Drought Report for the Week of March 23, 2015

Governor Kate Brown declared drought in Malheur and Lake Counties on March 16. Three additional counties (Klamath, Harney & Crook) have been submitted to the Governor's office for consideration. Baker & Wheeler Counties are next to be considered by the Oregon Drought Council. The Drought Council plans to meet next on April 9th. Snow pack conditions throughout the state average less than 20% of normal, signaling early and prolonged drought conditions throughout Southeast Oregon.

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

March 1, 2015

A brief glimpse of winter on Mt. Bachelor as NRCS surveyors measure record low snowpack.
Photo courtesy of Kurt Moffitt (NRCS Oregon)

NRCS snow surveyors, Kurt Moffitt and Gabby Coughlin, measured record low snowpack near Mt. Bachelor at two snow courses this month. Tangent snow course (5470 ft) dates back over 60 years and is one of the oldest sites in the basin. The March measurement set a new record low with only 6" of snow depth (1.8" of snow water), which is 10% of normal for this site. The previous record low for March 1 was set in 1977. As of March 1, 32 sites in Oregon set new record lows for snowpack and many more are near record low. Because of this, below normal streamflow is expected this summer in many areas across Oregon.

DROUGHT

Current Basin Water Status

Basin #	Basin Name	Basin Status	Reason
1	North Coast	Not Rated	
2	Willamette	Below Normal	Near normal streamflow now; bad outlook
3	Sandy	Below Normal	Near normal streamflow now; bad outlook
4	Hood	Below Normal	Near normal streamflow now; bad outlook
5	Deschutes	Below Normal	Reservoirs are near full
6	John Day	Drought Likely	Bad streamflow outlook; No Reservoirs
7	Umatilla	Below Normal	Reservoirs are near full, good water supply
8	Grande Ronde	Below Normal	Snowpack >5000'
9	Powder	Drought Likely	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	Lack of snowpack; River outlook bad
17	South Coast	Not Rated	
18	Middle Coast	Not Rated	

Go Back to Menu Page | View Drought Declarations Report | View Water Right Summary Report | View Basin Map

Oregon's Water Availability Committee*
Water Supply Assessment
March 2015

Drought by Basin

Status

- Near or Above Normal
- Below Normal
- Drought Likely
- Drought Unavoidable
- Drought
- Extreme Drought
- Not Rated

Administrative Basins

*Members Include State and Federal Science 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 ofthe information.

N

0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Updated: 3/23/2015
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83

DROUGHT

Current Drought Declaration Status Report

Drought Year	County	Drought Title	Drought Status	County Declaration Date	Forwarded to Governor Date	Governor Declaration Date	Federal Declaration Date	Executive Order
2015	Malheur	MALHEUR DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/04/2015	03/11/2015	03/16/2015		15-02
2015	Lake	LAKE DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/10/2014	03/11/2015	03/16/2015		15-02
2015	Harney	HARNEY DROUGHT	Submitted to Governor		03/20/2015			
2015	Klamath	KLAMATH DROUGHT	Submitted to Governor		03/20/2015			
2015	Crook	CROOK DROUGHT	Submitted to Governor		03/20/2015			
2015	Baker	BAKER DROUGHT	County Declared	03/18/2015				

