



# 2025 Fire Season Considerations and Outlook

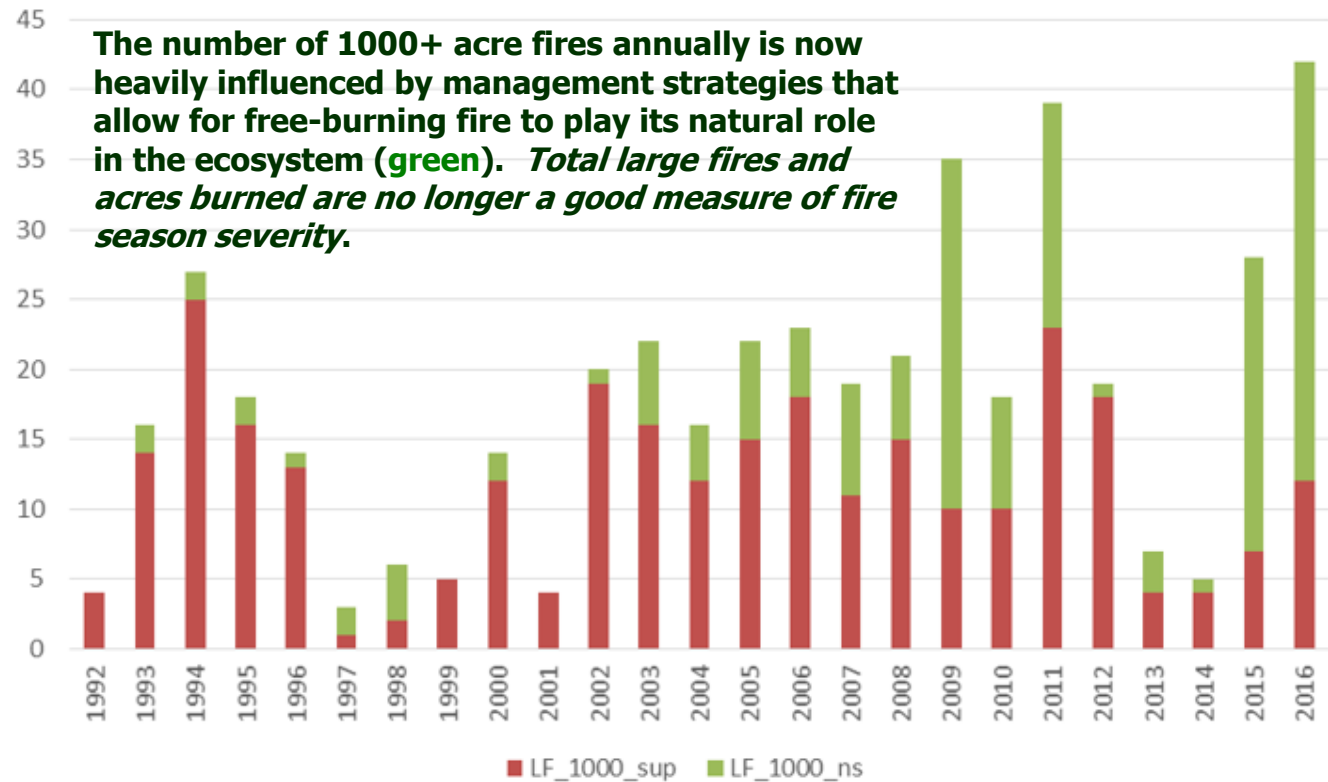
SWCC Predictive Services

Updated: 4/1/25

# Historical Southwest Area Fire Activity

## Southwest Mountains - Count 1000+ Acre Fires

(**Suppression** vs. **Multi-Objective/Multi-Strategy**)



- Fires about a 50/50 split between human & lightning caused
- Human caused fires more prevalent in the spring, coincident with windy & dry conditions
- Lightning caused fires more prevalent from June onward, coincident with the approaching monsoon

# Seasonal Fire Potential Main Factors

1. Drought

Big Picture Fuels Complex Conditions

2. Fine Fuels Condition

Fine Fuels Component

3. Seasonal Temperature & Precipitation

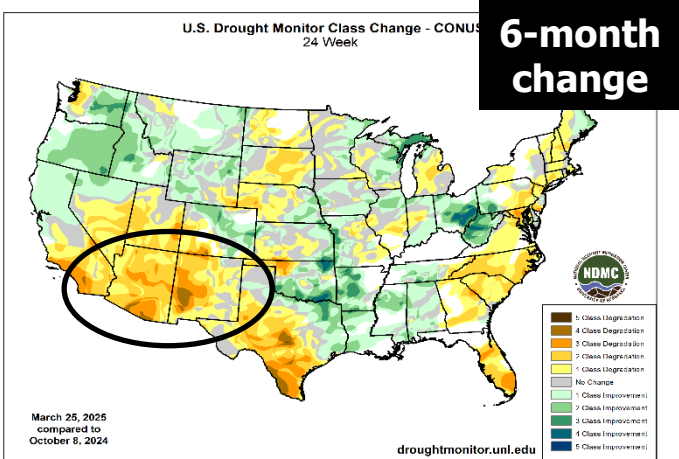
Season Setup

4. Spring & early Summer Weather Patterns

Fire Ignition &  
Spread

5. Monsoon

Season End

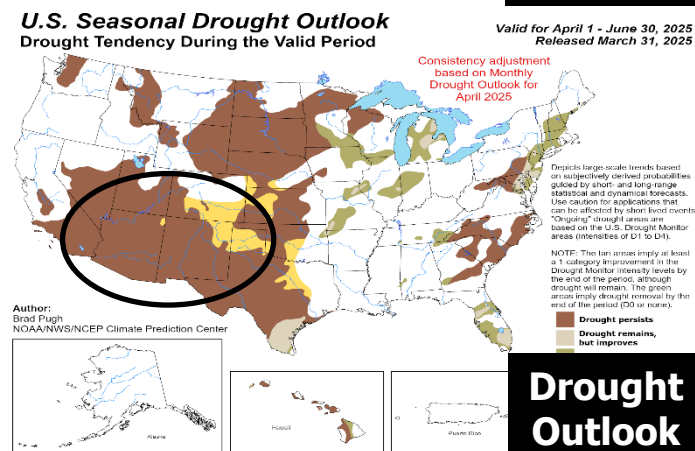
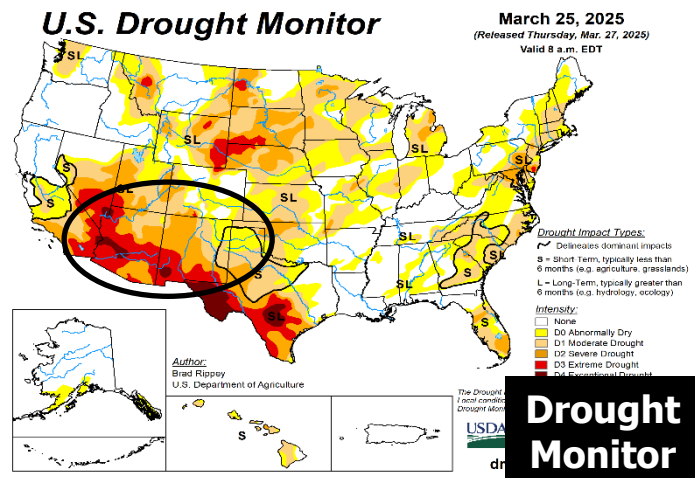


