



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Water Resources Department

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Water Resources Commission

**FROM:** Phillip C. Ward, Director

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item E, May 9, 2013  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

#### Director's Report

##### I. Current Events:

###### Current Water Conditions:

As of April 1 the Surface Water Supply Index for each of the 14 basins monitored statewide is in sharp decline. This indicates drought conditions in Oregon ranging from moderate to severe drought are likely. In addition to below normal peak snowpack levels throughout Oregon, spring snowmelt started a couple of weeks earlier than normal, especially in parts of southern and eastern Oregon. Only northwestern Oregon managed to maintain a near normal snowpack for this time of year. Southern and eastern Oregon basins are expected to have the lowest summer streamflows in the state as a result of extended dry spells, low snowpacks and early snowmelt.

Areas of concern for well below normal summer streamflows are the Owyhee, Malheur, Harney, Klamath, Lake County and Oregon's closed basins. Streamflow forecasts (April through September) range from a high of 94% of normal in the Willamette Basin, to a low of 33% of normal in the Silvies near Burns.

The April 1 storage at 26 major Oregon reservoirs ranges from below average to well below average. Statewide storage on April 1 was 84 percent of average. As of April 1, water storage at these reservoirs was 59 percent of useable capacity. Last year at this time these reservoirs stored 75 percent of useable capacity.

##### II. Commissioner Appointments

On April 24, 2013, Commissioner Carol Whipple and Commissioner Ray Williams were reappointed to another 4-year term on the Water Resources Commission. Umatilla County Commissioner Dennis Doherty of Pendleton, was appointed to his first 4-year term to the Commission. He will represent the North Central Region of the state. He will take office July 1, 2013. This position is currently held by Commissioner Mary Meloy of Bend, who served two four-year terms on the Commission. Thanks to Commissioner Meloy for her service.

<b>III. Commission/Board Schedules</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
Fish and Wildlife Commission	Salem	May 10, 2013
Land Conservation and Development Commission	Salem	May 22 - 23, 2013
Board of Agriculture	Salem	June 4 - 6, 2013
Board of Forestry	Salem	June 5, 2013
State Land Board	Salem	June 11, 2013
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Pendleton	June 11 - 12, 2013
Environmental Quality Commission	TBD	June 19 - 20, 2013
Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries	Portland	July 12, 2013
Parks and Recreation Commission	Coos Bay	July 17, 2013
Water Resources Commission	TBD	August 8 - 9, 2013