



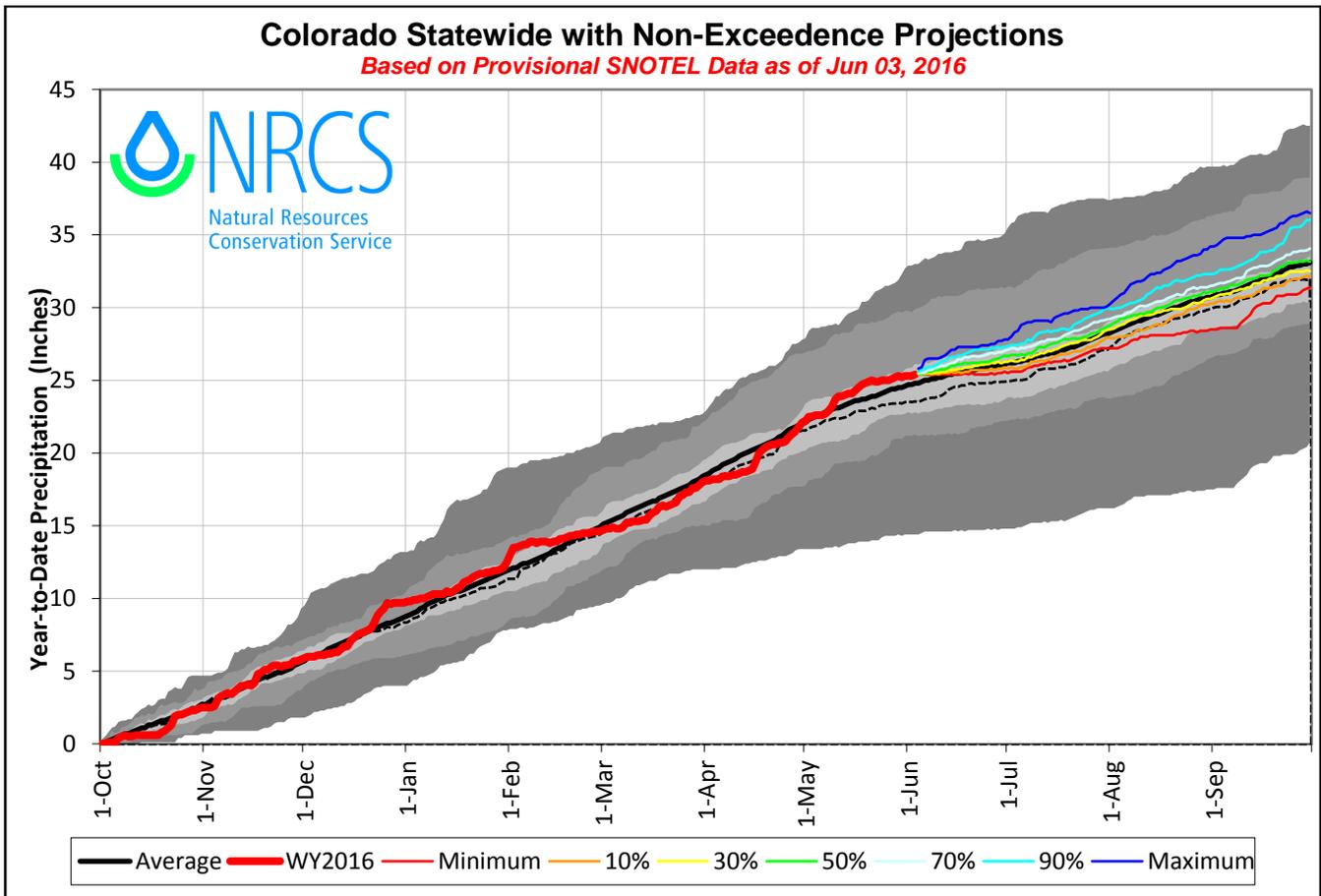
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News Release

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May Precipitation and High Elevation Snowpack Offers Encouraging Late Spring Conditions

Denver, CO – June 6th, 2016 –May’s weather could not have suited Colorado’s water supply better. A steady pattern of cool wet weather systematically hit Colorado almost as if by plan, providing moisture to the watersheds that needed it most. The combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan basins fared the best this month receiving 154 percent of normal precipitation followed by the Rio Grande at 144 percent. The only watershed to miss the average precipitation mark to the end May was the South Platte at 90 percent of normal precipitation. Even the Gunnison benefited at 123 percent of normal precipitation and with snowpack at 209 percent of normal, this basin is slightly better than the rest of Colorado.



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“Remaining snowpack across the state is near 200 percent of normal and poised to provide adequate runoff into early summer” remarked Brian Domonkos, Colorado Snow Survey Supervisor. The majority of remnant snowpack in Colorado exists in the northern mountains, predominantly above 10,000 feet in watersheds such as the South Platte and Upper Colorado. As of Friday morning Tower SNOTEL still had greater than 6 feet of snow depth remaining, down from nearly 10 feet in mid-May. Although more sparsely distributed, snowpack in the southern mountains of Colorado, such as in the San Juan Mountains above 11,000 feet, is greater than normal for this time of year.

Reservoir storage is down this month due to decreases in the Gunnison and Upper Rio Grande. With reductions of 20 and 12 percent respectively, these two basins were the only two watersheds in the state to experience decreases greater than 10 percent. However, at the beginning of June statewide reservoir storage is currently at 108 percent of normal down from 112 percent on May 1st.

Streamflow forecasts for the remainder of the runoff season deviate from current snowpack values and range from 52 percent of average for Muddy Creek below Paonia Reservoir to 130 percent of average for the South Platte River below Cheesman Lake.

Colorado’s Snowpack and Reservoir Storage as of June 1, 2016

BASIN	% MEDIAN SNOWPACK	% LAST YR. ’S SNOWPACK	% AVERAGE RESERVOIR STORAGE	LAST YEAR’S % AVERAGE RESERVOIR STORAGE
GUNNISON	209	83	97	111
COLORADO	204	99	110	115
SOUTH PLATTE	233	77	112	116
NORTH PLATTE	182	171	---	---
YAMPA/WHITE	151	155	114	113
ARKANSAS	208	66	116	108
RIO GRANDE	85	66	79	67
SMDASJ*	171	88	110	89
STATEWIDE	201	95	108	108

*Combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan Basins

For more detailed information about individual Colorado watersheds or supporting water supply related information, refer to the Colorado Water Supply Outlook Report or go to the Colorado Snow Survey website at:

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

Or contact Karl Wetlaufer, Colorado Snow Survey Assistant Supervisor at Karl.Wetlaufer@co.usda.gov or 720-544-2853.

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