



# Drought Report for the Week of May 11, 2015

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County-wide drought declarations go through a three-part process before securing a drought declaration from the Governor's Office.

First, County Commissions meet to determine whether they want to seek a Governor's declaration. Counties that have made this determination and are currently asking for the state's help are: Deschutes, Grant, Josephine and Umatilla County.

Second, these recommendations go to the Water Availability Committee (chaired by the Oregon Water Resources Department) and then the Oregon Drought Council (chaired by Oregon Emergency Management) for technical review. The next meeting of the Water Availability Committee and Oregon Drought Council is May 14, 2015.

Finally, if approved for drought declaration, the Governor's Office issues an Executive Order, declaring drought in specific counties. In recent years, these Executive Order have been set to expire at the end of a calendar year. A Governor's declared drought is in place for 2015 in the following counties: Baker, Crook, Harney, Klamath, Lake, Malheur and Wheeler. A Governor's Drought Declaration allows the Water Resources Department to issue emergency drought permits to applicants, using an expedited process.

Current Water Conditions: Snow pack conditions throughout the state average less than 10% of normal, signaling early and prolonged drought conditions throughout South and East parts of Oregon. Statewide average precipitation is less than 90% of normal.

## **To go to a specific section click on title below:**

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- Water Supply Assessment by Basin
- Oregon Declaration Status
- Oregon SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent % of Normal
- Oregon SNOTEL Water Year to Date Precipitation % of Normal
- Oregon Drought Monitor
- Water Right Drought Permit Application: Summary Report

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  - [Tualatin River Basin](#)
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  - [Umatilla River Basin](#)
  - [Southeastern Oregon](#)
- [Three Month Outlook – Temperature Probability](#)
- [Three Month Outlook – Precipitation Probability](#)
- [Oregon Surface Water Supply Index](#)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

