# Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center

7-Day Significant Fire Potential Product



June 2008 Shelby Sharples & Ed Delgado This document outlines Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center's (EGBCC) operational **7-Day Significant Fire Potential Model and Product** as well as the weather monitoring infrastructure designed to support it.

#### **Overview and Purpose**

The outcome of the **7 Day Significant Fire Potential Model** is the daily projected significant fire potential for sub-units of Eastern Great Basin called Predictive Services Areas for the next 7 days.

The overall purpose of this product is to identify where and when nationally shared resources will most likely be required for suppression efforts for the next 7 days in order to help regional fire managers make informed resource movement decisions. Uses of this product by local level fire managers include: help determine daily staffing decisions, support severity funding requests, and help make local resource movement decisions. For best use of this product it is important to understand how the product was designed and what it represents. This product is derived by estimating the daily large fire probability for each PSA by assessing the following:

1. Daily probability of occurrence of a new large fire and/or,

2. Daily potential for significant growth on an existing fire.

**Significant Fire Event** – An event measured by the occurrence of fire(s) that requires mobilization of additional resources from outside the fire event area.

**Significant Fire Potential** - The likelihood a wild land fire event will require mobilization of additional resources from outside the area in which the fire situation originates.

#### Weather and Fuels Monitoring Infrastructure

In order to facilitate the assessment of **significant fire potential** with some degree of spatial resolution we have broken up the region into a subset of smaller forecast areas. In addition, we have established a manageable sub-network of "key" weather and NFDRS reporting stations. These Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) will be used for monitoring both weather and fuel conditions in the determination of significant fire potential.

The smaller forecast areas were determined by defining geographic areas with similar climate, topography, fire occurrence and fuel type. These forecast areas are called **Predictive Services Areas (PSAs**). Key RAWS within each PSA were chosen based on how well they correlated with the other RAWS in the PSA. RAWS whose minimum relative humidities trended up or down well together were used as the key RAWS for that PSA. A map of the PSAs within EGB is included as Appendix A. The list of key RAWS for each PSA is included as part of Appendix B.

#### Significant Fire Potential Model

Projections of the daily probability of a **Significant Fire Event** for the next 7 days are generated each morning by 1000 MDT during the fire season (May – October) at EGBCC.

#### **Definitions**

<u>Significant Fire Event</u> -For the purposes of the model a Significant Fire Event has been defined in terms of the <u>occurrence of a Large Fire</u>. The rationale for this is that the occurrence of a Large Fire represents a scenario where outside resources will be needed, costs escalate and regional and national resource managers get involved.

Fire Day – Any day that at least one fire, of any size, was reported to have started.

**Large Fire** – A fire of such size that meets or exceeds the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of daily largest fires for all fire days during months and years used in the data set for each PSA.

**Large Fire Day** – Any day that at least one fire was reported to have started that **eventually became** a Large Fire.

#### Example:

For **PSA EB01** – The largest fire size on 95% of all **Fire Days** that occurred during the months of July – September for the years 1993-2004 was less than 300 acres. Only 5 percent of all **Fire Days** had a 300 acre or larger fire during the specified time frame. Therefore, a **Large Fire** is defined as 300 acres for this PSA.

This criteria results in a Large Fire size unique to each PSA, ranging from as small as 30 acres in northeast Utah, to 2000 acres in southwest Idaho. Large fire sizes are defined for each PSA as part of Appendix B.

#### Fuel Dryness Level (DL)

We have chosen to use projected NFDRS fuel moisture values to help predict large fire potential. Our research has shown that a matrix of the historical NFDRS <u>Energy Release Component</u> for fuel model G (ERC-G) versus the <u>100-hr fuel moisture</u> (100Hr) relates relatively well to large fire occurrence. A matrix of these NFDRS components has been developed for each PSA, as measured by the key RAWS. ERC-G values run across the top of the matrix and 100Hr values run down the left column. The numbers within the matrix show how many Large Fire Days occurred for each combination of ERC-G and 100Hr during the specified time period. For each combination of ERC-G and 100Hr, the empirical probability of breaking a Large Fire, given an ignition, has been calculated and included as Appendix B. The matrices were created to establish breakpoints of the ERC-G and 100Hr values for use within the model. This range of probabilities has been broken into three groups called Dryness Levels, represented as 1 of 3 possible colors defined below.

