

# 2016

## Boise Fire Weather Operating Plan



Phillip's Creek Fire

Near Elgin, Oregon

**Fire Weather Zones  
OR636, OR637, and OR646**

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BOISE

### WHAT'S NEW

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 0730 PDT (0830 MDT) instead of 1430 PDT (1530 MDT).

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Once-a-day issuance of the Planning Forecast (FWF) will begin early-to-mid May, but will be dependent on ongoing weather and fuel conditions. These forecasts will be issued Monday through Friday by 0730 PDT (0830 MDT).

Starting dates for the full complement of fire weather products, including NFDRS Forecasts and twice-daily Planning Forecasts, will depend on variables such as fuel dryness and customer needs. This typically occurs by late May.

Staff meteorologists are available anytime; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The fire weather desk is staffed from 0630 to 1430 PDT (0730 to 1530 MDT).

### STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **Boise Weather Forecast Office**

NIFC – National Weather Service  
3833 S. Development Ave., Bldg 3807  
Boise, ID 83705-5354

Phone: (208) 334-9060 / Fax (208) 334-1660

Fire Weather Webpage: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/?wfo=boi>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Boise.gov>

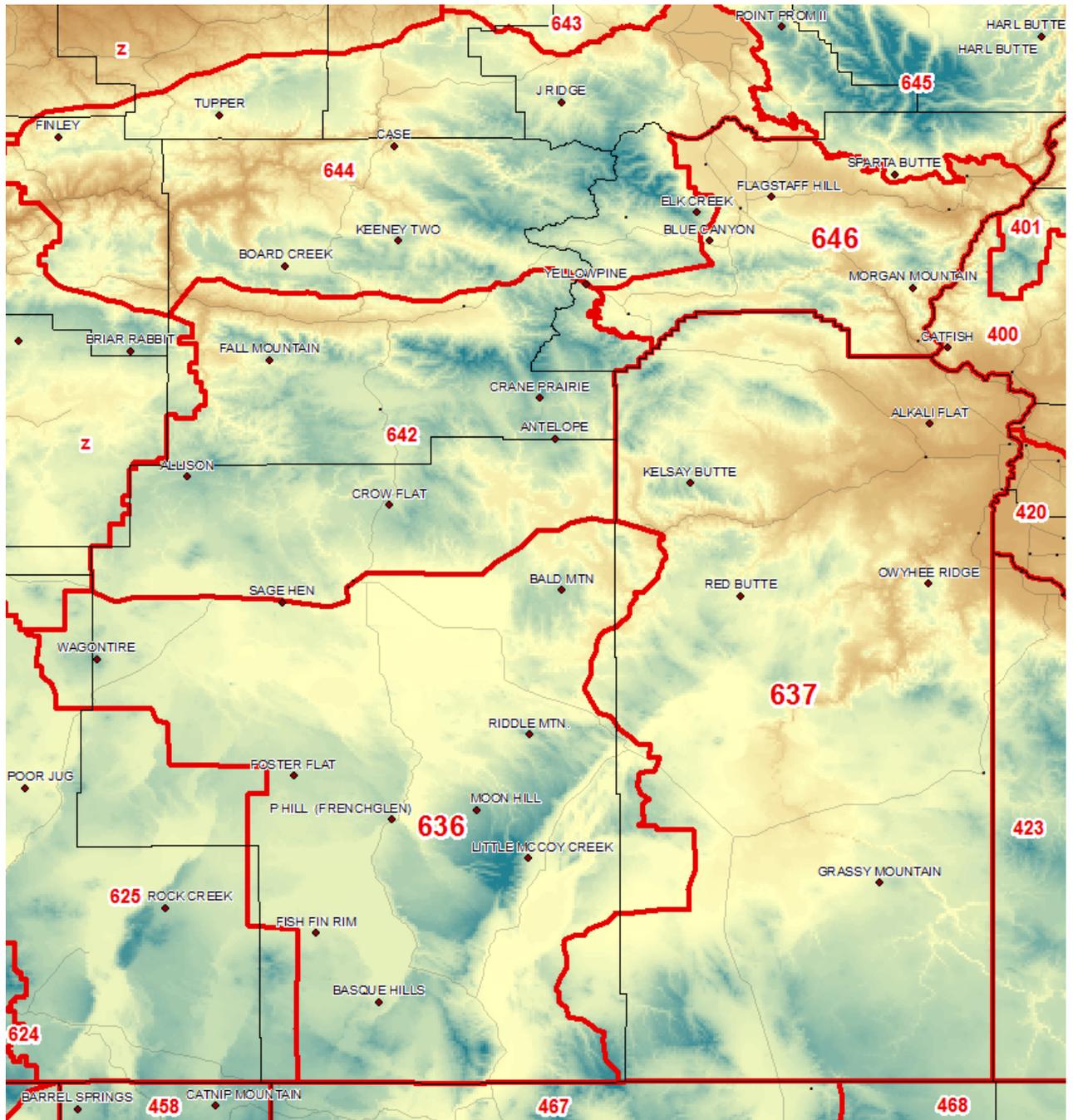
Twitter Page: <https://twitter.com/NWSBoise>

