



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I, August 18, 2017
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Director's Report

I. Current Events:

A. New Staff & Staff Promotions

Since the May meeting, the Department has hired four new employees, had one transfer and four promotions. Positions filled include five assistant watermasters (3 former county staff), a hydrogeologist, a water rights data technician, a watermaster and a division administrator.

II. Commission Follow Up

A. Water Conditions Update

Due to recent hot and dry conditions the US Drought Monitor now indicates that a large area in northeastern Oregon is categorized as "abnormally dry". This areal coverage is expected to increase (and possibly intensify) between now and the end of the water year.

While precipitation since the beginning of the water year is at 125 percent of normal, for the month of July to-date, precipitation has been well below normal. There has been no measureable precipitation in the mid-Willamette Valley for the past 38 days. The areas with the highest percent of normal precipitation in the state so far this month are the Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt, Imnaha and the Coast Range, all at 19 percent. The lowest are the Malheur and Umatilla at zero (0).

Over the next 8 to 14 days, the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting enhanced probabilities of above normal temperatures statewide and below normal precipitation across a broad area covering the north central and northeast portions of the state. The most recent three month outlook continues to indicate a higher likelihood of above normal temperatures. An increased chance of below normal precipitation is likely in the northwest corner of the state but for the rest of Oregon there is an equal chance of above or below normal precipitation between now and October. The next outlook will be issued on August 17, 2017.

El Niño Southern Oscillation conditions are projected to remain neutral through fall of 2017. Sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific are slightly warmer than normal, but atmospheric conditions currently do not reflect El Niño. The status will be monitored and changes will be made to the status if necessary by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. For insight into this observation, refer to this blog on the June 2017 forecast.

Regionally during the month of June, streamflow conditions east of the Cascades were a little over 100 percent and a little below 100 percent on the west side. Statewide, monthly stream flows have been at or above normal since February. As of July 24, streamflows continue to trend downward at a statewide average of slightly over 85 percent. Of note, flows in the John Day Basin are even lower at 63 percent and in the Umatilla and Malheur Lake Basins flows are at 65 percent. Short term weather outlooks indicate that this (downward) trend is likely to continue.

Most of the state's water supply reservoirs are at normal to above normal levels for this time of year. Willamette and Rogue project reservoirs remain on track this summer. Hills Creek Reservoir in the Willamette Basin is being held to lower than normal levels for maintenance projects. Minimum streamflow targets are projected to be met for the rest of the season. Central Oregon reservoirs are between 50 and 90 percent of capacity. Eastern Oregon reservoirs are between 85 and 63 percent of capacity. All are now releasing stored water for the summer supply season. For the most recent near real-time, site-specific reservoir conditions (teacup diagrams) visit the USBR or USACE websites.

All Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) fire protection districts are now in fire season. Refer to the ODF Wildfire Blog for the latest updates. Another useful resource is the ODF Significant Fire Potential map of Oregon.

More detailed information can be found in the Oregon Water Conditions Report (Attachment 1).

B. Klamath Basin Update

Regulation of junior surface water and groundwater rights continued throughout the Wood, Sprague, and Williamson River basins during the spring and summer of 2017.

Staff in District 17 were busy measuring stream discharge to validate the Klamath Tribes call for meeting instream flows for multiple stream reaches under their determined claims.

Regulation was complex this season and remains so as stream discharge changes constantly, and many of the instream claim values changed at the beginning of each month. Watermaster staff modified which water rights could irrigate based on available streamflow above what was needed to meet instream claims. District 17 staff run a network of gaging stations, which are critical to monitoring streamflow. Gaging station operation is challenging at many locations in the Klamath Basin due to aquatic growth and in some cases, backwater conditions resulting from Klamath Lake influence. Seven livestock wells have been drilled in Klamath County since January 1, 2017.

C. Willamette Basin Review (Reallocation Study)

In early July, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Portland District office held a meeting with its staff in Washington D.C. to present a draft Tentatively Selected Plan, marking a major milestone for the Willamette Basin Review study. The Portland District has been approved to move onto the next phase and will release the draft plan and its associated technical reports for a 45-day public comment period in early September. Reviews by state and federal partners will also happen concurrently.

Stakeholders and other agency partners continue to be engaged in the study. The Department and the Corps will hold stakeholder meetings this Fall to help orient readers to the draft report and answer any questions. Following the public review process, the Corps will make an agency decision regarding the study in January 2018. If the Corps decides to proceed forward with the reallocation, the study must be presented to the Corps' Civil Works Review Board in May 2018 and would be officially completed in the form of a Chief's Report in August 2018. Following the Chief's Report, Congress must pass legislation to implement the reallocation recommendation.

D. ODFW Transfer and Exchange Application Update

ODFW's exchange application to trade water with the City of Cascade Locks is still to be processed. The original exchange comment period closed in 2010, but due to the length of time, WRD plans to reopen the public comment period. WRD is finalizing methods to gather the thousands of anticipated comments.

The ODFW Claim of Beneficial Use forms for the Oxbow Springs Fish Hatchery transfers (0.5 cfs and 9.5 cfs) are going through the reimbursement authority process.

E. Key Performance Measure Update

As discussed in Agenda Item M at the January 2017 Commission meeting, each year the Department reports on 14 Key Performance Measures (KPM's). Most of the KPM's have been in place since before 2005, and the Department believes it is time to undertake a review. While the Department is engaged in strategic planning, the Department will initially focus its efforts on KPM's that may need a change in methodology. The Department will provide updates on next steps as the strategic planning process moves forward, and as the Department determines how these two processes intersect.

F. Smith River Update

During Agenda Item E at the May 2017 Commission meeting, staff briefed the Commission on the ongoing rulemaking efforts to reclassify the waters of the Smith Watershed in Curry County.

Work on the rulemaking was temporarily put on hold during the legislative session, in recognition of staff workloads. Staff resumed work on the rulemaking in late July and are

reviewing the public comments received and policy questions posed by the rulemaking. Staff anticipate that the rulemaking will be before the Commission in November.

G. Umatilla Water Supply Project

In 2015, the Legislature authorized \$11 million in Lottery Bond proceeds to assist with financing water supply projects in the Umatilla Basin. These funds were authorized to invest in infrastructure projects that will deliver water primarily to lands that are currently not irrigated or are under-irrigated. The Department has entered into a grant agreement with the Port of Morrow for Umatilla Water Supply Project. The Port of Morrow was initially working with project partners in the basin to pursue two projects with this funding, the Central Project and the East Project. The Central Project is currently on hold. The Port of Morrow is working to enter into a sub-agreement with the East Improvement District for construction of the East Project.

The Department is also processing eight new Columbia River surface water rights and the associated mitigation for these projects. The Department issued the first permit (S-55061) on May 2, 2017. The Department issued a notice of limited reconsideration on June 26, 2017 in order to clarify two conditions listed on the permit. The permit remains in effect during reconsideration.

H. Mosier Update

Mosier Repair and Replacement Program

The Wasco County SWCD has identified the top 15 priority comingling wells in the Mosier area for repair or replacement with \$1 million in cost-share funds made available by Senate Bill 5507 in 2015. The District's consultant prepared repair or replacement designs for these wells sufficient to solicit bids from qualified drillers to complete the work. Department hydrogeologist and well inspector staff have reviewed and provided input on these plans. Requests for proposals were released to the public in early August, 2017. A Department hydrogeologist will be a member of the proposal evaluation team. Work is expected to occur in fall 2017.

Mosier Deep Water Supply Wells

The Wasco County SWCD began drilling the first of two deep basalt wells in June 2017. These two wells are being constructed with Water Project Grant and Loans (SB 839) funds awarded by the Commission in May 2016. The goal of the project is to reduce demand on the upper and administratively withdrawn Columbia River Basalt aquifers near Mosier to improve long-term groundwater supply availability and streamflows in Mosier Creek. As of early August 2017, the well had been advanced to to approximately 1100 feet. Total well depth is anticipated to be approximately 1200 feet below ground surface.

I. Walla Walla Update

Department hydrogeologists continue to gather data in the Walla Walla Subbasin to support further groundwater management in the area. Staff worked with irrigators to monitor water levels in neighboring wells before and after major irrigation wells began pumping in the spring. Significant historic water level data from the Washington side of the basin has been obtained and

entered into the Department's groundwater database. Water level data collection from more than 100 wells on the Oregon side of the basin continues on a quarterly basis.

The Department plans to hold a round of public meetings in Weston and Milton-Freewater this summer to communicate the requirements and effects of the recently revised Walla Walla Subbasin rules, including groundwater classification for exempt use only and establishment of a Serious Water Management Problem Area, or SWMPA, within which permitted basalt aquifer use is required to be measured and reported to the Department.

The Department efforts to establish cost-share options to help defer the costs of implementing the water use measurement requirements have been successful. The Department's measurement cost share program was expanded to include groundwater use metering by HB 3051, which was signed by the Governor and goes into effect January 1, 2018. Further, the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service, with support from Watermaster Greg Silbernagel, has established a groundwater efficiency project in the Walla Walla Subbasin. This project provides federal cost-share funding for groundwater flow meters. NRCS envisions additional future work with a funding pool to assist producers in upgrading the efficiency of their irrigation systems once this data is analyzed and some alternative solutions are identified. These programs will also be announced at the planned future public meetings this summer.

J. Harney Basin Groundwater Update

The Groundwater Study Advisory Committee most recently met on July 18, 2017. The Committee will discuss data collection to date by state, federal, and local field staff, reviewed historic published data useful to the current study, and discussed summer field work plans. Planned field work during summer 2017 includes collection of water level, streamflow and seepage, spring quantity and quality, and evapotranspiration data.

The Department installed a dedicated observation well in a key area of the Harney Basin study area in July 2017. Additional observation wells are planned to be installed in late summer and fall 2017.

K. Scenic Waterway Update

Nehalem River field visit May 8 - 9, 2017

Oregon Parks and Recreation and Water Resources staff conducted a field survey of the Nehalem River scenic waterway reach. A draft report of the survey is being developed. Pictures from the survey can be accessed online. The first public meeting will be held in the town of Nehalem on September 12, 2017 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

South Umpqua River field visit May 31 – June 1, 2017

Oregon Parks and Recreation staff were given a tour of the proposed scenic waterway reach of the South Umpqua River by US Forest Service personnel. Coincident to the state scenic waterway evaluation, the Forest Service indicated that a survey of recreation use levels will be conducted in the near future.

III. Litigation Update

Blue Mountain Angus, LLC. v. Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Court of Appeals Case No. A156669

This case is a petition to the Oregon Court of Appeals for review of a final order denying a transfer (T-10898). Blue Mountain Angus filed a water right transfer application to change the point of diversion and place of use under Water Right Certificate 25844. The Department denied the transfer because the Department was unable to make findings of no injury or enlargement.

Staff continue to work with Blue Mountain Angus's Counsel exploring possible solutions to their stock water needs.

The Court of Appeals has not scheduled a date for oral arguments.

Willamette Water Co., an Oregon Corporation, v. Oregon Water Resources Commission and WaterWatch of Oregon Inc., Oregon Court of Appeals Case No. A157428

This case is a petition for judicial review of a Final Order in a Contested Case, denying water right application S-87330 filed by Willamette Water Company (Company) for 34 cubic feet per second of water from the McKenzie River for quasi-municipal use. The Department issued a proposed final order on January 26, 2010, proposing to issue the permit with conditions. The Company and WaterWatch of Oregon filed protests on March 12, 2010.

A contested case hearing was held November 14-16, 2011. The Administrative Law Judge issued a proposed order recommending denial of the application on several grounds. The Company and WaterWatch both filed exceptions with the Department. On March 7, 2014, after consideration of the exceptions and the record, the Director issued a final order recommending denial of application S-87330. The Company and WaterWatch both filed exceptions on March 31, 2014. The Commission considered the exceptions and on May 29, 2014, affirmed the Department's final order.

The Willamette Water Company subsequently petitioned for review of the Commission's final order in the Court of Appeals. Reply briefs have been filed. The Court of Appeals held oral argument on November 22, 2016. The Court has not issued its ruling at this time.

Larry J. Sees and Joan A. Sees, Garret J. Duncan and Cameron M. Duncan, and Stanley S. Stonier and Dolores E. Stonier v. Oregon Water Resources Department and Water Resources Commission, Marion County Circuit Court Consolidated Case Nos. 15CV18272, 15CV19347, 15CV23126, 16CV24087 and 16CV24120, Judge Channing J. Bennett, – Petitions for Judicial Review of Final Orders

These cases involve petitions for judicial review of final orders issued to regulate junior groundwater users in response to a call by a senior user in the Klamath Basin in 2015 and notices spanning a two-year period. Each petition resulted in different court case numbers. All of these cases are similar and have been consolidated into case No. 15CV18272.

The Department, working with the Attorney General's Office, presented testimony on the consolidated case during the Marion County Circuit Court trial which began on March 13, 2017. The Court heard this matter over a six day period. The Court issued an Opinion Letter on July 10, 2017. The Court found that the State followed the process required by the rules and relied on the best information available at the time and the State's findings of hydraulic connection and its stream relief calculations are supported by substantial evidence. Accordingly, the Court affirmed the Departments orders.

Counsel for the Sees has filed objections to the Courts findings. A hearing is scheduled for August 22, 2017 to hear the objections.

TPC, LLC and Dayton O. Hyde and Gerda V. Hyde v. Oregon Water Resources Department and Tyler Martin: Marion County Circuit Court Case No.16CV27427, Thomas M. Hart – Petition for Judicial Review of a Final Order

In 2016, the watermaster received a call for distribution of water from the Klamath Tribes. The call involved the Tribes time immemorial instream rights in the upper Williamson River basin along with the marsh elevation right on the Klamath Marsh. After validating the call for water, the watermaster sent regulation notices to water users junior to the time immemorial rights. The Department is working with the Attorney General's Office on this case.

Various motions have been filed. In one filing, the Klamath Tribes argued that the case should be dismissed since they are a necessary and indispensable party to this court case. The Court subsequently denied the Tribes' motion to dismiss.

Klamath Tribes have filed a Mandamus Proceeding with the Oregon Supreme Court asking that the Court compel the Marion County Circuit Court to dismiss the TPC and Hyde Family's petition for judicial review (Case No. 16CV27427). The Tribes are arguing that they are a necessary and indispensable party who are not named in the case.

The Oregon Supreme Court denied the petition for writ of mandamus on June 1, 2017.

Marion County Circuit Court has scheduled the trial on case No. 16CV27427 to begin on March 5, 2018.

Thomas W. Mallams and Beverly Mallams v. Oregon Water Resources Department and Commission, Marion County Circuit Court Case No. 16CV23679, Judge Audrey J. Broyles – Petition for Judicial Review of a Final Order

Regulation notices were sent to water users in the Sprague River system in July 2016, in response to a call for the Klamath Tribes' time immemorial instream water right. Mallams filed a Petition for Judicial Review of the regulation order in Marion County Circuit Court. There has been little activity relating to this case pending a ruling on the Sees, Stonier case which is also in Marion County Circuit Court. A status check hearing is scheduled for September 12, 2017.

WaterWatch v Oregon Water Resources Department, Marion County Circuit Court Case No.16CV11938, Judge Audrey J. Broyles – Petition for Judicial Review and Petition to Compel Agency Action

This case involves a petition for judicial review of an Order approving the instream lease of a hydroelectric right. WaterWatch is also asking the Court to require that the right be converted to an instream water right. A hearing on motions was held on April 11, 2017. The Court issued an order dismissing the case on May 18, 2017.

WaterWatch filed a notice of appeal with the Oregon Court of Appeals on June 14, 2017.

Harrington v Oregon Water Resources Department and others, US Federal District Court, Case 1:16-CV-00200-CL, Judge Michael J. McShane

This issue began several years ago. It involves the illegal storage of water and the subsequent notching of the dams by the State. This is the second filing in US Federal District Court.

The court adopted the findings and recommendations of Magistrate Judge Clark. The recommendations included the following: Motions to dismiss presented by state and federal defendants should be granted; and, Mr. Harrington should be given an opportunity to amend and refile his Complaint as it pertains to those Oregon state defendants entitled to qualified immunity. The court allowed until January 1, 2017 for Mr. Harrington to file an amended complaint. Harrington filed a motion for an extension of time until February 1, 2017. The State filed a motion requesting dismissal. Harrington filed a motion to deny the State's motion to dismiss; State replied in support of motion to dismiss. The court dismissed this appeal because it was filed from a non-appealable order on June 7, 2017. Judgment has been entered.

ELH, LLC v Oregon Water Resources Department, Umatilla County Circuit Court, Case 16CV20883, Judge Michael J. Gillespie

This case involves the management and delivery of water within Westland Irrigation District. The complaint is requesting a preliminary and permanent injunction requiring the Department to regulate the distribution of water in the district.

A Jury trial has been set for September 18-22, 2017.

Tumalo Irrigation District v. Oregon Water Resources Department, Deschutes County Circuit Court, Case No.16CV01703

In a second petition for judicial review, Tumalo Irrigation District challenged the Department's order on reconsideration, which affirmed the violation of unauthorized storage of water in two ponds within the District and cancelled a limited license. The petition was filed in Deschutes County Circuit Court.

The parties have been meeting in search of settlement. Agreement has not been reached to date.

The case has not been scheduled for hearing.

Dan and Nina Micke v Oregon Water Resources Department and Commission, Marion County Circuit Court Case, Judge Tracy A. Prall, Case No. 16CV17876

Dan and Nina Micke were issued a regulation notice to release waters stored in two reservoirs in the course of water distribution to satisfy the call of a senior water right holder. The Micke's filed a petition for judicial review. Various motions were filed by both the Petitioner and the State. The court entered a Judgment of General Dismissal on March 17, 2017.

The petitioners have filed a notice of appeal with the Oregon Court of Appeals.

New Klamath Filings in 2017

The following Petitions for Judicial Review of water use regulation Orders have been filed in Marion County Circuit Court. All of these involve the regulation of water in Klamath County.

NBCC, LLC; AGRI WATER, LLC; ROGER NICHOLSON; NICHOLSON INVESTMENTS, LLC; MARYNICHOLSON, as trustee of the Nicholson Loving Trust; MARTIN NICHOLSON; GOOSE NEST RANCHES, LLC; RANDALL KIZER; FORT KLAMATH LAND COMPANY, LLC; RASCAL RANCH, LLC; GERALD H. HAWKINS, as a trustee of the CN Hawkins Trust and Gerald H. Hawkins and Carol H. Hawkins Trust; JOHN B. OWENS, as a trustee of the John and Candace Owens Family Trust; HARLOWE RANCH, LLC; JACOX RANCH, LLC; and E. MARTIN KERNS, Petitioners, v. OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, and TYLER MARTIN, Case No. 17CV21859

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case was filed on May 26, 2017 for the Wood River and/or its tributaries Fort Creek, Annie Creek, and Sun Creek for the purpose of irrigation and stock watering. An amended petition for judicial review was filed on June 20, 2017 to include the final orders.

STEVE M. MOSBY, as Trustee of the MOSBY FAMILY TRUST, v. OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, and TYLER MARTIN, Case No. 17CV22113

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case was filed on May 30, 2017 for use of water from Sand Creek for irrigation and livestock watering, and from a well located in proximity to Sand Creek. A status hearing was held on July 24, 2017. A notice of intent to dismiss was filed by Marion County Circuit Court on July 28, 2017.

THOMAS W. MALLAMS AND BEVERLY MALLAMS, v. WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT of the State of Oregon and WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION of the State of Oregon, Case No. 17CV26590

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case was filed on June 23, 2017 for use of water from a well for irrigation purposes. On August 1, 2017, Marion County Circuit Court granted an order to consolidate 16CV23679 and 17CV26590.

STANLEY S. STONIER AND DOLORES E. STONIER, v. WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT of the State of Oregon and WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION of the State of Oregon, Case No. 17CV26659

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case was filed on June 26, 2017 for use of water from two wells.

LARRY J. SEES, JOANA A. SEES, GARRETT J. DUNCAN, and CAMERON M. DUNCAN, v. WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT of the State of Oregon and WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION of the State of Oregon, Case No. 17CV26774

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case was filed on June 26, 2017 for use of water from three wells for the use of irrigation.

TPC, LLC, an Oregon Limited Liability Company, and Dayton O. Hyde and Gerda V. Hyde, as General Partners of the Hyde Family Limited Partnership, Petitioners, v. OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, and TYLER MARTIN, Case No. 17CV26962

A petition for judicial review of final orders in other than contested case was filed on June 23, 2017 for use of water from the Williamson River for irrigation and livestock watering. An amended petition for judicial review was filed on July 21, 2017 to include the final orders.

Of the six petitions received in 2017 to-date, four of the filings are the same or similar to filings made in previous years. NBCC, et al and Steve Mosby are new filings this year. The Department is working with the Oregon Attorney General's office to respond to all of these filings.

IV. Commission/Board Schedules for 2017

<i>Commission/Board</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>
Board of Forestry	Salem	September 6
Land Conservation and Development Commission	LaGrande	September 21-22
Parks and Recreation Commission	Ontario/Baker City	September 19-20
Fish and Wildlife Commission	Welches	September 14-15
State Land Board	Salem	October 10
Environmental Quality Commission	Bend	September 13-14
Watershed Enhancement Board	Lebanon	October 24-25
Board of Agriculture	Klamath Falls	September 19-21

Attachments:

1. Oregon Water Conditions Report
2. Rulemaking Calendar

Oregon Water Conditions Report August 9, 2017



The drought status for Oregon has been updated to reflect an even broader area of drier than normal conditions. Due to continuing hot and dry conditions the [US Drought Monitor](#) now indicates that over 45 percent of Oregon is categorized as “abnormally dry”. This areal coverage has increased recently and may intensify between now and the end of the water year (September 30).

Statewide mountain precipitation for the water year remains well above normal. As of August 8, precipitation for the water year (based upon SNOTEL data) is at 124 percent. However, in the past 50 (+) days precipitation has been well below normal. This lack of precipitation, combined with sustained above average temperatures, is very likely to have contributed to an increase in water demand as well as a reduction in streamflow in some areas of the state.

With the exception of the northwest corner of the state, most of Oregon was much warmer than normal for the month of July. Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting a range of temperature probabilities from above normal in southwestern Oregon, to normal in the central part of the state, and below normal temperatures in the northeast corner. The precipitation outlook is for normal precipitation probability across the state.

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center’s most recent [three month outlook](#) continues to indicate a high likelihood of above normal temperatures. An increased chance of below normal precipitation is likely in the northwest corner of the state. For the rest of Oregon there is an equal chance of above or below normal precipitation between now and October. The next outlook will be issued on August 17, 2017.

El Niño Southern Oscillation conditions are projected to remain neutral through fall of 2017. Sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific are slightly warmer than normal, but atmospheric conditions are not reflective of El Niño. Unfortunately these “neutral” conditions do not provide much certainty about the upcoming fall and winter outlooks for the Pacific Northwest. By comparison, 2013-2014 were ENSO neutral years. The situation continues to be monitored and any changes will be made to the status by the Climate Prediction Center.

Statewide streamflows for the month of July were 87 percent of normal for this time of year. Regionally during the month of July, streamflow conditions east of the Cascades were at 84 percent and 92 percent of normal on the west side. Statewide, this is the first month that stream flows have been below normal since last January.

Continued hot and dry conditions have impacted water supplies and consequently, as of late last week, streamflows are trending downward at 84 percent of normal. Of note, flows in the Malheur Lake, Umatilla, John Day, and Malheur Basins are less than 60 percent of normal. Short term weather outlooks indicate that this downward trend is likely to continue.

Most of the state’s water supply reservoirs are at normal to above normal levels for this time of year. [Willamette](#) and [Rogue](#) project reservoirs remain on track this summer. [Hills Creek Reservoir](#) in the Willamette Basin is being held to lower than normal levels for maintenance projects. Minimum streamflow targets are projected to be met for the rest of the season. [Central Oregon](#) reservoirs are between 50 and 90 percent of capacity. [Eastern Oregon](#) reservoirs are between 50 and 80 percent of capacity. All are now releasing stored water for the summer supply season. While this is good news for entities that have access to storage releases, individuals that rely on live streamflows may see late season shortages in some areas of the state. For the most recent near real-time, site-specific reservoir conditions (teacup diagrams) visit the [USBR](#) or [USACE](#) websites.

All Oregon Department of Forestry fire protection districts are now in fire season. Fire potential is listed as “extreme” in large areas of the state. The ODF Significant Fire Potential [map](#) of Oregon provides the latest detail. For the most recent information and updates on developing wildfire conditions, refer to the [ODF Wildfire Blog](#).

