

Colorado Basin Outlook Report April 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

APRIL 1, 2009

Summary

March was another dry month for Colorado and has contributed to reduced snowpack percentages across the state. Statewide totals dipped to below the average mark for the first time this year. For portions of the state any chance of returning to near average this season is slim, even with a wet April. Runoff forecasts have dropped off accordingly across most of the state. What appeared to be another good runoff year in early winter has dwindled into a year of potential scarcity, particularly across the southern basins. The weather during the remainder of the spring holds the key to the runoff season for many water users. Fortunately, reservoir storage continues to track at near average volumes in most basins.

Snowpack

The first three weeks of March were very dry across Colorado. As a result, the month ended with lower snowpack percentages than the beginning in all of the major basins of the state. March was the third consecutive month where snowpack percentages declined in every basin of the state. The greatest declines in basinwide percents of average were measured in the San Juan, Animas, Dolores and San Miguel (-20 percentage points), Rio Grande (-17 percentage points), and the Arkansas (-13 percentage points). Only two basins remain with above average snowpack totals. Those include the Colorado and combined Yampa and White, both at 104% of average. The lowest snowpack percentages were measured in the South Platte and the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel, at only 86% of average. The statewide snowpack decreased again this month, for the fourth consecutive month, to 95% of average. These readings are only 78% of last year's snowpack totals on this date. While the 2009 water year began much like that of last year, the similarities ended in January, and now this year's snowpack is dwarfed by that of last year in nearly all basins. These low snowpack totals come at the worst time of year for water users, since our anticipated seasonal maximum snowpack is just weeks away. While recovery back to average yet this season is possible, it will take a sustained wet period to accomplish that task. At least in the last week of March, the first good storm in nearly two months delivered welcome moisture to snowpack totals. Like a runner sprinting to the finish line, it remains to be seen if spring weather can still produce a comeback as time runs out.

Precipitation

As indicated in the snowpack statistics, precipitation during March was below average across the state. For all but the northern tier of basins, this was the third consecutive month of below average precipitation. Meanwhile, two months of below average precipitation has been measured in the Colorado, Yampa, White, and North and South Platte basins. Basin totals for March ranged from only 48% of average in the San Juan, Animas, Dolores and San Miguel basins, to 90% of average in the Yampa, White and North Platte basins. Statewide precipitation was only 75% of average for March, according to data from the SNOTEL network. Water year percentages continue to decline as well. Statewide, precipitation is now 99% of average for the water year and has dipped to below average in all basins except the Gunnison, Colorado, and Yampa, White and North Platte. The state's lowest water year percentage is in the South Platte, at 94% of average. This year's statewide water year totals are only 83% of those measured at this time last year.

Reservoir Storage

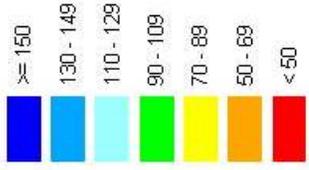
Reservoir storage continues to be the bright spot for water supplies, especially in basins where runoff forecasts have diminished recently. Storage volumes remain near to slightly above average across most of the state. Only the Rio Grande basin is reporting significantly below normal volumes at 87% of average. The highest volumes, in terms of percent of average, are reported in the Gunnison basin at 122 % of average. Statewide, storage volumes are 103% of average and are 105% of last year's storage on April 1. Once again, the Rio Grande basin is the only basin storing significantly less than last year at this time at 85% of those volumes. Most likely, the state's reservoir storage will help supplement water supplies across most of the state this summer. With inflows now forecast to be below average in most basins we can now expect to enter water year 2010 with below average volumes.

Streamflow

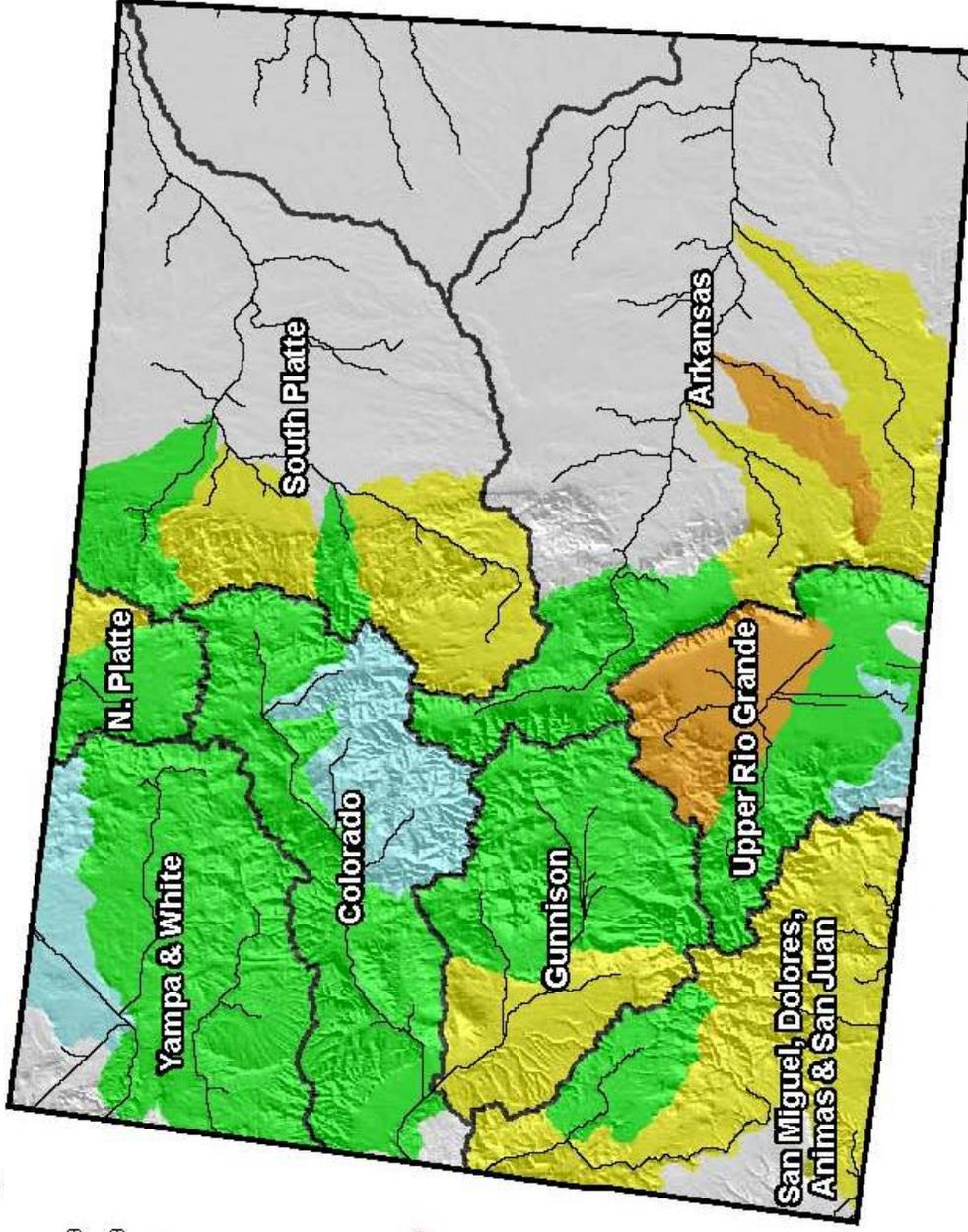
Runoff forecasts dropped consistently across most of the state on April 1. With anticipated flows decreasing for the last several months, many basins are now forecast to produce below average volumes this year. Those basins with the lowest forecasts are the San Juan, Animas, Dolores, San Miguel, and the South Platte. Volumes in these basins are now generally ranging from 75% to 90% of average. Other basins with predominantly below average forecasts include the Rio Grande and the southern tributaries to the Arkansas River. The state's best outlook for the coming runoff season is confined to the northwestern basins, where the Yampa and Colorado rivers are forecast to produce slightly above average volumes. For the remainder of the state near average volumes continue to be expected. With snowpack totals typically reaching their maximum values during April, it's possible to continue to see improvements in these forecasts. However, it would require a wet spring to raise those lowest forecasts back to near average in the drier basins. Water users can expect a better chance for recovery in the South Platte basin, which is entering its wettest period of the year; however this is less likely in the southwestern basins given their spring climatology.

