

Colorado Basin Outlook Report February 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

FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Summary

January's weather brought a shift to an El Nino pattern which favored southwestern Colorado in a typical fashion. Snowpack percentages improved across the southwestern basins during January, while elsewhere across the state snowpack percentages decreased. Water users in some northern basins should start planning for shortages since recovery to near average is unlikely at this time. Most basins across the state are reporting near average storage in their reservoirs, fortunately, with the higher percents of normal in those basins which have a drier outlook. Runoff forecasts call for below normal volumes across most of the state, with near average volumes across the southwestern rivers.

Snowpack

Snowfall across most of Colorado was nearly nonexistent during the first 20 days of January. During this time snowpack percents of average were decreasing daily as the lag between current conditions and the long-term average widened each day. By January 18th the statewide snowpack, derived from SNOTEL data had decreased to only 72% of average. Shortly thereafter, conditions began rapidly improving with a steady flow of storms which brought plentiful moisture to the southern mountains. While these storms brought some additional snow to the central and northern mountains, these accumulations were far from the average for the month. The February 1 snow surveys show the impact of this weather pattern with improvements to above average totals in the San Juan, Animas, Dolores, San Miguel and Rio Grande basins. Meanwhile, snowpack percentages decreased from the January 1 readings in all other basins. The greatest declines in percentages were measured in the South Platte, North Platte and Colorado basins. The lowest percents of average continue to be reported in the Yampa, White and Colorado basins this month at only 72% of average. Oddly enough, the statewide snowpack percentage stayed the same as last month with the gains in the south balancing out the losses in the north. As of February 1, the statewide snowpack remained at 86% of average and was 73% of last year's readings for this date. With this classic El Nino pattern it seems reasonable to expect possible snowpack deficits to continue this year across the northern basins.

Precipitation

There was a striking contrast in precipitation totals across the state during January. Well above average monthly totals were recorded in the Rio Grande and the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins, at 141% and 129% of average, respectively. At the other end of the spectrum, the South Platte basin reported the lowest percentage at only 57% of average. Other basins with well below average monthly totals include the Colorado (64% of average), and the combined Yampa, White and North Platte (67% of average). Statewide precipitation was only 84% of average during January. Now, with four months in the 2010 water year, the basinwide totals range from 79% of average in the Colorado basin, to a high of 108% of average in the Rio Grande basin. Statewide, water year precipitation is now 89% of average. In comparison to last year's water year totals for February 1, all basins are tracking well below last year's readings. Statewide totals for this year are only 79% of last year's water year totals.

Reservoir Storage

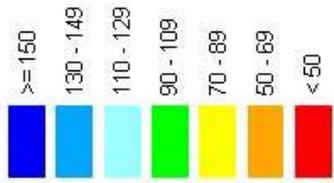
Possibly the only real bright spot in the 2010 water year conditions is the state's reservoir storage. Storage volumes continue to track at slightly above average levels with statewide storage at 102% of average. Average to above average volumes are being reported in the Gunnison, Colorado, South Platte, Yampa, and Arkansas basins. The lowest percents of average storage are being reported in the Rio Grande (93% of average) and the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins (88% of average). Fortunately for most water users, the lowest storage percentages are being reported in those basins with the best runoff outlook for the coming year. Conversely, the above average storage in other basins should help alleviate some possible late-summer shortages in the drier basins across northern Colorado. This year's good storage volumes across the state are the highest since 2000 for statewide totals at this time of year and are just slightly higher (101%) than last year's volumes.

Streamflow

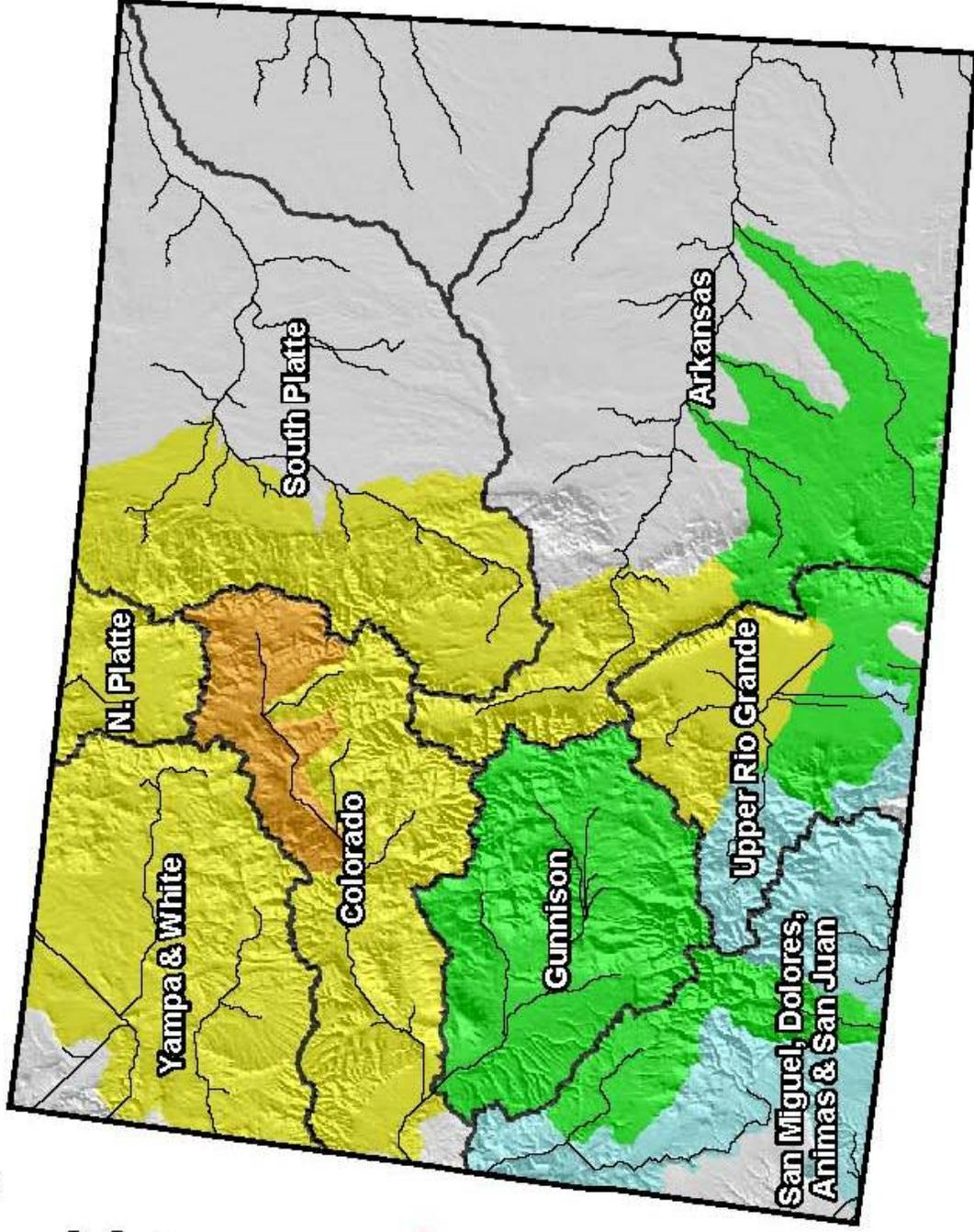
As expected, there were significant improvements this month in streamflow forecasts across the southwestern basins. Currently, the best outlook for summer water supplies is in the San Juan, Animas, and Rio Grande basins. However, even in these basins forecasts are calling for only slightly above average volumes this spring and summer. Elsewhere around the state, all forecasts are calling for below average seasonal volumes this year. Some of the lowest forecasts, in terms of percent of average runoff, occur in the headwaters streams of the Colorado Yampa, White and North Platte basins. Many locations in these basins have forecast volumes of less than 75% of average. Percentages remain below average, but improved slightly, in the South Platte, Gunnison and Arkansas basins. Runoff volumes on most of these streams range generally from 80% to 90% of average. Now, with only 40% of the mountain winter snow accumulation season remaining, chances are dwindling for a rebound to near average runoff volumes in most of northern Colorado. However, the remaining wild card is what this year's El Nino has in store for the state. In several notable past El Nino years there have been some pretty remarkable recoveries. Time will tell if 2010 is another one of those years.

