



# Drought Report for the Week of March 30, 2015

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County-wide drought declarations go through a three-part process before securing a drought declaration from the Governor's Office.

First, County Commissions meet to determine whether they want to seek a Governor's declaration. Counties that have made this determination and are currently asking for the state's help are: Baker and Wheeler County.

Second, these recommendations go to the Water Availability Committee (chaired by the Oregon Water Resources Department) and then the Oregon Drought Council (chaired by Oregon Emergency Management) for technical review. The next meeting of the Water Availability Committee and Oregon Drought Council is April 9, 2015. Counties that have gone through these committees and have been forwarded to the Governor's Office with a recommendation for drought declaration are: Klamath, Harney, and Crook Counties.

Finally, if approved for drought declaration, the Governor's Office issues an Executive Order, declaring drought in specific counties. In recent years, the Executive Order has specified a time limit of one year. A Governor's declared drought is in place for 2015 in the following counties: Malheur and Lake Counties. A Governor's Drought Declaration allows the Water Resources Department to issue emergency drought permits to applicants, using an expedited process.

Current Water Conditions: Snow pack conditions throughout the state average less than 20% of normal, signaling early and prolonged drought conditions throughout Southeast Oregon.

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- [Oregon Surface Water Supply Index](#)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Service

# Oregon Basin Outlook Report

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## 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/>

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

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



## DROUGHT

## Drought Declarations

## Search Criteria

County: Start Drought Year: 

Search

Drought Status: End Drought Year: 

Clear

Records per Page: 

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	03/20/2015	15-02	<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Lake	LAKE DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/10/2015	03/11/2015	03/16/2015		15-02	<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Harney	HARNEY DROUGHT	Submitted to Governor		03/20/2015		03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Klamath	KLAMATH DROUGHT	Submitted to Governor		03/20/2015		03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Crook	CROOK DROUGHT	Submitted to Governor		03/20/2015		03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Baker	BAKER DROUGHT	County Declared	03/18/2015			03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Douglas	DOUGLAS DROUGHT					03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Josephine	JOSEPHINE DROUGHT					03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Morrow	MORROW DROUGHT					03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Umatilla	UMATILLA DROUGHT					03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Union	UNION DROUGHT					03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>
2015	Wheeler	WHEELER DROUGHT					03/20/2015		<a href="#">(map)</a>

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# Oregon's Drought Council\* Drought Declaration Status

