



Wildfire Activity: A Look Back and Outlook for Fall / Winter

The Drought Management Advisory Council
Annual Meeting
September 21st, 2023

Pulp Road Fire, June 2023
Green Swamp Preserve, Pender County
15,670 Acres

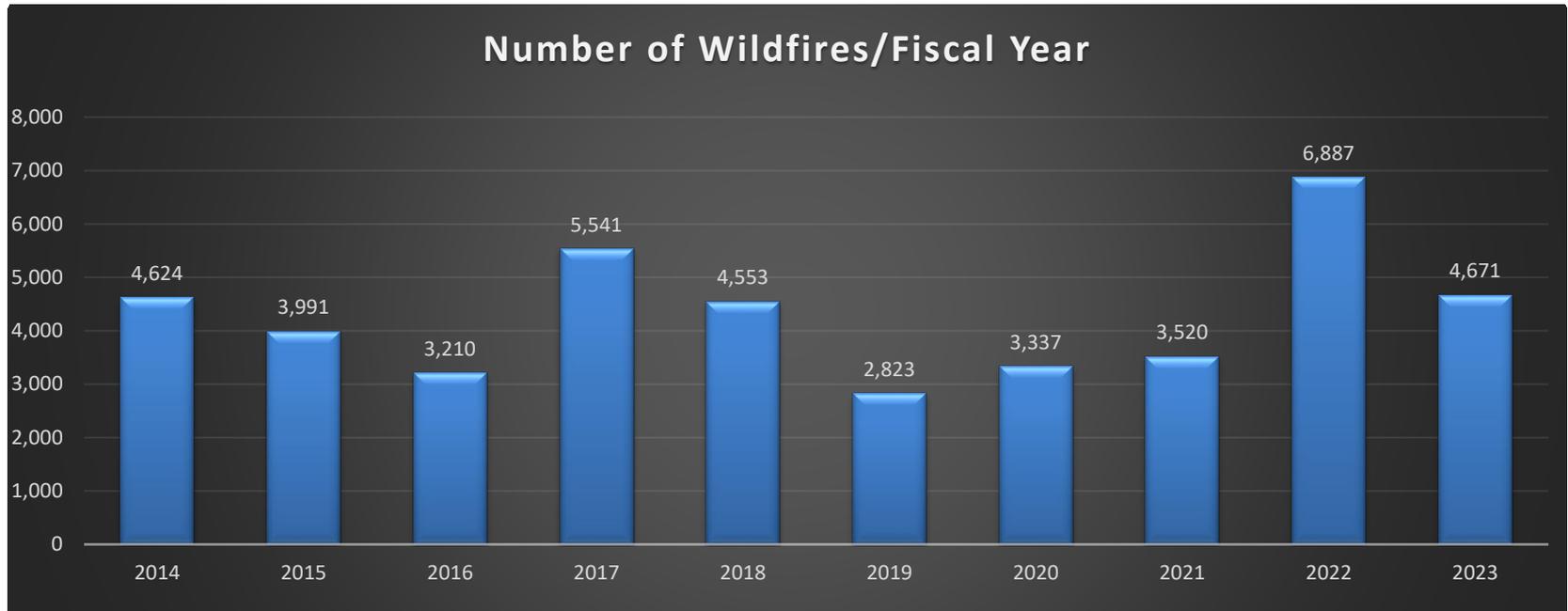


NC Forest Service Wildfire Activity, ending FY23

FY	Fires	Acres	100+ Acre Fires	100+ Acres Burned	Percent of Total Fires	Percent of Acreage Burned on 100+ Ac. Fires
2014	4,624	13,358	14	4,448	0.3%	33.3%
2015	3,991	9,903	9	2,647	0.2%	26.7%
2016	3,210	18,808	12	11,992	0.4%	63.8%
2017	5,541	79,674	38	69,389	0.7%	87.1%
2018	4,553	13,647	14	5,575	0.3%	40.9%
2019	2,823	6,786	8	1,846	0.3%	27.2%
2020	3,337	7,600	12	2,708	0.4%	35.6%
2021	3,520	9,633	9	3,285	0.3%	34.1%
2022	6,887	26,958	29	11,316	0.4%	42.0%
2023	4,671	69,690	19	59,487	0.4%	85.4%
Total	43,157	256,056	164	172,693	0.4%	67.4%
Average	4,316	25,606	16	12,578	0.3%	43.6%

