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Department of
Agriculture

**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

Colorado Basin Outlook Report May 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.

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COLORADO WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORT MAY 1, 2006

Summary

Colorado experienced a warm, windy and dry month in April, 2006. Snowpack levels reached their seasonal maximum slightly earlier than average and then rapidly went into a nearly unabated melt for the remainder of the month. A lack of additional moisture during the month has taken a toll on forecasted runoff nearly statewide. What was looking like a bountiful water supply year across northern Colorado, has diminished each month and is now appearing to be only slightly above average. At least reservoir storage has continued its improvement across most of the state and is now in the best condition in years. Most of the state continues to wait for those important spring storms to help restore soil moisture at lower elevations.

Snowpack

An early and steady melt has produced sharp declines in snowpack percentages this month. Statewide totals decreased from last month's 94% of average to only 65% of average on May 1. Basinwide percentages decreased by 20 to 38 percentage points from last month's measurements. The largest decreases were measured in the Gunnison basin which decreased from 94% of average on April 1, to only 56% of average on May 1. With these decreases in snowpack, totals are now below average in all basins of the state. Even the Colorado, Yampa, White and North Platte basins which were boasting snowpack percentages that exceeded 130% of average back in January, now only range from 75% to 85% of average. Across southern Colorado, which has reported the lowest snowpack totals this year, the May 1 snowpack readings have decreased back down to nearly the lowest of the season and range from only 41% of average in the Rio Grande basin, to only 44% of average in the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins. In comparison to last year readings the current snowpack is generally well below those readings and statewide is only 66% of last year's snowpack. Only the North Platte, Yampa and White River basins are above last year's May 1 snowpack. With April's rapid meltout of snowpack, the state now adds to a series of eight consecutive years with below average snowpack totals on May 1.

Precipitation

The dry April weather was certainly evident based on measurements from SNOTEL sites across Colorado. Monthly totals for April were below average in all basins, and ranged from only 54% of average in the South Platte basin to a high of only 86% of average in both the Gunnison and Rio Grande basins. For the state, precipitation during April was only 69% of average. Totals for the water year, which began back on October 1, 2005, have dipped to 97% of average. Both the Colorado and Yampa-White basins continue to report above average water year totals, at 110 and 107% of average respectively. Meanwhile, the lowest water year totals continue to be reported in the San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins with only 80% of average totals. In comparing this water year to 2005, the current year has decreased to 93% of last year's readings.

Reservoir Storage

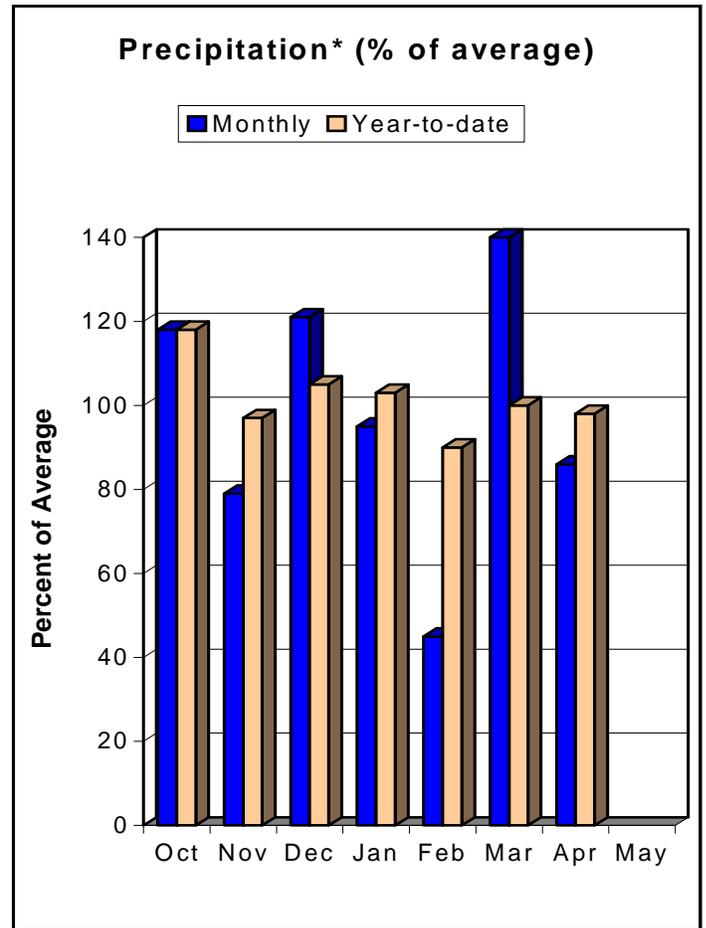
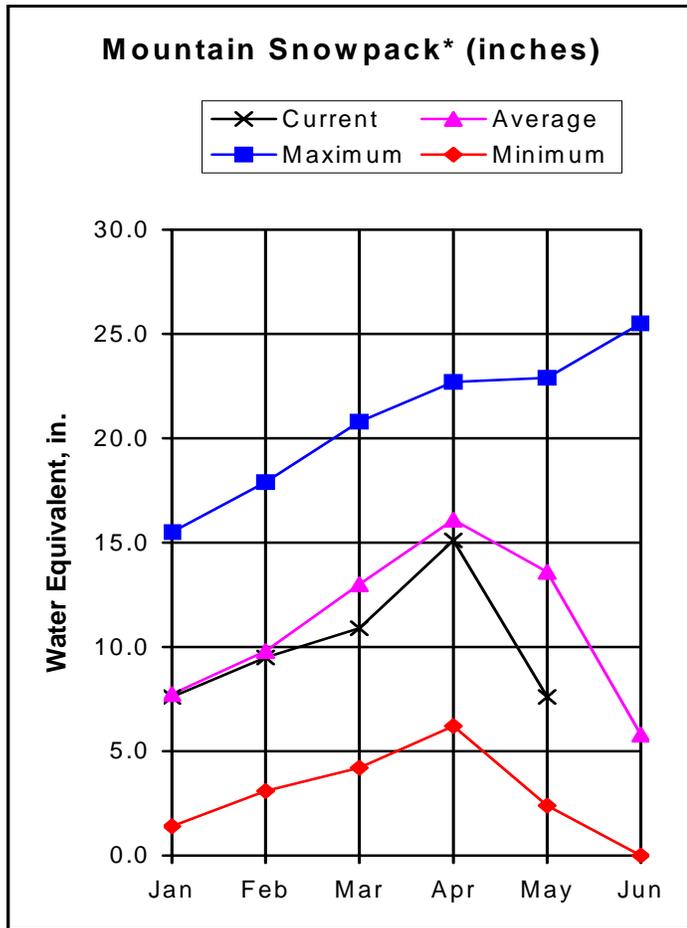
Early snowmelt has helped to improve reservoir storage across most of the state. Statewide storage volumes have reached the highest levels since July 2001 and are now 100% of average and 112% of last year's volumes on this date. Those basins reporting above average storage volumes include the Gunnison, Colorado, Yampa and the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins. The highest storage levels were measured this month in the Gunnison basin which is currently storing 133% of average volumes, and is at 75% of the capacity of the eight reservoirs in the basin. The exceptions to these positive storage volumes include the Arkansas and Rio Grande basins which continue to report below average storage, at 60% and 66% of average respectively. Storage volumes in the South Platte basin have dipped slightly below average and are now at 90% of average. With this month's decreases in snowpack and forecasted runoff these improved reservoir storage volumes seem to be the silver lining for the 2006 water supply story.

