

A large red circular graphic on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Fire
Season in
Arapahoe
County

Briefing for Board of County Commissioners

OEM & ACSO Overview

**Purpose &
Request**

Information-only briefing

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graph TD; A[Information-only briefing] --> B[No fiscal action requested today]; B --> C[FDRS, WICC, and operational posture overview];
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No fiscal action requested
today

FDRS, WICC, and operational
posture overview



2026 Fire- Season Outlook

Drought, heat, and
wind: high-risk setup

Potential El Niño-
driven flooding on
burn scars

Conditions similar to
2012



Current Conditions

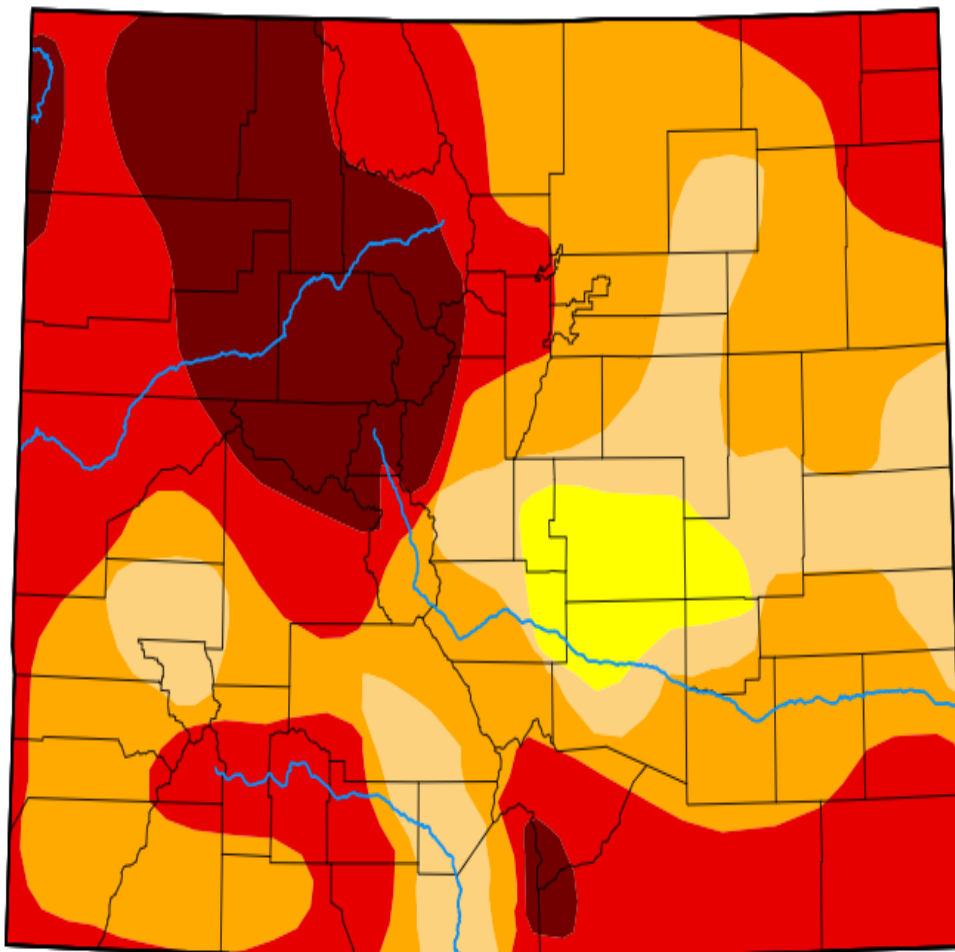
Colorado

Map released: Thurs. May 14, 2026

Data valid: May 12, 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):

