

Oregon

Water Conditions Report

July 25, 2017



The drought status for Oregon has been updated to reflect drier than normal conditions.

Due to recent hot and dry conditions the [US Drought Monitor](#) now indicates that the northeastern third of Oregon is categorized as “abnormally dry”. This areal coverage is expected to increase (and possibly intensify) between now and the end of the water year (September 30).

Statewide mountain precipitation for the water year remains well above normal. As of July 24, statewide mountain precipitation for the water year (based upon SNOTEL data) is at 125 percent. However, for the month-to-date, mountain precipitation has been well below normal. The areas with the highest percent of normal precipitation in the state so far this month are the Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt, Imnaha and the Coast Range, all at 19 percent. The lowest are the Malheur and Umatilla at zero (0).

With the exception of portions of Umatilla, Morrow and Gilliam counties, most of Oregon was warmer than normal for the month of June. Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting enhanced probabilities of above normal temperatures statewide and below normal precipitation across a broad area covering the north central and northeast portions of the state.

The Climate Prediction Center’s most recent [three month outlook](#) continues to indicate a higher likelihood of above normal temperatures. An increased chance of below normal precipitation is likely in the northwest corner of the state but for the rest of Oregon there is an equal chance of above or below normal precipitation between now and October. The next outlook will be issued on August 17, 2017.

El Niño Southern Oscillation conditions are projected to remain neutral through fall of 2017. Sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific are slightly warmer than normal, but atmospheric conditions currently do not reflect El Niño. The status will be monitored and changes will be made to the status if necessary by NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center. For insight into this observation, refer to this [blog](#) on the June 2017 forecast.

Of the lower 48 states, Oregon and Washington are the only two with near-average temperatures through the first 6 months of the year, in part due to a cooler than normal winter and early spring.

Statewide streamflows for the month of June were normal for this time of year. Regionally during the month of June, streamflow conditions east of the Cascades were a little over 100 percent and a little below 100 percent on the west side. Statewide, monthly stream flows have been at or above normal since February.

As of late last week, streamflows continue to trend downward at slightly over 85 percent of normal. Of note, flows in the John Day Basin are even lower at 63 percent and in the Umatilla and Malheur Lake Basins flows are at 65 percent. Short term weather outlooks indicate that this (downward) trend is likely to continue statewide.

Most of the state’s water supply reservoirs are at normal to above normal levels for this time of year. [Willamette](#) and [Rogue](#) project reservoirs remain on track this summer. [Hills Creek Reservoir](#) in the Willamette Basin is being held to lower than normal levels for maintenance projects. Minimum streamflow targets are projected to be met for the rest of the season. [Central Oregon](#) reservoirs are between 50 and 90 percent of capacity. [Eastern Oregon](#) reservoirs are between 85 and 63 percent of capacity. All are now releasing stored water for the summer supply season. For the most recent near real-time, site-specific reservoir conditions (teacup diagrams) visit the [USBR](#) or [USACE](#) websites.

All Oregon Department of Forestry fire protection districts are now in fire season. Refer to the [ODF Wildfire Blog](#) for the latest updates. Another useful resource is the ODF Significant Fire Potential [map](#) of Oregon.

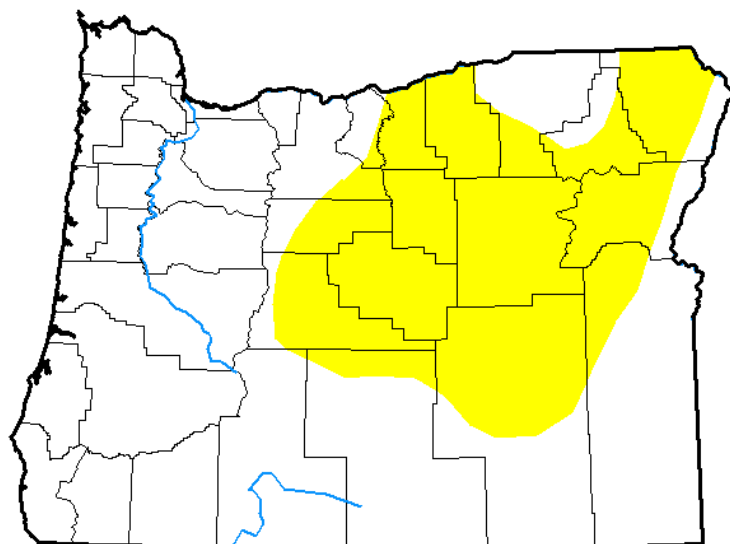
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U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon (July 18, 2017)

Website: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR>

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

July 18, 2017
(Released Thursday, Jul. 20, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	66.97	33.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 07-11-2017	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 04-18-2017	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	65.31	34.69	5.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	0.00	100.00	50.59	12.30	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 07-19-2016	0.00	100.00	49.75	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- 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. See accompanying text summary
for forecast statements.

