Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – February 11th, 2026

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

Attendees

Cameron Greenwood – OWRD
Curtis Peetz – OEM
Matt Warbritton – NRCS
Leah Pope – NWS
Troy Lindquist – NWS
Henry Pai - NWRFC
Larry O'Neill – OCS
Carrie Boudreau – USGS
Rod Owre – USGS
Corinne Horner – USBR
David Weidinger – USBR
Chantal Wikstrom – OHA
Nick Sirovatka – ODA
Tom Elliot – ODOE
Shane Cossel – ODEQ
Spencer Sawaske – ODFW
Rachel LovellFord – OWRD

Conditions Updates
Matt Warbritton, NRCS

- Snowpack
  - As of 2/10, snow water equivalent (SWE) was 30% of median and 19% of median peak.
  - In the Wallowa basin, SWE is below normal from ~4000-5500 ft and in the Lower Columbia-Sandy SWE is below normal from ~2500-5000 ft. These elevation ranges are generally where snowpack is greatest.
  - Water year projections for SWE indicate that even at the maximum projection, SWE would not reach the median peak. The 50% projection would still result in well below normal SWE.
  - Models are suggesting that from 2/17-2/14, there is a likelihood for above normal precipitation and therefore potential for snow accumulation.
- Precipitation
  - As of 2/10, statewide precipitation was 85% of the median.
  - As of 2/10 water year-to-date (WYTD) precipitation in Oregon basins was below normal for most of the state with the exception of the Hood-Sandy-Lower Deschutes Basin where conditions were normal.
  - Statewide precipitation in January was generally well below normal.
  - From 2/1-2/10, precipitation was generally below normal for most of the state. In the Willamette, Hood-Sandy-Lower Deschutes, and Malheur basins conditions were normal.
- Soil Moisture
  - Soil moisture (1 meter) products (GRACE, SPoRT-LiS, and Crop-CASMA) show some agreement in parts of northeastern and southwestern Oregon, indicating drier-than-normal conditions.
- Water Supply Outlook
  - February 1st water supply forecast indicates below normal conditions statewide.

Leah Pope, NWS

- Precipitation
  - Water year-to-date (WYTD) precipitation has generally been below normal for much of the state, especially in western Oregon and the Cascade Range. WYTD precipitation has been normal to above normal in parts of northwestern, north-central, and southeastern Oregon.

    - From 1/10-2/8, precipitation has been below normal statewide with the most notable deficits in the Cascades and Blue Mountains.
- Temperature
    - WYTD temperatures have been above normal statewide. The most notable temperature anomalies have been in central and ewastern Oregon where temperatures have been 3°F to 5°F above normal.
    - From 1/10-2/8, temperatures have generally been above normal for most of the state. In the Cascades and Blue Mountains, temperature anomalies generally ranged from 4°F to 5°F above normal.
- Outlook
    - NWRFC 10-day precipitation outlook indicates below normal precipitation in northwestern Oregon and in parts of central and eastern Oregon. Western Oregon is forecasted to receive 1 to 2 inches of precipitation with higher elevations receiving up to 4 inches.
    - 8-14 day outlook indicates probabilities leaning towards below normal temperatures statewide. The outlook also indicates above normal precipitation is likely statewide.
    - Seasonal temperature forecasts through May indicate probabilities leaning towards above normal temperatures for the southern half of the state. The outlook indicates equal chances of below normal, normal, or above normal temperatures for the rest of the state. As summer progresses, the likelihood of above normal temperatures increases statewide.
    - Precipitation forecasts through May indicate equal chances of below normal, normal, or above normal precipitation for most of the state with southern portions of the state leaning towards below normal precipitation. As spring and summer progress, the likelihood of below normal precipitation increases.
    - 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 2/10, observed runoff in western and central Oregon was generally below normal. In eastern Oregon, the streamflow conditions observed ranged from below to above normal.
- As of 2/10, seasonal (Apr-Sep) streamflow forecasts indicate well below normal conditions in central and eastern Oregon. In western Oregon, the forecast indicates just below normal to below normal conditions with some coastal gages indicating normal conditions.
- Western Oregon
    - Willamette at Salem
        - Apr-Sep: 75% normal
        - WY: 71% normal
    - Rogue at Raygold
        - Apr-Sep: 71% normal
        - WY: 74% normal
- Eastern Oregon
    - Umatilla near Umatilla
        - Apr-Sep: 52% normal
        - WY: 57% normal
    - Owyhee Dam
        - Apr-Sep: 51% normal
        - WY: 68% normal
- Columbia Main Stem

    - Columbia at the Dalles dam
        - Apr-Sep: 92% normal
        - WY: 98% normal
    - Umpqua near Elkton
        - Apr-Sep: 76% normal
        - WY: 64% normal

