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# Southwest Climate Hub Bulletin

*News and events for the Southwest Hub region*

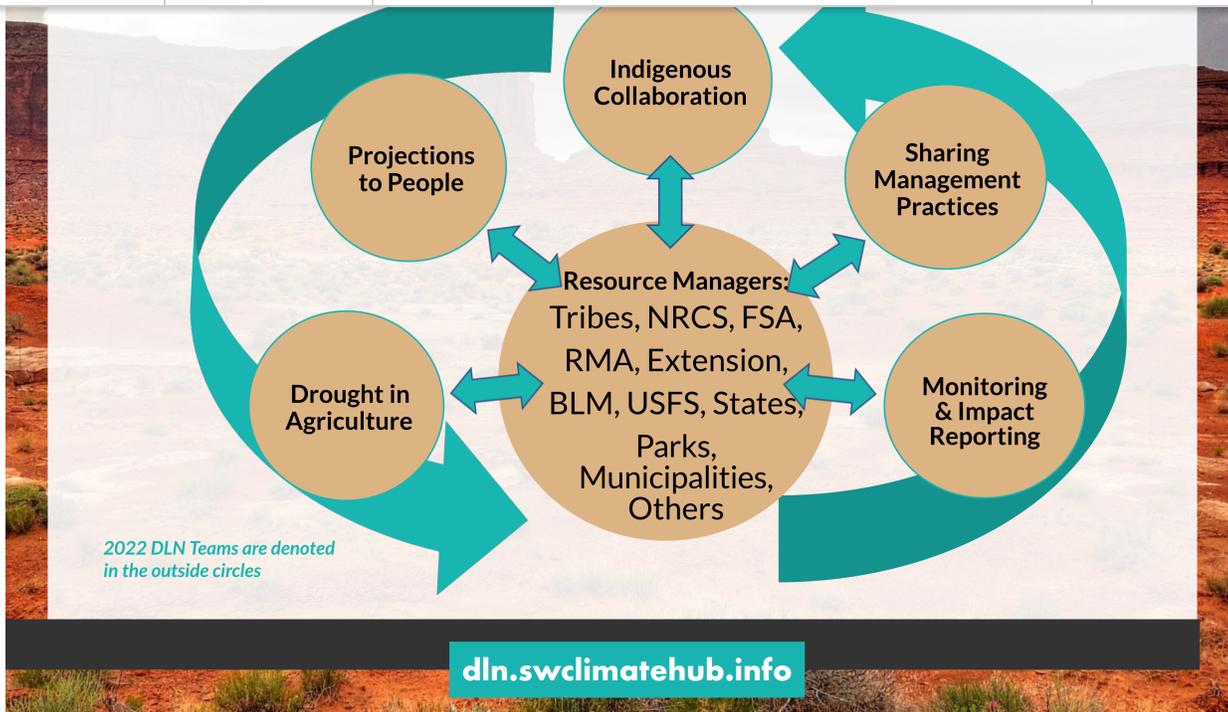
July 2022

## Beyond Envisioning – Growth of a Regional Drought Network

In early February 2020, a team of scientists and partners came together to envision a network designed to better support people coping with drought. Within a month everything changed. The COVID-19 pandemic kept us working remotely for the next few years and could have halted network progress and growth. But, the combination of exceptional drought conditions, determined climate-service providers, and extreme need bolstered the network. Therefore, with gratitude, the team met again in June 2022 to learn from State climatologists, water managers, producers, and scientists to develop goals for the next year.

The top 10 goals and activities of the 5 Drought Learning Network (DLN) teams for the next year:

1. Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange between managers.
2. Capture and provide documentation of drought adaptation, mitigation, and resilience strategies, including lessons learned, and share via written case studies, podcasts, and videos.
3. Build a cadre of student interns to author case studies.
4. Launch a drought & forage outlook podcast.
5. Actively involve more agricultural service providers.
6. Conduct a regional drought needs assessment including a literature review and gap analysis.
7. Develop outreach kits focused on tool information and drought science translation.
8. Host an in-person Four Corners drought monitoring workshop.
9. Continue monthly Drought Briefings with a focus on conditions and resources.
10. Identify regional drought indicators.



Are you interested in joining a team? Please contact [tbernadt5@unl.edu](mailto:tbernadt5@unl.edu) for more information.

## Southwest Climate Hub Videos

The Southwest Climate Hub publishes videos from meetings and webinars on our [SW Climate Hub YouTube Channel](#). We have made a [new landing page on our website for quickly finding recent videos](#) so that viewers don't have to search through YouTube to find our content. Currently, we are featuring the most recent videos from the annual Drought Learning Network meeting that was held in Las Cruces in June 2022.

<p><b>The US Drought Monitor Process</b></p> <p>Dr. Brian Fuchs, Climatologist with the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), explains the process of making the weekly US Drought Monitor Maps at the 2022 Drought Learning Network Meeting.</p> <p><a href="#">View on YouTube</a></p>	<p><b>Monitoring dashboard for managing drought risk on the ranch</b></p> <p>Dr. Tonya Haigh, rural sociologist with the NDMC describes the Ranch Drought Monitoring Dashboard. The dashboard features the latest data on drought and precipitation conditions, outlooks, on-the-ground reports, vegetative stress, forage productivity and more.</p> <p><a href="#">View on YouTube</a></p>	<p><b>Grass-Cast</b></p> <p>Julie Elliott, NRCS liaison with the Northern Plains Climate Hub discusses Grass-Cast, a seasonal forecast for grassland growth for the Great Plains and Southwest. Grass-Cast indicates for ranchers and other grassland managers whether productivity (pounds per acre) is likely to be above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal in the upcoming growing season relative to the 30+ year history of their local area.</p> <p><a href="#">View on YouTube</a></p>

## New Case Study on the Development of the Southwest Drought Learning Network Now Available

The Southwest Drought Learning Network (DLN) works closely with the [Collaborative Conservation and Adaptation Strategy Toolbox](#) (CCAST) to highlight Case Studies on drought and climate change adaptations. Please visit and share the DLN's latest CCAST Case Study, which explores the development of the DLN itself and lessons learned in its first two years of existence. The online StoryMap may be found [here](#), and its accompanying two-page handout [here](#). A special thank you to Southwest Climate Hub intern, Viktorya Martinez, who worked with the DLN and CCAST to develop these resources!



## Weather Monitoring Station Inventory in the Southwest Climate Hub Region

The Southwest Climate Hub is developing a monitoring station inventory of various types of weather monitoring stations in the southwest. The inventory includes an [interactive map](#) depicting tribal lands, land cover, watershed boundaries, and active and inactive stations for national and state-based monitoring networks. We used [MesoWest](#) to identify state-based mesonets in the region. National monitoring networks include Snowpack Telemetry [SNOTEL](#), Cooperative Observer Program ([COOP](#)), Remote Automatic Weather Stations ([RAWS](#)), Automated Surface Observing Systems ([ASOS](#)), Automated Weather Observing System ([AWOS](#)), and Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network ([CoCoRaHS](#)). The monitoring station inventory will be used to identify areas in New Mexico where new monitoring stations may be installed.



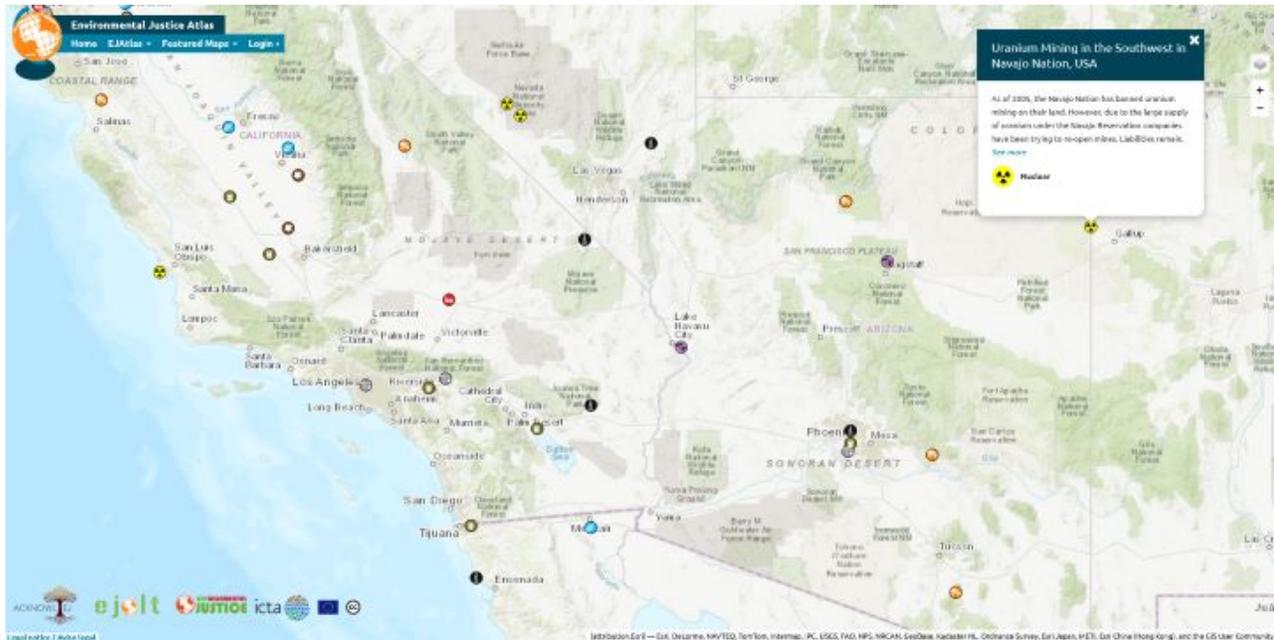
## Sustainable Southwest Beef Project On-Ranch Demonstration

