



# Weekly Climate, Weather, and Fuels Update



Monday 4 November 2019

**(Climate)** It was a relatively dry week over South Dakota. The northern Black Hills were the winner in the precipitation division with a few tenths of an inch of liquid-equivalent moisture. Most of this precipitation fell as upslope snowfall over the northern Hills.

Temperatures were much (MUCH) colder than average for the week. Western SD was from 15-25 degrees below average while eastern SD was from 5-15 degrees below average. Overnight low temperatures over western SD and the Black Hills did fall below zero Wednesday morning and many low temperature records were set across the region early in the week.

Soil temperatures at four-inch depth continue to cool. Temperatures are coldest over northwestern SD (near 32) while the warmest temperatures are seen over southeastern SD (near 42). (Darren Clabo)

## **(Weather)**

### Forecast Highlights:

Variable is the best adjective to describe the weather forecast for the week. Temperatures slightly colder than average are expected both today and tomorrow but a cold front tomorrow night will push temperatures way down on Wednesday and Thursday with highs anywhere from 10-25 degrees below average. Temperatures will rebound to near average on Friday and Saturday before another strong cold front plows through the state bringing chilly conditions on Sunday. Precipitation should be light this week with a few scattered rain/snow showers possible today, Tuesday night, and Saturday night.

### Potential for critical conditions:

No critical conditions are expected. (Darren Clabo)

**(Fire/Fuels)** The higher elevations of the Black Hills are snow covered and should be unavailable for any fires until a significant warm up would happen over a several day period. The lower elevations and foothills still have open areas where fire could spread through the vegetation, primarily south slopes and unshaded areas. Private landowners have begun burning slash piles, however looking at the forecast there is not any warmer days with any wind forecasted at this time. If the warmer temperatures forecasted for Friday and Saturday are accompanied by any wind there is some potential for an escape pile. I don't anticipate any issues this week. (Jay Wickham)

\*\*\* NOTE: Next update on Monday, November 12 \*\*\*