



Predictive Services

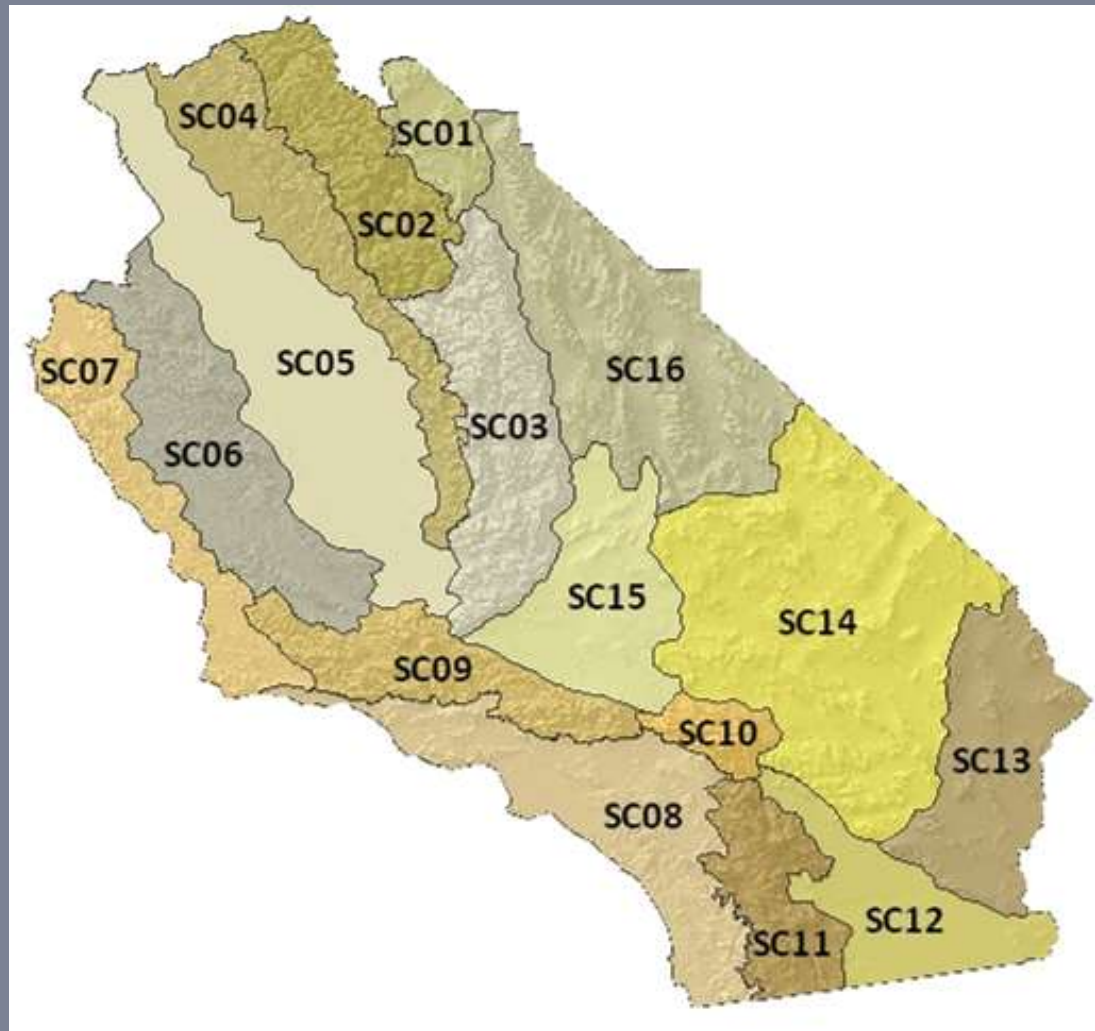
What is Predictive Services?

