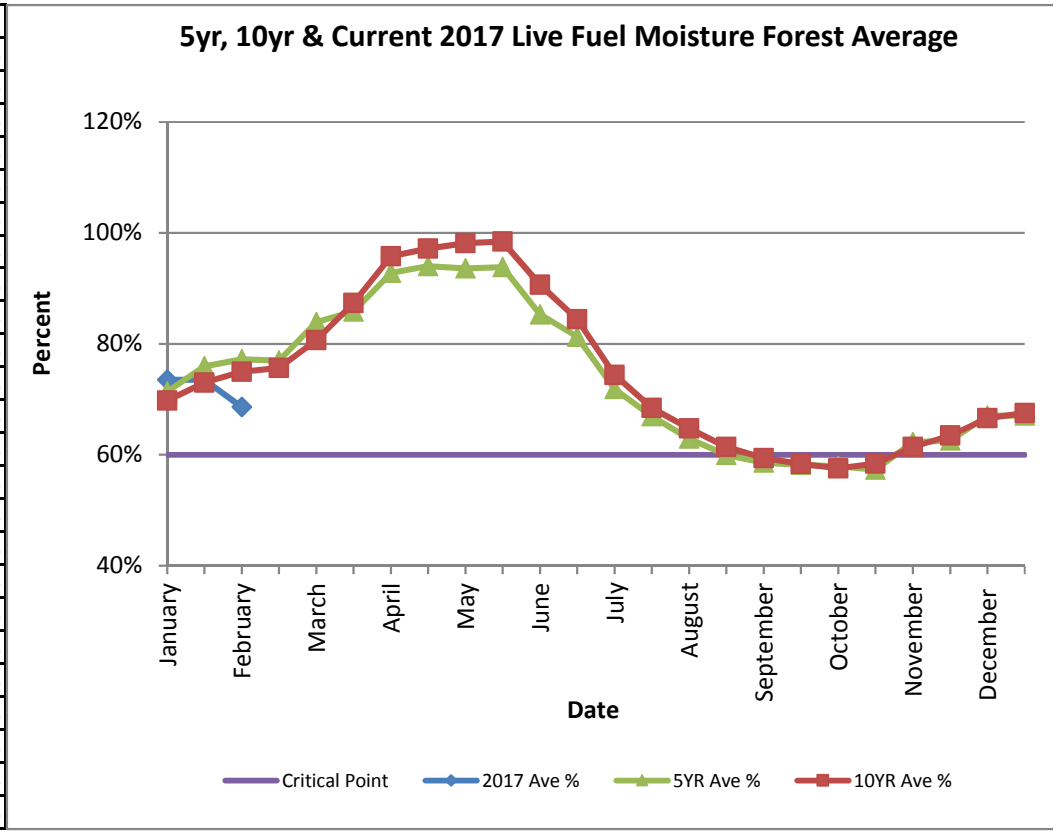
-Pine Canyon (VAFB)-
Location: 34°43'01" X 120°30'46"
Elevation: 440
Aspect: South-Southwest
Sample Date: 12/22/2016

Discussion: 12/22/2016

Pine Canyon (VAFB): We are still slowly climbing out of the hole and currently at 70%. There is a lot of green on the hills, but the brush has not fully recovered yet. Some areas of the Canyon Fire are showing good new growth, especially down in Honda Canyon.

Fuel Moisture Average for the Los Padres National Forest

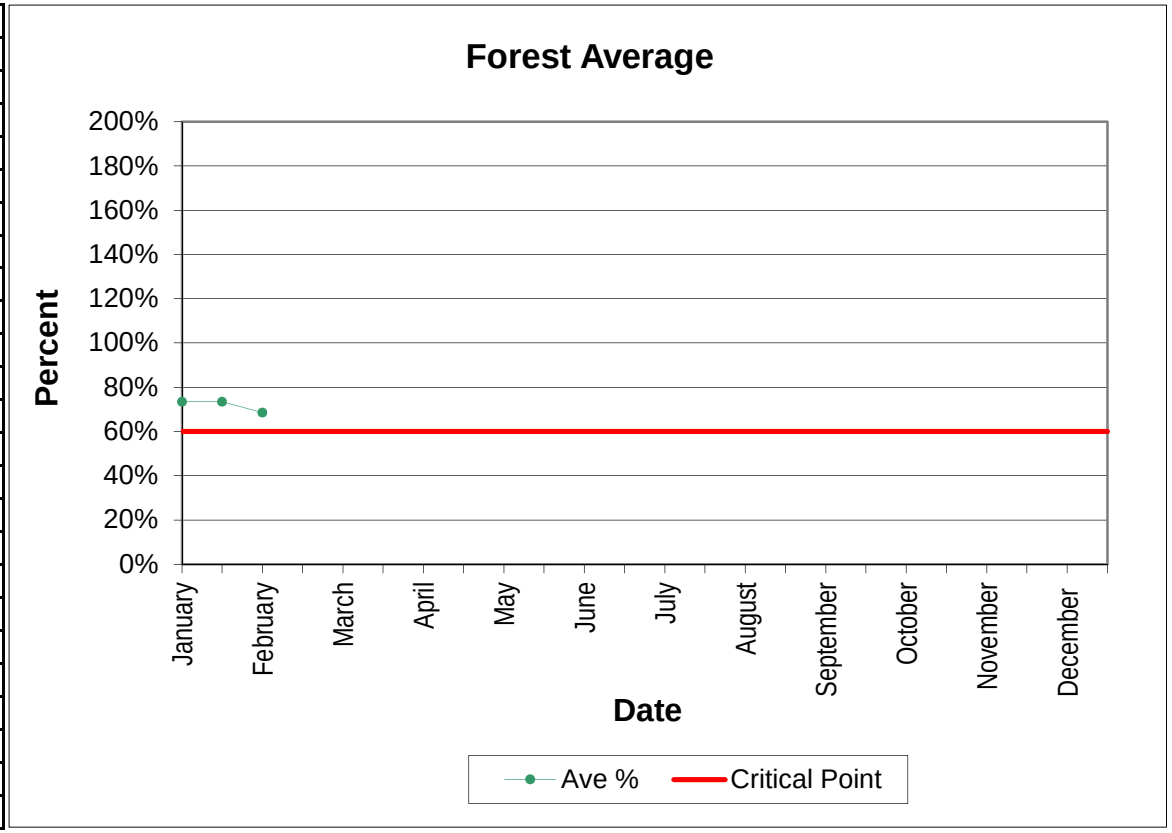
	Date	2017 Ave %	5YR Ave %	10YR Ave %	Critical Point
January	1/1/2017	73.52%	71.37%	69.81%	60%
	1/15/2017	74%	75.94%	73%	60%
February	2/1/2017	69%	77.22%	75%	60%
	2/15/2017		76.98%	75.65%	60%
March	3/1/2017		83.91%	80.66%	60%
	3/15/2017		85.83%	87.39%	60%
April	4/1/2017		92.80%	95.78%	60%
	4/15/2017		94.03%	97.19%	60%
May	5/1/2017		93.63%	98.15%	60%
	5/15/2017		93.83%	98.45%	60%
June	6/1/2017		85.31%	90.65%	60%
	6/15/2017		81.26%	84.46%	60%
July	7/1/2017		71.89%	74.41%	60%
	7/15/2017		66.96%	68.48%	60%
August	8/1/2017		62.92%	64.76%	60%
	8/15/2017		59.99%	61%	60%
September	9/1/2017		58.56%	59.40%	60%
	9/15/2017		58.18%	58.36%	60%
October	10/1/2017		57.96%	57.58%	60%
	10/15/2017		57.30%	58.39%	60%
November	11/1/2017		62.30%	61.39%	60%
	11/15/2017		62.56%	63.49%	60%
December	12/1/2017		67.04%	66.58%	60%
	12/15/2017		67.05%	67.55%	60%



