

Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisory

Northern and Eastern Nevada

Valid August 19- September 1, 2025



Subject: Record low fuel moisture conditions are present across northern and 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. Both factors have resulted in extreme fire behavior across this region. Continued hot/dry/breezy conditions with only occasional short periods of thunderstorms to increase initial attack through late August will only make conditions even more critical.

Discussion: Eastern Nevada has critical wildfire conditions due to a dry winter with minimal snowpack. The Mount Irish Fire **exhibited extreme fire behavior conditions**, marked by rapid spread, torching, burning through the night and high resistance to control, being driven by 1000-hour fuels and drought-stressed brush. Northern Nevada has record low fuel moisture in the sagebrush but also has vast areas of above normal fine fuel loading, resulting in extreme fire behavior most recently on the Cottonwood Peak Fire, which doubled in size in a few hours. The Hot Canyon and Jakes Fires **exhibited extreme fire behavior conditions**, marked by rapid spread, torching, burning through the night and high resistance to control, being driven by record dry and drought-stressed sagebrush.

Difference from Normal Conditions: Fuel conditions in the sagebrush across the region are at record low moisture levels of 40-80% at many sites, which correlate with **extreme** to **advanced** fire behavior. Widespread mortality in the brush has also been reported across northern Nevada. 1000-hr fuels are also at record dry levels across Northern Nevada and Eastern Nevada and are projected to remain near record dryness in the coming week due to continued hot/dry conditions, despite any short periods of thunderstorms. Fine fuel loading in Northern 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. Anticipate a matted grass component which can burn under retardant, increase rates of spread and increase resistance to control. 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:

- Utilize early morning hours when suppression techniques are most effective.
- Retardant must be used with ground resources backing it up.
- Use extreme caution while operating equipment, especially in areas of heavy fine fuel loading.
- 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: Northern and Eastern Nevada (see map below)

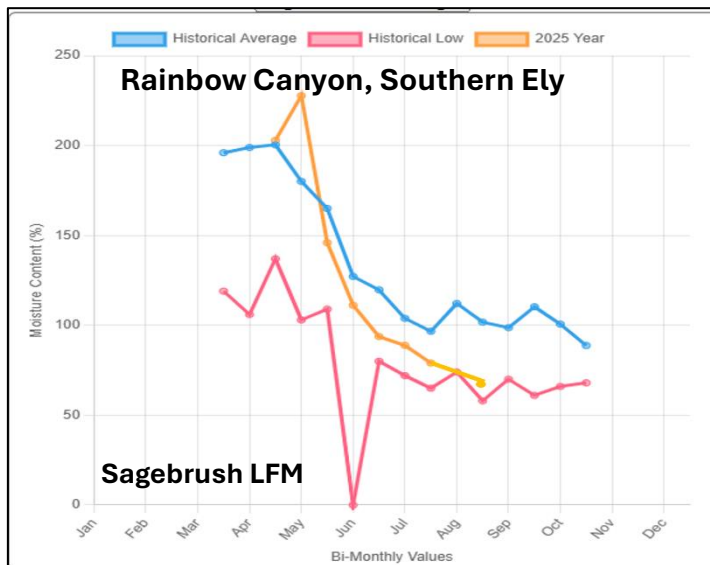
Issued By: Great Basin Predictive Services and Nevada Fuels Specialists.



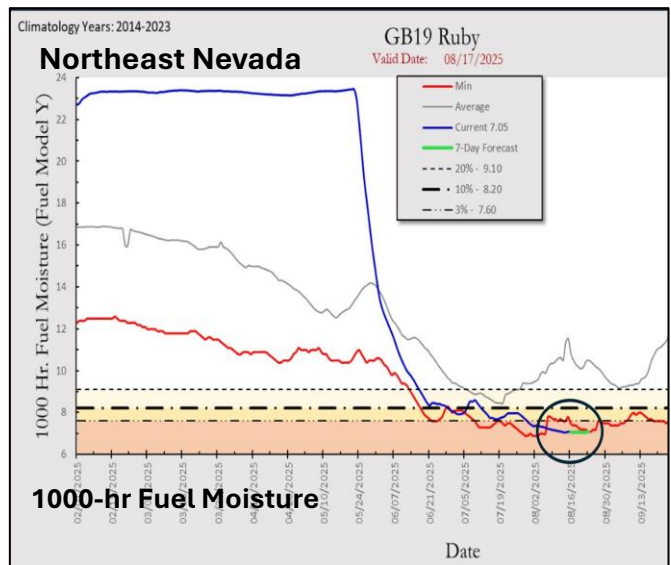
1) Fine Fuel Loading Northwest NV



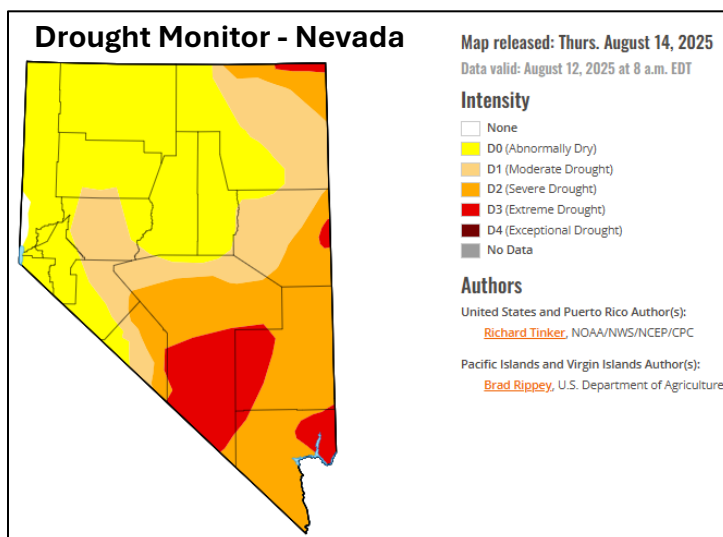
2) Heavy Fuels near Mount Irish Fire



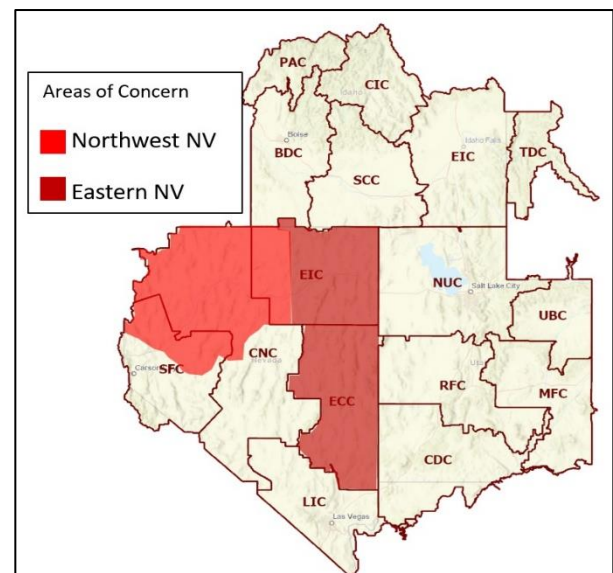
3) Sagebrush LFM in Rainbow Canyon (Eastern NV)



4) 1000-Hr Fuels Northeast NV



5) US Drought Monitor – Nevada



6) Advisory Areas