# Fire Season 2025: Drought

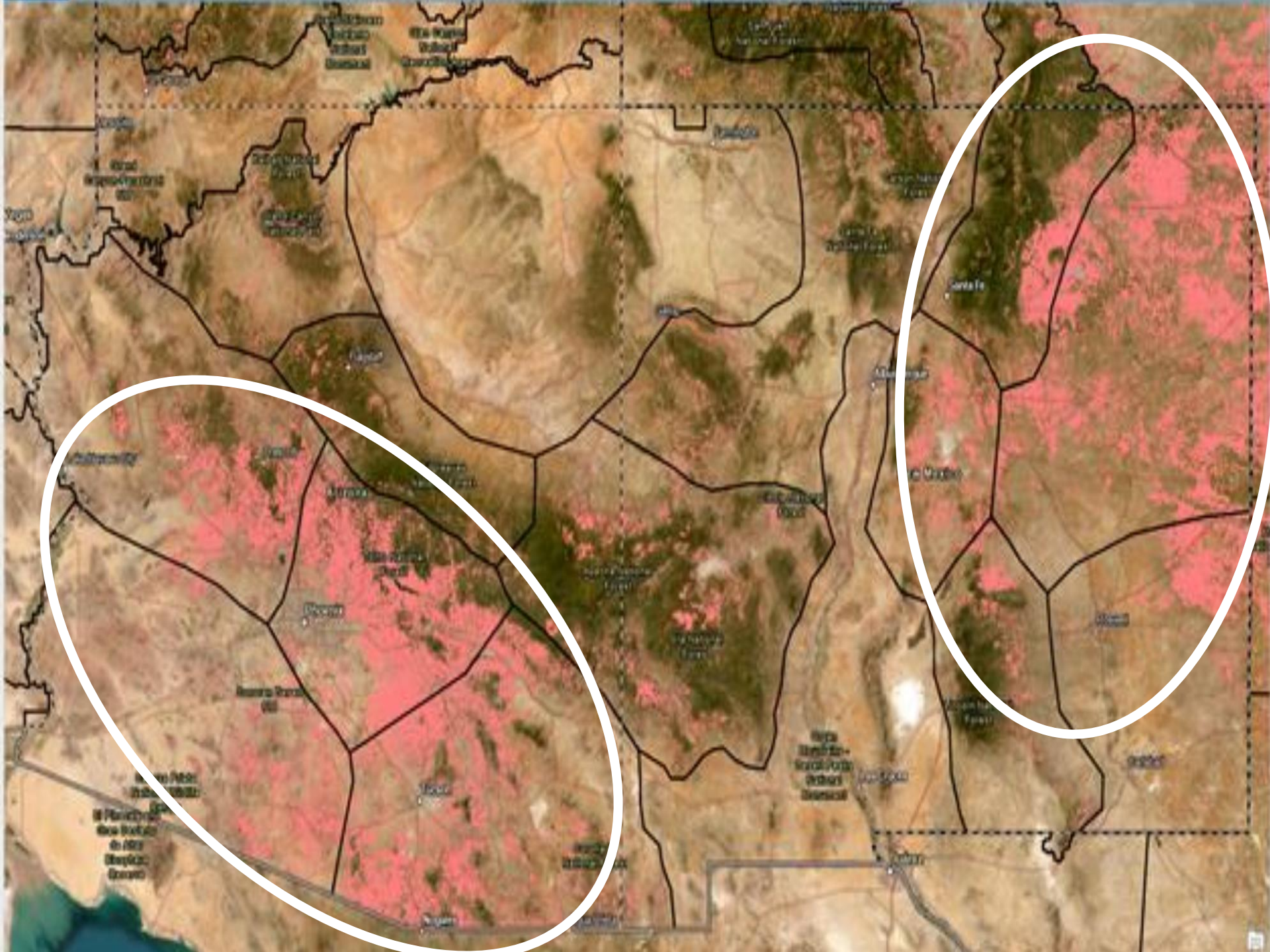
Worsening drought conditions overall the past 6 months, focused west

Areas of “**Extreme Drought**”, south/west. “**Severe drought**” widespread across both southwestern 1/2 of AZ and southern NM. “**Moderate Drought**” bordering these areas. Least drought east and northeast

- Official Drought outlook – Drought likely to persist/develop through June areawide

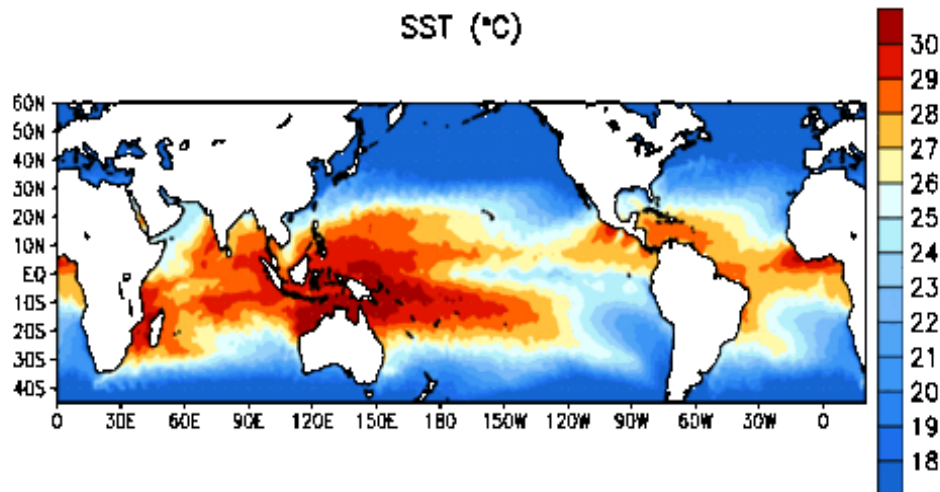






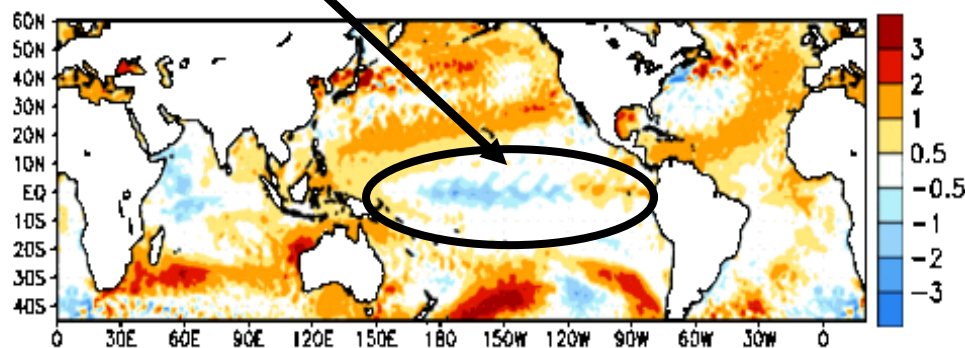


Week centered on 08 JAN 2025  
SST (°C)

