

Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – January 14th, 2026

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

Attendees

Cameron Greenwood – OWRD
Curtis Peetz – OEM
Jason Ward – NRCS
Leah Pope – NWS
Henry Pai - NWRFC
Larry O’Neill – OCS
Carrie Boudreau – USGS
Corinne Horner – USBR

Chantal Wikstrom – OHA
Nick Sirovatka – ODA
Tom Elliot – ODOE
Shane Cossel – ODEQ
Spencer Sawaske – ODFW
Rachel LovellFord – OWRD
Annette Liebe – OWRD

Conditions Updates

Jason Ward, NRCS

- Snowpack
 - As of January 13, statewide snowpack measured 39% of the historical median, representing the second lowest level recorded since 1981.
 - Previous La Niña winters have recorded late, significant snowpack recovery. Although, these were during moderate La Niña, where as the current ENSO phase is a weak La Niña.
 - All Oregon basins are measuring below the historical median (min: 19%, max: 51%).
 - As of 1/12, numerous SNOTEL stations across the state are recording lowest or second lowest SWE on record. Most of these are in northeastern Oregon with some in the Cascades.
- Temperature
 - December temperatures were up to 7°F above normal in western Oregon. In central and eastern Oregon, temperature anomalies were generally up to 10°F above normal. Parts of northeastern and southeastern Oregon recorded anomalies up to 13°F above normal.
 - Temperatures in January thus far have also been above normal statewide. In western Oregon, temperatures have generally been 1°F to 5° F above normal. In central and eastern Oregon, temperatures have been 3°F to 10°F above normal.
- Precipitation
 - As of 1/13, statewide precipitation has been 98% of the historical median.
 - Water year-to-date (WYTD) precipitation in Oregon basins has generally been normal to just above normal. However, in the Rogue-Umpqua and Upper Deschutes-Crooked basins, WYTD precipitation has been below normal.
 - Precipitation in December was generally above to well above normal for most basins. The Rogue-Umpqua recorded just above normal precipitation in December.
 - Thus far in January, precipitation has been normal to above normal statewide.
- Soil Moisture
 - In the northern Cascades of Oregon, soil moisture conditions are above normal.
 - In the central and southern Cascades of Oregon, soil moisture conditions are normal to above normal.
 - In the Blue Mountains, soil moisture conditions are normal to well above normal.
 - In southeastern Oregon, soil moisture conditions are well above normal.

- Soil moisture products from GRACE, Topofire, and SPoRT-LIS somewhat vary, however there is some agreement between them indicating drier-than-normal conditions in parts of northeastern and southwestern Oregon.

Leah Pope, NWS

- Precipitation
 - Water year-to-date (WYTD) precipitation has generally been normal to above normal for most of the state. However, much of southwestern Oregon and parts of central Oregon have received below normal WYTD precipitation.
 - From 12/13 to 1/11, precipitation was above normal for most of the state. In southcentral Oregon and in parts of southwestern, northcentral, and eastern Oregon, precipitation was well above normal.
 - Precipitation in December was above normal for most of the state except for parts of southwestern Oregon where some basins recorded below 50% of normal precipitation.
 - Thus far in January, precipitation has ranged across the state. In western Oregon, precipitation has generally been near normal with some basins in southwestern Oregon recording 50-70% of normal precipitation. In central Oregon, precipitation has generally been below normal ranging from 50-90% of normal. In eastern Oregon, precipitation was more variable, generally ranging from 50-110% of normal.
- Temperature
 - WYTD temperatures have been above normal statewide. In western Oregon, temperatures have generally been 1°F to 3°F above normal, with some areas recording anomalies up to 4°F above normal. In central and eastern Oregon, temperatures have been 3°F to 5°F above normal.
 - From 12/13 to 1/11, temperatures were above normal statewide. Temperature anomalies were most significant in central and eastern Oregon measuring up to 5°F above normal.
- Outlook
 - NWRFC 10-day precipitation outlook indicates well below normal precipitation statewide generally ranging from 0.05 to 1 inch in western Oregon and up to 0.25 inches in central and eastern Oregon.
 - 8-14 day outlook indicates probabilities leaning towards below normal temperatures for most of the state with near normal temperatures in part of southeastern Oregon. The outlook also indicates near normal precipitation in western and part of central Oregon with probabilities leaning towards above normal precipitation for the rest of the state.
 - Seasonal temperature forecasts through April indicate equal chances of below normal, normal, or above normal temperatures statewide. Outlooks for May through September show increasing probabilities of above normal temperatures, with above normal temperatures likely statewide through the summer months.
 - Precipitation forecasts through April are leaning towards above normal precipitation for most of Oregon. For March through May there are equal chances of below normal, normal, or above normal precipitation. The probability of below normal precipitation increases through the summer months for all of Oregon.
- ENSO
 - La Niña persists, followed by a 75% chance of a transition to ENSO-neutral during January-March 2026. ENSO-neutral is likely through at least Northern Hemisphere late spring 2026.

