



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

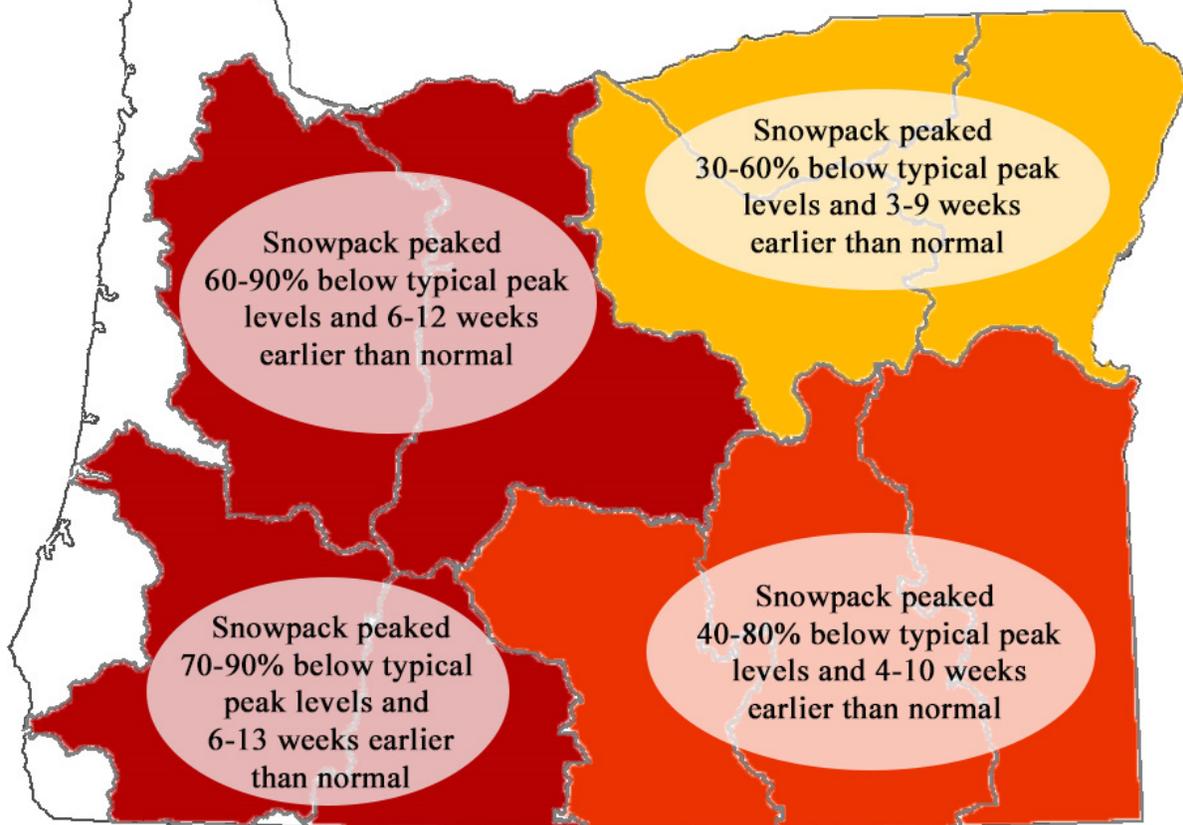


Natural Resources  
Conservation  
Service

# Oregon Basin Outlook Report

May 1, 2015

## Oregon 2015 Peak Snowpack



Across Oregon, much of the winter's precipitation fell as rain rather than as snow, causing sixty percent of the long-term snowpack monitoring sites to set new records for the lowest and earliest peak snowpack in over 30 years. Due to the warm mountain temperatures, one third of snow monitoring sites in the state didn't receive enough snow to build a lasting snowpack at all this year. The current snowpack deficit means that the mountains are missing several feet of water, normally frozen in the high elevation snowpack, that usually serves as a natural reservoir to feed streams and rivers throughout the summer. Because of the record low snowpack, water users depending on streamflow without access to reservoir storage should expect water shortages this summer.

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# General Outlook

May 1, 2015

## SUMMARY

The winter of 2015 will go down in Oregon's history books as the year that was dominated by bare ground in the mountains. As of May 1, the statewide snowpack was 11% of normal and only 15 out of 112 snow monitoring stations had any snow left at all. Throughout the winter, Oregon's snowpack was confined to the highest of elevations and was well below normal across the entire state. Sixty percent of the long-term snowpack monitoring sites set records for the lowest peak snowpack levels as well as the earliest peak dates since measurements began over 30 years ago. One third of the snow measurement sites in the state didn't receive enough snow to build a seasonal snowpack this year at all. Because the snowpack levels peaked well below normal across the state, there is a mountain snowpack deficit that amounts to several feet of frozen water that would typically be stored in the snowpack, but is not present this year. Oregon's streams and rivers that depend on this snowpack for summer flows will be significantly lower than normal this year.

Warm winter temperatures across Oregon are to blame for the record low snowpack experienced this winter. If mountain temperatures had been colder, Oregon's snowpack would likely have been much closer to normal. Instead, winter precipitation often fell as rain in the mountains, leading to near average precipitation totals (Oct 1 - May 1) and one of the lowest state-wide snowpacks on record. Many of Oregon's irrigation reservoirs captured the winter rain, which will help provide a buffer to water users with access to reservoir water. However, rain is not an acceptable substitute for a snowpack. Rainfall timing and amounts are only predictable a few days ahead of time and it moves through the system quickly; whereas snowpack is a measurable frozen reservoir of water that can be counted on for water supply and streamflow during spring and summer.

Most of Oregon is included in the moderate to severe drought category for this summer; and SE Oregon is in the extreme drought category, according to the National Drought Monitor: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>. This means that there will likely be water shortages this summer; especially for water users that depend on streamflow that is not tied to a reservoir. As of May 1, Governor Brown has declared a drought state of emergency for the following counties, with more likely to follow: Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Harney, Crook, Baker, and Wheeler. Water users should brace for a dry and hot summer with limited water supplies.

## SNOWPACK

A rare and unusual winter occurred in Oregon this year. Winter was only felt at Oregon's highest elevations and elsewhere received more rainfall instead of snow accumulation. The following facts explain the unusual snowpack conditions experienced during the winter of 2015:

- More than half of all the long-term snowpack monitoring stations in Oregon peaked at their lowest level on record and also peaked earlier in the winter than in any time in the last 30 years.
- The state-wide snowpack set new record lows replacing the previous lows of 1977, 1981, 1992 and 2005.
- Only 15 out of 112 sites have any snow at all as of May 1 and this remaining snow is melting rapidly.
- The sites that were snow-free on May 1 melted many weeks earlier than usual.

- One third of long-term snowpack monitoring sites did not receive enough snow to accumulate a seasonal snowpack this winter. These sites were primarily snow-free throughout the winter.
- Most of Oregon had snow on the ground at only the higher elevations this winter and the snowpack peaked 40-90% below typical peak levels.
- Northeastern Oregon had the most snow coverage this season but the snowpack still peaked 30-60% below typical peak levels.

Late April brought some snow in the higher elevations and the coldest sustained temperatures felt since December. However, the snow that fell in late April was too little and too late to fill the snowpack void left behind from Oregon's lack of winter. Warm temperatures during winter storms this season resulted in more rain falling than snow in the Cascades. Only the highest of elevations held onto a veneer of a snowpack this year; albeit record or near record low.

Standing on bare ground in the mountains of Oregon during late winter and early spring left nature and humans confused about the season. Mosquitos and budding trees were observed in February following heavy rains and snowmelt. The lack of a normal winter snowpack not only disrupts our senses but also causes earlier drying of mountain soils, strain on plants, increased threat of wildfire, low summer streamflows and the potential for significant water shortages during the irrigation season.

## **PRECIPITATION**

April was another drier than normal month across the state, with monthly precipitation ranging from 41% of normal in northeastern Oregon to 80% of normal in the Owyhee and Malheur basins. Since the water year began on October 1, the mountains have received just slightly below average amounts of precipitation. October through December brought well above average precipitation to the state but the January through April period was below normal. Had the temperatures been cold enough, the state-wide snowpack would likely be near normal even with below normal precipitation amounts that fell over the last few months. In a normal year, that season's worth of precipitation would be stored in the snowpack and slowly released during the dry season. Unfortunately, this year that precipitation fell as rain and has already moved through the system.

## **RESERVOIRS**

Because the mountains are mostly snow-free as of May 1, reservoir storage is extremely critical for water users this summer. Despite the record low snowpack, winter rainfall brought enough moisture that some of Oregon's major reservoirs are storing nearly the same amount as last year or better. Reservoirs that have benefitted the most are located in the Upper Deschutes and Crooked River basins. Most of the reservoirs in this basin are storing near their capacity and near average amounts of water for this time of year. Owyhee, Malheur and Harney basins are storing the lowest amounts in the state with respect to capacity ranging from 19% of capacity in Drews reservoir up to 62% in Beulah Reservoir. Elsewhere, there is quite a bit of variability in reservoir storage within each basin. For example in the Rogue and Umpqua basins, current storage ranges from 42% of capacity at Howard Prairie up to 99% in the Lost Creek Reservoir. If Oregon's reservoirs were solely dependent on this year's historic low snowpack, they would be storing much less water. As it is, further reservoir filling will be dependent on spring and summer rainfall as the majority of the high country has already shed its snow.

## STREAMFLOW

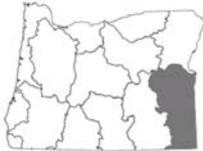
Many of Oregon's rivers have already experienced peak flows this season. In western and southwestern Oregon, streamflow peaks occurred during a rain-on-snow event in February while other regions saw peak flows occur as early as December. Normally, most of Oregon's rivers experience peak flows during snowmelt in May through July. With the vast majority of Oregon being snow free as of May 1, rivers are well into recession and will not see increased flow until precipitation returns to the region in the fall.

According to the USGS, much of the state is currently experiencing streamflows that are at or below the 10th percentile. These conditions are not expected to improve. If the warm and dry conditions persist, some rivers and streams are likely to hit new record low flows by the end of summer. In extreme years such as this, forecast models may not capture the full range of uncertainty in their predictions. However, the snowpack and temperature trends this season make it very clear that streamflows will be well below normal throughout the state this summer.

A summary of streamflow forecasts for Oregon follows:

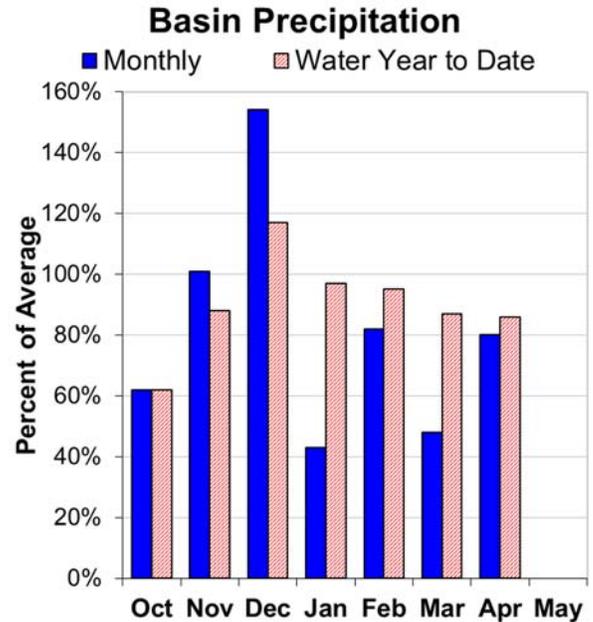
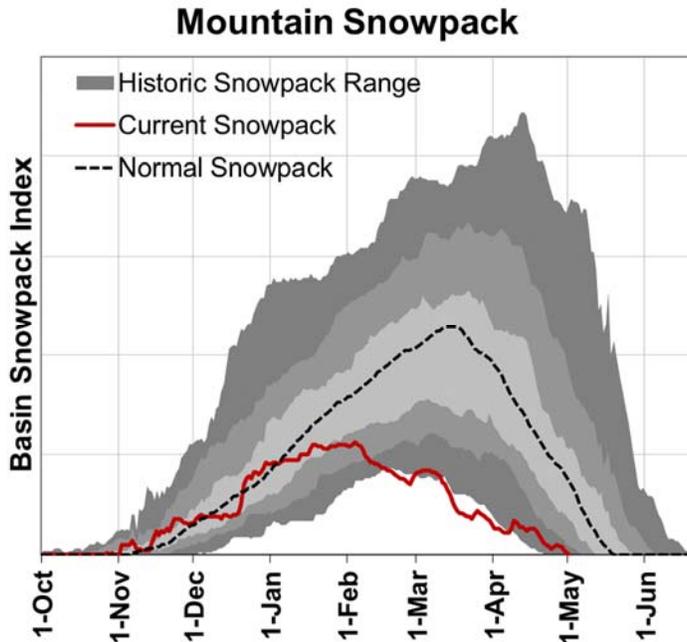
STREAM	Median Forecast (May through September)	
	Volume (Acre-Feet)	Percent of Average
Owyhee Reservoir Inflow	61,000	25
Grande Ronde R at Troy	450,000	48
Umatilla R at Pendleton	43,000	54
Deschutes R at Benham Falls	295,000	71
Willamette R at Salem	1,920,000	64
Rogue R at Raygold	315,000	55
Upper Klamath Lake Inflow	130,000	41
Silvies R nr Burns	3,900	8

Some of these forecasts assume that normal weather conditions will occur from now to the end of the forecast period. This report contains data furnished by the Oregon Department of Water Resources, U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA National Weather Service and other cooperators. This report will be updated monthly, January through June.



