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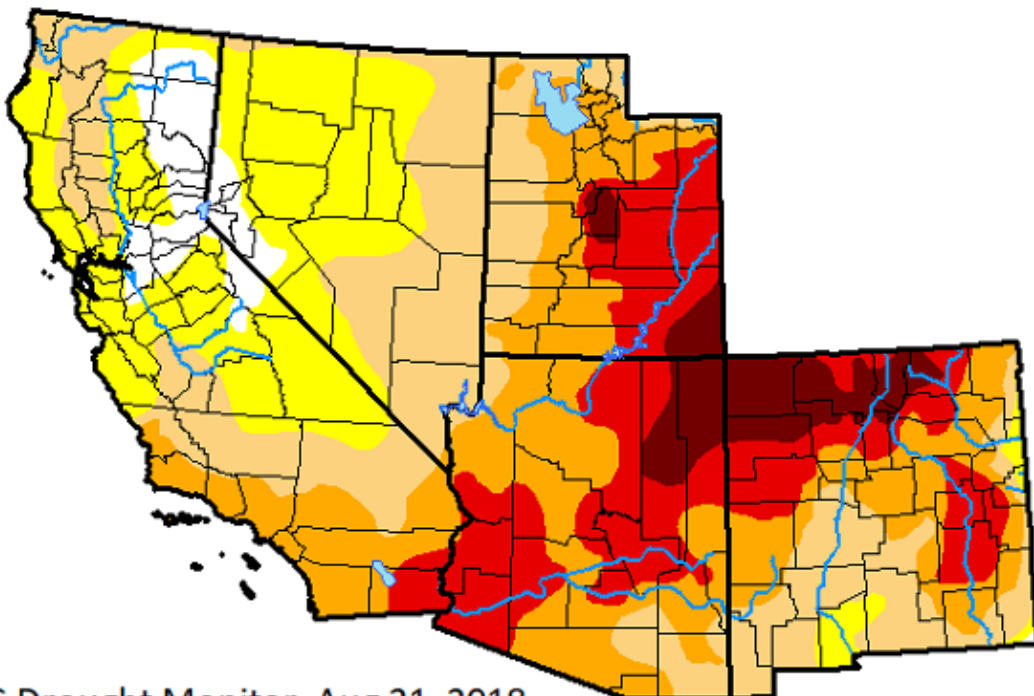
# Southwest Climate Hub Bulletin

*News and events for the Southwest Hub region*

April 2020

## COVID-19 Resources

Various government agencies have published Coronavirus disease (COVID19) web resources. Most will connect you to the [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) website which gives advice on how to prepare and protect yourself as well as [further information on The CARES Act](#) and financial support for small businesses. If you have USDA-related questions, we encourage you to visit the [USDA Coronavirus website](#), which provides a comprehensive list of specific advice regarding the actions of different USDA departments in response to the pandemic. These include how to work with your local USDA Service Centers (for producers), [measures implemented by Rural Development](#) to help rural residents, businesses and communities impacted by COVID-19 and information about NIFA grant applications (for researchers and Extension).



US Drought Monitor, Aug 21, 2018

## Drought Learning Network

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## Redesigning Desert Agriculture for Climate Change

Dr. Gary Nabhan of the University of Arizona spoke at New Mexico State University's Climate Change Education Series. His discussion, Redesigning desert agriculture for climate change: biomimicry, nurse plant ecology & succulent plants, addressed how generating food systems around local desert vegetation can foster healthy, equitable, and food-sovereign communities. [Read more >>](#)

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## Sustainable Southwest Beef Project

