

Colorado Basin Outlook Report January 1, 2012



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, 2012

Summary

The water year got off to a good start with October posting 136 percent of average precipitation. Since the end of October, statewide year-to-date precipitation has fallen to 86 percent of average. January 1 snowpack totals for Colorado are also below average at 71 percent of average. This year the southern basins in Colorado have received more frequent storms than the rest of the state resulting in near average snowpack conditions in those basins. Reservoir storage remains in good condition across most of the state. The combined average for Colorado reservoir storage is 105 percent of average as of January 1. Early season runoff forecasts call for below average runoff for most of the state with the streamflow in the southern basins projected to be nearer to average. This month's Water Supply Outlook Report is compiled using precipitation and snowpack data provided by SNOTEL sites only. With a little luck, the jet stream will shift and provide a more favorable storm track for the rest of the season.

Snowpack

Snowpack totals are below average in all major river basins in Colorado as of January 1. Statewide, snowfall has been below average each month since the start of the water year. While precipitation during the month of October was well above average, temperatures were too warm to allow that precipitation to be stored in the snowpack. In late November, concerns about lack of snowpack across Colorado increased as most of the storms tracked either north or south of the state. In general the jet stream has tracked to the north of the state which has allowed the weather to be dominated by high pressure. As of January 1 the snowpack was measured at 71 percent of average which is 52 percent of the snowpack measured this time last year. With 60 percent of the winter snowpack accumulation season remaining a lot can still happen. The state needs above average snowfall for the next three to four months to return conditions to normal before spring and summer runoff begins.

Precipitation

Precipitation across Colorado's high county was well above average for the first month of the 2012 water year. Statewide total precipitation during October was 136 percent of average. November was a somewhat drier month across with 80 percent of average precipitation reported at SNOTEL sites across the state. Total precipitation amounts for the month of December were considerably lower than the previous months at just 52 percent of average. Only the Upper Rio Grande basin reported above average precipitation for December with totals at 101 percent of average. Northern basins reported notably below average precipitation for the month of December. The Yampa, White and North Platte basins received only 28 percent of their monthly precipitation average in December, and the Colorado River basin recorded just 32 percent of its average December precipitation. Despite December precipitation measuring well below average statewide, the above and near average precipitation totals during the previous two months has somewhat compensated; leaving year-to-date precipitation for Colorado at 86 percent of average. The Yampa, White and North Platte basins recorded 75 percent of average year-to-date precipitation as of January 1 and the Colorado basin was at 72 percent of the year-to-date average. The Arkansas, Upper Rio Grande, combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan basins all report year-to-date precipitation totals equal to or slightly above average as of January 1.

Reservoir Storage

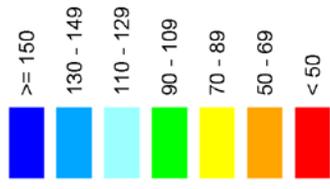
Reservoir storage across Colorado continues to track near the mid-winter average. Statewide storage on January 1 was 105 percent of average and was 105 percent of last year's storage volumes reported at this same time. Broken down by basin the Colorado, South Platte and combined Yampa, White and North Platte basins all reported above average reservoir storage on January 1. Likely a lingering effect of the above average streamflow volumes recorded in those basins last spring and summer. The Gunnison, Arkansas and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins all reported near or slightly above average storage for January 1. The only basin in the state reporting below average reservoir storage is the Rio Grande which was at 64 percent of average on January 1.

Streamflow

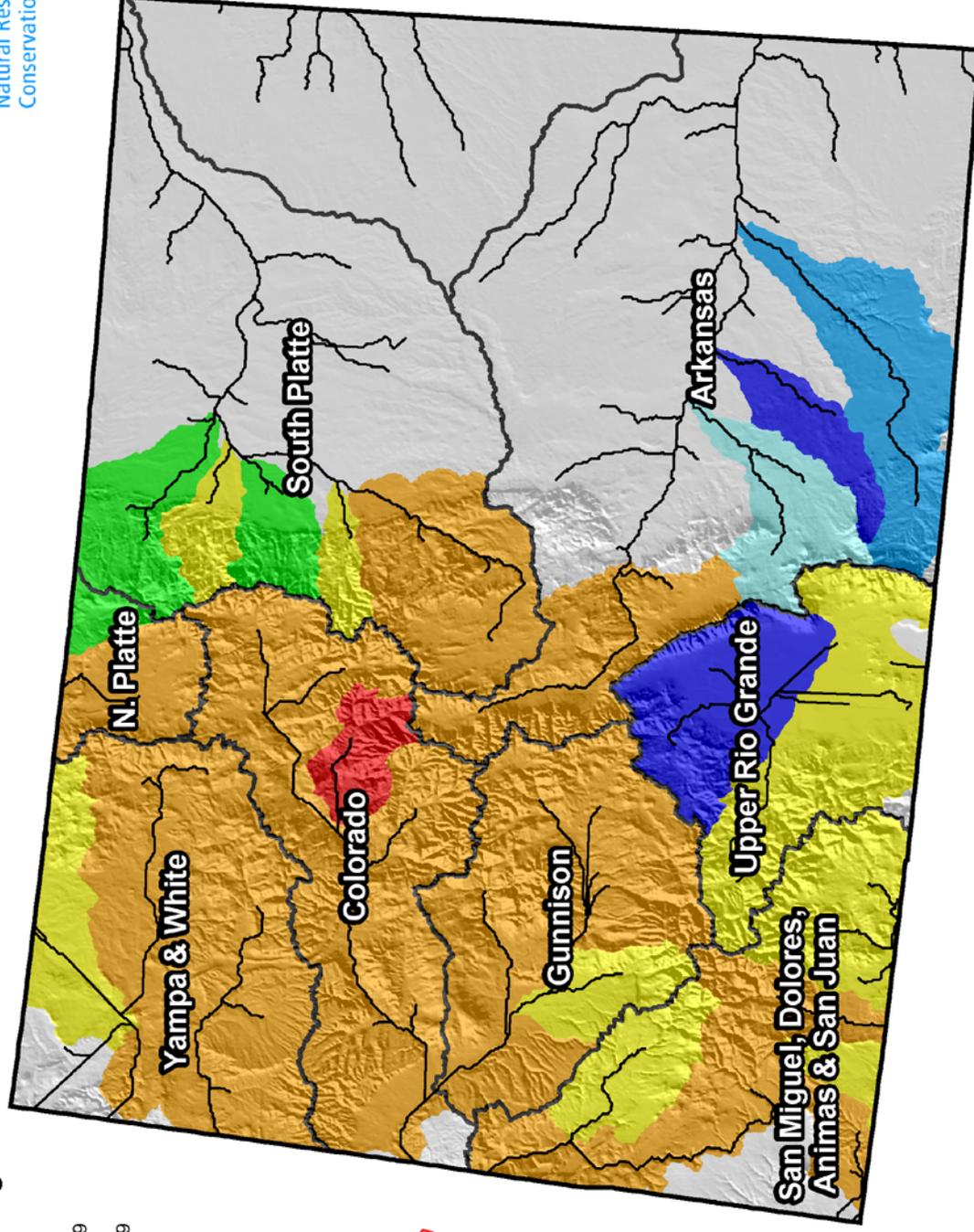
At this point in the water year streamflow volumes are forecast to be below average statewide. The only forecasts issued that predict average or above average conditions for this spring and summer are located in the Arkansas River basin. Forecasts for the Purgatoire and Huerfano Rivers located in the lower portion of the Arkansas basin were at 106 and 100 percent of average respectively as of January 1. April to September runoff forecasts for streams located in the Upper Rio Grande basin range from 73 percent to 99 percent of average. The forecasts for the Colorado, Gunnison, Yampa, White, and North Platte and the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan basins are all in the 60 to 85 percent of average range. The South Platte basin fared a little better with April to July forecasts ranging from 68 percent of average for Bear Creek at Morrison to 95 percent of average for the Inflow to Antero Reservoir. At this point above average snowfall is needed for the remaining winter months to improve runoff conditions for the state this spring and summer.

