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Department of  
Agriculture

**Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service**

# Colorado Basin Outlook Report May 1, 2007



# 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, 2007

#### Summary

Snowpack totals reached their maximum accumulation during April across most of Colorado. Although the timing for peak accumulation was very close to normal, the accumulations were sub par throughout most basins. The lowest totals, as a percent of average, continue to be measured across the western basins. Expected streamflow volumes for the spring and summer continue to track at below average volumes in most basins, especially along the western slope. In some locations, which have experienced a dry winter, significant late-summer shortages can be expected this year. Reservoir storage continues to improve across the state. For those water users who can rely upon upstream storage, some relief may be available as reservoirs are in good condition in most basins.

#### Snowpack

For most of the state, weather patterns during April brought several good storm periods intermixed with warm and dry conditions. As a result, most basins ended the month with nearly the same amount of snow water equivalent as they began the month with. Only the South Platte basin gained in snowpack accumulation throughout the month. As a percent of average, statewide snowpack decreased for the second consecutive month, and is now only 68% of average, down slightly from last month's 75% of average. April snowfall was below average west of the Continental Divide, and has resulted in snowpack percentages well below average in most of those basins. Below average totals were measured across most of the remainder of the state, with the only exceptions being some smaller watersheds along the Front Range. The lowest snowpack percentage was reported in the Yampa and White basins which declined to only 42% of average, the lowest percentage since 2002 when snowpack readings were only 32% of average. Other basins with well below average snowpack readings include the San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins at only 52% of average. According to daily SNOTEL data, only two basins in Colorado approached or exceeded their normal peak snowpack levels during April. Those include the Arkansas, which accumulated 100% of the average seasonal maximum, and the South Platte, which reached 110% of the average seasonal maximum during April.

#### Precipitation

April's precipitation was slightly below average across most of the state. Most basins reported monthly totals that range from 90% to 100% of average for the month. The exceptions were in the Yampa, White and North Platte basins where only 66% of average precipitation was reported. In addition, the Arkansas and Rio Grande basins reported precipitation totals of 122% and 132% of average, respectively. Statewide precipitation for all SNOTEL sites was 95% of average for April. For most of the state, this month's precipitation was well above that measured during April of 2006, with totals exceeding 150% of last year recorded in the Rio Grande, Arkansas and South Platte basins. For the water year, which began on October 1, 2006, most of the state is reporting totals of 90% to 100% of average, with the lowest of 83% of average reported in the Yampa, White and North Platte. Meanwhile, both the South Platte and Rio Grande are reporting the highest totals, at 103% of average.

## Reservoir Storage

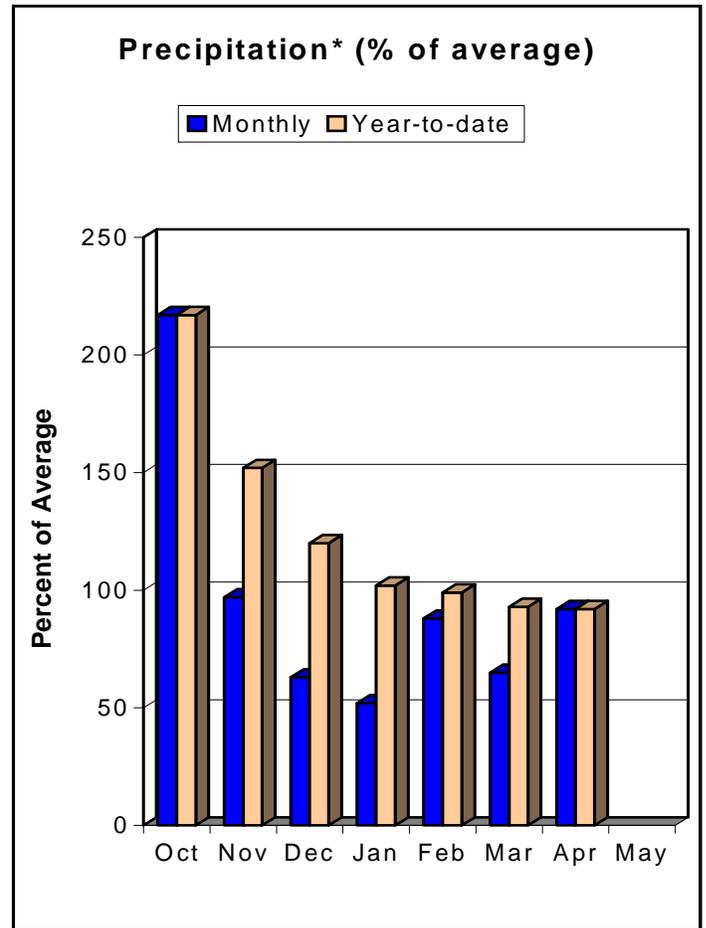
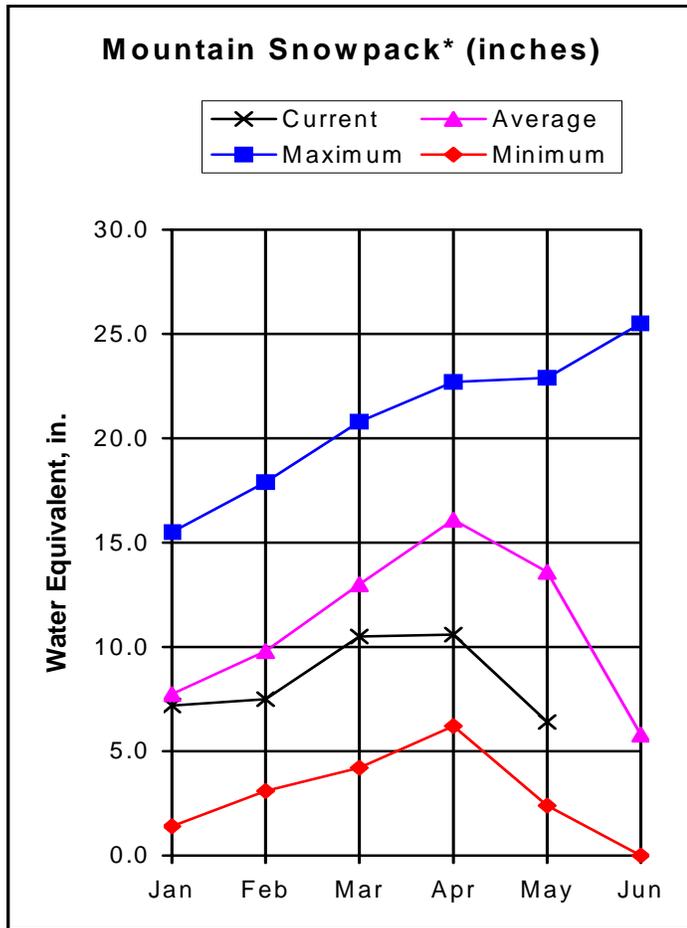
Reservoir storage continues to improve across Colorado. Statewide storage volumes have reached 106% of average and are 106% of last year's storage on this date. Fortunately for water users on the Western Slope, reservoir storage is above average in all basins. The highest percent of average storage is reported in the Gunnison basin, at 126% of average, closely followed by the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins at 120% of average. In comparison to last year's storage at this time, all basins except the Gunnison are storing more volumes than last year; and the highest percent of last year is recorded in the Arkansas basin, at 141% of last year. The current statewide volume exceeds the average by slightly more than 200,000 acre-feet. The last time the statewide volume reached this level was in May 2001. This additional surplus water will provide welcome relief to late-summer supplies which are certain to diminish in most basins.

