USDA NRCS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Colorado
Water Supply Outlook Report
May 1, 2015

From Park Cone snow course, the view of the Collegiate Peaks looking over Taylor Park Reservoir. Taylor Park Reservoir was at 134 percent of average and 78 percent of capacity on May 1 and is a significant contributor to Blue Mesa Reservoir and the water supply of the Gunnison River basin.

Photo By: Frank Kugel
Date: 4/30/2015

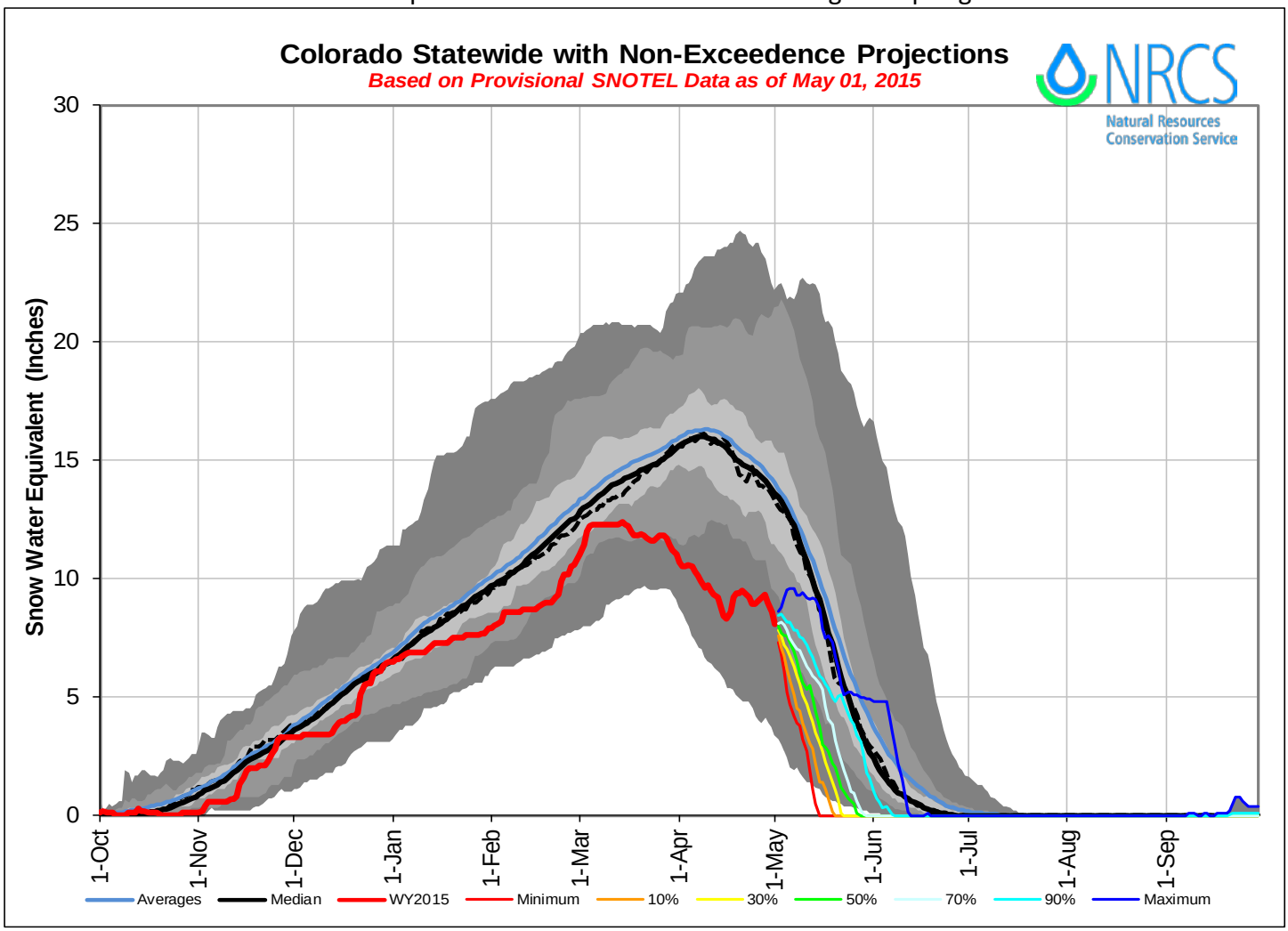
REMINDER: We are soliciting field work photos from our snow surveyors again this year. Each month we will pick one to grace the cover of this report! The photographer will be given proper credit of course. Please include information on where, when and of who/what the photo was taken.

Contents

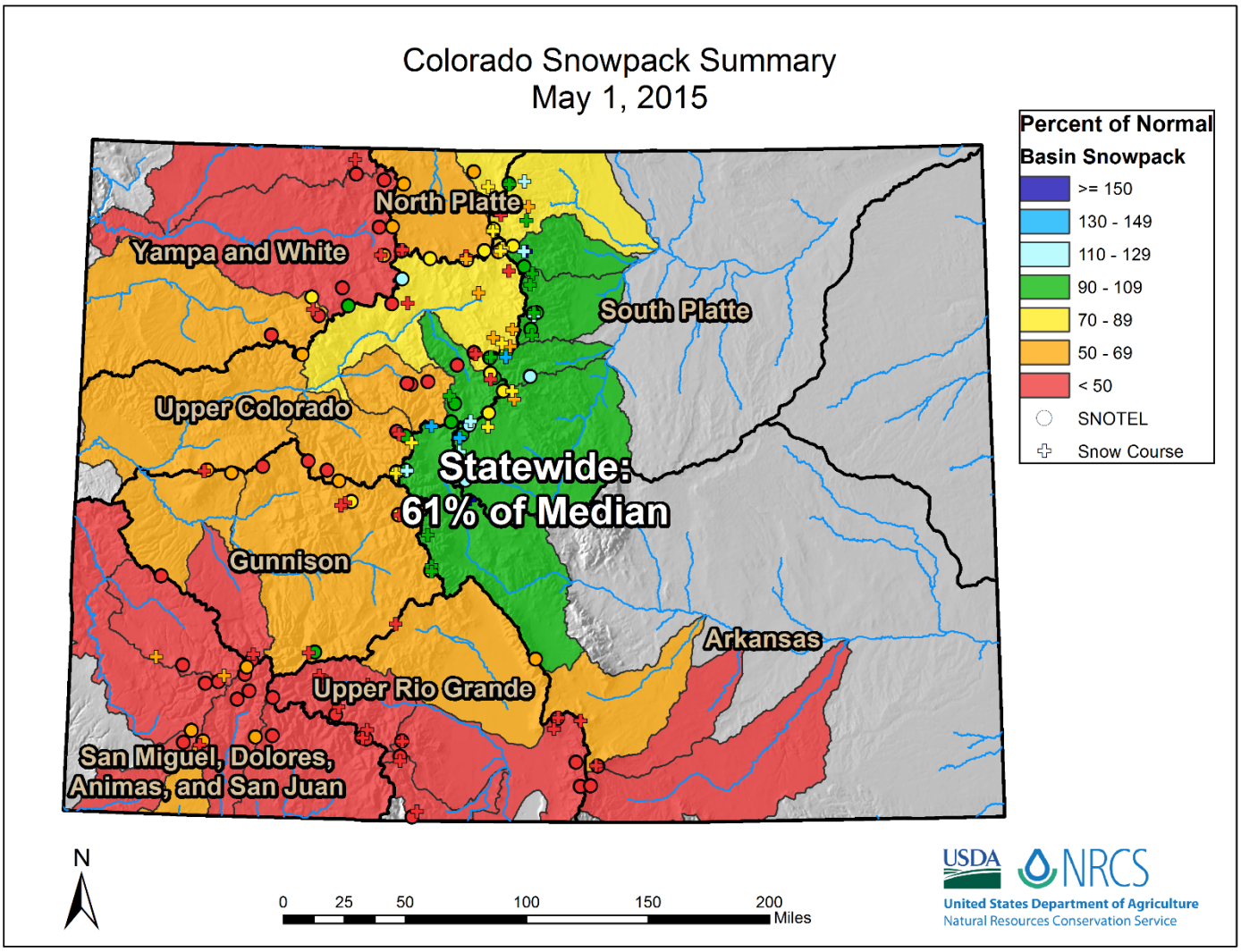
Statewide Water Supply Conditions

Summary

In a typical year in Colorado, peak snow accumulation usually occurs slightly after April 1 at most SNOTEL sites and snow courses. This year all basins experienced the turning point in early March with the exception of the South Platte which, due to mid-April storms, was able to achieve a snowpack peak close to normal. Basin-wide snowpack follows the same storyline; while the South Platte snowpack is at 96 percent of normal on May 1, statewide snowpack is at 61 percent of normal. Snowpack in the Rio Grande River Basin is the lowest in the state, at 25 percent of normal on May 1. During the snowmelt season it is important to include additional information to get the best picture of water supply to come. Statewide snowpack peaked during mid to early March at about 75 percent of the normal peak amount. This means that mountain snowpack this year will only provide three quarters of the typical snowmelt to contribute to streamflow. However, snowmelt is not the only factor that determines spring and summer streamflow. Monthly precipitation has been well below normal in nearly every basin for the last two months, during which Colorado typically receives the most monthly precipitation amounts. When viewed from the Front Range, it may seem that recent precipitation has greatly improved the statewide year-to-date total (currently at 80 percent of normal), but statewide April 2015 precipitation was only 71 percent of normal, while the South Platte April precipitation was the anomaly at 110 percent of normal. These factors, among others, currently paint a below normal streamflow forecast picture for much of the state heading into spring and summer of 2015.

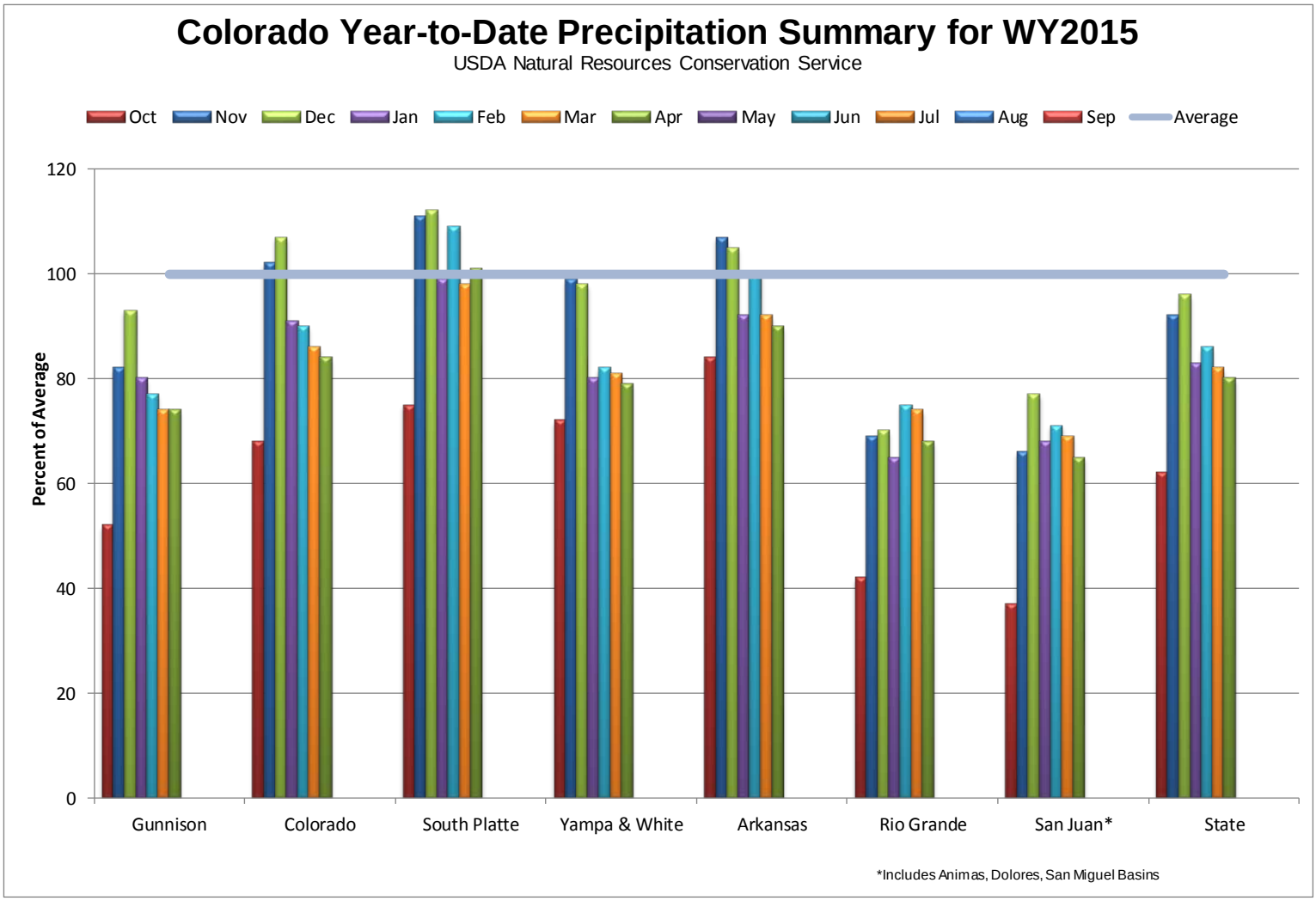


Snowpack



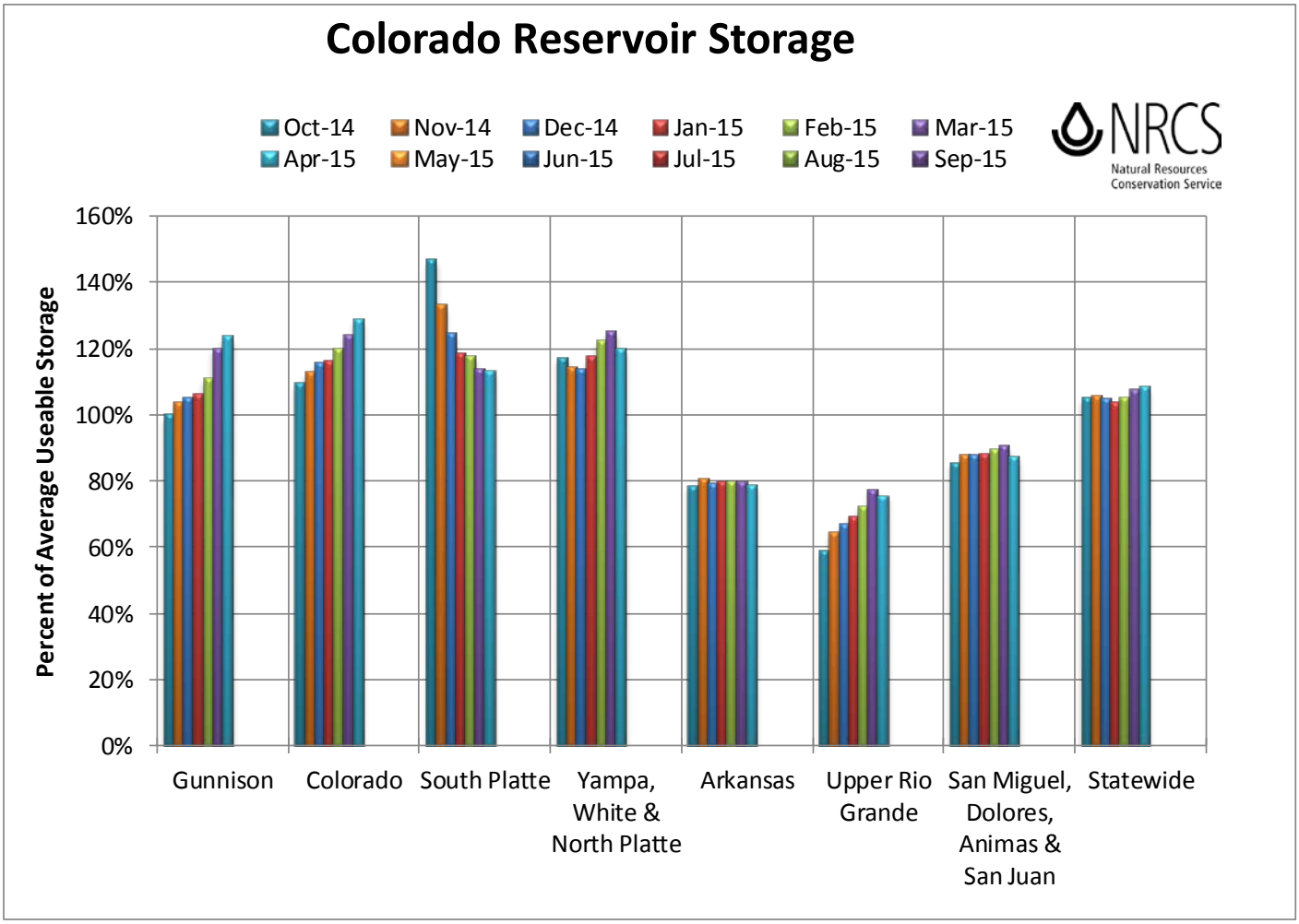
On May 1, statewide SNOTEL data indicates that more than one third of this season's peak mountain snowpack has already melted, with even the higher elevations showing some degree of melt. May 1 statewide mountain snowpack is at 61 percent of the median. In nearly all areas of Colorado, mountain snowpack peaked in early to mid-March, with the exception of the Front Range, where peaks reached close to normal around April 28th. April storms also propelled snowpack peak values in the South Platte to 98 percent of the typical peak, assuming the current wet weather pattern does not provide enough snow accumulation to drive another snowpack peak. In the rest of the basins across the state, it is very unlikely that even significant precipitation and cold temperatures would produce a new snowpack peak. Second behind the South Platte snowpack peak, the Arkansas River basin snowpack peaked at 93 percent of normal primarily due to the snowpack of the Upper Arkansas basin. The combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan River basins saw the lowest annual snowpack peak at 67% of normal. With snowpack in the Rio Grande and combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan River basins already below 35% of their peak snowpack this year, these watersheds are quickly running out of snow to drive runoff. All other watersheds still have at least half of this year's total snowpack remaining.

Precipitation



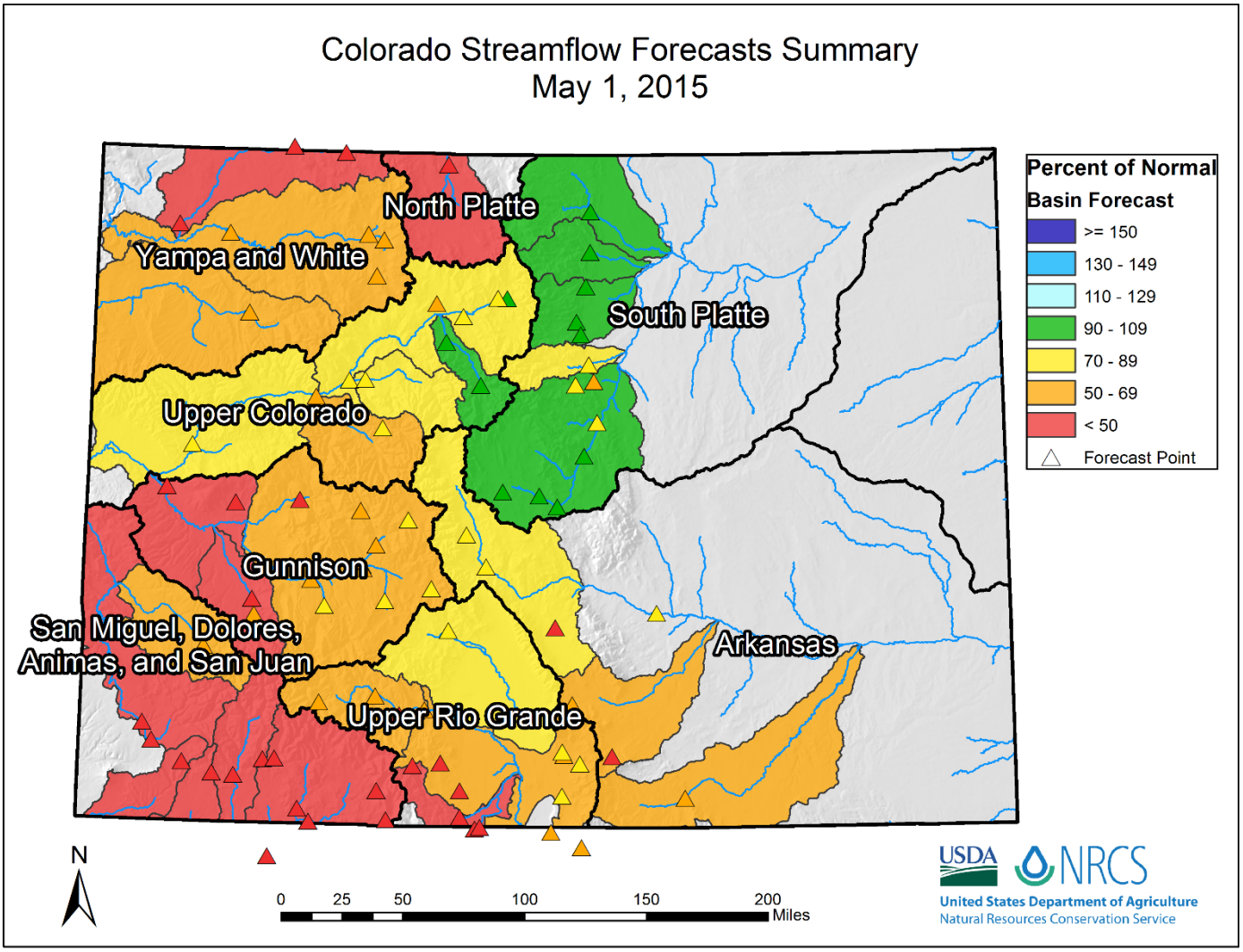
The dry weather patterns that dominated Colorado at the end of March continued through the first half of April but pulses of precipitation arrived during the second half of the month, bringing the statewide monthly precipitation to 71 percent of average. Due to the end-of-April accumulations, the statewide water-year-to-date (WYTD) percent of normal precipitation only fell two percent, down to 80 percent of average. April precipitation gains were most notable along Colorado's Front Range, with the South Platte River basin experiencing 110 percent of average precipitation for the month of April. Most of the other major river basins experienced April precipitation that was 70 to 80 percent of average. However, the moisture deficit in the basins of southern Colorado continued. April precipitation for both the Upper Rio Grande and the combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan basins was less than 40 percent of average. Additionally, four sites in these basins experienced the lowest and five sites experienced the second lowest April monthly precipitation for their respective periods of record. The dismal April precipitation in the southern basins also dropped their WYTD precipitation percent of normal. The combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan basin has the lowest WYTD precipitation in the state relative to normal at 65 percent of average, while the South Platte has the highest at 100 percent of average. The Arkansas River basin is also near normal at 90 percent of average, while most of the other basins are in the 75 percent to 85 percent of average range.

Reservoir Storage



End of April statewide reservoir storage remains very similar to what it was at the end of March, showing only a slight increase, to 108% of average storage. With only minor changes to within-basin storage values throughout the last month the general trend of below average reservoir storage in the southern basins and above average in the northern basins still remains. Storage in the Gunnison and Upper Colorado River basins continued the upward trend they have shown throughout the water year and are now at 123 and 129 percent of average, respectively. Conversely, while only showing a slight decrease in storage the collective reservoirs of the South Platte basin continued their decreasing trend and are now storing 113 percent of average volume. Storage in the combined Yampa, White, and North Platte basins has been up and down throughout the water year and now resides at 120 percent of average. After experiencing very slight drops over the past month, reservoir storage in the Arkansas, Upper Rio Grande, and combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan basins still remains below normal at 79, 75, and 85 percent of average, respectively. While statewide reservoir storage in Colorado is above the 30 year average, the basins which will be going into summer with the lowest reservoir storage volumes are also those with the least amount of water currently stored in the snowpack. Unfortunately, this combination of factors could further lead to increased water supply management challenges in the southern basins of the state.

