STATE OF UTAH GENERAL OUTLOOK
January 1, 2010

SUMMARY

The water year 2010 has not been kind to northern Utah and the probability that this region will recover by peak snowpack in April is slim – 13% to 28%. Snowpacks in northern Utah range from 54% on the Bear to 72% over the Uintah Basin. The good news is that when you start the snow accumulation year this far down, there is a very high probability that things will improve *somewhat* over the next few months – 80% to 90% probability that by April 1 the Bear will be better than it is today. Not great, or even near average, but at least better. Central and southern Utah have snowpacks that range from 87% on the Price to 134% of average over southwest Utah. In general, south of Richfield, snowpacks are above average, north of Richfield, snowpacks decline rapidly the farther north one goes. December precipitation was much below to near normal (62%-99%) in northern Utah and much above normal (144%-200%) in the south which brings the year to date precipitation to below normal in the north (70%) and near average in the south (85%-100%). Current soil moisture saturation levels in runoff producing areas are: Bear – 47%, Weber – 45%, Provo – 29%, Uintah Basin – 18%, SE Utah – 32%, Sevier – 26% and SW Utah – 20%, down 2 to 15% from last January of last year and as dry or dryer than each of the past 5 years. Dryer soils typically mean less runoff from snowmelt and this is a big concern this year. Low snowpacks and dry soils are not a good runoff combination. Reservoir storage is currently at 66% of capacity statewide compared to 57% last year. General water supply conditions are below average in northern Utah and near average in southern Utah. Streamflow forecasts range from 42% for West Canyon Creek nr Cedar Fort to 109% of average for Mammoth Creek nr Hatch. Surface Water Supply Indices range from 27% on the Upper Sevier River to 63% for Moab area.

SNOWPACK

January first snowpacks as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL system are as follows: Bear - 54%, Weber - 65%, Provo - 64%, Uintahs - 72%, southeast Utah - 87%, Sevier - 113%, southwest Utah - 134% and the statewide figure is 75% of average. With January, 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 16% (SW Utah) and 46% (Weber) of average. Given maximum accumulations, April 1 snowpacks could range between 127% (Bear) and 242% (SW Utah) of average. With normal accumulations, April 1 snowpacks will be between 82% (Bear) and 113% (SW Utah) of average.

PRECIPITATION

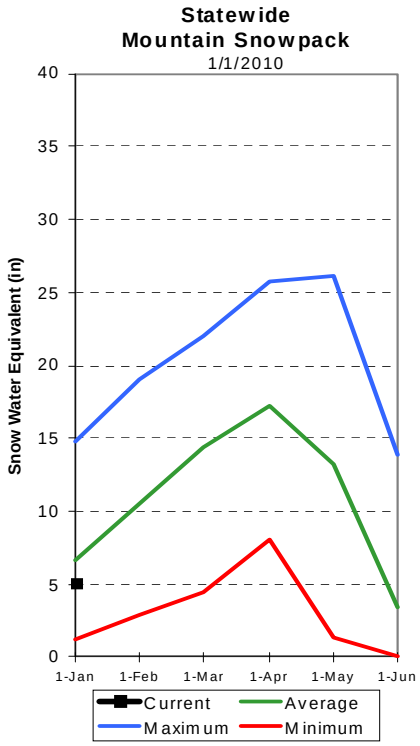
Mountain precipitation during December was: Bear – 62%, Weber – 86%, Provo – 99%, Uintahs – 92%, SE Utah – 144%, Sevier – 170%, SW Utah – 200% and the statewide figure is 105% of average. This brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-Jan) to 77% of average statewide.

