United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Colorado Basin Outlook Report April 1, 2006

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.

COLORADO
WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORT
APRIL 1, 2006

Summary

After one of the driest winters on record across much of southern Colorado, above average snowfall was finally received across those thirsty basins. While far short of enough to fully recover to average conditions, the additional snowfall helped to improve water supply conditions. Across the mountains of northern Colorado, March brought another month of slightly below normal snowfall. However, these basins continue to hold onto a slightly above normal snowpack, thanks to the excellent early winter accumulations. With reservoir storage in near average condition across most of the state, summer water supplies should be adequate for most water users. However, the strong possibility for significant late summer shortages remains across southern Colorado.

Snowpack

For the first time this winter, snowfall patterns shifted to heavier accumulations across southern Colorado than across the northern basins. Several extremely welcome major storms crossed southern Colorado during March, delivering enough snow to nearly double the existing snowpack in the Rio Grande and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins. Given these improvements to the snowpack, comparisons to the drought year of 2002 are no longer applicable. Even with the improvement in snowpack in these basins the percentages remain well below average and were only 64% of average in the Rio Grande and only 68% of average in the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins. The Gunnison basin also improved its snowpack during March and has recovered back to 94% of average. Elsewhere across the state snowfall was slightly below average during March and contributed to small decreases in percentages. While snowpack percentages across northern Colorado were quite impressive back in January, those percentages have slowly decreased and are now just slightly above average. Totals in the Colorado, North Platte and South Platte basins now range from 103% to 110% of average. Snowpack totals in the Yampa and White basins continue to lead the state, but have decreased to 114% of average as of April 1. Statewide, snowpack improved overall during March and has rebounded to 94% of average on April 1. These totals continue to track below those of last year at 88% of those readings.

Precipitation

Precipitation totals ranged from slightly below normal to well above normal across Colorado during March. For a change, the big winners for precipitation were in the Rio Grande, and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins which reported 159% and 151% of average precipitation for the month, respectively. The Gunnison basin was not far behind and received 140% of average precipitation for the month. Across the remainder of the state, monthly totals were generally 95% to 105% of average. Now at the halfway point in the water year (which began on October 1, 2005), basinwide totals range from only 80% of average across the southwestern basins as well as the Rio Grande, to a high of 118% of average in the Colorado basin. Statewide, March precipitation was 98% of average and water year totals are now 102% of average.

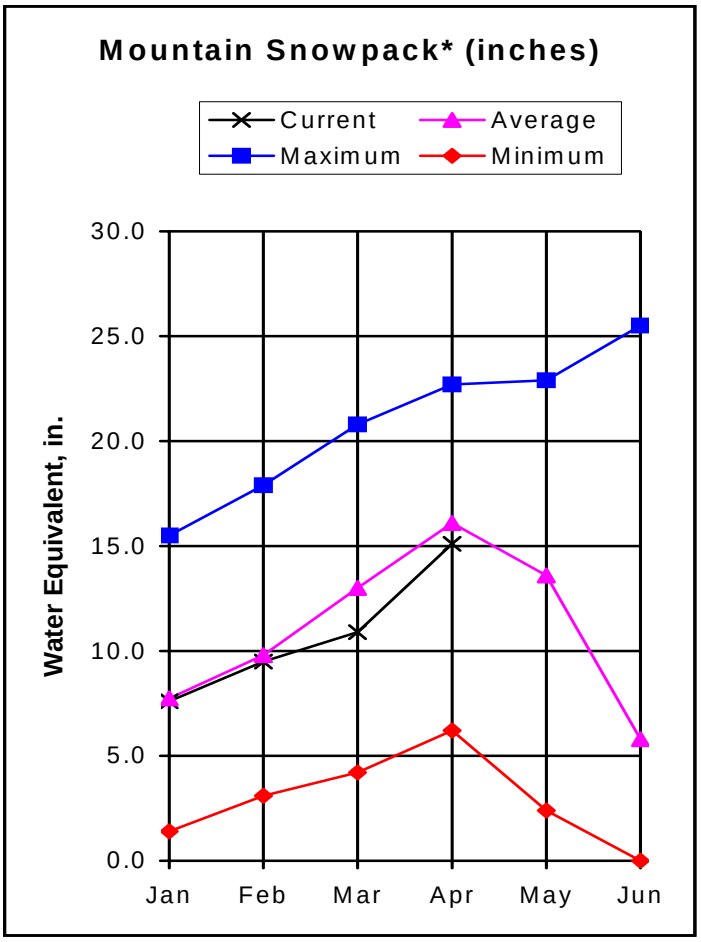
Reservoir Storage

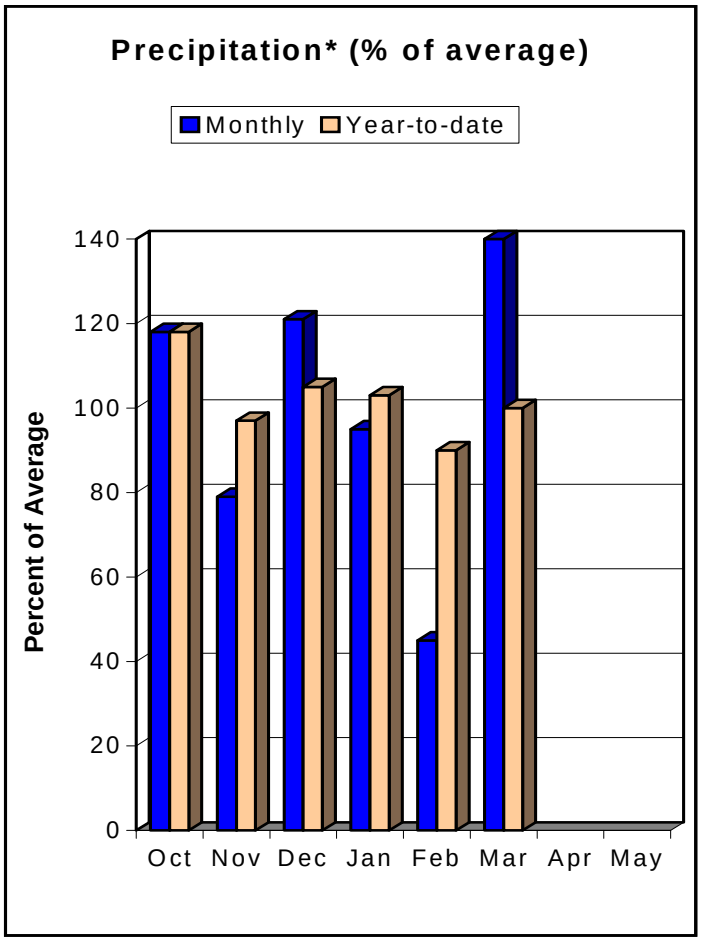
Reservoir storage across Colorado is in generally good condition with only two basins reporting significantly below average volumes. Those basins include the Rio Grande at 72% of average, and the Arkansas at 66% of average. In comparison to last year's storage on this date, the 2006 volumes are at least near, to well above, those of a year ago. The Colorado basin and the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins lead the state in comparison to last year's storage, at 133% and 137% of last year, respectively. Other basins storing significantly more volumes than last year include the Rio Grande at 126% of last year, and the Gunnison at 121% of last year. While the current statewide storage is 98% of average, it remains well ahead of last year's volumes at 118% of those totals. Statewide, storage has continued to improve for the last six consecutive months. Current volumes are now only 56,000 acre-feet below the average mark, while back at the end of September, 2005, volumes had dipped to over 300,000 acre-feet below average.

