

2023 Wildland Fire Preparedness Update





Partners and presenters:



Presenters:

- *Paul Oltrogge*, City of Flagstaff
Wildland Fire Management (WFM)
Battalion Chief
- *Katie Brown*, City of Flagstaff Fire
Department Engineer/Paramedic
Southwest IMT Situation Unit Leader
- *Jesse Causer*, USFS Flagstaff Ranger
District Fire Planner
- *Joe Weathersby*, NE Division Manager



WFM within Community Risk Reduction

The 5 E's drive our decision-making process, the seasonality of our mitigation efforts, and frame a strategy for consistent community outreach



Flagstaff Fire Department - Response

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

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: 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





2023 Seasonal Fire Outlook



Jesse Causer

Forest Fire Planner

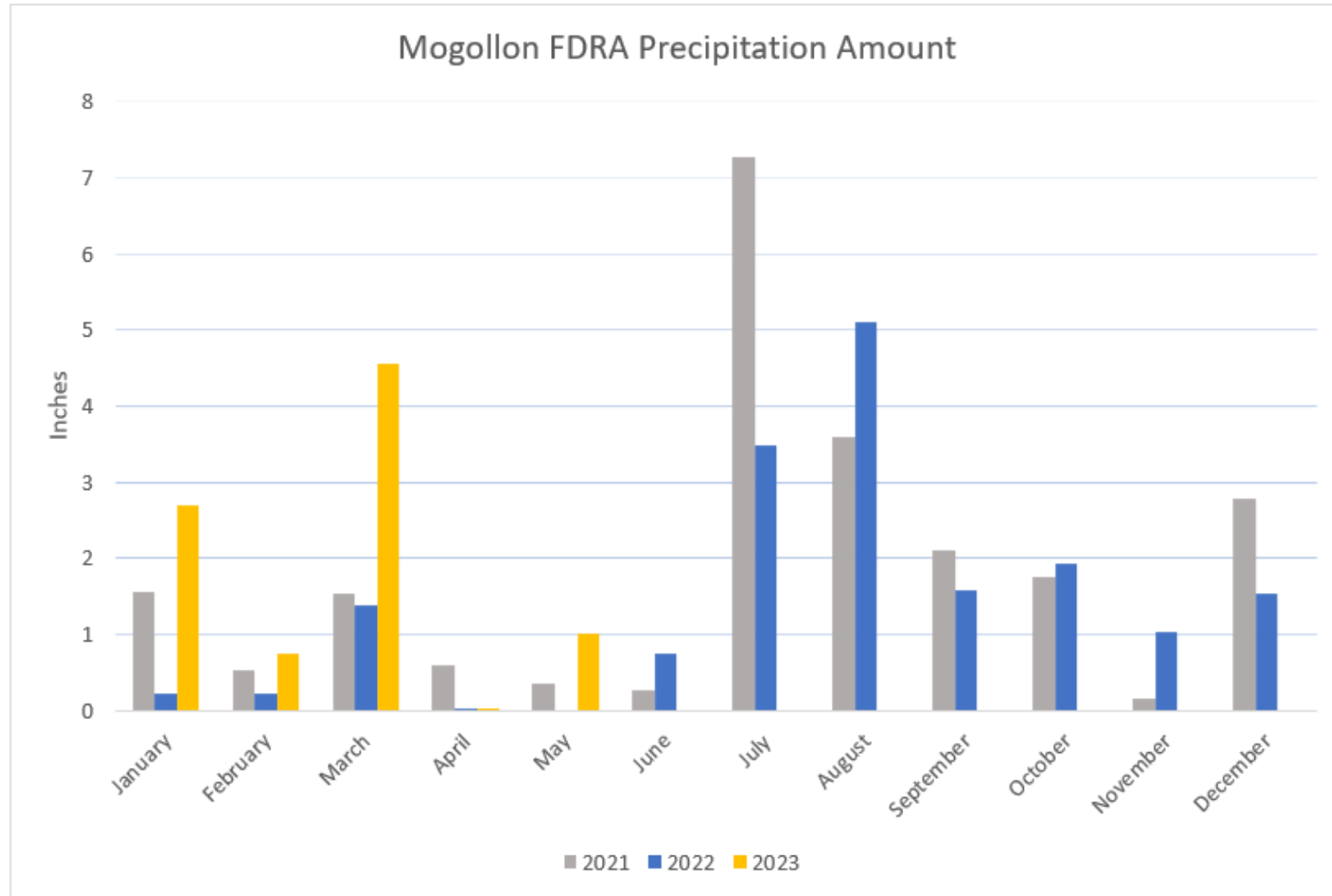
jesse.causer@usda.gov

928-951-0013



Precipitation

Mogollon FDRA Precipitation totals 2021-2023



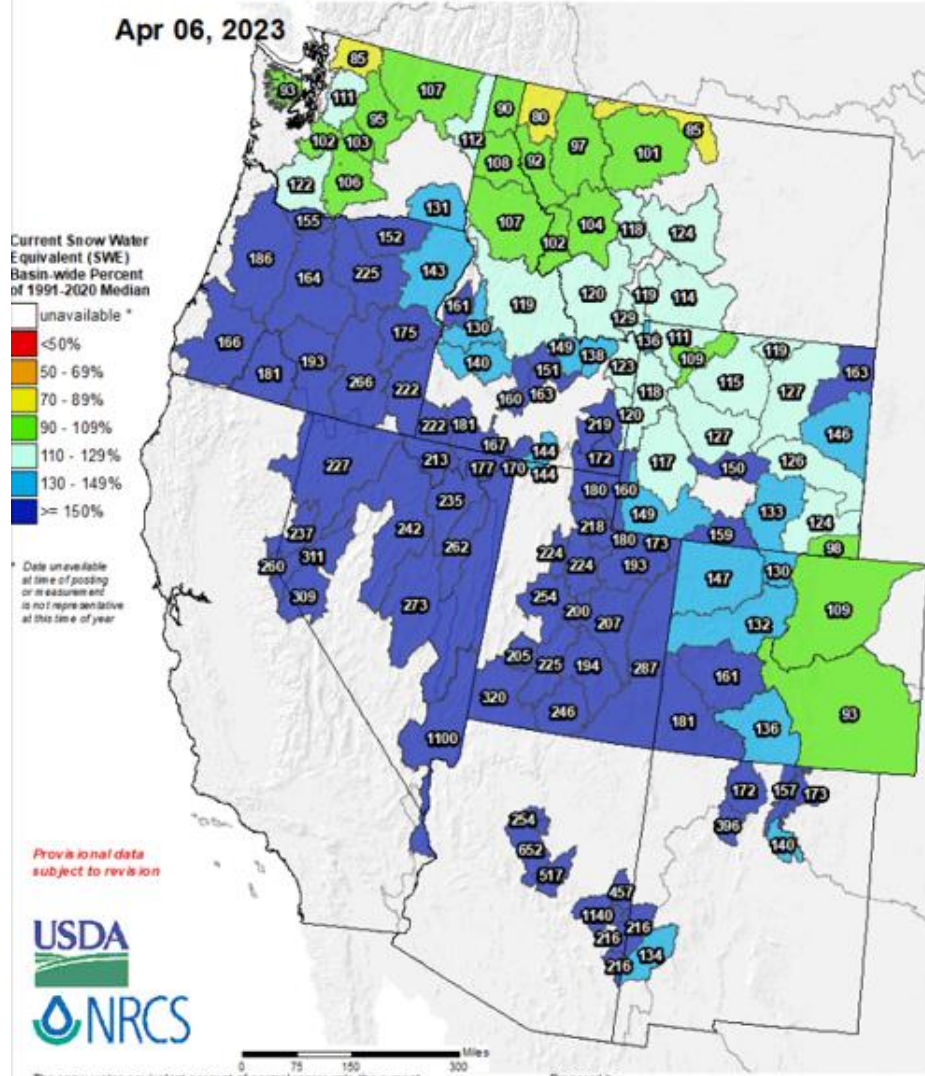


Drought Monitoring



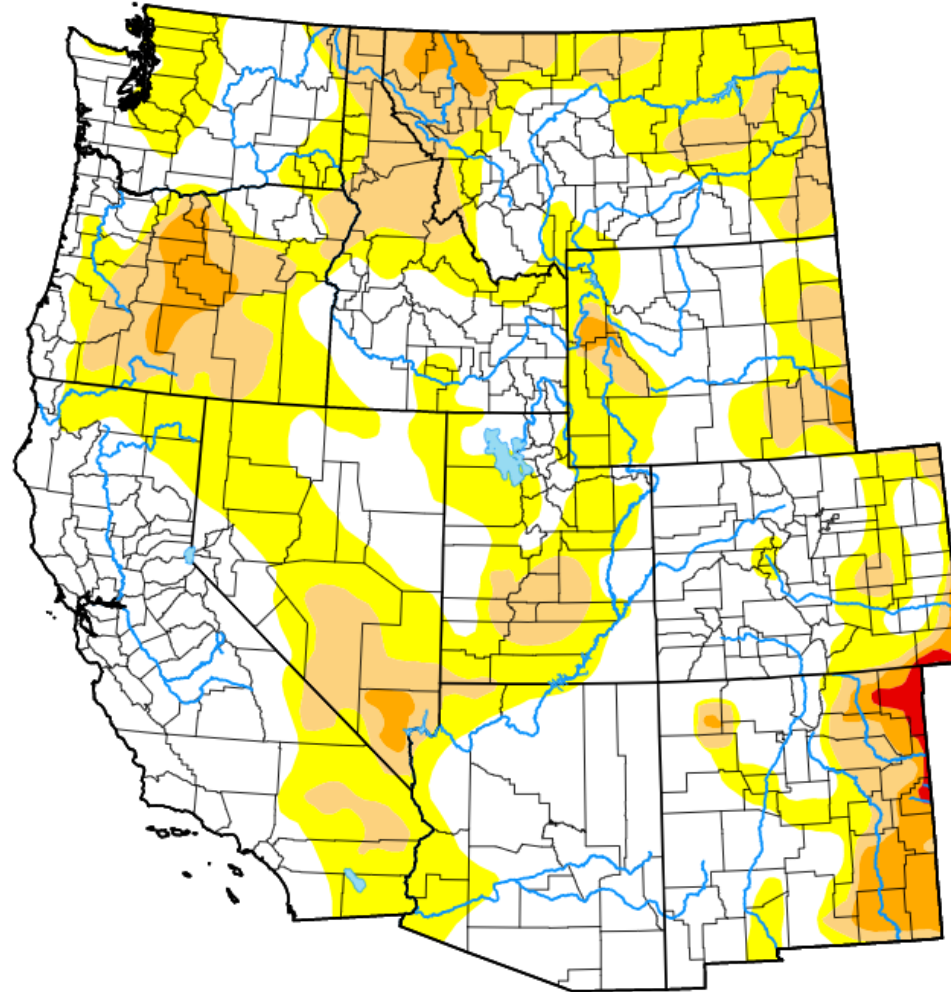
Westwide SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

Apr 06, 2023



U.S. Drought Monitor

Current Maps Data Summary About Conditions & Outlooks Ag in Drought En Español NADM



Map released: Thurs. May 25, 2023

Data valid: May 23, 2023 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
[Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI

The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/home>



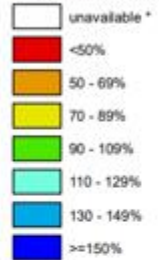
Drought Monitoring



Arizona

Apr 06, 2023

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1991-2020 Median



* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

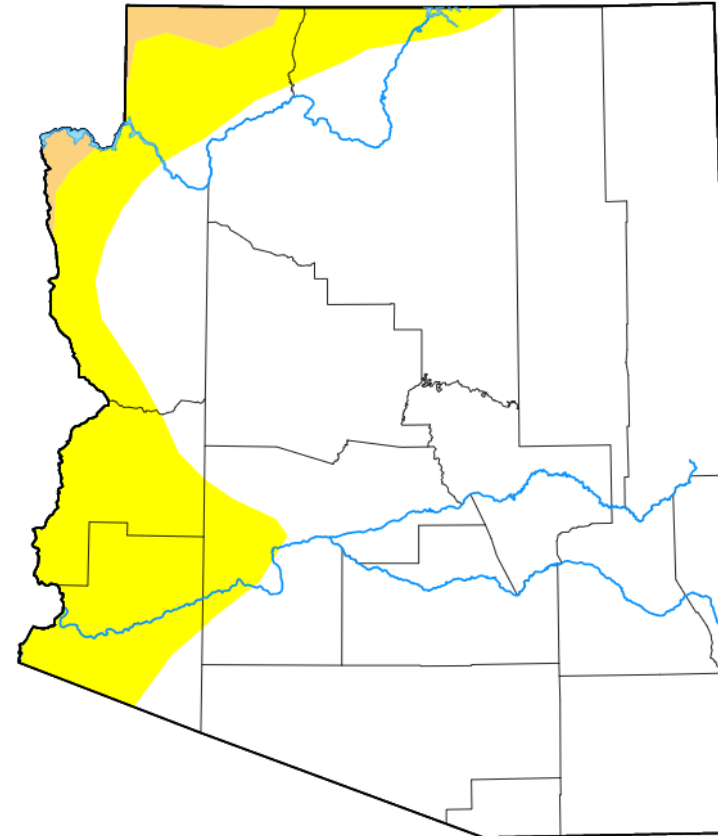
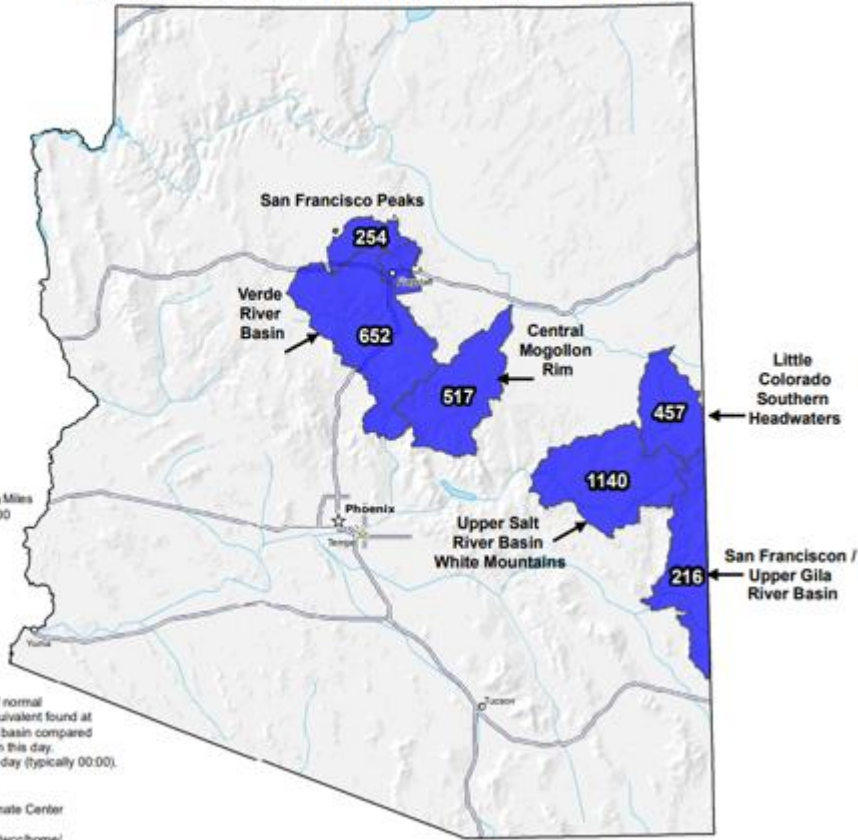
Provisional Data Subject to Revision



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by: USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center, Portland, Oregon. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

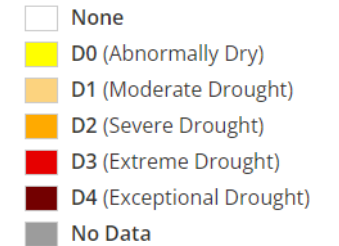
Arizona SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal



Map released: Thurs. May 25, 2023

Data valid: May 23, 2023 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity



Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s): [Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture
Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s): [Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI



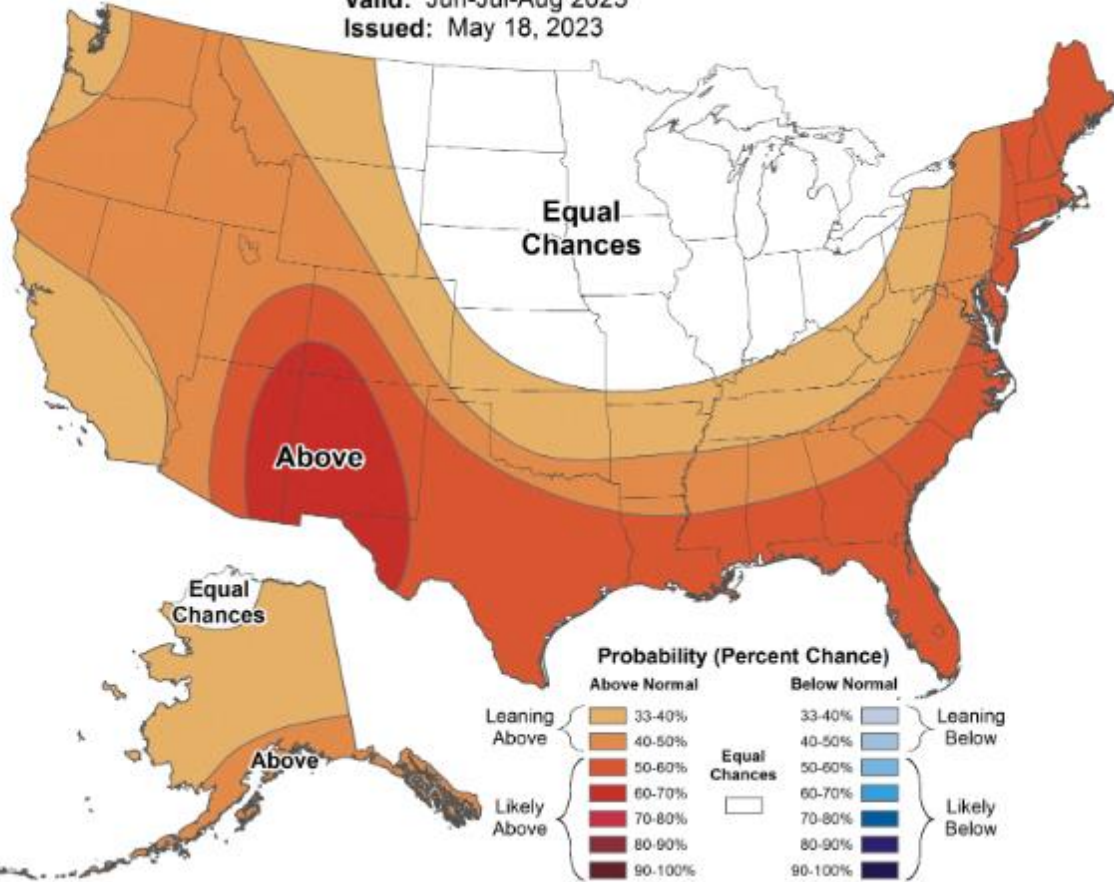
Seasonal Outlook



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



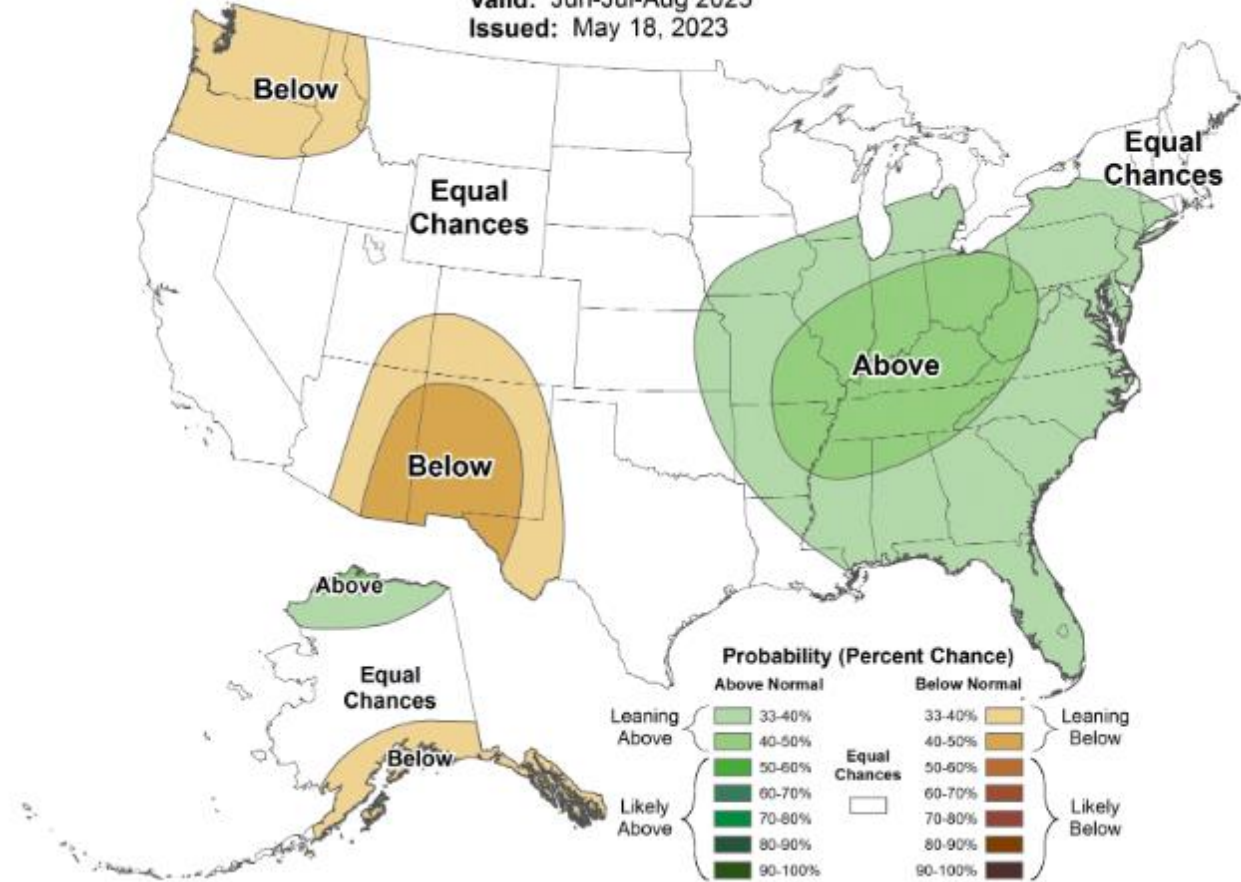
Valid: Jun-Jul-Aug 2023
Issued: May 18, 2023



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Jun-Jul-Aug 2023
Issued: May 18, 2023





National Predictive Services



National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

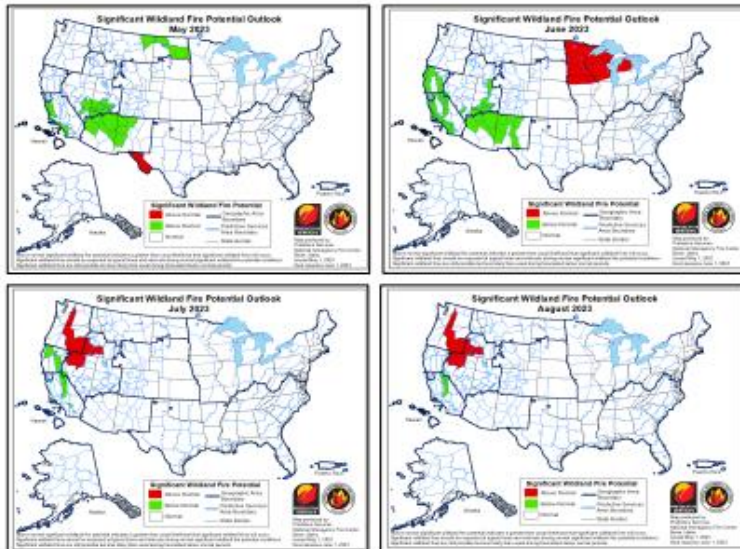
Predictive Services
National Interagency Fire Center

Issued: May 1, 2023
Next Issuance: June 1, 2023

Outlook Period – May through August 2023

Executive Summary

The significant wildland fire potential forecasts included in this outlook represent the cumulative forecasts of the ten Geographic Area Predictive Services units and the National Predictive Services unit.



Significant fire activity continued to increase across the Southern, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Eastern Areas in April, but a portion of the Southern Area observed a decrease in significant fire activity at the end of the month due to green-up. Significant fire activity remained minimal elsewhere across the West and Alaska. Green-up is well underway across much of the West, but fuel moistures are decreasing across the lower elevations of the Southwest and portions of southern California. Year-to-date acres burned for the US is 55% of the 10-year average, with a below average number of fires, nearly 83% of average.