Streamflow

April's dry weather contributed to decreases in forecasted runoff across most of the state. The largest decreases from last month's forecasts were seen in the South Platte and Arkansas basins which rely more on spring precipitation for water supplies. Across southern Colorado, where the lowest volumes have been forecast all year, forecasts remain well below average to critically low in some basins. The lowest runoff volumes continue to be forecast from those streams originating from the Sange de Cristo Mountains of southern Colorado. Runoff prospects along the Front Range have decreased significantly this month and are now calling for volumes of only 70% to 80% of average at most locations. Several basins can continue to expect above average volumes this year. Those include the Eagle and Blue Rivers in the Colorado basin, along with the Yampa River, where volumes are forecast to be 110% to 115% of average this spring and summer.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of May 1, 2006



*Based on selected stations

Typically, the Gunnison River Basin gets about 4 percent of the average total snowpack accumulation during April. This year's April accumulation was about 8 percent of the average total snowpack accumulation. SNOTEL data indicates the snowpack peaked a few days earlier than normal (around April 8 versus April 12), but the peak for the current year was 100 percent of the average peak. Unfortunately, warm and dry conditions during the remainder of the month resulted in some significant losses in the snowpack. May 1 snow surveys show current snowpack levels are well below normal at only 56 percent of average. This is the sixth lowest May 1 level going back to 1968. Snowpacks for the watersheds within the basin ranged from 36 percent of average in the Uncompahgre to 66 percent of average in the Surface Creek Basin. Mountain precipitation for April was 86 percent of average. The below normal monthly precipitation brought the water year precipitation totals down slightly to 98 percent of average. Reservoir storage conditions improved again this month. Storage totals are 133 percent of average and 138 percent of the water stored a year ago. Streamflow forecasts are down somewhat from those issued last month. April-July runoff volumes are expected to be well below average throughout the basin. Forecast percentages are predicted to range from 56 percent of average for Tomichi Creek at Gunnison to 89 percent of average for the Slate River near Crested Butte.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ==== Future Conditions ==== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Taylor Park blw Taylor Park Res (2)	APR-JUL	70	80	87	85	95	106	103
	MAY-JUL	60	70	77	81	85	96	95
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	66	73	79	89	85	93	89
	MAY-JUL	56	63	69	86	74	83	80
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	136	150	160	83	171	186	192
	MAY-JUL	107	121	132	74	142	158	178
Gunnison River near Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	250	285	310	80	335	380	390
	MAY-JUL	205	240	265	75	290	335	355
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	13.4	17.3	20	63	23	28	32
	MAY-JUL	9.8	13.4	16.2	58	19.3	24	28
Cochetopa Creek Blw Rock Ck Nr Parli	APR-JUL	6.7	8.8	10.5	61	12.5	16.3	17.3
	MAY-JUL	3.3	5.2	7.0	53	9.0	12.7	13.1
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	29	38	45	56	53	68	81
	MAY-JUL	17.7	27	34	50	41	56	68
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	89	100	107	85	115	126	126
	MAY-JUL	80	89	97	82	105	117	119
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	455	520	565	79	620	700	720
	MAY-JUL	350	415	460	71	515	600	645
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	56	64	71	71	79	92	100
	MAY-JUN	22	30	37	49	45	58	75
	APR-JUL	57	66	74	73	83	97	102
	MAY-JUL	24	33	40	49	48	63	82
North Fork Gunnison R Nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	205	230	245	80	260	295	305
	MAY-JUL	135	159	175	67	192	220	260
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	10.9	12.7	13.9	81	15.2	17.6	17.1
	MAY-JUL	6.4	8.0	9.4	63	10.7	13.0	14.9
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	57	67	75	74	84	97	102
	MAY-JUL	48	58	66	72	75	88	92
Uncompahgre River At Colona (2)	APR-JUL	63	78	90	65	103	125	139
	MAY-JUL	49	65	77	63	90	112	123
Gunnison River Nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	780	1010	1180	76	1340	1580	1560
	MAY-JUL	480	710	875	65	1030	1270	1340

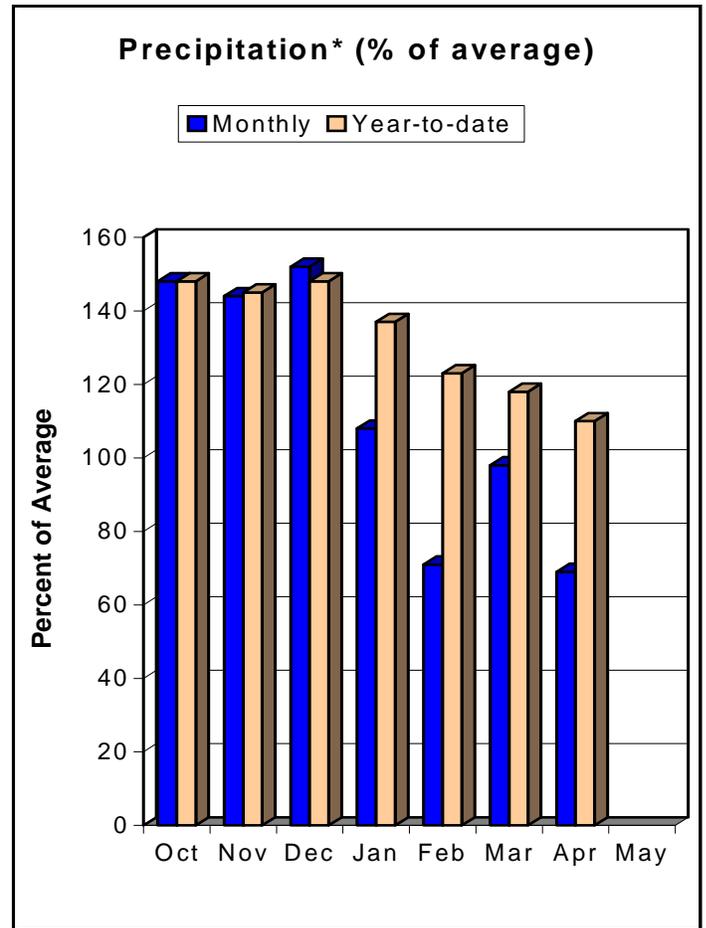
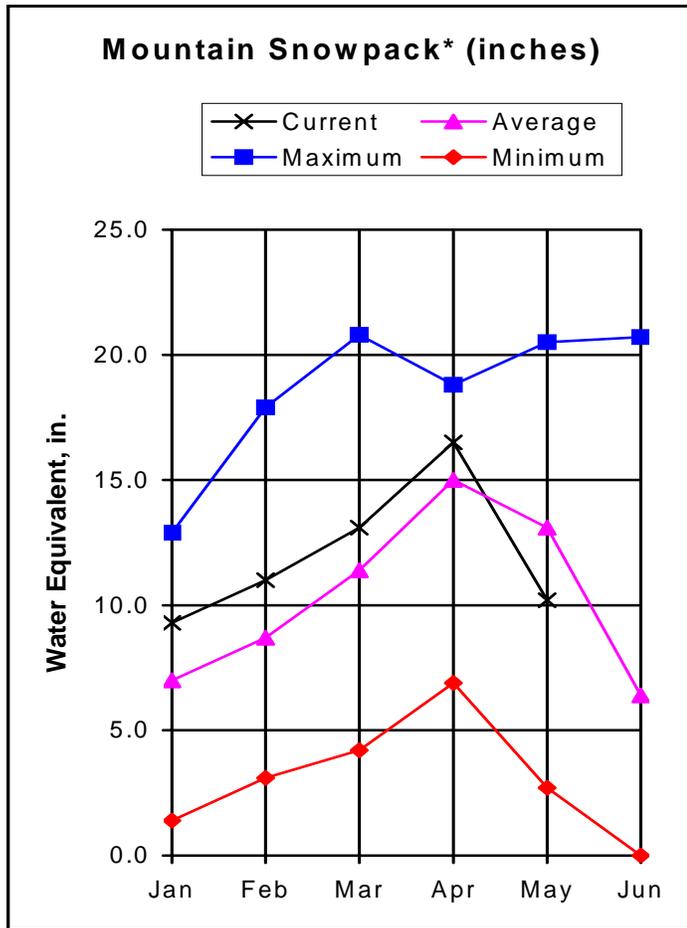
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2006			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
BLUE MESA	830.0	602.1	376.7	404.7	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	49	61
CRAWFORD	14.3	14.0	8.8	12.1	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	46	66
FRUITGROWERS	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.1	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	29	36
FRUITLAND	9.2	5.8	3.1	4.9	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASI	19	45	56
MORROW POINT	121.0	108.8	110.3	113.4				
PAONIA	18.0	1.1	0.5	7.4				
RIDGWAY	83.2	76.1	68.6	57.9				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	74.1	69.8	59.9				

