

Colorado Basin Outlook Report January 1, 2009



Basin Outlook Reports and Federal - State - Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

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How forecasts are made

Most of the annual streamflow in the western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated in the mountains during the winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Measurements of snow water equivalent at selected manual snow courses and automated SNOTEL sites, along with precipitation, antecedent streamflow, and indices of the El Niño / Southern Oscillation are used in computerized statistical and simulation models to prepare runoff forecasts. These forecasts are coordinated between hydrologists in the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Weather Service. Unless otherwise specified, all forecasts are for flows that would occur naturally without any upstream influences.

Forecasts of any kind, of course, are not perfect. Streamflow forecast uncertainty arises from three primary sources: (1) uncertain knowledge of future weather conditions, (2) uncertainty in the forecasting procedure, and (3) errors in the data. The forecast, therefore, must be interpreted not as a single value but rather as a range of values with specific probabilities of occurrence. The middle of the range is expressed by the 50% exceedance probability forecast, for which there is a 50% chance that the actual flow will be above, and a 50% chance that the actual flow will be below, this value. To describe the expected range around this 50% value, four other forecasts are provided, two smaller values (90% and 70% exceedance probability) and two larger values (30%, and 10% exceedance probability). For example, there is a 90% chance that the actual flow will be more than the 90% exceedance probability forecast. The others can be interpreted similarly.

The wider the spread among these values, the more uncertain the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known; this is reflected by a narrowing of the range around the 50% exceedance probability forecast. Users should take this uncertainty into consideration when making operational decisions by selecting forecasts corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to assume about the amount of water to be expected. If users anticipate receiving a lesser supply of water, or if they wish to increase their chances of having an adequate supply of water for their operations, they may want to base their decisions on the 90% or 70% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. On the other hand, if users are concerned about receiving too much water (for example, threat of flooding), they may want to base their decisions on the 30% or 10% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. Regardless of the forecast value users choose for operations, they should be prepared to deal with either more or less water. (Users should remember that even if the 90% exceedance probability forecast is used, there is still a 10% chance of receiving less than this amount.) By using the exceedance probability information, users can easily determine the chances of receiving more or less water.

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COLORADO

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2009

Summary

Colorado is on track for another good water year. After a dry fall, December's storms not only eliminated the deficit, but increased the accumulations to well above average in portions of the state. Snowpack totals are consistently above average across the southern basins, tapering off to near average, to slightly below average in the northern basins. In many respects, this year's snowpack totals are very similar to those of a year ago, after impressive December storms pounded the southern half of the state. With the excellent start to a good seasonal snowpack, the prospects for water availability this year are positive. Summer water supply forecasts call for above average volumes nearly statewide, with the exceptions of the extreme northern basins and those along the Front Range. Reservoir storage continues to track near average, and is slightly higher than last year's volumes on this date.

Snowpack

This year's snowpack mirrors last year's in many ways. Similar to last year, the 2009 water year got off to a very dry start, with only minor snowpack accumulations during October and November. Then in December, snowpack totals increased to well above average across the southern portion of the state. Once again, impressive back-to-back storms in December rescued the southern basins from a dismal water year start. The San Juan, Rio Grande and Arkansas basins all benefited from a wet December, and the snowpack in these basins now range from 135% to 140% of average. Above average snowpack totals were also measured in the Colorado and Gunnison basins. Both of these basins recorded snowpack totals of 127% of average. Across the remainder of the state, snowpack totals fell just short of average. The Yampa and White and South Platte basins recorded 97% and 99% of average, respectively. The lowest snowpack percentage was measured in the North Platte basin, at 86% of average. Again, in looking at the percents of last year's snowpack, this year's totals are remarkably similar to those of a year ago. Only the Colorado basin stands out with any contrast, with this year's snowpack at 120% of the 2008 readings. Statewide, snowpack totals are 120% of average and are 109% of last year. This year's January 1 readings are the highest statewide snowpack since 1997, when the state recorded a snowpack of 160% of average.

Precipitation

With a dry start to the 2009 water year, October's statewide precipitation, measured at SNOTEL sites, was only 68% of average. Every basin in the state was well below average, generally ranging from 60% to 80% of average for the month. November brought only slightly greater precipitation totals with statewide accumulations of 84% of average. As a rule November's monthly totals were below average nearly statewide. December brought the turn-around, and for the second consecutive year, precipitation totals in the Gunnison, Arkansas, Rio Grande, and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins recorded nearly 200% of average, or more during the month. Elsewhere around the state, precipitation was well above average in December. Water year totals for these three months are above average in all basins except the South Platte (98%), and the Yampa and White (94%). Statewide, water year totals are now 112% of average and are 101% of last year's water year totals on this date.

Reservoir Storage

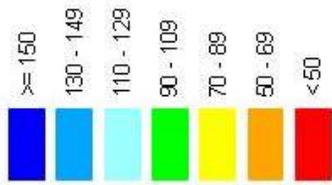
Colorado's reservoir storage has been tracking at slightly below average volumes since July, 2007 and remains at 99% of average, statewide. Currently, storage in all of the major basins in the state is near average. The lowest volumes, as a percent of average, occur in the Rio Grande basin, at 81% of average. Other basins recording below average volumes include the Colorado, South Platte, and Arkansas basins. Given the current outlook for water availability this spring, the only basin which may have a difficult deficit to overcome is the South Platte. With some of the lowest streamflow forecasts in the state, and the greatest basinwide storage deficit in the state, at 38,000 acre feet, this basin may warrant closer monitoring in the next few months. Elsewhere, inflows should be adequate to overcome any existing deficits, or in some cases, just add to an additional surplus. In comparison to last year's storage volumes on this date, basinwide percentages range from 86% of last year in the Rio Grande basin, to a high of 114% in the Yampa basin. Statewide storage is 101% of last year's January totals.

Streamflow

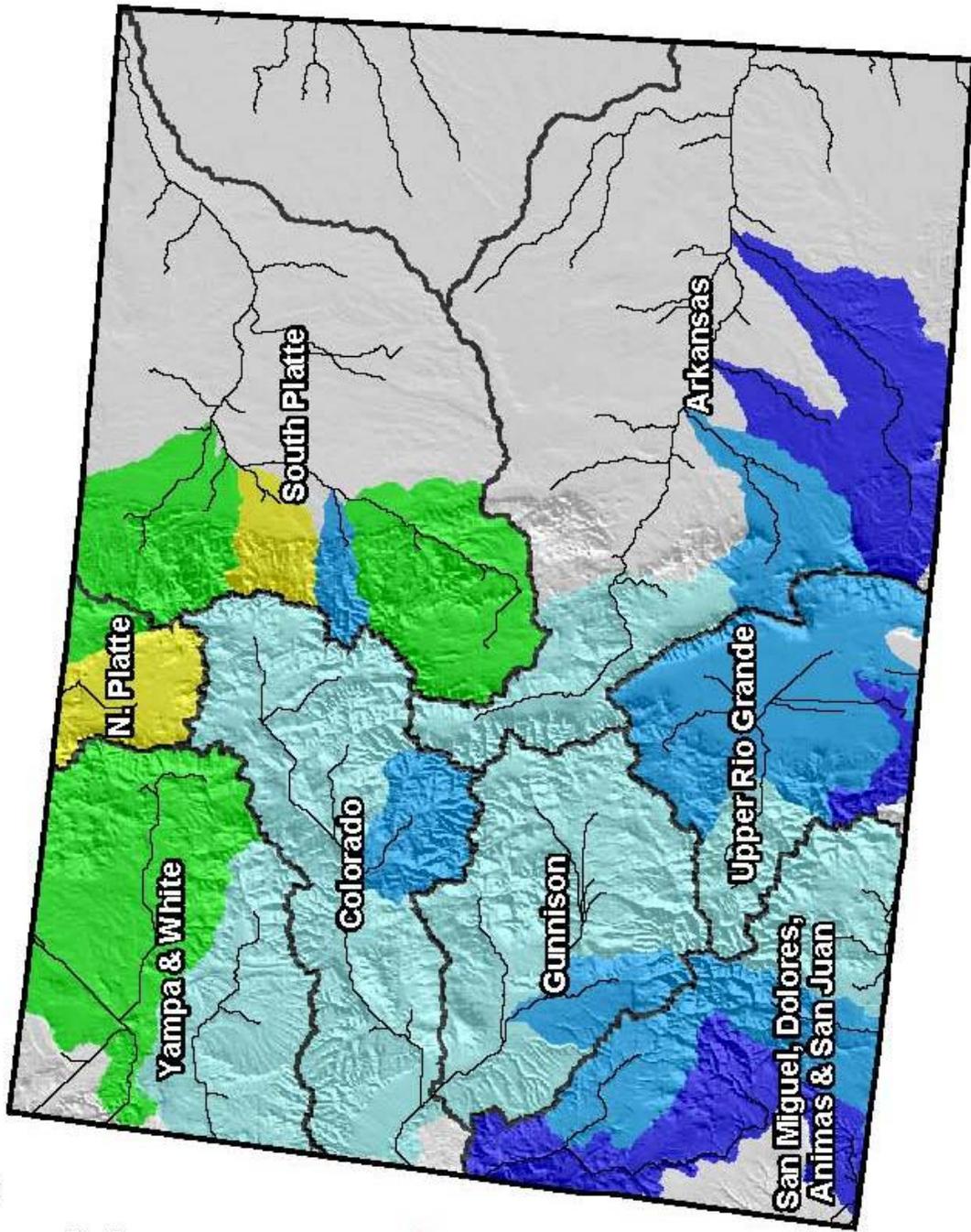
With generally good to excellent snowpack totals across most of the state, the outlook for summer water supplies is very good. Runoff forecasts are above average throughout the Arkansas, Rio Grande, Gunnison, Colorado, San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins. The highest forecasts, in terms of percent of average volumes, occur in the lower reaches of the Rio Grande basin, and along the Purgatoire River in the southern Sangre De Cristo Range. These streams are forecast to produce 117% to 127% of average volumes this spring. Across the northern basins and along the Front Range, runoff prospects decrease to below average. The lowest forecasts, in terms of percent of average, are found throughout the South Platte and North Platte basins. Most of these forecasts range from only 70% to 85% of average. With the majority of the winter snowpack accumulation season still ahead, there remains considerable uncertainty in the final outcome for runoff. This is shown in the wide spread of the forecasts error bounds at this stage of the season.

