

Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – June 17th, 2026

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

Attendees

Cameron Greenwood – OWRD
Curtis Peetz – OEM
Leah Pope - NWS
Sonali Chokshi – NWRFC
Larry O’Neill – OCS
Roderick Owre – USGS
Corinne Horner – USBR

Samantha Cataldi – USACE
Teresa Alcock – ODF
Tom Elliot – ODOE
Nick Sirovatka – ODA
Steve Parrett – ODEQ
Spencer Sawaske – ODFW

Conditions Updates

Matt Warbritton, NRCS

- Josephine County
 - Despite the Rogue Basin being primarily rain dominated, snowpack was severely lacking this winter.
 - Peak SWE for the water year was at the 7th percentile.
 - As of 6/16, WYTD precipitation in the Rogue-Umpqua Basin was 73% of normal. Precipitation at individual gages was below the 15th percentile for most SNOTEL stations in the basin.
 - Precipitation in the Rogue-Umpqua Basin fell mostly in December, with increasing deficits throughout the rest of the winter and spring.
- Precipitation
 - As of 6/16, southwestern Oregon, along with northwestern California, experienced the largest WYTD deficits across the west.

Leah Pope, NWS

- Precipitation
 - Over the last 30 days, precipitation was below normal in western and eastern Oregon. In central Oregon, precipitation was generally normal to above normal. In Josephine County, precipitation was below normal.
 - WYTD precipitation has been well below normal for most of western Oregon and in parts of central and eastern Oregon. In parts of south-central and southeastern Oregon, WYTD precipitation has been near normal. In parts of northwestern Oregon, WYTD precipitation has been above normal. WYTD precipitation in Josephine County has generally been below normal.
- Temperature
 - Temperatures over the last 30 days were above normal for most of the state.
 - WYTD temperatures have been above normal statewide. In Josephine County, WYTD temperatures have been above normal.
- Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI)
 - Over the last month (through 6/11), EDDI values for Oregon correspond with abnormally dry conditions to moderate drought for much of the state, including Josephine County.
- Outlook
 - NWRFC 10-day precipitation outlook (ending 6/26) indicates well below normal precipitation conditions statewide.

- 8-14 day outlook (6/24-6/30) indicates probabilities leaning towards above normal temperatures statewide. The outlook also indicates probabilities leaning towards below normal precipitation in southern parts of the state with near normal precipitation for the rest of the state.
- Seasonal outlooks:
 - Jul-Aug-Sep, Aug-Sep-Oct, and Sep-Oct-Nov
 - 60-70% chance of above normal temperatures statewide. 33-40% chance of below normal precipitation for the northern half of the state. Equal chances of below normal, near normal, or above normal precipitation for the rest of the state.
- ENSO
 - El Niño conditions are present and expected to strengthen into the Northern Hemisphere by winter 2026-27.
 - There is a 63% chance of a very strong El Niño during November-January that would rank among the largest El Niño events on record (back to 1950).

Sonali Chokshi, NWRFC

- Streamflow Forecast
 - Observed runoff for the water year thus far has been below normal for most of the state. Notable streamflow deficits have been recorded in parts of southwestern, central, and eastern Oregon. In parts of northwestern Oregon, streamflow conditions have been either just below normal or near normal.
 - April through September streamflow forecasts are below normal statewide. In parts of southwestern, central, and eastern Oregon, streamflow forecasts are well below normal.
 - Rogue at Grants Pass (Josephine County)
 - Observed runoff from November through May was below normal. Forecast for June through August is below normal.
 - Apr-Sep: 56%
 - WY: 60%
 - Applegate near Wilderville (Josephine County)
 - Observed runoff from November through May was below normal. Forecast for June through September is below normal.
 - Apr-Sep: 30%
 - WY: 44%
 - Willamette at Salem
 - Observed runoff from November through May was below normal. Forecast for June through August is below normal.
 - Apr-Sep: 52%
 - WY: 62%
 - Columbia River at the Dalles Dam
 - Observed runoff from November through May ranged from below normal to above normal. Forecast for June through September is below to near normal.
 - Apr-Sep: 85%
 - WY: 94%
 - Owyhee at Owyhee Dam
 - Observed runoff from November through May was below normal. Forecast for June through September is below normal.
 - Apr-Sep: 12%
 - WY: 26%
 - Umatilla River Near Umatilla

- Observed runoff from January through May was below normal. Forecast for June through September is below to near normal.
- Apr-Sep: 75%
- WY: 71%

