

## **Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – September 10, 2020**

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

### **Attendees**

Ken Stahr – OWRD (Chair)	Amy Burke – NWRFC
Ryan Andrews – OWRD	Roxy Nayar – DEQ
Mary Karen Scullion – USACE	Jon Rocha – USBR
Jim Johnson – ODA	Larry O’Neill – OCS
Scott Oviatt – NRCS	Danette Faucera – ODFW
Nick Yonker – ODF	Traci Naile – OEM
Carrie Boudreau – USGS	Lee Go – FSA
Andy Bryant – NWS	

### **Presentations – update on water supply conditions**

#### **Scott Oviatt**

- Two NRCS SNOTEL sites destroyed by September fires
  - Diamond Lake SNOTEL in Thielsen fire
  - Althouse SNOLITE in Slater fire on OR/CA border
- Statewide SNOTEL snowpack peaked at 109% of normal on April 8, 2020
  - Rapid meltout in many southern basins occurred 2-3 weeks earlier than normal
    - Southern basins also fell short of normal snowpack
  - Basins in NE OR had normal meltout timing
    - NE basins also observed greater than normal snowpack
- Statewide SNOTEL precipitation was 82% of normal
  - With exception of NE basins, all other basins fell short of normal precipitation
    - Southern basins received well below normal precipitation
- Little to no precipitation has fallen over the first week of WY 2021
- Producers experiencing on-the-ground impacts from drought, with dust and little soil structure due to little precipitation or moisture, potentially causing problems with cattle
- NRCS is in the process of updating basin maps

#### **Andy Bryant**

- WY 2020 precipitation measured well below average for much of the state
  - NE OR received above normal precipitation
  - Large areas of central and SW OR received less than 50% of normal precipitation
  - Much of area west of Cascade Crest received up to 20 inches less precipitation than normal
- Much of eastern OR and areas of SW OR have received little to no precipitation over the past 30 days
- WY 2020 temperatures were variable throughout the state, but generally were above average or near normal
- September temperatures measured well above normal statewide
  - Temperatures reached 4-5 degrees above normal
  - Smoke likely skewed temperatures for September for nearly a week

- Some expansion of D3 coverage in SW OR according to the US Drought Monitor
- Climate outlook indicates likelihood of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation over next 8-14 days
- October outlook indicates likelihood of above normal temperatures statewide, and above normal precipitation for northern half of OR and near normal for southern half
- Three-month outlook (November-January) indicates likelihood of above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for northern half of OR, and near normal precipitation for southern half

### **Amy Burke**

- Forecast La Nina conditions hint at increased runoff
- Forecast trend tool shows changes in forecast with 10 day lag time

### **Larry O'Neill**

- Some expansion of D3 coverage into Malheur and Harney counties
- Flash drought driven by high rates of evapotranspiration in Harney and Malheur counties
- 80-90 % of Oregon pasture land in poor condition
- Bend area had 7<sup>th</sup> driest WY on record
- Foothills of Cascades extended D3 conditions
- Warmest September on record
  - Approximately 4-5 degrees above normal in many places
- EDDI percentiles corresponding to D2-D4 for much of southern OR
- Deterioration in root zone soil moisture conditions over past week

### **Ken Stahr**

- WY 2020 streamflow measured at 69% of normal statewide
- September streamflow measured at 71% of normal statewide
  - Streamflow by county varied widely throughout the state
    - NE counties measured above normal streamflow
    - Crook county measured at 1% of normal streamflow for the month
- All administrative basins measured below normal for WY streamflow with exception of Grande Ronde (110%)
  - Goose and Summer Lakes measured lowest at 45%
- 15 counties have received Governor drought declaration status

### **Carrie Boudreau**

- Streamflow conditions highly variable by location throughout the state for September and over past 7-days
  - Streams in NE OR measured above normal
  - SW OR streams measuring normal to below normal
- 17 gages were deemed damaged due to September fires either due to power loss or damaged equipment
  - All but three have been brought online
  - Three gages were completely destroyed (14162200, 14209500, 14354200)
    - 14162200 and 14209500 had temporary gages installed

- 14354200 has new permanent gage
- Several sites currently experiencing some degree of hydrologic drought as reflected by 14-day average streamflow
  - Sites range from SW OR to the Hood region and SE OR

### **Jon Rocha**

- Reservoirs drafted throughout September
  - Some at higher rates than normal due to dry conditions and high temperatures
- Currently in process of setting winter minimum flows
  - Mainly in Crooked and Owyhee systems

### **Mary Karen Scullion**

- USACE reservoirs currently in fall drawdown stage
- Most reservoirs in good condition for carryover due to spring rains helping fill

### **Nick Yonker**

- Low to moderate fire potential in NW OR due to marine air
- High potential in SW and NE OR
  - Extreme potential for central OR
- Normal to below-normal fire potential for October
- Six fires are not yet completely contained due to hot spots
  - Includes Holiday Farm, Archie Creek, Riverside, and Beechie Creek fires

### **Discussion**

- Next meeting proposed for 11/12 from 9 am – 12 pm