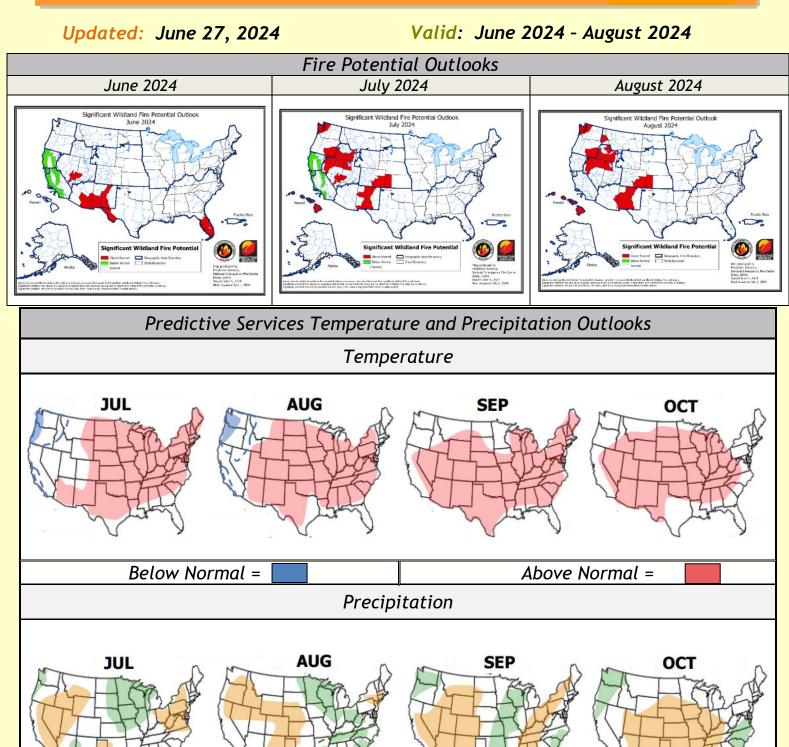
MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK

Eastern Area

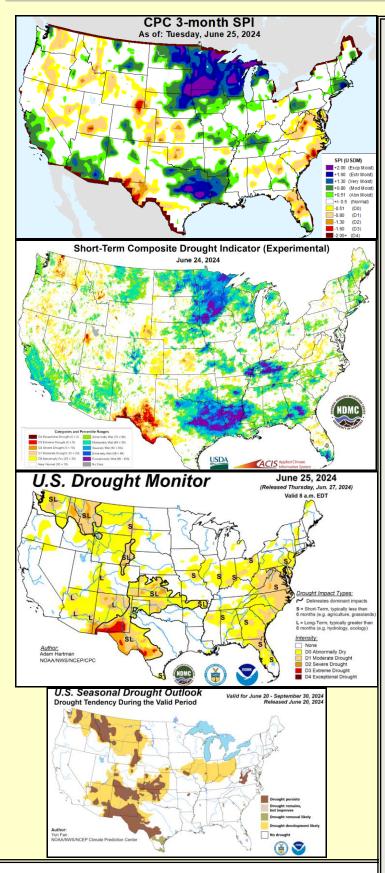






Below Normal =

Above Normal =





Eastern Area Predictive Services

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Discussion

Weather/Climate Trend Outlook Discussion:

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) continues to transition from a weak El Niño to an ENSO neutral sea surface temperature regime heading into June, with La Niña conditions expected to develop over the summer. Other sea surface temperature regimes contribute to global weather patterns adding to some uncertainty in long term weather forecasts. With weak El Niño conditions expected to linger into June, the north central portions of the contiguous US will likely continue to experience above normal temperature trends through the summer. Precipitation trends are more uncertain but wetter than normal conditions may affect much of the southern tier of the Eastern Area into June, with drier than normal trends possibly developing over portions of the Eastern Area in July.

Fuels:

With climate patterns shifting, significant rainfall occurred during the month of May across the western tier of the Eastern Area reducing areas of long-term drought. This coupled with the green up of live fuels should produce near normal fire activity through the summer season.

The chance for significant fire potential still exists in areas where a series of hot, dry, and windy days reduces live fuel moisture and combines with dead fuel loading of standing grasses or continuous leaf litter to increase ignition and spread potential. Due to this and above normal temperatures forecast, the northern tier of the Eastern Area will potentially continue to have periodic above normal fire activity throughout the outlook period, but the likely intensity and duration of these periods currently does not warrant above normal designation for any of the summer months. With June normally being the wettest month of the year, any below normal or spotty precipitation is likely to enhance drought levels. Moisture stress on live fuels from predicted above normal temperatures could also make normally green fuels more available to burn. Prolonged dry periods and persistent winds will be a big determinant in both the potential for increased and significant fire activity during the outlook period.

Summary:

Shorter term precipitation deficits developed through the late spring over portions of the Northeast, the southern Lower Peninsula of Michigan, and the southeastern Mid-Atlantic States. If these areas experience below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures through the summer season, periods of above normal fire potential are likely. With green-up complete over the majority of the Eastern Area, the remainder of the Eastern Area should experience near normal fire potential through the summer season outside of any dry and windy periods that may occur.