

Oregon's drought & seasonal forecasting

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Op-Ed It's not just a 'California drought'

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Opinion

This article is r

Droughts and H

Ben Nelson, Uni

Pacific Northwest's 'Wet Drought' Possible Sign of Future

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By *Andrea Thompson*

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from Hoodoo web cam
February 23, 2015

U.S. Drought Monitor

Oregon

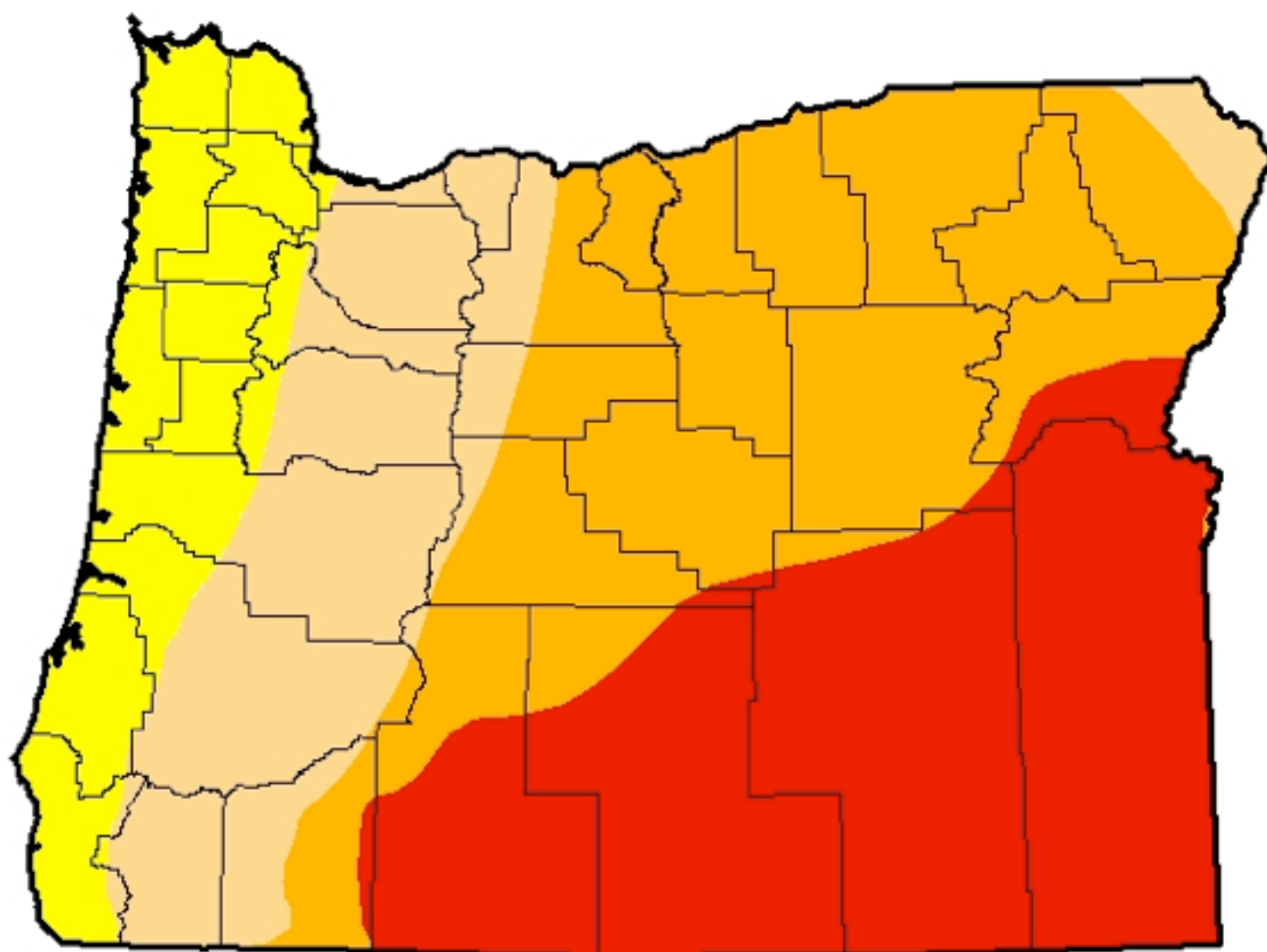
May 19, 2015

(Released Thursday, May. 21, 2015)

