
The 2017 United States Fire Season

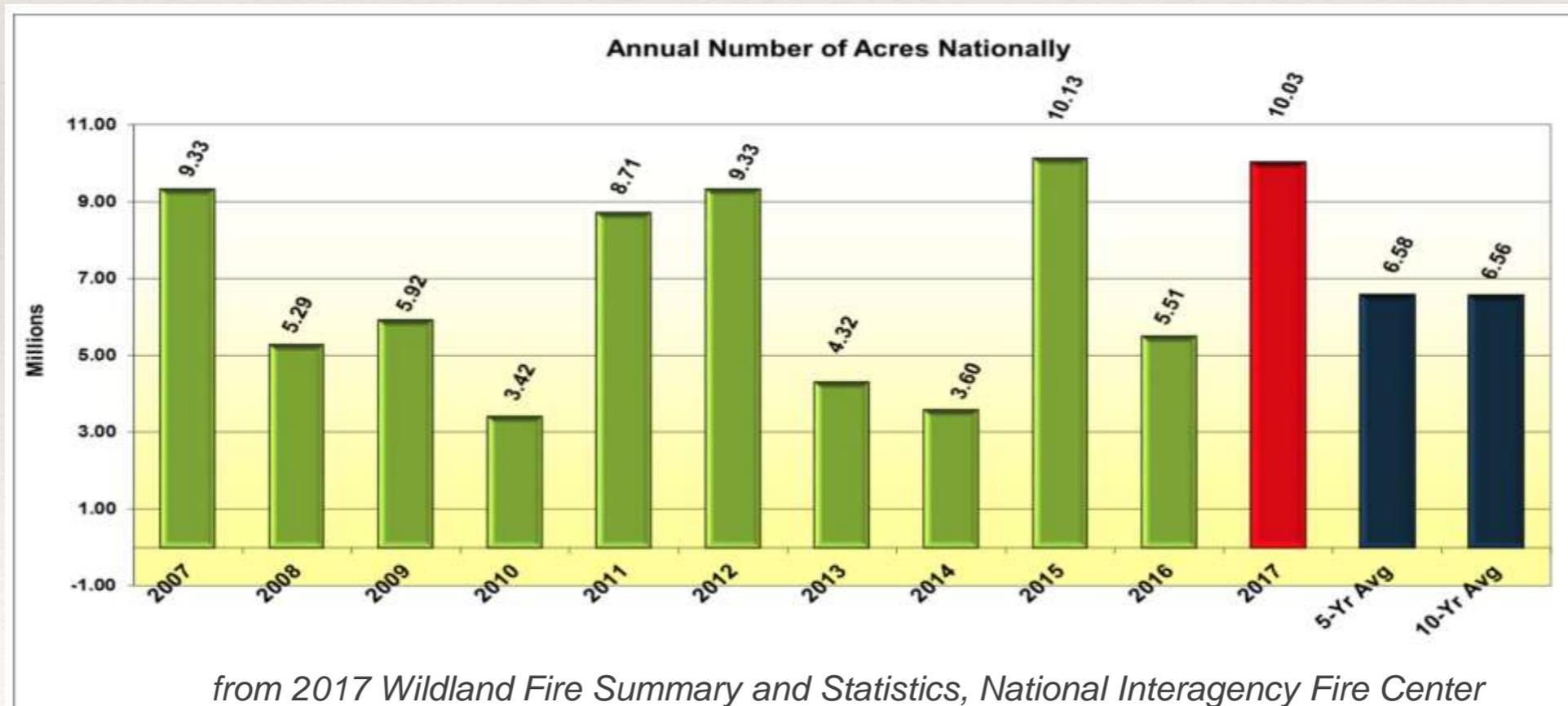
Ed Delgado

Predictive Services
National Program Manager
BLM/National Interagency Fire
Center
Boise, Idaho

By the numbers

	<u>Area Burned</u>	<u># of Fires</u>
2017	10,026,086 acres * (4,057,413 ha)	71,499
10-yr avg	6,555,293 acres (2,652,833 ha)	70,440

* 2nd most acres burned since 1992



By the numbers

Largest fire

NW OK Complex...779,292 acres
(3/7 - 3/24)



Costliest Fire (suppression)

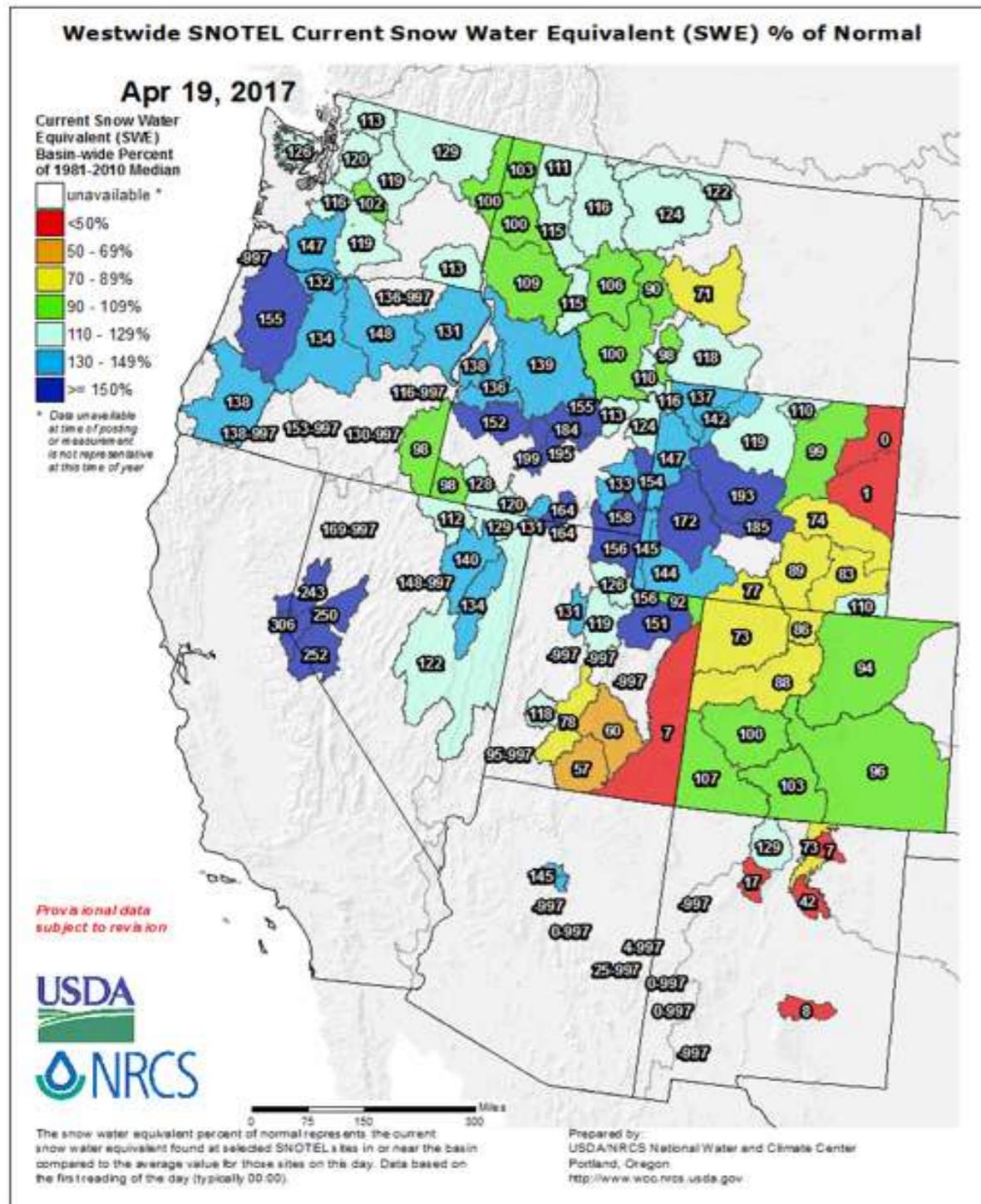
Thomas Fire, CA...\$123,836,000
(12/4 - present, 270,000 acres)



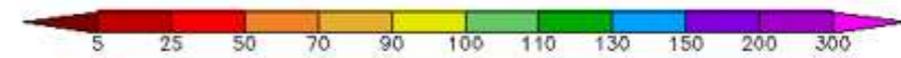
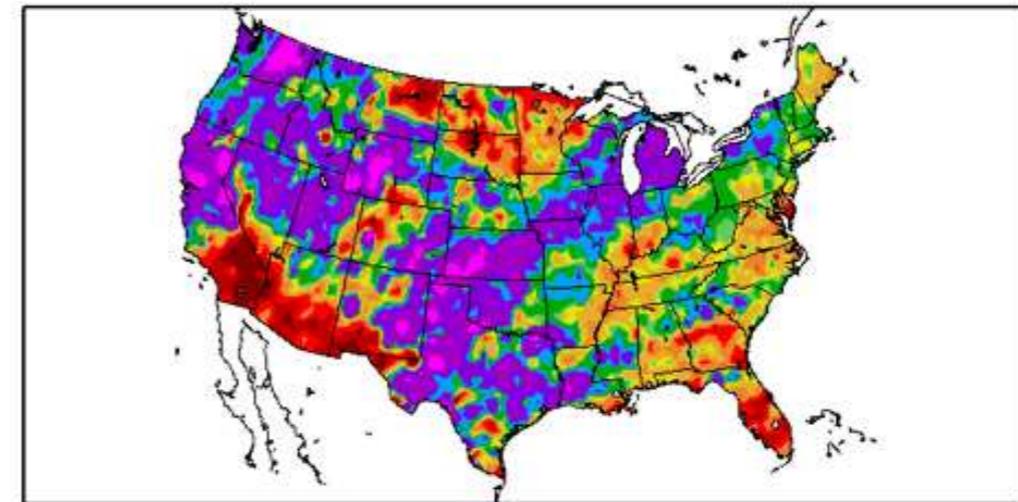
Homes lost (estimate)

8065 Nationally (7778 in CA)

Early season picture



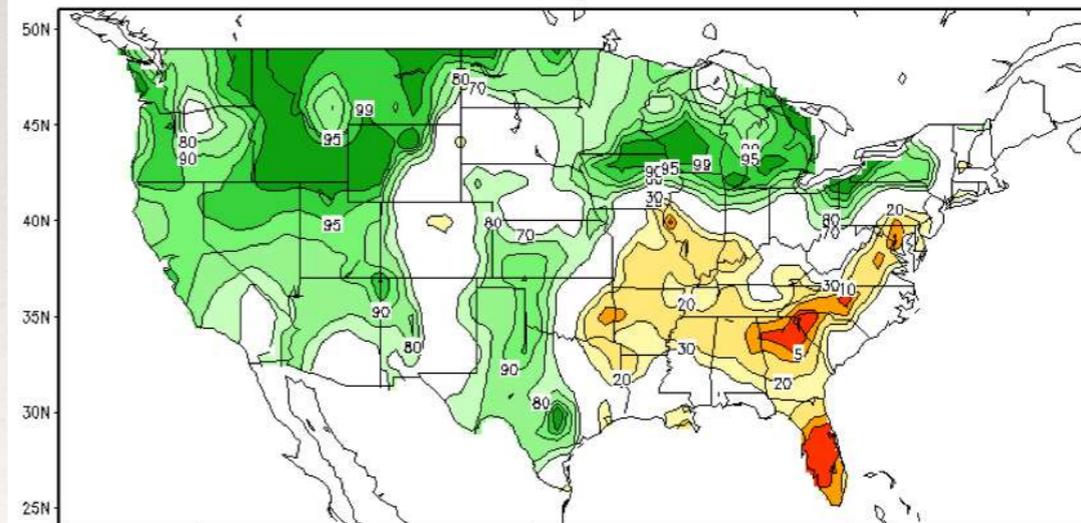
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
3/20/2017 - 4/18/2017



