

# Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

March 2019 Newsletter

Drought throughout the region has changed over the last month with some improvements in Idaho and Oregon though much of Oregon is experiencing abnormally dry (D0-yellow) to moderate drought (D1-tan) conditions. Drought conditions in Washington have worsen with much of the state now experiencing abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) and much of Okanogan county experiencing moderate drought (D1-tan).

Record breaking high temperatures in Alaska have lead to a reduction in snow pack (snow water equivalent). Drought conditions persist in much of southeast Alaska with abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) from southern Yakutat to northern Sitka counties, moderate drought conditions (D1-tan) in southern Juneau and Sitka counties to northern Craig and Petersburg counties, and severe drought conditions (D2-orange) in southern Petersburg and Craig counties to northern Ketchikan county. If dry conditions drought may intensify in southeast Alaska.

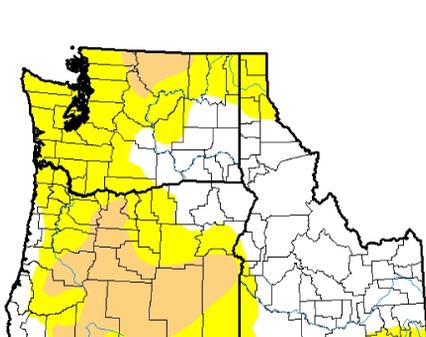
Multiple sources of information go into developing drought maps including reports from the public. Click the icons below to get information from the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), to submit precipitation data via the CoCoRHaS network, or to report drought impacts.



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

March 26, 2019

(Released Thursday, Mar. 28, 2019)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current 03-19-2019	78.77	13.28	6.59	1.35	0.00	0.00
Last Week 03-12-2019	78.85	13.50	6.30	1.35	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-25-2018	71.42	10.98	5.69	9.02	2.89	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2019	71.65	11.73	5.73	8.16	2.73	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-25-2018	67.14	12.24	6.76	10.17	3.69	0.00
One Year Ago 03-27-2018	73.37	20.92	5.71	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Intensity**  
 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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



## Funding opportunities

A funding opportunity is available from the Bureau of Reclamation as part of its WaterSMART Drought Response Program for projects that build **long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions**. Reclamation anticipates awarding between 10-15 drought resiliency projects this year. The funding opportunity is available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), search opportunity number BOR-DO-19-F003.

Federal funding is available in two funding groups: Funding Group I: Up to \$300,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within 2 years. Funding Group II: Up to \$750,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within 3 years. Those eligible to apply for funding include states, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended. Applicants must also provide a 50 % non-Federal cost-share. Applications are due **27 March 27 at 4 pm MDT**.

**Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research** has announced a Seeding Solutions Request for Applications for the following challenge areas: Health- Agriculture Nexus, Advanced Animal Systems, Sustainable Water Management, Soil Health, Next Generation Crops, and Urban Food Systems. Pre-Applications are due **April 19, 2019** at 5:00 PM ET. Submitting a pre-application is required to submit a full application.

**USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)** has announced deadlines for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI). Eligibility: 1862, 1890 and 1994 land-grant institutions; for-profit organizations other than small businesses; private and state controlled institutions of higher ed, and state agricultural experiment stations. Request for Applications (RFA) deadlines: FY 2019: **May 2, 2019**; FY 2020: January 23, 2020.

**Belmont Forum and Future Earth** have announced a new funding opportunity: Climate, Environment and Health for transdisciplinary research to improve understanding of the pathways between climate, environment and health to protect and promote human health and well-being in the face of climate challenges. Expression of interest due **6 May**. Also see other opportunities: proposals due **10 June** for the Disaster Risk, Reduction and Resilience program, and **14 June** for the Resilience in Rapidly Changing Arctic Systems.

**Joint Fire Science Program** has announced a Funding Opportunity for Reducing damages and losses to valued resources from wildfire, Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) and Effectiveness of fuel breaks and fuel break systems. Applications due **16 May**.

**Western SARE Research & Education Grants due May 28, 2019 Noon MDT.** Grants involve scientists, producers, and others using interdisciplinary approaches to address issues related to sustaining agriculture. Following a technical review the best pre-proposals will be asked to submit full proposals, due in November 2019.

## Tribal Climate Resilience Internships

Two paid Tribal Climate Resilience Internships are available through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Pathways Program for Native American undergraduate and Master's students. These are excellent opportunities to support Tribal Resilience initiatives, while gaining valuable work and educational experiences. One position is located in Corvallis, Oregon, and another is in Eugene, Oregon. Completion of the internship program gives the interns federal hiring preference in their future job searches. Deadline: April 5, 2019.

## Information

**Livestock Producers Impacted by Extreme Winter Weather Can Sign-Up for USDA Livestock Indemnity Program Compensation.** Producers that have suffered losses are encouraged to contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) **immediately** to report your losses and begin the application process—there is a **30 day window on reporting losses due to extreme weather/natural disaster**.

