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Environmental and
Energy Study Institute

Materials will be available at:
www.eesi.org/042326data
Post about the briefing:
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Tracking Down Data

Where to Find Climate and Environmental Information in 2026

Thursday, April 23, 2026

About EESI



Nonpartisan Educational Resources for Policymakers

A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide nonpartisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies



Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program

In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs



Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making



Sustainable Solutions

Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges in order to achieve our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world

Policymaker Education



Briefings and Webcasts

Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived recordings, and written summaries

Climate Change Solutions



Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker



Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs

Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics



Social Media (@EESIonline)

Active engagement on Bluesky, Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and YouTube



Upcoming Briefings



4

Tracking Down Data Today!

National Labs on the Cutting Edge of Climate Solutions
Thursday, May 7, 2026, 3:30-5:00 pm

**2026 Congressional Renewable Energy and
Energy Efficiency EXPO and Policy Forum**
Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 10:00 AM - 7 PM

Sign up for our *Climate Change Solutions* newsletter here: eesi.org/signup



EESI
Environmental and
Energy Study Institute

What did you think of the briefing?

Please take 2 minutes to let us know at:

www.eesi.org/survey

Materials will be available at:

www.eesi.org/042326data

Post about the briefing:

[#eesitalk](https://twitter.com/eesitalk) [@eesionline](https://twitter.com/eesionline)



Thursday, April 23, 2026



Climate Data Collaborative

Tracking Down Data

Where to Find Climate and Environmental Information in 2026

Sonia Wang, Sr Advisor

www.ClimateDataCollaborative.org



The Data Foundation is a nonprofit think tank based in Washington, D.C.

- Improve government, business, and society by using data to inform public policymaking
- Champion the use of evidence-informed policy making across government

How do we do it?

- Policy Research
- Community Collaboration
- Data and Evidence Advocacy

Climate Data Collaborative



Climate Data Collaborative

Connect stakeholders across sectors and industries to accelerate climate and environmental action.

- **Data must be actionable.** Timely, easily accessible, easy to understand, and supported by story telling.
- **Climate-related decisions depend on connected data.** Daily decisions at the project level must be connected to decisions made at a regional and national level.
- **Change requires collaboration.** Transparency and collaboration are the foundation of creating both durable data tools and lasting catalytic relationships.
- **Diverse coalitions are most likely to lead to durable change.** Cooperation between the businesses and non-profit organizations across sectors requires thoughtful facilitation.
- **Data informed decisions may change as the data evolves.** We need to support decision makers with the tools they need to make and explain course corrections.
- **Resources are only useful if they reach the right people.** Creative and persistent dissemination and education strategies will be at the core of our work.

Setting the Stage



Climate Data Collaborative

01. Who depends on this data

Americans use federal climate and environmental data every day, often without knowing it.

02. The system that produces it

Roles and responsibilities, fragmented across 15+ agencies, built and sustained over decades.

03. What makes it fragile

Structural vulnerabilities that predate and compound current pressures.

04. What has changed

What the workforce and dataset numbers actually show, and why losses compound.

05. The response and its limits

Civil society are filling gaps, but cannot substitute for federal scale and authority.

06. The balance that matters

Why public data and private data serve different roles, and what is at stake.

Who depends on this data

Federal climate and environmental data reaches your constituents every day



EMERGENCY MANAGERS

Evacuation orders, flood and wildfire risk maps, hurricane tracks



FARMERS & RANCHERS

Drought forecasts, soil moisture data, crop insurance assessments



CITY & STATE PLANNERS

Sea level projections, heat risk mapping, infrastructure investment decisions



INSURANCE & FINANCE

Catastrophe risk modeling, mortgage exposure, bond ratings



PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES

Wildfire smoke forecasts, extreme heat warnings, waterborne disease risk



UTILITIES & GRID OPERATORS

Demand forecasting, storm preparation, renewable energy siting

Data pipeline

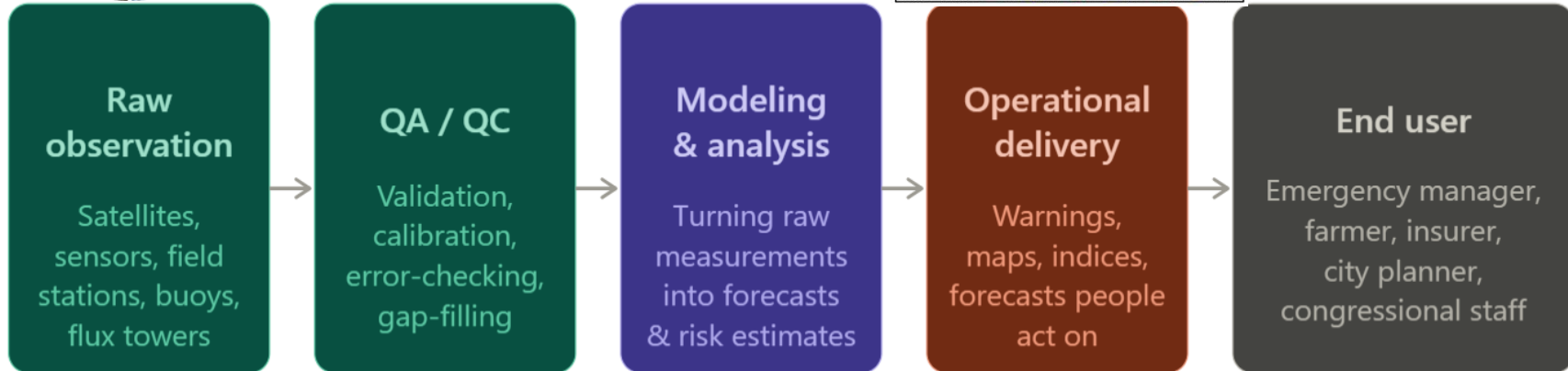
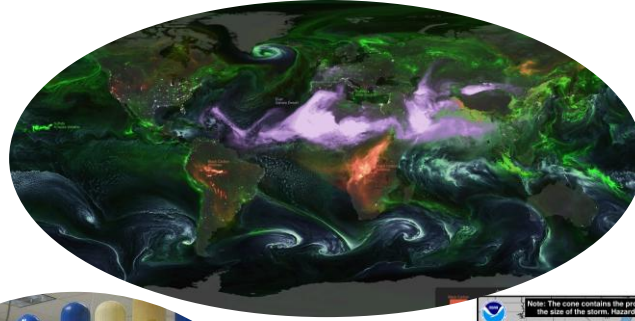
81° Columbus, OH
Change location >

85/60° high/low

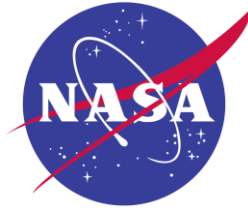
40% chance of rain

NNE 4 mph winds

See full local forecast



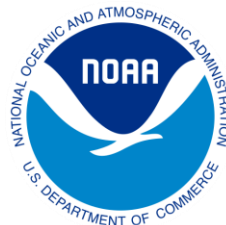
Climate and Environmental Data - Federal Landscape



Smithsonian



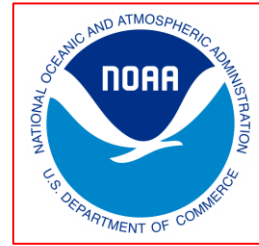
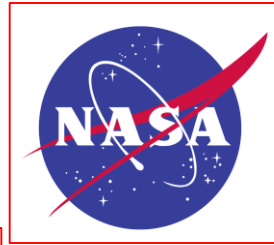
Forest Data



Smithsonian



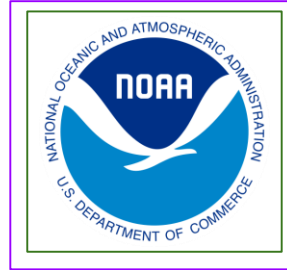
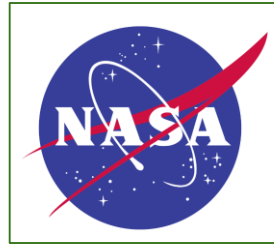
Forest Data Collection, Modeling, Information Delivery, Users



Smithsonian



Science & Research, Operations, Regulatory



Smithsonian



What makes this ecosystem fragile



Time Series Continuity - Network Fragility

Long-term records are essential for detecting trends and validating models. Discontinuing programs leads to infrastructure decommissioning, expensive to rebuild later. Sustained long term funding challenges.



Institutional Knowledge

Expertise lives in both people and documentation. Reorganization and agency restructuring disperses capacity. Losing the "why" behind decisions and data context compromises the system's integrity.



Infrastructure Interdependence

Built incrementally over decades. Single points of failure are hard to map. Undocumented dependencies surface when systems stop working.



The Public Goods Problem

Scale of federal science funding is critical. Grant cancellations and hiring freezes. Private products rely on foundational federal infrastructure. Degradation is gradual and often invisible.

