



## Featured Article



### Partnerships for Healthier Farms and Fish on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River

The Henry's Fork, a tributary of the Snake River in southeastern Idaho, is a premiere, globally recognized flyfishing destination. The river also carries water to farms that irrigate high-value crops. As climate change alters precipitation patterns and intensifies warming and extreme events in Idaho, severe drought is likely to occur more often, affecting farms and waterways throughout the state. The Henry's Fork Foundation, Friends of the Teton River, Trout Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy have partnered on a program that benefits agriculture and fish by reducing irrigation water use and improving farm resilience and fish habitat. Check out this Adaptation in Action profile to learn more.

## Opportunities



### USFS Fellowship for Carbon Management on Working Lands

This ORISE fellow will engage with USDA Northwest Climate Hub staff to develop information on carbon management in forests, rangelands, and farms. The fellow will collaborate with USDA Climate Hub staff to develop resources to guide carbon management planning and practices on National Forest System and other public and private lands in the Northwest. **Apply by 2 February.**



### Climate Resilience Producer Survey

Washington State Department of Agriculture is working on a Climate Resilience Plan to support agricultural producers through the effects of a changing climate. Respond by 23 February.



### Postdoctoral Research Associate Position

The USDA-ARS Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate. This person will measure, monitor, report, and validate soil health, carbon-sequestration potential, and greenhouse gas fluxes and carbon stocks for the grass seed industry in the Willamette Valley, Oregon. Email your cover letter, curriculum vitae including citizenship, transcripts, and list of references to Dr. Jennifer Moore at [Jennifer.moore2@usda.gov](mailto:Jennifer.moore2@usda.gov). **Position open until filled.**



# Drought Update

Recent precipitation has led to improvements in drought conditions in parts of Washington and Oregon. In northwest Washington, moderate drought (D1 – tan) and abnormally dry conditions (D0 – yellow) have been reduced. In southeast Washington, abnormally dry conditions have been substantially reduced to a small portion of the region. Drought conditions in western Oregon have remained much the same since last month. Abnormally dry conditions in eastern Oregon have been reduced. In northern and central Idaho a lack of precipitation has caused an expansion in abnormally dry conditions, moderate drought, and severe drought (D2 – orange). Alaska remains drought free.



National Integrated  
Drought Information  
System



CoCoRaHS Community Rain  
Hail Snow Network



Condition Monitoring  
Observer Reports

## U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Northwest Climate Hub

January 16, 2024  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	85.63	14.37	7.06	1.26	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-09-2024	85.00	15.00	7.14	1.26	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-17-2023	81.05	18.95	13.63	6.27	1.09	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	84.63	15.37	5.68	1.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	80.15	19.85	14.48	7.82	1.55	0.00
One Year Ago 01-17-2023	76.81	23.19	14.35	6.37	1.99	0.16