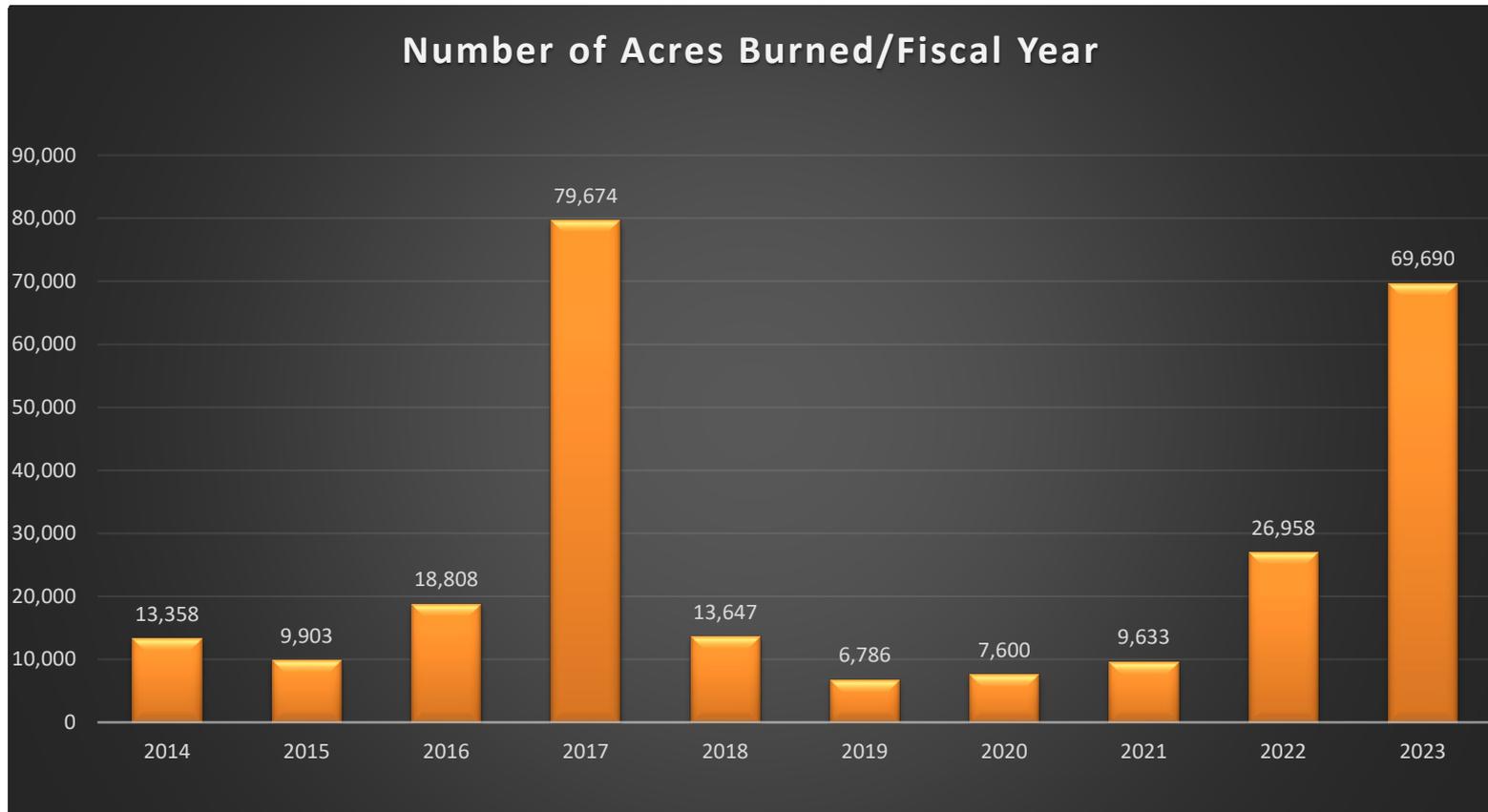


NC Forest Service Wildfire Activity, FY 14-23



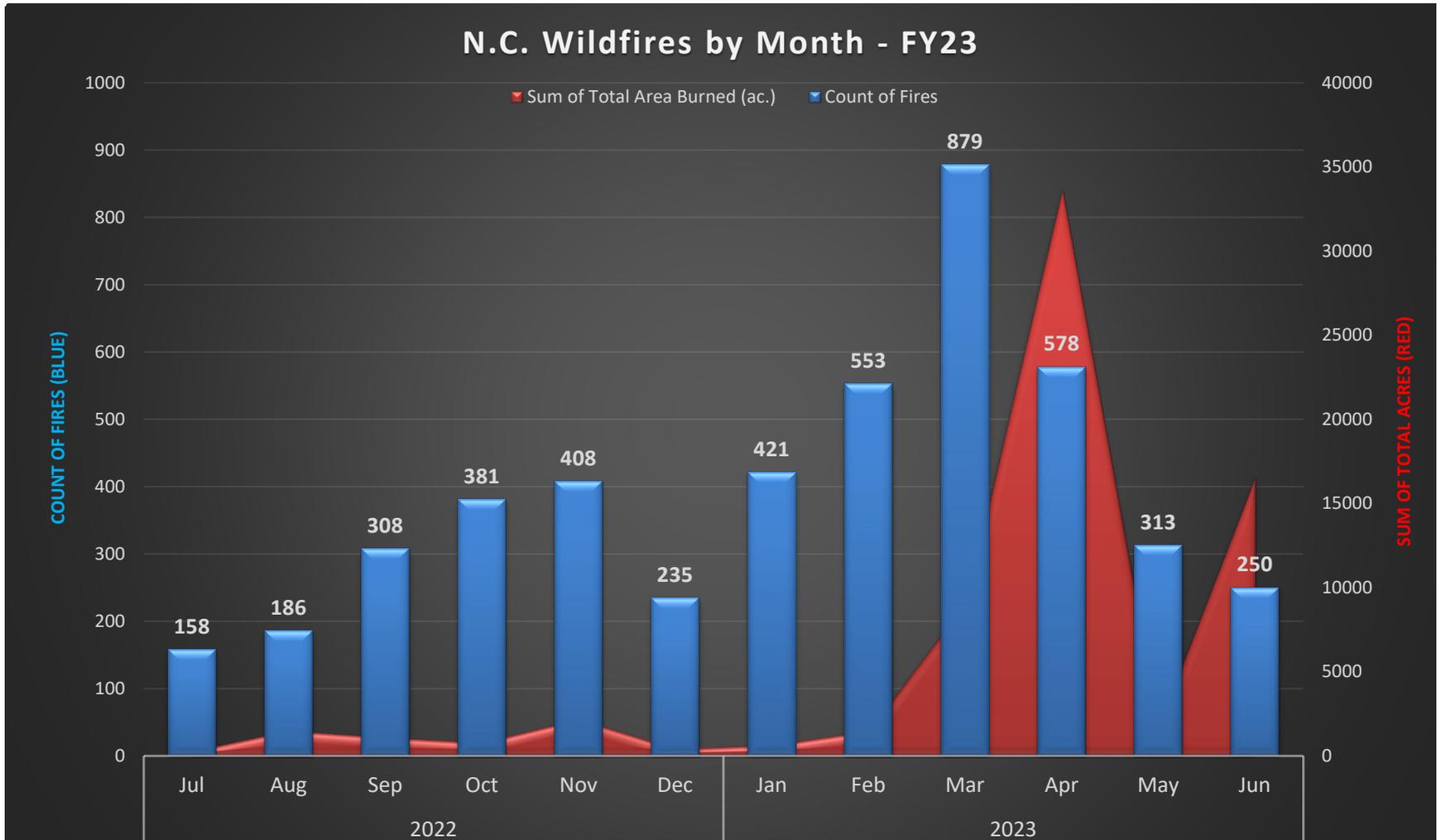


NC Forest Service Wildfire Activity, FY 14-23



