Today’s Agenda

- Assessment of current water conditions
- Precipitation Forecast
- Recommendations for Drought Monitor
Precipitation/Snowpack Update
February 2010 Precipitation as Percent of Normal

Produced by the Colorado Climate Center utilizing Snotel, NWS, CoCoRaHS and CoAgMet* Preliminary Precipitation Data Analysis: Inverse Distance Weighting
*Summer only
Water Year 2010 Precipitation as Percent of Normal
(October 2009 - February 2010)

Produced by the Colorado Climate Center utilizing Snotel, NWS, CoCoRaHS and CoAgMet* Preliminary Precipitation Data
Analysis: Inverse Distance Weighting
*Summer only
7 Day Precipitation 15-21 March 2010

Colorado Precipitation (in) 15 - 21 March 2010

Produced by the Colorado Climate Center utilizing Snotel, NWS, CoCoRaHS and CoAgMet. Preliminary Precipitation Data
Analysis: Inverse Distance Weighting
*Summer only
Month-to-Date Precipitation 1-21 March 2010

Colorado Precipitation (in) 1 - 21 March 2010

Produced by the Colorado Climate Center utilizing Snotel, NWS, CoCoRaHS and CoAgMet* Preliminary Precipitation Data Analysis: Inverse Distance Weighting
*Summer only
Green River Basin above Flaming Gorge
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center

Green abv Flaming Gorge

Basin Snowpack: 50%

To Date: 50% (8.2 / 16.6)
Seasonal: 47% (8.2 / 17.4)
Accumulation rate 0.1 in/day averaged over last 3 days.

Created 03/23.14:03 UTC
NOAA/CBRFC, 2010

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Basin snowpack: 73%
Upper Colorado above Kremmling
Basin Snowpack: 73%
San Juan Basin
Basin Snowpack: 97%
Snotel WYTD Precipitation as Percent of Average

23 March 2010

Legend:
- <50
- 51 - 75
- 76 - 90
- 91 - 100
- 101 - 125
- 126 - 150
- 151 - 175
- >175

UCRB_mask
Snotel WYTD Precipitation % Average

Upper Colorado
78% of Average Overall

Legend
- <50
- 51 - 75
- 76 - 90
- 91 - 100
- 101 - 125
- 126 - 150
- 151 - 175
- >175

23 March 2010
Snotel WYTD Precipitation as Percent of Average 1 Week Change in Percent of Average

Legend
23March2010_snotel.tab Events
PPT_Delta
-5 - 4
-3 - 2
-1 - 0
1 - 2
3 - 4
5 - 6
7 - 8
9 - 10
11 - 12
UCRB_mask
Snotel WYTD Precipitation % Average 1 Week Change

Legend
-5 - -4
-3 - -2
-1 - 0
1 - 2
3 - 4
5 - 6
7 - 8
9 - 10
11 - 12
UCRB_mask
Streamflow Update
28 Day Average Streamflow Compared to Historical Average for the Day

Monday, March 22, 2010

Explanation - Percentile classes

Low  | <10  | 10-24 | 25-75 | 76-90 | >90  | High
---   |      |       |       |       |      |     
      | Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal |
Flaming Gorge February Reservoir Storage

Max Capacity
1971-2000 Average

Flaming Gorge Res. Levels

WY 2009 - Current
March Temperature Departure

Departure from Normal Temperature (°F)
1-3 Day Outlook

http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
5 Day Outlook

http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
8-14 Day Outlook
30 March – 5 April 2010

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
Recommendations

U.S. Drought Monitor

March 16, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

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

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Released Thursday, March 18, 2010
Author: Matthew Rosencrans, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC
Summary

One large storm moved through Colorado last week, bringing the heaviest precipitation to the Front Range and the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Though beneficial snow accumulated in the Colorado's northern mountains, it had relatively little impact on the seasonal snow water equivalent observed at NRCS SNOTEL station in the Upper Colorado basin. The northern mountains continue to see decreases in their water-year-to-date percent of average precipitation, with 1-2% decreases from last week. Temperatures remain near or below average for most of Colorado thanks to a very cold weekend. Soil moisture conditions remain good east of the mountains, so early demand for irrigation water should be minimal as we officially move into spring. Western Wyoming is a different story, where temperatures were above normal last week and Green River basin snowpack continues to track about 50% of average as we rapidly approach the timing of normal peak snow water equivalent. Fortunately, reservoir storage continues to be at or above average for this time of year with good prospects of filling reservoirs in the upper Colorado even with below average snowpack.

Looking ahead, the next storm system is moving into the area right now. Similar to last week's storm, it is forecast to bring wet snow to the eastern slope of the Rockies, with less accumulations west of the divide. The models show another system that could bring more moisture to the tri-state area on Friday. There is the possibility for the remainder of March and first week of April to be warm and dry. As we move further into April, longer range forecast suggest we could see a shift to a more classic late El Nino winter pattern with more favorable conditions for heavy, wet snows from the mountains of central and northern Colorado northward into western Wyoming.

Last week, after much consideration following the webinar call, the Drought Monitor author chose to introduce D1 into the Upper Colorado River basin in Grand, Routt, and Jackson Counties. This week, reports from the lower elevations of the Upper Colorado River mainstem indicate that the recent storm brought only light precipitation and the thin snowpack is melting with grass showing. There was agreement that the D1 over that area is a good representation of current conditions. Status quo is recommended for the next week over the area. D1 and D2 conditions over western Wyoming will also remain -- status quo.