

# **Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory**

## **Northwestern and Eastern Nevada**

*Valid July 24 -August 6, 2025*



**Subject:** Critically dry fuel conditions are present across eastern Nevada due to the ongoing drought and recent hot and dry weather. Further west, fine fuel loading across much of northern and western Nevada is well above average due to the recent wet winter/spring. Both of these factors have resulted in extreme fire behavior across this region. Continued warm/dry conditions through the end of July into early August will only make conditions even more critical.

**Discussion:** Eastern Nevada is facing critical wildfire conditions due to a dry winter with minimal snowpack. The Mount Irish and Hot Canyon Fires **exhibited extreme fire behavior conditions**, marked by rapid spread, torching, and resistance to control, being driven by critically dry 1000-hour fuels and drought-stressed brush. Northwest Nevada is also experiencing near record low fuel moisture in the brush but also has vast areas of above normal fine fuel loading, resulting in extreme fire behavior on the Barber Fire earlier in July.

**Difference from Normal Conditions:** Fuel conditions in the brush across the region are near record low moisture levels of 70-80% at many sites, which correlate with extreme fire behavior. Widespread mortality in the brush has also been reported. 1000-hr fuels remain near record dry levels across Northwest Nevada, while across Eastern Nevada 1000-hr fuels were recently near record levels before recovering slightly in recent days. However, these 1000-hr fuels are projected to drop rapidly back to near record dryness in the coming week due to hot/dry conditions returning. Fine fuel loading in Northwest Nevada is well over 100% of the historical average, with some far northern areas at 300-400% of average. Grasses are continuous throughout the fuelbeds and have long since been fully cured.

**Concerns to Firefighters and the Public:** Dry fuels and rising temperatures are creating conditions for fast-moving, unpredictable wildfires. Firefighters face limited suppression options, while communities near wildland-urban areas are at heightened risk. Even routine activities can spark new ignitions. Extreme caution is critical as fire danger escalates.

### **Mitigation Measures:**

- Modify tactics to account for potential high rapid rates of spread and high resistance to control.
- Communicate retardant drop effectiveness and modify as necessary; higher coverage levels or altered tactics may be required.
- Park all vehicles in clean, cold black; avoid driving or parking in unburned fuels.
- Ensure solid anchor points – keep one foot in the black.
- Constantly re-evaluate LCES – Lookouts – Communications – Escape Routes – Safety Zones.
- Consult the latest weather and fire danger information at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/gbcc/>

**Area of Concern:** Northwestern and Eastern Nevada (see map below)

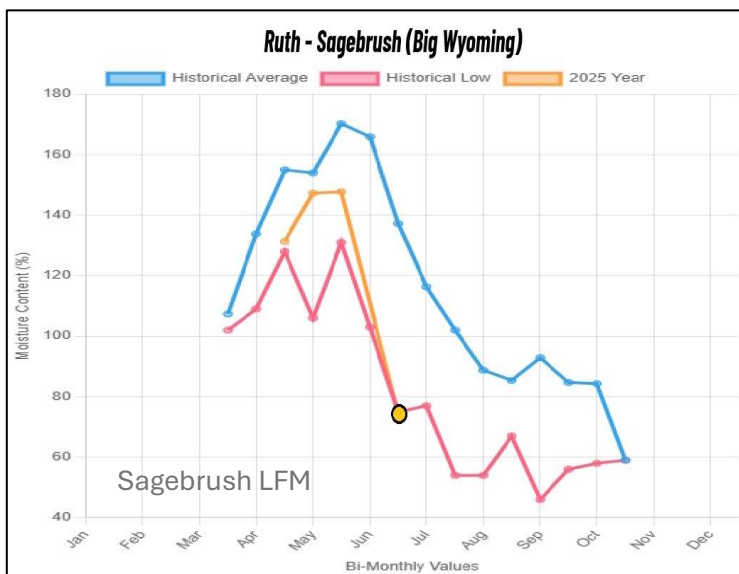
**Issued By:** Great Basin Predictive Services and Nevada Fuels Specialists



