

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: 2009
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	SIGNATURE Troy Lindquist Service Hydrologist
DATE: January 11, 2010	
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).	
<input type="checkbox"/>	An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.

Summary

The highlight of December was the arctic air that settled over the Hydrologic Service Area during the first couple of weeks of the month. This produced well below normal temperatures during this time and resulted in ice build-up on streams and rivers and caused ice jams and minor flooding on some waterways. A number of storm systems brought periods of significant snowfall to the mountains and some of the lower valley areas, but precipitation was below normal for the month and mountain snowpack continued below normal for the season.

On December 11th an ice jam formed on the Falls River in Fremont County about 3 miles east of Chester. The river spilled over the left bank and flowed into an adjacent canal. The canal handled most of the water but some minor low land flooding occurred and water briefly flowed across County Road 800N. Later that day the water level receded. No property damage occurred according to the Emergency Manager for the area.

On December 12th an ice jam formed on the north side of Hailey in Blaine County. The ice jam formed where Hiawatha Canal, Indian Creek, and another small creek converge. Persons were able to break up the jam using picks and the water receded the same day. Some minor low land flooding took place but no property damage occurred.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Only 2 of the 43 stations with climate data reported above normal precipitation for December. Minidoka Dam received 1.78” (178% of normal), and Shoshone received 1.77” (126% of normal). The majority of stations across the HSA received less than 60% of their monthly normal with the lowest percentages occurring at Howe (.10” and 14% of normal), and St. Anthony (.18” and 12% of normal). No precipitation records were established in December.

Reservoirs

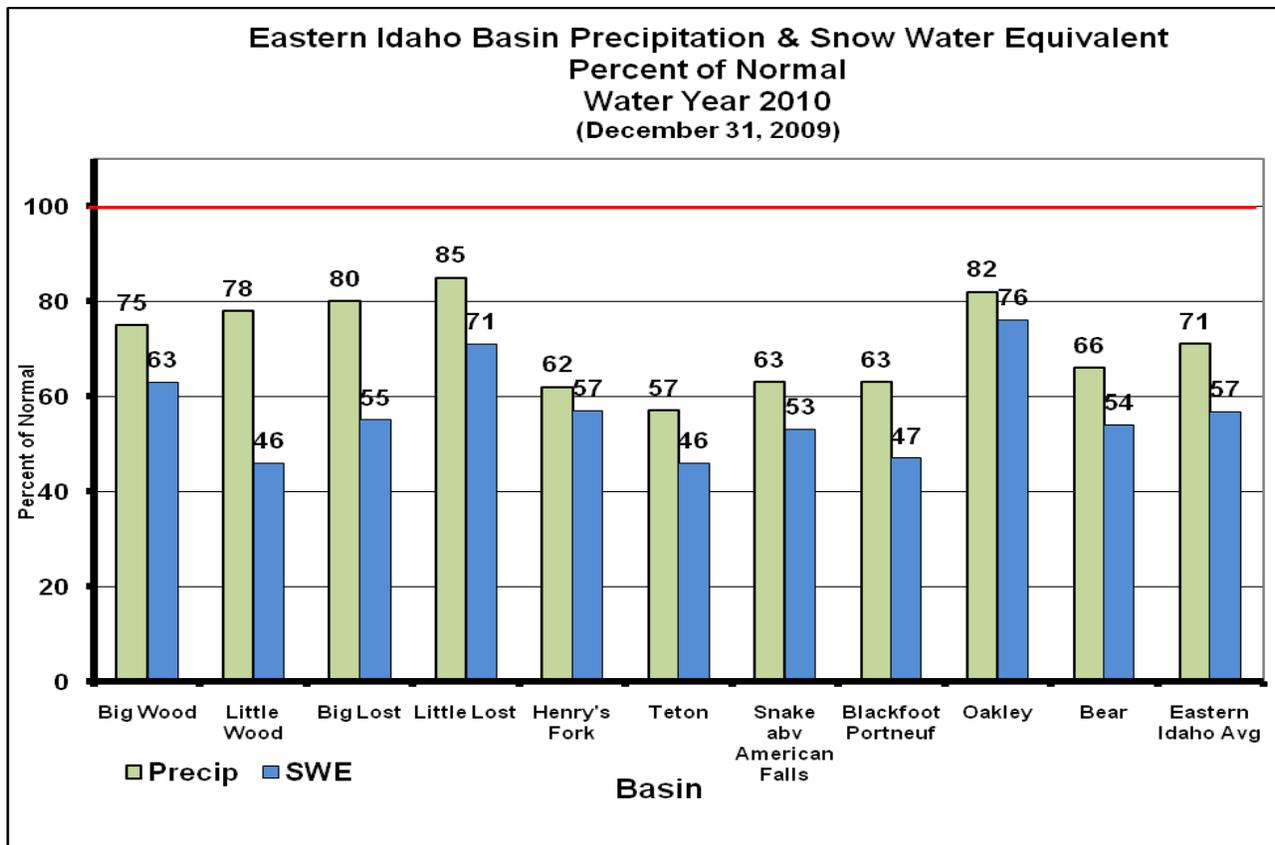
The Upper Snake River Basin reservoir system was at 72% of capacity January 4, up 6% from December 1, 2009. Last year at end of December the reservoir system was near 64% of capacity.

