

2021 Wildland Fire Preparedness

May 11, 2021

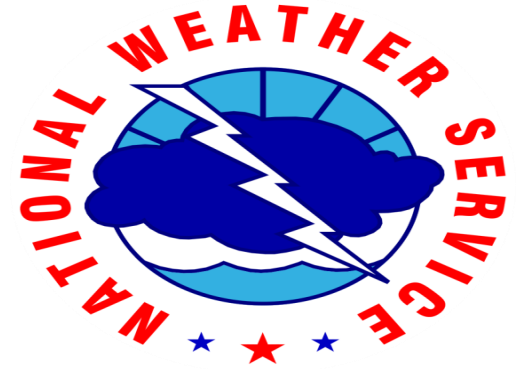




Partners and presenters:

Presenters:

- *Paul Oltrogge*: City of Flagstaff Wildland Fire Manager
- *Tony Merriman*: Meteorologist, National Weather Service
- *Jeremy Human*: Deputy Fire Staff, Coconino National Forest
- *Lucas Minton*: Chief of Fire and Aviation, Grand Canyon, National Park



2021 Fire Season Outlook

Tony Merriman
National Weather Service - Flagstaff

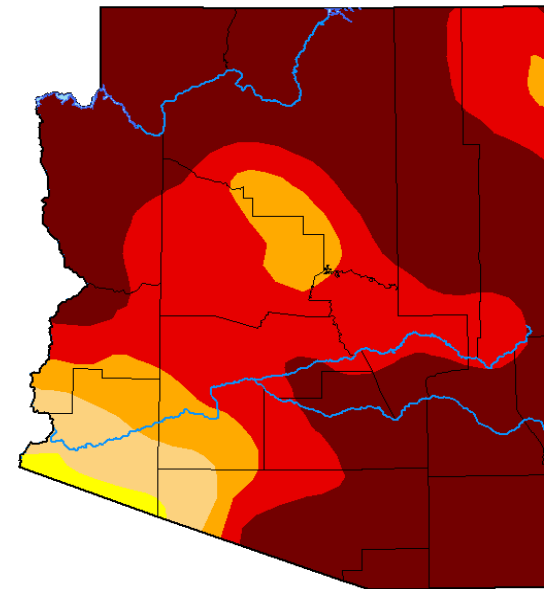
Drought Monitor

NWS Flagstaff



U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona

April 20, 2021
(Released Thursday, Apr. 22, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.02	94.62	86.56	57.79
Last Week 04-13-2021	0.00	100.00	98.90	94.66	86.56	57.79
3 Months Ago 01-19-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.32	93.86	72.69
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.34	93.86	72.69
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.97	69.95	3.37
One Year Ago 04-21-2020	80.59	19.41	13.45	6.77	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



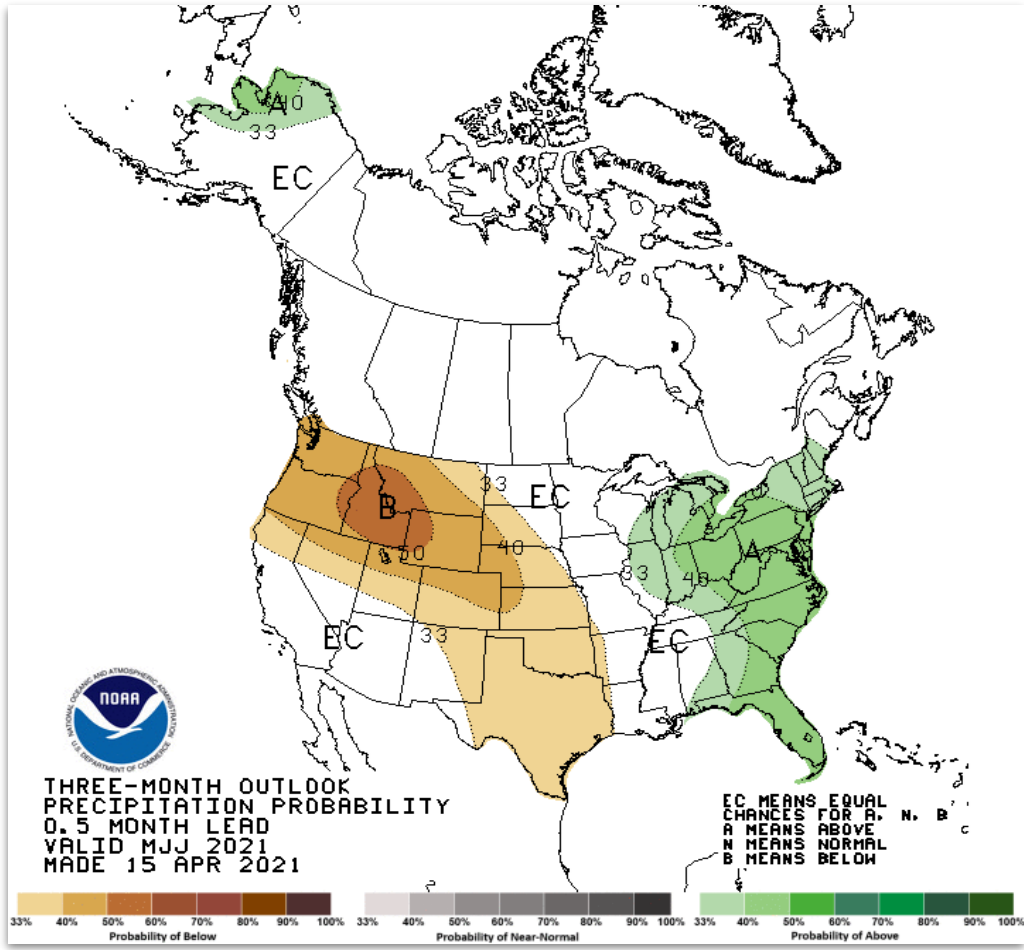
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



