

Utah Climate and Water Report

August 2012



Oak Creek SNOTEL after the fire.

Photo by Beau Uriona

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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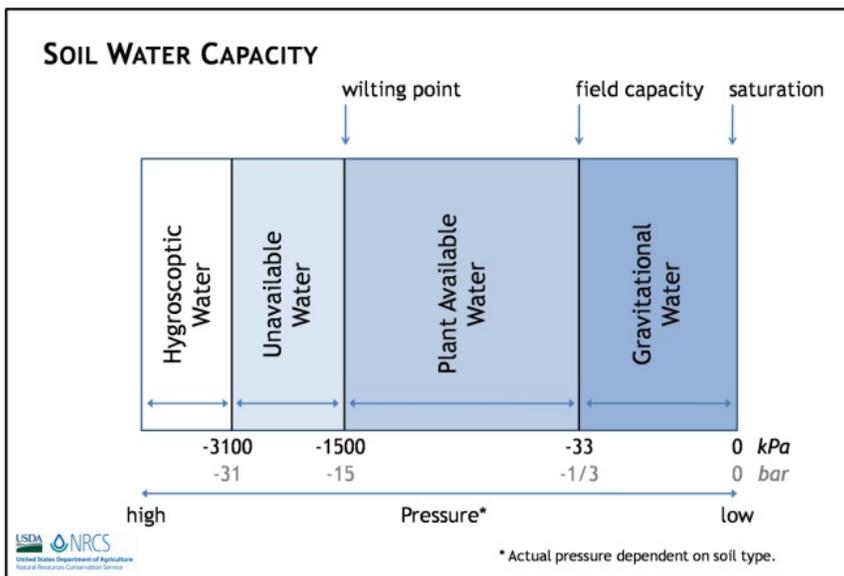
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Climate and Water Information

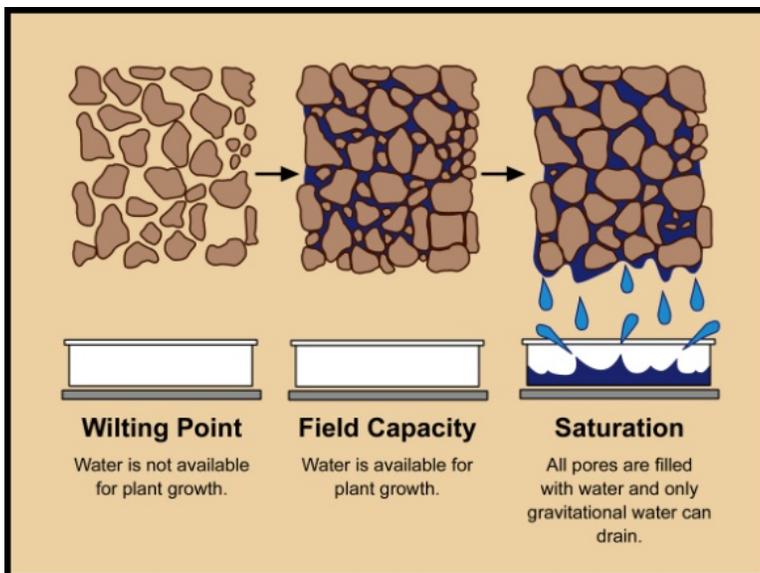
Soil Climate Analysis Network

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.

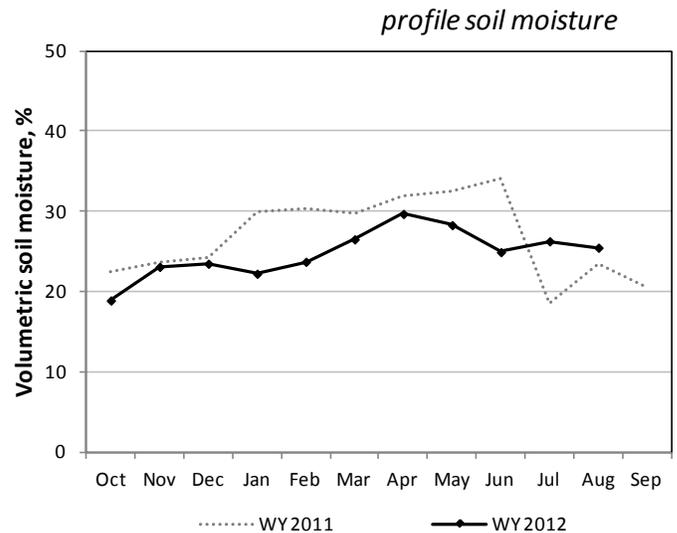
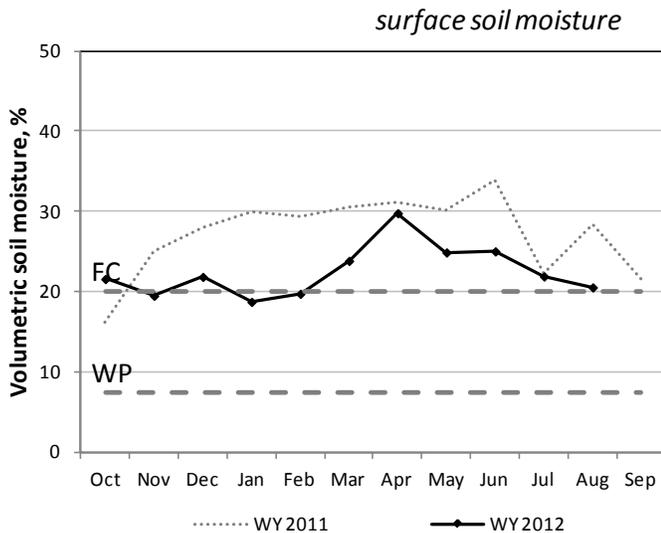
North Central

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"
	<i>in.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>volume %</i>					<i>°F</i>				
NORTH CENTRAL												
Blue Creek	9.2	0.3	9	15	23	25	18	84	86	84	77	69
Cache Junction	11.7	0.4	18	18	34	33	36	73	73	71	66	61
Grantsville	6.4	0.7	1	18	27	28		85	85	82	74	

* 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.

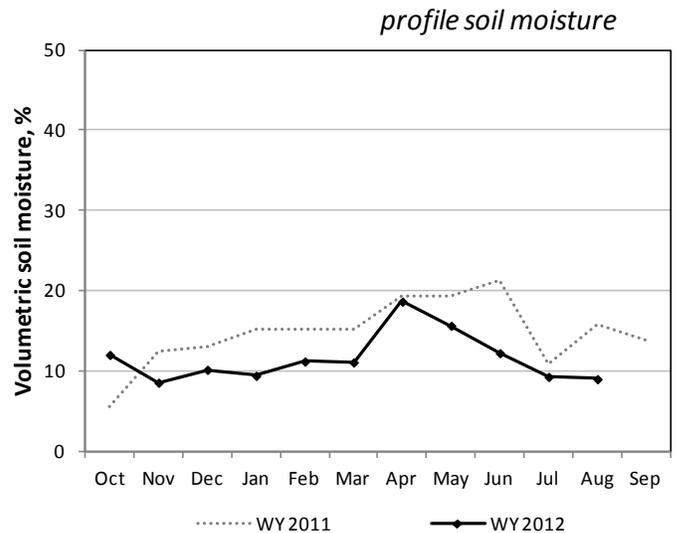
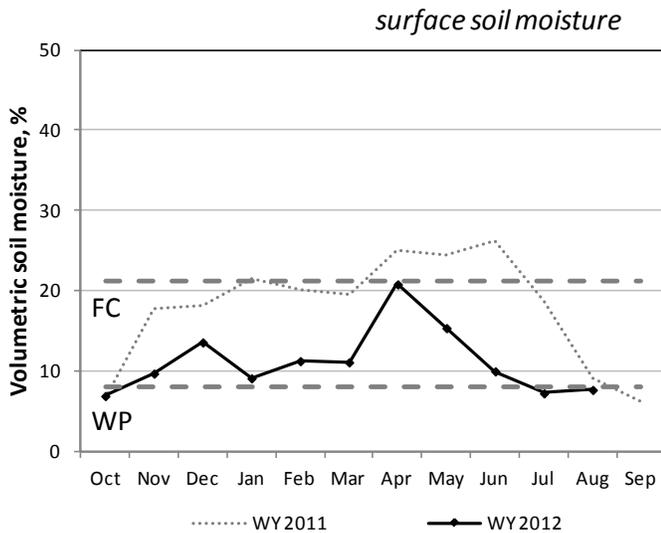
Northern Mountains

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	6.0	0.8	0	6	8	12	11	65	67	67	63	58
Buffalo Jump	5.0	0.9	5	9	9	9	-	75	76	74	68	-
Morgan	10.9	0.9	8	8	11	7	9	71	72	71	68	66

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Northern Mountains



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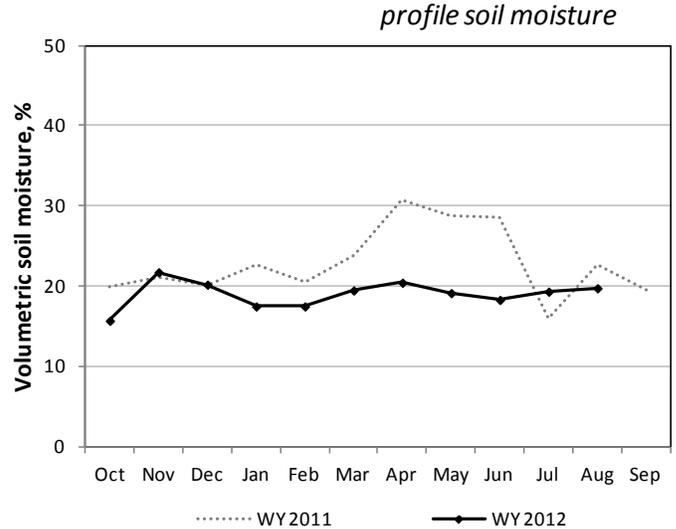
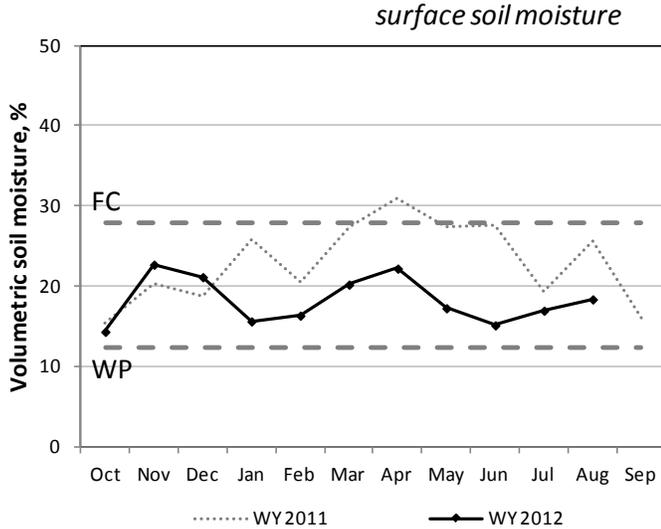
Uintah Basin

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>in.</i>	<i>volume %</i>					<i>°F</i>				
UINTAH BASIN												
Mountain Home	6.9	1.8	14	21	24	19	12	66	66	65	62	60
Little Red Fox	4.2	1.3	5	19	20	24	26	73	77	77	70	67
Split Mountain	3.5	0.2						98	95	83	79	74

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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.

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.

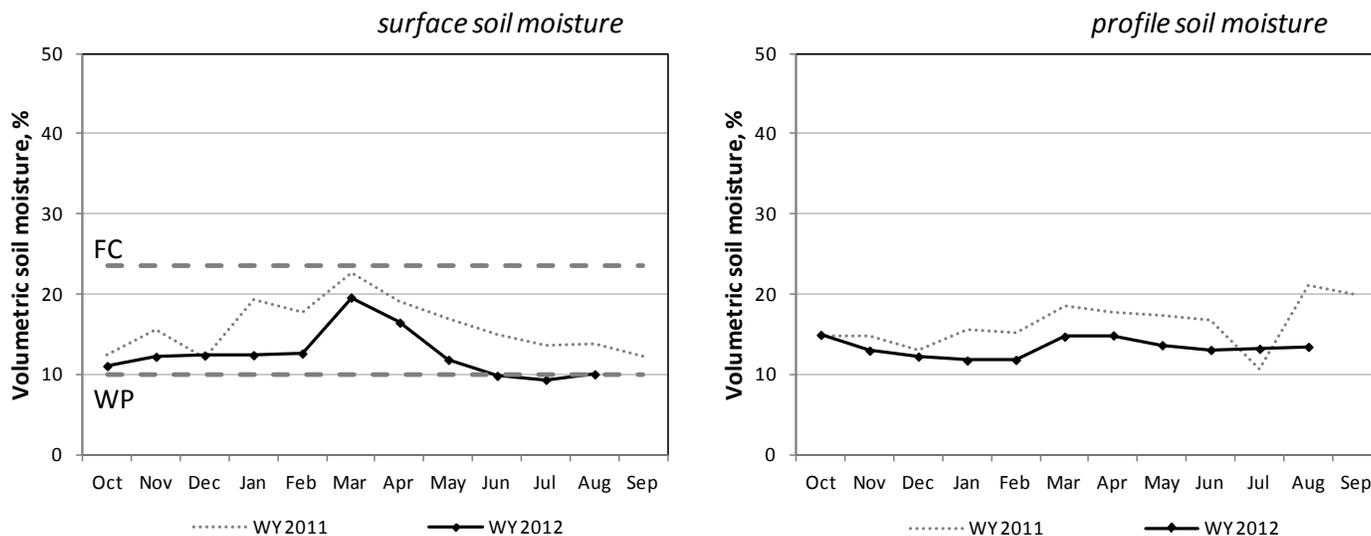
Southeast

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"
			volume %					°F				
SOUTHEAST												
Price	5.0	1.8	1	14	16	19	22	74	78	79	76	73
Green River	2.7	0.4	5	7	7	6	11	83	85	86	83	80
Harm's Way	4.5	1.4	6	6	14	15	7	73	68	75	72	68
West Summit	3.6	0.5	6	10	12	16	19	72	75	78	72	68
Eastland	5.7	1.5	9	11	9	24	21	71	73	74	69	67
Alkali Mesa	6.5	0.9	6	9	15	19	14	77	78	78	75	72
McCracken Mesa	4.8	0.8	9	10	13	17	14	75	82	85	78	75

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Southeast



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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.