What We've Lost

CAREERS | SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

U.S. government has lost more than 10,000 STEM Ph.D.s since Trump took office

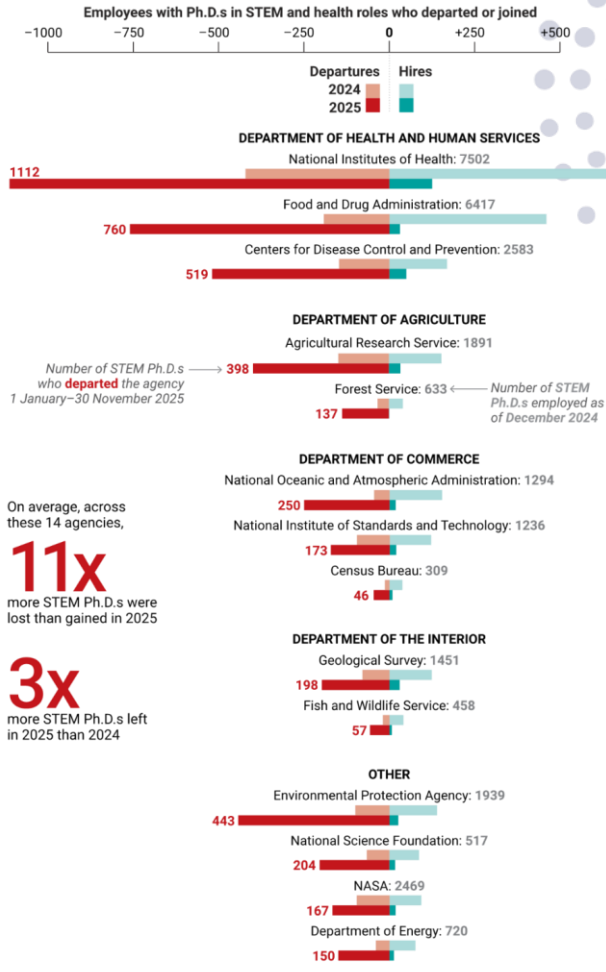
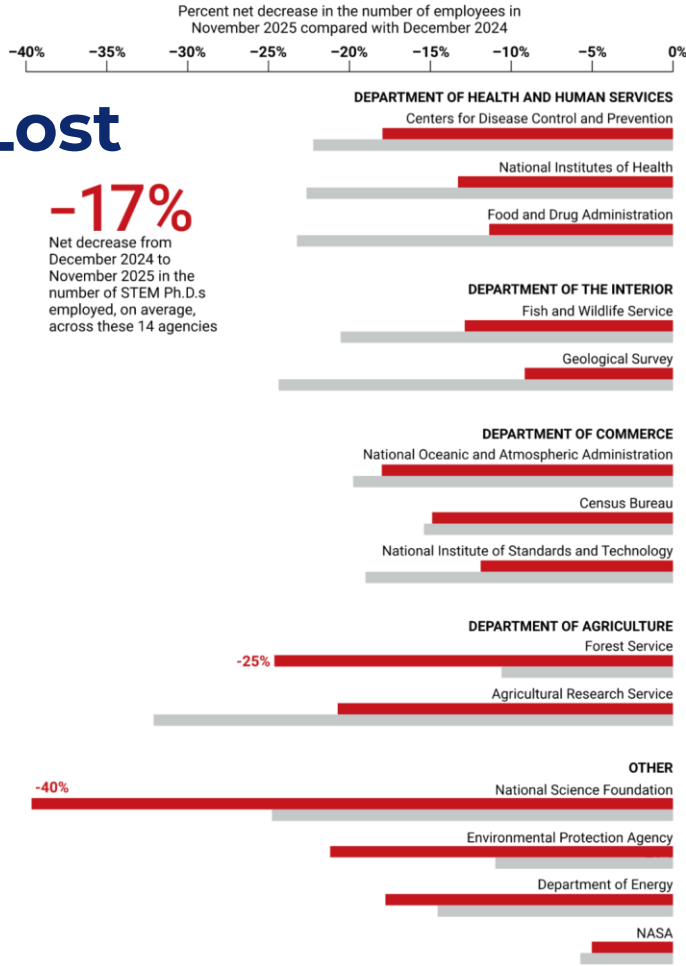
A *Science* analysis reveals how many were fired, retired, or quit across 14 agencies

26 JAN 2026 · 5:40 PM ET · BY [MONICA HERSHER](#), [JEFFREY MERVIS](#)

What We've Lost

-17%

Net decrease from December 2024 to November 2025 in the number of STEM Ph.D.s employed, on average, across these 14 agencies



On average, across these 14 agencies, **11x** more STEM Ph.D.s were lost than gained in 2025

3x more STEM Ph.D.s left in 2025 than 2024

*Data reflect departures and hires (including transfers) between 1 January and 30 November in 2024 and 2025.

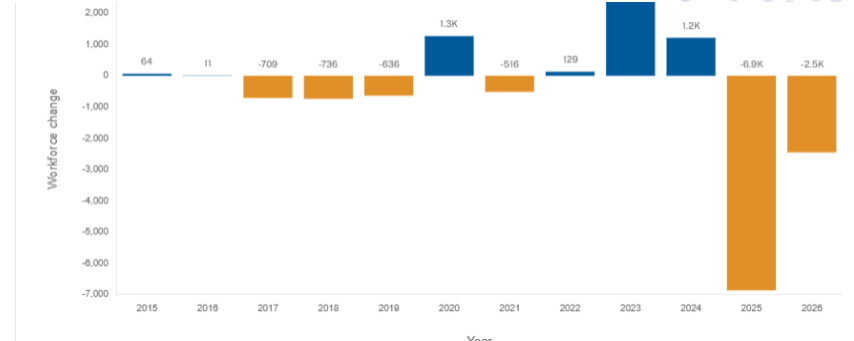
What We've Lost

Politics

Under Trump, the Department of Agriculture Has Ditched Conservation and Climate Efforts

An Inside Climate News analysis found the department lost 21 percent of its workforce in 2025. Those cuts have thrown it into disarray.

By Georgina Gustin, Peter Aldhous
April 8, 2026



Forest Service

-19,630

Decrease in Department of Agriculture employees since FY 2015

Source: [OPM EHRI Dynamics](#)

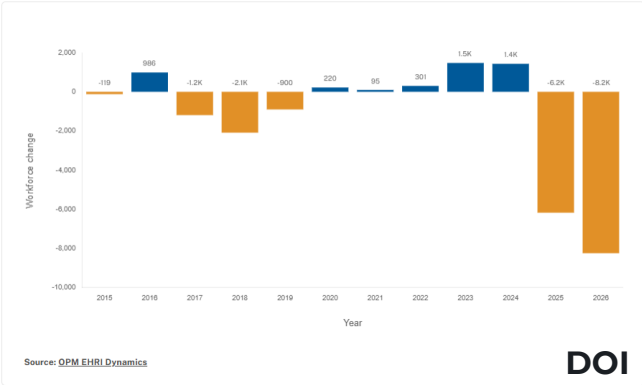
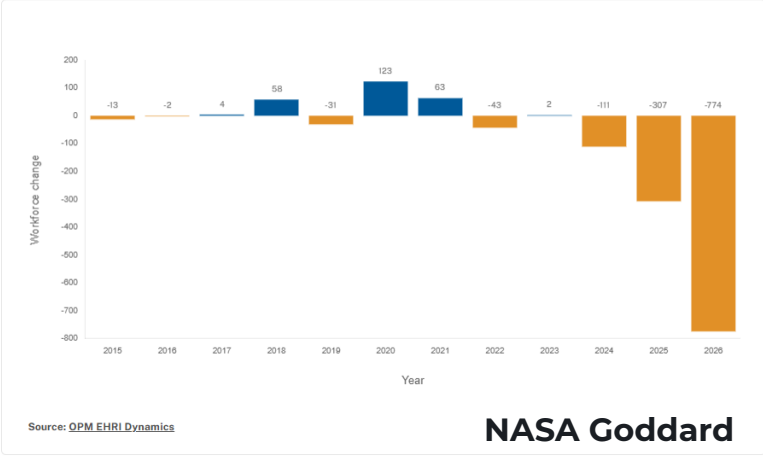
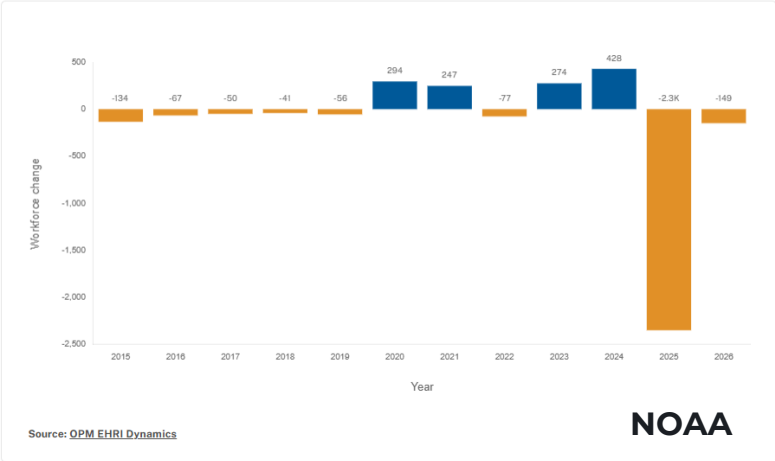
NRCS - FTE PBR Projected Numbers

FY 25: **4,429**

FY 26: **3,864**

FY 27 (Proposed): **570**

What We've Lost



Rapid response to thinking about a more resilient future ecosystem

Public Environmental Data Partners

The Public Environmental Data Partners are committed to preserving and providing public access to federal environmental data. We are a volunteer coalition of several environmental, justice, and policy organizations, researchers across several universities, archivists, and students who rely on federal datasets and tools to support critical research, advocacy, policy, and litigation work. To gather insights on what data to preserve, we reached out to our networks, which consist largely of environmental justice groups and networks, state and local government climate offices, and academic researchers. We compiled a large list of federal databases and tools, and prioritized them based on their relative impact, our confidence that we could archive them, and the relative effort it would take to obtain and archive them.

