

# Southwest Area Monthly Outlook

## MAY 2018



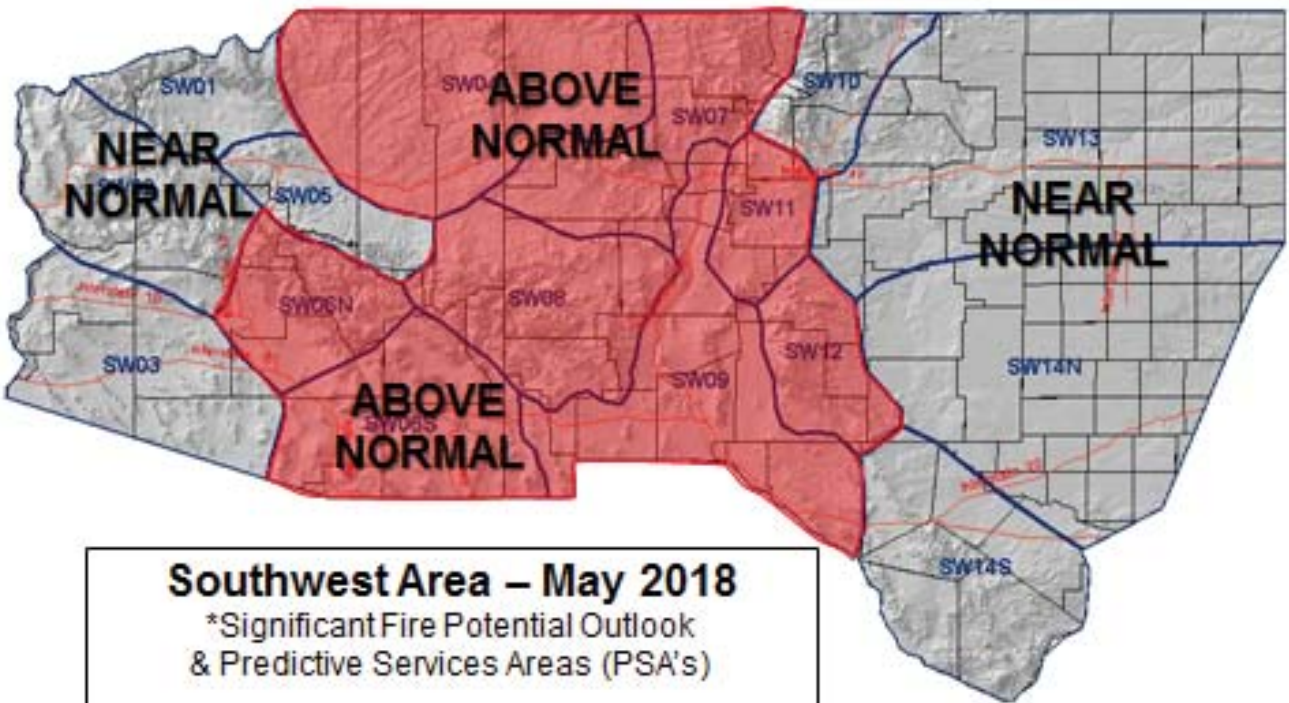
### WEATHER FACTORS AND OUTLOOK:

**Drought Conditions:** As of April 26<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicated areas from severe to exceptional drought across the Southwest Area. The areas of exceptional drought exist across the both the Oklahoma and Texas panhandle region as well as across the Four Corners area. 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 persist this month.

**Precipitation Anomalies and Outlook:** Precipitation for most of April was only Above Normal across far northwestern Arizona and small sections of both eastern/northeastern New Mexico into adjacent west Texas. Elsewhere, precipitation was primarily Below to well Below Normal. The latest CPC outlook for May exhibits near Normal likelihood for precipitation for most parts of the region except Above Normal across northeastern Arizona eastward into northwestern New Mexico. 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:** April saw high temperatures slightly Above to Above normal across most of the eastern 1/2 to 2/3 of the region with the exception of far northeastern New Mexico into adjacent west Texas where temperatures were slightly below normal. The western half of the region saw high temperatures generally from 4-10 degrees Above Normal for the month. The latest CPC climate outlook forecasts Above Normal temperatures for May area-wide. Southwest Area Predictive Services is in overall agreement with this forecast.

<b>Significant Fire Potential</b>	<p><b>Near Normal – both western and eastern 1/3 of the region, Above Normal elsewhere.</b></p> <p>Incidents of significant fire activity typically begin to increase further in May due to warming temperatures, increasing amounts of daylight, and milder overnight temperature readings. For this month Large fire Potential is expected to remain near normal for both the western 1/3 and eastern 1/3 or so of the region due to some periodic shots of moisture and cooler temperatures and indices closer to normal. However, Above Normal potential will exist in between these areas this month as dryness will combine with warmer temperatures, an occasional wind event, and an increasingly likelihood of moisture intrusions leading to lightning activity.</p>
<b>Prescribed Fire Implications</b>	<p>May normally coincides with the beginning of a decrease in prescribed burning activities area-wide. However, foresight, good planning, and strong consideration of weather conditions will allow opportunities to be available this month.</p>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<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.