- A nationwide program operating in 11 Geographic Area Coordination Centers
- Consists of meteorologists, intelligence coordinators, and in some areas, fire behavior analysts
- Provides fire potential products to assist fire managers in making decisions regarding the allocation and mobilization of local, regional, and national resources

Predictive Services operates on two levels

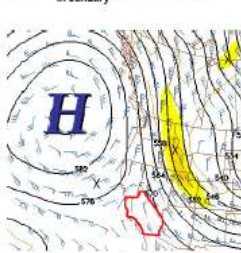
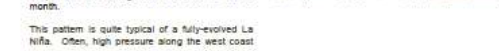
- **Local or regional level**
 - Supporting the local coordination center by providing fuels and fire potential information through briefings, conference calls and various products
 - Supporting the local fire community by participating in various user groups and cadre teams as well as maintaining the RAWS and smoke management programs
- **National level**
 - Providing products and guidance to the National Interagency Coordination Center

Predictive Services products are targeted to aid resource related decision-making at the GACC and national levels



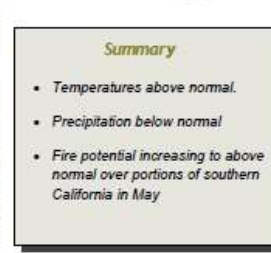
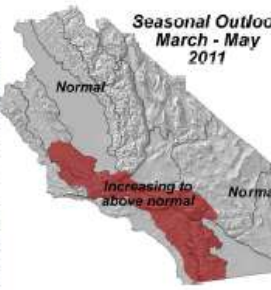
GACC National Map





As the high pressure over the Northwest continues to keep most systems north of the district, precipitation will continue to be below normal during the late winter into the spring. One or two more storm systems may affect the state in March, but overall, precipitation for the months of March through May will be below average. Snowpack across the Sierras and other water sheds will probably reach their peak earlier than average with melt out occurring a few weeks ahead of schedule. In a typical year, daily precipitation averages rapidly decline from a tenth to a few hundredths after April 1st. Therefore, expect little additional rainfall until the summer monsoon season. In addition, due to the lack of storm systems and resultant cloud cover, expect temperatures to average above normal during the late winter into the spring

- *Temperatures above normal.*
- *Precipitation below normal*
- *Fire potential increasing to above normal over portions of southern California in May*



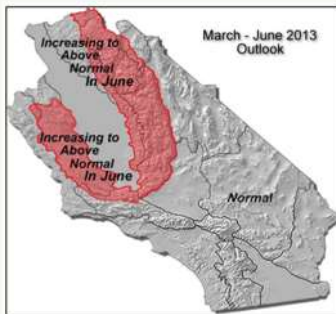
Monthly/Seasonal Outlook

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictive/outlooks/myfiles/assessment.pdf>

MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK



VALID: MARCH THROUGH JUNE 2013



Summary

- Temperatures Above Normal
- Precipitation Below Normal, especially over Central CA.
- Above Normal Large Fire Activity in the Higher Elevations of Central CA and Interior Mountain Areas of Southern CA in June.
- 1 or 2 Offshore Flow Events Per Month through May.

WEATHER DISCUSSION

This winter's weather patterns can be easily characterized as "stagnant" with regards to the upper level patterns seen across the Western U.S. The late fall/early winter pattern was very favorable for precipitation as a broad trough developed over the Pacific Northwest and the Gulf of Alaska. This trough carried abundant moisture into the state, especially in areas north of Kern County. Precipitation of 200-400 percent of normal was widespread over the northern half of the state through the first part of December, which buoyed hopes of a wet winter.

However, toward the end of December 2012, a large and dominant ridge developed over the Eastern Pacific which kept storm systems at bay. Those that did reach the state were often weak and bereft of significant moisture. Furthermore, many of the storms which arrived did not spend much time over water as they were carried east of the region due to deep downstream troughing over the Great Basin. This pattern has shown little sign of relenting during the next 30 days, and March will likely finish below normal in terms of precipitation.