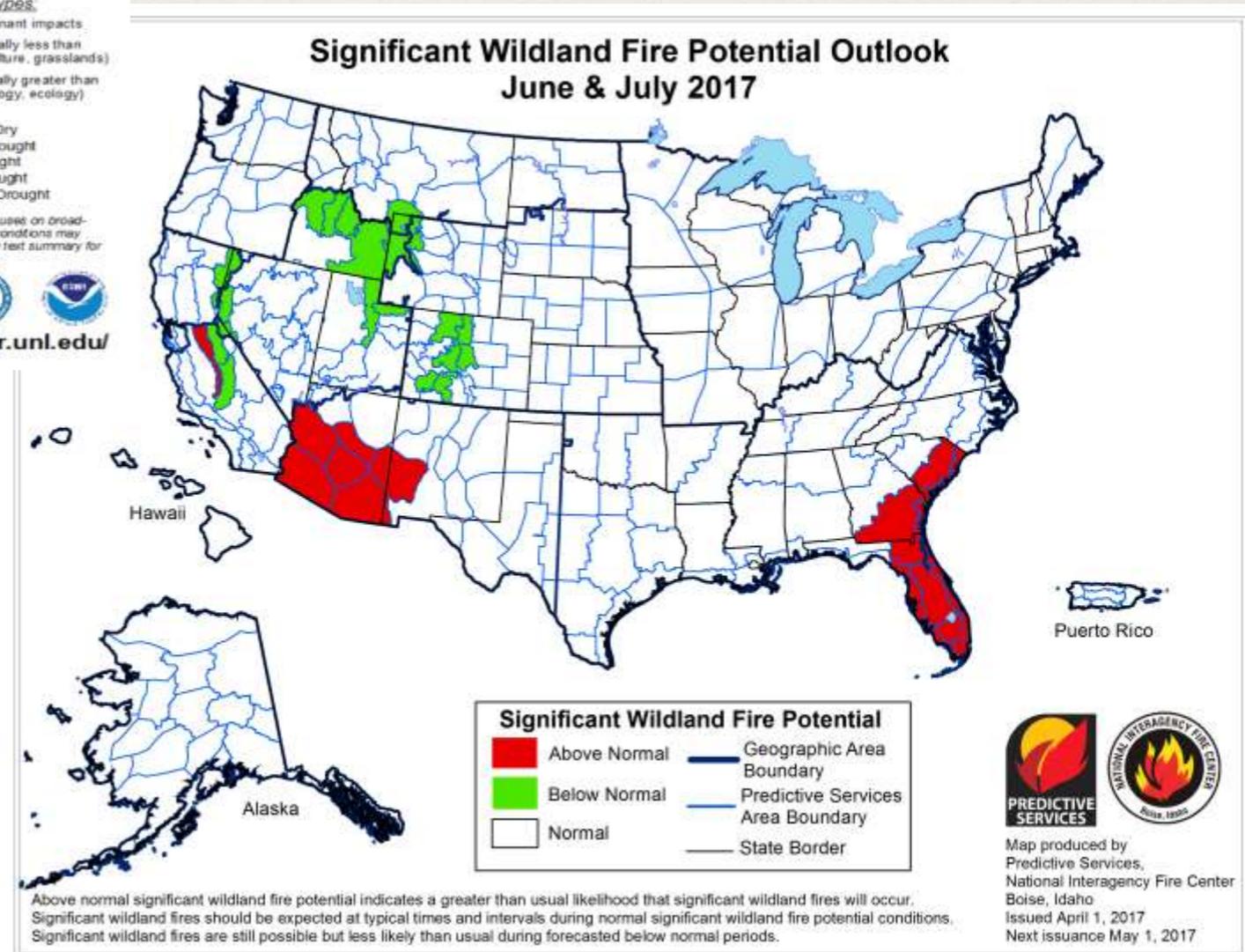
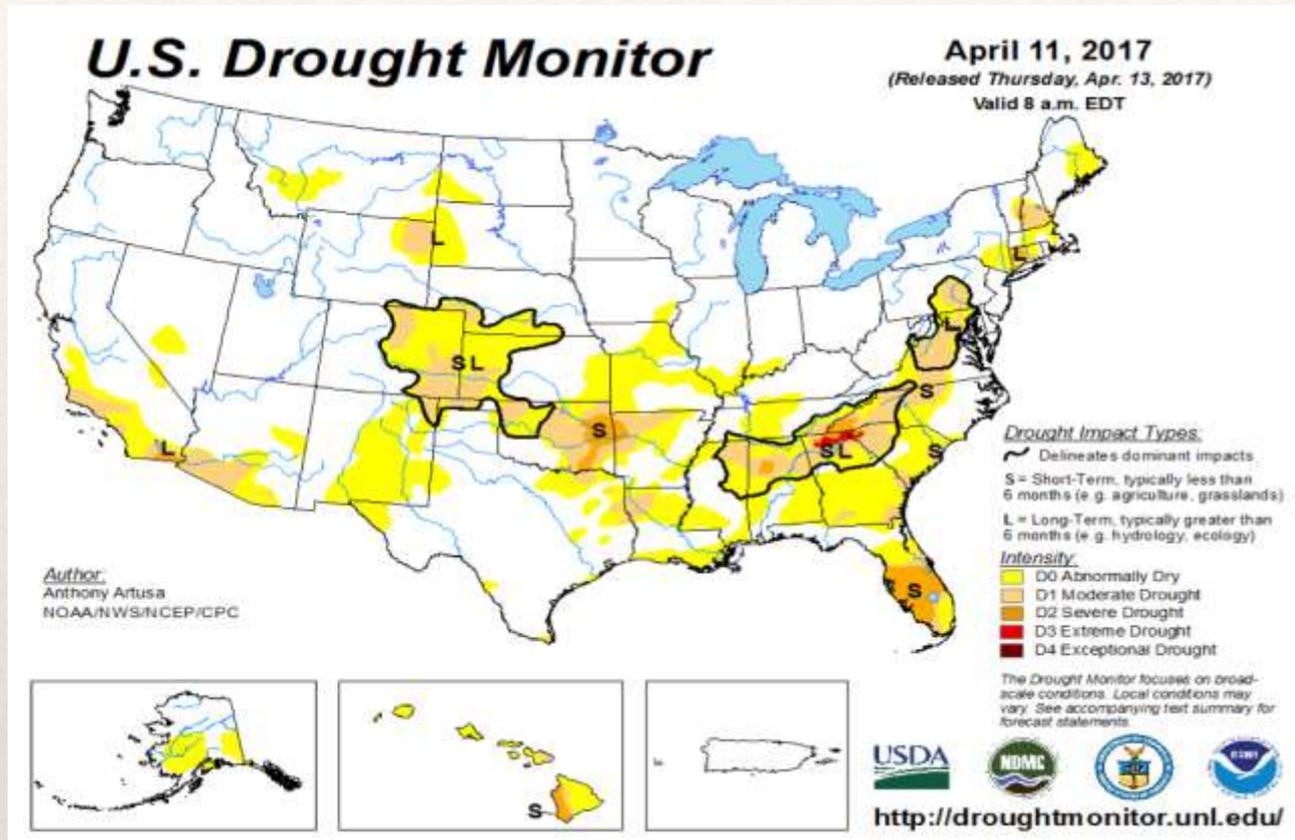
Generated 4/19/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
APR 04, 2017