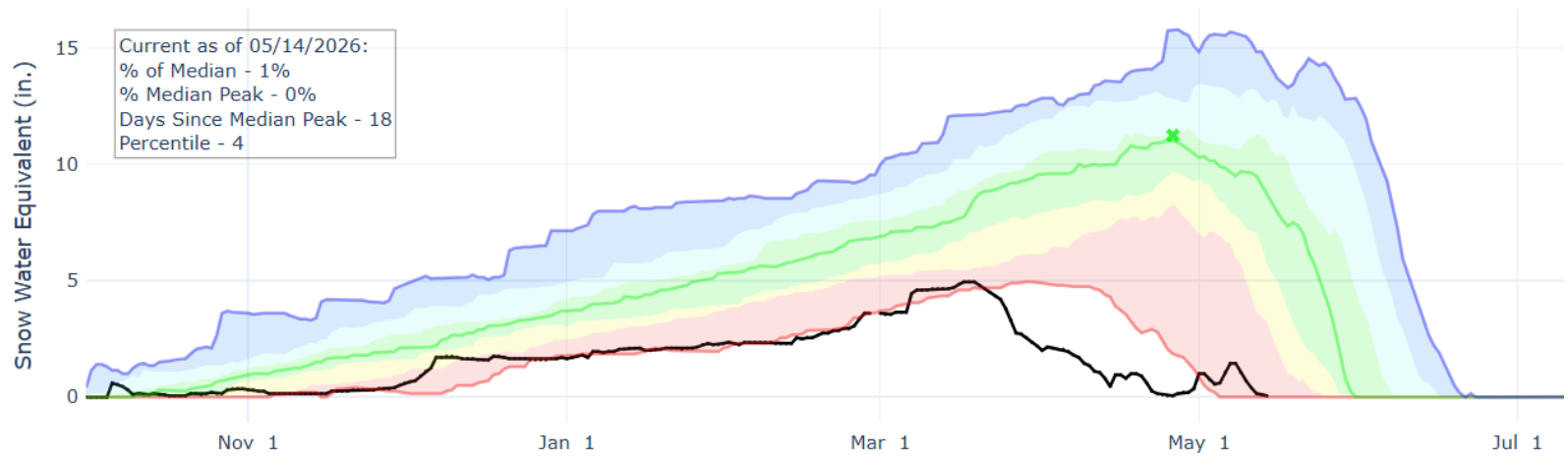
[Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Tsegaye Tadesse](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