Streamflow

Even with the additional snowfall across the southern basins during March, water supply forecasts remain critically low in many basins of southern Colorado this year. Those streams originating from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of Colorado continue to be forecast at generally less than 50% of average for the coming spring and summer months. Elsewhere, in the Rio Grande, San Juan, Animas and Dolores basins, streamflow forecasts generally range from 50% to 70% of average. Beneficial moisture during March helped to improve runoff forecasts in the Gunnison basins to just slightly below average for most forecast points in that basin. Across the northern half of the state runoff forecasts are consistently above average. Locations with the highest forecast volumes, such as the headwaters of the Yampa and along the Eagle River, have diminished since early winter but remain well above average. In the South Platte basin, Front Range water supply forecasts call for the best runoff volumes since 1997.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
as of April 1, 2006





*Based on selected stations

After a disappointing performance during February, the Gunnison River Basin turned things around during March. Snowpack accumulation during March was 134 percent of the normal March accumulation. Snow surveys indicate the basin snowpacks increased from 84 percent of average on March 1 to 94 percent of average on April 1. This is the second best April 1 snowpack the basin has seen since 1997. Unfortunately, this also makes it the eighth year with a below average April 1 snowpack in the last nine years. Snowpack percentages in watersheds within the basin ranged from 85 percent of average in the Uncompahgre Basin to 95 percent of average in the Upper Gunnison. Mountain precipitation was well above average during March (140 percent of average), based on SNOTEL data at 12 stations located throughout the basin. As a result, total precipitation for the water year (beginning October 1) improved to 100 percent of average. Reservoir storage continues to improve and, at 126 percent of average, is the highest storage percentage in the state. This year's storage totals are up 21 percent from the storage available last year at this time. Forecasts for spring and summer streamflows saw very little change from last month and are still expected to be below average throughout most of the basin. Runoff volumes are slated to range from 66 percent of average for Tomichi Creek at Sargents to 100 percent of average for the Slate River near Crested Butte.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Taylor Park blw Taylor Park Res (2)	APR-JUL	81	92	100	97	108	122	103
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	72	82	89	100	96	107	89
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	154	175	190	99	206	230	192
Gunnison River near Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	301	347	380	97	415	469	390
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	12.9	17.5	21	66	25	31	32
Cochetopa Creek Blw Rock Ck Nr Parli	APR-JUL	6.0	9.2	12.0	69	15.3	21	17.3
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	32	45	55	68	67	87	81
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	90	104	115	91	126	143	126
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	529	613	675	94	741	845	720
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	58	73	85	85	98	121	100
	APR-JUN	53	69	81	85	94	117	95
	APR-JUL	55	72	85	83	100	125	102
North Fork Gunnison R Nr Somerset (2	APR-JUL	205	245	275	90	307	360	305
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	10.0	12.2	14.0	82	15.9	19.0	17.1
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	63	78	90	88	103	123	102
Uncompahgre River At Colona (2)	APR-JUL	72	96	115	83	136	172	139
Gunnison River Nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	810	1160	1400	90	1640	1990	1560

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of March

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
BLUE MESA	830.0	563.9	420.7	404.5
CRAWFORD	14.3	10.1	4.9	10.8
FRUITGROWERS	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.0
FRUITLAND	9.2	1.2	1.0	2.5
MORROW POINT	121.0	107.4	110.7	113.6
PAONIA	18.0	3.8	1.0	4.6
RIDGWAY	83.2	71.4	74.4	60.9
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	70.6	68.5	61.9

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2006

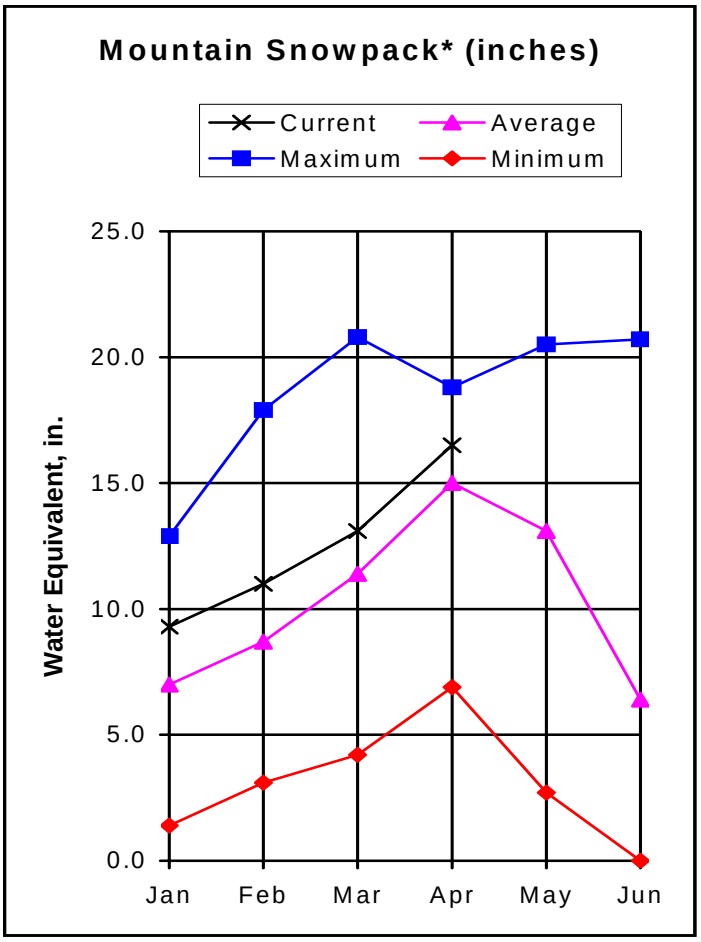
Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	74	95
SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	54	85
UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	73	89
TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASI	19	74	94