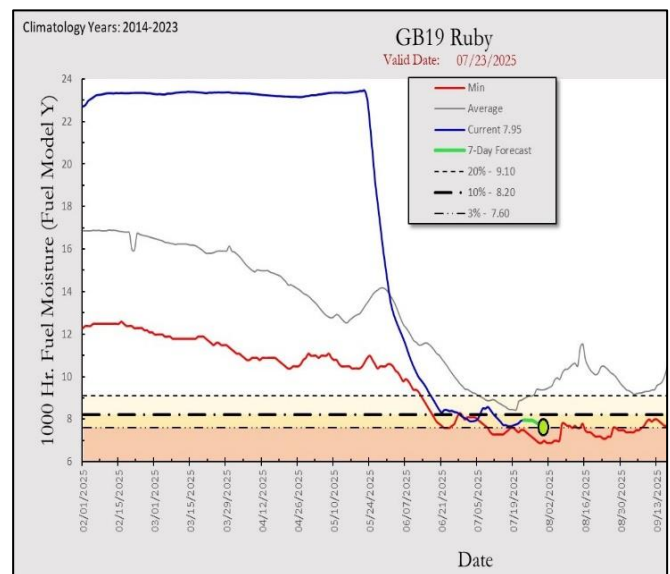
1) Fine Fuel Loading Northwest NV



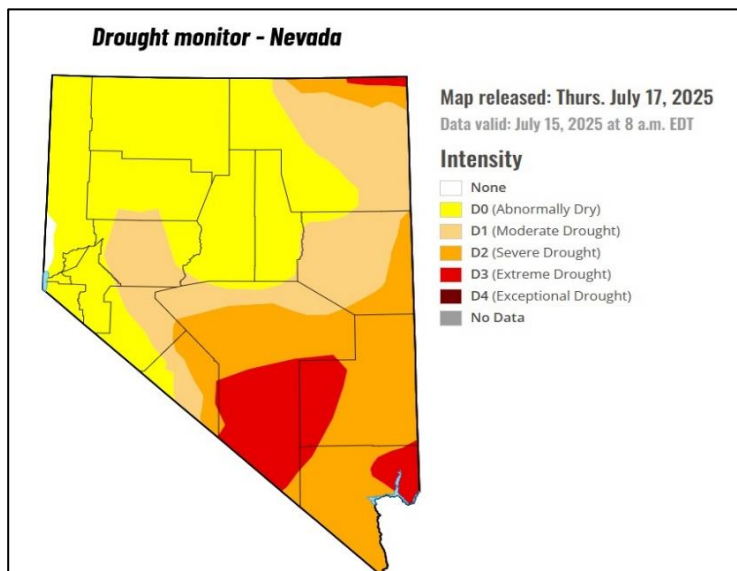
2) Heavy Fuels near Mount Irish Fire



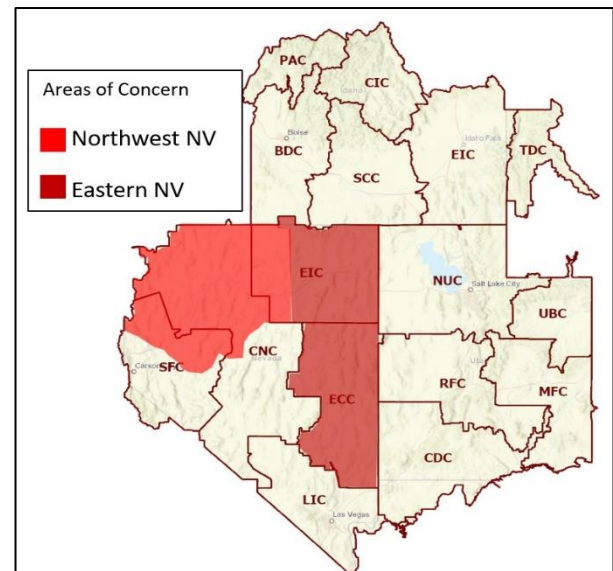
3) Sagebrush LFM in Ruth (Eastern NV)



4) 1000-Hr Fuels Northeast NV



5) US Drought Monitor - Nevada



6) Advisory Areas