

Colorado Basin Outlook Report May 1, 2011



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
Denver Federal Center, Bldg 56, Rm 2604
PO Box 25426
Denver, CO 80225-0426
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.

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Colorado Water Supply Outlook Report May 1, 2011

Summary

Snowfall during April continued to increase snowpacks across northern Colorado at a record setting pace. These basins are now reporting well above average snowpack percentages. Meanwhile, southern Colorado entered an early melt during April and current snowpacks are well below average. Expected water supplies closely mirror snowpack conditions across the state. While most of the state can now expect one of the best runoff years in recent history; further south, late-season shortages are certainly a possibility this year. Reservoir storage remains in good to excellent condition in most basins. Expected inflows across most of the state will assure full reservoirs by early summer.

Snowpack

Snowfall during April was one for the record books across northern Colorado. New record snow water equivalent readings were measured at 46 sites on May 1. The basins producing the majority of new record readings include the Colorado, Yampa, North Platte and Cache La Poudre. Those basins are now reporting snowpack percentages of 150% to 175% of average. Two noteworthy records are those set at the Tower SNOTEL site and at the Cameron Pass snow course. At Tower, the all-time record snowpack for the state was measured on May 1 at 72.6 inches of water equivalent. At Cameron Pass, a new record snowpack was measured at 48 inches of water equivalent. This record exceeds any measurement since that site was established in 1936, making it one of the oldest snow courses in the state. Moving southward, snowpack percentages moderate somewhat, yet remain above average. Current snowpack totals in the Gunnison Basin are 139% and decrease to 112% of average in the Arkansas Basin. Continuing this year's trend, snowpack totals in the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores and San Miguel basins remain below average at 93%. While April storms helped to improve totals in these basins, maximum totals fell short of the average mark this year. The state's lowest snowpack percentages continue to be measured across the Rio Grande Basin which decreased for the fourth consecutive month and is now only 72% of average.

Precipitation

Precipitation at SNOTEL sites was above average in all basins during April. Statewide precipitation totals were 159% of average and was the highest since December, 2010 which was also the last occurrence of above average statewide precipitation at SNOTEL sites. April's totals ranged from 107% of average in the Arkansas Basin to a high of 188% of average in the combined Yampa, White and North Platte basins. The South Platte Basin is the only basin which has reported above average precipitation each month during the seven months of the 2001 water year and is reporting water year totals of 130% of average. Basins with higher water year totals include the combined Yampa, White and North Platte, at 140% of average, and the Colorado, at 133% of average. Meanwhile, water year totals continue to track below average across the Arkansas, Rio Grande and combined southwestern basins. Statewide water year totals remain at an impressive 122% of average and 134% of last year's readings.

Reservoir Storage

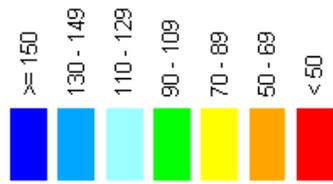
Reservoir storage remains in good to excellent condition across most of the state this month. Above average volumes are reported throughout the Colorado, Yampa, Gunnison and combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores and San Miguel basins. The state's highest storage percentage was reported in the Gunnison basin at 111% of average. In comparison to last month however, volumes have decreased slightly in the Gunnison, Colorado, and Arkansas basins this month as reservoir operators anticipate abundant inflows this spring. Meanwhile, statewide storage remains at 101% of average and is 91% of last year's storage volumes. With the exception of the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores and San Miguel basins, all other basins are storing significantly less volume than last year at this time. There remain two basins in the state which are reporting below average storage. Those include the Rio Grande at 79%, and the Arkansas at 86% of average. Except for the Rio Grande basin, this year's inflows should be adequate to restore reservoir volumes as the spring melt season progresses.

Streamflow

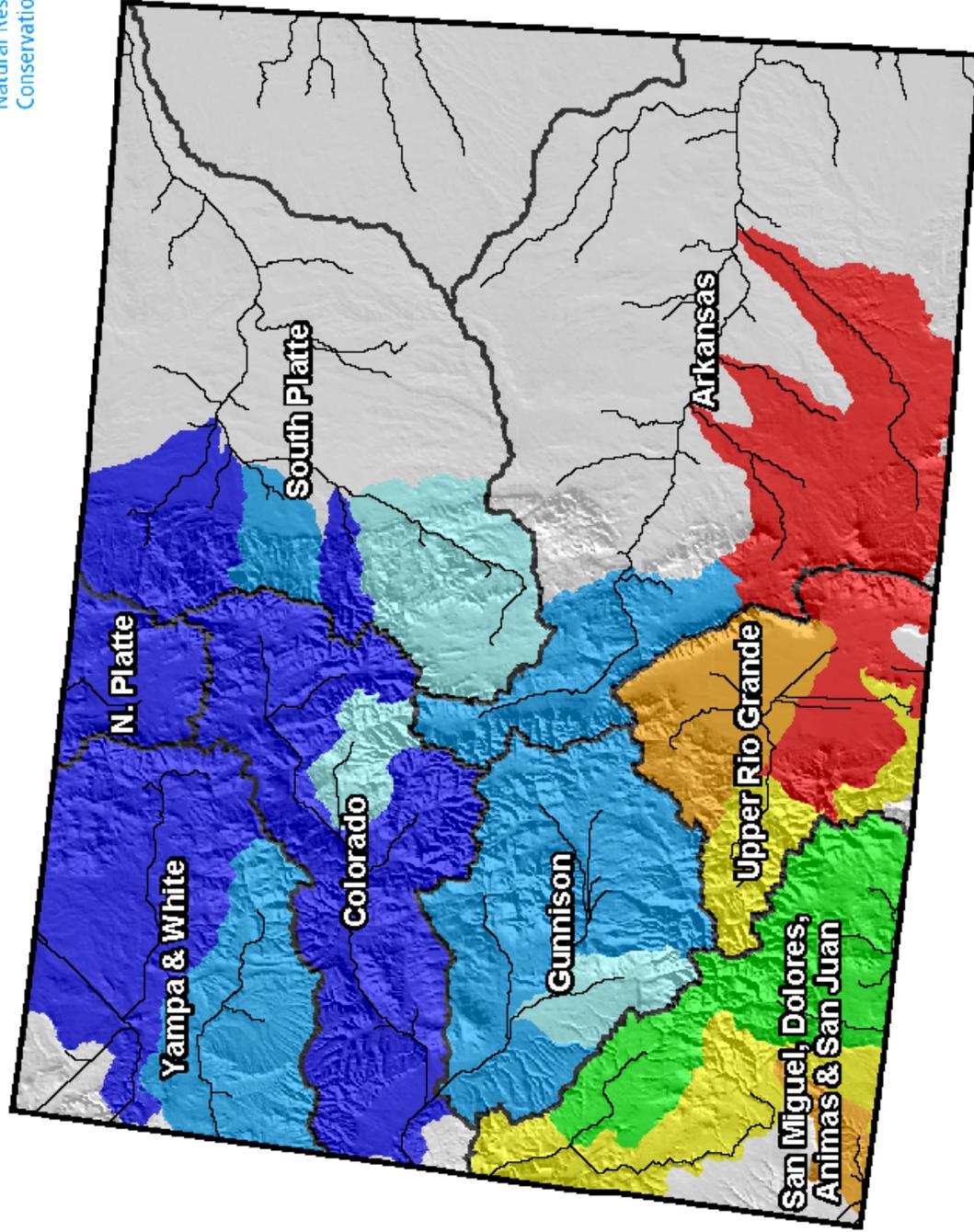
The additional snow accumulations during April will have a significant impact on runoff volumes across most of Colorado. This month's forecasts increased significantly over those issued a month ago throughout the Colorado Gunnison, Yampa, White and northern tributaries of the South Platte. The highest forecasts are found in the North Platte Basin and have now exceeded 200% of average for the April through July period. Volumes in excess of 150% of average are common throughout the Yampa, Colorado and in the Cache La Poudre basins. Forecasts moderate to 100% to 150% of average throughout most of the Gunnison, the Upper Arkansas and along the mainstem of the Arkansas River. Without significant improvements in moisture conditions, those basins across southern Colorado can continue to expect below average volumes. Forecasts range from 21% to 92% of average in the San Juan, Animas, Dolores, San Miguel, Rio Grande and southern tributaries of the Arkansas basins. This year's water availability continues to reflect the La Nina pattern with a storm track which has definitely favored the northern portions of the state.