## Streamflow

After taking considerable declines a month ago from a dry March, this month's runoff forecasts saw only slight adjustments from last month's forecasts. The overall trend continues, with below average volumes forecast for nearly the entire state this spring and summer. The lowest volumes, which range from about 50% to 60% of average, occur in portions of the Yampa, Gunnison and Dolores basins. For most of the state, forecasts range from 60% to 80% of average. Near average runoff is forecast only in portions of the South Platte, Arkansas, and upper Colorado basins. At this time of year, any significant improvements to these volumes are unlikely. Certainly a cool and wet spring will benefit water users in extending the melt into the later summer season. That, coupled with the good reservoir storage across most of the state, will help water users make the most from a mediocre water year.

# GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

## as of May 1, 2007



\*Based on selected stations

A week of melt followed by a week of accumulation left the Gunnison River Basin with essentially no net gain in snow water content by the middle of April. During the latter half of the month, the basin experienced a significant amount of snow melt, especially during the last few days of the month. SNOTEL data indicates that this year's peak snowpack occurred on April 14. This year's peak was 71 percent of the average peak snowpack. May 1 snow surveys show the basin currently at 47 percent of average (down from last month's 66 percent of average figure) and 83 percent of the snowpacks present a year ago. This is the second lowest percent of average figure for May 1 since 1992 (only May 2002 snowpacks were lower). Sub-basin snowpacks range from 43 percent of average in the Surface Creek Watershed to 55 percent of average in the Uncompahgre Drainage. At 92 percent of average, precipitation in the high country was below average for the sixth consecutive month. The lower than normal April precipitation caused the total precipitation for the water year to drop slightly to 92 percent of average. Reservoir storage at the end of April was 126 percent of average. This is 5 percent less than the amount of stored water available at the end of April 2006. Well below average runoff is expected throughout most of the basin. May-July volumes are forecast to range from 32 percent of average for the Inflow to Paonia Reservoir to 86 percent of average for Lake Fork at Gateview.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2007

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	45	57	65	63	74	87	103
	MAY-JUL	37	48	57	60	66	79	95
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	47	53	58	65	62	70	89
	MAY-JUL	38	44	49	61	54	61	80
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	90	107	120	63	132	150	192
	MAY-JUL	70	87	100	56	112	130	178
Gunnison River near Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	150	188	220	56	250	295	390
	MAY-JUL	115	155	185	52	215	260	355
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	14.0	17.8	21	66	24	29	32
	MAY-JUL	10.3	14.1	17.0	61	20	25	28
Cochetopa Creek Blw Rock Ck Nr Parli	APR-JUL	7.6	10.0	12.0	69	14.4	18.6	17.3
	MAY-JUL	4.6	7.0	9.0	69	11.4	15.6	13.1
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	25	33	40	49	49	63	81
	MAY-JUL	18.2	27	34	50	42	57	68
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	92	102	110	87	118	130	126
	MAY-JUL	84	94	102	86	110	122	119
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	345	405	445	62	490	565	720
	MAY-JUL	280	340	380	59	425	500	645
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	48	54	59	59	65	75	100
	MAY-JUN	13.0	19.0	24	32	30	40	75
	APR-JUL	36	42	48	47	54	65	102
	MAY-JUL	13.9	21	26	32	32	44	82
North Fork Gunnison R Nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	124	148	170	56	190	220	305
	MAY-JUL	72	98	118	45	138	170	260
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	6.8	7.9	8.8	52	9.8	11.4	17.1
	MAY-JUL	3.5	4.6	5.5	37	6.5	8.1	14.9
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	63	74	82	80	91	106	102
	MAY-JUL	53	64	72	78	81	96	92
Uncompahgre River At Colona (2)	APR-JUL	75	92	105	76	120	144	139
	MAY-JUL	59	76	89	72	104	128	123
Gunnison River Nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	505	740	900	58	1060	1290	1560
	MAY-JUL	285	520	680	51	840	1070	1340

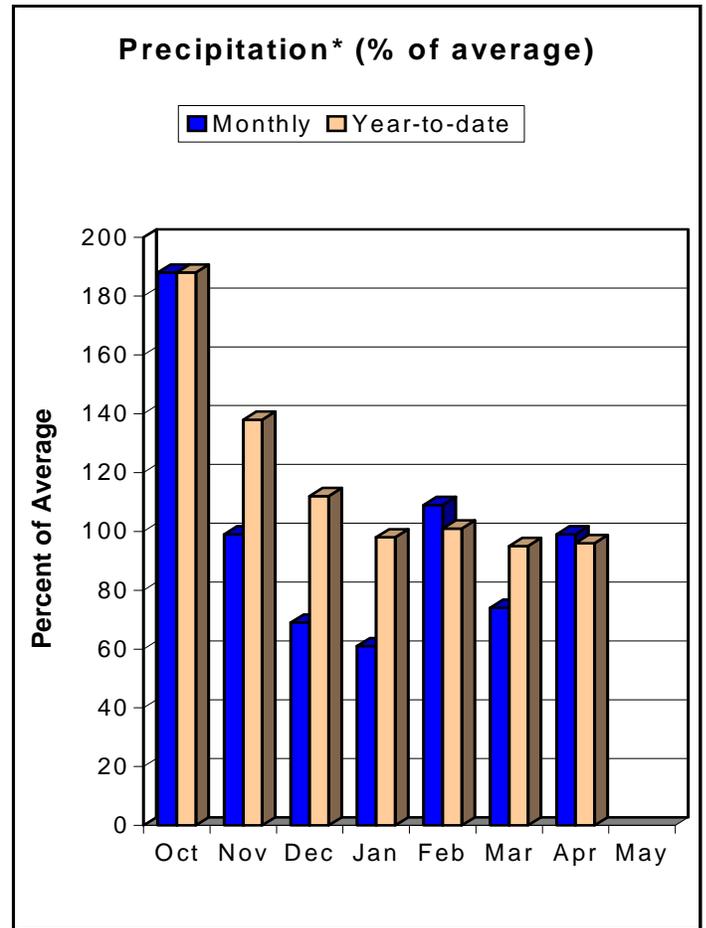
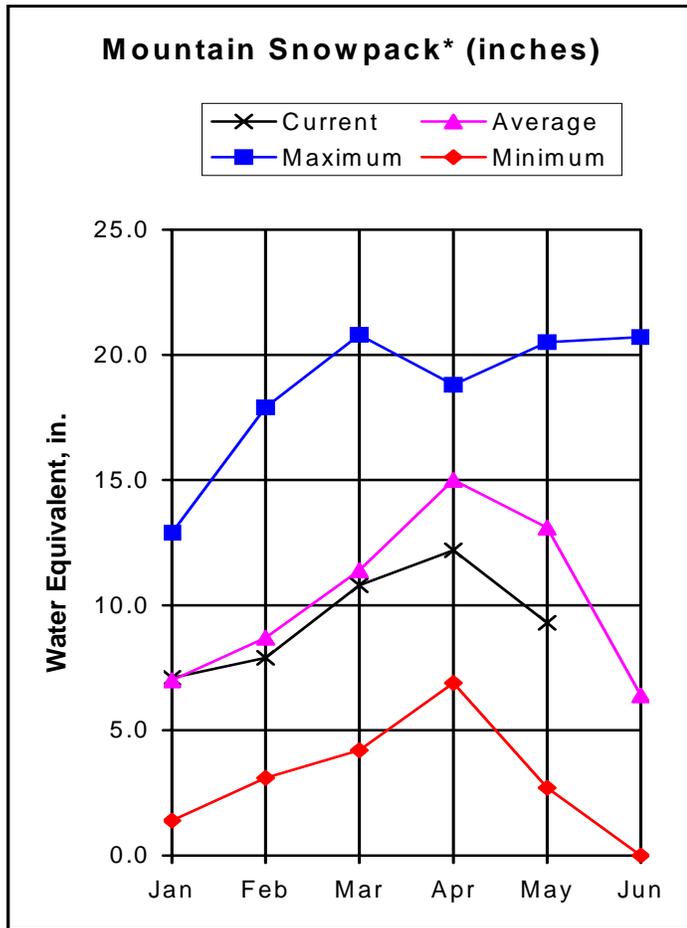
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2007			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
BLUE MESA	830.0	532.8	602.1	404.7	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	73	45
CRAWFORD	14.0	14.3	14.0	12.1	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	64	43
FRUITGROWERS	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.1	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	151	55
FRUITLAND	9.2	9.2	5.8	4.9	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASI	19	83	47
MORROW POINT	121.0	111.8	108.8	113.4				
PAONIA	15.4	10.2	1.1	7.4				
RIDGWAY	83.0	73.3	76.1	57.9				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	82.8	74.1	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, 2007