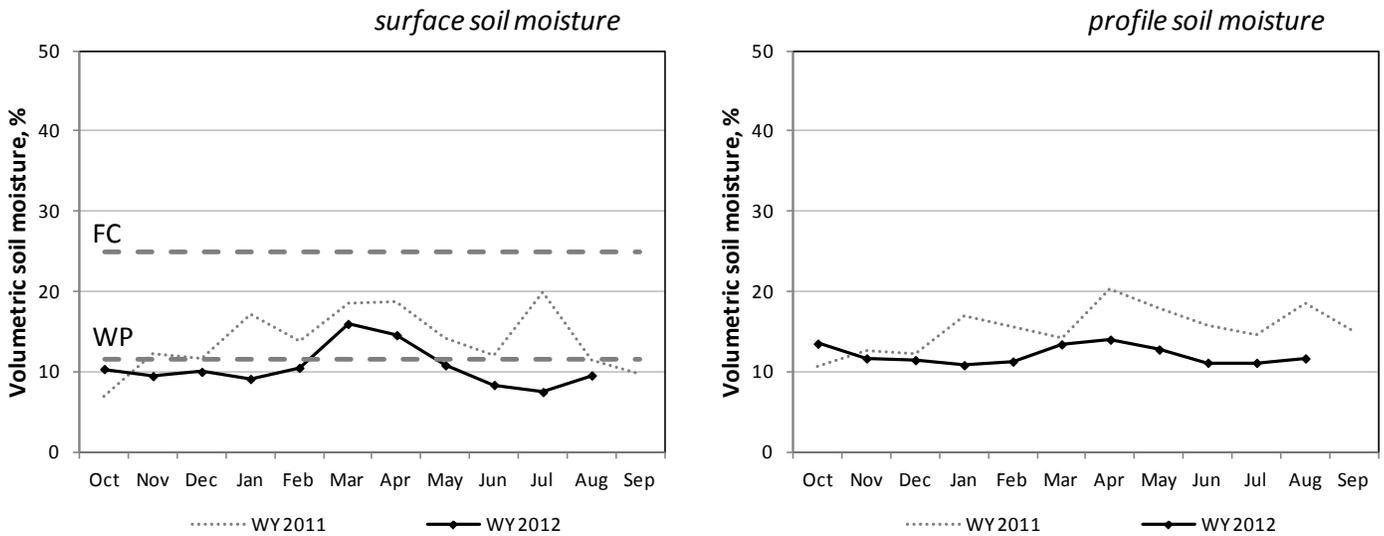
South Central

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>volume %</i>					<i>° F</i>				
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Nephi	9.2	0.7	11	16	15	9	6	78	79	78	73	68
Ephraim	6.7	2.1	11	10	16	18	35	63	66	68	64	62
Holden	5.1	0.7	3	5	4	13	15	78	79	78	75	71
Milford	5.8	1.8	27	15	21	30	17	71	76	76	73	69
Manderfield	6.9	2.2	15	12	15	11	5	65	70	70	68	65
Circleville	2.6	0.1	7	5	6	10	9	69	69	73	68	
Panguitch	4.8	1.7	6	18	13	21	25	67	68	66	63	59
Cave Valley	13.3	3.3	2	8	8	1	1	69	69	72	71	69
Vermillion	8.0	2.5	0	2	3	3	8	62	64	69	67	64
Spooky	3.9	0.4	2	1	4	12	2	83	82	81	77	75

* 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.

South 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.

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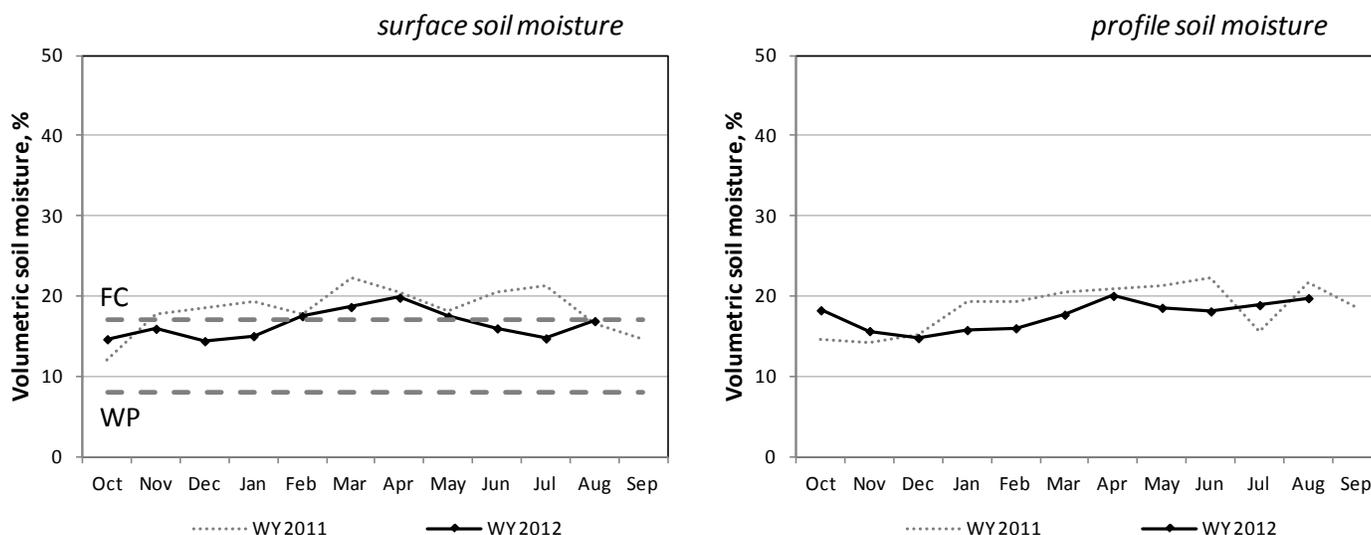
Western and Dixie

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	8.7	2.0	0	10	14	17	17	79	80	80	71	67
Park Valley	5.7	1.1	1	7	13	37	27	77	79	79	74	69
Goshute	3.7	0.7	17	28	56	38	35	65	70	77	74	68
Dugway	4.6	0.7	15	29	39	75	12	85	85	82	76	73
Tule Valley	3.7	0.2	8	11	28	16	11	79	86	89	87	84
Hal's Canyon	2.9	0.1	1	0	8	11	10	75	80	84	78	71
Enterprise	7.0	2.2	15	23	22	14	16	68	77	77	73	69
DIXIE												
Sand Hollow	7.0	2.0	4	5	5	2	0	76	80	85	85	82

* 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.

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

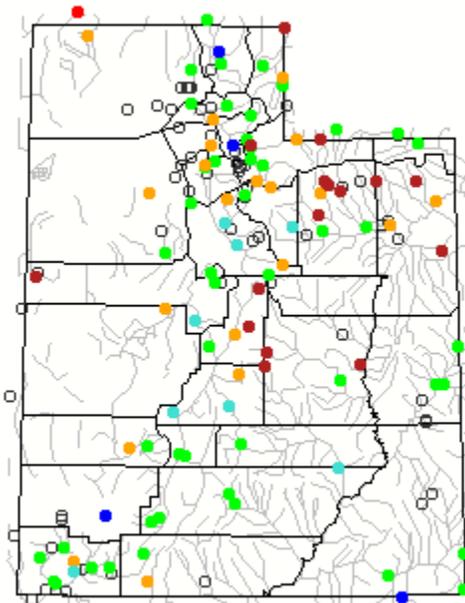
August 1, 2012

Current Conditions

Stream flow has improved in southern Utah due to substantial precipitation in the past few days. This will likely be transient and short term. Natural stream flow in northern Utah remains extremely low with many stations in the less than 10% of normal category. Soil moisture values have rebounded significantly in southern Utah (39%-46% of saturation) while remaining very dry in the north (21%-40% of saturation). July Precipitation across the state ranged from 81% on the Weber to an amazing 418% on the Sevier bringing the Oct-July period to 78% statewide. Reservoir storage for the entire state is at 71% of capacity – a drop of 8% from last month. With about 6 weeks of irrigation season left statewide reservoir capacity will likely be near the 55%-60% of capacity as carryover for next year.

Current Utah Streamflow - Courtesy US Geological Survey

Tuesday, July 31, 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

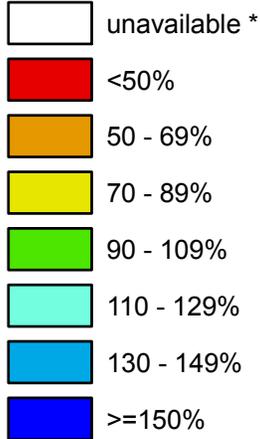
Utah

SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation

% of Normal

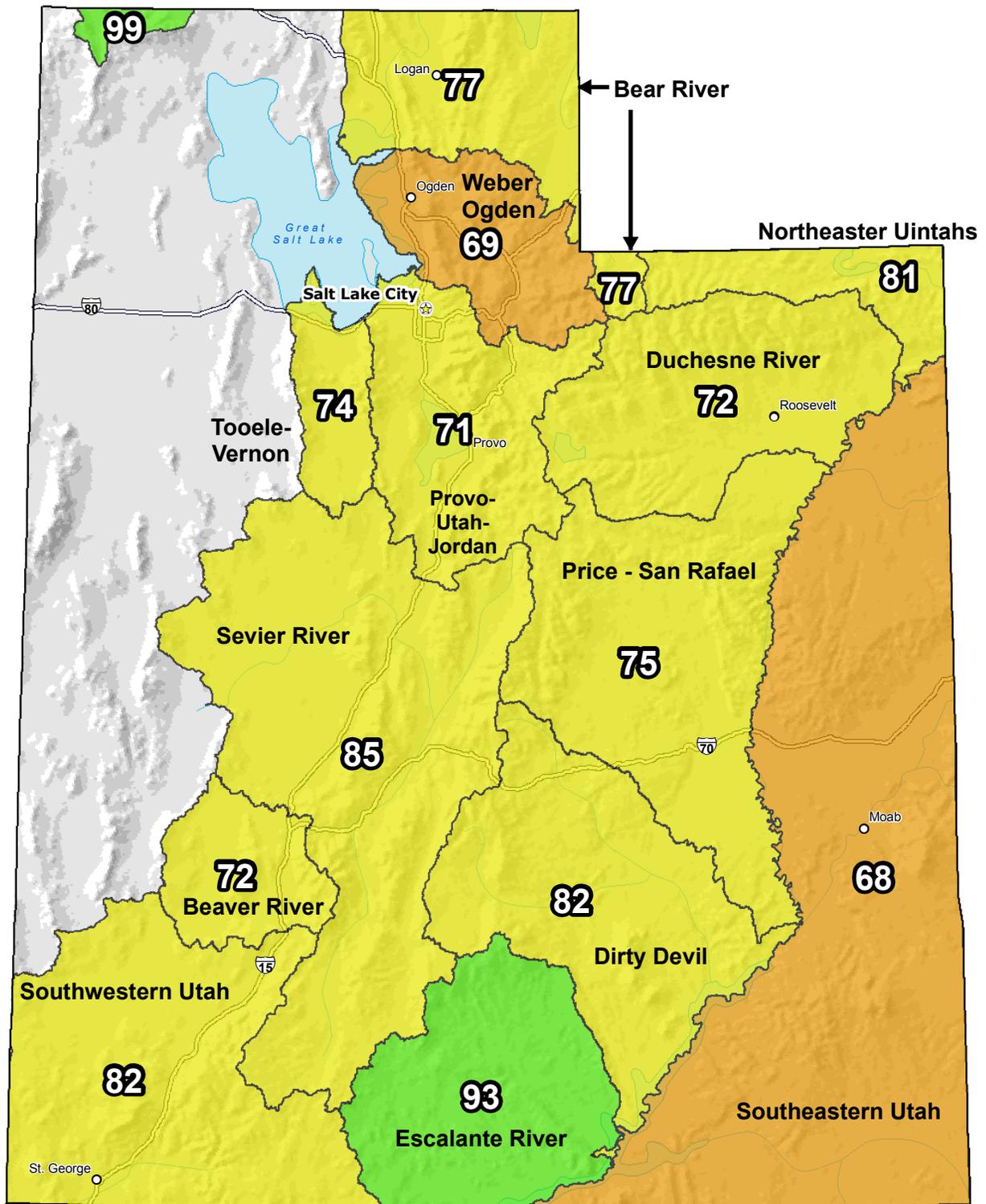
Aug 01, 2012

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).

