



# 2018 SUMMARY

CAL FIRE

Predictive Services Sacramento

Summer 2018

# CAL FIRE 2018 SUMMER PRESENTATION

- 2017 Fire Season/  
Recap
- 2017-2018 Winter
- Summer 2018  
Outlook



*Eric La Price*

# 2017 FIRE SEASON RECAP



California's Carrizo Plain National Monument "super bloom" 2017  
Center – Grass and oaks in Kern County

## National Synopsis - June through July:

▪ Above normal significant fire potential will continue across the southern Southwest and expand into Texas and southern Nevada.

Above normal potential will also develop in northwestern Nevada and northeastern California as well as the fine fuel areas of southern California. An area of above normal potential will develop in Florida.

▪ Significant fire potential will remain normal across the remainder of the U.S.

### This Fire Season:

- Increased grass crop in the lower elevations means early and large grass fires
- Increased fuel loading in the foothills from grasses, dead brush and dead trees will increase the number and size of fires
- Higher elevation fire season will start late due to snow load. Once fuels dry, fire activity will significantly increase



# YEARS OF DROUGHT

- Tree mortality will still be an issue in 2017 and beyond
- It takes about three years for a tree to die. We still have 2+ more years of dying trees.



High “ dead to live fuels “ ratio and it is increasing

# 2017 NOTABLE FIRES

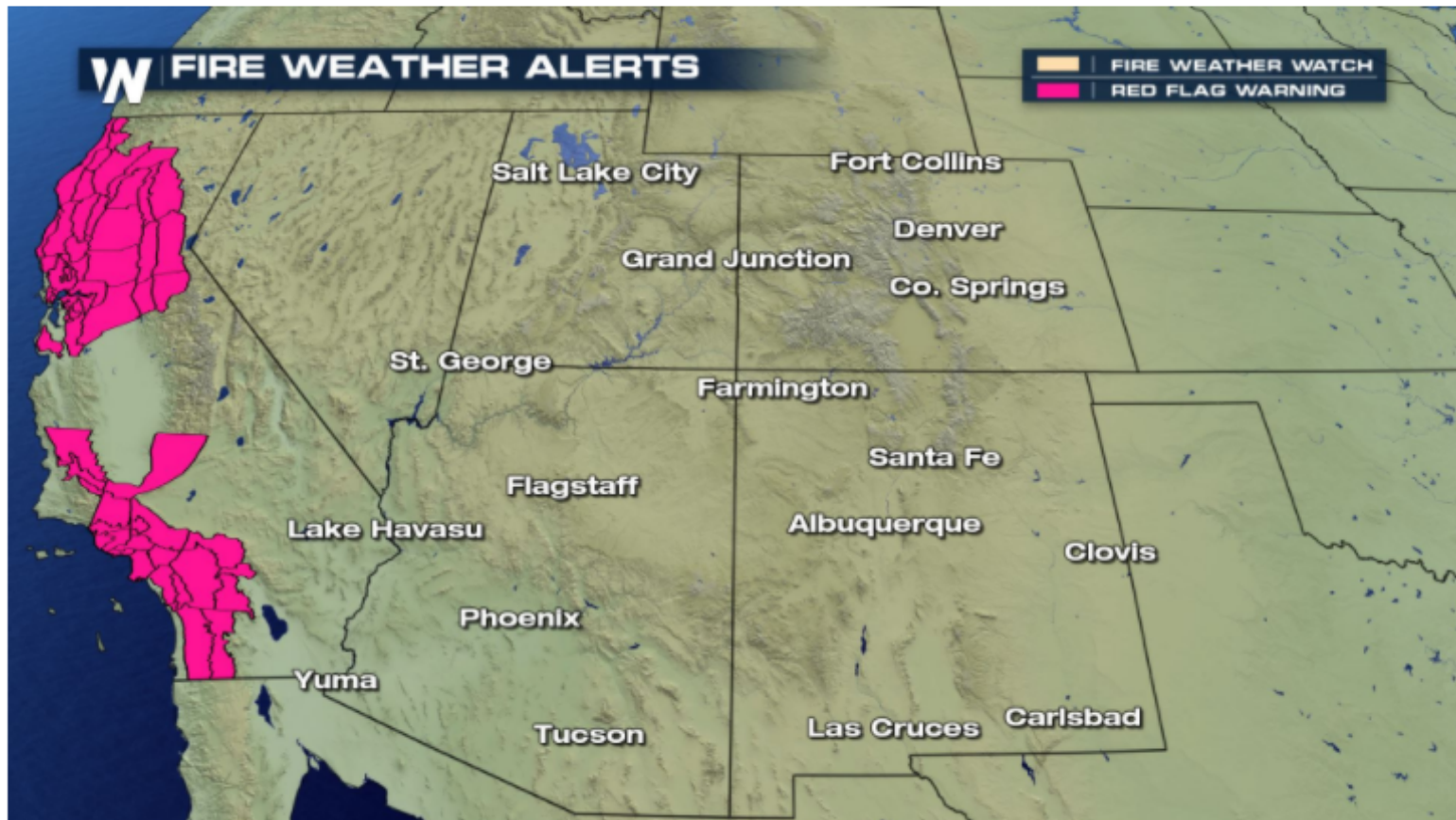


Northern California Wildland Fires October 2017

# LEADING UP TO THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2017

## Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

These strong winds will also lead to Red Flag Warnings through northern and southern California until Monday afternoon.



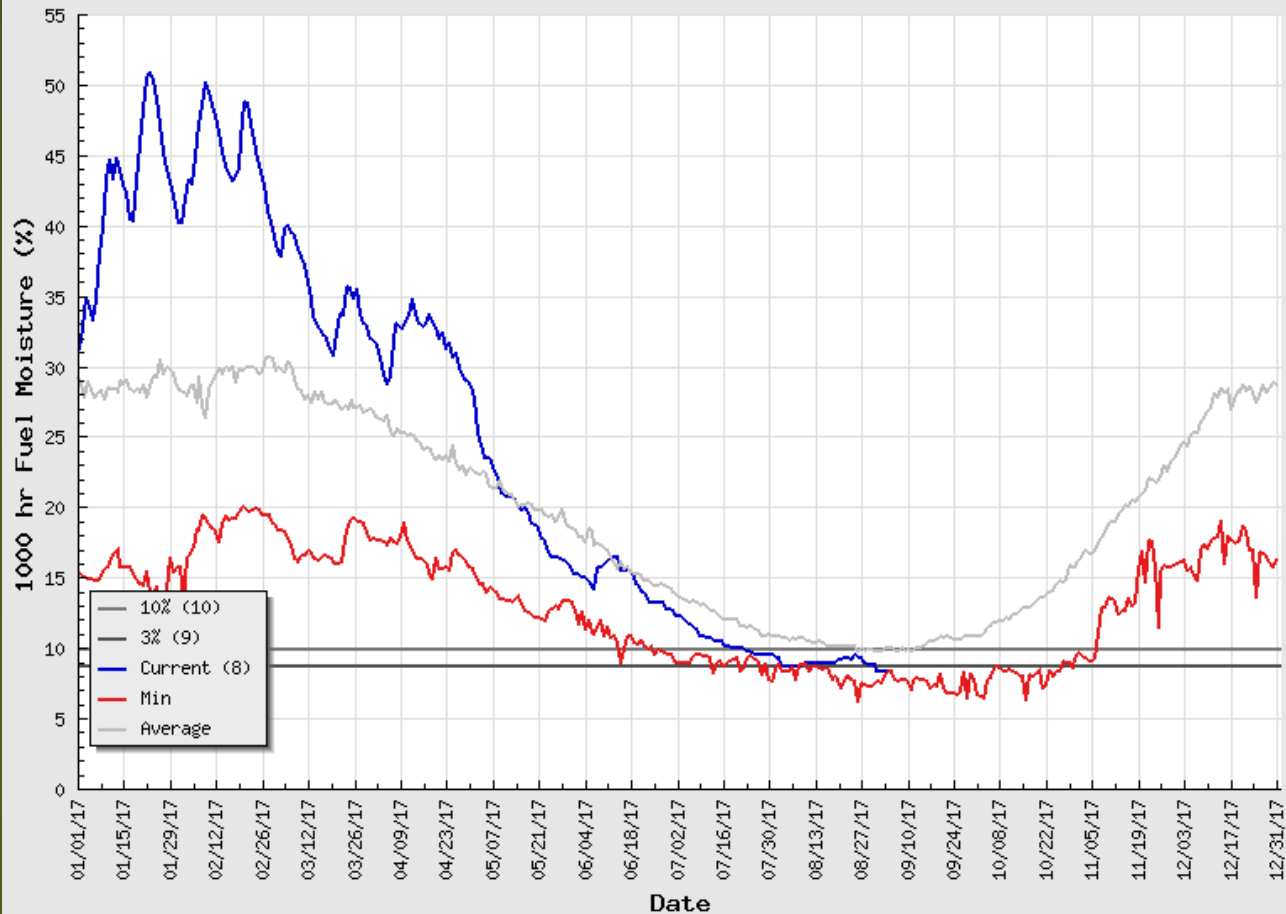
# LEADING UP TO THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2017