Author:

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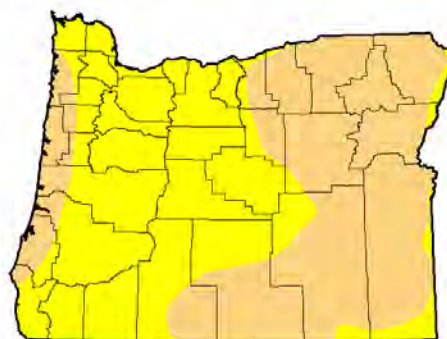


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Compared to this time last year:

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

July 26, 2016
(Released Thursday, Jul. 28, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	49.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 07-19-2016	0.00	100.00	49.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-01-2016	47.03	52.97	26.12	1.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2016	14.52	85.48	80.45	65.33	39.55	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-01-2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	67.28	0.00
One Year Ago 07-26-2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	48.31	0.00

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- D0 Abnormally Dry
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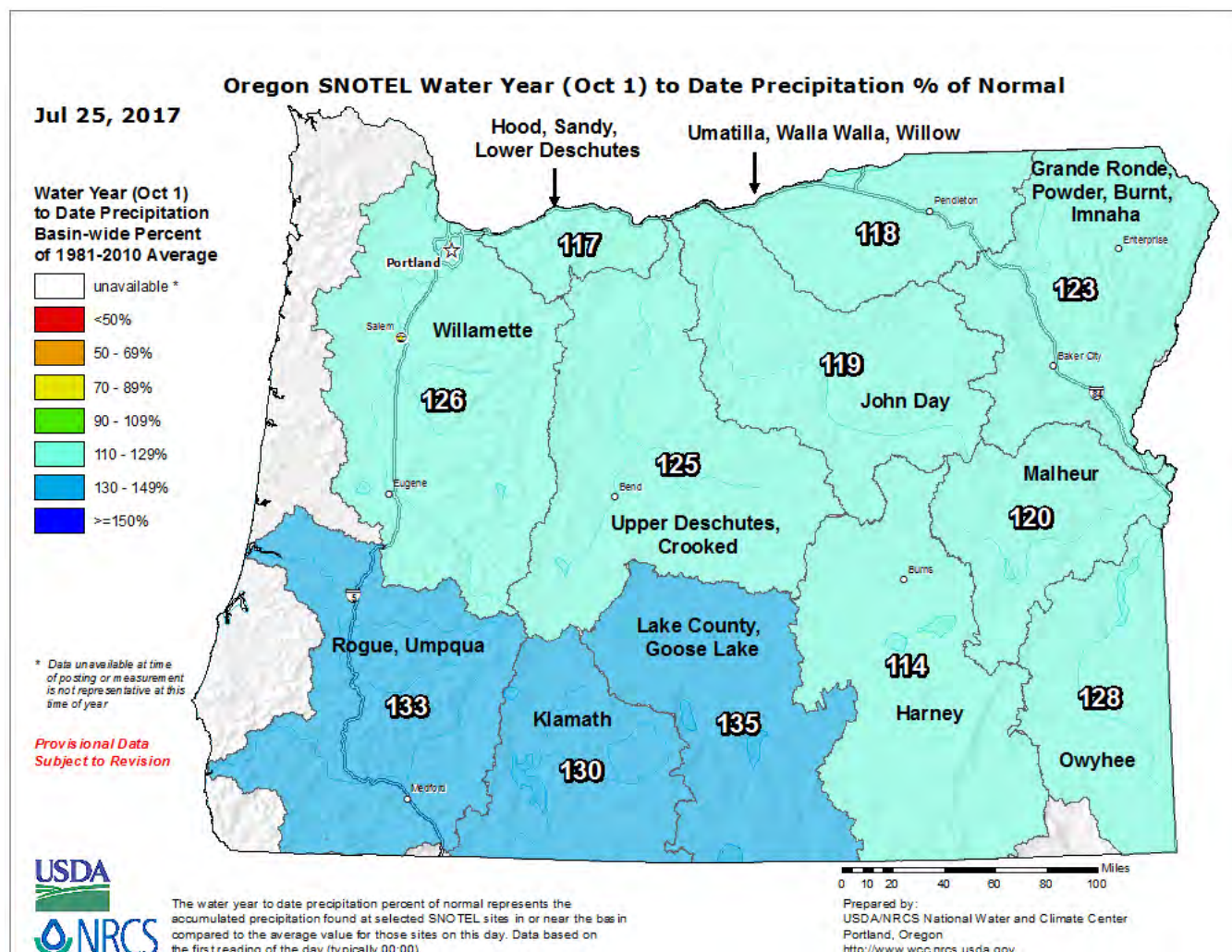
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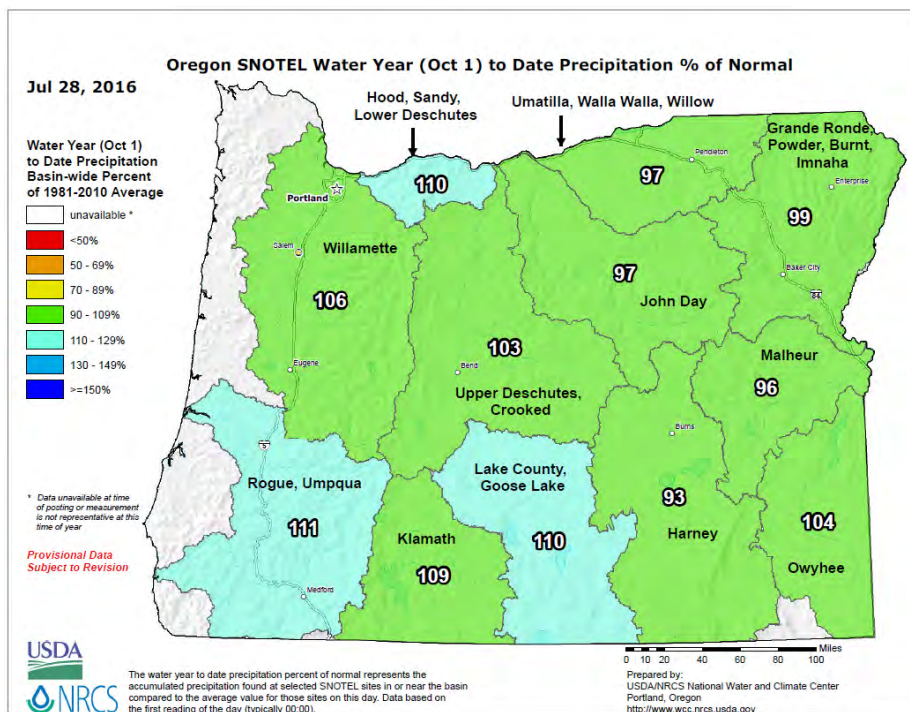


