

Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – November 16, 2022

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

Attendees

Ryan Andrews – OWRD (Chair)	Scott Oviatt – NRCS
Spencer Higginson – OEM	Matt Warbritton – NRCS
Troy Lindquist – NWS (Boise)	Peter Cooper – USBR
Marc Stewart – USGS	Kain Shaffer – USBR
Jason Miner – GO	Tom Elliott – DOE
Amy Burke – NWRFC	Kari Salis – OHA
Andy Martin – USACE	

Presentations – update on water supply conditions

Scott Oviatt

- Irish Taylor (Deschutes County) SNOTEL burned away
- Further data collection at site potentially meaningless due to impacts to watershed characteristics following burn
- Snow water equivalent
 - SWE numbers somewhat skewed just given what little snow is typically on the ground at this point
 - Entire state well above median SWE
 - Some decent amounts of SWE (> 1" at many sites)
- Precipitation
 - Still a handful of sites recording lowest precipitation on record since beginning WY 2020
- Soil water content
 - Clackamas Lake soil water content just below median; set new bounds at times last year
 - High Ridge soil water above median
 - Silver Creek (Klamath and Lake County) soil water below median even following rain event; below median to begin water year

Andy Bryant

- Precipitation mainly in the northern third of state
- October was dry and exceptionally warm
- Warmest October on record in many places, PDX by over a degree
- Expecting period of dry weather to end Monday, but amounts much less than average (NWRFC)
- CPC 8-14 day outlook favors above average and temperatures statewide
- Peak ENSO conditions early winter and trend towards neutral in spring
- Ongoing La Nina conditions sustain drought conditions
- Observed water year runoff through 11/15 shows well below average statewide with exception of some sites in northeast OR

Carrie Boudreau

- 7-day and 28-day streamflows around average, but trending downwards
- Metolius R approaching record low
- John Day R at Service Creek below average
- Nehalem R nr Foss below normal, short peak following rain
- Similar for Siletz R
- Chetco R below average
- East Fork Ashland Cr below average
- Donner Und Blitzen R much below average
- Owyhee R below average
- 7-day statewide runoff lower end of average

Ryan Andrews

- No new drought declarations
 - Set to expire at end of calendar year
- October streamflow well below average throughout state
 - Few exceptions
- Streamflow over water year to date (11/13) below average in nearly all basins
 - Umatilla well above average
 - Sandy and Hood basins near average
- Streamflow percentiles over past 7- and 28-day periods near average in western Oregon, above average northeastern region, below average central and southeast
- Many streams measured short-duration spike in streamflow due to early November precipitation
- Rogue R bl Prospect at 75% over water year to date, below average
- John Day R at McDonald Ferry measured record low late October, well below average at 55% over water year to date
- Elk Cr nr Drew measuring lower end of normal, 40% over water year to date
- Williamson R bl Sheep Cr nr Lenz record low flow over water year to date

Peter Cooper

- Most reservoirs releasing winter minimums to continue filling
- No flood risk management operations
- Much below normal storage content in southern, central, and southeastern basins (Rogue, Deschutes, Crooked, Malheur, Powder, Owyhee); similar to last water year
- Above normal and higher storage content in northern basins (Unity, McKay, Scoggins)
- Owyhee needs about 150% of average runoff to fill
- Warm Springs needs about 160-170% of average runoff to fill
- Crane Prairie Reservoir contents above average, holding more water than last year
- Wickiup below average, about same as last year
- Crescent Lake well below normal
- Crooked River released minimum legislated 10 cfs from end of irrigation season in mid-September through October 23
 - Flows increased to 20 cfs from 10/24-10/31, then to 50 cfs November 1 for habitat conservation flows as part of Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan

- 50 cfs anticipated to continue until next irrigation season begins
- Howard Prairie and Hyatt contents similar to last year, well below average
- McKay continues to draft, but releases have started to decrease in order to begin refill
- About 7 inches of rain in basin in early November translated to about 1500 acft of physical fill in Scoggins

Andy Martin

- Projects near minimum conservation
- Willamette system about 10% above minimum conservation, won't meet until December
- Rule curve still descending
- Flood control projects passing inflow
- High water receded following early November precipitation
- Inflow about 3332 cfs and outflow about 10923 cfs to support mainstem
- Deviations from minimum conservation pools due to court injunctions for downstream juvenile fish passage
- Cougar reservoir pool below typical in order to allow fish to pass through regulating outlet; similar situation at Fall Creek
- Rogue basin about 29% full, not releasing much water
- Supporting mainstem flows around 1200 cfs for fisheries benefits

Stacy McCarter

- Below average fire season - only three ODF deployments
- 857 fires on ODF land
- 1988 fires with 436,000 acres burned overall
- Well under average number of fires
- 96% of fires kept to under 10 acres

Discussion

- Klamath County Commission extended state of emergency through end of December 2023, anticipating dry well continuation and need for support
- Next meeting December 14