

USDA United States
Department of
Agriculture

**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

Colorado Basin Outlook Report February 1, 2005



Basin Outlook Reports and Federal - State - Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

For more water supply and resource management information, contact:

Michael A. Gillespie
Data Collection Office Supervisor
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
655 Parfet St., Rm E200C
Lakewood, CO 80215-5517
Phone (720) 544-2852

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.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice or TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

COLORADO

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORT

FEBRUARY 1, 2005

Summary

January's weather across Colorado was characterized by extremes. During the first half of the month winter storms gripped the state, bringing heavy snowfall to portions of much of the state. Then, during the second half of the month, weather patterns turned bone-dry with record setting temperatures. Overall, snowpack conditions improved for most of the state. Reservoir storage continues to track below average, but continues to gradually improve. January's impressive snowfall has significantly improved the outlook for summer water supplies for much of the state. For the remainder of the state, those water users will be dependent upon the next two months precipitation.

Snowpack

During the first half of January, Colorado was under the influence of a winter storm track that brought a series of storms across the southern half of the state. Within a matter of two weeks, many SNOTEL sites across southern Colorado received enough new snow to double their winter-to-date water content. This helped to spike the snowpack percentages from slightly above average to over 180% of average in the Rio Grande, San Juan and Gunnison basins. These storms brought enough moisture to spillover into the Arkansas and Colorado basins to help improve their snowpack totals as well. However, across the Yampa, White, North Platte, and South Platte basins, these storms only help to bring an already below average snowpack back to near average. As this storm cycle disappeared, it was replaced by a strong high pressure ridge which brought an extended dry and warm period. Without any additional new snowfall all basins saw their snowpack percentages decline throughout this dry period. By month's end, the highest snowpack percentages (greater than 150% of average) were measured on the Grand Mesa and the Rio Grande, San Juan, Animas, Purgatoire and Cucharas basins. Across northern Colorado, the snowpack percentages, which peaked at near to slightly above average at mid-month, had withered back to below average. The lowest snowpack percentages were reported from the South Platte, and the combined Yampa and White basins, at 84% and 86% of average, respectively. Statewide, snowpack totals are 114% of average and are 30% above those measured last year at this time. By this date, Colorado has typically received 60% of its winter snowpack. With only two months remaining in the average accumulation season, next summer's water supplies are dependent upon abundant snowfall across the northern portion of the state.

Precipitation

January was an excellent month for precipitation across most of Colorado. Only the Yampa, White and South Platte basins reported average to slightly below average totals for the month. All other basins reported well above average monthly totals. Thanks to the early January storms, the Rio Grande and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins reported more than double their monthly average. For the entire state, January's precipitation totals at SNOTEL sites were an impressive 148% of average. By the end of January, water year totals, which began in October, 2004, are above average in all basins except those across northern Colorado. As expected, water year percentages are the best in the Gunnison, Rio Grande, San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins. Water year totals in these basins all exceed 130% of average. Statewide, precipitation for the first four months of the 2005 water year is 112% of average.

Reservoir Storage

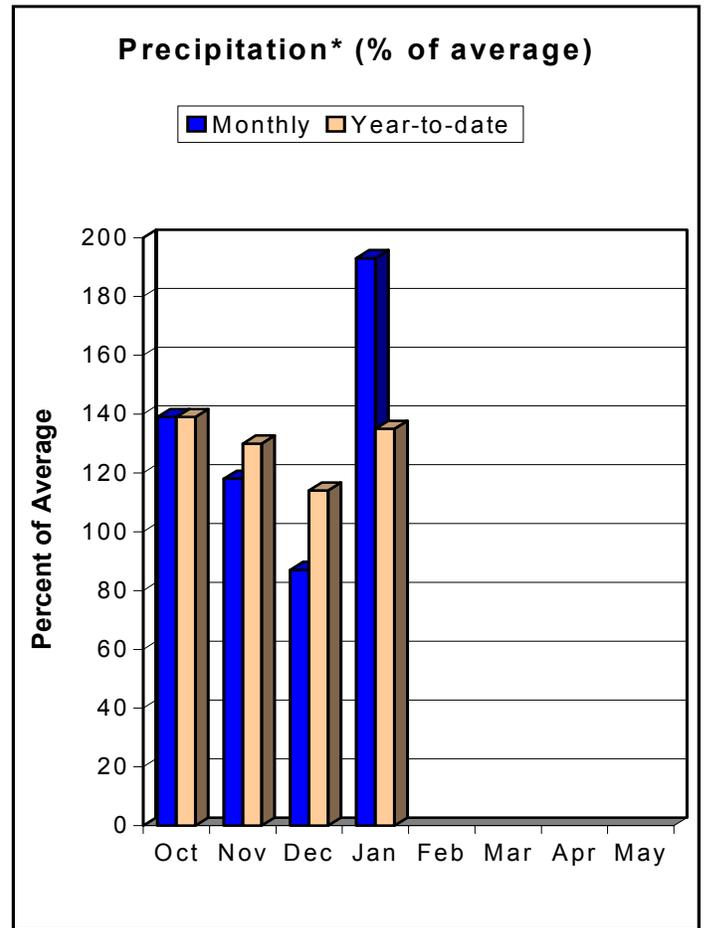
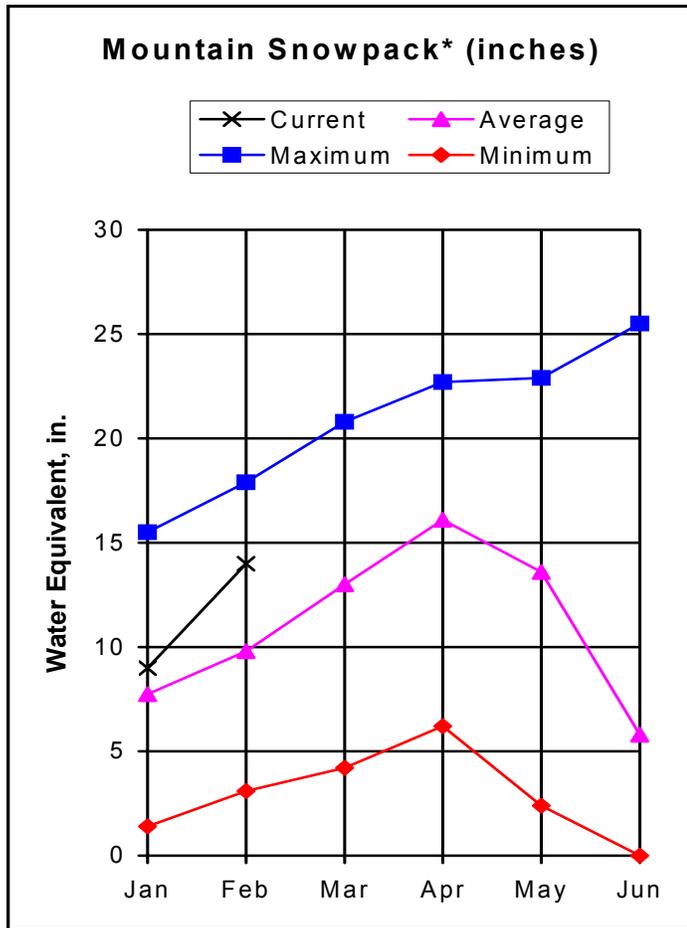
Winter storage continues to slightly improve the state's reservoir volumes. The February 1 statistics show that volumes are at, or slightly below average in the Gunnison, South Platte and Yampa basins. Only two basins, the Arkansas and Rio Grande, are reporting well below average storage levels. The Rio Grande basin is reporting the lowest storage volume, as a percent of average, in the state, at only 49%. Statewide, reservoir storage has improved to 85% of average this month, with a statewide deficit of slightly more than 500,000 acre-feet. That volume is 12% greater than last year's storage volumes on this date. As a rule, most basins are reporting greater storage volumes than at this time last year. Only the Colorado, at 90% of last year, and the Yampa and White, at 87% of last year, are reporting total below those of a year ago. Storage in the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins is showing the greatest improvement over last year's volumes. The latest totals are 27% above last year in these basins.

