

# Summer Wildfire Outlook

Nick Nauslar

Predictive Services

National Interagency Fire/Coordination Centers

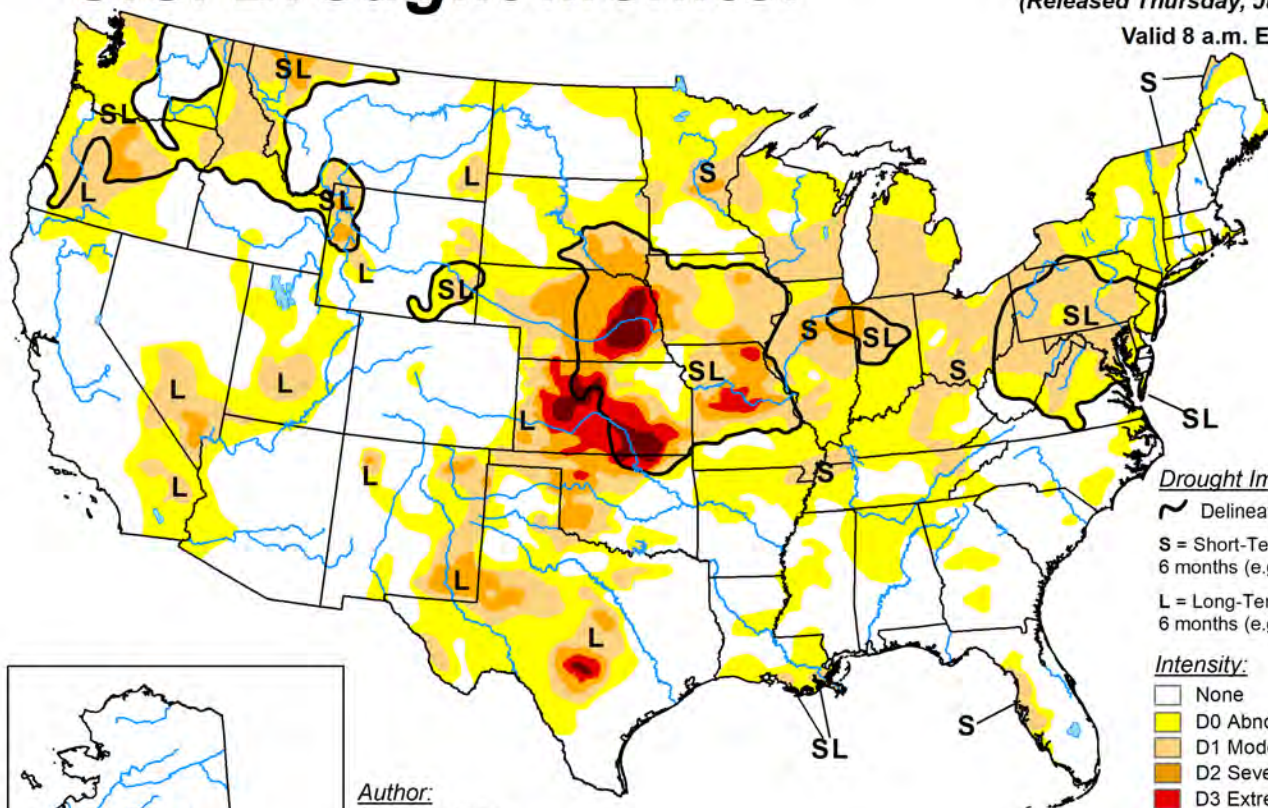
Boise, Idaho

# U.S. Drought Monitor

June 13, 2023

(Released Thursday, Jun. 15, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Impact Types:

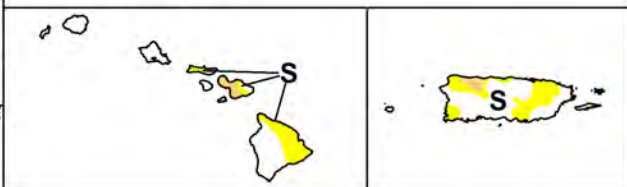
- ☒ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