National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

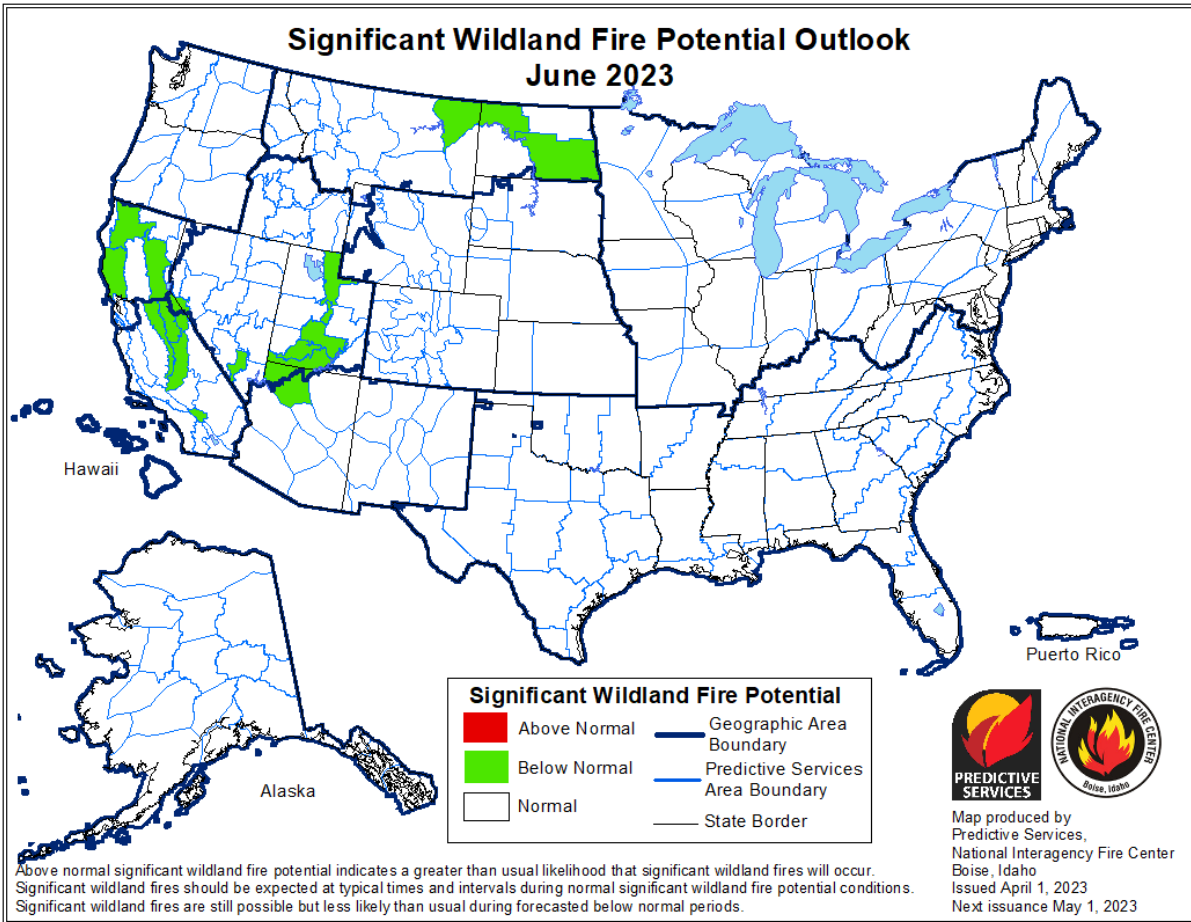
- “Early summer potential for spring-like, weak El Nino”
- “***Below normal*** significant fire potential is anticipated across most of northern Arizona late spring into early summer.”
- “The Monsoon may arrive late in Arizona”



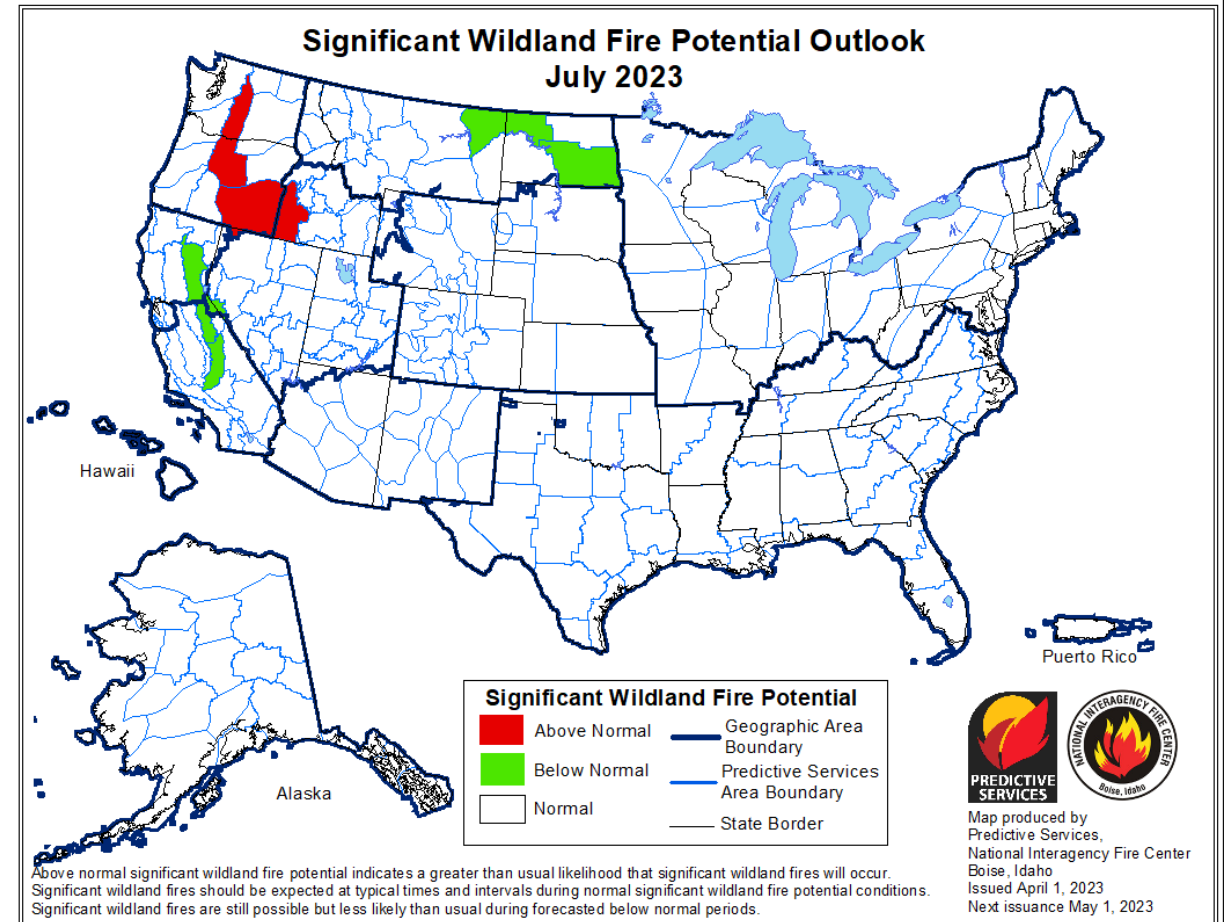
Significant Wildfire Potential Outlook



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook June 2023



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook July 2023



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.