Streamflow



The current forecasts for the period of May-July are calling for streamflow volumes that are below average for most of Colorado, and the southwest basins have particularly dismal runoff prospects. As noted above, much of the snowpack contributing to runoff has already melted in southwest Colorado, and dry April conditions have led to further decreases in the summer streamflow forecasts. The lowest percent of normal runoff volume, at 11 % of average, is projected for the San Antonio River at Ortiz in the Upper Rio Grande River basin. Most other summer flows are projected to be between 25 and 80 percent of average in that basin. However, low forecasts are not limited to southern Colorado, as the Yampa, White, and North Platte River basins also have several forecasts below 50 percent of average. Water supply prospects are slightly better elsewhere in the state. The majority of Colorado's streams are expected to produce roughly 50 to 70 percent of average streamflow volumes given current conditions. The highest percent of normal streamflow volume, 107 percent of average, is predicted for the Spinney Reservoir Inflow on the South Platte River. Collectively, the South Platte River basin has the highest streamflow forecasts in the state relative to normal, with all forecasts above 80 percent of average in that basin. As we transition into the second half of spring and subsequent periods of higher water demand, the prospects for increasing runoff conditions continue to diminish in the parched basins of southwest Colorado. With much of the snow already melted in these basins, we can only hope for an abnormally wet spring and summer to supplement the diminished water supply.

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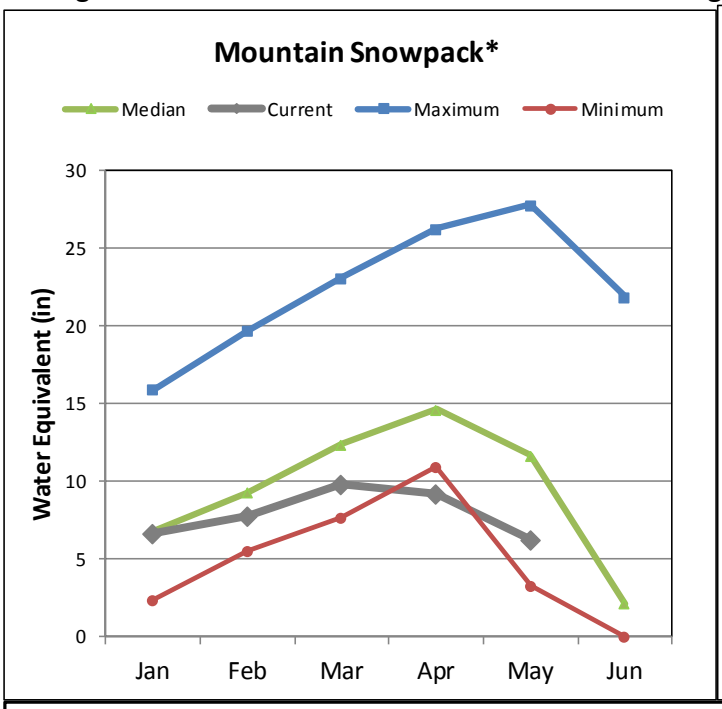
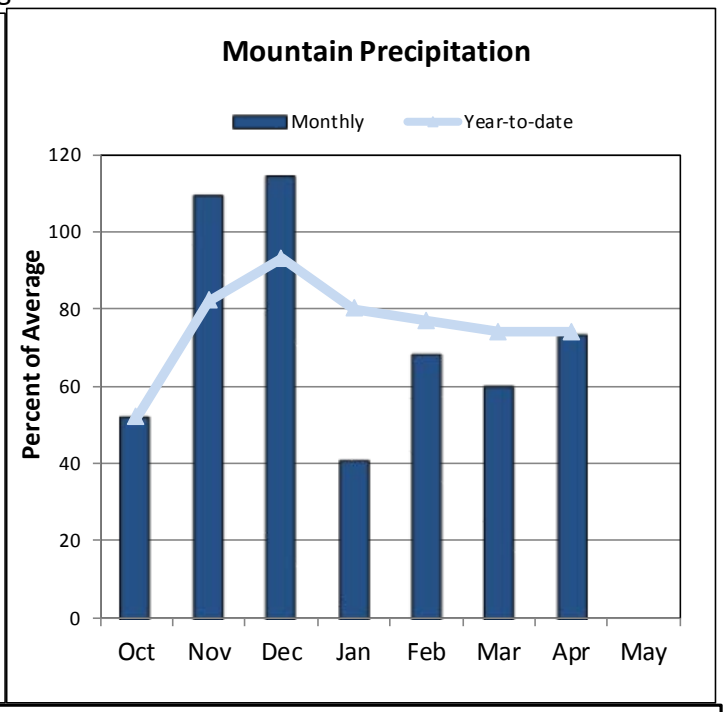
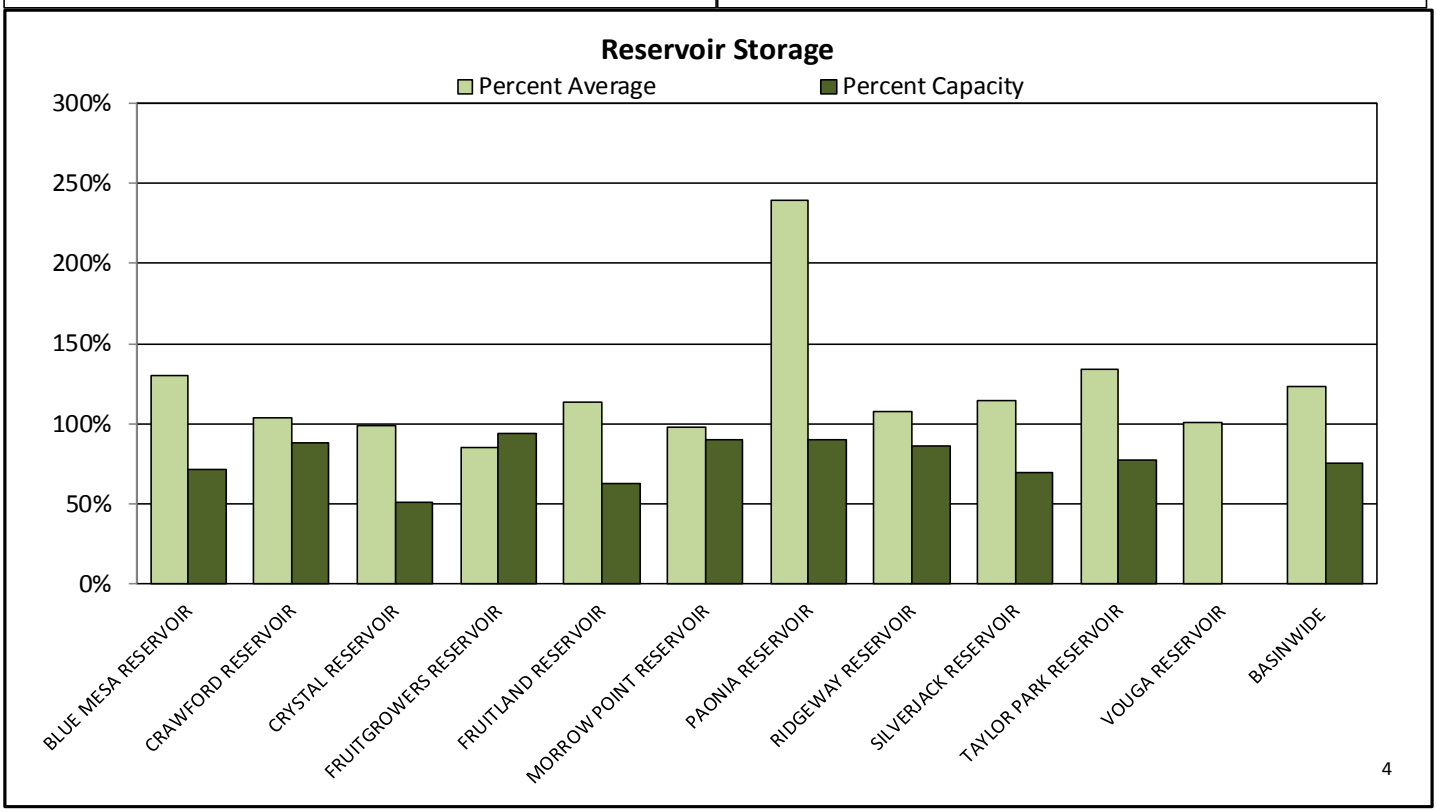
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

May 1, 2015

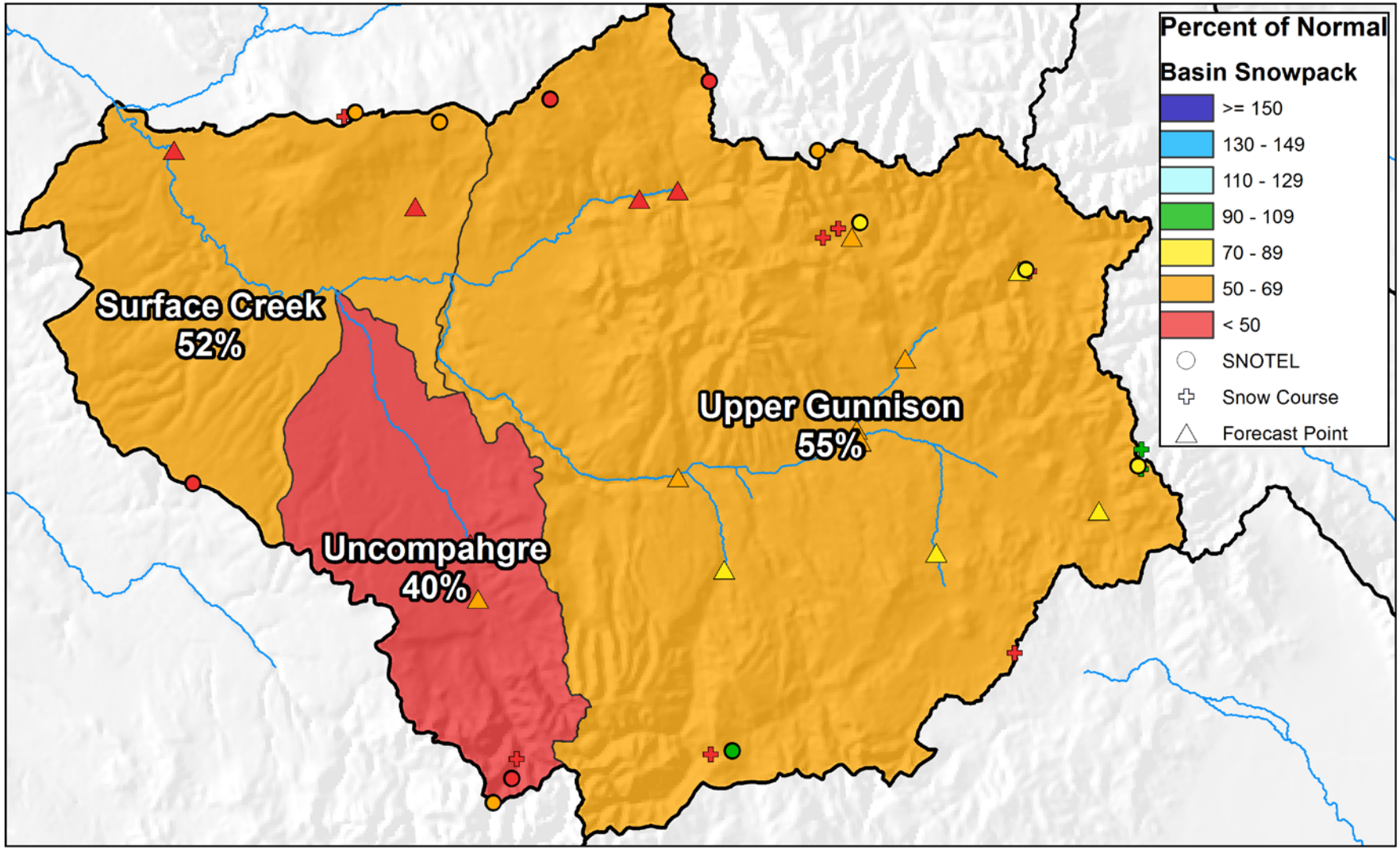
Snowpack in the Gunnison River basin is below normal at 53% of the median. Precipitation for April was 73% of average which kept water year-to-date precipitation at 74% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of April was 123% of average compared to 107% last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 70% of average for the Lake Fork at Gateview to 28% of average for the Paonia Reservoir Inflow.







Gunnison River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts
May 1, 2015



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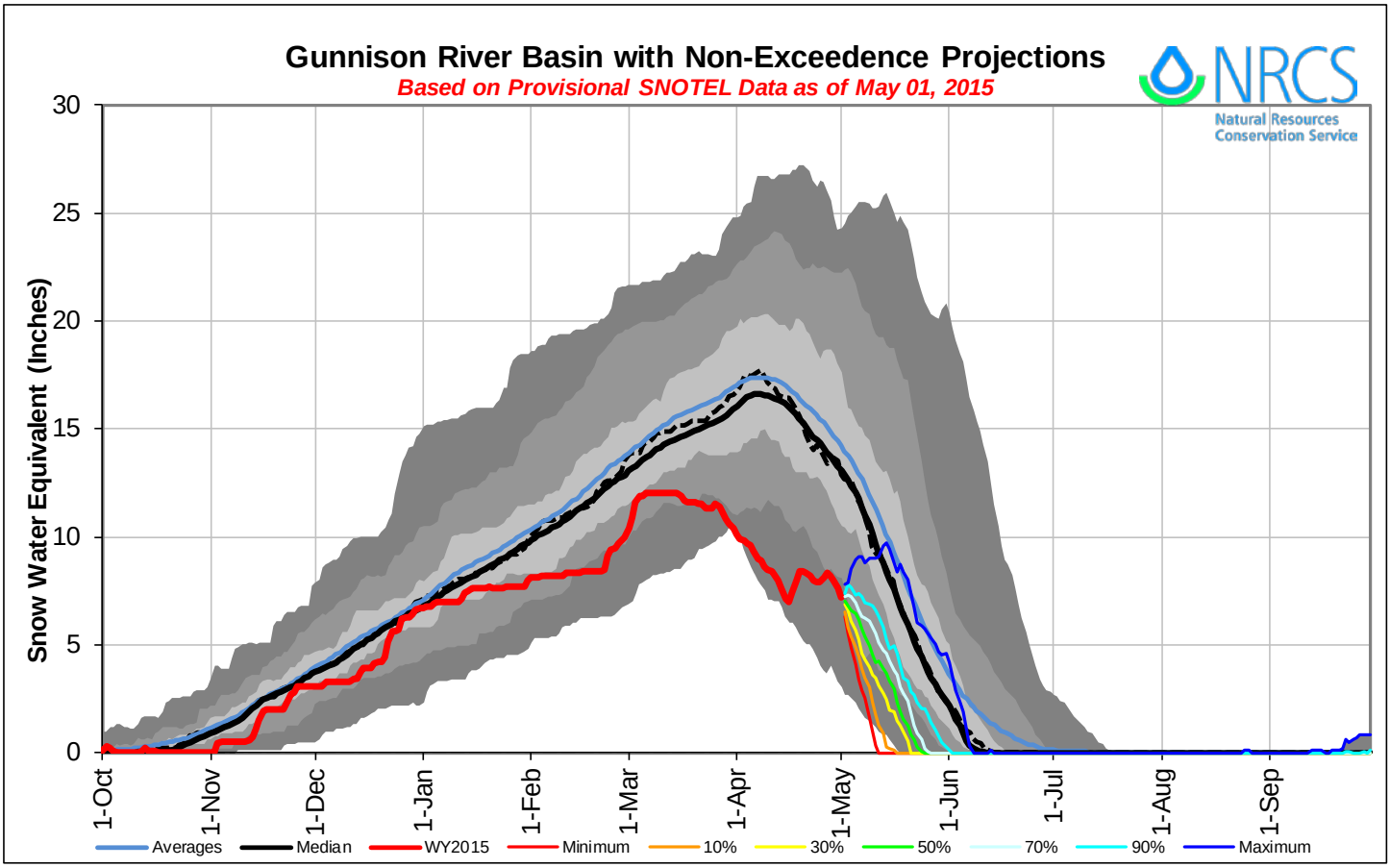
Gunnison River Basin
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2015

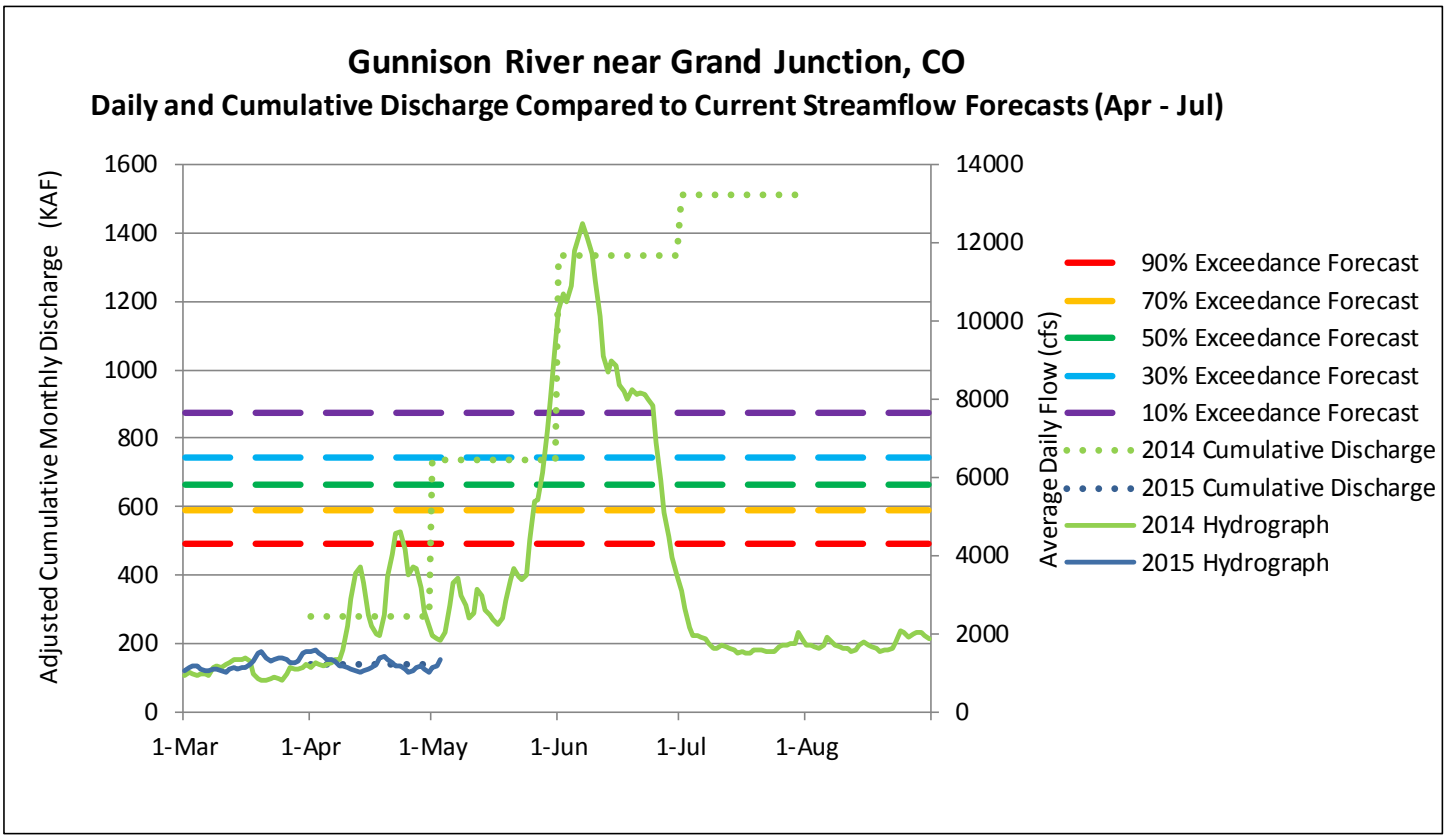
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast						
Taylor Park Reservoir Inflow								
	APR-JUL	53	62	69	70%	76	87	99
	MAY-JUL	44	53	60	67%	67	78	90
Slate R nr Crested Butte								
	APR-JUL	45	50	54	65%	58	64	83
	MAY-JUL	36	41	45	61%	49	55	74
East R at Almont								
	APR-JUL	97	107	114	63%	121	132	182
	MAY-JUL	78	88	95	57%	102	113	166
Gunnison R near Gunnison [2]								
	APR-JUL	173	200	220	59%	240	275	370
	MAY-JUL	136	164	185	55%	205	240	335
Tomichi Ck at Sargents								
	APR-JUL	13.3	17.7	21	70%	25	31	30
	MAY-JUL	9.1	13.5	17	65%	21	27	26
Cochetopa Ck bl Rock Ck nr Parlin								
	APR-JUL	6	8.7	10.9	73%	13.5	18	15
	MAY-JUL	3.1	5.8	8	67%	10.6	15.1	11.9
Tomichi Ck at Gunnison								
	APR-JUL	28	39	49	66%	60	79	74
	MAY-JUL	18.5	30	40	65%	51	70	62
Lake Fk at Gateview								
	APR-JUL	73	83	90	73%	97	109	123
	MAY-JUL	64	74	81	70%	88	100	116
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow [2]								
	APR-JUL	340	390	425	63%	460	520	675
	MAY-JUL	265	315	350	58%	385	445	600
Paonia Reservoir Inflow								
	MAR-JUN	25	30	34	35%	39	46	96
	APR-JUL	19.6	25	30	31%	35	44	97
	MAY-JUN	10.7	15.9	20	29%	25	32	69
	MAY-JUL	10.3	16.2	21	28%	26	35	75
NF Gunnison R nr Somerset[2]								
	APR-JUL	96	113	126	43%	139	161	290
	MAY-JUL	70	87	100	42%	113	135	240
Surface Ck at Cedaredge								
	APR-JUL	4.6	5.3	5.9	35%	6.6	7.6	16.8
	MAY-JUL	2.6	3.3	3.9	28%	4.6	5.6	14.1
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow								
	APR-JUL	45	52	58	57%	64	73	101
	MAY-JUL	39	46	52	57%	58	67	91
Uncompahgre R at Colona [2]								
	APR-JUL	42	54	63	46%	73	89	137
	MAY-JUL	35	47	56	47%	66	82	120
Gunnison R nr Grand Junction [2]								
	APR-JUL	490	590	665	45%	745	875	1480
	MAY-JUL	350	450	525	42%	605	735	1240

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of April, 2015	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Blue Mesa Reservoir	597.1	508.1	457.1	830.0
Crawford Reservoir	12.3	12.1	11.8	14.0
Crystal Reservoir	8.9	6.5	9.0	17.5
Fruitgrowers Reservoir	3.4	3.5	4.0	3.6
Fruitland Reservoir	5.8	7.0	5.1	9.2
Morrow Point Reservoir	109.2	106.1	111.8	121.0
Paonia Reservoir	13.9	0.6	5.8	15.4
Ridgway Reservoir	71.6	68.0	66.6	83.0
Silverjack Reservoir	8.9	11.1	7.8	12.8
Taylor Park Reservoir	82.2	70.3	61.2	106.0
Vouga Reservoir	0.9	0.3	0.9	0.9
Basin-wide Total	914.2	793.6	741.1	1213.4
# of reservoirs	11	11	11	11

Watershed Snowpack Analysis May 1, 2015	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	18	55%	96%
SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	52%	81%
UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	40%	98%
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	22	53%	97%



