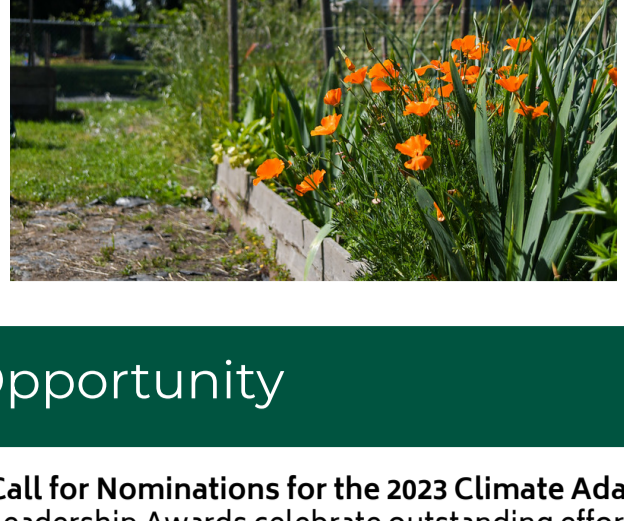


May Newsletter

Featured Article



Urban Agriculture and Climate Change in the Northwest

Urban agriculture in the Northwest comes in many forms, from backyard gardens to indoor controlled-environment agriculture. Cities that have strong urban agriculture can be more climate resilient, especially if urban agriculture supplements the local food supply or helps reduce some of the impacts of climate change like heat islands. Urban agriculture can also support local biodiversity through pollinator gardens and native plant gardens. Read this Hub article to learn more.

Opportunity

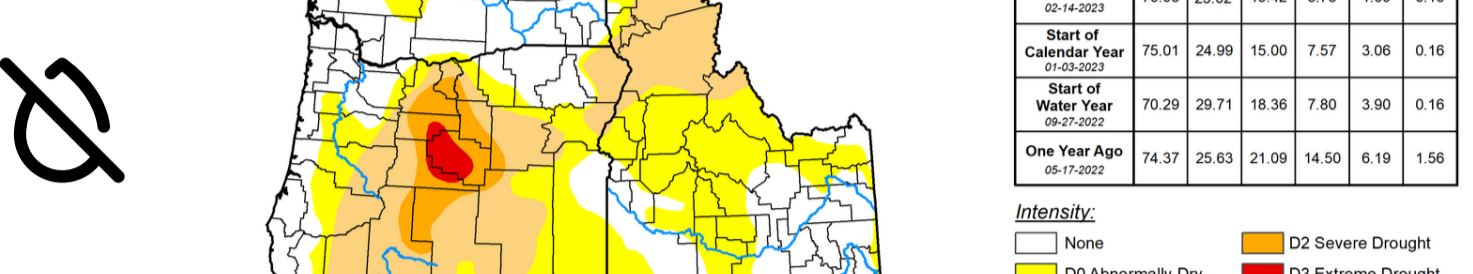
Call for Nominations for the 2023 Climate Adaptation Leadership Awards. The Climate Adaptation Leadership Awards celebrate outstanding efforts to increase the resilience of America's natural resources and help sustain the many people, communities, and businesses that depend on them. This award recognizes exemplary leadership by individuals, agencies, Tribes, businesses, and other organizations to reduce impacts and advance adaptation of the Nation's fish, wildlife, and plants by addressing the goals of the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy. **Nominations due 31 May.**

Volunteers needed to inform new tool about cover crops. The Western Cover Crops Council (WCCC) is creating a new cover crop selection tool that will assist producers in making decisions about which cover crop species are best suited to their operation. The goal of the Cover Crop Selection Tool is to create an online, interactive tool that assists in cover crop species selection for farmers, extension researchers, and universities across the West. To capture the individualism and unique challenges of farming in the Northwest, we are in need of volunteers from different backgrounds that are willing to share their experience with cover crops to assist in the development of this tool. This is an excellent opportunity to share research and network with other people that are involved with cover crops. If you, or someone you know may be interested, please contact Clair Akin at cmakin@ucanr.edu or 530-636-0560.