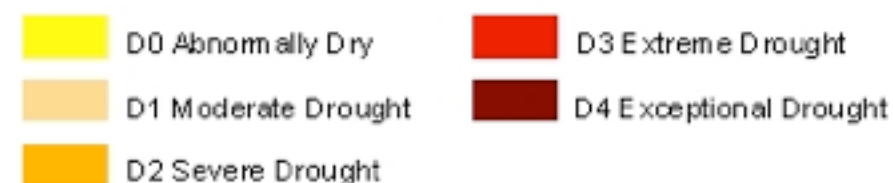
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	86.76	67.38	34.09	0.00
Last Week 5/12/2015	0.11	99.89	86.76	67.38	34.09	0.00
3 Months Ago 2/17/2015	14.22	85.78	82.29	44.95	33.71	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 5/20/2014	5.22	94.78	73.37	46.03	9.31	0.00



Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

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U.S. Department of Agriculture



Oregon's Water Availability Committee* Water Supply Assessment

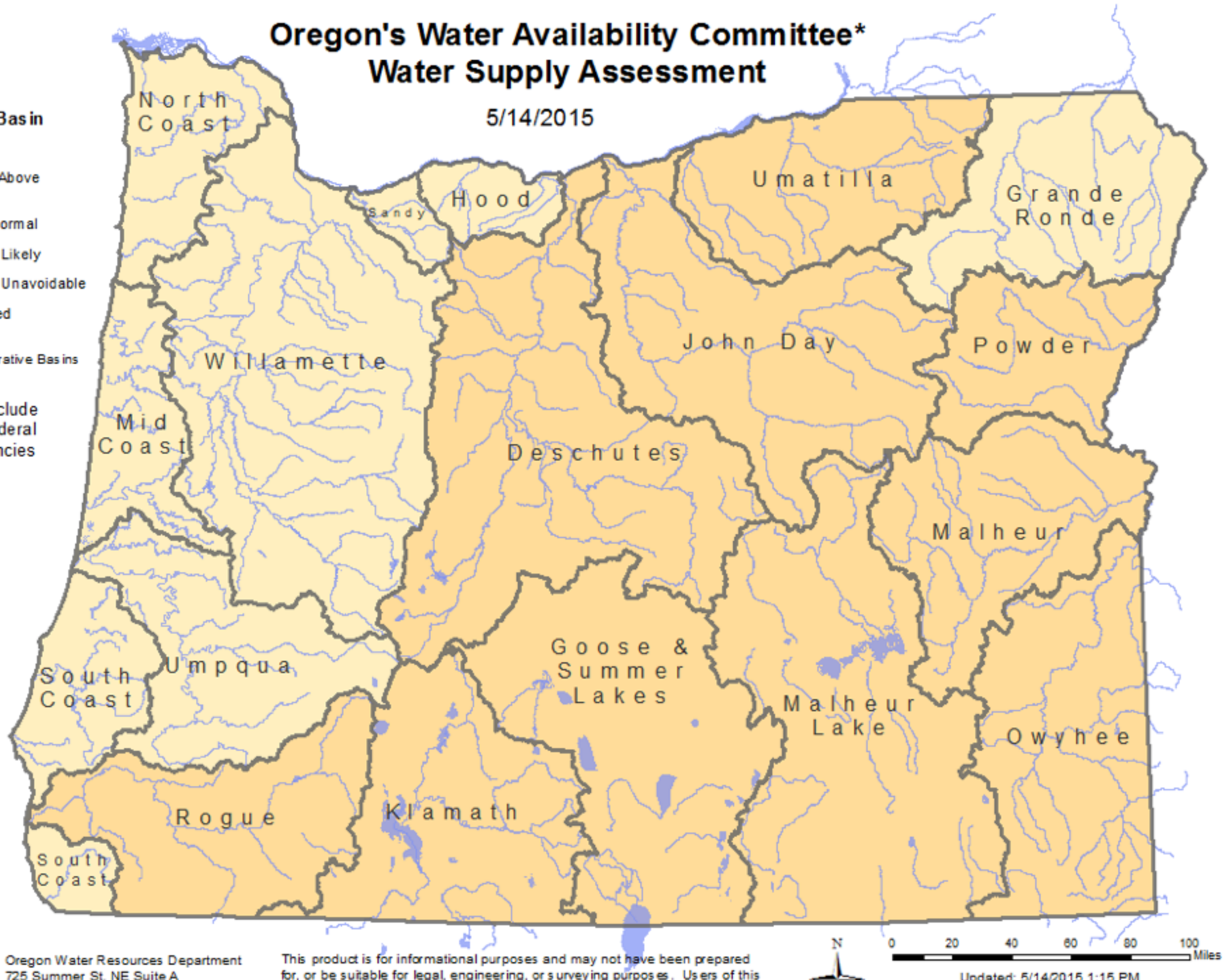
5/14/2015

Drought by Basin Status

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

 Administrative Basins

*Members Include
State and Federal
Science Agencies



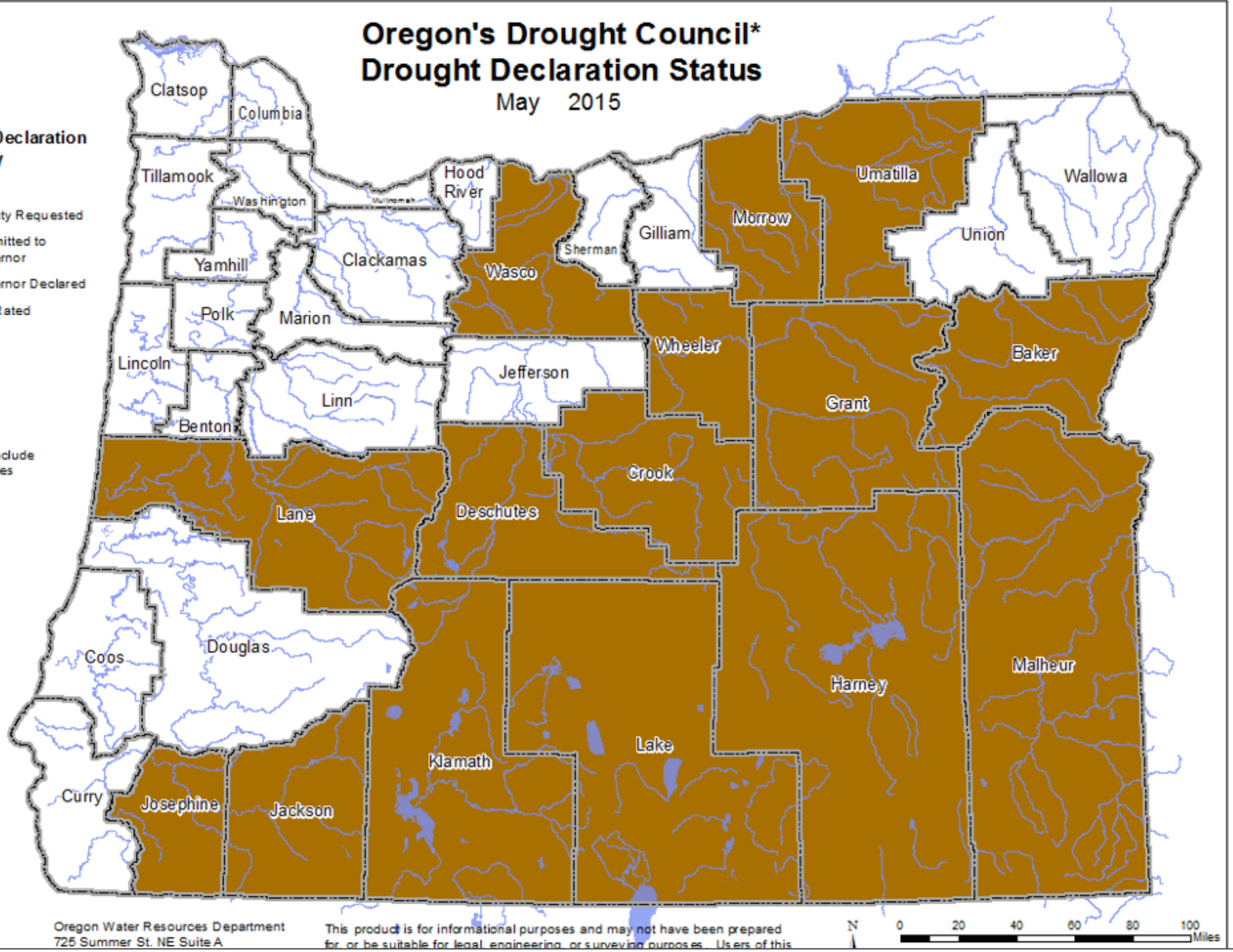
Oregon's Drought Council* Drought Declaration Status

