

# STATE OF UTAH GENERAL OUTLOOK

February 1, 2012

## SUMMARY

Snowpacks remain much below to much below average over all of Utah, although improved over the January figures. A much welcomed stormy period in January broke the long dry spell and brought some snow to Utah's watersheds. We are currently at the midpoint of winter snow accumulation in the high country and snowpacks are pretty consistent across the state at 60% to 80% of average. January precipitation was near average in northern Utah with the exception of the Uintah Basin (63%) and in southern Utah, much below average ranging from 57% to 80% of normal which brings the year to date precipitation to 83% of normal. Current soil moisture saturation levels in runoff producing areas are: Bear – 48%, Weber – 48%, Provo – 32%, Uintah Basin – 41%, SE Utah – 41%, Sevier – 43% and SW Utah – 39%, in all cases, much lower than last year. Drier soils mean that watersheds will likely lose more snowpack to soil infiltration and generate less runoff. Low snowpacks and low soil moisture are the poorest runoff conditions. Reservoir storage is currently at 86% of capacity statewide, which is 18% higher than last year at this time. Snowmelt runoff conditions are much below average across the state but mitigated substantially by exceptional reservoir storage. Streamflow forecasts range from 42% at West Canyon Creek to 89% on the Whiterocks River.

## SNOWPACK

February first snowpacks as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL system are as follows: Bear - 77%, Weber - 70%, Provo - 61%, Uintahs - 71%, southeast Utah - 65%, Sevier - 65%, southwest Utah - 63% and the statewide figure is 68% 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 – 103%, Weber – 105%, Provo – 101%, Uintahs – 63%, SE Utah – 76%, Sevier – 80%, SW Utah – 57% and the statewide figure is 92% of average. This brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-Jan) to 83% of average statewide.

## RESERVOIRS

Storage in 41 of Utah's key irrigation reservoirs is at 86% of capacity, 18% higher than last year. Reservoir storage by Basin: Bear – 75%, Weber – 80%, Provo – 94%, Uintah Basin – 87%, SE Utah – 77%, Sevier – 89%, SW Utah – 85% of capacity.

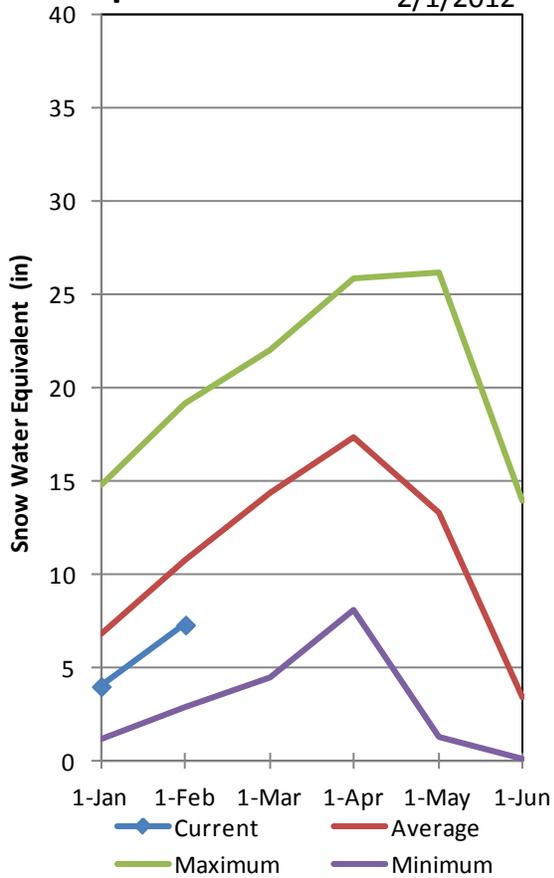
## STREAMFLOW

Snowmelt streamflows are expected to be below to much below average across the state this year. Forecast streamflows range from an abysmal 42% at West Canyon Creek to a paltry 89% on the Whiterocks river. Most flows are forecast to be in the 50% to 75% range.

