

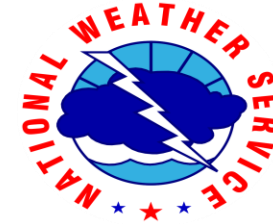
# 2022 Wildland Fire Preparedness Update





## Presenters:

- *Neil Chapman*, City of Flagstaff  
Forest Health Supervisor
- *Tony Merriman*, National Weather  
Service Meteorologist
- *True Brown*, USFS Flagstaff Ranger  
District Fire Management Officer
- *Neil Traver*, APS Division Manager
- *Janet Dean*, APS Community  
Affairs Manager





# 2022 Fire Season Outlook

May Update

Weather Forecast Office

Flagstaff, AZ

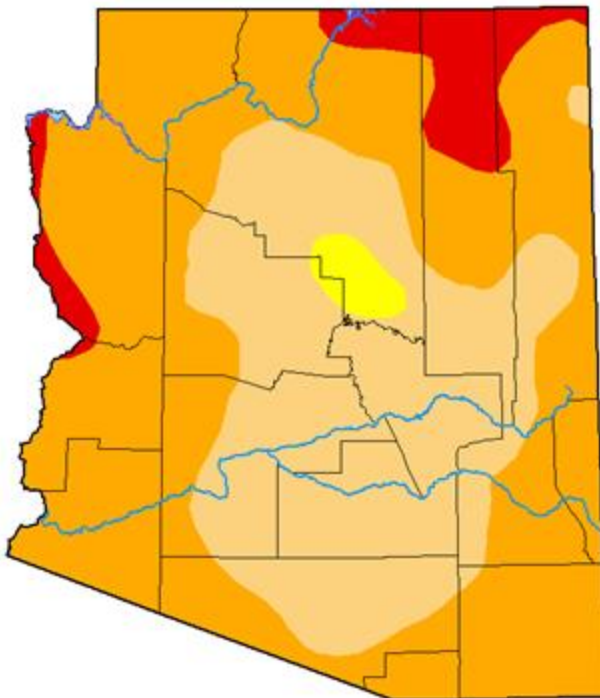
Wednesday, May 4



## 2022 (Current)

## 2021

### U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



**April 26, 2022**

(Released Thursday, Apr. 28, 2022)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

|                                      | None | D0-D4  | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4    |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Current                              | 0.00 | 100.00 | 98.48 | 62.22 | 6.28  | 0.00  |
| Last Week<br>04-19-2022              | 0.00 | 100.00 | 86.42 | 59.77 | 6.28  | 0.00  |
| 3 Months Ago<br>01-25-2022           | 0.00 | 100.00 | 56.71 | 25.80 | 5.08  | 0.00  |
| Start of Calendar Year<br>01-04-2022 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 56.74 | 26.15 | 5.08  | 0.00  |
| Start of Water Year<br>09-29-2021    | 0.00 | 100.00 | 80.38 | 40.02 | 13.69 | 0.00  |
| One Year Ago<br>04-27-2021           | 0.00 | 100.00 | 99.02 | 94.62 | 86.56 | 57.79 |

Intensity:

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

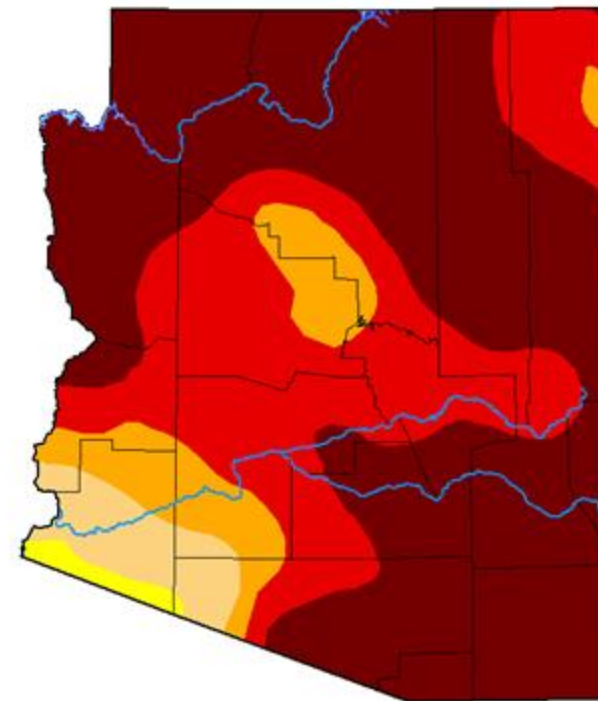
Author:

Brad Rippey  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

### U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



**April 27, 2021**

(Released Thursday, Apr. 29, 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<br>04-20-2021              | 0.00  | 100.00 | 99.02  | 94.62 | 86.56 | 57.79 |
| 3 Months Ago<br>01-26-2021           | 0.00  | 100.00 | 100.00 | 96.56 | 92.42 | 57.96 |
| Start of Calendar Year<br>12-29-2020 | 0.00  | 100.00 | 100.00 | 98.34 | 93.86 | 72.69 |
| Start of Water Year<br>09-29-2020    | 0.00  | 100.00 | 100.00 | 93.97 | 69.95 | 3.37  |
| One Year Ago<br>04-28-2020           | 80.60 | 19.40  | 13.45  | 6.77  | 0.00  | 0.00  |

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought
- D2 Severe 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](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Comparing the latest drought monitor to the one from this time last year shows how drought conditions have improved somewhat across Arizona. Note, however, that in 2021 we had improving conditions with above normal precipitation January - March. This year, we have deteriorating conditions with an anticipation of below normal precipitation.