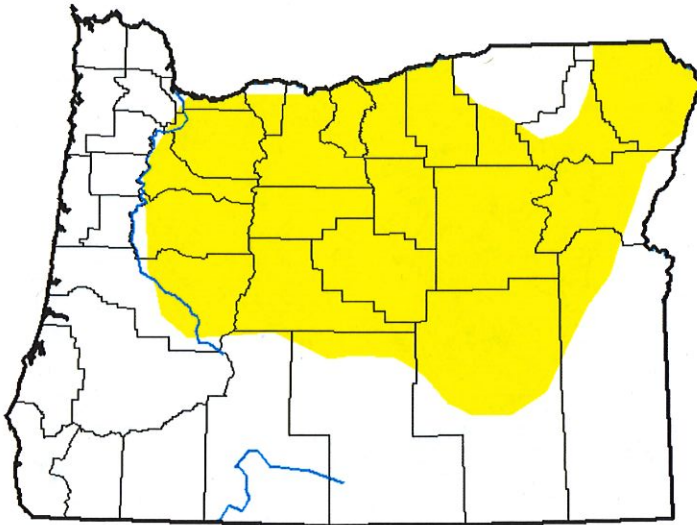
Data & Products:	Page:
U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon (August 1, 2017)	3
Precipitation (mountain) - Percent of Normal.....	4
Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal	5
Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal.....	6
Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook.....	7
Soil Moisture - Percentile.....	8
ODF Significant Fire Potential Map	9
Regional Streamflow Conditions - July	9
Streamflow Example – North Central Oregon (Umatilla)	10
Streamflow Example – Eastern Oregon (Powder)	10
Streamflow Example – Western Oregon (Willamette)	11
Regional Reservoir Storage Conditions - July	11

U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon (August 1, 2017)

Website: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR>

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

August 1, 2017
(Released Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	54.52	45.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 07-25-2017	66.40	33.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-02-2017	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	65.31	34.69	5.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	0.00	100.00	50.59	12.30	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-02-2016	0.00	100.00	49.75	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center

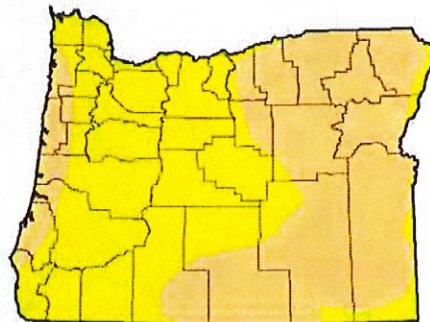


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Compared to this time last year:

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

August 2, 2016
(Released Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	49.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 07-26-2016	0.00	100.00	49.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-29-2016	34.27	65.73	26.12	1.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2016	18.52	81.48	61.45	6.33	0.55	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-28-2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	87.29	0.00
One Year Ago 08-03-2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	83.31	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

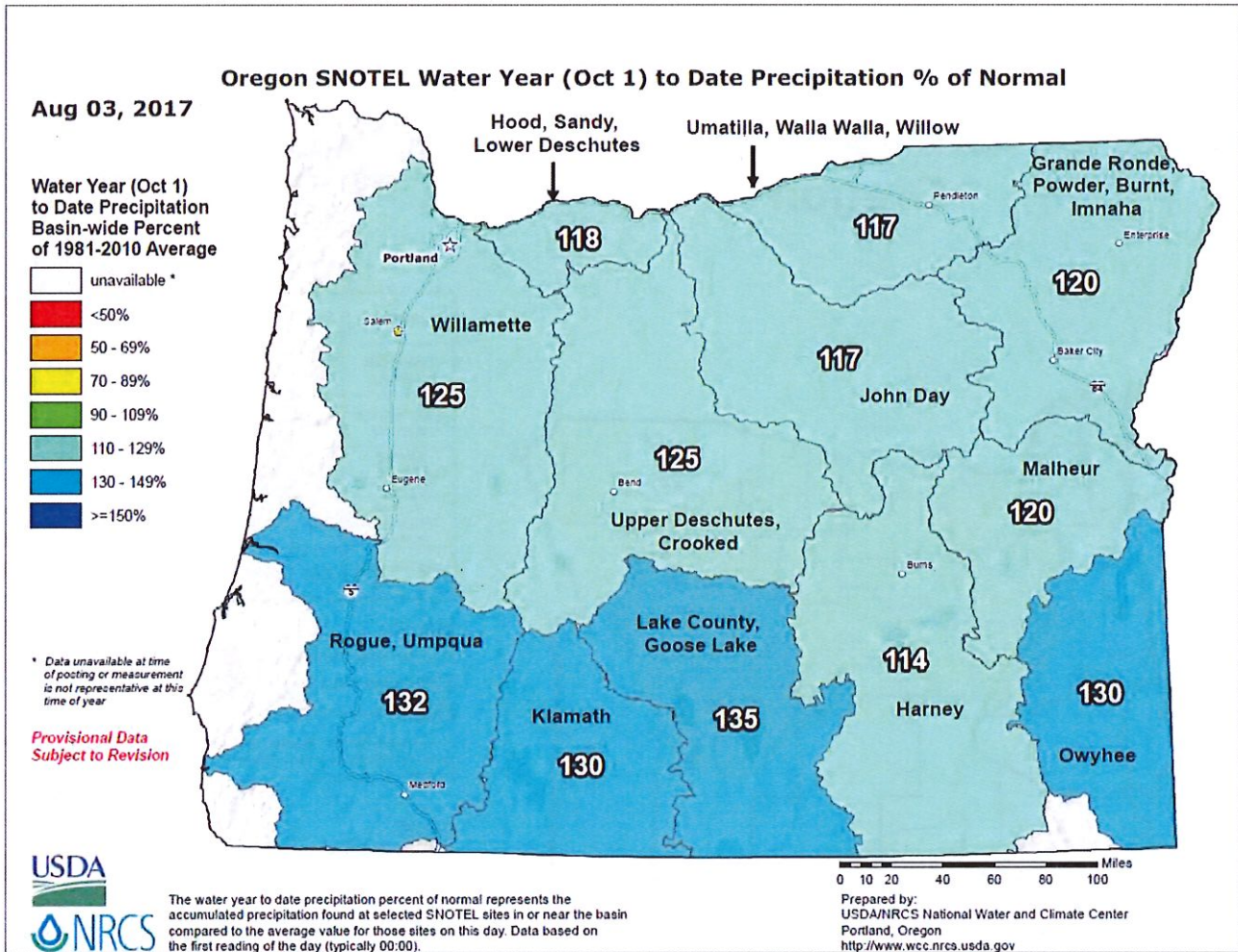
Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

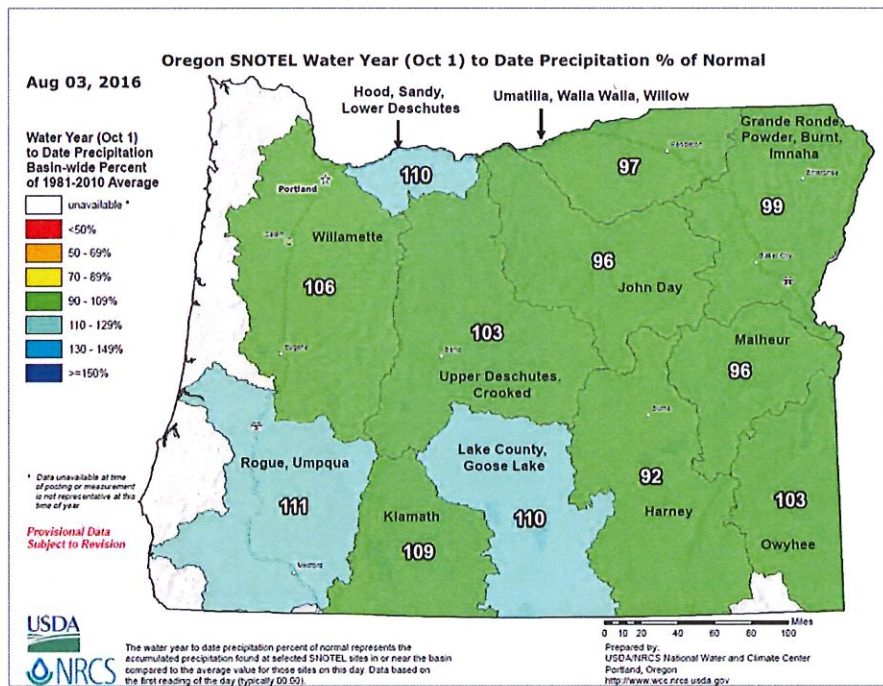


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Precipitation (mountain) - Percent of Normal