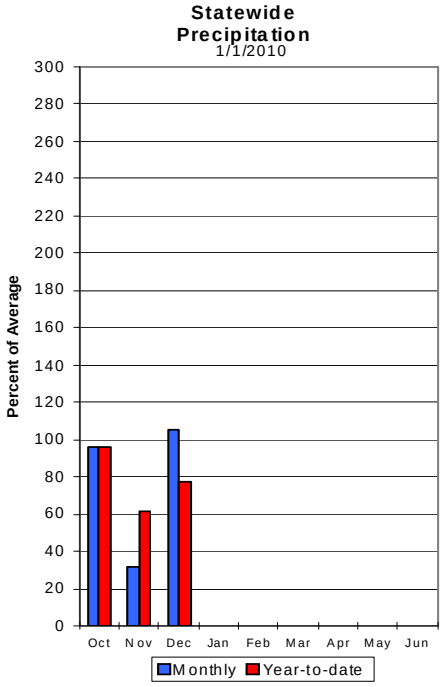
RESERVOIRS

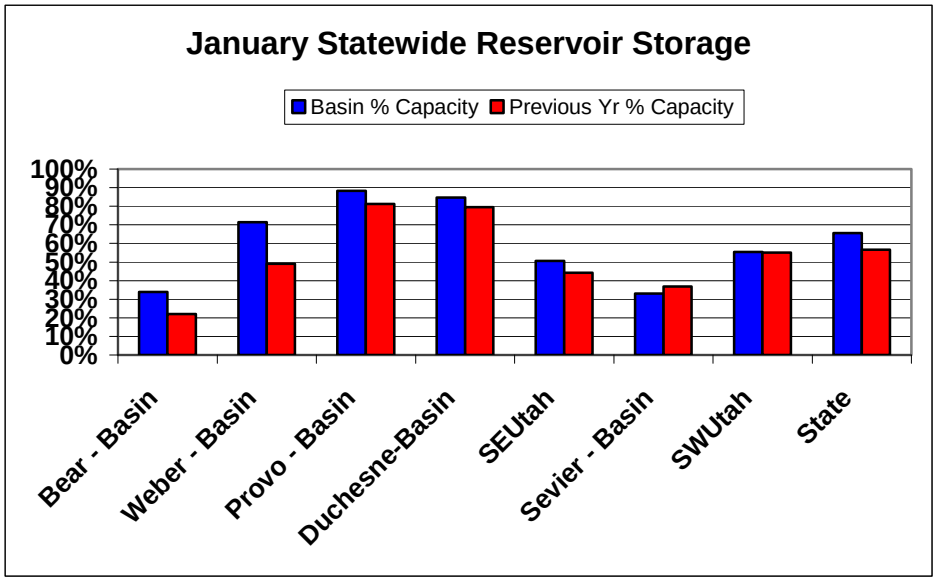
Storage in 41 of Utah's key irrigation reservoirs is at 66% of capacity up 9% compared to January of last year year. Reservoir storage by Basin: Bear – 34%, Weber – 71%, Provo – 88%, Uintah Basin – 85%, SE Utah – 51%, Sevier – 33%, SW Utah – 55% of capacity.

STREAMFLOW

Snowmelt streamflows are expected to have a wide range from much below average to average across the state of Utah this year. Forecast streamflows range from 42% on West Canyon Creek nr Cedar Fort to 109% on Mammoth Creek nr Hatch. Most flows are forecast to be in the 60% to 90% range.

