

# Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

February 2019 Newsletter

Recent storms have provided much needed precipitation to improve drought conditions in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. In this area, snow-water-equivalent (SWE) has increased with some basins at or above normal in comparison to average SWE for 1981-2010. Smaller areas of Idaho and Washington are now experiencing abnormally dry conditions (yellow-D0) and moderate drought (tan-D1). Western and northeastern Oregon have been received sufficient precipitation to be removed from drought classification (white), whereas the remainder of the state has improved with a reduction of areas experiencing severe drought (orange-D2) to abnormally dry conditions. No areas within the NW Climate Hub region are experiencing extreme drought (red-D3).

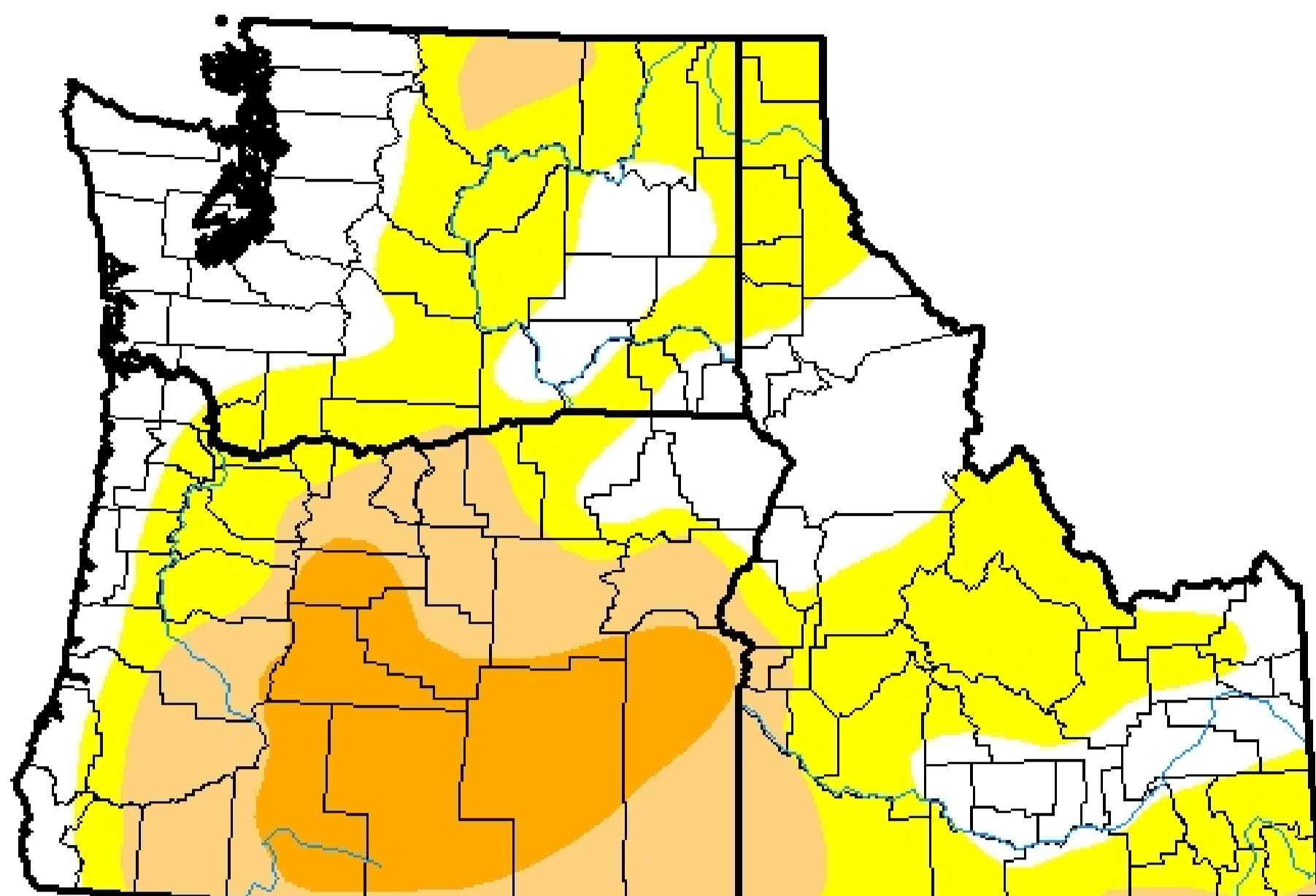
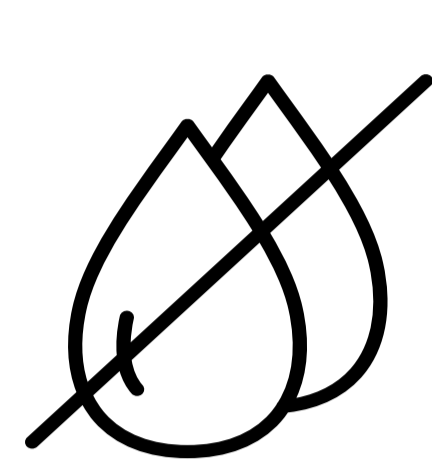
In southeastern Alaska there has been colder and drier-than-normal leading to a small increase in moderate (tan-D1) to severe drought (orange-D2). The rest of Alaska is not classified as experiencing drought though warm temperatures are leading to rain rather than snow in the Interior and South central Alaska where snow water equivalent in basins is currently 49-89% of the 1981-2010 median and water year-to-date precipitation ranges from 78-147% of 1981-2010 average.

