

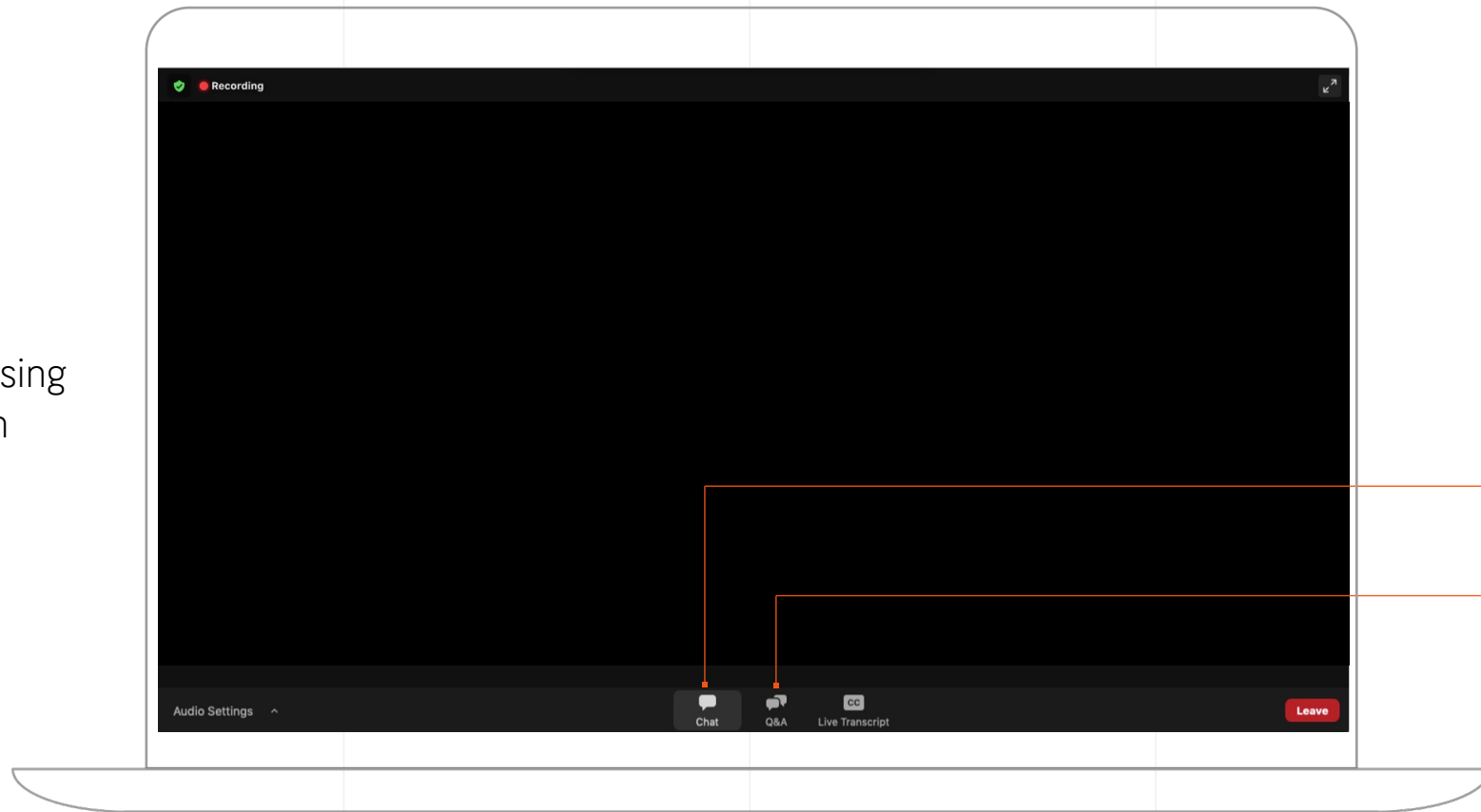
2021 Wildfire Season: Is your business prepared?

