



June Newsletter

Featured Article



Reducing Urban Heat through Tree Planting in Boise

Climate change is raising temperatures and increasing the likelihood of extreme heat events across the Northwest. Urban areas can experience more impacts from extreme heat than rural areas. However, strategically planted trees and plants can reduce urban heat and energy use while improving air and water quality. To address urban heat in Boise, the City of Trees Challenge aims to plant one tree per household in Boise (100,000 urban trees), and one forest seedling in an Idaho forest per Boise resident (235,000 forest seedlings). Learn more from this Adaptation in Action profile.

Opportunities

Call for Feedback on Climate Change and Forest Service Organization, Functions, and Procedures. The USDA Forest Service is inviting public feedback and initiating Tribal consultation on the following climate-related question: Given that climate change and related stressors are resulting in increasing impacts with rapid and variable rates of change on national forests and grasslands, how should the Forest Service adapt current policies to protect, conserve, and manage the national forests and grasslands for climate resilience, so that the Agency can provide for ecological integrity and support social and economic sustainability over time? **Comments due by 20 June.**

Call for public comment on the Bureau of Land Management's proposed Public Lands Rule. The proposed rule directly responds to the growing need to better manage public lands, waters, and wildlife in the face of devastating wildfires, historic droughts, and severe storms that communities are experiencing across the West, as well as to deepen BLM's collaborative work with communities, states, and Tribes to support responsible development of critical minerals, energy, and other resources. **Comments due by 20 June.**

Postdoctoral Research Associate - Climate Hub Fellow. This fellowship with the USDA Northwest Climate Hub will work with the Northwest Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit in Pullman, Washington. The fellow will support the Climate Hub's mission through its three work areas: science & synthesis, technology & support, and outreach & training. The fellow can choose from one of four main projects, each of which is focused on improving data and tools for sustainable agroecosystems. **Applications due by 6 July.**

Call for public comment on draft prospectus and author nomination for the Biodiversity and Climate Change Assessment. This report aims to identify the current understanding of the link between biodiversity and climate change for the United States. This will be critical for the implementation of climate change solutions and to maintain nature's contributions to people. **Nominate authors and comment on the draft prospectus by 7 July.**

Drought Update

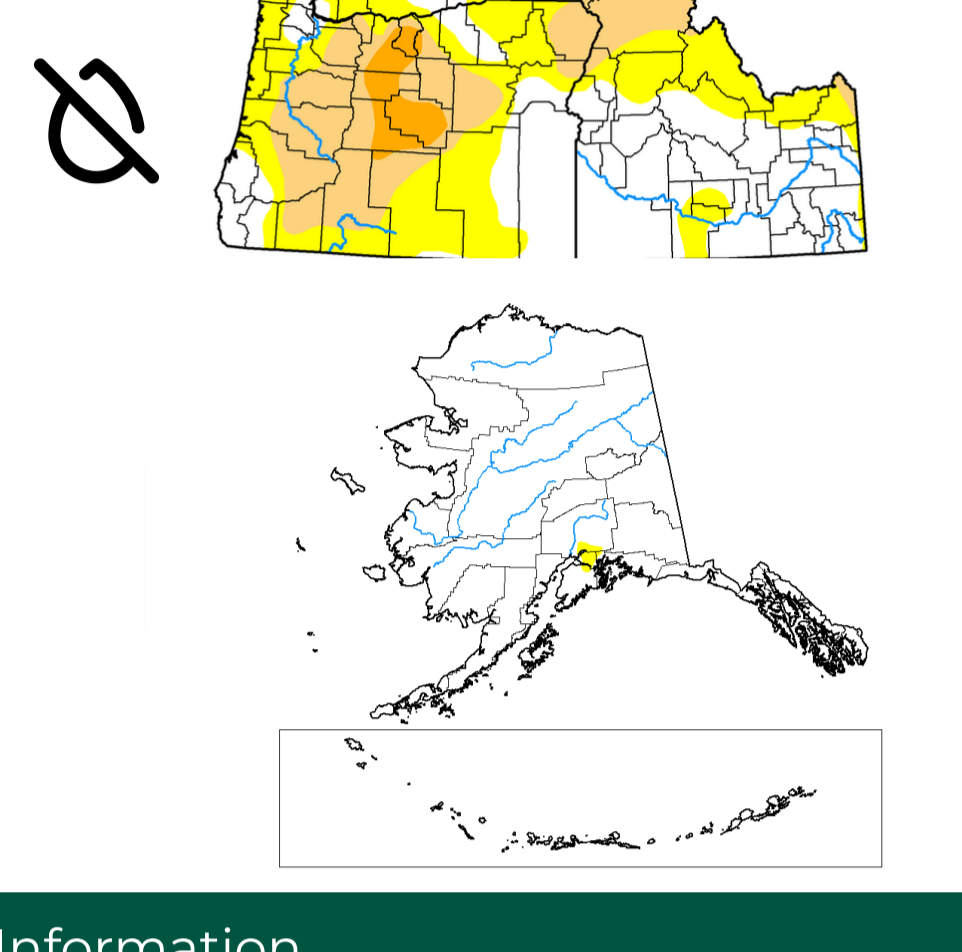
In most of southern Idaho, abnormally dry conditions (D0 – yellow) improved and were removed, though in northern Idaho, abnormally dry conditions and moderate drought (D1 – tan) remain. Central Oregon has seen improvements to drought conditions, including a removal of extreme drought (D3 – red) and a slight decrease in moderate and severe (D2 – orange) drought. However, abnormally dry conditions in northeast and northwest Oregon have expanded where the last few weeks have been unusually warm and dry, soils were drying, and streamflow was decreasing. Though central Washington remains drought-free, abnormal dryness has expanded in the east and west, and moderate drought has developed in the northeast and northwest parts of the state.