Colorado Snowpack Map

Percent of Average

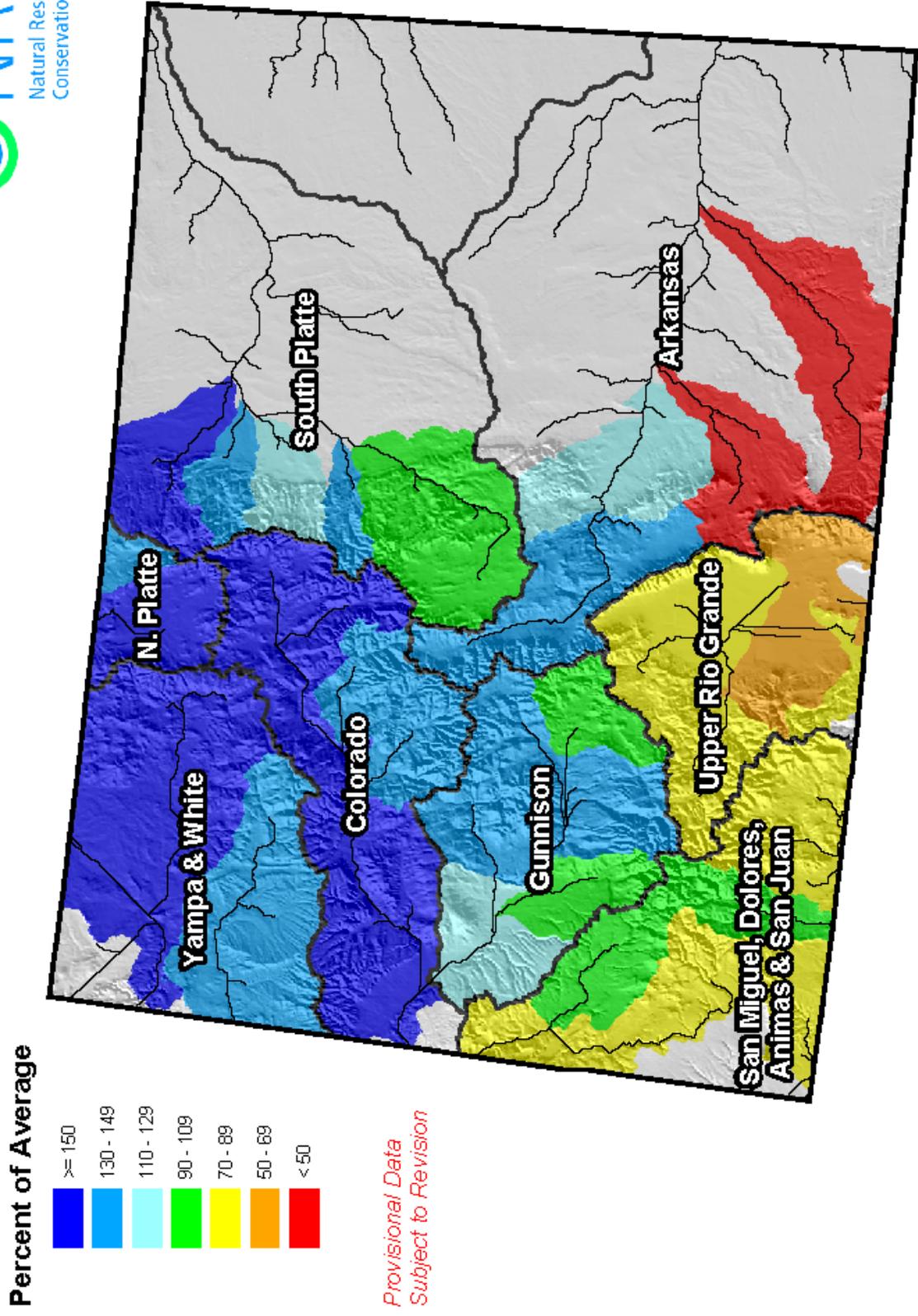


*Provisional Data
Subject to Revision*



Current as of May 1, 2011

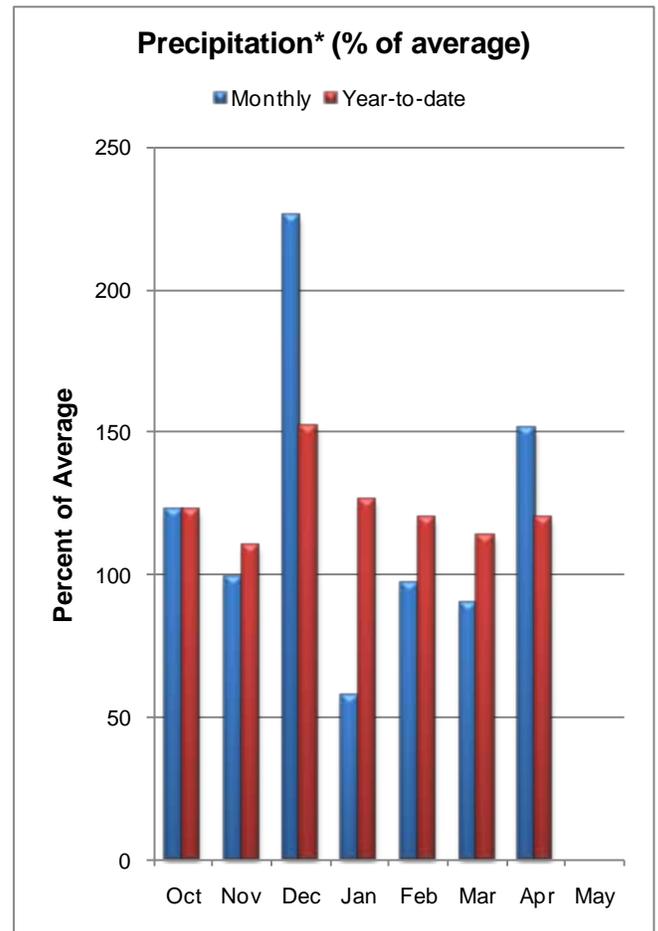
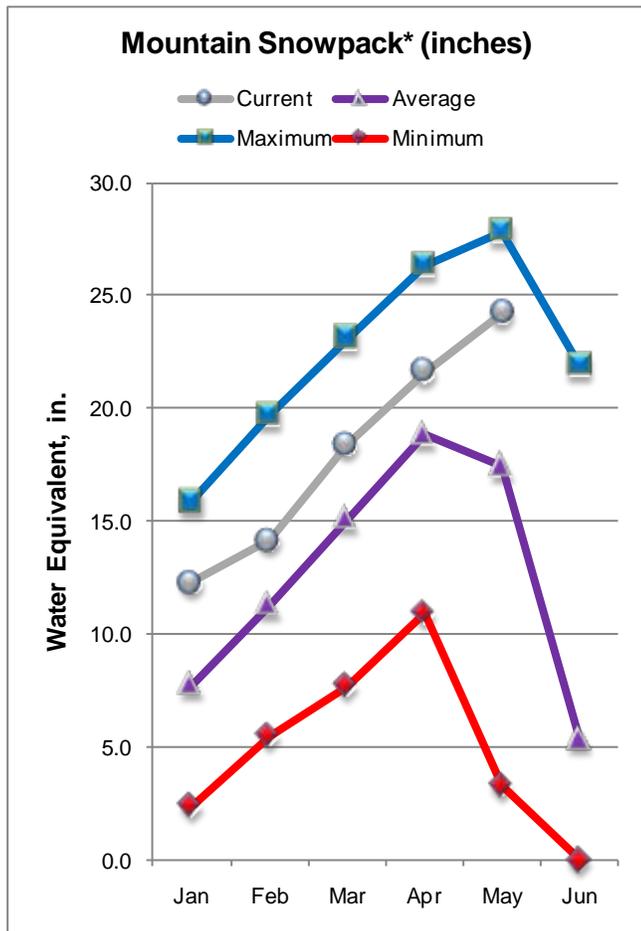
Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map



Current as of May 1, 2011

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

as of May 1, 2011



*Based on selected stations

After a steady decline in snowpack percent of average figures since January, the snowpack in the Gunnison River Basin made somewhat of a comeback during April. May 1 snow measurements show the basin is currently 139 percent of average, up from last month's 115 percent of average figure, and 195 percent of the snowpack present on May 1, 2010. Typically, the basin reaches its peak snowpack around April 12 but the basin continued to accumulate snowpack beyond that date, with significant increases during the last week of April. Looking back, this is the highest May 1 snowpack the basin has had since 1997. Sub-basin snowpacks are above average to well above average, ranging from 128 percent of average in the Uncompahgre to 142 percent of average in the Upper Gunnison. High elevation precipitation during April was 151 percent of average, breaking a string of three consecutive months of below average monthly precipitation. As a result, total precipitation for the water year to date increased to 120 percent of average. Reservoir storage is down compared to this time last year but remains above normal at 111 percent of average. Forecasts at most locations saw a marked increase this month, in some cases up to 21 percentage points higher than those issued in April. Spring and summer streamflows are expected to be above average to well above average over most of the basin. April-July runoff volumes should range from 92 percent of average for Cochetopa Creek near Parlin to 141 percent of average for the East River at Almont.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2011

