

# Southwest Area Monthly Outlook

## SEPTEMBER 2024



### WEATHER FACTORS AND OUTLOOK:

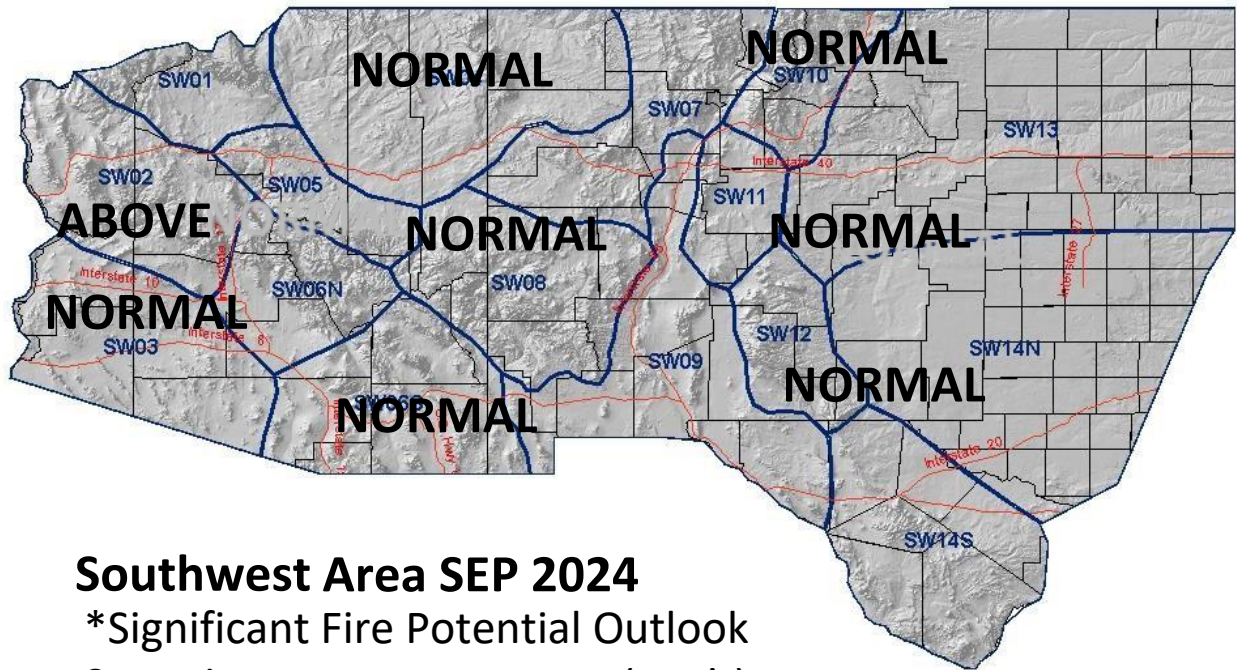
**Drought Conditions:** As of September 5th, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicated extreme drought from the eastern bootheel area and across parts of southeastern New Mexico with severe drought both surrounding this area as well as across a few small sections of north-central New Mexico. Moderate drought exists across parts of southern, eastern, and northern New Mexico and across southeastern into west-central Arizona. The Monthly Drought Outlook predicts that drought will persist across all areas where drought presently exists and development across parts of southwestern New Mexico. Far southeastern New Mexico will most likely see drought removal.

**Precipitation Anomalies and Outlook:** Precipitation in August was below normal across much of the southern half or so of the region with the exception of some areas in the east-cntrl to southeastern plains of New Mexico. Precipitation was above normal across much of the northern tier or so of the region. The latest CPC outlook forecasts an area of above normal chances across central sections of the region and equal chances of both above and below precipitation elsewhere. Southwest Area Predictive Services agrees with this forecast overall.

**Temperature Anomalies and Outlook:** High temperatures during August were above normal for the majority of the region, but most especially from the divide eastward into the eastern plains. The northwestern tier of Arizona into the Four Corners region saw closer to normal high temperatures in August. CPC climate outlook forecasts above normal temperatures areawide for September. Predictive Services agrees with this forecast overall.

<b>Significant Fire Potential</b>	<b>Normal regionally overall, except above normal across both southwestern and west-cntrl Arizona.</b> Incidents of significant large fire activity typically peak in late June into the first half or so of July due to the high sun angle, frequent hot temperatures, long burn periods, areas of lingering dry air, and increasing thunderstorm activity. An early start to the summer monsoon luckily arrived between the 15 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> of June and has moistened up the region with precipitation, but even moreso with elevated humidity. This continued through August overall, although it wavered at times this summer. Drier areas will be across far western Arizona this month overall.
<b>Prescribed Fire Implications</b>	September normally coincides with a slight uptick in burning as personnel ascertain what they can achieve during the latter part of the summer monsoonal period. This September, burners should contemplate taking advantage of some burn windows revolving around the end of the monsoonal pattern but need to be cognizant of areas of above normal fine fuel amounts and also consider the impact of periods of dry and hot weather. As usual, a close eye should be kept on the weather.

<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Phoenix has already broken the record for the number of days at or above 110F in a calendar year.
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\*Significant Fire Potential Outlook  
& Predictive Services Areas (PSA's)

\*Significant Fire Potential: The likelihood a fire situation will require mobilization of additional resources from outside the area in which the fire situation originates.