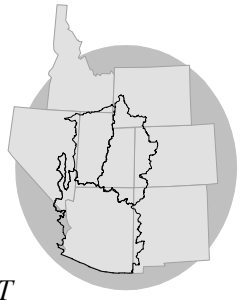
WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK
for the
UPPER COLORADO

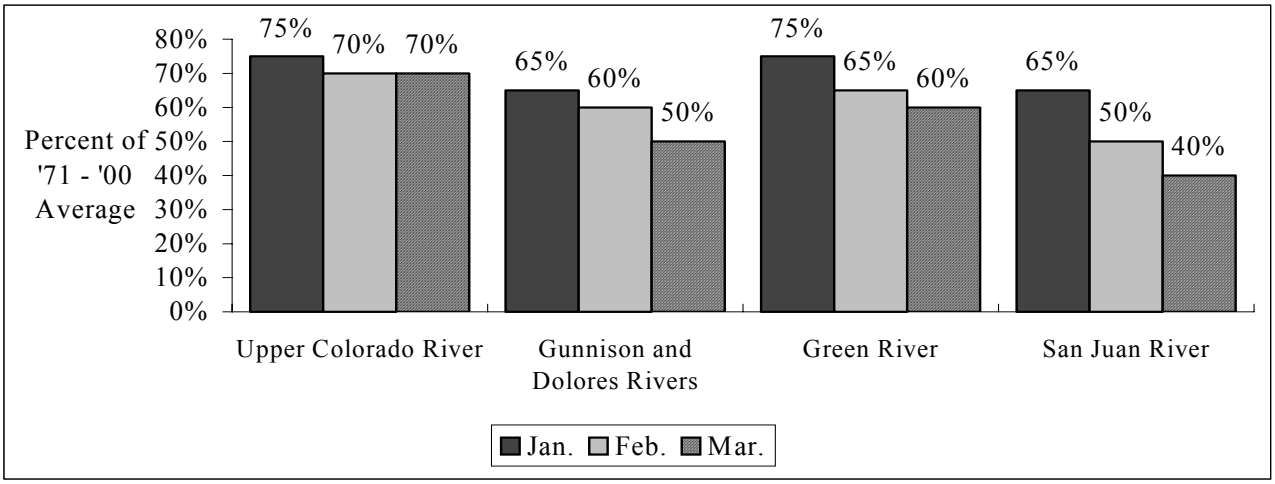
COLORADO BASIN
RIVER FORECAST CENTER
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, SALT LAKE CITY, UT



MARCH 1, 2002

February precipitation continued below average with most areas receiving 60% of average or less. Snow water equivalents showed little change over the Upper Colorado headwaters during February, but dropped 5% to 10% of average elsewhere. As a result, most forecasts for the 2002 Spring runoff dropped 5% to 10% and continued in the below to much below normal range.

