

Oregon

Water Conditions Report

October 22, 2018



Temperatures over the [past two weeks](#) were predominantly cooler than normal.

Regionally temperatures were cooler than normal for most of central and eastern Oregon. In western Oregon temperatures were 2 to 4 degrees warmer than normal for this time of year. For the [month of September](#), temperatures were mostly normal to below normal with the exception of the southeast corner of the state where temperatures were above normal.

Oregon statewide water year precipitation at NRCS SNOTEL sites finished up the 2018 water year at about 85 percent of normal. The highest amounts of water year precipitation were in the Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Willow basins with 99 percent. The lowest values were in the Rogue/Umpqua and Harney basins at 75 percent of normal for the water year. Note that the new water year (2019) started on October 1.

Precipitation over the [past two weeks](#) has been a mix of above and below normal across the state. From the crest of the Cascades westward to the coast precipitation has been well below normal. Across north central and central Oregon precipitation has been slightly below normal while northeast and eastern Oregon have been above.

Precipitation for the [month of September](#) was well below normal, in some areas as low as 5 percent of normal.

Over the next [8 to 14 days](#), the NOAA Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an increased probability of above-normal temperatures most of Oregon. The precipitation outlook is for below-normal precipitation in all but the northeast corner of the state. The most recent [three month outlook](#) indicates increased chances of above-normal temperatures statewide. The precipitation outlook for the same period calls for an increased probability of below-normal precipitation for most of the state. The next long-term outlook will be issued on November 15, 2018.

[ENSO-Neutral conditions are expected to transition this fall.](#) There are increasing chances (70-75 percent) of the onset of El Niño conditions during the 2018-19 winter. For more insight, refer to the October 11, 2018 [diagnostic discussion](#) issued by the Climate Prediction Center. For the latest discussion on the fall-winter outlook, refer to the latest [ENSO blog](#) on the climate.gov website. The Climate Prediction Center will continue to provide updates on a regular basis. The next ENSO Diagnostics Discussion is scheduled for November 8, 2018.

Statewide streamflows for September were 55 percent of normal. This is up slightly from 53 percent seen for the month of August. Regionally for September, streamflow conditions were about 57 percent east of the Cascades and 52 percent to the west. More recent data indicate that flows are ranging from 10 to 20 percent in the coastal basins to about 80 percent in the Owyhee.

[USACE Reservoirs: Rogue:](#) Lost Creek outflow continues to be maintained at about 1,200 cfs. Currently the project is 40 percent full and 11 percent below rule curve. Inflows are holding steady at around 950 cfs. Applegate inflows are at about 25 cfs with outflows at approximately 150 cfs. Currently the project is 10 percent full and 28 percent below rule curve.

[Willow Creek:](#) Willow Creek inflow is around 12 cfs and outflow is about 1.5 cfs. The project is currently 12 percent full and 75 percent below rule curve.

[Willamette:](#) The Willamette system continues to draft while augmenting mainstem flows. The project is currently 8 percent full and 36 percent below rule curve. The flow in the Willamette River at Albany is about 4,300 cfs and at Salem flows are about 7,300 cfs.