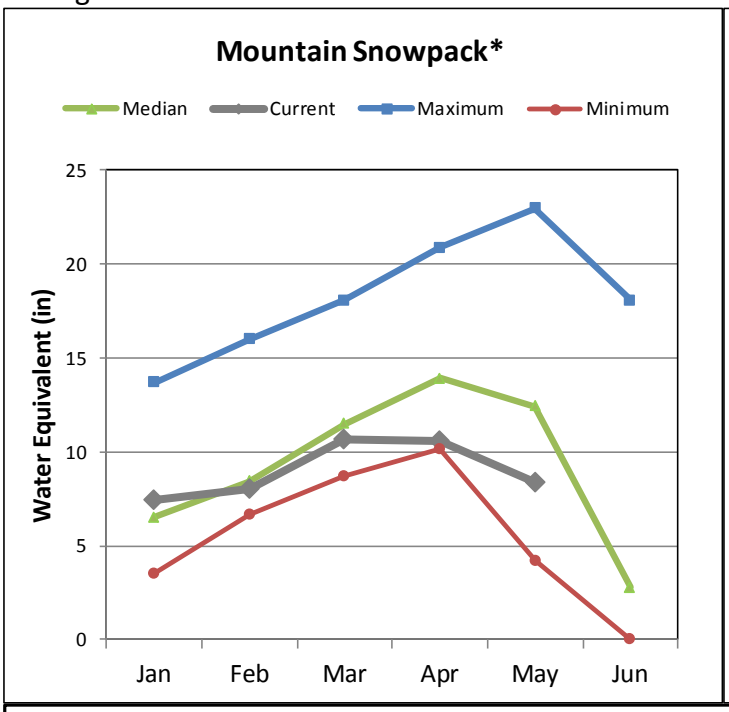


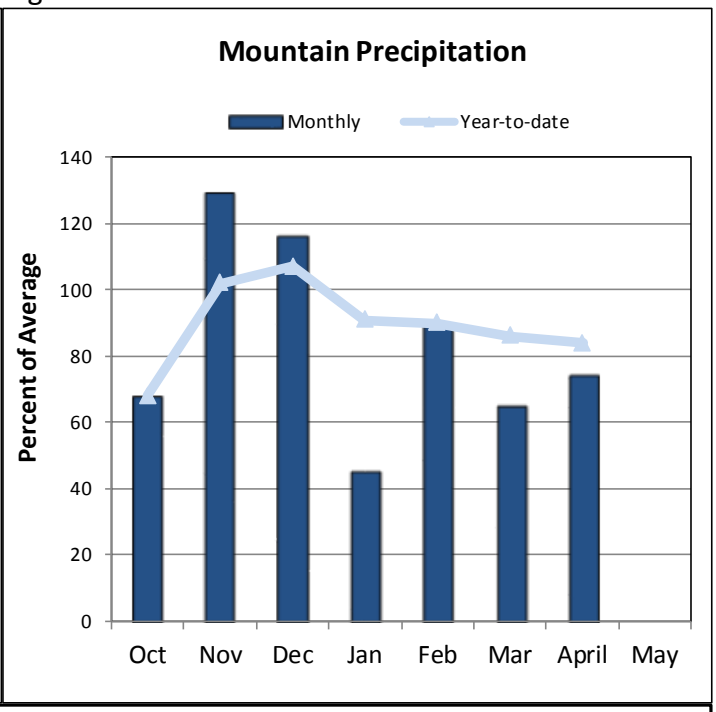
Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

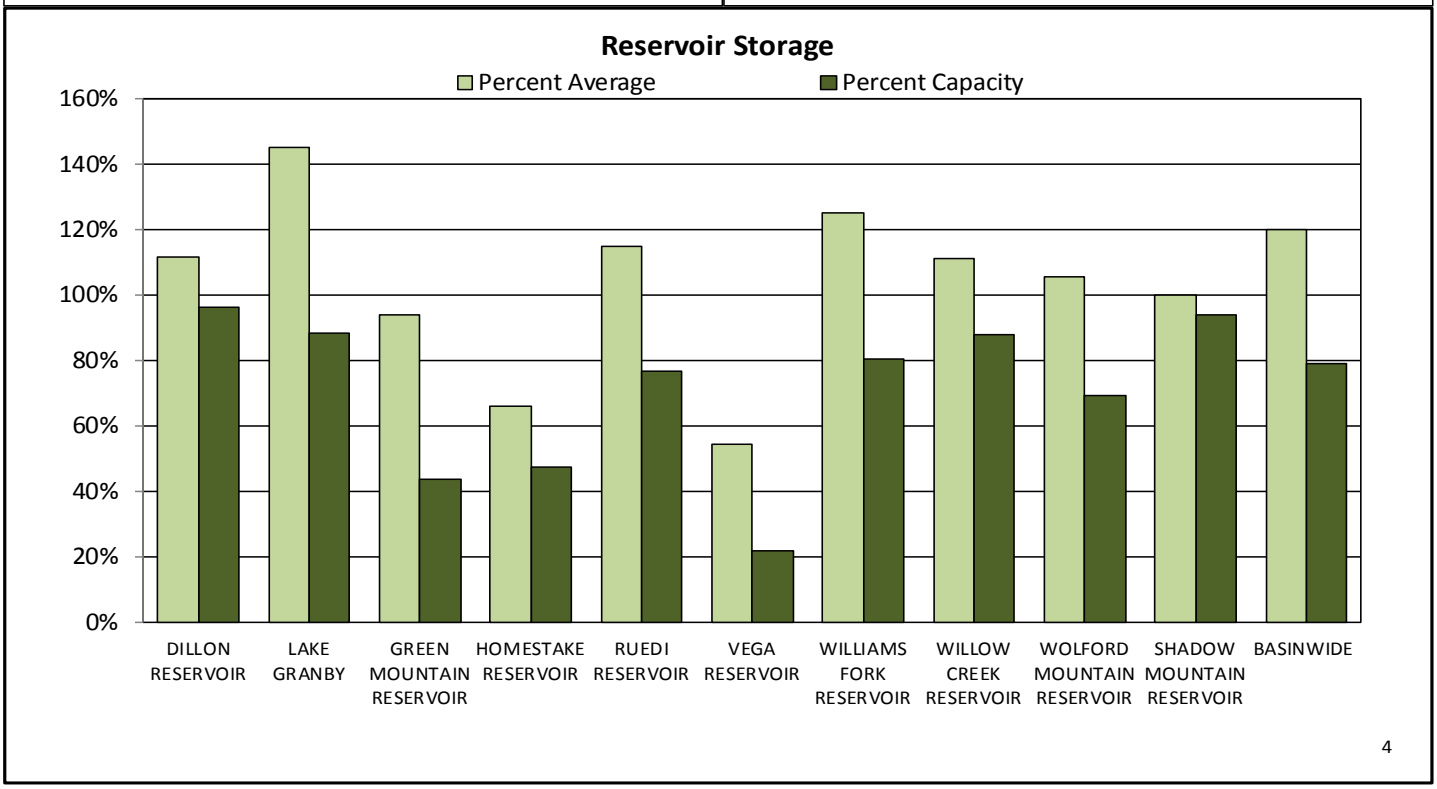
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

May 1, 2015

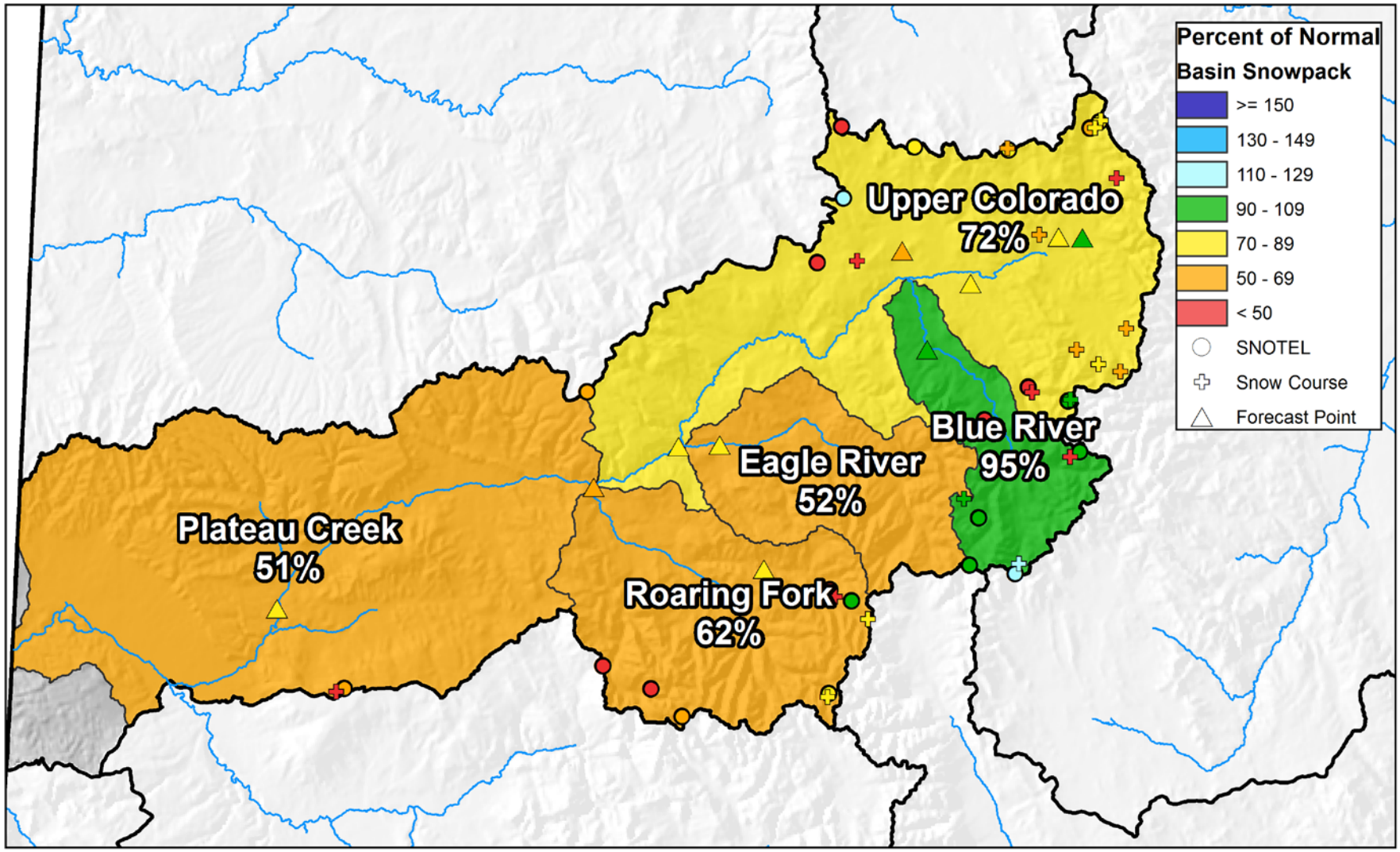
Snowpack in the Colorado River basin is below normal at 68% of the median. Precipitation for April was 74% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation down to 84% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of April was 129% of average compared to 94% last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 101% of average for the Inflow to Dillon Reservoir to 54% of average for the inflow to Wolford Mountain Reservoir.







Upper Colorado River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts
May 1, 2015



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Upper Colorado River Basin
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2015

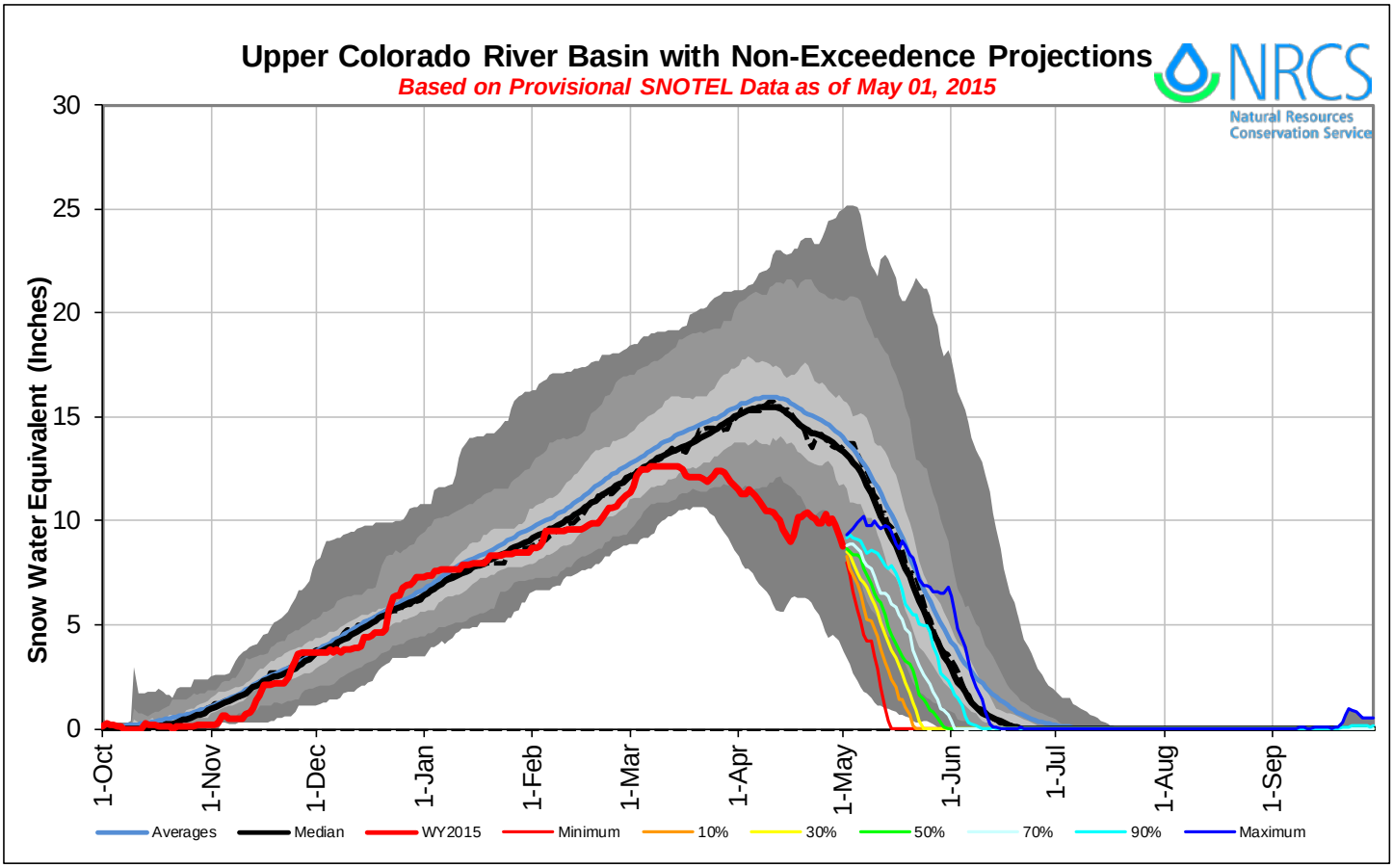
Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

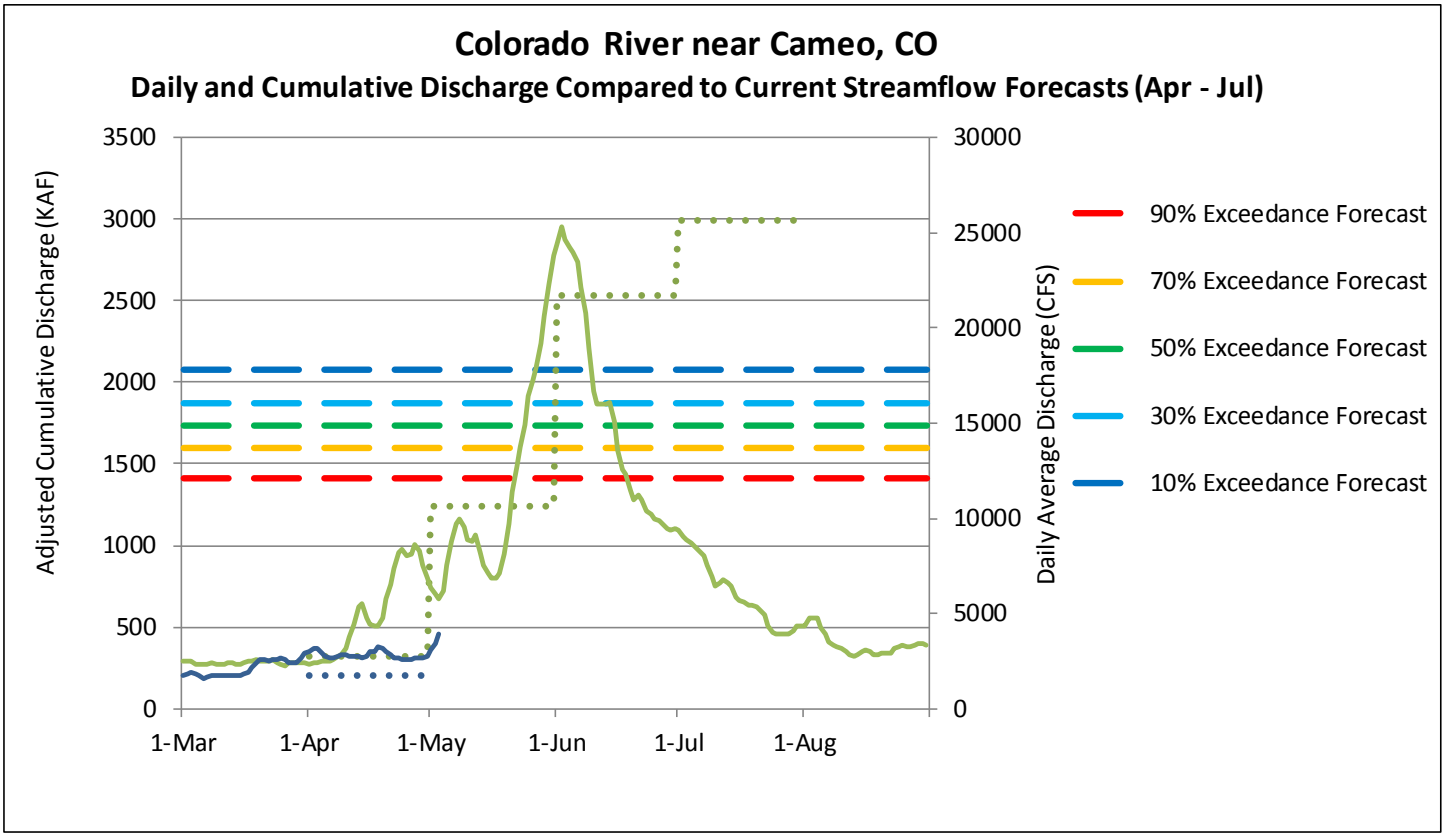
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Lake Granby Inflow [2]								
	APR-JUL	166	186	200	91%	215	240	220
	MAY-JUL	146	166	180	88%	195	220	205
Willow Ck Reservoir Inflow								
	APR-JUL	26	32	37	79%	42	51	47
	MAY-JUL	18.7	25	30	70%	35	44	43
Williams Fk bl Williams Fk Reservoir[2]								
	APR-JUL	61	71	78	80%	86	98	97
	MAY-JUL	53	63	70	78%	78	90	90
Wolford Mtn Reservoir Inflow								
	APR-JUL	25	30	34	63%	38	45	54
	MAY-JUL	16.2	21	25	54%	29	36	46
Dillon Reservoir Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	141	158	171	105%	184	205	163
	MAY-JUL	125	142	155	101%	168	188	153
Green Mountain Reservoir Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	220	255	275	100%	300	335	275
	MAY-JUL	196	230	250	98%	275	310	255
Eagle R bl Gypsum [2]								
	APR-JUL	205	235	260	78%	285	325	335
	MAY-JUL	176	210	235	76%	260	300	310
Colorado R nr Dotsero [2]								
	APR-JUL	940	1090	1200	86%	1310	1500	1400
	MAY-JUL	795	950	1060	83%	1180	1360	1280
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow [2]								
	APR-JUL	85	97	106	76%	115	129	139
	MAY-JUL	76	88	97	75%	106	120	130
Roaring Fk at Glenwood Springs[2]								
	APR-JUL	365	415	450	65%	485	545	690
	MAY-JUL	315	365	400	63%	435	495	640
Colorado R nr Cameo [2]								
	APR-JUL	1410	1600	1730	74%	1870	2080	2350
	MAY-JUL	1200	1390	1520	71%	1660	1870	2150

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of April, 2015	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Dillon Reservoir	247.1	206.4	213.6	254.0
Green Mountain Reservoir	64.9	61.7	59.5	146.8
Homestake Reservoir	20.8	0.0	19.5	43.0
Lake Granby	416.9	220.8	262.4	465.6
Ruedi Reservoir	75.8	64.8	62.6	102.0
Shadow Mountain Reservoir	17.2	17.2	17.2	18.4
Vega Reservoir	7.1	23.8	18.3	32.9
Williams Fork Reservoir	83.7	75.2	60.8	97.0
Willow Creek Reservoir	6.0	6.9	6.6	9.1
Wolford Mountain Reservoir	49.8	46.4	47.7	65.9
Basin-wide Total	989.3	723.2	768.2	1234.7
# of reservoirs	10	10	10	10

Watershed Snowpack Analysis May 1, 2015	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
BLUE RIVER BASIN	8	95%	140%
HEADWATERS COLORADO RIVER	35	72%	131%
MUDDY CREEK BASIN	4	63%	168%
EAGLE RIVER BASIN	5	52%	110%
PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	52%	81%
ROARING FORK BASIN	10	62%	111%
WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	5	69%	118%
WILLOW CREEK BASIN	4	72%	121%
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	48	68%	122%





