

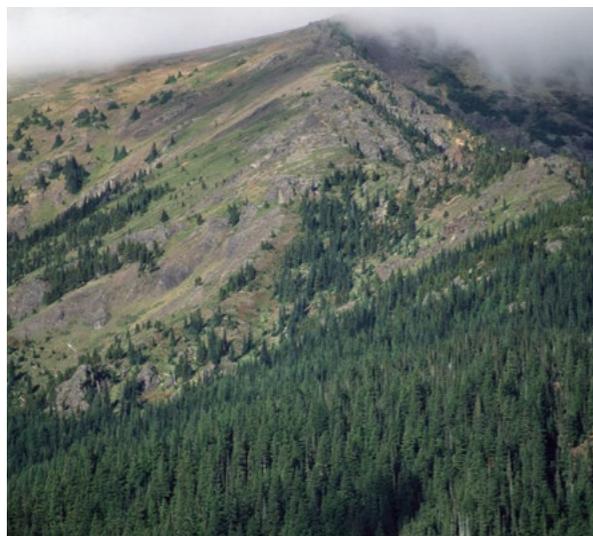
## April 2024 Newsletter

### Featured Article



#### **Reducing Spruce Beetle Damage on the Chugach National Forest, Alaska**

Spruce beetle outbreaks have affected nearly 2 million acres of spruce forest in Southcentral Alaska since 2016. This outbreak coincides with rising temperatures and increasing instances of drought associated with climate change. These conditions create a more favorable environment for spruce beetles, accelerating their life cycle and making trees more vulnerable to infestation. In the Seward Ranger District on the Kenai Peninsula, the Chugach National Forest is combatting outbreak impacts by removing hazardous trees and fuel to improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk, and ensure the safety of visitors and wildlife. Learn more from this Northwest Climate Hub article.



## **Braiding Indigenous and Western Knowledge for Climate-Adapted Forests**

This report outlines stewardship methods and recommendations that blend indigenous and western knowledge to support climate-adapted forests.



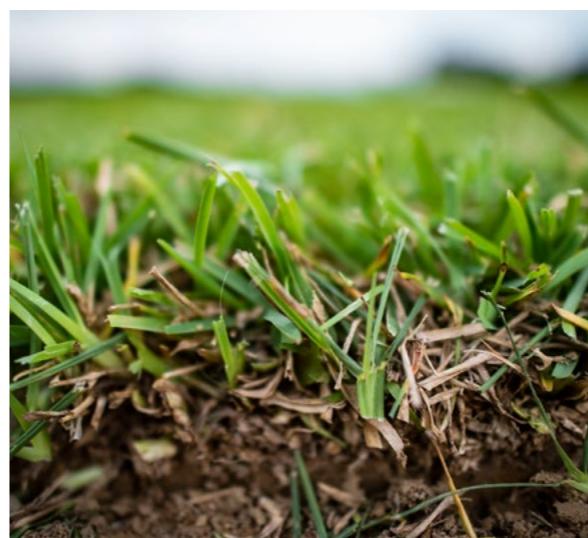
## **The Tribal Resilience Action Database**

This database of climate adaptation strategies and community examples (already published by Tribes) can be used to inform ongoing and new climate adaptation and resilience work in tribal communities.



## **Quantifying Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Fluxes in Agriculture and Forestry**

This USDA report provides users with the methods needed to quantify GHG fluxes from agriculture and forestry systems. This includes fluxes from croplands and grazing lands, animal production, forestry, wetlands, and land-use change.



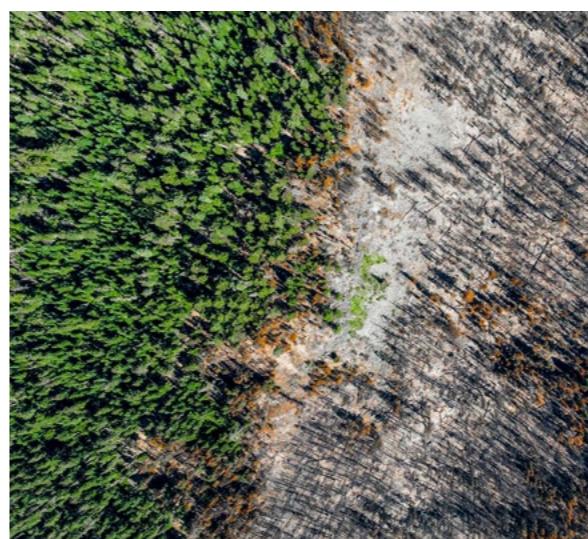
## **The EW Podcast with Claire Phillips**

In this podcast episode, Dr. Claire Phillips, Agricultural Research Service co-lead of the Northwest Hub, discusses her research on the value of turf systems in carbon sequestration.



