

STATE OF UTAH GENERAL OUTLOOK

May 1, 2012

SUMMARY

Thank goodness for reservoir storage! Snowpacks across the state are being thumped like the 64th seed in a tournament and streamflows will follow without a whimper. The southeast area has been melted for several weeks and streamflows there are in the 10% to 24% of average range. Many areas across the state will soon follow as meager snowpacks simply cannot sustain any higher flows. Summer looks to be extra long this year – and one can only hope that it's not hot and dry as well. Snowpacks are basically melted out on Price, Dirty Devil, Escalante and southeast Utah with the remainder of the state in the 10% to 30% range and this snowpack only at the high elevations. All the low and mid elevations snow have melted off. Streamflow response to melting 65% to 100% of snowpack has been at best anemic and at worst, nearly non-existent. April precipitation was much below to near average (59%-92%) over northern Utah and much below to near average over southern Utah (62%-90%), which brings the year to date precipitation to below normal statewide at 79%. Current soil moisture saturation levels in runoff producing areas are: Bear – 78%, Weber – 72%, Provo – 68%, Uintah Basin – 77%, SE Utah – 69%, Sevier – 66% and SW Utah – 60% of saturation. These are average to high values for northern Utah and very low values for southern Utah. Low or no snow combined with low soil moisture portends decreased runoff efficiency – something already seen in southern Utah. Reservoir storage is currently at 91% of capacity statewide which is 16% more than last year at this time. General runoff conditions are extremely poor across the state for the remainder of the season. Water supply conditions are balanced by excellent reservoir storage. May-July streamflow forecasts range from 11% for the White River below Tabbyune Creek to 59% of average for Lakefork above Moon Lake. Surface Water Supply Indices range from 7% on Ferron Creek to 67% for the Lower Sevier. Surface water supply indexes below 25% include: Ferron Creek, Moab, Virgin, east Uintah Basin and West Uintah basin. Those with reservoir storage should have adequate supplies this year, those reliant on direct streamflow will experience shortages.

SNOWPACK

May first snowpacks as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL system are as follows: Bear - 32%, Weber - 30%, Provo - 22%, Uintahs - 22%, southeast Utah - 3%, Sevier - 27%, southwest Utah - 29% and the statewide figure is 25% of average. Utah watersheds have melted 65% to 100% of existing snowpacks leaving very little to sustain streamflow over the next couple of months.

PRECIPITATION

Mountain precipitation as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL system during April was: Bear – 81%, Weber – 92%, Provo – 81%, Uintahs – 59%, SE Utah – 62%, Sevier – 79%, SW Utah – 90% and the statewide figure is 77% of average. This brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-April) to 79% of average statewide.

RESERVOIRS

Storage in 41 of Utah's key irrigation reservoirs is at 91% of capacity, 16% more than last year. Reservoir storage by Basin: Bear – 83%, Weber – 96%, Provo – 94%, Uintah Basin – 89%, SE Utah – 83%, Sevier – 94%, SW Utah – 85% of capacity.

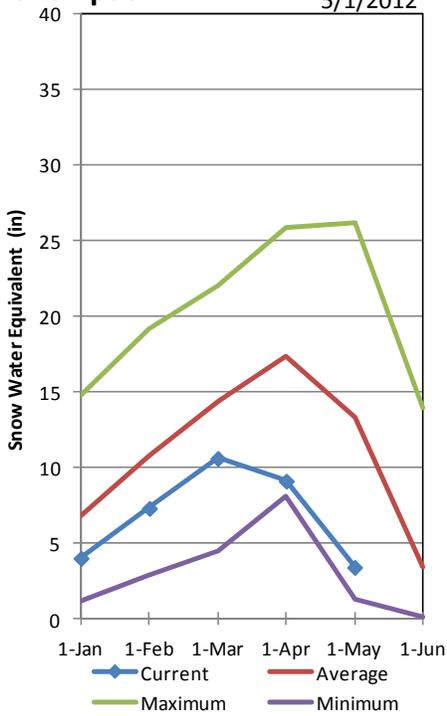
STREAMFLOW

Snowmelt streamflows are expected to be much below average across the state this year. Forecast streamflows range from 11% on the White below Tabbyune Creek to 59% on the Lakefork above Moon Lake. Most flows are forecast to be in the 25% to 50% range. Streamflows are being negatively impacted by low soil moisture.

Much of southeast Utah are currently or will soon be experiencing very low streamflows with the remainder of the state soon to follow.

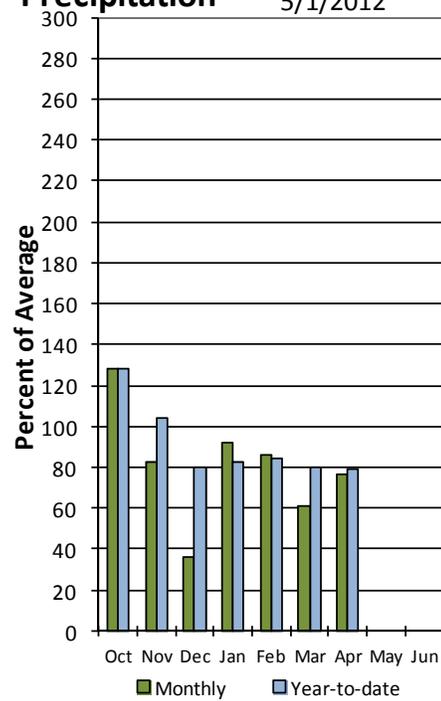
Statewide Mountain Snowpack

5/1/2012



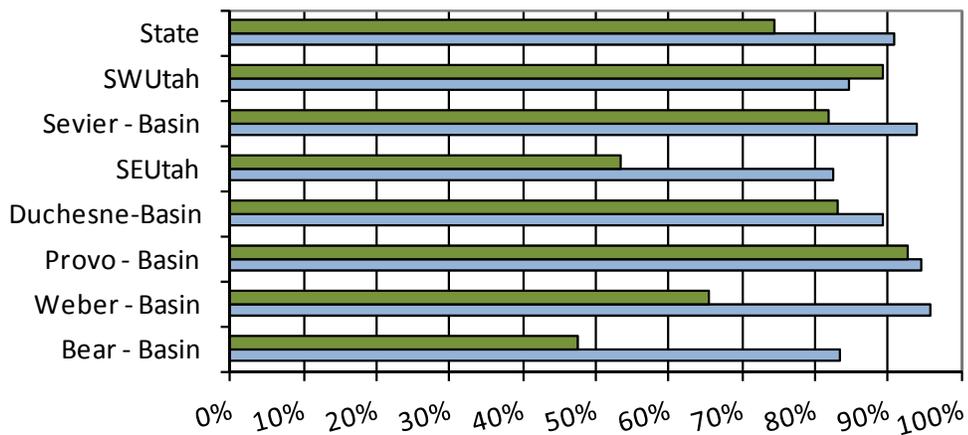
Statewide Precipitation

5/1/2012



May Statewide Reservoir Storage

■ Previous Yr % Capacity ■ Basin % Capacity