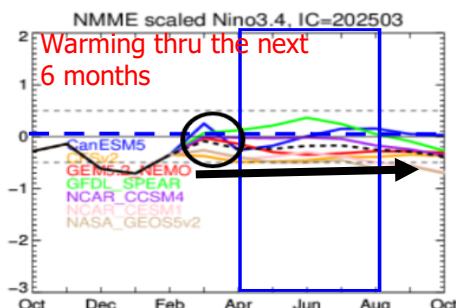


**Weak La Nina**  
**Modoki**

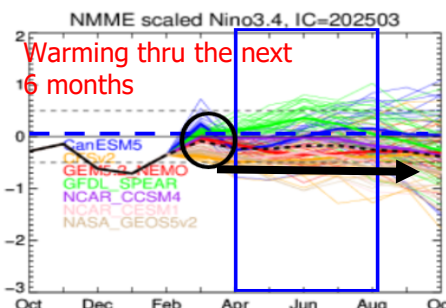
Anomalies (°C)



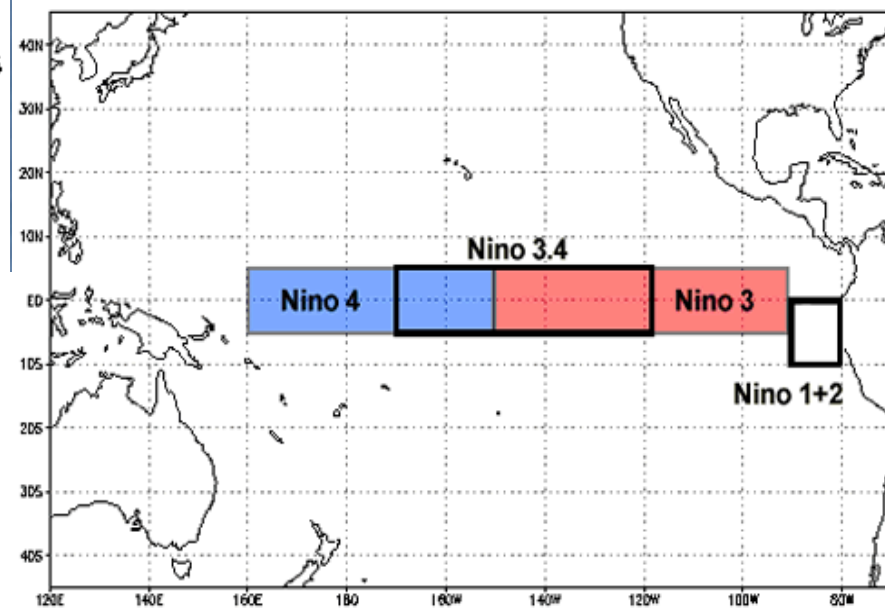
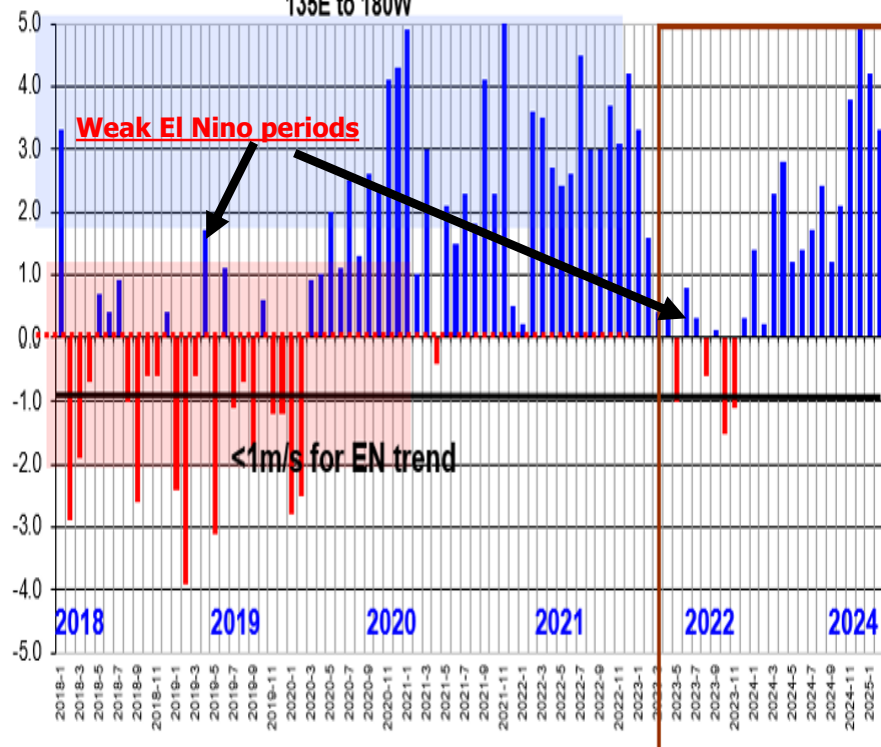
**Ensemble Mean**



**All Members**



850 WEST PAC EQ WIND TRADE INDEX ANOMALY  
135E to 180W

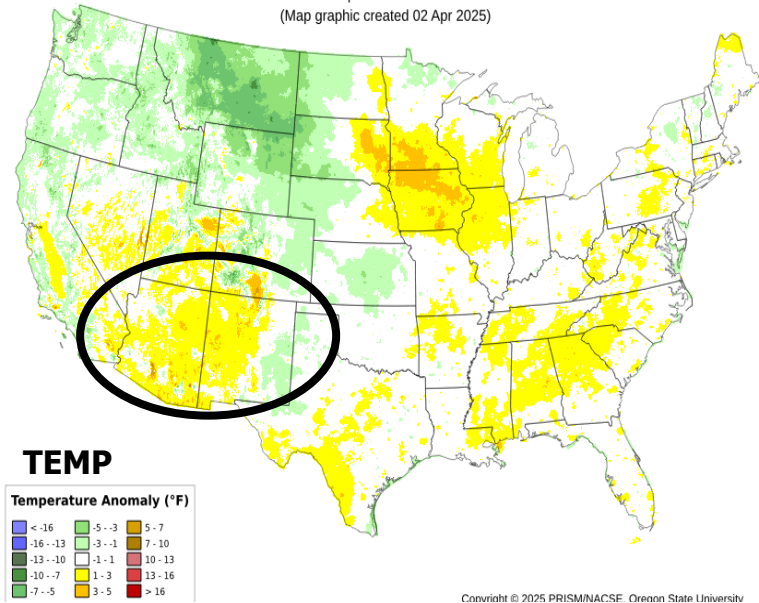


Daily Maximum Temperature Anomaly: Jan 2025 - Mar 2025

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2025

Base period: 1991-2020

(Map graphic created 02 Apr 2025)

