



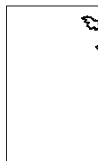
# Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

In Alaska, abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) expanded from the Cooper River region north and across the Northern Slope due to ongoing below average precipitation.

Conditions in Idaho improved since last month. The panhandle is currently drought free. Moderate drought conditions (D1-tan) remain in the south and central Idaho along with severe (D2-orange) and extreme drought (D3-red) in central region.

Abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) have expanded into Lincoln county due to low precipitation and below-normal streamflows. In the southcentral portion of Washington, persistent severe (D2-orange), moderate (D1-tan), and abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) remain.

Severe drought conditions (D2-orange) in southwestern Oregon improved since last month. Additional improvements occurred east of the Cascades, including a slight recession of extreme drought (D3-red) in the north-central region. Over 80% of the state is experiencing abnormally dry to extreme drought conditions.



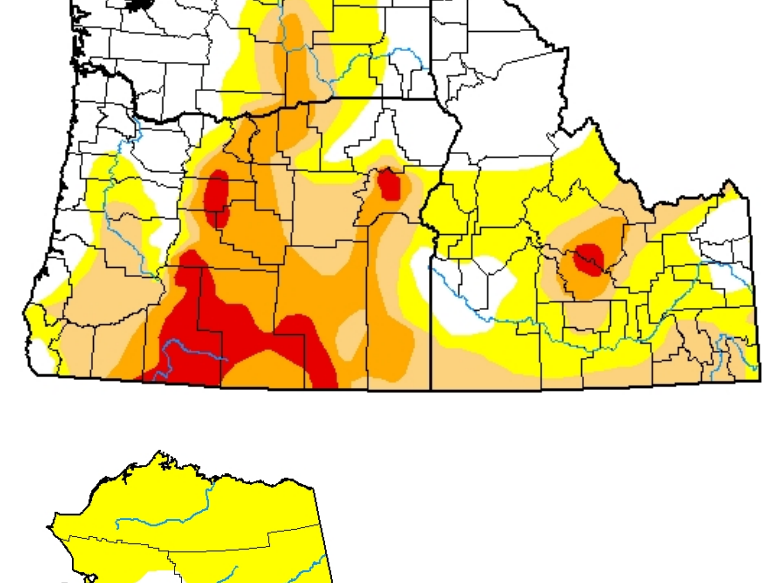
## U.S. Drought Monitor

# USDA Northwest Climate Hub

March 23, 2021

(Released Thursday, Mar. 25, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	58.07	41.93	10.84	5.54	1.55	0.00
Last Week 03-16-2021	57.98	42.04	11.02	5.87	1.55	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-22-2020	73.72	26.28	13.40	9.17	3.73	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 03-24-2020	83.45	16.55	9.37	1.14	0.00	0.00

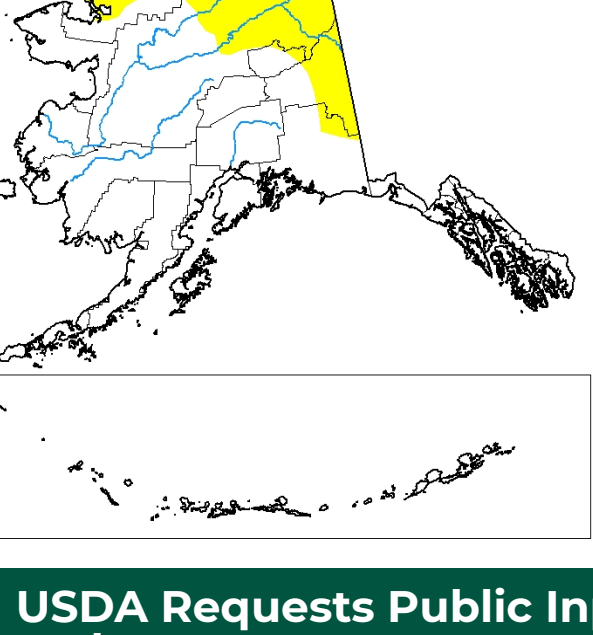
**Intensity**  
 None D2 Severe Drought  
 D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought  
 D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

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](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



Map of Alaska showing drought conditions.