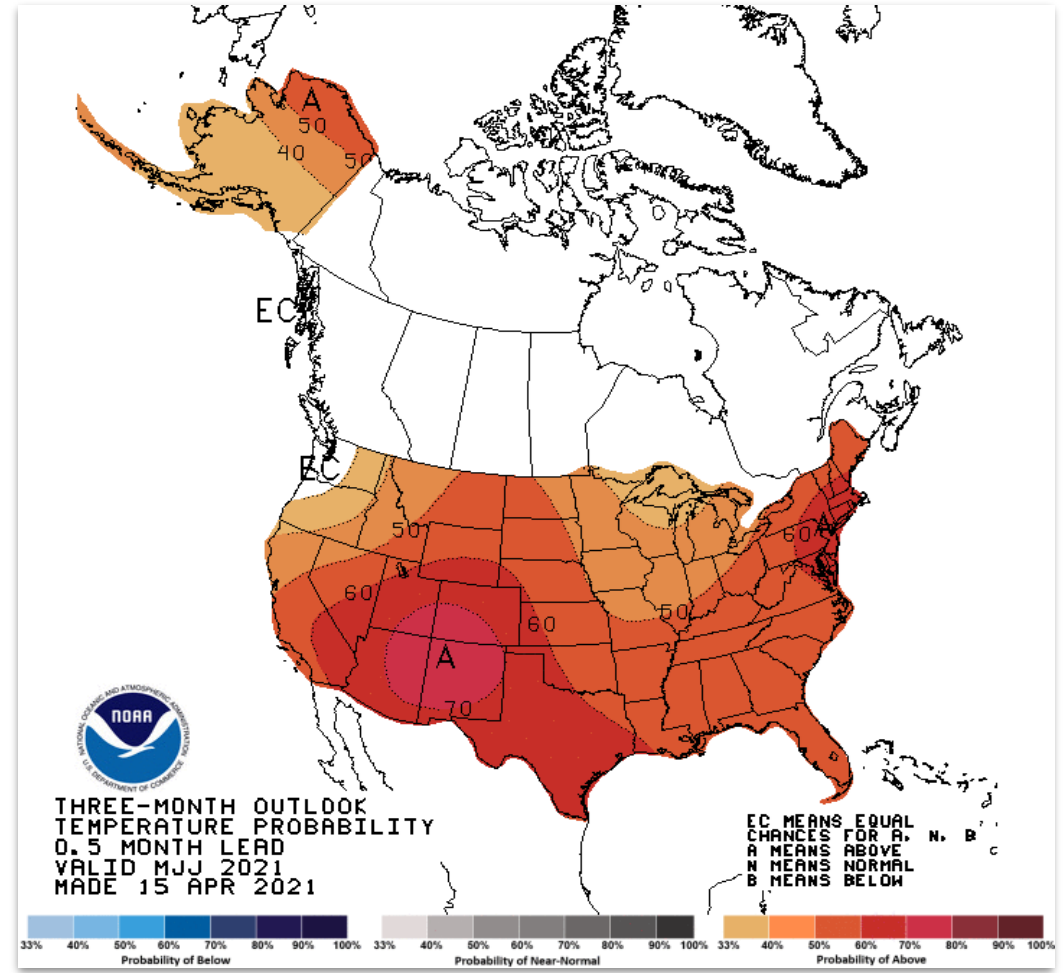
90-day(May – June – July)Outlook



Precipitation Outlook



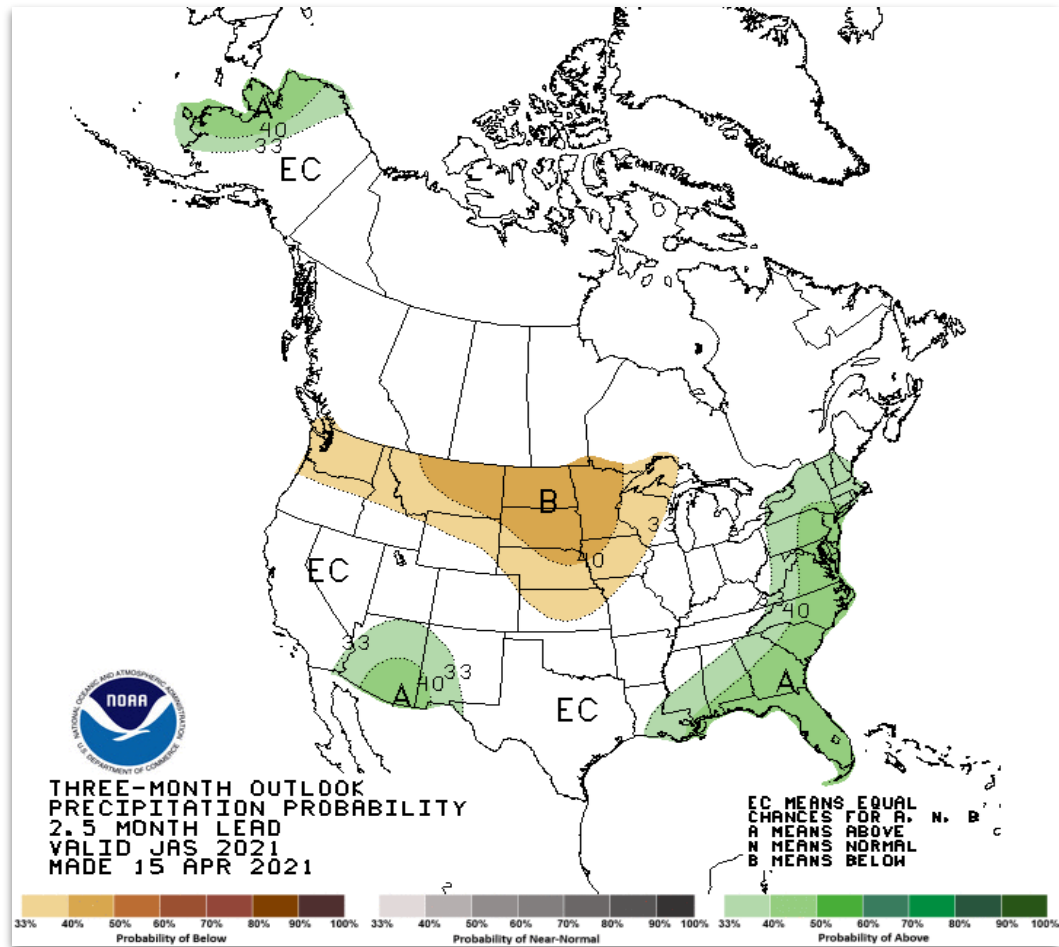
Temperature Outlook