Colorado Snowpack Map

Percent of Average



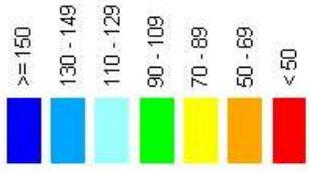
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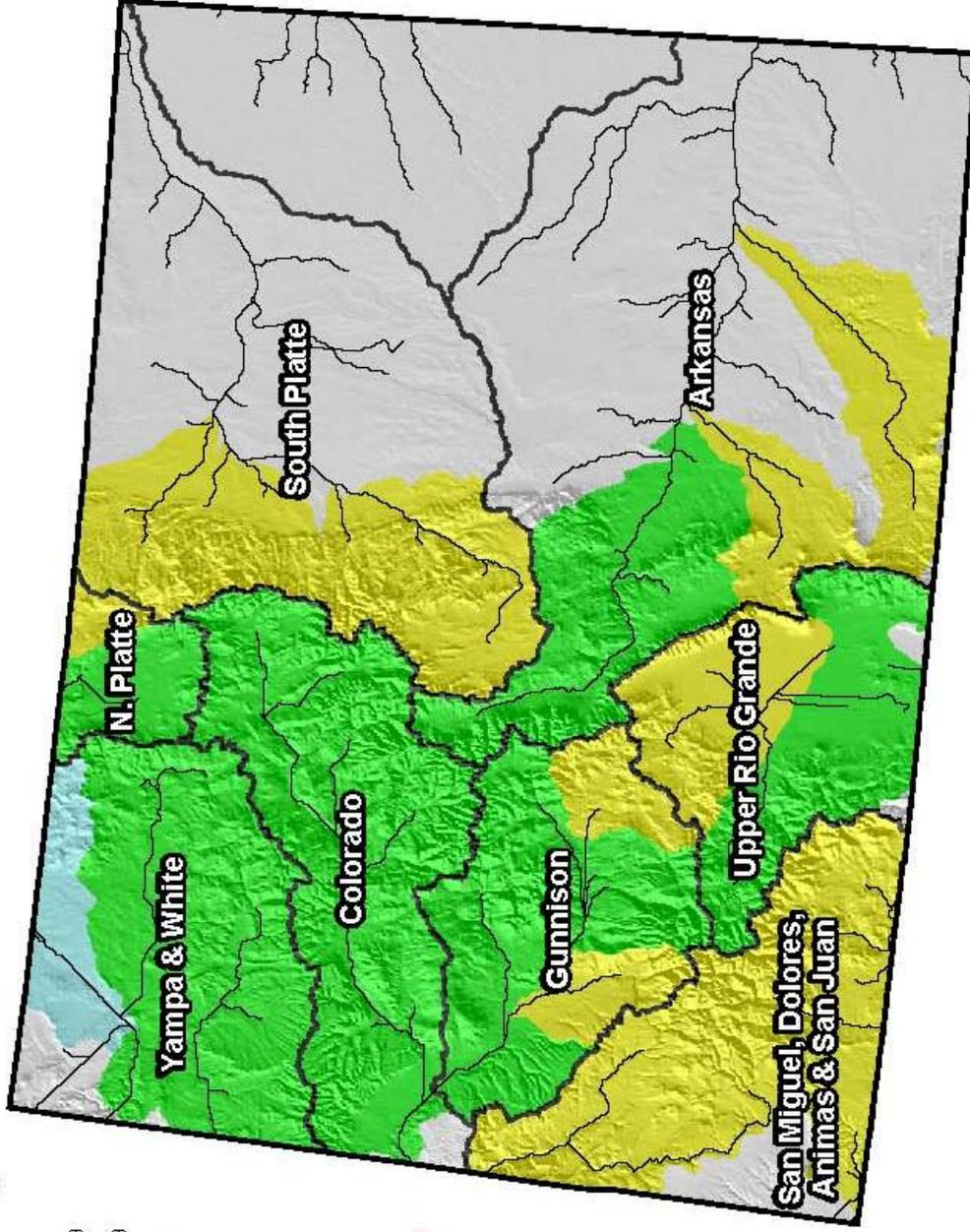
Current as of April 1, 2009

Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map

Percent of Average



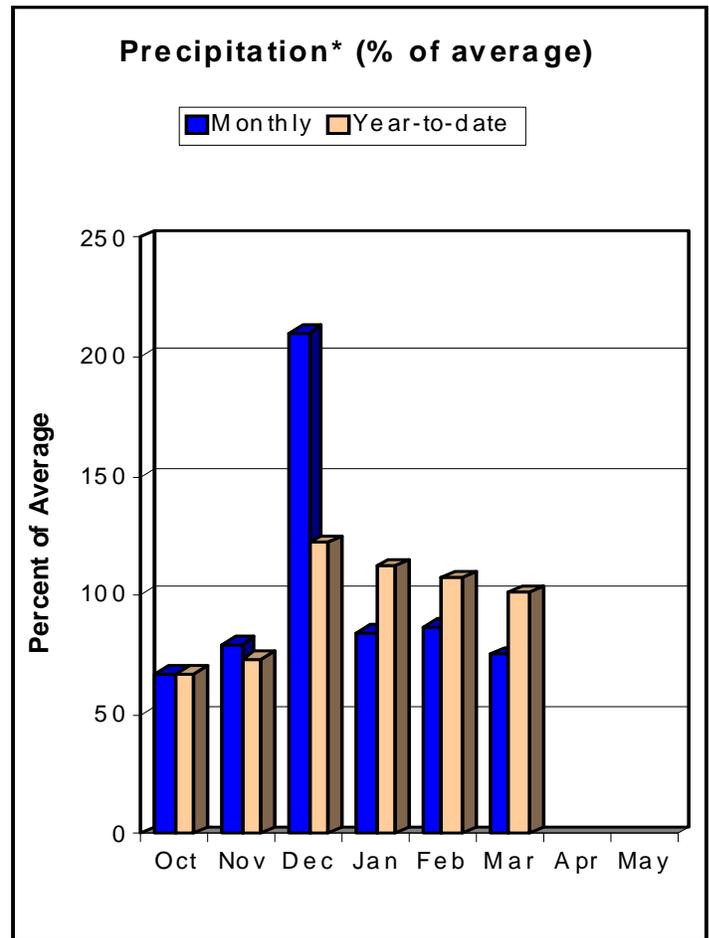
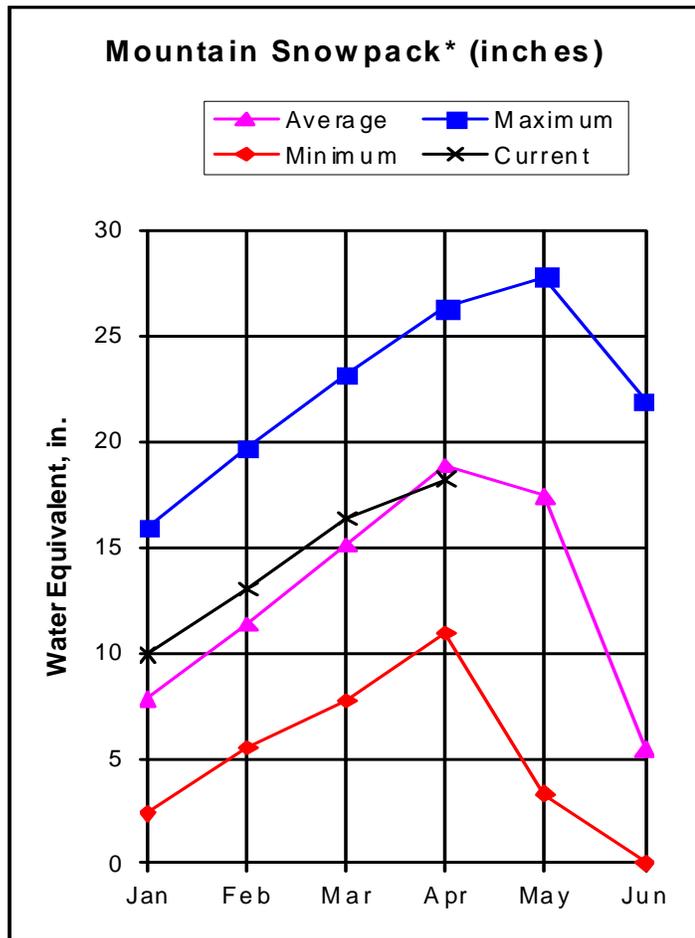
*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



