



Wildfire Activity: A Look Back and Outlook for Spring / Summer 2017

The Drought Management Advisory Council
Annual Meeting
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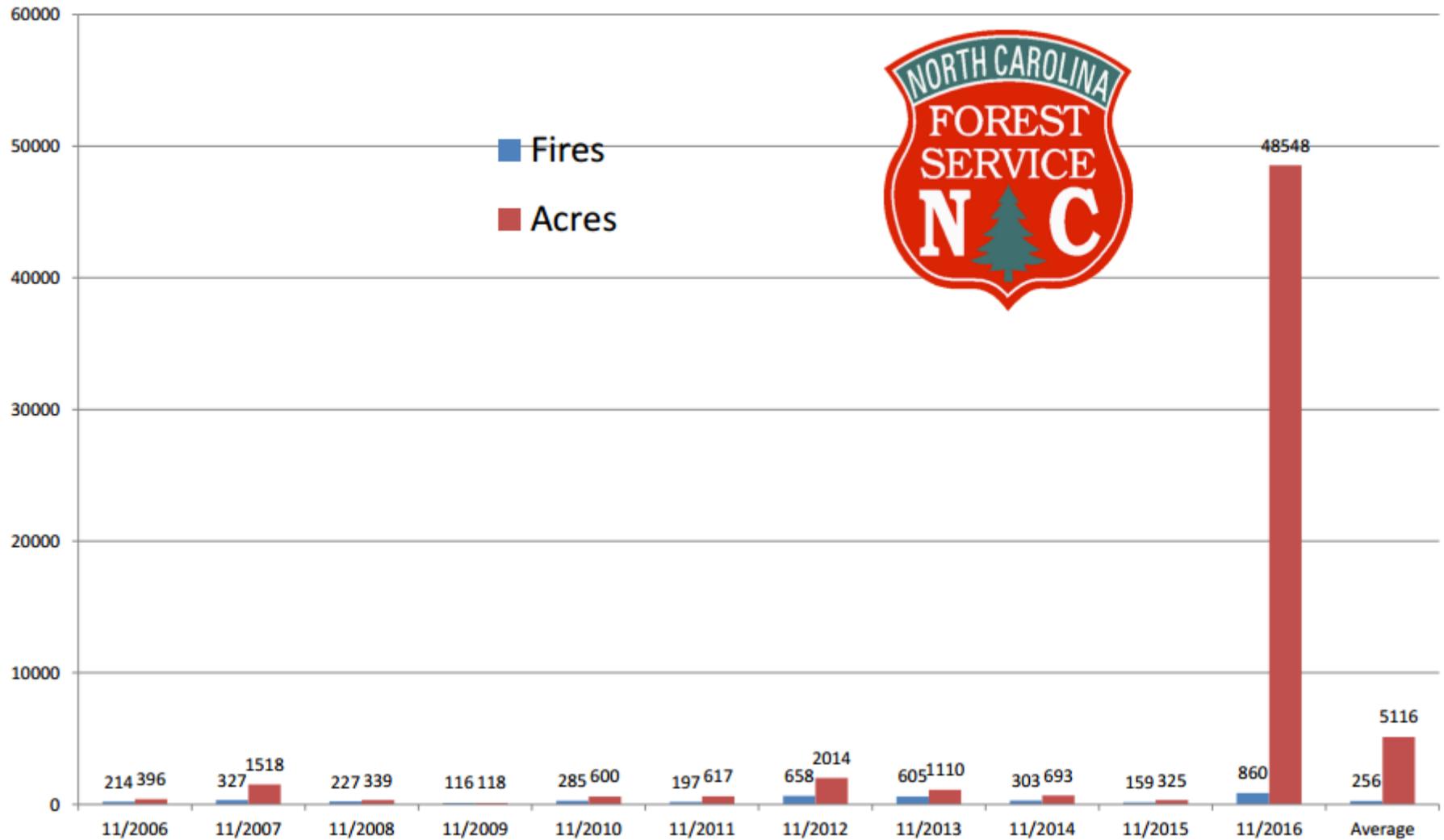
NC Forest Service Wildfire Activity

| Period | # Fires* | # Acres* |
|------------------------|----------|----------|
| 4/1/16 to 3/31/17 | 5,403 | 61,971 |
| 10 yr avg, 4/1-3/31 | 4,898 | 32, 107 |
| Deviation from average | 10% | 93% |

* These numbers do not include fires on federal lands.