* 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.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of May 1, 2006



*Based on selected stations

According to SNOTEL data, the Colorado River Basin snowpack peaked on April 8 (six days earlier than normal) at 109 percent of the average peak snowpack. Unfortunately, weather conditions since that time have resulted in an accelerated snowmelt, leaving May 1 snowpacks at only 78 percent of average. This is the fourth month in a row the basin has seen a drop in percent of average figures. This also marks the eighth of nine years with below average snowpack conditions on May 1. Snowpack conditions for the individual watersheds within the basin range from 59 percent of average in the Roaring Fork Basin to 104 percent of average in the Williams Fork Basin. Mountain precipitation during April was well below normal at 69 percent of average. As a result of the shortage during the month, water year totals dropped to 110 percent of average on May 1. This year's total precipitation is 13 percent higher than the total precipitation observed last year at this time. Reservoir storage continues to improve as storage went up from 103 percent of average last month to 106 percent of average this month. This is a 30 percent increase over the amount of water stored a year ago. Streamflow forecasts issued this month are down compared to last month, but most are still expected to be above average. Volume percentages range from 75 percent of average for the Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow to 113 for the Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow and the Eagle River below Gypsum.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ==== Future Conditions ==== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	162	180	195	87	210	230	225
	MAY-JUL	139	159	173	81	188	211	215
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	29	34	38	75	42	49	51
	MAY-JUL	23	28	32	68	36	43	47
Williams Fork Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	86	96	103	108	111	123	95
	MAY-JUL	71	81	88	99	96	108	89
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	154	172	185	111	199	220	167
	MAY-JUL	137	156	169	107	183	205	158
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	260	290	315	113	340	380	280
	MAY-JUL	230	260	285	108	310	345	265
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	50	59	67	112	75	88	60
	MAY-JUL	35	45	52	100	60	74	52
Eagle River below Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	305	350	380	113	410	460	335
	MAY-JUL	265	305	340	108	370	420	315
Colorado River Near Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	1250	1410	1530	106	1660	1840	1440
	MAY-JUL	1050	1210	1330	100	1450	1640	1330
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	123	138	150	106	162	179	141
	MAY-JUL	107	122	133	99	145	163	134
Roaring Fork At Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	570	640	685	97	740	815	710
	MAY-JUL	480	545	595	90	645	725	665
Colorado River Near Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	1980	2300	2500	103	2710	3030	2420
	MAY-JUL	1640	1950	2160	97	2380	2690	2220

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

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

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
DILLON	250.8	223.6	197.2	212.8	BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	131	99
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	242.1	128.1	259.5	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	36	111	84
GREEN MOUNTAIN	139.0	63.5	69.3	54.3	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	148	80
HOMESTAKE	43.0	16.4	12.7	16.8	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	46	66
RUEDI	102.0	65.5	67.2	59.7	ROARING FORK BASIN	8	57	59
VEGA	32.0	30.2	21.8	16.6	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	127	104
WILLIAMS FORK	96.8	74.2	54.4	55.3	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	82	63
WILLOW CREEK	9.0	6.9	6.4	5.9	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASIN	47	89	78

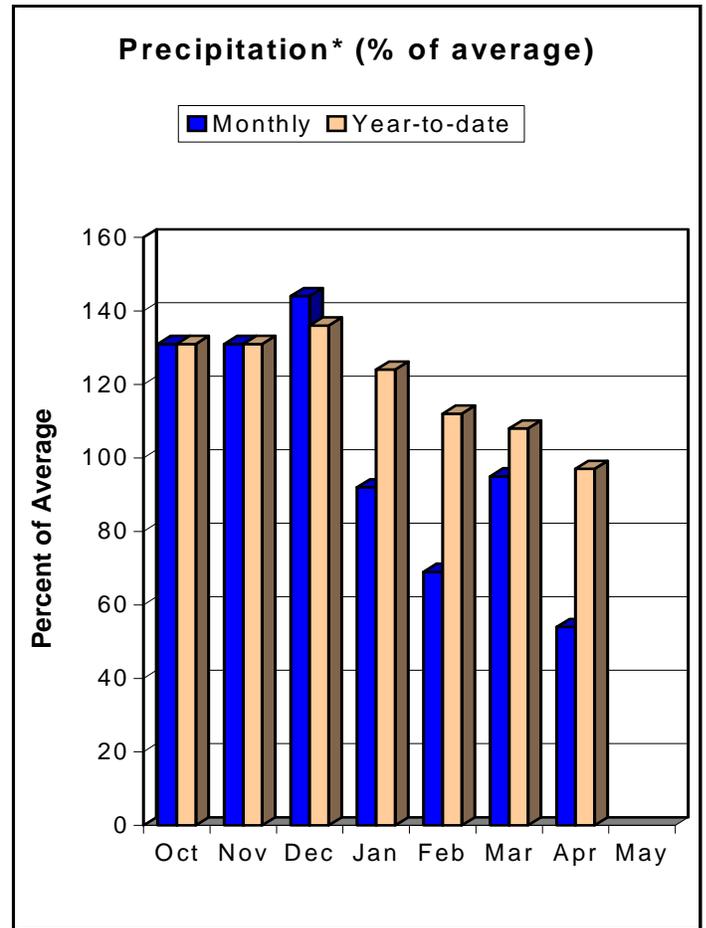
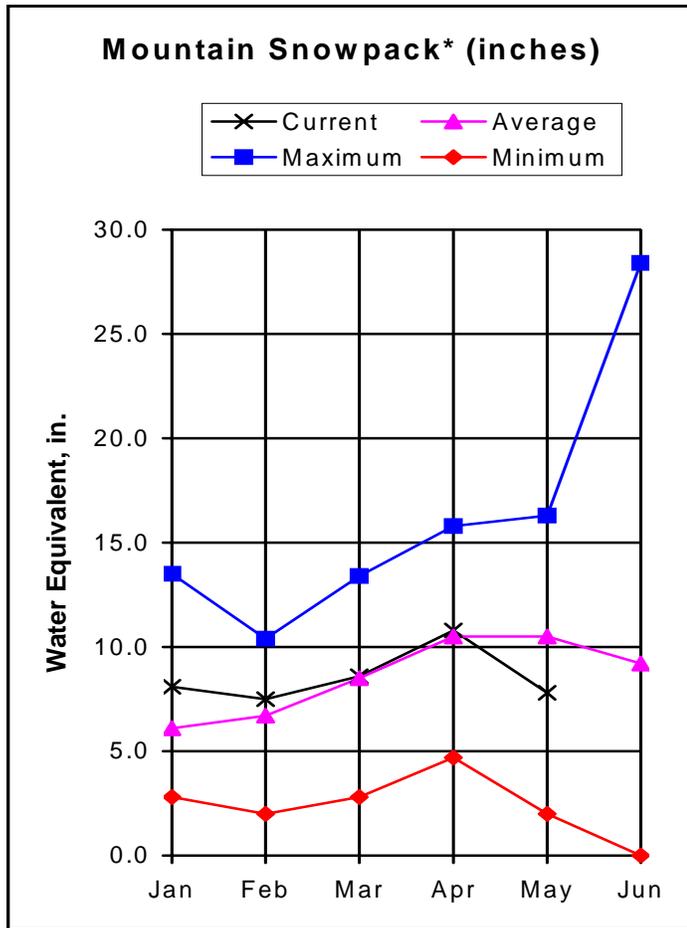
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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

