Texas Fire Potential Update

May 27th – June 1st, 2024

Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services
• A slightly cooler and moist environment is expected for most of Texas mid-week and into the weekend, improving surface fuel moisture, resulting in limited to low fire potential. The Trans Pecos region of Texas will be the exception where extremely dry and critically dry fuel will support moderate fire potential through Wednesday. There will be low to moderate potential for a large fire that is highly resistant to control if a fire becomes established in complex terrain.

• The Trans Pecos region may be exposed to thunderstorm activity Tuesday and Wednesday. Extremely dry fuel will support potential for wildfire ignitions from lightning activity. Multiple lightning ignitions could produce a large wildfire with moderate to high resistance to control in complex terrain.

• Moistening surface fuel and little to no fire weather will produce limited wildfire potential in the High Plains after Monday.
Statewide wildfire activity and Texas A&M Forest Service fire response continues to trend below normal. Since Friday, May 24th, Texas A&M Forest Service has not responded to any wildfires.

May 1st-May 26th, 2024 Daily Texas A&M Forest Service Wildfire Response by Predictive Service Area
Rainfall the past several weeks has been driven by thunderstorm activity across the state. Little to no rainfall has been observed across the High Plains and Trans Pecos and far South Texas over the last 7 days.
Rainfall deficits over the past 14-days and 30-days is greatest in the Trans Pecos region. A mosaic pattern of underlying dryness is present across the High Plains, Western Hill Country, South Texas, and Gulf Coast. Rainfall deficits in the High Plains should observe improvement with forecast rainfall beginning mid-week.
An active period of scattered rain and thunderstorms is expected Tuesday through Friday for a broad area of Texas. Increased surface moisture and opportunities for rainfall will limit fire potential for most of Texas. The western half of the Trans Pecos may be exposed to isolated thunderstorms where extremely dry fuel will support the potential for lightning ignitions.
Increasing moisture in the environment Tuesday through Friday will result in normal and above normal fuel moisture in the western Plains and east of the Pecos River. Fire danger will decrease as moisture and rainfall chances increase.

Moderate potential for wildfire activity is expected in the Trans Pecos through mid-week as critically to extremely dry fuel will persist with extreme to very high fire danger due to hot and dry conditions.
Extreme heat is forecast across most of South Texas this weekend and will promote wilting of herbaceous fuel. Well above normal temperatures in the Trans Pecos and High Plains will continue to dry surface fuel, produce an efficient burning environment, and increase ignition potential.
Energy release component (ERC) values are above the 97th percentile in the Trans Pecos predictive service area indicating surface fuel is extremely dry and can support a large wildfire that is resistant to control. Surface moisture will increase by Tuesday and Wednesday, reducing ERC values slightly, but increasing the risk for thunderstorms and lightning ignitions. ERC values will decline throughout the week in the High Plains due to a moist environment where fire potential will be limited.
Elevated fire weather will continue Monday for the Trans Pecos due to the single digit RH values and hot temperatures. Moderate potential for wildfire activity is expected in the Trans Pecos where fuel is extremely dry. Fire potential will be low in the High Plains where fuel is dry to critically dry. Isolated thunderstorms in the High Plains Monday afternoon may support limited potential for lightning ignitions and brief control issues from thunderstorm outflow winds.
Southeasterly winds will inject gulf surface moisture north and west into the state Tuesday. Fire potential will become confined to the western Trans Pecos where critically dry to extremely dry fuel is forecast to remain.
The Trans Pecos region may be exposed to thunderstorm activity Tuesday and Wednesday. Extremely dry fuel will support potential for wildfire ignitions from lightning activity. Multiple lightning ignitions could produce a large wildfire with moderate to high resistance to control in complex terrain.
Temperatures will trend above average in South Texas and the Trans Pecos Friday through Sunday. Dry to critically dry surface fuel will remain in the Trans Pecos where low to moderate fire potential will continue. Pockets of dry fuel may be present in South Texas for the weekend due to the persistent triple digit heat and limited rainfall chances.
Southerly winds will continue this weekend resulting in increased surface moisture for most of Texas. Low wildfire potential is expected this weekend in the western half of the Trans Pecos where warm and dry conditions persist. Dry fuel may support low fire potential in far South Texas as pressure gradient winds increase.