

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: 2009
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Dan Valle Hydrology Focal Point
	DATE: March 14, 2009
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).	

	An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.
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The region was below normal for the month and warm as well. Snowmelt in the valleys resulted in flooded fields. The water then spilled into the basements of homes in Minidoka, Bannock, Bingham, Caribou and Power counties. Spencer set a monthly record for lowest precipitation. Meanwhile, Stanley set a daily precipitation record of 0.47” which beat the record of 0.30” set in 1983.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Precipitation was 86.05% of normal for 42 of 49 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. The Malad Airport received 198.4% of normal precip, topped the list of 10 stations reporting at or above normal precipitation. Thirty-two stations were below normal with Howe reporting the least at 11.3%.

Reservoirs

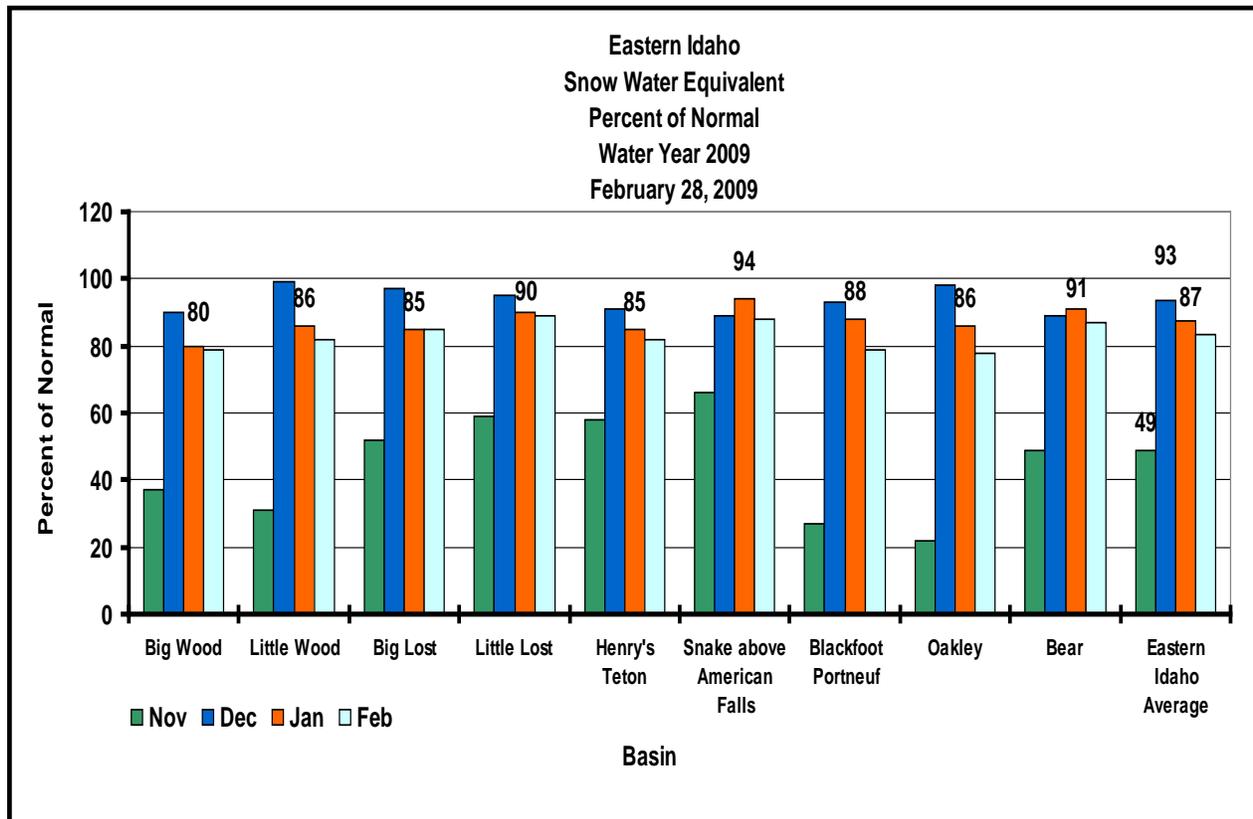
The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 79% of capacity¹, up 8% from February 12, 2009².

Reservoir	% Capacity January 31 ³	% Capacity February 28 ⁴	Percent Change	% of Average ⁴	% of Last Year ⁴
American Falls	71	84	13	111	129
Bear Lake	26	27	1	42	103
Blackfoot	26	28	21	43	107
Henry's Lake	95	96	1	103	109
Island Park	82	85	3	108	122
Little Wood	36	44	8	75	127
Mackay	52	60	8	86	104
Magic	14	16	2	33	124
Oakley	24	27	3	66	78
Palisades	66	72	6	97	177
Ririe	50	52	2	108	104
Lake Walcott	40 ¹	40 ¹	0	n/a	n/a
Milner	88 ¹	88 ¹	0	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), March 13, 2009; (2) BOR February 12, 2009; (3) NRCS, January 31, 2008; (4) NRCS, February 28, 2009.

