

Colorado

Water Supply Outlook Report

February 1, 2017



NRCS snow surveyor Stephen Jaouen measures the snowpack at the Nast Lake snow course and adjacent SNOTEL site near the Frying Pan River. With 9.9 inches of snow water equivalent recorded at the SNOTEL site, the area had 225 percent of median snowpack for February 1st.

Date: 01/24/2017 Photos By: Derrick Wyle

REMINDER: We are soliciting field work photos from our snow surveyors again this year. Each month we will pick one to grace the cover of this report! Please include information on where, when and of who/what the photo was taken.

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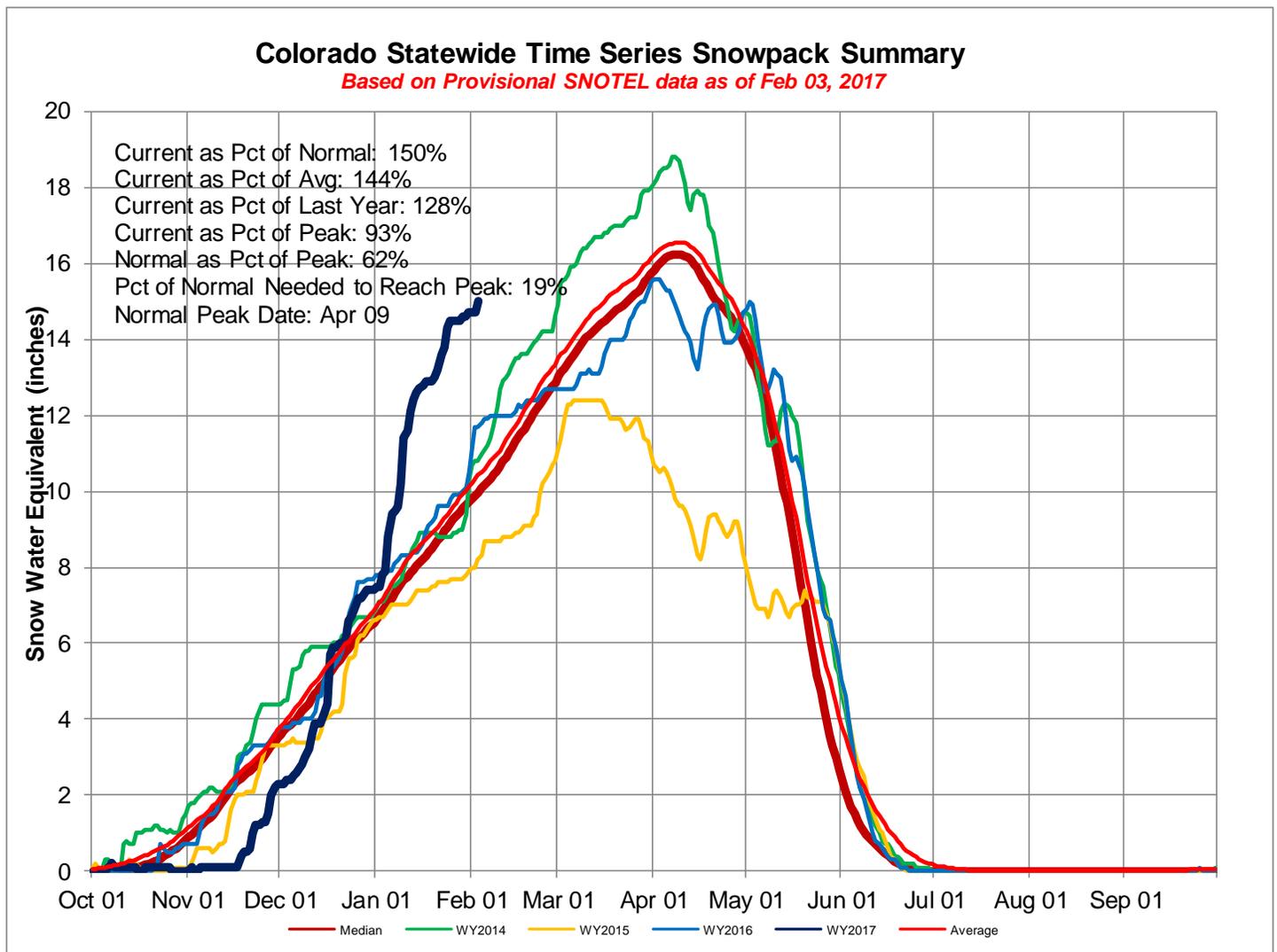
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Statewide Water Supply Conditions

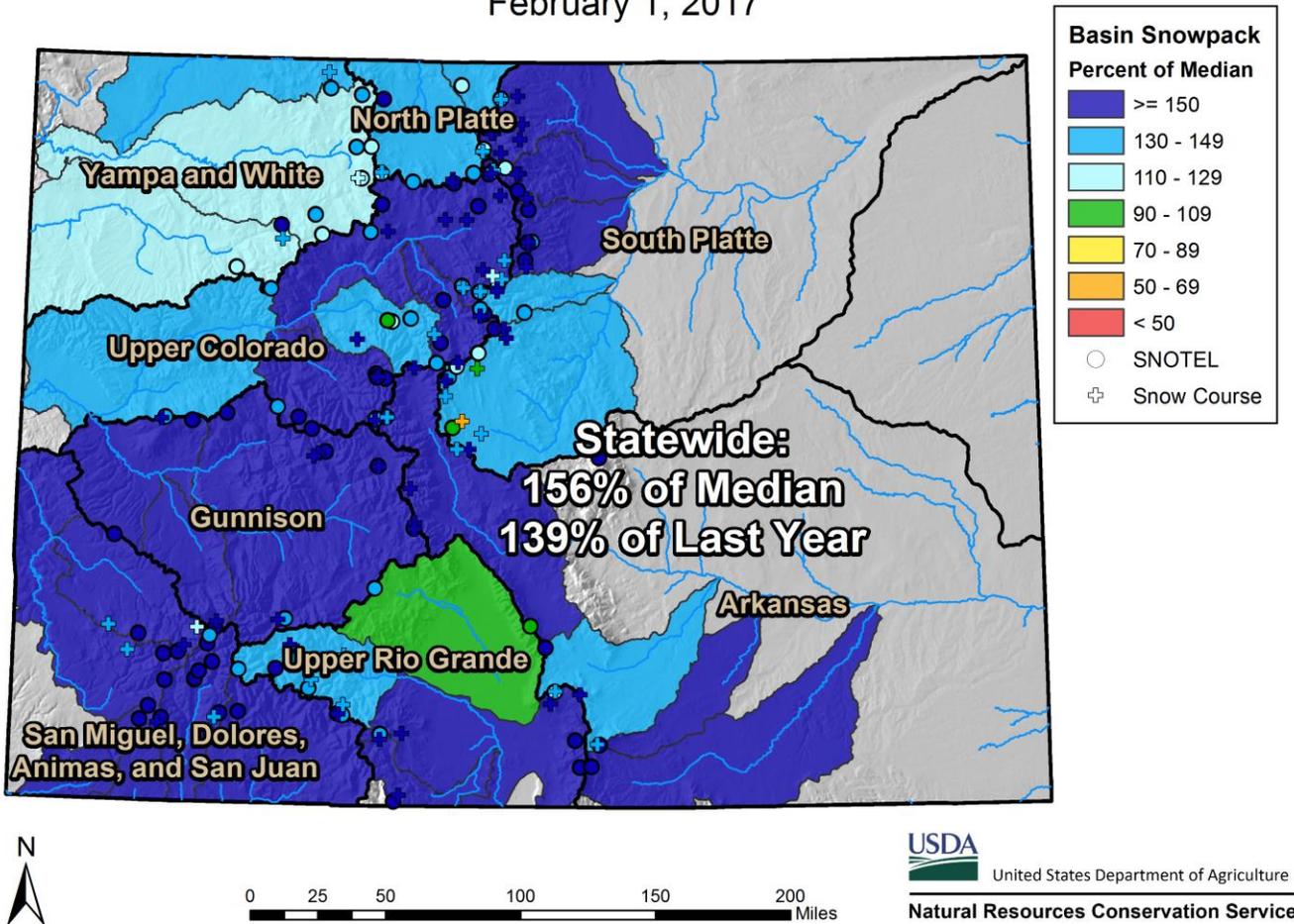
Summary

Colorado received well above normal mountain precipitation and snowpack accumulation throughout the month of January, with all but one major basin receiving more than twice the normal amount of monthly precipitation. The combined Yampa, White, and North Platte basins experienced the lowest January precipitation at 187 percent of average and the Gunnison had the highest at 251 percent. Statewide January precipitation was 217 percent of average. This substantial accumulation of precipitation left the statewide snowpack at 156 percent of normal as of February 1st, a notable increase from the 114 percent that was recorded as of January 1st. Streamflow forecasts across the state range from near to well above normal seasonal volumes. On the low end there are several forecast points in the South Platte basin that are currently forecast to have between 101-110 percent of their average April-July streamflow volumes. While most streamflow forecasts in the state range between 110-150 percent of normal, there are several streams in the Upper Rio Grande basin that are forecast to have between 175-185 percent of average streamflow this season. Reservoir storage has remained relatively constant, relative to normal, throughout this water year and is currently 106 percent of average statewide.



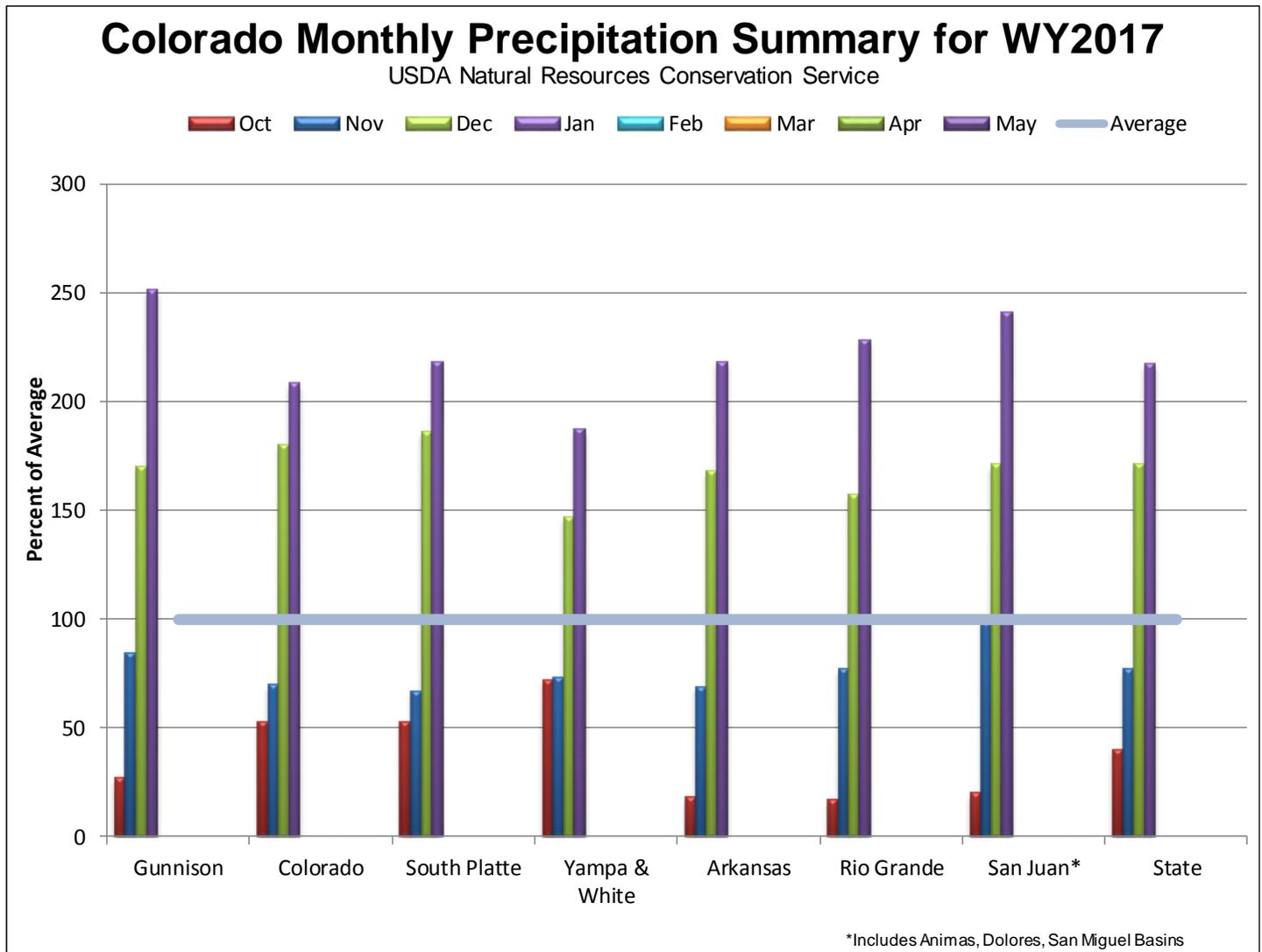
Snowpack

Colorado Monthly Snowpack Summary February 1, 2017



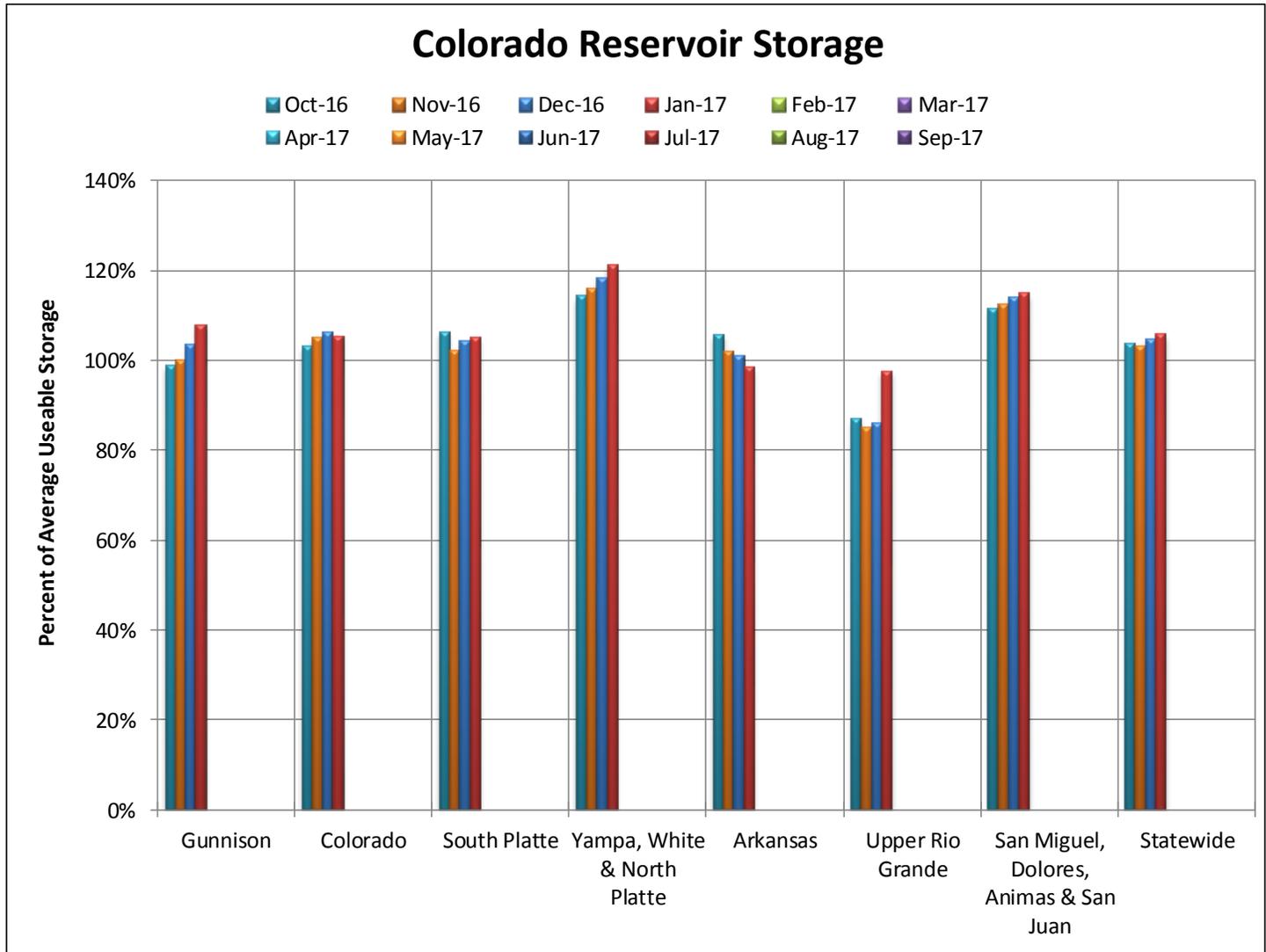
Impressive snowfall accumulations buried Colorado's mountain SNOTEL stations during January. Following a steady stream of storms that benefited the entire state, snowpack on February 1st for Colorado is at 156 percent of the median. Only 1997 had a snowpack on February 1st greater than this year. Nine SNOTEL stations, with at least 20 years of data collection, experienced record accumulations during January this year, and another ten sites had their second best January snowfall accumulations. All of Colorado's major basins now have above normal snowpack for this time of year and many sub-basins have greater than 150 percent of the typical February 1st snowpack. The Gunnison River basin currently has the highest snowpack with respect to normal, at 171 percent of median. The combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, San Juan and Arkansas River basins are close behind at 167 and 164 percent of median respectively. The Rio Grande, South Platte, and Colorado are also above 150 percent of normal at 156, 155 and 154 percent of median respectively. The combined Yampa, White, and North Platte River basin is the only region below the 150 percent mark, but it is still much above normal at 132 percent of the median. With about a third of the snow accumulation season remaining, most river basins are well on their way to surpassing typical peak snow accumulations for the water year. A lot can change with the unpredictability of future weather patterns, but many SNOTEL stations are on track to experience record snowfall for the water year.

Precipitation



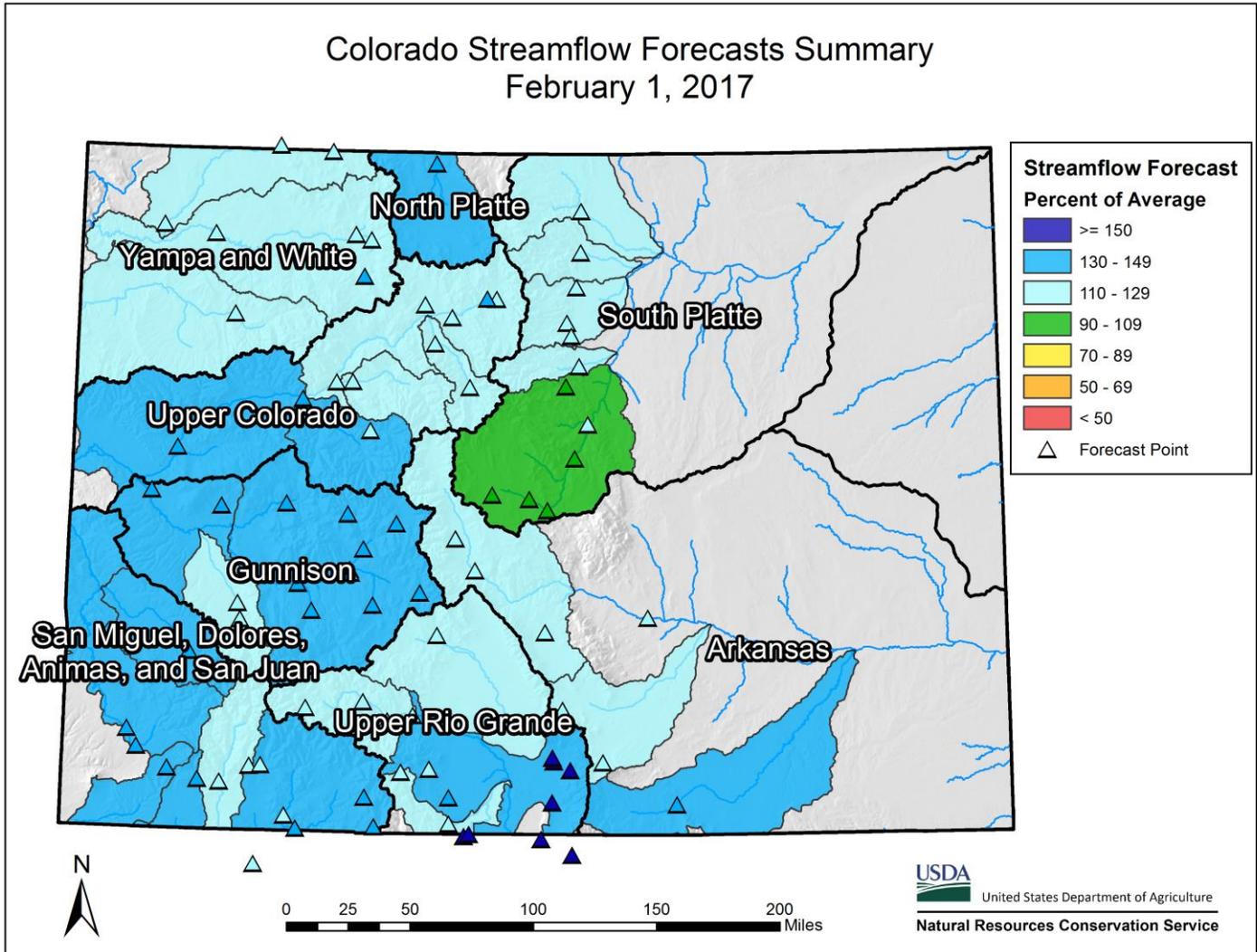
The exceptional December and January precipitation that has pelted Colorado's mountains has now more than made up for the dry conditions that occurred this fall. Monthly precipitation for January alone was more than double what typically accumulates in most of the state's major river basins for the month. Collectively, Colorado's statewide precipitation for January was 217 percent of average for the month. Water year-to-date precipitation is now a healthy amount above normal in all of the major river basins across the state. This winter's precipitation trend as a whole has been slightly favoring the southwest regions of the state providing for the combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan and Gunnison River basins to have the highest precipitation totals for the water year. The combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River basins are currently at 137 percent of average and the Gunnison River basin, which at 251 percent had the most anomalous January precipitation, is currently at 136 percent of average for the water year. The South Platte and Colorado River basins are also quite high at 133 and 131 percent of average respectively. The combined Yampa, White, North Platte, Rio Grande, and Arkansas River basins also made up a lot of ground and are at 124, 120, and 117 percent of average respectively. Statewide, Colorado is currently at 129 percent of average for water year-to-date precipitation, the 2017 water year is currently the second wettest for Colorado since 1986, behind only 1997 for water year-to-date precipitation on February 1st.

Reservoir Storage



Reservoir storage crept up slightly during January in most of Colorado's major river basins, although most changes last month were minimal as is typical mid-winter. The Colorado River basin experienced a small decrease in storage of about 85,000 acre-ft across all reservoirs in the basin. However, the basin still contains 44,000 acre-feet above normal for reservoir storage and is at 105 percent of average. Likewise, reservoir storage is near to above normal in all basins, with the exception of the Rio Grande River basin, which is storing 89 percent of average. The combined Yampa, White, and North Platte River basin has the greatest departure from normal, at 121 percent of average, which is the same level the basin was at last year at this time. Current storage levels for most other basins are also similar to the levels on February 1st last year, with a couple of exceptions; the Arkansas River basin is currently slightly below normal at 99 percent of average compared to 125 percent last year, and the combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River basin is above normal at 115 percent of average compared to 103 percent last year. Statewide storage remains above normal for the third consecutive year, and collectively Colorado's reservoirs are currently holding 188,000 ac-ft above normal, at 106 percent of average.