Geoff Cornish, On-Air Meteorologist, AccuWeather Network

Thomas Bedard, Implementation Manager, Meteorologist

How Zoom Webinars Work

Submit a question using
the Q&A function



Group chat

Q&A

Meet the speakers



Geoff Cornish

On-Air Meteorologist,
AccuWeather Network



Thomas Bedard

Implementation Manager,
Meteorologist

Another Active Year: 2021 Wildfire Season Forecast

Geoff Cornish – Meteorologist / Senior TV Broadcaster, The AccuWeather Network

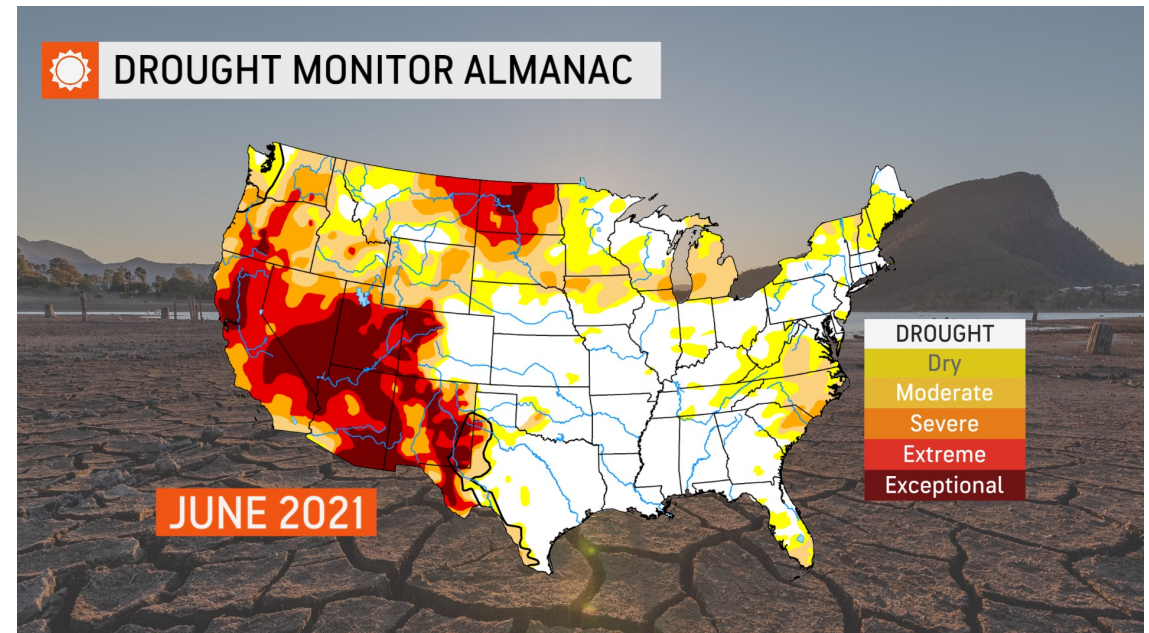
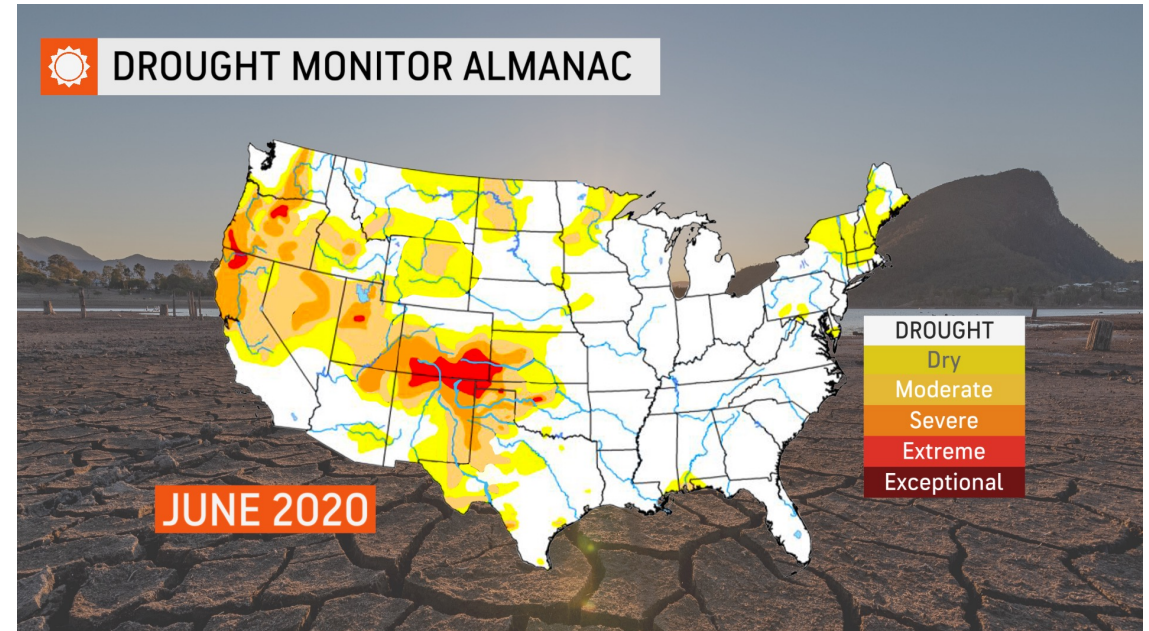
Fire Weather Influences

- **Fuel:** Vegetation... density, moisture content, plant species
- **Relative humidity:** Temperature rises = relative humidity drops (if no moisture added)
- **Wind:** Increases fire spread
- **Terrain:** Mountains / canyons with limited access bring much greater risk than flatland
- **Thunderstorms:** Dry lightning, erratic winds
- **Other considerations:** Recent fires in same area, population growth, human behavior



"Wet Season" in the West was Very Dry

- More than 80% of California's annual precipitation falls between November and early April
- Consistent with La Niña expectations last winter, Southwest remained very dry
- Drought increased significantly across Southwest
- Over 93% of West in drought status – worst since U.S. Drought Monitor took its current form about 20 years ago
- Very dry vegetation



