

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	J
Work Plan:	Fire Protection
Topic:	Ongoing Topic; Fire Season Readiness and Forecast
Presentation Title:	2024 Fire Season Outlook and Readiness Report
Date of Presentation:	June 6, 2024
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SUMMARY

Oregon revised statutes define the Department’s Fire Protection Policy, which requires a complete and coordinated system. This system relies on the partnership between the Department and forest landowners with a commitment to ongoing communication and collaboration with many other state and federal agencies. This staff report includes the current weather forecast and fire season outlook, ongoing coordination and state of readiness, an up-to-date fire season status report, and the prevention plan for 2024.

CONTEXT

Traditionally this content is provided as a presentation, but it has been broken down in this staff report. The presentation is attached for further reference. In 2024 so far, ODF and Association resources assisted the State of Texas with initial attack engines and fire line leadership. The Department assisted the City of Eugene with an Incident Management Team Command and General Staff, and fuels mitigation crew for ice storm damage.

Weather Forecast and Fire Season Outlook:

- Snowpack and drought recovery encouraging
- Indicators point to normal start to fire season, not trending to early increased significant fire potential
- El Niño waning, but effects may linger
- Potential for instability, thunderstorms, and lightning
- Reduced potential for very strong heat waves
- Forecasted warmer and drier than normal fire season
- Significant fire potential forecast accounts for fire history from similar ENSO transition years
- Continue to monitor fuel moistures and weather forecasts

Fire Season Readiness:

- Coordination with federal, state, local and international agencies are up to date
- Renewing state to state agreements with New Mexico and Minnesota
- Finalizing a new state to state agreement with California and working to add Florida
- Northwest Forest Fire Compact will be adding State of Hawaii
- Incident Resource Agreements are in place for crews, engines heavy equipment and other resources
- 3 Incident Management Teams staffed and on rotation
- Multi Mission Aircraft repaired and in service in June
- 50+ aviation companies on Call When Needed agreements

- Severity Program contracts renewed for the 2024 Fire Season with some changes listed below:
 - 2 seats in Roseburg did not renew
 - 1 seat in EOA did not renew
 - No Large Airtanker Contract
 - Adding 2 Type 1 Helicopters to replace and stay within budget
- Landowners provide annually (approximately) 640 trained personnel and 445 pieces of equipment.
- Resources from 12 ODF Districts across the state consist of 200 engines, 400 firefighters, 15 large bulldozers, multiple look-outs and dispatchers.

ODF Fire Statistics:

As of May 02, 2024:

- 38 statistical Fires for 104 protected acres burned
- 0 Lightning caused fires
- Key Performance Measure of keeping fires 10 acres or less- 95%
- 42% less fires, 78% less acres burned

Prevention Plan:

Debris burning, equipment use, and campfires remain to be the top human causes for Wildfire in Oregon. The Department is continuing to provide year-round wildfire prevention messaging through social media, attending public events, and collaborating with partners on multiple prevention related material. This year the Department has partnered with Keep Oregon Green on several public service announcements on debris burning, campfire safety, vehicle maintenance, dragging tow chains, checking the conditions and not the calendar, “know before you go” and a debris burning animation.

The Department collaborated with Keep Oregon Green, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of Emergency Management, and Oregon State University to provide a robust Wildfire Awareness Month campaign focusing on the top three human causes of wildfire in Oregon. Collaboration efforts are also ongoing with Keep Oregon Green and the Oregon State Fire Marshall for an update to the Oregon Wildfire Preparedness Flip Guide. The Oregon Department of Transportation will continue to be a partner to provide public service announcements on reader boards during time of extreme fire danger throughout the state.

The beginning phase of creating a statewide debris burning website and app for educating the public about debris burning and to streamline the burning permit process for any location in the state started last year. Deschutes, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Yamhill counties will be the pilot counties with an expected launch this fall. This pilot project was funded by a federal grant.

Two separate prevention campaigns will be airing through KATU and KOIN media outlets. These will be 3-month campaigns running from mid-June to late September. These will cover the footprint of the entire state through social media, local news outlets, streaming services, and the weather channel. Both campaigns will direct viewers to the Departments restrictions webpage.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) 2024 Fire Season Outlook Power point

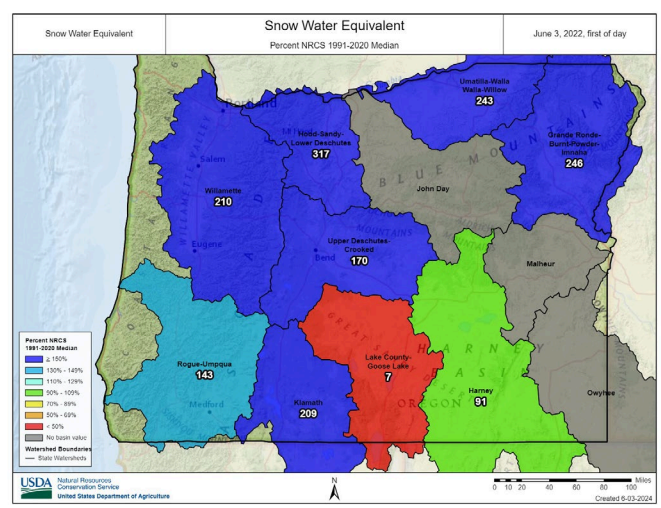
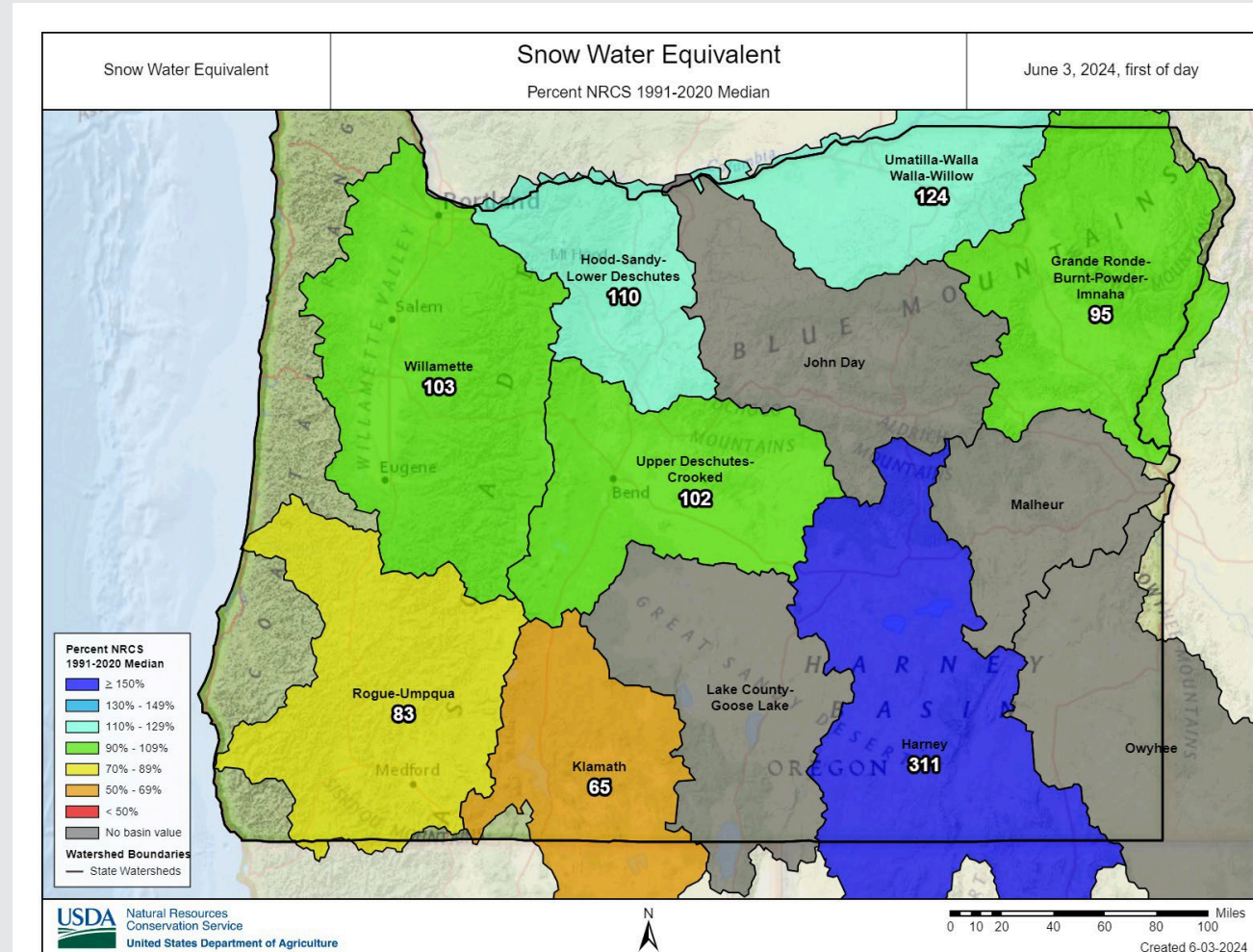
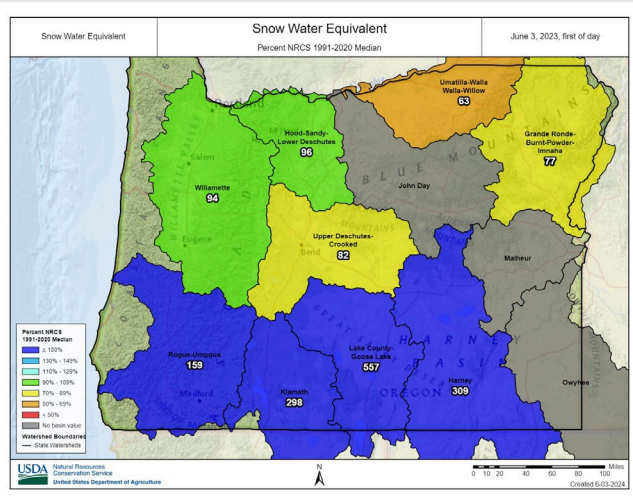
2024 Fire Season Readiness

