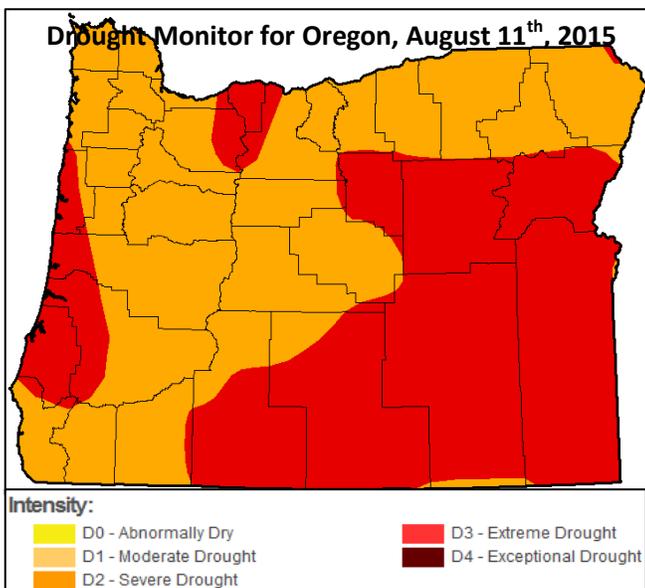
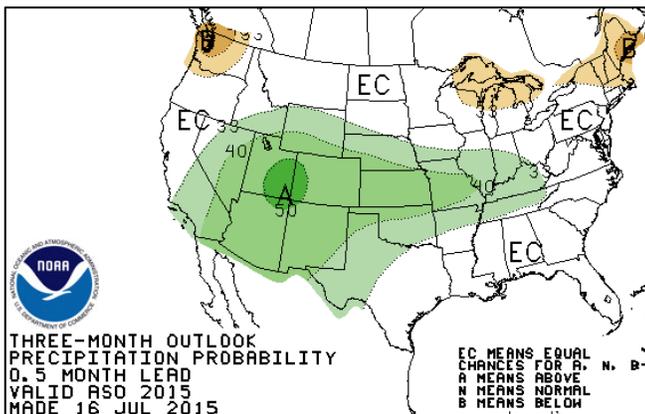
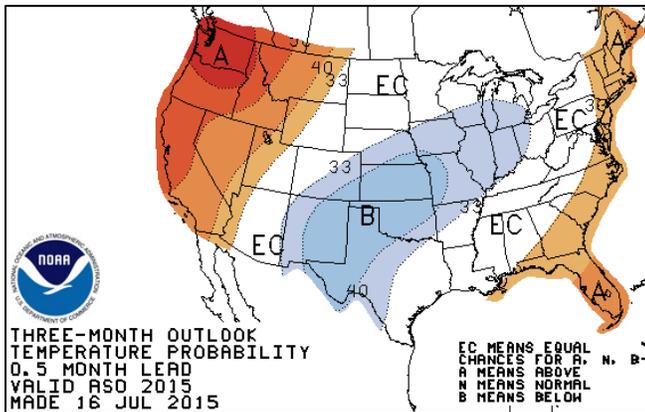


### Update on Drought Conditions and Impacts for Oregon as of August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Drought conditions across Oregon range from moderate to extreme, as identified by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Drought conditions have intensified and expanded across the state over the past several months, due to two main factors:

- 1 - A winter with record-low or near-record-low snowpack caused by a combination of below-average precipitation and much-above-average temperatures.
- 2 - A dry and hot spring and summer, with periods of record-high temperatures in May, June, and July, especially in western and north-east Oregon. Overall it was the hottest June on record for most of Oregon and one of the hottest July's on record.



Visit [drought.gov](http://drought.gov) for more details on drought conditions and categories in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

State drought declarations have been issued for many counties, too many to list here. Affected counties include all those in southwest, southeast, and north-central Oregon. For details, visit the Oregon Water Resources Drought Watch at [www.Oregon.gov/owrd/pages/wr/drought.aspx](http://www.Oregon.gov/owrd/pages/wr/drought.aspx).

US Dept of Agriculture drought disaster declarations are also in effect for most Oregon counties, except for a handful of counties in extreme northwest Oregon. Visit [usda.gov](http://usda.gov) for more information on disaster declarations and assistance programs for drought-impacted areas.

