USDA Weekly Fire Update - October 10, 2017

Current Situation: There are currently 4,300 personnel engaged in firefighting activities, supported by 33 helicopters and 14 airtankers. Year to date, there have been 50,699 fires covering 8.5 million acres across all jurisdictions, 2.3 million of which are on national forests.

Current Spending: As of October 2, 2017, the Forest Service has spent $2.410 billion on fire suppression operations for FY2017. The Agency expended its appropriated dollars for fire suppression and transferred funding from non-suppression accounts. The agency transferred approximately $576.5 million to cover the costs of fire suppression in FY2017. Final fire spending totals will be published during the week of October 15, after the accounting system officially closes for FY 2017.

Media Highlights:
- California fires coverage: Officials hope winds will let up today as 100,000 acres burn
- At least 10 dead in Northern California fires and blocks of homes destroyed in Santa Rosa
- Secretary of Agriculture seeks better funding structure to fight wildfires
- Montana Wildfire Relief Fund rises to $421,825
- Wildfire Victims Could Tap Insurance for Evacuation Cost Reimbursement - Insurance May Help Evacuated Residents Even If Homes Not Damaged

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Weather Discussion: A strong off shore flow will develop over the Pacific Northwest as a high pressure ridge approaches the coast of British Columbia and as a trough of low pressure over Idaho and Montana begins to push east and induces a strong northeasterly wind in its wake. The gusty winds could extend as far south as Northern California.

National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for October