Colorado Snowpack Map

Percent of Average



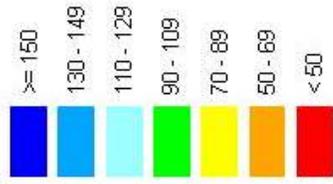
*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



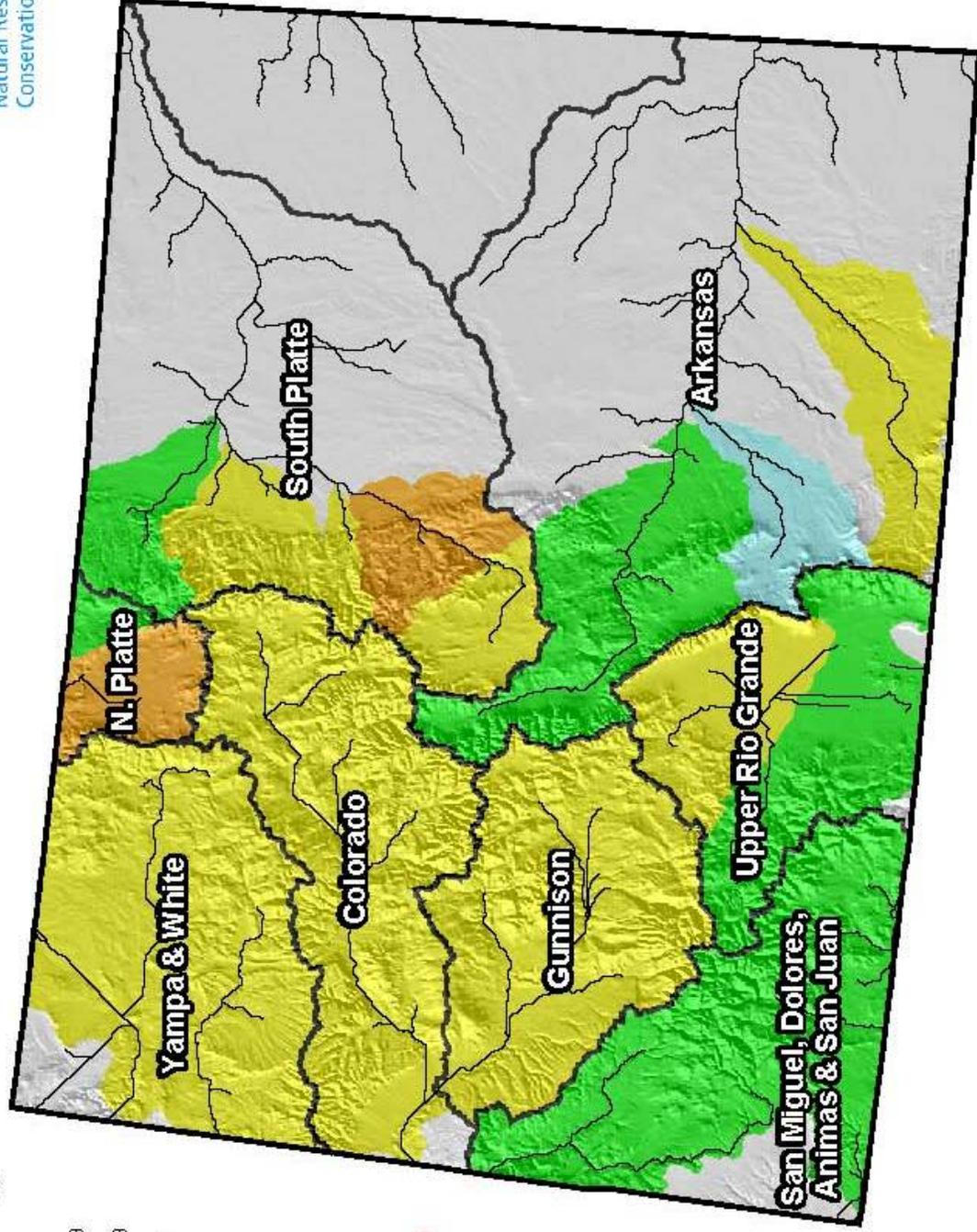
Current as of February 1, 2010

Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map

Percent of Average



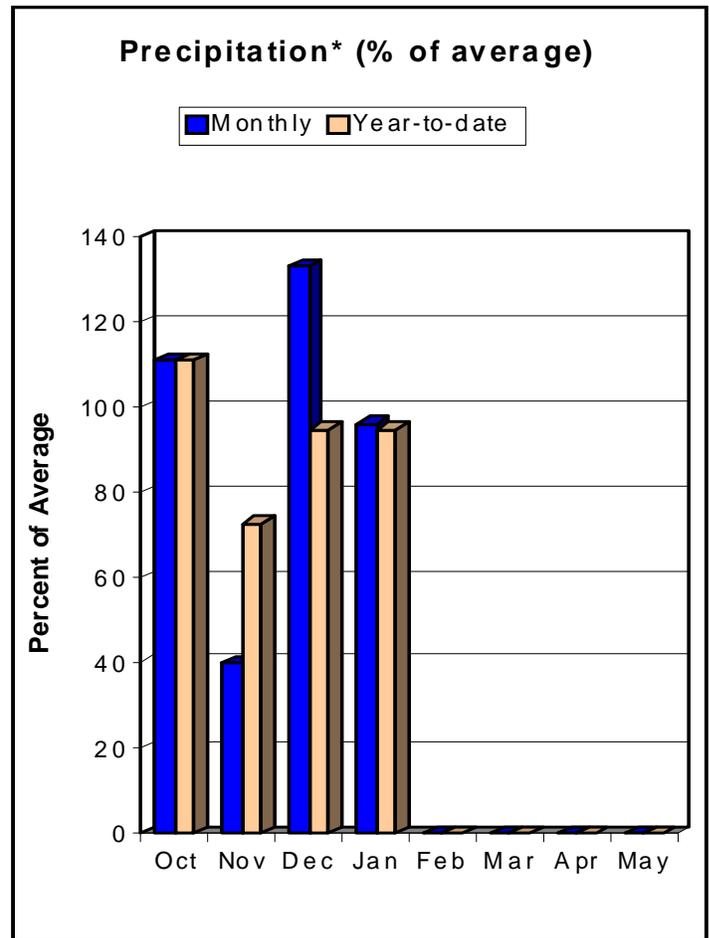
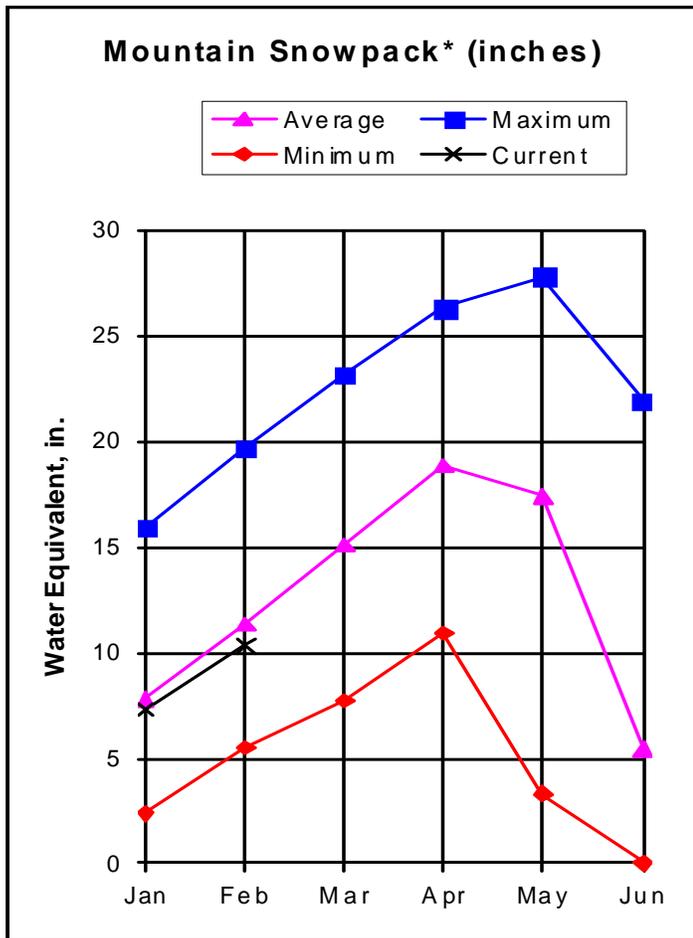
*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



