

Utah Climate and Water Report

February 2012



View from Green River SCAN station, UT. March 2011

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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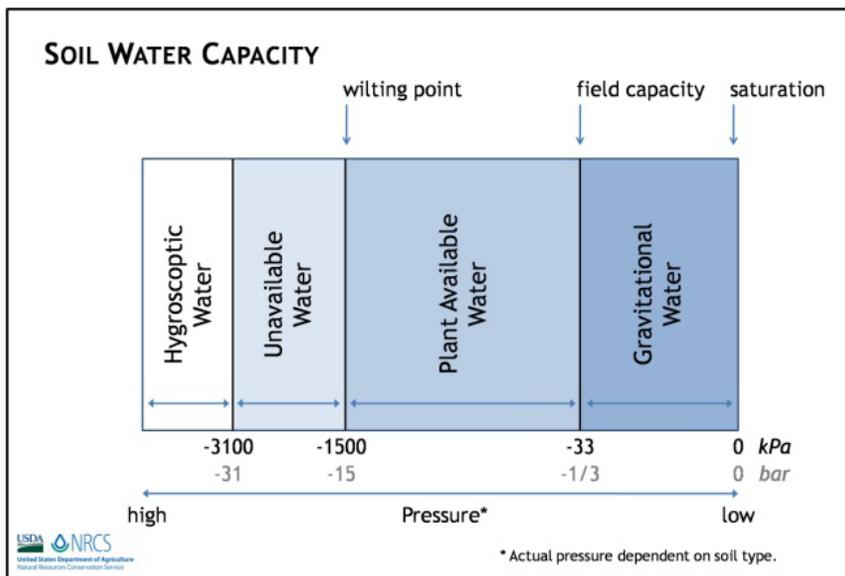
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 - Water Availability Index

Climate and Water Information

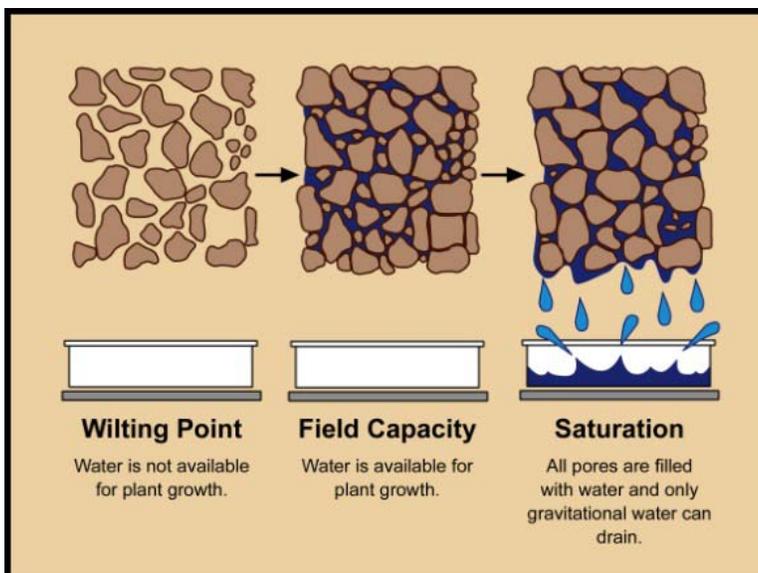
Soil Climate Analysis Network

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.

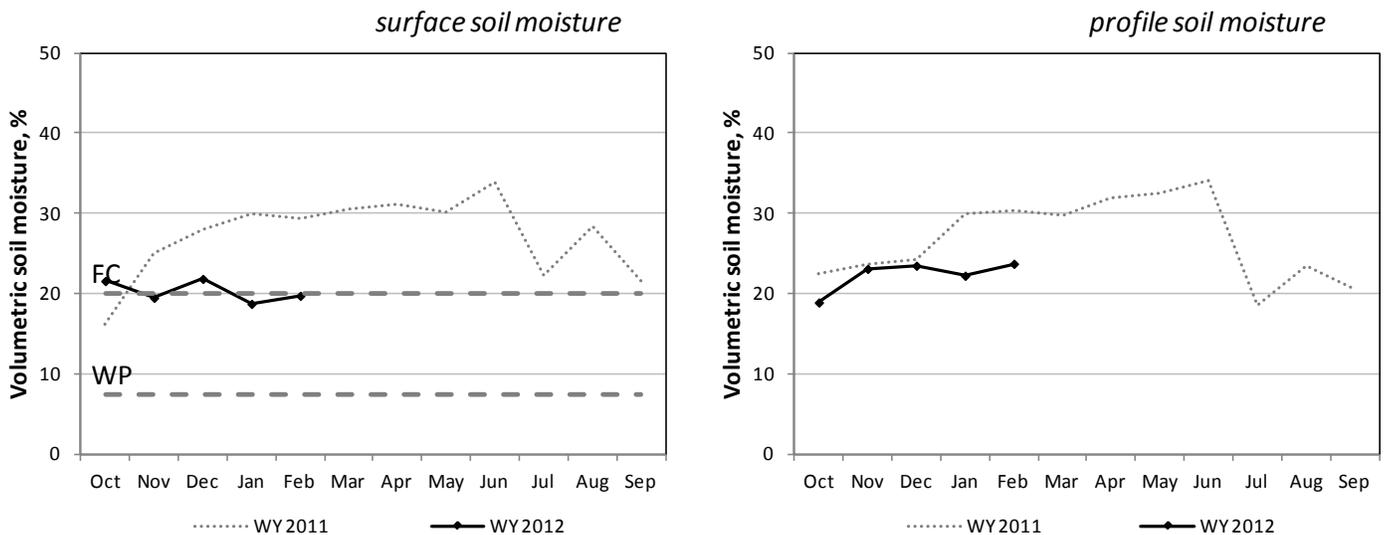
North Central

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"
	<i>in.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>volume %</i>					<i>°F</i>				
NORTH CENTRAL												
Blue Creek	4.9	2.3	17	18	23	33	20	30	31	32	34	37
Cache Junction	6.2	2.5	19	19	26	23	29	29	31	31	34	38
Grantsville	3.3	0.8	17	4	23	24	24	33	34	36	41	47

* 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.

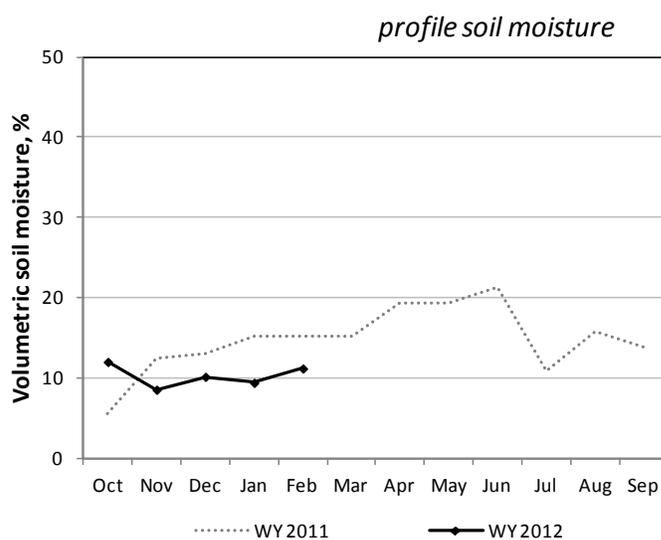
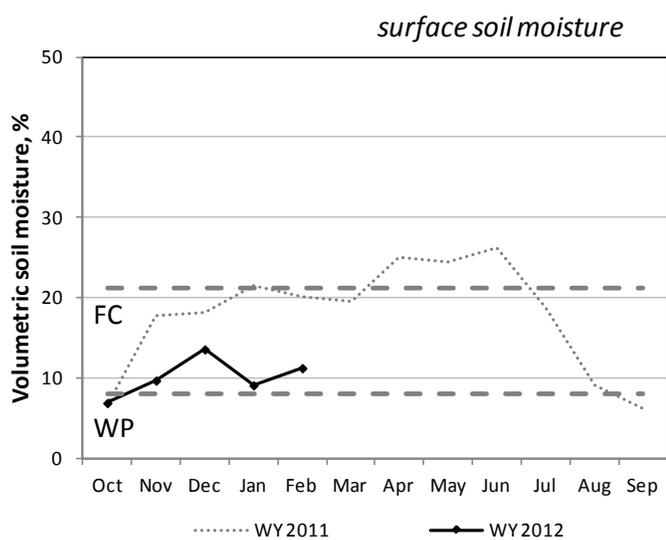
Northern Mountains

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	2.7	0.2	4	7	8	11	12	29	29	30	32	34
Buffalo Jump	2.4	0.8	6	8	7	8	-	26	27	28	32	-
Morgan	6.0	2.9	12	15	27	17	9	32	32	32	32	33

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Northern Mountains



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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.

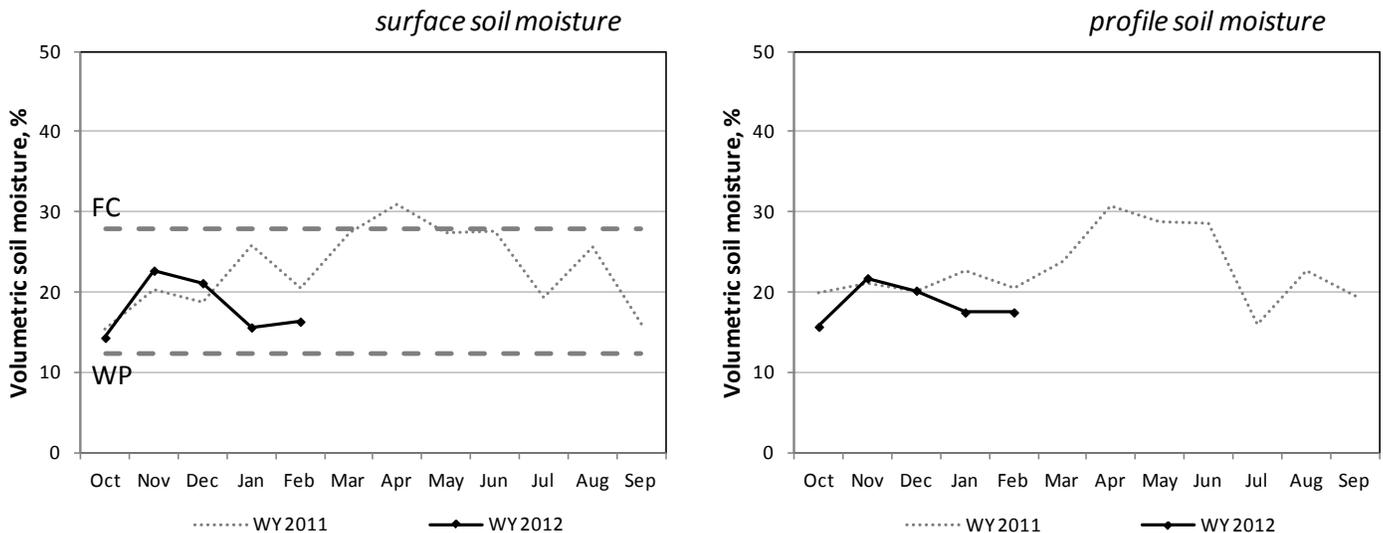
Uintah Basin

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	3.1	0.4	15	21	23	18	10	29	29	30	32	35
Little Red Fox	2.4	0.2	7	18	21	27	34	26	30	30	32	34
Split Mountain	2.4	0.3	8	17	11	10	10	25	28	28	31	35

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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.

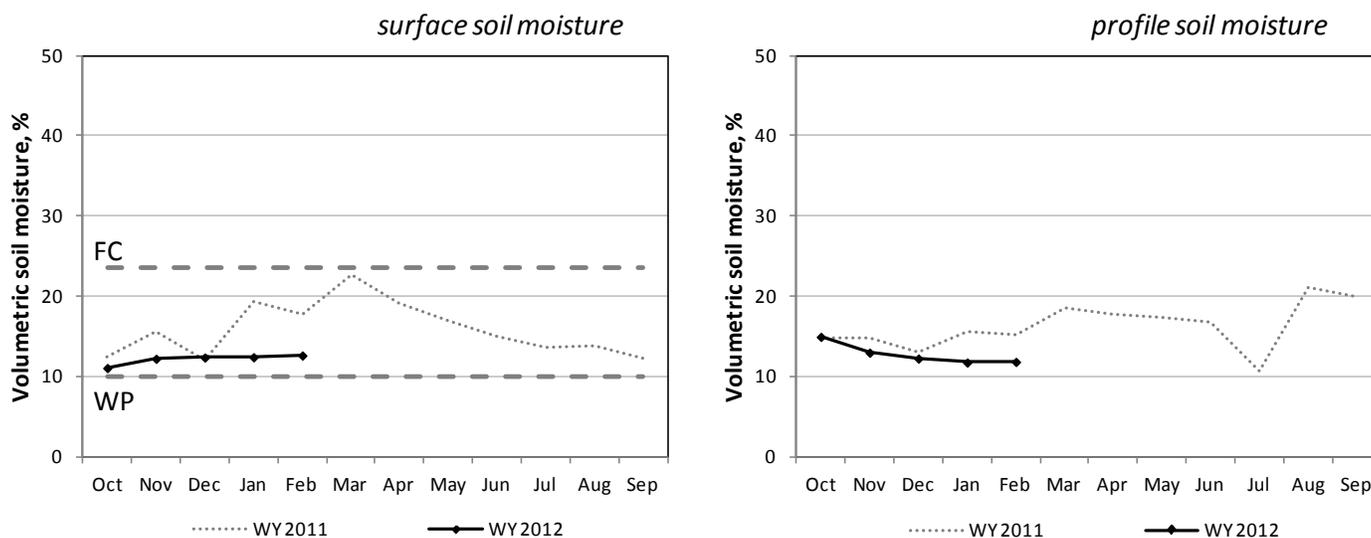
Southeast

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"
			in.					in.				
			volume %					°F				
SOUTHEAST												
Price	2.3	0.4	1	11	15	13	15	30	30	29	32	35
Green River	1.5	0.2	7	8	8	3	7	27	29	31	33	38
Harm's Way	2.3	0.4	8	4	12	12	6	32	32	33	35	38
West Summit	2.4	0.3	13	15	13	13	17	28	28	30	30	35
Eastland	3.4	0.3	25	21	17	20	19	32	32	32	34	38
Alkali Mesa	4.2	0.7	11	12	14	16	11	31	31	31	33	36
McCracken Mesa	2.7	0.6	20	24	23	14	12	32	35	35	38	42

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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.