Streamflow



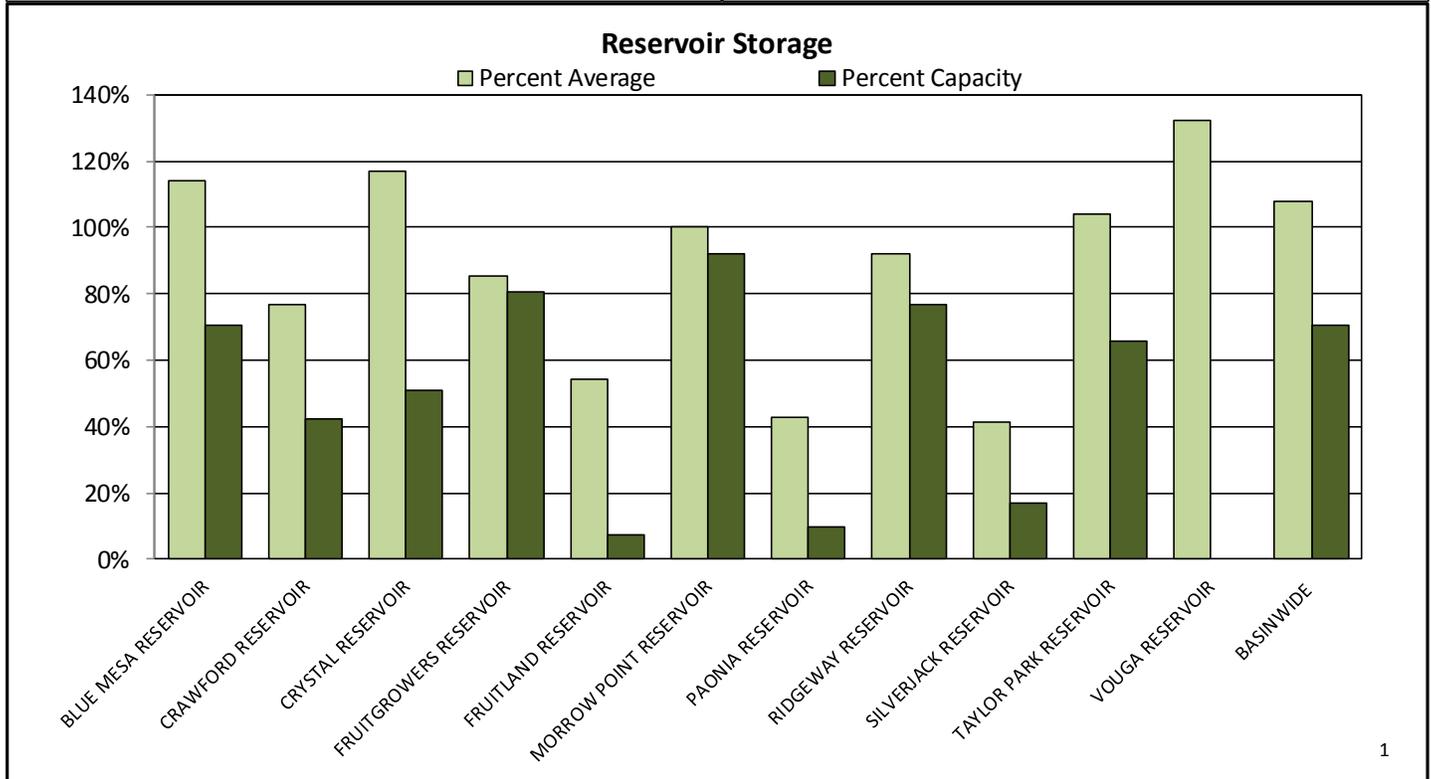
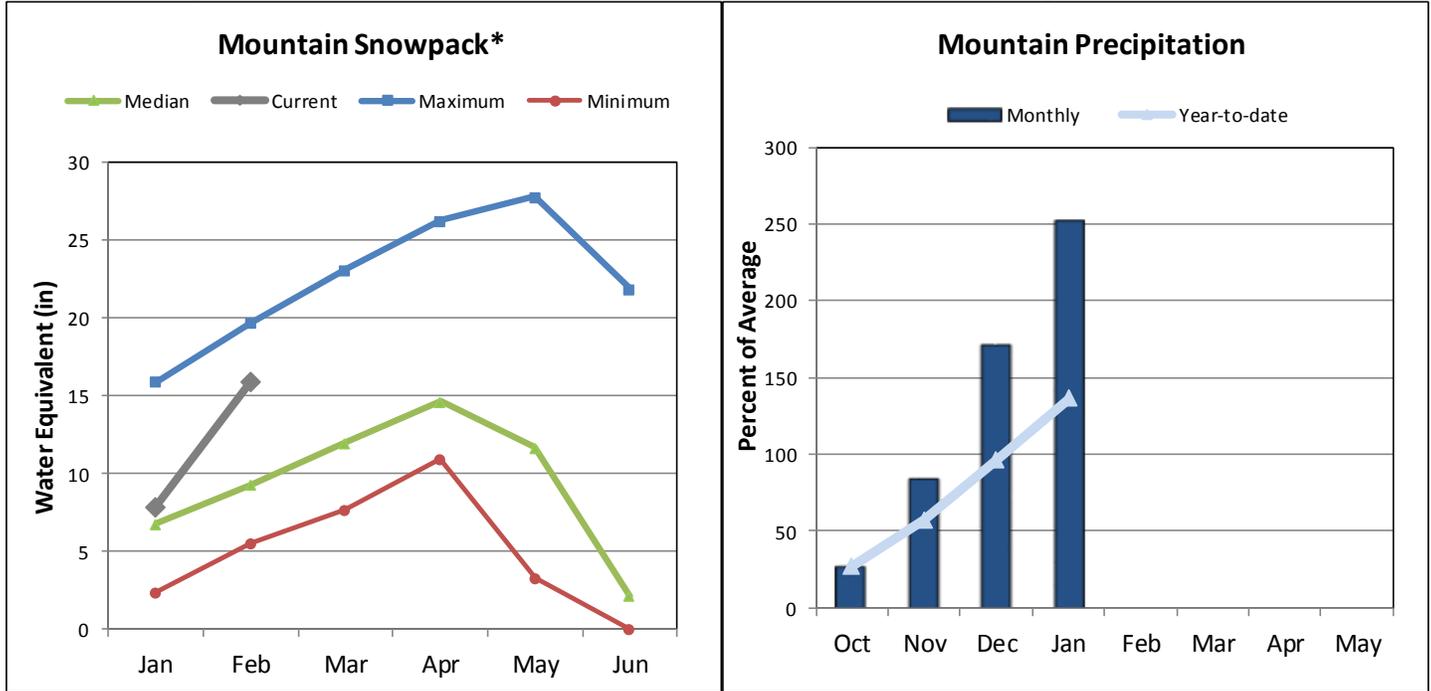
Anticipated spring to summer streamflow volumes have increased for every forecast point in Colorado since the first 2017 forecasts were issued on January 1st. Additionally, the 50 percent exceedance forecasts are calling for above average streamflow volumes for all forecast points in the state. The greatest increases in forecasted streamflow volumes occurred for the southern tributaries of the Rio Grande River basin, where forecasts are now calling for 160 percent of average or greater streamflow volumes. Forecast volumes in the Gunnison River basin are also quite high and range from 124 percent to 151 percent of average. Streams outside of the Rio Grande and Gunnison river basins are also well above normal, and in general range from above 110 percent to 148 percent of average. Forecasts for runoff from the upper tributaries of the South Platte are lower than elsewhere in the state and are between 100 and 105 percent of average. There are still a few months remaining before runoff really begins to take off for most of Colorado's streams, but barring an extreme shift in current precipitation and snowpack trends, this year's water supplies are looking to be more than adequate for the entire state.

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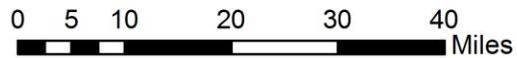
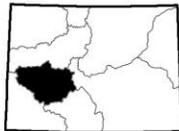
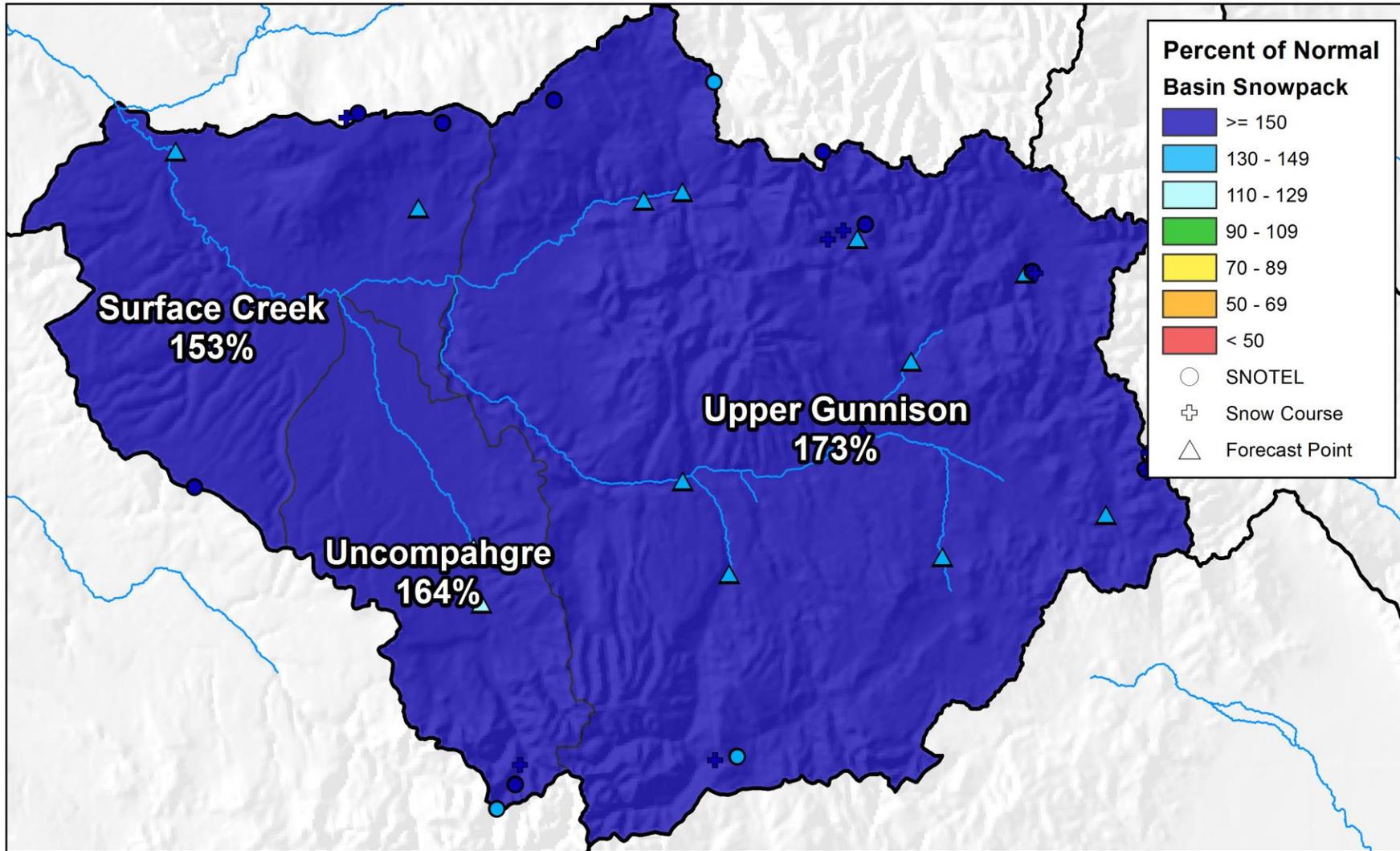
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

February 1, 2017

Snowpack in the Gunnison River basin is above normal at 171% of the median. Precipitation for January was 251% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation to 136% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was 108% of average compared to 108% last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 151% of average for the Gunnison River at Gunnison to 124% for the Uncompahgre River at Colona.



Gunnison River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts February 1, 2017



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Gunnison River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2017

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

| GUNNISON RIVER BASIN | Forecast Period | 90% (KAF) | 70% (KAF) | 50% (KAF) | % Avg | 30% (KAF) | 10% (KAF) | 30yr Avg (KAF) |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Taylor Park Reservoir Inflow | APR-JUL | 99 | 123 | 140 | 141% | 158 | 187 | 99 |
| Slate R nr Crested Butte | APR-JUL | 89 | 104 | 115 | 139% | 126 | 144 | 83 |
| East R at Almont | APR-JUL | 196 | 240 | 270 | 148% | 305 | 355 | 182 |
| Gunnison R near Gunnison ² | APR-JUL | 390 | 490 | 560 | 151% | 635 | 760 | 370 |
| Tomichi Ck at Sargents | APR-JUL | 22 | 33 | 41 | 137% | 50 | 64 | 30 |
| Cochetopa Ck bl Rock Ck nr Parlin | APR-JUL | 8.8 | 14.7 | 19.5 | 130% | 25 | 34 | 15 |
| Tomichi Ck at Gunnison | APR-JUL | 51 | 84 | 110 | 149% | 140 | 191 | 74 |
| Lake Fk at Gateview | APR-JUL | 113 | 140 | 160 | 130% | 181 | 215 | 123 |
| Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 690 | 865 | 1000 | 148% | 1140 | 1370 | 675 |
| Paonia Reservoir Inflow | MAR-JUN | 84 | 113 | 135 | 141% | 159 | 199 | 96 |
| | APR-JUL | 81 | 113 | 137 | 141% | 164 | 205 | 97 |
| NF Gunnison R nr Somerset ² | APR-JUL | 280 | 350 | 400 | 138% | 455 | 540 | 290 |
| Surface Ck at Cedaredge | APR-JUL | 16.3 | 19.6 | 22 | 131% | 25 | 29 | 16.8 |
| Ridgway Reservoir Inflow | APR-JUL | 88 | 110 | 127 | 126% | 145 | 174 | 101 |
| Uncompahgre R at Colona ² | APR-JUL | 102 | 140 | 170 | 124% | 200 | 255 | 137 |
| Gunnison R nr Grand Junction ² | APR-JUL | 1430 | 1820 | 2120 | 143% | 2430 | 2940 | 1480 |

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

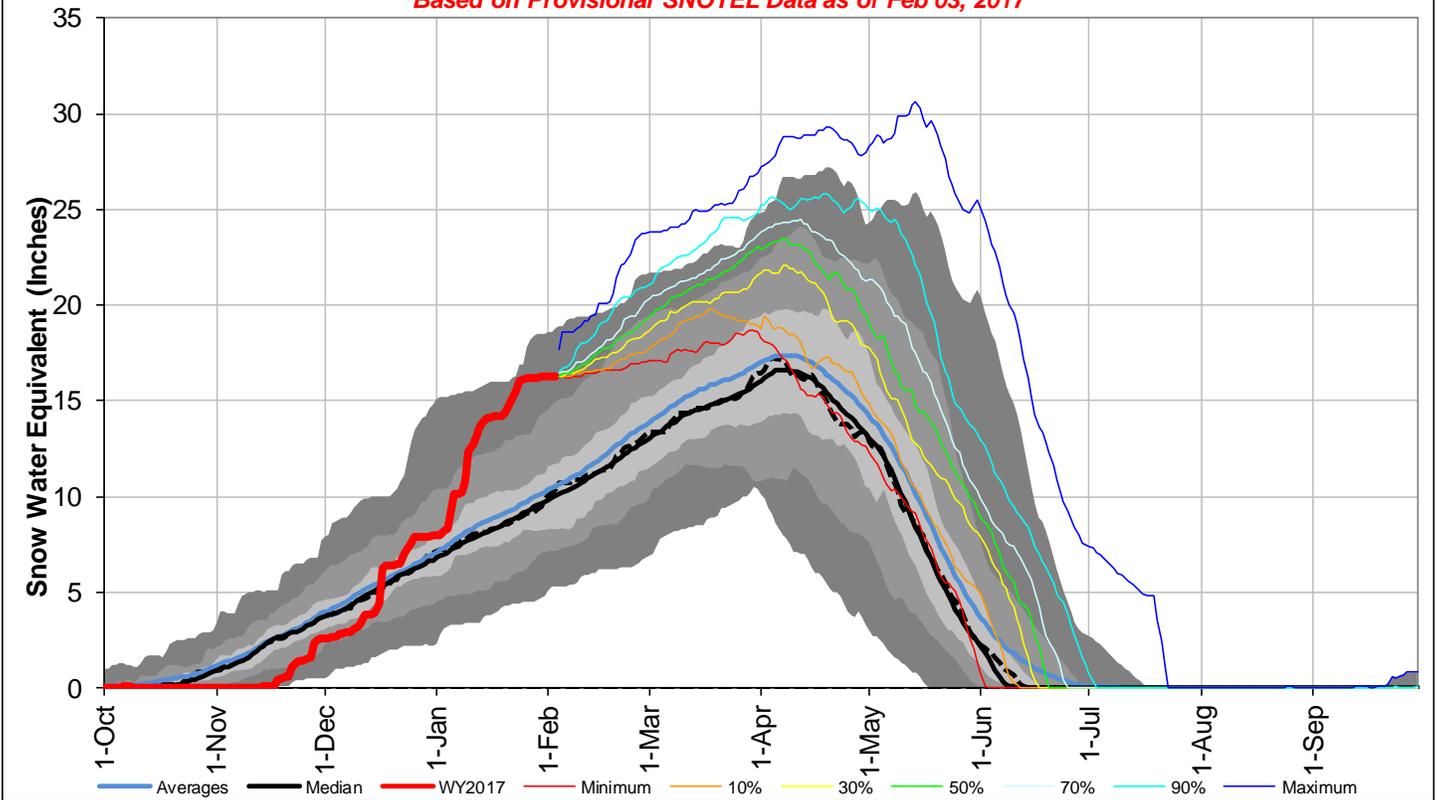
3) Median value used in place of average

| Reservoir Storage End of January, 2017 | Current (KAF) | Last Year (KAF) | Average (KAF) | Capacity (KAF) |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Blue Mesa Reservoir | 586.5 | 590.1 | 514.6 | 830.0 |
| Crawford Reservoir | 5.9 | 6.7 | 7.7 | 14.0 |
| Crystal Reservoir | 8.9 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 17.5 |
| Fruitgrowers Reservoir | 2.9 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 3.6 |
| Fruitland Reservoir | 0.7 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 9.2 |
| Morrow Point Reservoir | 111.4 | 109.6 | 111.4 | 121.0 |
| Paonia Reservoir | 1.5 | 0.9 | 3.5 | 15.4 |
| Ridgway Reservoir | 63.7 | 63.5 | 69.2 | 83.0 |
| Silverjack Reservoir | 2.2 | 4.3 | 5.3 | 12.8 |
| Taylor Park Reservoir | 69.5 | 69.7 | 66.9 | 106.0 |
| Vouga Reservoir | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Basin-wide Total | 854.1 | 857.8 | 791.6 | 1213.4 |
| # of reservoirs | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |

| Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2017 | # of Sites | % Median | Last Year % Median |
|---|------------|----------|--------------------|
| UPPER GUNNISON BASIN | 17 | 173% | 110% |
| SURFACE CREEK BASIN | 3 | 153% | 113% |
| UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN | 4 | 164% | 132% |
| GUNNISON RIVER BASIN | 21 | 171% | 114% |

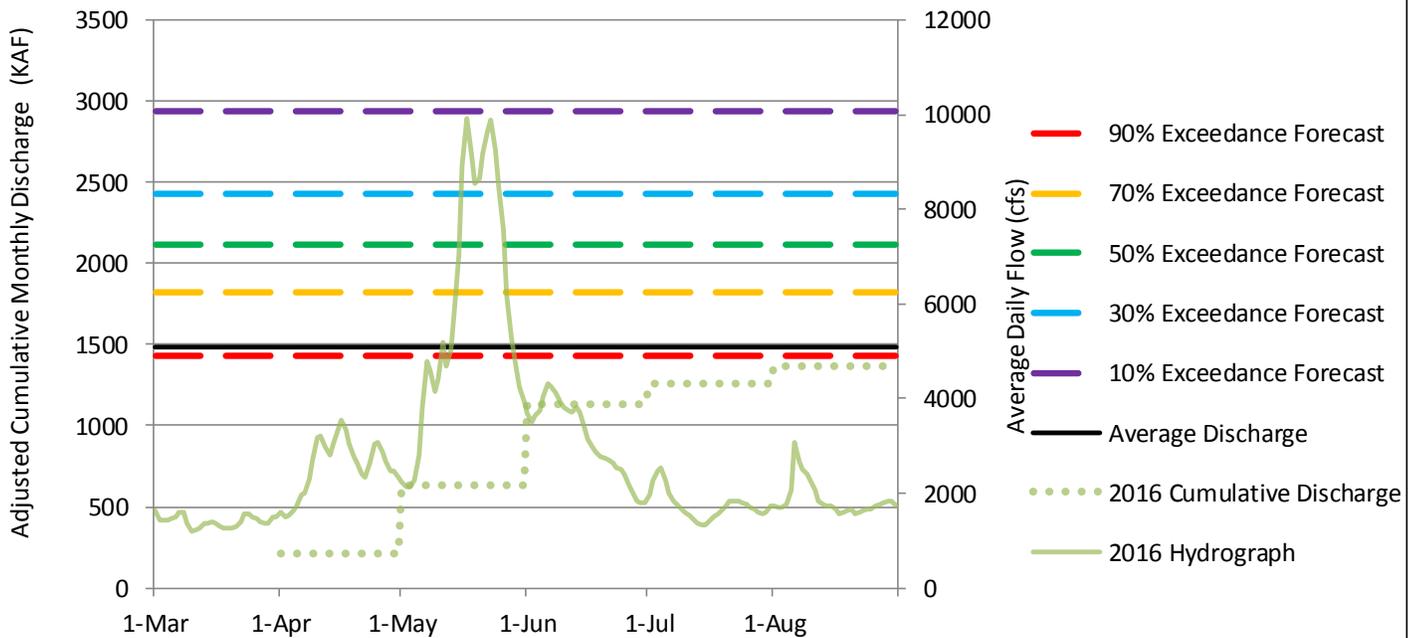
Gunnison River Basin with Non-Exceedence Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of Feb 03, 2017



Gunnison River near Grand Junction, CO

Daily and Cumulative Discharge Compared to Current Streamflow Forecasts (Apr - Jul)