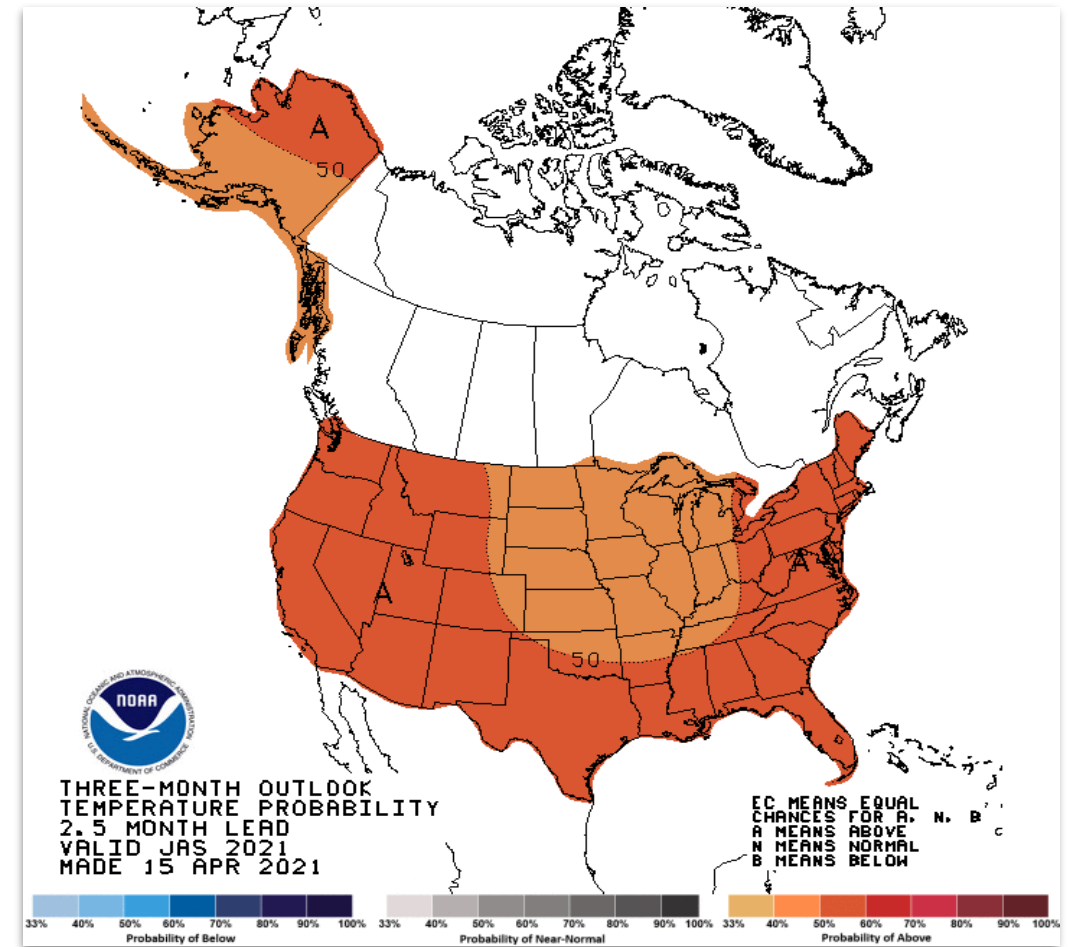


Monsoon Season CPC Outlook

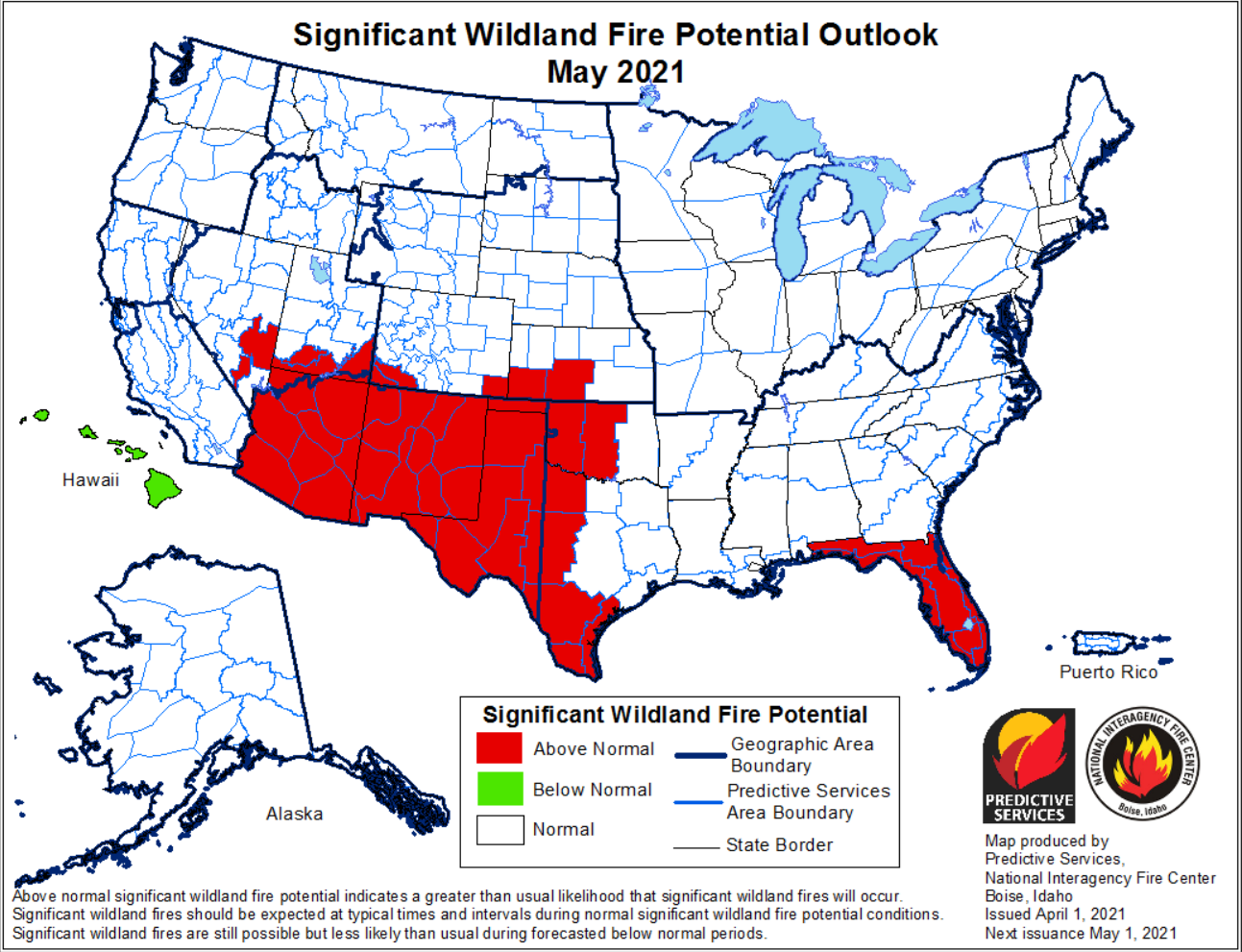
Precipitation Outlook



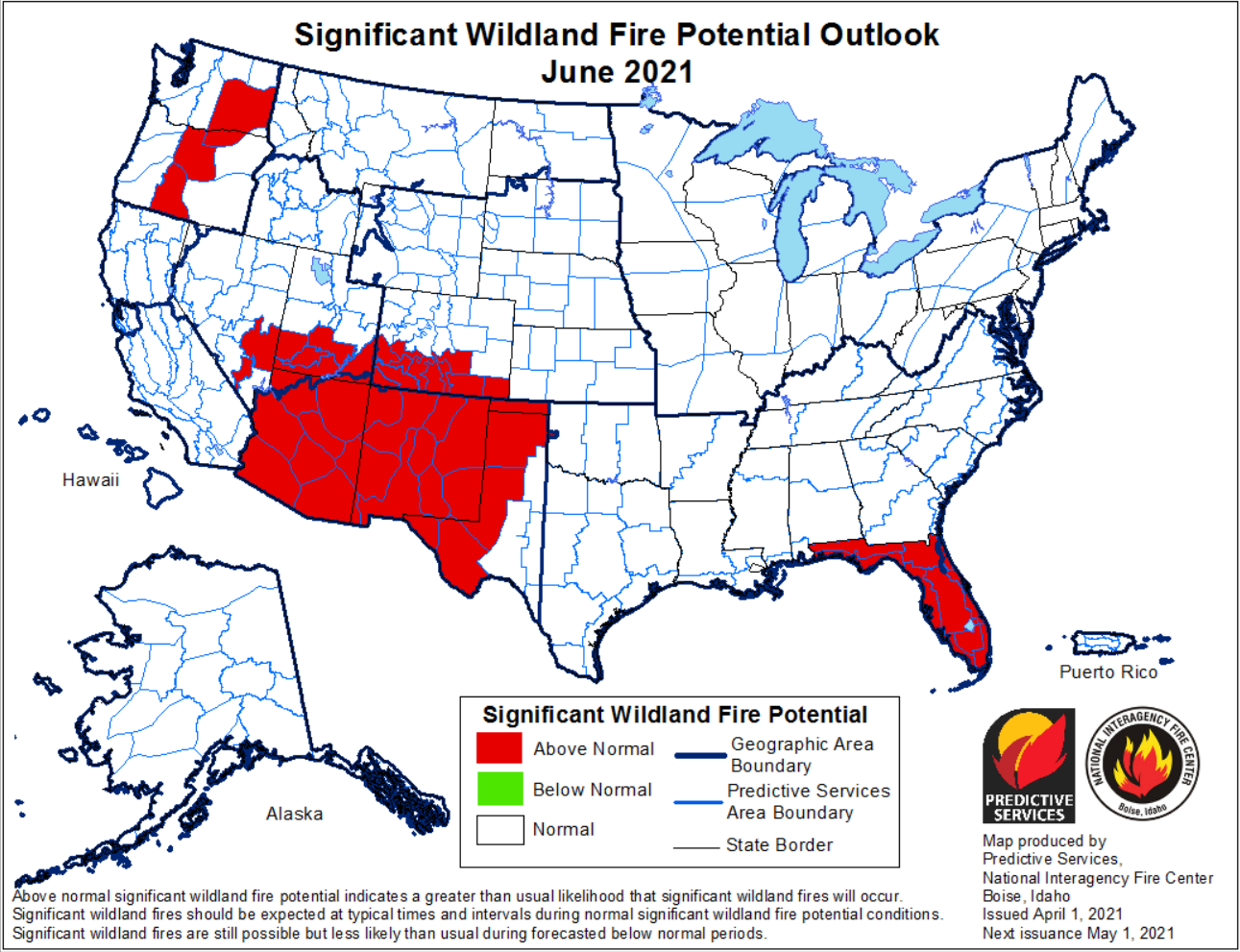