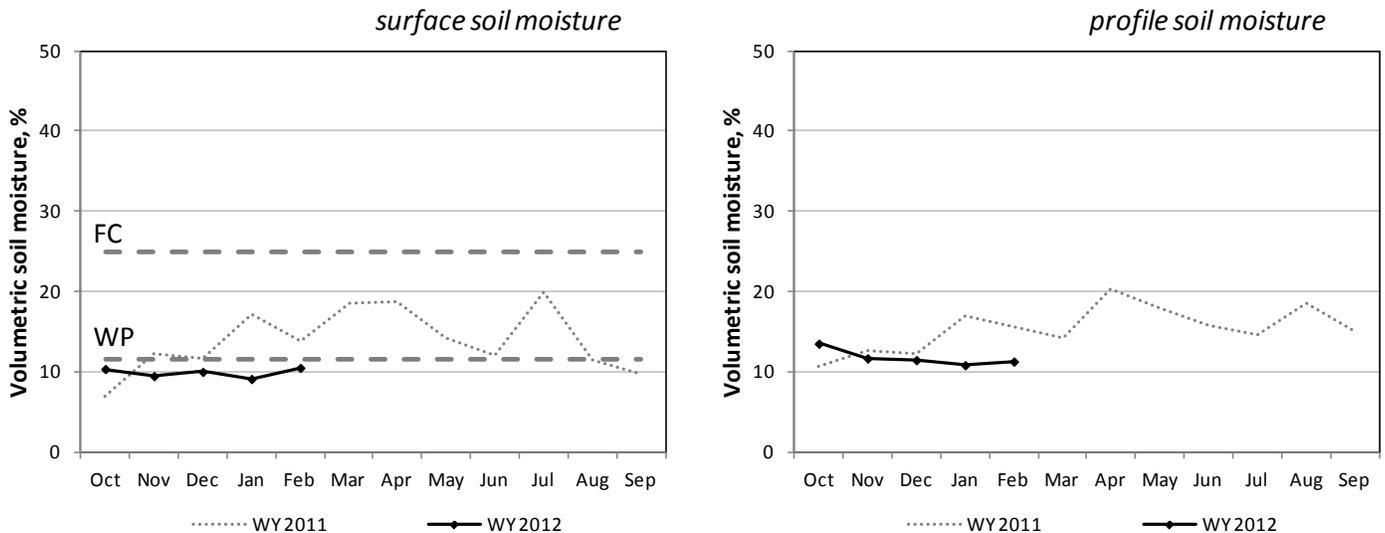
South Central

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>in.</i>	<i>volume %</i>					<i>° F</i>				
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Nephi	4.4	1.5	32	33	24	8	0	32	32	32	36	39
Ephraim	2.3	0.8	12	14	16	14	33	30	32	33	35	39
Holden	2.5	0.7	10	9	5	11	12	32	32	33	35	40
Milford	2.0	0.4	20	23	13	24	15	32	33	34	37	42
Manderfield	3.1	0.7	6	14	11	10	5	31	31	32	34	37
Circleville	1.5	0.3	13	7	8	7	7	31	31	31	34	-11
Panguitch	1.8	0.1	4	15	11	18	34	24	26	27	32	37
Cave Valley	5.0	1.4	6	2	3	6	7	32	32	32	33	35
Vermillion	3.7	1.0	0	0	2	2	7	28	31	32	34	37
Spooky	2.9	0.2	6	8	2	12	1	35	34	35	37	41

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South Central



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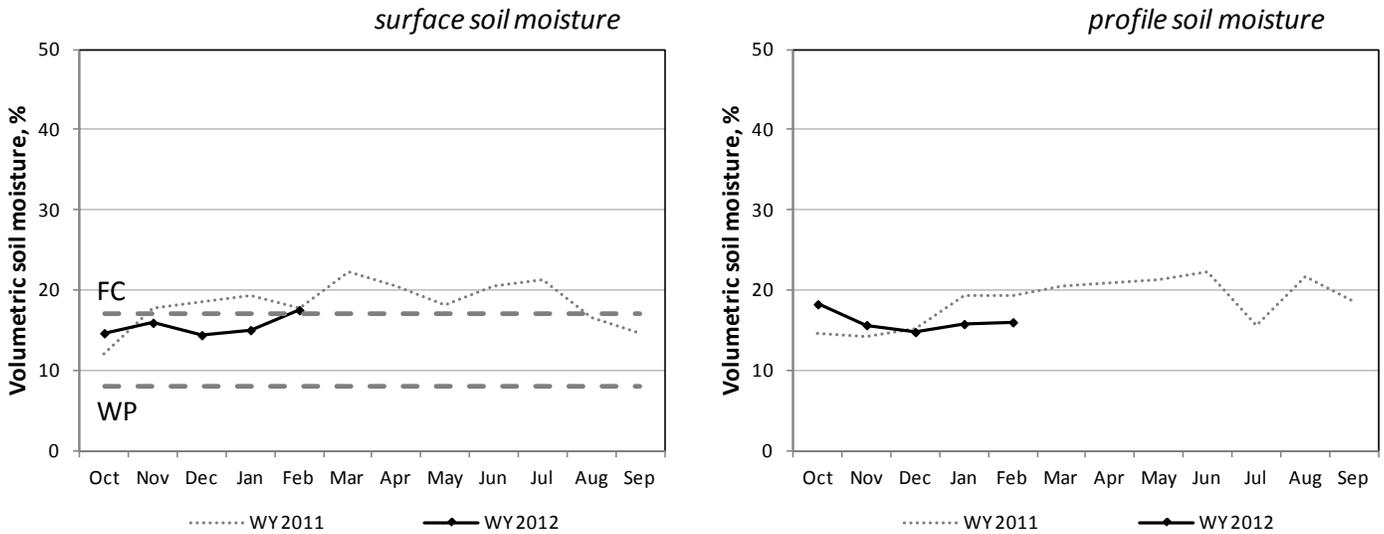
Western and Dixie

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	3.7	1.8	9	21	11	15	16	32	32	33	35	38
Park Valley	3.2	1.8	7	13	18	25	24	32	32	32	35	39
Goshute	1.5	0.3	12	19	39	23	29	29	31	32	33	38
Dugway	2.6	1.1	22	33	32	34	12	32	32	34	37	39
Tule Valley	1.9	0.3	22	18	24	17	8	30	33	35	35	39
Hal's Canyon	2.2	0.2	2	10	10	9	8	31	33	33	36	40
Enterprise	2.7	0.4	12	34	20	13	14	34	35	35	36	41
DIXIE												
Sand Hollow	2.7	0.5	4	5	4	0	0	36	39	42	42	46

* 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

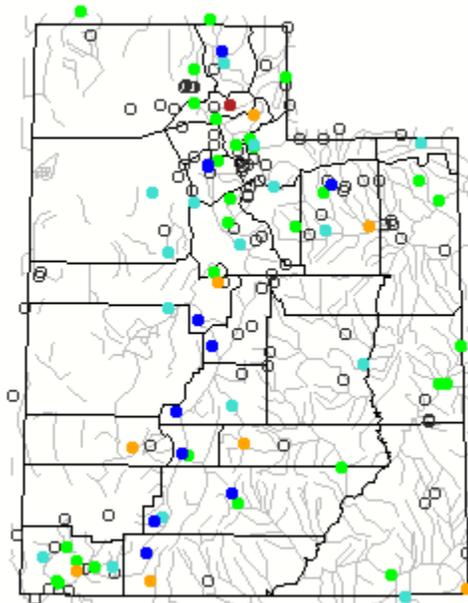
February 1, 2012

Current Conditions

Soil moisture conditions are below normal in northern Utah and near average in the south. January precipitation was near normal in northern Utah (101%-105%), much below normal over the Uintah Basin (63%) and below to much below normal over southern Utah (57%-80%). Snowpack across the state are below to much below average. Reservoir storage is exceptionally high (86% of capacity) across the state. Expect poor snowmelt runoff conditions statewide this spring. Water supply conditions are balanced by excellent reservoir storage.

Current Utah Streamflow - Courtesy US Geological Survey

Thu., Feb. 02, 2012 12:30ET



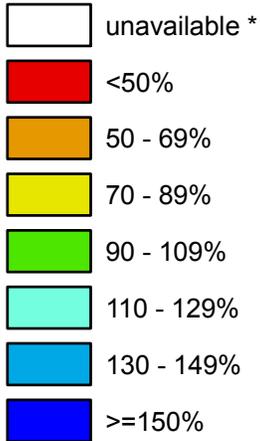
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not ranked

