Drought Report for the Week of May 4, 2015

County-wide drought declarations go through a three-part process before securing a drought declaration from the Governor's Office.

First, County Commissions meet to determine whether they want to seek a Governor's declaration. Counties that have made this determination and are currently asking for the state's help are: Deschutes, Grant and Umatilla County.

Second, these recommendations go to the Water Availability Committee (chaired by the Oregon Water Resources Department) and then the Oregon Drought Council (chaired by Oregon Emergency Management) for technical review. The next meeting of the Water Availability Committee and Oregon Drought Council is May 14, 2015.

Finally, if approved for drought declaration, the Governor's Office issues an Executive Order, declaring drought in specific counties. In recent years, these Executive Order have been set to expire at the end of a calendar year. A Governor's declared drought is in place for 2015 in the following counties: Baker, Crook, Harney, Klamath, Lake, Malheur and Wheeler. A Governor's Drought Declaration allows the Water Resources Department to issue emergency drought permits to applicants, using an expedited process.

Current Water Conditions: Snow pack conditions throughout the state average less than 10% of normal, signaling early and prolonged drought conditions throughout South and East parts of Oregon. Statewide average precipitation is less than 90% of normal.

To go to a specific section click on title below:

- Oregon Basin Report (Click picture for full report)
- Water Supply Assessment by Basin
- Oregon Declaration Status
- Oregon SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent % of Normal
- Oregon SNOTEL Water Year to Date Precipitation % of Normal
- Oregon Drought Monitor
- Water Right Drought Permit Application: Summary Report

Additional Resources:

- Reservoir Storage Diagrams
  - Deschutes Basin
  - Willamette Basin
  - Tualatin River Basin
  - Rogue Basin
  - Umatilla River Basin
  - Southeastern Oregon
- Three Month Outlook – Temperature Probability
- Three Month Outlook – Precipitation Probability
- Oregon Surface Water Supply Index

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

Oregon
Basin Outlook Report

April 1, 2015

A snow-capped Mt. Thielsen illustrates the scarce snowpack in all but the highest elevations of Oregon this winter.
Photo courtesy of Scott Robbins (Oregon NRCS)

Due to an unusually warm winter, Oregon continues to experience record low snowpack levels. As of April 1, measurable snow is primarily limited to the highest elevations of the state (illustrated by the above photo of Mt. Thielsen taken on March 31). Record low April 1 snowpack levels were measured at 76% of Oregon's snow monitoring sites, and only 52 out of 147 sites across the state recorded any snow at all. Summer streamflow is expected to be well below normal and water shortages are likely throughout the state.

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Current Basin Water Status

Basin #	Basin Name	Basin Status	Reason
1	North Coast	Below Normal	
2	Willamette	Below Normal	Below normal streamflow; Dry Forecast
3	Sandy	Below Normal	Below normal streamflow; Dry Forecast
4	Hood	Below Normal	Below normal streamflow; Dry Forecast
5	Deschutes	Drought Likely	Reservoirs are near full
6	John Day	Drought Unavoidable	No Storage or Snowpack; Dry Forecast
7	Umatilla	Drought Likely	Reservoirs are roughly 50%; Dry Forecast
8	Grande Ronde	Below Normal	Snowpack >5000'
9	Powder	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir Storage is mixed; no snowpack
10	Malheur	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir storage is near empty
11	Owyhee	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir storage is near empty
12	Malheur Lake	Drought Unavoidable	No reservoir storage; No snowpack
13	Goose & Summer Lake	Drought Unavoidable	Reservoir storage is near empty
14	Klamath	Drought Unavoidable	Stressed soil; No snowpack
15	Rogue	Drought Likely	Lack of snowpack; Reservoir storage is decent
16	Umpqua	Drought Likely	Weak Snowpack; Dry Forecast
17	South Coast	Below Normal	
18	Middle Coast	Below Normal	

Definitions	
Normal	*Water supply is not atypical.*
Below Normal	*Water supply under what is needed to meet normal demands.*
Drought Likely	*Water supply likely to fall well short of meeting normal demands.*
Drought Unavoidable	*Water supply will fall well short of meeting normal demands.*

