

NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service • Snow Survey Office
Denver Federal Center, PO Box 25426, Denver, CO 80225 • Phone: (720) 544-2852
Web: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/co/snow/>

Snowmelt in Full Swing across the State

Denver, CO - June 4th, 2014 - According to the latest snowpack measurements conducted by the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the statewide snowpack is melting rapidly thanks to recent warm temperatures. The southern river basins, the Upper Rio Grande, and the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores & San Miguel, are very close to being snow free. The snowpack in the remaining basins is becoming surface runoff very quickly as well. But with large amounts of snow accumulated this winter in basins such as, the Colorado, the Yampa, the North Platte and the South Platte, 20 to 40 percent of the total snowpack remains in the higher elevations. If the current wet weather patterns persist into June, the chances for continued high water levels in the streams in these basins are quite good.

Reservoir storage in the state is currently at 95 percent of normal and 62 percent of capacity. Again the southern basins report the lowest storage totals statewide while the northern basins are reporting near to above normal totals. The northern basins will have every opportunity this spring and summer to add significantly to their reservoir storage.

Colorado's Snowpack and Reservoir Storage as of June 1, 2014

BASIN	% MEDIAN SNOWPACK	% LAST YR.'S SNOWPACK	% AVERAGE RESERVOIR STORAGE	LAST YR.'S % AVERAGE RESERVOIR STORAGE
GUNNISON	158	345	109	80
COLORADO	223	180	95	78
SOUTH PLATTE	311	209	113	97
NORTH PLATTE	193	236	---	---
YAMPA/WHITE	139	185	114	105
ARKANSAS	132	153	56	44
RIO GRANDE	39	N/A	66	37
SAN JUAN, ANIMAS, DOLORES, SAN MIGUEL	59	N/A	89	64
STATEWIDE	197	215	95	75

For more information about Colorado's snowpack or supporting water supply related information, please go to the Colorado Snow Survey website at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/co/snow/>