Colorado Snowpack Map

Percent of Average



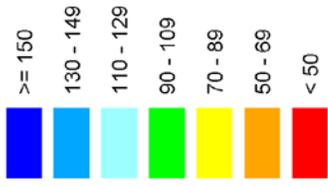
*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



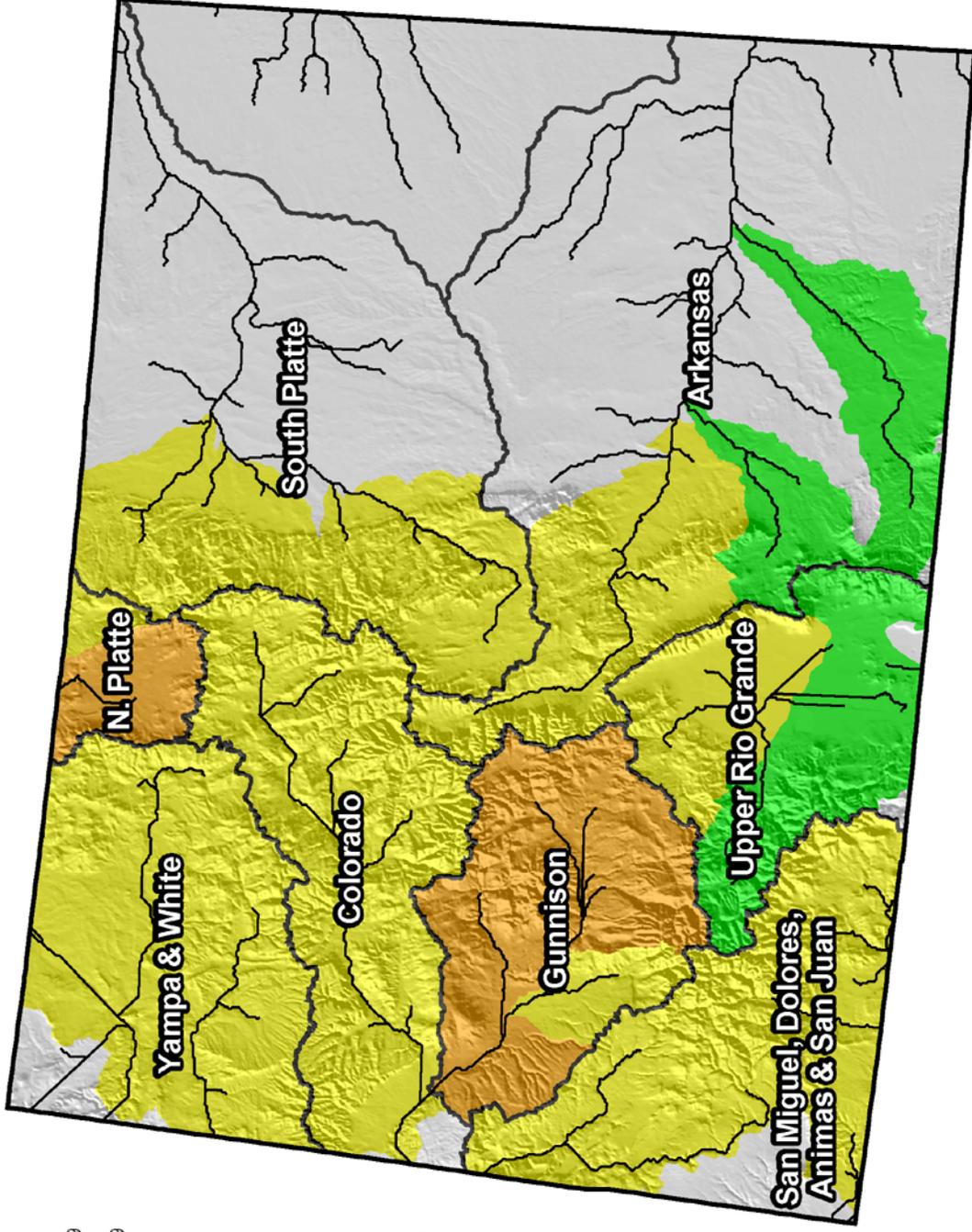
Current as of January 1, 2012

Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map

Percent of Average



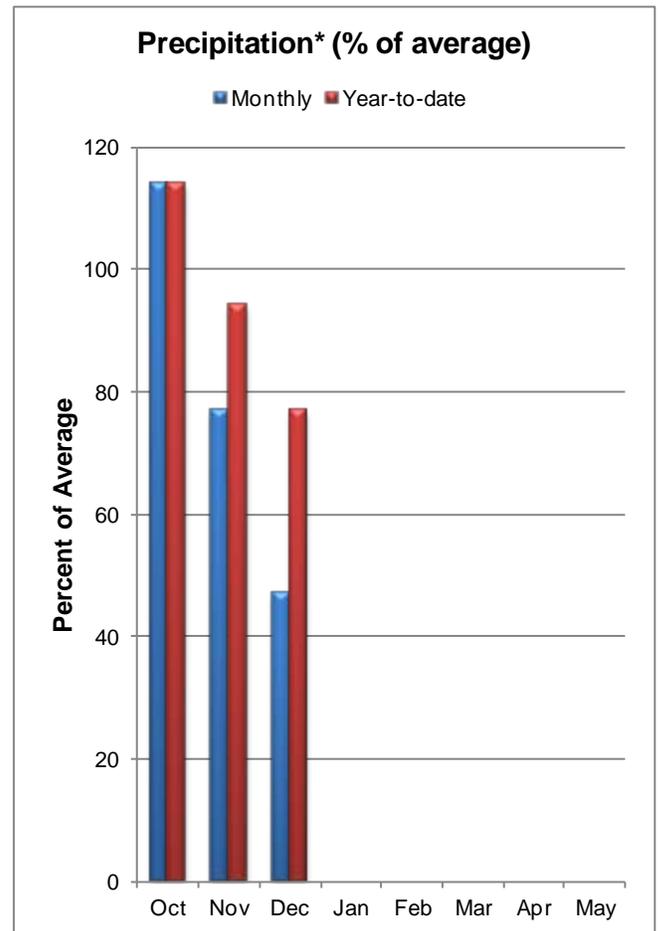
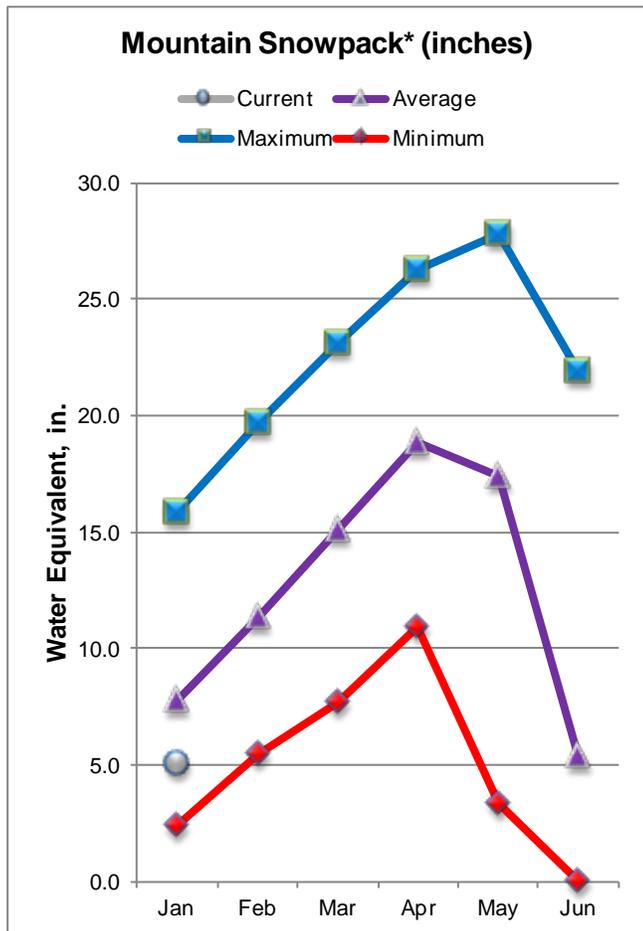
*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



