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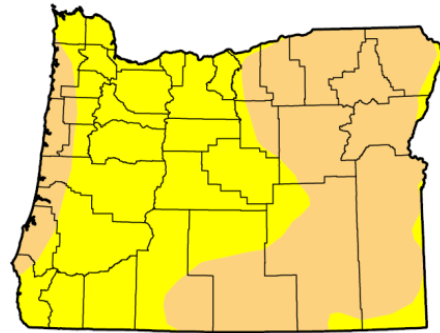
To: Drought Readiness Council
From: Water Supply Availability Committee
Date: August 11, 2016
Subject: Update on Water Supply Conditions

Oregon's Water Supply Availability Committee (WSAC) held its regular monthly meeting on August 9, 2016. Water supply conditions across the state improved since last month's meeting, due to cooler wetter conditions. These conditions helped streamflows and also reduced demand for water. However, outlook and supply forecasts show continuing warm and dry conditions in the coming months.

Some key highlights from the August 9 WSAC Meeting:

- **There was much variability in precipitation throughout the state during the month of July.** The southeast corner of the state was dry, with precipitation conditions average or above average for this time of the year in the rest of the state. Climate models are predicting a weak La Niña later in 2016, bringing potentially wetter conditions this winter to the Pacific Northwest.
- **Expect above average temperatures through September.** While temperatures were cooler in July, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center continues to predict increased odds of warmer than normal conditions for the rest of the summer and early fall.
- **While recognizing that there is wide variation throughout the state, streamflows are better overall in 2016 than in 2015.** Statewide average streamflows for July were at 63 percent of normal. This was better than 41 percent of normal seen last year at this time. Flows continued their downward trend throughout the summer, but in many locations leveled off towards the end of July, with cooler temperatures and a little precipitation. The Rogue, Umpqua and Mid Coast Basins, all above 80 percent of normal, are faring the best. The most stressed basins are the Umatilla, John Day, Goose and Summer Lake, and the Powder Basin. Refer to Attachment 1 for a statewide summary of streamflow in addition to hydrographs of the Nehalem, Umatilla, and Powder Rivers. See Attachment 2 for a bar graph displaying streamflow conditions in all of Oregon's basins. Attachment 3 is a map illustrating the same information.
- **Those with reservoir storage continue to do relatively well.** Reservoir storage levels were strong at the start of the irrigation season, as water managers were able to benefit from springtime run-off. Irrigation systems and rivers fed by reservoirs continue to be in better shape than those that are not. However, all reservoirs are now being drawn down, supplying irrigation and municipal water, as well as instream flows for fisheries. By the end of the summer, most reservoirs will be depleted, as they were in 2015. Federal agencies have begun meeting to design their reservoir operations for the fall.

- **The Drought Monitor shows 100 percent of the state abnormally dry.** As of August 11, the entire state is in the D0 category (abnormally dry). The Mid Coast and Eastern Oregon regions, representing approximately 50 percent of the state, are also listed in the D1 category (moderate drought). These are the same conditions as reported last month. See accompanying graphic. Soil moisture sensors are showing dry conditions within these areas.

