



Drought Report for the Week of March 23, 2015



Governor Kate Brown declared drought in Malheur and Lake Counties on March 16. Three additional counties (Klamath, Harney & Crook) have been submitted to the Governor's office for consideration. Baker & Wheeler Counties are next to be considered by the Oregon Drought Council. The Drought Council plans to meet next on April 9th. Snow pack conditions throughout the state average less than 20% of normal, signaling early and prolonged drought conditions throughout Southeast Oregon.

To go to a specific section click on title below:

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- Oregon Declaration Status
- Oregon SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent % of Normal
- Oregon SNOTEL Water Year to Date Precipitation % of Normal
- Oregon Drought Monitor
- Water Right Drought Permit Application: Summary Report

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 - [Tualatin River Basin](#)
 - [Rogue Basin](#)
 - [Umatilla River Basin](#)
 - [Southeastern Oregon](#)
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- [Oregon Surface Water Supply Index](#)



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

Oregon Basin Outlook Report

March 1, 2015



A brief glimpse of winter on Mt. Bachelor as NRCS surveyors measure record low snowpack.

Photo courtesy of Kurt Moffitt (NRCS Oregon)

NRCS snow surveyors, Kurt Moffitt and Gabby Coughlin, measured record low snowpack near Mt. Bachelor at two snow courses this month. Tangent snow course (5470 ft) dates back over 60 years and is one of the oldest sites in the basin. The March measurement set a new record low with only 6" of snow depth (1.8" of snow water), which is 10% of normal for this site. The previous record low for March 1 was set in 1977. As of March 1, 32 sites in Oregon set new record lows for snowpack and many more are near record low. Because of this, below normal streamflow is expected this summer in many areas across Oregon.



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Current Basin Water Status

Basin #	Basin Name	Basin Status	Reason
1	North Coast	Not Rated	
2	Willamette	Below Normal	Near normal streamflow now; bad outlook
3	Sandy	Below Normal	Near normal streamflow now; bad outlook
4	Hood	Below Normal	Near normal streamflow now; bad outlook
5	Deschutes	Below Normal	Reservoirs are near full
6	John Day	Drought Likely	Bad streamflow outlook; No Reservoirs
7	Umatilla	Below Normal	Reservoirs are near full, good water supply
8	Grande Ronde	Below Normal	Snowpack >5000'
9	Powder	Drought Likely	Reservoir Storage is mixed; no snowpack
10	Malheur	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir storage is near empty
11	Owyhee	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir storage is near empty
12	Malheur Lake	Drought Unavoidable	No reservoir storage; No snowpack
13	Goose & Summer Lake	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir storage is near empty
14	Klamath	Drought Unavoidable	Stressed soil; No snowpack
15	Rogue	Drought Likely	Lack of snowpack; Reservoir storage is decent
16	Umpqua	Drought Likely	Lack of snowpack; River outlook bad
17	South Coast	Not Rated	
18	Middle Coast	Not Rated	

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Oregon's Water Availability Committee* Water Supply Assessment March 2015

Drought by Basin Status

- Near or Above Normal
- Below Normal
- Drought Likely
- Drought Unavoidable
- Drought
- Extreme Drought
- Not Rated

Administrative Basins

*Members Include
State and Federal
Science Agencies



Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St. NE Suite A
Salem, OR 97301
<http://www.wrd.state.or.us/>

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0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Updated: 3/23/2015
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83



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Current Drought Declaration Status Report





Drought Year	County	Drought Title	Drought Status	County Declaration Date	Forwarded to Governor Date	Governor Declaration Date	Federal Declaration Date	Executive Order
2015	Malheur	MALHEUR DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/04/2015	03/11/2015	03/16/2015		15-02
2015	Lake	LAKE DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/10/2014	03/11/2015	03/16/2015		15-02
2015	Harney	HARNEY DROUGHT	Submitted to Governor		03/20/2015			
2015	Klamath	KLAMATH DROUGHT	Submitted to Governor		03/20/2015			
2015	Crook	CROOK DROUGHT	Submitted to Governor		03/20/2015			
2015	Baker	BAKER DROUGHT	County Declared	03/18/2015				