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



Author:  
Adam Hartman  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

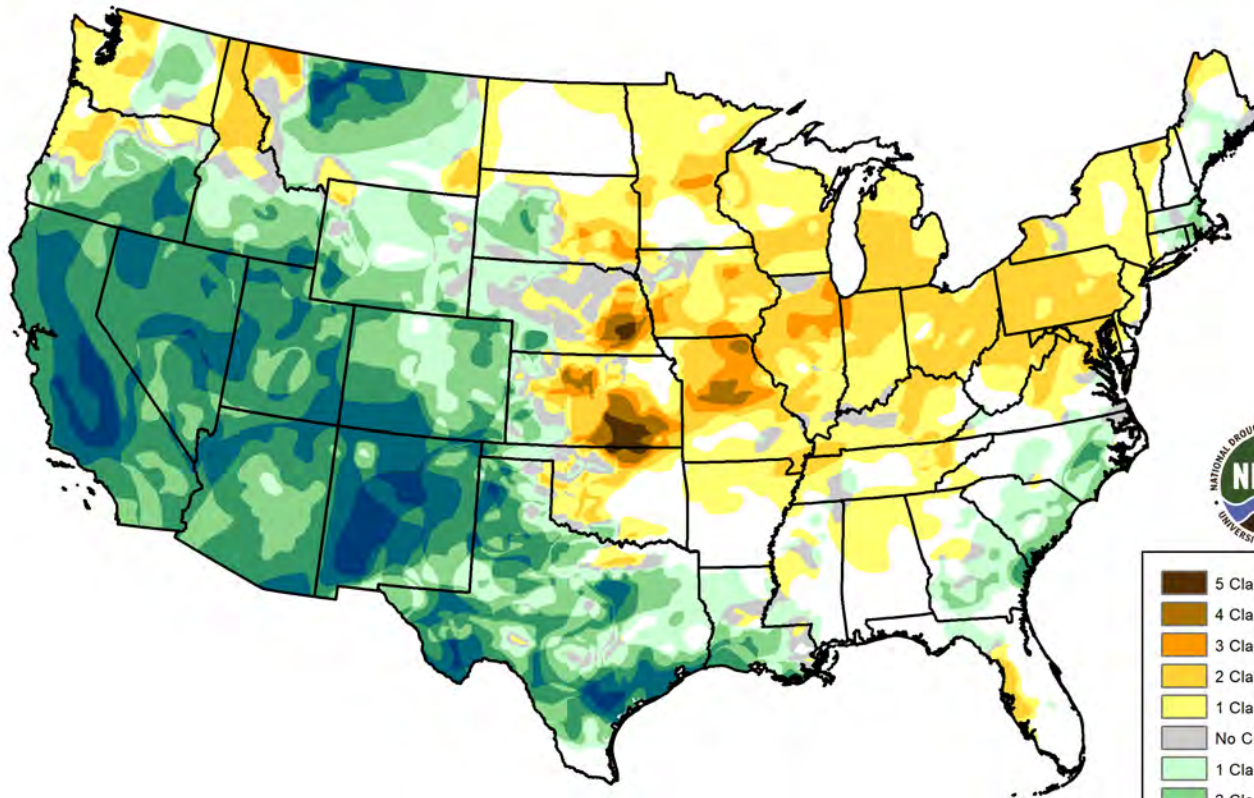


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



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

# U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - CONUS 52 Week



June 13, 2023  
compared to  
June 14, 2022

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

- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

# U.S. Drought Monitor Idaho

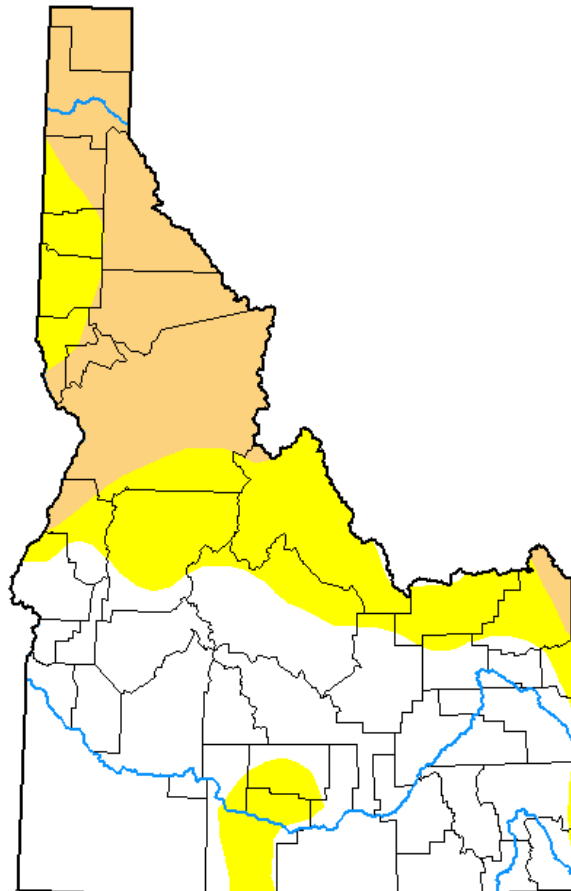
**June 13, 2023**

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Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

|  | None  | D0-D4  | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4   |
|--|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| <b>Current</b>                                     | 53.84 | 46.16  | 21.57 | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| <b>Last Week</b><br><i>06-06-2023</i>              | 53.81 | 46.19  | 21.61 | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| <b>3 Months Ago</b><br><i>03-14-2023</i>           | 2.27  | 97.73  | 76.29 | 12.13 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| <b>Start of Calendar Year</b><br><i>01-03-2023</i> | 2.28  | 97.72  | 71.70 | 21.85 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| <b>Start of Water Year</b><br><i>09-27-2022</i>    | 0.00  | 100.00 | 89.53 | 16.68 | 3.10  | 0.00 |
| <b>One Year Ago</b><br><i>06-14-2022</i>           | 28.26 | 71.74  | 48.25 | 16.97 | 3.41  | 0.00 |



Intensity:

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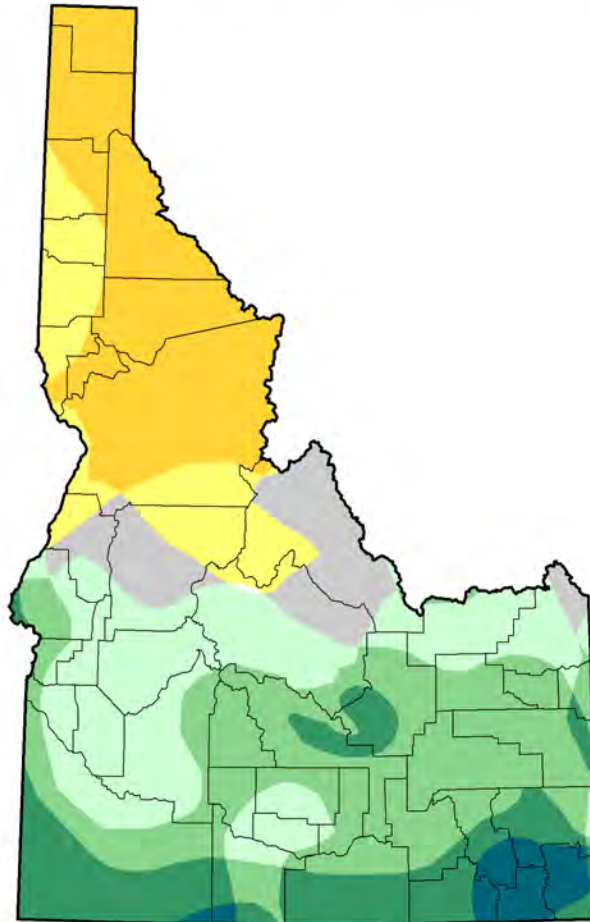
Adam Hartman  
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# U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Idaho

52 Week



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- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

# Fuel Loading in Idaho Rangelands

- Above normal fuel loading for southern Idaho
  - Still waiting on sampling due to recent wet weather
- Still needs time to dry out given recent wet weather
  - Have seen recent large grass fires in Columbia Basin but they are ahead of Idaho
- Anticipating more fire potential/activity in July – August due to the fuel loading and likely curing of these fuels

# Rapid Snowmelt in Northern Portions of the West

- Rapid snowmelt since late April, faster than normal
- Record to near record low snow water equivalent and snowpack values for this time of year

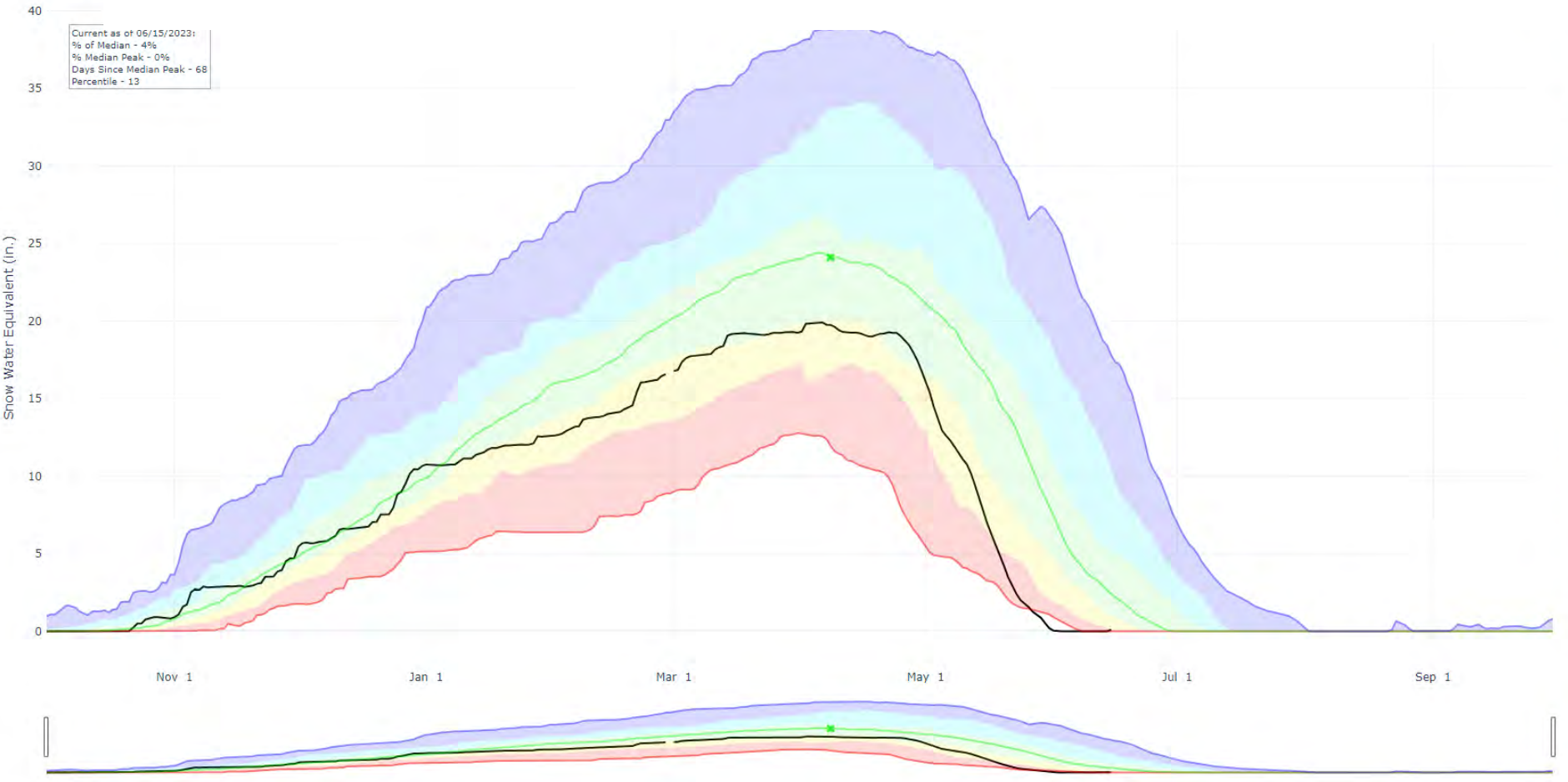


# Snow Water Equivalent for Kootenai

SI  
KC

Reset Ra

Current as of 06/15/2023:  
 % of Median - 4%  
 % Median Peak - 0%  
 Days Since Median Peak - 68  
 Percentile - 13



- List
- Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2023 (10 sites)
- 2022 (10 sites)
- 2021 (10 sites)
- 2020 (10 sites)
- 2019 (10 sites)
- 2018 (10 sites)
- 2017 (10 sites)
- 2016 (10 sites)
- 2015 (10 sites)
- 2014 (10 sites)
- 2013 (10 sites)
- 2012 (10 sites)
- 2011 (10 sites)
- 2010 (10 sites)
- 2009 (10 sites)
- 2008 (10 sites)
- 2007 (10 sites)
- 2006 (10 sites)
- 2005 (10 sites)
- 2004 (10 sites)
- 2003 (9 sites)
- 2002 (9 sites)
- 2001 (9 sites)
- 2000 (8 sites)
- 1999 (8 sites)
- 1998 (7 sites)
- 1997 (7 sites)
- 1996 (7 sites)
- 1995 (7 sites)
- 1994 (7 sites)
- 1993 (7 sites)
- 1992 (7 sites)

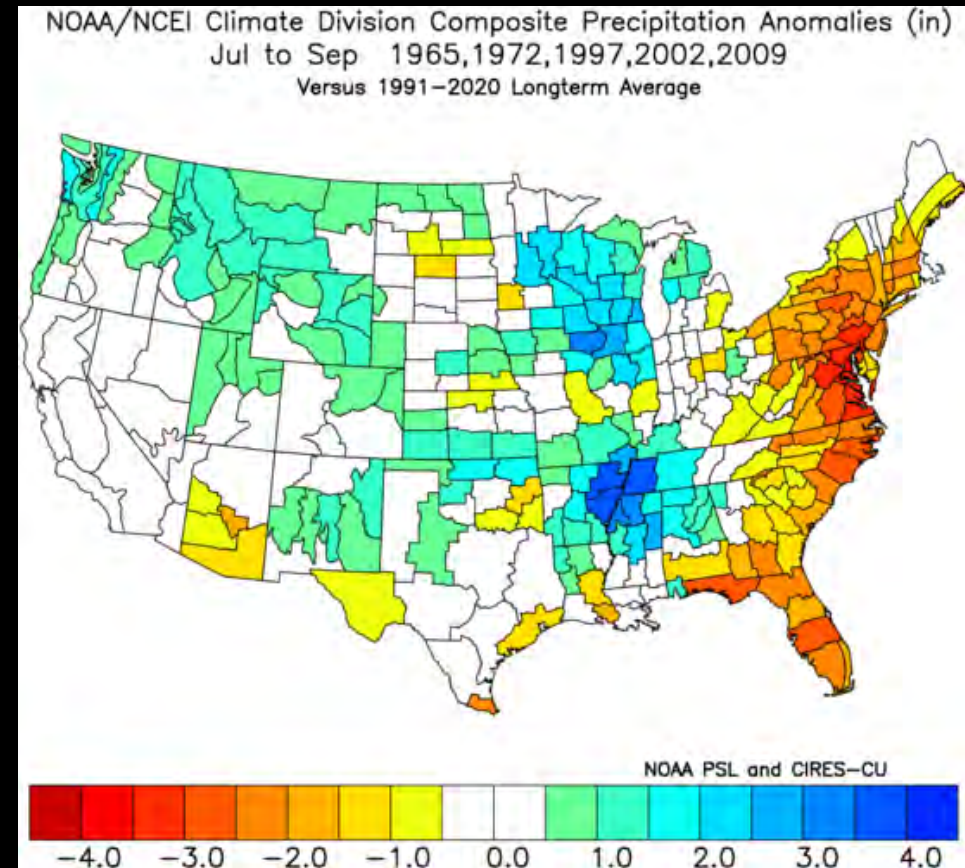
Statistical shading breaks at 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th Percentiles  
 For more information visit: [30-Year Hydroclimatic Normals](#)





# El Niño is here

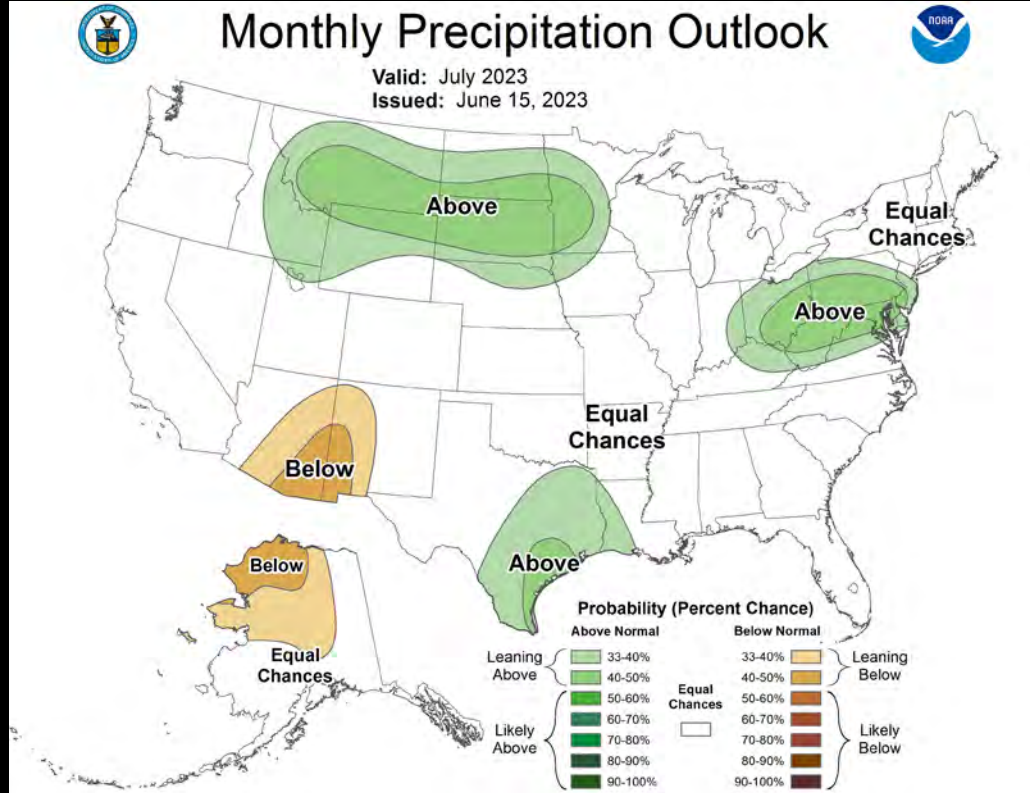
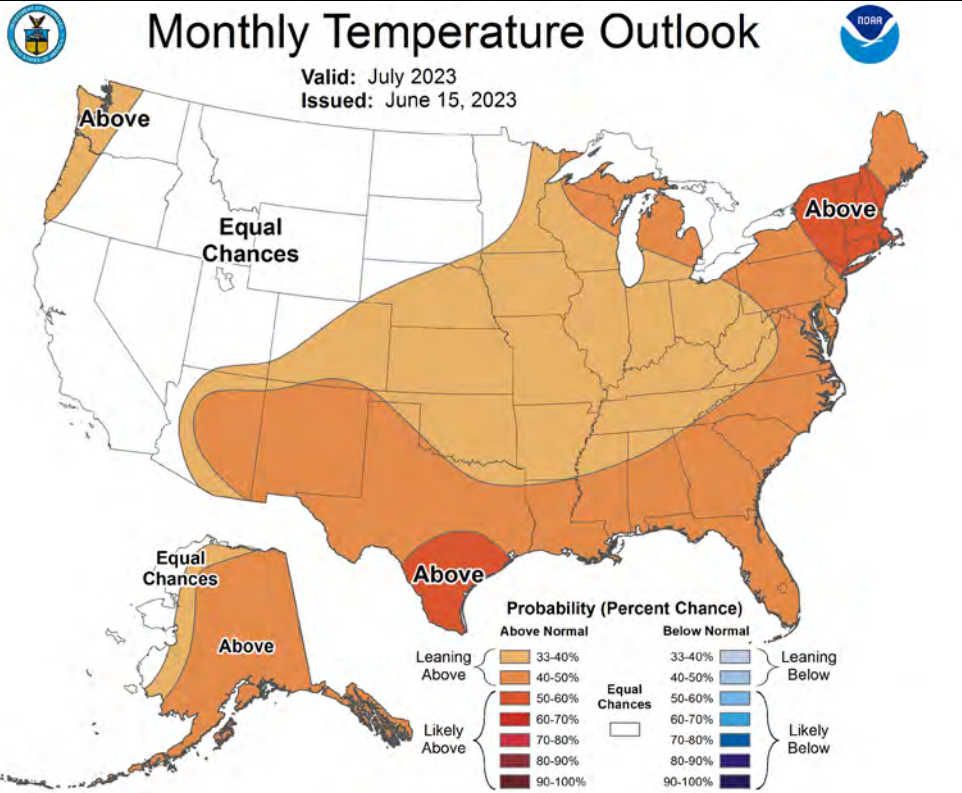
- Just had a 3-year “triple-dip” La Niña
- In a El Niño Advisory and composite of five similar previous years for rainfall
- 95% chance of El Niño continuing through winter



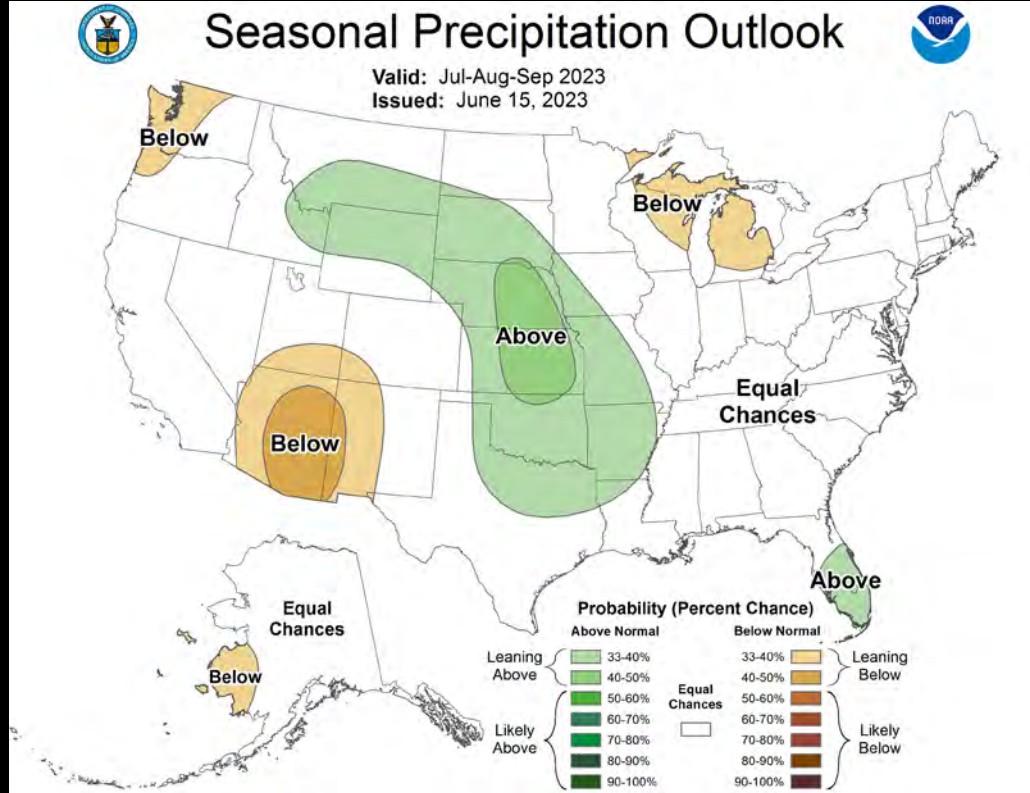
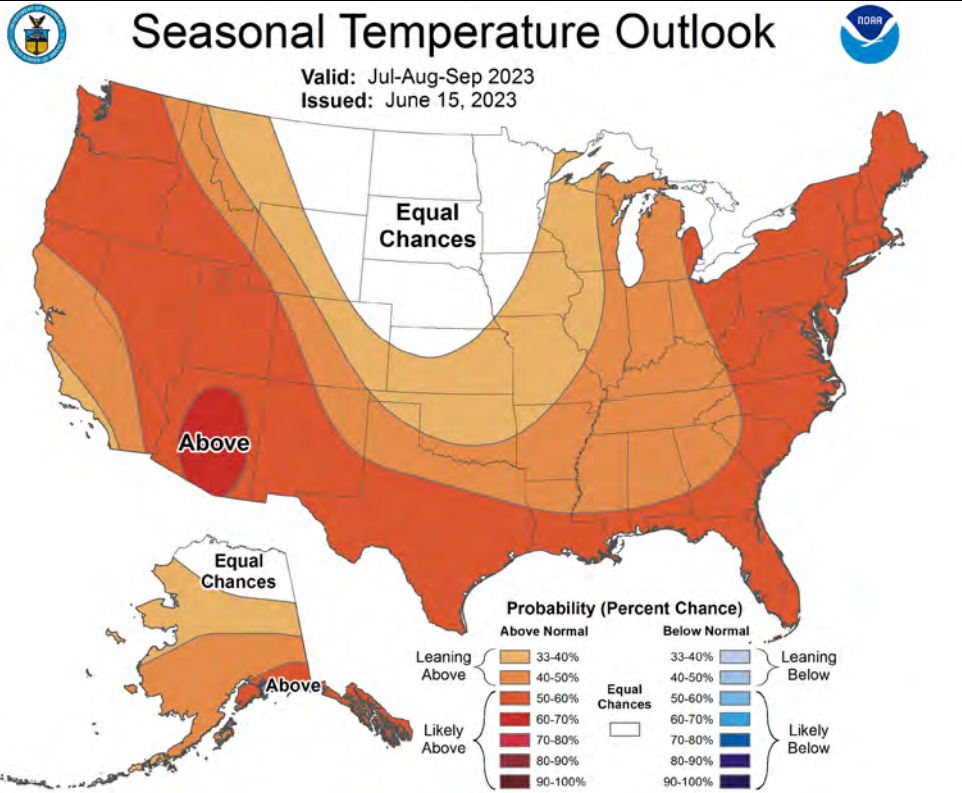
# Monthly/Seasonal Outlooks: How the sausage is made