Utah

SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

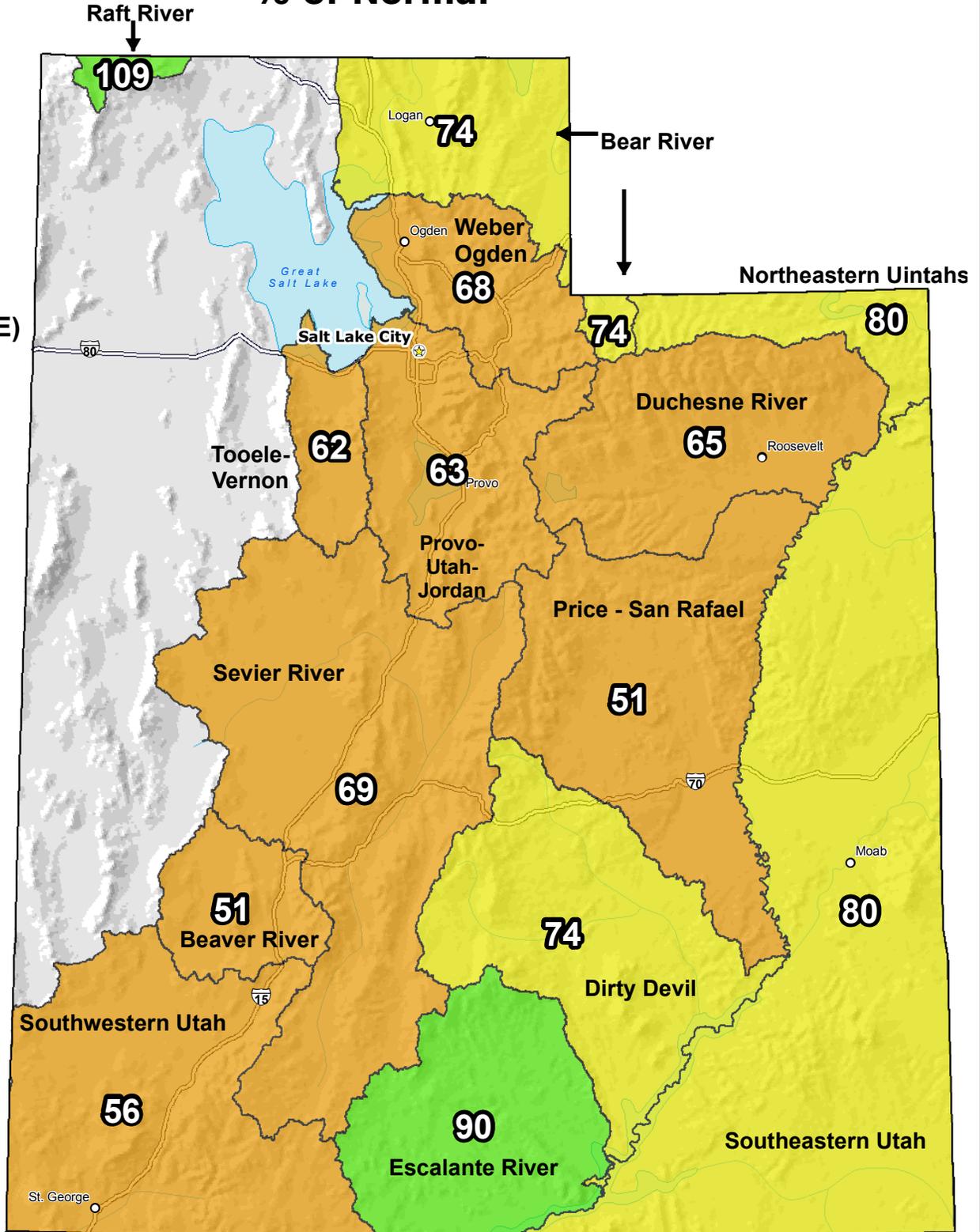
Feb 01, 2012

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

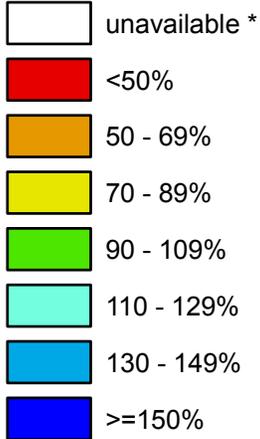
Utah

SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation

% of Normal

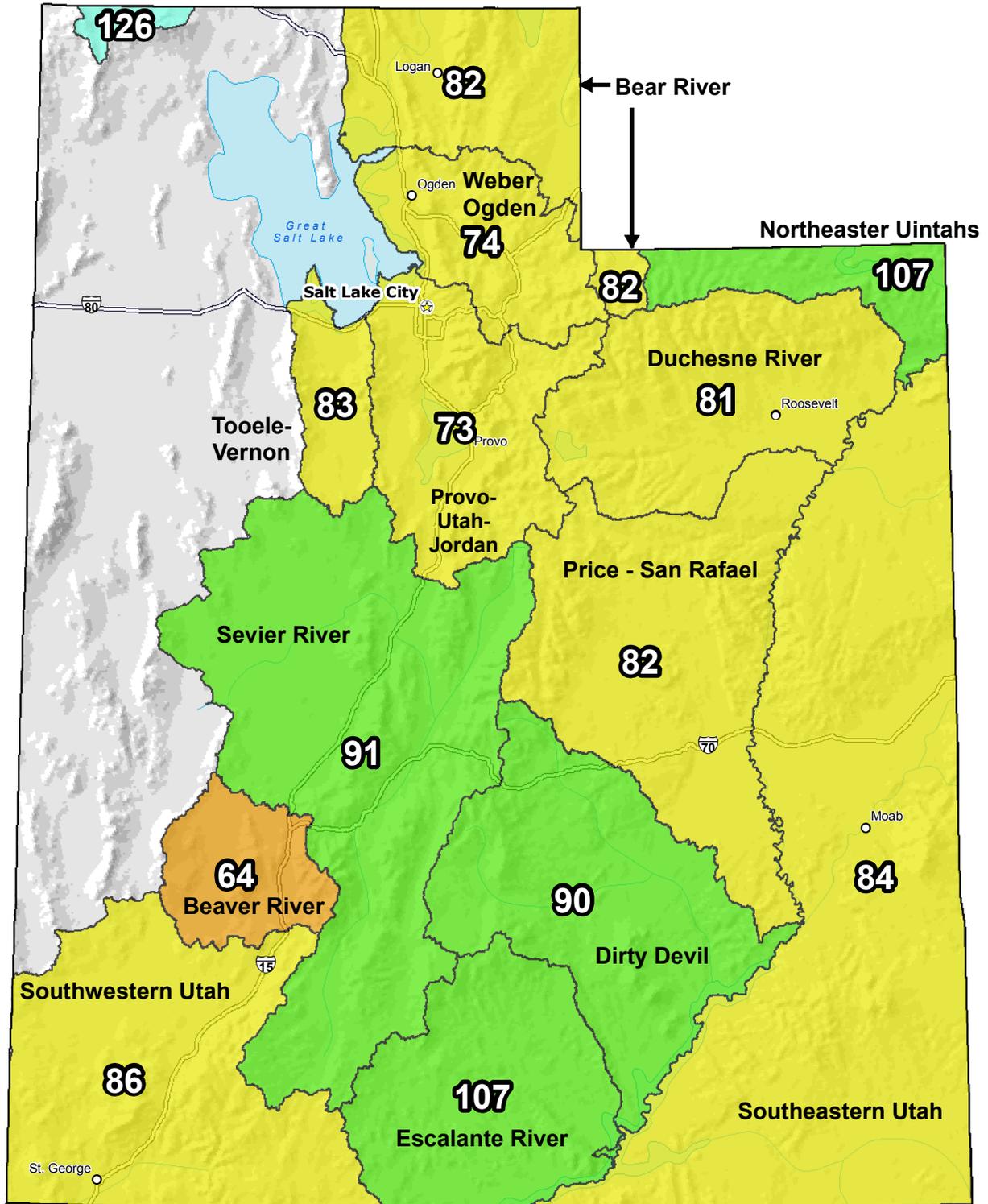
Feb 01, 2012

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).

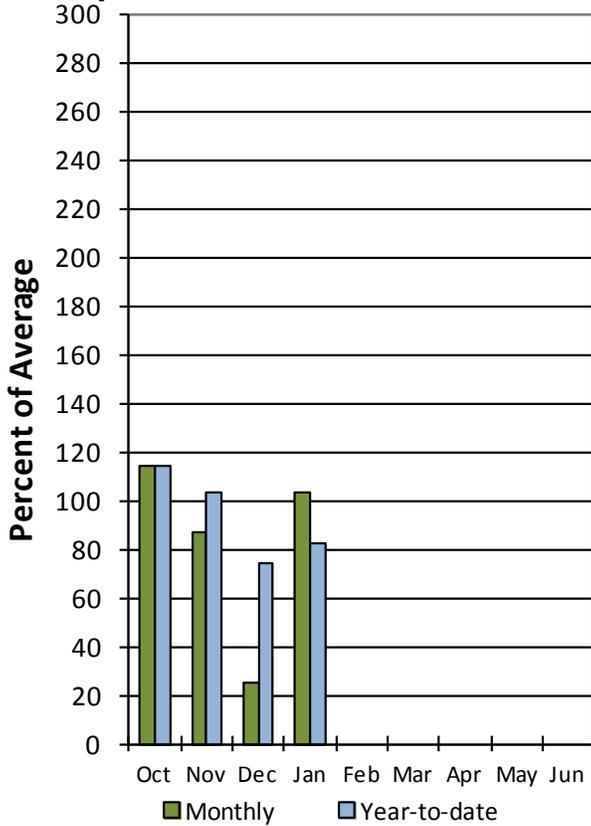
Prepared by the USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/>
Based on data from <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/reports/>
Science contact: Jim.Marron@por.usda.gov 503 414 3047

Bear River Basin February 1, 2012

Precipitation in January was average at 103% which brings the water year accumulation to 82%. Reservoir storage is at 75% of capacity, which is 41% higher than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 48% compared to 70% last year.

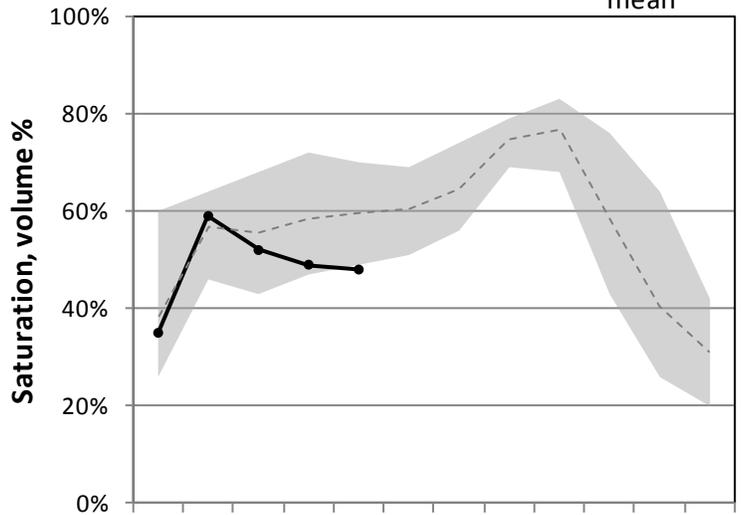
Bear River Precipitation

2/1/2012



Bear River Soil Moisture

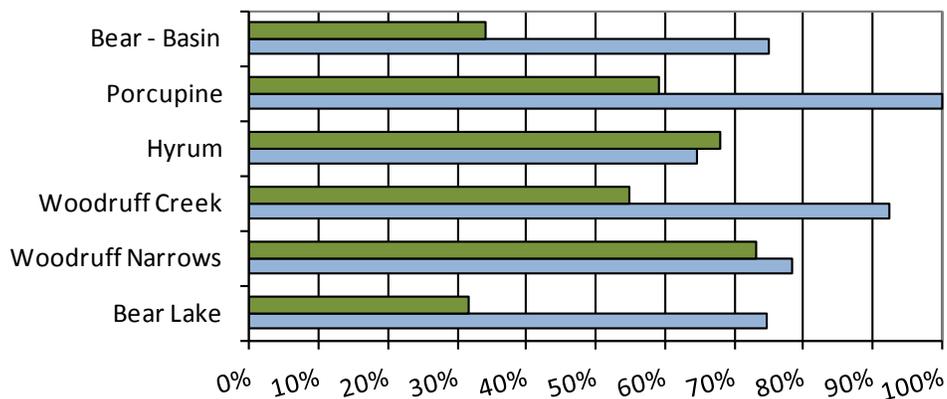
—●— WY 2012
- - - mean



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.

February Bear River Reservoir Storage

■ Previous Yr % Capacity ■ Current % Capacity



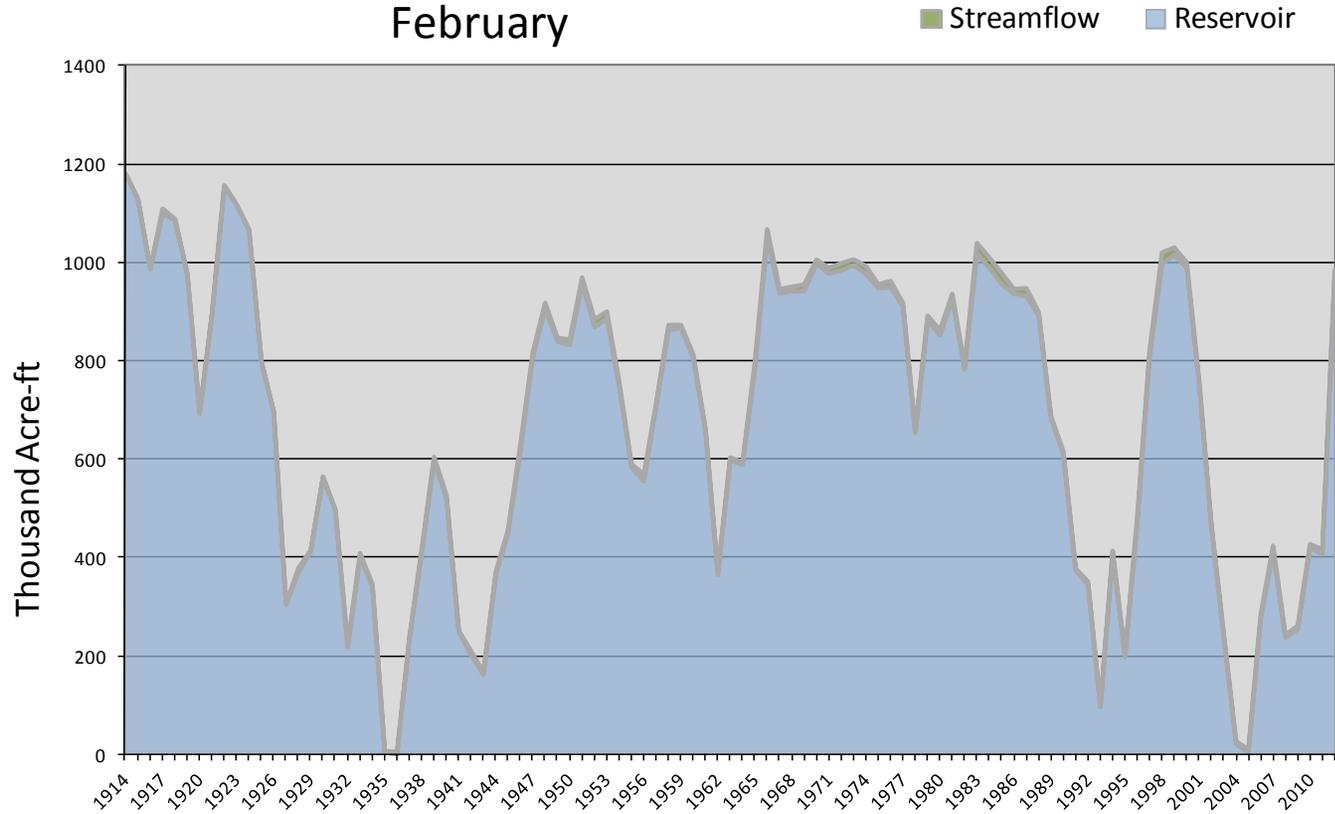
February 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Bear Lake	January accumulated inflow to Bear Lake (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Bear River	972	14.7	987	2.50	80	19, 85, 16, 71

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

Bear Lake - Water Availability Index February



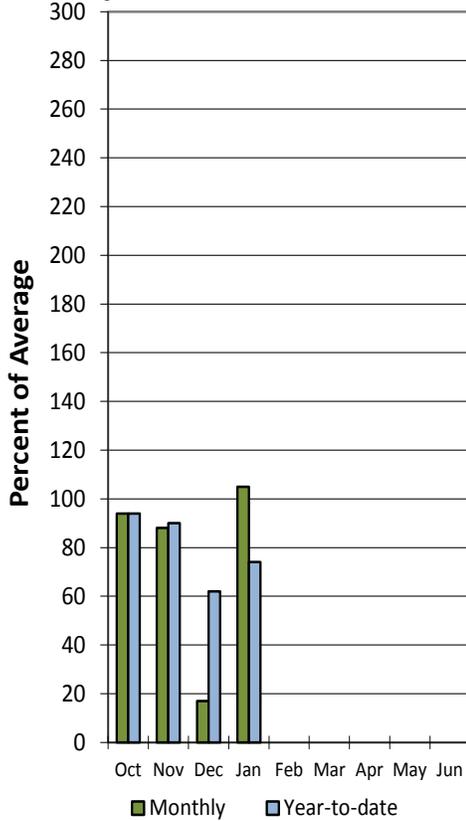
Weber and Ogden River Basin February 1, 2012

Precipitation in January was average at 105% which brings the water year accumulation to 74%. Reservoir storage is at 80% of capacity, which is 8% higher than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 48% compared to 68% last year.

Weber River

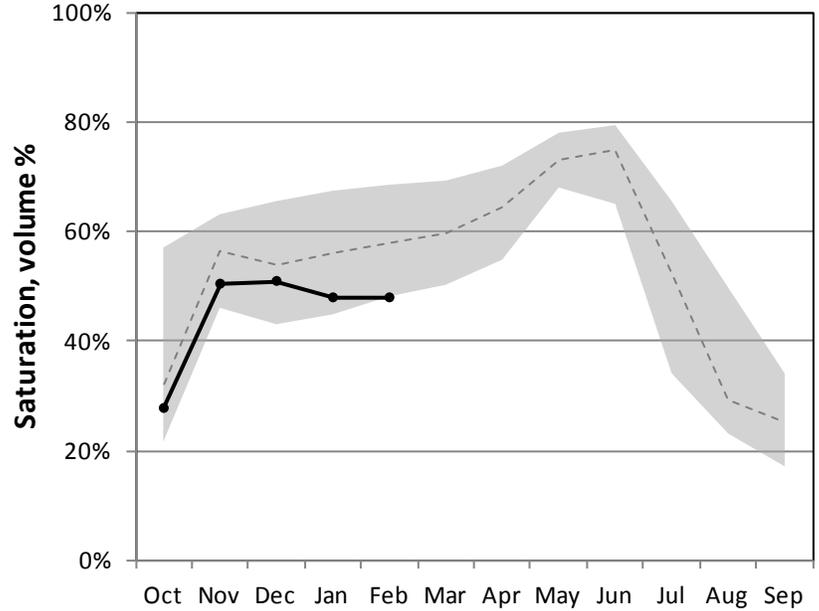
Precipitation

2/1/2012



Weber River Soil Moisture

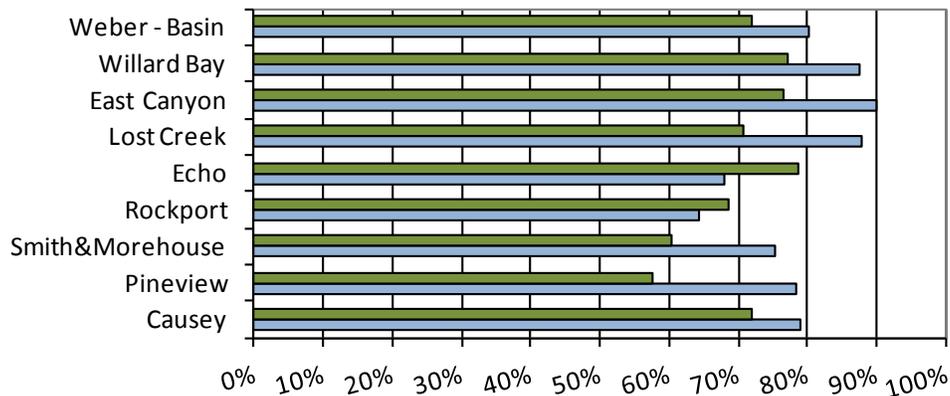
—●— WY2012
- - - - mean



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.