Snow Water Equivalent

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER SOUTH PLATTE



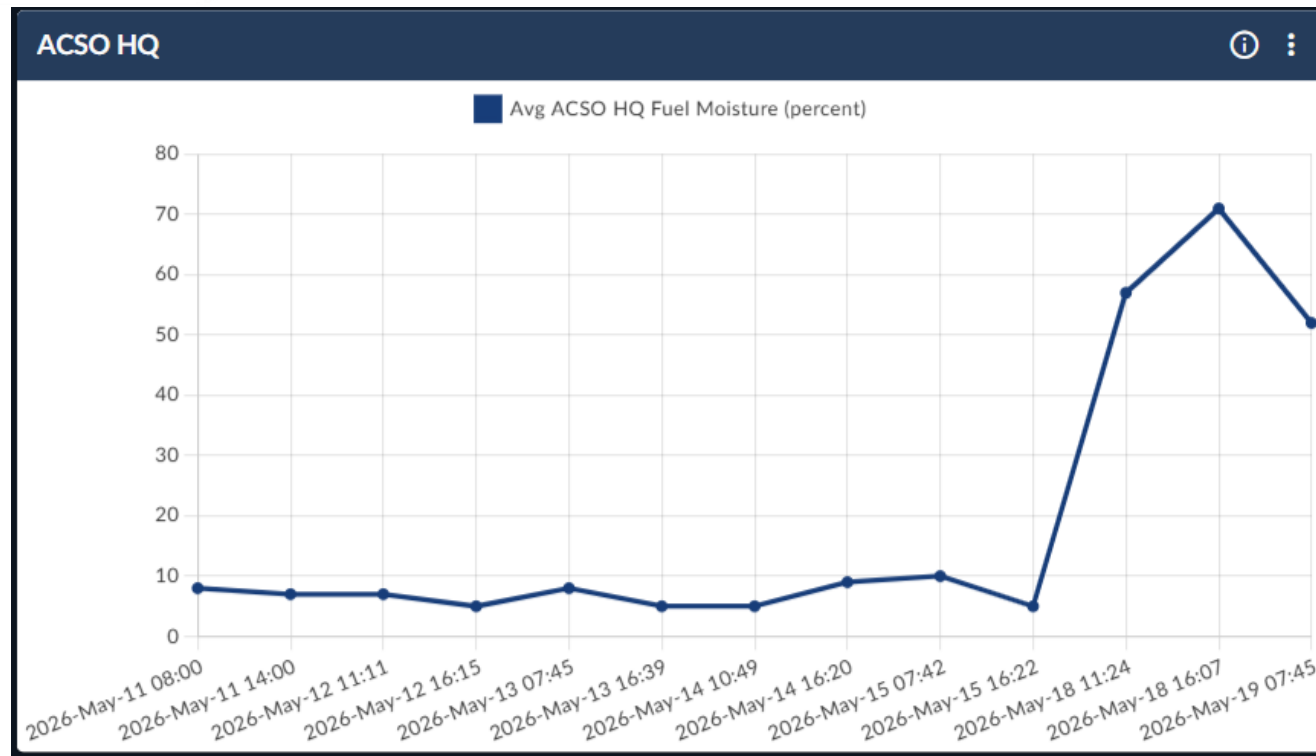
10 Hour Fuels

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

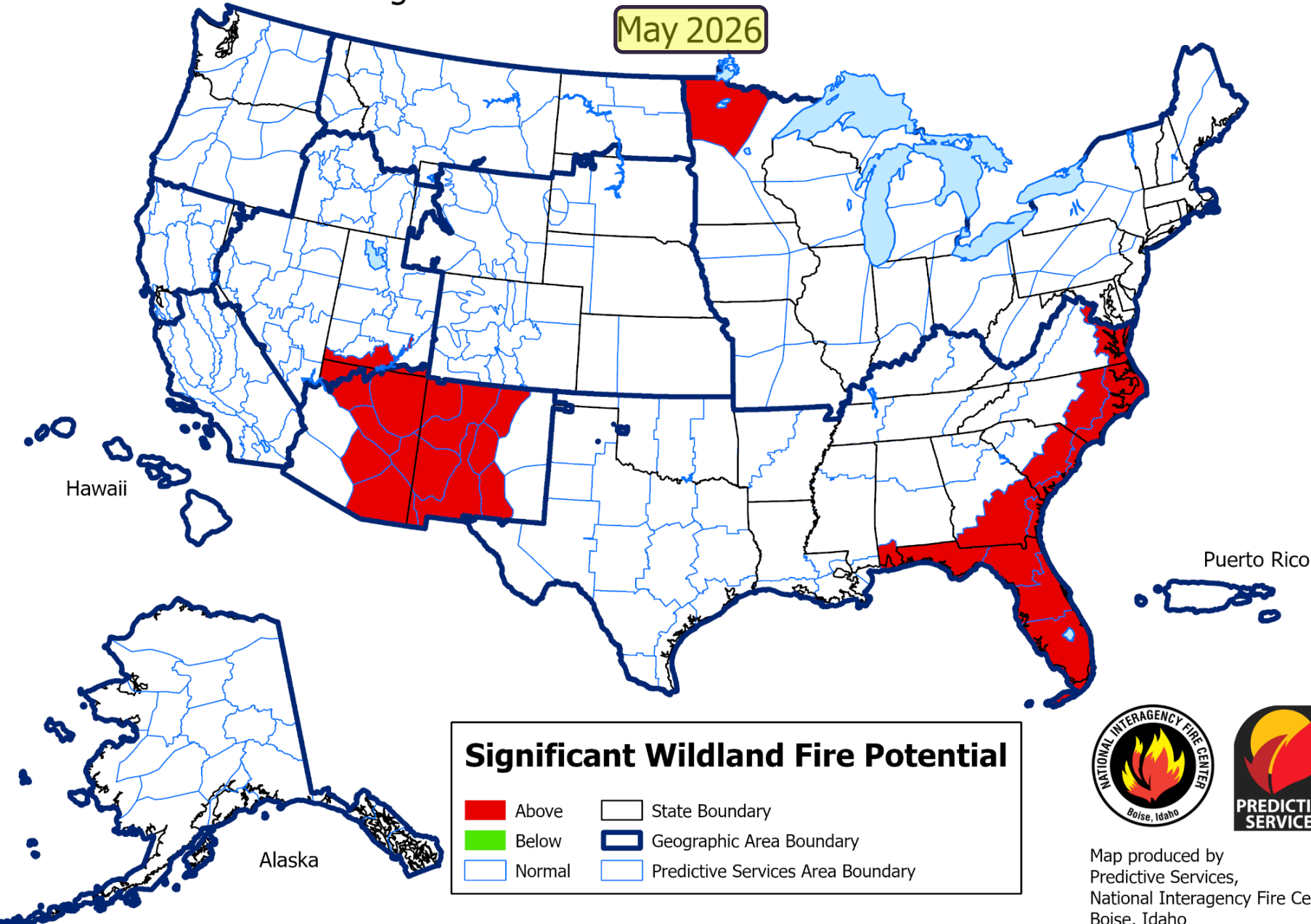


Fire Danger Conditions







2026-05-14	VERY HIGH	●
2026-05-14	HIGH	●
2026-05-15	VERY HIGH	●
2026-05-15	VERY HIGH	●
2026-05-16	VERY HIGH	●
2026-05-16	HIGH	●
2026-05-17	MODERATE	●
2026-05-17	MODERATE	●
2026-05-18	LOW	●
2026-05-18	LOW	●
2026-05-19	MODERATE	●
2026-05-19	LOW	●
2026-05-20	LOW	●
2026-05-20	LOW	●
2026-05-21	HIGH	●
2026-05-21	MODERATE	●
2026-05-22	HIGH	●
2026-05-22	MODERATE	●
2026-05-23	HIGH	●
2026-05-23	MODERATE	●
2026-05-24	HIGH	●
2026-05-24	MODERATE	●
2026-05-25	HIGH	●
2026-05-25	HIGH	●

