

2023 Fire Season Outlook

April Update

Weather Forecast Office

Flagstaff, AZ

Wednesday, April 5



2023 (Current)

2022

U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona

March 28, 2023

(Released Thursday, Mar. 30, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	80.38	12.10	7.49	0.03	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>03-21-2023</i>	75.49	16.19	8.30	0.03	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>12-27-2022</i>	12.40	48.64	31.12	7.85	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-03-2023</i>	12.40	48.66	31.09	7.85	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-27-2022</i>	0.00	43.28	38.25	18.47	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>03-29-2022</i>	0.00	24.65	45.86	23.21	6.28	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

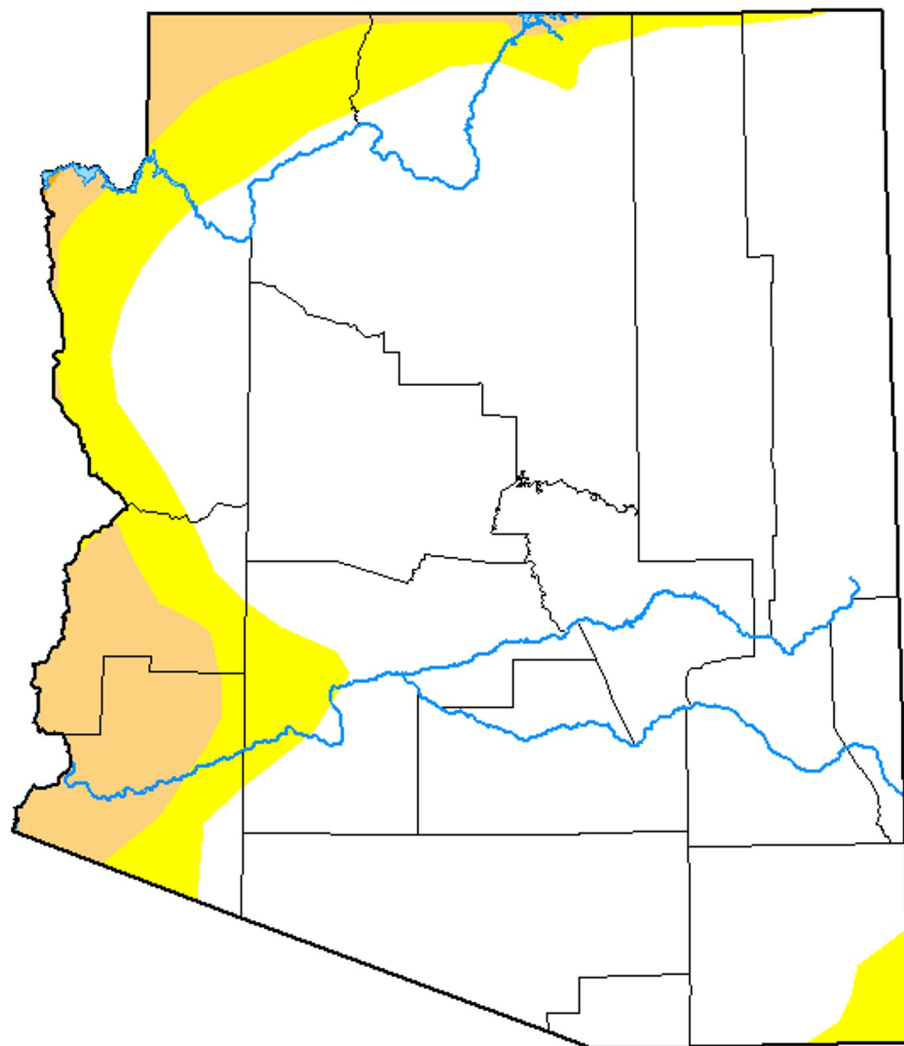
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu



U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona

March 29, 2022

(Released Thursday, Mar. 31, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	75.35	29.49	6.28	0.00
Last Week <i>03-22-2022</i>	0.00	100.00	75.35	29.49	6.28	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>12-28-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	60.92	26.20	5.08	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-04-2022</i>	0.00	100.00	55.74	26.15	5.08	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-28-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	80.38	40.02	13.69	0.00
One Year Ago <i>03-30-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	98.90	94.66	86.56	54.80

