

Utah Climate and Water Report

April 2012



A view of the Henry Mountains from Boulder Mountain; March 2012.

Utah Climate and Water Report

The purpose of the Climate and Water Report is to provide a snapshot of current and immediate past climatic conditions and other information useful to agricultural and water user interests in Utah. The report utilizes data from several sources that represent specific parameters (streamflow data from the United States Geological Survey, reservoir data from the Bureau of Reclamation, and other sources), geography including high elevation United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Snowpack Telemetry (SNOTEL) data, and agriculturally important data from the USDA-NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN). Data on precipitation, soil moisture, soil temperature, reservoir storage, and streamflow are analyzed and presented. These data analyses can be used to increase irrigation efficiency and agricultural production. As with all data and analyses, there are limitations due to data quality, quantity, and spatial application.

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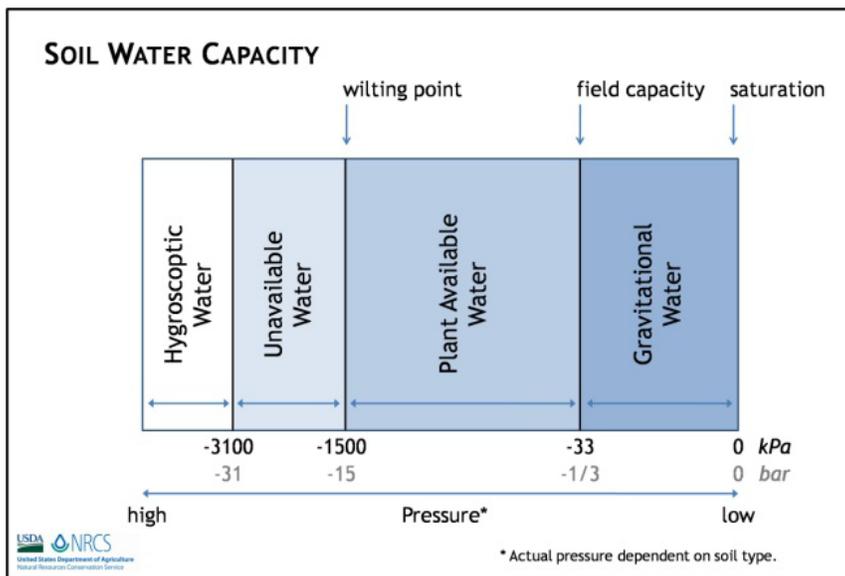
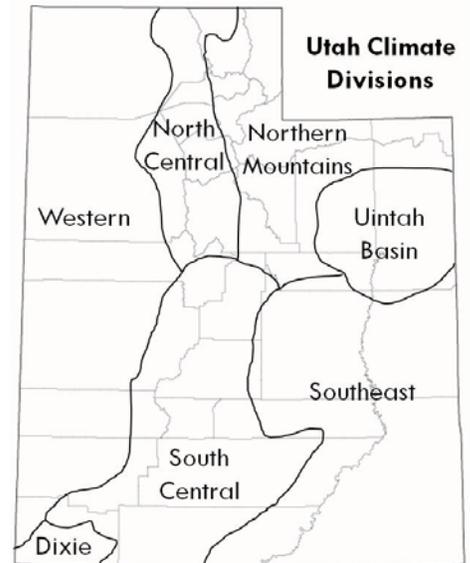
- a) SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal
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- d) Weber and Ogden River Basins
 - Water Availability Index
- e) Utah Lake, Jordan River, and Tooele Valley Basins
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- h) Sevier and Beaver River Basins
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- i) E. Garfield, Kane, Washington, and Iron Co.
 - Water Availability Index

Climate and Water Information

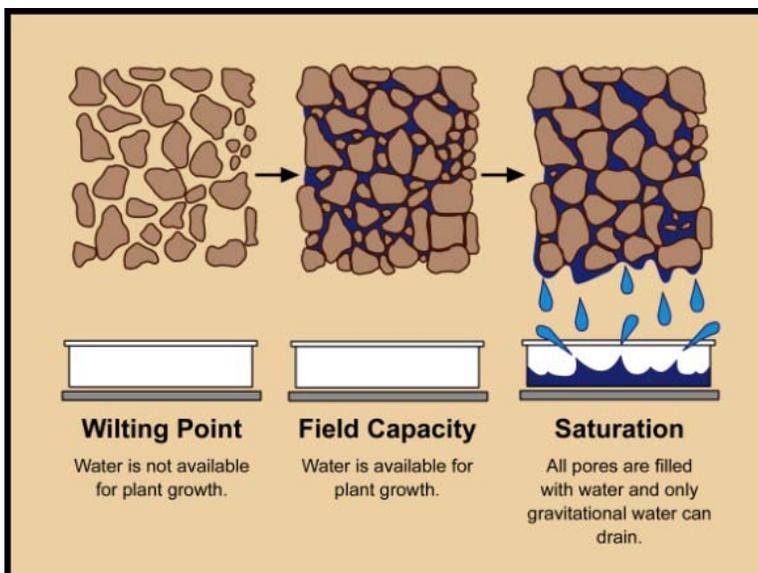
Soil Climate Analysis Network

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) stations are primarily located on low- to mid-elevation, agriculturally important landscapes that maintain representative soils. Elevations range from 3,000 to 7,000 ft. The SCAN network provides real-time soil moisture and temperature data coupled with additional climate information for use in natural resource planning, drought assessment, water resource management, and resource inventory. Stations are situated on non-irrigated, native soils, are remotely located, and collect hourly atmospheric and soils data that are available to the public online.

In order to summarize SCAN data, the 35 sites in Utah are grouped by climate divisions (North Central, Northern Mountains, Uintah Basin, Southeast, South Central, Dixie, and Western).



Explanation of soil water capacity definitions. Field capacity (FC) and wilting point (WP) are calculated in the laboratory for each soil horizon. The amount of water held between field capacity and wilting point is plant available.



Visual explanation of soil water capacity definitions.

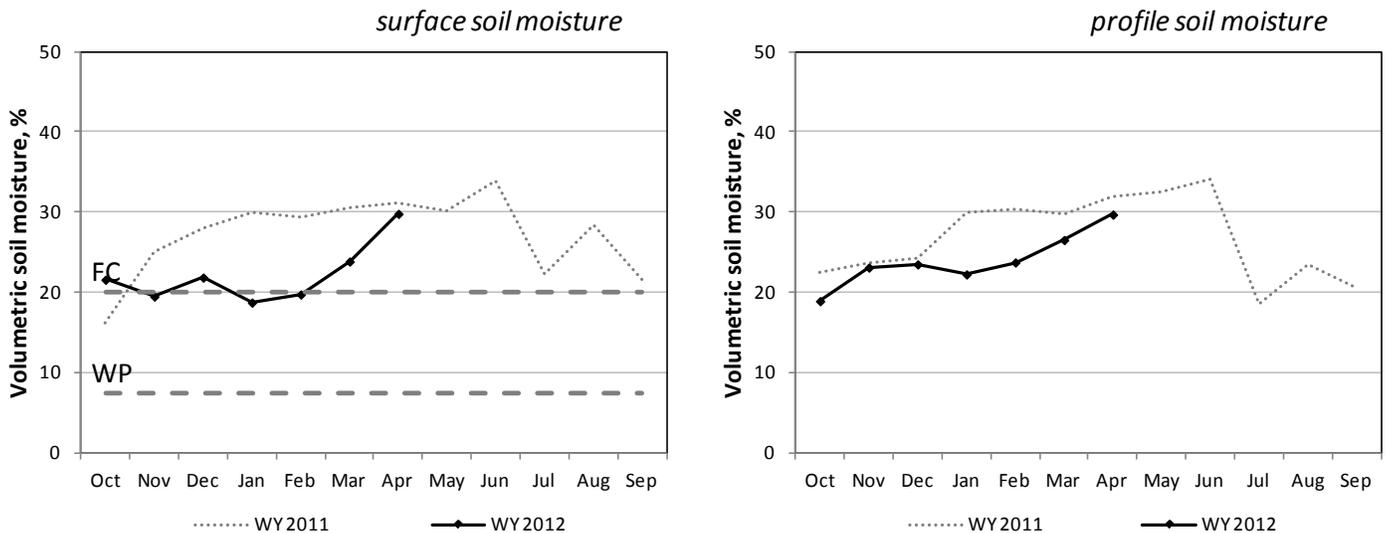
North Central

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Site name	Precip to Date*	Monthly Precip	Soil Moisture					Soil Temperature				
			2"	4"	8"	20"	40"	2"	4"	8"	20"	40"
			in.					in.				
			volume %					°F				
NORTH CENTRAL												
Blue Creek	6.5	1.1	30	31	38	36	21	48	50	48	44	42
Cache Junction	8.0	1.2	35	35	41	36	33	48	48	44	42	40
Grantsville	4.3	0.4	10	15	23	29	24	54	54	52	49	50

* Precipitation since October 1 (beginning of the water year). Monthly Precip is the amount of precipitation accumulated in the past month. SCAN sites utilize tipping bucket rain gauges which do not accurately measure precipitation in the form of snowfall. Soil moisture and temperature values reflect conditions measured on the first of the month.

North Central



Surface soil moisture is the weighted mean of the water content measured at depths of 2, 4, and 8 inches. **FC** is the mean field capacity, **WP** is the mean permanent wilting point for the soil surface (0 to 12 inches) at SCAN sites within the region, and **WY** is the water year lasting October through September. *Profile soil moisture* is the weighted mean of water content measured at depths of 2, 4, 8, 20, and 40 inches.

Additional data available at the SCAN website, including: hourly air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, wind direction, barometric pressure, precipitation, solar radiation, soil temperature, and soil moisture.

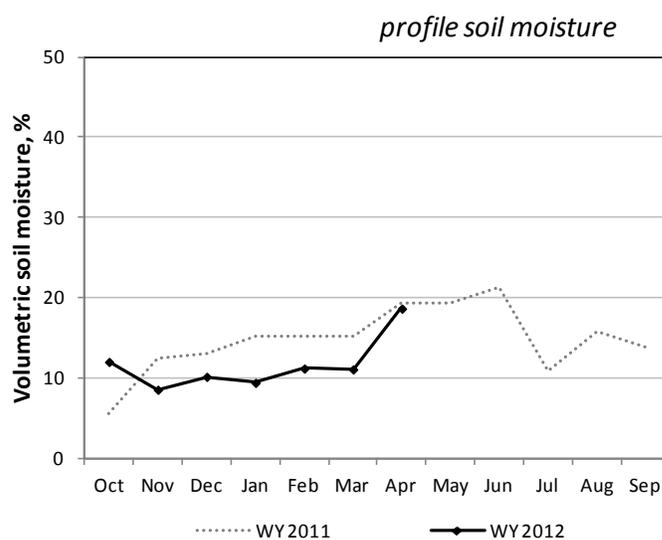
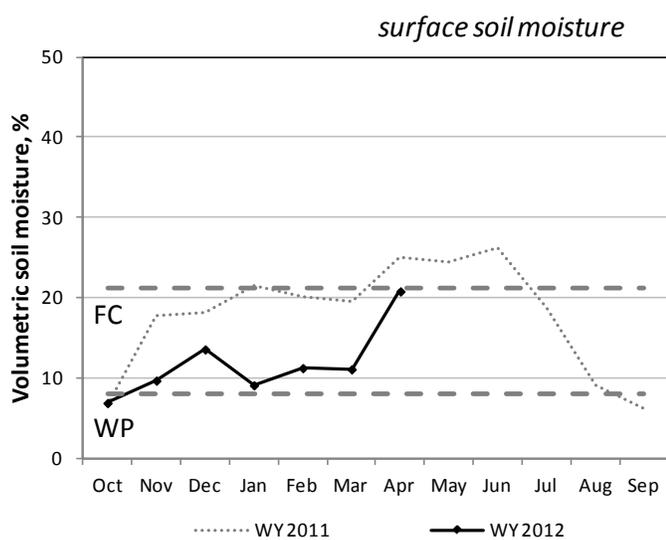
Northern Mountains

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Site name	Precip to Date*	Monthly Precip	Soil Moisture					Soil Temperature				
			2"	4"	8"	20"	40"	2"	4"	8"	20"	40"
	<i>in.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>volume %</i>					<i>°F</i>				
NORTHERN MOUNTAINS												
Chicken Ridge	3.4	0.2	21	23	27	27	28	42	43	43	39	37
Buffalo Jump	3.2	0.3	12	16	16	8	-	49	50	48	42	-
Morgan	7.6	0.9	21	22	24	15	10	46	46	45	43	41

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Northern Mountains



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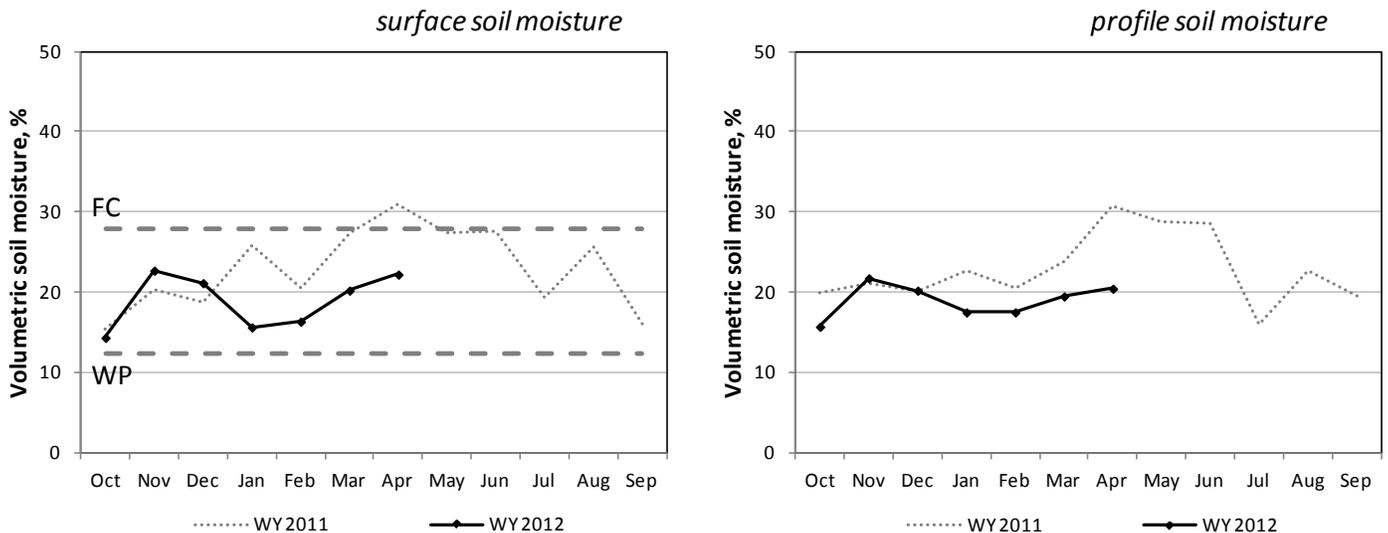
Uintah Basin

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Site name	Precip to Date*	Monthly Precip	Soil Moisture					Soil Temperature				
			2"	4"	8"	20"	40"	2"	4"	8"	20"	40"
		<i>in.</i>	<i>volume %</i>					<i>°F</i>				
UINTAH BASIN												
Mountain Home	3.7	0.1	26	34	35	19	11	47	47	46	44	42
Little Red Fox	2.8	0.1	3	23	29	31	35	49	55	54	48	45
Split Mountain	2.8	0.1	6	19	14	11	10	55	57	54	49	45

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Uintah Basin



Surface soil moisture is the weighted mean of the water content measured at depths of 2, 4, and 8 inches. **FC** is the mean field capacity, **WP** is the mean permanent wilting point for the soil surface (0 to 12 inches) at SCAN sites within the region, and **WY** is the water year lasting October through September. *Profile soil moisture* is the weighted mean of water content measured at depths of 2, 4, 8, 20, and 40 inches.

