



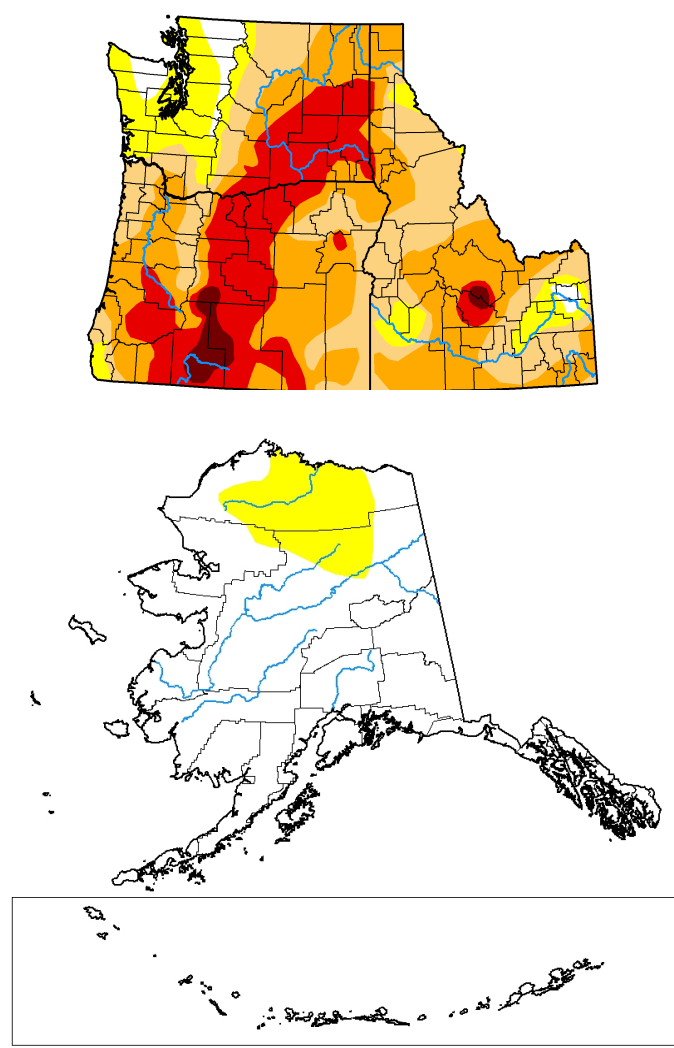
Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

In early June, an atmospheric river during the dry season provided much needed precipitation to portions of Washington and Oregon, which helped to improve or slow the degradation of drought conditions. Since last month, drought conditions have worsened for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. All of Oregon is experiencing some level of drought conditions except for a small portion of the southwest region near Brookings, which is abnormally dry (D0-yellow). Extreme drought (D3-red) now expands throughout central Oregon to southcentral and southeastern Washington. Washington has less than 10% of the state with no dry or drought conditions and about 28% experiencing abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow). Central and eastern Washington are experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions. In Idaho, almost 80% of the state is experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions. Exceptional drought (D4-dark red) is present in Blaine and Custer counties and the last time any portion of the state experienced exceptional drought was in May 2005.

In Alaska, abnormally dry conditions in portions of the North Slope have receded since last month and most of the state (85%) is experiencing normal to wet conditions.



U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Northwest Climate Hub



June 22, 2021
(Released Thursday, Jun. 24, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	61.06	38.94	25.67	17.50	6.68	0.64
Last Week 06-15-2021	61.06	38.94	24.76	16.17	6.54	0.64
3 Months Ago 03-23-2021	58.07	41.93	10.84	5.54	1.55	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	73.72	26.28	13.40	9.17	3.53	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	61.33	38.67	15.70	9.48	4.51	0.00
One Year Ago 06-23-2020	81.14	18.86	12.90	6.75	0.56	0.00

Intensity:
 None (White) D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow) D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange) 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>

Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Resources

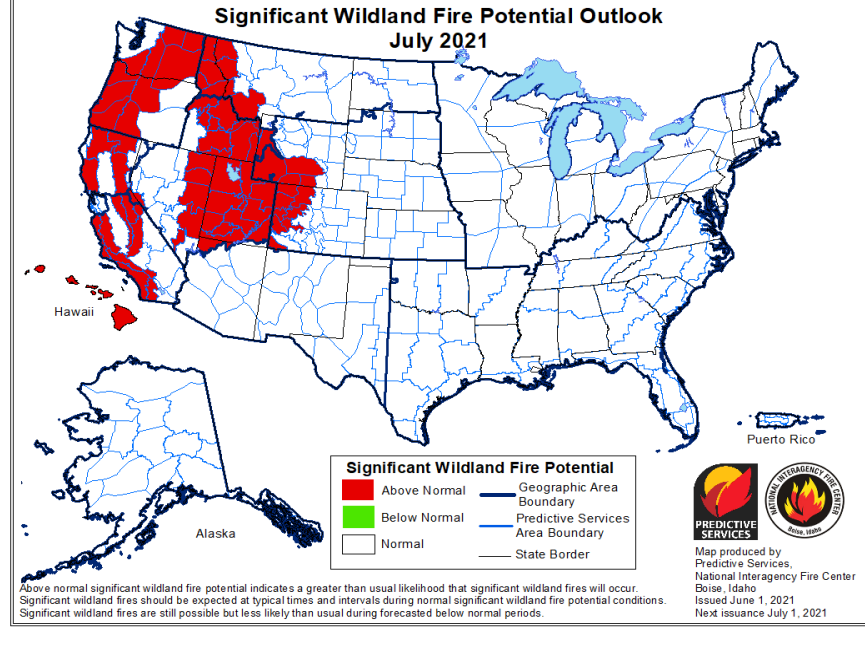
State-level drought information compiled by the Northwest Climate Hub

Webinar: Pacific Northwest Drought & Climate Outlook, **28 June 11 am PDT**. This series of region-specific drought and climate outlook webinars provides timely information on current drought status and impacts, a preview of current and developing climatic events, and special topics. This month's special topics we will hear from Brian Potter on the long-term drought effects on fire in the Northwest, and from John Abatzoglou, who will discuss new research on the September 2020 fires in western Oregon.

Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

The National Wildland Significant Fire Potential Outlook indicates above normal significant wildland fire potential for western and central Oregon and most of Idaho and Washington for July.

Maps will be updated on 1 July, click here to view monthly outlooks for July- September.



Alaska Fellows Program

The Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center is excited to announce an opportunity to join the Alaska Tribal Resilience Learning Network team through the Alaska Fellows Program's inaugural Fairbanks cohort. This fall-to-spring residential fellowship program nurtures the next generation of Alaska-based leaders by pairing talented young people with strong communities and professional mentors. Fellows will work with host organizations at the frontlines of positive change in Alaska, connect with a broad network of community supporters, and become part of a broader Alaska Fellows Program community that includes fellows in Sitka, Anchorage, and Juneau.



Information

Alaska Tribal Resilience Learning Network is a community of learning, sharing, technical assistance, training, and support of Alaska Tribes, Leadership, and Indigenous communities as they respond and adapt to the current and future impacts of climate change. This system of support is designed for Alaska Tribes and Indigenous communities that are working towards their climate adaptation priorities, especially those that have received BIA Tribal Resilience Program funding. Alaska Tribes and Indigenous communities working on their Tribal climate adaptation plan are encouraged to participate in the learning network. Get involved by attending an information session, training; join the monthly learning network call, or sign up for a one-on-one technical assistance.

A "New Normal" for West-side Fire in Oregon and Washington is a story map by the Pacific Northwest Research Station reviewing the expected impacts of climate change on west-side forest in Oregon and Washington and how the station's West-Side Fire Research Initiative is working to provide needed information and tools to managers and decisionmakers.

Evaluating Plant Materials to Slow the Spread of Wildfires in the West is a study led at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Aberdeen Plant Materials Center in Idaho. The study measured moisture content in leaf and stem samples of 15 common Great Basin species throughout the critical summer period from June to September. The native wildflower, curlycup gumweed, had better traits for fire suppression and resistance than many of the most used species.

Sage Grouse Populations Grow Faster in Areas with Juniper Tree Removal notes a recently published long-term study in the Warner Mountains. Targeting removal in areas where sagebrush plants were still intact resulted in instant habitat for sage grouse and has benefits to other species. NRCS-Oregon provides a summary of the work here.

Webinars & Trainings

June 2021 National Weather Service Alaska Climate Outlook Briefing, 16 July 2021, 12-1 pm AKDT. Rick Thoman, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, will review recent climate conditions around Alaska, review some forecast tools, and finish up the Climate Prediction Center's forecast for July and the remaining summer season. Join the gathering online to learn more about Alaska climate and weather.

Ridge-to-Reef and Icefield-to-Ocean: Collaborative Research in Extreme Environments, 13 July 11 am AKDT. Climate change is contributing to significant alterations of key processes in both the Pacific Island's Ridge-to-Reef and Alaska's Icefield-to-Ocean watersheds, with impacts cascading through terrestrial, freshwater, and nearshore marine ecosystems. Human communities in both regions depend on the cultural and ecosystem services provided by these watersheds. This webinar will highlight how Alaska and Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC) scientists are working on cross-regional research, cultural engagement, and synthesis. Also, it will show how partners in this "Pacific Islands-Alaska Collaboration" are developing a variety of forums for scientists, managers, and students to jointly explore these systems and exchange knowledge to support community-based climate adaptation. Register here.