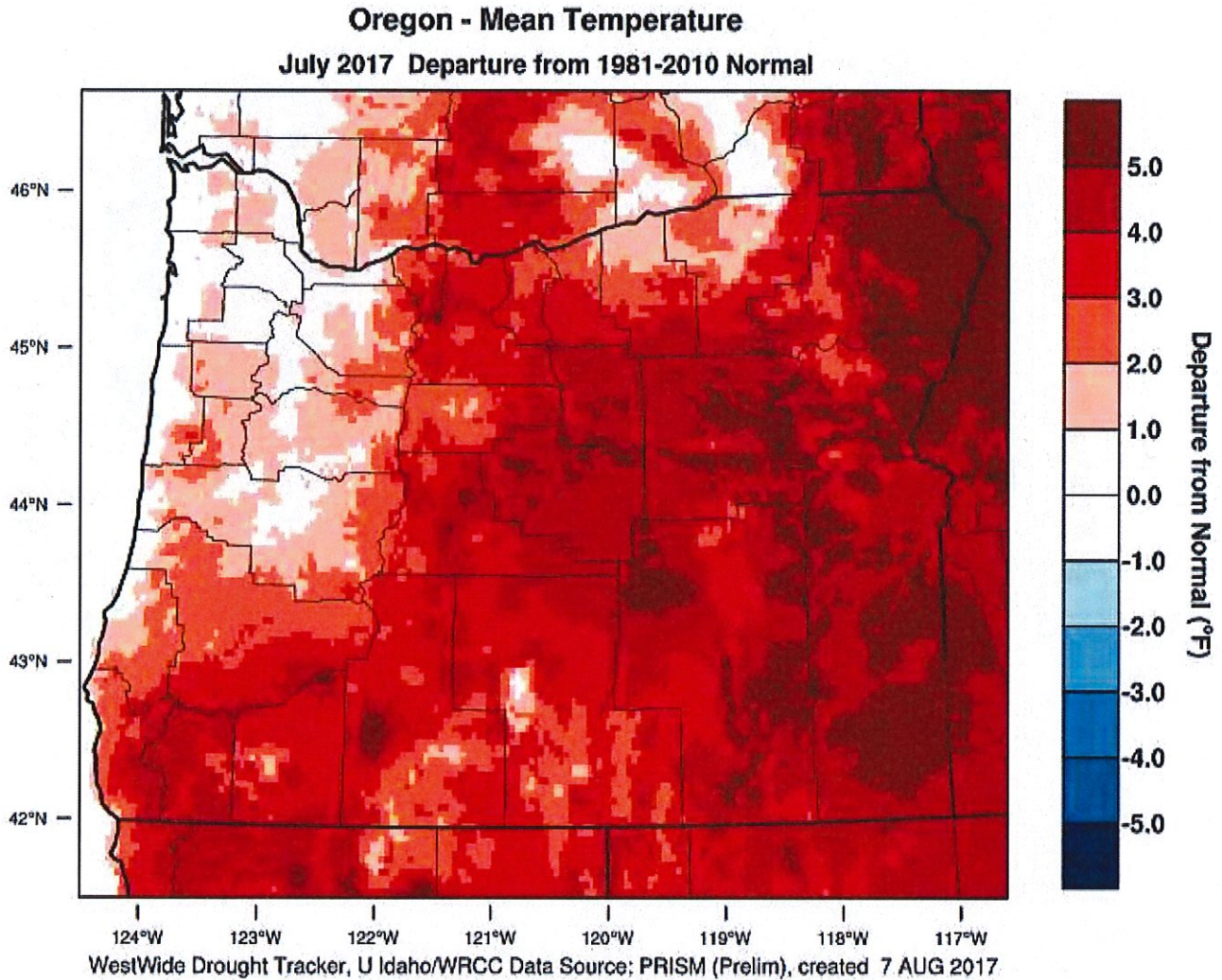
Compared to this time last year -



Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

Website: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=mdn1>

PRISM > Temperature Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon

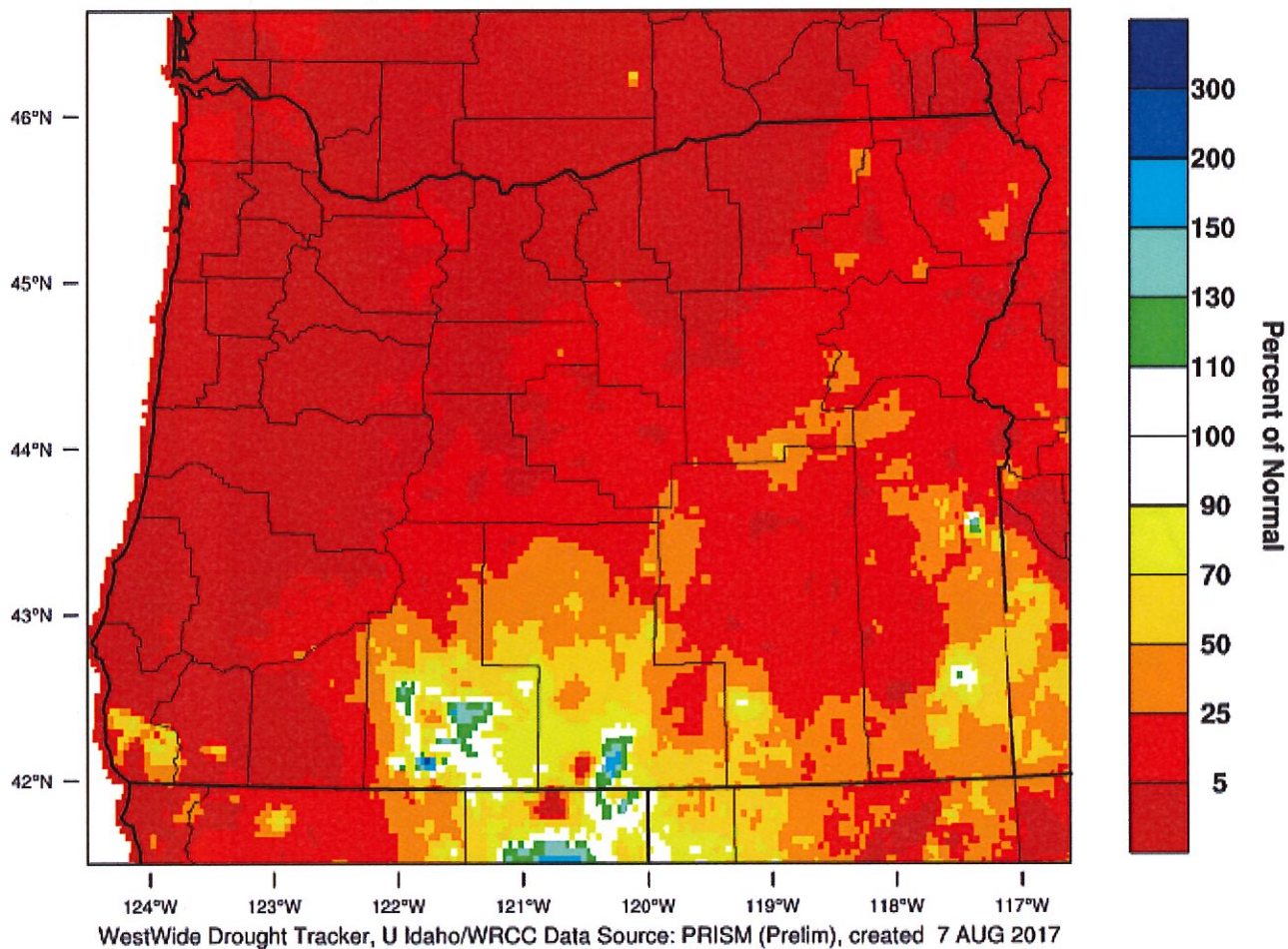


Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

Website: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=pon1>

PRISM > Precipitation Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon

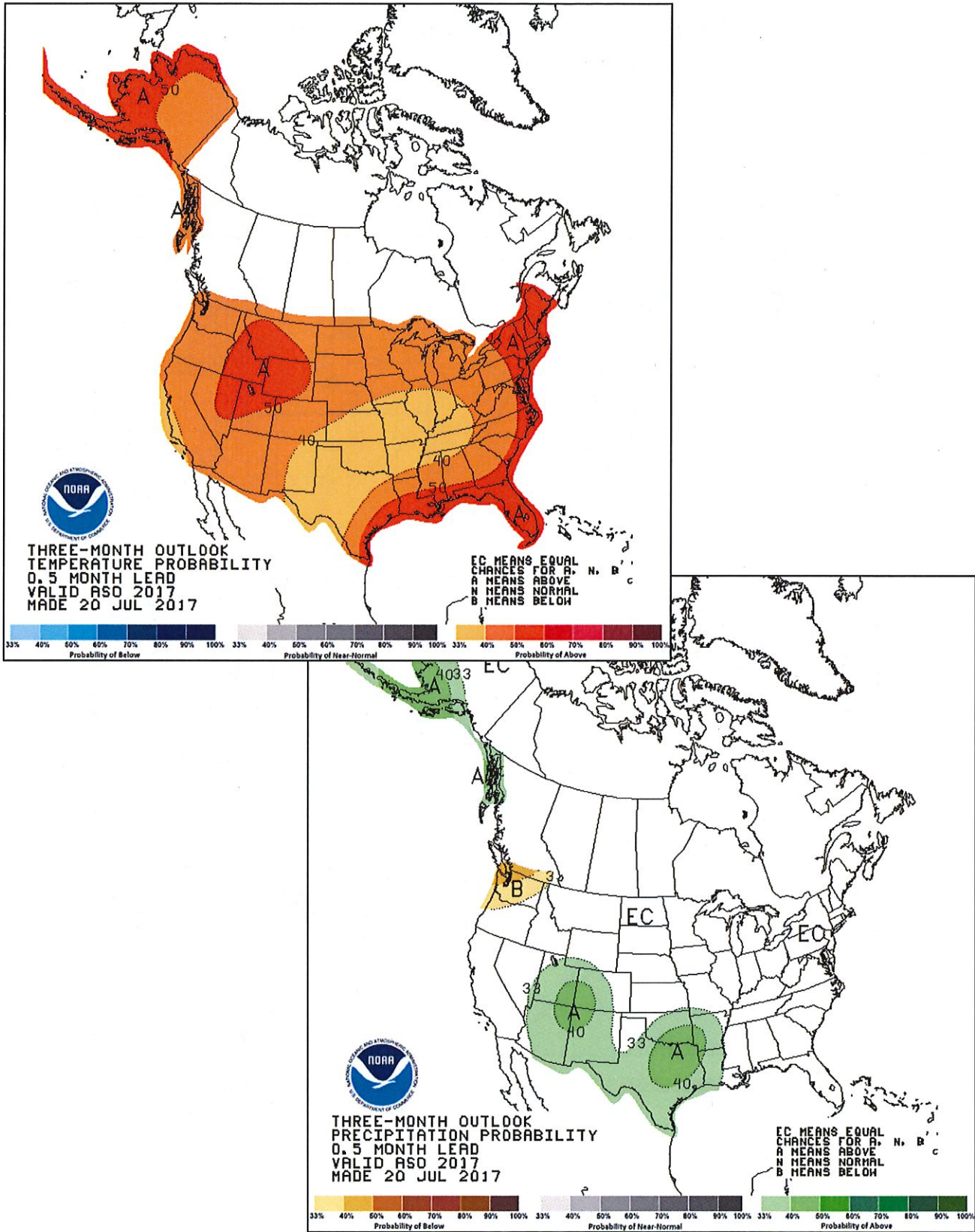
Oregon - Precipitation
July 2017 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

August-September-October – Follow link for the latest information.

Website: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1

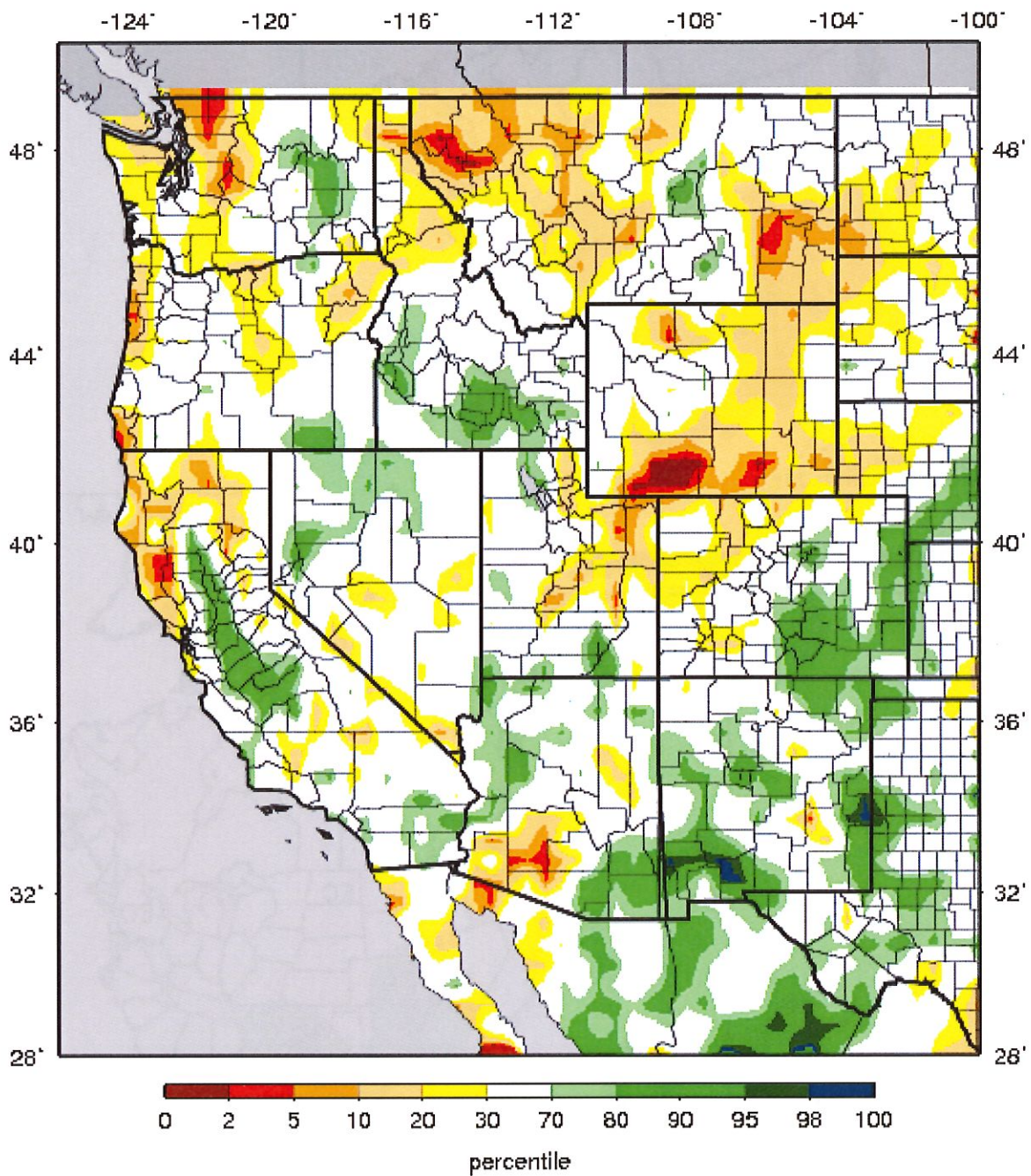


Soil Moisture - Percentile

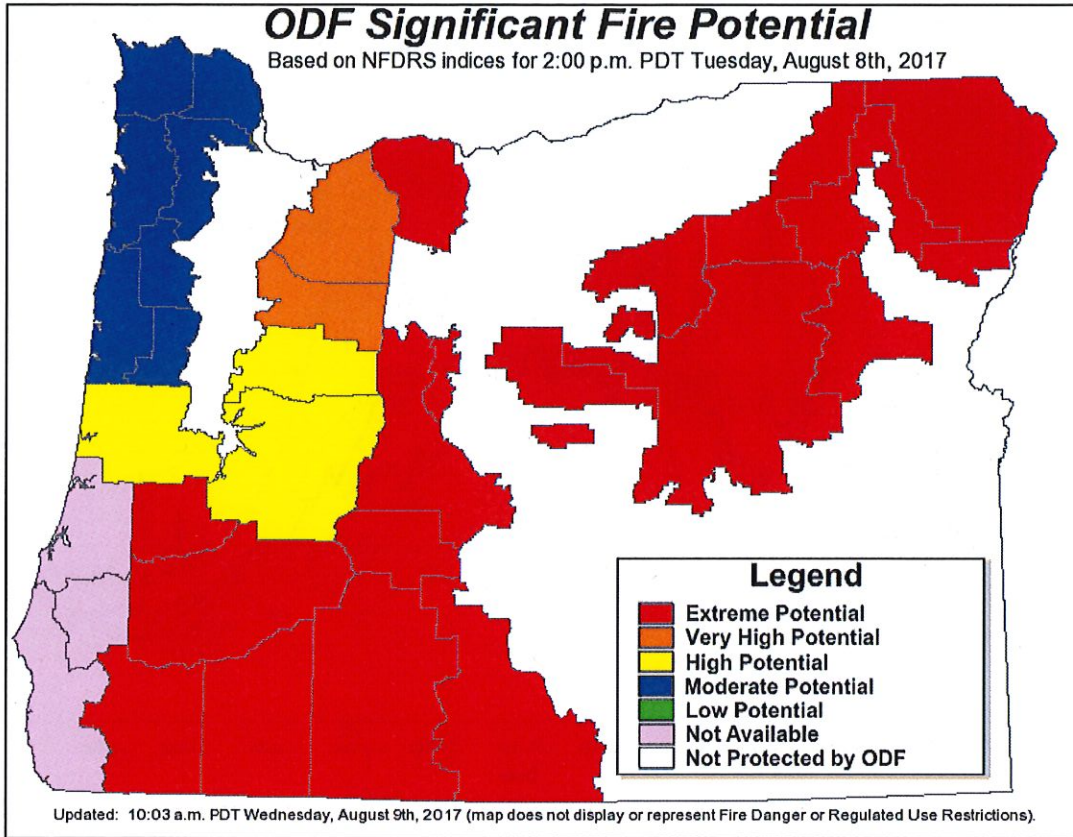
Website:

http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/conus.mexico/west.vic.sm_qnt.gif