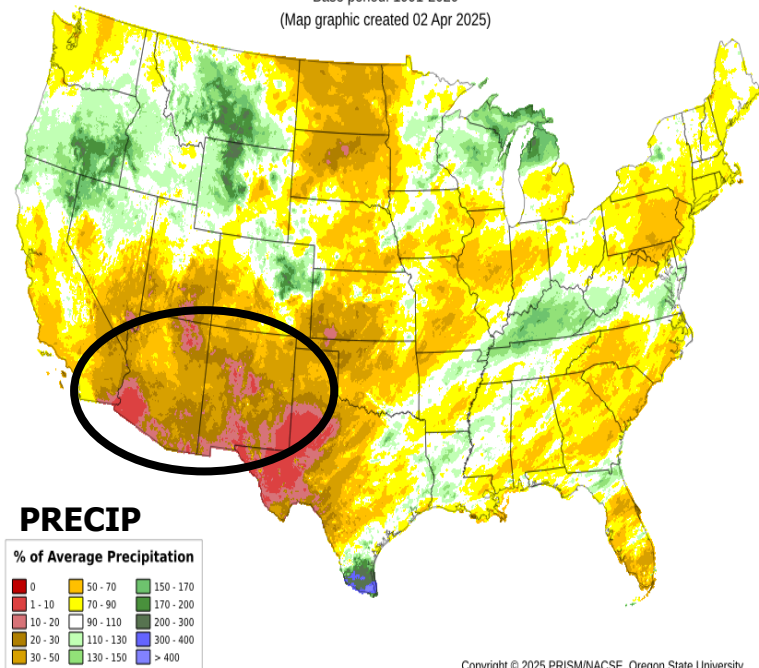


Total Precipitation Anomaly: Jan 2025 - Mar 2025

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2025

Base period: 1991-2020

(Map graphic created 02 Apr 2025)



# Fire Season 2025:

## Last 90 Days (JAN thru MAR '25)

### Temperature & Precipitation

Overall, a very up/down winter/early spring weather pattern, after a quiet fall timeframe

High temperatures were slightly above average for most areas, and closer to normal to slightly below normal to east

Precipitation has been **drier than normal along/west of the divide areawide** although was slightly wetter than normal west of the divide in March

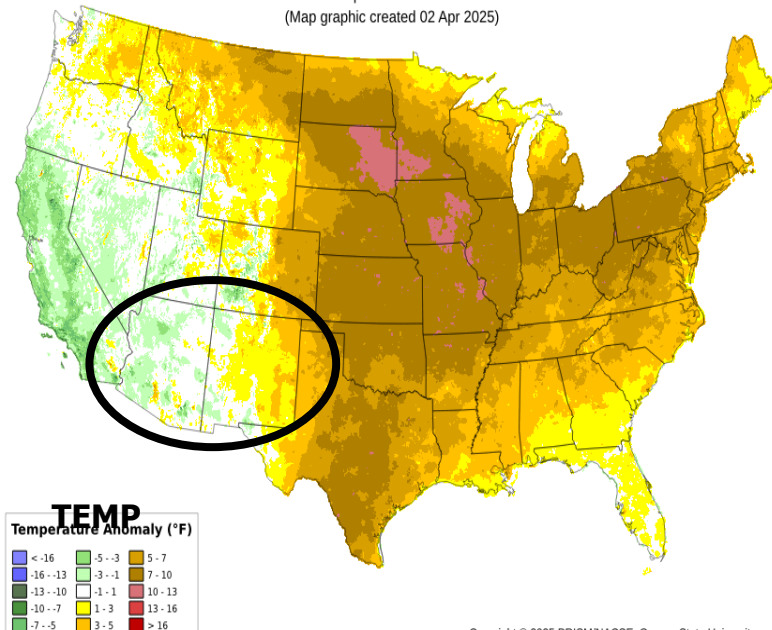


Daily Maximum Temperature Anomaly: Mar 2025

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(Map graphic created 02 Apr 2025)

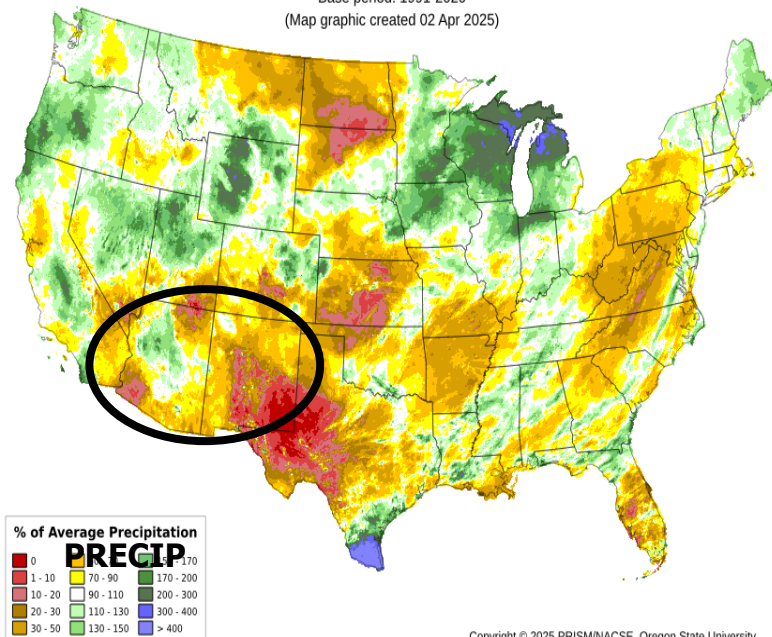


Total Precipitation Anomaly: Mar 2025

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(Map graphic created 02 Apr 2025)