## Statewide Mountain

### Snowpack

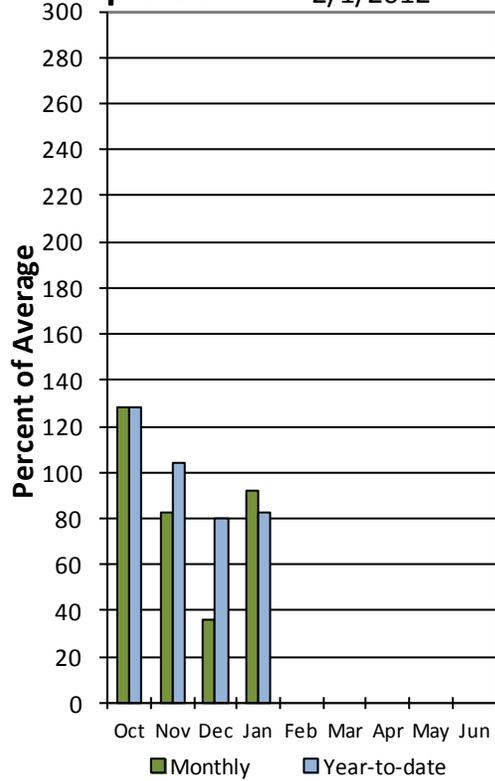
2/1/2012



## Statewide

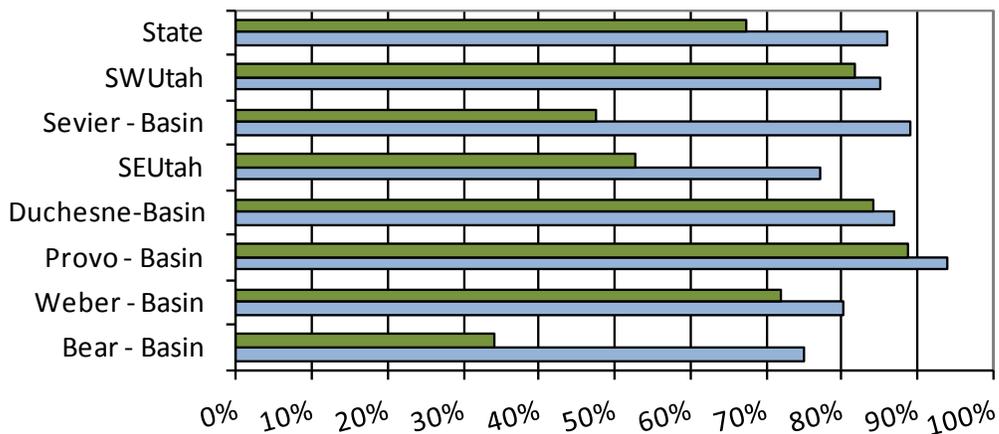
### Precipitation

2/1/2012

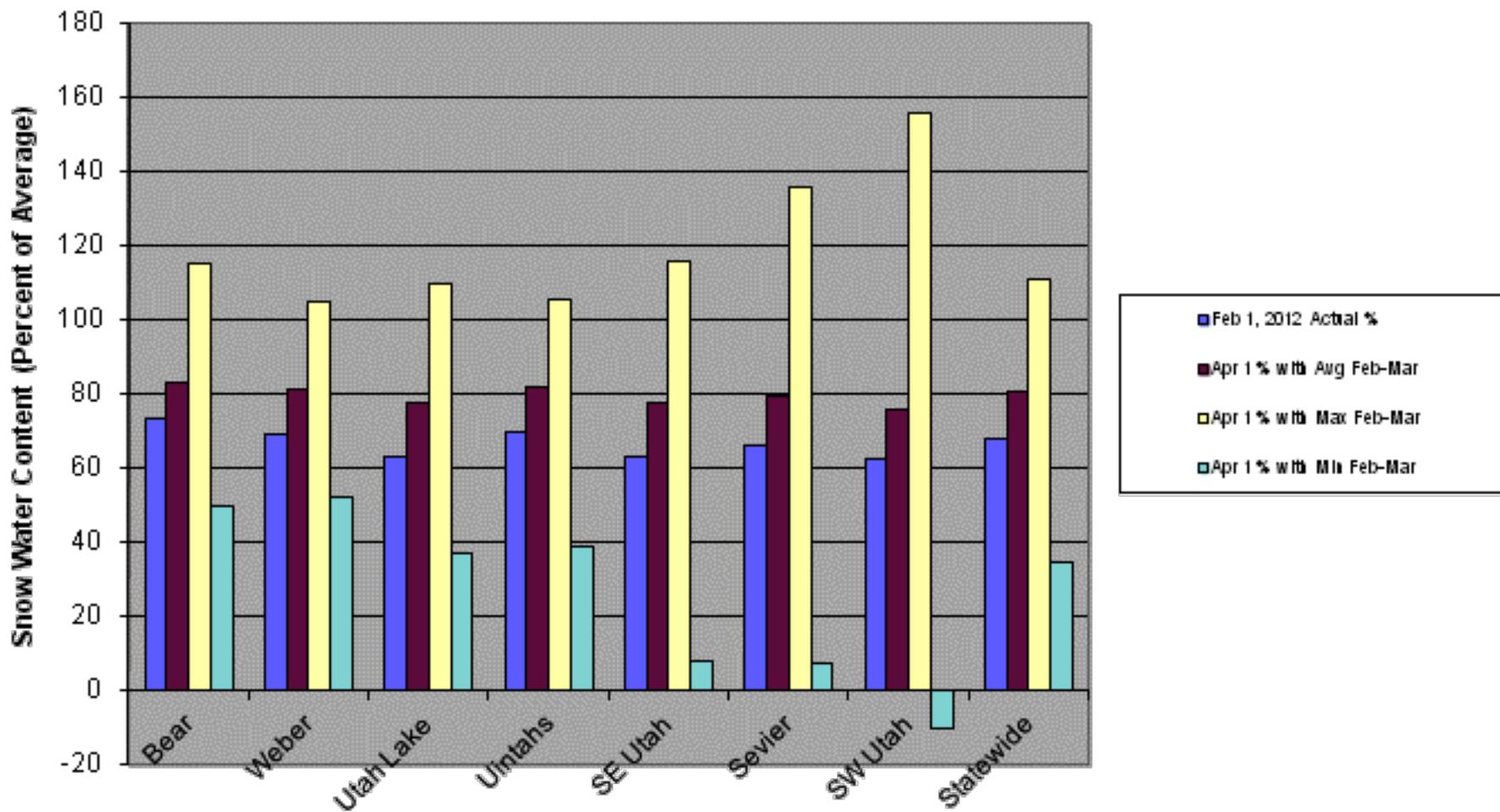