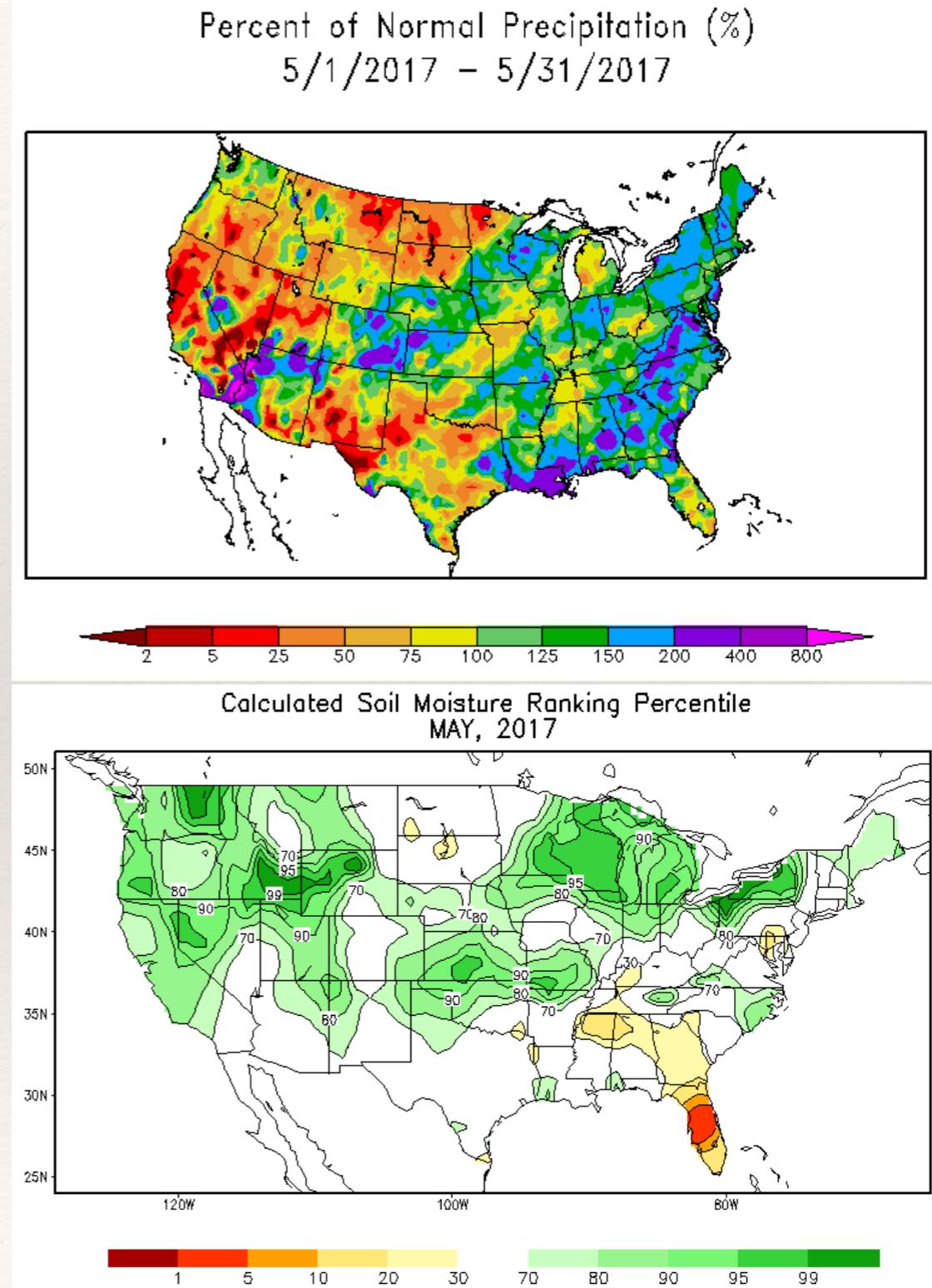
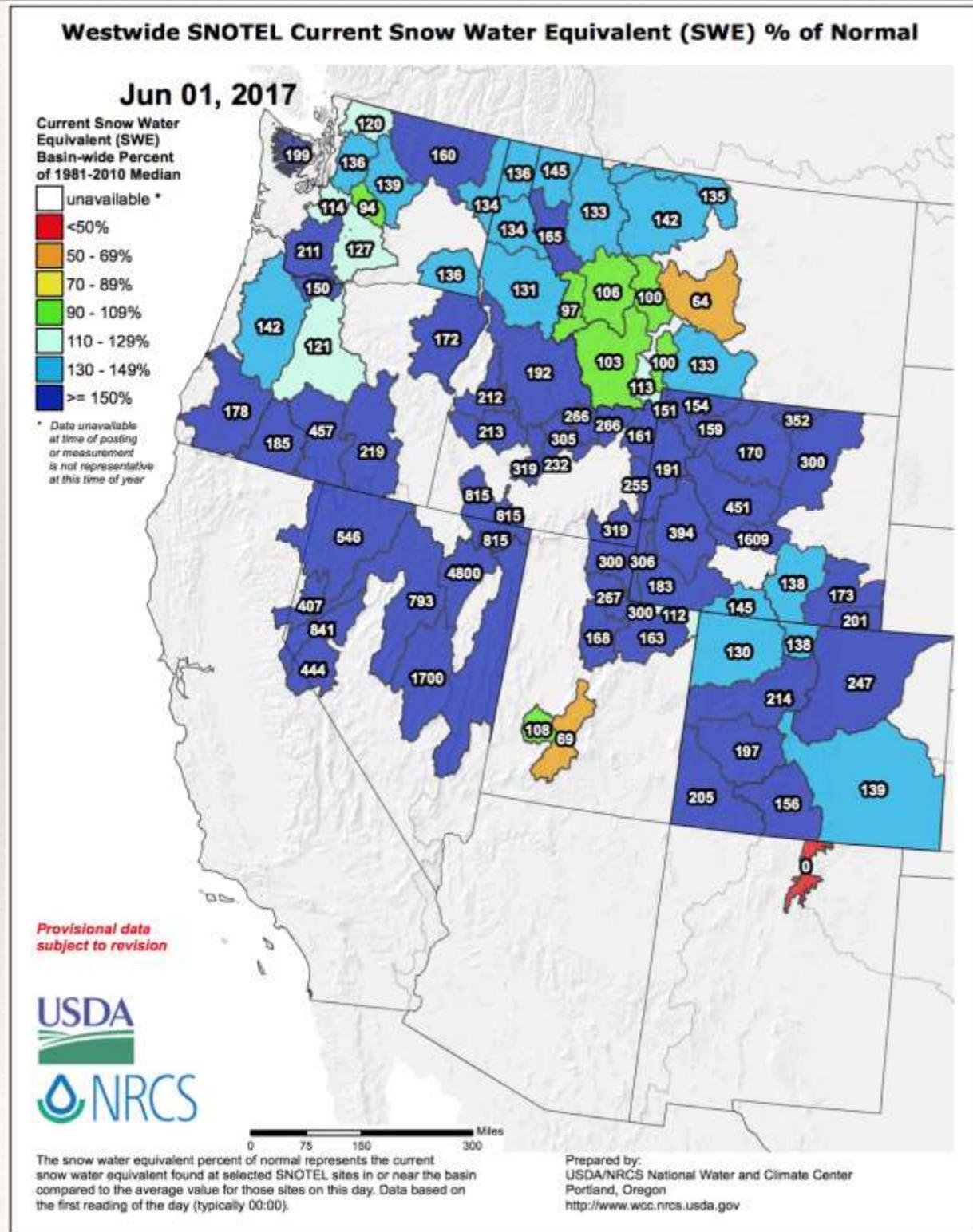