Current as of February 1, 2010

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of February 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

January snowfall in the Gunnison River Basin was looking pretty bleak during the first three weeks of the month. SNOTEL data indicates that snowpack percentages dropped from 94 percent of average on January 1 to 83 percent of average by January 21. Fortunately, the storm system that pummeled southern California, Arizona and New Mexico made its way north far enough to help boost snowpacks in the basin. On February 1, snowpacks were measured at 91 percent of average and 79 percent of the snowpack present last year at this time. While down slightly from last month's snowpack measurement, the basin finds itself in better condition than if the dry trend had continued throughout the month. Sub-basin snowpacks are slightly below normal, ranging from 90 percent of average in the Upper Gunnison to 95 percent of average in the Surface Creek and Uncompahgre drainages. Mountain precipitation during January was 96 percent of average. The near normal monthly precipitation helped maintain the total precipitation for the water year at 95 percent of average. Reservoir storage remains in good shape, with this year's stored volumes at 108 percent of average and 69 percent of capacity. Forecasts in the basin saw only minor changes from those issued last month. Water users can continue to expect below average runoff at most forecast points. Streamflows for the April-July forecast period should range from 67 percent of average for Cochetopa Creek near Parlin to 90 percent of average for the Inflow to Ridgeway Reservoir.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 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	56	73	85	83	98	119	103				
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	57	66	73	82	80	91	89				
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	105	134	155	81	178	215	192				
Gunnison River nr Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	210	270	320	82	370	455	390				
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	13.7	19.9	25	78	31	41	32				
Cochetopa Creek blw Rock Ck nr Parli	APR-JUL	5.4	8.7	11.6	67	15.0	21	17.3				
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	26	44	60	74	79	115	81				
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	73	91	105	83	120	143	126				
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	383	504	600	83	707	887	720				
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	46	67	85	85	105	141	100				
	APR-JUL	45	68	87	85	109	149	102				
North Fork Gunnison R nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	166	220	260	85	305	385	305				
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	9.6	12.6	15.0	88	17.6	22	17.1				
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	63	79	92	90	106	129	102				
Uncompahgre River at Colona (2)	APR-JUL	74	100	120	86	143	181	139				
Gunnison River nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	700	1050	1290	83	1530	1880	1560				

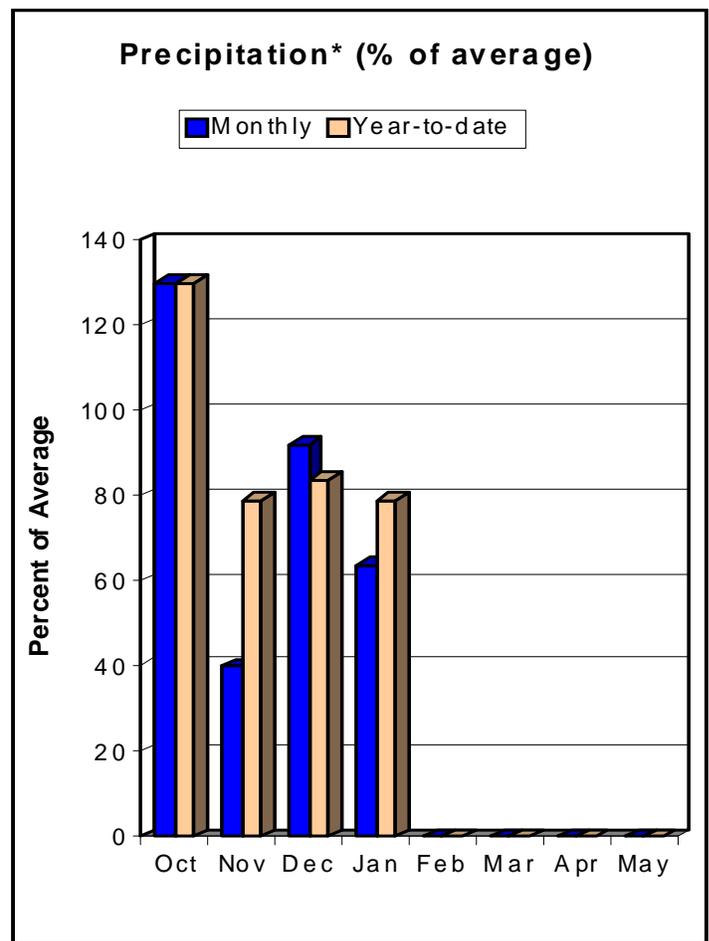
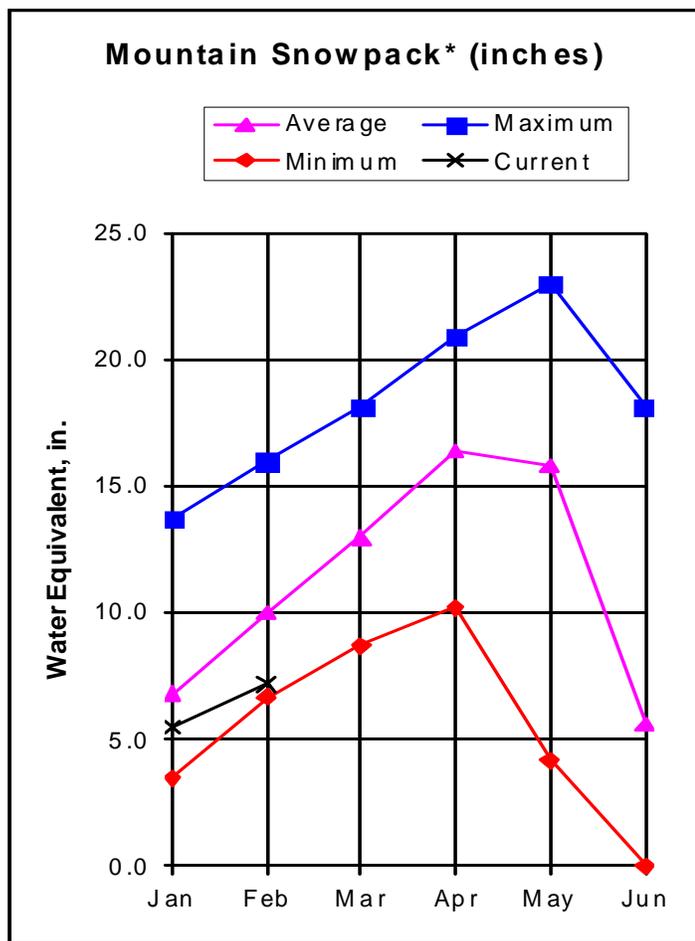
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of January					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2010			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
BLUE MESA	830.0	559.7	570.4	493.3	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	80	90
CRAWFORD	14.0	5.8	7.9	8.2	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	95	95
FRUITGROWERS	3.6	2.9	3.2	3.4	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	79	95
FRUITLAND	9.2	0.8	0.8	1.8	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	19	79	91
MORROW POINT	121.0	109.5	107.6	113.4				
PAONIA	15.4	1.3	3.3	4.7				
RIDGWAY	83.0	65.3	67.3	60.2				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	66.6	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.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the Upper Colorado River Basin took a turn for the worse during January. February 1 snow surveys show the basin is currently only 72 percent of average and a measly 59 percent of the snowpacks present last year at this time. Looking back to 1968, there have only been 3 years that had a lower February 1 snowpack percentage. They include 1977, 1981 and 2002 at 38, 40 and 70 percent of average, respectively. Projections based on historical SNOTEL data only give the basin a slightly better than 10 percent chance of reaching the average peak snow water content. Snowpacks in the sub-basins are mostly below average to well below average. The Willow Creek sub-basin reported the lowest snowpack percentages at 53 percent of average. At the other end of the spectrum, the Plateau Creek Watershed measured snowpacks that were 95 percent of average. Precipitation at the high elevations was well below normal at 64 percent of average during January. This is the third consecutive month of below average precipitation in the basin. As a result, total precipitation for the water year dropped to 79 percent of average. On the positive side, reservoir storage is 106 percent of average. Given the conditions, it shouldn't surprise anyone that forecasts are down somewhat from those issued last month. April-July runoff is expected to be below average throughout the basin. Streamflows should range from 59 percent of average for the Inflow to Willow Creek Reservoir to 83 percent of average for the Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs.