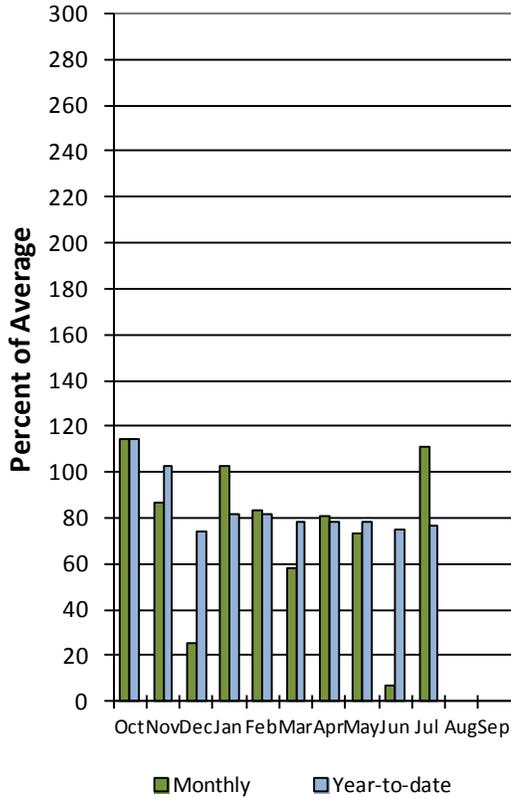
Prepared by the USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/>
Based on data from <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/reports/>
Science contact: Jim.Marron@por.usda.gov 503 414 3047

Bear River Basin August 1, 2012

Precipitation in July was above average at 111% which brings the water year accumulation to 77%. Reservoir storage is at 67% of capacity, which is 22% lower than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 31% compared to 64% last year.

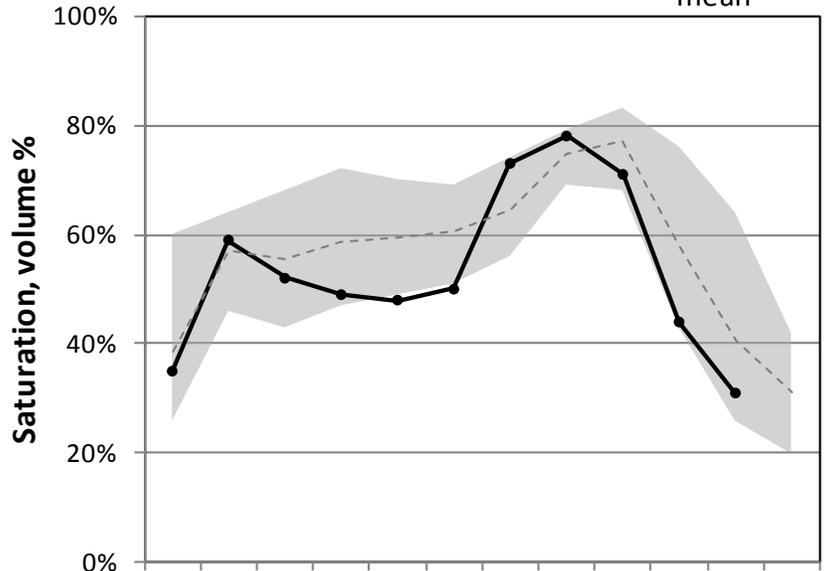
Bear River Precipitation

8/1/2012



Bear River Soil Moisture

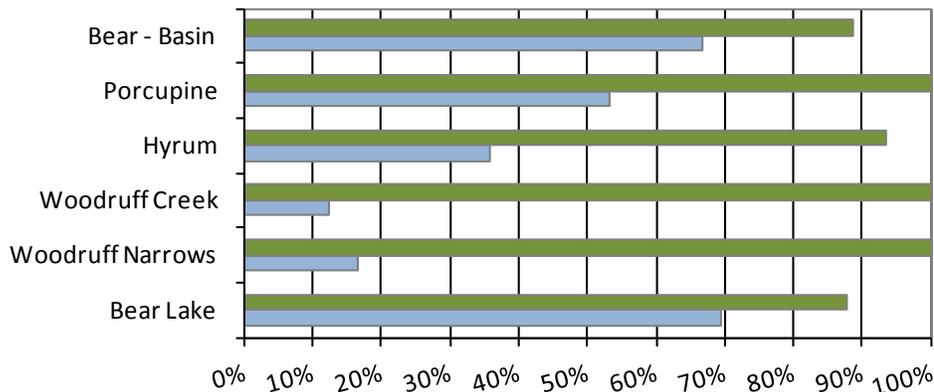
—●— WY 2012
- - - - mean



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.

August Bear River Reservoir Storage

■ Previous Yr % Capacity ■ Current % Capacity



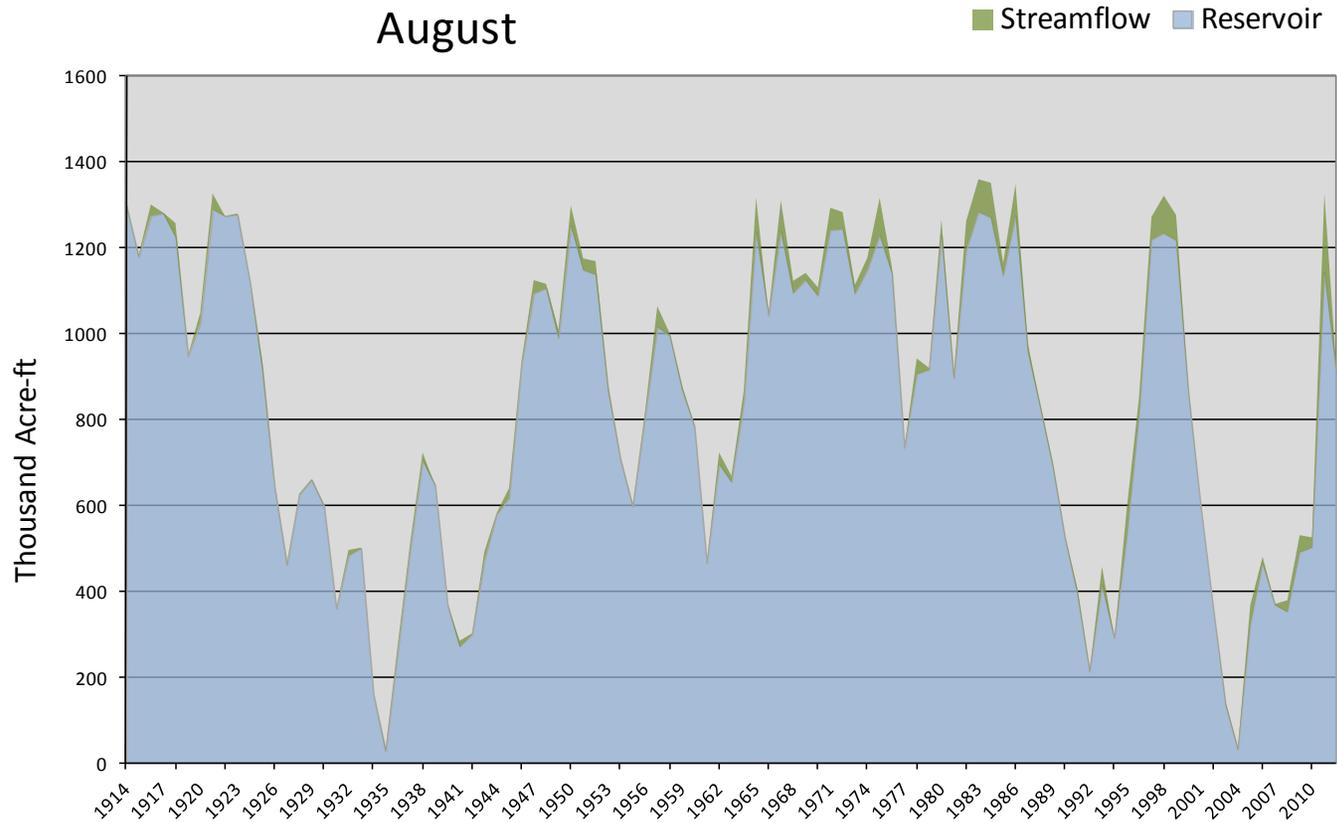
August 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	July EOM* Bear Lake	July accumulated inflow to Bear Lake (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Bear River	904	5	909	0.25	53	53,81,79,46

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

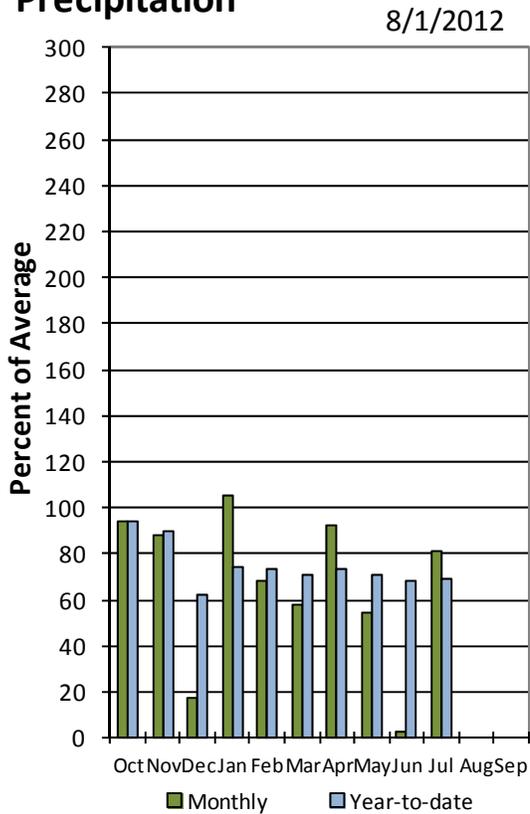
Bear Lake Water Availability Index August



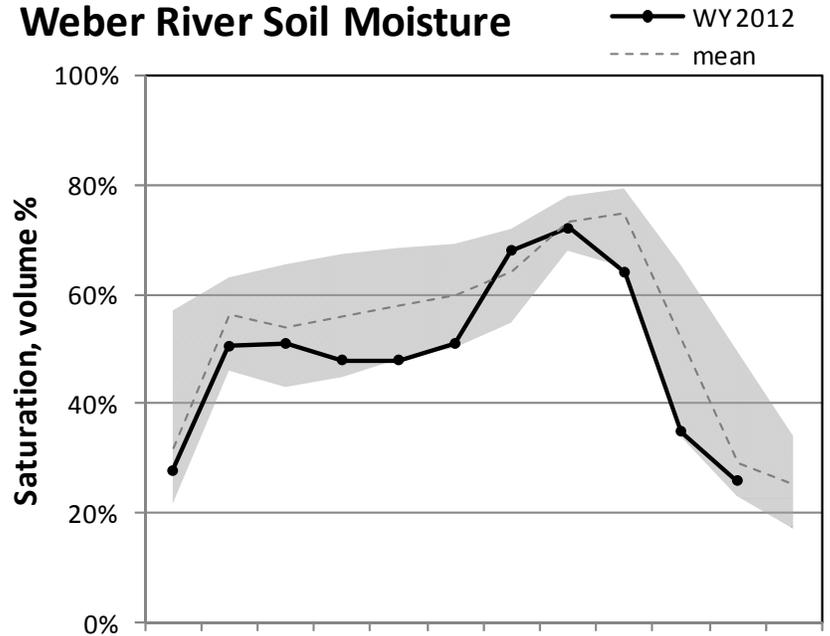
Weber and Ogden River Basin August 1, 2012

Precipitation in July was below average at 81% which brings the water year accumulation to 69%. Reservoir storage is at 64% of capacity, which is 31% lower than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 26% compared to 50% last year.

Weber River Precipitation

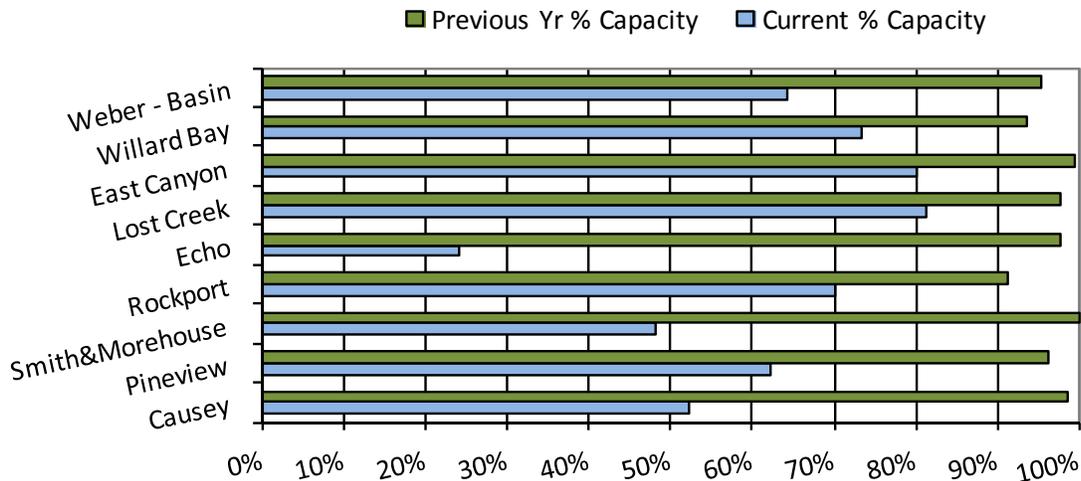


Weber River Soil Moisture



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.

