

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

Eastern Nevada, Utah, and Arizona Strip

June 27, 2026 – July 12, 2026



Subject: Persistent drought, critically low live and dead fuel moistures, and fully cured fine fuels have created above-normal significant fire potential across eastern Nevada, much of Utah and the Arizona strip. Recent large fires have demonstrated the potential for rapid fire growth, long-range spotting, and high resistance to control. Forecasted hot and dry conditions are expected to further increase fire danger into July.

Discussion: Persistent drought, critically low live and dead fuel moistures, and fully cured fine fuels have created above-normal significant fire potential across eastern Nevada, most of Utah, outside of the Uinta and Wasatch Mountains, and the AZ strip. Drought-stressed vegetation, localized shrub mortality, and continuous cured fine fuels are contributing to increased fire occurrence and extreme fire behavior. In addition to critically dry shrub and fine fuel conditions, juniper fuel moistures across much of the advisory area are also at or near record low levels for this time of year. Juniper fuel moistures failed to exhibit the expected spring recovery due to below-average winter precipitation, limited snowpack, and persistently low soil moisture conditions. As a result, many juniper stands entered the summer fire season under significant moisture stress with little opportunity for recovery. Localized juniper mortality and canopy dieback have further increased the availability of receptive fuels within these fuel complexes.

Recent large fires throughout the region such as the Cottonwood and Iron fires in UT, and the Grapevine fire in NV have demonstrated rapid rates of spread, active torching, long-range spotting, prolonged burning periods, and high resistance to control. Field observations from recent incidents have documented unusually receptive juniper fuel beds and more aggressive fire behavior within juniper fuel types than would typically be expected under similar weather conditions. Forecast weather patterns support continued fuel drying and above-normal significant fire potential into July.

Difference from Normal Conditions: Fuel conditions are significantly drier than seasonal averages. Live woody fuel moisture remains critically low; in many cases, record low values have been measured. In addition, 1000-hour dead fuel moistures are well below normal and continue to decline. Fine fuels are fully cured. Together with carry over fuel from previous years, they provide a continuous fuel source supporting rapid fire spread and facilitating fire transition into heavier fuels.

Concerns to Firefighters and the Public: Firefighters should anticipate rapid fire growth, active fire behavior, long-range spotting, and high resistance to control during initial attack and extended operations. Human-caused ignitions remain a significant concern, and any new fire has the potential to escape initial containment under current fuel and weather conditions. Communities located adjacent to wildland fuels should remain prepared for rapidly changing fire conditions.

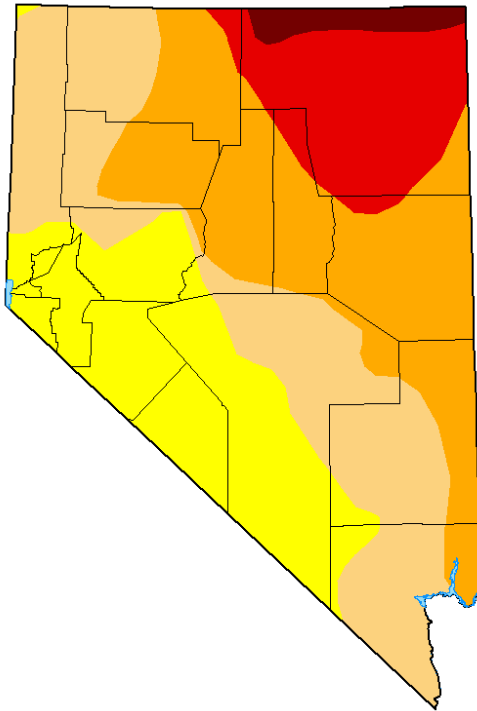
Mitigation Measures:

- Monitor fuel and fire weather conditions continuously and anticipate rapid changes in fire behavior.
- Utilize risk-based suppression strategies and evaluate indirect tactics when firefighter exposure outweighs the probability of success.
- Maintain LCES and identify contingency actions early.
- Position resources for rapid initial attack while preparing for extended attack and large fire growth.
- Incorporate heat illness prevention through work/rest cycles, hydration, and crew rotation.
- Increase public prevention messaging to reduce human-caused ignitions.

