Fire Behavior Potential: Energy Release Component values have moderated across the main body of the state lessening resistance to control in grass and brush dominated fuels while much of the Oklahoma Panhandle continues to hover in the concerning range. For the week ahead, lacking the critical combination of fuels and fire weather, initial attack activity is expected to remain successful noting that large fire occurrence cannot be ruled out. Significant fire potential is very low. Again, today (Monday) and Thursday are the days with the highest fire danger potential given current weather and fuels inputs.

- **Oklahoma Panhandle/Northwestern Oklahoma:** Areas of Beaver County benefitted from the winter precipitation a week ago while Cimarron and Texas Counties have received little, if any, precipitation. Overnight moisture recovery is respectable each night serving to compress the burning period into the afternoon/early evening hours. During peak burning conditions, rangeland fuels will exhibit head fire rates of spread 75-120 ft/min with flame lengths averaging 9 ft. Those areas where above-normal fuel loading is present will express increased fireline intensity.

- **Western Oklahoma:** Rangeland fuels will have respectable overnight moisture recovery serving to stall development of active burning conditions each day to the mid-afternoon through early-evening period. Thursday does present potential for gusty winds although current forecasts hold afternoon relative humidity above 35% limiting fine-dead fuel moisture from tapping critical values. Rangeland fuels will generally exhibit head fire rates of spread 65-110 ft/min and flame lengths +/-9 ft. Today (Monday) will hold a brief period this afternoon where un-grazed grass-dominated fuels will exhibit ROS 95-153 ft/min. While some large fire potential exists, initial attack efforts are expected to continue to prove successful.

- **Central Oklahoma:** The burning period each day is expected to remain rather brief and generally develop by 2:00 PM subsiding with sunset. Grass-dominated fuels will exhibit potential for head fire rates of spread 60-90 ft/min with average flame lengths at the head around 11 ft. Cross-timbers fuels will exhibit ROS around 20 ft/min with FL +/-2.5 ft. in the denser timber stands. On Thursday, with above normal temperatures and gusty winds, ROS in grass-dominated fuels will tap 170 ft/min during peak burning conditions given current forecast inputs.

- **Eastern Oklahoma:** Moderated fire behavior observed in recent days will remain the expectation with good overnight moisture recovery and afternoon relative humidity values holding fine-dead fuel moisture values outside of critical concern. Grass-dominated fuels will generally exhibit head fire rates of spread 62-120 ft/min while timber-litter will generally exhibit ROS less than 20 ft/min except on the steeper, south-facing slopes where 30 ft/min is more the expectation.

Near-Term: The next chance of rain enters the forecast Saturday into Sunday over eastern Oklahoma. Dry conditions prevail across the west in the current forecast period while near-term forecasts do hold some hope for precipitation. Despite the drought building in over summer, timely rains in the beginning of the growing season afforded a vigorous herbaceous response. The outcome is that there is a substantial increase in fuel loading compared to last year. Comparing photo plots from previous years and additional inputs, much of western and central Oklahoma are expressing above-normal fuel loading leading to potential for enhanced fire behavior. The map to the right is still in draft form and continues to be refined but offers a snapshot of the herbaceous fuel loading across Oklahoma.

**Burn Bans: (None currently in effect)** Refer to: [https://ag.ok.gov/divisions/forestry-services/](https://ag.ok.gov/divisions/forestry-services/) for the most current burn ban information and links to specific burn ban proclamations.