



Summer Supply Update September 27, 2016

The following are highlights related to key components of the 2016 Summer Supply Plan. Drawdown and demand curves updated to reflect the latest conditions are included at the end of this update (Figures 1 and 2).

Weather Forecasts: The current forecasts go through the end of October and indicate that it will generally be somewhat warmer and wetter than average through the forecast period.

Bull Run Status: Bull Run reservoirs started drawing down on June 30, which is nearly average for the onset of drawdown. As of September 26, there were 4.2 billion gallons (BG), or about 42% of usable storage, remaining in the Bull Run reservoirs. Figure 1 shows the 2016 Bull Run drawdown curve.

Demand: Demand averaged 101 million gallons a day (MGD) in May, 112 MGD in June, 120 MGD in July, and 130 MGD in August. May demand was 2.4% above 2015 demand and 5.1% above the average May demand for the previous 5 years (2011-2015). June demand was 15% below 2015 demand and 2% below the average June demand for the previous 5 years. July demand was 15% below 2015 demand and 9% below the average June demand for the previous 5 years. August demand was 5% below 2015 demand and 2% below the average June demand for the previous 5 years. Figure 2 shows the 2016 demand curve compared to the previous five years.

Groundwater Status: Each year, the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) operates the Columbia South Shore Well Field for the purpose of exercising equipment and identifying needed repairs. The 2016 groundwater maintenance operation began on July 25. Between 17 and 18 million gallons (MG) of groundwater was delivered to the distribution system each day. Groundwater was blended with Bull Run surface water at the Powell Butte reservoirs. The proportion of ground water blended with surface water ranged between 14% and 19%. The groundwater maintenance operation concluded August 10, at which time the PWB returned to serving 100% Bull Run surface water.

Fish Releases/Downstream Flows: The Portland Water Bureau manages water releases downstream of Bull Run Reservoir 2 to meet minimum flow requirements and water temperature targets for the lower Bull Run River required by the Bull Run Water Supply Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Minimum flow levels were 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) through May, 30 cfs in June, and 20 cfs since July 1. In May, additional flow above 120 cfs was released downstream on six occasions to meet water temperature targets. Since June 1, flow releases in the lower Bull Run River were changed twice a day (within the range of 20 to 50 cfs or more) to meet downstream water temperature targets.

Water Efficiency Activities:

Various water efficiency education, outreach, and assistance activities were carried out throughout the 2016 summer supply season. These include residential, regional, and business, industry, and government (BIG) program activities as shown below.

Residential Water Efficiency:

The Portland Water Bureau:

- Distributes water efficiency devices and information at the customer service walk-in center. These kits include showerheads, aerators, and toilet leak tablets.
- Provides \$50 toilet rebates for residential, commercial and multifamily customers.
- Provides rebates for improving the water efficiency of automatic irrigation systems.
- Provides irrigation tune-ups for customers with concerns about high water use.
- Published a Customer Newsletter with water conservation information that is included in all bills that are sent out in the summer.
- Publishes monthly blogs and social media messages regarding water conservation.
- Attends community events around the city during the summer, distributing water efficiency devices and information, through “Your Sustainable City” outreach partnership.
- Maintains the water-wise demonstration garden at the Hazelwood HydroPark to showcase water-efficient plant choices and irrigation technology.

Regional Conservation:

The Portland Water Bureau is a member of the Regional Water Providers Consortium (RWPC), and an active participant in the Conservation subcommittee. Below is a summary of key offerings focusing on summer water use.

- RWPC places water conservation radio ads through Entercom Portland on approximately 7 Portland-area radio stations. Ad spots will air from June through August.
- RWPC partners with TV outlets, KGW Channel 8, Garden Time and KUNP (Univision – Spanish language television) to run exclusive water conservation ads spots and news stories on all programs from June through August. Messaging is done through a series of stories in both English and Spanish.
- A variety of outreach materials have been distributed throughout the summer months – providing information to residential customers, nurseries, multi-family properties, trade ally partners, and media partners on efficient ways to save water outdoors in summer months. Outreach materials were also distributed through the RWPC website, events, and media channels (television, print, Spanish media).
- RWPC continues to send out quarterly e-newsletters.
- Posting of the Weekly Watering Number (WW#) continues through the summer months as a resource “tool” for customers to gauge how much water to put down each week on one’s landscape and garden. The Weekly Watering Number is available on the RWPC’s website: www.conserveh2o.org. The Weekly Watering Number is available to access from April – September. Also, all Consortium members have received the WW# widget to place directly on their entity’s respective websites.