Colorado Snowpack Map

Percent of Average



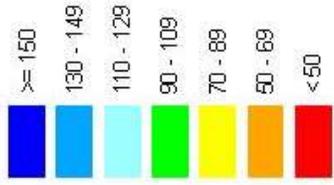
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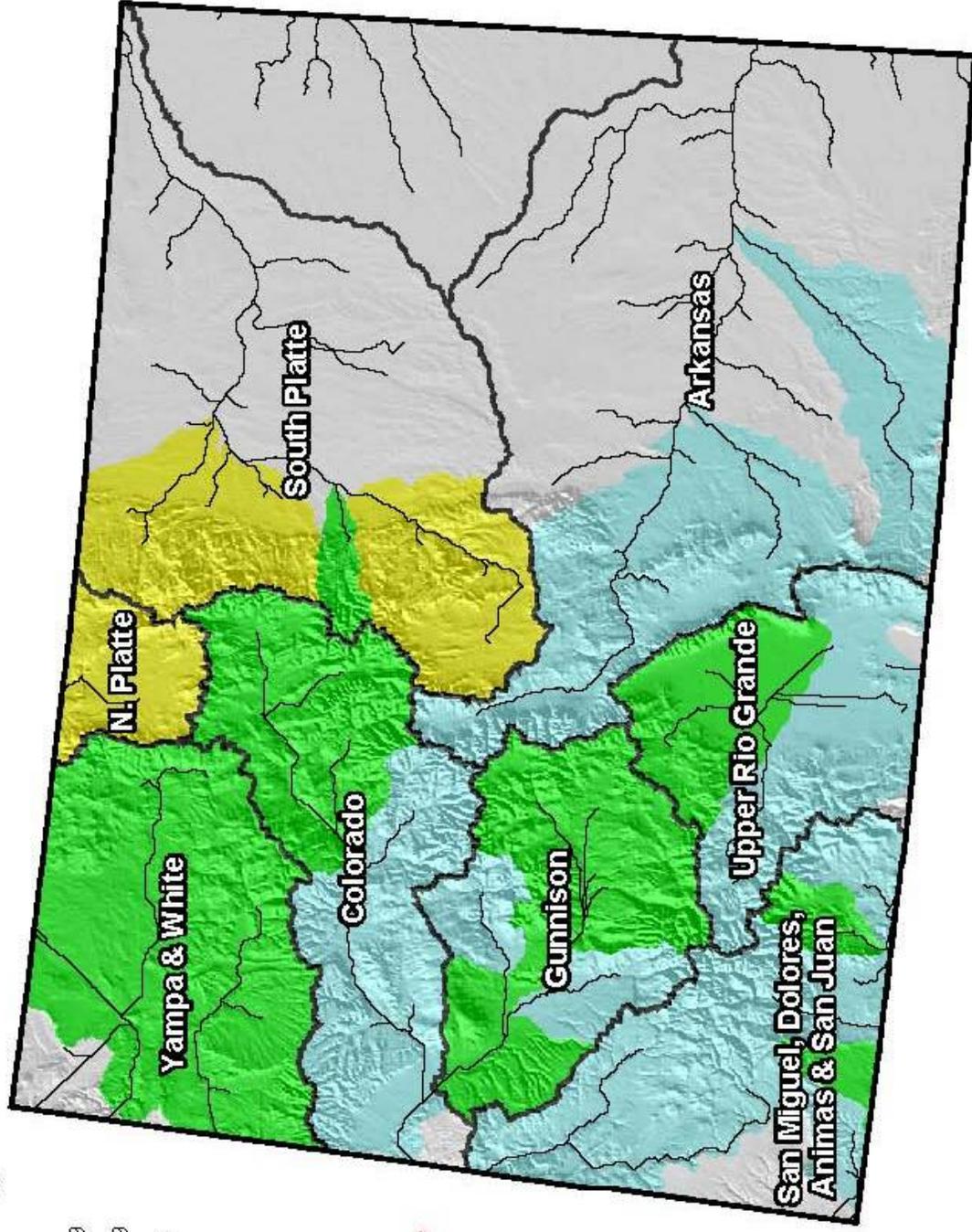
Current as of January 1, 2009

Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map

Percent of Average



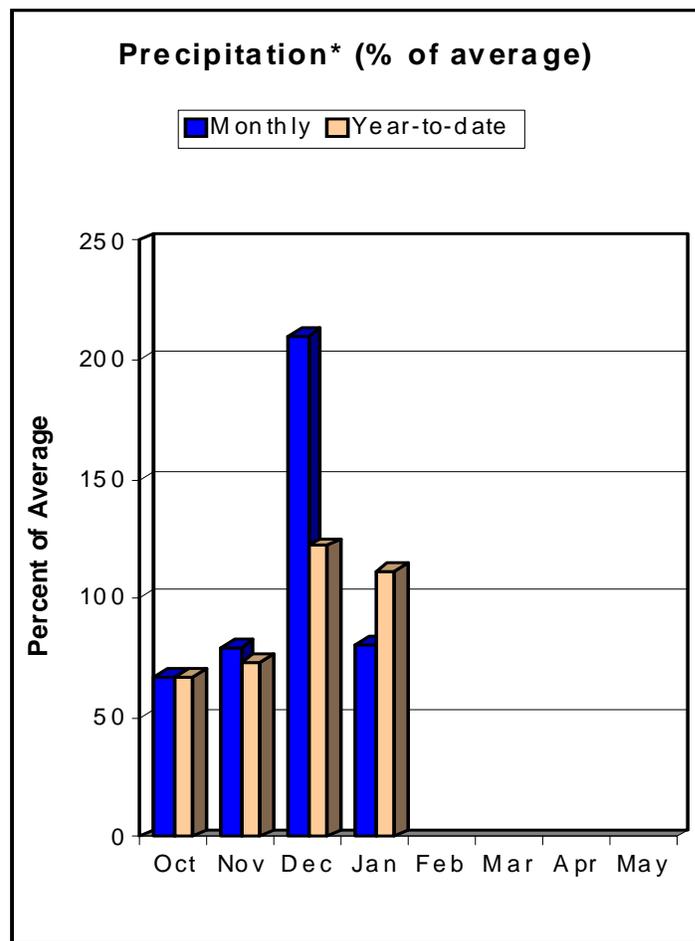
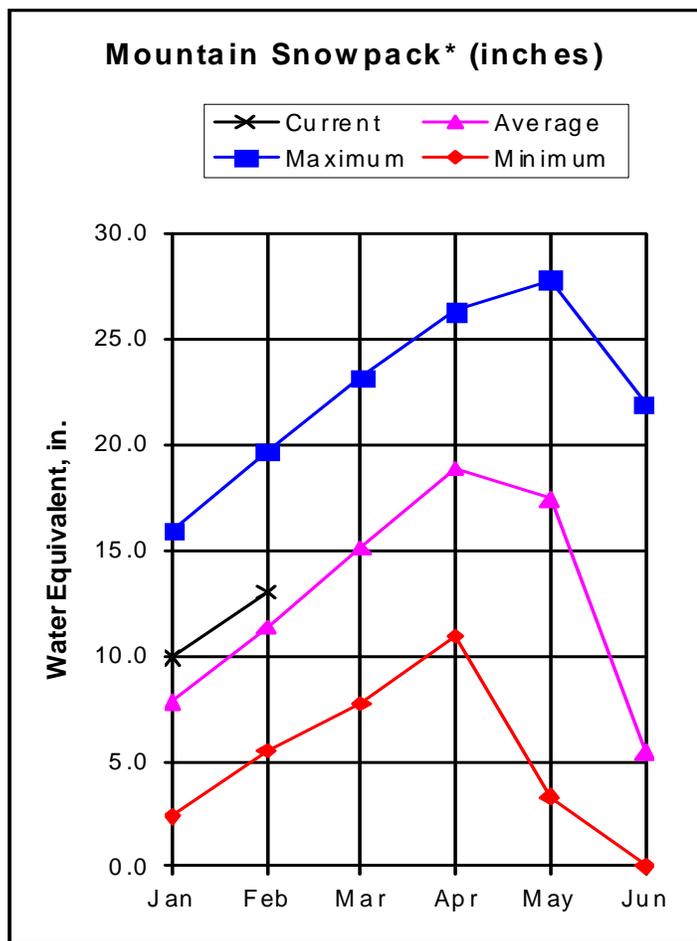
*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



Current as of January 1, 2009

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of January 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Similar to last year, the Gunnison River Basin snowpacks got off to a relatively slow start during October and November. On November 1, SNOTEL data indicates the snowpack was at 16 percent of average. By December 1, snowpacks had improved to 58 percent of average but were still well below average. Then in mid-December, the weather patterns turned favorable and, by January 1, snowpacks had soared to 127 percent of average. This marks the highest January 1 snowpack figure the basin has seen since 1997. Sub-basin snowpacks are all above average to well above average, ranging from 113 percent of average in the Surface Creek Watershed to 133 percent of average in the Uncompahgre. Mountain precipitation was well below average during October and November at 67 percent of average and 79 percent of average, respectively. However, the 210 percent of average precipitation recorded during December helped boost the water year precipitation totals to 122 percent of average on January 1. Reservoir storage remains in good condition at 105 percent of average, although this is just slightly below the storage levels reported at this time last year. Streamflow forecasts call for near to above average runoff during the spring and summer throughout the basin. April-July flows are expected to range from 98 percent of average for Cochetopa Creek near Parlin to 118 percent of average for the Inflow to Ridgeway Reservoir.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)
Taylor Park blw Taylor Park Res (2)	APR-JUL	71	91	107	104	124	151	103				
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	70	83	93	105	103	119	89				
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	130	170	200	104	235	285	192				
Gunnison River nr Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	255	340	405	104	475	590	390				
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	19.8	27	33	103	40	51	32				
Cochetopa Creek blw Rock Ck nr Parli	APR-JUL	9.4	13.6	17.0	98	21	28	17.3				
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	42	64	82	101	104	142	81				
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	91	113	130	103	148	176	126				
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	485	635	750	104	880	1090	720				
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	64	92	115	115	141	187	100				
	APR-JUL	62	92	117	115	146	197	102				
North Fork Gunnison R nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	215	285	340	112	405	510	305				
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	11.4	15.6	19.0	111	23	29	17.1				
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	82	103	120	118	138	168	102				
Uncompahgre River at Colona (2)	APR-JUL	103	135	160	115	188	235	139				
Gunnison River nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	1020	1420	1680	108	1940	2340	1560				

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2009			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
BLUE MESA	830.0	583.1	580.4	545.8	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	9	109	125
CRAWFORD	14.0	7.0	6.6	7.5	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	2	103	113
FRUITGROWERS	4.4	2.3	2.2	2.8	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	3	109	133
FRUITLAND	9.2	0.7	1.2	1.3	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	12	109	127
MORROW POINT	121.0	110.7	111.0	113.4				
PAONIA	15.4	4.6	1.0	4.7				
RIDGWAY	83.0	65.9	72.8	60.1				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	72.1	77.9	67.7				

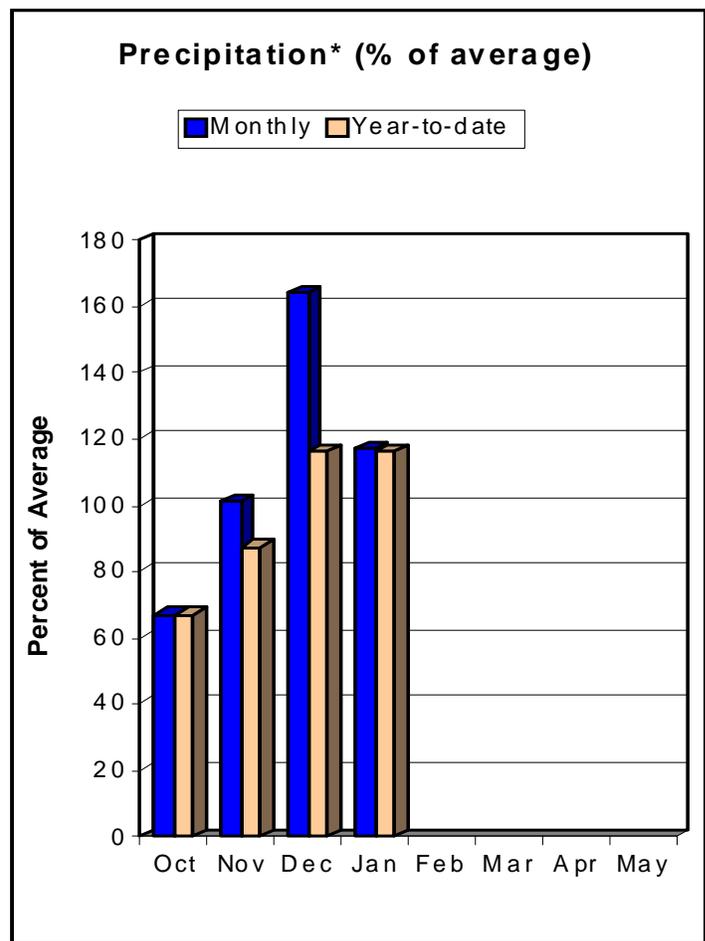
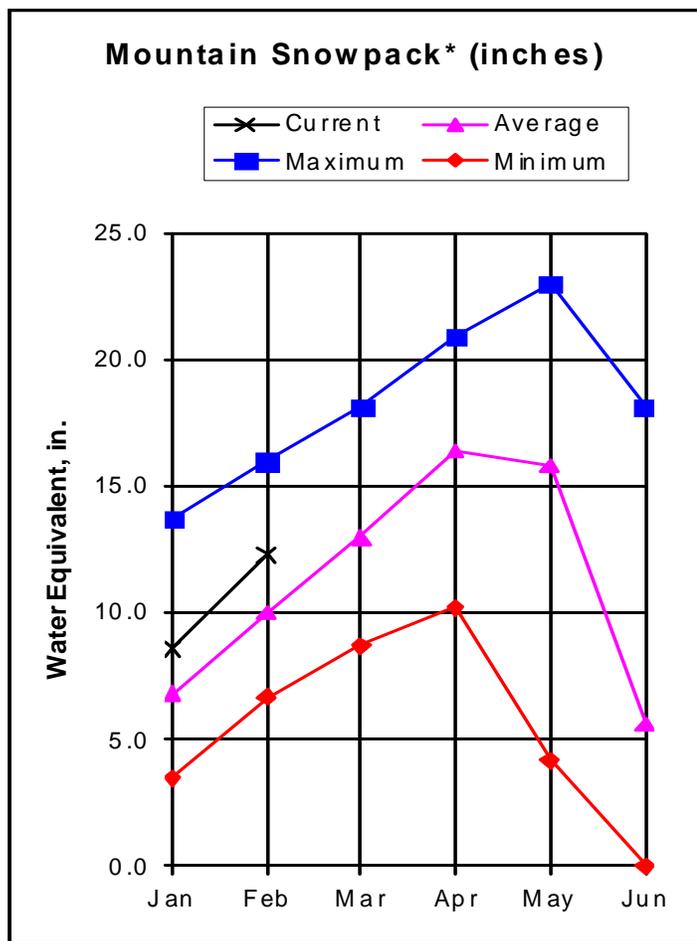
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.

