Drought Report for the Week of April 6, 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: Baker and Wheeler 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 April 9, 2015.

Finally, if approved for drought declaration, the Governor's Office issues an Executive Order, declaring drought in specific counties. In recent years, the Executive Order has specified a time limit of one year. A Governor's declared drought is in place for 2015 in the following counties: Malheur, Lake, Crook, Harney and Klamath Counties. 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 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.

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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	

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.*

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

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

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.

Updated: 4/6/2015 3:13 PM
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83

DROUGHT

Drought Declarations

Search Criteria

County:
Drought Status:
Start Drought Year: 2015
End Drought Year:
Search
Clear

Records per Page: 20

	Drought Year	County	Drought Title	Drought Status	County Declaration Date	Forwarded to Governor Date	Governor Declaration Date	Federal Declaration Date	Executive Order	Drought Begin Date	Drought End Date
Select	2015	Malheur	MALHEUR DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/04/2015	03/11/2015	03/16/2015	03/20/2015	15-02	03/16/2015	10/31/2015
Select	2015	Lake	LAKE DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/10/2015	03/11/2015	03/16/2015		15-02	03/16/2015	10/31/2015
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		12/31/2015
Select	2015	Crook	CROOK DROUGHT	Governor Declared	03/18/2015	03/20/2015	04/02/2015	03/20/2015	15-03		12/31/2015
Select	2015	Baker	BAKER DROUGHT	County Declared	03/18/2015			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	Umatilla	UMATILLA DROUGHT					03/20/2015			
Select	2015	Union	UNION DROUGHT					03/20/2015			
Select	2015	Wheeler	WHEELER DROUGHT	County Declared				03/20/2015			

