

Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – August 7, 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
Marc Stewart – USGS
Nick Yonker – ODF
Tracy Fox - OWRD

Phone Attendees

Andy Bryant (and others) – NWS
Peter Cooper - USBR
Kathie Dello – OCCRI
Yamen Hogue – USACE
Carrie Boudreau – USGS

Welcome and Introductions

Presentations – Update on water supply conditions

Peter Cooper

- Willamette
 - Scoggins Res. at 65% full
- Deschutes
 - Prineville is at 54% full (similar to 1999)
 - Ochoco is at 31% full
 - Haystack is at 97% full; due to how it is regulated.
 - Crane Prairie is at 72% full
 - Wickiup is at 24% full
 - Crescent Lake is at 82% full
- Umatilla
 - Cold Springs is at 35% full
 - McKay is at 51% full
 - As a whole it is close to average.
- Eastern Oregon
 - Many reservoirs are low, some approaching empty.
 - Phillips Lake is at 29% full; steep storage release since last month, will end water year close to empty, below average.
 - Unity Res is at 42% full; steep storage release since last month, close to 2003 and 2015, will end water year close to empty, below average.
 - Beulah is at 20% full; expect it will be mostly empty by early September.
 - Warm Springs is at 20% full; drafting steeper than average, probably be dry by mid-September.
 - Thief Valley is at 33% full
 - Bully Creek is at 21% full; expect it will be mostly empty by early September.
 - Owyhee is at 48% full; close to average due to good carry-over from last year.

- Rogue
 - Emigrant is at 55% full; expect it will be mostly empty by the end of September.
 - Fourmile Lake is at 25% full
 - Howard Prairie is at 53% full; there was a lot of carry-over; expect it to be well below average by the end of September.
 - Hyatt is at 31% full; expect it will be mostly empty by the mid-September.

Yamen Hogue

- Rogue
 - As a whole is at 66% full and 36% below the rule curve.
 - Lost Creek: anticipate releasing this week/weekend
 - Applegate is at 59% full
 - Willow Cr is at 39 full, releasing for irrigation
- Willamette
 - As a whole is at 49% full
 - Releasing from Hills Creek, Blue R and Dorena to meet targets in the mainstem of the Willamette R. This will probably continue through the rest of the season.
 - Detroit
 - Spilling for temperature goals, required by NMFS
 - Minimum release for the rest of the projects
 - They continue to monitor temperature
 - They expect to meet their flow targets

Scott Oviatt

- Statewide precipitation at SNOTEL sites is 86% of normal as of August 7, 2018. While the yearly % of normal is similar to 2015, this provides further validation that in these widely variable years, water year precipitation is not a good indicator of drought conditions or low water supply.
- Soil moisture at most SNOTEL measurement sites across the state are below or well below normal.

Andy Bryant

- D2 category has expanded through-out the West in the last month.
- June temperatures were near average, July's were above average 2-4 degrees.
- Above average temperatures are predicted for the 8-14 day forecast.
- Warmer, drier conditions are expected to persist over the three-month outlook of September/October/November.
- El Nino conditions likely for fall and winter.
- Water year runoff
 - Monthly, not a lot of change, little volume statewide, is significantly below average.
 - Water year as a whole is about average for the north part of the state, low for the south part, lowest in the south central portion of the state.

Marc Stewart

- Eastern Oregon and Coastal Basins streamflows are lower than normal.
- Some flows, like Bridge Cr near Mitchell flows are setting new lows for the period of record.
- Klamath Basin close (80%) to normal streamflows. Some discussion regarding what that can be attributed to.

Nick Yonker

- NW Oregon went from low to moderate risk for fire conditions in July.
- Fuel moisture percentages are all in the single digits in Central, Eastern and Southwestern Oregon, in the low teens on the upper West side.
- To date, approximately 33,000 acres have been burned; the average is about 19,000 acres. (just ODF land)
 - There is a lot of smoke, from Oregon and from California fires.
 - Full containment not expected until into September, dependent on weather conditions.

Kathie Dello

- D2 areas have expanded significantly over the past two weeks.
- She has been working with the Drought Monitor authors.
- This week they've requested to extend D2 to the California border; possible D3 if the heat continues.
- Secretarial drought designations. Farm Bill has changed.

Ken Stahr

- Statewide streamflow for June 40%
- Statewide streamflow for July were a little better at 48%
- Regionally, flows ranged from 69 percent of average in the Hood to 26 percent in Goose and Summer Lakes for July. Looking at county level data, flows ranged from 86 percent in Washington County to 14 percent in Crook County.
- Drought:
 - Seven counties already have a Governor declared drought. (Baker, Douglas, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake, and Wheeler)
 - Morrow County has requested a drought declaration. The group agreed that the conditions would support a declaration.
 - Lincoln County will be discussing requesting a drought declaration at their Commission meeting tomorrow.
 - Siletz River has record low flow, approximately 45% of normal; minimal groundwater resources, high temperatures.
 - The group discussed conditions and agreed that the conditions would support a declaration.
 - Malheur County is asking questions about a possible drought declaration.
 - The group agreed that the conditions would support a declaration.

- Showed a current map of the “2018 Secretarial Drought Designations – All Drought” for the United States.
- Ken requested input for the Oregon Water Conditions Report.

Other

- Andy is going to look at conditions on the North Coast.

Next Meeting

- Suggest September 11, 2018 (10:00 to 12:00). Might use a different venue, due to a scheduling conflict at OEM. Ken will confirm date and location.