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UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 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)		
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	124	150	170	76	191	225	225				
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	20	26	30	59	35	42	51				
Williams Fork Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	55	66	75	79	84	98	95				
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	94	115	130	78	147	173	167				
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	163	198	225	80	255	300	280				
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	25	32	38	63	44	55	60				
Eagle River blw Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	160	205	240	72	280	345	335				
Colorado River nr Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	700	835	1050	73	1270	1550	1440				
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	74	92	105	75	120	144	141				
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	420	515	590	83	670	805	710				
Colorado River nr Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	1200	1500	1820	75	2140	2660	2420				

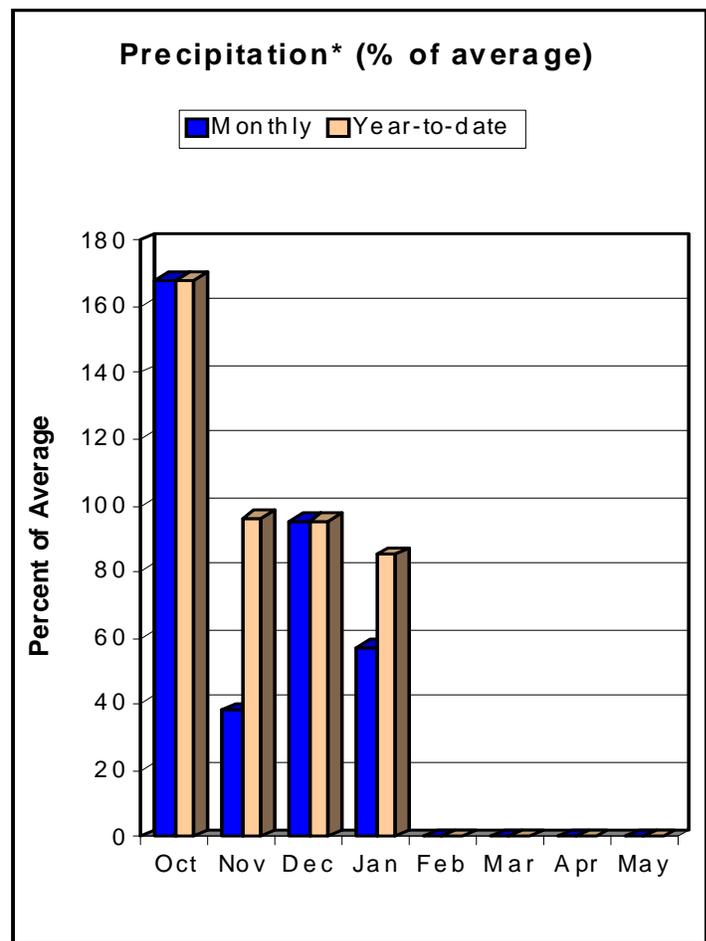
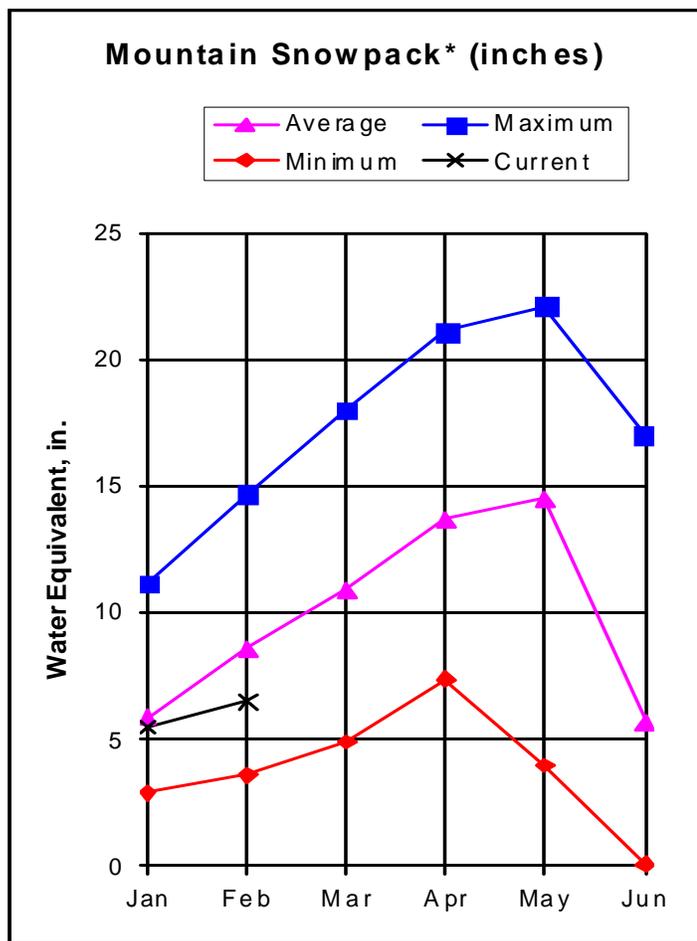
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of January					UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2010			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
DILLON	254.0	240.2	229.0	221.3	BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	57	71
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	331.0	257.7	300.7	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASI	37	55	67
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	72.8	58.7	80.3	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	57	63
HOMESTAKE	43.0	21.8	42.0	27.7	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	95	95
RUEDI	102.0	70.5	73.1	73.7	ROARING FORK BASIN	8	60	82
VEGA	32.9	12.0	13.9	11.6	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	59	74
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	76.5	78.8	59.5	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	46	53
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	5.2	6.1	6.4	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASI	48	59	72

* 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 February 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