Streamflow

January's abundant snowfall has improved the water supply outlook for much of Colorado. Of course, the largest improvements have been seen across the southwest portion of the state. Spring and summer runoff volumes ranging from 130% to 150% of average are now forecast in the Animas, San Juan, Upper Rio Grande, Purgatoire and North Fork of the Gunnison rivers. Above average streamflows are forecast throughout most of the Gunnison, San Miguel, Dolores, and lower Rio Grande basins. Towards the north, the water supply outlook deteriorates to below average. Most of the Yampa, White and Colorado basins can expect streamflow volumes ranging from 70% to 90% of average this spring and summer. Along the Front Range, runoff forecasts are variable and range from well below average in the upper reaches of the South Platte River, to just slightly below average, along Saint Vrain and Boulder Creeks. It will require above average precipitation to bring significant improvements to these projections.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of February 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

Generous amounts of snowfall helped to boost snowpacks to well above normal conditions by mid-January. Based on SNOTEL data, snowpacks in the basin peaked at slightly over 170% of average. However, the latter half of the month proved to be less productive and basin snowpack conditions ended up at 143% of average as of February 1. Despite this minor setback, February 1 snowpack percentages for the basin were the fourth highest since 1968; and the highest February 1 snowpack since 1997. Precipitation for the month of January was reported at 193% of average and was more than twice the amount received last January. Total precipitation for the water year (beginning October 1) measured in at 135% of average. At 100% of average, reservoir storage in the basin is 16% higher this year than last year at this time. Spring and summer streamflows are anticipated to be above to much above average throughout the basin; with a low of 107% of average expected at Taylor River below Taylor Park Reservoir and a high of 152% of average forecast for Surface Creek at Cedaredge.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2005

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)	
Taylor River blw Taylor Park Resv	APR-JUL	69	94	110	107	126	151	103
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	87	101	110	124	119	133	89
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	160	195	220	115	245	280	192
Gunnison River nr Gunnison	APR-JUL	310	385	440	113	495	570	390
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	20	29	36	113	43	52	32
Cochetopa Creek blw Rock Creek	APR-JUL	14.6	19.6	23	133	26	31	17.3
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	44	69	90	111	113	153	81
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	100	133	155	123	177	212	126
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	525	705	825	115	950	1130	720
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN APR-JUL	77 67	118 113	150 150	150 147	186 193	247 266	100 102
N.F. Gunnison River nr Somerset	APR-JUL	320	400	460	151	524	625	305
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	16.9	22	26	152	31	40	17.1
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	80	99	115	113	133	165	102
Uncompahgre River at Colona	APR-JUL	106	134	155	112	177	213	139
Gunnison River nr Grand Junction	APR-JUL	1240	1600	1850	119	2100	2460	1560

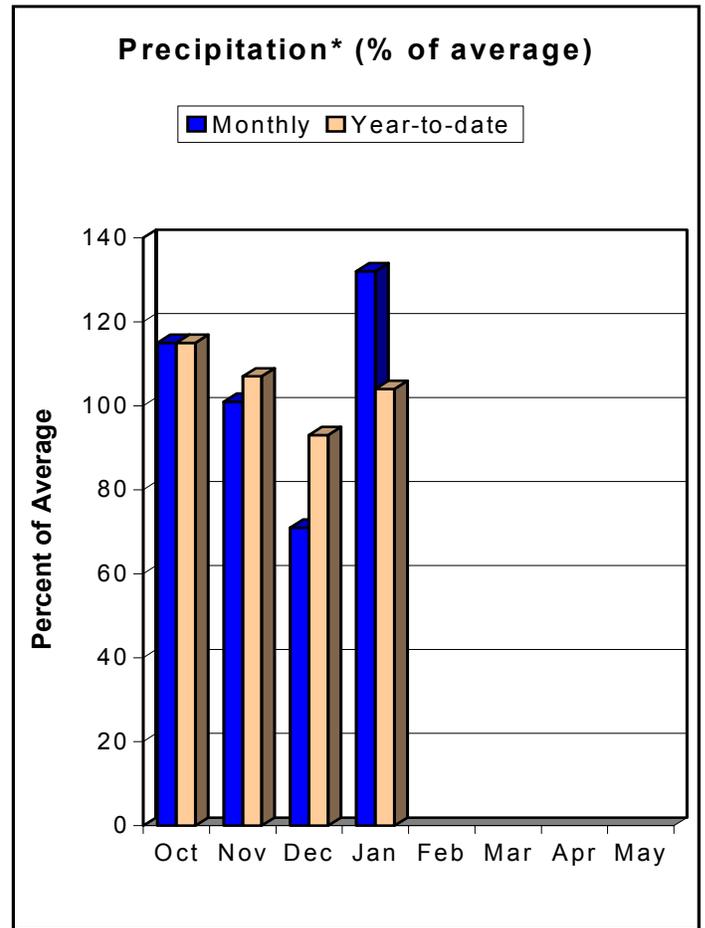
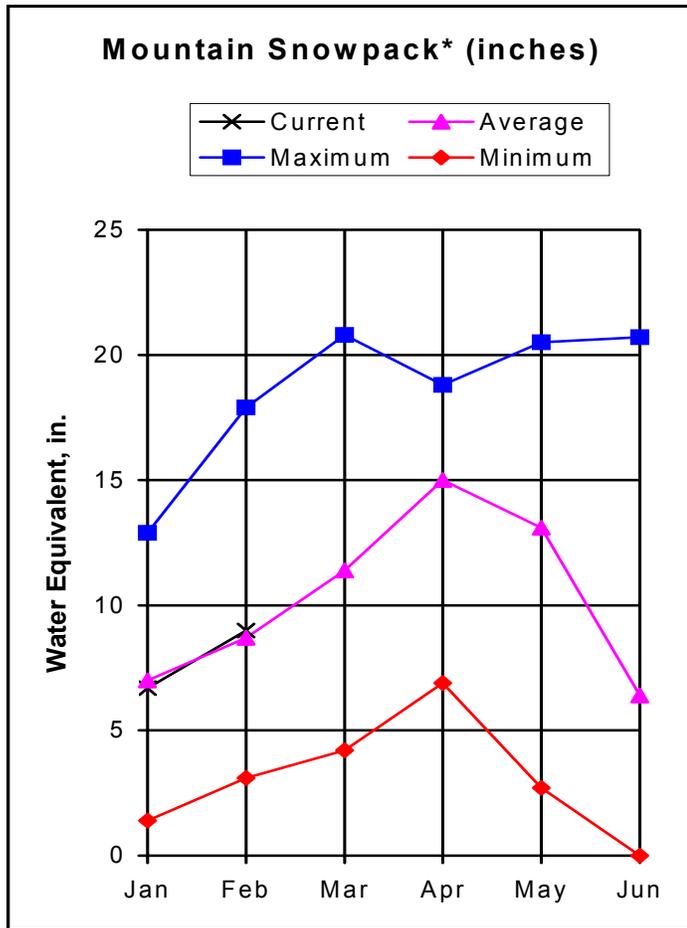
Reservoir	GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of January				Watershed	GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2005		
	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage This Year	Last Year	*** Avg		Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	% of Average
BLUE MESA	830.0	485.4	382.5	493.3	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	149	148
CRAWFORD	14.3	3.2	3.1	8.2	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	165	178
FRUITGROWERS	4.3	4.6	1.6	3.4	UNCOMPAGHRE BASIN	4	122	127
FRUITLAND	9.2	0.2	0.1	1.8	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	19	143	143
MORROW POINT	121.0	108.2	110.9	113.4				
PAONIA	18.0	3.6	3.5	4.7				
RIDGWAY	83.2	76.4	70.8	60.2				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	67.9	71.8	66.7				