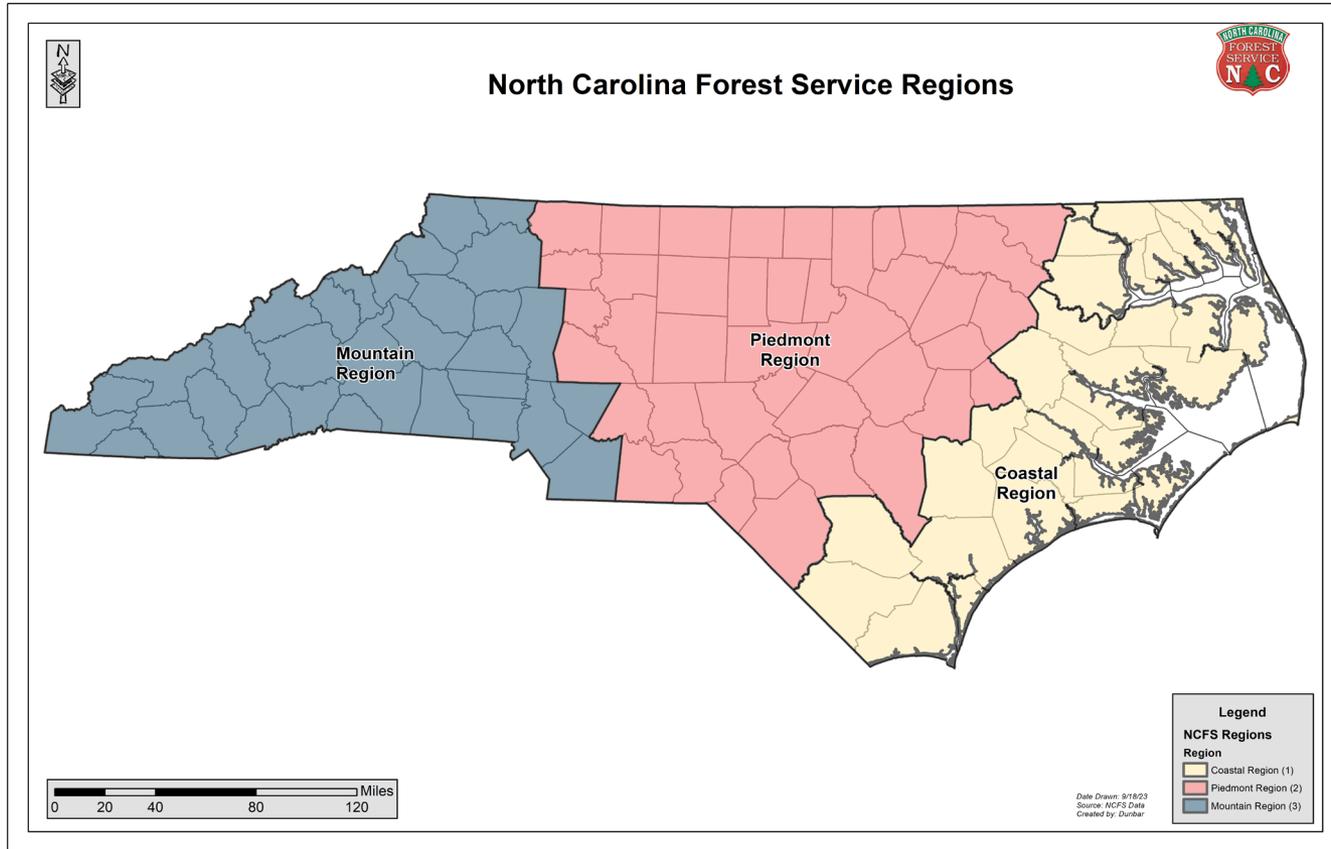


Wildfires by Month – FY23





Wildfires by Geographic Area – FY23



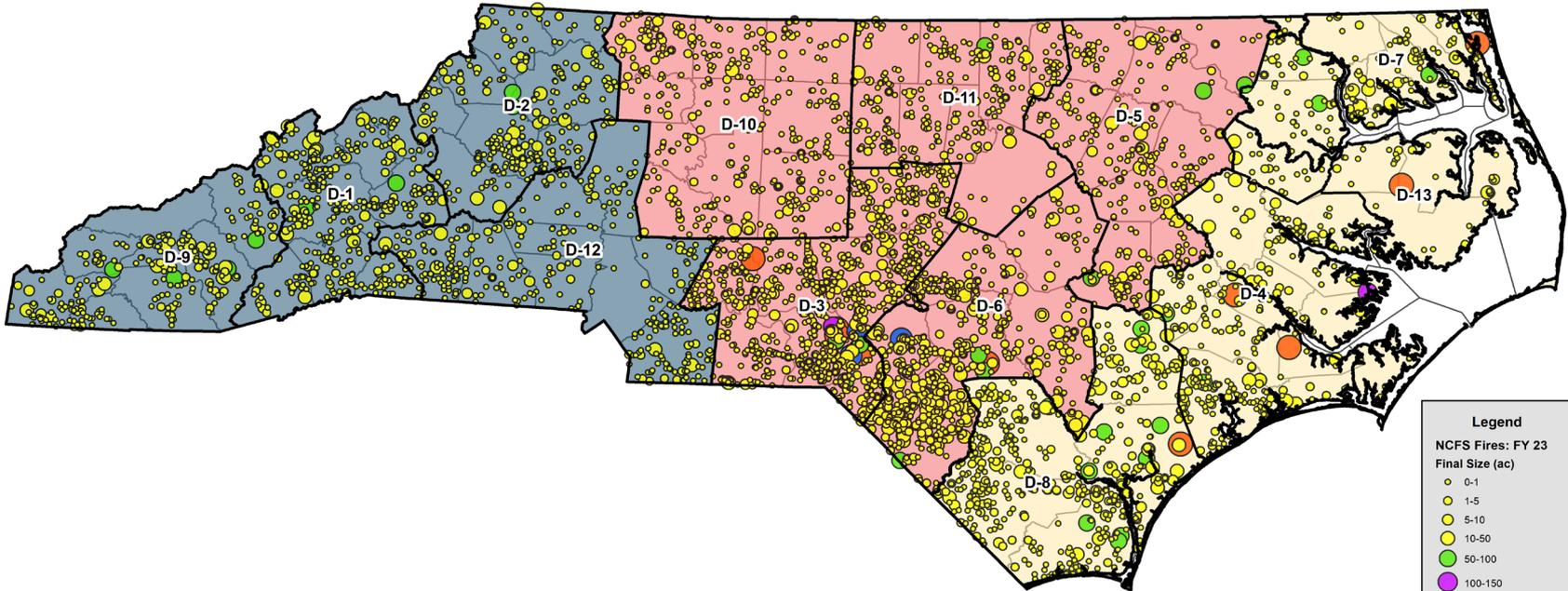
NCFS Region	Wildfire Count	% of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres
Coastal	980	21%	58,301
Piedmont	2,459	53%	8,296
Mountain	1,232	26%	3,093
Total	4,671	100%	69,690