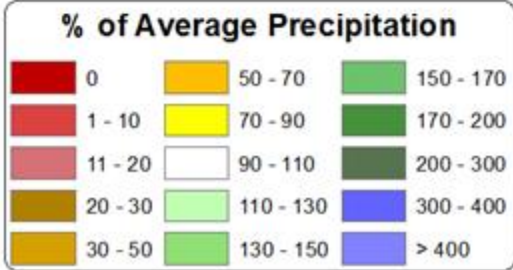
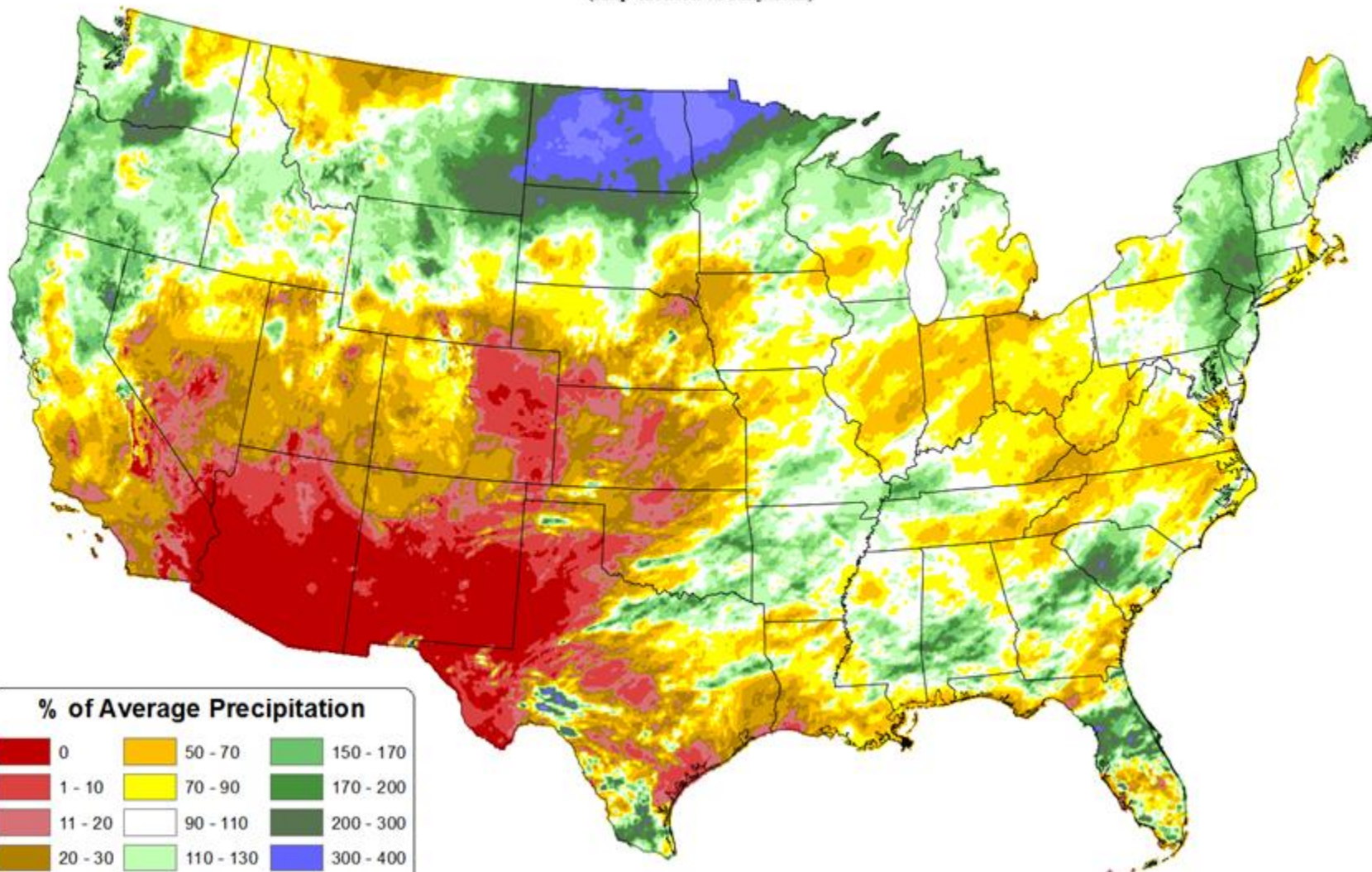
# Winter/Spring Precipitation % of Normal

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Apr 2022

Period ending 30 Apr 2022

Base period: 1991-2020

(Map created 02 May 2022)

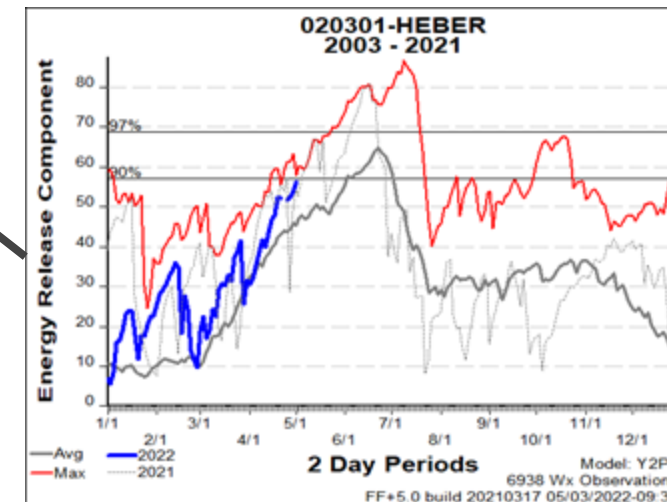
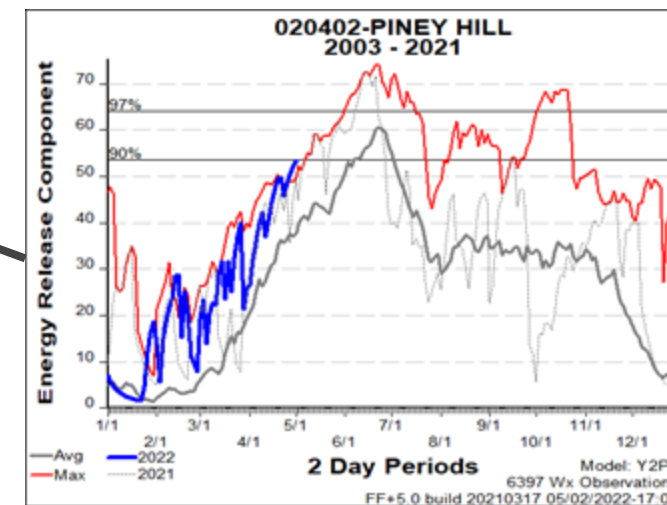
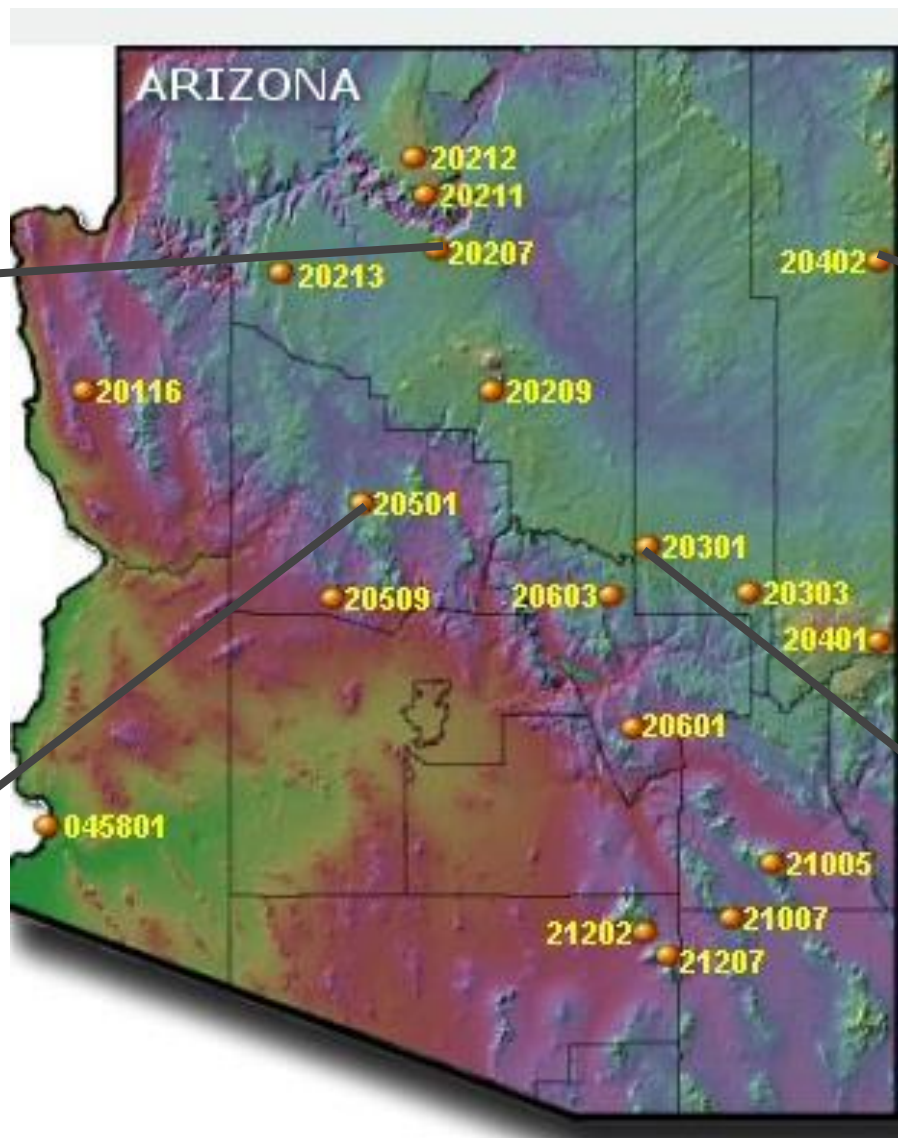
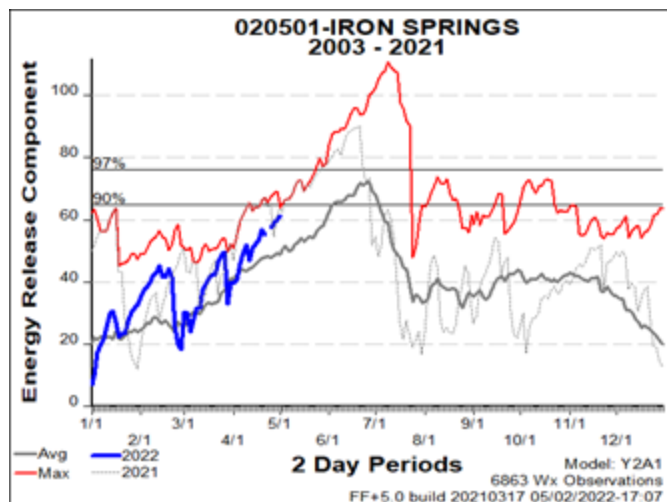
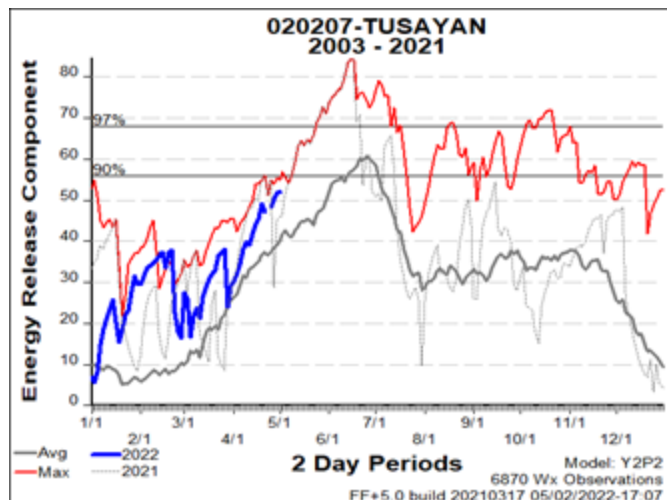