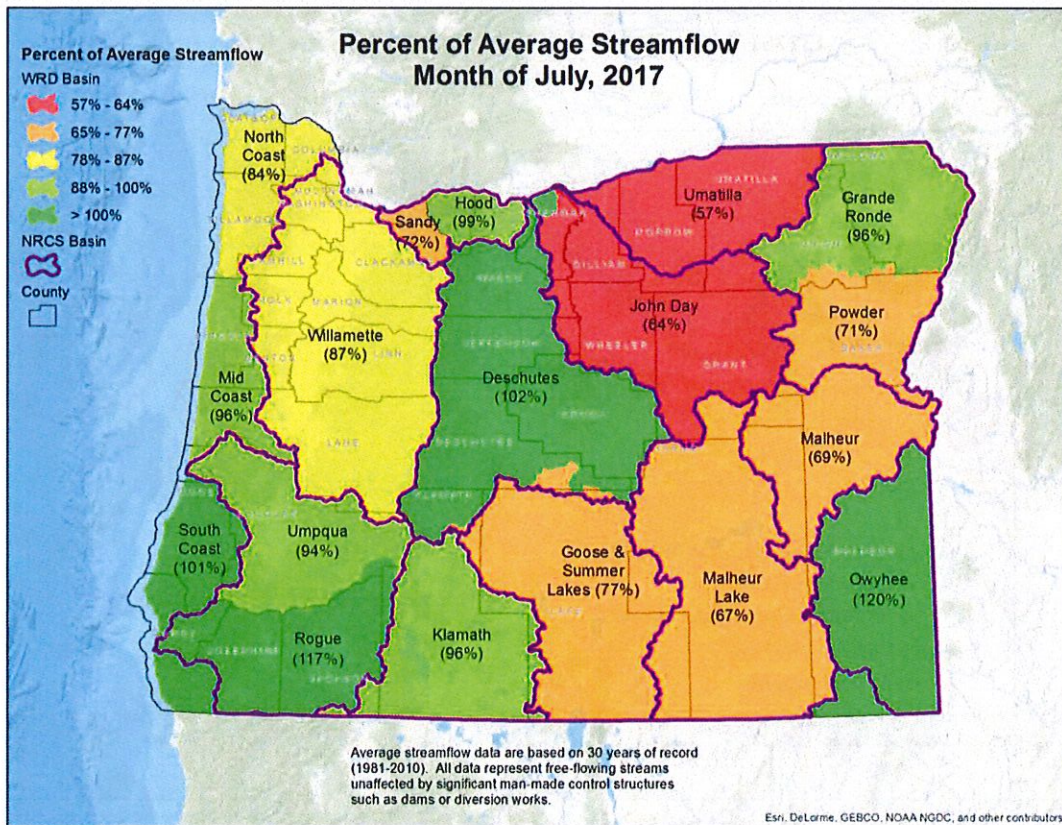
VIC Soil Moisture Percentiles (wrt/ 1916-2004)
Western United States - 20170806