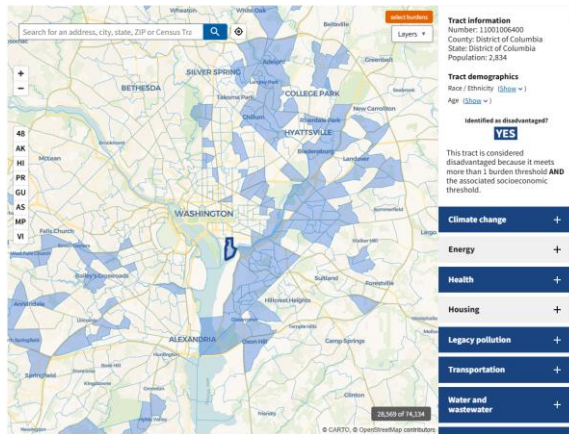
Fill out the form [here](#) to nominate data for us to preserve.

<https://screening-tools.com/>

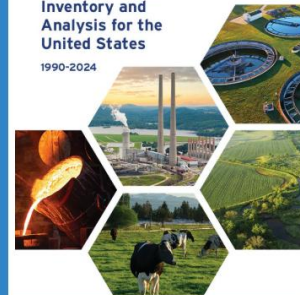
U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters

Climate Central maintains this comprehensive database tracking U.S. weather and climate disasters since 1980 where overall damages/costs reached or exceeded \$1 billion (including Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment to 2026). As of March 2026, the U.S. has sustained 431 such events, with a total cost exceeding \$3.1 trillion.

<https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-services/billion-dollar-disasters>



Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Analysis for the United States 1990-2024



[View Full Report](#)

<https://ghgi.cgs.umd.edu/>

Rapid response to thinking about a more resilient future ecosystem

AGU AND AMS JOIN FORCES ON SPECIAL COLLECTION TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF RESEARCH SUPPORTING THE U.S. NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

SCIENCE SOCIETIES TAKE ACTION AFTER NCA AUTHORS' DISMISSAL THIS WEEK

2 May 2025

Joint Release

AGU contact:

Josh Weinberg, news@agu.org

AMS contact:

Katie Pflaumer, kpflaumer@ametsoc.org



<https://news.agu.org/press-release/agu-and-ams-join-forces-on-special-collection-to-maintain-momentum-of-research-supporting-the-u-s-national-climate-assessment/>

Climate.us

independent, nonprofit, and immune to politics

[News & Features](#) | [NCA5](#) | [Mission & Goals](#) | [About Us](#) | [Get Involved](#) | [Contact](#)

They're hiding the truth. We're fighting back.

Donate

Brought to you by the team that built Climate.gov



For more than a decade, NOAA Climate.gov has been the U.S. government's premier platform for climate information for the public. In the first half of 2025, NOAA terminated Climate.gov's full-time federal and contractor staff, shutting down the site's daily operations.

Now, former members of the Climate.gov team have joined together with nonprofit partners to launch **Climate.us** a successor to Climate.gov outside the federal domain, where we can safeguard climate information from political interference.

About

The Nature Record is a national initiative bringing together knowledge, storytelling, and public participation to elevate the role of nature in the U.S.

We're dedicated to understanding how nature shapes our lives and how we shape what comes next.

<https://naturerecord.org/>

Rapid response to thinking about a more resilient future ecosystem

December 01, 2025

DEC Finalizes Program to Track Climate Pollution Sources

Climate Milestone Reached with Implementation of New Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

<https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2025/12/dec-finalizes-program-to-track-climate-pollution-sources>

Comments of the States of California, Washington, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai'i, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont, the District of Columbia, and the Chief Legal Officers of the City of Chicago and the City of New York

on the

Proposed Reconsideration of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, 90 Fed. Reg. 44,591 (Sept. 16, 2025)

EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0186

November 3, 2025

<https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Comment%20of%20State%20and%20Local%20Governments%20on%20Proposed%20Reconsideration%20of%20GHGRP.pdf>

Department of Ecology News Release - September 5, 2025

Ecology debunks federal climate report, reaffirms commitment to real science

<https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/news/2025/sept-4-ecology-debunks-federal-climate-report-reaffirms-commitment-to-real-science>

Rapid response to thinking about a more resilient future ecosystem



<https://www.nationalacademies.org/projects/DELS-DELS%20EO-25-02/past-events>

Greenhouse Gas Coalition

Sustain, Advance, and Scale GHG Information for Impact

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Coalition brings together technical expertise from academia, private sector, NGOs, and former government officials to strengthen and coordinate the U.S. greenhouse gas measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) ecosystem.

As a non-partisan technical group convened by the Data Foundation's Climate Data Collaborative, we work to advance a more robust MMRV ecosystem. The Coalition employs a phased approach: Phase I focuses on coordination functions—connecting technical communities, identifying critical gaps, and facilitating information sharing across the ecosystem. Phase II will develop dedicated workstreams to advance science-based solutions, support innovative capabilities, and scale promising approaches.

The Coalition serves as the technical backbone for the MMRV community, ensuring diverse yet equally critical efforts work together effectively to drive climate action.

ghgcoalition.org

Contact

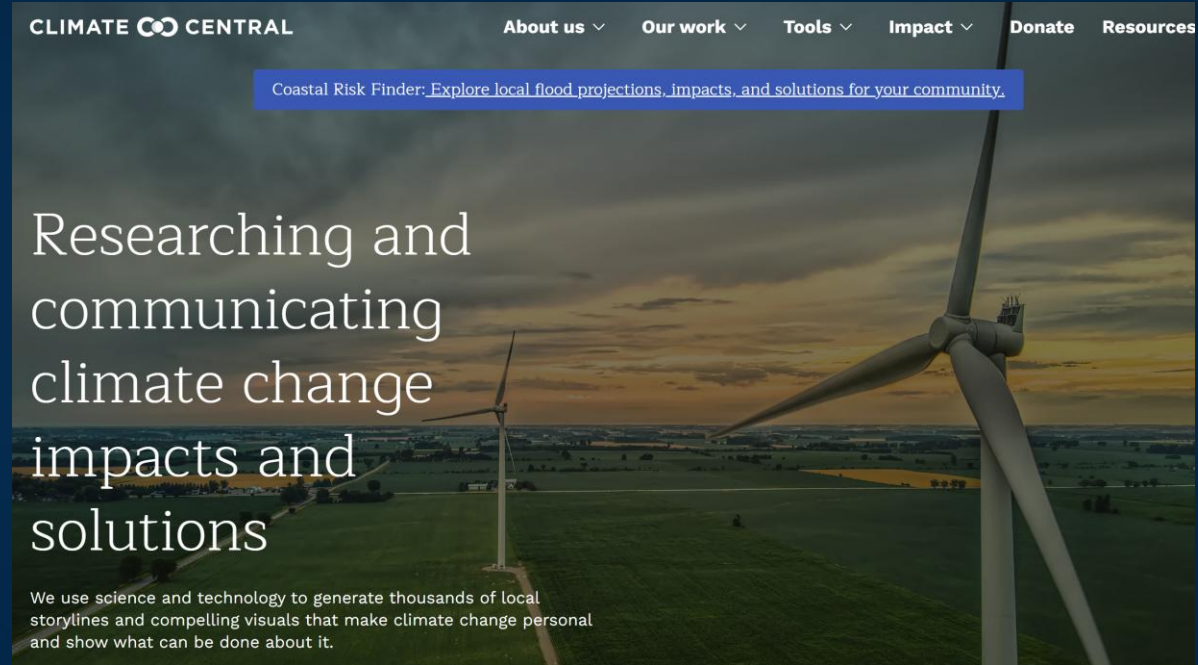
sonia.wang@datafoundation.org



Tracking Down Data

Where to find?
What's going on?

Tom Di Liberto
Climate Scientist
Media Director, Climate Central



CLIMATE  CENTRAL

**Science Made Clear,
Science Made Local.**

We use science and technology to generate thousands of local storylines and compelling visuals that make climate change personal and show what can be done about it.

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

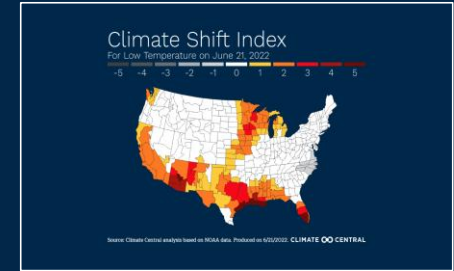


CLIMATE  CENTRAL

Providing localized and evidence-based information on climate science, impacts, & solutions.

Generating local storylines and compelling visuals.