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

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

as of May 1, 2006



*Based on selected stations

Melt out began slightly earlier than average this year as snowpack levels in the South Platte River basin dropped to 74% of average this month, down from 96% of average last month. The peak accumulation occurred around April 9 while the typical date of peak snow accumulation is April 23. The Clear Creek sub-basin continued to sustain the largest snowpack at 93% of average, while the Upper South Platte saw 85% of average snowpack. The Saint Vrain sub-basin was the lowest in the South Platte at 58% of its average snowpack. At 54% of average, April precipitation is down considerably from March. The dry April hurt the year to date precipitation, dropping it from 108% of average to 97% of average. Reservoir storage in the South Platte basin is at 90% of average this month, down slightly from 94% last month. The South Platte reservoirs currently contain 93% of the storage from this time last year. With all forecast points now below average, streamflow forecast figures are down considerably from last month on the South Platte. Expect Boulder Creek near Orodell to produce 87% of its average April through September streamflow, but only expect the South Platte at South Platte to produce 65% of its average May through September streamflow.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions					30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)	
		Drier		Wetter		Chance Of Exceeding *		
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF) (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)			10% (1000AF)
Antero Reservoir inflow	MAY-JUL	7.2	9.9	12.3	80	15.3	21	15.4
	MAY-SEP	8.5	12.0	15.2	79	19.2	27	19.2
Spinney Mountain Reservoir inflow	MAY-JUL	22	30	38	75	48	66	51
	MAY-SEP	26	37	48	75	62	89	64
Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir inflow	MAY-JUL	24	32	40	76	50	68	53
	MAY-SEP	28	40	52	78	67	98	67
Cheesman Lake inflow	MAY-JUL	44	61	76	75	95	130	102
	MAY-SEP	51	75	97	75	126	185	129
South Platte River at South Platte	MAY-JUL	68	96	120	66	151	211	182
	MAY-SEP	82	118	150	65	191	274	230
Bear Creek abv Evergreen	MAY-JUL	6.0	8.9	11.6	67	15.2	23	17.3
	MAY-SEP	8.1	12.0	15.6	68	20	30	23
Bear Creek at Morrison	MAY-JUL	6.1	9.8	13.6	65	18.8	30	21
	MAY-SEP	8.0	12.9	17.8	66	25	40	27
Clear Creek at Golden	APR-JUL	67	78	87	79	97	112	110
	APR-SEP	79	94	104	78	117	137	134
St. Vrain Creek at Lyons	APR-JUL	29	46	62	67	84	129	92
	APR-SEP	36	55	73	68	97	149	107
Boulder Creek nr Orodell	APR-JUL	33	37	40	87	43	49	46
	APR-SEP	38	42	46	87	50	56	53
South Boulder nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	23	28	33	80	38	47	41
	APR-SEP	26	32	37	81	43	53	46
Big Thompson River at mouth nr Drake	APR-JUL	42	57	69	70	84	113	98
	APR-SEP	55	71	86	74	103	135	117
CACHE LAPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth	APR-JUL	135	164	190	78	220	270	245
	APR-SEP	149	182	210	76	240	295	275

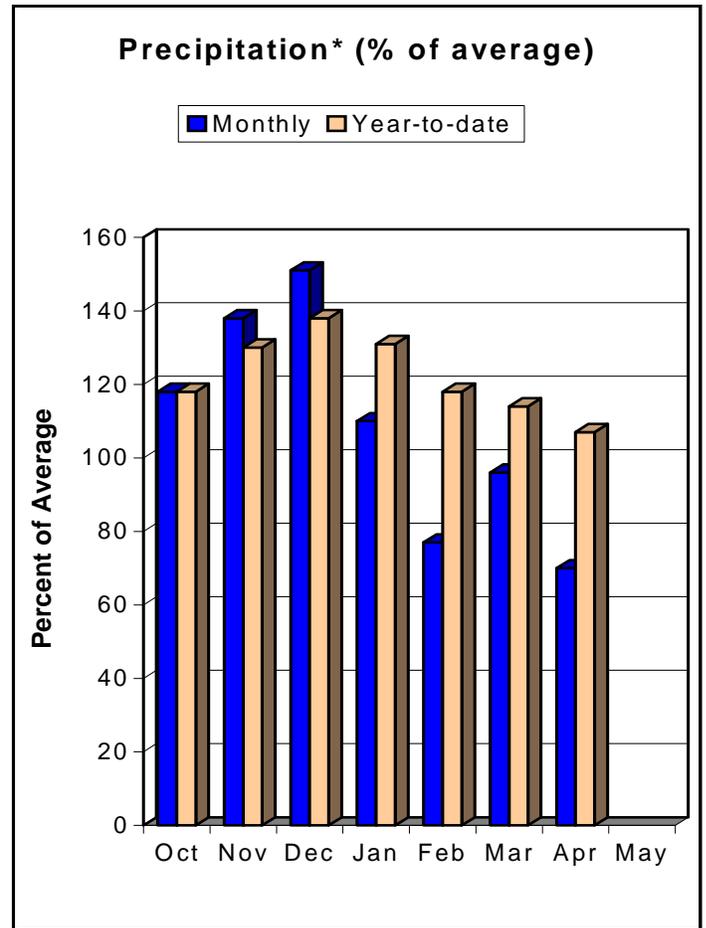
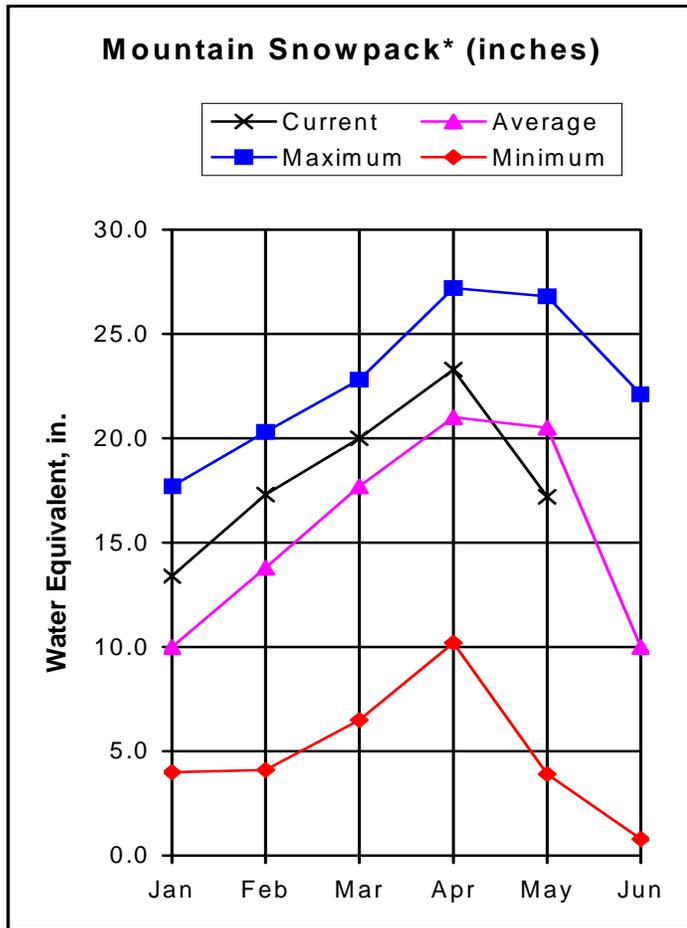
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2006			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	20.0	7.3	1.5	15.7	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	94	67
BARR LAKE	32.0	28.9	30.6	28.6	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	64	62
BLACK HOLLOW	8.0	1.5	1.7	4.2	CACHE LA POUDE BASIN	8	96	70
BOYD LAKE	49.0	27.5	43.4	35.2	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	112	93
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	13.7	15.0	13.2	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	4	98	58
CACHE LA POUDE	10.0	6.1	7.9	8.9	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	15	107	85
CARTER	108.9	84.1	93.9	103.0	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	43	96	74
CHAMBERS LAKE	9.0	4.2	5.1	3.6				
CHEESMAN	79.0	67.3	78.7	64.8				
COBB LAKE	34.0	9.0	3.5	14.2				
ELEVEN MILE	97.8	99.2	98.7	96.4				
EMPIRE	38.0	29.9	33.7	33.0				
FOSSIL CREEK	12.0	8.6	10.3	8.1				
GROSS	41.8	16.0	21.5	20.9				
HALLIGAN	6.4	1.6	3.8	4.8				
HORSECREEK	16.0	13.0	14.7	14.5				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	119.3	123.7	123.0				
JACKSON	35.0	24.8	25.7	30.4				
JULESBURG	28.0	19.7	20.0	21.3				
LAKE LOVELAND	14.0	11.6	8.9	10.1				
LONE TREE	9.0	7.3	8.8	7.9				
MARIANO	6.0	5.3	5.6	5.0				
MARSHALL	10.0	6.3	9.7	7.4				
MARSTON	13.0	7.4	11.6	14.5				
MILTON	24.0	19.6	22.8	19.2				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.0	65.6	66.0	69.8				
PREWITT	28.2	21.1	23.6	25.9				
RIVERSIDE	63.1	47.0	55.6	57.9				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	48.7	37.6	19.9	32.1				
STANDLEY	42.0	33.2	41.2	35.3				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	5.2	5.5	5.7				
UNION	13.0	10.2	12.6	11.7				
WINDSOR	19.0	8.0	11.0	13.6				