May 2015

Drought Declaration by County Status

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

*Members Include
State Agencies

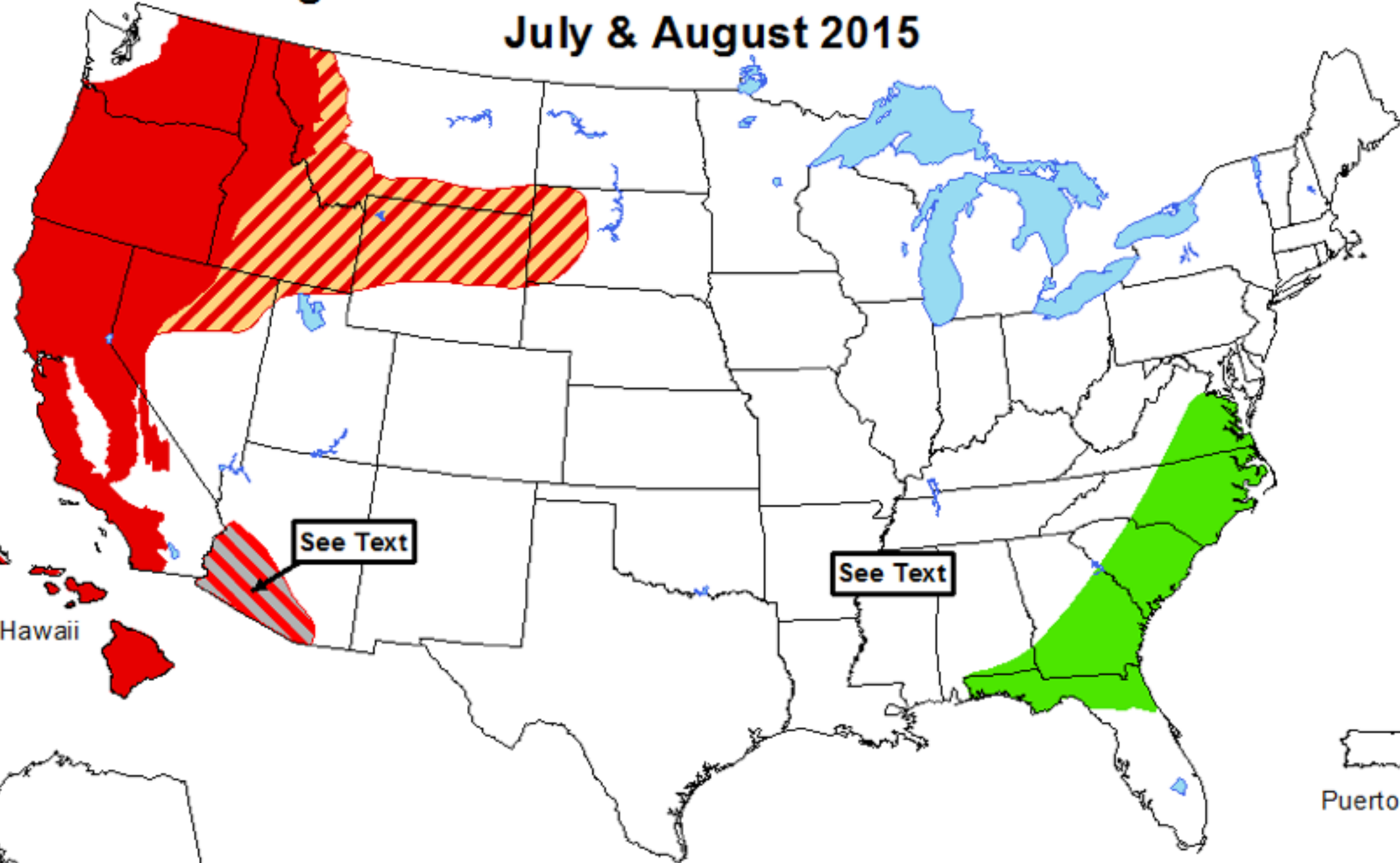


Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St. NE Suite A

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N 0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook July & August 2015



Significant Wildland Fire Potential

	Above Normal		Increasing to Above Normal
	Below Normal		Decreasing to Below Normal
	Normal		Returning to Normal



Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency
Coordination Center
Boise, Idaho

Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a higher than usual likelihood that wildland fires will occur and/or become

impacts

- eastern OR: a lot of acres fallow
- switch to lower value crops in anticipation of no water
- canals drying up two to three months early
- recreation impacts winter/spring/summer



OPB

what do you need?