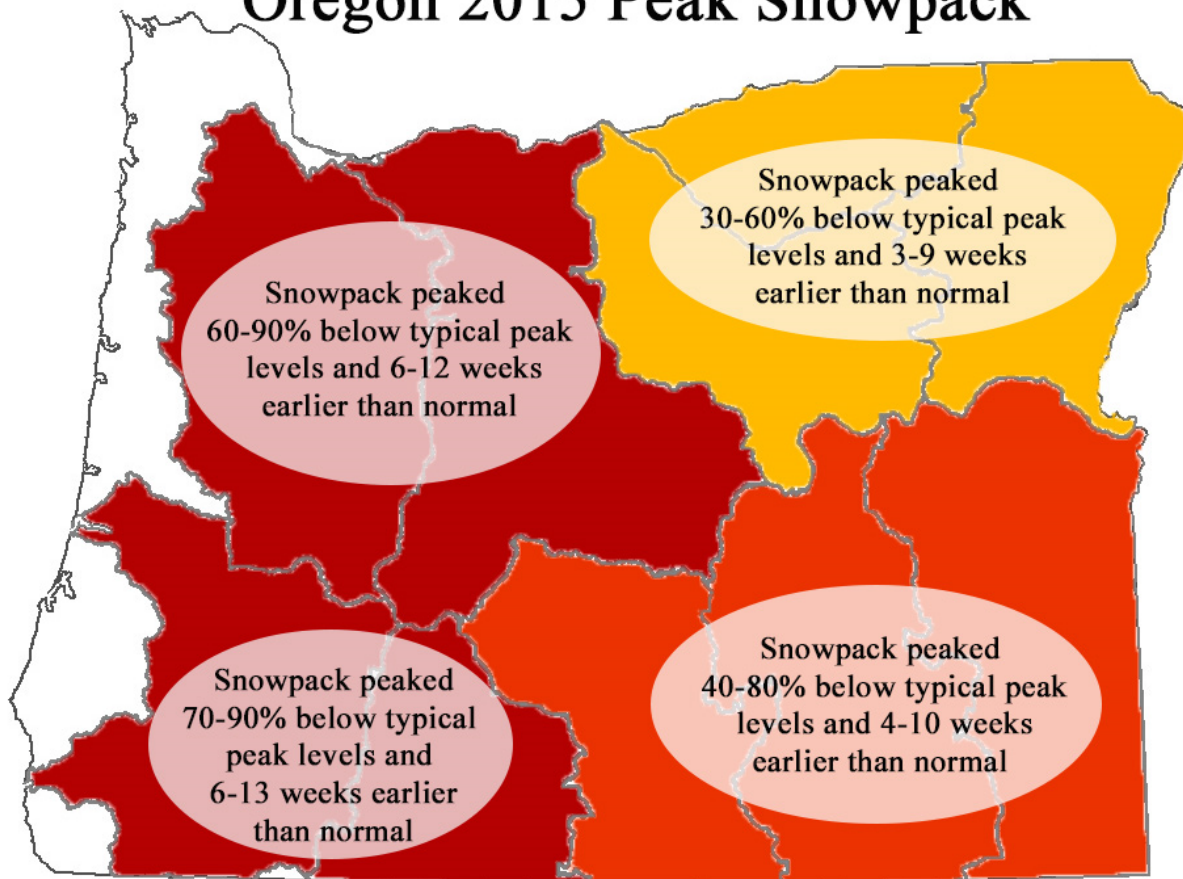


Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Service

# Oregon Basin Outlook Report

May 1, 2015

## Oregon 2015 Peak Snowpack



Across Oregon, much of the winter's precipitation fell as rain rather than as snow, causing sixty percent of the long-term snowpack monitoring sites to set new records for the lowest and earliest peak snowpack in over 30 years. Due to the warm mountain temperatures, one third of snow monitoring sites in the state didn't receive enough snow to build a lasting snowpack at all this year. The current snowpack deficit means that the mountains are missing several feet of water, normally frozen in the high elevation snowpack, that usually serves as a natural reservoir to feed streams and rivers throughout the summer. Because of the record low snowpack, water users depending on streamflow without access to reservoir storage should expect water shortages this summer.



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## DROUGHT

### Current Basin Water Status

Basin #	Basin Name	Basin Status	Reason
1	North Coast	Below Normal	
2	Willamette	Below Normal	Below normal streamflow; Dry Forecast
3	Sandy	Below Normal	Below normal streamflow; Dry Forecast
4	Hood	Below Normal	Below normal streamflow; Dry Forecast
5	Deschutes	Drought Likely	Reservoirs are near full
6	John Day	Drought Unavoidable	No Storage or Snowpack; Dry Forecast
7	Umatilla	Drought Likely	Reservoirs are roughly 50%; Dry Forecast
8	Grande Ronde	Below Normal	Snowpack >5000'
9	Powder	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir Storage is mixed; no snowpack
10	Malheur	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir storage is near empty
11	Owyhee	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir storage is near empty
12	Malheur Lake	Drought Unavoidable	No reservoir storage; No snowpack
13	Goose & Summer Lake	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir storage is near empty
14	Klamath	Drought Unavoidable	Stressed soil; No snowpack
15	Rogue	Drought Likely	Lack of snowpack; Reservoir storage is decent
16	Umpqua	Drought Likely	Weak Snowpack; Dry Forecast
17	South Coast	Below Normal	
18	Middle Coast	Below Normal	

#### Definitions

<b>Normal</b>	Water supply is not atypical.
<b>Below Normal</b>	Water supply under what is needed to meet normal demands.
<b>Drought Likely</b>	Water supply likely to fall well short of meeting normal demands.
<b>Drought Unavoidable</b>	Water supply will fall well short of meeting normal demands.

