

MONTHLY FIRE WEATHER/FIRE DANGER OUTLOOK

1. **REPORTING UNIT:** Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center

2. **DATE:** 25 August 2004 **valid for** September 2004

3. POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS/CRITICAL FIRE PROBLEMS

THIS COMING MONTH	BELOW NORMAL		NORMAL	X	ABOVE NORMAL	
THIS SEASON	BELOW NORMAL		NORMAL	X	ABOVE NORMAL	

COMMENTS:

4. FIRE WEATHER OUTLOOK:

DROUGHT CONDITIONS:

Severe to extreme drought conditions continue across much of Eastern Great Basin through mid-August. Parts of eastern Idaho are at exceptional drought conditions while a portion of west central Idaho and the west deserts of northern Utah are at moderate drought conditions.

PRECIPITATION ANOMALIES AND OUTLOOK: Precipitation through 23 August is running above normal over Idaho and western Wyoming and around normal over Utah and the Arizona Strip (roughly equal areas of above and below normal). A rather sporadic, weak monsoon brought isolated thunderstorms to mainly southern portions of Eastern Great Basin during the first two weeks of August. A stronger monsoon developed around the 15th of the month bringing several days of fairly widespread shower and thunderstorm activity. Scattered wet thunderstorms lingered through the end of the 3rd week of the month. A deep, fall-like trough developed over central and northern portions of the Great Basin at the beginning of the 4th week of the month and anchored over the region for the better part of a week. This brought unseasonably cool temperatures and widespread, substantial rains to Idaho and the Bridger-Teton (many RAWS sites received over an inch of rain). Northern Utah was cool with scattered showers, while southern Utah and the Arizona Strip remained mostly dry and windy with this weather system.

The precipitation outlook for **September** is **normal precipitation across most of the Eastern Great Basin with above normal in central and western Idaho.**

TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES AND OUTLOOK: Clouds and precipitation kept much of Eastern Great Basin near normal to slightly below normal for August. The exception was central and western Idaho where hot, dry air remained well entrenched, keeping temperatures from 2-5 degrees above normal. Eastern Idaho and western Wyoming were below normal as an unseasonably cold air east of the continental divide spilled into the region and kept temperatures about 1-3 degrees cooler than normal for the month.

Cooler than normal temperatures will affect the Eastern Great Basin the first week of September but overall, **September** will have **normal temperatures with slightly above normal in the southern half of Utah.**

5. FUELS

FINE - GRASS STAGE	GREEN		CURED	X		
NEW GROWTH	SPARSE	X	NORMAL	X	ABOVE NORMAL	

6. 5 YEAR AVERAGE FIRE OCCURRENCE/ACRES BURNED (through month of August 2004):

Total: 1,597 fires/237,924 acres

7. ACTUAL OCCURRENCE/ACRES BURNED (through August 25, 2004):

Total: 2,033 fires/88,240 acres

8. WRITTEN SUMMARY: Fine fuels have cured over most areas of Eastern Great Basin except for higher elevations. Since the area received periodic moisture surges the last few weeks, fine fuel moistures have moderated with increased humidity and precipitation. This pattern is expected to remain for the next week to ten days and fuel moistures will continue to moderate. As a more normal warm dry pattern develops during the middle to late part of the period fuel moistures will drop gradually. Live fuel moistures have also moderated with the moisture surges from the past few weeks and will also lower in the middle to late part of the month.

Thousand hour fuel moistures have moderated through out the region as well and are running at or near average. This trend will continue through the first third of September. As the warm dry conditions move into region during the middle part of the month, expect to see a gradual drop in 1000-hour fuel moistures.

Eastern Great Basin is expected to have normal fire potential during September with cooler than normal temperatures the first week of September and shorter burn periods as we move into the fall season. Occasional wind driven fire events are expected as frontal systems move through the region.

9. RESOURCES: Resources within Eastern Great Basin are sufficient to handle light to moderate initial attack activity. Multiple extended attack activity and any large fire activity would require requests for some additional resources from outside of the Great Basin. Resources are available for assignment outside of the region.

10. FIRE POTENTIAL:

