

Predictive Fire Danger Data

Nathan Fogg, Director

Arapahoe County Office of Emergency Management



Colorado Revised Statutes require a finding of high fire danger based on competent scientific evidence

Sources

National Weather Service

National Interagency Fire Center's (NIFC) Predictive Services unit

Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory

Local 10-Hour Fuel Observations



May to July Precipitation

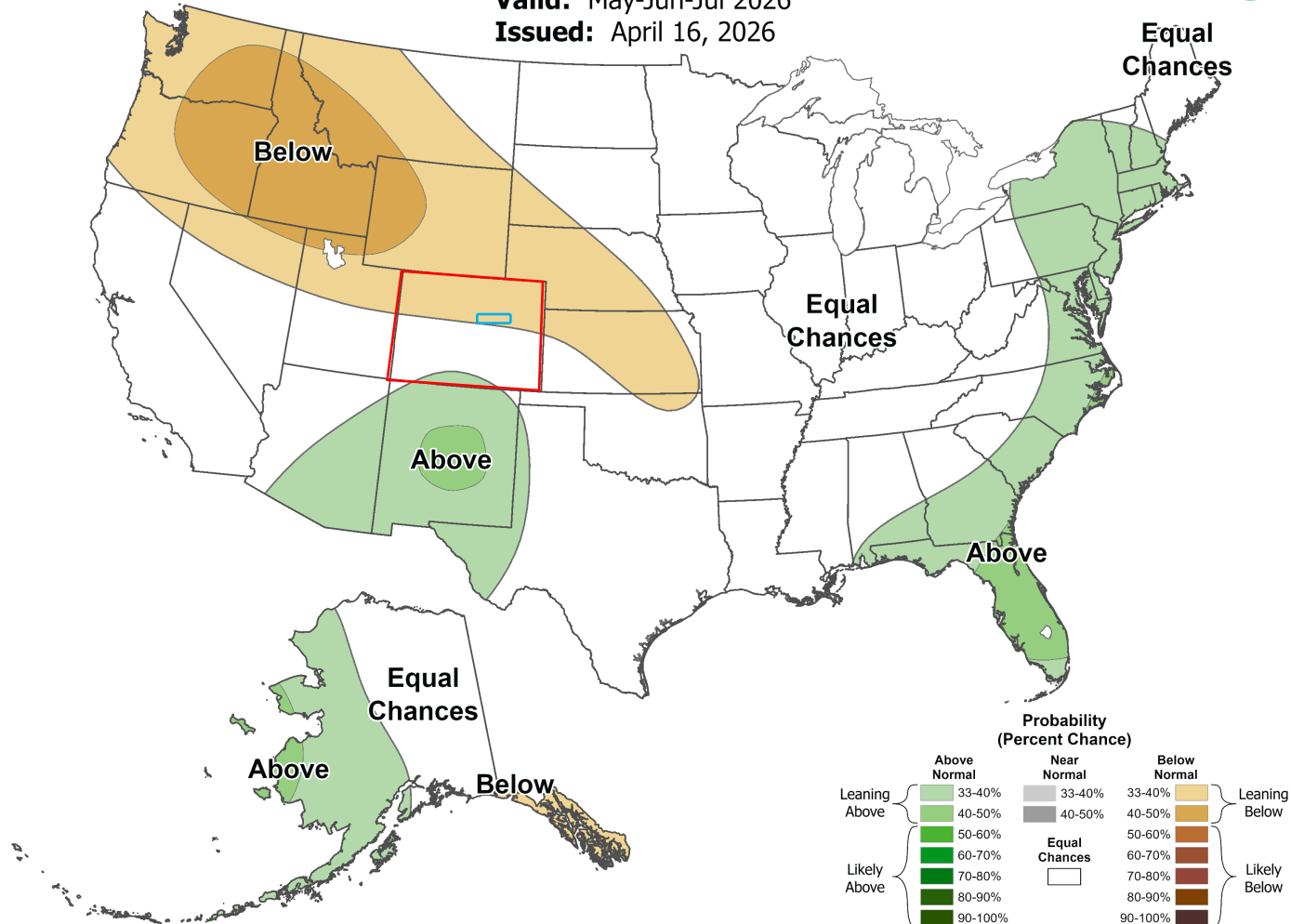


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



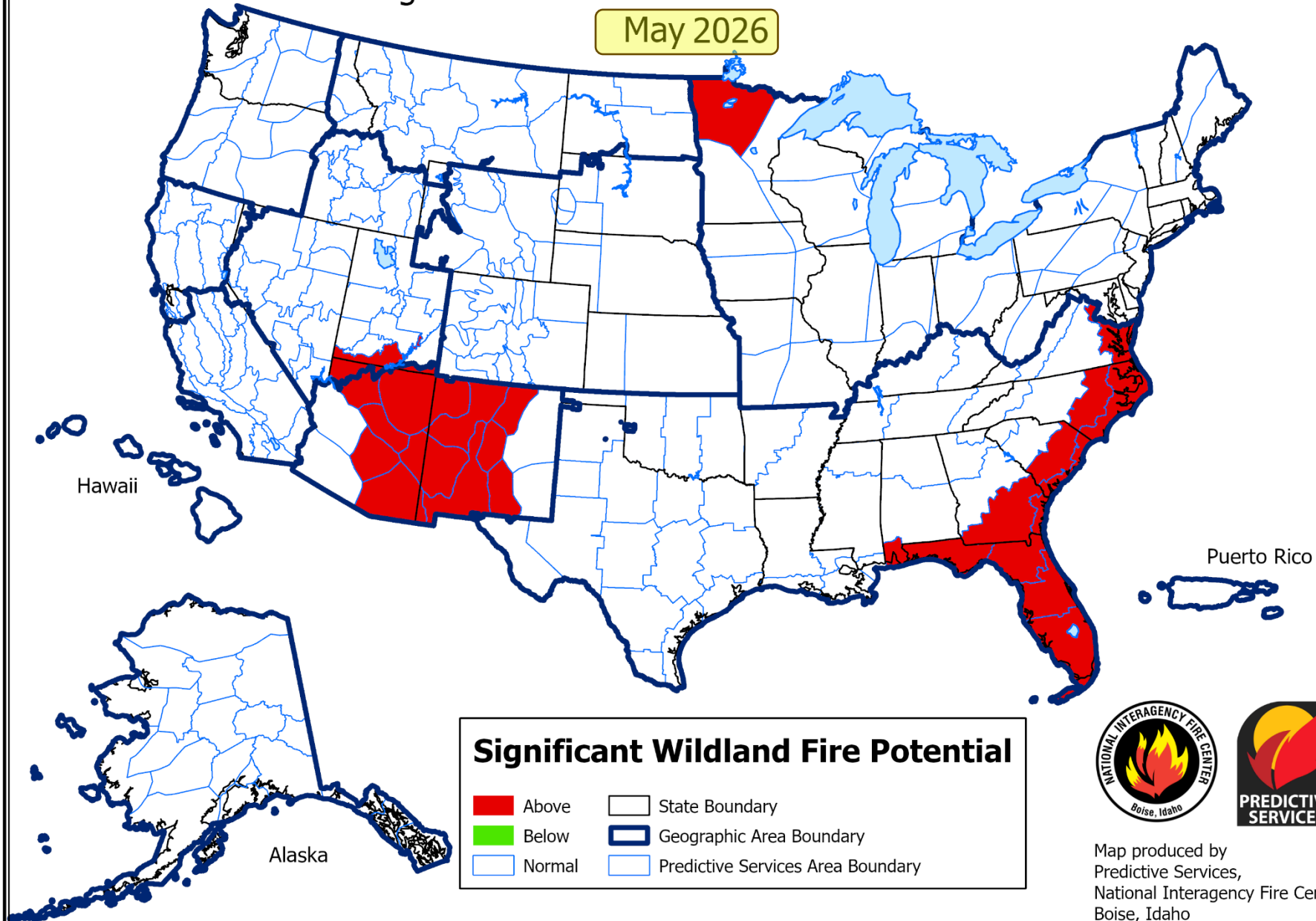
Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026

Issued: April 16, 2026



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

May 2026

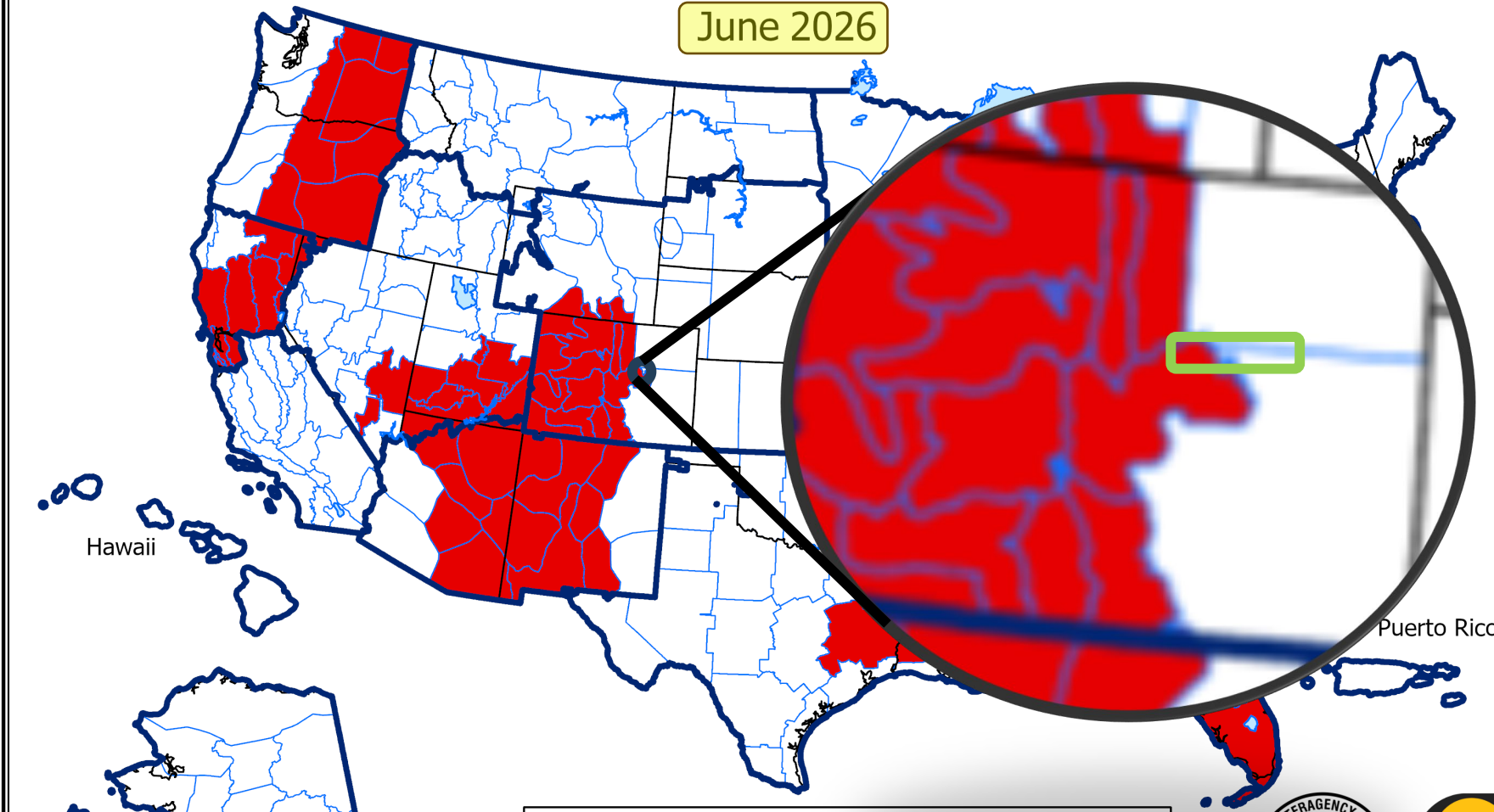


Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued: May 1, 2026
Next Issue: June 1, 2026







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.

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

June 2026



Significant Wildland Fire Potential

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Above |  State Boundary |
|  Below |  Geographic Area Boundary |
|  Normal |  Predictive Services Area Boundary |



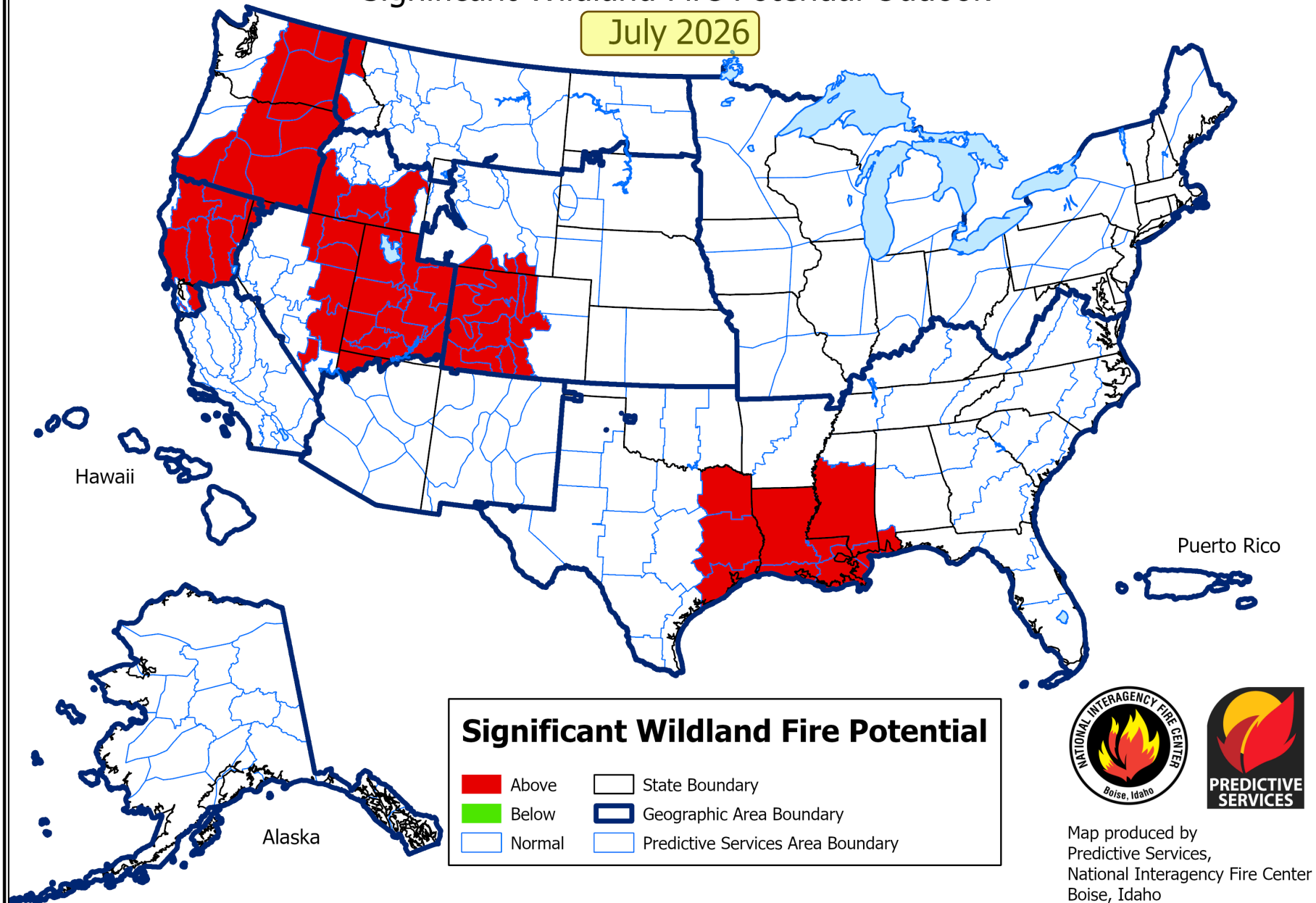
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Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

July 2026



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Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued: April 1, 2026
Next Issue: May 1, 2026

Map released: Thurs. June 4, 2026

Data valid: June 2, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

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

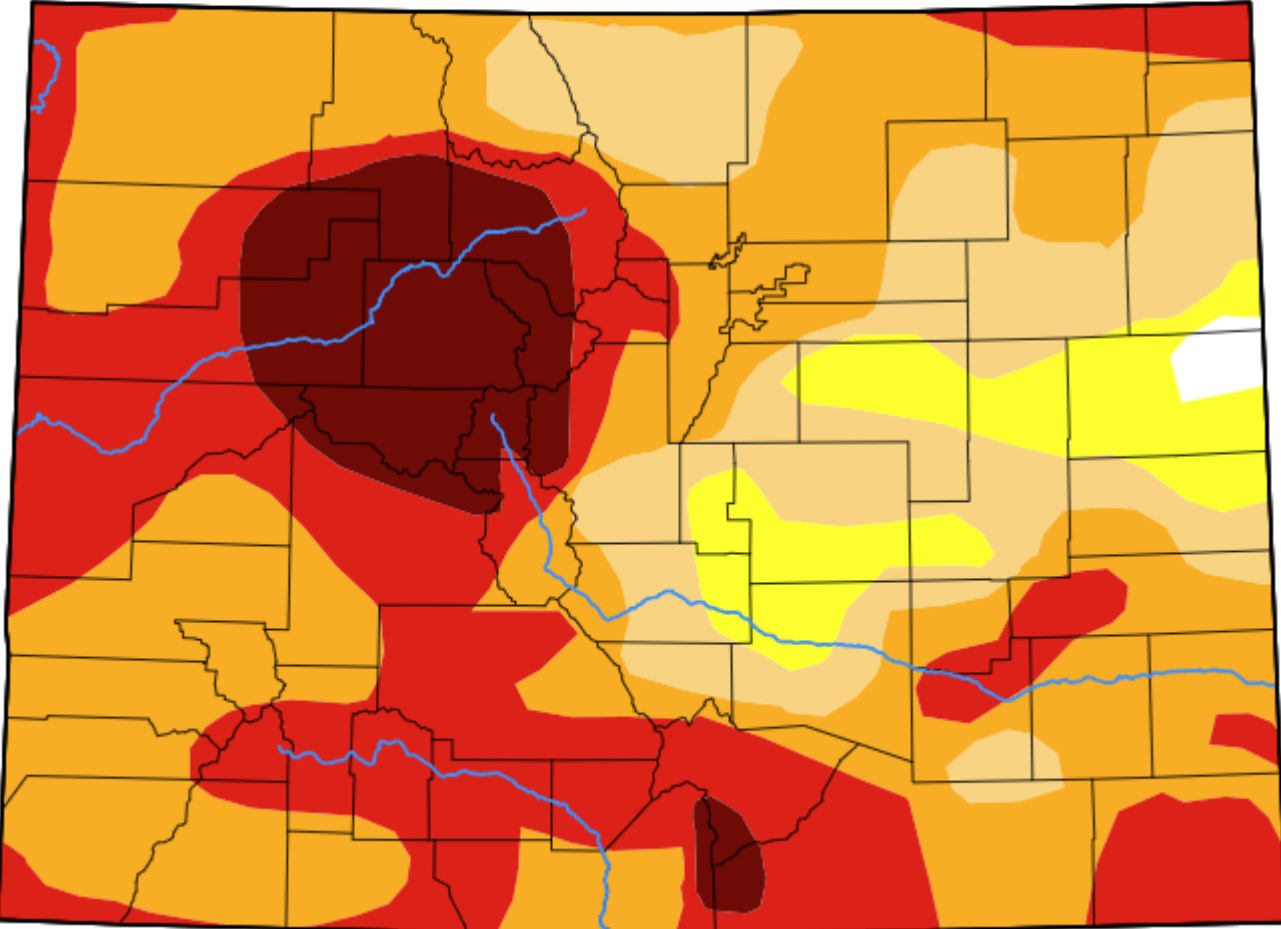
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Adam Allgood](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

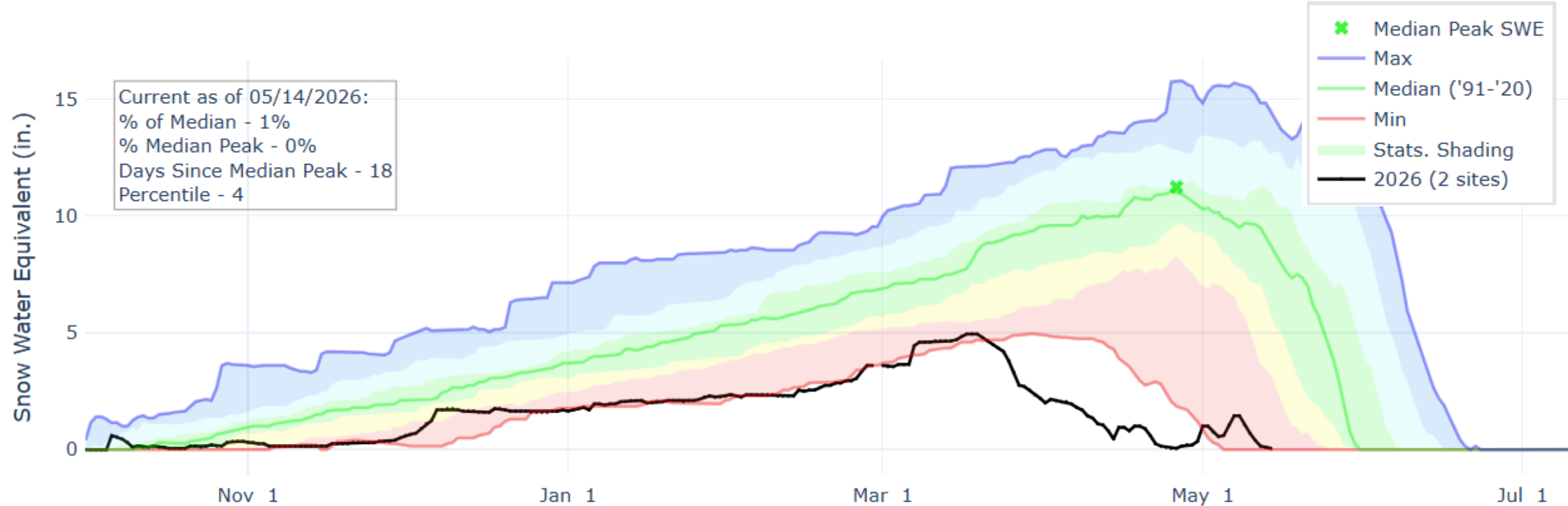
Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Lindsay Johnson](#), National Drought Mitigation Center



Earliest & Worst SWE in South Platte Basin

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER SOUTH PLATTE



Local Fuel Moistures

Dead Fuel Moisture

Dead fuel moisture scenarios from Scott and Burgan, [2005](#):

Dead fuel moisture scenarios by size class.

Size Class	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High
1 hr.	3	6	9	12
10 hr.	4	7	10	13
100 hr.	5	8	11	14



Fuel Moistures Support Fire Danger

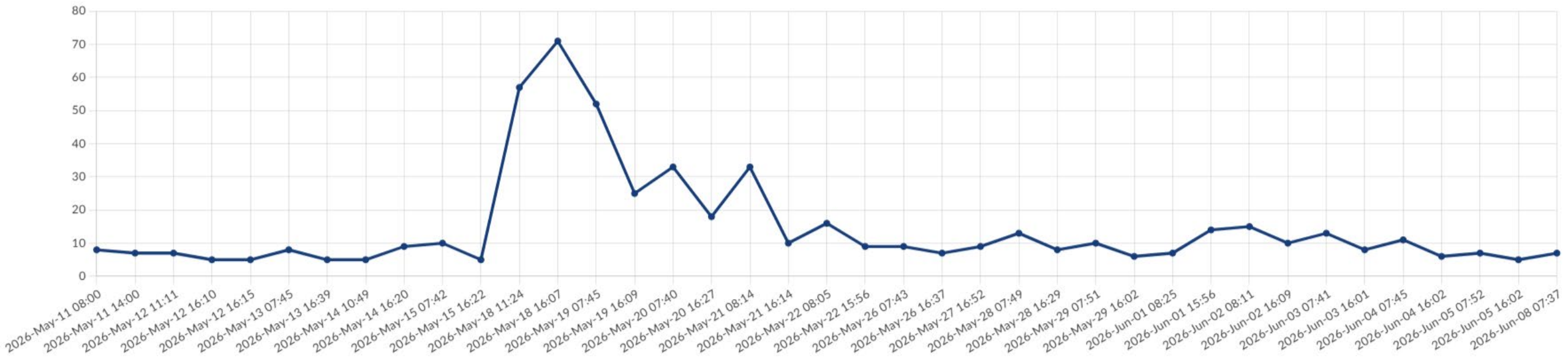
Scott and Burgan (2005) define 10-hr dead fuel moisture thresholds such that “Very Low” moisture is approximately 4 % and “Low” moisture is around 7 %.

In the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), when 10-hr fuel moisture drops into these “Low” or “Very Low” ranges, the NFDRS fire danger rating typically escalates to “High” or above, reflecting significantly elevated fire potential.

Such conditions indicate that fine dead fuels are sufficiently dry to support rapid ignition and fire spread, warranting heightened fire management attention.



Avg ACSO HQ Fuel Moisture (percent)



In Summary

- Fire Danger has been trending high
- More Red Flag days to date than all of 2025
- Brief periods of moisture
- Expected continued high fire danger
- Long term conditions will worsen, increasing fire danger to high, very high, and extreme
- Resolution finding high fire danger will restrict the use of fireworks in the unincorporated County unless conditions improve

