

## Water and drought

### ***Experts: Recent snow won't help much***

By TY BEAVER  
H&N Staff Writer  
March 31, 2010



At left, Sue Fry, area manager for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, listens to Laurie Sada, project leader for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Klamath Falls, answer a question from U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore. The two took part in a Tuesday briefing with Walden on the water shortage impacting the Klamath Basin.

Tuesday morning's snow was better than nothing, but it didn't really do much to change the region's water availability.

Sue Fry, area manager for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, said Tuesday that the snow that fell Monday night and Tuesday perhaps added about 1 to 2 percentage points to the region's snowpack.

"That's just telling you snowpack is not very good," she said.

Fry said there could be numerous reasons why melting snowpack isn't raising water levels in Upper Klamath Lake. The region is so dry, much of that melt water is going straight into the ground, she said. Some of it also could be evaporating.

The recent precipitation could provide some benefit to irrigators just planting cover crops because it puts latent moisture into the ground to help those crops survive, Fry said.

++++  
NOTE: In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. section 107, any copyrighted material herein is distributed without profit or payment to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information for non-profit research and educational purposes only. For more information go to:  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>