Snowpack

The lack of snowfall is evident in the snow water equivalent (SWE) graph below. All basins are less than the previous month's percent of normal. The month-end basin-average fell 5% from 87% of normal in February.

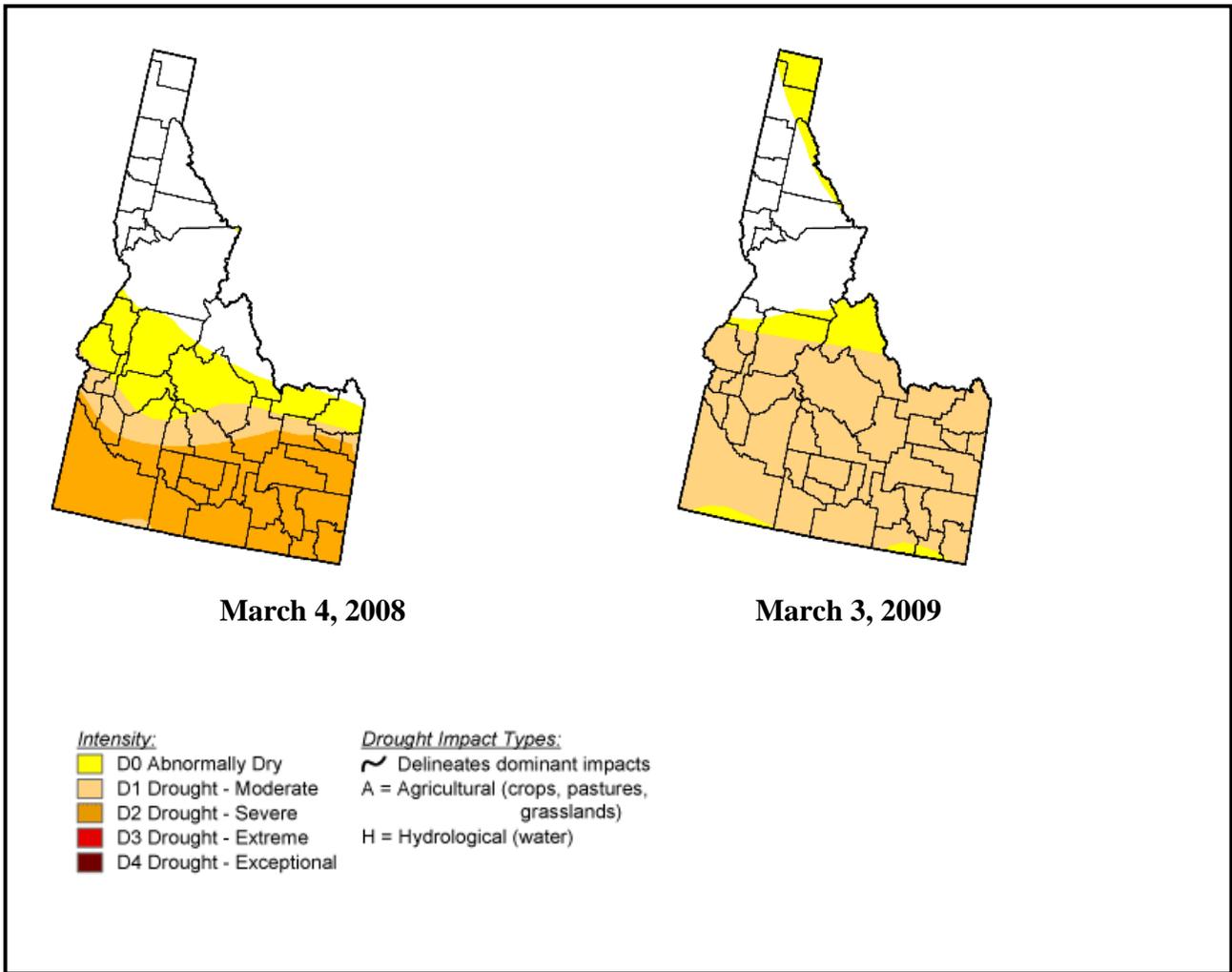


River Levels

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.



February 2009 Hydrologic Product Summary

Urban and small stream flood advisory on February 24, 2009 for Minidoka, Bannock, Bingham, Caribou and Power counties for snowmelt in fields resulting in basements becoming flooded.

- cc: Daniel Matusiewicz, Western Region WFO Hydrology Program Manager
- Harold Opitz, Hydrologist in Charge, Northwest River Forecast Center
- Hydrometeorological Information Center
- Rick Dittman, Meteorologist in Charge, Pocatello, Idaho
- Jay Breidenbach, Service Hydrologist, Boise, Idaho
- Drought Monitor Mailing List
- Northwest River Forecast Center
- Pocatello WFO Forecasters and HMTs