STATE OF UTAH GENERAL OUTLOOK
June 1, 2011

SUMMARY

Snowpacks are much above average over most of Utah with the exception of southeast Utah and the Escalante basins which have melted out. May continued the cool wet pattern started in March. Southern Utah has melted about 50% of the total snowpack across those watersheds whereas in a normal year, snowpacks would be 80% to 85% melted. In contrast to the relatively better behaved snowpacks of southern Utah where a more sequential snowmelt is in process, the Bear River in northern Utah has melted a paltry 12% of its total snowpack leaving nearly 90% to melt in the next few weeks. Normally 70% to 75% of the Bear River watersheds snowpack would be melted by June 1. The numbers are staggering – 5 times the average amount of snow remains to melt on the Bear River and the snowmelt season has been effectively shortened by as much as 8 weeks. The numbers are similar on the Weber and Provo watersheds and on the Uintah Basin – only 3.8 times the average amount of snow to melt makes it look tame in comparison. The probability of getting at least some very warm temperatures and high energy input to snowpacks over the next 4 weeks is very high and should these occur, streamflows will respond very quickly. We are very near the time when even average temperatures will cause rapid snowmelt. Last month's Bear Lake inflow was a record high and the inflow for May at 179.9 KAF is in 4th place out of nearly 100 years of record – ***with nearly 90% of its snowpack yet to melt!*** Many agricultural areas are feeling the impacts of too much water with inundation common as well as the inability to access and work the farmlands for plowing and planting. Weather conditions of this spring will have many adverse impacts on agricultural production.

SNOWPACK

May first snowpacks as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL system are as follows: Bear - 507% (record high), Weber - 500%(record high), Provo - 563%(record high), Uintahs - 377%(near record high), southeast Utah - 459%, Sevier - 327%, southwest Utah - 402% and the statewide figure is 476% of average(record high).

PRECIPITATION

Mountain precipitation as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL system during April was: Bear – 155%, Weber – 166%, Provo – 185%, Uintahs – 186%, SE Utah – 170%, Sevier – 194%, SW Utah – 177% and the statewide figure is 177% of average. This brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-May) to 150% of average statewide.

RESERVOIRS

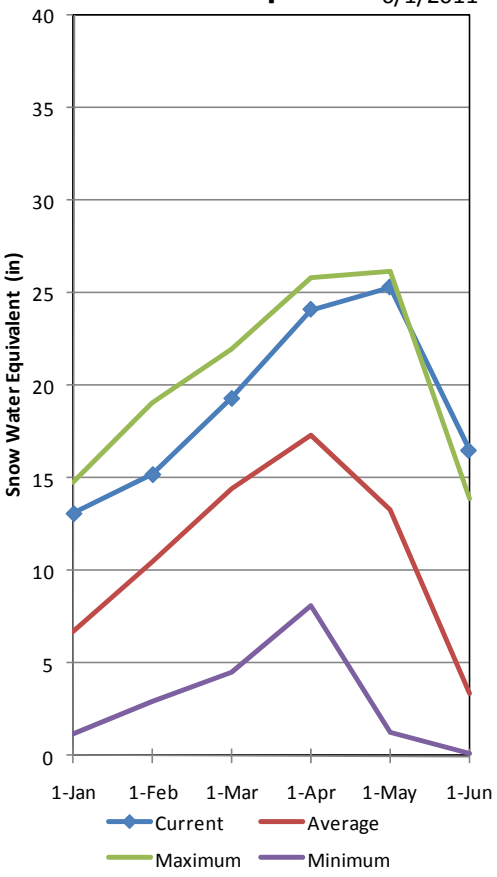
Storage in 41 of Utah's key irrigation reservoirs is at 85% of capacity, 10% more than last year. Reservoir storage by Basin: Bear – 61%, Weber – 82%, Provo – 101%, Uintah Basin – 88%, SE Utah – 68%, Sevier – 90%, SW Utah – 89% of capacity.

