

Colorado Basin Outlook Report March 1, 2009



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, 2009

Summary

February brought generally warm and dry conditions to most of Colorado. As a result, snowpack percentages decreased in all major basins, yet remain above average nearly statewide. Snowpack percentages decreased the most across the southern basins of the state bringing the March totals to just slightly above average. With the first two months of 2009 being much drier than during 2008 snowpack totals have dipped to well below those of last year across much of the state. If March weather continues the pattern established in February, Colorado's snowpack will be below average by the critical April 1 date. Currently however, reservoir storage remains in good condition across most of the state, as are most streamflow forecasts, which call for slightly above average volumes this spring and summer.

Snowpack

Below average snowfall during February has decreased the percent of average snowpack in all basins in Colorado on March 1. Decreases in the snowpack percentages range from four percentage points in the Yampa, White and North Platte basins, to as much as 16 percentage points in the Rio Grande basin. Double digit decreases were also measured in the Arkansas (-13 percentage points), and the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel (-10 percentage points) basins. Colorado's statewide snowpack decreased from the 117% of average measured on February 1, to 108% of average measured on March 1. This is the second consecutive month of decreasing statewide snowpack percentages. At this point in the season, snowpack totals remain above average in all basins except the South Platte, which dipped to 94% of average. The highest snowpack percentages were measured in the Colorado basin, at 115% of average. This year's March 1 snowpack is considerably lower than those readings of last year in much of the state. The Rio Grande and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins are both reporting only 68% of last year's snowpack. Statewide, this year's snowpack is only 80% of that measured last year. Now, with only another 30 to 45 days remaining in the typical snowpack accumulation season, it remains critical that at least near average snowfall continues for the next month. Without good spring moisture, any portion of the state is at risk of ending with below normal snowpack totals by the average date of peak snowpack.

Precipitation

February's dry weather is quite evident in the SNOTEL precipitation data across the state. Monthly totals ranged from only 59% of average in the Rio Grande basin to 88% of average in the Yampa, White and North Platte basins. For the state, SNOTEL precipitation was only 77% of average. This is the first below average month since November, 2008, and is the second driest month of the water year, just ahead of October's 68% of average. This year's February totals remain a dismal disappointment compared to that measured last year, with the 2009 totals at only 54% of the 2008 totals. For the water year, which began October 1, 2008, most of the state remains above average, thanks mostly to a very wet December. Water year totals range from 97% of average in the Arkansas basin, to 108% of average in the Colorado basin. Statewide water year totals are now 104% of average and reflect a sharp decline from last month's water year totals of 112% of average. This year's water year totals remain at only 80% of last year's statewide totals.

Reservoir Storage

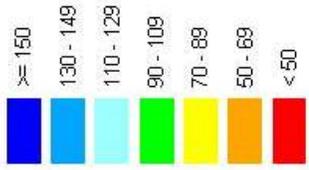
Reservoir storage remains in good condition across most of Colorado. Storage volumes are slightly above average in the Gunnison, South Platte, Yampa, and the combined San Juan, Animas and Dolores basins. This leaves only the Colorado, Arkansas and Rio Grande with below average volumes for this date. Only the Rio Grande basin is currently storing significantly less volume than normal, at 86% of average. Statewide, storage volumes remain at 102% of average, with 72,000 acre-feet more than average in storage. These volumes are 104% of last year's storage on this same date. In terms of capacity, the current statewide storage remains at only 57% of total available capacity. Given this year's outlook for potential runoff and current storage figures, it appears that all basins should be able to at least return to near average volumes by early summer. Without a wet spring across eastern Colorado, near average storage volumes in these basins may be short-lived as the summer unfolds.

Streamflow

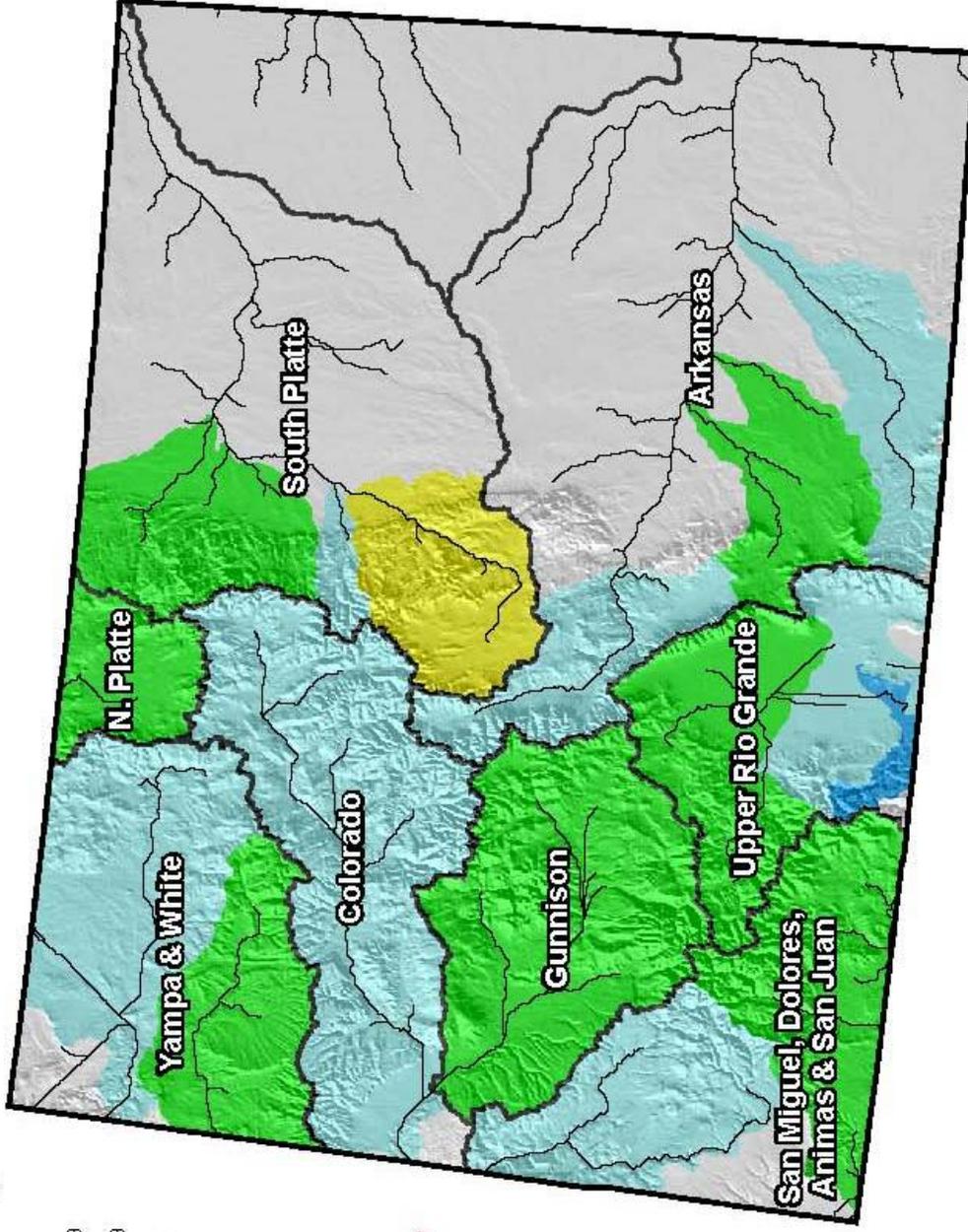
February's dry conditions took a toll on many runoff forecasts around the state. While most basins can continue to expect near average to slightly above average runoff this spring and summer, the decreases reflect some pretty significant declines from the forecasts issued back in January. At this point, the best prospects for good runoff are confined to northwestern Colorado, where slightly above average runoff (105% to 115% of average) is forecast in much of the Colorado and Yampa basins. Elsewhere, runoff forecasts have diminished during the last two months to near average, to slightly below average. Even the San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and Rio Grande basins, which looked extremely promising back in January, can now expect only near average volumes. East of the Continental Divide, volumes are mostly below average, with the lowest forecasts being concentrated in the South Platte basin. Volumes of less than 85% of average are now forecast at many locations in the South Platte basin. The only thing that can now save northeastern Colorado from below average water supplies is a very wet spring.

