Texas Fire Potential Update
June 20\textsuperscript{th} – June 26\textsuperscript{th} 2022

Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services
This week will begin the 3rd week with dominant High Pressure over the state. Above normal temperature and below normal rainfall is again forecast for the state this week. These recent drying trends and forecast drying for this week are expected to trend ERC values above the 90th percentile for 12 of the 14 PSAs through the next 7 days. ERC values in the Hill Country and Southeast Texas are forecast to reach the 97th Percentile.

Dry to critically dry fuels will support moderate initial attack potential through Thursday across most of the state even without the presence of elevated fire weather or very high Fire Danger. The exception will be the Trans Pecos where the recent increase in rainfall frequency has reduced initial attack potential.

Afternoon thunderstorm activity forecast for portions of east Texas can adversely change the fire environment for ongoing fires with abrupt changes in wind speed and wind direction.

The Texas fire environment will progressively become more fire effective this week as Fuel Dryness increases and fire weather reaches elevated thresholds for temperature, wind and minimum RH. Moderate significant fire potential is expected late week into the weekend in high risk timber and brush fuels.
Rainfall frequency in the Trans Pecos over the last 7 days has reduced initial attack potential in that region. There have been localized amounts of greater than 1 inch of rainfall in East Texas. Most of East Texas is expected to remain dry into the weekend when lower RH and a slight increase in wind could produce a low potential for significant fires in high risk pine timber fuels.
Rainfall Deficits are not too alarming over the 30-day period due to above normal rainfall at the end of May into the first week of June. The 14-day percent of normal rainfall deficits are more representative of recent drying trends and drying trends expected to continue through the end of this week.
Forecast rainfall through Wednesday will be limited to the Trans Pecos, upper Texas coast and portions of East Texas. Monsoonal moisture provides increased rain chances in the west. A sea breeze front moving inland will trigger thunderstorm activity as it interacts with Gulf moisture residing along the upper coast and in east Texas.
Monday’s fire environment includes critically dry fuels and very high fire danger. Moderate initial attack potential is expected in the Hill Country and lower Rolling Plains from San Antonio to San Angelo to Abilene and east to Mineral Wells. Wildfires establishing in high risk timber or brush fuels will be resistant to control.
Timber and brush litter fuels are dry and receptive for most of the state as indicated by 100-hour fuel moistures. The exceptions will be the Trans Pecos and deep south Texas where 100-hour fuel moistures are expected to remain above the 25th percentile.
Upper level high pressure is forecast to center over the state late this week and reduce if not eliminate rain chances for the state. The positioning of high pressure as shown here on Thursday will also begin a period of higher temperatures and lower minimum RH which will extend into the weekend.

Upper Air Forecast for Thursday

Rainfall Forecast Thursday-Friday
High pressure is expected to remain over the state through the weekend. Slight changes in position or intensity of the high pressure ridge could allow monsoon moisture and cooler temperatures to reach edges of the state.
Maximum high temperatures will be increasing from Thursday through Sunday as high pressure intensifies over the state. These high temperatures will provide the foundation for a period of accelerated drying in live and dead fuels Thursday through Sunday.
12 of 14 PSAs are expected to see ERC values trending above the 90\textsuperscript{th} percentile by Sunday. Accelerated drying is indicated in most seasonal graphs beginning Thursday and continuing through Sunday. This stretch of accelerated drying should allow ERC values to reach and exceed the 90\textsuperscript{th} percentile.
Thursday begins a period when elevated fire weather will expand from west to east. Elevated fire weather will combine with dry to critically dry fuels to increase low to moderate significant fire potential in high risk brush and timber fuels.
Elevated fire weather is forecast for a large portion of the state over the weekend. Triple digit temps, RH near 20% and wind speed around 15 mph will increase significant fire potential to moderate in timber and brush fuels. Another week of drying is expected to increase the footprint of critically dry fuels. East Texas will support low significant fire potential even with forecast windspeeds below 10 mph.