## USDA Requests Public Input on Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is requesting public input on climate-smart agriculture and forestry strategies related to four topics: climate-smart agriculture and forestry; biofuels, bioproducts, and renewable energy; catastrophic wildfire; and meeting the needs of disadvantaged communities through USDA's climate strategy. **Comments due 29 April.**

### Webinars & Trainings

**Protecting and Restoring our Food and Ecosystems: Practical Knowledge Sharing with Indigenous Peoples.** Two upcoming webinars presented by the International Indian Treaty Council focus on food security topics foundational to climate change adaptation.

**26 March 11 am PDT, Protecting and Restoring Indigenous Fisheries**

**2 April 11 am PDT, Harvesting and Using Wild Plants**

**National Tribal Leadership Climate Change Summit: Session III Empowering Indigenous Youth Leadership in the Climate Movement, 1 April 10 am – 1 pm PDT.** The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), and Pacific Northwest Tribes are hosting a session of the National Tribal Leadership Climate Change Summit focused on youth empowerment. The session will feature interactive conversations, youth speakers, and a workshop with policy makers. The purpose is to explore how Indigenous youth are being empowered to effect positive change on climate change. This session is open to anyone interested.

**Northwest River Forecast Center Monthly Water Supply Briefing, 1 April 10 am PDT.** The monthly water supply briefings are held on the first Thursday of each month from January through late spring. Registration is required.

**SCIENCE x Post-Disturbance Restoration, 5-6 April 11 am PDT.** Back-to-back webinars will feature regional experts who will address various aspects of post-fire disturbance and demonstrate how to use recently developed restoration tools designed for forest management.

**Pacific Northwest Drought & Climate Outlook, 26 April 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. The April webinar will highlight an overview of the Drought.gov website update and various new maps and tools.

Did you miss the February DEWS webinar? Find a recording here.

**Navigating the Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs): A National Network of Climate Adaptation Support for Native Nations, 28 April 11 am PDT.** Tribal resilience liaisons will lead an introduction to the CASCs and the tribal resilience liaison network. They will share some examples of projects and efforts and share insights on how to engage with CASCs for support.

**CIRC Webinar on Climate Change and Future Flooding in the Pacific Northwest (recorded).** This webinar addresses future management of current flood risk infrastructure. Recent research suggests that climate change will exacerbate flooding throughout the Columbia River Basin.

**The Science and Practice of Delivering Fire Science (recorded).** This is a presentation on a social science study about transferring science to others.

**Wildfire Smoke and Health, University of Alaska Fairbanks (recorded).** This webinar is the third in a series addressing air quality topics affecting Interior Alaskans.

## Northwest Climate Hub Water Resilience Series: Rangelands

The first in a series of resources on building regional water resilience is now available. Learn about expected water resource challenges to rangelands and related adaptation tactics, and find a list of USDA resources available to help implement changes on the ground.

### Funding Opportunities

**National Coastal Resilience Fund.** This fund supports projects that restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities and enhance habitats for fish and wildlife. Previous conservation projects restored natural features, such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands, that minimize the impacts from extreme weather events on nearby communities. **Pre-proposals due 7 April.**

**Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Climate Resilience Awards Program 2021.** All federally recognized Tribes and authorized tribal organizations are eligible to apply for funds to support adaptation planning; ocean and coastal management planning; capacity building; relocation, managed retreat, or protect-in-place planning; and internships and youth engagement. **Applications due 23 April.**

**Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program.** Proposals should focus on community-based outreach education programs, including extension outreach. Applications can address rural environmental issues that directly impact human health, information about and access to health promotion and educational activities, training for volunteers and health services providers, and more. **Applications are due 29 April 2021.**

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) from USDA NRCS offers eligible farmers, ranchers and forest owners (who manage property within a current RCPP project area) conservation assistance from NRCS and other partners. Projects are impactful and have innovative solutions to on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Applications due 28 May.**

NRCS-Oregon is hosting a webinar on **1 April 12 pm PST** to provide information about RCPPs. View this page for more NRCS Oregon specific information and webinar access.

**Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) NRCS-Idaho & NRCS-Oregon.** CIG is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies for agriculture production. CIG promotes sharing of skills, knowledge, technologies, and facilities among communities, governments, and other institutions to ensure that scientific and technological developments are accessible to a wider range of users. Non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes or individuals are eligible. **Applications are due via Grants.gov**

**NRCS OR CIG Applications are due 7 May**

**NRCS ID CIG Applications due 3 May by 11:59 pm ET**

**Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program.** This opportunity funds researcher and producer collaborations on research and education related to sustainable agriculture. Collaborations should focus on profitable approaches to natural resource conservation through communication to producers and other professionals. Activities can include demonstrations and farmer-to-farmer education. **Pre-proposals are due 20 May.**

**Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Sustainable Agricultural Systems.** This opportunity is focused 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.**

**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.**

### Podcast Highlights

**Designing Accessible Research for Rural Communities.** This episode of Alaska Voices discusses the accessibility of research for rural communities, the concept of "sense of place," and what the expectation of permanent change can feel like.

**Mapping: Scholar's Indigenous Belonging to Place with Haliehana Stepetin.** Listen to an engaging academic's reflections on traditional practices and shared hopes on navigating cultural change and relationship to the land under rapidly changing climate conditions.

### Conferences & Workshops

**Tribal Forest Partnership and Shared Stewardship Workshop Series, 25 March-1 April 9 am to 12 pm PDT.** This series of four workshops will discuss new opportunities for shared stewardship on national forests and adjacent tribal lands under the Tribal Forest Protection Act. Discussions will identify opportunities for stewardship through the 2018 Farm Bill, with a focus on creating understanding of USDA FS 638 authority, identifying opportunities to implement 638 focused Shared Stewardship Projects, and initiating and supporting planning for 638 projects between the Forest Service and Tribes. **The series will be held on 25, 30 March and 1 April.**

**Free Oregon Drought Resilience and Water Loss Workshop Series, 7-8 April, 9 am to 12 pm PDT.** These workshops will provide an opportunity for Oregon water utilities to share strategies, lessons learned, and success stories related to water shortages and drought resilience. The event is designed for drinking water utility operators and managers, technical assistance providers, water sector associations, and local, state, and federal government agencies.

**Northwest Climate Conference, 6-8 April.** The Northwest Climate Conference connects a diverse community of 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. **Registration is open.**

**Connect: Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network Annual Conference (virtual), 11-13 May.** This year's three-day, multidisciplinary workshop will feature a variety of talks for conservation specialists focused on rural and urban conservation implementation, managerial and administrative function, policy, and education.

**Virtual Wildland Fire Safety Summit & Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference, 24-27 May.** This event will focus on recent fires and trends in safety to promote best practices and share safety-related information. Lessons learned, current work, and emerging ideas and technologies will be showcased. This year's conference will also address challenges associated with COVID-19 and its effects on wildland fire management.

## National Tribal Leadership Climate Change Summit: Session II Tribal Climate Resiliency (recorded)

This session focused on policies and practices that promote Tribal Climate Resiliency in the U.S. and Canada. There are a series of recorded conversations about engaging leadership and staff in building climate change resiliency. Talks highlight successful examples, tools, and technologies for community use.

- Summary report for session breakout groups
- Clean, Green Energy Jobs
- Food Security
- Coastal Resilience
- Water security

### Information

**Some Thoughts on Plant Breeding to Adapt to Climate Change.** Find out why improved understanding of genetic diversity in old varieties of corn, called landraces, could provide important information about breeding strategies beneficial to counteracting the impacts of climate change on agriculture.

**US and Canadian Entomologists Make Plans for 2021 Asian Giant Hornet Summit.** Find details on how Washington, British Columbia, and federal agencies are collaborating to track, trap and eradicate Asian giant hornets this season. The spread of the hornets could be exacerbated by climate change, threatening pollinators and the safety of outdoor workers in the Northwest.