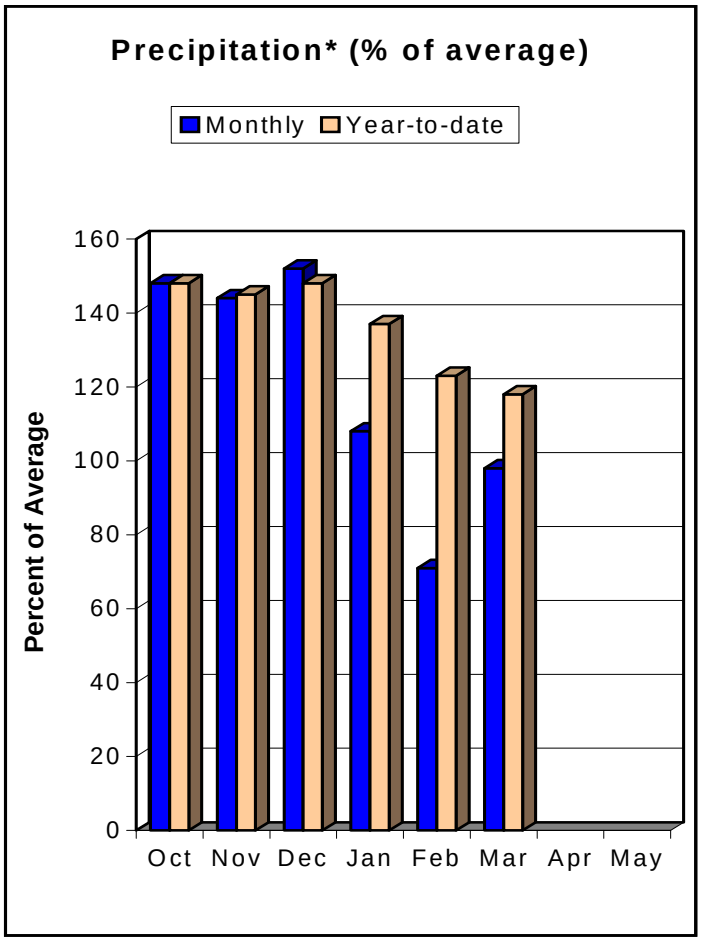
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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 April 1, 2006





*Based on selected stations

Snow accumulation during March couldn't quite keep pace with the average and the Upper Colorado River Basin saw its third consecutive month of declining snowpack percentages. With only 92 percent of the average March accumulation, snowpack figures dropped from 115 percent of average on March 1 to 110 percent of average on April 1. While still above average, this is down quite a bit, in terms of percentages, from the 133 percent of average snowpacks reported on January 1. On the bright side, this is the highest April 1 percentage the basin has seen since 1997 and is only the second year since then to be above average. Also, this year's snowpacks are 12 percent higher than those measured a year ago. Snowpacks for the watersheds within the Upper Colorado ranged from 85 percent of average in the Plateau Creek Basin to 129 percent of average in the Blue River Basin. SNOTEL data shows the mountain precipitation during March was just below normal at 98 percent of average. Water year totals reflected the monthly shortage dropping from 123 percent of average on March 1 to 118 percent of average on April 1. Reservoir storage remains slightly above normal at 103 percent of average. This is 33 percent higher than the amount stored in basin last year at this time. Spring and summer runoff is still expected to be near average to above average for most forecast points. Streamflows are forecast to range from 94 percent of average for the Inflow to Willow Creek Reservoir to 134 percent of average for the Eagle River below Gypsum.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	184	211	230	102	250	281	225
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	35	42	48	94	54	64	51
Williams Fork Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	85	98	107	113	117	133	95
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	167	192	210	126	229	260	167
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	279	320	350	125	382	432	280
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	55	68	78	130	89	107	60
Eagle River below Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	356	411	450	134	491	554	335
Colorado River Near Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	1401	1604	1750	122	1902	2138	1440
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	133	152	165	117	179	200	141
Roaring Fork At Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	593	684	750	106	819	926	710
Colorado River Near Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	2090	2510	2800	116	3090	3510	2420

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of March

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
DILLON	250.8	223.3	195.7	214.5
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	247.3	111.6	263.7
GREEN MOUNTAIN	139.0	59.0	64.6	59.8
HOMESTAKE	43.0	21.7	27.3	22.5
RUEDI	102.0	65.8	64.7	61.9
VEGA	32.0	21.2	17.1	13.1
WILLIAMS FORK	96.8	70.2	50.8	54.8
WILLOW CREEK	9.0	7.6	6.5	6.8

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2006

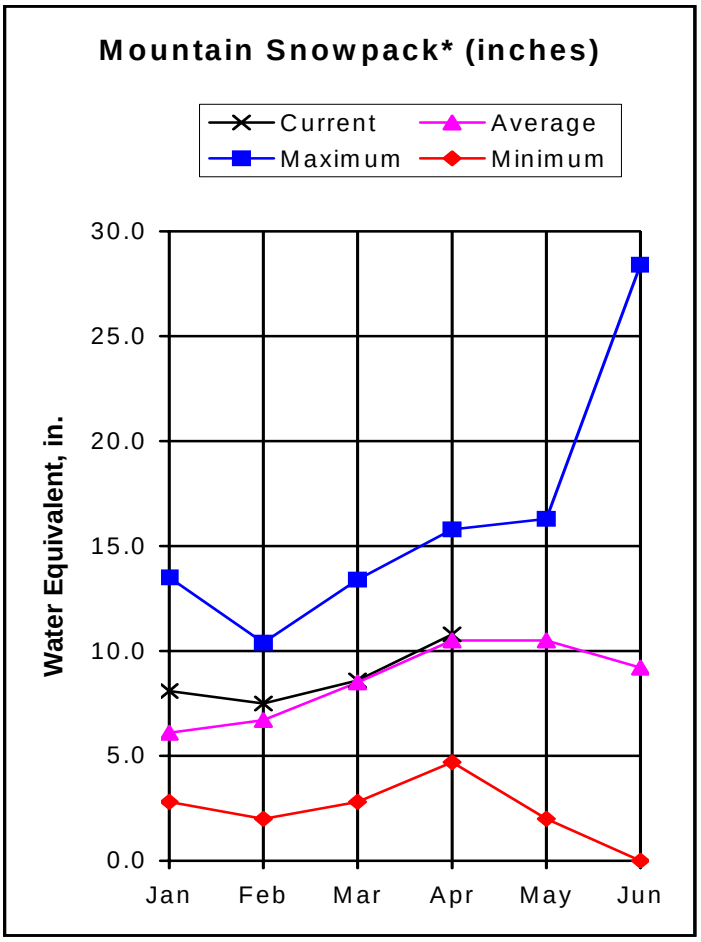
Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	This Year as % of Average
BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	152	129
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASI	37	131	115
MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	139	115
PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	54	85
ROARING FORK BASIN	8	96	105
WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	140	118
WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	101	100
TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASI	48	112	110

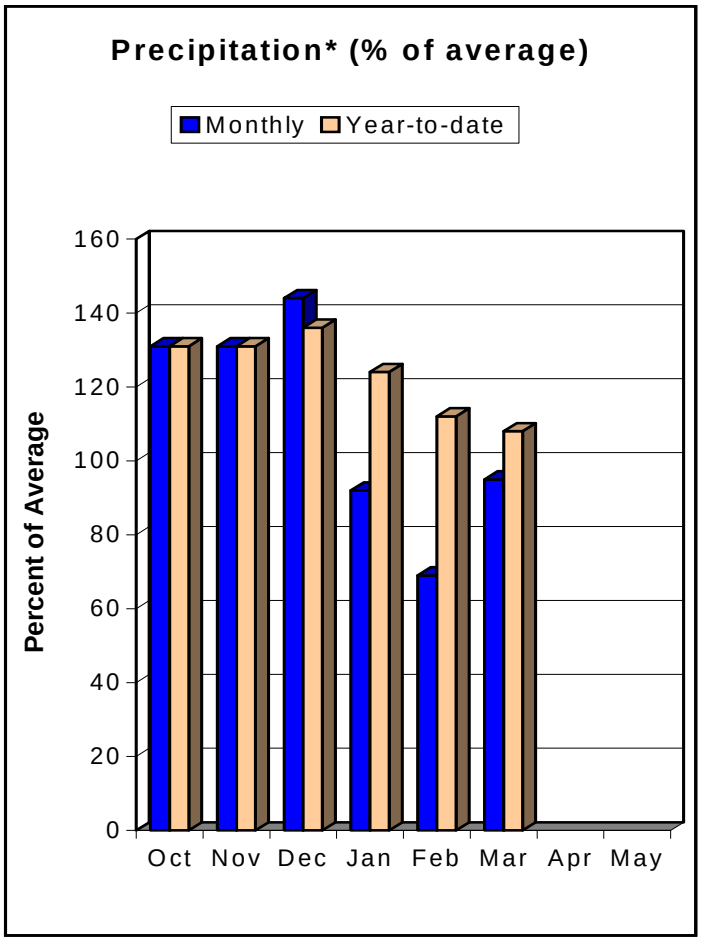
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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 April 1, 2006





