



Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

Alaska continues to remain free of drought or dry conditions.

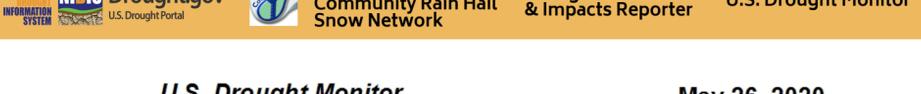
Precipitation over the last two weeks improved conditions from abnormally dry (D0-yellow) to normal (None-white) along the Olympic Peninsula in western Washington. The rain did not have the same effect in Oregon, where extreme drought (D3-red) spread in the southwest and northcentral regions, and moderate drought (D1-tan) expanded east of the Cascades. Similarly, in Idaho abnormal dryness (D0-yellow) developed in the panhandle and southeast corner as well as expanded in the southwest. Moderate drought (D1-tan) developed in the southeast and expanded in the southwest of Idaho.

Official drought declarations have been made in portions of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

Idaho

Washington

Oregon



U.S. Drought Monitor

May 26, 2020

USDA Northwest Climate Hub

(Released Thursday, May. 28, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

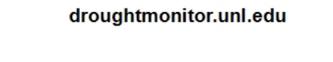
Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	79.05	20.95	14.18	6.05	0.82	0.00
Last Week 05-19-2020	77.85	22.15	14.34	5.98	0.95	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-25-2020	79.70	20.30	6.19	0.16	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	70.58	29.42	7.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	88.75	11.25	3.91	1.40	0.61	0.00
One Year Ago 05-28-2019	88.19	11.81	5.99	1.16	0.61	0.00

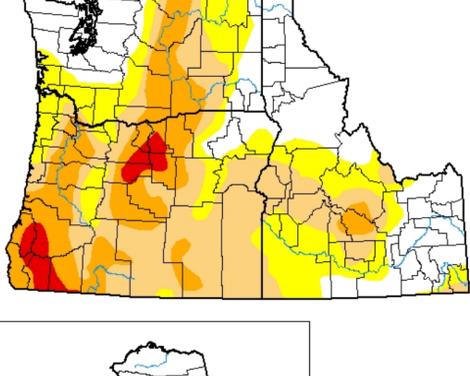
Intensity:

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



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook June 2020

In June, portions of southwest Oregon are above normal for the significant wildland fire potential, whereas the remainder of the Northwest Climate Hub region has a normal risk.

Fire Information in the Northwest - click here to find a list of fire and post-fire resources.

Citizen science: submit photos of your surroundings

Visual Drought Atlas compares landscapes over time, showing what places across the country look like in dry, wet, and normal years. Photos of current conditions can be submitted at any time of year. Submissions over four holidays—Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Presidents' Day are targeted as times we usually visit our favorite places. Take a few minutes to fill out a report and submit a photo from the past holiday weekend.

COVID-19 related information and programs

COVID-19 Information and Resources for the Wildland Fire Community provides information on topics like hygiene and social distancing for firefighters, documents addressing 2020 field season challenges, and information addressing wildfire during a pandemic are included in this "living" document.

USDA COVID-19 Response Page addresses frequently asked questions about paycheck protection and crop insurance for farmers, the food supply chain (food access & safety), agricultural research, and national forests.

Keeping Farmers on the Land During COVID-19 a webinar from the American Farmland Trust and National Young Farmers Coalition discusses the impacts that the pandemic is having on farmers and farmland protection. Attention is paid to the challenges facing producers and updates on federal agriculture relief efforts are provided.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) a USDA program that provides funds for producers who have suffered financial losses due to price declines, supply chain disruptions, and who face additional losses. Click here for a list of eligible commodities.

NOAA Research News- exploring impact of COVID-19 response on the environment. The slowdown of transportation in response to the pandemic has reduced pollution across the country. NOAA is conducting wide-ranging research to explore the impact on Earth's atmosphere and oceans.

Resources for Adjusting to Remote Collaboration

Find tips for long-term project planning, technology options for meetings, and etiquette to improve remote collaboration as we adjust to regular virtual contact. Updated agency approaches to addressing COVID-19 from Washington and Oregon and details on financial resources for small businesses and contractors are also included.

Feedback can also be submitted through an online survey

Funding opportunities

The Farm Loan Discovery Tool can be used to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners identify opportunities needed due to address pandemic-related challenges. The tool walks users through a decision tree process to identify appropriate opportunities.