Oregon's Drought Council*
Drought Declaration Status

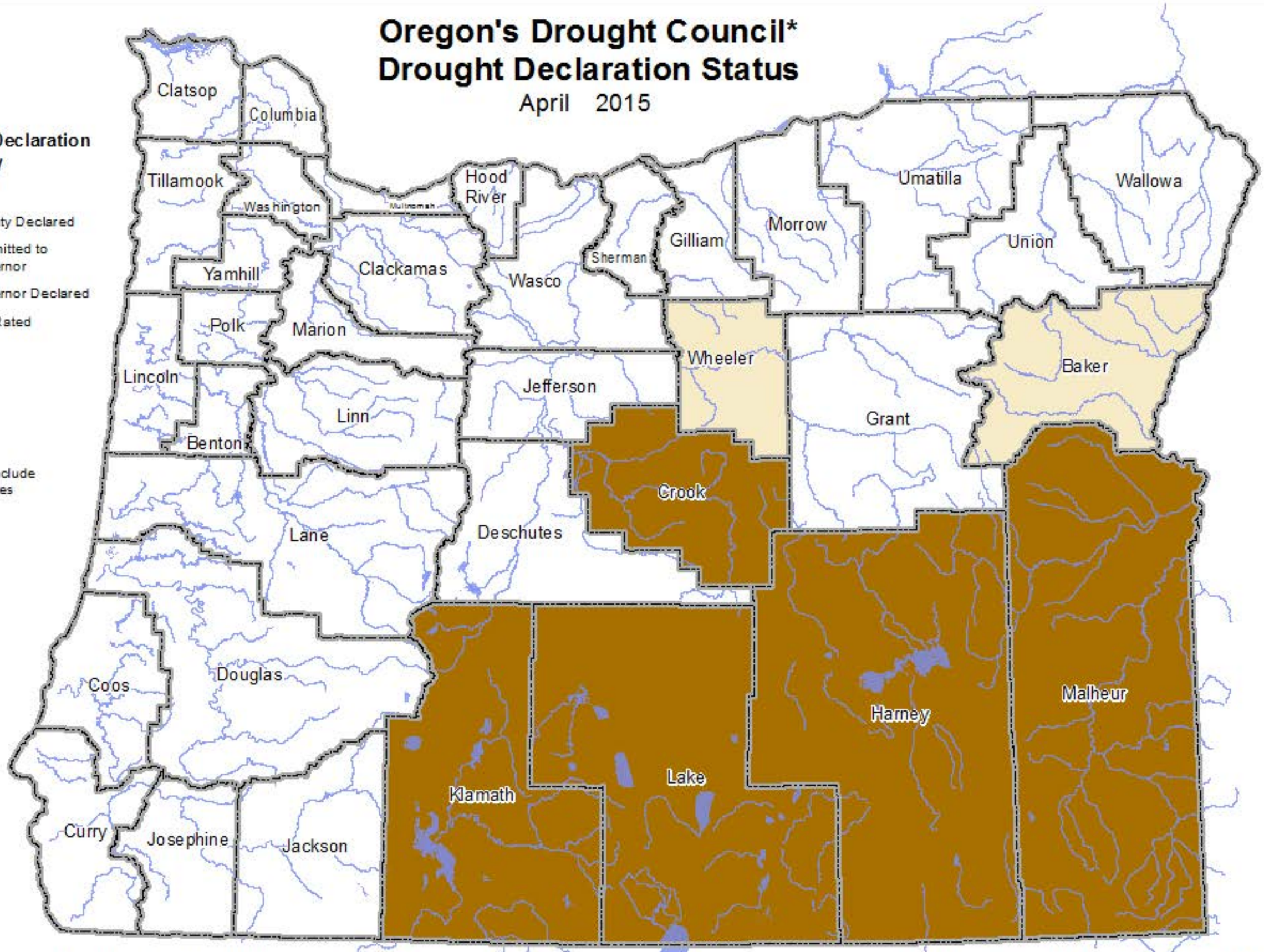
April 2015

Drought Declaration by County

Status

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

*Members Include State Agencies



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725 Summer St. NE Suite A
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N

0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

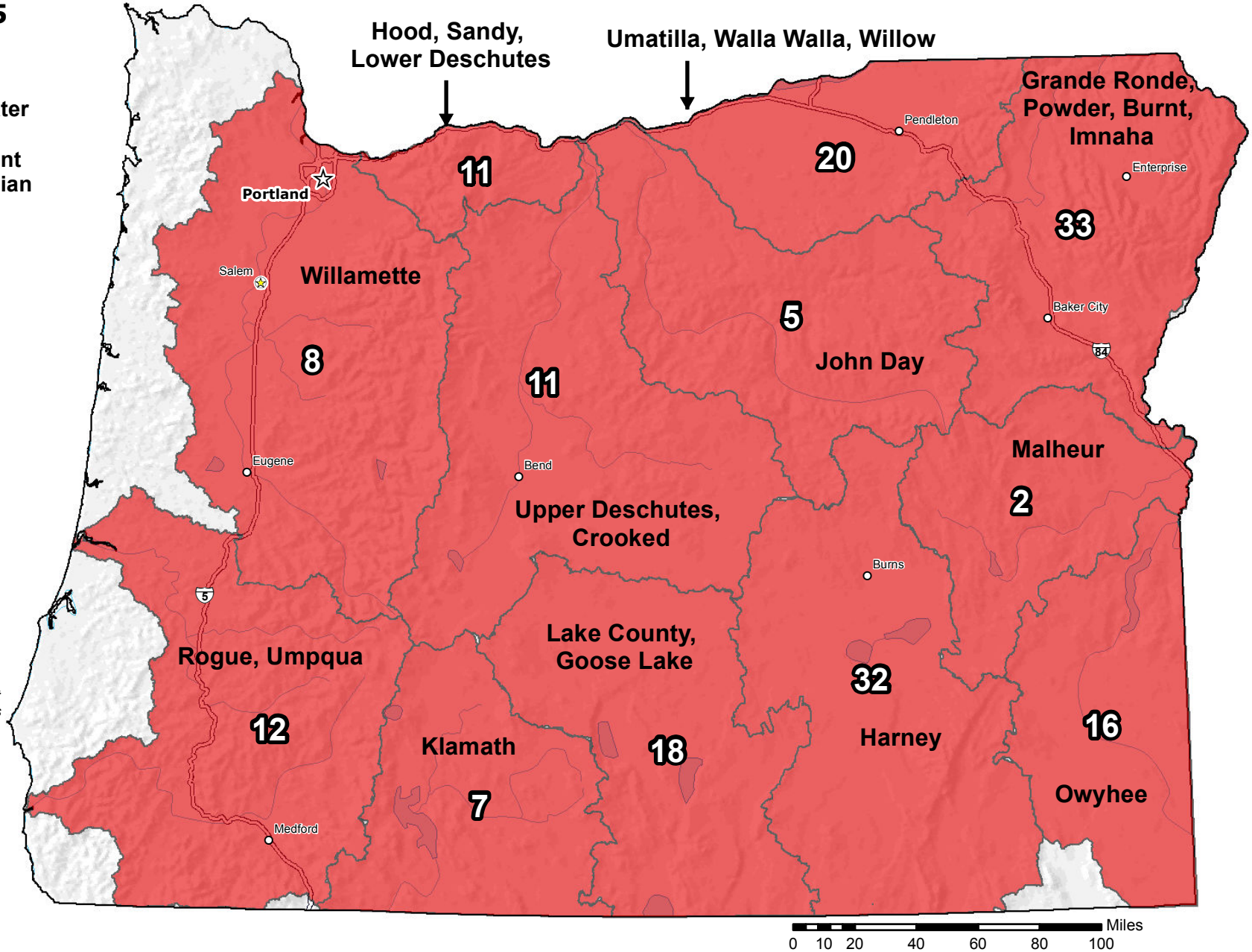
Updated: 4/6/2015 3:13 PM
Projection: Oregon Lambert, NAD 83

