

# Colorado Basin Outlook Report May 1, 2010



# Basin Outlook Reports and Federal - State - Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

---

*For more water supply and resource management information, contact:*

**Michael A. Gillespie**  
**Data Collection Office Supervisor**  
**USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**655 Parfet St., Rm E200C**  
**Lakewood, CO 80215-5517**  
**Phone (720) 544-2852**

---

## *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.

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# COLORADO

## WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORT

### MAY 1, 2010

#### Summary

April brought a reversal to the precipitation pattern that has gripped the state since last October, with above average snowfall across northern Colorado, while leaving most of southern Colorado below average. Even with the gains across the northern basins, snowpack totals remain well below average. As warm temperatures triggered an early melt, snowpack totals have declined rapidly to below average across the state. Reservoir storage continues to be consistently above average in most basins, leaving some optimism for late-summer water supplies. Runoff forecasts improved slightly this month in most basins, with the exception of southwestern Colorado. This year's conditions are significantly dryer than last year's conditions nearly statewide, so water users should prepare for a return to possible shortages as the summer develops.

#### Snowpack

Early April was warm and dry across most of the Colorado high country and these conditions sparked snowmelt in all basins. This early melt created a peak snowpack accumulation on April 8 for most basins in the state. This peak date is one to two weeks earlier than the average peak in these basins. Fortunately, cooler conditions prevailed later in the month slowing the melt pace and helping to add to the snowpack across the northern basins. By month's end, the early melt had outpaced any gains received and snowpack totals were below average in all basins. The May 1 basinwide totals ranged from 71% of average in the Colorado basin to a high of 90% of average in the Rio Grande basin. Those basins reporting the greatest declines from last month's percentages include the Gunnison, Arkansas, Rio Grande, and the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins. All of these basins experienced snowpack decreases of 22 to 25 percentage points from the April 1 totals. Meanwhile, the late-April storms in the Yampa, White and North Platte basins were enough to bring a substantial improvement to conditions and these basins are now reporting the highest percentage of the year, at 83% of average. Statewide snowpack totals were 78% of average showing the sharp decline from last month's 88% of average totals. These May 1 statewide totals present the lowest percent of average for the year, and are only 79% of last year's May 1 snowpack. While additional gains in snowpack remain a possibility into May, any substantial improvements remain unlikely, leaving water users with a fairly poor outlook for the 2010 water year.

#### Precipitation

Despite the dry start to the month, April was actually an above average month for precipitation measured at SNOTEL sites across Colorado. In fact, with April's statewide precipitation at 117% of average, it was the first month of above average moisture since last December and ranked second highest behind October for this water year. For the most part, April's heaviest precipitation was confined to the Colorado and combined Yampa, White and North Platte basins, which reported 144% and 156% of average totals, respectively. For the second consecutive month, some of the driest conditions were seen across the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins, which reported only 63% of average for April. For the water year, which is now seven months long, precipitation remains below average in all basins except the Rio Grande which is now 102% of average. Even with the slight statewide gains during April, the statewide water year totals remain at 91% of average and are 90% of last year's water year totals.

## Reservoir Storage

Reservoir storage improved significantly across most of Colorado as reservoirs captured April's early runoff. Volumes are now at or above average in all basins except the Rio Grande, which remains at 89% of average. The Gunnison Basin leads the state in terms of volume and percent of average storage. The eight reservoirs in this basin are now exceeding the average mark by 190,000 acre feet of storage, and are 129% of average. Volumes in the Arkansas basin have reached the highest levels in nine years (for May 1) as storage has now reached 108% of average. This year's storage is above last year's across most of the state. Only the Gunnison, Rio Grande and the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores, and San Miguel basins are reporting volumes less than last year at this time. Statewide reservoir storage has reached the highest May 1 percentage since 2000 at 108% of average. These volumes are 105% of last year's storage for this date. Most likely, this additional storage will provide relief to water users later this summer, especially across northern Colorado.

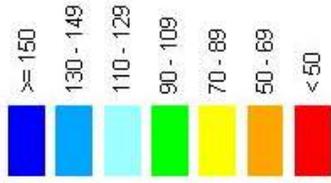
## Streamflow

The additional snow and precipitation received during April across northern Colorado has certainly helped to improve the outlook in some portions of these basins. However, there remains areas where shortages are certain as runoff forecasts remain critically low. The lowest forecasts, in terms of percent of average, remain in the upper Yampa and headwater reaches of the Colorado River. Runoff in these basins remains only about 50% to 75% of average. Elsewhere across northern Colorado, forecasts improved slightly yet remain consistently below average. For the majority of forecast points in the Yampa, White, Colorado and North and South Platte basins, runoff is expected to range from 70% to 90% of average. Meanwhile, two dry months across southwestern Colorado has helped to degrade forecasts in the San Juan, Animas, Dolores and San Miguel basins, where forecasts have now decreased to 75% to 90% of average. The best outlook for summer runoff supplies remain in portions of the Arkansas and Rio Grande basins, where forecasts continue to call for average to well above average volumes. Streams and rivers flowing from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains are all consistently well above average as this area managed to consistently receive the best precipitation throughout the winter of 2010.

