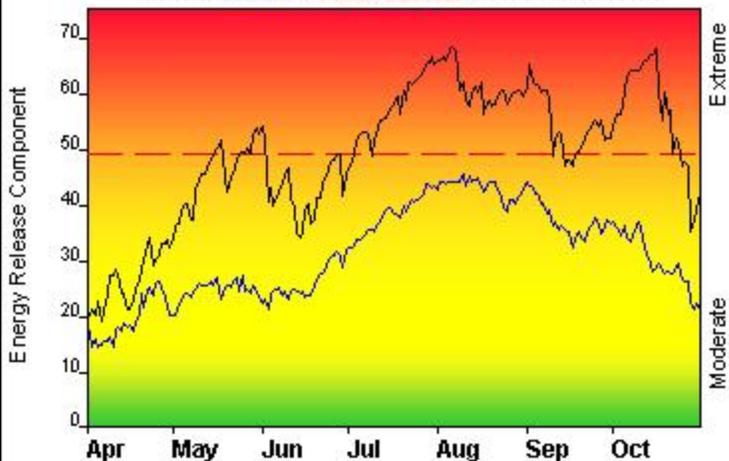


FIRE DANGER -- Bitterroot National Forest

Maximum, Average, and 90th Percentile, based on 20 years data



Fire Danger Area:

- ◆ Southwest Montana
- ◆ Forecast Zone 109
- ◆ Stevi/West Fork Weather
- * Meets NWCG Wx Station Standards



Fire Danger Interpretation:



- EXTREME** -- Use extreme caution
- (Caution)** -- Watch for change
- Moderate** -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

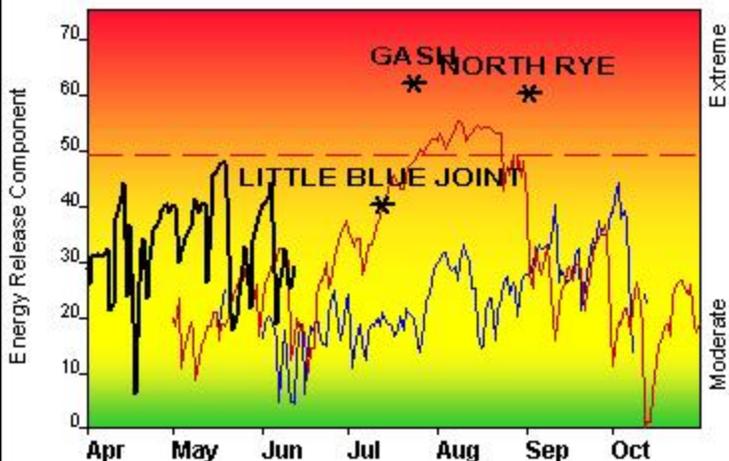
Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1987 - 2006

Average -- shows peak fire season over 20 years (3534 observations)

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the 3534 days from 1987 - 2006 had an Energy Release Component above 49

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:
 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%,
 Temperature over 85, Herbaceous Fuel Moisture less than 100

Years to Remember: 1993 2000 2007



Fuel Model: G - Short-Needle (Heavy Dead)

Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

- ✓ Energy Release Component gives seasonal trends calculated from 2 pm temperature, humidity, daily temperature & rh ranges, and precip duration.
- ✓ Wind is NOT part of ERC calculation.
- ✓ Watch local conditions and variations across the landscape -- Fuel, Weather, Topography.
- ✓ Listen to weather forecasts -- especially WIND.

Past Experience:

Local large fires are normally wind driven, influenced by fuel and slope. RH's below 18% and with no wind will produce active fire behavior with short range spotting. Prevailing winds are normally west or southwesterly. Season-ending event normally occurs by mid-September. A 2 week drying trend coupled with ERC >45 indicate potential for rapid large fire growth.

- **North Rye Fire in 1998 burned 3,950 acres
- **Little Blue Joint Fire in 2000 burned 5,900 acres
- **Gash Fire in 2006 burned 8,800 acres

Updated by Tony Lubke 06/13/2007
 Responsible Agency: USDA Forest Service
 FF+3.0.5 06/13/2007-09:05 (C:\sapps\vsprod\am\Fire Family Plus\brf.mdb)

Design by NWCG Fire Danger Working Team