* 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.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

While the Upper Colorado River Basin saw some modest increases in snowpack during the first two weeks of January they were mostly offset by the warm, dry conditions that dominated the second half of the month. Up slightly from last month, February 1 snowpacks were measured at 103% of average. This is a 22% increase over last year's snowpacks; and the best February 1 snowpack conditions reported in the basin since 1997. January precipitation was well above average at 132% of average (183% of the January 2004 precipitation totals) and helped to boost total precipitation since October 1 to 104% of average. Reservoir storage in the basin remains below average at 78% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was about 90% of last year's storage numbers for the same time. April-July runoff is expected to be near to below average throughout most of the basin. In terms of percent of average, Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow forecast is the highest in the basin at 118% of average; the lowest is forecast for Muddy Creek below Wolford Mountain Reservoir at 75% of average.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<==== Drier =====		===== Chance Of Exceeding *		===== Wetter =====>>		
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF) (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)		
Lake Granby Inflow	APR-JUL	154	188	215	96	246	299	225
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	43	53	60	118	68	80	51
Williams Fork Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	59	71	80	84	90	105	95
Dillon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	68	108	135	81	162	203	167
Green Mountain Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	185	217	240	86	264	302	280
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn. Resv.	APR-JUL	26	36	45	75	56	78	60
Eagle River blw Gypsum	APR-JUL	183	238	285	85	341	443	335
Colorado River nr Dotsero	APR-JUL	675	1020	1250	87	1480	1830	1440
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	84	104	120	85	139	171	141
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs	APR-JUL	555	668	750	106	837	975	710
Colorado River nr Cameo	APR-JUL	1370	1890	2250	93	2610	3130	2420

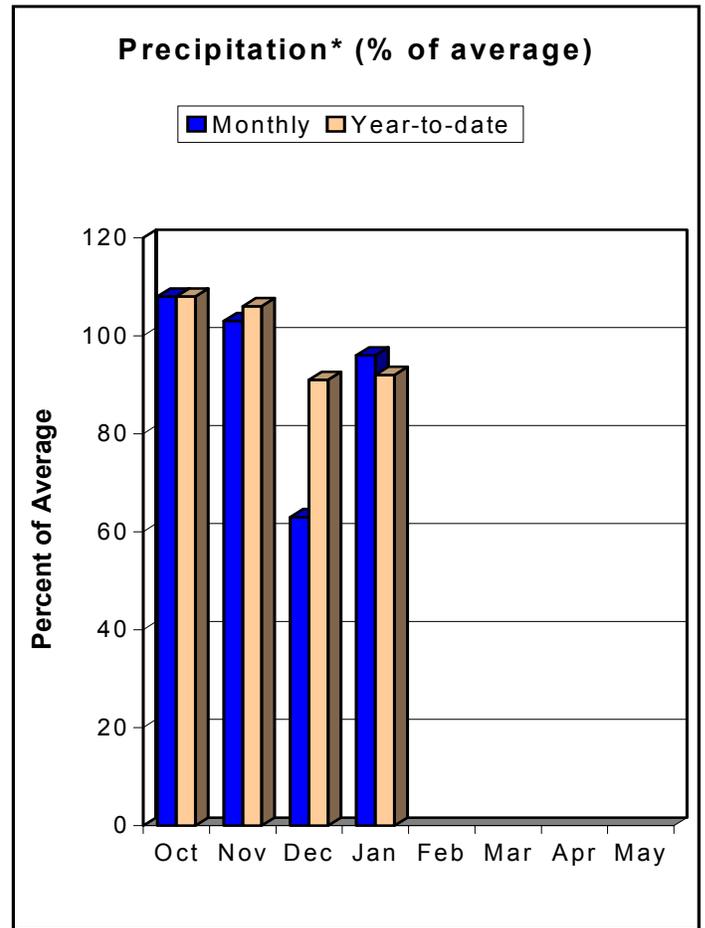
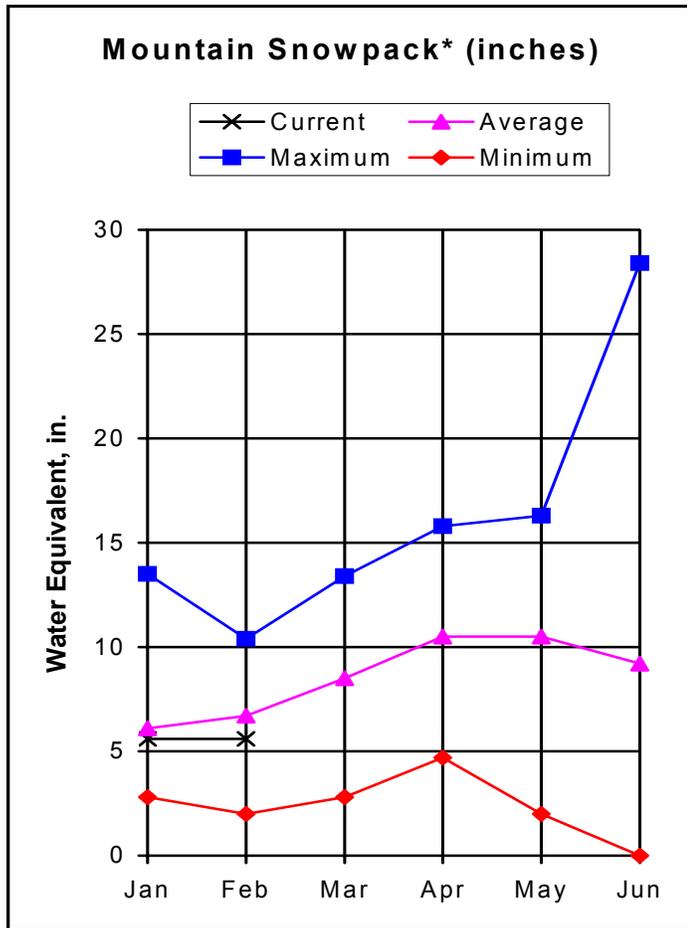
Reservoir	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of January				UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2005			
	Usable Capacity	*** This Year	Usable Last Year	Storage *** Avg	Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	% of Average
DILLON	250.8	204.6	221.9	221.3	BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	110	81
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	158.1	225.1	300.7	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	37	113	89
GREEN MOUNTAIN	139.0	68.3	62.3	80.3	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	110	89
HOMESTAKE	43.0	34.9	21.8	27.7	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	165	178
RUEDI	102.0	69.6	67.2	73.7	ROARING FORK BASIN	8	129	120
VEGA	32.0	15.1	10.2	11.6	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	94	81
WILLIAMS FORK	96.8	51.2	58.9	59.5	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	136	117
WILLOW CREEK	9.0	7.8	6.9	6.4	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASIN	48	122	102

