



Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

In Alaska, abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) continue to persist in the northern and northwestern portions of the state.

In the last month, drought conditions have worsened across Oregon, Idaho and Washington. Over 50% of Washington is experiencing moderate (D1-tan) to severe (D2-orange) drought conditions with over 30% of the state experiencing abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow). Idaho has over 60% of the state experiencing drought from moderate (D1-tan) to extreme conditions (D3-red). More than 30% of Idaho is experiencing abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow). Drought conditions in Oregon are also widespread. Extreme drought (D3-red) has expanded in central Oregon and severe drought conditions (D2-orange) are present in much of the state.



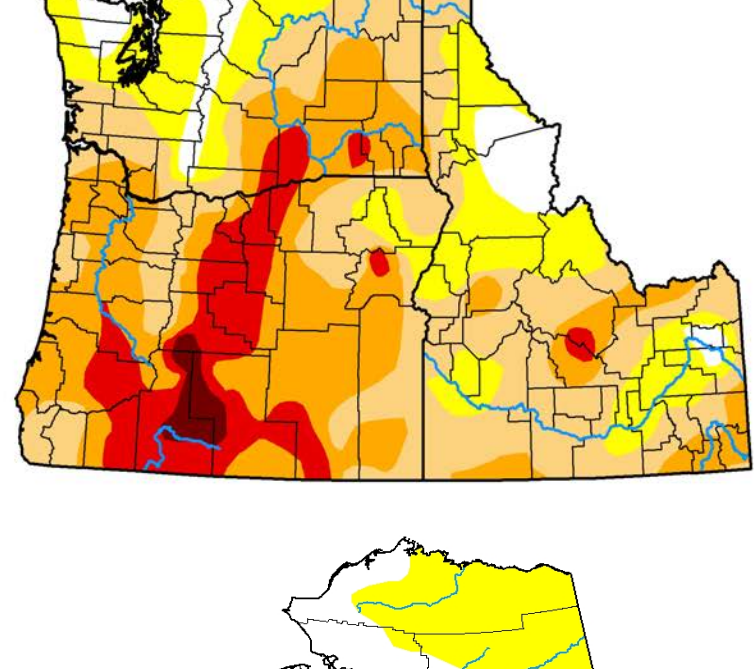
U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Northwest Climate Hub

May 25, 2021

(Released Thursday, May. 27, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

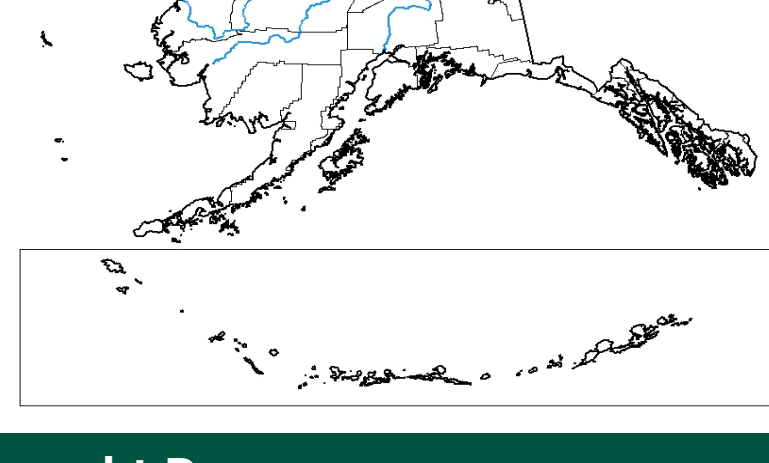


	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	57.55	42.45	21.80	11.67	3.59	0.42
Last Week 05-18-2021	57.55	42.45	21.21	11.32	3.13	0.42
3 Months Ago 02-23-2021	66.66	33.34	11.70	6.87	1.75	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	73.72	26.28	13.40	9.17	3.53	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	61.33	38.67	15.70	9.48	4.51	0.00
One Year Ago 05-26-2020	79.05	20.95	14.18	6.05	0.82	0.00

Intensity:
 None (White), D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow), D1 Moderate Drought (Tan), D2 Severe Drought (Orange), D3 Extreme Drought (Red), D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

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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Drought Resources

US Drought Monitor triggers some USDA programs that help agricultural producers recover from drought and other natural disasters