February Weber Basin Reservoir Storage

■ Previous Yr % Capacity ■ Current % Capacity



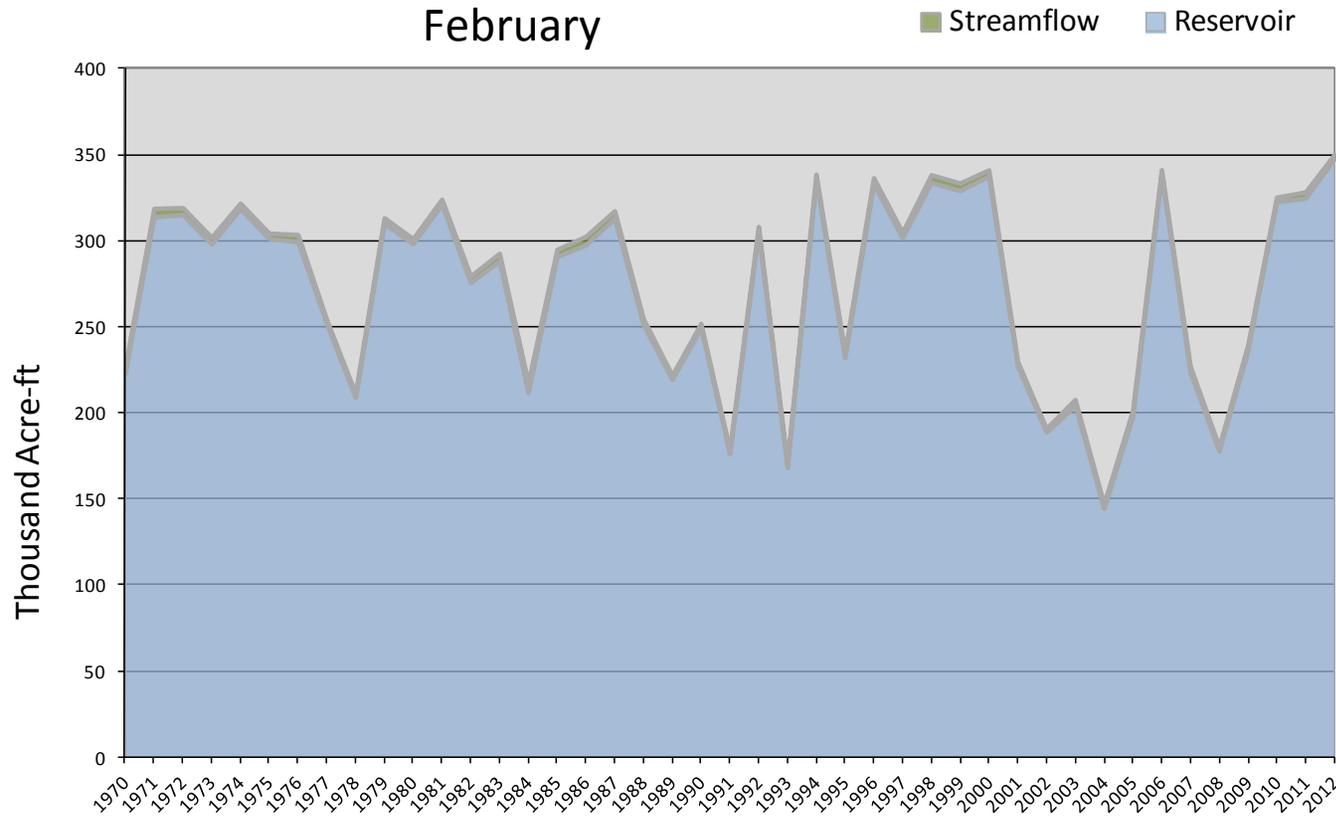
February 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Reservoirs	January accumulated flow at Weber near Oakley (observed)	Reservoirs + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Weber River	348	2.5	350	3.98	98	98, 94, 00, 06

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

Weber River - Water Availability Index February



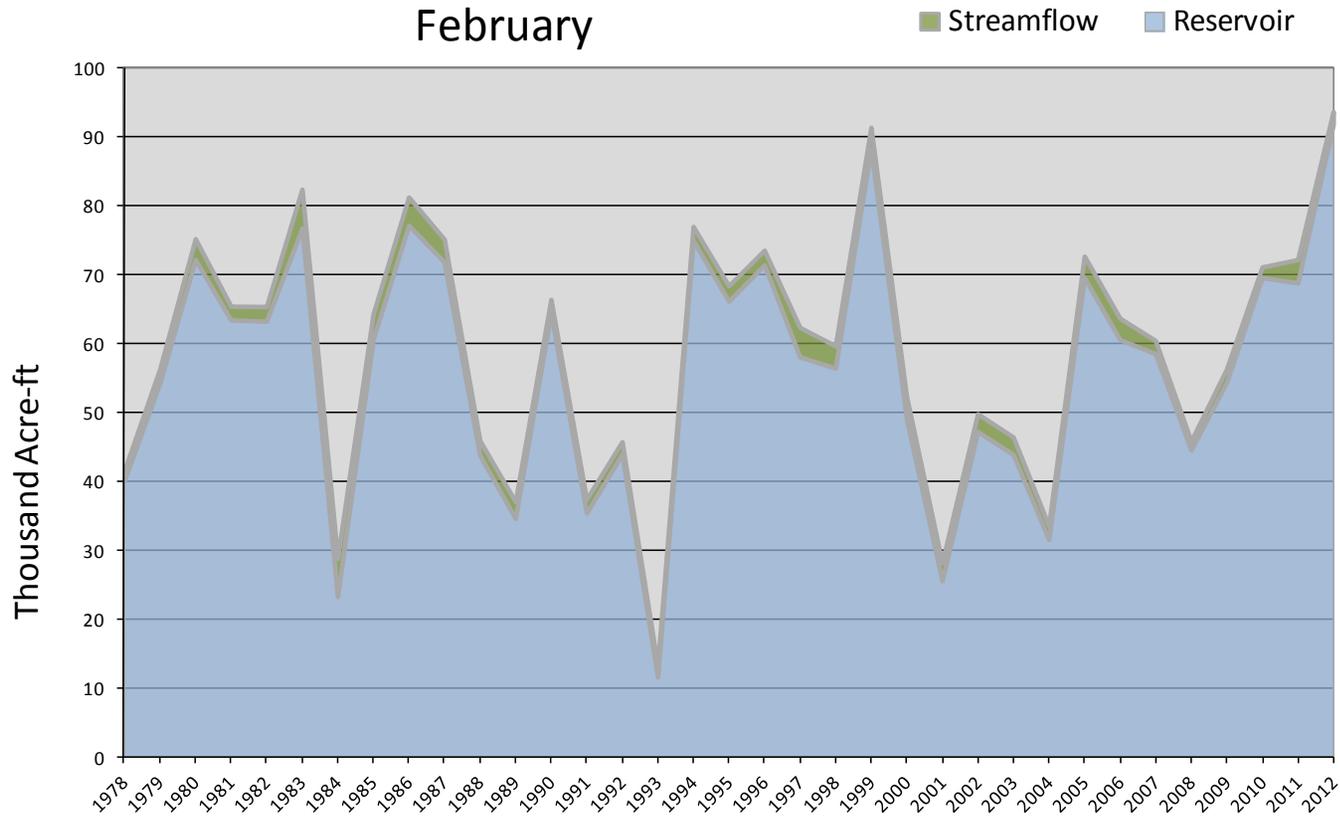
February 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Pine View & Causey	January accumulated flow at South Fork Ogden (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Ogden River	91.8	1.9	93.7	3.97	97	94, 86, 83, 99

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

Ogden River - Water Availability Index February



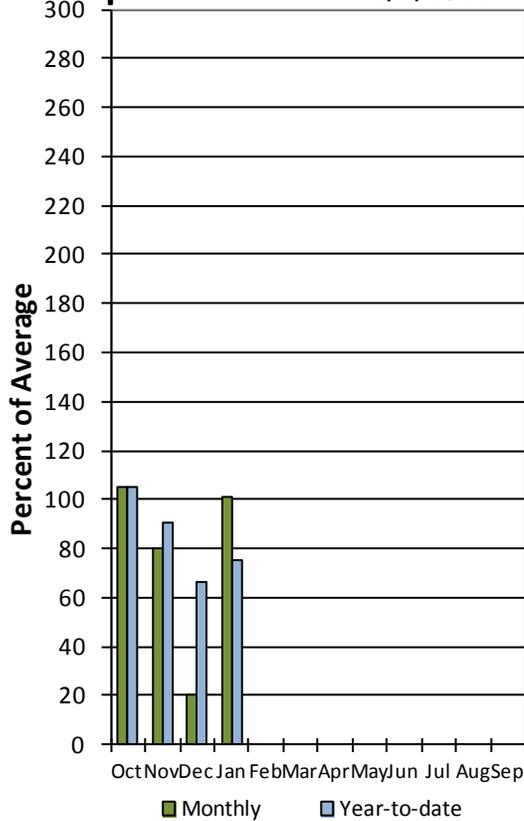
Utah Lake, Jordan River, & Tooele Valley Basins February 1, 2012

Precipitation in January was near average at 101%, bringing water year accumulation to 75%. Reservoir storage is at 94% of capacity, which is 5% more than this time last year. Soil moisture is at 32% compared to 57% last year at this time.

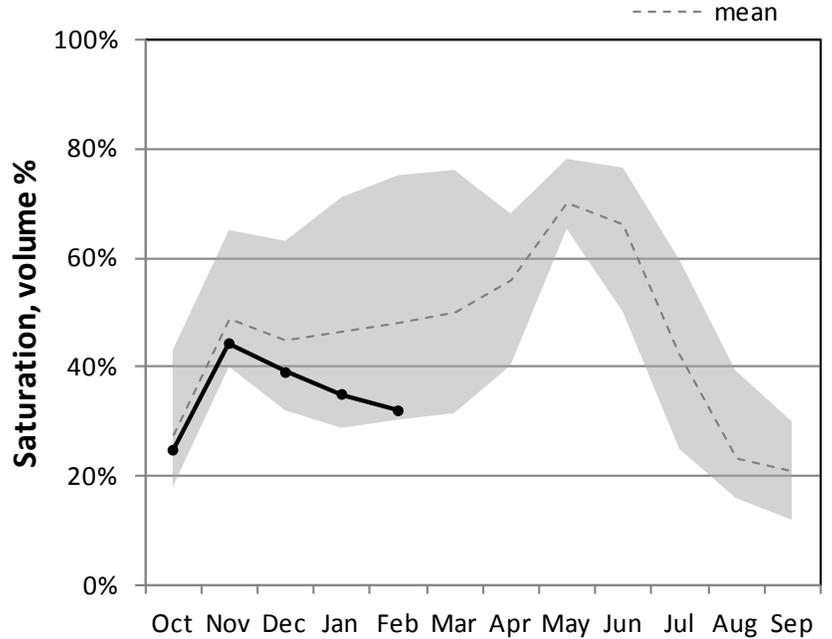
Jordan / Provo River

Precipitation

2/1/2012

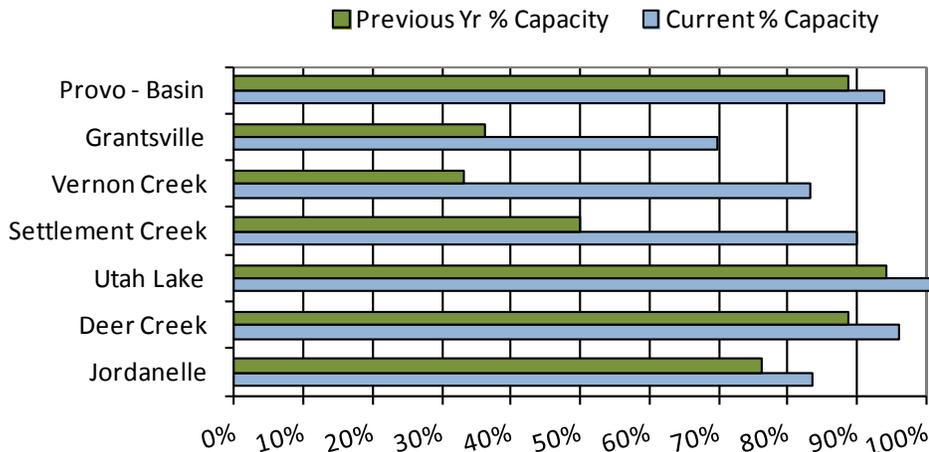


Jordan/Provo River Soil Moisture



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.