Current as of January 1, 2012

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of January 1, 2012



*Based on selected stations

Despite starting the water year with above average snowfall at the beginning of October, the snowpack in the Gunnison River basin dropped to 67 percent of average by the end of October. This trend continued into November with a few storms early in the month followed by dry conditions at the end of month, continuing into December. By January 1 the snowpack had dropped to 64 percent of average. This is the lowest January 1 snowpack since the 2000 water year, which recorded 32 percent of average. Sub-basin snowpaks are all well below average ranging from 77 percent of average in the Uncompahgre basin to 51 percent of average reported in the Surface Creek drainage.

Above average precipitation in October has been the main contributor to the basins yearly precipitation total. Monthly precipitation in both November and December was well below average reducing year to date precipitation from 114 percent of average at the end of October to 77 percent of average at the end of December. Reservoir storage in the basin is currently at 104 percent of average. The 833,000 acre-feet of water currently stored in the 8 reservoirs used in this report is up slightly from 820,000 acre-feet available last year at this time. The current streamflow forecasts indicate that water users can expect below average runoff throughout the basin. April-July volumes should range from 59 percent of average at Gunnison River near Gunnison to 83 percent of average for Ridgway Reservoir Inflow.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2012

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ==== Future Conditions ==== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Taylor Park Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	42	59	72	70	86	110	103
Slate R nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	44	54	62	70	70	83	89
East R at Almont	APR-JUL	64	93	116	60	141	183	192
Gunnison R near Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	120	181	230	59	285	375	390
Tomichi Ck at Sargents	APR-JUL	14.2	20	25	78	31	40	32
Cochetopa Ck bl Rock Ck nr Parlin	APR-JUL	5.4	8.3	10.8	62	13.8	19.0	17.3
Tomichi Ck at Gunnison	APR-JUL	22	37	50	62	66	94	81
Lake Fk at Gateview	APR-JUL	59	77	91	72	106	130	126
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	225	350	450	63	560	750	720
Paonia Reservoir Inflow (2)	MAR-JUN	28	48	65	65	85	118	100
	APR-JUL	25	47	66	65	88	126	102
NF Gunnison R nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	107	159	200	66	245	320	305
Surface Ck at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	5.9	8.7	11.0	64	13.7	18.4	17.1
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	53	71	85	83	100	124	102
Uncompahgre R at Colona (2)	APR-JUL	58	87	110	79	136	178	139
Gunnison R nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	500	770	990	64	1240	1650	1560

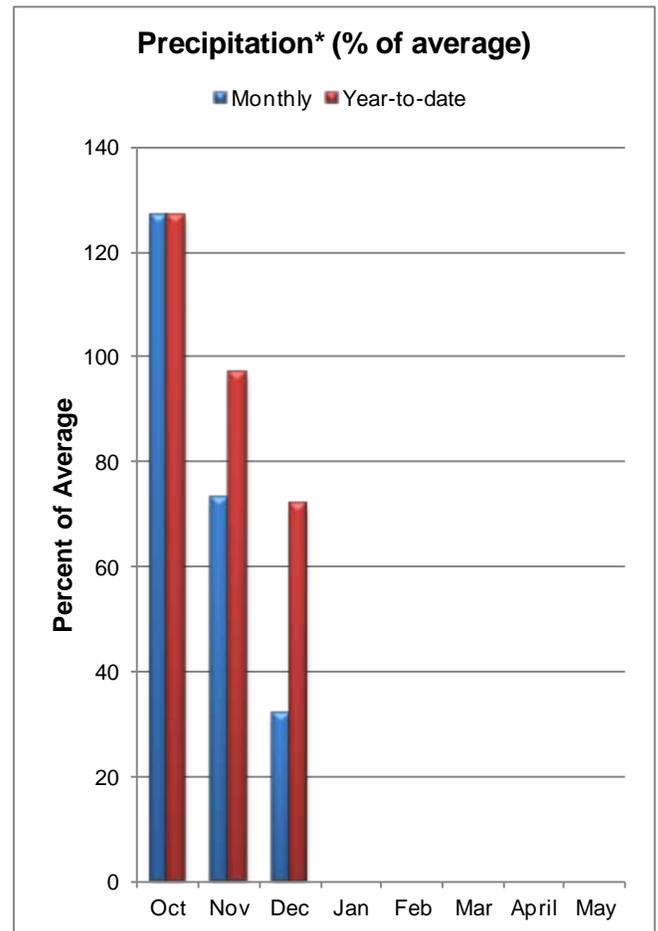
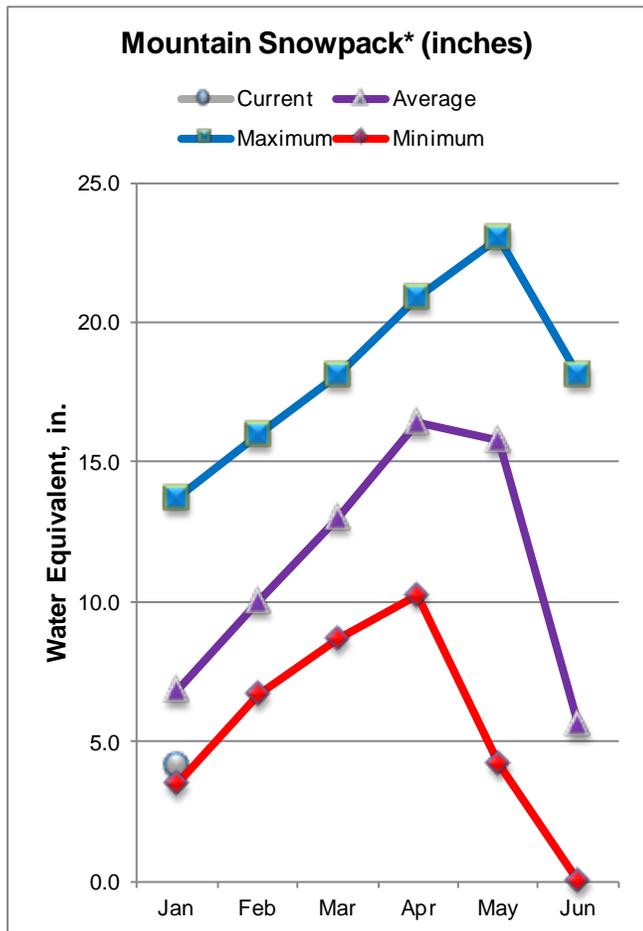
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2012			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
BLUE MESA	830.0	573.9	556.8	545.8	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	9	37	59
CRAWFORD	14.0	5.4	5.8	7.5	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	2	28	51
FRUITGROWERS	3.6	2.7	2.2	2.8	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	3	50	77
FRUITLAND	9.2	2.0	1.0	1.3	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	12	40	64
MORROW POINT	121.0	113.0	112.2	113.4				
PAONIA	15.4	0.4	1.5	4.7				
RIDGWAY	83.0	68.8	66.6	60.1				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	66.7	74.3	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, 2012



*Based on selected stations

In relation to normal conditions the snowpack in the Upper Colorado River basin is currently on a downward trend. Dry conditions at the end of November and throughout December have left the snowpack at 60 percent of average as of January 1. In comparison, at this time last year the snowpack was at 147 percent of average. This is the second lowest January 1 snowpack recorded in twenty five years; the lowest occurred in 2000 when the snowpack was at 51 percent of average. Projections from SNOTEL data indicate that there is only a 10 percent chance that the basins' snowpack will reach the average peak snowpack. Sub-basins snowpacks are all below average as well, ranging from 51 percent of average in the Plateau Creek drainage to 82 percent of average in the Willow Creek drainage.