Non-profit, Non-partisan, Non-advocacy



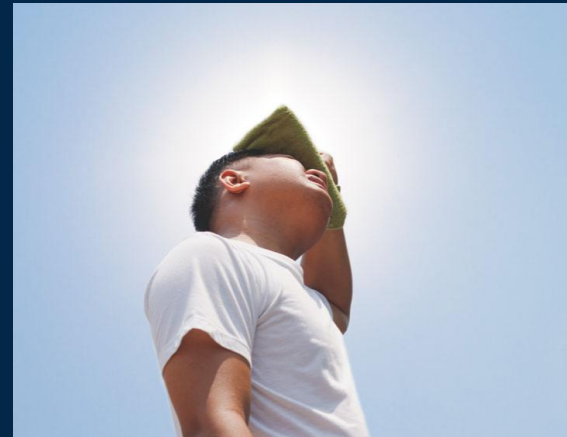
The dangerous impacts of climate change are accelerating...



COASTAL FLOODING



INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE



EXTREME HEAT

...and require faster, more effective responses.

Data and services that have disappeared

US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)
National Climate Assessment (NCA)
Climate Change Indicators Website
EPA Climate Change Indicators
Elements of the National Snow and Ice Data
Center
Climate.gov

Not just a loss of data but also of stories

Climate.gov
SCIENCE & INFORMATION FOR A CLIMATE-SMART NATION

News & Features ▾ Maps & Data ▾ Teaching Climate ▾ Resilience Toolkit About ▾

This website is an ARCHIVED version of NOAA Climate.gov as of June 25, 2025. Content is not being updated or maintained, and some links may no longer work. To access current NOAA climate information resources, please visit www.noaa.gov/climate

Home

News & Features

How spring plant milestones are shifting in response to changing climate

EVENT TRACKER | JUNE 25, 2025
Across much of the United States, the first leaves and flowers of common garden plants are emerging earlier in the spring than they used to. It's a different story in the Southeast.

FEATURED

- Keeping fans safe in a warming world: a growing challenge for outdoor events**
FEATURES | JUNE 25, 2025
- Can NOAA predict the next flood? New research shows promise**
FEATURES | JUNE 18, 2025
- A 'Hitchhiker's Guide' to the June 2025 ENSO update**
ENSO BLOG | JUNE 12, 2025
- First blooms of the 2025 spring season were earlier than average across most of the United States**
EVENT TRACKER | JUNE 11, 2025
- U.S. climate outlook for June 2025**
UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE | JUNE 2, 2025
- Tornado season 2025: active through April, and May is keeping pace**
ENSO BLOG | MAY 28, 2025

Climate Services Program

- Products and transparent, science-grounded research that helps decision-makers understand risk and advance preparedness
- Partnerships that deliver tools, visuals, and analysis



Contributions of climate change to extreme heat events

CLIMATE CENTRAL

Copy Link

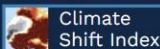
Screenshot Map

EN

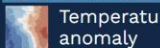
Explore our new
CSI: Ocean map

Climate Shift
Index® Global Map

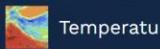
Select type of map:



Climate Shift Index



Temperature anomaly



Temperature

City

Type a city name

Date

Mar 24, 2026

Single date

Multi-day average

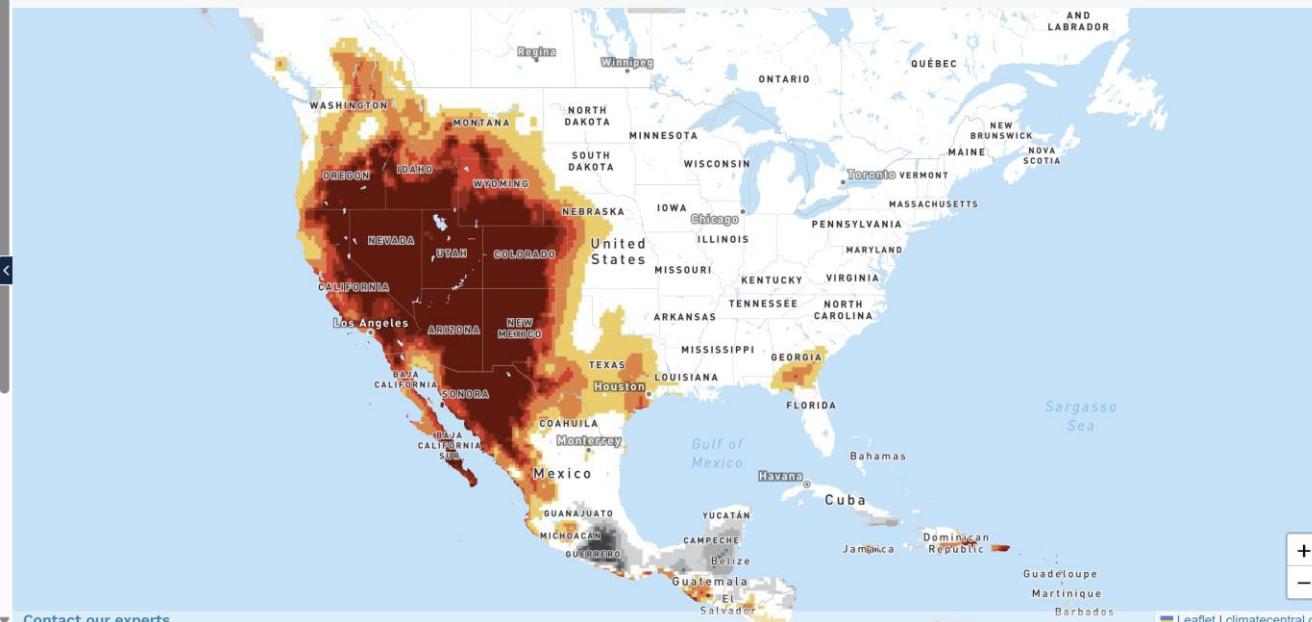
Advanced settings



CSI data in
KML
format

Climate Shift Index Learn more...
for average temperatures, Mar 24, 2026

Change in likelihood due to climate change



Contributions of climate change to hurricane intensity

What's this? See
FAQ →

Climate Shift Index:
Ocean

Select map:



Climate Shift
Index: Ocean



Sea Surface
Temperature
Anomaly



Sea Surface
Temperature

Date:

◀ Jul 2, 2024 ▶



Show tropical
cyclones

Tropical Cyclones
(2024 Atlantic Basin)

Beryl 2024 ▾



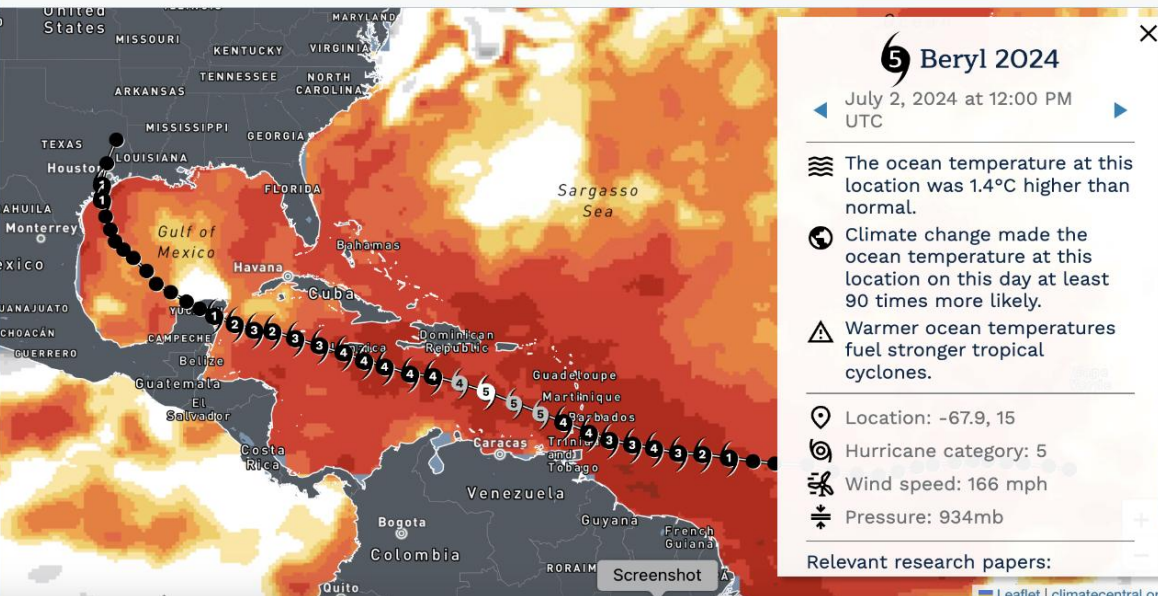
Highlight storm
points
associated with
map date

Beryl 2024

and Climate Shift Index: Ocean, Jul 2, 2024

Change in likelihood due to climate change

-800x -100x -10x -4x 0 4x 10x 100x 800x



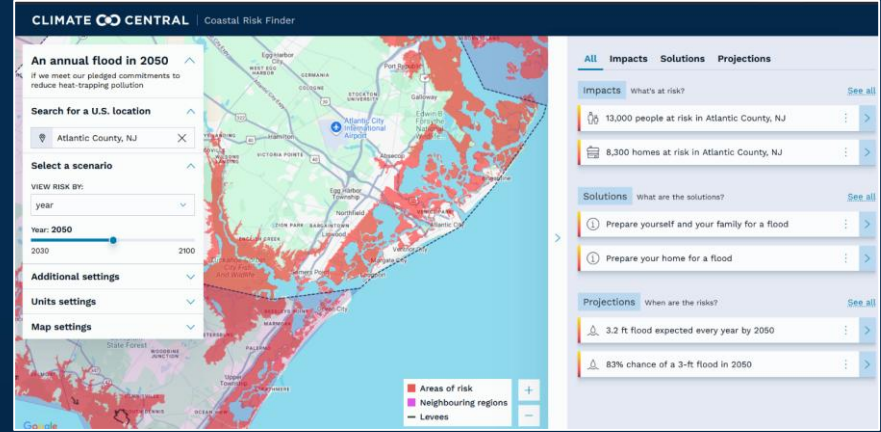
Predicting potential flooding



FloodVision®



Modeled First
Floor Elevations



Coastal Risk Finder



In Miami, FL, 19,000 people will be at risk from a 100-year flood by 2050 if we continue on our current heat-trapping pollution pathway.