Colorado Snowpack Map

Percent of Average



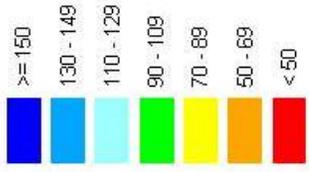
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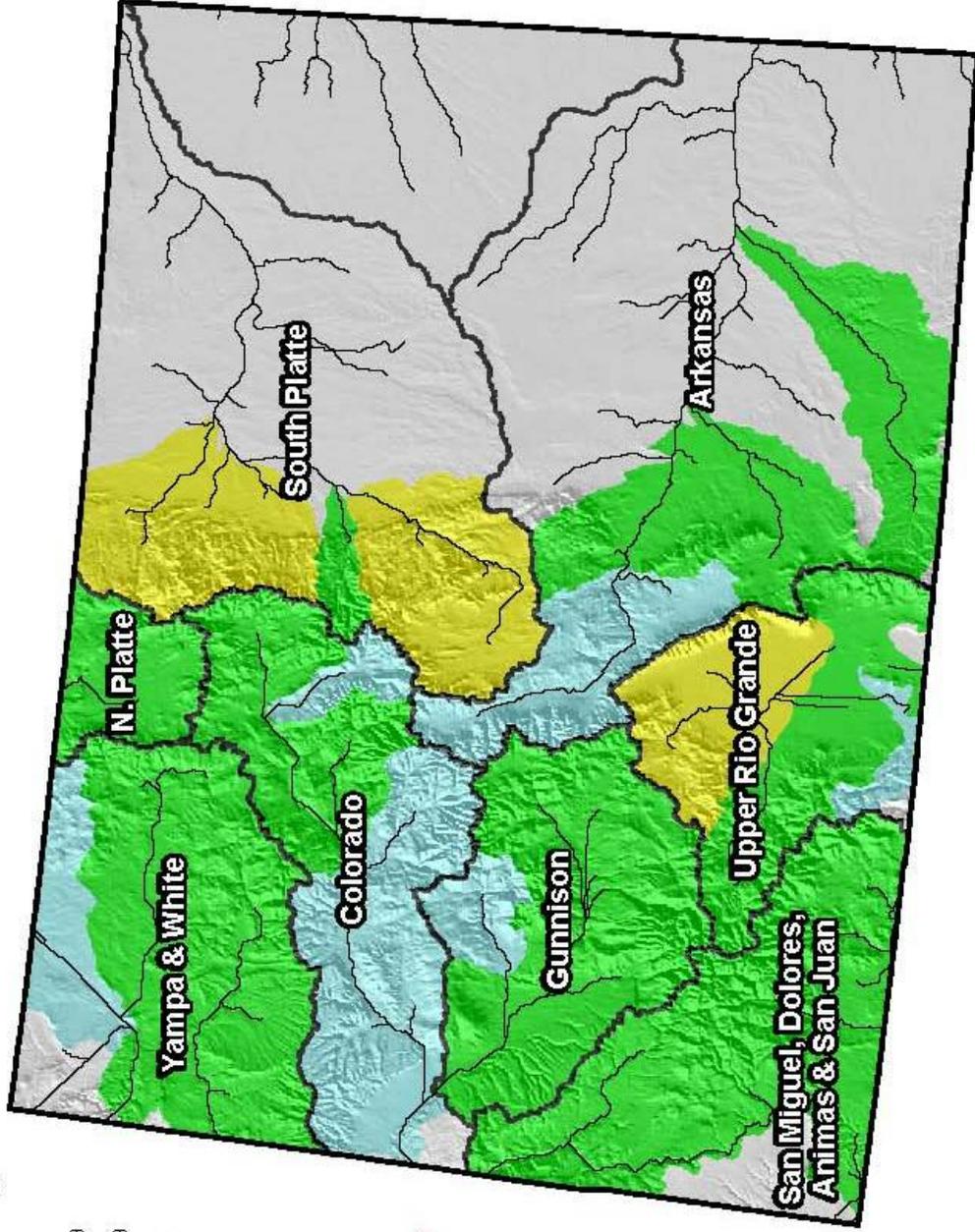
Current as of March 1, 2009

Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map

Percent of Average



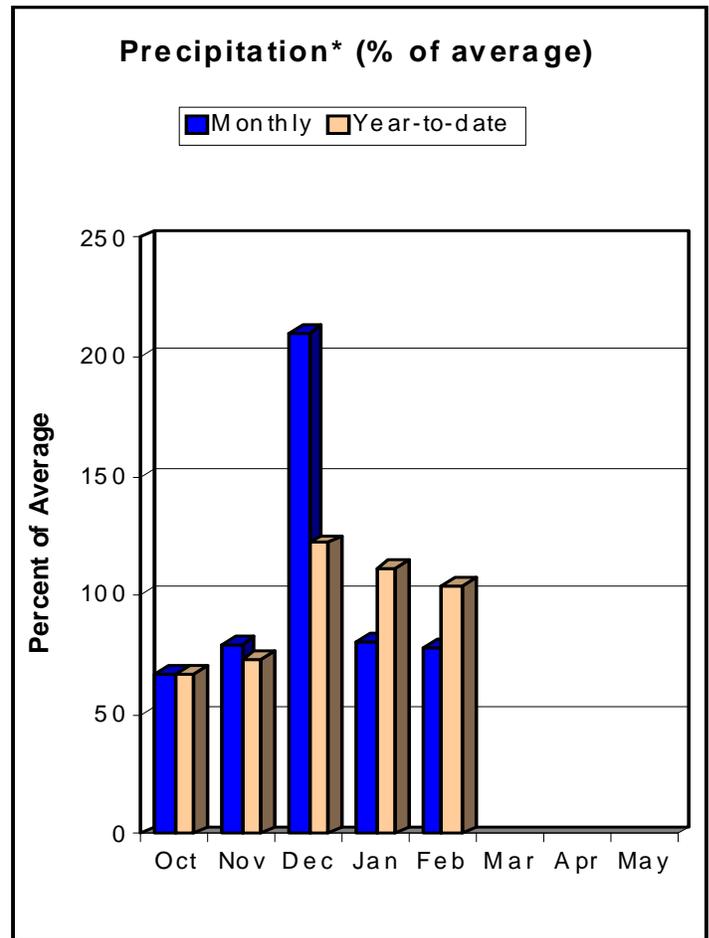
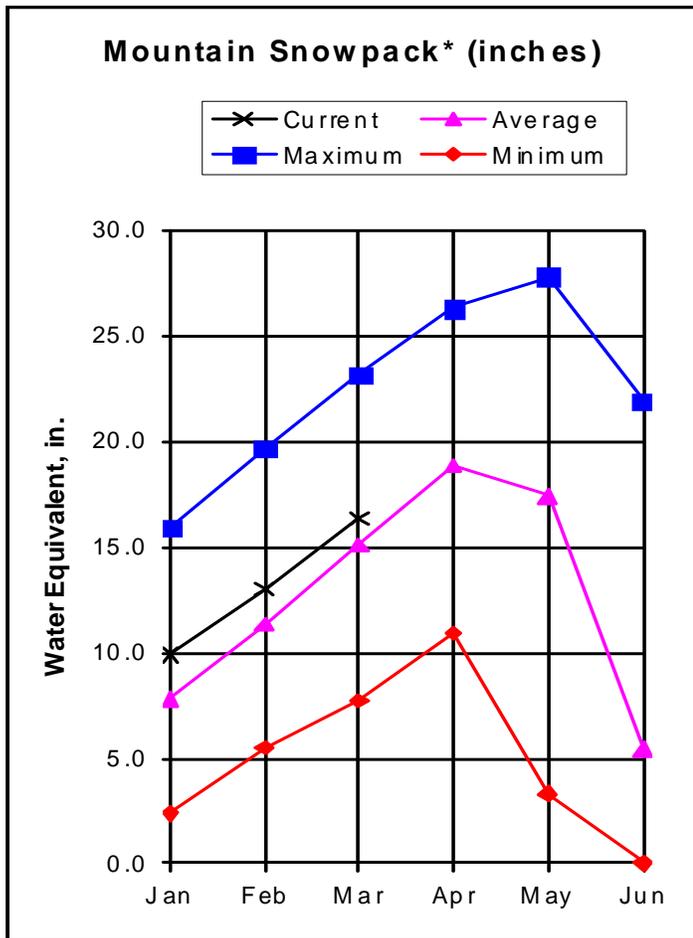
*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



