

Utah Water Users Association
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Tage Flint

WATER OUTLOOK
By Randy Julander

June 2009 was by any standard an exceptional precipitation month. It basically employed the motto (since the fall season of 2009) of my Utah State Aggie Football team – score early and often. The numbers are impressive: Bear – 268%, Weber – 305%, Provo – 278%, Duchesne – 223%, Price – 180%, SE Utah – 182%, Sevier – 128% and the Virgin, 63% of average. Horse Ridge on the Ogden River came in with 418% of average precipitation and Indian Canyon on the Duchesne/Price had 391% of normal. Impressive percentages, but if average is only and inch or less, it doesn't take much to get 200%. So, let's take a look at the actual precipitation amounts for areas of northern Utah: Tony Grove Lake – 6.4 inches, Ben Lomond Peak 8.0 inches, Ben Lomond Trail 6.4 inches, Farmington Upper and Parrish Creek, 6.8 inches. 3 to 5 inches of precipitation was common over much of northern Utah, even at lower elevations. If this kind of precipitation had happened over the active snowmelt period in April and May, we may have experienced significant flooding, as it was, things could not have been better for water supply. With snowmelt mostly over, these rains kept streamflows high, irrigation low and have wetted soils such that the first half of July won't need a lot of irrigation as well. This leaves a greatly reduced irrigation season. With demand down, many northern Utah reservoirs were still spilling at the beginning of July. This in turn should lead to greater reservoir carryover this fall. For example, Bear Lake in January was a bit over 250 thousand acre feet in storage and on July 1, it was about 510 thousand acre feet. So, there was about a 260 thousand acre feet increase in Bear Lake – and we were only forecasting about 180 thousand acre feet of inflow. Bottom line is with this kind of precipitation, most of our streamflow forecasts for northern Utah are going to come in low. Enjoy the excess fellers because for every abnormally high June precipitation event, there are a bunch that have next to none. Hay farmers

have had problems finding a dry enough time to cut, dry and bale but the small grain crops are having an exceptional time. Southern Utah, things down there are closer to average conditions. They didn't get the massive amounts of precipitation and as such, both streamflows and reservoir storage are more like normal conditions. As of July 1, reservoir storage capacity was: Bear – 43%, Weber – 100%, Provo – 99%, Duchesne – 96%, SE Utah – 86%, Sevier – 46%, and SW Utah – 77% of capacity. So, now the good Lord willing, the cattle market will improve, there will be a shortage of grain in the mid west so the prices will go up, and the politicians don't do anything to or for us and taxes go down, we should be able to make it through another year of farming... cause I have done all I can for this year.

Water & the Law
PAINTER'S LAWS
By Jeffry R. Gittins
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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS
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