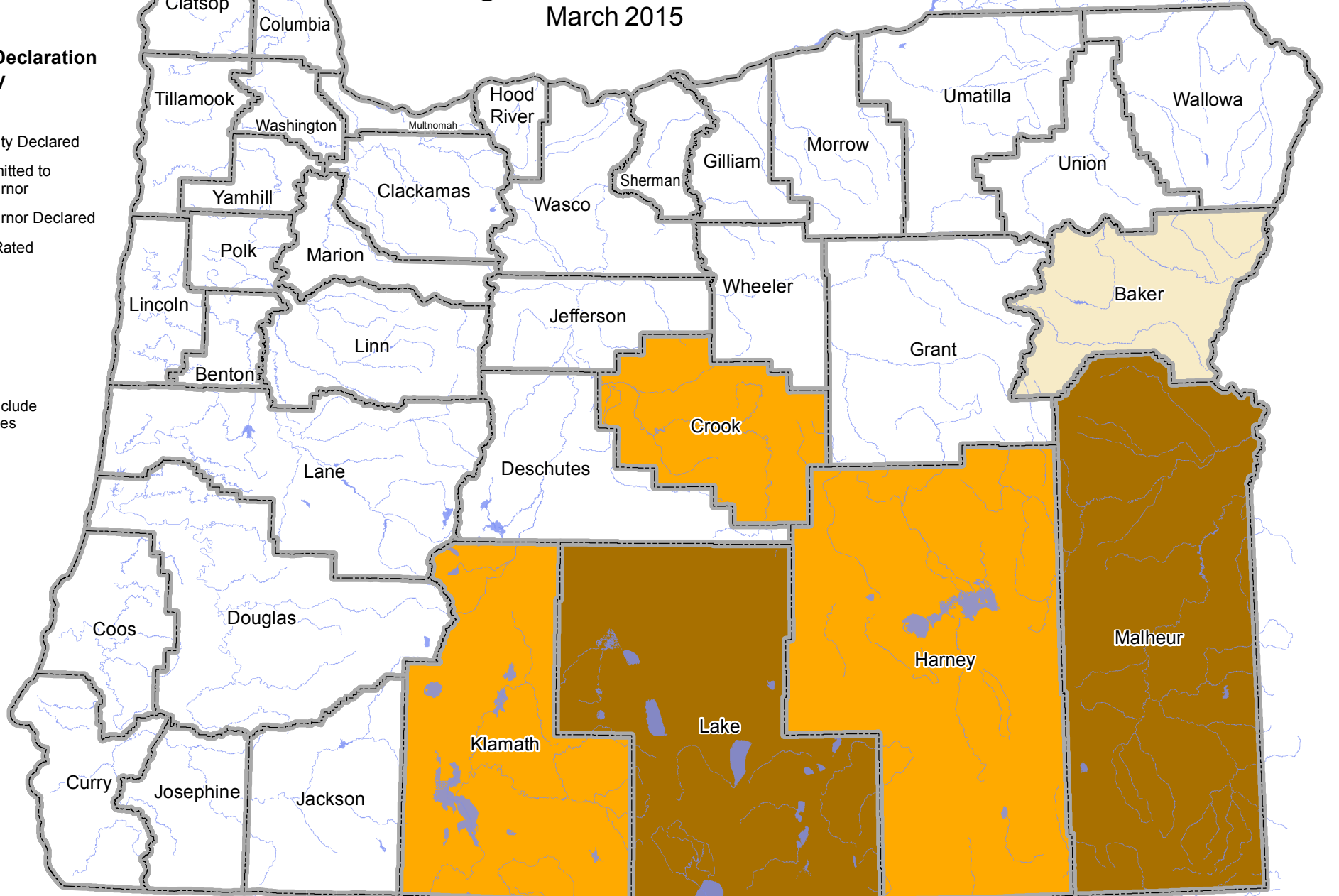
March 2015

## 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  
Salem, OR 97301  
<http://www.wrd.state.or.us/>

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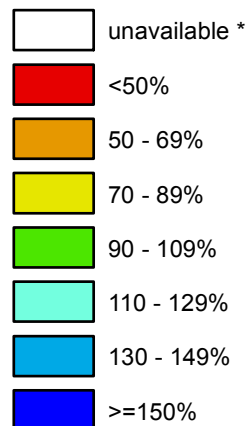
0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