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Precipitation (mountain) - Percent of Normal

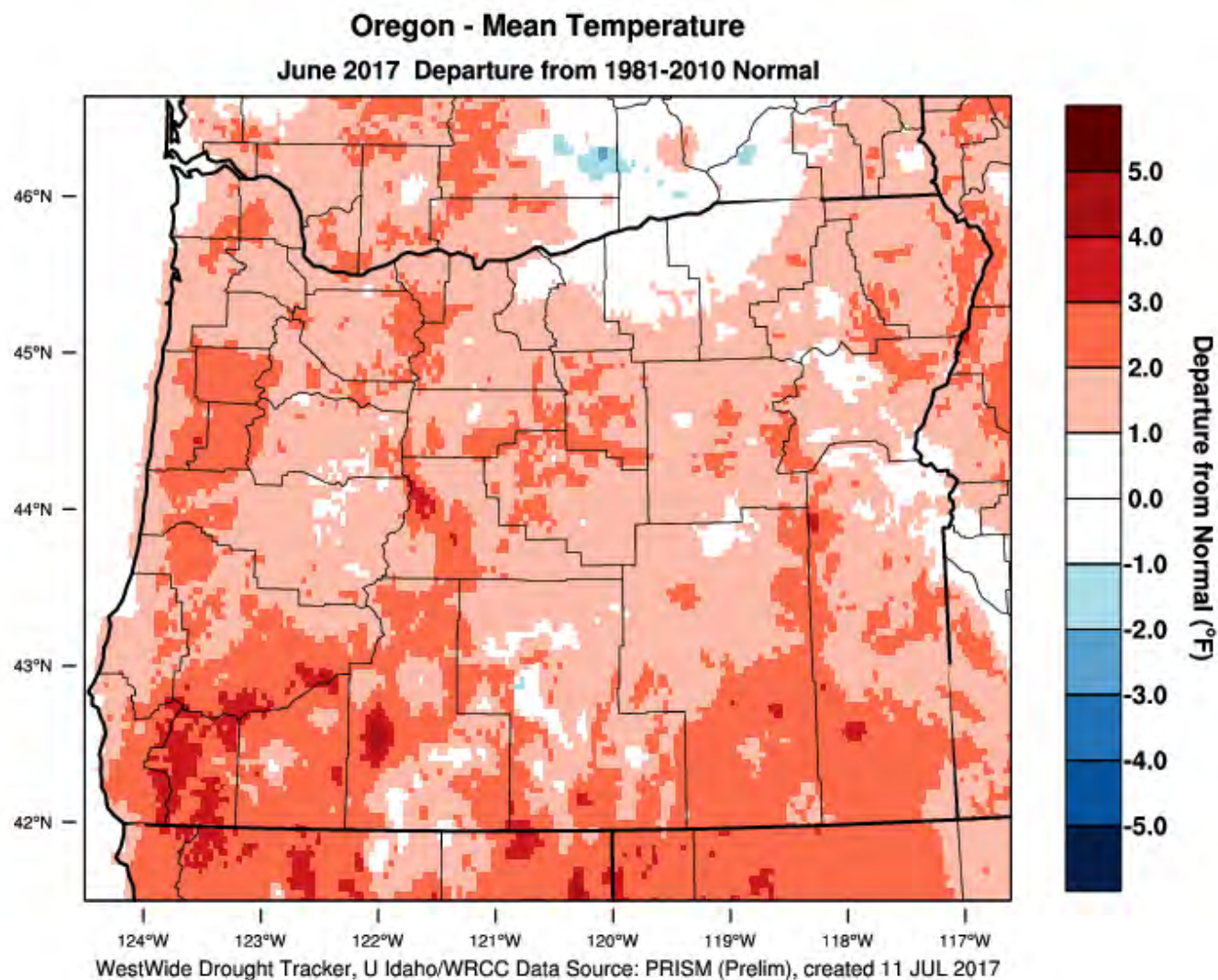


Compared to this time
last year -



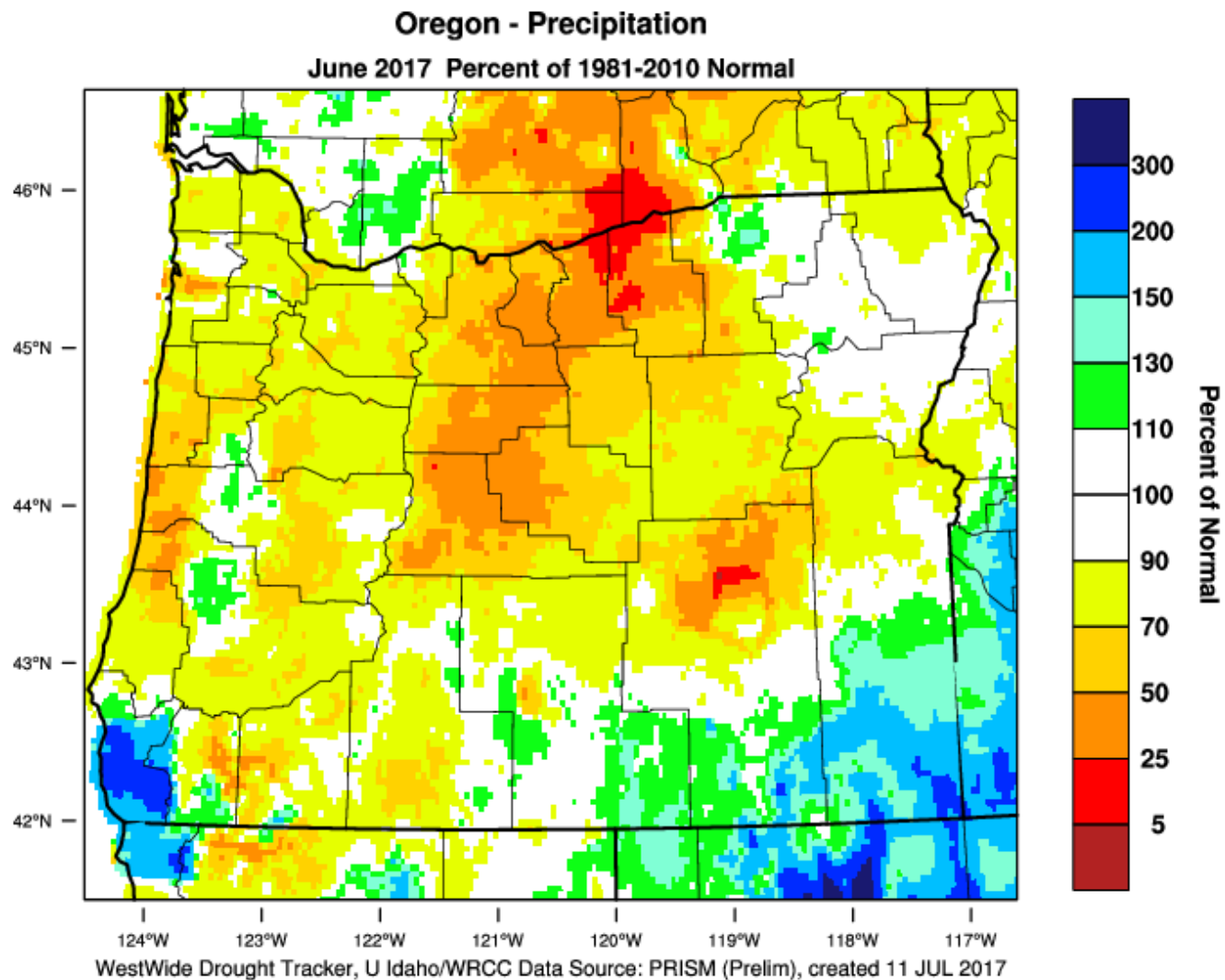
Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