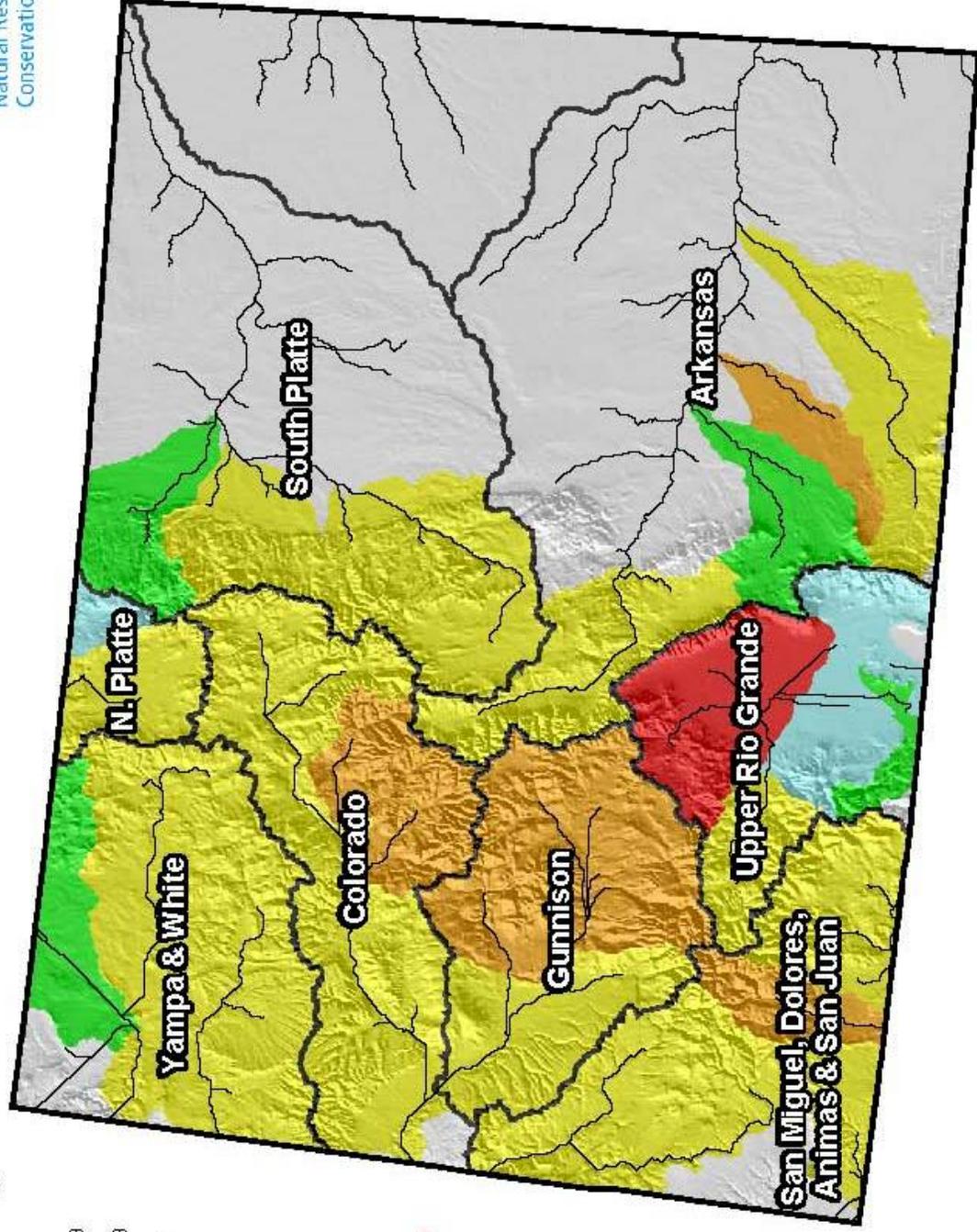
# Colorado Snowpack Map



Percent of Average

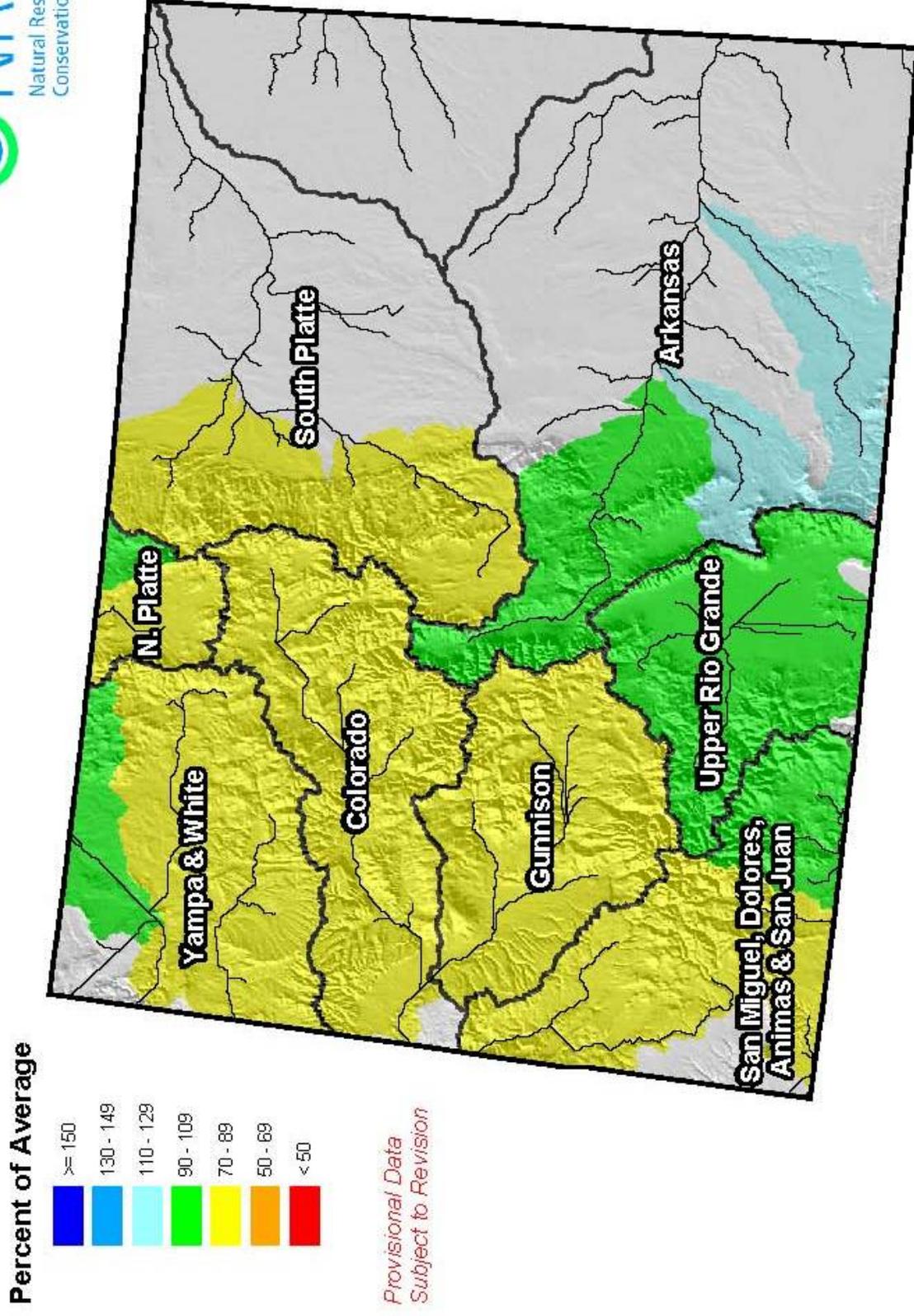


*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



Current as of May 1, 2010

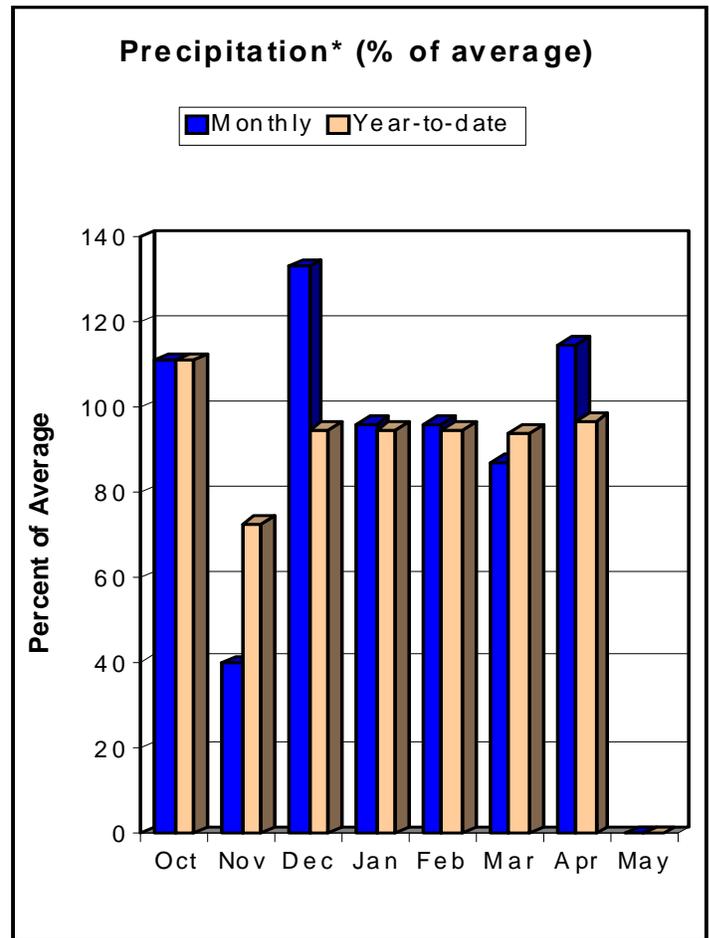
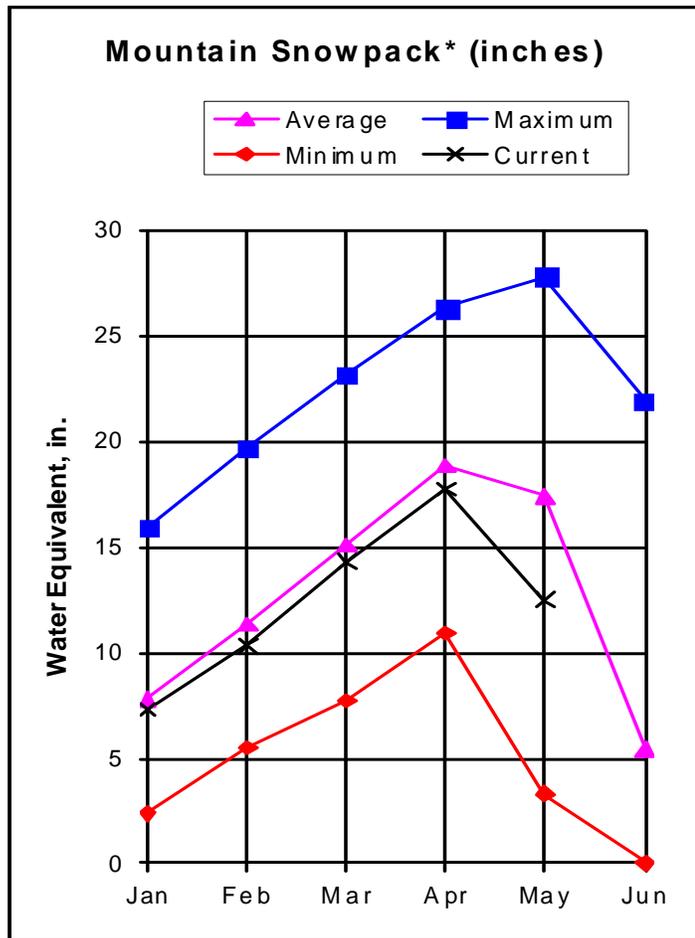
# Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map



Current as of May 1, 2010

# GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

## as of May 1, 2010



\*Based on selected stations

The Gunnison River Basin received a good amount of snow during the first week of April but the weather warmed up and snowmelt kicked into high gear. According to SNOTEL data, the basin reached its peak on April 8 at 102 percent of the average peak snowpack. A cooler, wetter weather pattern moved into the area during the last week of April and helped to slow down the melt, but on May 1 the basin snowpack was only 72 percent of average and 91 percent of the snowpack present at this time in 2009. The basin has now recorded below to well below average May 1 snowpacks in 10 of the last 12 years. Sub-basin snowpacks are below to well below average, ranging from 69 percent of average in the Upper Gunnison to 83 percent of average in the Uncompahgre Watershed. Mountain precipitation during April was above normal at 115 percent of average, breaking a string of three consecutive month of below average precipitation. The favorable monthly conditions helped to boost total precipitation for the water year up to 97 percent of average. Although down slightly compared to this time last year, reservoir storage is in excellent shape with volumes measuring at 129 percent of average. Streamflow forecasts at most points in the basin remain unchanged or saw only slight increases when compared to the forecasts issued last month. May-July streamflow volumes are expected to be below average throughout much of the basin, ranging from 64 percent of average for Cochetopa Creek nr Parlin to 84 percent of average for Lake Fork at Gateview.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2010