Larry O'Neill, OCS

- USDM
    - About 20% of Oregon is experiencing moderate drought (D1) or severe drought (D2). Another 44% of Oregon is experiencing abnormally dry conditions (D0).
    - Over the last four weeks, abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions have expanded in western and central Oregon.
- Temperature
    - January was toed for Oregon's 5th warmest since 1895. The statewide anomaly was 7.3° F above normal.
    - Temperature anomalies in January were highest in the Cascades and the Blue Mountains. Some portions of the Willamette Valley recorded below normal temperatures.
    - November through January was the warmest on record across Oregon. The statewide anomaly was 7.0° F above normal.
    - Water-year-to-date (October - January) temperatures have been the warmest on record. This has continued a trend observed since April, marking the period from April 2025 through January 2026 as the warmest on record.

- Precipitation
    - January precipitation was 2.82 inches below normal and ranked as the 5th driest on record.
    - Water-year-to-date precipitation has ranked as the 28th driest on record and has been 3.36 inches below normal.
    - Precipitation conditions since April 2025 have ranked as the 7th driest on record.
    - The warm snow drought in Nov-Dec has transitioned to dry snow drought since mid-January.
- SPEI
    - 1-month SPEI values show conditions in Oregon are drier than normal. Most of the state has values that correspond with severe drought (D2) on the USDM. In the Cascades and Blue Mountains, values correspond to extreme drought (D3).
    - 4-month SPEI values correspond with moderate drought (D1) across much of western Oregon and in parts of central and eastern Oregon. In parts of southwestern and southeastern Oregon, SPEI values correspond with severe drought (D2).
    - 10-month SPEI values correspond with extreme (D3) to exceptional drought (D4) across much of western Oregon and in parts of north-central and northeastern Oregon. The rest of the state has values that generally correspond to abnormally dry (D0) conditions to moderate drought (D1).
    - 12-month SPEI values correspond with moderate drought (D1) across most of the state with southern portions of the state being closer to normal.

Carrie Boudreau, USGS

- 28-day average streamflow conditions (through 2/9) across most of Oregon were below normal.
- 7-day average streamflow conditions (through 2/10) across much of Oregon were below normal with some gages recording normal conditions across the state.
- Northeastern Oregon
    - John Day River: normal conditions
    - Grande Ronde River: normal conditions
- Northwestern Oregon
    - Wilson River: normal conditions
    - Siletz River: normal conditions
- Southwestern Oregon
    - Chetco River: normal conditions
    - South Umpqua River: above normal conditions
- Upper Klamath Lake – elevation currently 4141.6 ft
    - Williamson River: normal conditions
- Southeastern Oregon
    - Donner und Blitzen River: normal conditions
    - Owyhee River: below normal conditions
- Duration hydrograph of 7-day average runoff for Oregon indicates below normal conditions.

Cameron Greenwood, OWRD

- Streamflow conditions in January were below to well below normal in western Oregon and in parts of central and eastern Oregon. Elsewhere in the state, conditions were normal.
- Streamflow conditions over the water year-to-date (WYTD) have been below normal in western Oregon and in parts of central and northeastern Oregon. Elsewhere in the state, conditions have been normal to above normal.
- Recent streamflow conditions over the last seven days (through 2/9) were below normal across western Oregon and in parts of northeastern and south-central Oregon. Conditions over the last 28 days (through 2/9) have also been below normal in western Oregon and in parts of northeastern and south-central Oregon.
    - Nehalem River – North Coast Basin
        - Streamflow conditions are normal
    - Siletz River – Mid Coast Basin
        - Streamflow conditions are above normal
    - South Fork Coquille River – South Coast Basin
        - Streamflow conditions are normal
    - South Umpqua River – Umpqua Basin
        - Streamflow conditions are above normal
    - Williamson River – Klamath Basin
        - Streamflow conditions are well below normal
    - South Santiam River – Willamette Basin
        - Streamflow conditions are normal
    - Metolius River – Deschutes Basin
        - Streamflow conditions are below normal
    - John Day River – John Day Basin
        - Streamflow conditions are below normal
    - Umatilla River – Umatilla Basin
        - Streamflow conditions are below normal

Corinne Horner, USBR

- Operation Activities
  - February water supply forecasts dropped 15-30% from January
  - Thief Valley surcharged and spilling as of 1/28
  - Reduced winter flow out of PRV, per recommendation of USFWS/NMFS
- Water Supply Notes
  - Near normal storage contents across much of OR due to carry over.
  - Much below normal snowpack across OR
  - Extremely dry January with well below normal precipitation
  - Need above normal precipitation going forward in some basins to achieve reservoir refill (Owyhee, Malheur, Phillips, Umatilla).