Drought Update

Areas of moderate to heavy precipitation brought some improvement to abnormally dry conditions across western Oregon, and extreme (D3-red) and severe (D2-orange) drought eased in central Oregon. However, drought of varying intensity persists in much of Oregon and northern Idaho, where there has been below-normal precipitation for the water year to date. Melting of the deep snowpack eased abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) and moderate drought (D1-tan) in parts of southeastern Idaho and northeastern Oregon. Abnormal dryness improved across much of Washington, but continues to affect the northwest and northeast corners of the state.

Alaska remains free of drought.



USDA Northwest Climate Hub

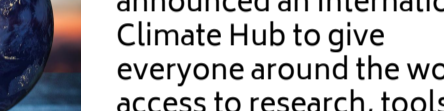
May 16, 2023
(Released Thursday, May 18, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	82.42	17.58	8.39	1.56	0.29	0.00
Last Week (05-09-2023)	81.60	18.40	8.64	1.73	0.38	0.00
3 Months Ago (02-14-2023)	76.98	23.02	15.42	5.75	1.69	0.16
Start of Calendar Year (01-03-2023)	75.01	24.99	15.00	7.57	3.08	0.18
Start of Water Year (09-27-2022)	70.29	29.71	18.36	7.80	3.90	0.18
One Year Ago (05-17-2022)	74.37	25.63	21.09	14.50	6.19	1.56

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>.

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

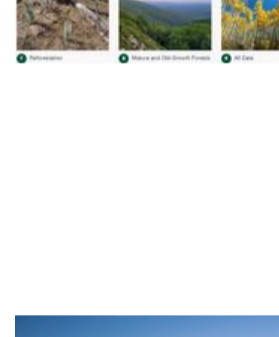


Information



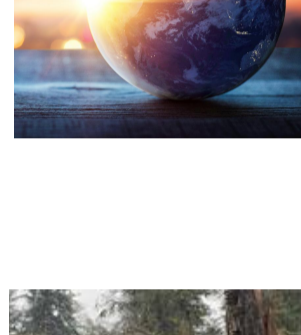
USDA Climate Hubs: A National Resource for Climate Science, Tools, and Information

The Climate Hubs are almost ten years old! This Hub webpage shares information about our ten years of work, our current work streams and priority areas, and specifics about the Northwest Hub.



Forest Service Climate Risk Viewer

This risk viewer illustrates the overlap of multiple values with climate exposure and vulnerability, and current management direction related to National Forest System lands. Resource managers can use this information to assess the need for climate adaptation to maintain valued resources.



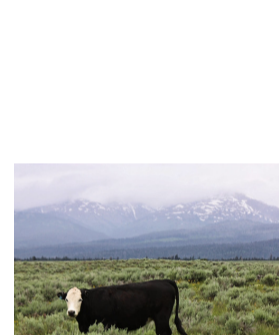
USDA Announces a New International Climate Hub

The USDA recently announced an International Climate Hub to give everyone around the world access to research, tools, and best practices to make informed, science-based decisions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



Drought and Extreme Events in Southeast Alaska: 2022 Workshop Guide

This guide discusses the Drought and Extreme Events Workshop that occurred in Alaska in March 2022 and summarizes the latest research, data, decision support tools, and local monitoring efforts conducted by residents of rural Southeast Alaska communities.



Alaska and a Changing Climate

Alaska is warming at two to three times the rate of the global average. Rapid warming, changing precipitation patterns, and changes to the cryosphere in Alaska affect communities, industry, and natural resources. Learn more from this Hub webpage.