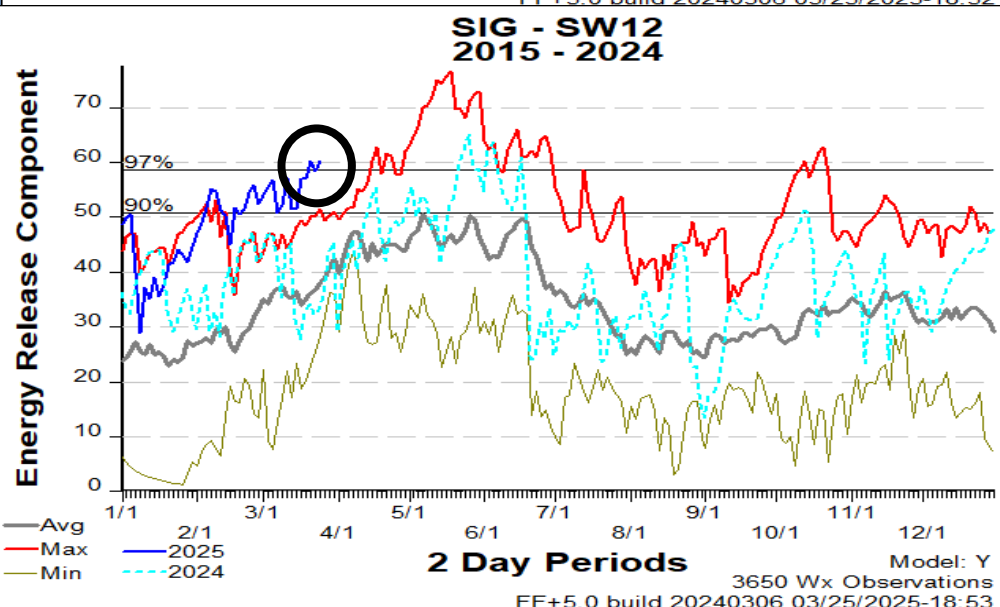
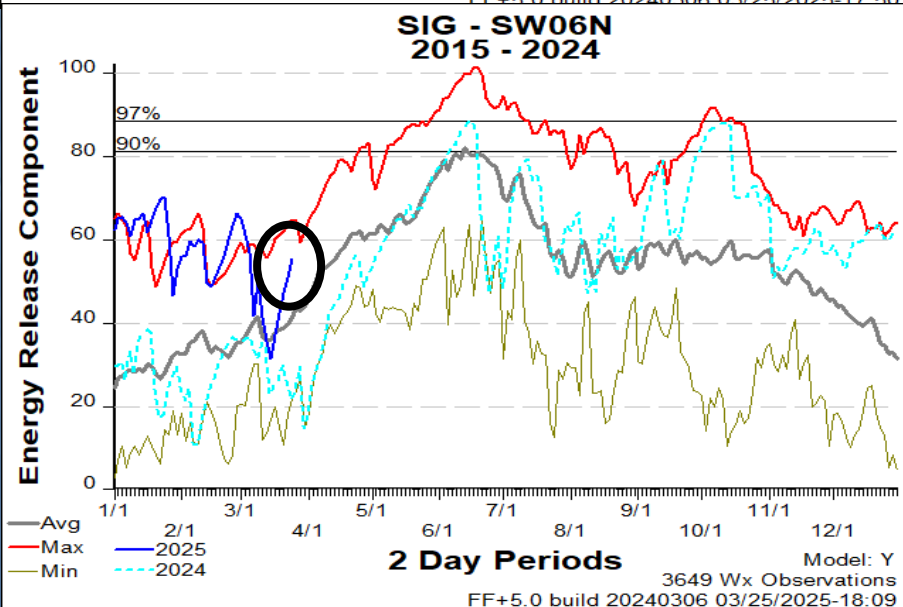
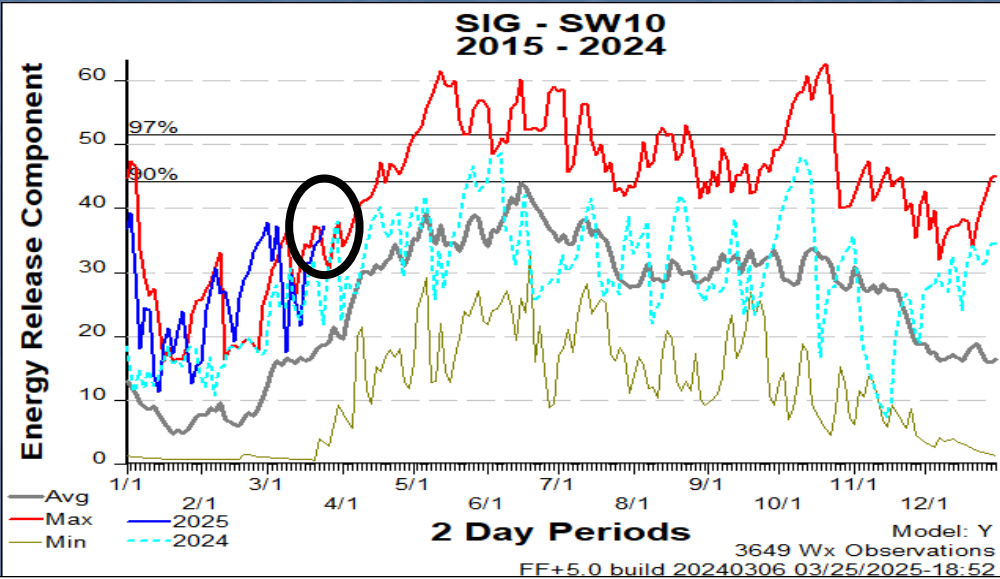
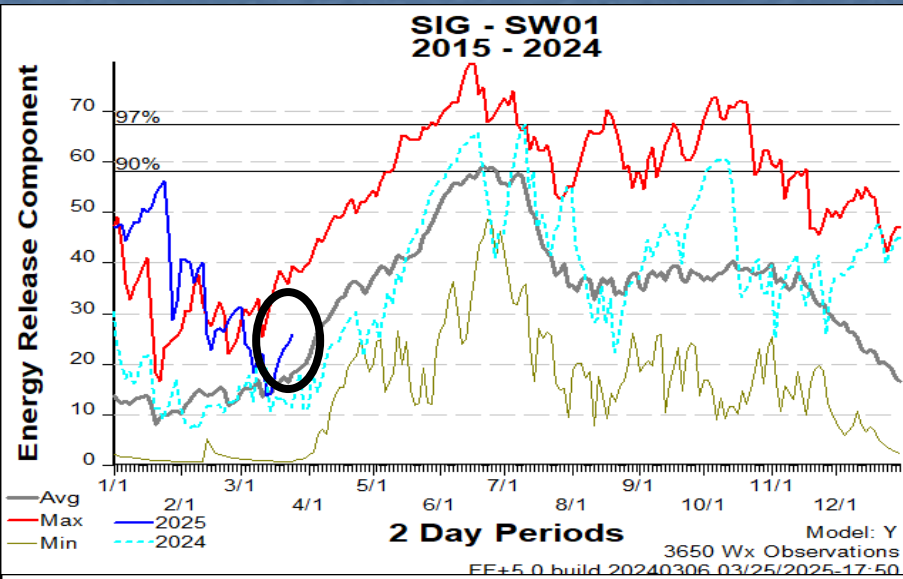
# Fire Season 2025: (Past 30 Days MAR '25) Temperature & Precipitation