NC02 - Mid Coast To Mendocino

Valid Date: 18-Oct-2017

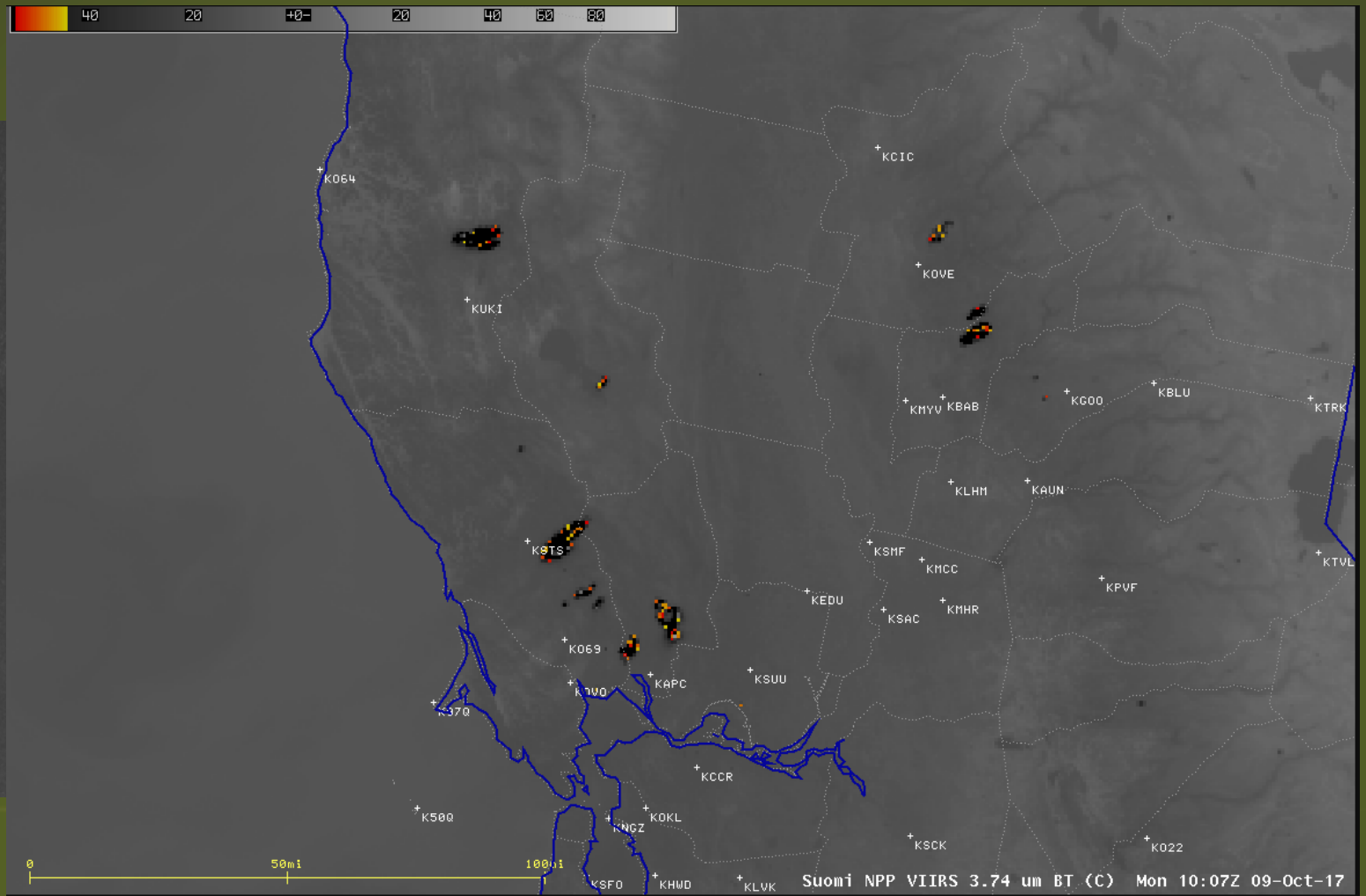
NC02 - Mid Coast To Mendocino

Valid Date: 04-Sep-2017





# FIRE ACTIVITY OCTOBER 8, 2018



# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES SUMMARY OCTOBER 2017

Name	County	Acres	Start date	Containment date	Deaths	Notes
Tubbs	Napa, Sonoma	36,807	October 8, 2017	October 31, 2017	22	5,643 structures destroyed, 1 injured
Sulphur	Lake	2,207	October 9, 2017	October 26, 2017		150 structures destroyed
Redwood Valley Complex	Mendocino	36,523	October 9, 2017	October 26, 2017	9	545 structures destroyed, 43 injured
Pocket	Sonoma	17,357	October 9, 2017	October 31, 2017		
Nuns	Napa, Sonoma	56,556	October 8, 2017	October 30, 2017	3	Merged with the Norrbom, Adobe, Partrick, Pressley, and Oakmont Fires. 1,355 structures destroyed
Lobo	Nevada	821	October 9, 2017	October 18, 2017		At least 30 structures destroyed
La Porte	Butte	6,151	October 9, 2017	October 19, 2017		
Cherokee	Butte	8,417	October 8, 2017	October 16, 2017		
Cascade	Yuba	9,989	October 9, 2017	October 19, 2017	4	143 residential and 123 outbuildings destroyed
Bear	Santa Cruz	391	October 16, 2017	October 27, 2017		4 structures destroyed, 7 injuries
Atlas	Napa, Solano	51,624	October 8, 2017	October 28, 2017	6	781 structures destroyed, 40 structures damaged
37 Fire	Sonoma	1,660	October 9, 2017	October 12, 2017		25 structures destroyed, 55 structures damaged

