

Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

Alaska continued to receive rain this month, alleviating drought conditions near the Yukon flats where abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) receded completely since last month. Similarly, the abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) on the Aleutian Islands have receded somewhat due to mid-month above average rainfall. Drought conditions for southcentral Alaska have improved, with extreme drought conditions around Anchorage reduced to moderate drought (D2-orange). After more than 8 inches of rainfall over the last two weeks, much of the Kenai Peninsula improved to moderate drought (D1-tan). Kodiak Island and surrounding areas remain in moderate drought (D1-tan).

Rain has also returned to Oregon and Washington. As a result, much of western Oregon is no longer in drought. Abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) remain in parts of Jackson and Klamath counties in the southwest. In northwestern Oregon, conditions have improved to mostly abnormally dry status, with the exception of the central Willamette Valley where moderate drought persists (D1-tan). Areas experiencing severe drought (D2-orange) along Washington's coast, including most of the Olympic Peninsula, have been reduced to moderate drought (D1-tan) and abnormally dry (D0-yellow) designations. Conditions in the Idaho Panhandle remain the same, with abnormally dry (D0-yellow) and moderate drought (D1-tan) conditions. Rain in southeastern Idaho has alleviated abnormally dry conditions.

Weekly drought maps are published every Thursday, click on the U.S. Drought Monitor link below to view the latest map. Many sources of information inform drought maps, including reports from the public. Click on each icon below to get information about the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), to submit data via the CoCoRHaS network, or to report drought impacts.



U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Northwest Climate Hub

September 24, 2019
(Released Thursday, Sep. 26, 2019)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	81.45	10.28	6.41	1.24	0.61	0.00
Last Week 09-17-2019	75.69	12.45	7.75	3.06	1.05	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-25-2019	81.98	10.10	5.09	2.23	0.61	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 09-25-2018	67.14	12.24	6.76	10.17	3.69	0.00

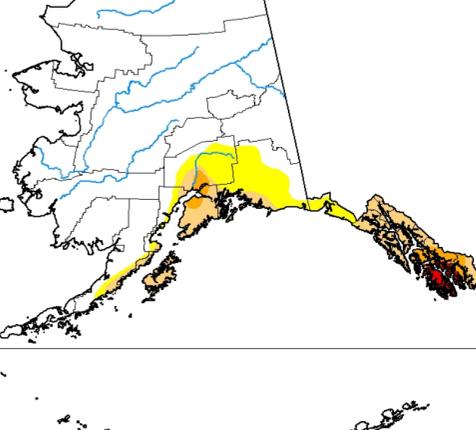
Intensity:
None, D0 Abnormally Dry, D1 Moderate Drought, D2 Severe Drought, D3 Extreme Drought, D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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Improving SE Alaska Drought Metrics *Information Request*

The Northwest Climate Hub requests your help to improve drought metrics for Southeast Alaska. This is an ongoing, collaborative effort to have drought metrics better reflect the region. Click here for details and contact information.