- Current conditions
  - Snowpack & recent precipitation
  - Drought & soil moisture
  - Fuel loading, phenology (cured, greening, leaf on/off, etc), & moisture content
- Weather and Climate Outlooks
  - Work with Climate Prediction Center and in-house expertise
  - Global circulations (e.g., ENSO)
- Fire season timing/climatology
- Blend together to anticipate above/below normal significant fire potential

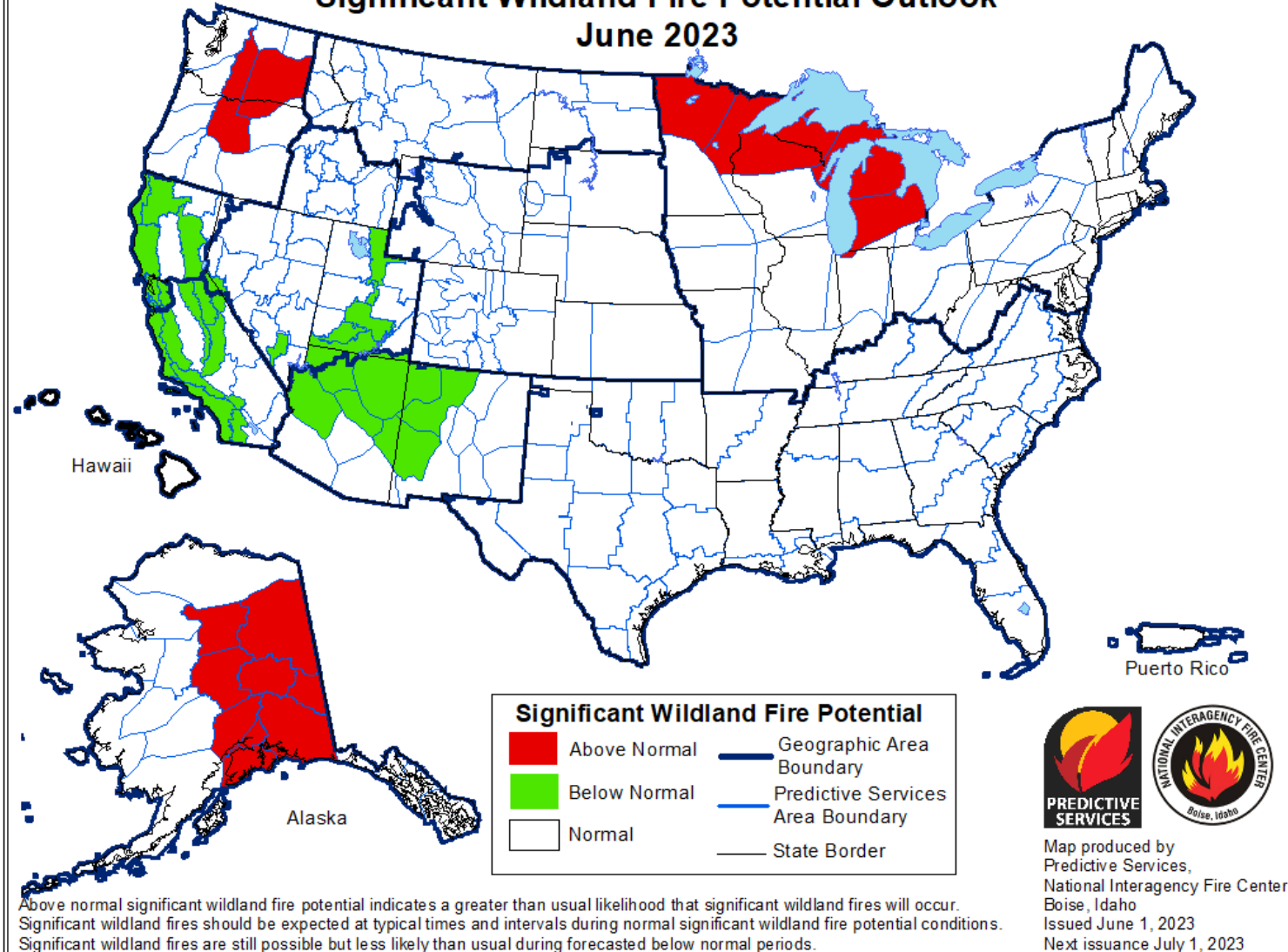
# Climate Prediction Center (CPC) July Outlook