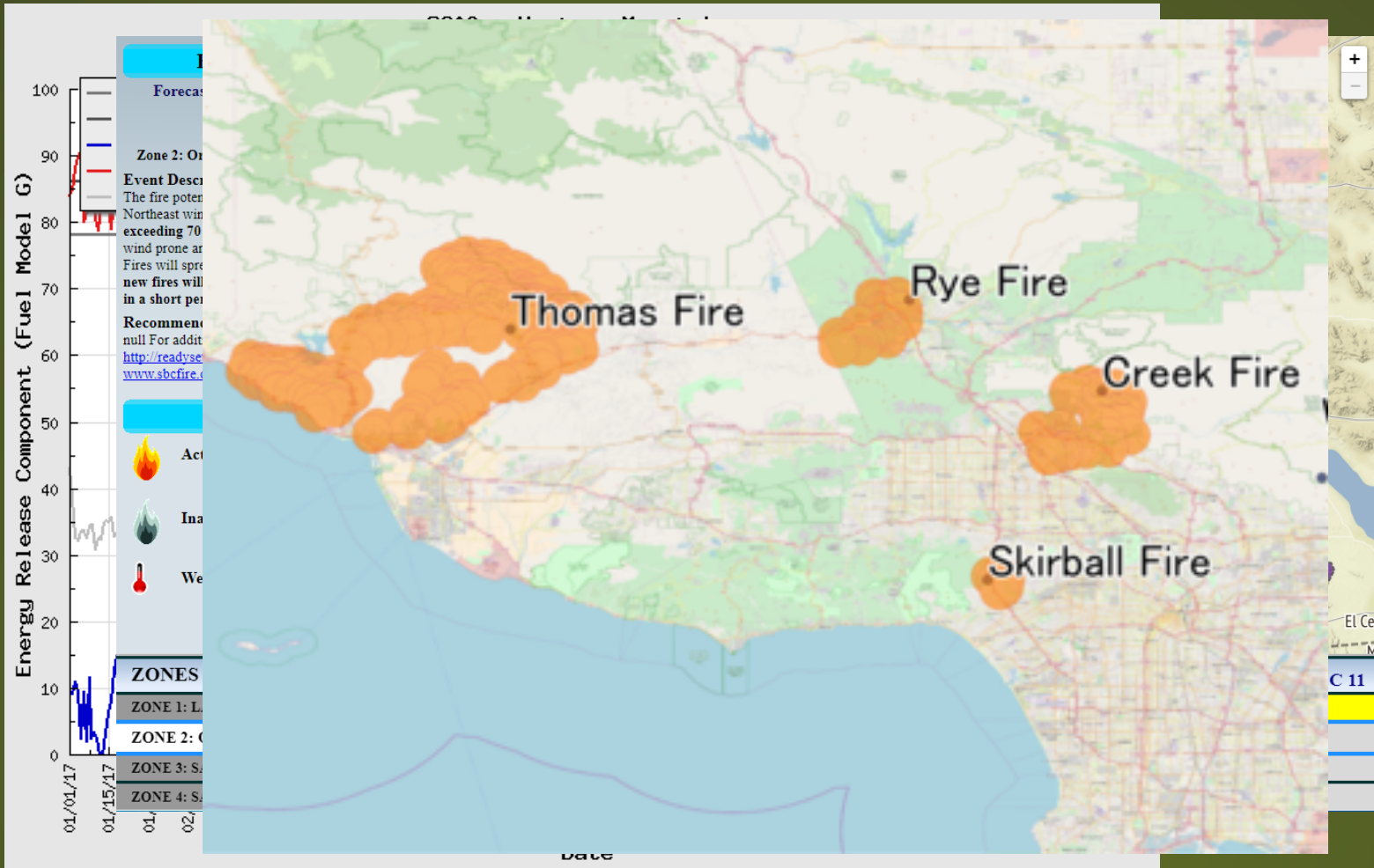
# OCTOBER FIRES



# ORANGE COUNTY, CANYON 2 FIRE, OCTOBER 9, 2017



# DECEMBER 2017 CONDITIONS



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES DECEMBER 2017