## February Statewide Reservoir Storage

■ Previous Yr % Capacity    ■ Basin % Capacity



## FEB 1 TO APR 1 RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES

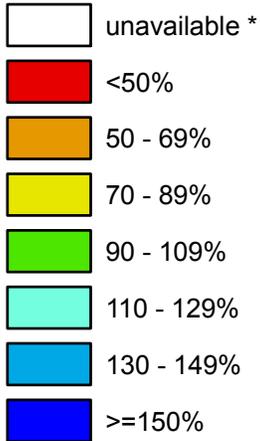


# Utah

## SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

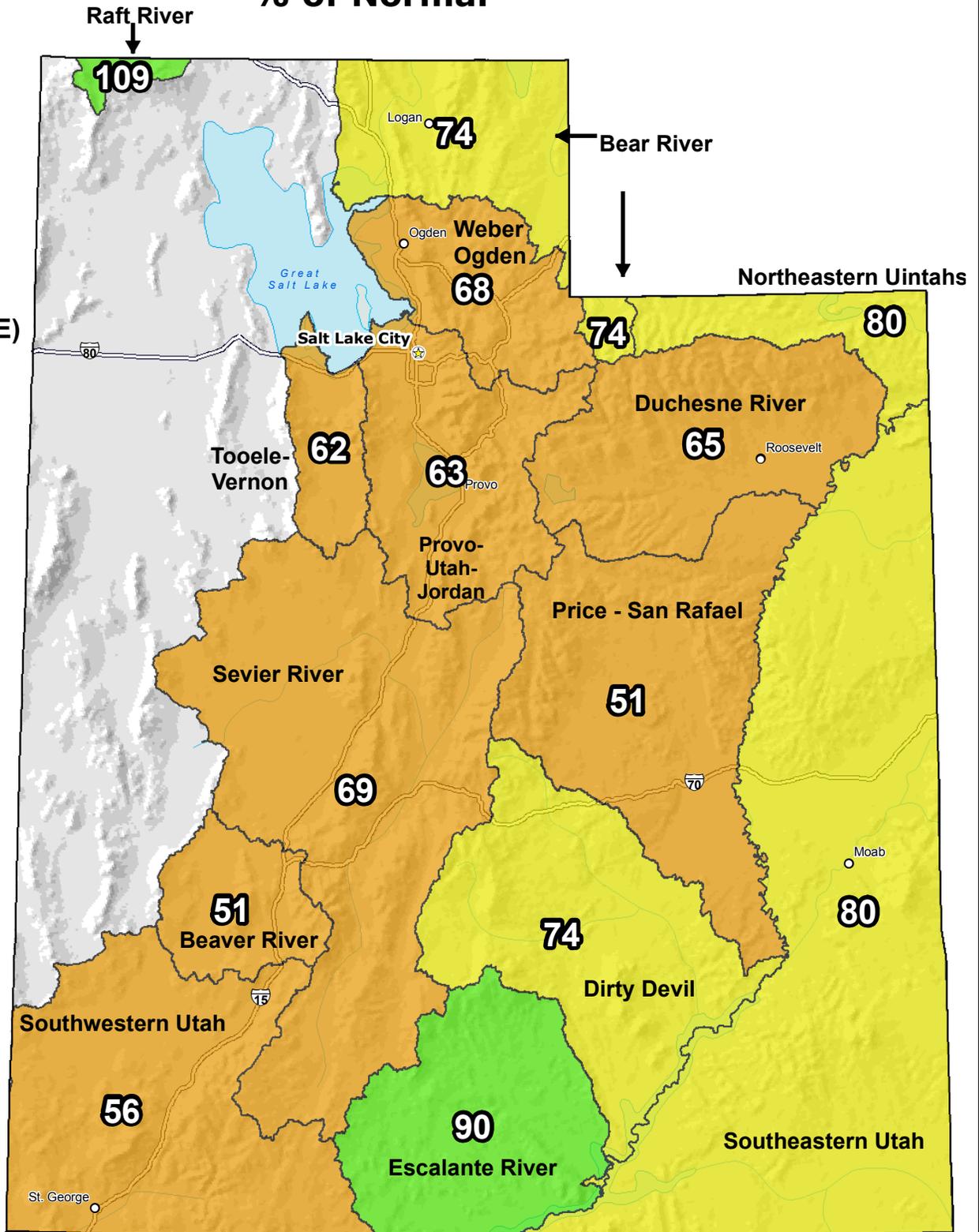
Feb 01, 2012

**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](mailto:Jim.Marron@por.usda.gov) 503 414 3047

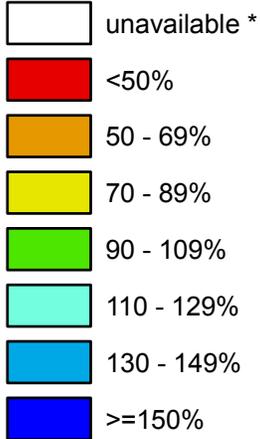