Board of Forestry

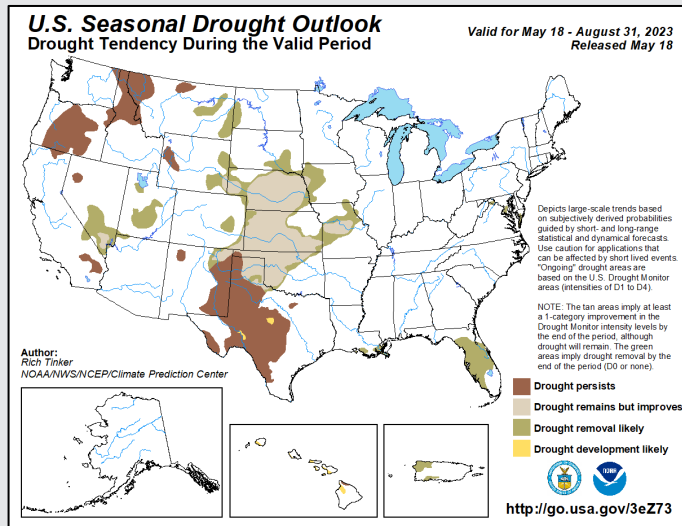
June 6, 2024



Snow Water Equivalent



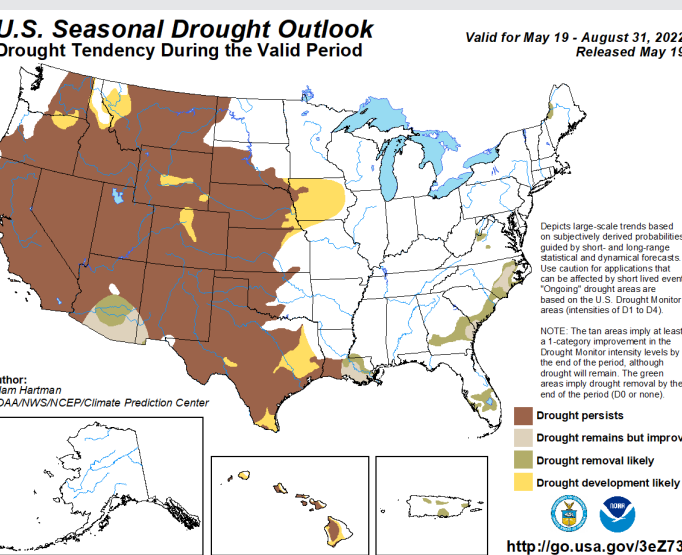
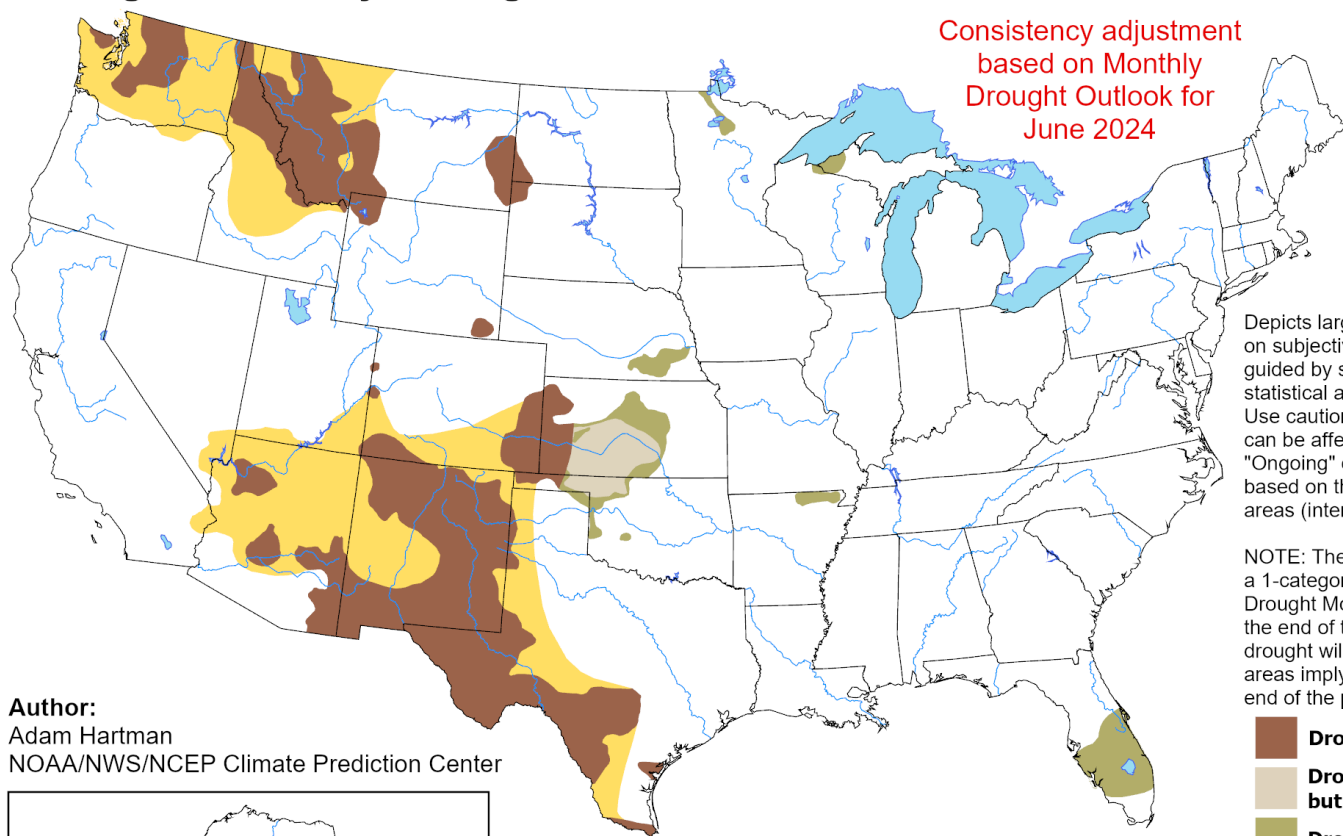
Western Drought



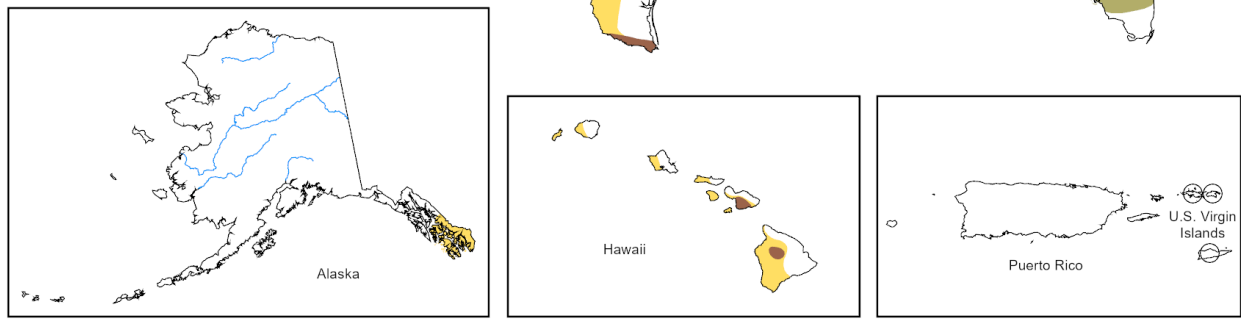
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for June 1 - August 31, 2024
Released May 31, 2024