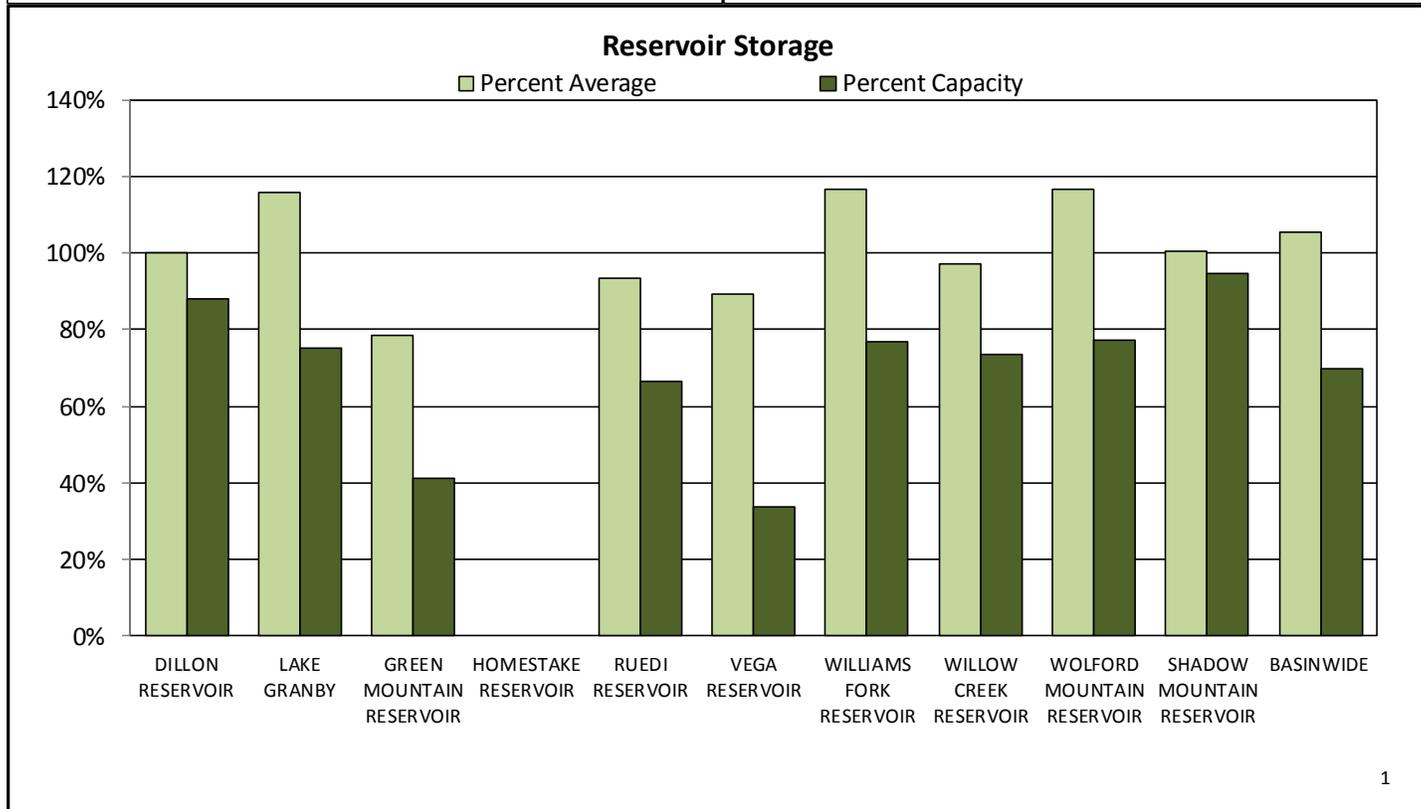
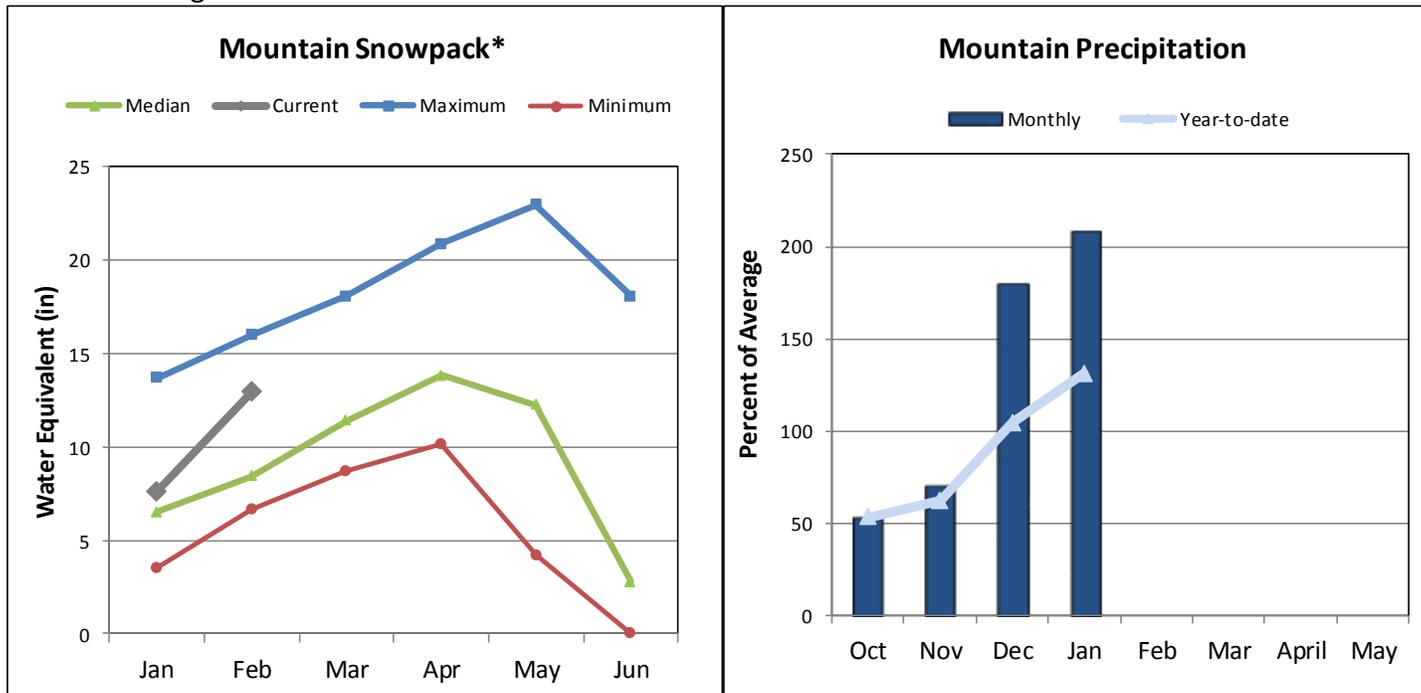


Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

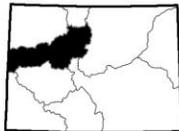
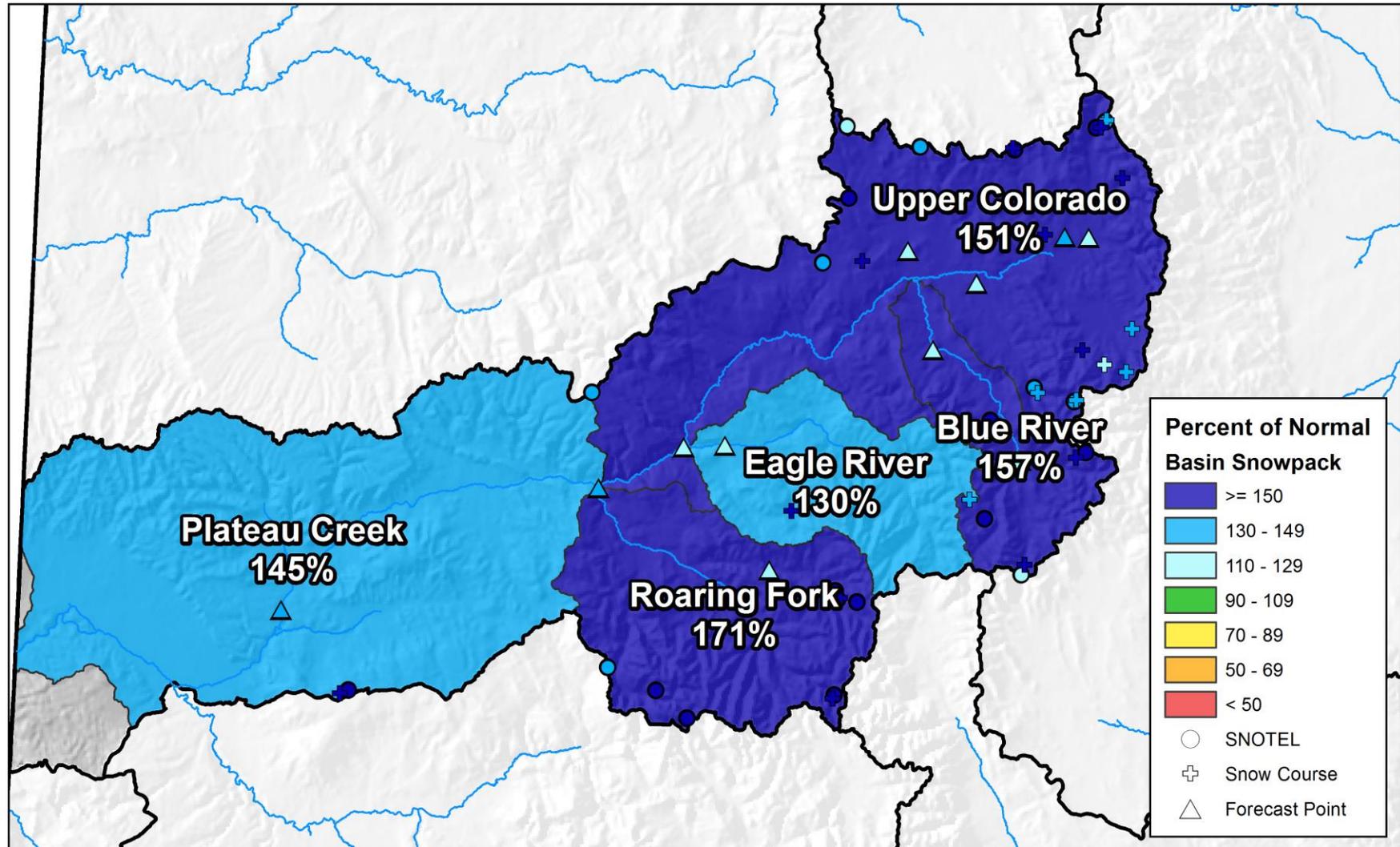
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

February 1, 2017

Snowpack in the Colorado River basin is above normal at 154% of the median. Precipitation for January was 207% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation to 131% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was 105% of average compared to 109% last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 149% of average for the inflow to Willow Creek Reservoir to 115% for the Wolford Mountain Reservoir inflow.



Upper Colorado River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts February 1, 2017



0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Upper Colorado River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2017

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

| UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN | Forecast Period | 90% (KAF) | 70% (KAF) | 50% (KAF) | % Avg | 30% (KAF) | 10% (KAF) | 30yr Avg (KAF) |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Lake Granby Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 192 | 235 | 265 | 120% | 300 | 350 | 220 |
| Willow Ck Reservoir Inflow | APR-JUL | 46 | 60 | 70 | 149% | 81 | 99 | 47 |
| Williams Fk bl Williams Fk Reservoir ² | APR-JUL | 87 | 109 | 125 | 129% | 142 | 170 | 97 |
| Wolford Mtn Reservoir Inflow | APR-JUL | 42 | 53 | 62 | 115% | 71 | 86 | 54 |
| Dillon Reservoir Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 142 | 179 | 205 | 126% | 235 | 280 | 163 |
| Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 240 | 300 | 345 | 125% | 395 | 470 | 275 |
| Eagle R bl Gypsum ² | APR-JUL | 270 | 340 | 395 | 118% | 455 | 545 | 335 |
| Colorado R nr Dotsero ² | APR-JUL | 1200 | 1530 | 1770 | 126% | 2030 | 2450 | 1400 |
| Ruedi Reservoir Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 122 | 150 | 170 | 122% | 192 | 225 | 139 |
| Roaring Fk at Glenwood Springs ² | APR-JUL | 660 | 800 | 900 | 130% | 1010 | 1180 | 690 |
| Colorado R nr Cameo ² | APR-JUL | 2210 | 2700 | 3070 | 131% | 3450 | 4060 | 2350 |

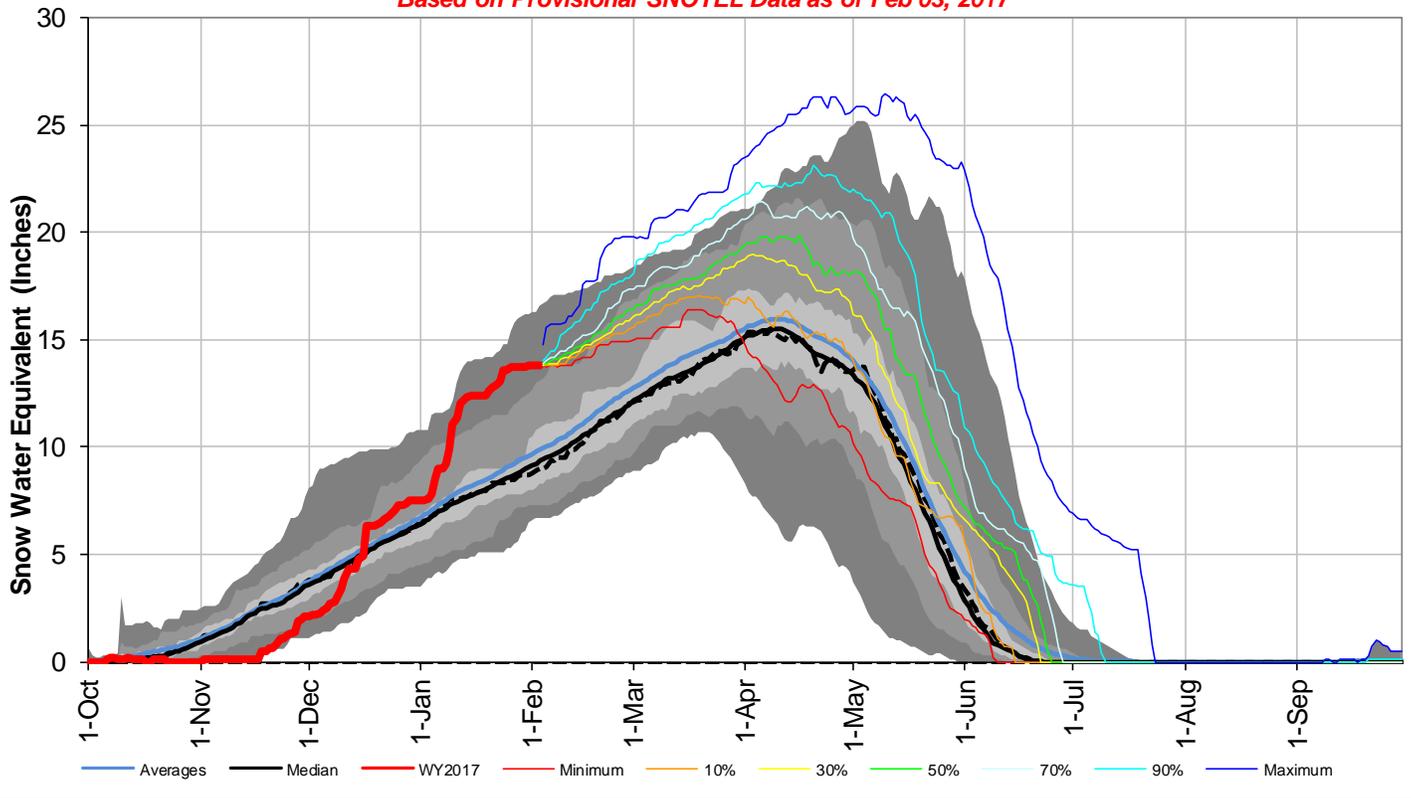
- 1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
- 2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
- 3) Median value used in place of average

| Reservoir Storage End of January, 2017 | Current (KAF) | Last Year (KAF) | Average (KAF) | Capacity (KAF) |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dillon Reservoir | 219.0 | 231.9 | 218.4 | 249.1 |
| Green Mountain Reservoir | 60.4 | 61.0 | 77.1 | 146.8 |
| Homestake Reservoir | | 41.3 | 31.7 | 43.0 |
| Lake Granby | 351.1 | 365.4 | 302.9 | 465.6 |
| Ruedi Reservoir | 67.8 | 70.2 | 72.4 | 102.0 |
| Shadow Mountain Reservoir | 17.4 | 17.4 | 17.3 | 18.4 |
| Vega Reservoir | 11.1 | 11.1 | 12.4 | 32.9 |
| Williams Fork Reservoir | 74.4 | 78.0 | 63.8 | 97.0 |
| Willow Creek Reservoir | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 9.1 |
| Wolford Mountain Reservoir | 50.8 | 42.7 | 43.6 | 65.9 |
| Basin-wide Total | 858.7 | 884.5 | 814.8 | 1186.8 |
| # of reservoirs | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |

| Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2017 | # of Sites | % Median | Last Year % Median |
|---|------------|----------|--------------------|
| BLUE RIVER BASIN | 8 | 157% | 116% |
| HEADWATERS COLORADO RIVER | 36 | 151% | 114% |
| MUDDY CREEK BASIN | 5 | 151% | 116% |
| EAGLE RIVER BASIN | 5 | 130% | 100% |
| PLATEAU CREEK BASIN | 3 | 153% | 113% |
| ROARING FORK BASIN | 9 | 171% | 113% |
| WILLIAMS FORK BASIN | 5 | 137% | 128% |
| WILLOW CREEK BASIN | 5 | 187% | 121% |
| UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN | 48 | 154% | 113% |

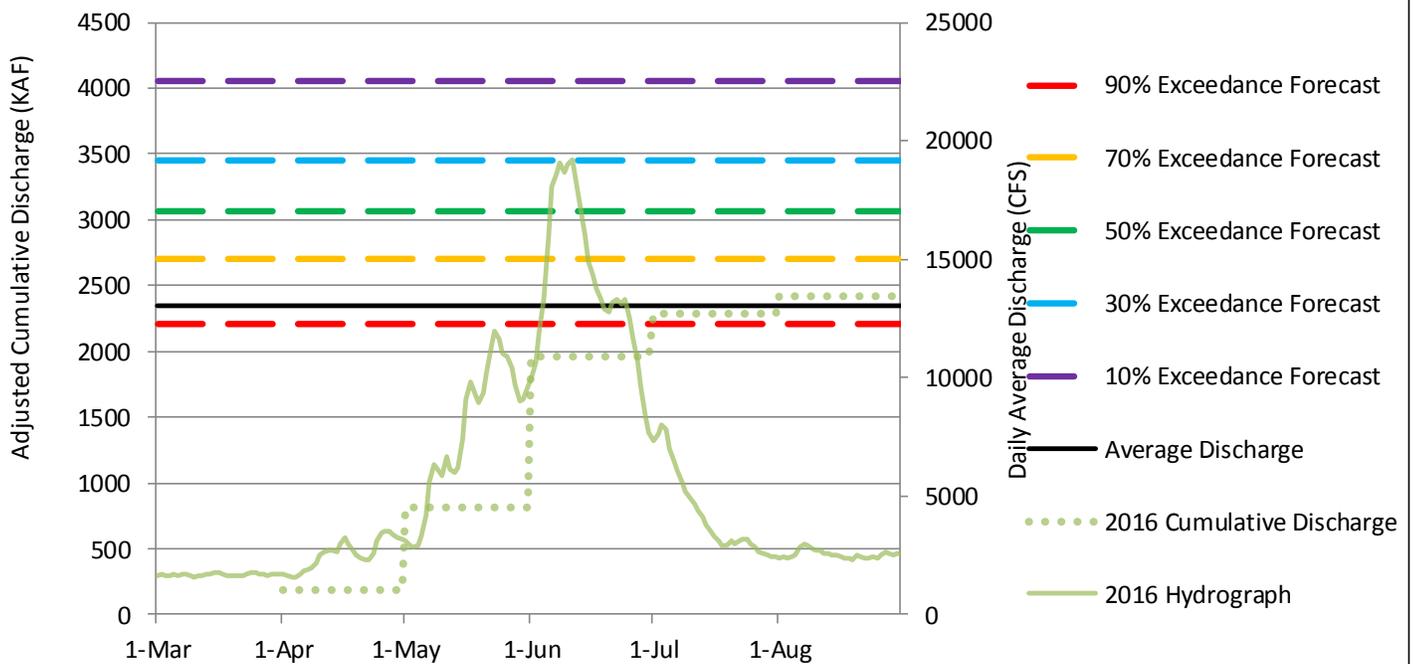
Upper Colorado River Basin with Non-Exceedance Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of Feb 03, 2017



Colorado River near Cameo, CO

Daily and Cumulative Discharge Compared to Current Streamflow Forecasts (Apr - Jul)