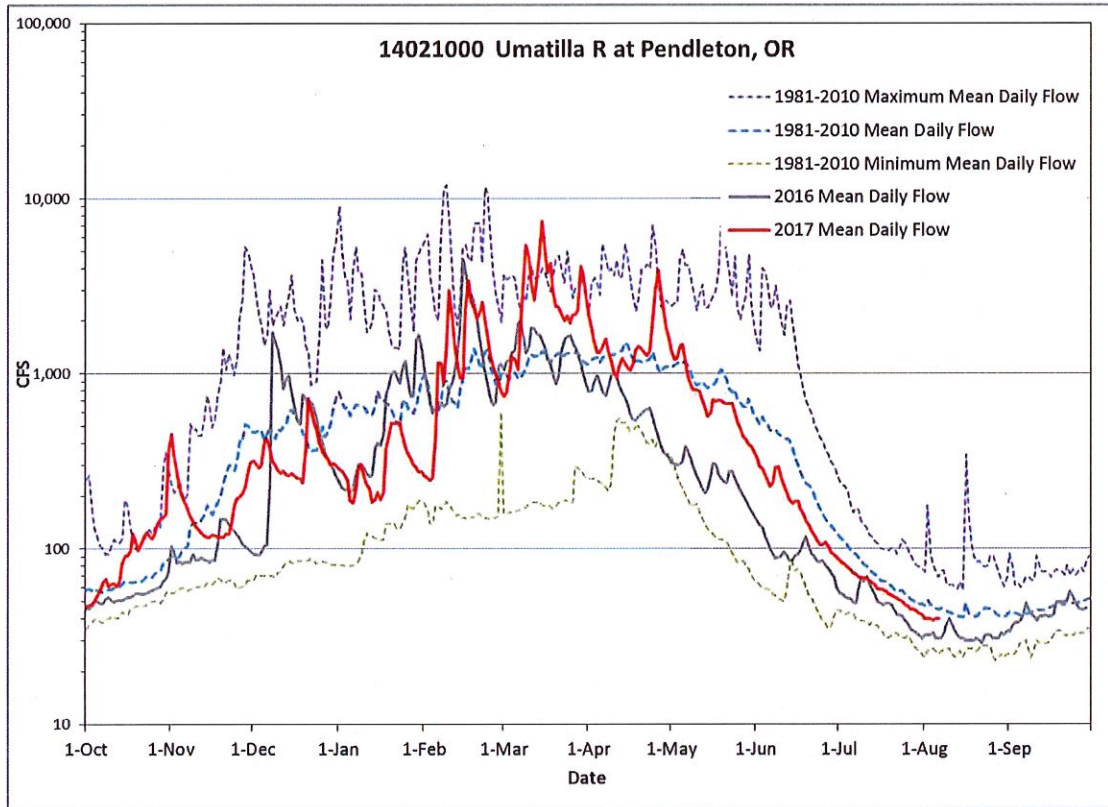
ODF Significant Fire Potential Map



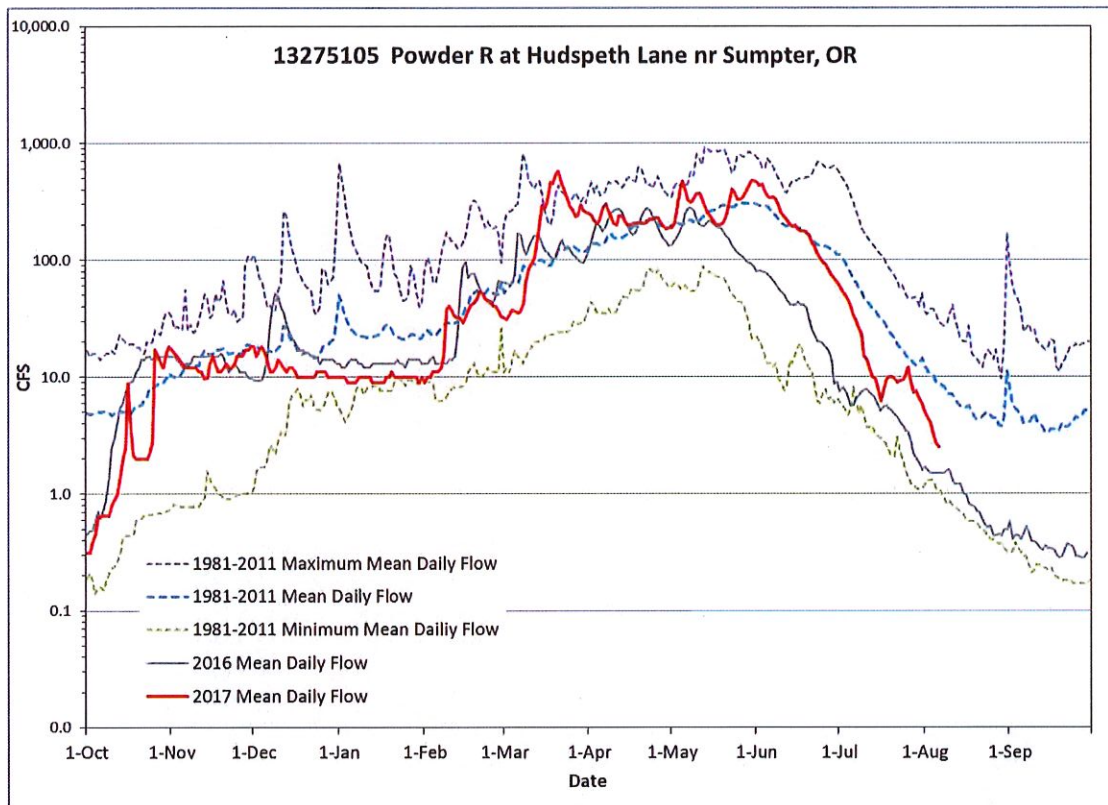
Regional Streamflow Conditions - July



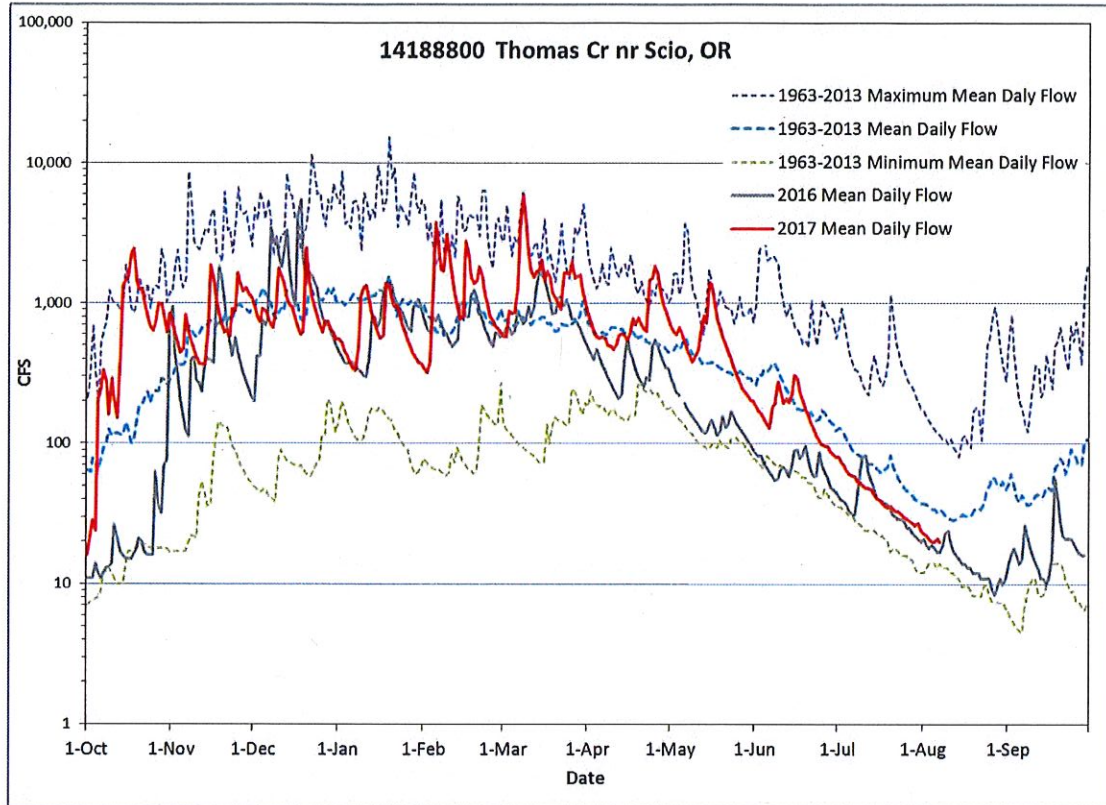
Streamflow Example – North Central Oregon (Umatilla)



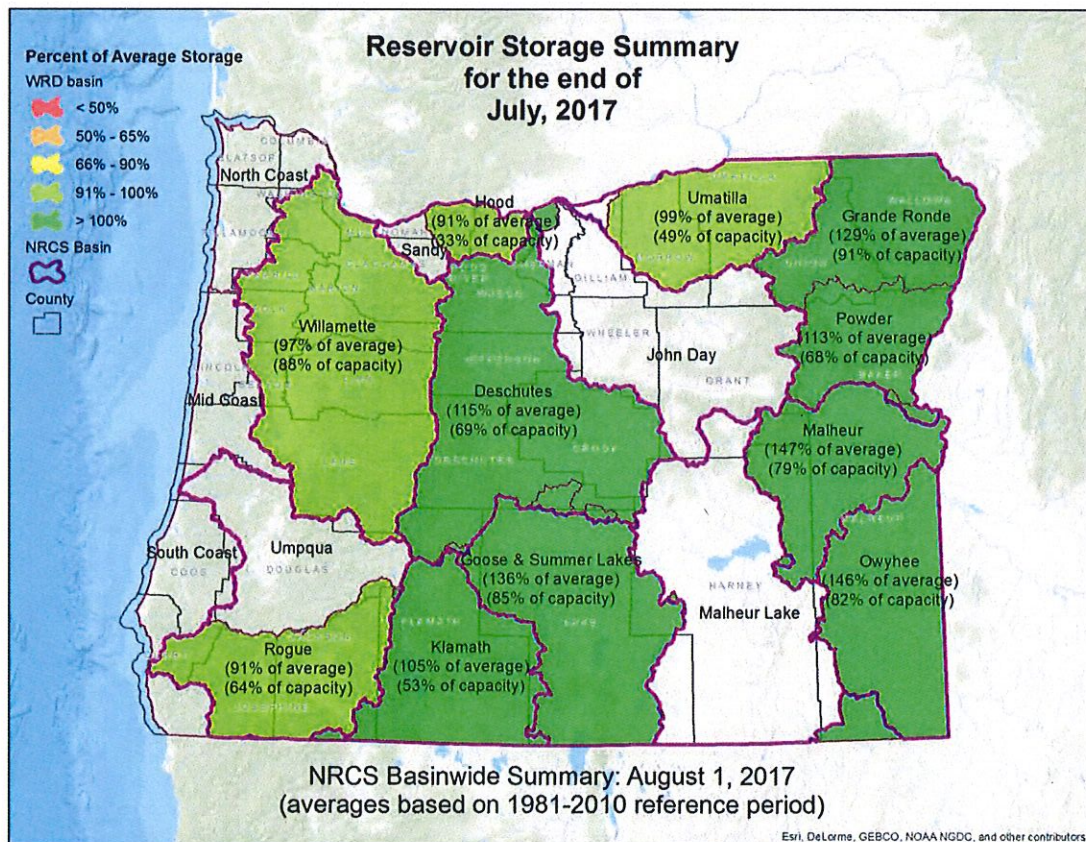
Streamflow Example – Eastern Oregon (Powder)



Streamflow Example – Western Oregon (Willamette)



Regional Reservoir Storage Conditions - July



Oregon Water Resources Department Current/Anticipated Rulemaking

Rule Division	Topic	Lead Staff	RAC Planned or Convened?	GWAC Input Expected?	Target WRC Date	Status
Division 517	South Coast Basin Program—Smith River classification	Racquel Rancier	Yes	No	2017	Comment Period Closed
Division 1	Update reference to AG’s current version of Model Rules	Machelle Bamberger	No	No	Nov 2017	Underway
Division 205 and 240	HB 2296-A	Kris Byrd	No	Yes	Jan 2018	Planning
Division 77 Instream Water Rights	Consistency with SB 199 (2013) – allowing lease applications to be processed more efficiently	Dwight French, Laura Wilke	Yes	No	2018	On Hold
Division 54 (New Rule Division)	Hydro conversion to instream	Mary Grainey	Yes	No	2018	1 st RAC Meeting Being Scheduled

Rule Division	Topic	Lead Staff	RAC Planned or Convened?	GWAC Input Expected?	Target WRC Date	Status
Division 86 Water Management and Conservation Plans	Option for smaller municipal water suppliers	Dwight French, Chris Kowitz	Yes	No	2018	1 st RAC Meeting Being Scheduled
Division 87 (New Rule Division)	Municipal Reclaimed Water	Dwight French, Kerri Cope	Yes	No	2018	1 st RAC Meeting Being Scheduled
*Division 300 Definition	Definition updates	Dwight French, Machel Bamberger	Yes	No	2018	Planning
*Division 310 Water Right Application Process	Conversion of Memos to rules and clarify opportunity for settlement discussion after a protest has been filed					
*Division 500 Basin Program Preamble	Minor updates					

- Division 300, 310, and 500 are planned to be done together.