Reservoir	% Capacity November 30 ³	% Capacity December 31 ⁴	Percent Change	% of Average ⁴	% of Last Year ⁴
American Falls	61	72	11	122	126
Bear Lake	37	37	0	58	145
Blackfoot	53	NA	NA	NA	NA
Henry's Lake	93	94	1	103	99
Island Park	77	80	3	113	104
Little Wood	54	62	8	133	231
Mackay	59	72	13	135	172
Magic	38	39	1	94	311
Oakley	27	29	2	86	139
Palisades	68 ¹	76	8	103	129
Ririe	45	47	2	110	100
Lake Walcott	41 ¹	40 ²	-1	n/a	n/a
Milner	92 ¹	90 ²	-2	n/a	n/a

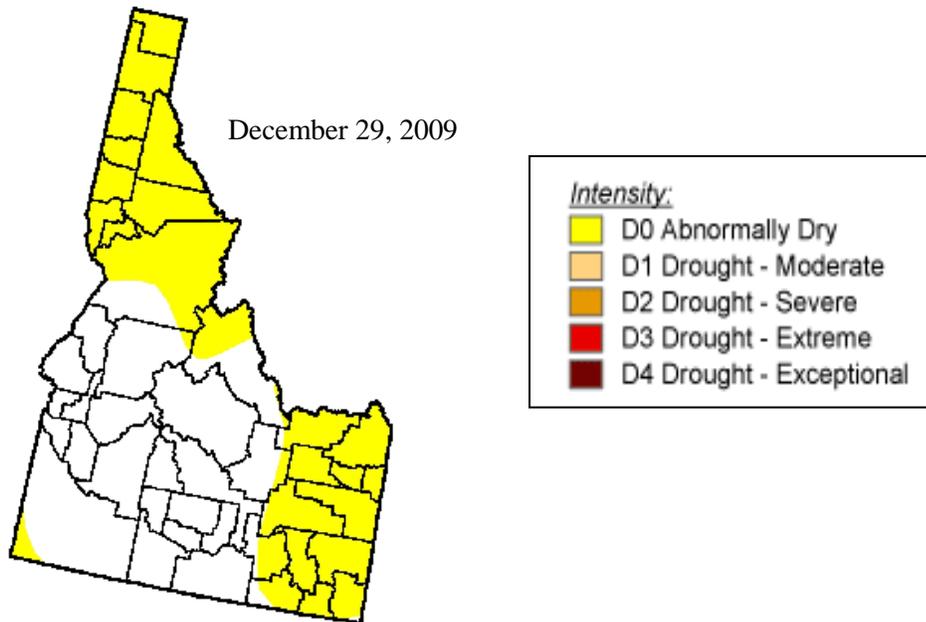
Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) December 1, 2009; (2) BOR January 4, 2010; (3) NRCS November 30, 2009; (4) NRCS December 31, 2009.

Snowpack Conditions

A lack of strong and moist storms during the late fall and early winter resulted in below normal precipitation and much below normal snowfall across Eastern Idaho for the early portion of the 2010 Water Year.



Drought



River Conditions

According to the USGS, streamflow in December compared to historical flows was below normal for the Portneuf River Basin. Otherwise, streamflow conditions were generally near normal across the HSA. Cold temperatures and the resulting ice caused some stream gages to struggle from time to time in reporting accurate levels.

December 2009 Hydrologic Product Summary

Product	Number Issued
Flood Watch for Flash Flooding	0
Flash Flood Warning	0
Flash Flood Statement	0
Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
Flood Watch for Flooding	0
Flood Warning	0
Flood Statement	0
Flood Advisory	0
Hydrologic Statement	4
Hydrologic Outlook	0

cc: Daniel Matusiewicz, Western Region WFO Hydrology Program Manager
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