(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of January 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Despite a relative slow start to the snowpack season in the Colorado River Basin, conditions have been steadily improving since the last week of November. SNOTEL data indicates that at the end of October, snowpacks were running about 33 percent of average. By Thanksgiving, snowpacks had improved to a mere 51 percent of average. However, shortly after that, things turned around and by December 1, snowpacks had jumped to 84 percent of average. A steady flow of precipitation during December resulted in snowpacks of 127 percent of average on January 1. This is the second best January 1 snowpack reported since 1997, falling slightly behind January 2006. This also marks the fourth consecutive year of above average snowpack the basin has witnessed on January 1. Most watersheds within the basin are reporting above average conditions. Muddy Creek is reporting the lowest figure at 88 percent of average while, at 144 percent of average, the Roaring Fork boast the best snowpacks in the basin. Mountain precipitation was well below average in October, near average during November and well above average in December resulting in water year precipitation totals of 116 percent of average on January 1. Reservoir storage at the end of December was 96 percent of average. Near to above average runoff is expected during the spring and summer throughout the basin. Forecast volumes during April-July range from 92 percent of average for Muddy Creek below Wolford Mtn. Reservoir to 116 percent of average for the Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)		
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	172	205	230	102	255	295	225				
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	35	45	52	102	60	74	51				
Williams Fork Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	76	90	100	105	110	127	95				
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	126	154	175	105	198	235	167				
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	215	265	300	107	340	405	280				
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	36	47	55	92	64	80	60				
Eagle River blw Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	240	300	350	105	405	490	335				
Colorado River nr Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	1070	1320	1510	105	1710	2020	1440				
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	111	139	160	114	183	220	141				
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	580	720	825	116	940	1130	710				
Colorado River nr Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	1800	2310	2650	110	2990	3500	2420				

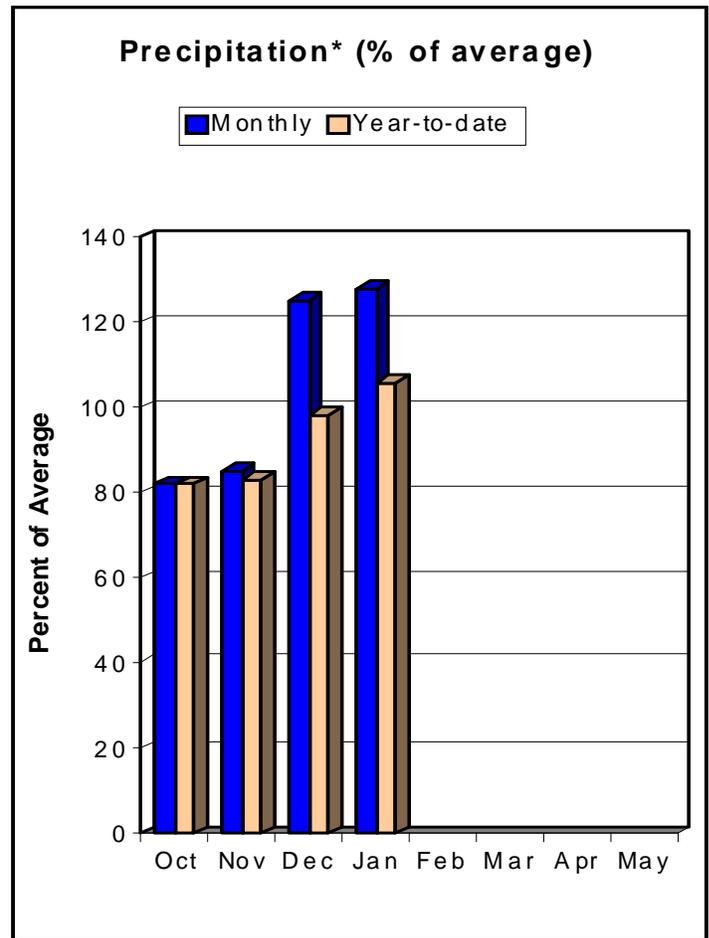
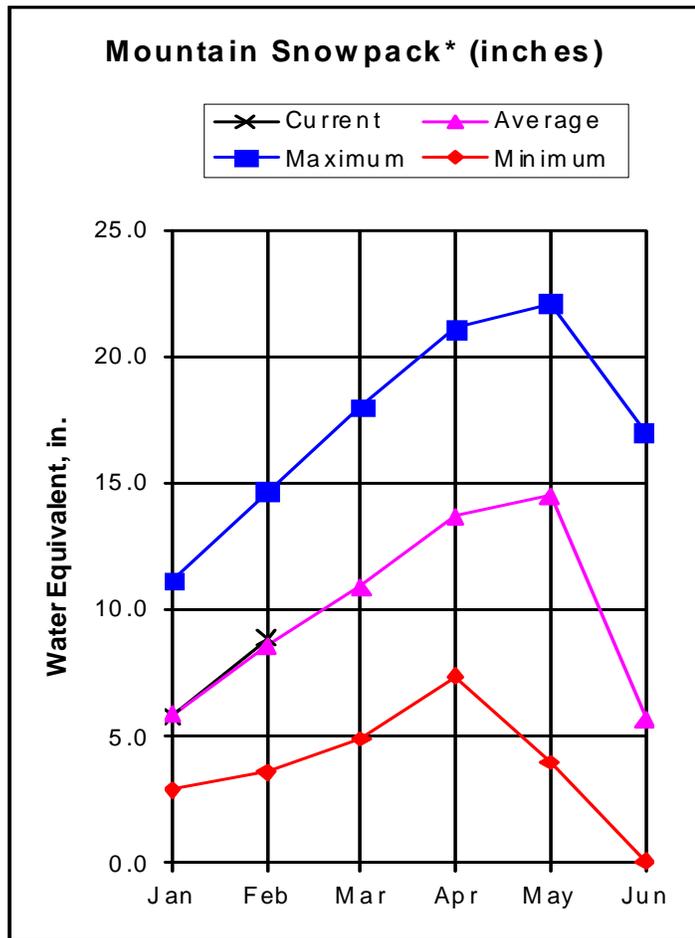
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2009				
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of		
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average	
DILLON	250.7	234.1	241.8	224.8	BLUE RIVER BASIN	5	110	122	
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	282.6	263.7	322.1	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	19	121	122	
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	62.2	83.0	90.3	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	2	105	88	
HOMESTAKE	43.0	42.0	41.9	28.4	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	2	103	113	
RUEDI	102.0	74.7	80.8	79.7	ROARING FORK BASIN	7	125	144	
VEGA	32.9	13.3	15.3	11.0	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	2	127	121	
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	79.6	84.0	62.9	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	2	94	115	
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	5.5	6.7	6.1	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASIN	28	120	127	

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN as of January 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