## **Prescribed Fire in the Northwest**

Prescribed fire can help to reduce wildfire size and severity in a changing climate. This Climate Hub article outlines the benefits and challenges of prescribed burning in the Northwest.

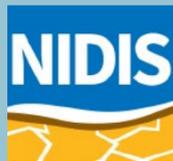


## **Oregon Post Fire Research and Monitoring Collaborative**

This group, supported by the Climate Hub, facilitates communication of post-fire research and monitoring initiatives across diverse agencies and organizations.

# Drought Update

Southern parts of southeastern Alaska have been drier-than-normal since January. In response, abnormal dryness (D0 – yellow) was added to reflect low precipitation over the past few months. Abnormal dryness was also introduced in northwestern Oregon, but conditions in the rest of the state remained relatively stable. In northeastern Oregon and western Idaho, heavy precipitation in early April eradicated abnormal dryness from areas, and reduced moderate drought (D1 – tan) to abnormal dryness. However, in the Idaho Panhandle, a small section of extreme drought (D3 – red) developed amidst persistent severe drought (D2 – orange). In Washington, abnormal dryness and moderate drought expanded across the western and northeastern parts of the state.



National Integrated Drought Information System



CoCoRaHS Community Rain Hail Snow Network



Condition Monitoring Observer Reports

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

**April 23, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 25, 2024)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

|   | None  | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4   |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| <b>Current</b>                              | 85.42 | 14.58 | 3.71  | 0.96  | 0.02  | 0.00 |
| <b>Last Week</b><br>04-16-2024              | 88.39 | 11.61 | 3.58  | 0.96  | 0.02  | 0.00 |
| <b>3 Months Ago</b><br>01-23-2024           | 86.51 | 13.49 | 6.38  | 1.13  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| <b>Start of Calendar Year</b><br>01-02-2024 | 84.63 | 15.37 | 5.68  | 1.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| <b>Start of Water Year</b><br>09-26-2023    | 80.15 | 19.85 | 14.48 | 7.82  | 1.55  | 0.00 |
| <b>One Year Ago</b><br>04-25-2023           | 81.25 | 18.75 | 9.16  | 2.60  | 0.67  | 0.00 |

Intensity:

|  |                     |  |                        |
|--|---------------------|--|------------------------|
|  | None                |  | D2 Severe Drought      |
|  | D0 Abnormally Dry   |  | D3 Extreme Drought     |
|  | D1 Moderate Drought |  | D4 Exceptional Drought |