Mountain precipitation during December was well below normal at only 32 percent of average. Drier than normal conditions in November and December have caused year-to-date precipitation totals to drop from 127 percent of average at the end of October to 72 percent of average at the end of December. Reservoir storage in the basin is above normal at 112 percent of average and 80 percent of total capacity. Current forecasts indicate that water users can expect slightly below to below average runoff. Streamflow volumes for April to July should range from 67 percent of average at Muddy Ck below Wolford Mtn Reservoir to 84 percent of average at the Inflow to Lake Granby and Williams Fork Reservoir.

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UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2012

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Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Chance Of Exceeding *						
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	126	163	190	84	220	265	225
Willow Ck Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	21	32	40	78	49	65	51
Williams Fk Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	52	68	80	84	93	114	95
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	82	112	135	81	160	200	167
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	139	187	225	80	265	330	280
Muddy Ck bl Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	19.2	31	40	67	51	68	60
Eagle R bl Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	141	197	240	72	285	365	335
Colorado R nr Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	650	905	1100	76	1310	1670	1440
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	63	84	100	71	118	146	141
Roaring Fk at Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	305	420	510	72	610	765	710
Colorado R nr Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	1050	1440	1750	72	2090	2630	2420

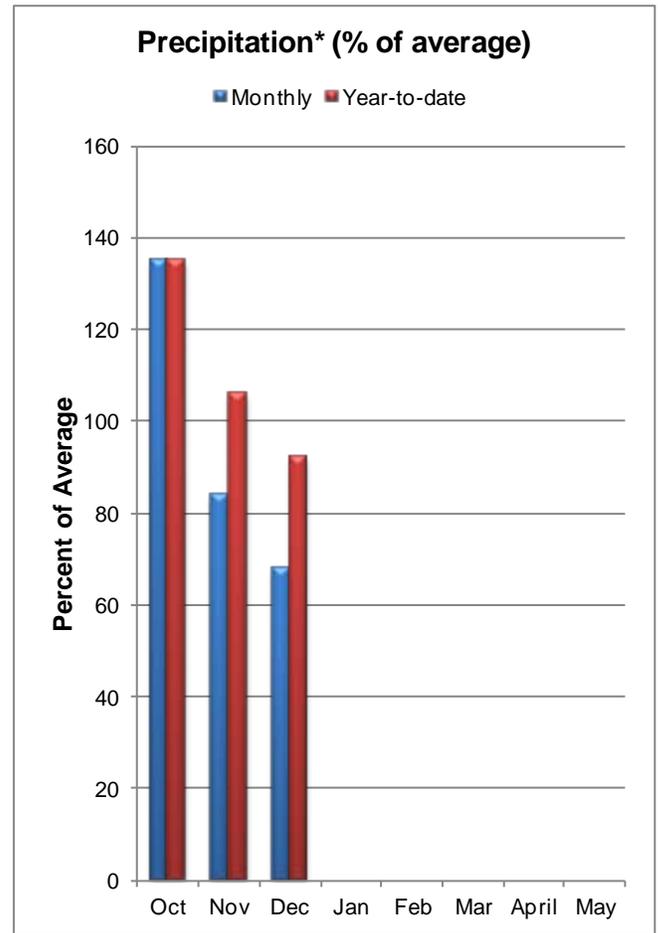
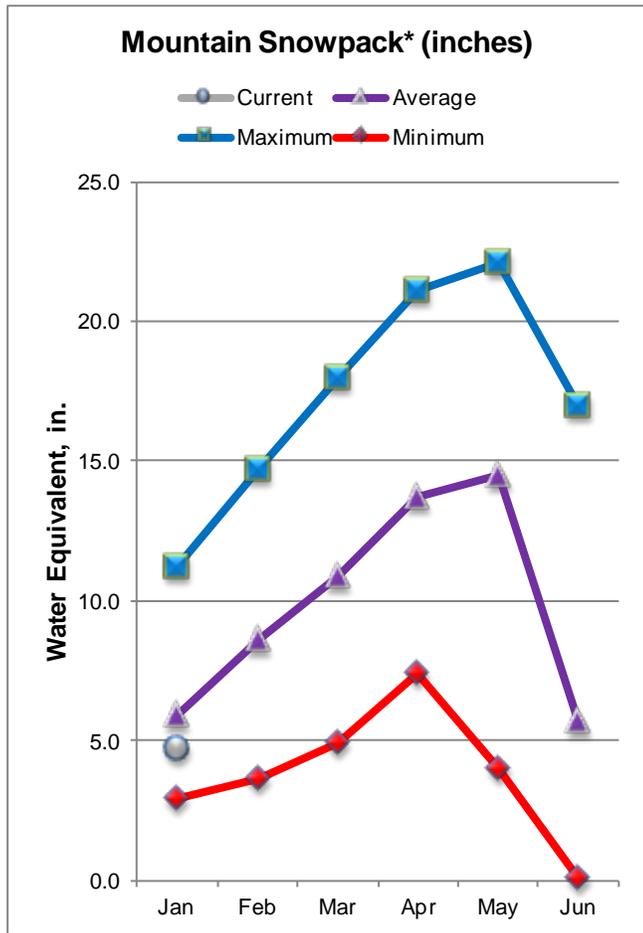
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2012			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
DILLON	254.0	240.8	218.8	224.8	BLUE RIVER BASIN	5	44	63
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	387.8	402.4	322.1	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASI	19	44	63
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	91.1	71.5	90.3	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	2	47	72
HOMESTAKE	43.0	23.9	37.4	28.4	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	2	28	51
RUEDI	102.0	77.9	74.0	79.7	ROARING FORK BASIN	7	38	56
VEGA	32.9	16.7	11.8	11.0	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	2	44	56
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	80.1	81.3	62.9	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	2	44	82
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	6.6	6.9	6.1	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASI	28	41	60

* 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, 2012



*Based on selected stations

Several upslope storms beginning in early October have left the South Platte's snowpack at a respectable 80 percent of average as of January 1. The basin reported the third highest snowpack in the state of Colorado behind the Arkansas and the Upper Rio Grande basins. Sub-basins varied widely with the Saint Vrain boasting a snowpack of 132 percent of average, the second highest in the state and the Upper South Platte basin at only 67 percent of average. This demonstrates the impact of the upslope storms when you consider that the Upper South Platte SNOTEL sites are mostly located near the Continental Divide at higher elevations than those contributing to the other sub-basins.

