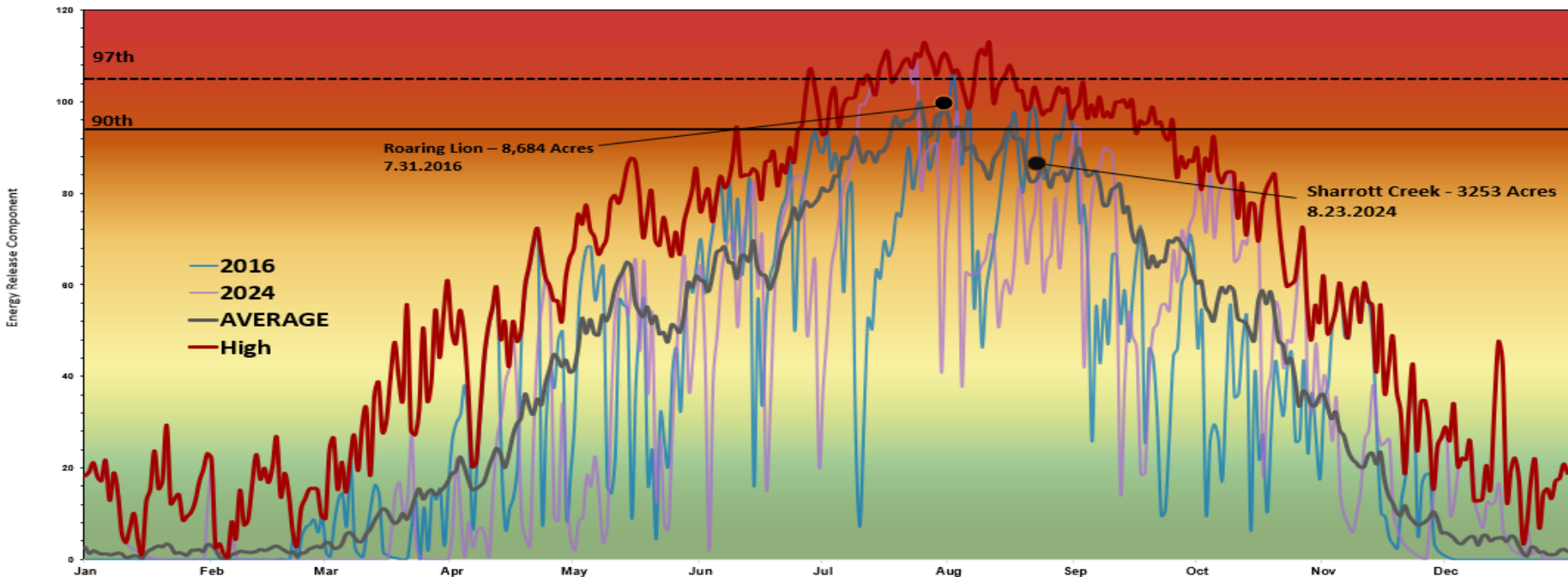


Bitterroot NF - Low Elevation



**FIRE DANGER AREAS:** Low Elevation (<6000')

**FORECAST ZONE:** 109 Bitterroot NF

**LOW Elevation RAWS**

- 242905 Sula
- 242907 West Fork
- 242912 Smith Creek
- 242914 Little Rock Creek
- 242915 Sawmill Creek

**GRAPH INTERPRETATION:**

Energy Release Component (ERC)

**EXTREME** – Use Extreme Caution

**HIGH** – Watch for Change

**MODERATE** – Lower Potential but always be aware

**AVG** – Shows average ERC for the last 16 years.

**MAX** – Highest ERC by day for 2010-2025.

**90<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – 10% of 5840 days from 2010 -2025 had an ERC above 94.

**97<sup>th</sup> Percentile** – 3% of 5840 days from 2010 -2025 had an ERC above 105.

**Fuel Model: Z - Slash/Blowdown (2016)**

**LOCAL THRESHOLDS – WATCHOUT:**

Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior:

- 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 18%,
- Temperature over 85, 1000-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 12%.

**PAST EXPERIENCE:**

For the BRL FDRA fires normally driven by W/SW winds, influenced by slopes and lighter flashier fuels. RH <18% with no wind causes active fire behavior with short-range spotting. Dry cold fronts are common in September with strong winds (50mph) & low RH (20%). In Mountain Pine Beetle infested areas, especially with green-attached trees, expect rapid transition to crown fire and spotting. Roaring Lion was mainly topography driven at 1000-hour fuel moistures of 12% and an ERC nearing the 97<sup>th</sup> Percentile. Sharrott Creek started on 8.23.2024 following a major wind event that spurred growth along with receptive fuels.