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)
Taylor Park blw Taylor Park Res (2)	APR-JUL	63	73	81	79	89	103	103				
	MAY-JUL	52	62	70	74	78	92	95				
Slate River nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	59	66	70	79	75	82	89				
	MAY-JUL	44	51	55	69	60	67	80				
East River at Almont	APR-JUL	132	144	152	79	161	174	192				
	MAY-JUL	110	122	130	73	139	152	178				
Gunnison River nr Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	235	270	300	77	330	375	390				
	MAY-JUL	189	225	255	72	285	330	355				
Tomichi Creek at Sargents	APR-JUL	18.4	23	26	81	30	36	32				
	MAY-JUL	14.2	18.6	22	79	26	32	28				
Cochetopa Creek blw Rock Ck nr Parli	APR-JUL	9.2	11.4	13.3	77	15.5	19.5	17.3				
	MAY-JUL	4.3	6.5	8.4	64	10.6	14.6	13.1				
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	APR-JUL	42	53	61	75	71	88	81				
	MAY-JUL	25	36	44	65	54	71	68				
Lake Fork at Gateview	APR-JUL	95	105	113	90	121	133	126				
	MAY-JUL	82	92	100	84	108	120	119				
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	460	510	560	78	615	670	720				
	MAY-JUL	365	415	465	72	520	575	645				
Paonia Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUN	59	70	78	78	87	103	100				
	MAY-JUN	32	43	51	68	60	76	75				
	APR-JUL	59	71	80	78	90	108	102				
	MAY-JUL	34	46	55	67	65	83	82				
North Fork Gunnison R nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	196	220	240	79	260	295	305				
	MAY-JUL	145	171	190	73	210	245	260				
Surface Creek at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	11.0	12.7	14.0	82	15.4	17.6	17.1				
	MAY-JUL	8.0	9.7	11.0	74	12.4	14.6	14.9				
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	72	82	89	87	97	109	102				
	MAY-JUL	56	66	73	79	81	93	92				
Uncompahgre River at Colona (2)	APR-JUL	91	108	121	87	135	158	139				
	MAY-JUL	70	87	100	81	114	137	123				
Gunnison River nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	980	1080	1200	77	1330	1480	1560				
	MAY-JUL	710	805	930	69	1060	1210	1340				

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2010			
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	587.3	579.7	404.7	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	82	69
CRAWFORD	14.0	11.4	13.5	12.1	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	95	77
FRUITGROWERS	3.6	3.3	3.3	4.1	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	131	83
FRUITLAND	9.2	5.5	6.6	4.9	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	19	90	72
MORROW POINT	121.0	108.7	112.6	113.4				
PAONIA	15.4	1.3	0.8	7.4				
RIDGWAY	83.0	69.3	72.5	57.9				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	67.4	76.9	59.9				

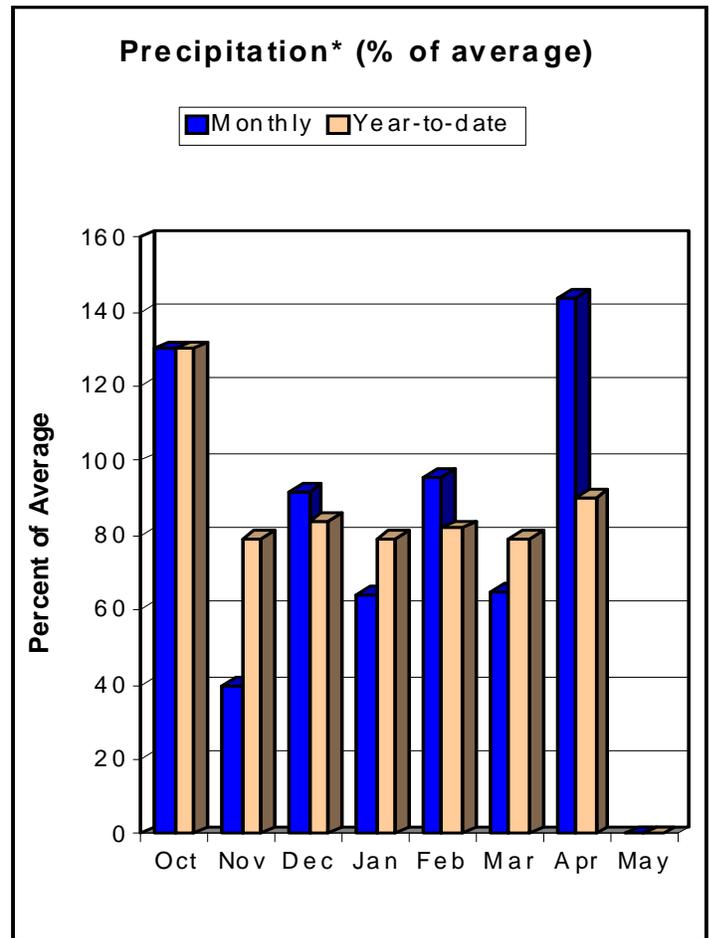
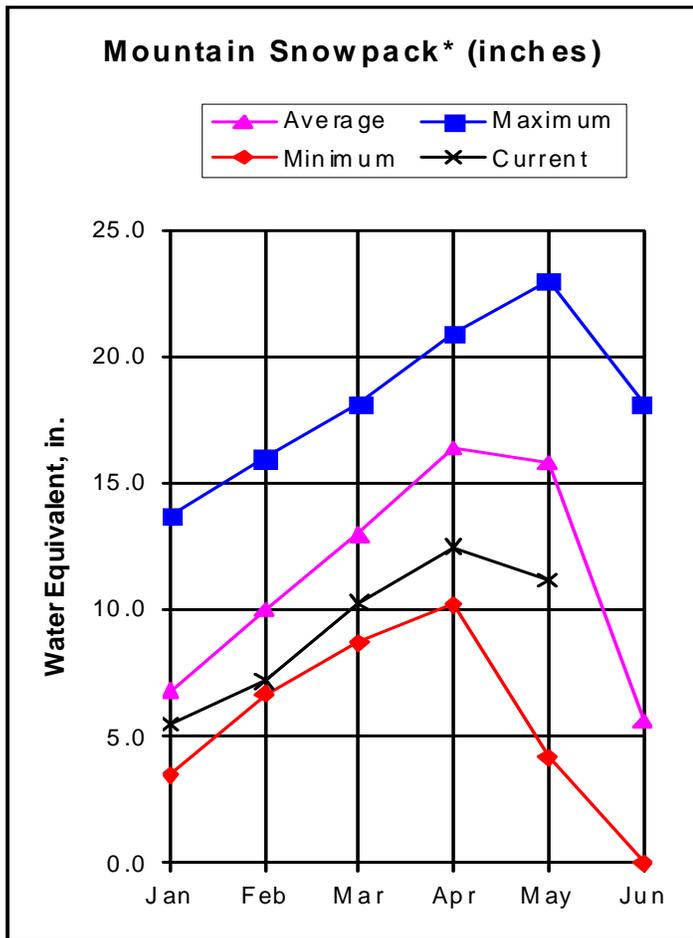
\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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

# UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

## as of May 1, 2010



\*Based on selected stations

Thanks to some decent snowfall during the first part of April, the snowpack in the Upper Colorado River Basin reached its peak on April 9 at 85 percent of the average peak, according to SNOTEL data. For the two weeks following, the snowpack lost 30 percent of its water to snowmelt. Fortunately, the temperatures cooled and moisture moved back into the area during the last portion of the month adding another couple of inches water back into the snowpack. On May 1, the snowpack was 71 percent of average and 72 percent of the snowpack reported last year at this time. The highest sub-basin snowpack percent of average figure was recorded in the Muddy Creek Watershed at 81 percent of average. The lowest, at 68 percent of average, was measured in the Roaring Fork Drainage. April precipitation at the higher elevations was 144 percent of average. The impressive monthly totals helped elevate the total precipitation for the water year from 79 percent of average last month to 90 percent of average. Reservoir storage remains above normal at 116 percent of average. Forecasts saw a moderate increase over those issued last month. However, runoff in the next three months is still expected to be well below average throughout the basin. May-July streamflow volumes should range from 56 percent of average for Muddy Creek below Wolford Mountain Reservoir to 77 percent of average for the Inflow to Lake Granby and the Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2010