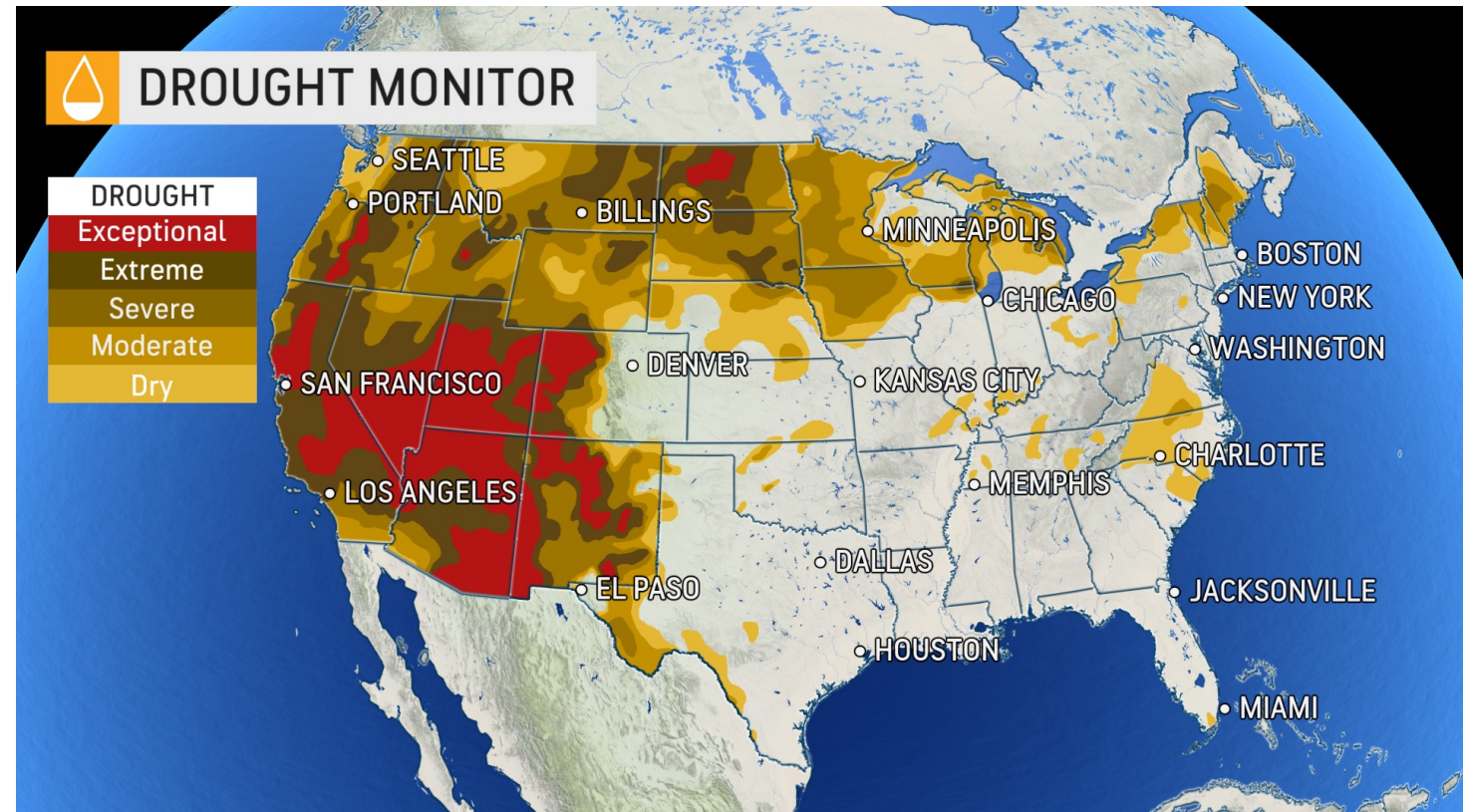
Wet Season Underperformed

- Limited snow cover, faster decline in spring snow cover in Sierra
- Desert Southwest ended with less than 30% of normal rainfall... (greater than 70% shortcoming)



Current State of Drought Monitor

- Virtually entire Southwest classified as under Extreme or Exceptional Drought
- Much of Northwest is also facing a Moderate, Severe or Extreme Drought Status



Wildfires to Date: 2021

Early-Season Fire Activity

- Despite the dry conditions, acreage burned to date is slightly below average
- Forecast: We will likely see a significant increase in the late summer and fall

Year-to-date statistics

2021 (1/1/21-7/13/21)	Fires: 33,953	Acres: 2,061,054
2020 (1/1/20-7/13/20)	Fires: 27,770	Acres: 1,687,412
2019 (1/1/19-7/13/19)	Fires: 22,327	Acres: 2,057,236
2018 (1/1/18-7/13/18)	Fires: 32,957	Acres: 3,321,999
2017 (1/1/17-7/13/17)	Fires: 33,920	Acres: 3,981,431
2016 (1/1/16-7/13/16)	Fires: 28,992	Acres: 2,404,740
2015 (1/1/15-7/13/15)	Fires: 31,469	Acres: 4,929,076
2014 (1/1/14-7/13/14)	Fires: 29,056	Acres: 1,039,206
2013 (1/1/13-7/13/13)	Fires: 24,674	Acres: 2,001,663
2012 (1/1/12-7/13/12)	Fires: 32,072	Acres: 3,329,120
2011 (1/1/11-7/13/11)	Fires: 39,888	Acres: 5,809,004

