



Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

A persistent high pressure system over the eastern Pacific Ocean contributed to storms dousing the Northwest with rain and snow over the last month. As a result, abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) receded west of the Coast Range and in the southeast, but otherwise remain widespread. Moderate drought (D1-tan) conditions persist throughout much of the center of the state and moderate drought (D1-tan) developed in the southcentral region.

In Washington, abnormally dry (D0-yellow) and moderate drought conditions (D1-tan) conditions remain mostly along the East Cascades in the middle of the state, while the far eastern and western portions of the state are considered drought-free



Moderate drought (D1-tan) conditions remain in central Idaho and severe drought (D2-orange) has developed in the Big Wood, Little Wood, and Lost River basins. Abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) persist throughout the center of the state.

Recent precipitation has alleviated dry conditions in southcentral Alaska. In southeast Alaska, the entirety of the panhandle remains abnormally dry (D0-yellow).

Drought maps are published every Thursday. Click on the U.S. Drought Monitor link below to view the latest map. 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 and observations.

NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM (NIDIS) | **Drought.gov** U.S. Drought Portal | CoCoRHAS Community Rain Hail Snow Network | **Drought Conditions & Impacts Reporter** | U.S. Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Northwest Climate Hub

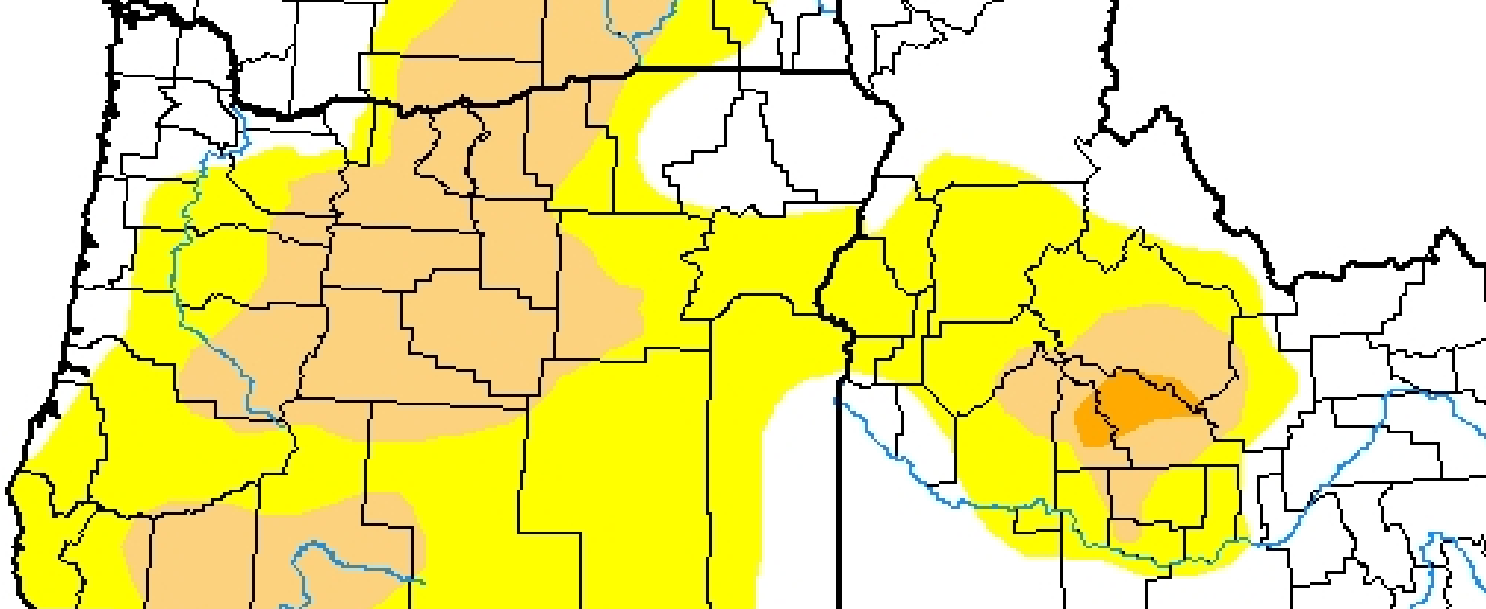
February 25, 2020

(Released Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	79.70	14.11	6.03	0.16	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-18-2020	78.61	16.21	5.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-26-2019	84.86	14.56	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	70.58	22.31	7.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	88.75	7.34	2.51	0.79	0.61	0.00
One Year Ago 02-26-2019	75.55	12.67	6.75	5.03	0.00	0.00