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)
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	145	166	181	80	197	220	225				
	MAY-JUL	129	150	165	77	181	205	215				
Willow Creek Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	24	30	34	67	39	47	51				
	MAY-JUL	19.6	26	30	64	35	43	47				
Williams Fork Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	60	68	74	78	80	90	95				
	MAY-JUL	53	61	67	75	73	83	89				
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	101	113	122	73	132	146	167				
	MAY-JUL	91	103	112	71	122	136	158				
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	174	195	210	75	225	250	280				
	MAY-JUL	155	176	191	72	205	230	265				
Muddy Creek blw Wolford Mtn Resv (2)	APR-JUL	26	32	36	60	41	48	60				
	MAY-JUL	20	26	30	58	35	42	52				
Eagle River blw Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	210	235	255	76	275	310	335				
	MAY-JUL	183	210	230	73	250	285	315				
Colorado River nr Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	840	975	1070	74	1170	1330	1440				
	MAY-JUL	720	855	950	72	1050	1210	1325				
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	83	98	110	78	123	143	141				
	MAY-JUL	73	88	100	75	113	133	134				
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	485	540	580	82	625	690	710				
	MAY-JUL	420	475	515	77	560	625	665				
Colorado River nr Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	1440	1660	1820	75	1990	2250	2420				
	MAY-JUL	1220	1440	1600	72	1770	2030	2220				

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2010			
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	242.7	225.8	212.8	BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	65	70
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	269.6	209.6	259.5	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASI	35	69	71
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	77.7	65.4	54.3	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	3	81	81
HOMESTAKE	43.0	21.8	0.0	16.8	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	95	77
RUEDI	102.0	71.0	68.5	59.7	ROARING FORK BASIN	8	73	68
VEGA	32.9	19.8	19.8	16.6	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	69	78
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	79.5	79.6	55.3	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	3	88	69
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	6.4	6.7	5.9	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASI	46	72	71

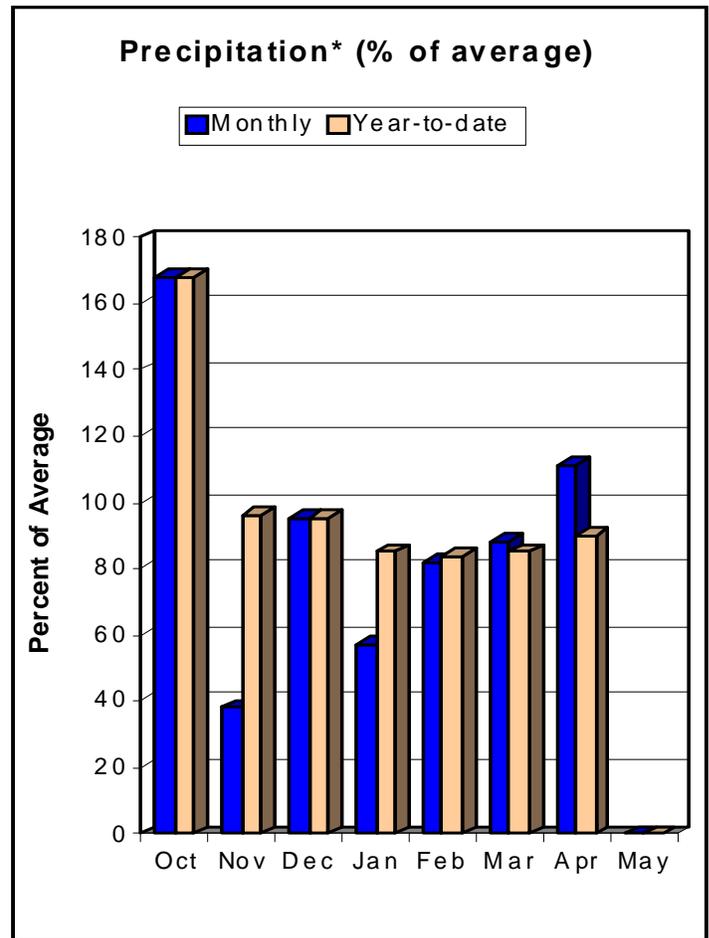
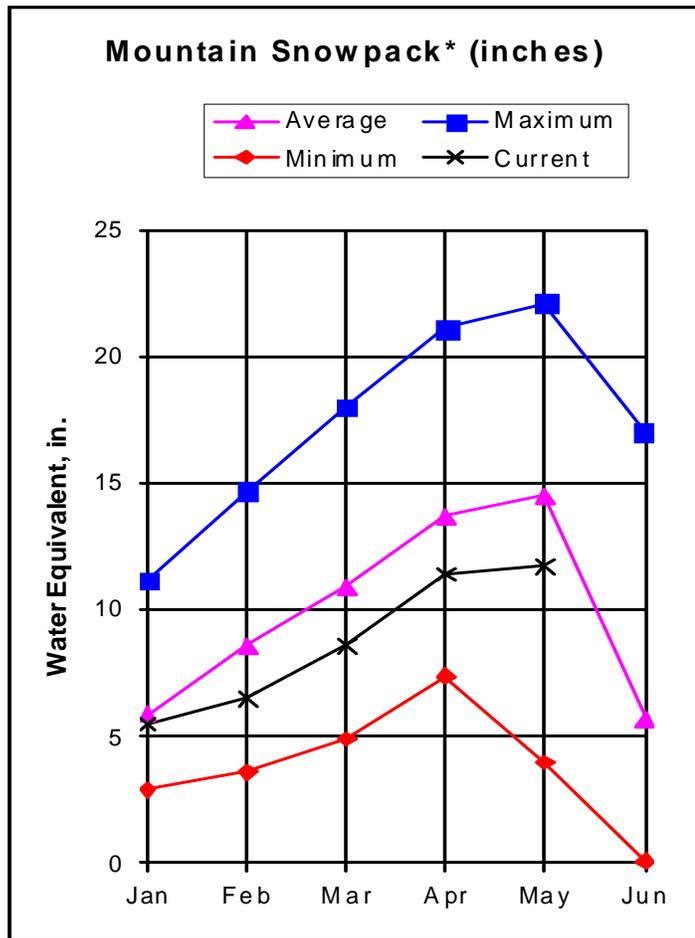
\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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

# SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

## as of May 1, 2010



\*Based on selected stations

Nowhere else in the state have the effects of the cool spring temperatures and winter storms of this past April impacted the snow totals as much as they have in the South Platte River Basin. Two snowpack peaks have occurred so far this winter, one in the first full week in April and the second higher one at the beginning of May. The second peak brought the snowpack to 87 percent of the average maximum snowpack, up from 82 percent during the first peak. Although the total snowpack did not reach average conditions, the delayed melt will help runoff timing seem more in line with average snowmelt runoff. With the worst snowpack in that state, the Saint Vrain Drainage continues its downward spiral this month to 57 percent of average. At the top of the chart, the Cache La Poudre was the only sub-basin in the South Platte Drainage to report snowpack gains since last month at 94 percent of average snowpack. Despite cooler temperatures in the mountains this month, some precipitation did fall in the form of rain according to SNOTEL site data. The added rain was able to bump up precipitation totals to above average at 111 percent for the month. This improved year-to-date precipitation five percentage points from last month to 90 percent of average. Reservoir storage is currently in excellent standing at 106 percent of average and 92 percent of capacity, which is five percent better than this time last year. Streamflow forecasts are indicative of snowpack totals or even slightly better at the upper reaches of the basin due to the recent wet and cool conditions.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2010

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	14.7	17.7	20	119	23	28	16.8				
	APR-SEP	17.9	22	26	119	30	36	22				
	MAY-JUL	10.2	13.2	15.5	101	18.5	23	15.4				
	MAY-SEP	13.4	17.5	21	103	25	31	20				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	36	43	49	88	55	65	56				
	APR-SEP	42	52	60	87	68	82	69				
	MAY-JUL	26	33	39	77	45	55	51				
	MAY-SEP	32	42	50	78	58	72	64				
ELEVENMILE CANYON RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	39	47	53	91	59	70	58				
	APR-SEP	46	57	65	90	74	88	72				
	MAY-JUL	27	35	41	77	47	58	53				
	MAY-SEP	34	45	53	79	62	76	67				
CHEESMAN LAKE Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	73	89	102	90	116	138	114				
	APR-SEP	83	105	122	87	141	171	140				
	MAY-JUL	49	65	78	77	92	114	101				
	MAY-SEP	59	81	98	77	117	147	127				
SOUTH PLATTE R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	127	158	182	89	210	250	205				
	APR-SEP	151	187	215	84	245	295	255				
	MAY-JUL	89	120	144	79	172	210	182				
	MAY-SEP	113	149	177	77	205	255	230				
BEAR CREEK abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	9.9	13.0	15.6	81	18.5	24	19.3				
	APR-SEP	12.3	16.8	20	80	25	32	25				
	MAY-JUL	8.2	11.3	13.9	80	16.8	22	17.3				
	MAY-SEP	10.6	15.1	18.3	80	23	30	23				
BEAR CREEK at Morrison	APR-JUL	10.7	14.6	17.8	71	22	28	25				
	APR-SEP	12.3	17.5	22	71	27	36	31				
	MAY-JUL	8.5	12.4	15.6	74	19.8	26	21				
	MAY-SEP	10.1	15.3	19.8	73	25	34	27				
CLEAR CREEK at Golden	APR-JUL	67	75	81	74	87	97	110				
	APR-SEP	79	90	97	72	105	117	134				
	MAY-JUL	62	70	76	72	82	92	105				
	MAY-SEP	74	85	92	72	100	112	128				
ST. VRAIN CREEK at Lyons (2)	APR-JUL	62	70	76	81	82	91	94				
	APR-SEP	72	82	89	82	97	109	109				
	MAY-JUL	55	63	69	79	75	84	87				
	MAY-SEP	65	75	82	80	90	102	102				
BOULDER CREEK nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	34	38	41	79	44	49	52				
	APR-SEP	38	43	47	78	51	57	60				
	MAY-JUL	31	35	38	78	41	46	49				
	MAY-SEP	35	40	44	77	48	54	57				
SOUTH BOULDER CK nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	24	28	31	76	34	39	41				
	APR-SEP	27	32	35	76	39	45	46				
	MAY-JUL	21	25	28	74	31	36	38				
	MAY-SEP	24	29	32	76	36	42	42				
BIG THOMPSON R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	64	73	79	80	85	94	99				
	APR-SEP	75	87	96	81	105	117	119				
	MAY-JUL	58	67	73	77	79	88	95				
	MAY-SEP	69	81	90	79	99	111	114				
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	168	193	210	86	230	255	245				
	APR-SEP	183	215	235	86	255	285	275				
	MAY-JUL	155	180	197	84	215	240	235				
	MAY-SEP	170	200	220	85	240	270	260				