For much of southern Oregon, this is the second or third year of drought, and drought impacts continue to intensify. However, the areal extent and severity of this year's drought exceed the two previous years for the state as a whole.

Drought impacts will evolve and change through the fall and may persist into next winter. The much-publicized onset of a strong El Niño in the tropical Pacific may provide some drought relief for Oregon, especially the southern half, this winter.

Recent major drought impacts include active wildfires in various parts of the state, and major die-offs for sturgeon and migrating salmon due to low streamflow and warm water. Ongoing drought impacts also include: drastically-reduced water allocations for irrigators in some basins, reduced water supply for communities especially where dependent on natural streamflow only, reduced acreage and overall production for many field crops, and poor range conditions and water availability for cattle and other range animals.

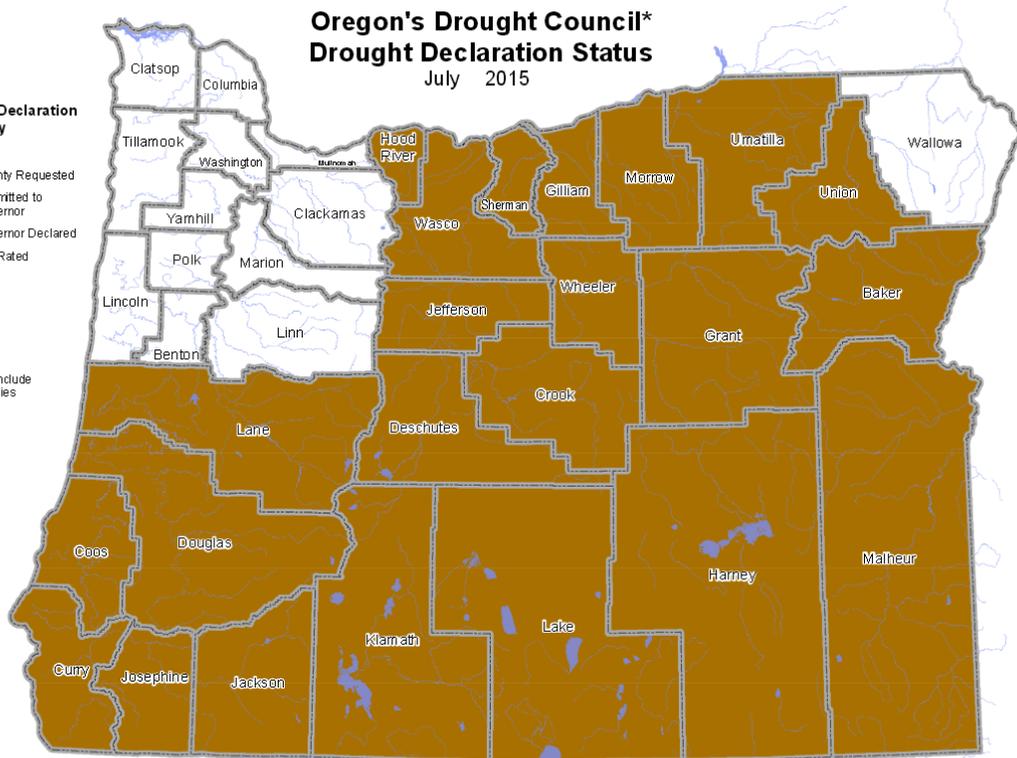
Note that this product will be issued on at least a monthly basis in 2015 as long as widespread drought conditions persist in Oregon. The next update will be issued by September 11th.

## Oregon's Drought Council\* Drought Declaration Status July 2015

**Drought Declaration by County Status**

- County Requested
- 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/>

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: 7/21/2015 3:07 PM  
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83