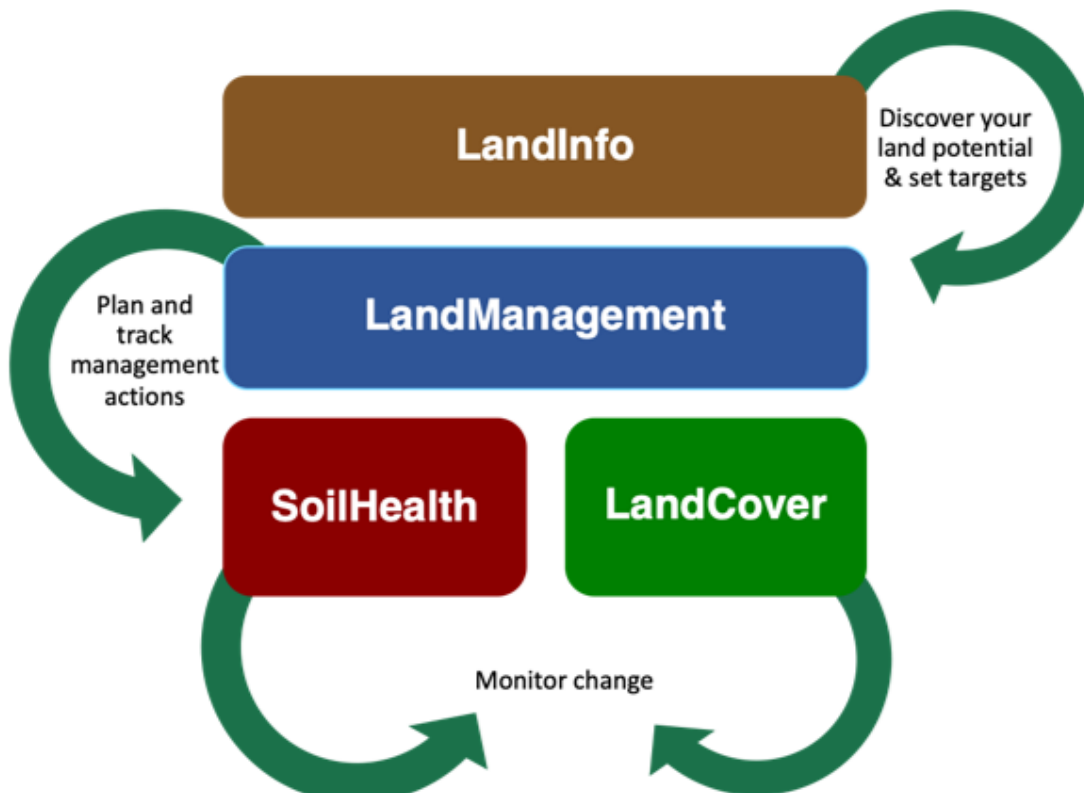
In January the Sustainable Southwest Beef Project team introduced the project to roughly 125 ranchers, feedlot operators and others connected to the beef cattle industry at the Southwest Beef Symposium. Producers from at least 26 counties across 7 states, including California, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, completed a baseline survey that will help guide the project over the next five years.

[Read more >>](#)



## Are Springs Coming Earlier in the Southwest?

This year, much of Arizona, about half of New Mexico, and the southwestern third of Nevada are experiencing an early spring - in some areas two to three weeks early! However, there are also locations in northeast New Mexico and in Utah that are experiencing a later spring compared to the 1981-2010 average. [Read more >>](#)



## LandPKS Mobile App: New Features

soil information, record their management and precipitation, and monitor soil health and vegetation. Learn more about the app and its new features here including a [three-lesson module](#) that engages students on fundamental land management topics. [Read more >>](#)

## Technical Resources on ATTRA Website Free of Cost

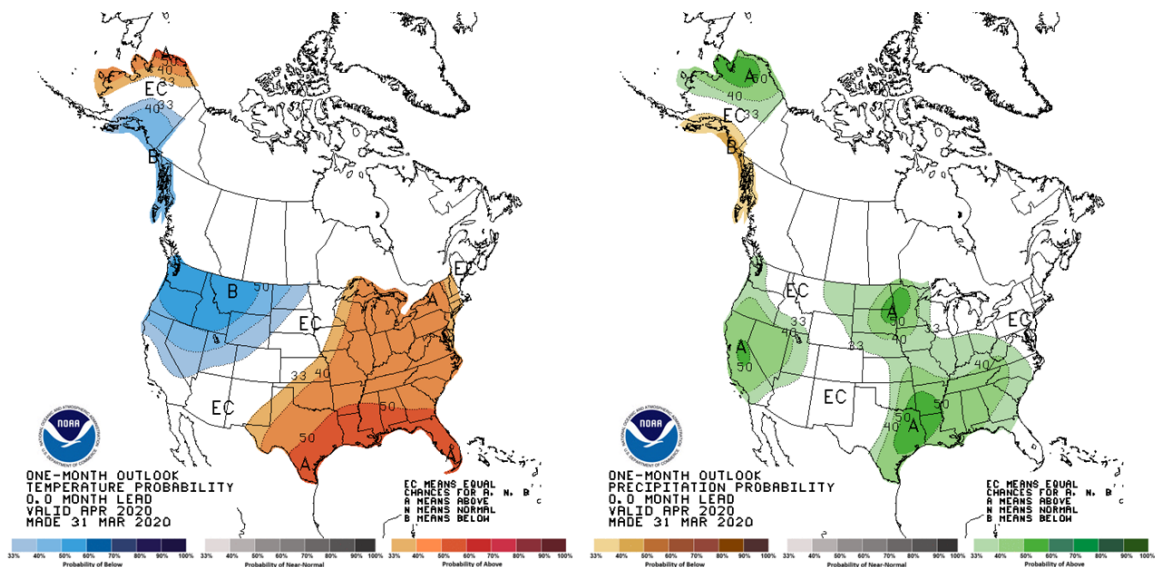
ATTRA is the Sustainable Agriculture Program from the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). NCAT has just announced that it is now providing all the technical resources on the [ATTRA website](#) at no cost. These resources include digital publications, videos, podcasts, and other resources and materials. They ask that users remember that they rely on private income to make ends meet and to consider a tax-deductible donation. Visit <https://attra.ncat.org/become-a-friend-of-attra>