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View Basin Map

Oregon's Water Availability Committee*
Water Supply Assessment

5/4/2015

Drought by Basin

Status

- Near or Above Normal
- Below Normal
- Drought Likely
- Drought Unavoidable
- Not Rated
- Administrative Basins

*Members Include State and Federal Science Agencies

North Coast
Sandy
Hood
Umatilla
Grande Ronde
Willamette
John Day
Powder
Mid Coast
Deschutes
Malheur
Goose & Summer Lakes
South Coast
Umpqua
Malheur Lake
Owyhee
Rogue
Klamath
South Coast

Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St. NE Suite A
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http://www.wrd.state.or.us/

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N

0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Updated: 5/4/2015 6:59 AM
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83

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Drought Declarations

Search Criteria

County: **Start Drought Year:** 2015 Search

Drought Status: **End Drought Year:** Clear

Records per Page: 20

	Drought Year	County	Drought Title	Drought Status	County Request Date	Forwarded to Governor Date	Governor Declaration Date	Federal Declaration Date	Executive Order	Drought Begin Date	Drought End Date
Select	2015	Baker	BAKER DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/18/2015	04/10/2015	04/20/2015	03/20/2015	15-04	04/20/2015	12/31/2015
Select	2015	Crook	CROOK DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/18/2015	03/20/2015	04/02/2015	03/20/2015	15-03	04/02/2015	12/31/2015
Select	2015	Harney	HARNEY DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/18/2015	03/20/2015	04/02/2015	03/20/2015	15-03	04/02/2015	12/31/2015
Select	2015	Klamath	KLAMATH DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/17/2015	03/20/2015	04/02/2015	03/20/2015	15-03	03/20/2015	12/31/2015
Select	2015	Lake	LAKE DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/10/2015	03/11/2015	03/16/2015		15-02	03/16/2015	12/31/2015
Select	2015	Malheur	MALHEUR DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/04/2015	03/11/2015	03/16/2015	03/20/2015	15-02	03/16/2015	12/31/2015
Select	2015	Wheeler	WHEELER DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/18/2015	04/10/2015	04/20/2015	03/20/2015	15-04	04/20/2015	12/31/2015
Select	2015	Deschutes	DESCHUTES DROUGHT	County Requested	04/29/2015						
Select	2015	Grant	GRANT DROUGHT	County Requested	04/29/2015						
Select	2015	Umatilla	UMATILLA DROUGHT	County Requested	04/28/2015			03/20/2015			
Select	2015	Douglas	DOUGLAS DROUGHT					03/22/2015			
Select	2015	Josephine	JOSEPHINE DROUGHT					03/20/2015			
Select	2015	Morrow	MORROW DROUGHT					03/20/2015			
Select	2015	Union	UNION DROUGHT					03/20/2015			

Oregon's Drought Council*
Drought Declaration Status
May 2015

Drought Declaration by County

Status

- County Requested
- Submitted to Governor
- Governor Declared
- Not Rated

*Members Include State Agencies

Clatsop
Columbia
Tillamook
Washington
Multnomah
Hood River
Umatilla
Wallowa
Morrow
Gilliam
Sherman
Union
Wasco
Clackamas
Yamhill
Polk
Marion
Lincoln
Linn
Benton
Jefferson
Wheeler
Grant
Baker
Crook
Deschutes
Lane
Douglas
Coos
Curry
Josephine
Jackson
Klamath
Lake
Harney
Malheur

Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St. NE Suite A
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http://www.wrd.state.or.us/

