

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: February YEAR: 2008
	SIGNATURE Sherrie Hebert Service Hydrologist DATE: April 4, 2008
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

X An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Although the calendar says spring begins in March, it sure did not feel as such, as unseasonably cold weather was the norm for Eastern Idaho in March. The average departure from normal temperatures averaged 5.72°F below normal, according to regional automated stations. Precipitation was most abundant in Northeastern Idaho with Ashton receiving 205% of normal.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Precipitation was slightly below normal for much of the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) in March. The entire HSA received an average of 81% of normal precipitation for 37 of 42 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Only eight stations were above normal with Ashton receiving 205% of normal. Grace and Malad each broke monthly low precip records: Grace's 0.14 inches broke the 1915 record and Malad, with 0.04 inches, broke the 1939 record.

Reservoirs

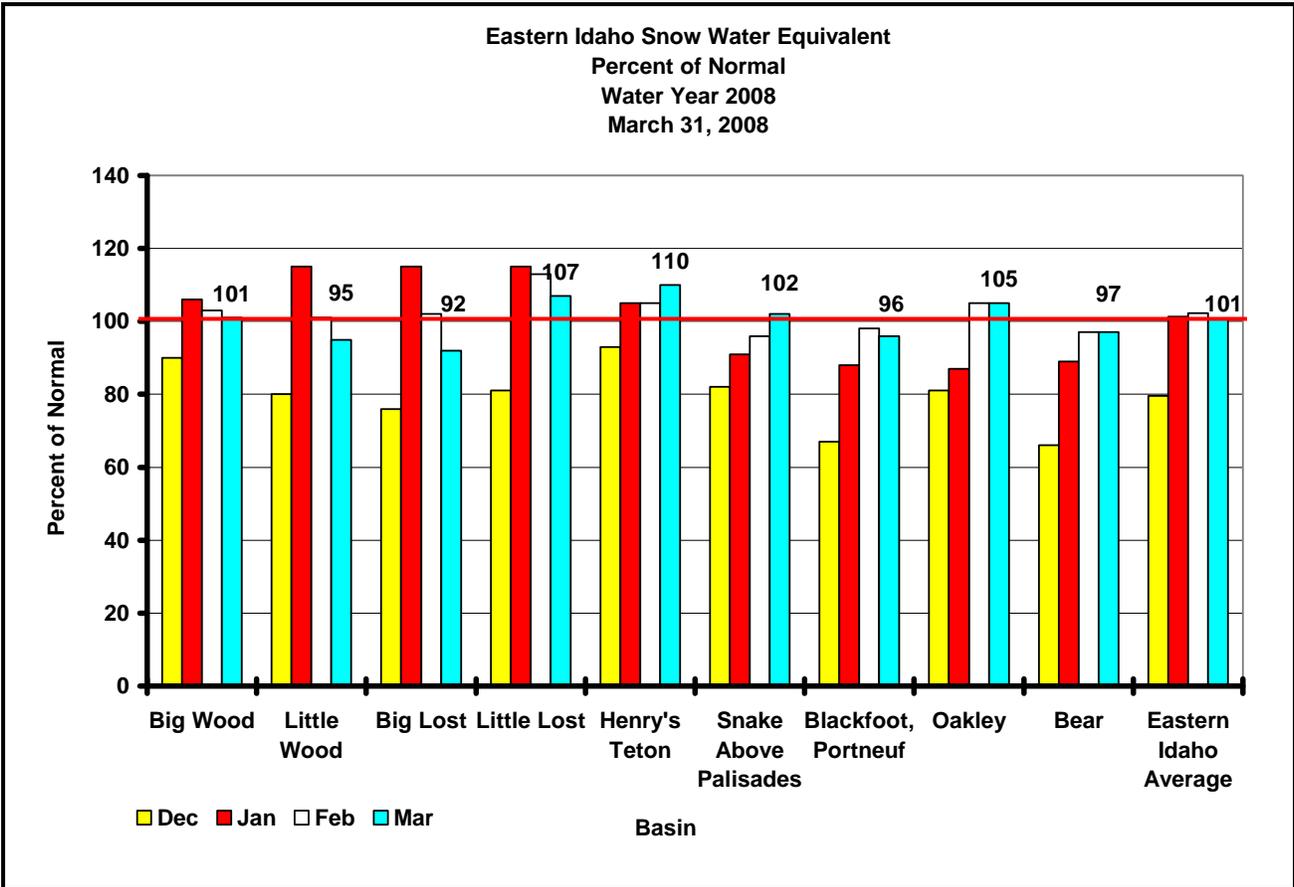
The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 58% of capacity¹, up 8% from March 3, 2008².

Reservoir	% Capacity February 29 ³	% Capacity March 31 ⁴	Percent Change	% of Average ⁴	% of Last Year ⁴
American Falls	65	79	14	92	80
Bear Lake	26	28	2	43	65
Blackfoot	26	27	1	42	52
Henry's Lake	88	90	2	95	95
Island Park	70	77	7	91	88
Little Wood	35	36	1	56	37
Mackay	58	62	4	85	79
Magic	13	15	2	27	19
Oakley	35	40	5	84	63
Palisades	41	46	5	68	54
Ririe	50	52	2	101	79
Lake Walcott	40 ²	53 ¹	13	n/a	n/a
Milner	86 ²	87 ¹	1	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), April 4, 2008; (2) BOR, March 3, 2008; (3) NRCS, February 29, 2007; (4) NRCS, March 31, 2008.

Snowpack

Eastern Idaho’s snowpack lost the one point it gained last month as the basin-average snow water equivalent (SWE) bounced back to 101% in March from 102% in February. A basin SWE summary is below.

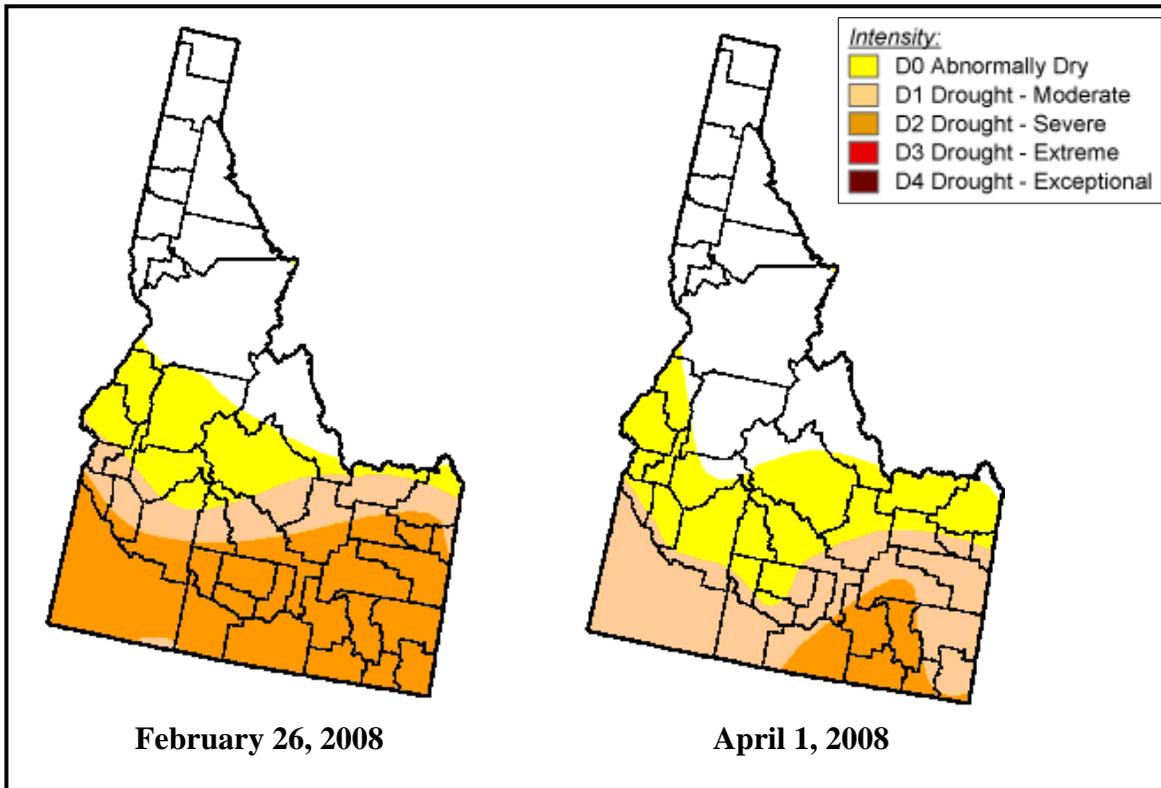


River Levels

Rivers across Eastern Idaho are running below normal for this time of year.

Drought

The Drought Monitor showed some improvement for Eastern Idaho for the month. Much of the D2, "Severe Drought," category improved from one to two categories. Improvements were due to slightly above-normal water year precipitation totals. The images below compare the two months.



March 2008 Hydrologic Product Summary

With the exception of weekly hydrologic updates, no products were issued in March for the Pocatello HSA.

cc: Daniel Matusiewicz, Western Region WFO Hydrology Program Manager
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Drought Monitor Mailing List
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