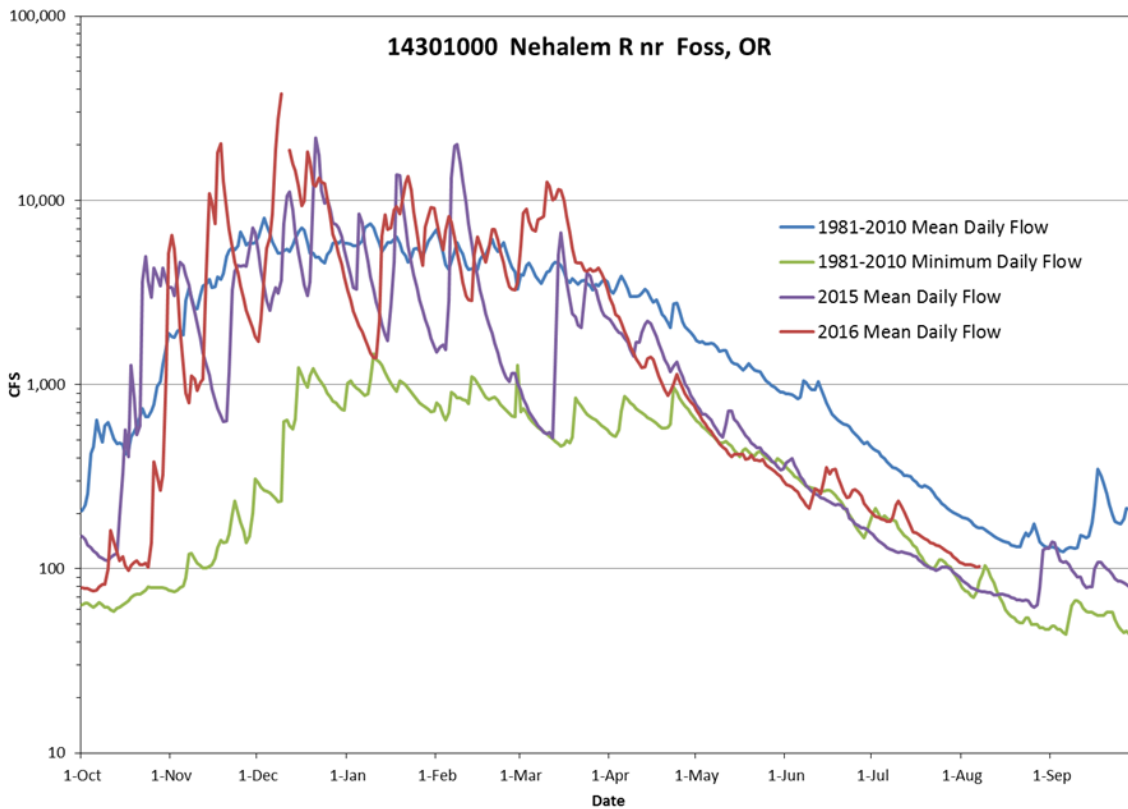
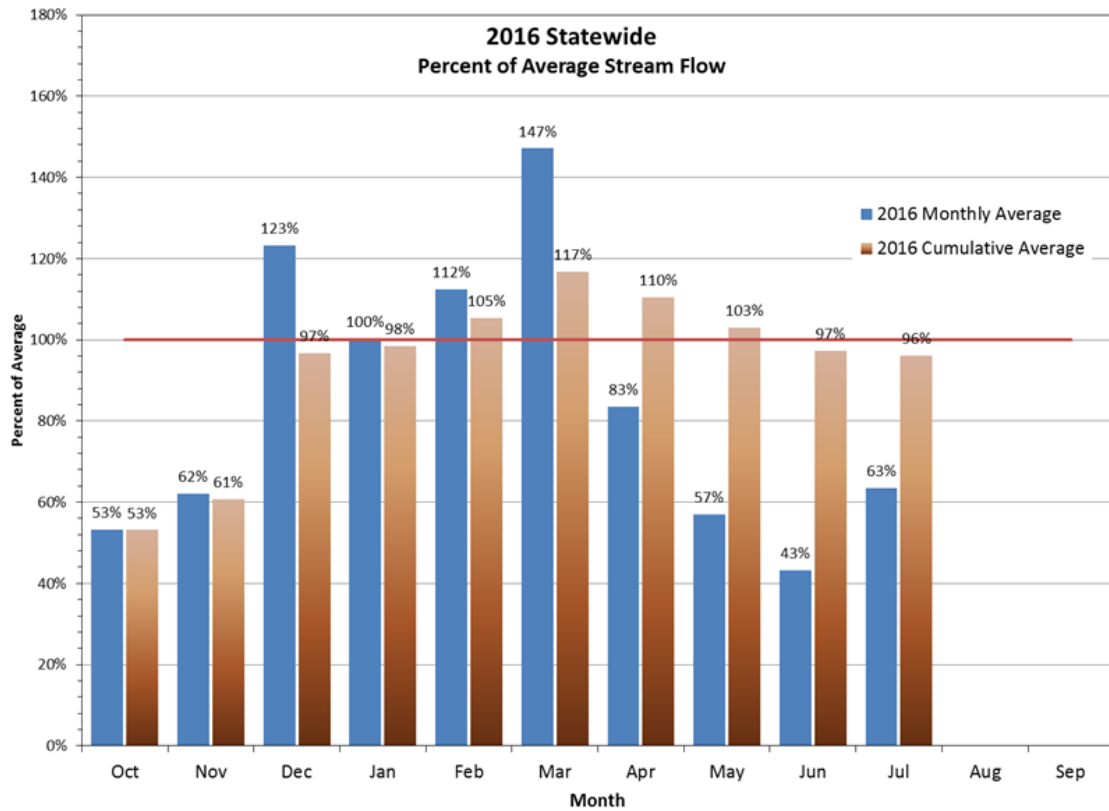


