

Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – January 16, 2020

Oregon Office of Emergency Management

In-House and Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

In-House Attendees

Ken Stahr – OWRD (Chair)
Ryan Andrews – OWRD
Scott Oviatt – NRCS
Daniel Stoelb – OEM
Nick Yonker – ODF
Pete Parsons – ODF

Phone Attendees

Marc Stewart – USGS
Andy Bryant – NWS
Amy Burke – NWRFC
Larry O’Neal – OCS
Danette Faucera – ODFW
Margaret Matter – ODA
Tom Elliott – DOE
Jeff Marti – WADOE

Presentations – update on water supply conditions

Scott Oviatt

- Statewide SNOTEL sites measuring 91% of normal snowpack for WY 2020
 - Most basins near normal (min = Klamath at 82%; max = Owyhee at 125%)
 - Owyhee basin only has one site in basin, measuring over 10”
 - Statewide snowpack was measuring 45% of normal on Jan 1, 2020
 - Nearly all sites well below normal, with only two measuring at or above normal
 - Only five sites measuring greater than 20” of SWE (typically more at this time of year)
 - Behind due to lack of snow and high temperatures
- Snowpack graphs show recent uptick trending towards normal due to recent storms
 - Trends beginning to plateau just below normal; likely to fall short of peak (typically occurs around March 15) without colder temperatures and additional snowfall
 - Conditions were slightly better at same time January 2019, but more distinct differences between east/west of Cascades
 - Most sites peaked well above normal March 2019
- Statewide SNOTEL water year precipitation measuring 69% of normal for WY 2020
 - Most basins measuring well below normal (min = Rogue, Umpqua; Klamath both at 64%; max = Owyhee at 86%)
 - Measured precipitation up from 51% of normal on Jan 1, 2020
 - Short-term events caused increase over previous two weeks
 - Most every site experienced two-week events for the period Jan 1 – Jan 15 much greater than normal; majority of sites greater than 150% and some greater than 200% of normal compared to 1981-2010
 - Most individual sites are also well below normal for WY 2020 (max = 46% in NE OR)

- Streamflow forecasts projecting below to well below normal statewide

Andy Bryant

- Increase in snow-covered area due to recent events
- Precipitation measuring below to well below normal for WY 2020
 - Recent uptick in precipitation focused in mountain
- Recent temperatures above normal statewide, especially in mountains
- Drought monitor reporting increased expansion of D0 (abnormally dry) conditions
 - Addition of D1 (moderate drought) in mountains and Willamette Valley
- Outlooks
 - Mid-late January
 - Precipitation focused west of Cascades
 - Not much on east side
 - Above average temperature predicted
 - 3-month (February – April)
 - Above normal temperatures with equal chances above/below normal precipitation
- Observed WY runoff showing many individual sites at below to well below normal even with recent precipitation
 - Some improvements in NW from Eugene to the north
- Seasonal runoff forecast (April – September)
 - Improved conditions projected for Powder, Umatilla, Grand Ronde
 - Rest of areas behind due to lack of precipitation
 - Statewide runoff forecasted below normal
 - Some recovery on west side, but east side still forecasted below normal

Ken Stahr

- Recent improvements in runoff from November
 - West side conditions well above normal (155%) for WY to date (01/13)
 - East side lagging behind with many locations well below normal (59%)
- Reservoirs
 - Carryover from WY 2019 was great
 - Some locations on brink of flood control operations
 - Willamette at 3% capacity which is ahead of normal
- McKay Creek watershed included for burned areas report

Nick Yonker

- Near record dry November in Willamette Valley
- Low probability of fire

Marc Stewart

- December streamflows measuring well below normal statewide
- Recent 7-day streamflows near normal west of Cascades
 - East side snowpack not translating to runoff

Other

- Dashboard follow-up
 - Feedback?
 - Imbed on OWRD drought webpage
 - Add ODA weather
 - Secretarial drought declaration map?
- Next topics for DRC
 - DRI ET work – Jordan presentation?
- Larry O’Neill take over communication with US Drought Monitor
 - Process for reporting out to Karen B. from Washington?
 - Coordinate messaging to author
- Next meeting proposed for February 13, 2020 at 9 am