



Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

The wet season in the Northwest has begun, and recent precipitation has resulted in some improvements in drought conditions. Much of western Washington has received sufficient rains to improve drought conditions by one category. Currently, 25% of the state is experiencing normal conditions, though the majority of Washington is still experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions. Since last month, Oregon has received enough rain to make minor improvements in drought conditions. Extreme drought (D4-red) has been removed from portions of Douglas and Lane counties. Drought conditions in Idaho have not improved since last month.

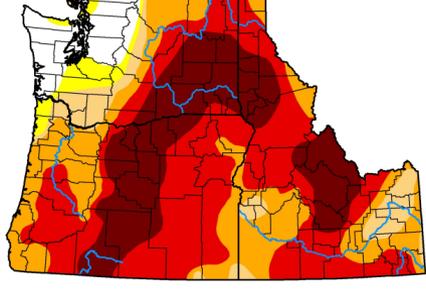
Alaska continues to experience at or above normal precipitation in the state.

Projections on NOAA's current drought reduction tool show the percent of normal precipitation needed to end drought conditions in six months.

NIDIS Historical drought map
CoCoRHaS: Community Rain Hail Snow Network
U.S. Drought Monitor
Drought Conditions & Impacts Reporter

U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Northwest Climate Hub

October 19, 2021
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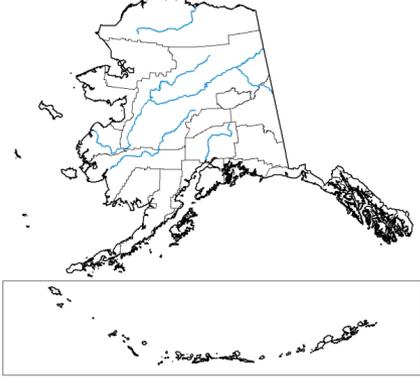
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	72.19	0.98	2.05	6.75	10.74	7.29
Last Week 10-12-2021	72.18	0.99	2.00	6.80	10.60	7.44
3 Months Ago 07-20-2021	49.64	17.26	9.46	9.15	9.16	5.34
Start of Calendar Year 1-1-2020	73.72	12.89	4.23	5.64	3.53	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	70.14	2.19	2.80	6.33	10.70	7.83
One Year Ago 10-20-2020	66.11	18.72	5.42	4.72	5.03	0.00

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

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:
Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



USDA Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Initiative: Request for Public Input

USDA is committed to partnering with agriculture, forestry, and rural communities to develop climate solutions that strengthen rural America. The USDA has a new initiative to finance the deployment of climate-smart farming and forestry practices to aid in the marketing of climate-smart agricultural commodities. Guided by science, USDA will support a set of pilot projects that provide incentives to implement climate-smart conservation practices on working lands and to quantify and monitor the carbon and greenhouse gas benefits associated with those practices. The Department published a Request for Information seeking public comment and input on the design of the new initiative. [Click here to go to the announcement.](#)

Comments may be provided on or before 11:59 pm ET on **1 November** via the Federal Register, Docket ID: USDA-2021-0010. Feedback will be used to inform design of the new Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Initiative. [Click here to go to the Federal Register.](#)

Conferences, Trainings, and Meetings

Train the Trainer Program for Oregon Agricultural Professionals: A Climate Resilience Toolbox for Working with Oregon's Farmers and Ranchers, 2-4 November. Virtual sessions will be held from 10 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 3 pm PT each day. This training will advance your knowledge of farm-based solutions for climate resilience to reduce risks from extreme weather events, store more carbon, and work for a farmer's bottom line. The goal of the training is to create a community of practice dedicated to supporting, improving, and better understanding farming for climate resilience in Oregon. For more information and to register, [click here.](#)

Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, 15-19 November. This conference has been a vital networking space for Tribal environmental professionals from across the state to learn from one another, connect with support organizations and agencies, and discover resources to help assist in efforts to improve local environmental health. The conference will include presentations and discussion on climate change, resilience, human health, air quality, hazardous waste, and more. Registration is open for this virtual event.

Oregon-Washington Water Year Meeting, 16-17 November, 9 am -12:30 pm PT. This virtual meeting will recap the 2021 water year and provide an outlook for the 2022 water year. The goal of this meeting is to share and gather information regarding climate impacts on the 2021 water year, with a focus on the exceptional drought that was widespread across the region. This meeting will also offer the opportunity to learn from others about mitigation actions that were taken. Both days will include time for discussion and peer-to-peer learning, in addition to hearing from the forecast experts.

Annual Idaho Fall Water Supply Outlook Meeting, 19 November. This meeting will recap the water supply from the previous water year and provide climate and water supply outlook information for the coming water year. This year the event will be held on a virtual platform from 9 am-1:30 pm MT.

Information

2021 Water Year Impacts Survey for the Northwest aims to gather information about impacts and actions taken to prepare for or respond to abnormally dry or wet conditions that occurred during the 2021 water year (1 Oct 2020 – 30 Sept 2021). This information will inform the Northwest water year impacts assessment developed by the Climate Impacts Group and Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System.

Reducing Fuels and Advancing Equity: Incorporating Environmental Justice Into Hazardous Fuels Management is a recent Science Findings from the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station. This paper summarizes a new method to assess the distribution of benefits to local populations created by 10 years of fuels management on 12 national forests in the western United States.

Wildfire Is Transforming Alaska and Amplifying Climate Change is a recent article in Scientific America describing how wildfires are altering ecosystems in Alaska and amplifying climate change.