Henry Pai, NWRFC

- As of 1/14, the observed runoff was generally below normal across much western Oregon. In northwestern and eastern Oregon, the observed runoff has been normal to well above normal.
- As of 1/14, the seasonal forecast for April through September is generally indicating below to near normal conditions in western Oregon and below to well below normal conditions in central and eastern Oregon.
- Western Oregon
 - Willamette at Salem
 - Apr-Sep: 81% normal
 - WY: 73% normal
 - Rogue at Raygold
 - Apr-Sep: 81% normal
 - WY: 77% normal
- Eastern Oregon
 - Umatilla near Umatilla
 - Apr-Sep: 69% normal
 - WY: 76% normal
 - Owyhee Dam
 - Apr-Sep: 67% normal
 - WY: 97% normal
- Columbia Main Stem
 - Columbia at the Dalles dam
 - Apr-Sep: 99% normal
 - WY: 104% normal
 - Umpqua near Elkton
 - Apr-Sep: 79% normal
 - WY: 65% normal

Larry O'Neill, OCS

- Precipitation
 - Calendar year 2025 ranked as the 37th driest on record.
 - Water year 2026 began with near normal precipitation conditions. However, there is a persistent dry signal in Coos, Douglas, Lane, and Benton counties.
 - December ranked as the 40th wettest on record.
 - Despite above normal precipitation in December, precipitation deficits accrued since April have not fully recovered.
- Temperature
 - Calendar year 2025 was the third warmest on record contributing to a trend of increasing annual temperatures.
 - Water year 2026 began with some of the warmest conditions on record.
 - November and December 2025 were the warmest on record.
 - Temperature anomalies in December:
 - Western Oregon: 4°F to 6°F above normal
 - Central Oregon: 7°F to 9°F above normal
 - Eastern Oregon: 8°F to 10°F above normal
- USDM
 - Over the last month, there have been notable improvements in the USDM due in large part to normal to above normal precipitation. There are still portions of Oregon (SE and NE Oregon) that are still in moderate to severe drought.

Carrie Boudreau, USGS

- 28-day average streamflow conditions across northern portions of Oregon are normal to above normal. Elsewhere conditions range but are generally near normal.
- 7-day average streamflow conditions are generally near normal with some above normal flows recorded in parts of eastern Oregon.
- 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: normal conditions
 - Siletz River: normal conditions
- Southwestern Oregon
 - Chetco River: normal conditions
 - South Umpqua River: normal conditions
- Upper Klamath Lake – elevation currently 4141.2 ft
 - Williamson River: normal conditions
 - Link River: normal conditions
- Southeastern Oregon
 - Donner und Blitzen River: above normal conditions
 - Owyhee River: normal conditions
- Duration hydrograph of 7-day average runoff for Oregon indicates normal conditions.

Cameron Greenwood, OWRD

- Streamflow conditions in December were above to well above normal for most of the state. In southwestern Oregon, streamflow conditions were below normal.
- Streamflow conditions over the water year-to-date (WYTD) have largely been normal to above normal for much of the state. However, in basins across western Oregon (Willamette, Umpqua, Rogue, and South Coast basins) WYTD streamflow has been below normal.
- Recent streamflow conditions over the last seven days have generally been normal to above normal for much of the state. However, in parts of western Oregon, streamflow conditions were below normal.
- Streamflow conditions over the last 28 days have been normal to above normal statewide.
 - Chetco River – South Coast Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal
 - South Fork Coquille River – South Coast Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal
 - Big Butte Creek – Rogue Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are below normal
 - South Umpqua River – Umpqua Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal
 - Mohawk River – Willamette Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal
 - South Santiam River – Willamette Basin
 - Streamflow conditions are normal

Corinne Horner, USBR

- Operation Activities
 - January water supply forecasts – potential drop in February
 - Flood risk management releases in Tualatin
 - Bully Creek will begin passing inflow this week
 - Thief Valley projected to fill and start spilling this month
 - Nearing flood risk management curves in Crooked
- Water Supply Notes
 - Near normal storage contents across most of Oregon
 - Much below normal snowpack across Oregon
 - Precipitation has fallen as rain rather than snow, running off into USBR reservoirs real-time rather than in the spring