Current as of April 1, 2009

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of April 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Gunnison River Basin snowpacks continued to lose ground again this month, falling from 108 percent of average last month to 97 percent of average on April 1. And things could have been much worse if not for the change in weather conditions during the last week of the month. SNOTEL data indicates snowpacks in the basin had dropped to 92 percent of average on March 23. Unfortunately, due to the slightly below normal snowpack conditions, this year marks the tenth year of below average conditions the basin has seen on April 1 over the past 12 years. Sub-basin snowpacks range from 89 percent of average in the Surface Creek and Uncompahgre watersheds to 100 percent of average in the Upper Gunnison. Precipitation at the higher elevations was 75 percent of average during March. In fact, every month has been below average to well below average with the exception of December. The 210 percent of average December precipitation is the only reason that the total precipitation for the water year remains slightly above average. Reservoir storage remains the bright spot with stored water at 122 percent of average. Streamflow forecasts show a 3 to 20 percentage point drop at most forecast points in the basin compared to those issued a month ago. Water users can expect below average to near average runoff during the spring and summer. April-July volumes are expected to range from 69 percent of average on Cochetopa Creek near Parlin to 108 percent of average for the Inflow to Paonia Reservoir and the North Fork Gunnison River near Somerset.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 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)		
Taylor Park blw Taylor Park Res (2)	APR-JUL	76	90	100	97	111	128	103				
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	82	89	94	106	99	107	89				
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	161	184	200	104	215	245	192				
Gunnison River nr Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	310	360	400	103	440	505	390				
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	18.8	24	28	88	32	40	32				
Cochetopa Creek blw Rock Ck nr Parli	APR-JUL	6.6	9.6	12.0	69	14.8	19.8	17.3				
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	34	48	60	74	74	97	81				
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	80	95	105	83	116	133	126				
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	540	625	690	96	755	865	720				
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	72	91	105	105	121	146	100				
	APR-JUN	68	86	99	104	114	138	95				
	APR-JUL	75	95	110	108	127	154	102				
North Fork Gunnison R nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	255	300	330	108	365	415	305				
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	10.8	13.2	15.0	88	17.0	20	17.1				
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	66	79	90	88	101	120	102				
Uncompahgre River at Colona (2)	APR-JUL	79	102	120	86	140	173	139				
Gunnison River nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	1050	1320	1500	96	1680	1950	1560				

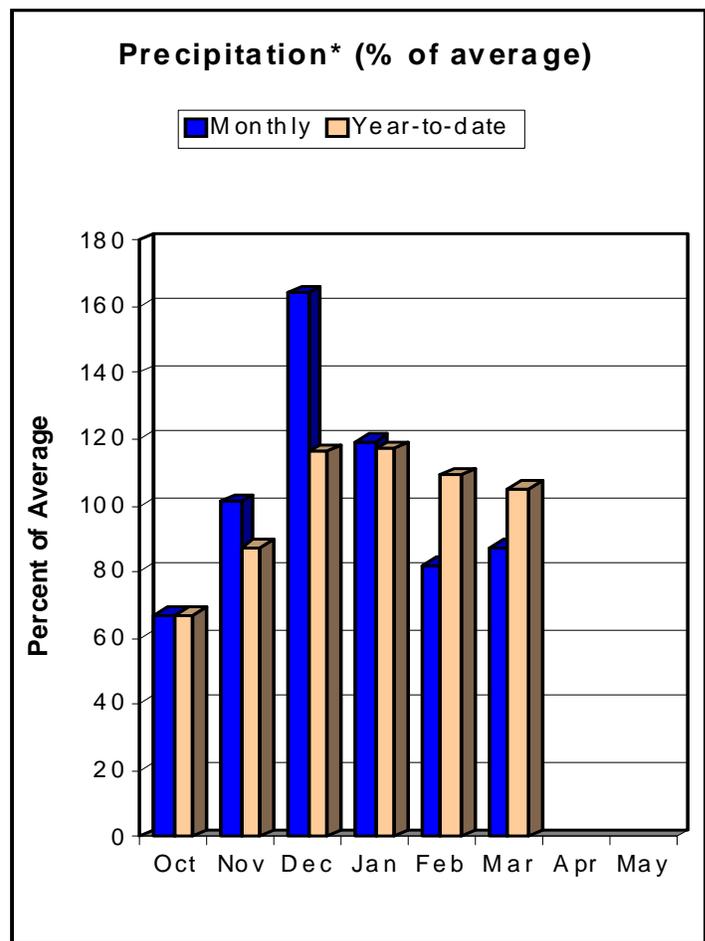
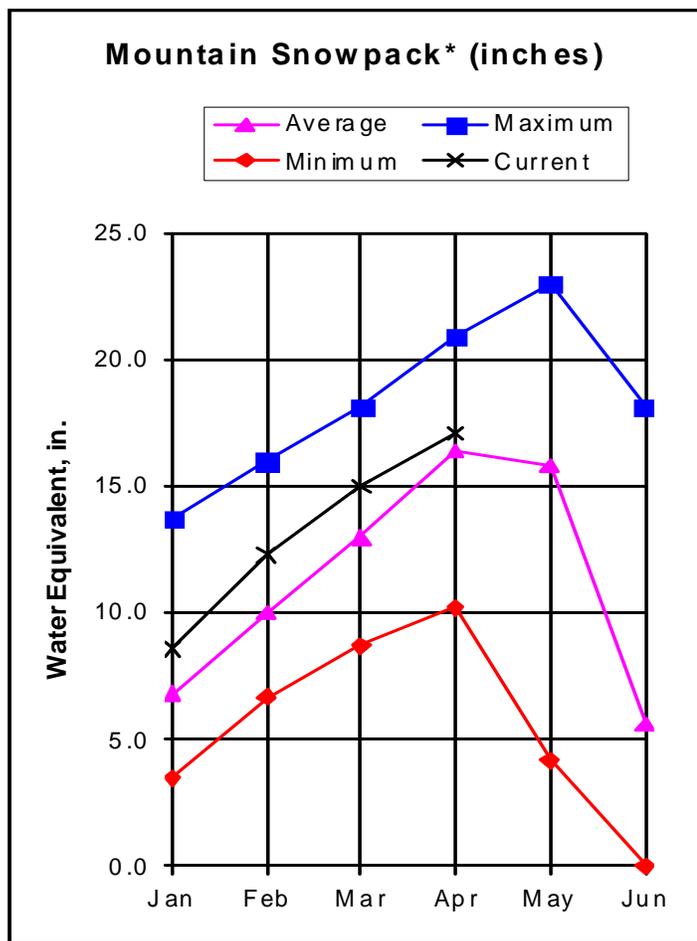
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of March					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2009			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
BLUE MESA	830.0	542.5	438.9	404.5	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	73	100
CRAWFORD	14.0	10.4	8.6	10.8	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	76	89
FRUITGROWERS	3.6	3.6	4.2	4.0	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	76	89
FRUITLAND	9.2	2.2	2.7	2.5	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	19	73	98
MORROW POINT	121.0	107.3	111.3	113.6				
PAONIA	15.4	2.0	1.1	4.6				
RIDGWAY	83.0	70.6	64.8	60.9				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	71.0	75.2	61.9				