Current as of March 1, 2009

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of March 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the Gunnison River Basin failed to keep track with the norm and the basin experienced its second consecutive month of below average accumulation. March 1 snow surveys indicate the basin is 108 percent of average, down from last month's 115 percent of average figure. This is also only 72 percent of the snowpack totals recorded last March. Despite that, this is the second year in a row the basin has been above average on March 1 and is the third highest March 1 percentage reported since 1997. Sub-basin snowpacks range from 95 percent of average in the Surface Creek Drainage to 108 percent of average in the Upper Gunnison and Uncompahgre watersheds. Precipitation during February at the higher elevations was below normal at 78 percent of average. This is only 54 percent of the precipitation measured during February 2008. The dry monthly conditions led to a drop in the total water year precipitation from 111 percent of average reported last month to 104 percent of average currently. Reservoir storage remains in good shape at 115 percent of average and 112 percent of storage reported a year ago. Spring and summer streamflow forecasts remain unchanged or dropped from 2 to 5 percentage points from those issued last month. The basin can still expect near normal runoff in most areas. Streamflow volumes during the April-July forecast period should range from 87 percent of average for Cochetopa Creek near Parlin to 111 percent of average on the North Fork Gunnison River near Somerset.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)
Taylor Park blw Taylor Park Res (2)	APR-JUL	78	94	105	102	117	136	103				
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	79	88	94	106	100	110	89				
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	157	185	205	107	225	260	192				
Gunnison River nr Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	305	370	415	106	465	540	390				
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	18.4	25	30	94	36	46	32				
Cochetopa Creek blw Rock Ck nr Parli	APR-JUL	7.9	11.8	15.0	87	18.8	25	17.3				
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	38	58	75	93	95	130	81				
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	88	107	120	95	134	157	126				
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	520	640	730	101	830	990	720				
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	68	92	110	110	131	166	100				
	APR-JUL	67	92	112	110	135	174	102				
North Fork Gunnison R nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	245	300	340	112	385	460	305				
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	11.6	14.6	17.0	99	19.6	24	17.1				
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	77	96	110	108	125	151	102				
Uncompahgre River at Colona (2)	APR-JUL	92	121	145	104	171	215	139				
Gunnison River nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	1090	1410	1630	105	1850	2170	1560				

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2009			
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	551.9	454.2	446.5	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	71	108
CRAWFORD	14.0	8.8	8.0	9.2	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	70	95
FRUITGROWERS	4.4	4.4	4.3	3.7	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	75	108
FRUITLAND	9.2	1.1	0.8	2.1	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	19	72	108
MORROW POINT	121.0	106.0	106.4	113.4				
PAONIA	15.4	2.4	1.2	4.9				
RIDGWAY	83.0	68.5	71.8	60.5				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	71.4	78.1	65.5				

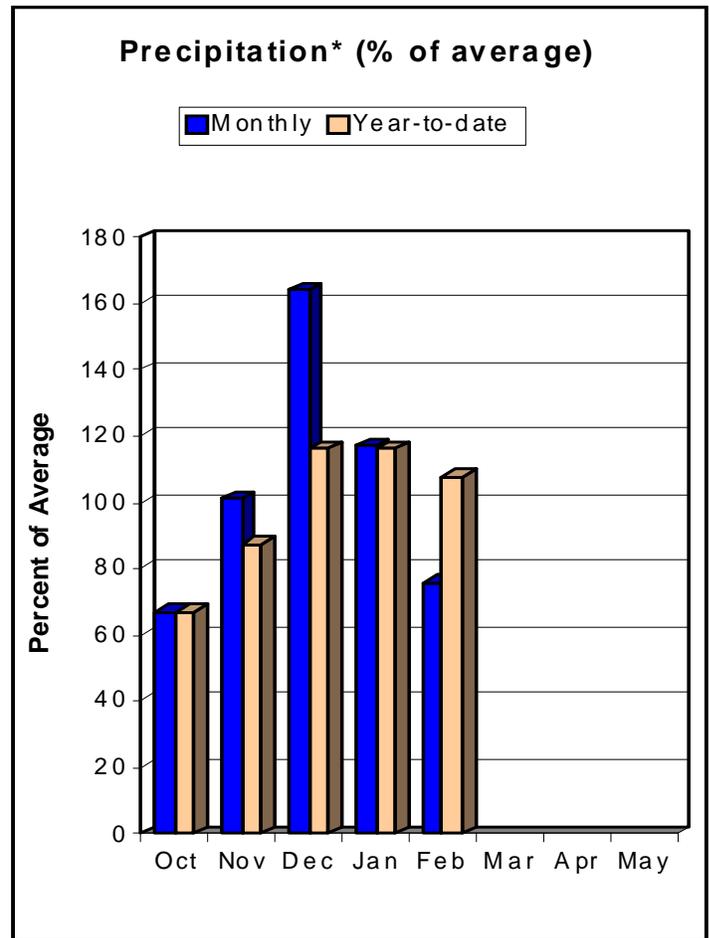
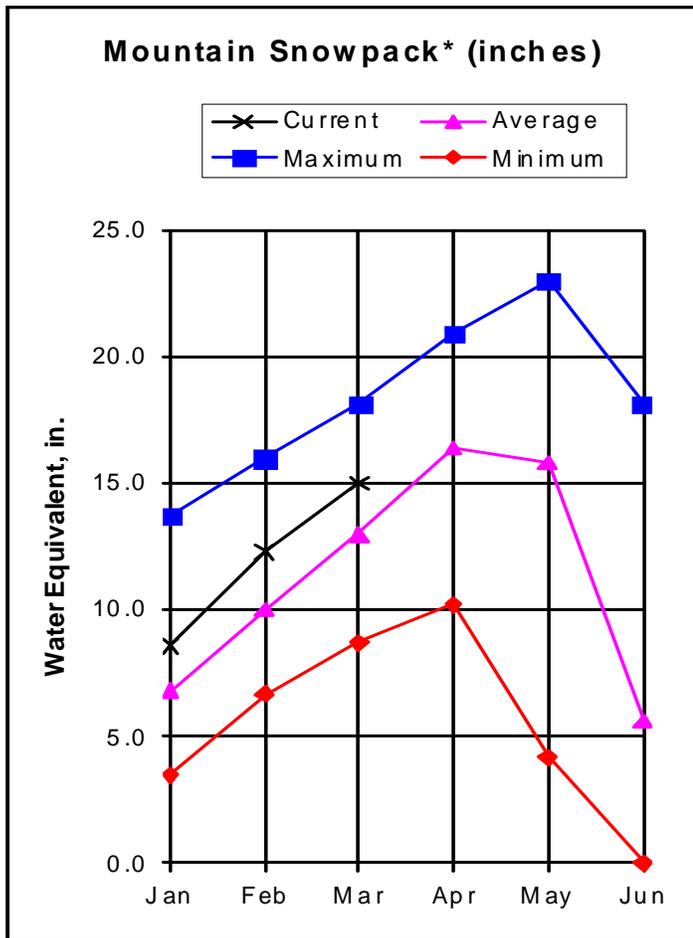
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

