

Water

Dry March hampers Oregon water outlook

Southern basins feeling impact of drought

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
Capital Press

The 2021 irrigation season is shaping up to be a tale of two Oregons.

River basins in the northern part of the state are in comparatively good shape, with snowpack at or above normal from Mount Hood to the Willamette Mountains, according to the latest outlook from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

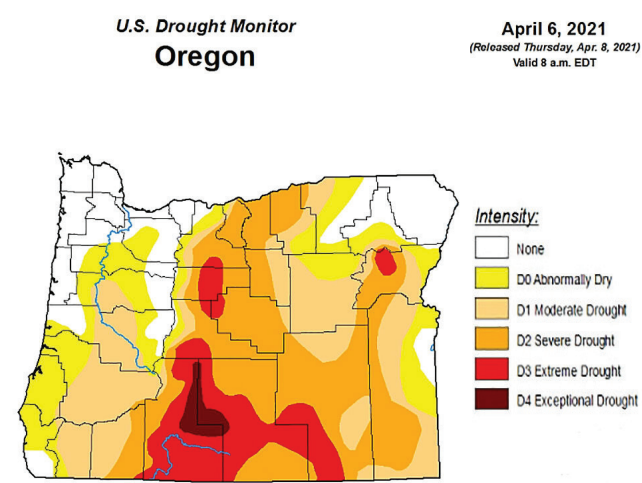
Southern Oregon, however, is another story.

Exceptionally dry weather has pushed the region deeper into drought, threatening water supplies for both farms and fish. Local irrigation districts, facing all-but-certain shortages, are doing what they can to stretch what little water they have stored in lakes and reservoirs.

"It is looking to be a pretty dire year, particularly in Southern and Central Oregon," said April Snell, executive director of the Oregon Water Resources Congress. "It doesn't look like we're getting much moisture in those areas where we need it."

Scott Oviatt, snow survey supervisor for the NRCS in Portland, said March was particularly dry. Total precipitation statewide fell from 99% to 90% of average for the water year dating back to Oct. 1.

"The month itself was below normal and below



average in all cases, just due to the lack of storm impacts," Oviatt said.

Though snowpack across the state has held steady at 111% of average, measurements show a clear disparity from north to south.

On the north side, the Hood, Sandy and Lower Deschutes basins have 135% of their average snow-water equivalent — the amount of water that is contained in snow. The Umatilla, Walla Walla and Willow basins are also well above normal at 132%, and the Grande Ronde, Burnt, Powder and Imnaha basins are at 120%.

The Willamette Basin, home to the majority of Oregon's high-value and specialty crops, is also faring well at 121% of the average snowpack.

Meanwhile, the Rogue and Umpqua basins in southwest Oregon are at 85% snowpack, the Klamath Basin is at 77%, the Owyhee Basin is at 78% and the Lake County and Goose Lake basins are at 67%.

Oregon's snowpack typically peaks around mid-March, Oviatt said. That

means time is running out to make up any significant ground.

"We're past that now," Oviatt said. "Those opportunities have gone by the wayside."

Many reservoirs in Southern Oregon are sitting well below 50% full. Streamflows are also below 50% in some areas, ahead of the hot summer months.

Gov. Kate Brown has already declared a drought emergency in Klamath County. Jackson, Lake and Baker counties have requested drought declarations.

Irrigators in the Klamath Project, which serves approximately 230,000 acres of farmland in Southern Oregon and Northern California, anticipate their water allocation will be 130,000 acre-feet, less than one-third of historical demand.

Inflows into Upper Klamath Lake, which feeds the Klamath Project, were just 74% of normal since Oct. 1, making it the worst year on record since 1981.

Jim Pendleton, manager of the Talent Irrigation Dis-

trict in the Rogue Basin, said they are facing a similarly critical situation.

Normally, the district stores 80,000-85,000 acre-feet of water in three reservoirs — Hyatt Lake, Howard Prairie Lake and Emigrant Lake. This year, the three reservoirs combined have just 17,000 acre-feet of water, their lowest totals since 1961.

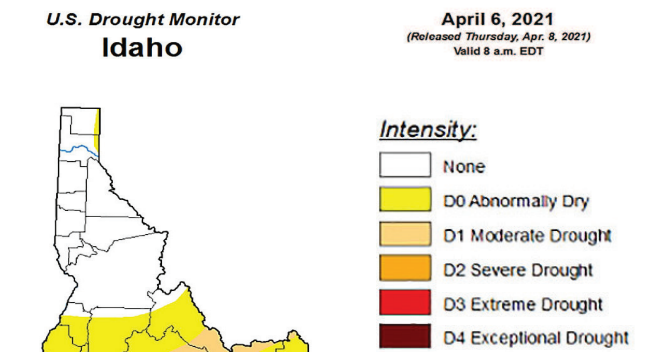
"Just running the numbers, we may not even start the system until the first of June," Pendleton said. "Even at that, I think we'll be lucky to make it to mid-August."