August Weber Basin Reservoir Storage



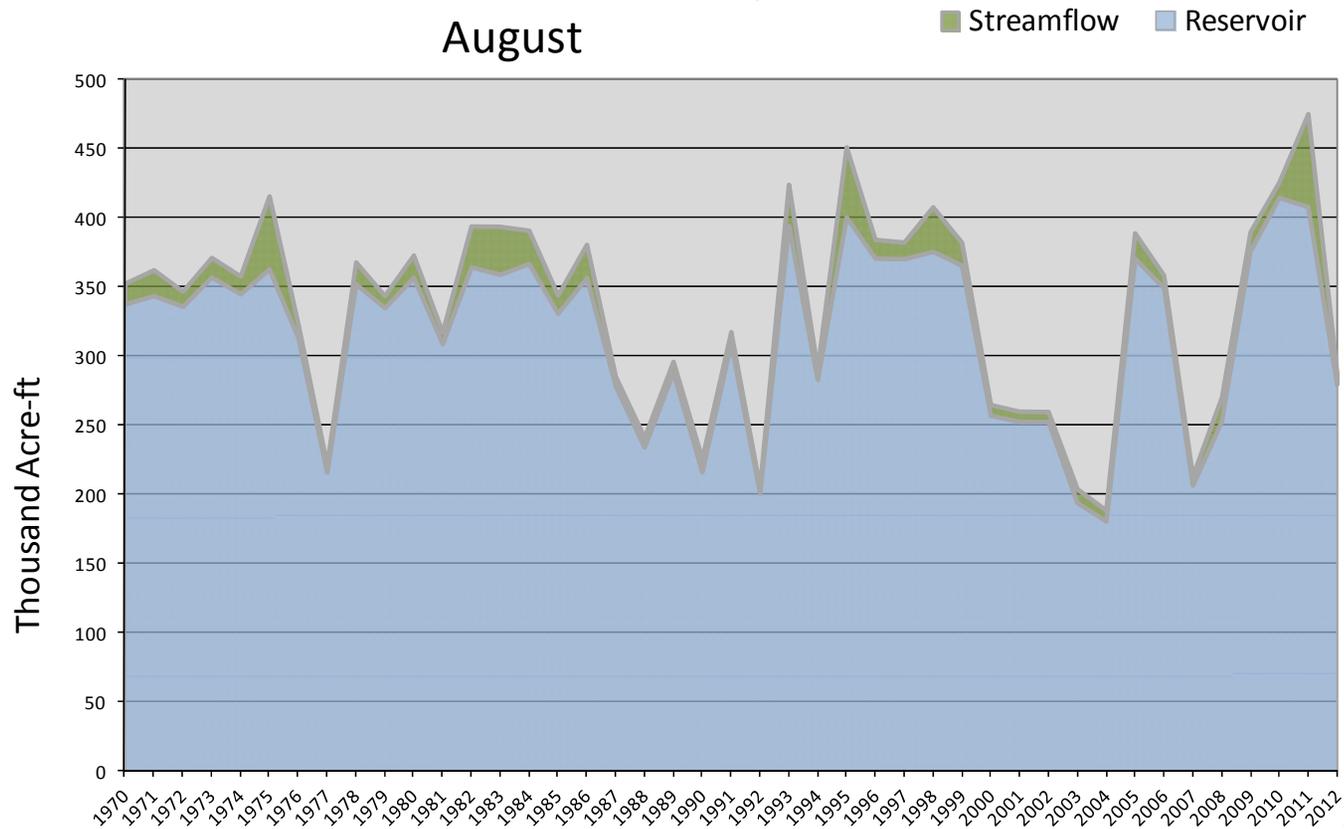
August 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	July EOM* Reservoirs	July accumulated flow at Weber near Oakley (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoirs + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Weber River	280	8	288	-1.70	30	08,87,94,89

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

Weber River - Water Availability Index August



August 1, 2012

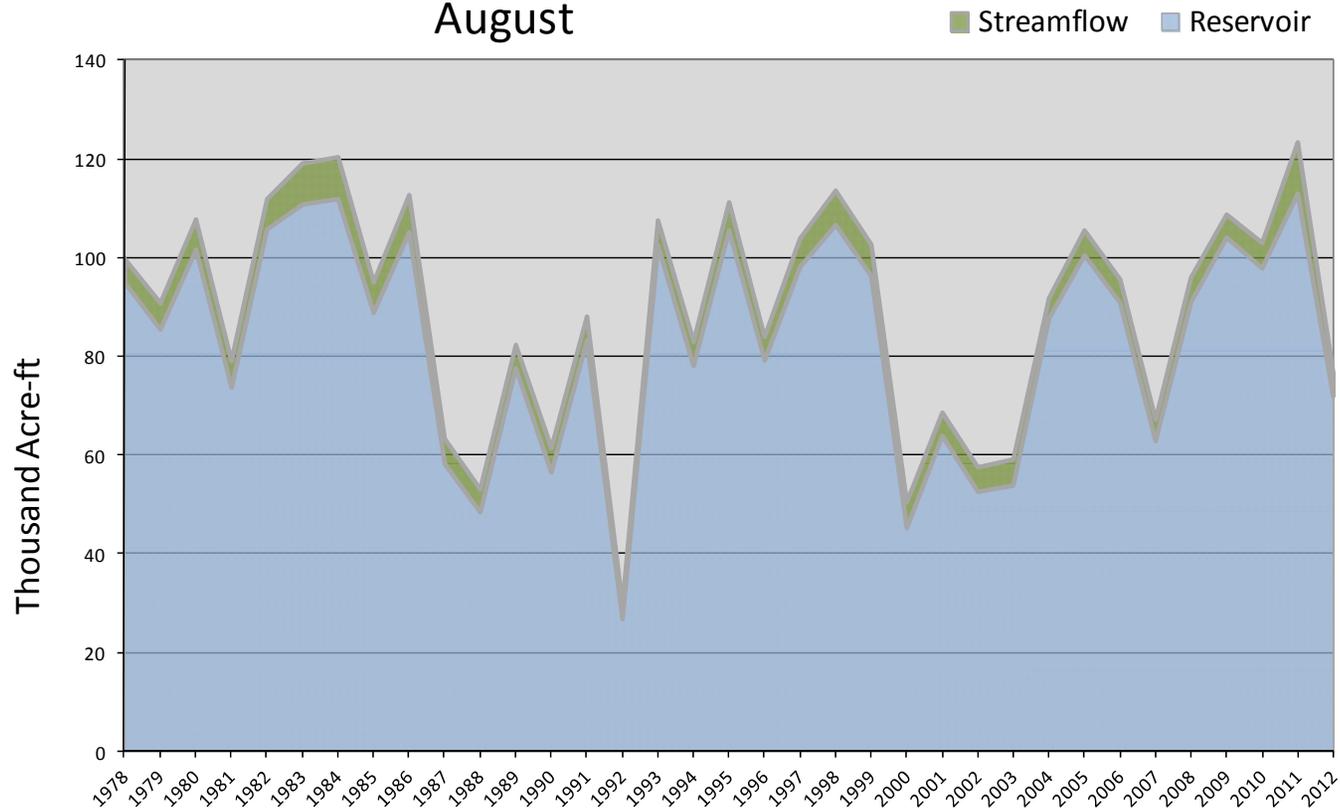
Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	July EOM* Pine View & Causey	July accumulated flow at South Fork Ogden (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Ogden River	72	5.0	77	-1.85	28	07,01,81,89

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

Ogden River - Water Availability Index

August



Utah Lake, Jordan River, & Tooele Valley Basins

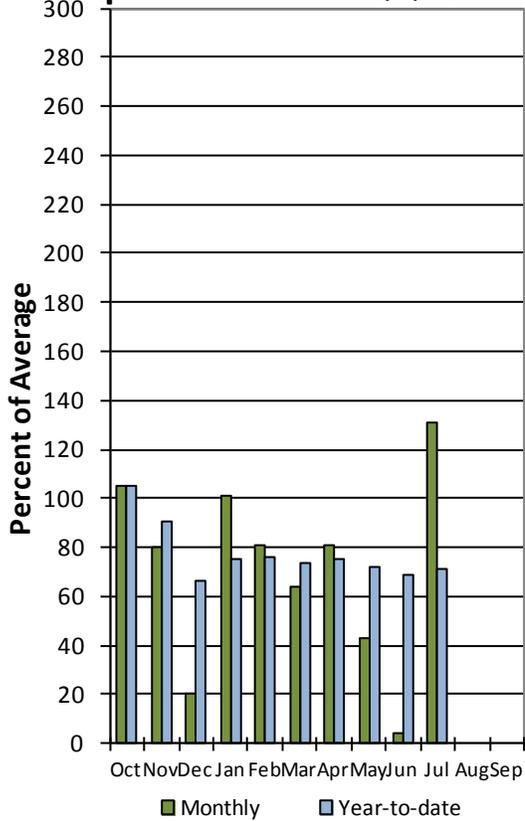
August 1, 2012

Precipitation in July was above average at 131%, bringing water year accumulation to 71%. Reservoir storage is at 82% of capacity, which is 24% less than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 21% compared to 39% last year at this time.

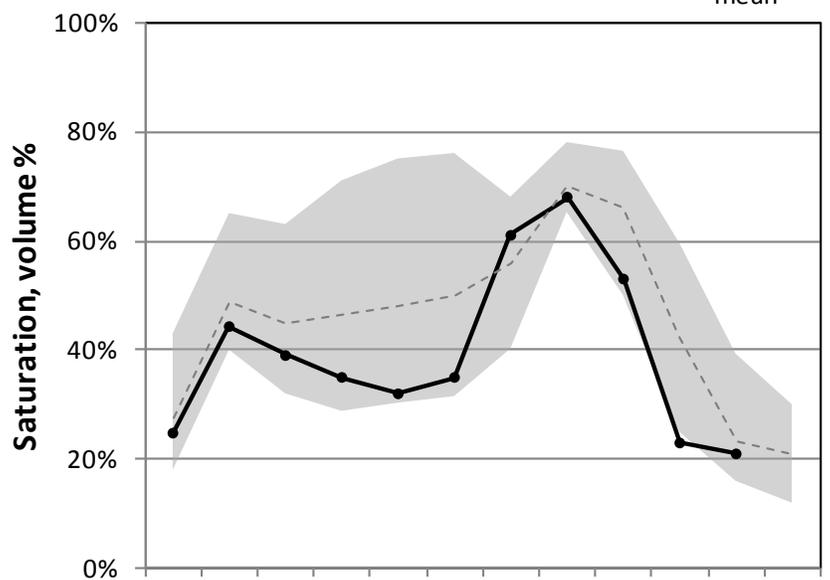
Jordan / Provo River

Precipitation

8/1/2012

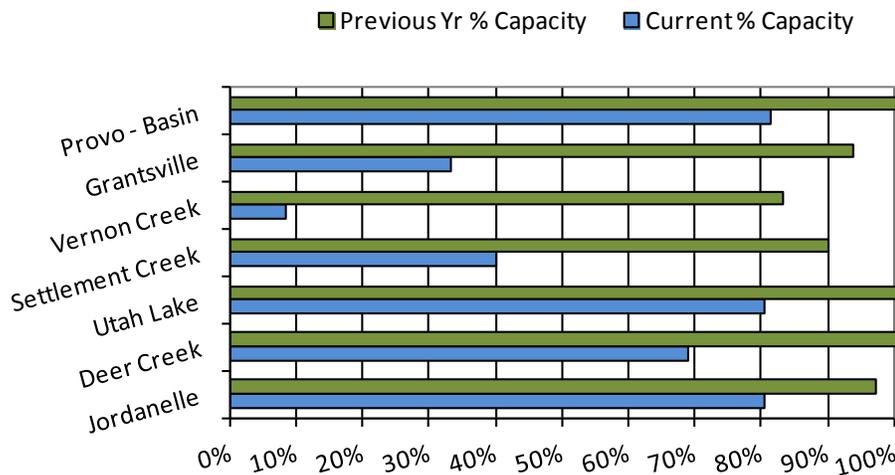


Jordan/Provo River Soil Moisture



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.

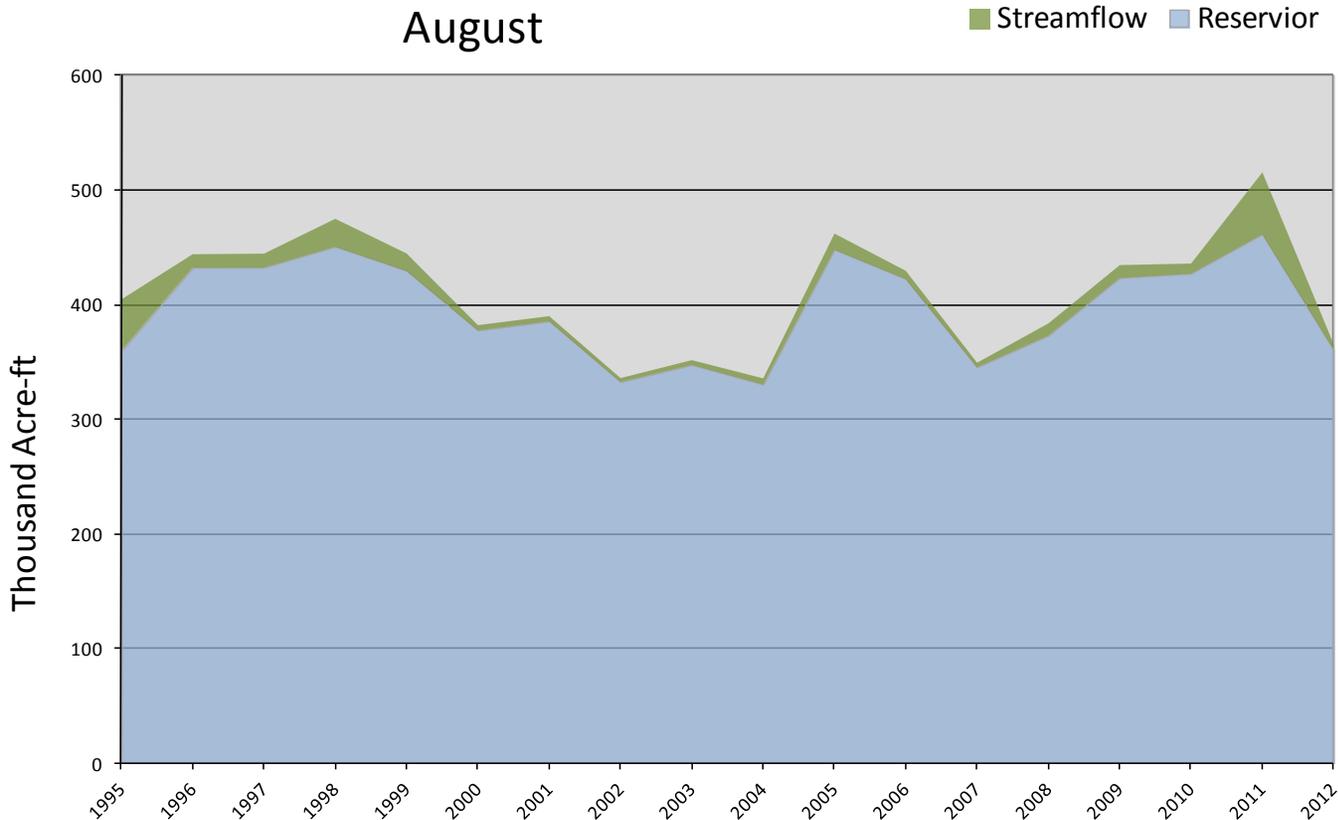
August Provo River Reservoir Storage



August 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	July EOM* Deer Creek, Jordanelle	July accumulated flow Provo River at Woodland (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Provo	361	5	366	-1.97	26%	08,00,03,07

