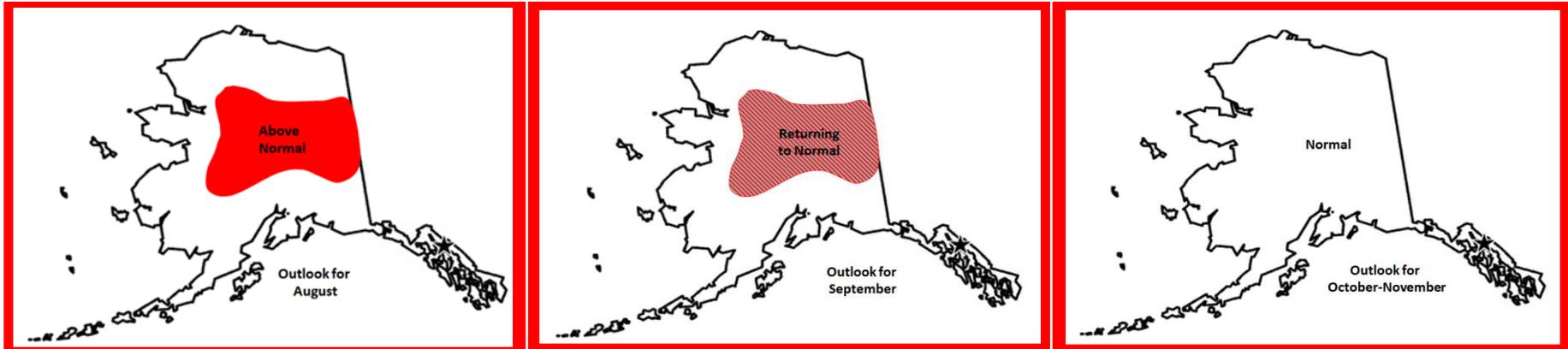


Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook



Forecast:

- The forecast for August is above normal across much of the Interior. With the number of active fires and amount of acreage currently burning, the rest of the summer will be busy even if cool weather and wetting rains occur. By September, cooler temps and short burn periods will allow conditions to normalize, as fires cease active burning or extinguish themselves.

Factors:

- Some rains at the end of July have moderated conditions through the southern 2/3 of Alaska. But, the U.S. Drought Monitor still has a large area of “Abnormally Dry” with areas of “Moderate Drought” in most of Alaska, minus coastal areas.
- CPC Monthly outlooks indicate, with higher than usual confidence, that significantly warmer than normal temperatures will continue to dominate the state through the fall. The precipitation forecasts have been oscillating between damp and dry for a number of weeks, so there is not much gained by the current precipitation forecast. The CFSv2 weekly to seasonal model indicates the likelihood of two or more weeks of warmer and drier weather as August begins.
- Fire Weather Indices show that fine fuels have moderated quite a bit for all areas except the northern Interior. However, the mid-duff layers remain very dry across most of the Interior, Copper River Basin, and inland areas of South Central. This indicates that fuels are capable of supporting large fires, and that they will continue to smolder beneath the surface even in large rain events. This is evidenced by the fact that about two days after a heavy rain, fires in these areas start to get up and move once again. In addition, fine tundra fuels repeatedly show extreme burning conditions with just a little sunshine.