

Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – July 09, 2019
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

In-House and Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

In-House Attendees

Ken Stahr – OWRD (Chair)
Samantha Phillips – OWRD
Erik Rau – OEM
Scott Oviatt – NRCS
Daniel Stoelb – OEM
Nick Yonker – ODF

Phone Attendees

Amy Burke - NWRFC
Carrie Boudreau - USGS
Andy Bryant - NOAA
Jonathan Rocha – USBR
Yamen Hoque - USACE
Larry O’Neil - OCCRI

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

Announcements:

- Sonya Andron has accepted a new position within OEM and at this point it is has not been determined who will become the new co-chair for Drought Council

Presentations:

Snow and Mountain Precipitation

Scott Oviatt, NRCS

- Snow has melted out at all sites.
- Statewide precipitation is 93% of normal as of July 9
 - Nearly all basins are at or above normal, with the lowest being Hood, Sandy, and Lower Deschutes (81%) and Willamette (87%)
- Soil Moisture showing the same trend throughout the state. The Eastern side moisture level is wetter than the Western side. But both sides will dry out rapidly with summer temperatures.

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 June, 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.
- Drought monitor maps comparing June 4 and July 2, 2019; D0 (abnormally dry) drought area is expanding into Southwest Oregon
- The two week outlook is for below-normal temperatures across the north central regions of the state along with above-normal precipitation across the northwest two thirds of the state.
- The July Outlook is for above normal temperatures along with below-normal precipitation across the state.

- The three month outlook (August through September) is for above normal temperatures along with below-normal precipitation across the state.
- Observed Water Year Natural Runoff
 - Runoff across the northwest corner of the state is low, ranging from 60 to 75 percent of normal.
 - East side fared better so far this year but will experience runoff consistent with the summer season.

Streamflow

Ken Stahr, OWRD

- April precipitation significantly raised streamflow on average statewide, hit highs in northeastern Oregon of over 300%
 - For the water year through the month of June, cumulative percent of average was 101% for the state.
 - Western Oregon - 78% of normal
 - Eastern Oregon - 116% of normal
 - Streamflow for the month of June was 84% of normal for the state
 - Western Oregon sites -42% of normal
 - Eastern Oregon sites - 111% 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
 - Malheur County was the highest at 165% for June
 - Linn County was the lowest at 25% for June
 - Some sites in western Oregon are approaching historic lows for period of record

Streamflow

Carrie Boudreau, 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
 - Many reservoirs around the state are full and demand has not been as high so far;
 - Deschutes River Basin
 - Lower than normal

- Anticipate will end up below normal, pretty dry
- Wickiup 37%
- Crescent Lake 74%
- Prineville 91%
- Crane Prairie 85%
- Ochoco 75%
- Haystack 94%
- Crooked River
 - Normal, able to fill
- Crane Prairie Res & Wickiup
 - Anticipate will end up well below normal
- Umatilla River Basin
 - McKay is at 85%
 - Anticipate close to normal levels at the end of the season
 - Cold Springs 48%
- Southeastern Oregon
 - Basically full reservoirs everywhere except for Phillips Lake which is below average at 66%
 - Unity is next lowest at 80%
 - Owyhee Reservoir is at 94%
 - 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 Fourmile Lake at 36%
 - The highest is Emigrant at 74%
 - USACE Rogue Basin teacup diagram showing about 92% full and a few percent below rule curve

Wildfire Updates

Nick Yonker, ODF

- Significant Fire Potential
 - Incoming rain event and associated thunderstorms may trigger fire events.
 - Currently the State is generally in the 'moderate' fire danger range.

Notes

- Lincoln County positioning for Drought declaration ask. If the request comes in, the committee has agreed that conditions are valid. If asked, the Committee would recommend to Drought Council to pass along to Governor.
- Next meeting proposed for August 13, 2019 (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)