# Utah

## SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation

### % of Normal

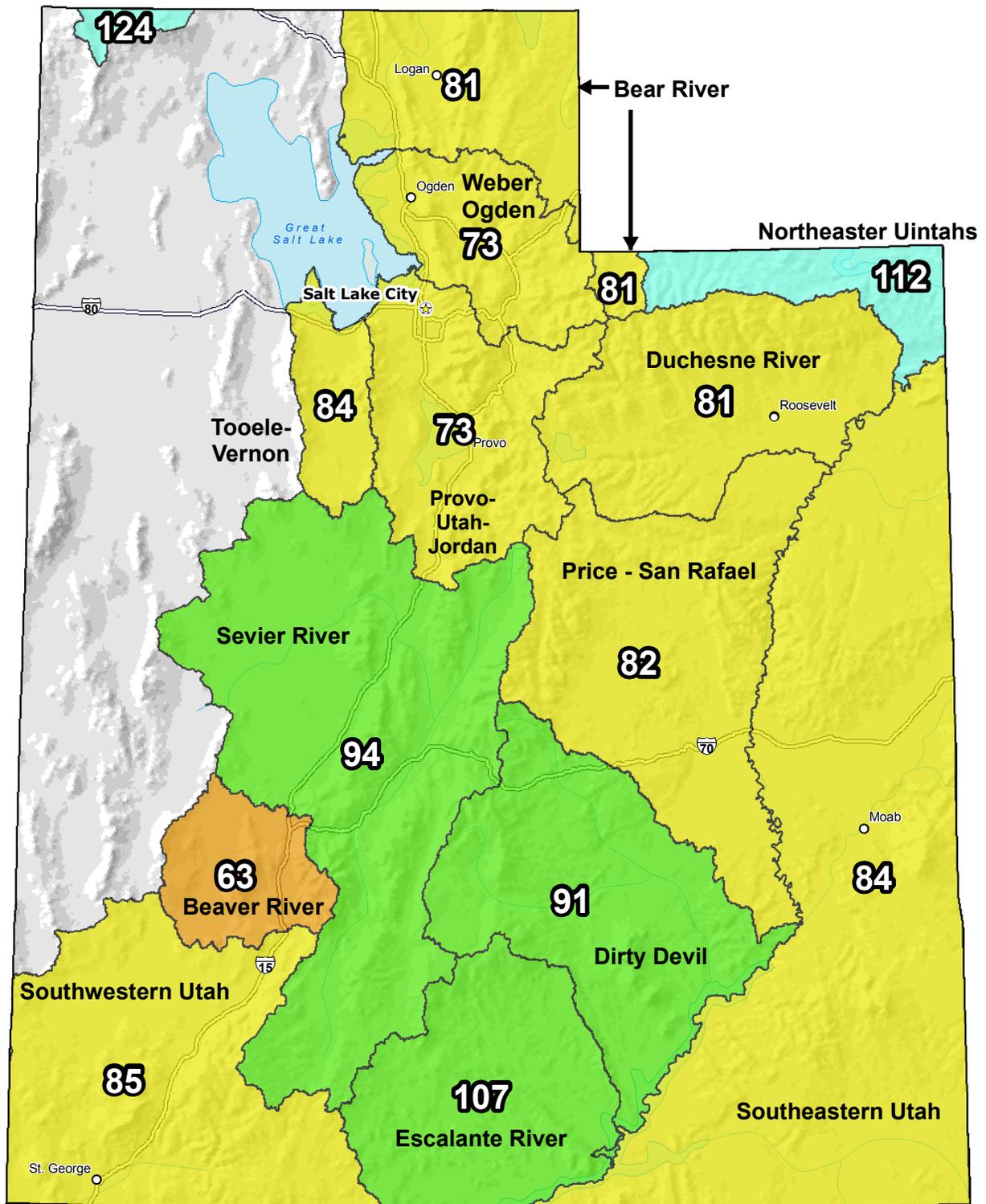
Feb 03, 2012

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  
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