January 1 snowpacks in the South Platte River Basin were just about normal, at 99 percent of average. By comparison, this year's snowpacks are about 7 percent higher than those reported on January 1, 2008. This is also the third best snowpack the basin has seen on January 1 since 1997, behind 2006 and 2007. While we wish the snowpacks could be better, we are fortunate that they aren't any worse given the mediocre beginning to the snowpack season. According to SNOTEL data, the snowpack was only 62 percent of average on November 1 and 57 percent of average on Thanksgiving Day. Snowpacks in the sub-basins range from 76 percent of average for Boulder Creek to 149 percent of average in the Clear Creek Drainage. Mountain precipitation during October was 82 percent of average. November didn't show much of an improvement with 85 percent of average precipitation. However, December managed to turn in a stellar performance, reporting 125 percent of average totals. By January 1, the total precipitation since October 1 was at 98 percent of average, up slightly from the water year totals reported at this time in 2008. The amount of stored water available in the basin is slightly below normal at 95 percent of average, but is higher than the storage report a year ago at this time. Water users should expect mostly below average flows this spring and summer. April-July forecasts range from 73 percent of average for the Inflow to Antero Reservoir and St. Vrain Creek at Lyons to 99 percent of average for Clear Creek at Golden.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<----- Drier ----- Future Conditions ----- Wetter ----->						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)
ANTERO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	6.1	9.2	12.3	73	16.4	25	16.8				
	APR-SEP	7.6	11.6	15.5	71	21	32	22				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	26	38	50	89	65	96	56				
	APR-SEP	30	46	62	90	83	127	69				
ELEVENMILE CANYON RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	26	39	52	90	69	105	58				
	APR-SEP	29	47	64	89	88	140	72				
CHEESMAN LAKE Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	50	75	98	86	129	193	114				
	APR-SEP	61	92	122	87	162	245	140				
SOUTH PLATTE R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	84	130	174	85	235	360	205				
	APR-SEP	106	163	220	86	295	460	255				
BEAR CREEK abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	6.6	10.8	15.0	78	21	34	19.3				
	APR-SEP	8.8	13.9	18.9	76	26	41	25				
BEAR CREEK at Morrison	APR-JUL	7.2	12.9	19.1	76	28	51	25				
	APR-SEP	9.2	15.8	23	74	33	58	31				
CLEAR CREEK at Golden	APR-JUL	75	95	109	99	123	143	110				
	APR-SEP	93	116	132	99	148	171	134				
ST. VRAIN CREEK at Lyons (2)	APR-JUL	49	61	69	73	77	89	94				
	APR-SEP	59	72	81	74	90	103	109				
BOULDER CREEK nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	32	38	43	83	48	54	52				
	APR-SEP	35	43	49	82	55	63	60				
SOUTH BOULDER CK nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	23	29	32	78	35	41	41				
BIG THOMPSON R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	56	68	77	78	86	98	99				
	APR-SEP	66	82	92	77	102	118	119				
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	134	179	210	86	240	285	245				
	APR-SEP	145	196	230	84	265	315	275				

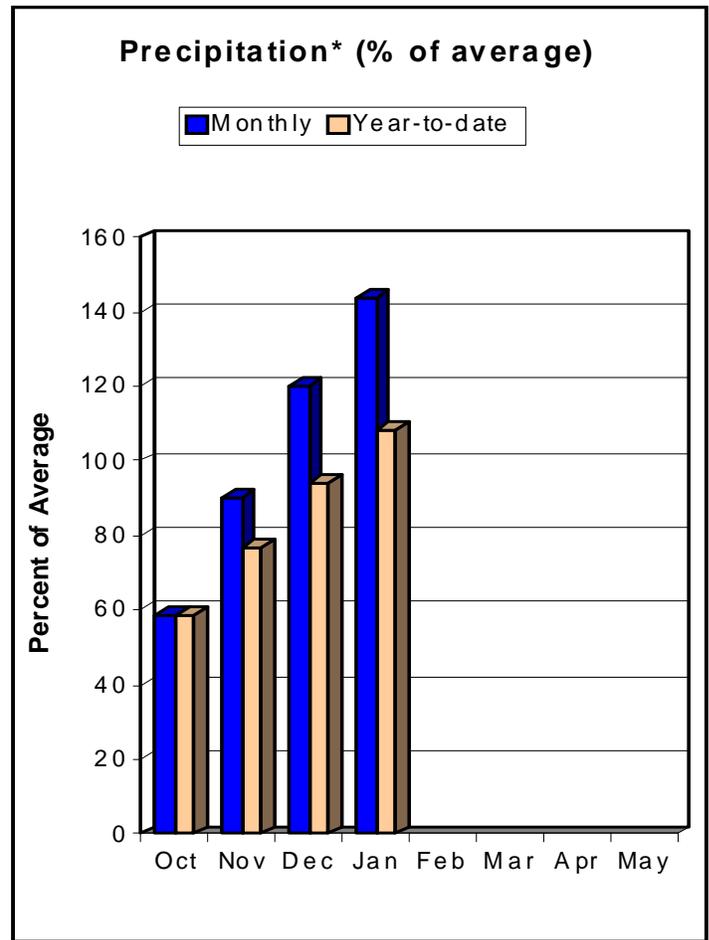
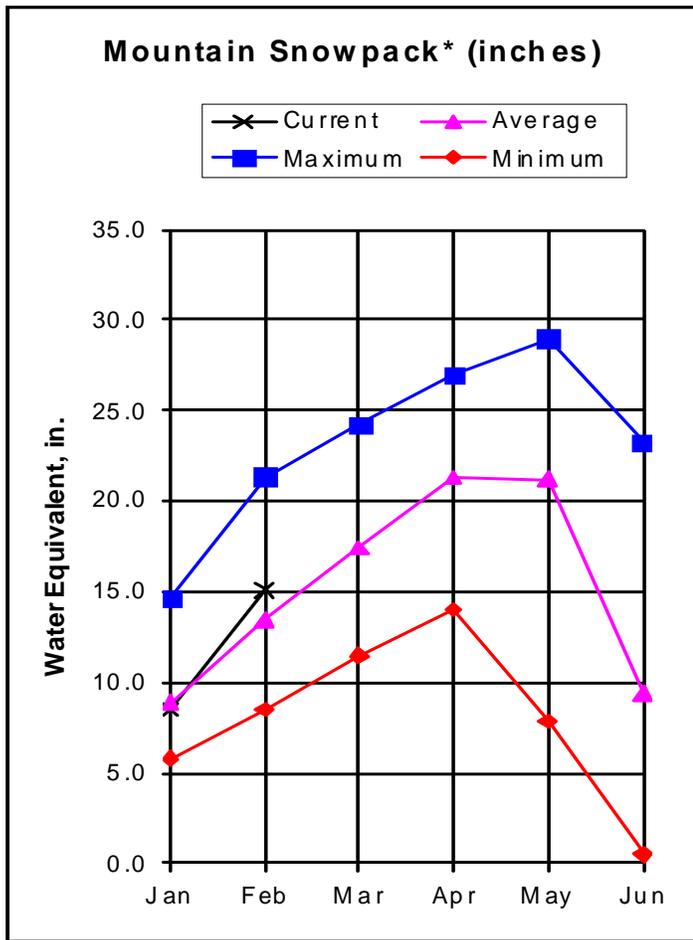
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Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	19.9	20.0	20.2	16.5	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	3	121	95
BARR LAKE	30.1	19.8	22.8	22.4	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	3	93	76
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	2.8	2.2	3.8	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	2	104	102
BOYD LAKE	44.0	27.8	20.7	31.7	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	2	135	149
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	14.6	15.2	13.6	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	1	77	121
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.1	7.5	5.1	6.3	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	6	95	90
CARTER	108.9	59.3	16.2	74.7	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	17	107	99
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	3.1	2.2	2.8				
CHEESMAN	79.0	67.4	64.8	60.9				
COBB LAKE	22.3	12.1	2.8	13.9				
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	99.7	99.2	95.9				
EMPIRE	36.5	14.1	7.2	22.2				
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	9.3	2.8	6.3				
GROSS	42.0	34.1	29.4	26.2				
HALLIGAN	6.4	3.4	3.2	3.6				
HORSECREEK	14.7	1.8	9.6	10.9				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	72.0	86.9	87.8				
JACKSON	26.1	24.1	23.9	23.0				
JULESBURG	20.5	16.8	16.6	18.4				
LAKE LOVELAND	14.0	10.9	11.3	8.9				
LONE TREE	9.0	6.6	5.6	6.0				
MARIANO	6.0	1.2	1.5	4.1				
MARSHALL	10.0	3.8	4.7	4.7				
MARSTON	13.0	10.7	10.4	12.7				
MILTON	23.5	17.4	14.0	14.8				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	40.0	39.0	51.1				
PREWITT	28.2	19.2	20.8	18.0				
RIVERSIDE	55.8	31.8	44.1	38.1				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	40.0	36.3	35.4				
STANDLEY	42.0	36.5	37.7	32.5				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	5.3	5.7	5.2				
UNION	13.0	11.3	12.6	10.4				
WINDSOR	15.2	10.9	9.4	10.0				