Website: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=mdn1>



Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

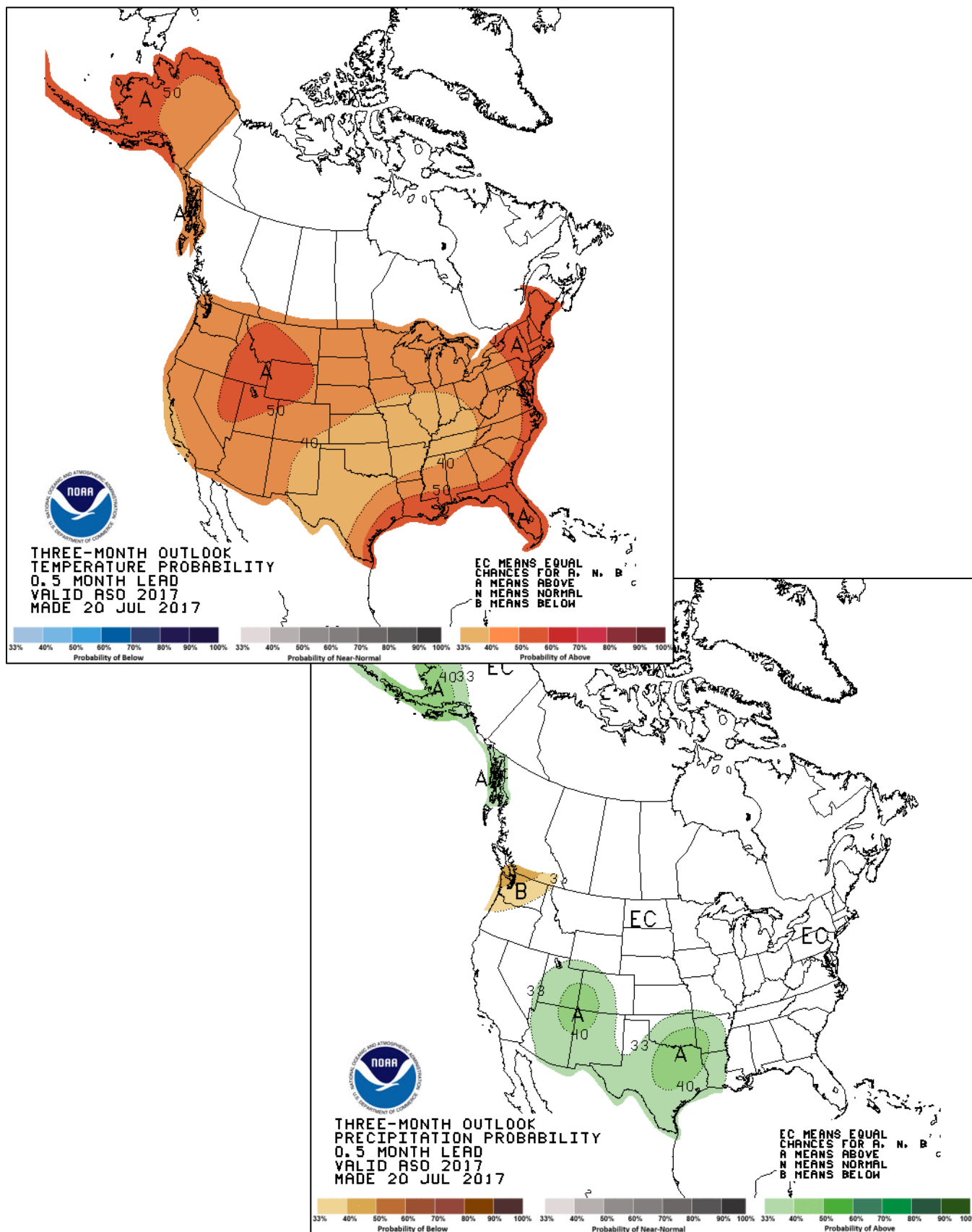
Website: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=pon1>



