

Colorado Basin Outlook Report January 1, 2010



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, 2010

Summary

Colorado's snowpack and precipitation has been tracking below average since early November. On January 1, snowpack readings were below average in all of the state's major river basins. The driest conditions have been measured across the northwestern basins of Colorado. With a relatively dry start to the water year, water supplies are expected to be below average across most of the state this spring and summer. There are portions of the state however, where runoff forecasts remain only slightly below average. Reservoir storage continues to track near average statewide. Adequate runoff during the last couple of years has allowed reservoirs to recover from previous droughts and should provide relief if conditions don't improve.

Snowpack

Dry conditions across Colorado during the early winter season have contributed to below average snowpack totals statewide. Snowpack readings are only 86% of average for the state on January 1. These readings were only 72% of last year's January 1 readings. These are the lowest January 1 statewide snowpack percentages since 2003 when the statewide snowpack was 85% of average. Basinwide percentages range from only 74% of average in the Yampa and White Basins to a high of 97% of average in the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores and San Miguel Basins. Readings of less than 90% were also recorded in the Colorado and North Platte basins. This year's snowpack remains substantially less than that measured last year in all basins. The most notable discrepancies are in the Colorado, Arkansas and Rio Grande basins, where this year's totals are less than 70% of last year's readings on January 1. Given the current snowpack deficit, the state needs to receive about 10% above average snowfall to reach average by spring. The odds of receiving this amount are only about 20% statistically speaking, so water users should prepare for less water than average. With this year being an El Niño year, there remains some optimism that relief may come later this spring.

Precipitation

During the first three months of the 2010 water year, precipitation alternated between wet in October, to dry in November, then back to wet again during December. Statewide percents of average from SNOTEL sites were 124% of average in October, followed by only 41 % of average in November, and improving to 110% of average in December. Conditions were fairly consistent across the state in each of these months, with the most variability during December. Percentages during December ranged from 91% of average in the Yampa and White basins to 150% of average in the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins. Across the Arkansas and Rio Grande basins December's precipitation was only 53% of last year's monthly totals. For the water year totals, percentages are consistently below average in all basins ranging from 84% of average in the Colorado basin to a high of 97% of average in the Rio Grande basin. Statewide water year totals are 90% of average as of January 1. These same readings are only 80% of last year's totals for this same period.

Reservoir Storage

After a couple of back-to-back water years with near average runoff, Colorado's reservoir storage has returned to near average volumes across most of the state. In fact, the 2010 water year started with the highest volumes in storage than the beginning of any water year since 2000. As of January 1, storage volumes for the state are at 101% of average and are 102% of last year's volumes. The lowest storage volumes, as a percent of average, are reported in the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins at 89% of average. The only other basin currently reporting below average volumes is the Rio Grande at 93% of average. For the remainder of the state, storage remains at or slightly above average. The highest storage percentage was measured in the Yampa basin at 109% of average. In terms of storage volume, the greatest surplus is reported in the Colorado basin, which is storing 31,200 acre feet above the average mark for this date. Once again, reservoir storage across the state offers a buffer for below average runoff, at least for some water users.

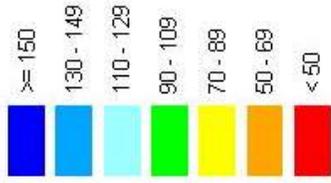
Streamflow

Water supply forecasts across Colorado call for slightly below normal runoff nearly statewide. Those basins with the lowest forecasts, as a percent of average, include the Yampa, White, Upper Colorado, Gunnison, Dolores and Animas Rivers. Forecasts in these basins generally range from 70% to 90% of average. Forecasts improve slightly in other areas of the state, which include the Arkansas, San Juan, San Miguel, lower Colorado (above the state line), the main stem of the Rio Grande, and most of the South Platte. Forecasts in these basins generally range from 90% to 100% of average. This year's forecasts are very similar to what was forecast last spring in many basins. The greatest difference from last year is across the northwestern basins which are forecast at about 10 percentage points less than last year. Of course, these forecasts are dependent upon near average snowfall for the remainder of the winter season. With three months remaining in the winter snowpack accumulation season, there is ample opportunity for improvement in these forecasts. Water users should continue to monitor snowpack conditions which can still have a significant impact on next year's water supplies.