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[View Drought Declaration Report](#)

[View Water Right Summary Report](#)






[View Basin Map](#)




# Oregon's Water Availability Committee\* Water Supply Assessment

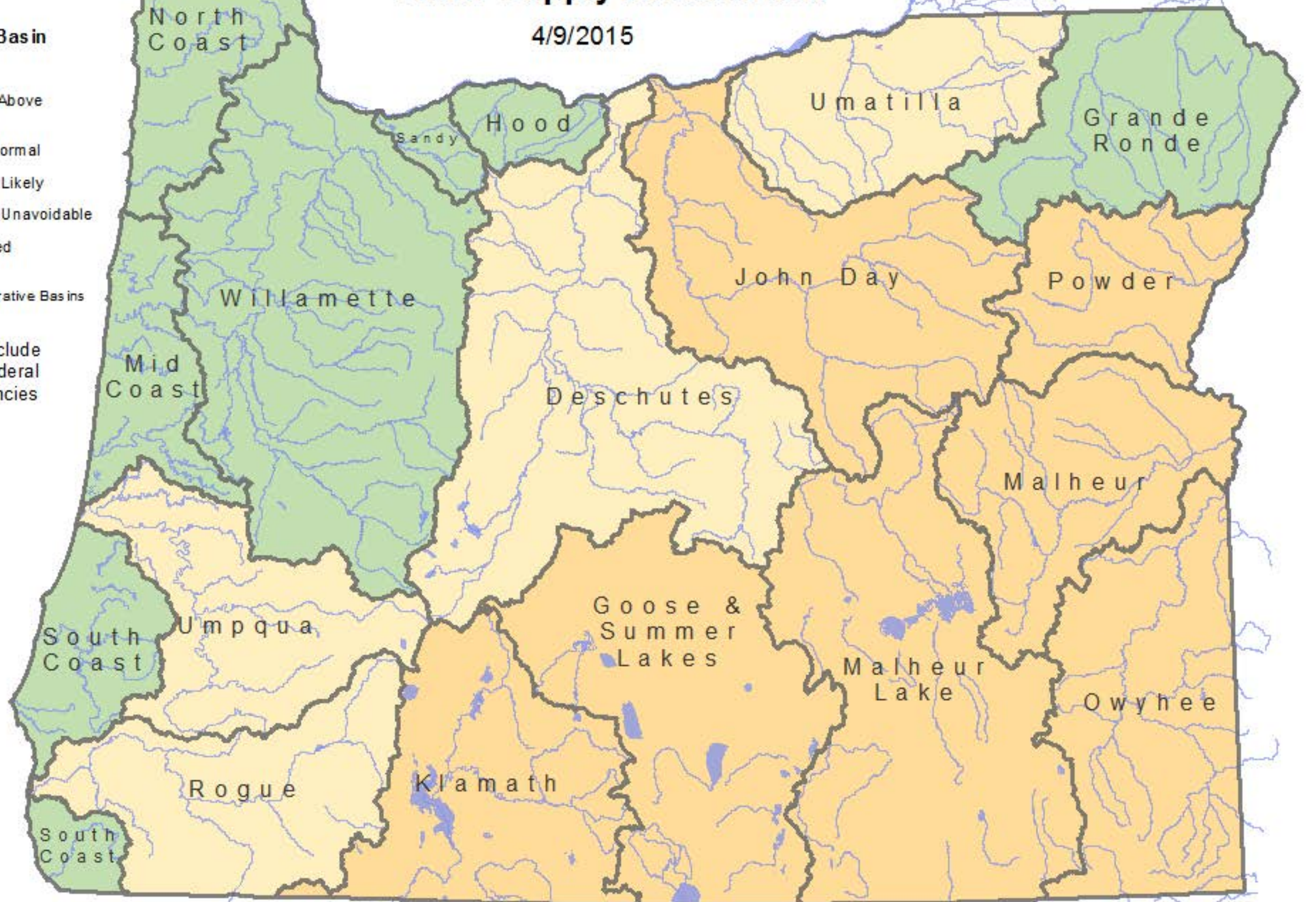
4/9/2015

## Drought by Basin Status

-  Near or Above Normal
-  Below Normal
-  Drought Likely
-  Drought Unavoidable
-  Not Rated

 Administrative Basins

\*Members Include  
State and Federal  
Science Agencies



Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer St. NE Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301  
<http://www.wrd.state.or.us/>