Business, Industry, and Government (BIG) Water Efficiency:

- BIG staff continue to work with commercial and multifamily customers to reduce water use as requested by our customers. Multifamily buildings, hotels, colleges, and restaurants are typical customers that BIG works with.

The BIG program receives the majority of referrals from the bureau’s customer service department but also from the Sustainability at Work program housed at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, directly from customers and from the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES).

Figure 1: 2016 Drawdown Curve

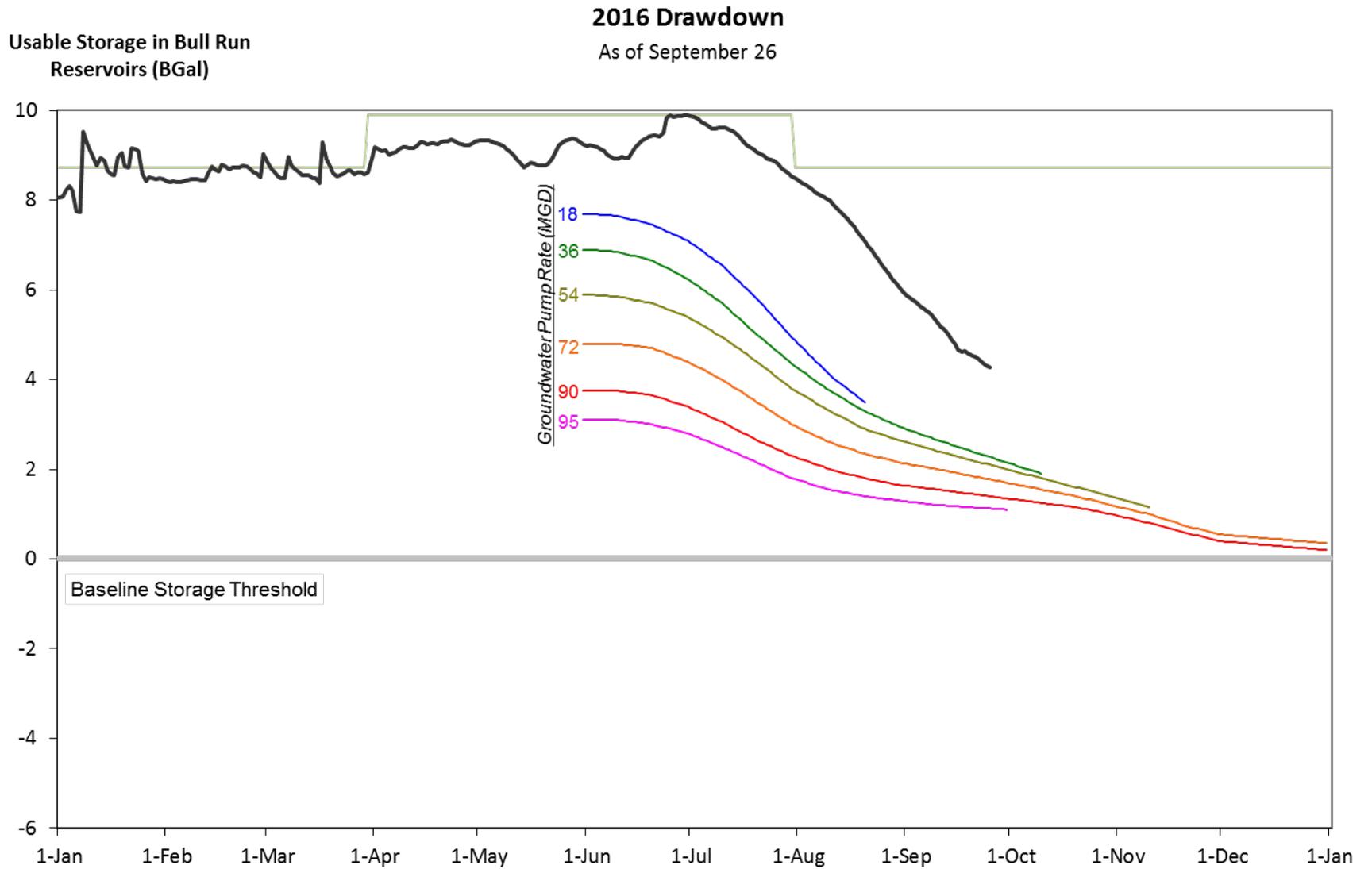


Figure 2: 2016 Demand Curve Compared to Previous Five Years