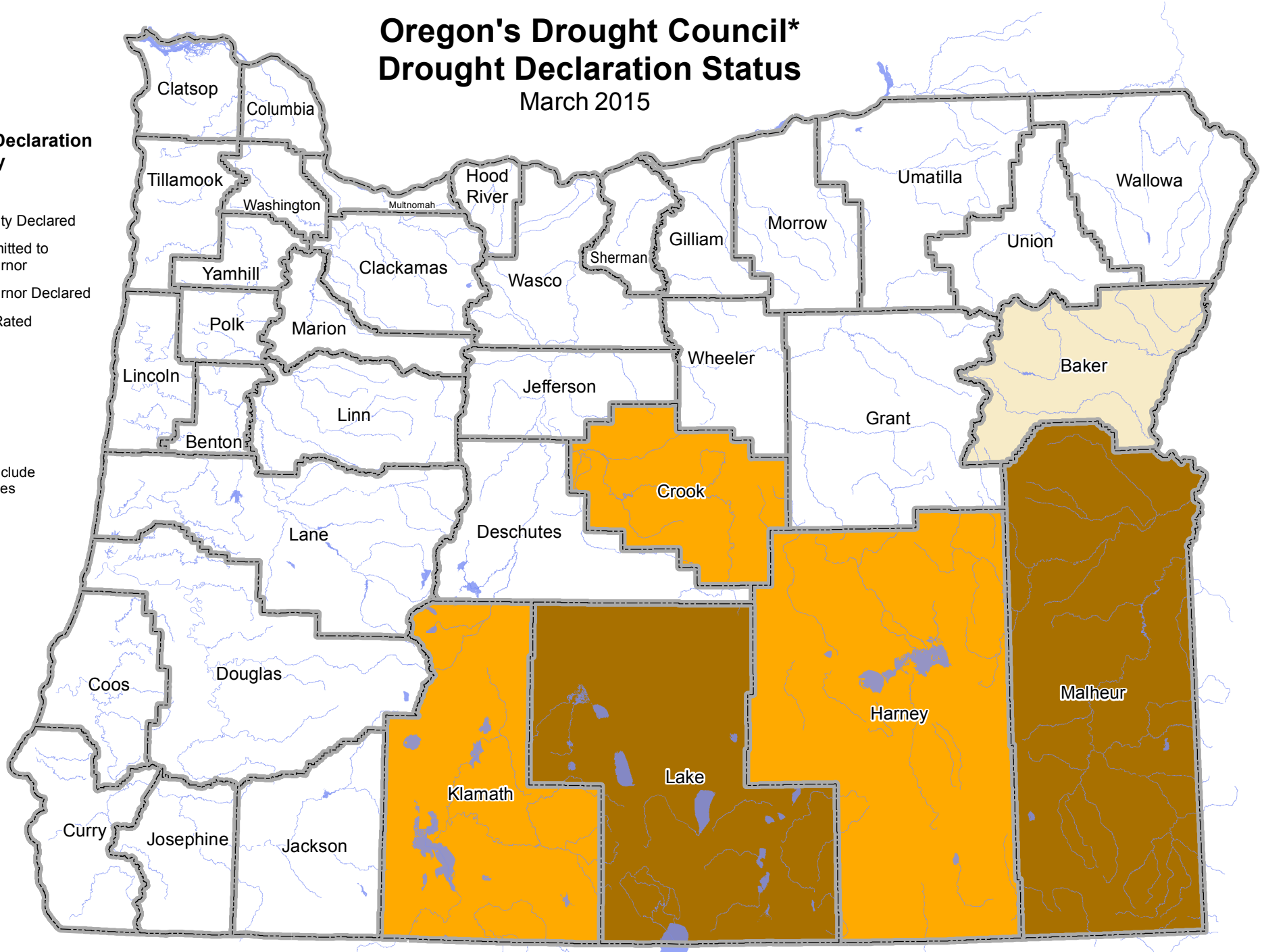
Oregon's Drought Council*
Drought Declaration Status
March 2015