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

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

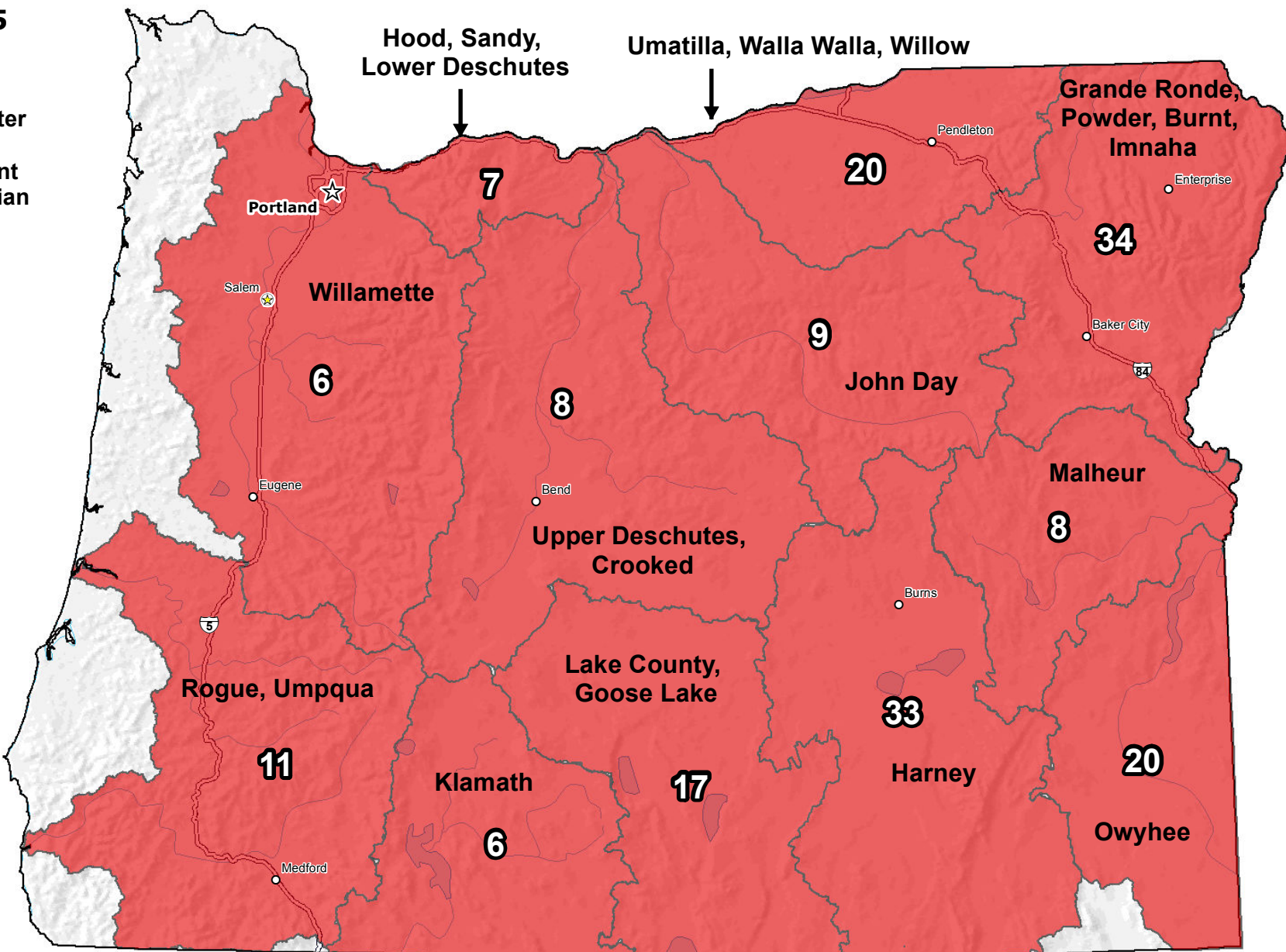
Mar 30, 2015

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

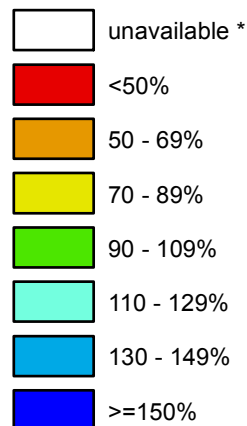
Prepared by:  
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>