## Climate reporting for the Southwest

We are currently in an [ENSO-neutral status](#) and forecasters estimate there will be about a 65% chance of an ENSO-neutral outlook for spring and to continue into summer. Read more about [ENSO Tracker - March 2020](#), an analysis by [CLIMAS](#) (Climate Assessment for the Southwest).

As of March 31, the [one-month outlook](#) for April shows a 33-50% chance for below-normal temperature for much of Utah and Nevada and an equal chance for normal temperatures for Arizona and New Mexico. There will be a 33-50% chance of above-normal precipitation for Utah and Nevada and an equal chance for precipitation for Arizona and New Mexico. As of March 19, the [three-month outlook](#) (Apr-May-Jun 2020) shows a 40-60% chance of above-normal temperatures for the southwestern U.S. There will be a 33-50% chance for below-normal precipitation for New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and northeastern Arizona. These outlooks are created monthly by NOAA Climate Prediction Center and based on departures from the 1981-2010 base period. To view more short-term outlooks, please visit the [NOAA's National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#).

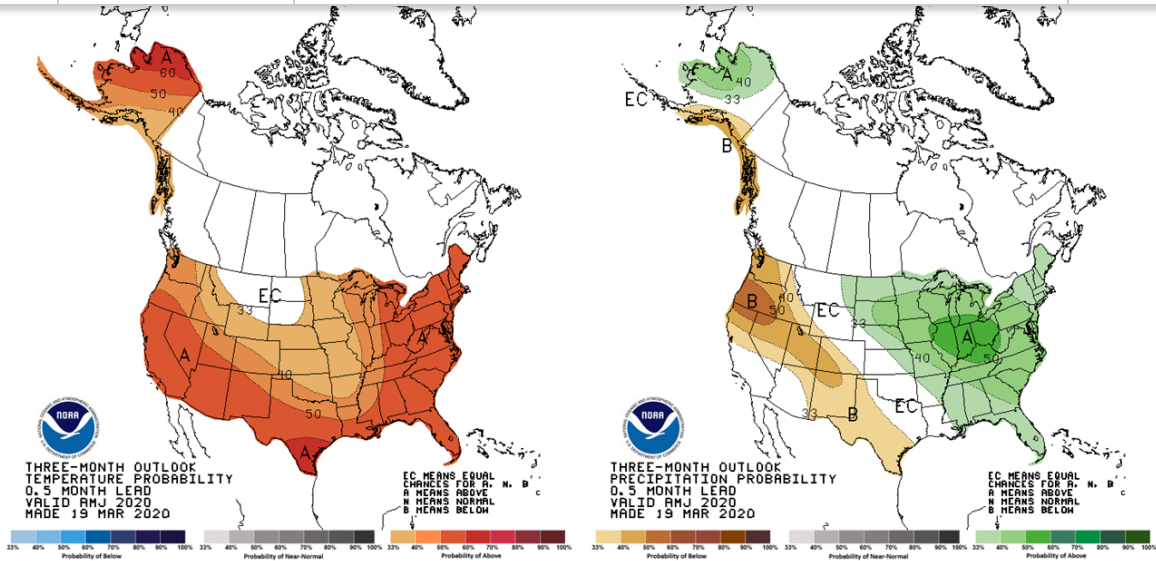
### 1-month outlook



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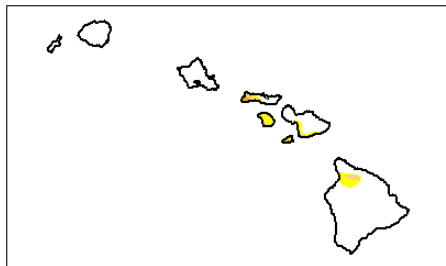
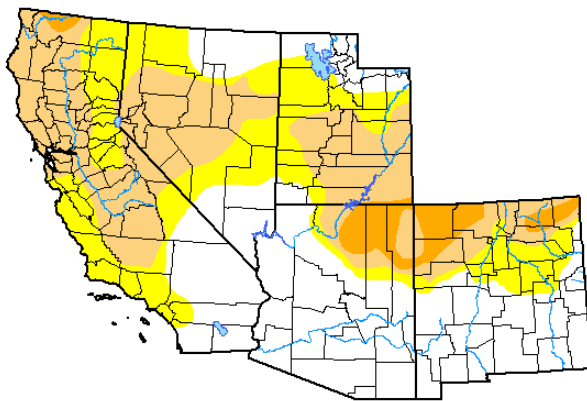


### Drought

Drought conditions remain in the Four Corners region, across Utah and have expanded into Nevada with drought conditions of D0-D2. In Hawai'i, drought conditions have expanded slightly on the Big Island when compared to a month ago using the [U.S. Drought Monitor Map Comparison Slider](#). For a more detailed drought summary, visit the U.S. Drought Monitor [website](#).

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

**March 31, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	42.16	57.84	34.10	4.84	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>03-24-2020</i>	41.07	58.93	28.07	5.02	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>12-31-2019</i>	70.92	29.08	18.32	10.73	0.01	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12-31-2019</i>	70.92	29.08	18.32	10.73	0.01	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>10-01-2019</i>	57.55	42.45	27.33	6.37	0.02	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>04-02-2019</i>	75.72	24.28	9.43	3.28	0.00	0.00

**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:**  
David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center