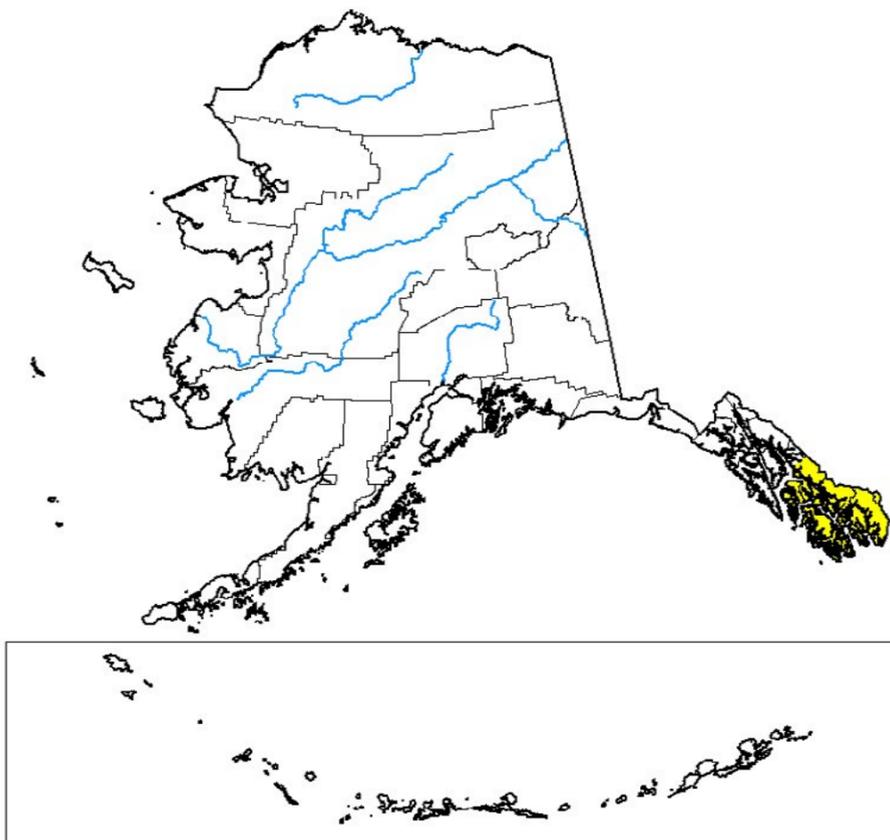
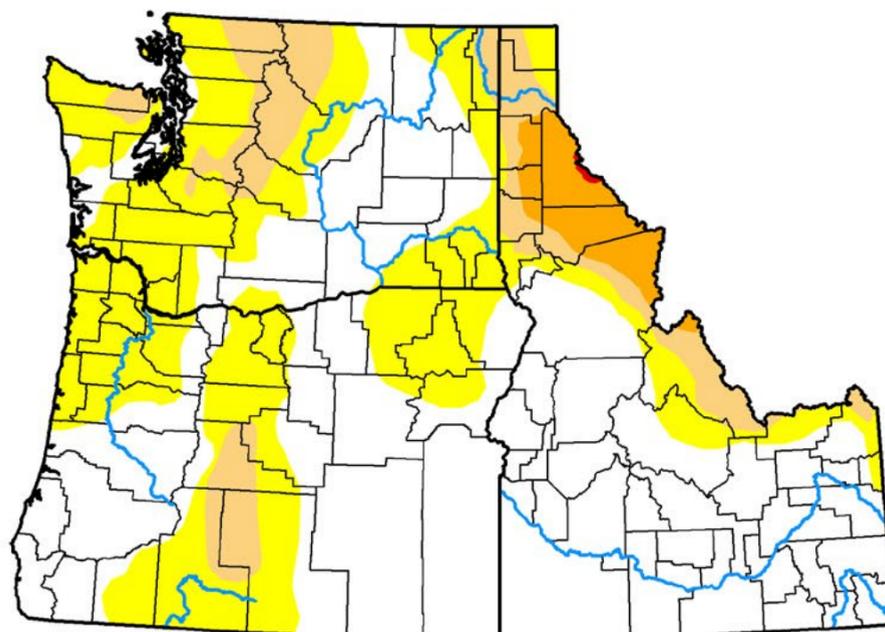
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



# Workshops and Conferences



## **National Adaptation Forum, 14–16 May, St. Paul, Minnesota**

The National Adaptation Forum is a bi-annual convening for adaptation professionals to innovate, network, and focus on established and emerging climate adaptation issues of the day. The forum provides opportunities for professional development through training sessions, facilitated presentations and panels, and formal and informal networking sessions.



## **Establishing Directions in Postfire Debris Flow Science Conference, 20–22 May, South Lake Tahoe, California.**

The science of post-wildfire debris flows has evolved rapidly over the past few decades as wildfires have become more frequent, large, and severe, impacting human health and landscapes. This workshop will bring together diverse disciplines to create a collective understanding of the state of the science, identify research and operations hurdles, build partnerships and enable knowledge transfer, and develop future research goals.



## **Biennial Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop, 5–8 August, Wenatchee, Washington.**

This workshop will provide an opportunity for scientists, managers, and students to share results of their latest research, activities related to management and conservation, and strategies for dealing with the many issues impacting sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse in western North America.



## **National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference, 9-12 September, Anchorage, Alaska.**

This event will convene knowledge holders on climate change and resilience efforts with an emphasis on the intersection, inclusion, and honoring of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledges. All who are interested in participating or attending are invited to listen, learn, and share.



## Incorporating Climate and Environmental Justice into Research and Resource Management

In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center, the National Climate Adaptation Science Center is hosting a webinar series and two coffee hour discussions. This series aims to engage audiences interested in the intersection between climate and environmental justice and environmental research.



### Webinars, 25 April and 9 May, 12pm PDT.

In this series, speakers will explore the ethics of engaging with the populations most vulnerable to the impacts of environmental and climate change, which are often low-income communities, communities of color, indigenous and tribal communities, and people experiencing disenfranchisement.



### Coffee hour, 10 May, 1pm PDT

This coffee hour allows participants to further explore series topics in facilitated breakout group discussions. Registration is limited to 40 people.



### Invasive Dune Grasses, Coastal Services, and Habitat Restoration in a Changing Climate, 30 April, 11am PDT

This webinar from the Northwest Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change Network will include two presentations on the effects of invasive grasses, climate change, and their interactions on coastal sand dune ecosystems. The talks will span the latest research on ecosystem transformation and services, to management that supports resilient habitats for native species.