updated: 2/2/2017

Fuel Moisture Average for the Los Padres National Forest

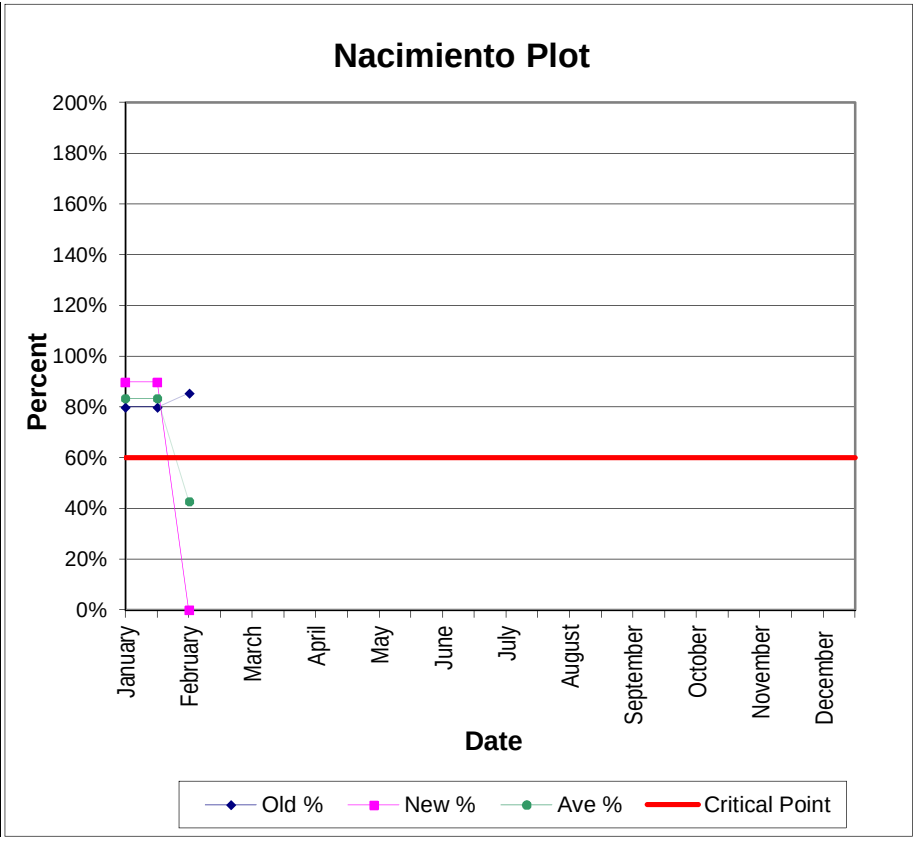
	Date	Ave %	Critical Point
January	1/1/2017	73.52%	60%
	1/15/2017	74%	60%
February	2/1/2017	68.60%	60%
	2/15/2017		60%
March	3/1/2017		60%
	3/15/2017		60%
April	4/1/2017		60%
	4/15/2017		60%
May	5/1/2017		60%
	5/15/2017		60%
June	6/1/2017		60%
	6/15/2017		60%
July	7/1/2017		60%
	7/15/2017		60%
August	8/1/2017		60%
	8/15/2017		60%
September	9/1/2017		60%
	9/15/2017		60%
October	10/1/2017		60%
	10/15/2017		60%
November	11/1/2017		60%
	11/15/2017		60%
December	12/1/2017		60%
	12/15/2017		60%



updated: 2/2/2017

Fuel Moisture Data for Nacimiento Plot

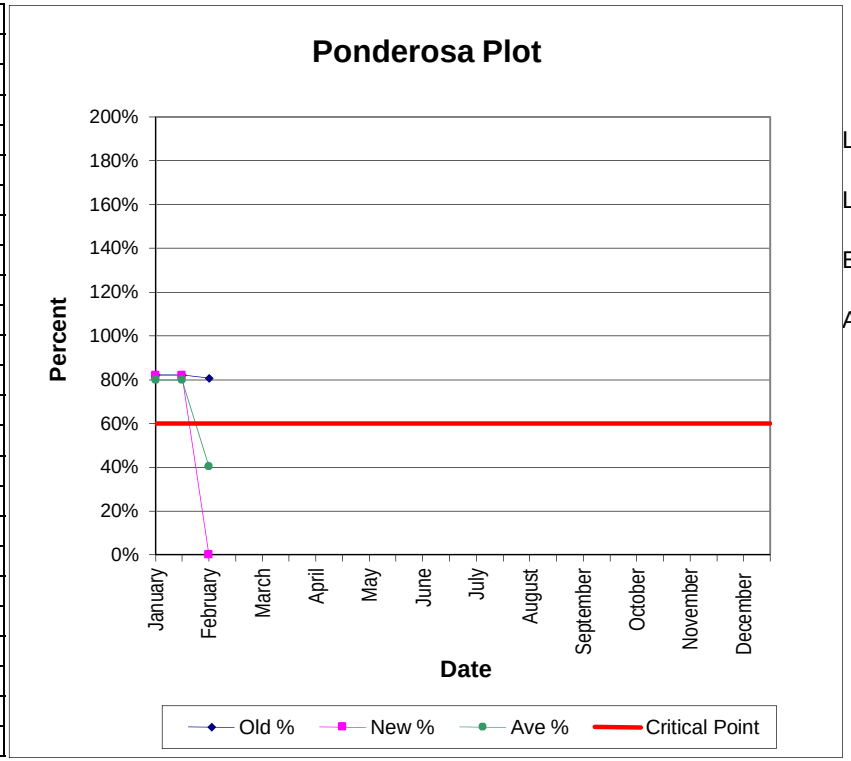
	Date	Old %	New %	Ave %	Critical Point
January	1/1/2017	80.00%	89.80%	83.40%	60%
	1/15/2017	80.00%	89.80%	83.40%	60%
February	2/1/2017	85.50%	0.00%	42.80%	60%
	2/15/2017				60%
March	3/1/2017				60%
	3/15/2017				60%
April	4/1/2017				60%
	4/15/2017				60%
May	5/1/2017				60%
	5/15/2017				60%
June	6/1/2017				60%
	6/15/2017				60%
July	7/1/2017				60%
	7/15/2017				60%
August	8/1/2017				60%
	8/15/2017				60%
September	9/1/2017				60%
	9/15/2017				60%
October	10/1/2017				60%
	10/15/2017				60%
November	11/1/2017				60%
	11/15/2017				60%
December	12/1/2017				60%
	12/15/2017				60%