as of March 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Like all the other major basins in the state, the Upper Colorado River Basin saw a drop in its snowpack percent of average figures, falling from 123 percent of average last month to this month's measurement of 115 percent of average. Despite the loss, this year's figure ties with March 2006 as the second best March 1 snowpack since 1997, with only last March at 128 percent of average being higher. Projections based on historical SNOTEL data indicate that there is a less than 30 percent chance that the basin will not reach the average peak snowpack. Snowpacks in the sub-basins are mostly above average, ranging from a low of 95 percent of average in the Plateau Creek area to 123 percent of average in the Roaring Fork Drainage. Mountain precipitation during February was 76 percent of average and only 53 percent of the precipitation measured during February 2008. As you would expect, this dropped water year precipitation totals down to 108 percent of average from last month's 116 percent of average figure. Reservoir storage is 98 percent of average and 63 percent of the total useable capacity. This year's storage is about 4 percent less than the stored water available a year ago. This month's forecasts indicate either no change or slight drops compared to those issued last month. The basin can expect above average April-July streamflows, ranging from 103 percent of average for Muddy Creek below Wolford Mountain Reservoir to 114 percent of average for the Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)		
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	182	215	235	104	260	295	225				
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	40	49	55	108	62	73	51				
Williams Fork Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	82	95	105	111	115	131	95				
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	141	163	180	108	198	225	167				
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	240	280	310	111	340	395	280				
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	45	55	62	103	70	83	60				
Eagle River blw Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	265	320	360	108	405	475	335				
Colorado River nr Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	1200	1410	1570	109	1740	1990	1440				
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	115	138	155	110	173	205	141				
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	620	730	810	114	895	1030	710				
Colorado River nr Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	1970	2400	2700	112	3000	3430	2420				

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2009			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
DILLON	250.7	224.9	238.2	216.8	BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	89	117
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	235.1	228.1	281.1	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASI	37	96	115
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	55.3	68.8	70.0	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	106	115
HOMESTAKE	43.0	42.0	41.9	26.6	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	70	95
RUEDI	102.0	70.8	70.6	68.0	ROARING FORK BASIN	8	80	123
VEGA	32.9	14.5	16.4	12.2	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	98	117
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	78.3	82.5	57.3	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	96	118
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	6.6	8.1	6.7	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASI	48	90	115

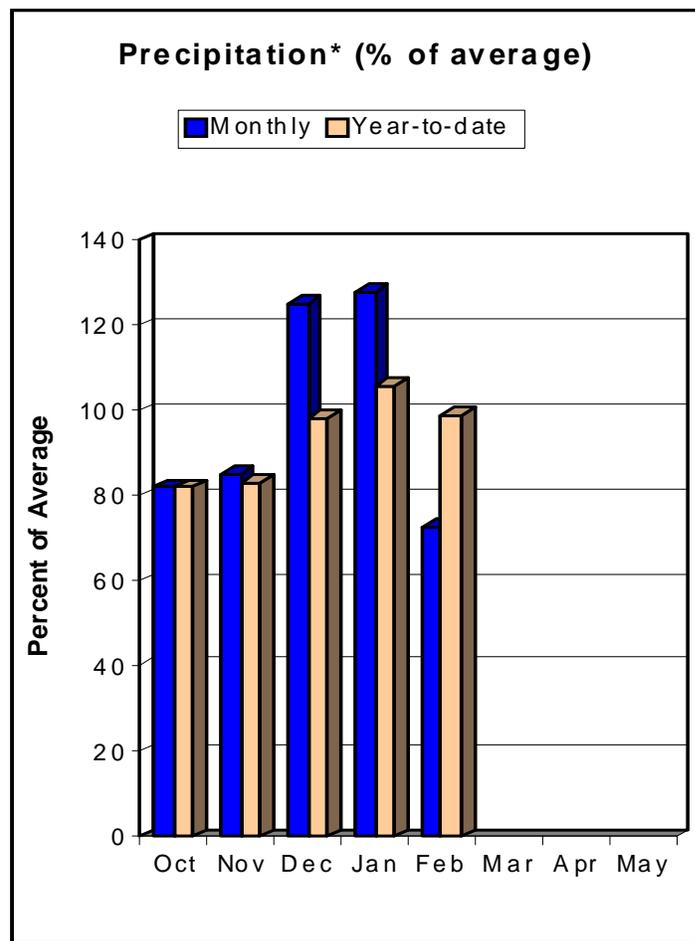
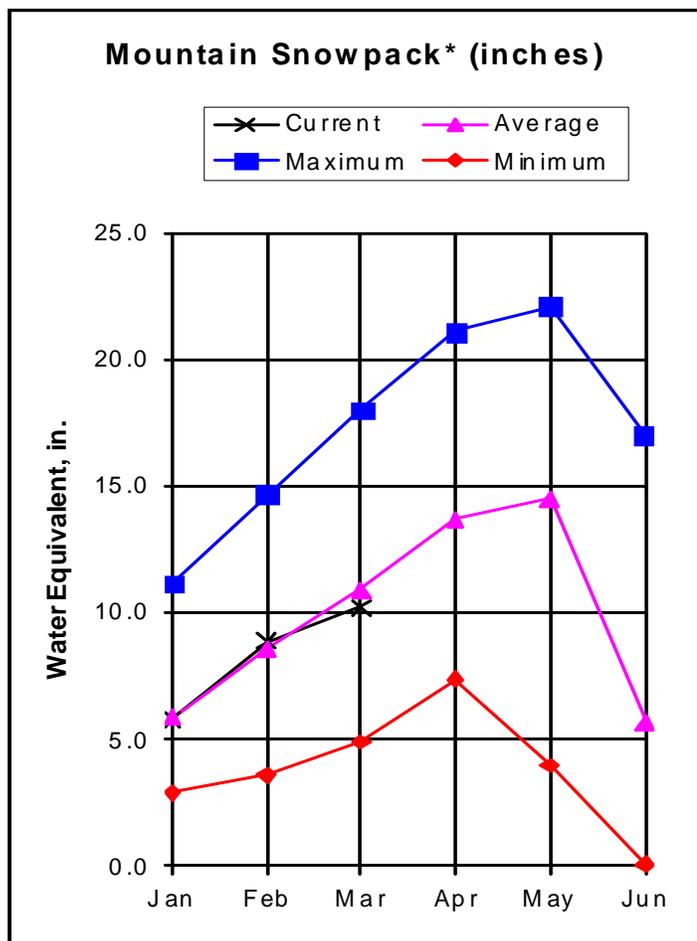
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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