January 2010 brought very dry air into the South Platte River Basin leaving the snowpack as the 10th lowest snowpack since 1968. Snowpacks were measured at 75 percent of average on February 1, down from 93 percent of average on January 1, which constitutes the largest decrease in percentage of all major basins in the state. The Clear Creek drainage has fared the best among the entire South Platte with 83 percent of average snowpack. Contrarily, the St. Vrain has experienced the worst conditions in the state in terms of snowpack as well as the greatest negative turn-around. At the beginning of January, the St. Vrain snowpack was 132 percent of average. By the end of January, it had dropped to a state low of 62 percent of average, a loss of 70 percentage points. Remember, this is not a loss in actual snowpack but simply a decrease in the percent of average. Precipitation over the entire South Platte amounted to only 57 percent of normal for the month of January. On a positive note, year-to-date precipitation does not look as bleak as the monthly figure, ending up at 85 percent of average. October's bountiful precipitation, at 168 percent of average, continues help keep year-to-date totals from falling well below average. Reservoir storage is right where it was last month at 101 percent of average. Streamflow forecasts this month tend to be slightly more optimistic than snowpack and precipitation would suggest ranging from 68 percent to 90 percent of average in the South Platte River Basin.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 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	7.1	10.7	13.4	80	18.8	28	16.8				
	APR-SEP	8.4	13.0	17.4	80	23	36	22				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	22	33	44	79	58	89	56				
	APR-SEP	26	41	55	80	74	115	69				
ELEVENMILE CANYON RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	22	33	45	78	61	94	58				
	APR-SEP	25	41	56	78	77	123	72				
CHEESMAN LAKE Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	38	60	81	71	110	173	114				
	APR-SEP	46	73	100	71	137	215	140				
SOUTH PLATTE R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	61	100	140	68	197	325	205				
	APR-SEP	77	126	177	69	250	410	255				
BEAR CREEK abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	6.6	10.9	15.3	79	21	35	19.3				
	APR-SEP	9.0	14.4	19.8	79	27	43	25				
BEAR CREEK at Morrison	APR-JUL	6.9	12.4	18.6	74	28	50	25				
	APR-SEP	8.9	15.6	23	74	34	60	31				
CLEAR CREEK at Golden	APR-JUL	60	77	89	81	101	118	110				
	APR-SEP	71	92	107	80	122	143	134				
ST. VRAIN CREEK at Lyons (2)	APR-JUL	53	65	74	79	83	95	94				
	APR-SEP	61	76	86	79	96	111	109				
BOULDER CREEK nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	35	42	46	89	50	57	52				
	APR-SEP	40	48	53	88	58	66	60				
SOUTH BOULDER CK nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	28	33	36	88	39	44	41				
	APR-SEP	30	36	40	87	44	50	46				
BIG THOMPSON R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	52	67	77	78	87	102	99				
	APR-SEP	64	82	94	79	106	124	119				
CACHE LAPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (2)	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, 2010

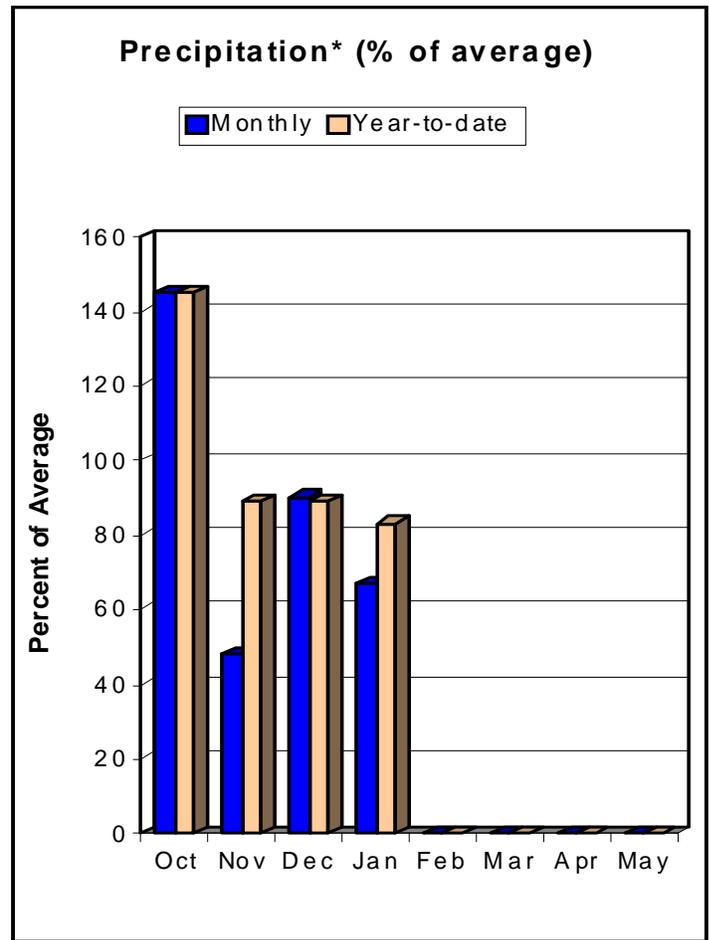
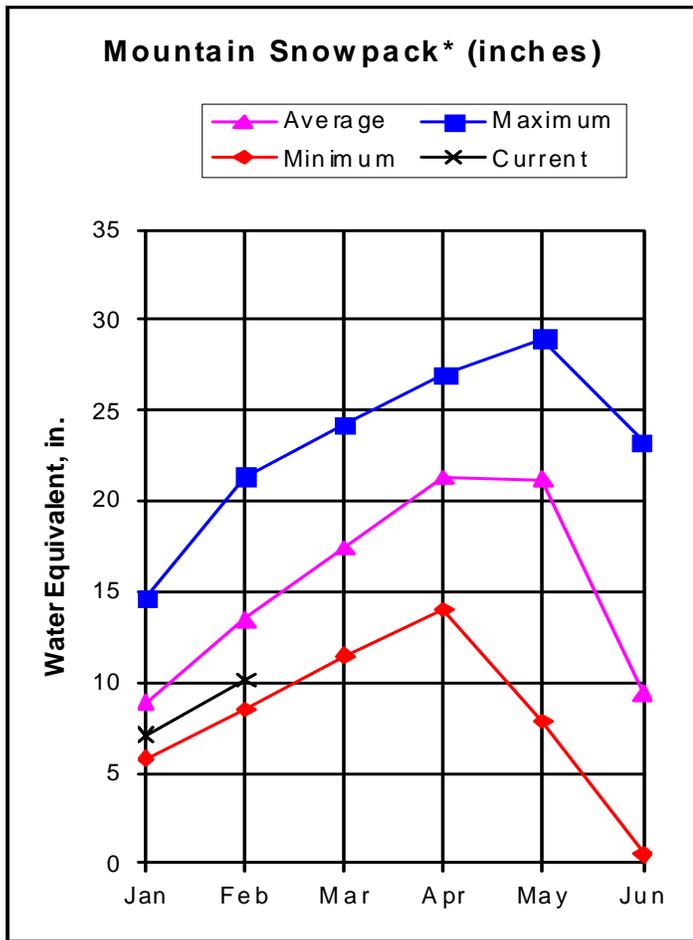
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	19.9	20.0	19.9	16.4	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	72	74
BARR LAKE	30.1	26.2	22.9	24.0	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	79	77
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	3.2	1.8	3.9	CACHE LA POUDRE BASIN	8	69	78
BOYD LAKE	48.4	40.5	27.8	32.1	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	65	83
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	13.7	13.7	13.0	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	4	61	62
CACHE LA POUDRE	10.1	9.0	7.8	7.2	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	16	89	78
CARTER	108.9	93.1	76.4	84.6	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	44	74	76
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	6.6	2.8	3.0				
CHEESMAN	79.0	62.8	67.2	59.7				
COBB LAKE	22.3	20.7	12.0	13.9				
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	99.7	99.5	95.9				
EMPIRE	36.5	30.0	31.2	22.8				
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	8.8	10.5	6.8				
GROSS	41.8	26.1	34.0	26.0				
HALLIGAN	6.4	4.9	4.3	4.3				
HORSECREEK	14.7	7.0	5.4	11.6				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	70.4	78.4	99.0				
JACKSON	26.1	22.9	21.4	26.1				
JULESBURG	20.5	17.4	16.2	18.8				
LAKE LOVELAND	10.3	9.3	11.2	8.7				
LONE TREE	8.7	7.4	7.5	6.4				
MARIANO	5.4	4.4	1.2	4.2				
MARSHALL	10.0	6.8	4.1	5.1				
MARSTON	13.0	9.4	10.2	12.8				
MILTON	23.5	6.7	17.9	15.5				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	58.7	53.1	57.0				
PREWITT	28.2	22.5	21.2	19.3				
RIVERSIDE	55.8	37.7	42.5	41.7				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	34.1	41.6	33.3				
STANDLEY	42.0	35.4	35.4	33.1				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	5.9	5.2	5.3				
UNION	13.0	11.9	10.8	10.6				
WINDSOR	15.2	11.7	12.2	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.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