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ==== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Taylor Park Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	120	133	143	139	153	169	103
	MAY-JUL	112	125	135	142	145	161	95
Slate R nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	108	116	122	137	128	137	89
	MAY-JUL	101	109	115	144	121	130	80
East R at Almont	APR-JUL	240	260	270	141	280	300	192
	MAY-JUL	225	245	255	143	265	285	178
Gunnison R near Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	455	490	530	136	570	620	390
	MAY-JUL	425	460	500	141	540	590	355
Tomichi Ck at Sargents	APR-JUL	27	32	37	116	42	50	32
	MAY-JUL	23	28	33	118	38	46	28
Cochetopa Ck bl Rock Ck nr Parlin	APR-JUL	10.0	13.3	16.0	93	19.1	25	17.3
	MAY-JUL	8.2	11.5	14.2	108	17.3	23	13.1
Tomichi Ck at Gunnison	APR-JUL	59	75	87	107	101	124	81
	MAY-JUL	47	63	75	110	89	112	68
Lake Fk at Gateview	APR-JUL	114	126	135	107	144	157	126
	MAY-JUL	107	119	128	108	137	150	119
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	825	890	945	131	1000	1050	720
	MAY-JUL	750	815	870	135	925	970	645
Paonia Reservoir Inflow (2)	MAR-JUN	118	132	142	142	153	169	100
	MAY-JUN	91	105	115	153	126	142	75
	APR-JUL	120	137	149	146	162	182	102
	MAY-JUL	98	115	127	155	140	160	82
NF Gunnison R nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	350	385	410	134	435	475	305
	MAY-JUL	300	335	360	139	385	425	260
Surface Ck at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	19.5	22	24	140	26	30	17.1
	MAY-JUL	17.2	20	22	148	24	28	14.9
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	90	102	110	108	118	130	102
	MAY-JUL	81	92	100	109	108	121	92
Uncompahgre R at Colona (2)	APR-JUL	113	133	147	106	162	186	139
	MAY-JUL	101	121	135	110	150	174	123
Gunnison R nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	1630	1820	1970	126	2130	2270	1560
	MAY-JUL	1410	1600	1750	131	1910	2050	1340

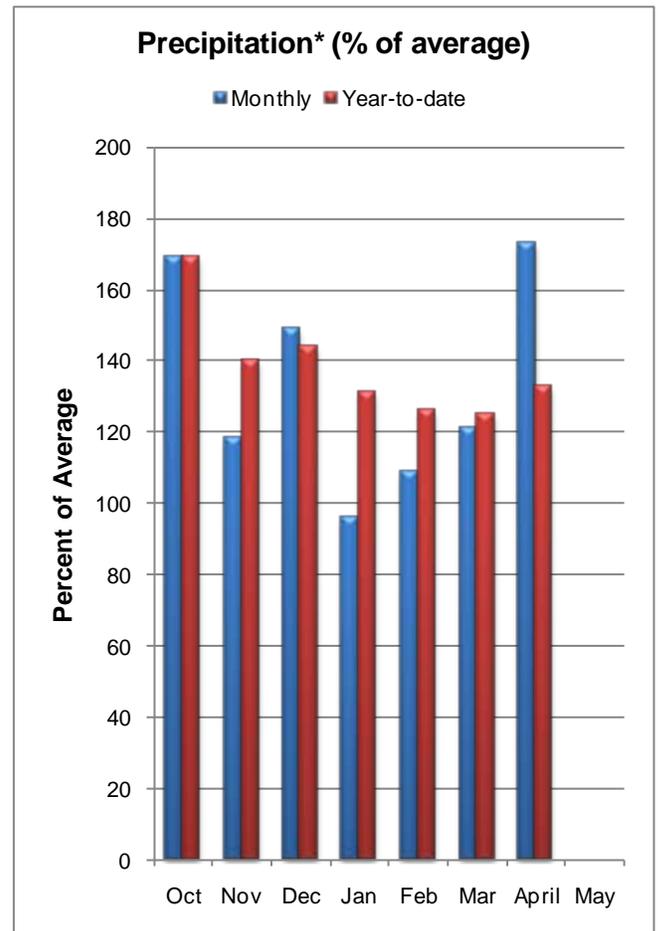
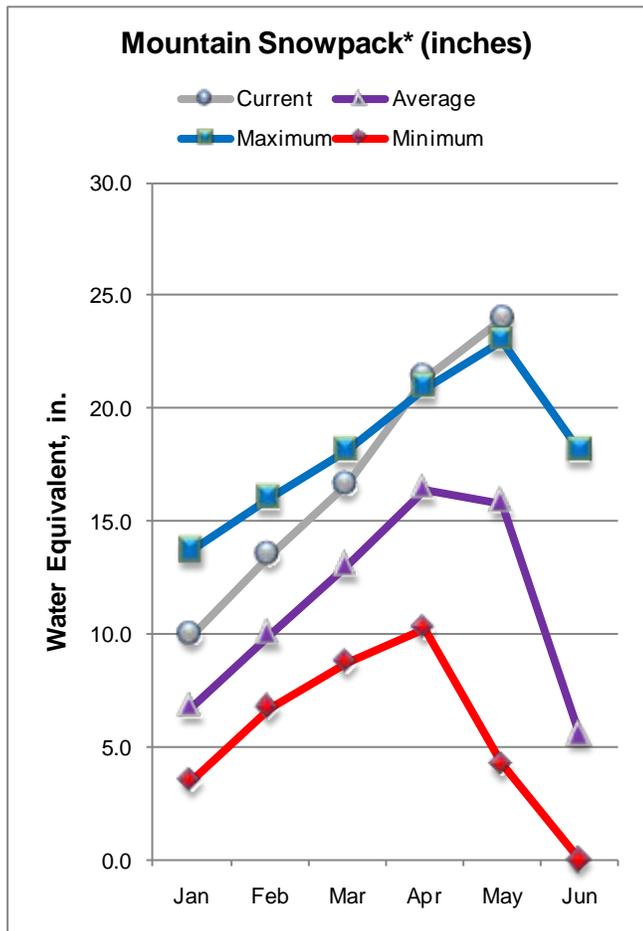
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2011			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
BLUE MESA	830.0	476.5	587.3	404.7	UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	207	142
CRAWFORD	14.0	11.9	11.4	12.1	SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	180	140
FRUITGROWERS	3.6	3.4	3.3	4.1	UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	158	128
FRUITLAND	9.2	5.3	5.5	4.9	TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	19	195	139
MORROW POINT	121.0	110.8	108.7	113.4				
PAONIA	15.4	0.6	1.3	7.4				
RIDGWAY	83.0	56.1	69.3	57.9				
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	72.2	67.4	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, 2011



*Based on selected stations

Someone neglected to tell the Upper Colorado River Basin snowpack that it was supposed to peak around mid-April because it has continued to accumulate snow throughout the entire month, especially during the last two weeks. May 1 snowpack measurements indicate the basin is 151 percent of average and 222 percent of the snowpack present a year ago. This ties it with 1993 as the third highest May 1 snowpack going back to 1968. Sub-basin snowpacks are all well above average. The Willow Creek Watershed reported the lowest snowpack percentage at 135 percent of average. Meanwhile, at the higher end of the spectrum, both the Blue River and Roaring Fork drainages boasted 157 percent of average snowpacks. Mountain precipitation for April was a whopping 173 percent of average, making it the sixth month out of the past seven with above average conditions. Total precipitation for the water year is 133 percent of average, up from 125 percent of average last month, and 148 percent of last year's total at this time. Reservoir storage remains in good shape at 107 percent of average, although it is down about 7 percent when compared to the amount of water stored at this time last year. Forecasts are up significantly from those issued last month, with increases ranging from 19 to 43 percentage points. April-July streamflows are forecast to be well above average at all forecast points. Runoff volumes should range from 141 percent of average for the Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs to 190 percent of average for the Inflow to Willow Creek Reservoir.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2011

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	360	390	410	182	430	460	225
	MAY-JUL	340	370	390	181	410	445	215
Willow Ck Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	77	89	97	190	106	119	51
	MAY-JUL	70	82	90	192	99	112	47
Williams Fk Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	127	142	152	160	163	179	95
	MAY-JUL	120	135	145	163	156	172	89
Dillon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	220	245	260	156	275	300	167
	MAY-JUL	210	235	250	158	265	290	158
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	365	405	435	155	465	510	280
	MAY-JUL	345	385	415	157	445	490	265
Muddy Ck bl WOLFORD Mtn Reservoir nr	APR-JUL	87	101	112	187	123	141	60
	MAY-JUL	78	92	103	198	114	132	52
Eagle R bl Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	405	450	485	145	520	575	335
	MAY-JUL	380	425	460	146	495	550	315
Colorado R nr Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	2020	2250	2420	168	2590	2860	1440
	MAY-JUL	1870	2100	2270	171	2440	2710	1325
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	171	189	200	142	215	235	141
	MAY-JUL	163	181	193	144	205	225	134
Roaring Fk at Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	865	945	1000	141	1060	1150	710
	MAY-JUL	820	900	955	144	1010	1100	665
Colorado R nr Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	3290	3630	3870	160	4120	4500	2420
	MAY-JUL	3050	3390	3630	164	3880	4260	2220

