USDA Northwest Climate Hub
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

April 2019 Newsletter

Drought in the NW Climate Hub Region

Much needed precipitation has alleviated drought conditions in most of Oregon and southern Idaho. Abnormally dry conditions (D0-yellow) persist in parts of Oregon and much of Washington and the northern panhandle of Idaho. Moderate drought (D1-tan) conditions have expanded in north-central Washington.

Drought conditions of abnormally dry (D0-yellow) to severe drought (D2-orange) are persisting in southeast Alaska. Note: the format of the drought map for Alaska has changed to improve the readability of drought conditions in the state, especially for the southeast and Aleutian islands.

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.

NATIONAL INTEGRATED DROUGHT INFORMATION SYSTEM NIDIS Drought.gov U.S. Drought Portal

Snow drought information

CoCoRHaS Community Rain Hail Snow Network

Pacific Northwest Drought Impacts Survey

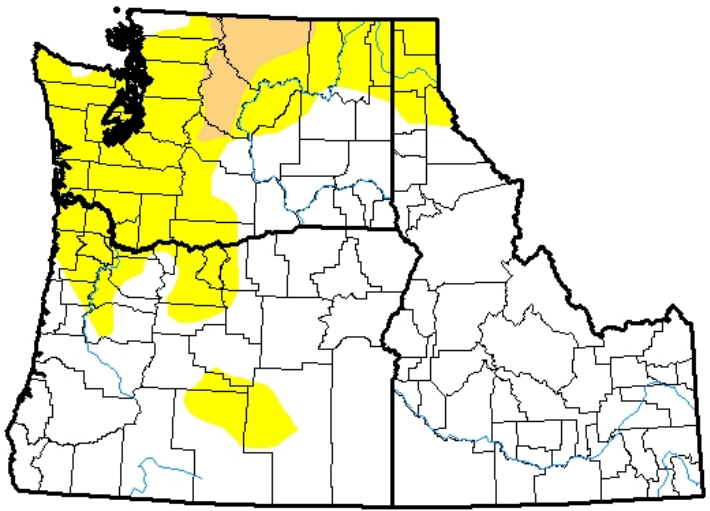
U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Northwest Climate Hub

April 23, 2019

(Released Thursday, Apr. 25, 2019)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

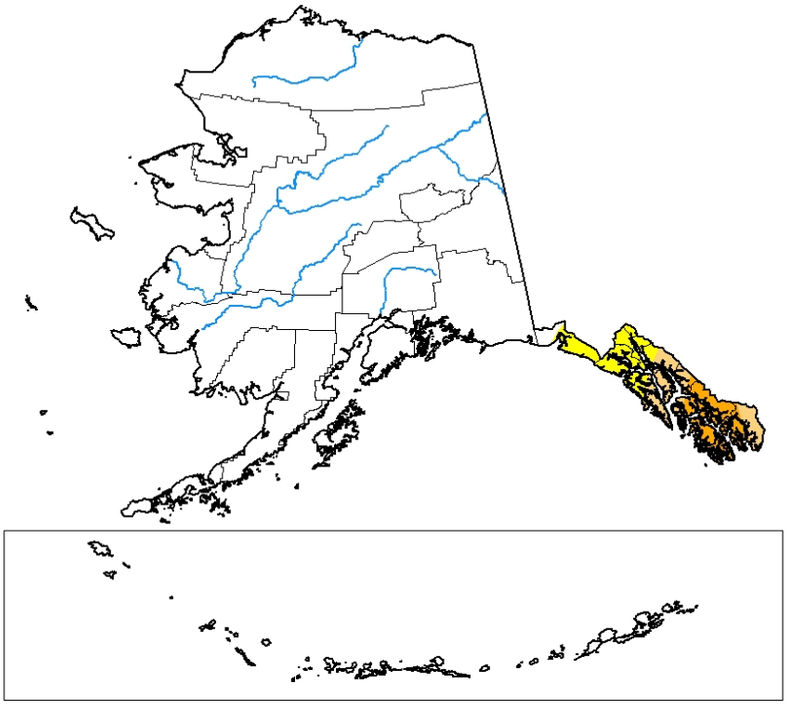


Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	87.73	8.80	2.12	1.35	0.00	0.00
Last Week *04-16-2019*	86.79	9.66	2.19	1.35	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago *01-22-2019*	71.36	13.13	4.62	9.47	1.42	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 *04-24-2018*	80.54	14.80	4.66	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- 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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