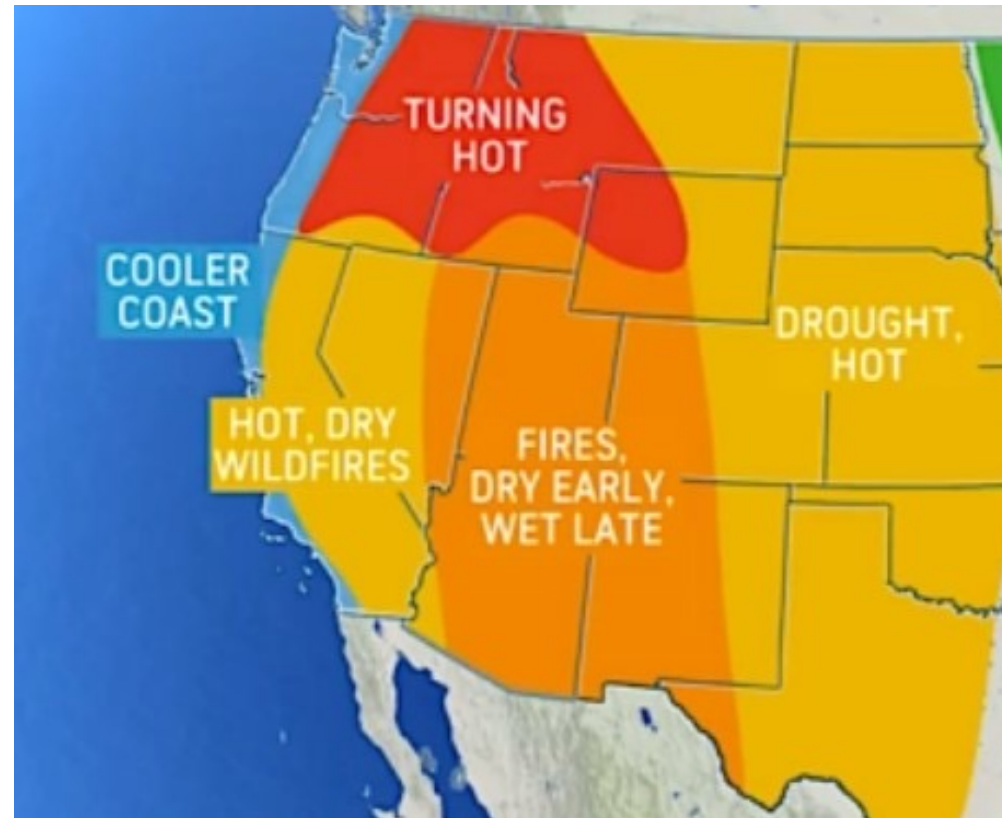
10-year average Year-to-Date

2011-2020	Fires: 29,837	Acres: 2,940,721
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Source: National Interagency Fire Center