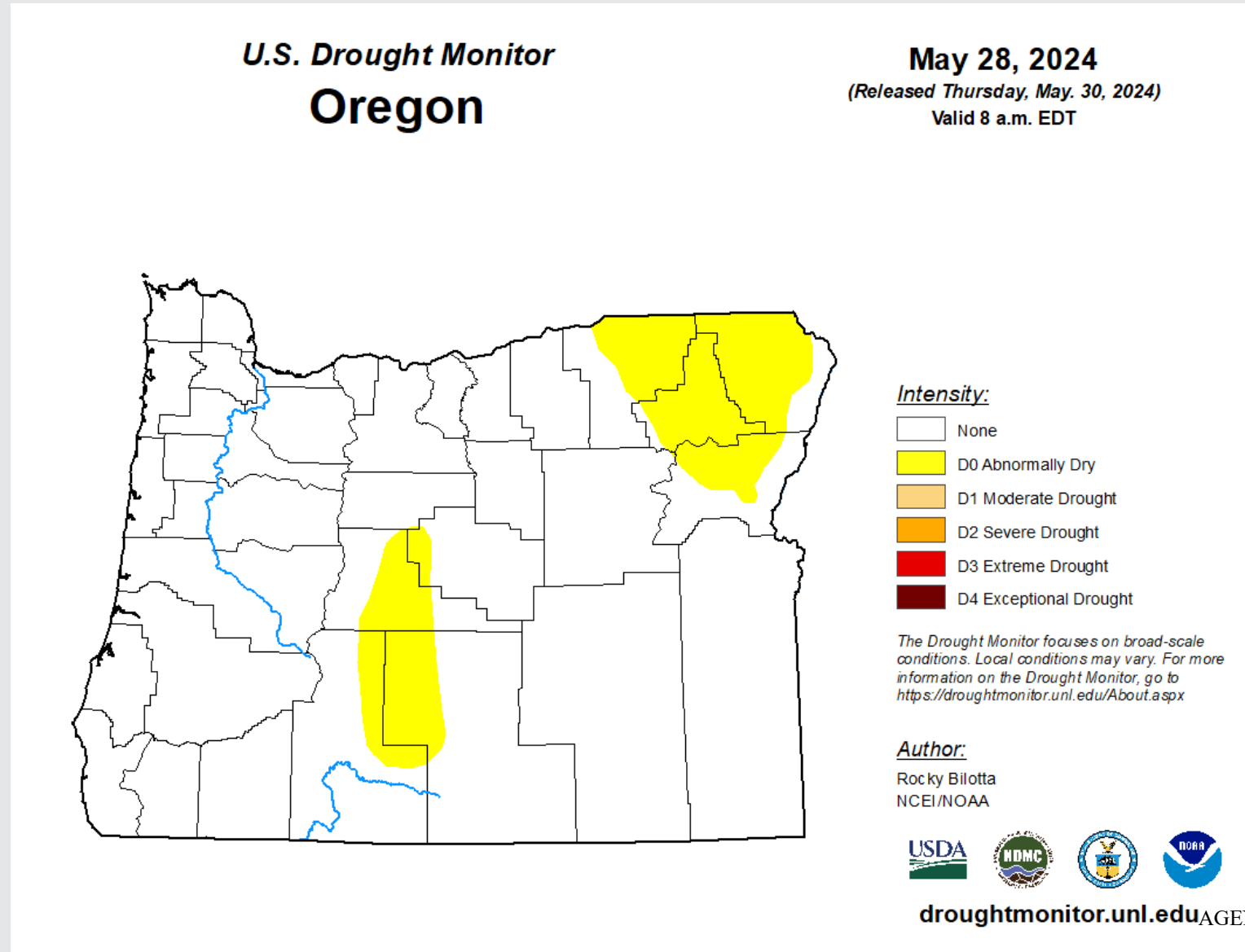
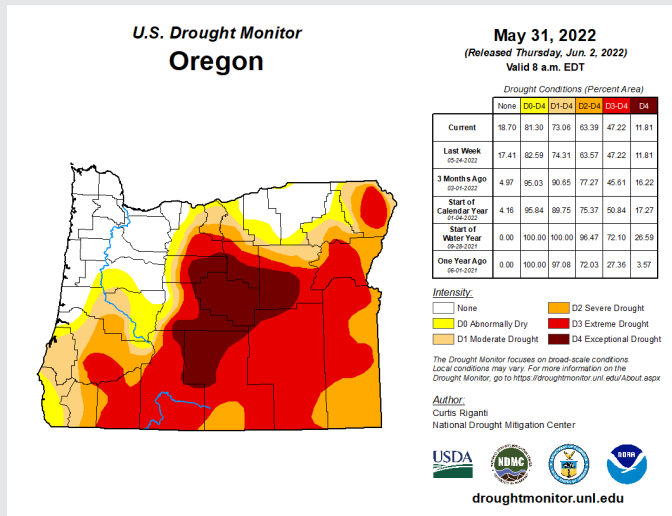
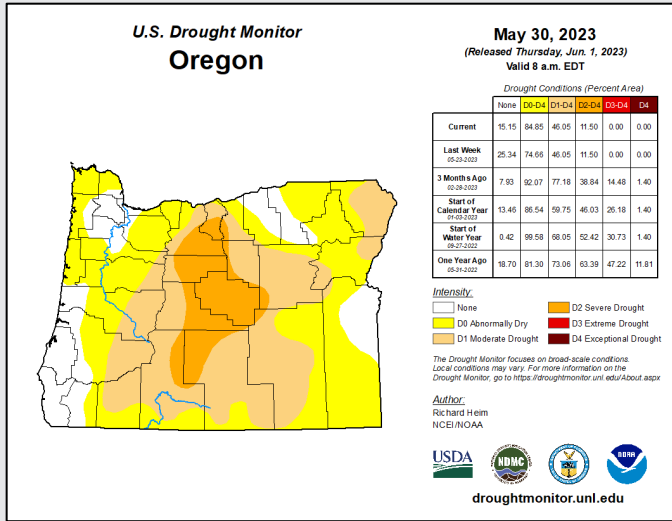


Author: Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



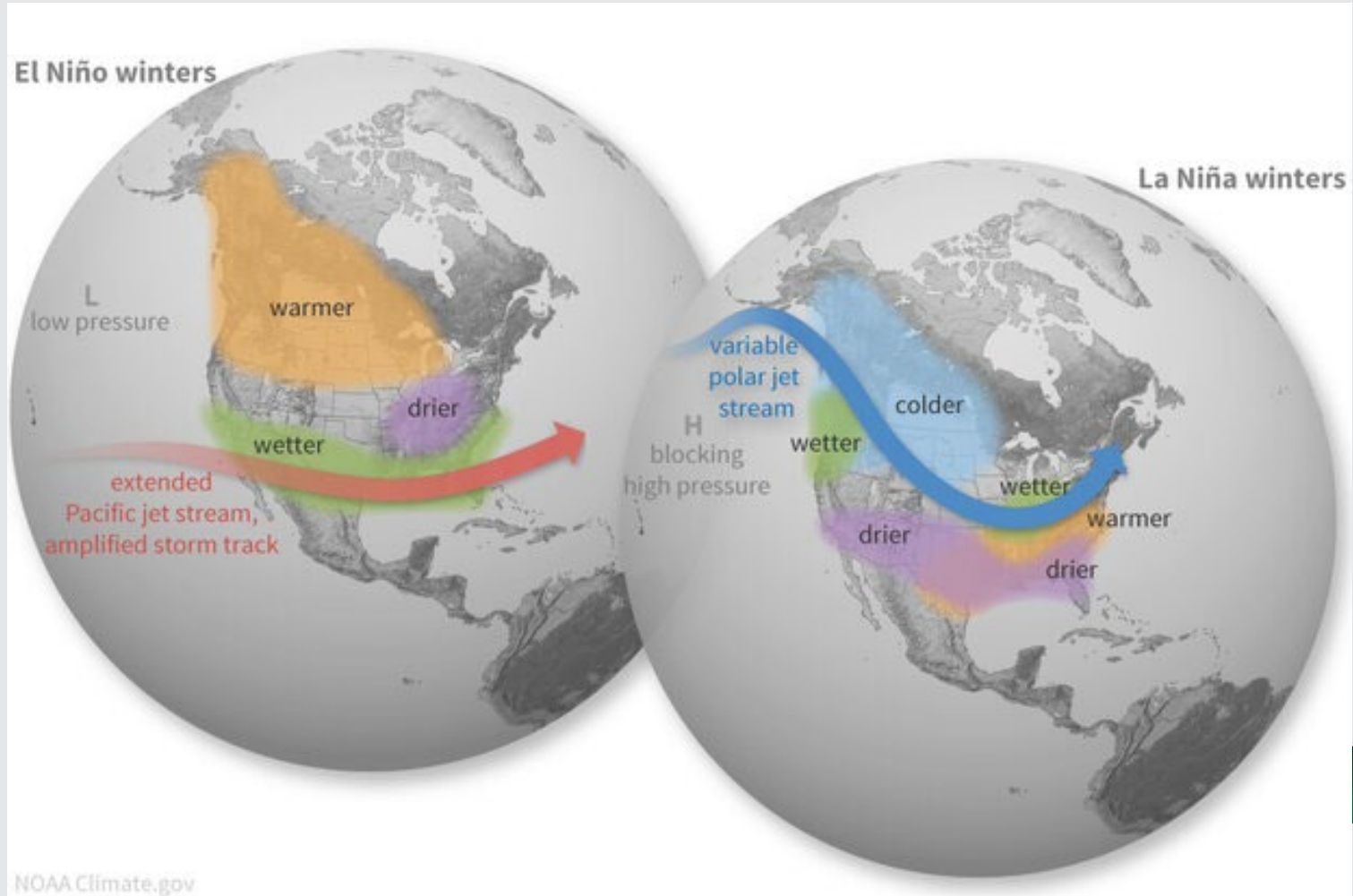
- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