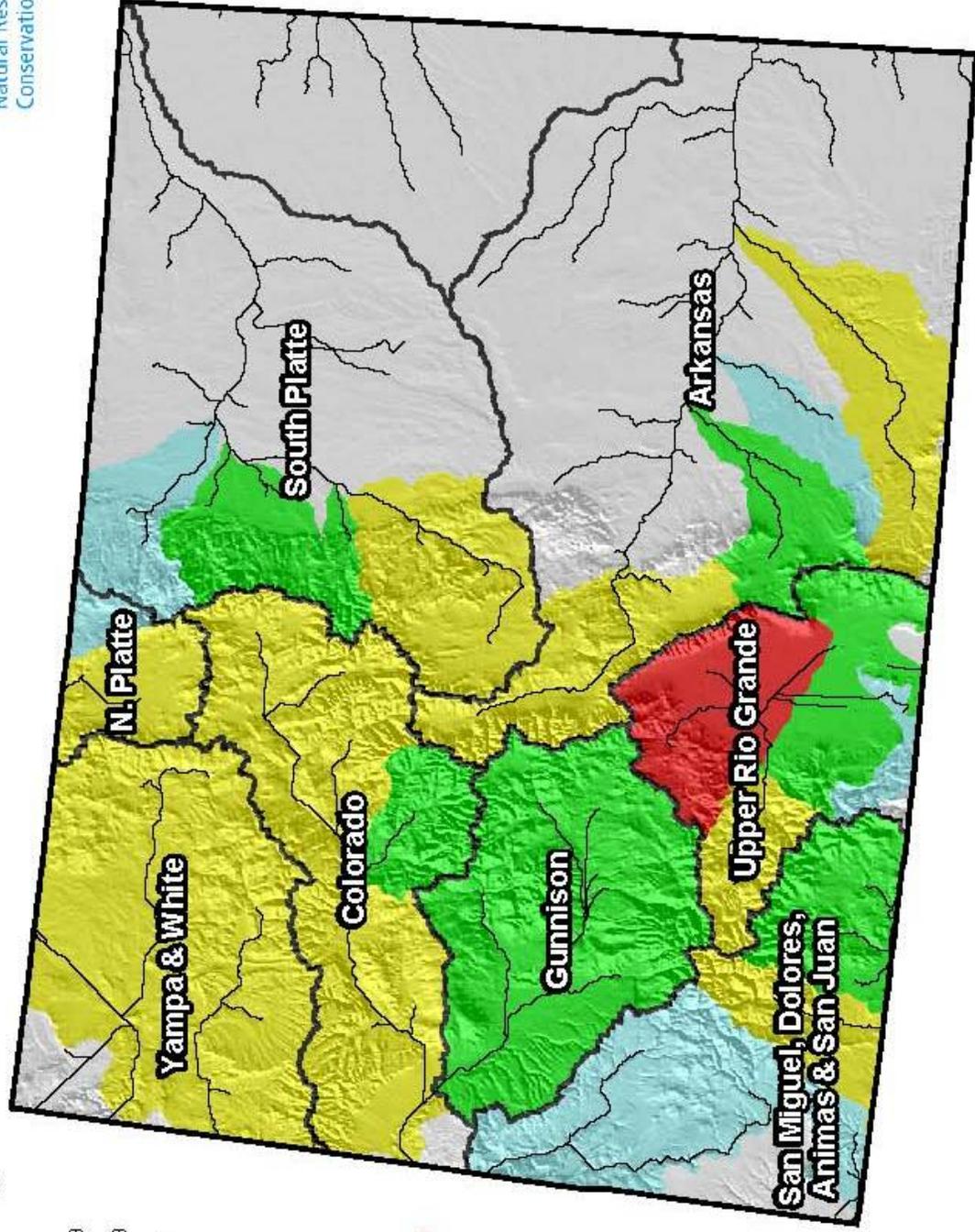
Colorado Snowpack Map



Percent of Average



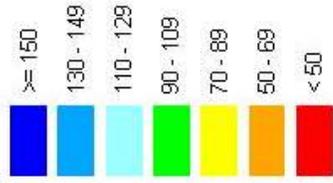
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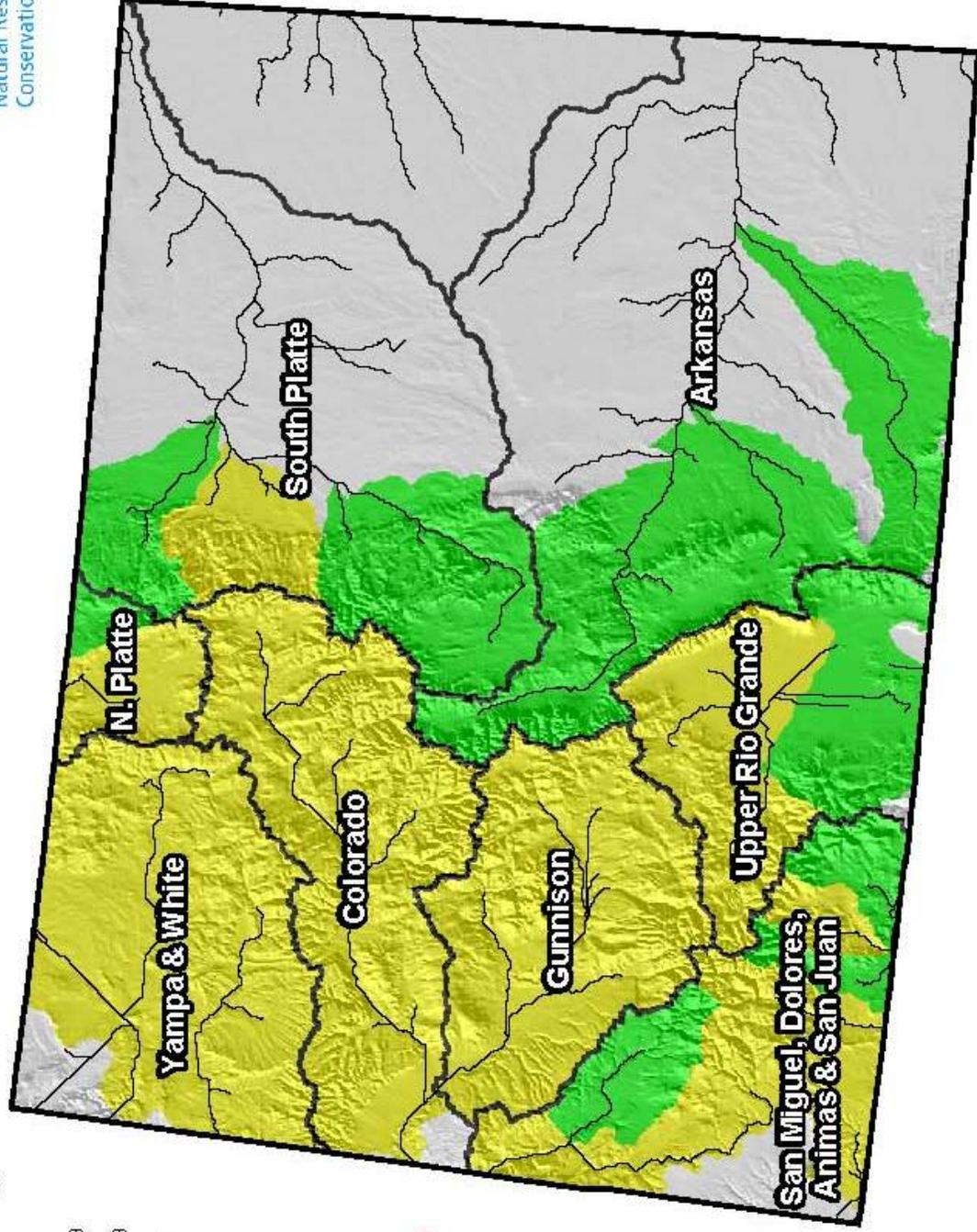
Current as of January 1, 2010

Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map

Percent of Average



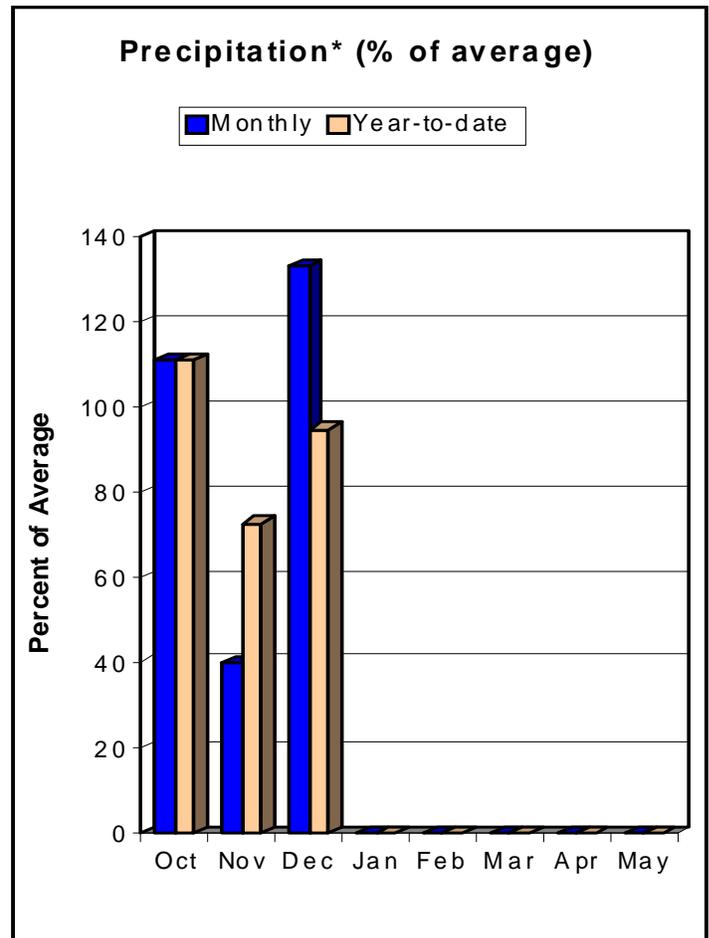
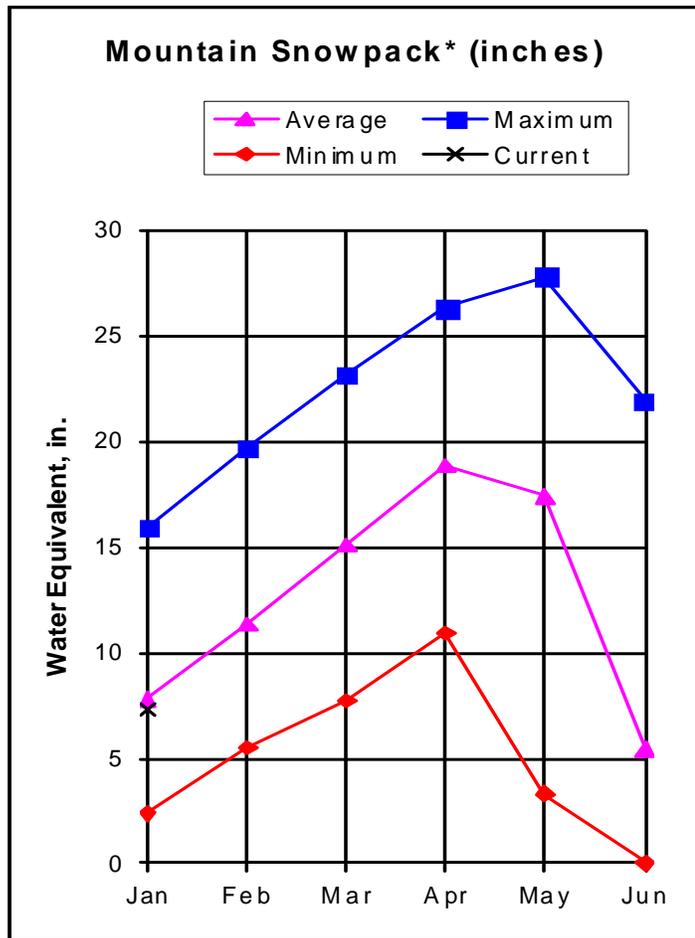
*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