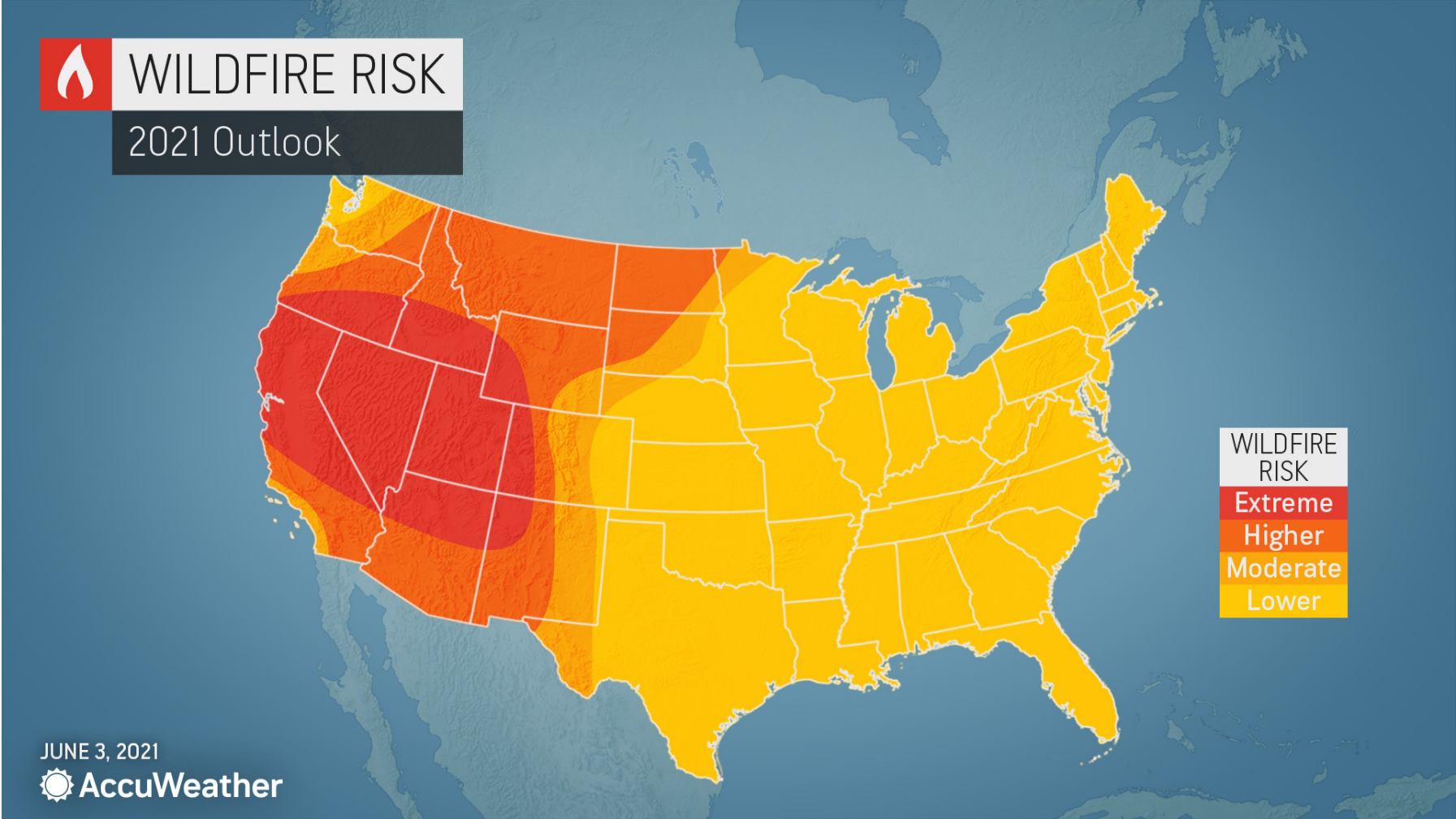
Mid / Late Summer Forecast

- Ridge in West promotes more western heat & dryness
- Gradual increase in monsoon moisture in Four Corners Region into August
- Little / no hope for meaningful California rain until mid/late Fall



AccuWeather Forecast

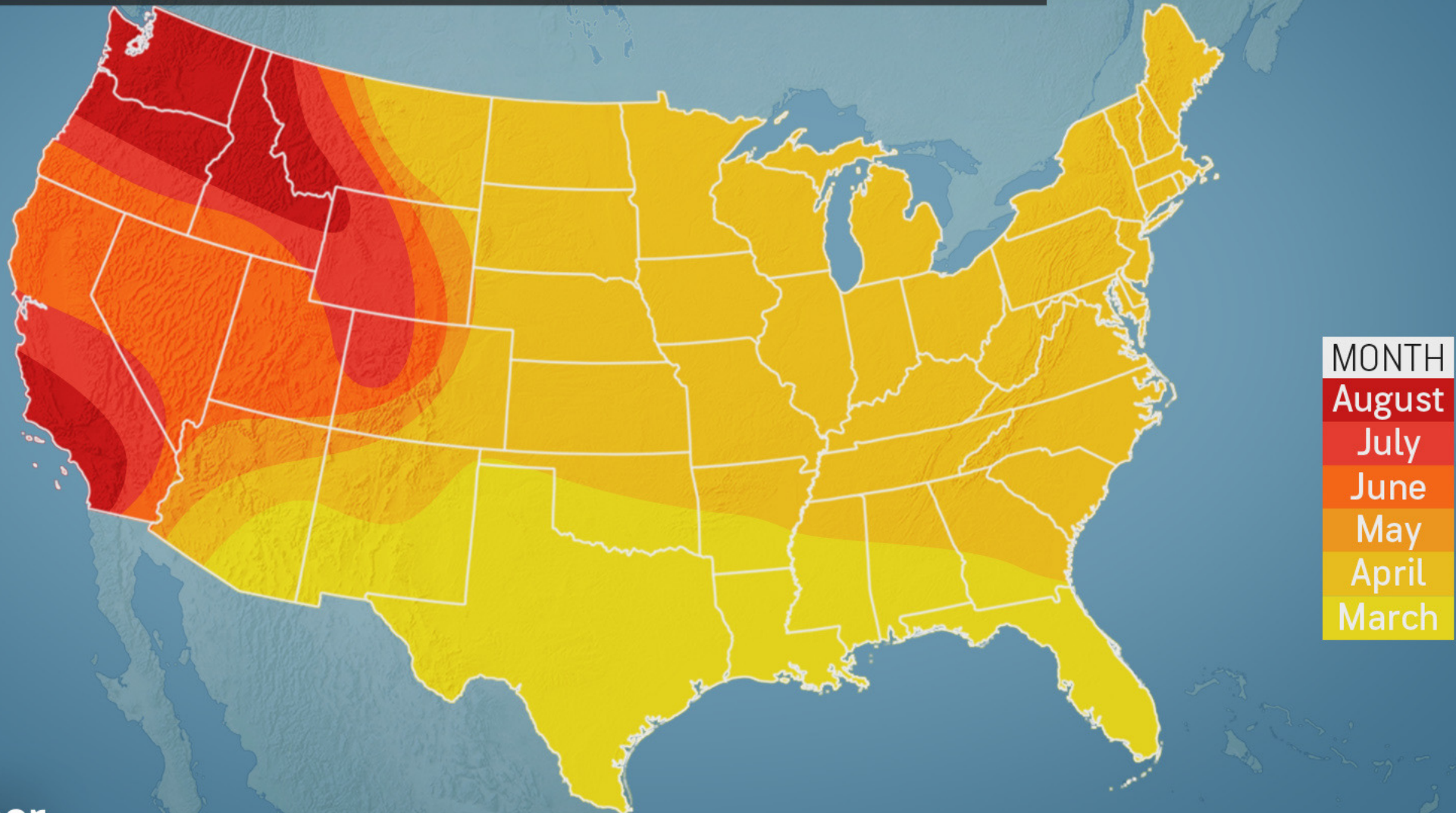
9.5 million acres burned in 2021 (30% to 40% above average)