Early season picture

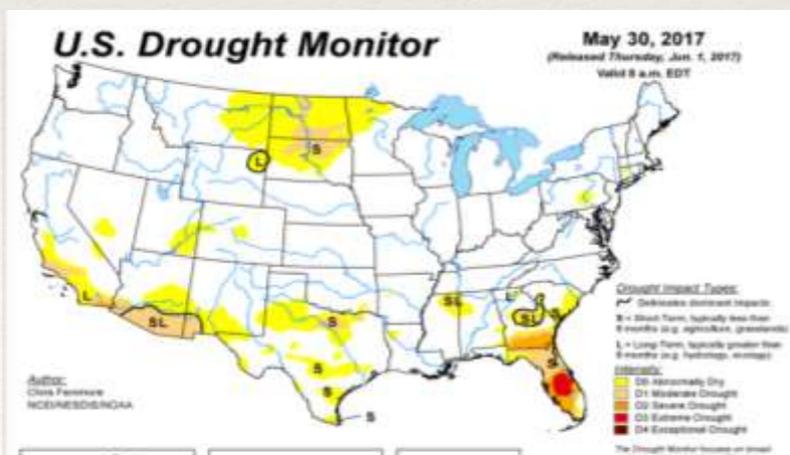
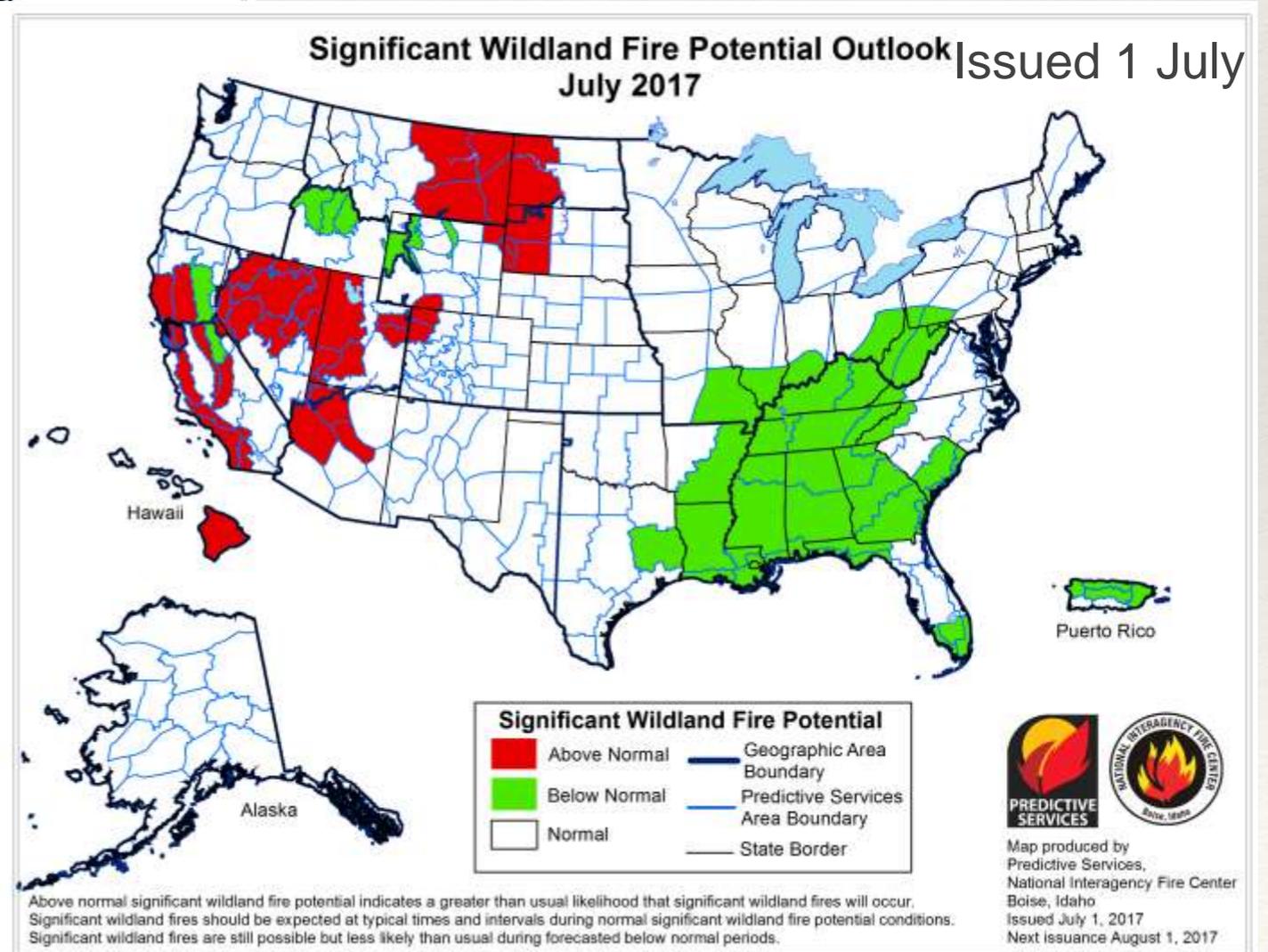
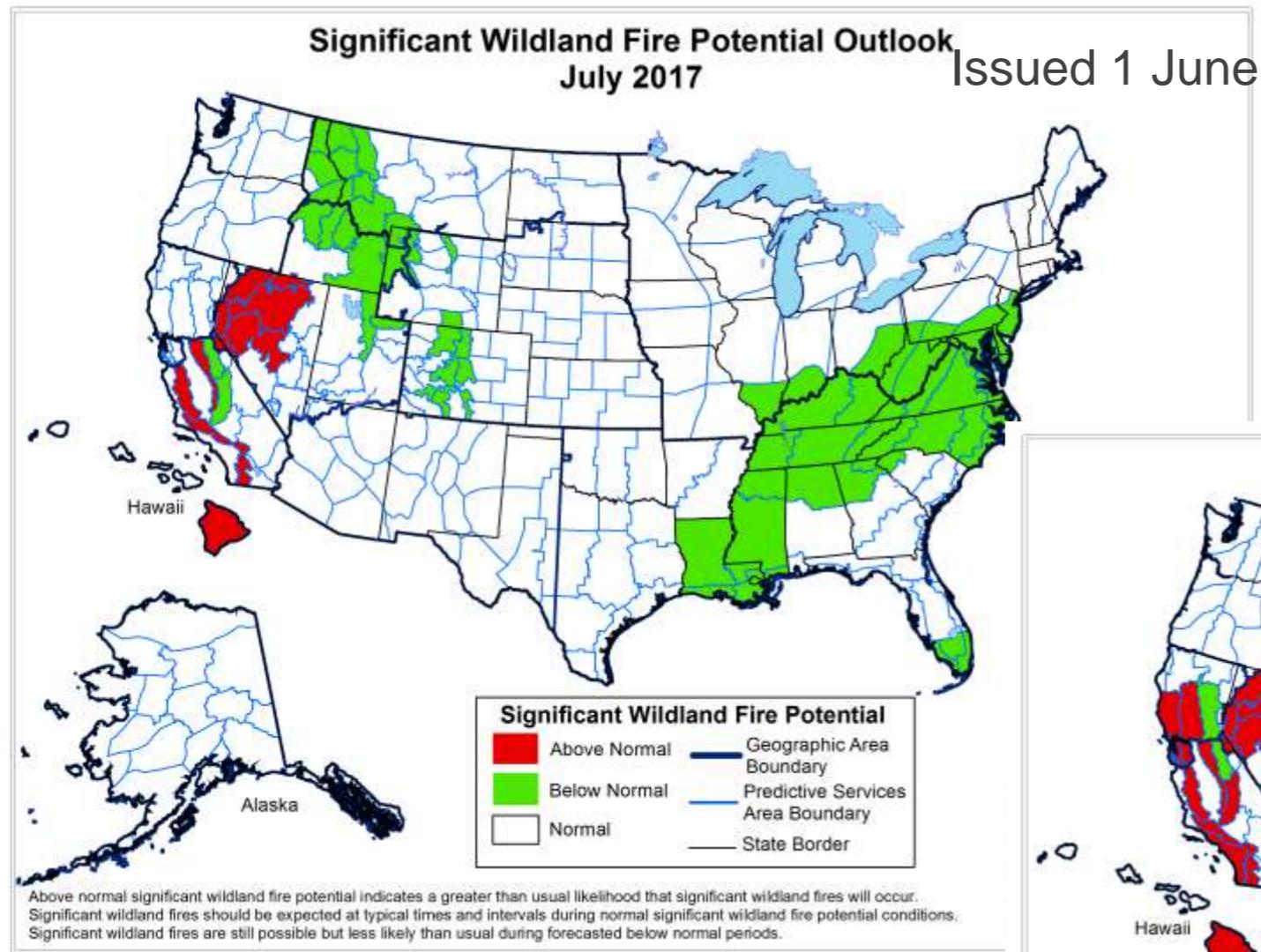


Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Mid-season picture



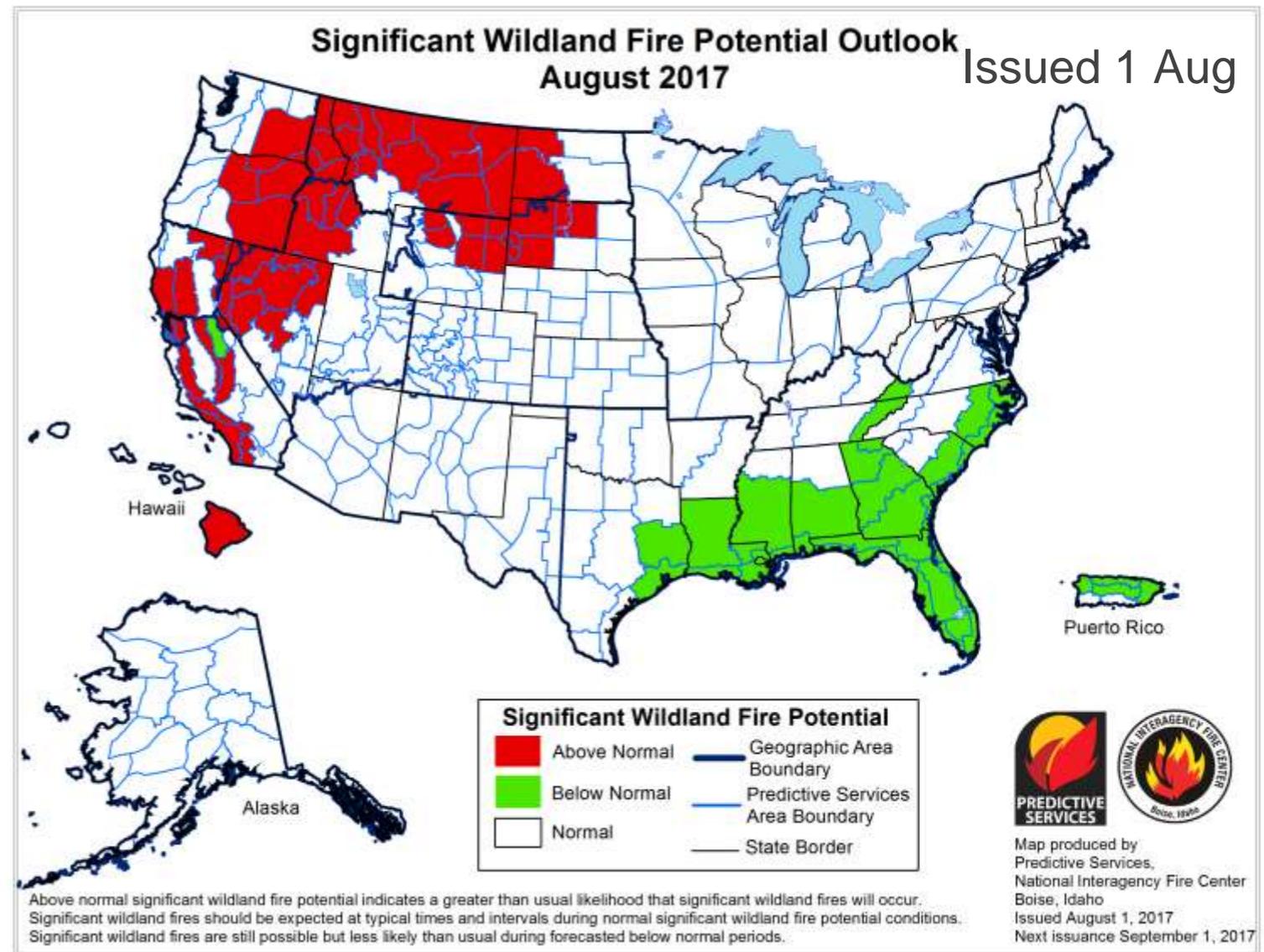
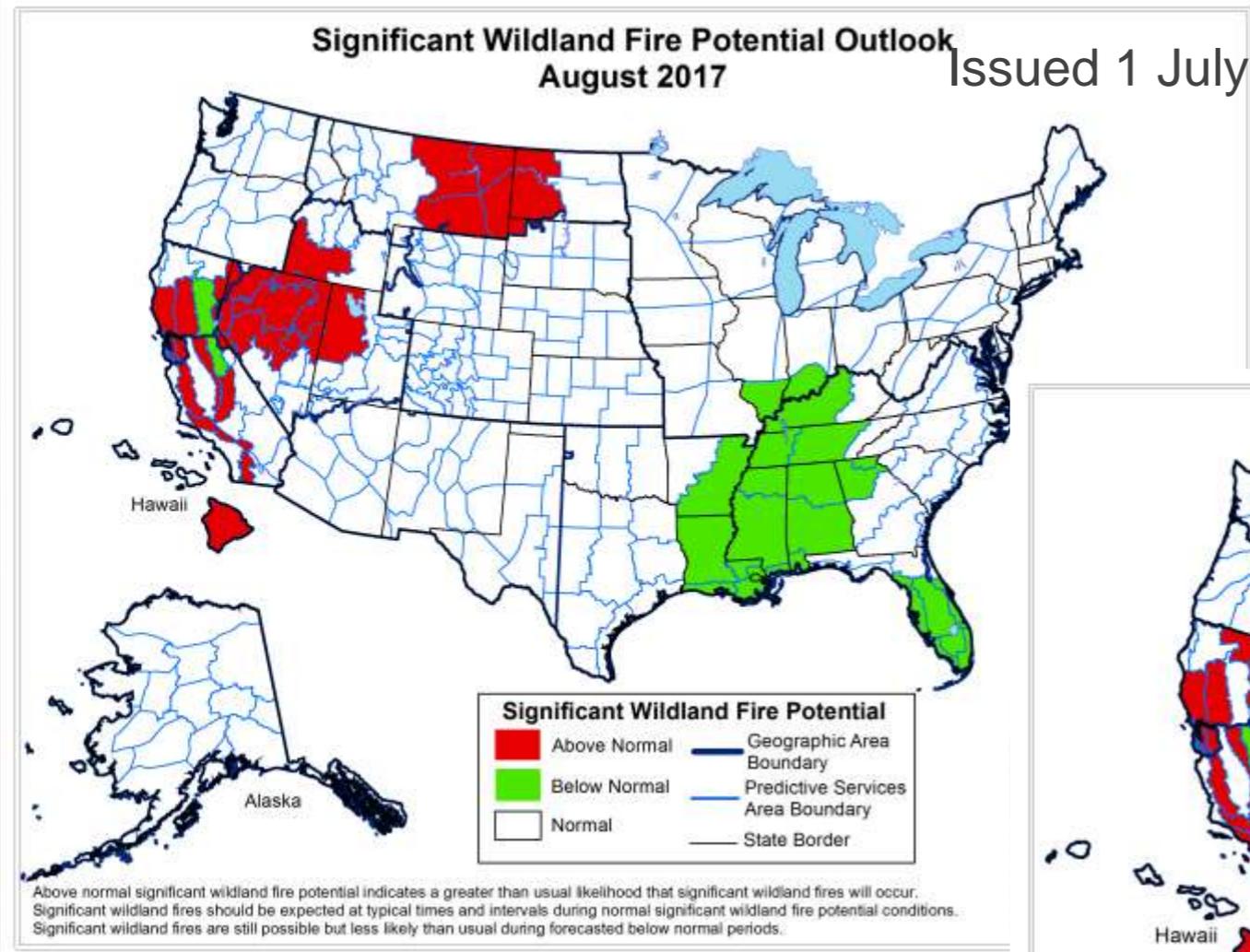
Mid-season picture



Then this happened...



We finally got it right...



What happened?

- ❖ Jan-Jun across the Northwest was normal to slightly cooler than normal.
- ❖ Wet winter/spring, slow snow melt favored prolonged greenup.
- ❖ Sudden onset of near record heat late July/early August quickly cured fine fuels, stressed timber.
- ❖ Frequent lightning outbreaks with ridge breakdown.

“All forecasts are good. It’s just the timing that’s off.”

– *Anonymous the Younger*

Ed Delgado
National Interagency Fire Center
Bureau of Land Management
edelgado@blm.gov

