

National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

Predictive Services
National Interagency Fire Center

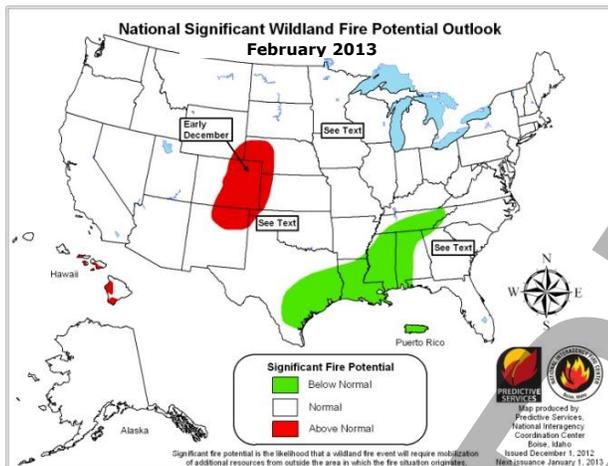
Issued: February 1, 2013
Next Issue: March 1, 2013

Outlook Period – February, March and April through May

Executive Summary

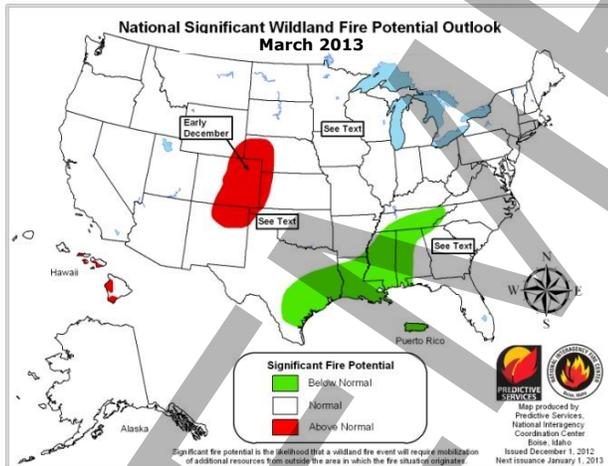


The February, March and April through May 2013 significant wildland fire potential forecasts included in this outlook represent the cumulative forecasts of the eleven Geographic Area Predictive Services Units and the National Predictive Services Unit.



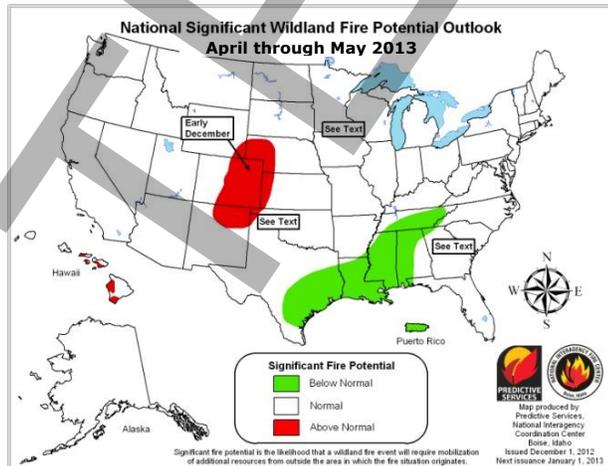
February

- **Factor 1:** Primary factor 1 for the outlook period (ENSO, Precipitation, Snowpack, Drought, Fuels, etc.)
- **Factor 2:** Primary factor 2 for the outlook period
- **Factor 3:** Primary factor 3 for the outlook period



March

- **Factor 1:** Primary factor 1 for the outlook period
- **Factor 2:** Primary factor 2 for the outlook period
- **Factor 3:** Primary factor 3 for the outlook period



April through May

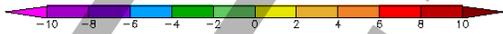
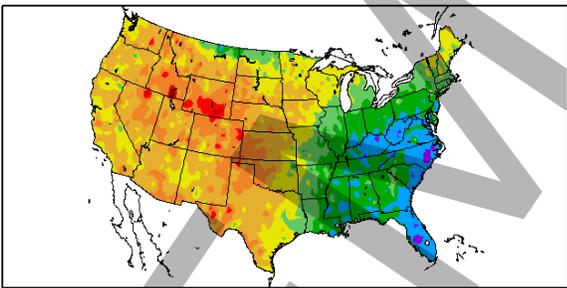
- **Factor 1:** Primary factor 1 for the outlook period
- **Factor 2:** Primary factor 2 for the outlook period
- **Factor 3:** Primary factor 3 for the outlook period