Oregon's Drought Council* Drought Declaration Status

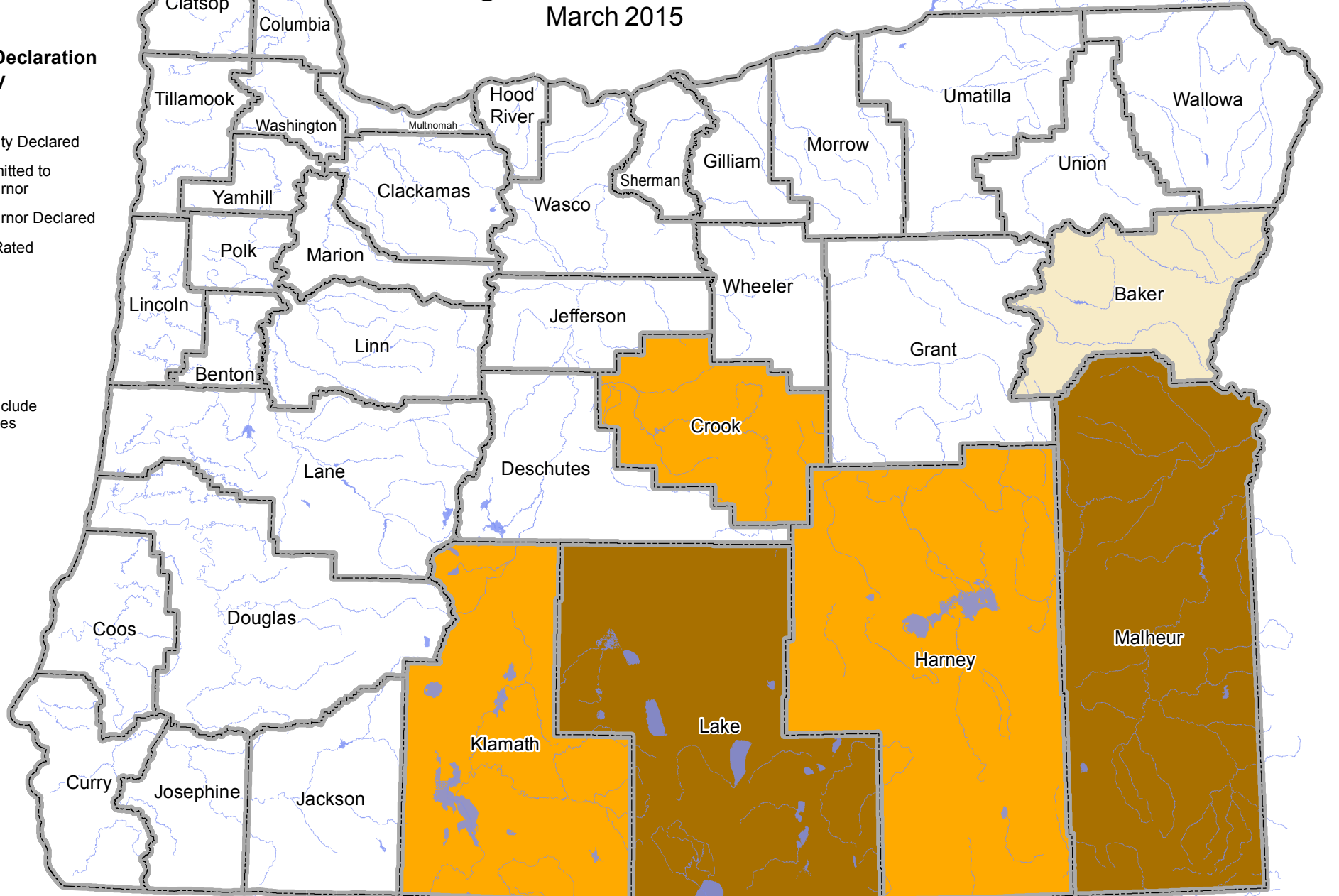
March 2015

Drought Declaration by County

Status

-  County Declared
-  Submitted to Governor
-  Governor Declared
-  Not Rated

*Members Include
State Agencies



Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St. NE Suite A
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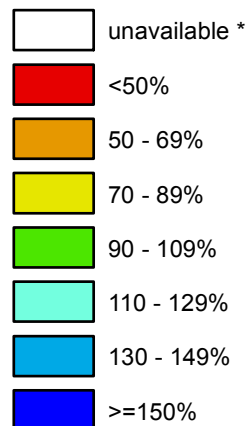
0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Updated: 3/20/2015
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83