Alaska remains free of drought. However, from northeast into the Mat-Su area, a recent stretch of dry weather in the last month continued alongside windy weather and low streamflow values. Therefore, a small area of abnormal dryness developed in this region.



U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Northwest Climate Hub

June 13, 2023
(Released Thursday, Jun. 15, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	81.05	18.95	7.94	0.82	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-06-2023	80.62	19.38	7.59	1.09	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-14-2023	75.00	25.00	16.78	5.62	1.58	0.16
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	75.01	24.99	15.00	7.57	3.06	0.16
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	70.29	29.71	18.36	7.80	3.90	0.16
One Year Ago 06-14-2022	49.63	50.37	22.01	8.40	5.02	0.23

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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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Information



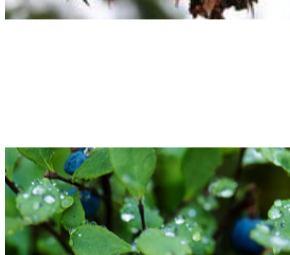
Northwest Reforestation: choosing plant materials suited to current and future climates

The Hub hosted a workshop in May about climate-informed reforestation using assisted migration. This Hub page outlines the key take-aways from the workshop and provides resources for forest managers to understand and utilize assisted migration.



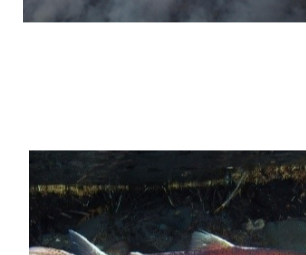
Forest Health Highlights in Oregon 2022

This report, made in partnership between the Oregon Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service highlights areas of tree mortality from insects and disease across the state. The report is largely based on 2022 aerial and ground surveys and can be used to make management decisions for the 2023 year.



Northwest Urban Forests and Climate Change

Urban forests in the Northwest reduce urban heat and improve air quality, helping cities to become more climate resilient and environmentally equitable. Learn more from this Hub webpage.



Climate Change and Wildfire in Alaska

Climate change has caused increasing temperatures and longer growing seasons in Alaska, which have intensified wildfire seasons. This Hub webpage explains the impacts of changing wildfire patterns in Alaska.



Tribal Food Sovereignty and Climate Change in the Northwest

Food sovereignty is important to Northwest Tribal Nations. Climate change threatens traditional food systems and makes it more difficult for Tribes to produce, harvest, and access traditional food sources. Learn more from this Hub webpage and factsheet.



Indigenous Science Key to Adapting to Climate Change

This article discusses how the Karuk Tribe is working with University of California Berkeley to restore healthy ecosystem processes in the Klamath River Basin to increase the consistency and quality of Tribal traditional food harvests.



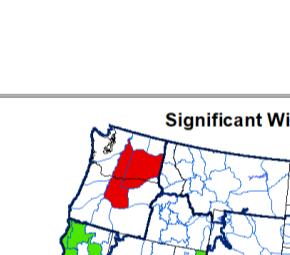
Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison Network

This factsheet describes the Tribal Climate Resilience Network, which helps to bring the work of the USGS Climate Adaptation Science Centers to tribes throughout the United States, including the Northwest.



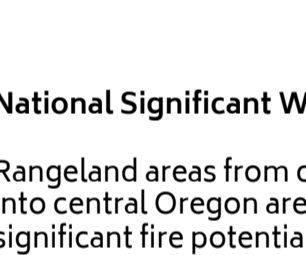
Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice

Disadvantaged communities bear the brunt of climate change impacts. To address this and other environmental burdens, the Biden Administration released an executive order that establishes a government-wide approach to environmental justice.