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

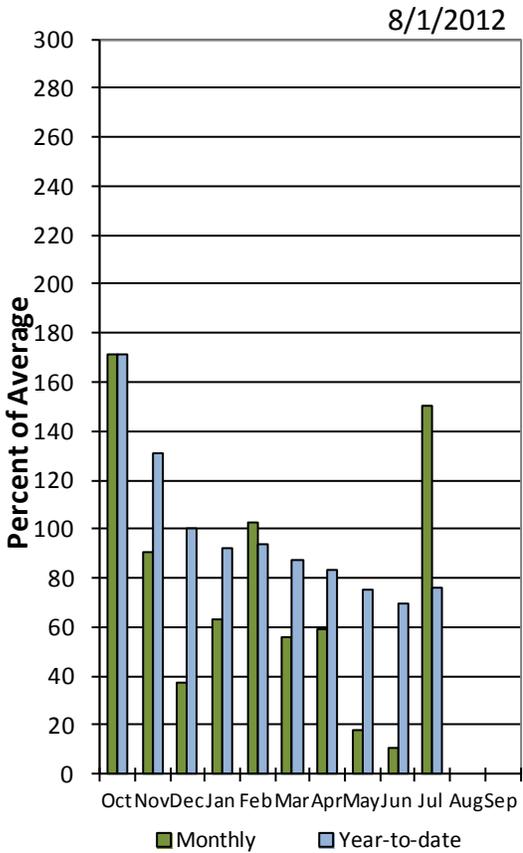
Provo River - Water Availability Index
August



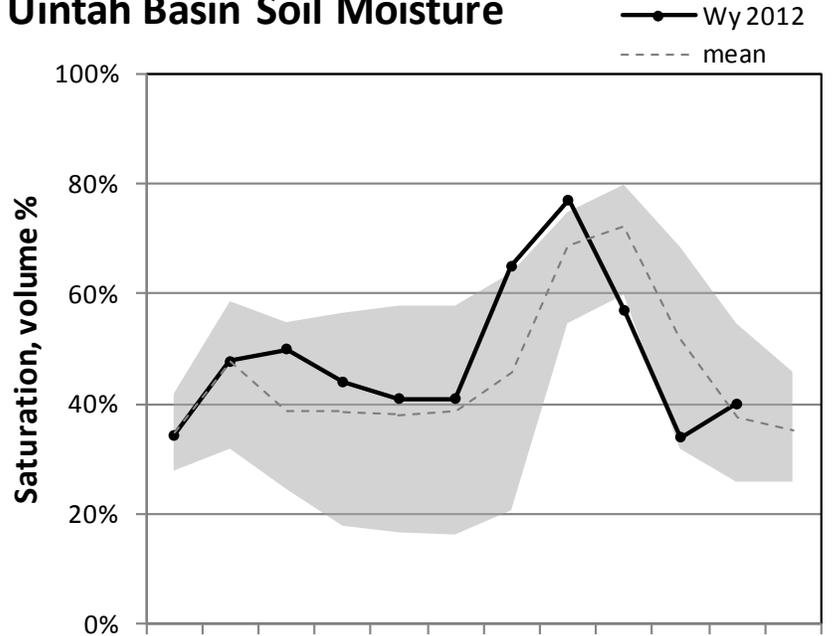
Uintah Basin and Dagget SCDs August 1, 2012

Precipitation in July was much above average at 150%, bringing the water year accumulation to 76%. Reservoir storage is at 79% of capacity, 1% lower than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 38% compared to 55% last year.

Uintah Precipitation

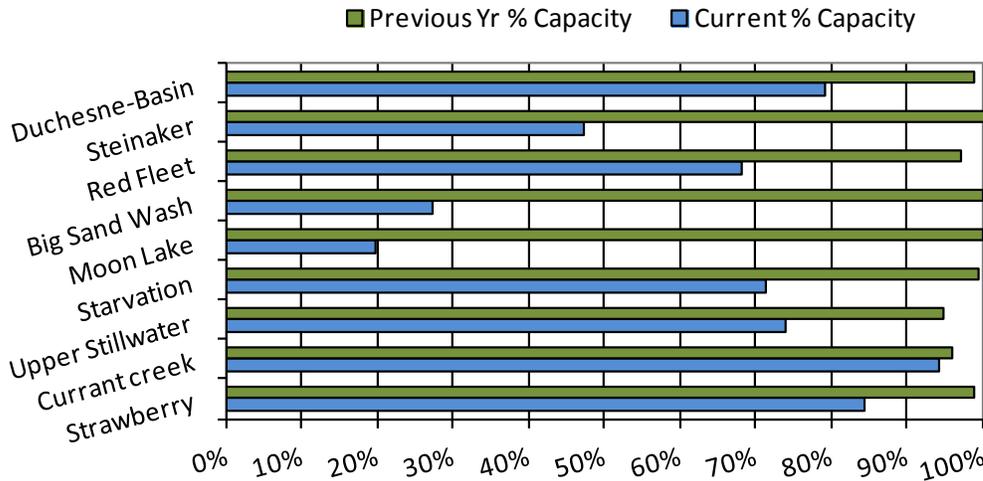


Uintah Basin Soil Moisture



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.

August Uintah Basin Reservoir Storage



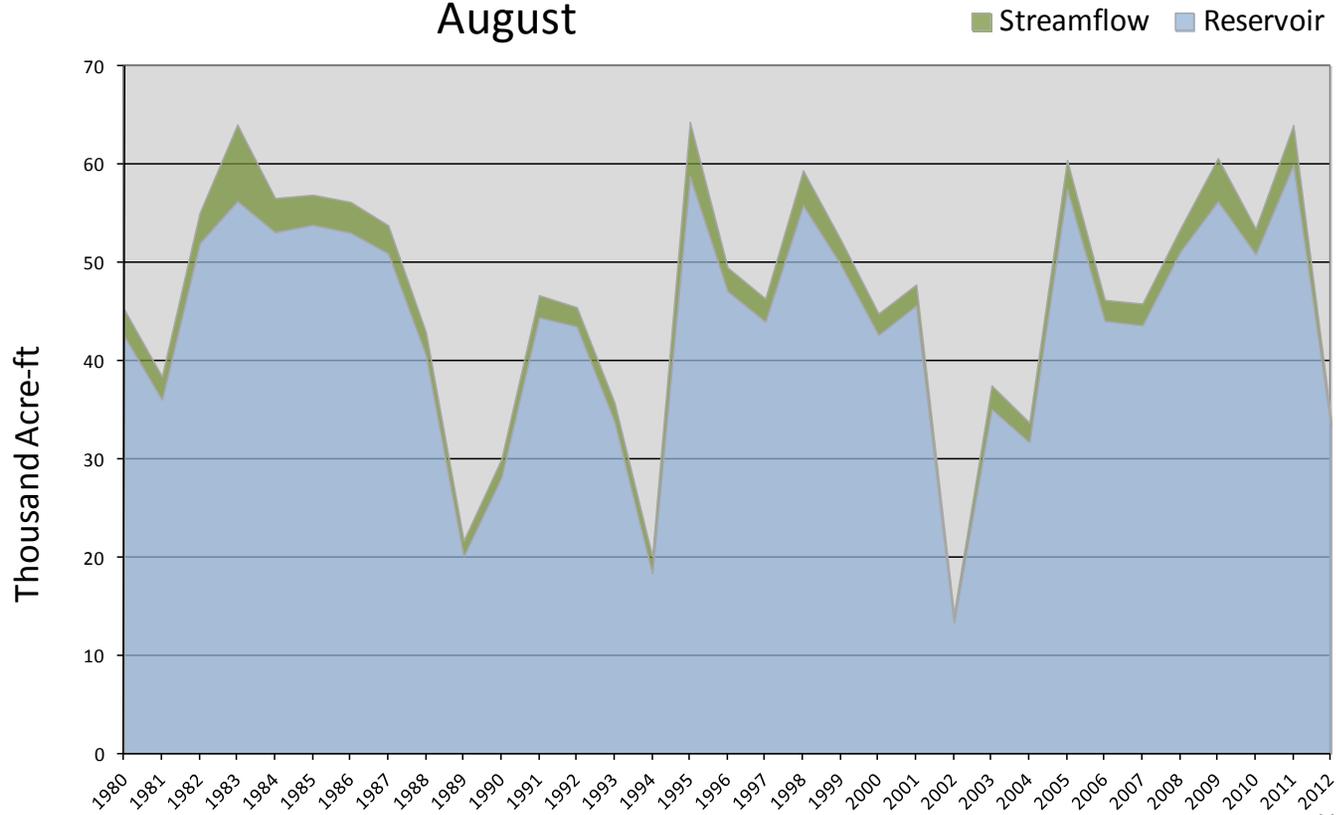
August 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	July EOM* Red Fleet and Steinaker	July accumulated flow Big Brush Creek (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Eastern Uintah	33.3	0.8	34.1	-2.94	18	90,04,93,03

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

Eastern Uintah - Water Availability Index August



August 1, 2012

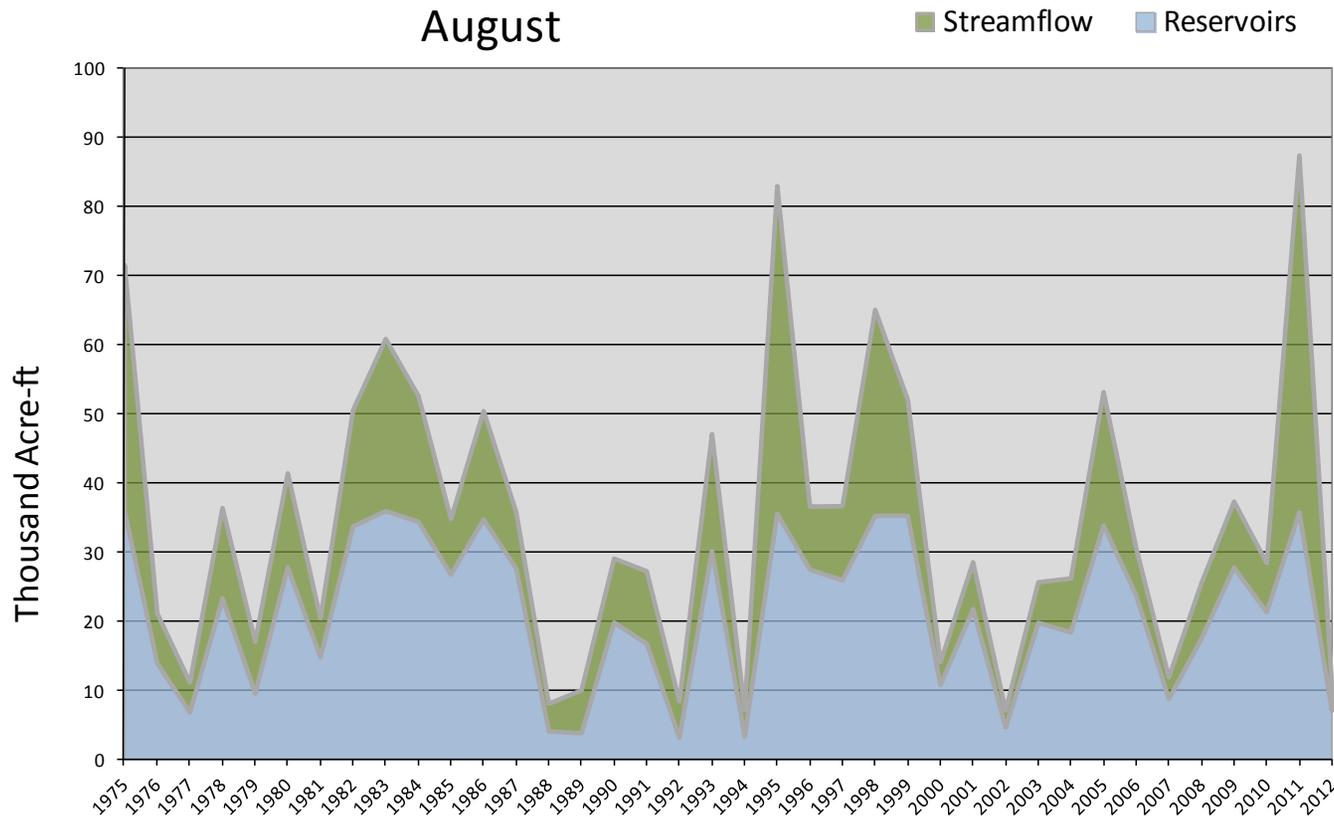
Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	July EOM* Moon Lake	July accumulated flow Lake Fork Creek above Moon Lake (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Moon Lake	7.1	3.3	10.4	-2.88	15	92,89,77,07

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

Moon Lake - Water Availability Index

August



Utah Basin and Dagget SCDs

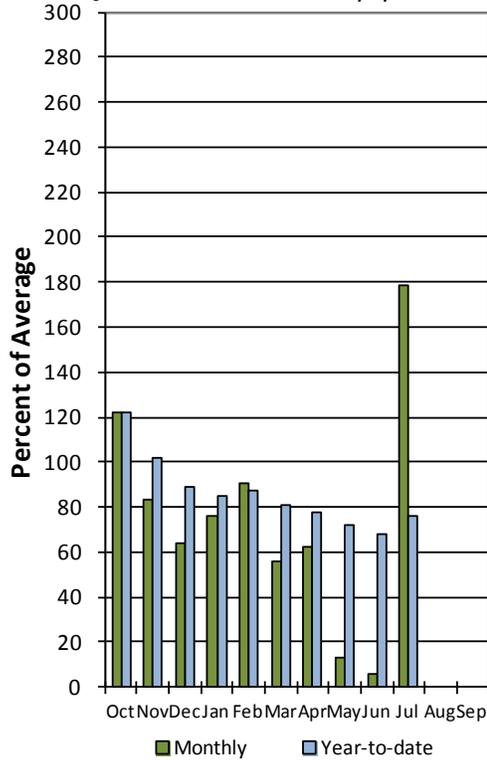
Southeast – Carbon, Emery, Wayne, Grand, and San Juan Counties August 1, 2012

Precipitation in July was much above average at 179%, bringing the water year accumulation to 76%. Reservoir storage is at 62% of capacity, which is 37% lower than at this time last year. Soil moisture is at 27% compared to 60% last year.