February Provo River Reservoir Storage



February 1, 2012

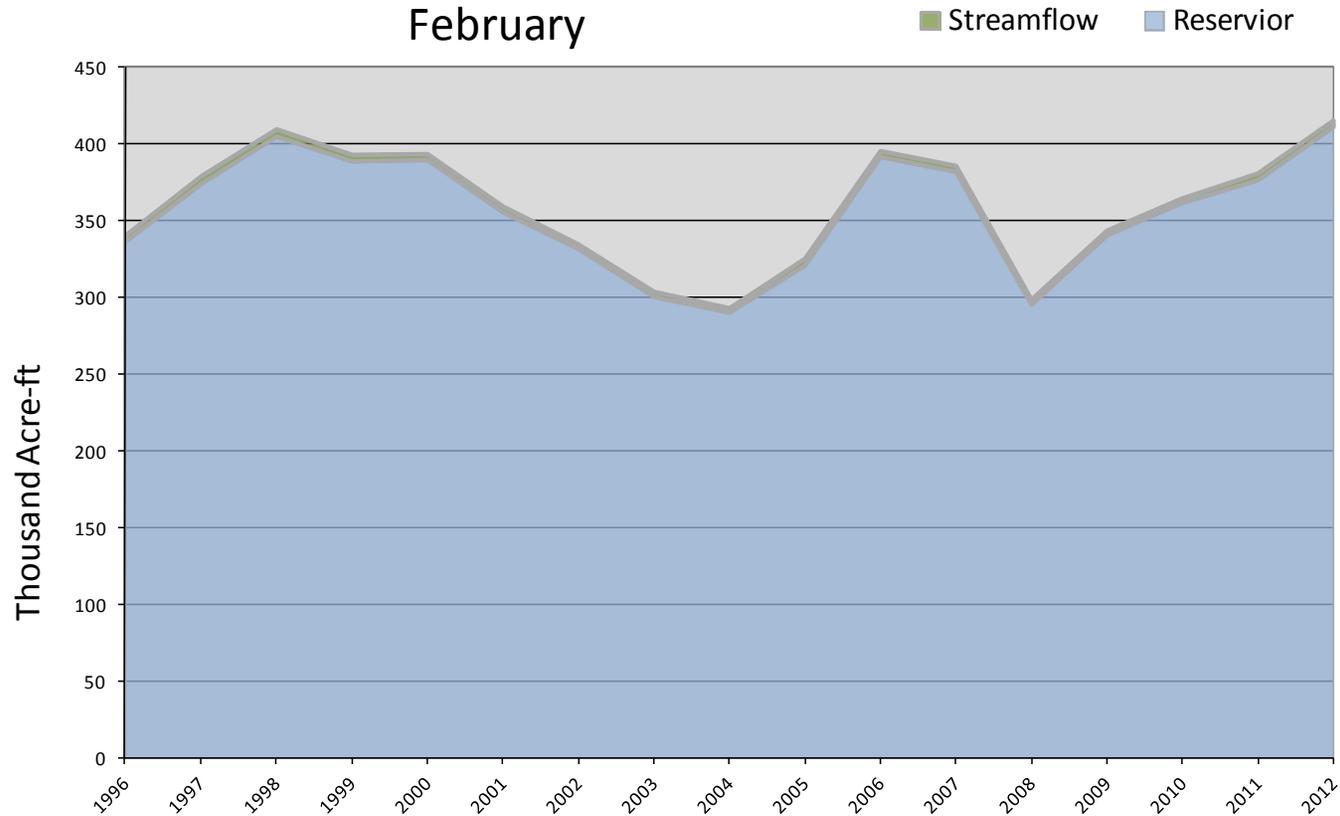
Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Deer Creek, Jordanelle	January accumulated flow Provo River at Woodland (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	<i>KAF</i> [^]	<i>KAF</i>	<i>KAF</i>		%	
Provo	411	4.2	416	3.70	94	98, 06, 99, 00

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

Provo River - Water Availability Index

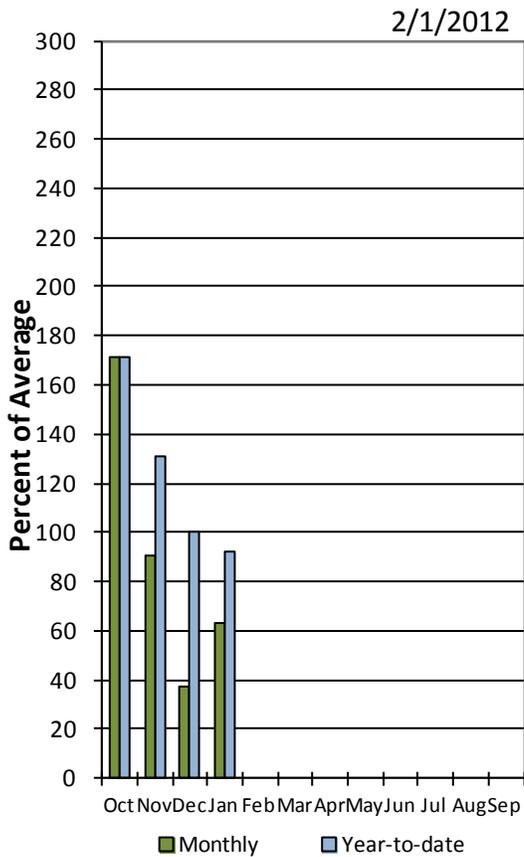
February



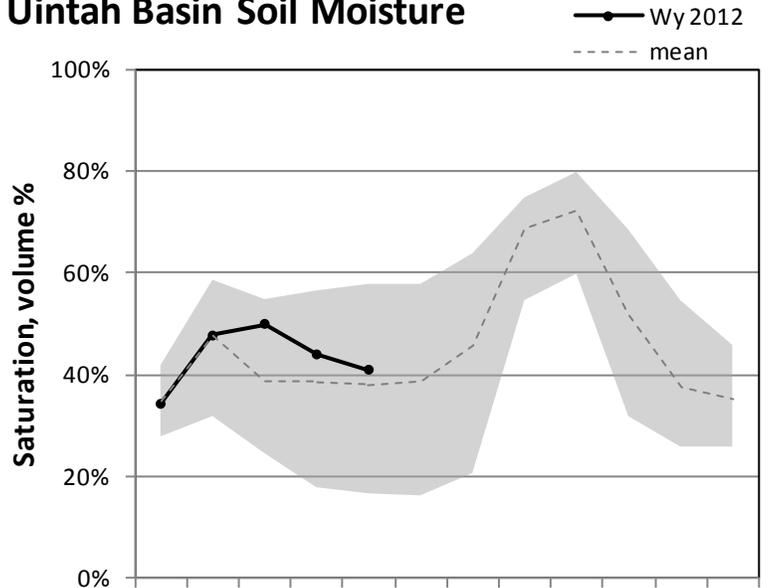
Uintah Basin and Dagget SCDs February 1, 2012

Precipitation in January was much below average at 63%, bringing the water year accumulation to 92%. Reservoir storage is at 87% of capacity, which is 3% higher than at this time last year. Soil moisture is at 41% compared to 56% last year.

Uintah Precipitation

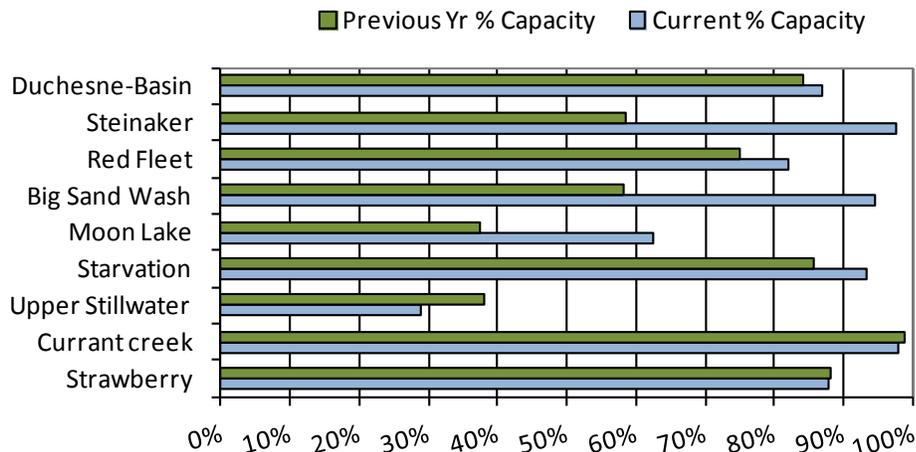


Uintah Basin Soil Moisture



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.

February Uintah Basin Reservoir Storage



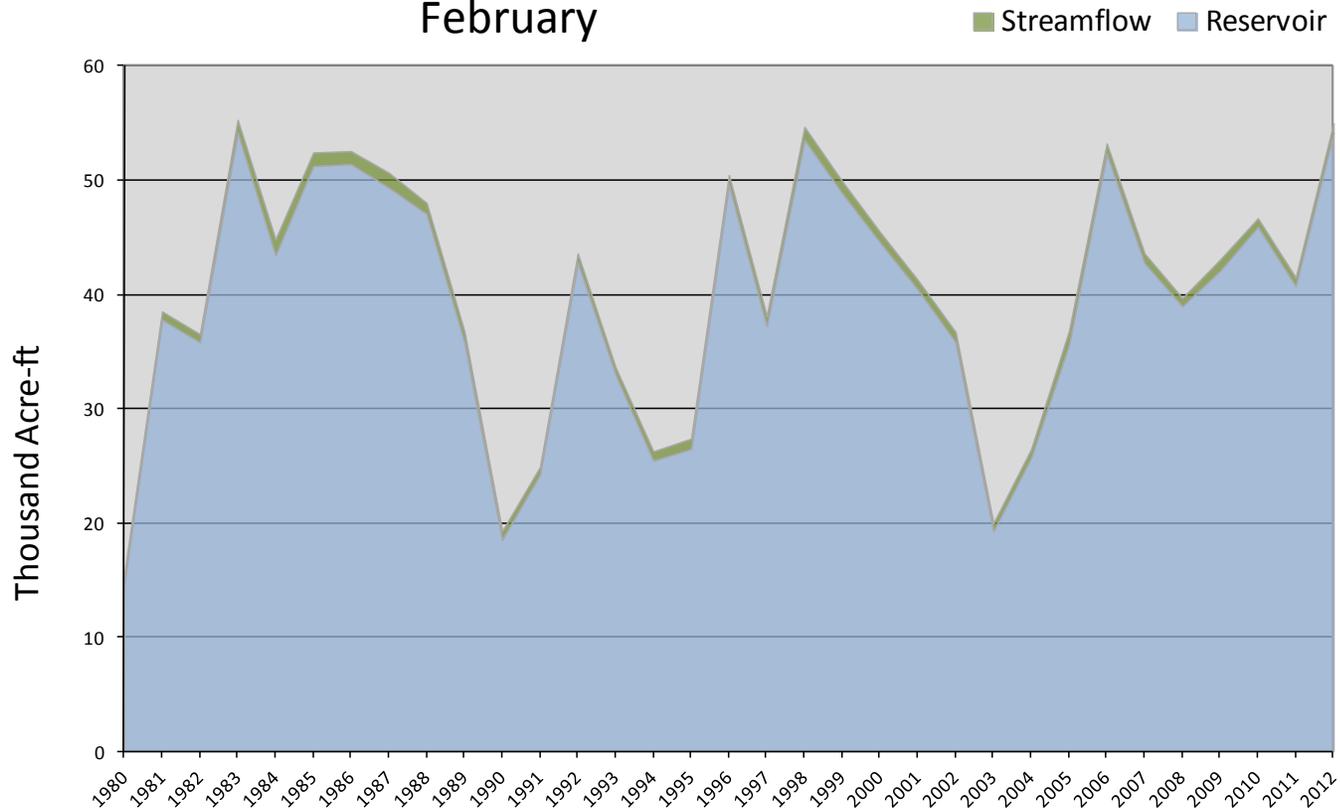
February 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Red Fleet and Steinaker	January accumulated flow Big Brush Creek (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI [#]	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF [^]	KAF	KAF		%	
Eastern Uintah	54.2	0.8	55.0	3.68	94	86, 06, 98, 93

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

Eastern Uintah - Water Availability Index
February



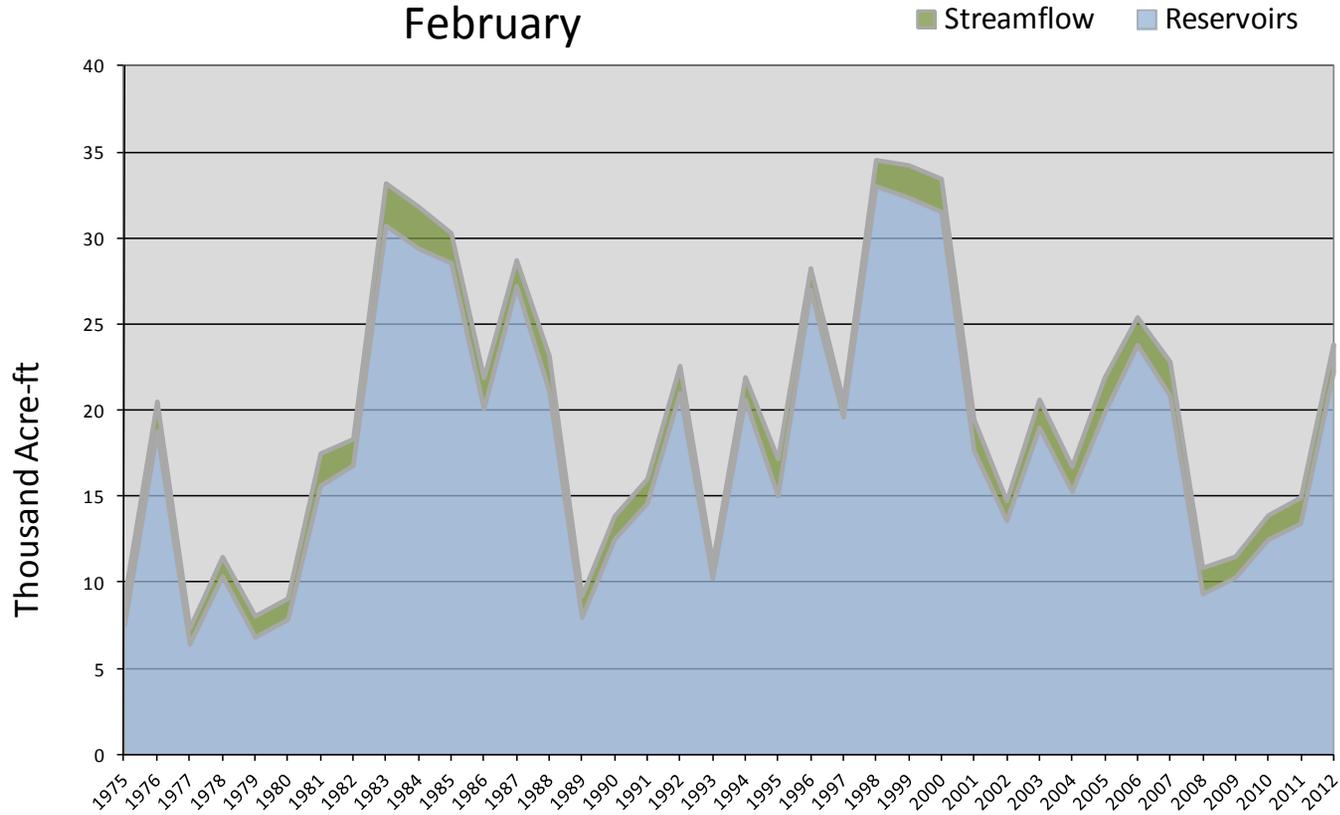
February 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Moon Lake	January accumulated flow Lake Fork Creek above Moon Lake (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Moon Lake	22.2	1.7	23.8	2.03	74	07, 88, 06, 96

