

## **Western Interconnection Wildfire Outlook 2024**

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This is a high-level, four-month, spring-summer outlook of the wildfire risk to the bulk power system.

### **Western U.S.**

With a 60% chance of a rapid transition from El Niño to La Niña for the June to August period, higher-than-normal temperatures are expected throughout much of the West. Hotter and drier conditions could result in the wildfire season coming later in the summer and into the fall.

#### ***California***

Significant fire potential is projected to be normal for May and August and generally below normal for June and July with the exception of northeastern California, which has been designated normal. Wildfire activity could see an increase in late August through October as temperatures increase and fire fuel dries out. There is likely to be a larger fire fuel load this year given the excess precipitation in the late winter and spring months combined with the lack of significant fires during the previous season. Due to these factors, near-normal, rather than below-normal, significant fire potential is forecast for August. Lightning is expected to be less problematic this summer with a more subdued North American monsoon season forecast due to a developing La Niña. Drought is also expected to be absent during the next four months with no areas of drought across Southern California. There is more forecast uncertainty for August given the latest temperature and precipitation forecast.

#### ***Pacific Northwest***

For the Northwest Geographic Area, significant fire potential is expected to remain normal for May and June, but above-normal potential is expected for far southeastern Oregon and northwestern Washington in July and August. These areas saw 10% to 50% of normal precipitation over the winter and early spring.

#### ***Northern Rockies***

Significant wildland fire potential is expected to be normal in the Northern Rockies Geographic Area for May through August. This includes Montana and Idaho, where conditions have been relatively dry receiving less than 40% of normal spring precipitation in some parts. Severe drought conditions have been observed in most of the higher terrain of western Montana and northern Idaho leading to drier fuel conditions in these areas.

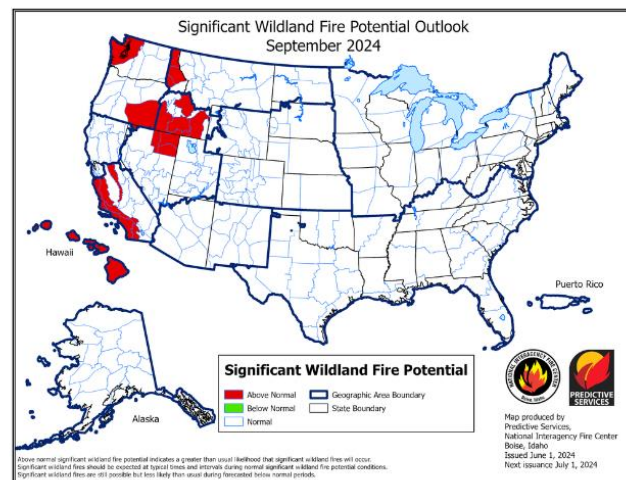
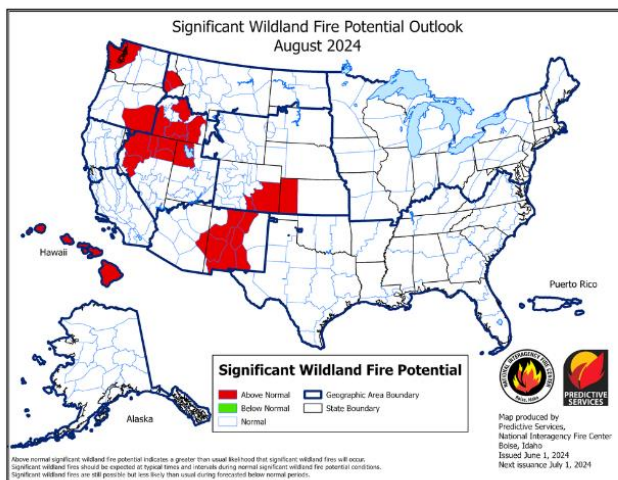
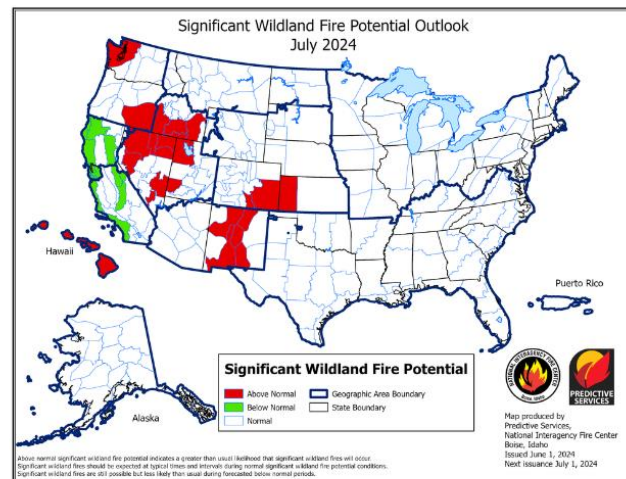
## Rocky Mountain

