



Washington DNR Sept 6, 2022 Weather & Fuels Outlook

Weather Summary

CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY across almost all of Washington. Red Flag Warnings are in effect for the high Cascades Tuesday due to dry and unstable conditions, with Red Flags continuing across much of eastern Washington for Wednesday. Conditions do not improve Thursday, with a moderate east wind event beginning Friday and continuing Saturday.

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Weekly Weather Report: September 6 – September 12

A very dry airmass is in place over Washington and is forecast to remain in place through at least Sunday morning. Dew points generally are below 40F across the westside, and below 30F across the eastside. This will lead to very large swings in temperature between nighttime lows and daytime highs, and allow RH values to fall into the teens across most of the state each afternoon this week. Tuesday begins the critical fire weather period with hot and unstable conditions developing over the mountains and leading to active burning conditions this afternoon. The threat of new large fires increases on Wednesday as strong westerly winds push across the Cascades.

Wednesday can expect wind gusts 30-40mph in the Cascade gaps with critical RH values in the afternoon. Gusts will be a bit weaker farther east into the Columbia Basin, but gusts to 20-25mph and critical RH values will still meet Red Flag Criteria and represent a significant threat of new large fires. By Thursday, the westerly winds will relax as a cold front sweeps in from Canada. The northerly gradient associated with the cold front will drive very dry air and gusty winds through the north-south oriented Okanagan Valley and other north-south oriented features in the Okanagan Highlands and Colville NF.

By Friday, an east wind event begins to develop. Friday will feature very dry conditions and breezy winds 15-20mph from the Okanagan Valley southward into the Columbia Basin and westward through the Columbia Gorge. Friday afternoon and Saturday will also see gusty north-northeasterly winds of 15-20mph across the Puget Lowlands and Willamette Valley, with the highest fire danger of the season likely for the westside. Dry conditions likely continue on Sunday, though winds will relax significantly. By Sunday afternoon and into Monday will see some moisture move towards WA, but there remains significant uncertainty in the long range forecast.

Weather Impacts

	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Western WA	Dry Unstable	Dry Windy	Dry	HOT and DRY EAST WIND	HOT and DRY EAST WIND	VERY DRY	Marine Push Rain Possible
Eastern WA	Dry Unstable	HOT/DRY/WINDY	Dry Windy Okanagan	HOT and DRY EAST WIND	HOT and DRY EAST WIND	VERY DRY	RH Recovers