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

Moon Lake - Water Availability Index February



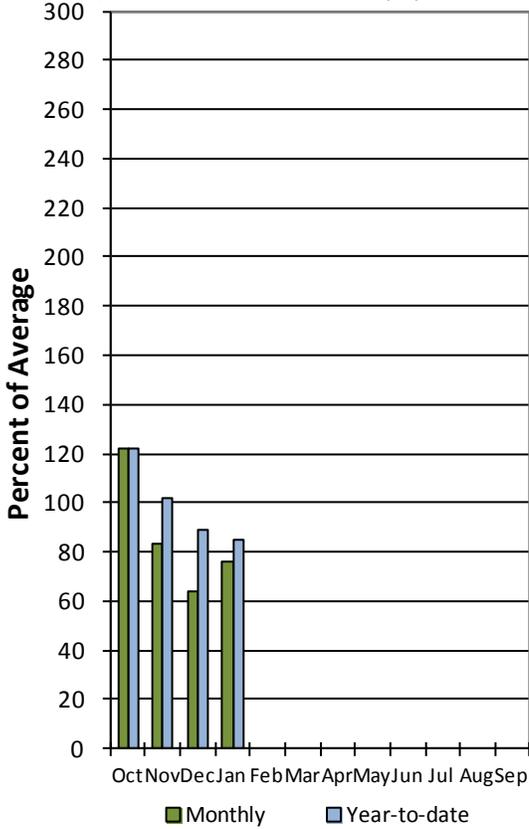
Southeast – Carbon, Emery, Wayne, Grand, and San Juan Counties February 1, 2012

Precipitation in January was below average at 76%, bringing the water year accumulation to 85%. Reservoir storage is at 77% of capacity, which is 24% higher at this time last year. Soil moisture is at 41% compared to 66% last year.

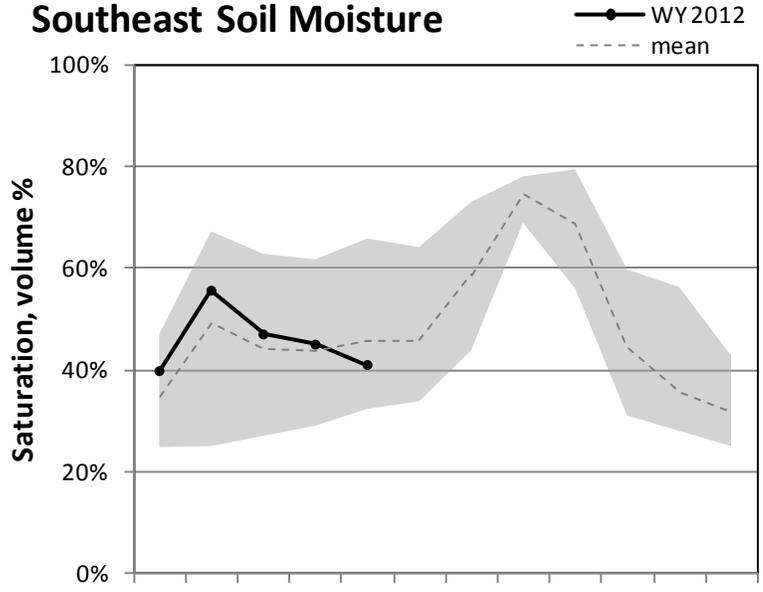
Southeast Utah

Precipitation

2/1/2012

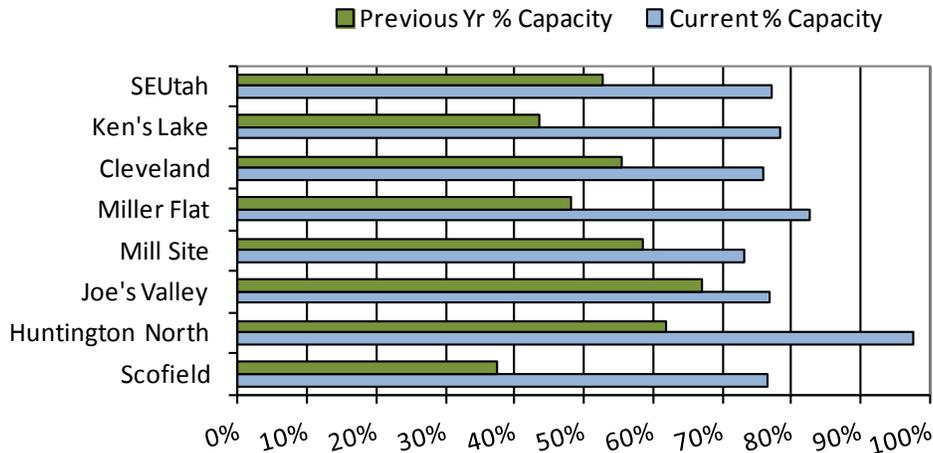


Southeast Soil Moisture



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.

February Southeast Utah Reservoir Storage



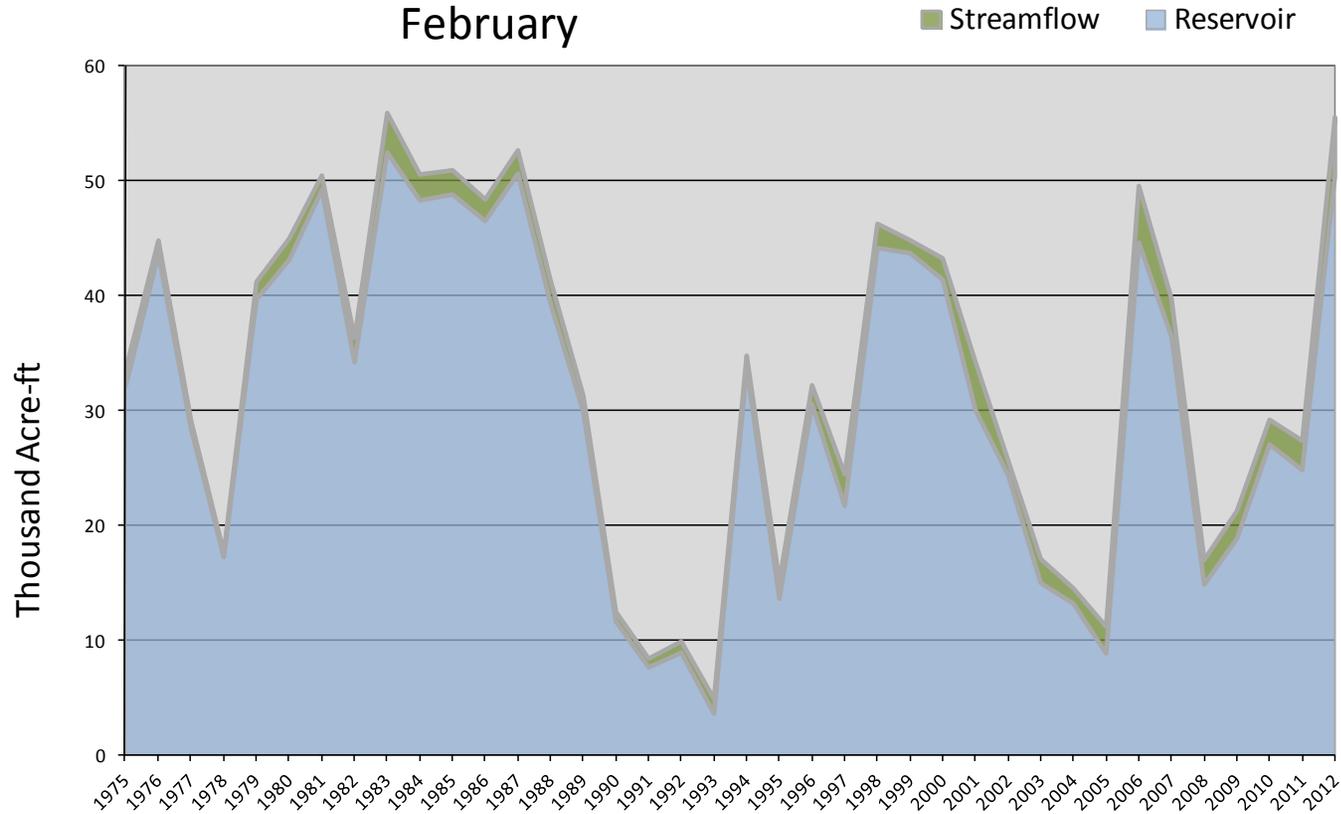
February 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Scofield	January accumulated inflow to Scofield (calculated)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Price River	50.5	5.2	55.6	3.74	95	84, 85, 87, 83

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

Price River - Water Availability Index February



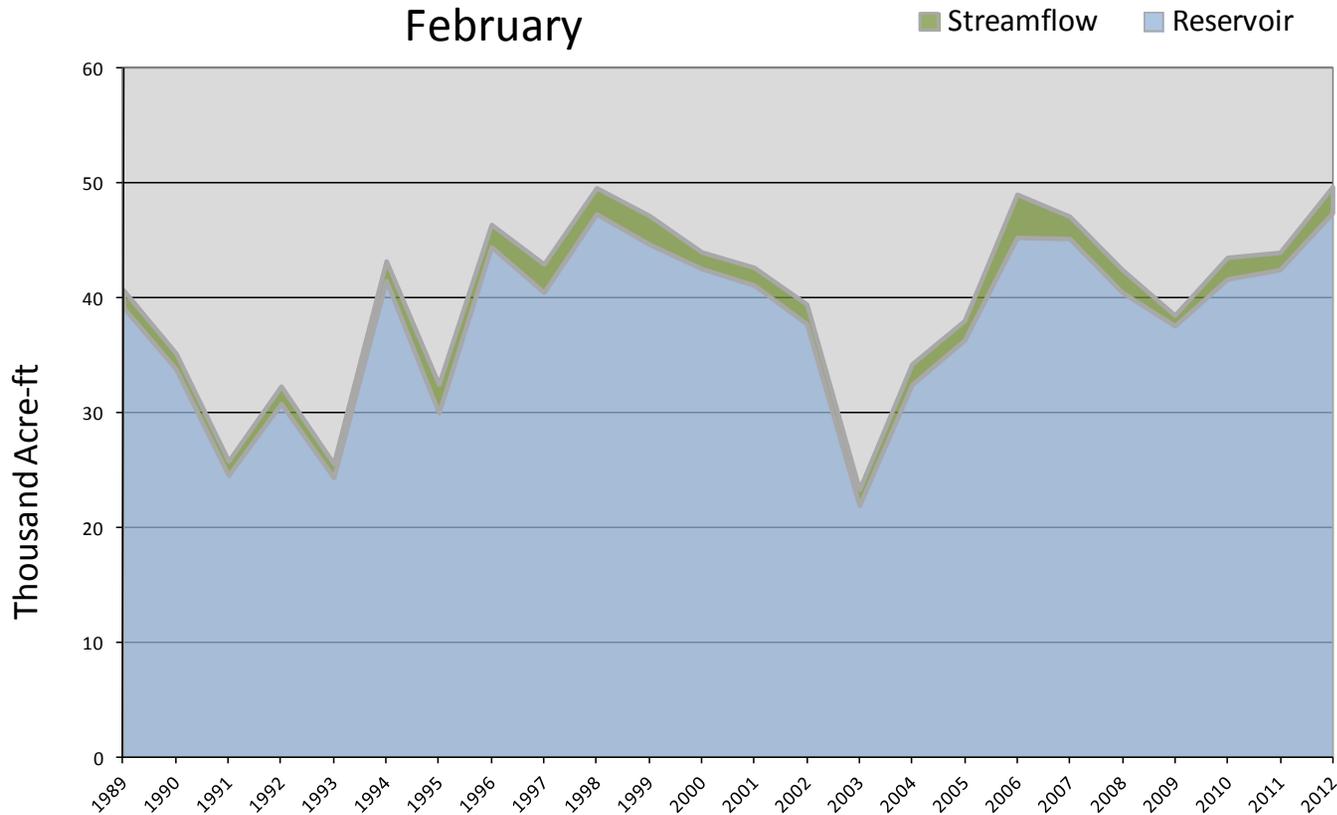
February 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Joe's Valley	January accumulated inflow to Joe's Valley (calculated)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Joe's Valley	47.4	2.3	49.7	3.83	96	07, 99, 06, 98

