

NWS BOISE WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

1. CHANGES FOR THE 2016 SEASON

No significant changes will occur this season. Similar to 2015, recordings of the daily fire weather briefings will be made available via a link on our fire weather web page and the pre-season Planning Forecast (FWF) will be issued at 0830 MDT instead of 1530 MDT.

2. HOURS OF OPERATION

Once-a-day issuance of the Planning Forecast (FWF) will begin in early-to-mid May, **but** will be dependent on ongoing weather and fuel conditions. These forecasts will be issued Monday through Friday by 0830 MDT.

Starting dates for the full complement of fire weather products (including NFDRS forecasts and twice-daily zone forecasts) will depend on variables such as fuel dryness and customer needs. Typically, this occurs by late May.

Staff meteorologists are available any time; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The fire weather desk is staffed from 0730 to 1530 MDT.

3. STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION - See Appendix A.

4. FIRE WEATHER SERVICES

A. Description of the Boise Fire Weather District within the Great Basin:

West Central Idaho Mountains

- Zone 400 – Northern Boise BLM
- Zone 401 – Western Payette NF and SITPA
- Zone 402 – Eastern Payette NF
- Zone 403 – Northern Boise NF
- Zone 421 – Southern Boise NF/Western Sawtooth NF

Southwest Idaho

- Zone 423 – Owyhee Mountains
- Zone 424 – Western Twin Falls BLM
- Zone 420 – Treasure Valley
- Zone 426 – Southern Highlands

B. Basic Meteorological Services

Weather Briefing: During the fire season, a daily briefing will be offered each day at 0930 MDT for all agencies via GoToMeeting. During pre-fire season and low fire activity periods, it will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at 0930 MDT. This briefing will include a general discussion of weather conditions and forecasts for the current day, as well a brief discussion of the extended period. Model data, satellite loops, and other items of interest will be addressed for the forecast period. The briefing will average about 10 minutes, but may be longer during active fire periods.

Spot Forecasts: Requests for spot forecasts will be received primarily via the Boise Fire Weather homepage found at: <http://spot.nws.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/spot/spotmon?site=boi>

Alternatively requests can be faxed to: (208) 334-1660

C. Product Schedule

Morning Planning Forecast (FWF)	By 0830 MDT
Weather Briefing	At 0930 MDT
Afternoon Planning Forecast (FWF)	By 1530 MDT
NFDRS point forecast	By 1530 MDT
Fire Weather Watch / Red Flag Warnings	Event Driven
Spot Forecasts	Upon Request

D. Red Flag Events

Interagency Coordination: Before the issuance of a Red Flag Warning, there will be coordination with the affected agencies and neighboring NWS fire weather offices, in order to assess fuel conditions and general fire danger. This coordination will be conducted during the internet briefing and/or via a separate phone call.

Dissemination of Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings: Each issuance, update, or cancellation of a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning will be relayed by telephone to the dispatch offices and GACCs affected by the watch or warning.

Criteria for Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches:

High to extreme fire danger in conjunction with dry fuels. (Dryness level **yellow or brown**, as defined by the Eastern Great Basin Geographic Coordination Center 7 day Fire Potential Outlook **and/or** agency input.)

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/outlooks.php> and/or <http://199.141.1.20/fuels/egb/public/>

in combination with the following weather conditions:

- **Abundant lightning.** Areal coverage must be at least scattered ($\geq 25\%$) in nature. LAL >4
and/or
- **Wind gusts** ≥ 30 mph for 3 hours or more; and **relative humidity** $<15\%$...EXCEPT ≥ 25 mph and RH $\leq 15\%$ in the Boise and Payette NFs.
and/or
- **High Haines index of 6** for fire weather zones 400, 401, 402, 403, and 421 (Forest Service Zones only).

Verification of Red Flag Warnings and Events: NWS Boise will locally archive all Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings automatically. Statistically derived values of Probability of Detection (POD), False Alarm Rate (FAR), and Critical Success Index (CSI) will be calculated. These scores will be available to the Boise MIC, NWS Western Region Headquarters monthly (local customers including the GBCC meteorologists if so desired). They will also be summarized during post-season meetings.