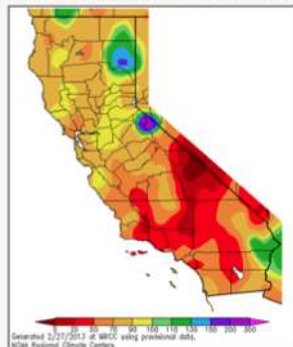


Figure 1: Percent of Average Precip. Dec 2012 – February 2013



Contact: Riverside.FWX@fire.ca.gov

Webpage: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/predictiveweather/index.htm>

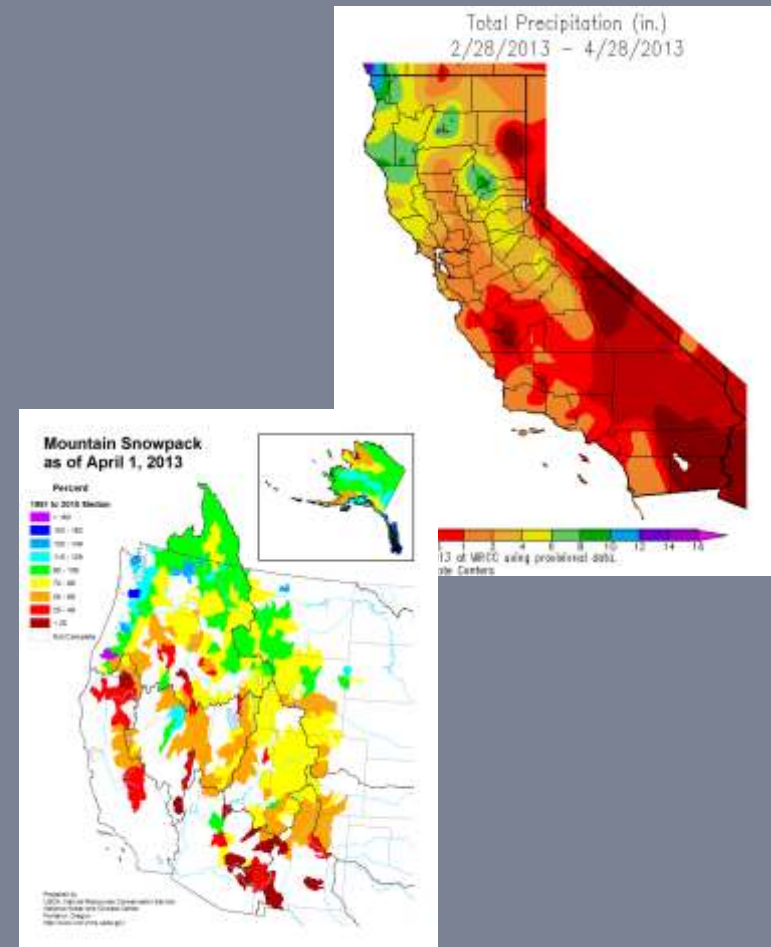


Precipitation Frequency and Amount

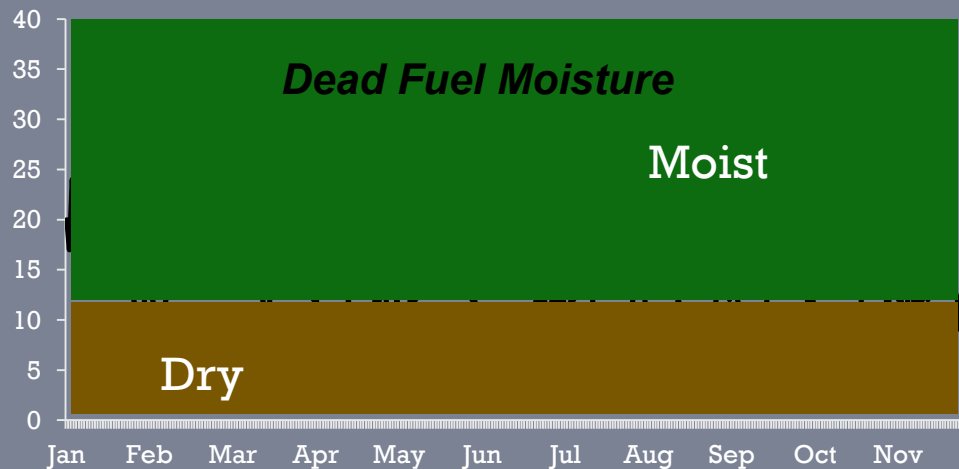