Current as of January 1, 2010

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of January 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

At the end of October, snowpacks in the Gunnison River Basin were above average, however, a very dry November resulted in December 1 snowpacks hovering around 58 percent of average. Some fairly decent storm activity during the second week of December helped to boost conditions back to near normal. Unfortunately, the last half of the month has seen snowpack percentages decline to the 94 percent of average figure reported on January 1. This year's snowpack is only 74 percent of the snowpack present at this time last year. This is also the second worst January 1 snowpack the basin has seen since 2003, behind the 93 percent of average snowpacks measured in 2007. Sub-basin snowpacks range from 81 percent of average in the Surface Creek Drainage to 101 percent of average in the Uncompahgre. Mountain precipitation was respectable during October and December at 111 and 133 percent of average, respectively. November left something to be desired, however, with only 40 percent of average precipitation for the month. Total precipitation for the water year is 95 percent of average. Reservoir storage at the end of December was 104 percent of average and 71 percent of capacity. This year's storage figures are just slightly below those reported a year ago. Water users can expect below average runoff throughout the basin for the April-July forecast period. Streamflows should range from 70 percent of average for Cochetopa Creek near Parlin to 85 percent of average for the North Fork Gunnison, Slate River and Surface Creek.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2010

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	53	71	85	83	100	124	103				
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	55	66	76	85	84	98	89				
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	94	129	155	81	184	230	192				
Gunnison River nr Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	180	255	310	80	375	475	390				
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	15.6	22	27	84	33	43	32				
Cochetopa Creek blw Rock Ck nr Parli	APR-JUL	6.2	9.4	12.1	70	15.3	21	17.3				
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	29	47	62	77	80	112	81				
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	71	91	106	84	122	148	126				
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	355	480	575	80	685	865	720				
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	42	64	82	82	103	141	100				
	APR-JUL	41	64	84	82	107	149	102				
North Fork Gunnison R nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	156	215	260	85	315	405	305				
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	8.3	11.7	14.5	85	17.7	23	17.1				
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	55	72	85	83	100	124	102				
Uncompahgre River at Colona (2)	APR-JUL	70	95	115	83	138	177	139				
Gunnison River nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	595	985	1250	80	1520	1900	1560				

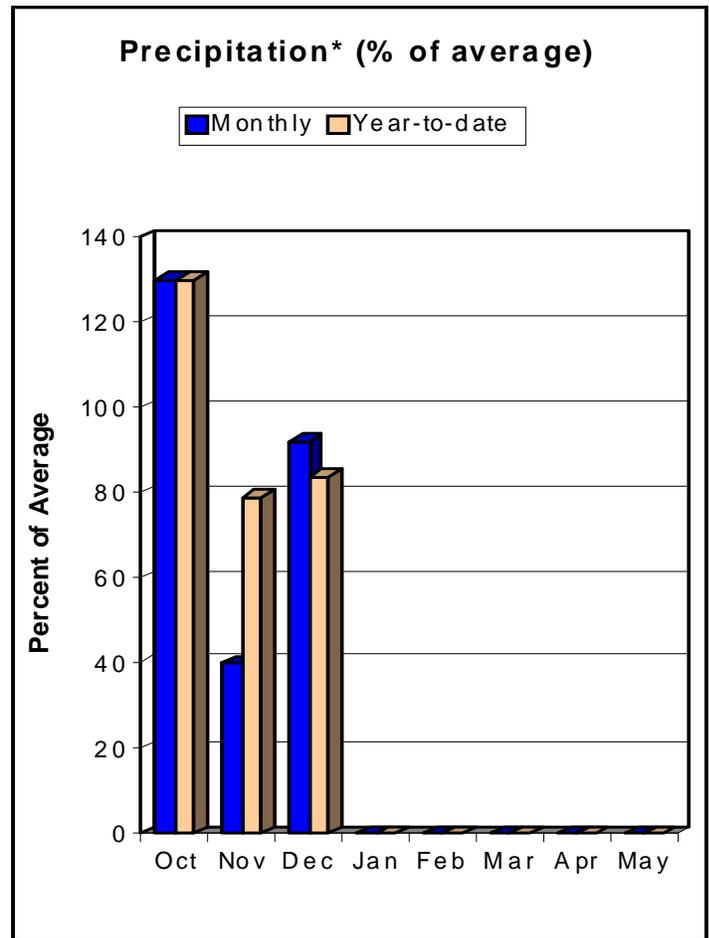
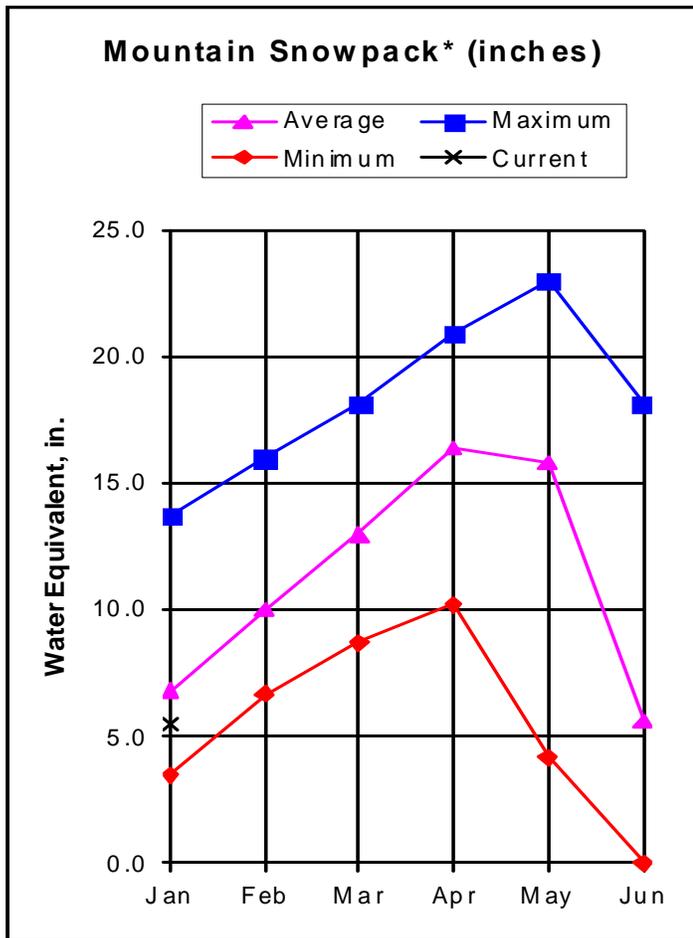
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2010			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
BLUE MESA	830.0	579.0	583.1	545.8	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	9	73	91
CRAWFORD	14.0	5.6	7.0	7.5	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	2	72	81
FRUITGROWERS	3.6	2.2	2.3	2.8	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	3	76	101
FRUITLAND	9.2	0.6	0.7	1.3	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	12	74	94
MORROW POINT	121.0	111.5	110.7	113.4				
PAONIA	15.4	1.2	4.6	4.7				
RIDGWAY	83.0	64.8	65.9	60.1				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	68.6	72.1	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.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of January 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks got off to a great start during October in the Upper Colorado River Basin. On November 1, SNOTEL data indicates basin snowpacks were over 130 percent of average. Unfortunately, a poor showing during November resulted in a drop in snowpack percentages by December 1 to a mere 65 percent of average. Conditions improved during December and, as of January 1, snowpack conditions are below normal at 81 percent of average and only 64 percent of the measurements taken last year at this time. This marks the worst January 1 snowpack percentage since 2002 which was measured at 72 percent of average. Snowpacks in the sub-basins are below to well below normal ranging from 63 percent of average in the Willow Creek Drainage to 91 percent of average in the Roaring Fork Watershed. After a spectacular 130 percent of average showing in October, mountain precipitation during November was a pitiful 40 percent of average. December provided a modest 92 percent of average precipitation figure. Total precipitation for the water year is currently at 84 percent of average and 72 percent of last year. Reservoir storage is 104 percent of average and 74 percent of capacity. This year's storage figures are 8 percent higher than those reported a year ago. Forecasts call for below average runoff across the basin. April-July forecasts are expected to range from 75 percent of average for Muddy Creek below Wolford Mountain Reservoir to 85 percent of average for the Inflow to Ruedi Reservoir and the Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2010