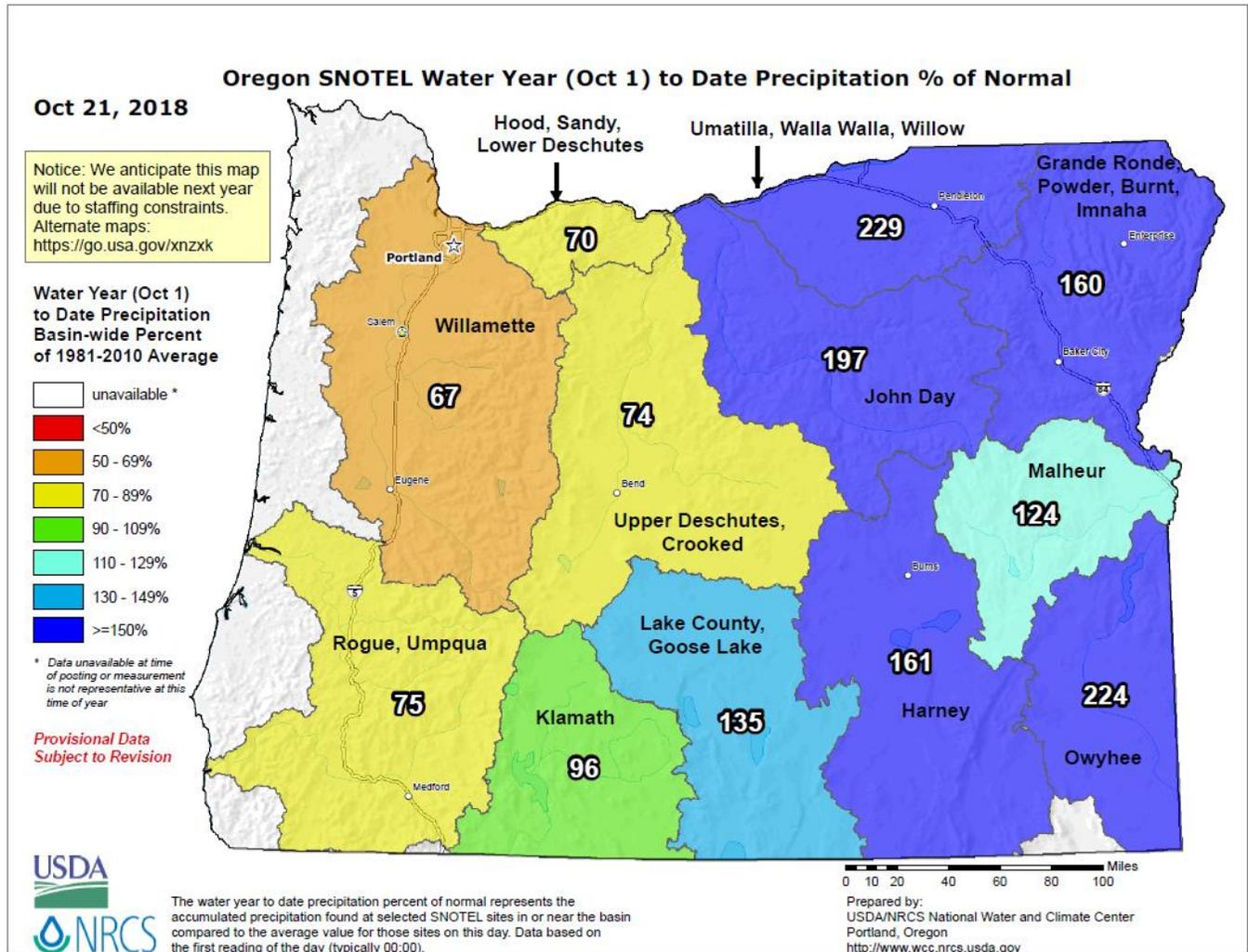
[USB Reservoirs:](#) In north central Oregon, [McKay Reservoir](#) is at 21 percent of capacity, just about normal for this time of year. In the Willamette, [Scoggins Reservoir](#) remains very close to its fill curve and is currently 30 percent full. [Central Oregon](#) reservoirs are between 7 (Wickiup) and 69 (Crescent Lake) percent of capacity. [Eastern Oregon](#) reservoirs (not considering Thief Valley) are all below 35 percent now with Warm Springs at 1 percent and Owyhee at 31 percent of capacity. [Rogue Basin](#) reservoirs are between 4 and 34 percent of capacity. [Upper Klamath Lake](#) is currently at 24 percent of capacity.

The most recent update to the [US Drought Monitor](#) indicates very little change in the last two weeks. Indicators continue to point toward D3 (Extreme Drought) in over 33 percent of the state. The report also shows 86 percent of the state is in D2 (Severe Drought), 98 percent is listed as in D1 (Moderate Drought) and 100 percent of the state is listed as D0 (Abnormally Dry). As of October 17, thirty-one Oregon counties are now under drought [designation](#) by the US Department of Agriculture. Eleven counties are now under state-declared drought status. Refer to the Oregon Water Resources Department [web page](#) for the latest information.

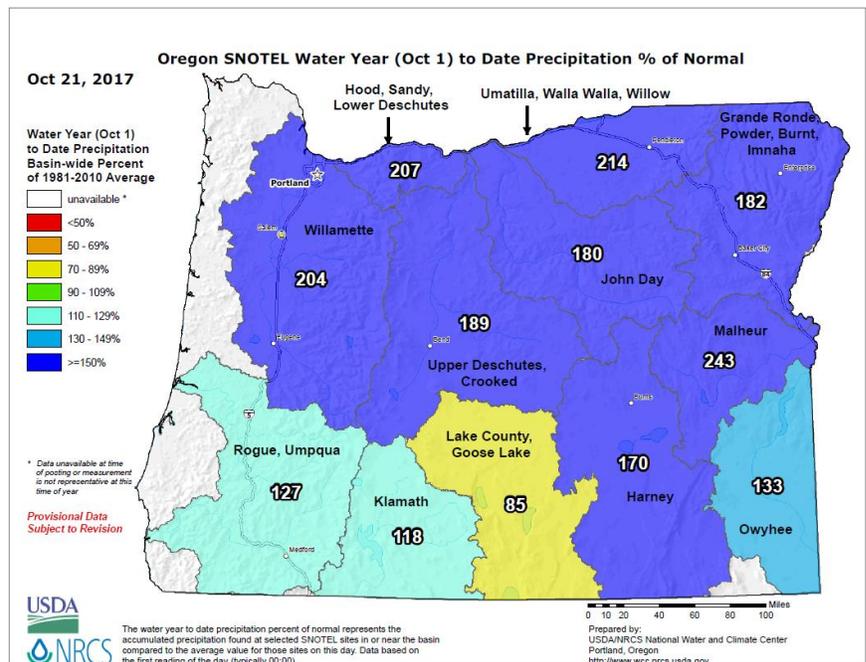
Milder temperatures and higher humidity have helped to ease the potential for wildfires. Regardless, fire season continues as drier and warmer weather persists through most of Oregon. The Oregon Department of Forestry's [wildfire blog](#) continues to post the latest up-to-date conditions. Wildland fire potential [outlooks](#) continue to be posted with the next update scheduled for November 1, 2018. More information can also be accessed through the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center [website](#). Another recommended resource is the Oregon Office of Emergency Management's [RAPTOR](#) incident mapping program which includes current situational information, such as wildfire perimeters, thermal satellite, fire evacuation boundaries, and air quality info.