On March 10, 2022, [Sustainable Southwest Beef Project](#) held an On Ranch Demonstration, hosted by Matt and Kristen Redd who manage The Nature Conservancy's [Dugout Ranch](#) in Monticello Utah. The purpose of the field day was to provide an opportunity for local producers and stakeholders to observe in action and ask questions about novel strategies for sustainability in beef production, such as the use of [Raramuri Criollo](#) cattle, along with some of the other environmental research projects being implemented on the ranch.



## Environmental Issues

With environmental justice receiving renewed attention, including the current administration's "**Justice40**" initiative, a tool for learning about this topic may be of interest. Since 2015, the **Environmental Justice Atlas** has served as a repository for information about environmental conflicts around the world. Case studies cover a range of topics from the impacts of mining and fossil fuel extraction to water and waste management. Information is sourced from hundreds of collaborators, and anyone can register to contribute. Currently, only 30 of the nearly 4,000 cases are within the Southwest Climate Hub region, so opportunities both to learn and to contribute abound!



## Climate reporting for the Southwest

### El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

As of June 9, 2022, the ENSO alert system status is **La Niña Advisory**. Forecasters predict a 52% chance of La Niña to continue into late summer. Learn more about additional ENSO perspectives and analysis available at the NOAA **ENSO Blog** and the **ENSO Tracker - June 2022**, an analysis by **CLIMAS**.

### National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center Outlooks

#### 1-month outlook

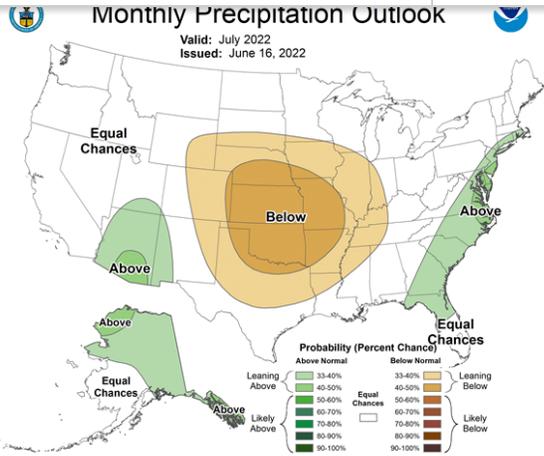
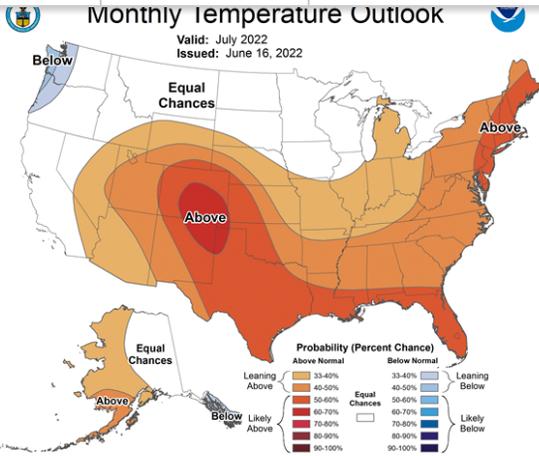
As of June 16, the **one-month outlook** for July shows a 33-70% chance for above-normal temperature for the southwest. There will be a 33-50% chance for above-normal precipitation in Arizona and equal chances of precipitation for the southwest.