Resources for Navigating the Confluence of Drought and Wildfire is a recent article from AgClimate Network that describes some resources to help navigate the related issues of drought and wildfire.

Will I Be Able to Get Fries With That? A New Approach for Answering Life's Big Questions About the Future of Food. This article summarizes research on how climate change may impact fruit and vegetable supply chains. Applying a new approach to evaluating the whole supply chain of potatoes and tomatoes, it was found that the production and supply of french fries and pasta sauce will likely be resilient to the impacts of climate change, through a combination of changes in practices, some positive impacts on yields, and potential to shift to new production areas. This article is from the AgClimate Network Climate Friendly Fruit & Veggies series.

Webinars

October 2021 National Weather Service Alaska Climate Outlook Briefing, 22 October 2021, 12-1 pm AKDT. Rick Thoman, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, will review recent climate conditions around Alaska, highlight some forecast tools and finish up the Climate Prediction Center's forecast for November and the early winter season. Join the gathering online to learn more about Alaska climate and weather.

19 November, 12-1pm AKT, The November briefing

SCIENCEx Climate Change, Connecting Research with the Nation's Forests and Grassland Managers, 25-29 October, 11am-12pm PT. These webinars are primarily natural resource management focused, but with applicability for other sectors. SCIENCEx webinars are typically organized as week-long webinar 'blitzes' around salient topics, allowing for deep-dives into topics or dynamics within specific geographies.

- 25 October 11am-12pm PT,** Assessing our Future Forests
- 26 October 11am-12pm PT,** Adapting to Future Conditions
- 27 October 11am-12pm PT,** Modeling Tools for Management
- 28 October 11am-12pm PT,** Management and Planning Tools
- 29 October 11am-12pm PT,** Shifting Life

Indige-FEWSS Native Voices in STEM is a webinar series of Native scientists, engineers, activists, community members, and leaders to share their personal and professional journeys, providing inspiration to the next generation of change makers. Recordings will be available here.

15 November 3-4 pm MT, Amplifying Indigenous Voices in Invasive Species and Forest Adaptation Management, Dr. Danielle Ignace (Coeur d'Alene)

Towards a Durable Understanding of Soil Carbon as a Tool for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation is a webinar series hosted by the International Soil Carbon Network to advance critical questions in soil carbon sequestration technology. Past webinar recordings are available for viewing.

30 Nov, 12-1 pm PT, How much C sequestration can organic amendments achieve?

Funding Opportunities

FY 2022 Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Grant Program, announced by the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition, is "intended to support high impact projects that promote collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes, leverage public and private resources, and advance priorities identified in a State Forest Action Plan or other restoration strategy." **Proposals are due 29 October by 4 pm PT.**

National Environmental Education Foundation - Greening STEM Grants. The Greening STEM approach is to make environmental issues more relevant and accessible for both educators and learners. Greening STEM promotes partnerships where formal and informal educators gain experience and confidence by collaborating to design, develop, and co-deliver standards-based STEM learning activities. Click here to view videos, resources, and specifics for the funding opportunities, which are for \$5,000-\$10,000 to support STEM learning and strategies to assist schools in implementing outdoor education with either Bureau of Land Management or United States Forest Service focus. **Proposals are due 31 October.**

Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & 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. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy-efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. Increasing energy efficiency and developing more renewable-energy systems is cost effective and reduces the consumption of fuels that generate greenhouse gases, which contribute to climate change. Applications can be for grants of \$20,000 or less or a loan/grant combination of \$20,000 or less. **Applications due by 1 November 2021 or 31 March 2022.**

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) currently has five funding opportunities:

- Farmer/Rancher:** With the support and guidance of a technical advisor, farmers and ranchers will integrate research and education to conduct on-site/on-farm experiments to improve production, marketing, and the environment. **Proposals due 1 November 2021.**
- Professional + Producer:** This grant program involves agricultural professionals, in collaboration with producers, implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. **Proposals due 3 November 2021.**
- Professional Development:** This grant program focuses on training agricultural professionals to help them spread knowledge about sustainable agriculture concepts and practices. **Proposals due 10 November 2021.**
- Research to Grassroots:** These projects take research results from previously funded SARE projects and bring those results into the field through education to agricultural professionals and producers. **Proposals due 17 November 2021.**
- Sabbatical Research and Education:** These grants provide an opportunity for faculty around the world to partner with farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, and researchers of the Western U.S. region for conducting research, education, and extension activities. Projects focused on unexplored topics in underserved communities and understudied geographic locations are of special interest. **Proposals due 18 November.**

Wood Innovations Funding Program and Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program from the US Forest Service. Wood is a renewable source of energy, and it can store carbon in building materials. These two grant opportunities aim to support forest health and stimulate local economies by expanding renewable wood energy use and innovative wood products manufacturing capacity. Submit your application by **19 January 2022, 5 pm** local time to your local Forest Service Regional Coordinator. See 'Request for Proposals and Instructions' for each grant opportunity for more information.

An informational pre-application webinar will be held on **9 November 9 at 2 pm EST / 11 am PT** to provide information and answer questions. [Webinar link usfs.adobeconnect.com/wood-innovations/](https://webinar.usfs.adobeconnect.com/wood-innovations/). For audio, dial in by phone: 888-844-9904; use access code 9780832.

FY 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Notices of Funding Opportunities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released notice of their Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants for BRIC and FMA. Click here to find detailed program information and other grant application and administration requirements. **The application period will close at 3 pm ET on 28 January 2022.**

2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance Webinar Series

Click here to sign up for the Northwest Climate Hub email distribution list.

To unsubscribe email holly.prendeville@usda.gov