Drought in Oregon

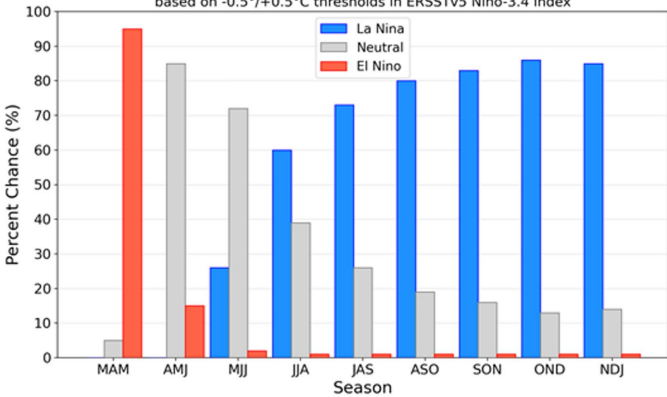


Influence of El Niño, La Niña

Rapid transition from El Niño through ENSO neutral to La Niña, but El Niño effects may linger through summer



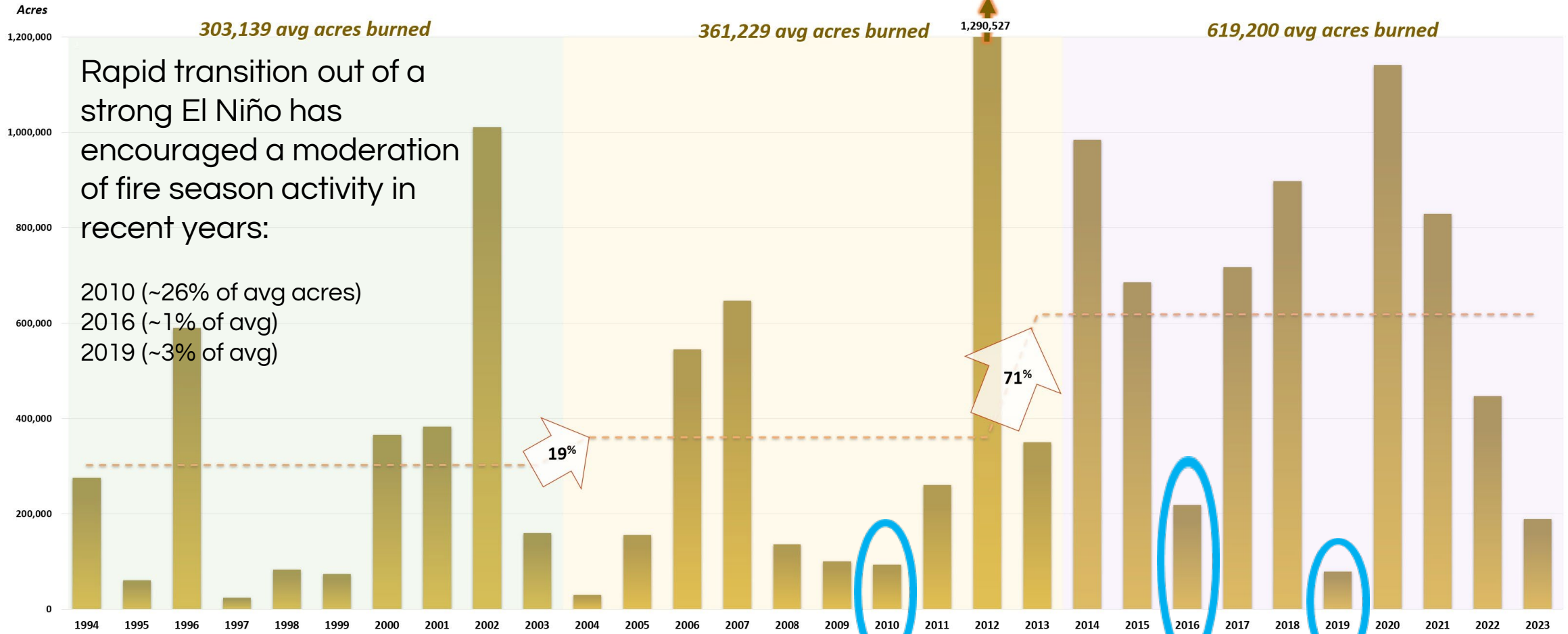
Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued Apr. 2024)
based on -0.5°/+0.5°C thresholds in ERSSTv5 Niño-3.4 index



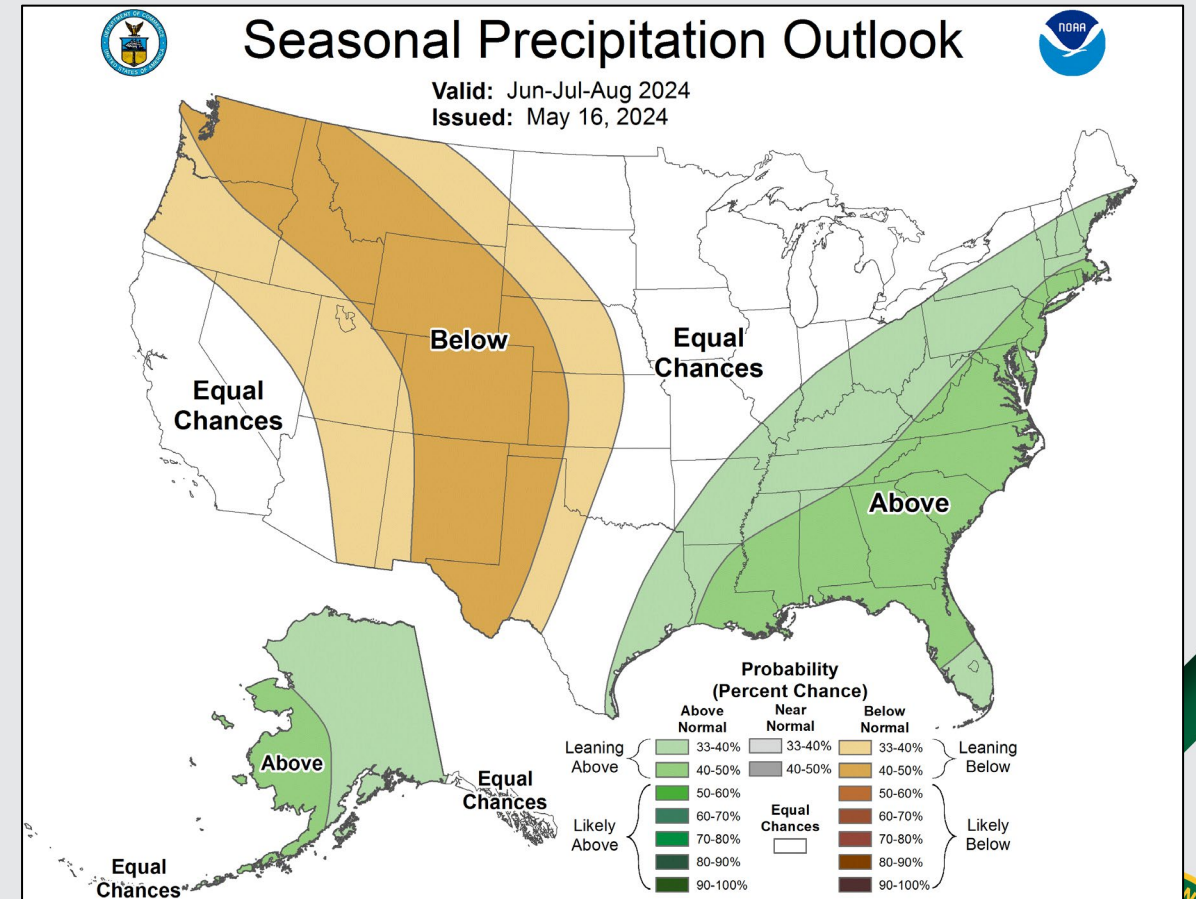
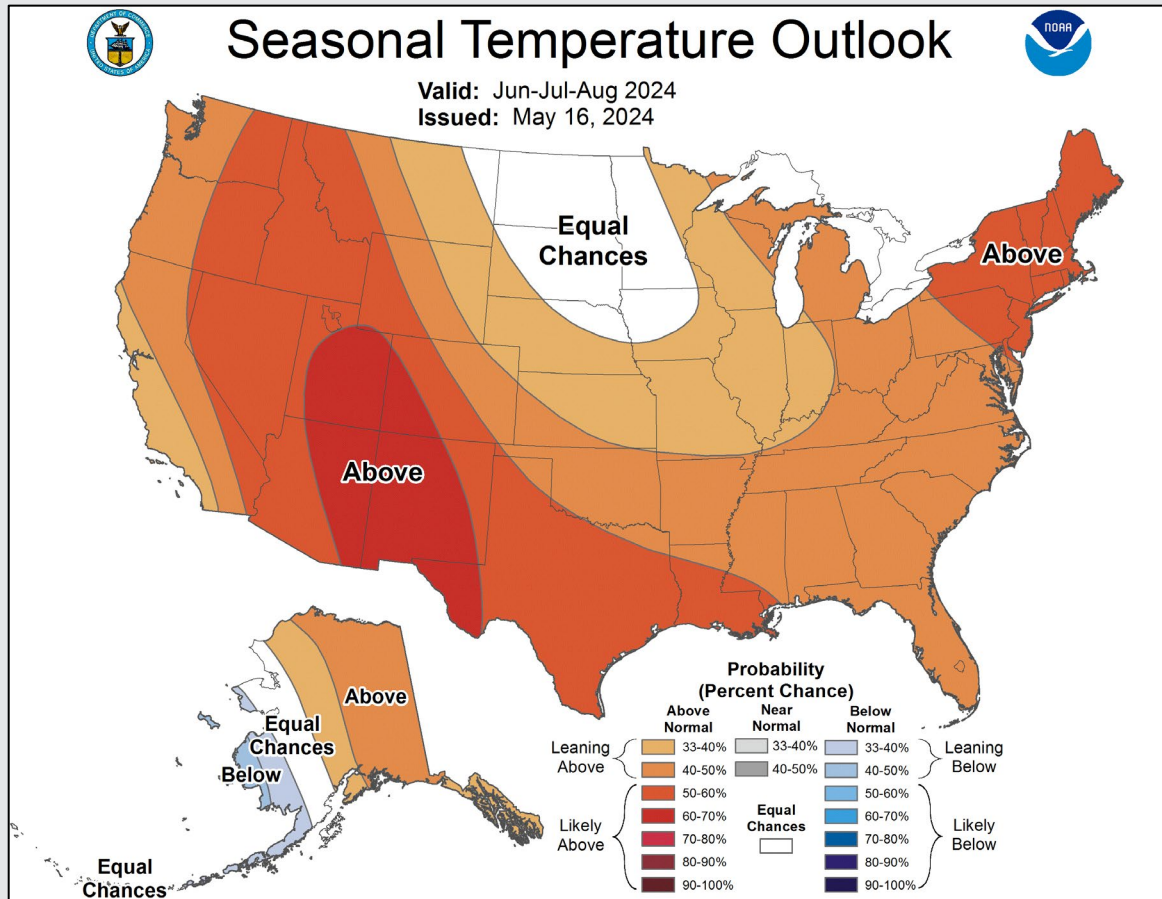