Significant wildland fire potential in the Rocky Mountain area will be normal from May through June. With increasing dryness going into July and August, along with above-normal temperatures, significant fire potential will be normal but may trend toward above normal.

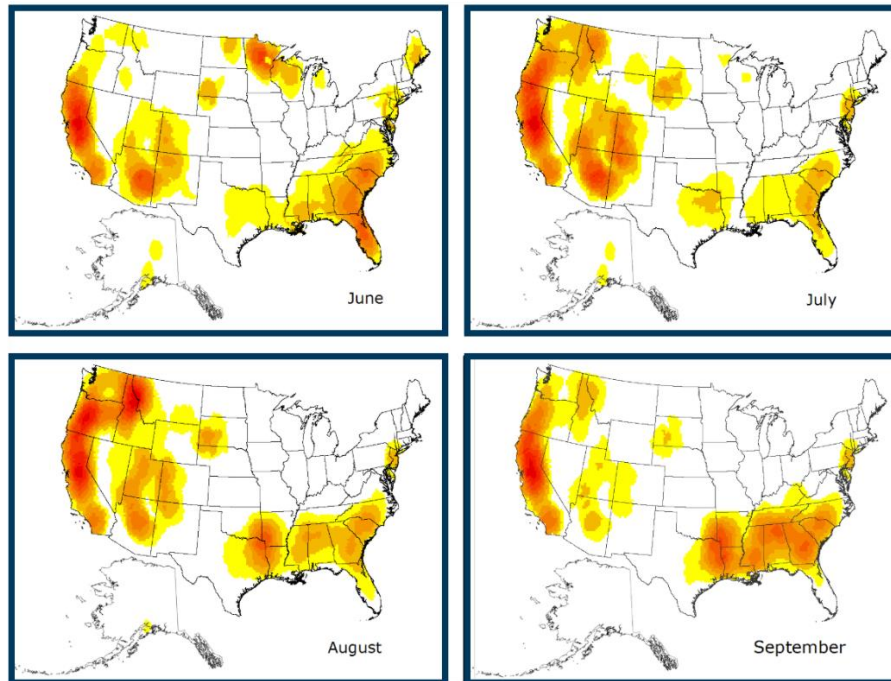
## Desert Southwest

While normal significant fire potential is expected for many areas of the region from May through August, some areas of above-normal significant fire potential are expected across parts of the New Mexico central mountains and across southeastern Arizona in May. Areas of above-normal significant fire potential are likely to continue through August. As summer arrives, generally warmer-than-normal temperatures for much of the region are expected, especially across the eastern half of the area. Hotter- and drier-than-normal conditions are likely to linger through July and August, especially east of the New Mexico central mountains.

## Four-month Significant Wildland U.S. Fire Potential Outlook



### ***Area Temperature Forecasts June-September***



*NIFC Map—Normal fire season progression across the contiguous U.S. and Alaska shown by monthly fire density (number of fires per unit area). Fire size and fire severity cannot be inferred from this analysis. (Based on 1999-2010 FPA Data)*

### ***British Columbia, Alberta Spring - Summer 2024 outlook***

The current long-range forecasts suggest a high potential for an active spring wildfire season in British Columbia and Alberta. Once fuels and forests are snow-free, elevated fire activity is anticipated this spring. A spring wildfire season is common in both provinces. Alberta declared its fire season 10 days earlier than usual (March 1) due to low snowpacks and forecasts of dry weather for the spring and summer.

### ***Wildfire sources of information and reports***

[National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook \(nifc.gov\)](https://www.nifc.gov/)

[California ISO - RC West \(caiso.com\)](https://www.caiso.com/)—RC West Summer Readiness—May 15, 2024

[Spring 2024 Seasonal Outlook – BC Wildfire Service \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/wildfire/)