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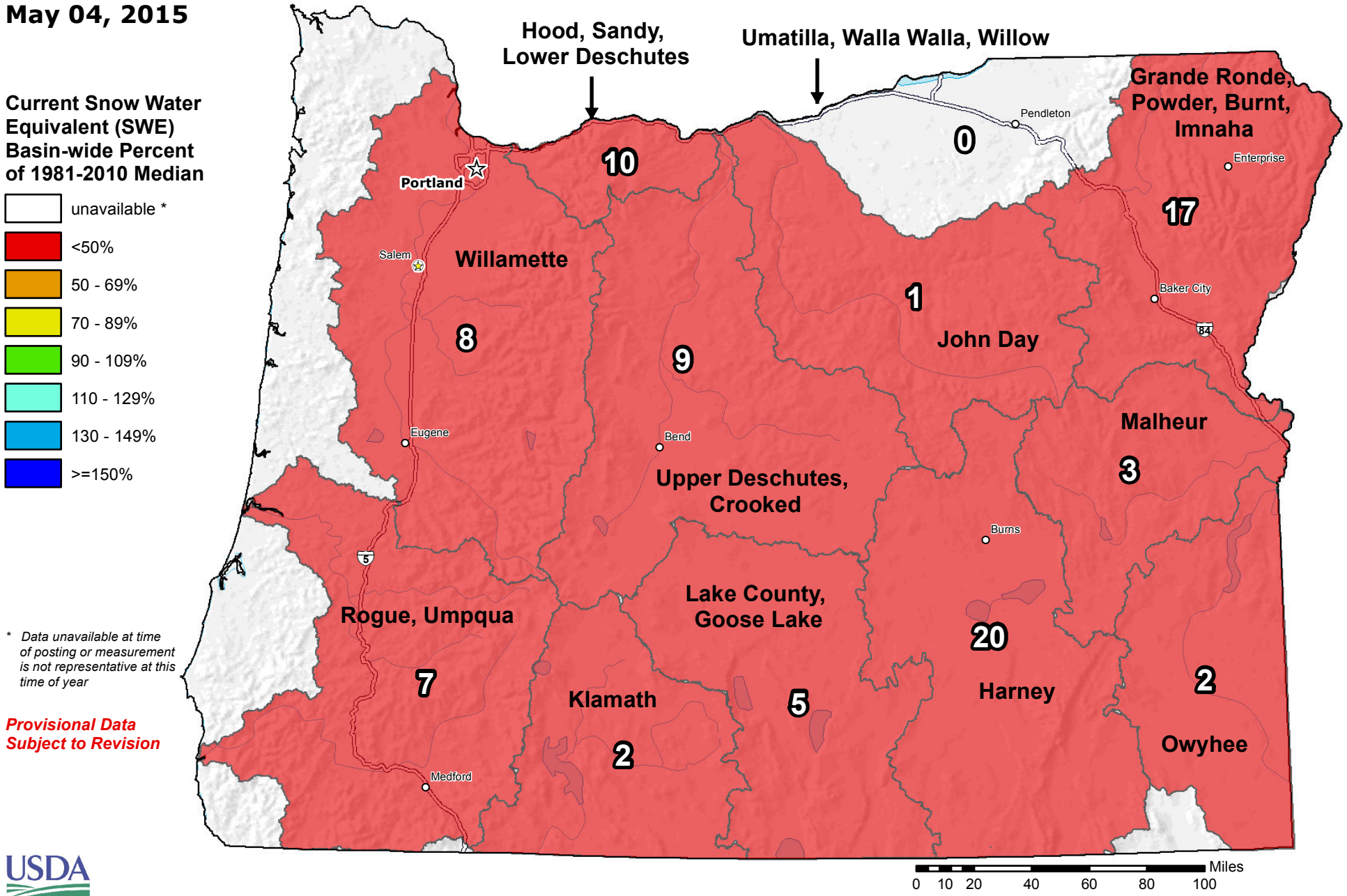
N

0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Updated: 5/4/2015 7:00 AM
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83

