

NOAA WEST WATCH
March 2018
SUMMARY

ATTENDEES*

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Polly Hicks | 14. Kathy |
| 2. Dan McEvoy | 15. Marine |
| 3. Alex Harper | 16. Michelle |
| 4. Amanda Sheffield | 17. Mike |
| 5. Ann Halloway | 18. Nancy Selover |
| 6. Cristen Don | 19. Nina |
| 7. Dale Robinson | 20. Roxanne Robertson |
| 8. Dennis Staley | 21. Ruth Howell |
| 9. Emily Mazur | 22. Seema |
| 10. Fredrick Bahr | 23. Ted |
| 11. Jennifer Hagen | 24. Tina Fahy |
| 12. Julie Thomas | 25. Toby Garfield |
| 13. Karin Bumbaco | |

*There were an addition five unidentified attendees

SUMMARY

Polly Hicks (NOAA West) welcomed everyone to the webinar. She gave an overview of the agenda for NOAA's West Watch and reminded participants that this webinar is designed to bring together NOAA staff and NOAA partners from across the western region to share information about regional environmental observations and impacts on human systems. Dan McEvoy (WRCC) delivered an update on regional climate conditions. There remains a La Nina advisory with the models showing a probability of switching to a neutral ENSO condition in spring. The last two months had similar precipitation and temperature patterns in the West with warmer and drier than average conditions in SW and wetter than average conditions in MT and Rockies. Sierra Nevada are below average snow pack and CO River Basin will have a fraction of the average snow runoff.

Dennis Staley, research physical scientist for USGS, was the guest speaker. Dennis presented on post-wildfire debris flow hazards. Post-fire floods and debris flows do not require any antecedent moisture and can be triggered within minutes of intense rainfall. These hazards may persist 2 to 5 years after a wildfire. USGS has a set of tools for predictive purposes.

Representatives of the three IOOS programs on the west coast provided nearshore oceanographic updates from SCCOOS (Julie Thomas), NANOOS (Marine Lebrec), and CeNCOOS (Alex Harper), and including updates on temperature trends and chlorophyll levels. Additionally, Julie Thomas presented on a large wave event in mid-January along the west coast and the system of buoys used to monitor wave heights. In Greys Harbor, WA seven of the wave heights from the storm were in the top 25 maximum significant wave heights since 1981, with wave heights over 60 feet. In the Columbia River

one buoy recorded a wave height of 22 meters before being broken free by the storm. Alex Harper also noted that a just released paper found the simultaneous occurrence of three marine and one freshwater algal toxin in San Francisco Bay.

The webinar ended with Polly Hicks reporting on impacts from weather, climate and oceanographic anomalies that were report in the media since the January NOAA West Watch.

Next NOAA West Watch: May 22nd, 1-2pm PDT/ 2-3pm MDT