Drought Report for the Week of December 7, 2015

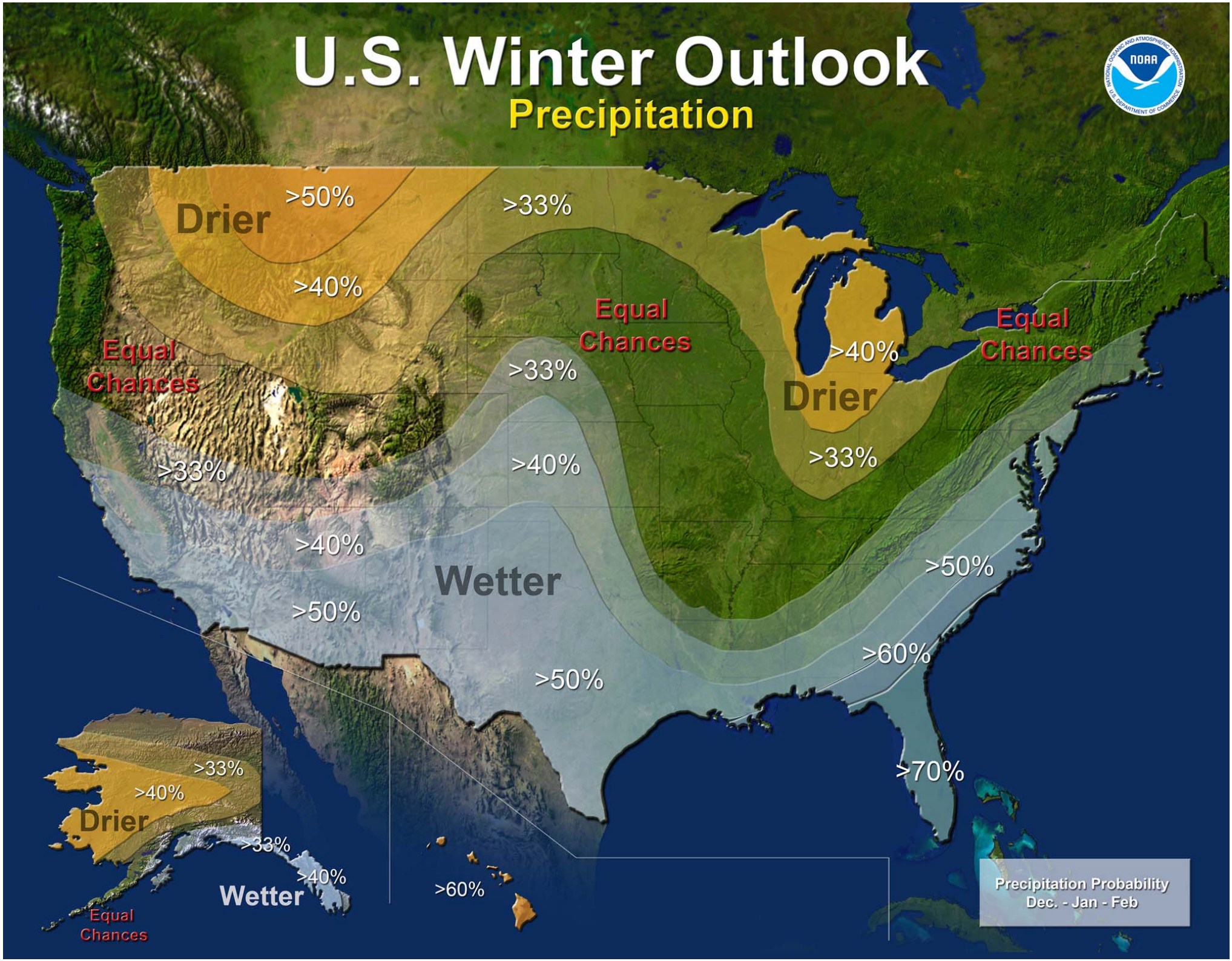
Looking back on the 2015 water year, records were set for lowest snowpack level and earliest melt dates since the state began record keeping more than 30 years ago. Stream flow for the 2015 water year was only 65 percent of average. In many locations, summertime stream flows were at the lowest levels ever recorded. In many cases, reservoir levels were also the lowest ever recorded. Streamflow conditions for November, 2015 were 65 percent of average. Current streamflow conditions are about 70 percent of average for early December.

