



Wow...Water Water Everywhere!

April 10, 2023



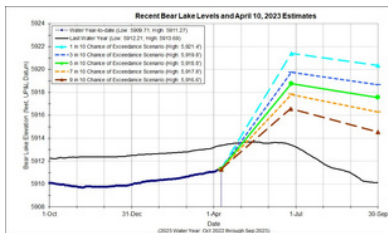
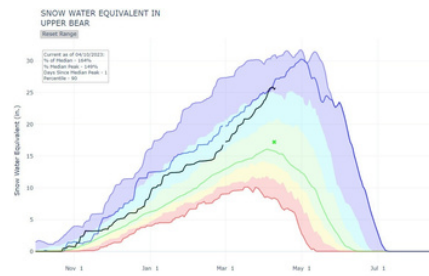
Photo May 2, 2022 Lake level 5913.65 ft

### **Will my dock get wet this summer?????????**

First, I'd like to give a big shout out to the staffs at National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center (CRBFC) for all their hard work to get the data for these updates. I probably have left someone out so I apologize in advance. If you want to see some photos taken in the field collecting data for the April 1st Water Supply Forecast, go [here](#)

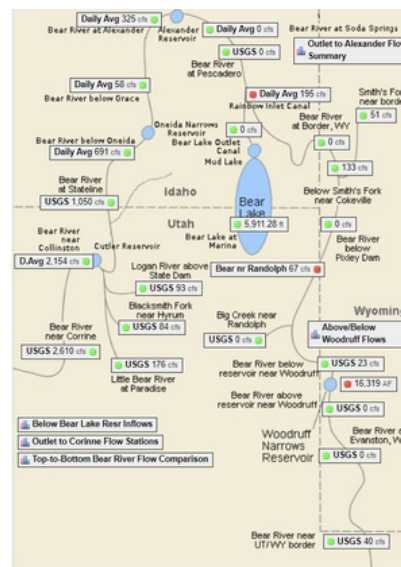
The April 10th Snowwater Equivalent graph is shown on the right. Yesterday April 9th was the day of median peak of SWE in the Upper Bear subbasin. The black line is this year. The blue line is 2011..another great water year. It's anyone's guess if the area will get anymore snow this year..as happened in 2011. There is no doubt it's been a great water year so far for SWE accumulation.

If you want to play around with the graph and add in the prior years for comparison, go [here](#)



Streamflow volume forecast at Stewart Dam doubled between March 1st and April 1st and continues to go up each day so far this month! As of the latest forecast by Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) hydrologist, Connelly Baldwin, there is a 50:50 chance that Bear Lake will hit 5918.8 ft this year.....a 9.1 ft rise from the April 10th water level. That's an almost 2 ft adjustment upward in the past week or so. RMP estimates the high water date to be June 26th. And they are estimating that the low level in the fall will be 5917.6 ft which would be a great place to start next year's snowpack runoff!

The chart at the right gives an overview of the Bear Lake Area with streamflows at various points along the Bear River and reservoir elevations. Some of the streamflows are 0 cfs now as the gauges were obstructed by ice.



I'll be updating this chart in the next few months as we get further along in the snowmelt period. This chart can be found [here](#)

Lastly but importantly, given that this year's tremendous snowpack follows several years of extreme

drought it's natural to wonder how much the current year's snowfall has helped ease the ongoing drought. This is not an easy question to answer I am told but it is estimated that in the Bear River Basin this year's snowpack has cut the drought deficit by about 90%. That's good news to lots of folks.

So let's all keep our fingers crossed. I think my dock has a very good chance of getting wet this summer!

Check out the Resources below for more information.

April guest editor: John Holman

Resources:

Snotel webpage: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/quicklinks/states/utah/>

Monthly Reports from NRCS: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/quicklinks/states/utah/water/>

BEAR LAKE LEVEL

April 10, 2023

5911.30 feet\*

*\*All Bear Lake Elevations are given in UP&L Datum*

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