Below average precipitation occurred across all of Arizona February through April.

Portions near the Four Corners region did better than most, but still came in at well below average precipitation.



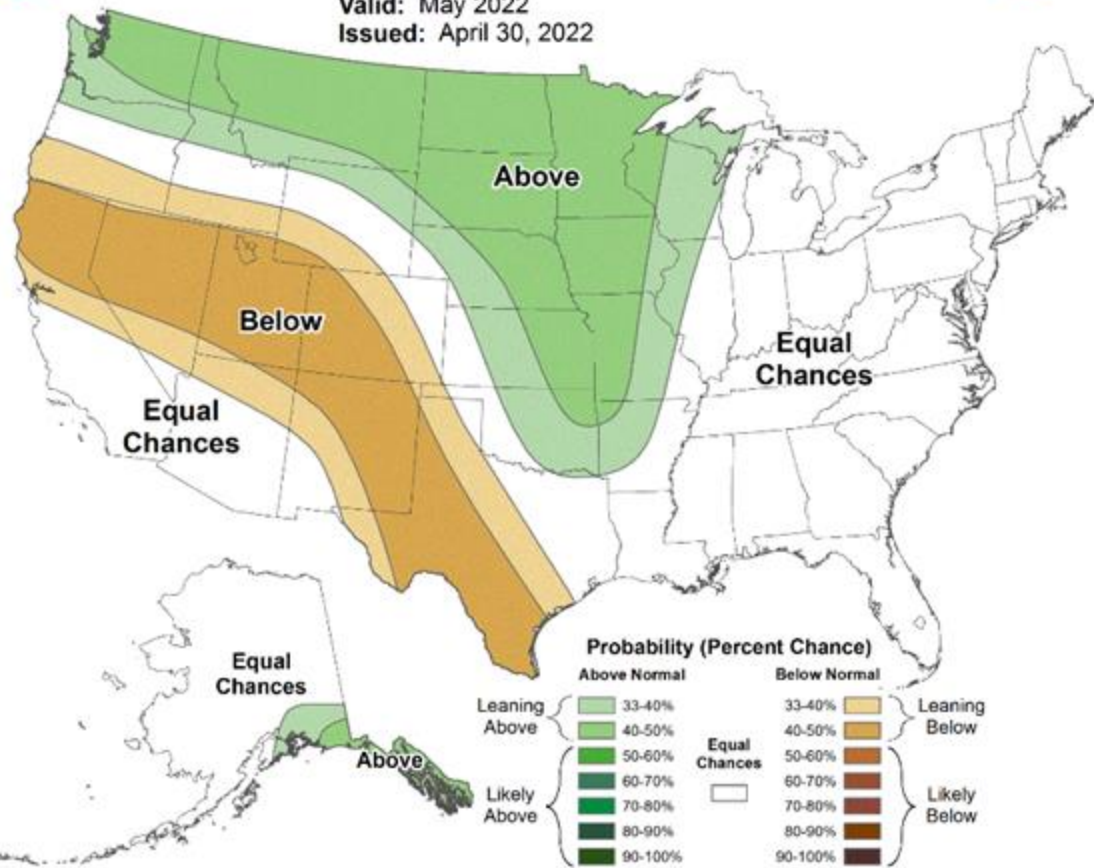
# Energy Release Component (ERC) Graphs



ERCs are above average across Arizona for this time of year, nearing record values.