Drought Declaration by County

Status

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

*Members Include State Agencies



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N

0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

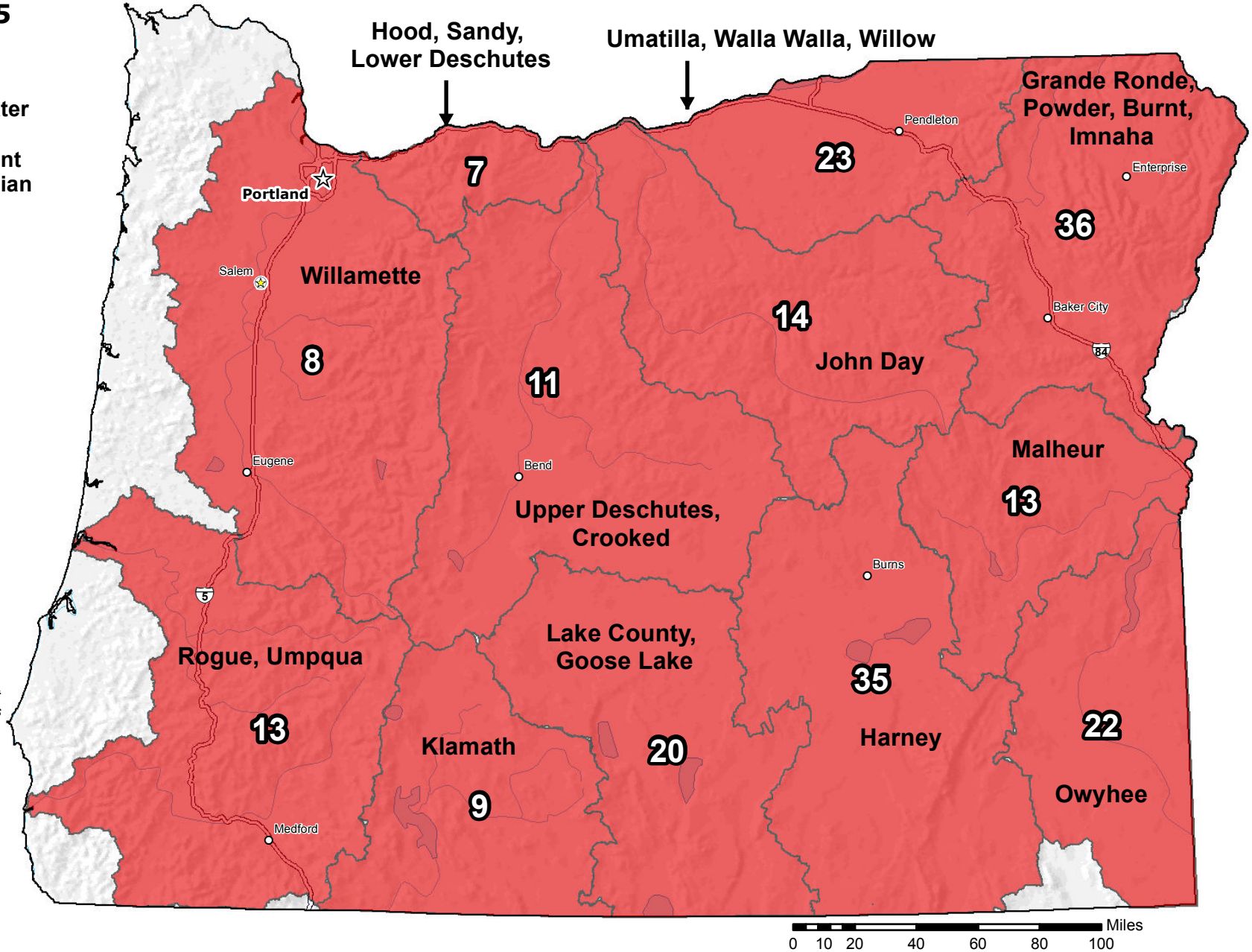
Updated: 3/20/2015
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83

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

Mar 24, 2015

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1981-2010 Median

- unavailable *
- <50%
- 50 - 69%
- 70 - 89%
- 90 - 109%
- 110 - 129%
- 130 - 149%
- >=150%



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

Provisional Data Subject to Revision

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).