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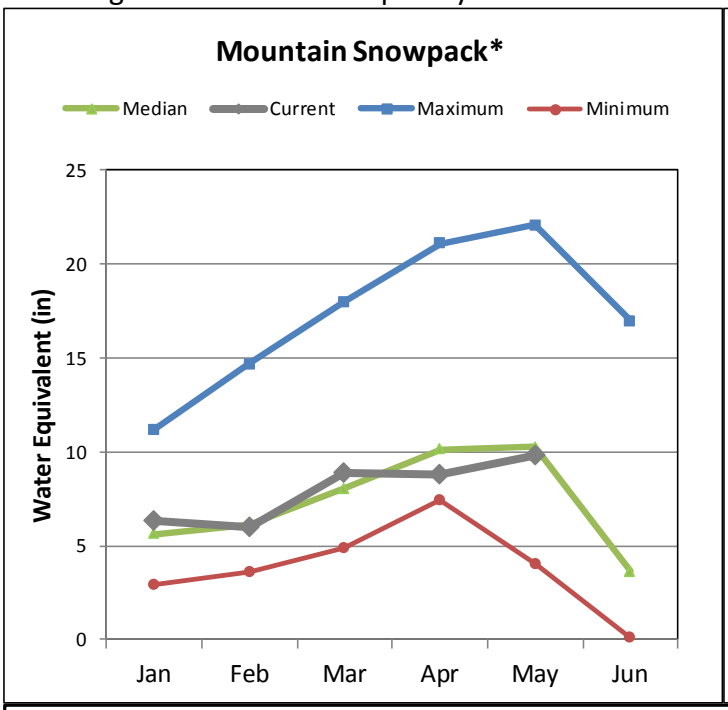
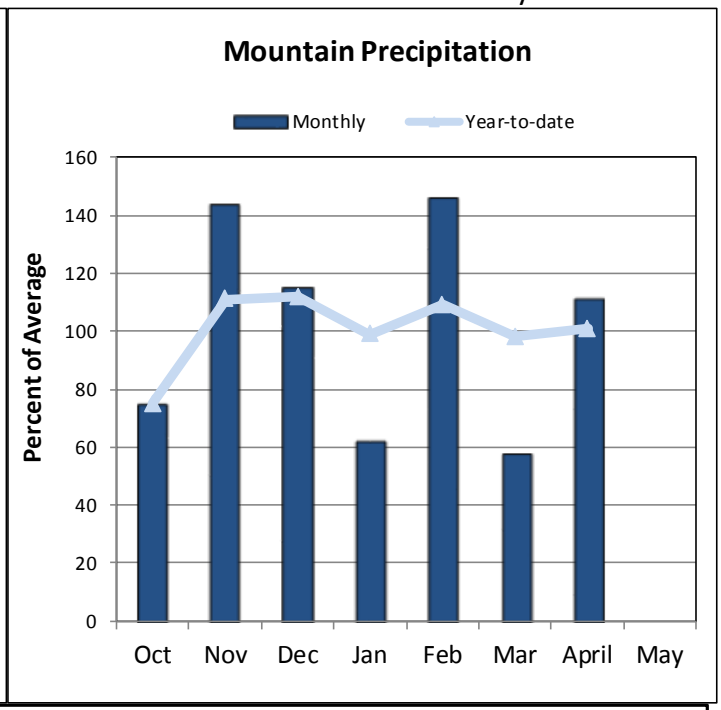
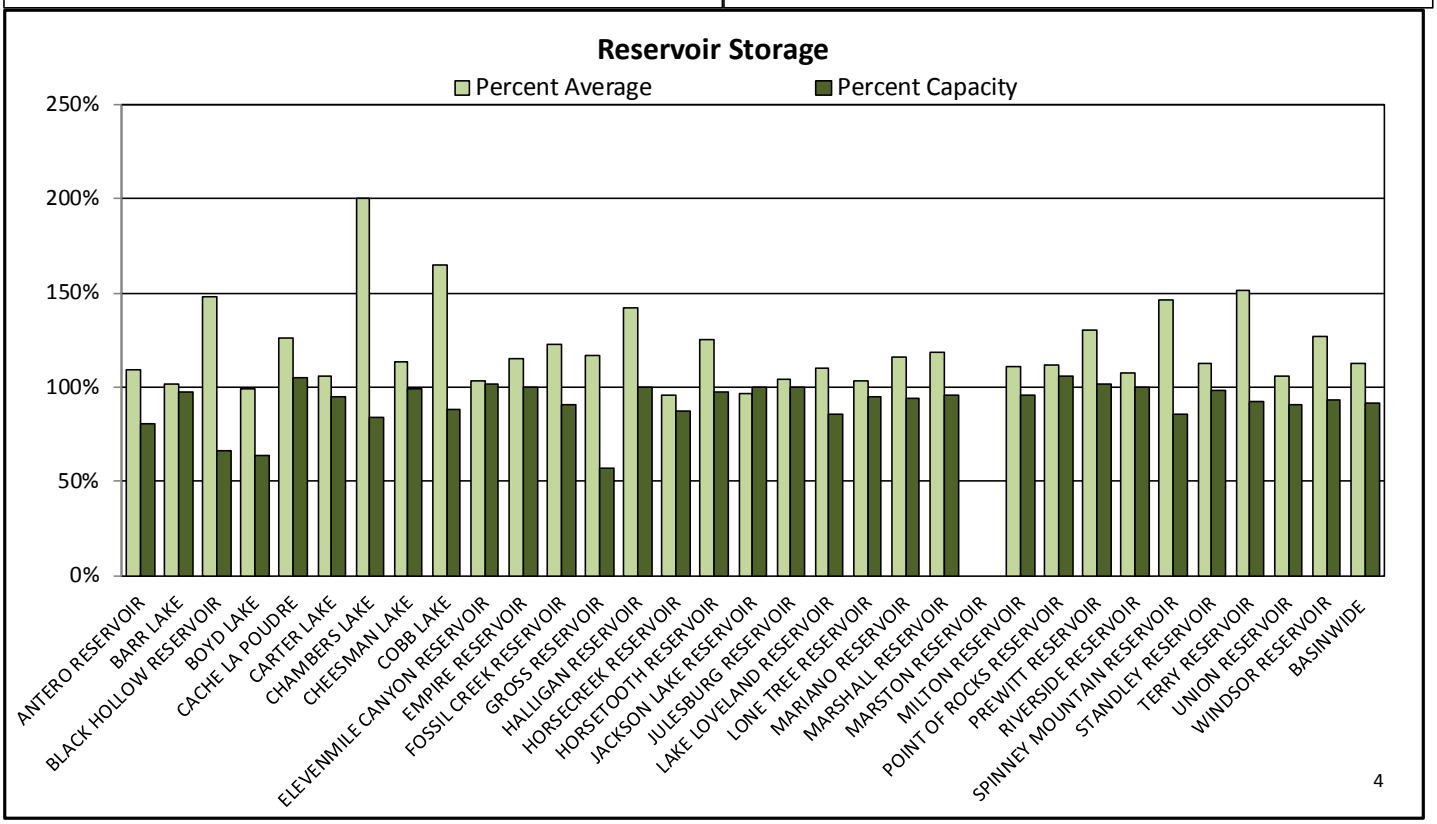
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

May 1, 2015

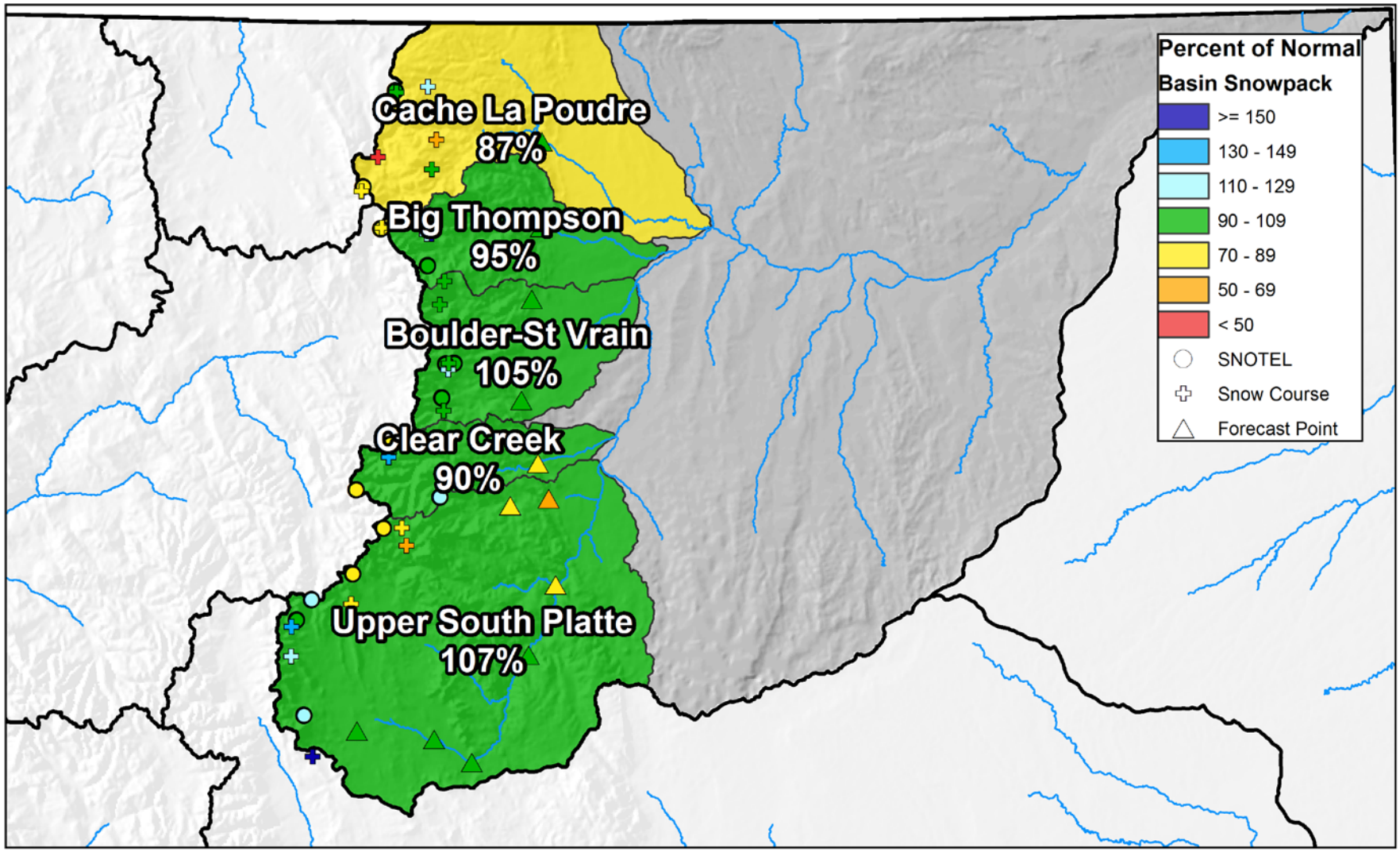
Snowpack in the South Platte River basin is near normal at 96% of the median. Precipitation for April was 110% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation up to 100%. Reservoir storage at the end of April was 113% of average compared to 110% last year. Streamflow forecasts for May to July range from 107% of average for the inflow to Spinney Mountain Reservoir to 85% for the Cache le Poudre at canyon mouth.







South Platte River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts
May 1, 2015



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South Platte River Basin
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2015

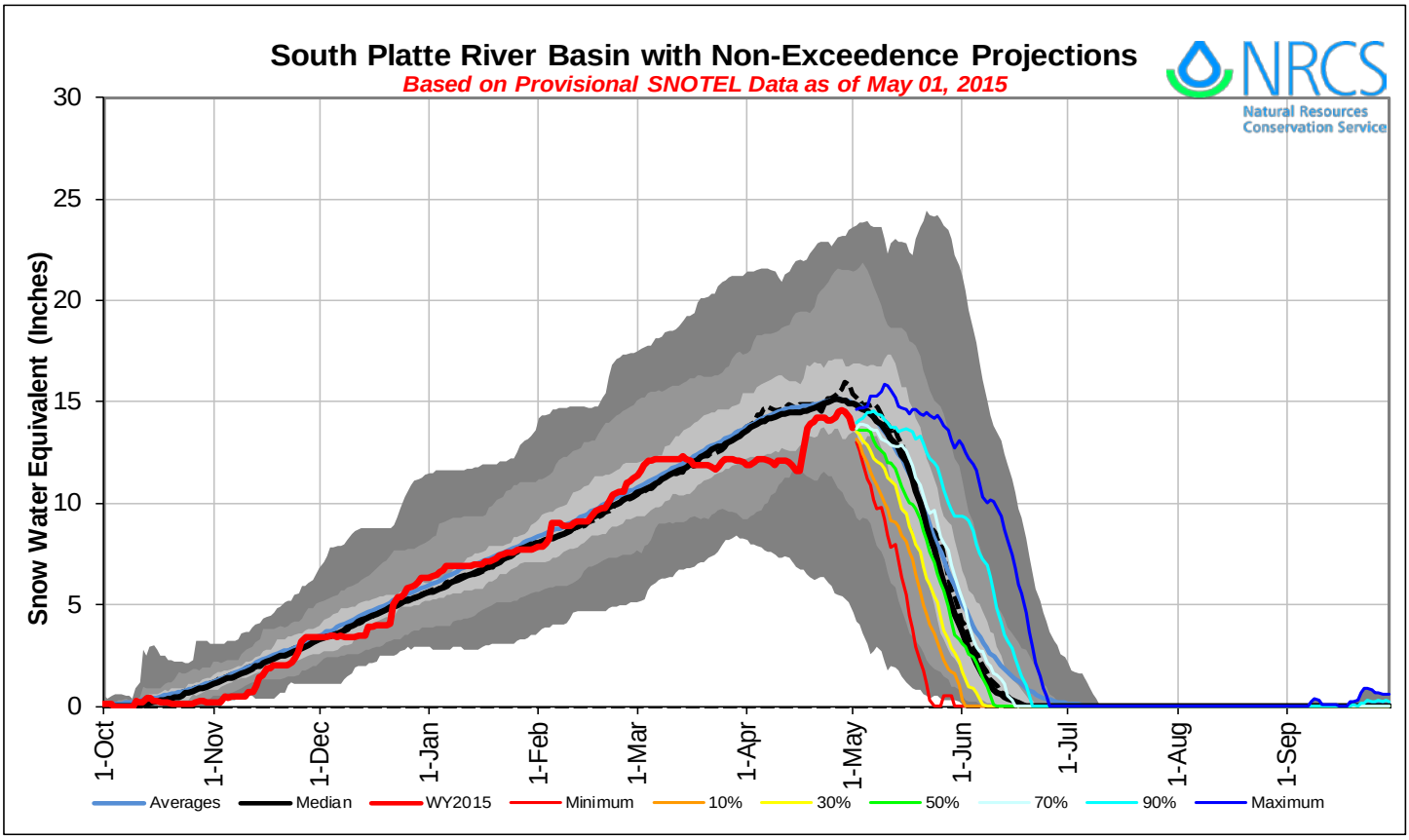
Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

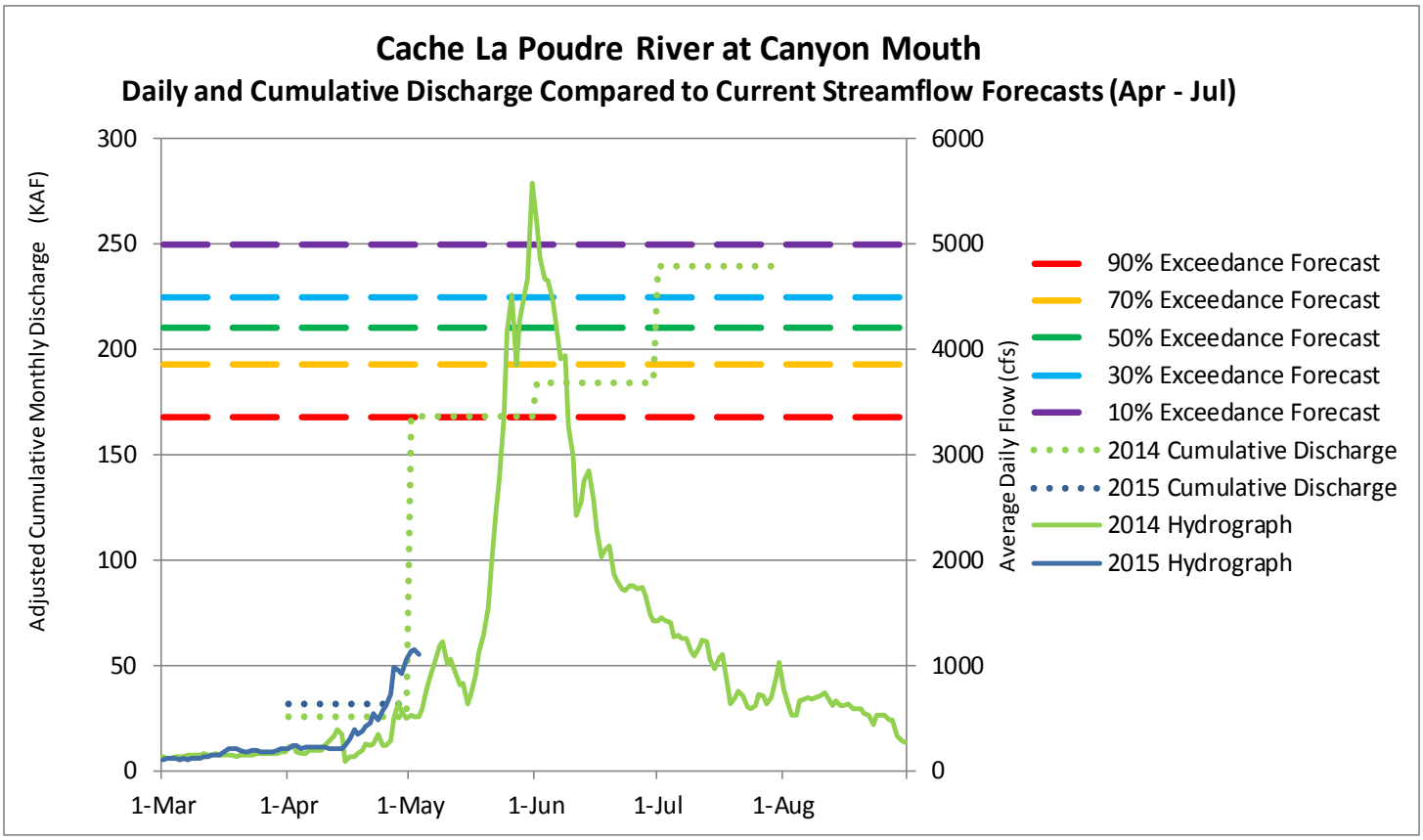
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Antero Reservoir Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	11.1	13.1	14.4	99%	15.7	17.7	14.5
	APR-SEP	12.7	15.1	16.8	94%	18.5	21	17.8
	MAY-JUL	9.9	12	13.4	102%	14.8	16.9	13.1
	MAY-SEP	11.8	14.2	15.8	96%	17.4	19.8	16.4
Spinney Mountain Reservoir Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	37	45	51	106%	58	68	48
	APR-SEP	44	56	64	105%	73	87	61
	MAY-JUL	35	42	47	107%	52	61	44
	MAY-SEP	45	53	60	107%	67	78	56
Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	35	44	50	100%	57	68	50
	APR-SEP	44	55	64	100%	73	89	64
	MAY-JUL	35	42	47	104%	53	61	45
	MAY-SEP	45	54	61	105%	68	79	58
Cheesman Lake Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	63	80	93	93%	107	130	100
	APR-SEP	76	99	117	93%	136	168	126
	MAY-JUL	61	73	82	95%	91	103	86
	MAY-SEP	75	94	106	94%	118	137	113
South Platte R at South Platte[2]								
	APR-JUL	105	136	159	88%	185	225	180
	APR-SEP	136	172	200	89%	230	280	225
	MAY-JUL	87	117	138	88%	159	189	156
	MAY-SEP	115	153	179	87%	205	245	205
Bear Ck ab Evergreen								
	APR-JUL	8.8	11.7	14	85%	16.7	21	16.4
	APR-SEP	11.6	15.7	19.1	91%	23	30	21
	MAY-JUL	6.8	9.7	12	85%	14.7	19.3	14.2
	MAY-SEP	9.6	13.7	17.1	90%	21	28	18.9
Clear Ck at Golden								
	APR-JUL	78	87	93	89%	100	110	105
	APR-SEP	95	107	115	90%	124	138	128
	MAY-JUL	67	78	86	86%	94	105	100
	MAY-SEP	82	98	108	88%	118	134	123
St. Vrain Ck at Lyons[2]								
	APR-JUL	73	82	88	100%	94	104	88
	APR-SEP	83	94	102	99%	110	123	103
	MAY-JUL	62	72	78	98%	84	94	80
	MAY-SEP	72	84	92	97%	100	112	95
Boulder Ck nr Orodell[2]								
	APR-JUL	46	50	54	100%	58	62	54
	APR-SEP	52	58	62	98%	68	74	63
	MAY-JUL	41	46	49	96%	52	57	51
	MAY-SEP	47	54	58	98%	62	69	59
South Boulder Ck nr Eldorado Springs[2]								
	APR-JUL	30	35	38	97%	42	48	39
	APR-SEP	33	38	42	98%	46	53	43
	MAY-JUL	27	31	34	97%	37	41	35
	MAY-SEP	30	35	38	97%	41	46	39
Big Thompson R at Canyon Mouth[2]								
	APR-JUL	71	80	86	96%	92	101	90
	APR-SEP	81	94	103	96%	111	124	107
	MAY-JUL	62	72	78	92%	84	94	85
	MAY-SEP	73	86	95	93%	103	116	102
Cache La Poudre at Canyon Mouth[2]								
	APR-JUL	168	193	210	93%	225	250	225
	APR-SEP	182	210	230	92%	250	280	250
	MAY-JUL	136	161	178	85%	195	220	210
	MAY-SEP	150	180	200	85%	220	250	235

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of April, 2015	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Antero Reservoir	16.1	15.7	14.7	19.9
Barr Lake	29.3	29.3	28.8	30.1
Black Hollow Reservoir	4.3	3.3	2.9	6.5
Boyd Lake	30.7	35.2	30.9	48.4
Cache La Poudre	10.6	10.6	8.4	10.1
Carter Lake	103.5	106.4	97.5	108.9
Chambers Lake	7.4	6.6	3.7	8.8
Cheesman Lake	78.4	78.5	69.0	79.0
Cobb Lake	19.6	20.9	11.9	22.3
Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir	99.5	99.7	96.6	98.0
Empire Reservoir	36.5	35.8	31.7	36.5
Fossil Creek Reservoir	10.1	8.8	8.2	11.1
Gross Reservoir	24.0	28.6	20.5	41.8
Halligan Reservoir	6.4	6.4	4.5	6.4
Horsecreek Reservoir	12.8	11.6	13.3	14.7
Horsetooth Reservoir	146.5	130.5	116.6	149.7
Jackson Lake Reservoir	26.1	24.9	27.1	26.1
Julesburg Reservoir	20.5	20.3	19.6	20.5
Lake Loveland Reservoir	8.8	6.7	8.0	10.3
Lone Tree Reservoir	8.3	7.7	8.0	8.7
Mariano Reservoir	5.1	4.4	4.4	5.4
Marshall Reservoir	9.6	9.5	8.1	10.0
Marston Reservoir	0.0	0.2	8.6	13.0
Milton Reservoir	22.5	21.7	20.2	23.5
Point Of Rocks Reservoir	74.6	70.4	66.5	70.6
Prewitt Reservoir	28.6	24.6	22.0	28.2
Ralph Price Reservoir	14.2	12.9		16.2
Riverside Reservoir	55.8	53.7	52.0	55.8
Spinney Mountain Reservoir	42.0	35.5	28.7	49.0
Standley Reservoir	41.2	41.2	36.6	42.0
Terry Reservoir	7.4	6.7	4.9	8.0
Union Reservoir	11.8	11.9	11.1	13.0
Windsor Reservoir	14.2	14.4	11.2	15.2
Basin-wide Total	1012.2	981.7	896.2	1091.5
# of reservoirs	32	32	32	32

Watershed Snowpack Analysis May 1, 2015	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	95%	126%
BOULDER CREEK BASIN	6	103%	150%
CACHE LA POUDRE BASIN	10	87%	139%
CLEAR CREEK BASIN	4	90%	124%
SAINT VRAIN BASIN	2	106%	137%
UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	16	107%	125%
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	45	96%	133%



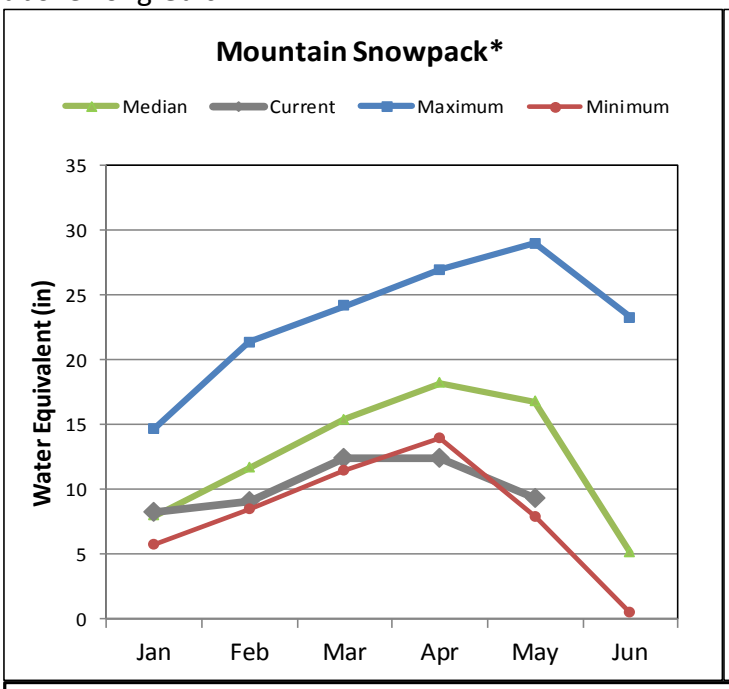


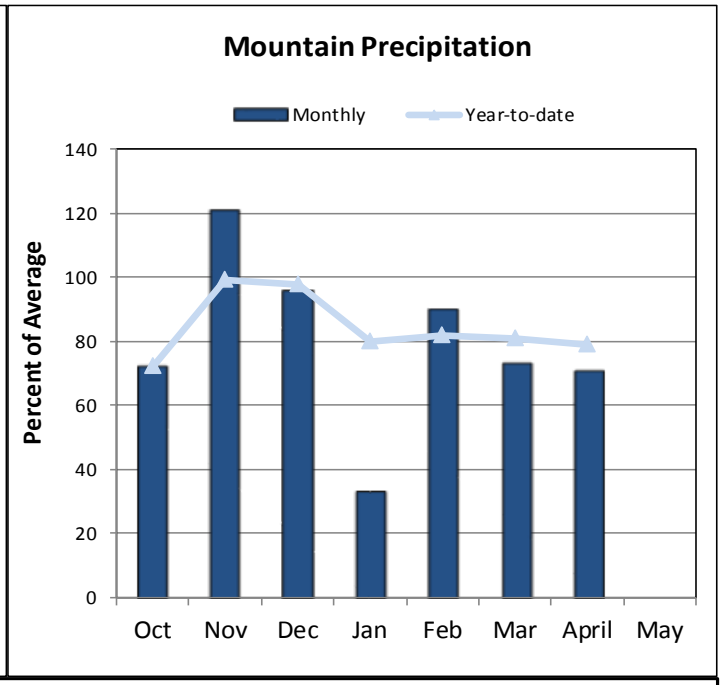
Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