\*Based on selected stations

Intermittent storms during the first part of April helped stave off any significant melting and actually increased the snowpack in the Colorado River Basin. However, the latter part of the month saw the melt processes kick into gear, especially during the last few days of the month when temperatures soared. SNOTEL data indicates the snowpack reached its peak on April 14. This year's peak snowpack was 85 percent of the average peak. May 1 snow surveys indicate that the snowpack in the basin is 71 percent of average (90 percent of the basin snowpacks present on May 1, 2006). This is a drop from last month's 81 percent of average figure. This also represents the ninth below average May 1 snowpack in the last ten years. Watershed snowpacks within the basin cover the entire spectrum, ranging from 36 percent of average in the Muddy Creek Drainage to 108 percent of average in the Williams Fork Watershed. At 99 percent of average, mountain precipitation was just slightly below normal for April. Total precipitation for the water year remains below normal at 96 percent of average. Reservoir storage in the basin is 107 percent of average and just slightly above the amount of stored water available last year at this time. Streamflows in the basin are expected to be mostly below normal. Runoff volumes during the May-July period are forecast to range from 40 percent of average for Muddy Creek below Wolford Mountain Reservoir to 97 percent of average for the Inflow to Dillon Reservoir.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2007

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions					30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		<<==== Drier =====		===== Wetter =====>>			
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
		Chance Of Exceeding *					
				50% (% AVG.)			
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	160	180	195	87	210	225
	MAY-JUL	144	164	179	83	194	215
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	35	41	45	88	50	51
	MAY-JUL	30	36	40	85	45	47
Williams Fork Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	68	77	85	90	91	95
	MAY-JUL	59	68	75	84	82	89
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	136	153	165	99	178	167
	MAY-JUL	124	141	153	97	166	158
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	220	250	270	96	290	280
	MAY-JUL	200	230	250	94	270	265
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	21	25	30	50	33	60
	MAY-JUL	12.3	17.1	21	40	25	52
Eagle River below Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	210	245	270	81	300	335
	MAY-JUL	183	220	245	78	275	315
Colorado River Near Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	995	1150	1250	87	1360	1440
	MAY-JUL	865	1010	1120	84	1230	1330
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	87	100	110	78	120	141
	MAY-JUL	77	90	100	75	110	134
Roaring Fork At Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	400	460	500	70	545	710
	MAY-JUL	340	400	440	66	485	665
Colorado River Near Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	1380	1690	1900	79	2110	2420
	MAY-JUL	1150	1460	1670	75	1880	2220

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

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN  
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2007

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
DILLON	250.7	239.1	223.6	212.8	BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	95	95
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	211.8	242.1	259.5	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	37	95	81
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	62.6	63.5	54.3	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	44	36
HOMESTAKE	43.0	29.4	16.4	16.8	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	64	43
RUEDI	102.0	71.2	65.5	59.7	ROARING FORK BASIN	8	76	45
VEGA	32.9	26.5	30.2	16.6	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	104	108
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	80.1	74.2	55.3	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	118	74
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	6.2	6.9	5.9	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASIN	48	90	71

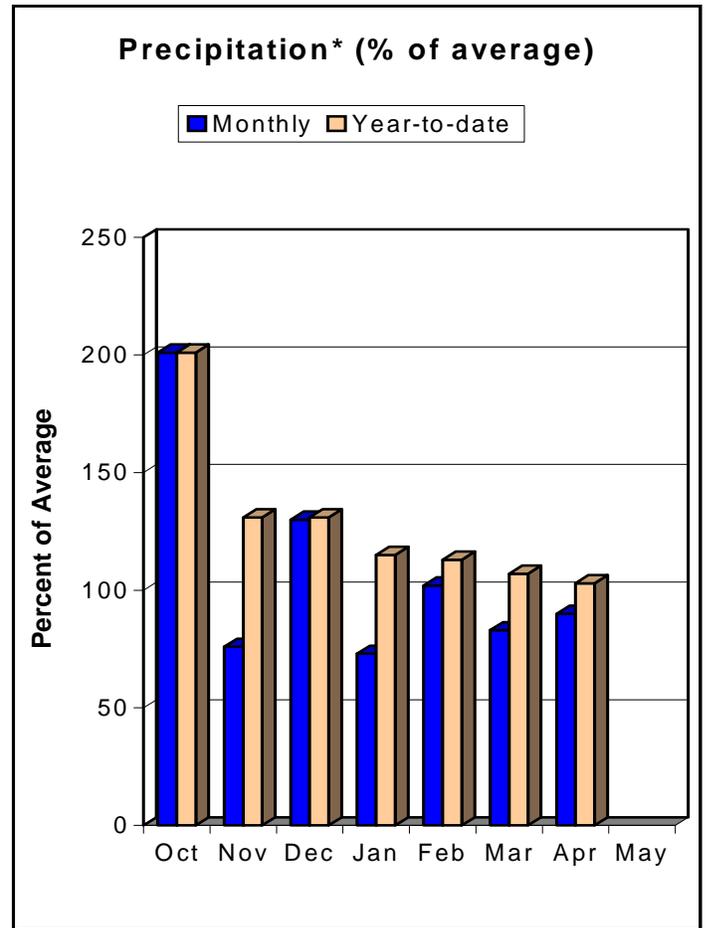
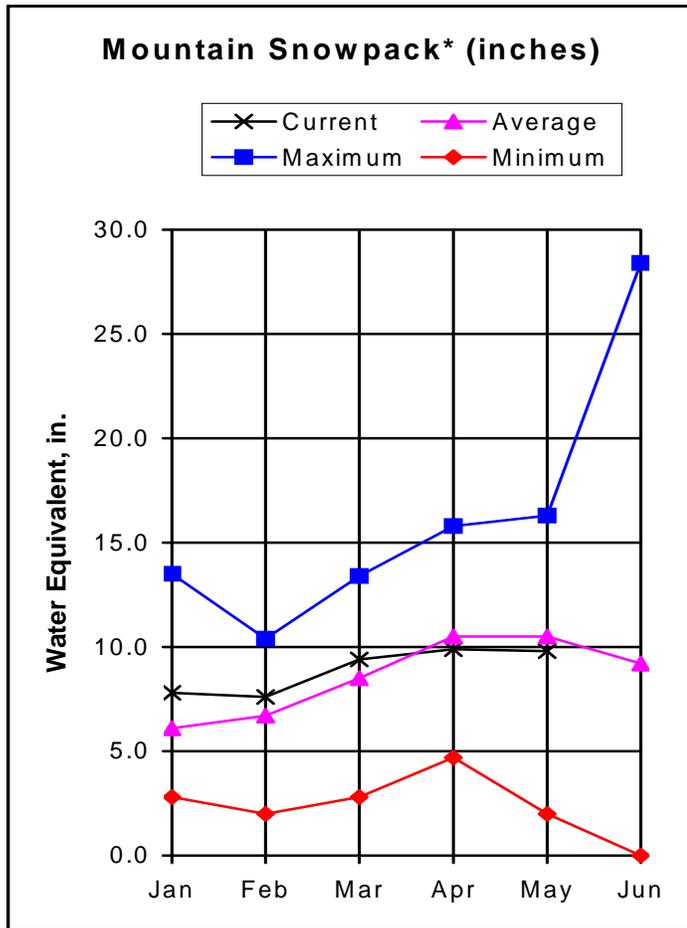
\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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 May 1, 2007