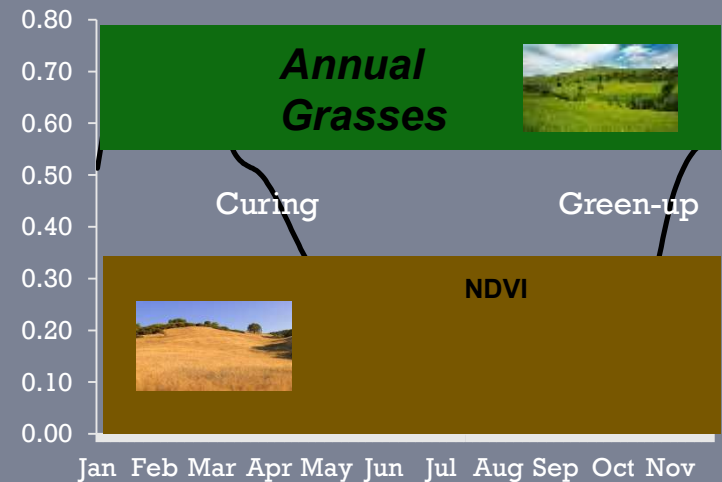
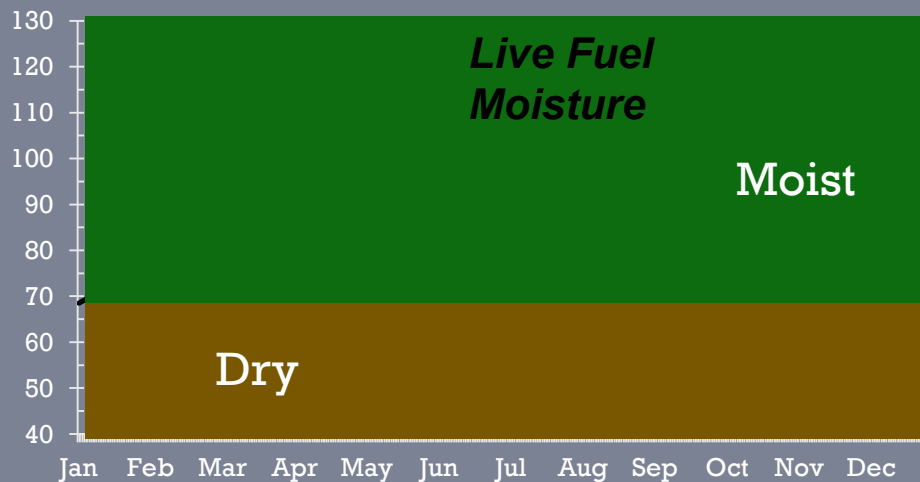
Precipitation frequency during the rainy season profoundly affects fuel conditions.

Light amounts of precipitation distributed every few weeks can be more beneficial than large amounts at one time.

Precipitation in December and January is often more beneficial than precipitation in April or May.