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	105	156	190	84	225	275	225				
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	26	34	40	78	47	58	51				
Williams Fork Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	59	71	80	84	89	104	95				
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	98	122	140	84	160	192	167				
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	164	205	235	84	270	325	280				
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	28	38	45	75	53	67	60				
Eagle River blw Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	170	220	260	78	305	375	335				
Colorado River nr Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	650	925	1160	81	1400	1700	1440				
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	80	102	120	85	139	172	141				
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	405	515	600	85	695	850	710				
Colorado River nr Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	1100	1610	1950	81	2290	2800	2420				

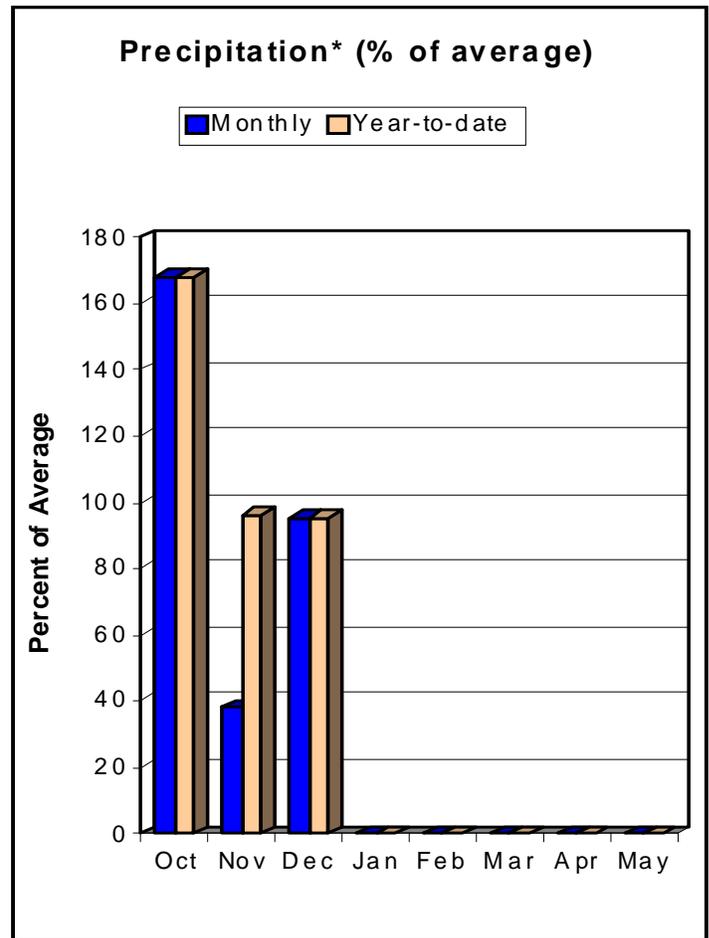
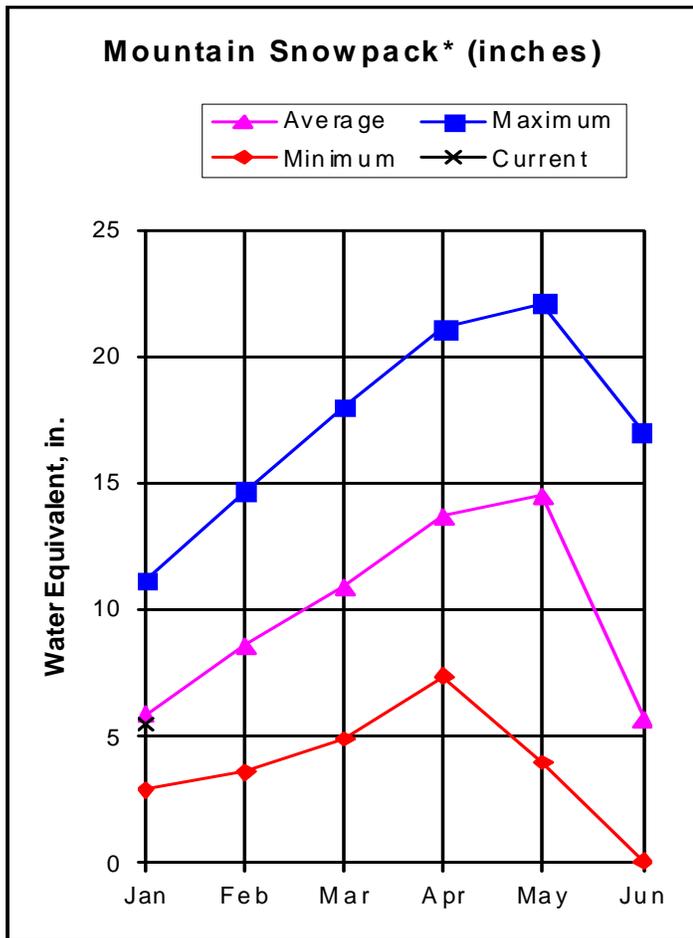
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2010			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
DILLON	254.0	239.7	234.1	224.8	BLUE RIVER BASIN	5	63	76
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	354.0	282.6	322.1	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASI	19	63	77
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	74.3	62.2	90.3	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	2	82	72
HOMESTAKE	43.0	21.7	42.0	28.4	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	2	72	81
RUEDI	102.0	72.8	74.7	79.7	ROARING FORK BASIN	7	63	91
VEGA	32.9	11.4	13.3	11.0	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	2	65	79
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	77.8	79.6	62.9	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	2	54	62
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	4.8	5.5	6.1	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASI	28	64	81

* 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.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN as of January 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

All in all, the water situation on the South Platte is setting up well, being near average on all fronts on the first of January. Reservoir storage is right at the 100% mark for this time of year. Precipitation over the greater basin for the water year is at 95% of average. This year's snowpack is at 93% of average across the entire South Platte River Basin and can be compared to that of 2008 & 2005 up until this point. Clear Creek, Cache La Poudre, and the St. Vrain sub-drainages all boast snowpacks above average at 104, 113, and 132% of average respectively, with the St. Vrain Drainage having the greatest snowpack of all the sub-drainages in the state. Precipitation across the state started off handsomely this water year, but more notably in the South Platte River Basin as it then had the highest October precipitation in the state at 168% of average. Increased autumn precipitation should come into play in the spring when water laden soils thaw, theoretically requiring less snowmelt to charge the soils prior to runoff. On the other hand, November was particularly harsh on the South Platte Drainage Basin. Making a complete turnaround from October, the following month dealt the basin the lowest precipitation as a percent of average in the state. At the end of December the basin was still near average at 95%.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2010