### Not all Flame is the Same: Oregon's Diverse Fire Ecology, 2 May, 11am PDT

In this webinar from the Oregon State University Fire Program, a team of regional fire specialists will share diverse stories about how fire has shaped Oregon landscapes historically and currently. Understanding fire's role in specific places can help residents become better prepared for fire and smoke, and more aware of their local ecological settings.



### First Friday All Climate Change Talks (FFACCTs), 3 May and the first Friday of every month, 10am PDT

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. May's webinar is "Mobile biochar production from forest biomass as a site restoration and climate change mitigation tool," presented by Nate Anderson from the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station.



### Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System June Webinar, 24 June, 11am PDT

This webinar will provide timely information on current and developing drought conditions in the region, and climatic events like El Niño. Speakers will also discuss the impacts of these conditions on issues such as wildfires, floods, disruption to water supply and ecosystems, as well as impacts to affected industries like agriculture, tourism, and public health.





## The Community Navigator Program

The USDA Forest Service is working with partners on the new Community Navigator initiative. Community Navigators support community-based partners in accessing federal funding opportunities, creating partnerships, and building capacity for wildfire risk mitigation and climate resilience. The goal is to connect communities with the right resources for building climate resilience when and where they need it most. To learn more and request a navigator, visit the website.

### April



#### Alaska Indigenous Engagement Program Grants

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center is seeking proposals for projects that collaborate with indigenous knowledge holders. These projects will develop new ways of sharing and developing knowledge between indigenous and scientific communities. In addition, the grants may support consortia that bring together Alaska Native community members to promote environmental monitoring and knowledge sharing workshops. **Applications due 26 April.**

### May



#### Idaho Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Natural Resource Conservation Service CSP grants help producers build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operations. Benefits can include enhanced resilience to weather and market volatility, decreased need for agricultural inputs, and improved wildlife habitat conditions. **Applications due 3 May.**

#### Microgrants for Food Security Program

This program from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service 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 in areas of the US that have significant levels of food insecurity and import a significant quantity of foods. **Applications due 21 May.**

#### Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

NRCS is investing in partnerships that expand access to conservation technical assistance for livestock producers and increase the use of conservation practices on grazing lands. These practices include climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices and principles. **Applications due 26 May.**

### June



#### The 2024 Bullitt Prize

This prize awards \$100,000 to a conservation and environmental justice leader or group working on a project or action to address a conservation or environmental justice issue in Washington. Applicants must be 35 years of age or younger, from an underrepresented group, from Washington state or implementing work that impacts Washington, and have demonstrated leadership that advances the environmental movement. **Apply by 1 June.**

### July



#### Regional Conservation Partnership Program

\$1.5 billion is available to fund projects for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program for fiscal year 2024. This program with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service will help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners adopt and expand conservation strategies to enhance natural resources while tackling the climate crisis. These projects in turn can save farmers money, create new revenue streams, and increase productivity. **Apply by 2 July.**

#### Conservation Reserve Program: Continuous Enrollment Period

This is a USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is devoted to conservation benefits. Program participants establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative species, such as approved grasses or trees to control soil erosion, improve the water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with annual rental payments and cost-share assistance. **Contact the FSA at your local USDA Service Center by 31 July.**



### August



#### Forest Landowner Support

These USDA Forest Service grants provide competitive opportunities to entities and organizations for delivering technical and financial assistance to private forest landowners, including tribes, underserved landowners, and smaller-acreage landowners. Proposals are being sought in two areas: Opportunity 1) To support the participation of underserved landowners and landowners owning less than 2,500 acres in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience; Opportunity 2) To support tribal access to emerging private markets for forest resilience or climate mitigation. **Applications due 21 August.**

### September



#### Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants

This program provides loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems, or to make energy efficiency improvements. Funds may be used for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems, or for the purchase, installation, and construction of energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing. **Applications due 30 September.**

### Ongoing



#### Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program Foundational and Applied Science Request for Applications

This program provides funding for fundamental and applied research, education, and extension projects in the food and agricultural sciences. The goal of this program is to invest in agricultural production research, education, and extension projects for more sustainable, productive, and economically viable plant and animal production systems. **Applications accepted through 14 November.**

#### Extension, Education & USDA Climate Hubs Partnership (page 100)

This program area priority will support projects that provide effective, translatable, and scalable approaches to address climate change through regional partnerships including the USDA Climate Hubs. The goal of this program is to stimulate and catalyze cross-cutting, and interdisciplinary work among scientists and stakeholders. **Applications due 5 September 2pm PDT.**

