



Northwest Climate Hub

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



January 2022 Newsletter

Feature Article

Biomass Energy in the Northwest

Biofuels provide a unique opportunity to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fuels. Visit our new webpage to learn more about biofuels and how they have the potential to provide a carbon neutral fuel source for the Northwest.

Current biofuel producers who experienced losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic can apply to the USDA's Rural Development Biofuel Producer Program.



Drought Update

Winter has finally arrived across the Northwest Climate Hub region. Much of the region has received heavy precipitation over the last month, though extreme (D3-red) persists in parts of Oregon, Idaho and Washington. Exceptional drought (D4-dark red) continues in central Oregon.

With 2 to 6 inches of precipitation reported over the last month from the Cascades westward to the coast, abnormal dryness (D0-yellow) and drought were further reduced. Though regional conditions have improved, particularly in eastern Washington and Idaho, drought persists throughout much of the Northwest. Alaska is free of drought and dryness.

Many sources contribute to the development of drought maps, including reports from the public. Click on the icons below to get more information from the National Integrated Drought Information System, to submit precipitation data via the CoCoRHaS network, or to report drought impacts for the Northwest.

**NIDIS**
U.S. Drought Portal

**CoCoRHaS**
Community Rain Hail Snow Network

**Snow Drought Conditions**

**Pacific Northwest Drought Impacts Survey**

U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Northwest Climate Hub



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Valid 7 a.m. EST

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	74.27	25.73	22.99	14.44	5.45	1.89
Last Week 04-10-2022	74.26	25.74	22.97	14.44	5.77	1.89
3 Months Ago 10-19-2021	72.19	27.81	26.83	24.79	18.03	7.29
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2022	74.10	25.90	23.79	15.09	6.81	2.01
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	70.14	29.86	27.67	24.87	18.54	7.83
One Year Ago 01-19-2021	68.91	31.09	11.85	8.06	3.21	0.00

Intensity:

None

D0 Abnormally Dry

D1 Moderate Drought

D2 Severe Drought

D3 Extreme Drought

D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Featured Information



Agriculture in Alaska: an updated Northwest Climate Hub page that explores the produce of Alaskan farmers, the effects of climate change on agriculture, and additional resources for producers.



Long-Term Community Resilience Exercise Resource Guide: This guide is for any jurisdiction or organization interested in using a climate-focused exercise to understand and mitigate their community's long-term risks.



A Producer's Guide to Drought: This guide provides a list of programs and resources to help producers deal with future drought exposure and previous losses from drought.




Sudden Oak Death in Oregon: A non-native fungal disease has moved outside of its quarantine boundary and is threatening oaks in central Oregon. Learn how to recognize and report it.



Deep Dive into Stream Permanence: This guide describes the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center's look into the impacts of climate change on stream permanence in the Northwest and how communities can protect streams and the fish, wildlife, and people that depend on them.



Hay Stocks Drought 10-year Low due to Drought: The multi-year drought in the western U.S. has impacted both hay and feed grain production with possible impacts to livestock herds.



New Ten-Year US Forest Service Strategy to Confront the Wildfire Crisis: the strategy combines a historic investment of congressional funding with years of scientific research and planning into a national effort that will dramatically increase the scale of forest health treatments over the next decade.



Northwest Reforestation: a new Northwest Climate Hub webpage that illustrates methods of planting trees to suit current and future needs in the Northwest, including assisted migration.



Seasonality and Climate Change Report: A new report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency explores how climate change is influencing seasonal events in the U.S. and affecting peoples' health and the environment.



Adapting to Changes in Water Patterns: This blog post discusses how water patterns will shift as a result of climate change and what we can do to adapt.



The Forest Overstory Podcast: In Episode 4, Pacific Northwest Research Station scientist Dr. David Peterson discusses strategies to increase forest resilience.



Connectivity & Climate Change Toolkit: The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has gathered resources for land owners and managers on how to keep habitats connected in the face of climate change for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Updates: This program aims to help producers develop projects that will address conservation goals on agricultural lands.

Workshops & Conferences



30th Annual Family Foresters Workshop 21 and 28 January, 9-12 pm PT. This event is split into two, three-hour webinars. It is for consulting foresters, forestry practitioners, and forest managers in the inland Northwest looking to dive into advanced topics relating to forestry and natural resource management.



Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, 6-10 February in Albuquerque, NM. This is a comprehensive conference on rangeland-related topics. Symposiums and workshops range from building resilience in indigenous natural resources to transformative climate change on rangeland ecosystems.



Dry Farming Collaborative Winter Convening: 8 February, 9-1 pm PT. This convention covers highlights and updates from the Dry Farming Institute, and includes crop-specific breakout sessions.



Soil Con - Washington Soil Health Week, 8-12 February. This week-long, virtual event will cover all aspects related to soil health in Washington and beyond.