November Fires, 2016 Compared to the 10 Year Average 2006-2015





Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)

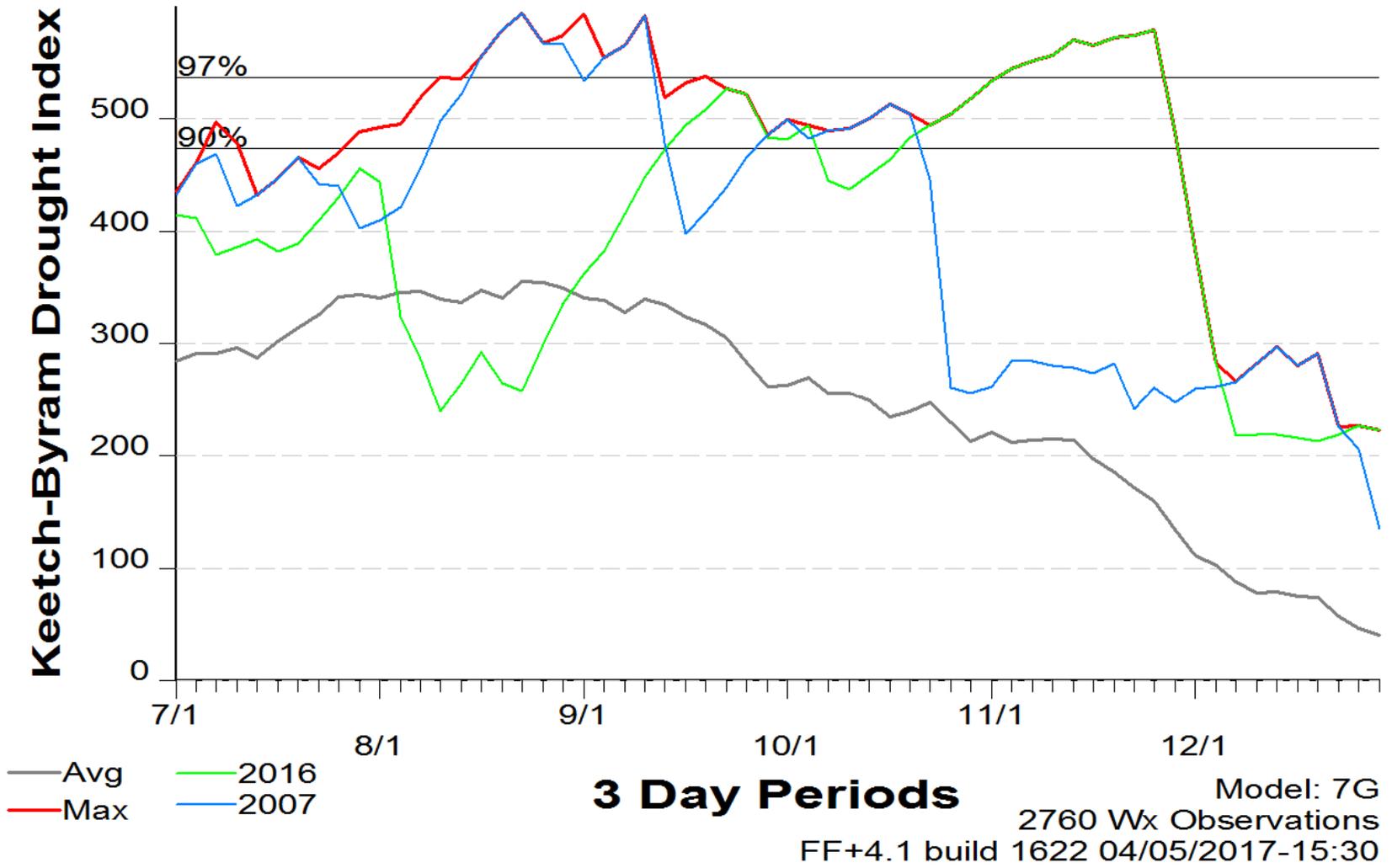
KBDI is a soil/duff drought index that ranges from 0 (no drought) to 800 (extreme drought) and is based on soil capacity of 8 inches of water. Factors include latitude, maximum daily temperature, daily precipitation, antecedent precipitation, and annual precipitation.

