2015 Drought Declaration

- Expired at end of the year

- Emergency Water Executive Committee did not recommend extension:
  - Rapid reservoir recovery on east and west side
  - Improving soil moisture conditions
  - Above Normal Precipitation Oct - Dec
  - No knowledge of immediate hardships due to lack of water supply
Current Conditions

• Statewide snowpack is above normal

• Reservoirs on west and east side are near or above average for this time of year

• Projected warmer than normal temperatures create some risk of earlier than normal runoff

• Water Supply Availability Committee will be meeting to review water supply forecasts on Feb 11
Water Year 2016

- Above Normal Temperatures
- Normal to Much Above Normal Precipitation
Snow Water Equivalent Comparison

February 1, 2015

February 1, 2016
This Year: Statewide Average SWE is 110% of average (Feb 8, 2016).

Last Year: Statewide Average SWE was 37% of average (Feb 8, 2015)
Columbia Basin Snow Water Equivalents

Snow Water Equivalent %
(percent of normal)
Columbia River requires curtailment of junior users if March 1 forecast for APR-SEPT is less than 60 Million Acre Feet.

Currently, the forecast is for more than 87 Million Acre Feet.
• ~116 percent of normal.

• Note contrast with last year, when most precipitation fell as rain rather than snow, resulting in earlier than normal refill, but also earlier than normal drawdown.

• Bureau went on “storage control” in mid-April last year - about two months earlier than normal.
Questions

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Visit Website at:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/index.html