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

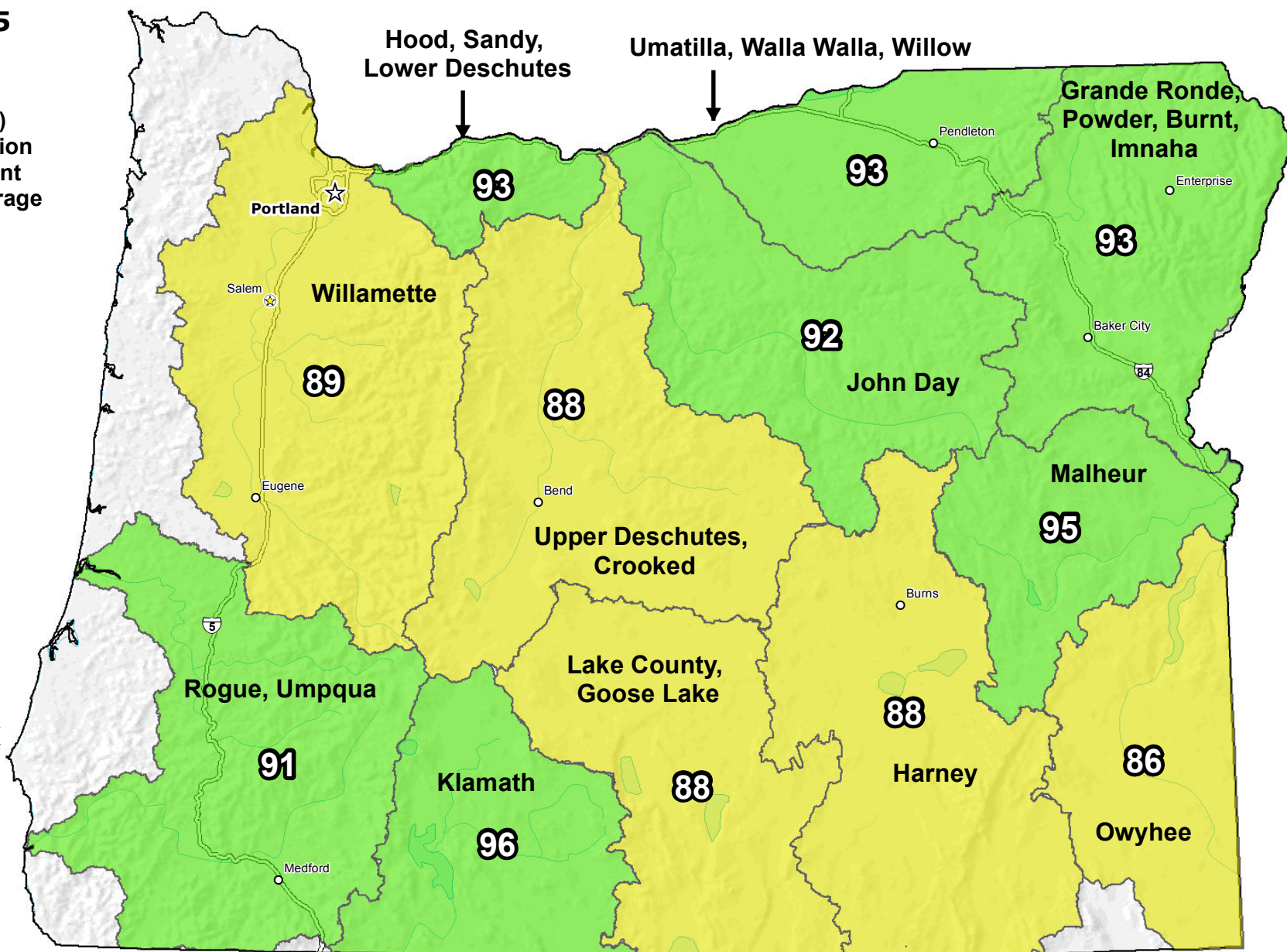
Mar 30, 2015

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

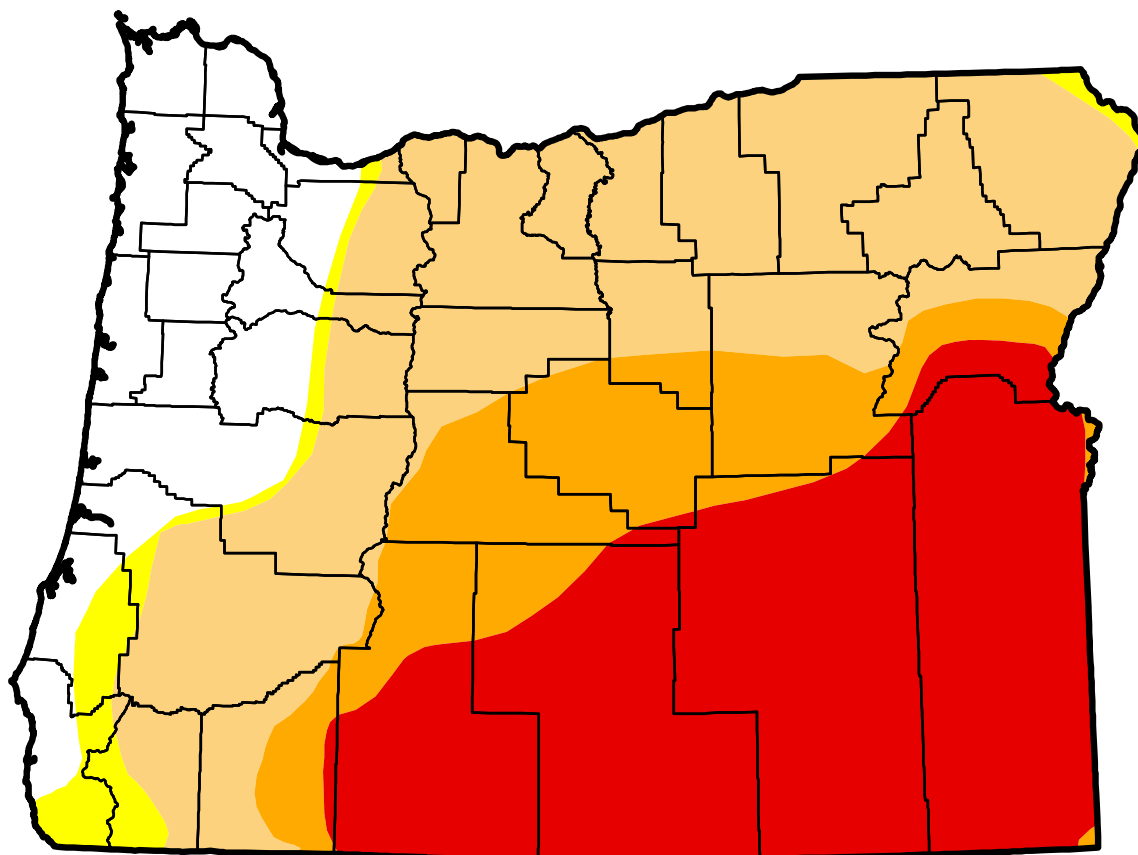
**March 24, 2015**

*(Released Thursday, Mar. 26, 2015)*

**Valid 7 a.m. EST**

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	14.36	85.64	82.30	47.93	33.72	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>3/17/2015</i>	14.22	85.78	82.30	47.93	33.72	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>12/23/2014</i>	12.09	87.91	81.60	51.58	34.11	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12/30/2014</i>	13.61	86.39	80.70	49.29	34.11	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>9/30/2014</i>	1.56	98.44	76.61	56.26	35.30	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>3/25/2014</i>	0.78	99.22	95.15	49.08	0.00	0.00



### Intensity:

<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:yellow; border:1px solid black;"></span> D0 Abnormally Dry	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:1px solid black;"></span> D3 Extreme Drought
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightorange; border:1px solid black;"></span> D1 Moderate Drought	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:darkorange; border:1px solid black;"></span> D4 Exceptional Drought
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:orange; border:1px solid black;"></span> D2 Severe Drought	

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

### **Author:**

*Eric Luebehusen*

*U.S. Department of Agriculture*



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



## Water Right Summary Report

### Search Criteria

County:  Start Drought Year:  Search

End Drought Year:  Clear

Records per Page:

<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>
2015	Malheur	MALHEUR DROUGHT	Governor Declared	5	0	2

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