- snow
- reliable forecasts of fall
- reliable forecasts of winter
- reliable forecasts of spring
- reliable forecasts of summer
- PWVB: 2-3 week forecasts

- Seasonal outlooks factor prominently into Oregon drought emergency declarations
- NOAA is trusted by state, Portland
- even if seasonal forecasting was better, not sure people would trust it or appreciate it
- state climatologist advocate?
- we weren't surprised by this year, but difficult to fight optimism (2005)

#ORdrought

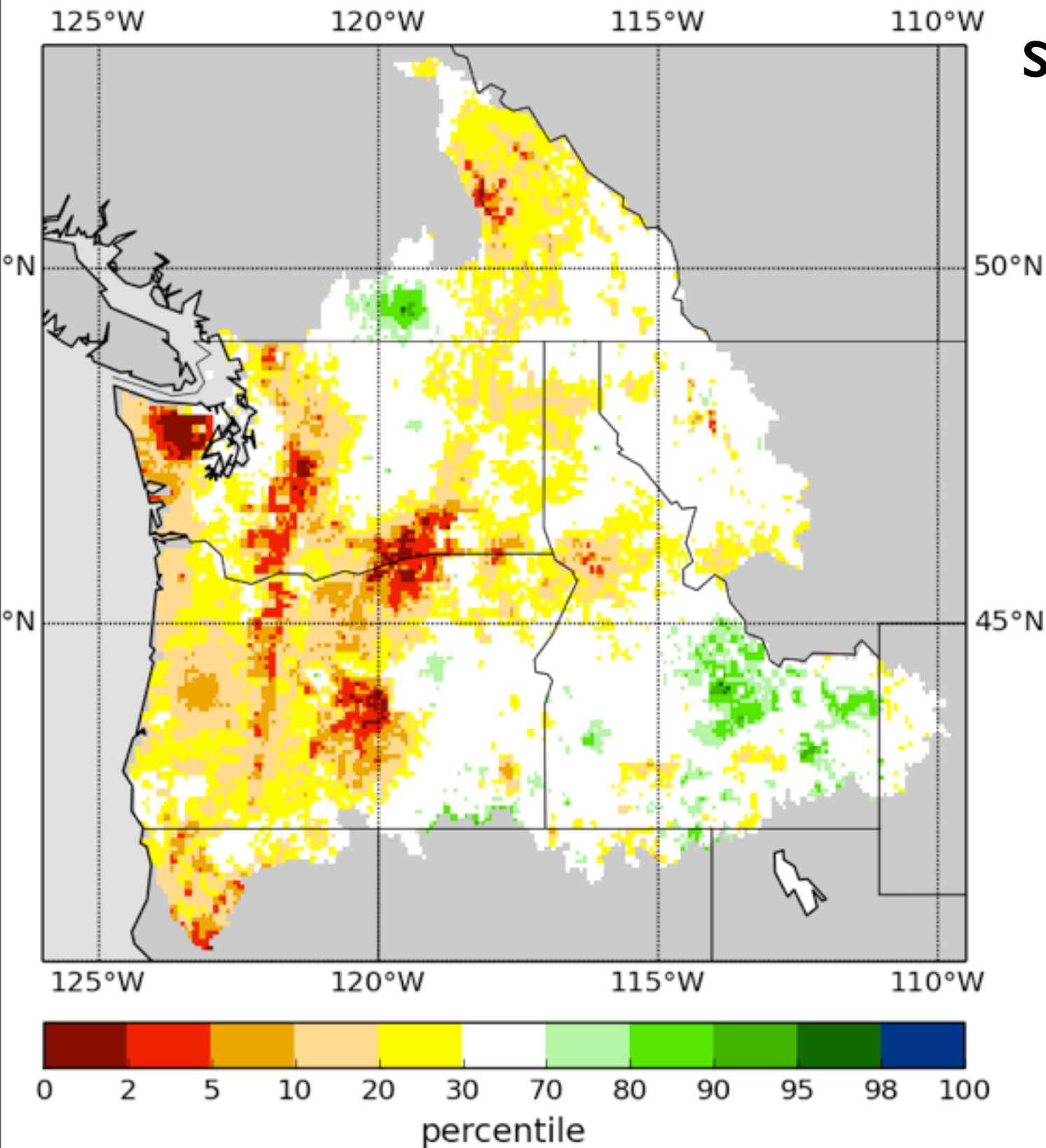
- This is our warning shot; the next could be worse
 - this looks like climate change (warm winter, warm summer)
- The impacts are and will be significant
- This is a critical time for Oregon - we can all pitch in

in the other direction

- updating NOAA atlas 14 (finally) for PNW
- adding in atmospheric river analysis - we want a lot of the same