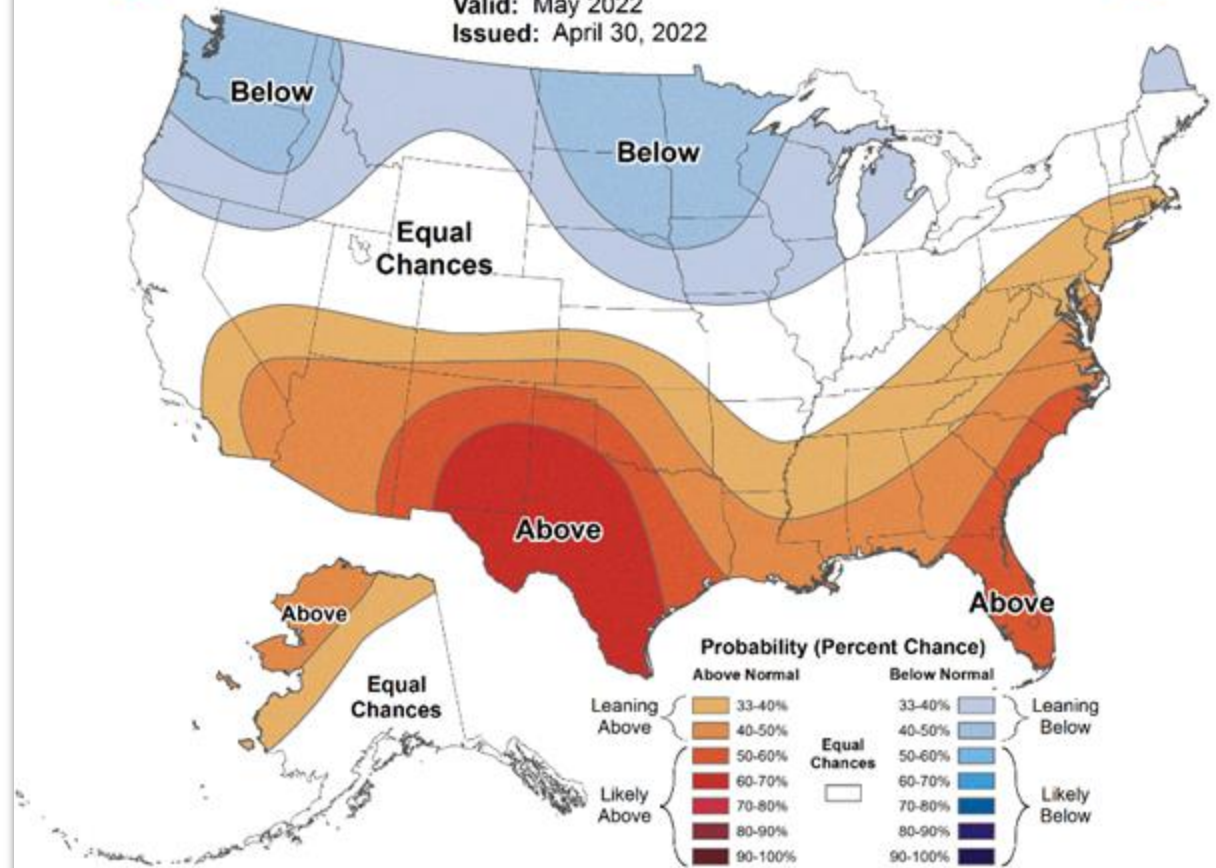
## Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May 2022  
Issued: April 30, 2022



## Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: May 2022  
Issued: April 30, 2022



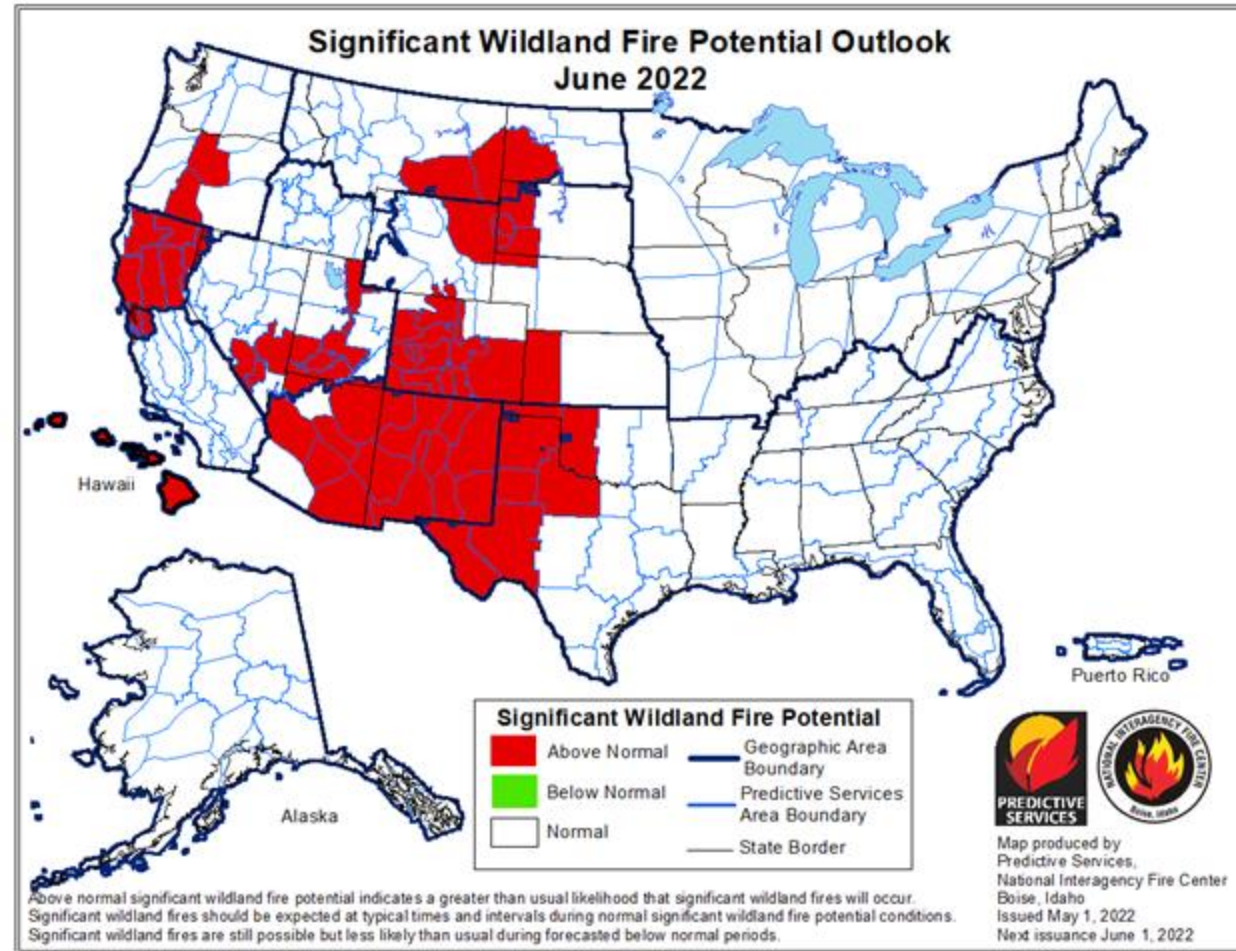
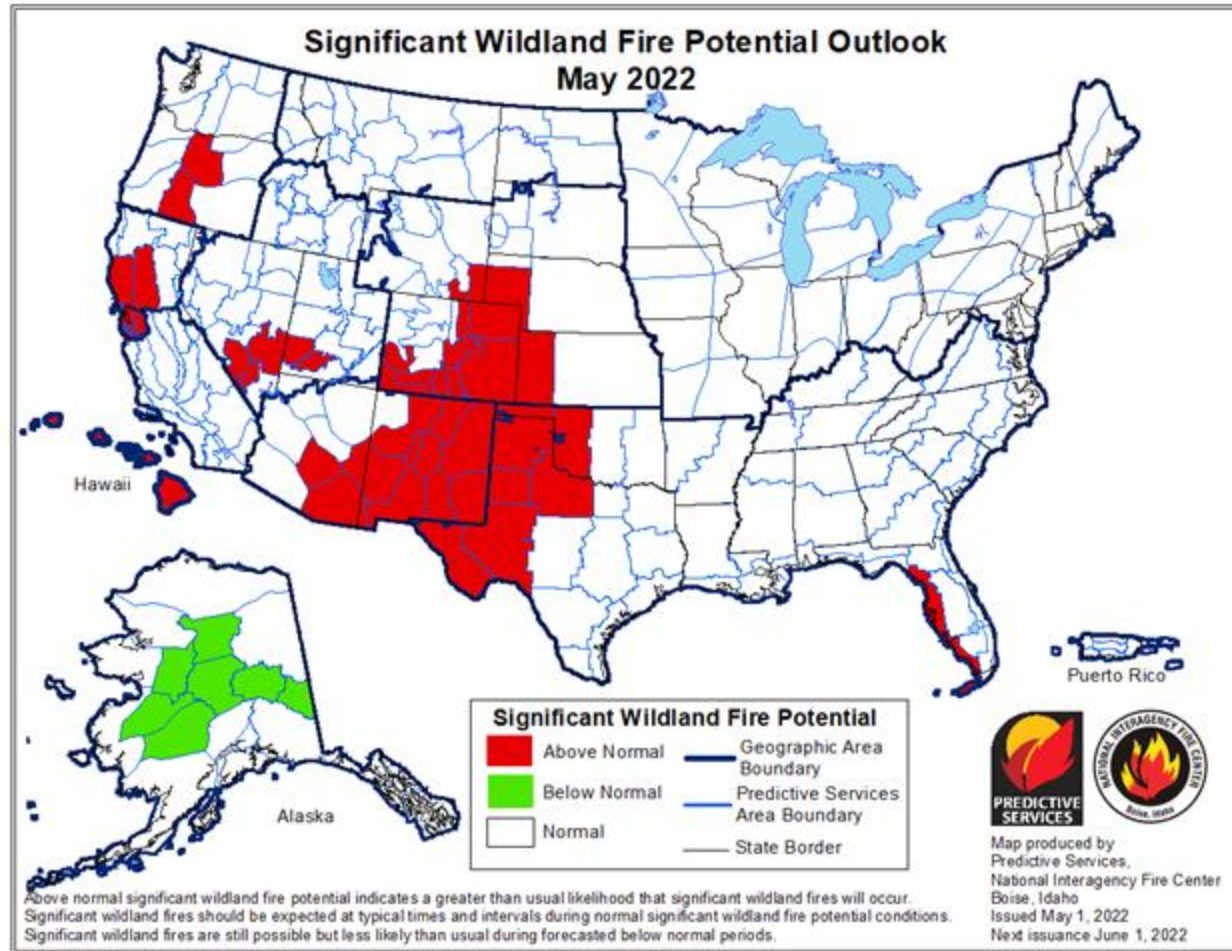
Odds are tilted in favor of a warmer than average May across Arizona. For precipitation, there are equal chances for below, near, or above normal for most of Arizona. May is climatologically the second driest month of the year (behind June), so not much in the way of precipitation is expected.