Area of Concern: US Wildland Fire Service: Unit 9, Unit 6, Unit 11, Unit 12, Unit 13, and Unit 14. US Forest Service: Humboldt-Toiyabe NF lands (East of 395), Dixie NF, Fishlake NF, and Manti-La Sal NF ; Moab and Monticello Ranger Districts and the San Pitch Mountain portion of the USFS.

Issued By: Great Basin Predictive Services, Eastern Nevada and Utah Fuels Specialists.

Figure 1
Nevada Drought Monitor Map



U.S. Drought Monitor
June 23, 2026
(Released June 25, 2026)

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Figure 1
Utah Drought Monitor Map

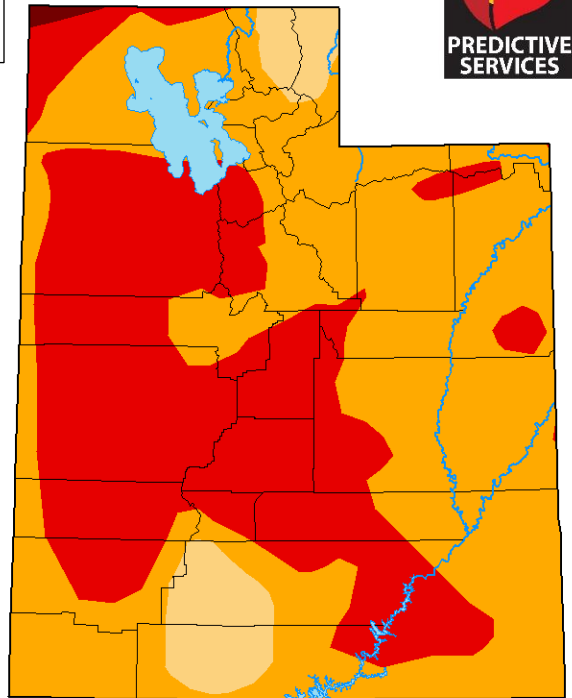


Figure 4: Cottonwood Fire, Beaver UT



Figure 5: Grapevine Fire Initial Attack, Barclay NV

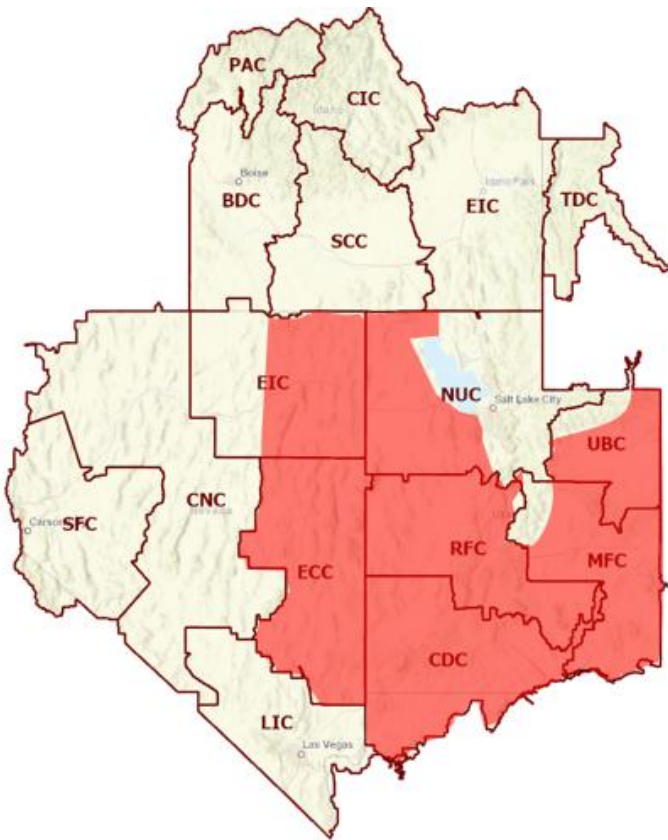


Figure 3
Affected Areas