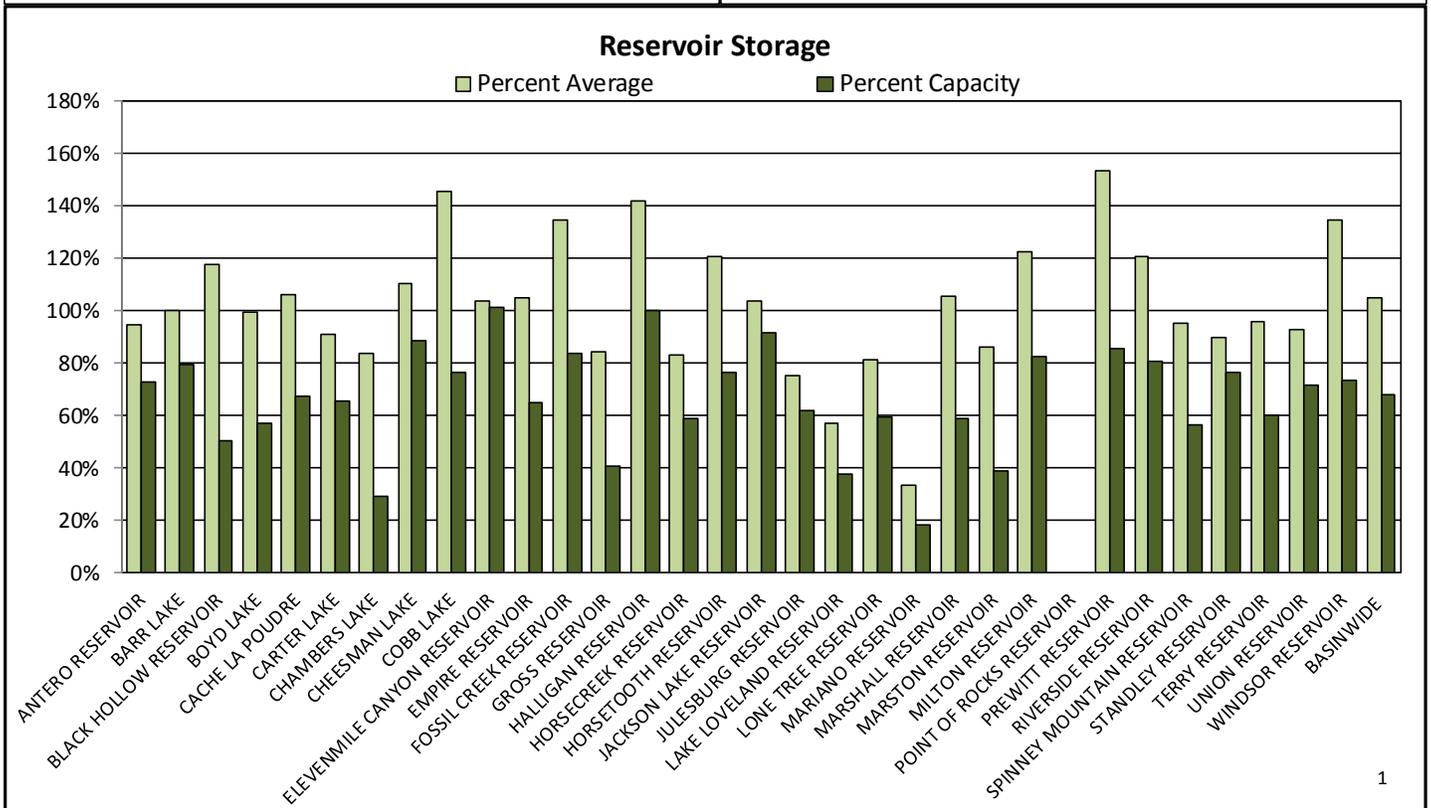
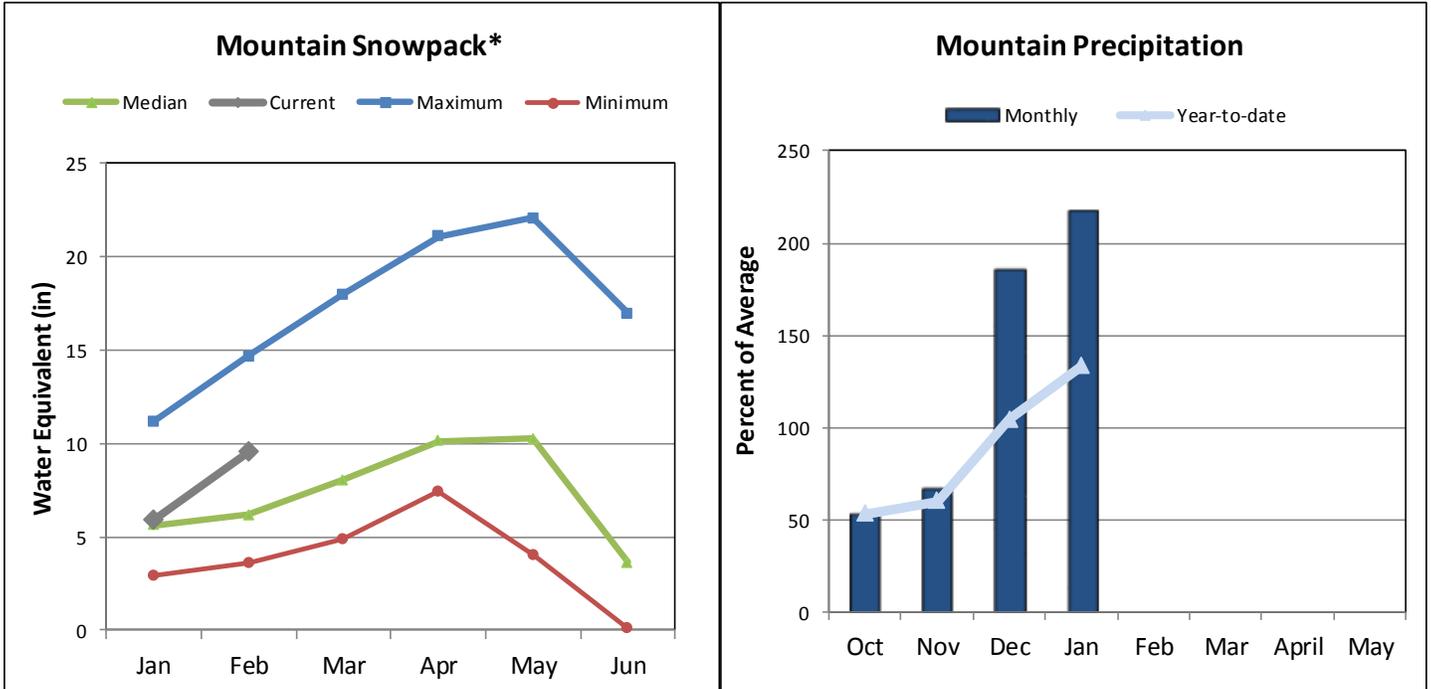


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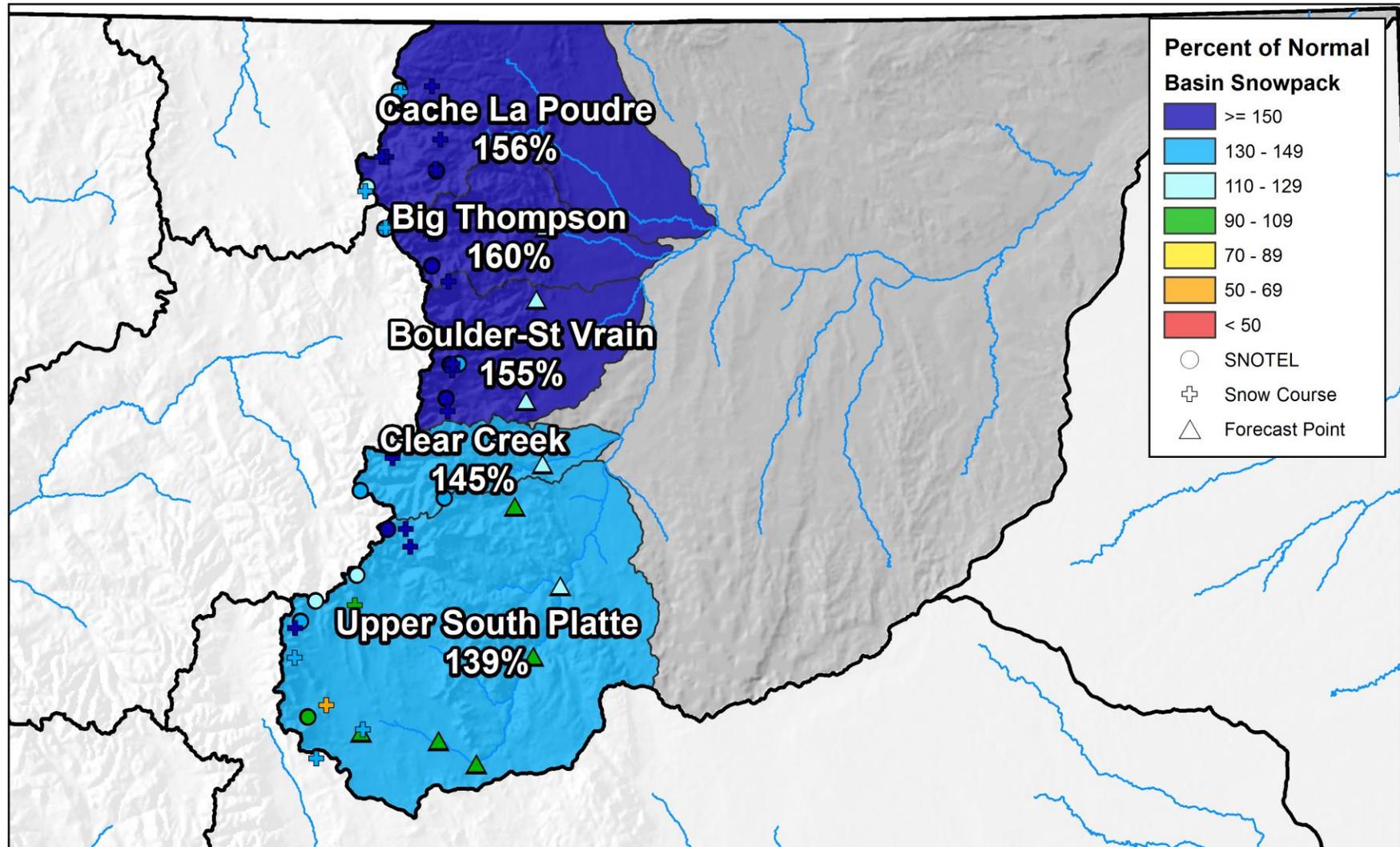
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

February 1, 2017

Snowpack in the South Platte River basin is above normal at 156% of the median. Precipitation for January was 217% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation to 132%. Reservoir storage at the end of January was 105% of average compared to 104% last year. Streamflow forecasts range from 124% of average for St. Vrain Creek at Lyons to 101% for the inflow to Antero Reservoir.



South Platte River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts February 1, 2017



0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

South Platte River Basin
Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2017

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
 Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

| SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN | Forecast Period | 90% (KAF) | 70% (KAF) | 50% (KAF) | % Avg | 30% (KAF) | 10% (KAF) | 30yr Avg (KAF) |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Antero Reservoir Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 7.8 | 11.8 | 14.6 | 101% | 17.3 | 21 | 14.5 |
| | APR-SEP | 9.6 | 14.2 | 17.4 | 98% | 21 | 25 | 17.8 |
| Spinney Mountain Reservoir Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 30 | 42 | 51 | 106% | 59 | 71 | 48 |
| | APR-SEP | 37 | 53 | 63 | 103% | 74 | 89 | 61 |
| Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 30 | 43 | 52 | 104% | 61 | 74 | 50 |
| | APR-SEP | 38 | 54 | 65 | 102% | 77 | 93 | 64 |
| Cheesman Lake Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 63 | 86 | 101 | 101% | 116 | 138 | 100 |
| | APR-SEP | 79 | 107 | 126 | 100% | 145 | 173 | 126 |
| South Platte R at South Platte ² | APR-JUL | 127 | 169 | 198 | 110% | 225 | 270 | 180 |
| | APR-SEP | 155 | 205 | 240 | 107% | 280 | 330 | 225 |
| Bear Ck ab Evergreen | APR-JUL | 9.3 | 14.2 | 17.4 | 106% | 21 | 26 | 16.4 |
| | APR-SEP | 12.4 | 18.1 | 22 | 105% | 26 | 32 | 21 |
| Clear Ck at Golden | APR-JUL | 98 | 114 | 126 | 120% | 137 | 154 | 105 |
| | APR-SEP | 114 | 137 | 152 | 119% | 168 | 190 | 128 |
| St. Vrain Ck at Lyons ² | APR-JUL | 84 | 99 | 109 | 124% | 119 | 134 | 88 |
| | APR-SEP | 99 | 117 | 129 | 125% | 141 | 159 | 103 |
| Boulder Ck nr Orodell ² | APR-JUL | 47 | 56 | 62 | 115% | 68 | 77 | 54 |
| | APR-SEP | 53 | 64 | 72 | 114% | 80 | 91 | 63 |
| South Boulder Ck nr Eldorado Springs ² | APR-JUL | 32 | 39 | 44 | 113% | 49 | 56 | 39 |
| | APR-SEP | 34 | 42 | 48 | 112% | 54 | 62 | 43 |
| Big Thompson R at Canyon Mouth ² | APR-JUL | 79 | 95 | 107 | 119% | 118 | 134 | 90 |
| | APR-SEP | 91 | 112 | 127 | 119% | 141 | 162 | 107 |
| Cache La Poudre at Canyon Mouth ² | APR-JUL | 179 | 230 | 265 | 118% | 300 | 350 | 225 |
| | APR-SEP | 194 | 250 | 290 | 116% | 330 | 385 | 250 |

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

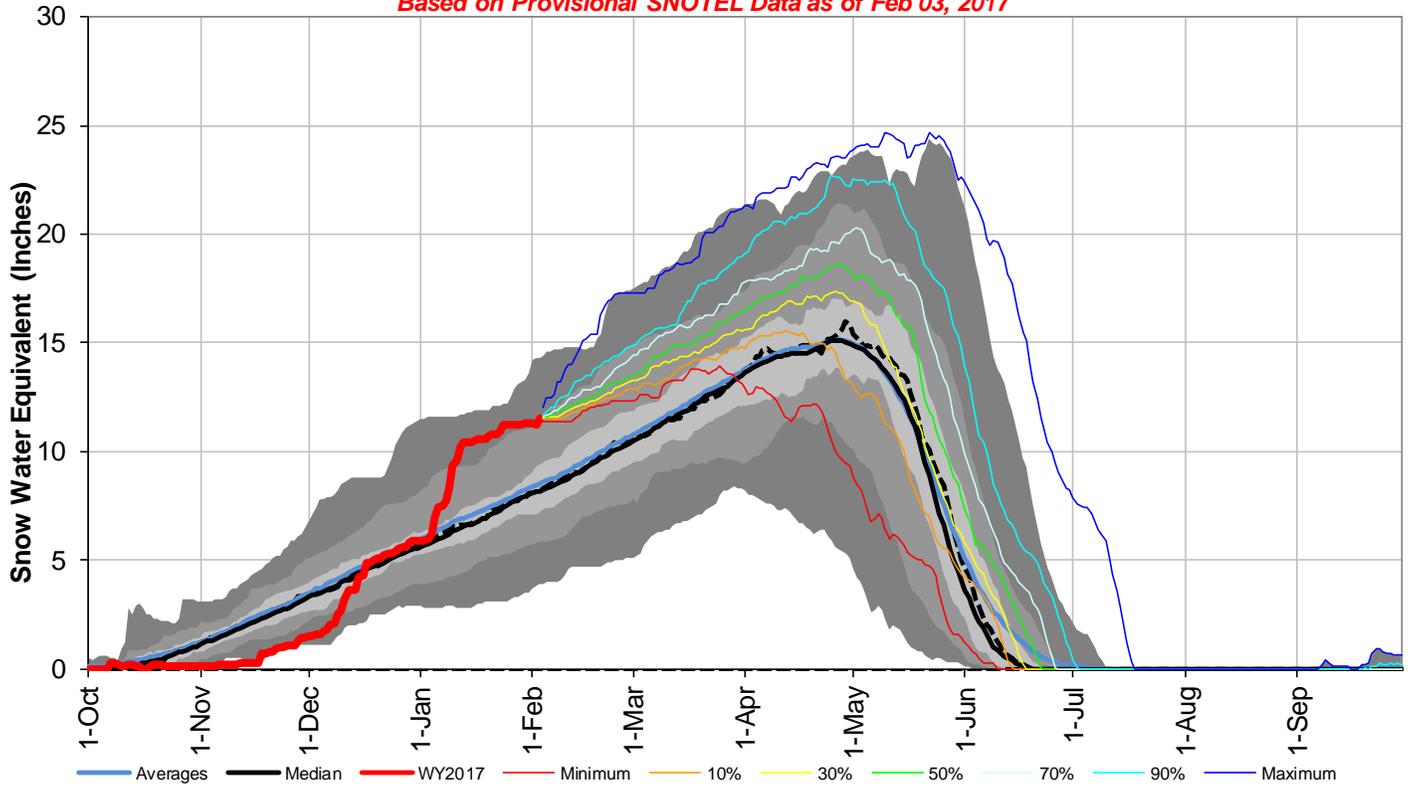
3) Median value used in place of average

| Reservoir Storage End of January, 2017 | Current (KAF) | Last Year (KAF) | Average (KAF) | Capacity (KAF) |
|---|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Antero Reservoir | 14.5 | 0.0 | 15.3 | 19.9 |
| Barr Lake | 24.0 | 20.7 | 24.0 | 30.1 |
| Black Hollow Reservoir | 3.3 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 6.5 |
| Boyd Lake | 27.6 | 35.2 | 27.8 | 48.4 |
| Cache La Poudre | 6.8 | 8.5 | 6.4 | 10.1 |
| Carter Lake | 71.2 | 71.1 | 78.3 | 108.9 |
| Chambers Lake | 2.6 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 8.8 |
| Cheesman Lake | 70.2 | 68.3 | 63.7 | 79.0 |
| Cobb Lake | 17.0 | 18.6 | 11.7 | 22.3 |
| Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir | 99.4 | 99.5 | 95.9 | 98.0 |
| Empire Reservoir | 23.7 | 23.6 | 22.6 | 36.5 |
| Fossil Creek Reservoir | 9.3 | 7.9 | 6.9 | 11.1 |
| Gross Reservoir | 12.1 | 16.5 | 14.3 | 29.8 |
| Halligan Reservoir | 6.4 | 6.4 | 4.5 | 6.4 |
| Horseshoe Reservoir | 8.6 | 8.8 | 10.4 | 14.7 |
| Horsetooth Reservoir | 114.4 | 102.0 | 94.7 | 149.7 |
| Jackson Lake Reservoir | 24.0 | 24.0 | 23.1 | 26.1 |
| Julesburg Reservoir | 12.7 | 16.0 | 16.9 | 20.5 |
| Lake Loveland Reservoir | 3.9 | 0.5 | 6.8 | 10.3 |
| Lone Tree Reservoir | 5.2 | 6.0 | 6.4 | 8.7 |
| Mariano Reservoir | 1.0 | 1.1 | 3.0 | 5.4 |
| Marshall Reservoir | 5.9 | 6.8 | 5.6 | 10.0 |
| Marston Reservoir | 5.1 | 9.6 | 5.9 | 13.0 |
| Milton Reservoir | 19.4 | 19.4 | 15.8 | 23.5 |
| Point Of Rocks Reservoir | | 61.5 | 51.1 | 70.6 |
| Prewitt Reservoir | 24.1 | 17.4 | 15.7 | 28.2 |
| Ralph Price Reservoir | 11.4 | 12.7 | | 16.2 |
| Riverside Reservoir | 45.1 | 40.4 | 37.3 | 55.8 |
| Spinney Mountain Reservoir | 27.6 | 32.9 | 29.0 | 49.0 |
| Standley Reservoir | 32.1 | 38.8 | 35.7 | 42.0 |
| Terry Reservoir | 4.8 | 5.7 | 5.0 | 8.0 |
| Union Reservoir | 9.3 | 11.7 | 10.0 | 13.0 |
| Windsor Reservoir | 11.2 | 10.0 | 8.3 | 15.2 |
| Basin-wide Total | 742.5 | 734.4 | 706.9 | 1008.9 |
| # of reservoirs | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 |

| Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2017 | # of Sites | % Median | Last Year % Median |
|---|------------|----------|-----------------------|
| BIG THOMPSON BASIN | 7 | 160% | 98% |
| BOULDER CREEK BASIN | 6 | 170% | 105% |
| CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN | 10 | 156% | 100% |
| CLEAR CREEK BASIN | 4 | 145% | 120% |
| SAINT VRAIN BASIN | 2 | 245% | 90% |
| UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN | 16 | 139% | 115% |
| SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN | 45 | 156% | 106% |

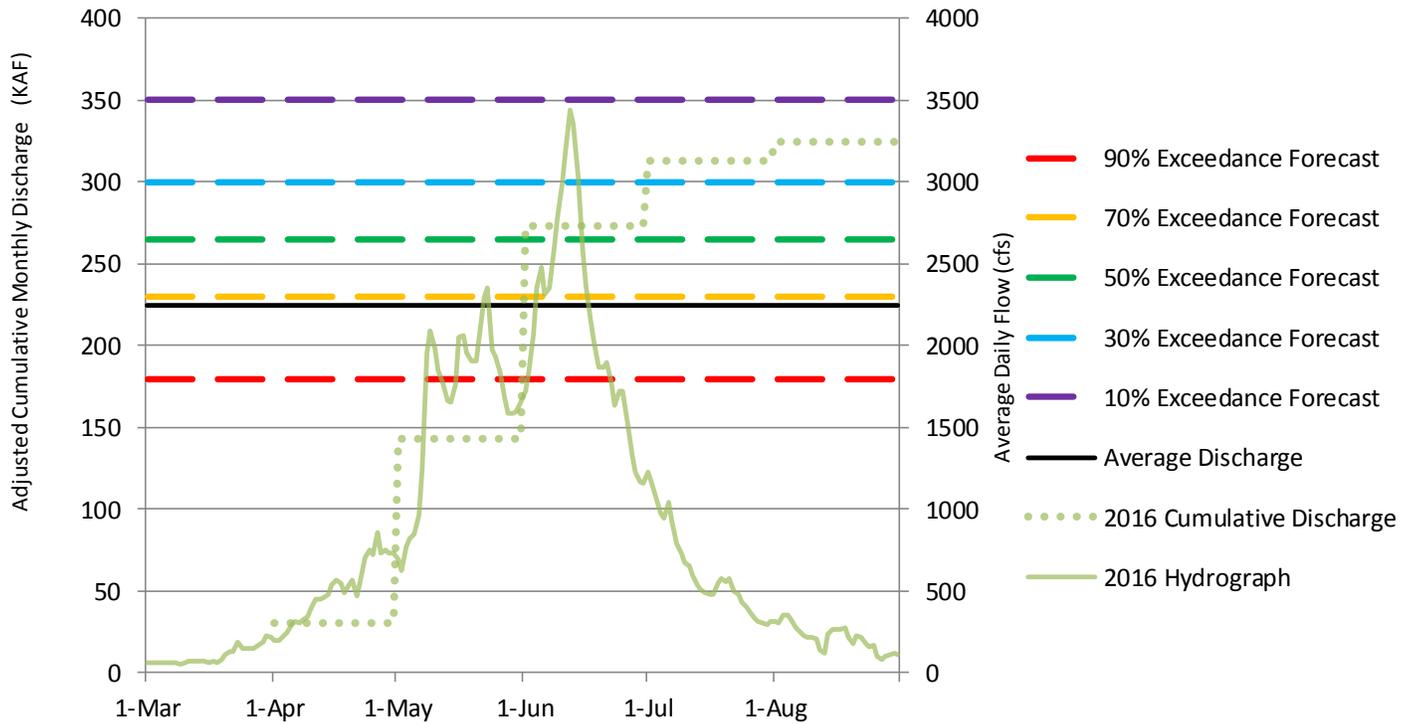
South Platte River Basin with Non-Exceedance Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of Feb 03, 2017



Cache La Poudre River at Canyon Mouth

Daily and Cumulative Discharge Compared to Current Streamflow Forecasts (Apr - Jul)

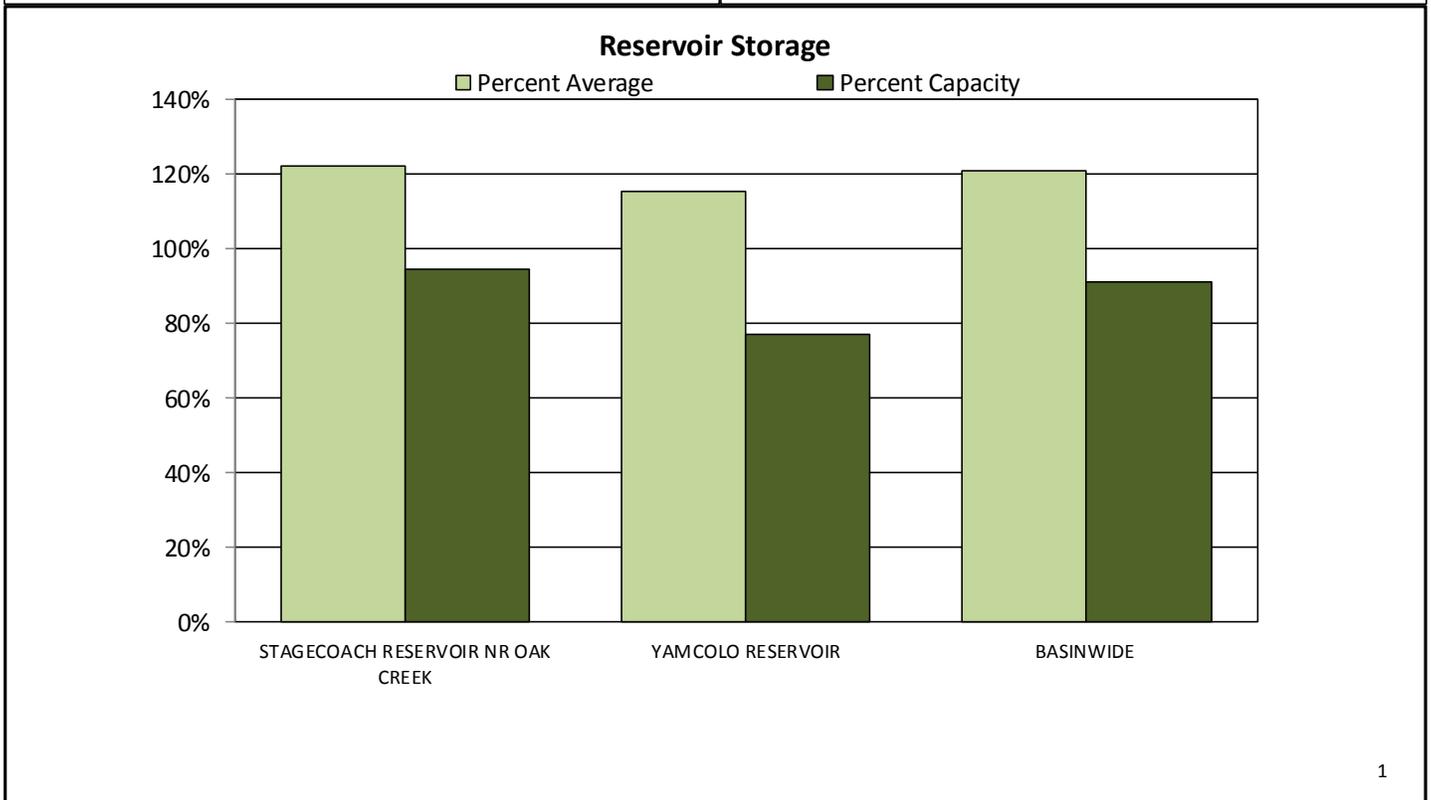
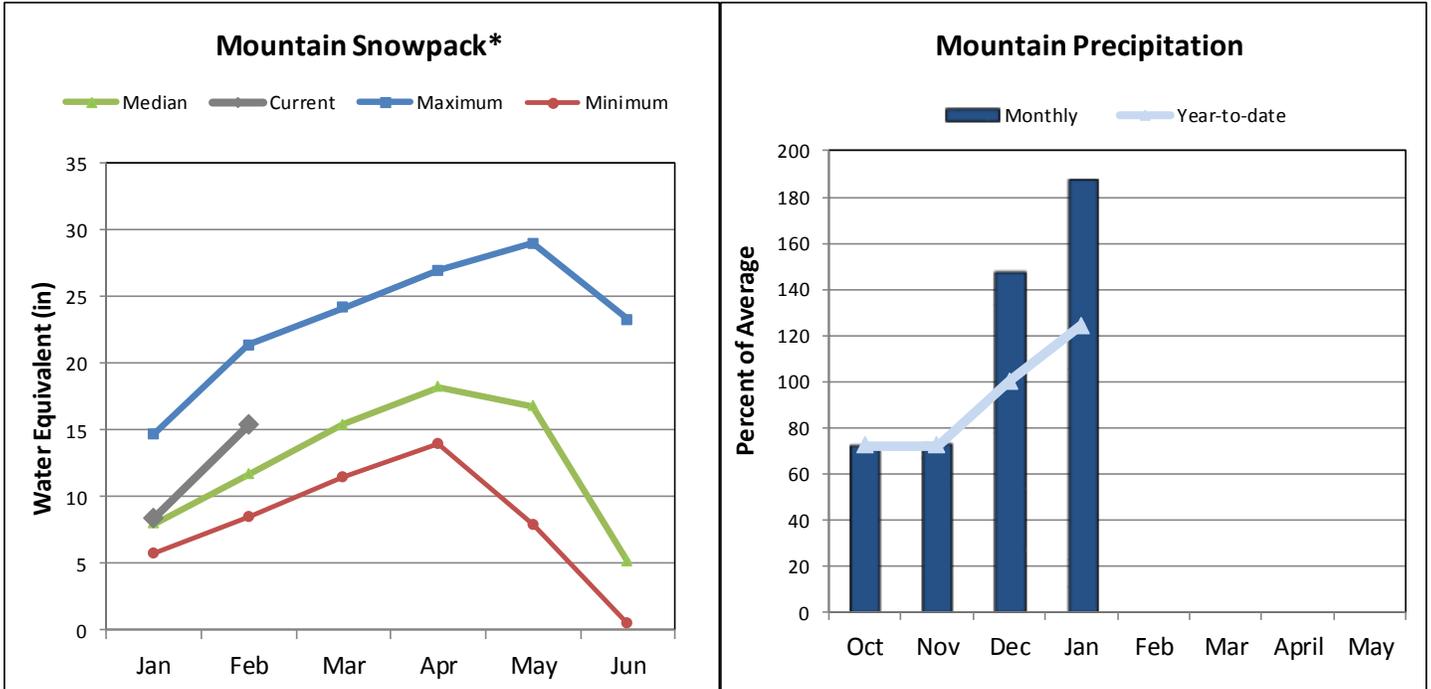


Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

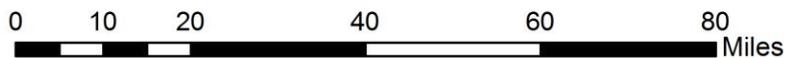
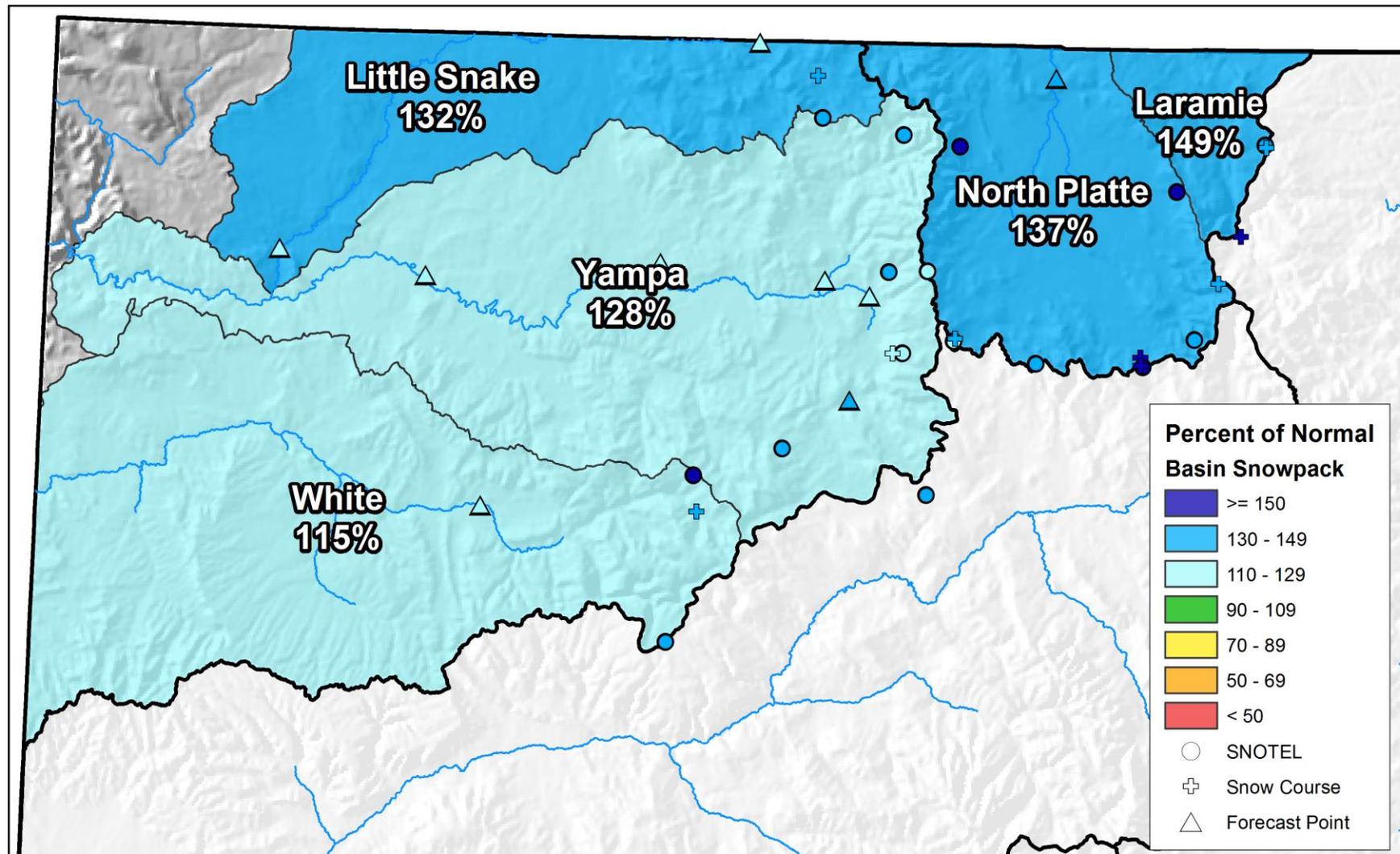
YAMPA, WHITE, NORTH PLATTE AND LARAMIE RIVER BASINS

February 1, 2017

Snowpack in the Yampa, White & North Platte basins is above normal at 135% of the median. Precipitation for January was 189% of average and water year-to-date precipitation is 125% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was 121% of average compared to 121% last year. Streamflow forecasts range from 143% of average for the Yampa River above Stagecoach Reservoir to 111% for the White River near Meeker.



Yampa, White, and North Platte River Basins Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts February 1, 2017



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Yampa-White-North Platte River Basins Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2017

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

| YAMPA-WHITE-NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS | Forecast Period | 90% (KAF) | 70% (KAF) | 50% (KAF) | % Avg | 30% (KAF) | 10% (KAF) | 30yr Avg (KAF) |
|--|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| North Platte R nr Northgate | APR-JUL | 175 | 250 | 305 | 136% | 360 | 435 | 225 |
| | APR-SEP | 194 | 280 | 335 | 134% | 390 | 475 | 250 |
| Laramie R nr Woods ² | APR-JUL | 97 | 132 | 156 | 136% | 180 | 215 | 115 |
| | APR-SEP | 108 | 146 | 171 | 136% | 197 | 235 | 126 |
| Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir ² | APR-JUL | 18.1 | 27 | 33 | 143% | 39 | 48 | 23 |
| Yampa R at Steamboat Springs ² | APR-JUL | 225 | 275 | 310 | 119% | 345 | 395 | 260 |
| Elk R nr Milner | APR-JUL | 265 | 335 | 385 | 120% | 440 | 530 | 320 |
| Elkhead Ck ab Long Gulch | APR-JUL | 50 | 70 | 86 | 118% | 104 | 133 | 73 |
| Yampa R nr Maybell ² | APR-JUL | 740 | 950 | 1110 | 119% | 1280 | 1550 | 935 |
| Little Snake R nr Slater ² | APR-JUL | 127 | 158 | 181 | 116% | 205 | 245 | 156 |
| Little Snake R nr Dixon ² | APR-JUL | 250 | 335 | 400 | 116% | 475 | 590 | 345 |
| Little Snake R nr Lily ² | APR-JUL | 265 | 360 | 435 | 126% | 515 | 645 | 345 |
| White R nr Meeker | APR-JUL | 215 | 270 | 310 | 111% | 350 | 420 | 280 |

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

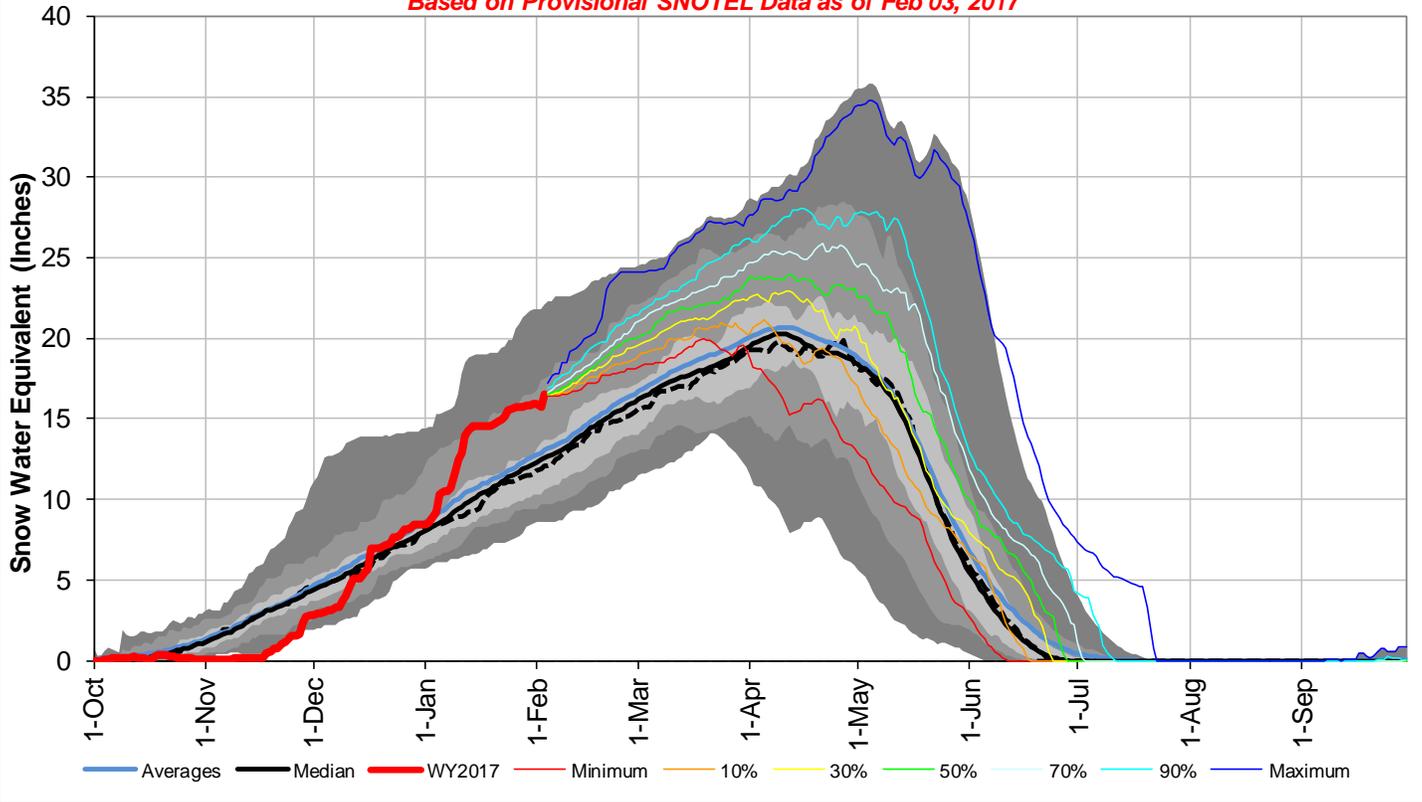
3) Median value used in place of average

| Reservoir Storage End of January, 2017 | Current (KAF) | Last Year (KAF) | Average (KAF) | Capacity (KAF) |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Stagecoach Reservoir nr Oak Creek | 34.5 | 34.4 | 28.2 | 36.5 |
| Yamcolo Reservoir | 6.7 | 6.6 | 5.8 | 8.7 |
| Basin-wide Total | 41.2 | 41.0 | 34.0 | 45.2 |
| # of reservoirs | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

| Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2017 | # of Sites | % Median | Last Year % Median |
|---|------------|----------|--------------------|
| LARAMIE RIVER BASIN | 4 | 149% | 106% |
| NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN | 12 | 137% | 97% |
| LARAMIE & NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS | 16 | 139% | 99% |
| ELK RIVER BASIN | 2 | 135% | 94% |
| YAMPA RIVER BASIN | 11 | 128% | 108% |
| WHITE RIVER BASIN | 4 | 134% | 115% |
| YAMPA & WHITE RIVER BASINS | 14 | 128% | 108% |
| LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN | 9 | 132% | 99% |
| YAMPA-WHITE-NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS | 35 | 135% | 104% |

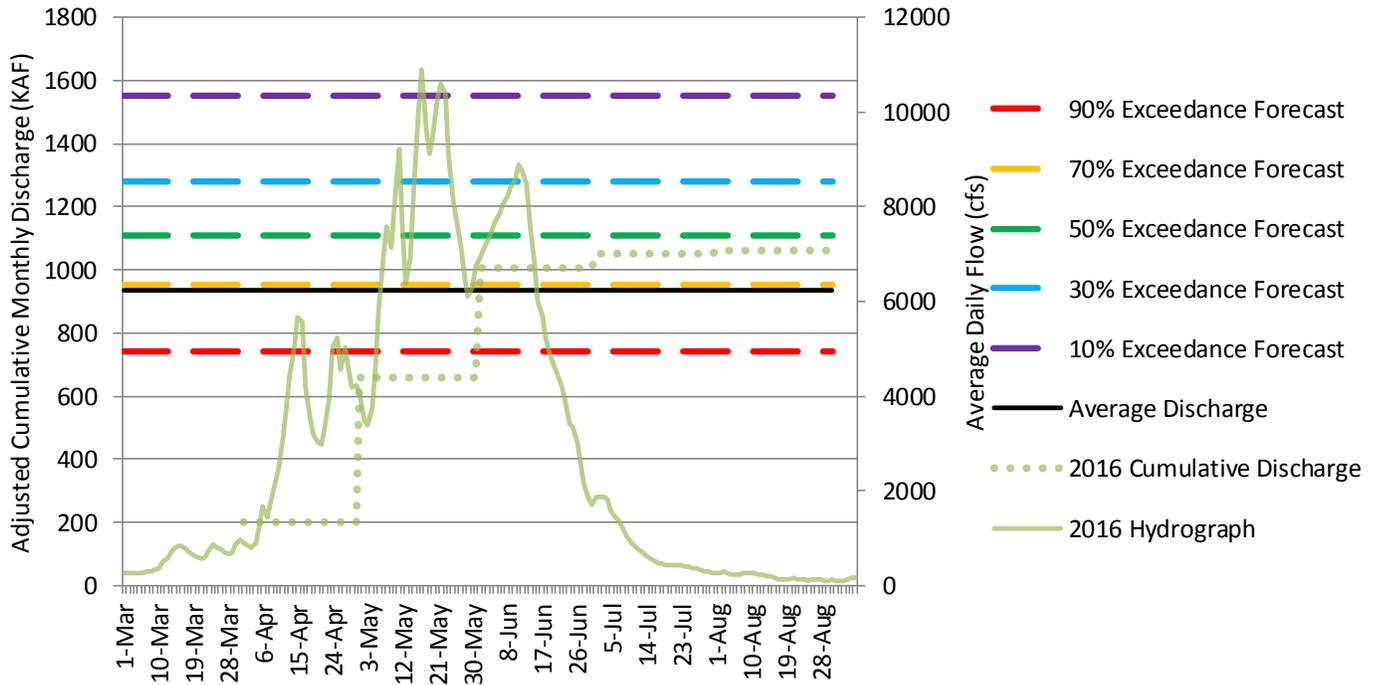
Yampa, White & North Platte River Basins with Non-Exceedence Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of Feb 03, 2017



Yampa River near Maybell

Daily and Cumulative Discharge Compared to Current Streamflow Forecasts (Apr - Jul)

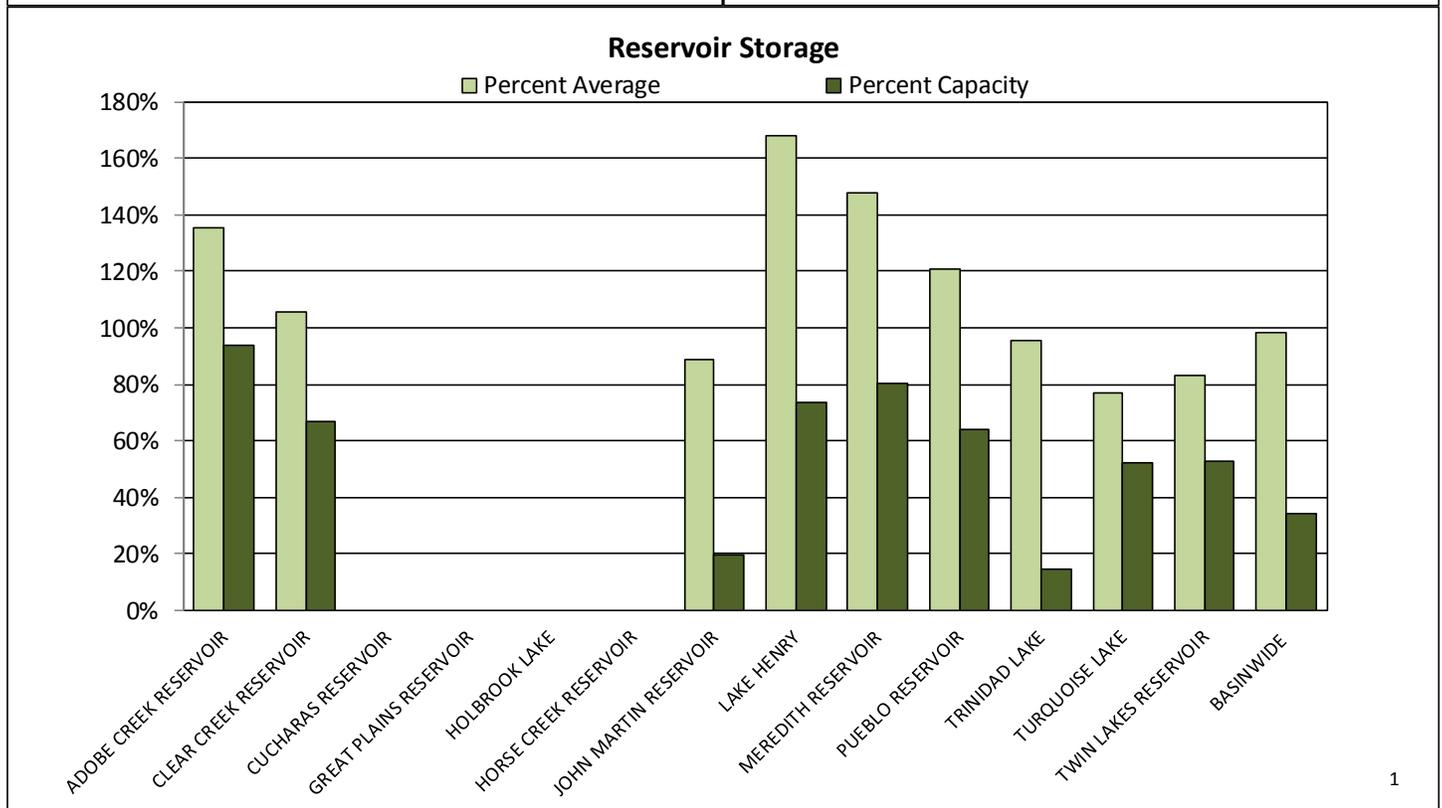
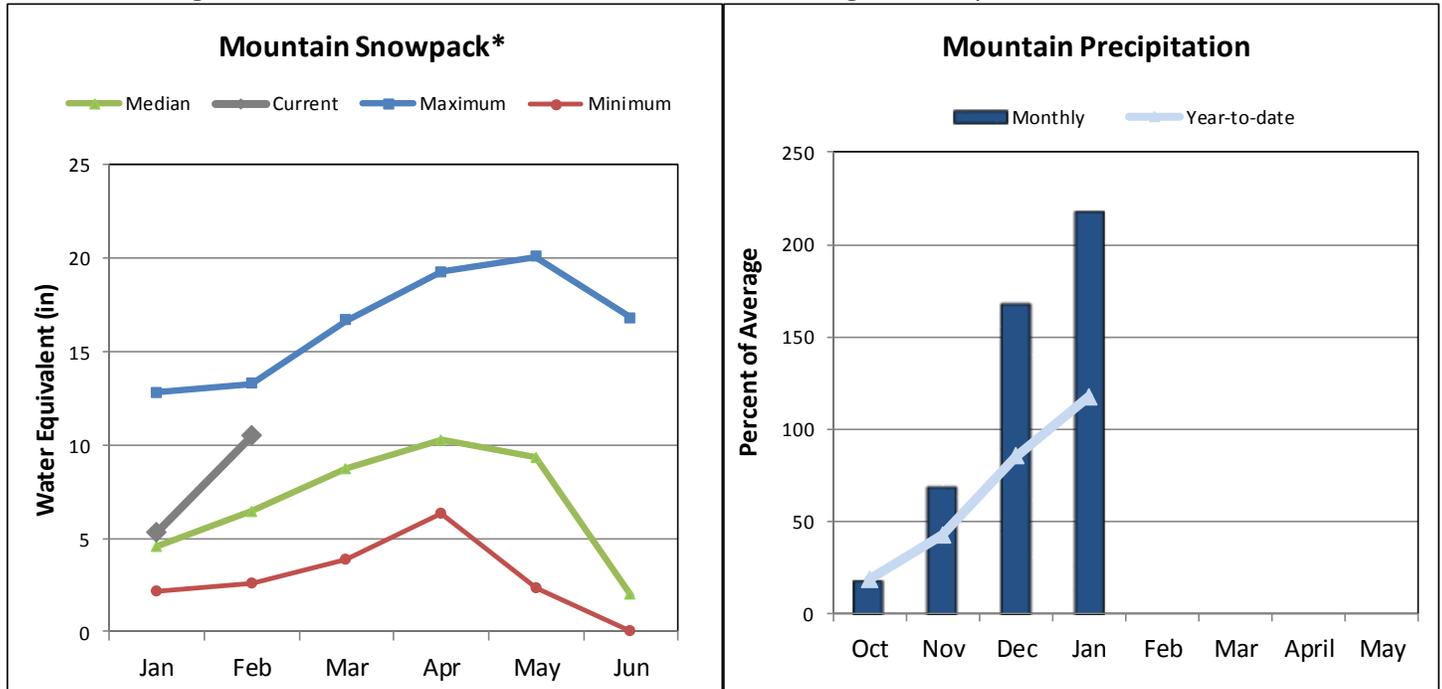


Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

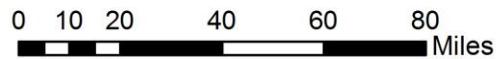
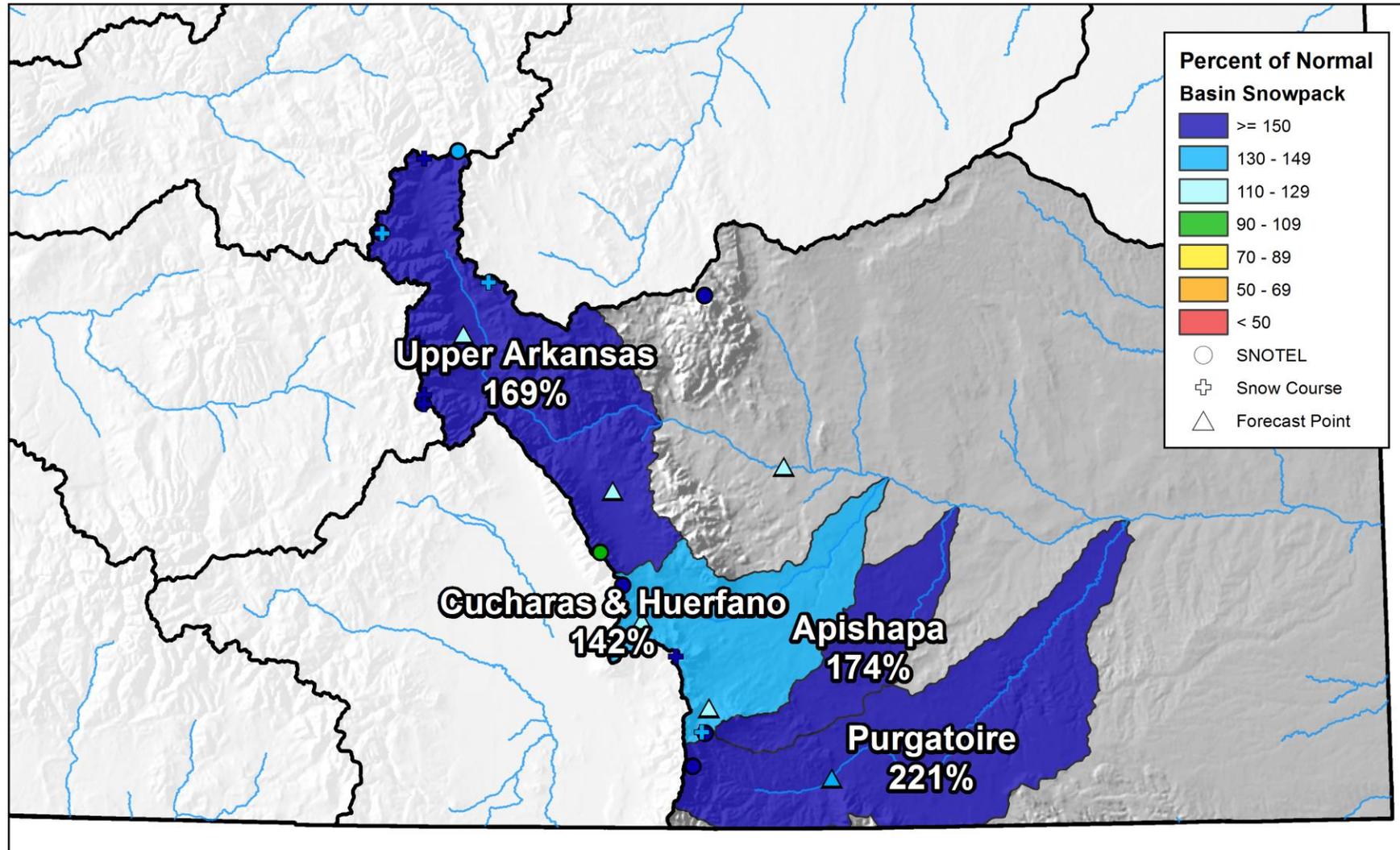
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

February 1, 2017

Snowpack in the Arkansas River basin is above normal at 164% of the median. Precipitation for January was 217% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation to 117% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was 99% of average compared to 125% last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 135% of average for the inflow to Trinidad Lake to 117% of average for Grape Creek near Westcliffe.



Arkansas River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts February 1, 2017



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Arkansas River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2017

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

| ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN | Forecast Period | 90% (KAF) | 70% (KAF) | 50% (KAF) | % Avg | 30% (KAF) | 10% (KAF) | 30yr Avg (KAF) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Chalk Ck nr Nathrop | APR-JUL | 15.6 | 22 | 27 | 129% | 32 | 41 | 21 |
| | APR-SEP | 19.8 | 27 | 33 | 127% | 39 | 50 | 26 |
| Arkansas R at Salida ² | APR-JUL | 230 | 275 | 310 | 129% | 345 | 405 | 240 |
| | APR-SEP | 280 | 335 | 380 | 129% | 425 | 495 | 295 |
| Grape Ck nr Westcliffe | APR-JUL | 4.7 | 11.9 | 18.6 | 117% | 27 | 42 | 15.9 |
| | APR-SEP | 8.2 | 16.1 | 23 | 117% | 31 | 45 | 19.6 |
| Pueblo Reservoir Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 295 | 390 | 465 | 129% | 545 | 675 | 360 |
| | APR-SEP | 385 | 500 | 585 | 129% | 675 | 825 | 455 |
| Huerfano R nr Redwing | APR-JUL | 9 | 12.3 | 14.9 | 125% | 17.7 | 22 | 11.9 |
| | APR-SEP | 12 | 16 | 19 | 125% | 22 | 28 | 15.2 |
| Cucharas R nr La Veta | APR-JUL | 7.3 | 11.8 | 15.5 | 127% | 19.7 | 27 | 12.2 |
| | APR-SEP | 8.9 | 13.8 | 17.7 | 126% | 22 | 29 | 14.1 |
| Trinidad Lake Inflow ² | MAR-JUL | 23 | 38 | 50 | 135% | 64 | 88 | 37 |
| | APR-SEP | 28 | 46 | 61 | 130% | 78 | 106 | 47 |

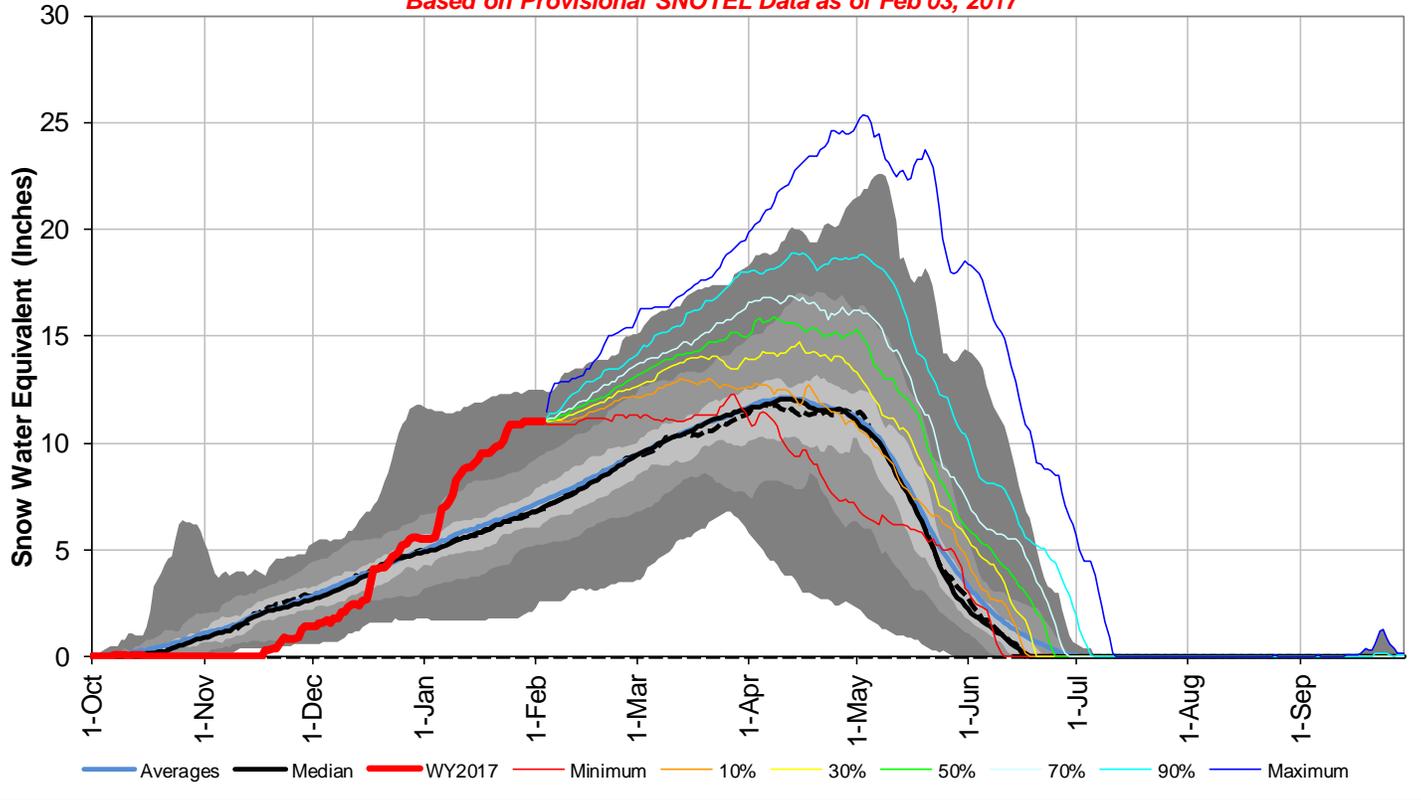
- 1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
- 2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
- 3) Median value used in place of average

| Reservoir Storage End of January, 2017 | Current (KAF) | Last Year (KAF) | Average (KAF) | Capacity (KAF) |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Adobe Creek Reservoir | 58.0 | 66.6 | 42.9 | 62.0 |
| Clear Creek Reservoir | 7.6 | 7.8 | 7.2 | 11.4 |
| Cucharas Reservoir | | | 5.5 | 40.0 |
| Great Plains Reservoir | 0.0 | 0.0 | 30.7 | 150.0 |
| Holbrook Lake | | 2.1 | 3.6 | 7.0 |
| Horse Creek Reservoir | | 18.9 | 12.0 | 27.0 |
| John Martin Reservoir | 120.3 | 232.0 | 135.9 | 616.0 |
| Lake Henry | 6.9 | 6.4 | 4.1 | 9.4 |
| Meredith Reservoir | 33.8 | 34.7 | 22.9 | 42.0 |
| Pueblo Reservoir | 226.9 | 249.6 | 187.5 | 354.0 |
| Trinidad Lake | 24.4 | 26.4 | 25.6 | 167.0 |
| Turquoise Lake | 66.3 | 74.3 | 86.3 | 127.0 |
| Twin Lakes Reservoir | 45.2 | 47.9 | 54.3 | 86.0 |
| Basin-wide Total | 589.4 | 745.7 | 597.4 | 1624.8 |
| # of reservoirs | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

| Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2017 | # of Sites | % Median | Last Year % Median |
|---|------------|----------|--------------------|
| UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN | 9 | 169% | 114% |
| CUCHARAS & HUERFANO BASINS | 4 | 139% | 105% |
| PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN | 2 | 221% | 117% |
| ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN | 15 | 164% | 111% |

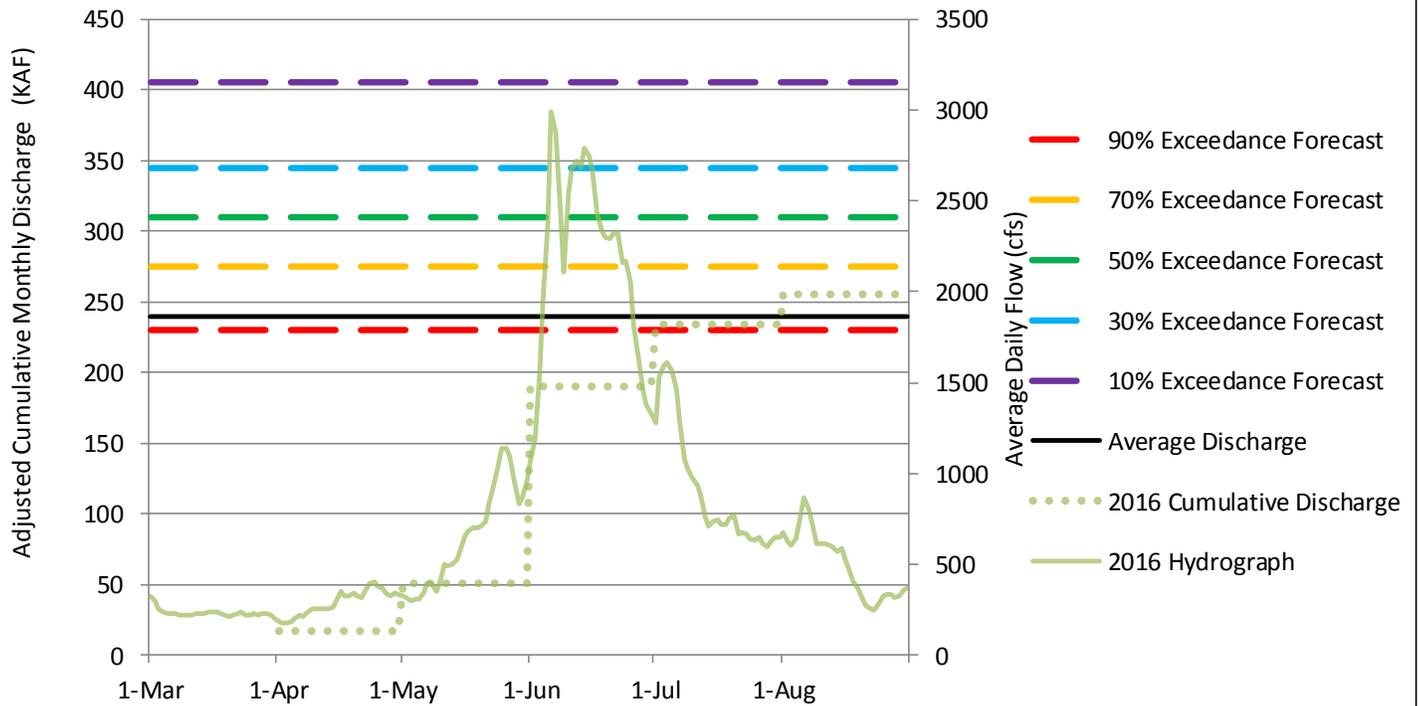
Arkansas River Basin with Non-Exceedance Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of Feb 03, 2017



Arkansas River at Salida, CO

Daily and Cumulative Discharge Compared to Current Streamflow Forecasts (Apr - Jul)

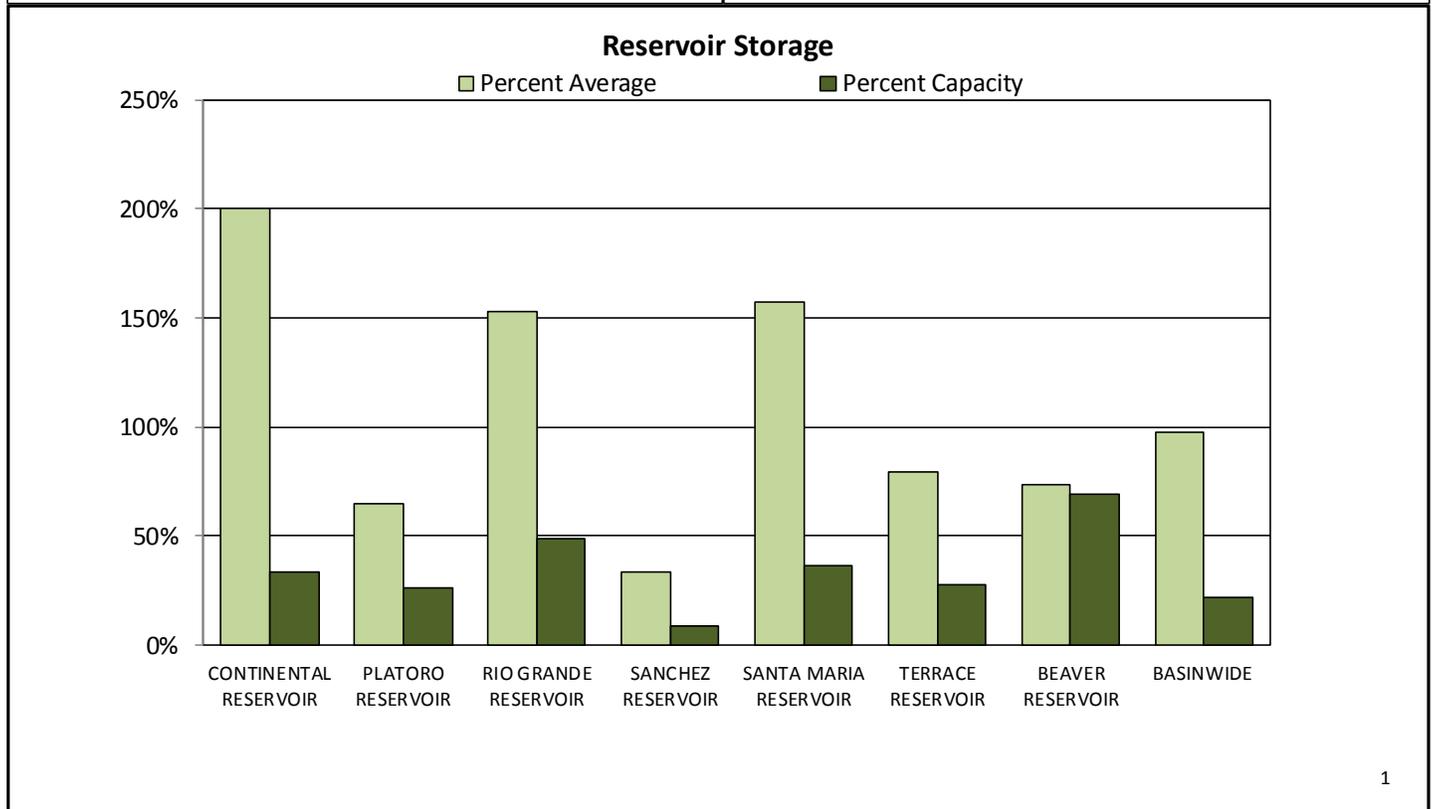
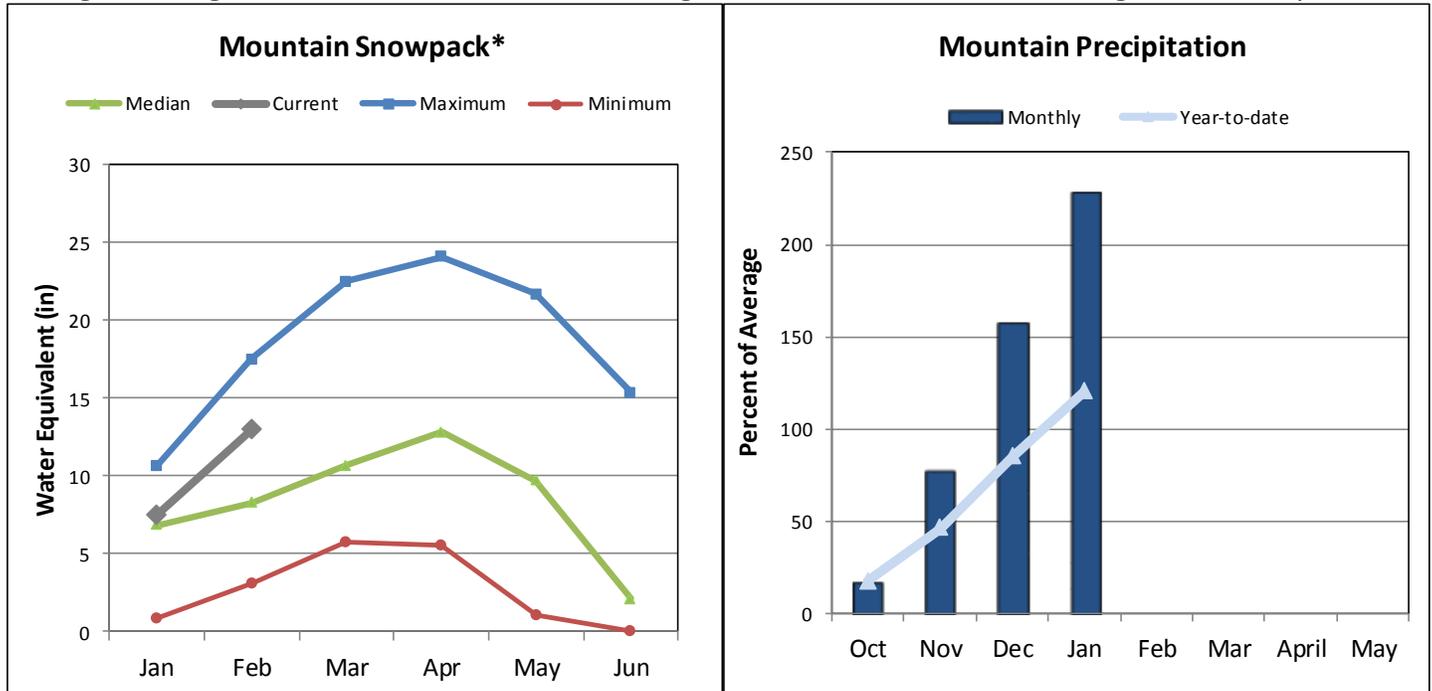


Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

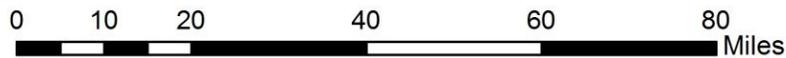
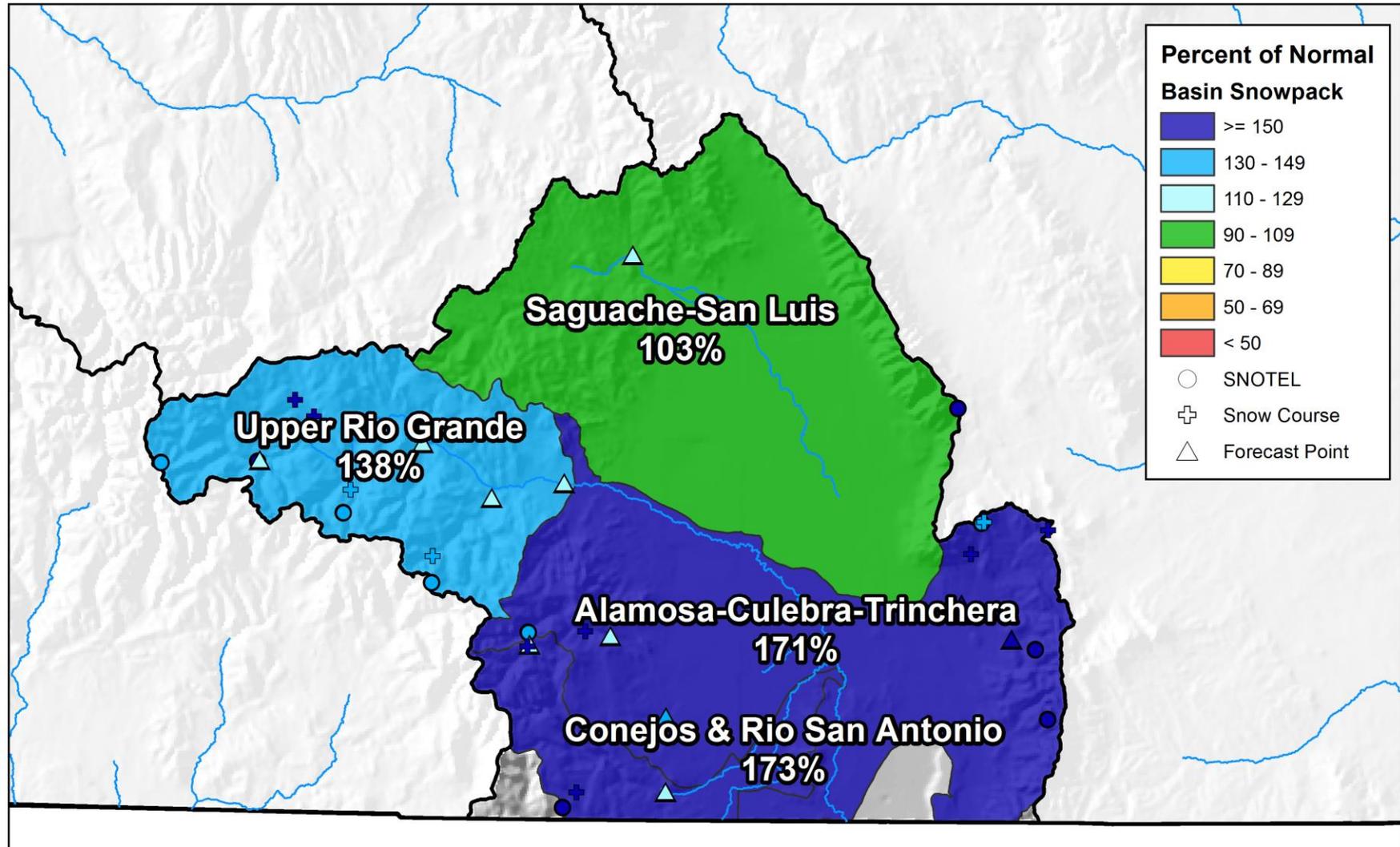
UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN

February 1, 2017

Snowpack in the Upper Rio Grande River basin is above normal at 154% of median. Precipitation for January was 227% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation to 120% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was 89% of average compared to 90% last year. Streamflow forecasts range from 184% of average for Sangre de Cristo Creek to 112% of average for the Rio Grande River at Wagon Wheel Gap.



Upper Rio Grande River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts February 1, 2017



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Upper Rio Grande Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2017

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

| UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN | Forecast Period | 90% (KAF) | 70% (KAF) | 50% (KAF) | % Avg | 30% (KAF) | 10% (KAF) | 30yr Avg (KAF) |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge ² | APR-JUL | 87 | 110 | 127 | 112% | 145 | 174 | 113 |
| | APR-SEP | 98 | 124 | 144 | 112% | 165 | 199 | 129 |
| Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap ² | APR-SEP | 250 | 325 | 380 | 112% | 440 | 535 | 340 |
| SF Rio Grande at South Fork ² | APR-SEP | 105 | 131 | 150 | 118% | 170 | 200 | 127 |
| Rio Grande nr Del Norte ² | APR-SEP | 395 | 515 | 600 | 117% | 695 | 845 | 515 |
| Saguache Ck nr Saguache | APR-SEP | 23 | 32 | 40 | 125% | 48 | 62 | 32 |
| Alamosa Ck ab Terrace Reservoir | APR-SEP | 57 | 71 | 81 | 119% | 92 | 109 | 68 |
| La Jara Ck nr Capulin | MAR-JUL | 7.4 | 9.9 | 11.8 | 133% | 13.9 | 17.2 | 8.9 |
| Trinchera Ck ab Turners Ranch | APR-SEP | 16.6 | 19.7 | 22 | 175% | 24 | 28 | 12.6 |
| Sangre de Cristo Ck ² | APR-SEP | 16.9 | 24 | 30 | 184% | 36 | 47 | 16.3 |
| Ute Ck nr Fort Garland | APR-SEP | 13.8 | 18.5 | 22 | 172% | 26 | 32 | 12.8 |
| Platoro Reservoir Inflow | APR-JUL | 48 | 58 | 65 | 116% | 73 | 85 | 56 |
| | APR-SEP | 53 | 64 | 72 | 116% | 81 | 95 | 62 |
| Conejos R nr Mogote ² | APR-SEP | 179 | 220 | 250 | 129% | 280 | 330 | 194 |
| San Antonio R at Ortiz | APR-SEP | 15.3 | 21 | 25 | 160% | 30 | 37 | 15.6 |
| Los Pinos R nr Ortiz | APR-SEP | 78 | 96 | 110 | 151% | 125 | 148 | 73 |
| Culebra Ck at San Luis | APR-SEP | 26 | 35 | 41 | 178% | 48 | 59 | 23 |
| Costilla Reservoir Inflow | MAR-JUL | 12.4 | 15.5 | 17.8 | 160% | 20 | 24 | 11.1 |
| Costilla Ck nr Costilla ² | MAR-JUL | 31 | 40 | 46 | 177% | 53 | 65 | 26 |

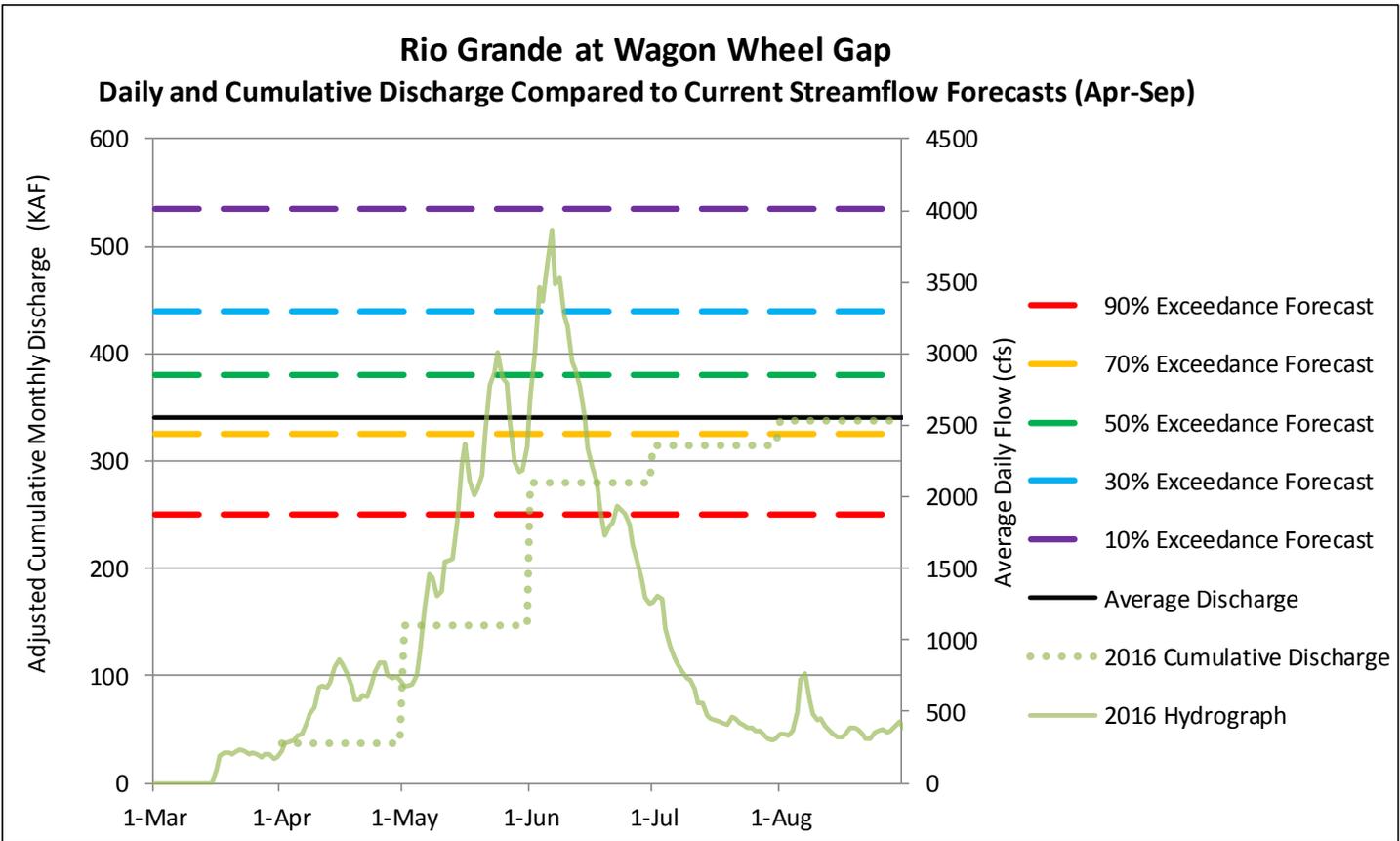
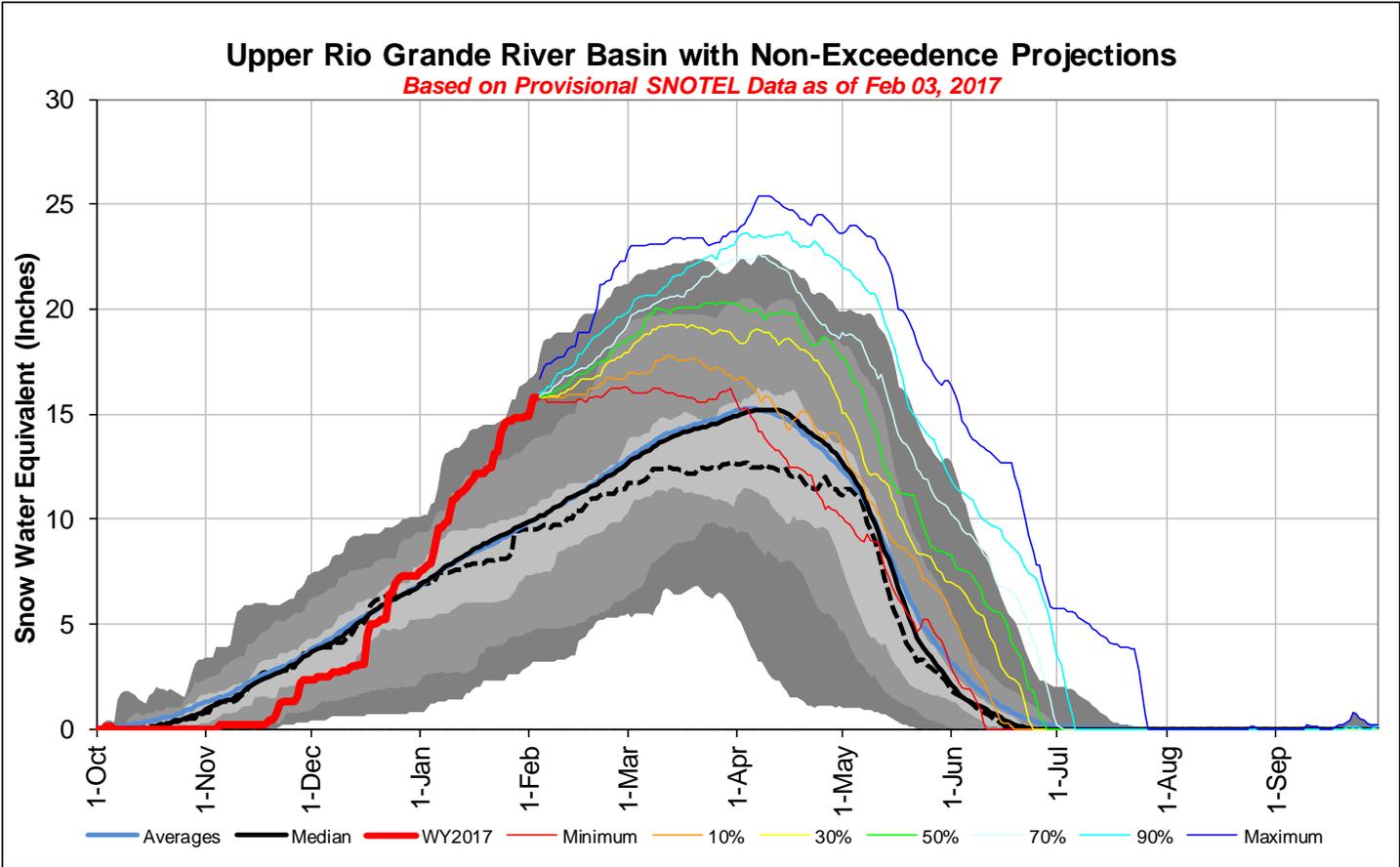
1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

3) Median value used in place of average

| Reservoir Storage End of January, 2017 | Current (KAF) | Last Year (KAF) | Average (KAF) | Capacity (KAF) |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Beaver Reservoir | 3.1 | 1.5 | 4.2 | 4.5 |
| Continental Reservoir | 9.0 | 2.2 | 4.5 | 27.0 |
| Platoro Reservoir | 15.6 | 13.0 | 24.0 | 60.0 |
| Rio Grande Reservoir | 24.9 | 30.2 | 16.3 | 51.0 |
| Sanchez Reservoir | 9.2 | 12.4 | 27.6 | 103.0 |
| Santa Maria Reservoir | 16.5 | 19.5 | 10.5 | 45.0 |
| Terrace Reservoir | 4.9 | 4.8 | 6.2 | 18.0 |
| Basin-wide Total | 83.2 | 83.6 | 93.3 | 308.5 |
| # of reservoirs | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |

| Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2017 | # of Sites | % Median | Last Year % Median |
|---|------------|----------|--------------------|
| ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN | 3 | 162% | 98% |
| CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO BASINS | 4 | 173% | 103% |
| CULEBRA & TRINCHERA BASINS | 4 | 165% | 124% |
| HEADWATERS RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN | 11 | 138% | 103% |
| UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN | 21 | 154% | 107% |

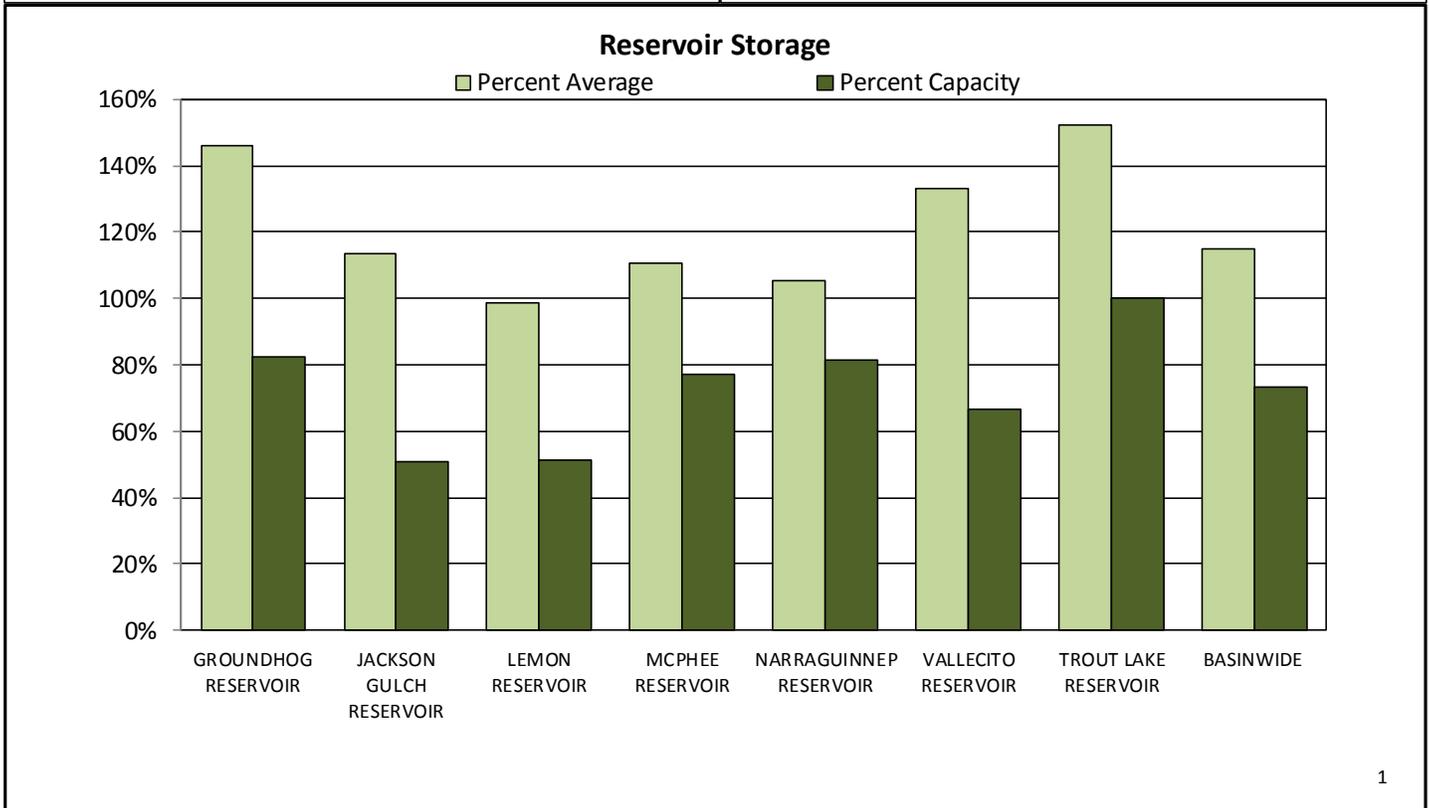
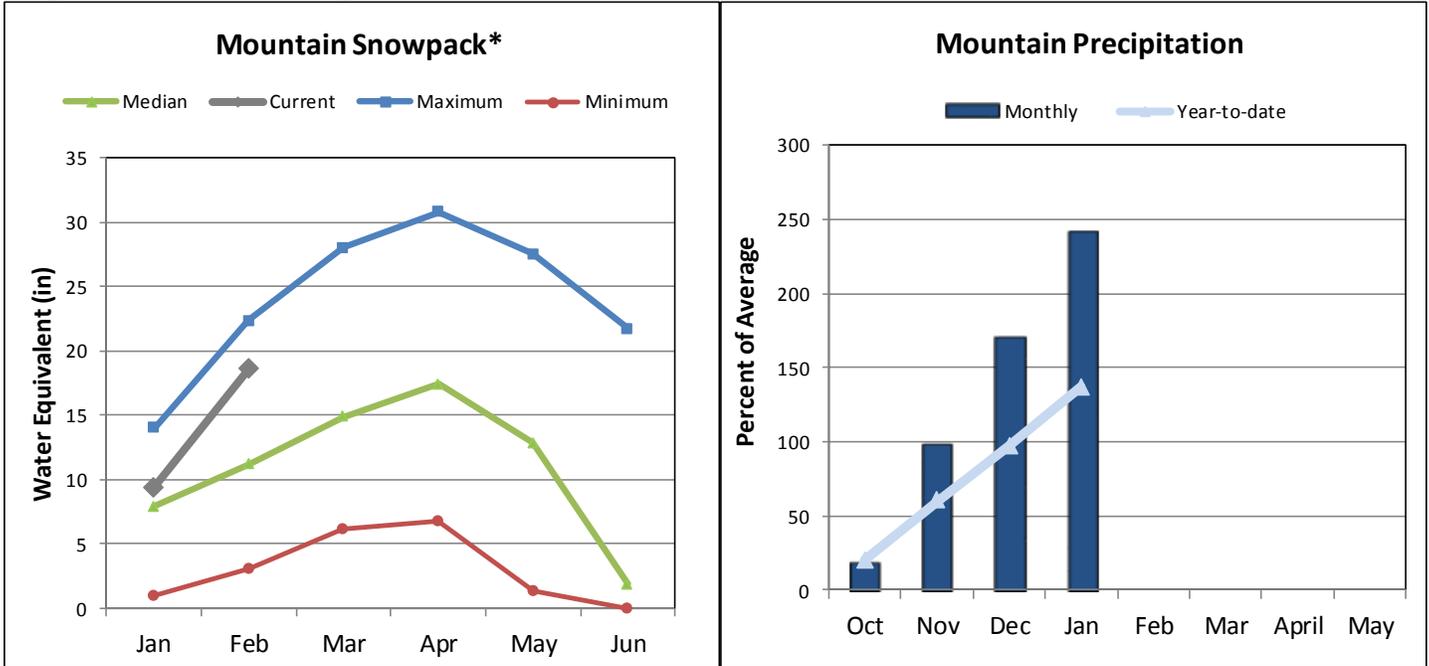


Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

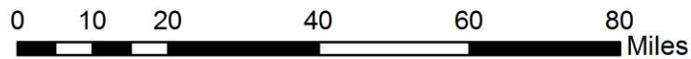
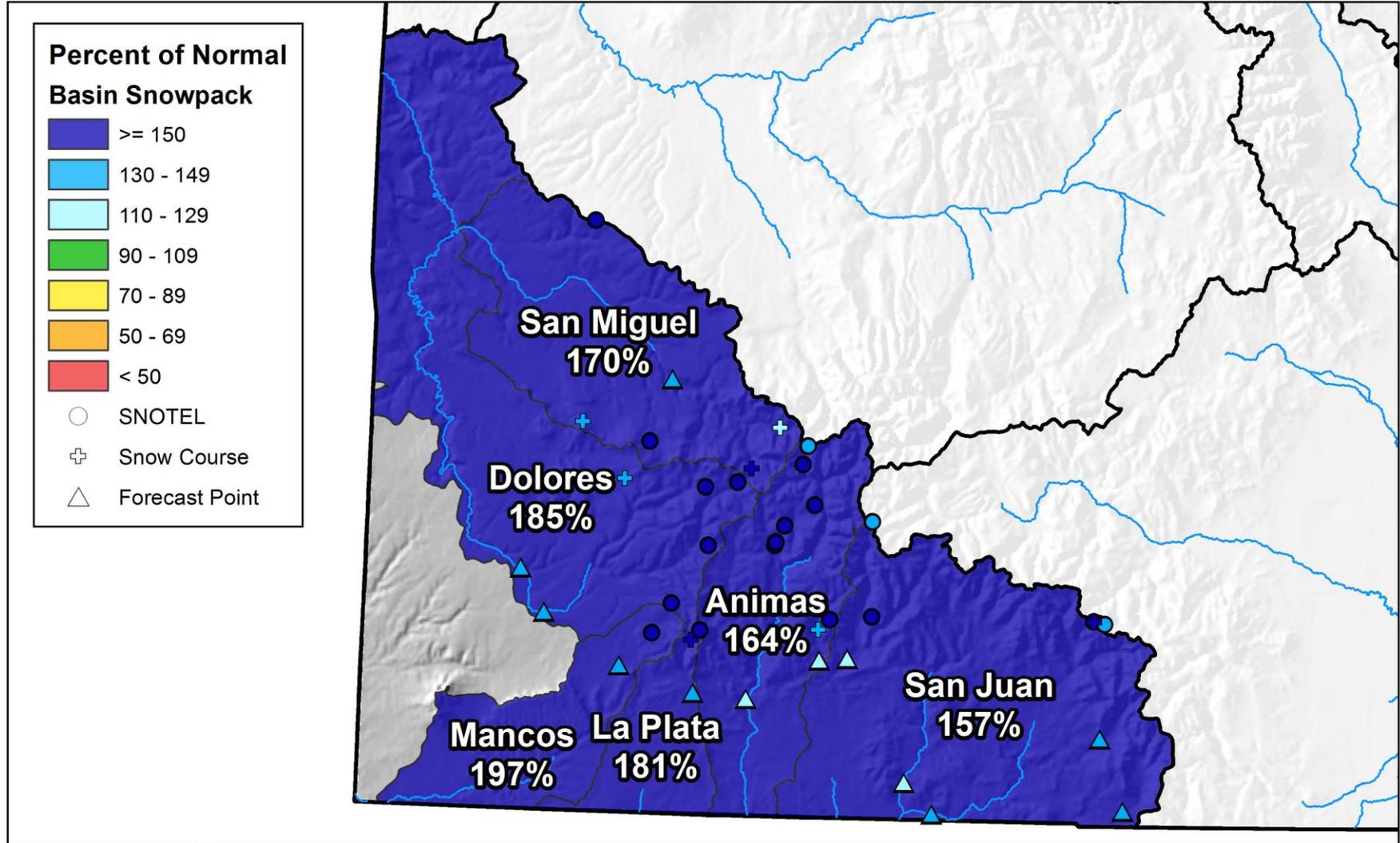
SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS

February 1, 2017

Snowpack in the combined southwest river basins is above normal at 169% of median. Precipitation for January was 240% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation to 137% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of January was 115% of average compared to 103% last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 145% of average for the San Juan River near Carracas to 116% for the inflow to Vallecito Reservoir.