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



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the combined Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins saw a modest decline in percentages over the last month, dropping to 75 percent of average on February 1. The Yampa and White River basin snowpacks were measured at 72 percent of average. This is the second lowest February 1 snowpack percentage since 2002, ahead of 2007 which had 68 percent of average snowpacks. Down 10 percentage points from last month's readings, snowpacks in the North Platte and Laramie are currently 73 percent of average. This, too, is the second lowest February 1 snowpack since 2002, just slightly better than the 72 percent of average snowpack recorded in 2003. Sub-basin snowpacks range from 70 percent of average in the North Platte and Yampa River watersheds to 88 percent of average in the Laramie. January precipitation in the mountains was 67 percent of average. Total precipitation for the water year fell to 83 percent of average as a result of the third month in row of below normal precipitation in the basin. Reservoir storage is above average at both Stagecoach and Yamcolo reservoirs. With the exception of Fortification Creek, which remained unchanged, forecasts saw a moderate drop from last month. Water users can expect mostly below average runoff during the April-July forecast period. Spring and summer streamflows should range from 62 percent of average for the North Platte River near Northgate to 98 percent of average for the Laramie River near Woods.

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

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
NORTH PLATTE RIVER nr Northgate	APR-JUL	60	105	152	62	199	270	245
	APR-SEP	66	115	167	62	220	295	270
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	APR-JUL	81	104	120	98	136	159	123
	APR-SEP	90	115	132	98	149	174	135
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	14.4	20	25	68	30	40	37
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	139	174	200	71	230	270	280
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	184	225	255	79	285	335	325
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	18.0	25	30	77	36	45	39
Elkhead Creek blw Maynard Gulch (2)	APR-JUL	27	37	45	76	54	68	59
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	2.9	4.3	5.5	73	6.9	9.4	7.5
Yampa River nr Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	460	600	710	72	825	1010	990
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	84	107	124	78	142	172	159
Little Snake River nr Dixon	APR-JUL	162	220	260	79	305	380	330
Little Snake River nr Lily	APR-JUL	172	240	290	80	345	440	365
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	154	197	230	79	265	320	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, 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	28.3	28.1	25.1	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	3	84	88
YAMCOLO	8.7	6.8	7.2	6.2	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	12	66	70
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	14	70	73
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	60	74
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	61	70
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	66	77
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	63	72
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	75	85
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	36	67	75					

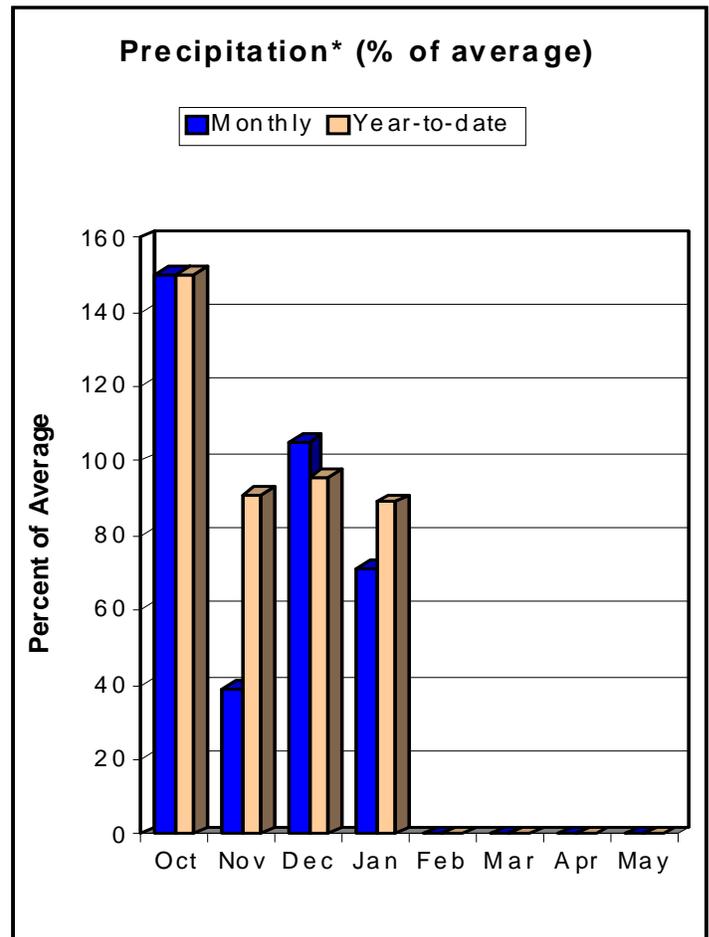
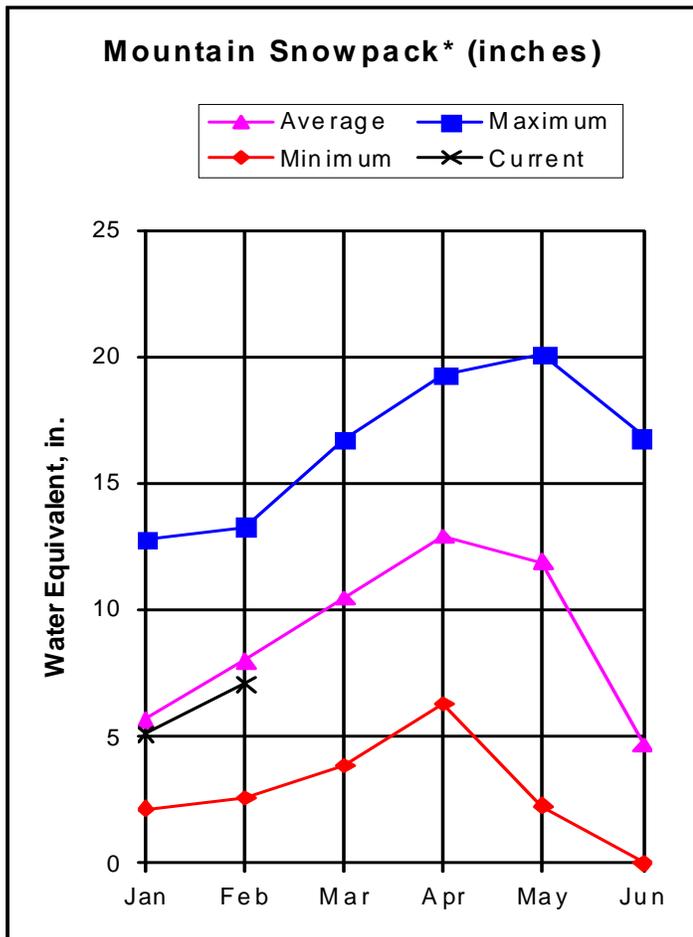
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- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
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- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

as of February 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

The effects of El Nino have not impacted the Arkansas River Basin as significantly as the southwestern part of the state, but it has prevented both snowpack and precipitation from dipping to the levels currently seen in the northern part of the state. Although snowpack is currently at a six year low, conditions throughout the entire Arkansas River Basin are better now than were experienced at this point in each of the years 1999 - 2004. Keep in mind the last five years have seen above average snowpack conditions as of February 1. Monthly observations suggest near average snowfall totals in the Arkansas over the course of January 2010, from 90 percent of average at the beginning of the month to 89 percent of average by month's end. Coincidentally, year-to-date precipitation, happens to have fallen to 89 percent of average, but only 85 percent of last year at this time. Water users should take note that this year's low elevation snowpack within the Arkansas River Basin tends to be near to slightly above average, while on the other hand, high elevation snowpack is below average. Reservoir data indicates good standing at the beginning of February with 100 percent of average for this time of year. Streamflow forecasts across the basin are at least as good as current snowpack conditions or better, ranging from 89 percent of average to well above average on Grape Creek near Westcliffe, CO.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2010