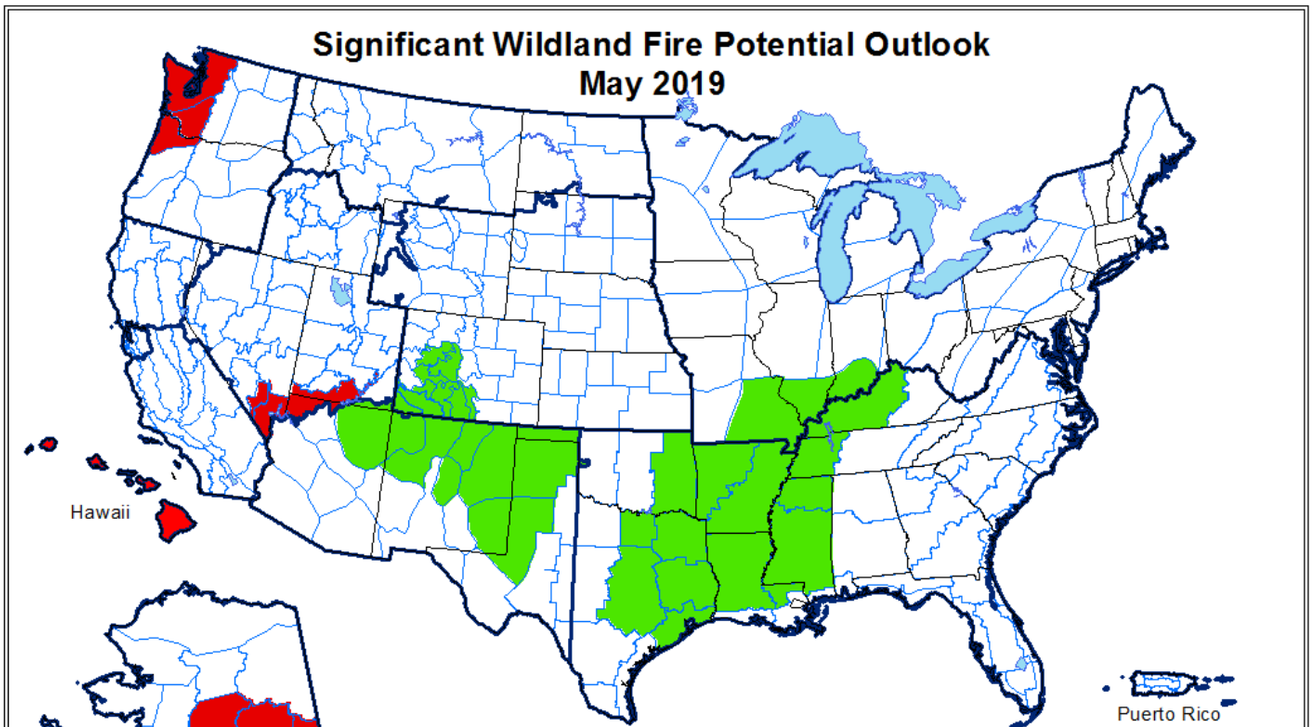
New USDA.GOV email addresses coming in APRIL 2019

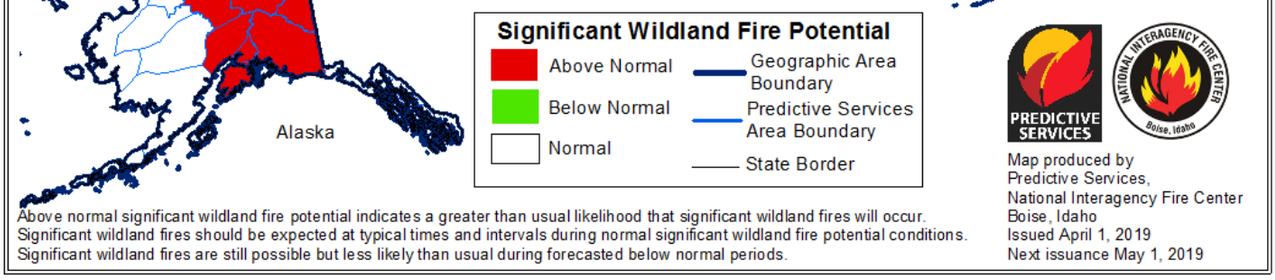
As a part of the OneUSDA initiative, all USDA employees including the Forest Service will have new email addresses ending with @usda.gov. We are in a transition period and will receive emails sent to both @fs.fed.us and @usda.gov addresses. Starting in **April** 2019, you will receive emails only from @usda.gov. Note the unique name section of our email addresses has changed for all of us in the NW Climate Hub:

- Katherine Smith, Acting Director **katherine.l.smith@usda.gov**
- Holly Prendeville, Coordinator **holly.prendeville@usda.gov**
- Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, Fellow **gabrielle.roeschmcnally@usda.gov**

National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlooks

Wildfire potential in May is projected to be **above** normal for southcentral and interior Alaska along with western Washington and northwestern Oregon.





Funding opportunities

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced deadlines for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI). Eligibility: 1862, 1890 and 1994 land-grant institutions; for-profit organizations other than small businesses; private and state controlled institutions of higher ed, and state agricultural experiment stations. Request for Applications (RFA) deadlines: FY 2019: **May 2, 2019**; FY 2020: January 23, 2020.

National Coastal Resilience Fund: Increasing the nation's natural defenses has a 2019 request for proposals to restore and strengthen natural systems so they can protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards and enable them to recover more quickly, while also enhancing habitats for important fish and wildlife populations. **Pre-proposals due 20 May 2019 at 11:59 PM ET.** Full proposal by *invite only* due 22 July 2019 11:59 PM ET.

Joint Fire Science Program has announced a Funding Opportunity for Reducing damages and losses to valued resources from wildfire, Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) and Effectiveness of fuel breaks and fuel break systems. Applications due **16 May 2019**.

Western SARE Research & Education Grants due May 28, 2019 Noon MDT. Grants involve scientists, producers, and others using interdisciplinary approaches to address issues related to sustaining agriculture. Following a technical review the best pre-proposals will be asked to submit full proposals, due in November 2019.

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) call from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for Oregon and Idaho. The purpose of CIG is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. CIG projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches (such as market-based systems) to agricultural producers, into NRCS technical manuals and guides, or to the private sector. CIG generally funds pilot projects, field demonstrations, and on-farm conservation research.

On-farm conservation research is defined as an investigation conducted to answer a specific applied conservation question using a statistically valid design while employing farm-scale equipment on farms, ranches or private forest lands.

Idaho CIG due **7 June 2019** to fund projects at $7,500-$75,000
Oregon CIG due **31 May 2019** to fund project at $5,000-$75,000

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has a request for applications for fiscal year 2019 for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program. Applications are due **26 September 2019 5 pm ET**.

Priority areas include:
1. Plant health and production and plant products;
2. Animal health and production and animal products;
3. Food safety, nutrition, and health;
4. Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment;
5. Agriculture systems and technology; and
6. Agriculture economics and rural communities.

Webinars

Growing up: Findings from a Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) student project on post-fire conifer regeneration trajectories in eastern Oregon. Webinar hosted by the Northwest Fire Science Consortium on 1 May 1-2 pm PT.

Fire Outlook, presented by Josh Clark with the WA Department of Natural Resources. Webinar hosted by the Northwest Fire Science Consortium. May 7 from 10-11 am PT.

Climatic controls on post-fire regeneration and growth in ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Webinar hosted by the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network. May 7 from 11 am - 12 pm PT.

LANDFIRE'S Intro to the updated Remap data, presented by Jim Smith with The Nature Conservancy. Webinar hosted by the Northwest Fire Science Consortium. *Save the date!* May 9 from 1-2 pm PT.

AK **Getting ready for the season: Alaska Fire Modeling and Analysis Committee Updates Spring 2019**. Webinar hosted by the Alaska Fire Science Consortium on 14 May 10 am AKT.

Unraveling the Complexity of Mixed Severity Fire Regimes: New Insights From Three Rocky Mountain Ecosystems. Webinar hosted by the Northern Rockies Fire Science Network. May 21 from 11 am - 12 pm MT.

Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System, Drought and Climate Outlook webinar 24 June 2019 11 am-12 pm PT. Webinar includes a Climate Recap, Current Conditions, Seasonal Outlook, and special topic speaker Brooke Penaluna who will discuss aquatic–riparian ecosystem management. Click on text to register for this webinar.