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.



APS Preparedness



APS Wildfire Preparedness and Response

May 30, 2023





APS Preparedness continued



APS has a plan

- APS has robust programs in place in preparation for wildfires, and the **prevention** of overgrowth of fuels, and reduction of possible ignitions
- APS adapts and adjusts our operations to **mitigate** the impact of wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) during Elevated Fire Conditions
- APS is prepared and ready to **respond** to restore power safely during the high fire risk season.



APS Preparedness continued



APS Wildfire Prevention

- **Vegetation Management Program** executed on cycle per industry standards and best practices
- **Detailed Line Inspections** conducted to identify maintenance items needed
- **Annual Elevated Fire Conditions Patrols** on lines in high fire risk areas
- **Customer Programs** to help support community firewise preparation and remove vegetation around homes
- **Defensible Space Around Poles (DSAP)**



APS Mitigation Protocols

- **Increased operations protocols** during outages in high fire risk season:
 - In the event of a power outage, we will not turn the power back on until we can confirm the integrity of the line.
- **Increased use of on-the-line technology** to improve restoration times
- **Notification** sent to **ALL** customers in areas of a higher fire risk that they **could** experience longer than normal outages



APS Preparedness continued



APS Wildfire Response

- A team of **Fire Mitigation Specialists** are on staff and coordinate APS response with local responding agencies
- Prepared local **Troublemens** are available **24/7** to take the call to assess and determine the best course of action in coordination with first responders
- If you see **smoke** or a **fire**, please **call 911**

Paul Oltrogge

Katie Brown

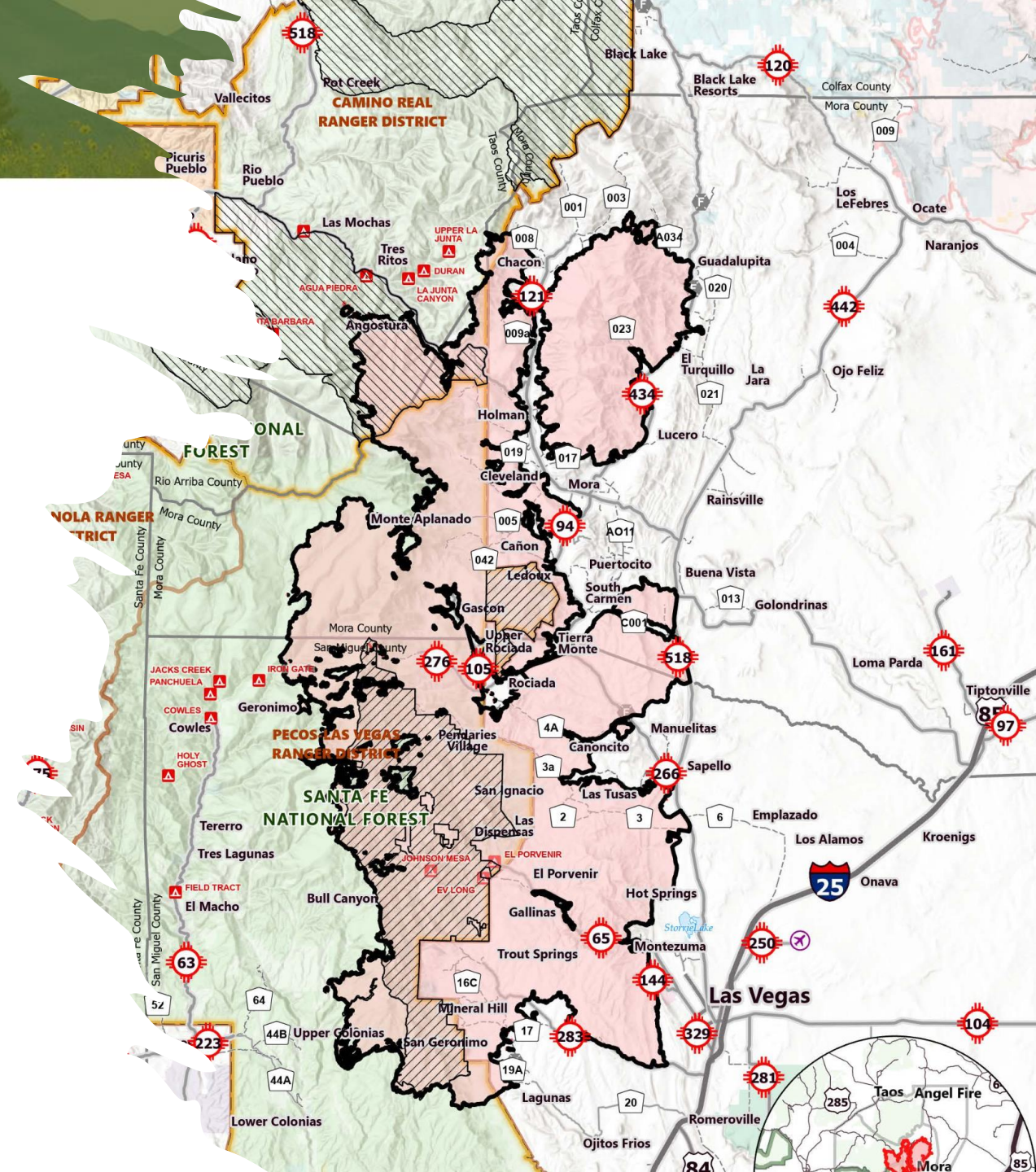
- Evacuation Zone Map
- Wildland Fire Risk Assessment