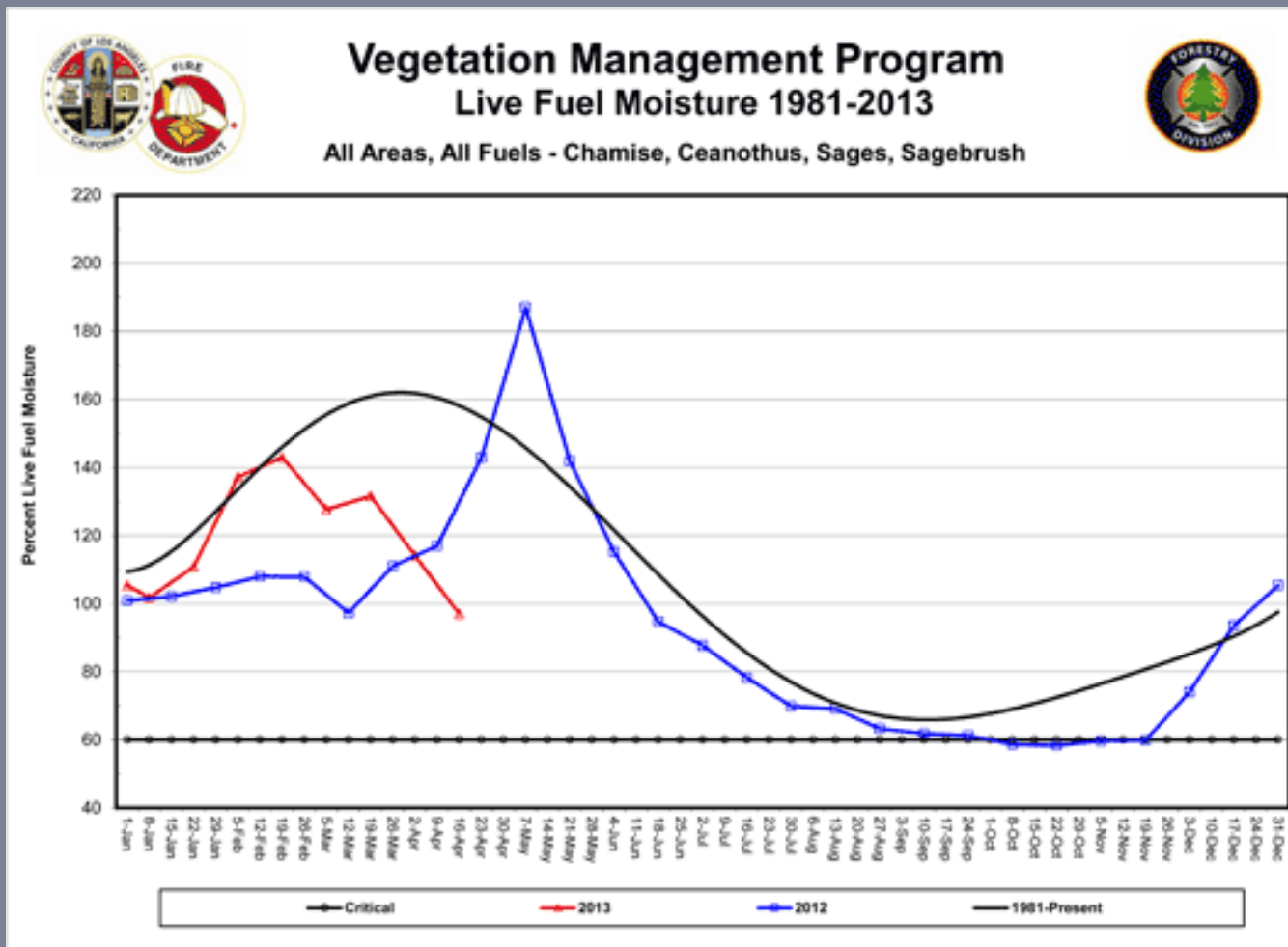


Fuel Moisture

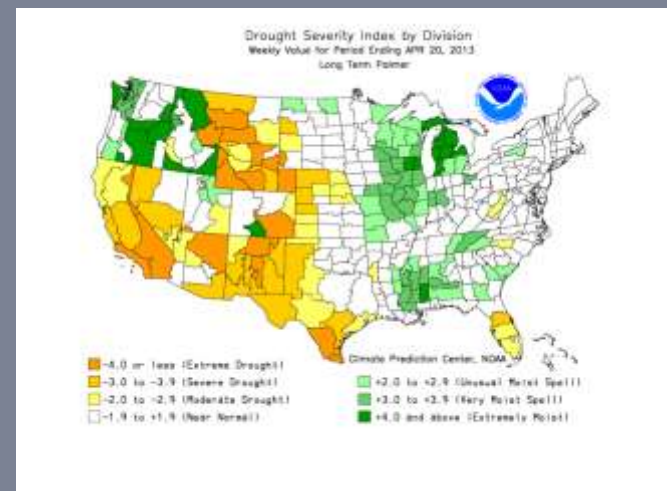
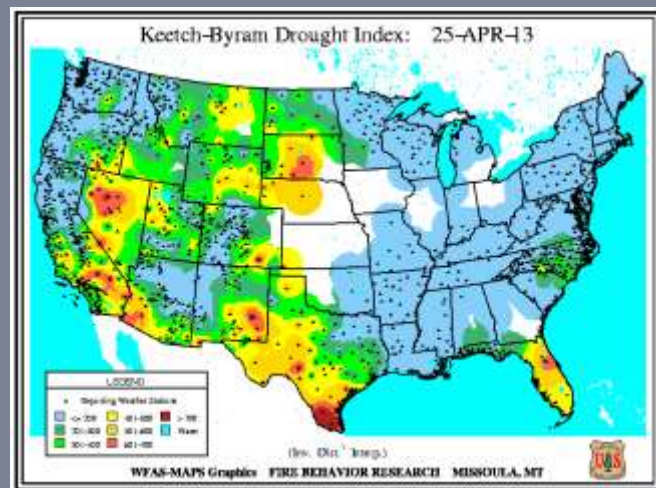
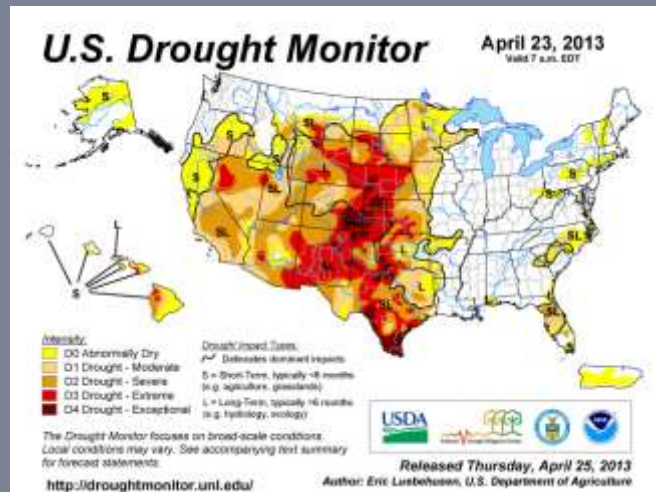


- Fuel moisture is complex
- Fuel may be in or out of sync with each other
- Stress can occur from long term drought