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

August-September-October – Follow link for the latest information.

Website: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1



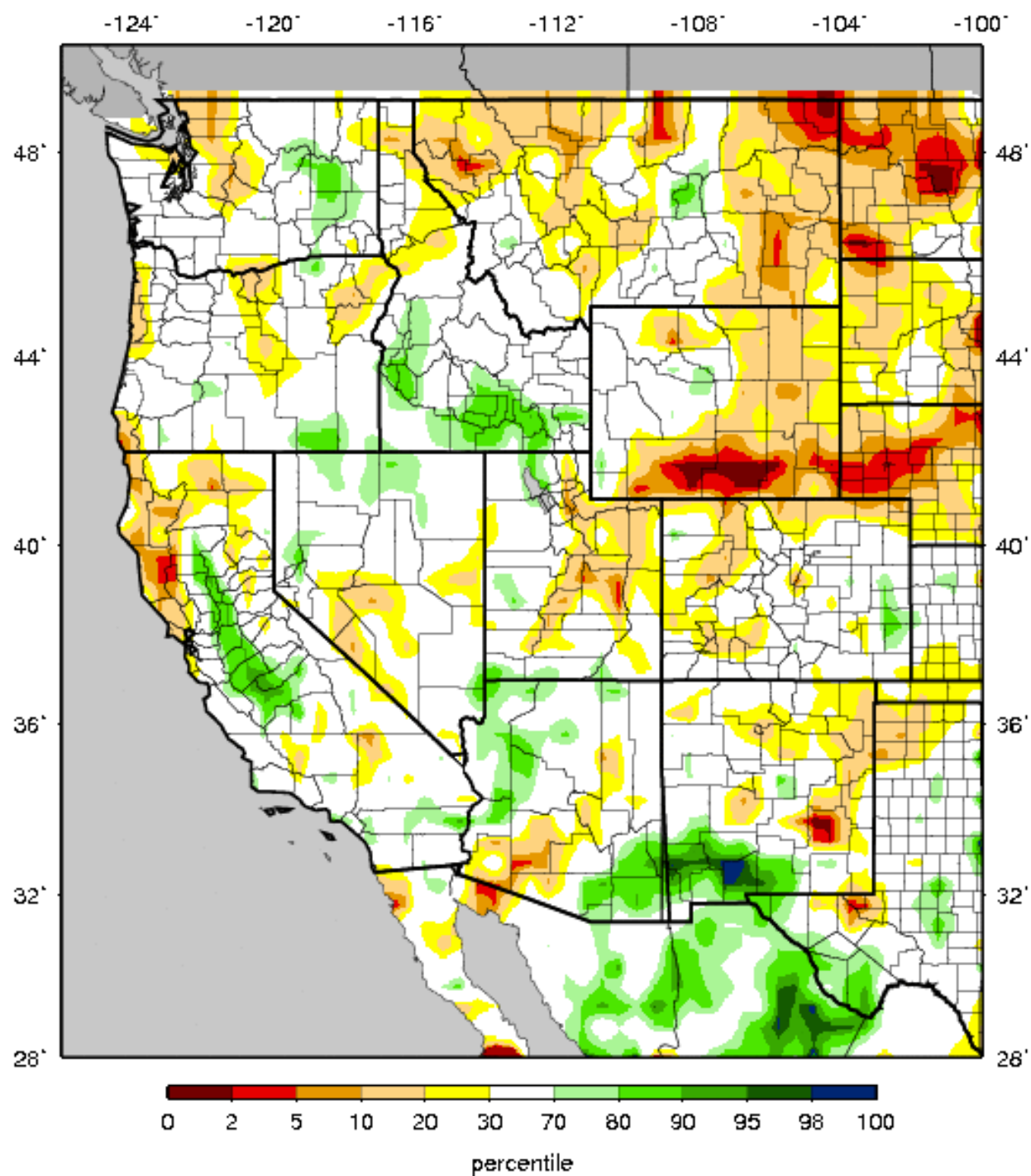
Soil Moisture - Percentile

Website:

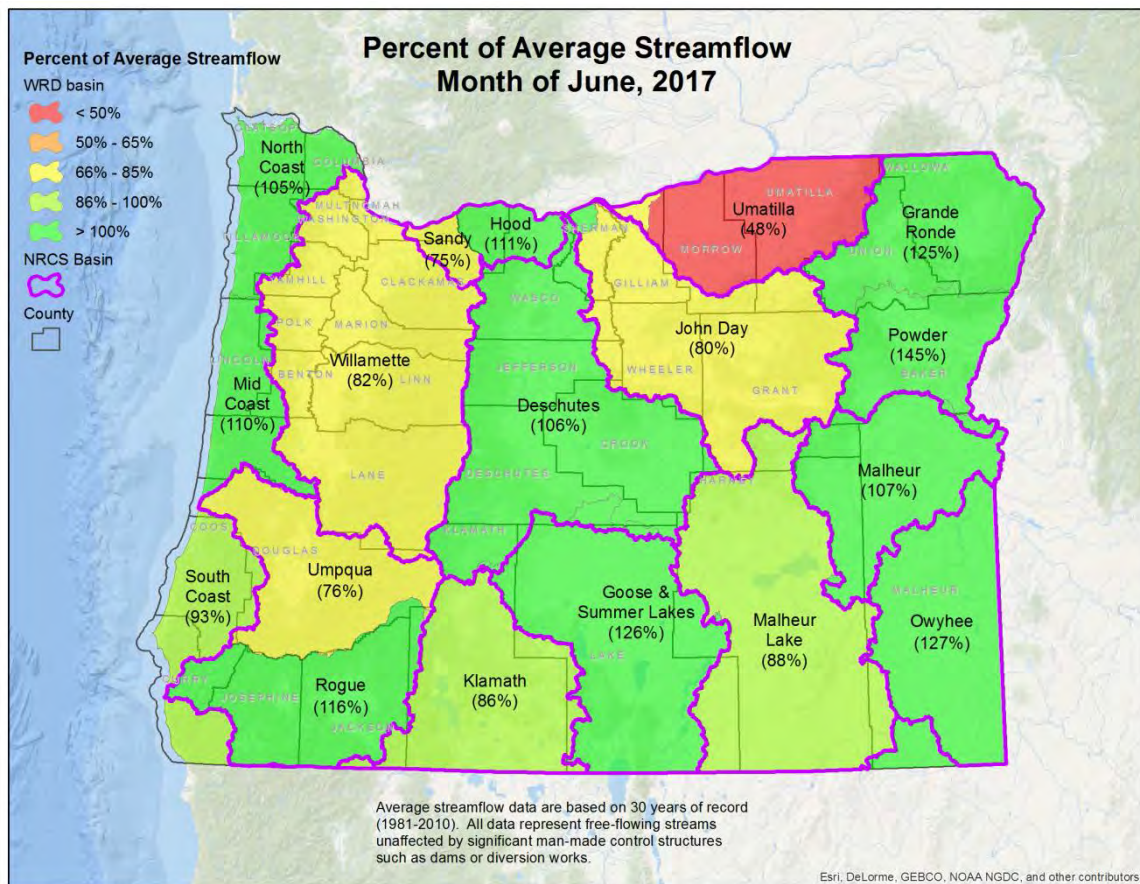
http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/conus.mexico/west.vic.sm_qnt.gif

VIC Soil Moisture Percentiles (wrt/ 1916-2004)