WHEN SIGNIFICANT FIRE THREAT BEGINS

2021 Outlook



APRIL 26, 2021

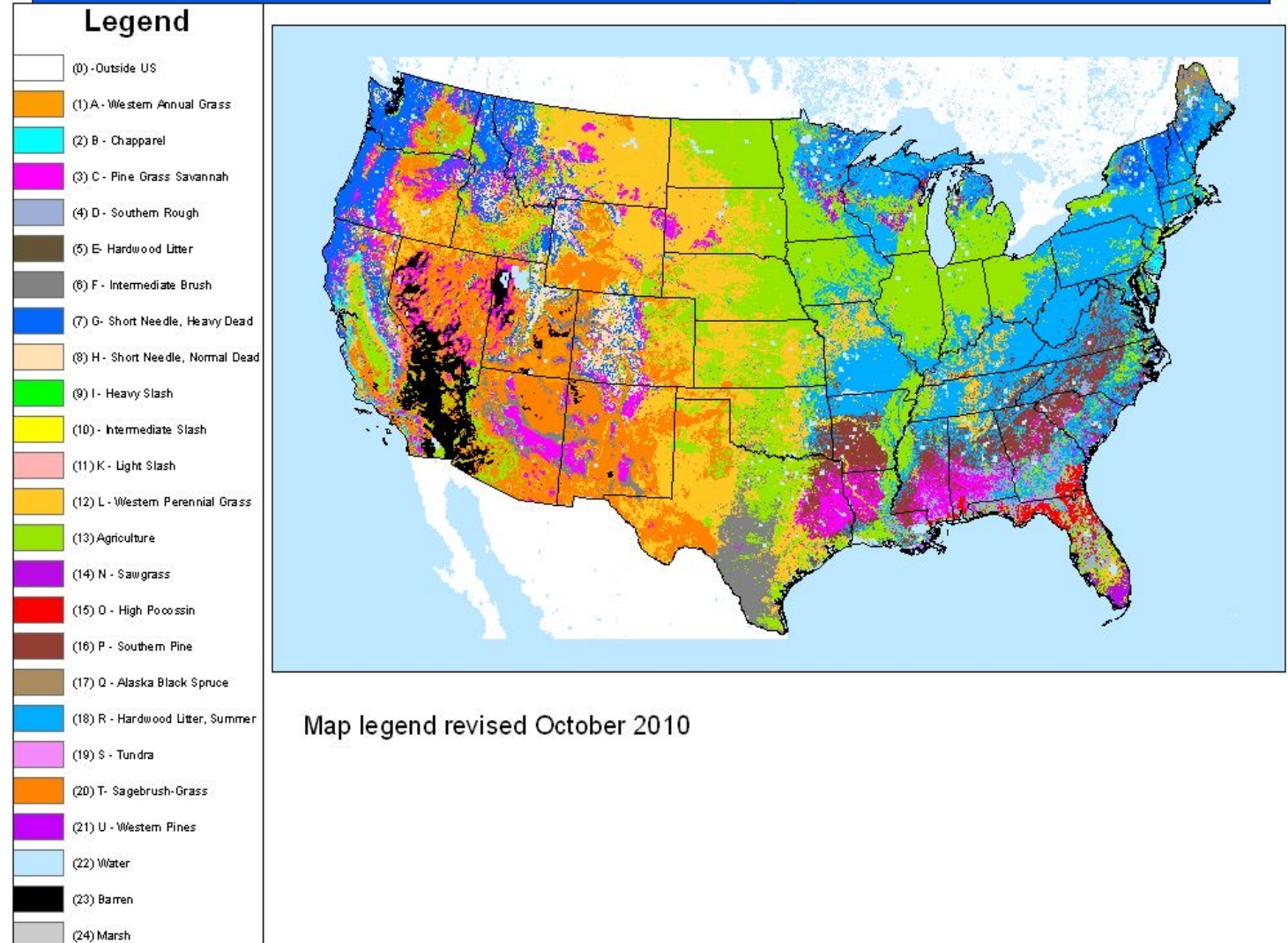


Great Range in Risk

Significant differences in vegetation

- Terrain varies greatly
 - Highest risk: Urban / Rural Interface
- Map courtesy: US Forestry Service

