Oregon Water Conditions Report October 17, 2016



Despite the effect of recent rain events in the past two weeks, water supply conditions east of the Cascades continue to be only slightly higher than average. Conversely, these rain events have dramatically increased streamflows in areas west of the Cascades. In some instances, to record flow levels for this time of year.

Precipitation varied widely across the state during the past two weeks. The western third of the state observed much (up to 800%) higher than normal amounts of precipitation, with above average conditions in central and eastern Oregon. The exception is the far south eastern part of the state where precipitation was well below normal.

Climate models continue to indicate the likelihood of ENSO-Neutral conditions for the 2016/2017 fall and winter. However, there is still the discussion of a very mild La Nina potential. For the Northwest, ENSO-Neutral conditions mean that there's an equal likelihood of above average or below average precipitation in coming months.

Above average temperatures are expected to continue through December. Temperatures in last two weeks were cooler than normal in many areas of Oregon while 1 to 4 degrees above normal along the coast and southern Willamette Valley and far southeastern Oregon. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center continues to predict increased odds of warmer than normal conditions through fall and early winter.

So far, as of October 15, statewide average streamflows are at 98 percent of normal. This is in stark contrast to 53 percent seen last year for the entire month of October. Regionally, streamflow conditions east of the cascades are at 43 percent of normal. Westside streams are at 180 percent. Keep in mind that if rainy conditions continue and with only half of October 2016 considered, streamflow statistics for the month are likely to end up potentially even higher.

Reservoir storage levels were strong at the start of the irrigation season. However, early and rapid snowmelt and subsequent runoff combined with above normal temperatures and lack of spring rains contributed to rapid drawdown of many reservoirs supplying water for agriculture. By the end of the summer, many eastern Oregon reservoirs were at similar levels seen in 2015. The exception being Owyhee Reservoir, a two-year reservoir, will have some carry-over water for next year.

Little change in the Drought Monitor since last month. As of October 11, the entire state is in the D0 category (abnormally dry). Coastal areas from the southern portion of the North Coast, to

the northern portion of the South Coast, and Eastern Oregon regions, representing approximately 50 percent of the state, are listed in the D1 category (moderate drought). Further, 12 percent of the state, including portions of Umatilla, Baker, Grant, and Union Counties continue to be listed in the D2 category (severe drought). Soil moisture models continue to indicate drier than normal conditions within these areas. The effect of recent rainfall will likely be reflected in subsequent report updates.

Recent rainfall and cooler temperatures have reduced fire potential to low levels for most of Oregon. Compared to last year, there were far fewer acres burned from wildfire in 2016. Conditions were dry this year and at times, even drier than last year. Much of the lack of significant wildfire this year is due to fewer lightning events.

The Oregon Department of Forestry announced recently that the current Regulated-Use Closure in the Northwest and Northeast Oregon Forest Protection Districts have been lifted. Check for updates on <u>ODF's wildfire blog</u> as well as your local ODF office for restrictions in your area or visit <u>ODF's fire restrictions web page</u> for more information.

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Website: http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/ore_anom.html



Last 14 days

Last 30 days

Temperature - Departure from Average

Website: http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/ore_anom.html



Last 14 days

Last 30 days



Three Month Outlook (October-November-December 2016)

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



Website: http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?OR

U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon





	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)							
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4		
Current	0.00	100.00	50.28	12.30	0.00	0.00		
Last Week 10/4/2016	0.00	100.00	50.28	12.30	0.00	0.00		
3 Month s Ago 7/12/2016	0.00	100.00	49.75	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Start of Calend ar Year 12/29/2015	14.52	85.48	80.45	65.33	39.55	0.00		
Start of Water Year 9/27/2016	0.00	100.00	50.59	12.30	0.00	0.00		
One Year Ago	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	67.29	0.00		

Intensity:





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/

Note: No change from October 4, 2016 report

October 4, 2016



Website: http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor/curr/conus.mexico/west.vic.sm_qnt.gif



VIC Soil Moisture Percentiles (wrt/ 1916-2004) Western United States - 20161015

USDA Federal Drought Designations

Website: http://www.usda.gov/documents/usda-drought-fast-track-designations.pdf



2016 Secretarial Drought Designations - All Drought



September Regional Streamflow Conditions

Streamflow Event - Western Oregon



Streamflow Event – Eastern Oregon



Regional Reservoir Storage Conditions