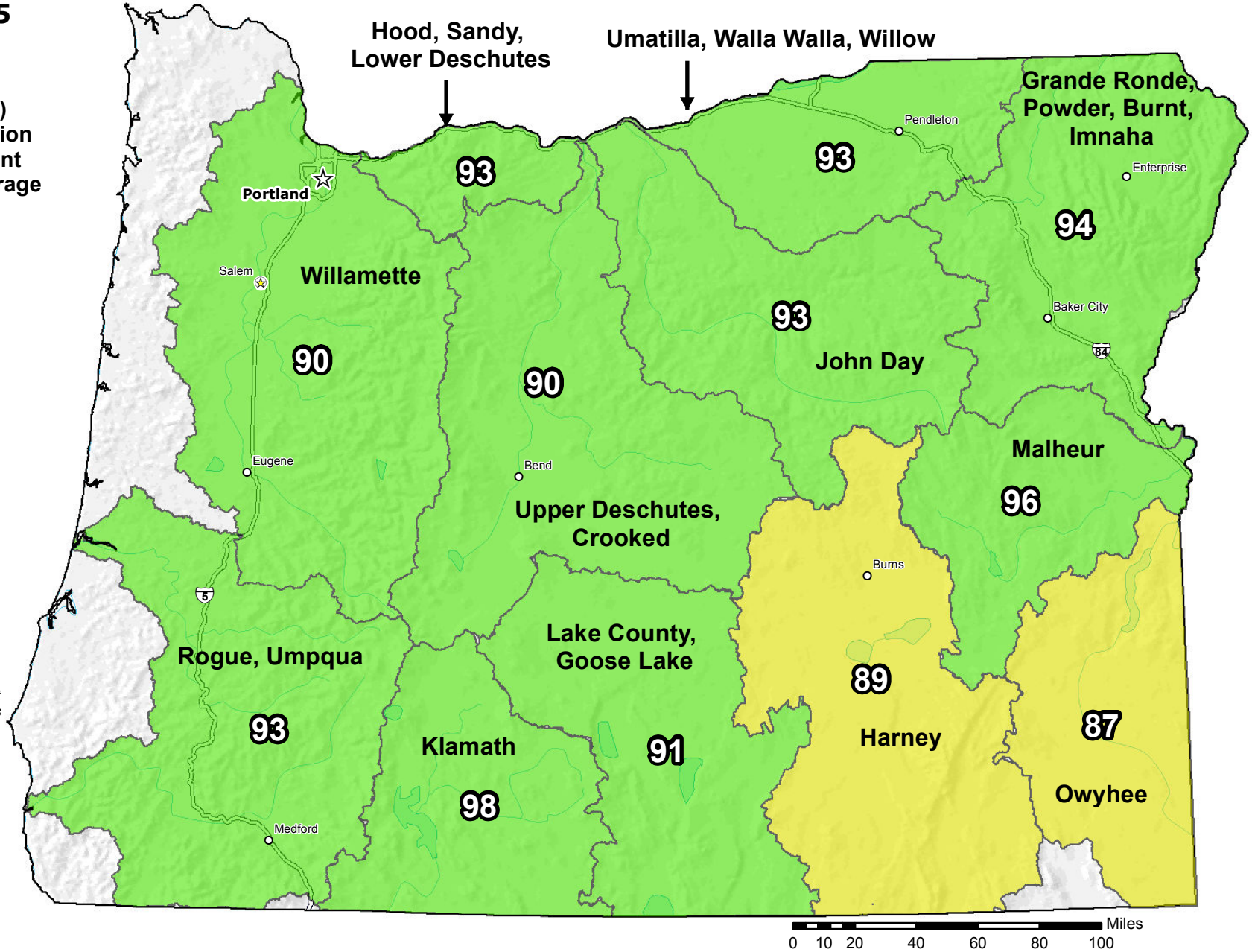
Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

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

Mar 24, 2015

Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation Basin-wide Percent of 1981-2010 Average

- unavailable *
- <50%
- 50 - 69%
- 70 - 89%
- 90 - 109%
- 110 - 129%
- 130 - 149%
- >=150%



