

## **Fire and Rain: A Look at Missouri's Variable Weather and Land Management**

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**Abstract:** It can be argued that Missouri has the most varied weather in the United States. This variability is normal given our location in the interior of the continent but our still relative proximity to air mass source regions such as the Gulf of Mexico (subtropical air mass) and the interior of northern North America (cold, dry air mass source). Are there recent trends? We will look at recent (and maybe one or two not so recent) high impact weather events, primarily in the southern Missouri Ozarks. Includes discussions on recent events such as the 1000-year rainfall event from April 2017, the Joplin tornado, the "Super Derecho" of 2009, and the 2011-2012 drought. Are recent trends in the overall temperature and precipitation distribution impacting the region as a whole? Are growing seasons longer, but at the same time more vulnerable to frost and freeze? Finally, sources of weather and climate information and communication will be discussed. How can weather and climate information be used to enhance resource management?