updated: 2/2/2017

Fuel Moisture Data for Ponderosa Plot

	Date	Old %	New %	Ave %	Critical Point
January	1/1/2017	82.30%	81.80%	80.00%	60%
	1/15/2017	82.30%	81.80%	80.00%	60%
February	2/1/2017	80.80%	0.00%	40.40%	60%
	2/15/2017				60%
March	3/1/2017				60%
	3/15/2017				60%
April	4/1/2017				60%
	4/15/2017				60%
May	5/1/2017				60%
	5/15/2017				60%
June	6/1/2017				60%
	6/15/2017				60%
July	7/1/2017				60%
	7/15/2017				60%
August	8/1/2017				60%
	8/15/2017				60%
September	9/1/2017				60%
	9/15/2017				60%
October	10/1/2017				60%
	10/15/2017				60%
November	11/1/2017				60%
	11/15/2017				60%
December	12/1/2017				60%
	12/15/2017				60%



Lat: 36, 00.288

Long: 121, 23.199

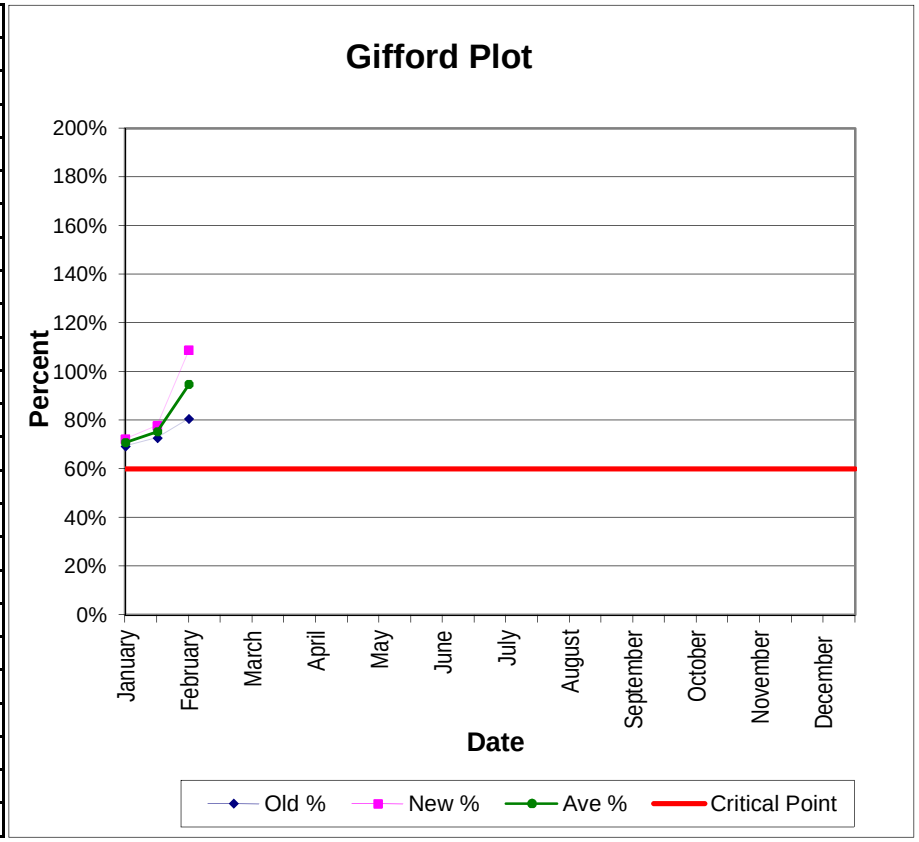
Elev: 1,600'

Apect: South

updated: 2/2/2017

Fuel Moisture Data for Buckhorn Plot

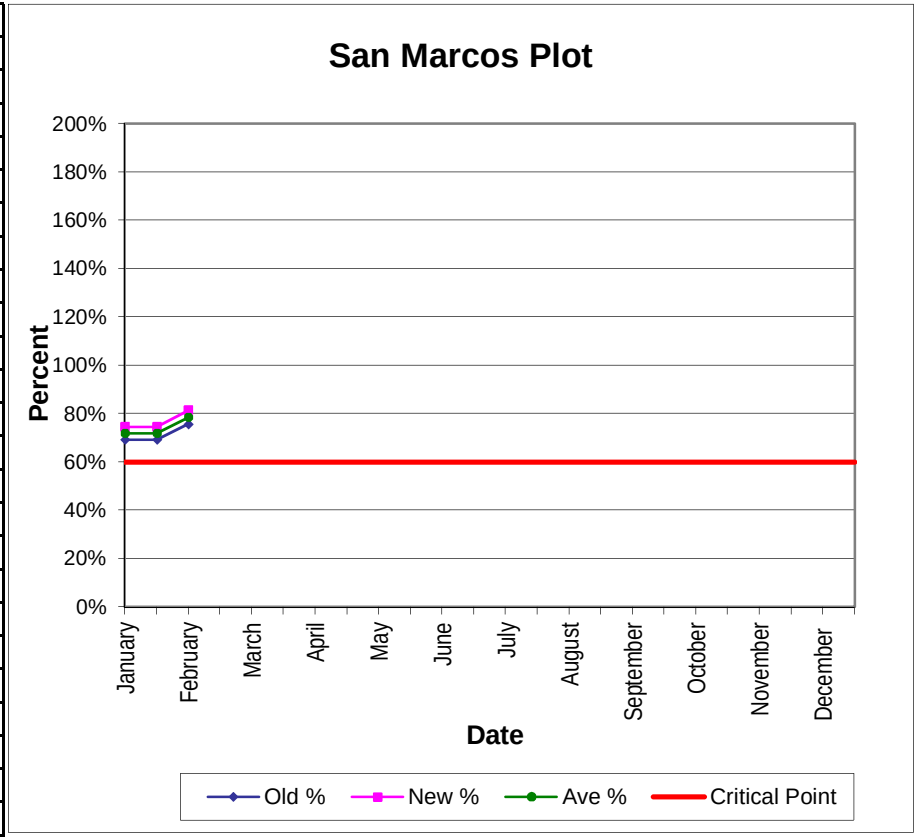
	Date	Old %	New %	Ave %	Critical Point
January	1/1/2017	69.44%	72.31%	70.88%	60%
	1/15/2017	72.89%	77.88%	75.39%	60%
February	2/1/2017	80.83%	108.92%	94.87%	60%
	2/15/2017				60%
March	3/1/2017				60%
	3/15/2017				60%
April	4/1/2017				60%
	4/15/2017				60%
May	5/1/2017				60%
	5/15/2017				60%
June	6/1/2017				60%
	6/15/2017				60%
July	7/1/2017				60%
	7/15/2017				60%
August	8/1/2017				60%
	8/15/2017				60%
September	9/1/2017				60%
	9/15/2017				60%
October	10/1/2017				60%
	10/15/2017				60%
November	11/1/2017				60%
	11/15/2017				60%
December	12/1/2017				60%
	12/15/2017				60%