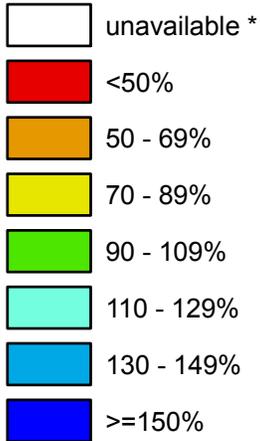


Utah

SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

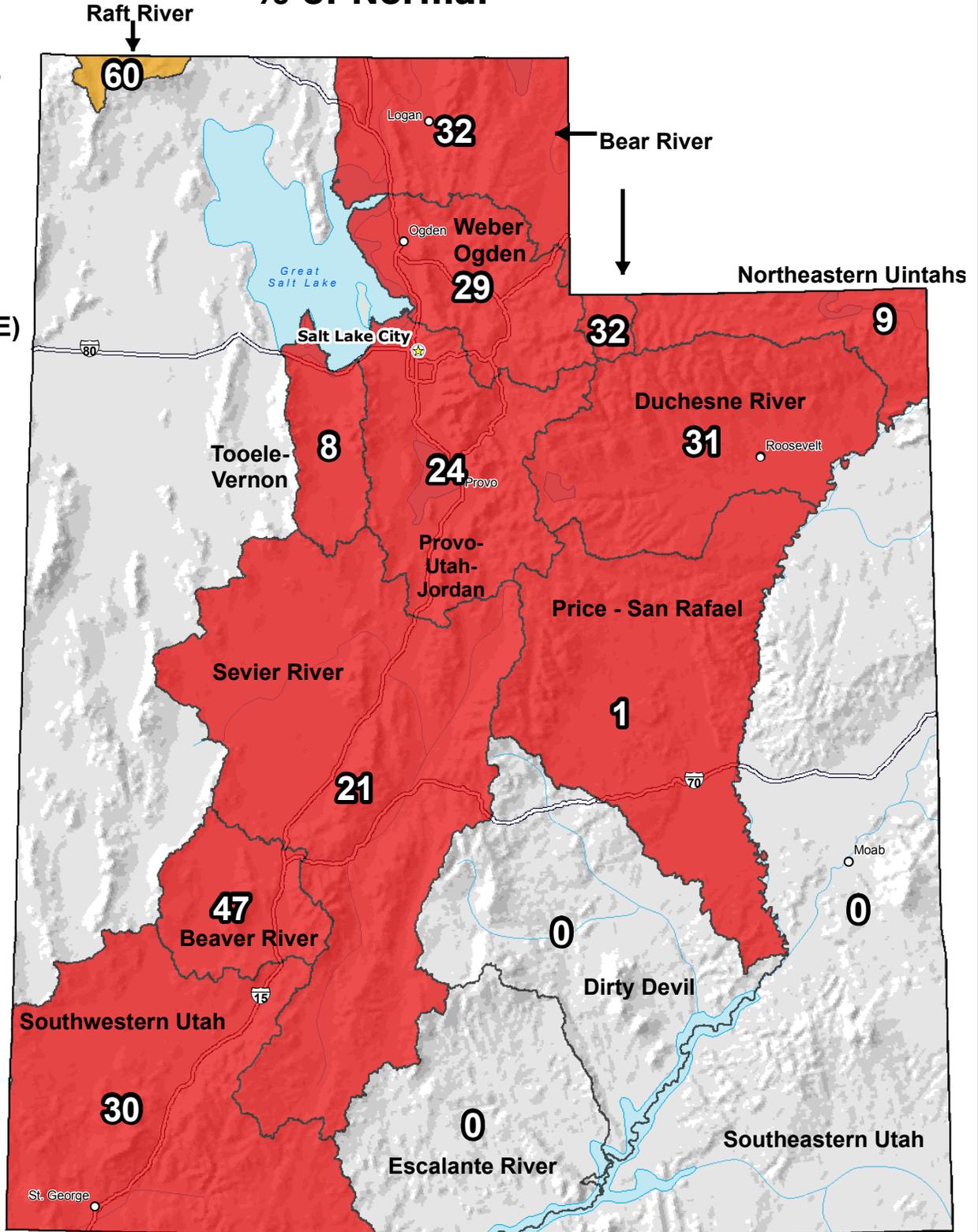
May 01, 2012

**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/>
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Utah

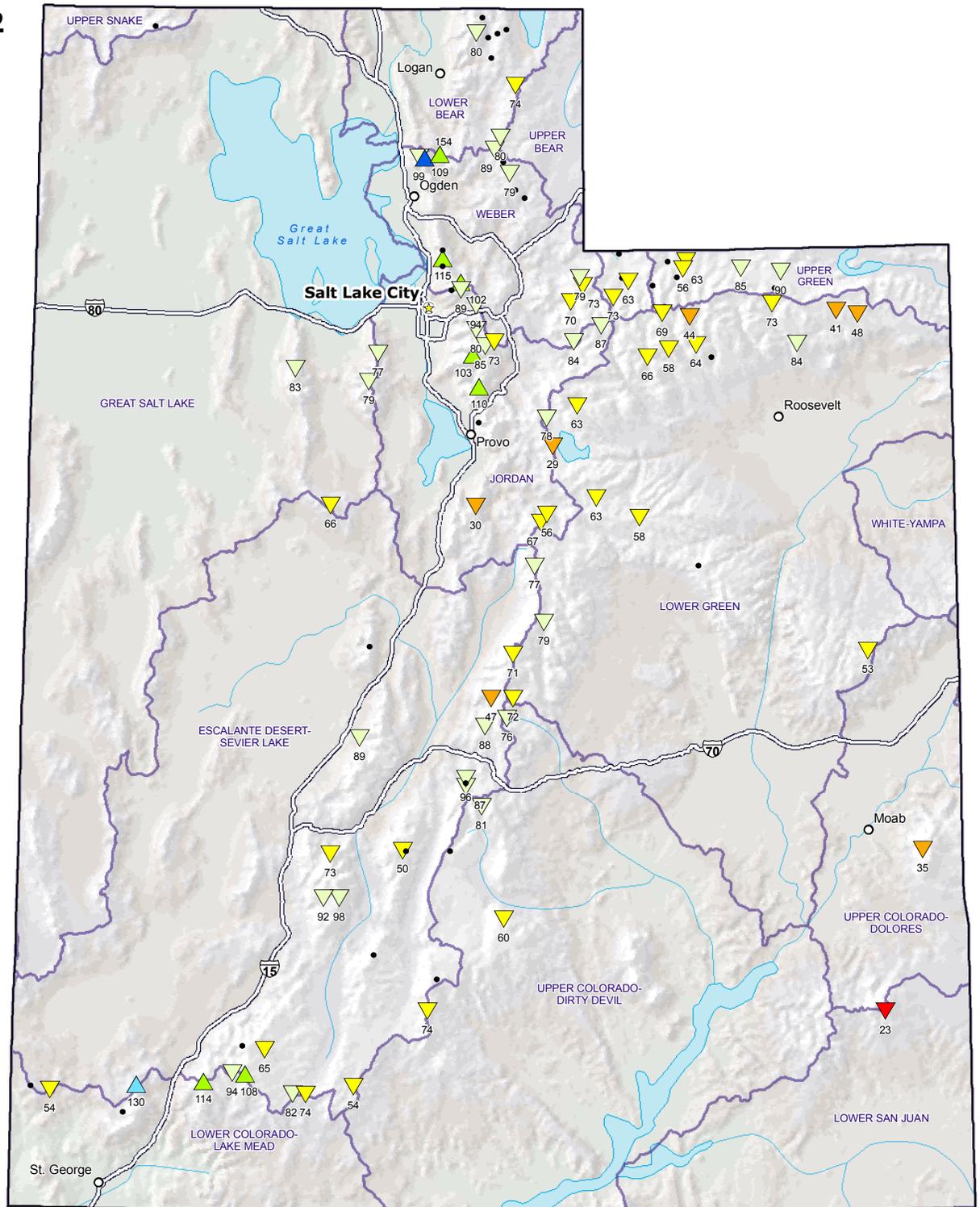
SNOTEL Month to Date (MTD) Precipitation % of Normal

May 01, 2012

**Current
MTD Precip.
% of Normal**

- ▲ > 200%
- ▲ 150-200%
- ▲ 125-149%
- ▲ 100-124%
- ▼ 75-99%
- ▼ 50-74%
- ▼ 25-49%
- ▼ 1-24%
- + 0%
- Unavailable*

*Provisional Data
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** Data unavailable at time of posting or
unavailable long-term normal.*