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

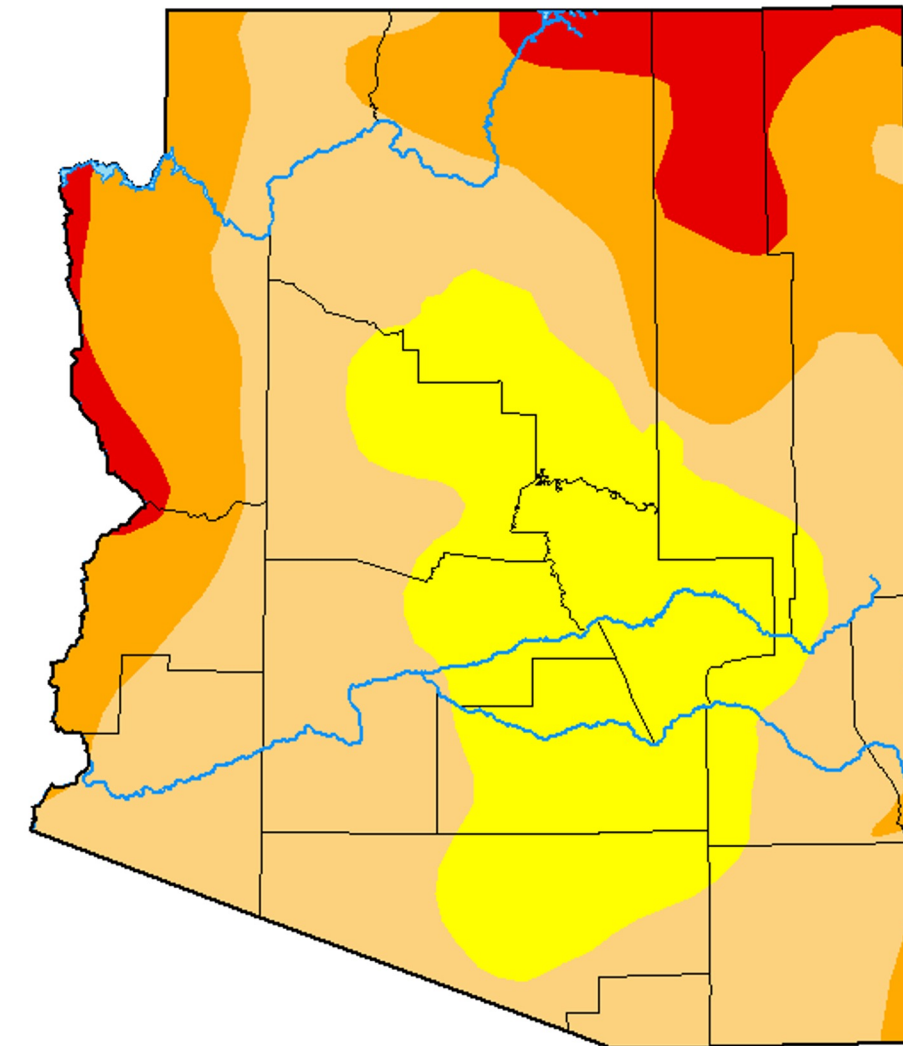
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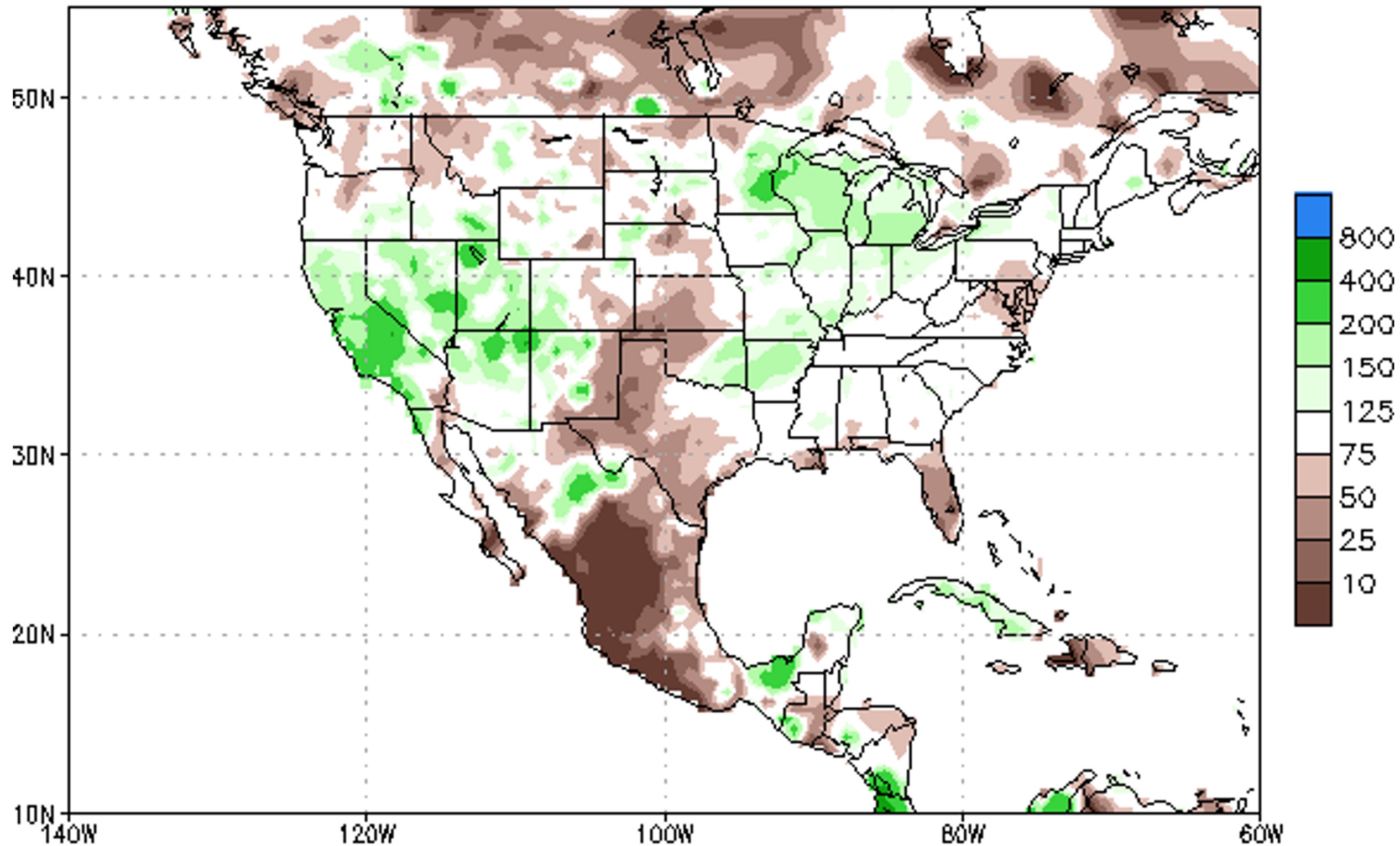
Comparing the latest drought monitor to the one from this time last year shows how drought intensity have improved across Arizona.