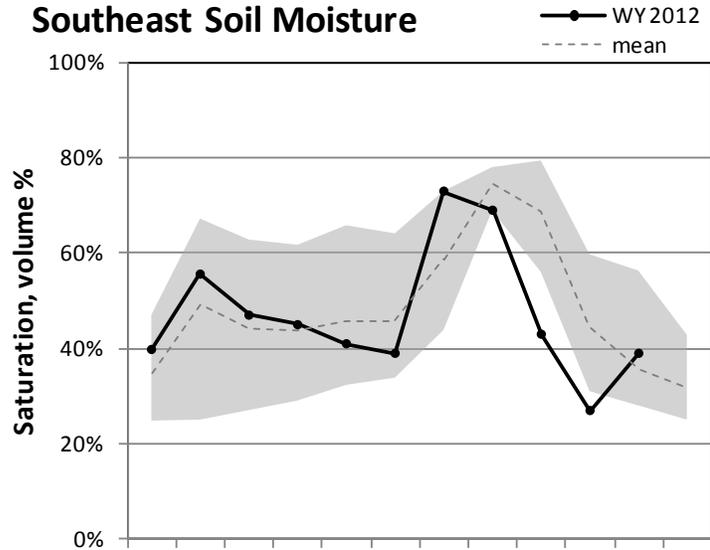
Southeast Utah

Precipitation

8/1/2012

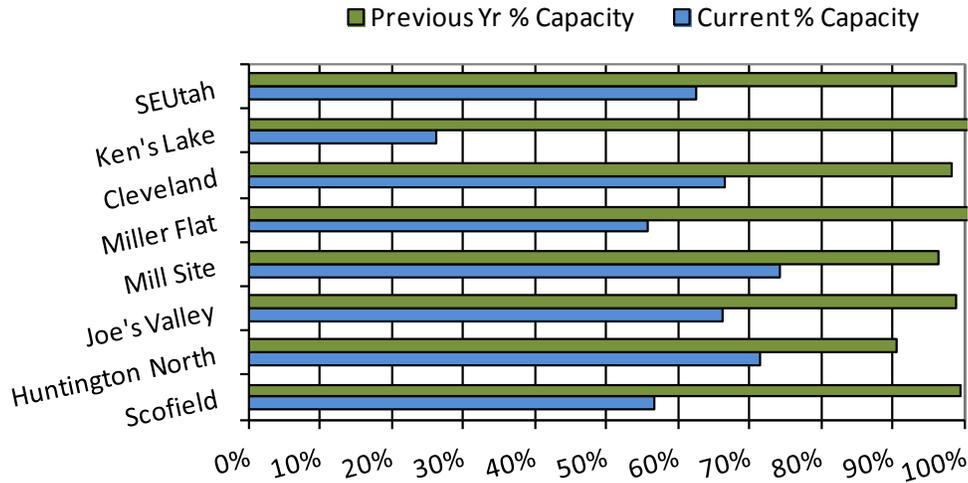


Southeast Soil Moisture



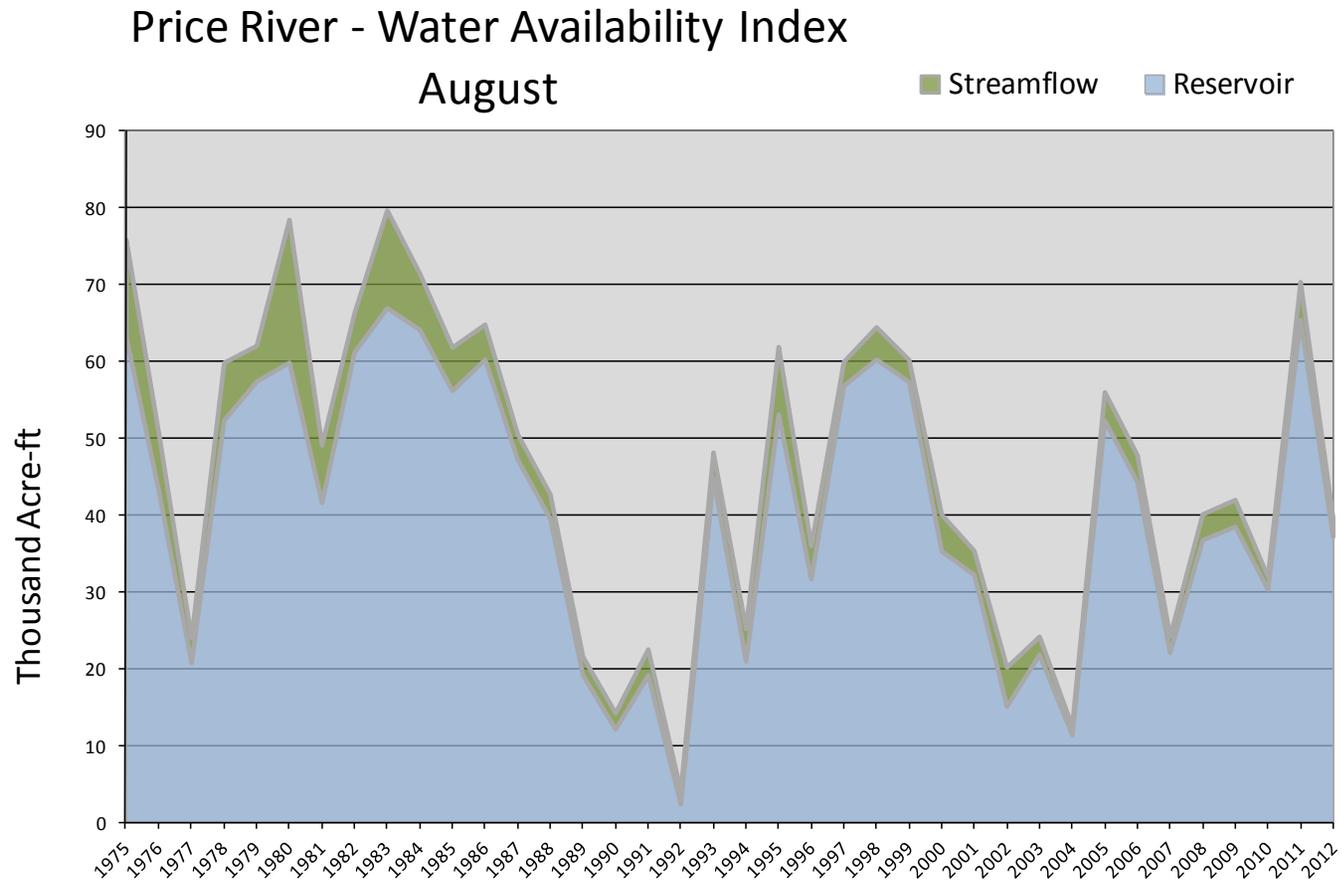
Percent saturation is calculated using the weighted average of volumetric soil moisture content at 2, 8, and 20-inch depths. Saturation is estimated as 40% volumetric water content. The gray area represents the range in saturation values since 2005.

August Southeast Utah Reservoir Storage



August 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	July EOM* Scofield	July accumulated inflow to Scofield (calculated)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Price River	37.3	2.4	39.7	-1.18	36	01, 96, 00, 08

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

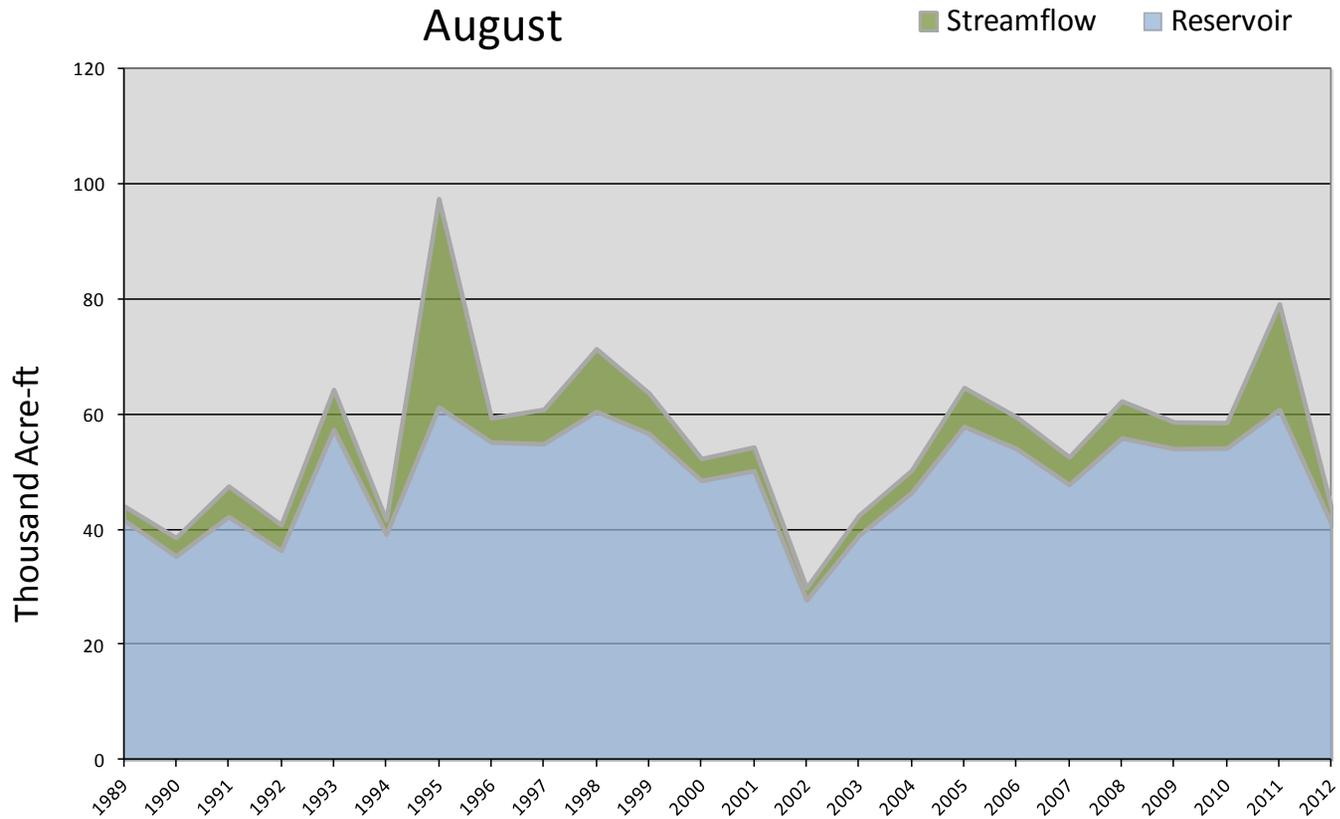


August 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	July EOM* Joe's Valley	July accumulated inflow to Joe's Valley (calculated)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Joe's Valley	40.8	2.6	43.4	-2.17	24	94, 03, 89, 91

