

**Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – November 6, 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  
Nick Yonker – ODF  
Mellony Hoskinson – OWRD  
Erik Rau – OEM  
Sonya Andron - OEM

**Phone Attendees**

Marc Stewart – USGS  
Carrie Boudreau – USGS  
Jonathan Rocha - USBR  
Steve King - NWRFC  
Andy Bryant - NOAA  
Kathie Dello - OCCRI

**Last month's meeting notes approval**

Need to hear by end of week then will publish  
NRCS approved  
ODF – good  
NOAA - good

**Presentations – Update on water supply conditions**

**1. Scott Oviatt**

- Snow Water Equivalent map - Low amounts of snow can represent significant amount of changes on map – use with caution. Just became available two weeks ago. Until it snows again, use with caution.
- SNOTEL precipitation statewide average 101% of normal
- Southern part of state have not yet received precipitation, northeast has 100% but that is not a lot of precip for this time of year
- Note that the Statewide SNOTEL map will be available at least until May 2019 and maybe beyond – working hard to keep map, important to stakeholders
- Like 2015, this year the state is starting to rebound to near normal precip at the beginning of the water year. Dry in south part of state. Dry now, don't anticipate rapid rebound.
- Precip percent of normal – some places well above normal, south well below normal, Steens Mountains sit 106% near normal. However, not much precip in lower elevations.
- Snow water equivalent – only 4 sites in the state with measurable amounts but all in the Wallowas. Virtually no snow.
- Last year at this point – values were up 2-3,4 inches of snow water equivalent
- Soil moisture plots haven't changed

**2. Andy Bryant**

- 2018 water year – gridded precip below average Oct. 1 especially southern 2/3 of state and central Oregon. Recent months northeast Oregon widespread above average precip.

Near above average in northwest Oregon. Past 90 and 180 days below average thru summer into fall. Dire for lower 2/3 of Oregon. Northern Willamette Valley, North Coast, Blue Mountains, Wallowas getting precip mainly in the past few weeks.

- Amounts we've seen in precip for northern Willamette Valley, North Coast, Cascades around 5-10" rain, Astoria 2-6" rain past few weeks.
- Recent temps – Sept and Oct above average
- Drought monitor – no change over past month d3 designation, southern 2/3 state
- Observed water year runoff 2019 – way below average, low river levels, little bit of recovery in NW Oregon, NE about normal, rest of state below normal
- Exceedance plots for Winter Runoff – updated daily, 2 diff plots per graphic, historical simulation generated from NWRFC runoff hydrologic models
- Mid-November Outlook Forecast Precip - NWRFC is using this data in hydrologic models. Even though we are predicting precip over next couple of weeks, still low compared to normal. Coming into this fall with major deficits around the state. High pressure systems are steering jet streams to the north.
- 3 month outlook Nov-Jan - PNW likelihood of above average temps, raises concerns about snowpack in the Cascades, going into weak El Nino (normal now but transitioning)
- Historical WY Runoff and ENSO – 4 locations (same as exceedance plots), Nov-Jan Oceanic Nino Index seeing significant, trend large uncertainty, lower water year runoff, majority happens between Dec-May in these basins

### **3. Marc Stewart**

- Real-time sites 28 day average for streamflow, each site - South and East more below normal, at best about normal, sites below average
- Same view as previous slide with 7 day average – more sites in normal percentile range, South below normal, two coastal sites somewhat on daily average trend, Chetco well below normal now
- Klamath inflow to lake (Williamson) – Much below normal (shown in brown) period of record average of days below percentile, 5-10 percentile, dependent on Nov through early Dec events to get streamflow up, perhaps a dire picture but one event could change it
- Numbers from few key sites – track yearly average flows and monthly flows, indicator sites by basin in lower percentiles for Oct
- All of USGS sites 7 day average for streamflow, whole state trend-wise

### **4. Ken Stahr**

- Percent of average streamflow Oct – spotty, but follows weather patterns, only one data point in Baker County, others are short period of record, current equipment transmittal malfunctions leading to about 30 fewer data points statewide than what is normal
- Oct table – low flows but better than Sept.

### **5. Jonathan Rocha**

- Current conditions – Tualatin - Scoggins at 28 percent and at low end of rule curve, not a lot of inflow, typically lowest point for year, projected to slowly come back up as reservoir refills, in about month or so flood control operations will resume
- New projections on graph – dotted lines show high and low one month potential outlooks
- Deschutes – Wickiup historic lows until 2-3 weeks ago, coming back up now that outflows have been reduced
- Prineville – not a lot of activity projected
- Ochoco – opportunities to wiggle out of track we are on
- Umatilla – probably seeing some water for fish flows, still going down
- SE Oregon, looking dismal, single digits on % full smaller reservoirs
- Owyhee – had good carryover, projections say not a lot of variability, may slowly go up
- Warmsprings – carryover in single digits, looks like trending toward 2017 year, good chance of carry over
- Bully creek – hopefully start climbing in next few weeks
- Unity – Malheur basin looks like early water year 2017, but what will it turn out to be? Perhaps less

## 6. Nick

- Out of fire season
- Klondike fire still going – last report containment end of November, last activity middle October
- This year we had more districts on east side out of fire season than west due to more precip on east, cooler temps, interesting
- Continuing warm and dry, SW had one pretty good rain, but still warm and dry

## Other

- Moving forward – what is our message (ken – during Ochoco graph BOR)
- Ken Stahr for Mary Karen Scullion from USACE – Rogue 30% of capacity, 6% below rule curve
  - System-wide inflows at ~1000 cfs
  - 10 day forecast extremely dry – anticipate flows to drop
  - Applegate, etc. operations and biological needs

## Winter Outlook

### Scott NRCS

- Feedback survey – see how products are used, data analyzed and used
- NRCS forecasting – some staffing uncertainty – proposed to not issue Jan/June forecast, exceptions Willamette and Klamath basin due to biops written in law, concerns with water users in Klamath, need feedback soon. Ken talk to Jonathan about letter of support.

Jonathan – last month meeting, interested parties in forecasting products, Columbia river basin, NRCS person relaying difficulties with staffing and funding, offered to write letter of support for importance of relying on NRCS products to inform day to day decisions, flood control, irrigation, other activities.

Ken – OWRD

- No water supply issues drought declarations or discussions
- Bi- weekly report came out yesterday – please provide feedback if you would like to see changes, etc., suggest reaching out to NWRFC on anything they could add?
- Drought declared counties – stay in effect until Dec. 31, next meeting will have conversations, may start hearing about maybe declaring again in January,

**Next meeting date – Dec. 11 (10 to 11:30)**