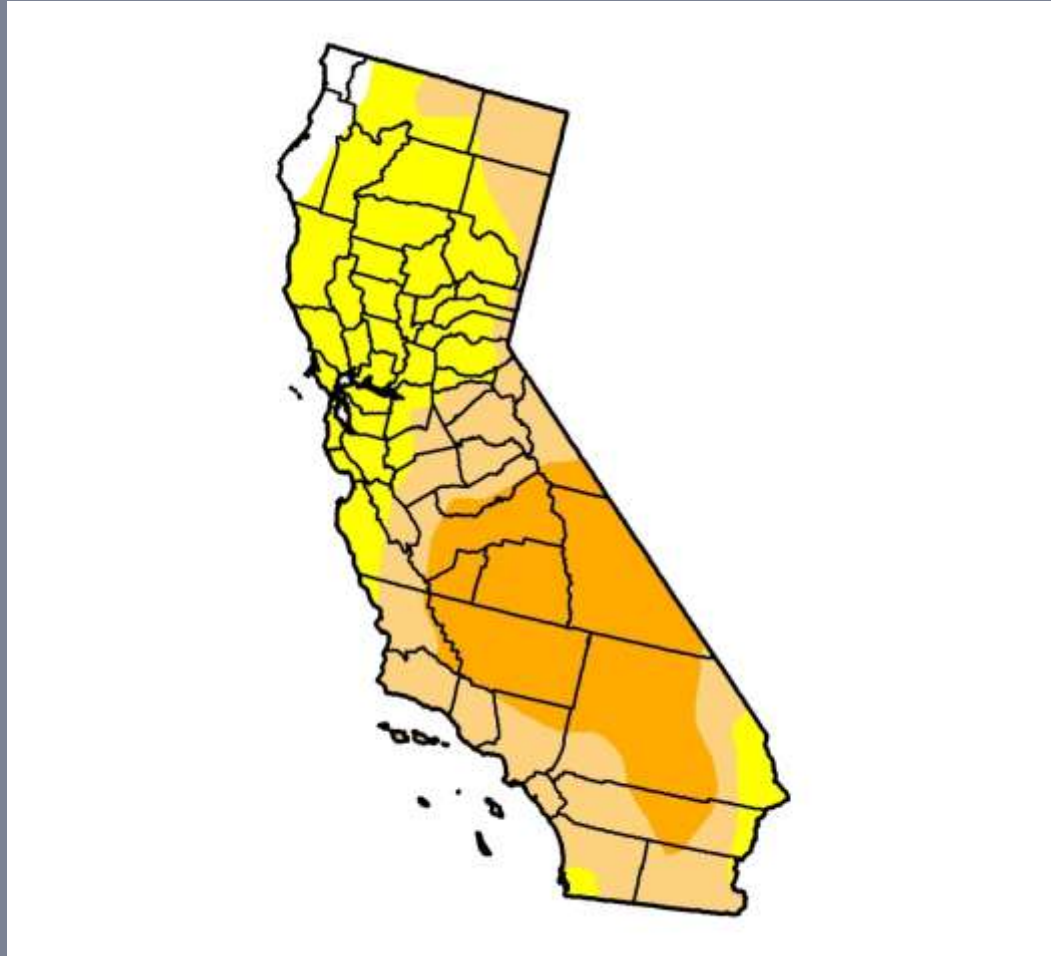
Live Fuel Response to Precipitation



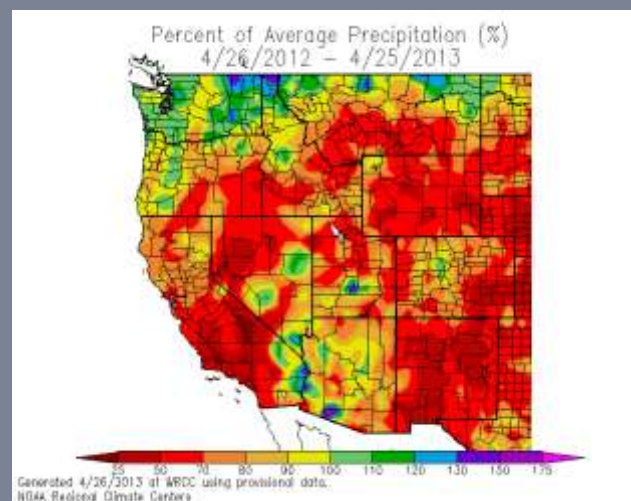
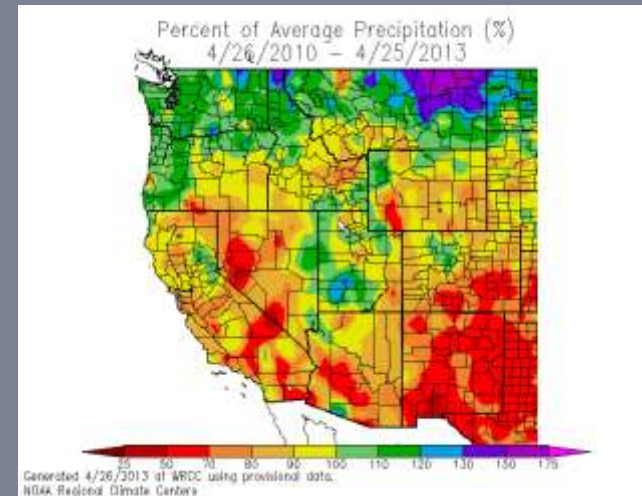
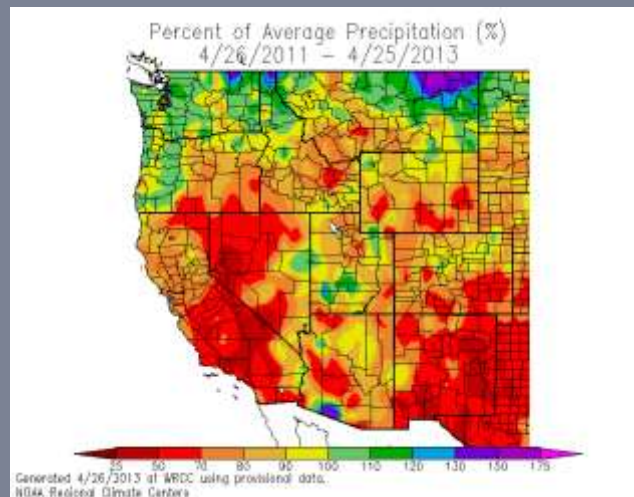
Drought Products



