STATE OF UTAH GENERAL OUTLOOK
March 1, 2011

SUMMARY

Snowpacks are above and much above average over most of Utah with the lone exception of the Escalante Basin which is near average. Water supply conditions are excellent across all basins of the state. There is only one month remaining in the snow accumulation season and the first part of March has significant storms already occurring and forecasts for more. Snowpacks in northern Utah range from 127% on the Bear to 143% on the Uintah's. In southern Utah, snowpacks range from 121% in southeastern Utah to 159% on the Virgin. February precipitation was near to above normal (96%-124%) in across all of Utah, which brings the year to date precipitation much above normal statewide at 147%. Current soil moisture saturation levels in runoff producing areas are: Bear – 69%, Weber – 67%, Provo – 58%, Uintah Basin – 55%, SE Utah – 64%, Sevier – 62% and SW Utah – 56% of saturation. These are very high values and should lead to higher runoff efficiency. High snowpacks and high soil moisture have the potential for extremely high flows. Reservoir storage is currently at 70% of capacity statewide which is 1% more than last year at this time. General water supply conditions are much above average across the state. Streamflow forecasts range from 115% Ashley Creek nr Veranl to 258% of average for Sevier River nr Kingston. Surface Water Supply Indices range from 42% on the Bear River to 91% for the Weber Watershed. The years with similar SWSI numbers for the Weber Basin are: 1982, 1983 and 1984.

SNOWPACK

March first snowpacks as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL system are as follows: Bear - 127%, Weber - 129%, Provo - 141%, Uintahs - 143%, southeast Utah - 121%, Sevier - 135%, southwest Utah - 159% and the statewide figure is 133% of average. With only March remaining in the snow accumulation season, the range of potential snowpack outcomes is fairly small depending on future climatic conditions. If drought and early melt prevail, snowpacks could range between 69% (SE Utah) and 99% (Provo) of average. Given maximum accumulations, April 1 snowpacks could range between 138% (Bear) and 210% (SW Utah) of average. With normal accumulations, April 1 snowpacks will be between 122% (Bear) and 153% (SW Utah) of average. All snowpacks across the state are currently at or above their April 1 peak values and would actually have to have significant melt during March to get down to an average April 1 value. Thus all storms during March will simply add to the bonus conditions.

PRECIPITATION

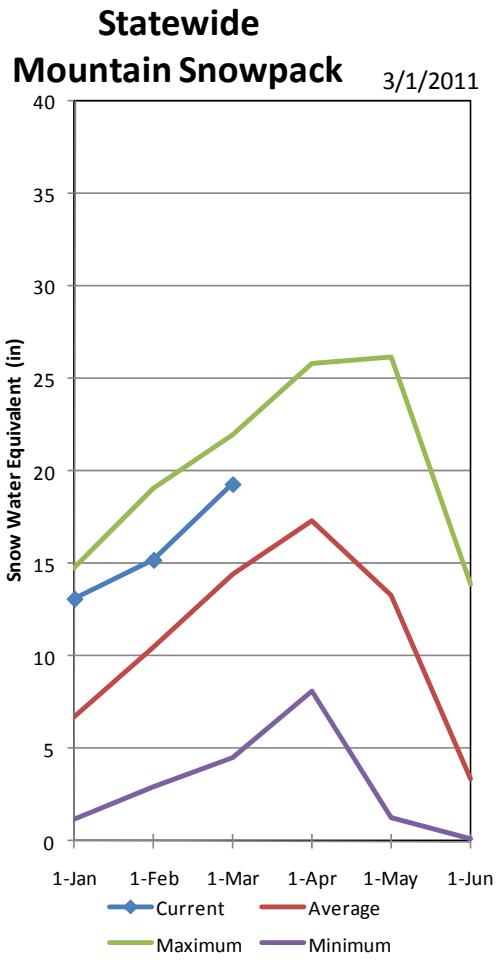
Mountain precipitation during February was: Bear – 98%, Weber – 105%, Provo – 110%, Uintahs – 124%, SE Utah – 96%, Sevier – 105%, SW Utah – 118% and the statewide figure is 104% of average. This brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-Jan) to 147% of average statewide.

