



Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

Abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) across Oregon persist, even with recent heavy precipitation. Moderate drought (D1-tan) expanded eastward to include a large area of northern Oregon from the Willamette Valley to the Blue Mountain region. Similarly, moderate drought conditions (D1-tan) in Washington have expanded eastward from the Cascades to the Blue Mountains. In western Washington, drought conditions have receded, with abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) remaining along the western Cascades and the northeast corner of the Olympic Peninsula.

In Idaho, abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) have receded in the northwestern and northeastern corners of the state. Moderate drought (D1-tan) conditions in the middle of the state have expanded in and near parts of Boise, Valley, and Ada counties. The Idaho Panhandle is now considered drought-free.



Recent snow and rainfall have alleviated dry conditions in southcentral Alaska. For the first time since July 2018, drought conditions have been alleviated in southeast Alaska with abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) persisting due to long-term precipitation deficits.

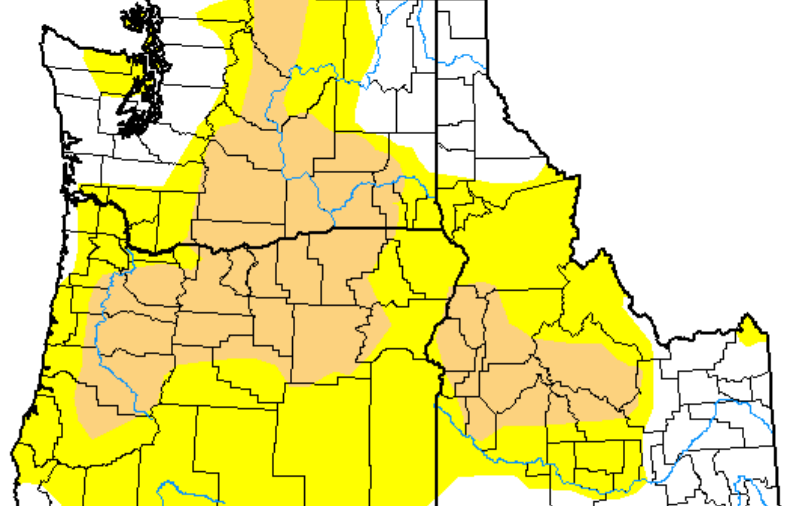
Drought maps are published every Thursday. Click on the U.S. Drought Monitor link below to view the latest map. Click on each icon below to get information about the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), to submit data via the CoCoRHaS network, or to report drought impacts and observations.

U.S. Drought Monitor

January 21, 2020

USDA Northwest Climate Hub

(Released Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	73.58	26.42	8.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 01-14-2020	73.09	26.91	5.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-22-2019	92.03	7.97	3.36	1.40	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	70.58	29.42	7.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	88.75	11.25	3.91	1.40	0.61	0.00
One Year Ago 01-22-2019	71.36	28.64	15.51	10.89	1.42	0.00

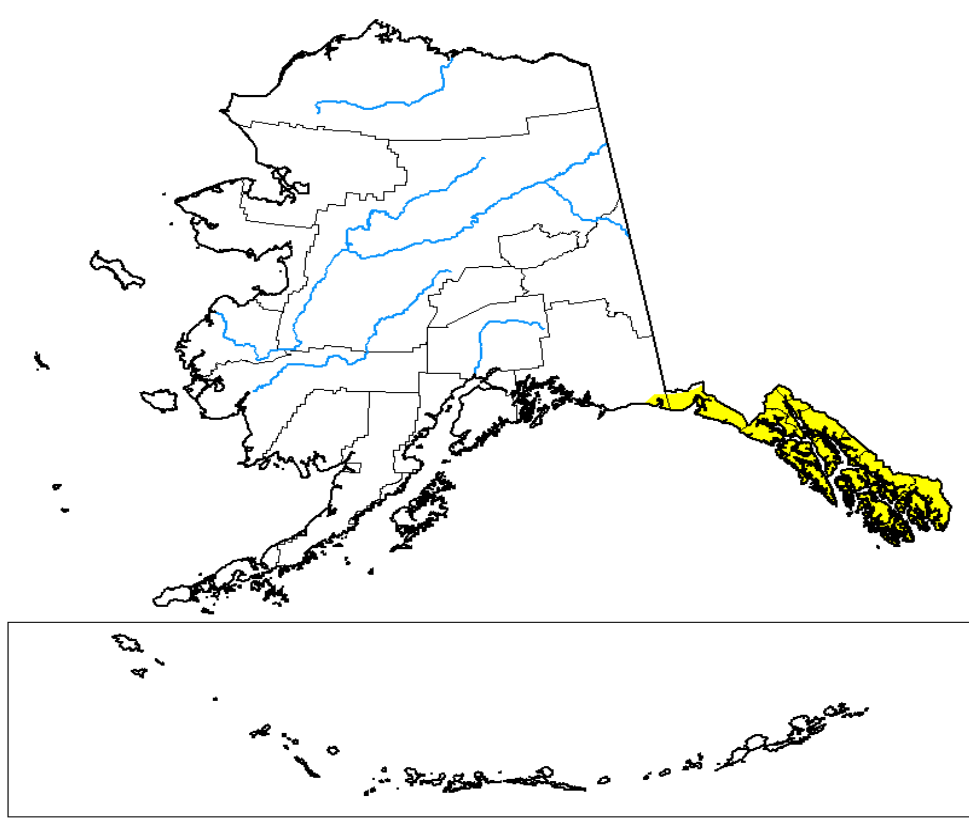
Intensity
 None (white), D0 Abnormally Dry (yellow), D1 Moderate Drought (tan), D2 Severe Drought (orange), D3 Extreme Drought (red), D4 Exceptional Drought (dark red)

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



Drought Conditions Monitoring 2020 Update

Check out the new Drought Conditions Monitoring Observations Reporting form launched by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The 2020 edition includes sectors like forestry and community hydropower, asks questions that capture observation frequency and longevity, and uses language to capture "local jurisdictions" as well as counties. [Click here to view all updates.](#)

Funding opportunities

- Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)** helps existing organic producers and processors grow and market high quality organic agricultural products. Funds are available for organic ranching and farming research that use education and outreach activities to deliver applied production information. **Applications due 30 January 2020. [Click here for details.](#)**
- REAP Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Program** supports energy audits, renewable energy site assessments and technical assistance for rural small businesses and agricultural producers. **Applications due 31 January 2020.**
- WaterSMART Drought Response Program**, the Bureau of Reclamation provides assistance to water managers to develop and update comprehensive drought plans and implement long-term resiliency plans. Program areas include: emergency response, contingency planning, and resiliency projects. **Applications due 5 February 2020 at 4pm MST.**
- Conservation Collaboration Grants** from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, assist historically underserved producers to build capacity and restore or maintain natural resources to improve water, soil, habitat, agriculture, and/or local food projects. **Applications due 7 February 2020.**
- Environmental Systems Science Research**, this funding opportunity from the Department of Energy aims to improve the capabilities of local, regional, and larger scale models for: Terrestrial Ecology and Watershed Hydro-biogeochemistry. **Final applications due 20 February 2020 11:59pm EST.**
- Tribal adaptation & Ocean & Coastal Management & 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** helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. **Applications due 10 March 2020.**
- Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program** 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.**

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. [Click here for details.](#)
- 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.](#)
24 January -click to register
- Northwest River Forecast Center Water Supply Briefing 6 February.** These monthly water supply briefings are held from January through late spring on the first Thursday of each month. [Click here for details.](#)
- Pacific Northwest Drought & Climate Outlook 24 February 2020 11 am PST.** The Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System (PNW-DEWS) hosts a series of regular drought and climate outlook webinars designed to provide region-specific, timely information on current drought status and impacts, special topics, and a preview of current and developing climatic events. February's webinar will feature talks on Washington's Drought Contingency Plan from Tim Cook at Washington State Emergency Management and on climate change impacts on snow and water resources research from Adrienne Marshall at the University of Idaho.
- On-farm composting short course in the Pierce Conservation District 27 February & 5 March 2020.** The course is intended to help farmers build resilience through improved production, soil health, and water quality. Participants should plan to attend both sessions that will include hands-on exercises in compost recipe formulation, feedstock assessment, and construction of aerobic and properly wetted compost piles.

