- Background Information
- Assessment of current water conditions
- Precipitation Forecast
- Recommendations for Drought Monitor
Background
WY 2009 Precipitation

Seasonal Precipitation, October 2008 - September 2009
(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

% Average
- > 150%
- 120 - 150%
- 110 - 120%
- 100 - 110%
- 90 - 100%
- 70 - 90%
- 50 - 70%
- < 50%
- Not Reported

Prepared by
NOAA, National Weather Service
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah
www.cbrfc.noaa.gov

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Precipitation/Snowpack Update
Colorado Precipitation (in) February 2010

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
WY 2010 Precipitation

Seasonal Precipitation, October 2009 - February 2010
(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

% Average
- > 150%
- 129 - 150%
- 110 - 129%
- 100 - 110%
- 90 - 100%
- 70 - 90%
- 50 - 89%
- < 50%
- Not Reported

Prepared by:
NOAA, National Weather Service
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah
www.cbrf.noaa.gov

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
7 Day Precipitation Animation 1-7 March 2010

Colorado Precipitation (in) 1 March 2010

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

Basin Snowpack: 51%

Snow Water Equivalent (in)

To Date: 51% (7.7 / 15.1)
Seasonal: 44% (7.7 / 17.4)
Accumulation rate 0.0 in/day averaged over last 3 days.

NOAA/CBRFC, 2010

Created 03/09. 14:42 UTC

Past  Future

avg  2010  2009

Date

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Basin snowpack: 75%
Basin Snowpack: 76%
San Juan Basin
Snowpack: 101%
Snotel WYTD Precipitation as Percent of Average
9 March 2010

Legend
9March2010_snotel.tab Events
PPT_PA_9march10
- 47 - 50
- 51 - 75
- 76 - 90
- 91 - 100
- 101 - 125
- 126 - 150
- 151 - 175
- >175
- UCRB_mask
Upper Colorado 80% of Average Overall
Snotel WYTD Precipitation as Percent of Average
7 Day Delta

Legend
-8
-7 to -6
-5 to -4
-3 to -2
-1 to 0
1 to 2
3 to 4
5 to 6
UCRB_mask
Streamflow 9 March 2010
Flaming Gorge February Reservoir Storage

Max Capacity

1971-2000 Average
Water Demand
Precipitation Forecast
1-3 Day Outlook

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

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

U.S. Drought Monitor
March 2, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

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

Released Thursday, March 4, 2010
Author: Rich Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC
Summary

Summary of today's weekly precipitation and water supply assessment for Colorado and the Upper Colorado River Basin:

The largest amounts of precipitation for last week fell around Jackson and Routt Counties in the north, along the southeastern plains of Colorado, and around Mesa (CO) and Grand (UT) Counties. Snowpack amounts continue to decrease for western WY, but appear to be holding fairly steady in the affected regions of the Yampa-White and Colorado basins. The most recent reservoir updates show the reservoirs in the Colorado and Green River basins as staying steady and above average. Soil moisture maps show the driest soils to be near the headwaters of the Colorado River. However, soils along the plains (where farmland prevails) are near average to wetter than average, which will reduce the demand for irrigation waters from the western slope, but could cause the potential for springtime flooding.

In the next 1 to 3 days, another storm will move through the area bringing modest amounts of precipitation to the mountains with higher amounts in the southern plains and the Rio Grande basin. Although El Nino conditions still persist, it is not bringing the normal wetter than normal moisture to the areas that need it most. With a good possibility of dry conditions after the next system moves out of the area, the Colorado and Yampa-White basins should be closely monitored, as degradation for the Drought Monitor could be warranted.

With little changes in the Year-to-Date percent of average snowpacks for areas in D0, the consensus of the webinar/conference call is that no degradations or introductions of more D1 are needed this week. However, it was pointed out that east of the Continental Divide, precipitation percent of normals are near 100%, and the D0 perhaps extends too far east. Therefore, it will be proposed to the DM author that the D0 line be taken out of the majority of Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties and only extend a few miles east of the Divide.