Newsletters Available on our Website



Conferences & Workshops

- 12th Annual CONNECT Conference, submit a session proposal due 30 September 2019.** The Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN), in collaboration with the Oregon Conservation Partnership, are hosting this conference on 14-16 April 2020 in Sunriver, Oregon. This year's theme is "changing climate."
- Fire Protection and Prevention for Home and Property on 5 October in Silverton, OR.** University Extension and partners will engage participants on effective practices for minimizing risks and impacts of fire to homes or property. [Click here for registration details.](#)
- 2019 Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System (PNW-DEWS) Annual Workshop is on 8 October 2019 Portland, Oregon.** This half-day event will be held in conjunction with the Northwest Climate Conference (see below), with goal of improving drought early warning, planning, preparedness, response, and mitigation for the region. [Click here to register.](#)
- 10th Annual Northwest Climate Conference 8-10 October 2019 Portland, Oregon.** This conference provides a unique opportunity to learn from and connect with a diverse community of experts fostering a more climate resilient Northwest. The event brings together practitioners, scientists, tribal communities, and decision-makers to share knowledge, ideas, and best practices related to climate change science, impacts, and adaptation in the Pacific Northwest. Topics include drought, wildfire, extreme events, coastal flooding, human and ecosystem health, and resiliency planning.
- Science, Policy, and Perspectives: Collaborating in the Owyhees,** University of Idaho's Rangeland Center's 10th annual Rangeland Fall Forum on **10 October in Marsing, Idaho.** This one-day event will highlight collaborative land management and science-based solutions for the range. [Click here for field trip, agenda, and registration details.](#)
- Rangeland Management Challenges in a Dynamic Climate 28 October.** The Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation & USDA Agricultural Research Service - Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center are co-hosting an evening of discussion on the influence of weather and climate on rangeland restoration, juniper management, wildfire, and grazing. Burns, Oregon Central Hotel 6-9 pm PT. Contact Jason Kesling (jason@urstrf.org) for more information. Registration is [free.](#)
- Oregon/Washington Water Year 2019 Recap and 2020 Outlook 5 November Portland, Oregon.** This is a one-day workshop to debrief over the last water year (1 Oct 2018 - 30 Sept 2019) and discuss the forecast, with the goal of identifying vulnerabilities and opportunities to build resilience. Hydropower and water utilities are encouraged to attend. [Click here to register.](#)
- Intermountain Native Plant Summit IX 5-6 November Boise, ID** at the Boise State Student Union. At the summit there will be presentations on native plant restoration, genetics and adaptation on native plants, producing native seed for restoration and more. Registration is [free.](#) To get more information or register email thomas.jones@usda.gov
- The Northwest Natural Resources Group** is hosting a series of training workshops on climate change adaptation strategies for Pacific Northwest forests. These trainings are created for land managers and professional foresters. Topics covered focus on the impacts of climate change to forests and adaptive management approaches for Western Oregon and Washington. [Click here for more information or register for each event below.](#)
16 November Everett, WA [click here to register](#)
14 November Olympia, WA [click here to register](#)
5 December Salem, OR [click here to register](#)
- The Washington Environmental Council's 2019 Carbon Friendly Forestry Conference 12 November SeaTac, Washington.** Featured topics include the roles of climate-smart forests and forest products as natural climate solutions in mitigating and adapting to climate change. **Early registration ends 30 September 2019.**

Webinars

- Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center Fall 2019 Webinar Series: Amplifying Actionable Science Through Intentional, Integrated and Creative Communications.** Click on the details below to register.
1 October 11 am PT | Communication as an Essential Ingredient for Actionable Science: Key Concepts, Practical Strategies and Innovative Examples from the Northwest with Meade Krosby
5 November 11 am PT | Better Stories, Bigger Impact: How Scientists Can Engage Effectively with the Media to Share Their Science with Julia Rosen
3 December 11 am PT | What Can Successful Communication Look Like in Actionable Science? Examples from the Climate Adaptation Science Centers with presenters from across the CASCs
- Pacific Northwest Drought & Climate Outlook 28 October 11 am - 12 pm PT.** This webinar is part of a series of regular drought and climate outlook updates that provide timely information on drought status and impacts, as well as current and developing climatic events (i.e. El Niño and La Niña) for OR, WA, ID, & MT. [Click here to register.](#)
- AK** **National 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.
18 October -click to register **22 November** -click to register **20 December** -click to register
- SE AK** **Did Southeast Alaska drought conditions improve or worsen during the summer of 2019 and what will autumn/winter bring?** Click here to find a recorded recap of drought conditions in southeast Alaska, along with a climate outlook for the region and an update from the May drought workshop.
- Climate tools for specialty crop growers in the Northwest.** Learn about two tools available in the Northwest Climate Toolbox that can assist growers of specialty crops, specifically: almonds, apples, blueberries, cherries, with future location and management decisions.
- Cover Crops: Watching Grass Grow,** a webinar focusing on barriers to winter cover cropping for specialty crops in Washington. Topics include cost-benefit analysis and soil management practices. [Click on this text to watch the recording.](#)
- Recordings of the **advanced applied remote sensing webinar series** focused on agriculture and drought applications of SAR and Google Earth Engine (available in Spanish and English). [Click on this text to watch the recordings.](#)