### Observed Precipitation and Temperatures

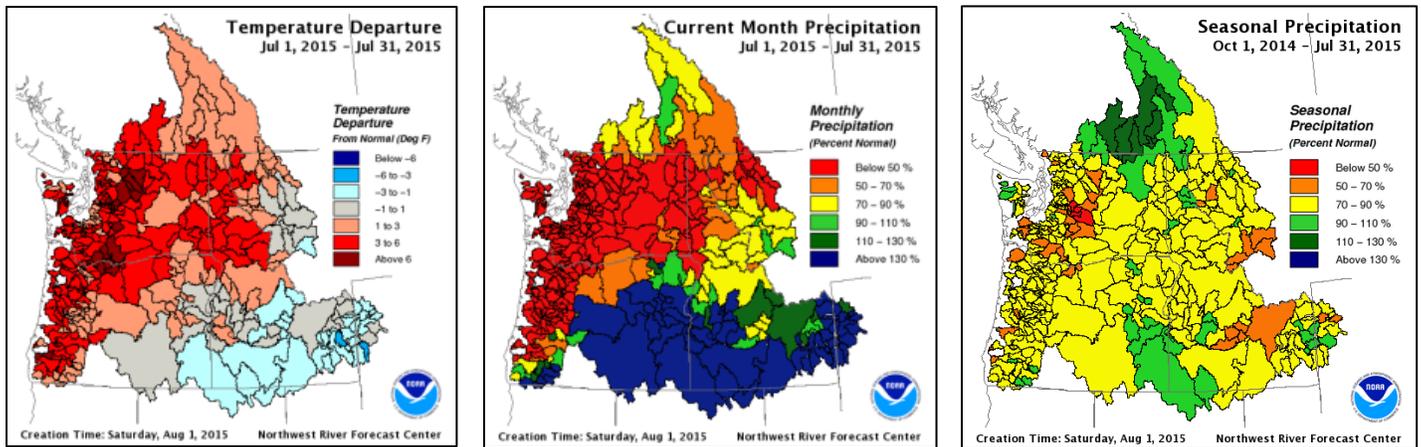
Water-year precipitation (October 2014 - July 2015) is generally 60 to 80 percent of average, except for 80 to 100 percent in far-southeast Oregon. These numbers aren't extreme, but it's worth noting that most of the winter precipitation came in big pulses as tropically-sourced atmospheric rivers, which brought several days of fairly heavy rain interspersed among extended dry periods. This meant that most storms did not produce mountain snow and gradual recharge of soil moisture through the winter. By April and May, most rivers were dropping toward summer baseflow levels instead of the usual spring snowmelt rises. Summer showers and thunderstorms have provided some relief from very dry conditions, especially for portions of south-central and southeast Oregon.

Temperatures for the past several months have been notably above-average, both for valley and mountain locations. June and July have been notably hot and exacerbated dry conditions, fire threat, and warm water temperatures.

The following table shows July 2015 temperature departure from average, monthly precipitation total and percent of average, and water year precipitation (October 2014 - July 2015) and percent of average for selected Oregon locations.

LOCATION	JULY AVE TEMP DEP	JULY PRECIP (INCHES)	PERCENT AVERAGE	WY PRECIP (INCHES)	PERCENT AVERAGE
ASTORIA	+3.8	0.39	38	53.40	83
NORTH BEND	+3.6	0.00	0	42.54	68
PORTLAND	+4.7	0.57	88	30.04	89
EUGENE	+4.7	0.05	93	29.46	67
MEDFORD	+4.3	0.29	98	14.28	82
REDMOND	+1.6	0.44	80	8.75	110
PENDLETON	+3.5	0.00	0	9.70	83
KLAM. FALLS	+2.2	0.52	108	12.40	89
ONTARIO	+0.4	0.49	163	9.23	97
BURNS	+8.4	0.51	128	9.07	90

Visit [www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/water\\_supply/wy\\_summary/wy\\_summary.php](http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/water_supply/wy_summary/wy_summary.php) for more details on observed precipitation and temperatures in Oregon.



### Precipitation and Temperature Outlook for the Next Several Months

Continued above-normal temperatures are expected through the rest of summer and fall. With the onset of a strong El Niño in the tropical Pacific, the climate outlook for temperatures shows high likelihood of above-normal temperatures continuing through the upcoming winter of 2015-16. The outlook for precipitation for the coming fall and winter is more uncertain but leans below-average.

Visit [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov) for more information on seasonal outlooks and evolving El Niño conditions.

### Reservoir Conditions

Several reservoirs in south-central and southeast Oregon have little or no remaining storage as of mid July. For example, Warm Springs Reservoir storage is 0 percent of capacity and Owyhee Reservoir is 4 percent of capacity. In other parts of the state, reservoir storage is generally 20 to 60 percent of average, and operators are doing their best to manage the remaining storage for a variety of downstream needs, including irrigation, in-stream fisheries habitat, recreation, and hydro-electric power.

Most of the smaller reservoirs supplying urban areas, such as the Bull Run project operated by Portland Water Bureau, are near normal storage with adequate supply for the summer and fall.

