

Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – September 14, 2022

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

Attendees

Ryan Andrews – OWRD (Chair)

Curtis Peetz – OEM

Troy Lindquist – NWS (Boise)

Carrie Boudreau – USGS

Salina Hart – USACE

Henry Pai – NWRFC

Andy Martin – USACE

Scott Oviatt – NRCS

Matt Warbritton – NRCS

Peter Cooper – USBR

Kain Shaffer – USBR

Tom Elliott – DOE

Kari Salis – OHA

Jim Johnson – ODA

Presentations – update on water supply conditions

Scott Oviatt

- Cedar Creek (Irish Taylor - near Waldo Lake) fire burned through area with SNOTEL site used in calculations in upper Willamette and upper Deschutes; eastern perimeter of Cedar Creek fire - usually try to replace site by winter; not huge implications due to coverage of other sites
- Precipitation
 - Water year precipitation 100% as of 9/14
 - Since July 1 - end of storm systems - below median precipitation across much of Oregon
 - Convective monsoonal thunderstorms around Klamath basin contributed to above median precipitation in area
 - Continued signal of long-term drought in mountainous regions - lowest and second lowest precipitation since 10/1/2019
- Soil Water Content
 - Holland Meadows near median, just below - excess soil moisture has receded with warm temperatures, drying conditions
 - High Ridge below median (last year near record low) - dry soils leading into winter, when runoff occurs in spring soils absorb moisture which doesn't translate to runoff
 - Silver Creek below median - similar to last year
 - Silvies - near record low - worse than last year

Henry Pai

- Precipitation
 - Water year precipitation above normal in some of NW and NE OR, but most of state below to well below average
 - Past 60 days well below average precipitation, some areas in western OR 2-4 inches below average
 - July very dry for eastern OR, August very dry in terms of percentiles in much of western OR
- Temperatures

- July and August temperatures well above average, likely driving evaporative demand
- Warmest August on record for Portland at 75.1 (previous 74.1)
- Warmest July-August throughout much of Oregon
- Outlook
 - 10-day precipitation forecast projects little to no precipitation much of Oregon, some exception in SE OR
 - 8-14 day outlook projects above average temperatures for western 2/3 and below average precipitation statewide
 - October through December outlook shows near average precipitation, above average temperatures for southern and parts of eastern OR, equal chances much of northern OR
- Runoff
 - Water year runoff above average in Willamette basin and mid to north coast, as well as northeast OR; well below average conditions central and southern OR
 - Many seasonal volume rankings in Willamette Basin and coastal OR in top ten on record
 - Rogue R near Raygold received late spring bump
 - Owyhee R at Owyhee Dam forecast held steady over summer

Carrie Boudreau

- 7-day average conditions vary throughout state, ranging from well below to above average
- Beaver Creek bl Quartz Cr much below average
- N Fk John Day decreasing since June and sitting well below average
- Nestucca R nr Beaver trending downwards since early summer, sitting below average
- Pudding R at Aurora below to well below average
- Chetco R nr Brookings upper end of average, but decreasing since early summer
- S Fk Coquille R at Powers well below average
- Donner Und Blitzen R nr Frenchglen well below average
- Owyhee R nr Rome well below average
- 7-day average runoff statewide average, last year well below average

Ryan Andrews

- No change in drought declarations
 - 17 counties with ORS 536 declaration
 - 29 counties with USDA crop disaster declaration
- August streamflow variable throughout state
 - Ranges from well below to well above average
 - Much of western Oregon range average to well above average
 - Exception in Clatsop County – much below average
 - Eastern Oregon largely well below average with exception in NE OR
- Streamflow over water year to date measuring 85% of average statewide
 - Little change over past month
- Streamflow percentiles show declining trend over recent weeks

- Tucca Creek in Tillamook County declining to record low flows
- Miami R in Tillamook County declining to below average
- Winberry Cr in Lane County trending well below average
- Quartzville Cr in Linn County trending well below average
- Strawberry Cr in Grant County measuring below average
- John Day R at Service Cr in Wheeler County trending well below average

Salina Hart

- Willow Creek meeting demands
- Rogue meeting fisheries demand with ODFW, hold current releases
- Not likely to use carryover, better start to water year compared to last year
- Releasing to get down to minimum pools in Willamette
- Pull harder from certain reservoirs to meet flow demands in mainstem Willamette, running higher than minimum BiOps
- Cougar and Fall Creek reservoir operations court ordered for deep drawdown
- Cedar Creek fire of concern
- Flow management meeting to discuss Willamette minimums

Peter Cooper

- Irrigation season nearing an end
- Storage water supply exhausted in some basins
- Anticipate much below normal carryover at the end of the season in southern, central, and southeastern basins (Rogue, Deschutes, Crooked, Malheur, Powder, Owyhee)
- Owyhee well below average storage, likely to empty same time as last year; low carryover
- Warm Springs went dry end of July (last year mid-August)
- Beulah went nearly dry late July (small min pool)
- Bully Creek empty late August, earlier than last year
- Unity above average, likely above average carryover
- Phillips Lake empty mid-September
- Crane Prairie about same as last year
- Prineville Reservoir has 10 cfs minimum flow requirement to Nov 1 when flows will increase to about 50 cfs; irrigation districts turning off today or tomorrow; below last year
- Ochoco releases decreasing
- Emigrant had limited irrigation season starting June and ending mid-August; releasing minimum flow required
- McKay sitting at record high, potential for flood risk management operations
- Scoggins have above average carryover, more than last year

Discussion

- October 19th proposed for next meeting