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

YAMPA, WHITE, NORTH PLATTE AND LARAMIE RIVER BASINS as of January 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins got off to a slow start. SNOTEL data indicates the basin snowpacks were only 31 percent of average on November 1. Storm activity during the second week help somewhat but by Thanksgiving the basin snowpacks were still only 49 percent of average. Then a favorable storm pattern settled in and helped increase the snowpack to 97 percent of average by January 1. This marks the third consecutive year in the Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins that the January 1 snowpack has been below average. Sub-basin snowpacks range from 85 percent of average in the North Platte Watershed to 110 percent of average in the White River Drainage. October precipitation at the higher elevations was well below normal at 59 percent of average. Monthly precipitation totals in November were much better, although still below normal, at 90 percent of average. However, it was December's impressive 120 percent of average figure that helped to raise the water year total precipitation to 94 percent of average. Reservoir storage is above normal at 113 percent of average and 114 percent of the storage available this time last year. Spring and summer streamflows are forecast to be below average in the Laramie and North Platte River basins and near average to below average in the Yampa and White River basins. Runoff during the April-July period is expected to range from 72 percent of average for the North Platte River near Northgate to 100 percent of average on the White River near Meeker.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
NORTH PLATTE RIVER nr Northgate	APR-JUL	57	128	177	72	225	295	245
	APR-SEP	65	144	197	73	250	330	270
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	APR-JUL	70	92	107	87	122	144	123
	APR-SEP	78	102	118	87	134	158	135
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	16.4	23	28	97	34	44	29
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	184	235	270	96	310	370	280
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	220	275	315	97	355	425	325
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	22	31	37	95	44	56	39
Elkhead Creek blw Maynard Gulch (2)	APR-JUL	32	45	55	93	66	84	59
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	2.8	4.5	6.0	80	7.8	11.0	7.5
Yampa River nr Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	565	760	910	92	1070	1330	990
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	93	125	150	94	177	220	159
Little Snake River nr Dixon	APR-JUL	200	270	320	97	375	465	330
Little Snake River nr Lily	APR-JUL	193	280	350	96	425	555	365
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	183	245	290	100	340	420	290

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2009

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
STAGECOACH	33.3	29.6	29.6	26.4	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	2	84	92
YAMCOLO	8.7	6.6	2.1	5.5	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	7	100	85
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	9	96	86
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	109	95
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	9	108	93
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	4	129	110
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	12	113	97
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	6	90	96
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	24	103	95					

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

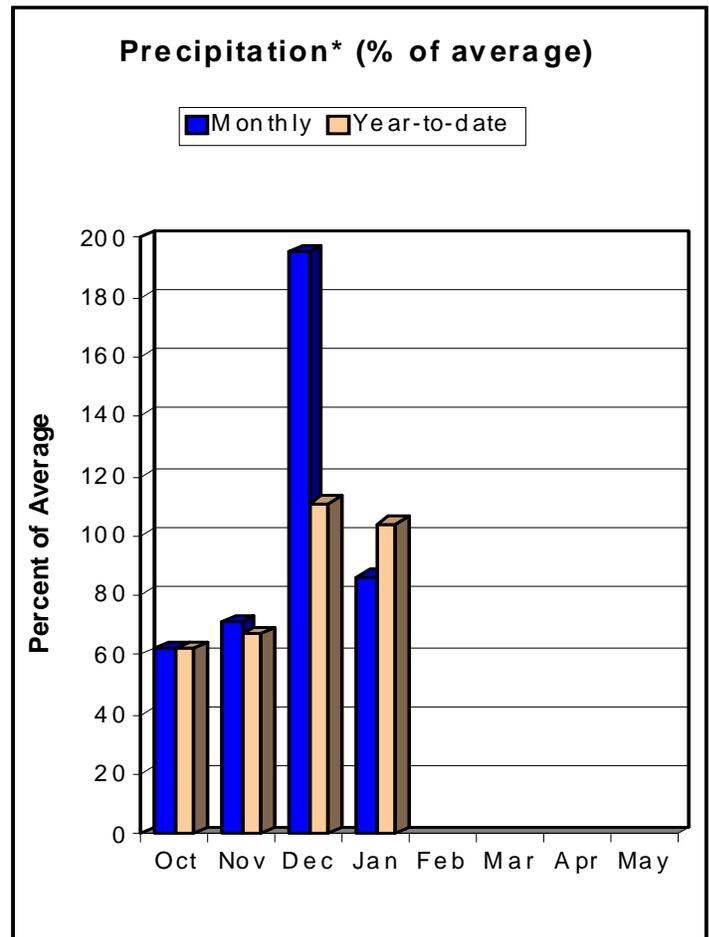
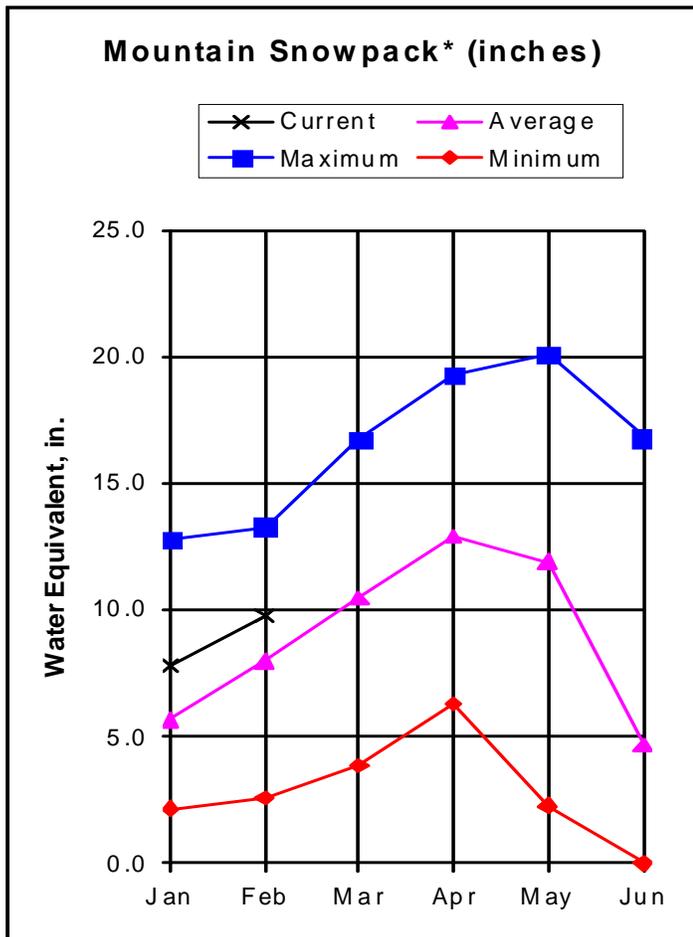
The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.