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Updated: 5/11/2015 7:18 AM  
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83





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## Drought Declarations

### Search Criteria

**County:**  **Start Drought Year:**

**Drought Status:**  **End Drought Year:**

Records per Page:

	<u>Drought Year</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Drought Title</u>	<u>Drought Status</u>	<u>County Request Date</u>	<u>Forwarded to Governor Date</u>	<u>Governor Declaration Date</u>	<u>Federal Declaration Date</u>	<u>Executive Order</u>	<u>Drought Begin Date</u>	<u>Drought End Date</u>
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Baker	BAKER DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/18/2015	04/10/2015	04/20/2015	03/20/2015	15-04	04/20/2015	12/31/2015
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Crook	CROOK DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/18/2015	03/20/2015	04/02/2015	03/20/2015	15-03	04/02/2015	12/31/2015
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Harney	HARNEY DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/18/2015	03/20/2015	04/02/2015	03/20/2015	15-03	04/02/2015	12/31/2015
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Klamath	KLAMATH DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/17/2015	03/20/2015	04/02/2015	03/20/2015	15-03	03/20/2015	12/31/2015
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Lake	LAKE DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/10/2015	03/11/2015	03/16/2015		15-02	03/16/2015	12/31/2015
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Malheur	MALHEUR DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/04/2015	03/11/2015	03/16/2015	03/20/2015	15-02	03/16/2015	12/31/2015
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Wheeler	WHEELER DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/18/2015	04/10/2015	04/20/2015	03/20/2015	15-04	04/20/2015	12/31/2015
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Deschutes	DESCHUTES DROUGHT	County Requested	04/29/2015						
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Grant	GRANT DROUGHT	County Requested	04/29/2015						
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Josephine	JOSEPHINE DROUGHT	County Requested	05/06/2015			03/20/2015			
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Umatilla	UMATILLA DROUGHT	County Requested	04/28/2015			03/20/2015			
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Douglas	DOUGLAS DROUGHT					03/22/2015			
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Morrow	MORROW DROUGHT					03/20/2015			
<a href="#">Select</a>	2015	Union	UNION DROUGHT					03/20/2015			