Past Weather and Drought

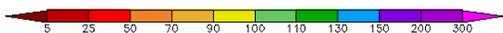
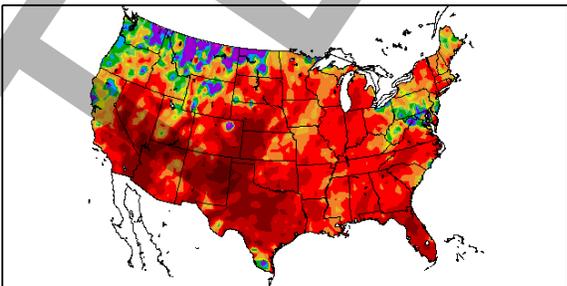
This section will contain general weather, climate and drought conditions from the previous month that set the stage for the upcoming outlook period. Also, descriptions of significant weather events that contributed to fire occurrence and behavior will be discussed.

Left: Departure from Normal Temperature (top) and Percent of Normal Precipitation (bottom) (from High Plains Regional Climate Center). **Right: U.S. Drought Monitor (top) and Drought Outlook (bottom)** (from National Drought Mitigation Center and the Climate Prediction Center)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/30/2012 - 11/28/2012

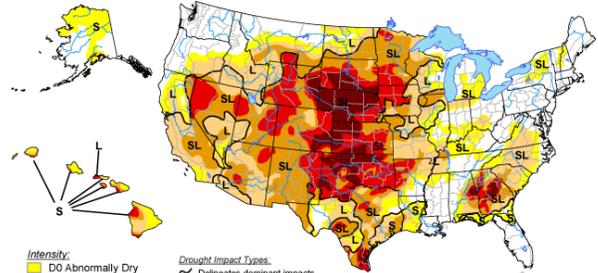


Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/30/2012 - 11/28/2012



U.S. Drought Monitor November 27, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Drought - Moderate
 D2 Drought - Severe
 D3 Drought - Extreme
 D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
 ~ Delineates dominant impacts
 S = Short-Term, typically <6 months
 (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
 L = Long-Term, typically >6 months
 (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

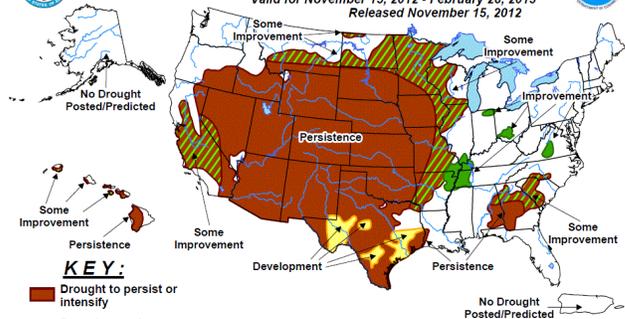
Released Thursday, November 29, 2012

Author: Eric Luebbehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for November 15, 2012 - February 28, 2013
Released November 15, 2012



KEY:

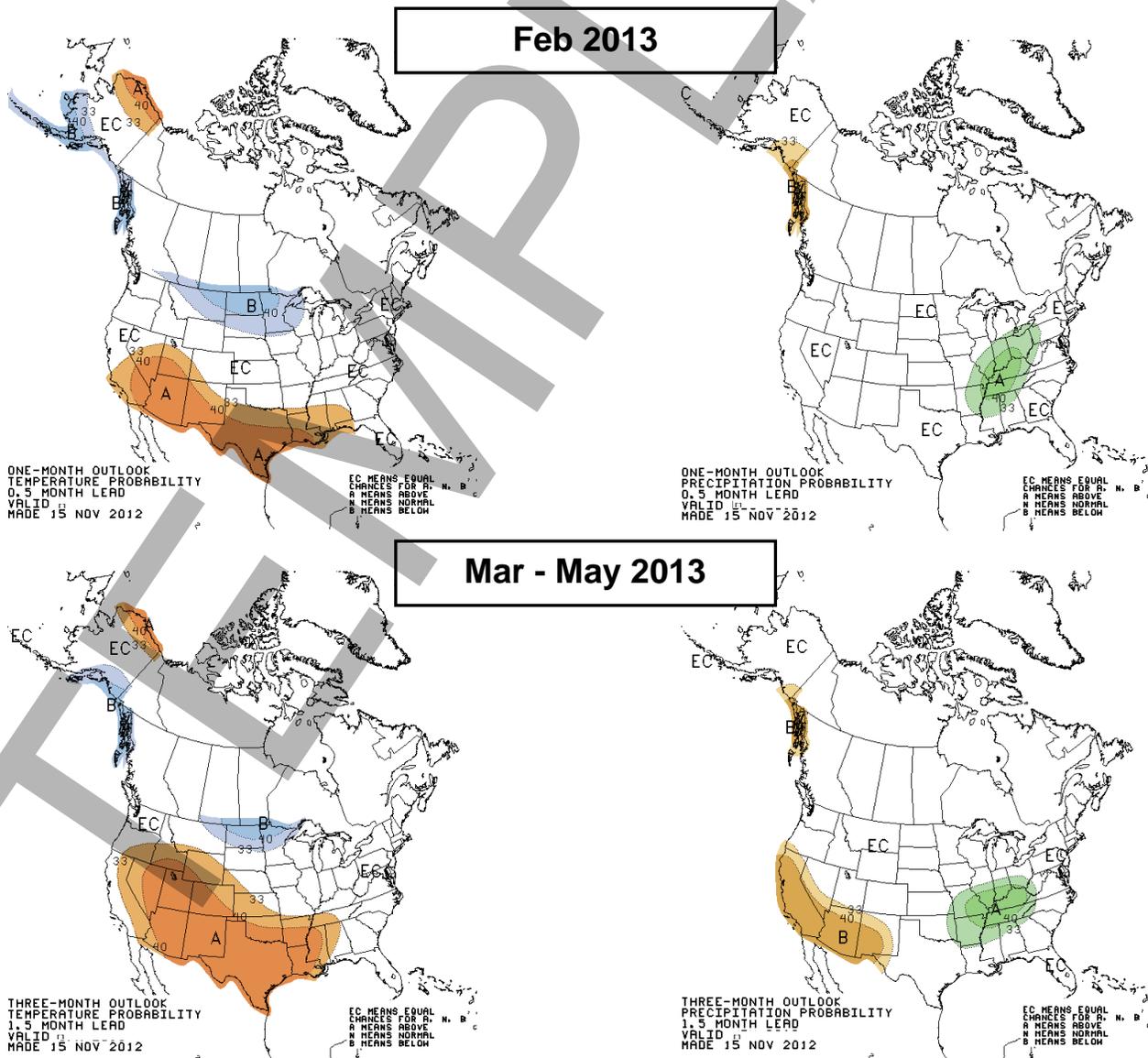
- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events – such as individual storms – cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications – such as crops – that can be affected by such events. “Ongoing” drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

Weather and Climate Outlooks

This section we will include weather and climate outlooks for the Outlook period. It will include broad-scale assessments of key regional and global atmospheric and oceanic factors contributing to the expected weather climate conditions.