Winter Precipitation % of Normal

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Flagstaff, AZ
Wednesday, April 5

90-day Accumulated Prop % of Normal 05JAN2023-04APR2023



Above average precipitation occurred across all of Arizona during the past 90 days.

Data Source: CPC Unified (gauge-based & 0.5x0.5 deg resolution) Precipitation Analysis Climatology (1991-2020)



Fire Season (April - June) CPC Outlook

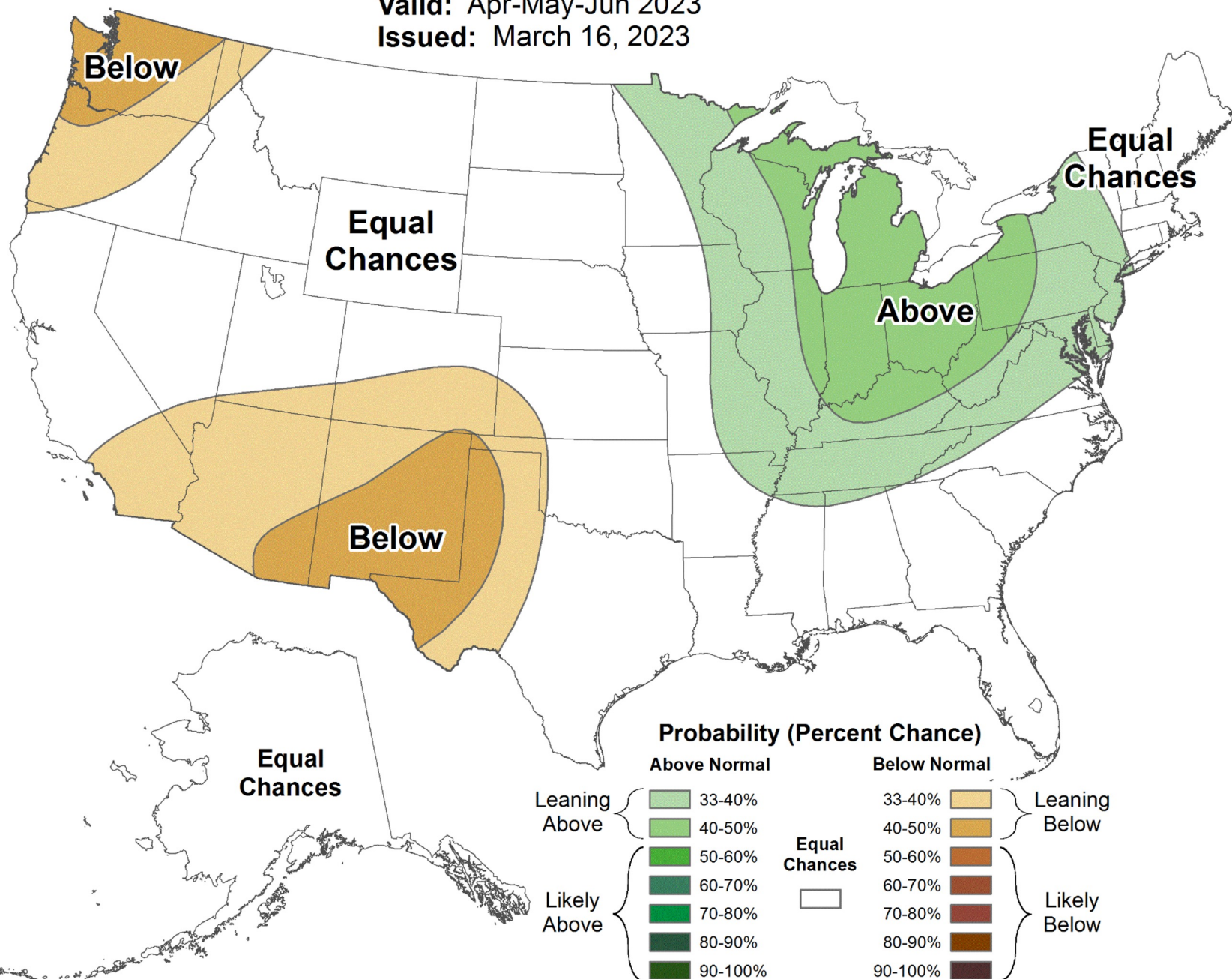
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Wednesday, April 5