Oregon SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

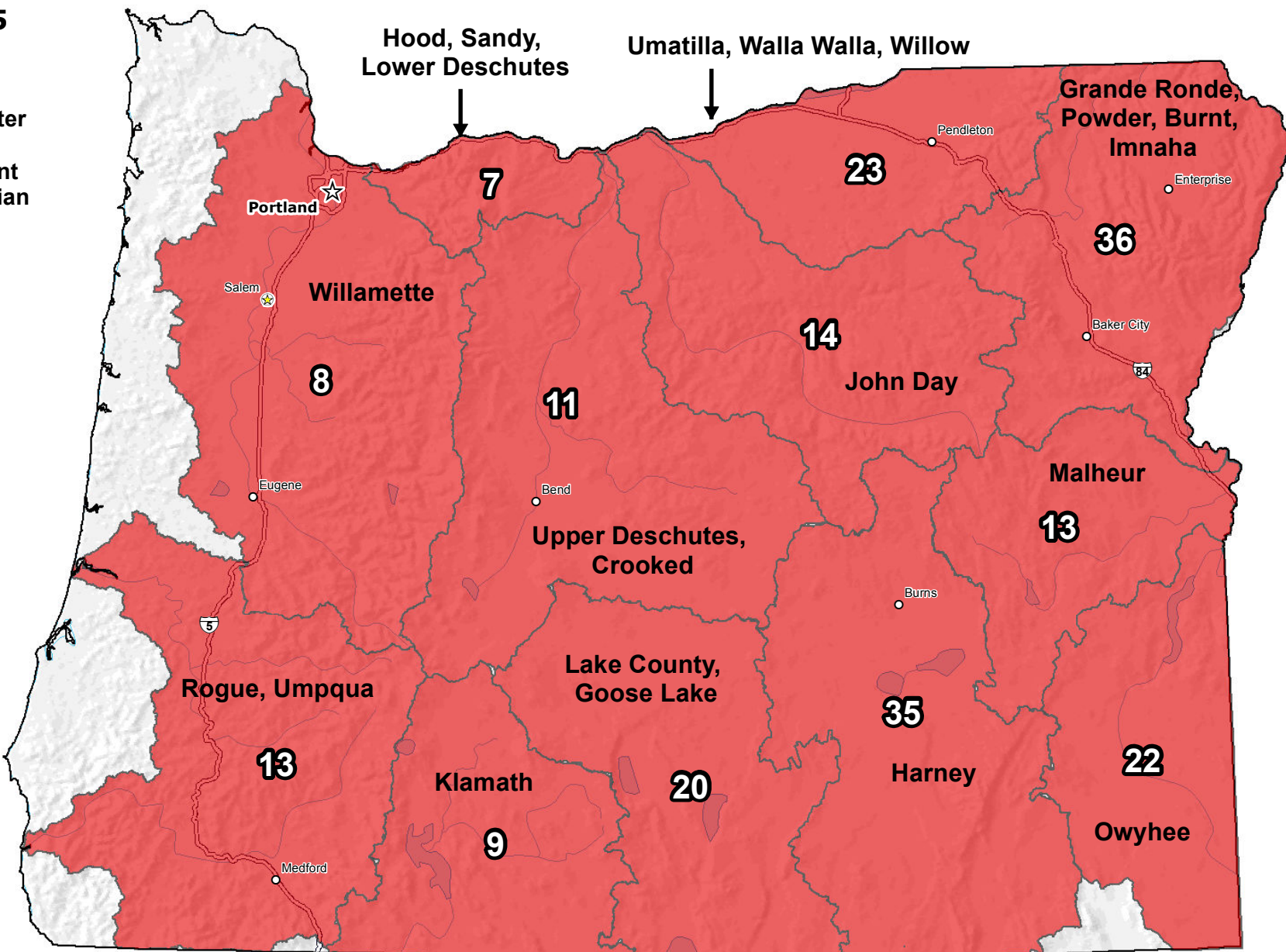
Mar 24, 2015

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)
Basin-wide Percent
of 1981-2010 Median



* Data unavailable at time
of posting or measurement
is not representative at this
time of year

**Provisional Data
Subject to Revision**



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

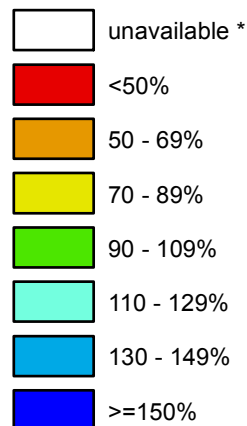
0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