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

Joe's Valley - Water Availability Index
February



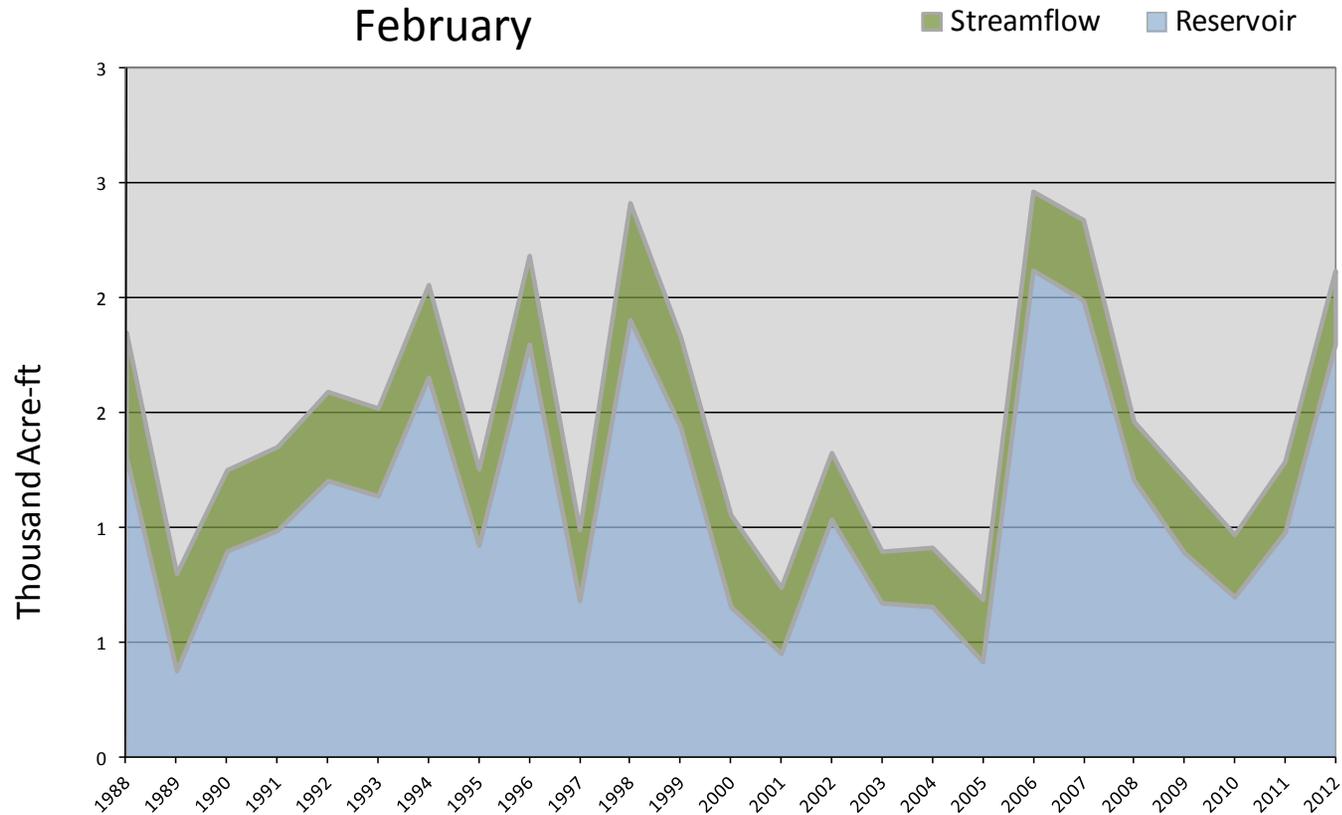
February 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Ken's Lake Reservoir	January accumulated flow Mill Creek at Sheley (<i>observed</i>)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Moab	1.8	0.3	2.1	2.56	81	88, 94, 96, 07

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

Moab - Water Availability Index February



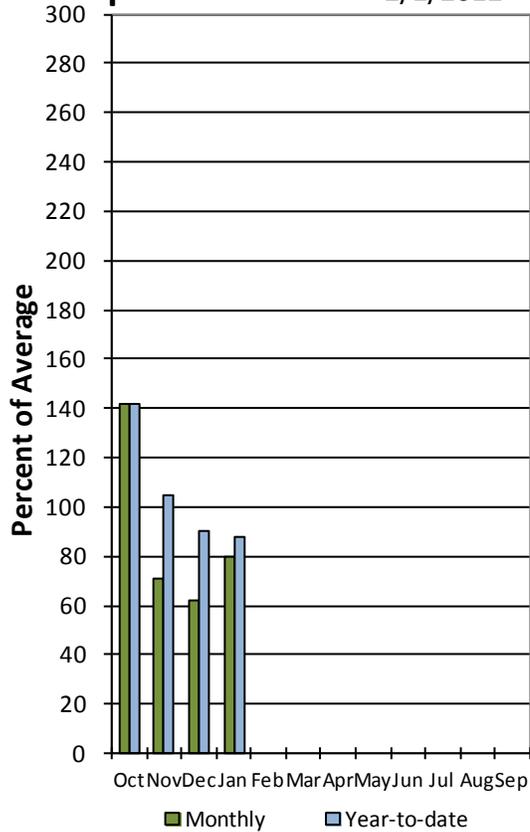
Sevier and Beaver River Basins February 1, 2012

Precipitation in January was below average at 80%, which brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-Jan) to 88% of average. Reservoir storage is high at 89% of capacity, 41% more than last year. Soil moisture is at 43% compared to 63% last year.

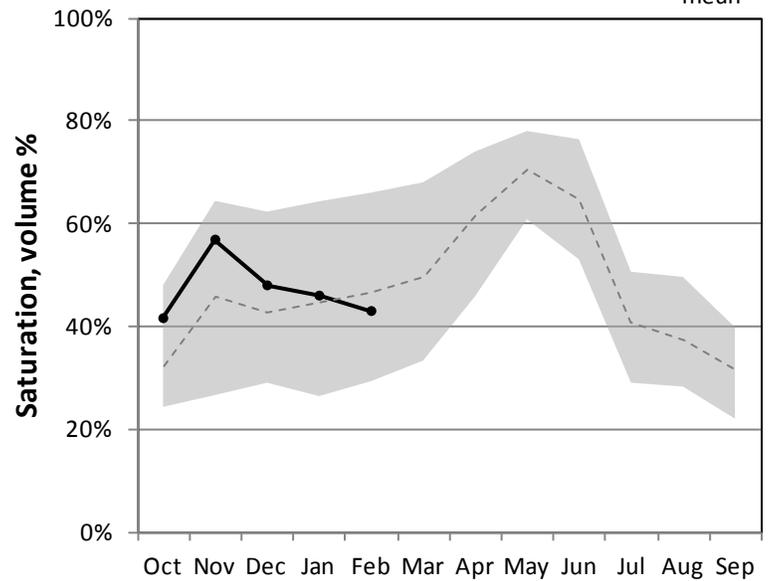
Sevier /Beaver River

Precipitation

2/1/2012

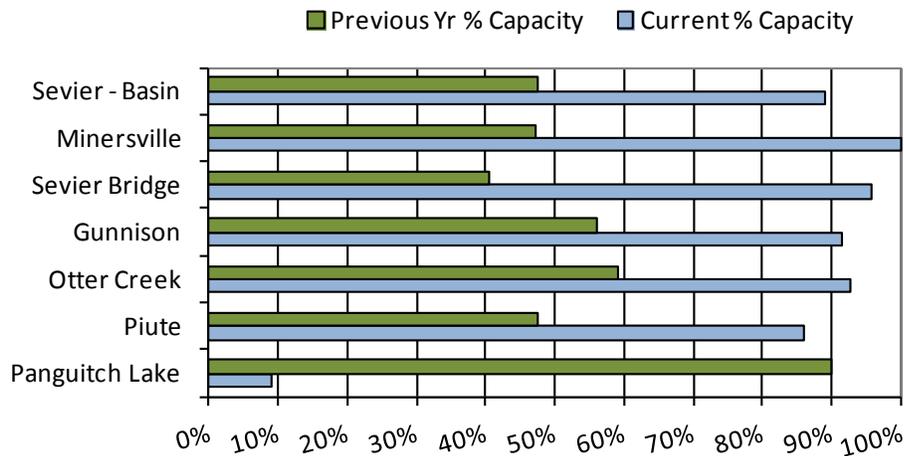


Sevier/Beaver River Soil Moisture



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.

February Sevier River Reservoir Storage



February 1, 2012

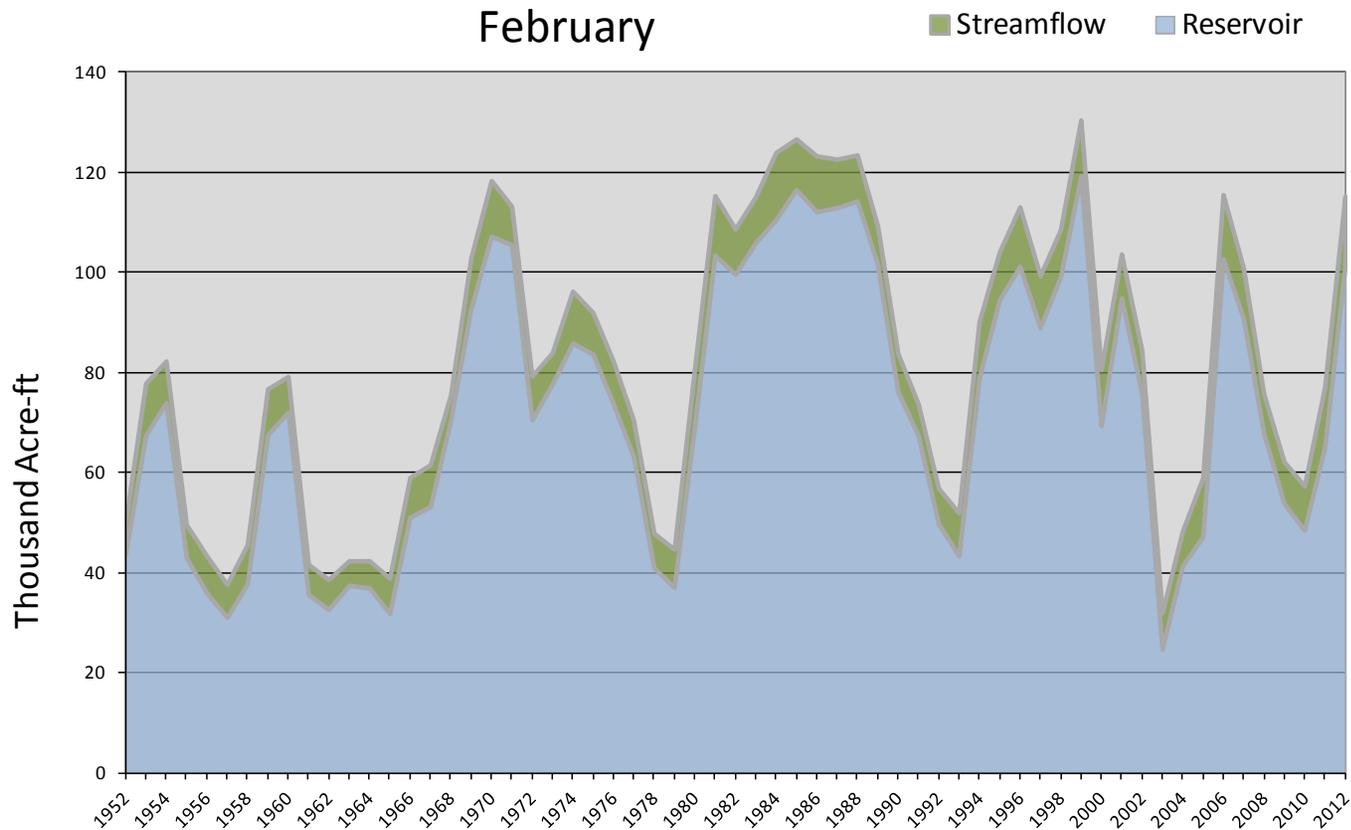
Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Otter Creek and Piute	January 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	101.4	13.8	115.2	2.82	84	71,83,81,06

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

Upper Sevier River - Water Availability Index

February



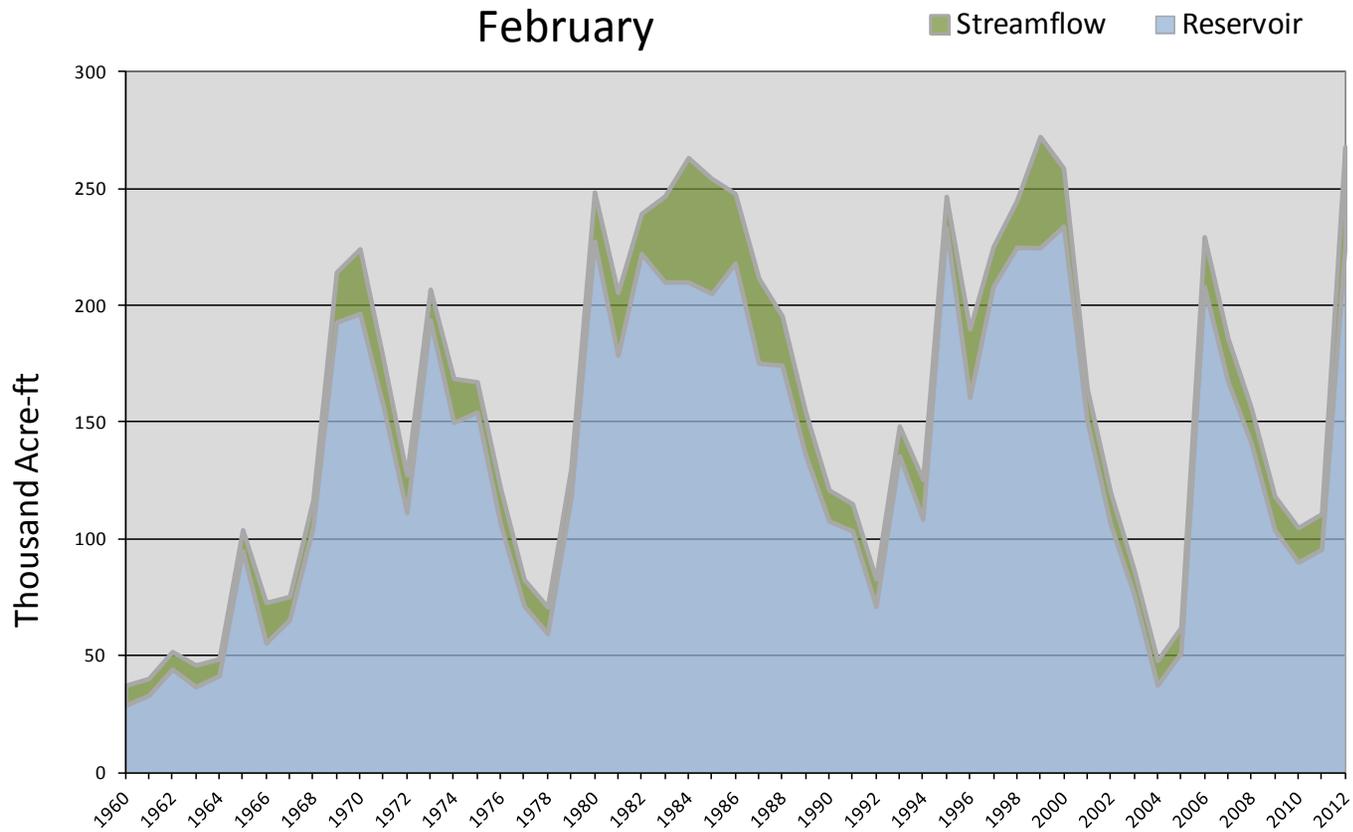
February 1, 2012

Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Sevier Bridge	January accumulated flow Sevier at Gunnison (observed)	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Lower Sevier River	225.9	42.3	268.2	3.86	96	85,84,99,00

