

## THREAT LEVEL

### IDAHO FISH & GAME

Species not yet assessed



## CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ Protect wetland ecosystems
- ▶ Research climate impacts
- ▶ Research additional threats



# Chokecherry

*Prunus virginiana*

Photo Credit: uaf.edu

## OVERVIEW

Chokecherries are often found in open woodlands, prairie hillsides, and along rocky bluffs, canyons, roadsides, streams, and springs at lower elevations. This plant is at great risk due to changes in flooding and precipitation patterns, especially from early snowmelt. Due to their proximity to rivers, they are also impacted by dams and water management regimes. There are also concerns about fungi that impact chokecherries in northern Idaho, but researchers are unsure how climate change might impact the spread of fungi.

## CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

### VULNERABILITY RANKING

#### CLIMATE

LOW - MODERATE

#### NON-CLIMATE

MODERATE

#### CONFIDENCE

LOW

Physiological, phenological, or ecological factors to consider when planning conservation projects:

- ▶ Chokecherries are generally tolerant to wildfire and other disturbances
- ▶ Chokecherries disperse seeds over long distances via birds and mammals, increasing the chance of successful reproduction

### Vulnerability Rankings Methodology

*These priority species have been assessed for climate and non-climate vulnerability using a process adapted from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Methodology for ranking the Climate Change Vulnerability of Species. WDFW's approach includes rating each species' climate sensitivity and exposure. These two rankings are then averaged for a climate vulnerability ranking. The Tribe developed a non-climate vulnerability ranking to capture species' relative risk and adaptability to factors such as human-caused development, predator/prey relationships, or low population numbers. Confidence rankings were assessed based on the availability of scientific research.*

# KEY THREATS

## Climate Change

- ▶ Increasing temperatures will alter precipitation and flooding patterns, raising the risk of spring flooding that can damage the plant.
- ▶ Rising temperatures will also drive more frequent wildfires and greater evaporation, reducing soil moisture.

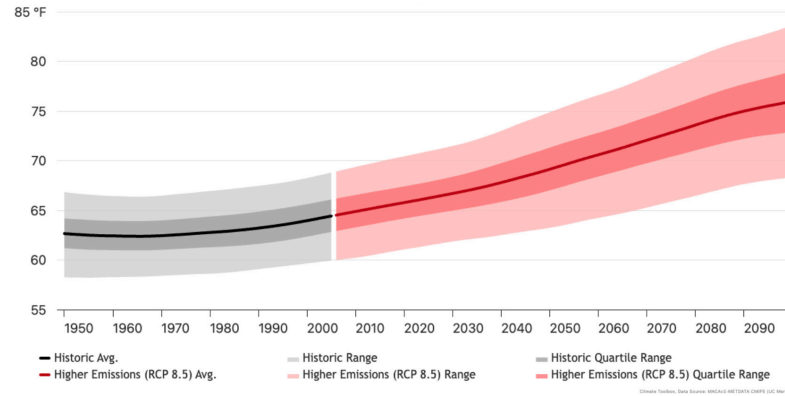
## Fungi

Chokecherry is susceptible to black knot fungus and other fungal pathogens that cause stem decay. These fungi cause stem decay, stunting growth or killing the plant entirely.

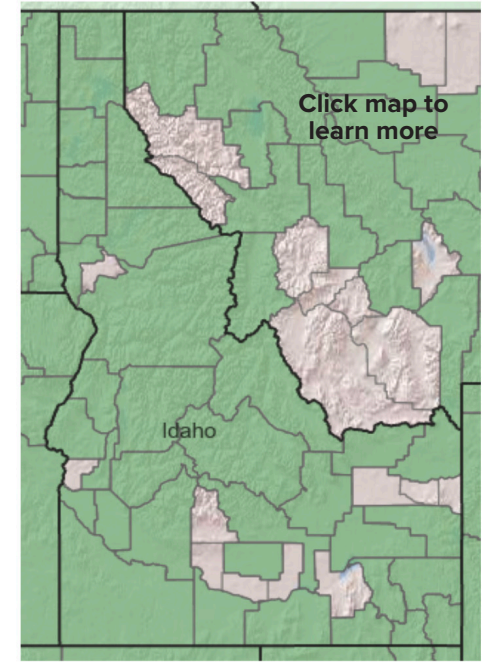
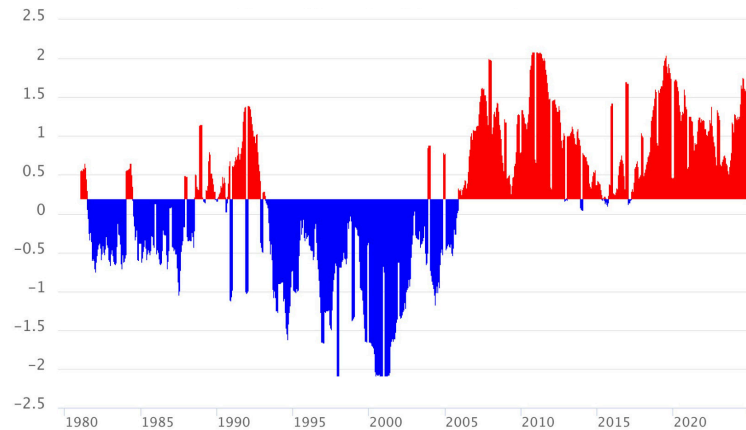


Photo Credit: Utah State University

## JUN-JUL-AUG MAX TEMPERATURE BOUNDARY COUNTY, ID



## 2-YEAR EVAPORATIVE DROUGHT DEMAND INDEX (EDDI) BOUNDARY COUNTY, ID, AVG (1980-2024)



Source: plants.usda.gov

## REFERENCES

“Chokecherries | Cooperative Extension Service.” Uaf.edu, 2021, [www.uaf.edu/ces/publications/database/food/chokecherries.php](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/publications/database/food/chokecherries.php). Accessed 6 October 2025.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment in the Upper Snake River Watershed. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/50c23e29e4b0958e038d6bd6/t/59108723be65940ba9a5f3e9/1494255399064/USRT+Chokecherry+Climate+Summary+Sheet+Final.pdf>. Accessed 4 Aug. 2025.

“NatureServe Explorer 2.0.” Explorer.natureserve.org, explorer.natureserve.org. Accessed 6 October 2025.

Temperature chart: Hegewisch, K.C., Abatzoglou, J.T., ‘Future Time Series’ web tool. Climate Toolbox (<https://climatetoolbox.org/>) accessed Mar. 18 2025.

“USDA Plants Database.” Usda.gov, 2025, [plants.usda.gov/plant-profile/URDI](https://plants.usda.gov/plant-profile/URDI). Accessed 3 Oct. 2025.

“How to Grow Chokecherry in your Garden.” Utah State University, <https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/chokecherry-in-the-garden>.

# PRIORITY AT-RISK SPECIES

## KOOTENAI TRIBE OF IDAHO