

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: December YEAR: 2008
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Sherrie Hebert Service Hydrologist
DATE: January 14, 2008	
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.

An impressive winter storm brought a white Christmas to Eastern Idaho covering the entire region in snow, translating into 81.78 inches of precipitation for the entire HSA. Island Park boasted a whopping 100.8 inches of snowfall for the month, with 24 inches on Christmas Day alone. Craters of the Moon and Ketchum were each buried under 60-plus inches over the month. The Christmas Day storm broke precipitation records at Challis, and Pocatello with 0.29 and 0.62 inches, respectively. The following monthly precip records were also broke: Hamer reported 1.68 inches, breaking the 1970 record of 1.57 inches and Malad reported 4.75 inches, breaking the 1964 record of 3.91 inches. Following is a list of those stations receiving more than 200% of their normal precipitation.

Rank	Station Name	Station ID	Precip (inches)	Normal	% Normal
1	Malad Airport	MLD	4.75	1.48	320.95
2	Arco Airport	AROI1	2.91	0.94	309.57
3	Idaho Falls 16 SE	IDFI1	4.26	1.52	280.26
4	Hamer	HMRI1	1.68	0.65	258.46
5	Craters Of The Moon	CRMI1	4.99	1.98	252.02
6	Tetonia	TEXI1	3.58	1.46	245.21
7	Idaho Falls 46 W	IFWI1	1.69	0.74	228.38
8	Soda Springs	SODI1	2.40	1.08	222.22
9	Driggs	DRGI1	2.80	1.37	204.38

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Precipitation was 81.78% of normal for 41 of 46 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Only eight stations were below normal with Malta reporting the least at 22%.

Reservoirs

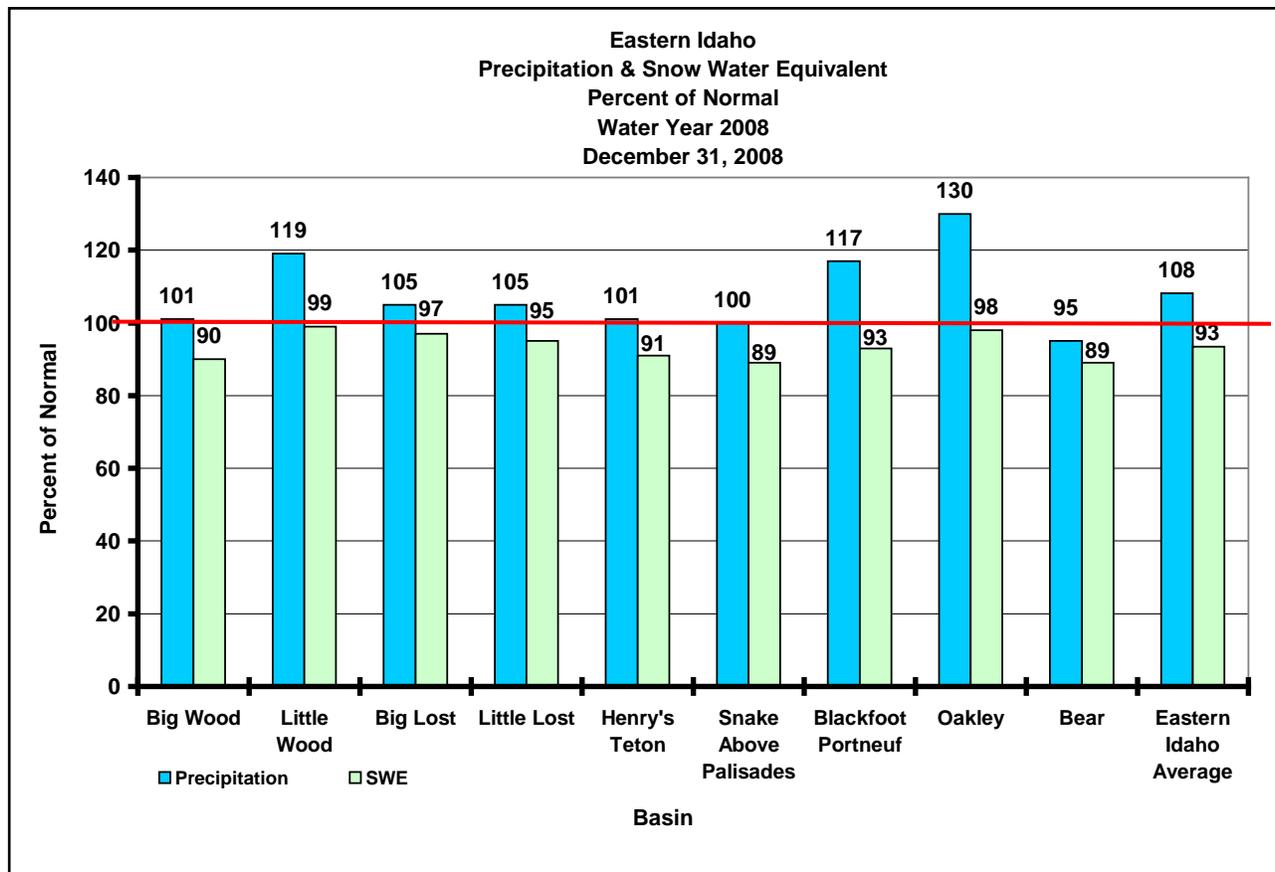
The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 64% of capacity¹, up 10% from December 11, 2008².

Reservoir	% Capacity November 30 ³	% Capacity December 31 ⁴	Percent Change	% of Average ⁴	% of Last Year ⁴
American Falls	44	57	16	97	135
Bear Lake	no report	25	n/a	40	105
Blackfoot	23	25	2	40	108
Henry's Lake	93	95	2	104	114
Island Park	69	78	11	109	141
Little Wood	18	27	11	57	86
Mackay	28	42	12	78	107
Magic	10	13	3	30	140
Oakley	21	21	5	62	70
Palisades	52	59	9	80	194
Ririe	45	47	-9	110	102
Lake Walcott	43 ¹	40 ¹	-3	n/a	n/a
Milner	88 ¹	88 ¹	0	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), January 14, 2009; (2) BOR December 11, 2008; (3) NRCS, November 30, 2008; (4) NRCS, December 31, 2008.

Snowpack

A wet fall with a lack of snowfall has Eastern Idaho's precipitation much higher than snowpack totals thus far this year. Even though, snowpack is off to a good start as the month-end basin-average snow water equivalent (SWE) is 93% of normal. A basin precipitation and SWE summary is below.

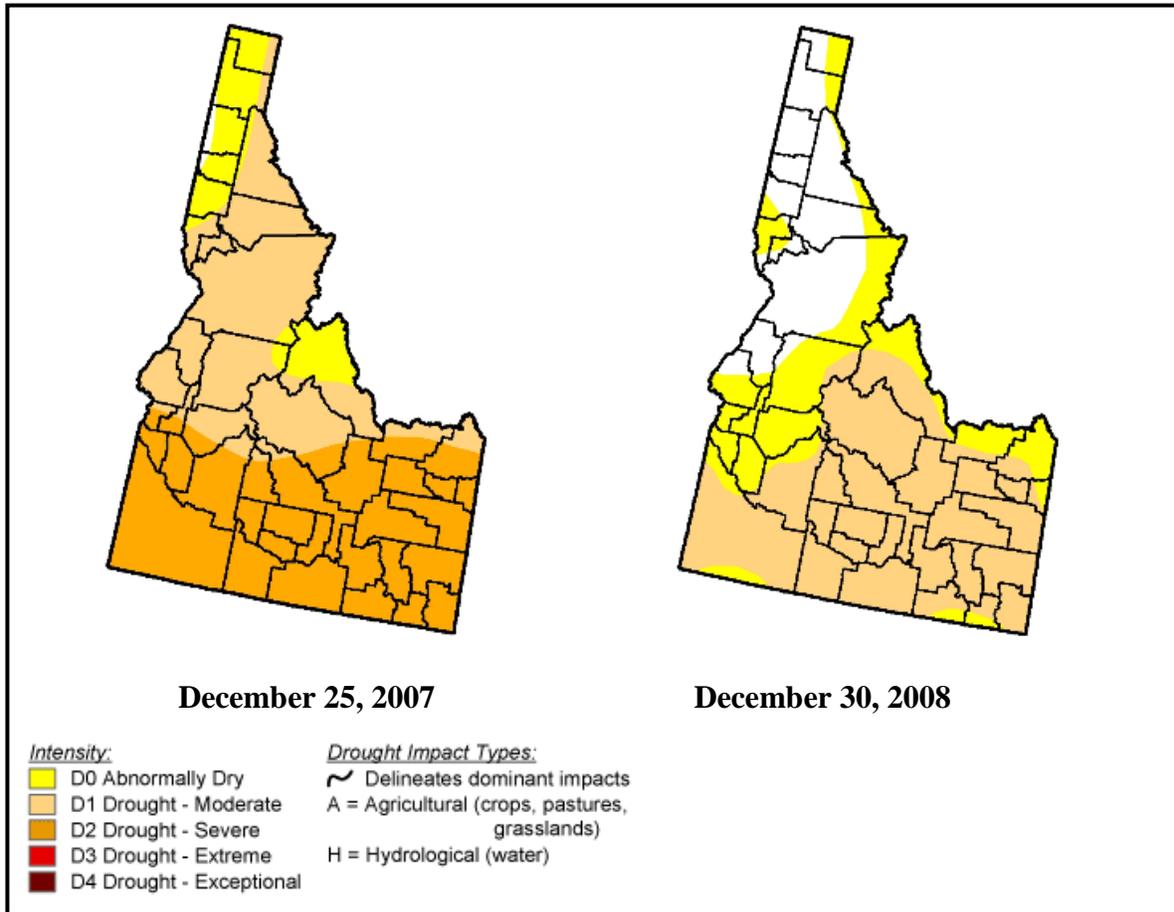


River Levels

River level information is unavailable due to icing on many Eastern Idaho Rivers.

Drought

Eastern Idaho remains in a moderate drought. Below is a comparison between this year and last.



December 2008 Hydrologic Product Summary

No hydrologic products were issued in December.

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