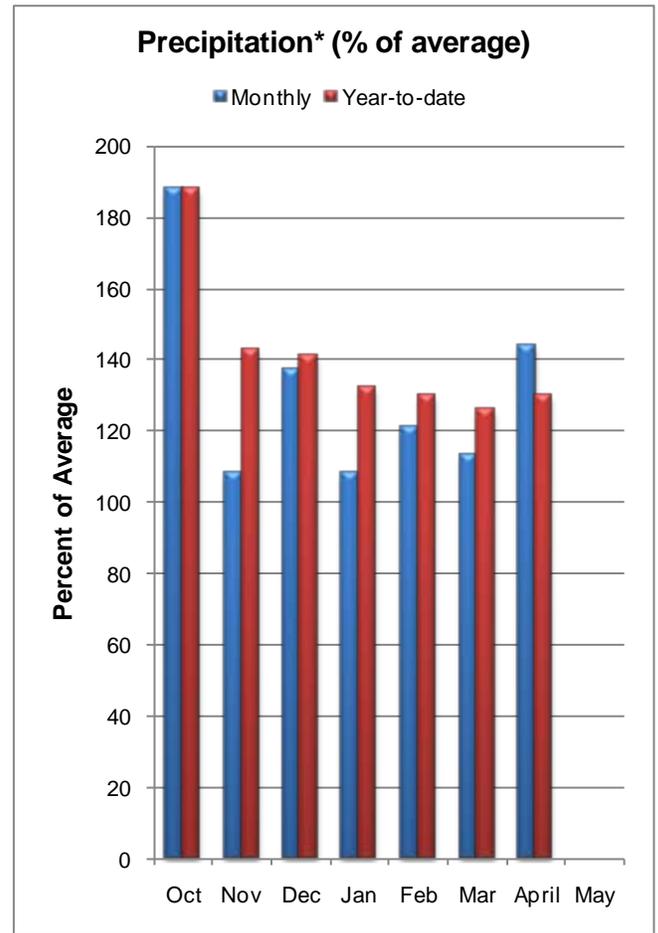
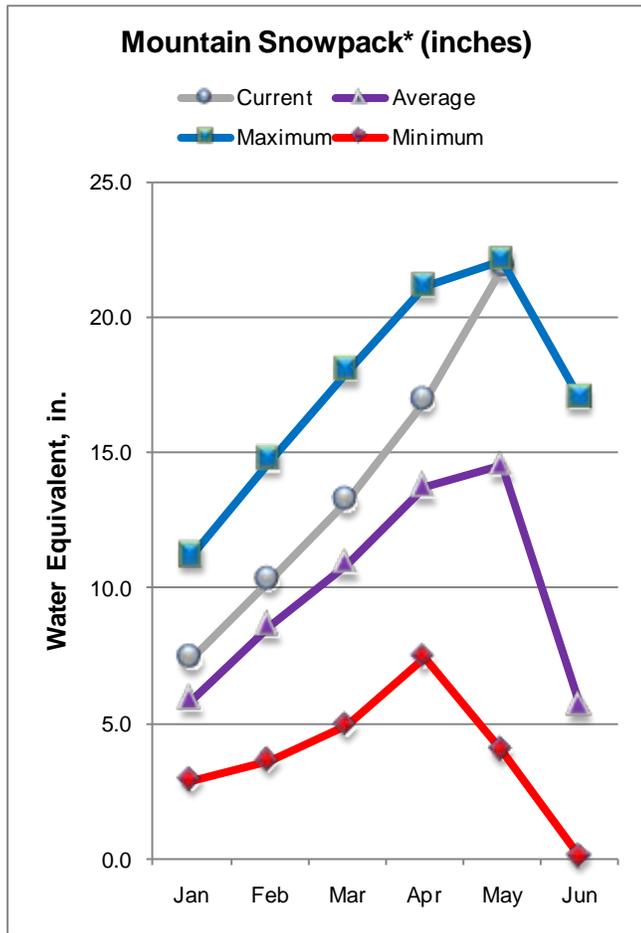
Reservoir	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April				UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2011			
	Usable Capacity	*** This Year	Usable Last Year	Storage *** Avg	Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	% of Average
DILLON	254.0	212.8	242.7	212.8	BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	225	157
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	295.0	269.6	259.5	UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	37	223	152
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	50.7	77.7	54.3	MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	255	153
HOMESTAKE	43.0	12.7	21.8	16.8	PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	180	140
RUEDI	102.0	59.8	71.0	59.7	ROARING FORK BASIN	8	225	157
VEGA	32.9	17.3	19.8	16.6	WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	4	198	154
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	80.1	79.5	55.3	WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	327	135
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	1.7	6.4	5.9	TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASIN	48	219	151

* 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, 2011



*Based on selected stations

The South Platte River Basin posted its highest snowpack percentage of the year on May 1 at 150 percent of average and 186 percent of last May's snowpack. This was due primarily to the series of storm systems that started in mid-April and continued through the rest of the month. This is the best showing for a May 1 snowpack since 1997 and is the fourth highest going back to 1968. Above average to well above average snowpacks are reported in the sub-basins, ranging from 118 percent of average in the Saint Vrain to 174 percent of average in the Cache La Poudre. Of particular note are the anomalous conditions that exist above Antero Reservoir in the headwaters of the South Platte and in the Bear Creek area where snowpacks are well below average. April precipitation at the higher elevations was well above normal at 144 percent of average. The South Platte River Basin is the only major basin in the state that has had seven consecutive months of above precipitation. Total precipitation for the water year is 130 percent of average. Reservoir storage remains slightly below normal at 98 percent of average. The Upper South Platte saw minor percentage drops when compared to last month's forecasts, while moderate increases were seen along the Front Range. Except for the Inflow to Antero Reservoir and points along Bear Creek, the South Platte River Basin can expect near average to well above average runoff. April-September volumes should range from 51 percent of average for Bear Creek at Morrison to 153 percent of average on the Cache La Poudre.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2011

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	Future Conditions						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Drier		50%		Wetter		
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Antero Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	5.6	7.7	9.4	56	11.3	14.5	16.8
	APR-SEP	8.6	11.8	14.4	66	17.3	22	22
	MAY-JUL	5.6	7.7	9.4	61	11.3	14.5	15.4
	MAY-SEP	8.6	11.8	14.4	72	17.3	22	20
Spinney Mountain Res Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	44	53	60	107	67	79	56
	APR-SEP	56	68	78	113	88	104	69
	MAY-JUL	43	52	59	116	66	78	51
	MAY-SEP	55	67	77	120	87	103	64
Elevenmile Canyon Res Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	45	55	62	107	70	82	58
	APR-SEP	57	71	81	113	92	109	72
	MAY-JUL	45	55	62	117	70	82	53
	MAY-SEP	57	71	81	121	92	109	67
Cheesman Lake Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	85	106	122	107	139	166	114
	APR-SEP	103	131	152	109	175	210	140
	MAY-JUL	81	102	118	117	135	162	101
	MAY-SEP	99	127	148	117	171	205	127
South Platte R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	149	188	215	105	245	295	205
	APR-SEP	192	235	270	106	305	365	255
	MAY-JUL	142	181	210	115	240	290	182
	MAY-SEP	185	230	265	115	300	360	230
Bear Ck ab Evergreen	APR-JUL	6.3	8.8	10.9	57	13.3	17.5	19.3
	APR-SEP	8.3	11.9	14.9	60	18.4	25	25
	MAY-JUL	5.5	8.0	10.1	58	12.5	16.7	17.3
	MAY-SEP	7.5	11.1	14.1	61	17.6	24	23
Bear Ck at Morrison	APR-JUL	6.5	9.4	11.9	48	14.8	20	25
	APR-SEP	8.1	12.2	15.7	51	19.9	27	31
	MAY-JUL	5.2	8.1	10.6	51	13.5	18.8	21
	MAY-SEP	6.8	10.9	14.4	53	18.6	26	27
Clear Ck at Golden	APR-JUL	139	152	162	147	172	188	110
	APR-SEP	171	188	200	149	215	235	134
	MAY-JUL	135	148	158	151	168	184	105
	MAY-SEP	167	184	197	154	210	230	128
St. Vrain Ck at Lyons (2)	APR-JUL	97	107	114	121	121	133	94
	APR-SEP	111	124	133	122	143	157	109
	MAY-JUL	93	103	110	126	117	129	87
	MAY-SEP	107	120	129	127	139	153	102
Boulder Ck nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	57	63	67	129	71	77	52
	APR-SEP	65	72	77	128	82	90	60
	MAY-JUL	54	60	64	131	68	74	49
	MAY-SEP	62	69	74	130	79	87	57
S Boulder Ck nr Eldorado Springs (2)	APR-JUL	42	48	52	127	57	64	41
	APR-SEP	45	52	57	124	62	71	46
	MAY-JUL	39	45	49	129	54	61	38
	MAY-SEP	42	49	54	129	59	68	42
Big Thompson R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	120	129	135	136	141	150	99
	APR-SEP	142	154	163	137	172	184	119
	MAY-JUL	116	125	131	138	137	146	95
	MAY-SEP	138	150	159	140	168	180	114
Cache La Poudre at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	340	365	380	155	395	420	245
	APR-SEP	370	400	420	153	440	470	275
	MAY-JUL	320	345	360	153	375	400	235
	MAY-SEP	350	380	400	154	420	450	260