## December 2017 Southern California wildfires



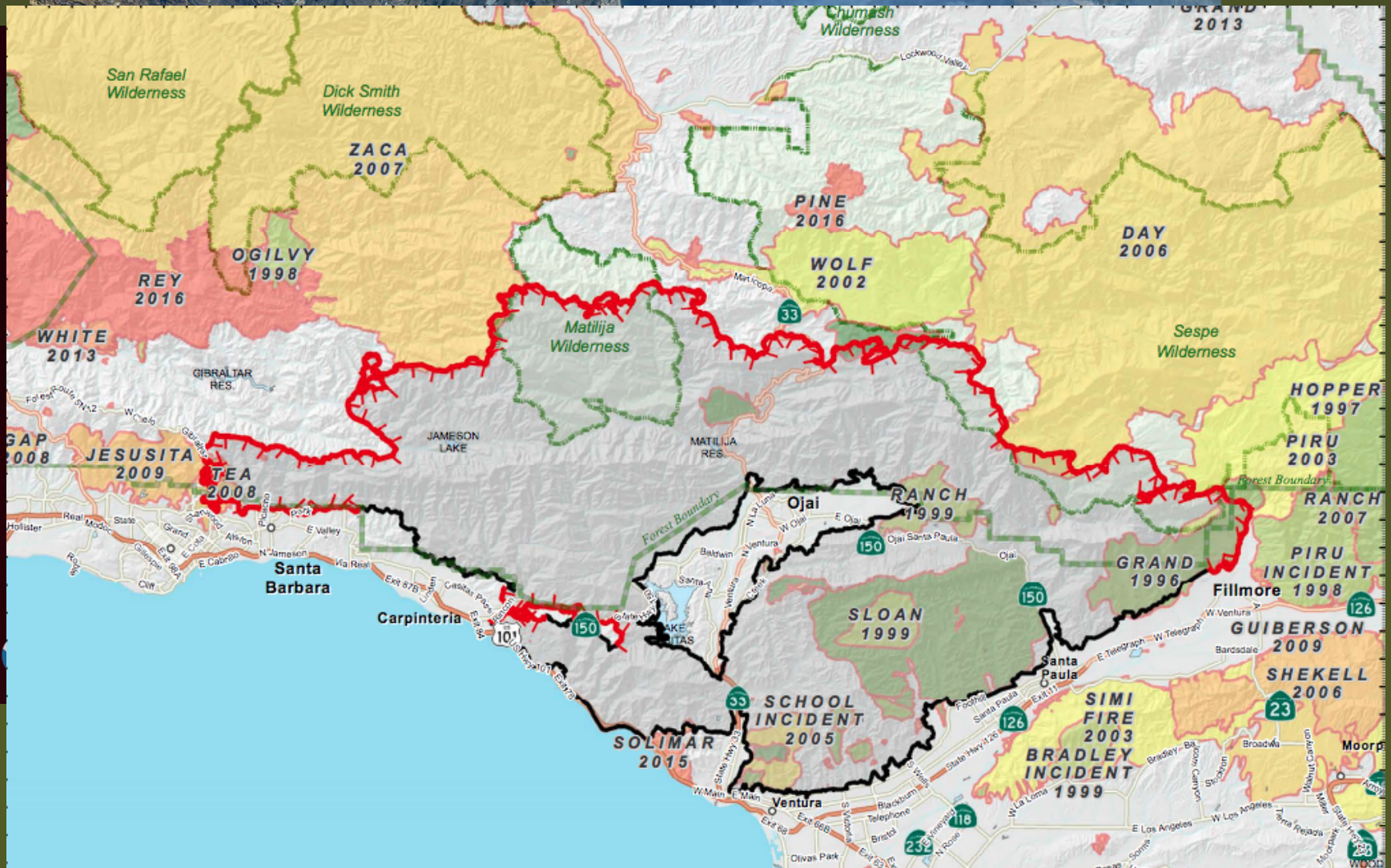
**1** Thomas Fire    **2** Rye Fire    **3** Creek Fire

Satellite image of the smoke from the Thomas Fire and 2 smaller wildfires, on December 5, 2017.