- Cooler/colder west with the coldest temperatures compared to normal across western AZ overall
- Drier than normal east most areas of the region, except over areas of northwestern and central Arizona

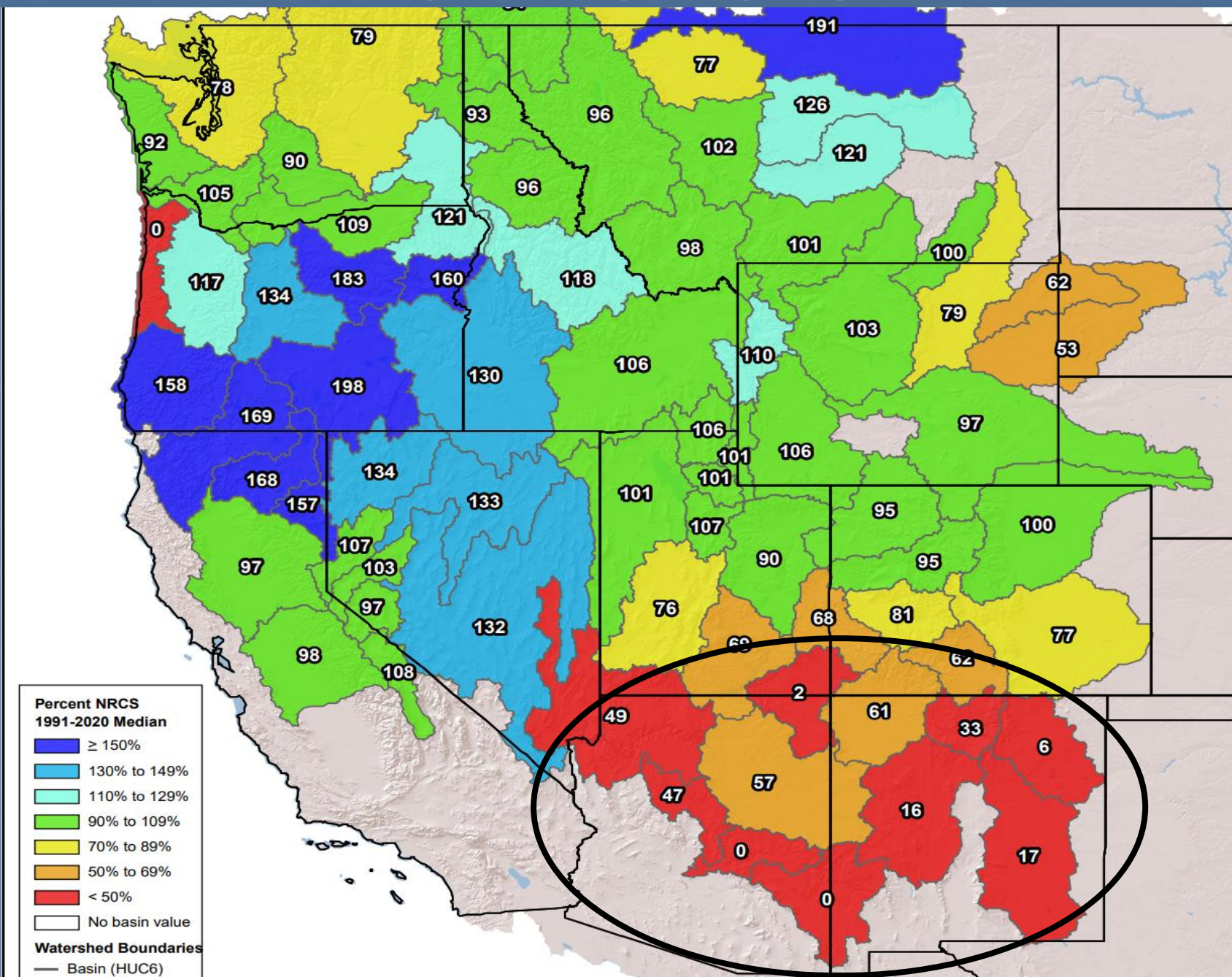


# Fire Season 2025: ERC Values

- ERC values on 3/25/25



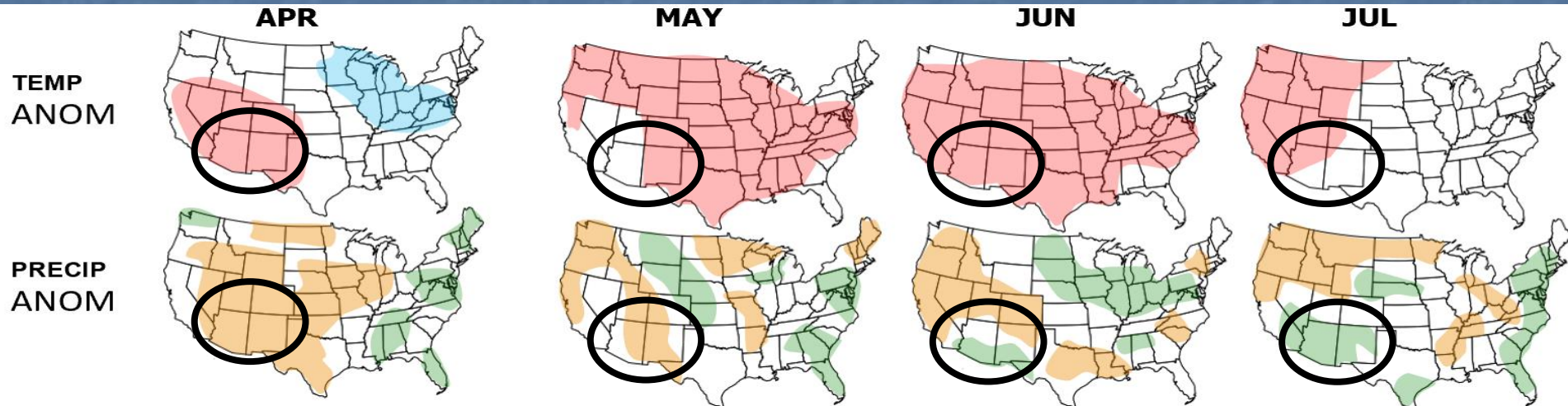
# Snow Water Equivalent (Snowpack) Values – 4/1/25





# Fire Season 2025: APR-JUL

## Temp & Precipitation Forecast



A continued active and up/down spring weather pattern with some periods of near normal/**slightly cooler than normal temperatures** but with **an overall warmer than normal temperature signal** and **generally dry conditions overall** except across the far east in mid-late spring

**Overall moisture is expected to be below normal regionally through early-mid June**

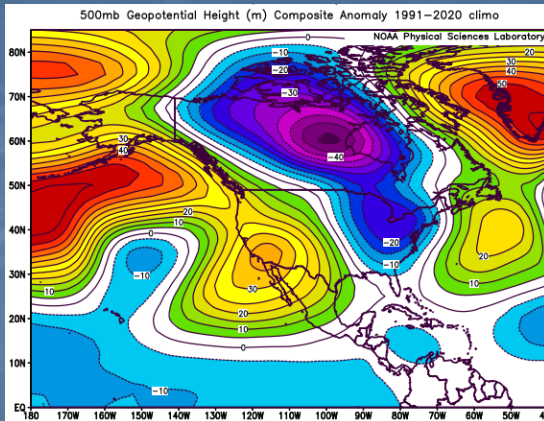
Monsoon likely to be on-time to at least slightly early with **above normal rainfall/moisture focused out near/along the divide region** Likely sharply drier far east, but generally east of the NM central mtns.