* 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.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

Unfortunately, the South Platte River Basin did not see the same increases in snowpack that were evident in the southern part of the state. As a result, snowpack conditions slipped a little further behind this month. Even though they are 29% higher than last year at this time, February 1 snowpacks were measured at only 84% of average. At 96% of average, mountain precipitation during January was near normal for the basin. Water year precipitation totals since October 1 remain slightly below average at 92% of average. Both the monthly precipitation and water year totals were significantly higher than those reported at this time last year. Reservoir storage, which was 97% of average at the end of January, is also up 20% from levels reported a year ago. Spring and summer streamflows continue to call for below average runoff. April-July volumes are expected to range from a low of 63% of average for Antero Reservoir Inflow to a high of 94% of average for Boulder Creek near Orodell.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2005

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)		
Antero Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	5.3	8.0	10.6	63	14.0	21	16.8
	APR-SEP	6.3	9.8	13.1	64	17.6	27	21
Spinney Mountain Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	22	33	44	79	59	89	56
	APR-SEP	26	41	55	80	74	115	69
Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	22	34	46	79	62	96	58
	APR-SEP	26	42	58	81	80	127	72
Cheesman Lake inflow	APR-JUL	42	65	89	77	121	190	115
	APR-SEP	52	83	114	80	156	248	142
South Platte River at South Platte	APR-JUL	67	111	156	76	219	361	205
	APR-SEP	86	141	198	78	278	458	255
Bear Creek abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	6.2	10.3	14.4	75	20	33	19.3
	APR-SEP	8.9	14.2	19.5	78	27	43	25
Bear Creek at Morrison	APR-JUL	6.4	11.6	17.4	70	26	47	25
	APR-SEP	8.9	15.7	23	74	34	60	31
Clear Creek at Golden	APR-JUL	66	83	95	86	107	124	110
	APR-SEP	79	100	115	86	130	151	134
St. Vrain Creek at Lyons	APR-JUL	44	56	65	90	74	86	72
	APR-SEP	51	66	76	91	86	101	84
Boulder Creek nr Orodell	APR-JUL	32	39	43	94	47	54	46
	APR-SEP	36	44	49	93	54	62	53
South Boulder nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	30	35	38	92	41	46	41
	APR-SEP	32	38	42	92	46	52	46
Big Thompson River at mouth nr Drake	APR-JUL	62	77	87	89	97	112	98
	APR-SEP	75	93	105	90	117	135	117
CACHE LAPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth	APR-JUL	143	189	220	90	250	295	245
	APR-SEP	159	210	245	89	280	330	275

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

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2005

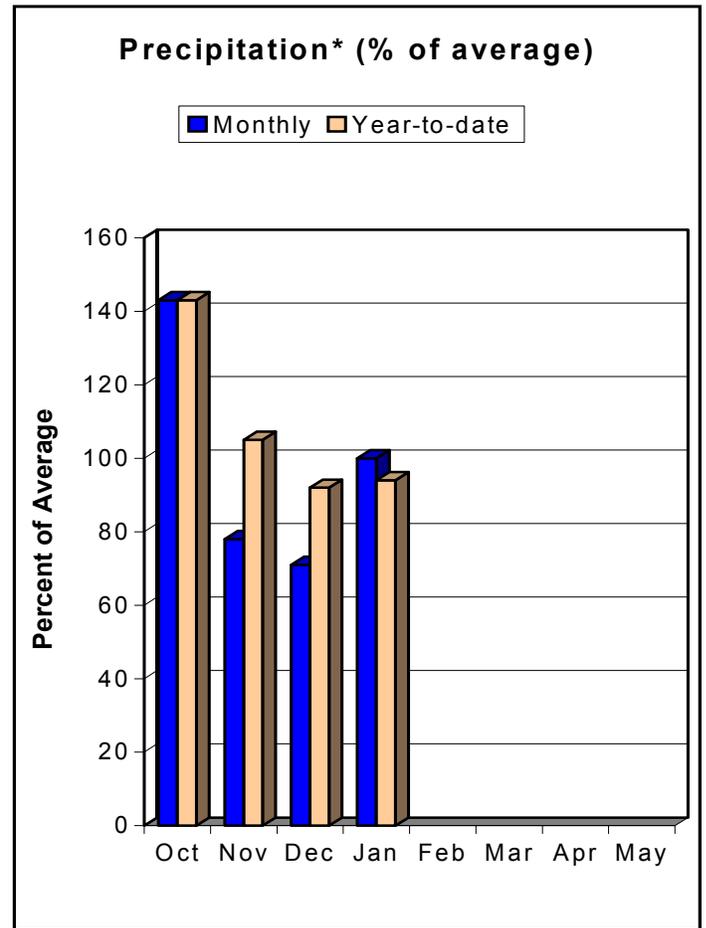
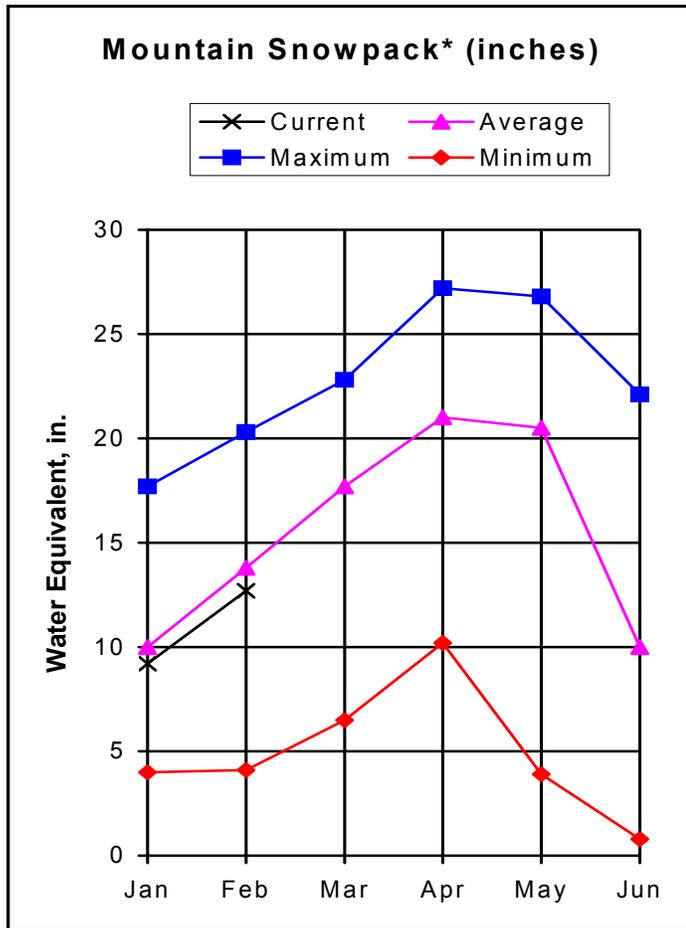
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	20.0	0.5	0.0	16.4	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	115	85
BARR LAKE	32.0	22.4	21.1	24.0	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	137	83
BLACK HOLLOW	8.0	1.8	2.8	3.9	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	8	115	82
BOYD LAKE	49.0	42.3	30.8	32.1	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	120	93
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.0	9.0	1.4	7.2	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	4	141	77
CARTER	108.9	66.9	34.7	84.6	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	15	157	84
CHAMBERS LAKE	9.0	6.0	6.1	3.0	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	43	129	84
CHEESMAN	79.0	68.8	59.3	59.7				
COBB LAKE	34.0	3.5	5.2	13.9				
ELEVEN MILE	97.8	98.4	71.0	95.9				
EMPIRE	38.0	14.9	20.8	22.8				
FOSSIL CREEK	12.0	9.6	4.6	6.8				
GROSS	41.8	32.4	27.4	26.0				
HALLIGAN	6.4	6.1	3.8	4.3				
HORSECREEK	16.0	13.7	10.1	11.6				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	108.1	111.6	99.0				
JACKSON	35.0	21.7	23.8	26.1				
JULESBURG	28.0	14.3	15.2	18.8				
LAKE LOVELAND	14.0	11.8	10.6	8.7				
LONE TREE	9.0	7.6	6.9	6.4				
MARIANO	6.0	4.9	0.9	4.2				
MARSHALL	9.4	6.0	5.1	10.0				
MARSTON	13.0	6.8	15.4	12.8				
MILTON	24.0	18.7	8.2	15.5				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.0	49.1	34.3	57.0				
PREWITT	33.0	21.9	6.4	19.3				
RIVERSIDE	63.1	43.6	34.6	41.7				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	48.7	16.1	24.1	33.3				
STANDLEY	42.0	38.8	38.8	33.1				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	3.6	5.8	5.3				
UNION	13.0	12.6	10.1	10.6				
WINDSOR	19.0	10.7	8.8	10.8				

* 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.

YAMPA, WHITE, NORTH PLATTE AND LARAMIE RIVER BASINS as of February 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

Increases in snowpack during mid-January that brought conditions above normal temporarily were balanced by relatively quiet conditions observed during the beginning and end of the month. Still at 92% of average, overall February 1 snowpack conditions in the Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins remain essentially unchanged from last month. January precipitation was 100% of average and 174 % of last January's precipitation totals. Year-to-date precipitation totals since October 1 are slightly below average at 94% of average and slightly above those reported a year ago. Reservoir storage levels for the end of January were 96% of average; 87% of the storage reported a year ago at this time. Spring and summer streamflows in the basin are expected to be near average to below average. In terms of percent of average values, the highest volumes are predicted for Elk River near Milner and the Little Snake River near Dixon at 92% of average; at 76% of average, the Yampa River above Stagecoach Reservoir is expected to yield the least.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2005

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)	
NORTH PLATTE RIVER nr Northgate	APR-JUL	116	161	196	80	234	297	245
	APR-SEP	108	175	220	82	265	330	270
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	APR-JUL	44	80	104	85	128	164	123
	APR-SEP	48	87	114	84	141	180	135
Yampa R abv Stagecoach Res	APR-JUL	9.6	17.0	22	76	27	34	29
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs	APR-JUL	149	197	230	82	265	310	280
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	198	256	300	92	347	423	325
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	16.9	24	31	80	40	57	39
ELKHEAD CREEK blw Maynard Gulch	APR-JUL	22	39	51	86	63	80	59
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	2.20	4.60	6.30	84	8.00	10.40	7.50
Yampa River nr Maybell	APR-JUL	480	675	810	82	945	1140	990
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	101	126	145	91	165	197	159
LITTLE SNAKE R nr Dixon	APR-JUL	185	255	305	92	355	425	330
LITTLE SNAKE R nr Lily	APR-JUL	205	280	330	90	380	455	365
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	172	215	250	86	291	364	290

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of January

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2005

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	27.0	29.0	25.1	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	3	110	84
YAMCOLO	9.1	3.0	5.5	6.2	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	11	111	91
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	13	112	92
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	110	102
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	94	84
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	94	90
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	95	86
LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	104	104					