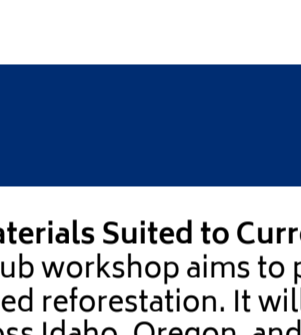
Climate Change and Mental Health in the Northwest

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Climate change can have an array of negative mental health effects, particularly on vulnerable populations. However, there are ways to cultivate resilience. Learn more from this Hub webpage.



Climate Smart Commodities for Idaho – A Public-Private-Tribal Partnership

Over the next five years, \$55 million will be spent to research and implement greenhouse-gas-reducing practices in Idaho's farming and ranching systems. Learn more about the partnership making this happen at AgClimate.Net



Biochar at a Glance

This fact sheet from the Rocky Mountain Research Station and Northwest Climate Hub discusses how biochar is made, some uses and benefits of biochar, and biochar's potential role in helping to mitigate climate change.

Workshops and Conferences



Northwest Reforestation: Choosing Plant Materials Suited to Current and Future Climates, 23 May, Olympia, WA. This Northwest Climate Hub workshop aims to promote shared learning around selection of plant materials for climate-informed reforestation. It will bring together technology transfer specialists and practitioners from across Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to discuss the lessons learned from established assisted migration plantings. The primary focus will be on assisted population migration (movement of seed sources within a species range), but assisted range expansion and species migration (movement of seed sources just outside and well beyond the current species range) will also be discussed. Land managers from federal, state, and tribal agencies are encouraged to attend.



Interagency Conference on Research in the Watersheds, 5-8 June, Corvallis, OR. The Interagency Conference on Research in the Watersheds brings together watershed scientists, stakeholders, and managers to share scientific advances and management strategies to sustain the country's water resources. The goals are to better understand the factors driving change and associated impacts, and to incorporate societal needs and scientific uncertainties in the sustainable management of water resources.



2023 Northwest Tribal Clean Energy Summit, 13-15 June, Tulalip Resort and Casino, Marysville, WA. The Summit will engage Tribal leaders, citizens, staff, youth, and collaborators in conversation about navigating the cultural, economic, and social challenges of implementing clean-energy projects. This summit aims to ensure that Tribes have the information, support, capacity, and resources necessary to plan for and implement Tribal energy projects. Tribal leaders, staff, citizens, and tribal collaborators are invited to attend.

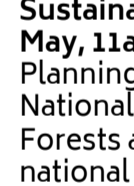


Selwyn Bitterroot and Frank Church Wilderness Fire Address of No Return Wilderness Fire Summit, 27-28 June, Darby, MT. This workshop will review issues such as reburns, prescribed fire, aquatic systems, recreation, and cultural burning, all within the context of wilderness in the Northern Rockies. A 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.



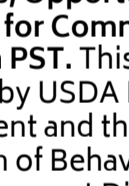
2023 Tribal Climate Camp, 13-19 August, Naturebridge, Olympic National Park. This training aims to build teams of tribal leaders, climate change coordinators, planners, and program managers to support skills, gather information, and develop Tribal plans and policies needed to address climate change impacts. 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 Tribes and partner agencies and organizations.

Webinars

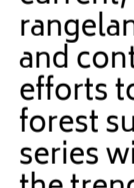


SCIENCEx Resources Planning Act and National Reports on Sustainable Forests, 18 & 19 May, 11am PST. The Resources Planning Act Assessment and the National Report on Sustainable Forests are foundational to our national understanding of past, current, and future forest and rangeland conditions in the U.S. and contribute to multinational efforts to measure and monitor forest sustainability. This webinar series will provide an overview of the trends shaping natural resources, explore implications for many resource categories, and discuss international efforts to sustain forests worldwide.

May 2023 Alaska Climate Outlook Briefing, 19 May, 12 pm AKST. Rick Thoman, climate specialist at the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy, will review recent and current climate conditions around Alaska, forecast tools, and the Climate Prediction Center's forecast for June 2022 and the summer season. Join to learn what has happened and what may be in store with Alaska's seasonal climate.