Dryness Level	Large Fire Potential Description	Ave. % probability of breaking a large fire
Green (Moist)	Indicates a DL which historically has resulted in a very low probability of large fires.	1-3%
Yellow (Dry)	Indicates a transitional dryness situation that will not typically result in large fires unless accompanied by a Significant Weather Trigger.	5-7%
Brown (Very Dry)	Indicates a DL which results in a much higher than normal probability of large fires when accompanied by a Significant Weather Trigger. A low to moderate probability for large fire exits in the absence of a trigger.	12-15%
Red (High Risk)	Indicates an especially high probability of large fires. Occurs when the DL is either brown or yellow and is accompanied with a significant weather trigger. DL will appear red with a symbol designating the specific weather trigger.	20-25%

#### How the model works:

Raw grid point data from weather models is run through regression equations to generate temperature and relative humidity forecasts for each of the key RAWS for the next 7 days. These forecasts are then used in conjunction with the observed ERC and 100Hr values from the previous afternoon to forecast the daily average ERC-G and 100Hr for each PSA for the next 7 days. The ERC-G and 100Hr are then run through the fuel dryness matrices to create the initial Dryness Level forecast.

After running the model and adjusting the output, the meteorologist will also forecast and add **High Risk Days** to the Dryness Level chart indicating any especially high probability days of breaking a large fire due to **significant weather triggers** such as high winds or dry lightning. Short written weather, fuels and resource discussions are added to the Dryness Level chart to produce the complete **7 Day Significant Fire Potential** product. An example of the product is included as Appendix C.

Actual model output forecasts of temperature, relative humidity, ERC-G and 100Hr for each PSA are available on the EGB Predictive Services website.

Within Eastern Great Basin the following significant weather triggers are criteria for a High Risk Day:

- 1. Represents critically dry and windy conditions. While this condition does not start fires, it often produces a favorable environment for new starts or existing fires to become large.
- 2. An expected combination of dry fuels and a lightning trigger. This is NOT simply a lightning forecast, but a forecast of lightning conducive to large fire activity.

#### Summary of "7 Day Significant Fire Potential" Product:

The **7 Day Significant Fire Potential** product is a snapshot of the predicted potential of breaking a **Large Fire** across the Eastern Great Basin for the next 7 days. Smaller geographic areas, called **PSA**'s were developed to more precisely forecast Large Fire potential. Dryness Levels are used to represent ranges of probabilities of a Large Fire and are shown on the chart with the DL's displayed as different colors.

# <u>Appendices</u>

# Appendix A - Predictive Services Areas (PSA):

Eastern Great Basin Geographic Area has been divided into 14 PSA's. These divisions have been made based on similarities within each PSA of the following parameters: fire occurrence, fuel type, elevation, geography, and climate. Below is a topographic map of Eastern Great Basin showing these 14 PSA's.



The following pages describe each PSA including the Fuel Moisture Matrices used to define the respective PSAs Dryness Levels.

# Appendix B – EGB PSA's

#### PSA EB01 – West Central Idaho Mountains

WIMS ID

# RAWS Name

Ski Hill	101223
Pine Creek	101222
Town Creek	101708
Little Creek	101805
Logdepole	101044
Snake	101109
Weiser River	101108

Large Fire Size for EB01:2000 acresMonths used for analysis:July - SeptemberYears used for analysis:1993-2004

**Federal Lands within EB01:** Boise National Forest Payette National Forest Salmon – Challis National Forest BLM Boise District

# EB01 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:



**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 60% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was above 70 and the 100 Hr FM was below 6. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that any start will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 17% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was above 70 and the 100 Hr FM was below 6 became large.



#### PSA EB02 – East Central Idaho Mountains

RAWS Name	WIMS ID
Bonanza	101801
Challis	101817
Copper Basin	101804
Ezra Creek	101314
Kriley Creek	101312
Leadore Creek	101312
Road Creek	101816
Ohio Gulch	102906

Large Fire Size for EB02:	700 acres
Months used for analysis:	July - September
Years used for analysis:	1993-2004

#### Federal Lands within EB02:

Salmon – Challis National Forest Sawtooth National Forest Targhee National Forest BLM Salmon District Craters of the Moon National Monument

#### EB02 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:





**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 72% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 8. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 9% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 8 became large.