Looking east to the Owyhee Basin, Jay Chamberlin, manager of the Owyhee Irrigation District, said board members approved a reduced water allocation of 3 acre-feet per acre during a full water year. Owyhee Reservoir is currently 60% full, and Chamberlin said they will likely draw the reservoir down significantly in 2021.

"We're going to empty the tank," he said. "That really sets us up for a bad situation next year. We won't carry over any storage if we pull it all down to cover this year's demand."

The district started releasing water on April 6, which is several days early. Chamberlin said growers needed moisture on the ground to allow their onion and sugar beet crops to break through the dry, crusty soil surface.

In addition, Chamberlin said the district will immediately begin pumping supplemental water from the Dunaway Pumping Station along the Snake River.



Idaho water supply low in spots

By **BRAD CARLSON**
Capital Press

Most Idaho reservoirs likely will fill despite a mostly dry end to winter, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service hydrologists say.

But low snowpack and expected runoff in the Wood River and Lost River basins, in the east-central mountains, likely mean water-supply concerns for irrigators, dryland grazing operations and people who rely on natural streamflow, the NRCS Water Supply Outlook Report said.

Agricultural water shortages in these basins this summer are likely. The amount of water stored in Magic Reservoir is well below normal.

NRCS said it expects sufficient reservoir supply for irrigators across all Snake River basins except Oakley and Salmon Falls, where agricultural water shortages are predicted.

Drought conditions likely will persist during spring in central and southern Idaho.

Dry soils around Idaho have concerned water managers almost since the snow-accumulation season began Oct. 1. Runoff saturates soil on its way to reservoirs. Unusually dry ground reduces inflow.

"Across much of the state, folks can attest that soil moisture is a little shy of adequate, with the forecast looking to get drier," State Soil Scientist Shawn Nield of NRCS Idaho told Capital Press. "Should that trend continue, the soil profile will take extra water in the early season."

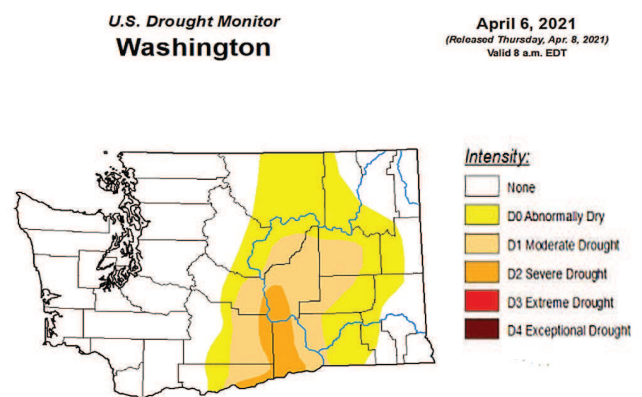
He said ground with a standing cover crop or good residual cover over winter tends to offer better moisture conditions than bare ground by better trapping snow, preventing pore packing and plugging during rains, encouraging infiltration and reducing evaporation.

Washington snowpack deepest in nearly a decade

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

Washington's snowpack entered April at 131% of normal, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the fourth deepest in the past 30 years and a good omen for irrigators.

The April 1 figure averages snow measurements at sites throughout the state, which can vary greatly. This year, basins all over Washington have healthy



snowpacks, typical for a La Nina winter.

Snowpacks started building later in the win-

ter, NRCS water supply specialist Scott Pattee said Thursday. "Once we got through January and into

February, it slammed us with La Nina."

Even though snowpacks are high, 17% of Eastern Washington suffers from a "moderate" or "severe" drought, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported Thursday.

Washington State Assistant Climatologist Karin Bumbaco said the region has been getting even less precipitation than usual.

"Looking at March precipitation numbers, they're very low for some areas of Eastern Washington," she said. "It's not an issue for irrigated agriculture because the snowpack is so great."

The National Weather Service forecasts Columbia River flows at The Dalles this summer will be 91% of normal. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reported Wednesday that conditions are promising for Yakima Valley irrigators to have their full water allotments.

Snowpacks typically

peak this month and start melting into streams and reservoirs. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center forecasts that April, May and June will be cooler than average in the Cascades, another benefit to summer irrigation.

Although a rough measurement, the state's April 1 snowpack receives ample attention. The snowpack has been above average for eight of the past 10 years.