Scenario			
Year 2050	Projection type sea level rise + 100-year flood	Pollution pathway reduced commitments	Sea level projection source IPCC 2021

People at risk by census tract

% of population

- 50%-100%
- 25%-50%
- 12.5%-25%
- 6.4%-12.5%
- 3.2%-6.4%
- 1.6%-3.2%
- 0.8%-1.6%
- 0.4%-0.8%
- 0.2%-0.4%
- 0.1%-0.2%
- 0%-0.1%



of people

- >10,000
- 5,000-10,000
- 2,000-5,000
- 1,000-2,000
- 500-1,000
- 200-500
- 100-200
- 50-100
- 20-50
- 10-20
- 0-10



Share or download

[Download data](#)
[Download PNG](#)
[Share](#)

Products to Inform and Educate

Preserving sources of data and ensuring that climate data is disseminated

THE MONTHLY CLIMATE BRIEF

Insights for informed decisions

Tune in monthly for accessible and actionable climate information for decision-makers, the public, and media.

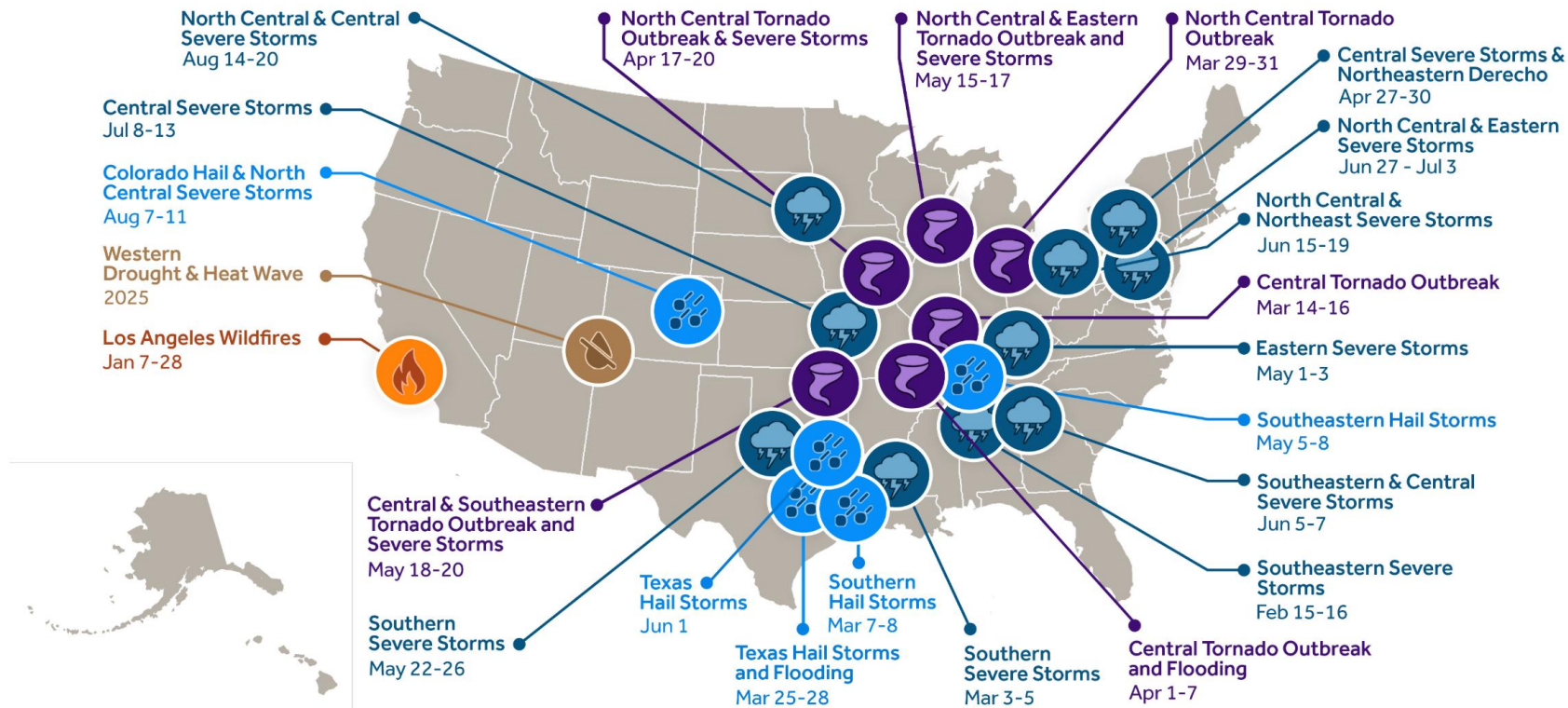
- **Monthly statistics**
- **Shareable graphics**
- **Expert interviews**
- **U.S. Billion Dollar Disasters**
- **and more**

Upcoming webinar schedule (12:00 PM EST):

- **May 14**
- **June 16**
- **July 15**
- **August 19**



U.S. 2025 Billion-Dollar Weather & Climate Disasters



This map shows the approximate location for each of the 23 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States from January-December of 2025.

New disaster impact research

- Analysis of \$100M+ disasters
- Severe Storm events by primary their damage drivers (i.e., tornado outbreaks, hailstorms or wind/derecho events)
- Individual Wildfire Events

Sign ups/Resources:

- Climate Matters:
climatecentral.org/climate-matters
- Realtime Climate Alerts:
climatecentral.org/realtime-climate
- Resources
<http://climatecentral.org/resources>
<https://go.climatecentral.org/climate-services>

tdiliberto@climatecentral.org

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

Climate data for agriculture and natural resources



Julian Reyes, PhD
Chief of Staff | Union of Concerned Scientists
EESI Congressional Briefing | April 23, 2026

Independent Science



- *Safeguarding data, research, and science-based tools*
 - Climate.us;
 - Climateliteracy.earth
 - Billion Dollar Disasters (Climate Central)
- *Building independent science communication hubs*
 - Data Foundation's Climate Data Collaborative
- *Providing opportunities for independent scientists to convene and publish*
 - U.S. Climate Collection (AGU and AMS)
 - The Nature Record

But this climate services ecosystem is extremely *fragile and fragmented*



WAMU 88.5
On Air Now

CLIMATE

Proposed funding cuts threaten climate hubs across the country

MARCH 5, 2026 · 4:46 AM ET

WAMU 88.5 logo, DONATE button, HOURLY NEWS, LISTEN LIVE, MY PLAYLIST links.

THE HILL

SIGN UP

Trump administration holds up NOAA grant funding

3 BY RACHEL FRAZIN - 04/13/26 6:00 AM ET



From invasive species tracking to water security – what’s lost with federal funding cuts at US Climate Adaptation Science Centers

Published: November 24, 2025 8:30am EST

National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

What Americans Lose If Their National Center for Atmospheric Research Is Dismantled

Five ways dismantling NCAR will cost the American people, and two ways to save it.