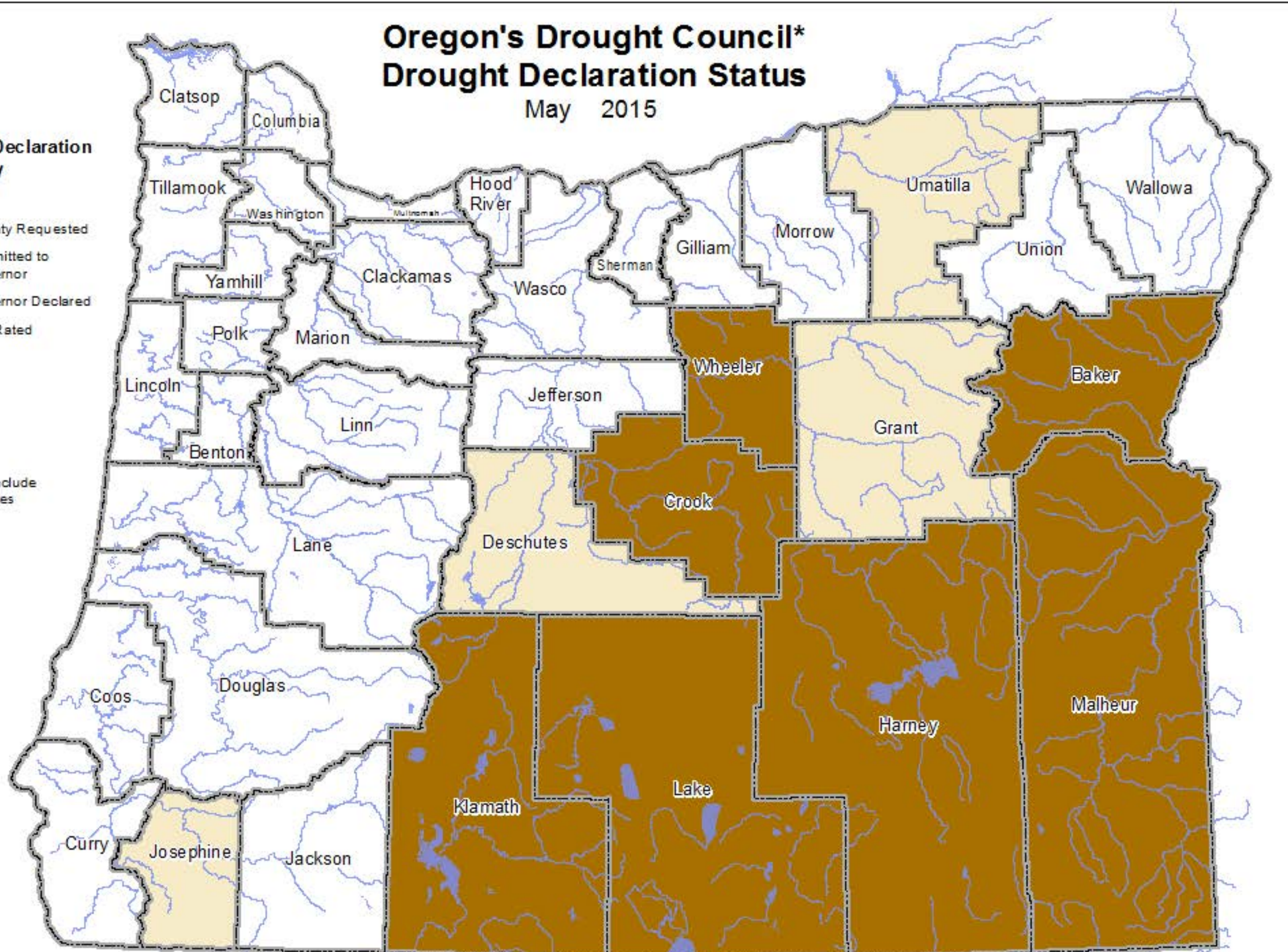
# Oregon's Drought Council\* Drought Declaration Status May 2015

## Drought Declaration by County

### Status

-  County Requested
-  Submitted to Governor
-  Governor Declared
-  Not Rated

\*Members Include  
State Agencies



Oregon Water Resources Department  
725 Summer St. NE Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301  
<http://www.wrd.state.or.us/>

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0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

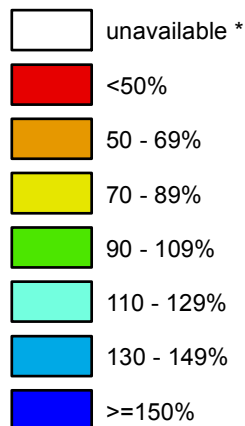
Updated: 5/11/2015 7:19 AM  
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83



# Oregon SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

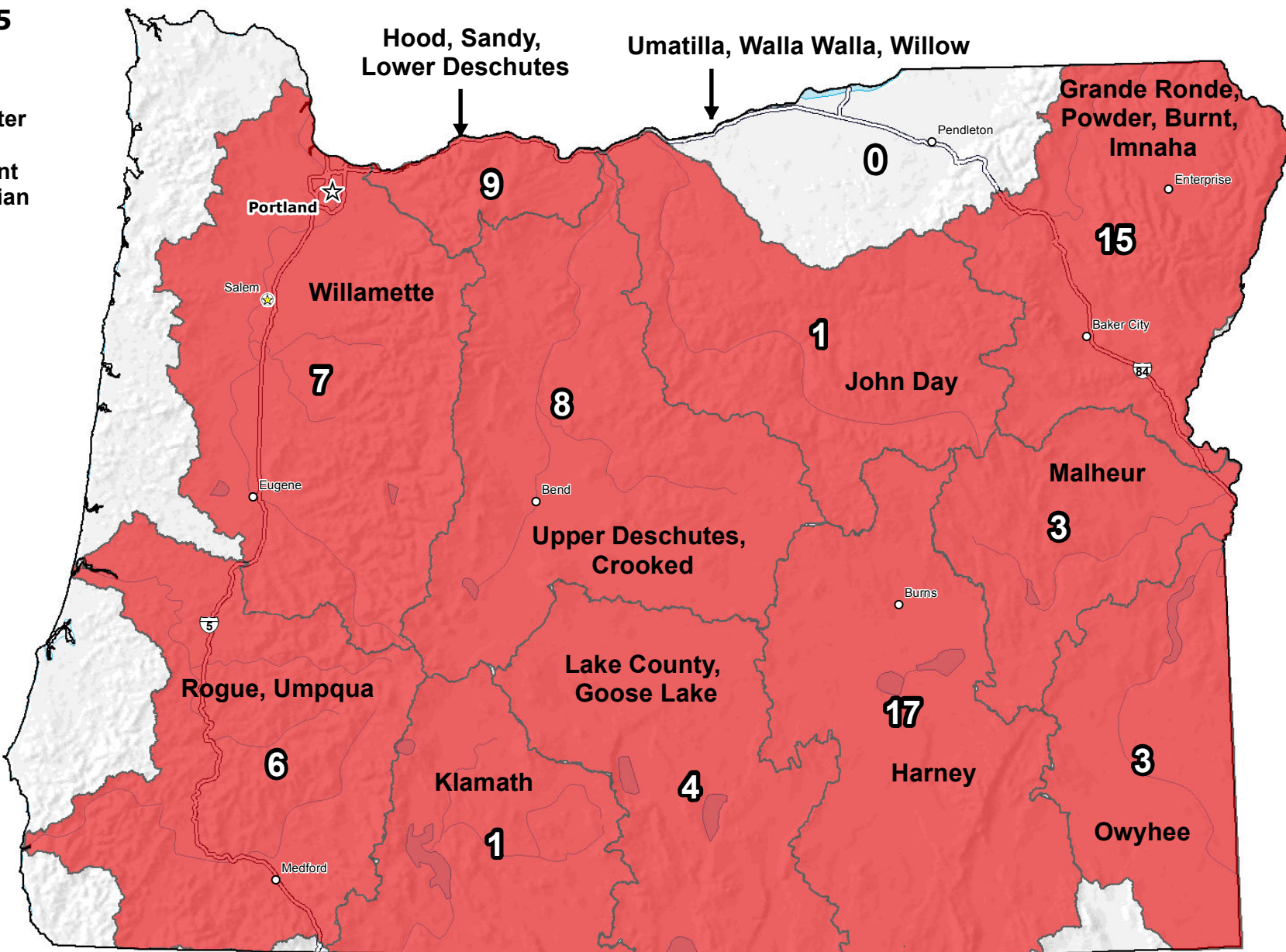
May 05, 2015

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)  
Basin-wide Percent  
of 1981-2010 Median



\* Data unavailable at time  
of posting or measurement  
is not representative at this  
time of year

Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

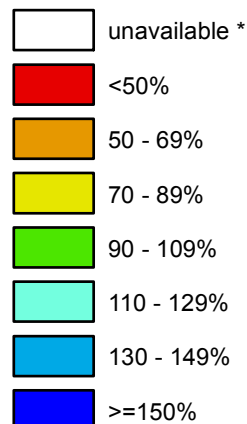
0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Prepared by:  
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