Multiple sources of information go into developing drought maps including reports from the public. Click the icons below to get information from the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), to submit precipitation data via the CoCoRHaS network, or to report drought impacts.



## U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Northwest Climate Hub

February 26, 2019  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	75.55	12.67	6.75	5.03	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-19-2019	72.40	11.94	8.26	6.57	0.83	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-27-2018	71.89	9.91	5.81	8.59	4.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2019	71.65	11.73	5.73	8.16	2.73	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-25-2018	67.14	12.24	6.76	10.17	3.69	0.00
One Year Ago 02-27-2018	67.32	28.10	4.58	0.00	0.00	0.00

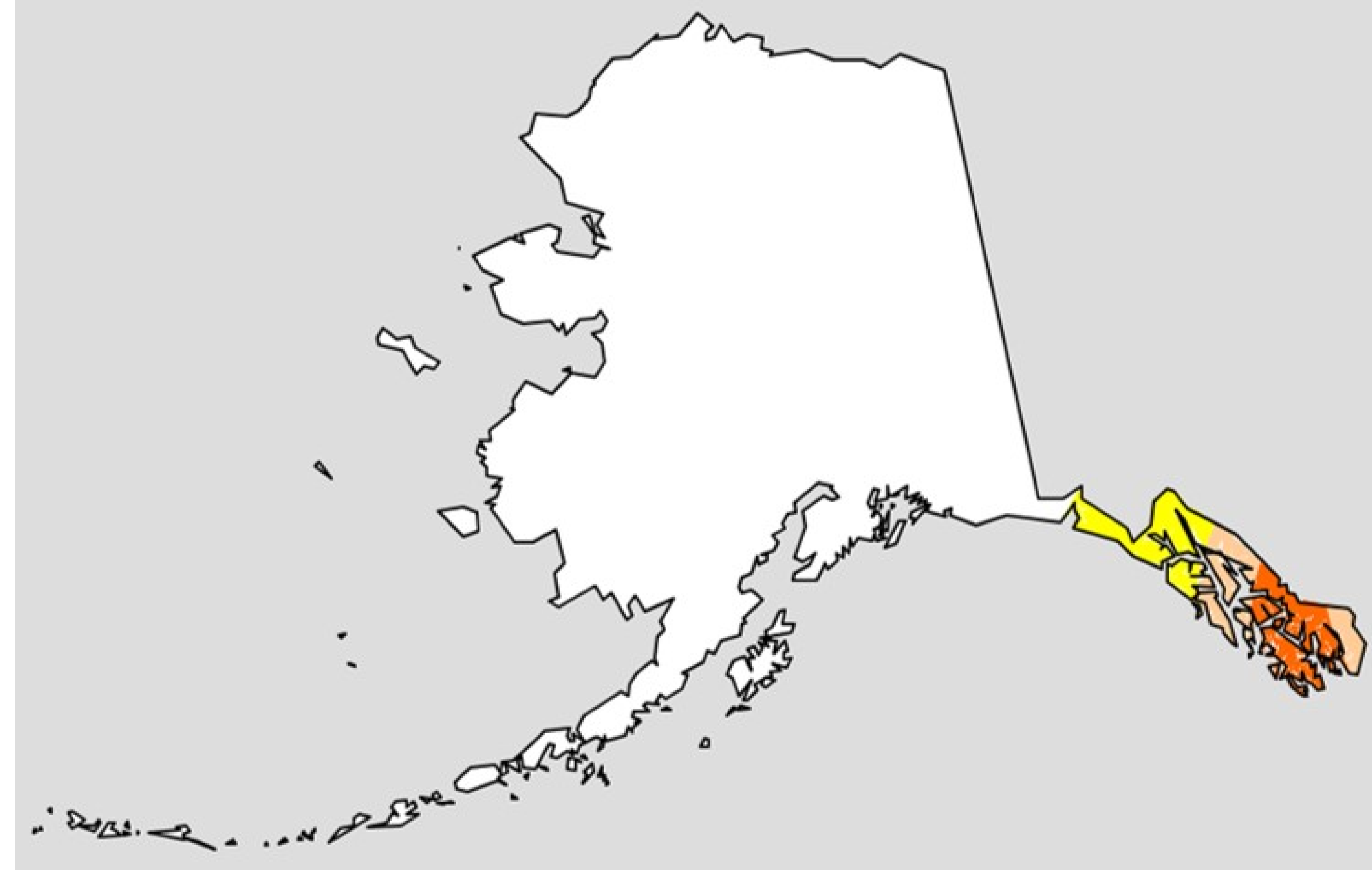
**Intensity:**  
    D0 Abnormally Dry        D2 Severe Drought  
    D1 Moderate Drought        D3 Extreme Drought  
    D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



## Funding opportunities

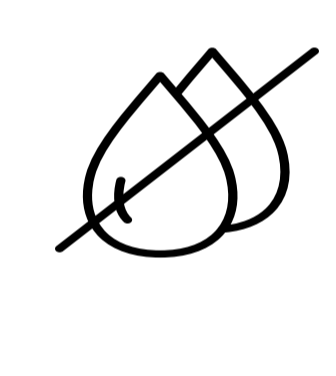


The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (NW CASC) invites Statements of Interest (SOI) for projects to be initiated in Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. Approximately \$400,000 may be available to fund projects that support NW CASC science and resource management priorities. Submit applications through the **RFPManager** system by **13 March**.



A funding opportunity is available from the Bureau of Reclamation as part of its WaterSMART Drought Response Program for projects that build **long-term resilience to drought and reduce the need for emergency response actions**. Reclamation anticipates awarding between 10-15 drought resiliency projects this year. The funding opportunity is available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), search opportunity number BOR-DO-19-F003.

Federal funding is available in two funding groups: Funding Group I: Up to \$300,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within 2 years. Funding Group II: Up to \$750,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within 3 years.



Those eligible to apply for funding include states, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended. Applicants must also provide a 50 % non-Federal cost-share. Applications are due **27 March 27 at 4 pm MDT**.

## Information



How are you planning ahead for wildfire? A new illustrated video series shares fire risk management research and tools from the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station



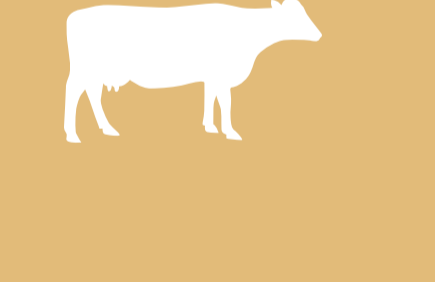
Fuel Treatments: Are We Doing Enough? Science Update from the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station



Dry Farming in the Maritime Pacific Northwest: Intro to Dry Farming Organic Vegetables. This publication provides an overview of dry farming, describes some of the management practices that support growing organic vegetable crops without supplemental irrigation in this region, and offers some additional resources.



Building Agricultural Capacity in Alaska's Kenai Peninsula One Row of Potatoes at a Time. Article from Western SARE about farming potatoes on the Kenai Peninsula.



Check it out: Extreme Winter Weather Severely Impacts the Dairy and Cattle Industry. Blog post on AgClimate Network touching upon impacts due to extreme weather in Washington.

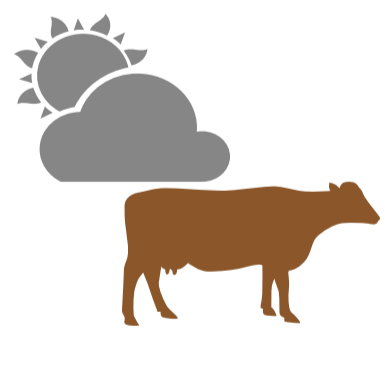
## Webinars



The 4th National Climate Assessment: The process and take-aways for Alaska. Hosted by Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy. 5 March 10-11 am AKT

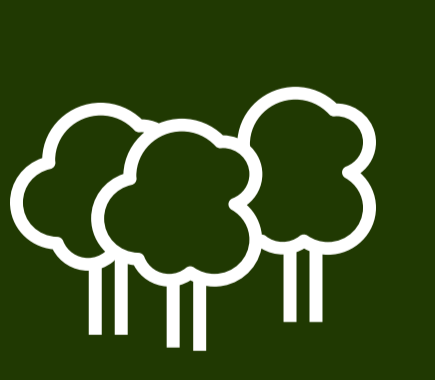


Expect the Unexpected: Fire Management Challenges and Opportunities in a Changing Climate. Hosted by the Northwest Fire Science Consortium. 5 March 1-2pm PT.



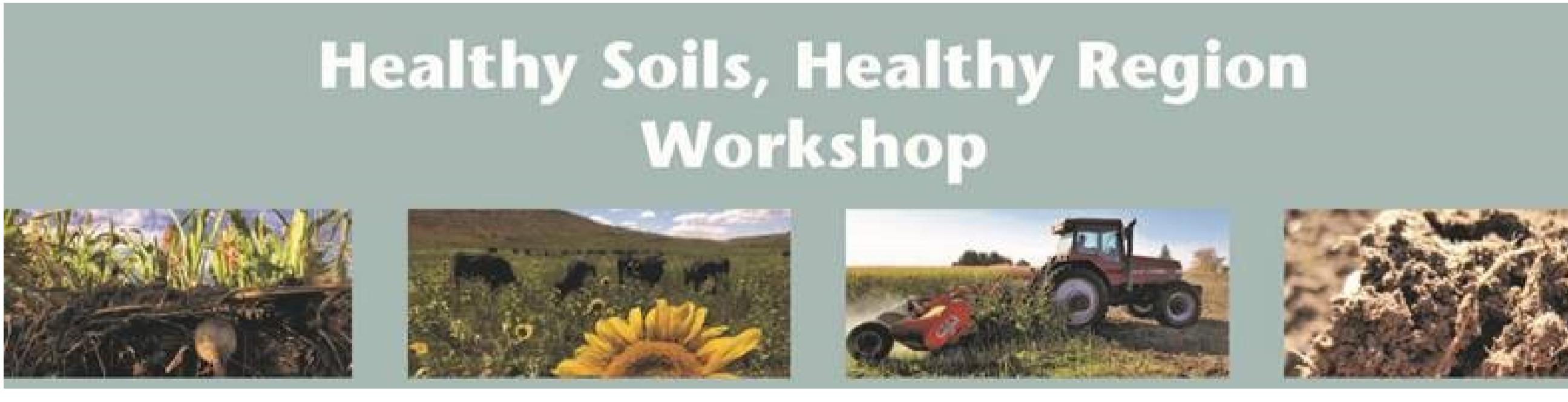
Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System, Drought and Climate Outlook webinar series 22 April 2019 11am-12pm PT. Webinar includes a Climate Recap, Current Conditions, Seasonal Outlook, and special topic speaker Kyle Hogrefe to discuss rangeland monitoring. Click on text to go to registration page for this webinar.

## Conference



**2019 North American Agroforestry Conference 24-27 June Corvallis, OR.** Agroforestry for Sustainable Production + Resilient Landscapes hosted by Oregon State University as well as the 16th biennial conference for the Association for Temperate Agroforestry. Abstract deadline 1 February (may be extended further due to federal government shutdown).

## Workshops



• **Link to updated agenda**

**Healthy soils, healthy region workshop 12-14 March 2019, Pendleton, OR**  
*Coming together to increase the adoption of soil health practices through coordination and training.*  
 The workshop will bring together agricultural professionals and producers from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho for a 3-day workshop to improve awareness of existing, new, and evolving regional soil health practices and assessment methods. The workshop will provide hands-on training on soil health practices, improve understanding of the practical barriers producers face when implementing soil health practices, and increase familiarity with tools that can be used by producers to make decisions related to soil health. We will also strive to get the various groups working on soil health in the region on the same page regarding sampling protocols, method selection, and the current state of the science. **Register now.**



**Southeast Alaska Drought Workshop: Transitioning from Snow to Rain Dominated System.** The Northwest Climate Hub will be hosting an interdisciplinary discussion with scientists, land managers, Tribal Corporation and Associations, community members, city and state officials to take a inclusive approach to defining drought in southeast Alaska, a temperate rain forest. The workshop will be held in Juneau, Alaska on 7 May, 8 am - 5 pm. Click this box to let us you plan on attending in-person or virtually.

## New email addresses coming in 2019

As a part of the OneUSDA initiative [all](http://www.usda.gov) USDA and Forest Service employees will have new email addresses that end with @usda.gov. Currently, we are in a transition period so both @fs.fed.us and @usda.gov email addresses will work. Come spring 2019 we'll be transferring over to @usda.gov. You can start using these email addresses [now](http://www.usda.gov) to contact us:

- Katherine Smith, Acting Director [katherine.l.smith@usda.gov](mailto:katherine.l.smith@usda.gov)
- Holly Prendeville, Coordinator [holly.prendeville@usda.gov](mailto:holly.prendeville@usda.gov)
- Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, Fellow [gabrielle.roeschmcnally@usda.gov](mailto:gabrielle.roeschmcnally@usda.gov)



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