# Owyhee and Malheur Basins

May 1, 2015



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, all 18 snow monitoring sites in the basin were snow-free. The snowpack in this region peaked significantly below normal this winter. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 40 to 70% below typical peak snowpack levels and many weeks earlier than normal.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 80% of average, the highest in the state. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 86% of average.

### RESERVOIR

Reservoir storage across the basin is currently well below average. As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 36% of average at Lake Owyhee and Warm Springs Reservoir to 76% of average at Beulah Reservoir.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 15% to 40% of average for the May through September period. Forecasted streamflow volumes fall in the lowest quarter of observed streamflows since 1981. Water managers in the basin should expect significant water shortages this summer.

## Owyhee And Malheur Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>
		<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>	<b>10% (KAF)</b>	
Owyhee R nr Rome	MAY-JUL	0.16	8.0	20	11%	37	73	188
	MAY-SEP	2.1	14.8	30	15%	50	90	205
Owyhee R bl Owyhee Dam <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	9.0	24	38	18%	55	87	210
	MAY-SEP	22	43	61	25%	83	121	240
Malheur R nr Drewsey	MAY-JUL	0.42	2.9	5.8	16%	9.8	17.5	37
	MAY-SEP	0.54	3.2	6.3	17%	10.5	18.5	38
NF Malheur R at Beulah	MAY-JUL	6.3	10.1	13.2	39%	16.6	22	34
	MAY-SEP	8.4	12.6	16.0	40%	19.8	26	40

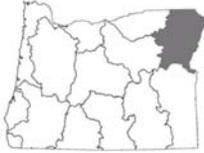
\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume  
 2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

<b>Reservoir Storage</b>	<b>Current (KAF)</b>	<b>Last Year (KAF)</b>	<b>Average (KAF)</b>	<b>Useable Capacity (KAF)</b>
Beulah	37.1	38.9	49.0	60.0
Bully Creek	15.5	16.4	25.3	30.0
Lake Owyhee	193.2	184.1	533.1	715.0
Warm Springs	45.4	55.9	126.8	191.0

<b>Snowpack Summary by Basin</b>	<b>Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median</b>		
	<b># of Sites</b>	<b>Current Yr</b>	<b>Last Yr</b>
East Little Owyhee Basin	2	0%	41%
South Fork Owyhee Basin	4	0%	57%
Upper Malheur Basin	3	0%	61%
Upper Owyhee Basin	5	0%	57%

## Owyhee And Malheur Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

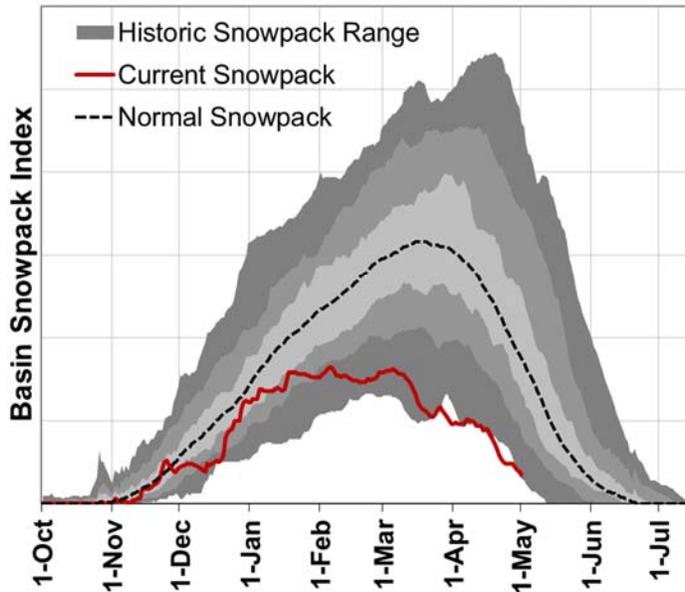
Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites	Elevation (ft)	Date Measured	Snow Depth (in)	Snow Water Equivalent (in)			
				Current SWE	Last Yr SWE	30-Yr Median	% of 30-Yr Median
Granite Peak SNOTEL	8543	1-May	0	0.0	8.1	19.5	0%
Trout Creek AM	7890	1-May	0	0.0	4.0		
Toe Jam SNOTEL	7700	1-May	0	0.0	0.7		
Govt Corrals AM	7400	1-May	0	0.0	4.0		
Jack Creek Upper SNOTEL	7250	1-May	0	0.0	8.8	14.4	0%
Fawn Creek SNOTEL	7000	1-May	0	0.0	5.9	11.4	0%
Buckskin Lower SNOTEL	6915	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0%
Big Bend SNOTEL	6700	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Fry Canyon SNOTEL	6700	1-May	0	0.0			
Laurel Draw SNOTEL	6697	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
South Mtn. SNOTEL	6500	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0%
Taylor Canyon SNOTEL	6200	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Blue Mountain Spring SNOTEL	5870	1-May	0	0.0	3.5	5.7	0%
Mud Flat SNOTEL	5730	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Reynolds Creek SNOTEL	5600	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Rock Springs SNOTEL	5290	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Lake Creek R.S. SNOTEL	5240	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Taylor Butte SNOTEL	5030	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	



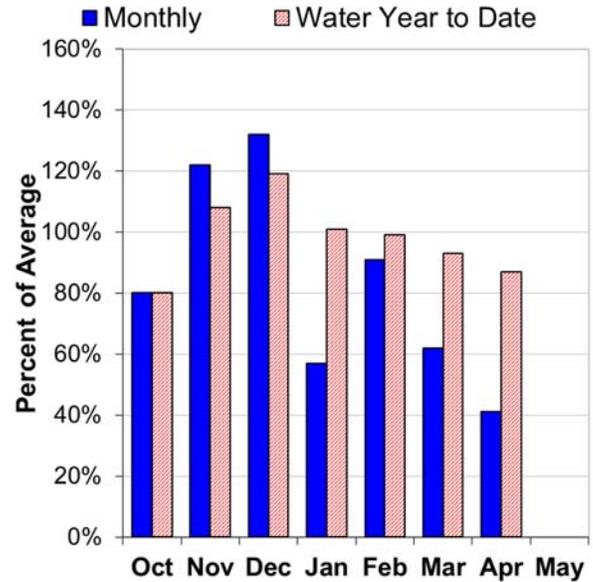
# Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt and Imnaha Basins

May 1, 2015

**Mountain Snowpack**



**Basin Precipitation**



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, the basin snowpack was 19% of normal and 16 out of the 23 snow monitoring sites in the basin were snow-free. The snowpack in this region peaked significantly below normal this winter. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 30 to 60% below typical peak snowpack levels and 3 to 7 weeks earlier than normal. Two long-term monitoring sites in the basin set new record lows for May 1 snowpack (Schneider Meadows SNOTEL and TV Ridge AM). TV Ridge was snow free for the first time since records began in 1965. In addition, Aneroid Lake, Bowman Springs, and Wolf Creek SNOTEL experienced their lowest snowpack peak levels on record.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 41% of average, the lowest in the state. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 87% of average.

### RESERVOIR

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 59% of average at Phillips Lake Reservoir to 157% of average at Wallowa Lake Reservoir.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 12% to 67% of average for the May through September period. Water managers in the basin should expect significant water shortages this summer.

## Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt And Imnaha Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
		←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>	<b>10% (KAF)</b>	<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>
Burnt R nr Hereford	MAY-JUL	0.00	0.48	1.33	9%	2.6	5.3	14.7
	MAY-SEP	0.08	0.87	1.91	12%	3.4	6.2	16.4
Deer Ck nr Sumpter	MAY-JUL	0.45	1.42	2.4	24%	3.5	5.7	9.8
Powder R nr Sumpter	MAY-JUL	5.4	9.3	12.5	35%	16.2	22	36
	MAY-SEP	5.8	9.8	13.1	35%	16.8	23	37
Wolf Ck Reservoir Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUN	0.48	1.19	1.86	20%	2.7	4.2	9.1
Pine Ck nr Oxbow	MAY-JUL	20	31	40	36%	50	67	112
	MAY-SEP	22	34	43	36%	53	70	118
Imnaha R at Imnaha	MAY-JUL	52	75	93	47%	113	147	200
	MAY-SEP	62	86	105	48%	126	161	220
Catherine Ck nr Union	MAY-JUL	14.8	18.9	22	48%	25	31	46
	MAY-SEP	16.5	21	24	48%	27	33	50
Lostine R nr Lostine	MAY-JUL	50	60	66	67%	72	82	98
	MAY-SEP	53	64	71	67%	78	89	106
Bear Ck nr Wallowa	MAY-SEP	20	25	28	50%	31	37	56
Grande Ronde R at Troy <sup>1</sup>	MAY-JUL	250	330	395	46%	465	575	860
	MAY-SEP	295	385	450	48%	520	635	945

\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

<b>Reservoir Storage</b>	<b>Current (KAF)</b>	<b>Last Year (KAF)</b>	<b>Average (KAF)</b>	<b>Useable Capacity (KAF)</b>
Phillips Lake	31.1	36.4	52.6	73.5
Thief Valley	12.3	13.6	15.3	17.4
Unity	24.7	25.0	24.1	25.2
Wallowa Lake	31.7	26.2	20.2	37.5
Wolf Creek	6.6	9.4	8.7	10.4

<b>Snowpack Summary by Basin</b>	<b>Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median</b>		
	<b># of Sites</b>	<b>Current Yr</b>	<b>Last Yr</b>
Burnt Basin	2	0%	55%
Imnaha Basin	4	37%	108%
Lower Grande Ronde Basin	4	0%	102%
Powder Basin	8	18%	114%
Upper Grande Ronde Basin	8	21%	131%
Wallowa Basin	5	30%	115%

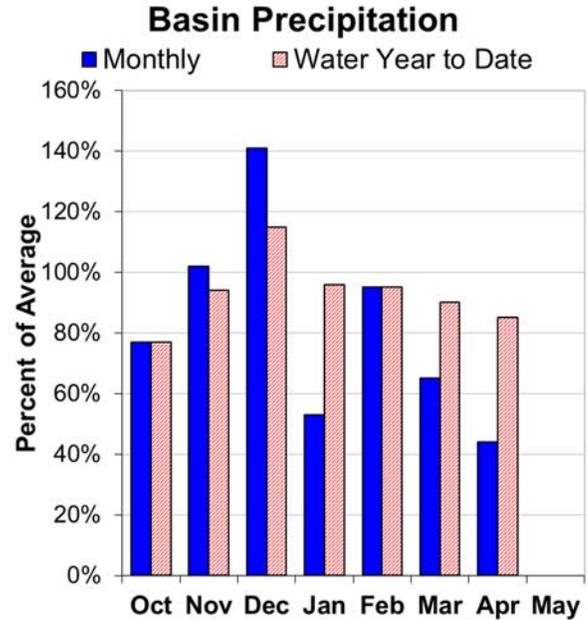
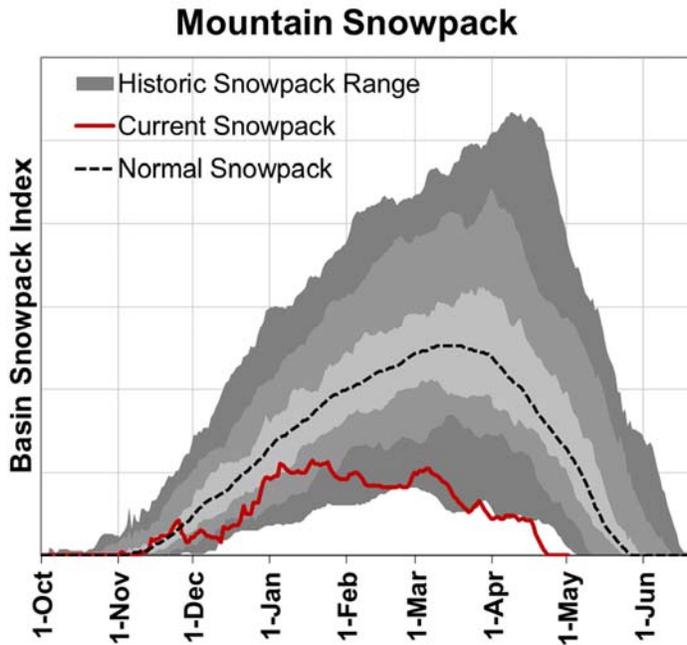
## Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt And Imnaha Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites	Elevation (ft)	Date Measured	Snow Depth (in)	Snow Water Equivalent (in)			
				Current SWE	Last Yr SWE	30-Yr Median	% of 30-Yr Median
Mt. Howard SNOTEL	7910	1-May	16	8.0	23.0	16.8	48%
Aneroid Lake #2 SNOTEL	7400	1-May	39	14.9	26.1	25.2	59%
Anthony Lake (Rev) Snow Course	7160	1-May	28	11.0	34.0	25.9	42%
Tv Ridge AM	7050	1-May	0	0.0	15.1	19.5	0%
Big Sheep AM	6230	1-May	16	6.0	19.2	19.2	31%
Bear Saddle SNOTEL	6180	1-May	0	0.0	8.4	10.3	0%
Bourne SNOTEL	5850	1-May	0	0.0	4.4	4.7	0%
Moss Springs SNOTEL	5760	1-May	9	4.3	27.7	18.5	23%
Taylor Green SNOTEL	5740	1-May	0	0.0	11.9	10.0	0%
Spruce Springs SNOTEL	5700	1-May	0	0.0	8.5	5.1	0%
Wolf Creek SNOTEL	5630	1-May	0	0.0	7.4	6.9	0%
Milk Shakes SNOTEL	5580	1-May	26	11.2	39.3		
West Branch SNOTEL	5560	1-May	0	0.0	12.1	8.9	0%
Touchet SNOTEL	5530	1-May	0	0.0	23.9	21.8	0%
Eilertson Meadows SNOTEL	5510	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Gold Center SNOTEL	5410	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Schneider Meadows SNOTEL	5400	1-May	2	0.5	16.3	17.3	3%
Beaver Reservoir SNOTEL	5150	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Tipton SNOTEL	5150	1-May	0	0.0	1.1	2.0	0%
High Ridge SNOTEL	4920	1-May	0	0.0	14.0	11.0	0%
County Line SNOTEL	4830	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Bowman Springs SNOTEL	4530	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sourdough Gulch SNOTEL	4000	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	



# Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Willow Basins

May 1, 2015



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, 8 out of the 9 snow monitoring sites in the basin were snow-free. The snowpack in this region peaked significantly below normal this winter. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 50 to 60% below typical peak snowpack levels and 4 to 9 weeks earlier than normal. In addition, Arbuckle Mtn and Bowman Springs SNOTEL sites experienced their lowest snowpack peak levels on record.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 44% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 85% of average.

### RESERVOIR

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 57% of average at Cold Springs Reservoir to 101% of average at Willow Creek Reservoir.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 29% to 69% of average for the May through September period. Forecasted streamflow volumes fall in the lowest quarter of observed streamflows since 1981. Water managers in the basin should expect water shortages this summer.

## Umatilla, Walla Walla And Willow Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

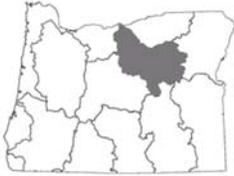
<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>
		<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>	<b>10% (KAF)</b>	
SF Walla Walla R nr Milton-Freewater	MAY-JUL	17.0	21	24	65%	27	32	37
	MAY-SEP	26	31	34	69%	38	43	49
Umatilla R ab Meacham nr Gibbon	MAY-JUL	12.1	19.0	25	60%	31	42	42
	MAY-SEP	15.9	23	29	60%	35	46	48
Umatilla R at Pendleton	MAY-JUL	-2.30	23	41	55%	59	84	74
	MAY-SEP	-1.17	25	43	54%	61	87	80
McKay Ck nr Pilot Rock	MAY-SEP	0.23	2.1	4.4	29%	7.6	13.8	15.2
Butter Ck nr Pine City	MAY-JUL	0.50	1.44	2.4	47%	3.5	5.6	5.1
	MAY-SEP	0.63	1.62	2.6	46%	3.7	5.8	5.6
Willow Ck ab Willow Lake nr Heppner	MAY-JUL	0.29	0.90	1.50	37%	2.2	3.6	4.1
Rhea Ck nr Heppner	MAY-JUL	0.18	0.78	1.44	35%	2.3	3.9	4.1

\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume

<b>Reservoir Storage</b>	<b>Current (KAF)</b>	<b>Last Year (KAF)</b>	<b>Average (KAF)</b>	<b>Useable Capacity (KAF)</b>
Cold Springs	20.9	22.2	36.8	50.0
Mckay	50.0	65.5	53.3	73.8
Willow Creek	5.8	6.0	5.8	13.9

<b>Snowpack Summary by Basin</b>	<b>Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median</b>		
	<b># of Sites</b>	<b>Current Yr</b>	<b>Last Yr</b>
Umatilla Basin	5	0%	84%
Walla Walla Basin	7	0%	97%

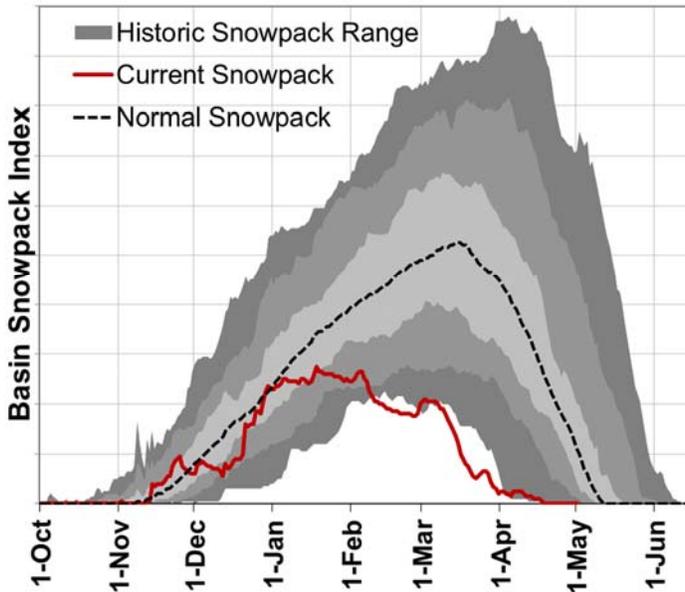
<b>Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites</b>	<b>Elevation (ft)</b>	<b>Date Measured</b>	<b>Snow Depth (in)</b>	<b>Snow Water Equivalent (in)</b>			
				<b>Current SWE</b>	<b>Last Yr SWE</b>	<b>30-Yr Median</b>	<b>% of 30-Yr Median</b>
Arbuckle Mtn SNOTEL	5770	1-May	0	0.0	4.5	11.0	0%
Spruce Springs SNOTEL	5700	1-May	0	0.0	8.5	5.1	0%
Milk Shakes SNOTEL	5580	1-May	26	11.2	39.3		
Touchet SNOTEL	5530	1-May	0	0.0	23.9	21.8	0%
Madison Butte SNOTEL	5150	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Lucky Strike SNOTEL	4970	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
High Ridge SNOTEL	4920	1-May	0	0.0	14.0	11.0	0%
Bowman Springs SNOTEL	4530	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Emigrant Springs SNOTEL	3800	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	



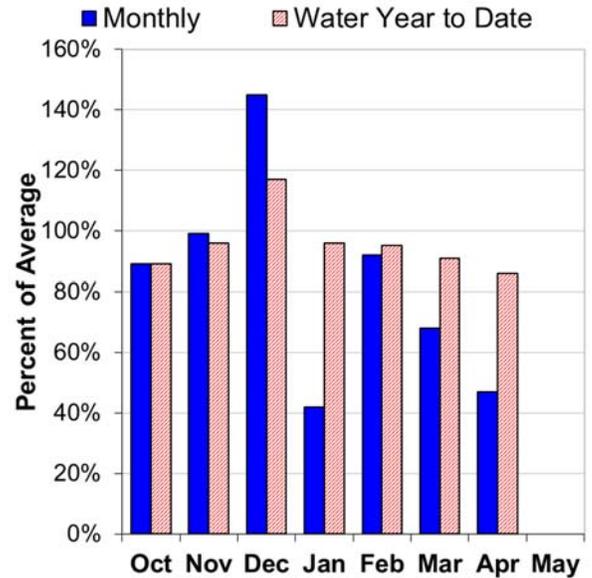
# John Day Basin

## May 1, 2015

### Mountain Snowpack



### Basin Precipitation



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, only 1 out of 15 snow monitoring sites in the basin still had snow. The snowpack in this region peaked significantly below normal this winter. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 40 to 60% below typical peak snowpack levels and 5 to 8 weeks earlier than normal. In addition, 5 SNOTEL sites in the basin experienced their earliest snowpack peaks on record.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 47% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 86% of average.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 10% to 52% of average for the May through September period. Forecasted streamflow volumes fall in the lowest third of observed streamflows since 1981. Water managers in the basin should expect significant water shortages this summer.

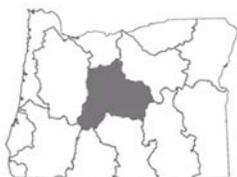
## John Day Basin Summary for May 1, 2015

<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>
		<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>	<b>10% (KAF)</b>	
Strawberry Ck nr Prairie City	MAY-JUL	2.5	3.3	3.8	52%	4.5	5.4	7.3
	MAY-SEP	2.8	3.5	4.1	52%	4.7	5.7	7.9
Mountain Ck nr Mitchell	MAY-JUL	0.02	0.14	0.30	11%	0.51	0.93	2.8
	MAY-SEP	0.02	0.15	0.30	10%	0.51	0.92	2.9
Camas Ck nr Ukiah	MAY-JUL	2.5	4.9	6.9	41%	9.3	13.5	17.0
	MAY-SEP	2.8	5.3	7.3	41%	9.7	13.9	17.7
MF John Day R at Ritter	MAY-JUL	10.6	19.9	28	37%	37	53	75
	MAY-SEP	12.2	22	30	38%	40	56	80
NF John Day R at Monument	MAY-JUL	51	97	136	38%	182	260	355
	MAY-SEP	56	103	143	38%	190	270	375

\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume

<b>Snowpack Summary by Basin</b>	<b>Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median</b>		
	<b># of Sites</b>	<b>Current Yr</b>	<b>Last Yr</b>
Lower John Day Basin	3	0%	0%
North Fork John Day Basin	8	25%	101%
Upper John Day Basin	5	0%	57%

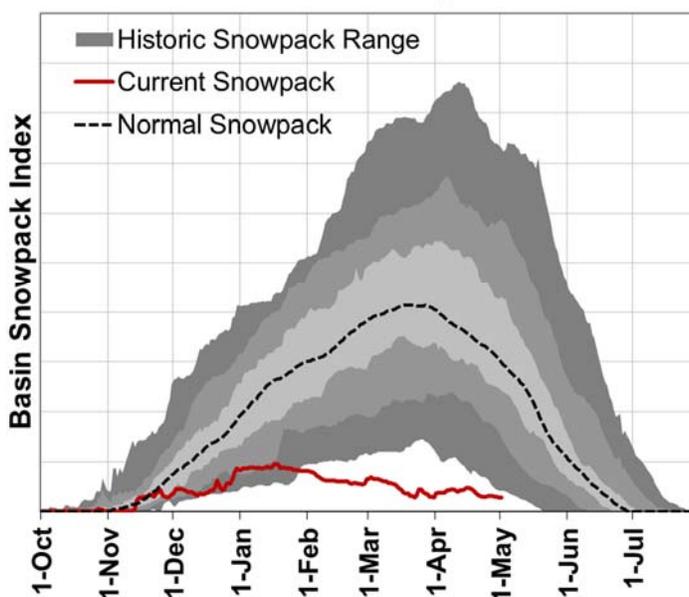
<b>Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites</b>	<b>Elevation (ft)</b>	<b>Date Measured</b>	<b>Snow Depth (in)</b>	<b>Snow Water Equivalent (in)</b>			
				<b>Current SWE</b>	<b>Last Yr SWE</b>	<b>30-Yr Median</b>	<b>% of 30-Yr Median</b>
Anthony Lake (Rev) Snow Course	7160	1-May	28	11.0	34.0	25.9	42%
Snow Mountain SNOTEL	6230	1-May	0	0.0	3.0	4.2	0%
Blue Mountain Spring SNOTEL	5870	1-May	0	0.0	3.5	5.7	0%
Bourne SNOTEL	5850	1-May	0	0.0	4.4	4.7	0%
Derr. SNOTEL	5850	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0%
Arbuckle Mtn SNOTEL	5770	1-May	0	0.0	4.5	11.0	0%
Ochoco Meadows SNOTEL	5430	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Gold Center SNOTEL	5410	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Starr Ridge SNOTEL	5250	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Lake Creek R.S. SNOTEL	5240	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Madison Butte SNOTEL	5150	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Tipton SNOTEL	5150	1-May	0	0.0	1.1	2.0	0%
Lucky Strike SNOTEL	4970	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
County Line SNOTEL	4830	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Marks Creek Snow Course	4580	1-May	0	0.0		0.0	