Likely a slightly above to above average spring as it relates to breezy/windy conditions with continued wind events regionally into May

# Fire Season 2025

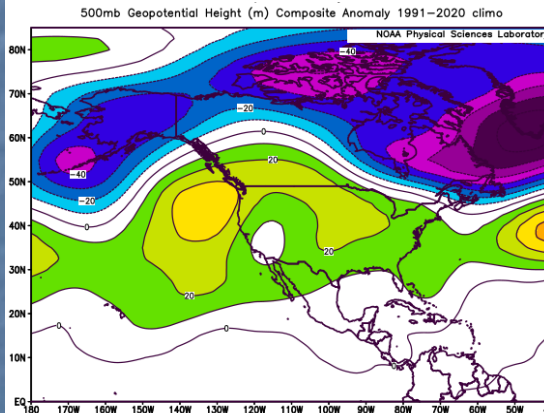
## Late Winter/Spring Weather Pattern Impacts

APR



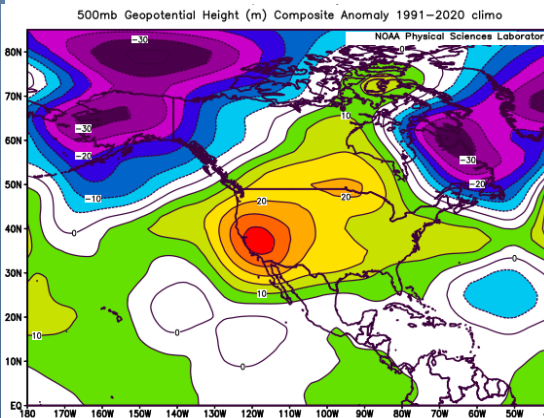
- Jet stream generally north of the Southwest Area
- Averaging above normal temperatures area-wide
- Some downslope wind events with enhanced breezy/windy conditions focused east and generally below normal precipitation

MAY



- More regular ridging expected by late spring with some unique troughing at times
- Above normal high temps overall
- Drier than normal overall

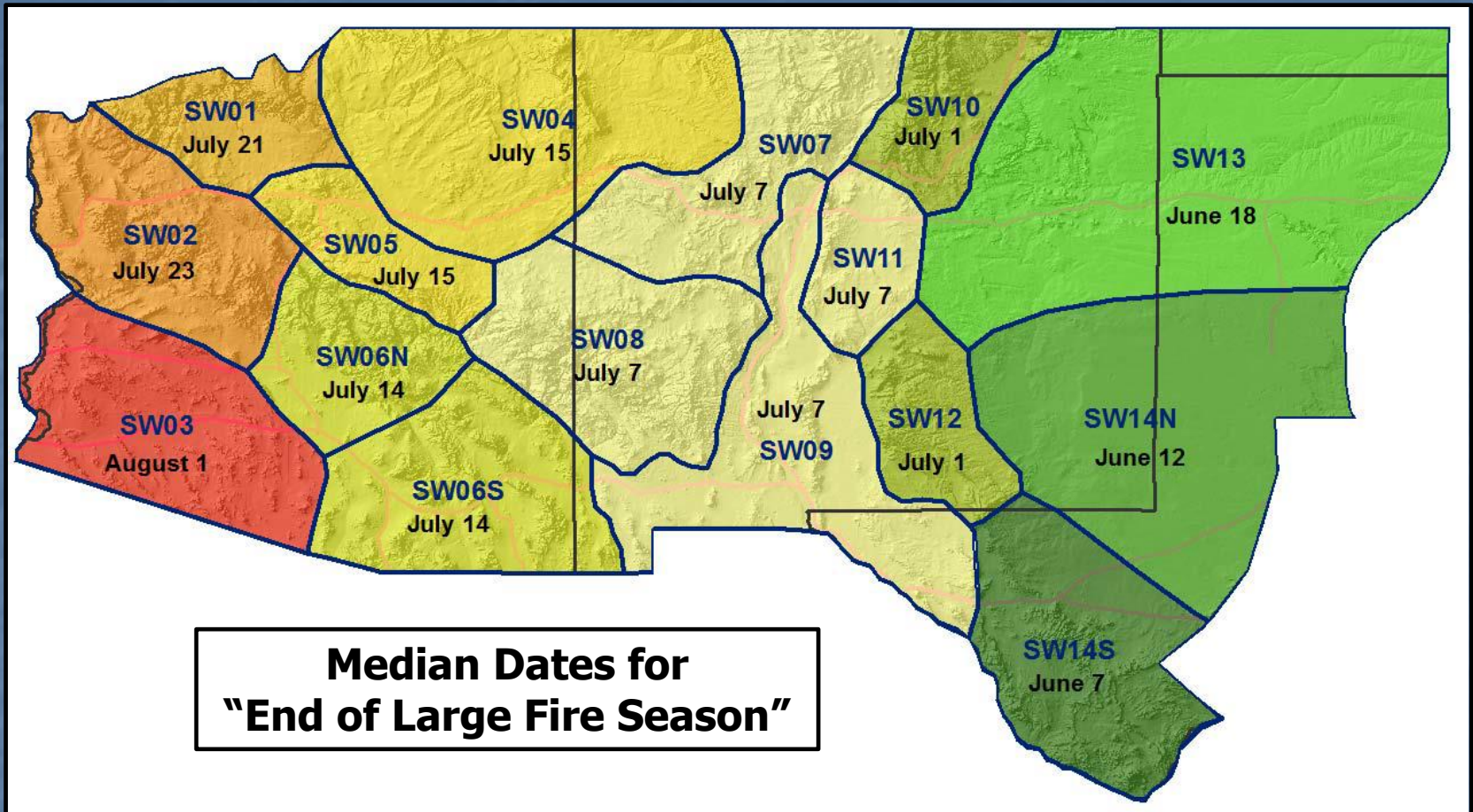
JUN



- Above normal high temps overall
- Monsoon – Normal to Above Normal overall, drier east (likely near-normal to at least slightly early onset)



# Fire Season 2025: Monsoon



- For Reference: Median dates for end of 'large fire' season.