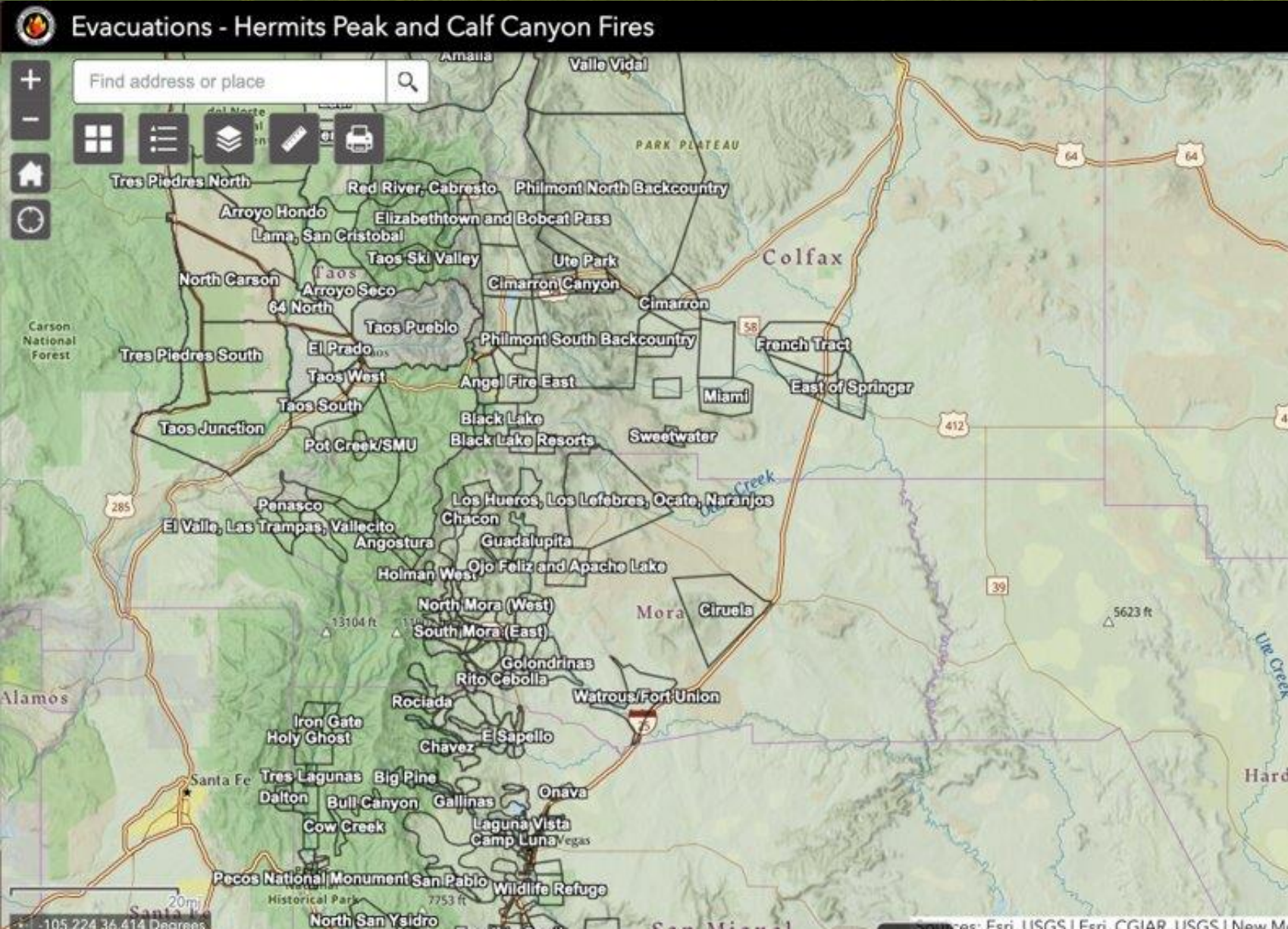
The Evolution of the Evacuation Map

- Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak Fire, New Mexico
- April – September 2022
- Largest fire in NM history – 340,000 acres
- 4 counties, 2 national forests
- 900+ structures destroyed





The Evolution of the Evacuation Map



- Rapidly emerging incident, largely wind driven
- Thousands of evacuations
- Traditional information sharing methods outpaced by incident tempo
- Solution: Online live web map
- [Evacuations - Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fires \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- State, regional and national recognition/ desire for standardization



Be Set - Be Aware

Pack your emergency items. Know how to receive and stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, your local fire department and public safety.

- An executed multi-agency mapping product that is ready for the use of residents and visitors.
- Partners:
 - Coconino County EM and Sheriff's Office
 - Flagstaff Police Department
 - Flagstaff Fire Department
 - City of Flagstaff Emergency Management
 - City of Flagstaff Public Affairs



Evacuating From Wildfires



“The City of Flagstaff is constantly analyzing its levels of community resilience, and preparedness is the first step in that process. Having these evacuation zones in place lays the groundwork for safe and efficient evacuation of neighborhoods in the event of an emergency” **City Emergency Manager Daniel Kelly.**

EVACUATING FROM WILDFIRES

*Always stay aware of your environment.
Leave when asked by your local emergency officials.*

TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY

Leave as soon as evacuation is recommended by fire officials to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. A delay could cost your life!

Take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio, TV, or alerts on your phone for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.



Cover up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, a face mask, goggles or glasses.



Ensure your emergency supply kit is in your vehicle.



Enact your evacuation plan that includes the route you'll take and designated emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area.



Much of this information is courtesy of CAL FIRE - ca.gov



Evacuating From Wildfires

- Sheltering Operations during Wildfires and Forest Closures
- Shelter Operations are provided for in the City/County Emergency Operations Plan. The EOC manages mass sheltering.
- The Forest Restriction and Closures Plan has additional measures to protect our unsheltered population impacted by fires and closures. The City's Housing Division coordinates this activity with Flagstaff Shelter Services.



Highlights

Will evacuation zones be implemented with Ready, Set, Go?

Evacuation zones enhance the Ready, Set, GO, Program.



Are these zones just for wildfires?

No, while wildfires are a significant concern, these zones may be used for any threat or hazard, both natural or man-made.

How do I receive evacuation alerts and other emergency notifications?

Confidential and free registration information is located at www.coconino.az.gov/ready

Where can I find more information about my zone?

An interactive, searchable map can be found at www.coconino.az.gov/evacmap or by scanning the QR code above.