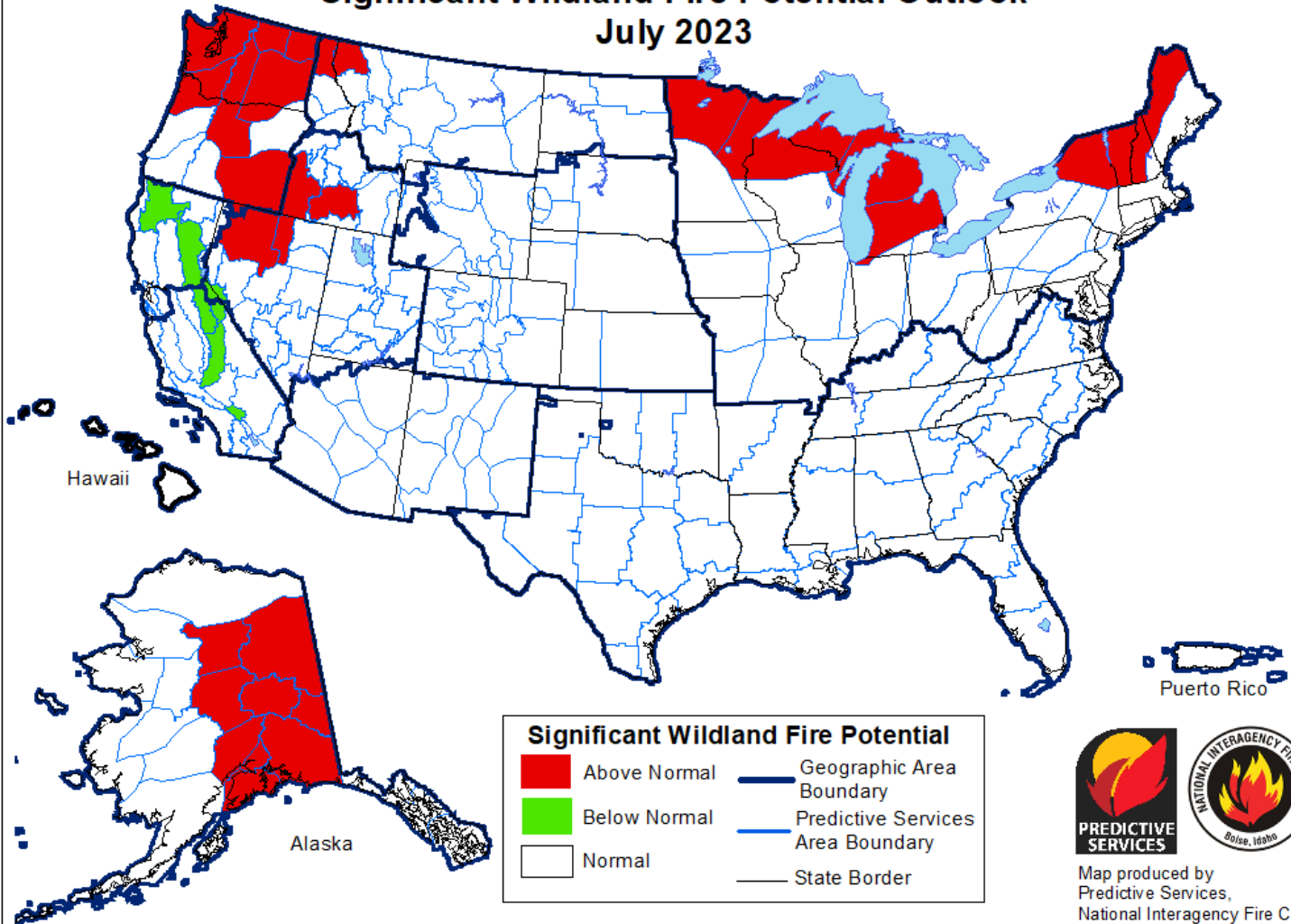
# CPC July – September Outlook



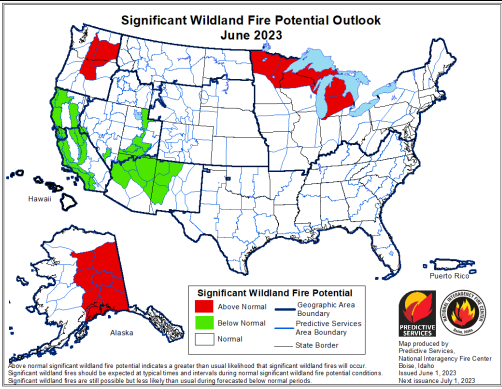
## Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook June 2023



# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook July 2023



## June



**Significant Wildland Fire Potential**

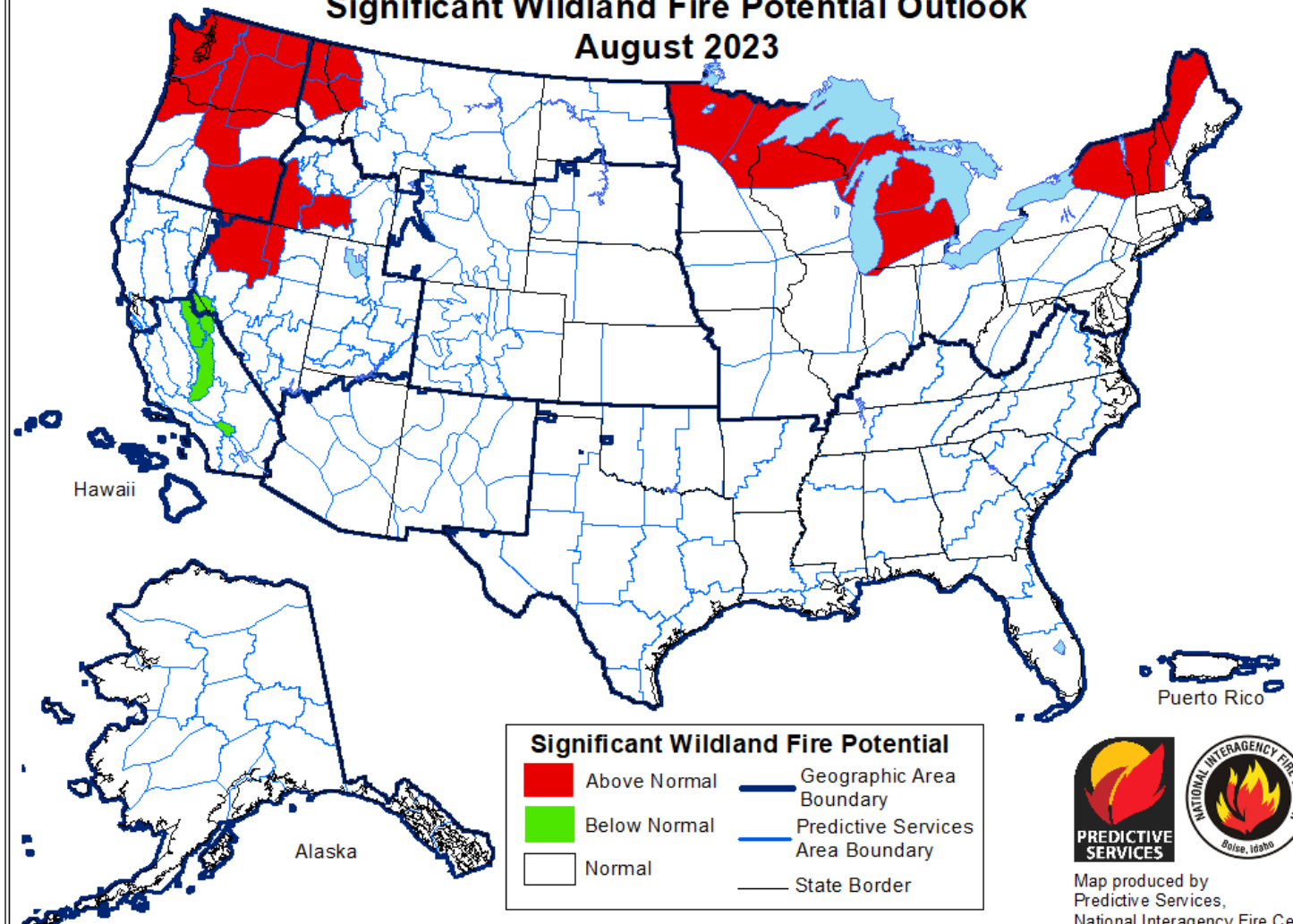
|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <span style="color: red;">■</span> Above Normal                                 | Geographic Area Boundary          |
| <span style="color: green;">■</span> Below Normal                               | Predictive Services Area Boundary |
| <span style="background-color: white; border: 1px solid black;">□</span> Normal | State Border                      |

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.



