Texas Fire Potential Update
September 28th through October 4th
Predictive Services Department

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE
Fire Potential Notes

• A series of frontal passages are forecast for the coming week. Initial attack fire activity is likely to increase in cured grass and timber litter fuel beds.

• Herbaceous greenness remains green for most of the state. Transition and cured grasses are limited to portions of the southern High Plains and lower elevations of the Trans Pecos.

• Timber litter fuel beds will observe moderate drying this coming week. 100 hour fuel moisture at or below the 25th percentile indicates these fuel beds will support surface spread.

• Please stay current with your local fire weather forecast to track updated fire weather conditions associated with the forecast frontal activity this week.
TFS fire activity shown above was associated with a frontal passage. Frontal activity will be increasing this week as a Fall weather pattern establishes in the state.
Most of the recent rainfall has favored the eastern 1/3 of the state. Rainfall from Tropical Storm Beta produced long duration and high amounts of rainfall from Victoria to Houston.
Tropical storm Beta rainfall reduced rainfall deficits that were present along the Gulf Coast into portions of southeast Texas.

There is a sizeable area of rainfall deficits less than 50% of normal on the western Plains and Trans Pecos. Cured and transition grasses are likely to be found in these areas.
Paige Purvis and the Wolfforth task force submitted the photo below from Crosby County just east of Lubbock. A good portion of the western Plains south of Amarillo still supports cured grasses. The 30 day percent of normal rainfall map provides guidance to the location of cured grasses. Cured and transition grasses are generally found where rainfall deficits are less than 50% of normal.
Live fuel moisture in the high risk Juniper canopies has responded favorably to the above normal early September rainfall.

The top image shows canopy moistures from Palo Pinto County located to the west of Fort Worth. The bottom image shows canopy moistures from Kimble County near Junction Texas.

All of the current and recent sampling can be viewed from the web link at the top of the page.
Fuel Dryness

100 hour fuel moistures will be dropping this week with the dry forecast ahead. A dry airmass will promote moderate rates of drying in surface fuels. Timber litter fuels in east Texas should dry enough to support initial attack and prescribed fire activity this week.
Rainfall Forecast Saturday AM to Monday AM

Rainfall associated with forecast frontal passages this week will be short duration and produce only localized higher amounts.

The fronts will be mostly dry. The forecast image shown here is the current forecast for the third front of the week on Sunday.

Rainfall shown here represents most of the rainfall that is forecast over the next 7 days.
Forecast Temperatures

Minimum temperatures forecast for Tuesday in the northern High Plains could produce frost but are not expected to drop low enough for a hard freeze. The warmest day of the week appears to be Wednesday with some locations reaching the upper 80’s and maybe lower 90’s.
ERC values on the western Plains moved to above normal with the second consecutive dry week. ERC values across the state will trend up this week. ERC values for all PSA are expected to remain well below the 90th percentile.
ERC values in the High Plains have been trending up based on the dryness in the southern half of the High Plains. Cooler temperatures will slow the rate of drying but ERC values will continue to climb here with the dry forecast ahead.
Texas lies between a dominant high pressure ridge to the west and a dominant low pressure trough to the east. Both will have an impact on Texas weather this week depending on the strength and position of each feature as they shift over the state this coming week.

Cool air and north to east winds will be associated with the trough. Warmer temperatures and lower RH will be associated with the ridge.
Post frontal conditions will still be present on Tuesday as a very dry airmass will produce minimum RH near 20% east to the I-35 corridor. Consecutive days of dry air will produce moderate drying in surface fuels. Windspeed is forecast to remain near 10 mph. Local initial attack activity is likely in cured grasses and timber litter.
The second cold front of the week is forecast to back into the state from the north and east beginning Thursday morning. The southern Plains and Trans Pecos could remain in the warm and dry sector through the day depending on how far south and west the front travels. East to southeast wind near 15 mph is currently forecast for the warm sector represented below where minimum RH could drop near or below 15%.
The upper level trough over the Midwest is forecast to push south and west into parts of Texas on Sunday. There remains some uncertainty at this time as to how far to the south and west it will travel. A surface cold front will accompany the upper level trough. Limited rainfall is expected with the frontal movement. A warm and very dry sector with 10-15 mph wind may be positioned south and west of the front Sunday afternoon.