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



*Based on selected stations

May 1 snow surveys show the snowpack for the combined Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins is below normal at 84 percent of average. Watershed snowpack percentages ranged from 61 percent of average in the Elk River Basin to 91 percent of average in the Little Snake Basin. This is the eighth time the Laramie and North Platte River basins have seen below average May 1 snowpacks in the last nine years. For the Yampa and White River basins, this is the eight consecutive year of below average May 1 snowpack conditions. SNOTEL data indicates snowpacks in the Laramie and North Platte basins peaked on April 9 at 108 percent of the average peak. This is considerably earlier than the average peak date of April 26. Similarly, the Yampa and White basins peaked on April 8 (five days earlier than normal) at 113 percent of the average peak. Monthly precipitation in the combined basins was below normal at 70 percent of average. Total precipitation, although still above average, dropped from 114 percent of average last month to 107 percent of average this month. Reservoir storage is above normal at 109 percent of average. April-July streamflow forecasts have dropped for almost all the forecast points in the basin, but still call for above average flows at most locations. May-July runoff volumes are expected to range from 88 percent of average for Elkhead Creek near Elkhead and Fortification Creek near Fortification to 112 percent of average for the North Platte River near Northgate.

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

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	MAY-JUL	111	141	165	81	191	230	205
	MAY-SEP	127	163	190	83	220	265	230
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	MAY-JUL	46	70	86	75	102	126	115
	MAY-SEP	51	78	96	76	114	141	127
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	23	28	32	110	37	45	29
	MAY-JUL	12.5	17.7	22	98	27	35	22
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	250	285	305	109	330	365	280
	MAY-JUL	196	230	250	102	270	305	245
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	320	350	375	115	400	435	325
	MAY-JUL	235	265	290	103	315	345	282
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	28	34	39	100	44	52	39
	MAY-JUL	17.6	23	28	88	33	41	32
Elkhead Creek blw Maynard Gulch (2)	APR-JUL	53	62	65	110	75	84	59
	MAY-JUL	28	37	43	90	49	59	48
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	5.60	6.70	7.50	100	8.60	10.39	7.50
	MAY-JUN	1.68	2.60	3.50	88	4.50	6.30	3.99
Yampa River Near Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	890	1010	1100	111	1190	1340	990
	MAY-JUL	615	730	820	98	915	1060	840
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	137	156	170	107	184	210	159
	MAY-JUL	109	128	142	101	157	180	141
Little Snake River nr Dixon	APR-JUL	230	280	320	94	360	430	340
	MAY-JUL	177	230	265	91	305	375	290
Little Snake River nr Lily	APR-JUL	255	310	355	96	400	475	370
	MAY-JUL	198	255	300	97	345	420	310
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	230	275	300	103	330	380	290
	MAY-JUL	179	220	245	94	280	325	260

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

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

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	30.3	29.5	28.1	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	4	93	70
YAMCOLO	9.1	8.5	5.4	7.4	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	12	114	89
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	15	111	87
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	73	61
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	120	86
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	113	82
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	117	84
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	102	91
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	37	108	84					

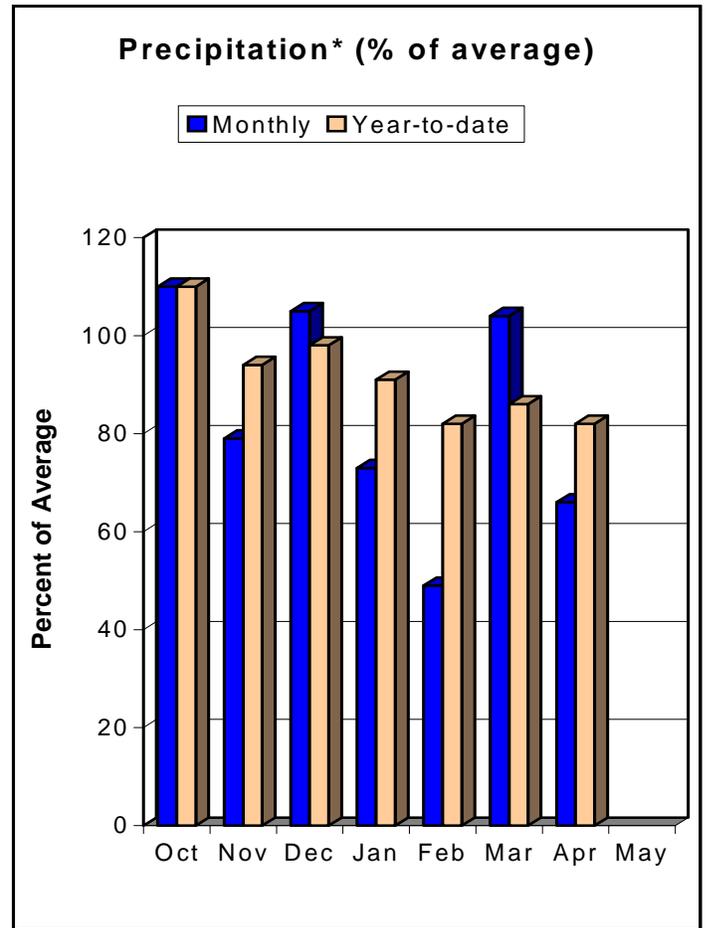
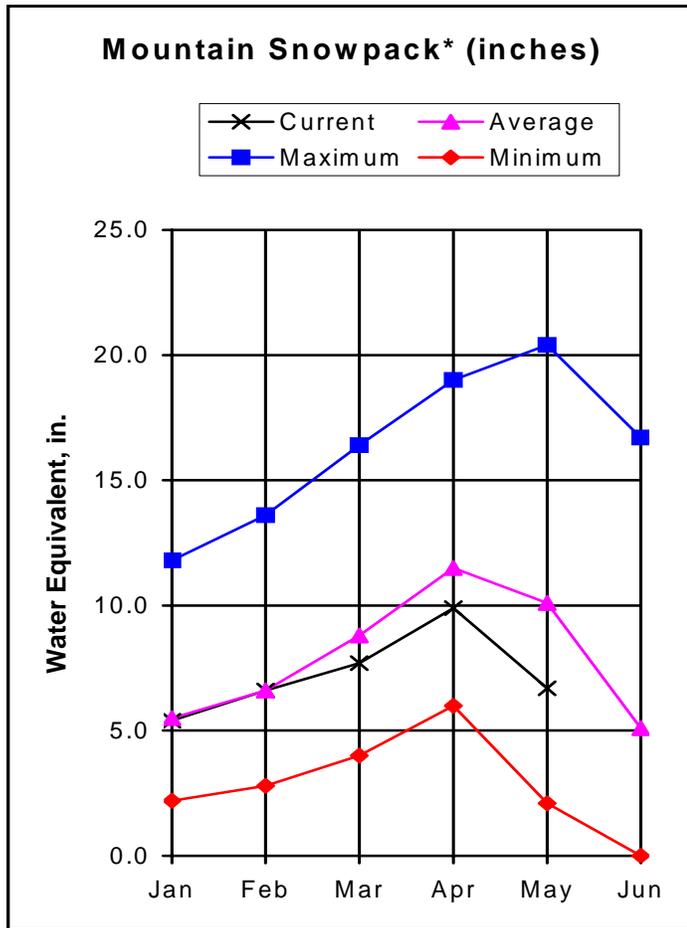
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The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