Intensity

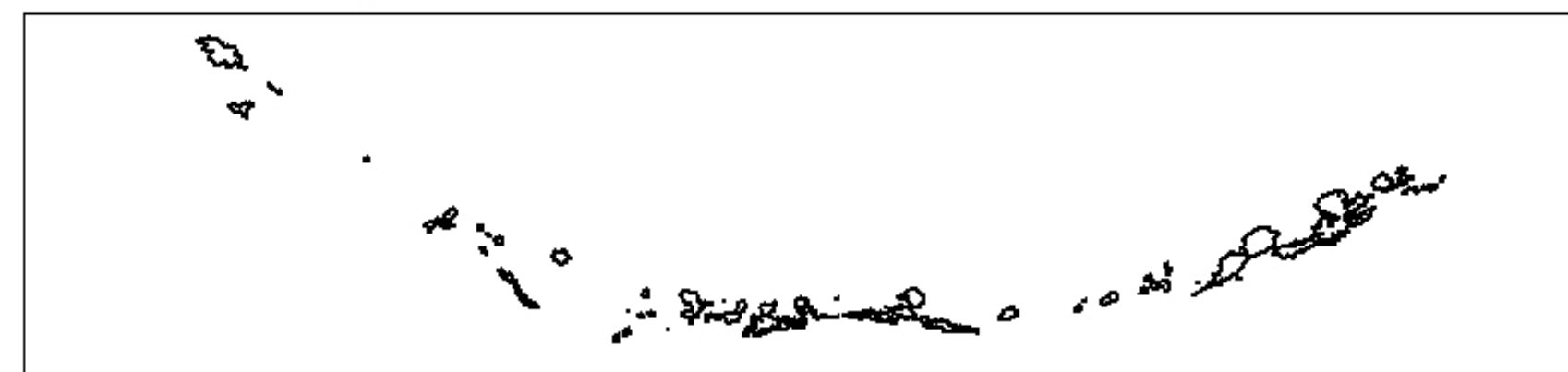
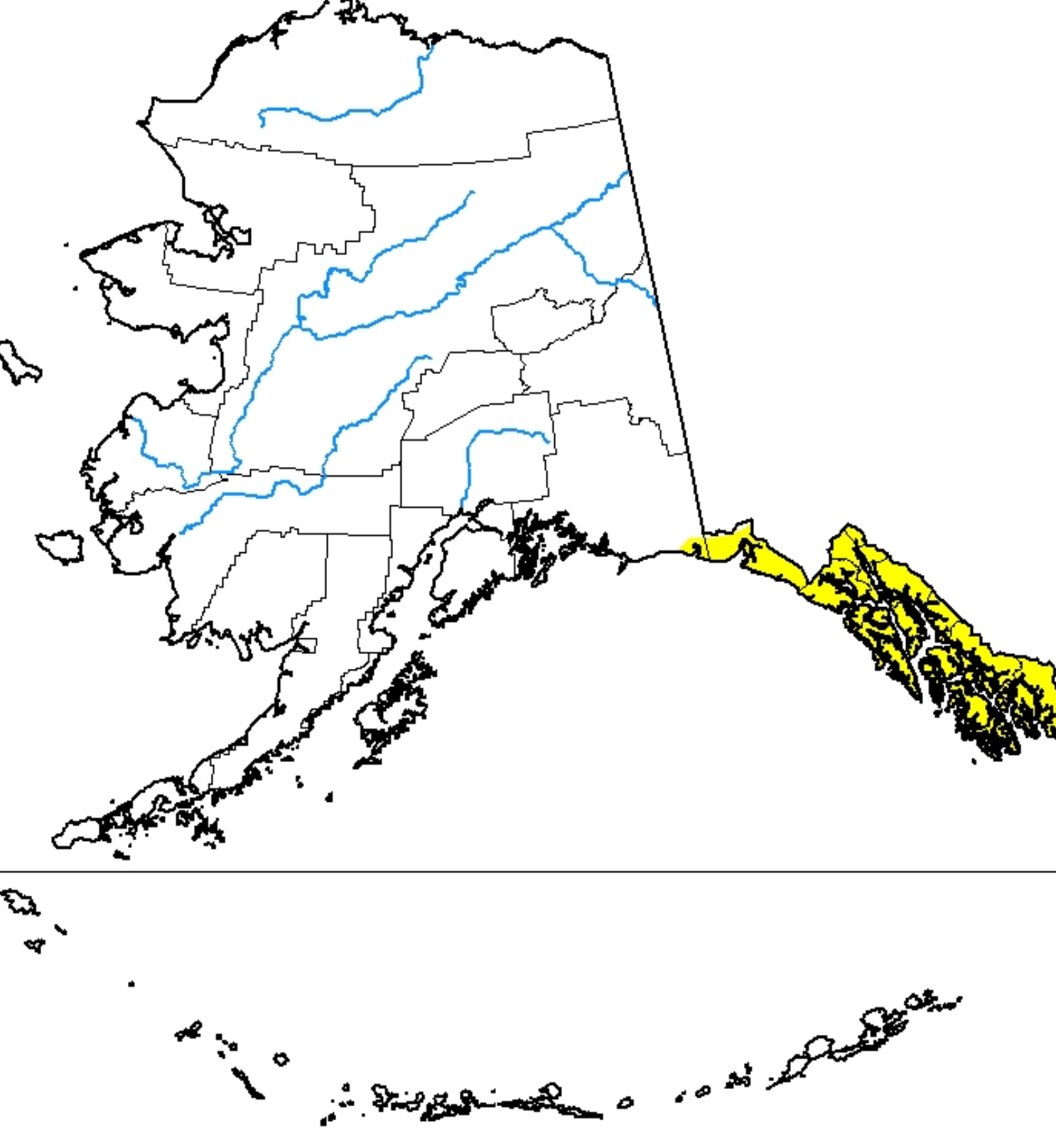
None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Webinars

