Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – May 14, 2019
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

In-House and Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

In-House Attendees
Ken Stahr – OWRD (Chair)
Ryan Andrews – OWRD
Sonya Andron – OEM
Scott Oviatt – NRCS
Carrie Boudreau – USGS
Steve King – NWS

Phone Attendees
Chris Runyan – USBR

Presentations – update on water supply conditions
Scott Oviatt

- Precipitous loss of snow water equivalent (SWE) throughout April due to warm conditions
    - May 14 SWE = 58% of normal
    - April 9 SWE = 116% of normal
    - 36 of 142 statewide SNOTEL sites currently have measurable snowpack
        - Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt, Imnaha – Upper Deschutes, Crooked – Rogue, Umpqua – Willamette contain a majority of sites with measurable snowpack
- Western basin snowpack had slightly greater than normal peaks in late February/early March, somewhat prior to normal peaks
    - Meltout in these basins occurred 2-3 weeks earlier than normal
        - Meltout began in early April with a much greater rate than normal, however some deceleration in meltout rate has occurred recently due to cooler conditions
- Eastern basin snowpack peaked much greater than normal conditions with similarly timing
    - Meltout also began similarly to normal conditions
    - However, rapid meltout rate has lessened benefits of greater than normal peak in snowpack
- Statewide precipitation is 94% of normal as of May 14
    - Nearly all basins are at or above normal, with the lowest being Hood, Sandy, and Lower Deschutes (82%) and Willamette (89%)
- Statistical streamflow forecasts of 50% exceedance probability take into account current streamflow, snow pack, and water year precipitation
    - Eastern Oregon sites are forecasting above normal but availability is quickly dwindling given recent and predicted weather patterns
    - Western Oregon forecasts are showing somewhat less than normal conditions with many sites forecasted around 90% of normal

Ken Stahr

- April precipitation significantly raised streamflow on average statewide
    - To date within the water year, cumulative percent of average was 103% at the end of April
        - Western Oregon sites = 82% of normal
        - Eastern Oregon sites = 117% of normal
    - Streamflow for the month of April was 206% of normal
        - Western Oregon sites = 190% of normal
        - Eastern Oregon sites = 217% of normal
- As of May 13, streamflows have receded significantly from April with many areas in Western Oregon well below normal, while Eastern Oregon hovers near or well above normal
    - Some sites are approaching historic lows for period of record
        - NEHALEM R NR FOSS, OR
        - S FK COQUILLE R AT POWERS, OR
        - THOMAS CR NR SCIO, OR

Carrie Boudreau

- Many streamgages throughout the state were reporting streamflows much above normal (90%), with some reporting historical highs for the date (April 7)
    - 25 sites in Oregon were reporting at or near flood stage on April 9
- Streamflows have significantly receded in the Northwest with many 7-day averages reporting well below normal
    - Eastern Oregon gages are reporting normal conditions along with some Southwestern sites
- 7-day average runoff for entire state reporting near the lower end of normal conditions

Steve King

- Water year precipitation thus far (May 12) measuring 50-90% on average statewide
- April temperatures reporting well above average for Southern Oregon (2-4 °F), with Northern Oregon reporting above average (1-3 °F)
- Drought Monitor conditions improved throughout much of state as of May 7
    - Much of state has been delisted, however some areas in Central Oregon and Northwest Oregon are abnormally dry (D0)
- 10-15 day outlook (May 13-27) showing increased chances of precipitation and cooler than normal temperatures
    - However, 3-month outlook showing near normal precipitation with increased chances of above normal temperatures
- Seasonal water supply forecasts (April-September) showing well above normal

Chris Runyan

- Deschutes reservoirs are currently being tapped for demand
    - Reservoirs on Crooked River are close to or at full, while Deschutes Reservoirs lag behind, have likely peaked, and are in storage control mode

        - Wickiup = 63%
        - Crescent Lake = 74%
        - Crane Prairie = 85%
    - Wickiup Reservoir is currently drafting to meet need for fish and wildlife flows, as well as demand
- Eastern Oregon reservoirs are full or nearly full
    - Phillips has lowest percent storage at 56%
    - Warm Springs is next lowest at 89%
    - Owyhee Reservoir is already drafting to meet demand
- Rogue reservoirs are pretty much topped out with low fill due to low carryover from previous year
    - Reservoirs are currently drafting and in storage control mode
- Scoggins Reservoir is full

Notes

- Concerns about worsening conditions in central Willamette and coastal systems due to lack of precipitation
- Active fires have burned a fair number of acres with worrisome conditions worsening
    - Potential for above normal fire conditions especially in Western Oregon for 2019
- Next meeting proposed for June 11, 2019