\*Based on selected stations

With very little accumulation during March, visions of last year's quick melt began to surface in water user's minds. However, a slight rebound in snow accumulation and precipitation during April is helping to ease some worries. Instead of another sharp drop in snow levels, conditions during April kept basin wide snowpack numbers similar to those from last month at 93% of average. Thanks to some heavy snows late in the month, snowpack in the Upper South Platte sub-basin jumped from 94% of average last month to 112% of average this month and snowpack in the Clear Creek sub-basin jumped from 94% of average last month to 108% of average this month. The Big Thompson, Cache la Poudre, and St. Vrain sub-basins continued their decline and remain below average. Mountain precipitation for April in the South Platte River Basin on the whole was slightly below average at 90% of average but year to date precipitation remains barely above average at 103% of average, down slightly from 107% of average last month. Based on reports from 33 reservoirs, reservoir storage in the South Platte is at 94% of average and 104% of the storage at this time last year. Expect near average May through September streamflow volumes (95% to 105% of average) in the Boulder Creek and Clear Creek drainages, slightly above average flows on Bear Creek, and below average flows on the Upper South Platte, Big Thompson, and Cache la Poudre drainages.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2007

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)
Antero Reservoir inflow	APR-JUL	7.9	10.2	12.4	74	15.0	19.5	16.8				
	APR-SEP	9.7	12.8	15.3	70	18.7	25	22				
	MAY-JUL	7.4	9.9	11.9	77	14.5	18.9	15.4				
Spinney Mountain Reservoir inflow	MAY-SEP	9.0	12.0	14.8	74	17.6	24	20				
	APR-JUL	32	41	48	86	57	73	56				
	APR-SEP	38	49	59	86	71	92	69				
Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir inflow	MAY-JUL	29	38	45	88	54	69	51				
	MAY-SEP	35	46	56	88	67	89	64				
	APR-JUL	33	42	49	85	58	74	58				
Cheesman Lake inflow	APR-SEP	39	51	61	85	73	96	72				
	MAY-JUL	31	40	47	89	56	72	53				
	MAY-SEP	36	48	58	87	70	93	67				
South Platte River at South Platte	APR-JUL	70	89	106	93	127	166	114				
	APR-SEP	83	106	129	92	155	210	140				
	MAY-JUL	54	73	90	89	111	152	101				
Bear Creek abv Evergreen	MAY-SEP	66	91	113	89	140	193	127				
	APR-JUL	137	172	205	100	245	320	205				
	APR-SEP	166	210	250	98	300	390	255				
Bear Creek at Morrison	MAY-JUL	98	135	167	92	205	285	182				
	MAY-SEP	124	170	210	91	260	350	230				
	APR-JUL	14.9	19.7	24	124	30	41	19.3				
Clear Creek at Golden	APR-SEP	18.5	25	30	120	37	50	25				
	MAY-JUL	11.1	15.7	20	116	25	37	17.3				
	MAY-SEP	14.7	21	26	113	33	46	23				
St. Vrain Creek at Lyons	APR-JUL	14.0	23	31	124	42	64	25				
	APR-SEP	16.7	27	37	119	50	75	31				
	MAY-JUL	7.8	16.6	25	119	36	58	21				
Boulder Creek nr Orodell	MAY-SEP	10.5	21	31	115	44	69	27				
	APR-JUL	83	97	108	98	120	141	110				
	APR-SEP	101	117	130	97	145	169	134				
South Boulder nr Eldorado Spgs	MAY-JUL	78	92	103	98	116	135	105				
	MAY-SEP	95	113	125	98	140	164	128				
	APR-JUL	66	77	86	92	96	112	94				
Big Thompson River at mouth nr Drake	APR-SEP	78	90	101	93	112	130	109				
	MAY-JUL	59	70	79	91	89	105	87				
	MAY-SEP	73	85	95	93	106	124	102				
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth	APR-JUL	44	49	53	102	57	65	52				
	APR-SEP	50	56	61	102	66	75	60				
	MAY-JUL	40	45	49	100	53	61	49				
Big Thompson River at mouth nr Drake	MAY-SEP	46	52	57	100	62	71	57				
	APR-JUL	32	38	42	102	47	55	41				
	APR-SEP	35	41	46	101	51	59	46				
Big Thompson River at mouth nr Drake	MAY-JUL	29	34	38	100	42	50	38				
	MAY-SEP	33	39	43	102	48	56	42				
	APR-JUL	64	77	87	88	98	118	99				
Big Thompson River at mouth nr Drake	APR-SEP	79	93	105	88	118	140	119				
	MAY-JUL	58	71	81	85	92	112	95				
	MAY-SEP	72	86	98	86	111	135	114				
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth	APR-JUL	142	169	189	77	210	250	245				
	APR-SEP	157	187	210	76	235	280	275				
	MAY-JUL	129	155	175	75	197	240	235				
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth	MAY-SEP	143	174	196	75	220	265	260				

