



# Washington



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## Lead Representative

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## Monitoring Team

National Weather Service (NWS)  
Weather Forecasting Offices  
(Washington and Oregon)

## USDM Recommendation Process

- The Washington drought monitoring group meets virtually once a month to discuss the state U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) recommendation. For the remaining three weeks each month, the group coordinates via email on Mondays and Tuesdays to form the state drought recommendation.
- The OWSC is usually the lead representative for the monitoring group.
- Each week, the OWSC sends out an initial map to the group, which prompts discussion on how to best characterize drought in Washington.
- Most consistently, Washington coordinates with Oregon on USDM-specific monitoring, particularly via the NWS. The Spokane NWS also contributes to the Idaho drought monitoring team.
- More recently, Washington has begun to coordinate with British Columbia by attending monthly Canadian Drought Monitor calls.

## Drought Characteristics

Washington's primary drought-related concerns include snowpack and precipitation, followed by streams, soil moisture, and summer temperatures.

## Drought Impacts

- Water supply
- Agriculture (irrigated and dryland)
- Ecological (fish and forests)
- Water quality
- Recreation
- Wildfire
- Hydropower

## Monitoring Challenges

- Because the monitoring team primarily includes hydrologists, Washington's monitoring efforts tend to focus on hydrological and meteorological drought. The State Climatologist's Office would like their drought monitoring efforts to better capture ecological drought and drought impacts.
- The State Climatologist's Office would also like to continue to improve and expand Washington's communication and coordination with neighboring states.