Larry O'Neill, OCS

- ENSO
 - In Oregon, El Niños are generally warm and dry. However the strongest El Niños (Very Strong El Niños) are generally wet and warm and produce snowpacks rivalling Strong La Niñas. This big difference in outcomes could produce even more uncertainty in seasonal weather forecasts and outlooks
 - Very strong El Niños are close to the wettest phase whereas strong El Niños are the driest ENSO phase. Neutral ENSO conditions are close to normal precipitation. Strong La Niñas are close to the wettest ENSO phase.
- USDM
 - As of 6/9, 75% of the American West was in some form of drought, with 50% in severe or extreme drought.
 - As of 6/9, 84% of Oregon was in some form of drought, with 44% in severe or extreme drought.
 - Over the last four weeks, drought conditions have degraded in parts of southwestern, central, and for much of eastern Oregon. In parts of northwestern and central Oregon, there has been limited improvements in drought conditions.
- Temperature
 - May 2026 was Oregon's fifth warmest May on record, with a statewide temperature anomaly of 4.9°F above normal.
 - Josephine County recorded its third warmest May on record.
 - Spring (March through May) 2026 was Oregon's third warmest period on record.
 - Josephine County recorded its second warmest spring on record.
 - January through May was Oregon's third warmest period on record.
 - Josephine County recorded its warmest January through May on record.
 - WYTD temperatures measured as the second warmest on record.
 - Josephine County recorded its second warmest October through May on record.
 - Temperatures over the last 12 months (June 2025 through May 2026) measured as Oregon's warmest on record.
 - Josephine County recorded its warmest June through May on record.
- Precipitation
 - May 2026 was Oregon's 26th driest on record.
 - Josephine County recorded its 13th driest May on record.
 - Spring (March through May) 2026 was Oregon's 27th driest on record.
 - Josephine County recorded its sixth driest spring on record.
 - January through May was Oregon's 13th driest period on record.
 - Josephine County recorded its 18th driest January through May on record.
 - WYTD precipitation measured as the 23rd driest on record.
 - Josephine County recorded its 21st driest October through May on record.
 - Precipitation over the last 12 months (June 2025 through May 2026) was measured as the 16th driest on record.
 - Josephine County recorded its 17th driest June through May on record.
- Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) and Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)

- EDDI values over the last 30 days (through 6/15) correspond with moderate drought (D1) for most of western Oregon and in central and eastern parts of the state. Additionally, EDDI values in part of western Oregon correspond with severe (D2) to extreme drought (D3).
- EDDI values over the last 90 days (through 6/15), correspond with extreme (D3) to exceptional drought (D4) across much of western Oregon and for most of central and eastern Oregon. The remainder of the state has EDDI values that generally correspond with moderate (D1) to severe drought (D2).
- SPEI values over the WYTD (through 6/15) correspond with D3 for a large area spanning from southwestern to northeastern Oregon. For most of the remainder of the state, SPEI values correspond with D1 to D2.
- SPEI values over the last 12 months (through 6/15) correspond with D1 to D3 for most of western Oregon and in parts of central and eastern Oregon.

Rod Owre, USGS

- Northwestern Oregon
 - Nehalem River: near normal conditions
 - Siletz River: above normal conditions
- North-central Oregon
 - Warm Springs River: well below normal conditions
- Northeastern Oregon
 - John Day River: well below normal conditions
 - Grande Ronde River: well below normal conditions
- Southeastern Oregon
 - Donner und Blitzen River: well below normal conditions
 - Owyhee River: well below normal conditions
- Upper Klamath Lake – elevation currently ~4141.5 ft
 - Williamson River: below normal conditions
 - Link River: above normal conditions
- Southwestern Oregon
 - Applegate River: below normal conditions
 - Umpqua River: well below normal conditions

Corinne Horner, USBR

- Operations Activities:
 - All reservoirs are drafting to meet demand.
- Water Supply Notes
 - All basins did not fill, except for Tualatin.
 - Good carryover from WY 2025 will help provide a fairly normal irrigation season in most basins
 - Expecting very low carryover at the end of the season

Samantha Cataldi, USACE

- Willamette Operations
 - 59% full and 41% below rule curve
 - System wide inflow: 3234 ft³/s
 - System wide outflow: 6023 ft³/s
- Rogue Operations
 - 58% full and 42% below curve

Teresa Alcock, ODF

- Statewide overview
 - Statewide 10-year annual average: 2,097 fires and 666,191 acres burned.
 - Year-to-date (as of 6/17), there have been 436 fires with 9,314 acres burned in Oregon.
- Energy Release Component (ERC) & Large Fuel Moistures (3"- 8" diameter)
 - Southwest Oregon Interior Valley
 - ERC at 98th percentile.
 - Fuel moistures at 14%
 - Central Oregon Monument
 - ERC at 85th percentile
 - Fuel moistures at 14%
 - The Dalles
 - ERC at 96th percentile
 - Fuel moisture at 14%
 - South Cascade Foothills
 - ERC at 97th percentile
 - Fuel moisture at 16%
 - Southwest Oregon Coast
 - ERC at 98th percentile
 - Fuel moisture at 16%
 - Blue Mountain Elkhorns/North Fork John Day
 - ERC at 84th percentile
 - Fuel moisture at 13%
- Significant Wildfire Potential Outlook
 - June 2026
 - Central and Eastern Oregon have above normal significant wildland fire potential.
 - Western Oregon has normal significant wildland fire potential.
 - July 2026
 - Central, eastern, and southwestern Oregon have above normal significant wildland fire potential.
 - Remainder of western has Oregon normal significant wildland fire potential.
 - August 2026
 - Significant wildland fire potential is above normal statewide.
 - September 2026
 - Significant wildland fire potential is above normal statewide.

Drought Readiness Council

Drought Declaration Requests

- Josephine County – Conditions support a state drought declaration. DRC in support of recommending Josephine County's drought declaration request to the Governor's Office