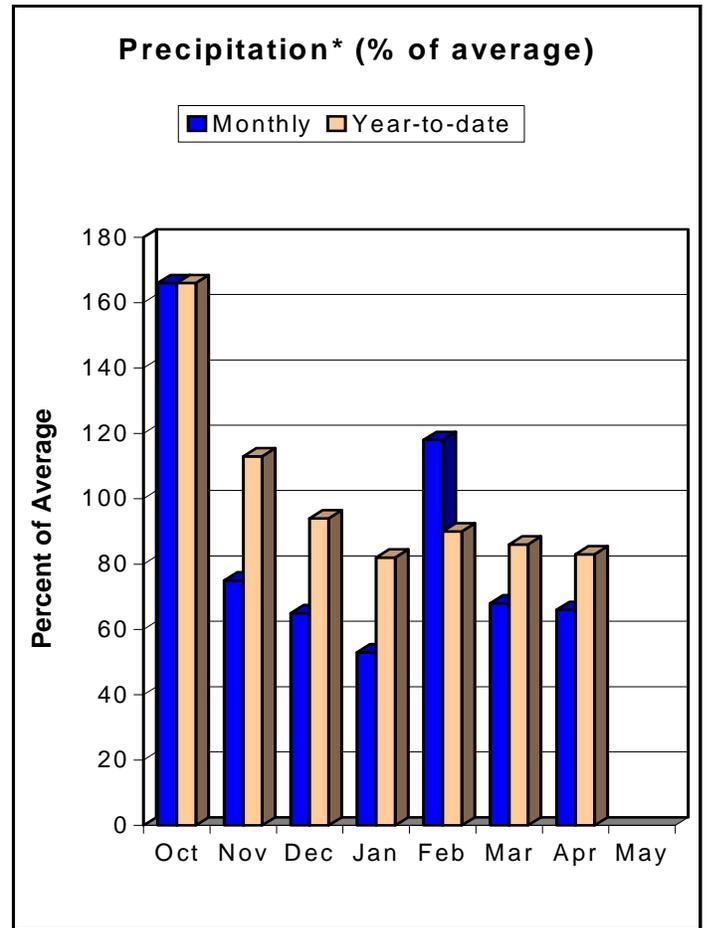
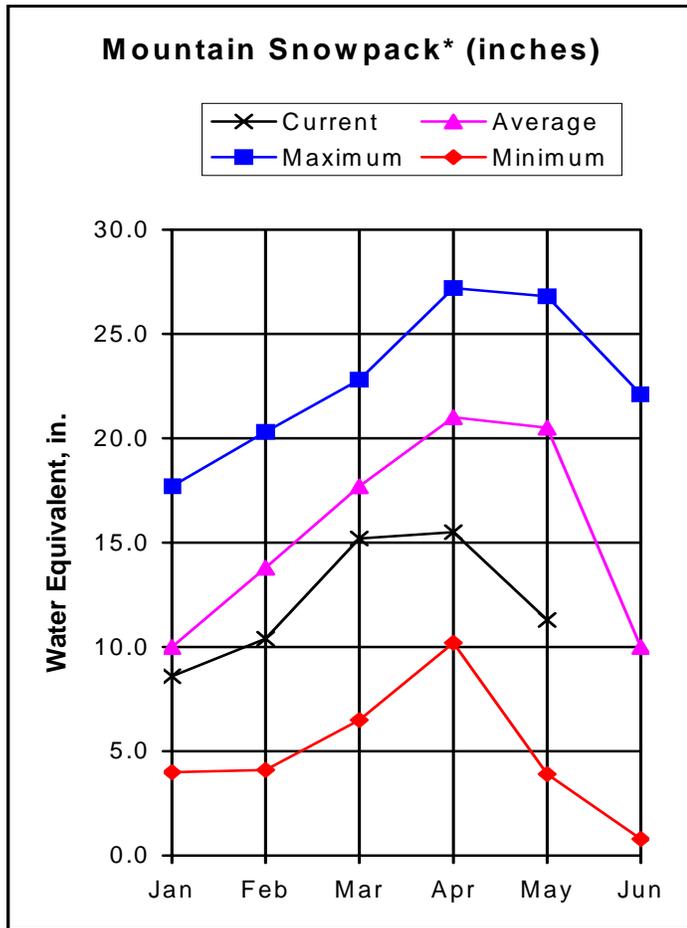
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2007			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	*** Avg	Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	% of Average
ANTERO	19.9	18.3	7.3	15.7	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	127	86
BARR LAKE	32.0	31.0	28.9	28.6	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	170	105
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	2.3	1.5	4.2	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	8	116	83
BOYD LAKE	44.0	17.6	27.5	35.2	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	116	108
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	12.2	13.7	13.2	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	4	97	57
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.1	9.5	6.1	8.9	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	15	131	112
CARTER	108.9	77.7	84.1	103.0	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	43	126	93
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	1.8	4.2	3.6				
CHEESMAN	79.0	78.7	67.3	64.8				
COBB LAKE	22.3	3.4	9.0	14.2				
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	80.0	99.2	96.4				
EMPIRE	36.5	36.5	29.9	33.0				
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	10.5	8.6	8.1				
GROSS	42.0	25.1	16.0	20.9				
HALLIGAN	6.0	4.2	1.6	4.8				
HORSECREEK	14.7	14.0	13.0	14.5				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	114.8	119.3	123.0				
JACKSON	26.1	26.1	24.8	30.4				
JULESBURG	20.5	20.4	19.7	21.3				
LAKE LOVELAND	14.0	10.9	11.6	10.1				
LONE TREE	9.0	8.6	7.3	7.9				
MARIANO	6.0	5.4	5.3	5.0				
MARSHALL	10.0	9.6	6.3	7.4				
MARSTON	13.0	12.8	7.4	14.5				
MILTON	24.0	21.9	19.6	19.2				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	71.0	65.6	69.8				
PREWITT	28.2	24.6	21.1	25.9				
RIVERSIDE	55.8	53.5	47.0	57.9				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	35.9	37.6	32.1				
STANDLEY	42.0	41.2	33.2	35.3				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	6.0	5.2	5.7				
UNION	13.0	11.8	10.2	11.7				
WINDSOR	19.0	2.5	8.0	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.
- (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 May 1, 2007



\*Based on selected stations

Snowpacks in the Yampa and White basins experienced some accumulation during the second week of April but it was not enough to make up what had melted away during the first week of the month. Snowpacks have been steadily on the decline ever since, with increased melt rates at the end of the month. SNOTEL data indicates the Yampa and White river basins reached their peak on March 13 (about a month earlier than normal) at 72 percent of the average peak. The Laramie and North Platte basins fared a little better, showing some improvement in the snowpack by mid-month. SNOTEL data indicates the Laramie and North Platte basins reached their peak on April 14 at 78 percent of the average peak. Overall, snowpacks in the combined basins, based on the May 1 snow surveys, is at 55 percent of average, down from 74 percent of average on April 1. Snowpack percentages in the sub-basins range from 32 percent of average in the Elk River Drainage to 78 percent of average in the Laramie River Watershed. Mountain precipitation during April was well below the norm at only 66 percent of average (the lowest in the state). Year-to-date precipitation dropped to 83 percent of average. Stagecoach and Yamcolo reservoirs are both above normal and expected to fill in May. Forecasts call for below to well below average runoff at all forecast points in the basin. May-July volumes are predicted to range from 42 percent of average for Elkhead Creek below Maynard Gulch to 78 percent of average for the Laramie River near Woods.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2007

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90% (1000AF)		70% (1000AF)		50% (1000AF) (% AVG.)			30% (1000AF)		10% (1000AF)	
		Chance Of Exceeding *										
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	9.8	12.6	15.0	52	17.9	23	29				
	MAY-JUL	4.6	7.4	9.8	44	12.7	17.8	22				
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	132	154	170	61	187	215	280				
	MAY-JUL	98	120	136	56	153	180	245				
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	171	193	210	65	230	255	325				
	MAY-JUL	118	140	157	56	175	200	282				
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	13.4	17.6	21	54	25	31	39				
	MAY-JUL	8.4	12.6	16.0	50	19.8	26	32				
Elkhead Creek blw Maynard Gulch (2)	APR-JUL	19.7	29	35	59	41	50	59				
	MAY-JUL	4.7	13.8	20	42	26	35	48				
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	1.40	2.80	4.20	56	6.00	9.40	7.50				
	MAY-JUN	0.79	1.42	2.00	50	2.70	4.00	3.99				
Yampa River Near Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	400	480	540	55	605	705	990				
	MAY-JUL	250	330	390	46	455	555	840				
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	66	78	88	55	98	115	159				
	MAY-JUL	44	56	66	47	76	93	141				
Little Snake River nr Dixon	APR-JUL	111	144	170	52	200	250	330				
	MAY-JUL	67	100	126	43	155	205	290				
Little Snake River nr Lily	APR-JUL	119	153	180	49	210	260	365				
	MAY-JUL	64	98	125	40	156	205	310				
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	127	155	176	61	199	235	290				
	MAY-JUL	86	114	135	52	158	195	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, 2007

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	32.6	30.3	28.1	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	4	111	78
YAMCOLO	8.7	8.0	8.5	7.4	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	11	72	65
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	14	78	69
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	53	32
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	49	42
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	57	47
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	50	42
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	54	49
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	36	65	55					