as of May 1, 2006



*Based on selected stations

Snowpack levels in the Arkansas River basin reached their peak slightly earlier than usual this year. Snowpack levels peaked around April 1, as opposed to the average peak date of April 13. The early peak appears to be a factor in snowpack levels dropping to 66% of average on May 1, down from 86% of average on April 1. The Upper Arkansas, which has carried the Arkansas basin in terms of snowpack, did not seem to be immune to the early melt out. Snow levels in the Upper Arkansas dropped from 99% of average on April 1 to 75% of average on May 1. Help from the Sangre de Cristos appears to be non-existent at this time, as the Cucharas and Huerfano River sub-basins are at 38% of average, and the two measuring sites in the Purgatoire River basin are bare of snow. At 66% of average, April precipitation in the Arkansas Basin was not nearly as strong as in March, and brought the year to date precipitation to 82% of average on May 1, down from 86% of average on April 1. Reservoir levels in the Arkansas River basin remain unchanged from last month at 66% of average as of May 1 and 88% of their levels this time last year based on reports from 13 reservoirs. May through September streamflow volume on the Arkansas reflects snowpack figures. Expect greater flows in the northern and upper reaches of the basin. Flows on the Arkansas at Salida should keep boaters satisfied with 95% of average streamflow; however the Cucharas River should only produce 27% of its average streamflow.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2006

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Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<===== Drier =====>>		=====		>>===== Wetter =====<<		
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Chance Of Exceeding * 50% (1000AF) (% AVG.)		30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Chalk Ck At Nathrop	APR-JUL	10.8	14.7	18.0	78	21	27	23
	MAY-JUL	10.5	14.8	17.9	81	21	27	22
	APR-SEP	13.5	18.6	23	85	27	34	27
	MAY-SEP	13.8	19.0	23	85	27	34	27
Arkansas River At Salida (2)	APR-JUL	186	220	240	94	265	305	255
	MAY-JUL	170	200	225	94	250	285	240
	APR-SEP	225	270	300	97	330	380	310
	MAY-SEP	210	250	285	95	315	365	300
Grape Creek Near Westcliffe	APR-JUL	1.1	3.1	5.2	32	7.9	13.2	16.1
	MAY-JUL	0.5	2.3	4.5	35	7.3	12.5	13.0
	APR-SEP	3.3	6.7	9.7	50	13.3	19.8	19.6
	MAY-SEP	2.6	6.0	9.0	55	12.7	19.2	16.5
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	210	265	315	82	365	445	385
	MAY-JUL	187	248	295	84	345	427	350
	APR-SEP	275	355	415	86	475	575	485
	MAY-SEP	258	336	395	88	458	561	450
Huerfano River Near Redwing	APR-JUL	5.0	5.3	5.7	46	6.6	8.0	12.3
	MAY-JUL	4.0	4.3	4.7	42	5.5	6.9	11.2
	APR-SEP	6.7	7.0	7.2	47	8.4	10.2	15.5
	MAY-SEP	5.7	5.9	6.2	43	7.3	9.1	14.5
Cucharas River At Boyd Ranch Nr La V	APR-JUL	1.8	2.4	2.8	25	3.7	5.2	11.3
	MAY-JUL	0.99	1.48	2.00	20	2.90	4.40	9.90
	APR-SEP	2.5	3.4	4.0	31	5.1	6.9	13.0
	MAY-SEP	1.7	2.6	3.2	27	4.2	6.1	11.7
Trinidad Lake Inflow	MAR-JUL	4.8	6.8	10.0	29	13.9	21	34
	MAY-JUL	3.1	5.1	8.1	28	12.0	18.8	29
	APR-SEP	9.7	11.9	17.0	39	23	34	44
	MAY-SEP	8.4	11.2	16.0	40	22	33	40

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2006			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ADOBE	70.0	18.1	0.0	34.3	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	10	86	75
CLEAR CREEK	11.0	9.1	9.0	6.0	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	22	38
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	1.4	5.1	6.9	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	0	0
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	40.6	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	15	60	66
HOLBROOK	7.0	0.8	1.5	4.7				
HORSE CREEK	28.0	0.0	0.0	11.3				
JOHN MARTIN	335.7	36.4	81.6	123.7				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	6.0	8.5	6.0				
MEREDITH	42.0	16.1	37.7	20.1				
PUEBLO	236.7	152.3	136.6	163.5				
TRINIDAD	72.3	21.3	31.5	29.1				
TURQUOISE	126.6	57.5	71.0	70.8				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	50.6	35.8	41.3				