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)		
ANTERO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	8.0	12.1	16.1	96	21	33	16.8				
	APR-SEP	9.7	14.9	19.9	91	27	41	22				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	26	39	51	91	67	98	56				
	APR-SEP	31	48	64	93	86	131	69				
ELEVENMILE CANYON RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	26	40	53	91	70	107	58				
	APR-SEP	31	49	67	93	92	146	72				
CHEESMAN LAKE Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	54	81	107	94	141	210	114				
	APR-SEP	67	102	135	96	179	270	140				
SOUTH PLATTE R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	91	141	189	92	255	390	205				
	APR-SEP	115	178	240	94	325	500	255				
BEAR CREEK abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	6.9	11.3	15.7	81	22	36	19.3				
	APR-SEP	9.8	15.4	21	84	29	45	25				
BEAR CREEK at Morrison	APR-JUL	7.2	12.8	19.0	76	28	50	25				
	APR-SEP	10.0	17.2	25	81	36	63	31				
CLEAR CREEK at Golden	APR-JUL	66	86	100	91	114	134	110				
	APR-SEP	83	106	122	91	138	161	134				
ST. VRAIN CREEK at Lyons (2)	APR-JUL	60	72	80	85	88	100	94				
	APR-SEP	72	85	94	86	103	116	109				
BOULDER CREEK nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	37	43	48	92	53	59	52				
	APR-SEP	41	49	55	92	61	69	60				
SOUTH BOULDER CK nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	30	36	39	95	42	48	41				
BIG THOMPSON R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	63	75	84	85	93	105	99				
	APR-SEP	76	92	102	86	112	128	119				
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	149	194	225	92	255	300	245				
	APR-SEP	165	215	250	91	285	335	275				

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2010

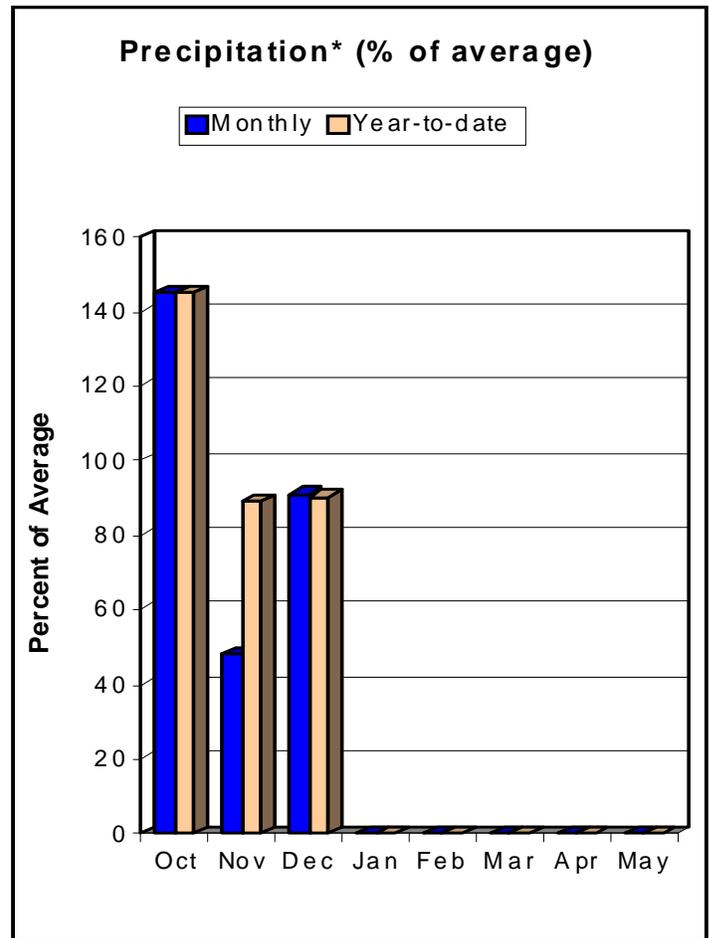
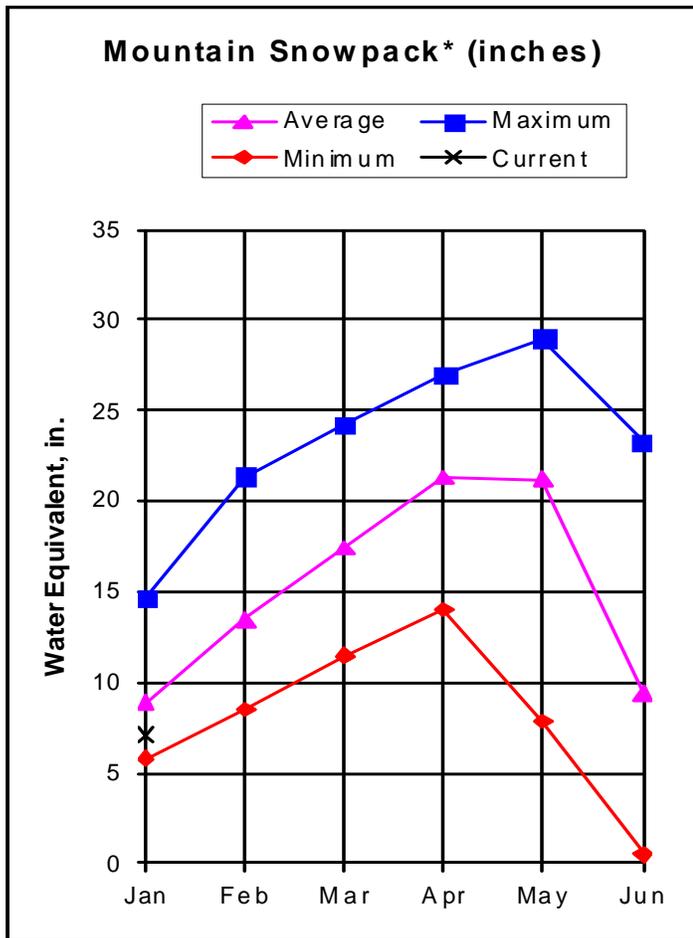
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	19.9	20.1	20.0	16.5	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	3	95	91
BARR LAKE	30.1	23.4	19.8	22.4	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	3	125	95
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	3.2	2.8	3.8	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	2	110	113
BOYD LAKE	48.4	40.8	27.8	31.7	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	2	70	104
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	14.7	14.6	13.6	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	1	109	132
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.1	9.4	7.5	6.3	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	6	85	77
CARTER	108.9	77.3	59.3	74.7	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	17	94	93
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	7.0	3.1	2.8				
CHEESMAN	79.0	67.9	67.4	60.9				
COBB LAKE	22.3	20.7	12.1	13.9				
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	99.5	99.7	95.9				
EMPIRE	36.5	16.1	14.1	22.2				
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	10.4	9.3	6.3				
GROSS	41.8	26.1	34.1	26.2				
HALLIGAN	6.4	4.3	3.4	3.6				
HORSECREEK	14.7	3.6	1.8	10.9				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	66.7	72.0	87.8				
JACKSON	26.1	23.5	24.1	23.0				
JULESBURG	20.5	16.2	16.8	18.4				
LAKE LOVELAND	10.3	9.3	10.9	8.9				
LONE TREE	8.7	7.4	6.6	6.0				
MARIANO	5.4	4.4	1.2	4.1				
MARSHALL	10.0	6.5	3.8	4.7				
MARSTON	13.0	9.4	10.7	12.7				
MILTON	23.5	0.0	17.4	14.8				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	48.3	40.0	51.1				
PREWITT	28.2	20.5	19.2	18.0				
RIVERSIDE	55.8	37.2	31.8	38.1				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	35.1	40.0	35.4				
STANDLEY	42.0	35.4	36.5	32.5				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	5.9	5.3	5.2				
UNION	13.0	12.3	11.3	10.4				
WINDSOR	15.2	11.6	10.9	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.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

