Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – July 15th, 2026

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

Attendees

Cameron Greenwood – OWRD
Curtis Peetz – OEM
Amy Burke - NWS
Roderick Owre – USGS
Corinne Horner – USBR
Andy Martin – USACE
David Hutchinson – ODOE
Nick Sirovatka – ODA
Shane Cossel – ODEQ
Chantal Wikstrom – OHA

Conditions Updates
Amy Burke, NWS

- Precipitation
  - Precipitation has been below normal and are expected to remain so.
  - Precipitation in June was largely below average with isolated areas of above average precipitation.
  - Overall, precipitation in June was 62% of average in Oregon.
  - Precipitation over the last 90 days (through 7/13) was below normal for most of the state, excluding parts of south-central Oregon where precipitation was near normal.
- Temperature
  - Temperatures have been above normal and are expected to remain so.
  - Temperatures in June were above normal statewide.
  - June 2026 ranked as Oregon's 18th warmest June, with a statewide average temperature anomaly of 3°F above normal.
- Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI)
  - Over the last seven months (through 7/9), EDDI values indicate elevated dryness across all of Oregon.
  - Over the last month (through 7/9), EDDI values indicate higher rates of drying in western Oregon and in parts of north-central Oregon, than for the rest of the state.
- Groundwater
  - Shallow groundwater conditions across most of Oregon are drier-than-normal across most of the state. In parts of south-central Oregon, conditions are wetter than normal.
- Streamflow
  - Streamflow has been lower than normal and is forecast to remain so.
  - Observed runoff (as of 7/14) is below normal for most of the state. In parts of southwestern, central, and eastern Oregon, conditions are well below normal.
  - Streamflow forecasts for the remainder of the water year are indicated well below normal streamflow conditions for most of the state.
- Climate Outlook
  - Precipitation over the next 10 days (ending 7/24) is forecasted to be below normal for most of the state. In parts of central and eastern Oregon, precipitation is forecasted to be above normal. However, precipitation in these regions is only forecasted to be up to 0.25 and 0.5 inches.
  - The seasonal climate outlook for July through September indicates a 60-70% chance of above normal temperatures statewide. The outlook also indicates equal chances of below normal, near normal, or above normal precipitation for most of the state.

    - The seasonal climate outlook for August through November indicates a 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures statewide. The outlook also indicates probabilities leaning towards below normal precipitation for roughly the northwestern half of the state and equal chances of below normal, near normal, or above normal precipitation for roughly the southeastern half of the state.
- ENSO
    - El Niño continues and will strengthen through the end of the year with a 97% chance it will persist through early Spring 2027.
    - There is an 81% chance of a very strong El Niño during October-December that would rank among the largest El Niño events in the historical record going back to 1950.
- Wildfire Potential
    - Wildfire potential in July is above normal for most of the state excluding much of western Oregon.
    - Wildfire potential is above normal statewide for August and September.

Cameron Greenwood, OWRD

- According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM), as of 7/7, 88% of Oregon is in some form of drought, with 57% of the state in severe to extreme drought.
- SPEI values over the water year-to-date (WYTD) are generally in agreement with the current depiction of drought on the USDM.
- SPEI values over the last 180 days (through 7/13)
- Streamflow conditions in June were below normal statewide. Significant streamflow deficits were recorded across much of eastern Oregon.
- WYTD streamflow conditions have been below normal for much of the state, especially in parts of southwestern and northeastern Oregon.
- Recent streamflow conditions over the last seven days (through 7/13) were below normal for most of the state, with near normal conditions in parts of western Oregon. Conditions over the last 28 days (through 7/13) have also been below normal, with near normal conditions in parts of western Oregon.
- Northeastern Oregon
    - Umatilla River (14020000): well below normal (record low)
    - Lostine River (13330000): well below normal
- Central Oregon
    - John Day River (14040500): well below normal (record low)
    - Metolius River (14091500): well below normal
- South-central Oregon
    - Chewaucan River (10384000): below normal
    - Sycan River (11499100): well below normal (record low)
- Southwestern Oregon
    - Rogue River (14330000): well below normal (record low)
    - Umpqua River (14308000): well below normal (record low)
    - Chetco River (14400000): well below normal
- Western Oregon
    - South Fork McKenzie River (14159200): below normal
    - North Santiam River (14178000): below normal
    - Hood River (14120000): well below normal

Roderick Owre, USGS

- Streamflow conditions (as of 7/14) are below normal for most of the state. For some of western Oregon, streamflow conditions are near normal.

- Record low streamflows have been recorded in southwestern, central and northeastern Oregon.
- As of 7/12, just over 60% of streamgages are recording below-normal streamflow conditions and just over 20% of streamgages are recording conditions that are extremely below normal.
- Northeastern Oregon
    - North Fork John Day River (14046000): well below normal (record low)
    - Grande Ronde River (13333000): well below normal
- Northwestern Oregon
    - Nehalem River (14301000): near normal
    - Siletz River (14305500): below normal
- Southwestern Oregon
    - Cow Creek (14308990): well below normal
    - South Umpqua River (14308000): well below normal
    - Illinois River (14378200): well below normal
    - Chetco River (14400000): well below normal
- South-central Oregon
    - Williamson River (11502500): near normal
    - Link River (11507500): above normal
    - Upper Klamath Lake: ~4140.75 ft
- Southeastern Oregon
    - Donner und Blitzen (10396000): below normal
    - Owyhee River (13181000): below normal
- Statewide Runoff (HUC8)
    - 7-day and 14-day
        - HUC8s across much of the state are recording below normal conditions. Conditions in parts of western, northcentral, northeastern and southeastern Oregon are extremely below normal (<5%).
- Groundwater Conditions
    - Central Oregon (14S/09E-08ABA - USGS-442242121405501)
        - Below normal
    - South-central Oregon (40.00S/11.00E-28DDD01 - USGS-420318121312201)
        - Normal

Corinne Horner, USBR

- Operations Activities:
    - All reservoirs drafting to meet demand.
- Water Supply Notes
    - Very low spring and summer reservoir inflows at most projects in Oregon.
    - Stored water use began much earlier than normal.
    - No reservoirs reached full capacity except for the project in the Tualatin Basin.
    - Very low carryover is expected at the end of the water year.

Andy Martin, USACE

- Willamette
    - 48 % full and 52% below the rule curve.
    - Current conditions are second (to 2015) lowest in recent history (11 years).
- Rogue
    - 46% full and 54% below the rule curve.
    - Current conditions are lowest in recent history (11 years).