



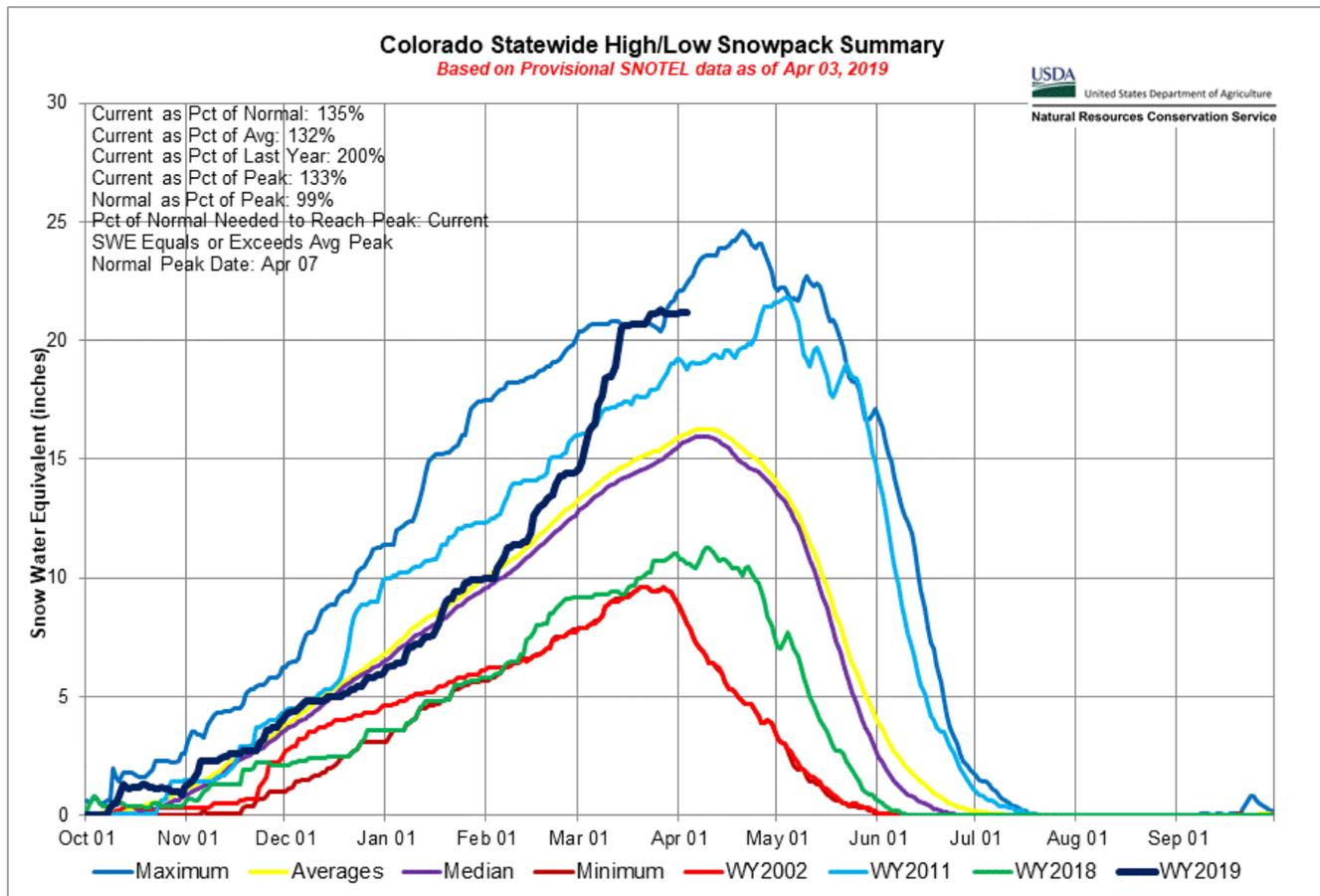
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News Release

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March Precipitation Boosts Snowpack to Near Record Levels in Colorado

Denver, CO – April 4th, 2019 – Snow accumulations between March 1 and March 15 have been the highlight of this winter coming in at near record levels across much of the state. At the end of March, snowpack across the state of Colorado is 136 percent of median up 24 percent from last month. The combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan Basins posted the largest gain of 35 percent followed by the Upper Rio Grande, Gunnison and Arkansas at 30, 32 and 25 percent respectively. Basin-wide snowpack improvements elsewhere in Colorado were slightly more modest. These improvements through March pushed snowpack past a significant milestone, “All individual major basins in the state are now above the typical annual snowpack peak, which often leads to a favorable water supply in each basin,” notes Brian Domonkos, Colorado Snow Survey Supervisor with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
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March snowpack improvements showcase the impressive changes but equally noteworthy are current snowpack totals for the water year beginning on October 1. Snowpack observation points within the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan combined basins indicate 157 percent of median, while snowpack in the Gunnison, Arkansas, Rio Grande, and Colorado indicate 150, 149, 145 and 130 percent of median respectively. “Current snowpack values in some individual basins on April 1, 2019 translate to nearly double or triple levels seen during this same time last year,” comments Domonkos. These improvements over last year are welcomed in restoring water supplies significantly depleted after last year’s drought.

Similar to snowpack March precipitation was particularly impressive which amounted to 183 percent of average for the state. Water year to date precipitation across the state is now 123 percent of average. Precipitation totals in the Gunnison and combined southwest basins are no less impressive each at 133 percent of average for the water year to date. By the numbers March is typically the second wettest month of the year in Colorado meaning accumulations this March were particularly impactful.

While reservoir storage levels across the state have seen little increase in recent months current snowpack levels are poised to increase storage levels across much of the state as the snow begins to melt. Most volumetric streamflow forecasts into spring and summer range from 100 to 150 percent of normal. Basins that have the highest forecasts, namely in Southern Colorado, are those that had the least streamflow last year, which should be particularly beneficial for water supply conditions in those areas.

Colorado’s Snowpack and Reservoir Storage as of April 1, 2019

BASIN	% MEDIAN SNOWPACK	% LAST YR.’S SNOWPACK	% AVERAGE RESERVOIR STORAGE	LAST YEAR’S % AVERAGE RESERVOIR STORAGE
GUNNISON	150	255	67	109
COLORADO	130	160	90	118
SOUTH PLATTE	124	147	100	108
NORTH PLATTE	122	129	--	--
YAMPA/WHITE	117	145	103	129
ARKANSAS	149	269	90	131
RIO GRANDE	145	299	79	119
SMDASJ*	157	335	58	101
STATEWIDE	136	194	84	115

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

For more detailed information about April 1 mountain snowpack refer to the [April 1, 2019 Colorado Water Supply Outlook Report](#). For the most up to date information about Colorado snowpack and water supply related information, refer to the [Colorado Snow Survey website](#).