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



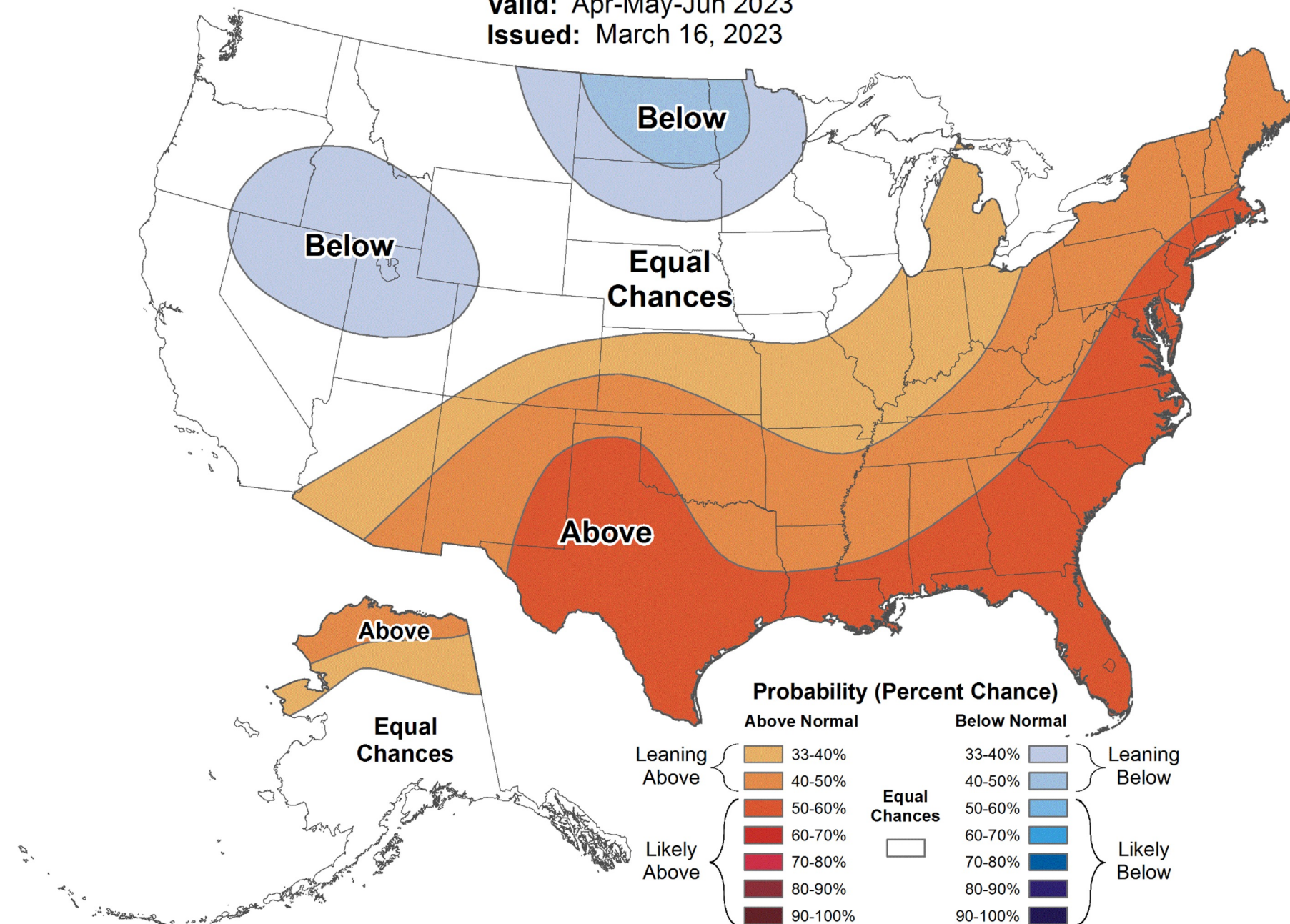
Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2023
Issued: March 16, 2023



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Apr-May-Jun 2023
Issued: March 16, 2023



Odds are tilted in favor of a generally warmer and drier than average fire season across Arizona.



Monsoon Season (July - September) CPC Outlook

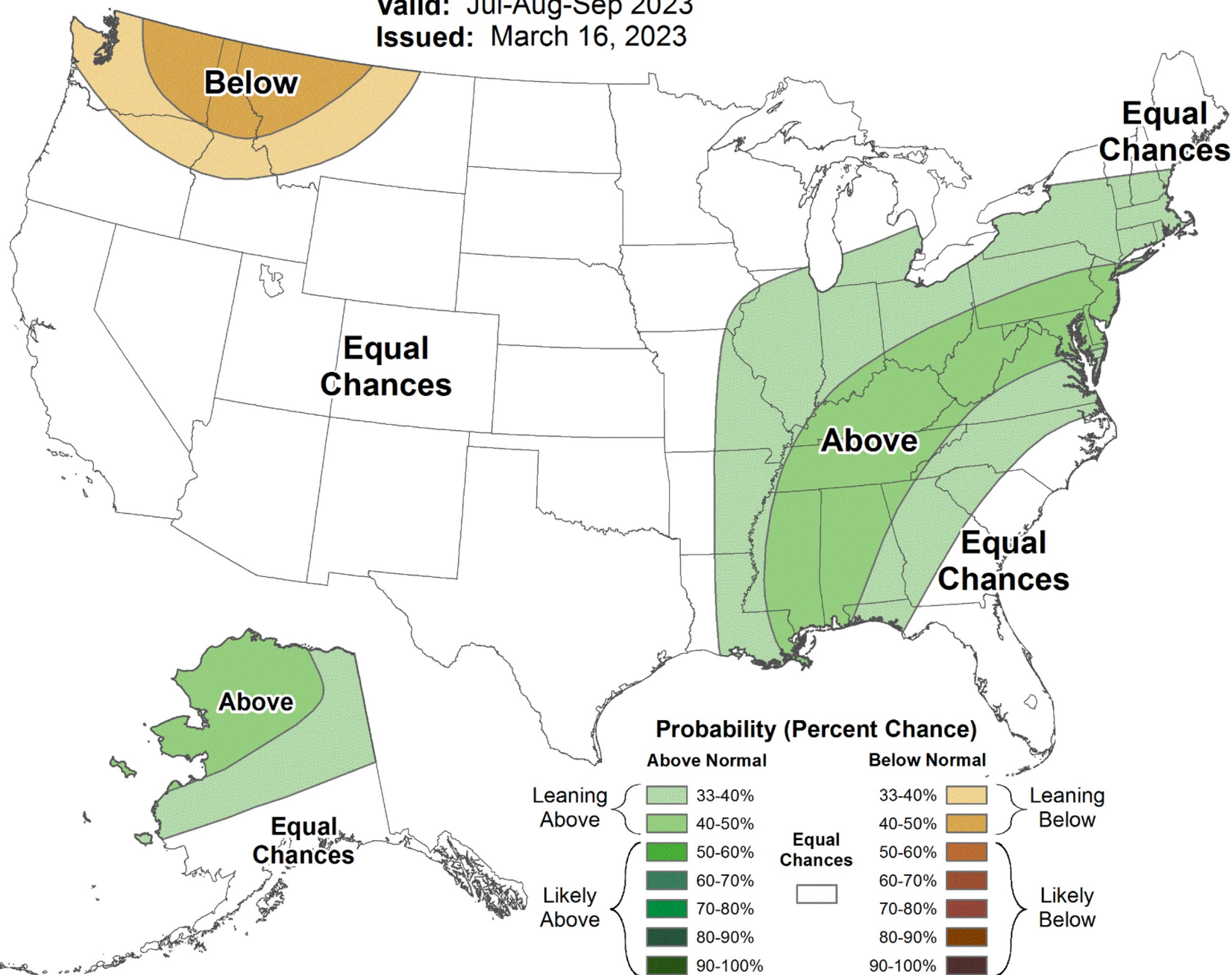
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Flagstaff, AZ
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Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