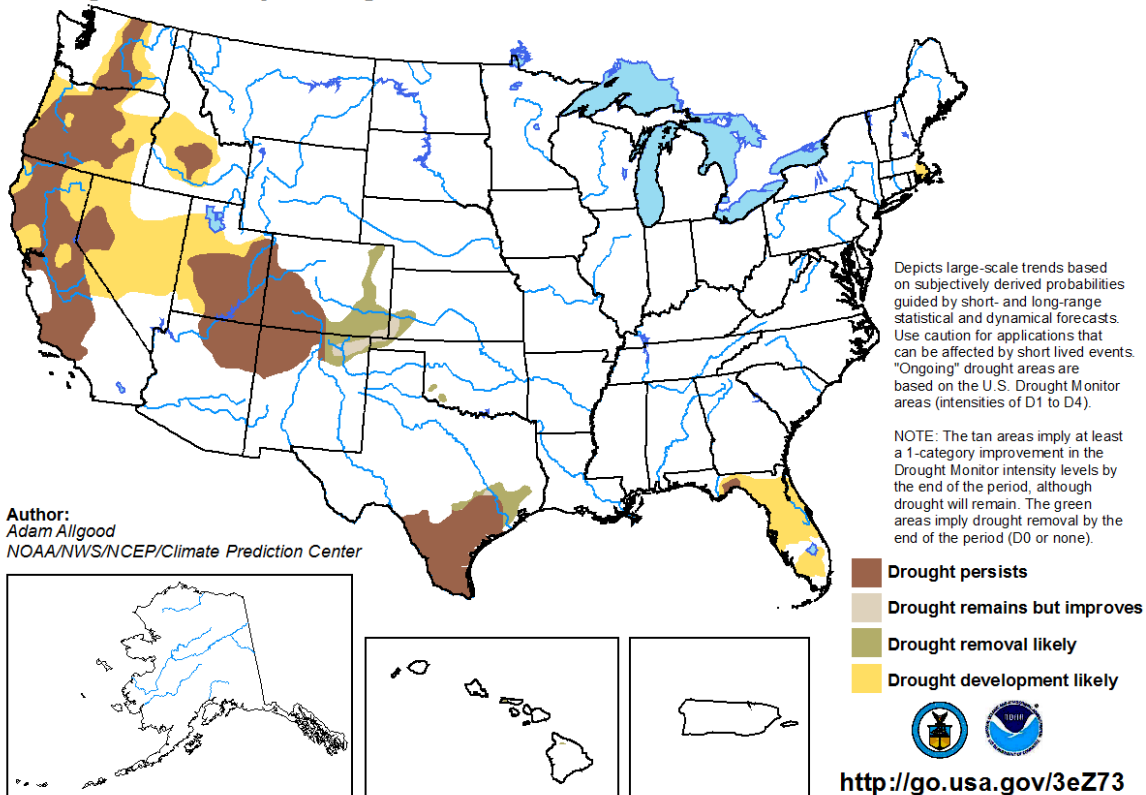


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

For the [seasonal drought outlook](#) (March 19 - June 30, 2020), drought will persist in the Four Corners region and will likely develop for the rest of Utah and Nevada. The outlook predicts

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▾](#)**Drought Tendency During the Valid Period**

Released March 19



## Announcements

### Online Training Adaptation Planning and Practices

**Course begins April 20 - June 12, 2020**

Climate Adaptation Training is being offered by the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS). The [NIACS Adaptation Workbook Process](#) will be available by weekly recorded lectures that are 45 minutes long, small group discussion sessions that meet bi-weekly for an hour, and will take place from April 20 to June 12, 2020.

**[Register by April 15!](#)**

### Job Opportunity: The USDA Climate Hubs Southern Plains Director

[Position announcement](#) is open until **May 5, 2020**. Please share with your networks.

### Grass-Cast Virtual Stakeholders Workshop

**May 14, 2020, 9:00-11:30 AM MDT**

A major challenge to successful management of livestock production in the western U.S. is accurately predicting forage production. Extremely variable weather can dramatically affect the production and availability of forage for livestock use. Overestimating forage production can result in overgrazing, reducing livestock performance and risking land degradation.

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[Grass-Cast](#), a grassland productivity forecast for livestock producers, Extension, FSA, NRCS, and other rangeland managers, is expanding to New Mexico and Arizona in May 2020. The forecast of annual production will be updated every two weeks beginning in May 2020.

Please join us online for a stakeholder workshop designed to better understand the region's livestock grazing systems and drought management strategies, introduce Grass-Cast to resource managers, debut the 2020 maps and seek feedback to improve production and delivery of the maps.

To register, please contact Lauren Kramer (LRKramer@fortlewis.edu).