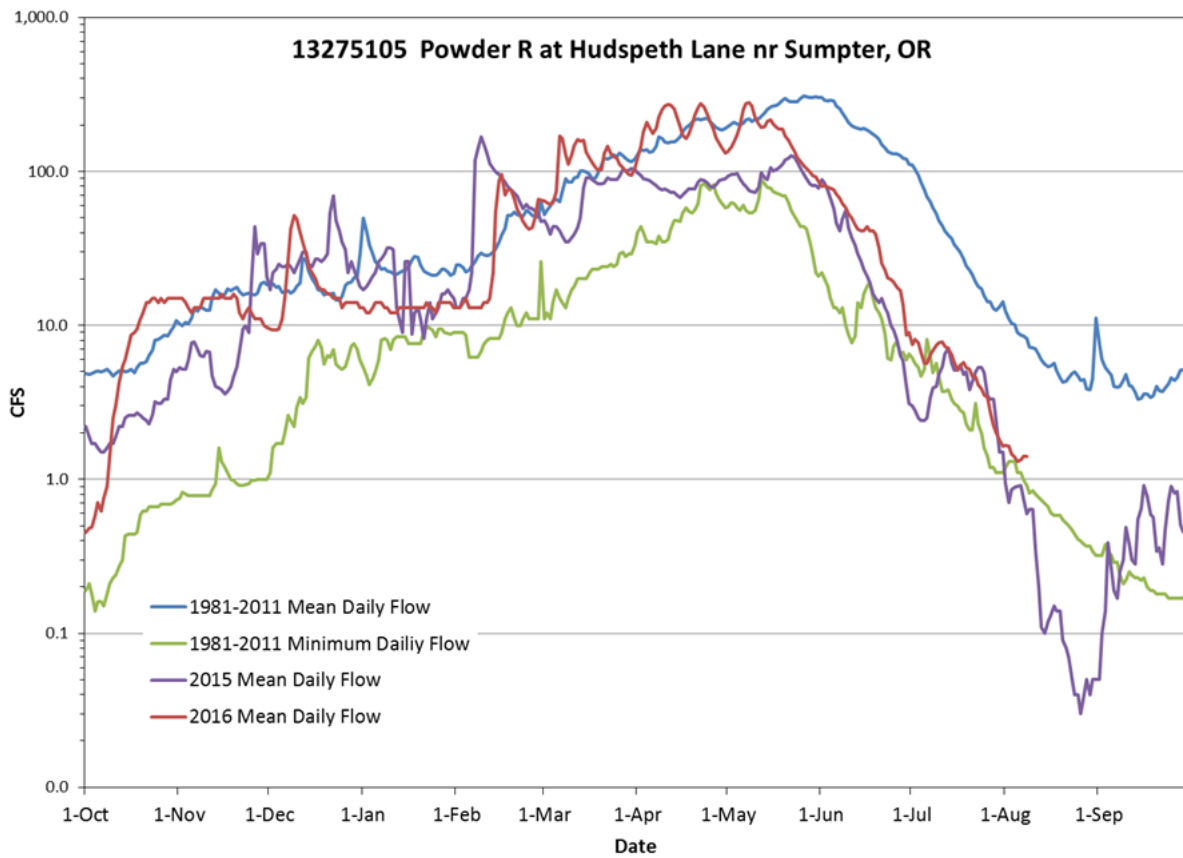