Federal financial assistance programs for drought emergencies

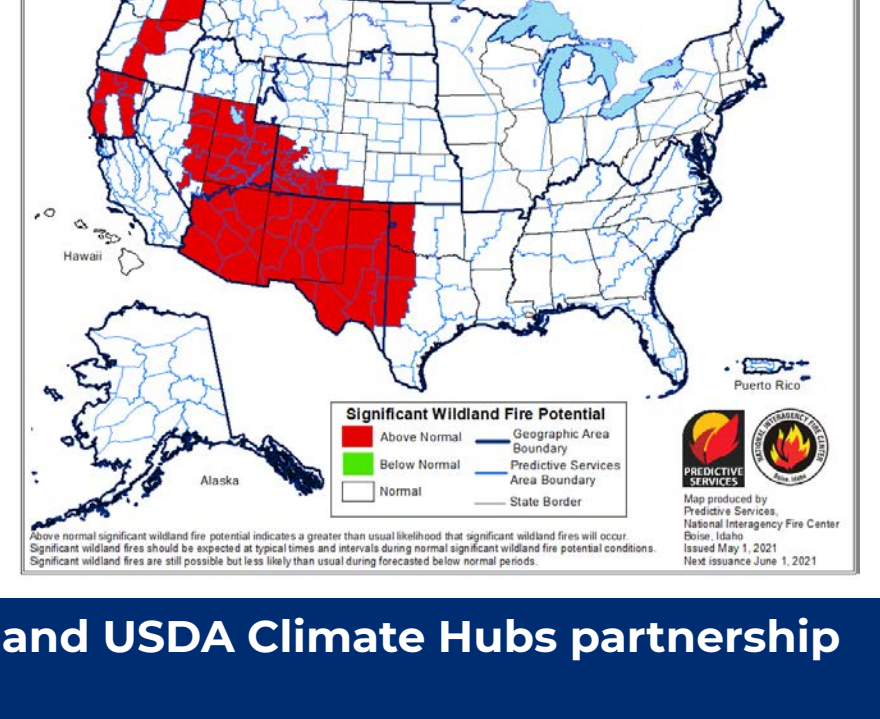
Northwest state-level drought information

Webinar: Pacific Northwest Drought & Climate Outlook, 28 June 11 am PDT. This series of region-specific drought and climate outlook webinars provides timely information on current drought status and impacts, a preview of current and developing climatic events, and special topics.

Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

The National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook indicates above normal significant wildland fire potential for central Oregon and southeastern Washington for June.

Maps will be updated on 1 June, click here to view monthly outlooks for June - August.



Extension, Education and USDA Climate Hubs partnership funding opportunity

USDA NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) has a new program area priority. Projects are to provide effective, translatable, and scalable approaches to address climate change through regional partnerships, including the USDA Climate Hubs and extension. A project can be 3-5 years in duration for a total of \$1.5 million, and 6-7 total awards are expected. Letters of collaboration from participating USDA Climate Hubs are required. The Northwest Climate Hub requests that you reach out to us EARLY in proposal development, as we will not provide letters of collaborations three weeks prior to the application due date. Applications for 2021 are due **22 July 2021 by 5 pm ET**. Note another request for applications will be available for 2022 funding, for which applications are due 6 October 2022 by 5 pm ET. Click here to view the request for applications on pages 71-73.

Webinar recording about this program area priority

Jessica Halofsky, Director of the Northwest Climate Hub jessica.halofsky@usda.gov

Webinars & Trainings

Collaborative fire management case studies from the Colville National Forest, 27 May, 11 am PDT. Forest Service fire ecologist and tribal liaison Monique Wynecoop will provide examples of successful cross-cultural partnerships for managing fire and building community resilience in a changing climate. For the two case studies, which are from the Colville National Forest, the Spokane and Colville Tribes and non-tribal partners conducted collaborative, interdisciplinary fire management projects that incorporated diverse values, cultures, and knowledges to meet multiple fire management goals.

Film screening and panel discussion for Inhabitants: an indigenous perspective. Join the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and Desert Research Institute for a film screening that follows five Native American Tribes across deserts, coastlines, forests, and prairies as they restore the lands and adapt to climate change using their traditional land management practices.

Oregon State University Extension Wildfire Wednesdays. This webinar series is designed to educate homeowners and communities about fire preparedness and what they can do to improve fire safety. Find previous webinar recordings here.

When fire hits, 2 June, 12-1 pm PDT.

After the fire, 16 June, 12-1 pm PDT.