Adapting to Human Health Impacts of Climate Change, a series of [free, online trainings](#) available through the Tribal Climate Health Project. Interactive trainings are held on the third Tuesday each month at 10:00-11:30 (PST) from January-August 2020. Trainings will provide steps, tools, templates, case studies, and other resources to help attendees and their communities build adaptation strategies. The trainings will be recorded and available online.

Pacific Northwest Drought & Climate Outlook 27 April 2020 11am PST. The Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System hosts a series of region-specific, drought and climate outlook webinars to provide timely information on current drought status and impacts, a preview of current and developing climatic events, and special topics.

Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Briefing 5 March. Monthly water supply briefings held January through late spring on the first Thursday of each month. Click here for details.

Tribal SCAN Network: Web Portal for Climate Station Data and Decision Tools 17 March 10am PST. Learn about a new website for the Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) and Tribal-SCAN that displays near real-time and historical weather station data. The website includes a decision support tool to aid land management, agriculture and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. The Tribal SCAN provides climate data such as soil moisture and temperature, air temperature, precipitation, and solar radiation to tribal nations around the U.S.

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 March -click to register

Funding opportunities

Tribal adaptation, Ocean & Coastal Management and Planning. Funding opportunities for tribal adaptation and resilience planning, including ocean and coastal management planning, relocation and managed retreat or protect-in-place planning and design activities are available. Support for workshops, training, and travel aims to facilitate preparation for extreme events and hazards that impact tribal treaty and trust resources, economies, infrastructure, and human health and welfare. **Applications are due 2 March 2020 5 pm AKT, 9 pm EST.**

Value Added Producer Grants from USDA Rural Development help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. As climates change, producers may need to grow new commodities or find new marketing opportunities. This program will assist producers in develop new opportunities. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. **Applications due 10 March 2020.**

A factsheet about Value Added Producer Grants

USDA Broadband ReConnect Program provides loans and grants to construct, improve, or acquire facilities and equipment to provide broadband service in rural areas. The program supports community resilience by assisting access to high-speed internet for homes, healthcare and public safety facilities, schools, farms, ranches, and more. **Applications due 16 March 2020.**

Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program by the USDA has resources available to promote education, mentoring, and technical assistance. Partnerships and collaborations led by or including nongovernmental, community-based organizations and school-based agricultural, educational organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training are encouraged to apply. **Applications due 19 March 2020.**

USDA Agriculture Innovation Center Grant Program makes grants to Agriculture Innovation Centers that then provide technical and business development assistance to agricultural producers seeking to engage in making or producing value-added agricultural products. **Applications due 20 March 2020.**

USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants are available to help rural communities to connect to each other using telecommunications to overcome the effects of remoteness and low population density. The program teleconnects teachers with students and medical service providers with patients, which can bolster adaptive capacity to climate change through education and improved health care access. **Applications due 10 April 2020.**

USDA Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program supports sustainable rural economies recovering from disaster through e-connectivity, technology, workforce training and other strategic innovations. Funds are available to communities with a Major Disaster Declaration from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. **Electronic applications due 30 April by 9pm PST. Paper applications due 5 May by 4pm local time.** Guidance is available if requested [before 27 April.](#)

Information

USDA Science Blueprint, a road-map for USDA science from 2020 to 2025. This document outlines the implementation of this mission with a blueprint that outlines five overarching Program Themes:

- Sustainable Ag Intensification
- Ag Climate adaptation
- Food and Nutrition Translation
- Value Added Innovations
- Ag Science Policy Leadership

New Resource on Cropland Soils' Capacity to Store Carbon Through Improved Management. This research summary examines carbon sequestration potential of cropland soils in the Pacific Northwest. It highlights strategies to increase soil organic carbon such as crop production increases, tillage, perennial crops, soil amendments, cover crops, crop rotation, reduced burning, and erosion reductions. Check out the summary at Agriculture Climate Network.

Read the full summary here.

New app to help Idaho ranchers with monitoring. To help ranchers participating in the Cooperative Photo Monitoring Program, this app was developed to identify trends in rangeland health using photos from the same site locations each year. A new feature in Survey123, called ISDA Enterprise Photo, allows users to capture a photo and data using their cell phone (even when out of service range). Check out this [MagicValley.com](#) article, which includes a video from BLM with a quick tutorial.

ISDA Rangeland Management Program Video

Tribes in Idaho are at the forefront of climate change adaptation planning for salmon. Efforts made by the Nez Perce Tribe in 2015 to treat the temperature-related fish kills in the Columbia, Snake, and Salmon rivers are discussed in an article from [Grist](#). This article highlights the unique capacity of tribes to make significant contributions to adaptation planning and notes ongoing efforts across the nation.

How Native American Communities Are Addressing Climate Change. Indigenous groups, including the Karuk and Yurok tribes of California and Oregon, discuss how to create adaptation plans and collaborate with agencies on adaptive management, climate science, and planning processes. This article from Science Friday also includes audio recording and an interactive map with links to adaptation plans created by indigenous groups.

Listen to a conversation on how indigenous and Native American communities are shaping adaptation planning, using traditional knowledges, and building capacity.

Vegeting wildfire, changing forests: the effects of climate change on fire regimes and climate impacts to forests in the Pacific Northwest, provides a synthesis of expected and overlapping climate impacts to forests like warmer and drier conditions, larger wildfires, droughts and insect outbreaks. It includes discussion of consequences to the future structure and composition of forested ecosystems and implications to adaptive management.

Check out photos, maps and research details via this [story map](#)

Climate change vulnerability and adaptation in south-central Oregon, a recent assessment of Deschutes, Fremont-Winema, and Ochoco National Forests, Crooked River National Grassland and Crater Lake National Park focused climate change vulnerability of water resources and infrastructure, fisheries and aquatic organisms, vegetation, wildlife, recreation, and ecosystem services. The report provides adaptation options to help mitigate consequences.

A comprehensive library of adaptation strategies gleaned from vulnerability assessments across the western US captures adaptation strategies and sources of peer-reviewed information provided by land managers and scientists.

Drought and Fish in the Willamette Valley, an article from the Climate Impacts Research Consortium explores multiple studies on water timing and availability throughout Oregon's Willamette Valley under several context-specific climate change scenarios. The article delves into the complex network of competing water users, with surprising results and implications to management of area reservoirs into the future.