Distribution of Fires – FY23

NC Forest Service Fire Locations: FY 23

Preliminary Data



Legend

NCFS Fires: FY 23
Final Size (ac)

- 0-1
- 1-5
- 5-10
- 10-50
- 50-100
- 100-150
- 150-200
- 200+

NCFS Districts

NCFS Regions
Region

- Coastal Region (1)
- Piedmont Region (2)
- Mountain Region (3)

Date Drawn: 9/18/23
 Source: FARS Database
 Preliminary Data from
 IWCG Report Query
 Created by: Dunbar





Top 5 Number of Wildfires and Acres Burned – FY23

By Fire Count

County	NCFS Region	# of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres
Robeson	Piedmont	233	1,219
Richmond	Piedmont	155	1,377
Montgomery	Piedmont	137	71
Moore	Piedmont	132	376
Chatham	Piedmont	128	137
Total for the 5 counties		785	3,180
% of annual total		17%	5%

By Acres

County	NCFS Region	# of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres
Craven	Coastal	36	32,478
Brunswick	Coastal	103	15,974
Tyrrell	Coastal	5	5,282
Pender	Coastal	48	1,642
Richmond	Piedmont	155	1,377
Total for the 5 counties		347	56,752
% of annual total		7%	81%

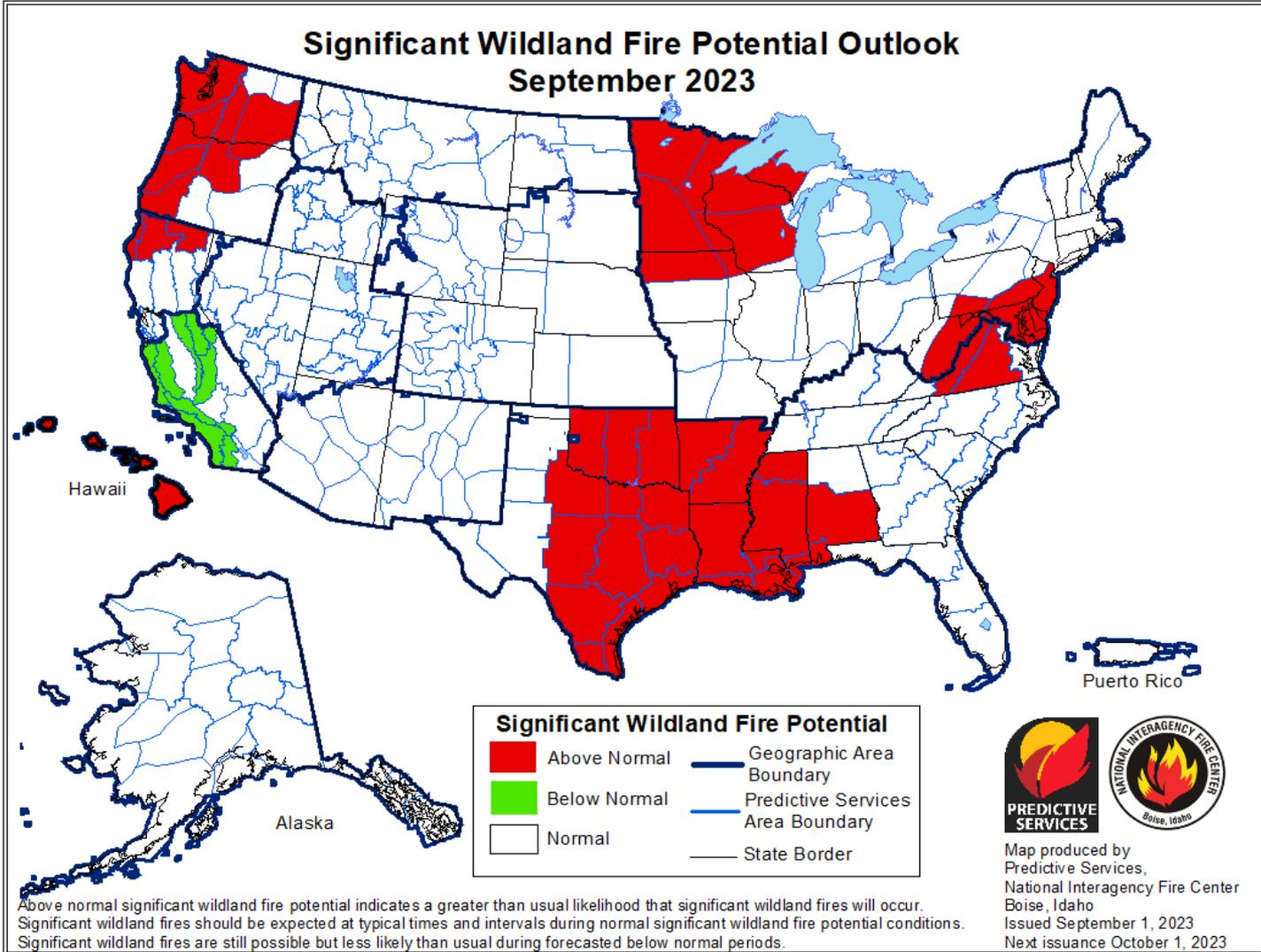


Wildfires by Cause – FY23

Wildfire Cause	# of Wildfires	% of Wildfires	Wildfire Acres	% of Acres
Camping	63	1.3%	750	1.1%
Children	132	2.8%	85	0.1%
Debris Burning	2,126	45.5%	26,873	38.6%
Incendiary	362	7.7%	650	0.9%
Lightning	42	0.9%	1,302	1.9%
Machine Use	523	11.2%	1,197	1.7%
Miscellaneous	755	16.2%	1,527	2.2%
Railroad	23	0.5%	21	0.03%
Smoking	20	0.4%	6	0.01%
Undetermined	625	13.4%	37,280	53.5%
Total	4,671	100.0%	69,690	100.0%