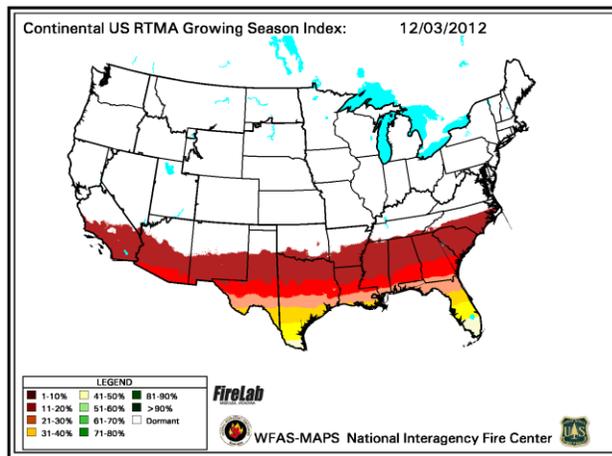
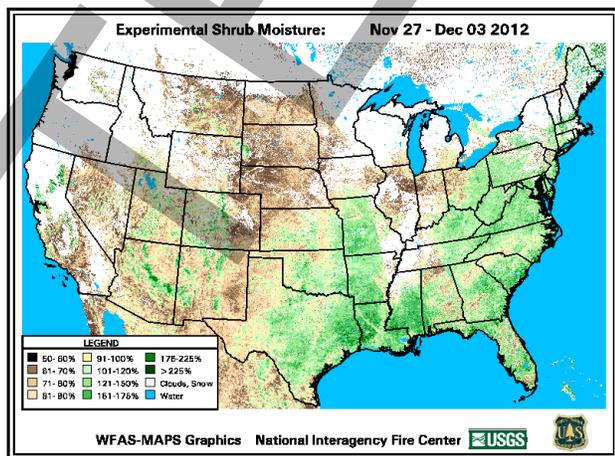
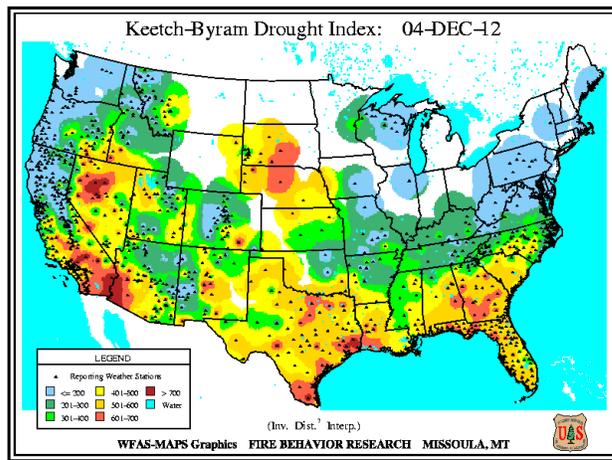
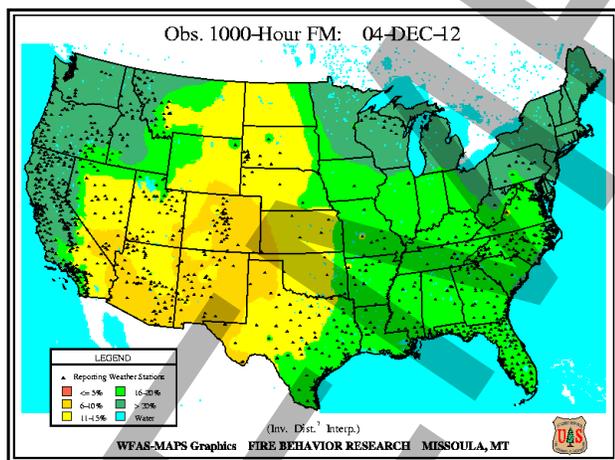
Top row: One-month (February) outlook for temperature (left) and precipitation (right). Bottom row: Three month (March - May) outlook for temperatures (left) and precipitation (right). (from Climate Prediction Center/NOAA)



Fuel Conditions

This section will include a national assessment of fuels conditions, contributing factors, and expected trends based on the weather and climate projections. Detailed regional analysis can be found in the Geographic Area discussions below.

Top left: Observed 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture. Bottom left: Experimental Live Fuel Moisture. Top right: Keetch-Byram Drought Index. Bottom right: Growing Season Index (from Wildland Fire Assessment System)



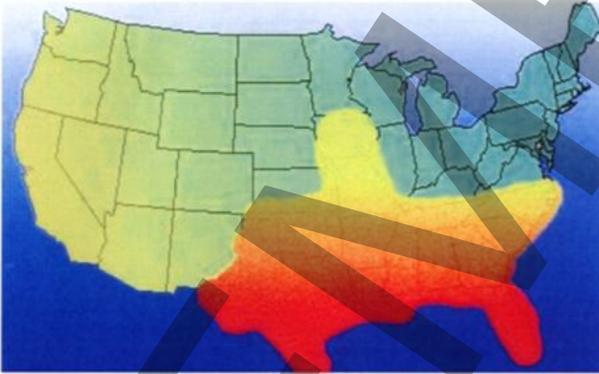
Fire Season Timing

This section will provide a discussion of how the season has progressed relative to “normal” or “typical” fire seasons.

Normal Peak Fire Season

Below: Normal peak fire season occurrence of the months covered during this outlook period.

FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



Geographic Area Forecasts

This section will contain brief but detailed assessments and projections of weather and fuels conditions expected to drive fire occurrence and behavior in each Geographic Area. It may also provide an indication of confidence level in the outlook.

Alaska:

Southwest:

Northern Rockies:

Western Great Basin:

Eastern Great Basin:

Northwest:

Northern California and Hawaii:

Southern California:

Rocky Mountain:

Eastern Area:

Southern Area:

Outlook Objectives

The main objectives of the National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlooks are to improve information available to fire management decision makers. These assessments are designed to inform decision makers for proactive wildland fire management, thus better protecting lives and property, reducing firefighting costs and improving firefighting efficiency.

For questions about this outlook please contact the National Interagency Fire Center at (208) 387-5050 or your local Geographic Area Predictive Services Unit.

Note: Additional Geographic Area assessments may be available at the specific GACC websites. The GACC websites can also be accessed through the NICC webpage at: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/outlooks/outlooks.htm>