updated: 2/2/2017

Fuel Moisture Data for
San Marcos Plot

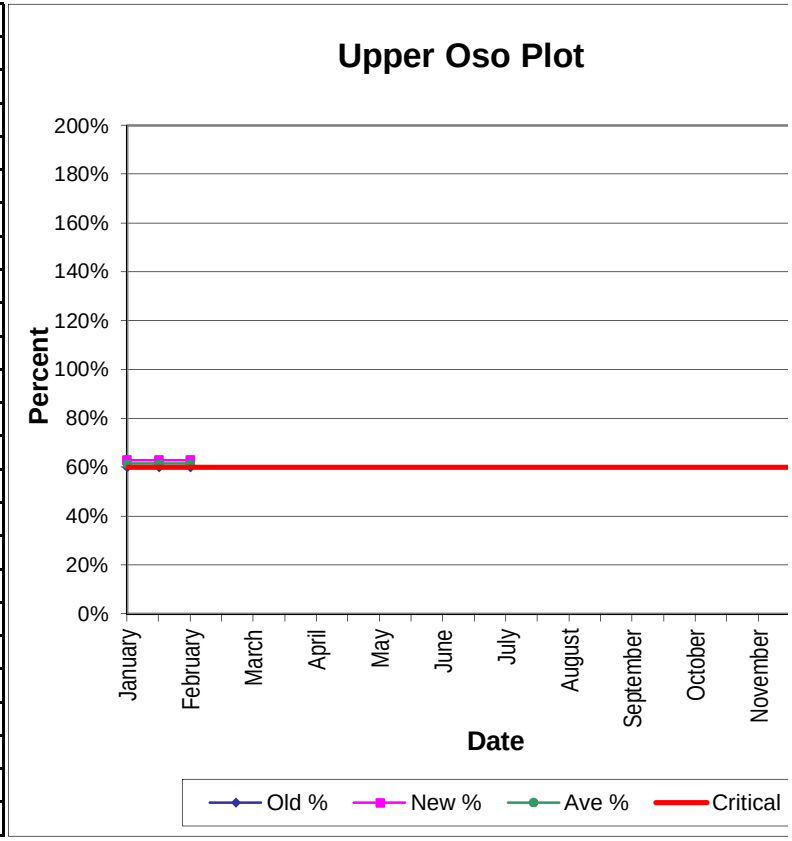
	Date	Old %	New %	Ave %	Critical Point
January	1/1/2017	69.28%	74.62%	71.95%	60%
	1/15/2017	69.28%	74.62%	71.95%	60%
February	2/1/2017	75.80%	81.44%	78.62%	60%
	2/15/2017				60%
March	3/1/2017				60%
	3/15/2017				60%
April	4/1/2017				60%
	4/15/2017				60%
May	5/1/2017				60%
	5/15/2017				60%
June	6/1/2017				60%
	6/15/2017				60%
July	7/1/2017				60%
	7/15/2017				60%
August	8/1/2017				60%
	8/15/2017				60%
September	9/1/2017				60%
	9/15/2017				60%
October	10/1/2017				60%
	10/15/2017				60%
November	11/1/2017				60%
	11/15/2017				60%
December	12/1/2017				60%
	12/15/2017				60%



updated: 2/2/2017

Fuel Moisture Data for
Upper Oso Plot

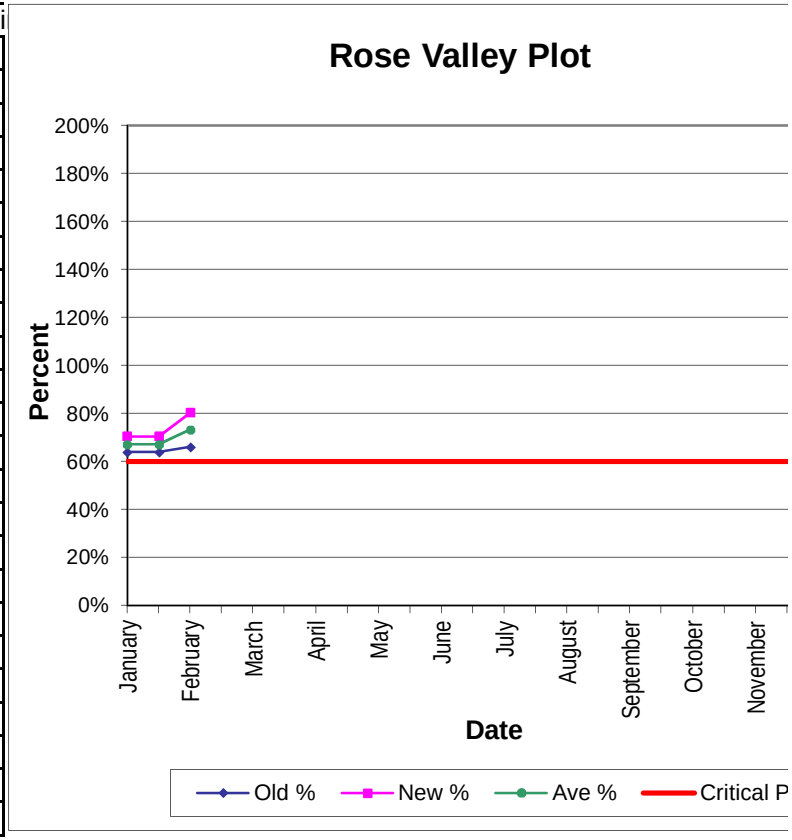
		Date	Old %	New %	Ave %	Critical Point
January	January	1/1/2017	60.24%	62.98%	61.61%	60%
		1/15/2017	60.24%	62.98%	61.61%	60%
February	February	2/1/2017	60.24%	62.98%	61.61%	60%
		2/15/2017				60%
March	March	3/1/2017				60%
		3/15/2017				60%
April	April	4/1/2017				60%
		4/15/2017				60%
May	May	5/1/2017				60%
		5/15/2017				60%
June	June	6/1/2017				60%
		6/15/2017				60%
July	July	7/1/2017				60%
		7/15/2017				60%
August	August	8/1/2017				60%
		8/15/2017				60%
September	September	9/1/2017				60%
		9/15/2017				60%
October	October	10/1/2017				60%
		10/15/2017				60%
November	November	11/1/2017				60%
		11/15/2017				60%
December	December	12/1/2017				60%
		12/15/2017				60%