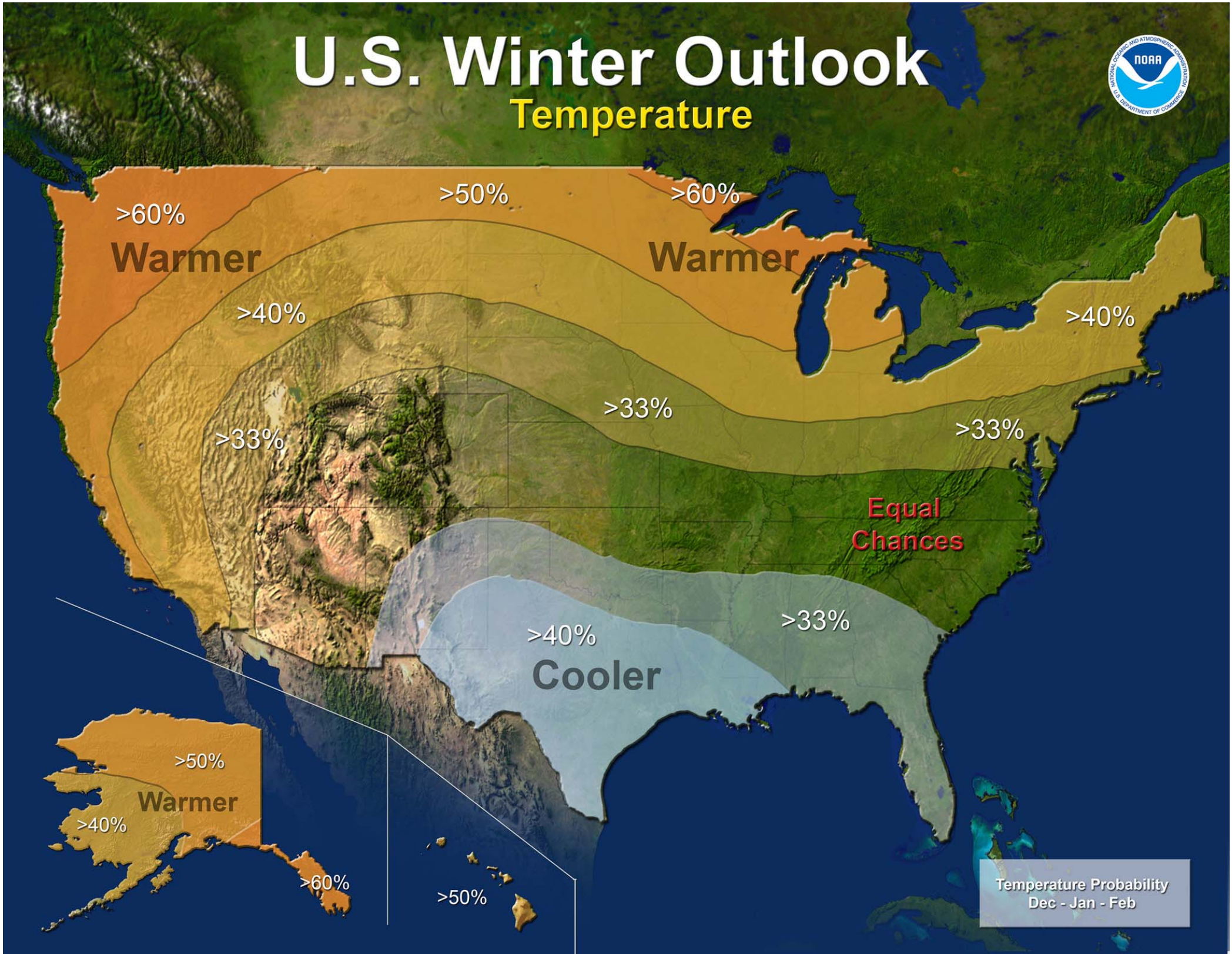
Governor Brown issued Executive Orders declaring drought in 25 counties. In recent years, these declarations have been set to expire at the end of the calendar year. These declarations allowed the Water Resources Department to issue emergency drought permits to applicants, using an expedited process.

Cooler temperatures and recent rainfall have helped to lower water demand in recent weeks and as a result, streams have responded with a moderate upward trend. Despite this, 60 percent of Oregon is still under "Extreme Drought" conditions according to the National Drought Mitigation Center. Reservoirs, especially in Eastern Oregon remain at extremely low levels.

The Climate Prediction Center has issued an El Nino advisory, stating; "El Niño will likely peak during the Northern Hemisphere winter 2015-16, with a transition to ENSO-neutral anticipated during the late spring or early summer 2016." For Oregon, this means a high probability of warmer than normal temperatures and an uncertain precipitation outlook. This means that it is likely that there is the potential of less than normal snowpack this winter.

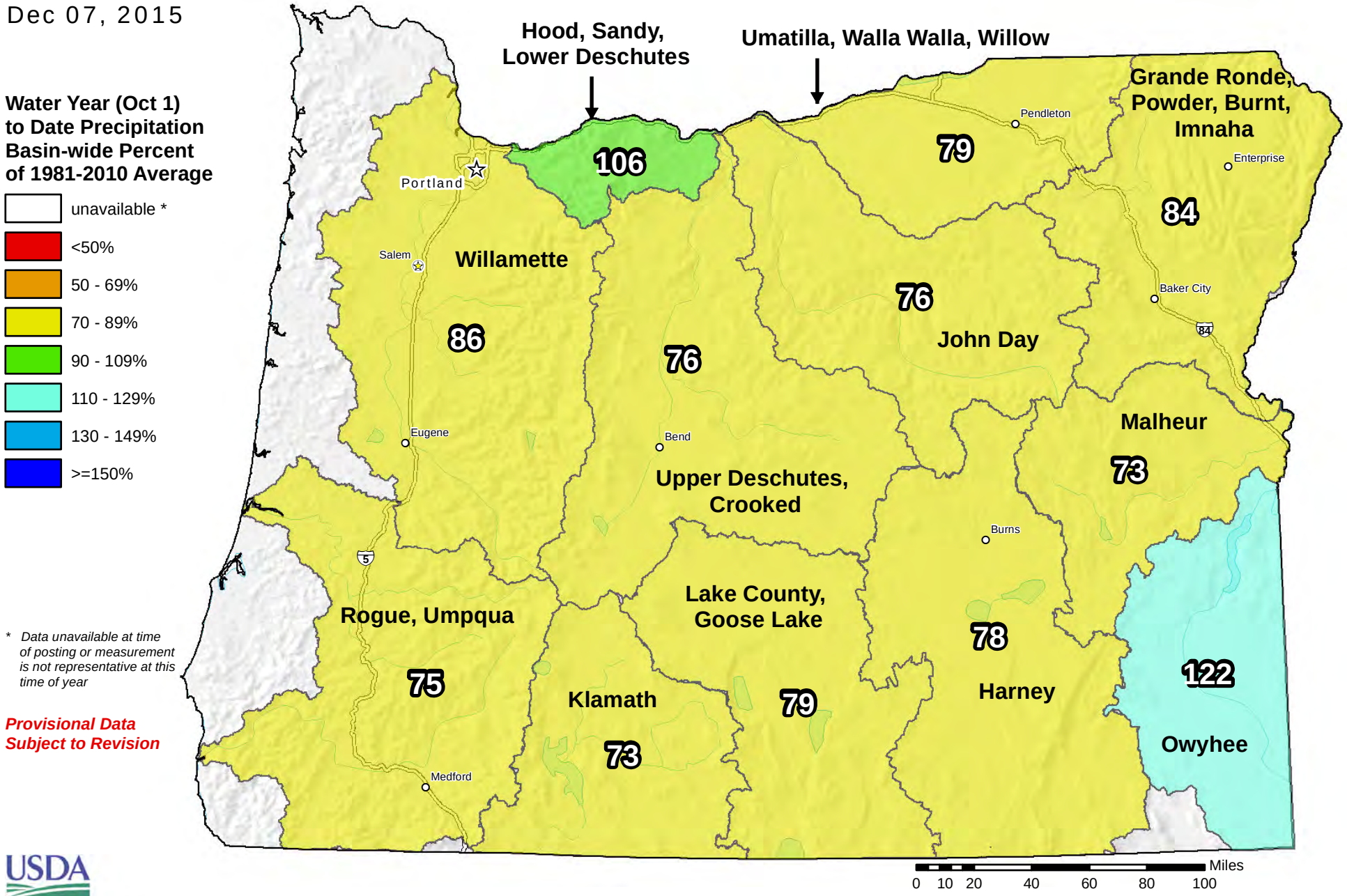
To go to a specific section click on title below:


U.S. Winter Outlook
Precipitation
NOAA
Drier
>50%
>33%
>40%
Equal Chances
Equal Chances
Equal Chances
>33%
>40%
Drier
>33%
>40%
>40%
Wetter
>50%
>50%
>50%
>60%
>70%
>33%
>40%
Drier
>33%
>40%
Wetter
Equal Chances
>60%
Precipitation Probability
Dec. - Jan - Feb


U.S. Winter Outlook
Temperature
NOAA
>60%
Warmer
>50%
>60%
Warmer
>40%
>40%
>33%
>33%
>33%
Equal
Chances
>33%
>40%
Cooler
>50%
Warmer
>40%
>60%
>50%
Temperature Probability
Dec - Jan - Feb

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

Dec 07, 2015



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

Provisional Data Subject to Revision

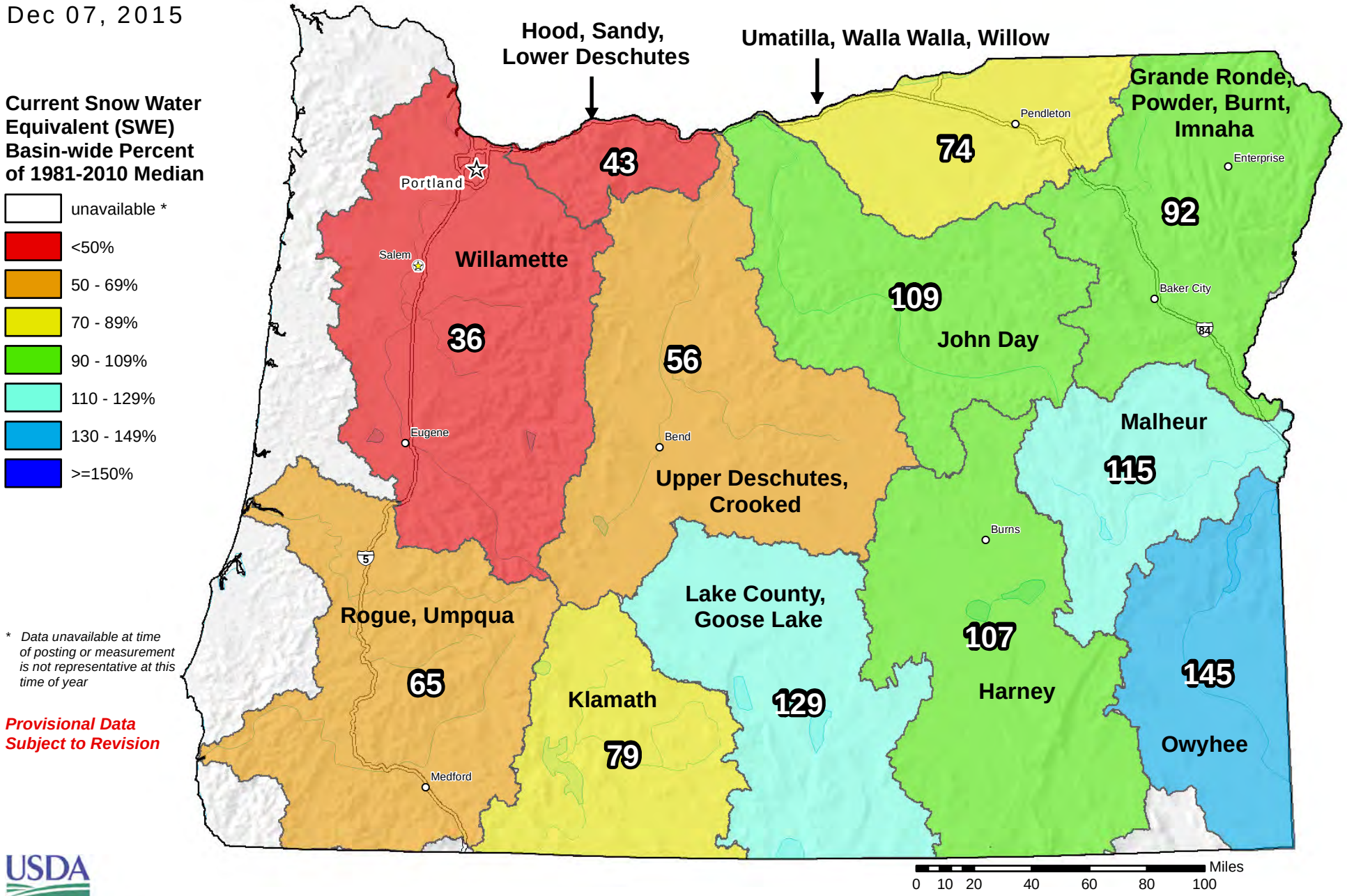
USDA NRCS

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).