Highlights from the **Fourth Oregon Climate Assessment** are noted in the March Issue of The Climate CIRculator

**The Northwest Climate Toolbox Workbook**, a step-by-step guide on how to use the Northwest Climate Toolbox has been released. A summary of the workbook is given in March Issue of the Climate CIRculator

USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) has launched a new website for **Pests and Disease**. This new page lists all pest and disease programs managed by APHIS as part of its mission to protect American agriculture and natural resources.

USDA launches a new website for **Youth and Agriculture** to connect young people and youth-serving organizations with Department-wide resources that engage, empower, and educate the next generation of agricultural leaders.

**Alaska Snow Survey Report** for March 2019 produced by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) summarizes snowpack conditions for basins in Alaska. Click here for past or future Alaska Snow Survey Reports

**Idaho Snow Survey Report** for March 2019 produced by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) summarizes snowpack conditions for basins in Idaho.

**Oregon Snow Survey Program** by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) summarizes snowpack conditions and water supply for basins in Oregon.

**Washington Snow Survey Program** by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) summarizes snowpack conditions and water supply for basins in Washington.

## USDA Climate Hub National Lead

National leadership of the USDA Climate Hubs rotates among the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in order to support this interagency initiative. In 2019, ARS takes over leadership of the Climate Hubs after two years of leadership from NRCS. Rachel Steele is the new National Lead for the USDA Climate Hubs with a two-year appointment with ARS. For the last 4.5 years Rachel Steele has served as the National Coordinator for the Climate Hubs. Rachel Steele will continue to work with many USDA agencies including ARS, NRCS, Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, Rural Development, and the Office of the Chief Economist—to ensure the USDA Climate Hub network reaches its full potential. You can email Rachel Steele at [Rachel.Steele@usda.gov](mailto:Rachel.Steele@usda.gov)

## Webinars

Northwest Fire Science Consortium is hosting Paul Hessburg with the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station who will talk about, 'Wildfires and Inland Mountain Forests: Is Nonforest Vital to Forest Resilience?' on 2 April 1-2 pm PT. Click on text to register.

Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy is hosting a webinar: April 2019 National Weather Service Alaska Climate Outlook Briefing by Rick Thoman 19 April 12 pm AKDT

Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy is hosting a webinar: Alaska River Break-up: 2019 Spring Outlook - What can we expect? 23 April 10 am AKDT

Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System, Drought and Climate Outlook webinar series 22 April 2019 11am-12pm PT. Webinar includes a Drought Recap, Current Conditions, Seasonal Outlook, and special topic speaker Kyle Hogrefe to discuss rangeland monitoring. Click on text to go to registration page for this webinar.

Northwest Fire Science Consortium is hosting Rick Stratton with the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station who will give a Pacific Northwest Risk Assessment Update on April 24 from 10-11 am PST, *Save the date!*

## Workshop

**Southeast Alaska Drought Workshop:** Less rain, warmer temperatures, transitioning from a 'snow to rain dominated system'. The Northwest Climate Hub and the National Drought Mitigation Center will be hosting an interdisciplinary discussion with scientists, land managers, Tribal Corporation and Associations, community members, city and state officials to take an inclusive approach to defining drought in southeast Alaska, a temperate rain forest. The workshop will be held in **Juneau, Alaska on 7 May, 8 am - 5 pm**. Click this box to let us you plan on attending in-person or virtually.

## Conferences

**Oregon Grazingland Soil Health Tour** on 13-17 May. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is hosting a three-day field tour of soil health on Oregon's grazinglands. Each day they will meet with ranchers who are shifting the management paradigm and discovering the benefits healthy soil has for their forage, animals, and community.

**2019 North American Agroforestry Conference 24-27 June Corvallis, OR.** *Agroforestry for Sustainable Production + Resilient Landscapes* hosted by Oregon State University as well as the 16th biennial conference for the Association for Temperate Agroforestry. Early Registration open until April 30, 2019 with regular registration beginning on 1 May 2019.

**2019 Tribes and First Nations Climate Change Summit 30-21 July 2019**  
The Summit will take place at the Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights, Washington. This summit will convene leaders from Tribes and First Nations throughout the Pacific Northwest and North America to advance tribal climate change policy and action. The summit will focus on topics such as tribal climate change resiliency, protecting and applying Traditional Knowledge in climate change initiatives, and implementing a unified tribal climate change policy agenda. The Summit will include a tour of the Spokane Tribal Housing Program solar project. The Summit will be hosted by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and co-sponsored by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC), Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network, and others. Additional information will be announced on ATNI's Climate Change website.

## New USDA.GOV email addresses coming in APRIL 2019

As a part of the OneUSDA initiative all USDA employees including the Forest Service will have new email addresses that end with @usda.gov. Currently, we are in a transition period so both @fs.fed.us and @usda.gov email addresses will work. Starting in April 2019, you will receive emails only from @usda.gov rather than @fs.fed.us. You can start using these email addresses **now** to contact us:

- Katherine Smith, Acting Director [katherine.l.smith@usda.gov](mailto:katherine.l.smith@usda.gov)
- Holly Prendeville, Coordinator [holly.prendeville@usda.gov](mailto:holly.prendeville@usda.gov)
- Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, Fellow [gabrielle.roeschmcnally@usda.gov](mailto:gabrielle.roeschmcnally@usda.gov)



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