Monthly precipitation is slightly below average in the South Platte as of January 1. The 2012 water year started with exceptional precipitation in October but due to the La Nina influence the monthly totals for November and December were below average. The overall water year-to-date precipitation for the South Platte basin is at 92 percent of average. Based on data from 33 reservoirs, reservoir storage in the South Platte River basin is at 80 percent of capacity compared to last year's storage which was at 69 percent of capacity on January 1. Overall reservoir storage for the South Platte is 112 percent of average, as of January 1. Forecasted April through July streamflow volumes in the South Platte basin vary from 95 percent of average for the Inflow to Antero Reservoir to 68 percent of average at Bear Creek at Morrison.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2012

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<==== Drier =====		==== Future Conditions =====		==== Wetter =====>>		
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Chance Of Exceeding * 50% (1000AF) (% AVG.)		30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Antero Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	7.9	12.0	16.0	95	21	32	16.8
	APR-SEP	9.6	14.7	19.7	90	26	40	22
Spinney Mountain Res Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	22	32	42	75	55	81	56
	APR-SEP	25	39	52	75	70	107	69
Elevenmile Canyon Res Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	22	33	44	76	58	89	58
	APR-SEP	25	39	54	75	74	118	72
Cheesman Lake Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	45	67	88	77	116	173	114
	APR-SEP	54	82	109	78	145	220	140
South Platte R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	76	118	158	77	210	330	205
	APR-SEP	94	146	196	77	265	410	255
Bear Ck ab Evergreen	APR-JUL	6.2	10.1	14.1	73	19.6	32	19.3
	APR-SEP	8.9	14.0	19.1	76	26	41	25
Bear Ck at Morrison	APR-JUL	6.4	11.5	17.0	68	25	45	25
	APR-SEP	8.8	15.2	22	71	32	55	31
Clear Ck at Golden	APR-JUL	43	63	77	70	91	111	110
	APR-SEP	55	78	94	70	110	133	134
St. Vrain Ck at Lyons (2)	APR-JUL	64	76	84	89	92	104	94
	APR-SEP	76	89	98	90	107	120	109
Boulder Ck nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	36	42	47	90	52	58	52
	APR-SEP	40	48	54	90	60	68	60
S Boulder Ck nr Eldorado Springs (2)	APR-JUL	27	33	36	88	39	45	41
	APR-SEP	27	34	39	85	44	51	46
Big Thompson R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	54	66	75	76	84	96	99
	APR-SEP	66	82	92	77	102	118	119
Cache La Poudre at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	124	169	200	82	230	275	245
	APR-SEP	135	186	220	80	255	305	275

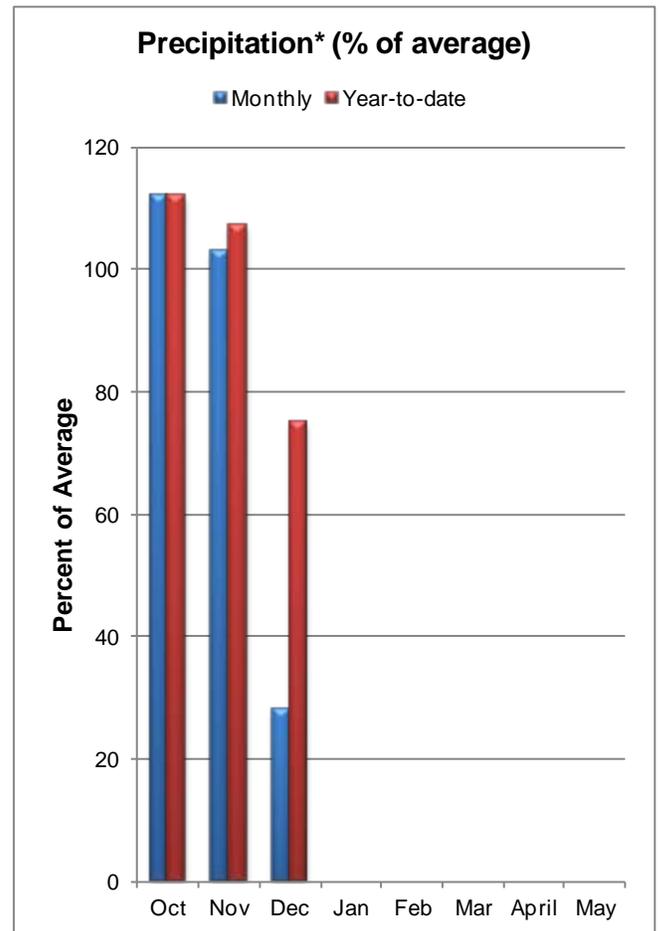
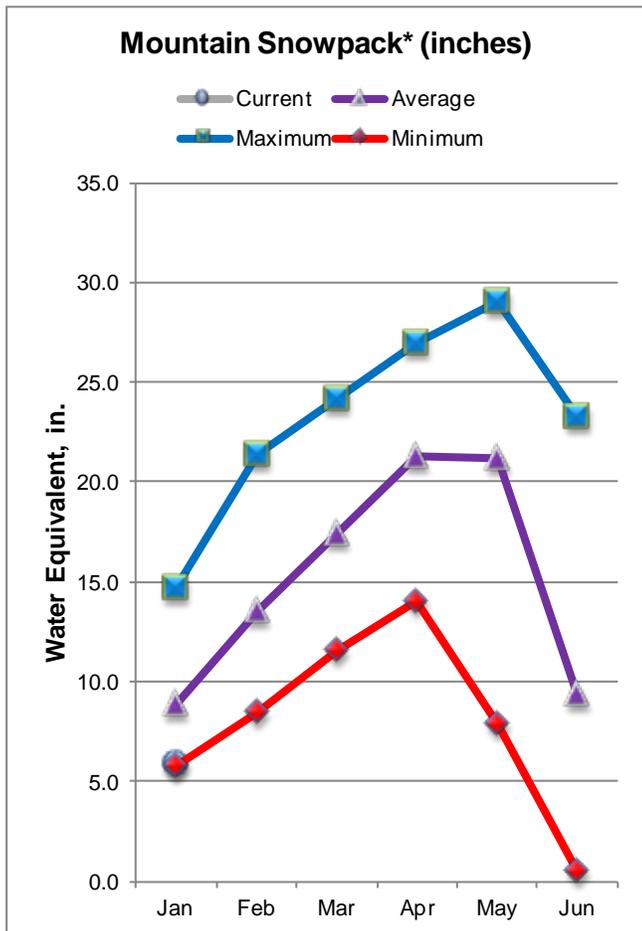
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Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	19.9	16.1	19.9	16.5	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	3	51	73
BARR LAKE	30.1	26.2	13.5	22.4	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	3	85	92
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	3.9	2.8	3.8	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	2	63	93
BOYD LAKE	48.4	40.9	36.9	31.7	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	2	48	82
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	14.9	15.0	13.6	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	1	71	132
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.1	9.7	6.8	6.3	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	6	68	67
CARTER	108.9	55.0	36.5	74.7	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	17	62	80
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	6.8	4.0	2.8				
CHEESMAN	79.0	72.2	77.3	60.9				
COBB LAKE	22.3	19.5	20.2	13.9				
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	99.9	99.2	95.9				
EMPIRE	36.5	29.3	29.5	22.2				
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	9.7	5.3	6.3				
GROSS	41.8	30.9	30.2	26.2				
HALLIGAN	6.4	3.7	5.1	3.6				
HORSECREEK	14.7	4.7	1.6	10.9				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	109.8	78.2	87.8				
JACKSON	26.1	22.0	24.1	23.0				
JULESBURG	20.5	17.6	16.7	18.4				
LAKE LOVELAND	10.3	9.4	7.3	8.9				
LONE TREE	8.7	6.7	5.5	6.0				
MARIANO	5.4	3.3	3.0	4.1				
MARSHALL	10.0	6.8	3.7	4.7				
MARSTON	13.0	8.5	2.2	12.7				
MILTON	23.5	19.7	14.5	14.8				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	65.8	51.4	51.1				
PREWITT	28.2	21.4	14.8	18.0				
RIVERSIDE	55.8	40.6	44.8	38.1				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	44.3	38.2	35.4				
STANDLEY	42.0	36.5	33.2	32.5				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	5.7	5.3	5.2				
UNION	13.0	12.3	11.8	10.4				
WINDSOR	15.2	11.1	10.8	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, 2012