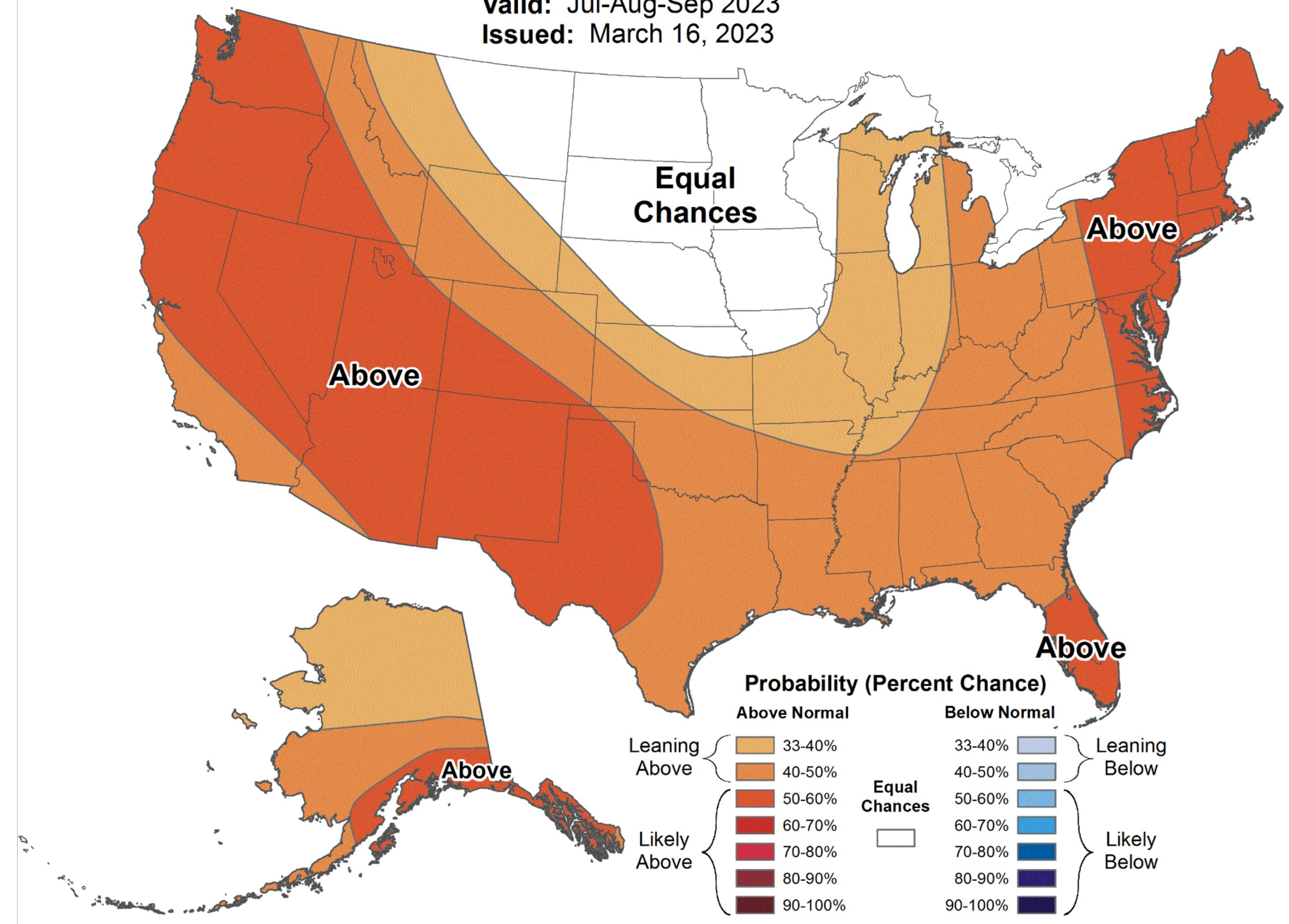
Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2023
Issued: March 16, 2023