STREAMFLOW

Snowmelt streamflows are expected to be above to much above average across the state this year. Most flows are forecast to be in the 160% to 250% range. Streamflows are responding quickly to snowmelt and saturated soils with many sites running in the upper 10% of recorded flows. There is a huge snowpack yet to melt in northern Utah and streamflows will high in volume and long in duration.

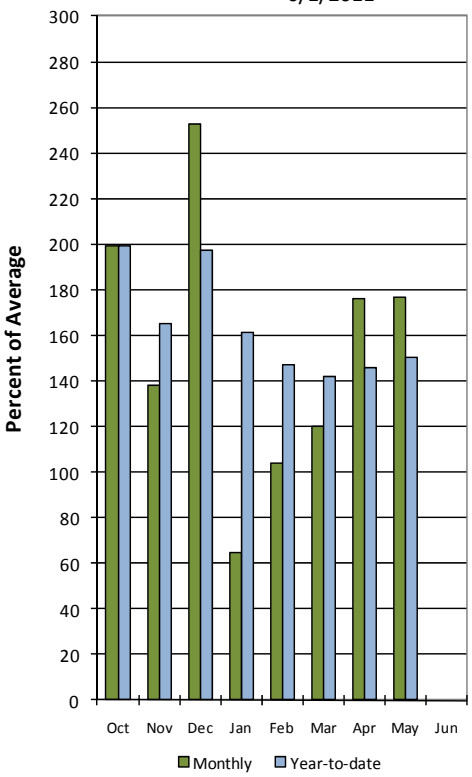