Temperature Outlook



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook – May 2021

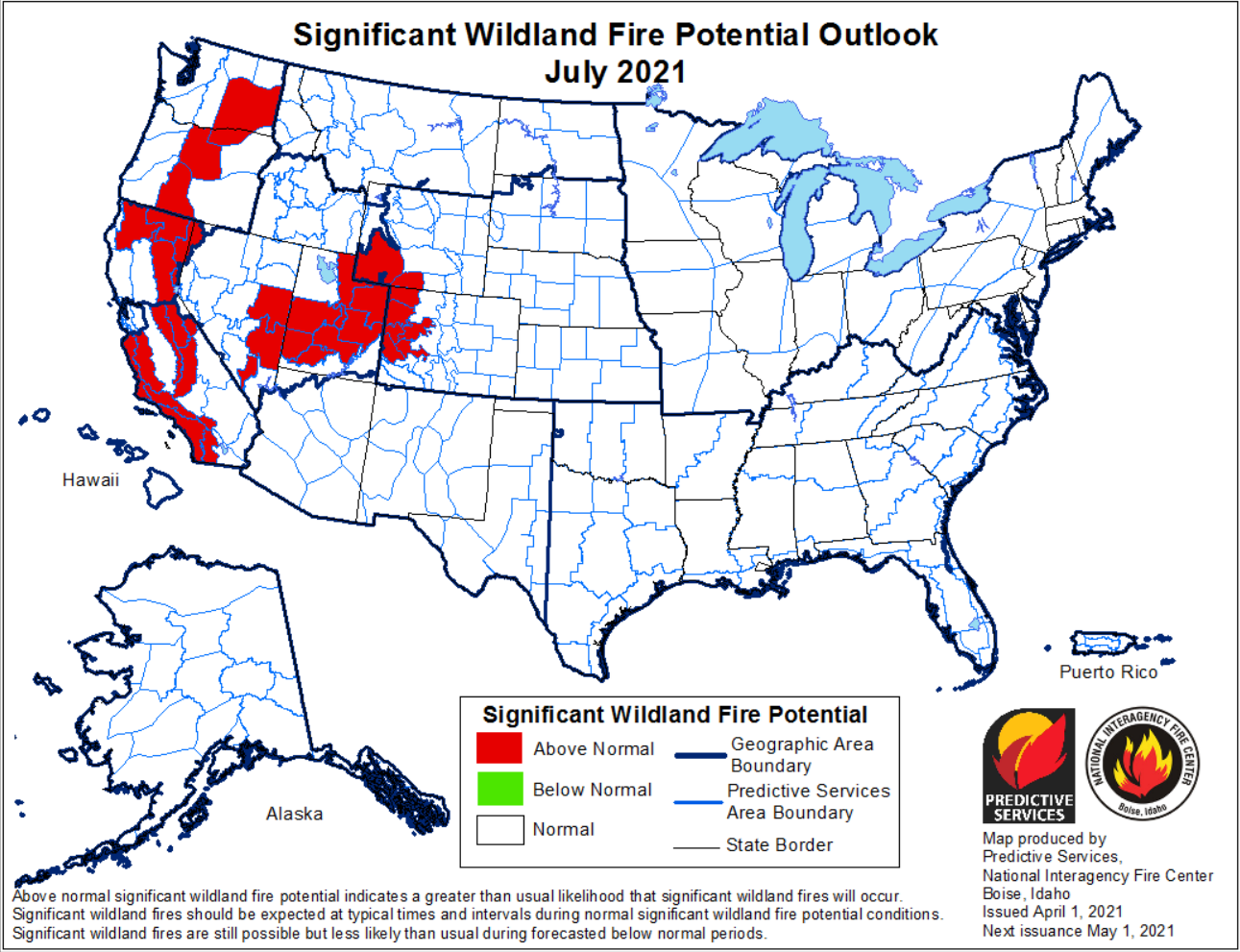


Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook – June 2021



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook – July 2021

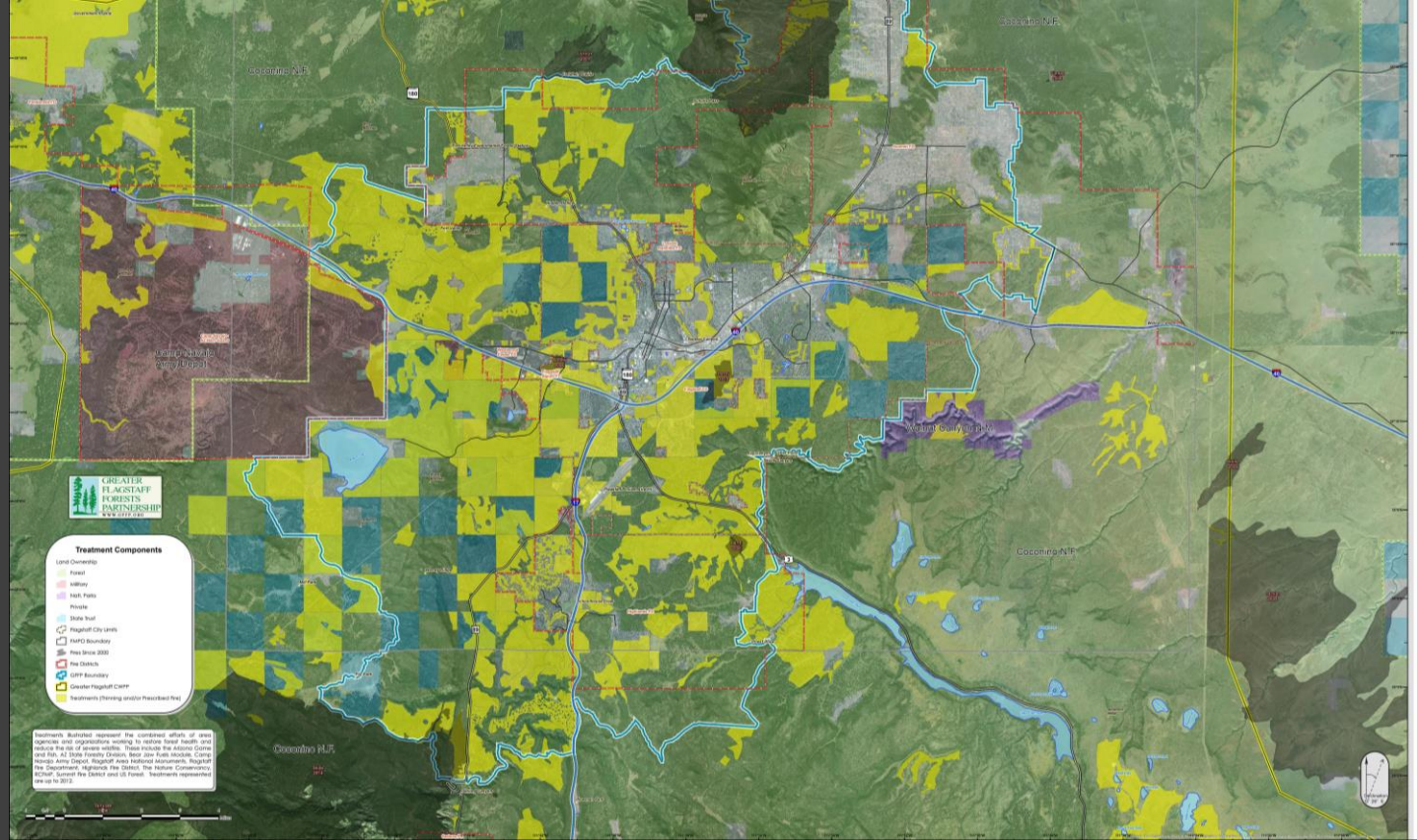