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

May 04, 2015



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

Provisional Data Subject to Revision

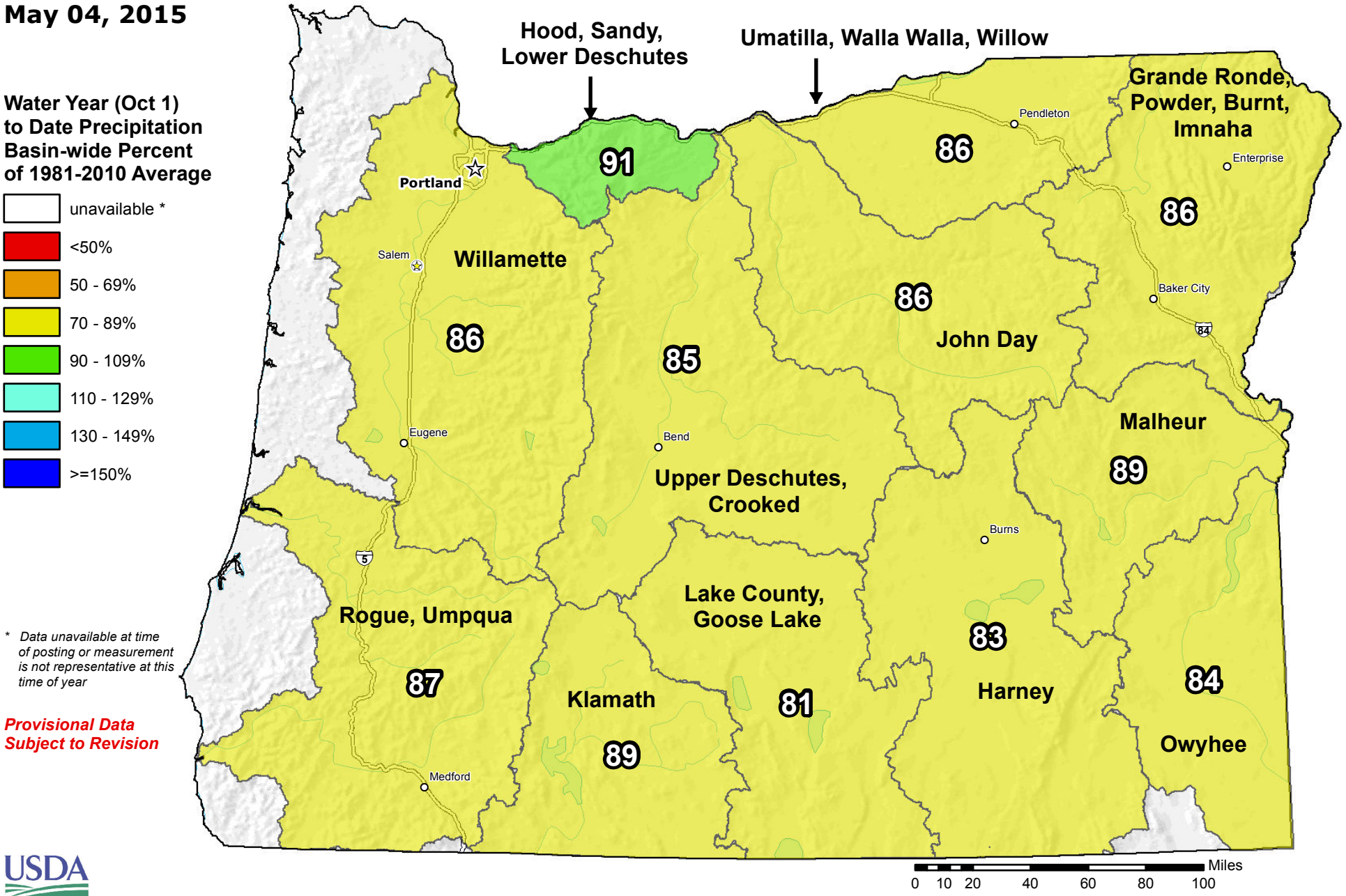
USDA NRCS

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

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

May 04, 2015



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

Provisional Data Subject to Revision

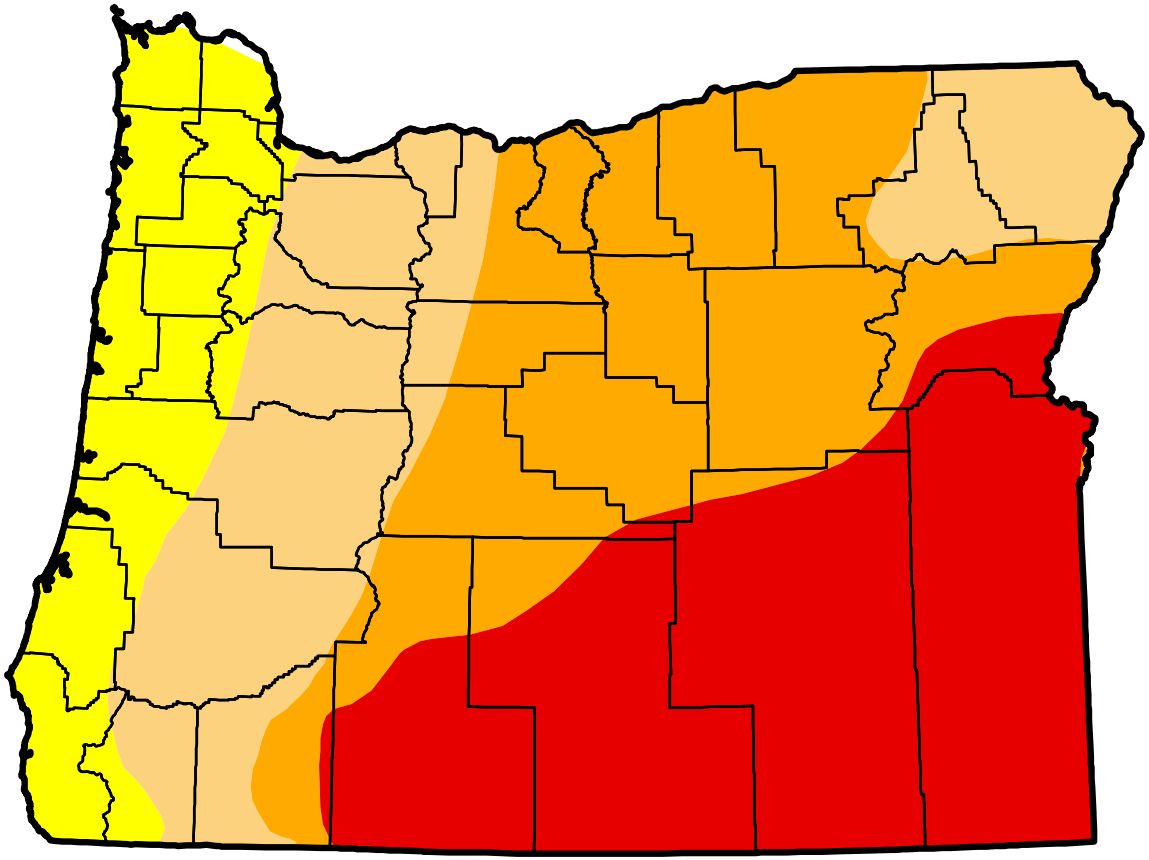
USDA NRCS

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

U.S. Drought Monitor

Oregon



April 28, 2015

(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.11	99.89	86.09	63.17	34.09	0.00
Last Week *4/21/2015*	14.44	85.56	82.30	49.90	33.77	0.00
3 Months Ago *1/27/2015*	10.45	89.55	83.95	49.48	34.68	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 *9/30/2014*	1.56	98.44	76.61	56.26	35.30	0.00
One Year Ago *4/29/2014*	5.17	94.83	83.01	51.73	9.31	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.

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Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

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Water Right Summary Report

Search Criteria

County:

Start Drought Year: 2015

End Drought Year:

Search

Clear

Records per Page: 10

Drought Year	County	Drought Applications	Denied Drought Applications	Drought Permits	Drought Transfers	Drought Application Acres	Denied Drought Application Acres	Drought Permit Acres
2015	Klamath	25	0	20	0	16382.49		14280.67
2015	Lake	0	0	0	1	0.00		
2015	Malheur	9	0	7	5	2550.20		2192.00

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