* 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 April 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

At 104 percent of average on April 1, the Upper Colorado River Basin is only one of two major basins in the state reporting slightly above average snowpack conditions. SNOTEL data shows that snowpacks in the basin had begun to melt earlier in the month and actually dropped to below average levels by March 23. However, favorable weather patterns turned things around slightly during the last week of the month and the basin posted its second year in a row of above average April 1 snowpacks. While it may not be much to write home about, this is still the third highest percentage on April 1 going back to 1997. Sub-basin snowpacks are mostly near average to above average. Plateau Creek reports the lowest snowpack percentage at 89 percent of average, while the Blue River drainage measured the highest at 114 percent of average. Mountain precipitation was 87 percent of average during March. The below average monthly precipitation caused the total water year precipitation figures to drop to 105 percent of average. Reservoir storage is just slightly below normal at 98 percent of average and only 3 percent less than the amount of stored water available last year at this time. Although down slightly from those issued last month, this month's forecasts call for near average streamflows throughout the basin. April-July runoff should range from 98 percent of average for the Inflow to Willow Creek Reservoir to 109 percent of average for the Inflow to Green Mountain Reservoir and the Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs.

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UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 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)		
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	178	205	225	100	245	275	225				
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	37	44	50	98	56	66	51				
Williams Fork Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	80	91	100	105	109	123	95				
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	139	160	175	105	191	215	167				
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	240	280	305	109	335	380	280				
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	46	55	62	103	69	81	60				
Eagle River blw Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	275	325	360	108	400	460	335				
Colorado River nr Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	1200	1390	1530	106	1670	1890	1440				
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	116	136	150	106	165	190	141				
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	620	710	775	109	845	955	710				
Colorado River nr Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	2060	2340	2600	107	2860	3300	2420				

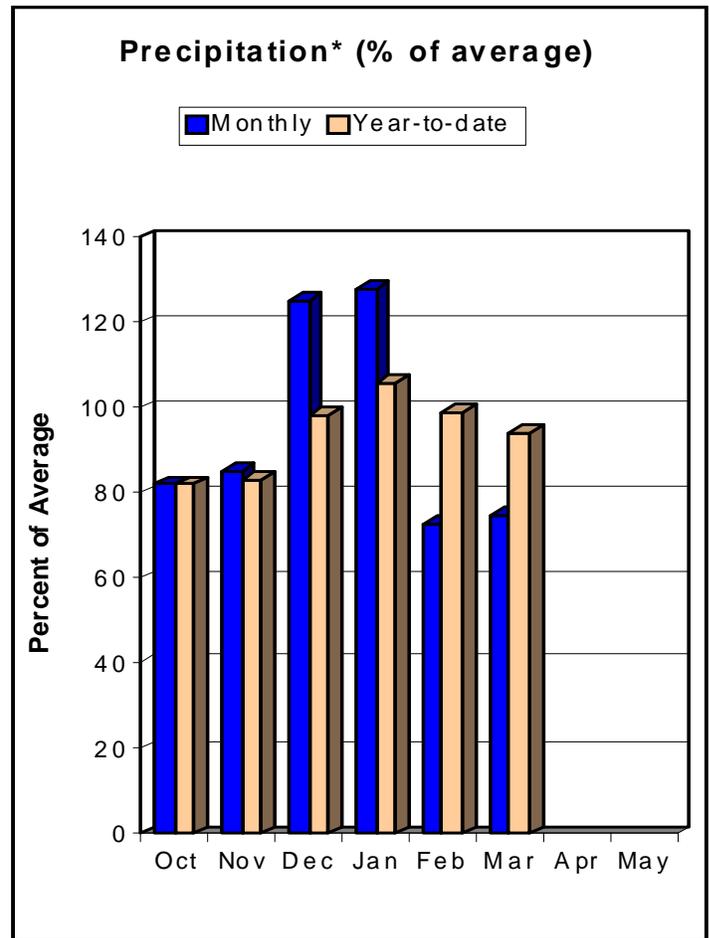
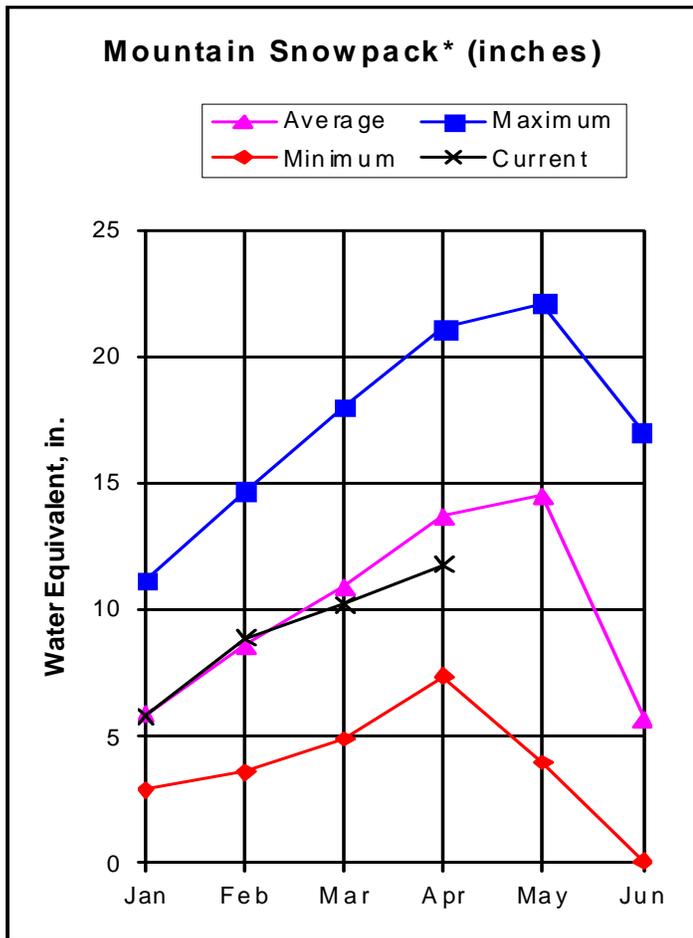
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of March					UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2009			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
DILLON	254.0	219.5	233.5	214.5	BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	90	114
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	209.8	205.7	263.7	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	37	89	104
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	56.3	57.3	59.8	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	97	102
HOMESTAKE	43.0	24.6	36.2	22.5	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	76	89
RUEDI	102.0	68.1	63.1	61.9	ROARING FORK BASIN	8	77	114
VEGA	32.9	15.4	17.1	13.1	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	85	100
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	79.6	81.5	54.8	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	86	101
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	7.7	6.1	6.8	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASIN	48	85	104