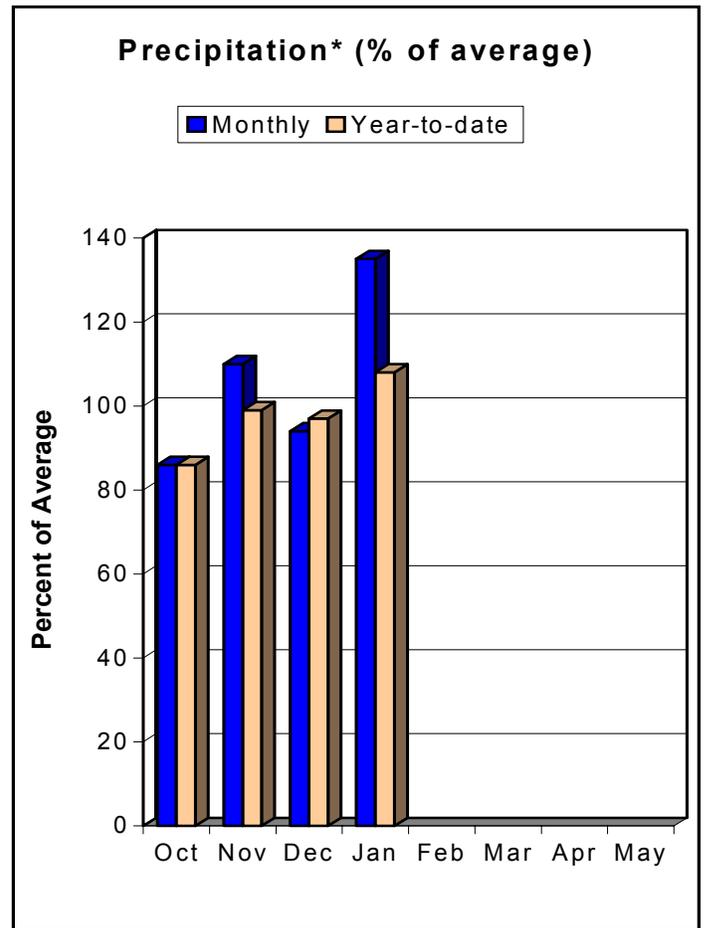
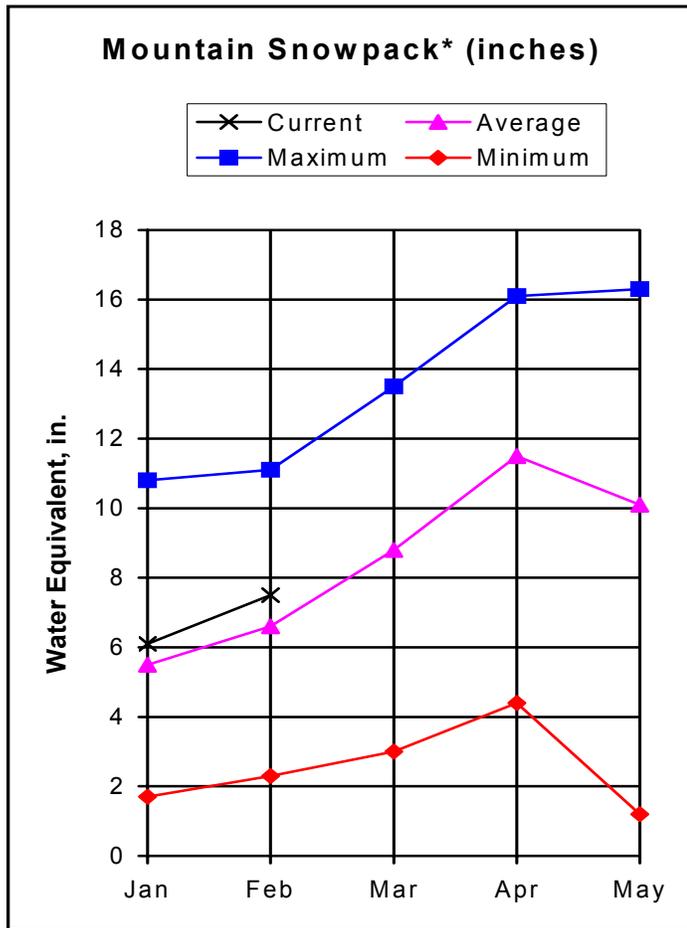
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

as of February 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

Overall, February 1 snowpacks in the Arkansas Basin were above average at 113% of average. However, while conditions remained similar to those reported last month in the Upper Arkansas Basin at 98% of average, the Cucharas & Huerfano River Basins and the Purgatoire River Basin saw marked improvements in their February 1 snowpacks with measurements of 150% of average and 166% of average, respectively. By comparison, snowpacks in the Cucharas & Huerfano river basins are 83% higher than those reported a year ago and measurements in the Purgatoire River Basin indicate there is more than twice the water in the snowpack this year when compared to last year. At 135% of average, monthly precipitation for January in the basin was well above average. This helped to improve the precipitation total for the water year (beginning October 1) to slightly above average levels. This year's water year total is 39% higher than the total reported last year for the same period. End of January reservoir storage in the basin remains well below average at 63% of average; however this is still 119% of the storage measured in the basin a year ago. Streamflow forecasts call for average to well above average spring and summer runoff. Forecasts range from 100% of average for Chalk Creek near Nathrop to 153% of average at Grape Creek near Westcliffe.

=====

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2005

=====

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 Creek nr Nathrop	APR-SEP	10.1	20	27	100	34	44	27
Arkansas River at Salida	APR-SEP	217	285	335	108	385	455	310
Grape Creek nr Westcliffe	APR-SEP	9.4	22	30	153	38	51	19.6
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow	APR-SEP	305	405	470	109	535	635	430
Huerfano River nr Redwing	APR-SEP	12.0	17.9	22	142	26	32	15.5
Cucharas River nr La Veta	APR-SEP	4.4	11.3	16.0	123	21	28	13.0
Trinidad Lake Inflow	APR-SEP	27	50	65	148	80	103	44