updated: 2/2/2017

Fuel Moisture Data For Rose Valley Plot

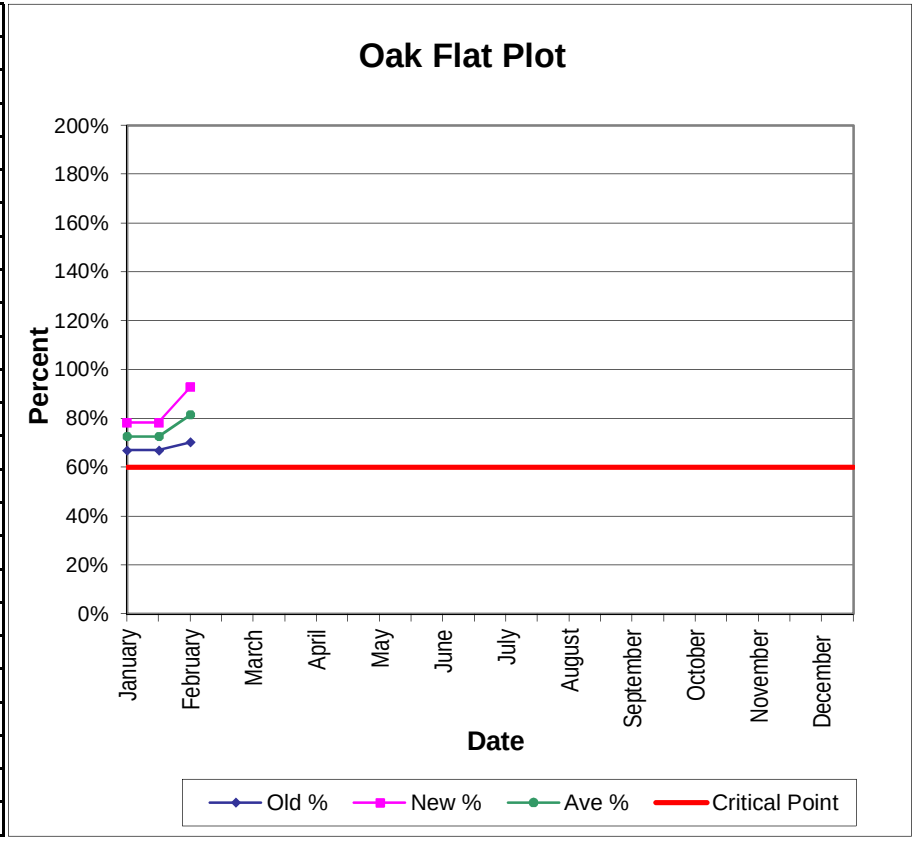
		Date	Old %	New %	Ave %	Critical Poi
January	January	1/1/2017	63.90%	70.54%	67.22%	60%
		1/15/2017	63.90%	70.54%	67.22%	60%
February	February	2/1/2017	66.15%	80.37%	73.26%	60%
		2/15/2017				60%
March	March	3/1/2017				60%
		3/15/2017				60%
April	April	4/1/2017				60%
		4/15/2017				60%
May	May	5/1/2017				60%
		5/15/2017				60%
June	June	6/1/2017				60%
		6/15/2017				60%
July	July	7/1/2017				60%
		7/15/2017				60%
August	August	8/1/2017				60%
		8/15/2017				60%
September	September	9/1/2017				60%
		9/15/2017				60%
October	October	10/1/2017				60%
		10/15/2017				60%
November	November	11/1/2017				60%
		11/15/2017				60%
December	December	12/1/2017				60%
		12/15/2017				60%



updated: 2/2/2017

Fuel Moisture for the Oak Flat Plot

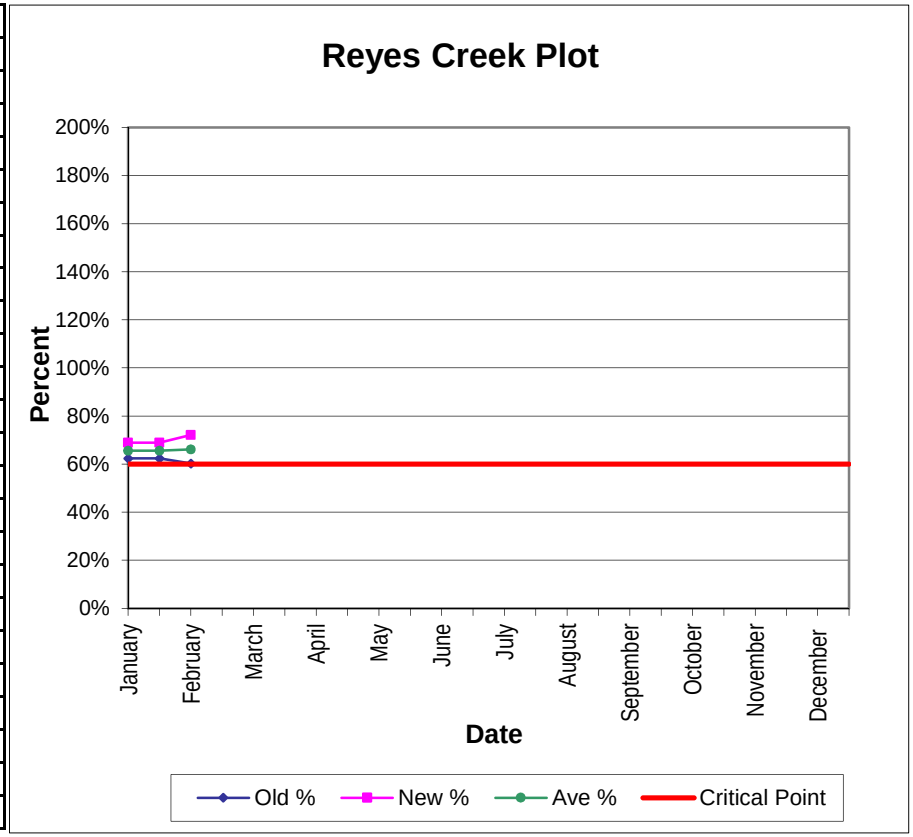
	Date	Old %	New %	Ave %	Critical Point
January	1/1/2017	67.08%	78.39%	72.74%	60%
	1/15/2017	67.08%	78.39%	72.74%	60%
February	2/1/2017	70.37%	92.94%	81.65%	60%
	2/15/2017				60%
March	3/1/2017				60%
	3/15/2017				60%
April	4/1/2017				60%
	4/15/2017				60%
May	5/1/2017				60%
	5/15/2017				60%
June	6/1/2017				60%
	6/15/2017				60%
July	7/1/2017				60%
	7/15/2017				60%
August	8/1/2017				60%
	8/15/2017				60%
September	9/1/2017				60%
	9/15/2017				60%
October	10/1/2017				60%
	10/15/2017				60%
November	11/1/2017				60%
	11/15/2017				60%
December	12/1/2017				60%
	12/15/2017				60%



