

Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – June 11, 2019
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

In-House and Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

In-House Attendees

Ken Stahr – OWRD (Chair)
Tracy Fox – OWRD
Sonya Andron – OEM
Scott Oviatt – NRCS
Daniel Stoelb – OEM
Marc Stewart - USGS

Phone Attendees

Amy Burke - NWRFC
Peter Cooper - USBR
Andy Bryant - NOAA
Nick Yonker - ODF

May meeting notes: Two have approved. Ken requested that the rest of the group review and notify him this week.

Announcements:

- Brenda Bateman has accepted a permanent position with Business Oregon.
- Kathie Dello has left; taken a position in North Carolina. Dr. Larry O'Neill will be representing OCCRI in the interim.

Presentations:

Snow and Mountain Precipitation
Scott Oviatt, NRCS

- Snow has melted out at all sites below 6000 feet.
- Western basin snowpack had slightly greater than normal peaks in late February/early March
 - Cooler temps in May slowed meltout.
 - About same meltout rate as normal.
- Eastern basin snowpack peaked with higher than normal snowpack with similar timing
 - Meltout timing so far is similar to normal conditions
 - However higher than normal meltout rate has lessened the benefit of greater than normal peak in snowpack
- Statewide precipitation is 95% of normal as of June 11
 - Nearly all basins are at or above normal, with the lowest being Hood, Sandy, and Lower Deschutes (82%) and Willamette (88%)
- Statistical streamflow forecasts of 50% exceedance probability take into account current streamflow, snow pack, and water year precipitation. For June-Sep.
 - Forecast is based on statistical norms and time period
 - Eastern and Southwest Oregon sites are forecasting normal but is likely to quickly decline given recent and predicted weather patterns
 - Northwestern Oregon forecasts are showing lower than normal conditions with many sites forecasted around 75% of normal

Precipitation, Temperature, Streamflow

Andy Bryant & Amy Burke, NOAA and NWRFC

- For 2019 thus far Eastern Oregon has areas of significantly above average precipitation
- For 2019 thus far Western Oregon is below average
- For May, Western and Northern Oregon temperatures were higher than average
- For the same period, the Southeast portion of Oregon temperatures were average to slightly below average.
- Today and tomorrow (June 11-12) temperatures will likely be record high and lows
- Drought monitor maps comparing May 7 and June 4, 2019; drought area is expanding from WA into Northwest Oregon
- Mid/Late June Outlook is for higher than average temperatures across the state along with below normal precipitation in the northwest half of the state and above normal in the southeast.
- June Outlook is for above normal temperatures across the state and below normal precipitation in the northwest corner with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation across the remainder
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- Observed Water Year Natural Runoff
 - Runoff down to <60% in the northwest corner
 - East side fared better
 - Willamette & Rogue got big bump in April (twice average); next three months not much is anticipated
 - East side lot got bump in late Feb, big in April, next three months not much is anticipated

Streamflow

Ken Stahr

- April precipitation significantly raised streamflow on average statewide, hit highs in northeastern Oregon of over 300%
 - For the water year through the month of May, cumulative percent of average was 103% for the state.
 - Western Oregon - 81% of normal
 - Eastern Oregon - 118% of normal
 - Streamflow for the month of May was 92% of normal for the state
 - Western Oregon sites - 54% of normal
 - Eastern Oregon sites - 116% of normal
- Streamflows have receded significantly in the past month with many areas in western Oregon well below normal, while eastern Oregon hovers near or above normal
 - Union County was the highest at 177% for May
 - Linn County was the lowest at 35% for May
 - Some sites in western Oregon are approaching historic lows for period of record

Streamflow

Marc Stewart, USGS

- Streamflows have receded significantly in western and northwest Oregon with many (7-day) averages reporting well below normal
 - Some sites are approaching historic lows for period of record
 - Eastern Oregon gages are reporting normal conditions along with some South Coast and John Day sites
- In April many streamgages across the state were reporting streamflows above normal (>90%), with some reporting historical highs for the date (April 8, 2019)
 - 25 sites in Oregon were reporting at or near flood stage
- 7-day average runoff for entire state reporting indicates near normal conditions but trending steeply downward.

USBR Reservoirs

Peter Cooper, USBR

- Current conditions
 - Scoggins at 97% full; started drafting for irrigation demand; anticipate will be similar to 2015; ending in below normal levels
 - Deschutes River Basin
 - Lower than normal
 - Anticipate will end up below normal, pretty dry
 - Wickiup 56%
 - Crescent Lake 76%
 - Prineville 99%
 - Crane Prairie 85%
 - Ochoco 86%
 - Haystack 76%
 - Crooked River
 - Normal, able to fill
 - Crane Prairie Res & Wickiup
 - Anticipate will end up well below normal
 - Umatilla River Basin
 - McKay is full (99%); operations for flood control occurred during high flow events in April and May
 - Anticipate close to normal levels at the end of the season
 - Cold Springs 65%
 - Southeastern Oregon
 - Basically full reservoirs everywhere except for Phillips Lake which is below average at 71%
 - Unity is next lowest at 97%
 - Owyhee Reservoir
 - Irrigation demand started later than normal; demand was higher than normal in mid-May
 - Owyhee and Warm Springs: anticipate good carry-over

- Rogue River Basin
 - Howard Prairie and Hyatt: well below average (outflow passes through to Emigrant to supply for irrigation)
 - Emigrant: expect to start drafting hard in the next week or so
 - Anticipate low carry-over for next season in this basin
 - The lowest is Hyatt at 5%
 - The highest is Howard Prairie at 33%
 - USACE Rogue Basin teacup diagram showing about 92% full and a few percent below rule curve

Wildfire Updates

Nick Yonker, ODF

- Significant Fire Potential
 - Elevated fire risk Wednesday-Thursday and Sunday this week
 - NW Oregon more likely fire danger; has significant potential; now and into the summer
- 1000hr Fuel Moisture slide: low numbers are cause for concern
- Possibility of lightning

Disaster Story Map for April 2019 Flood Event on OEM's website

Daniel Stoelb

- Showed the story page and described how the page was set up.
- Was included in letter to the Governor requesting federal aid; declaring an emergency.
- April 2019 Flood Story Map: <https://storymaps-nextgen.arcgis.com/beta/stories/2cfe3ce9706045c585b5f1f3d1c79bb0>
- Past Disasters Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oem/emops/Pages/Past-Disasters.aspx>

Notes

- USACE storage in the Willamette Basin Project while at 92 % of capacity, are 20% behind rule curve; Detroit & Fern Ridge are the exception and in decent shape
- No new requests for drought declaration since January.
- Messaging for Drought Readiness Council: will pass on information from this meeting.
- Drought Monitor Coordination: How are we doing? The DMC prefers a central point of contact, who should that be now? Agreement that Ken Stahr should be.
- Bi-Weekly Conditions Report: Any feedback or suggestions from federal agencies? No. Okay to continue as have been? Yes.
- Next meeting proposed for July 9, 2019 (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)