Special Edition of Reading the Tea Leaves: Uncharted Territory, 3 June 10 am MDT. This webinar will share information about the predicted range conditions and how managers are responding to the reduced forage conditions. This webinar is hosted by Dr. Matt Reeves, Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station Research Ecologist, Dr. Dan McEvoy, Regional Climatologist, Western Regional Climate Center, and Iric Burden, Range/Weeds/Botany Program Manager, Kaibab National Forest. Webinar on Zoom, meeting ID: 161 0453 0612 Password: USFS1905!

Alaska's Changing Wildfire Environment 8 June 2:30-3:30 AKDT. An intensified pattern of wildfire is emerging in Alaska as rapidly increasing temperatures and longer growing seasons alter the state's environment. Both tundra and boreal forest regions are seeing larger and more frequent fires. The impacts of these fires are felt across the state. This presentation will give a high-level overview of trends in Alaskan wildfire related to a changing climate based on the report, 'Alaska's Changing Wildfire Environment'.

Report: Alaska's Changing Wildfire Environment

June 2021 National Weather Service Alaska climate outlook briefing, 18 June 2021, 12-1 pm AKDT. Rick Thoman, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, will review recent climate conditions around Alaska, review some forecast tools, and finish up the Climate Prediction Center's forecast for July and the remaining summer season. Join the gathering online to learn more about Alaska climate and weather.

What's changing on our lands, what's driving these changes, and what can we do about it? (Recorded) This webinar shares a new book, 'Drivers of Landscape Change in the Northwest Boreal Region', from the Northwest Boreal Partnership to inform sustainable management, stewardship, and research in the north. This book addresses what is driving change in our lands, waters, and wildlife, and includes impacts, future projections, information gaps, and implications for management and ways of life for Indigenous and rural communities. Topics include climate change, wildfire, permafrost thaw, land cover change, invasive species, resource extraction, socioeconomic drivers, and practices of co-production of knowledge.

Podcast Highlights

These Lands is a new podcast by the Northwest Climate Hub. Season 1 has three episodes that delve into **An Epic Quest: Understanding Climate Change Vulnerability in Western Forests**. Over a dozen formal assessments of climate change vulnerability for western national forests and surrounding lands are complete, a result of herculean collaboration between managers and scientists. We interviewed three of the pioneering coordinators to tell us how the vulnerability studies unfolded, the intentions behind their development, and what is being done to improve their utility for users on the ground.

One Foot in the Black examines wildfire in the West. This podcast uses a combination of narratives and interviews to tell this story, utilizing a multitude of voices from different sectors of society on the frontlines of fire and climate change. Jessica Halofsky is interviewed for Episode 1, Fire: The Problem and the Solution.

Conferences & Workshops

2021 Columbia River Basin Long-Term Water Supply and Demand Forecast Workshop- Virtual, 8 June 2:30-5:30 pm, or 17 June 8:30-11:30 am PT. The report is issued every five years to provide a generalized, system-wide assessment of how future environmental and economic conditions are likely to change water supply and demand by the 2040s across Washington's Columbia River Basin. During the workshop, the draft report will be shared, and comments taken from participants. This workshop is especially important to those who rely on water supplies in Eastern Washington. If you can't attend a meeting, you will still be able to review the draft report and comment. Comments on the report taken from 2 June through 2 July.

National Tribal Leadership Climate Change Summit - Virtual Session #4: Traditional Knowledges and Tribal Sovereignty, 8 June 10 am-1 pm PT. Learn about how Traditional Knowledges are defined, preserved, transmitted to future generations, and applied in ways that advance Tribal natural, cultural, and community goals related to climate impacts and resiliency. Explore how Tribal rights and sovereignty form a unique basis for applying Traditional Knowledge and Tribal world views. Weave together learnings from previous summit discussions on climate policy, community resilience, and youth empowerment.

June 9, 2021. 11 am - 1 pm. Youth Session IV: Traditional Knowledges. Introducing the fourth Youth Session event of the National Tribal Leadership Climate Change Summit: Traditional Ecological Knowledge. This youth track session follows 8 June main session event of the same theme.

National Congress of American Indians Mid-year Conference (virtual), 20-24 June. The conference will provide an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, community members, and others to present research and data findings on issues facing tribal Nations to tribal leaders, policymakers, and tribal citizens. **Early bird registration deadline 30 May.**

Information

Alaska's May 1st, 2021 Snow Survey Report is available online.

Alaska NRCS Snow Program has been adding new products and data access options which we invite you to explore!

