



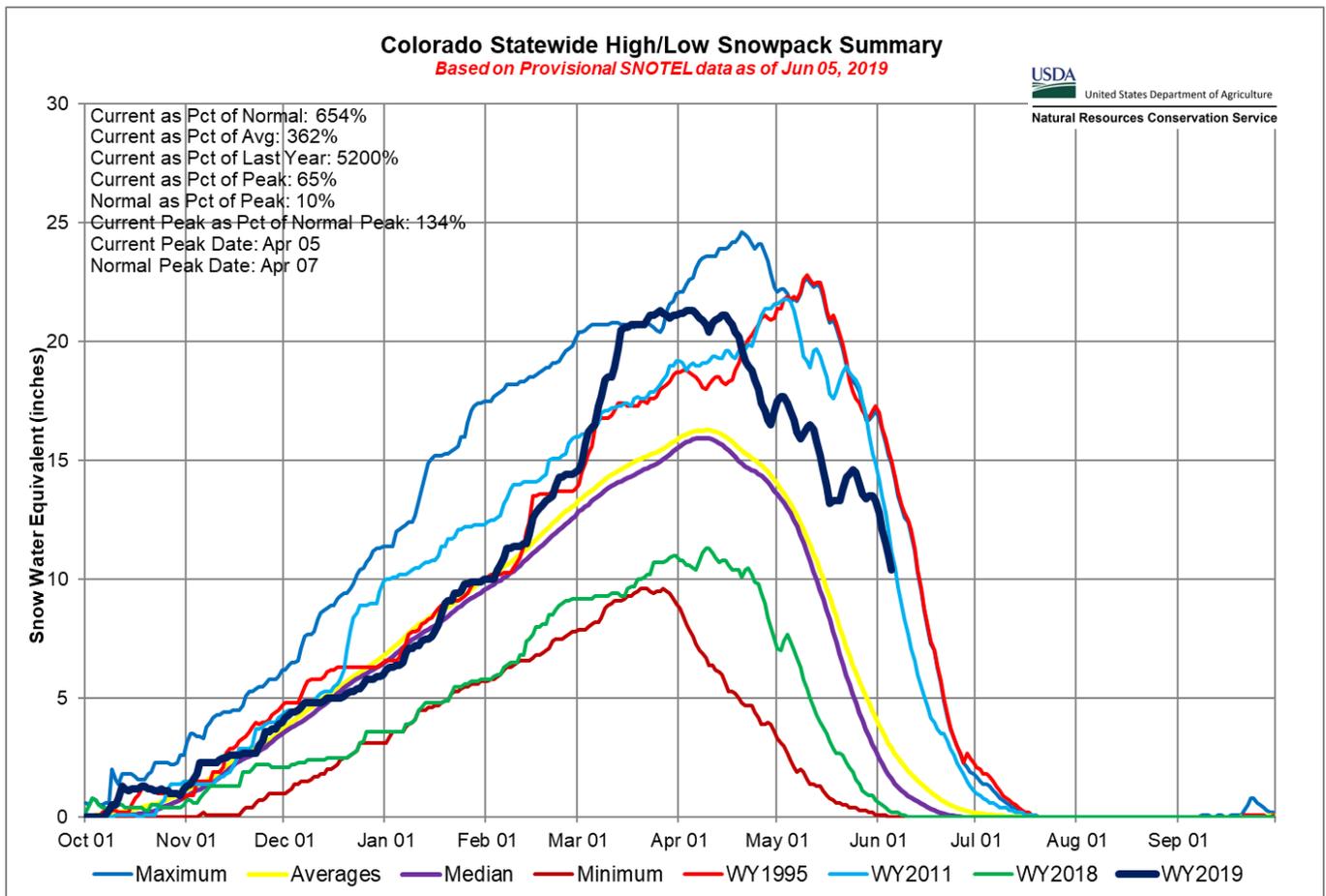
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News Release

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Mountain Snowmelt Two and a Half Weeks Behind Normal

Denver, CO – June 6th, 2019 – Spring and summer conditions are emerging slowly in Colorado’s high country. Highlighting one snapshot of these conditions, mountain snowpack monitoring stations across Colorado observed an average increase of 1.4 inches of snow water equivalent, equal to about one foot or more of snow depth, from one storm system during May 20th through the 24th. Spring storms such as these are generally normal and often occur twice during the snowmelt season, but usually come earlier in the spring. As of June 1, statewide snowpack stands at 511 percent of normal. The last time statewide snowpack was this high was in 2011 when conditions were much the same as this year. However when focusing in on the basin scale, most individual basins’ current snowpack most closely compares with 1995, particularly in the southern and western basins. In 1995 snowpack peaked higher compared to this year. This year snowpack peaked at 134% of statewide normal.



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
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“May was a particularly wet month, the second wettest month of the year at 174 percent of normal statewide. This coupled with the cool temperatures have aided mountain snowpack to persist later than normal,” comments Brian Domonkos, Colorado Snow Survey Supervisor. In fact, this spring has exhibited one of the slowest snowmelt rates in many years. With May’s above normal statewide precipitation the year-to-date totals are now 124 percent of average, correspondingly all major basins in Colorado are above average. The combined Yampa, White & North Platte maintains the lowest percent of average in the state at 116. Reservoir storage remains generally low in anticipation of rising streamflows as rivers have yet to peak. “Below normal reservoir levels will help in absorbing above normal streamflows,” says Domonkos.

Since the snowpack peak in early to mid-April snowpack is nearly half melted according to SNOW TELemetry (SNOTEL) snowpack monitoring stations. With half of the snowpack remaining to melt, streamflows will rise as temperatures continue to warm. As this happens it is important to monitor weather, river levels and snowmelt rates.

This year’s snowpack is particularly high compared to last year and normal conditions, which are both relatively small. This disparity explains the relatively high percent of last year’s snowpack numbers such as in the Colorado, South Platte and Statewide snowpack values. Absent values in the table below are due to no snowpack present at this time last year.

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

BASIN	% MEDIAN SNOWPACK	% LAST YR.’S SNOWPACK	% AVERAGE RESERVOIR STORAGE	LAST YEAR’S % AVERAGE RESERVOIR STORAGE
GUNNISON	655	---	80	92
COLORADO	440	1,776	90	117
SOUTH PLATTE	392	1,614	106	115
NORTH PLATTE	241	580	--	--
YAMPA/WHITE	240	694	106	115
ARKANSAS	439	920	86	127
RIO GRANDE	516	---	68	90
SMDASJ*	1,002	---	88	75
STATEWIDE	511	2,071	90	106

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

For more detailed information about June 1 mountain snowpack refer to the [June 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](#).