

Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – July 8, 2020
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

Attendees

Ken Stahr – OWRD (Chair)	Andy Bryant – NWS
Ryan Andrews – OWRD	Ryan Lucas – NWRFC
Mary Karen Scullion – USACE	Aaron Borisenko – DEQ
Jim Johnson – ODA	Larry O’Neill – OCS
Nick Yonker – ODF	Danette Faucera – ODFW
Marc Stewart – USGS	Jon Rocha – USBR
Erik Rau – OEM	Tom Elliott – ODOE
Margaret Matter – ODA	Daniel Stoelb – OEM
Roxy Nayar – DEQ	Kari Salis – OHA
Scott Oviatt – NRCS	

Presentations – update on water supply conditions

Scott Oviatt

- Statewide SNOTEL precipitation measured at 83% of normal for WY 2020 as of July 7th
 - Basins in NE OR measured above normal
 - Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt, Imnaha = 105%; Umatilla, Walla Walla, Willow = 104%
 - All other basins measured below normal, ranging from 92% (Owyhee) to 69% (Klamath)
 - Individual sites measured near to above normal in NE OR
 - Max = 128%
 - Other sites along the Cascade Crest measured below normal, ranging from 53% to 94%
- SNOTEL precipitation for the month of June measured well above normal for majority of sites statewide
 - Some locations in south-central OR measured below normal, ranging from 13% to 92%
 - Mt. Howard SNOTEL site received 4 to 7 inches of precipitation
- Almost no precipitation was recorded statewide for the first week of July, with the exception of some sites in the Hood region
- Soil moisture profiles throughout the state are in better shape than WY 2019 to date
 - Cooler temperatures following winter precipitation have led to somewhat increased soil moisture profiles when considering the 8 inch and 20 inch profiles, as moisture in shallower profiles is more transient

Andy Bryant

- WY 2020 precipitation measured deficits from average for much of the state
 - Significant departures from average were measured west of the Cascades, with some areas measuring up to 20 inches below normal

- NE OR measured above average precipitation, ranging from 2 inches to 20 inches above normal
- Much of central and eastern OR measured deficits of approximately 2 inches to 8 inches
- Recent precipitation over the past 30 days has measured near to above normal statewide, with the exception of small portions of SW OR and central OR
 - Locations along the Cascades, NW OR, and far eastern OR measured above normal
- Temperatures for the month of June measured near normal for much of the state, with some minor fluctuations above and below normal scattered throughout
- Recent temperatures for the first week of July have measured below normal for much of the Pacific NW
- Drought conditions according to the US Drought Monitor remain largely unchanged
 - Main area of change is the expansion of D2 in south-central OR
- Mid-late July outlook
 - Increased probability of below normal temperatures
 - Probability favors normal precipitation for western OR, while eastern OR probability favors below normal precipitation
- Aug-Sep-Oct outlook
 - Probability favors above normal temperatures
 - Equal chances of above or below normal precipitation
- Observed WY runoff is below to well below normal for western OR and many location in eastern OR
 - Some locations in NE OR measured above normal runoff for WY 2020 to date

Larry O'Neill

- Every county with D3 (extreme drought) has declared drought, with the exception of Sherman County
 - D3 designation approximates to 1 in 20 year events
- US drought monitor closely follows standardized precipitation index
- Oregon is in the midst of a very dry, multiyear period extending between 24 and 36 months due to large precipitation deficits
- Ochocos measuring driest water year to date in terms of precipitation, which led to downgrade from D1 (moderate drought) to D2 (severe drought)
- Evaporative demands are lower than normal in eastern OR, meaning conditions are wetter than normal according to the Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI)

Marc Stewart

- Streamflows for the month of June measured near normal for much of the state
 - Some locations in the Klamath and Hood basins measured below to much below normal
 - Several locations in NE and NW OR measured above normal
- 7-day average streamflows for the first week of July followed similar trends to the month of June
 - 7-day average hydrograph for statewide USGS sites measuring normal

- Upper Klamath Lake elevation measuring lowest since 2014

Ken Stahr

- WY 2020 streamflow measured 68% of average statewide through June
 - West side = 71%; East side = 66%
- Streamflow for the month of June measured 77% of normal
 - West side = 93%; East side = 66%
- Percent of average streamflow for the month of June varies widely by county
 - Min = Crook (11%)
 - Max = Union (144%)
 - Several counties, including Klamath, Lake, and Wheeler all measured below 40% of normal
 - Many counties in NE and NW OR measured above normal for the month of June
- Orographic influences on rainfall precipitation has been particularly enhanced this year
 - Creates steep differences between water supply availability and runoff
- 11 counties have been officially declared in drought status by the Governor
 - Wheeler and Morrow counties have both requested formal drought declarations

Jon Rocha

- Reservoir supply conditions vary throughout the state
 - Several basins are measuring above normal storage conditions, including Owyhee, Malheur, Burnt, Umatilla, and Tualatin
 - Other basins, including Powder, Deschutes, Crooked, and Rogue are measuring well below normal storage conditions
- Reservoirs are currently drafting for demand
 - Some systems have maintained levels due to precipitation over recent weeks
- Wickiup Reservoir is expected to empty
- Umatilla basin runoff supported instream demands and irrigation demands for most of June

Mary Karen Scullion

- Willamette instream demands being met
- Spillway gate repair in fall (Detroit?)
- Applegate should be able to meet minimum flows, but lake recreation levels are down

Nick Yonker

- Low fire potential west of Cascades
 - Moderate potential in SW and East-NE
- 7-day forecast is normal to below normal statewide
- July outlook shows reduced potential west of Cascades with above normal potential for much of eastern OR, with exception of NE (normal)
- Most of OR shows above normal potential for August, with exception of NW OR (normal)
- September forecast showing slight reduction in potential in NW and SE OR

Kari Salis (OHA) – Cyanotoxin in Drinking Water Response

- Discussed response roles of state agencies, counties
- Provided resources
 - Lots of info on cyanotoxins in drinking water
 - <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Operations/Treatment/Pages/algae.aspx>
 - Data for any public water system
 - <https://yourwater.oregon.gov>
 - Kari Salis, PE
 - karyl.l.salis@dhsoha.state.or.us

Drought Requests

- Data supports county requests from Wheeler and Morrow counties
- Producers in northern Morrow county had trouble supporting grazing land and hay production
- Streamflow data also supports declarations
- Support from ODA, ODE, and ODF on declarations

Notes

- Next meeting proposed for August 13th, 2020
 - OEM potentially host