YAMPA, WHITE, NORTH PLATTE AND LARAMIE RIVER BASINS as of January 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the combined Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins had an excellent start in October, with SNOTEL showing November 1 snowpacks at 124 percent of average. During November, snowpack totals took a hit and by December 1, snowpacks were reported at 65 percent of average. December saw a moderate improvement and January 1 snowpacks measured in at 80 percent of average. The Yampa and White River basin snowpack on January 1 was 74 percent of average, the lowest January 1 percentage since 2002. The North Platte snowpack on January 1 was 83 percent of average, also the lowest January 1 percentage since 2002. Sub-basin snowpacks are quite variable, ranging from 63 percent of average in the Elk River Drainage to 120 percent in the Laramie River Drainage. Mountain precipitation started out strong with October providing 145 percent of average monthly precipitation. This was followed by a dry November producing only 48 percent of average precipitation totals. December precipitation was near normal at 91 percent of average. Total precipitation for the water year is 90 percent of average. Storage at Stagecoach and Yamcolo is currently 109 percent of average, slightly below last year's levels at this time. Water users should anticipate mostly below average spring and summer streamflows. Forecasts for the April-July period are expected to range from 73 percent of average for Fortification Creek near Fortification to 106 percent of average on the Laramie River near Woods.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2010

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)		
NORTH PLATTE RIVER nr Northgate	APR-JUL	62	133	182	74	230	300	245				
	APR-SEP	68	147	200	74	255	330	270				
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	APR-JUL	93	115	130	106	145	167	123				
	APR-SEP	104	128	144	107	160	184	135				
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	16.4	23	28	76	34	44	37				
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	147	192	225	80	260	320	280				
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	189	240	275	85	315	375	325				
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	18.3	26	32	82	39	50	39				
Elkhead Creek blw Maynard Gulch (2)	APR-JUL	26	38	47	80	57	74	59				
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	2.5	4.1	5.5	73	7.2	10.2	7.5				
Yampa River nr Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	470	650	790	80	940	1190	990				
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	82	112	135	85	160	200	159				
Little Snake River nr Dixon	APR-JUL	174	235	285	86	340	425	330				
Little Snake River nr Lily	APR-JUL	167	250	315	86	390	510	365				
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	144	198	240	83	285	360	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, 2010

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	28.9	29.6	26.4	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	2	131	120
YAMCOLO	8.7	6.0	6.6	5.5	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	7	89	76
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	9	97	84
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	66	63
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	9	77	71
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	4	75	83
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	12	76	74
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	6	91	87
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	24	85	81					

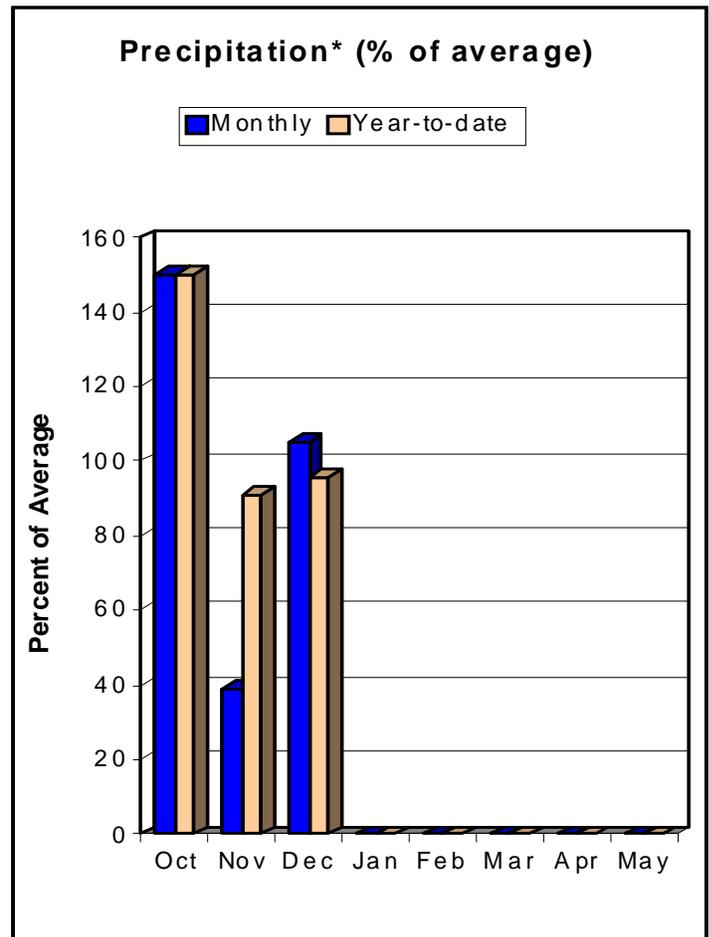
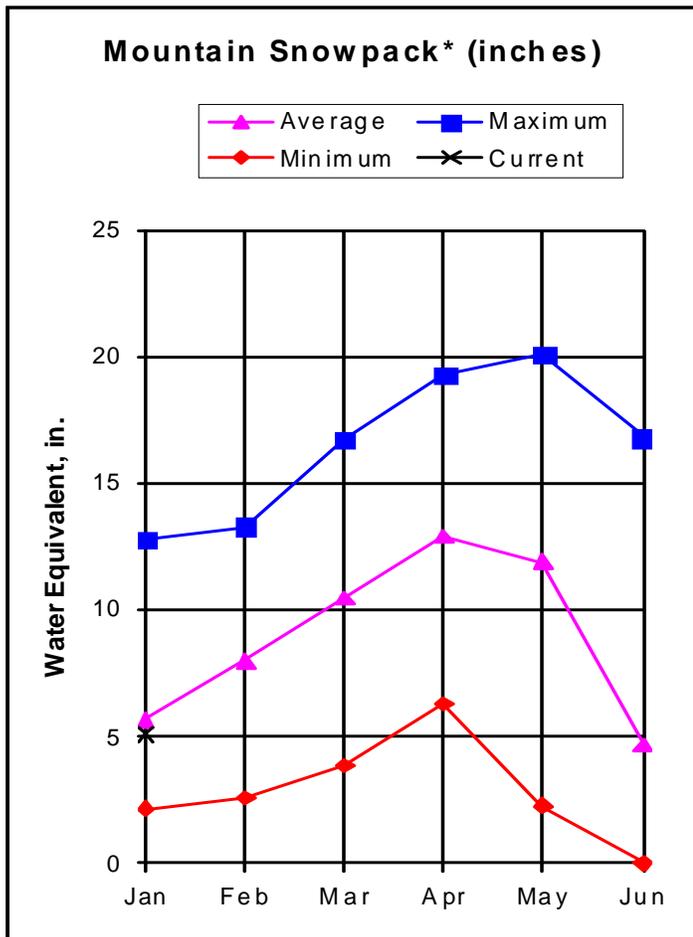
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- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

as of January 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

The Arkansas River Basin, is reflective of the other major basins in the state, with near average snowpack, precipitation, reservoir storages, and stream flow forecasts. Overall reservoir storages even out at 101% of average. In terms of snowpack, the Arkansas is at a six year low, just below average at 90%, matching closely with the snowpack of 1995. Keep in mind that the last six years have been at least 98% of average or better. By comparison, snowpack in the Arkansas River Basin is only 65% of last year's snow water equivalent. Apishapa is the only SNOTEL site in the Arkansas River Basin above average at 110% with a whopping 3.4 inches of snow water content. South Colony SNOTEL, south of Westcliffe, CO has the deepest snowpack in the Arkansas at 33 inches of snow depth and 8.6 inch of snow water equivalent. October's heavy precipitation, at 150% of average, was no match for November's shortfalls at 39%. Combined with December's precipitation, this left the basin at 96% on January 1. Streamflow forecasts on the Arkansas are near average at this point falling in between 90 - 107% of average for the 50% exceedance level. The Grape Creek near Westcliffe, CO forecast point is tied for the best outlook in the state, so far. It is still early in the forecast season, and from this point, on average, there is still 60% of this year's snowpack left to accumulate.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2010