*Based on selected stations

A return to near average precipitation during the month of March kept snow levels near average in the South Platte River basin. At 103% of average as of April 1 and up from 101% of average last month, the snowpack refuses to dip below the norm. The Clear Creek and Boulder Creek sub-basins lead the charge with 118% and 112% of their average snowpack, respectively, while the Big Thompson basin trails the average slightly at 92% of its average snowpack based on seven measuring sites. March precipitation rebounded quite a bit at 95% of average this month compared to only 69% of average last month. The slightly below average precipitation for the month of March dropped the cumulative year to date precipitation to 108% of average on April 1, down from 112% of average on March 1. Reservoir storage has not changed much since last month. At 94% of average, storage is up 1% of average from last month and is looking strong going into the runoff season. Streamflow forecasts for April through September call for above average volume at all forecast points with the exception of the Big Thompson, which is expected to flow at 98% of its average.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Antero Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	10.3	15.0	19.4	116	25	37	16.8
	APR-SEP	12.2	18.3	24	117	32	47	21
Spinney Mountain Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	34	49	63	113	81	116	56
	APR-SEP	41	61	80	116	105	155	69
Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	35	52	67	116	87	127	58
	APR-SEP	41	62	83	115	111	169	72
Cheesman Lake inflow	APR-JUL	69	104	137	119	180	270	115
	APR-SEP	84	127	169	119	225	341	142
South Platte River at South Platte	APR-JUL	110	173	235	115	319	502	205
	APR-SEP	138	219	300	118	410	650	255
Bear Creek abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	10.2	16.1	22	114	30	47	19.3
	APR-SEP	13.7	21	29	116	39	62	25
Bear Creek at Morrison	APR-JUL	11.5	20	29	116	42	73	25
	APR-SEP	14.5	25	36	116	52	89	31
Clear Creek at Golden	APR-JUL	84	109	126	115	143	168	110
	APR-SEP	111	137	154	115	172	197	134
St. Vrain Creek at Lyons	APR-JUL	45	72	98	107	134	215	92
	APR-SEP	54	83	114	107	155	245	107
Boulder Creek nr Orodell	APR-JUL	39	46	53	115	60	73	46
	APR-SEP	44	54	61	115	70	85	53
South Boulder nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	30	37	43	104	50	62	41
	APR-SEP	32	41	48	105	56	71	46
Big Thompson River at mouth nr Drake	APR-JUL	53	75	95	97	121	170	98
	APR-SEP	68	92	115	98	143	197	117
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth	APR-JUL	162	215	255	104	305	400	245
	APR-SEP	182	235	285	104	340	450	275

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

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
ANTERO	20.0	7.2	1.2	15.9
BARR LAKE	32.0	29.6	30.5	27.9
BLACK HOLLOW	8.0	1.5	1.7	4.0
BOYD LAKE	49.0	30.4	43.4	33.0
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	13.7	14.5	12.1
CACHE LA POUDRE	10.0	7.7	9.5	8.6
CARTER	108.9	70.7	97.1	100.9
CHAMBERS LAKE	9.0	4.0	5.1	3.3
CHEESMAN	79.0	68.6	68.5	60.8
COBB LAKE	34.0	9.0	3.6	13.9
ELEVEN MILE	97.8	99.5	99.7	96.4
EMPIRE	38.0	33.5	31.5	31.8
FOSSIL CREEK	12.0	9.1	9.7	7.9
GROSS	41.8	18.2	22.1	23.9
HALLIGAN	6.4	2.9	2.3	4.7
HORSECREEK	16.0	13.2	14.4	13.9
HORSETOOTH	149.7	110.3	122.8	119.1
JACKSON	35.0	26.1	26.1	29.9
JULESBURG	28.0	19.7	19.6	20.8
LAKE LOVELAND	14.0	11.4	9.4	9.0
LONE TREE	9.0	7.3	8.8	7.2
MARIANO	6.0	5.3	5.3	4.5
MARSHALL	10.0	6.0	9.4	6.0
MARSTON	13.0	3.4	5.5	13.3
MILTON	24.0	21.4	21.8	18.3
POINT OF ROCKS	70.0	70.9	70.6	68.8
PREWITT	28.2	22.5	24.6	25.0
RIVERSIDE	63.1	58.0	55.4	58.2
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	48.7	36.3	17.8	32.1
STANDLEY	42.0	35.4	40.0	34.6
TERRY LAKE	8.0	5.3	4.4	5.4
UNION	13.0	10.2	12.2	11.1
WINDSOR	19.0	7.4	10.8	12.4

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2006

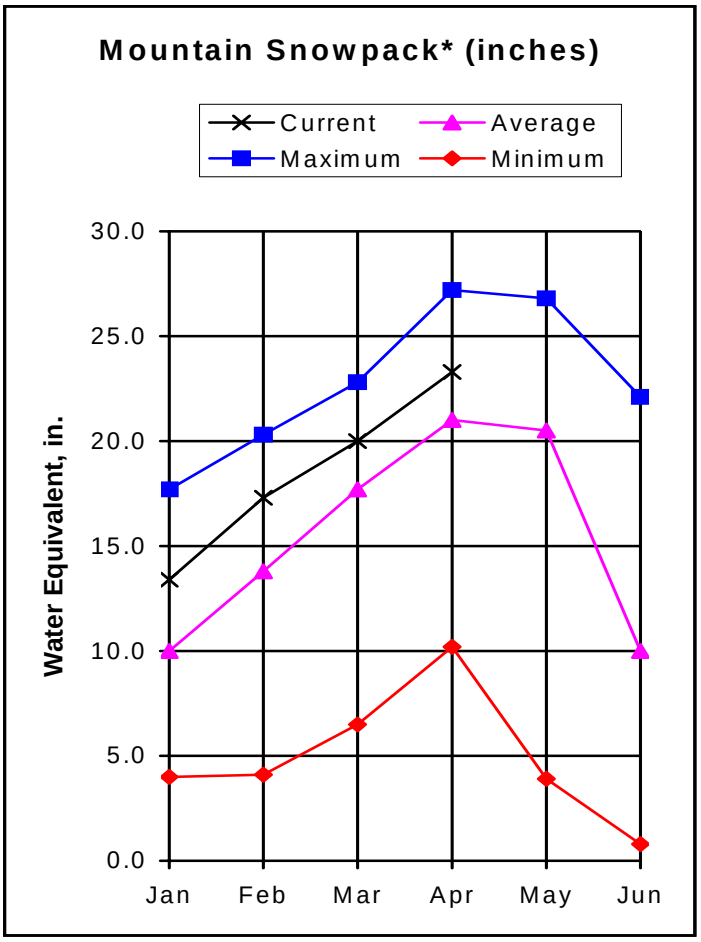
Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	111	92
BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	128	112
CACHE LA POUDRE BASIN	8	125	104
CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	133	118
SAINT VRAIN BASIN	4	118	91
UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	15	124	102
TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	43	123	102