The February Alaska Snow Survey Report from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service shows that recent snowfall has greatly improved snowpack across Alaska, particularly in west and southeast.

Alaska Garden Helper is a tool informed by farmers and gardeners that allows users to explore current and future, local growing conditions, including growing season length, annual minimum temperatures, growing degree days and cold hardiness. The tool can help guide decisions about crop selection for a particular community and allows growers to view the long-term picture of growing conditions in their area.

Tongass and Chugach National Forests Contribute 48 Million Salmon a Year, that's a quarter of the overall catch for Alaska originating from the largest and second largest national forests, respectively. Researchers at the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station quantified the number and value of Chinook, coho, sockeye, pink, and chum caught in commercial salmon management areas adjacent to the forests. Results from the study suggest strong ties between forest management practices and sustaining culturally and economically vital fisheries.

AK Alaska Climate Dispatch, May-October 2019, a summary of statewide temperatures for Alaska's 13 climate divisions that help to monitor the state of the climate and inform management.

Conferences, Workshops & Trainings

Recordings from Climate Adaptation Strategies for Pacific Northwest Forests workshops hosted by Northwest Natural Resource Group in fall of 2019 are available along with slides. See the Northwest Climate Hub's Coordinator, Holly Prendeveille talk about climate change in the Northwest and discuss tactics for Northwest forests. Other topics include forest hydrology, silviculture, wildfire, and pests, disease.

85th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference 8-13 March in Omaha, Nebraska. Features sessions addressing forests, grasslands, agriculture, and wildlife including Climate Adaptation Approaches: Lessons Learned and How to Move Forward. Conference attendees include federal, state and provincial wildlife and other natural resource agencies, scientists and students of natural resources.

Maintaining a Healthy Forest in an Uncertain Climate - Roseburg, Oregon 13 March. Training on practical, cost-effective approaches to strengthen forest resilience in southern Oregon climate change impacts such as wildfire, pest outbreaks and drought. The course includes classroom and field experiences and is intended for forestland owners and forest managers.

7th North American Carbon Program Open Science Meeting 23-26 March in McLean, Virginia. Scientists, practitioners, stakeholders, and managers are encouraged to attend this four-day meeting designed to engage around shared knowledge, experience, and current research on carbon cycle science. This year's theme is "the future is here: North American carbon cycle science for a changing climate."

Washington State Society of American Foresters 2020 Annual Meeting 6-8 April Leavenworth, Washington. This year's meeting theme of "shared stewardship" will have talks from U. S. Forest Service Chief, Vicki Christiansen, and panel discussions with key partners. Forest health and wildfire hazard risk challenges are conference topics with attendees from federal, state, tribal, and private entities. [Early-bird](#) registration deadline is 23 March.

12th Annual Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN) Connect Conference 14-16 April in Sunriver, Oregon. The conference provides technical and administrative training to natural resource conservation professionals in rural and urban contexts. This year's meeting features climate-focused panel discussions and presentations on risk management, landscape resilience, mitigation strategies, climate adaptation tools and information, and more. **Registration deadline is 20 March.**

Climate Change 101: Introduction to Climate Change Adaptation Planning 19-21 May in Blue Lake, California. The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and partners will hold the first of two trainings for tribal environmental, tribal natural resource professionals, and tribal emergency management personnel who expect to be or are currently involved in climate change adaptation and resilience planning. The course will provide an overview to planning for climate change impacts, highlighting the work of tribes that have completed an adaptation plan or vulnerability assessment. **The registration application deadline is 20 March.**

National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference, Tribal Resilience for Seven Generations 31 August-4 September in St. Paul, Minnesota. Proposal submissions across environmental and social tracks are requested. Featured topics include climate-related impacts, assessments, tools, adaptation, mitigation, actions, and the intersection of western science and adaptation strategies with Traditional and Indigenous Knowledges. The conference is open to all US tribal nations and indigenous peoples across the world, with an emphasis on including elders and youth. The deadline for proposals for posters and oral presentations is 3 April. **Registration opens in March.**
Submit a proposal here.



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