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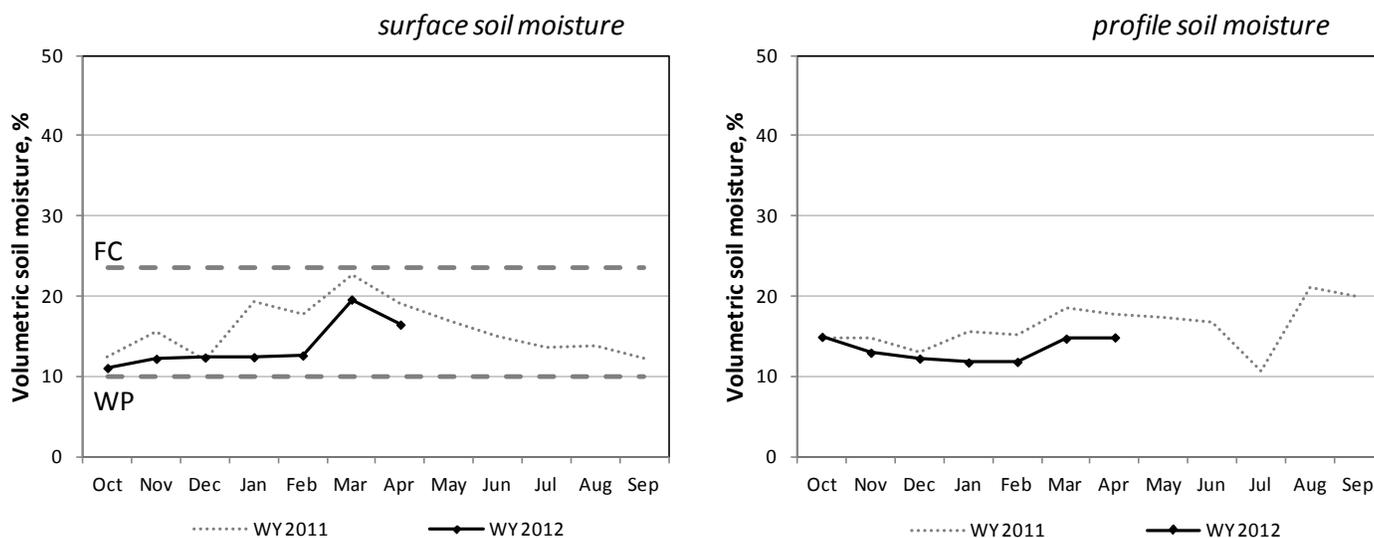
Southeast

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Site name	Precip to Date*	Monthly Precip	Soil Moisture					Soil Temperature				
			2"	4"	8"	20"	40"	2"	4"	8"	20"	40"
			in.					in.				
			volume %					°F				
SOUTHEAST												
Price	3.0	0.0	0	15	21	15	19	57	59	59	52	48
Green River	2.3	0.0	7	11	10	4	8	56	57	59	54	50
Harm's Way	2.7	0.0	16	0	24	26	8	54	51	53	48	44
West Summit	3.0	0.1	21	27	25	15	17	48	50	52	46	42
Eastland	3.7	0.0	23	22	23	33	35	48	50	50	44	42
Alkali Mesa	5.3	0.1	13	13	19	18	13	52	51	52	48	44
McCracken Mesa	3.6	0.2	12	21	21	15	13	59	60	59	51	50

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Southeast



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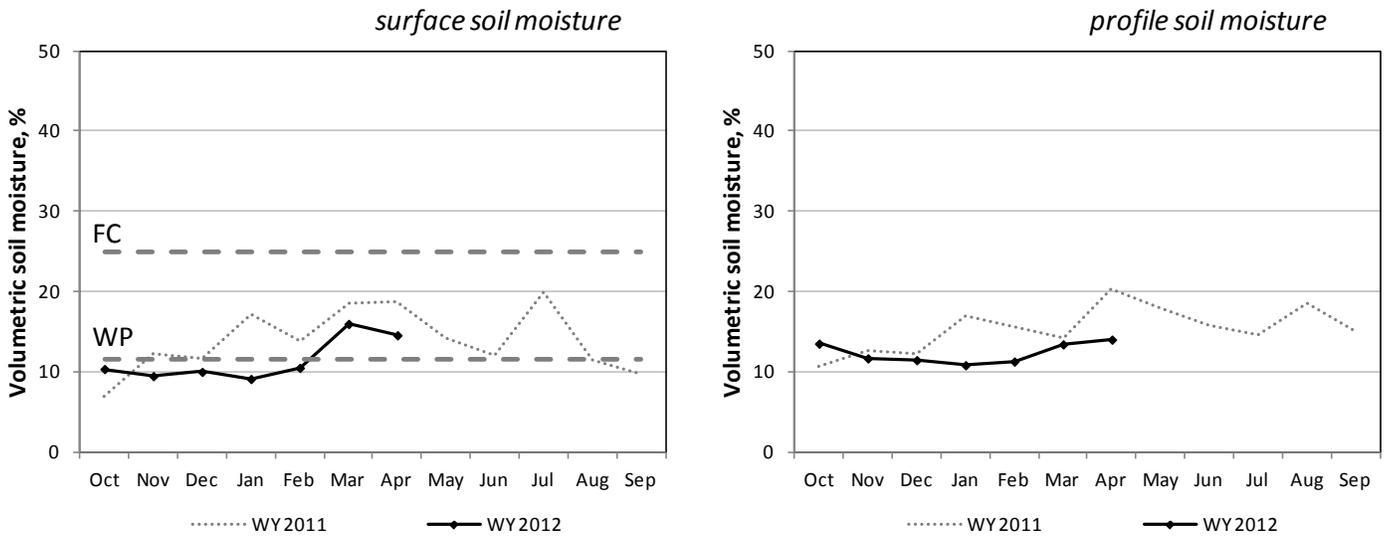
South Central

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Site name	Precip to Date*	Monthly Precip	Soil Moisture					Soil Temperature				
			2"	4"	8"	20"	40"	2"	4"	8"	20"	40"
	<i>in.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>volume %</i>					<i>° F</i>				
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Nephi	7.4	1.0	22	28	26	14	0	49	48	48	45	44
Ephraim	4.0	0.8	11	19	26	21	34	44	46	46	42	42
Holden	3.6	0.5	6	8	6	14	12	53	52	51	47	46
Milford	3.1	0.3	23	30	24	26	16	55	54	51	48	46
Manderfield	4.3	0.3	10	25	24	20	4	46	49	48	44	42
Circleville	1.9	0.1	25	11	10	8	7	57	57	55	47	
Panguitch	2.8	0.3	14	25	19	20	33	44	45	43	41	40
Cave Valley	7.6	0.9	1	6	5	6	8	51	53	54	48	44
Vermillion	5.0	0.7	1	7	8	10	8	49	49	51	46	43
Spooky	3.3	0.3	4	4	4	14	2	62	61	60	54	52

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South Central



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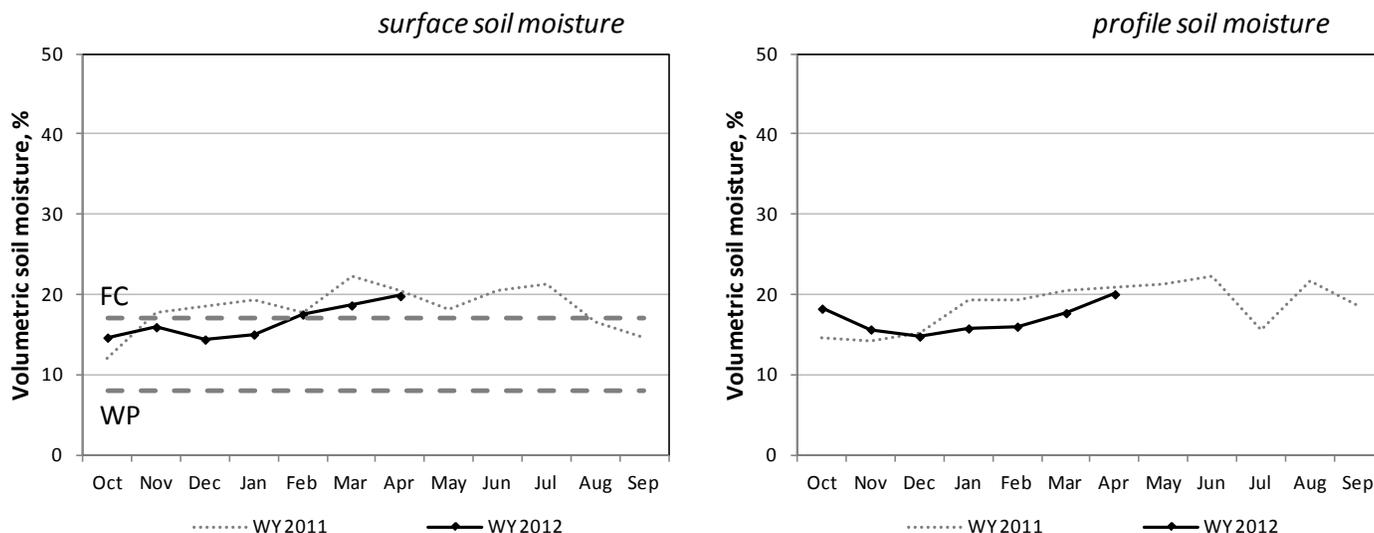
Western and Dixie

Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

Site name	Precip to Date*	Monthly Precip	Soil Moisture					Soil Temperature				
			2"	4"	8"	20"	40"	2"	4"	8"	20"	40"
	<i>in.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>volume %</i>					<i>°F</i>				
WESTERN												
Grouse Creek	5.1	1.1	14	24	26	30	27	44	46	47	43	42
Park Valley	3.7	0.3					25	48	50	49	46	45
Goshute	2.4	0.4	14	27	47	33	32	52	53	53	47	45
Dugway	2.7	0.1	23	32	37	55	13	57	57	55	50	49
Tule Valley	3.0	0.3	15	15	21	22	10	61	64	64	59	54
Hal's Canyon	2.6	0.1	0	8	11	10	8	57	59	59	51	48
Enterprise	4.2	0.8	11	33	24	15	16	53	54	53	48	46
DIXIE												
Sand Hollow	4.2	0.3	0	3	3	5	0	61	65	66	61	58

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Western & Dixie



Surface soil moisture is the weighted mean of the water content measured at depths of 2, 4, and 8 inches. **FC** is the mean field capacity, **WP** is the mean permanent wilting point for the soil surface (0 to 12 inches) at SCAN sites within the region, and **WY** is the water year lasting October through September. *Profile soil moisture* is the weighted mean of water content measured at depths of 2, 4, 8, 20, and 40 inches.

Additional data available at the SCAN website, including: hourly air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, wind direction, barometric pressure, precipitation, solar radiation, soil temperature, and soil moisture.

Utah Hydrologic Summary

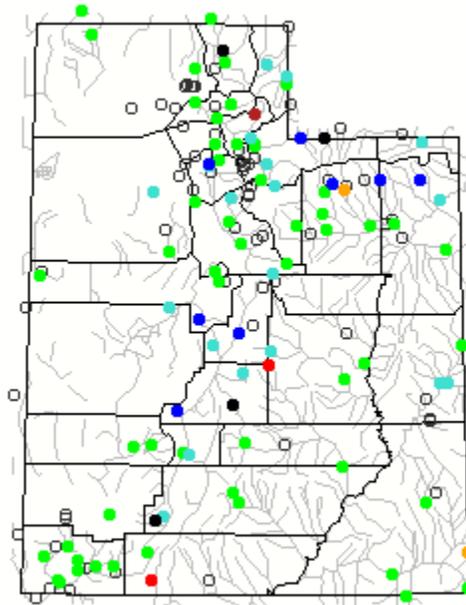
April 1, 2012

Current Conditions

Soil moisture conditions have rebounded from early numbers due to early snowmelt and are now average and above. This soil moisture condition will be short lived as snowmelt is expected to be much shorter than normal leaving an extended summer to dry soils. March precipitation was much below normal across the entire state (56%-71%). Snowpack across the state are much below average with the southeast near melt out and the remainder of the state in the 40% to 60% range. Reservoir storage is exceptionally high, near 90% of capacity across the state. Expect poor snowmelt runoff conditions statewide this spring with early melt, low volumes and low peak flows. Water supply conditions are balanced by excellent reservoir storage. Those with reservoir storage will have generally good conditions while those utilizing direct streamflow can expect shortages.