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

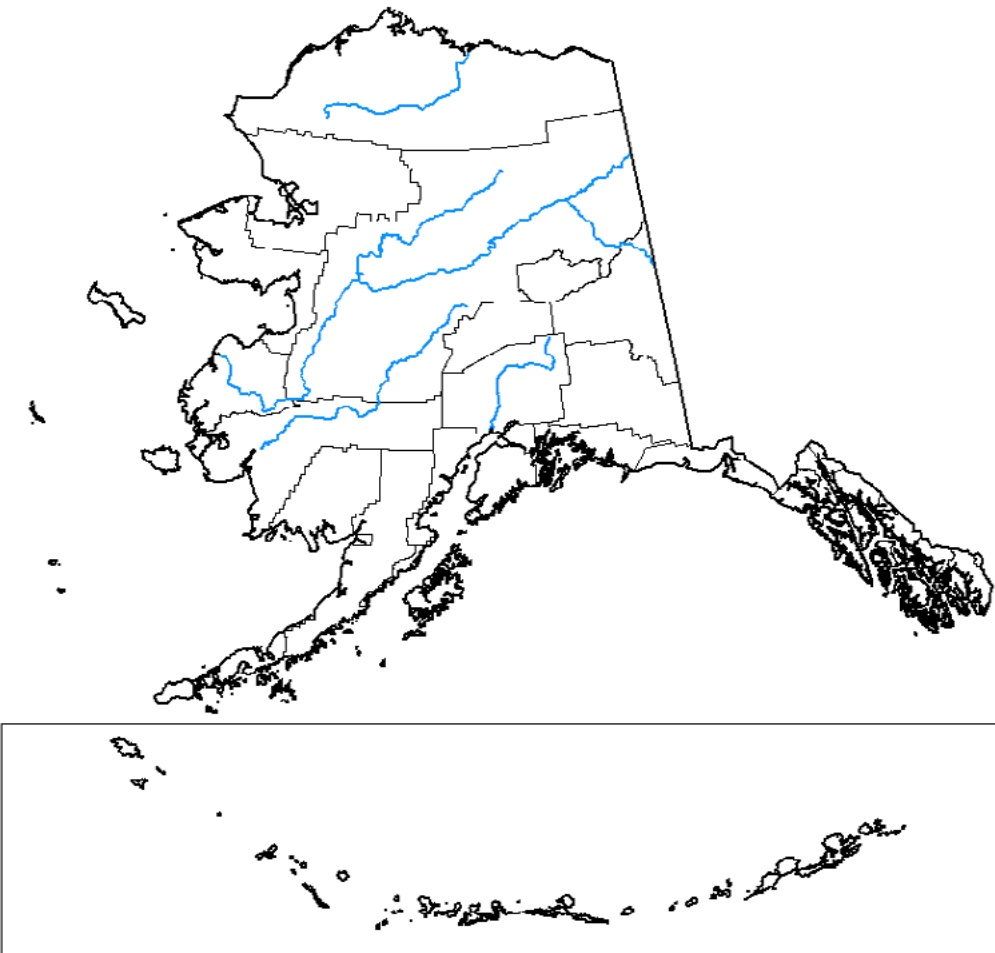
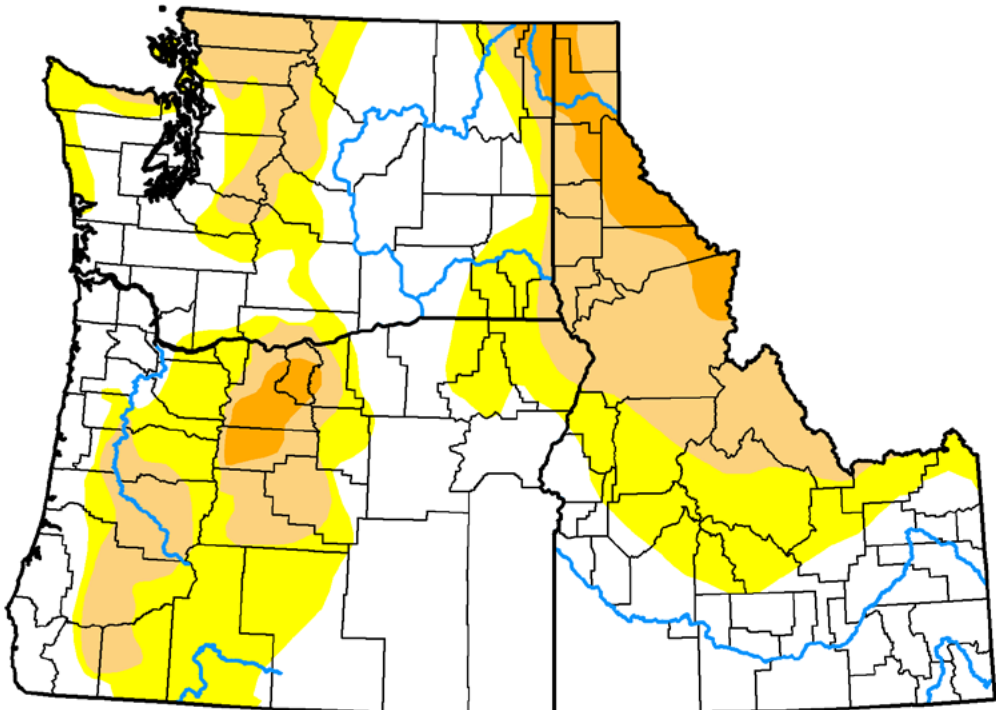
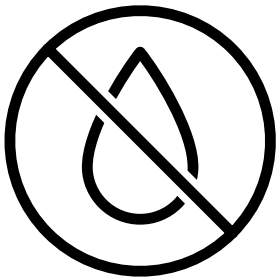
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.  
Local conditions may vary. For more information on the  
Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

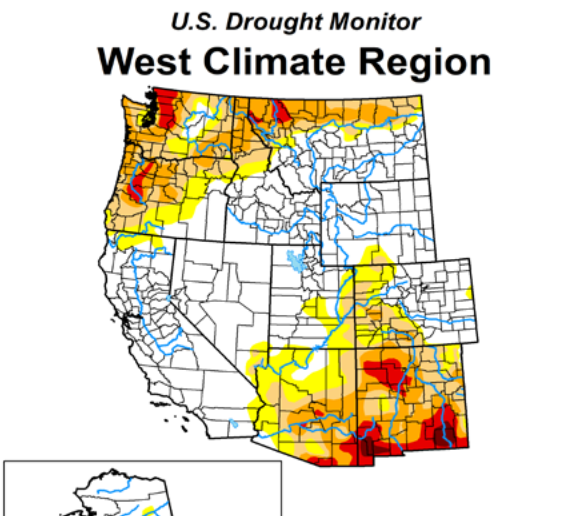
Adam Hartman  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu







**Drought Communication Coordination in the Western U.S.**

This Hub webpage shares the process document and guidelines for providing input to the US Drought Monitor for local experts. Additionally, it provides state-level information on drought assessments for the Northwest Climate Hub region and bordering states.