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Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
CHALK CK at Nathrop	APR-JUL	11.1	16.6	21	91	26	34	23
	APR-SEP	13.7	20	25	93	31	40	27
ARKANSAS RIVER at Salida (2)	APR-JUL	160	200	230	90	260	310	255
	APR-SEP	194	245	280	90	320	380	310
GRAPE CK nr Westcliffe	APR-JUL	4.4	11.4	18.0	112	26	41	16.1
	APR-SEP	7.6	15.2	22	112	30	44	19.6
PUEBLO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	200	280	345	90	415	525	385
	APR-SEP	265	360	435	90	515	645	485
HUERFANO RIVER nr Redwing	APR-JUL	7.7	10.9	13.3	108	16.0	20	12.3
	APR-SEP	10.2	14.0	16.8	108	19.9	25	15.5
CUCHARAS RIVER nr La Veta	APR-JUL	5.5	9.5	12.8	113	16.6	23	11.3
	APR-SEP	6.8	11.2	14.7	113	18.7	26	13.0
TRINIDAD LAKE Inflow (2)	MAR-JUL	11.2	22	32	94	43	63	34
	APR-SEP	14.2	27	39	89	53	76	44

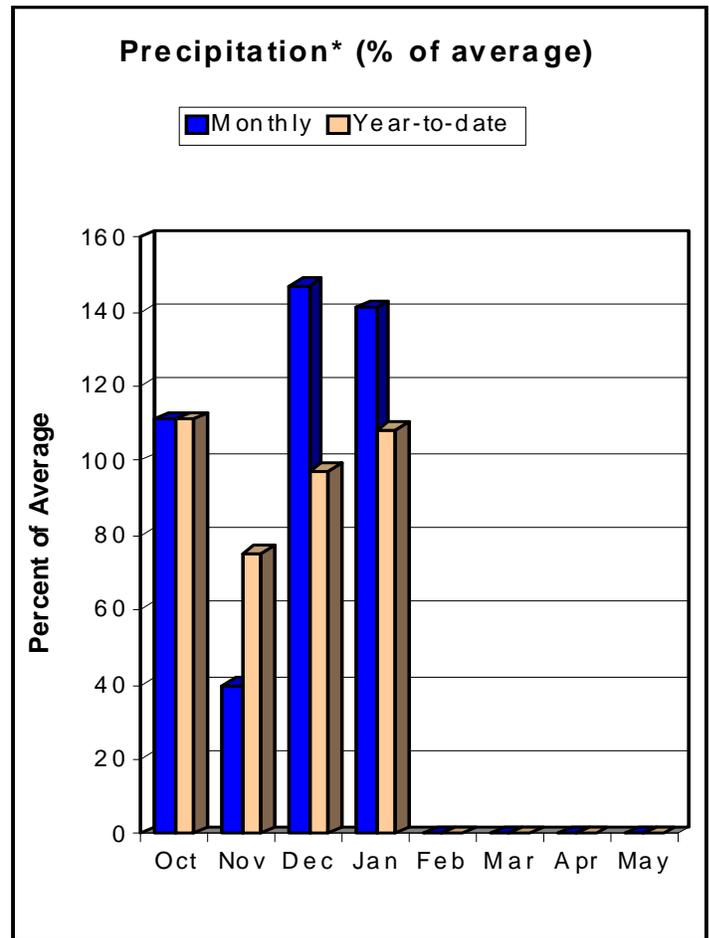
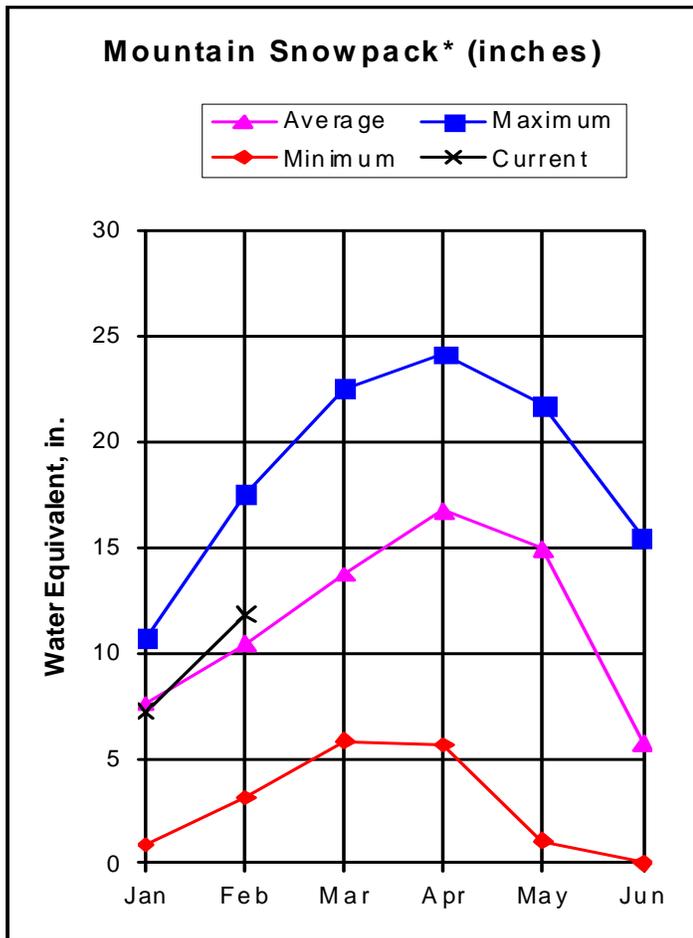
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of January					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2010			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ADOBE	62.0	47.5	43.7	31.1	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	10	77	87
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	7.2	7.8	6.4	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	73	102
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	0.8	1.2	4.8	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	59	93
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	35.2	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	15	75	91
HOLBROOK	7.0	1.3	0.7	3.9				
HORSE CREEK	27.0	0.0	0.0	12.2				
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	58.7	64.0	120.9				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	4.7	6.4	4.1				
MEREDITH	42.0	35.8	30.2	16.2				
PUEBLO	354.0	248.4	212.3	158.3				
TRINIDAD	167.0	18.7	21.6	25.3				
TURQUOISE	127.0	67.2	76.3	82.7				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	55.2	46.0	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.

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UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2010



*Based on selected stations

One major storm lasting five days, January 19th - 24th, dominated monthly snow accumulation dropping nearly 80 percent of the month's total over the Rio Grande Basin. More specifically, Cumbers Trestle SNOTEL picked up 6.5 inches of snow water equivalent over this time frame, 90 percent of the monthly snow total. Similarly, Wolf Creek Summit SNOTEL received 6.4 inches of snow water equivalent. This particular event helped the basin attain the highest ranking in the state in both precipitation, at 141 percent of average, and snowpack at 113 percent of average. All sub-drainages within the Rio Grande accumulated snowpacks above 100 percent with Alamosa Creek recording the largest at 127 percent of average. Year-to-date precipitation finished at 108 percent of average, up from 97 percent last month. Last year's totals at this point in time were still greater than what is on the ground now with precipitation at 90 percent and snowpack at 87 percent of last year. Reservoir storage happens to be below average at 93 percent, yet better than this time last year at 113 percent of last year. Streamflow forecasts range from the mid-80s to as high as 118 percent on the Los Pinos River near Ortiz, CO for the April - September forecast. Although El Nino this year has not tipped the scales, it has helped to keep totals near average in the Rio Grande Basin.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - February 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)
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge (2)	APR-SEP	91	114	131	96	149	178	136				
	APR-JUL	84	103	118	100	134	160	118				
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	225	285	330	96	380	455	345				
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	97	121	140	106	160	194	132				
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	360	455	530	100	610	745	531				
Saguache Creek nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	15.3	22	28	85	34	45	33				
Alamosa Creek abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	49	63	73	104	84	103	70				
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	5.0	7.2	9.0	103	11.1	14.8	8.7				
Trinchera Creek abv Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	3.7	7.5	10.1	84	12.7	16.5	12.0				
Sangre de Cristo Creek (2)	APR-SEP	1.1	5.3	8.2	93	11.1	15.4	8.8				
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	6.0	9.2	12.0	98	15.3	21	12.2				
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	44	54	61	95	69	82	64				
	APR-SEP	48	59	67	94	76	90	71				
Conejos River nr Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	149	187	215	108	245	295	200				
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	10.6	15.3	19.2	117	24	31	16.4				
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	58	74	87	118	101	125	74				
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	8.5	14.6	20	87	27	39	23				
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	6.2	9.1	11.5	109	14.3	19.2	10.6				
Costilla Creek nr Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	14.3	22	28	108	35	48	26				

