

## **Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – March 13, 2018**

Oregon Office of Emergency Management

In-House and Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

### **In-House Attendees**

Ken Stahr – OWRD (Chair)  
Scott Oviatt – NRCS  
Erik Rau – OEM  
Sonya Andron - OEM  
Daniel Stoelb – OEM  
Nick Yonker - ODF  
Kara Morris – OWRD

### **Phone Attendees**

Mark Stewart – USGS  
Mary Karen Scullion - USACE

## **Presentations – Monthly Conditions Update and Water Year Summary**

### **Scott Oviatt**

- Snowpack
  - Statewide SNOTEL snowpack is 63% of normal, an increase from 38% of normal in February. Snowpack was 236% of normal on November 20, 2017. This began to decrease with the warm temperatures over Thanksgiving weekend. Looking at the West, snowpack is close to normal in Washington and mostly above normal in Montana and Northern Wyoming but record lows in Nevada. Basin snowpack index – most basins have seen an uptick from the February snowfall but is already starting to melt off. Last year at this time, snow pack was 120-150% of normal across all basins.
- Mountain Precipitation
  - Statewide SNOTEL precipitation is 89% of normal. Precipitation was 86% of normal on November 20, 2017.
- Streamflow Forecast
  - April to September streamflow forecasts are generally below normal to well below normal statewide. Many forecast points in SC and SE Oregon are forecast to receive less than 50% of the normal median April to September streamflow volume. Forecasts haven't changed much since last meeting.

### **Ken Stahr**

- Streamflow
  - February state-wide streamflow decreased to 62% of average, with January streamflow at 90% of average.

- For the month of February, basins in southern Oregon were well below average (27-48%). The Powder and Grande Ronde were well above average with at 135% and 150%, respectively.
- WY 2018 streamflow at southern Oregon gages tracking well below long term average, some near or at record low levels. Without meaningful snowpack streamflow will likely continue below normal. Some gages in central and southern Oregon are below 2015 mean daily flow

### **Mark Stewart**

- Current Surface Water Conditions
  - Oregon Map of 28-day average streamflow shows much below normal to below normal conditions across much of southern Oregon.
  - Oregon Map of 7-day averages showed improved conditions in Western Oregon.
  - Most basins showed an uptick into the normal range except for the Lower Deschutes and Hood River basins

### **Mary Karen Scullion**

- Reservoir Conditions
  - Most reservoirs in the Willamette basin are unlikely to fill
  - Rogue basin reservoirs are 63% full

### **Kathie Dello**

- Weather and Temperature Outlook
  - Mean daily temperatures since the first of the year are mostly warmer except along the coast
  - Minimum daily temperatures are mostly warmer throughout the state
  - CPC shows March with below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation
  - Open discussion of climate products to use for drought monitoring

### **Nick Yonker**

- Fuel Conditions and Outlook
  - Fire season outlook likely to be normal to above normal. Will have a better idea in April-May.

### **Drought Monitor**

- Klamath basin drought declaration
  - DRC passed recommendation to Governor. The Governor was in Klamath Falls to sign the drought declaration.
- Douglas, Grant, and Baker counties are also discussing declaring a drought
- No D2 drought conditions contiguous to Oregon (ignoring snow drought)