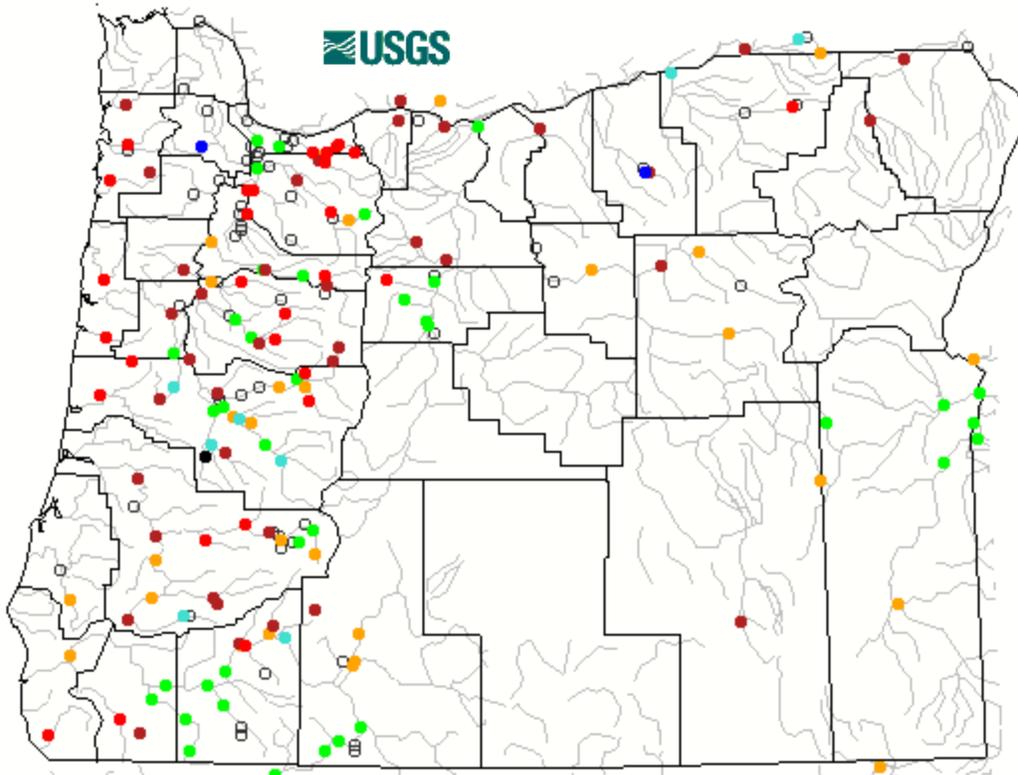
Visit [www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/resp\\_rpt.pl?state=Oregon](http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/resp_rpt.pl?state=Oregon) for more information on reservoir conditions.

### Streamflow and Summer Water Supply Volumes

Streamflow in July was below average for most Oregon rivers, but near-average in far-southwest and much of southeast Oregon. Many rivers and streams along the Oregon Coast have been near or below previous records for this time of year.

Water supply volumes for April - September are trending 25 to 60 percent of average across the state, with some basins in eastern Oregon only 15 to 25 percent. Many of these volumes are at or near the previous lowest streamflow volumes on record. The Columbia River at The Dalles, a good index for conditions throughout the Columbia Basin, is on track for 67 percent of average for April - September.

Visit [waterwatch.usgs.gov](http://waterwatch.usgs.gov) for details about individual basins and river gages and [www.nwrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov) for water supply volumes.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

Monthly streamflow for July 2015 compared to historical averages

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## Drought Impacts in Oregon

Hot and dry conditions since may have exacerbated drought impacts around the state, especially in western and northeast Oregon.

One of the most tangible impacts of the drought is that many rivers have been at or near record low streamflow for this time of year, leading to restrictions and reductions in water use for many irrigation districts and some communities.

Several Oregon rivers have seen high fish mortality due to the low flows and warm temperatures, and many rivers have fishing restrictions in place.

Forest fuel conditions remain very dry for most of western, central and northeast Oregon, and it has been an active fire season since June.

If you have questions or comments about this drought information statement please contact:

National Weather Service - Portland  
 Phone: 503-261-9246  
 Email: [w-pqr.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:w-pqr.webmaster@noaa.gov)

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