Water Supply Outlook
National Weather Service Portland OR
10 AM PST Thursday February 7 2018

OREGON WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK AS OF FEBRUARY 6TH, 2019

The water supply forecast for the spring and summer of 2019 is below-average for most Oregon watersheds, especially so for east-central, southeast, and south-central Oregon. Northeast Oregon is the only region of the state with near-average water supply forecasts.

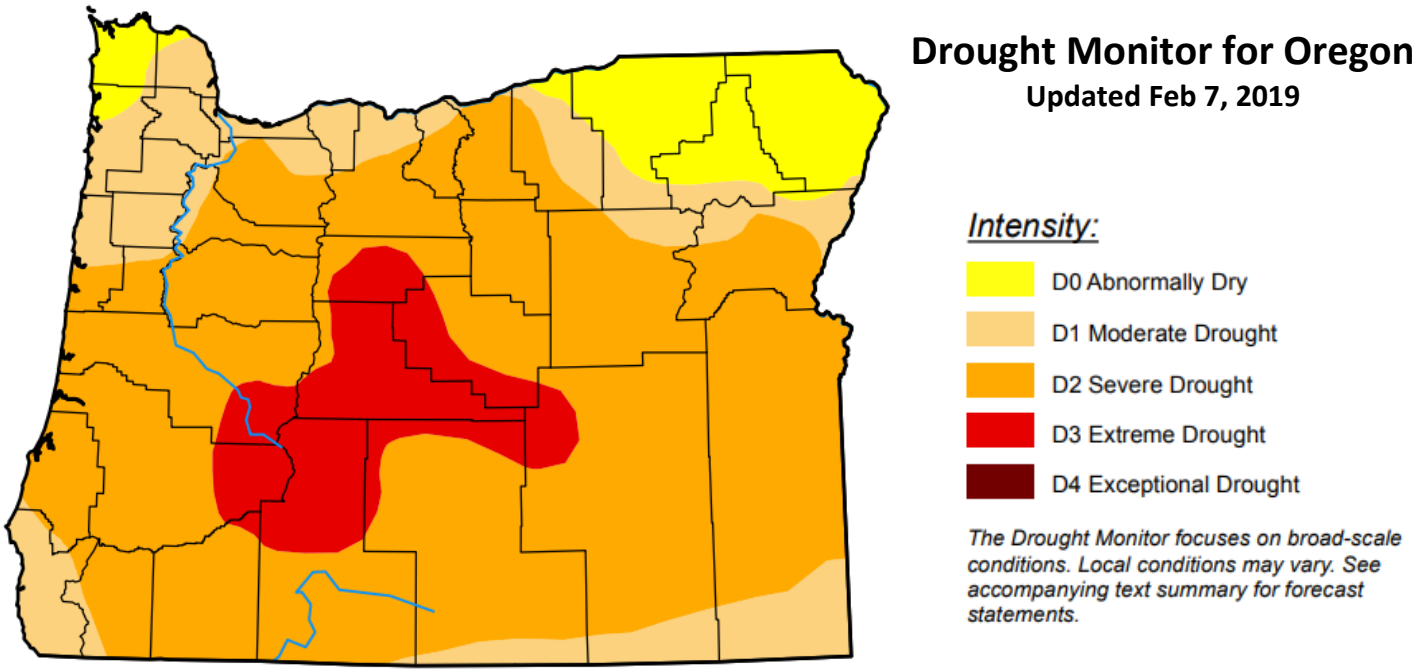
Snowpack is below-average in the Cascades, especially from Santiam Pass northward. Snowpack in central and northeast Oregon mountains, including the Ochocos, Blues, and Wallowas, is near-average to below-average. High elevation snowpack in southeast and south-central Oregon is near-average. The low snowpack statewide is the combined result of above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation so far this winter.

The February 2019 outlook by the Climate Prediction Center calls for enhanced likelihood of below-average temperatures statewide. For precipitation, there is enhance likelihood of below-average in northwest Oregon, with equal chances of near, below, or above-average precipitation for the rest of the state. However, there is indication of the potential for above-average precipitation in eastern Oregon in mid-February.

Refer to the sections below and links provided for details regarding snowpack, precipitation, seasonal climate outlooks, reservoir conditions, and water supply forecasts for individual basins.