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

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

Dec 07, 2015



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

Provisional Data Subject to Revision

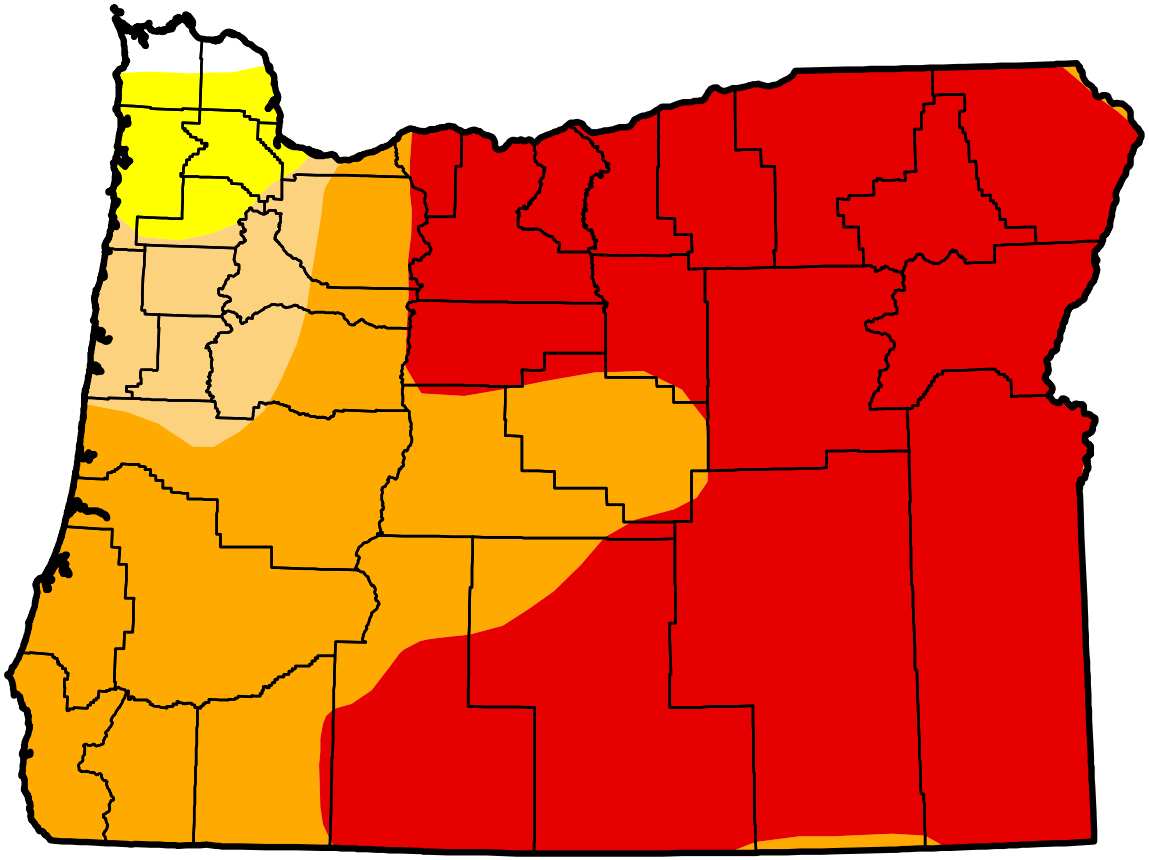
USDA NRCS

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).

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

U.S. Drought Monitor

Oregon



December 1, 2015

(Released Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.71	99.29	96.01	90.37	60.62	0.00
Last Week *11/24/2015*	0.71	99.29	96.01	90.37	60.69	0.00
3 Months Ago *9/1/2015*	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	67.28	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *12/30/2014*	13.61	86.39	80.70	49.29	34.11	0.00
Start of Water Year *9/29/2015*	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	67.29	0.00
One Year Ago *12/2/2014*	11.76	88.24	82.10	53.55	34.88	0.00

Intensity:

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

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

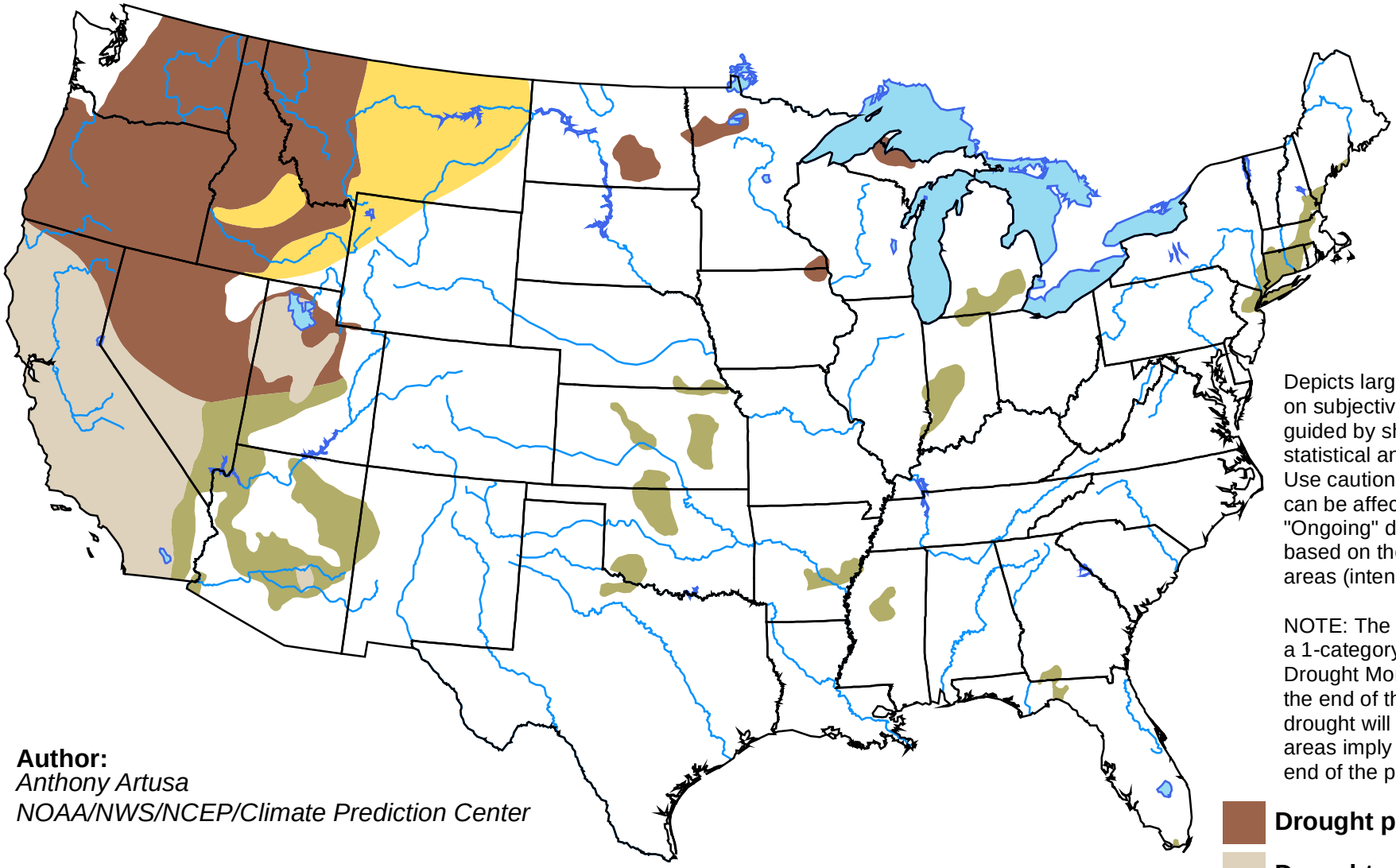
Author:
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook *Valid for November 19 - February 29, 2016*

