- Assessment of current water conditions

- Precipitation Forecast

- Recommendations for Drought Monitor
Green River Basin above Flaming Gorge
Basin Snowpack: 77%

Peak snowpack: 64% of average peak

WYTD Precipitation percent of average: 71%
Indian Creek and Hams Fork
Duchesne River Basin

Map of the Duchesne River Basin with various colored markers indicating snow point %Avg SWE values.

Snow Point %Avg SWE:
- No Data
- < 25
- 25-50
- 50-75
- 75-90
- 90-110
- 110-125
- 125-150
- 150-175
- > 175

Snow Point Options:
- All
- < 7000
- 7000-8000
- 8000-9000
- 9000-10000
- > 10000

National Weather Service
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Basin snowpack: 82%
Peak snowpack: 81% of average peak
WYTD Precipitation percent of average: 78%
Upper Colorado above Kremmling
Colorado River above Kremmling

Basin Snowpack: 104%
Peak snowpack: 79% of average peak
WYTD Precipitation percent of average: 92%
Lake Irene and Phantom Valley
San Juan Basin
Basin Snowpack: 49%
Peak snowpack: 97% of average peak
WYTD Precipitation percent of average: 86%
Snotel WYTD
Precipitation as Percentage of Average

Upper Colorado 91% of Average Overall (5% increase from last week)
1 Week Change in Snotel WYTD Precipitation Percent of Average
Wyoming Update

Steve Gray
Wyoming State Climatologist
Wyoming Precipitation: Departures from Normal

- Past 30 days
- Past 60 days
- Past 90 days
- Past 6 months
- Past 12 months
- Past 24 months

Product of the Wyoming Water Resources Data System
http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/
Data Courtesy: High Plains Regional Climate Center
http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/
### SWE Change: May 2010

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<tr>
<td>Weighted State Average</td>
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7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Upper Colorado)
Below normal 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Upper Colorado)
May 15
Percentage of Streamgages per Percentile Class
7-day Average Streamflow

- high
- much above normal
- above normal
- normal
- below normal
- much below
- Low
May 15, 2010
Water Supply Forecasts

Highlights:
- Small changes to May 1 forecasts
- Slight increases in the Green River basin
- Slight decreases in the Gunnison and San Juan basins
May 15 2010 Forecast: 440 kaf (51% of normal)

May 15 2010 Forecast: 525 kaf (73% of normal)

GUNNISON - BLUE MESA RES (BMDC2)
Water Year 2010, Forecast Period Apr-Jul (highlighted)

Reservoir Update
Daily Reservoir Level Time Series for Two Weeks

Lake Granby Daily Reservoir Storage

Green Mountain Daily Reservoir Storage

Blue Mesa Daily Reservoir Storage

McPhee Daily Reservoir Storage

Yakelcito Daily Reservoir Storage

Flaming Gorge Daily Reservoir Storage

May 3 - 16, 2010
Temperature Departure from Normal
1-3 Day QPF
4-5 Day QPF
GFS 500 mb Day 6
ECMWF 500 mb day 6
Recommendations

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 11, 2010
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Author: Michael Brewer/Liz Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

Released Thursday, May 13, 2010
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NIDIS - UPPER COLORADO BASIN PILOT PROJECT

For more information
Summary

Storms last week brought ample amounts of moisture to the tri-state area and also helped keep temperatures near average. The majority of the snotels in the Upper Colorado saw increases in their water-year-to-date precipitation percent of averages from last week, and very little snow melt occurred. There was very little change in the streamflows from last week. 19 of the 69 gages reporting below normal flows were in the moderate to severe drought categories—these stations were mainly located in Utah and Wyoming. Compared to this time in previous years, more stations are reporting below normal flows than the last couple of years, but are in much better condition than the 2002-2003 drought years. Mid-month water supply forecasts from the CBRFC show improvements for the Green, Yampa-White and Colorado River basins, with decreases for the Gunnison and San Juan basins. Soil moisture conditions continue to improve over the drought affected regions, and reservoir levels across the tri-state area remain in good condition.

The upcoming storm looks to be primarily convectively driven and will focus most of its moisture east of the mountains. This is a warm system, which will mainly bring rain throughout the region, though later this evening, elevations above 9000 feet will see some snow accumulation. The area will dry out and warm up after the passage of this storm (with scattered showers through early Thursday), with the next possibility of wet weather coming late in the weekend and early next week. Models are in good agreement about the passage of a trough early next week, though there is disagreement about the location and intensity of the storm, with the ECMWF bringing in a stronger trough and wetter conditions.

A Wyoming representative on the call has recommended status quo for the Green River basin, as they have been seeing improvements, but not enough to warrant any drought category improvements. No recommendations were made for the Utah portion of the Upper Colorado basin. Opinions were pretty evenly split amongst the callers on whether or not to remove the D1 from Grand, Routt, and Jackson counties in Colorado. With good water supplies and recent heavy storms, some feel that there is not a lot of evidence to support keeping the D1. Others feel that the low streamflows and poor snowpack seasonal peaks in the area warrant keeping the D1. Because no settlement could be reached, we defer to the Drought Monitor author to choose what he thinks is best for the area. Also of concern is the San Juan basin which continues to dry out quickly after a wet winter. Our recommendation is status quo for the region (with no introductions of D0), and the situation will be closely monitored over the next few weeks.