

## **Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – April 10, 2018**

Oregon Office of Emergency Management

Meeting Notes: In-House and Phone Conference

### **In-House Attendees**

Ken Stahr – OWRD (Chair)  
Scott Oviatt – NRCS  
Erik Rau – OEM  
Daniel Stoelb – OEM

### **Phone Attendees**

Andy Bryant – NWS  
Mark Stewart – USGS  
Mary Karen Scullion – USACE  
Peter Cooper – USBR  
Kathie Dello – OCCRI  
Nick Yonker – ODF  
Jeff Marti - WA

## **Presentations – Water Supply Conditions Update and Topical Discussion**

### **Scott Oviatt**

- Snowpack
  - Statewide SNOTEL snowpack is 71% of normal, an increase from 63% in mid-March. Snowpack was 129% of normal on April 11, 2017. Recent weather events brought snowfall to upper elevations primarily in the northern regions of the state. Snowpack is still well below normal in the southern regions of the state. Where there is snowpack, the snow density is high which indicates an increased potential of melt-out with continued warm temperatures.
  - Looking at the Western US, snowpack is close to normal in Washington and mostly above normal in Montana and northern Wyoming but record lows in Nevada, and the remainder of the desert southwest and great basin region. Basin snowpack index – most basins have seen an uptick in March, with a decrease in early April.
- Mountain Precipitation
  - Statewide SNOTEL precipitation is 92% of normal, up from 89% in mid-March. Precipitation was 131% of normal on April 11, 2017.
- Streamflow Forecast
  - Streamflow forecasts are generally below normal to well below normal in the southern 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the state with recent weather (snowpack) buoying forecasts in the northern parts of the state. 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 have improved in the north and inland valley areas since our last meeting.

### **Andy Bryant**

- Precipitation

- Precip since the beginning of the water year has been lower than normal with the exception of north central and northeastern Oregon, where precip has been slightly above normal.
- In March, higher than normal precipitation was observed in the central Deschutes, Baker, Klamath, and Lake Counties as well as areas along the south coast.
- Temperature
  - Trend of below average temperatures this spring. March saw a mix of above and below average temperatures for the Pacific Northwest.
  - So far April has been above average precip with below average temperatures.
- US Drought Monitor
  - No change to drought status over the past few weeks
- 8-14 day outlook is for above average temps and below average precip. Seasonal forecast for April-June is mostly equal chances of above or below normal temperatures with below normal precipitation. May-July forecast is warmer and drier than normal.
- Streamflow Forecast
  - Increased forecasts in the north with below normal flows in the south and southeast areas of the state.

#### **Ken Stahr**

- Streamflow
  - March state-wide streamflow increased to 75% of average. This is up from 62% seen in February, with January streamflow at 90% of average.
  - For the month of March, basins in southern Oregon were still well below average (33-66%). The Grande Ronde was above average at 102% and 150%, respectively. These are tracking along with snowpack trends.
  - WY 2018 streamflow at some southern Oregon gages tracking well below long term average. 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 improvement over the past month, still below normal conditions across much of southern Oregon.
  - Oregon Map of 7-day averages showed similar patterns and trends.

#### **Mary Karen Scullion**

- USACE Reservoir Conditions
  - Recent rains have benefitted many project reservoirs
  - Most reservoirs in the Willamette basin are approaching rule curve, with the exception of Hills Cr and Lookout Pt.

- Rogue Basin – Lost Cr is very likely to fill, probably not Applegate though.

#### **Peter Cooper**

- USBR Reservoir Conditions
  - Scoggins in the Willamette is full
  - Reservoirs on the west side of the Deschutes are in good shape.
  - The Crooked R projects are forecast to be only 50-60%. Prineville <130 KAF and Ochoco at 30 KAF.
  - Umatilla is in good shape; McKay forecast is 26 KAF (100% full).
  - Rogue/Klamath projects – poor inflows, moving water from the Klamath to the Rogue earlier in the year than normal

#### **Nick Yonker**

- Fuel Conditions and Outlook
  - So far the fire season outlook is likely to be normal to above normal. Will have a better idea after May 1, when the fuel condition maps and forecasts will begin to be published.

#### **Drought Monitor discussion**

- USDM Coordination
  - Primary contact assignment is needed; A. Bryant proposes to be the backup, not the lead.
- D1 is needed across the southern ¼ of the state.

#### **Drought Readiness Council**

WSAC members in attendance would like to be added to the DRC email distribution list.

The next WSAC meeting is proposed for May 15, 2018.