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2010			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	19.9	20.0	20.1	15.7	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	75	78
BARR LAKE	30.1	28.6	28.2	28.6	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	67	77
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	3.2	2.1	4.2	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	8	87	94
BOYD LAKE	48.4	44.7	27.5	35.2	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	76	84
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	14.4	13.3	13.2	SAINT VRAIN BASIN	3	69	57
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.1	10.1	10.0	8.9	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	16	91	75
CARTER	108.9	106.7	107.5	103.0	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	43	80	81
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	6.5	2.0	3.6				
CHEESMAN	79.0	73.1	78.6	64.8				
COBB LAKE	22.3	21.1	11.9	14.2				
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	100.9	99.2	96.4				
EMPIRE	36.5	35.9	35.9	33.0				
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	10.5	10.4	8.1				
GROSS	41.8	23.6	18.3	20.9				
HALLIGAN	6.4	6.4	4.7	4.8				
HORSECREEK	14.7	14.1	14.2	14.5				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	126.0	112.2	123.0				
JACKSON	26.1	26.1	26.1	30.4				
JULESBURG	20.5	20.5	20.5	21.3				
LAKE LOVELAND	10.3	9.8	11.7	10.1				
LONE TREE	8.7	8.4	8.9	7.9				
MARIANO	5.4	5.0	4.3	5.0				
MARSHALL	10.0	9.3	8.2	7.4				
MARSTON	13.0	12.7	10.9	14.5				
MILTON	23.5	22.2	22.4	19.2				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	70.2	70.3	69.8				
PREWITT	28.2	24.4	24.5	25.9				
RIVERSIDE	55.8	55.8	55.3	57.9				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	38.0	40.4	32.1				
STANDLEY	42.0	37.7	37.7	35.3				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	6.0	5.3	5.7				
UNION	13.0	12.5	11.2	11.7				
WINDSOR	15.2	14.7	14.6	13.6				

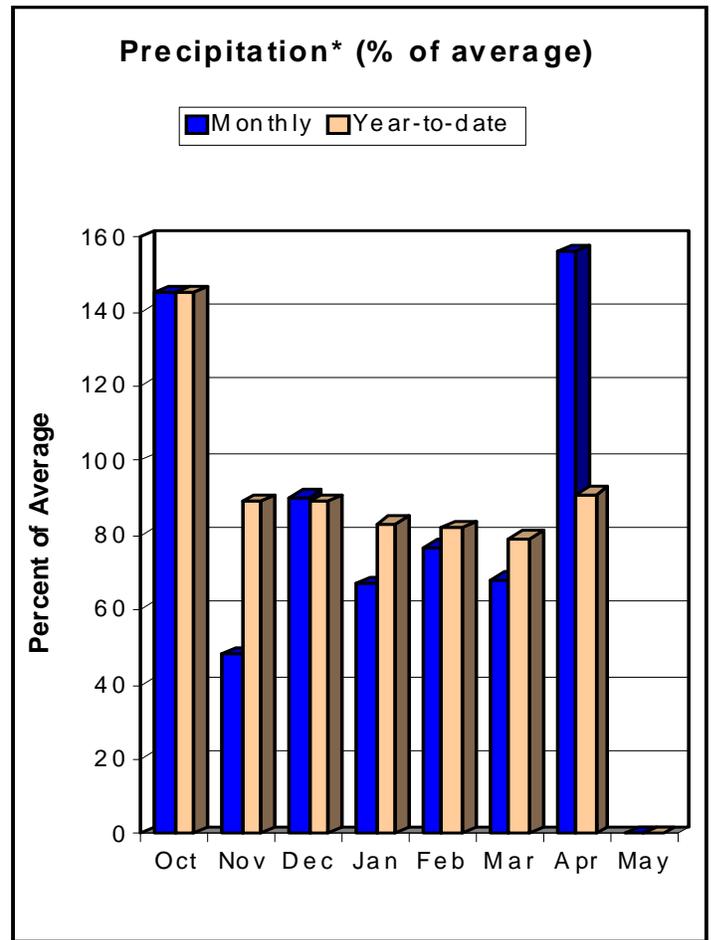
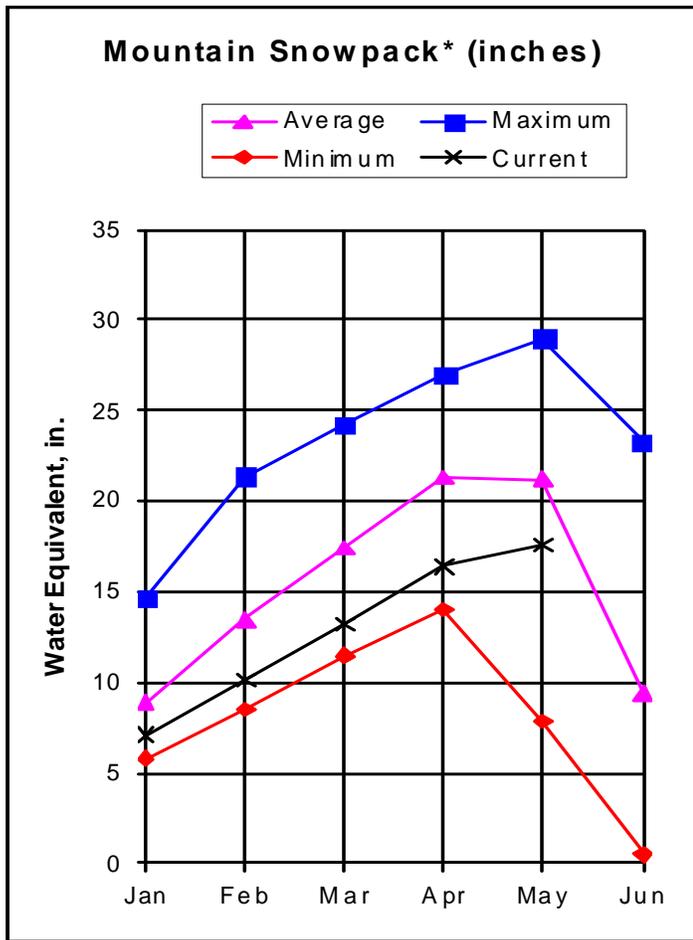
\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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



# YAMPA, WHITE, NORTH PLATTE AND LARAMIE RIVER BASINS as of May 1, 2010



\*Based on selected stations

The combined Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basin snowpack got off to a good start during the beginning of April, reaching its peak on April 10 at 87 percent of the average peak. Warm, dry conditions set in and snowmelt began in earnest. By April 22, based on SNOTEL data, the snowpack had dropped to 69 percent of average. Fortunately, a series of storms passed through the region during the latter part of the month, boosting the snowpack back up to 83 percent of average on May 1. Sub-basin snowpacks are generally below average. The two notable exceptions to this are the Little Snake and Laramie watersheds which boasted 96 and 115 percent of average snowpacks, respectively. The lowest sub-basin snowpack was recorded in the White River Drainage at 71 percent of average. After five months of below to well below average mountain precipitation, the combined basins posted the highest monthly total of all the major basins in the state at 156 percent of average. The exceptional April precipitation totals resulted in a 12 percentage point increase in the total water year precipitation, bringing it up to 91 percent of average. Reservoir storage is 115 percent of average and 98 percent of capacity. Forecasts increased over those issued last month but water users should continue to expect below average runoff for the May-July period. Streamflow volumes during this time should range from 46 percent of average for the Yampa River above Stagecoach Reservoir to 100 percent of average for the Laramie River near Woods.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2010