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

Joe's Valley - Water Availability Index

August

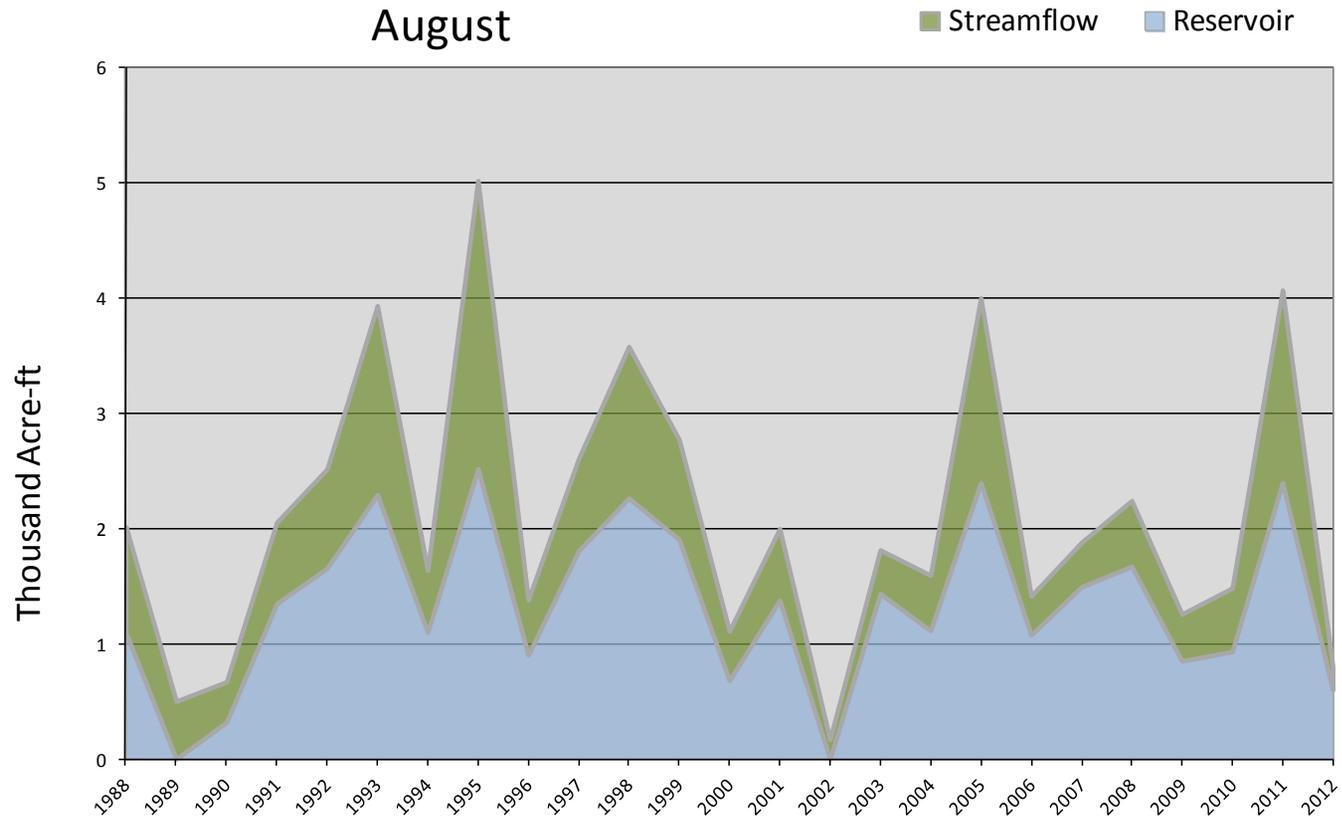


August 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	July EOM* Ken's Lake Reservoir	July accumulated flow Mill Creek at Sheley (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Moab	0.6	0.2	0.8	-2.88	15	89, 90, 00, 09

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

Moab - Water Availability Index

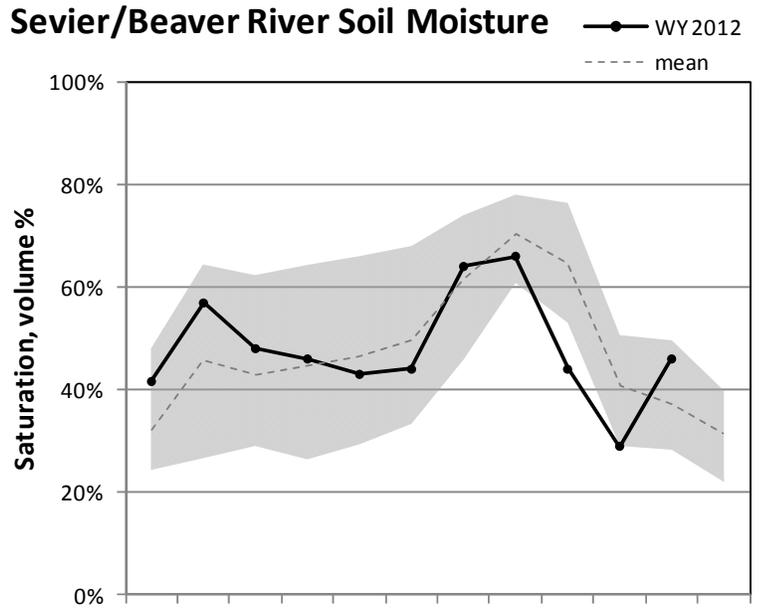
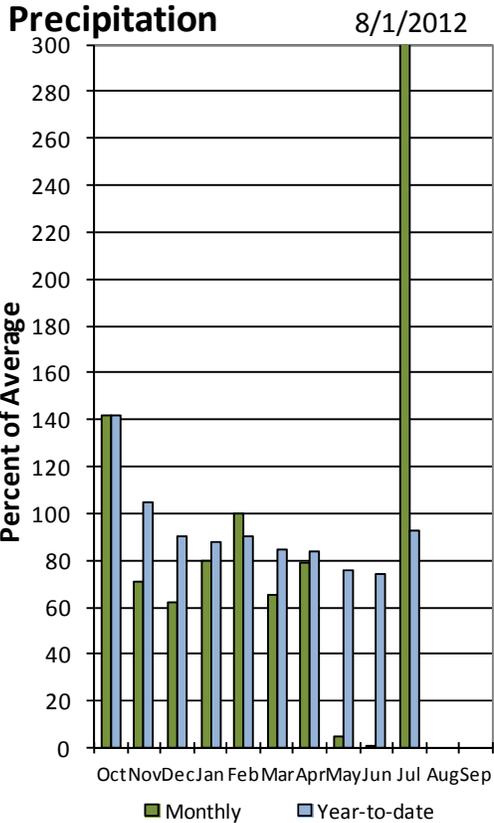
August



Sevier and Beaver River Basins August 1, 2012

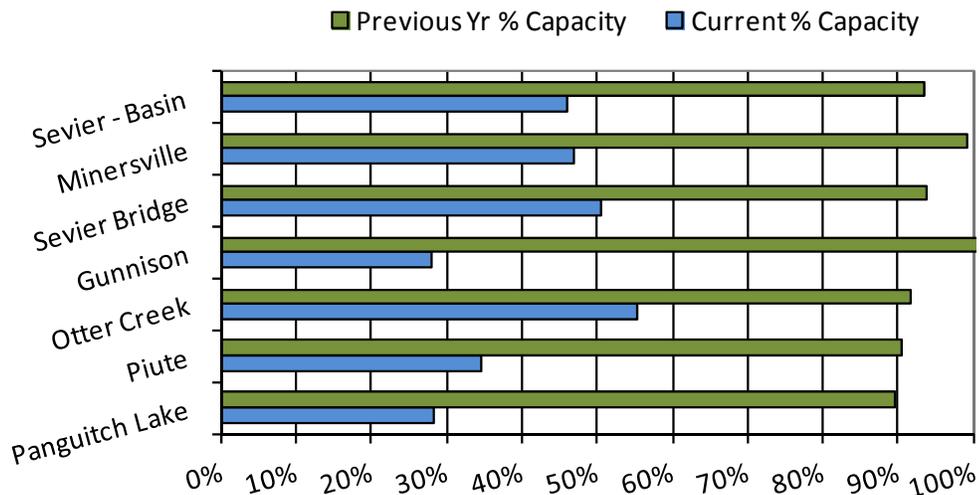
Precipitation in July was much above average at 418% - nearly 6 inches of precipitation, which brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-Jul) to 93% of average. Reservoir storage is low at 45% of capacity compared to 93% last year. Soil moisture is above average for this time of year due to recent precipitation: current 46%, last month – 29% and last year – 50% of saturation. Water supply conditions are low to average as indicated by the Water Availability Index: Upper Sevier – 35%, Lower Sevier – 46% and Beaver 48%.

Sevier /Beaver River



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.

August Sevier River Reservoir Storage

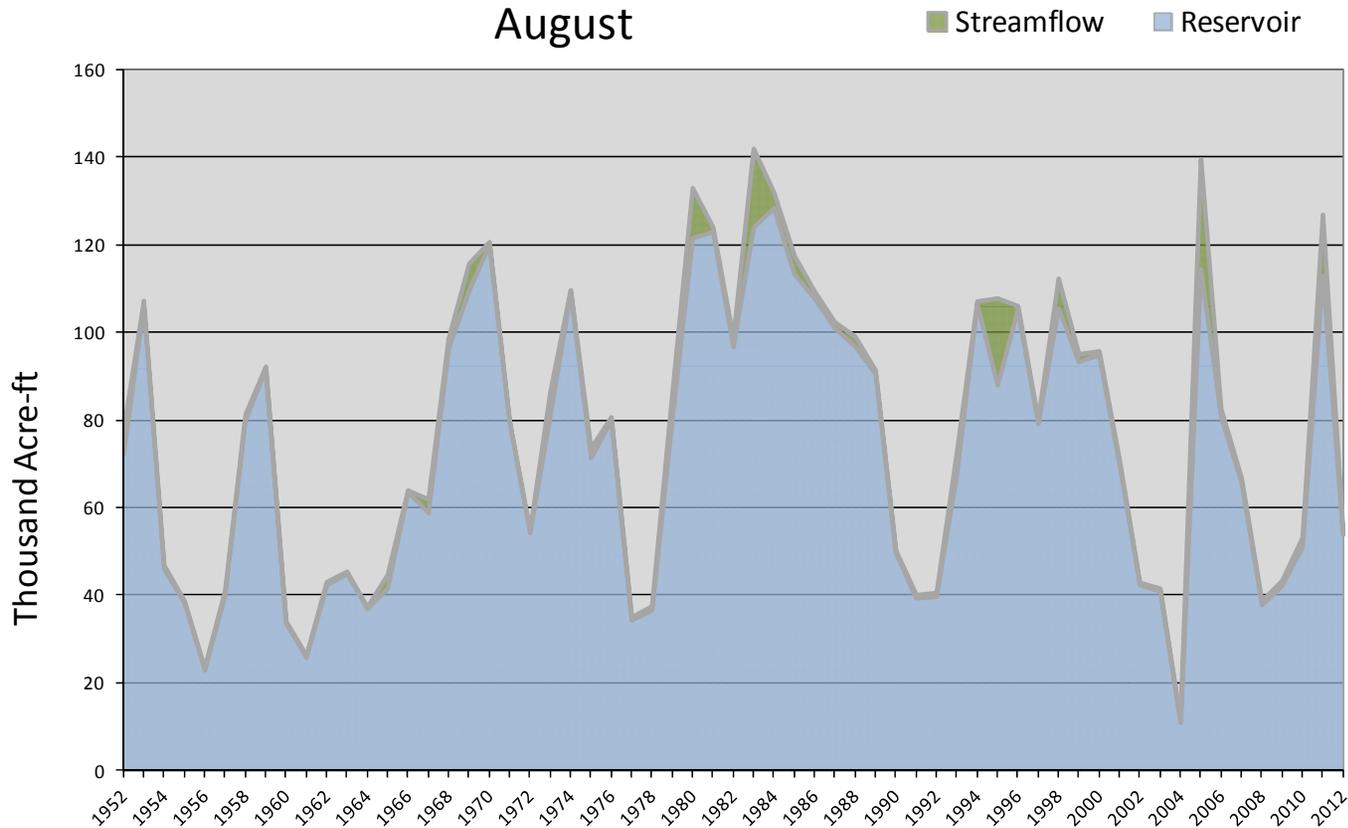


August 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	July EOM* Otter Creek and Piute	July accumulated flow at Kingston (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Upper Sevier River	54.0	0.7	54.7	-1.21	35	90,10,72,67

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

Upper Sevier River - Water Availability Index

August

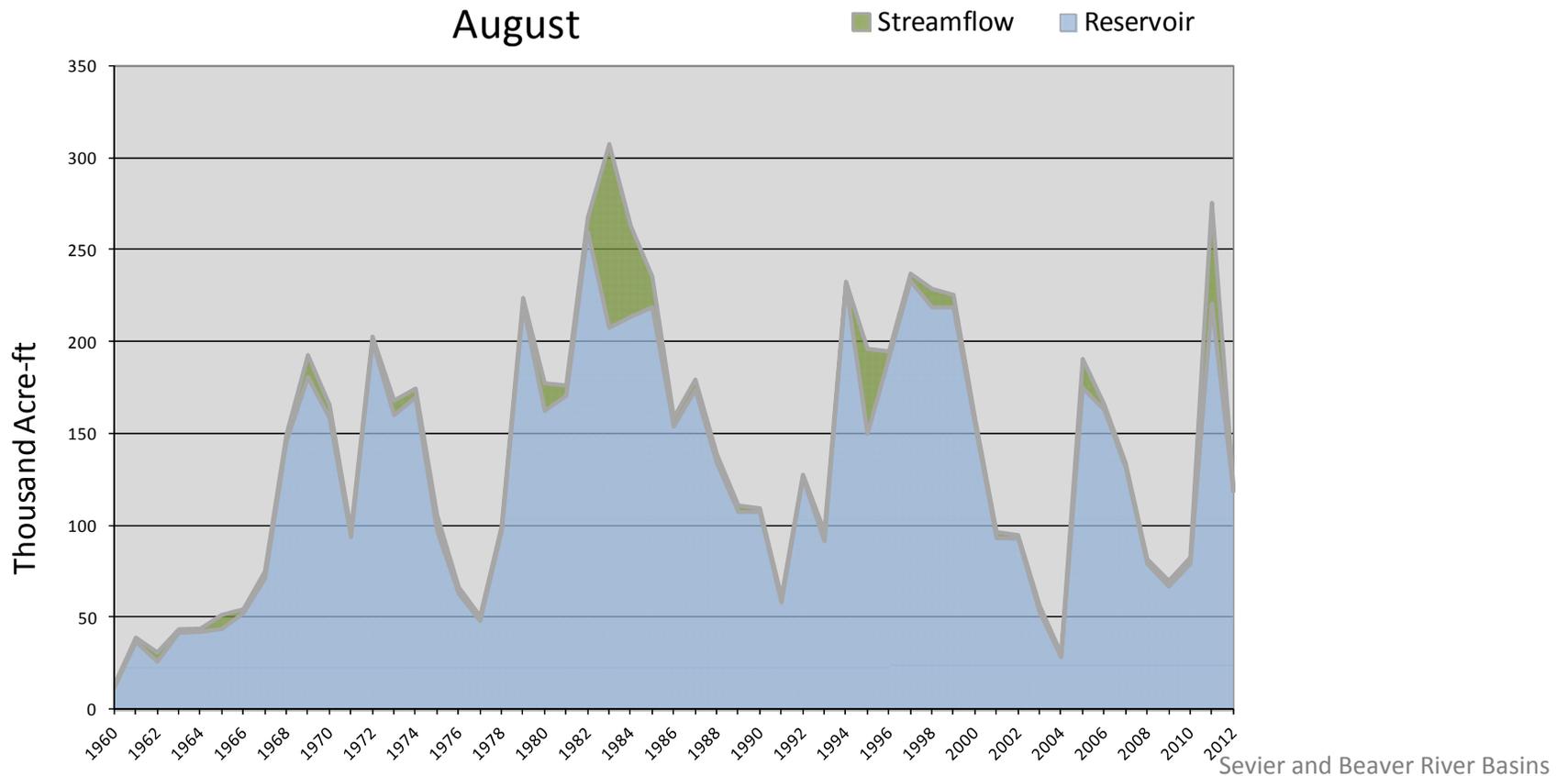


August 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	July EOM* Sevier Bridge	July accumulated flow Sevier at Gunnison (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Lower Sevier River	119.1	3.4	122.5	-0.31	46	90,89,97,07