A recording of April's PNW-DEWS webinar is available, click this text to view it. Kyle Hogrefe starts his presentation on using models to aid grazing management at 38:20.

Conferences

Oregon Grazingland Soil Health Tour on 13-17 May. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is hosting a three-day field tour of soil health on Oregon's grazinglands. Each day they will meet with ranchers who are shifting the management paradigm and discovering the benefits healthy soil has for their forage, animals, and community.

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. Early Registration open until April 30, 2019 with regular registration begining on 1 May 2019.

2019 Tribes and First Nations Climate Change Summit 20-21 July 2019 at the Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights, Washington. The summit will convene leaders from Tribes and First Nations throughout the Pacific Northwest and North America to advance tribal climate change policy and action. The summit will focus on topics such as tribal climate change resiliency, protecting and applying Traditional Knowledges in climate change initiatives, and implementing a unified tribal climate change policy agenda. The Summit will also include a half-day tour of the Spokane Tribal Housing Program solar project on 1 August. The Summit will be hosted by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and co-sponsored by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NPLCC), Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Network, and others. Registration is now open.

Workshop

SE AK Drought

Southeast Alaska Drought Workshop: Less rain, warmer temperatures, transitioning from a 'snow to rain dominated system'. The Northwest Climate Hub and the National Drought Mitigation Center 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 rainforest. The workshop will be held in Juneau, Alaska on 7 May, 8 am - 5 pm AKT. Click icon to the left of this text for the agenda. Participate in the virtual workshop go to:

Zoom Meeting Link: https://unl.zoom.us/j/850819665
View Zoom webinar via a browser (click option when prompted) or by downloading Zoom software. Call in number: +1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 850 819 665

Information

The Dairy Biorefinery is a new publication by Washington State University in the Anaerobic Digestion Systems Series. This series provides research-based information to improve decision-making for incorporating, augmenting, and maintaining anaerobic digestion systems for manures and food by-products. Anaerobic digestion is a notable waste management technology that produces renewable energy while improving livestock manure management.

Shorelines in Alaska are changing, with significant consequences for animals and people in this region. Organizing a series of student-led discussions with community leaders and Alaskan Native elders, Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station scientists Dr. Adelaide Johnson and Dr. Linda Kruger have identified which coastal resources are of most concern to local communities and how coastal changes may impact these valued resources.

A **video** summarizing findings from student-led discussions can be viewed here.

Reminder for Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington nursery growers that the final date to apply for crop insurance supported by the USDA Risk Management Agency coverage is **1 May**.

AK **Alaska Snow Survey Report** for April 2019 produced by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) summarizes snowpack conditions for basins in Alaska.
Click here for past or future Alaska Snow Survey Reports

ID **Idaho Snow Survey Report** for April 2019 produced by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) summarizes snowpack conditions for basins in Idaho.

OR **Oregon Snow Survey Program** by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) summarizes snowpack conditions and water supply for basins in Oregon.

WA **Washington Snow Survey Program** by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) summarizes snowpack conditions and water supply for basins in Washington.

Growers have crop insurance options for spring planting delays, an article in the Capital Press noting options by the USDA for farmers have if planting is delayed in the spring due to excessive moisture or lingering snow cover.

The Organic Truth: What 22 Years of Monitoring Reveals About Forest Soil Resiliency on the Kootenai National Forest. An article about forest soil health from the Rocky Mountain Research Station's Science You Can Use publication.

Careers - available positions

American Farmland Trust is looking for a Climate Change Technical Specialist in the Pacific Northwest region or work remotely. The primary responsibilities are to research and conduct modeling scenarios to quantify the impacts of agricultural practices on greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration potential. This will be used to develop a set of recommendations that will inform policy and program managers building climate action plans. Application deadline is **28 May 2019**, but applications will be accepted until hired.

The College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University invites applications for Director for the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at the rank of Associate or Full Professor. This position provides vision and leadership in directing the work of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), including responsibility for strategic planning, as well as forging and sustaining partnerships with Oregon universities, state and federal agencies, sovereign Native American tribes, and with the private sector. Applications must be received by **29 April 2019.**

NORTHWEST CLIMATE HUB

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