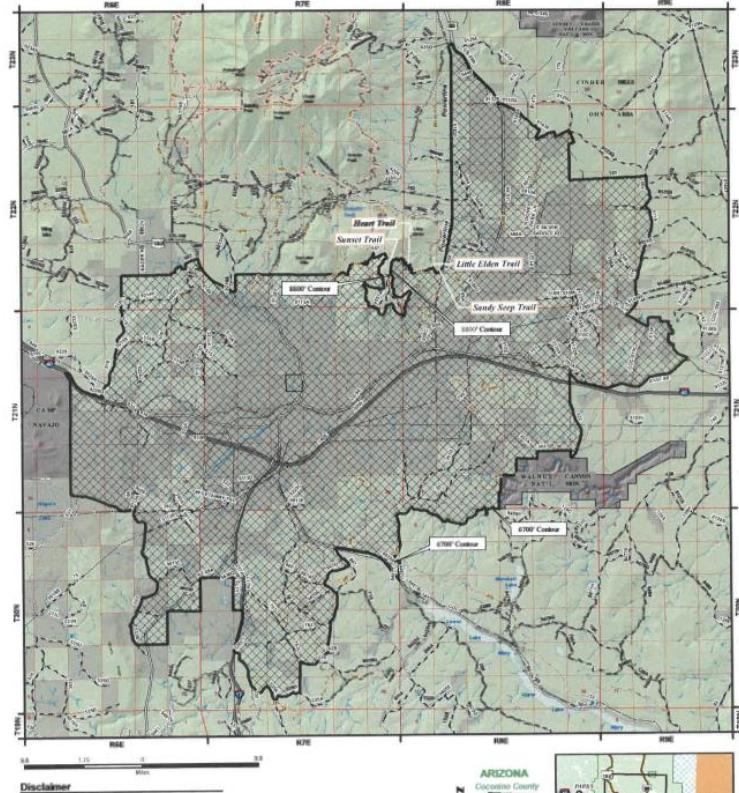


Paul Oltrogge

Wildland Fire Manager
City of Flagstaff Fire
Department

Chair: Ponderosa Fire
Advisory Council (PFAC)