Current Utah Streamflow - Courtesy US Geological Survey

Monday, April 02, 2012 15:30ET



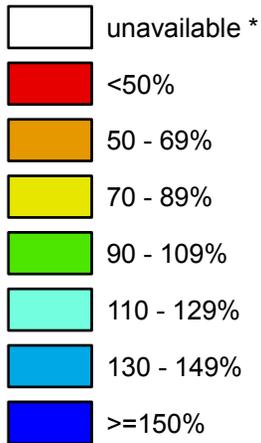
Explanation - Percentile classes							
							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not ranked

Utah

SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

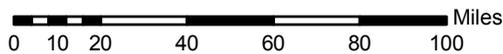
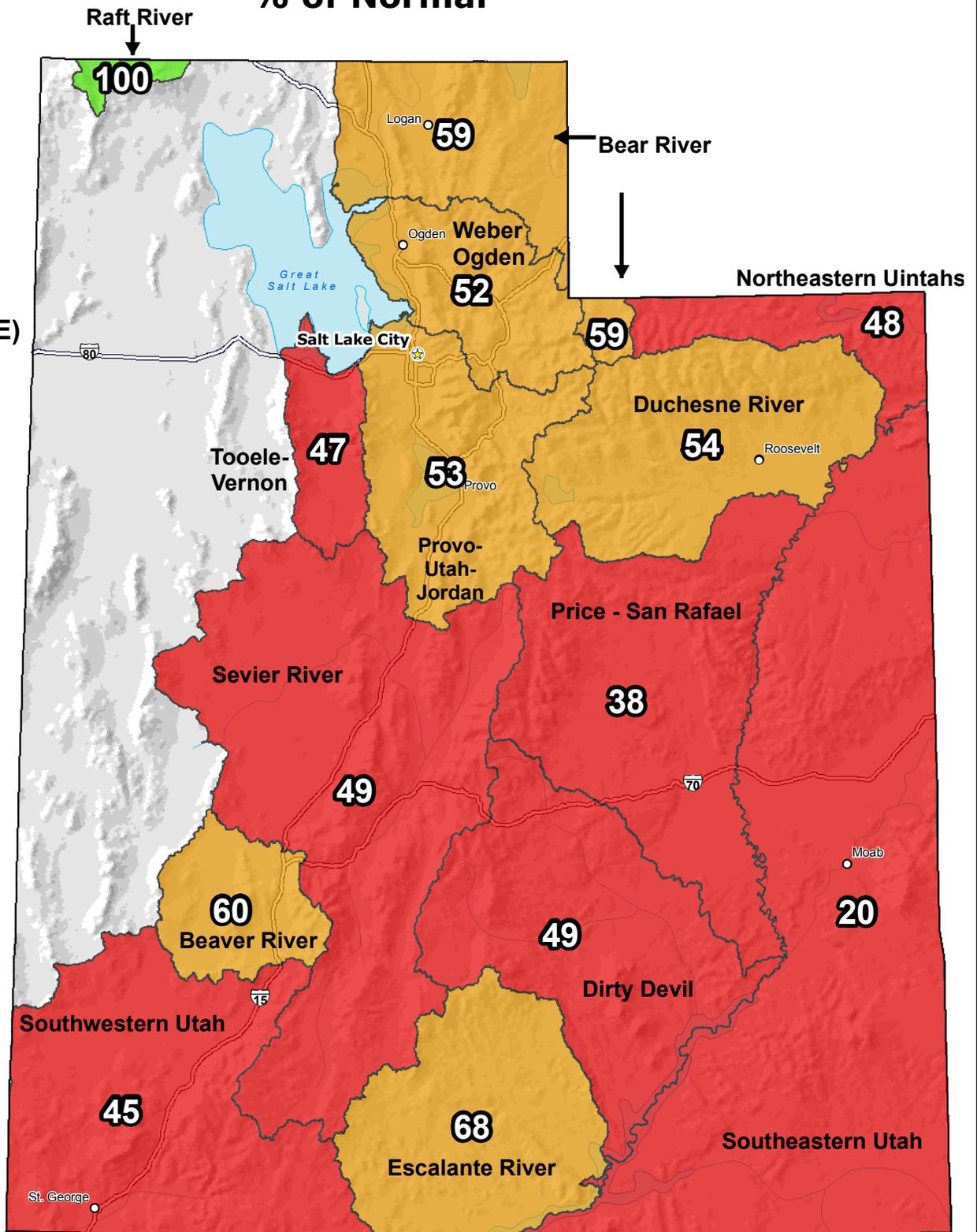
Apr 01, 2012

Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1971-2000 Normal



* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

**Provisional Data
Subject to Revision**



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by the USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/>
Based on data from <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/reports/>
Science contact: Jim.Marron@por.usda.gov 503 414 3047

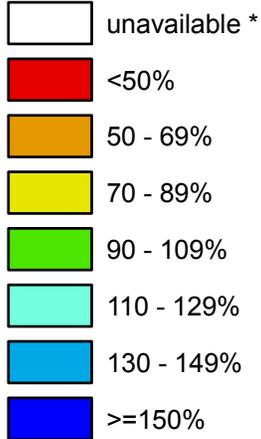
Utah

SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation

% of Normal

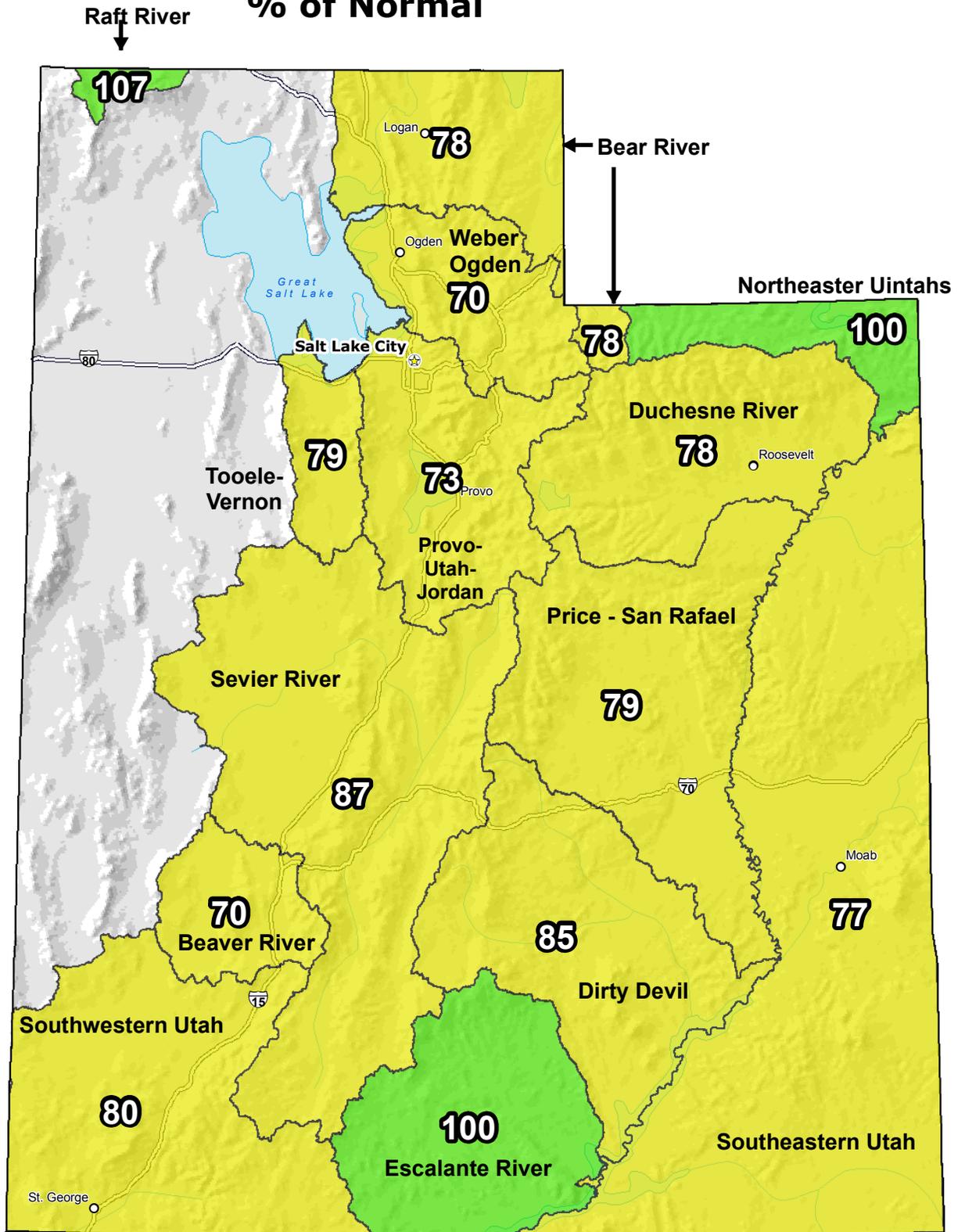
Apr 01, 2012

Water Year
(Oct 1) to Date
Precipitation
Basin-wide
Percent of
1971-2000
Normal



* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

**Provisional Data
Subject to Revision**



The water year to date precipitation percent of normal represents the accumulated precipitation found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by the USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/>
Based on data from <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/reports/>
Science contact: Jim.Marron@por.usda.gov 503 414 3047

Bear River Basin

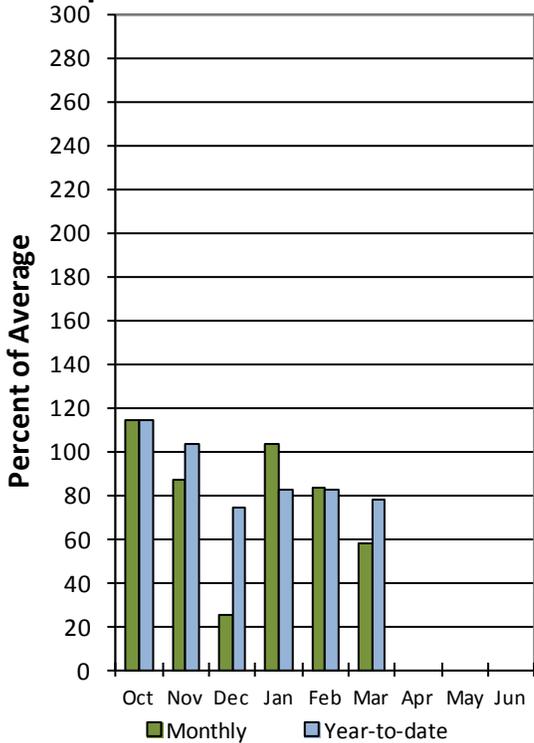
April 1, 2012

Precipitation in March was much below average at 58% which brings the water year accumulation to 78%. Reservoir storage is at 80% of capacity, which is 41% higher than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 73% compared to 71% last year. Soil moisture is at 73% compared to 71% last year.

Bear River

Precipitation

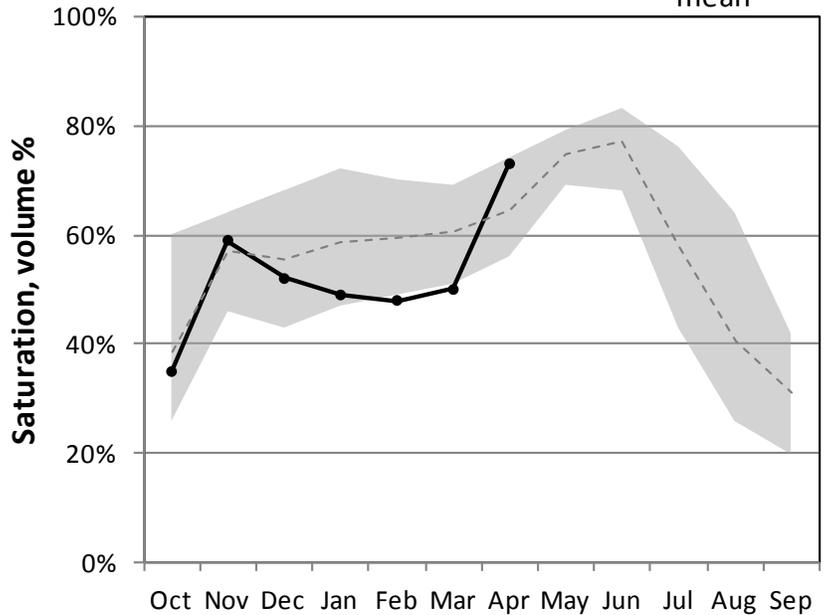
4/1/2012



Bear River Soil Moisture

—●— WY 2012

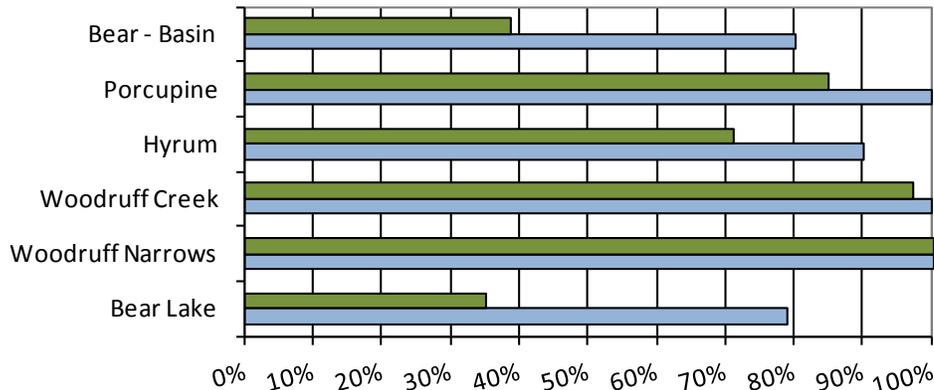
- - - - mean



Percent saturation is calculated using the weighted average of volumetric soil moisture content at 2, 8, and 20-inch depths. Saturation is estimated as 40% volumetric water content. The gray area represents the range in saturation values since 2005.

April Bear River Reservoir Storage

■ Previous Yr % Capacity ■ Current % Capacity



April 1, 2012

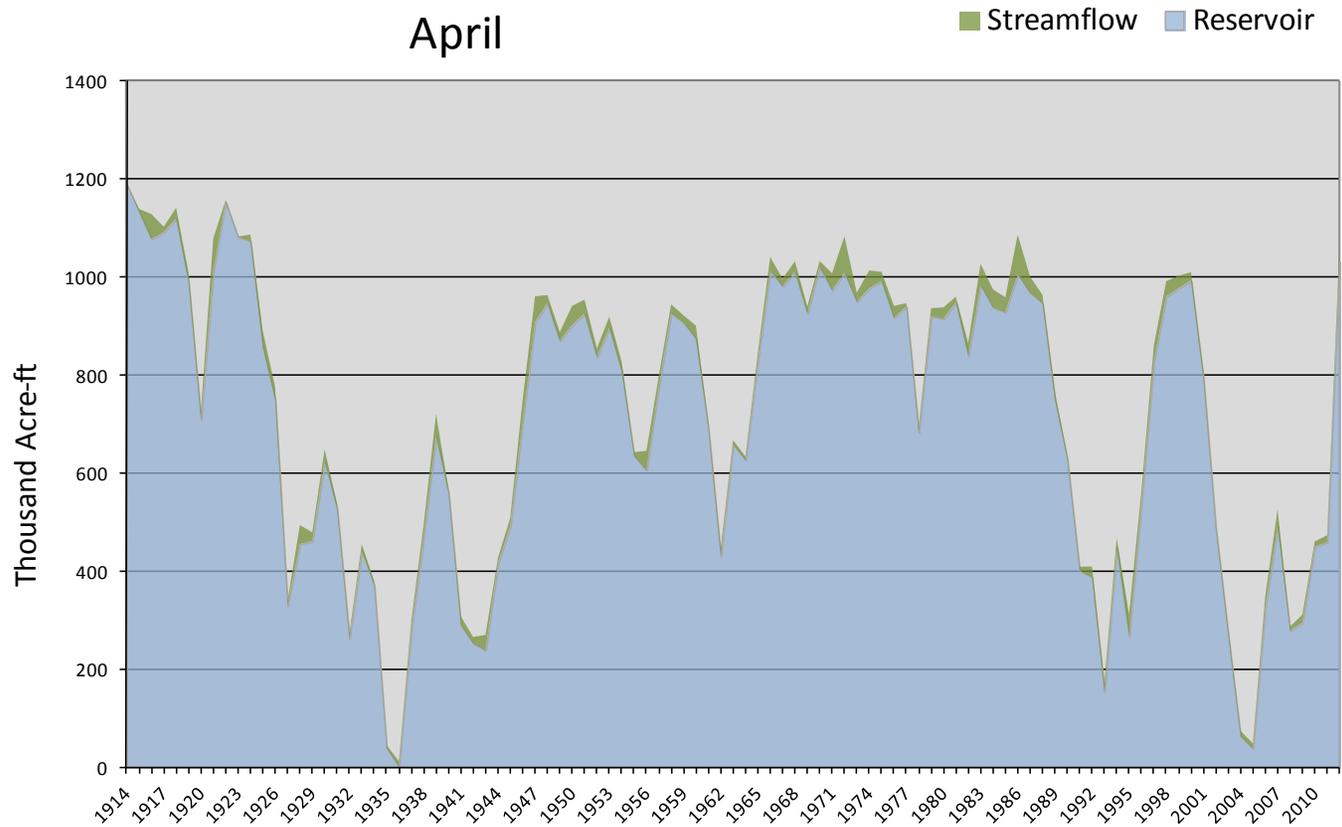
Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	March EOM*	March accumulated inflow to Bear Lake (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Bear River	1031	29.0	1060	3.17	88	70,66,21,23

*EOM, end of month; [#] WAI, water availability index; [^]KAF, thousand acre-feet.