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

May 2026



Significant Wildland Fire Potential

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

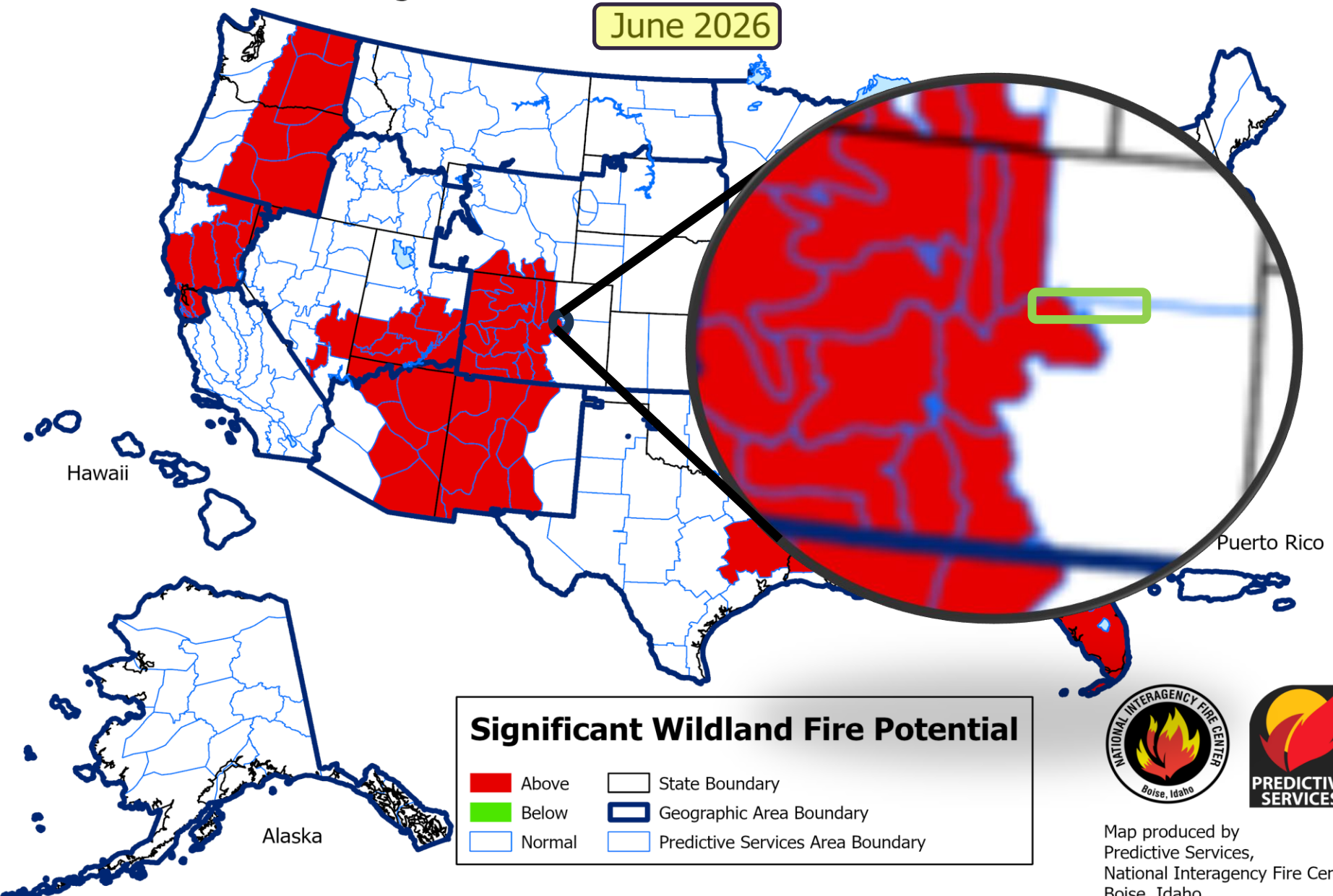


Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued: May 1, 2026
Next Issue: June 1, 2026