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

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - February 1, 2010

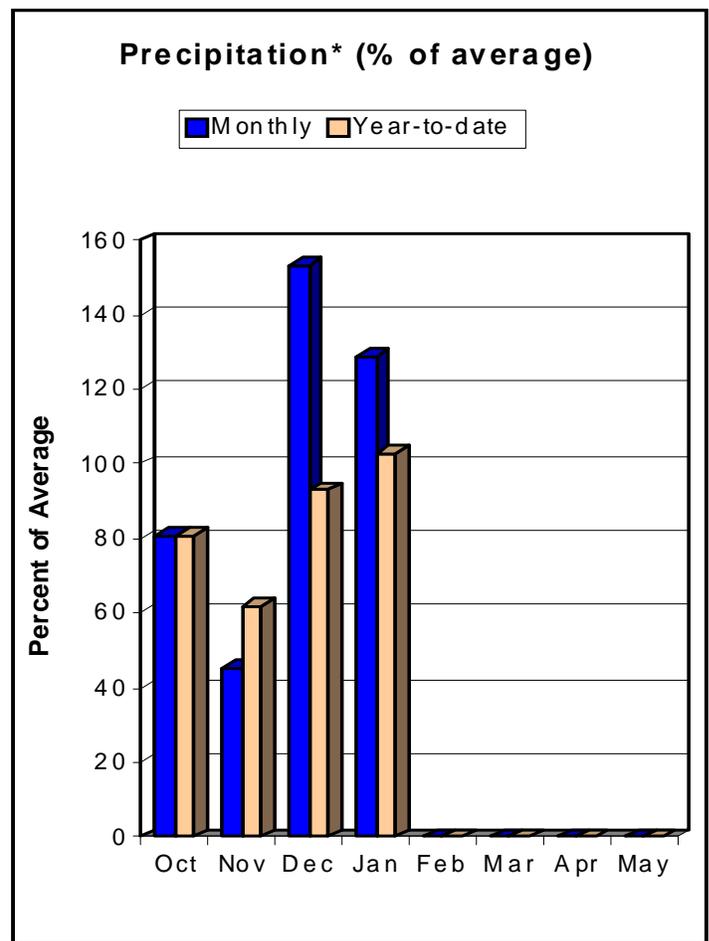
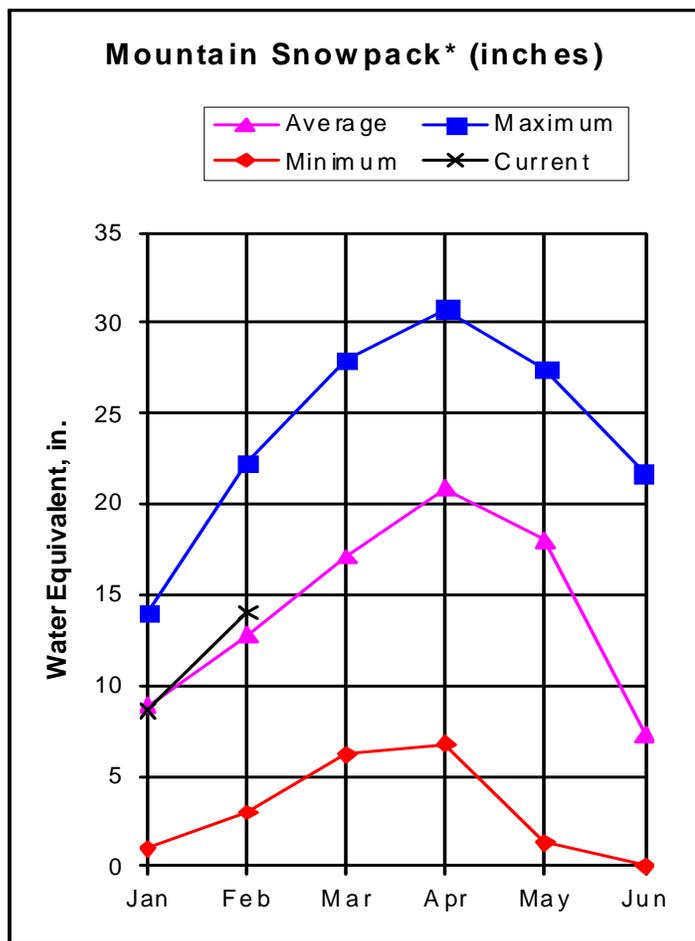
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	27.0	3.8	3.0	5.8	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	83	127
PLATORO	60.0	29.8	17.4	24.7	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	83	123
RIO GRANDE	51.0	17.8	16.5	16.5	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	71	102
SANCHEZ	103.0	19.3	24.8	24.1	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	98	112
SANTA MARIA	45.0	6.4	5.4	10.5	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	87	113
TERRACE	18.0	4.7	5.1	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.
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- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

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



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basin benefitted greatly from the storms that passed through the area from January 20 to January 23. SNOTEL data shows the snowpack percentages had dropped to around 79 percent of average prior to that time. Afterwards, snowpacks reached as high as 111 percent of average. By February 1, snowpacks were measuring in at 109 percent of average. As good as that is, it is still below the snowpacks measured in 2009 and 2008 which were 116 and 155 percent of average, respectively. Sub-basin snowpacks are above average, ranging from 101 percent of average in the San Miguel Drainage (the only sub-basin to show a drop in percentage from 113 percent of average last month) to 121 percent of average in the Dolores Watershed. January precipitation in the high country was excellent at 129 percent of average. Two consecutive months of above average precipitation have negated the effects of the dry October and November and boosted the total precipitation for the water year to 103 percent of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was 88 percent of average and 57 percent of capacity. Forecasts in the San Miguel watershed remained unchanged from last month while all the other forecasts saw significant increases. Near average to above average streamflow will be the norm during the April-July forecast period. Volumes should range from 87 percent of average for the Gurley Reservoir Inlet to 109 percent of average for the Navajo River at the Oso Diversion.

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

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Chance Of Exceeding * 50% (1000AF) (% AVG.)		30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	152	205	250	94	300	380	265
McPhee Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	179	250	305	95	370	480	320
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	79	102	120	91	140	173	132
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	10.5	13.6	16.0	87	18.7	23	18.3
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.1	2.1	3.1	95	4.4	6.8	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	41	50	57	108	65	77	53
Navajo River at Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	49	64	75	109	87	108	69
San Juan River nr Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	260	350	420	104	500	635	405
Piedra River nr Arboles	APR-JUL	139	195	240	104	290	380	230
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	144	181	210	102	240	295	205
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	515	675	800	102	940	1180	785
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	305	385	450	102	520	640	440
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	44	53	60	103	67	79	58
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	16.3	22	26	104	31	39	25
Mancos River nr Mancos (2)	APR-JUL	13.4	26	34	103	42	55	33

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, 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	9	90	103
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	3.5	3.5	4.6	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	7	100	121
LEMON	40.0	9.6	18.5	20.2	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	87	101
MCPHEE	381.0	253.8	278.2	274.4	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	95	112
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	10.7	13.6	12.7	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	24	94	109
VALLECITO	126.0	47.2	74.1	59.4	AN JUAN RIVER BASINS			

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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
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