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Released November 19, 2015



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

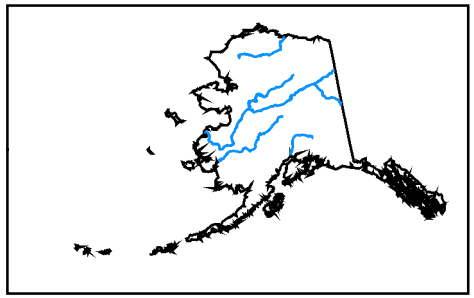
Drought persists

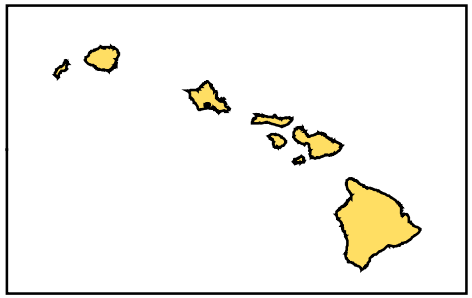
Drought remains but improves

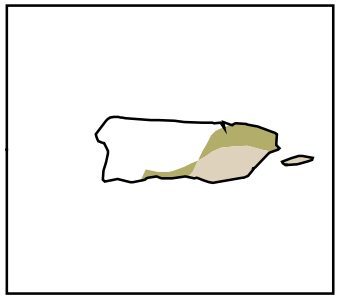
Drought removal likely