updated: 2/2/2017

Fuel Moisture for the Reyes Creek Plot

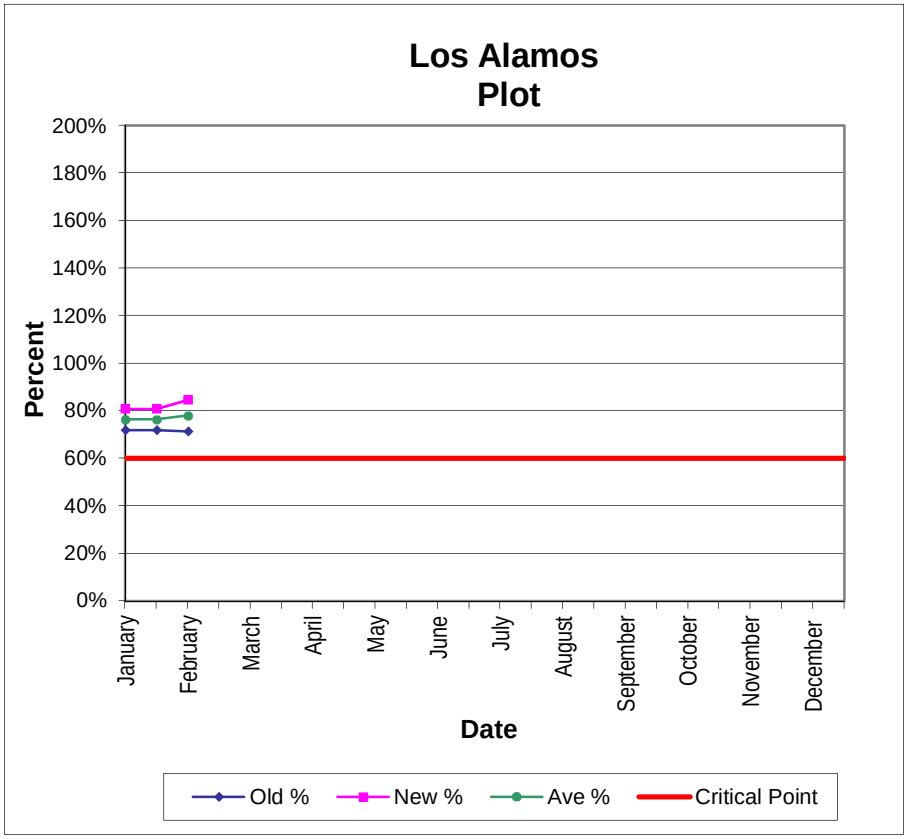
	Date	Old %	New %	Ave %	Critical Point
January	1/1/2017	62.34%	68.95%	65.64%	60%
	1/15/2017	62.34%	68.95%	65.64%	60%
February	2/1/2017	60.32%	72.04%	66.18%	60%
	2/15/2017				60%
March	3/1/2017				60%
	3/15/2017				60%
April	4/1/2017				60%
	4/15/2017				60%
May	5/1/2017				60%
	5/15/2017				60%
June	6/1/2017				60%
	6/15/2017				60%
July	7/1/2017				60%
	7/15/2017				60%
August	8/1/2017				60%
	8/15/2017				60%
September	9/1/2017				60%
	9/15/2017				60%
October	10/1/2017				60%
	10/15/2017				60%
November	11/1/2017				60%
	11/15/2017				60%
December	12/1/2017				60%
	12/15/2017				60%