- Between **0 and 200**, soil moisture and large class fuel moistures are high and do not contribute significantly to fire intensity.
- Readings of **201-400** are typical of late spring, early growing season. Lower litter and duff layers are drying and beginning to contribute to fire intensity.
- Readings of **401-600** are typical of late summer, early fall. Lower litter and duff layers burn intensely.
- Readings of **601-800** are associated with severe drought. Intense, deep burning fires with significant downwind spotting. Extensive mop-up required. Live fuels burn actively.



Mountain KBDI, Summer/Fall 2016

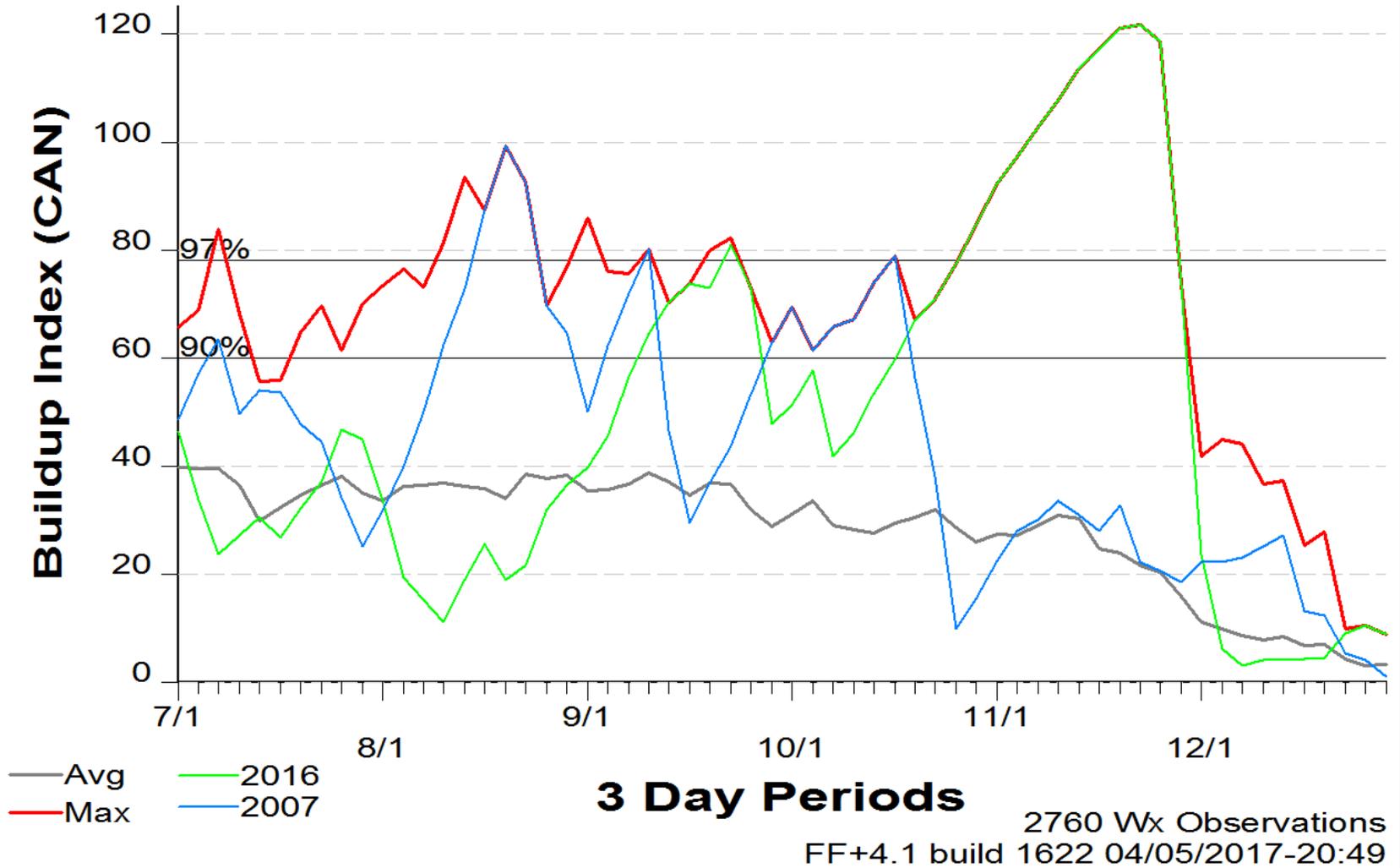
SIG - Mountains 2002 - 2017





Mountain Buildup Index, Summer/Fall 2016

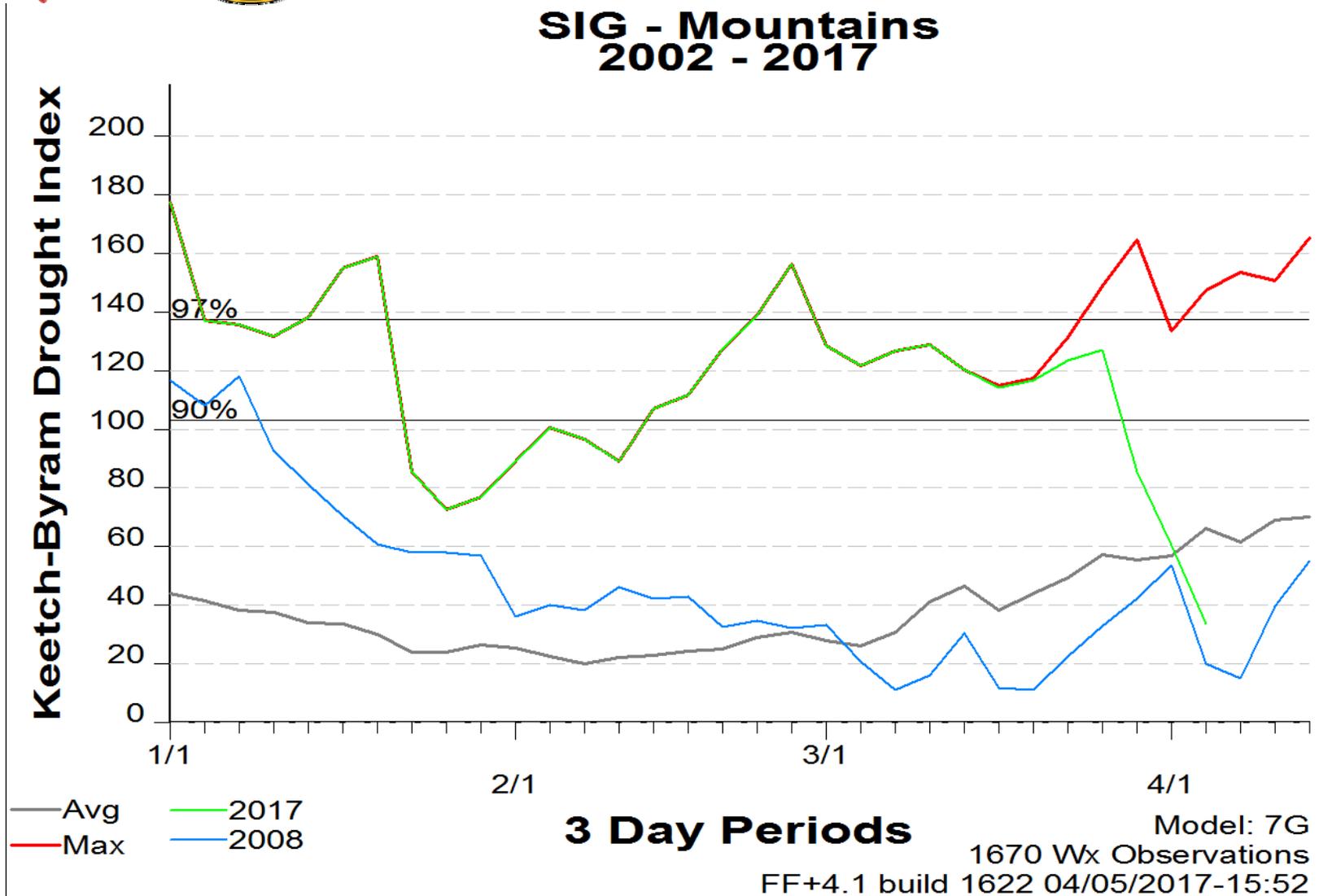
SIG - Mountains 2002 - 2017





Mountain KBDI, 2017

SIG - Mountains 2002 - 2017





Wildland Fire Outlook:

April through July 2017

Last fall was an historic year for fire in the mountains. As we have moved into a neutral ENSO pattern, we expect fire danger to become more normal, but also more difficult to predict.