Data & Products:	Page:
Precipitation (Mountain) - Percent of Normal	4
Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal.....	5
Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal	6
Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook	7
Soil Moisture - Percentile	8
U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon	9
Streamflow Conditions by County- September.....	10
Streamflow Conditions – South Coast.....	10
Streamflow Conditions – Owyhee	11
Statewide Reservoir Conditions – September.....	11

Precipitation (Mountain) - Percent of Normal



Compared to this time last year -



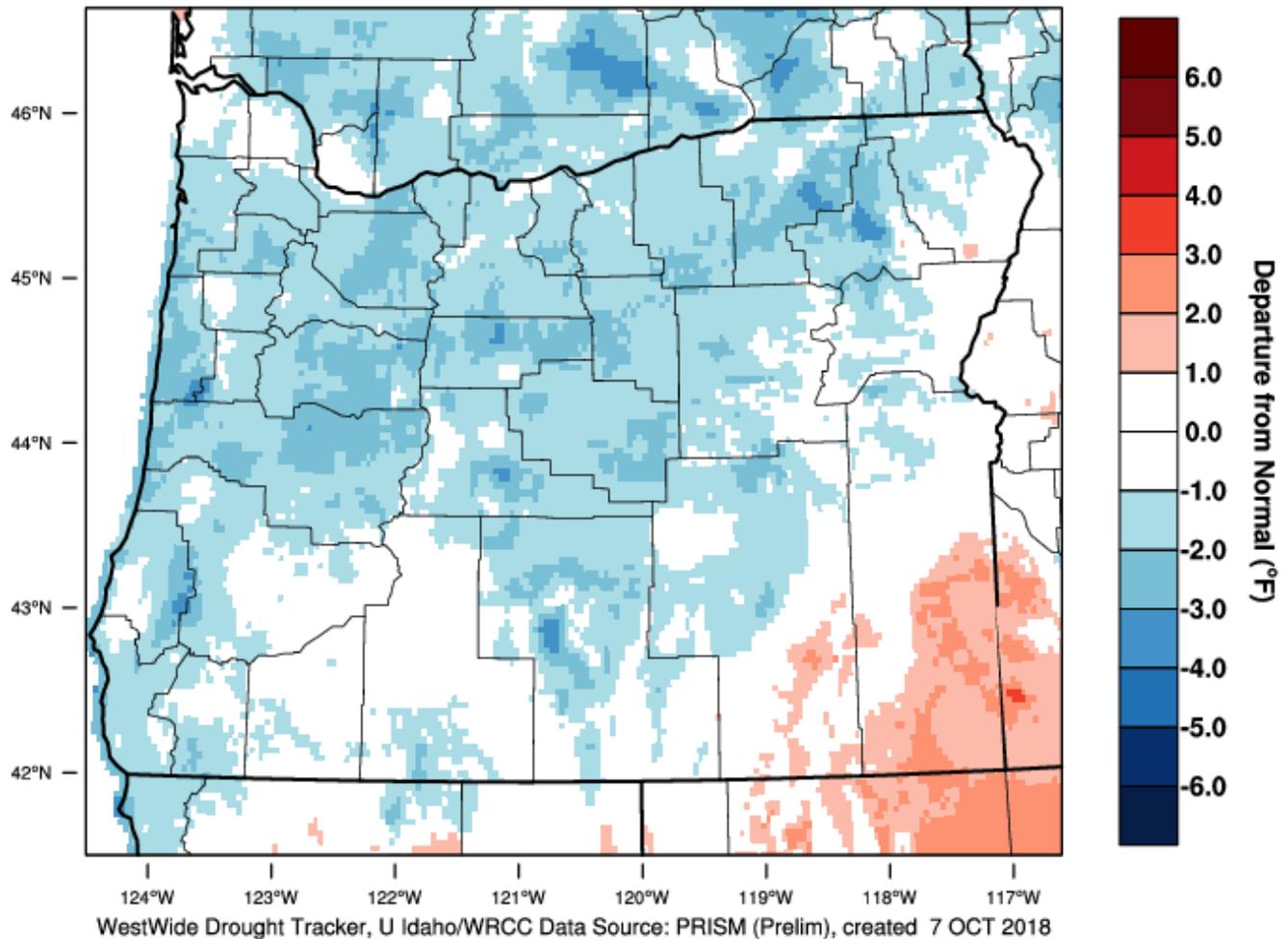
Temperature – (1 Month) Departure from Normal