updated: 2/2/2017

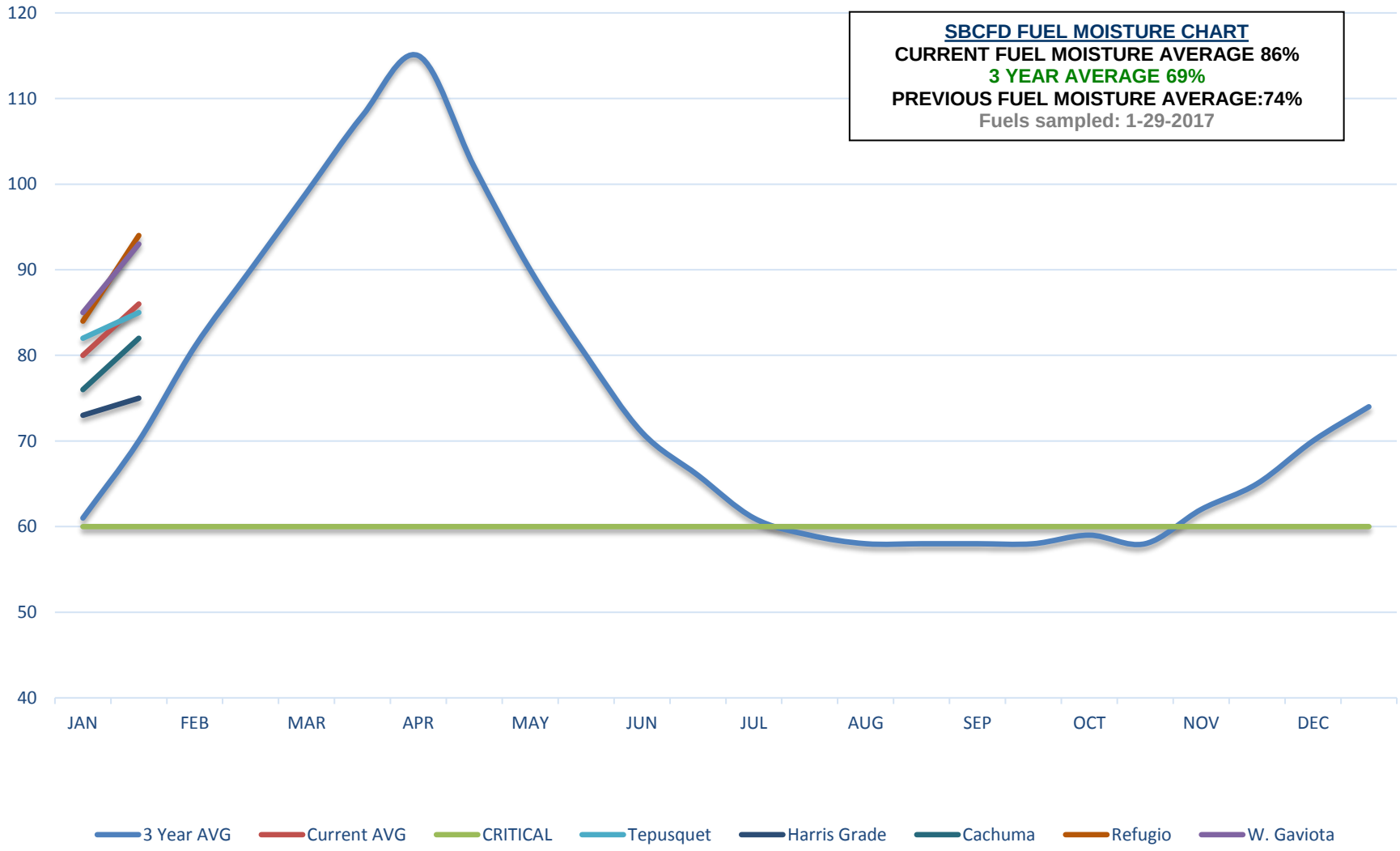
Fuel Moisture for the Hardluck Plot

	Date	Old %	New %	Ave %	Critical Point
January	1/1/2017	71.91%	80.79%	76.35%	60%
	1/15/2017	71.91%	80.79%	76.35%	60%
February	2/1/2017	71.42%	84.61%	78.02%	60%
	2/15/2017				60%
March	3/1/2017				60%
	3/15/2017				60%
April	4/1/2017				60%
	4/15/2017				60%
May	5/1/2017				60%
	5/15/2017				60%
June	6/1/2017				60%
	6/15/2017				60%
July	7/1/2017				60%
	7/15/2017				60%
August	8/1/2017				60%
	8/15/2017				60%
September	9/1/2017				60%
	9/15/2017				60%
October	10/1/2017				60%
	10/15/2017				60%
November	11/1/2017				60%
	11/15/2017				60%
December	12/1/2017				60%
	12/15/2017				60%



updated: 2/2/2017

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
2017 LIVE FUEL MOISTURE
ALL FUEL BEDS - CHAMISE



2017 Chamise Summary

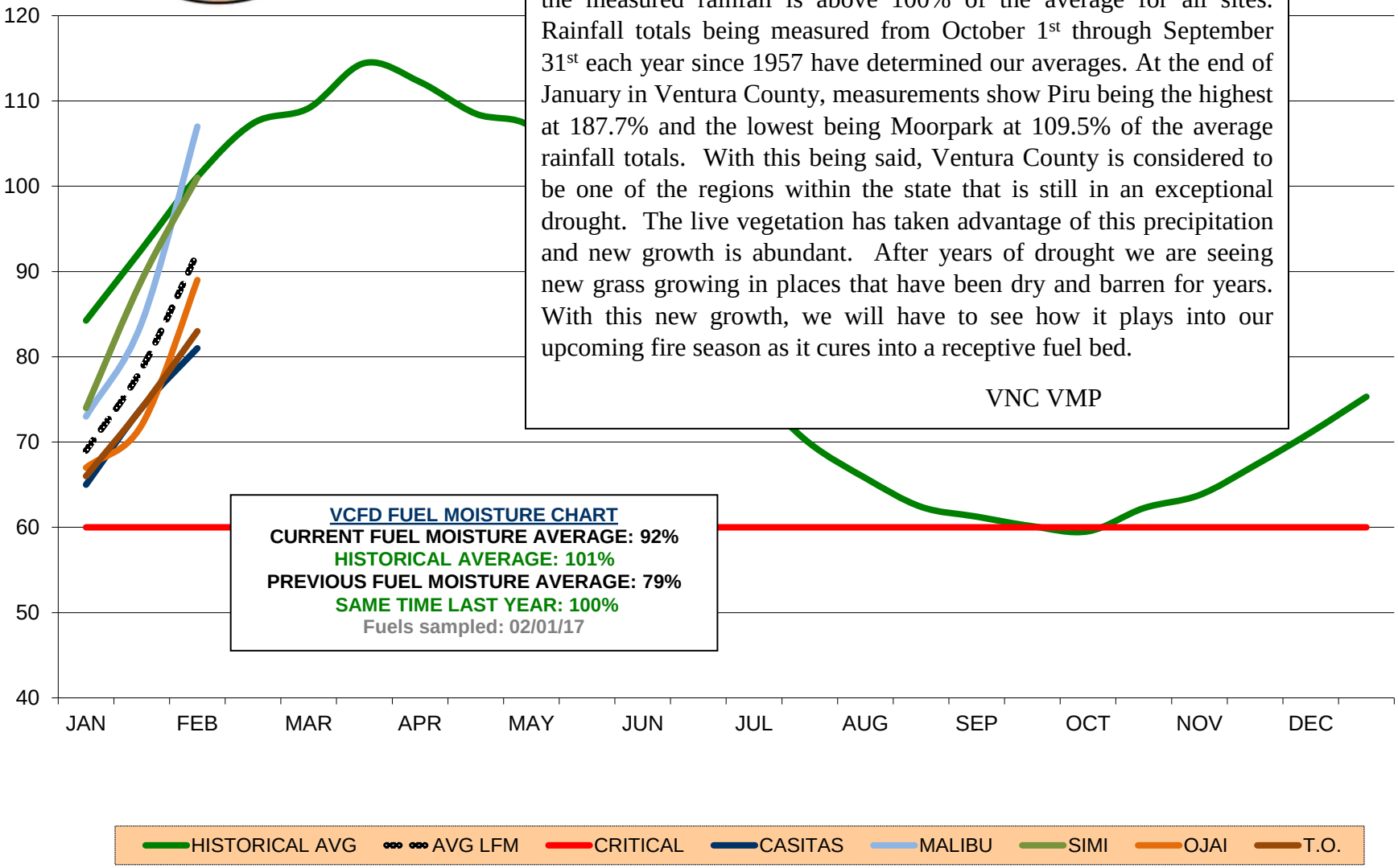
	3 Year AVG	Current AVG	CRITICAL	Tepusquet	Harris Grade	Cachuma	Refugio	W. Gaviota
JAN	61	80	60	82	73	76	84	85
	70	86	60	85	75	82	94	93
FEB	81		60					
	90		60					
MAR	99		60					
	108		60					
APR	115		60					
	102		60					
MAY	90		60					
	80		60					
JUN	71		60					
	66		60					
JUL	61		60					
	59		60					
AUG	58		60					
	58		60					
SEP	58		60					
	58		60					
OCT	59		60					
	58		60					
NOV	62		60					
	65		60					
DEC	70		60					
	74		60					

VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
LIVE FUEL MOISTURE 2017
ALL FUEL BEDS - CHAMISE