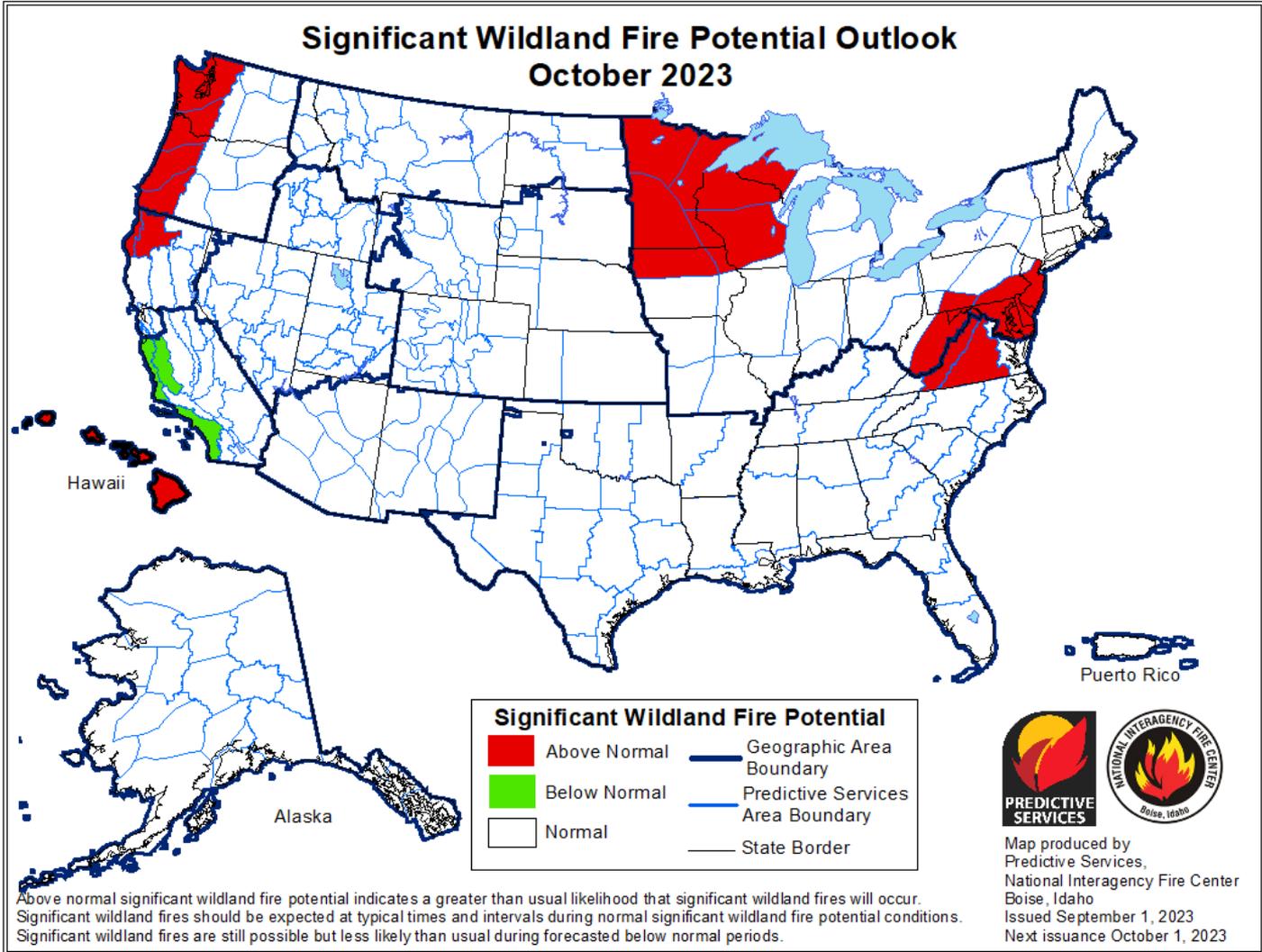


SIGNIFICANT WILDLAND FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK





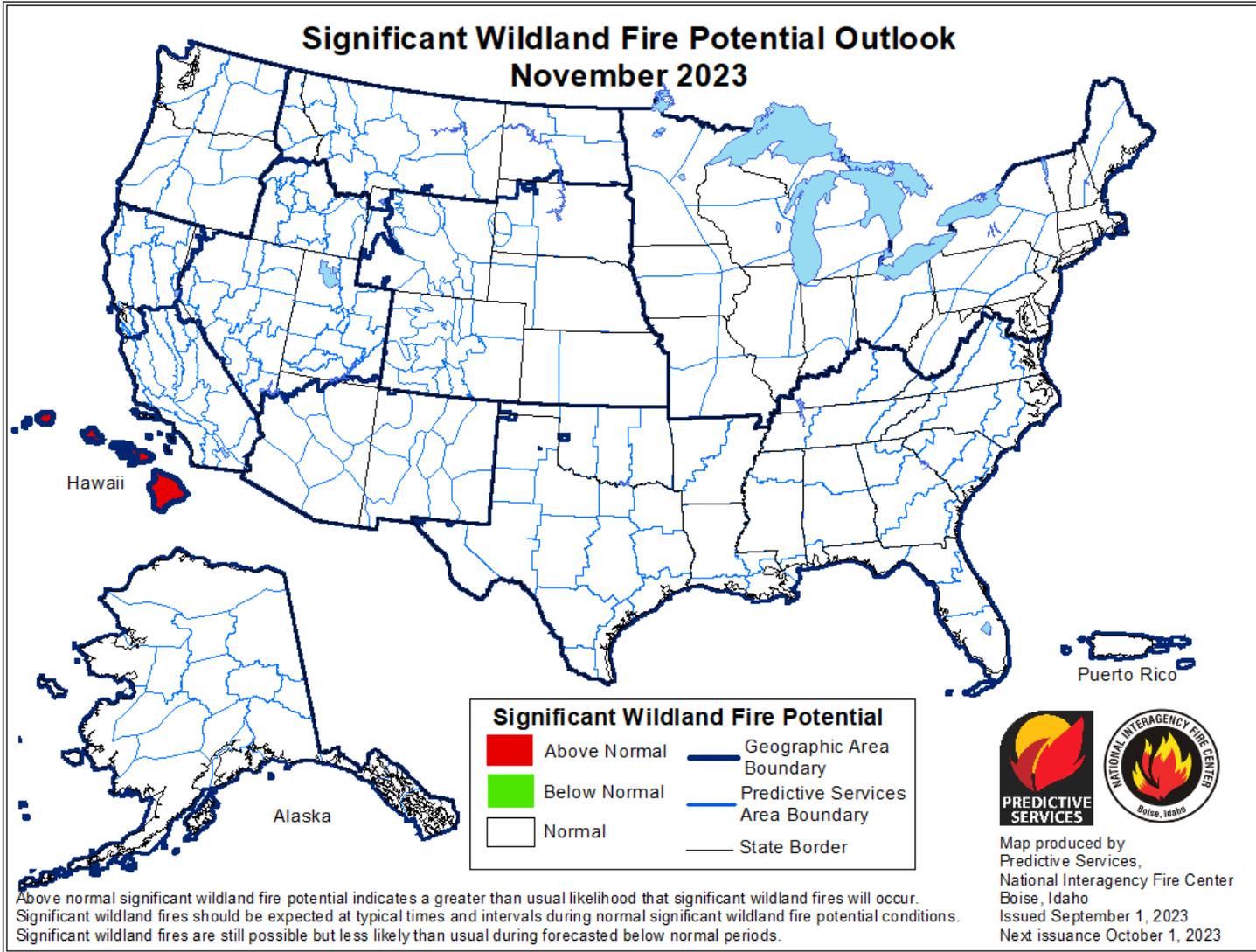
SIGNIFICANT WILDLAND FIRE POTENTIAL OUTLOOK