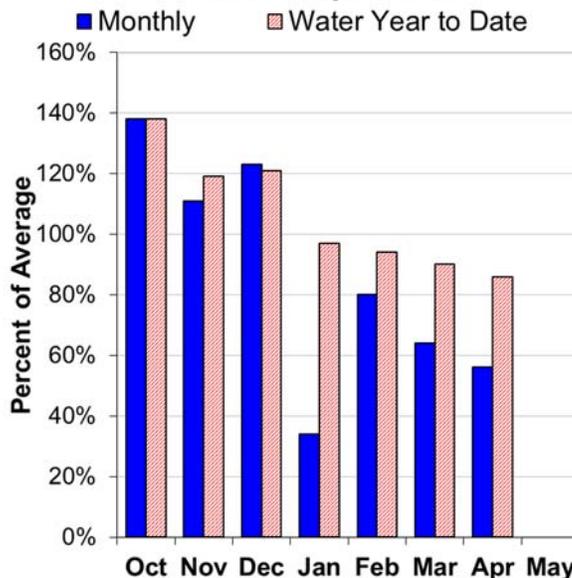
# Upper Deschutes and Crooked Basins

May 1, 2015

**Mountain Snowpack**



**Basin Precipitation**



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, only 2 out of 17 snow monitoring sites in the basin still had snow. Almost all of the SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked at the lowest level and earliest date since records began over 30 years ago. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 60 to 90% below typical peak snowpack levels and 6 to 12 weeks earlier than normal. Three long-term monitoring sites set new record lows for May 1 snowpack (Irish Taylor, McKenzie, and Summit Lake SNOTEL sites). McKenzie SNOTEL was snow-free for the first time since records began in 1982.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 56% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 86% of average.

### RESERVOIR

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 82% of average at Prineville Reservoir to 149% of average at Crescent Lake Reservoir.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 6% to 71% of average for the May through September period. Forecasted streamflow volumes fall in the lowest quarter of observed streamflows since 1981. Water managers in most of the basin should expect significant water shortages this summer.

## Upper Deschutes And Crooked Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>
		<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>	<b>10% (KAF)</b>	
Deschutes R bl Snow Ck	MAY-JUL	5.1	8.1	10.6	44%	13.3	18.0	24
	MAY-SEP	8.3	12.9	16.7	36%	21	28	47
Crane Prairie Reservoir Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	12.1	16.0	19.0	41%	22	27	46
	MAY-SEP	19.8	26	30	39%	35	42	77
Crescent Lake Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	0.49	1.12	1.70	14%	2.4	3.6	12.0
	MAY-SEP	0.01	0.34	0.82	6%	1.49	2.8	14.4
Little Deschutes R nr La Pine	MAY-JUL	1.45	4.1	6.6	15%	9.8	15.6	45
	MAY-SEP	0.73	3.3	6.1	12%	9.8	16.7	51
Deschutes R at Benham Falls <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	140	156	167	67%	178	194	250
	MAY-SEP	260	280	295	71%	310	330	415
Wychus Ck nr Sisters	MAY-JUL	13.9	16.7	18.7	62%	21	23	30
	MAY-SEP	19.7	23	26	62%	28	32	42
Prineville Reservoir Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	0.01	1.42	3.8	10%	7.3	14.6	39
	MAY-SEP	0.01	1.14	3.5	9%	7.1	14.8	39
Ochoco Reservoir Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	0.90	2.0	3.1	32%	4.3	6.5	9.6
	MAY-SEP	0.47	1.40	2.3	25%	3.4	5.6	9.1

\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume  
 2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

<b>Reservoir Storage</b>	<b>Current (KAF)</b>	<b>Last Year (KAF)</b>	<b>Average (KAF)</b>	<b>Useable Capacity (KAF)</b>
Crane Prairie	51.1	54.6	44.1	55.3
Crescent Lake	75.1	75.1	50.5	86.9
Ochoco	33.2	34.5	34.5	47.5
Prineville	116.5	150.7	142.9	153.0
Wickiup	180.9	192.1	184.5	200.0

<b>Snowpack Summary by Basin</b>	<b>Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median</b>		
	<b># of Sites</b>	<b>Current Yr</b>	<b>Last Yr</b>
Little Deschutes Basin	4	17%	63%
Upper Crooked Basin	2	0%	0%
Upper Deschutes Basin	9	11%	60%

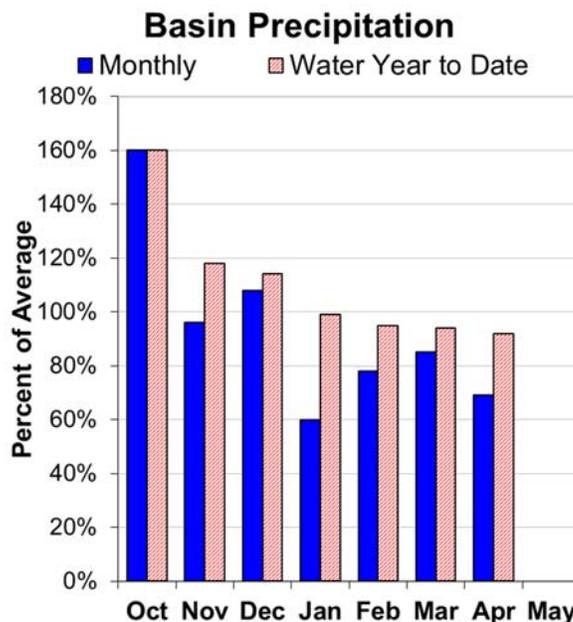
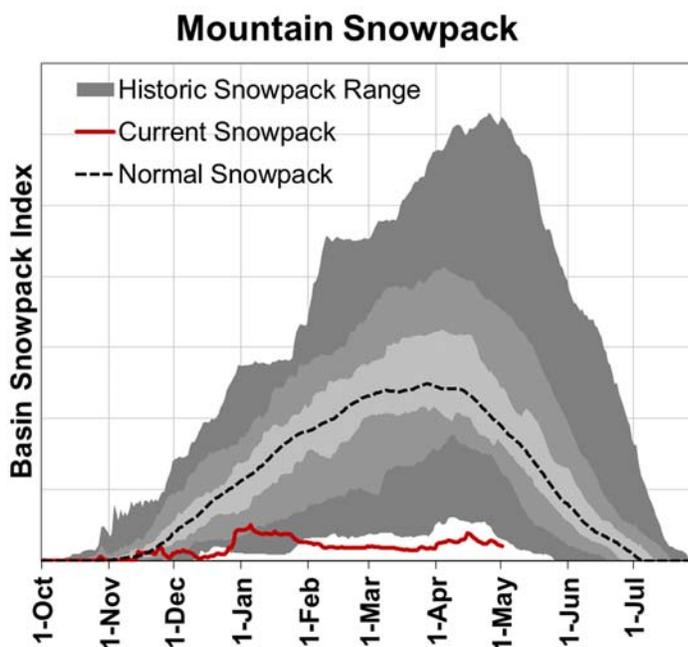
## Upper Deschutes And Crooked Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites	Elevation (ft)	Date Measured	Snow Depth (in)	Snow Water Equivalent (in)			
				Current SWE	Last Yr SWE	30-Yr Median	% of 30-Yr Median
Snow Mountain SNOTEL	6230	1-May	0	0.0	3.0	4.2	0%
Derr. SNOTEL	5850	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0%
Three Creeks Meadow SNOTEL	5690	1-May	0	0.0	1.7	13.4	0%
Summit Lake SNOTEL	5610	1-May	29	11.4	27.7	40.8	28%
Bald Peter Snow Course	5600	1-May	0	0.0		28.6	0%
Irish Taylor SNOTEL	5540	1-May	21	8.1	28.2	39.8	20%
Ochoco Meadows SNOTEL	5430	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Racing Creek Snow Course	5160	1-May	0	0.0		5.0	0%
Cascade Summit SNOTEL	5100	1-May	0	0.0	14.0	24.9	0%
Roaring River SNOTEL	4950	1-May	0	0.0	12.6	20.9	0%
New Crescent Lake SNOTEL	4910	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Chemult Alternate SNOTEL	4850	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Hogg Pass SNOTEL	4790	1-May	0	0.0	2.5	19.3	0%
Mckenzie SNOTEL	4770	1-May	0	0.0	26.1	35.1	0%
Marks Creek Snow Course	4580	1-May	0	0.0		0.0	
Salt Creek Falls SNOTEL	4220	1-May	0	0.0	0.7	10.1	0%
Santiam Jct. SNOTEL	3740	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	



# Hood, Sandy, and Lower Deschutes Basins

May 1, 2015



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, only 2 out of 14 snow monitoring sites in the basin still had snow. Almost all of the SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked at the lowest level since records began over 30 years ago. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 70 to 90% below typical peak snowpack levels and 6 to 12 weeks earlier than normal. Three long-term monitoring sites in the basin set new record lows for May 1 snowpack (Mt. Hood SNOTEL, Red Hill SNOTEL and Bald Peter snow course). Both Red Hill and Bald Peter were snow-free for the first time since records began in the 1970's. Normal snow water content for Red Hill is 39.8 inches and for Bald Peter is 28.6 inches. Mt. Hood SNOTEL had 16.4 inches of snow water content on May 1, while the 30-year normal is 62.0 inches.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 69% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 92% of average.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 52% to 56% of average for the May through September period. Forecasted streamflow volumes fall in the lowest quarter of observed streamflows since 1981. Water managers in the basin should expect water shortages this summer.

## Hood, Sandy And Lower Deschutes Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

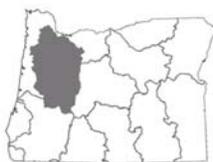
<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>
		<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>	<b>10% (KAF)</b>	
WF Hood River nr Dee	MAY-JUL	29	36	41	53%	46	55	78
	MAY-SEP	40	48	54	56%	61	71	96
Hood R at Tucker Bridge	MAY-JUL	36	55	69	46%	82	101	151
	MAY-SEP	58	82	98	52%	113	137	190
Sandy R nr Marmot	MAY-JUL	74	93	108	51%	123	148	210
	MAY-SEP	104	127	144	56%	162	191	255

\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume

<b>Reservoir Storage</b>	<b>Current (KAF)</b>	<b>Last Year (KAF)</b>	<b>Average (KAF)</b>	<b>Useable Capacity (KAF)</b>
Clear Lake	5.2	7.7	5.4	11.9

<b>Snowpack Summary by Basin</b>	<b>Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median</b>		
	<b># of Sites</b>	<b>Current Yr</b>	<b>Last Yr</b>
Lower Columbia - Sandy Basin	7	11%	83%
Lower Deschutes Basin	4	20%	92%
Middle Columbia - Hood Basin	6	10%	83%

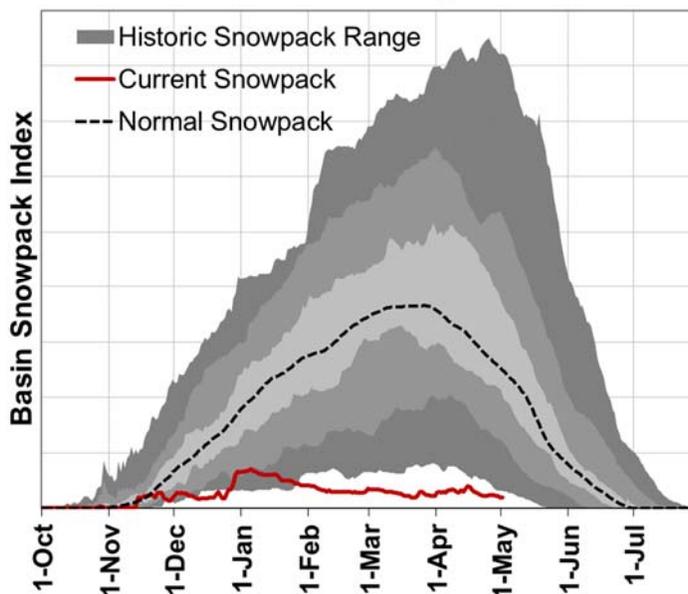
<b>Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites</b>	<b>Elevation (ft)</b>	<b>Date Measured</b>	<b>Snow Depth (in)</b>	<b>Snow Water Equivalent (in)</b>			
				<b>Current SWE</b>	<b>Last Yr SWE</b>	<b>30-Yr Median</b>	<b>% of 30-Yr Median</b>
Bald Peter Snow Course	5600	1-May	0	0.0		28.6	0%
Mt Hood Test Site SNOTEL	5370	1-May	36	16.4	58.5	62.0	26%
Racing Creek Snow Course	5160	1-May	0	0.0		5.0	0%
Red Hill SNOTEL	4410	1-May	0	0.0	37.4	39.8	0%
Surprise Lakes SNOTEL	4290	1-May	1	0.3	36.5	42.6	1%
Beaver Creek #2 Snow Course	4220	1-May	0	0.0		0.3	0%
Beaver Creek #1 Snow Course	4210	1-May	0	0.0		7.6	0%
Mud Ridge SNOTEL	4070	1-May	0	0.0	16.4	17.8	0%
Clear Lake SNOTEL	3810	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0%
Blazed Alder SNOTEL	3650	1-May	0	0.0	11.9	20.4	0%
Clackamas Lake SNOTEL	3400	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Greenpoint SNOTEL	3310	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0%
North Fork SNOTEL	3060	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	7.3	0%
South Fork Bull Run SNOTEL	2690	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	