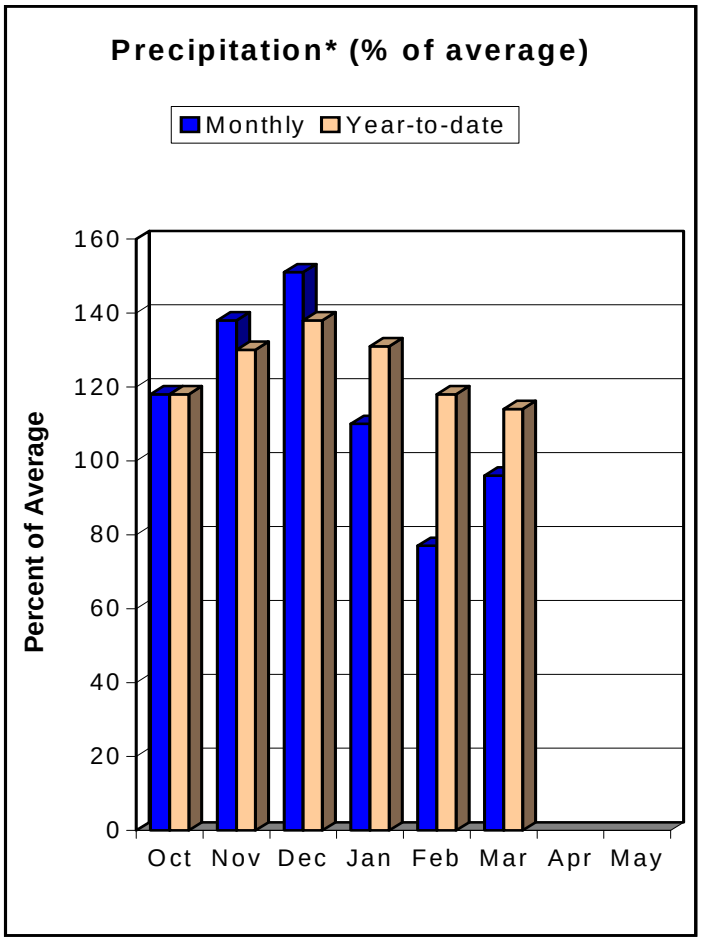
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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

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

YAMPA, WHITE, NORTH PLATTE AND LARAMIE RIVER BASINS
as of April 1, 2006





*Based on selected stations

Overall, there was a slight decline in the snowpacks in the Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins. This marks the third month in row the combined basins have seen a drop in their snowpack percent of average figures. April 1 snow surveys indicate the snowpacks are 111 percent of average, down from 113 percent of average last month and 134 percent of average on January 1. Still, these are the best April 1 snowpacks the basins have witnessed since 1997 and represent one of only two years of above average snowpack conditions since that time. Snowpacks in the individual watersheds range from 102 percent of average in the Laramie Basin to 117 percent of average in the Yampa Basin. SNOTEL precipitation data indicates that precipitation at the higher elevations during March was slightly below normal, at 96 percent of average. This brought down the total water year precipitation down slightly to 114 percent of average. Despite that, this year's total precipitation figures are up 31 percent when compared to last year's totals at this time. Reservoir storage for the basin is 99 percent of average. Storage in Stagecoach and Yamcolo are 97 percent of average and 107 percent of average, respectively. Both reservoirs are expected to fill this year. Above average runoff is expected throughout the basin with volumes ranging from 103 percent of average for the White River near Meeker to 148 percent of average for the Yampa River above Stagecoach Reservoir.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
NORTH PLATTE RIVER nr Northgate	APR-JUL	190	241	280	114	321	388	245
	APR-SEP	212	270	310	115	350	410	270
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	APR-JUL	84	118	141	115	164	198	123
	APR-SEP	92	129	155	115	181	220	135
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	28	36	43	148	51	63	29
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	269	313	345	123	379	431	280
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	320	372	410	126	450	512	325
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	29	38	44	113	51	62	39
Elkhead Creek blw Maynard Gulch (2)	APR-JUL	52	64	72	122	80	92	59
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	3.79	6.29	8.50	113	11.18	16.06	7.50
	APR-JUN	3.47	5.62	7.50	119	9.75	13.83	6.30
Yampa River Near Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	921	1094	1220	123	1353	1560	990
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	141	166	185	116	205	236	159
Little Snake River nr Dixon	APR-JUL	253	326	380	112	438	532	340
Little Snake River nr Lily	APR-JUL	280	360	420	114	485	589	370
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	225	268	300	103	333	386	290

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

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
STAGECOACH	33.3	23.8	27.5	24.6
YAMCOLO	9.1	7.4	3.8	6.9

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2006

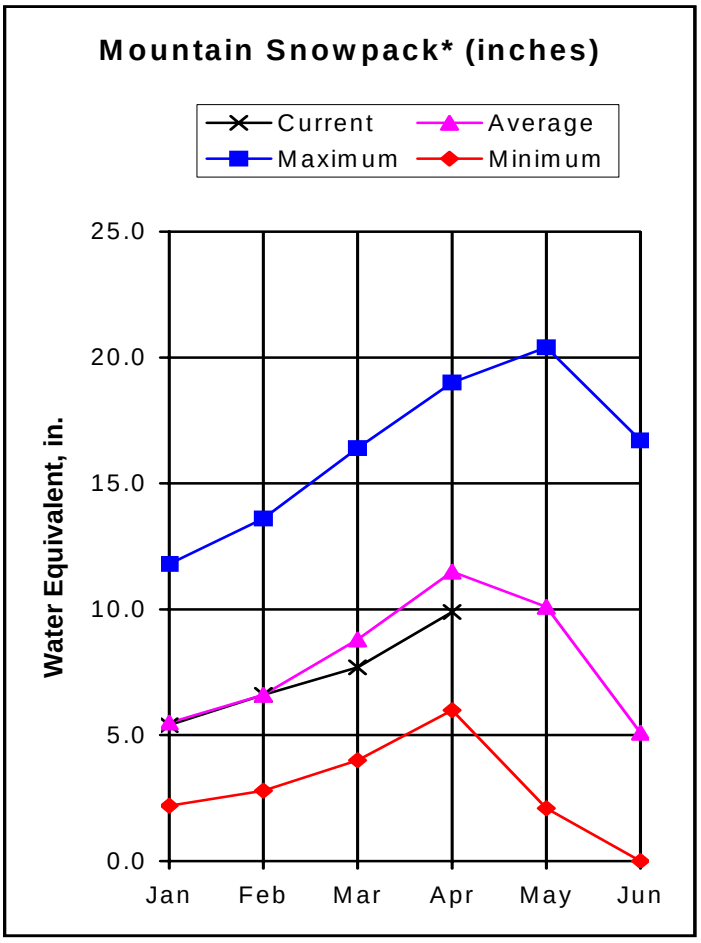
Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Average
LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	4	123	102
NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	12	125	109
TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	15	124	107
ELK RIVER BASIN	2	105	107
YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	138	117
WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	123	108
TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	133	114
LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	117	115
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	37	125	111