Map produced by  
Predictive Services,  
National Interagency Fire Center  
Boise, Idaho  
Issued June 1, 2023  
Next issuance July 1, 2023

## Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook August 2023



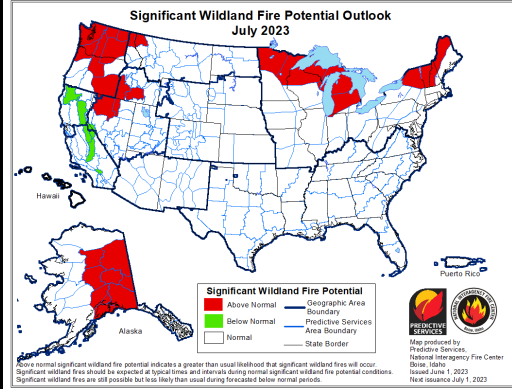
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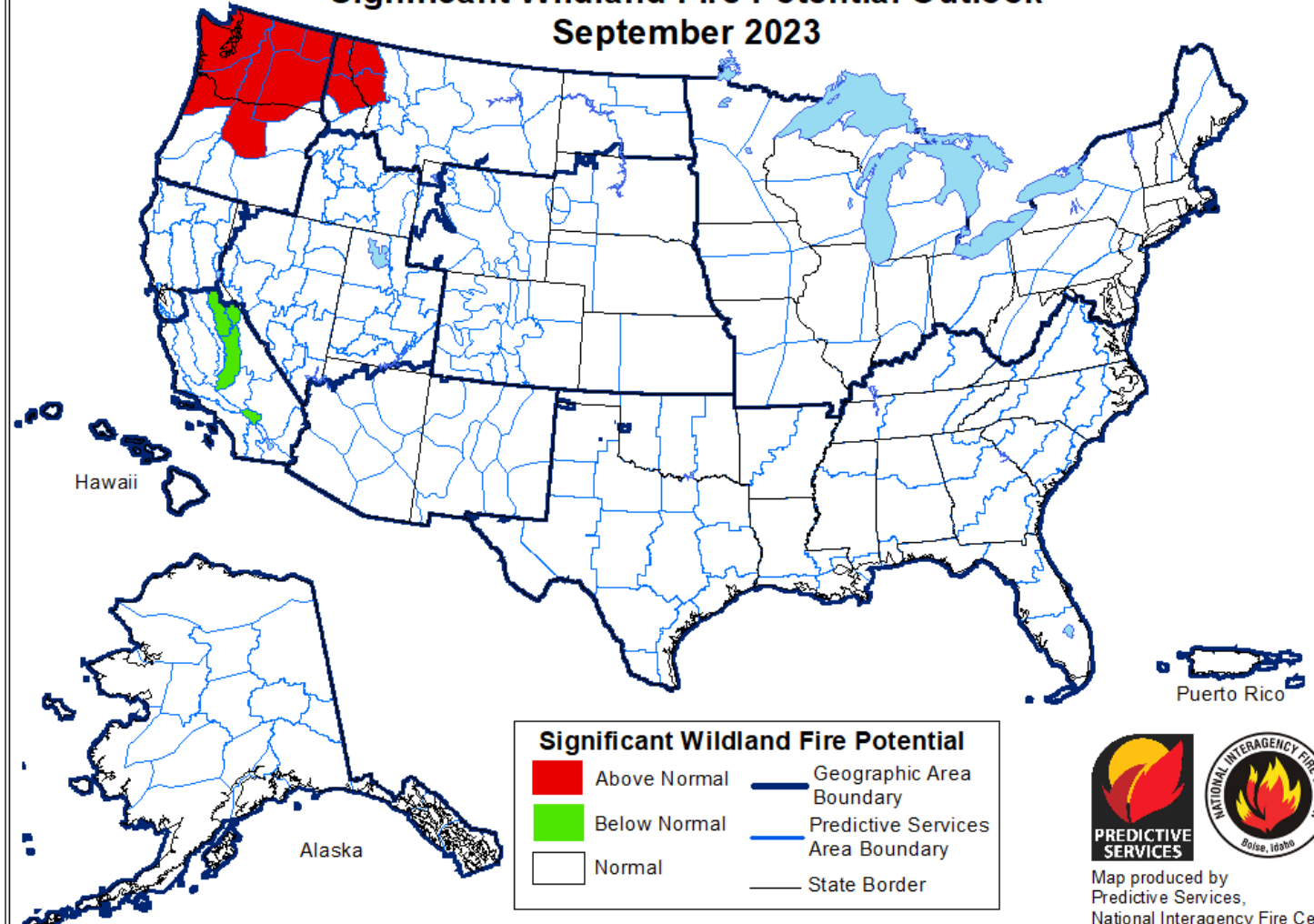
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## July

### Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook July 2023



## Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook September 2023

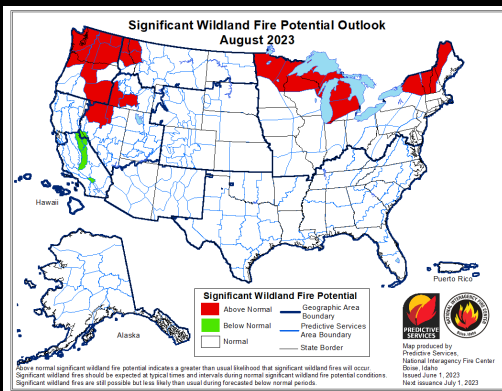


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## August





# Summary

- Rangelands in southwest Idaho forecast to have above normal significant fire potential July – August
  - Above normal grass fuel loading is the main reason
- North Idaho forecast to have above normal potential July – September
  - Rapid snowmelt and drought
- Even near normal fire potential means large fires can/will happen