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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)		
CHALK CK at Nathrop	APR-JUL	12.0	18.1	23	100	28	37	23				
	APR-SEP	14.7	22	27	100	33	43	27				
ARKANSAS RIVER at Salida (2)	APR-JUL	156	198	230	90	265	320	255				
	APR-SEP	192	245	280	90	320	385	310				
GRAPE CK nr Westcliffe	APR-JUL	3.8	10.6	17.2	107	25	40	16.1				
	APR-SEP	8.4	15.2	21	107	28	39	19.6				
PUEBLO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	220	310	375	97	450	570	385				
	APR-SEP	290	395	470	97	555	690	485				
HUERFANO RIVER nr Redwing	APR-JUL	6.7	9.5	11.6	94	14.0	17.8	12.3				
	APR-SEP	8.8	12.0	14.5	94	17.2	22	15.5				
CUCHARAS RIVER nr La Veta	APR-JUL	4.0	8.0	11.5	102	15.6	23	11.3				
	APR-SEP	5.1	9.5	13.2	102	17.5	25	13.0				
TRINIDAD LAKE Inflow (2)	MAR-JUL	9.9	21	31	91	43	64	34				
	APR-SEP	15.6	29	40	91	53	76	44				

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2010			
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	34.3	32.1	23.4	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	3	71	88
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	6.7	7.3	5.9	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	2	69	100
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	0.6	0.8	4.8	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	45	85
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	32.2	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	6	65	90
HOLBROOK	7.0	1.6	0.7	3.0				
HORSE CREEK	27.0	0.0	0.0	8.4				
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	48.6	55.5	108.7				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	3.9	5.8	3.7				
MEREDITH	42.0	29.5	26.1	13.6				
PUEBLO	354.0	226.7	194.7	144.0				
TRINIDAD	167.0	17.6	19.6	24.2				
TURQUOISE	127.0	85.4	94.8	87.9				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	54.8	50.0	46.3				

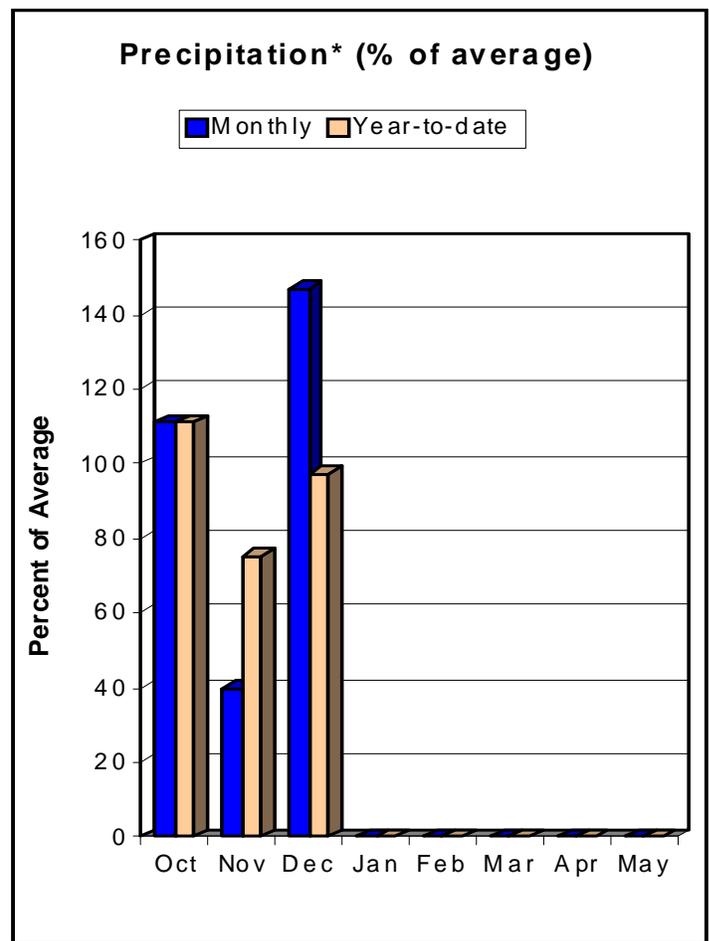
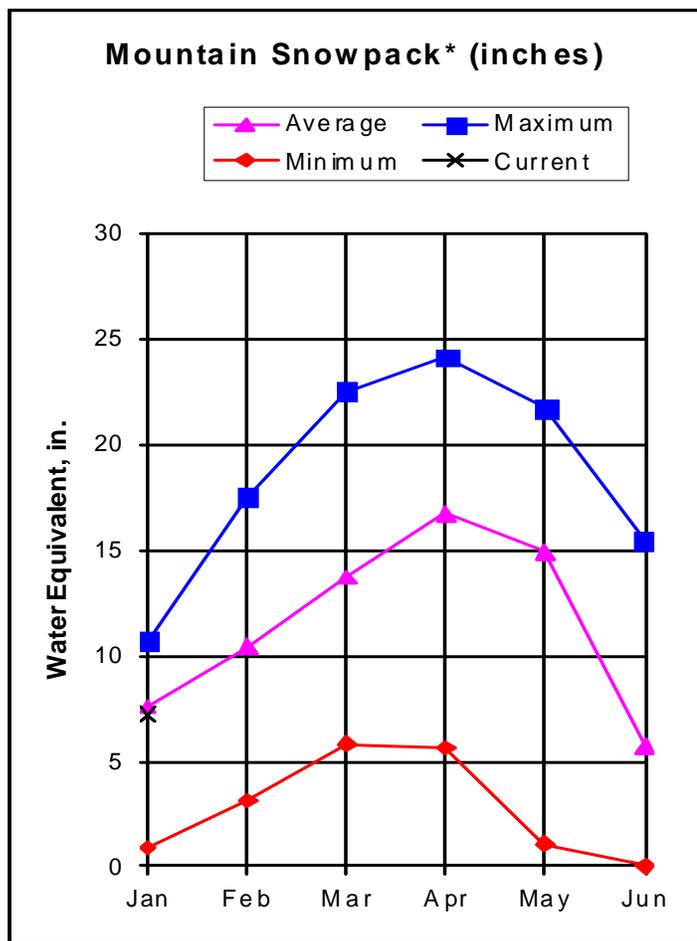
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- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
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UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN

as of January 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

If the rest of the winter could be the same as the beginning of December in the Upper Rio Grande Basin there would be no water worries this year. Two major storms brought significant increases to a meager snowpack to thrust snow water equivalent values to above average levels. Unfortunately the storm pattern that occurred in the beginning of December did not last through the rest of the month. In the end, on January 1, the snowpack wound up at 95% of average over the whole basin. The Conejos & Rio San Antonio sub-basin finished at the top of the Rio Grande in Colorado with 117% of average snowpack. To thank for this feat, is the Cumbres Trestle SNOTEL site, with 13.8 inches of snow water equivalent (SWE) and 60 inches of snow depth. Cumbres Trestle received 5.6 inches of SWE in three days. On the other side of the Rio Grande Basin, Ute Creek SNOTEL is another site above average at 120%. But this is not the norm as only three of the ten sites observed this month are above average. December's storm totals (147%) did raise the year-to-date precipitation to 97% of average from that in November of 75%. All reservoirs in the Rio Grande came to 93% of average for this time of year, not too far below average. Streamflow forecasts are currently slightly below average with most forecasts falling near 90% of average.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2010

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	80	104	121	89	140	170	136
	APR-JUL	81	98	111	94	125	147	118
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	197	260	305	88	355	435	345
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	80	104	123	93	144	179	132
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	310	400	475	90	555	695	531
Saguache Creek nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	15.6	23	28	85	34	44	33
Alamosa Creek abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	44	57	68	97	80	100	70
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	4.5	6.6	8.3	95	10.3	13.8	8.7
Trinchera Creek abv Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	5.3	8.2	10.1	84	12.0	14.9	12.0
Sangre de Cristo Creek (2)	APR-SEP	3.0	3.9	7.5	85	11.1	16.3	8.8
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	5.5	8.2	10.5	86	13.2	18.0	12.2
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	39	50	58	91	67	83	64
	APR-SEP	44	56	65	92	75	92	71
Conejos River nr Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	127	168	200	100	235	295	200
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	7.5	12.0	16.0	98	21	29	16.4
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	44	60	73	99	88	113	74
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	9.9	15.4	20	87	25	35	23
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	5.4	7.6	9.5	90	11.6	15.3	10.6
Costilla Creek nr Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	11.2	17.6	23	89	29	41	26