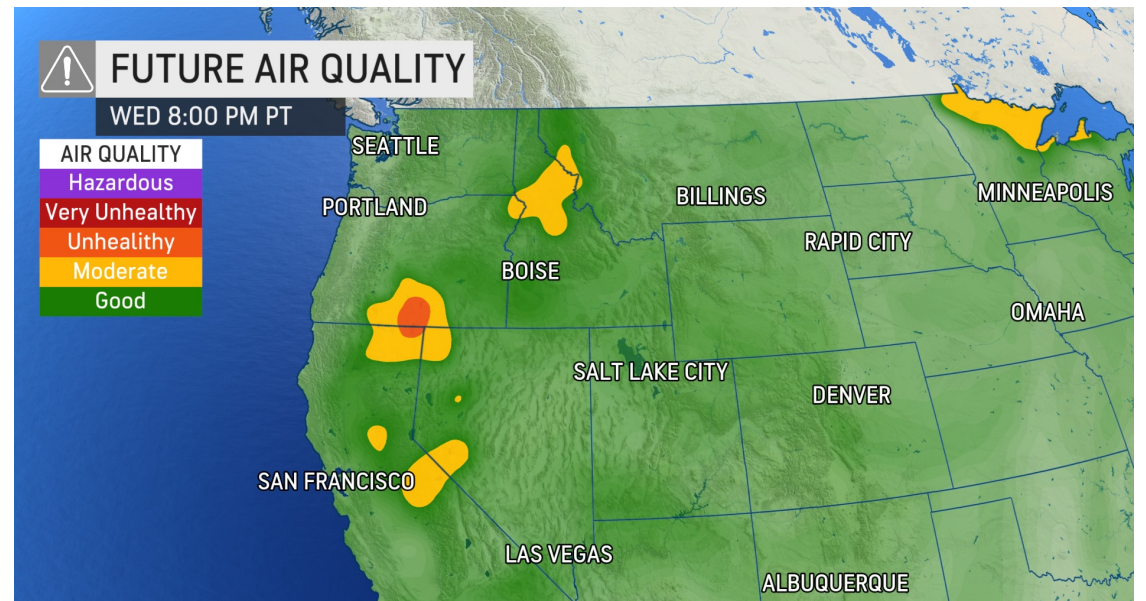
US NFDRS Fuel Model Map



Map legend revised October 2010

Air Quality

- Very frequently, this is the greatest real-world impact of fires for those in populated places (San Joaquin / Central Valley, etc.)
- Inversions (layer of warm air aloft) can trap stale air near ground, leading to prolonged trouble in valleys
- Strong winds scour smoke away but increase fire danger



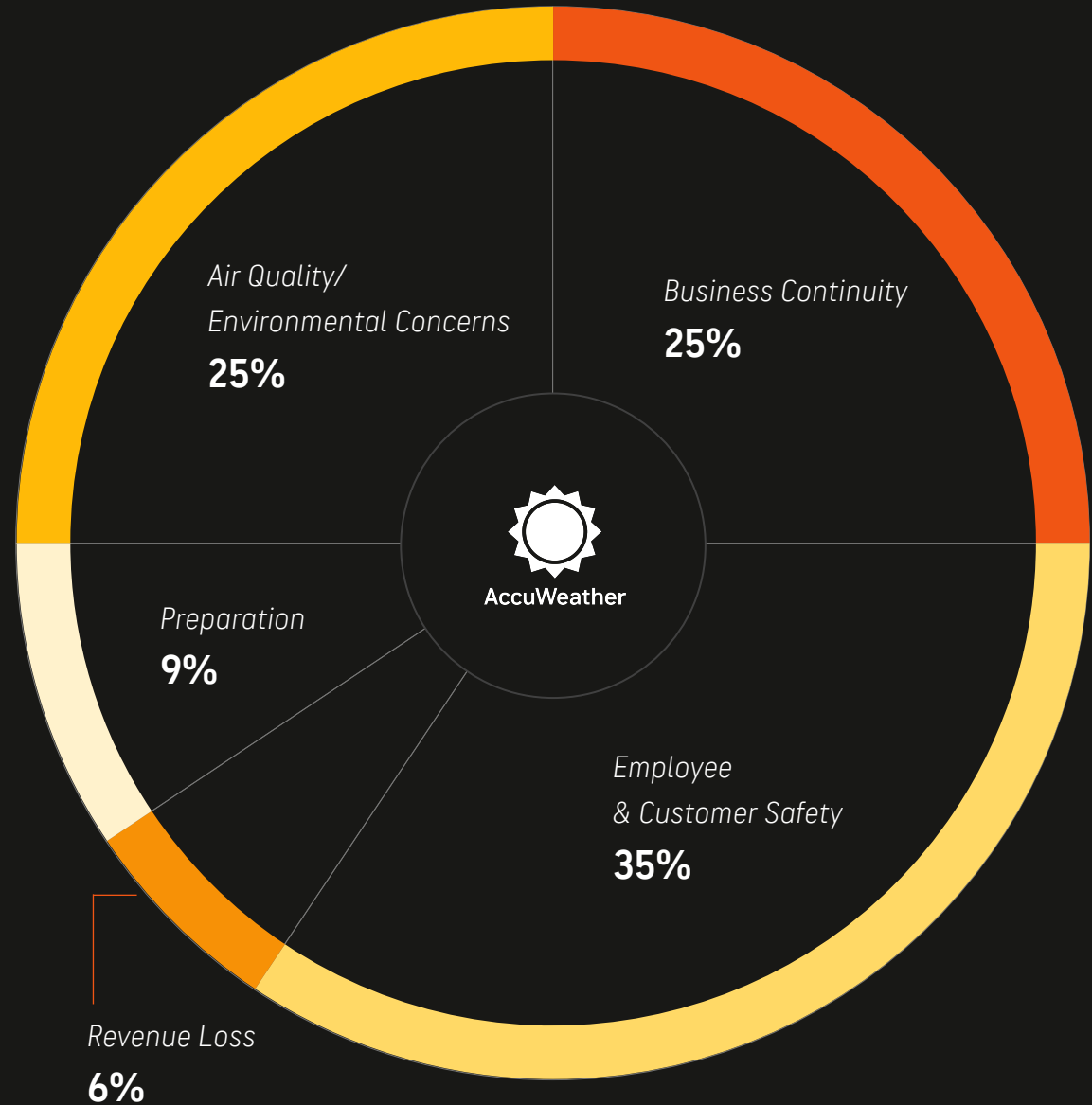
A photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California, taken during sunset. The bridge's iconic red-orange towers and suspension cables are silhouetted against a bright, hazy orange sky. The water of the bay is calm, reflecting the warm light. In the foreground, a road and some buildings are visible on the left side, partially obscured by the bridge's structure.

