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EPA Climate Change and Water News is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that covers climate change and water-related news from EPA, other U.S. Federal agencies, and partners. To learn more about climate change impacts on water resources, visit our website at: <http://www2.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector>.

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EPA News

Update of "Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate" Released for Public Comment

The Water Resources and Climate Change Workgroup, consisting of EPA and federal partners, has released for public comment a draft document updating the 2011 "National Action Plan: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate." The participating agencies reaffirm in the report the importance of continuing to improve the Nation's ability to respond to the impacts of climate change on water resources. This report takes into consideration the recommendations of the State, Tribal, and Local Leaders Task Force; the Climate and Natural Resources Working Group; and the Advisory Committee on Water Information Climate Change Subcommittee. Recommendations are identified in: Data and Research, Planning and Decision Support, and Training and Outreach. Deadline for public comments: July 15, 2016 (revised).

[View the Draft Report and Details on Submitting Comments.](#)

New EPA Online Tool: Templates for Developing Wetland Water Quality Standards

EPA and state water quality and wetland associations have partnered to develop an online tool, Templates for Wetland Water Quality Standards. The tool will assist States, Territories, and authorized Tribes with developing protective and comprehensive narrative water quality standards for wetlands. States can use the tool to streamline the development of criteria to maintain the spatial and functional components of wetlands, which is important to effectively implement Clean Water Act permitting programs and associated state and tribal certifications with respect to avoiding, reducing, and, where appropriate, mitigating impacts to wetlands.

[Learn More.](#)

EPA Releases Report on Condition of Nation's Wetlands

EPA has released the "National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA): A Collaborative Survey of the Nation's Wetlands." The report finds that of the wetland areas surveyed, 48% are in good condition based on plant community. Of the stressors examined, physical alterations to wetland habitat such as surface compaction, ditches, or plant removal are the most widespread. This is the first national monitoring study of the overall condition of wetlands conducted with a statistically-valid random sample approach. A webcast will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2016 and will provide a brief overview of the National Aquatic Resource Surveys as well as highlight key findings from the NWCA.

[Learn More.](#)

[June 16 Webinar Details.](#)

EPA Tribal EcoAmbassadors Program Grant Opportunity

EPA's Tribal ecoAmbassadors Program is now accepting grant proposals for tribal colleges and universities to conduct research on environmental and climate change issues within their campus and tribal communities. EPA will award several grants of up to \$50,000 for science research study within a one academic year time frame. Applications are due June 17, 2016.

[Learn More.](#)

EPA Awards \$1.9 Million to Colorado School of Mines for Water Infrastructure Research

EPA has announced \$3.9 million in funding to two institutions to research innovative, cost-effective technologies to manage stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows. The Colorado School of Mines received \$1.95 million to develop a decision support tool to help communities evaluate alternative stormwater treatment technologies that consider diverse climates, regional practices, and policies across the country. The tool will evaluate options and risks as well as life cycle costs associated with improving stormwater runoff management using green, gray, and hybrid infrastructure. The Colorado School of Mines will also conduct training sessions for these tools.

[View the Press Release.](#)

Other Federal News

U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey Study on Slow Climate Velocities of Mountain Streams

The study shows that cold-water mountain streams are warming at a much slower rate than previously forecasted by models, providing hope for cold-dependent species like salmon and trout. The results of this research, published in the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences," indicate that many cold-water species will continue to persist in mountain streams this century, giving resource managers time to survey these populations and develop conservation strategies.

[Read the Report.](#)

Applicants Requested to Host Climate Science Centers

The U.S. Geological Survey is requesting applicants to host Climate Science Centers in four U.S. regions. Three of these – Alaska, Northwest, and Southeast – are re-competitions of the hosting arrangements currently in place. The fourth is a planned new Climate Science Center that would be created by splitting the Northeast Climate Science Center region. Proposals are due July 19, 2016.

[Learn More.](#)

[Apply Now.](#)

USDA Releases Roadmap for Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released: “Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry,” the Department's framework for helping farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners respond to climate change. The effort relies on voluntary, incentive-based conservation, forestry, and energy programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and expand renewable energy production in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

[Learn More.](#)

Other News

Impacts of Climate Change on Groundwater Resources in Washington State

Washington State recently released a synthesis report on the climate-induced impacts of groundwater resources in the state. The current understanding of climate change impacts on five different groundwater characteristics are described: groundwater recharge/storage, surface water interactions/baseflow discharge, quality, temperature, and the impacts of sea-level rise. The report provides recommendations for Washington State water resource managers on improving protections against groundwater storage loss through increased and better statewide monitoring and assessing.

[Read the Report.](#)

World Bank Report: “High and Dry: Climate Change, Water, and the Economy”

A new World Bank reports finds that water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, could hinder economic growth, spur migration, and spark conflict. However, most countries can neutralize the adverse impacts of water scarcity by taking action to allocate and use water resources more efficiently. Policies and investments that can help lead countries to more water secure and climate-resilient economies include: better planning for water resource allocation, adoption of incentives to increase water efficiency, and investments in infrastructure for more secure water supplies and availability.

[Read the Report.](#)

Upcoming Events

[See a calendar of climate change and water-related training, conferences, and webinars.](#)

This newsletter is produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water (EPA). For questions related to the newsletter, or to submit an item, email the editor at water_climate_change@epa.gov.

For past issues of EPA Climate Change and Water News, as well as further information on climate change impacts on water resources, visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector>