Idaho Water Supply Committee

Water Supply Outlook and Snow Survey Update

- Snowpack Information
- Reservoir Storage
- Water Supply

Savage Pass SNOTEL, Lochsa headwaters
January 16, 2008

Precipitation gage non responsive!

Phil Morrisey, Hydrologist
USDA, NRCS, Boise ID
March 1, 2008
Idaho Snowpack

- State Boundary
- Major Basins
- Percent of Average:
  - >150
  - 130 - 149
  - 110 - 129
  - 90 - 109
  - 70 - 89
  - 50 - 69
  - <50
  - Not Surveyed
Panhandle Region

Panhandle Basins Snowpack March 1, 2008

Percent of Average

Elevation

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
Benton Meadow, Fourth of July Snow Courses Combined March 1 SWE. Low Elevation Sites in Idaho Panhandle

Percent of March 1 Average

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100% 120% 140% 160% 180% 200% 220%


NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
Clearwater Basin

Clearwater Basin Snowpack March 1, 2008

Percent of Average

Elevation

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
Weiser – Payette – Boise

Salmon Basin Snowpack March 1, 2008

Percent of Average vs. Elevation
Long Valley, elevation 4890, installed 2001

Previous max SWE 11.2” 3/25/2002

Today, 3/11/2008 SWE = 13.3”
Summary

Future precipitation and temperatures will determine how the low, mid and high elevation snowpack melts.

With rain on snow event – potential is there to melt snow rapidly producing streamflow, impacts from ice.

February is when low snow can/should start melting.

High snow is NOT present like other big snow years. The high elevation snow sustains streamflows for longer period when it melts in spring, thus extended high flows. Low elevation snow melt with rain event produces sharp increases in streamflow and usually decreases fairly quickly after the event or return of cold weather.
Change in Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts from February 1 to March 1, 2007

Legend
Percent

- >30
- 16 to 30
- 6 to 15
- -5 to 5
- -15 to -5
- -30 to -16
- <-30
- No Feb or Mar

Prepared by
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Water and Climate Center
Portland, Oregon
http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov
March 1, 2008
50% Exceedance
Summer Streamflow Forecast
Idaho

State Boundary
Major Basins
Percent of Average
- > 180
- 150 - 179
- 130 - 149
- 110 - 129
- 90 - 109
- 70 - 89
- 50 - 69
- 25 - 49
- < 25
- Not Forecast
## Selected March 1, 2008 NRCS Forecasts

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<th>% Avg</th>
<th>30-yr Avg KAF</th>
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<td>Much</td>
<td>Below</td>
<td>Near Normal</td>
<td>Above</td>
<td>Much</td>
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<td>Below</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Water Supply</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Above</td>
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NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
Snake near Heise Daily Forecast Model using daily SNOTEL data.

2008 Snake River near Heise: Apr - Jul Volume
NRCS Monthly / mid-Monthly Forecasts are Squares

Updated March 12, 2008

2007 Runoff 54% of Normal, 1926KAF

Gray: historical period of record variability

2007 Streamflow KAF

Updated March 12, 2008

9 in 10
7 in 10
5 in 10
3 in 10
1 in 10

1971-2000 Average
1951-2003 Median

2007 Runoff 54% of Normal, 1926KAF
SNOTEL March 11, 2008 Precipitation as Percent of Average March Total Total Precipitation

IDAHO PANHANDLE REGION
CLEARWATER BASIN
SALMON BASIN
BOISE BASIN
BIG WOOD BASIN
HENRY'S FORK, TETON BASINS
SNAKE BASIN ABOVE PALISADES
SALMON FALLS BASIN
OWYHEE BASIN
BEAR RIVER BASIN
Idaho Water Supply and Spring Flood Potential Briefing

IDWR Briefing, March 12th, 2008
Jay Breidenbach, NOAA National Weather Service

Snow Accumulation and Melt
Three Month Climate Outlook
Forecast for next 10 days
Spring Flood Potential
Western Water Supply Web Page
2008 Water Year Snow Movie
NOAA/NORSC
Snow Depth
March 11th, 2008

Inches of depth

- > 150
- 100 to 150
- 75 to 100
- 50 to 75
- 40 to 50
- 30 to 40
- 20 to 30
- 16 to 20
- 12 to 16
- 8 to 12
- 4 to 8
- 2 to 4
- < 2

Not Estimated

Elevation in feet (Not estimated)

- > 13124
- 8203 to 13124
- 3281 to 8203
- 3 to 3281
- < 3
Snow Depth
Feb 6th, 2008

Inches of depth

- > 150
- 100 to 150
- 75 to 100
- 50 to 75
- 40 to 50
- 30 to 40
- 20 to 30
- 16 to 20
- 12 to 16
- 8 to 12
- 4 to 8
- 2 to 4
- < 2

Not Estimated

Elevation in feet (Not estimated)

- > 13124
- 8203 to 13124
- 3281 to 8203
- 3 to 3281
- < 3
Equatorial Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies
Typical North American Impacts of La Niña
Three Month Outlook Temperatures

THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID MAM 2008
MADE 21 FEB 2008

EC MEANS EQUAL CHANCES FOR A, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW
Wednesday - Mar 12th
IR Satellite Imagery / 500 mb heights
Wednesday, Mar 12th
500 mb heights / model precipitation
Thursday, Mar 13th Wet / Cool
Friday, Mar 14th – Wet / Cool
Saturday, Mar 15th, Wet/Cool
Sunday, Mar 16th – Cold/Dry Northwest Flow
Monday, Mar 17th – Brief Ridging
Tuesday, Mar 18th – Moist Zonal Flow
Wednesday, Mar 19th – Brief Ridging
(Model Uncertainty Increasing)
Thursday, Mar 20th – Warm/Moist West South West Flow (Model Uncertainty Increasing)
10 day Model Precipitation Forecast
## Flood Potential