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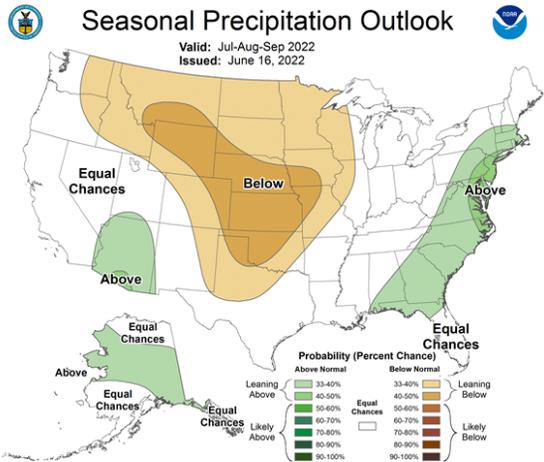
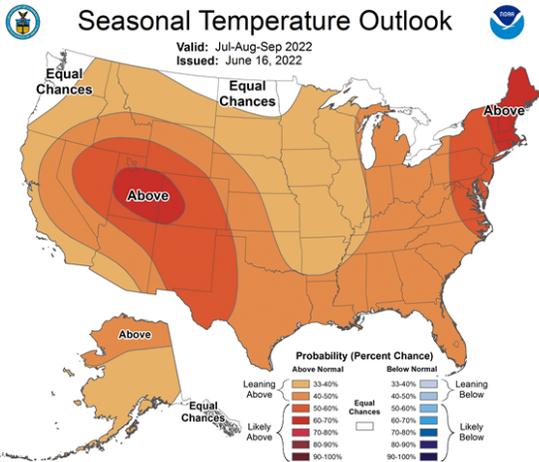
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### 3-month outlook

As of June 16, the **three-month outlook** (Jul-Aug-Sep 2022) shows a 33-70% chance of above-normal temperatures for the southwest. There will be a 33-50% chance of above-normal precipitation for Arizona and an equal chance for precipitation for Nevada, Utah, and part of New Mexico. These outlooks are created monthly by NOAA Climate Prediction Center and based on departures from the 1991-2020 base period. To view more short-term outlooks, please visit the [NOAA's National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center](#).



## Drought

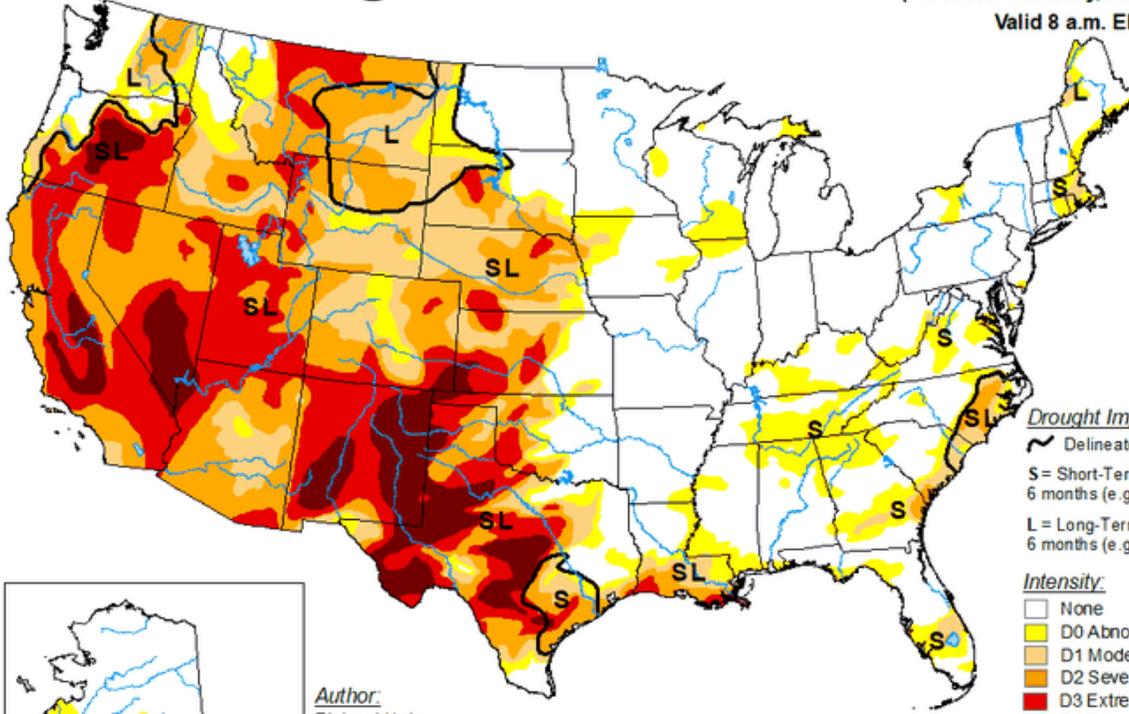
Drought conditions remain in the southwest with a 1-class degradation in areas of Utah and Nevada and 1-class improvement in portions of New Mexico and Arizona. The image below is an **animation map** for the past 6 weeks of the drought monitor maps. The second image Further is the **change map** to illustrate the difference in drought class change for the past 4 weeks. For a more detailed drought summary in your area of interest, visit the U.S. Drought Monitor [website](#).