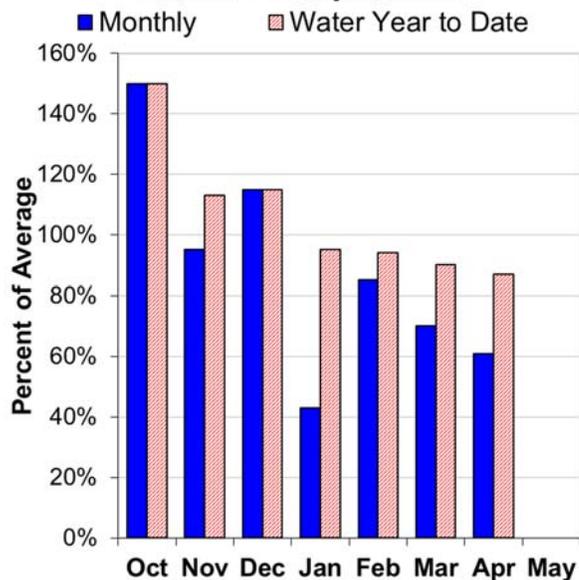
# Willamette Basin

May 1, 2015

### Mountain Snowpack



### Basin Precipitation



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, only 2 out of 25 snow monitoring sites in the basin still had snow. Many of the SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked at their lowest level and earliest date since records began over 30 years ago. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 70 to 90% below typical peak snowpack levels and 8 to 12 weeks earlier than normal.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 61% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 87% of average.

### RESERVOIR

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 51% of average at Lookout Point Reservoir to 101% of average at Henry Hagg Lake Reservoir.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 43% to 73% of average for the May through September period. Water managers in the basin should expect greatly limited water supplies this summer.

## Willamette Basin Summary for May 1, 2015

<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→					<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>	
		<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>		<b>10% (KAF)</b>
Hills Creek Reservoir Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	32	55	67	44%	81	115	152
	MAY-SEP	68	97	113	51%	129	169	220
MF Willamette R bl NF nr Oakridge <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	85	147	181	47%	220	310	385
	MAY-SEP	172	250	290	53%	335	445	550
Lookout Point Reservoir Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	79	144	180	45%	220	320	400
	MAY-SEP	178	260	300	53%	345	460	570
Fall Creek Reservoir Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	4.6	16.5	24	44%	34	59	55
	MAY-SEP	8.6	23	32	50%	43	72	64
Cottage Grove Lake Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	1.55	6.2	9.2	47%	13.0	23	19.6
	MAY-SEP	3.1	8.8	12.2	53%	16.3	27	23
Dorena Lake Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	2.3	15.2	25	37%	37	71	67
	MAY-SEP	6.4	23	33	43%	46	81	77
McKenzie R bl Trail Bridge	MAY-JUN	74	84	91	66%	99	110	137
	MAY-SEP	166	184	196	73%	210	230	270
Cougar Lake Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	26	44	54	48%	65	93	112
	MAY-SEP	53	77	90	56%	103	135	160
Blue Lake Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	3.2	10.9	15.9	39%	22	38	41
	MAY-SEP	5.6	15.2	21	45%	28	46	47
McKenzie R nr Vida <sup>1</sup>	MAY-JUN	192	275	320	63%	365	475	510
	MAY-SEP	430	550	610	70%	670	815	870
Detroit Lake Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	87	137	163	57%	192	265	285
	MAY-SEP	172	240	275	64%	315	405	430
Little North Santiam R nr Mehama <sup>1</sup>	MAY-JUN	18.0	33	41	58%	50	73	71
	MAY-SEP	26	45	56	64%	67	96	87
North Santiam R at Mehama <sup>1</sup>	MAY-JUN	131	195	230	58%	265	355	395
	MAY-SEP	141	285	355	62%	420	565	570
Green Peter Lake Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	30	61	79	54%	99	150	145
	MAY-SEP	49	87	108	61%	131	189	177
Foster Lake Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	65	123	156	57%	192	285	275
	MAY-SEP	104	175	215	64%	255	360	335
South Santiam R at Waterloo <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUN	87	131	167	59%	205	270	285
	MAY-SEP	133	186	225	64%	270	345	350
Willamette R at Salem <sup>1,2</sup>	MAY-JUN	515	960	1210	55%	1480	2190	2200
	MAY-SEP	1030	1610	1920	64%	2250	3080	2980
Scoggins Reservoir Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	1.26	2.6	3.7	69%	5.0	7.4	5.4
Oak Grove Fk ab Powerplant	MAY-JUL	33	41	47	59%	53	63	80
	MAY-SEP	59	70	78	65%	86	99	120
Clackamas R above Three Lynx	MAY-JUL	102	135	160	55%	187	230	290
	MAY-SEP	171	210	240	63%	270	315	380
Clackamas R at Estacada	MAY-JUL	154	194	225	56%	255	305	405
	MAY-SEP	235	285	320	63%	360	415	510

\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

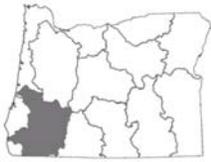
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

## Willamette Basin Summary for May 1, 2015

Reservoir Storage	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Useable Capacity (KAF)
Blue River	48.0	79.2	73.5	85.5
Cottage Grove	24.6	26.3	26.7	29.8
Cougar	79.6	162.6	151.9	155.2
Detroit	266.6	432.2	408.5	300.7
Dorena	57.4	60.8	61.5	70.5
Fall Creek	66.3	110.2	108.0	115.5
Fern Ridge	80.7	97.6	89.1	109.6
Foster	24.3	44.2	24.6	29.7
Green Peter	312.7	400.8	378.4	268.2
Hills Creek	205.9	262.0	247.3	200.2
Lookout Point	190.2	368.2	373.8	337.0
Timothy Lake	59.2	59.7	59.0	61.7
Henry Hagg Lake	53.0	53.3	52.6	53.0

Snowpack Summary by Basin	Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median		
	# of Sites	Current Yr	Last Yr
Clackamas Basin	9	11%	83%
McKenzie Basin	6	8%	70%
Middle Fork Willamette Basin	7	13%	57%
North Santiam Basin	4	0%	39%
South Santiam Basin	4	0%	39%

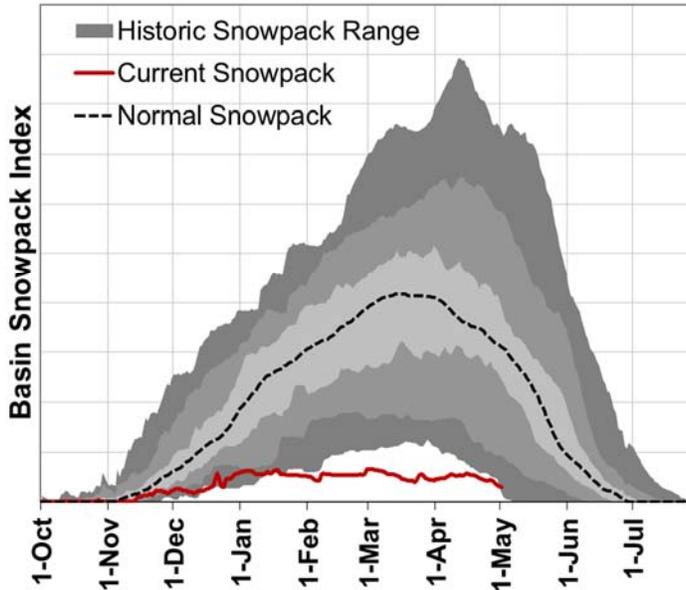
Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites	Elevation (ft)	Date Measured	Snow Depth (in)	Snow Water Equivalent (in)			
				Current SWE	Last Yr SWE	30-Yr Median	% of 30-Yr Median
Summit Lake SNOTEL	5610	1-May	29	11.4	27.7	40.8	28%
Irish Taylor SNOTEL	5540	1-May	21	8.1	28.2	39.8	20%
Cascade Summit SNOTEL	5100	1-May	0	0.0	14.0	24.9	0%
Roaring River SNOTEL	4950	1-May	0	0.0	12.6	20.9	0%
Holland Meadows SNOTEL	4930	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	10.7	0%
Hogg Pass SNOTEL	4790	1-May	0	0.0	2.5	19.3	0%
Mckenzie SNOTEL	4770	1-May	0	0.0	26.1	35.1	0%
Bear Grass SNOTEL	4720	1-May	0	0.0	23.9		
Beaver Creek #2 Snow Course	4220	1-May	0	0.0		0.3	0%
Salt Creek Falls SNOTEL	4220	1-May	0	0.0	0.7	10.1	0%
Beaver Creek #1 Snow Course	4210	1-May	0	0.0		7.6	0%
Mud Ridge SNOTEL	4070	1-May	0	0.0	16.4	17.8	0%
Little Meadows SNOTEL	4020	1-May	0	0.0	6.3	16.0	0%
Clear Lake SNOTEL	3810	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0%
Santiam Jct. SNOTEL	3740	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Daly Lake SNOTEL	3690	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0%
Jump Off Joe SNOTEL	3520	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Peavine Ridge SNOTEL	3420	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Clackamas Lake SNOTEL	3400	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Smith Ridge SNOTEL	3270	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Saddle Mountain SNOTEL	3110	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Railroad Overpass SNOTEL	2680	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Marion Forks SNOTEL	2590	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Seine Creek SNOTEL	2060	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Miller Woods SNOTEL	420	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		



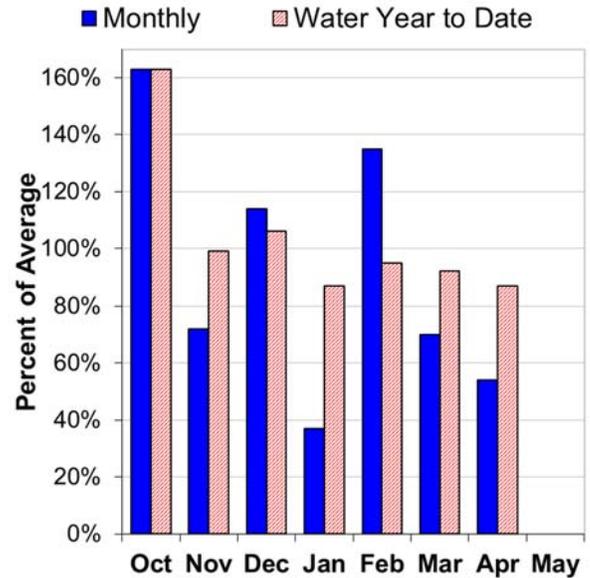
# Rogue and Umpqua Basins

## May 1, 2015

**Mountain Snowpack**



**Basin Precipitation**



### Summary of Water Supply Conditions

#### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, only 5 out of 29 snow monitoring sites in the basin still had snow. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 70 to 90% below typical peak snowpack levels and 6 to 13 weeks earlier than normal. Many of the SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked at their lowest level and earliest date since records began over 30 years ago.

#### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 54% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 87% of average.

#### RESERVOIR

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 53% of average at Hyatt Prairie Reservoir to 104% of average at Lost Creek Reservoir.

#### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 19% to 64% of average for the May through September period. Forecasted streamflow volumes fall in the lowest quarter of observed streamflows since 1981. Water managers in the basin should expect significant water shortages this summer.