Oregon All Agencies - Wildfire Acres Burned by Decade

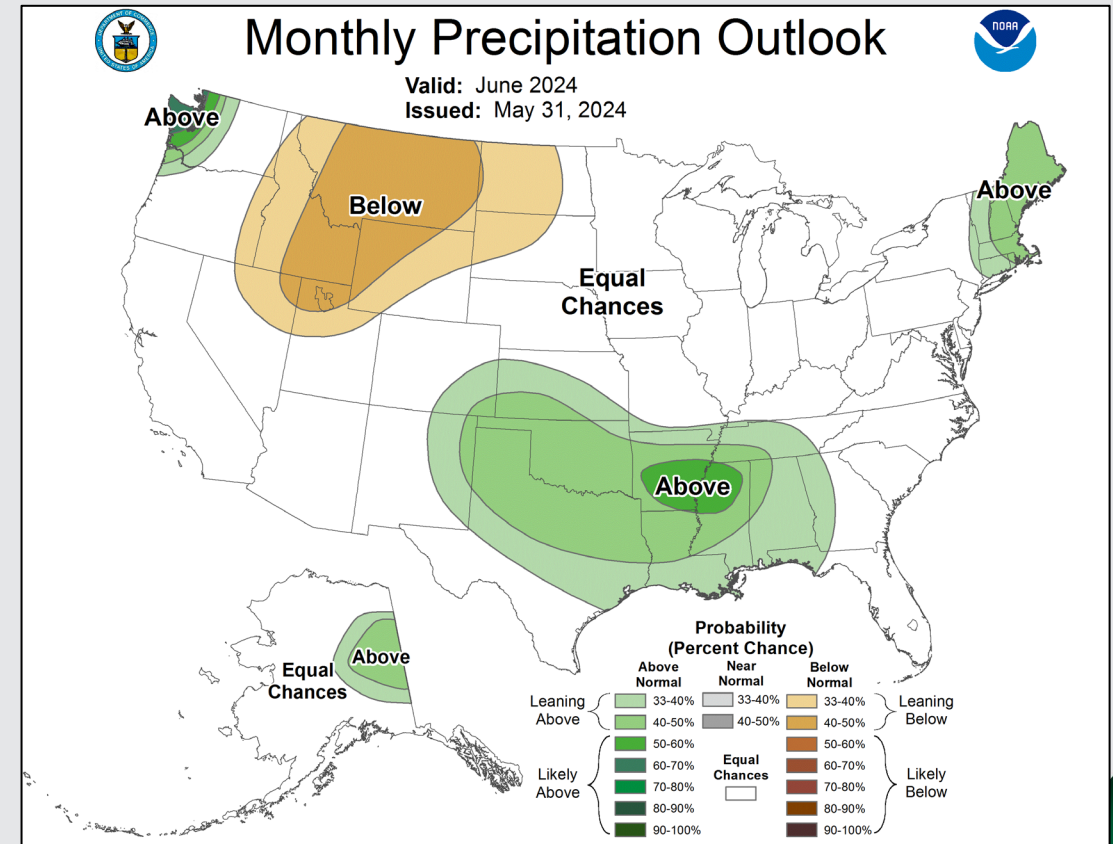
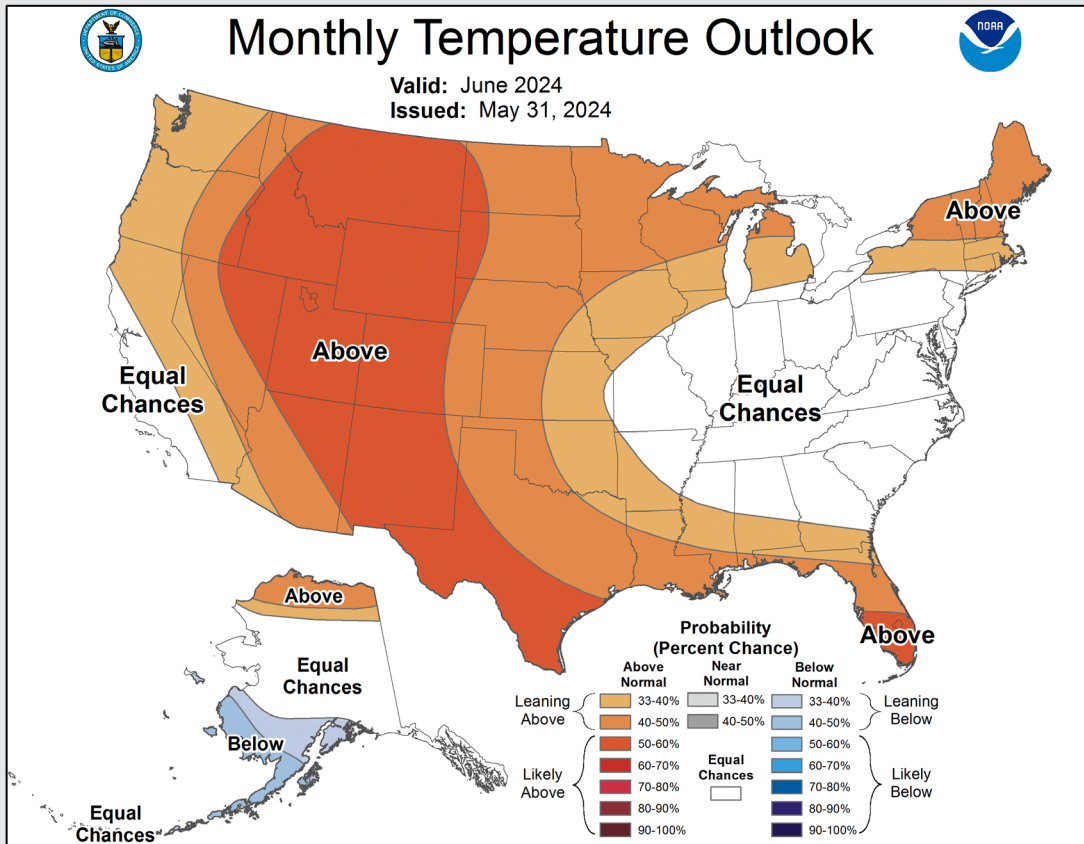
11/02/2023. NIFC, NWCC, ODF.