Soil Moisture End Users Listening Session on 13 or 22 July 10 am -12 pm PT, the National Coordinated Soil Moisture Listening Network is hosting two listening sessions for soil moisture end users to share their thoughts, wish lists, and out-of-the-box ideas about what types of soil moisture products would best serve them. Target participants include federal, regional, and state program staff; state climatologists; water resource managers; extension agents; and any others who are interested in products derived from soil moisture data, whether it be from in situ mesonets, modeling outputs, and/or satellite retrievals. Register by 7 July.

Conferences & Workshops

Virtual Climate Change Adaptation Planning Course for Tribes, Western region, 9-13 August. This week-long virtual course will be about 4 hours each day, including breaks. This course introduces planning for climate change impacts in the West, with examples of how Tribes have approached the adaptation planning process. The course is intended for tribal environmental and natural resource professionals who expect to be involved in climate change adaptation planning. This course employs a variety of instructional methods including presentations, Tribal case studies, and small-group / large-group discussions and activities. Participants will complete a pre-course assignment prior to attending the course. Register here.

Soil Health Institute's Annual Meeting, 11-12 August, 7-9 am PT & 10am-12pm PT is a free, virtual event. Enriching Soil, Enhancing Life connects the science of soil health with the information farmers request when adopting soil health practices, and the environmental benefits that follow. A wide array of practical information, research, and actionable takeaways will be presented that are relevant to farmers, agribusiness, consultants, scientists, field conservationists, government, and non-governmental organization professionals around the world.

Farm Planning for Climate Resilience for Oregon Agricultural Professionals, Save the Date: 2-4 November. Virtual sessions will be held from 10 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 3pm PT each day. This training will advance your knowledge of farm-based solutions for the climate resilience to reduce risks from extreme weather events, store more carbon, and work for a farmer's bottom-line. The intended outcome of this training is to create a community of practice in Oregon dedicated to supporting, improving, and better understanding farming for climate resilience in Oregon.

Funding Opportunities

Innovative Finance for National Forests Grant Program supports the development and implementation of innovative finance models that leverage private and public capital other than US Forest Service appropriations to support the resilience of the National Forest System. A second round of funding will be issued through a competitive process. This program seeks to fund innovative projects that might offer completely new ideas, new applications of approaches used in other sectors, or new applications of models used for land management in the National Forest System context. **Proposal submissions are due 30 June.**

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Sustainable Agricultural Systems. This opportunity is offered on: (1) sustainable agricultural intensification; (2) agricultural climate adaptation; (3) value-added innovation; and/or (4) food and nutrition translation. Proposed work should result in societal benefits, such as rural prosperity and enhancement of quality of life, for all those involved in food and agricultural value chains. **Applications due 1 July 2021.**

Climate Change Mitigation Assessment Initiative from USDA Farm Service Agency is soliciting proposals for a multi-year monitoring and assessment effort to quantify the climate benefits of the Conservation Reserve Program and improve USDA's existing models and conservation planning tools. Projects should be for a 3-5-year term, with the potential for renewal. Budgets should be a minimum of \$1 million and not exceed \$10 million. Proposals are welcome from all types of organizations, including public, private, and nonprofit institutions and must include partners associated with Historically Black Colleges & Universities, Tribal Colleges & Universities, and/or Hispanic-Serving Institutions, or organizations. Webinar 9 June 2 pm EST. **Proposals due 2 July.**

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science Program. Grant funds are available in priority areas, which include plant or animal health, production, and products; food safety, nutrition, and health; bioenergy, natural resources, and environment; agriculture systems and technology; and agriculture economics and rural communities. Research-only, extension-only, and integrated research, education and/or extension projects are eligible. **Applications due 29 July 2021.**

Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production are offered by the USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. Planning projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban and suburban areas. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers, urban agroforestry or food forests, and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production. Implementation projects accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor, and other agricultural practices that serve multiple farmers. Projects will improve local food access and collaborate with partner organizations and may support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, educational endeavors, and urban farming policy implementation. Proposals are due **30 July 11:59 pm ET.**

Sabbatical Research and Education. Western SARE Sabbatical Grants provide an opportunity for faculty around the world to partner with farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, and researchers of the Western U.S. region for conducting research, education, and Extension activities. Projects focused on unexplored topics in underserved communities, and understudied geographic locations are of special interest. Applications are due **18 November.**



The Northwest Climate Hub newsletter is developed by Holly Prendeville and edited by Jessica Halofsky. Click here to sign up to our distribution list.
To unsubscribe email holly.prendeville@usda.gov

