



Oregon



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Lead Representative

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Monitoring Team

- National Weather Service (NWS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Northwest River Forecast Center
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Oregon Climate Service

USDM Recommendation Process

- Every Monday or Tuesday morning, the state climatologist shares suggested changes to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) draft map with the volunteer drought advisory committee. Some committee members will comment on the state of Oregon as a whole. Others may comment on specific areas of Oregon.
- This prompts an email discussion to determine how to best represent drought across Oregon for that week.
- Most weeks, the state climatologist is the primary individual to report to the weekly USDM author. However, an Oregon NWS employee may report separately on occasion. Sometimes the Oregon Climate Services representative asks for a volunteer from the drought advisory committee to fill in.
- Oregon frequently communicates with Washington and Idaho, in addition to northern California. This coordination most frequently occurs through the NWS Weather Forecasting Offices, which often forecast for areas across state borders.

Drought Impacts

- Water supply/reservoirs
- Dryland and rain-fed agriculture
- Well levels (irrigation and domestic water supply)
- Cultural impacts
- Recreation
- Ecological impacts (fish, birds, and riparian areas)
- Wildfire risk
- Stream water quality and well water (toxins, heavy metals, etc.)
- Hydropower

Drought Characteristics

- While Oregon is known for its high-precipitation coastal rainforests, it is mostly composed of semiarid and high desert landscapes in eastern Oregon.
- Oregon also has well-defined wet seasons in the fall and winter.

Monitoring Challenges

Because the state has a unique mix of rain- and snow-dominated watersheds, drought assessment must be monitored and approached in a way that best captures their unique hydrological processes.