USDA NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA). This program is an extension of the classic RCPP that allows for greater flexibility and "out of the box" projects limited to 15 awards. Project areas can include innovative approaches to leverage the federal investment in conservation, projects that use pay-for-performance conservation approaches, or large-scale infrastructure investment projects that generate conservation benefits for agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forest owners. **Applications extended to 29 May 11:59pm EDT.**

Renewable Resources Rangeland Act-National Focus Fund Projects (RREA-NFF)
Funding for forest and rangeland sustainability projects that address the following priority areas: 1) Regional/National Projects: The Nexus of Critical Forest and Rangeland Resources Issues, Innovative Approaches to Program Delivery, and Current Knowledge about Non-Formal Adult Education, 2) Ensuring the Transfer of New Knowledge to Forest and Rangeland Owners and Managers. **Applications due 28 June.**

WaterSMART Drought Response Program, funding is available to states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority to leverage their money and resources by cost-sharing with Reclamation on Drought Resiliency Projects projects that build long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions. This includes improvements to water supplies, water management, or projects that benefit fish, wildlife and the environment. **Applications due 8 July.**

AK Webinar on WaterSMART for Alaska entities on 24 June 1 pm AKT

Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) Expansion for Moisture and Drought open 23 March. WHIP+ covers losses of crops, trees, bushes, and vines that occurred as a result of 2018-2019 disaster events. Recent expansions include sugar beet and milk losses, and quality reduction.

WHIP+ Factsheet

Podcast Highlight

Check out the 11 May Alaska Voices episode by Luke Hopkins and Sam Schimmel from the Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team. They discuss the importance of community-led initiatives and preventing cultural loss accelerated by climate change.

Alaska Voices is a new podcast dedicated to building bridges through stories and place-based knowledge. New episodes are posted every two weeks and feature a range of voices.

Information

The Hot-Dry-Windy Index: A new tool for forecasting fire weather improves the ability to predict weather effects on wildfire behavior. To improve safety and resource efficiency from the wildfire community, the tool improves upon the existing Haines Index and considers hot, dry, and windy conditions. An interactive website shows past (10 days) and forecasted (7 days) conditions.

Video: Up in Smoke - Fire and Invasives on Western Rangelands. A video from the Bureau of Land Management and Intermountain West Joint Venture discusses the troubling trend of increasing frequency and intensity of wildfire on western rangelands and outlines four actions to reduce risks. The relationship between fire, invasive encroachment and the long-term sustainability of sagebrush ecosystems for wildlife and grazing is discussed.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals from Forest Land, Woodlands, and Urban Trees in the United States, 1990-2018. This publication from the Forest Service provides an overview of the status and trends of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from forest land, woodlands, hardwood products, and urban trees for 48 U.S. states. The information is intended for a broad audience, including forest managers and policymakers who benefit from data on the role of forests in the carbon cycle.

Exploring the production and economics of forest-based biochar. Forest Service researchers and partners studied the economic feasibility of using low-value forest biomass to produce biochar, including case study of large-scale production in Worden, Oregon. This model has the potential to promote forest restoration, foster forest-related employment, increase agricultural competitiveness, and sequester carbon.

Full article

Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE) is a platform with a suite of resources, including recorded workshops, workbooks, and case study examples that guide those working with landowners through engagement planning and evaluation processes.

Coastal Alaska's Forest Resources, 2004-2013: Ten-Year Forest Inventory and Analysis Report. The report highlights findings from a 10-year survey of Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data collected across southeast and south-central Alaska. This is the first full remeasurement of all forest plots in the coastal Alaska.

Monitoring land surface phenology in near real-time by using PhenoMap. The report details the PhenoMap online tool used by managers for short and long-term monitoring of vegetation phenology. The tool enhances monitoring of life cycle changes over time to better detect shifts that can affect ecosystem services. It also provides shorter-term information helpful to grazing, ecological restoration plantings, biocontrol of pests, seed collection, and wildlife monitoring.

What We Know About Climate Change and Northwest Huckleberries. Information on huckleberry management and research, and learn about what land managers, tribes, and others can do to support huckleberry habitat under changing climate.

Recorded Webinars

Biochar from Forest to the Farm covers biochar relevance to animal bedding, irrigated lands, high value crops, and improving forest soil. This content is relevant to agriculture and forestry land managers.

Modeling and Optimizing Prescribed Fire for Managing Wildfire Risks, a webinar from the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network discusses research on the effectiveness of prescribed fires for reducing wildfire risk across multiple states and agencies.

National Integrated Drought Information System Tools Webinar on GRACE and Grass-Cast hear about existing and potential capabilities of NASA's GRACE satellite to monitor soil moisture and groundwater to detect and improve drought prediction at a global scale.

