

Water Supply Availability Committee Meeting – August 13, 2019

Oregon Office of Emergency Management

In-House and Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

In-House Attendees

Ken Stahr – OWRD (Chair)
Stephanie Prybyl – OWRD
Erik Rau – OEM
Daniel Stoelb – OEM
Nick Yonker – ODF

Phone Attendees

Amy Burke - NWRFC
Carrie Boudreau – USGS
Larry O’Neil - OCCRI

July meeting notes: Ken requested that the rest of the group review and notify him this week.

Presentations:

Snow and Mountain Precipitation

Ken Stahr, OWRD presented for Scott Oviatt, NRCS

- Snow has melted out at all sites.
- Statewide precipitation is 93% of normal as of first half of August
- Nearly all basins are at or above normal, with the lowest being Hood, Sandy, and Lower Deschutes (81%) and the highest being Owyhee (119%)
- The Eastern side moisture level is wetter than the Western side, with data showing recent precipitation events.

Precipitation, Temperature, Streamflow

Amy Burke, NOAA

- For 2019 thus far Eastern Oregon has areas of significantly above average precipitation
- For 2019 thus far Western Oregon is below average
- Recent precipitation events have showed improvement, yet coastal Oregon is showing a deficit of 10’s of inches; it is unlikely the area will catch up by the end of this year
- For August, temperatures were near normal across the state and precipitation is in the forecast; both temperature and precipitation probabilities were not dramatic or strong looking ahead
- Drought monitor maps comparing July and August; D0 (abnormally dry) drought area is expanding into Southwest Oregon
- Observed Water Year Natural Runoff - Runoff that has been received is what is available...Runoff across the northwest corner of the state is below normal, while the East side fared better so far this year but will experience runoff consistent with the summer season.

Streamflow

Ken Stahr, OWRD and Carrie Boudreau, USGS

- April precipitation significantly raised streamflow on average statewide, hit highs in northeastern Oregon of over 300%
 - For the water year through the month of July, cumulative percent of average was 81% for the state.
 - Western Oregon - 63% of normal
 - Eastern Oregon - 92% of normal

- Streamflow for the month of July was 50% of normal for the state (Linn and Baker Counties were exception)
- 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
 - Lake County – trending near normal due to April event
 - Lincoln County – record lows, yet experienced cooler temperatures in July. If not for temperature effects, the regional experience would be on par with 2015 conditions
 - John Day – benefited from April events and recent precipitation starting to register
 - Owyhee – warm temperatures in June, triggered a run off event and has been downward trending since, yet is still functioning at 90% capacity.
 - Some sites in western Oregon are approaching historic lows for period of record
- The 7 day average streamflow has moved up above normal after recent precipitation, yet the 14 day average streamflow shows as below average.
 - Meacham Creek at Gibon – Downward trend with upswing
 - Hood River at Tucker Bridge – Below normal
 - Little Sandy River at Bull Run – Above normal
 - Wilson River near Tillamook – Below normal
 - Chetco River near Brookings – Normal
 - Applegate River near Wilderville – Above normal
 - Williamson River below Sprague – Normal (Note: data collection history)
- The overview of water availability report showed negative numbers down the entire percent of change column
- The 7 day average runoff for the entire state hovered on the low end of normal

USBR Reservoirs

Ken Stahr, OWRD presenting for Peter Cooper/Jonathan Rocha/Chris Runyan, USBR

- Current conditions
 - Tualatin River
 - Scoggins is 63%, which is better than previous year at this time, but not average
 - Deschutes River Basin
 - Overall, lower than prior month
 - Wickiup 20% is experience a record low
 - Crescent Lake 66%
 - Prineville 79%
 - Umatilla River Basin
 - McKay is at 65%
 - Project is designed to balance out region
 - Southeastern Oregon
 - Owyhee Reservoir is at 81%, which is higher than normal
 - Warm Springs and remainder of region is between 55-65%
 - In flows low as expected for this time of year and outflow is supporting agriculture activities at this time
 - Rogue River Basin
 - Region approximately 40% between Emigrant, Hyatt, Howard Prairie

USACE Reservoirs

Ken Stahr, OWRD presenting for Mary Karen Scullion/Yamen Hoque, USBR

- Willamette Project is at 50%

- Detroit Lake is at 80/20
- Lookout Point is at 23/77
- If measuring up to 100% is accomplishing rule curve, expect these areas to be a no
- Willow Creek is typical for this time of year, while Rogue is at 60% overall

Wildfire Updates

Nick Yonker, ODF

- Moderate to High Fire Potential - incoming precipitation will reduce potential
- While concern for water supply in North Coast has been the theme this meeting, forests are managed in this area and there are less open spaces/rugged terrain for fire to spread

Leadership Briefing Demonstration

Daniel Stoelb, OEM

- Link to OEM Leadership Briefing tool:
<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=cdf61542ff574df797bdae784992cc44>
- Created to provide Duty Officers and the public alike with one location to access multiple data-points
- Focus is on weather, earthquakes, fire, transportation, shelter activity and more

Roundtable

- Agreed to reach out to coastal emergency managers and share information regarding water supply reporting, in light of voluntary conservation notice
- Despite continual monitoring, agreed conditions in Wheeler County do not warrant drought declaration from a streamflow/water supply perspective at this time; this area was on the verge of drought in January, when conditions changed dramatically and the area experienced a federally-declared flood.
- Reviewed Water Supply Availability Report and asked for edits by end of week; discussion ways to circulate this information to broader audiences, in addition to email distribution.
- Next Meeting -September 10th, OEM
- Adjournment – 11:54am