

**National Wildland Fire Outlook
National Interagency Fire Center
Predictive Services Group**



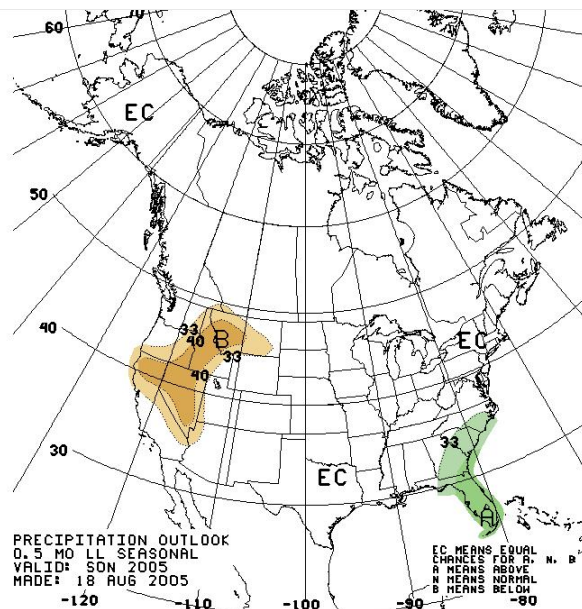
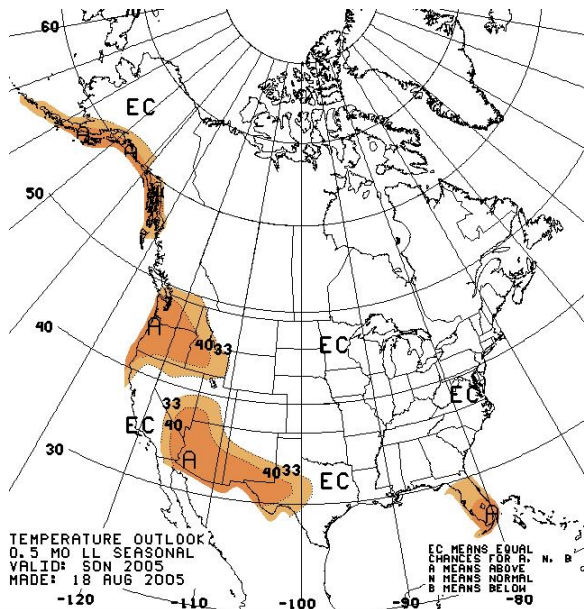
Issued: August 31, 2005

Wildland Fire Outlook – August 31 through October 15, 2005

Fire potential is expected to be significantly higher than normal across portions of the Northwest, California, Western Great Basin, Southwest, and some areas surrounding the Great Lakes for the following reasons:

- Long-lead outlooks for September and October call for warmer than normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for much of the west. There's a good chance for an unusually early end to the summer rainy season in the Southwest, enhancing the potential for a fall fire season.
- Fire danger indices are running near or above 25-year historic maximums in many mountain areas east of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington, portions of central Idaho and western Montana, portions of California, and most of Nevada. This combined with large amounts of fully cured grass and brush in the lower elevations and the effects of long term drought and areas of bug killed timber present an elevated risk of large fires during the outlook period.
- By mid-September, fire danger usually moderates in the Northwest and the Northern Rockies due to less lightning, shorter days, cooler temperatures, and higher relative humidity. However, this period is also when California typically experiences offshore wind events that are often associated with large fire growth.
- Some areas immediately surrounding the Great Lakes have received below normal precipitation over the past thirty to sixty days. Fuel conditions in these areas are much drier than normal for this time of year. Consequently, we believe this area will also see short periods of elevated fire danger this fall.

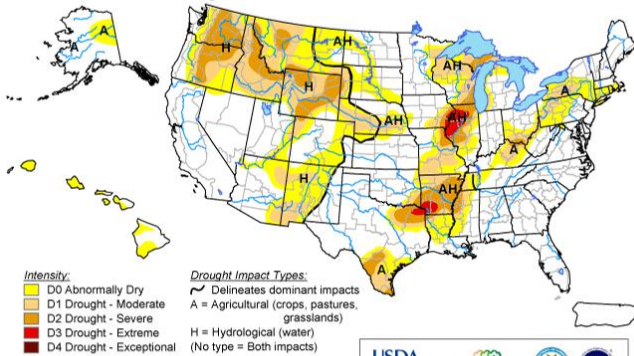
Long Lead Weather Information



NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) forecast for September, October, November.
(http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/lead01/off_index.html)

U.S. Drought Monitor August 23, 2005

Valid 9 a.m. EDT



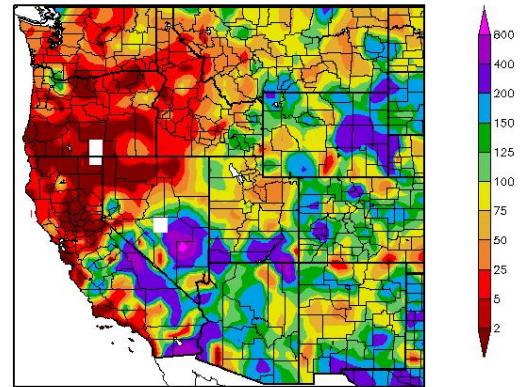
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, August 25, 2005
 Author: David Miskus, JAWF/CPC/NOAA

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 7/31/2005 - 8/29/2005



Generated 8/30/2005 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

The long lead forecast is for September through November is for above normal temperatures across much of the West and Florida. Below normal precipitation is forecast for the Northwest Rockies, portions of the Great Basin, southeast Oregon, and extending into northern California. Much of this area has already experienced below normal precipitation for the month of August, and thus persist an already dry trend through the long term period. Above normal precipitation is forecast for the Southeast coast in conjunction with an active hurricane season.