By Carlos Martinez 27 January 2026



Amid Federal Moves to Dismantle Premier Atmospheric Research Center, UCS Requests Public Release of Management Agreement

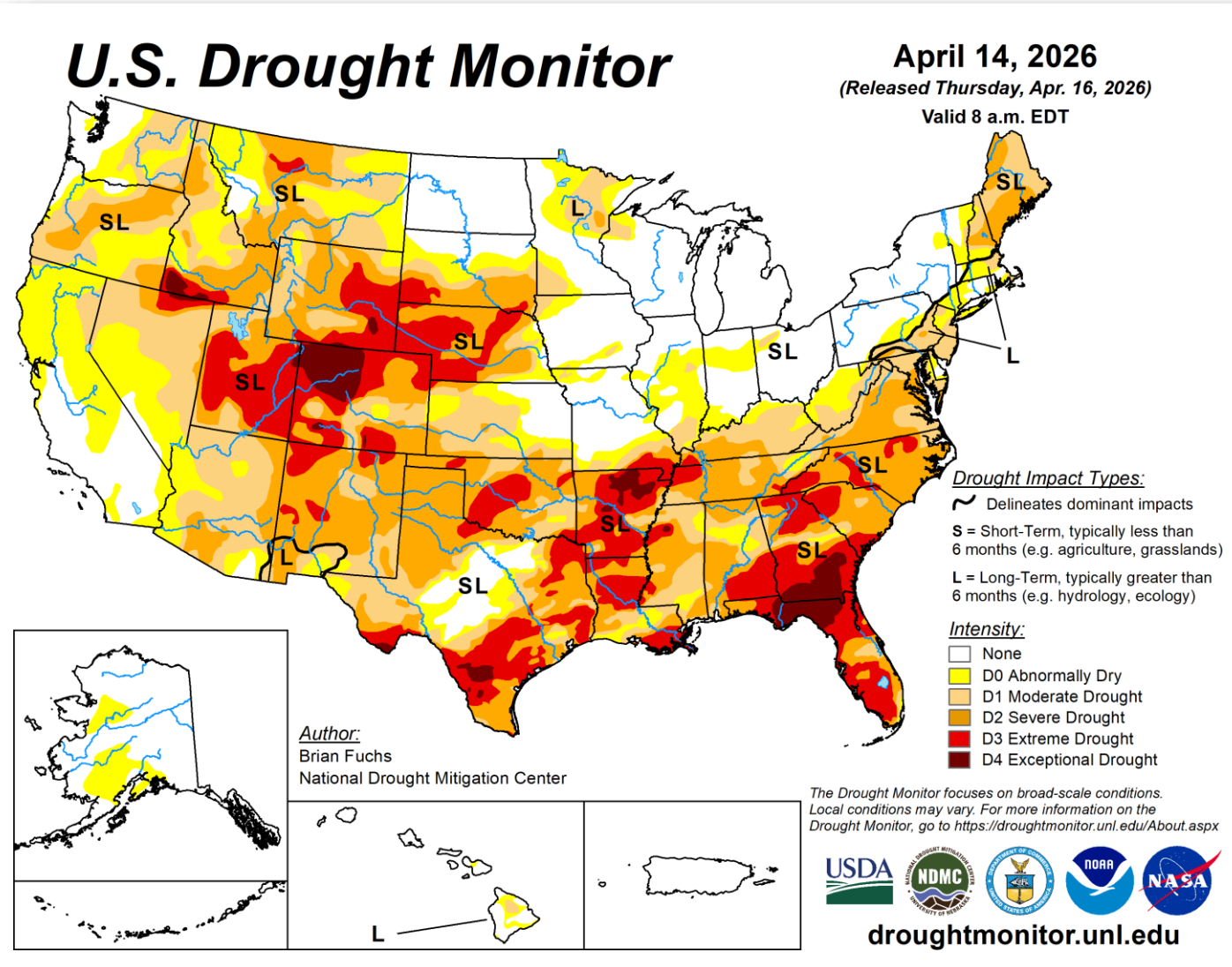
UCS Submits Comments Imploring Preservation of National Center for Atmospheric Research

Climate change affects agricultural and natural resources management

- Conservation
- Crop insurance
- Range management
- Climate-informed adaptation and resilience actions



U.S. Drought Monitor

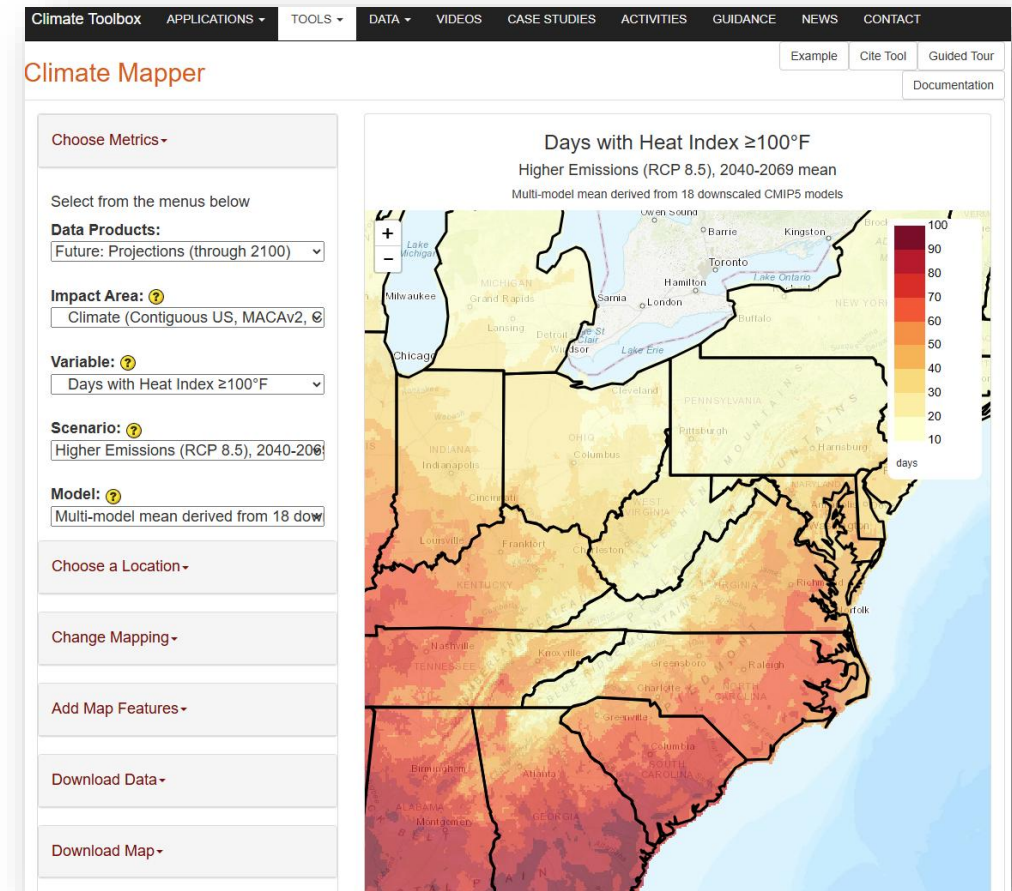


- The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is a map released every Thursday, showing where drought is and how bad it is across the U.S. and its territories.
- The map uses six classifications: normal conditions, abnormally dry (D0), and four levels of drought: moderate (D1), severe (D2), extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4).
- The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced through a partnership between the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USDA, NOAA, and NASA.

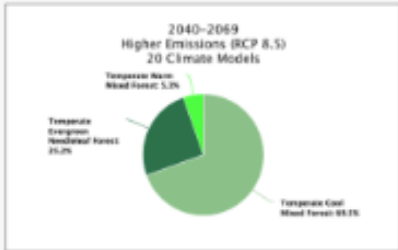
The Climate Toolbox



- A range of tools that offer climate and hydrologic data (past, present, and future) for the contiguous U.S.
- General climate tools:
 - The [Climate Mapper Tool](#) – summary maps of gridded climate and hydrology from past observations to future projections.
 - The [US Water Watcher Tool](#) – maps of drought metrics and a site-specific summary chart of drought.

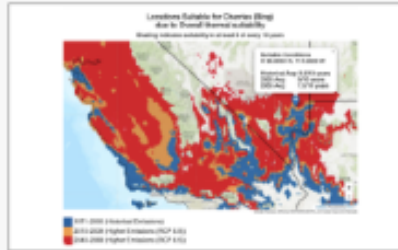


The Climate Toolbox – Agriculture and Natural Resources



Future Vegetation
Maps and pie chart distributions of future vegetation projections [i](#)

Launch Tool



Future Crop Suitability
Map of future crop suitability, phenology and irrigation projections for a location [i](#)

Launch Tool



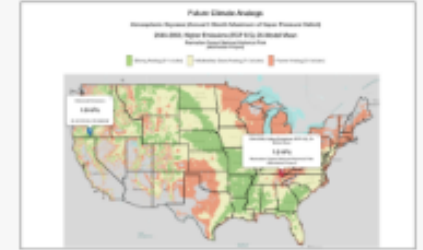
Future Streamflows
Graphs of future monthly streamflow projections for a stream location [i](#)

Launch Tool



Future Cold Hardiness Zones
Maps of future projections of cold hardiness zones [i](#)

Launch Tool



Future Climate Analogs
Maps of future and historical climate analogs for locations in US National Parks [i](#)

Launch Tool

AgroClimate

- Provides “interactive tools and climate information to improve resource use efficiency and to reduce crop production risk associated with climate variability and change”

Climate Indicators

- Chill accumulation calculator
- Freeze risk probabilities
- Growing degree days
- Heat stress

Crop Yield and Development

- County yield statistics
- Planting date planner

Other

- Pests and Diseases
- Carbon Footprint Calculators
- Fruit and Vegetable Supply Chains

