

JOC Joint Staff SITREP 19 September 2017

Five Day Forecast

Tue 19 Sep	Wed 20 Sep	Thu 21 Sep	Fri 22 Sep	Sat 23 Sep
57°F	61°F	54°F	57°F	63°F
46°F	39°F	37°F	39°F	39°F

Current Situation

The IOEM is monitoring the fire situation at Heightened Awareness.

The Payette National Forest will be conducting multiple prescribed fires (broadcast and pile burning) this fall. Depending on weather conditions, prescribed fire could take place anytime from now through early November.

Yesterday (9/18) at 2 pm, the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group lowered the national preparedness level to PL4 due to cooler temperatures and rain throughout the western states, decreased fire activity, and increase in the availability of resources.

Significant Events

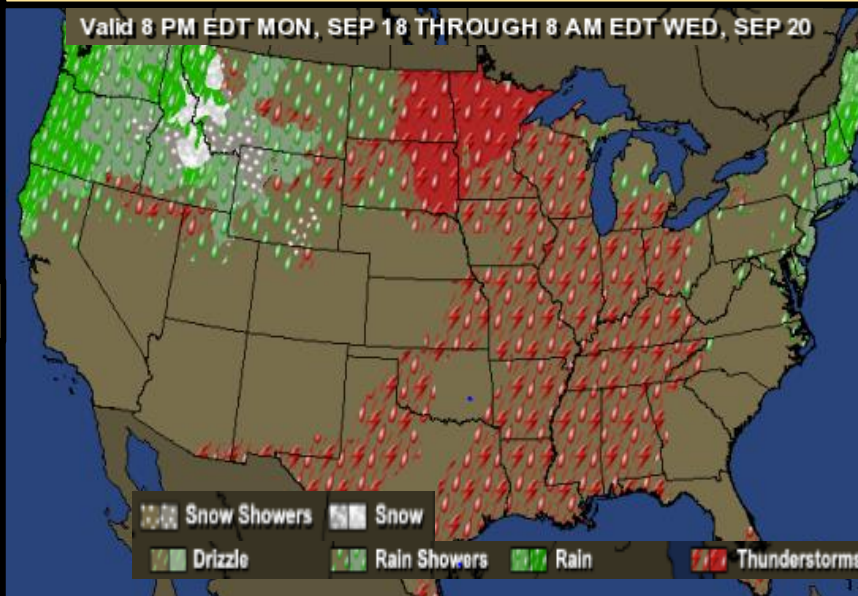
The Payette National Forest has rescinded the Highline fire closure in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness effective immediately, allowing access to the trails, airstrips and area in and around Chamberlain Basin.

Large Fires:

Bearskin Fire: Burning in the Boise National Forest 21 miles NE of Lowman is now at 30,251 acres, 10% containment. Observed fire behavior is low; minimal fire activity expected.

Highline Fire: Now at 84,619 acres, burning within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Wetting rains occurred across the fire area, with an inch of snow at the Sheepeater fire lookout.

Storm Forecast



Regional Weather Outlooks

North/North Central Region: Showers will bring much needed rain to the Inland Northwest through Friday. Our best chances for rain will be on this afternoon with the passage of an upper level disturbance. Portions of southeast Washington and the southern Idaho Panhandle will also have a good shot of rain on Wednesday. A drier and warmer pattern returns for the weekend.

Southeast/Central Region: Cold, Wet and windy as a area of low pressure out of the northwest digs in for this week. Expect gusty winds and scattered rain/snow showers for much of the week. Snow levels are forecast to drop toward 6500 ft. this morning and stay there; 1 to 3 inches snow forecast for portions of the Central Mountains.

Southwest Region: A series of cold fronts will move in from the northwest and affect Western Idaho through the end of the week with occasional valley rain, scattered thunderstorms and mountain snow. Temps will remain 15-20 degrees below normal with winds increasing this afternoon and even more so Wednesday afternoon.

In the News

18 Sep 17: [Mining company in contempt for Idaho water pollution.](#) A federal judge is holding the Atlanta Gold mining company in contempt of court for allowing arsenic and iron to enter a tributary of the Middle Fork of the Boise River. The company was violating the Federal Clean Water Act when it discharged water containing pollutants from a mining tunnel into Montezuma Creek. That case resulted in a 2012 order directing the mining company to fix the problems.

18 Sep 17: [INL to host national conversation in Delaware on protecting critical infrastructure.](#) This symposium is dedicated to advancing the resiliency of critical cyber-physical infrastructures from unexpected and malicious threats, with a focus on industrial control systems (ICS), supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA), and cybersecurity. From significant electrical infrastructure failures to oil and natural gas concerns, INL is leading efforts to understand the challenges associated with restoration of services.

18 Sep 17: [Maria intensifies into a monster Cat 5 hurricane](#) Forecasters say Hurricane Maria has become a Category 5 storm as the eye nears Dominica. The National Hurricane Center in Miami said Monday evening that Air Force Reserve hurricane hunter planes found that Maria had strengthened into a storm with 160 mph (260 kph) winds.