Statewide Mountain Snowpack

6/1/2011

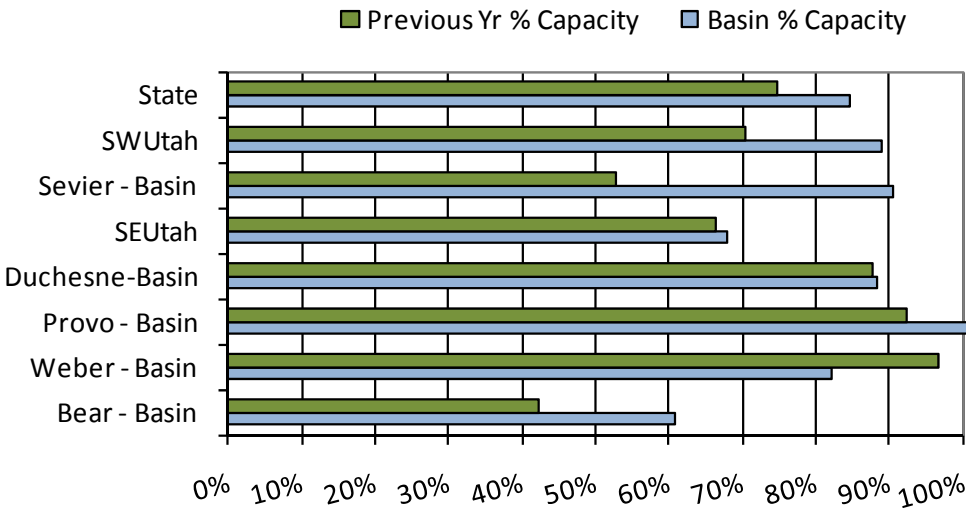


Statewide Precipitation

6/1/2011

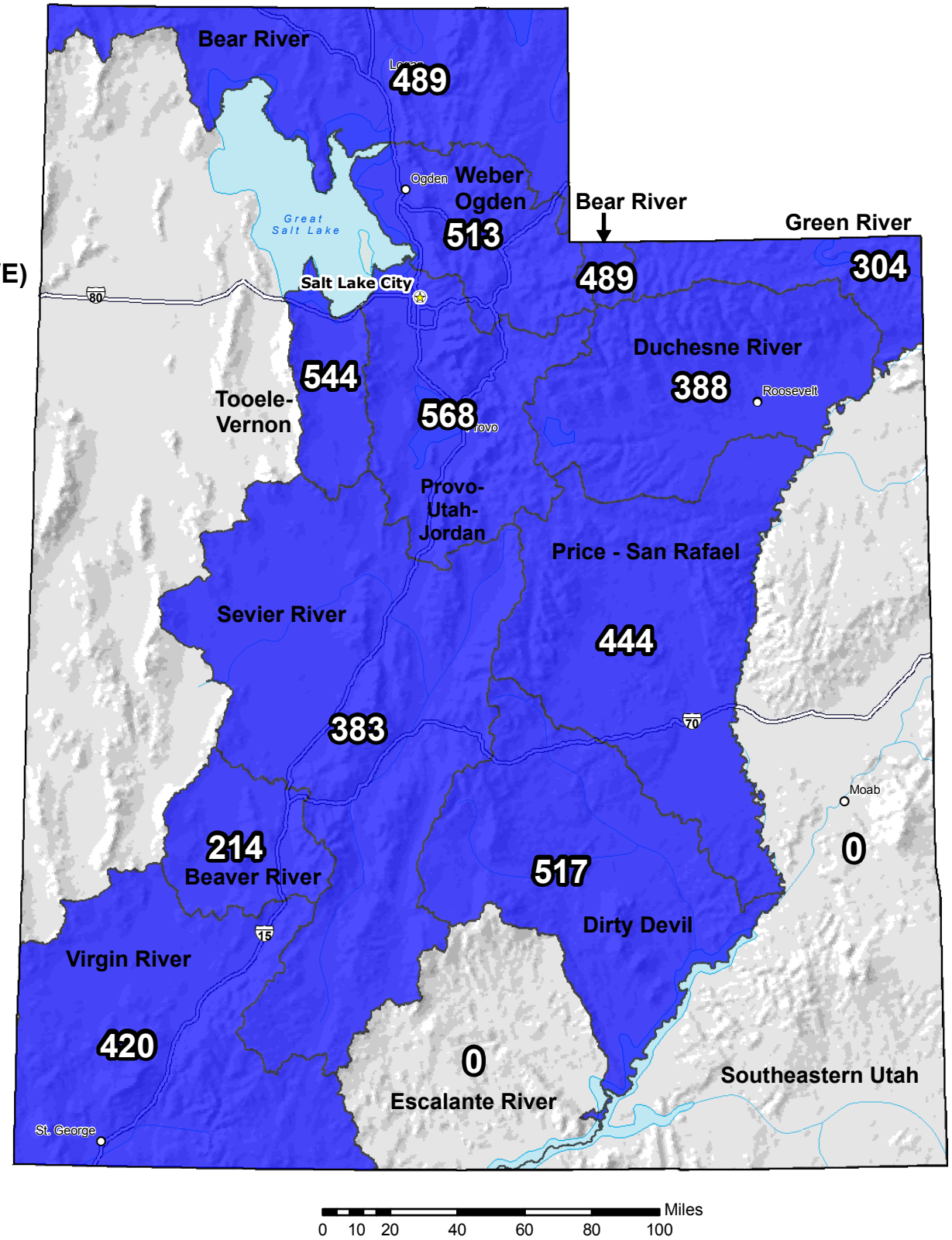


June Statewide Reservoir Storage



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

Jun 01, 2011



Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1971-2000 Normal

- unavailable *
- <50%
- 50 - 69%
- 70 - 89%
- 90 - 109%
- 110 - 129%
- 130 - 149%
- >=150%