Funding opportunities

- Native American Agricultural Fund,** request for proposals with outcome based projects achieving some of the following goals improved success for Native farmers and ranchers, knowledge on key issues relevant to their success, access to credit, food systems in Indian Country, delivery of services, **food sovereignty** within Native communities, access to new or existing markets that will improve agricultural economies and general economies, number of Native professionals involved in the agricultural sciences & serving Native agriculture, and number of Native youth prepared for careers in agriculture & food areas & to successfully transition to the next generation.
Applications due 30 September 2019 11:59pm CDT.
- Ecotrust Indigenous Fellowship-** American Indian and Alaska Native community members are invited to apply for the 2019-2020 Ecotrust Indigenous Fellowship Program. This is a six month position focused on landscape scale watershed planning using GIS and other techniques.
Applications due 4 October 2019
- Ecotrust Ag of the Middle Accelerator-** Independent farmers, ranchers and fishermen based in Northern California (north of Sacramento), Oregon, Washington, or Alaska are invited to apply for this two-year business development program in accounting and finance, taxation, credit, and sales and marketing. **Applications due 7 October 2019**
- USDA Forest Service - Landscape Scale Restoration** request for applications to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and future priorities identified in the State's Forest Action Plans. Eligible applicants include: city, township, county, special district or state governments, independent school districts, Native American tribal governments and organizations, public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, nonprofits, public & state controlled institutions of higher education, and private institutions of higher education. **Applications due 11 October 2019.**
- The WaterSMART Drought Response Program** will assist community drought resiliency projects. Eligible applicants include states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the western United States or U.S. territories, including Alaska and Hawaii. **Applications for 2020 projects are due 14 October 2019.**
- USDA Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)** request for applications to support research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems. **Applications due 15 October 2019.**
- NOAA Climate Program Office (CPO)** supports competitive research through three major program areas: Earth System Science and Modeling (ESSM); Climate and Societal Interactions (CSI); and Communication, Education and Engagement (CEE). Through this announcement, CPO is seeking applications for **10 individual competitions in FY20.** Check each individual competition for more information. **Applications due 28 October 2019.**
Competition 9: NIDIS: Coping with Drought, [click here for details](#)
- NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (CRPP)** seeks applications to partner in efforts to invest in innovative solutions to on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource conservation challenges. The CRPP program now has \$300,000 annually to divide between state or multi-state level applicants, and eligible producers and landowners in Critical Conservation Areas. [Click here to learn more about other changes to the program, along with eligibility and application details.](#)
Applications due 5 December 2019.
- USDA Forest Service - The Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program** requests applications to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest lands. The purpose of the program is to establish community forests. Local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply. **Applications due 6 January 2020.**

Time-Lapse Video of Five Years of Glacier Recession

Glaciers are shrinking at unprecedented rates throughout the world, with repercussions to the temperature and volume of seasonal runoff. Footage of the Mendenhall Glacier receding over a five-year period via a time lapse video from Juneau, Alaska provided by the Extreme Ice Survey.

Information

- The University of Alaska Fairbanks International Arctic Research Center** released "Alaska's Changing Environment," a strongly visual publication of observations of the physical and biological changes occurring in and around Alaska. The document will be updated every three years and is designed for a general audience.
- Wildland Fire Potential Map** for October 2019 indicates that NORMAL wildland fire potential exists for the entire Northwest Climate Hub region (based on 1 September prediction map from the National Interagency Fire Center).
- This Summer - A Welcome Reprieve,** article in the Climate CIRCulator that discusses how this summer's cooler weather may have contributed to a less severe fire season, and highlights a new metric available on Climate mapper that may improve seasonal fire danger assessment.
- New severity fire index** developed by Forest Service researchers. Read more about this forecasting metric that may contribute to protecting firefighters and communities in this open access article in the journal Fire.
- Fish and Fire: Habitat and History in the Pacific Northwest.** Watch this video by the Northwest Fire Science Consortium to learn more about how regional scientists are connecting fire and aquatic ecosystem dynamics.
- Agriculture Climate Network- Soil Health in Potato Production,** article by Karen Hills that highlights soil health improvements from tillage reduction and co-benefits, such as erosion reduction and carbon sequestration.
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture adopts a climate resiliency policy.** The agriculture and food industries rally around building supply chain resiliency and a commitment to stewardship. [Click here for details and a link to the resiliency policy.](#)
- The big picture: New perspectives on rocky landscapes,** Science you can use in 5 min article highlighting researchers at the Resting Mountain Research Station who have developed a tool that enables land managers to quickly and easily classify landscapes. The GIS-based system combines aerial photography and satellite data, field plot data, and spatial analysis software at a one-square-meter resolution.
- A Tale of Two Thinnings,** an article by the Northwest Natural Resources Group highlighting two family-owned forests in the Pacific Northwest that are applying thinning practices to improve forest health. Read about their challenges and strategies here.
- Shorter ski seasons, worsening wildfires: How climate change will hit outdoor recreation in the Pacific Northwest,** article in the Seattle Times features research from the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group that conveys expected impacts of snow loss and wildfire on regional outdoor recreation in the Pacific Northwest.
- Call for input by the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis** on policy recommendations on a range of topics, including: agriculture, forestry, climate information support, resilience and adaptation. Input due 22 November 2019 to ClimateCrisisRF@mail.house.gov. [Click for details.](#)

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