*Based on selected stations

The snow season has gotten off to a very slow start in the combined Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins. Storm systems in mid to late November gave the snowpack a much needed boost in these basins but dry conditions dominated December resulting in the January 1 snowpack being measured at just 66 percent of average. Based on historical SNOTEL data there is only a 10 percent chance that the snowpacks in these basins will recover to meet the average annual peak. Snowpacks in all the sub-basins are well below average to below average. The lowest sub-basin snowpack was reported in the Elk River basin at 49 percent of average. The highest, at 71 percent of average, was measured in the Little Snake watershed. The basins began the water year with two consecutive months of above average monthly precipitation but then in December monthly precipitation was a mere 28 percent of average, the lowest of any major river basin in Colorado. Total precipitation for the water year dropped from 107 percent of average at the end of November to 75 percent of average at the end of December. Reservoir storage at Stagecoach is 118 percent of average or 93 percent of capacity. At this point in the season water users can expect below average runoff in the spring and early summer for all forecast points. April-July volumes are forecast to range from 61 percent of average for the North Platte near Northgate to 82 percent of average at the Elk River near Milner.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2012

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Chance Of Exceeding *						
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
North Platte R nr Northgate	APR-JUL	60	101	150	61	199	270	245
	APR-SEP	65	109	162	60	215	295	270
Laramie R nr Woods	APR-JUL	58	80	95	77	110	132	123
	APR-SEP	65	89	105	78	121	145	135
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	8.9	13.3	17.0	74	21	29	23
Yampa R at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	123	164	195	70	230	285	280
Elk R nr Milner	APR-JUL	181	230	265	82	305	365	325
Elkhead Ck ab Long Gulch nr Hayden	APR-JUL	22	35	50	70	67	85	71
Yampa R nr Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	375	555	700	71	860	1130	990
Little Snake R nr Slater (2)	APR-JUL	68	96	118	74	142	181	159
Little Snake R nr Savery (2)	APR-JUL	147	205	250	76	300	380	330
Little Snake R nr Lily (2)	APR-JUL	118	196	260	71	335	460	365
White R nr Meeker	APR-JUL	137	184	220	76	260	320	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, 2012

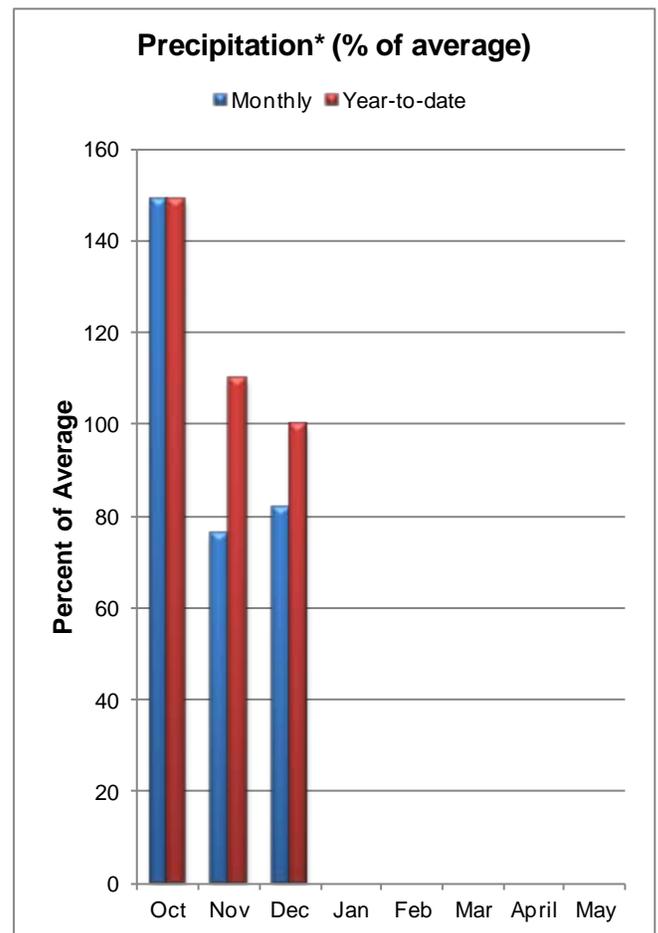
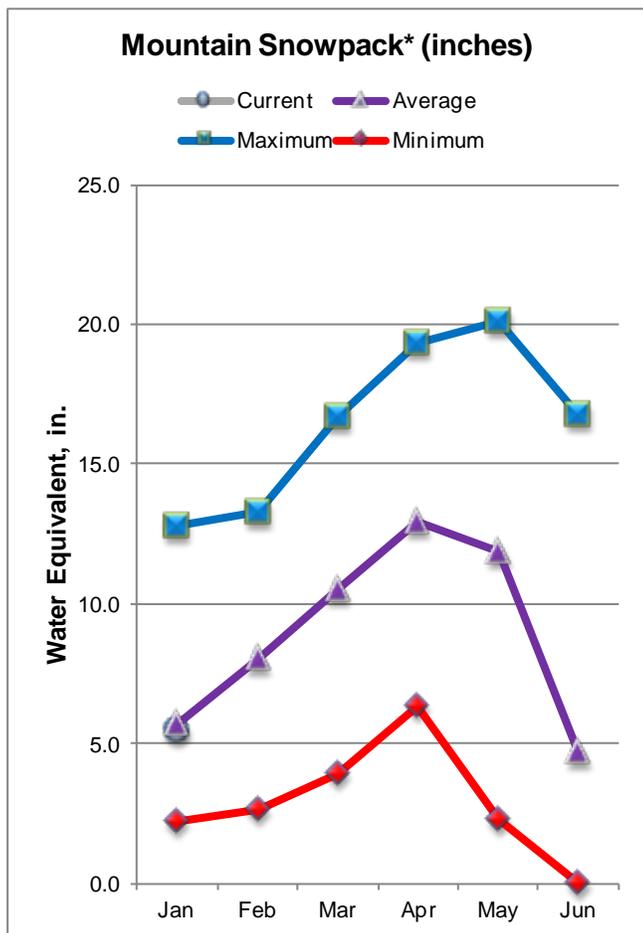
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
STAGECOACH	33.3	31.1	22.6	26.4	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	2	73	109
YAMCOLO	NO REPORT				NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	7	43	66
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	9	48	73
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	34	49
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	9	38	56
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	4	44	61
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	12	39	57
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	6	48	71
				TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	24	44	66	

* 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.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN as of January 1, 2012



*Based on selected stations

Despite stark contrasts in the snowpack measured in the upper portion of the Arkansas River basin compared to the lower reaches of the basin; total snow accumulation over the entire watershed hovers close to average at 96 percent, down slightly from last month. Snowpack in the Upper Arkansas watershed above Salida was 66 percent of average on January 1, while the Cucharas and Huerfano watersheds are above average at 126 percent and the Purgatoire sub-basin sits at a noteworthy 148 percent of average.

Precipitation since the beginning of the water year has had a downward trend. At the start of the water year monthly precipitation was significantly above average but the last two months showed significant drops in relation to average conditions. As of January 1, the basins water year-to-date precipitation was right at normal for this time of year. The current streamflow forecasts for the Arkansas River basin project the Arkansas River at Salida to flow at 74 percent of average between April and July. Runoff projections for the Purgatoire River at Trinidad, Huerfano River near Redwing and Cucharas River near La Veta are currently 106 percent, 100 percent and 98 percent of average respectively. As of January 1, overall reservoir storage volumes in the Arkansas River basin were 93 percent of average. The 473,000 acre feet of water stored in the 13 reservoirs reported on here is a slight increase from the 471,000 acre feet reported last year at this time.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2012