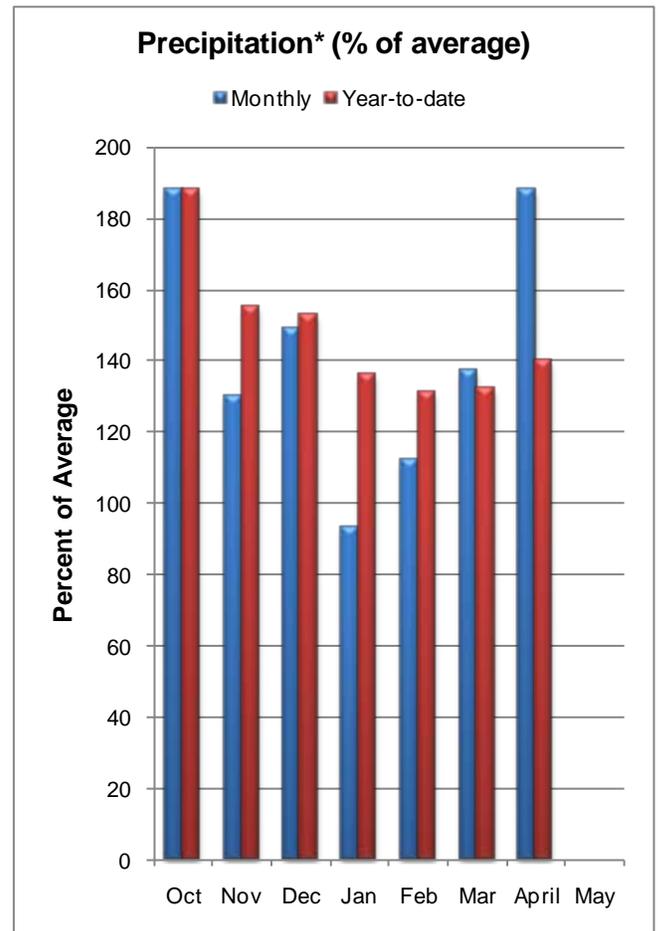
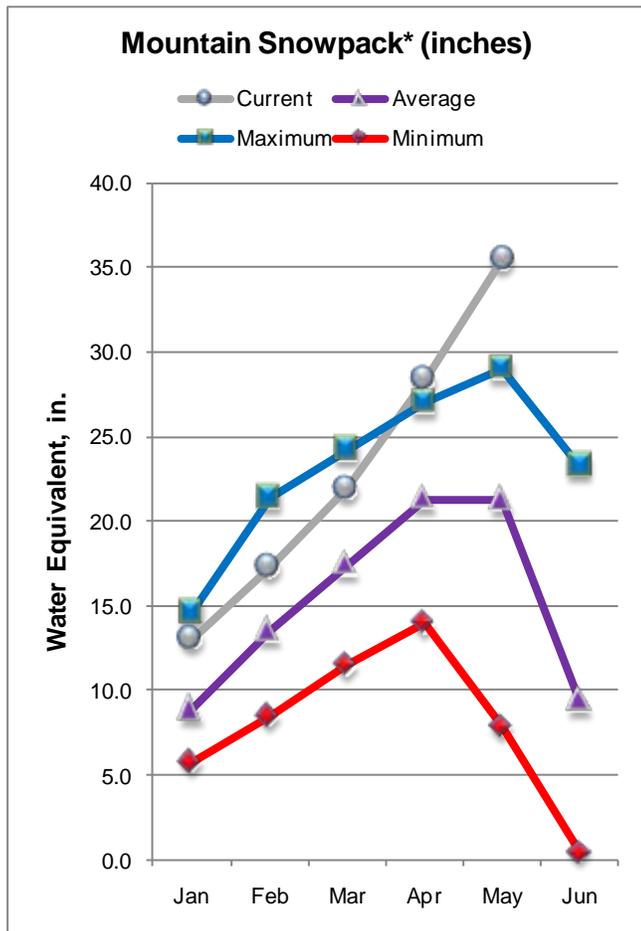
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2011			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ANTERO	19.9	19.6	20.0	15.7	BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	214	166
BARR LAKE	30.1	27.7	28.6	28.6	BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	185	142
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	2.6	3.2	4.2	CACHE LA POUFRE BASIN	8	192	174
BOYD LAKE	48.4	36.2	44.7	35.2	CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	184	155
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	12.5	14.4	13.2	SAINT VRRAIN BASIN	3	216	118
CACHE LA POUFRE	10.1	10.0	10.1	8.9	UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	16	158	120
CARTER	108.9	101.5	106.7	103.0	TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	43	188	150
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	3.4	6.5	3.6				
CHEESMAN	79.0	66.9	73.1	64.8				
COBB LAKE	22.3	20.0	21.1	14.2				
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	99.3	100.9	96.4				
EMPIRE	36.5	32.8	35.9	33.0				
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	8.8	10.5	8.1				
GROSS	41.8	15.9	23.6	20.9				
HALLIGAN	6.4	6.3	6.4	4.8				
HORSECREEK	14.7	13.0	14.1	14.5				
HORSETOOTH	149.7	116.5	126.0	123.0				
JACKSON	26.1	25.5	26.1	30.4				
JULESBURG	20.5	20.5	20.5	21.3				
LAKE LOVELAND	10.3	8.6	9.8	10.1				
LONE TREE	8.7	8.5	8.4	7.9				
MARIANO	5.4	5.1	5.0	5.0				
MARSHALL	10.0	5.7	9.3	7.4				
MARSTON	13.0	8.8	12.7	14.5				
MILTON	23.5	21.4	22.2	19.2				
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	70.3	70.2	69.8				
PREWITT	28.2	24.6	24.4	25.9				
RIVERSIDE	55.8	53.4	55.8	57.9				
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	36.1	38.0	32.1				
STANDLEY	42.0	32.1	37.7	35.3				
TERRY LAKE	8.0	3.4	6.0	5.7				
UNION	13.0	12.3	12.5	11.7				
WINDSOR	15.2	12.0	14.7	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, 2011



*Based on selected stations

Record-breaking is the only way to describe the May 1 snowpacks in the combined Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins. Measurements show the snowpack is 167 percent of average and 204 percent of the May 1, 2010 readings. This is the highest snowpack percentage of the major basins in the state. The Yampa Watershed had the highest sub-basin snowpack in the entire state at 175 percent of average and 235 percent of the snowpack present a year ago. The Yampa, Laramie and Upper North Platte watersheds all recorded the highest May 1 snowpack figures going back to 1968 when the record of basin snowpacks began. The Tower SNOTEL site, located just northeast of Steamboat Springs, set the record for the deepest snow and the highest snow water equivalent ever measured in Colorado (currently over 200 inches deep with a snow water content of about 73 inches). April precipitation in the high country was 188 percent of average. The well above normal monthly figures helped boost the total precipitation for the water year to 140 percent of average and 154 percent of last year's total at this time. Both precipitation percentages were the highest of the major basins in the state. Storage in Stagecoach Reservoir is 99 percent of average. Yamcolo Reservoir reports storage of 112 percent of average. Well above average runoff can be expected throughout the basin. May-July streamflows are predicted to range from 154 percent of average for the White River near Meeker to 271 percent of average for Elkhead Creek near Hayden.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2011

