



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Risk Management
Agency

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Subject: Regional Irrigation Assessment for Davis Region

This Regional Irrigation Assessment is provided in accordance with instructions in the Loss Adjustment Manual, FCIC-25010. The Regional Office Director is required to share information about areas suspected of having inadequate water for irrigation with regional insurance providers.

Arizona: Due to a warm and dry March snow measurements statewide are only at 22% normal of the 30-year average. Snow packs are nearing melt out for the 2004 season, which is as much as a month and a half ahead of time. Stream flows statewide are below normal.

The San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District, located in Pinal County is only at 6% of normal storage capacity with median stream flows being below normal. Most of Arizona is experiencing moderate drought conditions which are affecting ground water levels throughout the state.

Concerns: One of the major areas of concern is the San Carlos Irrigation & Drainage District, located in Pinal County. Expectations are that allotments will be close to last year's record low allotment of 0.35 acre/ft. Another area of concern is the Upper Gila River area located in Graham and Greenlee Counties. It is expected that local irrigation districts located in Graham and Greenlee Counties will experience below normal levels of irrigation water supplies along with reduced groundwater supplies. Concerns have been expressed that due to the extended drought groundwater levels have been dropping in Cochise County. Based on a review of data available, Pinal, Maricopa, Greenlee, Graham, and Cochise Counties are identified where the availability of water for irrigation is uncertain.

California: While the Northern Sierras have received close to average snow pack, the Central Sierras and Southern Sierra snow levels and water content levels are below normal with the statewide average being 85 percent. Storage in California's reservoirs are at or above historic average levels. Stream flow forecasts range from 100% in the northern Sierras to 60% in the central and southern Sierras.



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The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) has allocated 100% of their contracted allotment to land areas located north of the Delta. Land areas, south of the Delta will receive 65% of their contracted allotment, which is what they normally receive under normal water conditions. The Friant Division of the CVP (which supplies water for the east side of the San Joaquin Valley) has allocated 100% of contracted water to Class 1 water users and allocated 0 % to Class 2 of contracted water users.

The State Water Project (SWP), which supplies water to agricultural water contractors in the southern San Joaquin Valley has announced that they will deliver 65% of contracted water supplies compared to expected deliveries of 70% - 75% of contracted water supplies in normal years.

Based on a review of data available, there is enough snow pack and water in storage to provide adequate irrigation supplies for the Sacramento Valley and for the Federal and State Water Projects in the state. However, it is expected that local irrigation districts located in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley will also experience below normal levels of irrigation water supplies this year.

Nevada:

Due to a very hot and dry March, all basins have below average snow pack levels. This year's snow pack levels ranged anywhere from 31% to 87% of average compared to last year's 45 to 90% of average. However, stream flow forecasts are expected to be below average ranging from 43% - 83% of average stream flows. Reservoir storage remains low ranging from 9% to 61% of capacity.

Concerns: The major area of concern is the Rye Patch reservoir, which is located in Pershing County. Capacity is at only 9% and expected stream flows into the Rye Patch reservoir is expected to be below normal. Irrigation allotments for this year are expected to be below normal.

Utah:

Due to March being one of the driest and warmest on records all watersheds in Utah experienced severe snow pack decreases. Snow packs range between 56% of average in southern Utah to 75% of average in the Provo/Jordan River watershed. However, several sites in northern Utah are now at or near record lows for April 1. Streamflow forecasts range from 7% to 71% of average with most stream flows forecasted to be in the 30% - 60% range. Overall, water supply conditions are below to much below average.

Storage in 41 of Utah's key reservoirs is at 45% capacity, down substantially (8%) from last year indicating heavy use of reservoir storage to make up the stream flow deficit. Statewide basin reservoir storage varies from 8% to 70% depending on the reservoir and the location in the state. Most reservoirs are using conservation strategy, storing as much water as possible.

Concerns: While the entire state is experiencing below average snow pack and projected stream flows, two major areas of concern, due to low reservoir storage, are the Bear River basin which is located in Cache & Box Elder Counties and the Sevier River basin located in Sevier County.

Reservoir storage for the Bear River basin is only at 8% of capacity. Snow packs on the Bear River basin are at 61% of normal and stream flow forecast range from 7% to 57% of normal. One irrigation district expects growers to receive 40 to 60% of their normal water allotment.

Reservoir storage for the Sevier River basin is only 31% of capacity. Snow packs on the Sevier River basin are at 64% of average and stream flow forecasts range from 16% to 63% of average.