

**Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – June 12, 2018**  
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

In-House and Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

**In-House Attendees**

Ken Stahr – OWRD (chair)  
Daniel Stoelb – OEM  
Scott Oviatt - NRCS  
Ryan Andrews - OWRD

**Phone Attendees**

Andy Bryant – NWS  
Peter Cooper - USBR  
Nick Yonker – ODF  
Marc Stewart – USGS  
Kathie Dello – OCCRI  
Mary Karen Scullion – USACE  
Carrie Boudreau – USGS  
Jeff Marti – WA State Drought Coordinator

**Presentations – Update on water supply conditions**

**Nick Yonker**

- Nearly all of Oregon considered as minimal risk for fire conditions except for the Hood River Basin which is considered as normal risk for fire
- To date, approximately 130 acres have been burned which is well below the annual average of about 1000 acres but it is still very early in the season and conditions could change

**Scott Oviatt**

- Maintenance has occurred at about 20% of SNOTEL sites already
- Only three sites have measurable snow water equivalent (SWE)
  - Grande Ronde, Power, Burnt, Imnaha = 2.6”
  - Hood, Sandy, and Lower Deschutes = 0.6”
  - Willamette = 0.3”
  - Rock Springs of the Malheur Basin (elevation of 5290’) has no measurable snow
- Due to lack of precipitation and warm May temperatures, meltouts are occurring 2-3 weeks ahead of normal
- No sites reached normal peak values of SWE (the Willamette was close)
  - However, the Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt, and Imnaha site appeared to meltout at normal times
- SNOTEL precipitation measured 89% of normal as of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Many streamflow forecasts are well below normal, except for northeastern Oregon where streamflow is forecast at or above normal conditions

**Andy Bryant**

- Much of state is less than 75% of normal for precipitation to date
  - NW and NE Oregon are near normal
- May temperatures for the Columbia Basin were approximately 3 – 6 °F above normal

- To date, June temperatures are approximately 1 – 6 °F below normal
- Drought conditions have worsened throughout Oregon
  - Abnormally dry conditions have spread throughout nearly all of western Oregon
  - Moderate drought conditions cover much of central and eastern Oregon
  - Severe drought conditions are present in much of southeastern Oregon
- Low precipitation is expected for June 12 – 21
- Above average temperatures are predicted for the rest of June
- Warmer, drier conditions are expected in late June/early July
  - Note that products are updated once per week
- Warmer, drier conditions are expected to persist over the three-month outlook of July/August/September

### **Ken Stahr**

- Statewide streamflow conditions are well below average
  - Northeastern basins are above average
- May conditions caused precipitous drop in streamflow
  - Narrow peak streamflows
  - Trends show similar patterns in comparison to 2015

### **Marc Stewart**

- Past 28 days show reduction in streamflow below normal conditions
- Umpqua River tributaries showing well below average streamflows, similar to 2001 and 2015 conditions
  - Using the 1980 – 2010 period of record, streamflows are 55% of normal for May
- Rogue River streamflows are near normal
  - Streamflows were at 69% of normal for April, but not updated for May
- Williamson River at 61% of normal for May
- Donner Und Blitzen at 46% of normal for May
- Owyhee River at 27% of normal for May
- Hood River at 75% of normal for May

### **Mary Karen Scullion**

- Willamette Basin reservoirs began drafting for recreational and fish hatchery needs
  - Cougar Reservoir provides temperature control for fish
- Rogue River reservoirs are also drafting to maintain instream flows for fish
  - Willow Creek provides minimum instream flows

### **Peter Cooper**

- Many reservoirs have begun drafting for irrigation purposes
- To date, patterns of carryover are similar to those experienced in 2001 and 2015
- Scoggins Dam is at 97% full
  - Drafting began at end of May
- Deschutes

- Prineville at 72% full; began drafting at end of May
  - Ochoco is at 55% full; began drafting at end of May
    - Releases 20 cfs for instream flows
- Rogue
  - Emigrant at 70% full
- Umatilla
  - McKay at 89% full

### **Other**

- Douglas and Baker Counties have submitted request for drought declaration
- Include Carrie Boudreau (USGS) on distribution list
- Next meeting proposed for July 10, 2018