Bear Lake - Water Availability Index

April

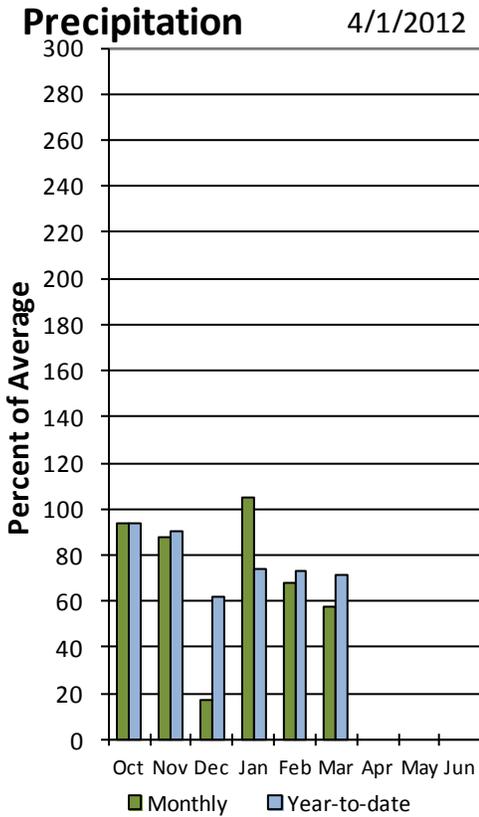


Weber and Ogden River Basin

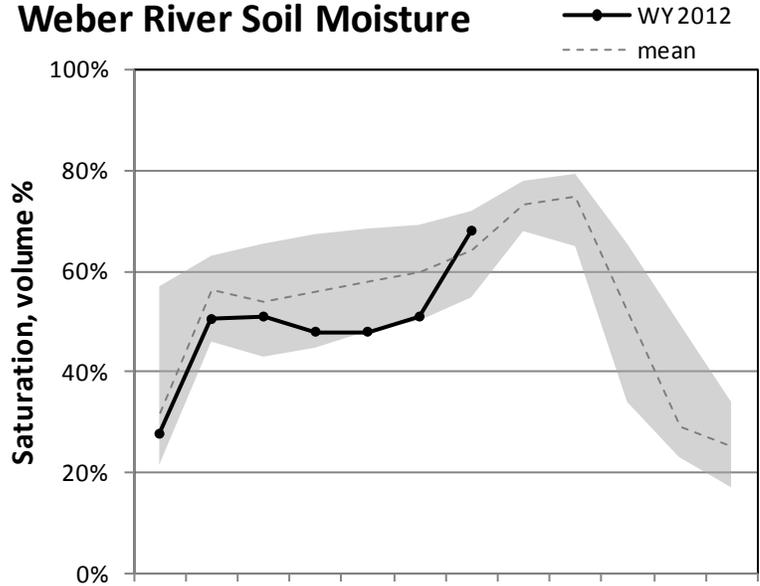
April 1, 2012

Precipitation in March was much below average at 58% which brings the water year accumulation to 71%. Reservoir storage is at 86% of capacity, which is 21% higher than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 68% compared to 69% last year.

Weber River

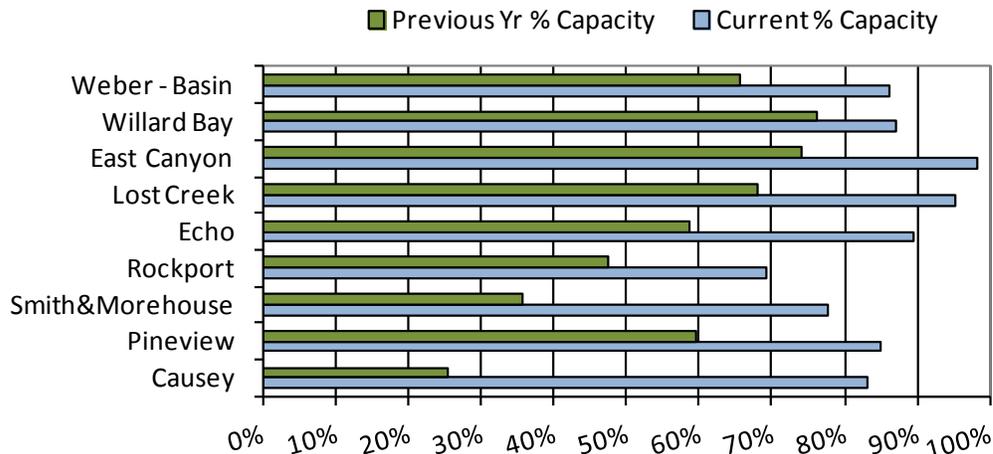


Weber River Soil Moisture



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep
 Percent saturation is calculated using the weighted average of volumetric soil moisture content at 2, 8, and 20-inch depths. Saturation is estimated as 40% volumetric water content. The gray area represents the range in saturation values since 2005.

April Weber Basin Reservoir Storage

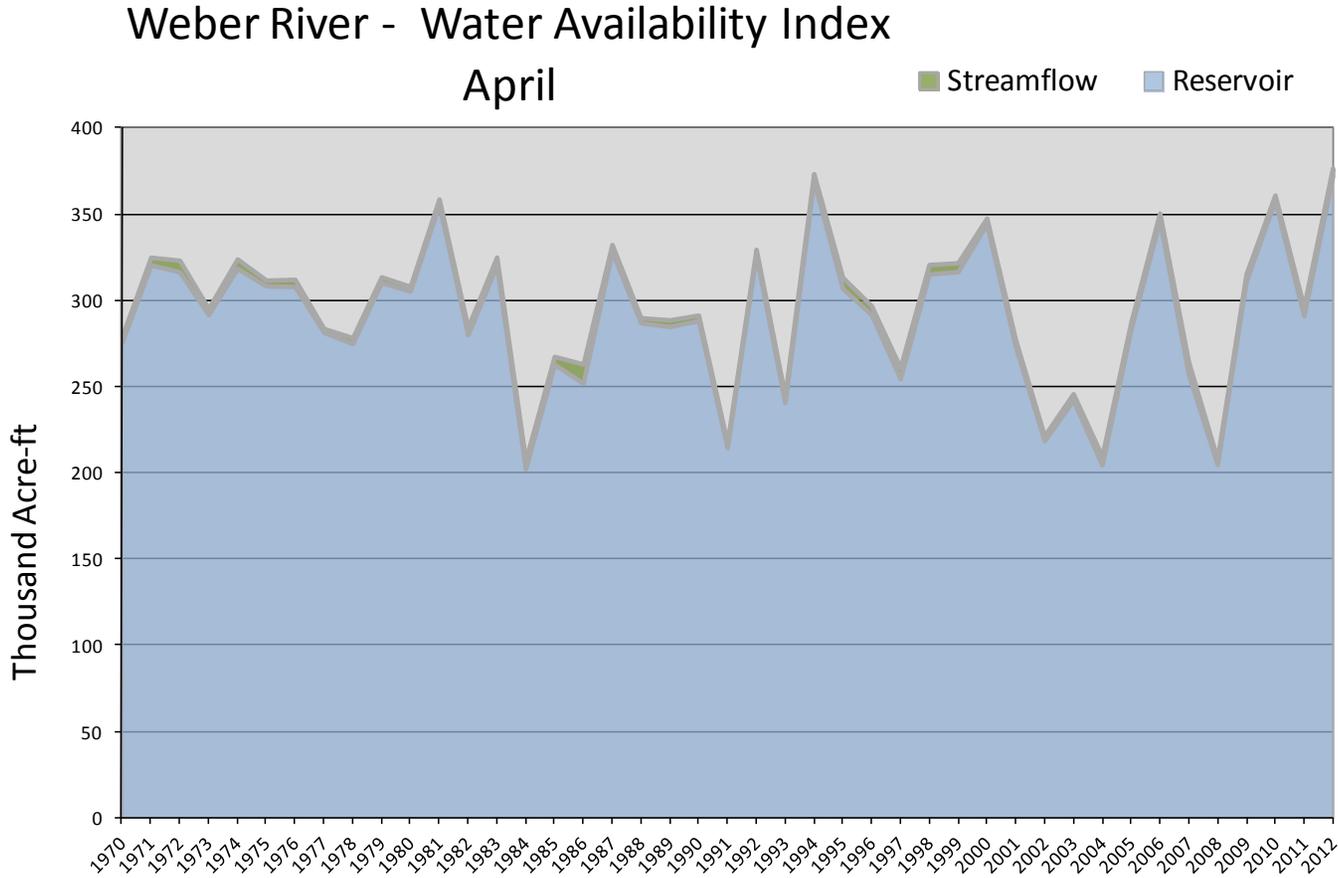


April 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	March EOM* Reservoirs	March accumulated flow at Weber near Oakley (observed)	Reservoirs + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Weber River	372	4.8	376	3.98	98	06,81,10,94

*EOM, end of month; [#] WAI, water availability index; [^]KAF, thousand acre-feet.



April 1, 2012

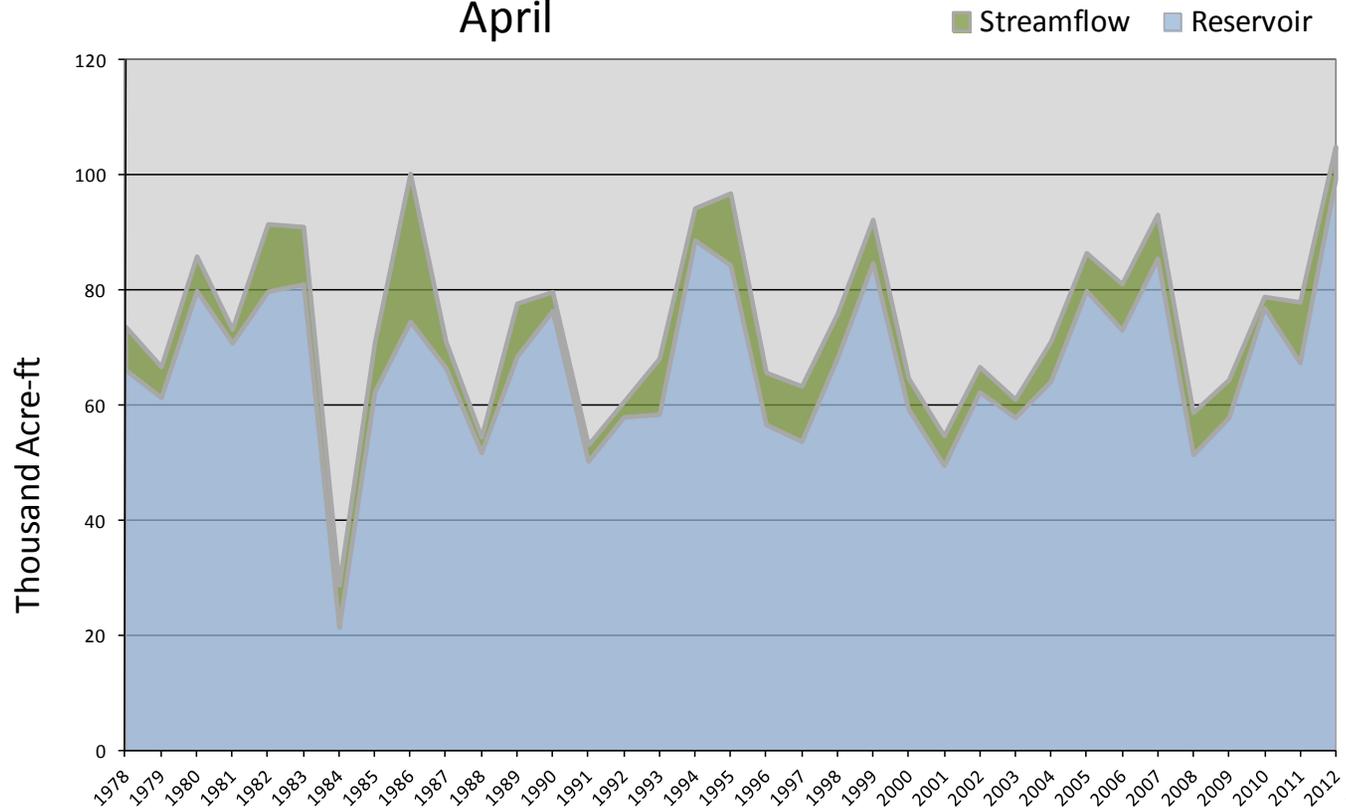
Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	March EOM* Pine View & Causey	March accumulated flow at South Fork Ogden (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Ogden River	99.4	5.7	105.0	3.94	97	07,94,95,86

*EOM, end of month; [#] WAI, water availability index; [^]KAF, thousand acre-feet.

Ogden River - Water Availability Index

April



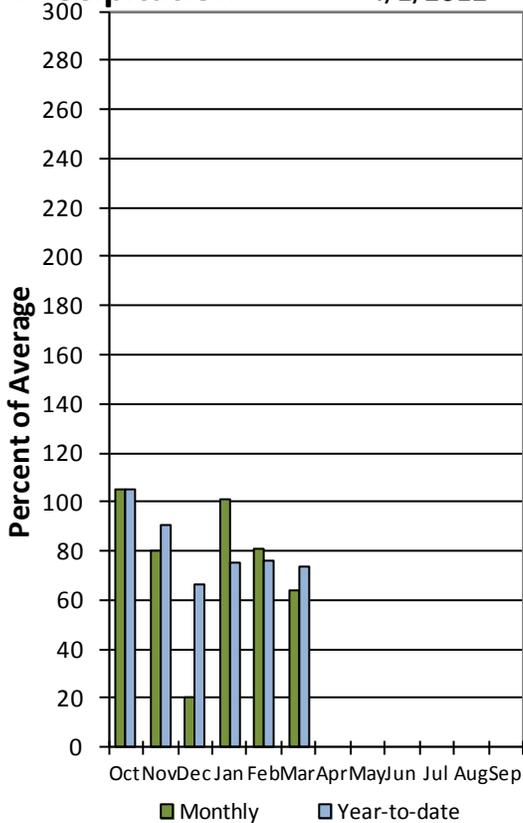
Utah Lake, Jordan River, & Tooele Valley Basins April 1, 2012

Precipitation in March was much below average at 64%, bringing water year accumulation to 74%. Reservoir storage is at 92% of capacity, which is 1% more than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 61% compared to 60% last year at this time.