Total Moisture Percentile

2015-05-26



stakeholder-driven drought
monitoring tools

CIRC 2.0

ag/climate (using
downscaled NMME)

water/climate

[http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/
monitor_west/](http://www.hydro.washington.edu/forecast/monitor_west/)

my closing thoughts

- we don't just need 'better' seasonal forecasts. We need to build trust, convey uncertainty, and tout skill in a way people can understand
- the adaptation convo isn't just 2040 - ultimate goal is to reduce vulnerability to climate variability and change
- stronger NOAA collaborations - opportunity with NIDIS in PNW

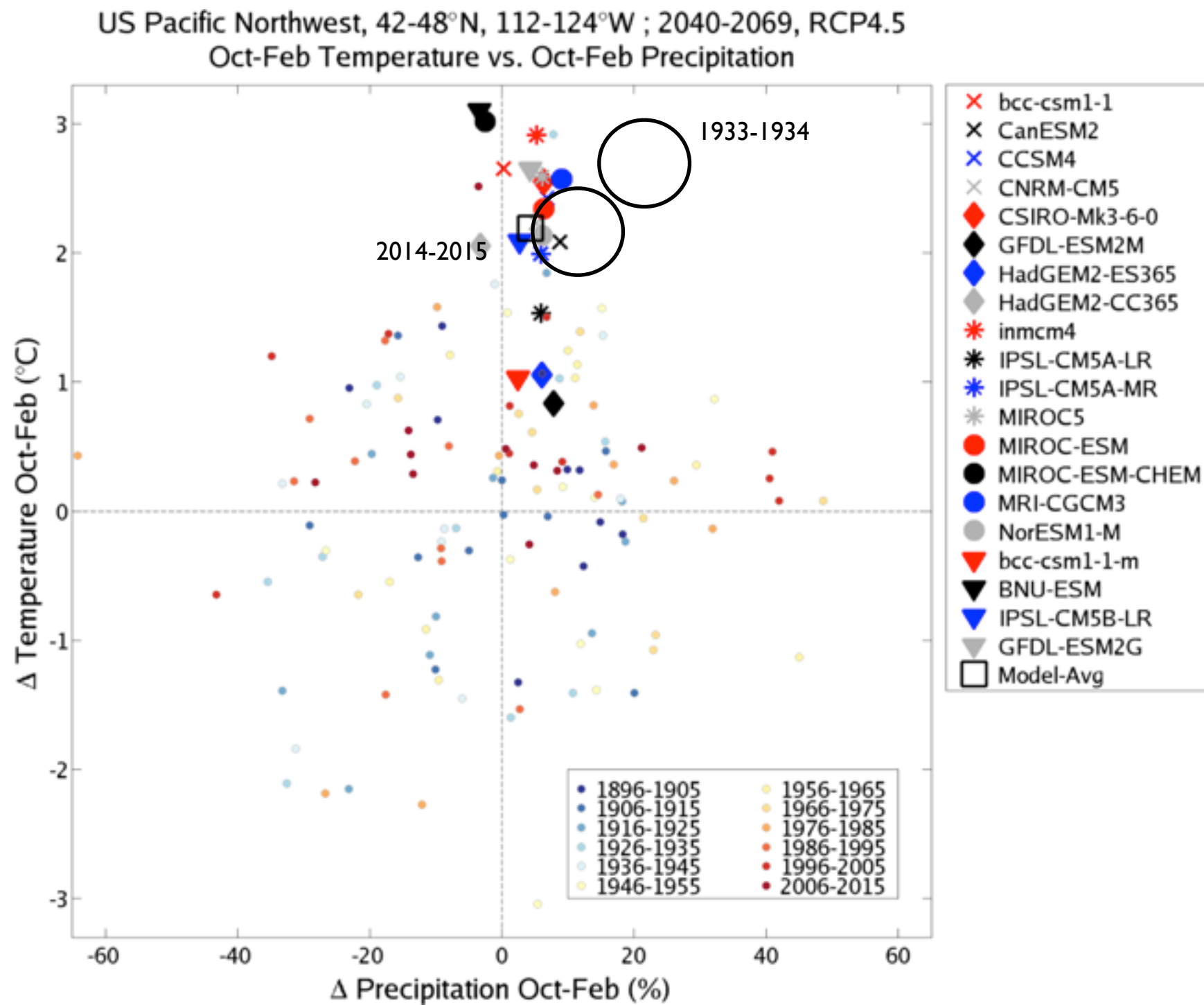


figure: Abatzoglou