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

Lower Sevier River - Water Availability Index

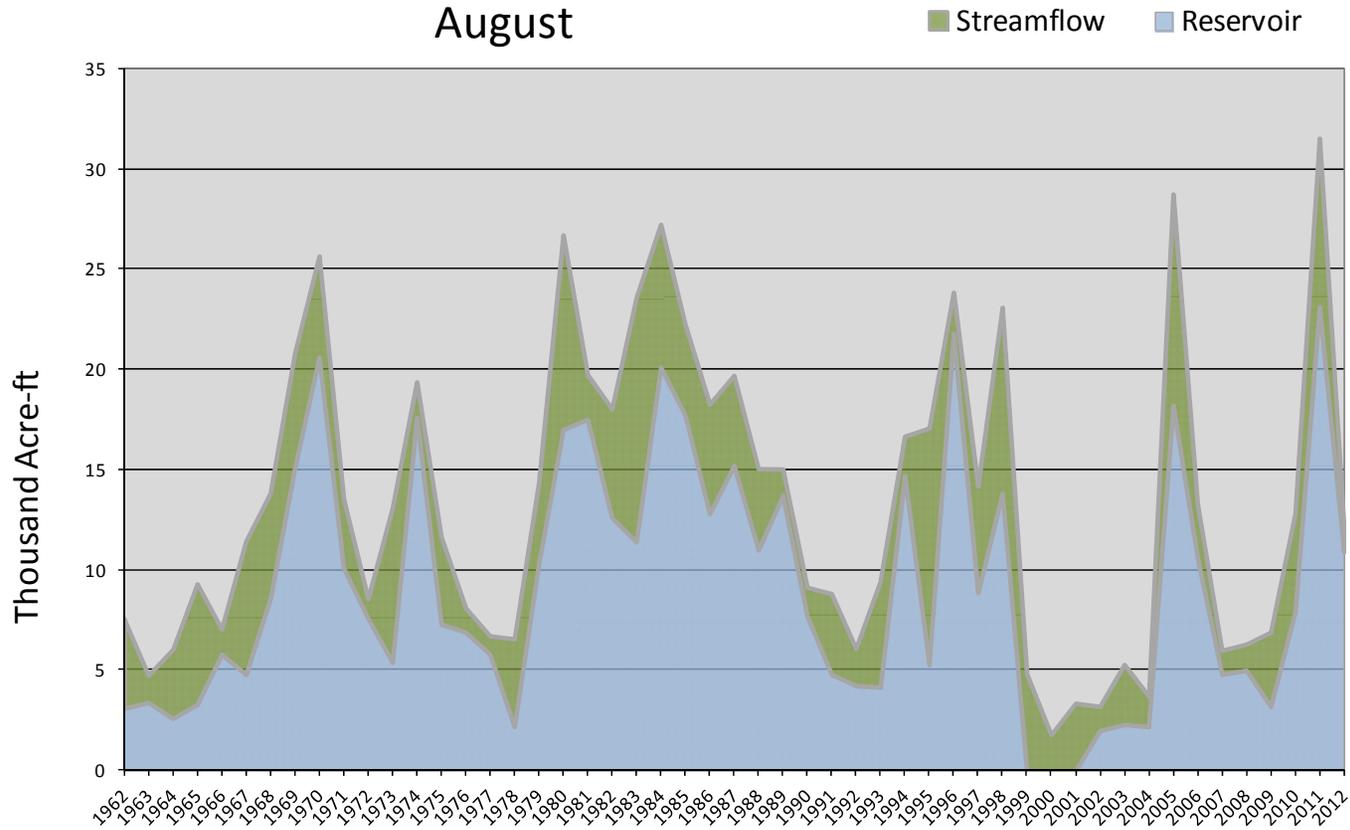
August



August 1, 2012		Water Availability Index				
Basin or Region	July EOM* Minersville Reservoir	July accumulated flow Beaver River at Beaver (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Beaver	10.9	1.3	12.2	-0.16	48	67,75,2010,73

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

Beaver River - Water Availability Index
August



Southwest – E. Garfield, Kane, Washington, & Iron Counties

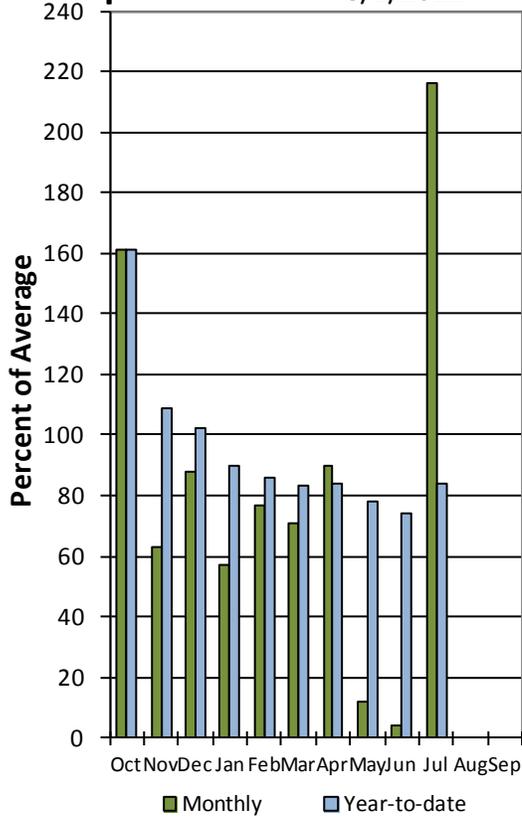
August 1, 2012

Precipitation in July was much above average at 216%, bringing water year accumulation to 84%. Reservoir storage is at 71% of capacity, 12% lower than last year at this time. Soil moisture is at 40%, the same as last year at this time.

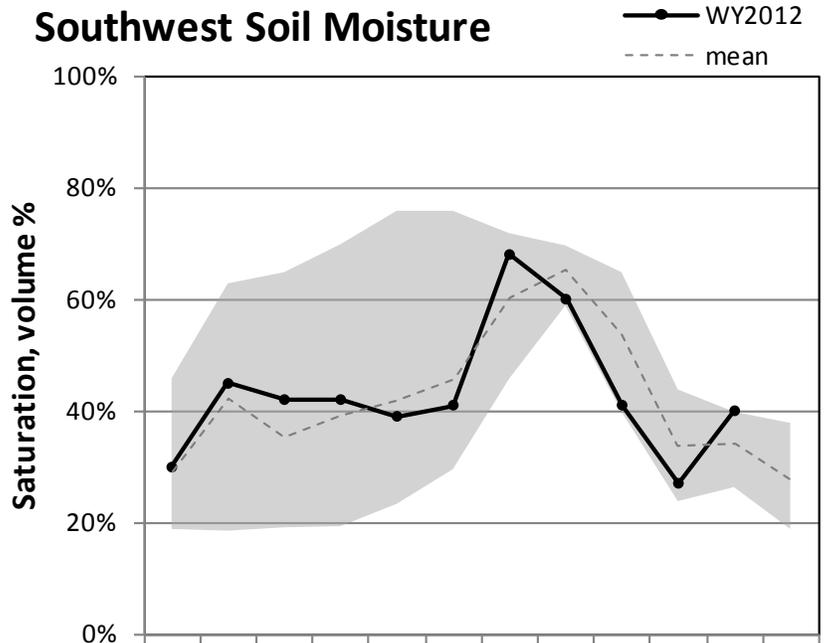
Southwest Utah

Precipitation

8/1/2012

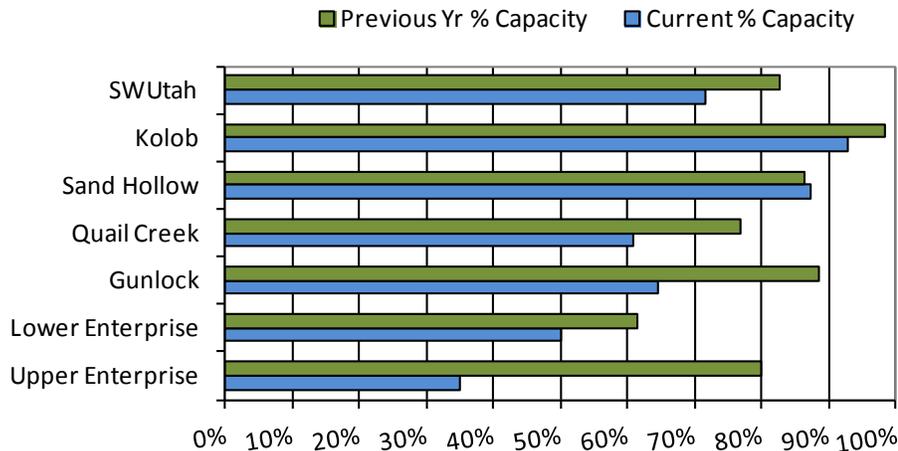


Southwest Soil Moisture



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.

August Southwest Utah Reservoir Storage

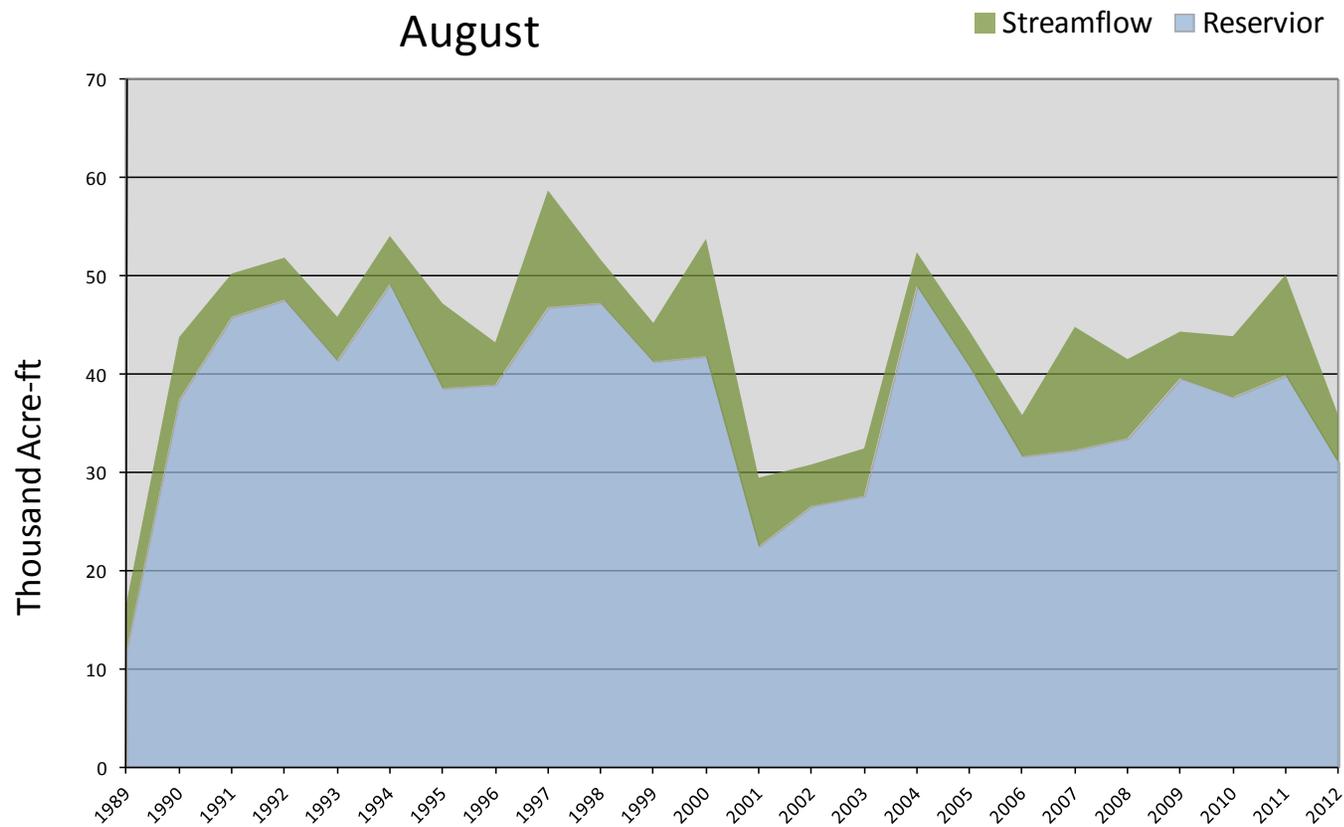


August 1, 2012	Water Availability Index					
Basin or Region	July EOM* Reservoir	July accumulated flow Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Southwest	31	5	36	-2.50	20	08,06,03,02

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

Southwest - Water Availability Index

August



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Utah Climate and Water Report

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