

Southwest Area Monthly Outlook

APRIL 2018



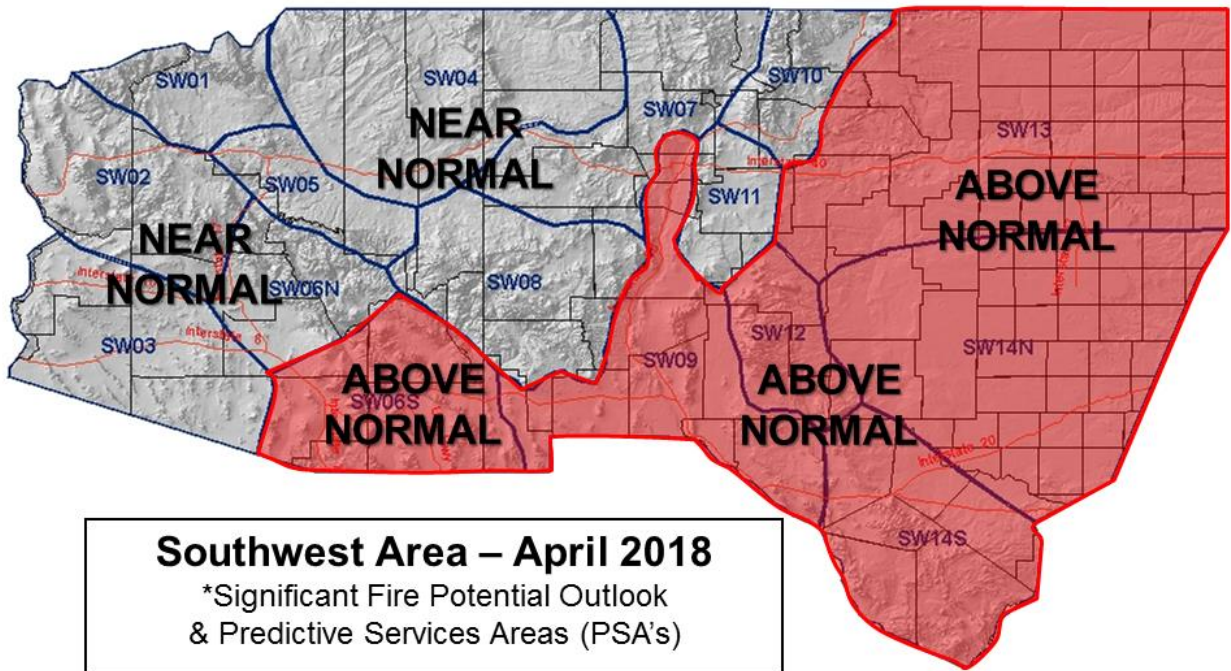
WEATHER FACTORS AND OUTLOOK:

Drought Conditions: As of March 29th, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicated areas of mainly severe to extreme drought across the Southwest Area. Some areas of exceptional drought exist across the Oklahoma panhandle region into far north Texas. Far northwestern Arizona, southern New Mexico and far west Texas have primarily moderate drought conditions. The most recent U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook suggests that the present drought will both persist and further develop this month.

Precipitation Anomalies and Outlook: Precipitation for most of March was Above Normal across parts of northern Arizona, the Arizona/New Mexico region and parts of the southeastern plains of west Texas. Elsewhere, precipitation was primarily Below to well Below Normal. Areas across southern Arizona, and the eastern half of New Mexico into most of west Texas ranged from 0-25% of normal for the month. The latest CPC outlook for April exhibits Below Normal likelihood for precipitation across all sections of the region. Predictive Services agrees with this forecast overall as the expected storm track will likely be just north or north of the region.

Temperature Anomalies and Outlook: March saw high temperatures slightly Above to Above normal across most of the eastern 1/2 to 2/3 of the region. Far western sections of the region saw high temperatures a few degrees Below Normal for the month. The latest CPC climate outlook forecasts Above Normal temperatures for April area-wide, except for closer to normal across the far northeastern parts of the region. Southwest Area Predictive Services is in overall agreement with this forecast.

Significant Fire Potential	<p>Near Normal – northwestern 3/4 or so of region, Above Normal southeastern AZ, southern, southeastern, eastern NM and all of west Texas.</p> <p>Incidents of significant fire activity typically begin to increase further in April overall due to warming temperatures and increasing amounts of daylight. For this month Large fire Potential is expected to remain near normal for the northwestern 2/3 or so of the region due to some periodic shots of moisture and indices near to Below Normal. However, Above Normal potential exists further south/east with periods of downslope wind conditions likely this month as storm systems slide eastward either across the northern tier of the region or north of the region.</p>
Prescribed Fire Implications	<p>April normally coincides with a peak in prescribed burning activities area-wide. Foresight, good planning, and strong consideration of weather conditions will allow opportunities to be available throughout this month.</p>
Miscellaneous	<p>None</p>



*Significant Fire Potential: The likelihood a fire situation will require mobilization of additional resources from outside the area in which the fire situation originates.