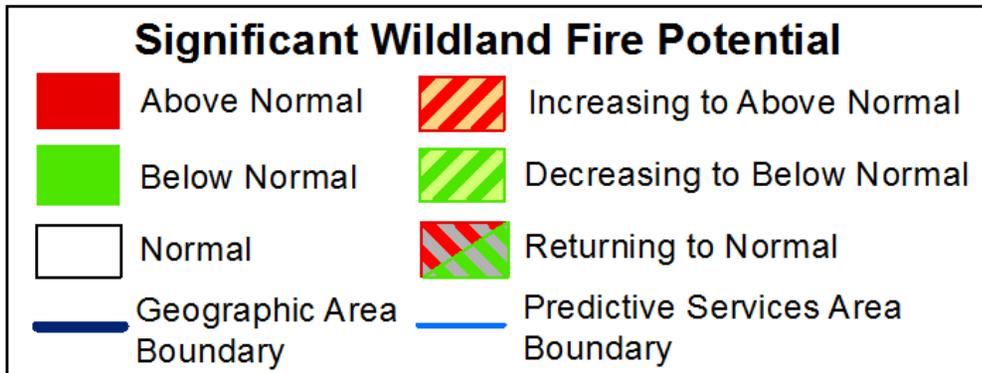
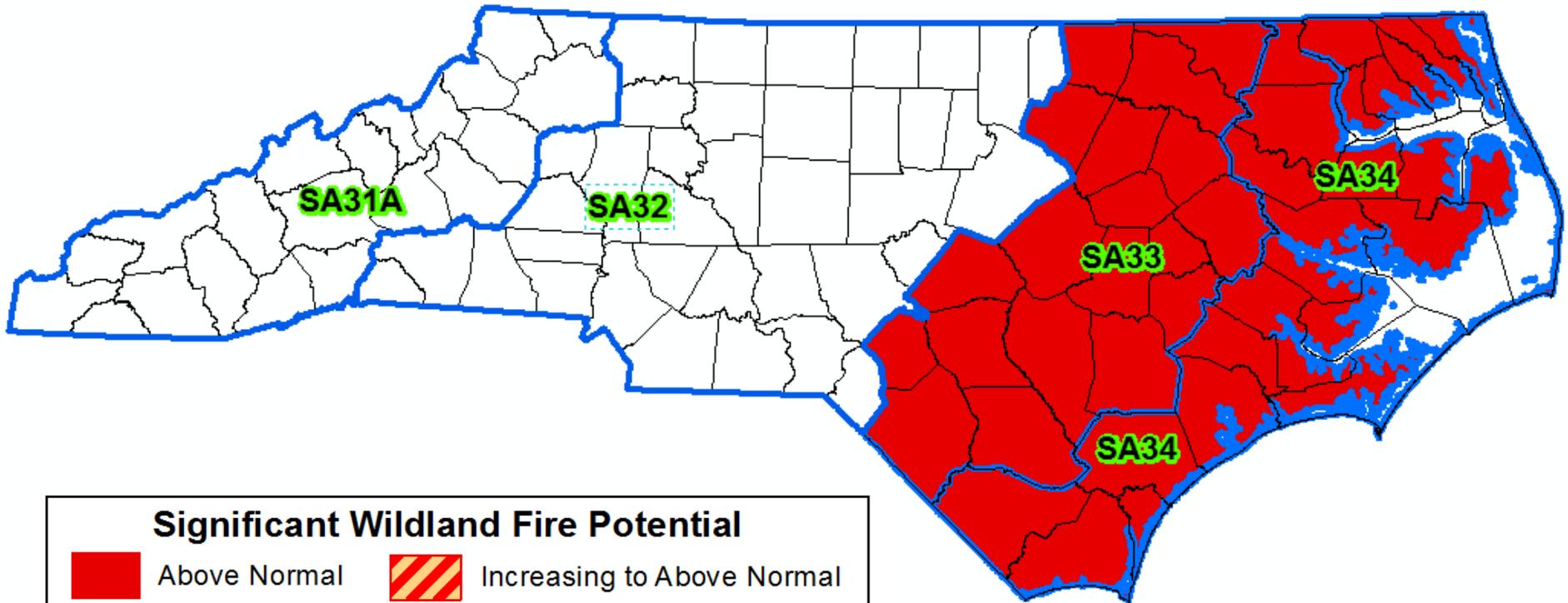
Photo Credit: Mark Houser.





SIGNIFICANT WILDLAND FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK

MAY 2017



For April, and June-July, the entire state is predicted to be normal.

QUESTIONS???



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