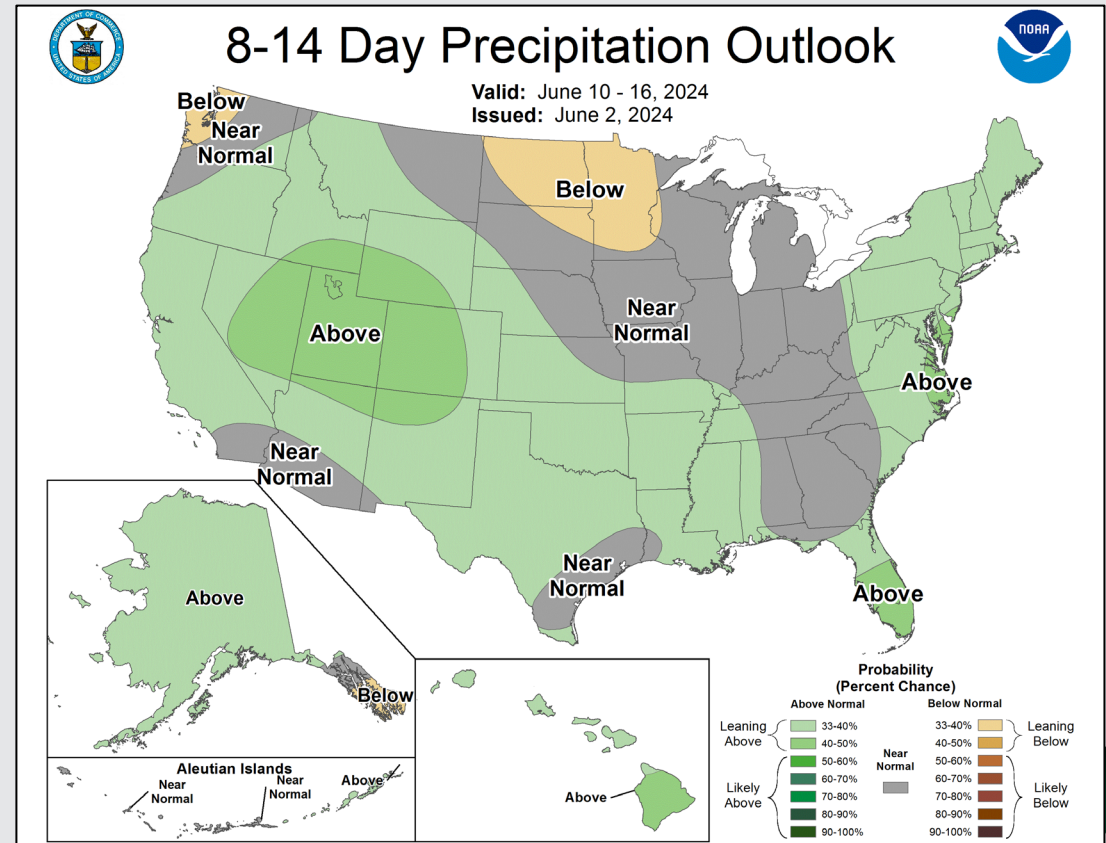
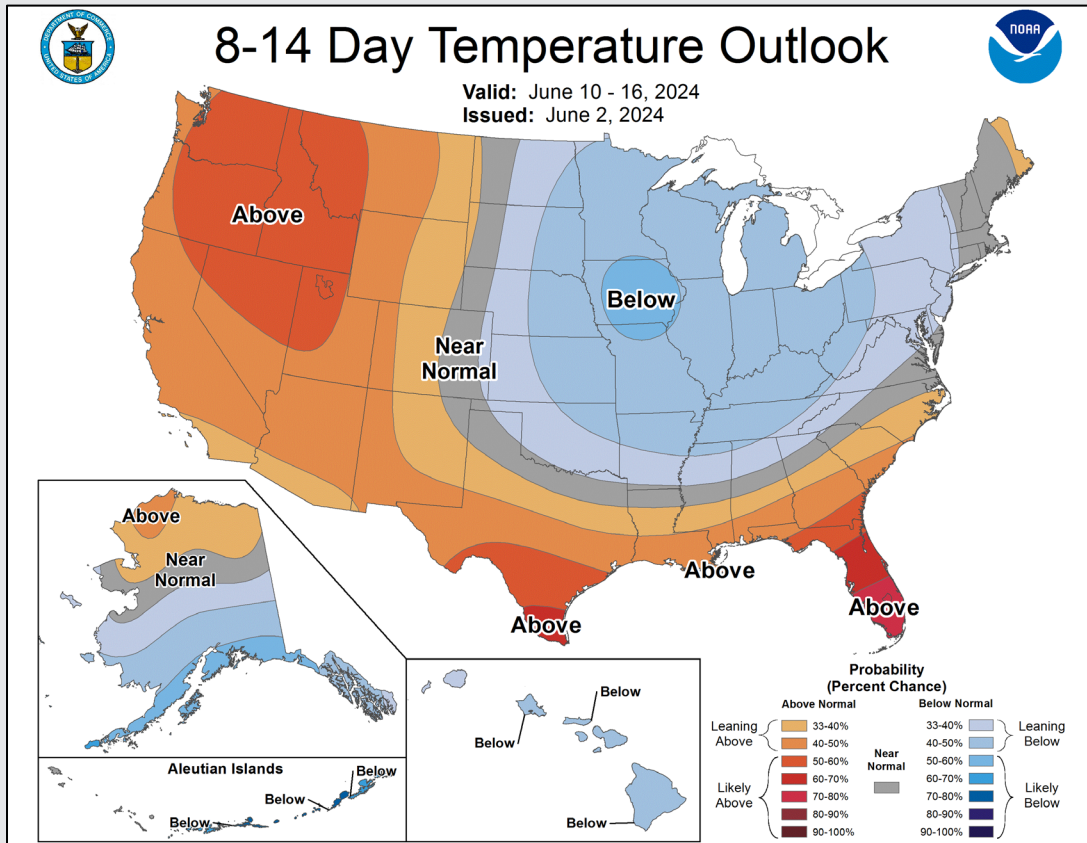
NOAA 3-Month Seasonal Outlook: June-Aug



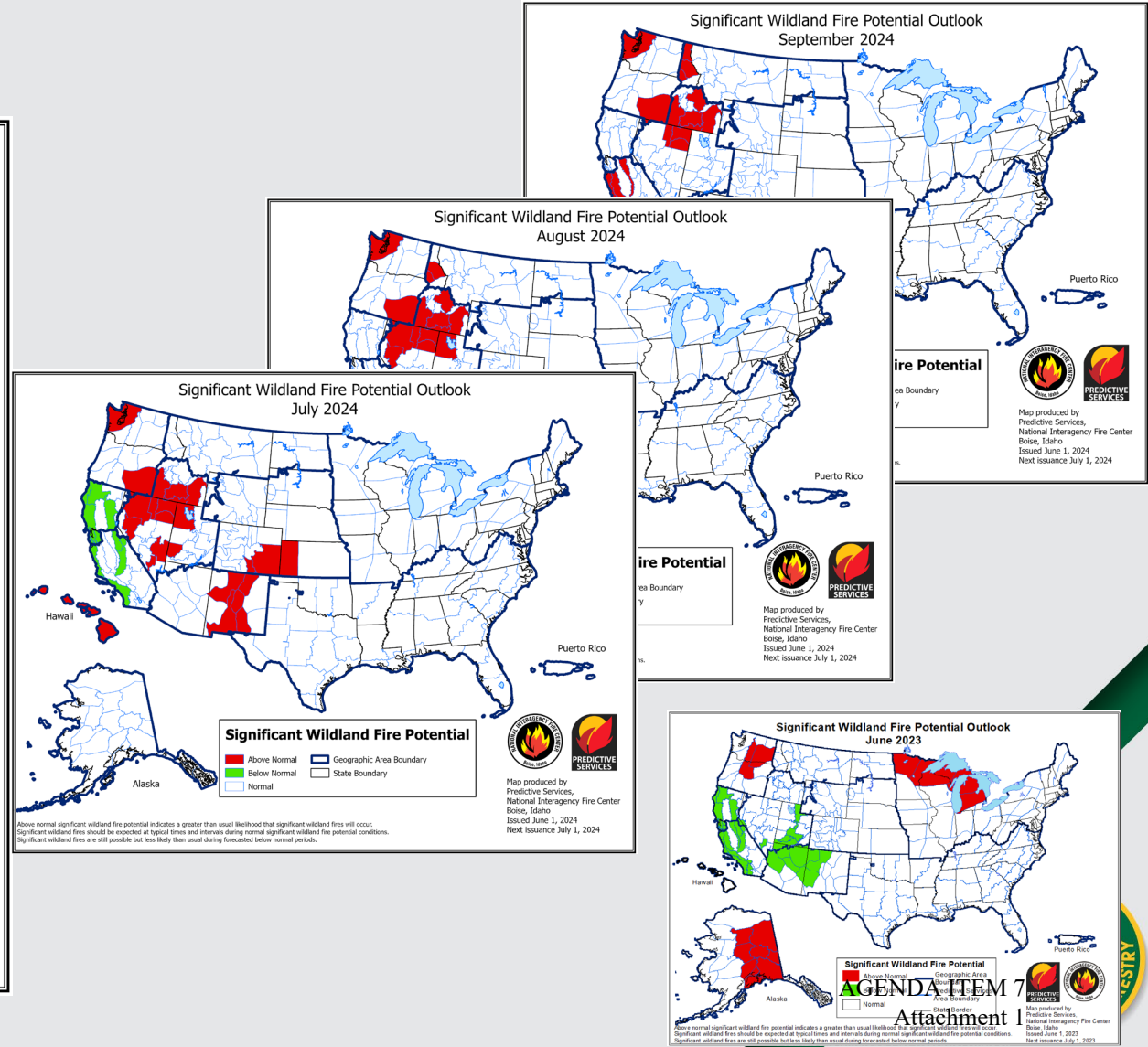
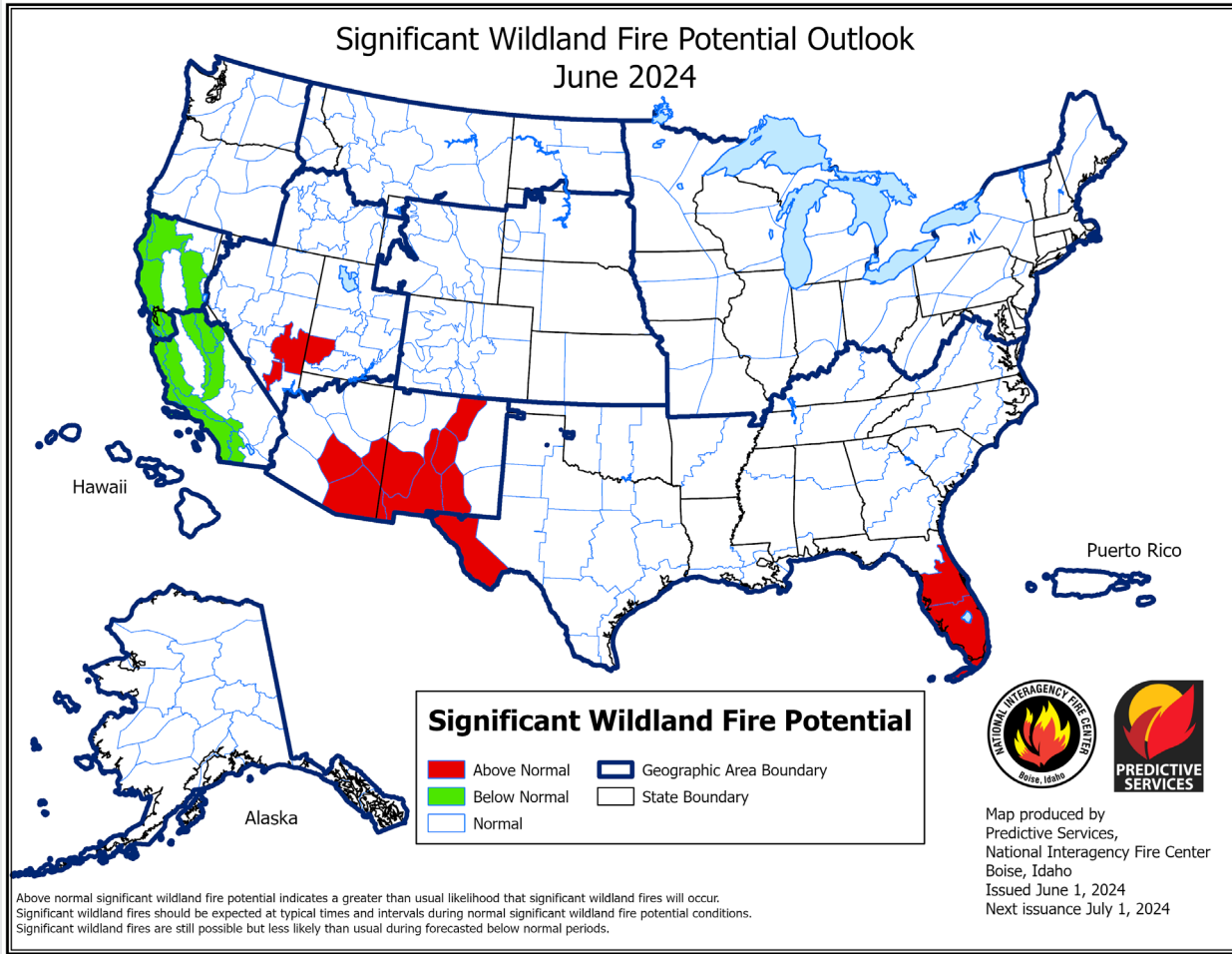
NOAA Monthly Outlook: June