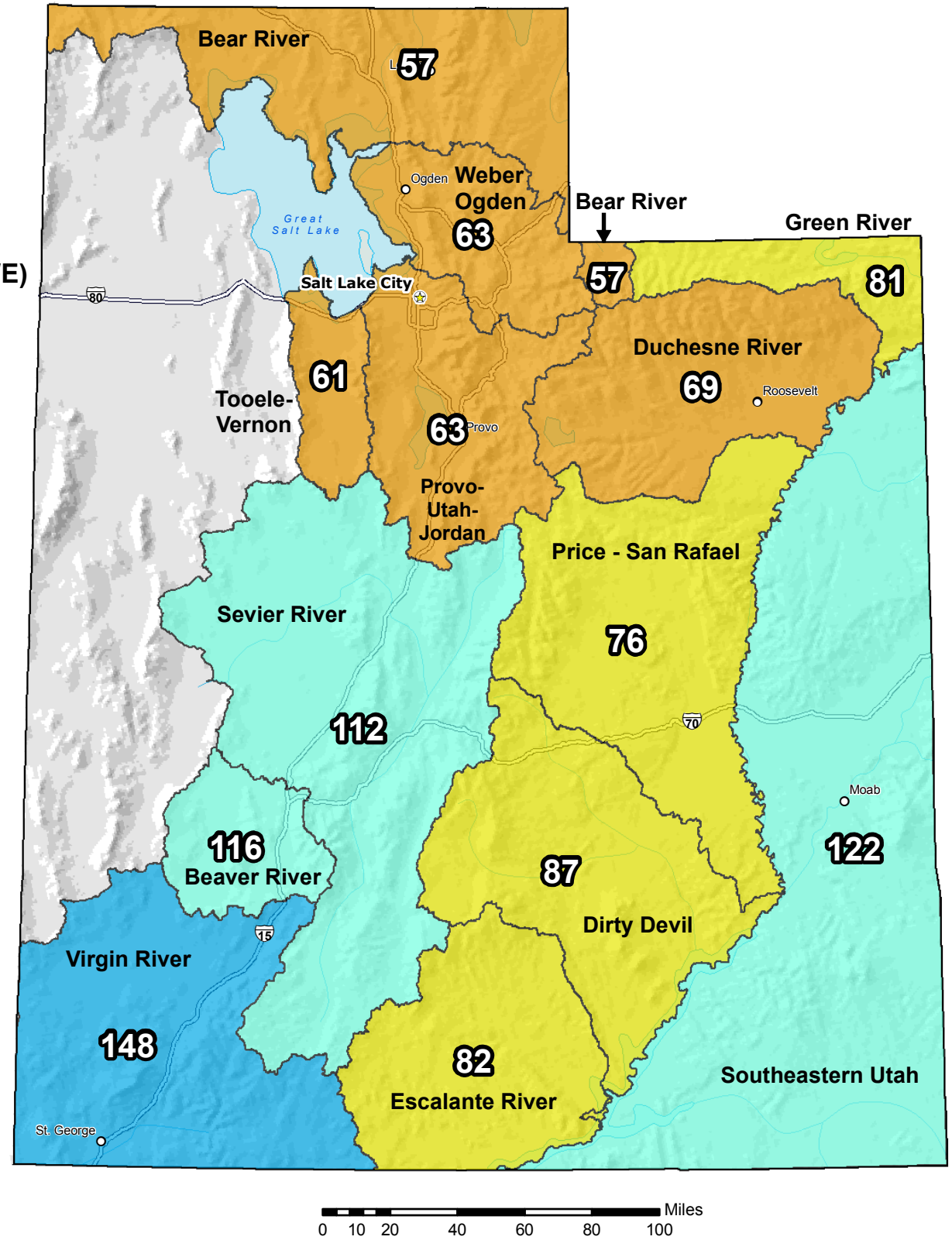






Utah
SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)
% of Normal

Jan 01, 2010



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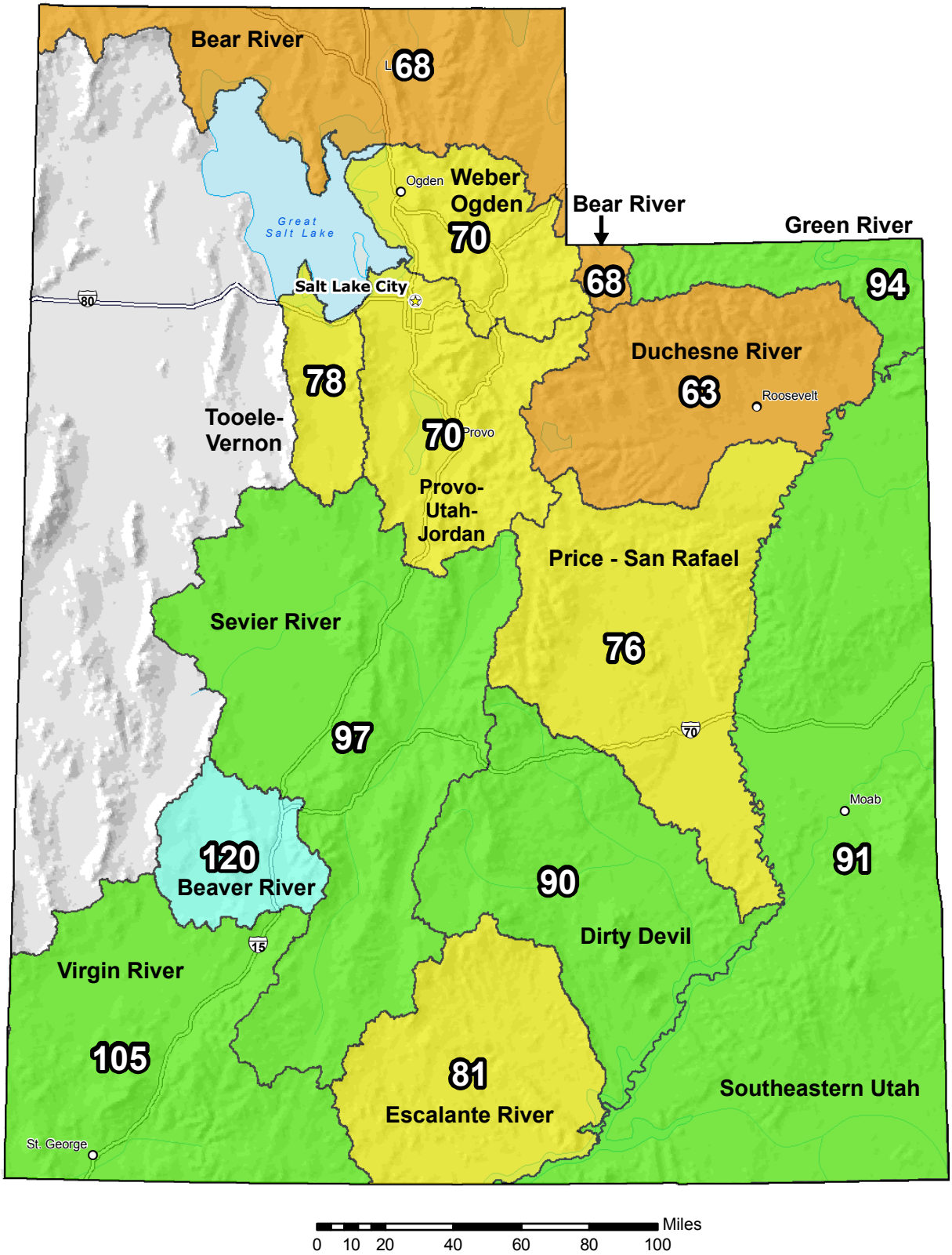
Utah
SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation
% of Normal

Jan 01, 2010



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%

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

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).

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Statewide Soil Moisture