Oregon SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation % of Normal

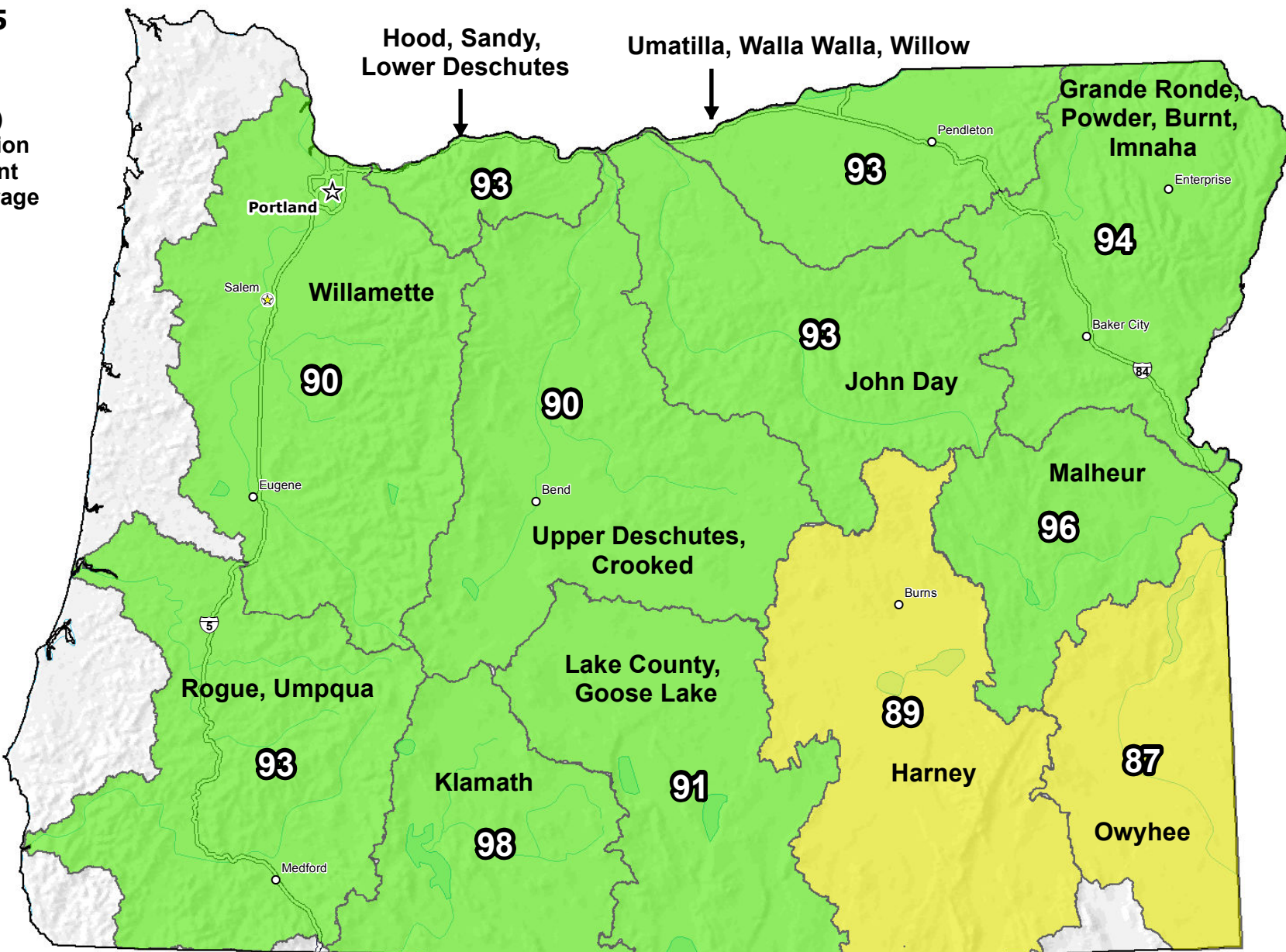
Mar 24, 2015

Water Year (Oct 1)
to Date Precipitation
Basin-wide Percent
of 1981-2010 Average



* Data unavailable at time
of posting or measurement
is not representative at this
time of year

**Provisional Data
Subject to Revision**



The water year to date precipitation percent of normal represents the accumulated precipitation found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