NOAA Outlook: 8-14 day



National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook



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.

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Statewide Coordination

Incident Resource Agreements -- Resources			
413 Type 2 Crews	72 Faller Single, Faller Mods	66 Medical (staff, ambulances, BCMU, REMS)	5 Mobile Showers
240 Dozers 205 Excavators 186 Water Tenders 136 Engines 143 Log Truck/Loader/Shovel/Processors 92 Skidders/Skidgines 62 Feller Bunchers 60 Runners 41 Mulcher Masticators 40 Dump Trucks 14 Chippers			
648 additional equipment, transports, overhead positions and services/supplies			

- Crews and Cooperators
- 3 Incident Management Teams & equipment
- Coordination with federal agencies
- 50+ aviation companies
- Landowners provide annually:
 - 640 trained personnel
 - 445 pieces of equipment
- Resources from 12 ODF Districts
 - 200 engines
 - 400 firefighters
 - 15 large bulldozers
 - Look-outs and dispatchers



Ops Agreement Smokey

- ODF and ORNG
- Resources
- Ordering Process
- Payment
- Limitations



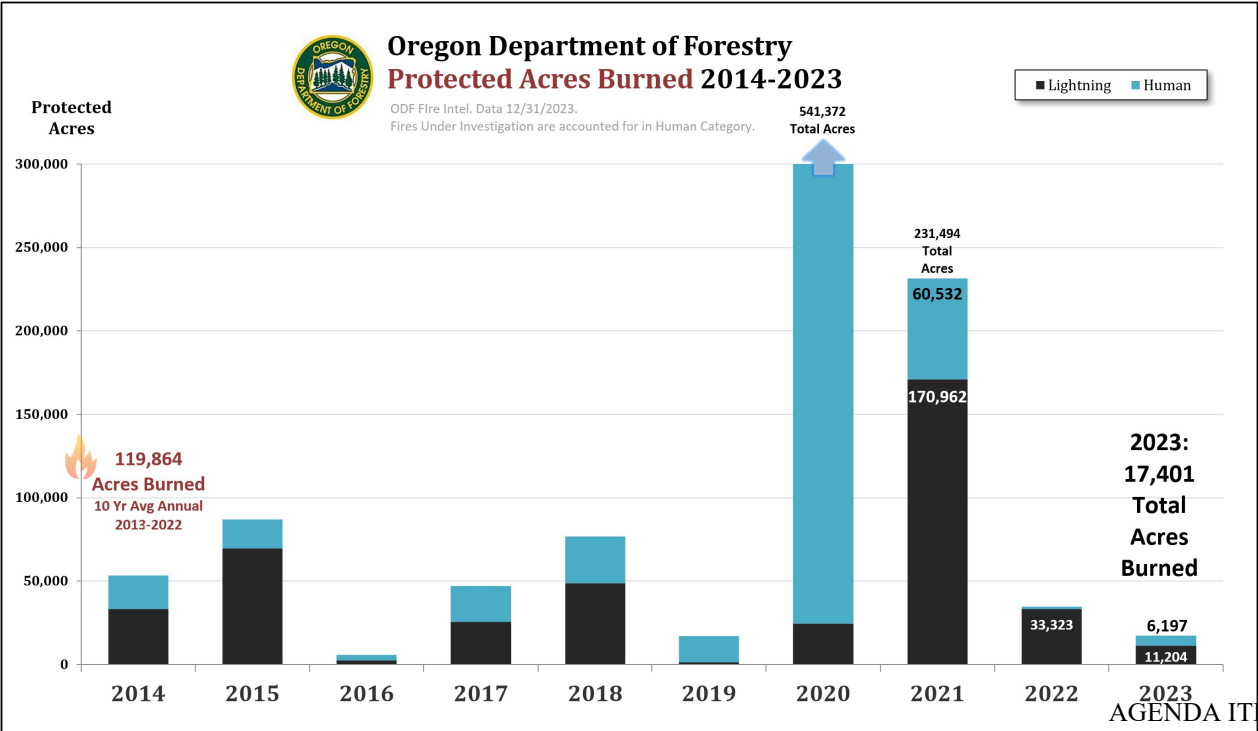
ODF Fire Statistics

99% fires kept at 10 acres or less to date in 2024

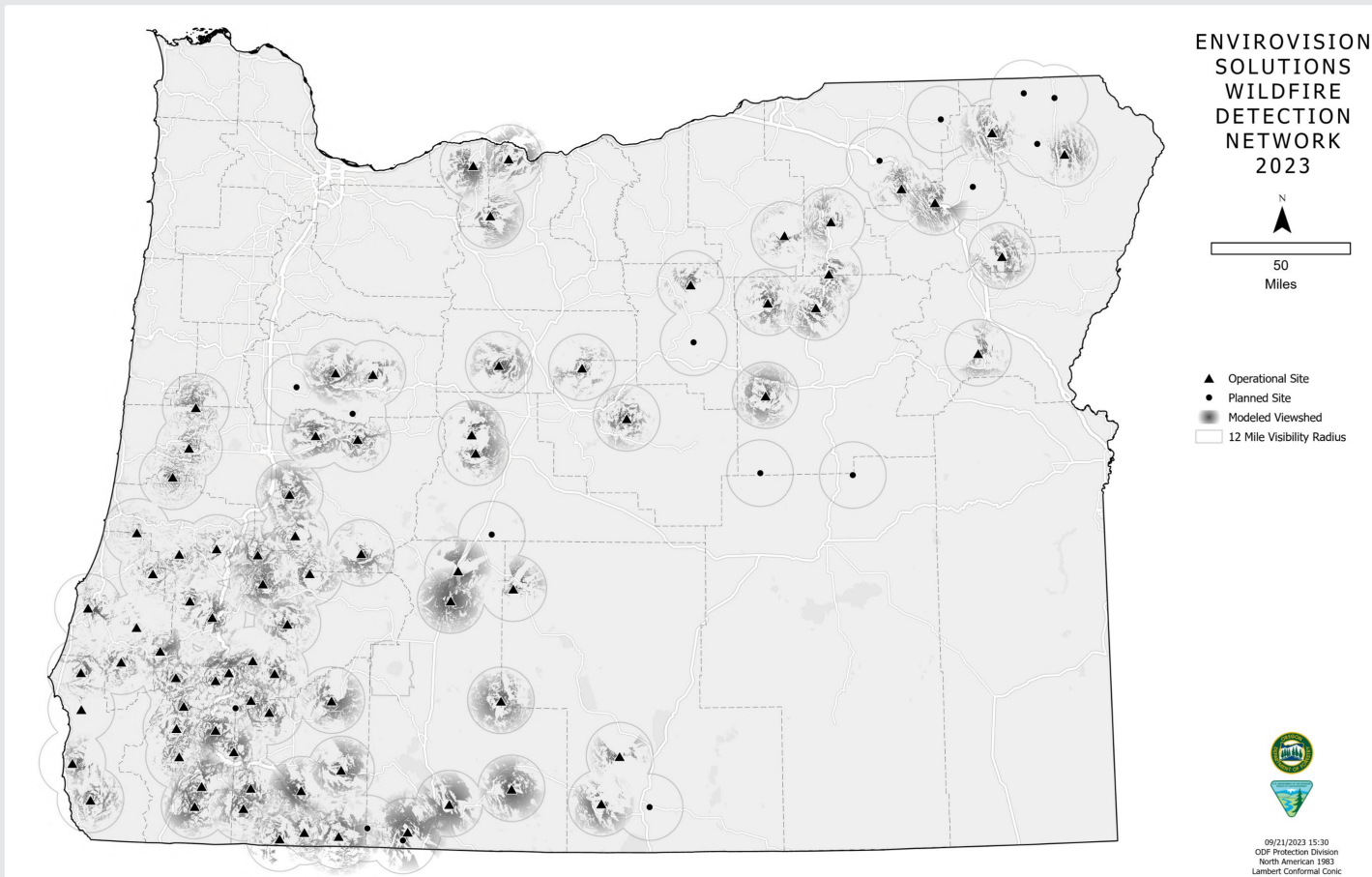
2024 vs 10-year average YTD

51% less fires 84% less acres burned

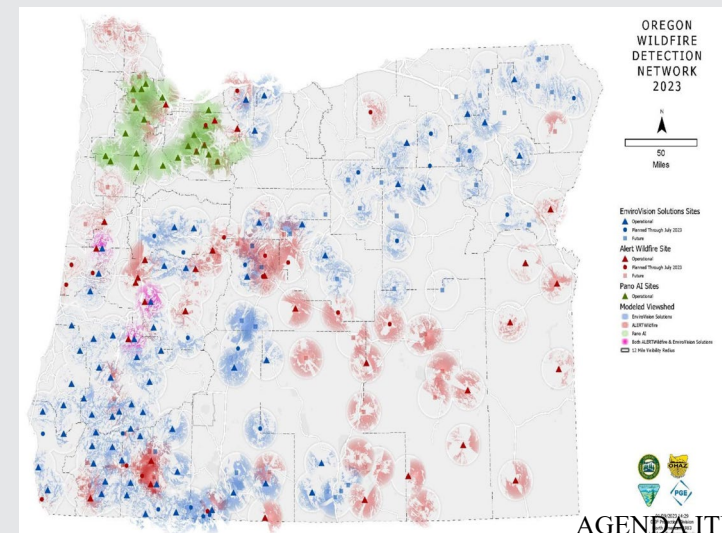
2024 Year To Date		
	Fires	Acres
Lightning	0	0
Human (and UI)	74	111
Total	74	111
10-Year Average (2014-2023 YTD)		