Greg Vitalich  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# THOMAS FIRE 2017



# LARGER DECEMBER 2017 FIRES

Thomas	Ventura	281,893	December 4, 2017	January 12, 2018	Contained		Largest wildfire in modern California history: 1,063 structures destroyed, 280 buildings damaged, 2 firefighters injured, 1 firefighter and 1 civilian killed
Creek	Los Angeles	15,619	December 5, 2017	January 9, 2018	Contained		123 buildings destroyed, 81 buildings damaged, 3 firefighters injured
Rye	Los Angeles	6,049	December 5, 2017	December 12, 2017	Contained		6 buildings destroyed, 3 structures damaged, 1 firefighter injured

Skirball	Los Angeles	422	December 6, 2017	December 15, 2017	Contained	Illegal cooking fire	6 structures destroyed, 12 structures damaged, 3 firefighters injured
Lilac	San Diego	4,100	December 7, 2017	December 16, 2017	Contained		157 structures destroyed, 64 structures damaged, 3 firefighters and 4 civilians injured



# 2017 YEAR END

## Top 20 Largest California Wildfires

### Incident Information

Last modified on Jan 24, 2018

The below statistics are tracked on a weekly basis and provide a snapshot of the number of fires and acres burned. These are preliminary numbers taken from our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, and will likely change as dispatched wildfires may end up being other types of fires or false alarms. These numbers are subject to change until the final fire season reports are completed and tabulated.

#### NUMBER OF FIRES AND ACRES:

Interval	Fires	Acres
January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017	7,117	505,956
January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016	4,785	244,319
5 year average (same interval)	4,835	202,786
2017 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & US Forest Service)	9,133	1,248,606

(Statistics include all wildfires responded to by CAL FIRE in both the State Responsibility Area, as well as the Local Responsibility Area under contract with the department. Statistics may not include wildfires in State Responsibility Area protected by CAL FIRE's contract counties. Final numbers will be provided in the annual Wildfire Activity Statistics Report (Redbook) once it's published.)

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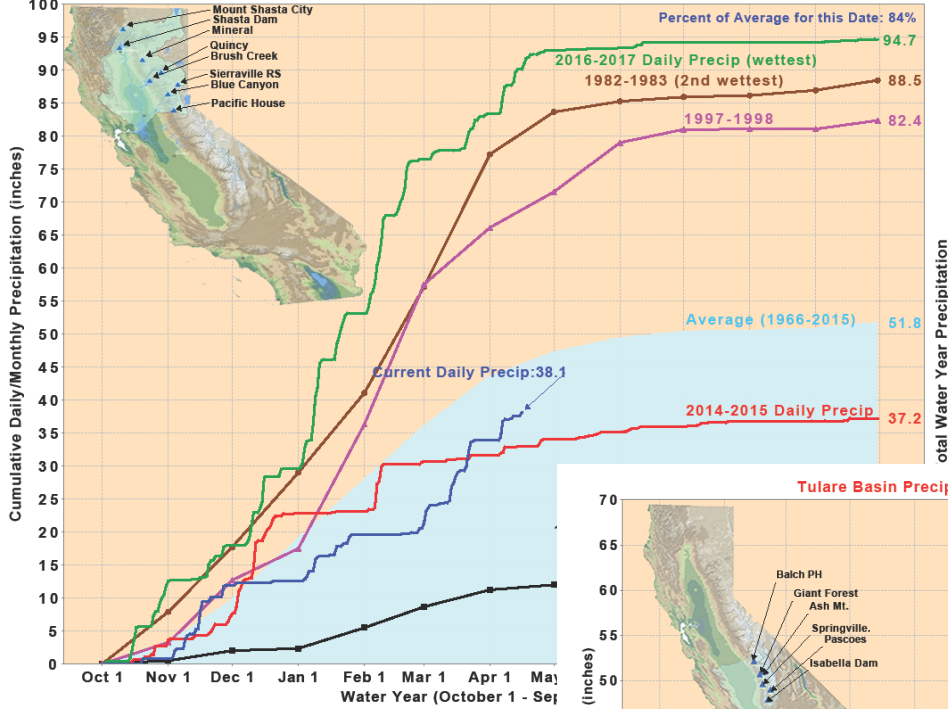
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# 2018 SUMMER OUTLOOK

