

Southwest Area Monthly Outlook

February 2017



WEATHER FACTORS AND OUTLOOK:

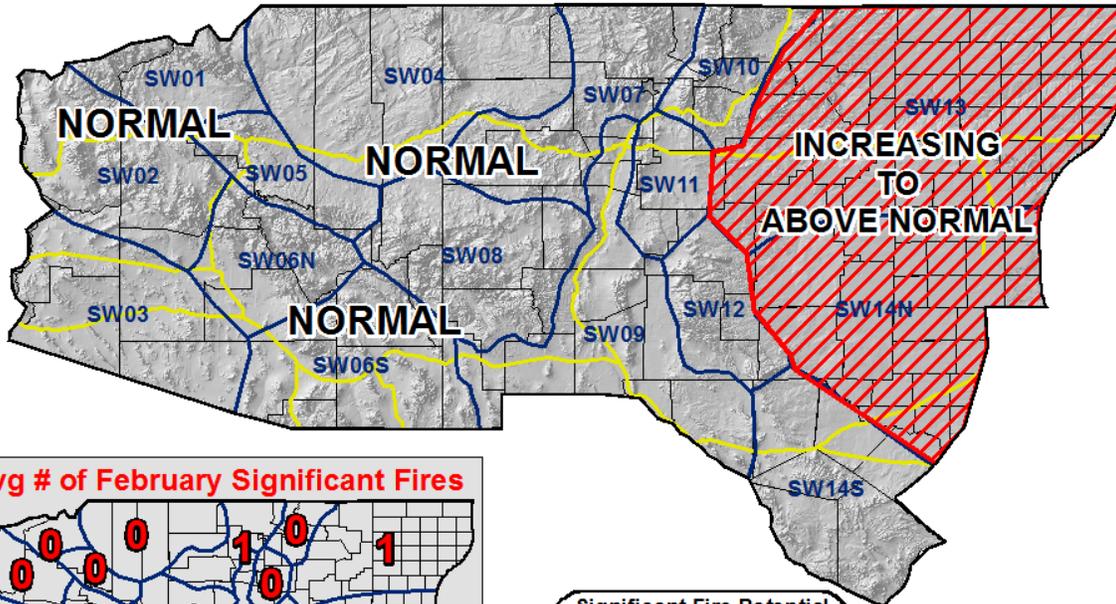
Drought Conditions: As of January 24th, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicated an area of moderate drought across southwestern Arizona as well as an area in the northeastern portion of the state. There is also an area of moderate drought in eastern New Mexico as well as across the Oklahoma panhandle. The remainder of the region has either abnormally dry conditions or no drought at present. The most recent U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook suggests that the present drought areas across the region will expand in both coverage and intensity this month.

Precipitation Anomalies and Outlook: Precipitation amounts for January were quite wet overall across the Southwest Area. In general, precipitation was Above Normal across nearly all of the region except across a few small areas across the south. The wettest areas overall were across the northern and eastern sections of the region. The latest CPC climate outlook depicts Below Normal likelihood of precipitation area-wide, esp. across the southeastern 1/3 or so of the area. Predictive Services is in agreement with this forecast overall although some areas of the east/northeast will also receive at least a few, likely light, periods of precipitation this month.

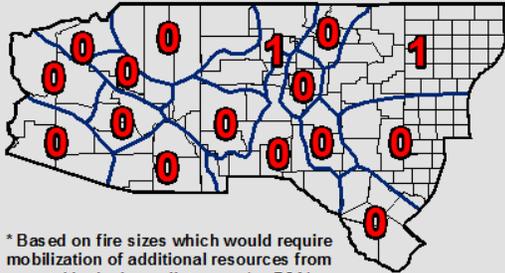
Temperature Anomalies and Outlook: January saw average high temperatures between 1-7 degrees Above Normal across the southeastern ¼ or so of the region. Much of the remainder of the Southwest Area experienced high temperatures between 1-8 degrees Below Normal in January. The latest CPC climate outlook forecasts Above Normal temperatures for February. Southwest Area Predictive Services agrees with this forecast. A fluctuating temperature regime is likely across the eastern plains region but overall expect Above Normal readings this month.

<p>Significant Fire Potential</p>	<p>Above Normal Fire Potential developing east of the New Mexico central mountains. Otherwise, Normal Fire Potential. Incidents of significant fire activity typically are minimal in February associated with both colder daytime and overnight temperatures as well as a still low amount of daylight hours. However, this month is expected to be warmer and drier than average with systems just glancing the region and mainly dry backdoor cold frontal activity into the east. Fire Potential concerns will be constrained to almost exclusively human caused fires in dormant (and abundant) fine fuels on days where warmth, wind, and dryness tend to align.</p>
<p>Prescribed Fire Implications</p>	<p>February normally coincides with a slow but steady increase in prescribed burning due to a higher sun angle and more frequent periods of drier and milder conditions. Ventilation concerns still remain however. This month, burning opportunities will be likely, as a drier and milder pattern is expected.</p>
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<p>Carryover fine fuels are abundant and available and drought is expected to increase overall in February.</p>

Monthly Significant Fire Potential Outlook February 2017



Avg # of February Significant Fires



* Based on fire sizes which would require mobilization of additional resources from outside the immediate area (or PSA)

Significant Fire Potential

- Below Normal
- Normal
- Above Normal