Website: <https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?region=or>

PRISM > Temperature Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon

Oregon - Mean Temperature

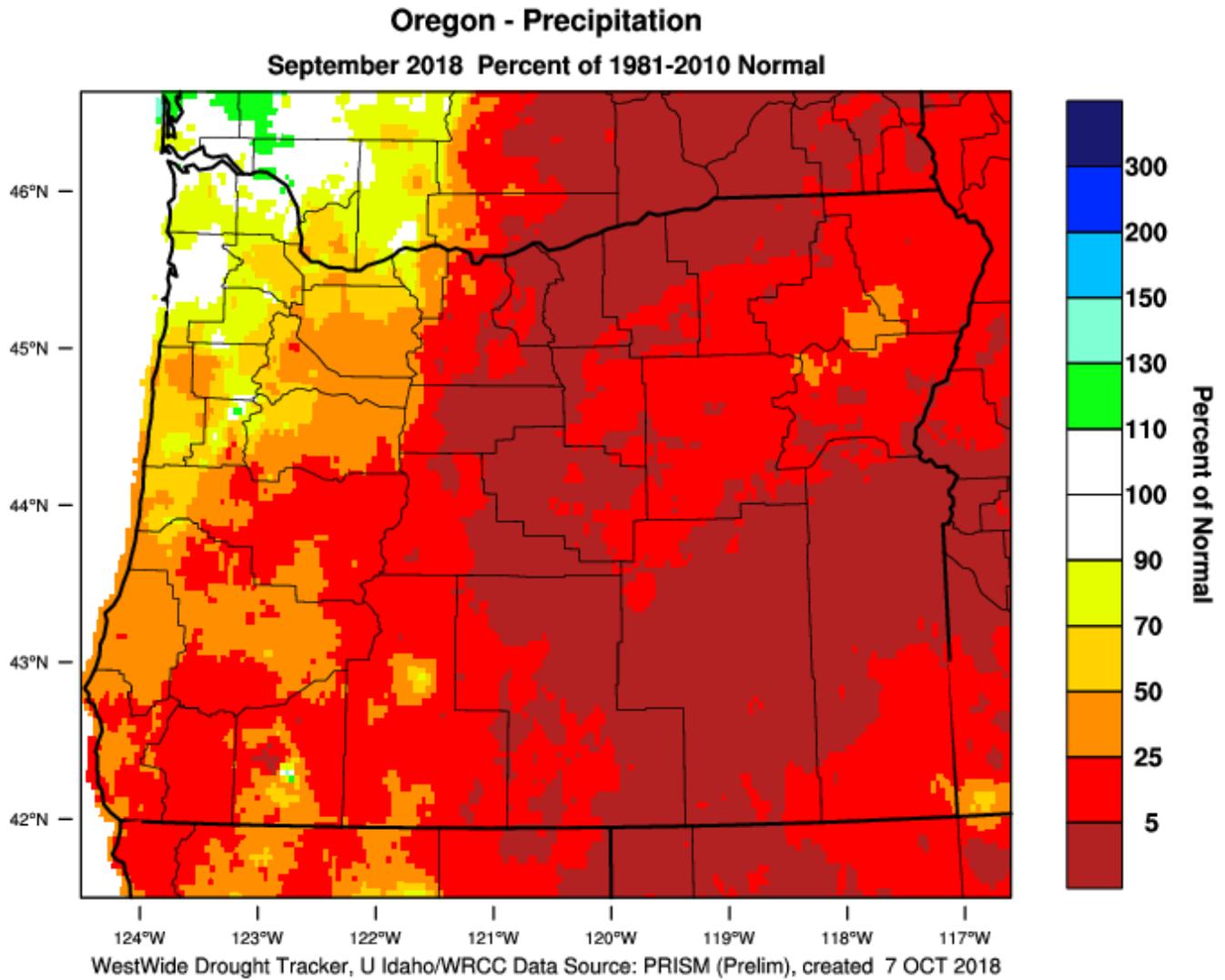
September 2018 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal



Precipitation – (1 Month) Percent of Normal

Website: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/index.php?folder=pon1>

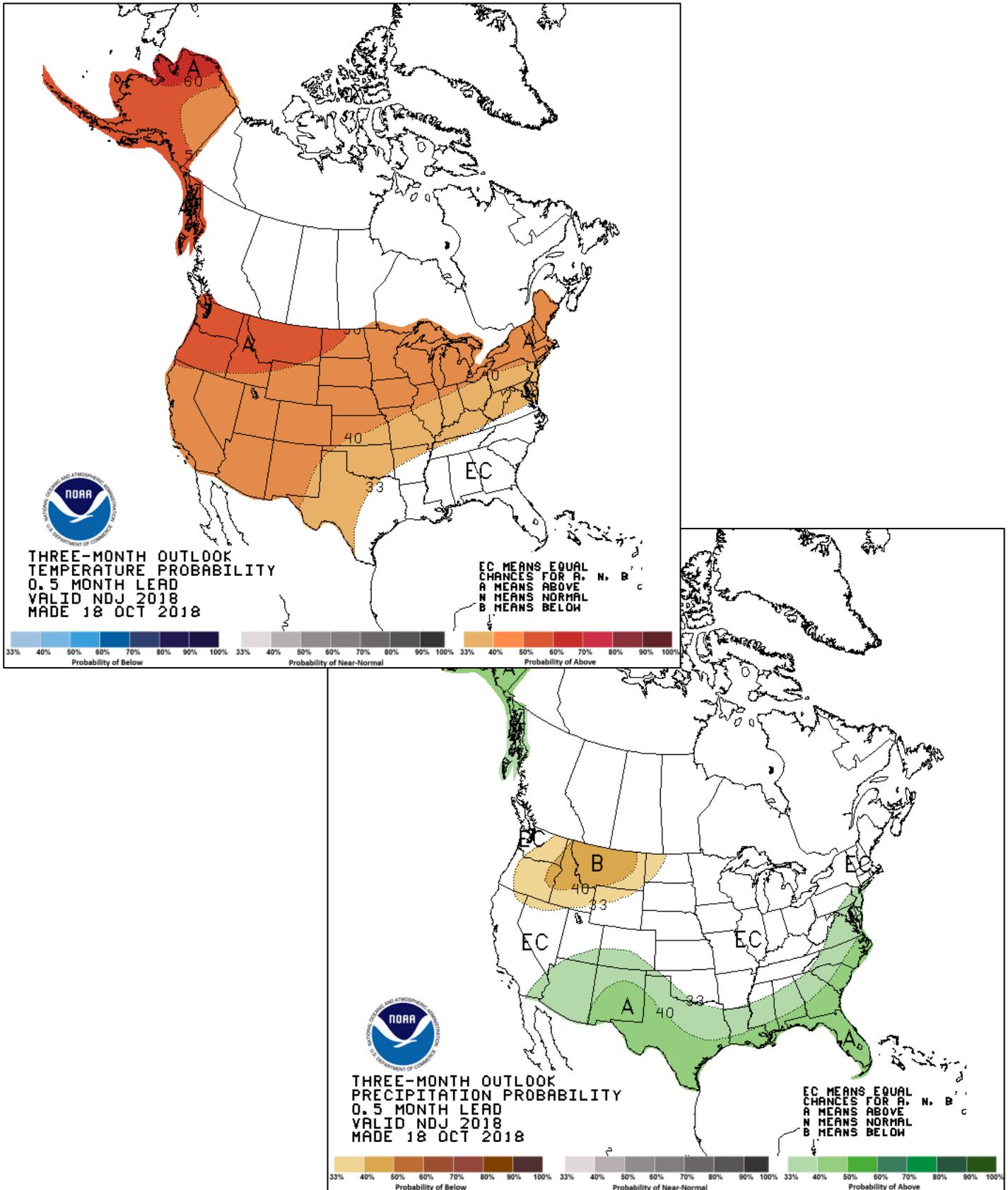
PRISM > Precipitation Anomaly 1 Month > Oregon