Twitter Handle: @NWSBoise

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Chuck Redman	Fire Weather Program Leader/IMET	<a href="mailto:Chuck.Redman@noaa.gov">Chuck.Redman@noaa.gov</a>
Megan Thimmesch	Fire Weather Program Leader / IMET	<a href="mailto:Megan.Thimmesch@noaa.gov">Megan.Thimmesch@noaa.gov</a>
Vacant	Meteorologist-in-Charge	

# FIRE WEATHER SERVICES

Description of the Boise Fire Weather District within the NWCC, OR636, OR637, & OR646.



## BASIC METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

### PRODUCT SCHEDULE:

<u>Product:</u>	<u>Issuance time: (MDT) / (PDT)</u>
Morning planning forecast	0830 / 0730
Internet briefing	0930 / 0830
Afternoon planning forecast	1530 / 1430
NFDRS point forecast	1530 / 1430
Fire Weather Watch / Red Flag Warnings	Event Driven
Spot forecasts	Upon Request

**RED FLAG EVENTS:** High to extreme fire danger and dry fuels (defined by user/agency input), in combination with the following weather conditions:

- Areal thunderstorm coverage of scattered or greater (>25%), implying LAL of 4 or greater (see below).
- High Haines index of 6 in combination with RH<15%. (**Zone 646 only.**)
- Strong winds and low humidity. (See matrix below for sustained criteria.) In addition to sustained strong winds from the matrix, wind gusts >35 mph, combined with relative humidity 10% or less, are considered Red Flag Criteria. Red Flag Criteria are considered to be met if conditions are observed at any three RAWS stations within a combined area of Fire Weather Zone 636 and 637 for >3 hours (not necessarily consecutive). Alternatively, if a RFW is issued separately for Fire Weather Zones 636 and 637, it is considered to verify if conditions are met at three RAWS stations in Zone 636 or two RAWS stations in Zone 637 and 646.

#### SUSTAINED 20 FT WIND (10-MINUTE AVERAGE in MPH)

	10 mph	15 mph	20 mph	25 mph	30 mph
20%					W
15%				W	W
10%			W	W	W

## LIGHTNING ACTIVITY LEVEL:

The chart listed below will be used to forecast Lightning Activity Level (LAL):

LAL = 1	No Thunderstorms
LAL = 2	Isolated Thunderstorms
LAL = 3	Isolated Thunderstorms (Increased Confidence/Threat)
LAL = 4	Scattered Thunderstorms
LAL = 5	Numerous Thunderstorms
LAL = 6	Scattered (But Exclusively Dry) Thunderstorms

**Interagency Coordination:** Before the issuance of a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning, there will be coordination with the affected agencies and neighboring NWS Forecast Offices in order to assess fuel conditions and general fire danger.

**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 office(s) affected by the Watch/Warning.

## SPOT FORECASTS:

<http://spot.nws.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/spot/spotmon?site=boi>

Please reference LAT/LON when requesting spot forecasts. Follow-up phone calls are always encouraged and feedback is extremely useful.

## WEATHER BRIEFINGS:

A daily briefing will be offered each day at 0930 MDT (0830 PDT) for all agencies via a GoToMeeting. If there is not sufficient interest in a daily briefing during pre-fire season and low fire-activity periods, it will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at its normal time stated above.

The 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 usually be about 10 minutes, but may be longer during active fire periods.