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<tr>
<th>Area of Concern</th>
<th>Dates of Greatest Concern</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weiser River in Adams and Washington County</td>
<td>Late March through early April</td>
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<td>Camas Creek in Camas County</td>
<td>Late March through early May</td>
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<td>Small Streams in Valley County</td>
<td>April through Early May</td>
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<td>Small Streams in Clear Water River Basin</td>
<td>Late March through April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Streams in Idaho Panhandle Region</td>
<td>Late March through May</td>
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<td>- Including St Joe, St Maries</td>
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Weiser River at Cambridge
Weiser River near Weiser
Drought?

U.S. Drought Monitor
Idaho

March 4, 2008
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

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<th>D1-D4</th>
<th>D2-D4</th>
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<td>Current</td>
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<td>48.9</td>
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<td>Last Week</td>
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<td>3 Months Ago</td>
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<td>88.8</td>
<td>51.3</td>
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<td>(12/11/2007 map)</td>
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<td>Start of</td>
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<td>One Year Ago</td>
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<td>(03/06/2007 map)</td>
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Intensity:
- Yellow: D0 Abnormally Dry
- Orange: D2 Drought - Severe
- Dark Orange: D3 Drought - Extreme
- Red: D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Released Thursday, March 6, 2008
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center
Drought Outlook

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid March 6, 2008 - May, 2008
Released March 6, 2008

KEY:
- Red: Drought to persist or intensify
- Orange: Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Green: Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Yellow: Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events such as individual storms cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications such as crops that can be affected by such events. “Ongoing” drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.
Payette River Runoff at Horseshoe Bend
March 1 – July 31

Acre-Feet


1,800,000 2,120,000 1,995,000 2,397,000 1,960,000

109% of Avg.
Deadwood Reservoir Storage
(capacity = 153,992 af)
Boise System Reservoir Storage
(capacity = 949,700 acre-ft)
Owyhee Basin Runoff
March 1 – June 30

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<th>Acre-Ft</th>
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<td>1999</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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98% of Avg.
Owyhee Reservoir Storage
(capacity = 715,000 acre-ft)
LEWIS LAKE DIVIDE SNOTEL as of 02/13/2008

*** Provisional Data, Subject to Change ***

Date (mm/dd)

Inches


SWE WY2008
SWE WY2007
SWE Avg 71-00

RECLAMATION
LEWIS LAKE DIVIDE SNOTEL as of 03/03/2008

*** Provisional Data, Subject to Change ***

Date (mm/dd) vs. Inches

- SWE WY2008
- SWE WY2007
- SWE Avg 71-00

RECLAMATION
LEWIS LAKE DIVIDE SNOTEL as of 03/11/2008

*** Provisional Data, Subject to Change ***

Inches

Date (mm/dd)


SWE WY2008
SWE WY2007
SWE Avg 71-00

RECLAMATION
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* *** Coordinated with Corp of Engineers
* x*** Listing of only one volume indicates an edited result and should be considered the 'adopted' forecast.
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<th>Station</th>
<th>Date</th>
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American Falls Reservoir

Content (Acre-Feet)
March 2008
Water Supply Committee
Mountain Snow Water Equivalent
As of Monday, March 10, 2008.
Idaho Snow Survey SNOTEL Data

Percent of Average
SWE
- 0-24
- 25-50
- 51-70
- 71-90
- 91-110
- 111-125
- 126-150
- 151-175
- 176-200
- 201-500

IDAHO PANHANDLE REGION
CLEARWATER BASIN
WEISER BASIN
SALMON BASIN
PAYETTE BASIN
BOISE BASIN
BIG LOST BASIN
LITTLE WILLOW, BLACKFOOT, PORTNEUF BASINS
SALMON FALLS BASIN
OWYHEE BASIN
BRUNEO BASIN
OAKLEY BASIN
BUREAU BASIN
BEAVER, CAMAS BASINS
HENOYS FORK TETON BASINS
SNAKE BASIN ABOVE PALISADES
BEAR LAKE END OF MONTH STORAGE
WATER YEARS 1922-2007
UPDATED THRU Oct 2007

UPSTREAM STORAGE RESTRICTION
Lake predicted to rise to 5910.5
OAKLEY RESERVOIR INFLOW
MARCH THROUGH SEPTEMBER VOLUME

END OF FEBRUARY STORAGE

- OAKLEY RESVR INFLOW
- OAKLEY RESV END OF FEB STOR
- 30-YR AVG

ADEQUATE

2008 FCST
BIG WOOD APR - SEP FLOW VOLUMES
MAGIC STORAGE MARCH 31

1000 AC-FT


MAGIC INFLOW
MAGIC RESERVOIR END OF MAR STOR
30 YR AVG

ADEQUATE

2008 FCST
## ESPA GROUND WATER CURTAILMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Normal Runoff</th>
<th>Comparable year</th>
<th>Heise Apr-Jul Runoff (1000 ac-ft)</th>
<th>Predicted Surface Water Supply Shortfall (ac-ft)</th>
<th>Acres Curtailed</th>
<th>Ground Water Right Priority Date Cut</th>
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**2008 Projection:**

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AVERAGE ANNUAL SPRING DISCHARGE TO SNAKE RIVER BETWEEN MILNER AND KING HILL
1902-2007

Discharge - Cubic Feet per Second

Water Year