

NWS BOISE WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

1. CHANGES FOR THE 2011 SEASON

This year we have changed the format of the RFW which was shown at the front of PNW AOP. The office Meteorologist-in-Charge will be changing from John Jannuzzi to Robert Diaz on June 1st

2. HOURS OF OPERATION

Pre-fire season routine product issuance (once a day) will begin Monday, April 25th.
Fire Weather Zone Forecast will be issued Monday through Friday by 1530 MDT.

Starting dates for the full compliment of fire weather products (including NFDRS forecasts and twice-daily zone forecasts) will depend on variables such as fuel dryness and customer needs.

Staff meteorologists are available any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The fire weather desk is staffed from 830 am to 430 pm.

3. **STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION** - See Appendix A.

4. FIRE WEATHER SERVICES

A. Description of the Boise Fire Weather District within the Eastern 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 404 – Southern Boise NF

Southwest Idaho

- Zone 408 – Treasure Valley
- Zone 418 – Shoshone BLM
- Zone 419 – Owyhee Mountains

B. Basic Meteorological Services

Weather Briefing: During this fire season, a daily briefing will be offered each day at 0930 MDT for all agencies via a 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 usually be about 10 minutes but may be longer during active fire periods.

Spot Forecasts: Requests for spot forecasts will be received 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) 334-1662 or (208) 334-1660.

C. Product Schedule

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Morning fire weather forecast | By 0730 MDT |
| Weather briefing | At 0930 MDT |
| Afternoon fire weather forecast | By 1530 MDT |
| NFDRS point forecast for stations in Mountain time zone | By 1545 MDT |
| NFDRS point forecast for stations in Pacific time zone | By 1630 MDT |
| Fire Weather Watch / Red Flag Warnings | Event-Driven |
| Spot forecasts | On 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.

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.

[BOI 2011 PNW.doc](#)Criteria for Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches:

High to extreme fire danger and dry fuels (dryness level **brown** as defined by the Eastern Great Basin Geographic Coordination Center 7 day Fire Potential Outlook)

http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/predictive/outlooks/Fire_Potential.html

and user input in combination with the following weather conditions:

- **Abundant lightning.** Aerial coverage must be at least scattered ($\geq 25\%$) in nature.
- **Wind gusts** ≥ 30 mph for 3 hours or more; and **relative humidity** $\leq 15\%$...EXCEPT ≥ 25 mph and RH $\leq 15\%$ in the Boise and Payette NFs.
- **High Haines index of 6** in conjunction with extremely dry fuels for fire weather zones 400, 401, 402, 403, and 404 (Forest Service Zones).

Verification of Red Flag Warnings and Events: NWS Boise will locally archive all Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings automatically. Red Flag events will be manually databased and compared to the issued watches and warnings. Statistically derived values of Probability of Detection (POD), False Alarm Rate (FAR), and Critical Success Index (CSI) will be calculated as soon as possible. These scores will be available to the Boise MIC, NWS Western Region Headquarters, and local customers including the EGBCC meteorologists during post-season meetings from November through January. During the green-up phase of the fire season, we will be using the EGBCC Critical Fuels Status Map to determine fuel conditions. We will then shift to using the dryness level from the Eastern Great Basin Geographic Coordination Center 7 day Fire Potential Outlook to determine fuels status for the normal fire season.