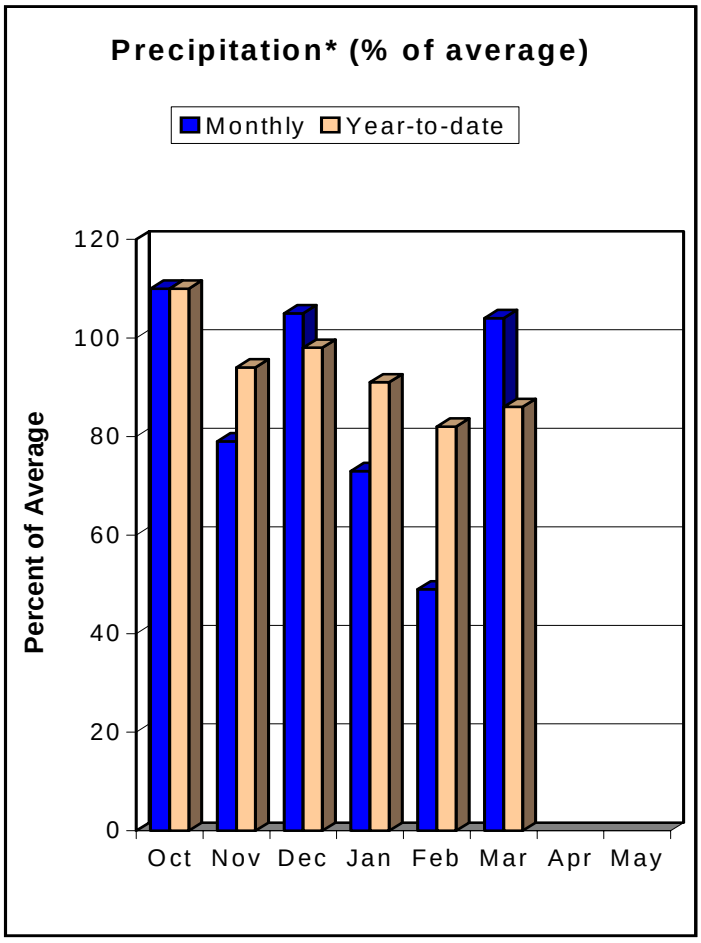
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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 April 1, 2006





*Based on selected stations

A wetter than average March in southern Colorado helped the east slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, while snow levels in the Upper Arkansas sub-basin continued on a steady decline. Down slightly from last month, snowpack in the Arkansas River basin is at 86% of average compared to 88% of average last month. The Upper Arkansas is still carrying the most of the load in the basin with 99% of its average snowpack, down from 113% of average on March 1. The big story in the Arkansas, however, is the increase in snowpack on the southern tributaries. The Cucharas and Huerfano sub-basins came in at 53% of their average snowpack this month (up from 34% last month), while the Purgatoire came in at 43% this month (up from 10% last month). Although these numbers are nothing to get excited about and it is still very unlikely that the southern Arkansas sees an average snowpack, the improvement over last month was dramatic. The Arkansas River basin saw 104% of its average March precipitation, bringing the year to date precipitation to 86% of average as of April 1, up from 82% of average as of March 1. Reservoir levels remain below average, up 1% from last month at 66% of their average storage based on reports from 13 reservoirs. Forecasts for streamflow still have the Upper Arkansas running slightly above average and the runoff from the Sangre de Cristos at well below average. Expect the Arkansas at Salida to run at 110% of its average April through July flow and the Cucharas River to run at only 27% of average at Boyd Ranch.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Chalk Ck At Nathrop	APR-JUL	12.5	17.3	21	91	25	32	23
	APR-SEP	14.8	21	25	93	30	38	27
Arkansas River At Salida (2)	APR-JUL	218	254	280	110	308	350	255
	APR-SEP	262	310	345	111	382	439	310
Grape Creek Near Westcliffe	APR-JUL	1.5	3.5	8.0	50	10.8	18.5	16.1
	APR-SEP	3.2	7.7	12.0	61	17.2	27	19.6
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	226	302	360	94	423	525	385
	APR-SEP	301	394	465	96	541	664	485
Huerfano River Near Redwing	APR-JUL	4.7	5.7	6.4	52	8.1	11.0	12.3
	APR-SEP	6.8	8.1	9.0	58	11.2	14.8	15.5
Cucharas River At Boyd Ranch Nr La V	APR-JUL	1.8	2.5	3.1	27	4.7	7.5	11.3
	APR-SEP	2.3	3.0	4.0	31	5.6	8.5	13.0
Trinidad Lake Inflow	MAR-JUL	4.8	8.2	13.5	40	20	33	34
	APR-JUL	3.5	7.0	12.3	38	19.2	33	32
	APR-SEP	8.8	16.6	25	57	35	53	44

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of March

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
ADOBE	70.0	27.3	0.0	37.0
CLEAR CREEK	11.0	9.1	9.0	6.7
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	1.6	3.0	5.4
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	41.9
HOLBROOK	7.0	0.0	0.8	4.9
HORSE CREEK	28.0	0.0	0.0	12.6
JOHN MARTIN	335.7	40.9	64.7	137.3
LAKE HENRY	8.0	6.4	8.6	6.7
MEREDITH	42.0	18.8	39.5	19.0
PUEBLO	236.7	155.4	140.3	173.3
TRINIDAD	72.3	20.9	28.9	27.5
TURQUOISE	126.6	56.5	71.6	74.0
TWIN LAKES	86.0	54.2	28.7	42.5

