

STATE OF UTAH GENERAL OUTLOOK

February 1, 2011

SUMMARY

Snowpacks remain much above average over most of Utah, but as expected they have declined as a percent of average from the phenomenal values of January 1. Keeping pace with 200% of average snowpack would require massive storms on a frequent basis and January was below average across the state. In spite of a much drier January, water supply conditions remain much above average across the state. In terms of climate, a more typical La Nina pattern was followed during January with fairly dry conditions in southern Utah. We are currently at the midpoint of winter snow accumulation in the high country and snowpacks range from 132% over southeastern Utah to 163% across southwestern Utah. Northern Utah has snowpacks that range from 130% to 160%. January precipitation was much below to below normal (52%-86%) in northern Utah and much below normal (36%-48%) in the south which brings the year to date precipitation much above normal statewide at 161%. Current soil moisture saturation levels in runoff producing areas are: Bear – 70%, Weber – 68%, Provo – 57%, Uintah Basin – 56%, SE Utah – 66%, Sevier – 63% and SW Utah – 59%, in most cases nearly double soil moisture values of last year and only 10% to 20% lower than maximum values observed during snowmelt. Wetter soils mean that watersheds are primed and ready for runoff. High snowpacks and high soil moisture have the potential for extremely high flows. Reservoir storage is currently at 68% of capacity statewide which is the same as last year at this time. General water supply conditions are much above average across the state. Streamflow forecasts range from 113% Pine Creek nr Escalante to 227% of average for Sevier River nr Kingston. Surface Water Supply Indices range from 39% on the Bear River to 88% for the Beaver Watershed.

SNOWPACK

January first snowpacks as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL system are as follows: Bear - 134%, Weber - 135%, Provo - 150%, Uintahs - 151%, southeast Utah - 132%, Sevier - 148%, southwest Utah - 163% and the statewide figure is 142% of average. With February and March remaining in the snow accumulation season, the range of potential outcomes is still reasonably large and any outcome is possible depending on future climatic conditions. If drought prevails, snowpacks could range between 63% (Sevier) and 90% (Weber) of average. Given maximum accumulations, April 1 snowpacks could range between 145% (Weber) and 221% (SW Utah) of average. With normal accumulations, April 1 snowpacks will be between 119% (SE Utah) and 141% (SW Utah) of average.

PRECIPITATION

Mountain precipitation during January was: Bear – 86%, Weber – 82%, Provo – 62%, Uintahs – 52%, SE Utah – 36%, Sevier – 48%, SW Utah – 48% and the statewide figure is 65% of average. This brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-Jan) to 161% of average statewide.

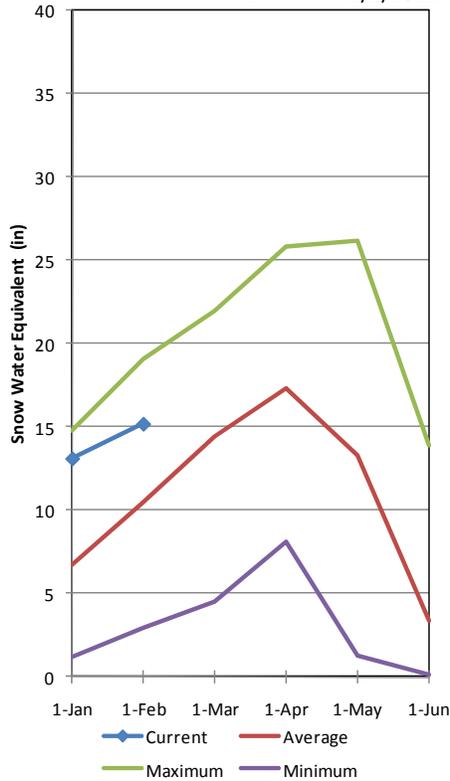
RESERVOIRS

Storage in 41 of Utah's key irrigation reservoirs is at 68% of capacity the same as last year. Reservoir storage by Basin: Bear – 34%, Weber – 72%, Provo – 89%, Uintah Basin – 84%, SE Utah – 53%, Sevier – 48%, SW Utah – 82% of capacity.

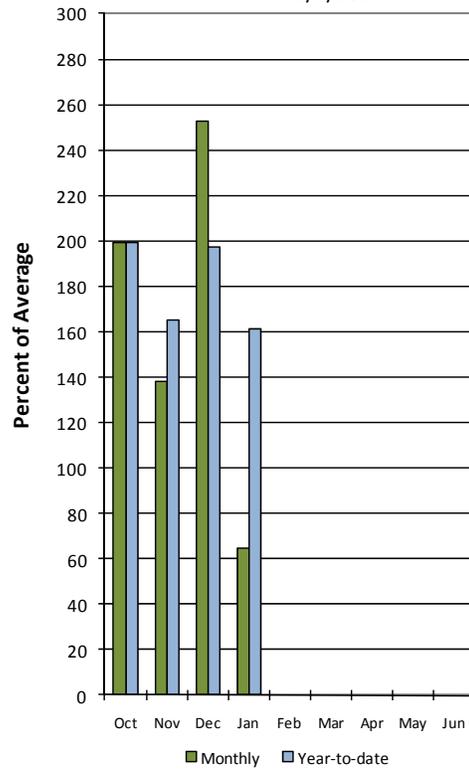
STREAMFLOW

Snowmelt streamflows are expected to be above to much above average across the state this year. Forecast streamflows range from 113% Pine Creek Nr Escalante to 227% on the Sevier River nr Kingston. Most flows are forecast to be in the 120% to 150% range.

Statewide Mountain Snowpack 2/1/2011



Statewide Precipitation 2/1/2011



February Statewide Reservoir Storage