National Adaptation Forum has announced its call for proposals. This gathering of adaptation professionals provides an opportunity to share your expertise on any topic related to climate adaptation. The meeting will be in Baltimore, Maryland on October 25-27, 2022. **Deadline: 4 February.**



Native Youth Climate Adaptation Leadership Congress will be in Shepherdstown, West Virginia from 26 to 30 June. The Native Youth Congress seeks to enhance the environmental skills, knowledge, and tools of future conservation leaders to better serve their schools and communities. Tribal youth group applicants should include 3-5 rising high school seniors. Applicants should be members of a federally recognized tribe. **Deadline: 28 February.**



Forest Health in Oregon 2022 - State of the State, 1-2 March 8 - 12 pm PT. This conference will summarize forest health issues in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. The focus is on major forest insects and pathogens, weather phenomena such as drought and heat waves, tree decline issues, and fire. The conference seeks to inform foresters, forest industry, agency forest managers, small woodland owners, and extension volunteers and agents.



Arctic Rivers Summit 29-31 March in Anchorage, AK. A workshop to discuss the current and potential futures of Alaskan and Yukon rivers and fish and potential adaptation options. The Summit will bring together up to 150 Tribal and First Nation leaders, community members, managers, and knowledge holders, scientists, agency representatives, academic partners, non-governmental organizations, and others. **Application deadline is 23 January.**

Opportunities



U.S. Forest Service Fellowship in Post-fire Science and Monitoring: A fellowship opportunity is available with the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station located in Olympia, Washington or Corvallis, Oregon. The fellow will collaborate to develop resources related to fire and post fire science and monitoring. The goal of these resources is to promote collaboration and leverage capacity in post-fire research and monitoring. Anticipated start date for this full-time, one year appointment is February, 2022.



USGS Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Research Scholar: A fellowship opportunity is available with the U.S. Geological Service Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) in Corvallis, OR. This fellowship will focus primarily on synthesizing research results from NW CASC-funded projects from 2017 through present and creating a series of "state of science" reports on topics identified in the NW CASC Science Agenda for 2018-2023. Anticipated start date for this full-time, one year appointment is January, 2022.

Webinars



The Starter Lecture Series "Women of Forestry: Inspiring Leadership"

A lecture series that focuses on women who have taken crucial roles to create change in forestry and forest products as well as in their communities. Lectures start on 26 January and occur monthly through April, culminating in an in-person capstone workshop in May.




Women as Change Agents in Forestry 26 January 7 pm PT. For the first lecture in the series, Robin Wall-Kimmerer will speak about her work that incorporates indigenous and scientific knowledge to work towards sustainability.



Beyond the Land Ethic: Traditional Ecological Knowledge & Forest Management & Conservation 16 February 3:30-5:30 pm PT. Dr. Cristina Eisenberg will discuss a Native American perspective on forest resiliency, conservation, and environmental ethics. This event is both online and in person.



Alaska Fire Weather & Response to Regional Circulation at Weather and Climate Time Scales 25 January 10 am AKST. This webinar will discuss the relationship between atmospheric circulation and peak fire conditions in the Central Eastern Interior through different fire season phases from 1979 to 2020. Wildland fire prediction at the seasonal scale will also be discussed.



Accelerating the Development of Structural Complexity: a case study from Ellsworth Creek Reserve, Washington 27 January 12pm PT. This webinar will discuss how restoration treatments have impacted stand structural complexity in the Ellsworth Creek Preserve, and how understanding restoration treatments may help forest managers and landowners to increase structural complexity.



Arctic Report Card 2021: Disruptions to Environments & Peoples 31 January 11 am AKST. This webinar provides a tour of the topics covered in this year's Arctic report card, including Arctic hydrology, glacial and permafrost hazards, communities, and the ongoing changes in underwater soundscape in the Arctic.



National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) Partners meeting 8 February 9 am - 4 pm PT. The annual NCSS Partners Meeting is an opportunity for all agencies and organizations that utilize soil information to come together and have a voice in the soil survey program.



Highlights from the Arctic Report Card.



Pacific Northwest DEWS February Drought & Climate Outlook 28 February 11am-12pm PT. Webinars consists of 3-4 brief talks: Regional climate status, climate outlook, and 1-2 topical speakers highlighting tools, recent science findings, resources, and tactics for working with drought.

Fifth National Climate Assessment Webinars

The National Climate Assessment is a major U.S. Government report that discusses how climate change affects people and places in the United States. Join the authors to help decide which topics to cover in the Fifth National Climate Assessment. Topics covered include agriculture, forests, adaptation, mitigation, water and human health.

Some webinars of interest for the Northwest Climate Hub region are:



Agriculture, Food Systems and Rural Communities Chapter Engagement Workshop. 28 January 10 am -2 pm PT.



Forests Chapter Engagement Workshop. 1 February 9 am - 1 pm PT.