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2023
Issued: March 16, 2023

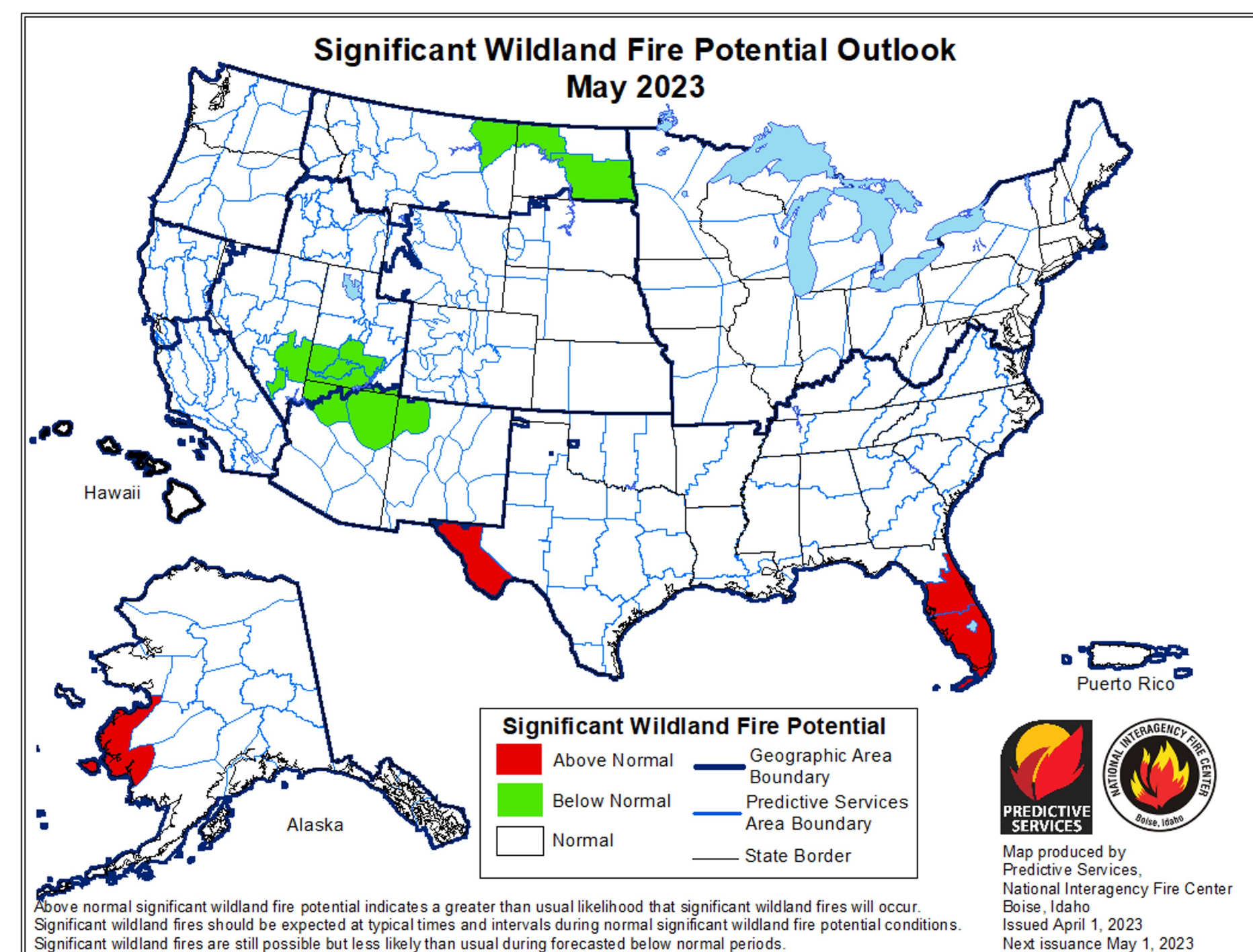
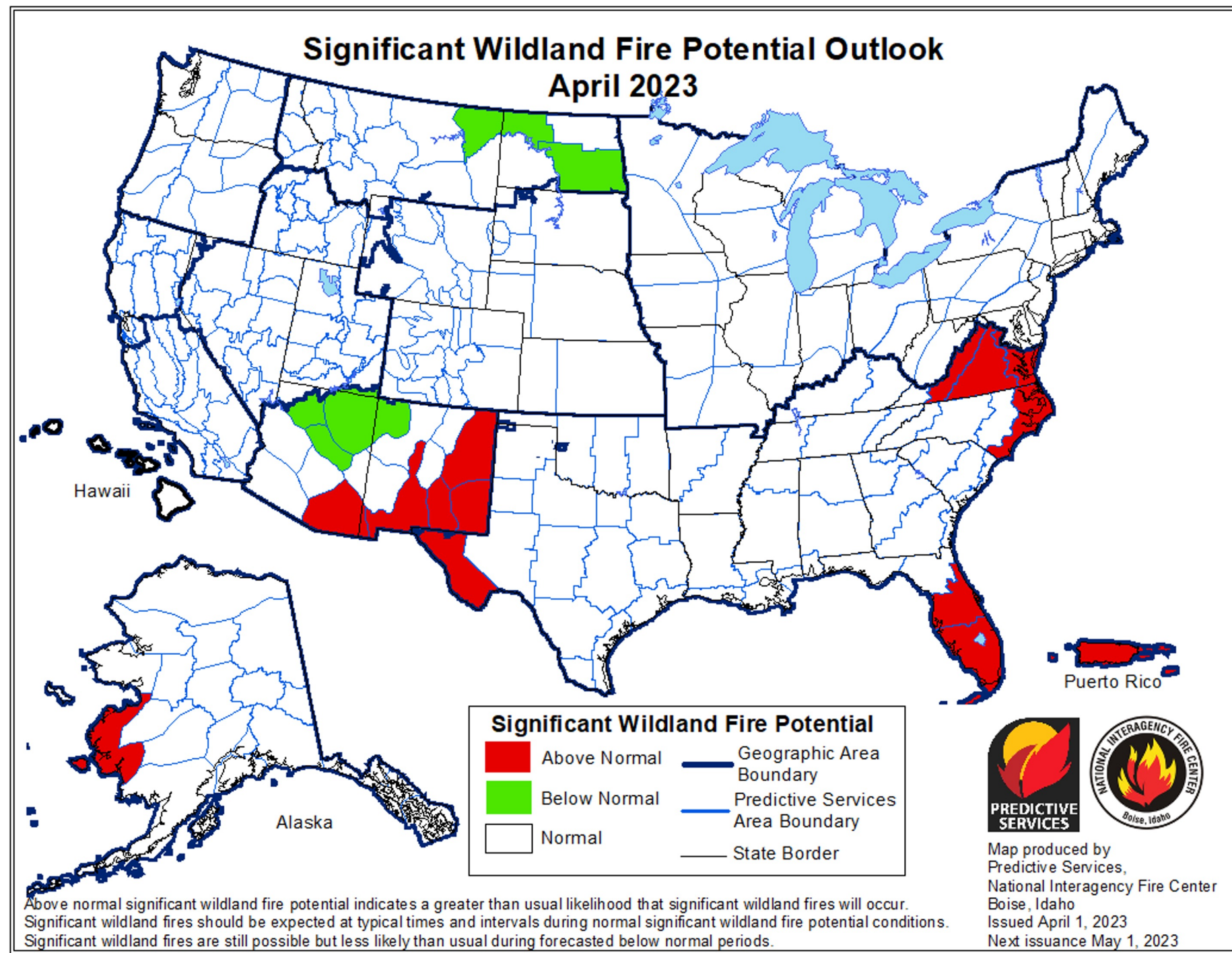