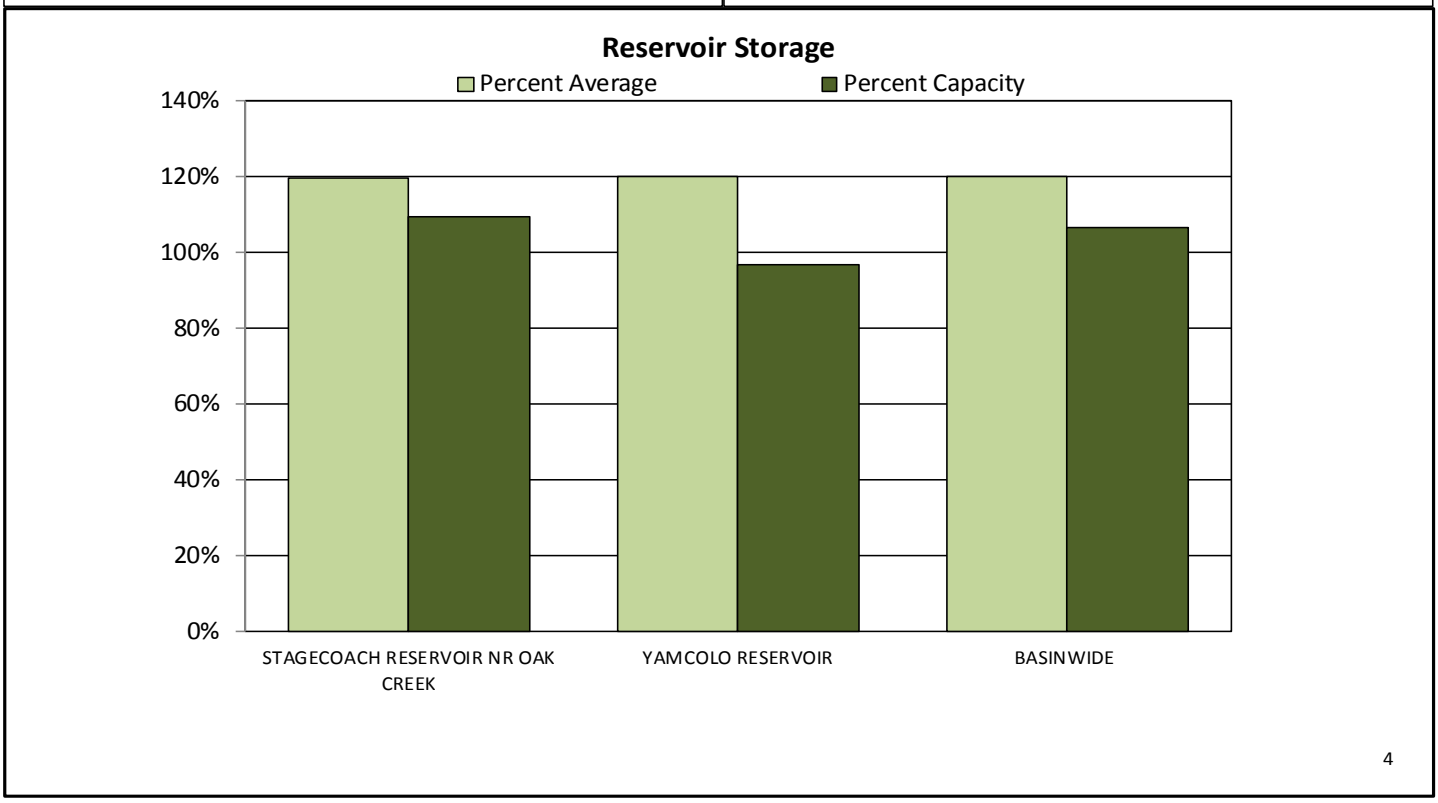
YAMPA, WHITE, NORTH PLATTE AND LARAMIE RIVER BASINS

May 1, 2015

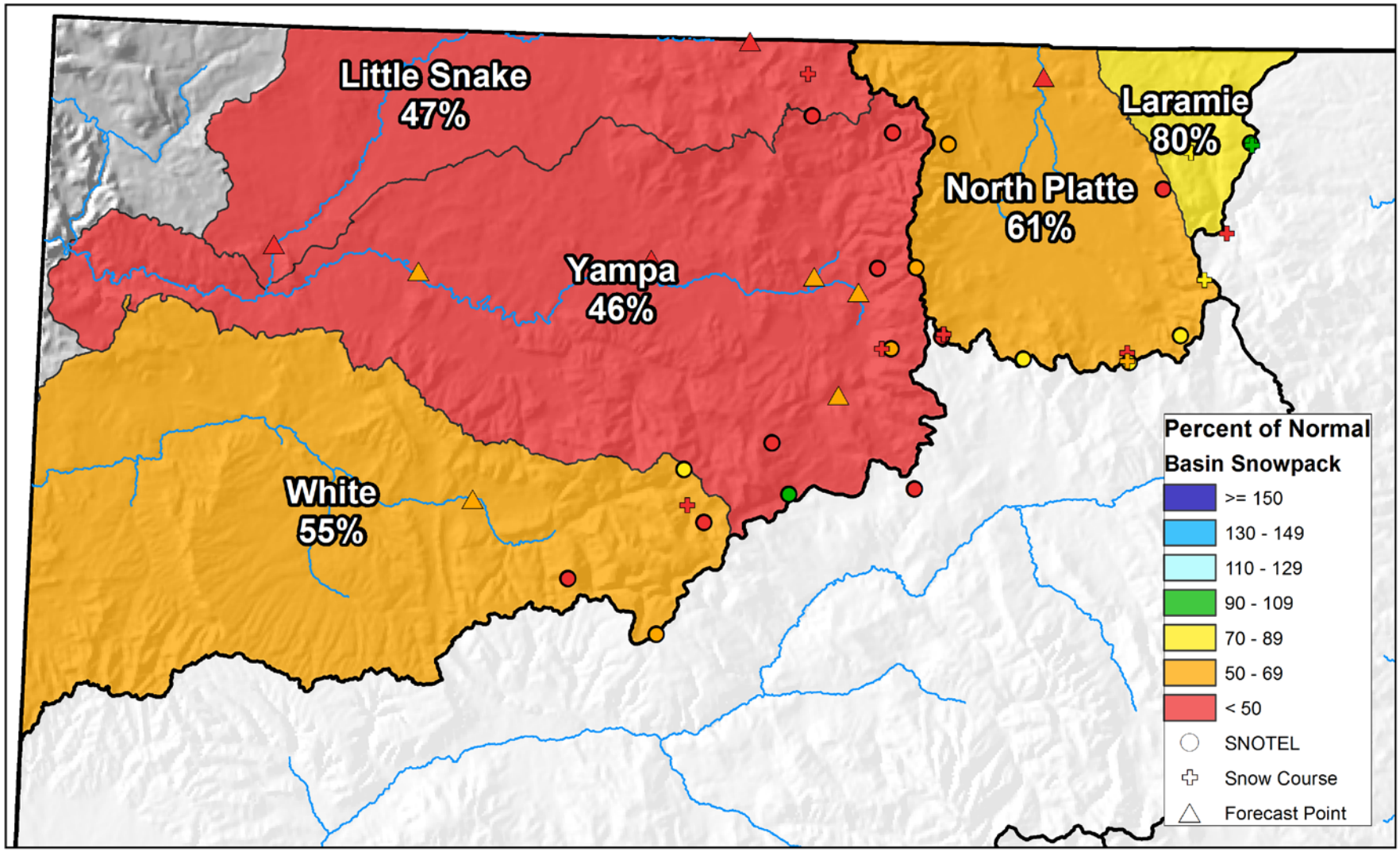
Snowpack in the Yampa, White, North Platte & Laramie basins is below normal at 55% of the median. Precipitation for April was 71% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation down to 79%. Reservoir storage at the end of April was 120% of average compared to 106% last year. Streamflow forecasts range from 55% of average for the Yampa River at Steamboat Springs to 21% of average for Elkhead Creek above Long Gulch.







Yampa, White, and North Platte River Basins Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts
May 1, 2015



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Yampa-White-North Platte River Basins
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2015

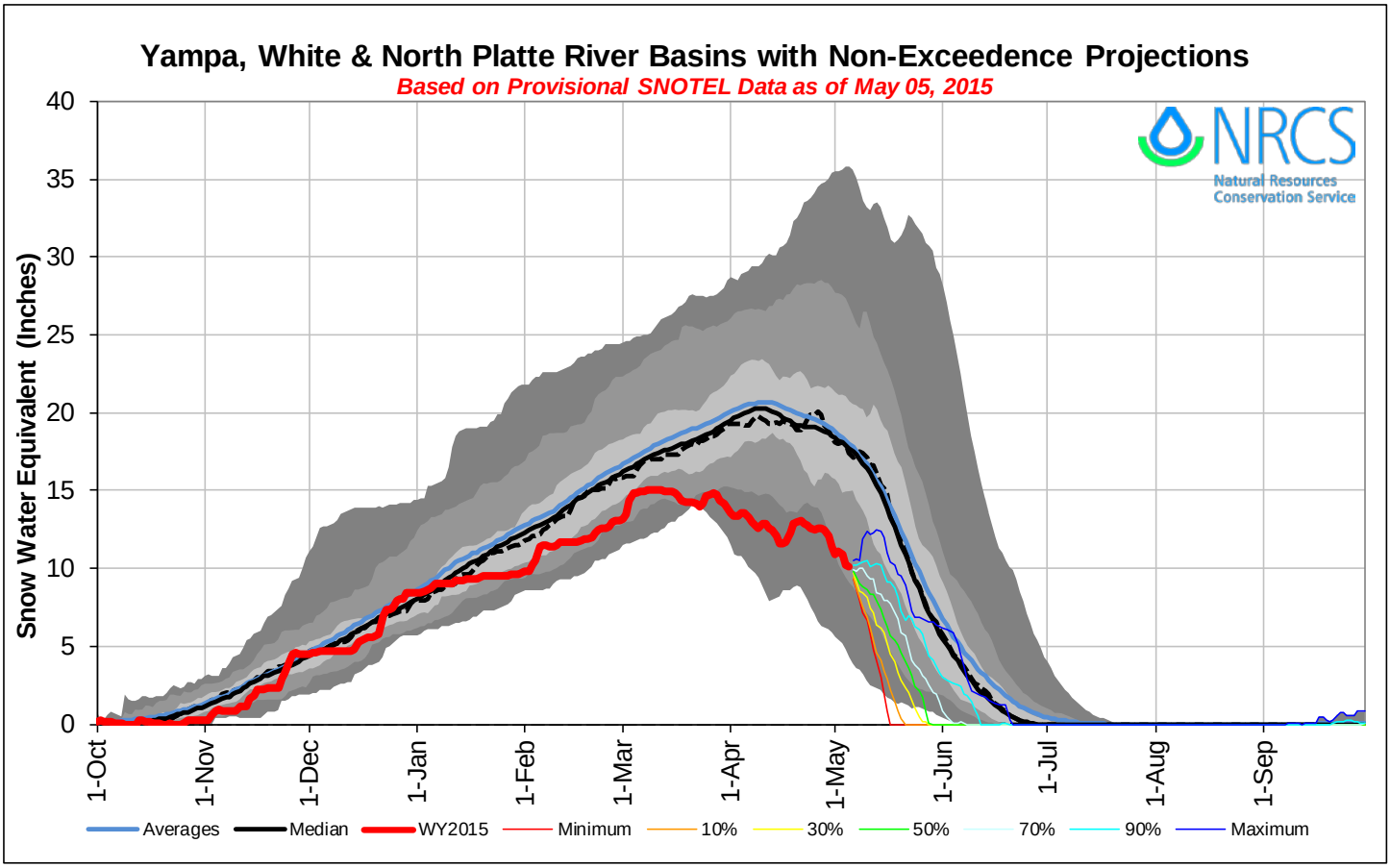
Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

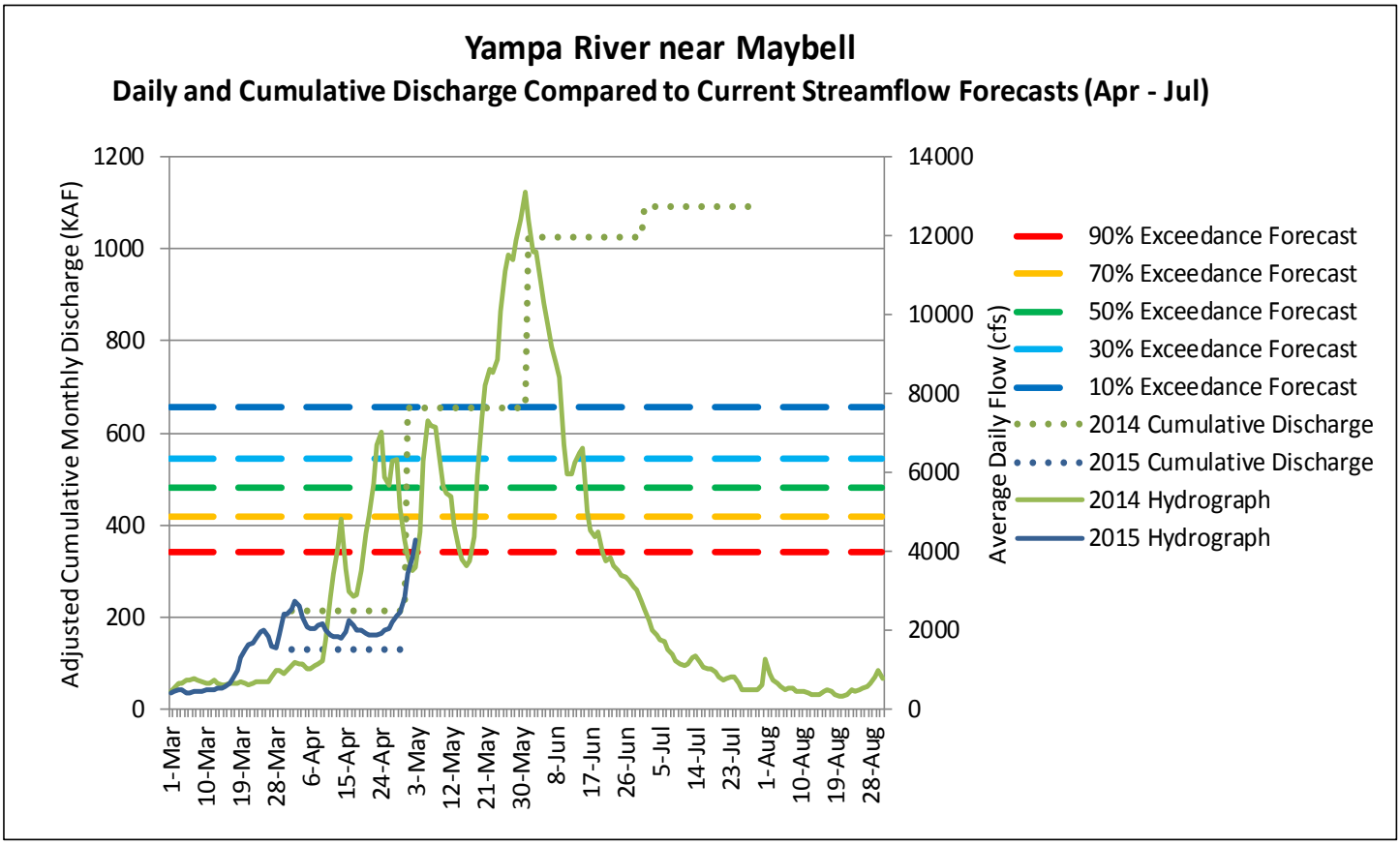
YAMPA-WHITE-NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
North Platte R nr Northgate								
	MAY-JUL	5	37	70	37%	103	152	187
	MAY-SEP	10	44	80	38%	116	170	210
Laramie R nr Woods[2]								
	MAY-JUL	36	55	68	63%	81	100	108
	MAY-SEP	40	61	75	63%	90	111	119
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir [2]								
	APR-JUL	9.1	11.2	11.6	50%	15.3	19.1	23
	MAY-JUL	2.5	4.6	5	31%	8.7	12.5	16
Yampa R at Steamboat Springs[2]								
	APR-JUL	122	143	159	61%	176	200	260
	MAY-JUL	83	104	120	55%	137	163	220
Elk R nr Milner								
	APR-JUL	137	171	197	62%	225	270	320
	MAY-JUL	98	132	158	54%	186	230	290
Elkhead Ck ab Long Gulch								
	APR-JUL	19.2	23	27	37%	32	41	73
	MAY-JUL	2.6	6.7	10.7	21%	15.6	24	50
Yampa R nr Maybell[2]								
	APR-JUL	340	420	480	51%	545	655	935
	MAY-JUL	210	290	350	45%	415	525	775
Little Snake R nr Slater[2]								
	APR-JUL	55	66	74	47%	83	96	156
	MAY-JUL	36	47	55	40%	64	77	138
Little Snake R nr Dixon[2]								
	APR-JUL	70	99	122	35%	149	195	345
	MAY-JUL	38	67	90	31%	117	163	295
Little Snake R nr Lily[2]								
	APR-JUL	60	88	112	32%	141	191	345
	MAY-JUL	28	56	80	28%	109	159	290
White R nr Meeker								
	APR-JUL	112	136	154	55%	174	205	280
	MAY-JUL	67	91	109	44%	129	161	245

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of April, 2015	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Stagecoach Reservoir nr Oak Creek	36.4	33.5	30.4	33.3
Yamcolo Reservoir	8.4	6.2	7.0	8.7
Basin-wide Total	44.8	39.7	37.4	42.0
# of reservoirs	2	2	2	2

Watershed Snowpack Analysis May 1, 2015	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	5	80%	145%
NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	12	61%	133%
LARAMIE & NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS	17	65%	135%
ELK RIVER BASIN	2	34%	119%
YAMPA RIVER BASIN	11	46%	132%
WHITE RIVER BASIN	5	55%	98%
YAMPA & WHITE RIVER BASINS	15	46%	121%
LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	9	47%	108%
YAMPA-WHITE-NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS	37	55%	122%



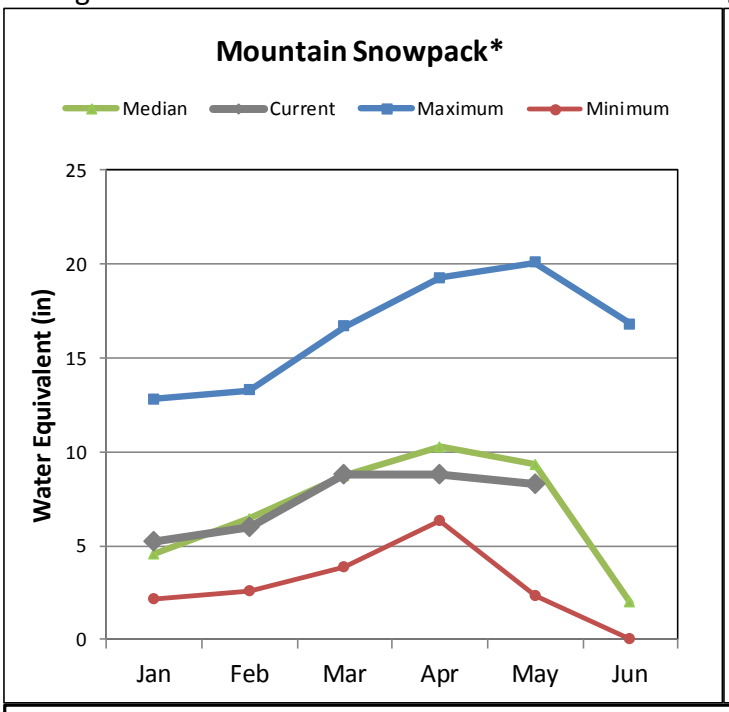


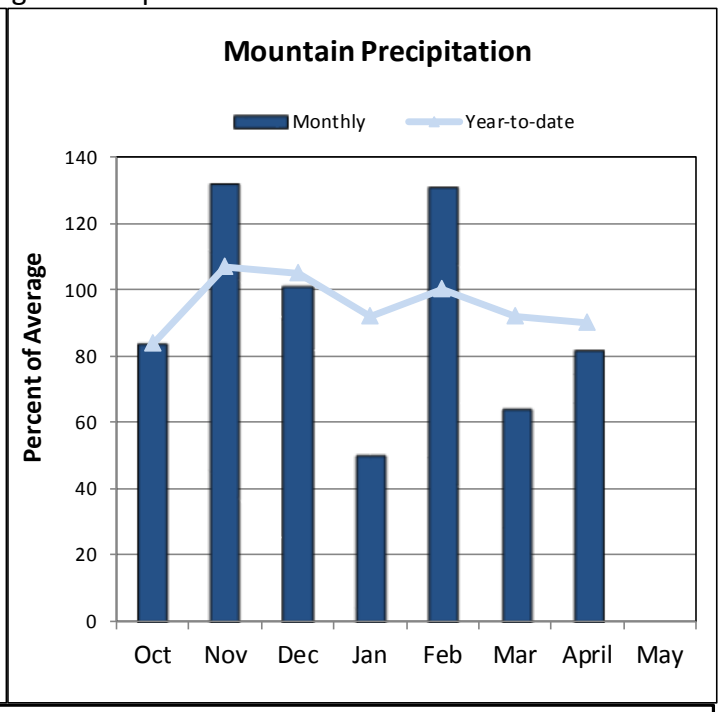
Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