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Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Chance Of Exceeding *						
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Chalk Ck nr Nathrop	APR-JUL	8.3	13.5	17.7	77	23	31	23
	APR-SEP	10.3	16.2	21	78	26	35	27
Arkansas R at Salida (2)	APR-JUL	123	160	189	74	220	270	255
	APR-SEP	151	196	230	74	265	325	310
Grape Ck nr Westcliffe	APR-JUL	5.0	9.8	14.0	87	18.8	28	16.1
	APR-SEP	6.0	11.9	17.1	87	23	34	19.6
Arkansas R ab Pueblo (2)	APR-JUL	161	235	295	77	360	470	385
	APR-SEP	215	300	370	76	445	570	485
Huerfano R nr Redwing	APR-JUL	7.2	10.1	12.3	100	14.7	18.7	12.3
	APR-SEP	9.6	12.9	15.5	100	18.3	23	15.5
Cucharas R nr La Veta	APR-JUL	3.8	7.7	11.1	98	15.2	22	11.3
	APR-SEP	4.8	9.1	12.7	98	17.0	24	13.0
Purgatoire R at Trinidad (2)	MAR-JUL	12.8	25	36	106	49	71	34
	APR-SEP	18.7	33	45	102	59	83	44

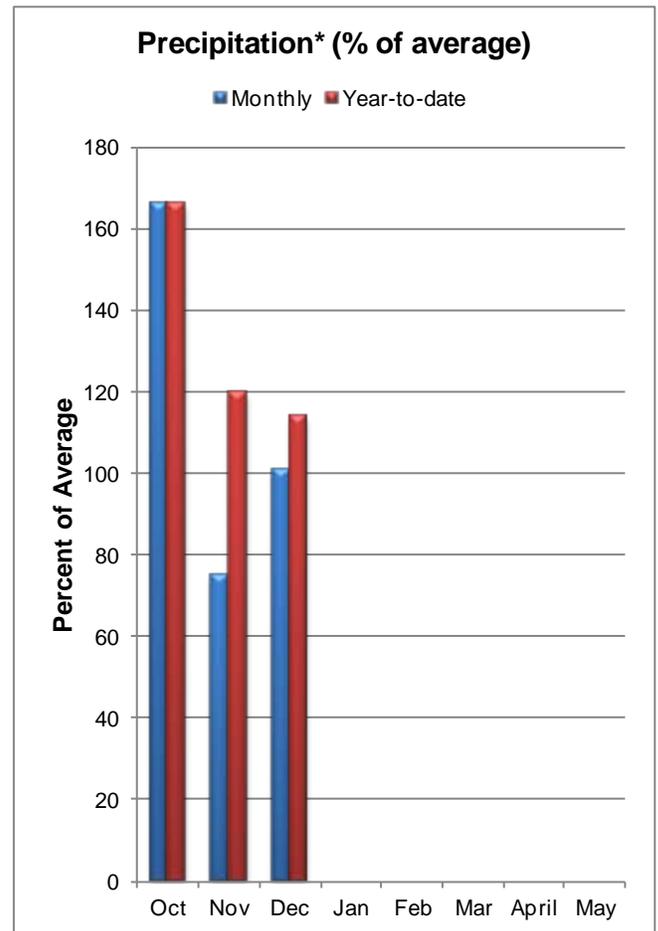
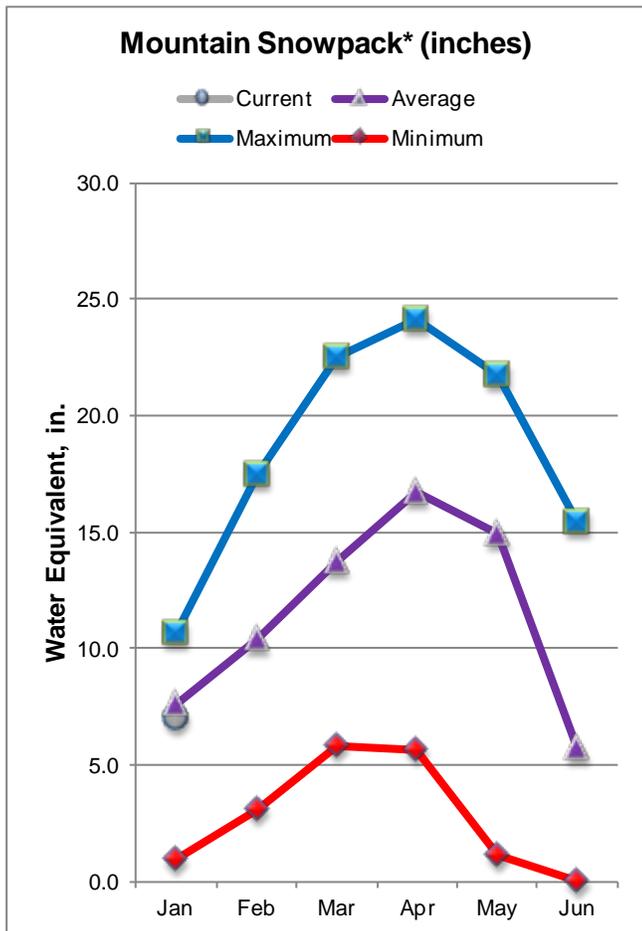
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2012			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ADOBE	62.0	27.7	28.5	23.4	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	3	46	66
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	6.8	7.4	5.9	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	2	196	126
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	0.1	0.1	4.8	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	235	148
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	32.2	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASI	6	91	96
HOLBROOK	7.0	2.3	0.9	3.0				
HORSE CREEK	27.0	27.0	0.0	8.4				
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	23.0	42.4	108.7				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	6.9	5.1	3.7				
MEREDITH	42.0	17.8	24.9	13.6				
PUEBLO	354.0	196.7	207.3	144.0				
TRINIDAD	167.0	14.1	16.7	24.2				
TURQUOISE	127.0	95.7	83.4	87.9				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	55.1	54.1	46.3				

* 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 RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN as of January 1, 2012



*Based on selected stations

As of January 1, the Upper Rio Grande snowpack was at 92 percent of average for the 2012 water year. Within the watershed there is quite a bit of variation as far as snow accumulation is concerned. On the lower end the Alamosa Creek sub-basin is at only 54 percent of average. In contrast the Conejos and the Rio San Antonio basins are at 80 percent, the Upper Rio Grande sub-basin is at 87 percent and the Culebra and Trinchera Creek basins are at 98 percent. Precipitation for the month of December was 101 percent of average the highest recorded in the state. In fact the Upper Rio Grande was the only basin in Colorado to post near or above average precipitation for December. Year to data precipitation totals for the basin were at 114 percent of average as of January 1.

Streamflow forecasts for the Upper Rio Grande basin show variation similar to the snowpack. As of January 1, the South Fork of the Rio Grande at South Fork is estimated to run at 99 percent of average while the majority of the other forecast points are expected to flow at levels exceeding 85 percent of average. The one notable exception is the San Antonio River at Ortiz which is predicted to only achieve 73 percent of average. As of January 1, reservoir storage in the Upper Rio Grande basin was below average and below where it was last year at this time. Overall reservoir storage was 64 percent of average and 82 percent of last year's storage totals.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2012

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	85	108	126	93	145	176	136
	APR-JUL	82	99	112	95	126	149	118
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	205	270	315	91	365	450	345
SF Rio Grande at South Fork (2)	APR-SEP	86	111	131	99	153	190	132
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	325	420	495	93	580	720	531
Saguache Ck nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	14.8	22	27	82	33	43	33
Alamosa Ck ab Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	43	57	67	96	79	98	70
La Jara Ck nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	4.3	6.3	8.0	92	10.0	13.4	8.7
Trinchera Ck ab Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	6.2	8.9	11.0	92	13.4	17.2	12.0
Sangre de Cristo Ck (2)	APR-SEP	1.7	4.9	8.0	91	11.9	19.0	8.8
Ute Creek	APR-SEP	4.2	7.9	11.1	91	14.9	21	12.2
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	33	42	58	91	58	73	64
	APR-SEP	43	55	64	90	74	91	71
Conejos R nr Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	120	159	190	95	225	285	200
San Antonio R at Ortiz	APR-SEP	5.1	8.8	12.0	73	16.0	23	16.4
Los Pinos R nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	35	49	60	81	73	96	74
Culebra Ck at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	10.6	16.2	21	91	27	37	23
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	5.0	7.2	9.0	85	11.0	14.6	10.6
Costilla Ck nr Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	11.2	17.6	23	89	29	41	26