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

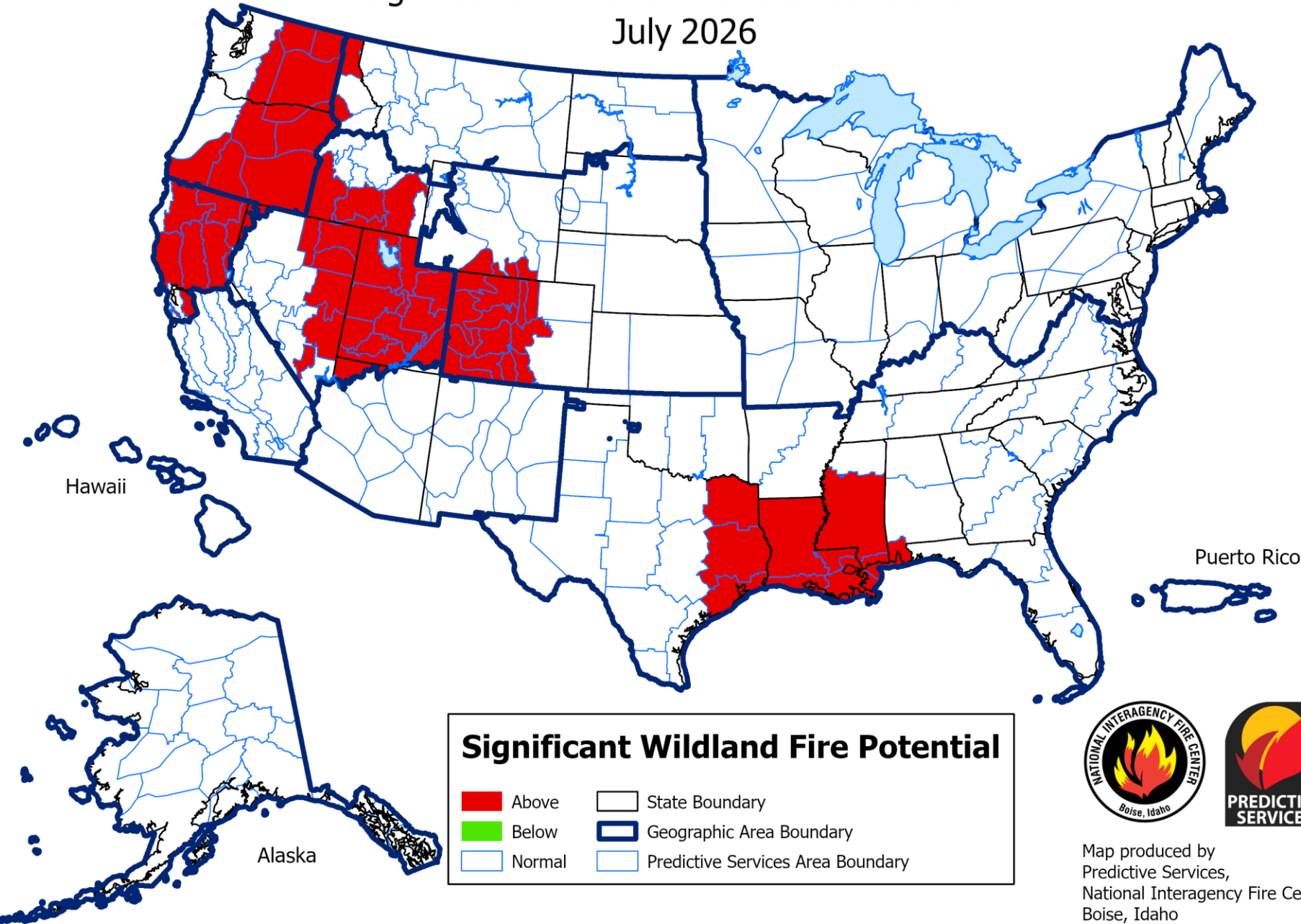


Map produced by
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Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant 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

July 2026




Significant Wildland Fire Potential

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



Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
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**Fire Danger
Rating
System**

Proven methodology

National Standard

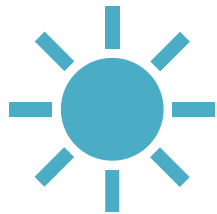
Operational posture
supported by FDRS
levels

Regional WICC Framework

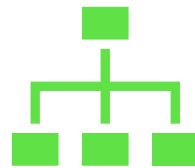
WICC = Wildfire-Initiated Community Conflagration — a fast-moving, community-scale fire disaster where wildfire transitions into the built environment, producing distributed ignition, high operational tempo, and information-sparse conditions that overwhelm early ICS and shift near-term priorities toward rapid evacuation, life safety, and stabilization until formal command structures can catch up.

- Unified Command across jurisdictions
- Consistent assumptions and priorities
- Improved readiness for high-consequence events

Conflagration Scenarios



High wind + low
fuel moisture



Pre-planned
resource levels



Auto-aid and
staging areas

Lessons Learned



EARLY DEPLOYMENT IMPROVES
OUTCOMES



BOARD MESSAGING STRENGTHENS
COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Policy & Messaging



Consistent
evacuation terms



Unified Adoption



Supports
community clarity





Q&A

Questions and discussion