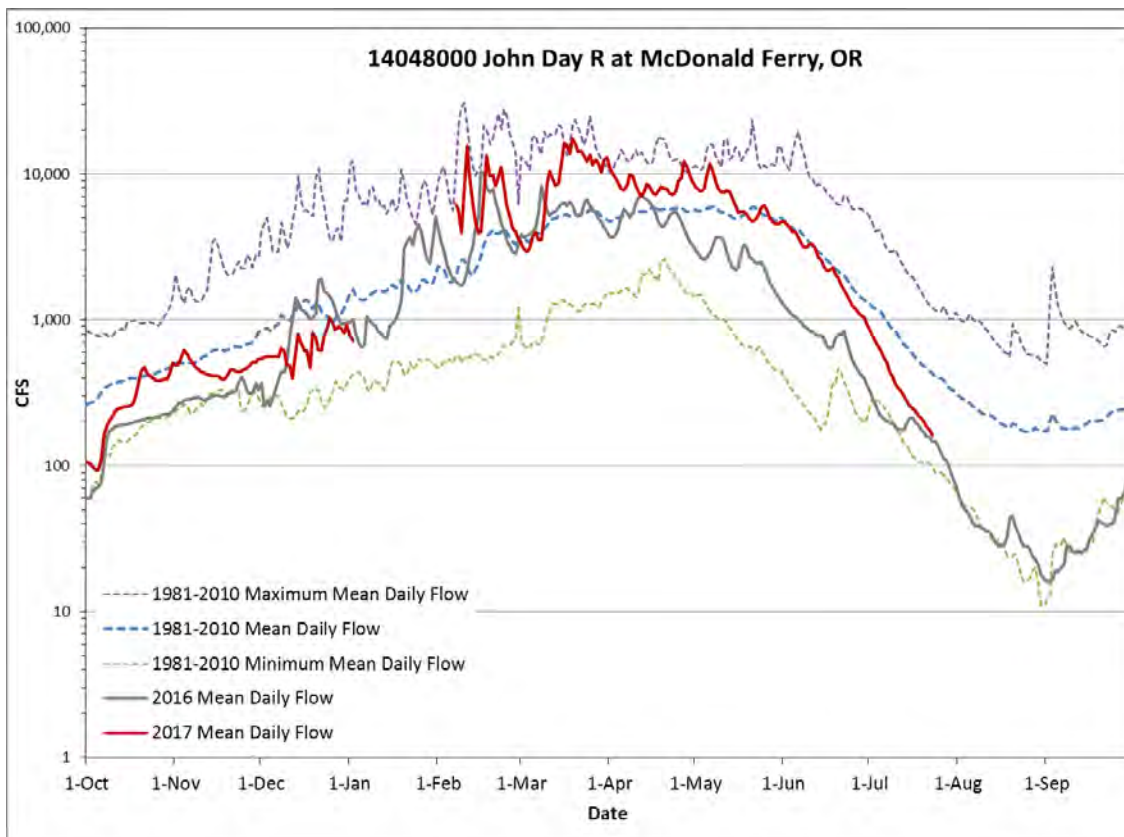
Western United States - 20170723



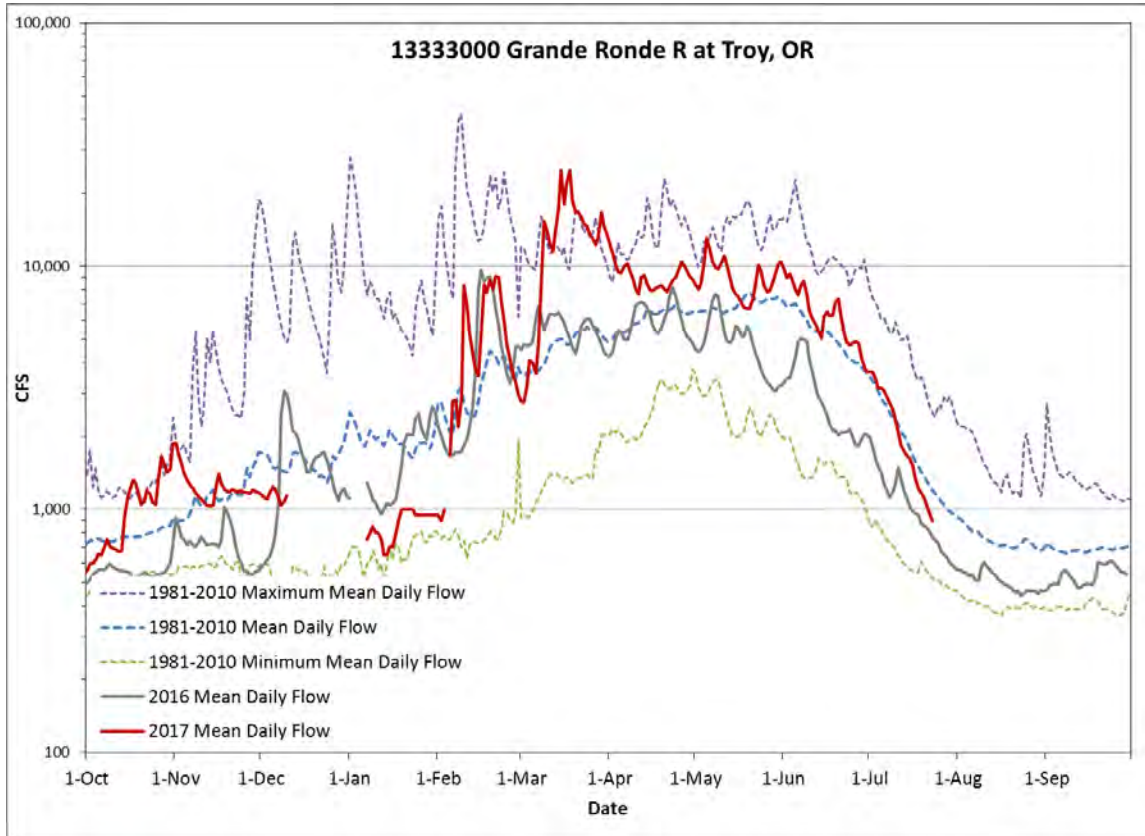
Regional Streamflow Conditions - June



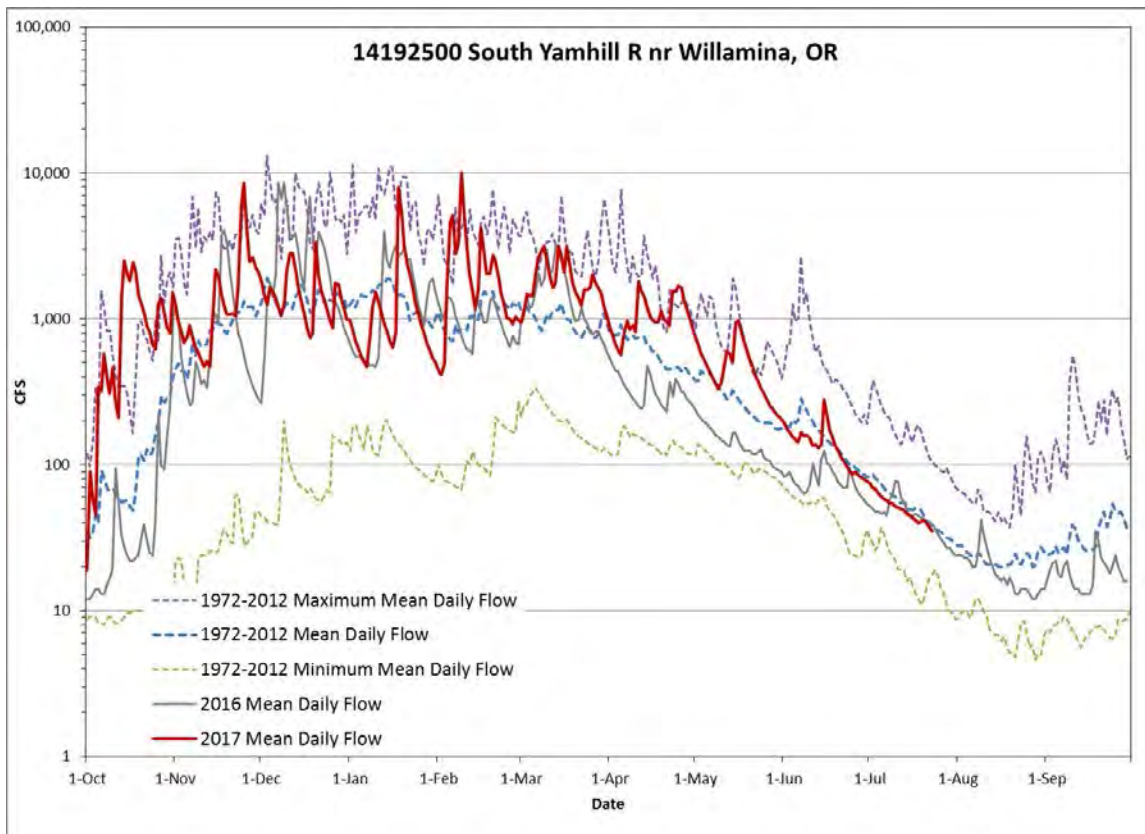
Streamflow Example – North Central Oregon (John Day)