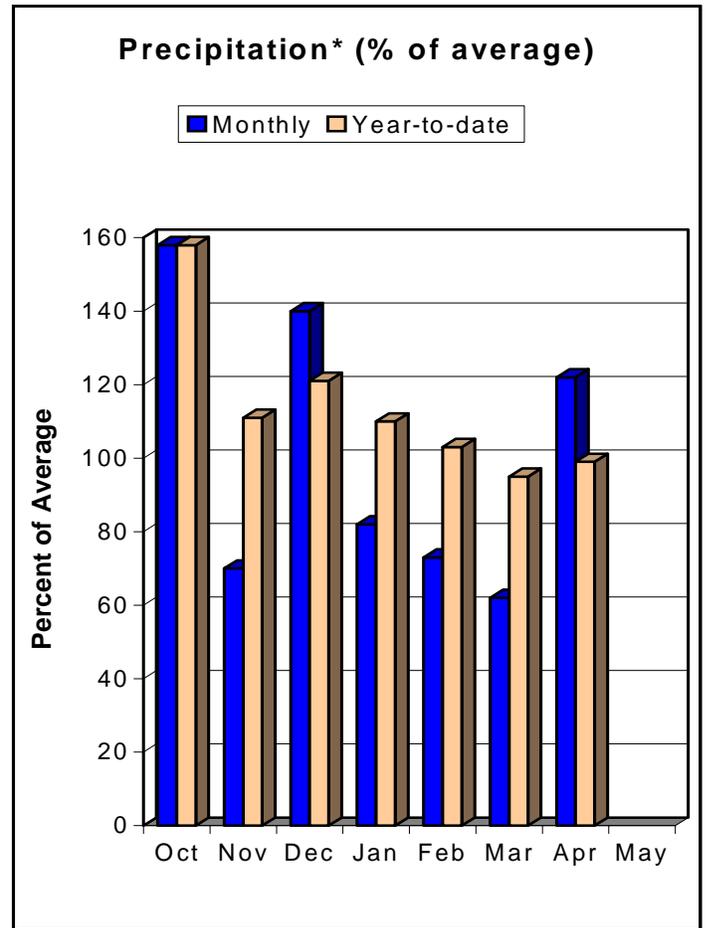
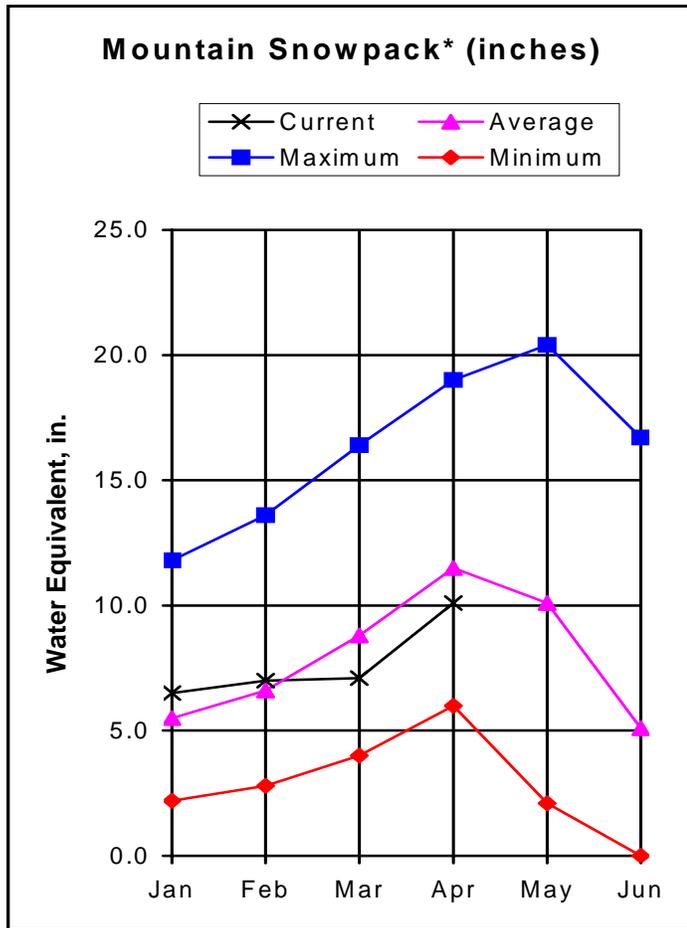
\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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 May 1, 2007



\*Based on selected stations

The Arkansas River Basin is the only basin in Colorado to have seen an increase in percent of average snowpack between April 1 and May 1. While snow levels remained virtually stagnant, if not decreasing, during the month of March, April saw an increase, pulling the basin wide snowpack to 88% of average, up from 81% of average last month. The Cucharas, Huerfano, and Upper Arkansas sub-basins all saw increases in snowpack percent of average. The Cucharas and Huerfano sub-basins are the only portion of the Arkansas with an above average snowpack at 103% of average. Mountain precipitation in the basin really helped the snowpack, contributing 122% of average April precipitation. The strong April precipitation number brought the year to date precipitation to 103% of average, up from 95% of average at this time last month. Reservoirs in the Arkansas River Basin are storing 94% of their average storage, up from 88% of average at this time last month and 141% of storage last year at this time. May through September streamflow volumes on the Arkansas should vary from 74% of average on Chalk Creek at Nathrop to 103% of average on the Cucharas River at Boyd Ranch.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2007

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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	10.1	14.1	17.2	75	21	27	23
	MAY-JUL	9.6	13.6	16.7	76	20	26	22
	APR-SEP	12.0	16.8	21	78	25	32	27
	MAY-SEP	11.5	16.3	20	74	24	31	27
Arkansas River At Salida (2)	APR-JUL	161	190	210	82	235	270	255
	MAY-JUL	146	175	196	82	220	255	240
	APR-SEP	193	230	260	84	290	335	310
	MAY-SEP	178	215	245	82	275	320	300
Grape Creek Near Westcliffe	APR-JUL	7.2	11.5	12.8	80	19.6	27	16.1
	MAY-JUL	4.4	8.7	12.4	95	16.8	24	13.0
	APR-SEP	9.2	14.0	18.5	94	23	31	19.6
	MAY-SEP	6.4	11.2	15.2	92	19.9	28	16.5
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	195	255	300	78	350	425	385
	MAY-JUL	167	225	270	77	320	395	350
	APR-SEP	250	325	380	78	350	535	485
	MAY-SEP	220	295	350	78	410	505	450
Huerfano River Near Redwing	APR-JUL	8.7	10.4	11.6	94	12.9	15.0	12.3
	MAY-JUL	7.8	9.5	10.7	96	12.0	14.1	11.2
	APR-SEP	11.0	13.2	14.8	96	16.5	19.2	15.5
	MAY-SEP	10.1	12.3	13.9	96	15.6	18.3	14.5
Cucharas River At Boyd Ranch Nr La V	APR-JUL	7.8	10.0	11.7	104	13.5	16.5	11.3
	MAY-JUL	6.30	8.50	10.20	103	12.00	15.00	9.90
	APR-SEP	9.3	11.7	13.6	105	15.6	18.9	13.0
	MAY-SEP	7.8	10.2	12.1	103	14.1	17.4	11.7
Trinidad Lake Inflow	MAR-JUL	26	34	40	118	47	58	34
	MAY-JUL	13.6	21	27	95	34	45	29
	APR-SEP	26	37	45	102	54	70	44
	MAY-SEP	19.4	30	38	95	47	63	40

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2007			
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	48.7	18.1	34.3	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	10	112	85
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	4.6	9.1	6.0	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	275	103
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	3.1	1.4	6.9	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	0	50
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	40.6	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	15	132	88
HOLBROOK	7.0	3.0	0.8	4.7				
HORSE CREEK	27.0	0.0	0.0	11.3				
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	81.4	36.4	123.7				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	7.3	6.0	6.0				
MEREDITH	42.0	32.4	16.1	20.1				
PUEBLO	354.0	190.1	152.3	163.5				
TRINIDAD	167.0	31.6	21.3	29.1				
TURQUOISE	127.0	63.8	57.5	70.8				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	56.4	50.6	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.