Three Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

November through January

Website: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1

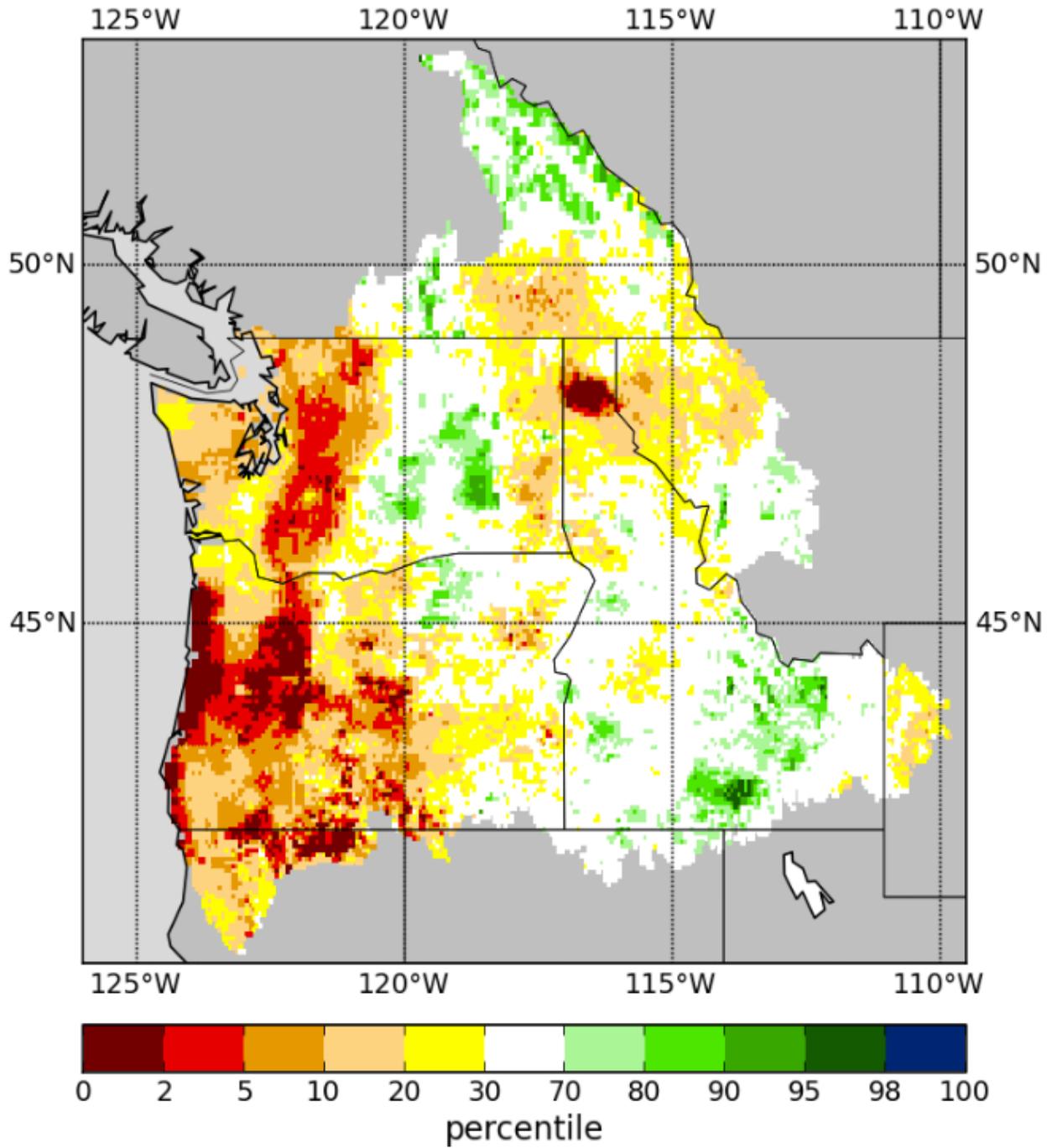


Soil Moisture - Percentile

Website: http://www.hydro.ucla.edu/SurfaceWaterGroup/forecast/monitor_pnw/index.shtml