Nearly all of Oregon has been affected by drought for the past year, with very low streamflow seen statewide in the summer and fall of 2018. Drought conditions remain, and the low precipitation and snowpack so far this winter adds to drought concerns for the coming spring and summer. For information about county drought declarations and impacts around the state, visit the Oregon Water Resources Dept drought page at www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/wr.drought.gov.

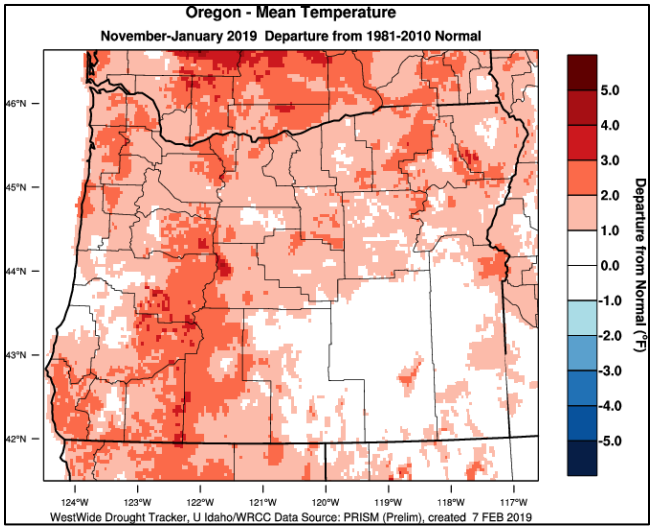
The next update will be issued by March 5, 2019.

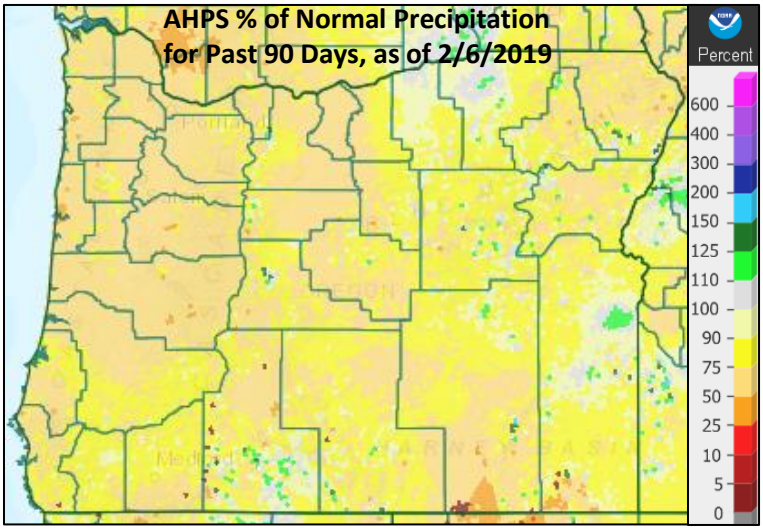


Observed Precipitation and Temperatures across Oregon

Precipitation for the 2019 water year thus far (Oct 1, 2018 through February 5, 2019) ranges from 65 to 90 percent of average in Oregon, highest in northeast Oregon and lowest in northwest Oregon. Temperatures have been predominantly above-average, especially at higher elevations. November and January temperatures in the Cascades were notably high, generally 2 to 6 degrees above average.

Visit www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/water_supply/wy_summary/wy_summary.php, wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/, and www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/water_resources_update.php for more details on precipitation and temperatures.

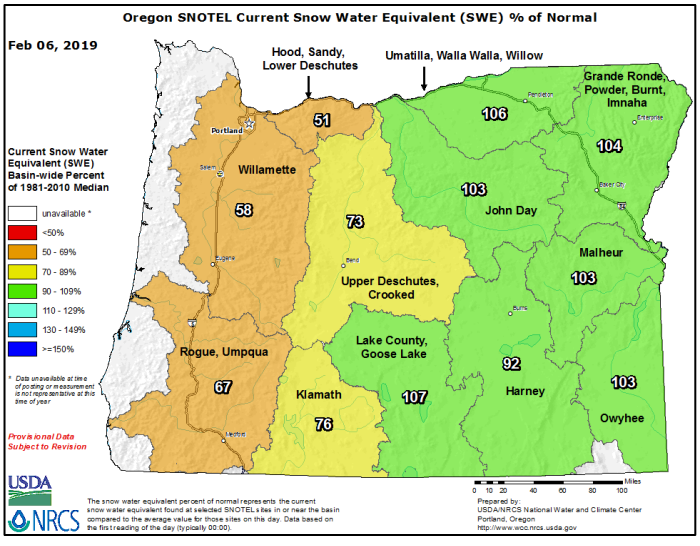




Snowpack across Oregon

As of early February, basin snowpack ranges from 50 to 105 percent of average, in terms of the water content of the snow. Values are lowest for northwest Oregon, especially in the north Cascades near Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson. Values are highest in far-northeast Oregon in the northern Blues and Wallowas.