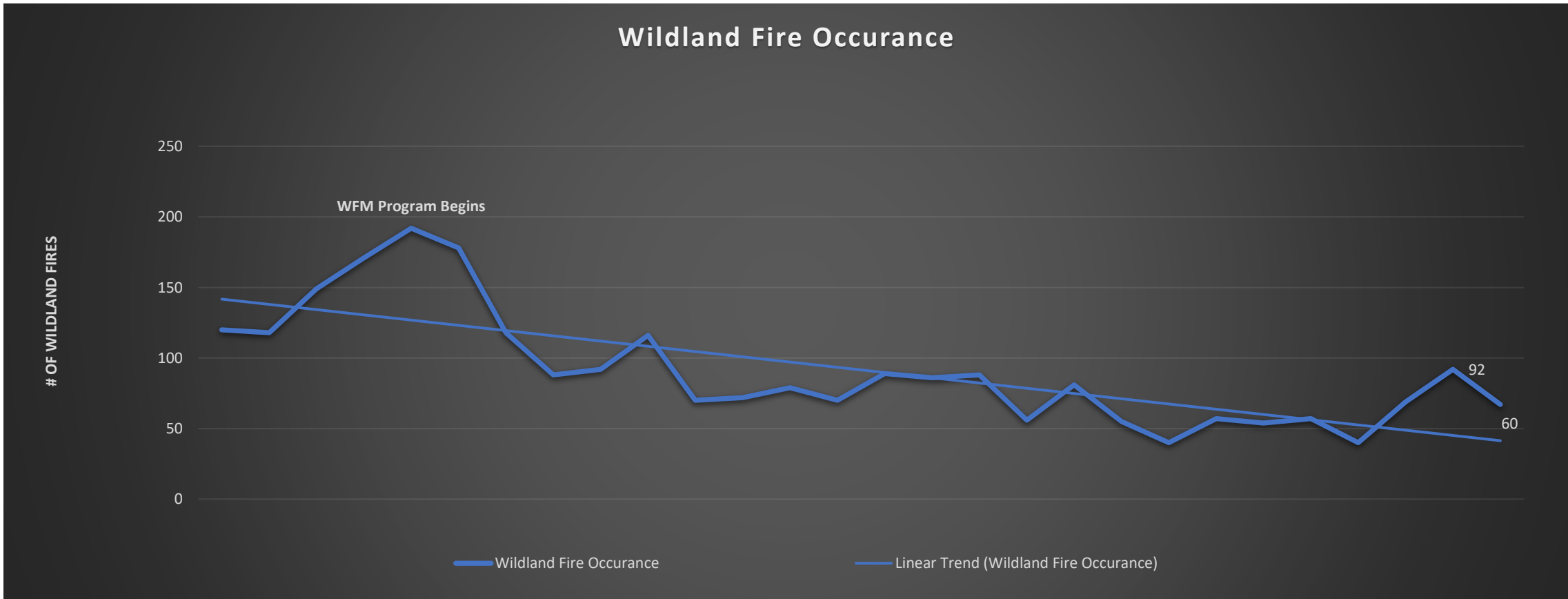
Camping and Campfire Restrictions

Greater Flagstaff Treated Areas



Wildland Fires in City limits

Timescale 25 years: 190 initial attack fires in late 90s, 60 initial attack fires in 2020.





Flagstaff Fire Department – Severity Staffing

- Preparedness based on weather indices:
 - Severity staffing, indicators:
 - Red Flag Warnings (Winds usually sustained above 25mph)
 - Available resources in region
 - Fire activity in region
- Severity staffing (1-3 units) would be on duty outside of their normal operating hours to increase staffing levels and decrease response times to a working wildfire event.

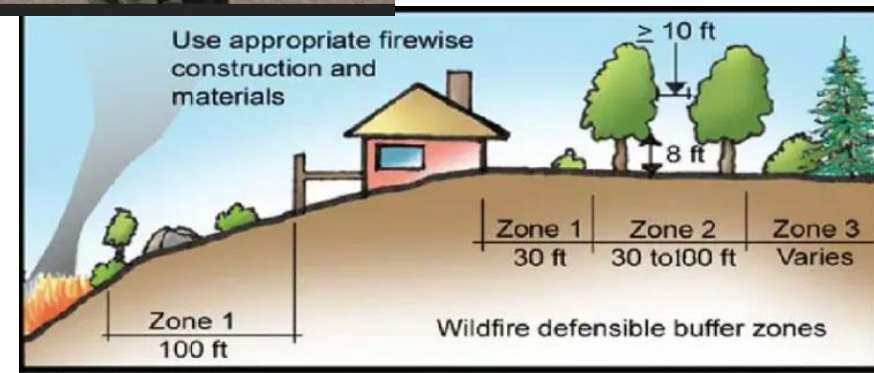
Flagstaff Fire Department - Response

- Response Plan:
 - All operational/on-duty personnel go through annual refresher training
 - Partner agencies
 - Year-round planning, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery cycle



Community Outreach

- Firewise:
 - Private property clean-up
 - Forest treatments: Thinning, prescribed fire



Jeremy Human

Deputy Fire Staff,
Coconino National Forest



Coconino National Forest



USFS Fire Fuels and Aviation Programs

- **Wildland Fire Suppression**
- **Management Of Natural Ignitions**
- **Prevention & Education**
- **Prescribed Fire**