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

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

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

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN as of April 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Continuing its downward trend in both snowpack and precipitation, the South Platte River Basin now has the lowest snowpack levels and the lowest total cumulative precipitation in the state at 85% of average snowpack and 94% of average year-to-date precipitation. Late March snow storms helped to bring the snowpack up from 82% on March 22 to 90% on April 1 according to SNOTEL data. As of April 1, the Clear Creek drainage is the only sub-basin in the South Platte with above average snowpack at 105%. Alternatively, the Stain Vrain and Upper South Platte drainages are the two worst basins in the state with respect to snowpack at 71% and 76% respectively. On a very optimistic note, reservoir storage over the entire basin is 99% of average and 83% of full capacity with spring runoff season yet to start. Although it is unknown as of yet how positively these early April storms have affected the snowpack, the streamflow outlook is not great. Despite encouraging reservoir numbers, all streamflows are forecast to be below 90% in the South Platte. Streamflows are forecasts to be as low as 40% of average on the Bear Creek at Morrison and 51% on the Bear Creek at Evergreen. Current low snowpack and precipitation, coupled with dry soils prior to the start of the snowpack, are the culprits leading to low streamflow forecasts.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 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	8.7	11.3	67	14.6	21	16.8				
	APR-SEP	7.2	10.7	14.1	65	18.5	28	22				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	24	35	45	80	58	83	56				
	APR-SEP	29	43	56	81	73	109	69				
ELEVENMILE CANYON RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	25	36	47	81	61	89	58				
	APR-SEP	28	43	58	81	77	118	72				
CHEESMAN LAKE Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	43	65	85	75	112	168	114				
	APR-SEP	53	80	106	76	141	215	140				
SOUTH PLATTE R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	71	113	154	75	210	330	205				
	APR-SEP	88	140	192	75	265	420	255				
BEAR CREEK abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	4.6	7.3	9.9	51	13.5	21	19.3				
	APR-SEP	6.5	10.2	13.9	56	18.8	30	25				
BEAR CREEK at Morrison	APR-JUL	4.0	6.9	10.0	40	14.5	25	25				
	APR-SEP	5.6	9.7	14.0	45	20	35	31				
CLEAR CREEK at Golden	APR-JUL	65	83	96	87	109	127	110				
	APR-SEP	73	98	115	86	132	157	134				
ST. VRAIN CREEK at Lyons (2)	APR-JUL	55	65	72	77	79	89	94				
	APR-SEP	66	78	86	79	94	106	109				
BOULDER CREEK nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	31	37	42	81	47	53	52				
	APR-SEP	33	42	48	80	54	63	60				
SOUTH BOULDER CK nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	24	30	33	81	36	42	41				
	APR-SEP	26	32	37	80	42	48	46				
BIG THOMPSON R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	54	67	76	77	85	98	99				
	APR-SEP	67	83	94	79	105	121	119				
CACHE LAPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	133	169	199	81	235	300	245				
	APR-SEP	147	187	220	80	260	330	275				

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

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

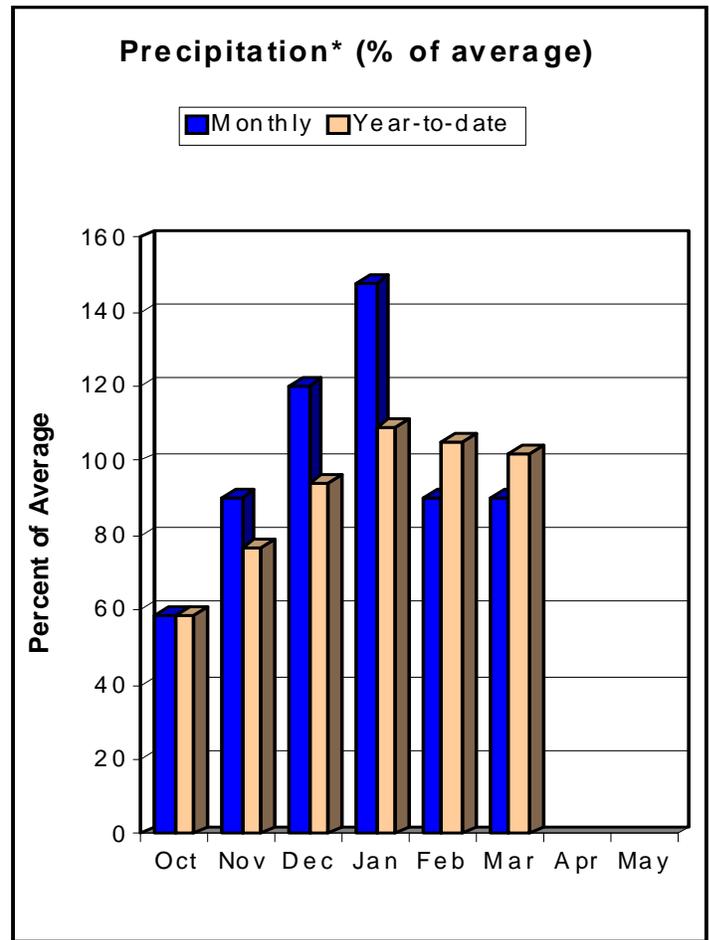
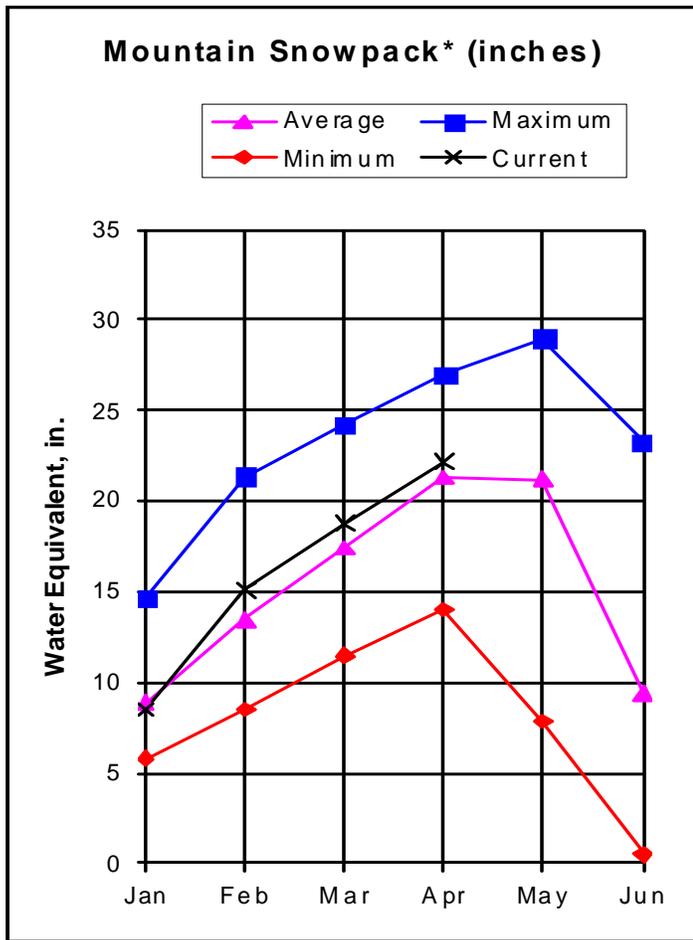
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	19.9	20.1	20.0	15.9	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	87	88
BARR LAKE	30.1	23.8	28.9	27.9	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	79	82
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	2.6	2.2	4.0	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	8	93	95
BOYD LAKE	44.0	27.4	20.9	33.0	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	91	105
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	12.1	12.5	12.1	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	4	76	71
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.1	8.4	6.3	8.6	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	16	60	75
CARTER	108.9	99.0	37.0	100.9	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	44	80	86
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	2.0	1.5	3.3				
CHEESMAN	79.0	74.1	74.8	60.8				
COBB LAKE	22.3	11.8	2.8	13.9				
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	100.4	99.3	96.4				
EMPIRE	36.5	35.9	33.7	31.8				
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	9.8	6.2	7.9				
GROSS	41.8	22.1	22.9	23.9				
HALLIGAN	6.4	4.0	3.4	4.7				
HORSECREEK	14.7	14.2	14.2	13.9				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	100.6	120.4	119.1				
JACKSON	26.1	25.7	26.1	29.9				
JULESBURG	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.8				
LAKE LOVELAND	14.0	11.4	11.5	9.0				
LONE TREE	9.0	8.5	6.8	7.2				
MARIANO	6.0	1.8	3.9	4.5				
MARSHALL	10.0	4.9	5.2	6.0				
MARSTON	13.0	7.7	3.3	13.3				
MILTON	23.5	22.7	20.4	18.3				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	69.6	70.6	68.8				
PREWITT	28.2	24.4	24.6	25.0				
RIVERSIDE	55.8	55.5	54.6	58.2				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	39.1	37.6	32.1				
STANDLEY	42.0	35.4	37.7	34.6				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	5.2	5.7	5.4				
UNION	13.0	10.2	10.6	11.1				
WINDSOR	15.2	14.1	12.7	12.4				

* 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 April 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins dropped from 108 percent of average on March 1 to 104 percent of average on April 1. SNOTEL data indicates that the snowpack had begun to melt around mid-March and snowpack percentages dropped all the way down to 95 percent of average by March 23. Storms passing through the basin during the last week of the month, helped to bring the current snowpack totals above the average peak. Sub-basin snowpacks range from 87 percent of average in the Laramie River Watershed to 115 percent of average in the Little Snake River Drainage. Although March precipitation at the higher elevations was below normal at 90 percent of average, this was the highest monthly percent of average figure reported by the major basins in the state. Total precipitation for the water year dropped slightly to 102 percent of average. Reservoir storage in Stagecoach and Yamcolo reservoirs is above normal at 109 and 117 percent of average, respectively. Streamflow forecasts remain relatively unchanged from those issued a month ago, with only the North Platte River near Northgate and the Laramie River near Woods showing a drop in percentages. Water users can still expect near average to above average streamflows at most forecast points in the basin. April-July volumes should range from 83 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 - April 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	137	192	230	94	270	325	245
	APR-SEP	144	205	250	93	295	355	270
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	APR-JUL	63	86	102	83	118	141	123
	APR-SEP	69	95	113	84	131	157	135
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	18.8	26	31	107	37	48	29
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	220	260	290	104	320	370	280
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	280	325	360	111	395	450	325
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	28	37	43	110	50	61	39
Elkhead Creek blw Maynard Gulch (2)	APR-JUL	44	56	65	110	75	90	59
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	4.6	6.4	8.0	107	9.8	12.8	7.5
	APR-JUN	3.5	4.9	6.0	95	7.3	9.4	6.3
Yampa River nr Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	790	950	1070	108	1200	1390	990
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	136	162	180	113	199	230	159
Little Snake River nr Dixon	APR-JUL	260	335	390	118	450	545	330
Little Snake River nr Lily	APR-JUL	290	370	430	118	495	600	365
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	215	260	290	100	325	375	290

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of March					YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 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	26.8	24.1	24.6	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	4	78	87
YAMCOLO	8.7	8.1	6.1	6.9	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	11	92	97
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	14	90	96
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	94	113
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	95	104
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	105	104
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	97	104
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	97	115
					TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	36	95	104

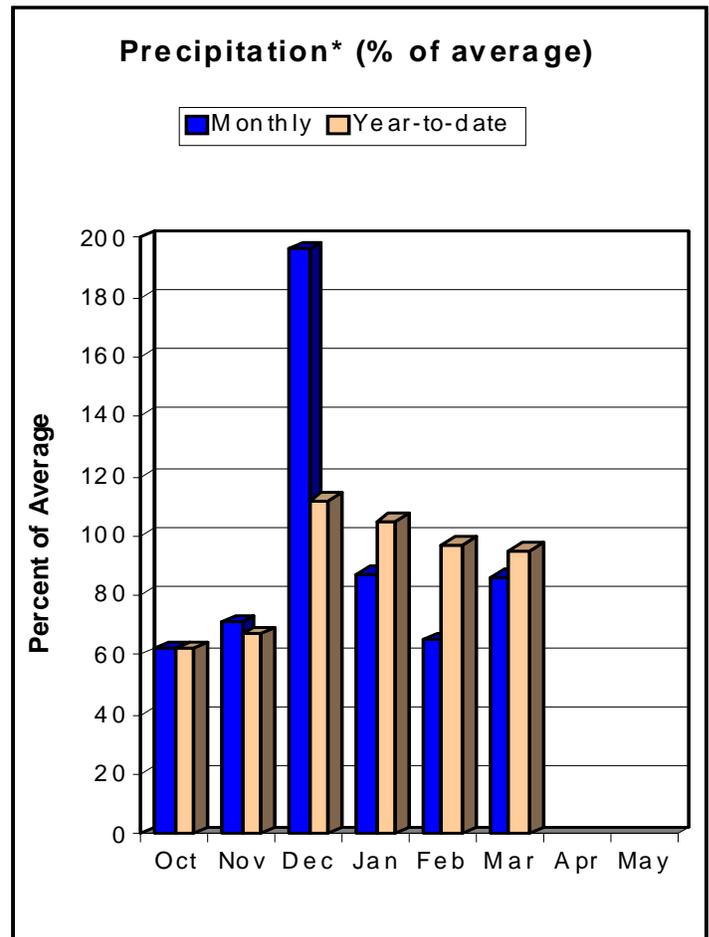
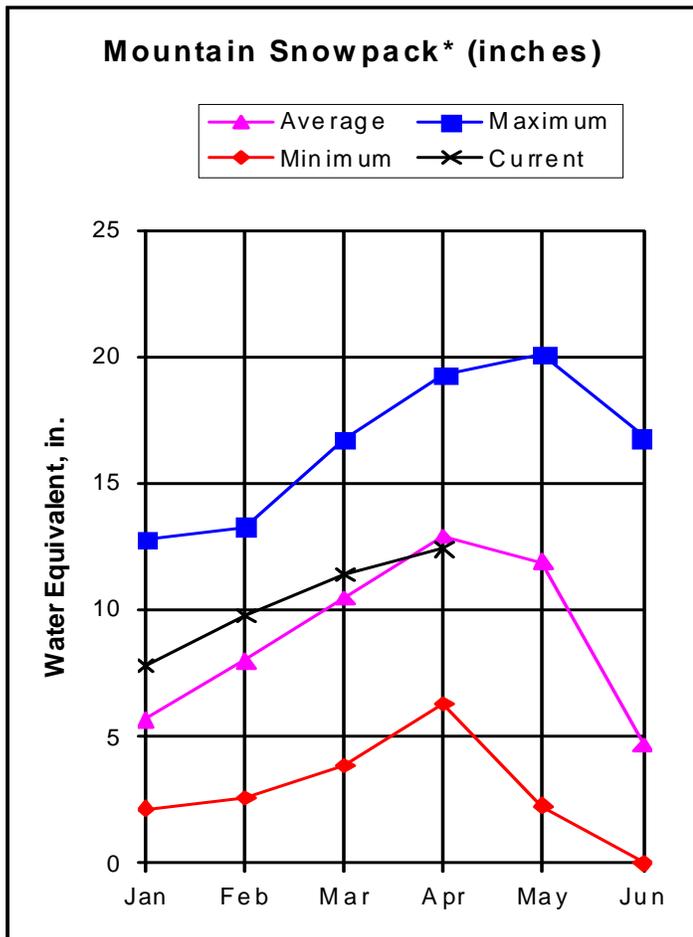
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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

as of April 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

In the Arkansas River Basin, as has been the case in much of the state, the snowpack has sunk below average from 109% last month to 96% on the first of April. Year-to-date precipitation is also just below average at 95% which is good considering March precipitation yielded 86% of the monthly average, up from February's 65% of average. If the snowpack can maintain the current water content across the entire Arkansas for two more weeks, and with normal weather conditions, the snowmelt will begin as it typically does in the middle to last weeks of April. Factor in the current reservoir storage of the whole Arkansas Basin standing at 94% of average, and matters are not as bad as they are in the South Platte. In the Arkansas Basin as a whole, it is a "textbook scenario" in that slightly below average snowpack, precipitation, and reservoir storage yields slightly below average streamflows at 90% basin wide. There are individual forecast points such as the Chalk at Nathrop and the Arkansas River at Salida that are expecting slightly above average flows. Just as we have streams with above average flows, there are also streams with below average flows, for example: Trinidad Lake Inflow at 68% and Cucharas River near La Veta at 79%. It might be useful to state, that in the few days since April 1, the snowpack according to the SNOTEL sites in the Arkansas River Basin has made gains to above average levels.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2009

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Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
CHALK CK at Nathrop	APR-JUL	15.6	21	25	109	29	37	23
	APR-SEP	17.9	24	29	107	34	43	27
ARKANSAS RIVER at Salida (2)	APR-JUL	250	260	270	106	280	295	255
	APR-SEP	290	315	330	107	345	370	310
GRAPE CK nr Westcliffe	APR-JUL	9.7	11.7	13.2	82	14.8	17.3	16.1
	APR-SEP	13.1	14.8	16.0	82	17.2	19.2	19.6
PUEBLO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	255	325	375	97	430	520	385
	APR-SEP	305	400	475	98	555	680	485
HUERFANO RIVER nr Redwing	APR-JUL	6.4	9.1	11.1	90	13.3	17.0	12.3
	APR-SEP	8.4	11.6	14.0	90	16.7	21	15.5
CUCHARAS RIVER nr La Veta	APR-JUL	4.0	6.7	8.9	79	11.4	15.7	11.3
	APR-SEP	5.2	8.0	10.3	79	12.8	17.0	13.0
TRINIDAD LAKE Inflow (2)	MAR-JUL	15.3	19.7	23	68	27	32	34
	APR-JUL	16.6	21	25	78	29	35	32
	APR-SEP	23	29	33	75	38	45	44

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of March					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 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	44.5	57.5	37.0	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	10	70	97
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	8.4	4.4	6.7	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	59	89
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	0.9	1.9	5.4	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	47	77
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	41.9	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	15	67	95
HOLBROOK	7.0	0.6	0.8	4.9				
HORSE CREEK	27.0	0.0	0.0	12.6				
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	81.0	66.0	137.3				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	9.5	6.9	6.7				
MEREDITH	42.0	41.4	39.7	19.0				
PUEBLO	354.0	249.2	252.2	173.3				
TRINIDAD	167.0	24.7	27.3	27.5				
TURQUOISE	127.0	57.6	47.0	74.0				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	33.6	50.5	42.5				

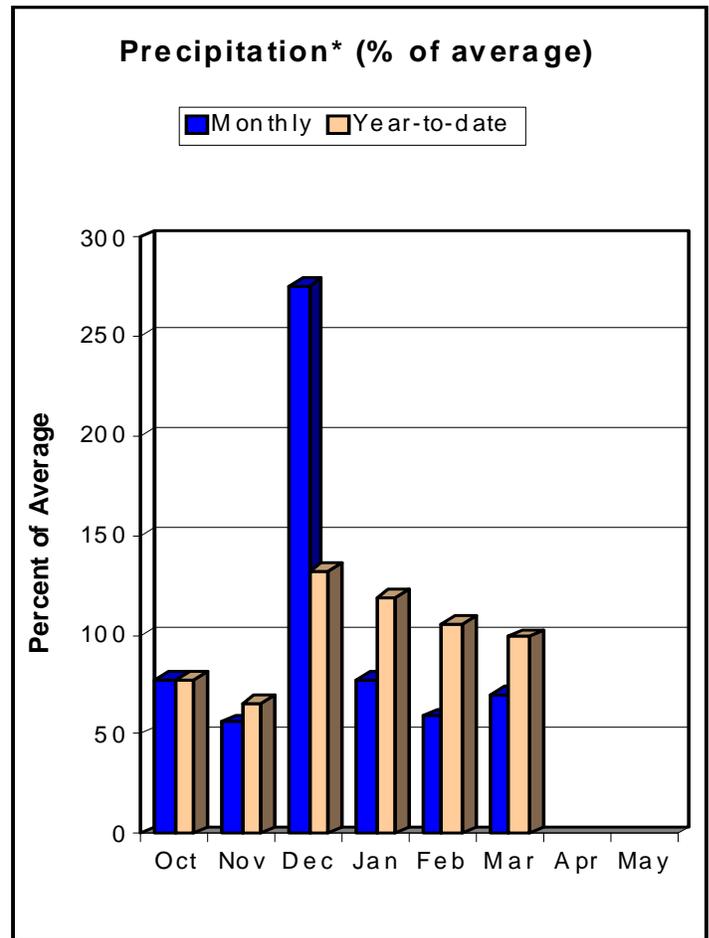
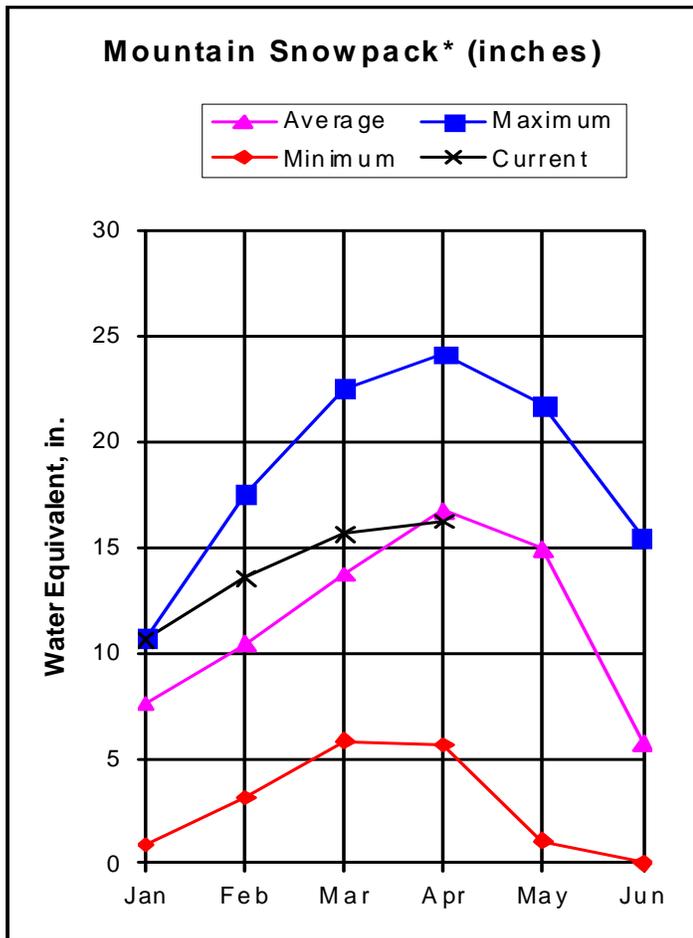
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UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN

as of April 1, 2009



*Based on selected stations

After starting out the water year in January at maximum snowpack, The Upper Rio Grande has fallen just below average to begin the month of April. The Conejos & Rio San Antonio sub-basin remains the watershed with the best snowpack in the state, as it has for three of the last four months, at 115% of average. All other basins within the Upper Rio Grande remain just below average at 90% or 95%. Recent storms have stopped the melting snowpack, and with future cooler weather, being just weeks away from the snowpack peak, the Upper Rio Grande will be in good standing from a snow water equivalent standpoint. Despite an excellent December at 276% of average, that year-to-date precipitation cannot keep up due to consistent below average monthly precipitation, and has finally dipped below average to 99%. Reservoir storage has bumped up one percent from last month to 87% of average and 84% of last year at this time. Both the Sanchez and Terrace Reservoirs are currently above average storage at 102% and 107%. The Santa Maria Reservoir is below average at 57%. At 69% of last year's 131% of average precipitation, do not expect last year's runoff to be replicated this year without significant spring storms.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - April 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)
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge (2)	APR-SEP	94	113	127	93	142	165	136				
	APR-JUL	84	98	109	92	120	139	118				
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	220	270	310	90	350	415	345				
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	98	115	127	96	140	161	132				
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	355	430	485	91	545	645	531				
Saguache Creek nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	14.5	20	25	76	30	38	33				
Alamosa Creek abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	50	60	67	96	75	87	70				
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	4.9	6.7	8.2	94	9.9	12.7	8.7				
	APR-JUL	4.2	6.0	7.4	93	9.0	11.8	8.0				
Trinchera Creek abv Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	5.8	8.9	11.0	92	13.1	16.2	12.0				
Sangre de Cristo Creek (2)	APR-SEP	2.0	5.6	8.0	91	10.4	14.0	8.8				
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	6.0	8.8	11.0	90	13.6	18.1	12.2				
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	48	55	61	95	67	77	64				
	APR-SEP	53	62	68	96	75	86	71				
Conejos River nr Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	159	186	205	103	225	260	200				
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	10.8	14.3	17.0	104	20	25	16.4				
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	56	68	77	104	87	103	74				
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	10.8	16.4	21	91	26	36	23				
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	6.0	8.2	10.0	94	12.0	15.4	10.6				
	APR-JUL	5.2	7.3	9.0	89	10.9	14.2	10.1				
Costilla Creek nr Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	14.4	20	25	96	30	40	26				
	APR-JUL	10.6	15.7	20	83	25	34	24				