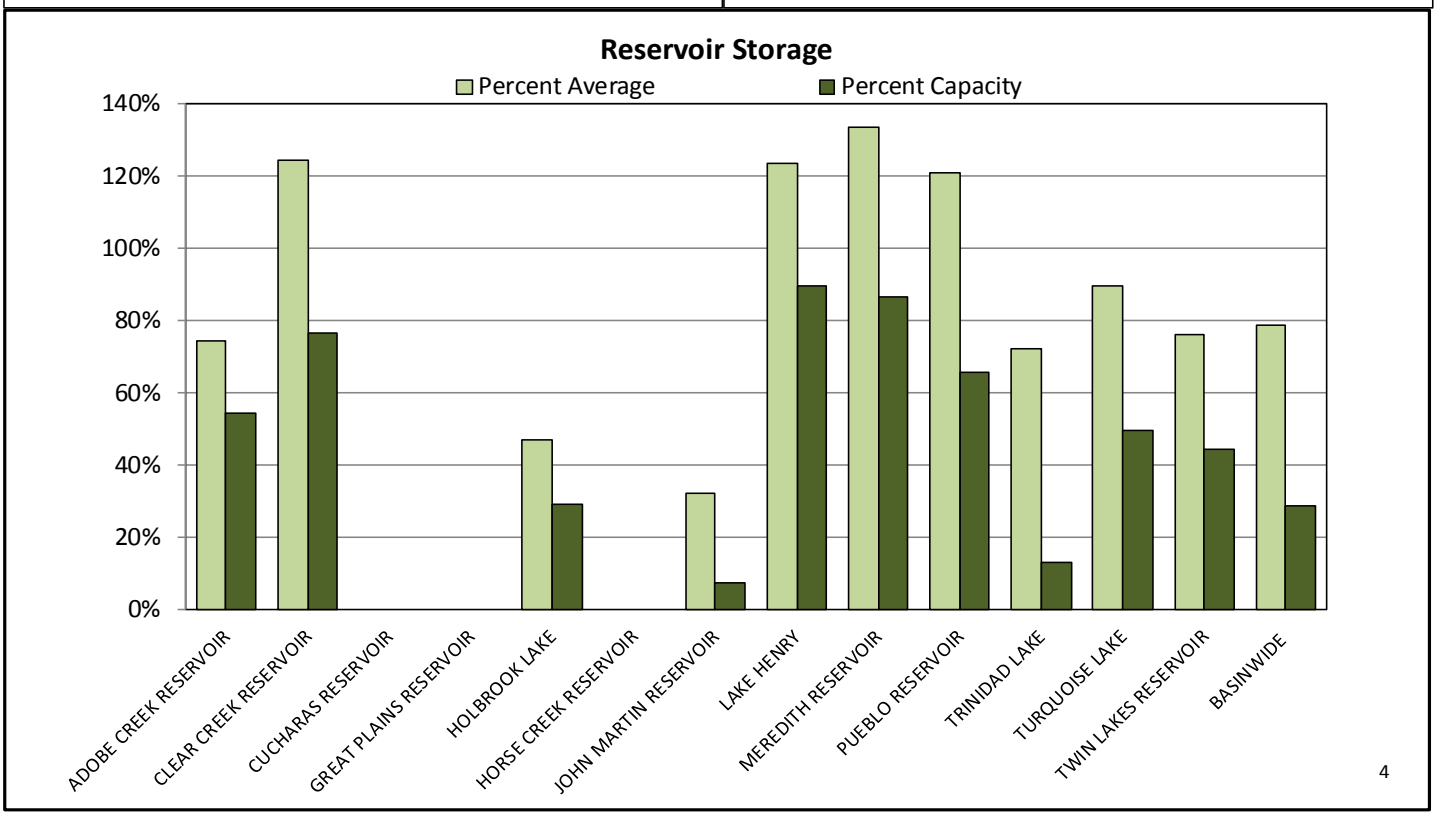
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

May 1, 2015

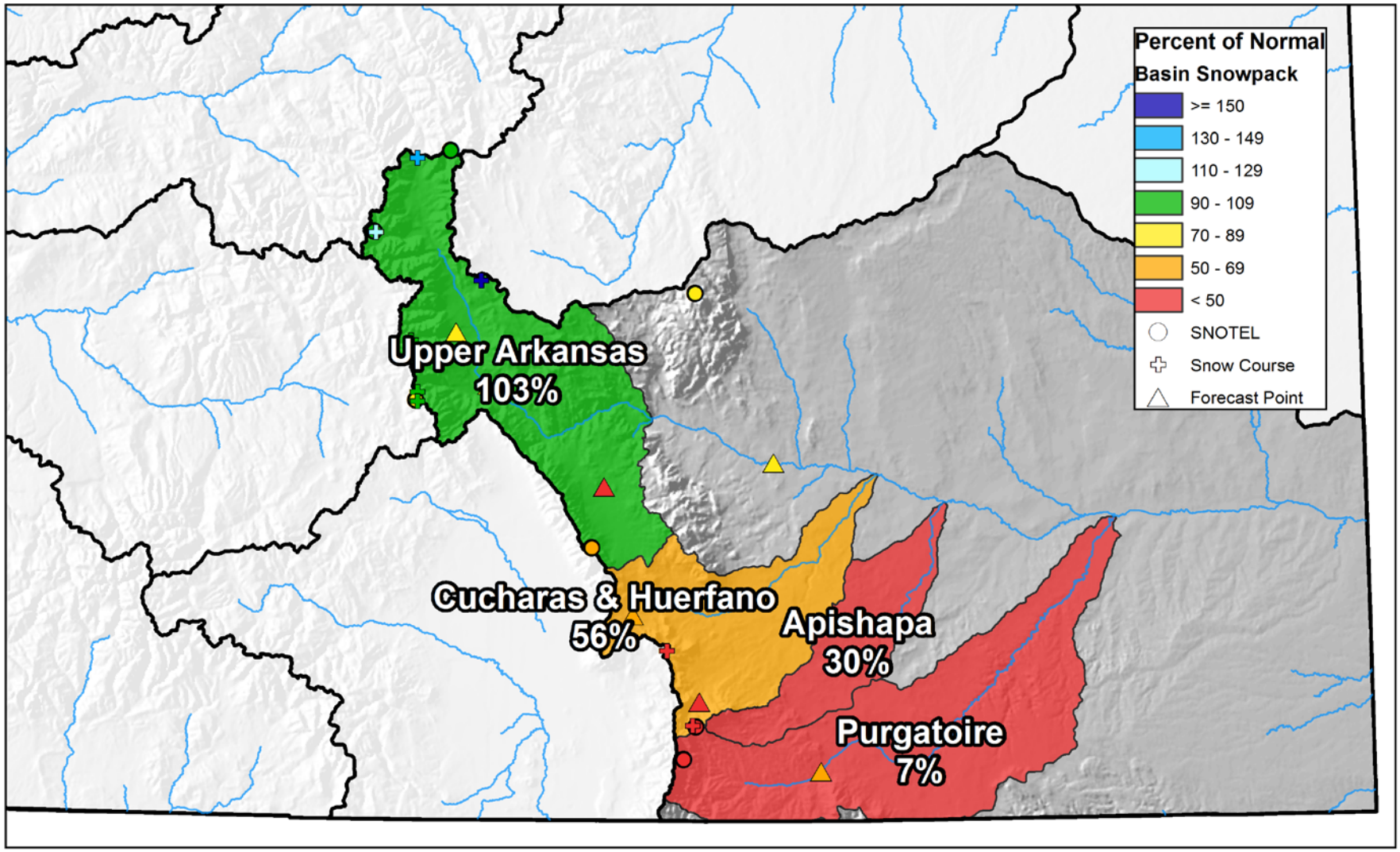
Snowpack in the Arkansas River basin is below normal at 89% of the median. Precipitation for April was 82% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation down to 90% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of April was 79% of average compared to 59% last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 76% of average for the Arkansas River at Salida to 38% of average for Grape Creek at Westcliffe.







Arkansas River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts
May 1, 2015



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Arkansas River Basin
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2015

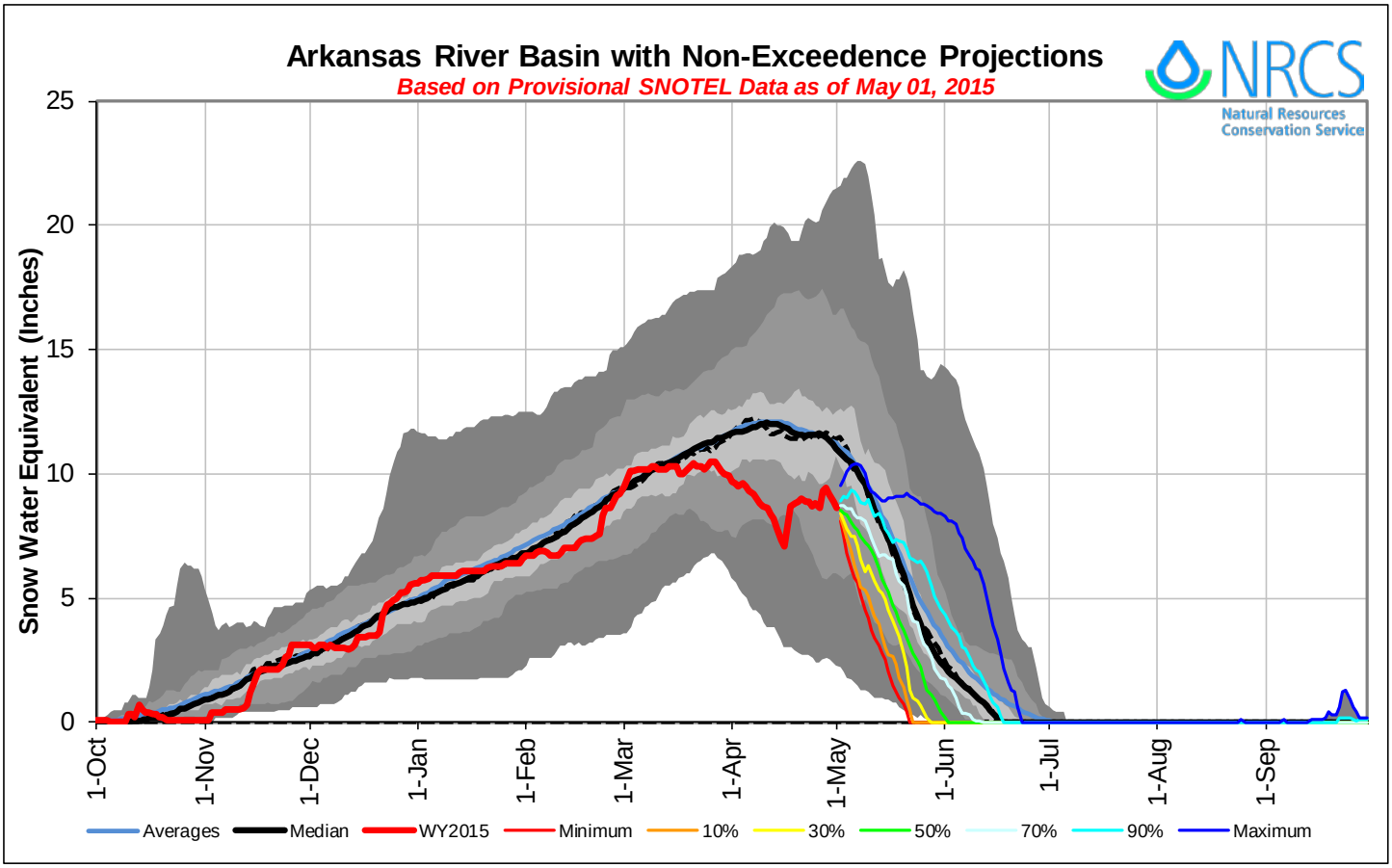
Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

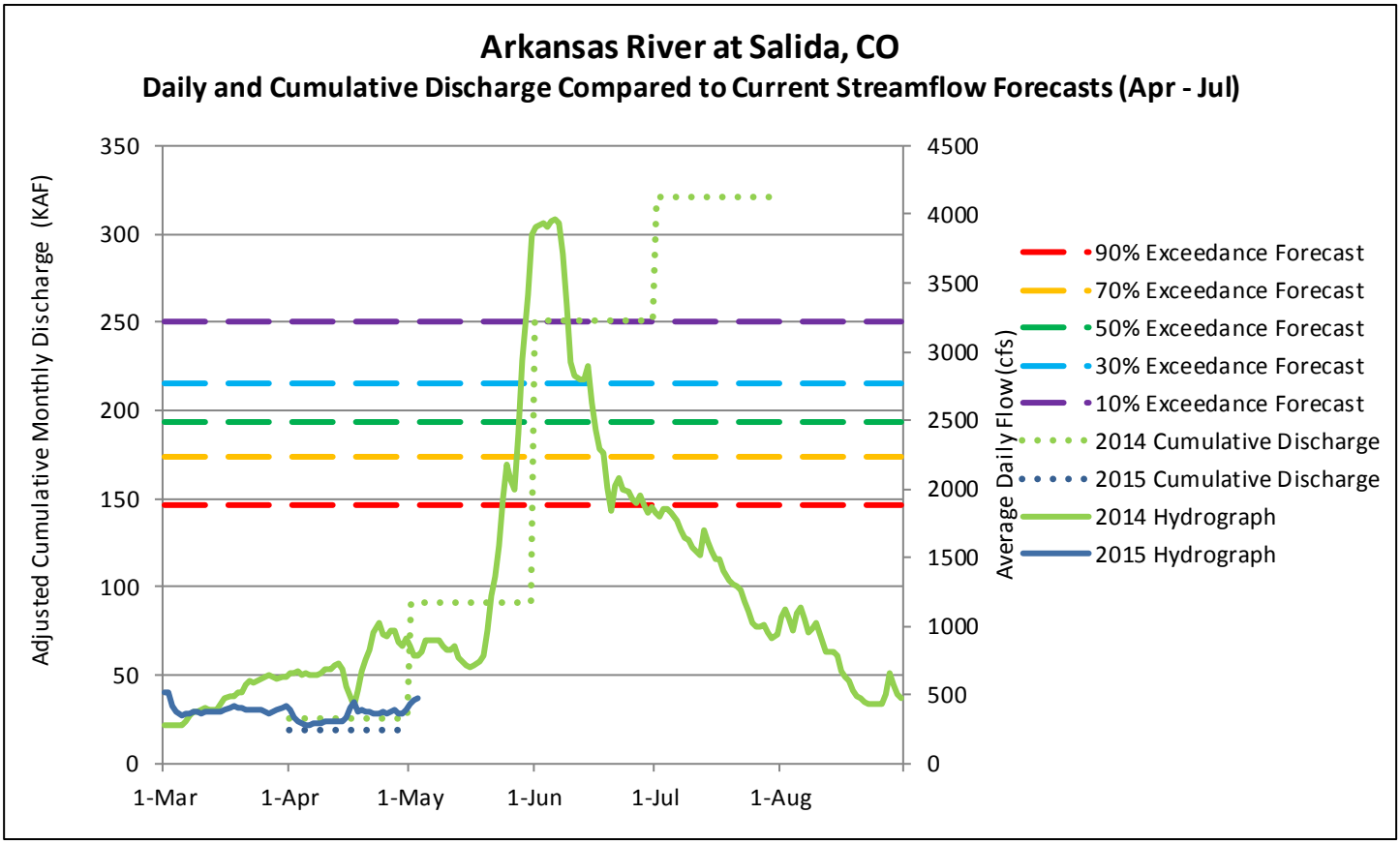
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Chalk Ck nr Nathrop								
	APR-JUL	8.7	12.7	16	76%	19.6	26	21
	APR-SEP	10	15.3	19.6	75%	25	33	26
	MAY-JUL	7.9	11.9	15.2	72%	18.8	25	21
	MAY-SEP	9.2	14.5	18.8	72%	24	32	26
Arkansas R at Salida[2]								
	APR-JUL	147	174	194	81%	215	250	240
	APR-SEP	166	205	230	78%	265	310	295
	MAY-JUL	128	155	175	76%	196	230	230
	MAY-SEP	147	186	210	75%	245	290	280
Grape Ck nr Westcliffe								
	APR-JUL	2.8	4.4	5.8	36%	7.5	10.3	15.9
	APR-SEP	4	6.2	8	41%	10.1	13.8	19.6
	MAY-JUL	1.81	3.4	4.8	38%	6.5	9.3	12.7
	MAY-SEP	3	5.2	7	43%	9.1	12.8	16.4
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	162	215	260	72%	310	385	360
	APR-SEP	188	265	320	70%	385	495	455
	MAY-JUL	129	182	225	68%	275	350	330
	MAY-SEP	155	230	285	67%	350	460	425
Huerfano R nr Redwing								
	APR-JUL	3.8	5.1	6.2	52%	7.4	9.3	11.9
	APR-SEP	5.2	6.9	8.2	54%	9.6	11.9	15.2
	MAY-JUL	3	4.3	5.4	50%	6.6	8.5	10.7
	MAY-SEP	4.4	6.1	7.4	53%	8.8	11.1	14
Cucharas R nr La Veta								
	APR-JUL	4.3	5.3	6	49%	6.8	8.1	12.2
	APR-SEP	4.6	5.8	6.8	48%	7.9	9.6	14.1
	MAY-JUL	3.3	4.3	5	46%	5.8	7.1	10.8
	MAY-SEP	3.6	4.8	5.8	46%	6.9	8.6	12.7
Trinidad Lake Inflow[2]								
	MAR-JUL	13.6	17.5	21	57%	24	30	37
	APR-SEP	14.1	20	25	53%	31	40	47
	MAY-JUL	7.5	11.4	14.9	50%	17.9	24	30
	MAY-SEP	10.8	16.7	22	52%	28	37	42

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of April, 2015	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Adobe Creek Reservoir	33.6	19.4	45.2	62.0
Clear Creek Reservoir	8.7	8.6	7.0	11.4
Cucharas Reservoir			6.5	40.0
Great Plains Reservoir	0.0	0.0	36.3	150.0
Holbrook Lake	2.0	0.1	4.3	7.0
Horse Creek Reservoir	0.0	0.0	11.1	27.0
John Martin Reservoir	46.2	42.6	143.9	616.0
Lake Henry	8.4	6.4	6.8	9.4
Meredith Reservoir	36.4	10.9	27.3	42.0
Pueblo Reservoir	232.7	192.8	192.4	354.0
Trinidad Lake	22.0	17.8	30.4	167.0
Turquoise Lake	62.9	43.4	70.4	127.0
Twin Lakes Reservoir	38.2	25.0	50.1	86.0
Basin-wide Total	491.1	367.0	625.2	1658.8
# of reservoirs	12	12	12	12

Watershed Snowpack Analysis May 1, 2015	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	9	103%	112%
CUCHARAS & HUERFANO BASINS	5	56%	75%
PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	7%	88%
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN	16	89%	99%



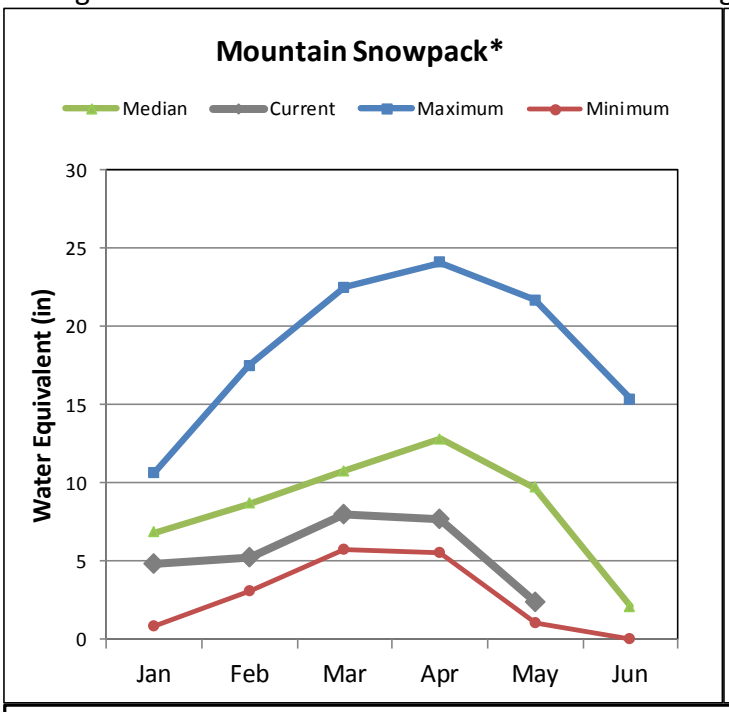


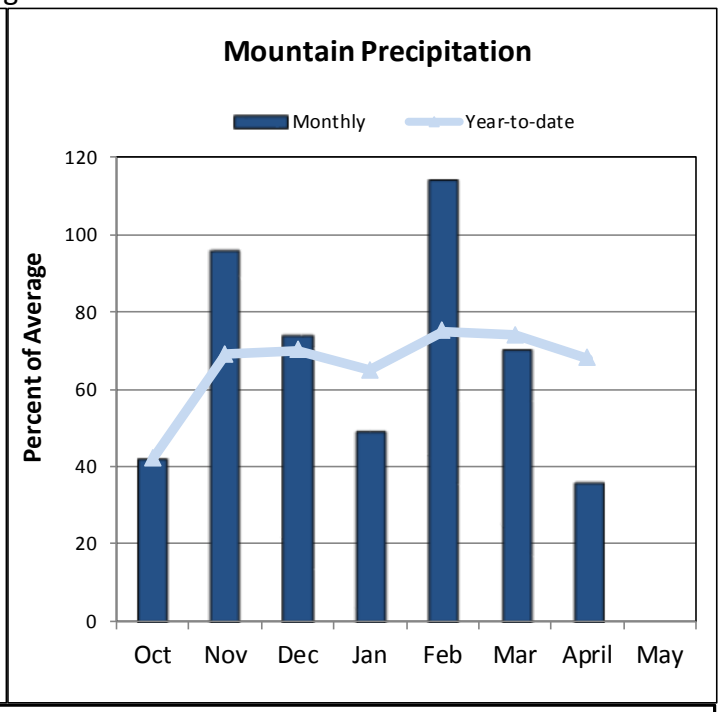
Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

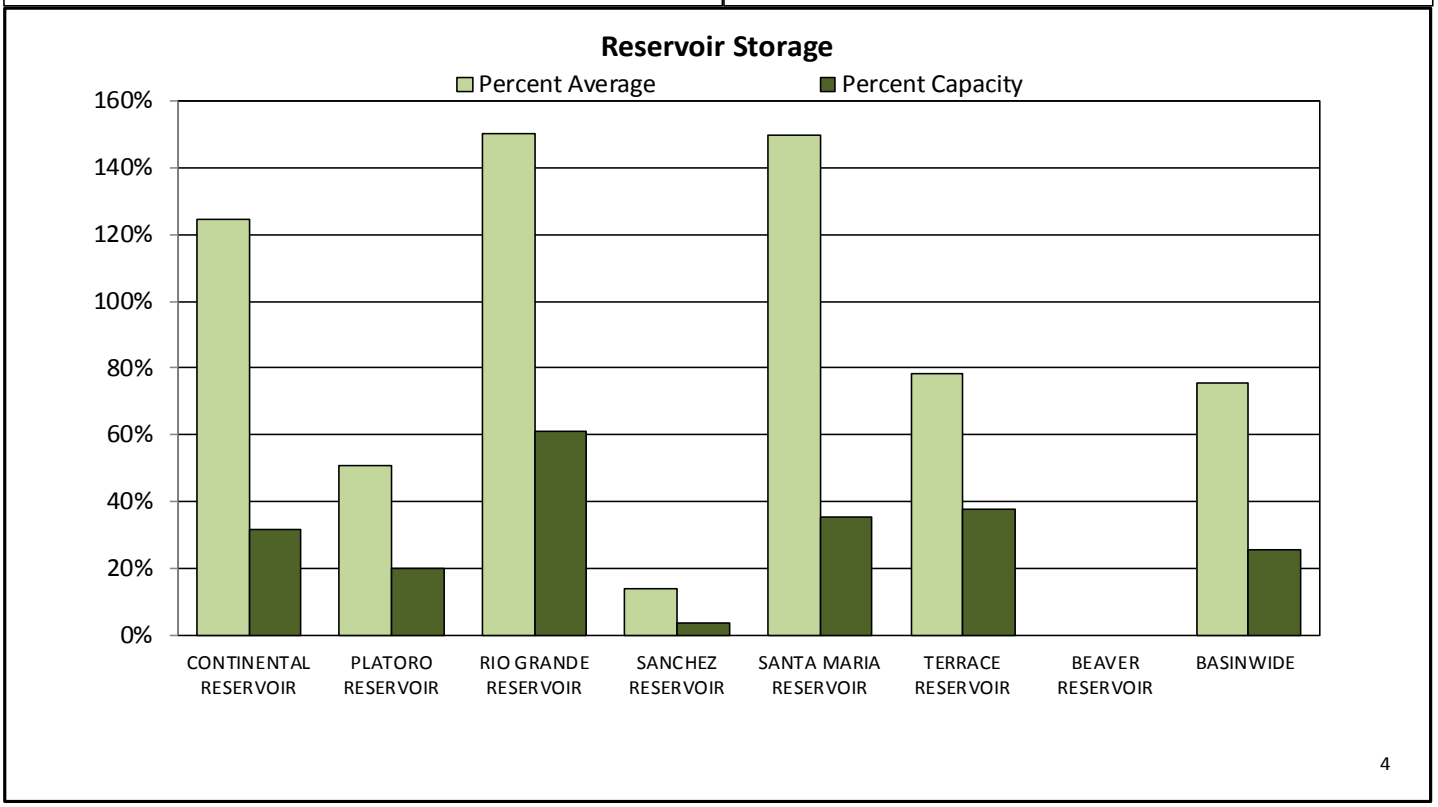
UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN

May 1, 2015

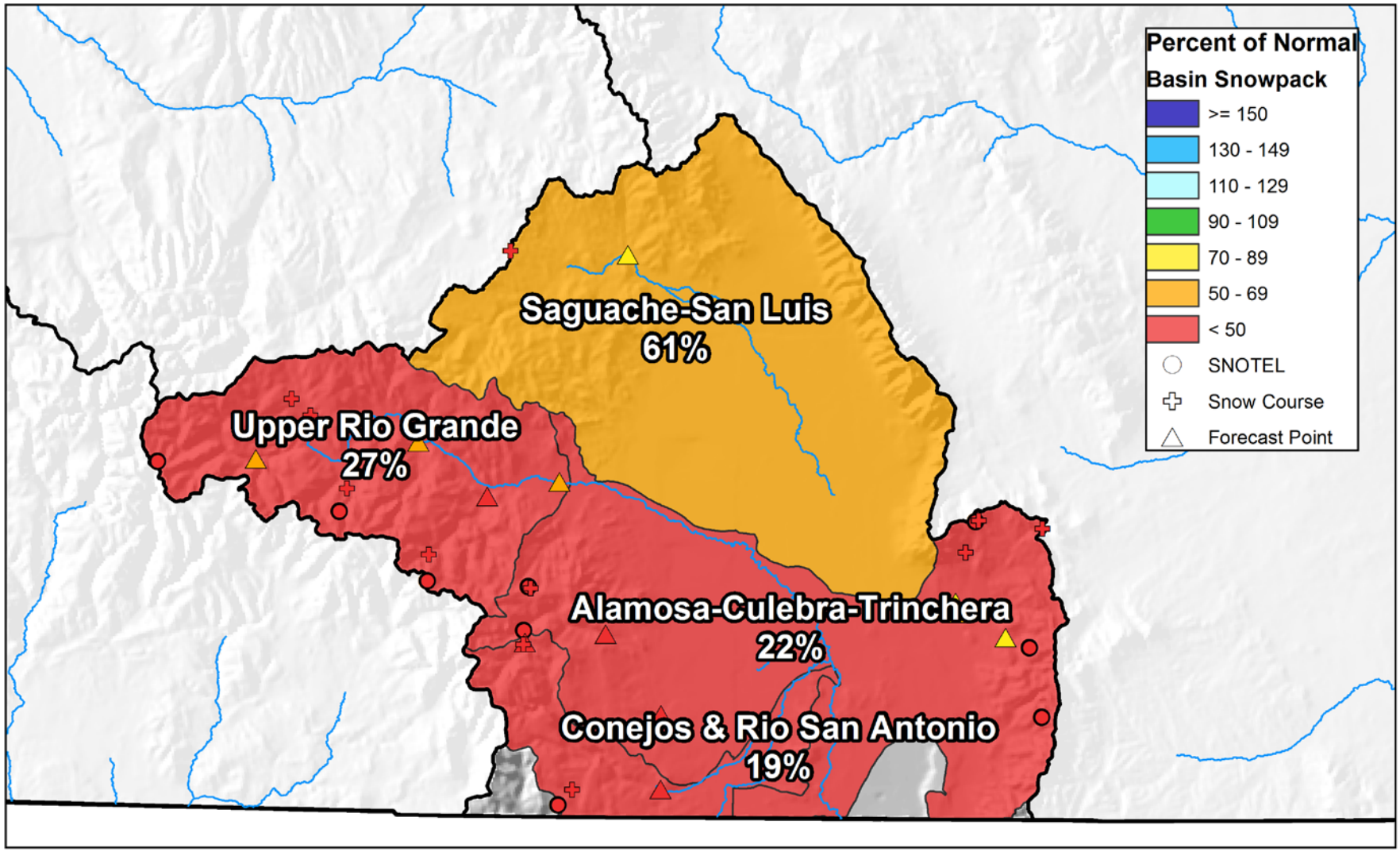
Snowpack in the Upper Rio Grande River basin is below normal at 25% of median. Precipitation for April was 36% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation down to 68% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of April was 75% of average compared to 67% last year. Streamflow forecasts range from 85% of average for Ute Creek near Fort Garland to 6% of average for the Rio Grande at Lobatos.







Upper Rio Grande River Basin Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts
May 1, 2015



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Upper Rio Grande Basin
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2015

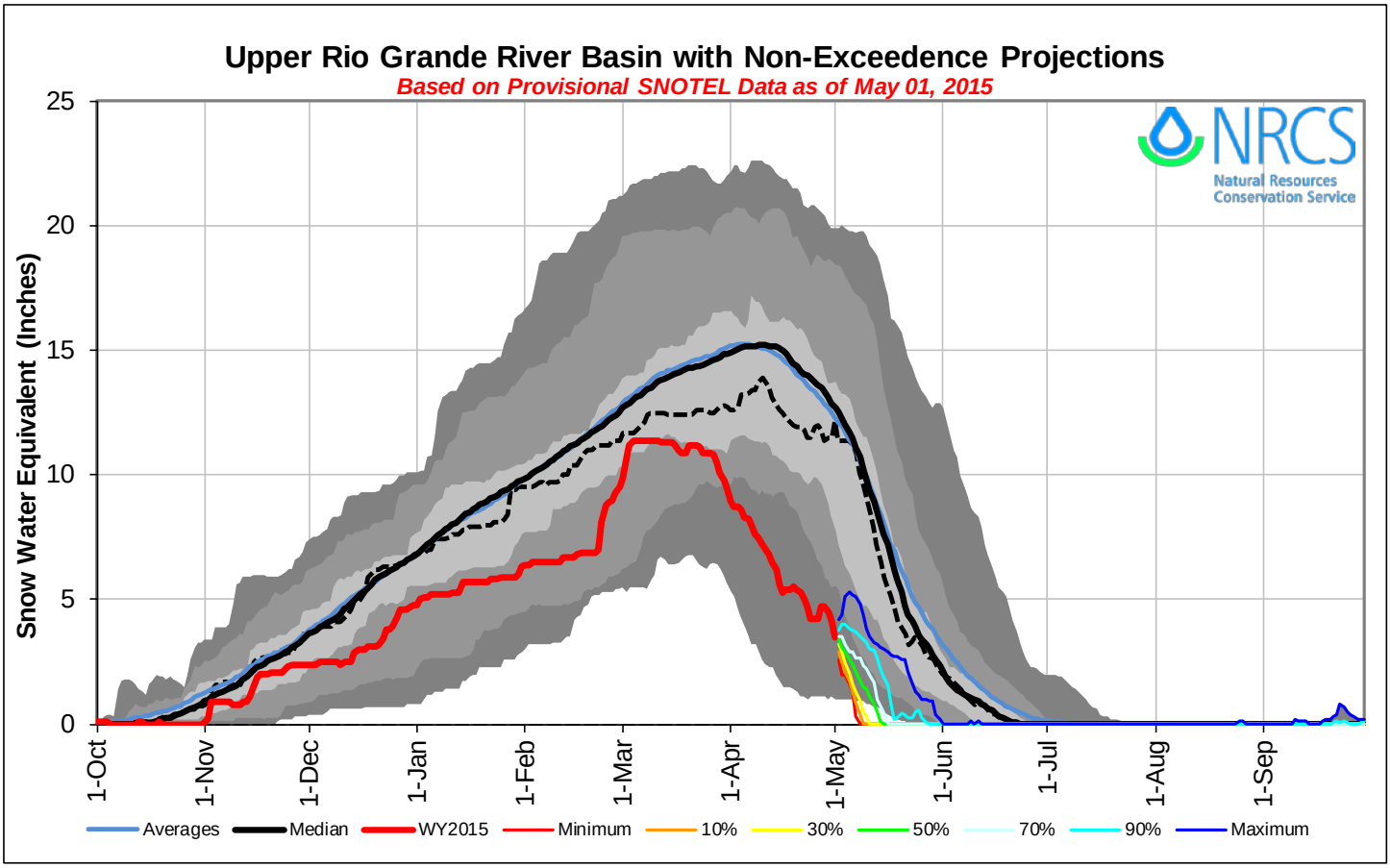
Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

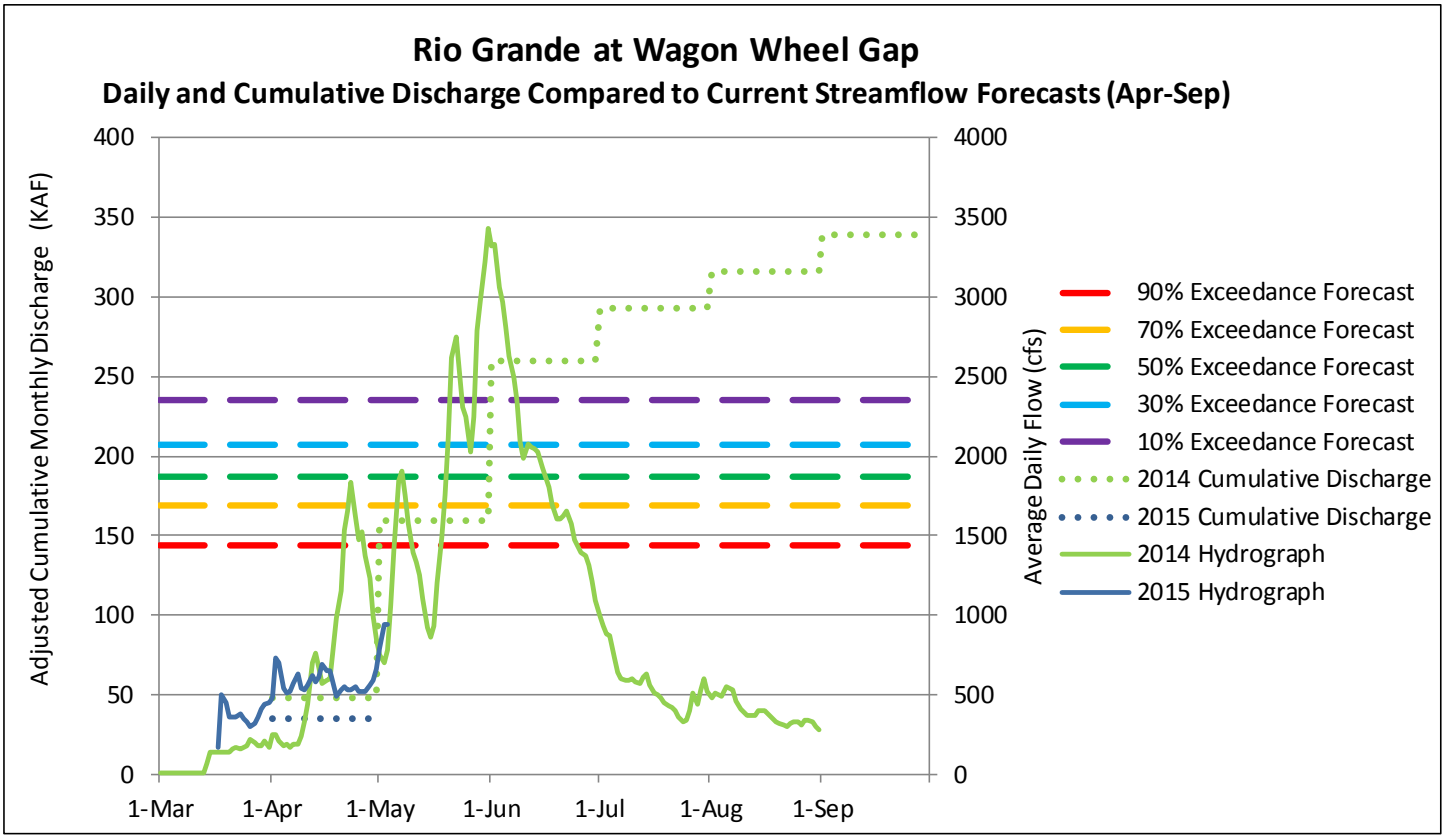
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge[2]								
	APR-JUL	45	53	59	52%	65	75	113
	APR-SEP	48	59	67	52%	75	88	129
	MAY-JUL	35	43	49	46%	55	65	106
	MAY-SEP	38	49	57	47%	65	78	122
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap[2]								
	APR-SEP	144	169	187	55%	205	235	340
	MAY-SEP	109	134	152	48%	171	200	315
SF Rio Grande at South Fork[2]								
	APR-SEP	36	41	45	35%	49	56	127
	MAY-SEP	24	29	33	29%	37	44	113
Rio Grande nr Del Norte [2]								
	APR-SEP	200	235	260	50%	285	320	515
	MAY-SEP	151	184	205	44%	235	270	470
Saguache Ck nr Saguache								
	APR-SEP	17	22	26	81%	30	37	32
	MAY-SEP	13.7	18.8	23	79%	27	34	29
Alamosa Ck ab Terrace Reservoir								
	APR-SEP	17.4	21	24	35%	28	33	68
	MAY-SEP	13.2	17.3	20	32%	24	29	62
La Jara Ck nr Capulin								
	MAR-JUL	2.3	2.8	3.3	37%	3.8	4.8	8.9
	MAY-JUL	0.43	0.96	1.43	26%	2	3	5.6
Trinchera Ck ab Turners Ranch								
	APR-SEP	7.3	8.7	9.8	78%	10.9	12.6	12.6
	MAY-SEP	6.8	8.2	9.3	80%	10.4	12.1	11.6
Sangre de Cristo Ck [2]								
	APR-SEP	6	8.9	11.3	69%	14.1	18.9	16.3
	MAY-SEP	3.9	6.8	9.2	72%	12	16.8	12.7
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland								
	APR-SEP	6.6	9	10.8	84%	12.9	16.2	12.8
	MAY-SEP	5.7	8.1	9.9	85%	12	15.3	11.6
Platoro Reservoir Inflow								
	APR-JUL	19.1	22	24	43%	27	31	56
	APR-SEP	20	24	26	42%	30	34	62
	MAY-JUL	15.7	19	21	40%	24	28	53
	MAY-SEP	16.7	21	23	39%	27	31	59
Conejos R nr Mogote [2]								
	APR-SEP	58	70	78	40%	87	102	194
	MAY-SEP	46	58	66	37%	75	90	177
San Antonio R at Ortiz								
	APR-SEP	3.5	3.9	4.3	28%	4.7	5.5	15.6
	MAY-SEP	0.3	0.71	1.08	11%	1.53	2.3	9.4
Los Pinos R nr Ortiz								
	APR-SEP	24	28	30	41%	33	37	73
	MAY-SEP	13.4	16.7	19.2	31%	22	26	61
Culebra Ck at San Luis								
	APR-SEP	9.4	13.3	16.3	71%	19.7	25	23
	MAY-SEP	8.3	12.2	15.2	72%	18.6	24	21
Costilla Reservoir Inflow								
	MAR-JUL	4.8	6.1	7	63%	8.1	9.8	11.1
	MAY-JUL	3	4.3	5.2	58%	6.3	8	8.9
Costilla Ck nr Costilla [2]								
	MAR-JUL	10	12.8	15.1	58%	17.6	22	26
	MAY-JUL	4.6	7.4	9.7	49%	12.2	16.6	19.6

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of April, 2015	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Beaver Reservoir	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.5
Continental Reservoir	8.6	12.7	6.9	27.0
Platoro Reservoir	11.9	10.1	23.5	60.0
Rio Grande Reservoir	31.2	26.0	20.8	51.0
Sanchez Reservoir	4.0	6.9	29.0	103.0
Santa Maria Reservoir	16.0	7.0	10.7	45.0
Terrace Reservoir	6.8	6.8	8.7	18.0
Basin-wide Total	78.5	69.5	104.0	308.5
# of reservoirs	7	7	7	7

Watershed Snowpack Analysis May 1, 2015	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	3	16%	47%
CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO BASINS	4	19%	41%
CULEBRA & TRINCHERA BASINS	6	32%	57%
HEADWATERS RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN	13	27%	51%
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	25	25%	48%



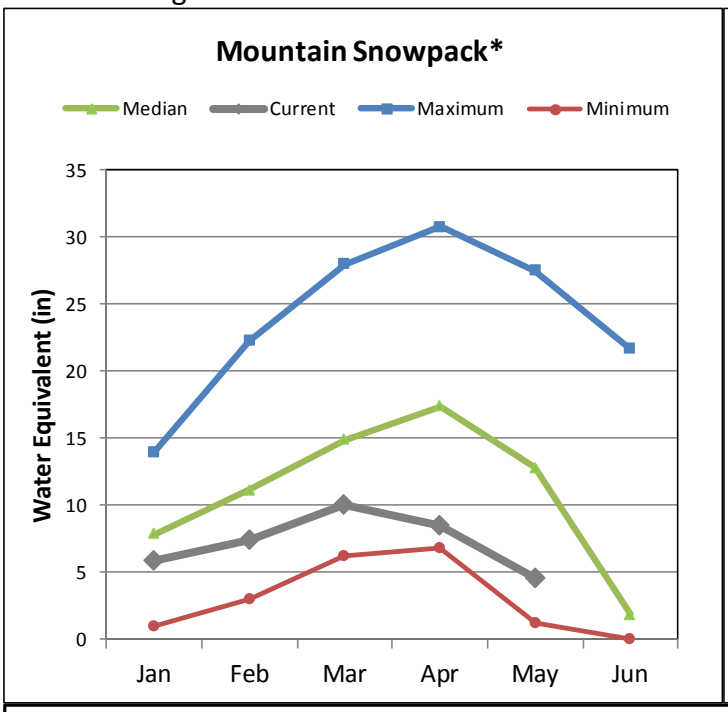


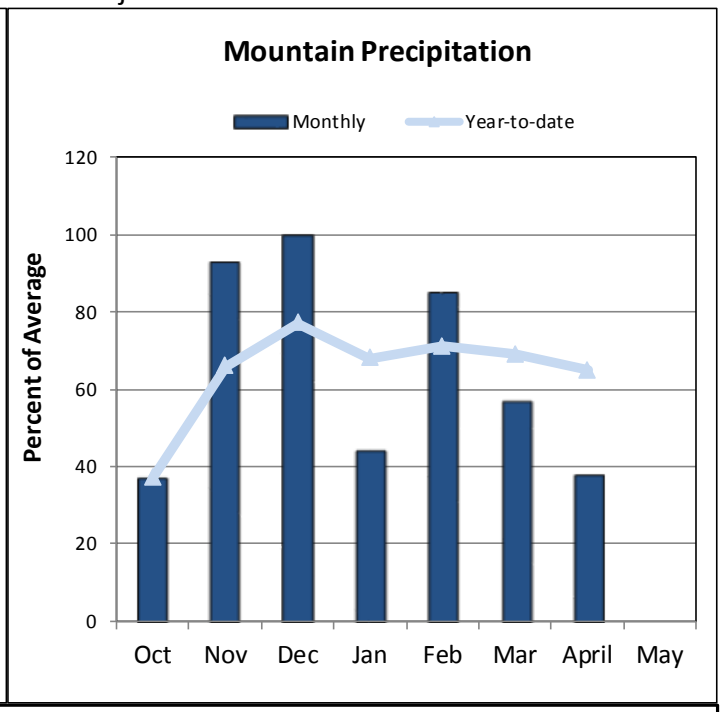
Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

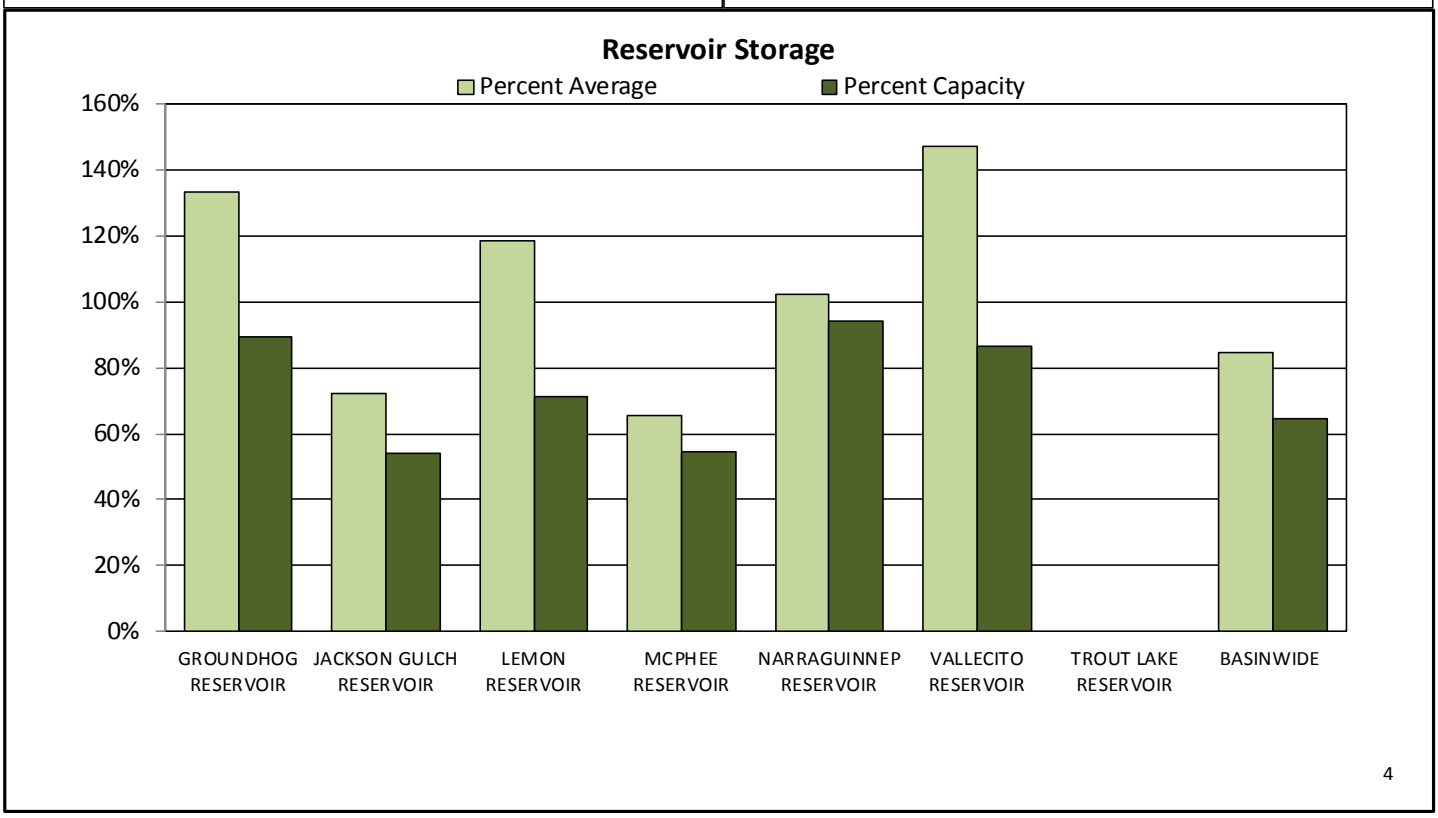
SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS

May 1, 2015

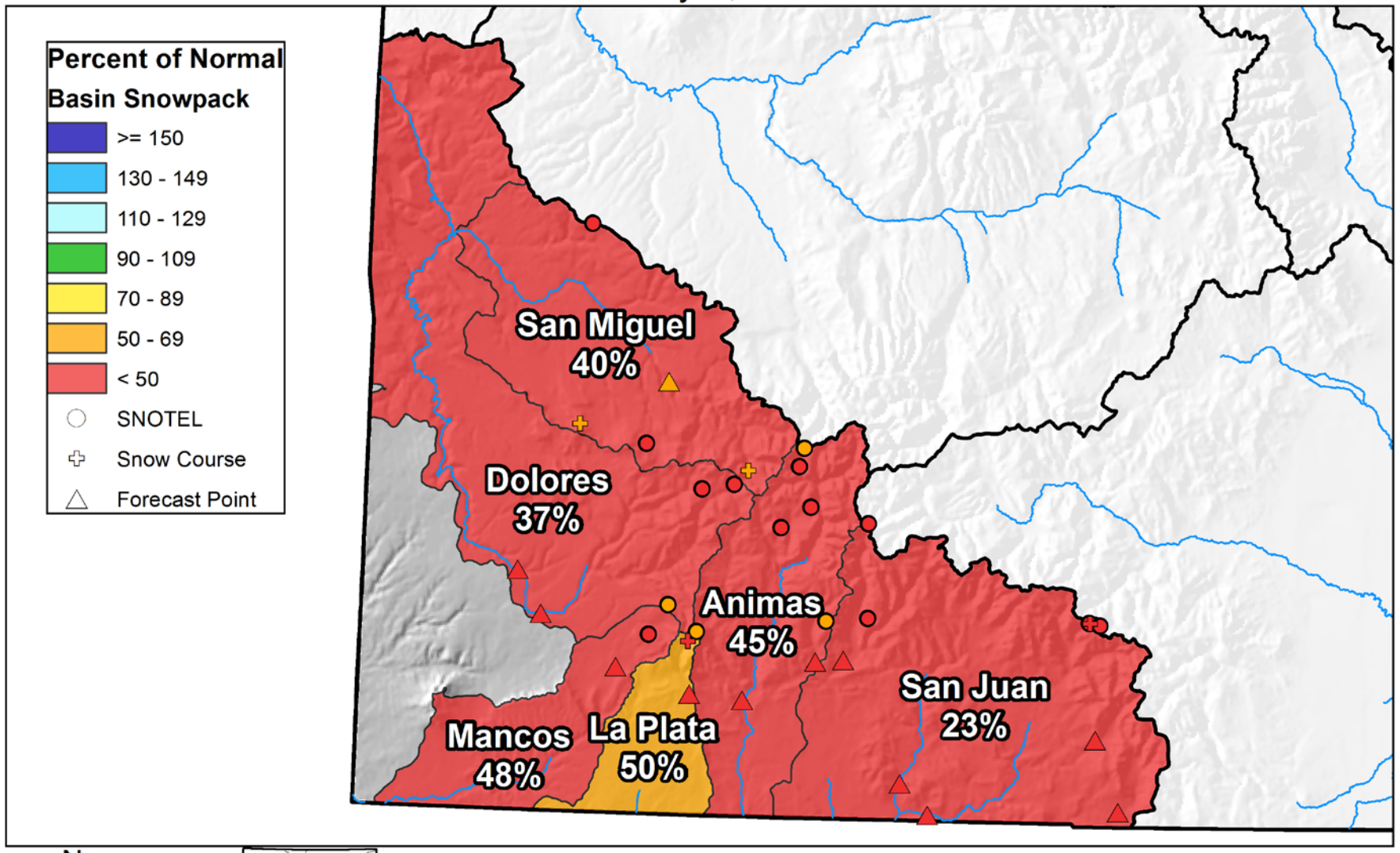
Snowpack in the combined southwest river basins is below normal at 36% of median. Precipitation for April was 38% of average which brings water year-to-date precipitation down to 65% of average. Reservoir storage at the end of April was 85% of average compared to 85% last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 56% of average for the Cone Reservoir Inlet to 28% for the Navajo Reservoir Inflow.