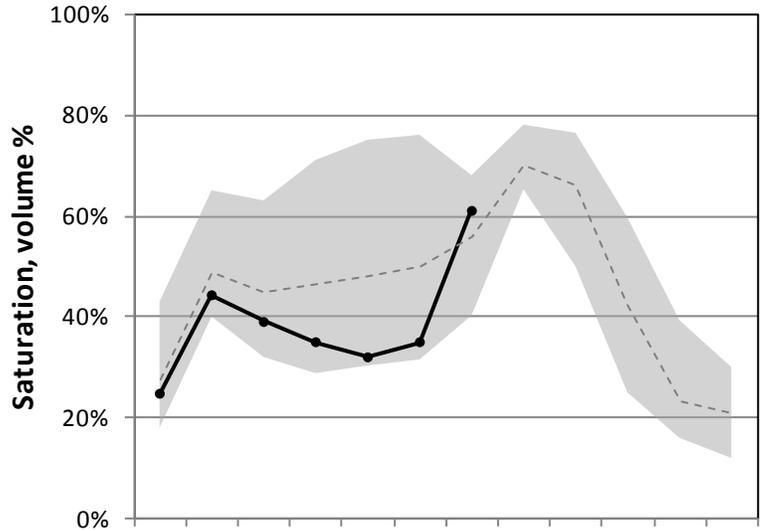
Jordan / Provo River

Precipitation

4/1/2012

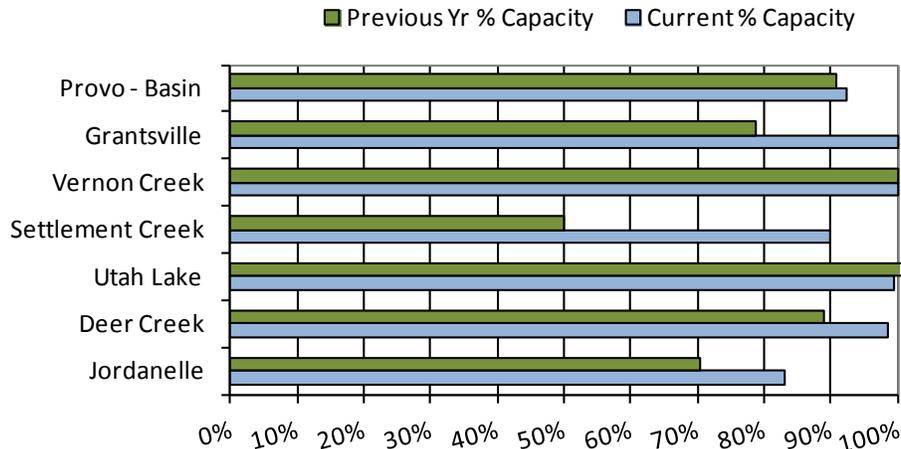


Jordan/Provo River Soil Moisture



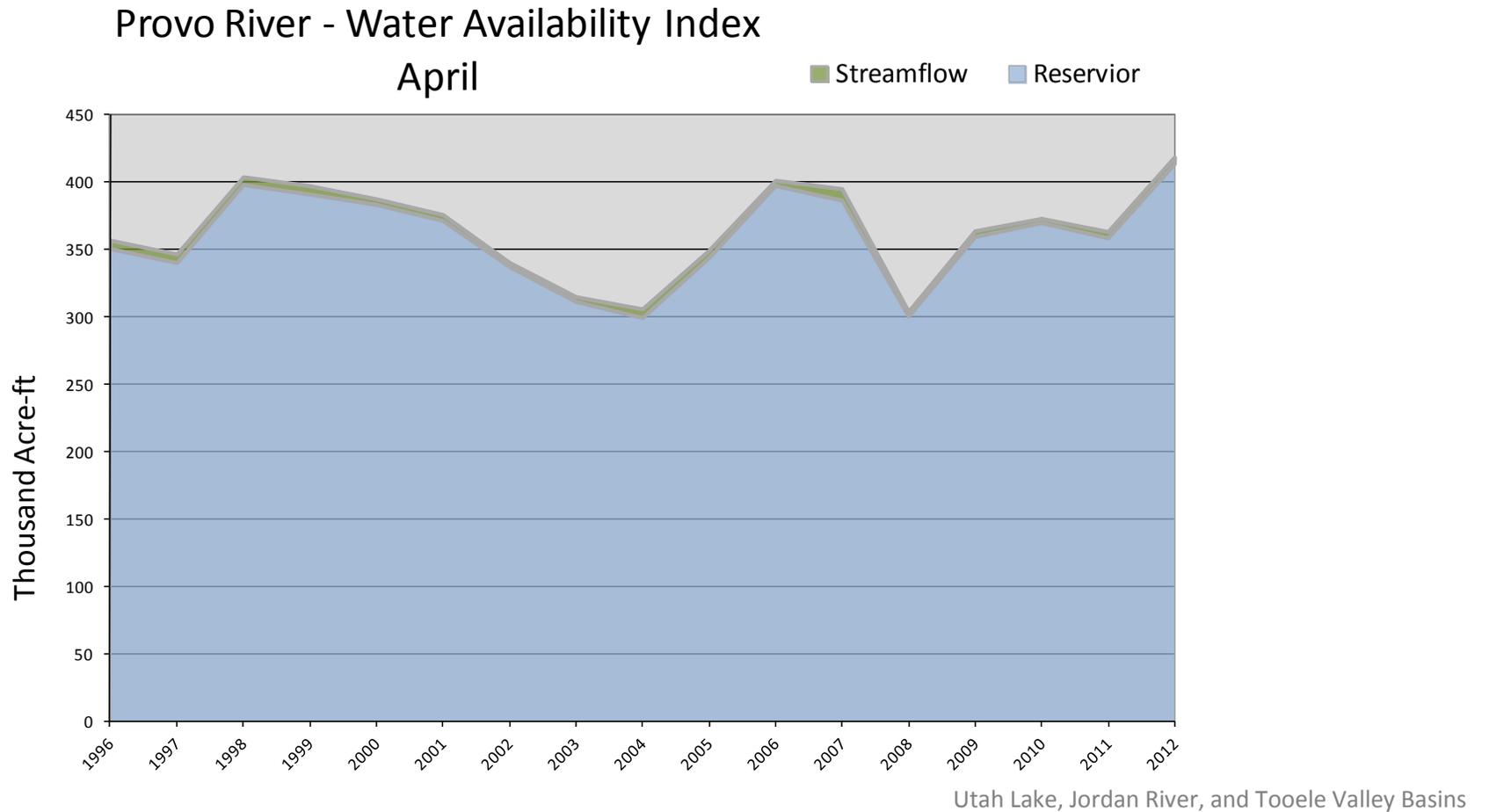
Percent saturation is calculated using the weighted average of volumetric soil moisture content at 2, 8, and 20-inch depths. Saturation is estimated as 40% volumetric water content. The gray area represents the range in saturation values since 2005.

April Provo River Reservoir Storage



April 1, 2012	Water Availability Index					
Basin or Region	March EOM* Deer Creek, Jordanelle	March accumulated flow Provo River at Woodland (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Provo	414	4.9	418	3.70	94%	98,06,99,07

**EOM, end of month; [#] WAI, water availability index; [^]KAF, thousand acre-feet.*



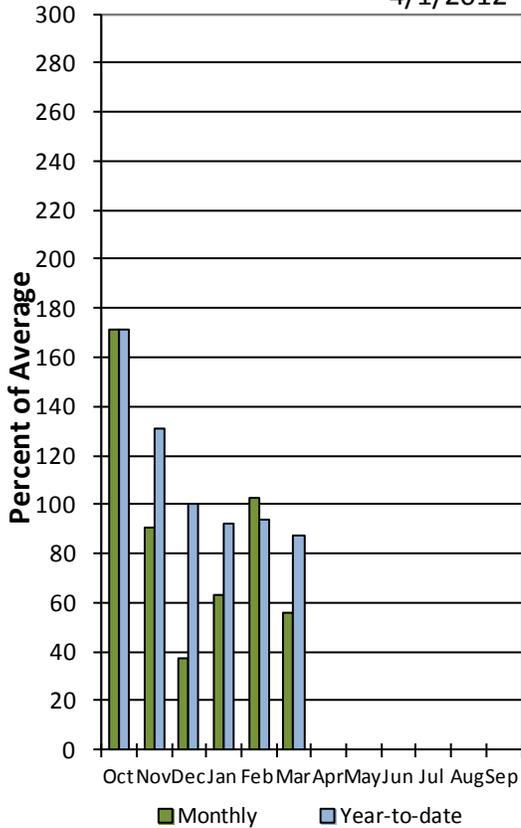
Uintah Basin and Dagget SCDs

April 1, 2012

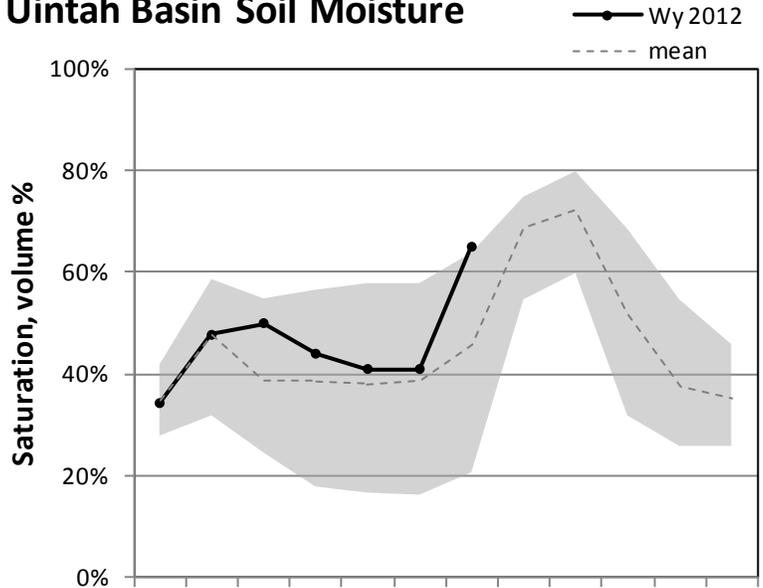
Precipitation in March was much below average at 56%, bringing the water year accumulation to 87%. Reservoir storage is at 89% of capacity, which is 4% higher this time last year. Soil moisture is at 65% compared to 56% last year.

Uintah Precipitation

4/1/2012

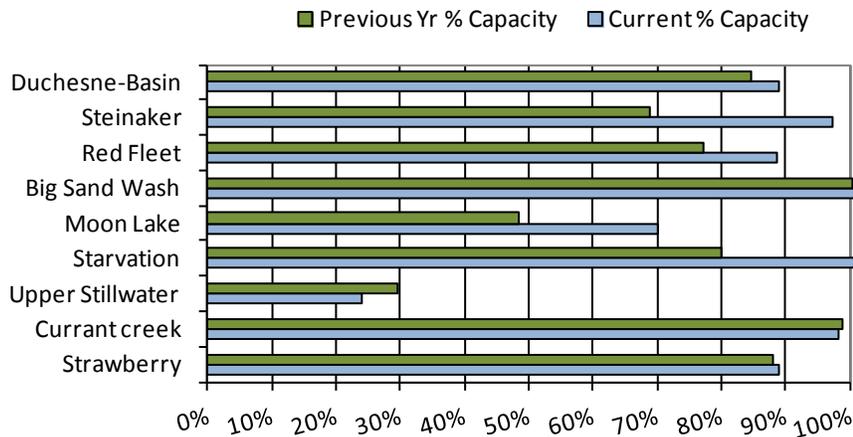


Uintah Basin Soil Moisture



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep
 Percent saturation is calculated using the weighted average of volumetric soil moisture content at 2, 8, and 20-inch depths. Saturation is estimated as 40% volumetric water content. The gray area represents the range in saturation values since 2005.

April Uintah Basin Reservoir Storage



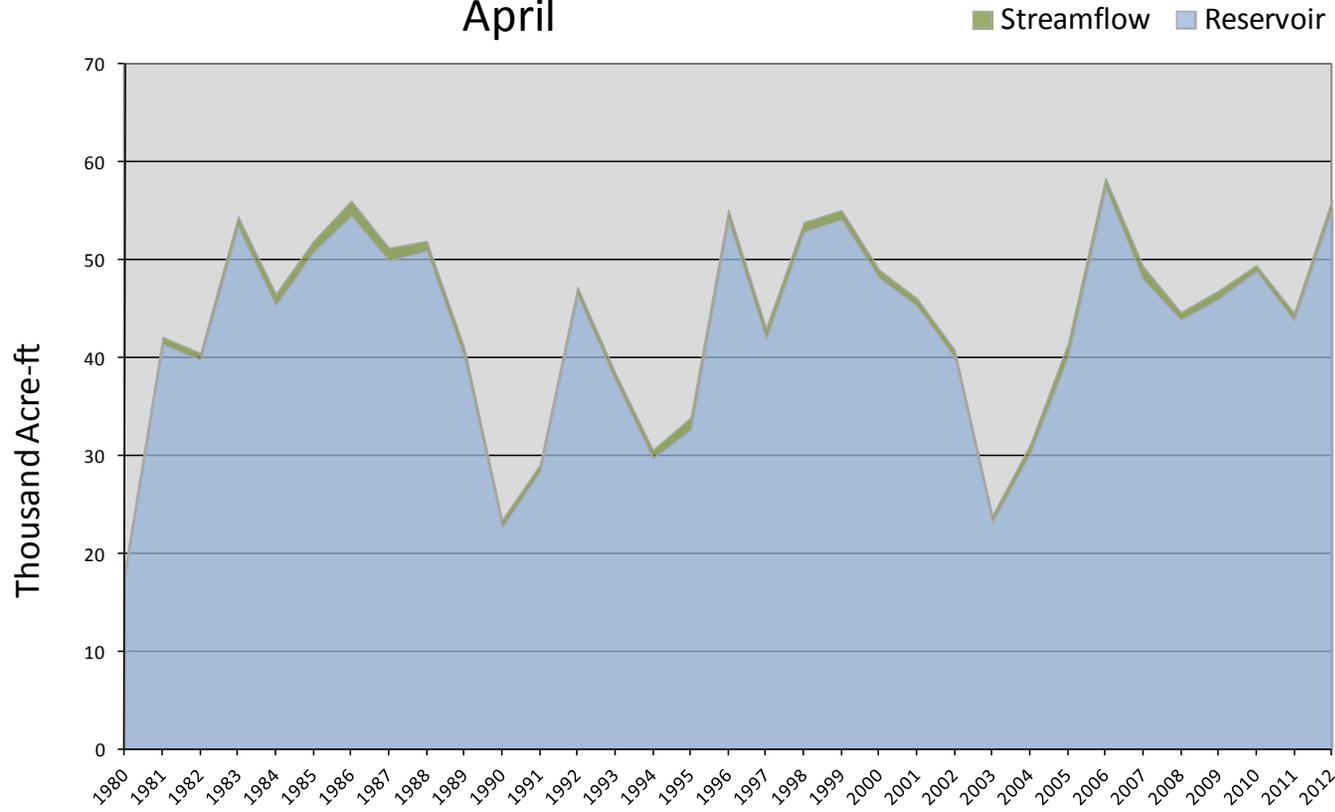
April 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	March EOM* Red Fleet and Steinaker	March accumulated flow Big Brush Creek (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Eastern Uintah	55.3	0.9	56.2	3.68	94	96, 86, 06