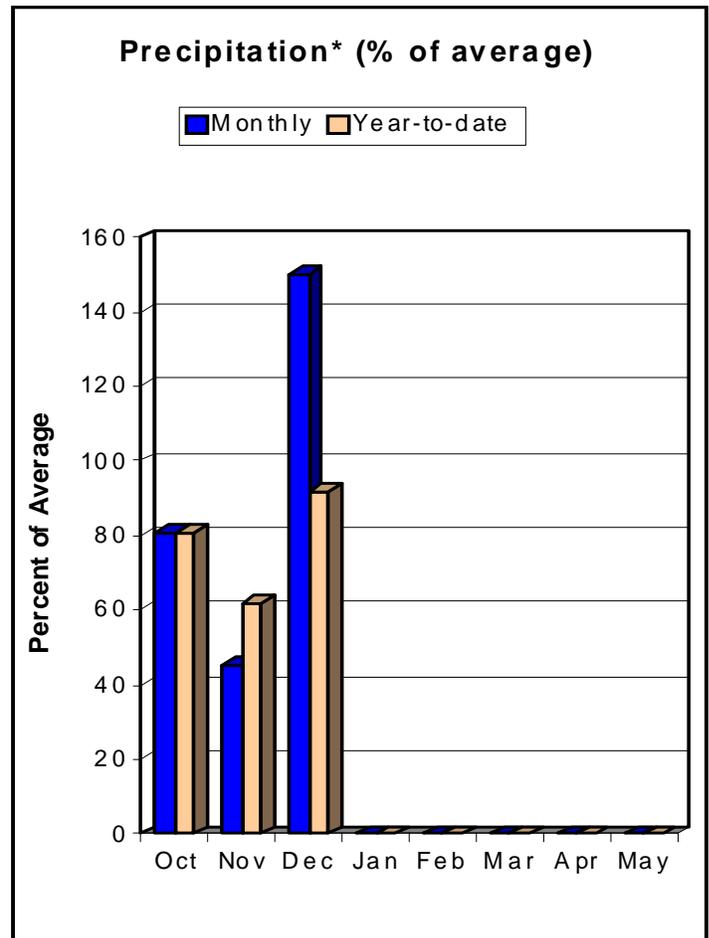
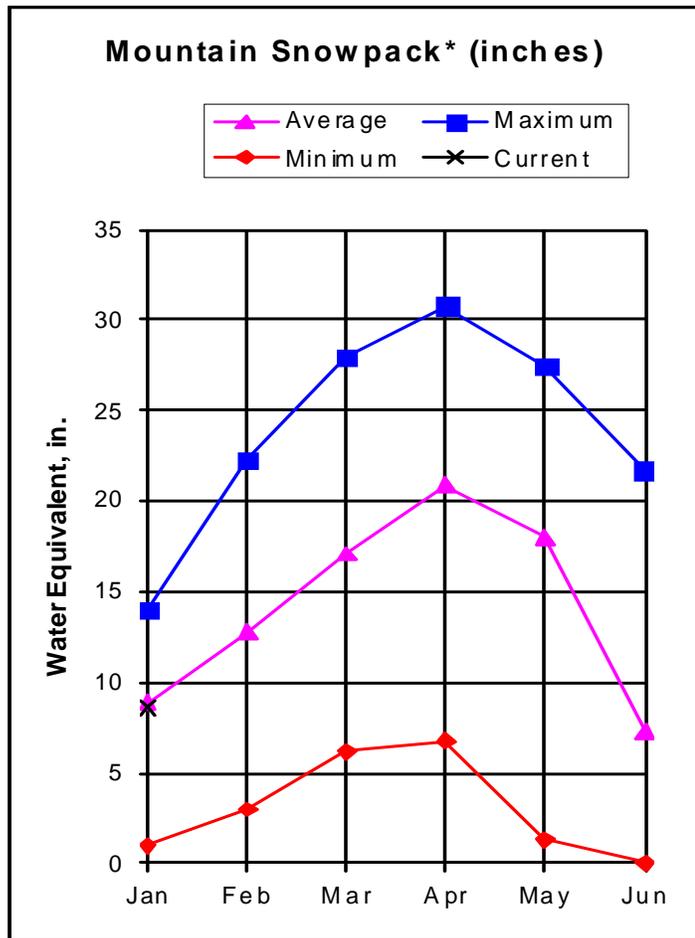
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2010			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	27.0	3.1	2.3	4.9	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	1	63	96
PLATORO	60.0	29.5	17.2	24.3	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	2	68	117
RIO GRANDE	51.0	16.4	14.9	15.1	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	3	67	95
SANCHEZ	103.0	19.1	24.8	23.9	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	4	72	89
SANTA MARIA	45.0	6.0	4.9	10.1	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	10	68	95
TERRACE	18.0	3.9	4.0	5.6				

* 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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- (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.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS as of January 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

January 1 snowpacks in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins were just below normal at 97 percent of average. Things could have been much worse given that October and November did not produce a lot of snow in the basin. In fact, on December 1, SNOTEL data indicates snowpacks were only 47 percent of average. Usually, the combined basins see a 3.4 inch increase in snow water content during December. Fortunately, this December produced a whopping 5.8 inches of snow water content. That is 170 percent of average for the month, however to keep things in perspective, December 2008 saw an 8.5 inch increase (250 percent) in snow water content. Sub-basin snowpacks are mostly near to above average, ranging from 84 percent of average in the Animas River Watershed to 119 percent of average in the Dolores River Drainage. Mountain precipitation was below to well below average for October and November at 81 and 45 percent of average, respectively. December precipitation was 150 percent of average. Despite that, total precipitation for the water year remains below normal at 92 percent of average. The combined basins reported the lowest reservoir figures for the state at 89 percent of average. This is down about 16 percent from last year at this time. The basin should see below average runoff during the spring and summer throughout the basin. April-July forecasts range from 80 percent of average for the La Plata River at Hesperus to 99 percent of average for the Navajo River at the Oso Diversion.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2010

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	121	178	225	85	280	375	265
McPhee Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	138	210	270	84	340	465	320
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	76	100	120	91	142	179	132
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	9.6	12.6	16.0	87	17.6	22	18.3
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.4	2.3	3.1	95	4.0	5.8	3.3
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.6	2.2	2.7	92	3.3	4.2	2.9
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	36	45	52	98	59	72	53
Navajo River at Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	45	58	68	99	79	98	69
San Juan River nr Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	215	305	380	94	465	615	405
Piedra River nr Arboles	APR-JUL	93	148	195	85	250	350	230
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	110	146	175	85	210	260	205
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	400	565	700	89	855	1120	785
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	230	315	380	86	455	580	440
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	30	41	50	86	60	77	58
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	11.0	15.9	20	80	25	33	25
Mancos River nr Mancos (2)	APR-JUL	11.0	16.7	28	85	39	56	33

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, 2010

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	14.2	12.0	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	7	63	84
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	3.9	3.5	4.6	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	4	76	119
LEMON	40.0	9.6	18.3	20.1	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	3	83	113
MCPHEE	381.0	254.1	286.0	271.1	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	3	78	97
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	10.7	10.3	12.7	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	16	72	97
VALLECITO	126.0	46.0	71.1	58.6	AN JUAN RIVER BASINS			

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- (3) - Median value used in place of average.



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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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Colorado
Basin Outlook Report
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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