(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

as of January 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

It was deja vu all over again in the Arkansas River Basin as snowpacks teased record minimums toward the end of November before catapulting to the 137 percent of average figures measured on January 1. To give an indication of how bad things were looking early on, snowpacks were only 21 percent of average on November 1 and 31 percent of average on Thanksgiving Day, according to SNOTEL data. The January 1 measurement is the third highest percentage going all the way back to 1987. Only 1997 and 2008 had higher percentages. Sub-basin snowpacks are above to well above average. The Upper Arkansas reported the lowest snowpacks at 124 percent of average while the Purgatoire posted an astounding 189 percent of average snowpack. Mountain precipitation during October was only 62 percent of average, followed by 67 percent of average precipitation in November. December precipitation was almost twice the norm at 195 percent of average. Total precipitation since October 1 is 112 percent of average. Reservoir storage is just below normal at 96 percent of average, but is slightly higher than it was a year ago. Above average runoff is expected at all the forecast points in the basin. April-September volumes should range from 111 percent of average for Chalk Creek at Nathrop to 115 percent of average for the Huerfano River near Redwing and the Cucharas River near La Veta.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2009

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Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
CHALK CK at Nathrop	APR-JUL	14.2	21	26	113	32	41	23
	APR-SEP	16.9	24	30	111	36	47	27
ARKANSAS RIVER at Salida (2)	APR-JUL	205	255	290	114	330	390	255
	APR-SEP	250	310	350	113	395	465	310
GRAPE CK nr Westcliffe	APR-JUL	4.2	11.3	18.0	112	26	41	16.1
	APR-SEP	9.0	16.1	22	112	29	41	19.6
PUEBLO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	265	360	430	112	510	635	385
	APR-SEP	350	460	545	112	635	780	485
HUERFANO RIVER nr Redwing	APR-JUL	8.6	11.7	14.1	115	16.7	21	12.3
	APR-SEP	11.4	15.0	17.8	115	21	26	15.5
CUCHARAS RIVER nr La Veta	APR-JUL	4.9	9.3	13.0	115	17.4	25	11.3
	APR-SEP	6.3	11.0	15.0	115	19.6	28	13.0
TRINIDAD LAKE Inflow (2)	MAR-JUL	16.5	30	42	124	56	79	34
	APR-SEP	22	37	50	114	65	89	44

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2009			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ADOBE	62.0	32.1	31.0	23.4	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	3	106	124
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	7.3	2.3	5.9	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	2	90	144
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	0.8	0.0	4.8	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	121	189
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	32.2	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	6	99	137
HOLBROOK	7.0	0.7	0.9	3.0				
HORSE CREEK	27.0	0.0	0.0	8.4				
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	55.5	41.1	108.7				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	5.8	5.1	3.7				
MEREDITH	42.0	26.1	25.5	13.6				
PUEBLO	354.0	194.7	191.8	144.0				
TRINIDAD	167.0	19.6	21.6	24.2				
TURQUOISE	127.0	94.8	83.6	87.9				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	50.0	63.5	46.3				

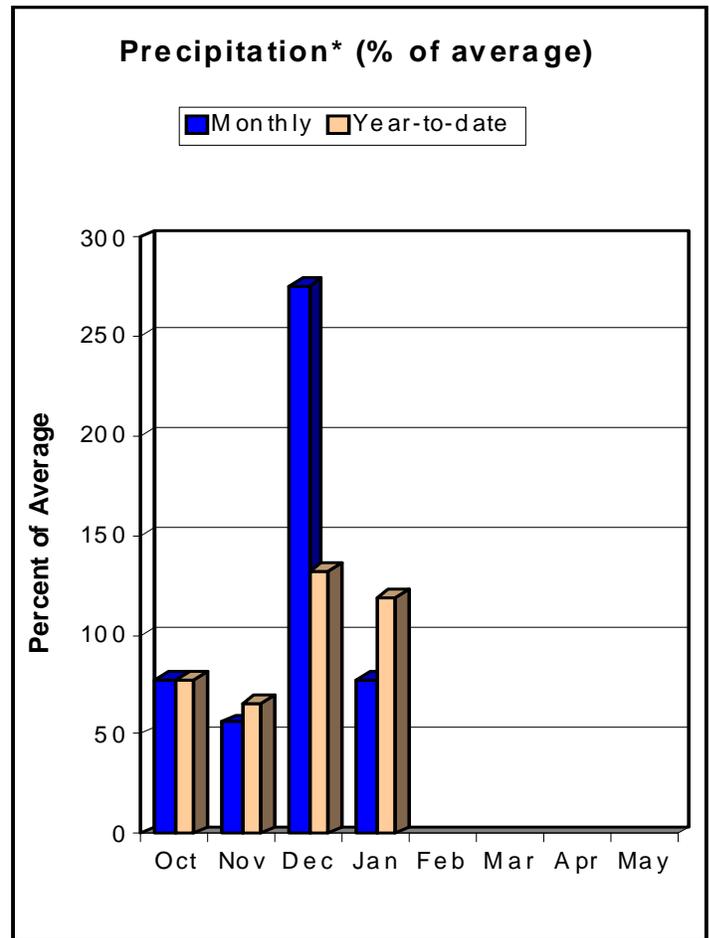
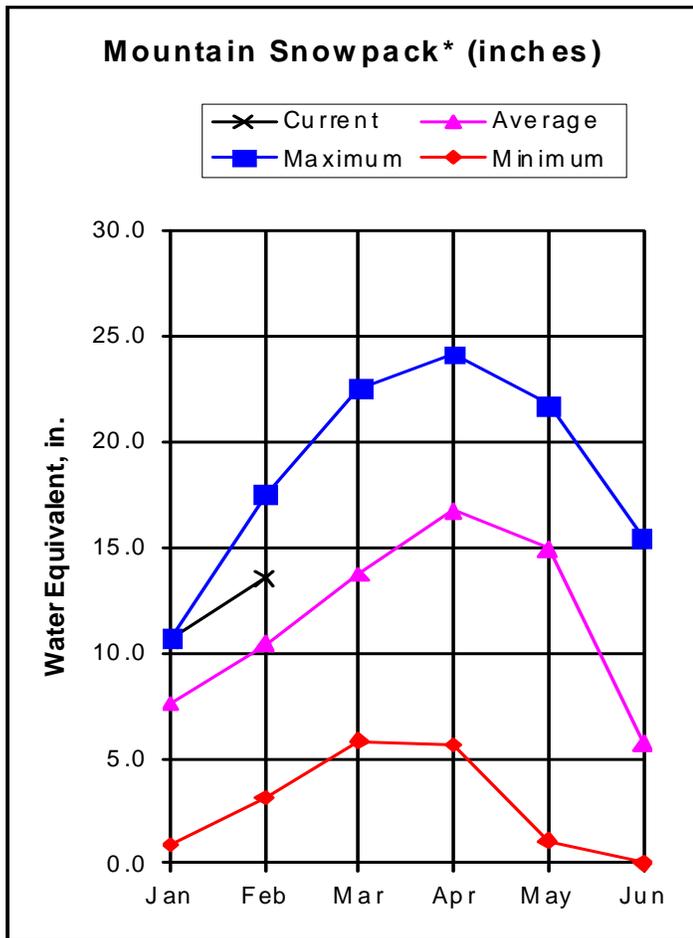
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The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.

(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN as of January 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

The Upper Rio Grande Basin posted one of its highest January 1 snowpack measurements this year at 140 percent of average. The last year to have a higher snowpack percentage was 1985 (145 percent of average). That only makes it harder to believe that just a month earlier, snowpacks were only 46 percent of average. Sub-basin snowpacks are all above to well above average. At 125 percent of average, the Upper Rio Grande Watershed had the lowest snowpack figure in the basin. At the other extreme, the Conejos and Rio San Antonio watersheds reported snowpacks of 171 percent of average. Precipitation in the mountainous areas of the basin during October was 77 percent of average. Precipitation totals during November were even lower at 56 percent of average. Then along came December and a monthly precipitation figure equaling a whopping 276 percent of average -- the highest monthly total measured in the state. Thanks to that, total yearly precipitation since October first jumped from 66 percent of average on December 1 to 132 percent of average currently. Reservoir storage is 81 percent of average and 86 percent of the storage available last year at this time. Near average to above average streamflows are expected throughout the basin. Runoff during the April-September forecast period is anticipated to range from 100 percent of average for Saguache Creek near Saguache to 123 percent of average for the Conejos River near Mogote and Ute Creek near Fort Garland.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ==== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge (2)	APR-SEP	100	126	145	107	165	198	136
	APR-JUL	101	120	135	114	151	176	118
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	260	335	385	112	440	530	345
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	100	128	150	114	174	215	132
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	400	515	600	113	695	855	531
Saguache Creek nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	19.4	27	33	100	40	50	33
Alamosa Creek abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	57	73	85	121	99	121	70
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	6.0	8.4	10.5	121	12.8	16.9	8.7
Trinchera Creek abv Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	7.0	10.9	13.5	113	16.1	20	12.0
Sangre de Cristo Creek (2)	APR-SEP	2.6	7.3	10.5	119	13.7	18.4	8.8
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	8.5	12.0	15.0	123	18.4	24	12.2
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	52	65	75	117	86	104	64
	APR-SEP	56	69	80	113	92	111	71
Conejos River nr Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	161	210	245	123	285	355	200
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	9.9	15.4	20	122	25	35	16.4
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	56	75	90	122	107	136	74
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	15.1	22	28	122	35	47	23
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	7.8	10.7	13.0	123	15.6	20	10.6
Costilla Creek nr Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	17.6	26	33	127	41	55	26