Drought development likely

Author:
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

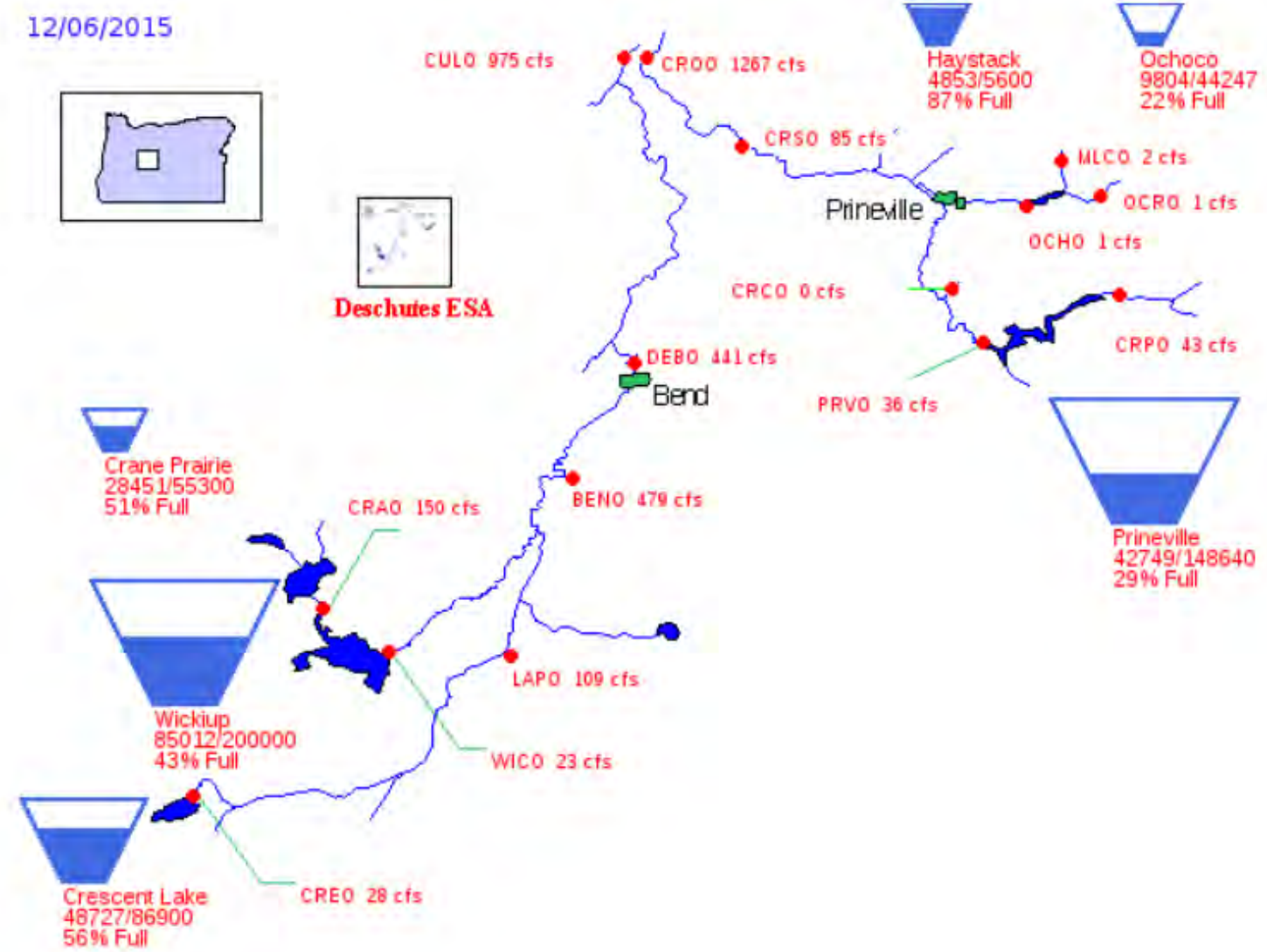






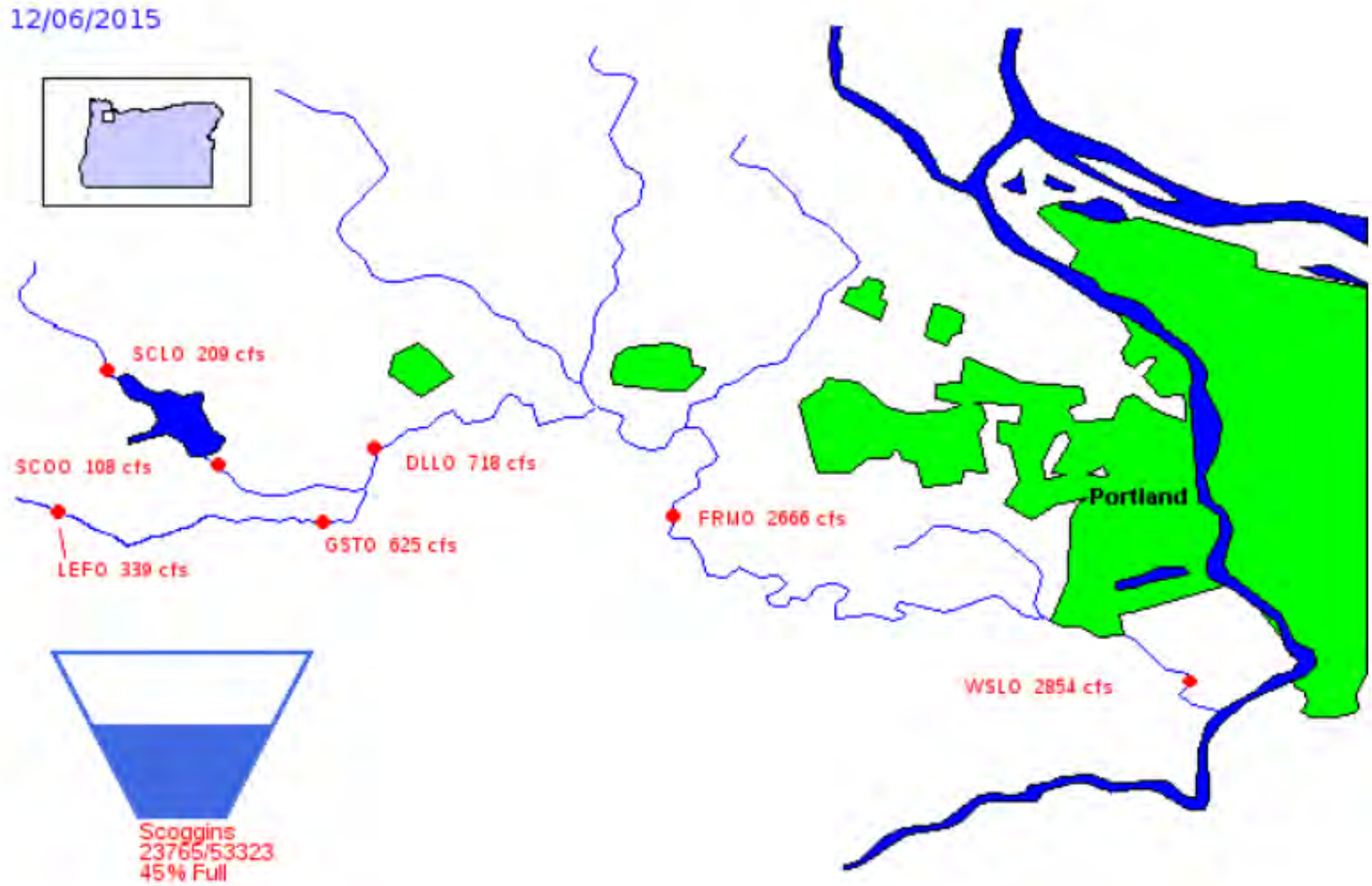
http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73

US Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region
Major Storage Reservoirs in the Deschutes River Basin

