

State Fire Marshals Advisory Board Meeting- Outline for 2015 Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

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- Well above average precipitation over the past 24 months
 - High fine fuel loading across the state, including within the Black Hills
- The driest January-March on record (1895-2015) for the State of South Dakota
- Much above average temperatures statewide for January-March.
- Current Energy Release Component values at or near daily maximum values for each Black Hills RAWS station's respective period of record.
- Exceptionally low snowpack and snow water equivalent values across Black Hills/Bearlodge Mts.
 - Less snowpack allows fuels to dry earlier in the season
- All fuel size categories have burned well to very well in the spring fires within SD
- Spring/Summer outlook leans towards average precipitation/temperature conditions
 - Fuels are already preconditioned to burn (already are dry) and the fuel loading is high
 - Climate Prediction Center Predictions
 - El Nino/PDO Conditions
 - Long range model issues
- Average to above average fire potential is forecast for the summer months
 - Obviously dependent on ignition sources
 - Key concepts:
 - High fuel loading
 - Current exceptionally dry state of fuels
- Webcast
 - Available online at: http://www.ias.sdsmt.edu/clabo/2015webcast/2015Project_2.mp4