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

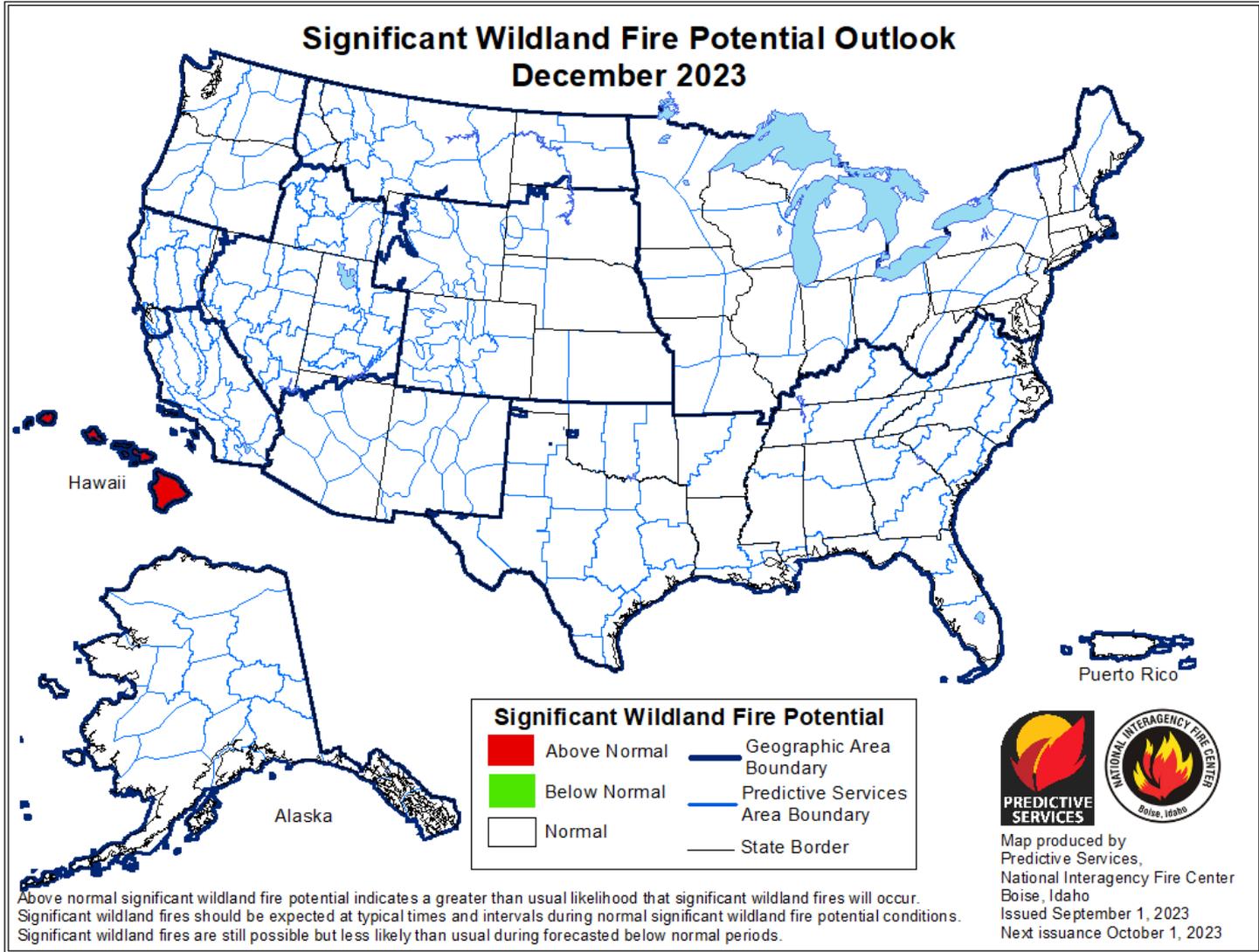


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QUESTIONS?



Jamie Dunbar
Fire Environment Staff Forester

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