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)		
NORTH PLATTE RIVER nr Northgate	MAY-JUL	89	137	170	83	205	250	205				
	MAY-SEP	96	152	190	83	230	285	230				
LARAMIE RIVER nr Woods	MAY-JUL	81	101	115	100	129	149	115				
	MAY-SEP	90	113	128	101	143	166	127				
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir	MAY-JUL	2.8	8.9	13.0	46	17.1	23	28				
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs	APR-JUL	118	142	160	57	179	210	280				
	MAY-JUL	98	122	140	57	159	189	245				
Elk River nr Milner	APR-JUL	230	265	295	91	325	370	325				
	MAY-JUL	179	215	245	87	275	320	282				
Elkhead Creek nr Elkhead	APR-JUL	23	29	33	85	38	45	39				
	MAY-JUL	15.2	21	25	78	30	37	32				
Elkhead Creek blw Maynard Gulch (2)	APR-JUL	37	46	52	88	59	70	59				
	MAY-JUL	22	30	37	77	44	56	48				
Fortification Ck nr Fortification	MAR-JUN	4.2	5.7	7.0	93	8.4	10.9	7.5				
	MAY-JUN	2.0	2.7	3.3	83	4.0	5.1	4.0				
Yampa River Near Maybell	APR-JUL	535	630	700	71	775	890	990				
	MAY-JUL	395	490	560	67	635	750	840				
Little Snake River nr Slater	APR-JUL	111	131	145	91	160	184	159				
	MAY-JUL	91	111	125	89	140	164	141				
Little Snake River nr Dixon	APR-JUL	198	255	295	89	340	410	330				
	MAY-JUL	160	210	245	85	285	350	290				
Little Snake River nr Lily	APR-JUL	235	290	330	90	375	450	365				
	MAY-JUL	162	220	260	84	305	380	310				
White River nr Meeker	APR-JUL	164	193	215	74	240	275	290				
	MAY-JUL	130	159	180	69	205	240	260				

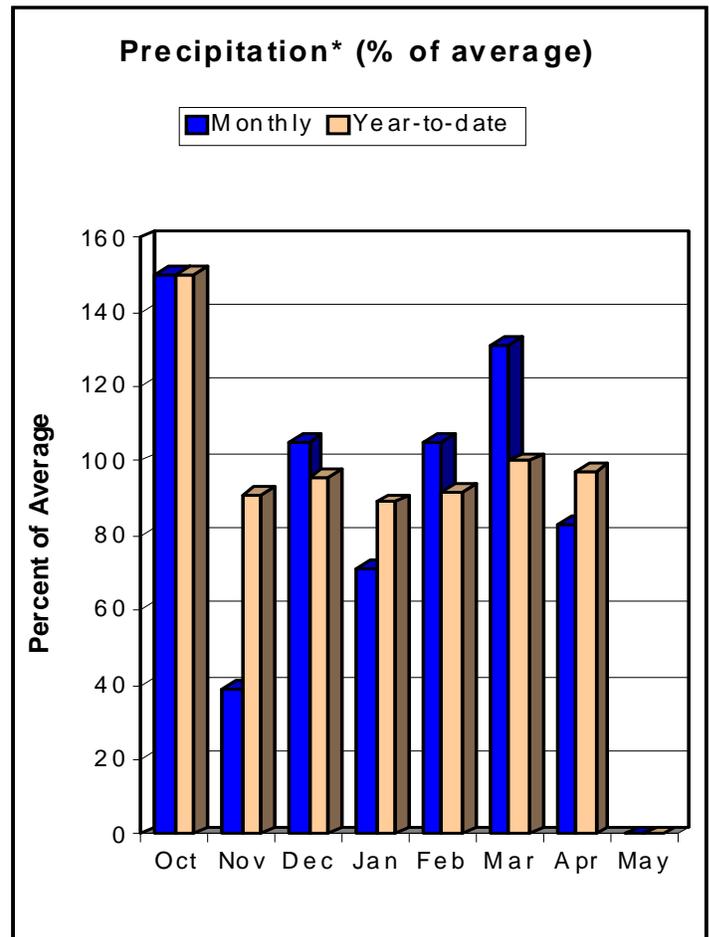
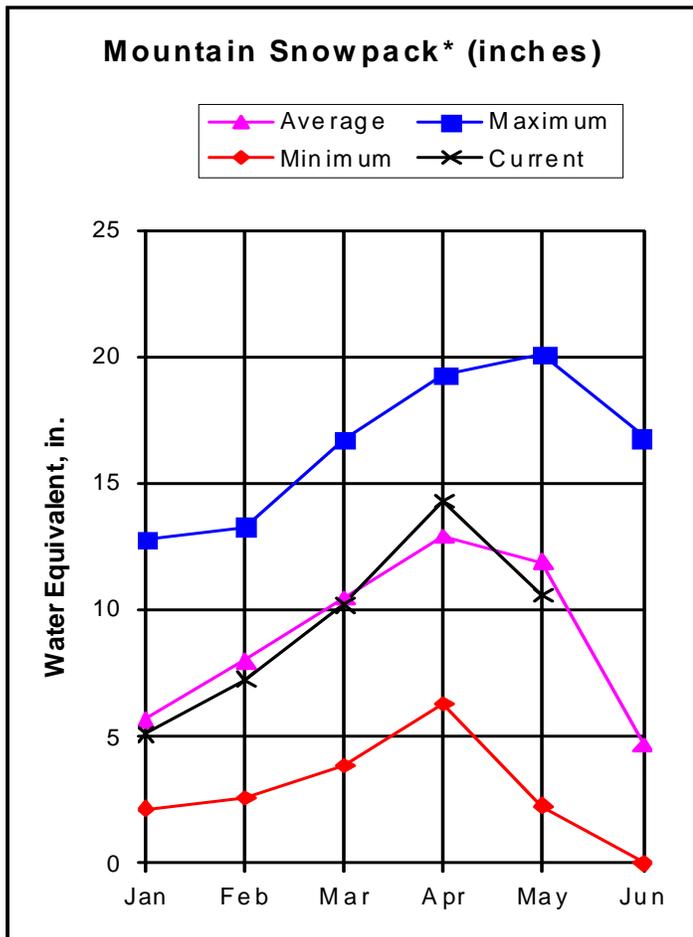
YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April				YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2010				
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
STAGECOACH	33.3	31.3	30.7	28.1	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	4	120	115
YAMCOLO	8.7	9.7	8.7	7.4	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	11	44	76
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	14	52	84
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	94	84
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	82	75
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	81	71
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	82	73
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	85	96
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	36	67	83					

\* 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.

# ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN as of May 1, 2010



\*Based on selected stations

Considering average snowpack for the state is at 78 percent, the Arkansas River Basin, at 89 percent of average, is in relatively good position for spring runoff. The basin as a whole experienced a large swing, going from 11 percent above average last month, to 11 percent below average this month. The current snowpack situation best resembles the conditions seen in 2007 when snowpack was 88 percent of average. Snowpack totals this year reached 104 percent of the average maximum snowpack. Although snowmelt started more than a week earlier than normal this year, recent cooler temperatures have slowed melt into a more typical time frame. The combined Cucharas and Huerfano sub-drainage has endured all five months since January 1 at or above 100 percent of average snowpack. Year-to-date precipitation for the Arkansas River Basin is better than the state average but just below the basin average at 97 percent. Reservoir storage is at great levels with 108 percent of average and 15 percent above last year at this time. Most streamflow forecasts fall in the near average category, between 90 and 110 percent of average. The exceptions are: Grape Creek near Westcliffe, CO at 117 to 130 percent of average, Huerfano River near Redwing, CO at 103 to 129 percent of average, Inflow to Trinidad Lake at 103 to 129 percent of average, and Chalk Creek at Nathrop at 89 to 93 percent of average.

=====

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2010

=====

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)				
		90%		70%		50%			30%		10%	
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)
CHALK CK at Nathrop	APR-JUL	12.2	17.1	21	91	25	32	23				
	MAY-JUL	10.8	15.7	19.6	89	24	31	22				
	APR-SEP	13.6	20	25	93	31	40	27				
	MAY-SEP	12.2	18.6	24	89	30	39	27				
ARKANSAS RIVER at Salida (2)	APR-JUL	185	215	240	94	265	300	255				
	MAY-JUL	164	194	220	92	245	280	240				
	APR-SEP	215	260	295	95	330	385	310				
	MAY-SEP	194	240	275	92	310	365	300				
GRAPE CK nr Westcliffe	APR-JUL	13.8	17.9	21	130	24	30	16.1				
	MAY-JUL	8.1	12.2	15.3	118	18.3	24	13.0				
	APR-SEP	16.6	21	25	128	29	35	19.6				
	MAY-SEP	10.9	15.3	19.3	117	23	29	16.5				
PUEBLO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	255	325	375	97	430	525	385				
	MAY-JUL	210	280	330	94	385	480	350				
	APR-SEP	300	395	465	96	545	670	485				
	MAY-SEP	255	350	420	93	500	625	450				
HUERFANO RIVER nr Redwing	APR-JUL	10.8	13.3	15.1	123	17.0	20	12.3				
	MAY-JUL	8.5	11.0	12.8	114	14.7	17.7	11.2				
	APR-SEP	14.0	16.9	19.0	123	21	25	15.5				
	MAY-SEP	11.7	14.6	16.7	115	18.7	23	14.5				
CUCHARAS RIVER nr La Veta	APR-JUL	9.2	10.8	11.9	105	13.1	15.0	11.3				
	MAY-JUL	7.7	9.3	10.4	105	11.6	13.5	9.9				
	APR-SEP	10.1	12.1	13.6	105	15.2	17.7	13.0				
	MAY-SEP	8.6	10.6	12.1	103	13.7	16.2	11.7				
TRINIDAD LAKE Inflow (2)	MAR-JUL	34	39	44	129	49	57	34				
	MAY-JUL	19.4	25	30	103	35	43	29				
	APR-SEP	32	42	50	114	58	72	44				
	MAY-SEP	23	33	41	103	49	63	40				