# Oregon SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation % of Normal

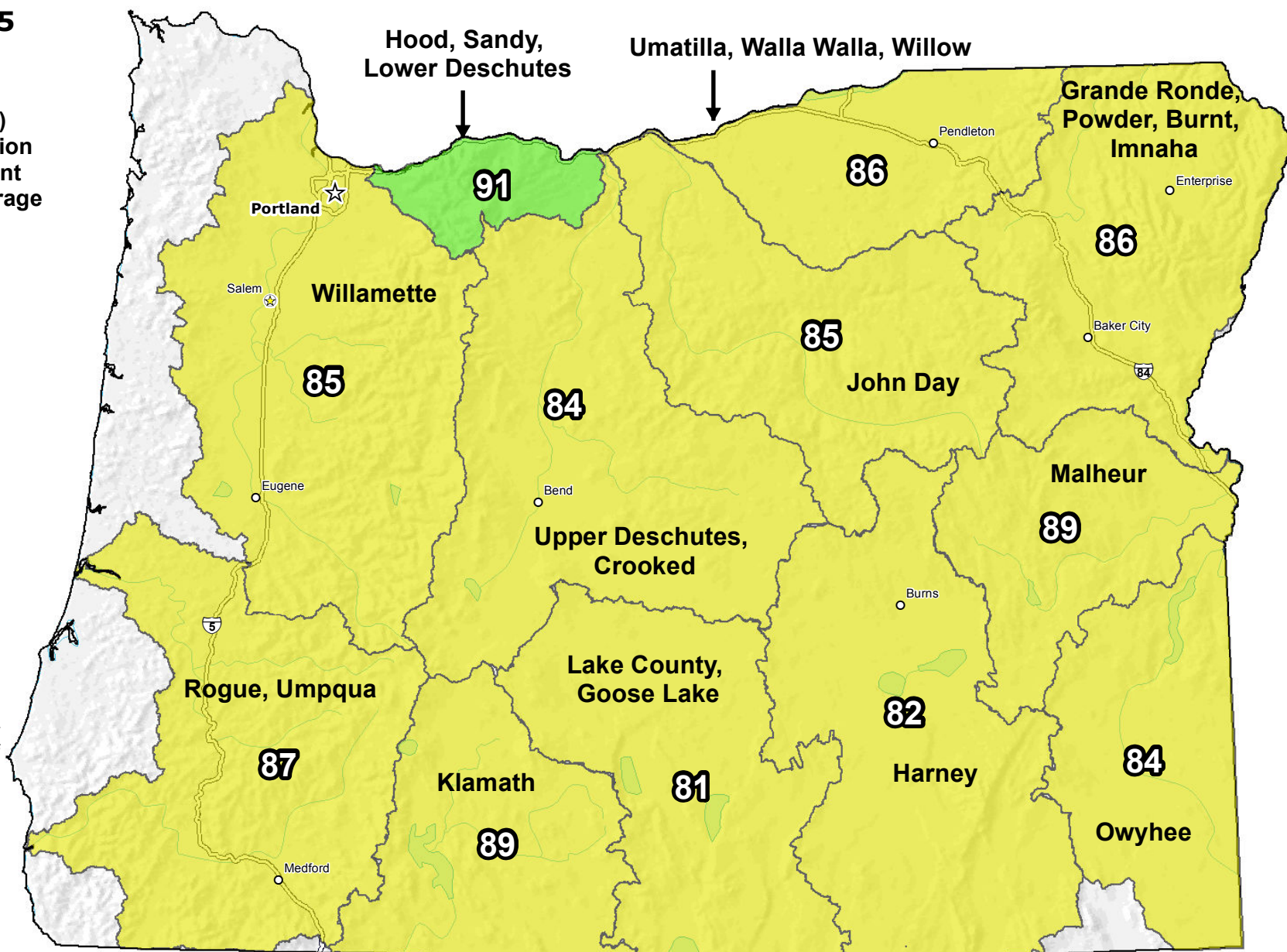
May 05, 2015

Water Year (Oct 1)  
to Date Precipitation  
Basin-wide Percent  
of 1981-2010 Average



\* Data unavailable at time  
of posting or measurement  
is not representative at this  
time of year

**Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision**



The water year to date precipitation percent of normal represents the accumulated precipitation found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Prepared by:  
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>