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2006

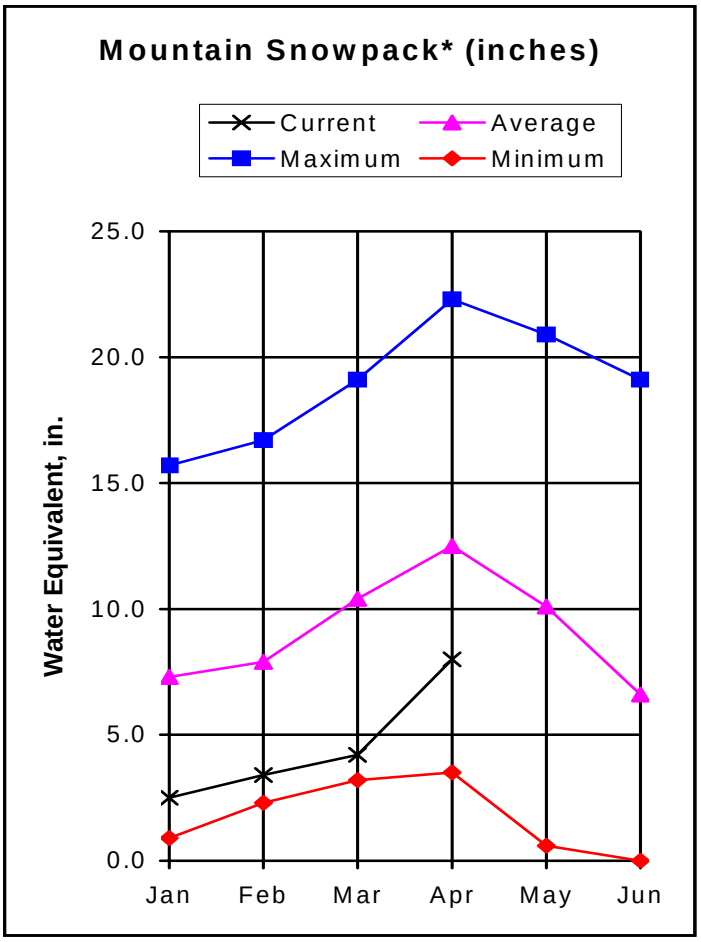
Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	This Year as % of Average
UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	10	103	99
CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	35	53
PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	23	43
TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASI	15	75	86

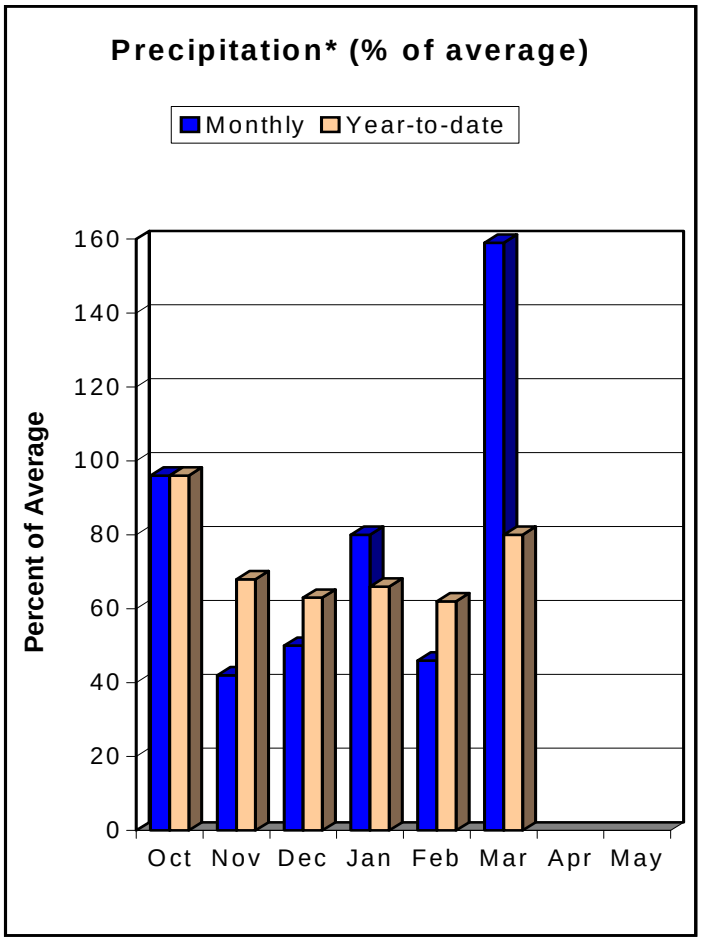
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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

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

UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN
as of April 1, 2006





*Based on selected stations

Heavy snows in March did wonders for what could have been a record low year on the Rio Grande. While the Snotel measuring site at Wolf Creek Summit amassed about 40 inches of snow during the month of March, snowpack in the Upper Rio Grande basin as a whole jumped from a dismal 40% of average on March 1 to a somewhat less dismal 64% of average on April 1. It is still highly unlikely that the Rio Grande will see average snow levels, but water users should be happy seeing 159% of average precipitation fall during the month of March compared to a meager 46% of average in February. The wet March boosted year to date precipitation to 80% of average on April 1, up from 62% of average on March 1. Reservoir levels in the basin remain at 72% of their average storage for April 1, same as on March 1. Streamflow forecasts in the basin range from 35% of average on the San Antonio River to 79% of average April through September streamflow on Saguache Creek.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Rio Grande At Thirty Mile Bridge (2)	APR-SEP	69	86	98	72	111	132	136
Rio Grande Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	66	78	87	74	97	113	118
Rio Grande At Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	161	206	240	70	277	335	345
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	64	77	86	65	96	112	132
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	251	310	355	67	404	484	531
Saguache Creek nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	15.2	21	26	79	31	40	33
Alamosa Creek Abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	32	39	44	63	50	59	70
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	3.00	4.20	5.10	59	6.20	8.10	8.70
	APR-JUL	2.30	3.40	4.60	58	5.30	7.00	8.00
Trinchera Creek abv Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	3.6	5.3	6.6	55	8.2	10.8	12.0
Sangre de Cristo Creek	APR-SEP	0.88	1.94	3.20	36	4.90	8.40	8.80
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	2.8	4.5	6.0	49	7.8	10.9	12.2
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	31	37	41	64	46	53	64
	APR-SEP	35	41	46	65	51	60	71
Conejos River Near Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	101	120	135	68	151	176	200
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	3.0	4.5	5.8	35	7.3	10.1	16.4
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	25	32	38	51	44	55	74
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	4.4	7.6	10.5	46	14.0	21	23
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	2.9	4.2	5.4	51	6.8	9.1	10.6
	APR-JUL	2.5	3.8	4.9	49	6.2	8.5	10.1
Costilla Creek Near Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	4.7	8.3	11.3	44	14.8	21	26
	APR-JUL	3.1	6.5	10.0	42	12.5	18.5	24

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

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
CONTINENTAL	15.0	2.6	4.4	5.9
PLATORO	53.7	5.0	7.1	24.5
RIO GRANDE	51.0	24.2	19.4	19.3
SANCHEZ	103.0	21.2	9.9	24.9
SANTA MARIA	45.0	8.0	6.4	10.8
TERRACE	13.1	5.7	5.6	7.6