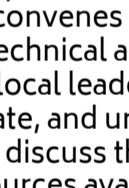


Rural Mental Health Matters: Challenges, Opportunities, and Resources for Communities, 23 May, 11 am PST. This workshop, co-hosted by USDA Rural Development and the National Association of Behavioral Health and Development Disability Directors, convenes farmers and ranchers, technical assistance providers, local leaders, and Federal, state, and university partners to discuss the mental health resources available in rural places, where over 60% of Americans live in mental health provider shortage areas. Speakers will examine programs focused on giving rural communities the tools they need to thrive and explore the importance of increasing provider efficiency in rural areas.



AgriSolar in the Pacific Northwest, 24 May, 10 am PST. This webinar, hosted by the National Center for Appropriate Technology and the AgriSolar Clearinghouse, includes presentations from Max Greene and Emily Griffith from Renewable Northwest. The webinar will discuss agrivoltaics — the pairing of solar power generation with agriculture — and its potential to provide reciprocal benefits for crops, grazing, pollinator habitat and habitat restoration in a changing climate.

First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs), 2 June and the first Friday of every month, 11 am PST. FFACCTs is a monthly webinar series organized by the USDA Climate Hubs and Forest Service Research and Development that features presentations from USDA scientists and practitioners. Webinars explore connections between climate, agriculture, nature, and people, and discuss their struggles, hazards, solutions, and achievements. If you would like to subscribe to the FFACCTs list (or resubscribe, as fs.fed.us emails no longer forward), send an email to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov with a blank subject and "Subscribe FFACCTs" (no quotes) in the body.



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, and a preview of current and developing climatic events. It includes two presentations from specialty topic speakers, focusing on management actions, the latest tools, and research on snow, water, forestry, rangelands, or agriculture. Webinars are recorded for later viewing.

Funding

May



Conservation Reserve Program Grasslands. The Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a federally funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. Climate change will affect plant and animal biodiversity. Adding on to that are threats of land conversion. Keeping these lands available for plants and animals to thrive will benefit them in the face of climate change. **Applications due 26 May.**

Planning Proposals to Catalyze Innovative and Inclusive Wildland Fire Science through Diverse Collaborations. The National Science Foundation is calling for planning proposals for advancing inclusive wildland fire science via diverse knowledge systems. Proposals that aim to develop a deeper understanding of wildland fire as integrated social-cultural-ecological-technological systems and improve education across multiple levels, in informal settings and/or formal settings and spanning pre-college through postsecondary levels, are also encouraged. Budget requests may not exceed \$100,000 per year, with a duration of up to two years. **Applications due 31 May.**

June cont.

Micro-Grants for Food Security Program (MGFSP). MGFSP assists agricultural agencies or departments in eligible states and territories to increase the quantity and quality of locally grown food in food insecure communities through small-scale gardening, herding, and livestock operations. These grants are intended for areas of the United States that have significant levels of food insecurity and import a significant quantity of foods. The agricultural agencies or departments competitively distribute the funds through sub-awards to eligible entities. Eligible applicants are agricultural agencies, commissions, or departments in Alaska and several other food insecure states and territories. **Applications due 6 June.**

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants. This program will provide grants to states, local governments, Tribes, and territories to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. These grants support the development and implementation of strong, local greenhouse gas reduction strategies. This two-staged grant program provides funding of \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. **Applications due 15 June.**

June



Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grants. The Forest Service is making up to \$1 billion available in Urban and Community Forestry competitive grants for investments that increase equitable access to urban tree canopy and associated human health, environmental and economic benefits in disadvantaged communities; broaden community engagement in local urban forest planning; and improve community and urban forest resilience to climate change, pests and storm events through best management and maintenance practices. **Applications due 1 June.**

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.**

Ongoing



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.**



Tribal Solar Gap Funding Grant Program. The Tribal Solar Gap Funding Grant supports solar projects of any type that require a tribal cost-share (ex. 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 open 31 May.**

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. This Western 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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