# U.S. Drought Monitor

## Oregon

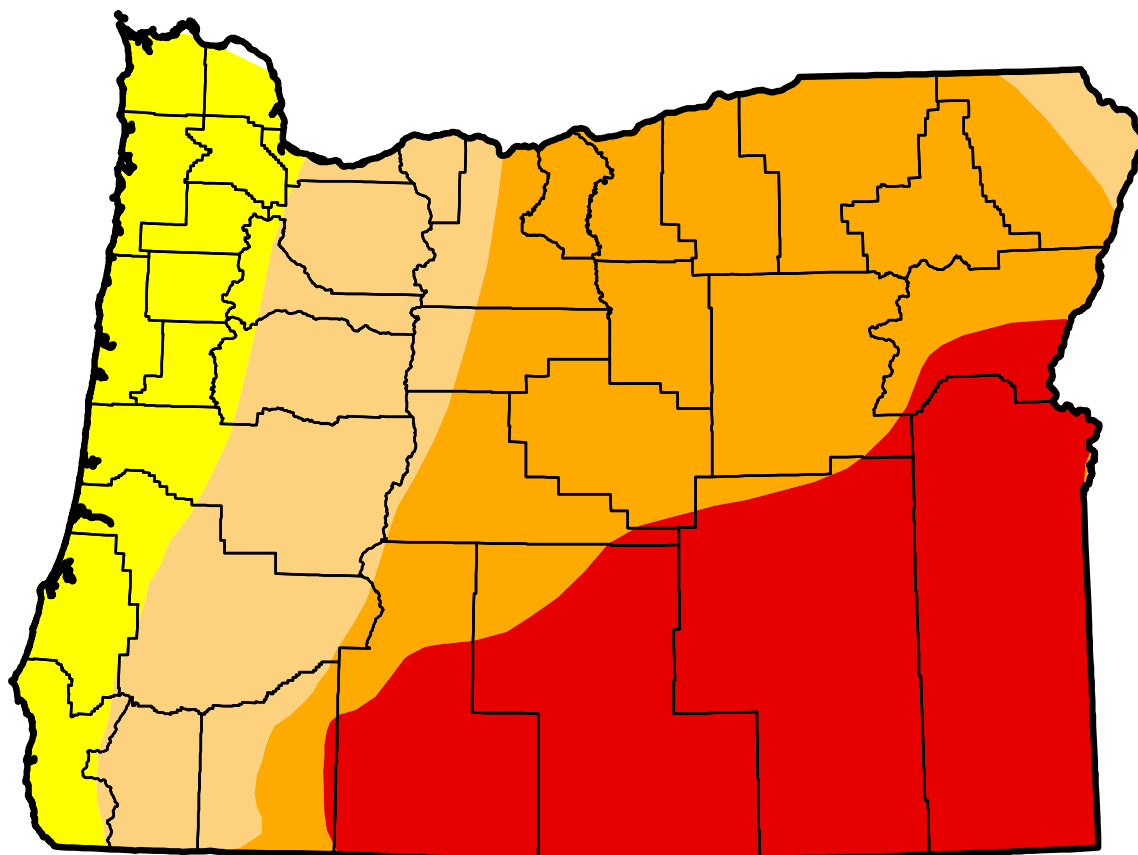
**May 5, 2015**

(Released Thursday, May. 7, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.11	99.89	86.76	67.38	34.09	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 4/28/2015	0.11	99.89	86.09	63.17	34.09	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 2/3/2015	10.45	89.55	83.95	49.48	34.70	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12/30/2014	13.61	86.39	80.70	49.29	34.11	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 9/30/2014	1.56	98.44	76.61	56.26	35.30	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 5/6/2014	5.22	94.78	82.72	51.67	9.31	0.00



### Intensity:

 D0 Abnormally Dry	 D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought	 D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought	

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.*

### **Author:**

Mark Svoboda

National Drought Mitigation Center



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



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Drought Water Right Summary Report

Search Criteria

County:

Start Drought Year:

End Drought Year:

Search

Clear

Records per Page:

Drought Year	County	Applications Rec'd	Applications Denied	Applications Approved	Acres Approved	Transfers Rec'd	Transfers Denied	Transfers Approved
2015	Klamath	28		27	19103.20			
2015	Lake	0				1		1
2015	Malheur	11		8	2244.70	4		1