## Rogue And Umpqua Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>
		<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>	<b>10% (KAF)</b>	
Hyatt Reservoir Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	0.01	0.07	0.28	19%	0.61	1.36	1.46
South Umpqua R at Tiller	MAY-JUL	17.4	28	37	35%	47	63	106
	MAY-SEP	23	35	44	38%	55	73	115
Cow Ck nr Azalea <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	0.98	1.75	2.4	32%	3.2	4.4	7.6
	MAY-SEP	1.09	1.91	2.6	30%	3.4	4.8	8.8
South Umpqua R nr Brockway	MAY-JUL	7.2	27	47	24%	73	122	194
	MAY-SEP	8.9	30	51	24%	78	129	215
North Umpqua R at Winchester	MAY-JUL	145	196	235	49%	280	350	475
	MAY-SEP	220	280	325	55%	375	450	590
Lost Creek Lk Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	160	194	215	58%	240	275	370
	MAY-SEP	245	285	315	64%	340	380	495
Rogue R at Raygold <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	92	168	220	50%	270	345	440
	MAY-SEP	173	260	315	55%	375	460	570
Rogue R at Grants Pass <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	131	181	220	48%	260	330	455
	MAY-SEP	205	265	305	53%	355	425	580
Applegate Lake Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	4.5	8.4	11.8	17%	15.7	23	69
	MAY-SEP	6.5	10.9	14.6	19%	18.8	26	75
Sucker Ck bl Little Grayback Ck	MAY-JUL	3.7	7.2	10.2	31%	13.8	20	33
	MAY-SEP	5.3	9.2	12.6	35%	16.4	23	36
Illinois R nr Kerby	MAY-JUL	11.4	22	30	33%	40	58	90
	MAY-SEP	13.7	24	34	35%	44	62	96

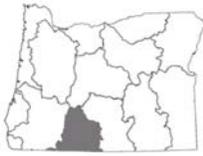
\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume  
 2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

<b>Reservoir Storage</b>	<b>Current (KAF)</b>	<b>Last Year (KAF)</b>	<b>Average (KAF)</b>	<b>Useable Capacity (KAF)</b>
Applegate	42.7	59.9	62.1	75.2
Emigrant Lake	33.9	31.1	36.0	39.0
Fish Lake	4.8	4.9	5.8	8.0
Fourmile Lake	8.0	8.0	8.7	16.1
Howard Prairie	25.3	34.7	46.7	60.0
Hyatt Prairie	7.0	7.5	13.2	16.1
Lost Creek	312.4	312.7	301.1	315.0

## Rogue And Umpqua Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

Snowpack Summary by Basin	Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median		
	# of Sites	Current Yr	Last Yr
Applegate Basin	5	3%	3%
Middle Rogue Basin	7	4%	0%
North Umpqua Basin	7	26%	64%
South Umpqua Basin	10	0%	0%
Upper Rogue Basin	11	14%	35%

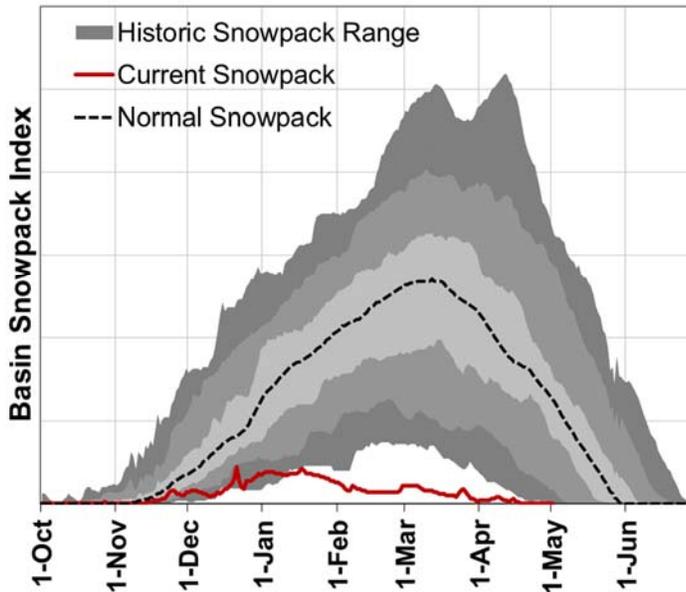
Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites	Elevation (ft)	Date Measured	Snow Depth (in)	Snow Water Equivalent (in)			
				Current SWE	Last Yr SWE	30-Yr Median	% of 30-Yr Median
Annie Springs SNOTEL	6010	1-May	12	6.2	18.5	43.6	14%
Beaver Dam Creek Snow Course	5120	30-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Big Red Mountain SNOTEL	6050	1-May	0	0.0	3.6	23.5	0%
Bigelow Camp SNOTEL	5130	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Billie Creek Divide SNOTEL	5280	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	10.8	0
Caliban (Alt.) Snow Course	6500	30-Apr	6	2.8	0.0	29.2	0.1
Cold Springs Camp SNOTEL	5940	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	21.1	0
Deadwood Junction Snow Course	4660	30-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Diamond Lake SNOTEL	5280	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Fish Lk. SNOTEL	4660	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Fourmile Lake SNOTEL	5970	1-May	0	0.0	3.0	22.5	0%
Howard Prairie Snow Course	4580	30-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Howard Prairie SNOTEL	4580	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
King Mountain SNOTEL	4340	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
King Mountain 1 Snow Course	4760	29-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
King Mountain 3 Snow Course	3680	29-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
King Mountain 4 Snow Course	3050	29-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Mount Ashland Switchback SC	6430	30-Apr	1	0.8	0.0	30.6	0.03
Park H.Q. Rev Snow Course	6570	1-May	43	19.4	38.9	61.0	0.32
Red Butte 1 Snow Course	4460	29-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0%
Red Butte 2 Snow Course	4050	29-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Red Butte 3 Snow Course	3500	29-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Red Butte 4 Snow Course	3000	29-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sevenmile Marsh SNOTEL	5700	1-May	0	0.0	4.4	24.3	0
Silver Burn Snow Course	3680	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Siskiyou Summit (Rev.) SC	4560	30-Apr	0	0.0			
Ski Bowl Road Snow Course	6070	30-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	21.5	0%
Summit Lake SNOTEL	5610	1-May	29	11.4	27.7	40.8	28%
Tokenetee Airstrip SNOTEL	3240	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	



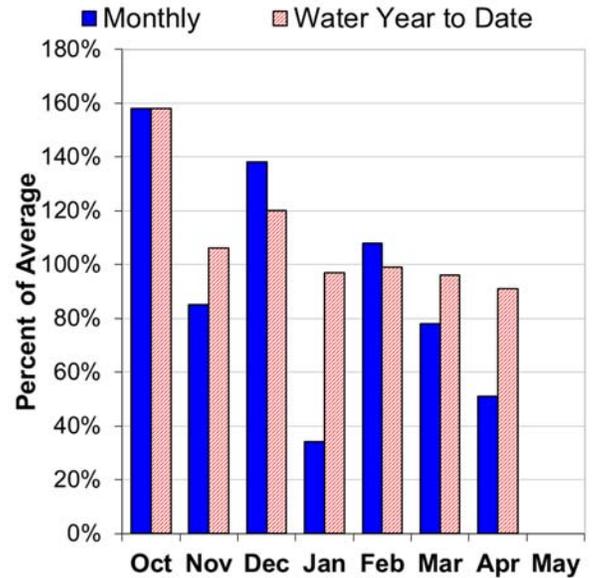
# Klamath Basin

May 1, 2015

### Mountain Snowpack



### Basin Precipitation



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, only 2 out of 26 snow monitoring sites in the basin still had snow. Almost all of the SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked at their lowest level and earliest date since records began over 30 years ago. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 70 to 90% below typical peak snowpack levels and 7 to 12 weeks earlier than normal.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 51% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 91% of average.

### RESERVOIR

As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 17% of average at Clear Lake, CA Reservoir to 102% of average at Upper Klamath Lake Reservoir.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 26% to 49% of average for the May through September period. Water managers in the basin should expect significant water shortages this summer.

## Klamath Basin Summary for May 1, 2015

<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
		←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						
Streamflow Forecasts	Forecast	90%	70%	50%		30%	10%	30-Yr Avg
May 1, 2015	Period	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)	% Avg	(KAF)	(KAF)	(KAF)
Clear Lake Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	0.13	0.93	3.1	23%	8.5	14.4	13.3
	MAY-SEP	0.16	0.48	4.8	30%	9.3	15.0	16.1
Gerber Reservoir Inflow <sup>2</sup>	MAY-JUL	0.05	0.22	1.20	22%	4.2	8.6	5.4
	MAY-SEP	0.06	0.17	1.50	26%	4.4	7.4	5.8
Sprague R nr Chiloquin	APR-JUL	15.9	44	63	34%	82	110	188
	APR-SEP	29	59	79	38%	99	129	210
	MAY-JUL	1.18	22	38	32%	54	79	118
	MAY-SEP	11.4	37	54	38%	71	97	141
Williamson R bl Sprague R nr Chiloquin	MAY-JUL	29	59	79	42%	99	129	187
	MAY-SEP	68	99	120	49%	141	172	245
Upper Klamath Lake Inflow <sup>1,2</sup>	APR-SEP	72	150	185	39%	220	298	480
	MAY-JUL	2.4	60	87	36%	114	174	240
	MAY-SEP	37	101	130	41%	159	223	320

\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

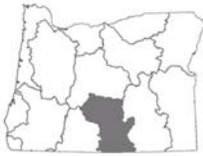
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

Reservoir Storage	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Useable Capacity (KAF)
Clear Lake, CA	43.2	52.9	254.1	513.3
Gerber	15.3	19.3	68.2	94.3
Upper Klamath Lake	454.8	423.3	448.0	523.7

Snowpack Summary by Basin	Basin Snowpack		
	# of Sites	Current Yr	Last Yr
Lost Basin	3		
Sprague Basin	4	0%	10%
Upper Klamath Lake Basin	8	14%	35%
Williamson River Basin	5	24%	55%

## Klamath Basin Summary for May 1, 2015

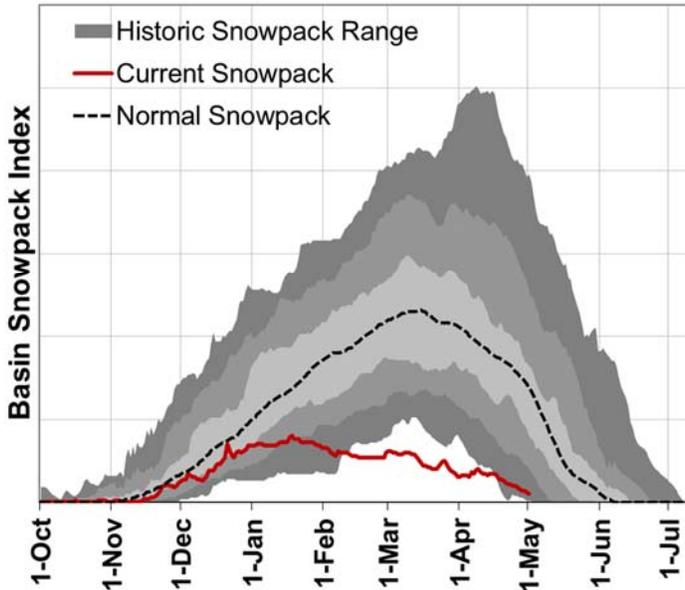
Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites	Elevation (ft)	Date Measured	Snow Depth (in)	Snow Water Equivalent (in)			
				Current SWE	Last Yr SWE	30-Yr Median	% of 30-Yr Median
Annie Springs SNOTEL	6010	1-May	12	6.2	18.5	43.6	14%
Beaver Dam Creek Snow Course	5120	30-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Billie Creek Divide SNOTEL	5280	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	10.8	0%
Chemult Alternate SNOTEL	4850	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cold Springs Camp SNOTEL	5940	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	21.1	0
Crazyman Flat SNOTEL	6180	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	4.6	0
Crowder Flat SNOTEL	5170	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Deadwood Junction Snow Course	4660	30-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Diamond Lake SNOTEL	5280	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Fish Lk. SNOTEL	4660	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Fourmile Lake SNOTEL	5970	1-May	0	0.0	3.0	22.5	0%
Gerber Reservoir SNOTEL	4890	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Howard Prairie SNOTEL	4580	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Howard Prairie Snow Course	4580	30-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Park H.Q. Rev Snow Course	6570	1-May	43	19.4	38.9	61.0	32%
Quartz Mountain SNOTEL	5720	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sevenmile Marsh SNOTEL	5700	1-May	0	0.0	4.4	24.3	0%
Silver Creek SNOTEL	5740	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Siskiyou Summit (Rev.) SC	4560	30-Apr	0	0.0			
Ski Bowl Road Snow Course	6070	30-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	21.5	0
State Line SNOTEL	5680	1-May	0	0.0			
Strawberry SNOTEL	5770	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Summer Rim SNOTEL	7080	1-May	0	0.0	1.6	11.7	0%
Sun Pass SNOTEL	5400	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Swan Lake Mtn SNOTEL	6830	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Taylor Butte SNOTEL	5030	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	



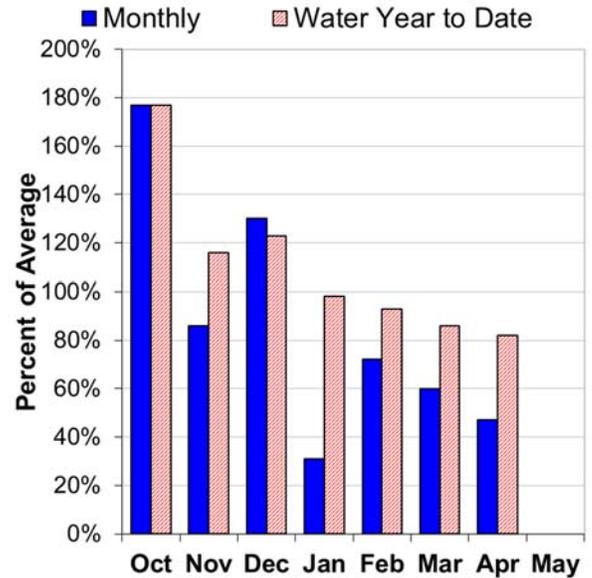
# Lake County and Goose Lake

May 1, 2015

**Mountain Snowpack**



**Basin Precipitation**



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, only 1 out of 15 snow monitoring sites in the basin still had snow. Almost all of the SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked at their lowest level and earliest date since records began over 30 years ago. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 50 to 80% below typical peak snowpack levels and 4 to 10 weeks earlier than normal.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 47% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 82% of average.