The outlook for monsoon season favors warmer than average conditions across Arizona. However, there will be equal chances for above, near, or below average precipitation across northern Arizona.



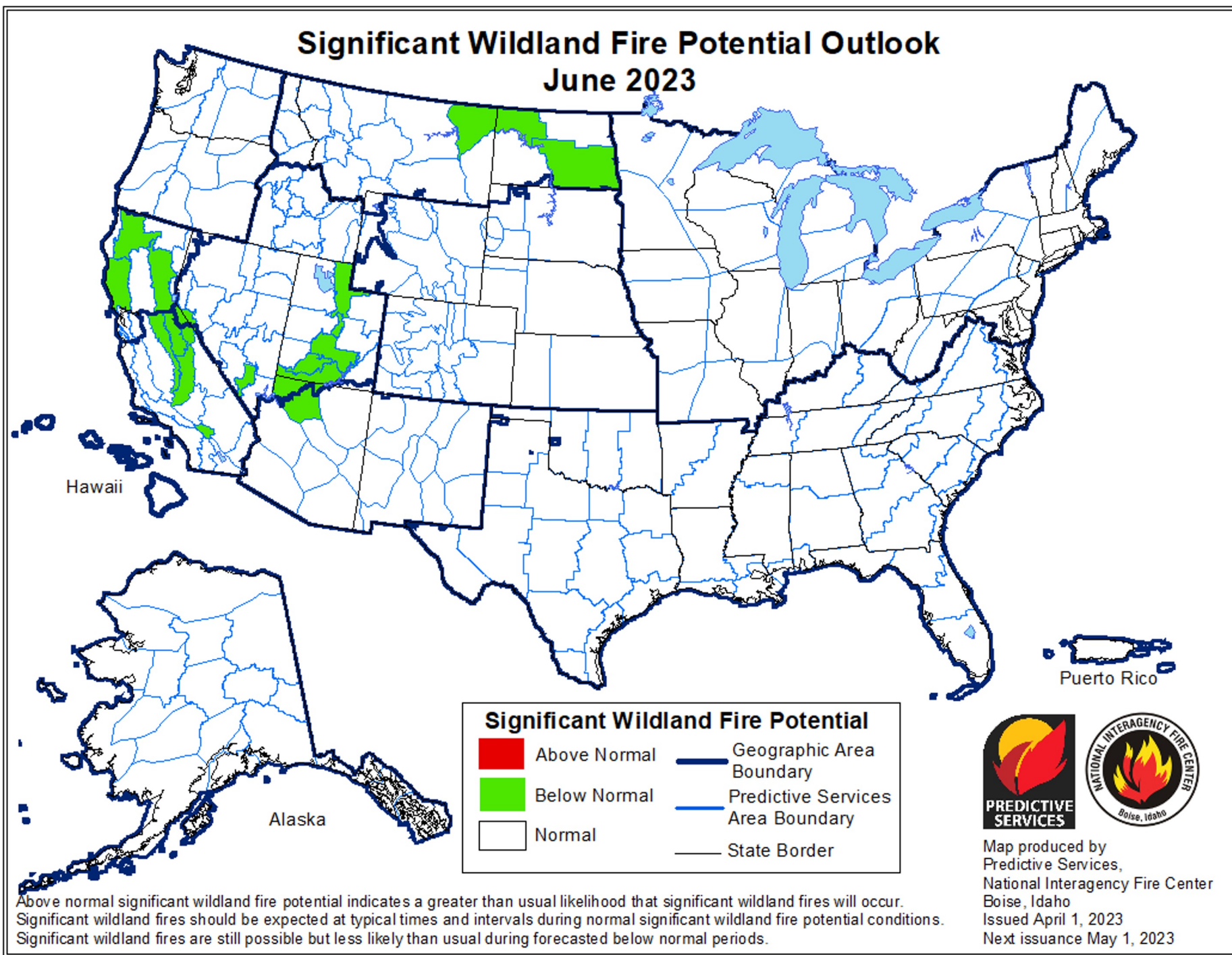
Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