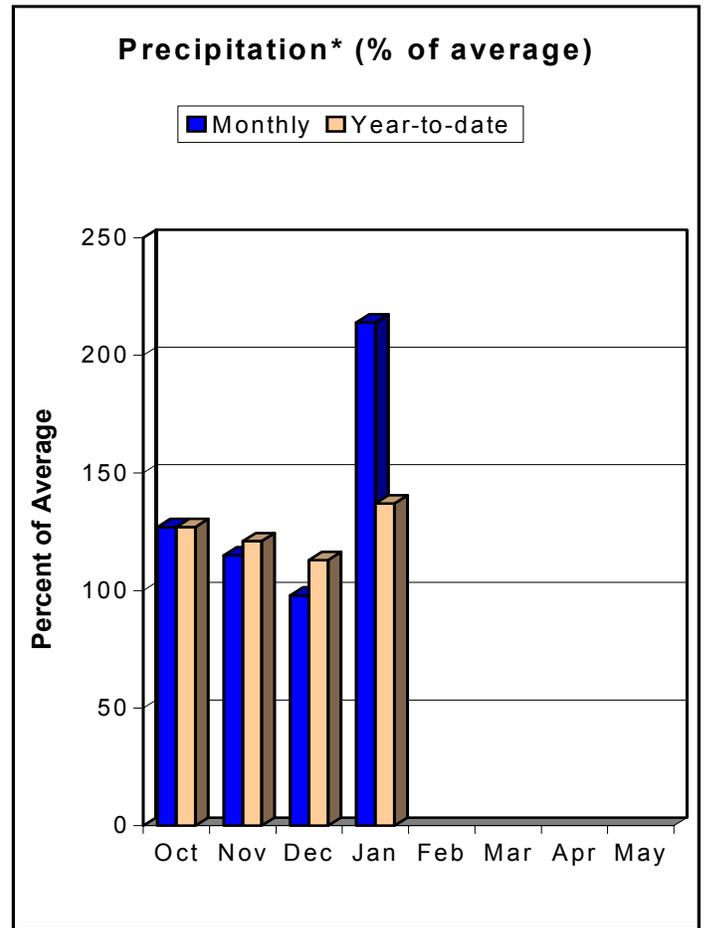
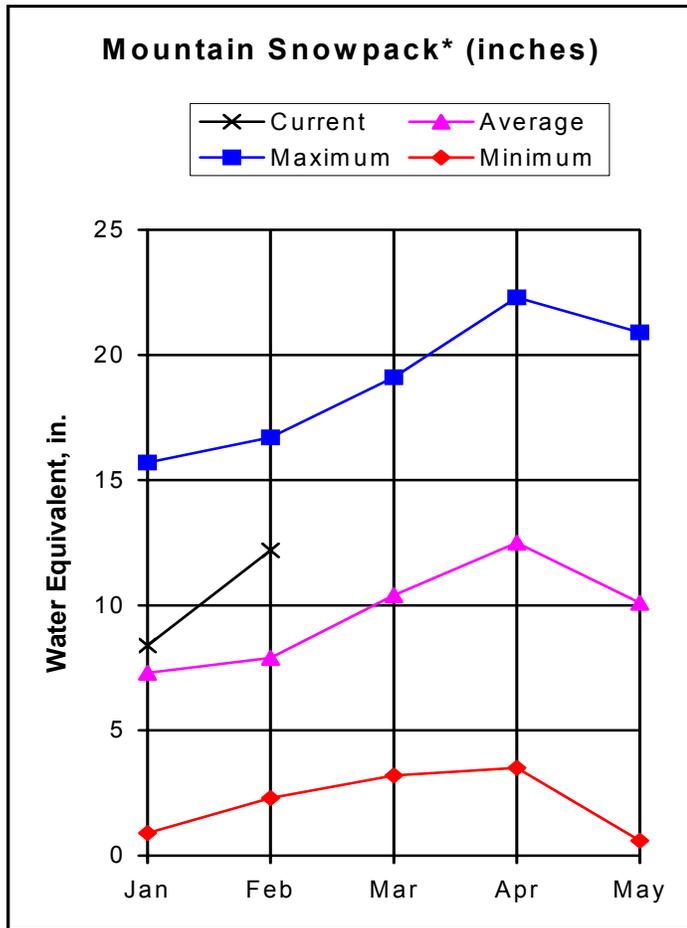
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of January					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2005				
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of		
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average	
ADOBE	70.0	0.0	0.0	31.1	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	9	129	98	
CLEAR CREEK	11.0	8.6	8.0	6.4	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	183	150	
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	35.2	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	222	166	
HOLBROOK	7.0	0.0	0.0	3.9	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASI	14	148	113	
HORSE CREEK	28.0	0.0	0.0	12.2					
JOHN MARTIN	335.7	47.2	31.1	120.9					
LAKE HENRY	8.0	3.0	4.3	4.1					
MEREDITH	42.0	24.8	13.4	16.2					
PUEBLO	236.7	122.2	97.5	158.3					
TRINIDAD	72.3	23.7	16.5	25.3					
TURQUOISE	126.6	68.9	67.4	82.7					
TWIN LAKES	86.0	42.9	48.8	44.8					

* 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.

UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

Snowfall accumulation during the first half of January in the Upper Rio Grande Basin was exceptional. Readings from selected SNOTEL sites indicate that snowpack conditions reached close to 170% of average during the month. Although things slowed down during the last part of the month, snowpack measurements on February 1 indicate that the basin was 155% of average. This is the second best February 1 snowpack since 1968; 1979 was the only year to have a higher snowpack percentage. Precipitation during January was over twice the monthly average (214% of average). Water year precipitation since October 1 is well above average at 137% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was only 49% of average but is still higher than it was a year ago at 122% of last year's storage levels. Streamflows are expected to be above to well above average for the entire basin. Forecasts range from a low of 115% of average at Ute Creek to a high of 148% of average for the April-July Rio Grande Reservoir Inflow.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2005

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)	
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge	APR-SEP	138	172	200	147	233	290	136
Rio Grande Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	121	151	175	148	203	253	118
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap	APR-SEP	360	440	490	142	540	620	345
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	147	176	195	148	215	245	132
Rio Grande nr Del Norte	APR-SEP	550	680	770	145	860	990	531
Saguache Creek nr Saguache	APR-SEP	22	33	40	121	47	58	33
Alamosa Creek abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	66	83	94	134	105	122	70
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	6.60	9.80	12.00	138	14.20	17.40	8.70
Trinchera Creek	APR-SEP	7.8	11.6	14.2	118	16.8	21	12.0
Sangre de Cristo Creek	APR-SEP	3.60	7.90	10.80	123	13.70	18.30	8.80
Ute Creek	APR-SEP	7.2	11.3	14.0	115	16.7	21	12.2
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	58	69	77	120	85	96	64
	APR-SEP	64	77	85	120	93	106	71
Conejos River nr Mogote	APR-SEP	173	220	250	125	280	325	200
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	8.8	15.4	21	128	27	38	16.4
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	59	81	96	130	111	133	74
Culebra Creek at San Luis	APR-SEP	13.3	23	30	130	37	47	23
Costilla Reservoir inflow	MAR-JUL	9.0	11.8	13.7	129	15.6	18.4	10.6
Costilla Creek nr Costilla	MAR-JUL	24	30	35	135	40	46	26