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

Apr 05, 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

Miles
0 10 20 40 60 80 100

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).

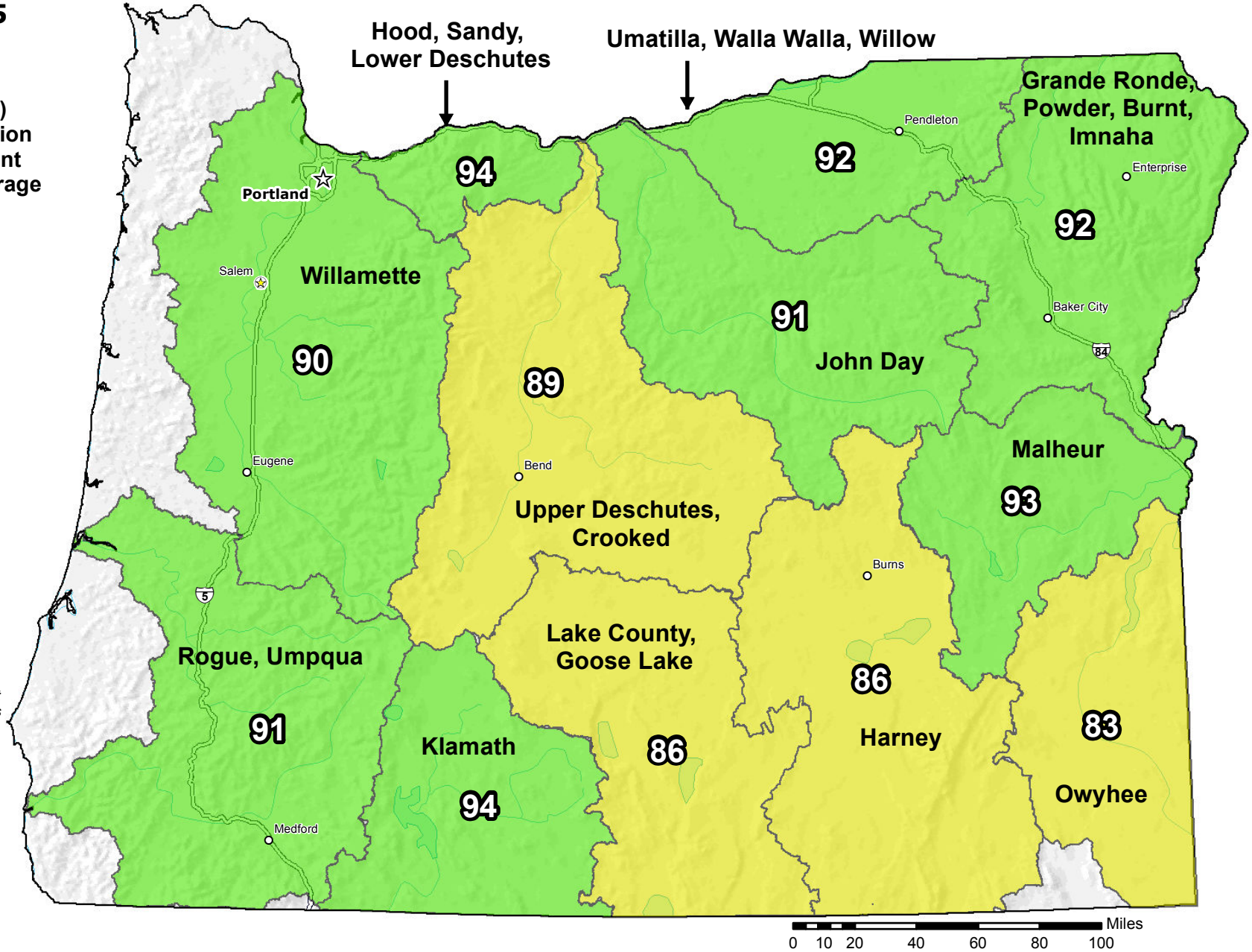
Prepared by:
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