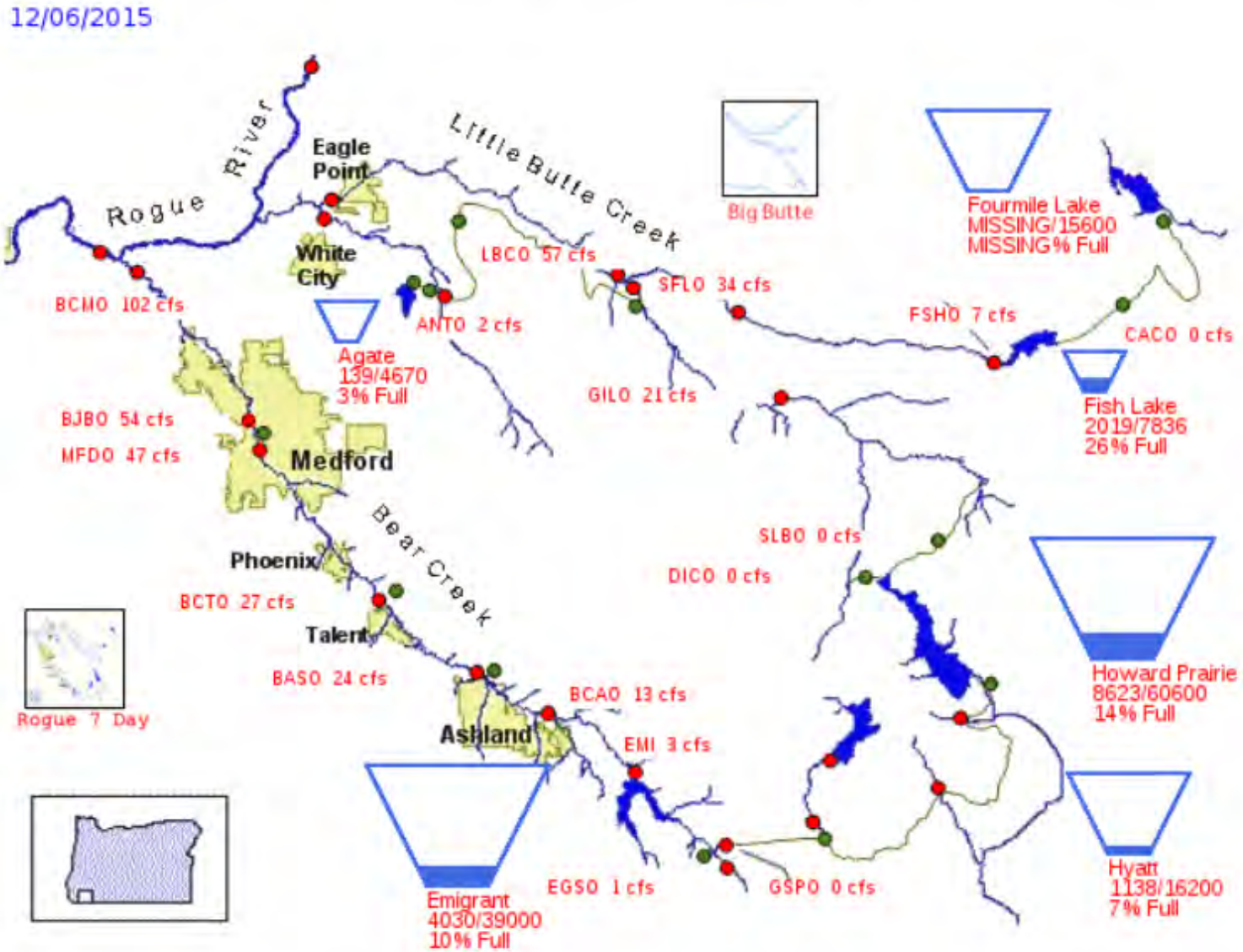



The Willamette Basin
LEGEND
Storage Project
Run of River
Gage
No Alerts
Bank Full
Flood Stage
Overview
4/4
Willamette Total
BASIN LOCATION MAP
Washington
OCEAN
PACIFIC
Oregon
Idaho
California
Nevada
to Coastal Basins
Forest Grove
Tualatin R.
Portland
Vancouver
Portland Harbor
Columbia River
to Lower Columbia
N
Tualatin R.
N. Yamhill R.
Newberg
River
Oregon City (upper)
S. Yamhill R.
Willamette
Keizer
Pudding R.
Molalla R.
Clackamas R.
Salem
Independence
4/4
Little N. Santiam R.
N. Santiam R.
Mehama
Detroit
Big Cliff
Jefferson
Albany
15/15
Corvallis
Mary's
S. Santiam
Middle Santiam R.
Waterloo
Green Peter
Calapooya
0/-1
Foster
Monroe
Harrisburg
Long Tom
1/1
Blue River
McKenzie River
2/2
Fern Ridge
Eugene
0/-8
Vida
Jasper
Fall Creek
0/0
Goshen
Dexter
Cougar
SF McKenzie R.
2/2
Dorena
3/3
2/2
Cottage Grove
Lookout Point
3/3
Hills Creek
to Rogue

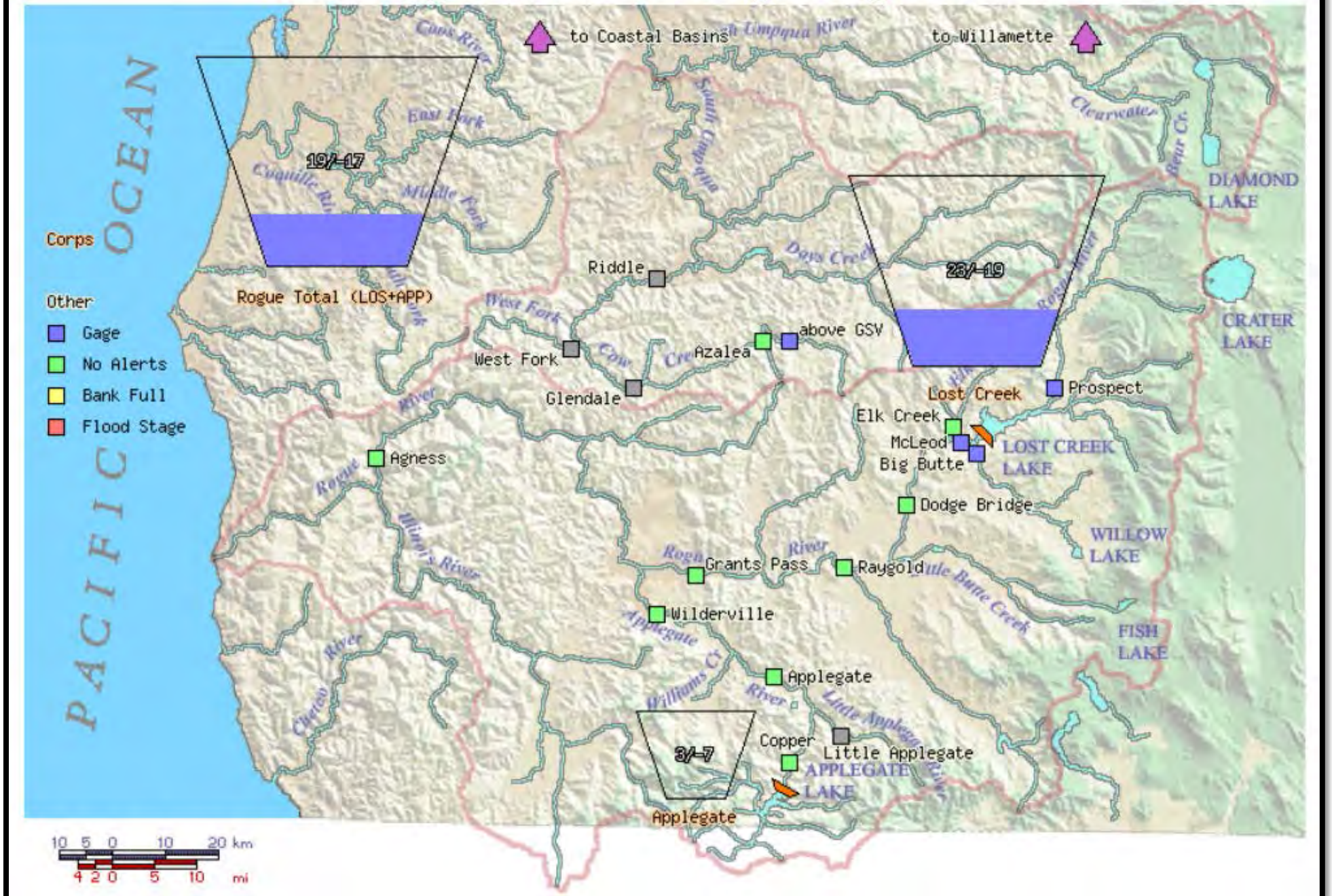
Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region
Tualatin River Basin Storage and Flow Diagram