Webinars

OptIS: Using Satellite Imagery Data to Understand Trends in Conservation Agricultural Practices 29 May 9 am PST. This webinar will cover a new, free, online data tool that uses satellite imagery to study trends in the adoption of conservation agriculture practices. The Operational Tillage Information System (OptIS) offers a range of applications for government agencies, researchers, carbon market administrators, conservationists and businesses.

Drought Decision-Making Tools You Can Use 3 June 11 am PST. Learn about two tools that support drought monitoring and decision-making. The Integrated Water Portal compiles water data from several agencies into a map designed to support drought monitoring at state and basin scales. Climate Toolbox is a set of mapping and graphing tools to explore climate and hydrology data. The webinar will include a user perspective from the State of Washington's Drought Coordinator on the use of the The Climate Toolbox for state drought monitoring.

VAWS: Responses of Permafrost Landscape to Surface Disturbances - Case studies in Siberian forest and Alaskan tundra 17 June 11 am AKDT. Go Iwahana from the University of Alaska Fairbanks will discuss the impacts of wildfires, deforestation, and climate change on permafrost in Polar Regions. Rapid permafrost thaw that leads to land sinking will cause significant changes in surface ecology, landscape, and hydrological processes.

Pacific Northwest Drought & Climate Outlook 22 June 11 am PST. The Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System hosts a series of region-specific, drought and climate outlook webinars to provide timely information on current drought status and impacts, a preview of current and developing climatic events, and special topics.

Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Briefing 4 June 10 am PST. Monthly water supply briefings held January through late spring on the first Thursday of each month. Click here to register.

12 pm Weather Service Alaska Climate Outlook Briefings: a monthly webinar series on Fridays at 12 pm AKT by the Alaska Climate Assessments and Policy Center that reviews recent climate and looks ahead at future climate predictions. Click each date below to register for the monthly webinar.

19 June - click to register

Job opportunity

Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) is hiring a Project Manager/Outreach Coordinator. This is a full time 12-month, fixed term professional faculty position to lead projects, and stakeholder engagement. CIRC is made up of an interdisciplinary team of researchers dedicated to transferring data into usable knowledge for climate adaptation in the Northwest. **Applications due by 22 June.**

Conferences, Workshops & Trainings

Soil and Water Conservation Society's 75th Annual Conference Goes Virtual 26-29 July. The conference theme of "Expanding Horizons: Where Conservation Meets Innovation" inspires 12 focal topics including soil health, applied data in agriculture, water resources, monitoring, and more.

North American Congress for Conservation Biology 26-31 July in Denver, Colorado. This year's theme is "crossing boundaries: innovative approaches to conservation" with a focus on innovative approaches to bringing together experts across disciplines to solve pressing issues related to population growth, land use, and climate change. The conference is planned to be in-person (subject to change) with significant virtual options.

National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference, Tribal Resilience for Seven Generations 31 July- August-4 September in St. Paul, Minnesota. Proposal submissions across a diverse set of environmental and social tracks are requested. Featured topics include climate-related impacts, assessments, tools, adaptation, mitigation, actions, and the intersection of western science and adaptation strategies with Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge. The conference is open to all US tribal nations and indigenous peoples across the world. The deadline for proposals for posters and oral presentations is **extended to 29 May**. Registration is open until 31 July.

Submit a proposal here

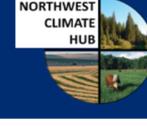
Ecological Society of America Virtual Annual Conference 3-6 August. The theme of this year's conference is "harnessing the ecological data revolution." Presentations will be pre-recorded to conveniently view over 3,000 options from this year's event. **Register by 26 July to attend.** Click here fore event details and registration.

The 2020 National Soil Moisture Workshop 12-13 August National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland. This workshop brings leaders in soil moisture research and development together in an interactive workshop to exchange ideas and enhance collaborations. **Abstracts due 1 June. Registration due 1 August.**

Tribal Climate Camp September 8-12 2020 Anchorage, Alaska. Applications are now being accepted for the 2020 Tribal Climate Camp that build teams of tribal leaders, climate change coordinators, planners, and program managers to build skills, gather information, and develop tribal policy needed to address climate change impacts.

Check out a video on the 2019 Tribal Climate Camp

The Second High Five Conference (H5II) on the Research and Management of High Elevation Five Needle Pines in Western North America 15-17 September Missoula, Montana. This event is hosted by the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation and will feature restoration management of 'High-5' species, including ecology, genetics, disturbance, blister rust and resistance, planting, and climate change. Special sessions from the US National Whitebark Pine Restoration Plan will be featured. Early registration is open and scholarships are available. To apply email a short justification, name and affiliation to bob.keane@whitebarkfound.org after 5 June.



To receive the USDA Northwest Climate Hub monthly newsletter by email, sign up by clicking on this box and providing your contact information and areas of interest on the form.