

Drought Report for the Week of December 21, 2015



Streamflow for the 2015 water year (October 2014-September 2015) was only 65 percent of average. In many locations, summertime streamflows were at the lowest levels ever recorded. At the end of the water year, reservoir levels were also the lowest ever recorded.

In November, streamflow conditions for were 65 percent of average. Due to recent storm events, statewide streamflow conditions are approximately 150 percent of average for mid-December. It should be noted that current streamflow conditions for Western Oregon is at 250 percent of average and flows for streams east of the Cascades are just below normal (98 percent). Despite this, almost 50 percent of Oregon is still under "Extreme Drought" according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Reservoirs, especially in Eastern Oregon remain at extremely low levels.

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook released last week shows drought conditions remaining through March, but with much of the state improving. Much of this will depend on how El Nino plays out through the winter months of December, January and February. For more information, refer to <u>What to Expect from this Year's El</u> <u>Niño</u>, featured in this month's CIRCulater publication from the Pacific Northwest Climate Impacts Research Consortium.

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U.S. Winter Outlook Precipitation



U.S. Winter Outlook Temperature >60% >50% >60% Warmer Warmer >40% >40% >33% >33%

>40%

Cooler

>50% Warmer

%

>50%

>40%

Temperature Probability Dec - Jan - Feb

Equal

Chances

>33%





U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

December 15, 2015

(Released Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)



	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.97	91.03	88.49	78.67	49.16	0.00
Last Week 12/8/2015	3.31	96.69	90.99	88.52	59.57	0.00
3 Months Ago 9/15/2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	67.28	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/30/2014	13.61	86.39	80.70	49.29	34.11	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	67.29	0.00
One Year Ago 12/16/2014	11.76	88.24	82.10	53.21	34.88	0.00

Intensity:







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: **Richard Tinker**

CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 17 - March 31, 2016 Released December 17, 2015



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Drought persists

Drought remains but improves

Drought removal likely

Drought development likely



http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73

US Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region Major Storage Reservoirs in the Deschutes River Basin