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of January

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2005

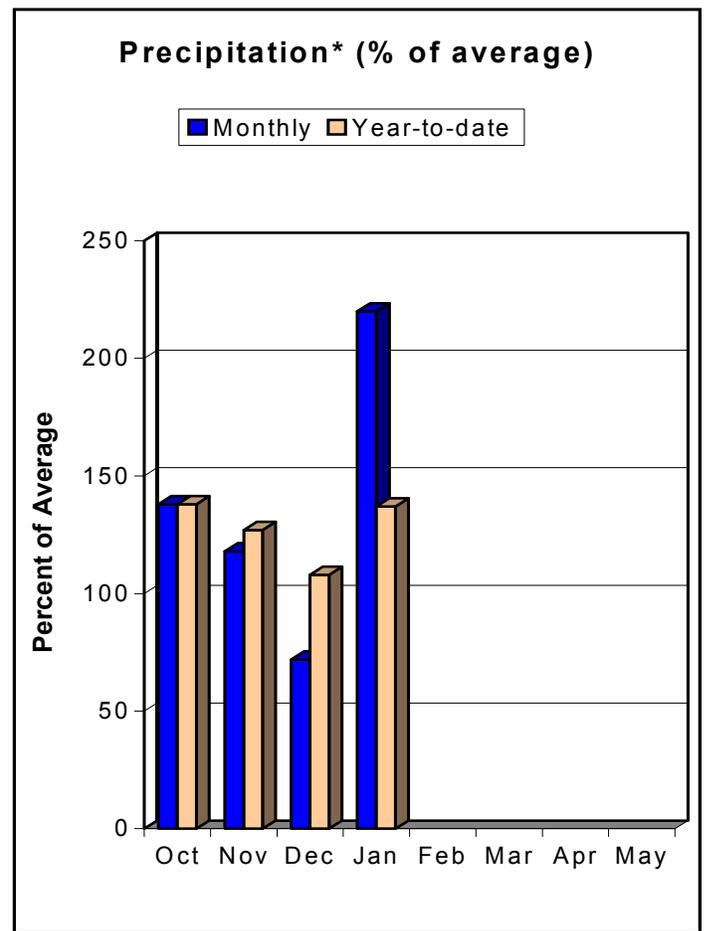
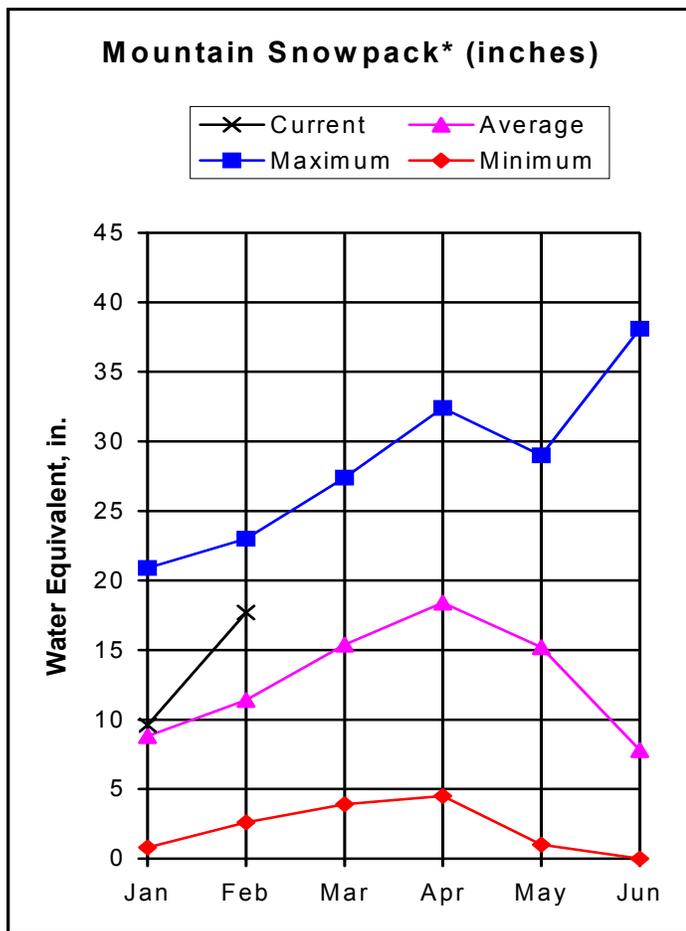
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	15.0	3.2	2.8	5.8	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	121	149
PLATORO	53.7	6.7	5.1	24.7	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	128	147
RIO GRANDE	51.0	15.6	9.9	16.5	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	184	135
SANCHEZ	103.0	8.1	12.7	24.1	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	147	168
SANTA MARIA	45.0	5.8	5.0	10.5	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	147	155
TERRACE	13.1	3.9	0.0	6.1				

* 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.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS as of February 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

The first half of January saw some impressive snowfall accumulations in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins. At one point in the month, SNOTEL readings showed that snowpacks in the basin topped the 180% of average mark. However, a slow down during the last half of the month served to temper the conditions seen earlier in the month. Overall, the combined basin snowpack on February 1 was reported to be 155% of average. The Animas and San Juan river basins fared the best with 168% of average and 175% of average, respectively. Precipitation during the month of January was 219% of average and 214% of the totals recorded last January. Precipitation since October 1 was well above average at 136% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was 84% of average. By comparison, this year's storage levels are 27% higher than those observed last year. Spring and summer streamflows are expected to be above to well above average throughout the basin. April-July forecasts range from a low of 112% of average at Lilylands Reservoir Inlet to a high of 156% of average for the Vallecito Reservoir Inflow.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Drier		50%		Wetter		
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	1000AF	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	215	270	305	115	340	395	265
McPhee Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	255	325	370	116	415	485	320
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	105	132	150	114	166	196	132
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	11.0	15.5	18.6	113	22	27	16.5
	APRIL			2.30	139			1.66
	MAY			10.00	113			8.83
	JUNE			5.00	107			4.67
	JULY			1.30	99			1.32
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	2.00	3.20	4.00	113	4.80	6.00	3.53
	APRIL			0.64	139			0.46
	MAY			1.85	113			1.64
	JUNE			1.11	107			1.04
	JULY			0.40	105			0.38
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.92	2.70	3.20	112	3.70	4.50	2.86
	APRIL			0.54	135			0.40
	MAY			1.49	113			1.32
	JUNE			0.92	106			0.87
	JULY			0.25	93			0.27
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion	APR-JUL	41	56	66	125	76	91	53
Navajo River at Oso Diversion	APR-JUL	51	69	82	119	95	113	69
San Juan River nr Carracus	APR-JUL	387	506	595	147	692	847	405
Piedra River nr Arboles	APR-JUL	240	290	325	141	360	410	230
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	255	295	320	156	345	385	205
Navajo Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	895	1090	1230	154	1370	1560	800
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	440	535	600	136	665	760	440
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	61	75	85	147	95	109	58
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	23	30	34	136	38	45	25
Mancos River nr Mancos	APR-JUL	27	40	48	120	56	69	40
	APRIL			8.00	138			5.80
	MAY			20	126			15.9
	JUNE			16.0	117			13.7
	JULY			4.00	87			4.60

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

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2005

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	Usable Storage			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
GROUNDHOG	21.7	0.0	7.0	12.0	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	9	173	168
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	3.6	2.9	4.6	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	7	139	129
LEMON	40.0	18.7	9.4	20.2	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	129	127
MCPHEE	381.2	206.2	170.9	274.4	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	138	175
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	18.4	10.9	12.7	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	24	150	155
VALLECITO	126.0	75.4	52.4	59.4	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.

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.



655 Parfet Street, Room E200C
Lakewood, CO 80215-5517

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 National Resources Conservation Service web page at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/westwide.html>.

Issued by

Bruce Knight
Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Released by

Allen Green
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Lakewood, Colorado



Colorado
Basin Outlook Report
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Lakewood, CO

