

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT: ROLE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE



March 14, 2017

**Presented to the House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee
Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator**

TODAY

- Agency Overview
- Role in Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Drought
- Dam Safety
- Future Work
- Questions

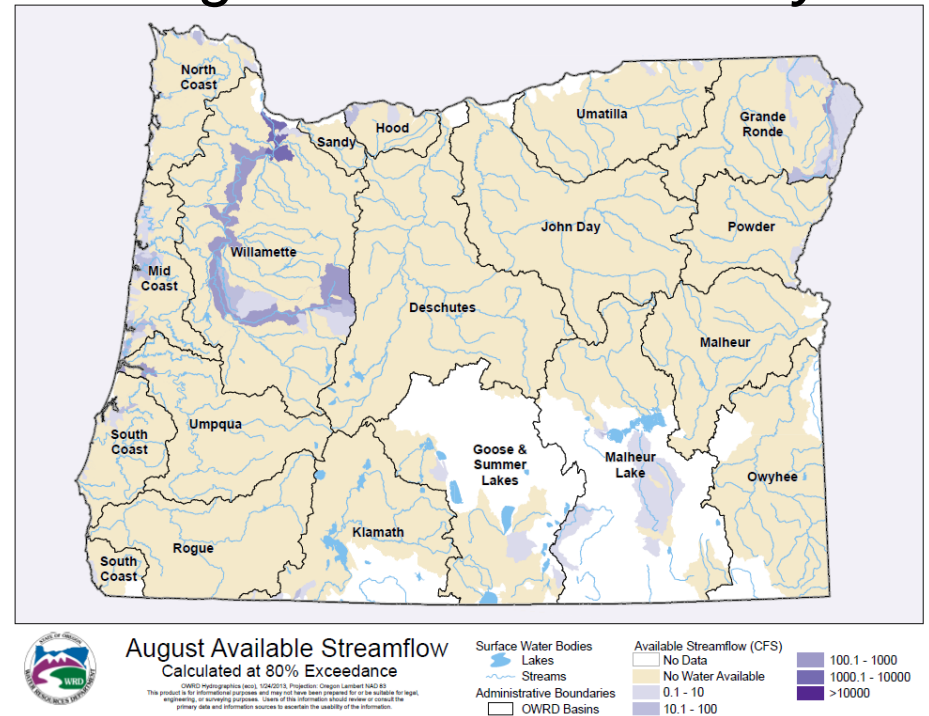
AGENCY INTRODUCTION

- Water Quantity Agency

- Key Functions:

- Water Right Administration, Management & Permitting
- Dam Safety
- Well Construction
- Water Quantity Data
- Grants and Loans
- Other actions to protect existing users & meet future water needs

August Water Availability



ROLE IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- Statewide Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
 - DLCD leads development / WRD lead for drought
- Emergency Response - Led by OEM
 - Member of OERS Council
 - Lead for drought response
- Supporting role for other hazards
 - Groundwater and surface water data
 - Dam safety program
 - Well construction program



DROUGHT

- Expected increased incidence
 - State Drought Declarations Tools
 - 2015 Drought and Response
 - 2016 Task Force on Drought Emergency Response
- **Focus on Long-term Resiliency**
- Slow-moving disaster;
 - Beyond short-term responses

Intensity:



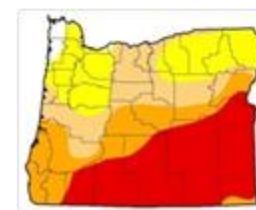
August 9, 2016



August 25, 2015



August 5, 2014



August 6, 2013



DAM SAFETY

- ~280 regulated by federal agencies (FERC, BOR, USACE)
- WRD does not own dams
- ~960 state regulated dams; 9.2AF AND 10 FT tall
 - Hazard Rating vs. Condition
 - Inspections of existing dams
 - Review of designs and plans for new dams or repairs
 - Develop flood inundation analysis; seismic evaluations; assist with Emergency Action Plans

FUTURE WORK

- **Invest in longer-term actions for resiliency to drought and other hazards**
- 2017 Update to Integrated Water Resources Strategy
 - Reviewing dam safety authorities and discussing potential policy changes
- Implement Drought Task Force Recommendations
- 2017 Session
 - Governor's Budget
 - HB 2297/2241 - Planning for drought
 - HB 2295 – Supports dam safety program

QUESTIONS?



Contact:
Racquel Rancier
Senior Policy Coordinator
Oregon Water Resources Department
Racquel.R.Rancier@oregon.gov
503-986-0828