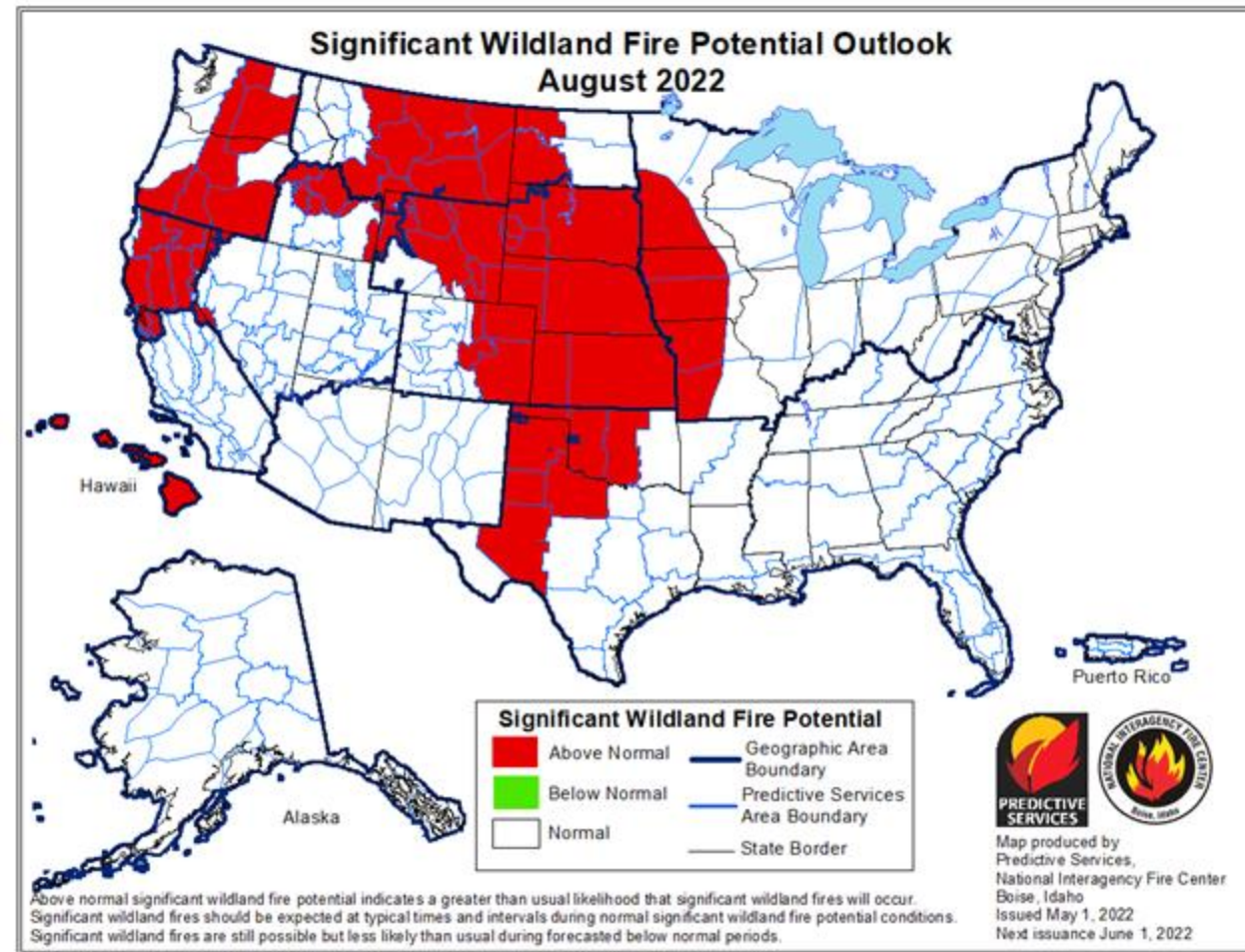
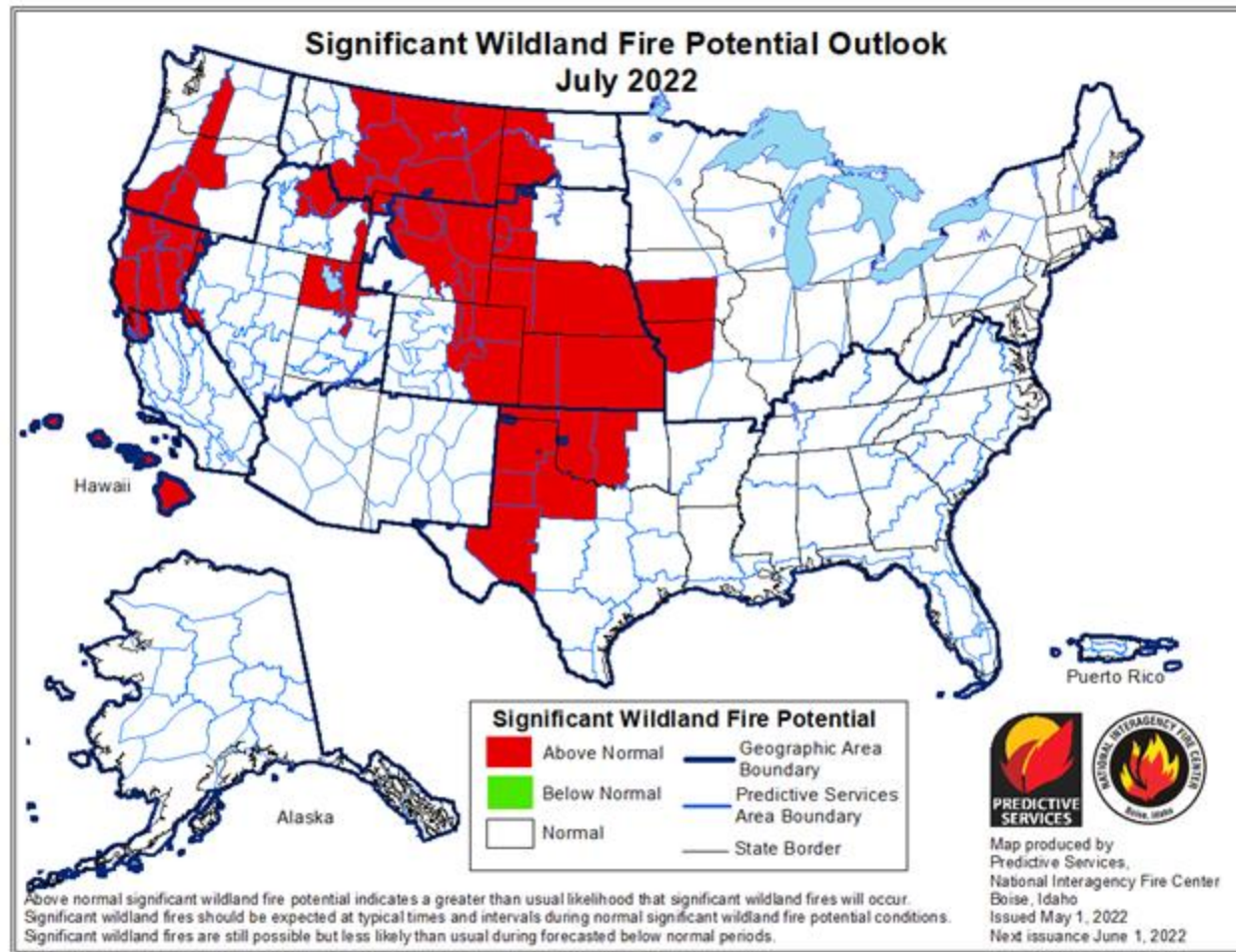


# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

Weather Forecast Office  
Flagstaff, AZ  
Wednesday, May 4



Above normal significant wildland fire potential should develop in the White Mountains region by May, with the above normal significant wildland fire potential gradually spreading north and west into Yavapai County, the Mogollon Rim, and the Four Corners region by June. For the time being, near normal significant wildland fire potential is expected along the Kaibab Plateau this fire season.



By July and August, near normal significant wildland fire potential is expected with the onset of the monsoon season.



# Summary

Weather Forecast Office  
Flagstaff, AZ  
Wednesday, May 4

- **Current drought status:** Below average precipitation in January through April has allowed abnormally dry to extreme drought conditions (mainly across the AZ/UT border) to continue across northern Arizona.
- **Fuel Conditions: Energy Release Component (ERC):** ERCs are above average, nearing record values for this time of year.
- **Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks:**
  - **May** – Odds are tilted in favor of a warmer than average May across Arizona. For precipitation, there are equal chances for below, near, or above normal for most of Arizona. May is climatologically the second driest month of the year (behind June), so not much in the way of precipitation is expected.
  - **June through August** – The extended outlook favors warmer than average conditions this summer. However, odds continue to tilt in favor of a wetter than average monsoon season for most of Arizona.
- **Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook:** Above normal significant wildland fire potential should develop in the White Mountains region by May, with the above normal significant wildland fire potential gradually spreading north and west into Yavapai County, the Mogollon Rim, and the Four Corners region by June. For the time being, near normal significant wildland fire potential is expected along the Kaibab Plateau this fire season. By July and August, near normal significant wildland fire potential is expected with the onset of the monsoon season.



[nws.flagstaff@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.flagstaff@noaa.gov)



(928) 774-4414



[weather.gov/flagstaff](http://weather.gov/flagstaff)



# True Brown

Fire Management Officer,  
Flagstaff Ranger District  
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



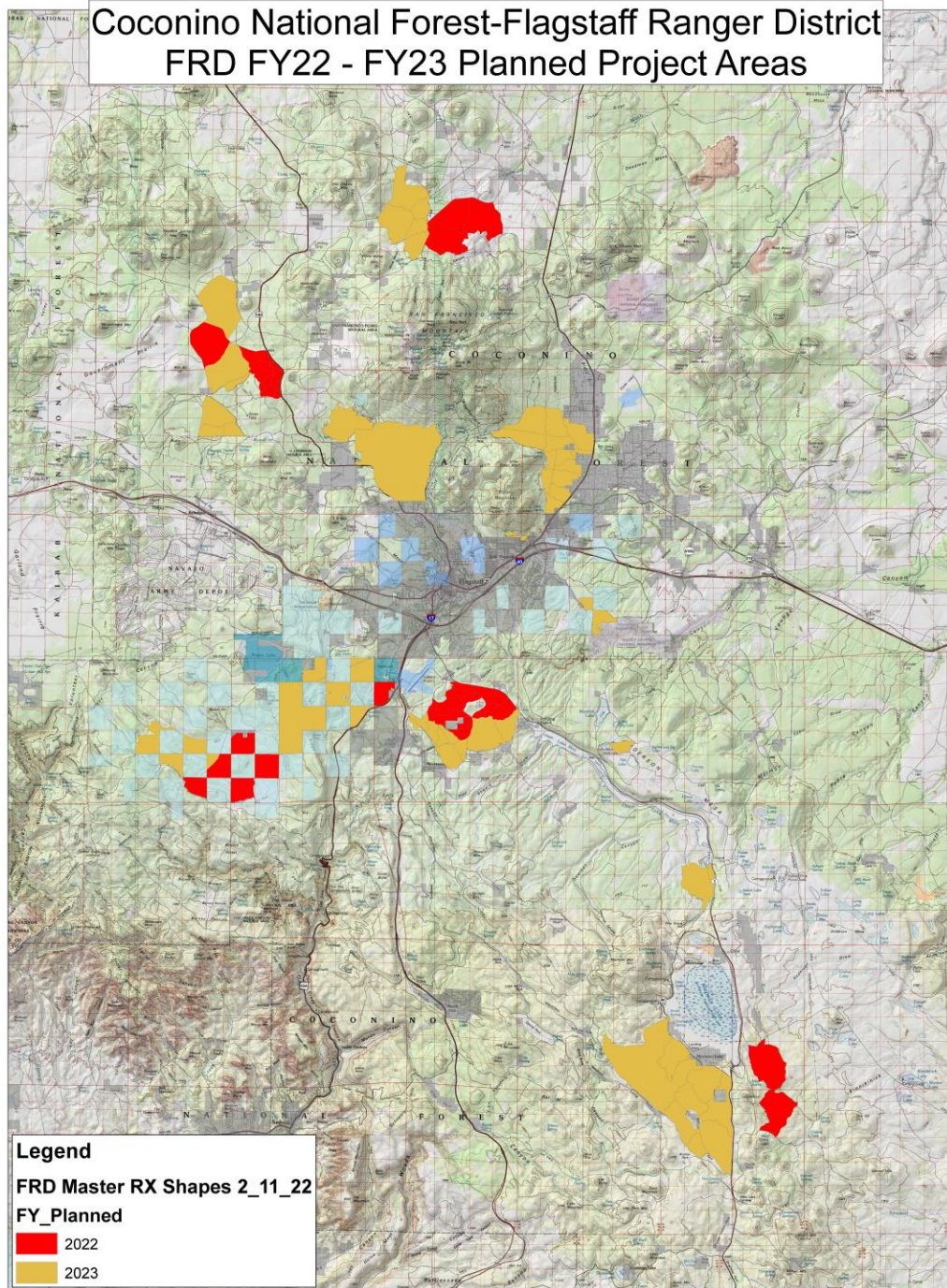
## Covid 19 fire response “What’s changed?”

