

### Drought Report for the Week of November 23, 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 October, 2015 were 52 percent of average. Current streamflow conditions are about average for late November.

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; **"There is an approximately 95%** chance that El Niño will continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2015-16, gradually weakening through spring 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 will be less than normal snowpack in the coming winter.

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# U.S. Winter Outlook Precipitation



## **U.S. Winter Outlook** Temperature >60% >50% >60% Warmer Warmer >40% >40% >33% >33%

>40%

Cooler

>50% Warmer

%

>50%

>40%

Temperature Probability Dec - Jan - Feb

Equal

Chances

>33%





## U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

### November 17, 2015

(Released Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015)

#### Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)



	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	98.45	91.57	60.69	0.00
Last Week 11/10/2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	91.53	60.69	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 8/18/2015	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	49.89	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 11/18/2014	11.76	88.24	82.10	53.55	34.88	0.00

#### Intensity:







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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### http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/



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** 



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

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













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