### PSA EB03 – Southwest Idaho and Upper Snake River

#### <u>Plain</u>

WIMS ID	
101402 103208 103207 103210 102601	
4300 acres June - September 1993-2004	
	WIMS ID   101402   103208   103207   103210   102601



#### EB03 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:



**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 58% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 80 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 6. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 8% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 80 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 6 became large.

# PSA EB04 – South Central Idaho

RAWS Name	WIMS ID
Rock Lake	103403
Crystal	103703
Bull Spring Grace	104006 103902
Raft River Trail Gulch	104104 104004



Large Fire Size for EB04:	4600 acres
Months used for analysis:	June - September
Years used for analysis:	1993-2004

#### Federal Lands within EB04:

BLM Twin Falls District BLM Idaho Falls District Sawtooth National Forest Caribou-Targhee National Forest BIA Fort Hall Agency City of Rocks National Reserve

#### EB04 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:



**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 78% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 6. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 8% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 6 became large.

### PSA EB05 – Upper Snake River Plain

RAWS Name	<u>WIMS ID</u>
Pole Canyon	103903
Gas Caves	102106
Arco	101905
Potter Butte	102907
Large Fire Size for EB05:	2700 acres
Months used for analysis:	June - September
Years used for analysis:	1993-2004
<b>Federal Lands within EB05:</b> BLM Idaho Falls District BIA Fort Hall Agency	



### EB05 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:



**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 82% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 75 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 7. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 7% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 75 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 7 became large.

#### PSA EB06 – Western Wyoming and Eastern Idaho Mountains





**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 35% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 65 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 9. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 8% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 65 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 9 became large.

#### PSA EB07 – Northwest Utah

RAWS Name	WIMS ID
Cedar Mountain	420901
Vernon Tule Velley	420908
Aragonito	421000
Alagonite	420911
Large Fire Size for EB07: Months used for analysis: Years used for analysis:	5000 acres June - September 1993-2004
Federal Lands within EB07: BLM Salt Lake District BLM Richfield District Sawtooth National Forest Wasatch National Forest Uinta National Forest Fishlake National Forest	



# EB07 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:

						ERC	G								
		<60	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105+	_	 POD	PROB
	<3													42%	8%
	3									1	4	1		44%	6%
	4					1	1	5	2	3				14%	3%
	5	1			1		1	1	5	5					
F100	6	1			3	2	2	1	1						
	7					1	2	2							
	8		1			1	1								
	9														
	10	_													
	11														
	12														

**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 54% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 85 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 5. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 7% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 85 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 5 became large.

#### PSA EB08 – North Central Utah Mountains

RAWS Name	<u>WIMS ID</u>
Rays Valley	421103
Pleasant Grove	421101
Seveir Reservoir	421501
Bues Canyon	420403

Large Fire Size for EB08: Months used for analysis: Years used for analysis: 300 acres June - September 1993-2004

#### Federal Lands within EB08:

Wasatch –Cache National Forest Uinta National Forest Manit-La Sal National Forest



# EB08 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:



**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 61% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 80 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 6. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 10% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 80 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 6 became large.

#### PSA EB09 – Northeast Uinta Mountains

RAWS Name	WIMS ID
Yellowstone	421301
Cart Creek	420805

Large Fire Size for EB09:150 acresMonths used for analysis:June - SeptemberYears used for analysis:1993-2004



#### Federal Lands within EB09:

Ashley National Forest Wasatch – Cache National Forest



#### EB09 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:

**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 50% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 10 Hr FM was at or below 4. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day. E.g. 7% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 10 Hr FM was at or below 4 became large.

### PSA EB10 – Uinta Basin

RAWS Name	WIMS ID	1 1 S. LAND R.
McCook	420805	E STORE KIN
Five Mile	421408 421304	V
Large Fire Size for EB10: Months used for analysis:	100 acres June - September	EB10 FIVE MILE
Federal Lands within EB10	1993-2004	MCCOOK RIDGE

BLM Vernal District BIA Uintah and Ouray Agency Dinosaur National Monument

# EB10 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:



**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 71% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 10 Hr FM was at or below 4. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 7% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 10 Hr FM was at or below 4 became large.

#### PSA EB11– Southwest Utah Deserts and Arizona Strip



**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

9 10 11

E.g. 45% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 90 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 5. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 6% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 90 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 5 became large.