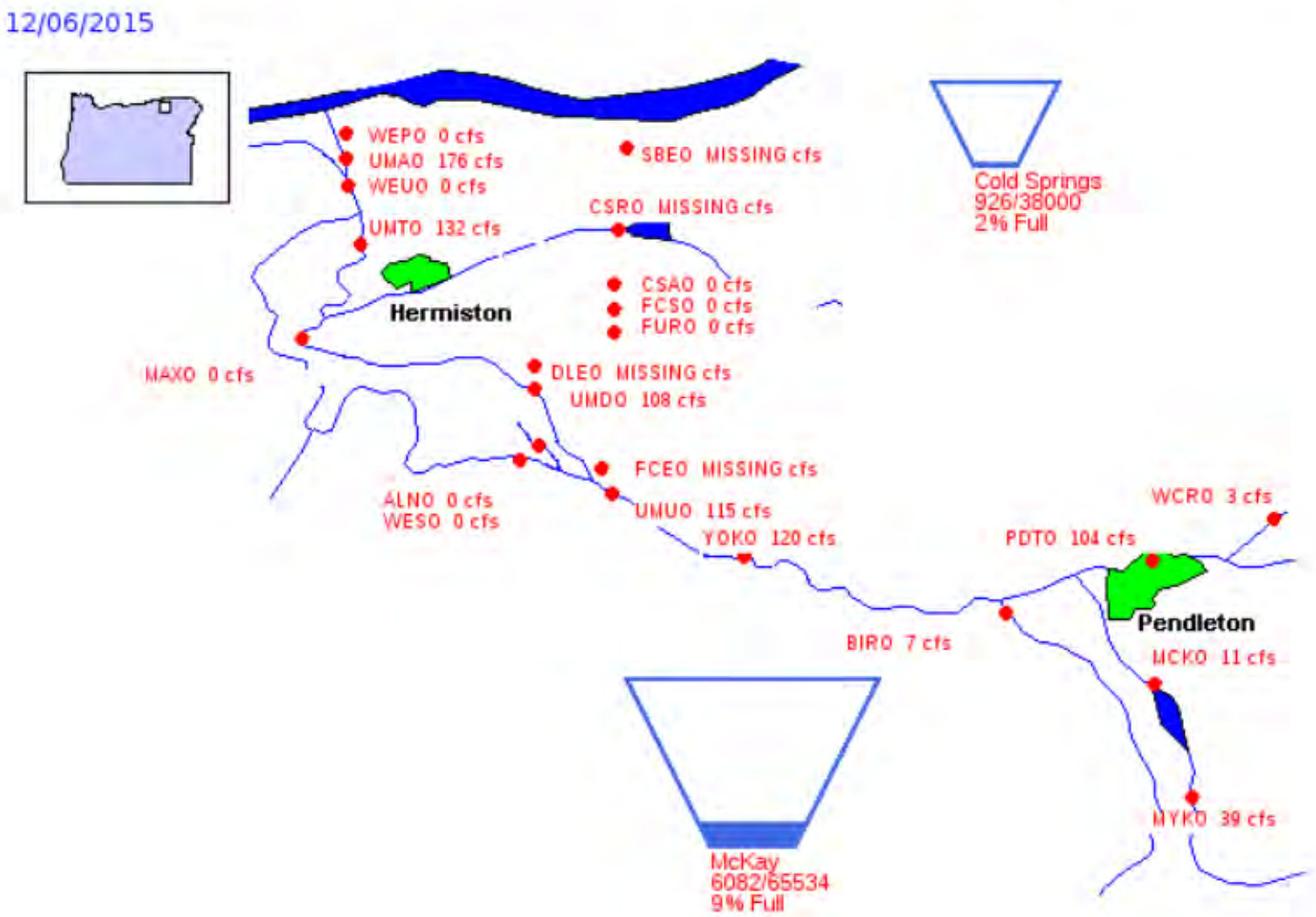
US Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region
Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek Basins



Rogue Basin Teacup Diagram



Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region
Umatill River Basin Storage and Flow Diagram



US Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region
Major Storage Reservoirs in Southeastern Oregon