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ==== Future Conditions ==== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		90%		50%		10%		
		(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
North Platte R nr Northgate	MAY-JUL	370	415	450	220	485	530	205
	MAY-SEP	410	465	505	220	545	600	230
Laramie R nr Woods	MAY-JUL	137	157	171	149	185	205	115
	MAY-SEP	151	174	189	149	205	225	127
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir	APR-JUL	52	58	62	168	66	72	37
	MAY-JUL	40	46	50	179	54	60	28
Yampa R at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	420	465	495	177	530	580	280
	MAY-JUL	365	410	440	180	475	525	245
Elk R nr Milner	APR-JUL	560	585	630	194	675	735	325
	MAY-JUL	500	525	570	202	615	675	282
Elkhead Ck ab Long Gulch nr Hayden	APR-JUL	126	137	151	213	166	190	71
	MAY-JUL	105	116	130	271	145	169	48
Yampa R nr Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	1560	1780	1930	195	2090	2340	990
	MAY-JUL	1330	1550	1700	202	1860	2110	840
Little Snake R nr Slater	APR-JUL	250	285	305	192	330	365	159
	MAY-JUL	235	270	290	206	315	350	141
Little Snake R nr Dixon	APR-JUL	610	640	680	206	740	840	330
	MAY-JUL	550	580	620	214	680	780	290
Little Snake R nr Lily	APR-JUL	610	715	790	216	870	995	365
	MAY-JUL	520	625	700	226	780	905	310
White R nr Meeker	APR-JUL	355	400	430	148	460	510	290
	MAY-JUL	325	370	400	154	430	480	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, 2011

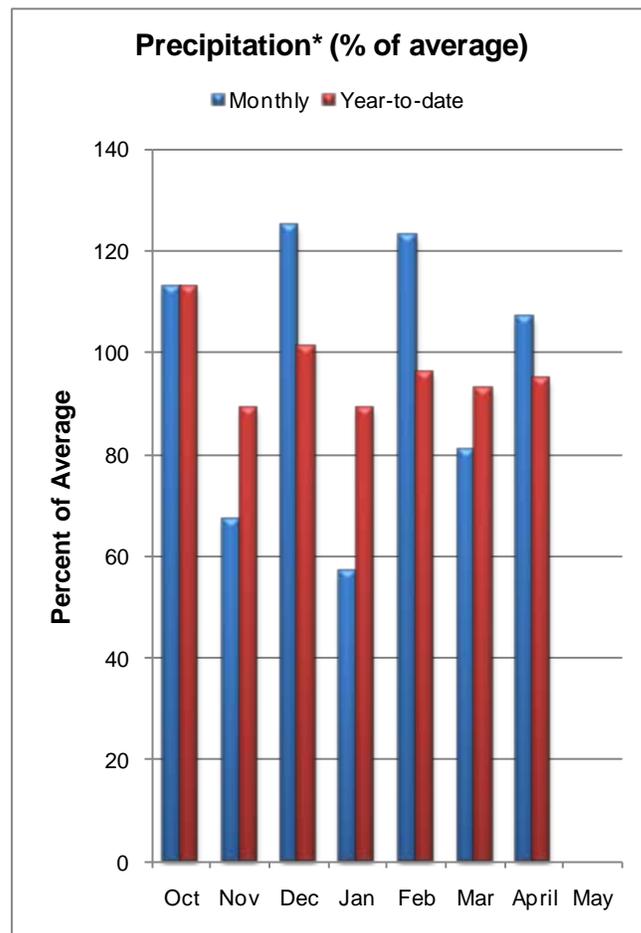
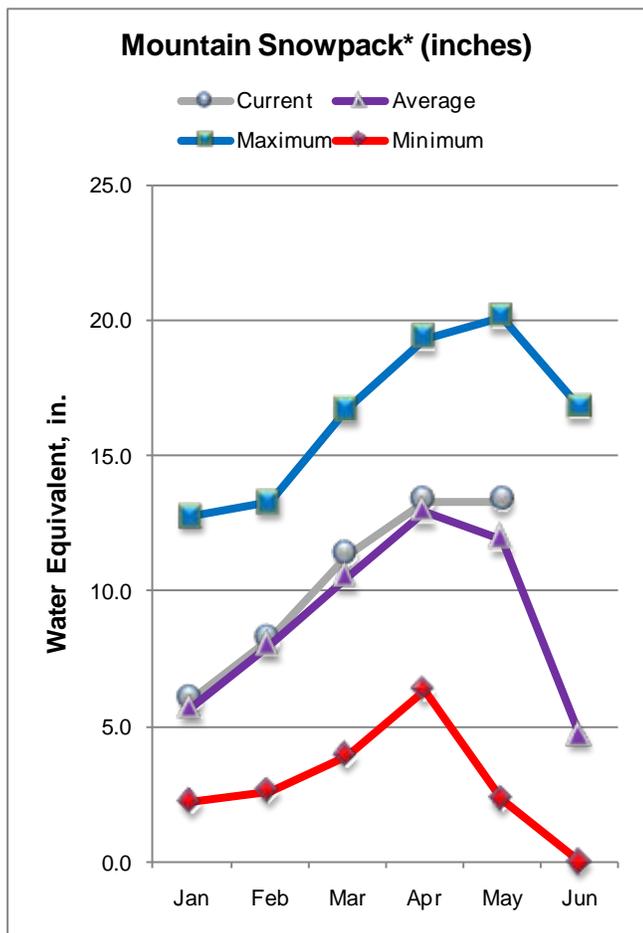
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
STAGECOACH	33.3	27.8	31.3	28.1	LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	4	148	171
YAMCOLO	8.7	8.3	9.7	7.4	NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	12	219	165
					TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	15	198	165
					ELK RIVER BASIN	2	200	168
					YAMPA RIVER BASIN	12	235	175
					WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	205	147
					TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	17	225	165
					LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	180	174
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	37	204	167					

* 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, 2011



*Based on selected stations

The Arkansas River Basin snowpack on May 1 was measured at 112 percent of average and 126 percent of last year. For awhile, it looked like the basin was going to close out the winter season with a below average snowpack, but a favorable weather pattern moved in during the last week of April and gave the basin a much needed boost. While, overall, the basin is in good shape, the disparity between the headwaters of the Arkansas and the southern tributaries became even more apparent. The snowpack in the Upper Arkansas was 132 percent of average, up from 120 percent of average last month, while the Purgatoire Watershed could only manage a mere 19 percent of average snowpack (the lowest sub-basin snowpack percentage in the state), down from 52 percent of average a month ago. Mountain precipitation in April was near normal at 107 percent of average. The water year to date precipitation total is 95 percent of average and 98 percent of the total precipitation reported at this time last year. Reservoir storage is 86 percent of average and 28 percent of capacity. This year's stored water supply is 21 percent lower than the storage available a year ago. Reflective of the changes in the snowpack, forecasts in the upper portion of the basin and on the main stem of the Arkansas saw increases from last month while the southern tributaries dropped 16 to 18 percentage points. April-September streamflows are expected to range from 38 percent of average for the Cucharas River near La Veta to 148 percent of average for Chalk Creek at Nathrop.

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2011

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Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Chance Of Exceeding *						
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Chalk Ck at Nathrop	APR-JUL	22	29	34	148	39	48	23
	MAY-JUL	22	28	33	150	38	47	22
	APR-SEP	25	34	40	148	47	58	27
	MAY-SEP	24	33	39	144	46	57	27
Arkansas R at Salida (2)	APR-JUL	275	310	340	133	370	415	255
	MAY-JUL	265	305	330	138	360	405	240
	APR-SEP	325	380	420	136	460	530	310
	MAY-SEP	315	370	410	137	450	515	300
Grape Ck nr Westcliffe	APR-JUL	1.6	3.2	4.6	29	6.2	9.0	16.1
	MAY-JUL	1.2	2.6	3.9	30	5.4	8.1	13.0
	APR-SEP	2.8	5.0	6.8	35	8.9	12.5	19.6
	MAY-SEP	2.4	4.4	6.1	37	8.1	11.5	16.5
Pueblo Res Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	330	415	480	125	550	655	385
	MAY-JUL	315	400	465	133	530	635	350
	APR-SEP	370	475	560	116	650	790	485
	MAY-SEP	355	460	545	121	630	770	450
Huerfano R nr Redwing	APR-JUL	3.3	4.7	5.8	47	7.0	9.0	12.3
	MAY-JUL	2.8	4.1	5.1	46	6.2	8.2	11.2
	APR-SEP	4.3	5.9	7.2	47	8.6	10.9	15.5
	MAY-SEP	3.7	5.3	6.5	45	7.8	10.0	14.5
Cucharas R nr La Veta	APR-JUL	1.7	2.4	2.9	26	3.5	4.5	11.3
	MAY-JUL	1.3	1.9	2.4	24	3.0	3.9	9.9
	APR-SEP	2.9	4.0	4.9	38	5.9	7.4	13.0
	MAY-SEP	2.5	3.6	4.4	38	5.3	6.8	11.7
Trinidad Lk Inflow (2)	MAR-JUL	5.2	8.6	11.3	33	14.4	19.7	34
	MAY-JUL	4.2	7.3	9.8	34	12.7	17.7	29
	APR-SEP	8.1	13.5	18.0	41	23	32	44
	MAY-SEP	7.1	12.2	16.5	41	21	30	40