**New Study Identifies Mountain Snowpack Most "At-Risk" from Climate Change.** A recent study adds to the mounting evidence that snowpack in the Northwest region is particularly vulnerable to even small increases in temperature. Expected winter warming could lead to snow melting a month earlier in the season, which will have widespread consequences on water resources and human and environmental systems.

**The Nature and Nuance of Climate Change Skepticism in the United States.** A recent study uses interviews from residents in rural Idaho to examine nuances in climate change skepticism. The findings suggest that climate change skepticism is neither uniform nor easily categorized. Instead, it is shaped by unique social locations, personal experiences, and underlying ideological beliefs. This information may be useful information for managers and technology transfer specialists working with these audiences.

**Napakiak Managed Retreat and Land Use Plan.** The community of Napakiak, Alaska is grappling to adapt to extreme erosion of the Kuskokwim River. Napakiak is responding through managed retreat because of the availability of developable land nearby; however, a majority of critical infrastructure is imminently threatened, including the school, airstrip, fuel tank farm, and their only water source. The community recently developed a formal plan to guide near-term and long-term response that may be useful to other communities facing similar challenges.

**Making Sense of Changing Forests in Alaska.** Research in interior boreal forests in Alaska suggests that the forests are shifting from dominance of coniferous trees (like black spruce) to dominance of deciduous trees (like aspen and poplar). These changes are linked to recent warming and changes in the wildfire regime.

**2020 National Prescribed Fire Use Report.** This report provides detailed information on national prescribed fire use from 2018 to 2020. Note that this is the first time the report includes forest and rangeland data only; the report will no longer include agricultural burning. A key finding is that 2019 was the first year that forestry and rangeland acres treated with prescribed fire exceeded 10 million.

**U.S. Geological Survey Wildland Fire Science Strategic Plan, 2021-26.** The plan outlines a five-year science strategy that defines critical science needs and directions for wildland fire research. Along with input from scientists and communication specialists, the plan is informed by interviews with 40 different stakeholder organizations. It aims to prioritize innovative science, tools and resources that inform land management before, during, and after wildfires.

**Findings Our Way: Practitioner Access to Science and Research.** This article aims to link wildfire practitioners with accessible, practical information and tools. Find out where you can find access to the best available science from open access journals and search engines, and timely information from newsletters, blogs, webinars, and more.

**Legal, Institutional, and Economic Impacts of Forest Stewardship and Sustainable Management in the United States: Analyzing Criterion 7 of the Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators Framework.** This report examines the nation's legal, institutional, and economic capacity to promote forest conservation and sustainable resource management. Areas of strength are highlighted, as are the challenges posed by competing land uses and diverse social objectives.

**Need to Manage Management Decisions About Carbon: There Is a Dashboard for That.** Did you know that there's an easily accessible carbon dashboard that provides carbon stock data for every single national forest? This Science You Can Use in 5 Minutes provides details on how the use and access this valuable tool to meet forest planning rule requirements linking management activities and carbon stock accounting.

**Mapping Drought Impacts on Recreation and Tourism.** Click on three different map views that show the location and drought status of reservoirs, ski resorts, and national parks for the entire U.S. In the Northwest Hub region, ongoing drought is affecting a number of reservoirs.

**The First National Flood Risk Assessment, Defining America's Growing Risk.** This report includes national and state summaries that provide insight into flood risk, adaptation, and changing environmental factors that relate to flood risk. The report draws from a climate-adjusted flood model, and includes accessible results for managers and landowners. Users can access high-level state-wide summaries or search by zip code to view neighborhood and property risk.

Idaho Oregon Washington



The Northwest Climate Hub newsletter is developed by Paris Edwards and edited by Jessica Halofsky and Holly Prendeville. Click here to sign up to our distribution list. To unsubscribe email [holly.prendeville@usda.gov](mailto:holly.prendeville@usda.gov)