U.S. Drought Monitor

Oregon

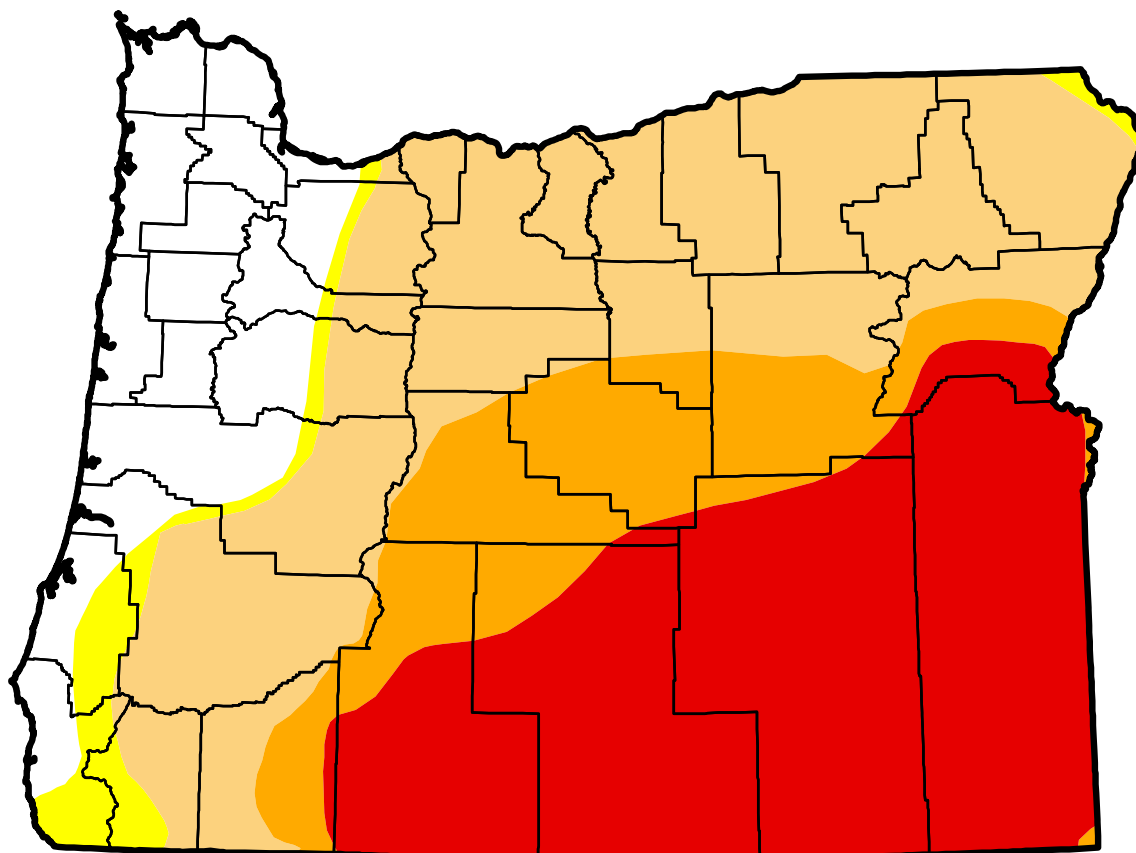
March 17, 2015

(Released Thursday, Mar. 19, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	14.22	85.78	82.30	47.93	33.72	0.00
Last Week <i>3/10/2015</i>	12.15	87.85	82.30	44.95	33.72	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>12/16/2014</i>	11.76	88.24	82.10	53.21	34.88	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>12/30/2014</i>	13.61	86.39	80.70	49.29	34.11	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>9/30/2014</i>	1.56	98.44	76.61	56.26	35.30	0.00
One Year Ago <i>3/18/2014</i>	0.77	99.23	95.14	49.08	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

 D0 Abnormally Dry	 D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought	 D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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NCDC/NESDIS/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



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Water Right Summary Report

Search Criteria

County:	Start Drought Year:
Drought Status:	End Drought Year:

<u>Drought Year</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Drought Title</u>	<u>Drought Status</u>	<u># of Drought Applications</u>	<u># of Drought Permits</u>	<u># of Drought Transfers</u>
2014	Harney	HARNEY DROUGHT	Governor Declared	3	2	0
2014	Klamath	KLAMATH DROUGHT	Governor Declared	46	41	0
2014	Lake	LAKE DROUGHT	Governor Declared	1	1	0
2014	Malheur	MALHEUR DROUGHT	Governor Declared	27	27	0

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