Compare Years



Precipitation





Summer Monsoon

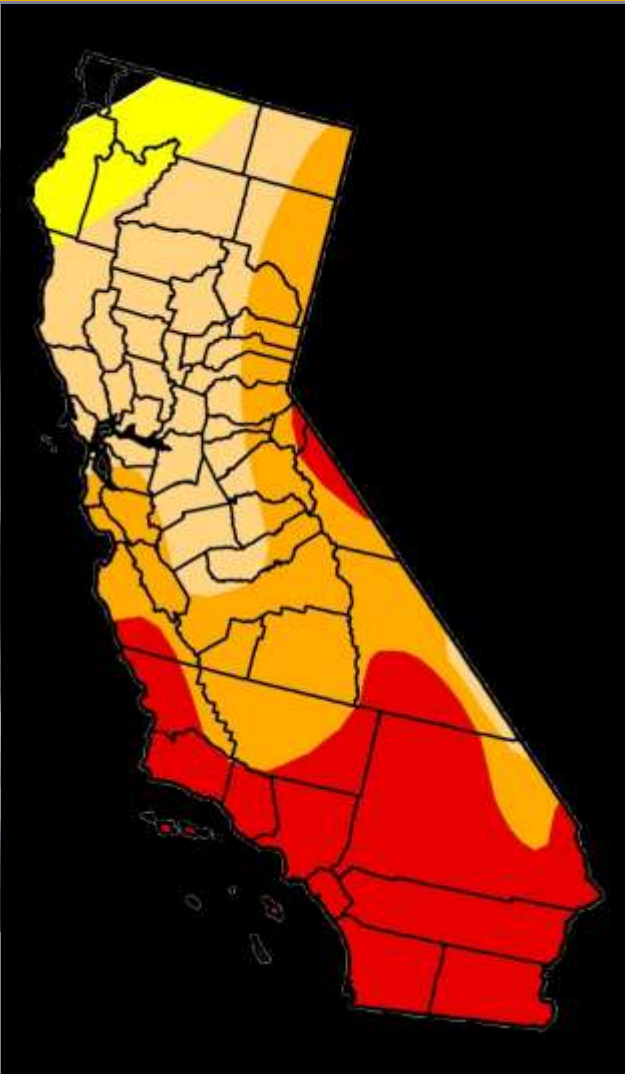
- Can account for much of the annual precipitation amounts across the deserts
- Can bring some temporary relief to fuel conditions for a brief time
- Does not impact long term drought conditions



Drought Stress



Santa Ana Winds of 2007



Thank You

thomasrolinski@fs.fed.us

951-782-4849