Eastern Uintah - Water Availability Index

April



April 1, 2012

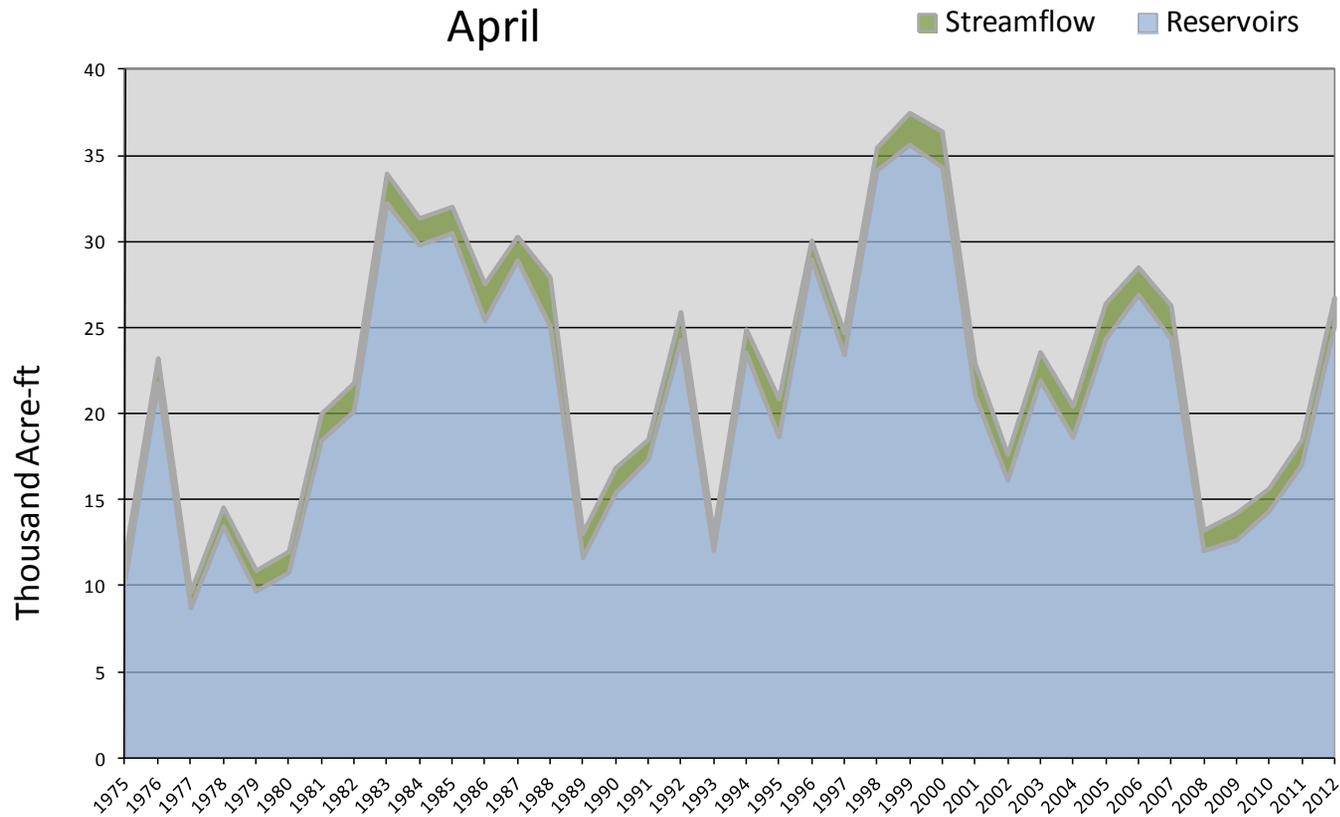
Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	March EOM* Moon Lake	March accumulated flow Lake Fork Creek above Moon Lake (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Moon Lake	25.1	1.7	26.8	1.60	69	07, 05, 86, 88

*EOM, end of month; # WAI, water availability index; ^KAF, thousand acre-feet.

Moon Lake - Water Availability Index

April



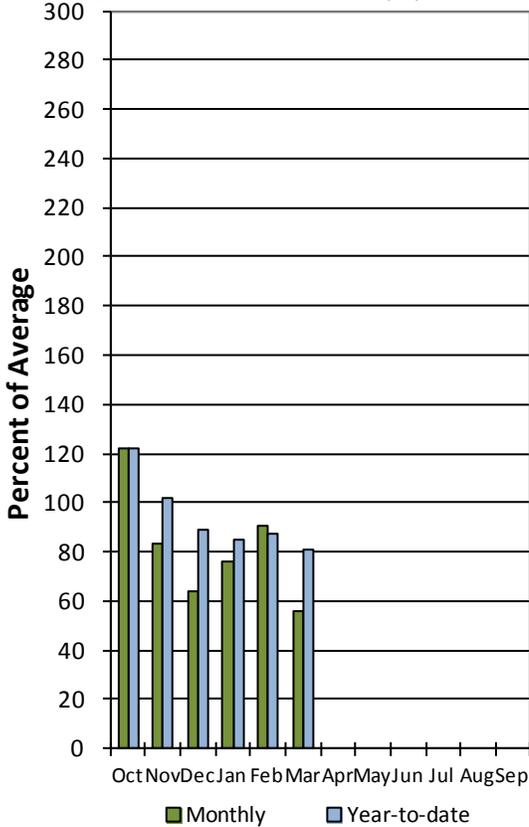
Southeast – Carbon, Emery, Wayne, Grand, and San Juan Counties April 1, 2012

Precipitation in March was much below average at 56%, bringing the water year accumulation to 81%. Reservoir storage is at 80% of capacity, which is 15% higher than at this time last year. Soil moisture is at 73% compared to 72% last year.

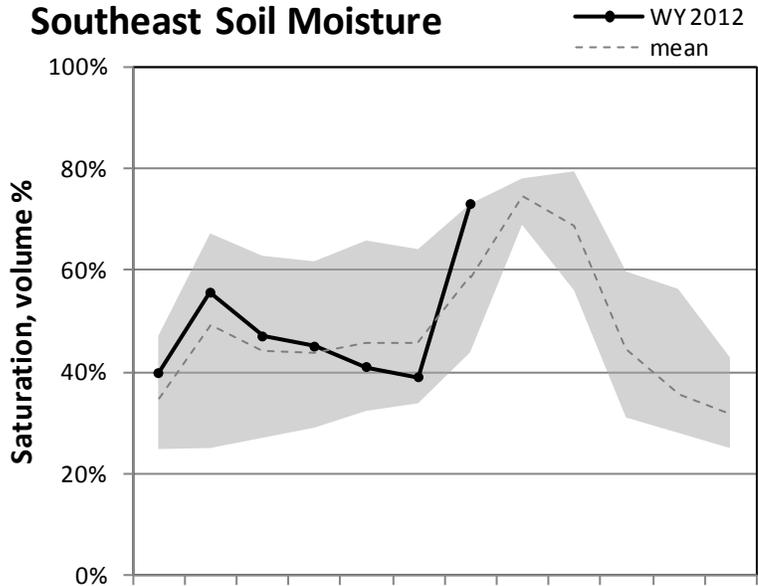
Southeast Utah

Precipitation

4/1/2012

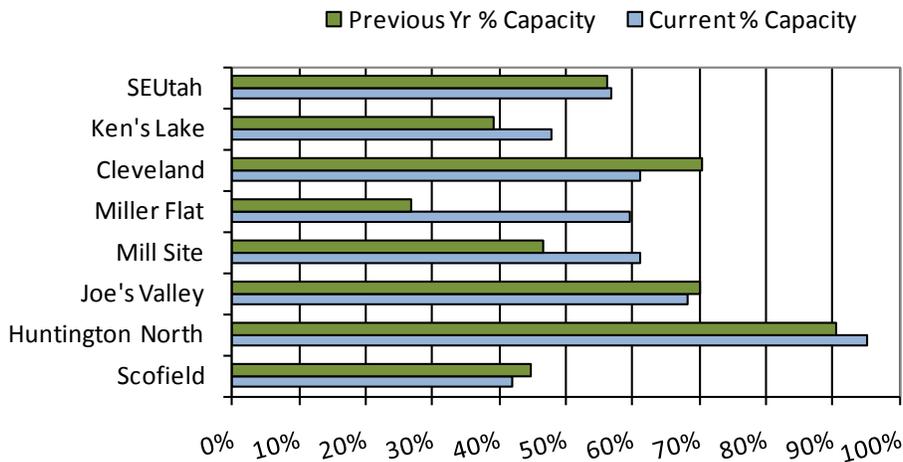


Southeast Soil Moisture



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep
 Percent saturation is calculated using the weighted average of volumetric soil moisture content at 2, 8, and 20-inch depths. Saturation is estimated as 40% volumetric water content. The gray area represents the range in saturation values since 2005.

April Southeast Utah Reservoir Storage

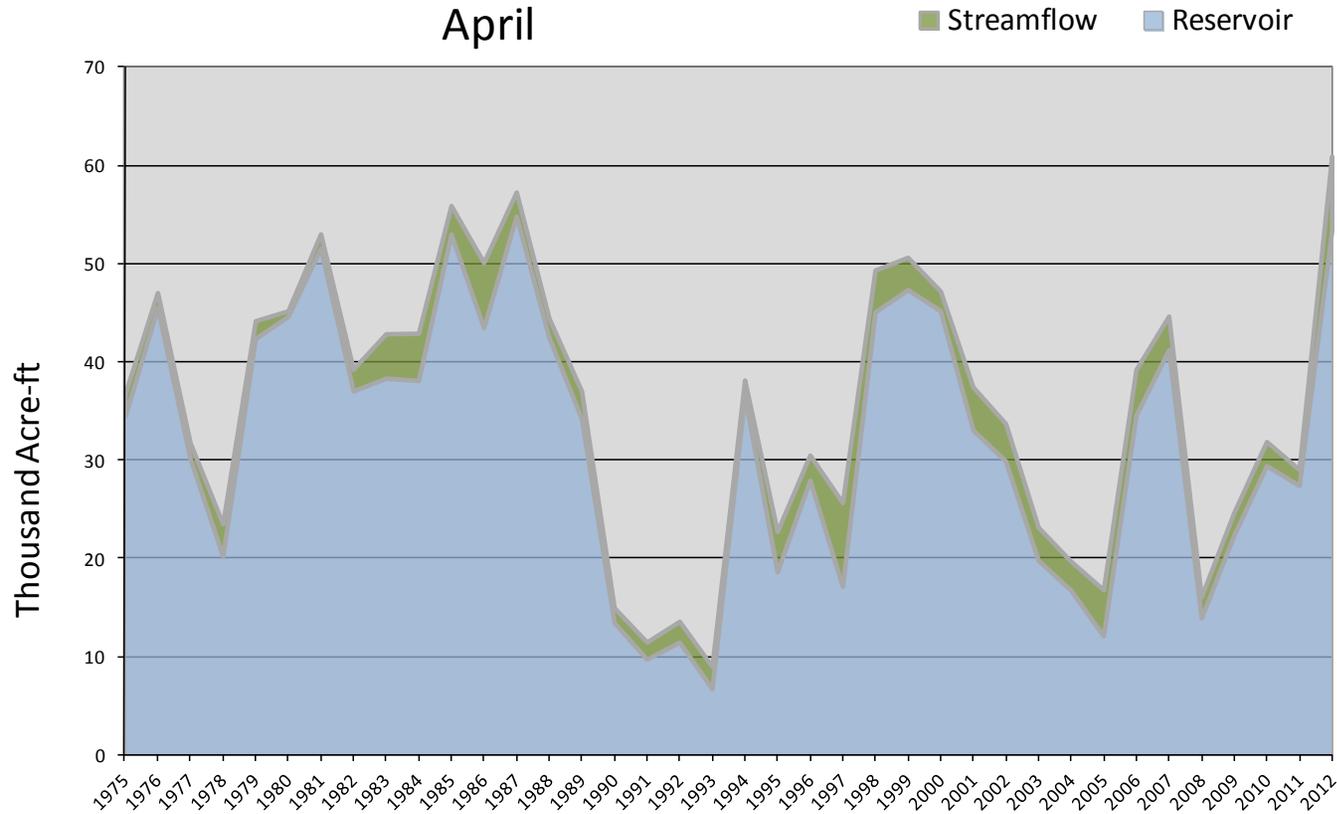


April 1, 2012	Water Availability Index					
Basin or Region	March EOM* Scofield	March accumulated inflow to Scofield (calculated)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Price River	53.5	7.5	61.0	3.95	97	85, 87

**EOM, end of month; [#] WAI, water availability index; [^]KAF, thousand acre-feet.*

Price River - Water Availability Index

April



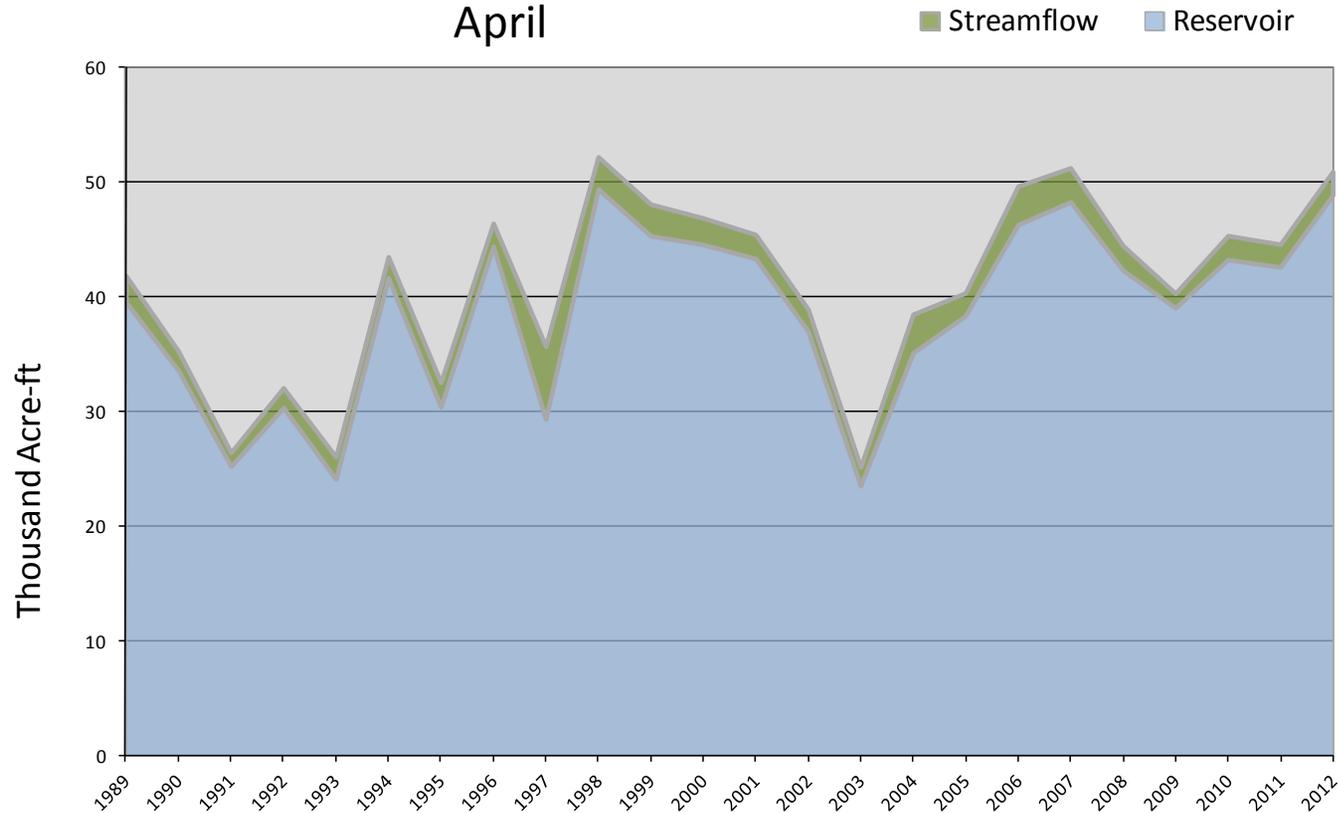
April 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	March EOM* Joe's Valley	March accumulated inflow to Joe's Valley (calculated)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Joe's Valley	48.9	2.0	50.9	3.17	88	99, 06, 07, 98

*EOM, end of month; # WAI, water availability index; ^KAF, thousand acre-feet.