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2006

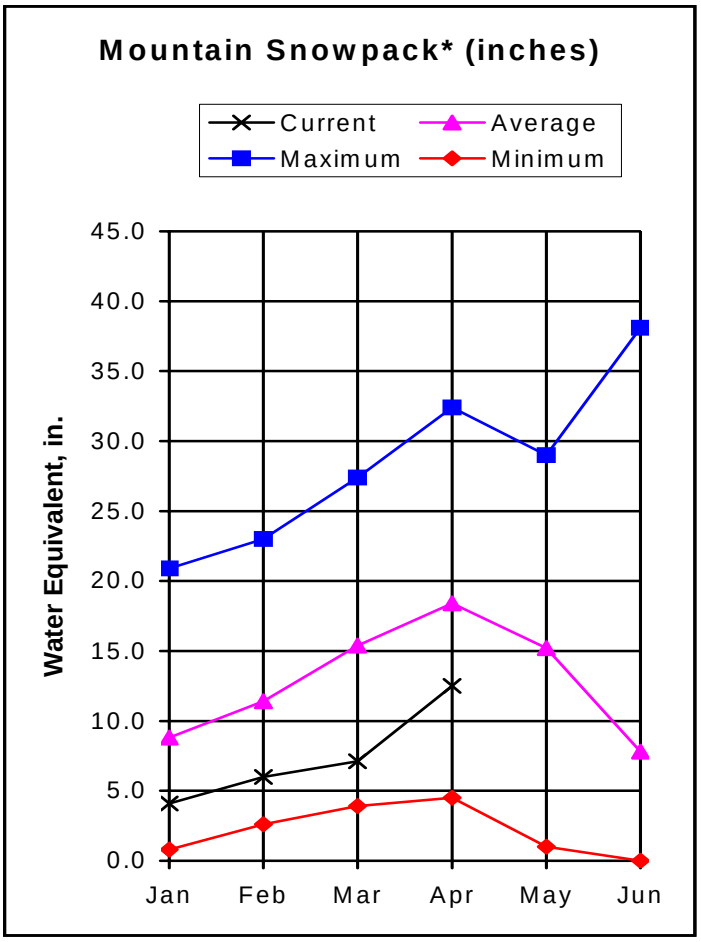
Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	This Year as % of Average
ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	47	64
CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	51	68
CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	36	54
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	49	67
TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	46	64

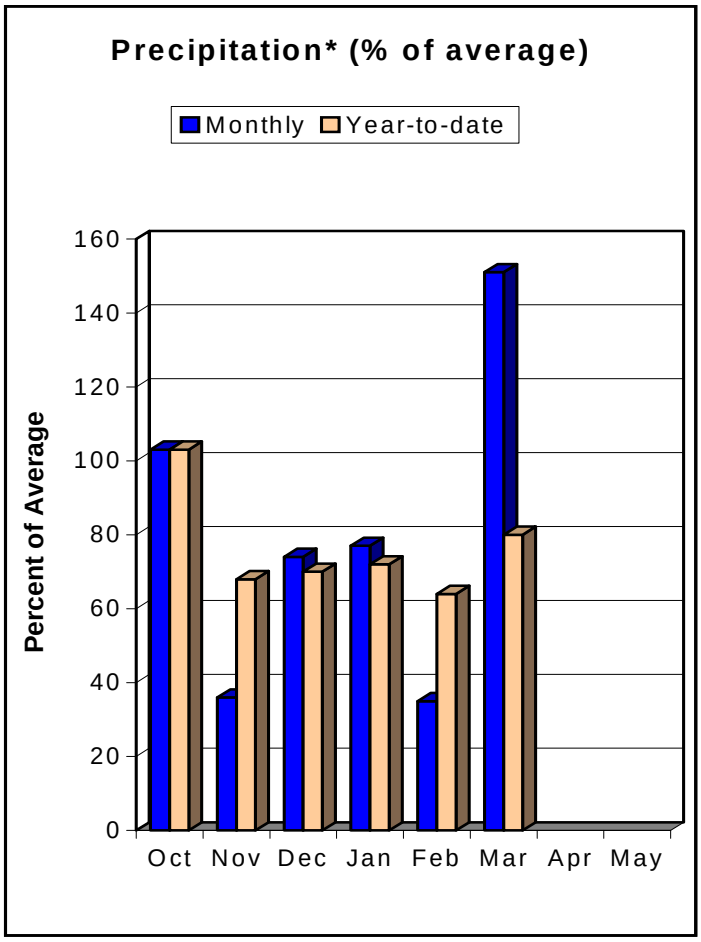
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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

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

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS as of April 1, 2006





*Based on selected stations

After hovering dangerously close to 2002 snowpack levels for most of the year, the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins finally saw a beneficial change in the weather patterns beginning the second week in March. As a result, snowpack percentages for the combined basins jumped from 46 percent of average last month to 68 percent of average on April 1. Snowpack accumulation during March was 176 percent of the normal March increase. Despite the large increase during March, snowpack conditions are still well below average and less than half of the snowpack present a year ago. Unfortunately, this also represents the eighth below average April 1 snowpack in the last nine years. Individually, the watershed snowpacks ranged from 60 percent of average in the San Juan Basin to 79 percent of average in the San Miguel Basin. Precipitation data from the high elevation SNOTEL sites indicate March mountain precipitation was well above normal at 151 percent of average. The high monthly figures also helped boost the water year precipitation totals (beginning October 1) from 64 percent of average last month to 80 percent of average this month. Reservoir storage levels remain above average for this time of year. As you would expect, streamflow forecasts have increased from last month but remain below average to well below average. Streamflows are expected to range from 50 percent of average for the Navajo Reservoir Inflow to 76 percent of average for the San Miguel River near Placerville.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	124	156	180	68	207	251	265
McPhee Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	143	181	210	66	242	296	320
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	69	87	100	76	115	139	132
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	5.7	8.2	10.0	61	11.8	14.3	16.5
	APRIL			0.90	54			1.66
	MAY			5.40	61			8.83
	JUNE			2.90	62			4.67
	JULY			0.80	61			1.32
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.34	1.85	2.20	62	2.55	3.06	3.53
	APRIL			0.34	74			0.46
	MAY			1.01	62			1.64
	JUNE			0.65	63			1.04
	JULY			0.20	53			0.38
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	0.70	1.30	1.70	59	2.06	2.66	2.86
	APRIL			0.23	58			0.40
	MAY			0.73	55			1.32
	JUNE			0.55	63			0.87
	JULY			0.19	70			0.27
Rio Blanco At Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	24	30	34	64	39	46	53
	APR-JUL	34	34	34	64	34	34	53
Navajo River At Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	29	36	42	61	48	58	69
San Juan River Near Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	146	182	210	52	241	291	405
Piedra River near Arboles	APR-JUL	86	109	126	55	145	177	230
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	76	109	135	66	151	177	205
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	255	333	395	50	464	579	785
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	224	267	300	68	335	392	440
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	26	32	36	62	41	48	58
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	9.4	12.0	14.0	56	16.2	19.8	25
Mancos River nr Mancos	APR-JUL	5.4	15.9	23	58	30	41	40
	APRIL			3.30	57			5.80
	MAY			10.0	63			15.9
	JUNE			7.3	53			13.7
	JULY			2.40	52			4.60

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

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
GROUNDHOG	21.7	14.6	0.1	12.2
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	4.8	4.8	5.1
LEMON	40.0	23.3	21.0	21.2
MCPHEE	381.2	290.2	232.3	273.6
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	14.6	19.0	15.5
VALLECITO	126.0	80.8	35.3	62.0

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	This Year as % of Average
ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	9	50	71
DOLORES RIVER BASIN	7	53	67
SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	63	79
SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	39	60
TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES AN JUAN RIVER BASINS	24	49	68

* 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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Colorado
Basin Outlook Report

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Lakewood, CO