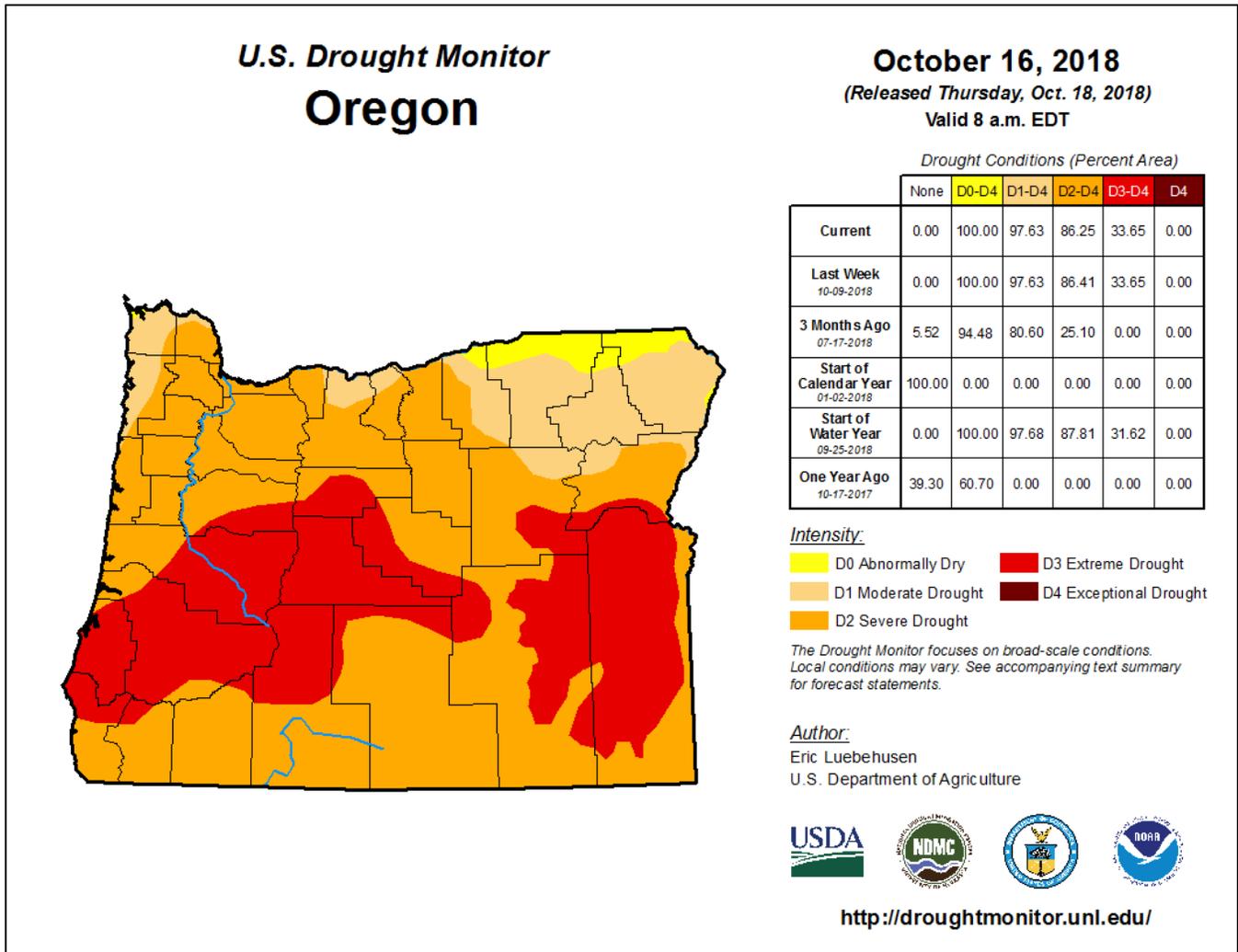
Total Moisture Percentile

2018--10--21

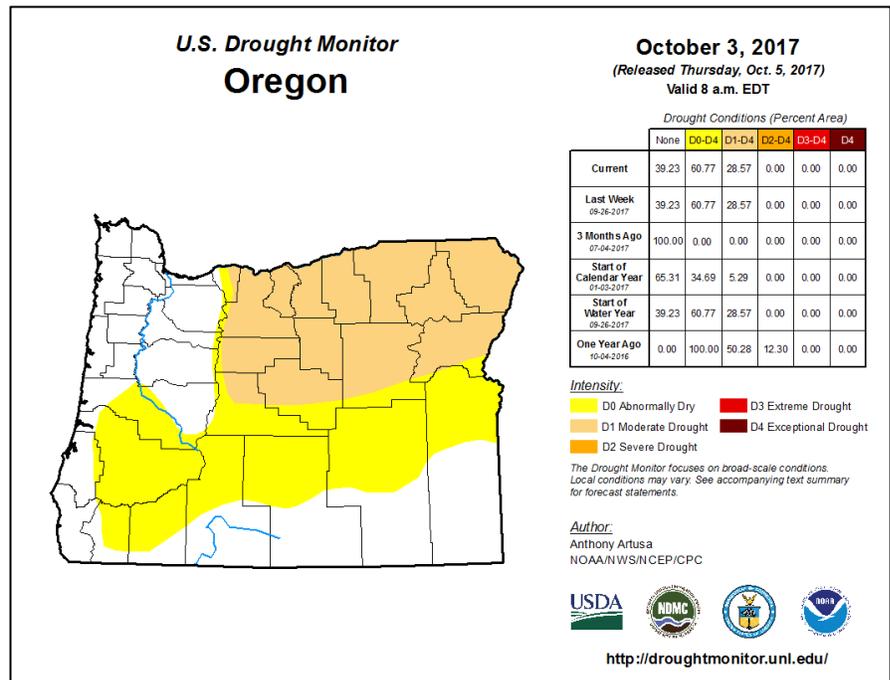