**Climate Adaptation Planning Documents for the Northwest**

This Hub webpage compiles climate adaptation planning documents for forests, states, communities, and tribes. Climate adaptation plans can strengthen the region's climate resilience and help communities prepare for change.



**Dry Farming Techniques in the Maritime Pacific Northwest**

This Hub webpage explores dry farming, a technique that can help some producers diversify their operations to adapt to changes in water availability caused, in part, by climate change.



**High Tunnel Soil Management for Season Extension**

High tunnels can be a good practice for climate change adaptation. This article discusses the different considerations for how to care for and grow crops in high tunnels.



**Perspective on Barriers and Opportunities for Scaling Up Biochar Production from Forest Slash**

This research paper from the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station presents a synthesis of two workshops on biochar in forest management. These workshops identified barriers to biochar use and proposed ways to overcome them.



**Grazing Lands in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington**

Northwest grazing lands support millions of animals and contribute billions of dollars to the economies of Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. Climate change could affect the timing and availability of forage, water availability, and plant productivity in Northwest grazing lands. See this Northwest Climate Hub page for more information.

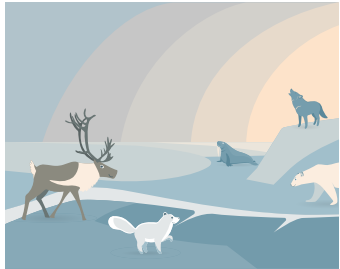


# Workshops and Conferences



## **Change on the Range: Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, 28 January – 1 February, Sparks, Nevada.**

The annual meeting will include technical tours, sessions, and meeting events that focus on rangelands-related topics, including rangeland restoration, climate change adaptation, and wildland fire resilience.



## **Alaska Forum on the Environment, 5 – 9 February, Anchorage, Alaska and online.**

This is Alaska's largest statewide gathering of environmental professionals and will offer sessions on climate change, energy, environmental regulations, cleanup and remediation, fish and wildlife, solid waste, and more. This year, both in person and virtual attendance is available for attendees and exhibitors.



## **SoilCon 24, 6 February with option to attend in-person events on 8, 13, 15, or 20 February.**

This event brings together experts to share expertise on a range of topics related to soil health, including diversified organics, global perspectives, irrigated perennials, northwest Washington annuals, and drylands. This year, SoilCon will include a half-day virtual event and the option to attend four in-person events throughout February.



## **Native Youth Climate Adaptation Leadership Congress. Meeting in June, apply by 15 March.**

The Native Youth Climate Adaptation Leadership Congress is held annually during the last week of June in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The Congress includes a diverse mix of urban and rural students from tribal communities located throughout the continental US, Alaska, Hawaii and American Samoa. Each year, the Congress averages around 50 high school students alongside their mentors, representing 20+ indigenous tribes and communities.



## **2024 National Tribal Leaders Climate Summit, 15–17 April, Auburn, Washington.**

The summit will engage tribal leaders, citizens, staff, youth and collaborators in conversation about navigating the cultural, economic, and social challenges of climate change. The goals of the event include hearing from tribal communities on the frontlines of climate change; exploring what a just transition looks like for diverse tribal nations; and discussing how tribal sovereignty and co-management can advance climate action.



## **7th International Fire Behavior and Fuel Conference—Fuel, Fire and Smoke: Evolving to Meet Our Climate Challenge, 15 –19 April, Boise, Idaho.**

In a changing climate, understanding altered fire behavior and human responses is critical. This conference shares knowledge from past fire management experience, current work, and emerging research, innovation, and techniques to develop integrated solutions to fire management challenges.

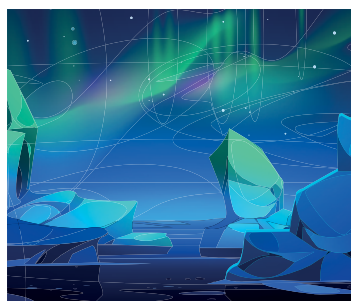


## **2024 Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposium, 16 – 18 April, Sitka, Alaska.**

Climate change is causing shifts in the distribution of fish and other aquatic species. The symposium will bring together fishery researchers and managers to address how political decisions, jurisdictional arrangements, and survey management structures can adapt to environmental changes and shifting species distributions.



# Webinars



## **January Alaska Climate Outlook Briefing, 26 January, 12pm AKST.**

This webinar will review recent and current climate conditions around Alaska, discuss forecasting tools, and end with the Climate Prediction Center's forecast for February 2024 and the early spring season. Join to learn what has happened and what may be in store for Alaska's seasonal climate.