NW Climate Hub Highlight



Haley Case-Scott, Resource Assistance Program intern for the Northwest Climate Hub and Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region 6, traveled to Washington D.C. to present her work on the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project at a conference session on Tribal Mobility and Sustainability: Effects of Climate Change. During her trip, Haley met with staff at the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations and the Forest Service Chief, Vicki Christiansen. **Thank you Haley for representing the NW Climate Hub!**

Information

- Dry Farming Techniques in the Maritime Pacific Northwest**, learn about how farmers are growing select crops without irrigation to adapt and diversify operations in response to changes in water availability. Research explores key aspects of dry farming, such as soil preparation, planting and harvesting dates, and suitable crop varieties. Read more about this technique, view educational videos, and additional dry farming guidance on [NW Climate Hub website.](#)
- No-Regrets Strategies that Benefit Ranching Operations and Provide Climate Resilience**, an article from the Agriculture Climate Network that details innovative grazing management strategies that are benefitting ranching operations while also improving rangeland resilience. [View videos](#) from multiple case studies and hear from ranchers about their "no regrets" adaptation strategies.
- USDA Farm Programs Help Farmers and Ranchers During 2019 Challenges**, USDA news release, including the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) and prevented planting programs that helped with flood recovery. [Click here for more detail.](#)
- Alaska's Cold Climate Housing Research Center** is rethinking how the Circumpolar North builds, an article from The Architect's Newspaper. Designers are innovating around materials shipping, foundation design, and heating in response to the challenges of remoteness, ground instability from rapidly changing permafrost conditions, and the need for efficient options for warmth during frigid winters.
- Managing native pests and pathogens in northwest forests** could be critical to climate change adaptation efforts. A new study of dwarf mistletoe impacts on western hemlock tree growth and mortality indicates that existing threats represent greater forest vulnerability than previously expected.
- Assisted migration of Douglas-fir.** This story map details an experiment that explores how well adapted sources of Douglas-fir from northern California and western Oregon and Washington are to planting sites in Oregon and Washington [Click here for details and results.](#)
- Climate change impacts on the shifting range of huckleberry** and timing of harvest in the Northwest raises questions about an ecologically and culturally important food source. Huckleberries are important to indigenous peoples as a sacred first food, for wildlife and pollinators as food sources, and to small-scale commercial operations. [Check out the story map.](#)
- Snow Drought Update**, from the National Integrated Drought Information System provides recent trends across the Western U.S. and highlights the below average snowpack in south-central Alaska and the northwest U.S.
- A new natural water storage map** useful for viewing and comparing daily water balance at the watershed scale is now available for the contiguous United States. The map displays current storage of water present on the landscape relative to historical conditions.

Conferences, Workshops & Trainings

- The 22nd Alaska Forum on the Environment 10-14 February 2020 in Anchorage, Alaska.** This unique event brings together Alaska, local, federal, military, private, and native leaders and professionals to discuss Alaska-specific issues pertaining to climate change, energy, tribal and rural issues, pollution prevention, and many more. [Click here for event and registration details.](#)
- Idaho Water Quality Workshop 11-13 February 2020 Boise, Idaho.** This year's featured topics include: Idaho water quality, results, trends and discussions; remote sensing; and groundwater modeling. All water quality topics are welcome. Registration is free.
- Society for Range Management Annual Meeting 16-20 February 2020 in Denver, Colorado.** This year's theme is "transformation and translation." Session topics include rangeland restoration, resilience and sustainability; there will be technical tours, mentoring opportunities, and networking opportunities. [Click here for event and registration details.](#)
- 2020 Rural Energy Conference 25 February 2020 Chicago, Illinois.** The conference focuses on advancing rural prosperity through energy efficiency, specifically highlighting clean energy opportunities that promote economic growth and energy affordability. Sessions will address energy resilience and disaster recovery, as well as 2018 USDA and Farm Bill programs to assist shifts to renewable energy sources in rural contexts. [Click here to register.](#)
- Forest Health in Oregon: State of the State 2020 26-27 February 2020 Corvallis, Oregon.** Foresters, forest managers, woodland owners, students and others interested in forest health are encouraged to attend. The conference highlights current information and practical management applications for healthy forest management. [Click here for registration details.](#)
- 7th North American Carbon Program Open Science Meeting March 2020 McLean, Virginia.** Scientists, practitioners, stakeholders, and managers are encouraged to attend this 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."
Session invitation: Indigenous Peoples and Multinational Experiences, highlighting carbon science, policy and management activities from indigenous peoples as well as collaborators. Presentations may investigate co-production of knowledge, inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in carbon cycle science and decision-making, and multi-national collaborations, including carbon mapping and monitoring. **Abstract submissions due 29 January (oral presentations) and 19 February (posters).**



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