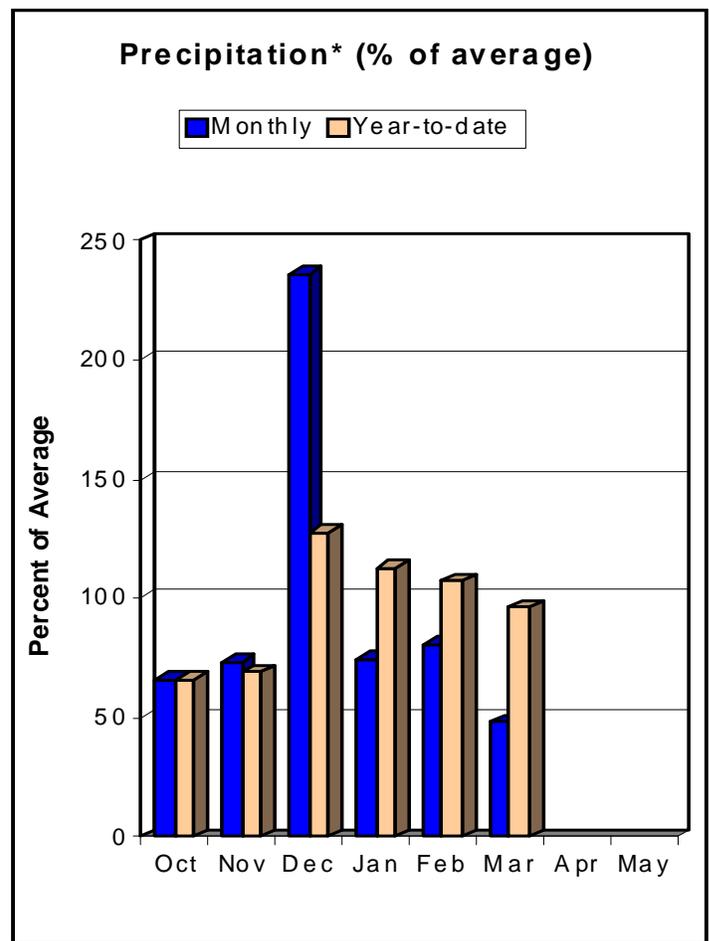
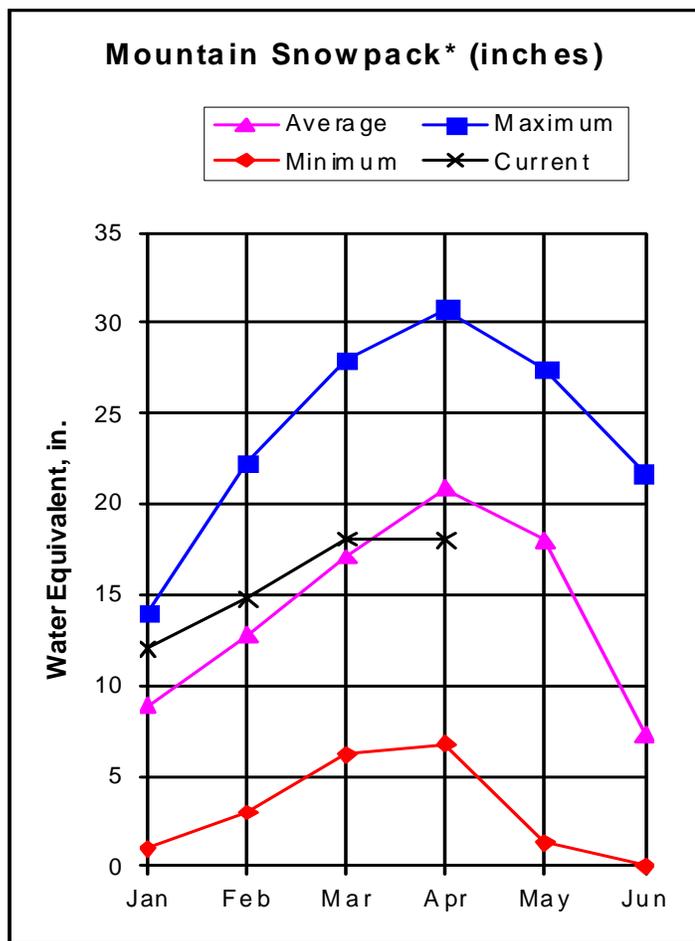
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of March					UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 1, 2009			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	27.0	4.4	5.3	5.9	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	59	95
PLATORO	60.0	18.1	13.6	24.5	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	77	115
RIO GRANDE	51.0	19.2	29.3	19.3	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	72	90
SANCHEZ	103.0	25.3	30.8	24.9	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	66	90
SANTA MARIA	45.0	6.2	7.7	10.8	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	69	97
TERRACE	18.0	8.1	8.8	7.6				

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

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



*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins took the biggest hit, in terms of percentages, of all the major basins in the state during March. April 1 snow surveys show the current snowpack at 86 percent of average, down a whopping 20 percentage points from the 106 percent of average snowpacks present on March 1. SNOTEL data indicates that the snowpacks had begun to melt around March 16. However, snowpack accumulation during the final week of March helped to recover those losses, but not much more. Sadly, the April 1 measurement marks the third highest snowpack percentage the basin has seen in the last 12 years. Snowpacks in the sub-basins ranged from 83 percent of average in the Animas River Drainage to a high of only 95 percent of average in the San Miguel Watershed. Not surprisingly, the combined basins also posted the lowest March precipitation figure in the state at a measly 48 percent of average. As a result of the well below average monthly precipitation, total precipitation for the water year fell from 107 percent of average last month to 96 percent of average. The only good news is that reservoir storage is above normal at 108 percent of average. This month's forecasts show a 10 to 24 percentage point drop from those issued on March 1. Below average streamflows can be expected during the April-July runoff period, with volumes ranging from 76 percent of average for the Inflow to Lemon Reservoir and the La Plata River at Hesperus to 94 percent of average for the Rio Blanco at the Blanco Diversion.

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

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Chance Of Exceeding *		30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
				50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)			
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	164	200	230	87	260	310	265
McPhee Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	195	245	280	88	320	385	320
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	82	101	115	87	130	155	132
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	11.7	14.4	16.5	90	18.8	22	18.3
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.1	2.0	2.9	89	4.0	6.2	3.3
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.6	2.2	2.6	88	3.1	3.9	2.9
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	37	44	50	94	56	66	53
Navajo River at Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	45	55	62	90	70	83	69
San Juan River nr Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	260	315	355	88	400	465	405
Piedra River nr Arboles	APR-JUL	137	167	190	83	215	255	230
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	129	152	170	83	189	220	205
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	480	600	690	88	790	950	785
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	280	330	370	84	410	475	440
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	33	40	45	78	50	59	58
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	13.3	16.6	19.0	76	22	26	25
Mancos River nr Mancos (2)	APR-JUL	7.4	17.9	25	76	32	43	33
	APRIL			4.7	107			4.4
	MAY			11.7	95			12.3
	JUNE			5.6	50			11.3
	JULY			1.0	20			5.0

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

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 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	15.9	12.2	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	9	67	83
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	3.5	5.7	5.1	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	7	69	87
LEMON	40.0	19.5	24.0	21.2	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	79	95
MCPHEE	381.0	283.2	291.5	273.6	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	67	89
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	18.7	17.9	15.5	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	24	69	86
VALLECITO	126.0	80.8	39.4	62.0	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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Basin Outlook Report
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