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Flagstaff, AZ
Wednesday, April 5

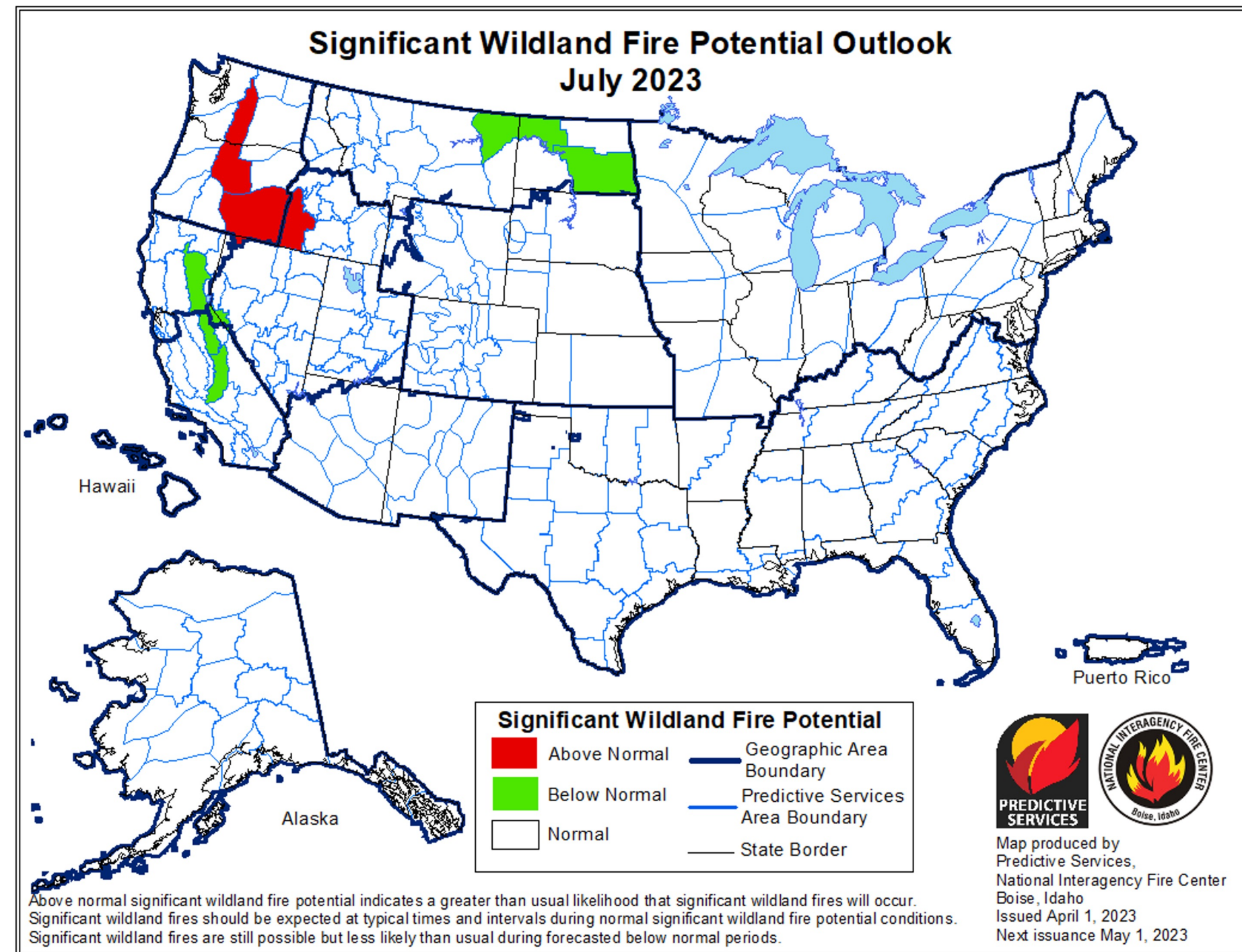


Below normal significant wildland fire potential is expected across most of northern Arizona in April and May. However, above normal significant wildland fire potential is expected to creep into southeastern Arizona in April, then dip to near normal activity in May.

**Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
June 2023**



**Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
July 2023**



Below normal significant wildland fire potential is forecast across northwestern Arizona in June. Elsewhere, near normal significant wildland fire potential is expected for most of Arizona in June and July.



Summary

Weather Forecast Office
Flagstaff, AZ
Wednesday, April 5

- **Current drought status:** Above average precipitation this winter has improved drought conditions across northern Arizona.
- **The above normal snowpack will likely melt normally,** and will persist over the higher elevations through much of the month.
- **Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks:**
 - **Fire Season (April - June)** – Odds are tilted in favor of generally warmer and drier than average conditions.
 - **Monsoon Season (July - September)** – Odds are tilted in favor of a warmer than average monsoon season. There will be equal chances for above, near, or below average precipitation across northern Arizona.
- **Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook:** Below normal significant wildland fire potential is expected across most of northern Arizona in April and May. However, above normal significant wildland fire potential is expected to creep into southeastern Arizona in April, then dip to near normal activity in May. Below normal significant wildland fire potential is forecast across northwestern Arizona in June. Elsewhere, near normal significant wildland fire potential is expected for most of Arizona in June and July.
- **Onset of Monsoon Season:** At this time, there are no indications of an ‘early’ or ‘late’ onset of the monsoon for northern and central Arizona. Typically, monsoon thunderstorms ramp up during the first week in July.



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