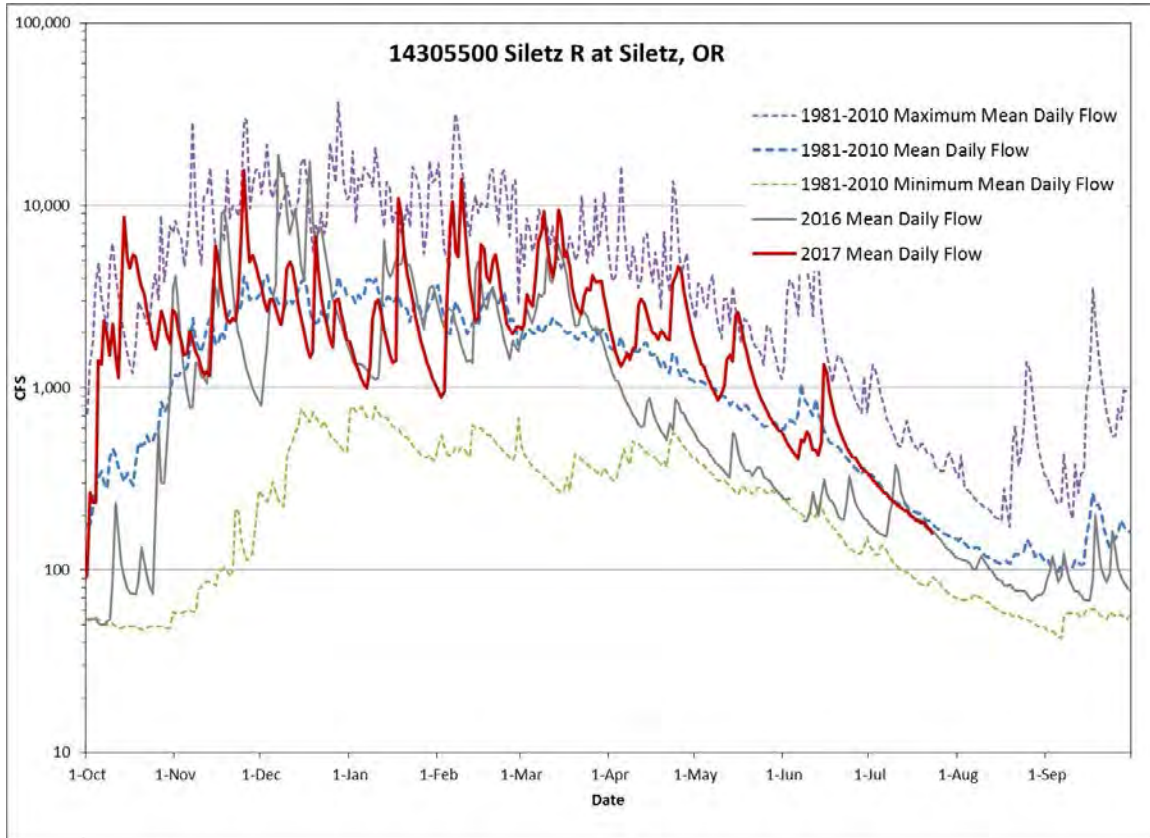
Streamflow Example – Eastern Oregon (Grande Ronde)



Streamflow Example – Western Oregon (Willamette)



Streamflow Example – Coastal (Mid Coast)



Regional Reservoir Storage Conditions - June