## [Understanding Regional Linkages Between Production Agriculture, Air Quality, and Climate](#)

**May 18, 2020 2:00 PM MDT**

Dr. Dave DuBois, New Mexico State Climatologist, will present the results of a national air quality and production agriculture synthesis focused on expected impacts in a changing climate. Dr. DuBois will synthesize and present the current state of knowledge regarding air quality impacts on production agriculture, and vice-versa, within the context of weather conditions and a changing climate.

[Register](#)

## Funding Opportunities

[Tribal Colleges Extension Program: Special Emphasis](#), NIFA

Award Ceiling: \$400,000

**Deadline: April 30, 2020**

[Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program](#), NIFA

Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Deadline: April 30, 2020**

[Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program](#), AMS

Award Ceiling: \$250,000

**Deadline: May 11, 2020**

[Notice of Funding Opportunity for NRCS's Conservation Innovation Grants \(CIG\) On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials \(On-Farm Trials\) for Federal fiscal year \(FY\) 2020](#), NRCS

Award Ceiling: \$5,000,000

**Deadline: May 11, 2020**

[Local Food Promotion Program](#), AMS

Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Deadline: May 26, 2020**

[Regional Food System Partnerships](#), AMS

Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000

**Deadline: May 26, 2020**

[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development](#), NIFA

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$49,000,000

**Deadline: September 25, 2020**

[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science](#), NIFA



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## Webinars

- **May 5, 10:00 am PT** - [Career Pathways in Boundary Work & Co-Production](#)
- **May 12, 1:00 pm PT** - [Native American Cultural Burning and Ecosystem Resilience](#)
- **May 14, 9:00-11:30 am MT** - [Grass-Cast Virtual Stakeholders Workshop](#)
- **May 18, 2:00 pm MT** - [Understanding Regional Linkages Between Production Agriculture, Air Quality, and Climate](#)
- **May 21, 11:00 am ET** - [Biochar from Forest to the Farm](#)
- **May 26, 11:00 am PT** - [California-Nevada Drought & Climate Outlook](#)

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