Joe's Valley - Water Availability Index
April



April 1, 2012

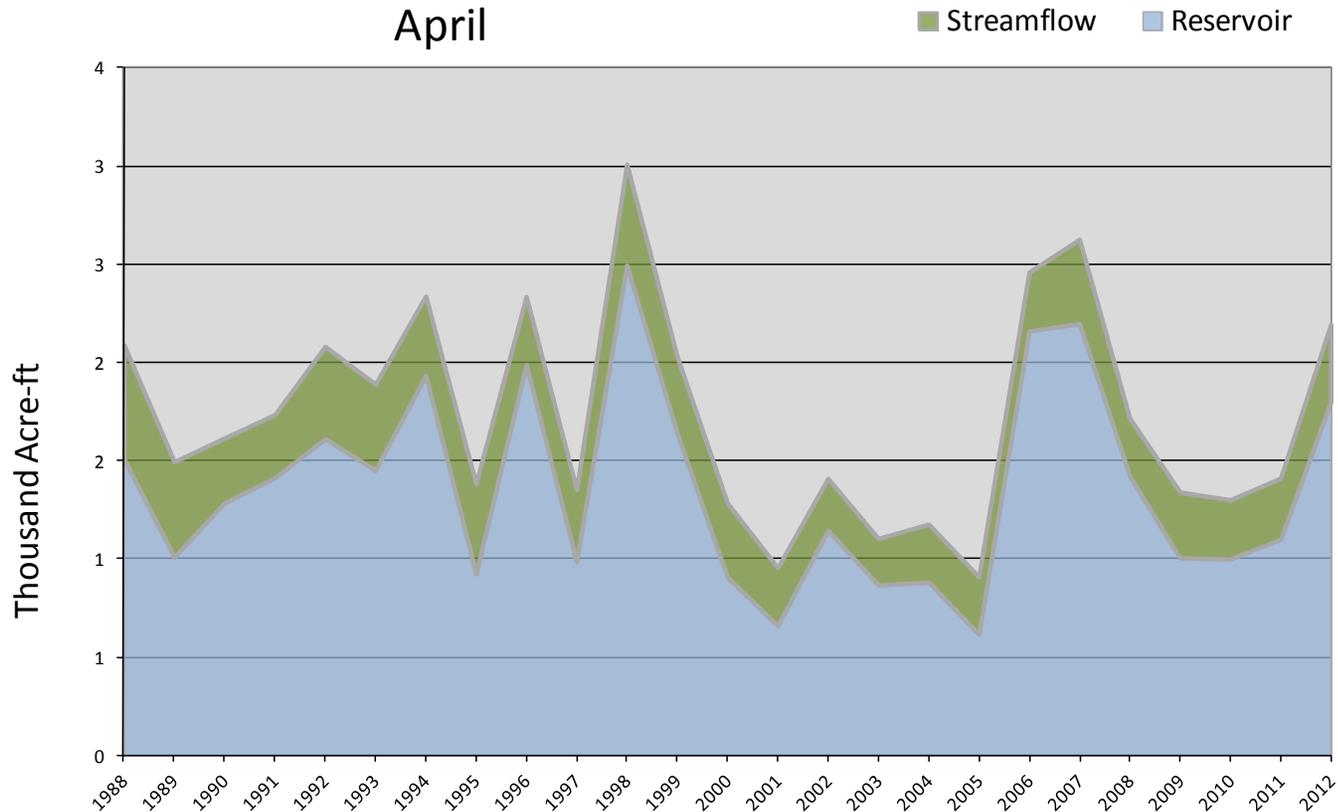
Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	March EOM* Ken's Lake Reservoir	March accumulated flow Mill Creek at Sheley (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Moab	1.8	0.4	2.2	2.24	77	92, 88, 96, 94

*EOM, end of month; [#] WAI, water availability index; [^]KAF, thousand acre-feet.

Moab - Water Availability Index

April



Sevier and Beaver River Basins

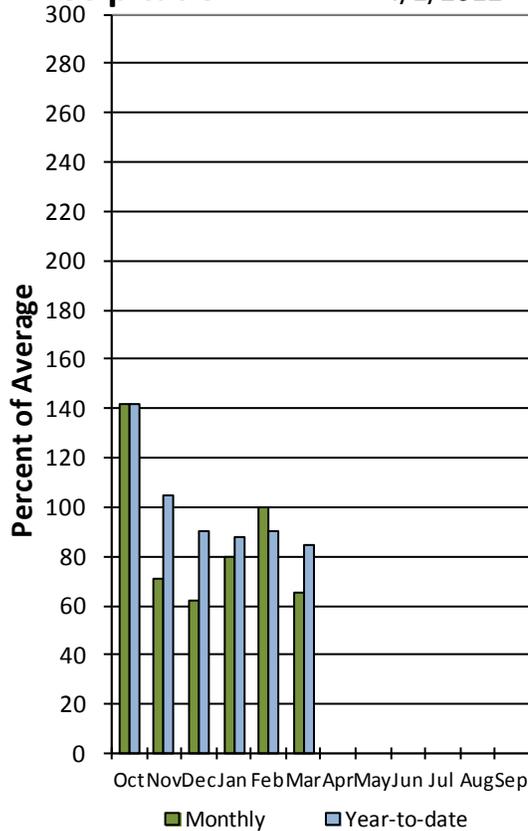
April 1, 2012

Precipitation in March was average at 65%, which brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-Mar) to 85% of average. Reservoir storage is at 95% of capacity, 25% more than last year. Current soil moisture is at 64% compared to 68% last year.

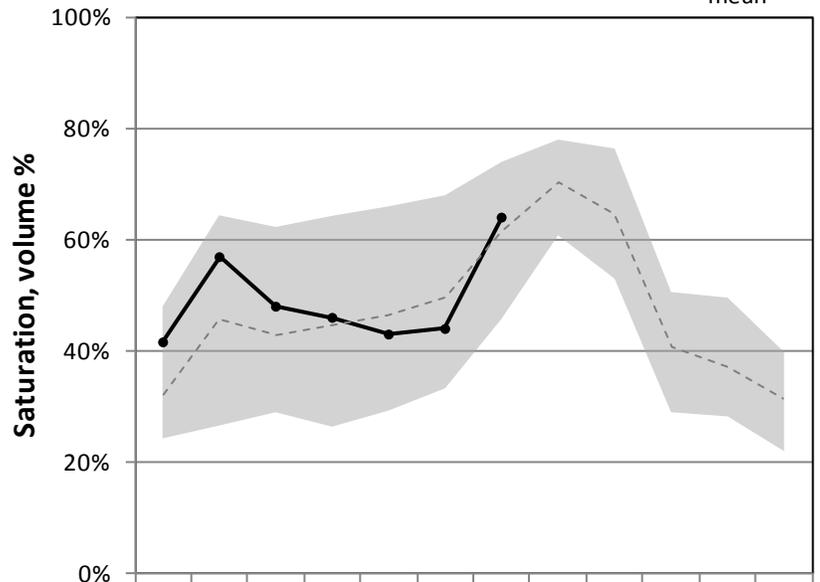
Sevier /Beaver River

Precipitation

4/1/2012

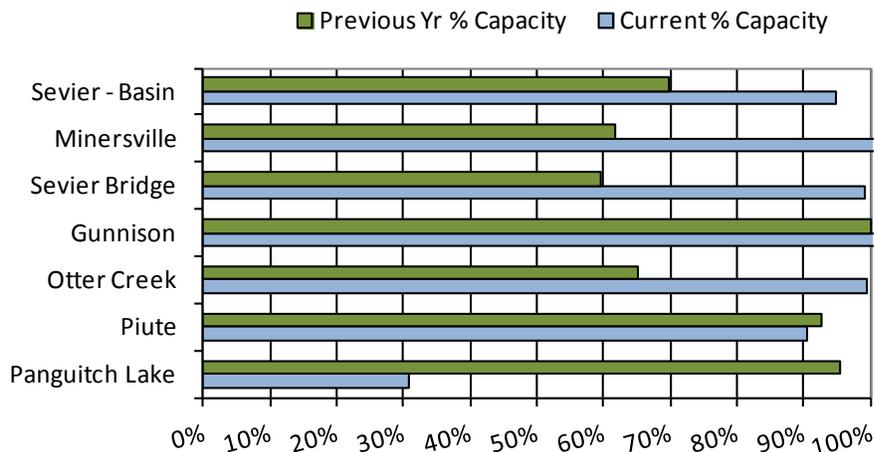


Sevier/Beaver River Soil Moisture



Percent saturation is calculated using the weighted average of volumetric soil moisture content at 2, 8, and 20-inch depths. Saturation is estimated as 40% volumetric water content. The gray area represents the range in saturation values since 2005.

April Sevier River Reservoir Storage

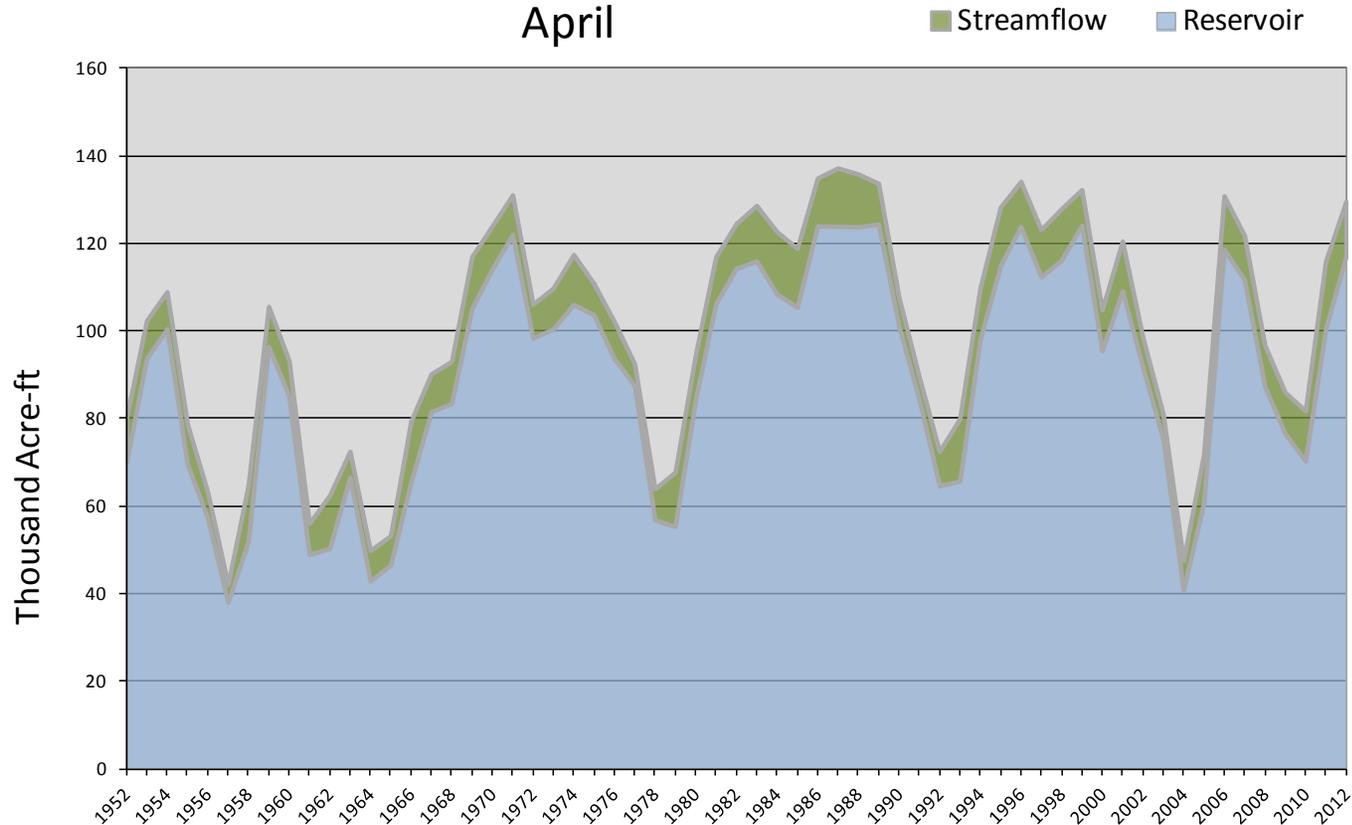


April 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	March EOM* Otter Creek and Piute	March accumulated flow at Kingston (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Upper Sevier River	117.2	12.5	129.7	2.96	85	95,83,06,71

*EOM, end of month; # WAI, water availability index; ^KAF, thousand acre-feet.

