

Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – December 10th, 2025

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

Attendees

Cameron Greenwood – OWRD
Curtis Peetz – OEM
Matt Warbritton – NRCS
Larry O’Neill – OCS
Marc Stewart – USGS
Corinne Horner – USBR

Chantal Wikstrom – OHA
Tom Elliot – ODOE
Steve Parrett – ODEQ
Spencer Sawaske – ODFW
Annette Liebe – OWRD

Conditions Updates

Matt Warbritton, NRCS

- Snowpack
 - As of 12/10, statewide snowpack is 18% of the historical median. Every basin is measuring well below normal.
 - Previous water years where ENSO conditions were also a weak La Niña could indicate how conditions could develop. For example, in 2022 snowpack deficits persisted through November and into December, but recovered in late December and early January.
- Precipitation
 - From 12/3 to 12/10 northwestern and parts of northeastern Oregon receive significant precipitation from three atmospheric river events.
 - November precipitation was below normal statewide. Notable deficits were in the Upper Deschutes-Crooked, Klamath, and Owyhee basins where conditions were well below normal.
 - Precipitation thus far in December has been above normal for most of the state except for the Rogue-Umpqua, Klamath, and Lake County-Goose Lake basins where conditions have been below normal.
 - As of 12/10, WYTD precipitation was 86% of the historical median. Most basins in western and central Oregon have received below normal WYTD precipitation. In north-central and most of eastern Oregon WYTD precipitation has been normal to above normal.

Larry O’Neill, OCS

- Drought
 - About 31% of Oregon is experiencing some level of drought.
 - 4-week projected change to USDM indicates some improvement in NW Oregon and some degradations in southern parts of the state. Most of the drought covered areas of the state are projected to stay the same.
- Precipitation
 - From 11/4 to 12/4 precipitation for most of the state was below normal.
 - November was the 24th driest November since 1895.
 - From 10/4 to 12/4, precipitation was below normal for most of the state.
 - WYTD precipitation ranking has October through November ranked as the 32nd driest since 1895.
 - From 4/4 to 12/4, all of Oregon has experienced precipitation deficits. Most of western, north-central, and northeastern Oregon fared the worst.

- April through November ranked as the 7th driest and is the primary timescale for drought depiction on the USDM. During this same period, the Cascades and Blue Mountains received much below normal precipitation (bottom 10%).
- Temperature
 - From 11/4 to 12/4 above normal temperatures were recorded statewide.
 - Oregon experienced its warmest November on record (since 1895). The statewide average was 5.9°F above normal.
 - Temperatures from January through November were above normal statewide. For much of the state, temperatures were in the top 10%.
 - Temperatures from April through November were much above normal with portions of the state experiencing the warmest temperatures on record for this period.
- SPI and SPEI
 - 8-month SPI and SPEI (April through November) show drier than normal conditions for most of the state. Parts of western, north-central, and northeastern Oregon have SPI and SPEI values less than -1.6, which corresponds to extreme drought on the USDM.

Marc Steward, USGS

- 28-day average streamflow conditions in western Oregon are generally below normal to normal with some gages recording normal conditions. In central and eastern Oregon conditions are more variable ranging from well below to above normal.
- Daily streamflow conditions for 12/8 are showing well above normal flows in northwestern Oregon. Southwestern Oregon generally recorded below normal streamflow conditions. Elsewhere in the state conditions were generally normal.
- Northeastern Oregon
 - John Day River: normal
 - Mecham Creek: above normal
- Northwestern Oregon
 - Wilson River: well above normal conditions
 - Siletz River: well above normal conditions
- Southwestern Oregon
 - Chetco River: below normal conditions
 - South Umpqua River: below normal conditions
- Upper Klamath Lake – elevation currently 4139.7ft
- Southeastern Oregon
 - Donner und Blitzen River: above normal conditions
- 7-day below normal streamflow conditions were recorded across much of western Oregon and in parts of north-central and eastern Oregon.

Cameron Greenwood, OWRD

- Streamflow conditions in November were below normal for most of the state. Basins in south-central and southeastern Oregon recorded normal to above normal conditions.
- Streamflow conditions over the water year to date have been normal to above normal in south-central and southeastern Oregon. The rest of the state has recorded below normal streamflow conditions over the water year.
- Recent streamflow conditions over the last seven days have been normal to above normal across much of the state. Most of southwestern and parts of south-central Oregon recorded below normal streamflow conditions.

- Streamflow conditions over the last 28 days have been below normal for most of western Oregon and in parts of south-central and northeastern Oregon. Elsewhere in the state, conditions were generally normal.
- Nehalem River – North Coast Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are above normal.
- Alsea River – Mid Coast Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal.
- Deep Creek – Willamette Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal.
- South Umpqua River – Umpqua Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are below normal.
- Sycan River – Klamath Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal.
- Metolius River – Deschutes Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal.
- Umatilla River – Umatilla Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal.
- Grande Ronde River – Grande Ronde Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal.

Corinne Horner, USBR

- Operation Activities
 - Reservoirs are filling.
 - Atmospheric rivers hit the Cascades and the northern portion of the Coast Range.
 - Flood risk management releases are currently expected in the next couple of weeks in the Tualatin Basin.
- Water Supply Notes
 - Near to above normal carryover in most reservoirs.
 - Fall was warm, resulting in low snow accumulation.
 - Very dry November in the Upper Crooked and Rogue basins.
 - 37% of normal precipitation in the Upper Crooked.
 - 36% of normal precipitation in the Upper Rogue and 56% in the Middle Rogue.