# PSA EB12– South Central Utah Mountains

RAWS Name	WIMS ID
Assay Bench	422604
BUCK FIAL	422606
Large Fire Size for EB12:	300 acres
Months used for analysis: Years used for analysis:	May - August 1993-2004
·····	
Federal Lands within EB12:	
Dixie National Forest	
Fishlake National Forest	
BIA Southern Paiute Agency	
BLM Cedar City District	
BLM Richfield District	



# EB12 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:

Cedar Breaks National Monument Bryce Canyon National Park Capitol Reef National Park



**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 57% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 75 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 5. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 9% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 75 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 5 became large.

# PSA EB13– Southeast Utah Deserts

RAWS Name	WIMS ID	7 7 1 M.	
Big Indian Bryson Ridge Flattop Mtn Kane Gulch	422711 422102 422002 422712		NTAIN BRYSON CAN YOU
Large Fire Size for EB13: Months used for analysis: Years used for analysis:	300 acres May - August 1993-2004	ЕВ12	EB13 BIG INDIAN VALLEY
Federal Lands within EB13: BLM Moab District BLM Richfield District BLM Cedar City District Manti – La Sal National Forest Kaibab National Forest Glen Canyon National Recreation Capitol Reef National Park Canyonland National Park Arches National Park	on Area		KANE GULCH

# EB13 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:



**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 51% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 90 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 5. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 9% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 90 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 5 became large.

#### PSA EB14– Southeast Utah Mountains and Bookcliffs

RAWS Name	WIMS ID			
North Long Point	422710			
Bruin Point	421702			
Little Delores (Colorado)	052410			
Large Fire Size for EB14:	200 acres			
Months used for analysis:	May - August			
Years used for analysis:	1993-2004			
Federal Lands within EB14: Manti – La Sal National Forest BLM Moab District BLM Vernal District BIA Uintah and Ouray Agency Ashley National Forest				





# EB14 "Large Fire Day" Matrix:

**POD** = the percentage of all large fires that occurred on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 78% of all large fires occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 7. (Falling within the brown box)

**PROB** = the probability that a fire will turn into a large fire on a brown, yellow, or green day.

E.g. 10% of all fires that occurred when the ERC was at or above 70 and the 100 Hr FM was at or below 7 became large.

# Appendix C - 7 Day Significant Fire Potential Product



#### Legend:

#### Fuel Dryness

- Moist Little no risk for large fires.
- Dry Low risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Very Dry Low/Moderate risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Data Unavailable.

#### High Risk Events

#### Critical Burn Environment

- H Hot & Dry Temperatures much above seasonal normals with humidity 10% or less.
- Windy Wind gusts 25 mph or greater.

#### Ignition Trigger

Lightning - LALs of 3 or higher.

#### High Risk Days

At least a 20% chance of a "Large Fire" due to a combination of either "Dry" or "Very Dry" Fuel Dryness and an **Ignition Trigger**. High Risk Days will include the symbol indicating the type of event.

At least a 20% chance of a new "Large Fire" or significant growth on existing fires due to

# Eastern Great Basin 7 Day 🌈 Significant Fire Potential

Issued: Thursday, Jun 12, 2008

Next Update Thu 13 June 2008

Predictive Service Areas	Ytd	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	Jun 11	Jun 12	Jun 13	Jun 14	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18
EB01 - West Central ID Mtns								
EB02 - East Central ID Mtns								
EB03 - SW ID								
EB04 - South Central ID								
EB05 - Upper Snake River Plain		240						
EB06 - Western WY								
EB07 - NW UT Deserts								
EB08 - North Central UT Mtns			20					
EB09 - NE Uinta Mtns								
EB10 - Uintah Basin								
EB11 - SW UT Deserts & AZ Strip		-0.						
EB12 - South Central UT Mtns								75 - Y
EB13 - SE UT Deserts								
EB14 - SE UT Mtns								

#### Weather Synopsis:

The upper level trough that has affected the area the past few days will move off to the east today allowing a ridge of high pressure to build across the south. Warm, dry conditions will develop basin wide through the weekend with temperatures finally reaching above normal by Sunday/Monday. Another low pressure will move across the north midweek bringing cooler temperatures to the north and increased southwest winds on Tuesday/Wednesday.

#### Fire Potential Discussion:

Fire potential will be on the increase this weekend as the warm and dry air mass will hasten the curing of fine fuels basin wide, however, no significant weather triggers are expected through the