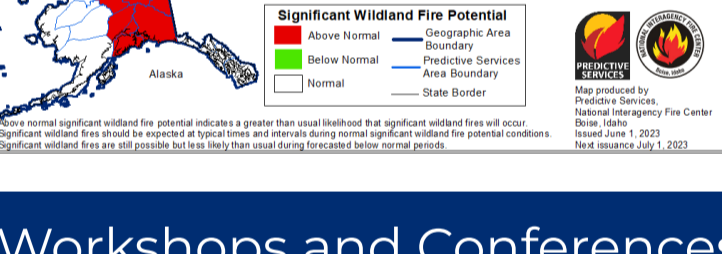
Biden-Harris Administration invests \$2.6 billion to protect coastal communities and restore marine resources

This announcement describes how this initiative will support communities and people on the frontlines of climate change in coastal areas, with an emphasis on environmental justice.



Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Factsheet

The Northwest is dependent on snow for our water supplies. This Hub factsheet describes how climate change will impact snow and a few ways to keep track of how much water Northwest snowpack holds each year.



National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

Rangeland areas from central and eastern Washington into central Oregon are expected to have above-normal significant fire potential in June. In July, above-normal fire potential will expand through rangeland areas in southeast Oregon and southwest Idaho due to above-normal fine fuel loading. With recent and forecast warmer and drier-than-normal conditions, above-normal fire potential is expected in Washington from July into September. Above-normal fire potential will likely emerge by July in far northern Idaho and expand to include all northern Idaho during August and into September. A pattern change is likely to bring slightly above-normal significant fire potential in eastern and central portions of the Interior and south-central Alaska during the latter half of June and likely into July.

Workshops and Conferences

Beating the Heat: Collective Action For a Safer Northwest, 22 June, Seattle, Washington, 5 pm PST. EarthLab, the Climate Impacts Group, and the Center for Health and the Global Environment will be co-hosting an event to share new research and tools that can help save lives during extreme heat. The event will include a panel discussion on the human impacts of extreme heat, what is being done to address it, and where there are gaps and opportunities to reduce impacts of extreme heat. Following the panel, researchers will present two resources that can inform and guide response efforts to extreme heat. The event will conclude with a networking happy hour.

Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Fire Science Workshop, 27-28 June, Darby, MT. This workshop will address issues such as reburns, prescribed fire, aquatic systems, recreation, and cultural burning all within the context of Wilderness in the Northern Rockies. A field day visit to the Magruder Ranger Station on the Bitterroot National Forest will be included. There will also be time for a wider discussion on the barriers and opportunities for wilderness fire management.

2023 Tribal Climate Camp, 13-19 August, Naturebridge, Olympic National Park. This training aims to support teams of tribal leaders, climate change coordinators, planners, and program managers to build skills, gather information, and develop tribal plans and policies needed to address climate change impacts. The Tribal Climate Camp will focus on building a common knowledge base in climate science and on building individual and team capacity to lead and manage for change and adaptation across departments within a tribe and between the tribe and partner agencies and organizations.

Webinars

Spreading Information Not Invasives: Amplifying Climate Change and First Foods Considerations in an Invasive Species Knowledge Sharing Hub, 22 June, 9 am PDT.

The Northwest Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change Network and Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) are hosting this webinar focused on the interactions between climate change, first foods, and invasive species. The webinar will also describe how to access and use the OISC Invasive Species Digital Information Hub.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation in Western U.S. National Forests, 22 June, 1 pm PDT.

This U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station webinar will describe climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation efforts for national forests in the West. Presenters Jessica Halofsky, Thomas Timberlake, and Dave Peterson of the Northwest Climate Hub will discuss how climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation options have been used in forest planning and management, including examples of managing infrastructure, forest vegetation, fish habitat, and cultural resources. Email Rachel White (rachel.e.white@usda.gov) to request an invite.

Climate Conversations: Artificial Intelligence, 22 June, 12:30 pm PDT.

Join a National Academies conversation with Priya Donti (MIT) and Amy McGovern (University of Oklahoma) about the challenges and opportunities related to the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning in advancing climate solutions. The conversation will touch on the potential to deploy AI tools to support climate action, aligning the energy demands of AI with climate-relevant goals, and opportunities to integrate accountability, transparency, and equity into development and use of these tools.

June Alaska Climate Outlook Briefing, 23 June, 12pm AKDT.

This National Weather Service webinar will review recent and current climate conditions around Alaska, finish up with the Climate Prediction Center's forecast for July 2023 and the summer season. Join to learn what's happened and what may be in store with Alaska's seasonal climate.

The Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System (PNW DEWS) June Drought & Climate Outlook, 26 June, 11 am PST.

This webinar is designed to provide timely, regional information on current drought status and impacts, a preview of current and developing climatic events and includes two presentations from specialty topic speakers. Specialty topics focus on management actions, latest tools, and research that focuses on snow, water, forestry, rangelands, or agriculture. Webinars are recorded for later viewing.

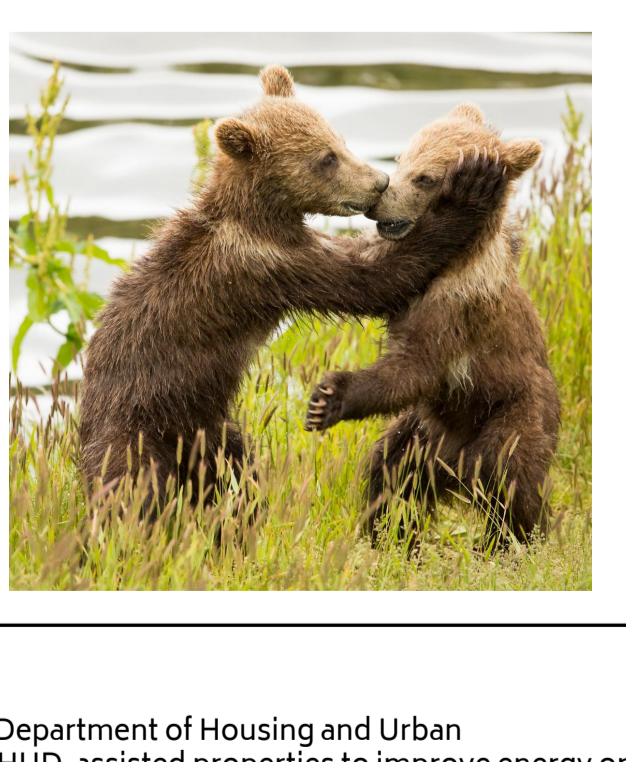
Funding

July

Indigenous Animals Grant. Climate change is altering the abundance and migration patterns of many animals that Indigenous people rely on for food security. This grant program aims to provide support for traditional harvesting methods, indigenous animals, and community animal protein processing operations for Tribal Nations. Funded projects will invest in Tribal Nations' supply chain resiliency, indigenous animals, restoring local Indigenous food systems and processing methods, and expanding local capacity to provide culturally appropriate food and food security to Tribal communities. Tribal governments of federally recognized Tribes, their wholly owned arms and instrumentalities, or joint or multi-tribal government entities are eligible to apply. **Applications due 19 July.**

Tribal Solar Gap Funding Grant Program. The Tribal Solar Gap Funding Grant supports solar projects of any type that require a tribal cost-share (e.g., Federal or State grant programs) or are leveraging funding from other grant opportunities or initiatives. Applicants may apply for gap funding up to \$250,000. These projects should be positioned to deploy solar energy with an existing funding gap (cost share) which is preventing the project from being completed. **Applications due 24 July.**

Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers Initiative. The USDA Farm Service Agency is offering a nationwide opportunity for landowners and agricultural producers currently implementing water quality practices through the Conservation Reserve Program to enroll in 30-year contracts, extending the lifespan and strengthening the benefits of important water quality practices on their land. To sign up, landowners and producers should **contact their local USDA Service Center by 31 July.** Find a local service center by clicking here.



Ongoing

The Green and Resilient Retrofit Program. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing grants and loans to HUD-assisted properties to improve energy or water efficiency or make properties more resilient to climate impacts. Rolling applications accepted through May 2024.

Clean Energy Investment and Production Tax Credit. The Investment Tax Credit and the Production Tax Credit work together to lower the costs of installing and operating new clean energy power sources. These tax credits are intended to encourage more investments in clean energy systems over the next few years. Tax credits can be claimed until January 2025, after which tax credits will be focused only on zero carbon sources of power, and the size of the credits will decrease.

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Foundational and Applied Science Program. This National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) program invests in agricultural production research, education, and extension projects for more sustainable, productive, and economically viable plant and animal production systems. 2023 priority areas include plant health and production; animal health and production; food safety, nutrition, and health; bioenergy, natural resources and environment; agriculture systems and technology; and agricultural economics and rural communities. Applications that address climate change, food security, expanding markets for producers, traditional ecological knowledge, and equity for underserved producers are welcome. **Applications due between August and November 2023 based on Program Priority Areas.**

Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants. This program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. **Applications reviewed every three months between 30 June, 2023 and 30 September, 2023.**

Sabbatical Research and Education Call for Proposals. The Northwest Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (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. \$75,000 limit/one year in scope. **Proposals due 21 November.**

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