### RESERVOIR

Reservoir storage across the basin is currently well below average. As of May 1, storage at major reservoirs in the basin ranges from 26% of average at Drews Reservoir to 56% of average at Cottonwood Reservoir.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 10% to 18% of average for the May through September period. Water managers in the basin should expect significant water shortages this summer.

## Lake County And Goose Lake Basins Summary for May 1, 2015

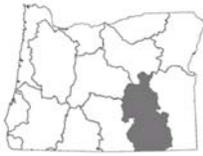
<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>
		<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>	<b>10% (KAF)</b>	
Twentymile Ck nr Adel	MAY-JUL	0.02	0.64	1.55	14%	2.9	5.5	10.8
	MAY-SEP	0.05	0.79	1.77	16%	3.1	5.9	11.2
Deep Ck ab Adel	APR-JUL	9.3	15.4	20	32%	26	36	63
	APR-SEP	9.9	16.1	21	32%	27	37	65
	MAY-JUL	0.82	2.6	4.5	11%	6.8	11.1	41
	MAY-SEP	1.27	3.4	5.5	13%	8.0	12.7	43
Honey Ck nr Plush	MAY-JUL	0.01	0.35	0.84	9%	1.55	3.0	9.2
	MAY-SEP	0.02	0.38	0.89	10%	1.62	3.1	9.3
Chewaucan R nr Paisley	MAY-JUL	2.9	5.7	8.1	16%	10.9	15.8	50
	MAY-SEP	4.1	7.3	9.9	18%	13.0	18.2	54

\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume

<b>Reservoir Storage</b>	<b>Current (KAF)</b>	<b>Last Year (KAF)</b>	<b>Average (KAF)</b>	<b>Useable Capacity (KAF)</b>
Cottonwood	4.0	3.0	7.1	8.7
Drews	12.1	24.8	45.7	63.0

<b>Snowpack Summary by Basin</b>	<b>Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median</b>		
	<b># of Sites</b>	<b>Current Yr</b>	<b>Last Yr</b>
Goose Lake Basin	3	12%	40%
Lake Abert Basin	1	0%	14%
Summer Lake Basin	9	7%	25%
Upper Pit Basin	3	0%	1%

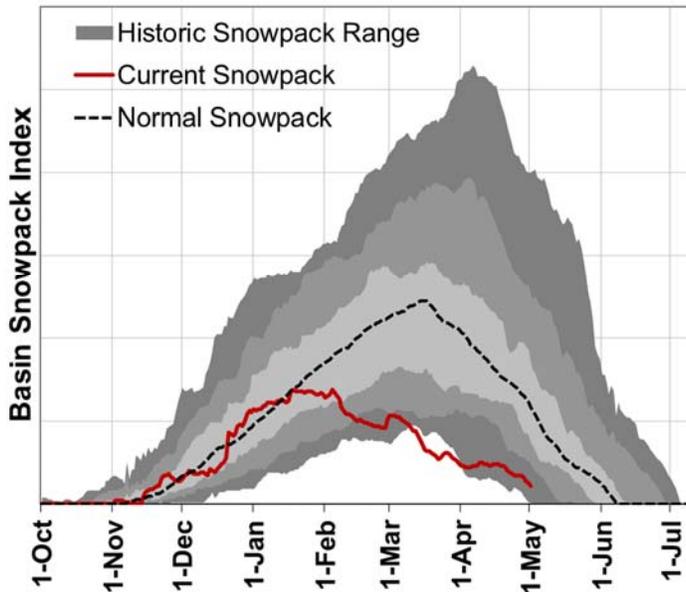
<b>Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites</b>	<b>Elevation (ft)</b>	<b>Date Measured</b>	<b>Snow Depth (in)</b>	<b>Snow Water Equivalent (in)</b>			
				<b>Current SWE</b>	<b>Last Yr SWE</b>	<b>30-Yr Median</b>	<b>% of 30-Yr Median</b>
Dismal Swamp SNOTEL	7360	1-May	12	4.6	14.9	26.0	18%
Summer Rim SNOTEL	7080	1-May	0	0.0	1.6	11.7	0%
Cedar Pass SNOTEL	7030	1-May	0	0.0	0.1	12.9	0%
Patton Meadows AM	6800	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	11.5	0%
Sherman Valley AM	6640	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Hart Mountain AM	6430	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Roger Meadow AM	6360	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Adin Mountains Snow Course	6190	29-Apr	0	0.0	0.0	2.2	0%
Adin Mtn SNOTEL	6190	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0%
Crazyman Flat SNOTEL	6180	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	4.6	0%
Camas Creek #3 Snow Course	5860	1-May	0	0.0		3.6	0%
Sheldon SCAN	5860	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Strawberry SNOTEL	5770	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Silver Creek SNOTEL	5740	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Crowder Flat SNOTEL	5170	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	



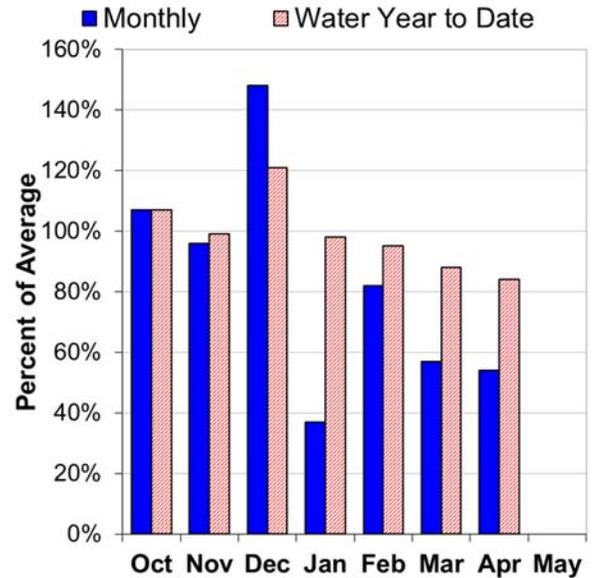
# Harney Basin

May 1, 2015

**Mountain Snowpack**



**Basin Precipitation**



## Summary of Water Supply Conditions

### SNOWPACK

As of May 1, all 16 snow monitoring sites in the basin were snow-free. The snowpack in this region peaked significantly below normal this winter. In general, SNOTEL sites in the basin peaked 40 to 70% below typical peak snowpack levels and 5 to 10 weeks earlier than normal. In addition, 4 SNOTEL sites in the basin experienced their earliest snowpack peaks on record.

### PRECIPITATION

April precipitation was 54% of average. Precipitation since the beginning of the water year (October 1 - May 1) has been 84% of average.

### STREAMFLOW FORECAST

Summer streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 8% to 39% of average for the May through September period. Forecasted streamflow volumes fall in the lowest third of observed streamflows since 1981. Water managers in the basin should expect significant water shortages this summer.

## Harney Basin Summary for May 1, 2015

<b>Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment *</b>								
<b>Streamflow Forecasts May 1, 2015</b>	<b>Forecast Period</b>	←-----Drier-----Future Conditions-----Wetter-----→						<b>30-Yr Avg (KAF)</b>
		<b>90% (KAF)</b>	<b>70% (KAF)</b>	<b>50% (KAF)</b>	<b>% Avg</b>	<b>30% (KAF)</b>	<b>10% (KAF)</b>	
Silvies R nr Burns	MAY-JUL	0.17	0.88	3.4	8%	7.6	16.9	45
	MAY-SEP	0.09	1.10	3.9	8%	8.3	17.9	47
Donner Und Blitzen R nr Frenchglen	MAY-JUL	8.8	13.8	17.9	37%	23	30	49
	MAY-SEP	11.0	16.6	21	39%	26	34	54
Trout Ck nr Denio	MAY-JUL	0.01	0.30	0.70	13%	1.26	2.4	5.6
	MAY-SEP	0.04	0.38	0.81	14%	1.41	2.6	6.0

\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30% & 10% exceedance probabilities are the chance that observed streamflow volume will exceed the forecasted volume

<b>Snowpack Summary by Basin</b>	<b>Basin Snowpack % of 30-Year Median</b>		
	<b># of Sites</b>	<b>Current Yr</b>	<b>Last Yr</b>
Alvord Lake Basin	1	34%	88%
Donner und Blitzen River Basin	2	24%	63%
Silvies River Basin	4	0%	71%
Upper Quinn Basin	3	0%	41%

<b>Basin Snowpack Measurement Sites</b>	<b>Elevation (ft)</b>	<b>Date Measured</b>	<b>Snow Depth (in)</b>	<b>Snow Water Equivalent (in)</b>			
				<b>Current SWE</b>	<b>Last Yr SWE</b>	<b>30-Yr Median</b>	<b>% of 30-Yr Median</b>
Granite Peak SNOTEL	8543	1-May	0	0.0	8.1	19.5	0%
Trout Creek AM	7890	1-May	0	0.0	4.0		
Fish Creek SNOTEL	7660	1-May	18	9.0	23.4	26.6	34%
Govt Corrals AM	7400	1-May	0	0.0	4.0		
Silvies SNOTEL	6990	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	10.3	0%
Buckskin Lower SNOTEL	6915	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0%
V Lake AM	6600	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Disaster Peak SNOTEL	6500	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Hart Mountain AM	6430	1-May	0	0.0	0.0		
Snow Mountain SNOTEL	6230	1-May	0	0.0	3.0	4.2	0%
Lamance Creek SNOTEL	6000	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Blue Mountain Spring SNOTEL	5870	1-May	0	0.0	3.5	5.7	0%
Sheldon SCAN	5860	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Rock Springs SNOTEL	5290	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Starr Ridge SNOTEL	5250	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Lake Creek R.S. SNOTEL	5240	1-May	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

# Recession Forecasts for Oregon

Recession flow forecasts are presented below for key streamflow sites where reliable daily streamflow data are available. The recession flow forecasts use exceedance probabilities in a format similar to the standard water supply forecasts presented in this document. Each forecast provides a range of possible outcomes representing the uncertainty of forecasting models.

The types of forecasts in the table below are:

- 1) Threshold flow -- Date that the daily streamflow rate falls below the given threshold flow
- 2) Peak flow -- Maximum daily flow
- 3) Date of peak flow -- Date of occurrence of maximum daily flow
- 4) Average daily flow on a given date

<b>OWYHEE AND MALHEUR BASINS</b>					
<i>FORECAST POINT</i>	<i>FORECAST THRESHOLD</i>	<i>FORECAST VALUE</i>			<i>LONG-TERM AVERAGE VALUE</i>
		----- <i>CHANCE OF EXCEEDING</i> -----			
		90%	50%	10%	
Owyhee R nr Rome	2000 cfs	**Observed	Jan 21	**	<b>May 6</b>
Owyhee R nr Rome	1000 cfs	**Observed	Feb 13	**	<b>May 18</b>
Owyhee R nr Rome	500 cfs	**Observed	Feb 19	**	<b>Jun 2</b>

<b>UPPER JOHN DAY BASIN</b>					
<i>FORECAST POINT</i>	<i>FORECAST THRESHOLD</i>	<i>FORECAST VALUE</i>			<i>LONG-TERM AVERAGE VALUE</i>
		----- <i>CHANCE OF EXCEEDING</i> -----			
		90%	50%	10%	
John Day R at Service Creek	Average Daily Flow on Aug. 1st	15	65	260	<b>271</b>

<b>UPPER DESCHUTES AND CROOKED BASINS</b>					
<i>FORECAST POINT</i>	<i>FORECAST THRESHOLD</i>	<i>FORECAST VALUE</i>			<i>LONG-TERM AVERAGE VALUE</i>
		----- <i>CHANCE OF EXCEEDING</i> -----			
		90%	50%	10%	
Crane Prairie Inflow	Date of Peak	** Observed	Dec 20	**	<b>May 25</b>
Crane Prairie Inflow	Peak Flow	** Observed	775	**	<b>403</b>
Crane Prairie Inflow	Average Daily Flow on Oct. 1st	101	134	167	<b>269</b>
Prineville Reservoir Inflow	113 cfs	** Observed	Apr 16	**	<b>June 3</b>
Prineville Reservoir Inflow	75 cfs	** Observed	Apr 20	**	<b>June 11</b>
Prineville Reservoir Inflow	50 cfs	** Observed	Apr 23	**	<b>June 19</b>
Whychus Creek nr Sisters	100 cfs	** Observed	Apr 2	**	<b>August 16</b>

\*\*Observed dates and flow values are based on provisional data and subject to change.

