

Pacific Northwest Region Water Supply Update September 24, 2008

The Pacific Northwest has experienced beautiful fall weather in September, with sunny warm days and crisp nights for the most part. A large low pressure system did move through the region last weekend and brought areas of heavy rainfall, particularly over southern Idaho where some amounts exceeded 1.5 inches in the mountains. This fall precipitation is welcome as it begins to recharge soil moisture heading into the winter. The 10 day forecast calls for a more active pattern to set up near the end of the period which should bring in more storms. The irrigation season is winding down, with good reservoir carryover levels in most basins. The exceptions are reservoirs in the Malheur and Owyhee basins of eastern Oregon, which did not refill completely this year and have used most of their storage.

	Water Year Precipitation % of avg	WY 2008 Runoff % of avg	Reservoir Storage % full	Allocations
Yakima (WA)	95	92	48	full
Flathead/Hungry Horse (MT)	102	109	83	n/a
Crooked (OR)	98	63	62	n/a
Boise (ID)	98	85	47	n/a
Payette (ID)	100	98	58	n/a
Upper Snake (ID)	100	98	40	n/a
Columbia Basin (Columbia R at the Dalles)	102	91	n/a	n/a

Note: Runoff percentages now reflect observed runoff since October, rather than forecasted runoff.