Wildfire expertise, products & services

Tom Bedard – Implementation Manager, Meteorologist

Question

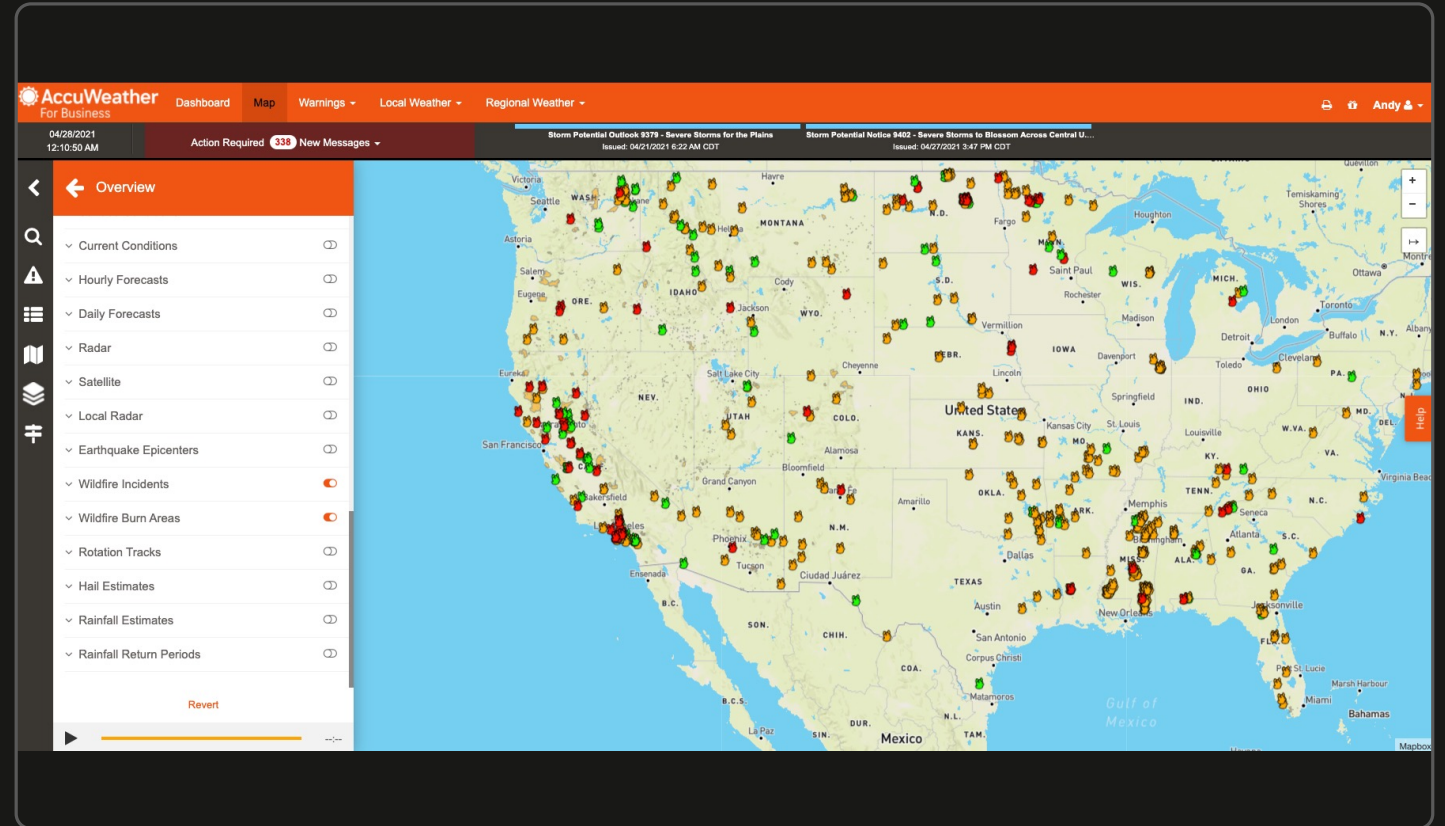
What's your biggest concern for wildfire season?



Wildfire Proximity Alerts

First Alert that a wildfire exists within 10 miles of your asset location(s)

- Supported by state-of-the-art technology
- Meteorologists are prepared to provide briefing on atmospheric conditions 24/7/365
- Streamline emergency activations and reduce disruptions



How Wildfire Proximity Alerts work

Minute 0 —

Fire Ignition

A wildfire has ignited



Minute 20 —

Satellite Data

Fire has become hot enough to be detected satellite and AccuWeather has received the data



Minute 23 —

Automation

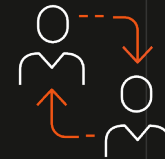
AccuWeather automatically locates fire hot spots within satellite data to support internal alert capabilities



Minute 25 —

Expert Analysis

Meteorologists evaluate hot spot threats to determine if wildfire exists



Minute 30 —

First Alert

Client receives Wildfire Proximity Alert and response procedures can begin



Next Steps

Wildfire Proximity notifications will launch Fall 2021, here's how you can be ready:

- Request a tabletop exercise to simulate how our service would protect your operations
- Meet with a meteorologist to review your emergency action & business interruption plans for natural hazards
- Demo our SkyGuard Warning and live meteorologist consultation service



Q&A



Thank you

Contact us to learn more about all the ways you can partner with AccuWeather.

Contact us at afb@accuweather.com.