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

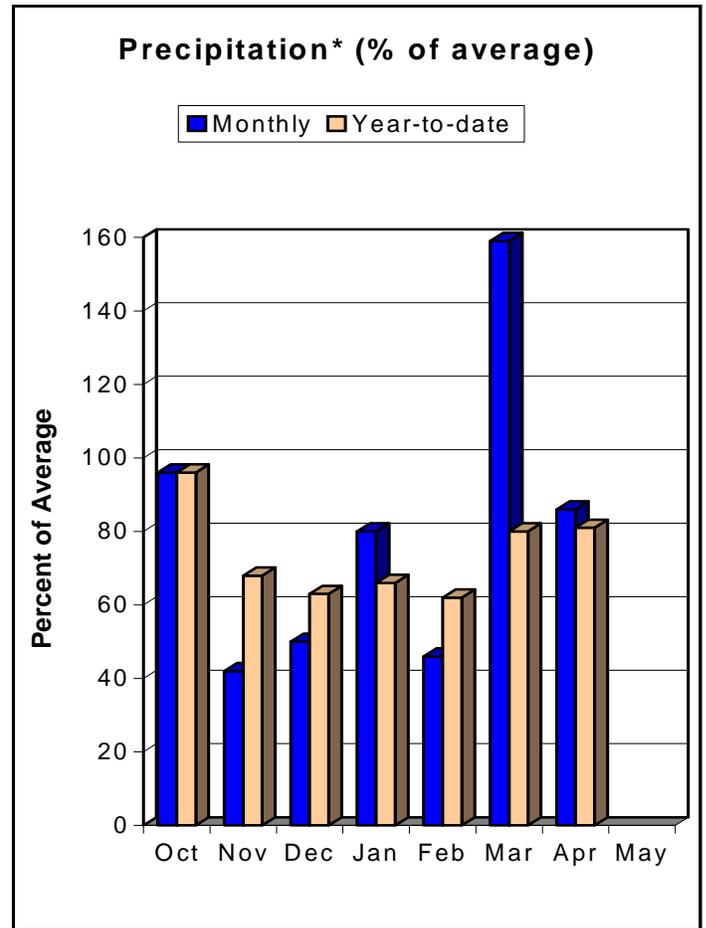
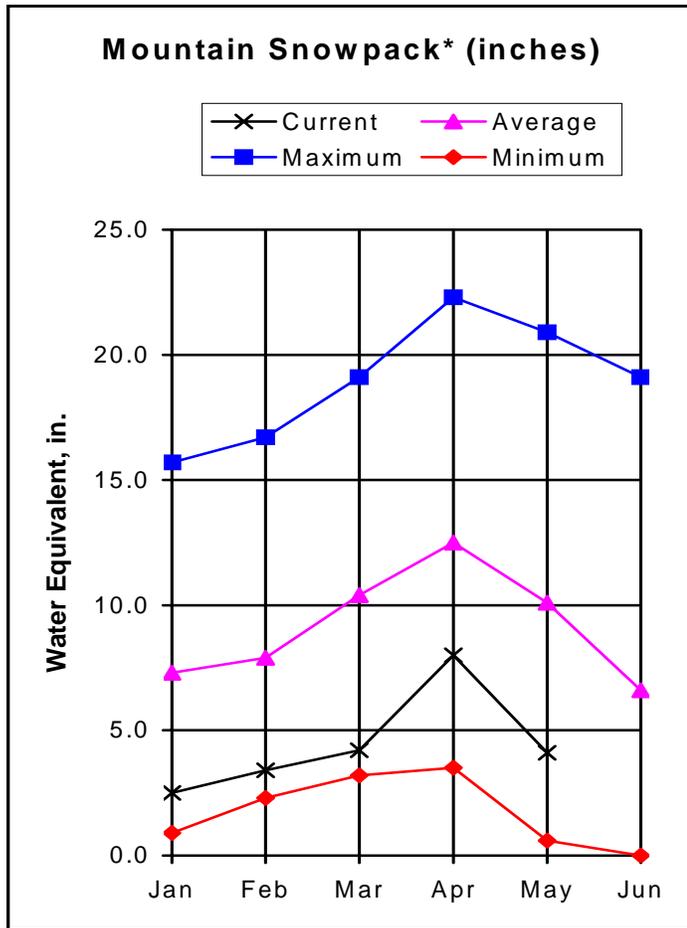
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UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN

as of May 1, 2006



*Based on selected stations

Conditions in the Upper Rio Grande River basin returned to their pre-March state this month. While last month saw 159% of average precipitation, April only saw 86% of its average precipitation and the year to date precipitation remains nearly unchanged from last month at 81% of average. Peak snow accumulation appears to have occurred on April 8, near the average peak accumulation date of April 10, putting us on the melt side of the accumulation curve. At 41% of average and down from 64% of average last month, snow levels are back to where they were before the heavy March storms hit. Like in the neighboring Arkansas River basin, snow levels in the Sangre de Cristos are not contributing to the overall basin snowpack as all five measuring sites in the Culebra and Trinchera sub-basins are free of snow. Reservoir levels in the Upper Rio Grande basin are at 68% of average, down slightly from last month. They are at 122% of their levels this time last year, probably because reservoir levels this time last year were dropped in preparation for the above average runoff that took place. Expect streams to run low throughout the basin this spring and summer, especially along the west slope of the Sangre de Cristos. The highest percent of average flow is expected to be on Saguache Creek near Saguache (76% of average), while low flows in the basin are expected to be on Sangre de Cristo Creek (23% of average, April through September).

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2006

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Rio Grande At Thirty Mile Bridge (2)	APR-SEP	76	88	97	71	107	122	136
	MAY-SEP	66	79	88	68	98	112	129
Rio Grande Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	71	79	86	73	93	105	118
	MAY-JUL	61	70	77	68	84	95	113
Rio Grande At Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	186	220	245	71	275	315	345
	MAY-SEP	151	180	210	65	235	275	322
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	71	79	85	64	92	102	132
	MAY-SEP	53	61	67	56	73	84	120
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	280	325	355	67	390	445	531
	MAY-SEP	225	270	300	61	335	390	491
Saguache Creek nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	16.5	21	25	76	29	36	33
	MAY-SEP	13.3	18.3	22	76	26	33	29
Alamosa Creek Abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	36	42	46	66	50	57	70
	MAY-SEP	31	36	40	64	44	51	63
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	4.00	4.60	5.10	59	5.70	6.70	8.70
	MAY-JUL	1.48	2.10	2.60	44	3.20	4.20	5.90
Trinchera Creek abv Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	3.2	4.2	5.7	48	7.3	9.7	12.0
	MAY-SEP	2.50	3.50	5.00	54	6.60	9.00	9.30
Sangre de Cristo Creek	APR-SEP	0.79	1.50	2.00	23	4.00	7.00	8.80
	MAY-SEP	0.34	1.03	1.55	27	3.50	6.50	5.70
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	2.9	4.1	5.1	42	6.2	8.3	12.2
	MAY-SEP	2.4	3.6	4.6	41	5.8	7.9	11.1
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	35	39	42	66	46	51	64
	MAY-JUL	31	36	39	70	43	48	56
	APR-SEP	38	43	47	66	50	56	71
	MAY-SEP	35	40	43	69	47	53	62
Conejos River Near Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	112	126	136	68	148	164	200
	MAY-SEP	94	107	118	64	130	146	185
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	3.8	4.4	5.1	31	5.9	7.5	16.4
	MAY-SEP	1.4	2.1	2.8	26	3.5	4.9	10.7
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	29	33	37	50	41	47	74
	MAY-SEP	17.0	21	25	40	29	35	63
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	5.5	6.7	8.0	35	10.1	14.3	23
	MAY-SEP	4.4	5.5	6.8	32	9.0	13.0	21
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	4.8	5.7	5.7	54	6.7	8.4	10.6
	MAY-JUL	3.40	4.30	4.30	49	5.30	7.00	8.80
Costilla Creek Near Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	6.5	8.3	9.8	38	11.7	15.1	26
	MAY-JUL	2.8	4.7	6.3	31	8.1	11.6	20

