Texas Fire Potential Update
September 21<sup>st</sup>-September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020
Predictive Services Department

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE
Fire Potential Notes

• A warming and drying trend will set up on the western Plains Monday through Saturday.

• Tropical Storm Beta will bring widespread moisture to the eastern half of the state.

• A mostly dry cold front will begin crossing the state Sunday. Fire weather associated with the front is not expected to be strong enough to raise initial attack potential.
Fire activity across the state will continue to trend below normal through the weekend.
A slow moving upper level system produced the widespread coverage and higher amounts reflected on the 14 day map. Rainfall amounts and coverage have declined over the past 7 days for most of the state with the exit of the upper level system.
Herbaceous greenness is improving across the state since the first of September. There still remain pockets of cured and transition green grasses in the Trans Pecos and western Plains where rainfall deficits are less than 25% of normal over the past 30 days.
Herbaceous greenness east of Marfa is transitioning from cured to green.
Herbaceous greenness near a recent initial attack fire in Jeff Davis County is transitioning from cured to green.
Fuel Dryness

There has been some short term dryness appearing in east Texas. The 100 hour percentile fuel moistures reflect that short term dryness. Forecast rainfall from Tropical Storm Beta should erase the short term dryness in east Texas. Pockets of 25th percentile 100 hour fuel moistures may appear in the western Plains this week due to a dry forecast and minimum RH trending near 20%.
Tropical Storm Beta

NHC Forecast Track

Tropical Storm Beta is forecast to make landfall Monday night or early Tuesday morning along the middle Texas coast.
Rainfall Forecast Through Thursday AM

Three day rainfall forecast amounts and coverage is highly dependent on the track and movement of Tropical Storm Beta. It seems reasonable to expect the higher amounts along and near the coast where Beta is currently forecast to track.
Forecast high temperatures will generally trend up from Monday through Saturday. A cold front entering the state this weekend will drop temperatures for most of the state on Sunday.
ERC values generally trended up at a moderate rate this past week. The High Plains is slightly above normal and the remaining 13 PSA are near or below normal.
ERC values in the High Plains have been trending up but are still well below the critical 90th percentile. Most of the dryness as indicated by the 30 day percent of normal rainfall, is on top of the caprock and not in the river drainages or canyons.
A moderate drying trend is forecast for the western Plains through Saturday. The minimum RH forecasts shown below indicate that the drying will be limited to the western Plains and Trans Pecos. Friday should be the driest day for the period. This trend should help 100 hour fuel moistures drop below the 25th percentile in some locations.
A mostly dry cold front will begin crossing the state on Sunday. Post frontal winds are forecast to remain in the 10-15 mph range. Cooler temperatures and RH in the 25-30% range will keep initial attack potential low on the western Plains. The forecast fire weather does not look strong enough to increase fire potential despite the moderate drying expected on the western Plains Monday through Saturday.