San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basins
Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts
May 1, 2015



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San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan River Basins
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2015

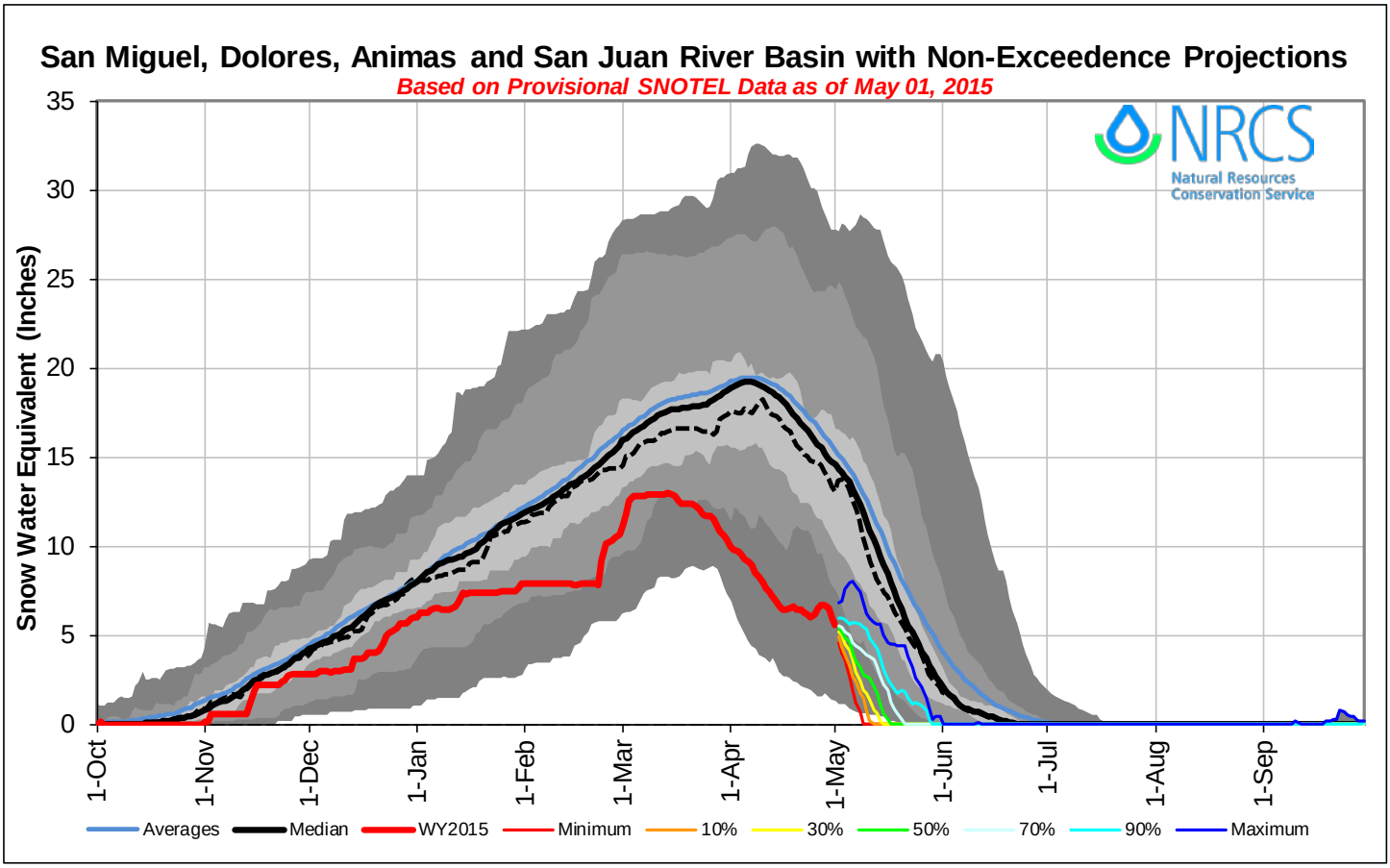
Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

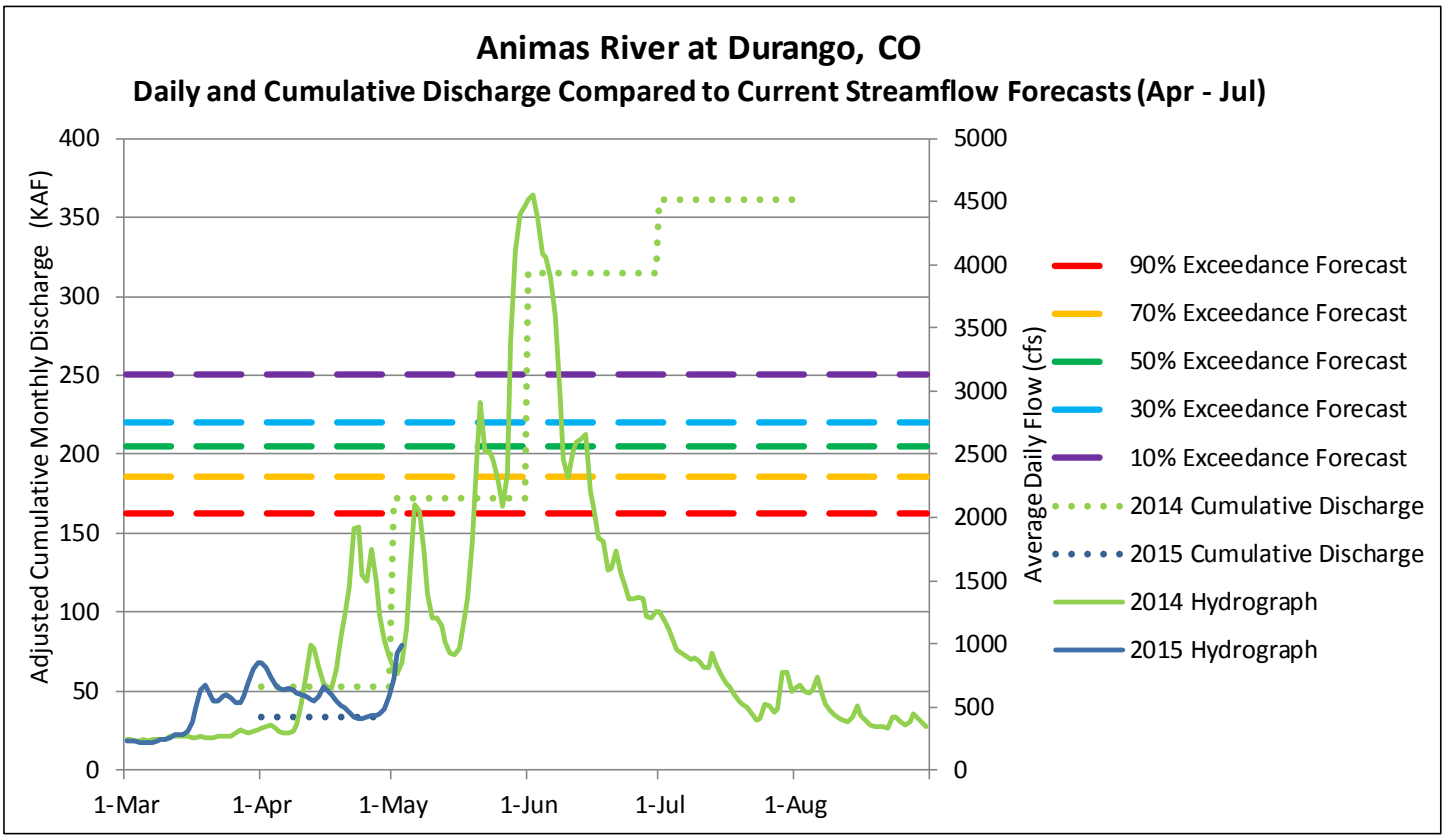
SAN MIGUEL-DOLORES-ANIMAS-SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Dolores R at Dolores								
	APR-JUL	83	99	112	46%	126	147	245
	MAY-JUL	61	77	90	45%	104	125	200
McPhee Reservoir Inflow								
	APR-JUL	83	99	112	38%	126	147	295
	MAY-JUL	61	77	90	41%	104	125	220
San Miguel R nr Placerville								
	APR-JUL	51	62	70	55%	79	92	128
	MAY-JUL	41	52	60	53%	69	82	113
Cone Reservoir Inlet								
	MAY-JUL	0.97	1.27	1.5	56%	1.75	2.1	2.7
Gurley Reservoir Inlet								
	MAY-JUL	4.8	6.4	7.6	53%	9	11.2	14.3
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet								
	MAY-JUL	0.4	0.67	0.9	54%	1.16	1.6	1.67
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion [2]								
	APR-JUL	17	20	23	43%	25	29	54
	MAY-JUL	11.8	15	17.5	39%	20	24	45
Navajo R at Oso Diversion [2]								
	APR-JUL	20	24	28	43%	31	36	65
	MAY-JUL	14.6	18.6	22	41%	25	30	54
San Juan R nr Carracas [2]								
	APR-JUL	110	131	147	39%	164	191	380
	MAY-JUL	74	95	111	37%	128	155	300
Piedra R nr Arboles								
	APR-JUL	60	72	81	39%	90	106	210
	MAY-JUL	31	43	52	34%	61	77	153
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow								
	APR-JUL	74	84	91	47%	99	110	194
	MAY-JUL	55	65	72	42%	80	91	171
Navajo Reservoir Inflow [2]								
	APR-JUL	181	215	235	32%	265	305	735
	MAY-JUL	101	133	157	28%	184	225	565
Animas R at Durango								
	APR-JUL	163	186	205	49%	220	250	415
	MAY-JUL	129	152	169	46%	186	215	365
Lemon Reservoir Inflow								
	APR-JUL	18.7	22	25	45%	28	32	55
	MAY-JUL	13.8	17.3	19.9	41%	23	27	49
La Plata R at Hesperus								
	APR-JUL	6.6	7.7	8.6	37%	9.4	10.8	23
	MAY-JUL	4.7	5.8	6.7	37%	7.5	8.9	18.2
Mancos R nr Mancos [2]								
	APR-JUL	6.9	8.5	9.7	31%	10.9	13	31
	MAY-JUL	5.9	7.5	8.7	36%	9.9	12	24

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of April, 2015	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Groundhog Reservoir	19.7	11.4	14.8	22.0
Jackson Gulch Reservoir	5.4	5.7	7.5	10.0
Lemon Reservoir	28.5	24.8	24.1	40.0
Mcphee Reservoir	208.6	223.3	319.4	381.0
Narraguinnep Reservoir	17.9	19.0	17.5	19.0
Trout Lake Reservoir	0.0	1.3	1.5	3.2
Vallecito Reservoir	109.1	105.8	74.2	126.0
Basin-wide Total	389.2	391.3	459.0	601.2
# of reservoirs	7	7	7	7

Watershed Snowpack Analysis May 1, 2015	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	11	45%	78%
DOLORES RIVER BASIN	6	37%	65%
SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	6	40%	71%
SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	23%	49%
SAN MIGUEL-DOLORES-ANIMAS-SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS	25	36%	66%





Please refer to the sections at the end of this report for further explanation concerning these graphs.

How to Read Non-Exceedance Projections Graphs

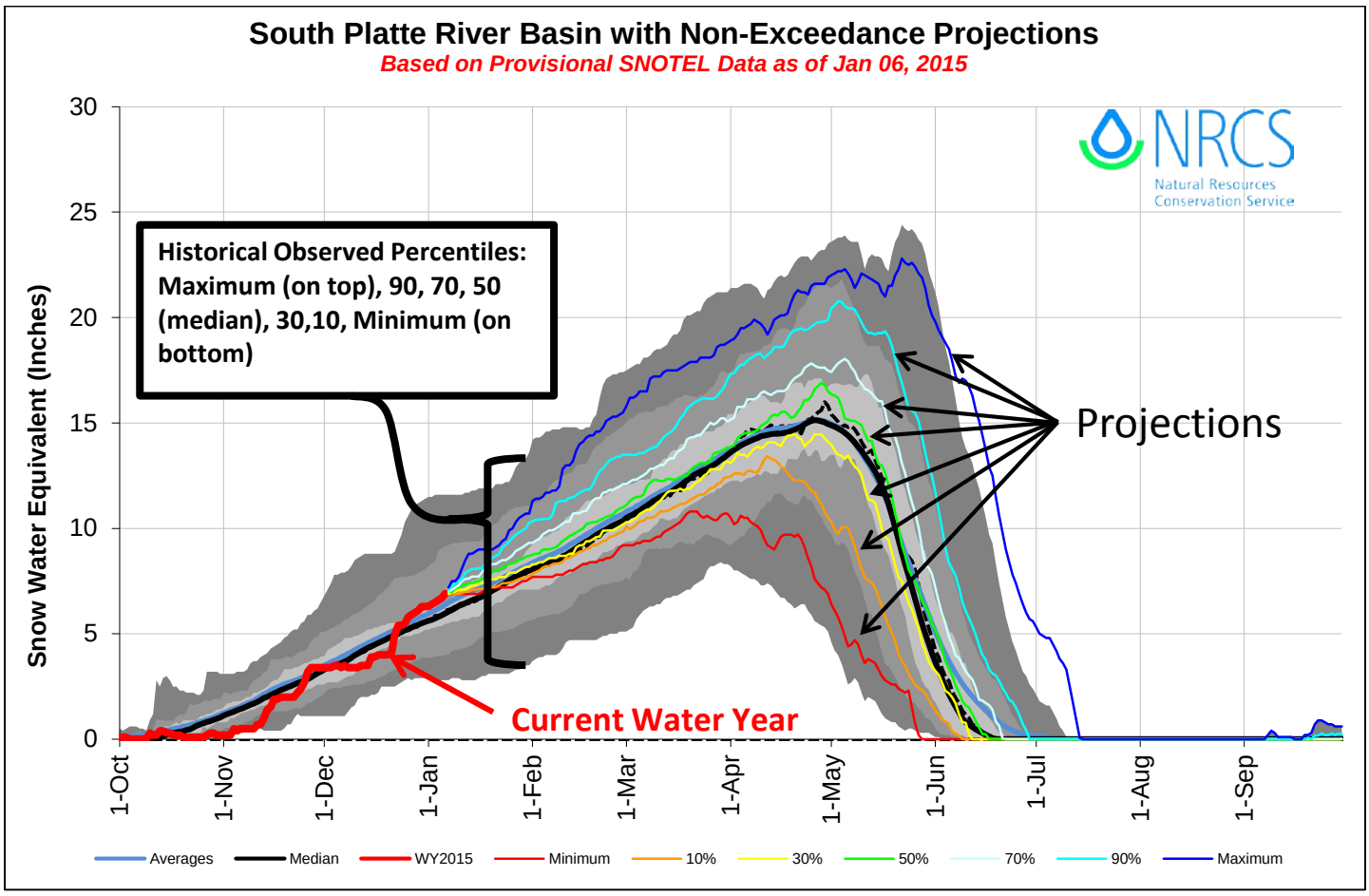
The graphs show snow water equivalent (SWE) projections (in inches) for the October 1 through September 30 water year. Basin "observed" SWE values are computed using SNOTEL sites which are characteristic of the snowpack of the particular basin. The SWE observations at these sites are averaged and normalized to produce these basin snowpack graphs. This new graph format uses non-exceedance projections.

Current water year is represented by the heavy red line terminating on the last day the graphic was updated.

Historical observed percentile range is shown as a gray background area on the graph. Shades of gray indicate maximum, 90 percentile, 70 percentile, 50 percentile (solid black line), 30 percentile, 10 percentile, and minimum for the period of record.

Projections for maximum, 90 percent, 70 percent, 50 percent (most probabilistic snowpack projection, based on median), 30 percent, 10 percent, and minimum exceedances are projected forward from the end of the current line as different colored lines.

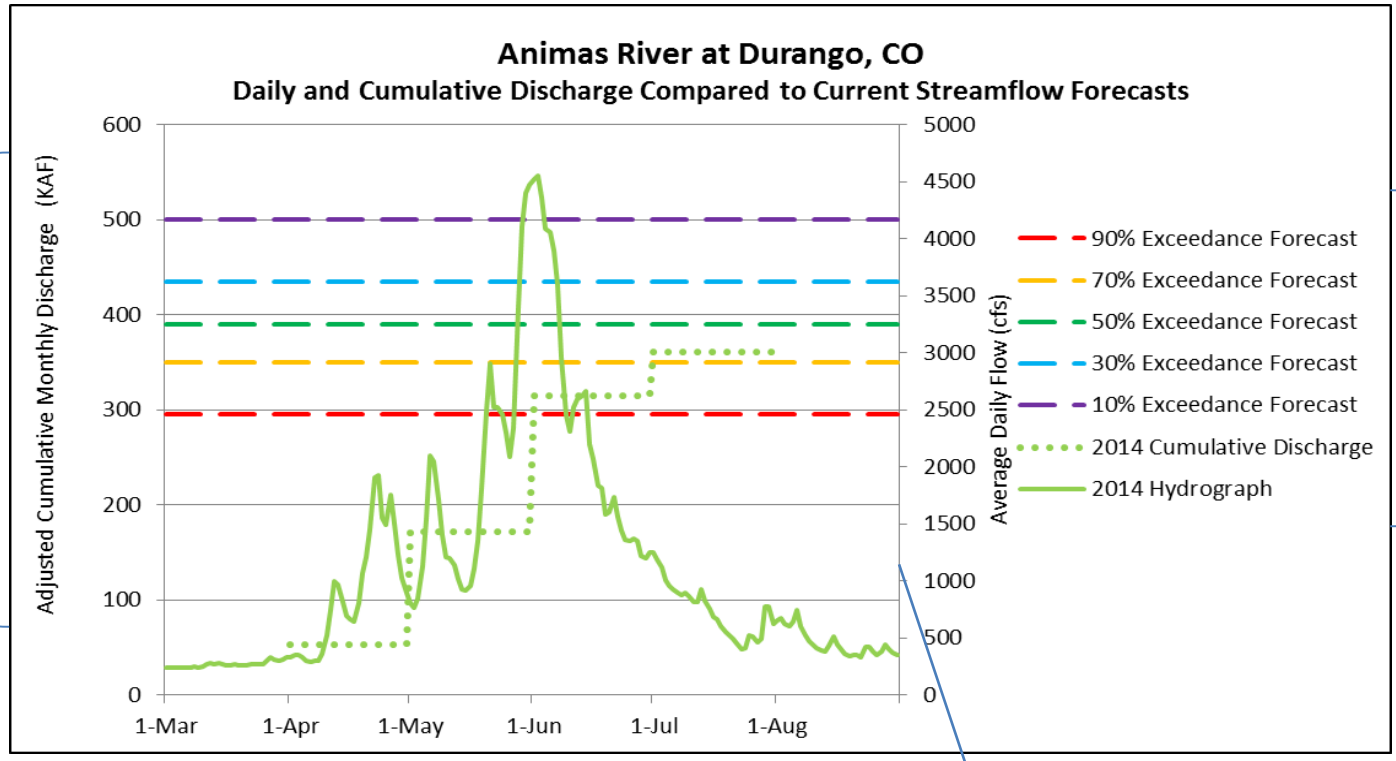
For more detailed information on these graphs visit:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_062291.pdf



Explanation of Flow Comparison Charts

The flow comparison charts were developed to provide a quick comparison between the previous years' observed hydrograph, cumulative seasonal discharge, the current streamflow forecasts, and the current years' observed discharge (both hydrograph and cumulative discharge, as the season progresses). Forecast points for these products were generally chosen to be lower in the basin to best represent the basin-wide streamflow response for the season; the true degree of representativeness will vary between basins. When making comparisons of how the shape of the hydrograph relates to the monthly (and seasonal) cumulative discharges it is important to note that the hydrograph represents observed daily flows at the forecast point while the cumulative values may be adjusted for changes in reservoir storage and diversions to best represent what would be "natural flows" if these impoundments and diversions did not exist. This product can provide additional guidance regarding how to most wisely utilize the five exceedance forecasts based on past observations, current trends, and future uncertainty for a wide variety of purposes and water users.

The left y-axis represents values of adjusted cumulative discharge (KAF). This axis is to be used for comparing the current and previous years to the current five volumetric seasonal exceedance forecasts. This graphic only displays the previous years data but data for the current water year will be added as the season progresses.



The legend displays the symbology and color schemes for the various parameters represented. Exceedance forecasts represent total cumulative discharge for the April through July time period with the exception of the Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (Apr-Sep).

The right y-axis represents observed daily average discharge at the forecast point of interest. This graphic only displays the previous years data but data for the current water year will be added as the Season progresses.

How Forecasts Are Made

For more water supply and resource management information, contact:

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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. 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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In addition to the water supply 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 June. The information may be obtained from the Natural Resources Conservation Service web page at http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/westwide.html

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Colorado
Water Supply Outlook Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service
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