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

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

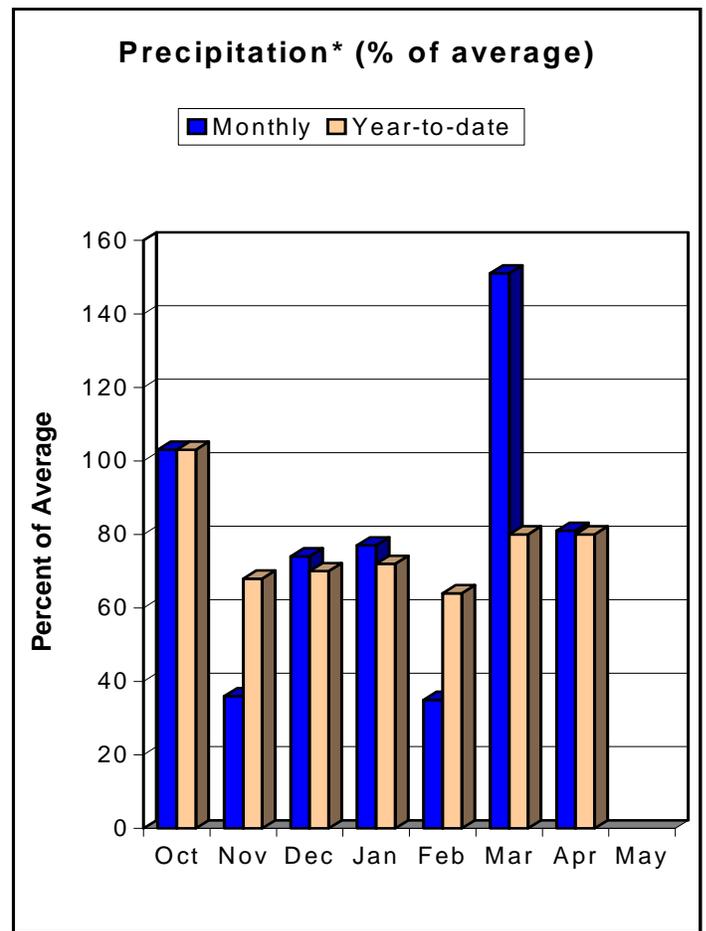
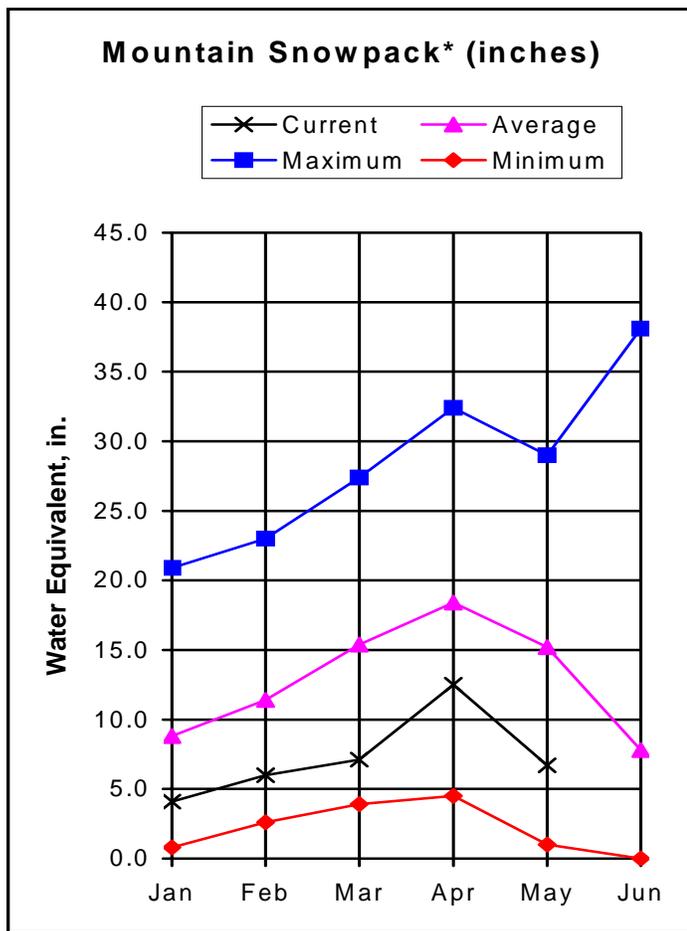
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	15.0	3.1	5.8	6.6	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	40	48
PLATORO	53.7	5.3	4.5	23.3	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	38	48
RIO GRANDE	51.0	22.1	18.8	21.4	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	0	0
SANCHEZ	103.0	21.1	12.4	25.8	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	35	47
SANTA MARIA	45.0	7.5	5.2	11.1	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	29	41
TERRACE	13.1	6.0	6.6	7.8				

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



*Based on selected stations

The exceptional conditions seen in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins continued from March through the first week of April but then reverted back to the warm, dry conditions the basins have exhibited for most of the year. SNOTEL data indicates the combined basins peaked on April 8 with only 79 percent of the average peak. May 1 snow surveys show the combined basin snowpack at 44 percent of average. This is only one-third of the snowpack available a year ago. This also represents the seventh below average year in the last eight years. Snowpack conditions in the individual watersheds ranged from 26 percent of average in the San Miguel River Basin to 55 percent of average in the San Juan River Basin. Mountain precipitation during April was below normal at 80 percent of average. This year's monthly totals are 17 percent less than the April total reported last year at this time. Water year precipitation totals are 80 percent of average and only 64 percent of the 2005 totals from one year ago. Reservoir storage at the end of April is 12 percent over the average storage and 14 percent higher than the stored water available last year. Forecasts continue to call for well below average spring and summer runoff throughout the combined basins. April-July streamflow volumes are expected to range from 50 percent of average for the Navajo Reservoir Inflow to 68 percent of average for the Animas River at Durango and the La Plata River at Hesperus.

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

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions				Wetter		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Drier		50%		30%	10%	
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	Chance Of Exceeding * (1000AF) (% AVG.)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	117	135	150	57	167	193	265
	MAY-JUL	79	99	114	52	130	158	220
McPhee Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	138	160	175	55	192	220	320
	MAY-JUL	91	114	130	50	148	177	260
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	63	75	85	64	95	112	132
	MAY-JUL	50	62	72	62	82	99	117
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	MAY-JUL	4.9	7.3	9.0	61	10.7	13.1	14.8
	MAY			6.00	68			8.83
	JUNE			2.50	54			4.67
	JULY			0.50	38			1.32
Cone Reservoir Inlet	MAY-JUL	1.18	1.52	1.75	57	1.98	2.32	3.06
	MAY			1.00	61			1.64
	JUNE			0.60	58			1.04
	JULY			0.15	40			0.38
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	MAY-JUL	0.48	1.03	1.40	57	1.77	2.28	2.45
	MAY			0.80	61			1.32
	JUNE			0.50	58			0.87
	JULY			0.10	37			0.27
Rio Blanco At Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	27	31	34	64	37	42	53
	MAY-JUL	17.5	22	25	56	28	33	45
	APR-JUL	34	34	34	64	34	34	53
Navajo River At Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	33	38	42	61	46	53	69
	MAY-JUL	24	28	33	57	37	44	58
San Juan River Near Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	210	235	255	63	275	310	405
	MAY-JUL	150	176	194	60	215	245	325
Piedra River near Arboles	APR-JUL	94	108	120	52	131	152	230
	MAY-JUL	60	74	85	49	97	117	172
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	105	117	125	61	135	150	205
	MAY-JUL	81	92	101	55	110	127	184
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	305	355	390	50	430	500	785
	MAY-JUL	188	237	275	44	317	386	630
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	240	275	300	68	330	375	440
	MAY-JUL	182	218	245	63	274	321	390
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	27	30	33	57	36	41	58
	MAY-JUL	20	24	27	51	30	34	53
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	13.5	15.5	17.0	68	18.5	21	25
	MAY-JUL	9.7	11.6	13.0	62	14.5	17.2	21
Mancos River nr Mancos	APR-JUL	6.7	15.2	21	53	27	35	40
	MAY			10.0	63			15.9
	JUNE			4.5	33			13.7
	JULY			1.00	22			4.60

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

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

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
GROUNDHOG	21.7	18.9	0.1	14.2	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	9	36	47
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	7.8	9.2	7.4	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	6	24	29
LEMON	40.0	28.8	13.6	23.4	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	23	26
MCPHEE	381.2	313.1	345.0	304.6	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	37	55
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	19.0	18.7	17.1	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	23	33	44
VALLECITO	126.0	102.0	43.7	70.3	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 National Resources Conservation Service web page at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/westwide.html>.

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