

Water Supply Availability Committee/Drought Readiness Council Meeting – October 13, 2021

Phone Conference – Meeting Notes

Attendees

Ryan Andrews – OWRD (Chair)

Bill Martin – OEM

Spencer Sawaske – ODFW

Peter Cooper – USBR

Peter Markos – DEQ

Salina Hart – USACE

Scott Oviatt – NRCS

Paige Haxton-Evans – DEQ

Andy Bryant – NWS

Carrie Boudreau – USGS

Tom Elliott – ODOE

Daniel Stoelb – OEM

Presentations – update on water supply conditions

Scott Oviatt

- New NRCS normals implemented
 - Switched to medians rather than means
 - More uniform comparison; symmetrical distributions
 - Methodology and comparisons available
- SNOTEL SWE
 - Low, but some measurable snow across the state
 - Percentages compared to base period elevated due to variability and typically negligible amounts at this time of year
- SNOTEL water year precipitation
 - 121% of median compared to 1991-2020 base period
 - Southern basins faring well
 - Most basins above to well above average
 - Max = Owyhee @ 245%
 - Min = Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow @ 90%
- SNOTEL Precipitation Records – March 1, 2021 – September 1, 2021
 - Many sites measured lowest or second lowest on record for those dates
 - Precipitation from mid-September through mid-November was beneficial
- Soil moisture profiles benefitted from precipitation
 - Holland Meadows well above average (including some new record highs)
 - High Ridge benefitted, now just below normal
 - Silver Creek upper end of normal
 - Silvies held record highs from latter half of October and early November

Andy Bryant

- Major precipitation deficits statewide over past 365 days
 - Slight exception in portion of NW Oregon
- Above to well above normal precipitation over past 60 days in western Oregon
 - Most of central and eastern Oregon measured average precipitation
- March through August precipitation was record driest along Cascades and north central Oregon

- October temperatures were cooler than normal in western Oregon; perhaps due to cloud cover
 - Some warmer temperatures in central and eastern Oregon
 - Warmer temperatures evident due to high elevation snowline
- Updates to US Drought Monitor include elimination of D0 in northwestern Oregon
- 10-day forecast shows probabilities favoring well above average precipitation in portions of western Oregon
 - Possibility of flooding; closely monitor burned areas
- 8-14 day outlooks indicates probabilities favoring above average precipitation and normal temperatures statewide
 - Possibility of above average temperatures in parts of southern Oregon
- Entering wettest period of year for western Oregon
- Seasonal outlook (December through February)
 - Above normal precipitation for much of northern half of Oregon
 - Normal precipitation for southern half
 - Below normal temperatures projected nearly statewide
 - Normal temperatures projected for small portion of SE Oregon
- Observed runoff well below average with exceptions of northwestern and southwestern coastal gages
- April through September forecast volumes only reflect antecedent conditions at this point in the year
 - Reflects below average statewide due to low soil moisture and precipitation deficits
- Water year runoff relationship with ENSO conditions indicates higher runoff during La Nina conditions

Carrie Boudreau

- Streamflows in western Oregon elevated due to recent precipitation
 - 7-day averages average to well above average
 - Eastern Oregon streams still below to well below average
 - Some exceptions in NE Oregon
- Hydrographs
 - NW OR
 - Well above average
 - SW OR
 - Average to well above average
 - NE OR
 - Below average
 - SE OR
 - Average to below average
- Upper Klamath Lake elevation measuring middle of pack compared to past decade
 - Inflows from Williamson River measuring below average
- 7-day statewide hydrograph measuring just above average

Ryan Andrews

- 25 counties with state drought declarations; Curry requested

- October streamflows below to well below average through much of state
 - NW and SW Oregon above to well above average
- 28-day and 7-day streamflow percentiles measuring below to well below average compared to entire period of record
 - Some exceptions throughout northern half of Oregon

Salina Hart

- Preparing for flood control season
- Significantly below minimum pools due to court ordered operations

Discussion

- Next meeting proposed for December 15