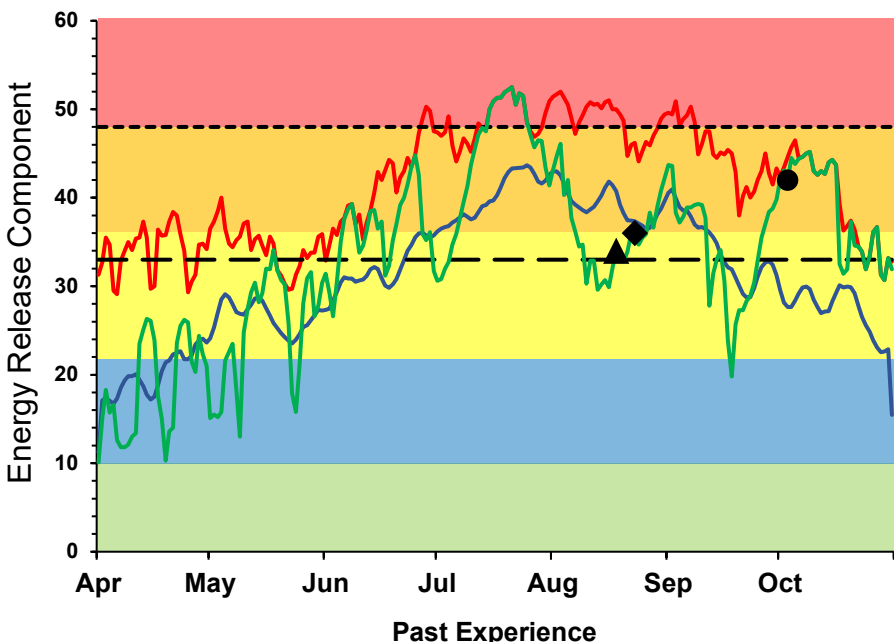




- ▲ **Ratio Mountain Fire:** 8/18/2024 – Jefferson County, MT – Final Size: 2,475 ac – ERC 34, BI 30
- ◆ **Big Hollow Fire:** 8/23/2024 – Beaverhead County, MT – Final Size: 3,421 ac – ERC 36, BI 36
- **Sheep Creek Fire:** 10/3/2024 (Large fire growth day – fire nearly doubled in size).- Jefferson County, MT – Final Size: 778 ac – ERC 42, BI 29

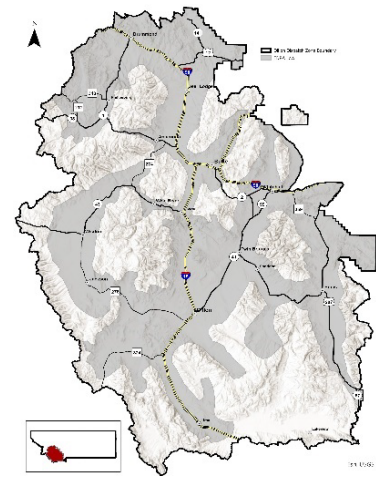
Most large fires are wind driven. Prevailing winds are SW. Beware of high- and low-pressure frontal passage; wind gusts above 30 miles per hour are common. In areas with sage and grass fuels, beware of rapid fire growth prior to spring green-up and in late summer/early fall when sage and grass are at their lowest live fuel moistures.

FDRA Low FUEL MODEL ERC-Y (Timber)

NWS Forecasting Offices
Missoula, MT, FWZ 110 and 111
RAWS
Ennis, 245405
Phillipsburg, 243002
Wise River, 245405

All stations meet NWCG Weather Station standards

Fire Season April 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: 2024 had the highest number of burned acres and fire starts.

97th PERCENTILE: Only 3% of the days from 2015-2024 had an ERC above a value of 48.

55th PERCENTILE: Represents an ERC value of 33 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:

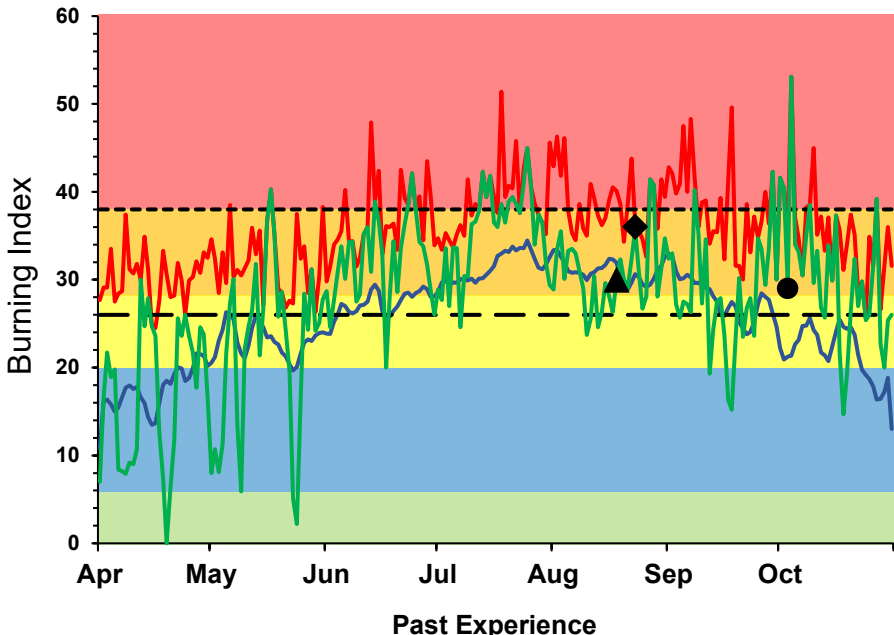
Fire danger gives general conditions across the entire FDRA. Watch for localized conditions and variations across the landscape in fuels, weather, and topography. Listen to weather forecasts--especially WIND.

Local Thresholds -- Watch out !

Historically large fires have occurred when **wind speed is greater than 10 mph, RH less than 20%, temperatures above 75, and BI above 26.**



Created 6/15/2026
This card is based on 10 years of data.
Responsible Agency: Beaverhead-Deerlodge N.F.



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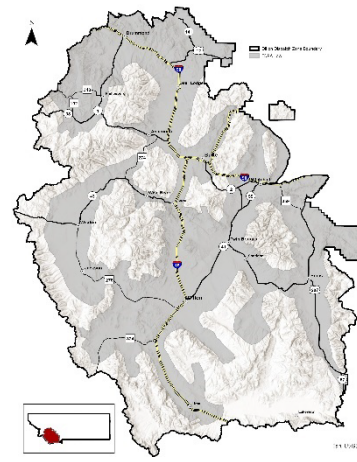
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**FDRA Low
FUEL MODEL BI-Y (Timber)**

NWS Forecasting Offices
 Missoula, MT, FWZ 110 and 111
RAWS
 Ennis, 245405
 Phillipsburg, 243002
 Wise River, 245405

All stations meet NWCG Weather Station standards

**Fire Season
April 1- October 31**



- MAXIMUM:** Highest BI by day for 2015-2024.
- AVERAGE:** Shows mean daily BI value through the 10-year period.
- Green to Remember:** 2024 had the highest number of burned acres and fire starts.
- 97th PERCENTILE:** Only 3% of the days from 2015-2024 had a BI above a value of 39.
- 45th PERCENTILE:** Represents a BI value of 26 when large/multiple fire occurrence increases.

Burning Index (BI) – is number related to fire intensity at the head of a fire and can be used to understand difficulty of control. Doubling the burning index indicates that twice the effort will be required to contain a fire in the worst-case conditions. Wind speed is an input into BI calculations.

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