



USDA NORTHERN PLAINS CLIMATE HUB
Climate information benefiting agriculture and forestry

FY23 SELECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



PARTNERING TO SHARE SCIENCE, RESOURCES, AND INFORMATION

Three consecutive years of widespread drought in Montana caused severe impacts to working lands, including loss of property and infrastructure, wildfire damage, depleted stock water and grasshopper infestation. In response, the Northern Plains Climate Hub partnered with NRCS, Montana State University Extension, Intertribal Agriculture Council, and the Montana Association of Conservation Districts to present a two-day AgroClimate Workshop. The event featured almost 30 speakers and panelists to increase participants' knowledge of weather and climate resources, as well as climate-smart practices in agriculture and forestry. A total of 90 people attended the event to develop new skills, such as planning for drought and other extreme events, networking with other ag and forestry professionals, and increasing confidence in their ability to effectively communicate about climate.



Wyoming Conditions Monitoring Team

*Providing information on precipitation,
temperature, drought, flood, fire, and
everything in-between*

The Wyoming Conditions Monitoring Team (WCMT) is a collaboration with state, federal, and Tribal partners initiated in 2020 by the NPCH Coordinator Windy Kelley. The WCMT hosts monthly webinars that summarize current drought information and share resources, such as USDA programs, to facilitate communication between stakeholders and climate service providers. Additionally, the webinars encourage community involvement in weather condition monitoring. Since the establishment of the team, community reporting increased in both the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) and Condition Monitoring Observer Reports on Drought (CMOR-Drought). In FY23, the WCMT webinars reached 374 real-time viewers and attracted an additional 600 views of online recordings, which are available at drought.wyo.gov.

Drought Information & Resources

**Serving the people of Wyoming
with the information you need when drought occurs**



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Jeff Morissette
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Human Dimensions

Welcoming new NPCH staff

In 2023, the Northern Plains Climate Hub welcomed Ag Risk Fellow Lee Schmelzer and Communications and Outreach Fellow Averi Reynolds. We are also excited to announce, in



FY24, NPCH will gain Colorado State Soil Scientist, Dr. William "BJ" Shoup, as NRCS Co-Lead.

Coordinating Climate Centers

Director Dannele Peck and Coordinator Windy Kelley planned and hosted the 3 Centers Retreat, a semi-annual event bringing together NOAA, DOI and regional USDA staff working on climate issues in the Northern Plains. This retreat focused on ways to enhance impact by collaborating to engage more stakeholders and communities.

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHALLENGES WITH SCIENCE-BASED TOOLS

An increase in weather extremes and variability, ranging from drought to severe flooding in the Northern Plains, has increased the needs of agricultural professionals and communities in the area. Through a series of workshops and presentations in FY23, the NPCH reached 325 agricultural service providers and producers with science-based information and resources to address climate-related challenges. To increase the Hub's reach and leverage resources, NPCH Coordinator Windy Kelley is co-leading a new project, **Climate & Economic Resilience**. The project team hosted a series of focus groups around Wyoming to better understand the information, knowledge, and resource needs of Technical Service Providers when it comes to weather and climate variability and water availability.

By delivering
34 presentations...



and hosting 24
workshops and webinars...

the NPCH reached
2,200 people in FY23!

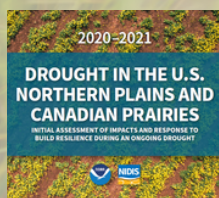


Blurring and Bridging Boundaries

In a special session titled "Women Influencing USDA's Climate Response" at the Soil and Water Conservation Society's annual conference, Director Dannele Peck presented "A Hub's Tale: Blurring and Bridging Boundaries." The presentation highlighted Hub activities and career opportunities, which can be found at bit.ly/3YaxlFT?r=qr.

NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIES & CLIMATE

Weather variability across the North American prairies and high plains produced extreme events ranging from record forest areas burned to record rainfall and flooding. NPCH Coordinator Windy Kelley served as a co-author on the "Drought in the U.S. Northern



Plains and Canadian Prairies" assessment, and Director Dannele Peck partnered with Canadian counterparts to produce a new quarterly bulletin, Climate Outlook and Impacts for the Prairie and High Plains.