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

Apr 05, 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*

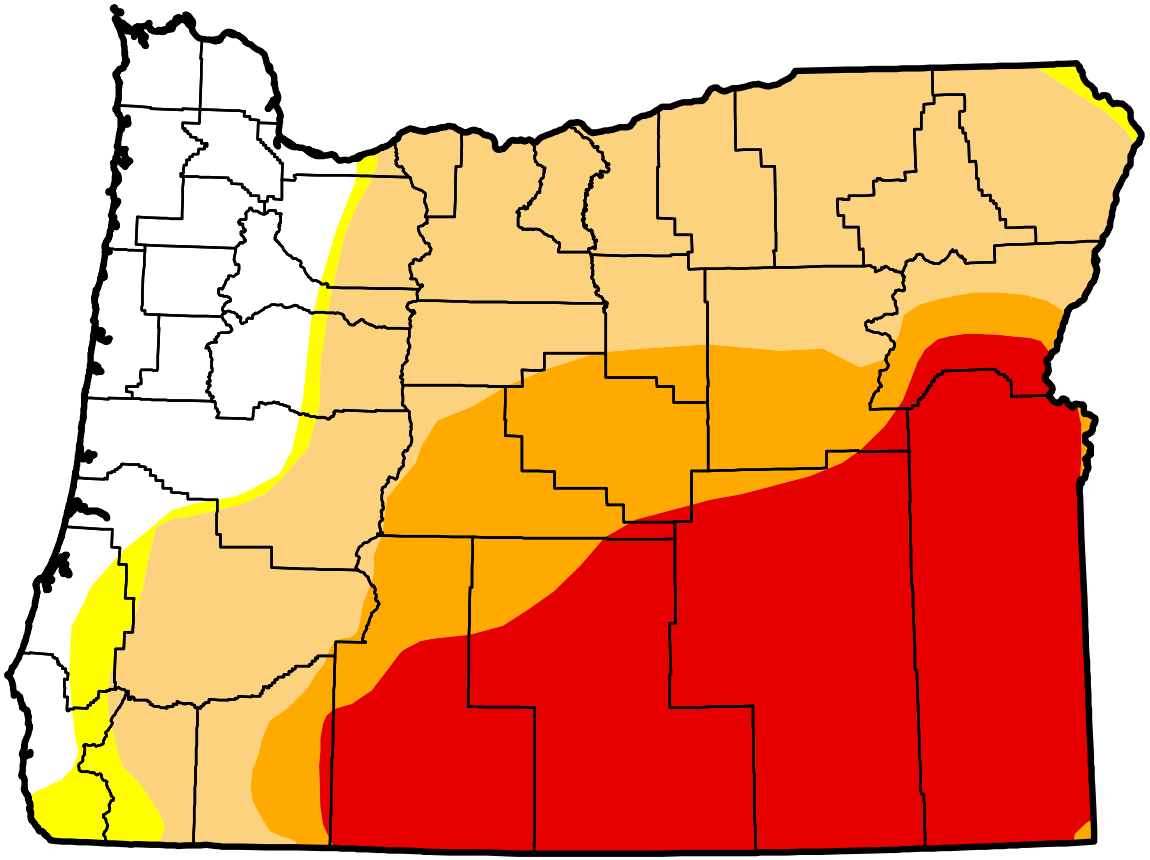
Provisional Data Subject to Revision

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 31, 2015

(Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	14.36	85.64	82.30	47.93	33.72	0.00
Last Week *3/24/2015*	14.36	85.64	82.30	47.93	33.72	0.00
3 Months Ago *12/30/2014*	13.61	86.39	80.70	49.29	34.11	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 *4/1/2014*	0.78	99.22	92.59	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:
Eric Luebehusen
U.S. Department of Agriculture

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

DROUGHT

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	Malheur	5	0	3	1	1389.60		894.40

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