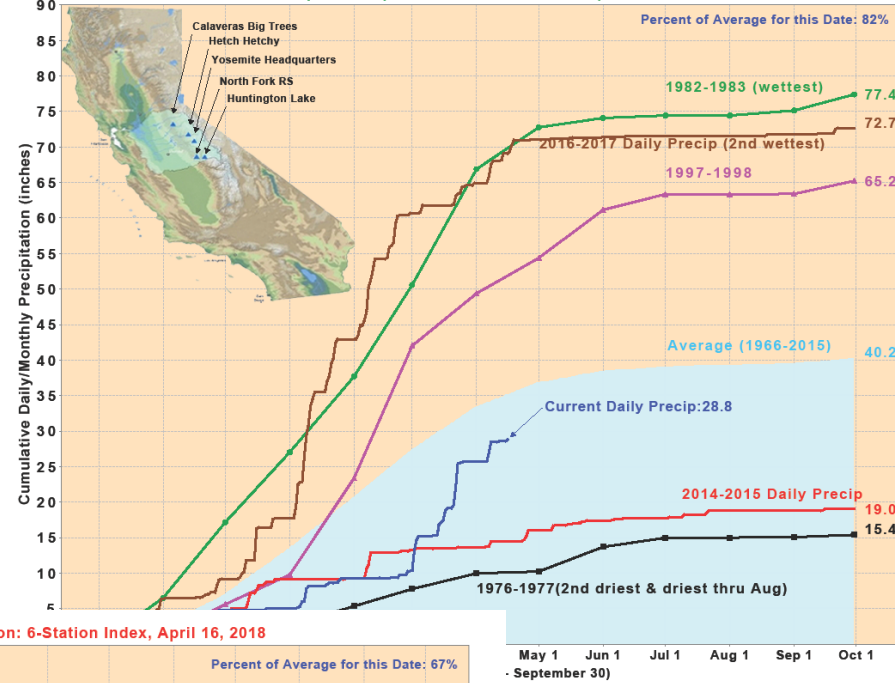
- Rainfall slightly below average
- Wet March
- Snowpack, first part of year low amounts follow by a late march snowpack and then warm rains and warm temperatures
- Healthy grass crop
- Large dead fuel loading from drought years

# 2017/2018 RAINFALL

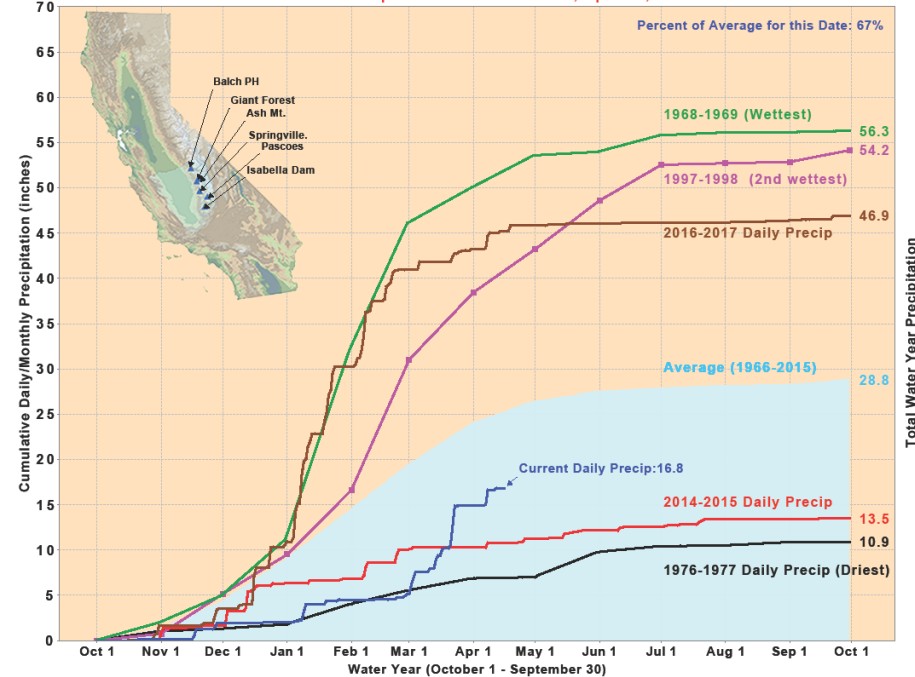
**North Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, April 16, 2018**