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

Lower Sevier River - Water Availability Index



Sevier and Beaver River Basins

February 1, 2012

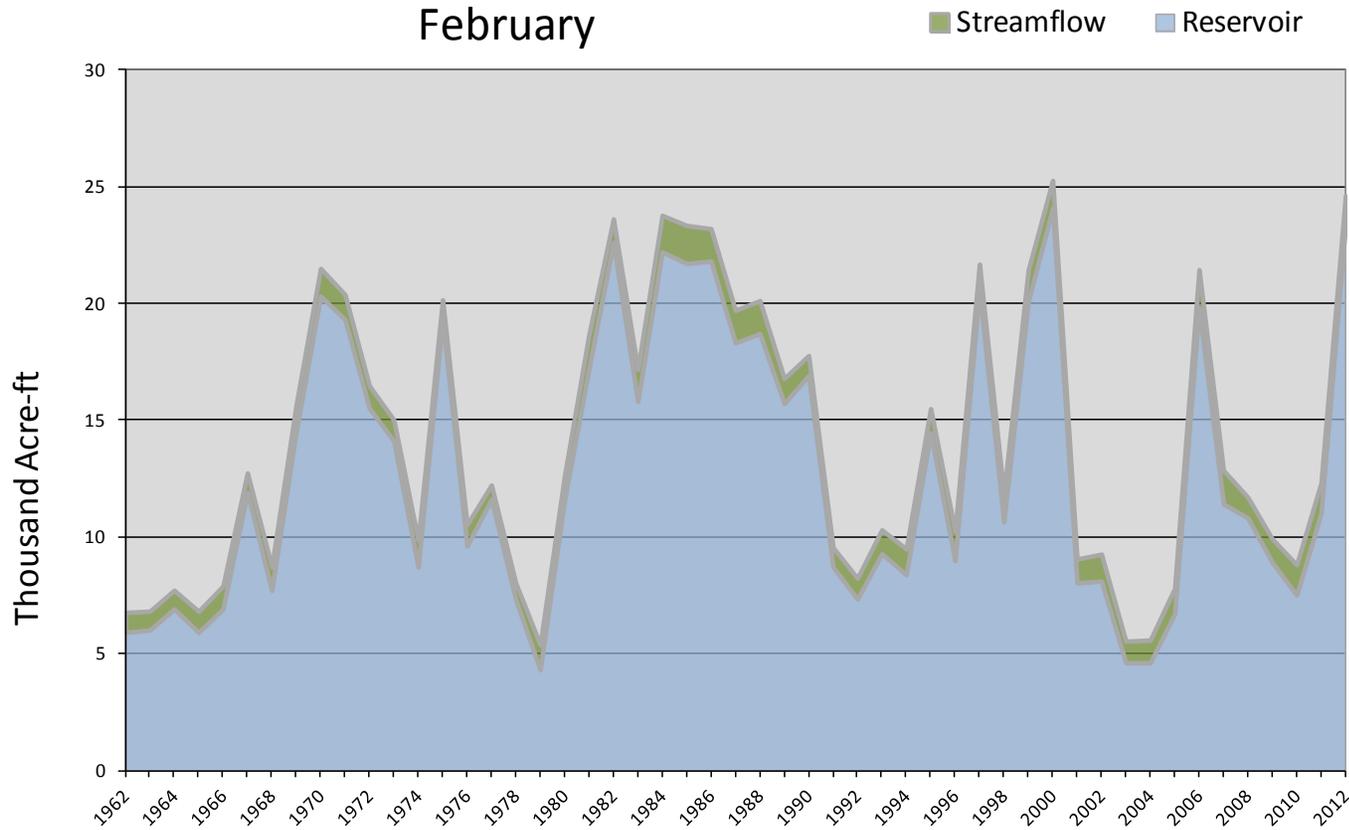
Water Availability Index

Basin or Region	January EOM* Minersville Reservoir	January accumulated flow Beaver River at Beaver <i>(observed)</i>	Reservoir + Streamflow	WAI#	Percentile	Years with similar WAI
	KAF^	KAF	KAF		%	
Beaver	23.3	1.3	24.6	3.85	96	82,84,85,00

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

Beaver River - Water Availability Index

February



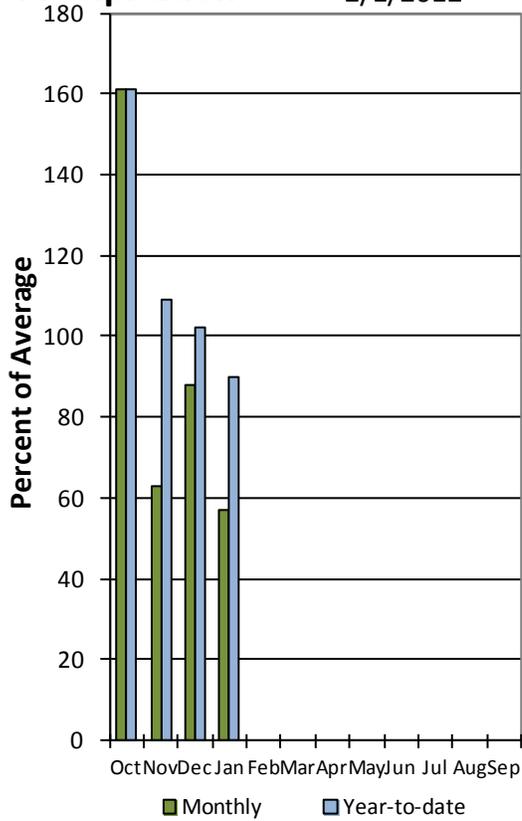
Southwest – E. Garfield, Kane, Washington, & Iron Counties February 1, 2012

Precipitation in January was much below average at 57%, bringing water year accumulation to 90%. Reservoir storage is at 85% of capacity, 3% higher than last year at this time. Soil moisture is at 39% compared to 59% at this time last year.

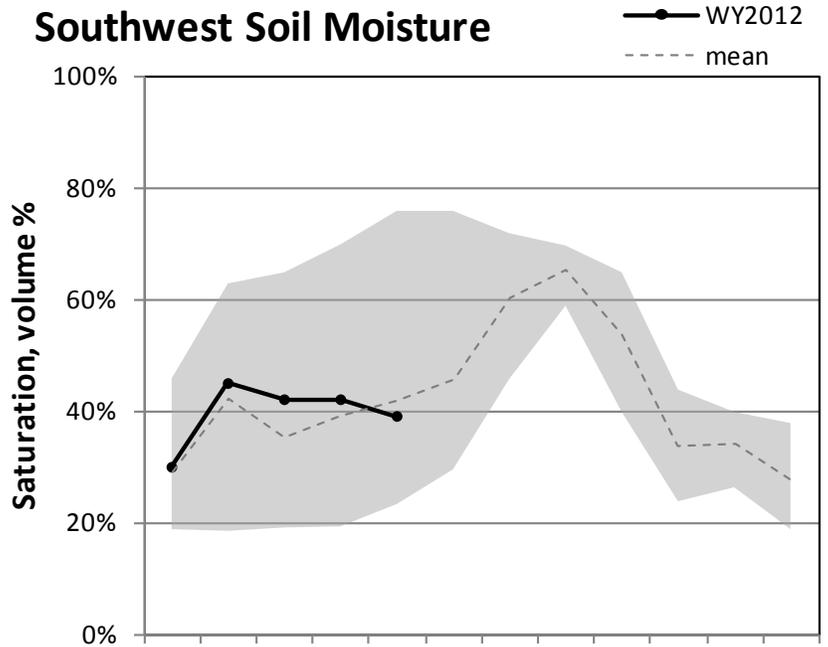
Southwest Utah

Precipitation

2/1/2012

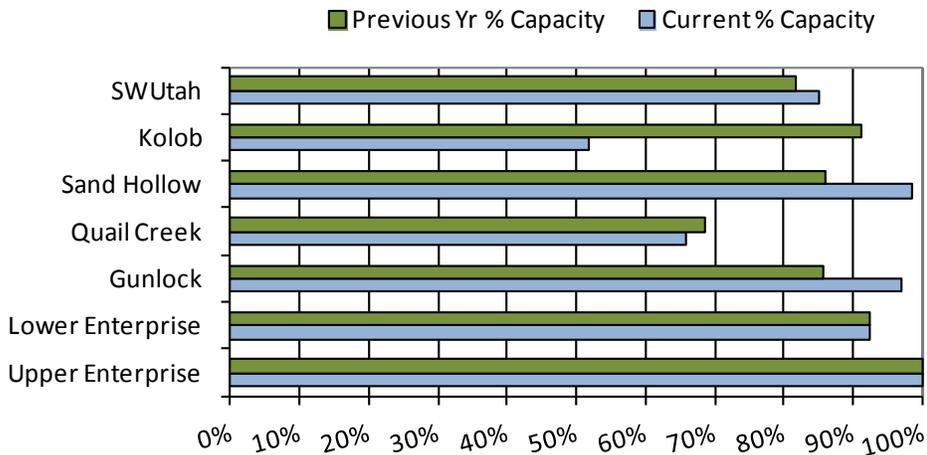


Southwest Soil Moisture



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.

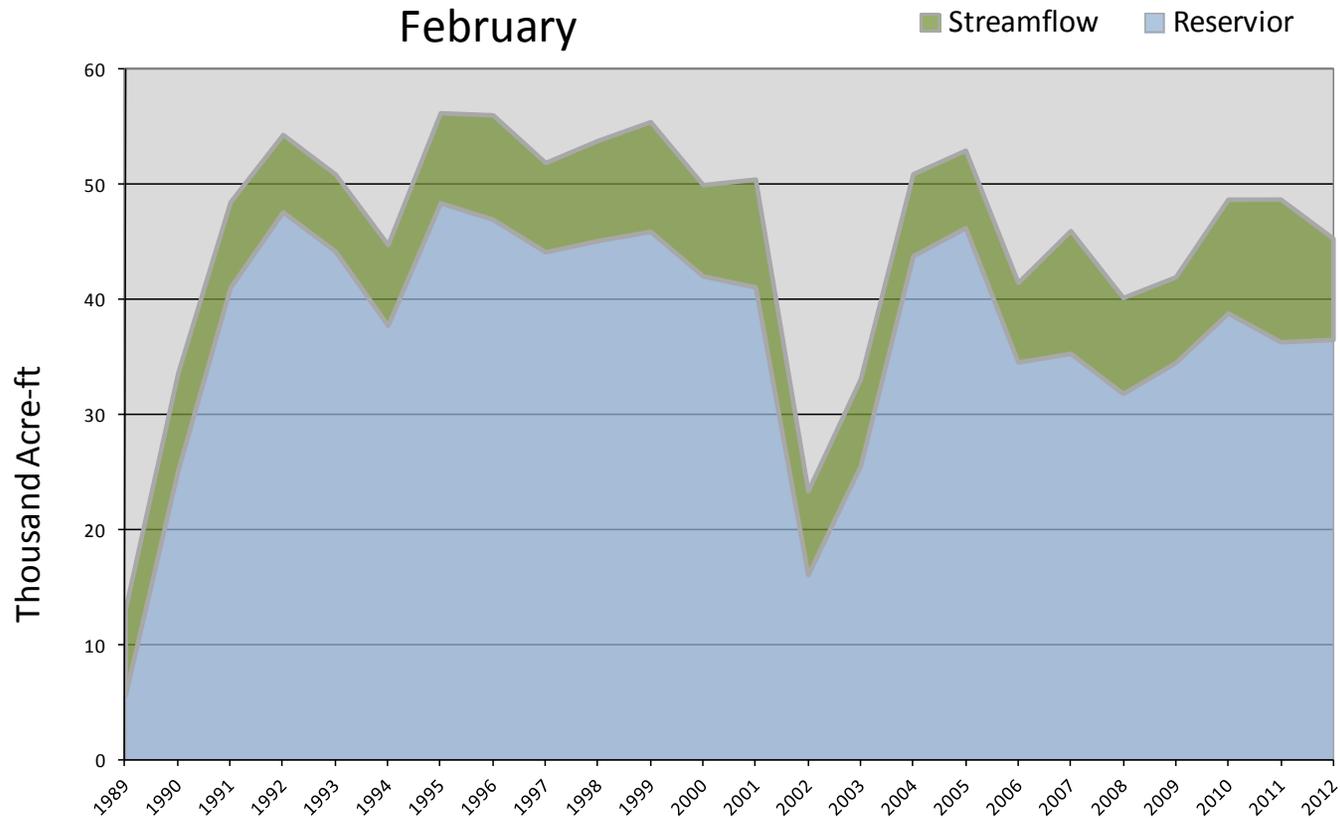
February Southwest Utah Reservoir Storage



February 1, 2012						
Water Availability Index						
Basin or Region	January EOM* Reservoir	January 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	36.5	8.8	45.3	0.50	56	93, 00, 91, 01

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

Southwest - Water Availability Index
February



Issued by

David White
Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Prepared by

Snow Survey Staff
Randall Julander, Supervisor
Troy Brosten, Hydrologist
Timothy Bardsley, Hydrologist
Mike Bricco, Hydrologist
Beau Uriona, Hydrologist
Karen Vaughan, Soil Scientist
Bob Nault, Electronics Technician

Released by

Sylvia Gillen
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Salt Lake City, Utah



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Snow Survey, USDA, NRCS
245 North Jimmy Doolittle Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 524-5213



Utah Climate and Water Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service
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