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2010			
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	55.2	38.9	34.3	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	10	84	83
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	9.4	8.5	6.0	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	113	103
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	1.8	1.1	6.9	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	250	87
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	40.6	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	15	93	89
HOLBROOK	7.0	2.9	1.0	4.7				
HORSE CREEK	27.0	0.0	0.0	11.3				
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	89.5	76.5	123.7				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	9.0	8.5	6.0				
MEREDITH	42.0	40.7	37.3	20.1				
PUEBLO	354.0	252.4	230.7	163.5				
TRINIDAD	167.0	31.8	27.3	29.1				
TURQUOISE	127.0	57.3	55.5	70.8				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	55.3	41.4	41.3				

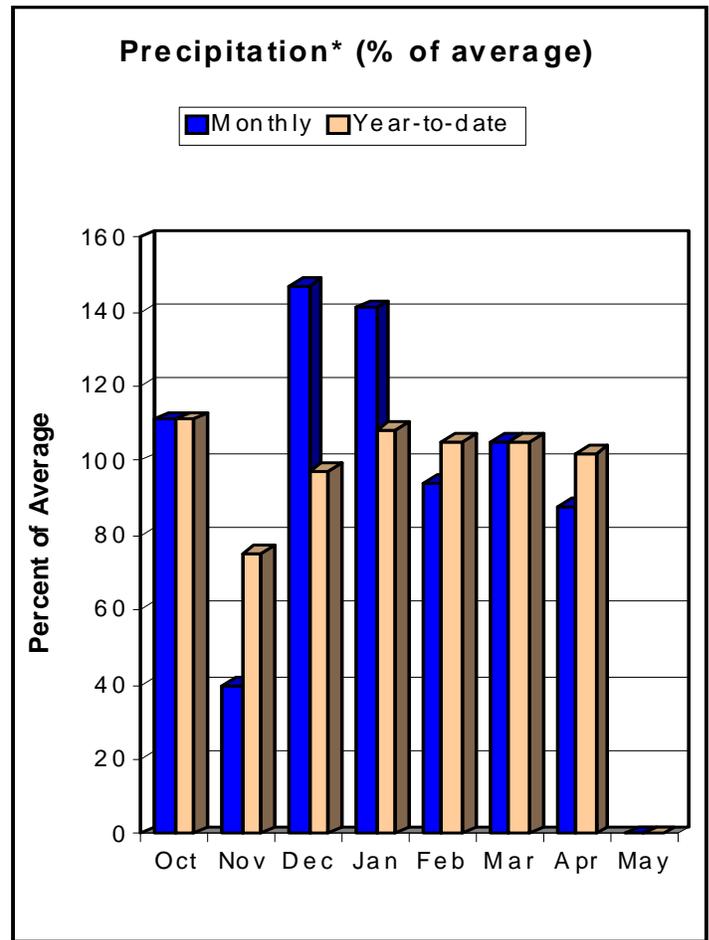
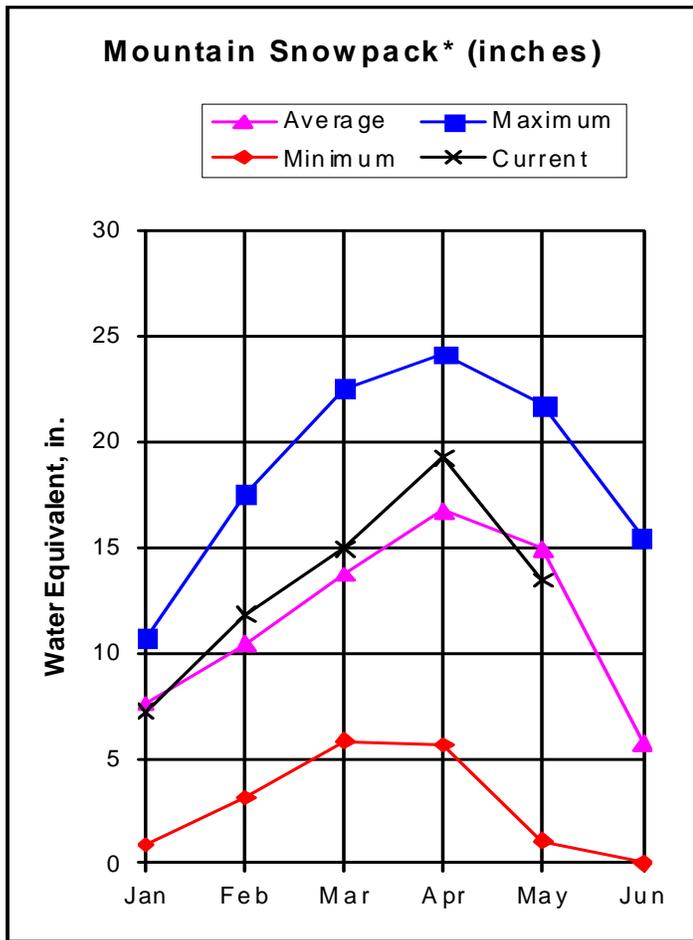
\* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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

# UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN

## as of May 1, 2010



\*Based on selected stations

Maintaining its top position of all major river basins in the state, the Upper Rio Grande in Colorado has dipped to its lowest snowpack levels of the 2010 water year. Based on SNOTEL and snow course readings, this is the first time since January 1 that the Upper Rio Grande Basin has fallen below average now at 90 percent. The combined Culebra and Trinchera Creeks sub-basin maintains the best snowpack in the state at 136 percent of average, unchanged from last month. Warm temperatures and below average snowfall sent snowmelt rates well above average for the majority of April. SNOTEL data suggests weather during the end of April slowed snowmelt significantly from that at the beginning of the month, enabling the basin to retain its snowpack at near normal conditions. Despite large April precipitation increments in the northern tier of the state, year-to-date precipitation within the Upper Rio Grande Basin continues to ride high with respect to the rest of Colorado at 102 percent of average, down from 105 percent last month. Currently reservoirs are right on queue at 90 percent of average and just one percent below last year at this time. Again this month, streamflow forecasts at the upper end of the basin are weaker than those at the lower end of the Upper Rio Grande in Colorado. Most forecasts at the upper end fall in the 80 to mid-90 percentile range. On the flip side of the average curve, the lower end of the basin sports forecasts ranging from 110 to 120 percent of average with a few outliers.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2010

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Drier Future Conditions				Wetter		30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)		
		90% (1000AF)		70% (1000AF)		Chance Of Exceeding * 50% (1000AF) (% AVG.)			30% (1000AF) 10% (1000AF)	
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge (2)	APR-SEP	93	107	117	86	128	144	136		
	MAY-SEP	83	97	107	83	118	134	129		
	APR-JUL	86	96	104	88	112	125	118		
	MAY-JUL	76	86	94	83	102	115	113		
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	240	275	305	88	335	380	345		
	MAY-SEP	194	230	260	81	290	335	322		
South Fork Rio Grande at South Fork	APR-SEP	106	117	125	95	134	147	132		
	MAY-SEP	86	97	105	88	114	127	120		
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	390	440	480	90	520	585	531		
	MAY-SEP	315	365	405	83	445	510	491		
Saguache Creek nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	19.6	26	30	91	35	43	33		
	MAY-SEP	13.4	19.8	24	83	29	37	29		
Alamosa Creek abv Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	53	60	65	93	70	79	70		
	MAY-SEP	45	52	57	91	62	71	63		
La Jara Creek nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	10.2	11.2	12.0	138	12.8	14.4	8.7		
	MAY-JUL	3.0	4.0	4.8	81	5.7	7.2	5.9		
Trinchera Creek abv Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	10.6	12.6	14.0	117	15.4	17.4	12.0		
	MAY-SEP	9.5	11.5	12.9	139	14.3	16.3	9.3		
Sangre de Cristo Creek (2)	APR-SEP	6.2	9.0	11.0	125	13.0	15.8	8.8		
	MAY-SEP	1.6	4.4	6.4	112	8.4	11.2	5.7		
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	9.8	12.4	14.4	118	16.6	20	12.2		
	MAY-SEP	8.2	10.8	12.8	115	15.1	18.9	11.1		
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	46	51	55	86	59	65	64		
	MAY-JUL	43	48	52	93	56	62	56		
	APR-SEP	50	56	60	85	65	72	71		
	MAY-SEP	47	53	57	92	62	69	62		
Conejos River nr Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	162	181	194	97	210	230	200		
	MAY-SEP	139	158	171	92	185	205	185		
San Antonio River at Ortiz	APR-SEP	15.9	17.6	18.9	115	20	23	16.4		
	MAY-SEP	5.0	6.7	8.0	75	9.1	12.1	10.7		
Los Pinos River nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	59	67	73	99	80	90	74		
	MAY-SEP	43	51	57	91	64	74	63		
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	17.1	22	27	117	32	40	23		
	MAY-SEP	14.3	19.6	24	114	29	37	21		
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	9.1	11.0	12.5	118	14.2	17.0	10.6		
	MAY-JUL	6.5	8.4	9.9	113	11.6	14.4	8.8		
Costilla Creek nr Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	22	27	31	119	35	42	26		
	MAY-JUL	13.6	18.3	22	108	26	33	20		