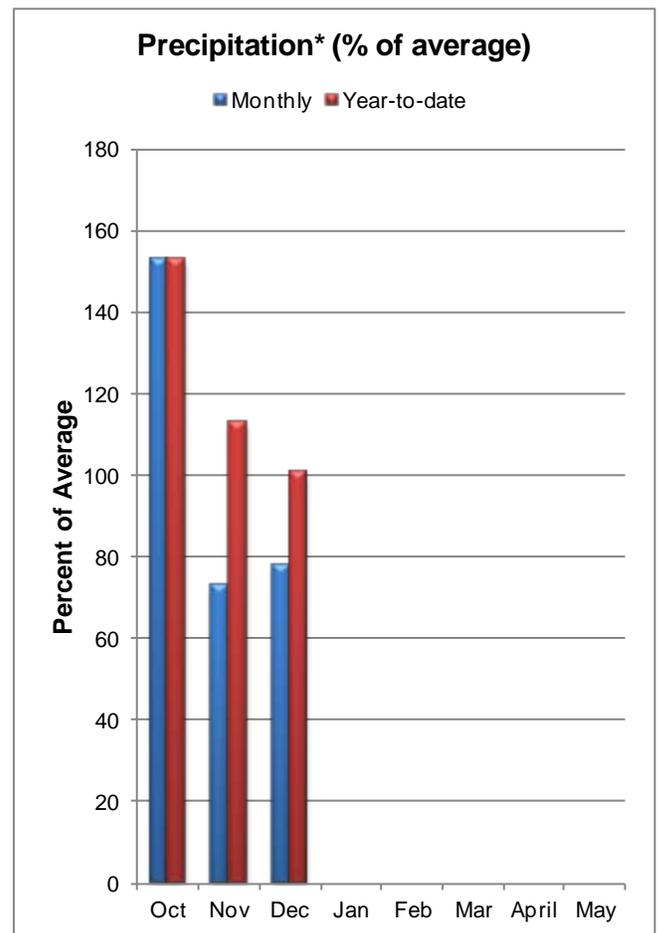
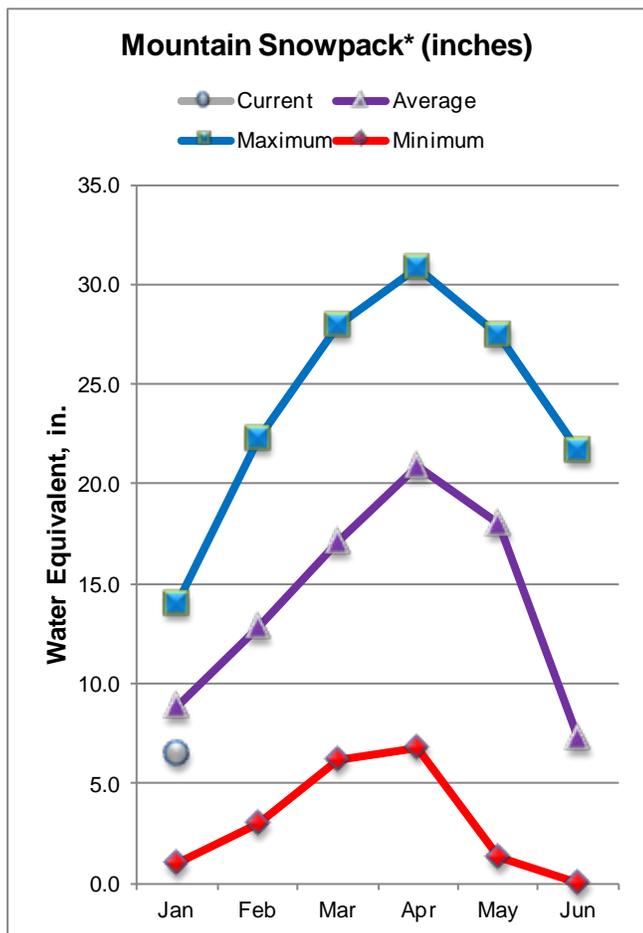
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December					UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2012			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	27.0	3.5	3.8	4.9	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	1	63	54
PLATORO	60.0	15.1	21.4	24.3	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	2	65	80
RIO GRANDE	51.0	15.4	15.1	15.1	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	3	154	98
SANCHEZ	103.0	7.6	16.3	23.9	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	4	70	87
SANTA MARIA	45.0	7.8	6.0	10.1	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	10	86	92
TERRACE	18.0	4.2	2.8	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.

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

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS as of January 1, 2012



*Based on selected stations

Since the beginning of the water year the combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan basins have consistently recorded below average monthly snowpack figures. As of January 1 the snowpack measured in these basins was at 73 percent of average. Last year at this same time the snowpack was at 144 percent of average. Sub-basin snowpacks are all below average as well, ranging from 66 percent of average in the Dolores River basin to 87 percent of average in the San Juan River basin.

Total precipitation for the water year is sitting at 101 percent of average as of January 1. This can be attributed to, an exceptional October that recorded precipitation amounts at 153 percent of average and southern Colorado benefitting from a wetter December than the rest of the state. As of January 1 reservoir storage was at 102 percent of average. With 110,000 acre feet stored in the 5 reservoirs contributing to this report, total storage is at 98 percent of last year's volumes. Spring and summer streamflow in these basins is forecast to be slightly below to below average as of January 1. Cone Reservoir Inlet is expected to receive the smallest volume at 70 percent of average, and Vallecito Reservoir Inflow is expected to have the largest volume in the basins at 88 percent of average.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - January 1, 2012

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Drier		Future Conditions		Wetter		
		Chance Of Exceeding *						
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Dolores R at Dolores	APR-JUL	102	152	195	74	245	335	265
McPhee Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	116	182	235	73	295	395	320
San Miguel R nr Placerville	APR-JUL	61	83	100	76	120	153	132
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	9.6	12.6	15.0	82	17.6	22	18.3
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.0	1.7	2.3	70	3.1	4.5	3.3
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.3	1.8	2.2	75	2.7	3.5	2.9
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	24	36	45	85	54	66	53
Navajo R at Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	36	48	57	83	67	84	69
San Juan R nr Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	181	275	335	83	395	490	405
Piedra R nr Arboles	APR-JUL	102	154	190	83	225	280	230
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	113	153	180	88	205	245	205
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	335	520	650	83	780	965	785
Animas R at Durango	APR-JUL	194	285	350	80	415	505	440
Lemon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	30	41	50	86	60	75	58
La Plata R at Hesperus	APR-JUL	11.0	15.9	20	80	25	33	25
Mancos River Near Mancos	APR-JUL	8.0	17.5	24	73	30	40	33

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of December

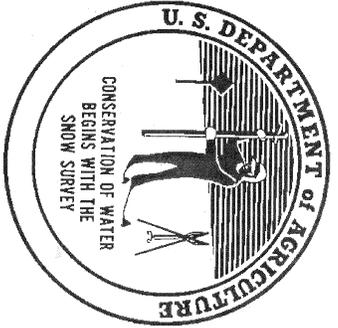
SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 1, 2012

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	4.8	13.2	12.0	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	7	47	69
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	3.7	5.2	4.6	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	4	49	66
LEMON	40.0	14.2	14.4	20.1	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	3	49	71
MCPHEE		NO REPORT			SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	3	63	87
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	12.6	13.0	12.7	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	16	51	73
VALLECITO	126.0	74.9	67.0	58.6	AN JUAN RIVER BASINS			

* 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.
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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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