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

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

as of March 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

With precipitation falling short of average in February, and far below last month's average, the South Platte has moved to just short of normal at 99% basin-wide. Last month the entire South Platte had been slightly above last years totals and has now dropped to 92% of last year. Snow totals for the month slacked off, as precipitations did, to below average in all sub-basins averaging out at 94% for the year-to-date total. Although the South Platte as a whole has the lowest percentage snowpack of the state, the diamond in the rough is the Clear Creek drainage which boasts 120% of the March 1 average. Despite generally low precipitation for the month, reservoir storage is right where it needs to be at 101% and above last year by 11 percentage points. Confirming the shortage in fall precipitation, dry, thirsty, soils were found at the bottom of the snowpack on the Como, Geneva Park, and Sundance snow courses measurements. Stream flow forecast responded to the below average precipitation of February falling below last month's forecasts. Given the lack of fall and February precipitation, forecasts range from 64% on the Bear Creek above Evergreen and at Morrison to just below average at 97% on the Clear Creek at Golden.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)		
ANTERO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	6.0	8.9	11.7	70	15.3	23	16.8				
	APR-SEP	7.2	11.0	14.6	67	19.4	30	22				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	25	37	48	86	62	92	56				
	APR-SEP	29	45	59	86	78	118	69				
ELEVENMILE CANYON RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	25	37	49	85	65	97	58				
	APR-SEP	29	45	61	85	83	129	72				
CHEESMAN LAKE Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	43	67	91	80	123	191	114				
	APR-SEP	53	83	113	81	154	245	140				
SOUTH PLATTE R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	77	121	164	80	225	350	205				
	APR-SEP	95	150	205	80	280	445	255				
BEAR CREEK abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	5.4	8.8	12.4	64	17.4	29	19.3				
	APR-SEP	7.2	11.6	16.0	64	22	36	25				
BEAR CREEK at Morrison	APR-JUL	5.9	10.7	16.0	64	24	43	25				
	APR-SEP	7.6	13.4	19.8	64	29	52	31				
CLEAR CREEK at Golden	APR-JUL	76	94	107	97	120	138	110				
	APR-SEP	87	112	129	96	146	171	134				
ST. VRAIN CREEK at Lyons (2)	APR-JUL	57	70	78	83	86	99	94				
	APR-SEP	68	83	93	85	103	118	109				
BOULDER CREEK nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	36	43	47	90	51	58	52				
	APR-SEP	40	49	54	90	59	68	60				
SOUTH BOULDER CK nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	30	35	38	93	41	46	41				
	APR-SEP	31	38	42	91	46	53	46				
BIG THOMPSON R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	61	75	84	85	93	107	99				
	APR-SEP	74	91	102	86	113	130	119				
CACHE LAPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	131	178	210	86	240	290	245				
	APR-SEP	141	194	230	84	265	320	275				

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

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2009

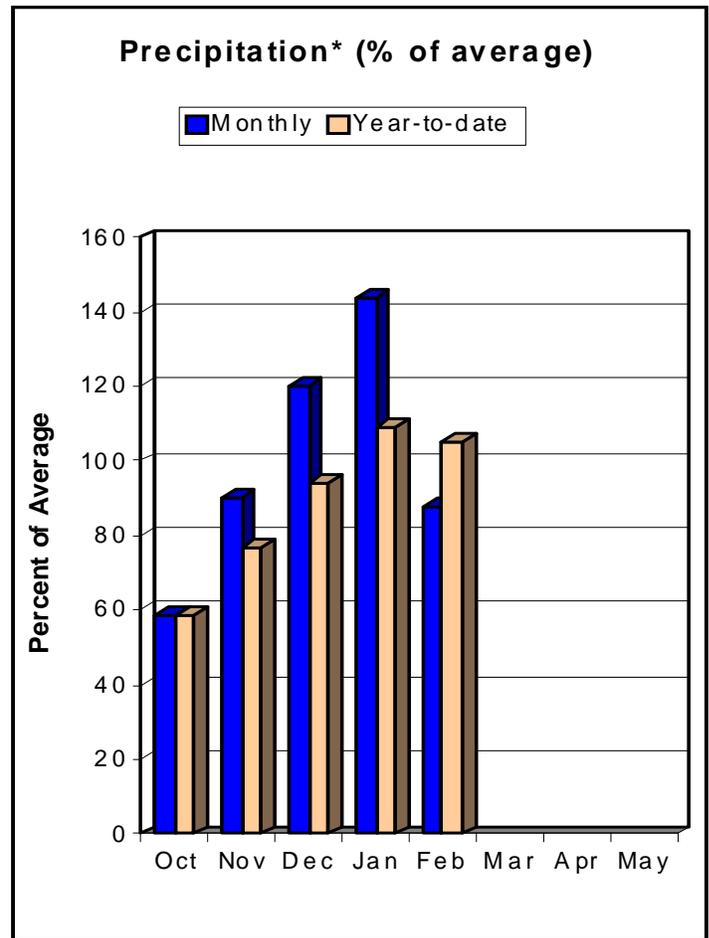
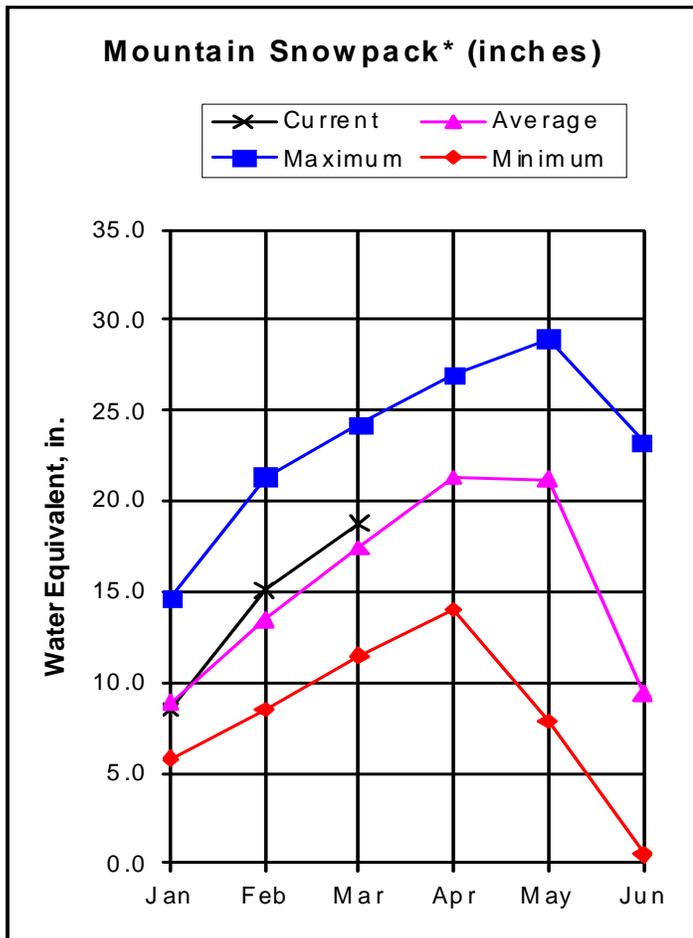
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	19.9	20.0	19.0	16.3	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	98	97
BARR LAKE	30.1	22.9	26.2	26.0	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	89	93
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	2.6	2.2	3.9	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	8	89	98
BOYD LAKE	44.0	27.5	20.8	32.4	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	99	120
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	12.9	13.5	12.4	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	4	92	87
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.1	8.0	6.1	7.8	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	16	67	81
CARTER	108.9	90.8	15.8	93.4	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	44	86	94
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	2.5	1.5	3.1				
CHEESMAN	79.0	69.9	71.5	59.0				
COBB LAKE	22.3	11.9	2.8	13.9				
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	100.0	99.3	95.8				
EMPIRE	36.5	36.4	33.2	25.6				
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	10.0	5.5	7.4				
GROSS	42.0	28.1	24.3	25.3				
HALLIGAN	6.4	5.2	4.3	4.8				
HORSECREEK	14.7	9.8	13.4	12.5				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	84.4	120.5	109.2				
JACKSON	26.1	24.6	25.3	27.3				
JULESBURG	20.5	16.5	15.4	18.9				
LAKE LOVELAND	14.0	11.4	11.7	8.8				
LONE TREE	9.0	8.5	6.8	6.7				
MARIANO	6.0	1.2	2.5	4.3				
MARSHALL	10.0	4.5	4.8	5.4				
MARSTON	13.0	8.6	6.3	12.9				
MILTON	23.5	20.4	17.9	17.1				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	69.0	49.4	65.4				
PREWITT	28.2	21.2	22.2	21.0				
RIVERSIDE	55.8	50.7	50.1	48.9				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	40.9	35.5	32.2				
STANDLEY	42.0	35.4	37.7	33.6				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	5.2	5.7	5.3				
UNION	13.0	10.3	11.3	11.0				
WINDSOR	15.2	13.5	11.5	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.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

YAMPA, WHITE, NORTH PLATTE AND LARAMIE RIVER BASINS as of March 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins took the easiest hit from the dry conditions that plagued Colorado during February. Falling only 4 percentage points from last month, March 1 snowpacks were measured at 108 percent of average. This month's above average figures marks it as the third above average March 1 conditions in the last four years. For the Yampa and White River basins, this ties with last year as the second best snowpacks the area has seen since 1997. Above average snowpacks were reported in most of the sub-basins. The lowest sub-basin snowpack figures, at 94 percent of average, were measured in the Laramie River Watershed. At 121 percent of average, the highest snowpacks can be found in the Elk River Drainage. The Little Snake was the only sub-basin to report an increase in its snowpack percent of average from last month. Believe it or not, the combined basins reported the highest February precipitation percentage in the state at a feeble 88 percent of average. As a result of the below average monthly totals, the water year total precipitation dropped slightly to 105 percent of average. Both Yamcolo and Stagecoach reservoir reported above average storage 117 and 108 percent of average, respectively. Near average to above average runoff is expected for this spring and summer. April-July streamflows are forecast to range from 94 percent of average for the Laramie River near Woods to 118 percent of average for the Little Snake River near Dixon and the Little Snake River near Lily.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
NORTH PLATTE RIVER nr Northgate	APR-JUL	124	190	235	96	280	345	245
	APR-SEP	130	205	255	94	305	380	270
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	APR-JUL	80	101	115	94	129	150	123
	APR-SEP	88	111	127	94	143	166	135
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	18.7	26	31	107	37	48	29
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	215	260	290	104	325	375	280
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	275	325	360	111	395	455	325
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	28	37	43	110	50	61	39
Elkhead Creek blw Maynard Gulch (2)	APR-JUL	43	56	65	110	75	91	59
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	4.5	6.4	8.0	107	9.8	13.0	7.5
Yampa River nr Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	765	940	1070	108	1210	1430	990
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	132	160	180	113	200	235	159
Little Snake River nr Dixon	APR-JUL	260	335	390	118	450	545	330
Little Snake River nr Lily	APR-JUL	280	365	430	118	500	610	365
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	210	255	290	100	325	385	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, 2009

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	25.9	27.4	24.0	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	3	83	94
YAMCOLO	8.7	7.6	6.4	6.5	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	11	94	102
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	13	93	102
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	100	121
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	100	111
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	100	107
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	99	109
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	97	116
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	35	96	108					

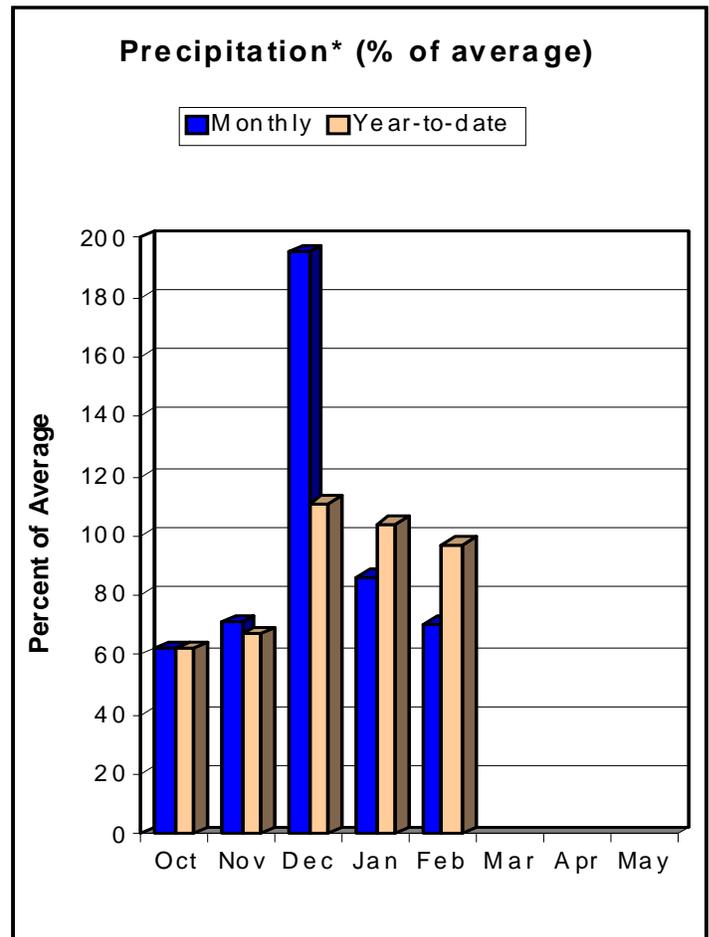
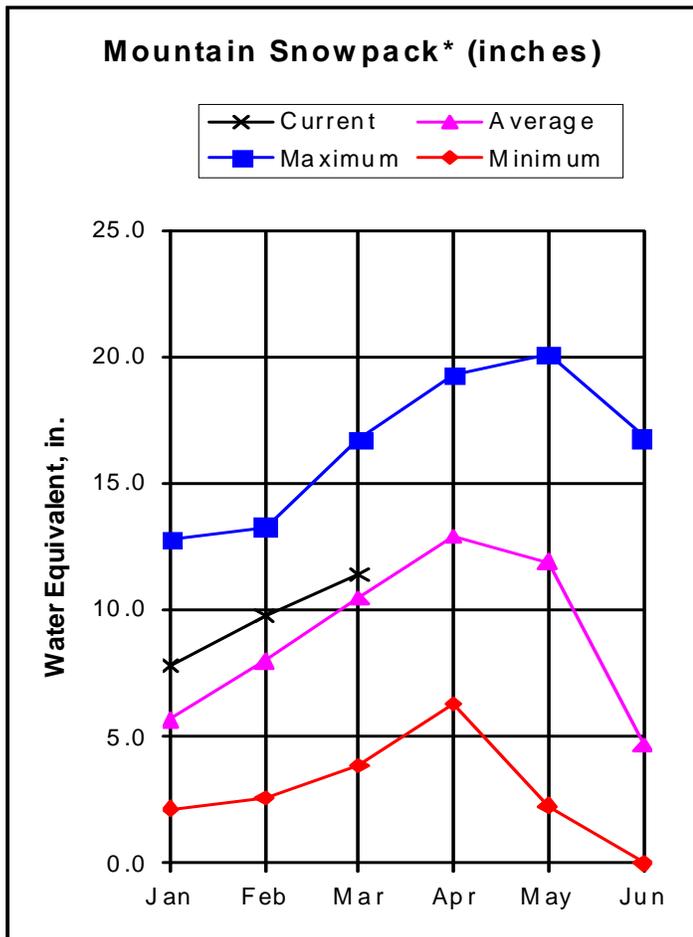
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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

as of March 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

The story of March precipitation is much the same in the Arkansas River Basin as it is in the rest of the state, below average snow and precipitation totals for the month. March saw less than normal snow to yield a snowpack clinging on to above average conditions at 109%, down from 130% last month. The Purgatorie River basin saw the least snow, in terms of percent of average snowpack, over the entire state dropping 74 percentage points from January 1st to March 1st, yet still remaining above average at 115%. Cucharas Creek snow course is an outlier in terms of snowpack with only 66% of average. Precipitation only amounted to 70% this month, bringing the cumulative amount to the lowest in the state at 97%. As it stands right now, the status of reservoir storage over the entire basin is almost exactly as you may remember it last year, at 93% of average. Lake Henry is the only reservoir a full capacity right now. Given the below normal precipitation and reservoirs, the snowpack proves to be an excellent repository of water which is reflected in the stream flow forecasts. Considering near normal precipitation for the rest of the year, stream flows are predicted to be above 90% of average. The Arkansas River at Salida is forecast to be 112% of average, which is with the likes of the top forecasts in the state.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2009

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Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)
CHALK CK at Nathrop	APR-JUL	14.0	19.6	24	104	29	37	23				
	APR-SEP	16.5	23	28	104	34	43	27				
ARKANSAS RIVER at Salida (2)	APR-JUL	215	260	290	114	325	375	255				
	APR-SEP	255	310	350	113	390	455	310				
GRAPE CK nr Westcliffe	APR-JUL	3.3	9.2	14.8	92	22	35	16.1				
	APR-SEP	5.6	12.1	18.0	92	25	38	19.6				
PUEBLO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	245	330	395	103	465	580	385				
	APR-SEP	315	420	495	102	580	715	485				
HUERFANO RIVER nr Redwing	APR-JUL	6.5	9.5	11.9	97	14.6	18.9	12.3				
	APR-SEP	8.6	12.2	15.0	97	18.1	23	15.5				
CUCHARAS RIVER nr La Veta	APR-JUL	4.3	7.6	10.4	92	13.6	19.2	11.3				
	APR-SEP	5.3	8.9	11.9	92	15.3	21	13.0				
TRINIDAD LAKE Inflow (2)	MAR-JUL	11.3	22	32	94	43	63	34				
	APR-SEP	14.7	28	40	91	54	78	44				

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2009			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ADOBE	62.0	47.0	51.4	36.0	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	10	75	110
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	8.2	3.8	6.8	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	60	103
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	2.5	0.8	4.7	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	66	115
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	38.9	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	15	71	108
HOLBROOK	7.0	0.6	0.8	4.8				
HORSE CREEK	27.0	0.0	0.0	12.7				
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	72.0	60.4	132.2				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	8.0	5.8	5.6				
MEREDITH	42.0	38.7	40.0	18.1				
PUEBLO	354.0	235.0	238.4	168.7				
TRINIDAD	167.0	22.8	25.1	26.2				
TURQUOISE	127.0	59.9	62.1	77.3				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	41.5	54.1	44.0				

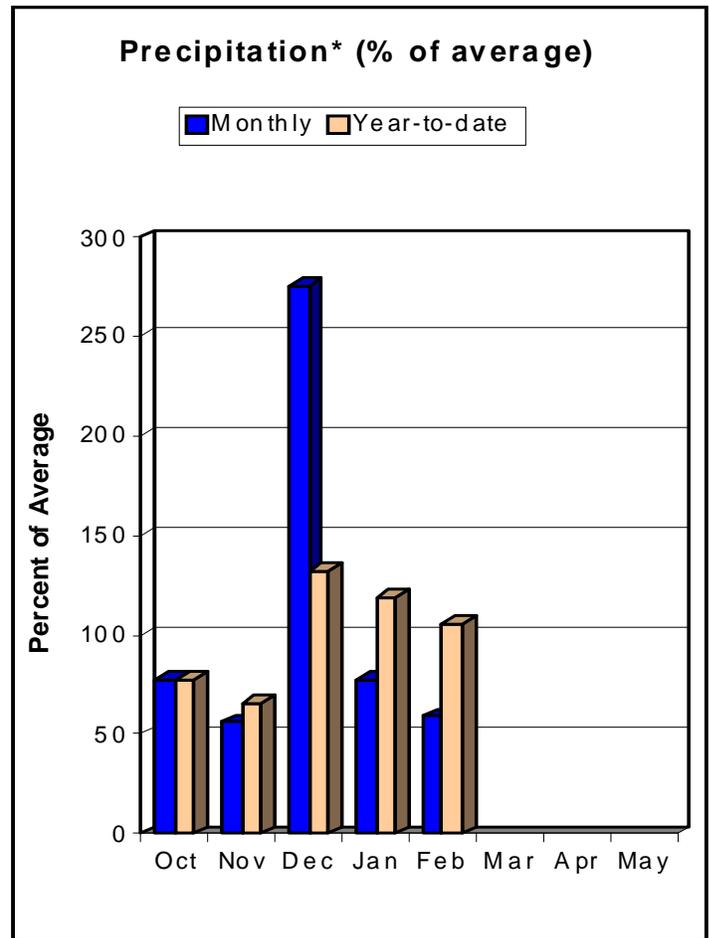
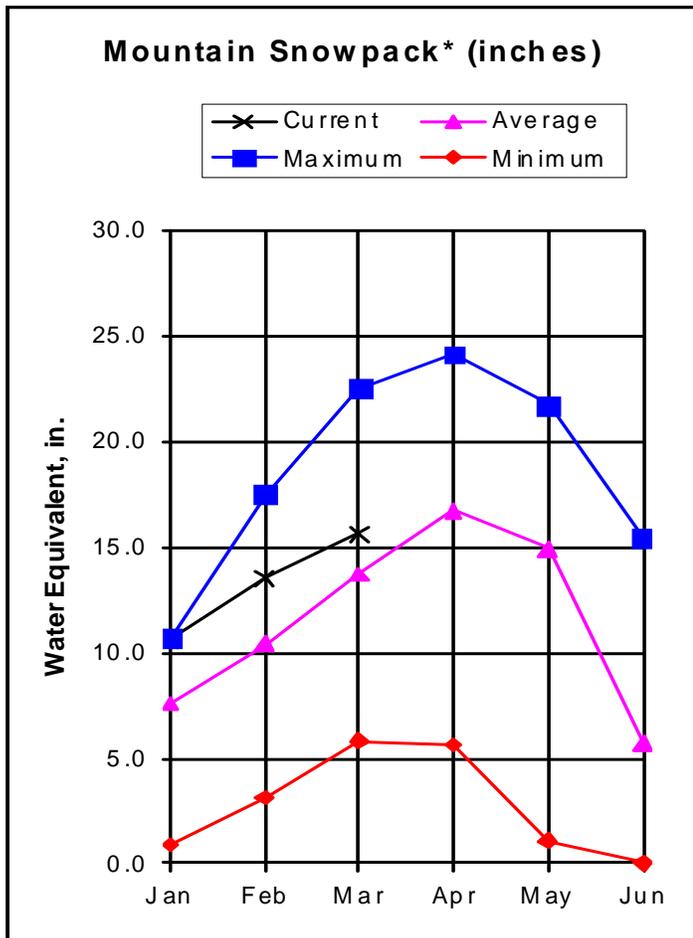
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UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN

as of March 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

The near maximum snowpack of January 1st in the Rio Grande River basin has helped to maintain the current snowpack above normal levels en lieu of dismal precipitation as of late. Despite receiving this month's smallest monthly average precipitation in the state (59%), the snowpack remains above average at 114% (second in the state of the major water basins) with year-to-date precipitation hanging just above normal at 106%. The Alamosa River Basin and Conejos & Rio San Antonio basins both have the highest percent of average snowpacks in the state at above 125%. This surplus in the snowpack, along with average precipitation, will help to fill the small void currently in the reservoirs. On average, the current total reservoir storage of the Upper Rio Grande is at 86%. Stream flows are forecast to be from 100%, to as much as 116% of average this spring with the San Antonio River basin being the high point at the 116%. The only exception to the previous statement is the Saguache Creek near Saguache, where stream flows are only forecast to be 85% of normal. As it stands currently, stream flows for the Rio Grand in Colorado look to be quite good with respect to present precipitation conditions.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<----- Drier ----- Future Conditions ----- Wetter ----->						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)		
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge (2)	APR-SEP	100	123	140	103	158	186	136				
	APR-JUL	90	108	122	103	137	161	118				
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	240	305	350	101	400	480	345				
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	100	123	140	106	159	189	132				
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	370	465	535	101	615	740	531				
Saguache Creek nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	15.9	23	28	85	34	44	33				
Alamosa Creek abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	52	65	75	107	86	104	70				
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	5.2	7.4	9.2	106	11.3	14.9	8.7				
Trinchera Creek abv Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	7.0	10.6	13.0	108	15.4	19.0	12.0				
Sangre de Cristo Creek (2)	APR-SEP	2.5	6.7	9.5	108	12.3	16.5	8.8				
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	6.9	10.2	13.0	107	16.2	22	12.2				
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	53	63	70	109	78	91	64				
	APR-SEP	56	67	75	106	84	98	71				
Conejos River nr Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	156	192	220	110	250	300	200				
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	10.9	15.4	19.0	116	23	30	16.4				
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	56	72	85	115	99	122	74				
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	12.0	19.0	25	109	32	45	23				
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	6.5	9.5	12.0	113	14.9	20	10.6				
Costilla Creek nr Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	15.7	23	30	115	38	51	26				

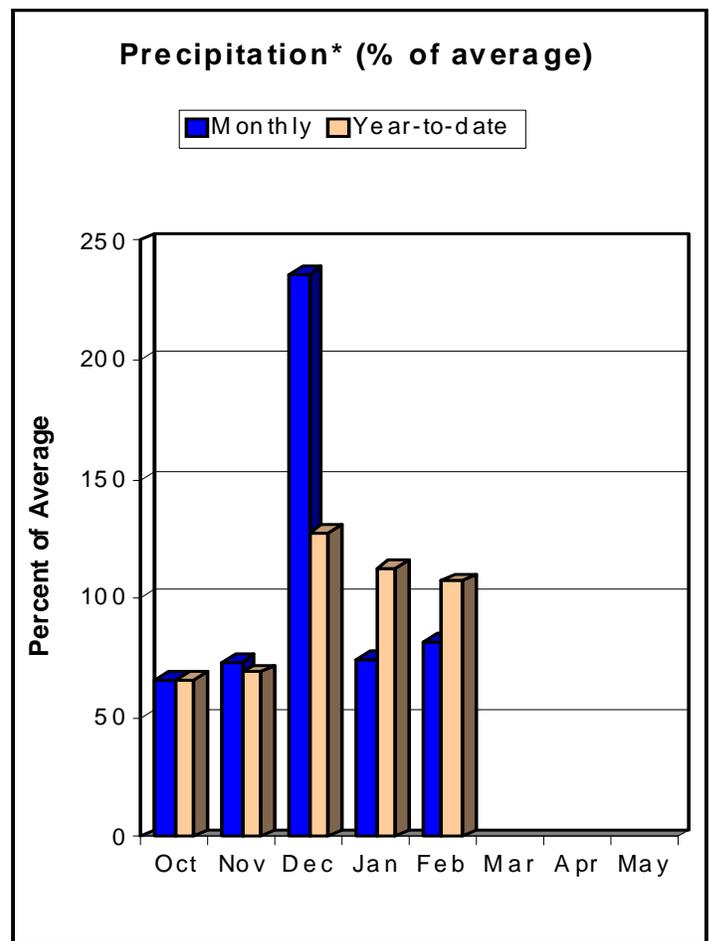
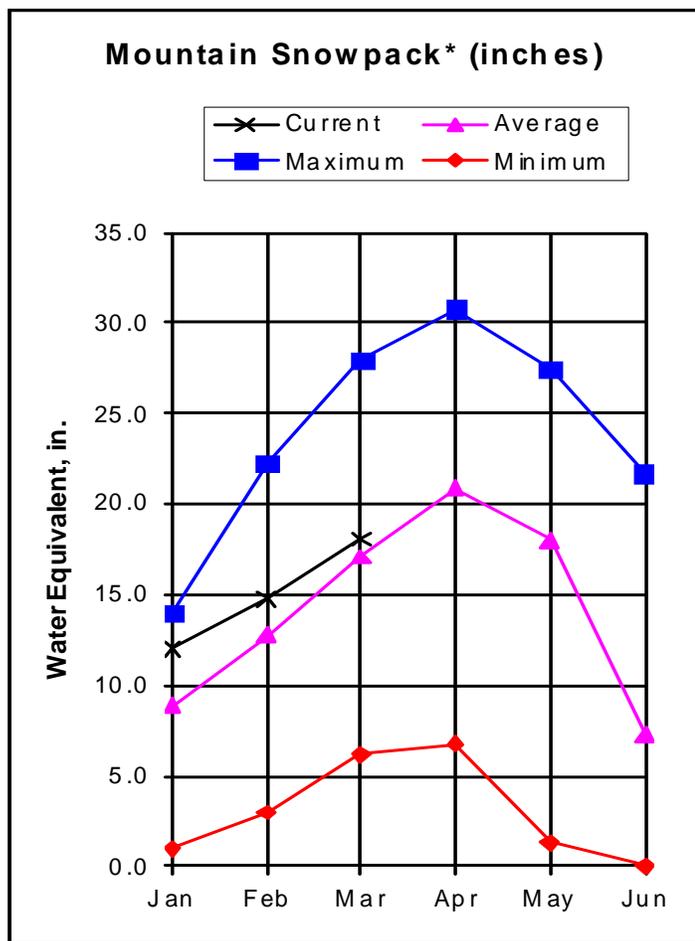
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of February					UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2009			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	27.0	3.7	4.5	5.3	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	61	126
PLATORO	60.0	17.5	13.4	24.3	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	70	132
RIO GRANDE	51.0	17.9	27.6	17.6	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	76	116
SANCHEZ	103.0	25.1	29.8	24.1	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	64	103
SANTA MARIA	45.0	5.8	7.2	10.6	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	68	114
TERRACE	18.0	6.0	7.1	6.7				

* 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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SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS as of March 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

March 1 snowpacks in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins are 106 percent of average, down 10 percentage points from the snowpacks measured last month. And, things could have been much worse if not for the storms that passed through the area around February 9 and February 23. On the bright side, this is the second year in a row the combined basins have had an above average snowpack on March 1 and, while not as impressive as the 145 and 155 percent of average figures from 2005 and 2008, respectively, this is the third highest figure since 1997. Snowpacks in the sub-basins are all above average, ranging from 102 percent of average in the Animas River Watershed to 114 percent of average in the San Miguel Watershed. Mountain precipitation during February was below normal at 82 percent of average and 53 percent of last year's February totals. Water year totals dropped to 107 percent of average from last month's total figure of 113 percent of average. Reservoir levels remain above normal at 105 percent of average although down slightly from those reported a year ago. Current storage is 68 percent of the total useable capacity. Forecasts for the Dolores and San Miguel remain mostly unchanged while the San Juan and Animas areas saw a 5 to 9 percentage point drop compared to last month. Water users in the area can still expect near normal streamflows this spring and summer, with April-July runoff ranging from 100 percent on the Mancos, La Plata and Piedra rivers to 106 percent for the Inflow to McPhee Reservoir.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2009

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<==== Drier =====		==== Wetter =====>>				
		90%	70%	Chance Of Exceeding *		30%	10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	182	230	270	102	310	380	265
McPhee Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	215	280	330	103	385	480	320
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	97	122	140	106	160	193	132
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	13.1	16.4	19.0	104	22	26	18.3
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.3	2.4	3.4	104	4.7	7.2	3.3
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.9	2.6	3.1	105	3.7	4.6	2.9
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	38	48	55	104	63	76	53
Navajo River at Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	49	62	72	104	83	101	69
San Juan River nr Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	270	350	415	103	485	605	405
Piedra River nr Arboles	APR-JUL	144	192	230	100	275	345	230
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	154	186	210	102	235	280	205
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	530	690	815	104	955	1180	785
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	310	390	450	102	515	625	440
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	45	54	60	103	67	78	58
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	16.4	21	25	100	29	36	25
Mancos River nr Mancos (2)	APR-JUL	10.0	24	33	100	42	56	33
	APRIL			5.9	134			4.4
	MAY			15.5	126			12.3
	JUNE			8.2	73			11.3
	JULY			1.6	33			5.0

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, 2009

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
GROUNDHOG	22.0	14.2	14.8	12.0	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	9	68	102
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	3.5	5.8	4.6	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	7	71	113
LEMON	40.0	18.6	23.0	20.4	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	80	114
MCPHEE	381.0	276.2	286.2	276.3	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	62	104
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	16.6	17.8	13.5	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	24	68	106
VALLECITO	126.0	76.8	64.9	60.8	AN JUAN RIVER BASINS			

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

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