Northwest Chapter Engagement Workshop. 1 February 9:30 am - 2:00 pm PT.



Call for Public Comment: The authors of the Fifth National Climate Assessment are seeking feedback on the scope and framing of each chapter's proposed topics.

Please see the Federal Register Notice for additional information. Submit comments by **20 February 2022.**

[Click here for a full list of National Climate Assessment webinars.](#)

Funding Opportunities

January



2021 EarthLab Innovation Grants. EarthLab is looking to fund projects that demonstrate co-creation and partnership between community partners and University of Washington researchers. Projects should demonstrate interdisciplinary collaboration, action at the intersection of climate (both mitigation and adaptation) and social justice, and the potential for growth. The program has \$300,000 available, with a maximum budget request of \$75,000 per project. **Letter of intent due 27 January 2022.**



Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Funding Opportunities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency released notice of their Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants for BRIC and FMA. Click here to find detailed program information, webinar information, and other grant application and administration requirements. **Applications are due by 3 pm EST on 28 Jan 2022.**



Livestock Forage Disaster Program. Certain counties in Idaho, Washington and Oregon are able to apply for up to \$125,000 in assistance for losses due to qualifying conditions for drought or fire in calendar year 2021. **Applications due 30 January 2022.**

Contact your local Farm Service Agency office to apply.

March



Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC). This program is a part of the 2018 Farm Bill to help farmers provide future protections against market fluctuations. These protections may be important for regions that experience lower yields than the national average due to drought. **Deadline to enroll is 15 March 2022**



NASA: Earth Science Applications in Equity & Environmental Justice. The NASA Earth Science Division is accepting proposals that aim to advance equity and environmental justice domestically. Proposals should include three elements: 1) Landscape analyses, 2) Community-based feasibility projects, and 3) Data integration projects that combine Earth science information and socioeconomic datasets. A pre-proposal teleconference is planned on 17 February. **Applications due 18 March 2022.**



Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans and Grants. This program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Increasing energy efficiency and developing more renewable energy systems is cost effective and reduces the consumption of fuels that contribute to climate change. Applications can be for grants or a loan/grant combination of \$20,000 or less. **Applications due 31 March 2022.**



February



Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund (ERCF). The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is seeking proposals for projects that increase the resilience of coastal communities impacted by hurricanes and wildfires in 2020 and 2021. The fund supports projects that create and restore natural systems, which will enable communities to recover more quickly from these events, while improving habitats for fish and wildlife species. **Proposals are due 3 February 2022.**



Pandemic Support for Certified Organic and Transitioning Operations. The USDA has extended the deadline for the Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program. This extension is for eligible expenses in 2020 and 2021. Organic farming may help farmers prepare for a changing climate, as organic practices can increase soil water-holding capacity, which can help crops grow in drought years. **Deadline extended to 4 February 2022.**



Natural Resource Conservation Service accepting applications for Agricultural Land Easements. Agricultural land easements protect both agricultural land and native grasslands and help to create habitat for wildlife. Creating more habitat for wildlife today will be important to protect them from future habitat loss that may occur due to climate change. Applications are also being accepted for Wetland Land Easements to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands. The program deadline has passed for Idaho and Alaska, but applications will be accepted for 2023 funding. To be considered for fiscal year 2022, **apply by:**

February in Oregon.

February 25 in Washington.



Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTPEP). The program aims to establish an extension presence and support Extension outreach on Federally Recognized Indian Reservations and Tribal Jurisdictions of Federally Recognized Tribes. It is a continuation of the land grants mission of inclusion, providing education and research-based knowledge to those who might not otherwise receive it. **Applications due 25 February 2022.**

April



Regional Agricultural Partnership Program (RCPP) \$225 million is available nationally for projects that address natural resource issues on agricultural land. This year's funding includes updates that encourage projects to address climate change, benefit historically underserved farmers, and support urban agriculture. **Proposals due 13 April 2022**



Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE). The USDA has opened up grant applications to the RISE program, which seeks to increase equity in rural America by offering grants of up to \$2 million to consortiums of local governments, investors, industry, institutions of higher education, and other public and private entities that create projects in distressed communities. Communities that have traditionally had high concentrations of employment in fossil fueled energy production and are transitioning away from this are encouraged to apply. **Applications due 19 April 2022.**



Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP). The USDA has opened up grant applications for rural communities to further develop renewable energy through REPP. Funds can be used to support community energy planning, community efficiency and weatherization, installing and equipping community scale renewable energy. **Applications due 19 April 2022.**

Ongoing



Conservation Program Opportunities to Support Climate Smart Agriculture. The USDA has updated the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Conservation Incentives Contracts and has made it easier for producers to re-enroll in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Applications accepted year-round. **To be considered for funding in 2022, apply by:**

24 January in Washington

29 April in Idaho



Funding for Watershed Improvement: New funding from the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act is available to help communities improve land, water, and disaster resources.



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