

Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – August 8, 2017

Phone Conference - Meeting Notes

Attendees

Ken Stahr – OWRD (chair)

Scott Oviatt – NRCS Snow Survey

Andy Bryant – NWS

Marc Stewart – USGS

Nick Yonker – ODF

Mary Karen Scullion – USACE

Salina Hart – USACE

Presentations

Scott Oviatt - Mountain precipitation since October 1, 2016 is at 124 percent of average - Well above average from SNOTEL perspective. 52 days so far with little to no measureable precipitation plus warmer temperatures could change things.

Andy Bryant – The climate outlook has not changed since last month. Hot-dry conditions over the past month are beginning to impact some areas. Almost 50 percent of the state is abnormally dry on the US Drought Monitor. The short term climate outlook for mid-August is for a slight pattern change, may see some precipitation and cooler temperatures. The climate outlook for August - October is for below normal precipitation in the northwest corner of the state with above average temperatures statewide.

Marc Stewart and Ken Stahr - Last 14 days have seen below normal reading on stream gages especially in the Northwest part of the state. There has been a downward trend since the beginning of July. In July 2016 we were at 63 percent in July 2017 we are at 87 percent. They appear good but the downward trend is a cause for concern for the months to come. Streams without storage are registering low and those that benefit from storage releases are average to above average.

Mary Karen Scullion - The Westside USACE reservoir maintenance is progressing on Willamette – Good streamflows with the Willamette River at Albany at 7800 CFS, and 9400 CFS at Salem. Minimum flow targets still projected to be met. Maintenance work continues through the fall at Cougar and Blue River.

Nick Yonker - Fuel conditions for fire potential is growing as high temperatures dry out fuel. Fire activity has increased but is not as bad as in the past few years. There is still potential for a large fire. Smokey air in Willamette Valley is likely to improve by the end of the week.

Summary

Even with recent hot and dry weather, overall conditions indicate that there are no areas of the state that would warrant the declaration of drought at this time. However, these conditions are cause for concern and continued monitoring is imperative.