USDA Weekly Fire Update – October 2, 2017

Current Situation: There are currently 4,300 personnel engaged in firefighting activities, supported by 22 helicopters and 16 airtankers. Year to date, there have been 49,563 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 expected to transfer between $500 million and $600 million to cover the costs of fire suppression in FY2017. $2.410 billion is not the final number. Transfer reconciliation will be completed October 2, 2017 to reconcile all transfers completed through September 30, 2017.

Media Highlights:

- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue Hosts U.S. Senators for 2017 Fire Briefing, (Sierra Sun Times, 9/28)
- House, Senate hearings examine wildfire mitigation, funding, (Agri-Pulse, Spencer Chase, 9/27)
- Forest Service Faces Wildfire Budget Crisis, (KCFW, NBC-TV, Missoula, Montana, McKayla Hack, 9/26)
- Western Senators Say Fire-Funding Fix Must Be 'On The Next Bill' Congress Passes, (Spokesman Review, Spokane, Wash. (9/27)
- Western Senators Push Wildfire Legislation after Most Expensive Firefighting Season on Record, (KIVI-TV 6, Spokane, Wash. Marissa Morisson, 9/26)
- Lawmakers Seek Solutions As Wildfires Burn Hole in Firefighting Budget, (Cronkite News, Arizona PBS, Isaac Windes, 9/27)

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**Weather Discussion:** Cooler than average conditions are expected across nearly the entire west. The low pressure center at the heart of the trough will wrap moisture around it into Montana creating areas of snowy, windy conditions along the Continental Divide.

[National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for October](#)