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2009			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	27.0	2.3	2.9	4.9	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	1	112	153
PLATORO	60.0	17.2	12.6	24.3	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	2	117	171
RIO GRANDE	51.0	14.9	24.0	15.1	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	3	107	142
SANCHEZ	103.0	24.8	30.0	23.9	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	4	95	125
SANTA MARIA	45.0	4.9	6.1	10.1	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	10	103	140
TERRACE	18.0	4.0	3.7	5.6				

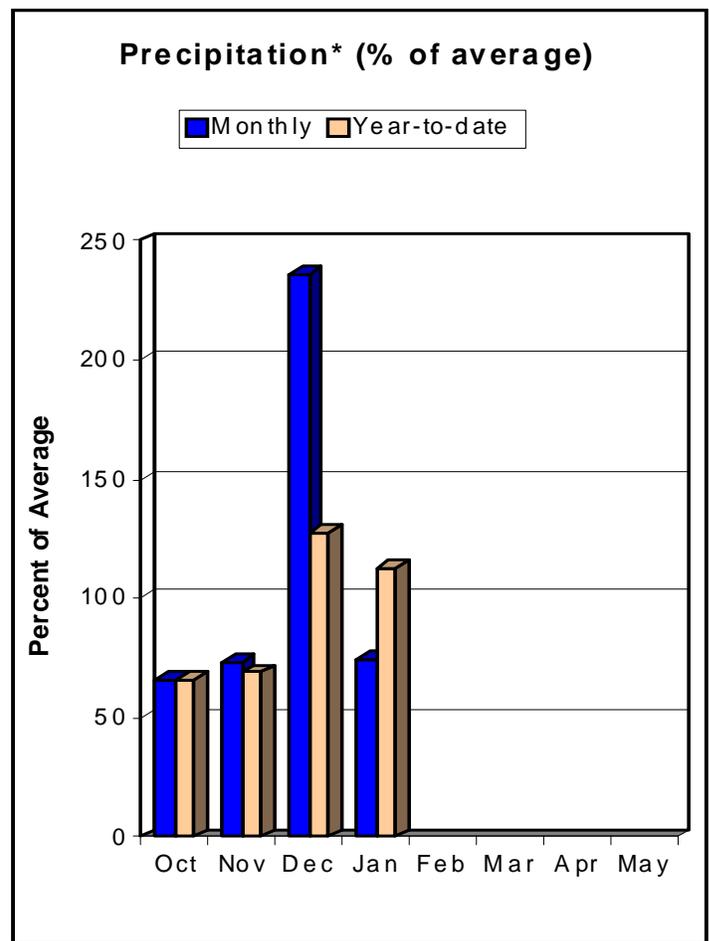
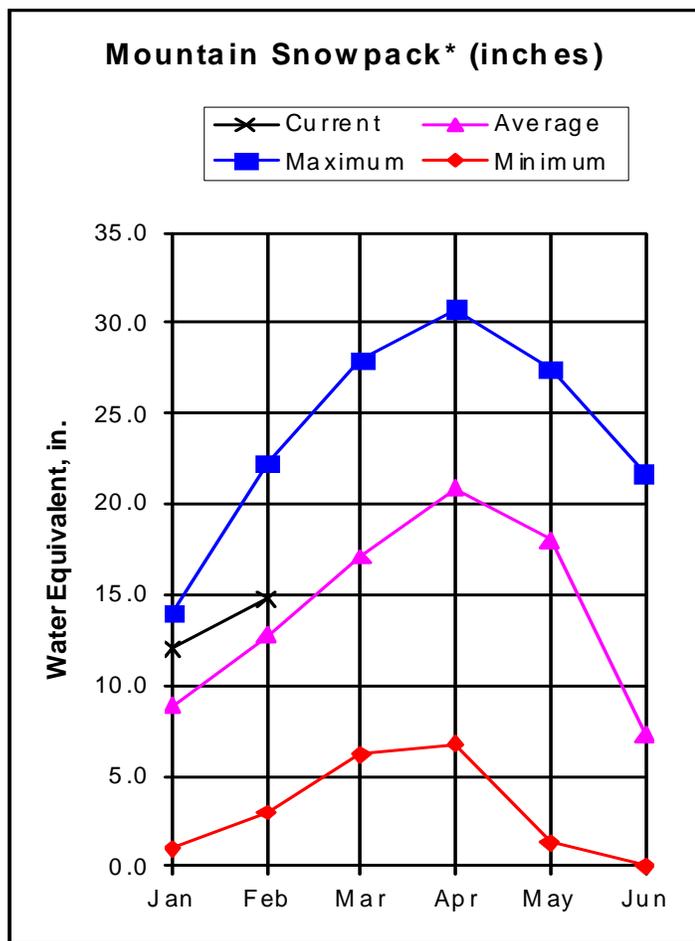
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The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.

(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS as of January 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Above average snowfall in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins during the last few days of November and much of December helped to propel snowpack figures from 28 percent of average on Thanksgiving Day to 135 percent of average on January 1. This year's snowpack is 4 percent higher than the snowpacks measured last January. Going back to 1985, only 1997 had a higher January 1 percentage at 156 percent of average. This also marks the second year in a row the basin has had an above average January 1 snowpack. Snowpacks in the sub-basins are all above average to well above average. The Dolores River Watershed reported the highest snowpack figure at 156 percent of average. The San Juan Drainage reported the lowest snowpacks at 125 percent of average. Monthly precipitation at the higher elevations was well below average during October (66 percent of average) and November (73 percent of average). December totals were excellent at 236 percent of average. Total precipitation for the water year beginning October 1 is currently 127 percent of average and 108 percent of the water year totals measured a year ago. Reservoir levels are down slightly compared to last year at this time but remain above normal at 106 percent of average. Spring and summer streamflows are expected to be above average at all the forecast points in the basin. Forecasts call for April-July runoff to range from 107 percent of average at the Cone Reservoir Inlet to 116 percent of average for the Navajo River at the Oso Diversion.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		30%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	165	235	290	109	355	465	265
McPhee Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	194	280	355	111	440	585	320
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	94	123	145	110	170	210	132
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	13.4	17.1	20	109	23	28	18.3
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.7	2.6	3.5	107	4.5	6.4	3.3
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	2.0	2.6	3.2	109	3.8	4.9	2.9
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	43	52	60	113	68	82	53
Navajo River at Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	54	69	80	116	93	114	69
San Juan River nr Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	260	365	450	111	545	715	405
Piedra River nr Arboles	APR-JUL	128	194	250	109	315	430	230
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	150	195	230	112	270	335	205
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	540	740	900	115	1080	1390	785
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	320	420	500	114	590	740	440
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	41	55	65	112	77	96	58
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	15.8	22	27	108	33	43	25
Mancos River nr Mancos (2)	APR-JUL	9.0	26	37	112	48	65	33
	APRIL			7.7	175			4.4
	MAY			17.4	142			12.3
	JUNE			9.6	85			11.3
	JULY			2.4	48			5.0

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2009

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
GROUNDHOG	22.0	14.2	14.8	12.0	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	7	109	133
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	3.5	5.8	4.6	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	4	117	156
LEMON	40.0	18.3	22.5	20.1	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	3	118	136
MCPHEE	381.0	286.0	286.4	271.1	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	3	86	125
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	10.3	12.4	12.7	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	16	104	135
VALLECITO	126.0	71.1	74.1	58.6	AN JUAN RIVER BASINS			

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.



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In addition to the basin outlook reports, water supply forecast information for the Western United States is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Weather Service monthly, January through May. The information may be obtained from the Natural Resources Conservation Service web page at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/westwide.html>

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