Governor’s Drought Interagency Coordinating Group
November 1, 2010

Forest Health and Wildfire Activity

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Drought/Weather Effects on Wildfire

- Wet years, particularly consecutive wet years bring higher fire potential to lower Arizona deserts due to increased annual vegetation production.
- Wet years are generally favorable to our higher elevation vegetation types (chaparral, woodlands, forests).
Drought/Weather Effects on Wildfire

• Dry/Drought Conditions normally increase fire potential in the higher elevations and decrease potential in deserts.

• Overstocked/unhealthy forest stands exacerbate drought effects

• Non-native plants may increase fire potential

• Drought reduces water availability for suppression

Schultz Fire 2010
North of Phoenix

Comparison:
2009 (Dry Year) vs. 2010 – (Wet Year)

March 2009

April 2010
Potential Fire Spread in Grassland

Fire Spread Map

Conditions: June Day, 112 Degrees, 10 MPH Wind
Spring 2010 Fuel Conditions Assessment

2010 Wildland Fire Fuel Conditions Assessment

Estimated Fire Potential
- Above Average
- Moderate
- Lower to Moderate
- Lower

Map Produced by: Arizona State Forestry Division / April 13, 2010

Data Sources:
- Derived from Arizona Land Information System (AZLIS)
- Derived from IFN data on a summary of DNF values assembled by the National Capability in Arizona (produced from Dorn and Lasitt's "Wildfire Communities of the Southwest")
- Subsequently validated and the potential fire hazard determined from field observations and interpretation by Arizona State Forestry Division.
2010 YTD Wildfire Stats

• Az. State Forestry Jurisdiction Lands:
  – 5% of Average for Acres Burned
• All Ownerships in Arizona (Pvt, State, Federal):
  – 38% of Average for Acres Burned
• Nationally:
  – 50% of Average for Acres Burned
2010 Wildland Fire Activity

Fire Occurrence Data
(2010 Data is thru 10/28/2010)

- .1 - 99 Acres (State Data Only)
- 100 - 900 Acres (Large Fires-All Agencies)
- 1,000 - 4,730 Acres (Large Fires-All Agencies)
- 5,000 - 15,000 Acres (Large Fires-All Agencies)

Office of the State Forester
October 28, 2010

Data Sources:
Basemap Data - Arizona Land Resource Information Center (ALRIS)
Fire Activity - Arizona Dispatch Center WildCAD dispatch system, SW Area Coordination Center, & USFS FireWEB

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2009 Forest Mortality and Defoliation Aerial Detection Map

- Mortality or Defoliation Observed

Date Sources:
- Basemap Data: Arizona Land Resource Information Center (ALRIS)
- Aerial Detection Data: USFS Region 3, Arizona State Forestry

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2008 Forest Mortality and Defoliation Detected through Aerial Detection

Aerial Detection Data
(July - August 2008)

Mortality or Damage Observed

Office of the State Forester
October 28, 2009

Data Sources:
Basemap Data - Arizona Land Resource Information Center (ALRIS)
Aerial Detection Data - US Forest Service Region 3, Arizona State Forestry

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