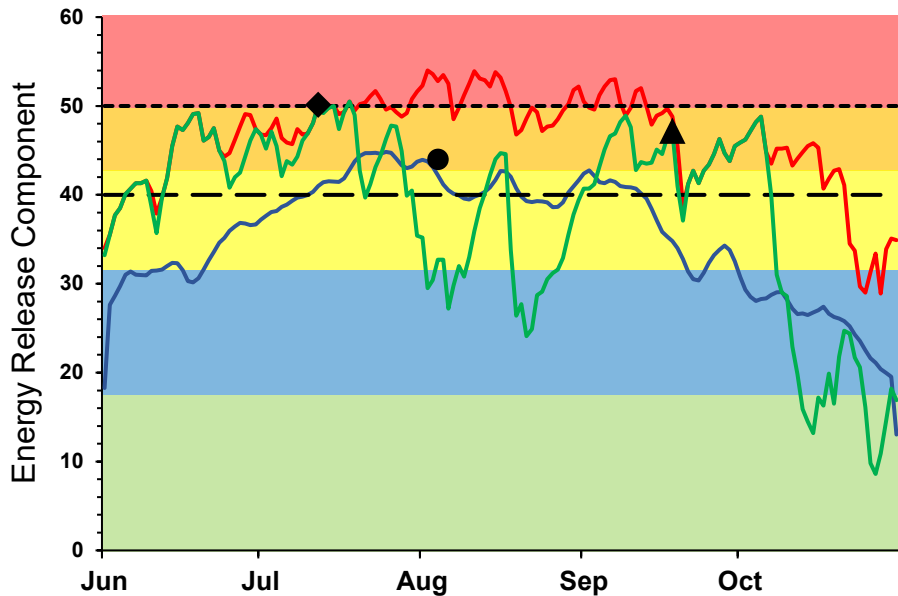




Past Experience:

- ◆ **Trail Creek Fire:** 7/12/2021 (Large Fire Growth Day – nearly tripled in size from the previous day) – Beaverhead County, MT – Final Size: 62,013 ac – ERC 50, BI 32
- ▲ **Haystack Fire:** 9/18/2021 (Large Fire Growth Day – Grew 4x its size from the previous day) – Jefferson County, MT – Final Size: 24,326 ac – ERC 47, BI 48
- **Grouse Fire:** 8/4/2024 (Large fire growth day – fire nearly doubled in size from the previous day).- Beaverhead County, MT – Final Size: 6,273 ac – ERC 44, BI 34

Forested areas with heavy dead and down fuels and wind are the predominate drivers of fire behavior in FDRA High. Live fuels in higher elevations may be green, but when 10-, 100-, and 1000-hour fuels are dry, sustained crown runs with long-range spotting are possible. Winds above 30 mph are common and contribute to long range spotting potential. Prior mountain pine beetle outbreaks and previous fires have created areas with heavy dead and down fuels which contribute to rapid fire growth and long duration fires with high resistance to control. Beware of overhead snag hazards.

FDRA High FUEL MODEL ERC-Y (Timber)

NWS Forecasting Offices

Missoula, MT, FWZ 110 and 111

RAWS

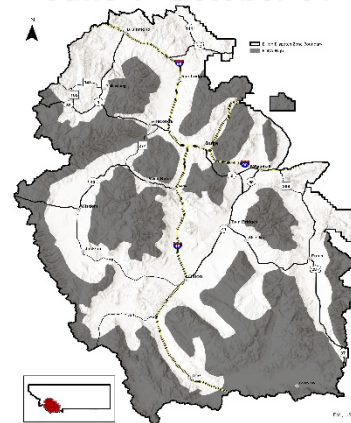
Harkness, 245416

Red Rock, 245410

Steele Creek, 245417

All stations meet NWCG Weather Station standards

Fire Season June 1- October 31



MAXIMUM: Highest ERC by day for 2015-2024.

AVERAGE: Shows mean daily ERC value through the 10-year period.

Year to Remember: 2021 had the highest number of burned acres and fire starts with an early start to fire season.

97th PERCENTILE: Only 3% of the days from 2015-2024 had an ERC above a value of 50.

61st PERCENTILE: Represents an ERC value of 40 when large/multiple fire occurrence increases.

Energy Release Component (ERC) - is a number related to the available energy within the flaming front at the head of a fire. As dead fuels dry ERC increases and is a good indicator of drought. Wind is not an input into ERC calculations.

Remember what Fire Danger tells you:

Fire danger gives general conditions across the entire FDRA. Watch for localized conditions and variations across the landscape in fuels, weather, and topography. Listen to weather forecasts--especially WIND.

Local Thresholds -- Watch out!

Historically large fires have occurred when **wind speed is greater than 10 mph, RH less than 20%, temperatures above 70, and Burning Index above 30.**



Created 6/15/2026

This card is based on 10 years of data.

Responsible Agency: Beaverhead-Deerlodge N.F.