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Department of
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**Natural
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Colorado Basin Outlook Report March 1, 2005



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

MARCH 1, 2005

Summary

Snowfall during February was slightly below average across most of Colorado. As a result, there were slight decreases to snowpack percentages from last month's statistics. The state continues to have a large variability in snowpack percentages from north to south. At long last, drought relief is expected across most southern basins this spring and summer. Reservoir storage continues to improve slightly in many basins, and is the best shape since the spring of 2002. Water supply concerns for the 2005 water year are now focused on those basins across northern Colorado, where only 4 to 6 weeks remain in the snowpack accumulation season to recover from their current shortfalls. Without a wet spring in these basins drought impacts threaten to reappear.

Snowpack

Although drier, February's snowfall patterns were similar to those in January, where most storms entering the state brought the greatest moisture to southwestern Colorado. The Gunnison, Rio Grande, and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins continue to report snowpack percentages from 130% to 155% of average. Further east and north, snowpack percentages decrease significantly. Those basins reporting the lowest percent of average accumulations for March 1 include the South Platte and Yampa-White, which are only 80% and 84% of average, respectively. Statewide, snowpack totals are now 109% of average, and 122% of last year's readings. This month's statewide totals show a slight decrease in percentages from last month's 114% of average. At this point in the snow accumulation season, it seems unlikely that snowpack totals will reach average levels by season's end across northern Colorado. Meanwhile, snowpack totals across the southwestern basins reached their average seasonal maximum snowpack levels in early February, and by March 1 are about 110% to 120% of their average seasonal maximum water equivalent. In comparison to last year's snowpack on this date, all basins are reporting a greater average water equivalent than a year ago, except the Yampa and White basins, which are standing at 94% of last year. As expected, the Gunnison, Rio Grande, Arkansas, and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores and San Miguel basins are all exceeding last year's snowpack by at least 30%. This year's snowpack is just slightly better than last year's in the North and South Platte basins.

Precipitation

February brought much dryer conditions than January across Colorado. The Gunnison, Rio Grande and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel were the only basins reporting above average monthly totals, and those were only slightly above the average for the month. Other basins across the state received below average totals for February, and the driest basins were the Yampa and White at 75% of average, and the South Platte at 80% of average. Statewide, precipitation measured at SNOTEL sites was only 86% of average for the month. For the water year, which began on October 1, 2004, totals range from a high of 139% of average in the San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins, to a low of only 85% of average in the South Platte basin. For the state, the water year totals now stand at 108% of average.

Reservoir Storage

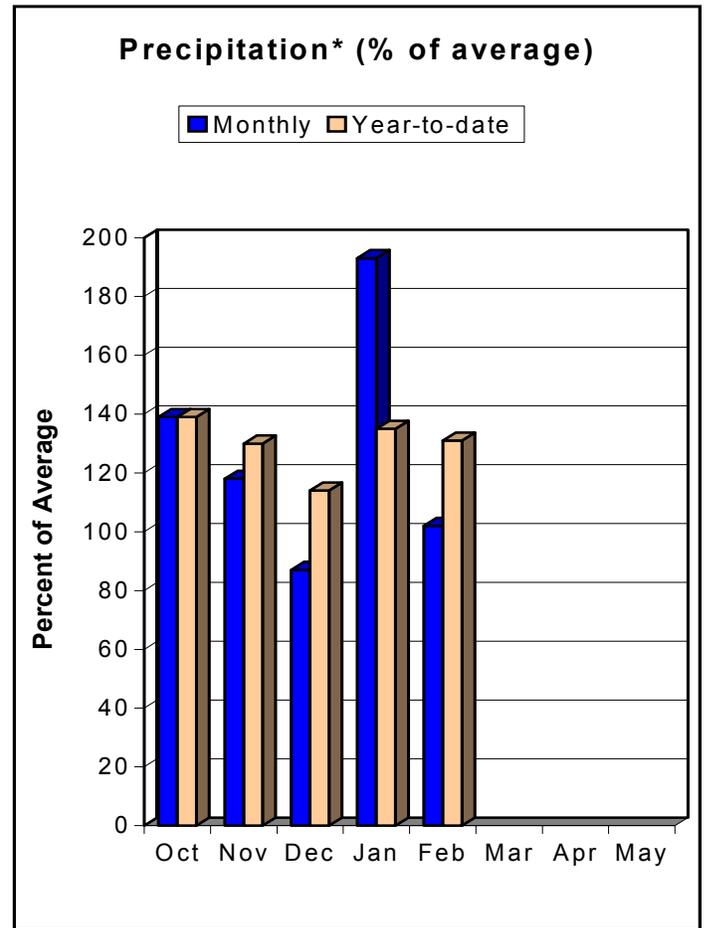
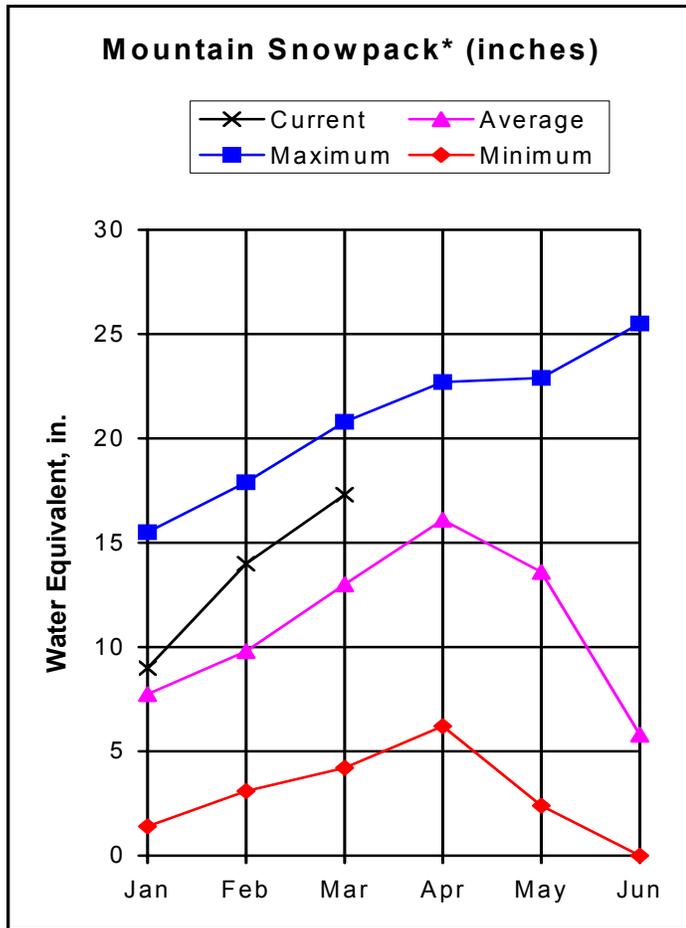
This year's trend of continued improvement to reservoir storage volumes continued during February. This month's improvements brought the storage volumes in the Gunnison basin to above average, and is now the highest storage percentage in the state at 103% of average. Storage in the South Platte basin has also improved significantly since May of 2004, and is now at 99% of average. Reservoir storage in the Arkansas basin remains well below average at 65%, and continues to report the largest volume deficit with nearly 200,000 acre feet below the average mark for March 1. At the same time, this year's storage in the Arkansas basin is 123% of those volumes from last year at this time. As a rule, storage in most basins is improved this year over last year's storage at this time. Only the Colorado basin is currently storing less than a year ago, at 91% of last year's volumes. Statewide, reservoir storage is now 86% of average and is 11% above last year's volumes. Across the San Juan, Animas, and Dolores basins storage volumes actually decreased slightly from last month. Most likely, reservoir operators in these basins are making room for this spring's abundant runoff.

Streamflow

A drier than normal February contributed to slight decreases in runoff forecasts for most locations across Colorado. The state continues to have a wide range of forecasts, depending upon location and basin conditions. Once again, the southwestern basins, with their abundant snowfall for the past several months, can expect an excellent runoff season. Runoff volumes which exceed 130% of average are forecast throughout most of the San Juan, Animas, and Rio Grande basins. Above average (110% to 130% of average) runoff is forecast in the Dolores, San Miguel, and much of the Gunnison basin. Across the northern half of Colorado, runoff forecasts decrease significantly, and are consistently below average. Most of the Colorado basin, the Front Range tributaries to the South Platte River, the Yampa and North Platte River are forecast at below average volumes, ranging from 70% to 90% of average. Even lower forecasts, 50% to 70% of average, occur along the White River and the Upper main stem of the South Platte River. While drought conditions have eased somewhat across northern Colorado during the past two years, it appears that 2005 will bring increasing drought impacts to these northern basins, while delivering significant relief to Colorado's southern basins.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of March 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

Snowpack accumulations in the Gunnison River Basin tapered off somewhat during February when compared to earlier months. Despite this, February snowfall managed to slightly outpace average accumulations for the basin. On March 1, basin snowpacks were measured at 133% of average. This is also 133% of the snowpack measured a year ago at this time. In terms of percent of average, this is the best March 1 snowpack the basin has seen since 1997. SNOTEL data indicates that the basin snow water content has already exceeded the average annual peak snow water content with over a month left to potentially accumulate even more water. At 102% of average, February precipitation was slightly higher than normal. Reflective of the snowpack conditions, water year-to-date precipitation (since October 1) is well above average at 131% of average. Add to this the fact that the Gunnison is one of only two basins in the state with above average reservoir storage (103% of average) and the water supply outlook for the basin seems quite positive. Forecasts call for above to much above average spring and summer runoff. April-July forecasts range from 105% of average for Tomichi Creek at Gunnison to 158% of average for Surface Creek at Cedaredge.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<==== Drier =====		==== Wetter =====>>				
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Chance Of Exceeding * 50% (% AVG.)		30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Taylor River blw Taylor Park Resv	APR-JUL	76	96	110	107	124	144	103
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	89	101	110	124	119	131	89
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	160	193	215	112	235	270	192
Gunnison River nr Gunnison	APR-JUL	310	380	430	110	480	550	390
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	19.0	28	34	106	40	49	32
Cochetopa Creek blw Rock Creek	APR-JUL	13.7	18.7	22	127	25	30	17.3
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	44	67	85	105	106	140	81
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	98	129	150	119	171	202	126
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	530	695	805	112	915	1085	720
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	109	138	160	160	183	220	100
	APR-JUL	98	133	160	157	189	237	102
N.F. Gunnison River nr Somerset	APR-JUL	344	417	470	154	526	615	305
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	18.0	23	27	158	32	41	17.1
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	75	94	110	108	128	161	102
Uncompahgre River at Colona	APR-JUL	99	128	150	108	173	211	139
Gunnison River nr Grand Junction	APR-JUL	1290	1620	1850	119	2080	2410	1560

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005			
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	460.4	390.8	446.5	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	144	138
CRAWFORD	14.3	3.8	3.6	9.2	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	150	164
FRUITGROWERS	4.3	4.4	2.2	3.7	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	103	119
FRUITLAND	9.2	0.5	0.4	2.1	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	19	133	133
MORROW POINT	121.0	108.9	109.3	113.4				
PAONIA	18.0	3.4	3.4	4.9				
RIDGWAY	83.2	76.3	71.5	60.5				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	68.5	72.3	65.5				

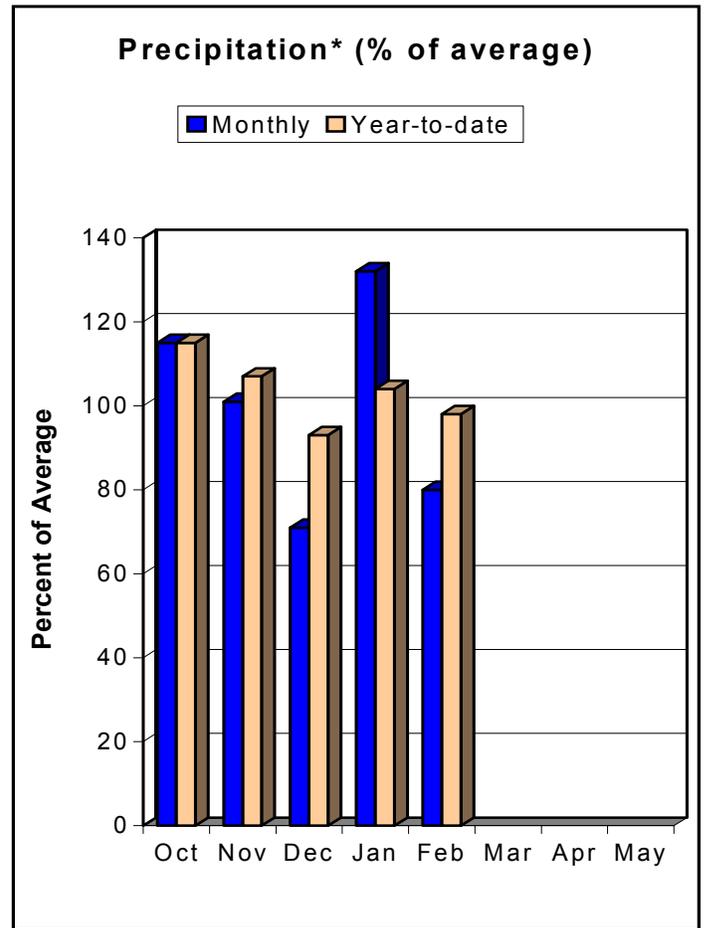
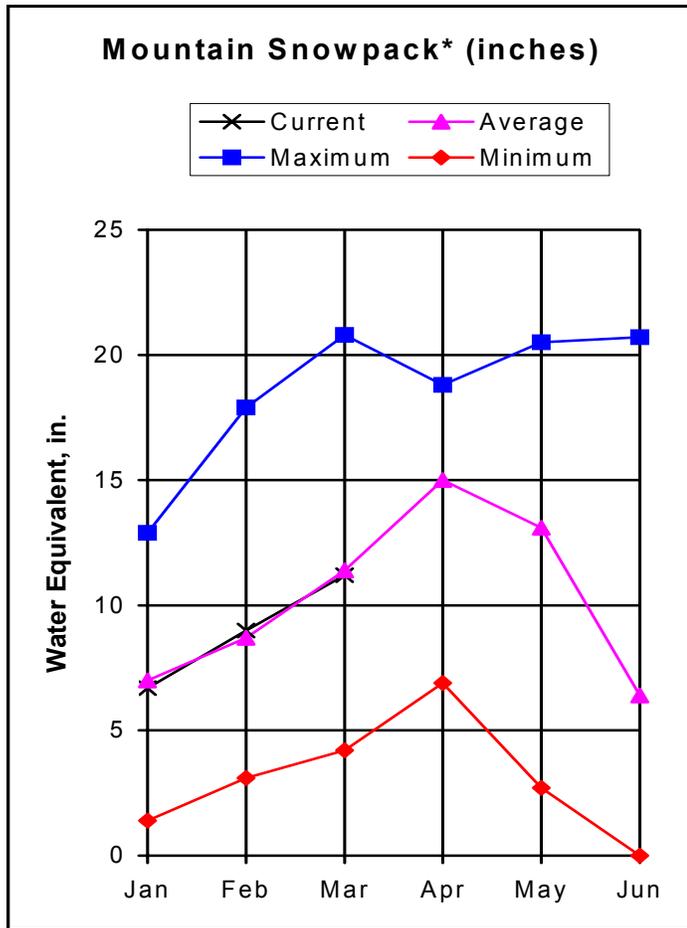
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

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

(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

The Upper Colorado River Basin lost some ground in terms of snowpack conditions during February essentially canceling the minimal gains the basin saw during January. Measurements in the basin indicate the snowpack is currently 98% of average. Although the snowpack is slightly below average, on the positive side, this is an 18% increase in the snowpack measured last year at this time. Also, while only slightly better than the snowpacks of 1998, 2000 and 2003, this is still the highest March 1 percentage recorded in the basin since 1997. February precipitation was below average at 80% of average and 100% of the monthly precipitation measured last year. Despite the reduced precipitation during February, total precipitation for the water year beginning October 1 managed to remain near, although slightly below, average. End of February measurements indicate reservoir storage in the basin remains below average. Current reservoir storage totals are also below those reported a year ago. Most of the forecast points in the basin can expect 75% to 85% of average runoff. The highest volumes, in terms of percent of average, are expected for the Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow at 104% of average and the Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs at 99% of average.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<==== Drier =====		===== Chance Of Exceeding * 50% (% AVG.)		===== Wetter =====>>		
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Lake Granby Inflow	APR-JUL	140	168	190	84	215	259	225
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	36	46	53	104	61	74	51
Williams Fork Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	56	67	75	79	84	97	95
Dillon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	71	103	125	75	147	178	167
Green Mountain Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	180	209	230	82	252	286	280
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn. Resv.	APR-JUL	25	35	45	75	58	82	60
Eagle River blw Gypsum	APR-JUL	187	235	275	82	322	405	335
Colorado River nr Dotsero	APR-JUL	635	940	1150	80	1360	1670	1440
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	79	99	115	82	134	168	141
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs	APR-JUL	500	615	700	99	790	933	710
Colorado River nr Cameo	APR-JUL	1220	1710	2050	85	2390	2880	2420

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	*** Avg	Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
							Last Yr	Average
DILLON	250.8	200.7	218.6	216.8	BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	103	81
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	132.5	198.2	281.1	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	37	109	86
GREEN MOUNTAIN	139.0	66.6	59.6	70.0	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	108	82
HOMESTAKE	43.0	34.9	21.9	26.6	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	150	164
RUEDI	102.0	67.1	62.2	68.0	ROARING FORK BASIN	8	129	113
VEGA	32.0	16.0	10.9	12.2	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	92	78
WILLIAMS FORK	96.8	51.0	57.8	57.3	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	135	100
WILLOW CREEK	9.0	8.3	7.2	6.7	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASIN	48	118	98

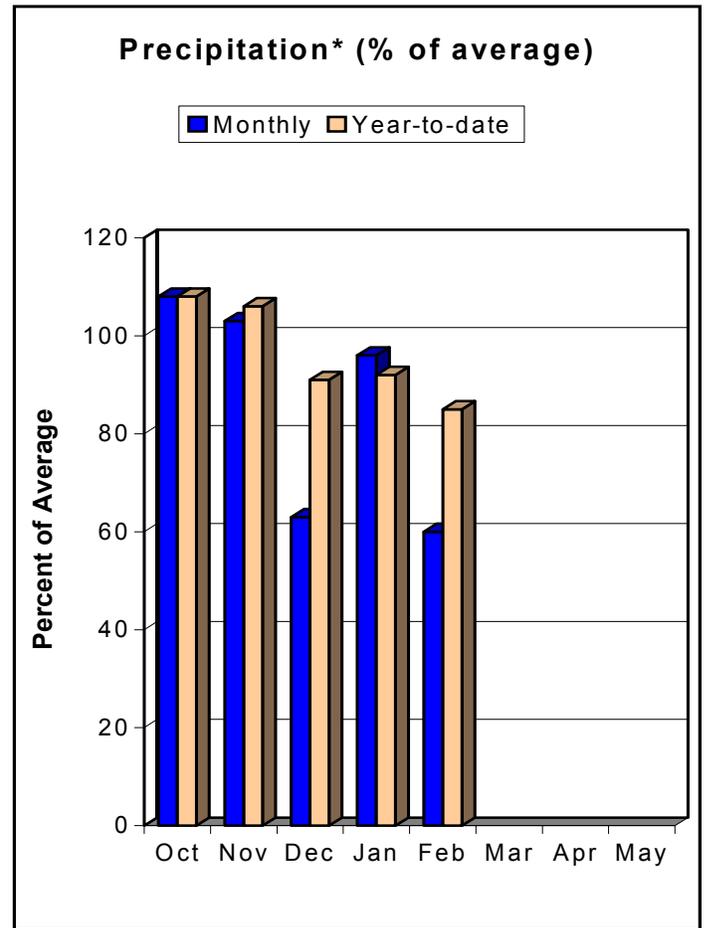
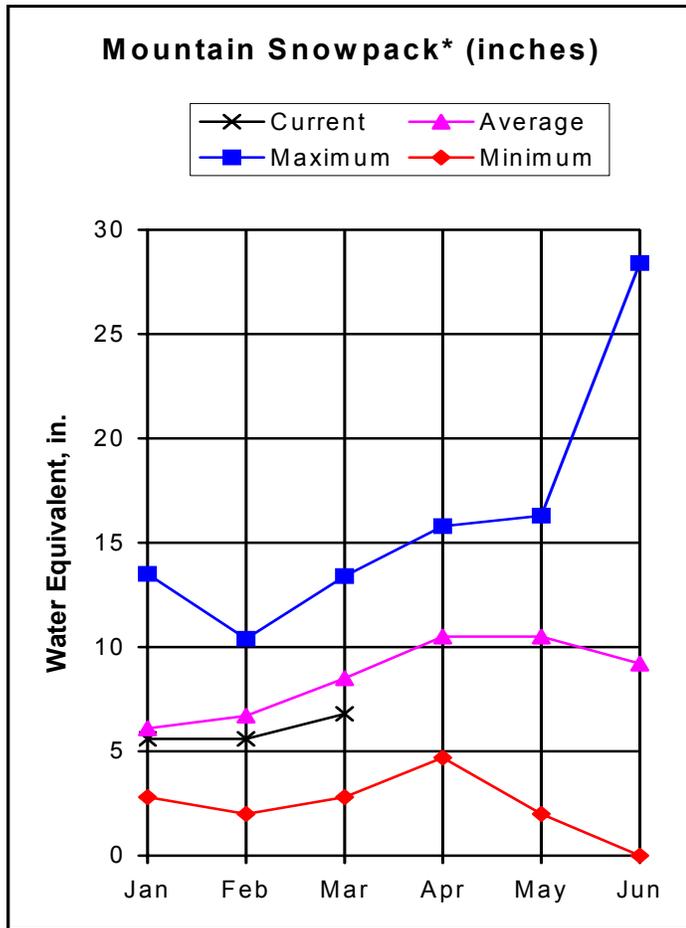
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

as of March 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

Snow accumulation in February failed to keep pace with the average snowfall resulting in a lower snowpack percentage for the South Platte River Basin as of March 1. Snow surveys indicate the March 1 snowpack is 80% of average. While this month's snowpack is 16% higher than the snowpack measured last year at this time, unfortunately, it will ultimately contribute to a string of eight consecutive years where the March 1 snowpack has been less than average. Mountain precipitation during February was recorded at only 60% of average. The poor showing in February caused the water year-to-date totals to also lag further behind the average. Total precipitation since October 1 was reported to be 85% of average. At 99% of average, reservoir storage for the basin is just slightly below average for this time of year. This year's storage is up 20% when compared to reservoir storage totals from a year ago. Streamflows are expected to be below to well below average throughout the basin. April-July forecasts range from 54% of average for Antero Reservoir Inflow to 91% of average for Boulder Creek near Orodell.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Drier		50%		Wetter		
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Antero Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	4.6	6.9	9.0	54	11.8	17.5	16.8
	APR-SEP	5.4	8.3	11.0	53	14.6	22	21
Spinney Mountain Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	18.3	27	35	63	46	67	56
	APR-SEP	22	33	44	64	58	88	69
Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	18.2	27	36	62	48	71	58
	APR-SEP	22	34	46	64	62	97	72
Cheesman Lake inflow	APR-JUL	37	58	78	68	105	164	115
	APR-SEP	46	72	98	69	134	211	142
South Platte River at South Platte	APR-JUL	64	100	136	66	185	291	205
	APR-SEP	79	126	172	68	235	373	255
Bear Creek abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	5.8	9.5	13.3	69	18.6	31	19.3
	APR-SEP	8.2	13.2	18.2	73	25	40	25
Bear Creek at Morrison	APR-JUL	5.9	10.7	16.0	64	24	43	25
	APR-SEP	8.0	14.2	21	68	31	55	31
Clear Creek at Golden	APR-JUL	64	82	95	86	108	126	110
	APR-SEP	74	99	116	87	133	158	134
St. Vrain Creek at Lyons	APR-JUL	41	54	62	86	70	83	72
	APR-SEP	48	63	73	87	83	98	84
Boulder Creek nr Orodell	APR-JUL	31	38	42	91	46	53	46
	APR-SEP	34	43	48	91	53	62	53
South Boulder nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	28	33	36	87	39	44	41
	APR-SEP	29	36	40	88	44	51	46
Big Thompson River at mouth nr Drake	APR-JUL	56	70	79	81	88	102	98
	APR-SEP	68	85	96	82	107	124	117
CACHE LAPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth	APR-JUL	141	188	220	90	250	300	245
	APR-SEP	156	210	245	89	280	335	275

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

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

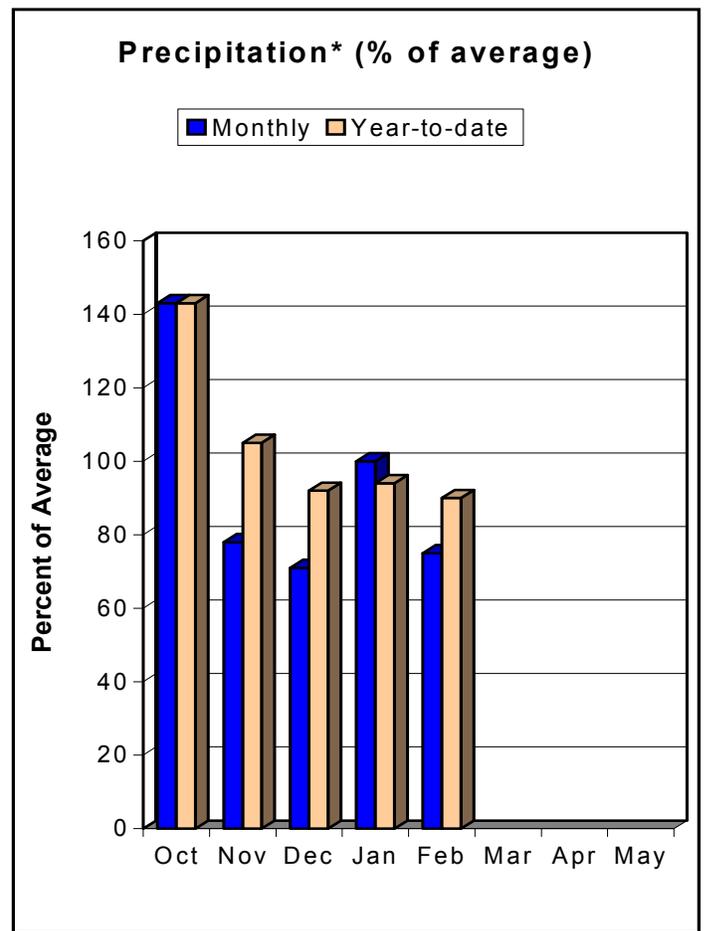
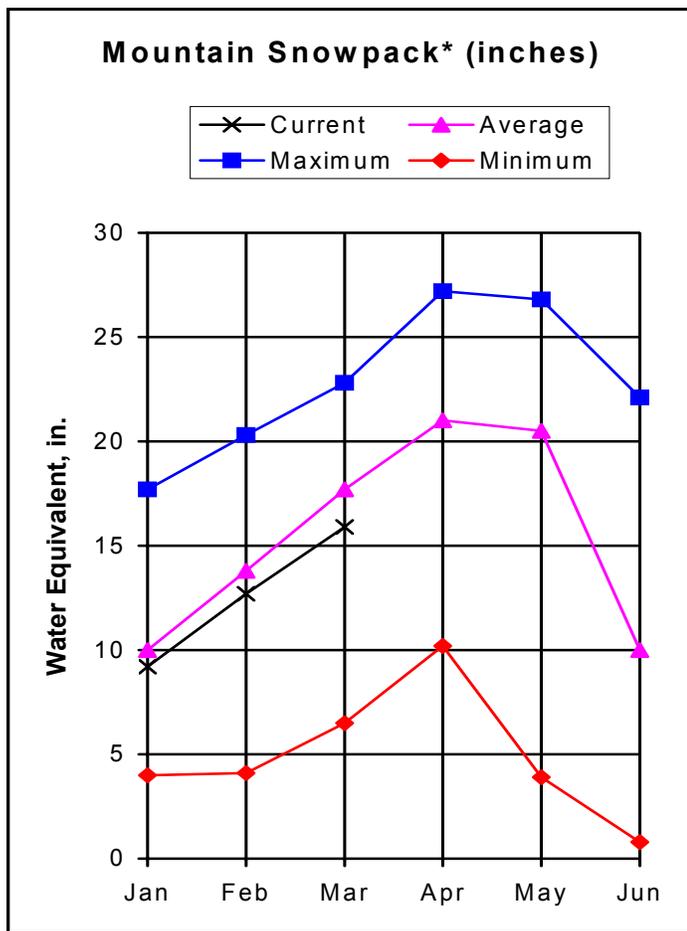
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	20.0	0.8	0.0	16.3	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	115	81
BARR LAKE	32.0	30.7	20.3	26.0	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	125	84
BLACK HOLLOW	8.0	1.4	2.0	3.9	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	8	111	79
BOYD LAKE	49.0	43.1	31.1	32.4	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	112	92
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.0	9.0	3.1	7.8	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	4	134	76
CARTER	108.9	85.9	51.0	93.4	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	15	110	72
CHAMBERS LAKE	9.0	5.6	5.6	3.1	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	43	115	80
CHEESMAN	79.0	69.8	59.4	59.0				
COBB LAKE	34.0	3.5	5.2	13.9				
ELEVEN MILE	97.8	98.5	72.9	95.8				
EMPIRE	38.0	23.1	25.0	25.6				
FOSSIL CREEK	12.0	9.7	6.0	7.4				
GROSS	41.8	27.4	26.0	25.3				
HALLIGAN	6.4	6.0	3.7	4.8				
HORSECREEK	16.0	14.6	12.6	12.5				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	113.0	120.4	109.2				
JACKSON	35.0	21.1	23.5	27.3				
JULESBURG	28.0	14.3	15.3	18.9				
LAKE LOVELAND	14.0	11.5	10.4	8.8				
LONE TREE	9.0	8.2	8.0	6.7				
MARIANO	6.0	4.9	1.0	4.3				
MARSHALL	10.0	9.4	6.1	5.4				
MARSTON	13.0	7.0	14.3	12.9				
MILTON	24.0	19.4	11.6	17.1				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.0	62.4	45.8	65.4				
PREWITT	33.0	21.9	7.7	21.0				
RIVERSIDE	63.1	48.9	43.3	48.9				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	48.7	18.2	20.6	32.2				
STANDLEY	42.0	38.8	38.8	33.6				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	4.3	5.8	5.3				
UNION	13.0	12.5	10.2	11.0				
WINDSOR	19.0	10.8	9.1	11.5				

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

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

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



*Based on selected stations

Overall, March 1 snowpacks in the Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins are below average at 90% of average. A breakdown of the area indicates slightly above average snowpacks in the Elk River Basin and the Little Snake River Basin at 106% and 102% of average, respectively. However, the Laramie River Basin (84% of average), North Platte River Basin (88% of average), the Yampa River Basin (83% of average) and the White River Basin (86% of average) are all well below average for this time of year. For the North Platte River Basin and the Yampa and White River basins, this makes 7 out of the last 8 years that have had March 1 snowpacks that were below average (snowpacks were average to slightly above average in 2000). Monthly precipitation was below average (75% of average) for the combined basins. Precipitation since the start of the water year (October 1) is 90% of average and is up slightly (2%) of the totals recorded a year ago. Reservoir storage at the end of February, while slightly lower than last year, is just above average at 101% of average. Spring and summer streamflows are expected to be below average for most of the basin. In terms of percent of average, the lowest forecast is for the White River near Meeker at 69% of average; the highest is expected at the Little Snake River near Slater at 94% of average.

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

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Drier		Wetter				
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	Chance Of Exceeding * (% AVG.)	
NORTH PLATTE RIVER nr Northgate	APR-JUL	104	148	183	75	221	284	245
	APR-SEP	89	158	205	76	250	320	270
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	APR-JUL	41	77	101	82	125	161	123
	APR-SEP	44	83	110	82	137	176	135
Yampa R abv Stagecoach Res	APR-JUL	11.4	17.7	22	76	26	33	29
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs	APR-JUL	131	181	215	77	250	300	280
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	187	243	285	88	330	403	325
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	15.2	23	30	77	40	59	39
ELKHEAD CREEK blw Maynard Gulch	APR-JUL	21	38	50	85	62	79	59
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	1.40	4.10	6.00	80	7.90	10.60	7.50
Yampa River nr Maybell	APR-JUL	430	620	750	76	880	1070	990
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	98	127	150	94	174	214	159
LITTLE SNAKE R nr Dixon	APR-JUL	195	260	305	92	350	415	330
LITTLE SNAKE R nr Lily	APR-JUL	215	285	330	90	375	445	365
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	136	171	200	69	234	294	290

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

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

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
STAGECOACH	33.3	27.3	27.7	24.0	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	3	107	84
YAMCOLO	9.1	3.5	5.9	6.5	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	12	108	88
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	14	108	88
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	115	106
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	94	83
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	92	86
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	94	84
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	106	102
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	36	101	90					

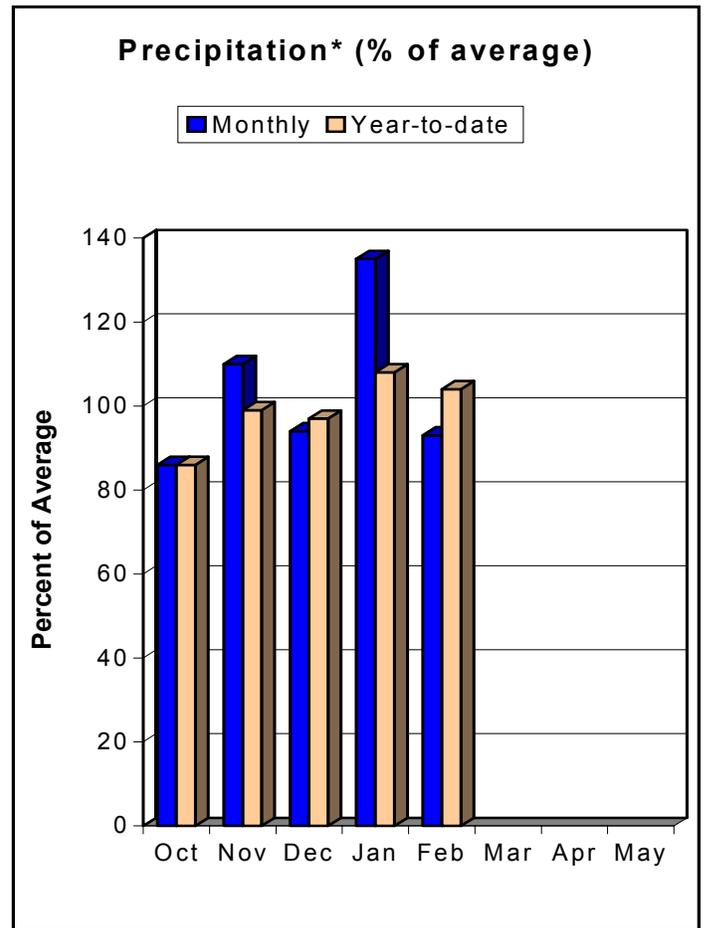
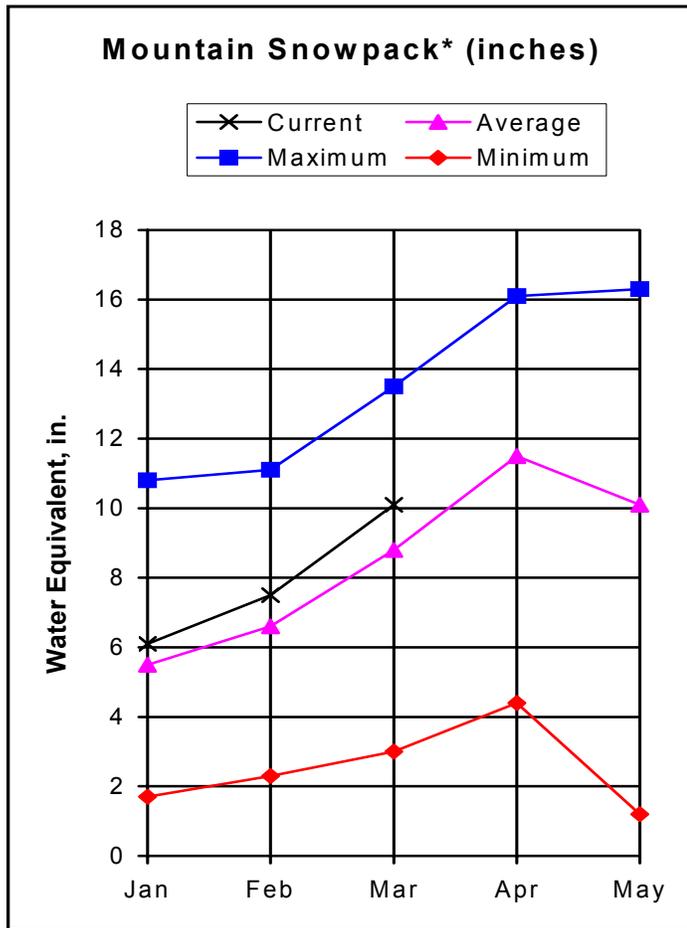
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

as of March 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

Overall, the Arkansas River Basin snowpack is slightly above average at 115% of average for March 1. However, measurements from the Upper Arkansas Basin report slightly below average conditions (99% of average), while the Cucharas & Huerfano River Basins and the Purgatoire River Basin show well above average snowpacks (151% of average and 163% of average, respectively). Basin-wide, this is the first above average March 1 measurement since 1997. Precipitation during February was 93% of average. Despite the below average monthly precipitation, the total precipitation since October 1 remains above average. By comparison, this year's water year-to-date totals for the basin are 24% higher than they were a year ago. At 65% of average, reservoir storage continues to lag well below the norm although this year's storage shows a marked improvement (up 23%) over last year's totals. Indicative of the snowpack conditions observed throughout the basin, streamflow forecasts range from a low of 100% of average for Chalk Creek near Nathrop to a high of 148% of average for Grape Creek near Westcliffe and for the Huerfano River near Redwing.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<==== Drier =====		===== Wetter =====>>				
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Chalk Creek nr Nathrop	APR-SEP	10.6	20	27	100	34	43	27
Arkansas River at Salida	APR-SEP	219	280	325	105	370	430	310
Grape Creek nr Westcliffe	APR-SEP	13.1	22	29	148	37	51	19.6
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow	APR-SEP	310	395	455	106	515	600	430
Huerfano River nr Redwing	APR-SEP	13.1	19.0	23	148	27	33	15.5
Cucharas River nr La Veta	APR-SEP	5.8	12.8	17.5	135	23	30	13.0
Trinidad Lake Inflow	APR-SEP	18.0	40	55	125	70	92	44

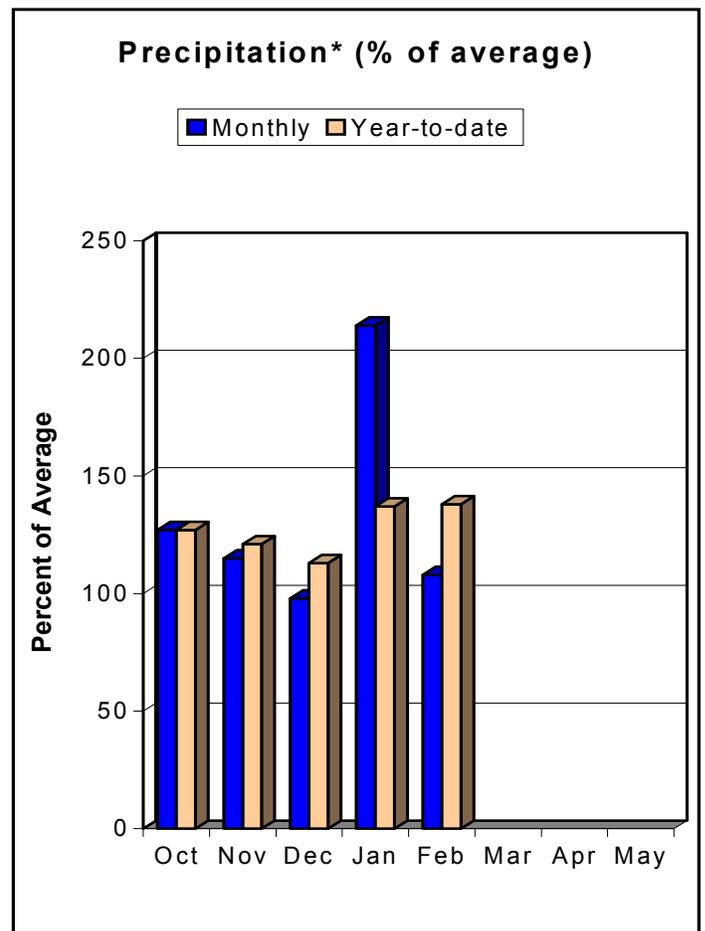
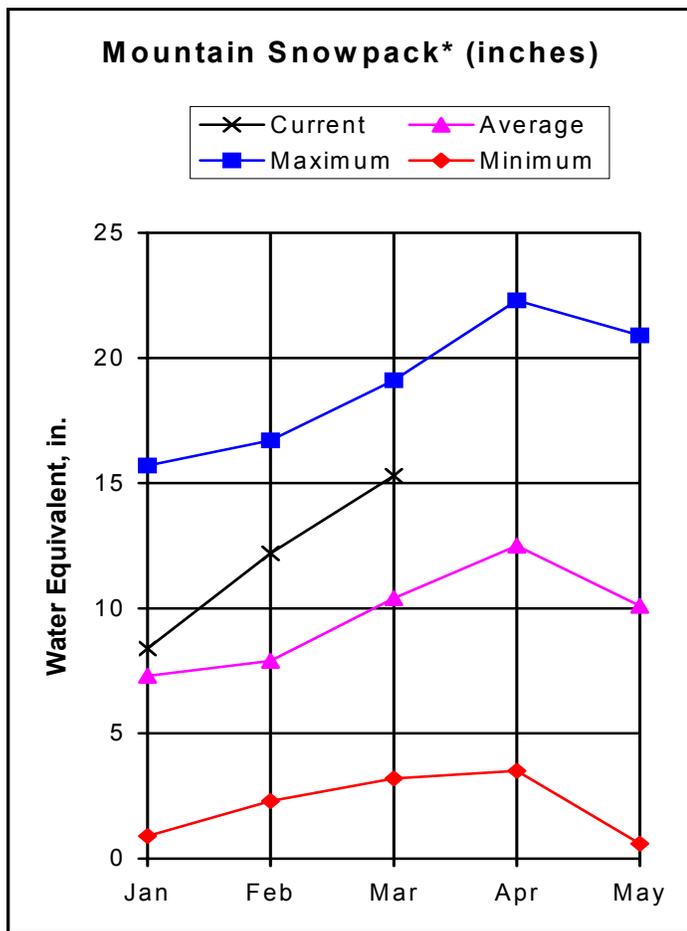
Reservoir	ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February				ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005			
	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage This Year	Last Year	*** Avg	Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
ADOBE	70.0	0.0	0.0	36.0	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	9	115	99
CLEAR CREEK	11.0	8.9	8.3	6.8	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	154	151
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	38.9	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	165	163
HOLBROOK	7.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	14	133	115
HORSE CREEK	28.0	0.0	0.0	12.7				
JOHN MARTIN	335.7	57.9	36.0	132.2				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	6.6	4.7	5.6				
MEREDITH	42.0	34.7	23.4	18.1				
PUEBLO	236.7	138.1	108.1	168.7				
TRINIDAD	72.3	26.2	17.8	26.2				
TURQUOISE	126.6	68.3	66.3	77.3				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	32.8	38.5	44.0				

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

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

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- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 2005



*Based on selected stations

While not as significant as the increase seen in January, the Upper Rio Grande Basin snowpack continued to improve during February. As of March 1, the snowpack in the basin was 147% of average. In terms of percent of average, this ties with 1997 for the best March 1 snowpack since 1993 when the snowpack measured in at 156% of average. 1979 and 1980 are the only other years going back to 1968 that had higher percent of average conditions on March 1. SNOTEL data indicates that the basin snow water content exceeded the average peak snow water content early in February. Precipitation during February was measured at 108% of average. The slightly higher than normal monthly precipitation helped to boost water year-to-date precipitation totals to 138% of average. Reservoir storage, which was 54% of average at the end of February, should benefit from the above average conditions present in the basin. Spring and summer streamflows throughout the basin are forecast to be above average to well above average. The lowest volume, in terms of percent of average, is expected at Saguache Creek near Saguache at 121% of average; the highest volumes, forecast at 148% of average, are expected for the Rio Grand Reservoir Inflow and the South Fork Rio Grand at South Fork.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2005

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<==== Drier =====		==== Wetter =====>>				
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	Chance Of Exceeding * (% AVG.)	
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge	APR-SEP	139	172	200	147	232	289	136
Rio Grande Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	123	152	175	148	202	249	118
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap	APR-SEP	360	440	490	142	540	620	345
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	151	177	195	148	215	240	132
Rio Grande nr Del Norte	APR-SEP	545	680	770	145	860	990	531
Saguache Creek nr Saguache	APR-SEP	23	33	40	121	47	57	33
Alamosa Creek abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	69	84	94	134	104	119	70
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	6.50	9.80	12.00	138	14.20	17.50	8.70
Trinchera Creek	APR-SEP	9.6	13.2	15.6	130	18.0	22	12.0
Sangre de Cristo Creek	APR-SEP	4.50	8.70	11.50	131	14.30	18.50	8.80
Ute Creek	APR-SEP	9.4	13.3	16.0	131	18.7	23	12.2
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	68	79	86	134	93	104	64
	APR-SEP	76	88	96	135	104	116	71
Conejos River nr Mogote	APR-SEP	205	245	275	138	305	345	200
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	11.7	17.4	22	134	27	36	16.4
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	69	87	100	135	113	131	74
Culebra Creek at San Luis	APR-SEP	13.7	24	31	135	38	48	23
Costilla Reservoir inflow	MAR-JUL	9.5	12.2	14.0	132	15.8	18.5	10.6
Costilla Creek nr Costilla	MAR-JUL	25	32	36	139	40	47	26

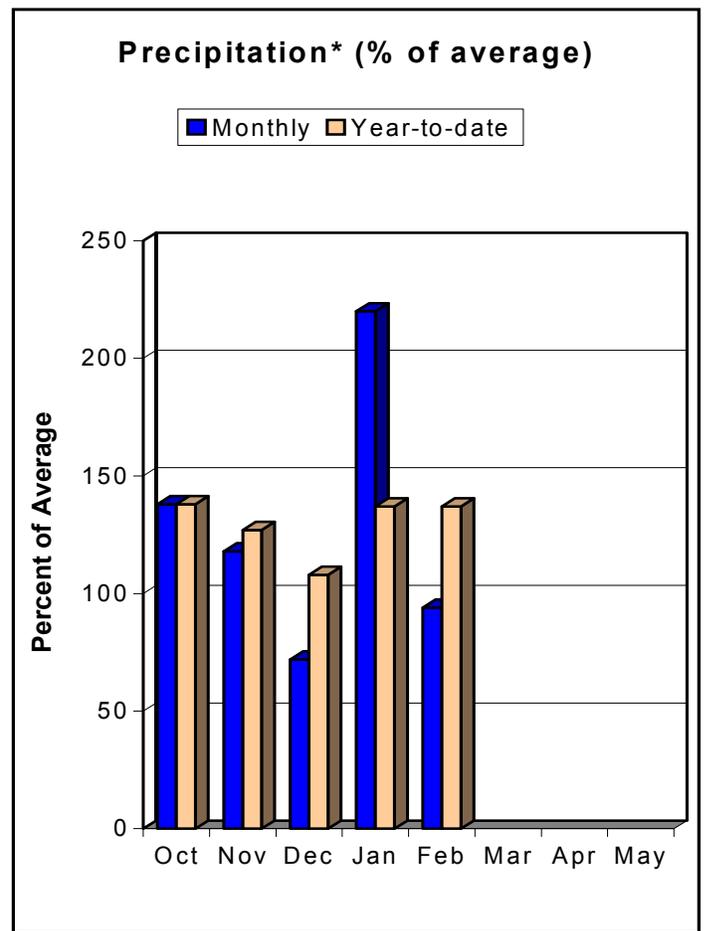
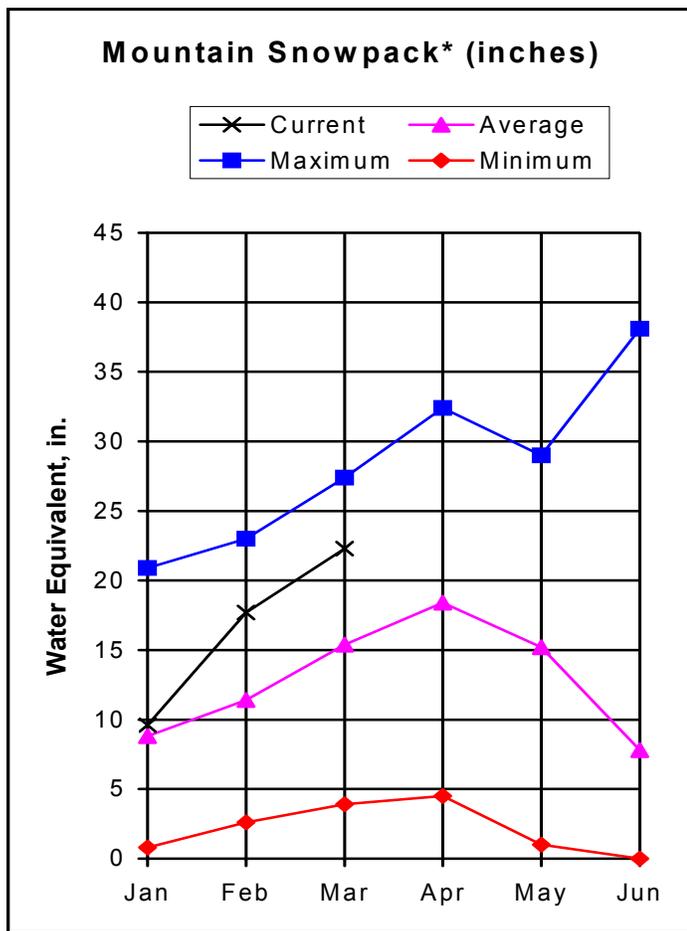
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2005			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	15.0	3.8	3.3	5.3	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	117	138
PLATORO	53.7	6.9	5.2	24.3	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	132	142
RIO GRANDE	51.0	17.3	11.0	17.6	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	145	144
SANCHEZ	103.0	9.4	12.8	24.1	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	140	152
SANTA MARIA	45.0	6.1	5.1	10.6	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	137	147
TERRACE	13.1	4.6	0.3	6.7				

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



*Based on selected stations

Conditions continued to improve in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins during February. Snowpacks in the basins are above average to well above average. Percent of average values range from 123% of average for the San Miguel River Basin to 155% of average in the San Juan River Basin. Overall, the snowpack was measured at 145% of average. According to SNOTEL data, favorable weather patterns elevated snow water contents over the average peak snow water content for the combined basins early in February. This is the best March 1 snowpack the area has seen since 1997 and eclipses last year's March 1 snowpack measurements by 38%. At 94% of average, February precipitation came in a little light but total precipitation since October 1 remained well above average at 137% of average. Despite being below average (81% of average), reservoir storage is 20% higher than it was a year ago and current conditions should help to improve reservoir storage totals. Runoff in the basins is expected to be above average to well above average. April-July volumes are expected to range from a low of 105% of average at the Lilylands Reservoir Inlet to a high of 160% of average for the Navajo Reservoir Inflow, La Plata River at Hesperus and the Mancos River near Mancos.

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

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<==== Drier ====		==== Wetter ====>>				
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	210	265	305	115	345	400	265
McPhee Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	260	325	370	116	415	480	320
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	97	125	145	110	165	192	132
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	11.2	15.0	17.5	106	19.7	24	16.5
	APRIL			2.00	121			1.66
	MAY			9.50	108			8.83
	JUNE			4.80	103			4.67
	JULY			1.20	91			1.32
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.60	2.90	3.80	108	4.70	6.00	3.53
	APRIL			0.60	130			0.46
	MAY			1.75	107			1.64
	JUNE			1.06	102			1.04
	JULY			0.39	103			0.38
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.90	2.60	3.00	105	3.40	4.10	2.86
	APRIL			0.50	125			0.40
	MAY			1.43	108			1.32
	JUNE			0.82	94			0.87
	JULY			0.25	93			0.27
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion	APR-JUL	49	63	73	138	83	97	53
Navajo River at Oso Diversion	APR-JUL	60	78	90	130	102	120	69
San Juan River nr Carracus	APR-JUL	377	504	600	148	705	874	405
Piedra River nr Arboles	APR-JUL	260	315	350	152	385	440	230
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	250	290	320	156	350	390	205
Navajo Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	950	1150	1280	160	1410	1610	800
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	480	565	625	142	685	770	440
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	66	80	90	155	100	114	58
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	30	36	40	160	44	50	25
Mancos River nr Mancos	APR-JUL	41	55	64	160	73	87	40
	APRIL			9.30	160			5.80
	MAY			25	157			15.9
	JUNE			23	168			13.7
	JULY			6.70	146			4.60

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

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

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
GROUNDHOG	21.7	0.1	7.0	12.0	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	9	149	154
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	4.0	2.9	4.6	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	7	133	133
LEMON	40.0	19.4	9.9	20.4	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	121	123
MCPHEE	381.2	216.1	169.6	276.3	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	147	168
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	18.2	14.5	13.5	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	24	141	148
VALLECITO	126.0	56.4	56.9	60.8	AN JUAN RIVER BASINS			

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

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In addition to the basin outlook reports, water supply forecast information for the Western United States is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Weather Service monthly, January through May. The information may be obtained from the National Resources Conservation Service web page at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/westwide.html>.

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