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

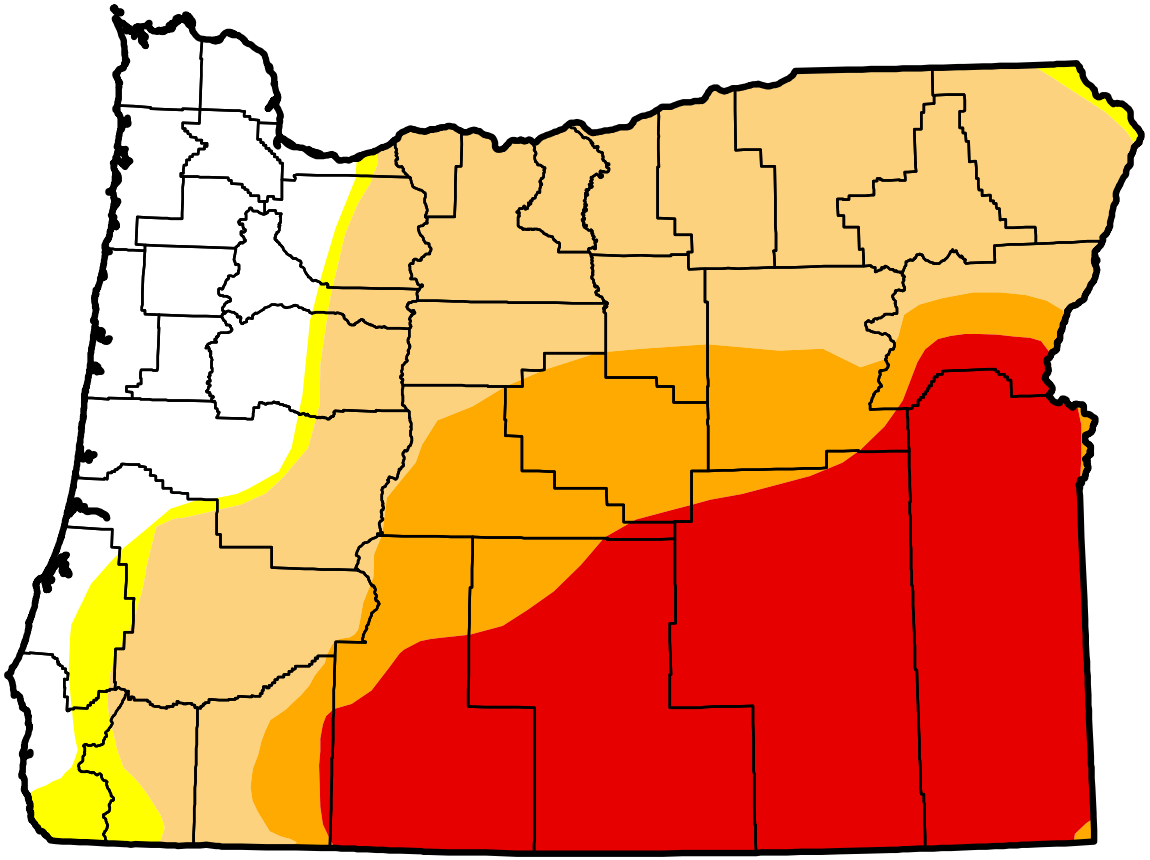
Provisional Data Subject to Revision

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



March 17, 2015

(Released Thursday, Mar. 19, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	14.22	85.78	82.30	47.93	33.72	0.00
Last Week *3/10/2015*	12.15	87.85	82.30	44.95	33.72	0.00
3 Months Ago *12/16/2014*	11.76	88.24	82.10	53.21	34.88	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 *3/18/2014*	0.77	99.23	95.14	49.08	0.00	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.

Author:
Chris Fenimore
NCDC/NESDIS/NOAA

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

DROUGHT

Water Right Summary Report

Search Criteria

County:

Start Drought Year: 2014

Search

Drought Status:

End Drought Year:

Clear

Drought Year	County	Drought Title	Drought Status	# of Drought Applications	# of Drought Permits	# of Drought Transfers
2014	Harney	HARNEY DROUGHT	Governor Declared	3	2	0
2014	Klamath	KLAMATH DROUGHT	Governor Declared	46	41	0
2014	Lake	LAKE DROUGHT	Governor Declared	1	1	0
2014	Malheur	MALHEUR DROUGHT	Governor Declared	27	27	0

Go Back to Menu Page View Drought Declarations Report View Basin Statuses Report