



NWCC Predictive Services Fire Behavior Outlook

FORECAST VALID FOR: June 11 to 18, 2019	DATE/TIME ISSUED: May 11, 2019, 0945
NEXT UPDATE: June 18, 2019	Bret Ruby – FBAN/LTAN

This is a general fire behavior outlook covering the entire Northwest Geographic Area. It is intended to provide wildland fire managers with an overall view of fire behavior potential and to help wildland firefighters with making informed decisions and maintaining situational awareness based on current and expected fire behavior. Firefighters must use onsite observations and spot weather forecasts to calculate site-specific fire behavior for individual wildland fires.

Fire Weather Summary:

The warming trend continues this week especially in Southcentral and Southwestern Oregon through Wednesday. A shortwave enters the Region Wednesday and Thursday bringing the possibility of lightning to the Southern Cascades Wednesday before moving into Eastern and Northeastern Oregon. Of note is the potential for nocturnal Thunderstorms Wednesday night. Enough instability exists for some region wide lightning. The thunderstorms will be followed by winds and low Rh's on Thursday. Normal to above average temperatures to return after Thursday.

Fuel Conditions

Overall fuels are transitioning in the lower elevations. Droughty and abnormally dry conditions now cover the NW corner of Oregon, Western and Northern Washington. Cured fine fuels and duff in exposed to partially exposed areas will support moderate fire growth. Brush in the lower elevations such as the Columbia Gorge and Central Washington are consuming but haven't as yet greatly contributed to fire spread. North aspects and timber stands are still keeping finer fuels at levels that can slow fire spread. Large fuels at low to mid elevations are active contributors to surface fire behavior and burn readily. The 1,000 hr and larger fuels reflect previous and current drought impacts. The ratio of live to dead grasses in the valleys and lower elevations are transitioning to primarily dead. Shrubs are in green up on both the west and east sides. Mid to high elevation brush are still at moderately dry levels that could support occasional torching.

Fire Behavior Potential

Fine fuels left over from last year can support moderate fire spread particularly on exposed aspects. Current green up in perennial and uncured annual fuels currently provides a heat sink that should reduce the fire behavior except in the lower elevations, south slopes, river bottoms and valleys. Increased shading from shrubs and deciduous trees is helping reduce fire behavior in forest cover types. Fire spread in grasses is unlikely on the west side, but is possible in the

east side grasses in the valleys that have exposed south aspects and with sufficient thatch. Activity fuels will burn actively on exposed aspects and generate isolated pockets of torching.

Winds combined with low Rh and high temperatures over the next couple of days may place prescribed burns out of prescription for new ignition considerations. Actively managed prescribed fires in the mop up phase will need close monitoring. The potential for new starts related to lightning, recreation, forestry, and agriculture over the next few days will be higher due to the predicted lightning, above average temperatures and increased winds.



Westside PSAs

Warm and dry conditions through the week will increase fire potential and result in drying of duff and litter in shaded areas. Areas with forest cover type could burn at low to moderate intensity with large quantities of smoke produced. Exposed areas are likely to burn at moderate intensity.

Central PSAs

Warm and dry conditions through the week will increase fire potential and result in drying of duff and litter in shaded areas. Timber fuels at mid to lower elevations may burn at low to moderate intensities. High elevation forest and rangelands are not anticipated to pose problems. Lower elevation rangeland fuels can support low to moderate fire spread even with green-up where dead and down fuels are concentrated. Recent large fires in activity fuels indicate problematic fire behavior will occur due to large activity fuels being receptive. Jackpots of cured fuels near brush and plantations could pose problems. Within the Columbia River Basin the Cheat Grass has cured and due to abundant spring moisture is thicker and heavier than average, winds in excess of 10 mph could pose challenges to control.

Eastside PSAs

Warm and dry conditions will continue to increase fire potential at lower and mid elevation ranges. Open and exposed areas may burn at low to moderate intensities. Areas with dense duff, litter, and dead and down fuels would be the most likely to support moderate fire behavior. The sage, perennials and annuals are still greening up. Southeastern parts of Oregon have received above average precipitation extending the green up season. The forecasted warm trend will impact the PSAs by delaying or ending the green up for the season.

ALWAYS BASE ACTIONS ON CURRENT AND EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR GIVEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN YOUR LOCAL AREA. MAINTAIN SITUATIONAL AWARENESS FOR CHANGING CONDITIONS AS YOU CHANGE LOCATIONS (FUEL, WEATHER, AND TOPOGRAPHY). REMAIN VIGILANT FOR FACTORS THAT ALIGN TO PRODUCE CRITICAL FIRE ENVIRONMENTS (THUNDERSTORMS, FINE FLASHY FUELS, SLOPE...).