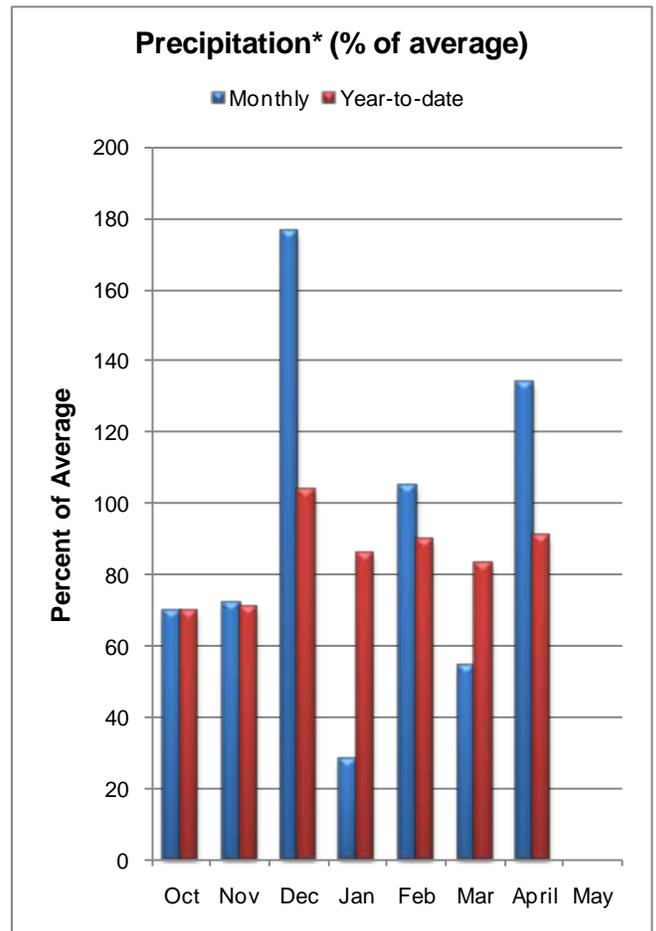
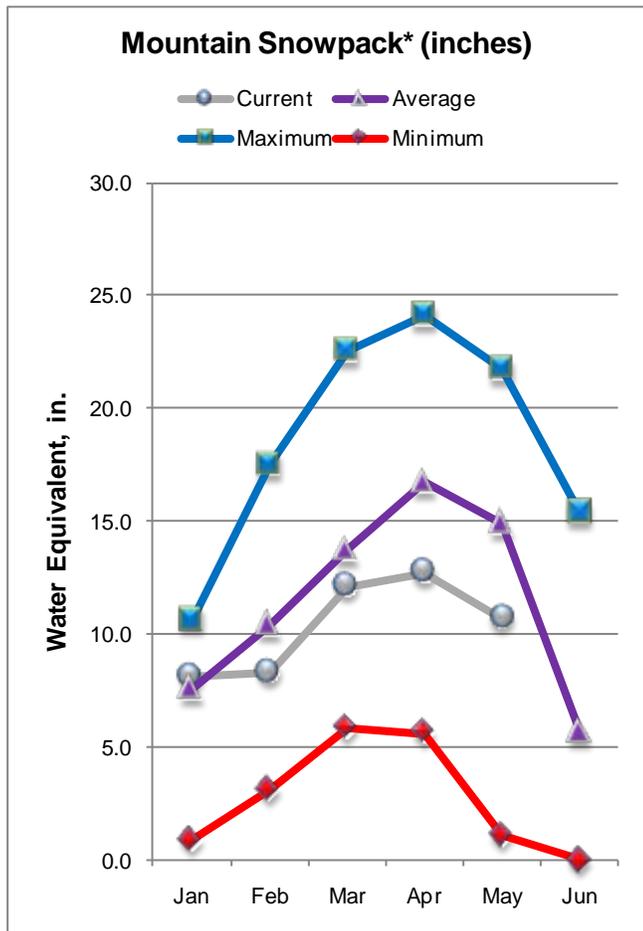
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2011			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
ADOBE	62.0	35.0	55.2	34.3	UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	10	163	132
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	8.0	9.4	6.0	CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	46	47
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	0.1	1.8	6.9	PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	22	19
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	0.0	40.6	TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASI	15	133	113
HOLBROOK	7.0	0.9	2.9	4.7				
HORSE CREEK	27.0	0.0	0.0	11.3				
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	47.3	89.5	123.7				
LAKE HENRY	8.0	8.1	9.0	6.0				
MEREDITH	42.0	28.9	40.7	20.1				
PUEBLO	354.0	241.2	252.4	163.5				
TRINIDAD	167.0	20.7	31.8	29.1				
TURQUOISE	127.0	49.7	57.3	70.8				
TWIN LAKES	86.0	38.2	55.3	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, 2011



*Based on selected stations

The Upper Rio Grande Basin is in the unenviable position of having the lowest May 1 snowpack percentage of the major basins in the state at 72 percent of average. This is only 80 percent of the snowpack present last year at this time and is the lowest May 1 snowpack figure in the last four years. And, things could have been much worse as SNOTEL data shows that the snowpack had begun to melt around the middle of April. Fortunately, snowfall during the last week of April helped to bring things back up to their current levels. Barring any additional late season snowfall, it looks like the basin reached its snowpack peak on April 11 at 79 percent of the average peak. Sub-basin snowpacks are below to well below average, ranging from 32 percent of average in the Culebra and Trinchera Creek Watershed to 86 percent of average in the Conejos and Rio San Antonio Watershed. The bright spot this month was the April mountain precipitation which came in at 134 percent of average. Despite bringing the water year precipitation total up to 91 percent of average, this was still the lowest total precipitation percentage of the major basins in the state. Adding insult to injury, the reservoir storage was also the lowest, in terms of percentage, of the major basins in the state at 79 percent of average. Water users on the eastern side of the basin should prepare themselves for very low flows this spring and summer. Forecasts for the April-September period range from 21 percent of average for Sangre de Cristo Creek to 82 percent of average for the Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2011

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<==== Drier ==== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Chance Of Exceeding *						
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge (2)	APR-SEP	87	101	111	82	121	138	136
	MAY-SEP	81	95	105	81	115	132	129
	APR-JUL	78	88	96	81	104	116	118
	MAY-JUL	72	82	90	80	98	110	113
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	210	250	275	80	305	350	345
	MAY-SEP	186	225	250	78	280	325	322
SF Rio Grande at South Fork (2)	APR-SEP	88	98	106	80	114	127	132
	MAY-SEP	77	87	95	79	103	116	120
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	325	375	410	77	450	510	531
	MAY-SEP	290	340	375	76	415	475	491
Saguache Ck nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	17.2	22	26	79	30	37	33
	MAY-SEP	14.8	20	24	83	28	35	29
Alamosa Ck ab Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	42	48	53	76	58	65	70
	MAY-SEP	38	44	49	78	54	61	63
La Jara Ck nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	4.3	5.2	6.0	69	6.9	8.3	8.7
	MAY-JUL	3.0	3.9	4.7	80	5.6	7.0	5.9
Trinchera Ck ab Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	2.4	3.3	4.1	34	5.0	6.5	12.0
	MAY-SEP	1.8	2.8	3.6	39	4.5	6.0	9.3
Sangre de Cristo Ck (2)	APR-SEP	1.3	1.3	1.8	21	2.7	4.6	8.8
	MAY-SEP	0.1	0.1	0.6	10	1.4	3.4	5.7
Ute Creek	APR-SEP	1.4	2.7	4.0	33	5.6	8.4	12.2
	MAY-SEP	0.8	2.1	3.4	31	5.0	7.8	11.1
Platoro Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	42	47	51	80	55	61	64
	MAY-JUL	40	45	49	88	53	59	56
	APR-SEP	47	53	57	80	61	68	71
	MAY-SEP	45	51	55	89	59	66	62
Conejos R nr Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	131	148	160	80	173	193	200
	MAY-SEP	120	137	149	81	162	182	185
San Antonio R at Ortiz	APR-SEP	5.8	7.1	8.2	50	9.4	11.5	16.4
	MAY-SEP	3.6	4.9	6.0	56	7.2	9.3	10.7
Los Pinos R nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	44	51	57	77	63	73	74
	MAY-SEP	37	44	50	79	56	66	63
Culebra Ck at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	4.3	6.6	8.6	37	11.0	15.4	23
	MAY-SEP	3.5	5.8	7.8	37	10.2	14.6	21
Costilla Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	2.9	3.6	4.2	40	4.8	6.1	10.6
	MAY-JUL	1.2	1.9	2.5	28	3.2	4.4	8.8
Costilla Ck nr Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	5.0	6.4	7.7	30	9.2	12.1	26
	MAY-JUL	2.0	3.4	4.7	23	6.2	9.1	20