Coconino National Forest



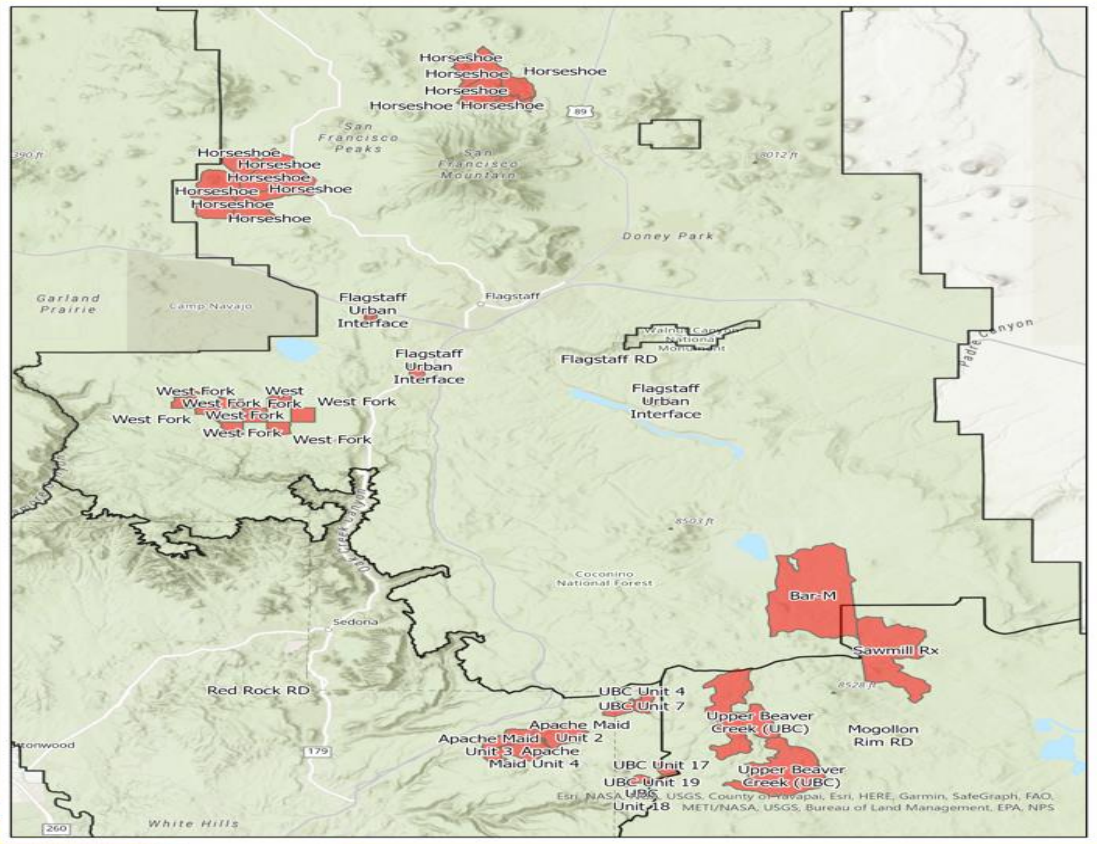
Covid 19 fire response “What’s changed?”

- ▶ Appropriate fire management response
- ▶ Restarting our prescribed burn programs
- ▶ Vaccinations
- ▶ Best management practices
- ▶ Incorporating COVID Lessons Learned from last year into our management practices this year.

Coconino National Forest



2021 prescribed fire FY21 target – 38,000 acres



Wildland Fire Dispatch



Wildland Fire Dispatch

- ▶ **FDC – Flagstaff Dispatch Center**
- ▶ **BIA - Hopi, Hualapai, and Navajo tribes**
- ▶ **GCNP, Flagstaff and Verde Valley Monuments**
- ▶ **PFAC serving all of Northern Arizona**



Lucas Minton

Chief Fire and Aviation,
Grand Canyon National
Park

Chair: Northern Arizona
Fire Board

Northern Arizona
Aviation



Grand Canyon Helitack - Aviation



Grand Canyon Helitack

The Grand Canyon National Park hosts two helicopters. Both are used for Search and Rescue, Short Haul, Utility work, and wildland fire operations.

The MD 900 pictured below operates year-round out of the South Rim of the Grand Canyon.

The Astar (top picture) primarily supports wildfire operations and emergency short-haul support, also based out of the South Rim with a 90-day plus contract.



Picture can't be displayed

Fire Aviation Resources Northern Arizona



Rotor Wing Missions
3 Type 3 Helicopters, NPS
Short Haul GRCA, Pittman
Valley USFS



Short-Haul Medivac



Fixed Wing Missions
Patrols, Aerial Observer,
Air-tack Supervisor

Aviation Resources



Preposition of Aircraft During Fire Season

- Local Federal and Partner Agencies work with the Southwest Coordination Center (SWCC) to move Aviation resources to Northern Arizona.
- Aviation Resources will stage at local airport: Pullman Airport, Sedona Airport, or other designated bases as needed.
- Nearest Airtanker bases: Prescott and Winslow. These bases will host a range of different types of airtankers for support



Fire Aircraft Near Flagstaff



Flagstaff Airport

Flagstaff Airport is used to position Rotor and Fixed wing aerial firefighting resources.

- Pictured top King Air is an example of an Aerial Supervision Module, which can be used as a Lead plane, Air Tactical Group Supervisor or both.
- Pictured on the bottom is an Aero Commander. Primarily used as an Air Tactical Group Supervisor.
- Both platforms are used to Supervise Aerial firefighting operations within complex fire traffic areas



Sedona Airport

The South West Coordination Center Works with Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff Interagency Dispatch and Fire and Aviation Leadership to preposition Helicopters at Sedona Airport.

- Top picture Chinook Ch-46 uses external bucket for water and retardant delivery
- Bottom Blackhawk UH-60 internal tank with snorkel for drafting in shallow waters. Used for water and retardant delivery.





Questions?