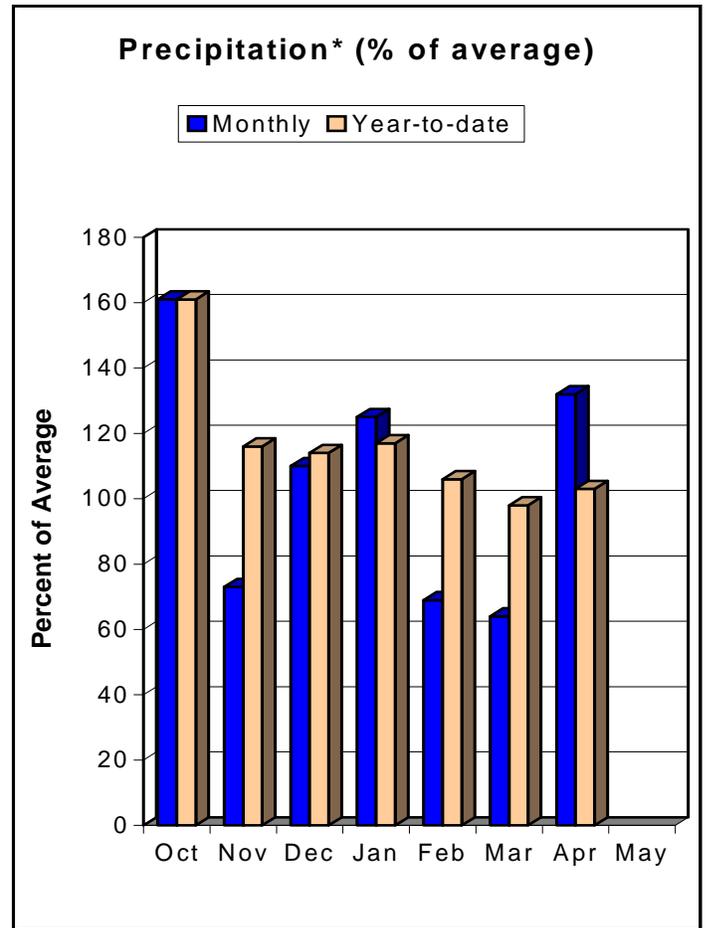
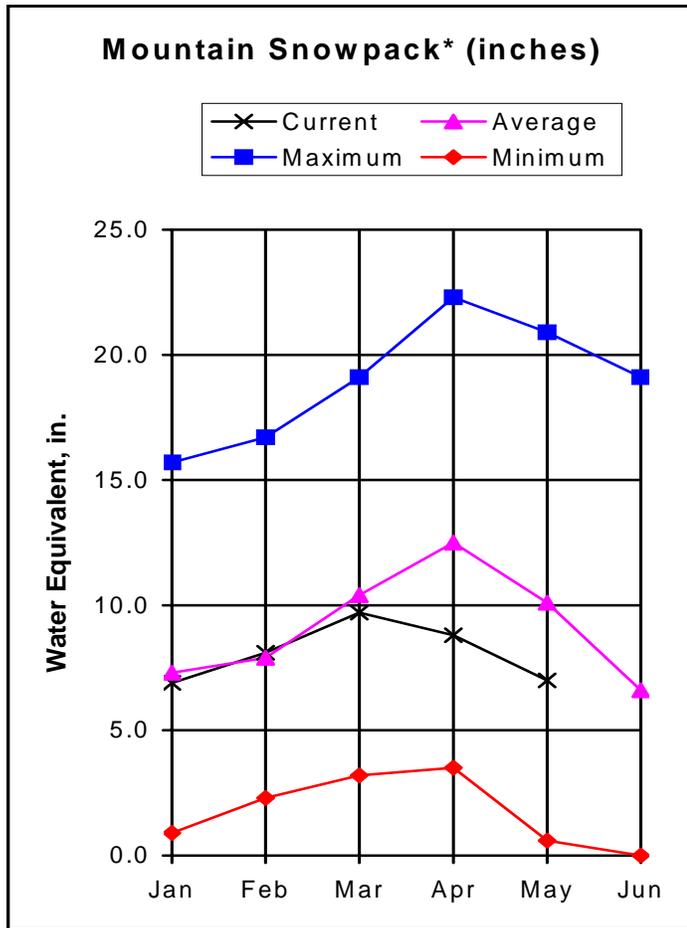
The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

(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 May 1, 2007



\*Based on selected stations

Just as snow levels in the Rio Grande River Basin were threatening to dip below 2006 snow levels for the first time this season, some mid and late April precipitation helped boost the snowpack enough to remain above last year's mark. Down one percent from last month, snowpack in the Rio Grande Basin is at 69% of average. The only sub-basins showing any improvement over last month are the Culebra and Trinchera drainages. Snowpack in those sub-basins is at 116% of average, up from 77% of average last month. Snow in the Sangre de Cristos continues to carry the Rio Grande as a result of an upslope storm track that has favored the eastern mountains all season long. Mountain precipitation during the month of April really provided the key to maintaining a dying snowpack, as April saw 132% of its average precipitation. Such a generous April precipitation also boosted the year to date precipitation number to 103% of average, up from 98% of average at this time last month. Reservoir storage on the Rio Grande is at 88% of average, up slightly from 85% of average at this time last month, and at 130% of the storage this time last year. Streamflow volumes across the Rio Grande should vary considerably from east to west. Expect May through September streamflow volume to be about 108% of average on Trinchera Creek above Turners Ranch to as low as 31% of average on the San Antonio River at Ortiz.

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UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2007

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	68	84	97	71	111	134	136
	MAY-SEP	60	76	89	69	103	126	129
Rio Grande Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	70	79	86	73	93	105	118
	MAY-JUL	62	71	78	69	85	97	113
Rio Grande At Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	197	230	260	75	285	330	345
	MAY-SEP	164	199	225	70	250	295	322
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	78	87	94	71	101	112	132
	MAY-SEP	61	70	77	64	84	95	120
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	310	355	385	73	425	480	531
	MAY-SEP	251	296	330	67	366	424	491
Saguache Creek nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	15.3	20	24	73	28	34	33
	MAY-SEP	11.7	16.4	20	69	24	30	29
Alamosa Creek Abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	39	45	49	70	53	60	70
	MAY-SEP	32	38	42	67	46	53	63
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	5.30	6.00	6.60	76	7.20	8.30	8.70
	MAY-JUL	1.74	2.43	3.00	51	3.65	4.76	5.90
Trinchera Creek abv Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	7.2	9.4	11.3	94	13.3	16.8	12.0
	MAY-SEP	6.00	8.20	10.00	108	12.00	15.50	9.30
Sangre de Cristo Creek	APR-SEP	4.70	6.50	8.40	96	11.00	16.00	8.80
	MAY-SEP	1.60	3.40	5.30	93	7.90	12.90	5.70
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	6.7	8.7	10.3	84	12.1	15.2	12.2
	MAY-SEP	5.4	7.4	9.0	81	10.8	13.9	11.1
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	39	44	48	75	51	57	64
	MAY-JUL	36	41	44	79	48	53	56
	APR-SEP	43	48	52	73	56	62	71
	MAY-SEP	39	44	48	77	52	58	62
Conejos River Near Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	118	133	144	72	156	174	200
	MAY-SEP	101	116	127	69	139	157	185
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	6.5	7.4	8.1	49	8.9	10.4	16.4
	MAY-SEP	1.7	2.6	3.3	31	4.1	5.6	10.7
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	39	44	49	66	53	61	74
	MAY-SEP	23	29	33	52	38	45	63
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	11.0	14.8	17.9	78	22	28	23
	MAY-SEP	8.1	11.9	15.0	71	18.7	25	21
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	7.1	8.6	9.8	93	11.1	13.4	10.6
	MAY-JUL	4.33	5.82	7.00	80	8.33	10.59	8.80
Costilla Creek Near Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	15.5	19.0	22	85	25	31	26
	MAY-JUL	8.7	12.2	15.0	74	18.3	24	20