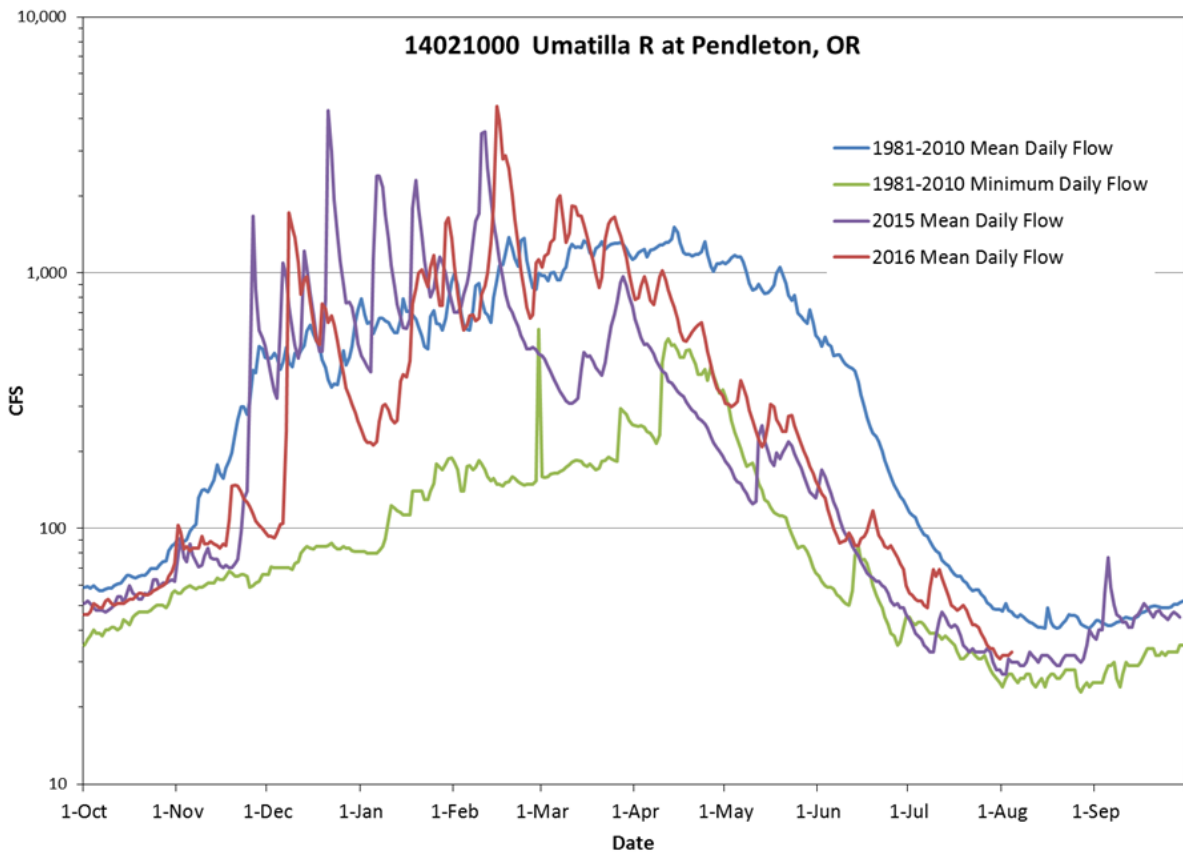
Intensity:

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

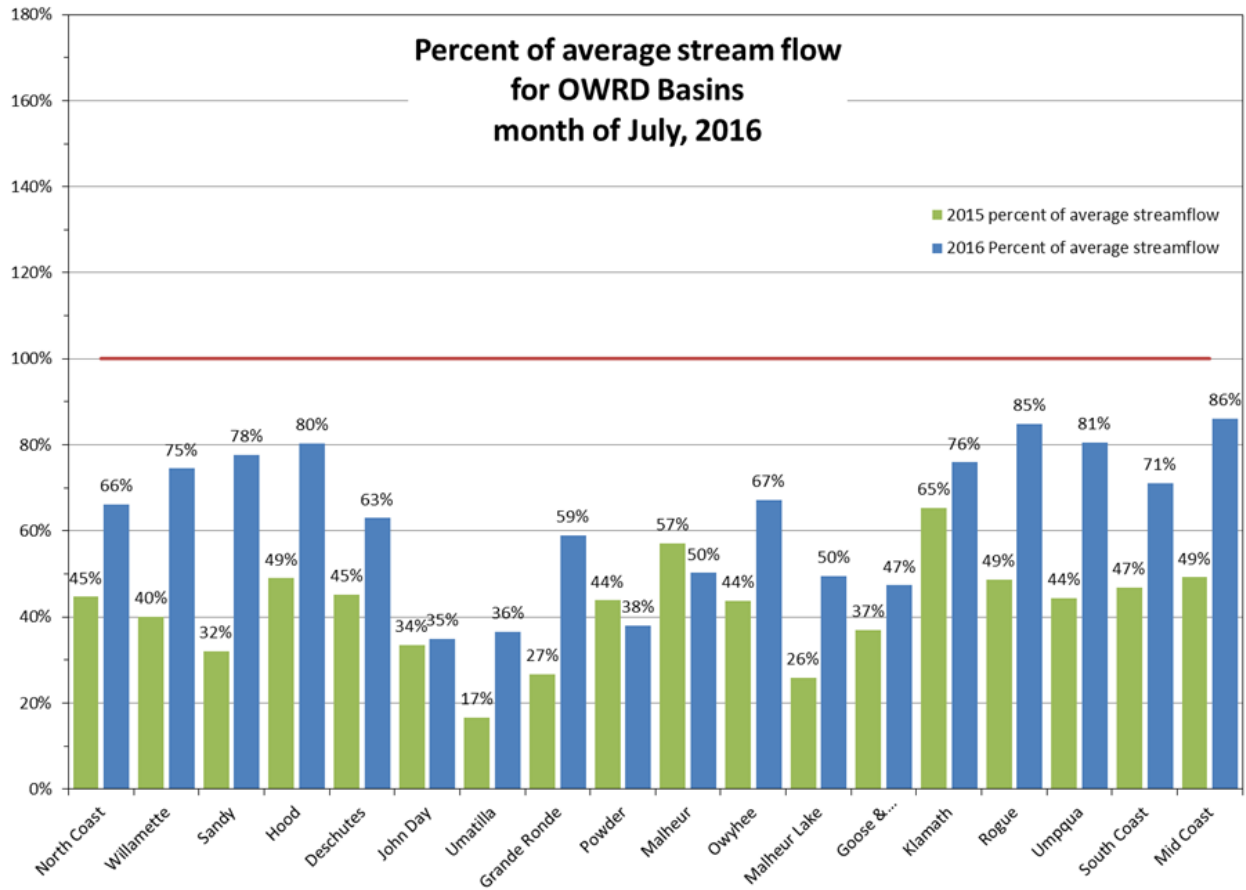
- **Fire potential is currently near to below normal for most of Oregon.** So far there has been a below-normal number of acres burned from wildfire in 2016. Recent rainfall and cooler temperatures have also temporarily improved the fire outlook. However, we can expect most areas to return to normal for the remainder of summer. The National Interagency Fire Center’s (NIFC) monthly outlook indicates mostly normal fire potential through August and September. Another monthly outlook will be released September 1, 2016.