<b>ROGUE AND UMPQUA BASINS</b>					
<i>FORECAST POINT</i>	<i>FORECAST THRESHOLD</i>	<i>FORECAST VALUE</i> ----- <i>CHANCE OF EXCEEDING</i> ----- -----			<i>LONG-TERM AVERAGE VALUE</i>
		90%	50%	10%	
South Umpqua R nr Brockway *	90 cfs	Jun 10	Jun 28	Jul 16	<b>August 8</b>
South Umpqua R at Tiller	140 cfs	May 14	May 28	Jun 11	<b>July 11</b>
South Umpqua R at Tiller	90 cfs	Jun 9	Jun 22	Jul 6	<b>August 1</b>
South Umpqua R at Tiller	60 cfs	Jun 22	Jul 3	Jul 14	<b>August 28</b>

\*Dates are based on streamflow data adjusted for releases from Galesville Reservoir to reflect natural flow conditions and do not match observed gage data. There is an approximately 20% chance in any given year that the flow will not recede below 90 cfs; the dates given here are for the event that the flow does recede below 90 cfs.

<b>LAKE COUNTY AND GOOSE LAKE BASINS</b>					
<i>FORECAST POINT</i>	<i>FORECAST THRESHOLD</i>	<i>FORECAST VALUE</i> ----- <i>CHANCE OF EXCEEDING</i> ----- -----			<i>LONG-TERM AVERAGE VALUE</i>
		90%	50%	10%	
Deep Ck ab Adel	100 cfs	**Observed	Mar 28	**	<b>June 17</b>
Honey Ck nr Plush	100 cfs	** Flow did not exceed this level **			<b>May 16</b>
Honey Ck nr Plush	50 cfs	** Flow did not exceed this level **			<b>June 4</b>
Twentymile Ck nr Adel	50 cfs	** Observed	Feb 11	**	<b>May 30</b>
Twentymile Ck nr Adel	10 cfs	** Observed	Apr 5	**	<b>July 7</b>

<b>HARNEY BASIN</b>					
<i>FORECAST POINT</i>	<i>FORECAST THRESHOLD</i>	<i>FORECAST VALUE</i> ----- <i>CHANCE OF EXCEEDING</i> ----- -----			<i>LONG-TERM AVERAGE VALUE</i>
		90%	50%	10%	
Silvies R nr Burns	400 cfs	** Observed	Feb 13	**	<b>May 21</b>
Silvies R nr Burns	200 cfs	** Observed	Feb 21	**	<b>June 2</b>
Silvies R nr Burns	100 cfs	** Observed	Apr 14	**	<b>June 13</b>
Silvies R nr Burns	50 cfs	** Observed	Apr 29	**	<b>July 3</b>
Donner Und Blitzen R nr Frenchglen	200 cfs	** Daily flow did not exceed this level **			<b>June 20</b>
Donner Und Blitzen R nr Frenchglen	100 cfs	May 10	May 25	Jun 9	<b>July 9</b>

# Basin Outlook Reports: How Forecasts Are Made

## Federal – State – Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

*For more water supply and resource management information, contact:*

**USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Snow Survey Office**  
**1201 NE Lloyd Suite 900**  
**Portland, OR 97232**  
**Phone: (503) 414-3271**  
**Web site: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/snow/>**

Most of the annual streamflow in the western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated in the mountains during the winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Measurements of snow water equivalent at selected manual snow courses and automated SNOTEL sites, along with precipitation, antecedent streamflow, and indices of the El Niño / Southern Oscillation are used in computerized statistical and simulation models to prepare runoff forecasts. Unless otherwise specified, all forecasts are for flows that would occur naturally without any upstream influences

Forecasts of any kind, of course, are not perfect. Streamflow forecast uncertainty arises from three primary sources: (1) uncertain knowledge of future weather conditions, (2) uncertainty in the forecasting procedure, and (3) errors in the data. The forecast, therefore, must be interpreted not as a single value but rather as a range of values with specific probabilities of occurrence. The middle of the range is expressed by the 50% exceedance probability forecast, for which there is a 50% chance that the actual flow will be above, and a 50% chance that the actual flow will be below, this value. To describe the expected range around this 50% value, four other forecasts are provided, two smaller values (90% and 70% exceedance probability) and two larger values (30%, and 10% exceedance probability). For example, there is a 90% chance that the actual flow will be more than the 90% exceedance probability forecast. The others can be interpreted similarly.

The wider the spread among these values, the more uncertainty is in the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known; this is reflected by a narrowing of the range around the 50% exceedance probability forecast. Users should take this uncertainty into consideration when making operational decisions by selecting forecasts corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to assume about the amount of water to be expected. If users anticipate receiving a lesser supply of water, or if they wish to increase their chances of having an adequate supply of water for their operations, they may want to base their decisions on the 90% or 70% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. On the other hand, if users are concerned about receiving too much water (for example, threat of flooding), they may want to base their decisions on the 30% or 10% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. Regardless of the forecast value users choose for operations, they should be prepared to deal with either more or less water. Users should remember that even if the 90% exceedance probability forecast is used, there is still a 10% chance of receiving less than this amount. By using the exceedance probability information, users can easily determine the chances of receiving more or less water.

# Interpreting Water Supply Forecasts

Each month, five forecasts are issued for each forecast point and each forecast period. Unless otherwise specified, all streamflow forecasts are for streamflow volumes that would occur naturally without any upstream influences. Water users need to know what the different forecasts represent if they are to use the information correctly when making operational decisions. The following is an explanation of each of the forecasts.

**90 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast.** There is a 90 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 10 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value.

**70 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast.** There is a 70 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 30 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value.

**50 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast.** There is a 50 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 50 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value. Generally, this forecast is the middle of the range of possible streamflow volumes that can be produced given current conditions.

**30 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast.** There is a 30 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 70 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value.

**10 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast.** There is a 10 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 90 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value.

\*Note: There is still a 20 percent chance that actual streamflow volumes will fall either below the 90 percent exceedance forecast or above the 10 percent exceedance forecast.

These forecasts represent the uncertainty inherent in making streamflow predictions. This uncertainty may include sources such as: unknown future weather conditions, uncertainties associated with the various prediction methodologies, and the spatial coverage of the data network in a given basin.

**30-Year Average.** The 30-year average streamflow for each forecast period is provided for comparison. The average is based on data from 1981-2010. The % AVG. column compares the 50% chance of exceedance forecast to the 30-year average streamflow; values above 100% denote when the 50% chance of exceedance forecast would be greater than the 30-year average streamflow.

AF - Acre-feet, forecasted volume of water are typically in thousands of acre-feet.

These forecasts are given to users to help make risk-based decisions. Users can select the forecast corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to accept in order to minimize the negative impacts of having more or less water than planned for.

**To Decrease the Chance of Having Less Water than Planned for:** A user might determine that making decisions based on a 50 percent chance of exceedance forecast is too much risk to take (there is still a 50% chance that the user will receive less than this amount). To reduce the risk of having less water than planned for, users can base their operational decisions on one of the forecasts with a greater chance of being exceeded such as the 90 or 70 percent exceedance forecasts.

**To Decrease the Chance of Having More Water than Planned for:** A user might determine that making decisions based on a 50 percent chance of exceedance forecast is too much risk to take (there is still a 50% chance that the user will receive more than this amount). To reduce the risk of having more water than planned for, users can base their operational decisions on one of the forecasts with a lesser chance of being exceeded such as the 30 or 10 percent exceedance forecasts.

## Using the Forecasts - an Example

**Using the 50 Percent Exceedance Forecast.** Using the example forecasts shown on the next page, there is a 50% chance that actual streamflow volume at the Mountain Creek near Mitchell will be less than 4.4 KAF between April 1 and Sept 30. There is also a 50% chance that actual streamflow volume will be greater than 4.4 KAF.

**Using the 90 and 70 Percent Exceedance Forecasts.** If an unexpected shortage of water could cause problems (such as irrigated agriculture), users might want to plan on receiving 3.3 KAF (from the 70 percent exceedance forecast). There is a 30% chance of receiving *less* than 3.3 KAF.

Alternatively, if users determine the risk of using the 70 percent exceedance forecast is too great, then they might plan on receiving 1.7 KAF (from the **90** percent exceedance forecast). There is 10% chance of receiving less than 1.7 KAF.

**Using the 30 or 10 Percent Exceedance Forecasts.** If an unexpected excess of water could cause problems (such as operating a flood control reservoir), users might plan on receiving 5.5 KAF (from the 30 percent exceedance forecast). There is a 30% chance of receiving *more* than 5.5 KAF.

Alternatively, if users determine the risk of using the 30 percent exceedance forecast is too great, then they might plan on receiving 7.1 KAF (from the 10 percent exceedance forecast). There is a 10% chance of receiving more than 7.1 KAF.

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**JOHN DAY BASIN**  
**Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2013**

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Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Strawberry Ck nr Prairie City	MAR-JUL	5.0	6.6	7.6	89	8.6	10.2	8.5
	APR-SEP	5.2	6.8	7.9	90	9.0	10.6	8.8
Mountain Ck nr Mitchell	FEB-JUL	3.2	5.4	6.9	99	8.4	10.6	7.0
	APR-SEP	1.7	3.3	4.4	90	5.5	7.1	4.9

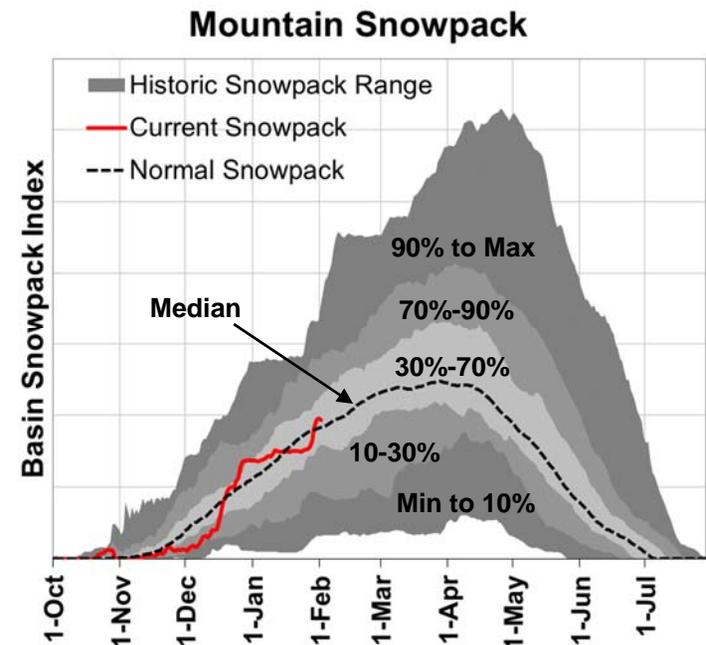
\* 90%, 70%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual flow will exceed the volumes in the table.

## Interpreting Snowpack Plots

The basin snowpack plots display an index calculated using daily SNOTEL data for many sites in each basin. They show how the current year's snowpack data compares to historical data in the basin. The "Current Snowpack" line can be compared with the "Normal Snowpack" (median) line, as well as the historic range for the basin. This gives users important context about the current year and historic variability of snowpack in the basin.

The grey shaded areas represent different percentiles of the historical range of the snowpack index for each day. The dark grey shading indicates the extreme lows and highs in the SNOTEL record (minimum to the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile to maximum). The medium grey shading indicates the range from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> percentiles and the 70<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles. The light grey shading indicates the range between the 30<sup>th</sup> to 70<sup>th</sup> percentiles, while the median is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. A percentile is the value of the snowpack index below which the given percent of historical years fall. For instance, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile line indicates that the snowpack index has been below this line for 90 percent of the years of record.

\*\* Please note: These plots only use daily data from SNOTEL sites in the basin. Because snow course data is collected monthly, it cannot be included in these plots. The official snowpack percent of normal for the basin incorporates both SNOTEL and snow course data, so occasionally there might be slight discrepancies between the plot and official basin percent of normal (stated in basin summary below each plot).



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Official Business



This publication may be found online at:  
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[oregon-snow-office@or.usda.gov](mailto:oregon-snow-office@or.usda.gov) or 503-414-3272