U.S. Drought Monitor for Oregon

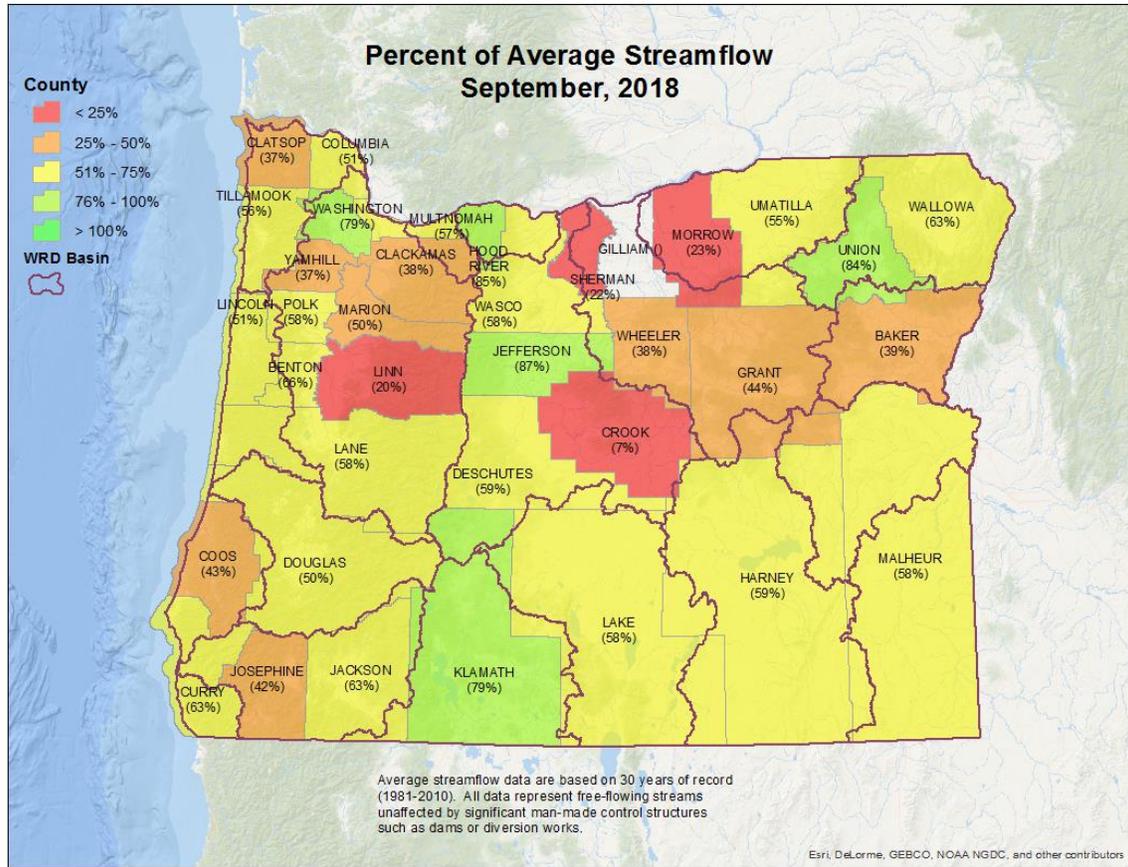
Website: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR>