San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basins Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts February 1, 2017



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan River Basins Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2017

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

| SAN MIGUEL-DOLORES-ANIMAS-SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS | Forecast Period | 90% (KAF) | 70% (KAF) | 50% (KAF) | % Avg | 30% (KAF) | 10% (KAF) | 30yr Avg (KAF) |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Dolores R at Dolores | APR-JUL | 235 | 295 | 340 | 139% | 390 | 470 | 245 |
| McPhee Reservoir Inflow | APR-JUL | 275 | 355 | 420 | 142% | 485 | 590 | 295 |
| San Miguel R nr Placerville | APR-JUL | 114 | 146 | 170 | 133% | 196 | 235 | 128 |
| Cone Reservoir Inlet | APR-JUL | 2.9 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 135% | 4.8 | 5.7 | 3.1 |
| Gurley Reservoir Inlet | APR-JUL | 16.5 | 19.7 | 22 | 135% | 24 | 28 | 16.3 |
| Lilylands Reservoir Inlet | APR-JUL | 2.1 | 3 | 3.7 | 137% | 4.4 | 5.6 | 2.7 |
| Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion ² | APR-JUL | 51 | 65 | 75 | 139% | 86 | 104 | 54 |
| Navajo R at Oso Diversion ² | APR-JUL | 61 | 78 | 90 | 138% | 103 | 125 | 65 |
| San Juan R nr Carracas ² | APR-JUL | 370 | 475 | 550 | 145% | 635 | 765 | 380 |
| Piedra R nr Arboles | APR-JUL | 170 | 220 | 255 | 121% | 295 | 355 | 210 |
| Vallecito Reservoir Inflow | APR-JUL | 161 | 199 | 225 | 116% | 255 | 300 | 194 |
| Navajo Reservoir Inflow ² | APR-JUL | 650 | 815 | 940 | 128% | 1070 | 1290 | 735 |
| Animas R at Durango | APR-JUL | 375 | 460 | 520 | 125% | 585 | 690 | 415 |
| Lemon Reservoir Inflow | APR-JUL | 44 | 56 | 65 | 118% | 74 | 90 | 55 |
| La Plata R at Hesperus | APR-JUL | 22 | 27 | 31 | 135% | 35 | 42 | 23 |
| Mancos R nr Mancos ² | APR-JUL | 28 | 36 | 43 | 139% | 50 | 61 | 31 |

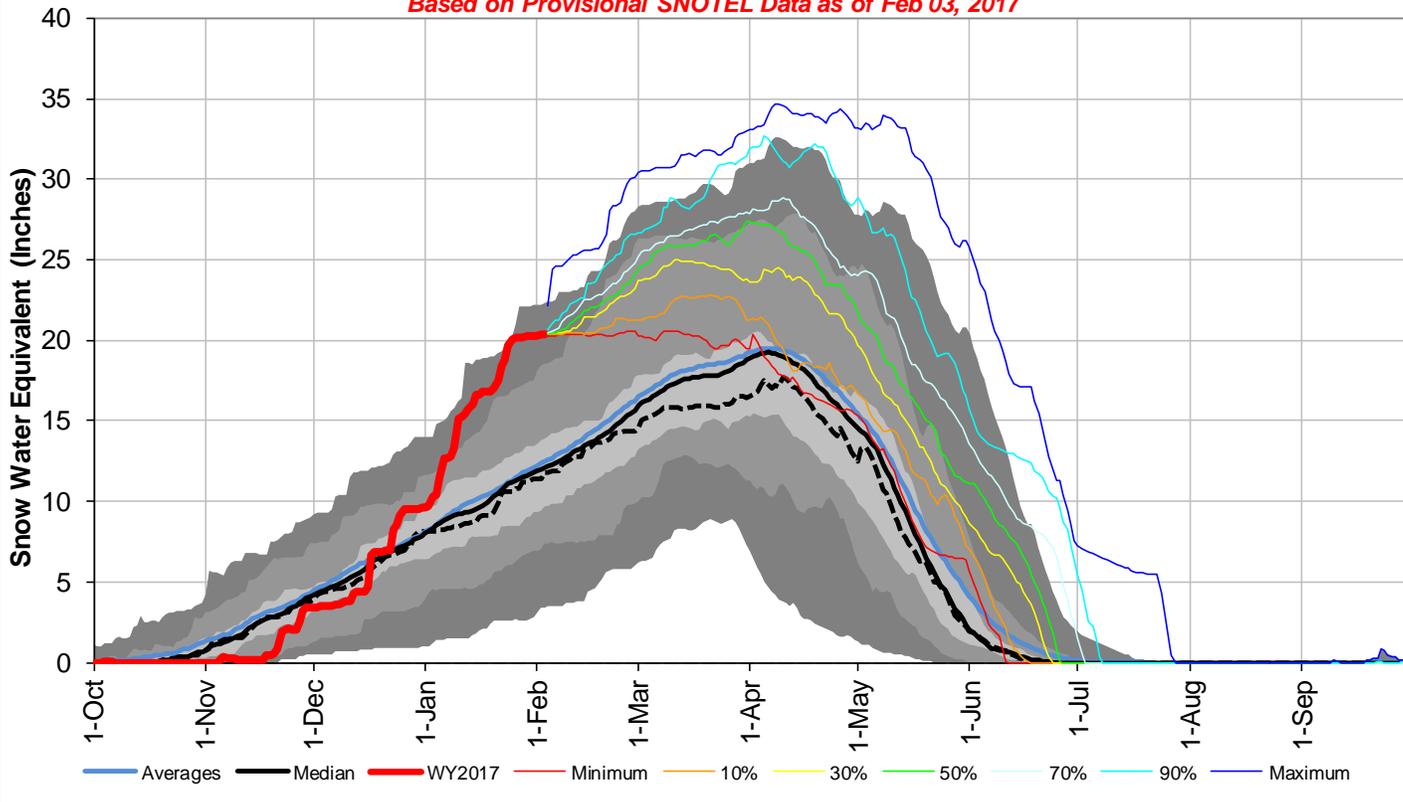
- 1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
- 2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
- 3) Median value used in place of average

| Reservoir Storage End of January, 2017 | Current (KAF) | Last Year (KAF) | Average (KAF) | Capacity (KAF) |
|---|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Groundhog Reservoir | 18.1 | 19.1 | 12.4 | 22.0 |
| Jackson Gulch Reservoir | 5.1 | 5.2 | 4.5 | 10.0 |
| Lemon Reservoir | 20.6 | 21.1 | 20.9 | 40.0 |
| McPhee Reservoir | 294.5 | 246.3 | 266.4 | 381.0 |
| Narraguinnep Reservoir | 15.5 | 15.8 | 14.7 | 19.0 |
| Trout Lake Reservoir | 3.2 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 3.2 |
| Vallecito Reservoir | 84.2 | 85.1 | 63.3 | 126.0 |
| Basin-wide Total | 441.2 | 395.2 | 384.3 | 601.2 |
| # of reservoirs | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |

| Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2017 | # of Sites | % Median | Last Year % Median |
|---|------------|----------|--------------------|
| ANIMAS RIVER BASIN | 11 | 164% | 111% |
| DOLORES RIVER BASIN | 6 | 193% | 145% |
| SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN | 4 | 185% | 150% |
| SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN | 4 | 157% | 113% |
| SAN MIGUEL-DOLORES-ANIMAS-SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS | 24 | 169% | 122% |

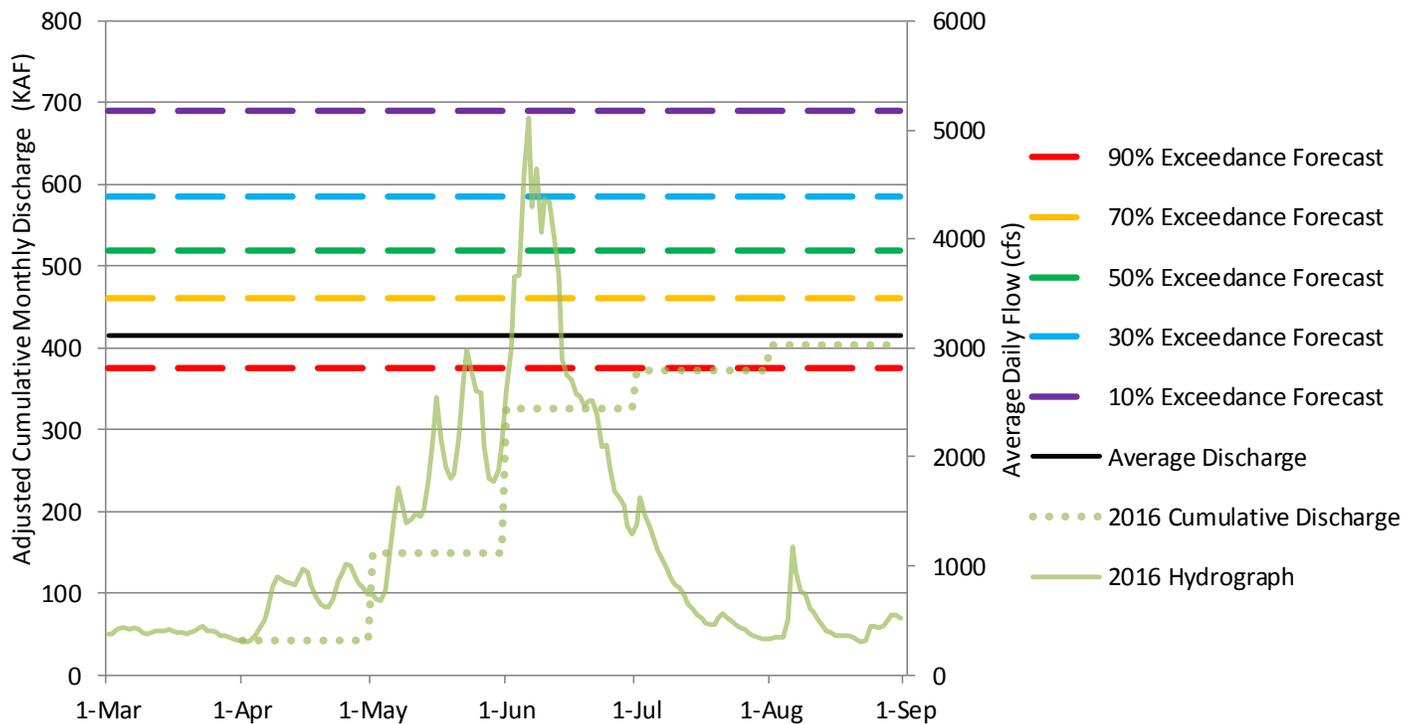
San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basin with Non-Exceedance Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of Feb 03, 2017



Animas River at Durango, CO

Daily and Cumulative Discharge Compared to Current Streamflow Forecasts (Apr - Jul)



Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

How to Read Non-Exceedance Projections Graphs

The graphs show snow water equivalent (SWE) projections (in inches) for the October 1 through September 30 water year. Basin “observed” SWE values are computed using SNOTEL sites which are characteristic of the snowpack of the particular basin. The SWE observations at these sites are averaged and normalized to produce these basin snowpack graphs. This new graph format uses non-exceedance projections.

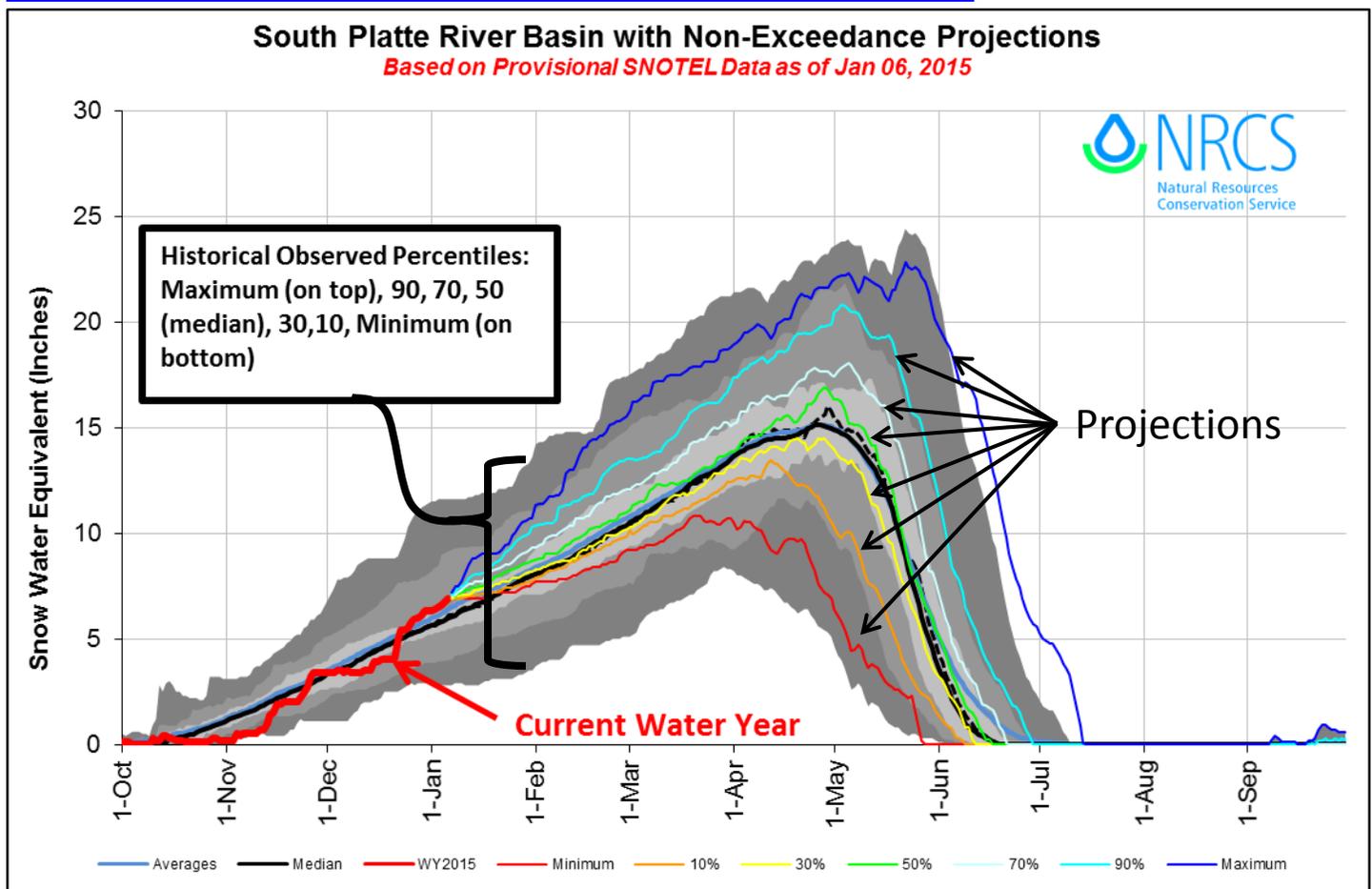
Current water year is represented by the heavy red line terminating on the last day the graphic was updated.

Historical observed percentile range is shown as a gray background area on the graph. Shades of gray indicate maximum, 90 percentile, 70 percentile, 50 percentile (solid black line), 30 percentile, 10 percentile, and minimum for the period of record.

Projections for maximum, 90 percent, 70 percent, 50 percent (most probabilistic snowpack projection, based on median), 30 percent, 10 percent, and minimum exceedances are projected forward from the end of the current line as different colored lines.

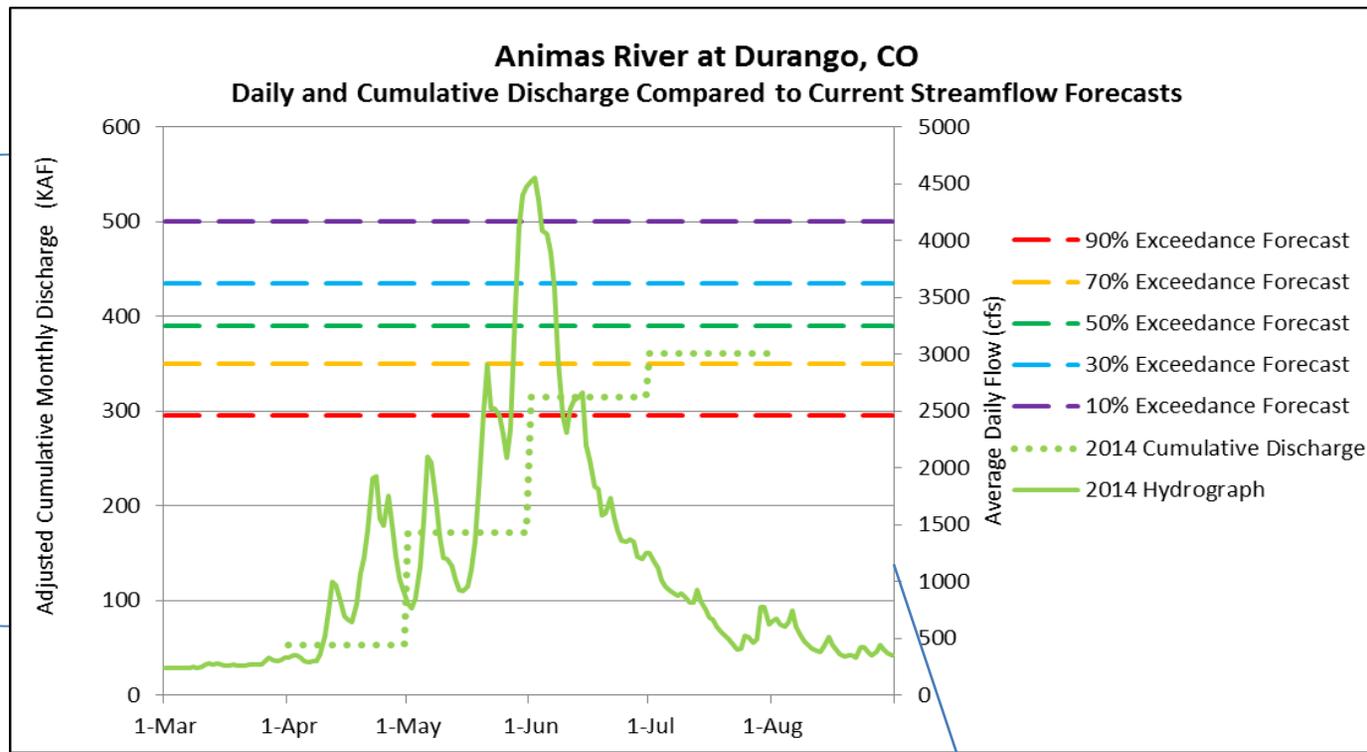
For more detailed information on these graphs visit:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_062291.pdf



Explanation of Flow Comparison Charts

The flow comparison charts were developed to provide a quick comparison between the previous years' observed hydrograph, cumulative seasonal discharge, the current streamflow forecasts, and the current years' observed discharge (both hydrograph and cumulative discharge, as the season progresses). Forecast points for these products were generally chosen to be lower in the basin to best represent the basin-wide streamflow response for the season; the true degree of representativeness will vary between basins. When making comparisons of how the shape of the hydrograph relates to the monthly (and seasonal) cumulative discharges it is important to note that the hydrograph represents observed daily flows at the forecast point while the cumulative values may be adjusted for changes in reservoir storage and diversions to best represent what would be "natural flows" if these impoundments and diversions did not exist. This product can provide additional guidance regarding how to most wisely utilize the five exceedance forecasts based on past observations, current trends, and future uncertainty for a wide variety of purposes and water users.



The left y-axis represents values of adjusted cumulative discharge (KAF). This axis is to be used for comparing the current and previous years to the current five volumetric seasonal exceedance forecasts. This graphic only displays the previous years data but data for the current water year will be added as the season progresses.

The legend displays the symbology and color schemes for the various parameters represented. Exceedance forecasts represent total cumulative discharge for the April through July time period with the exception of the Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (Apr-Sep).

The right y-axis represents observed daily average discharge at the forecast point of interest. This graphic only displays the previous years data but data for the current water year will be added as the Season progresses.

How Forecasts Are Made

For more water supply and resource management information, contact:

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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. 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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In addition to the water supply 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 June. The information may be obtained from the Natural Resources Conservation Service web page at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/westwide.html>

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