Lightning	12	10
Human	139	668
Total	151	678



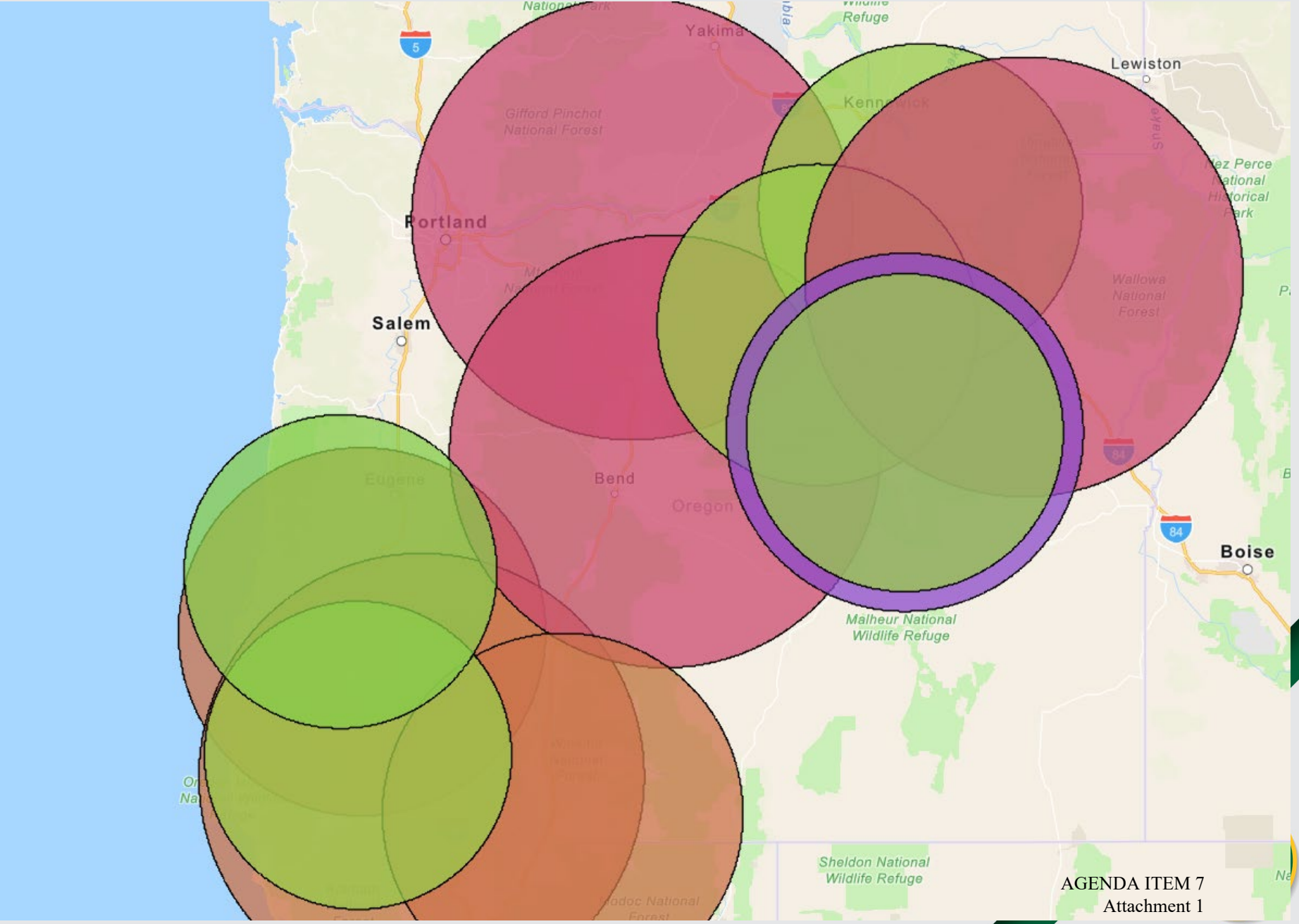
Smoke Detection Cameras



- **86** ODF-EVS cameras
- Part of a statewide detection network



Aircraft Type	# of Aircraft	Operational Characteristics
Type 1 Helicopter	3	Heavy Helicopter with 700 gallons of water capacity.
Type 2 Helicopter	8	Medium Helicopter with 200-300 gallons of water capacity.
Type 3 Helicopter	1	Light Helicopter with 100-150 gallons of water capacity.
Type 3 Helitack Helicopter	3	Aerial delivery of fire fighters with 100-150 gallons of water capacity.
Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT)	4	Single Engine Air Tanker with 800 gallons of fire chemical capacity.
Single Engine Scoopers	2	Scooping Single Engine Air Tanker with 800 gallons of fire chemical capacity.
Detection Aircraft	5	Light Fixed Wing Aircraft used for Fire Detection and Aerial Supervision of Tactical Aircraft assigned to an incident.
Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)	30	Type 3 UAS (some with infrared capability) support fire line operations such as mapping, situational awareness and detection.
Call When Needed Aircraft (All Types)	100+	Emergency access to Airtankers, Helicopters, Light Fixed Wing Aircraft, and Uncrewed Aircraft Systems



ODF Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA)

- IR and visible camera capability
- Video and images available in SOFSA



Oregon's Complete and Coordinated Fire Protection System