Weather conditions November through January have not been favorable for building snowpack. Precipitation so far this winter is below-average, and temperatures have been consistently above-average, more so for higher than lower elevations. With an expectation of below-average temperatures and normal to above-normal precipitation in February, there may some improvements relative to average for mountain snowpack.



Additional snowpack information:

NOAA/NWS - Northwest River Forecast Center
www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/snow/

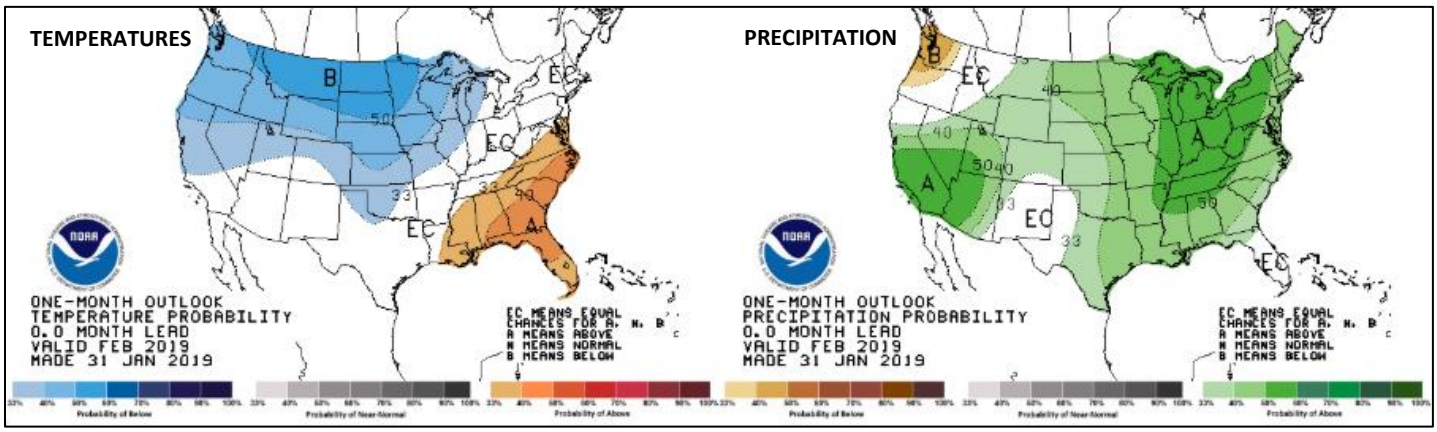
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/snow/

Precipitation and Temperature Outlook

The Climate Prediction Center produces monthly and seasonal outlooks, in which there is a weighing of the odds of near-normal, above-normal, or below-normal temperatures and precipitation.

The February outlook from the Climate Prediction Center calls for enhanced likelihood of below-average temperatures statewide. For precipitation, there is enhance likelihood of below-average in northwest Oregon, with equal chances of near, below, or above-average precipitation for the rest of the state.

The outlook for March through May calls for enhanced likelihood of above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation statewide.



Visit www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov for more information on seasonal outlooks.