FFD Risk Management Assessment



NPS Wildand Fire Risk Assessment - Facility Assessment

For more information visit <https://wildfire-risk-assessments-nifc.hub.arcgis.com>

Facility: Quarters 5

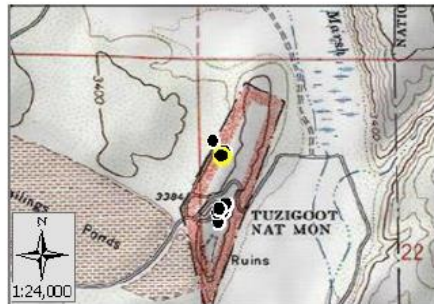
Unit - Location: TUZI - Tuzigoot National Monument
FMSS ID: 13713
Structure Type: Building
Structure Use: Residence
Owner: NPS
Field Crew: L. Catlin
Last Site Visit Date: 12/21/2020

Rating: Low
Protection Level : Not Designated
Resources of Concern Present? Unknown
Occupied? Yes
Local ID: [Local_ID]
In a Community? No
Lat(WGS84): 34° 46.3399' Long(WGS84): -112° 1.56668'

Primary Access: Road
Ingress/Egress: One roads in/out
Access Width: 1 lane (<18ft)
Access Condition: Surfaced-paved, grade<5%
Bridge Condition: None/nonflammable,load limit will not limit response
Access & Turnarounds: Access is <300 ft from facility w/turnaround
Facility Number/Sign: None or not clearly visible
Defensible Space: 30 ft treated
Fuel Load (w/in 300 ft): Moderate
Fuel Type (w/in 300ft): Grass,shrub,hardwood litter
Topography (w/in 300ft): Slope 5% to 20%
Roof Material: Noncombustible or not applicable
Siding Material: Rock, concrete, metal
Foundation: Closed, >30in masonry exposed or N/A
Fences/Decks: None or noncombustible
Firewood: None
Propane Tanks: Present and fuels clearance
Water Supply: Pressurized hydrant(s) or fixed sprinkler system
Overhead Hazards: No overhead hazards
Safety Zones: Potential safety zone(s) in area
Additional Obstacles: None
Triage Category:
Hazmat:
Assessment Comments:



2020_TUFront1_13713_Quarters 5_Front



● Facility
■ NPS Boundary

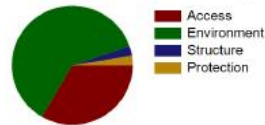
Score: 39
Rating: Low



Asset Priority Index (API): 30



Factors Driving the Ratings



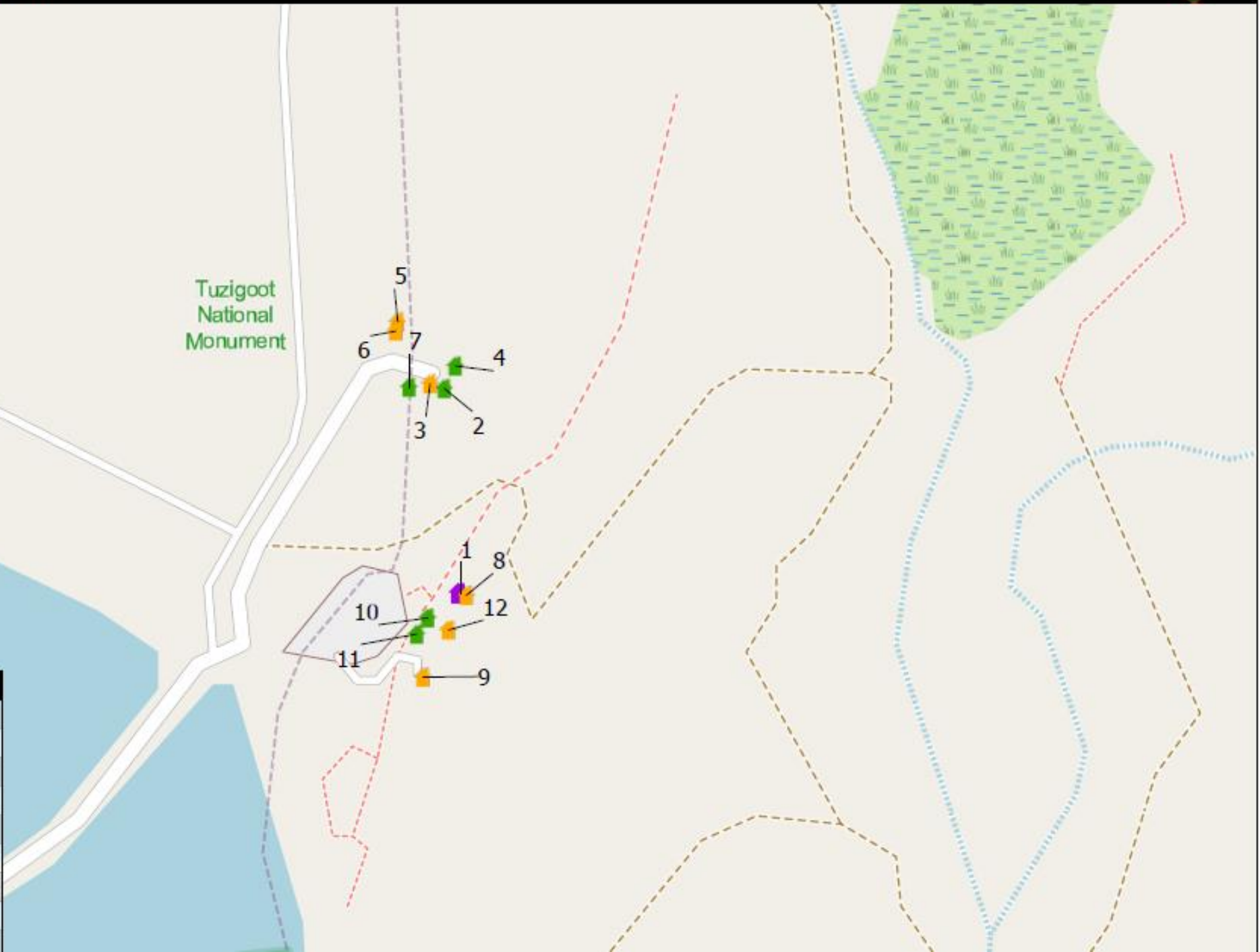
- Allows for thorough assessment of city neighborhoods and resources
- A rating of low, moderate or high will be assigned. Identifying areas that need focused treatment and annual firewise triage

Tuzigoot National Monument

Rating

- Low
- Moderate
- Not Found

Map Label	FMSS ID	Common Name
1	74442	Fire Pump Building
10	13704	Restrooms
11	13702	Visitor Center
12	26620	Well Pump House
2	13713	Quarters 5
3	13716	Quarters 7
4	13711	Resource Center
5	26621	Storage Building
6	search not found	Storage Shed





Photos taken at the same location





Questions?