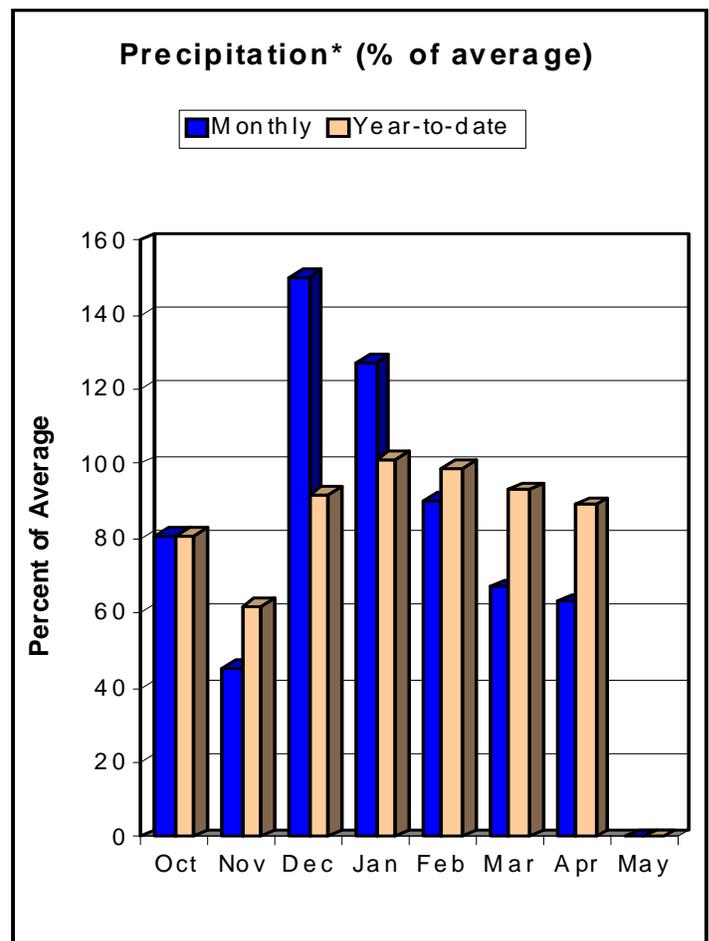
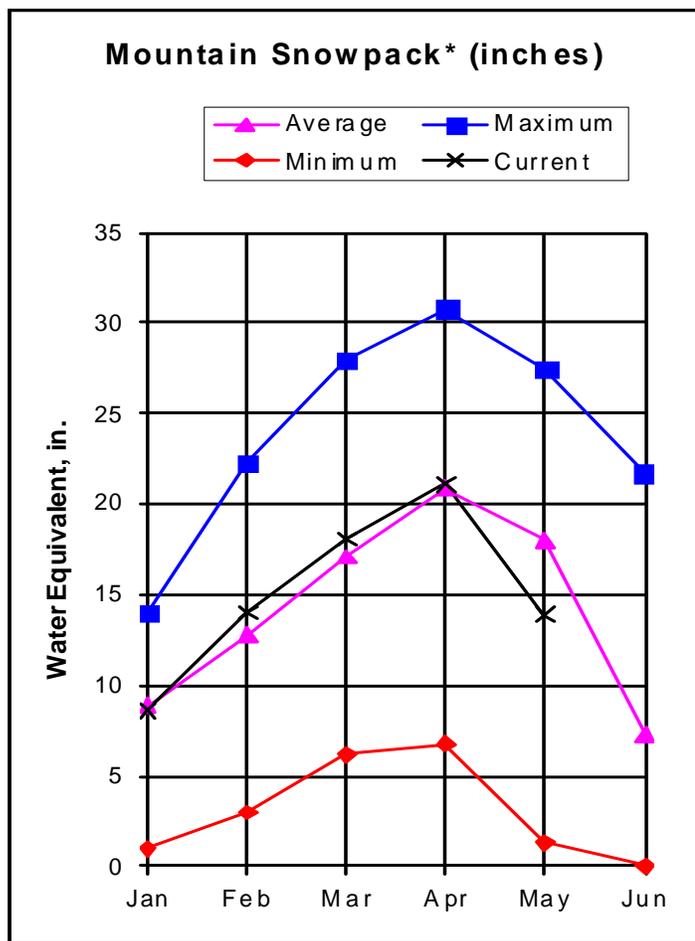
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2010			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	27.0	6.9	6.3	6.6	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	104	89
PLATORO	60.0	30.2	21.9	23.3	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	87	98
RIO GRANDE	51.0	14.7	19.5	21.4	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	152	136
SANCHEZ	103.0	21.0	25.3	25.8	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	88	77
SANTA MARIA	45.0	5.2	4.4	11.1	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	95	90
TERRACE	18.0	7.6	9.1	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.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.

# SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS as of May 1, 2010



\*Based on selected stations

The May 1 snowpack in the combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins was measured at 77 percent of average and 124 percent of the snowpack present at this time last year. SNOTEL data indicates the snowpack reached its peak on April 8 at 99 percent of the average peak. Since that time, the snow has continued to melt, virtually unabated. The combined basins did not benefit from the late April storms as much as the northern basins, but at least it did slow the melt, if only for a couple of days. Sub-basin snowpacks are below to well below average, ranging from 68 percent of average in the Animas Watershed to 87 percent of average in the San Juan Drainage. Mountain precipitation during April was well below normal at 63 percent of average. This makes it the third consecutive month of below average monthly precipitation. As a result, total precipitation for the water year dropped 4 percentage points from last month to 89 percent of average. The combined basins have the dubious distinction of having the lowest monthly and water year percentages of the major basins in the state. On a positive note, although down compared to last year, reservoir storage is 100 percent of average. Given the conditions in April, it should come as no surprise that the forecasts dropped somewhat compared to those issued last month. May-July streamflow volumes are expected to be mostly below average, ranging from 62 percent of average for the Inflow to McPhee Reservoir to 93 percent of average for the Rio Blanco at the Blanco diversion.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS  
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2010

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)		
Dolores River at Dolores	APR-JUL	166	187	200	76	220	245	265				
	MAY-JUL	114	135	150	68	167	193	220				
McPhee Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	185	210	240	75	245	275	320				
	MAY-JUL	103	128	160	62	163	193	260				
San Miguel River nr Placerville	APR-JUL	86	98	106	80	115	129	132				
	MAY-JUL	68	80	88	75	97	111	117				
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	9.4	11.7	13.5	74	15.5	18.7	18.3				
	MAY-JUL	7.4	9.7	11.5	70	13.5	16.8	16.5				
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	0.9	1.7	2.5	77	3.5	5.4	3.3				
	MAY-JUL	0.7	1.4	2.0	68	2.8	4.2	2.9				
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.5	1.9	2.2	75	2.6	3.3	2.9				
	MAY-JUL	1.1	1.4	1.8	69	2.1	2.7	2.5				
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	42	48	52	98	56	64	53				
	MAY-JUL	32	38	42	93	47	54	45				
Navajo River at Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	49	56	62	90	68	78	69				
	MAY-JUL	36	43	49	85	55	65	58				
San Juan River nr Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	295	335	370	91	405	460	405				
	MAY-JUL	193	235	270	83	305	360	325				
Piedra River nr Arboles	APR-JUL	182	200	215	94	230	255	230				
	MAY-JUL	101	121	135	79	151	176	172				
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	140	156	167	82	179	198	205				
	MAY-JUL	113	129	140	76	152	171	184				
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	545	600	680	87	770	825	785				
	MAY-JUL	325	380	460	75	550	605	615				
Animas River at Durango	APR-JUL	285	315	340	77	365	405	440				
	MAY-JUL	235	265	290	74	315	355	390				
Lemon Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	32	38	43	74	48	57	58				
	MAY-JUL	27	33	38	72	43	52	53				
La Plata River at Hesperus	APR-JUL	15.9	18.1	19.7	79	21	24	25				
	MAY-JUL	11.2	13.4	15.0	71	16.7	19.5	21				
Mancos River nr Mancos (2)	APR-JUL	18.9	22	25	76	28	33	33				

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, 2010

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	17.7	16.5	14.2	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	9	101	68
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	5.3	7.2	7.4	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	6	194	80
LEMON	40.0	14.7	24.4	23.4	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	174	77
MCPHEE	381.0	315.7	321.2	304.6	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	113	87
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	18.8	17.8	17.1	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	23	124	77
VALLECITO	126.0	64.5	93.4	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.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.





655 Parfet Street, Room E200C  
Lakewood, CO 80215-5517

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>

*Issued by*

**Dave White**  
Chief  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

*Released by*

**Allen Green**  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Lakewood, Colorado

**Colorado**  
**Basin Outlook Report**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Lakewood, CO