Attachment 1: Streamflow Conditions

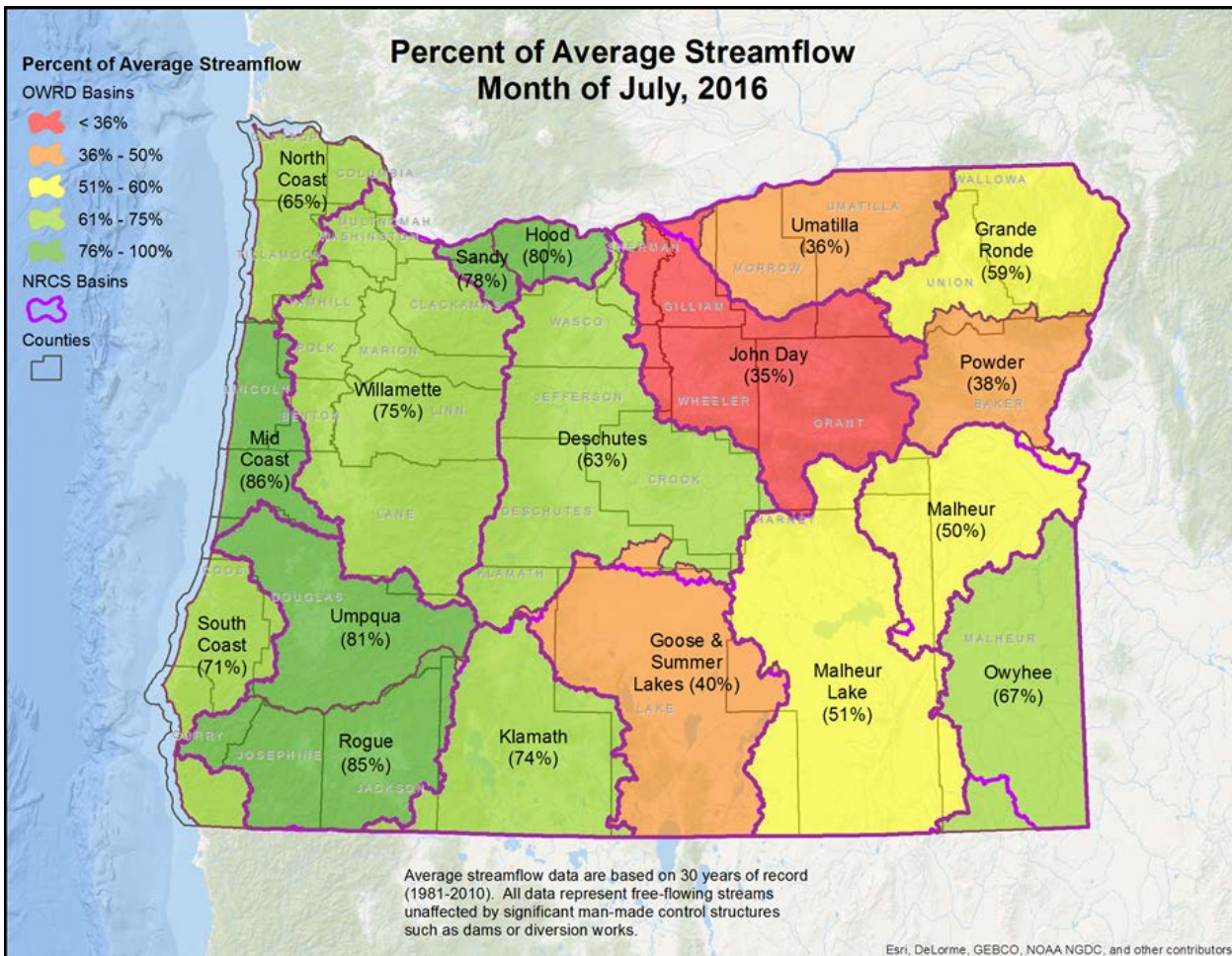




Attachment 2: Bar Graph — Percent of Average Streamflow



Attachment 3: Map — Percent of Average Streamflow



Compared to this time last month...