### Animation Map (May 24 - June 28, 2022)

# U.S. Drought Monitor

(Released Thursday, May 26, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



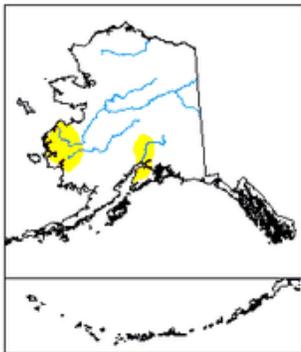
### Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

### Intensity:

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

*Author:*  
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NCEI/NOAA

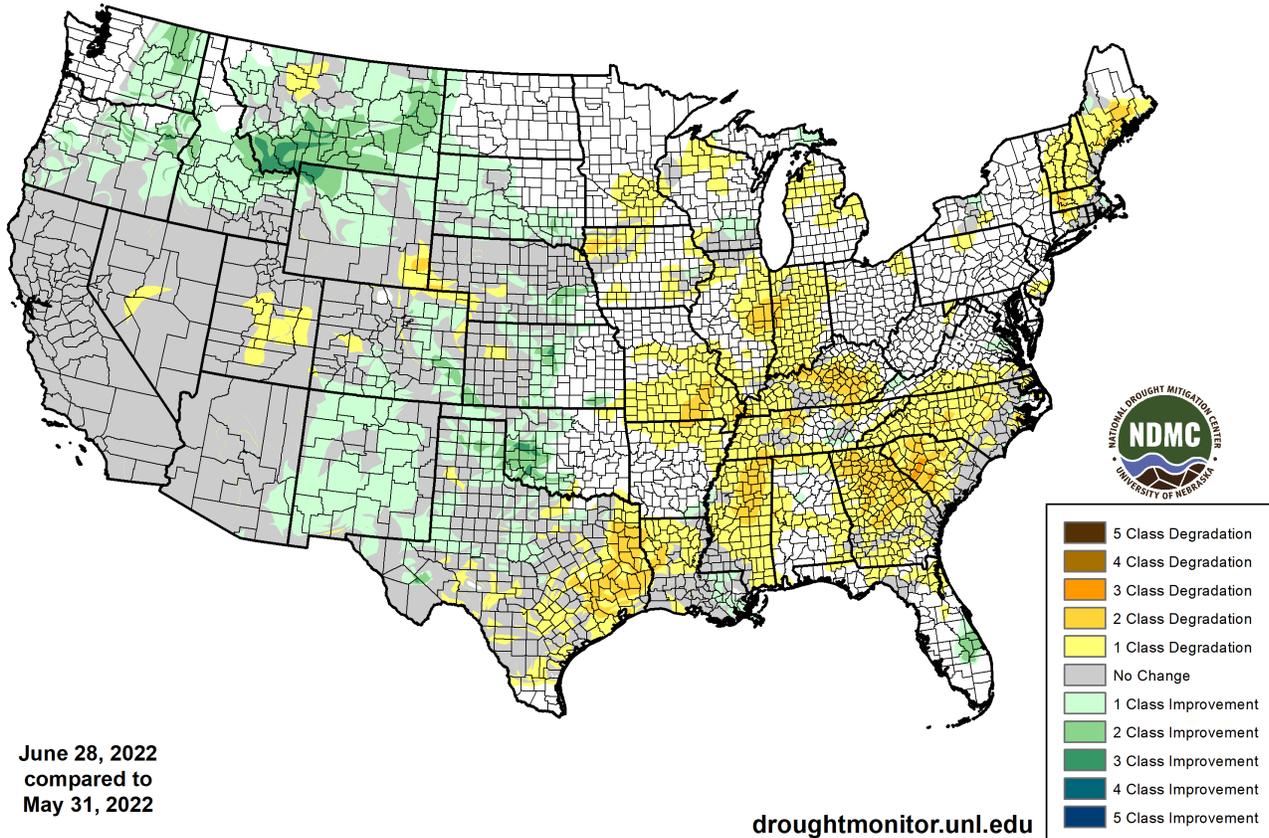


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



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

### U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Contiguous U.S. (CONUS) 4 Week



## Announcements

### Southwest Adaptation Forum

If you are interested in attending the Southwest Adaptation Forum (SWAF), please complete the pre-application form [here](#) as in-person space is limited. Pre-application puts your name on the list to receive more information in the coming months and to be notified when the application becomes available.

The 2022 SWAF, hosted by the [Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center](#), [South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center](#), [USDA Southwest Climate Hub](#), and [Southwest Decision Resources](#), will be held at the [Indian Pueblo Cultural Center](#) in Albuquerque, NM. The forum will be held on October 10-12, 2022, and will build on work started at the [2018](#) and [2021](#) SWAFs, further exploring topics relevant to adaptation practitioners in the Southwest, such as cultural burning, drought, and ecosystem transformation.

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**Southwest Adaptation Forum**  
**October 10-12, 2022**  
**Indian Pueblo Cultural Center**  
**Albuquerque, NM**

Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center |  **Southwest Climate Hub**  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE |  **SOUTH CENTRAL**  
 CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE CENTER

## Job Opportunity - Project Specialist

The East-West Center is accepting applications for a limited, two-year appointment (with possibility of extension) for a Project Specialist within the Research Program. The Project Specialist will lead a joint EWC and University of Hawai'i project to identify locally and sectorally-relevant climate indicators and metrics for the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Palau, and to support the creation of integrated, sector-specific early warning systems. Read more [here](#).

## Grasslands & Climate Change Training Series

July 20th at 2pm CT/ 1pm MT / 12pm PT

### Grasslands, Climate, and Landcover Change

Central North American grassland ecosystems are projected to experience transitions at fine and coarse scales resulting from climate change and human land uses. Following the first two sessions of this series (climate change fundamentals, grassland climate projections, and phenology), this session will focus on landcover/vegetation responses to future climates.

August 31st at 1pm CT/ 12pm MT/ 11am PT

### Grasslands, Climate, and Trust Species

For the past half-century, grassland birds have been declining faster than any other group of birds. Habitat loss and degradation are driving many of these declines, but the emerging threat of climate change and associated increases in extreme events pose even more challenges. Using grassland birds as a case study, we will discuss new research on how climate change impacts grassland birds, from range shifts to demographic consequences.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3QVe0dh>

## Southern Plains DEWS Partners Dialogue

August 2-3, 2022 | NCED Hotel and Conference Center, 2801 East State Hwy 9, Norman, OK

Register now for the Southern Plains Drought Early Warning System Partners Dialogue by July 19, 2022. This regional gathering will bring together partners within the Southern Plains Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) network. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3Nj5DFd>

## Funding Opportunities

### FY 2022 Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program

**Deadline:** October 27, 2022

**Award Ceiling:** \$10,000,000

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**Deadline:** October 27, 2022

Award Ceiling: \$10,000,000

### **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science Program**

**Deadline:** December 31, 2022

Award Ceiling: \$15,000,000

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## Events

- July 6, 2022, 5:30 pm MT - [Anticipating Rangeland Drought with Grass-Cast](#)
  - July 12, 2022, 5:30 pm MT - [Navajo Climate Change Adaptation](#)
  - July 12-14, 2022 - [WRRC 2022 Annual Conference: Arizona's Agricultural Outlook: Water, Climate, and Sustainability](#)
  - July 19, 2022, 3:00 pm MT - [CCAST Webinar - Grassland Restoration to Support Pronghorn in Southeastern Arizona](#)
  - July 31 - August 3, 2022 - [Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference](#)
  - August 3-5, 2022 - [Society for Range Management AZ Section summer meeting](#)
  - August 8 - 11, 2022 - [Tribal Lands and Environment Forum](#)
  - August 9, 2022, 12:00 pm MT - [August Southwest Drought Briefing](#)
  - August 29 - September 1, 2022 - [National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference](#)
  - September 12-15, 2022 - [16th Biennial Conference of Science & Management on the Colorado Plateau & Southwest Region](#)
  - October 10-12, 2022 - [Southwest Adaptation Forum](#)
  - October 25-27, 2022 - [National Adaptation Forum](#)
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