**San Joaquin Precipitation: 5-Station Index, April 16, 2018**



**Tulare Basin Precipitation: 6-Station Index, April 16, 2018**

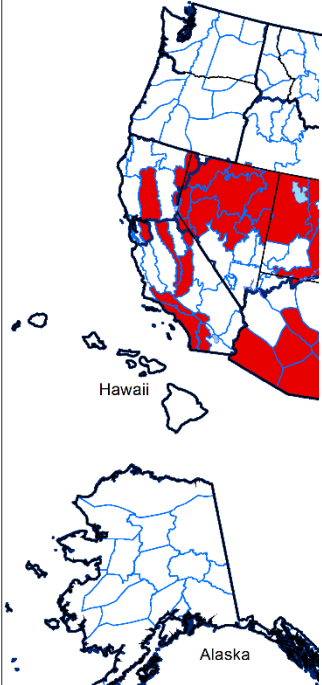


# HEAVY FUEL LOADING



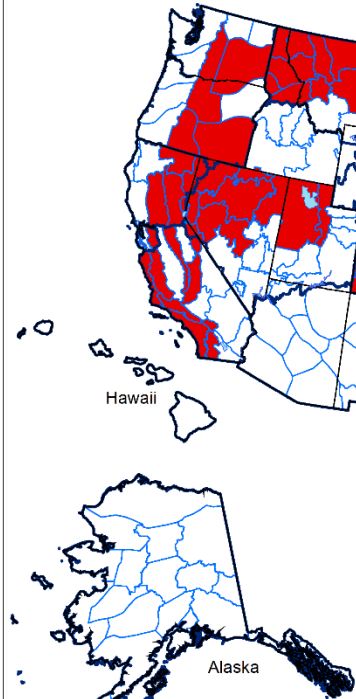
# 2018 SEASONAL OUTLOOK

**Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
June 2018**



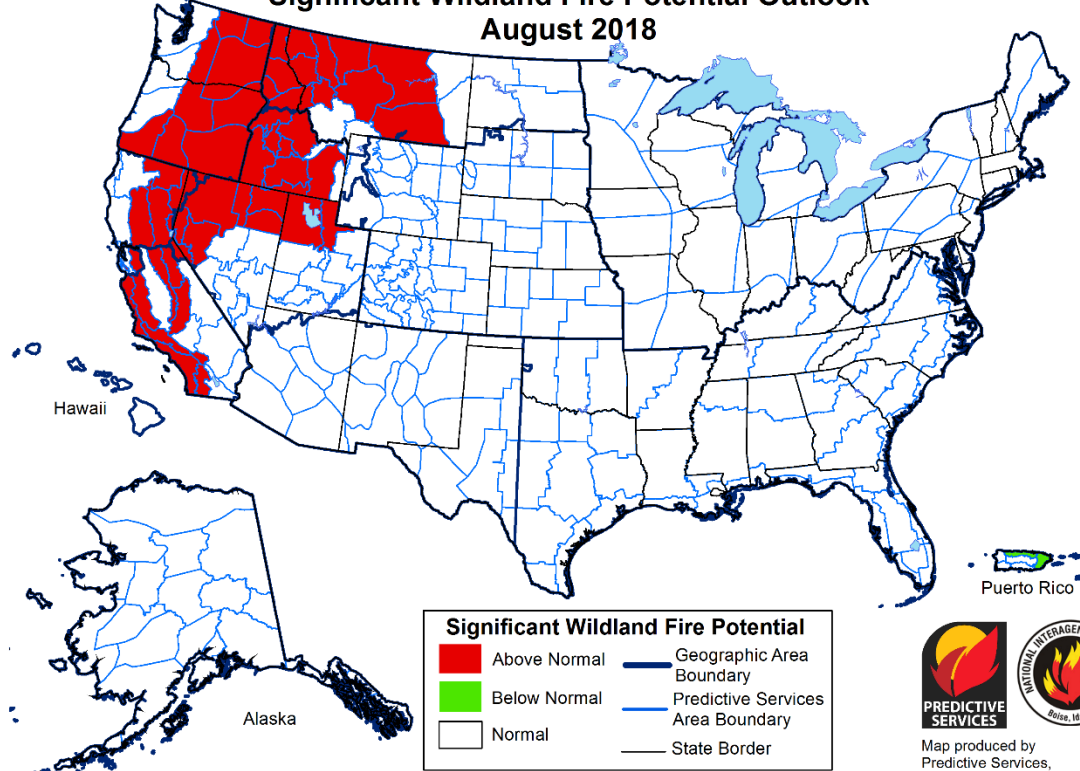
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**Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
July 2018**



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**Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
August 2018**



**Significant Wildland Fire Potential**

<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:1px solid black;"></span> Above Normal	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; border-bottom:1px solid blue;"></span> Geographic Area Boundary
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightgreen; border:1px solid black;"></span> Below Normal	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; border-bottom:1px solid blue;"></span> Predictive Services Area Boundary
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:white; border:1px solid black;"></span> Normal	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; border-bottom:1px solid black;"></span> State Border

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.



Map produced by  
Predictive Services,  
National Interagency Fire Center  
Boise, Idaho  
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Next issuance June 1, 2018

QUESTIONS?