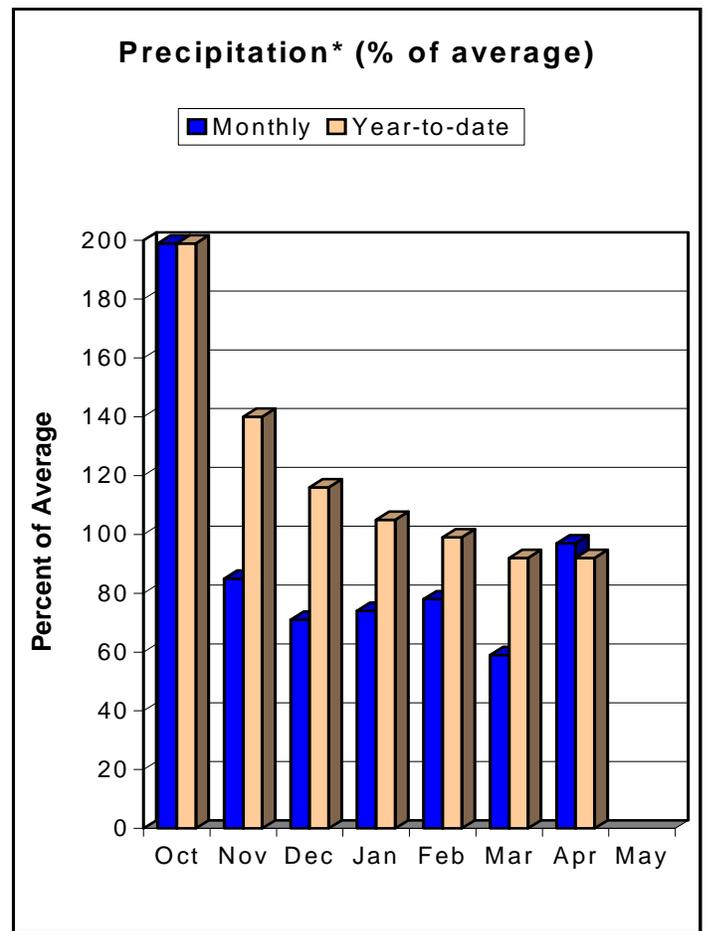
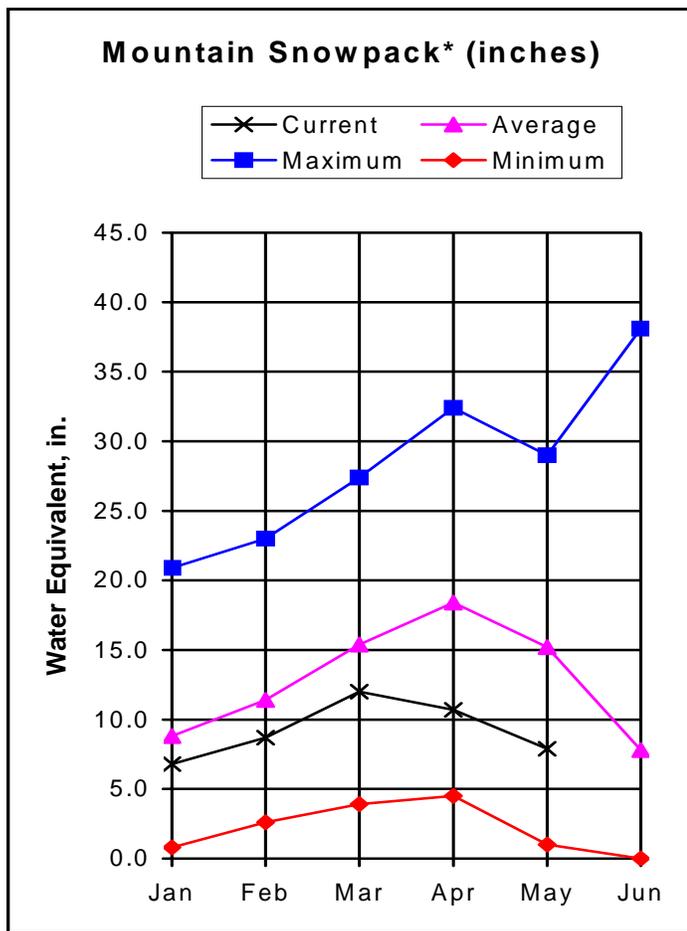
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2007			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	27.0	8.9	3.1	6.6	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	41	20
PLATORO	60.0	12.2	5.3	23.3	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	109	51
RIO GRANDE	51.0	28.6	22.1	21.4	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	0	116
SANCHEZ	103.0	16.7	21.1	25.8	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	144	68
SANTA MARIA	45.0	7.5	7.5	11.1	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	170	69
TERRACE	18.0	10.5	6.0	7.8				

\* 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 May 1, 2007



\*Based on selected stations

Despite some losses during the first week in April, the snowpacks in the San Miguel, Dolores, San Juan and Animas River basins managed to recover and maintain snow water content levels close to those observed on April 1. However, warmer temperatures during the last few days of the month caused some significant melt. SNOTEL data show snowpacks reached their peak on March 11 at 66 percent of the average peak. May 1 snow surveys indicate snowpacks in the combined basins are 52 percent of average, down from 58 percent of average on April 1. Individual basin snowpacks ranged from 29 percent of average in the Dolores River Basin (the lowest snowpack percentage in the state) to 66 percent of average in the San Juan River Basin. April mountain precipitation was just slightly below normal at 97 percent of average, making it the sixth consecutive month of below average conditions this water year. Total precipitation since the beginning of the water year on October 1 is now at 92 percent of average and 115 percent of last year's precipitation totals at this same time. Reservoir storage at the end of April was 120 percent of average. This is also a 7 percent improvement over the amount of stored water available at the end of April 2006. Well below average streamflows are expected throughout the region. May-July runoff should range from 38 percent of average for the Mancos River near Mancos to 69 percent of average at the Gurley Reservoir Inlet.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2007

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)	
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	117 79	135 99	150 114	57 52	167 130	193 158	265 220
McPhee Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	138 91	160 114	175 130	55 50	192 148	220 177	320 260
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	63 50	75 62	85 72	64 62	95 82	112 99	132 117
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	MAY-JUL MAY JUNE JULY	4.9	7.3	9.0 6.00 2.50 0.50	61 68 54 38	10.7	13.1	14.8 8.83 4.67 1.32
Cone Reservoir Inlet	MAY-JUL MAY JUNE JULY	1.18	1.52	1.75 1.00 0.60 0.15	57 61 58 40	1.98	2.32	3.06 1.64 1.04 0.38
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	MAY-JUL MAY JUNE JULY	0.48	1.03	1.40 0.80 0.50 0.10	57 61 58 37	1.77	2.28	2.45 1.32 0.87 0.27
Rio Blanco At Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL MAY-JUL APR-JUL	27 17.5 34	31 22 34	34 25 34	64 56 64	37 28 34	42 33 34	53 45 53
Navajo River At Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	33 24	38 28	42 33	61 57	46 37	53 44	69 58
San Juan River Near Carracas (2)	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	210 150	235 176	255 194	63 60	275 215	310 245	405 325
Piedra River near Arboles	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	94 60	108 74	120 85	52 49	131 97	152 117	230 172
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	105 81	117 92	125 101	61 55	135 110	150 127	205 184
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	305 188	355 237	390 275	50 44	430 317	500 386	785 630
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	240 182	275 218	300 245	68 63	330 274	375 321	440 390
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	27 20	30 24	33 27	57 51	36 30	41 34	58 53
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL MAY-JUL	13.5 9.7	15.5 11.6	17.0 13.0	68 62	18.5 14.5	21 17.2	25 21
Mancos River nr Mancos	APR-JUL MAY JUNE JULY	6.7	15.2	21 10.0 4.5 1.00	53 63 33 22	27	35	40 15.9 13.7 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, 2007

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			

\* 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.



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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**  
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