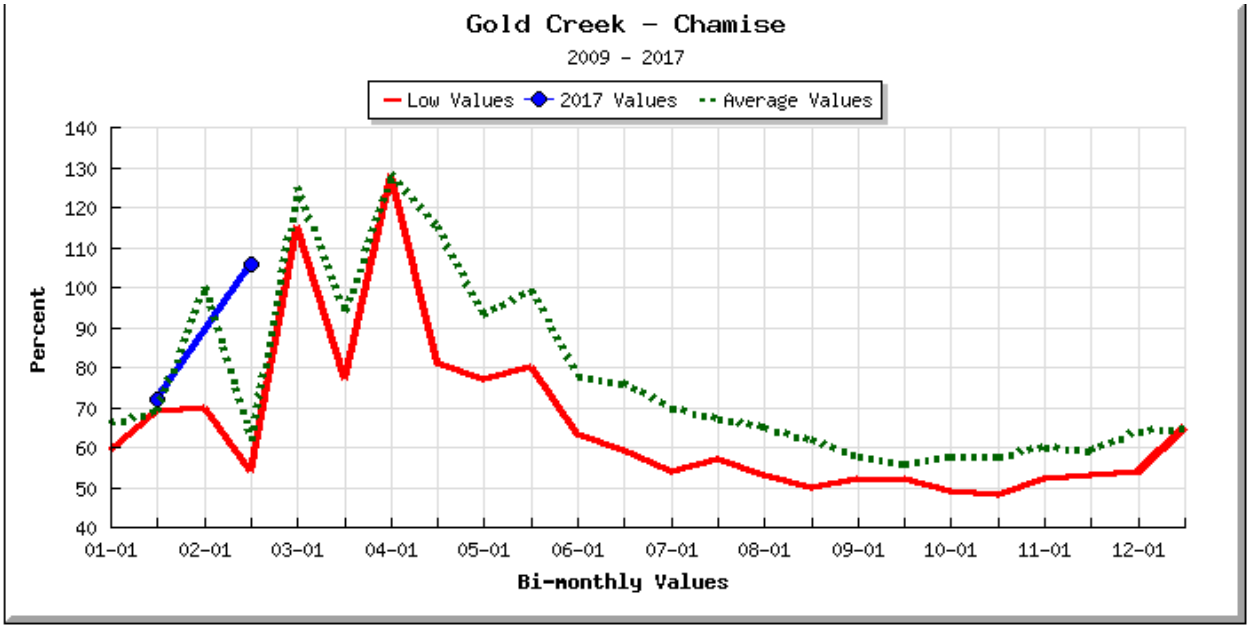
Fuels/Fire Discussion

With the recent rains throughout Ventura County, records show that the measured rainfall is above 100% of the average for all sites. Rainfall totals being measured from October 1st through September 31st each year since 1957 have determined our averages. At the end of January in Ventura County, measurements show Piru being the highest at 187.7% and the lowest being Moorpark at 109.5% of the average rainfall totals. With this being said, Ventura County is considered to be one of the regions within the state that is still in an exceptional drought. The live vegetation has taken advantage of this precipitation and new growth is abundant. After years of drought we are seeing new grass growing in places that have been dry and barren for years. With this new growth, we will have to see how it plays into our upcoming fire season as it cures into a receptive fuel bed.

VNC VMP

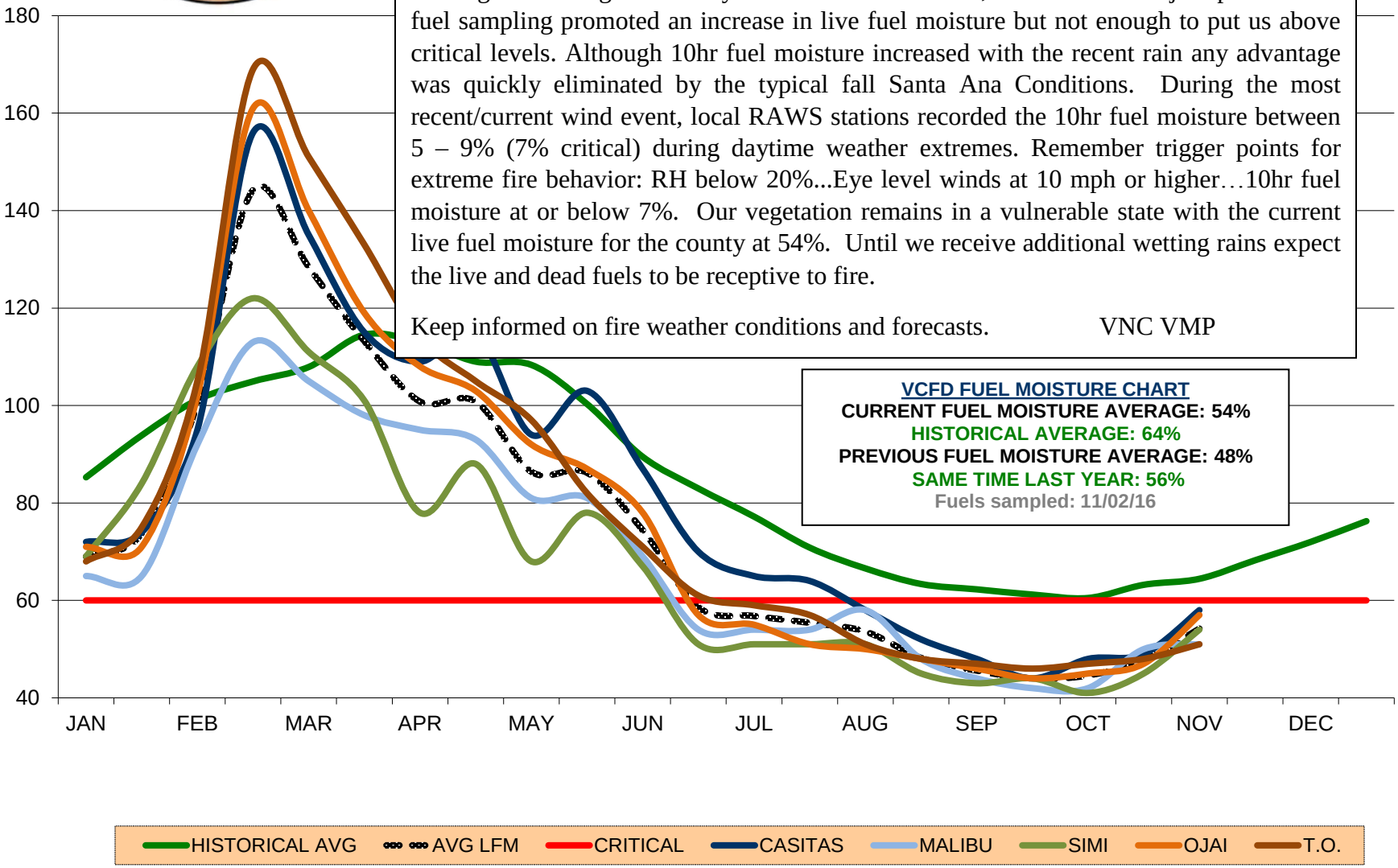


Angeles National Forest



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
LIVE FUEL MOISTURE 2016
ALL FUEL BEDS - CHAMISE

Fuels/Fire Discussion

Live fuel moisture values have begun the seasonal uphill swing with cooler temperatures and higher overnight humidity recoveries. In addition, the recent rains just prior to our fuel sampling promoted an increase in live fuel moisture but not enough to put us above critical levels. Although 10hr fuel moisture increased with the recent rain any advantage was quickly eliminated by the typical fall Santa Ana Conditions. During the most recent/current wind event, local RAWS stations recorded the 10hr fuel moisture between 5 – 9% (7% critical) during daytime weather extremes. Remember trigger points for extreme fire behavior: RH below 20%...Eye level winds at 10 mph or higher…10hr fuel moisture at or below 7%. Our vegetation remains in a vulnerable state with the current live fuel moisture for the county at 54%. Until we receive additional wetting rains expect the live and dead fuels to be receptive to fire.

Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts. VNC VMP