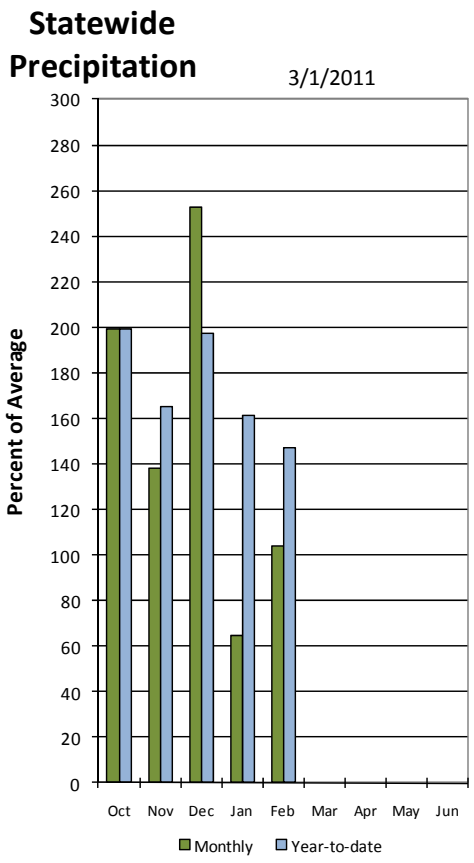
RESERVOIRS

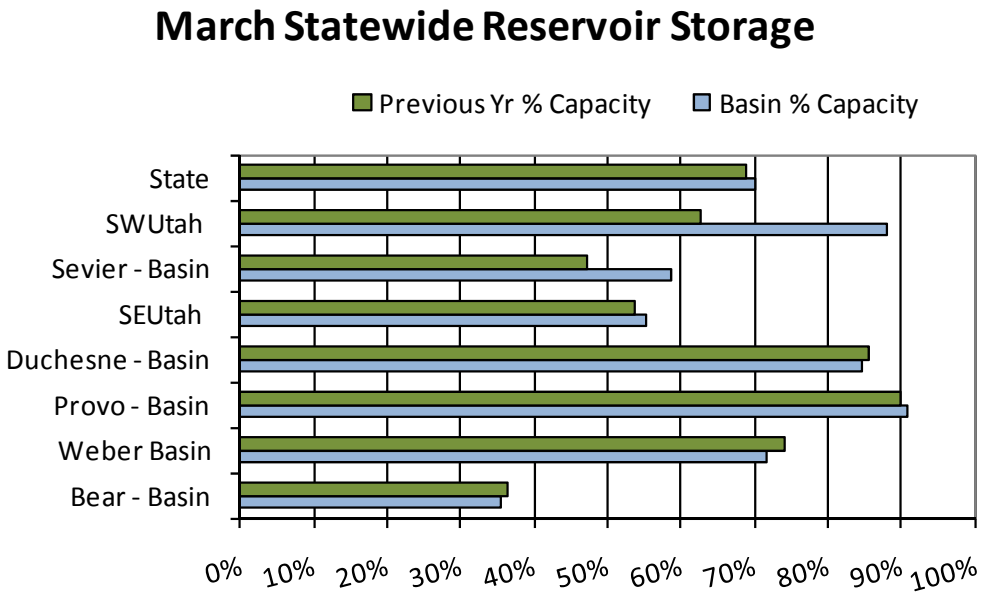
Storage in 41 of Utah's key irrigation reservoirs is at 70% of capacity, 2% more than last year. Reservoir storage by Basin: Bear – 35%, Weber – 72%, Provo – 91%, Uintah Basin – 85%, SE Utah – 55%, Sevier – 59%, SW Utah – 88% of capacity.

STREAMFLOW

Snowmelt streamflows are expected to be above to much above average across the state this year. Forecast streamflows range from 115% Ashley Creek Nr Vernal to 258% on the Sevier River nr Kingston. Most flows are forecast to be in the 120% to 160% range.


Statewide
Mountain Snowpack
3/1/2011
Snow Water Equivalent (in)
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1-Jan
1-Feb
1-Mar
1-Apr
1-May
1-Jun
Current
Average
Maximum
Minimum


Statewide
Precipitation
3/1/2011
Percent of Average
300
280
260
240
220
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Monthly
Year-to-date


March Statewide Reservoir Storage
Previous Yr % Capacity
Basin % Capacity
State
SWUtah
Sevier - Basin
SEUtah
Duchesne - Basin
Provo - Basin
Weber Basin
Bear - Basin
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%