* *Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year*

Provisional Data Subject to Revision

USDA NRCS

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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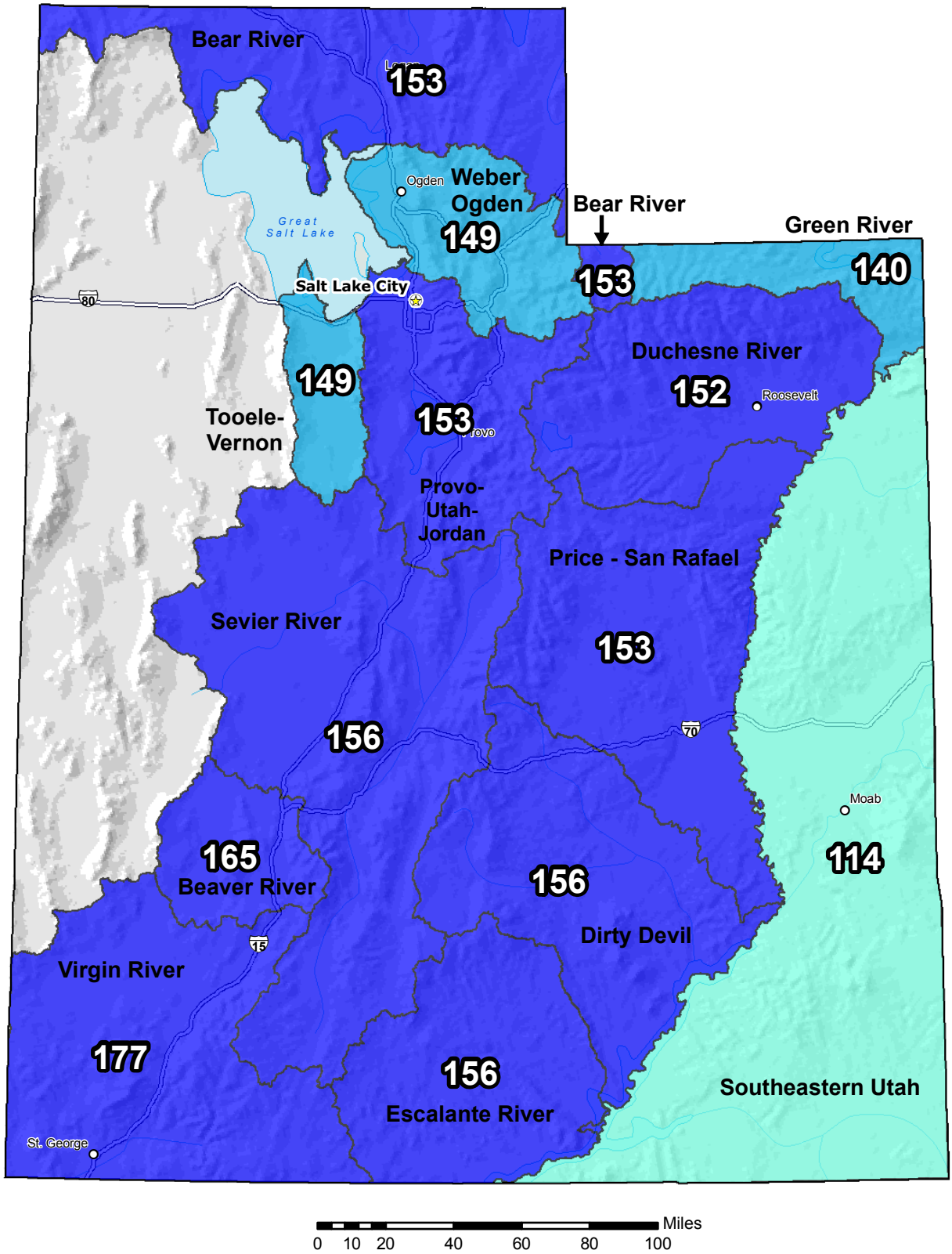
Utah
SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation
% of Normal

Jun 01, 2011



Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation Basin-wide Percent of 1971-2000 Normal

- unavailable *
- <50%
- 50 - 69%
- 70 - 89%
- 90 - 109%
- 110 - 129%
- 130 - 149%
- >=150%

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Provisional Data Subject to Revision

USDA NRCS

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/
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