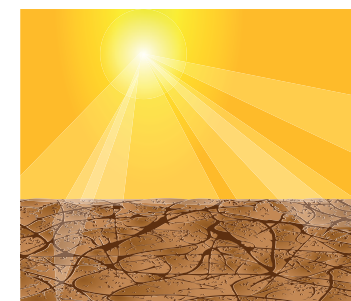
## **Tribal Forestry: Understanding Current Issues and Challenges in Contemporary and Traditional Management of Forested Landscapes, Thursdays, 18 January to 25 April, 9am PST.**

Tribes and first nations have been forest stewards since time immemorial. In a changing climate, tribes and first nations continue to work with many groups and agencies to support indigenous sovereignty and resilient forested landscapes. This webinar will focus on the current state of tribal forest management and indigenous stewardship with a series of speakers from different tribes, universities, non-profits, and agencies.



## **First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs), 2 February and the first friday of every month, 11am PST.**

FFACCTs is a monthly webinar series organized by the USDA Climate Hubs and Forest Service Research and Development that features presentations from USDA scientists and practitioners. February's webinar is "Regional climate adaptation strategy: Integrating existing tools, science, and collaborative outcomes for climate adaptation, mitigation, and socioeconomic vulnerability," presented by the USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region.



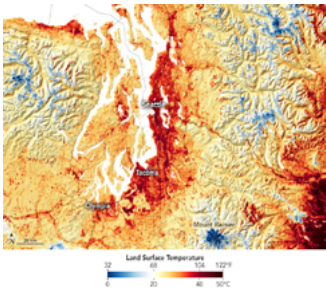
## **Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System February Webinar, 26 February, 11am PST.**

This webinar will provide timely information on current and developing drought conditions in the region, and climatic events like El Niño. Speakers will also discuss the impacts of these conditions on issues such as wildfires, floods, disruption to water supply and ecosystems, as well as impacts to affected industries like agriculture, tourism, and public health.





January



**Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaign Application.**  
Climate change is leading to increased heat in cities. The 2024 Urban Heat Mapping project is seeking proposals from groups who will map urban heat and use the maps to reduce the risk of heat illness in their communities. Reviewers will look for evidence of connected, invested, and driven campaign networks that will organize a volunteer-powered mapping event, and then use the information they receive to act. **Applications due 31 January by 2pm PST.**

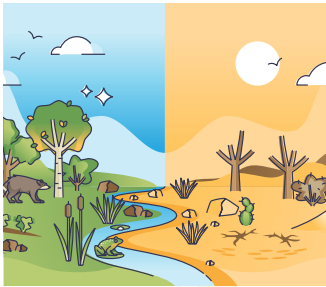


**The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants.**  
The United States Department of Energy has made over \$400 million in formula funding available for tribal nations, states, and local governments for projects that reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, or reduce energy use. **Applications due 31 January.**

February



**Organic Transition Initiative.**  
This initiative helps farmers transition to organic crop production. Organic farming can help with climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through limiting the use of synthetic fertilizers and increasing soil carbon storage. **Applications due 2 February.**



**Tribal Drought Resilience with Inflation Reduction Act Support.**  
This funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will support the implementation of activities that address current and future drought risk on tribal lands across the West in the context of a changing climate. **Applications due 15 February.**



**Ocean acidification education mini-grant.**  
The NOAA Ocean Acidification Program provides federal financial assistance to develop ocean and coastal education tools and programs in underserved and/or indigenous communities or tribal nations. **Applications due 23 February.**



**Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants.**  
Climate change is likely to increase the risk of extreme events in the Northwest. These two mitigation grant programs, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, provide states, local communities, Tribes and territories funding to address high-level future risks to natural disasters such as wildfires, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme heat, and increased flooding to foster greater community resilience and reduce disaster suffering. **Applications due 29 February.**

March



**Oregon Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).**  
The Natural Resource Conservation Service CSP grants help producers build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operations. Benefits can include enhanced resilience to weather and market volatility, decreased need for agricultural inputs, and improved wildlife habitat conditions. **Applications due 27 March.**

Ongoing



**NRCS Alaska Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).**  
This program provides agricultural producers with financial assistance and conservation planning services to help private landowners implement improvements on their land using what NRCS conservation practices. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil, and improved wildlife habitat, all while enhancing agricultural operations. **Applications funded on a rolling basis but must be submitted by 19 April 2024 to be considered for Fiscal Year 2024.**



**Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants.**  
This program provides loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems, or to make energy efficiency improvements. Funds may be used for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems, or for the purchase, installation, and construction of energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. **Applications are accepted for multiple deadlines from 31 December 2023 to 30 September 2024.**