Upper Sevier River - Water Availability Index

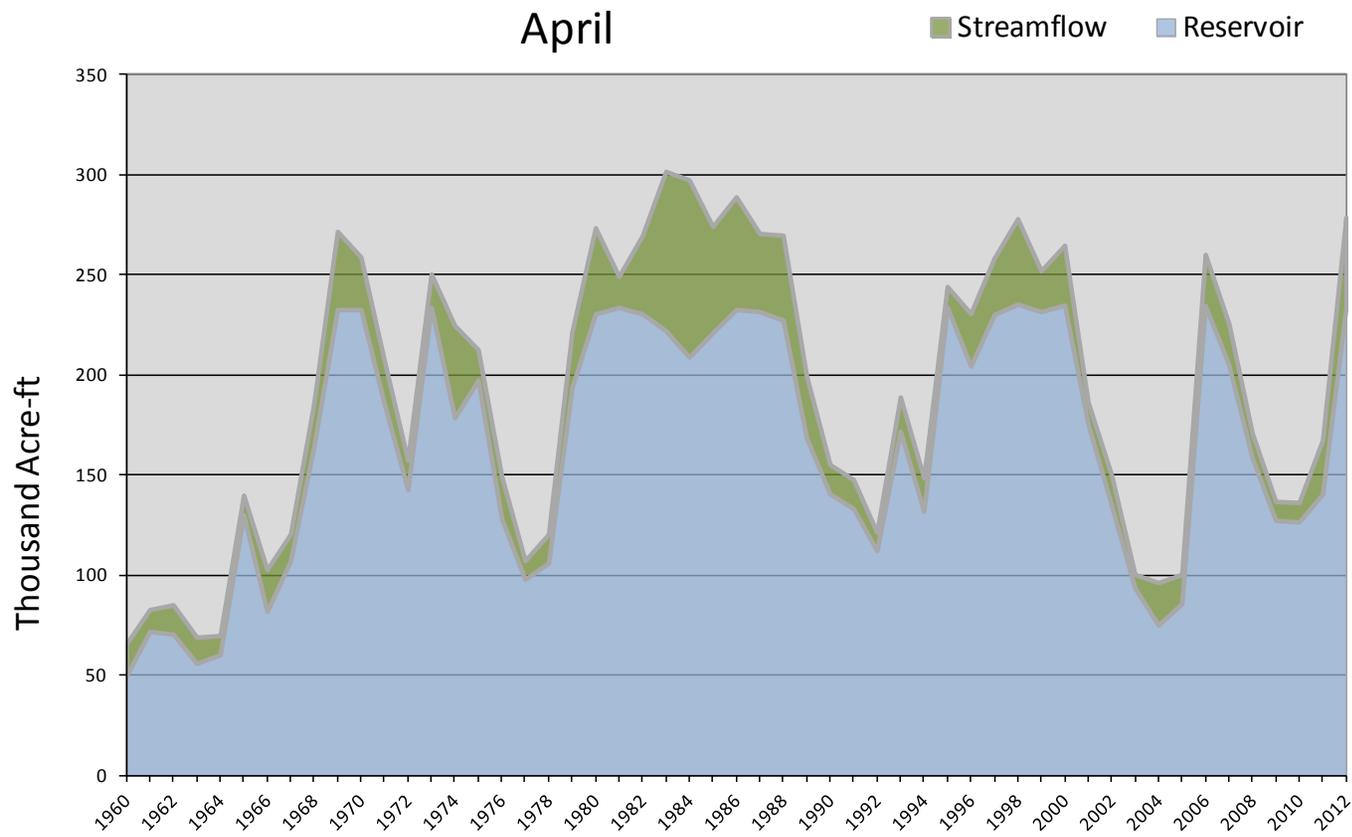
April



April 1, 2012	Water Availability Index					
Basin or Region	March EOM* Sevier Bridge	March accumulated flow Sevier at Gunnison (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Lower Sevier River	234.1	45.0	279.1	3.55	93	85,98,86,84

**EOM, end of month; [#] WAI, water availability index; [^]KAF, thousand acre-feet.*

Lower Sevier River - Water Availability Index

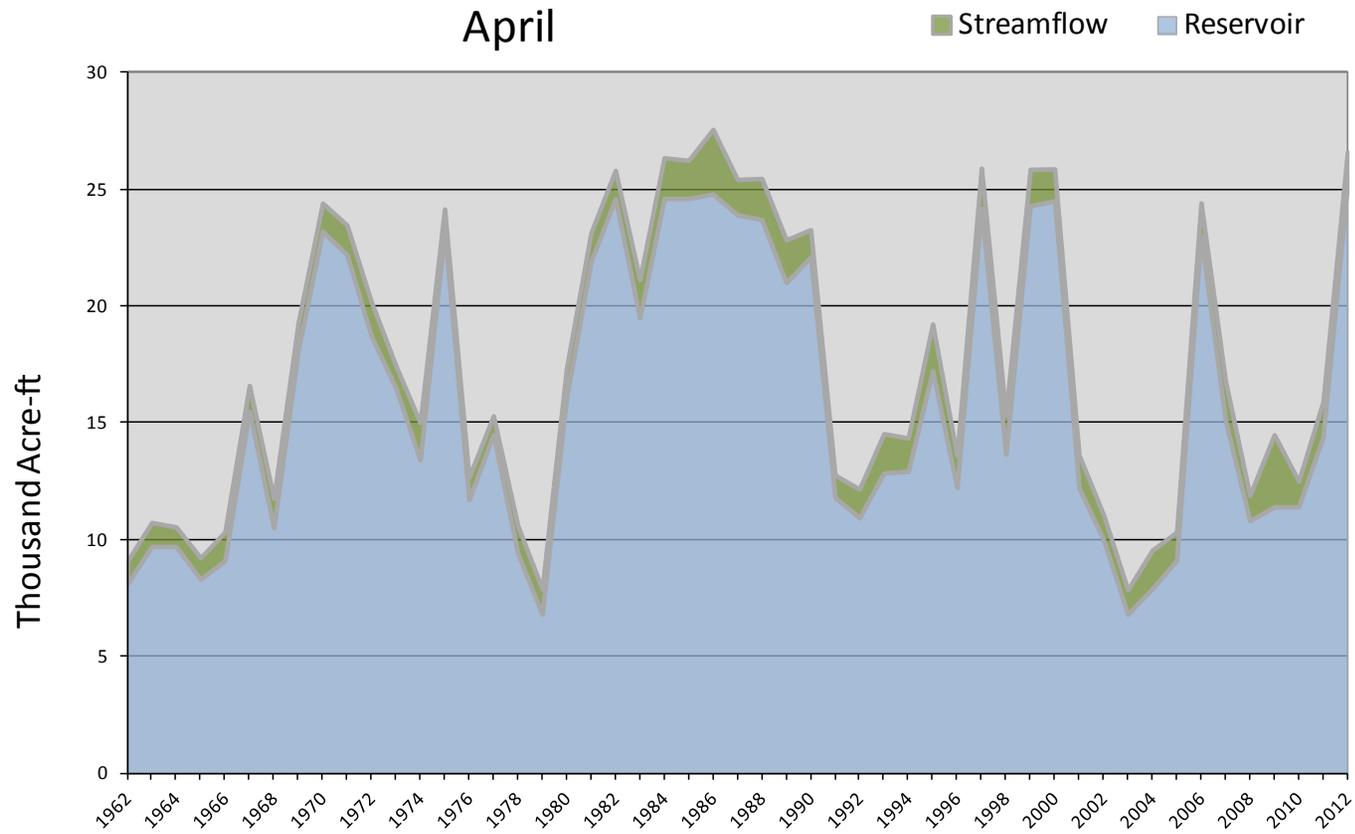


April 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	March EOM* Minersville Reservoir	March accumulated flow Beaver River at Beaver (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Beaver	25.2	1.4	26.6	3.85	96	85,84,86

**EOM, end of month; # WAI, water availability index; ^KAF, thousand acre-feet.*

Beaver River - Water Availability Index

April



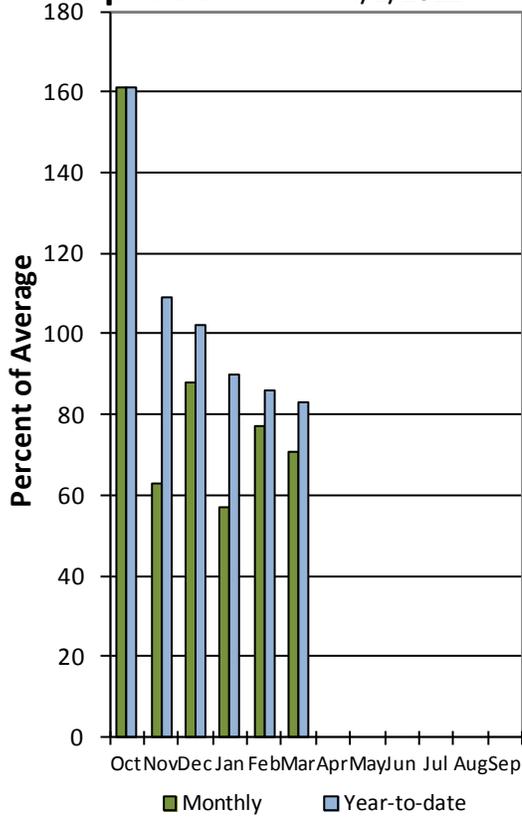
Southwest – E. Garfield, Kane, Washington, & Iron Counties April 1, 2012

Precipitation in March was below average at 72%, bringing water year accumulation to 83%. Reservoir storage is at 81% of capacity, 8% lower than last year at this time. Soil moisture is at 68% compared to 69% at this time last year.

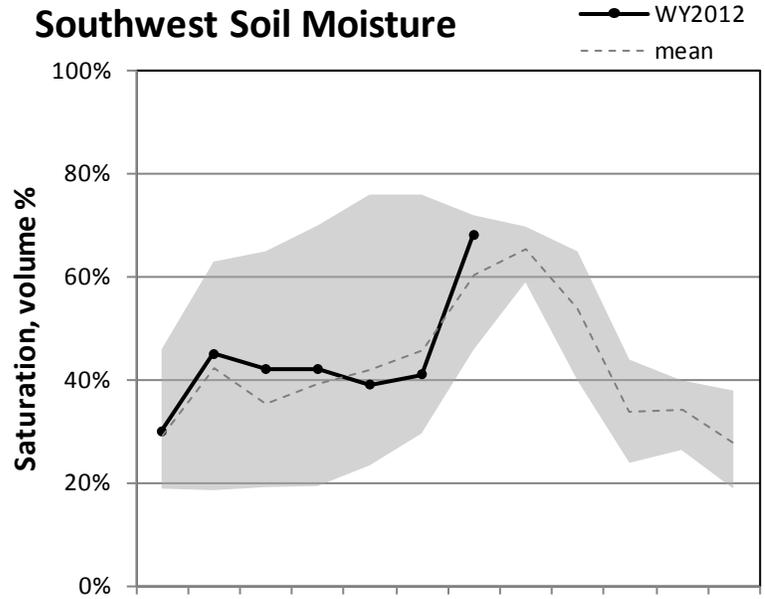
Southwest Utah

Precipitation

4/1/2012

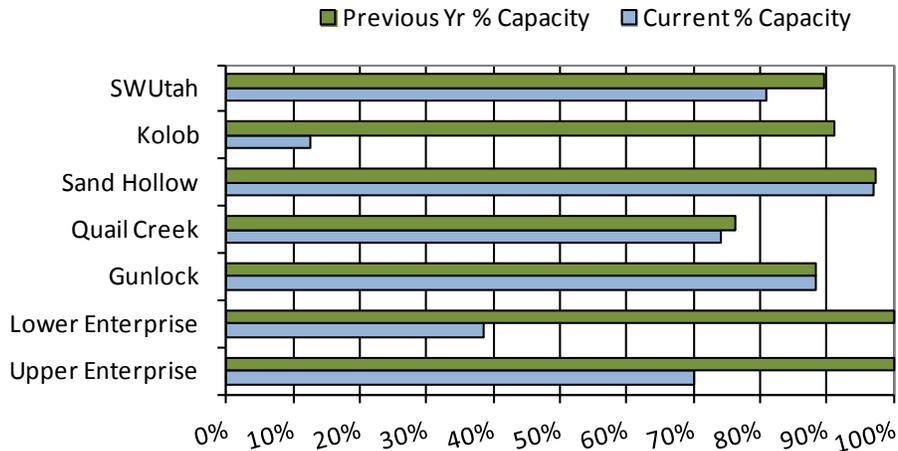


Southwest Soil Moisture



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep
 Percent saturation is calculated using the weighted average of volumetric soil moisture content at 2, 8, and 20-inch depths. Saturation is estimated as 40% volumetric water content. The gray area represents the range in saturation values since 2005.

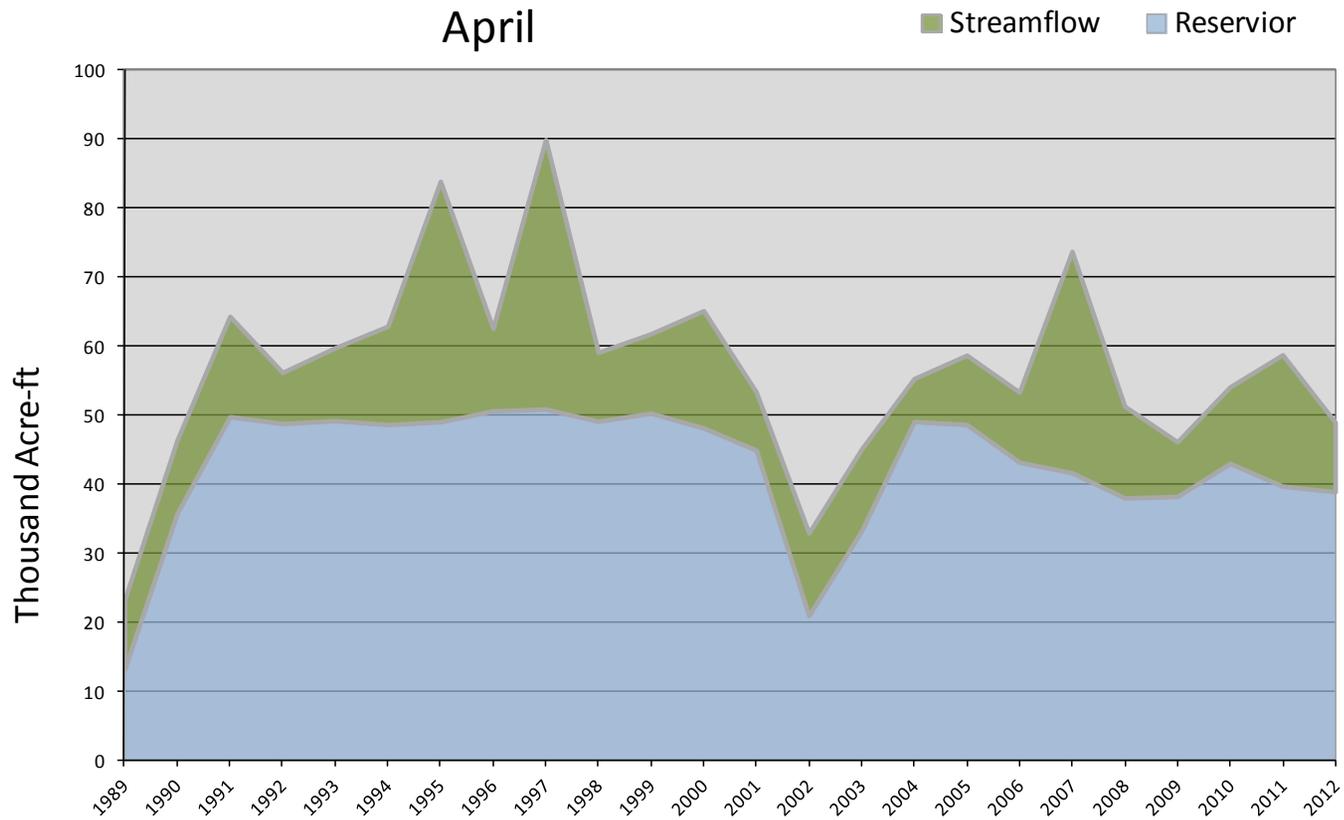
April Southwest Utah Reservoir Storage



April 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	March EOM* Reservoir	March accumulated flow Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Southwest	38.9	10.1	49.0	-2.17	24	06,08,90,09

**EOM, end of month; # WAI, water availability index; ^KAF, thousand acre-feet.*

Southwest - Water Availability Index
April



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**Utah Climate and
Water Report**
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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