- ▶ 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

Forest 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**



# Ground Resources



## Staffing During Fire Season and Preposition of Additional

- Local capacity (District and Forest)
  - Staffing/hiring update
- Local Federal and Partner Agencies work with the Southwest Coordination Center (SWCC) to move additional resources to Northern Arizona.
- Additional Severity Funding (Resources and Extended Staffing)
- IA Task Force
- Prevention (largest program in the Region if not nationally)

# 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 can stage at local airport: Pulliam Airport, Sedona Airport, Mormon Lake Guard 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.



# Neil Chapman

Forest Health Supervisor

Flagstaff Watershed

Protection Project Manager

Wildland Fire Prevention,  
Preparedness & Mitigation





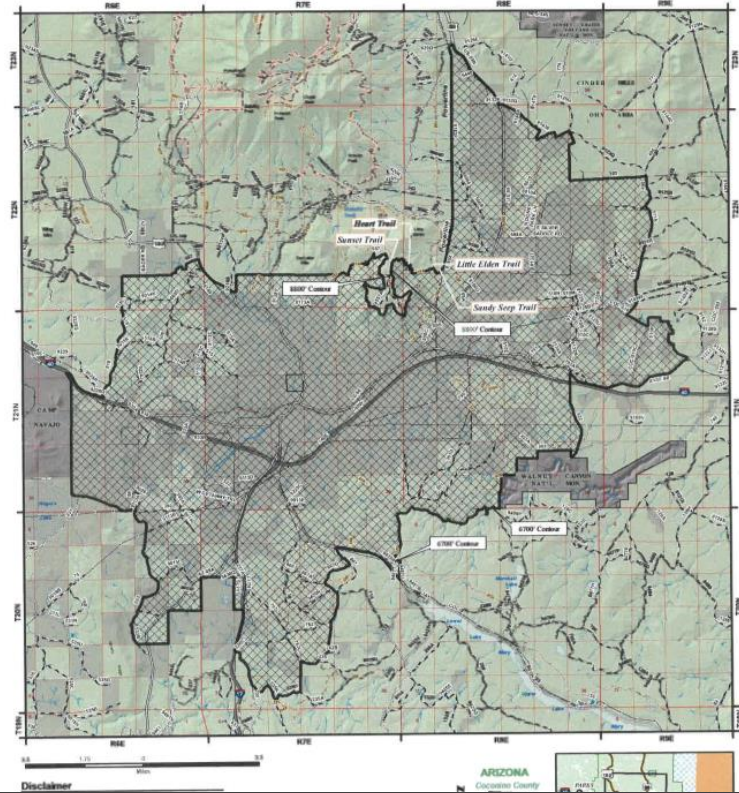
A natural, fire adapted, structure and pattern maximizes wildfire preparedness