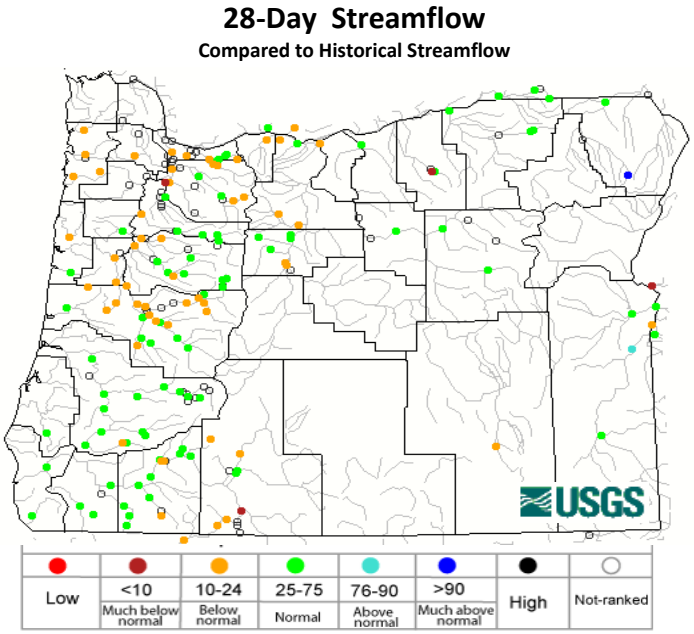
Reservoir Conditions

Reservoir storage as of early February is generally below average for this time of year, generally 50 to 75 percent of average for this time of year and 10 to 40 percent of capacity. Most reservoirs had very little carry-over storage coming into the winter, and there are concerns about the low likelihood of refill based on the low snowpack, precipitation and streamflow so far this winter. For Corps of Engineers reservoirs in the Willamette basin, the refill season starts in February and is more dependent on spring precipitation than winter snowpack.

Visit www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/select.html and www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nwp/wm/teacups.html for more information.

Observed Streamflow

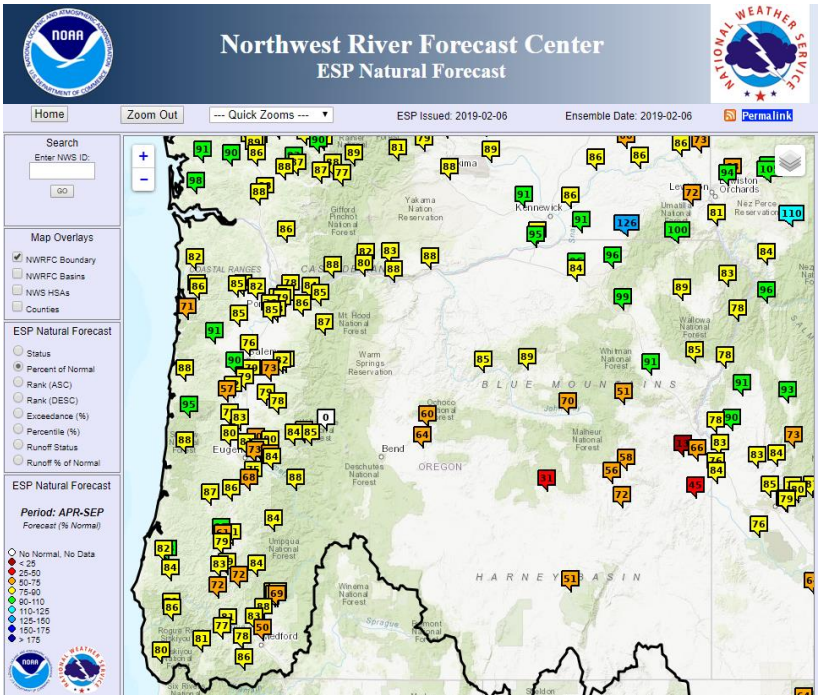
Streamflow in December was below-average across most of the state, especially so in central and southeast Oregon. Many rivers have seen sharp rises in response to periods of heavy rain in December but streamflow quickly drop back to below-average baseflow during the intervening dry periods. Visit waterwatch.usgs.gov for details on observed streamflow in recent months.



Forecast Streamflow and Seasonal Runoff Volumes

Water supply forecasts for April-September runoff volume range from 30 to 95 percent of average. The highest values, between 85 and 95 percent, are in far-northeast Oregon and a few basins scattered throughout western Oregon. The lowest, ranging from 30 to 50 percent of average, are in east-central, southeast, and south-central Oregon, where dry conditions and soil-moisture deficits over the past 18 months have resulted in persistently-low streamflow that is unlikely to recover to normal conditions this spring and summer based on precipitation and snowpack so far this winter and likely conditions for the next few months.

The forecast for the Columbia River at The Dalles, which is a good index of conditions across the Columbia Basin, is 87 percent of average for April-September, reflecting near to below-average snowpack in across the Columbia basin. This forecast value is 20 percent lower than this same time a year ago.



Details on basin-scale water supply forecasts:

NOAA/NWS - Northwest River Fcst Center
www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/ws/

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/