The snowpack was 137% in 2012 and 115% in 2011, back-to-back La Nina winters. Snowpacks in 2008 and 1999 also surpassed this year's.

Pattee cautioned against seeing a long-term trend in the April 1 snowpack average. "Trying to use that number as to whether we're seeing a depleting snowpack or climate change, that you can't do," he said.

La Nina winters in

Washington are typically cold and wet. The climate phenomenon, in which cool ocean temperatures trigger changes in the atmosphere, typically brings warm and dry winters in the southern U.S. tier.

Drought classified as "exceptional" grips sections of Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.

The Climate Prediction Center reported Thursday an 80% chance that La Nina will yield to neutral conditions in May.

Looking far ahead, the center projected a 40% chance La Nina will return next winter, compared to a 47% chance that neutral conditions will prevail and a 13% chance an El Nino will form.

Predictions this far out are tentative. El Nino winters are typically warm and dry in Washington. The "snowpack drought" in 2015 occurred during an El Nino.

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 04/19/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by

COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2016 FORD ESCAPE UT
VIN = 1FMCU9G94GUC00405
Amount due on lien \$1,575.00
Reputed owner(s)
NORTH AMERICAN BREWERIES INC
BBL FLEET CO - LESSOR

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2006 MERZ ML350 UT
VIN = 4JGBB86E56A076249
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00
Reputed owner(s)
YOLANDA THI HYUNH
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2020 INDI ROADMSTR
VIN = 56KTKDBXL3384766
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00
Reputed owner(s)
COPART

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
1996 OTHR R.T
VIN = 1R9FS2028T1093362
Amount due on lien \$1,575.00
Reputed owner(s)
COPART

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2012 JEEP WRANGLER 4W
VIN = 1C4BJWFG8CL206604
Amount due on lien \$1,415.00
Reputed owner(s)
GIOVANNY OBREGON &
MARIA GUEVARA
ONPOINT COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2016 HONDA CIVIC 4DR
VIN = 19XFC2F73GE216704
Amount due on lien \$1,415.00
Reputed owner(s)
MICHELLE RUIZ
BK OF THE WEST

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2009 DODGE 3500 PU
VIN = 3D7MX38L19G511860
Amount due on lien \$1,555.00
Reputed owner(s)
NICKOLOUS WAYNE DEVLIN
IRONWORKERS USA C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2013 AUDI Q 7 LL
VIN = WA1DGAFEDDD013054
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00
Reputed owner(s)
NORBERTO ACEVEDO MAGDELANO
COLUMBIA CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2018 KIA OPTIMA 4DR
VIN = 5XKGT4L30JG260496
Amount due on lien \$2,435.00
Reputed owner(s)
DAWNIELLE M & GEORGE R POST JR
OREGON COMMUNITY C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2012 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER UT
VIN = JTEDC3EH3C2009708
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00
Reputed owner(s)
ZOUHAIR J & ZAKARYA BAZA
SOUND CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA 6V
VIN = 2C4RC1H76JR168609
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00
Reputed owner(s)
JILL SCOPY

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2019 JEEP CHEROKEE 4W
VIN = 1C4RFJG6XKC637741
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00
Reputed owner(s)
THOMAS GANAHL LEWIS
USB LEASING LT-LESSOR

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2019 JEEP CHEROKEE UT
VIN = 1C4RFJG6XKC637741
Amount due on lien \$1,935.00
Reputed owner(s)
THOMAS GANAHL LEWIS
USB LEASING LT - LESSOR

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2011 CHEV EXPRESS VAN
VIN = 1GB3G3B58B1166052
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00
Reputed owner(s)
IRS ENVIRONMENT OF PDX INC
WASHINGTON TRUST BANK

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2020 TOYOTA RAV 4 UT
VIN = 2T3G1RFV4LC110800
Amount due on lien \$1,575.00
Reputed owner(s)
JUN CHEN
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2016 TOYOTA PRIUS 4DR
VIN = JTDZ3NEU5GJ045638
Amount due on lien \$1,575.00
Reputed owner(s)
IBSA SUFIYAN MUSE
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2013 TOYOTA 4RUNNER UT
VIN = JTEBU5JR4D5132738
Amount due on lien \$1,595.00
Reputed owner(s)
LEE ROSS WRIGHT
UNITUS COMMUNITY C.U

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VIN = 1C4RFJG6XKC637741
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00
Reputed owner(s)
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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
1971 VW BEETLE ZDR
VIN = 1112941653
Amount due on lien \$1,575.00
Reputed owner(s)
HALEY A & AMY R BALLARD

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