**La Nina Modoki ongoing. Likely move to neutral ENSO in the next few months**

# 2025 Fire Season Factors Summary

1. **Drought** – Most significant across western AZ and far southern NM
2. **Fine Fuels Condition** – Above normal yields along/south of Mogollon rim, sections of the eastern & northeastern NM plains
3. **Seasonal Temperature & Precipitation** – An up/down winter so far, with generally Above Normal temperatures and Below Normal precipitation regionally (wetter in March west)
4. **Spring/early Summer Weather Pattern** – An overall up/down weather pattern through May characterized by warmer & drier than normal conditions on average and a likelier breezier/windier pattern compared to normal overall. An active dryline likely by May.
5. **Monsoon** – Likely on-time to at least slightly early onset and near/above normal moisture many areas; near/below normal moisture far east

**Bottom Line: A changeable late winter/spring pattern to lead to an early overall start to the large fire season**



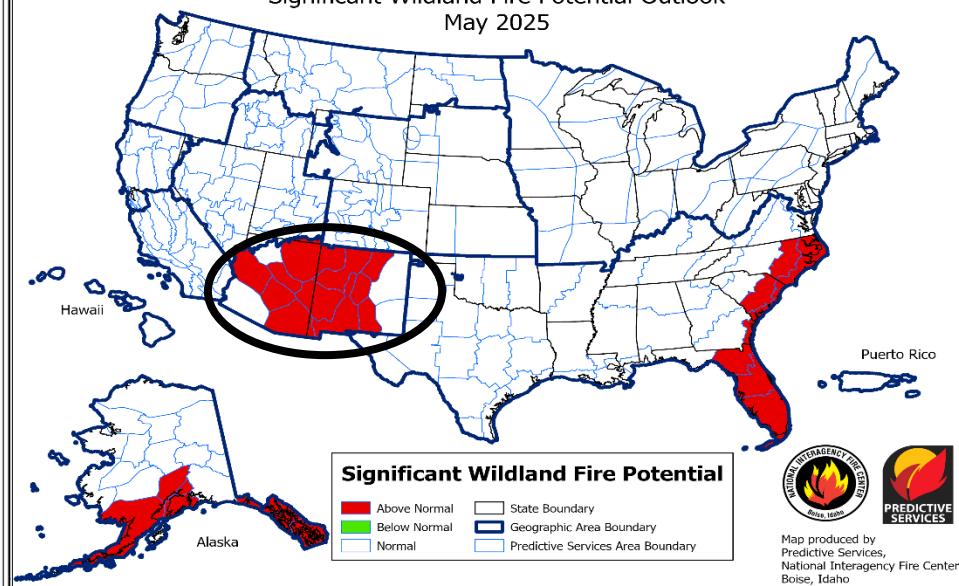
# National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
April 2025



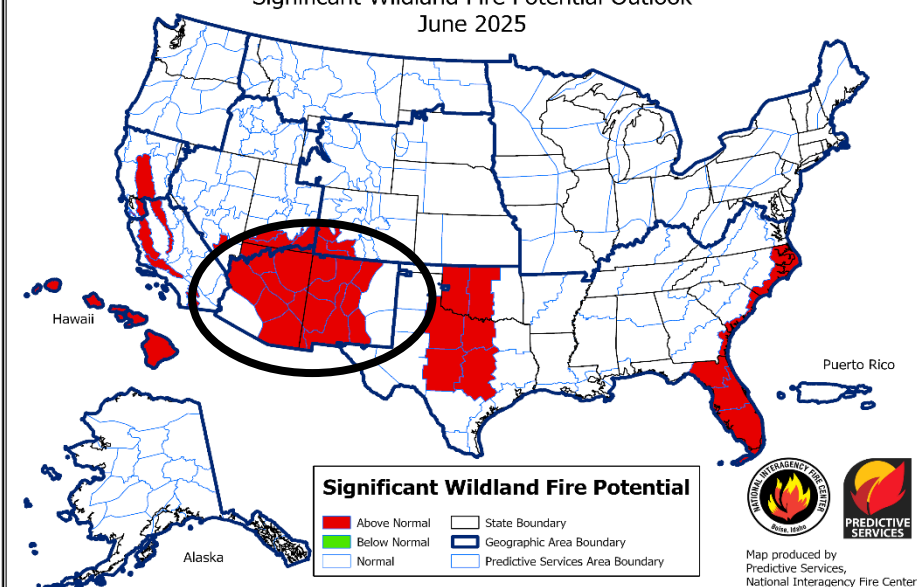
Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur.  
Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions.  
Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
May 2025



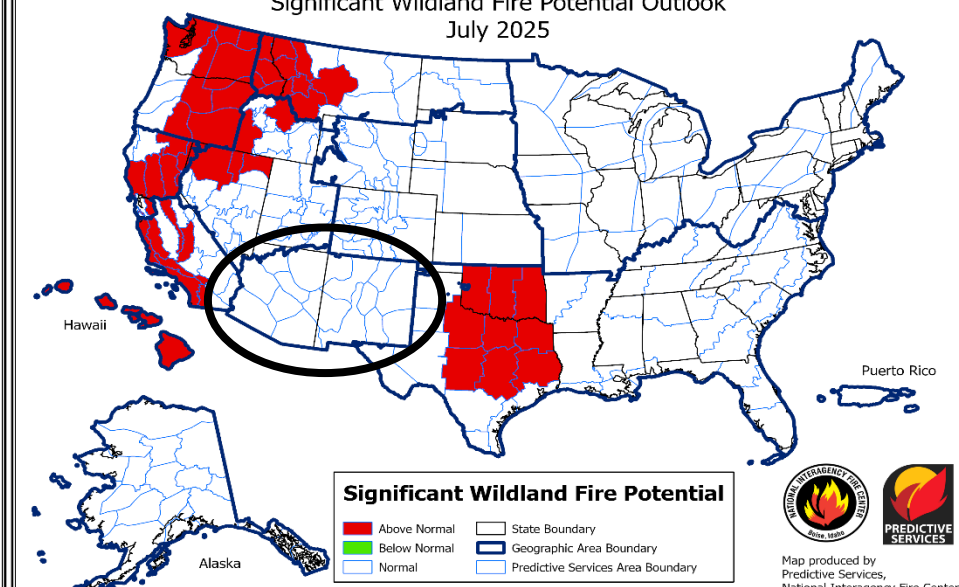
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Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
June 2025



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Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
July 2025



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# END

## SWCC Predictive Services

~ 5/1/2025

Contact: SWCC Predictive Services  
505-842-3473

Consult the Outlooks Page (Below) for Updated Information Through Fire Season:  
<http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/predictive/outlooks/outlooks.htm>