Connectivity and Climate Change Toolkit provides state fish and wildlife agency planners and managers with the information necessary to ensure climate considerations are being accounted for and incorporated in the planning and implementation of terrestrial and aquatic, landscape connectivity initiatives.

Managing Post-fire Vegetation Change in a Warming Climate is a workshop that brought together scientists and land managers from across the Northwest and beyond to synthesize the state of the science, practice, and policy around managing post-fire vegetation conversion in a changing climate and to identify actionable science and co-production opportunities. This is the latest Deep Dive workshop from the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center. View products from this effort.

Fruit & Vegetable Supply Chains: Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Opportunities project. This collaborative research project has partners across the U.S., including Washington State University. This project seeks to identify and test climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in fruit and vegetable supply chains.

Out of the Frying Pan and into the Fryer: Climate Mitigation Opportunities for French Fries. This article from AgClimate Net summarizes recent research on the relative impact of different parts of the supply chain (on-farm, processor, retail, and consumer) for potato and tomato products, both fresh and processed. Results indicate that the way food is prepared presents a significant opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Changing the way potatoes are cooked may make more of a difference than how the potatoes themselves are grown.

Guide to expanding mitigation: Connecting with agriculture and food systems is a guide focused on agriculture and food systems and is designed to improve understanding, preparation, and planning for hazard events by local officials. Information is provided to plan for and invest in mitigation projects to increase the resilience of local and regional food systems.

USDA Climate Hub has new leadership at the national level. The national lead rotates among the Forest Service, Agricultural Research Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service every two years. The Forest Service now leads the Climate Hubs and Georgia Basso is the new National Climate Hub Lead. Based out of the USDA Office of the Chief Economist is Julian Reyes, the new National Climate Hub Lead Coordinator.

Funding Opportunities

Agroforestry Outreach-Request for Proposals 2021. Submit a proposal to improve the availability of science-based information to inform landowner decisions on the adoption and design of agroforestry systems. Awards are anticipated to be up to \$100,000, with a minimum of \$35,000 for a single project. **Proposals are due 28 May.**

National Forest Foundation 2021 Matching Awards Program. The Matching Awards Program funds on-the-ground projects for forest health and outdoor experiences on national forests and grasslands. Tribes, non-profits, and universities are eligible and must provide a 1:1 funding match for projects lasting no more than 12 months. **Applications due 9 June.**

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Seed funding for centering justice in climate research and action. Rising Voices Center for impactful projects or to support the time and effort to write a proposal for a large-scale project. Applications must demonstrate how the proposed work will bring together Indigenous and Earth sciences to address pressing community-driven research and action. Successful applications will support projects to begin around 20 July 2021 and conclude around 20 November 2021. **Applications are due 25 June.**

Innovative Finance for National Forests Grant Program supports the development and implementation of innovative finance models that leverage private and public capital other than US Forest Service appropriations to support the resilience of the National Forest System. A second round of funding will be issued through a competitive grant process. This program seeks to fund innovative projects that might offer completely new ideas, new applications of approaches used in other sectors, or new applications of models used for land management to the National Forest System context. **Proposal submissions are due 30 June.**

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Sustainable Agricultural Systems. This opportunity is focused on: (1) sustainable agricultural intensification; (2) agricultural climate adaptation; (3) value-added innovation; and/or (4) food and nutrition translation. Proposed work should result in societal benefits, such as rural prosperity and enhancement of quality of life, for all those involved in food and agricultural value chains. **Applications due 1 July 2021.**

Climate Change Mitigation Assessment Initiative from USDA Farm Service Agency is soliciting proposals for a multi-year monitoring and assessment effort to quantify the climate benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program and improve USDA's existing models and conservation planning tools. Projects should be for a 3-5-year term, with the potential for renewal. Budgets should be a minimum of \$1 million and not exceed \$10 million. Proposals are welcome from all types of organizations, including public, private, and nonprofit institutions and must include partners associated with Historically Black Colleges & Universities, Tribal Colleges & Universities, and/or Hispanic-Serving Institutions, or organizations. Webinar 9 June 2 pm EST. **Proposals due 2 July.**

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science Program. Grant funds are available in priority areas, which include plant or animal health, production, and products; food safety, nutrition, and health; bioenergy, natural resources, and environment; agricultural systems and technology; and agriculture economics and rural communities. Research-only, extension-only, and integrated research, education and/or extension projects are eligible. **Applications due 29 July 2021.**



The Northwest Climate Hub newsletter is developed by Holly Prendeville and edited by Jessica Halofsky. Click here to sign up to our distribution list.
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