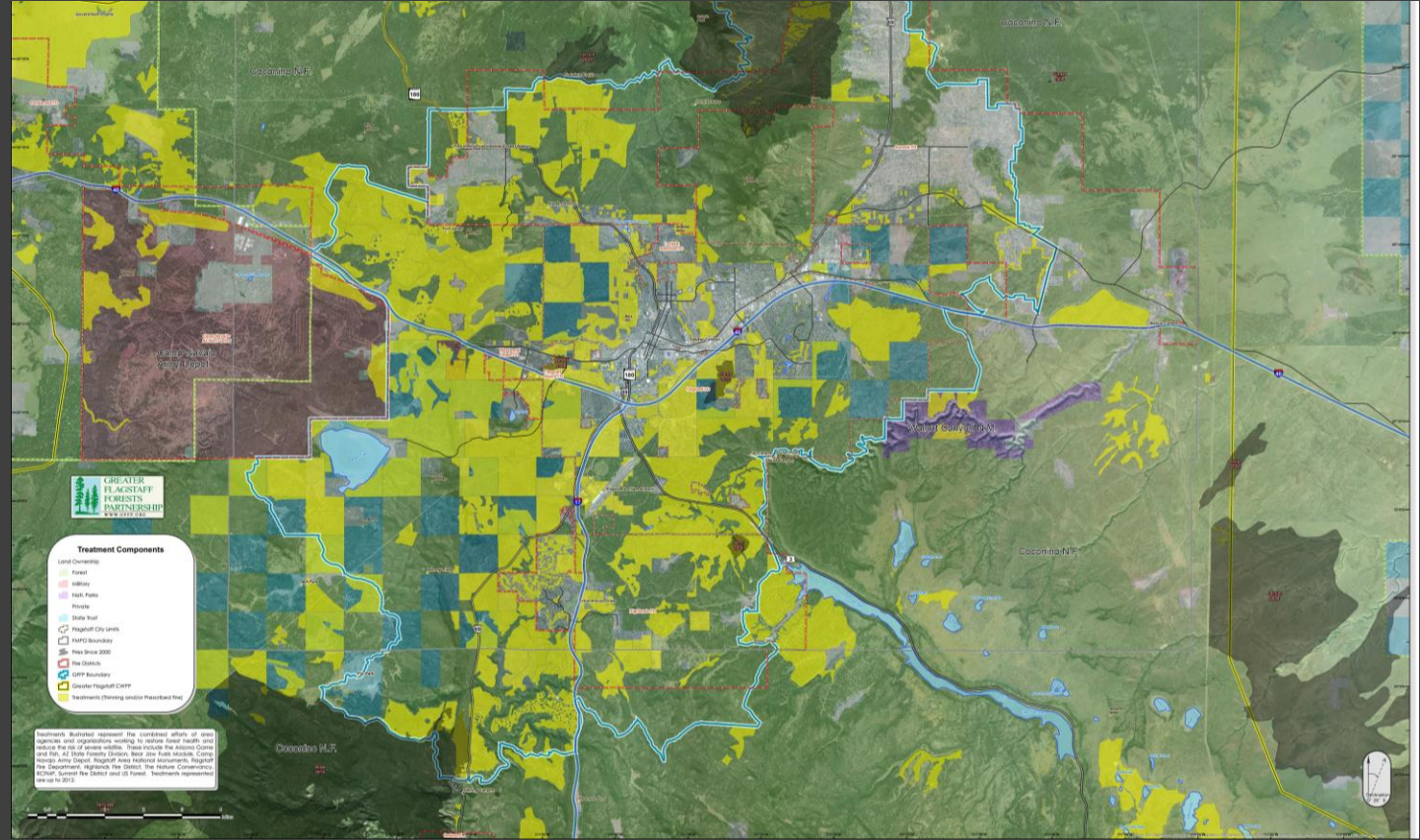
## Fuel Reduction Thinning



## Fire Management



# Camping and Campfire Restrictions



# Greater Flagstaff Wildfire Risk Reduction Projects

# Flagstaff Fire Department - Response

- Response Plan:
  - All operational/on-duty personnel go through annual wildland fire refresher training
  - Mutual Aid with Partner Agencies
  - Year-round planning, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery cycle
  - Call out program provides important wildfire training





# Flagstaff Fire Department – Severity Staffing

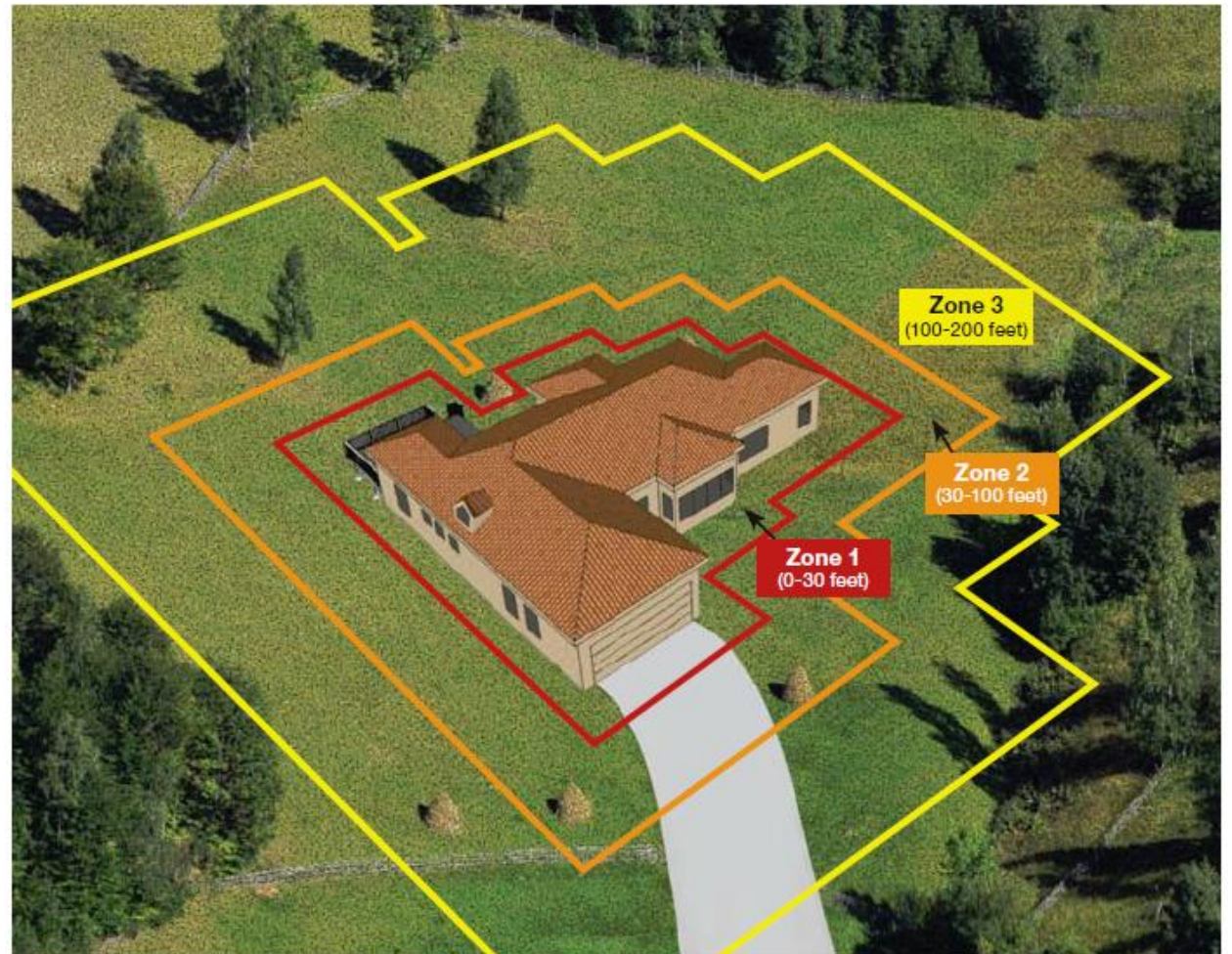
- Preparedness based on weather and resource indices:
  - Severity staffing, indicators:
    - Red Flag Warnings (Winds usually sustained above 25mph)
    - Available resources in region
    - Fire activity in region
- Severity staffing (1-3 units) would be on duty outside of their normal operating hours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

# Community Outreach

ARE YOU  
PREPARED FOR  
WILDFIRE?



- Firewise:
  - Private property defensible space
  - Wildfire risk reduction-based thinning and fire management





# https://cocowildfire.org/



Home - Coconino Wildfire

cocowildfire.org

City of Flagstaff Fire Podcasts FCC UMM Start Your Applicati... Bob Jensen Sharepoint Wildlan... Home Weather HPP Weather Other bookmarks

[Sign Up For Emergency Notifications](#)

## COCO Wildfire

Wildfire Information for Coconino County

Home Emergency Preparedness and Notifications Flood Potential and Mitigation Other Wildfire Incident Sites Smoke is in the Air Feeds About

Fire Weather Forecast

*The purpose of this website is to provide centralized information so that Coconino County residents and visitors can make informed decisions regarding their actions when out of control wildfires occur near or within their communities. This website contains direct links to maintained and monitored websites and social media feeds that provide reliable information for emergency wildfire events.*

### Wildfire Info for Coconino County

 **Coconino County Fire Information**

This link functions only when there are active wildfires in Coconino County. [Visit](#)

 **Coconino County Fire Restrictions**

Provides current and planned fire restriction information for Coconino County. [Visit](#)

### Maps

 **Coconino County Situational Awareness**

[Visit](#)

 **What's My Neighborhood Called by City of Flagstaff Fire Dept.**

[Find Out](#)

### READY, SET, GO!

Prepare now. Be alert. Evacuate!

Learn more at [eln.az.gov](#)

**Understand what each stage ("Ready" "Set" "Go") means**

### Land Management Agencies

[Coconino National Forest](#) (surrounds Flagstaff, Sedona, Belmont, Blue Ridge, Happy Jack)

[Kaibab National Forest](#) (surrounds Williams, Parks, Tusayan, Fredonia)

[National Park Service](#)

[AZ Dept. of Forestry & Fire Mgmt.](#)

9:31 AM 5/6/2022



- *Neil Traver*, APS Division Manager
- *Janet Dean*, APS Community Affairs Manager





HOTEL MONTE VISIT



# Questions?

