National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

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NMAC Correspondence #2017-04   March 17, 2017

To: Rocky Mountain Geographic Area Coordination Group

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: National 7-day Significant Fire Potential Outlook (February 3, 2017 letter)

NMAC thanks you for your February 3, 2017 correspondence with the subject of "7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook." The recommendations proposed by the Rocky Mountain Geographic Area Coordinating Group were discussed during the February 16, 2017 NMAC meeting, and the following is a synopsis of the NMAC discussion and response to RMGACG.

The purpose of 7-day Significant Fire Potential Outlook (7-day) is to inform wildland fire managers of the potential for fires on the landscape to reach a significant size, a measure that is defined for each Predictive Services Area (PSA) based on historical fire occurrence. The analysis used for the 7-day is a statistical one based on historical fire occurrence; thus, outside the core fire season when the number of fires can drop to near zero, the statistics can break down. However, the meteorology and fuels conditions contributing to wildland fire events outside the core fire season are predictable and can be used to provide a reasonable forecast of fire potential when the statistical model is not valid. Predictive Services meteorologists are expected to monitor weather and fuels conditions to make the best forecasts possible with the available data. These non-core fire season assessments should be used to prepare the 7-day, especially when there is fire on the landscape that is affecting resource management.

In response to your recommendations:

1. The National Mobilization Guide removed the reference to PL2.
2. NMAC supports the 7-day as the national standard. Regionally developed products and services can be developed to meet local needs.
3. NMAC supports collaborative continuous improvement of Predictive Services products.

/s/ Dan Buckley
Chair, NMAC