

Pacific Northwest Region Water Supply Update December 10, 2008

Winter is off to a very late and foreboding start for the Pacific Northwest, with very little snow in the mountains as we head into mid-December. Typically, about 15% to 20% of the April 1 snowpack is on the ground by December 1, with an additional 20-25% added in December, so the lack of snow thus far is definitely reason to worry. Ski resorts are nowhere close to opening. The deficits can be made up, but will require above average precipitation as we move forward. A major arctic blast is forecast to hit the entire region beginning this weekend and lasting all next week. Snow will accompany the storm, but amounts may be limited due to the northern origin of the stormtrack, which tends to be drier. The federal power system will be heavily relied upon to meet electrical demands next week, but is well positioned to do so with no power emergencies anticipated. The first runoff forecasts for 2009 will be available after January 1.

	Snowpack % of avg	Water Year Precipitation % of avg	Forecasted Spring Runoff % of avg	Reservoir Storage % full	Allocations
Yakima (WA)	15	78	Below avg	57	n/a
Flathead/Hungry Horse (MT)	47	72	Below avg	80	n/a
Crooked (OR)	0	55	Below avg	56	n/a
Boise (ID)	32	65	Below avg	48	n/a
Payette (ID)	34	61	Below avg	60	n/a
Upper Snake (ID)	60	81	Below avg	54	n/a
Columbia Basin (Columbia R at the Dalles)	n/a	77	Below avg	n/a	n/a