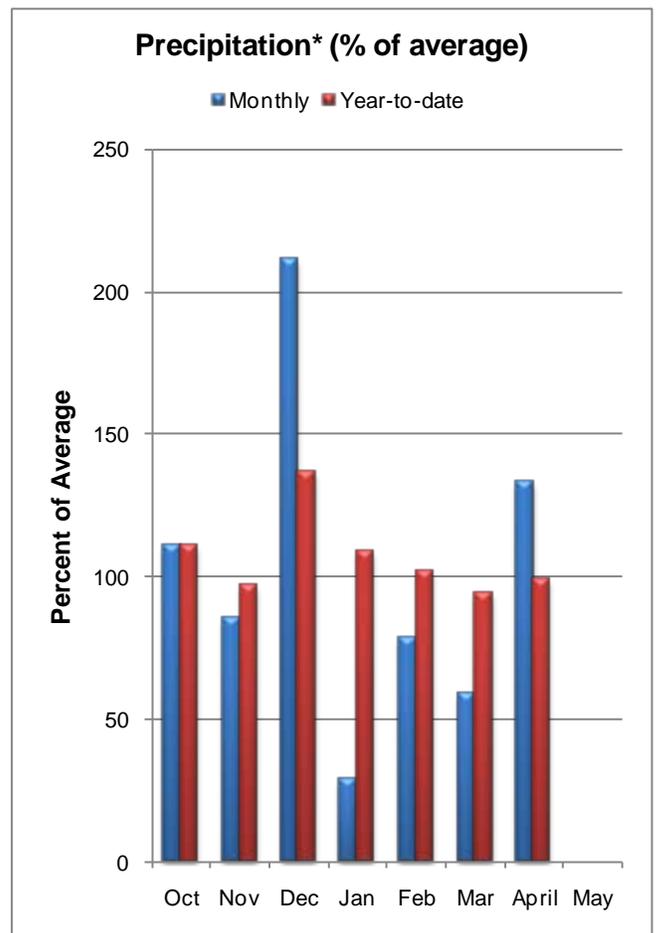
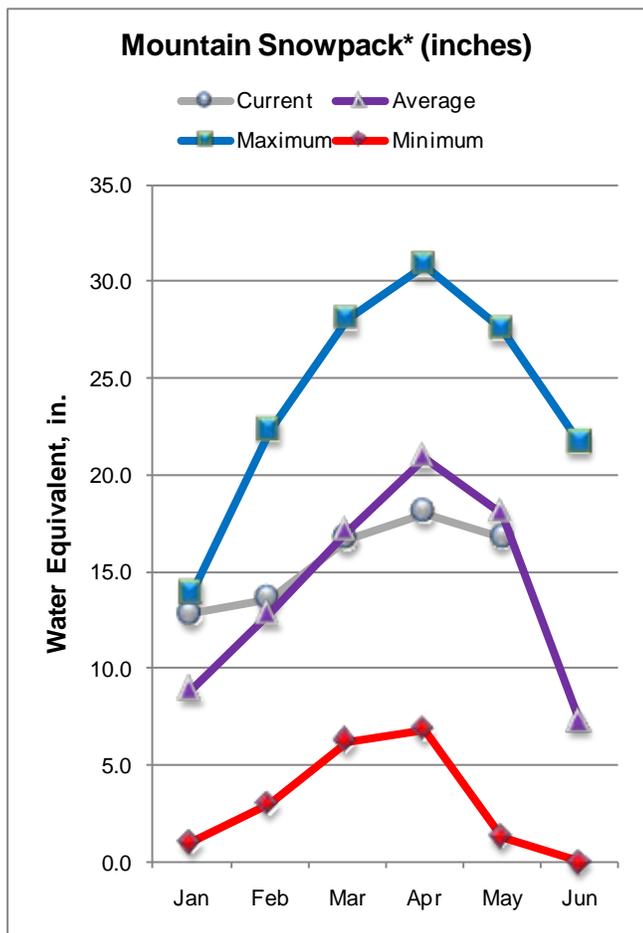
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April					UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2011			
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage ***			Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of	
		This Year	Last Year	Avg			Last Yr	Average
CONTINENTAL	27.0	6.3	6.9	6.6	ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	63	55
PLATORO	60.0	21.5	30.2	23.3	CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	88	86
RIO GRANDE	51.0	19.6	14.7	21.4	CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	5	23	32
SANCHEZ	103.0	16.7	21.0	25.8	UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	12	98	75
SANTA MARIA	45.0	6.0	5.2	11.1	TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	23	80	72
TERRACE	18.0	5.3	7.6	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, 2011



*Based on selected stations

The combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins snowpack was 93 percent of average on May 1, up 7 percentage points from the snowpack measured last month. Although below average, this is the third highest May 1 percentage the basin has seen in the last ten years. SNOTEL data shows the basin reached its peak on March 29, at 91 percent of the average peak, and had begun to melt at that time. This continued fairly steadily until April 23 when a more favorable weather pattern moved in and boosted the snowpack to its current levels. Sub-basin snowpaks are near average to below average, ranging from 80 percent of average in the Dolores Watershed to 99 percent of average in the San Juan Drainage. Breaking a streak of below average monthly precipitation for the past three months, the basin produced 133 percent of average precipitation during April. This helped raise the water year to date precipitation total from 94 percent of average last month to 99 percent of average. Of the six reservoirs monitored, only Lemon Reservoir reported below average storage. Overall, the basin storage is 109 percent of average. The Dolores and San Miguel watersheds saw moderate increases in the forecasts from last month, while the forecasts in the San Juan and Animas watersheds remained relatively unchanged. Water users can expect below average runoff at most locations. April-July volumes are forecast to range from 69 percent of average for the inflow to Vallecito Reservoir to 92 percent of average for the San Miguel River near Placerville.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2011

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<===== Drier ===== Future Conditions ===== Wetter =====>>						30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
		Chance Of Exceeding *						
		90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Dolores R at Dolores	APR-JUL	163	185	200	76	220	245	265
	MAY-JUL	131	153	170	77	188	215	220
McPhee Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	192	215	235	73	255	285	320
	MAY-JUL	146	171	190	73	210	240	260
San Miguel R nr Placerville	APR-JUL	98	112	122	92	133	149	132
	MAY-JUL	90	104	114	97	125	141	117
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	10.5	13.1	15.0	82	17.1	21	18.3
	MAY-JUL	8.9	11.5	13.5	82	15.7	19.4	16.5
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	0.9	1.7	2.5	77	3.5	5.4	3.3
	MAY-JUL	0.9	1.6	2.3	79	3.1	4.7	2.9
Lillylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	1.6	2.0	2.4	82	2.8	3.5	2.9
	MAY-JUL	1.3	1.8	2.1	82	2.5	3.2	2.5
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	34	39	43	81	47	54	53
	MAY-JUL	27	32	36	80	40	47	45
Navajo R at Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	42	50	55	80	61	70	69
	MAY-JUL	33	41	46	79	52	61	58
San Juan R nr Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	250	285	310	77	335	380	405
	MAY-JUL	195	230	255	79	280	325	325
Piedra R nr Arboles	APR-JUL	137	156	170	74	185	210	230
	MAY-JUL	97	116	130	76	145	170	172
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	130	143	153	75	163	178	205
	MAY-JUL	108	121	131	71	141	156	184
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	465	505	545	69	590	630	785
	MAY-JUL	350	390	430	70	475	515	615
Animas R at Durango	APR-JUL	350	380	400	91	420	450	440
	MAY-JUL	310	340	360	92	380	410	390
Lemon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	32	37	41	71	45	51	58
	MAY-JUL	28	33	37	70	41	47	53
La Plata R at Hesperus	APR-JUL	14.4	16.4	18.0	72	19.7	22	25
	MAY-JUL	10.7	12.7	14.3	68	16.0	18.7	21
Mancos R nr Mancos (2)	APR-JUL	17.7	21	24	73	26	30	33
	MAY-JUL	12.2	15.5	18.0	62	21	25	29

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, 2011			
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	16.5	17.7	14.2	ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	9	137	93
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	8.5	5.3	7.4	DOLORES RIVER BASIN	6	100	80
LEMON	40.0	18.8	14.7	23.4	SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	126	94
MCPHEE	381.0	317.8	315.7	304.6	SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	115	99
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	18.2	18.8	17.1	TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES	23	121	93
VALLECITO	126.0	94.7	64.5	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.



Denver Federal Center, Bldg 56, Rm 2604
PO Box 25426
Denver, CO 80225-0426

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
Denver, Colorado

Colorado
Basin Outlook Report
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Denver, CO