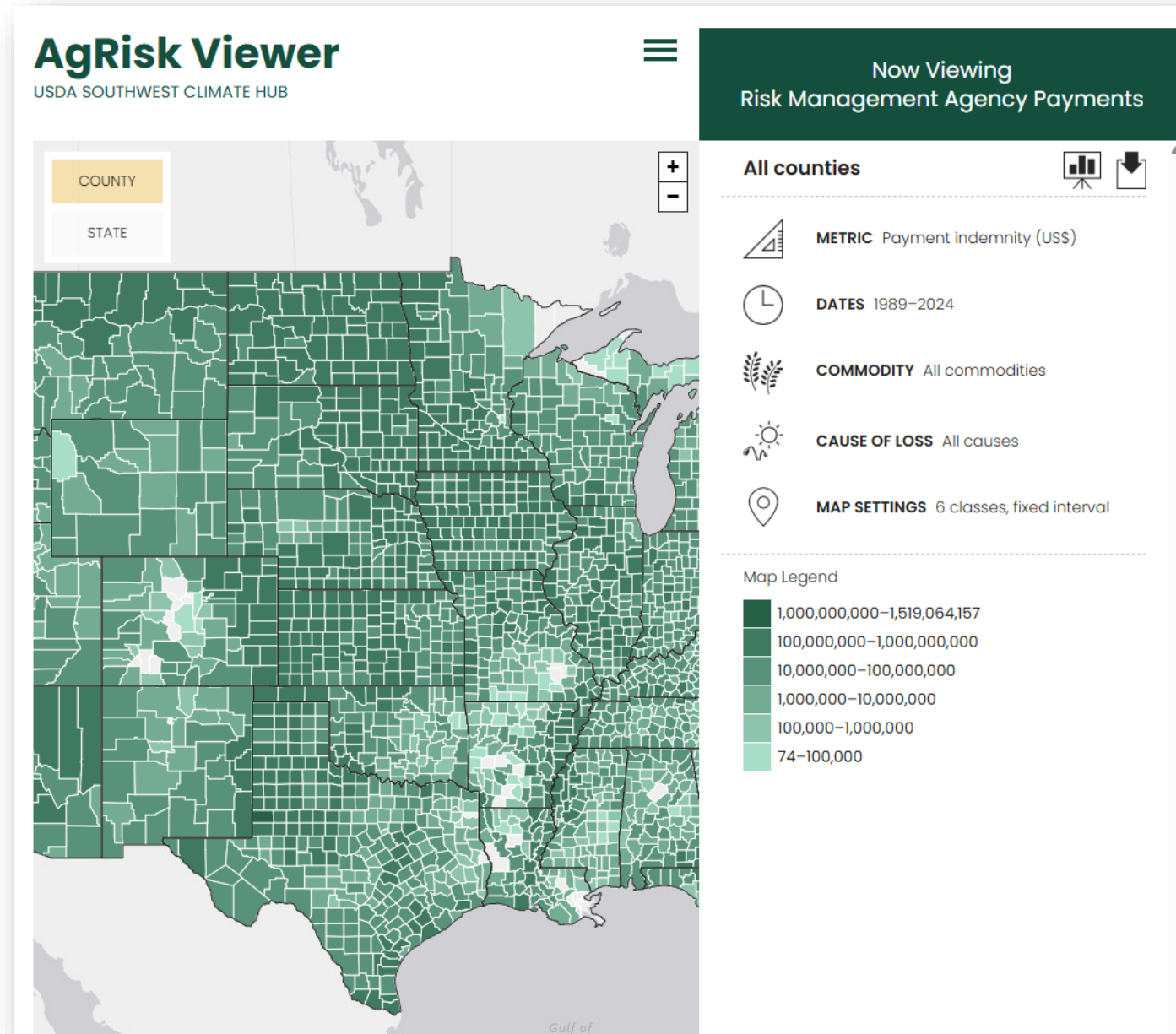
AgRisk Viewer

A geographical and historical view of crop insurance data

Over 30 years of data including:

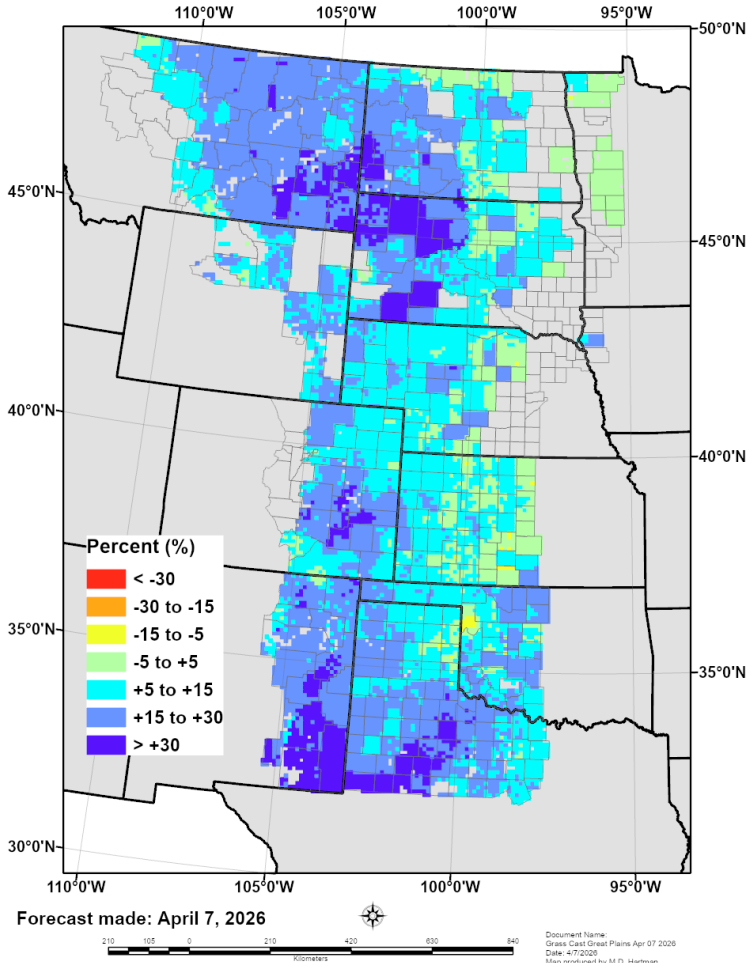
- Indemnities (compensation paid out)
- Acres affected
- Cause of loss (trigger: drought, flood, disease, etc)
- Commodity

<https://agrisk.jornada.nmsu.edu/rma/>

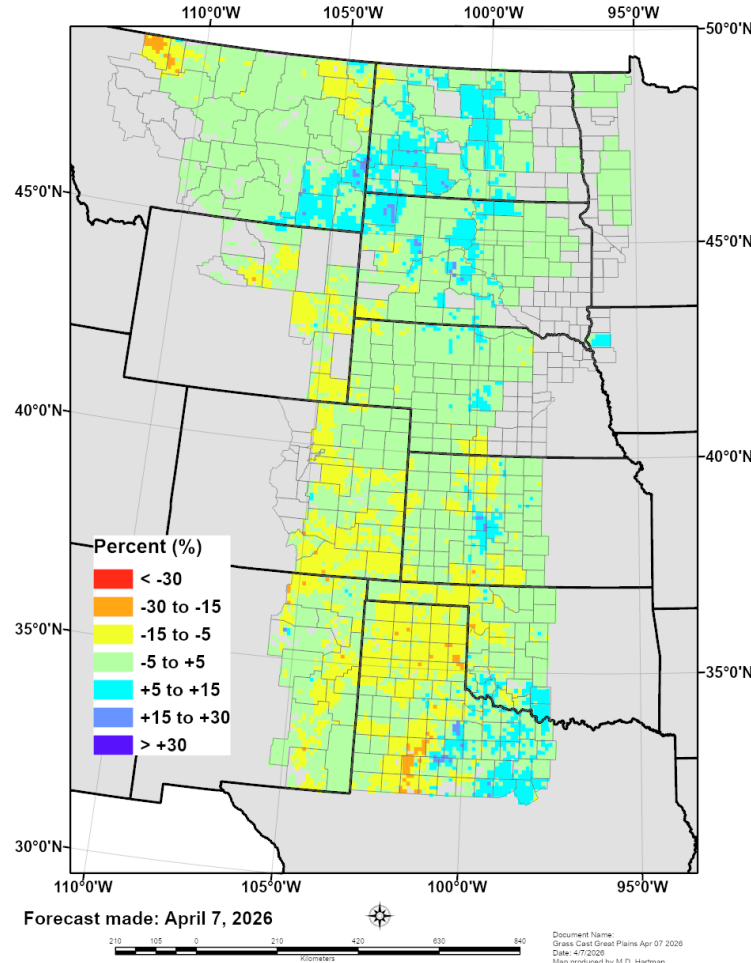


Grass-Cast (Grassland Productivity Forecast)

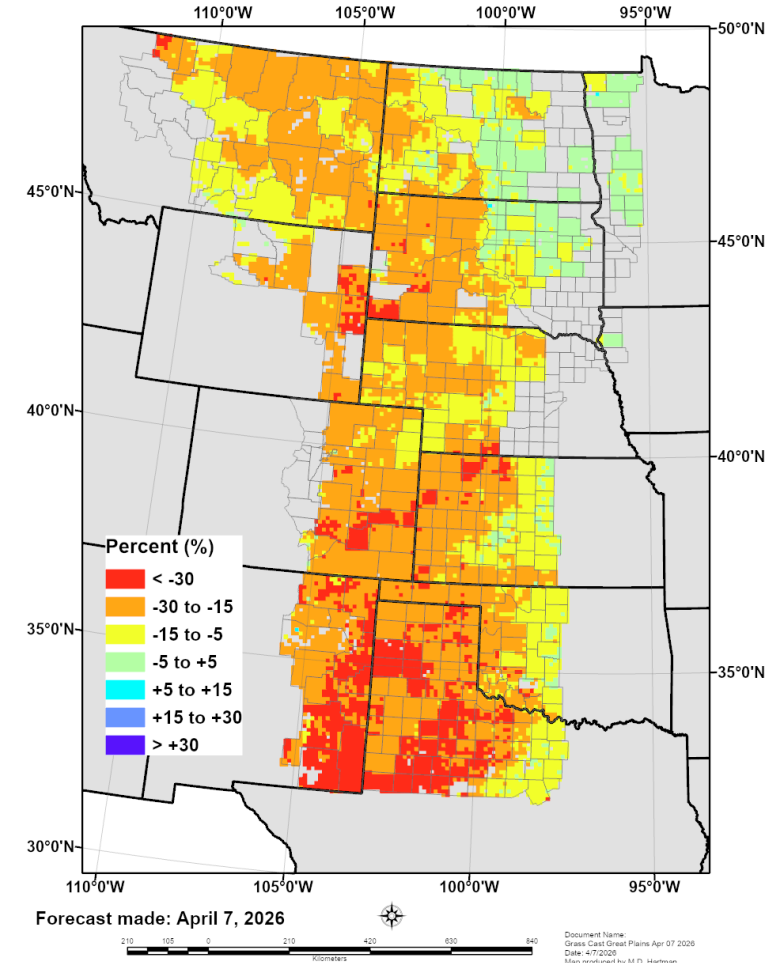
Percent Change in 2026 predicted ANPP compared to 36-year mean ANPP
Assuming ABOVE NORMAL precipitation from to April 7 to August 31



Percent Change in 2026 predicted ANPP compared to 36-year mean ANPP
Assuming NORMAL precipitation from to April 7 to August 31

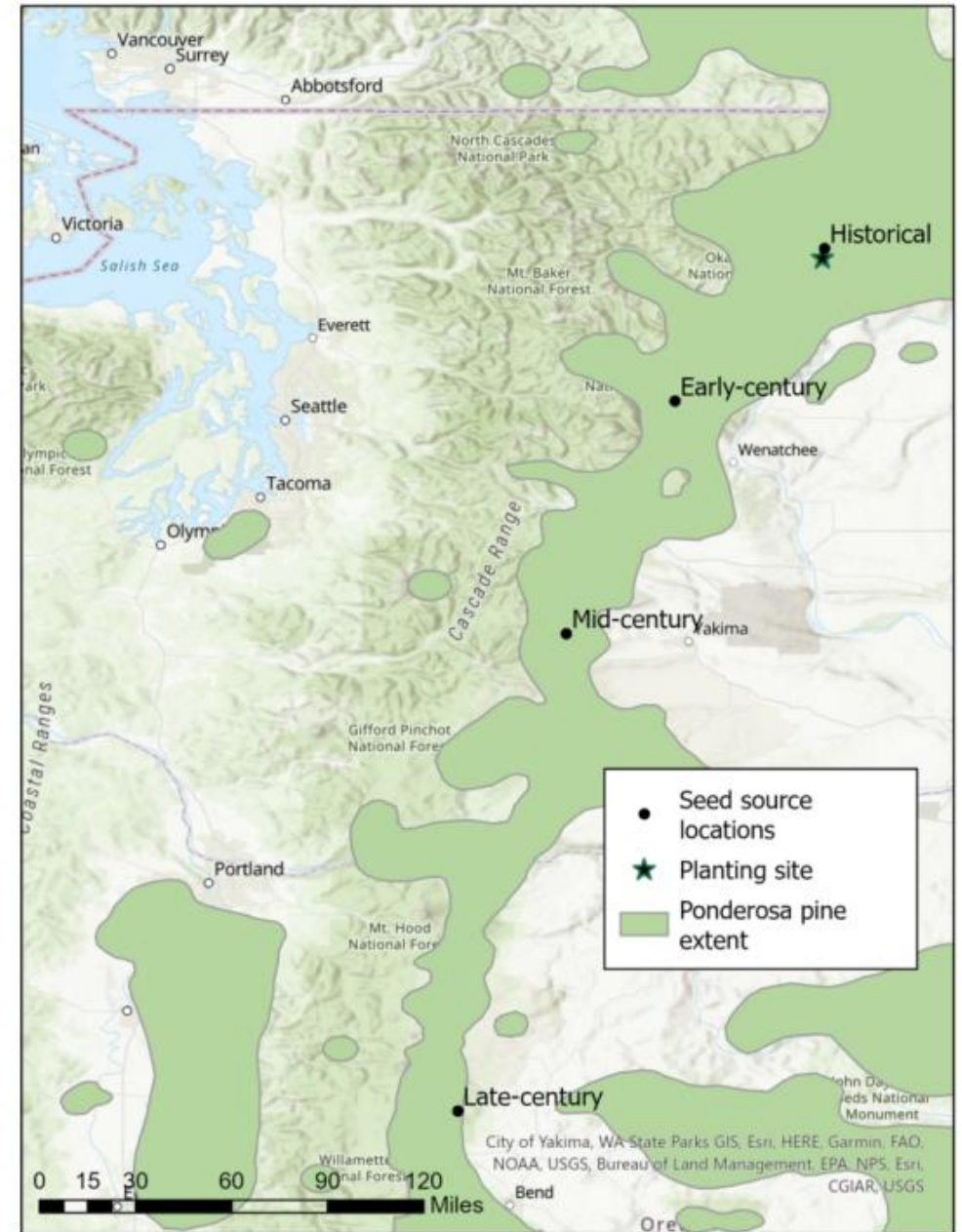


Percent Change in 2026 predicted ANPP compared to 36-year mean ANPP
Assuming BELOW NORMAL precipitation from to April 7 to August 31



Seedlot Selection Tool

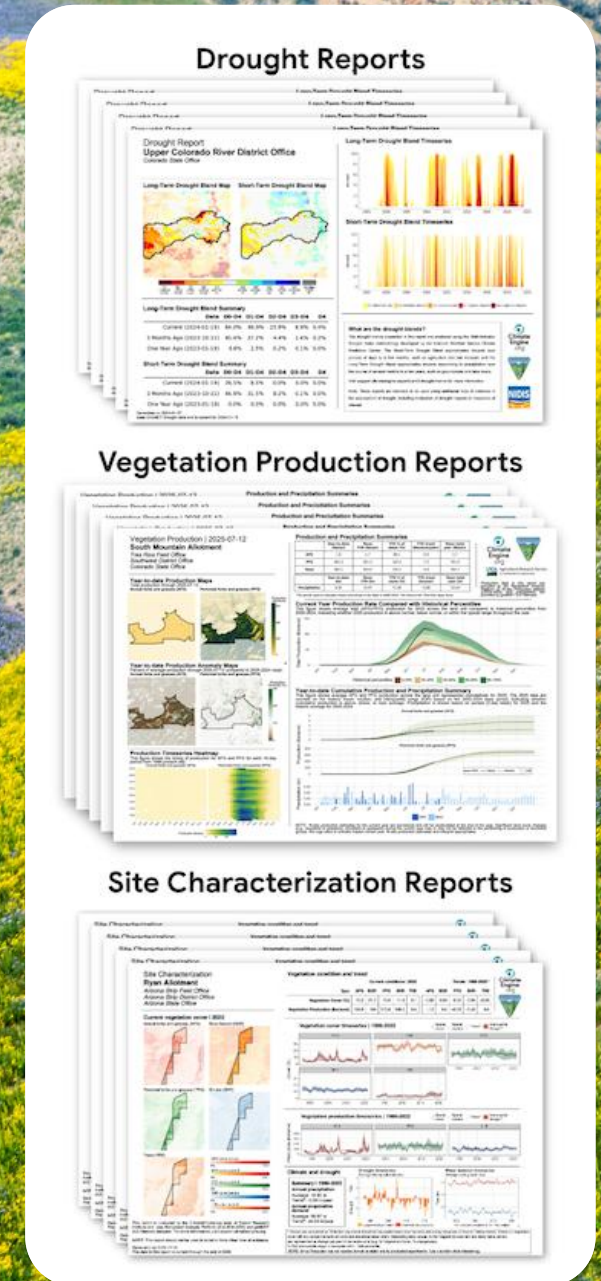
- Helps foresters, landowners, and land managers to consider climate change when planning reforestation and afforestation projects
- Matches seedlots (seedlings from a known area) and planting sites by mapping climate variables such as temperature and precipitation within a range that is suitable to the tree.



Climate Engine

- Climate Engine allows users to analyze and interact with climate and earth observations for decision support related to drought, water use, agricultural, wildfire, and ecology.
- *Drought analysis capabilities* that are place-based and near real-time.
- Partnership with the Desert Research Institute, University of Idaho, and Google.

<https://climateengine.org/>



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground is dominated by large, golden-brown fields, likely corn, separated by green hedgerows. A small town with several buildings and a church steeple is visible in the middle ground. The background shows more fields and a hazy horizon under a blue sky with light clouds.

{ Thank You

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Concerned Scientists



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Environmental and
Energy Study Institute

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Thursday, April 23, 2026