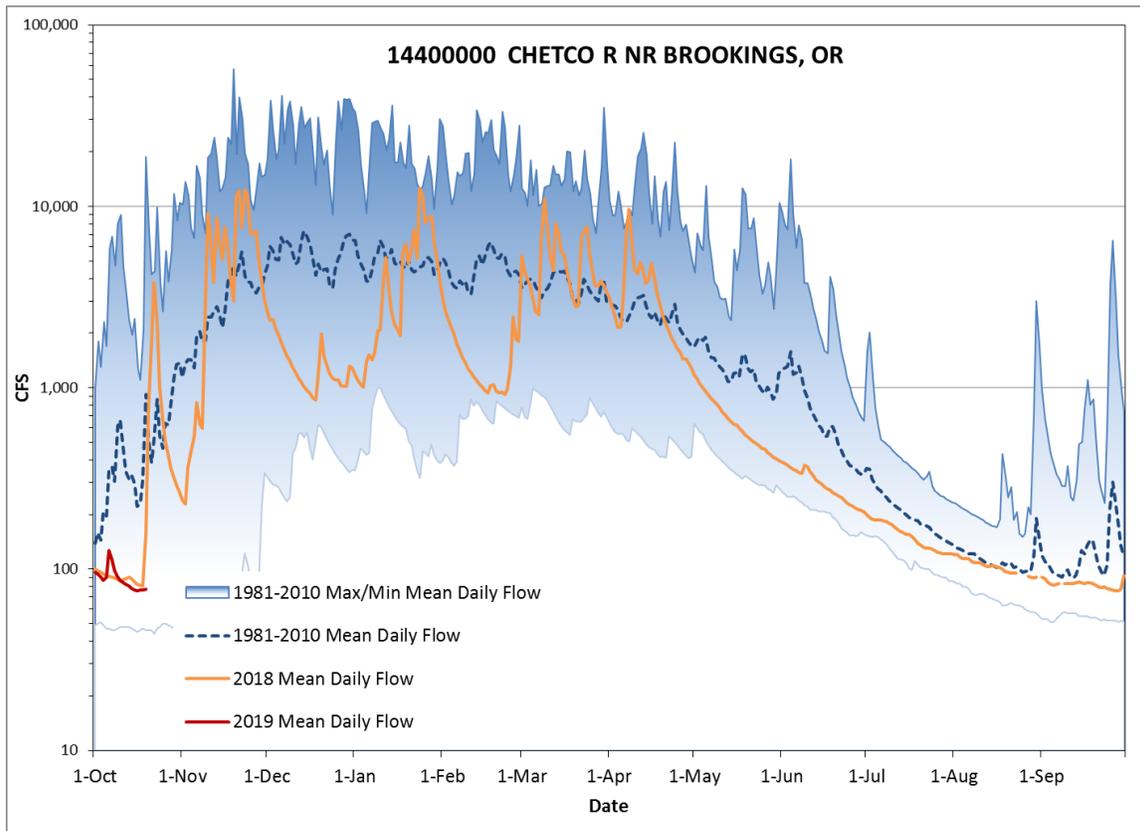
Compared to this time last year:



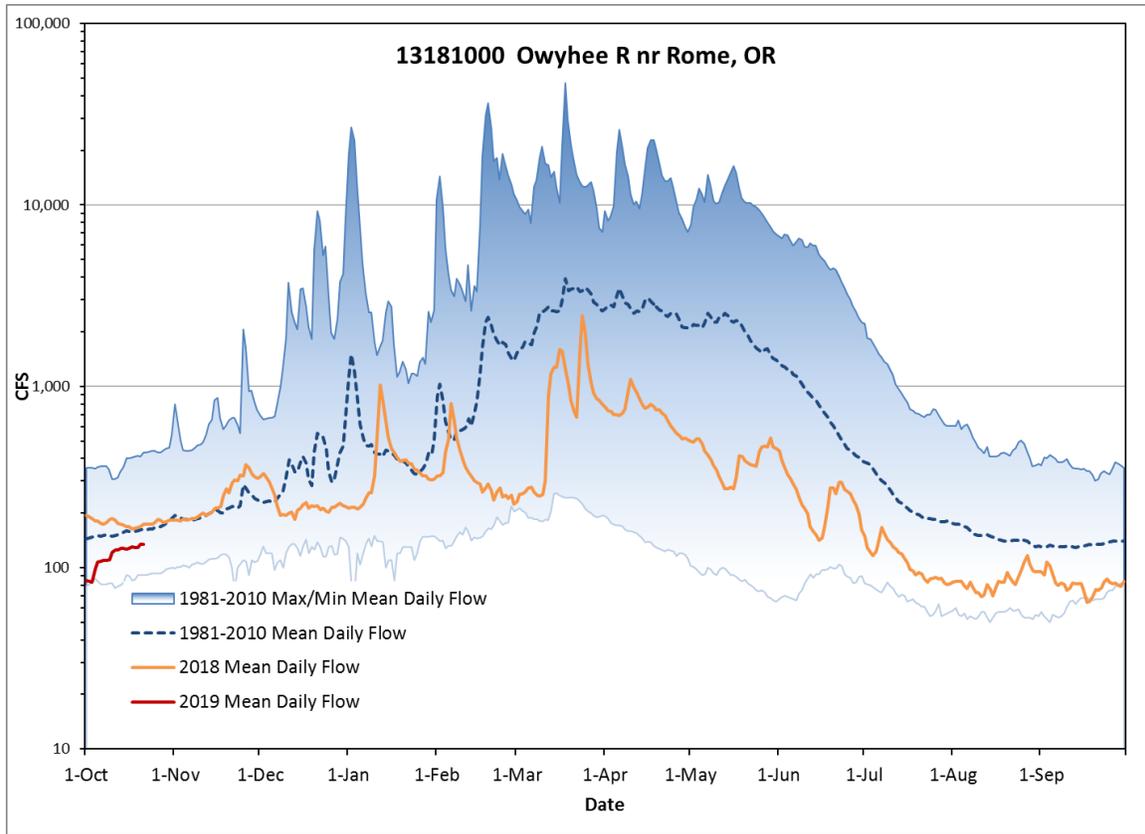
Streamflow Conditions by County- September



Streamflow Conditions – South Coast



Streamflow Conditions – Owyhee



Statewide Reservoir Conditions – September