APRIL - JULY VOLUME FORECASTS

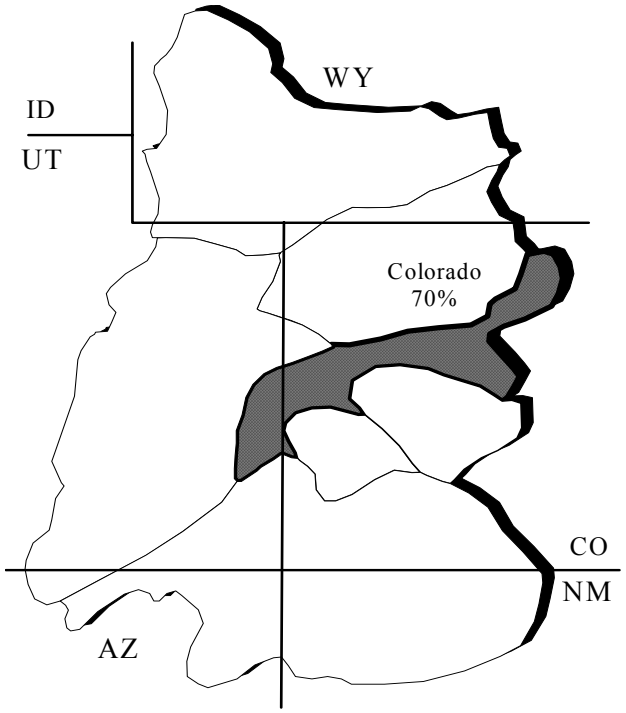


UPPER COLORADO MAINSTEM

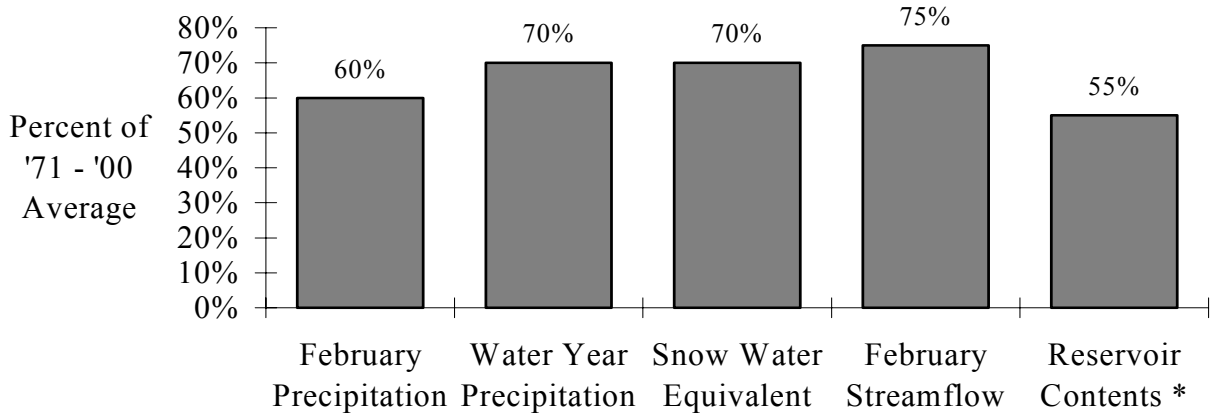
Seasonal precipitation up to March 1 in the upper mainstem of the Colorado River continues below average. Point snow measurements on March 1 varied from 47% to 88% of average, with overall snowpack at 70% of average. Forecasts for the Spring 2002 runoff vary from 52% to 84% of average.

April-July streamflow forecasts for the Upper Colorado Mainstem are as follows:

Colorado River (mainstem):
Below Average



BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2002



* Percent usable capacity, not percent average contents.

Specific site forecasts are listed beginning on page 6.

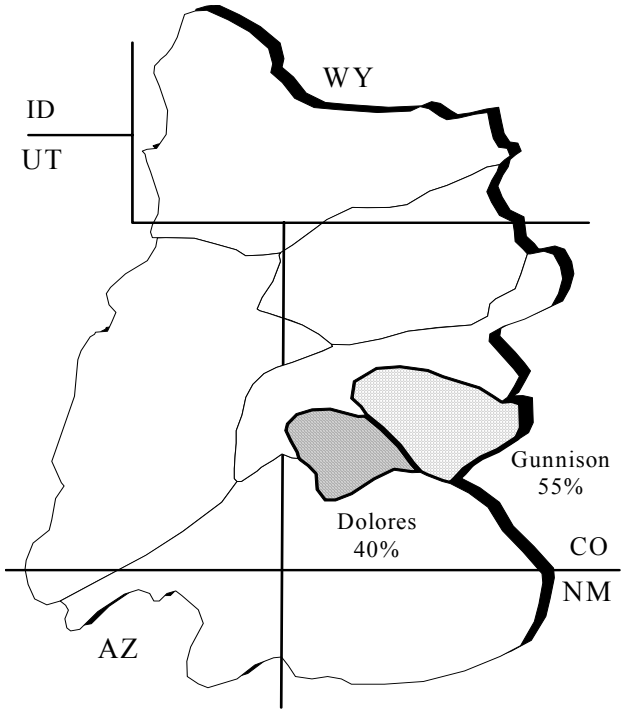
GUNNISON AND DOLORES RIVERS

Water supply conditions continued to deteriorate in the Dolores River Basin during the past month. March 1 snowpack dropped to 55% of average after just 30% of average precipitation fell over the basin during February. Streamflow forecasts for the Gunnison and Dolores River Basins range from 25% to 65% of average.

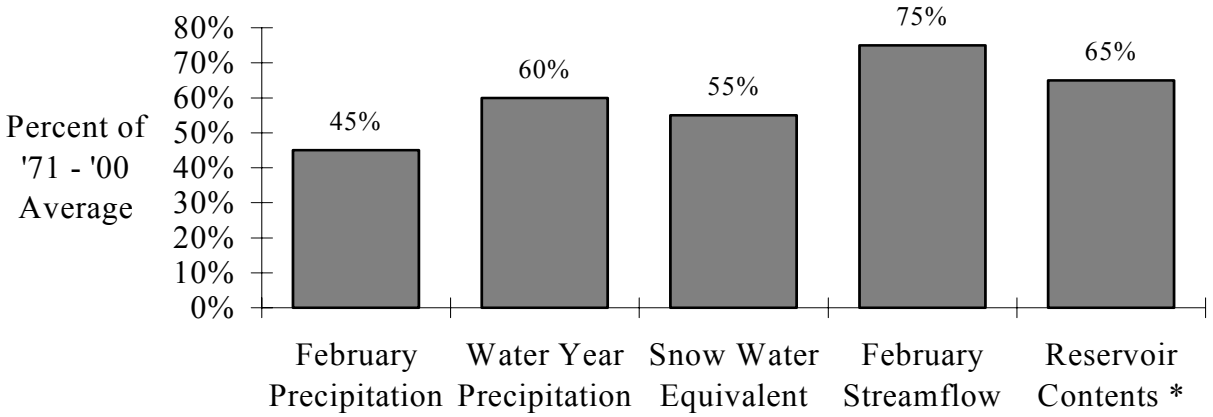
April-July streamflow forecasts for the Gunnison and Dolores Rivers are as follows:

Gunnison River:
Much Below Average

Dolores River:
Much Below Average



BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2002



* Percent usable capacity, not percent average contents.

Specific site forecasts are listed beginning on page 7.

GREEN RIVER

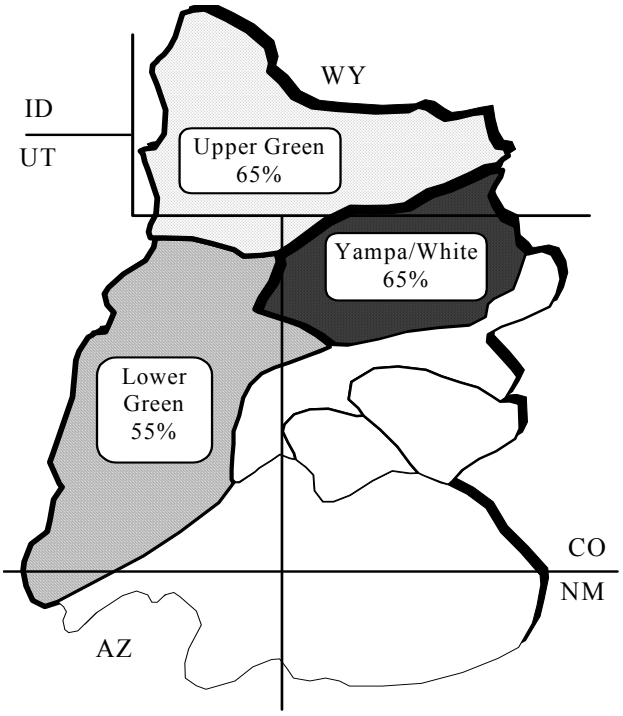
February precipitation was much below average throughout the Green River Basin. As of the first of March, snowpack over the Green River Basin ranged from near 45% to 80% of average. The lowest values were in the Duchesne River Basin with highest values in the Upper Green River Basin. April through July runoff forecasts decreased from those issued last month and now range from near 45% to 75% of average.

April-July streamflow forecasts for the Green River are as follows:

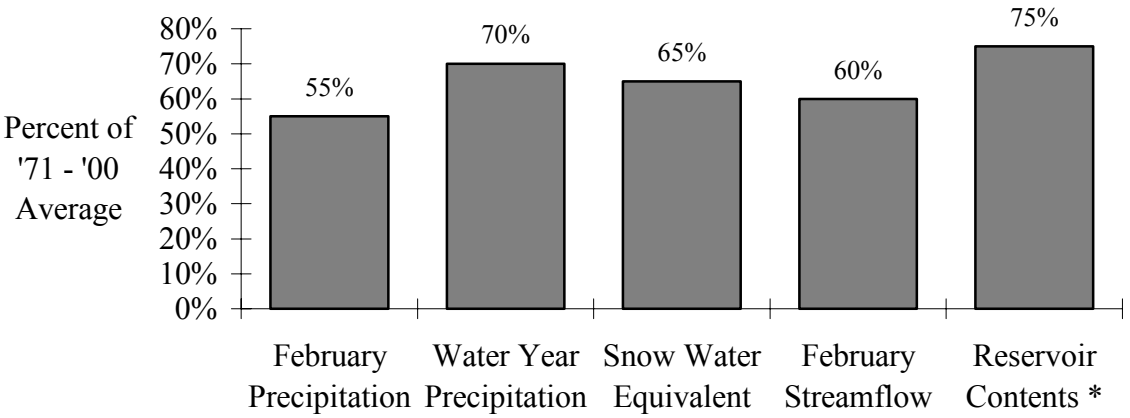
Upper Green River:
Much Below Average

Yampa/White Rivers:
Much Below Average

Lower Green River
(blo Flaming Gorge):
Much Below Average



BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2002



* Percent usable capacity, not percent average contents.

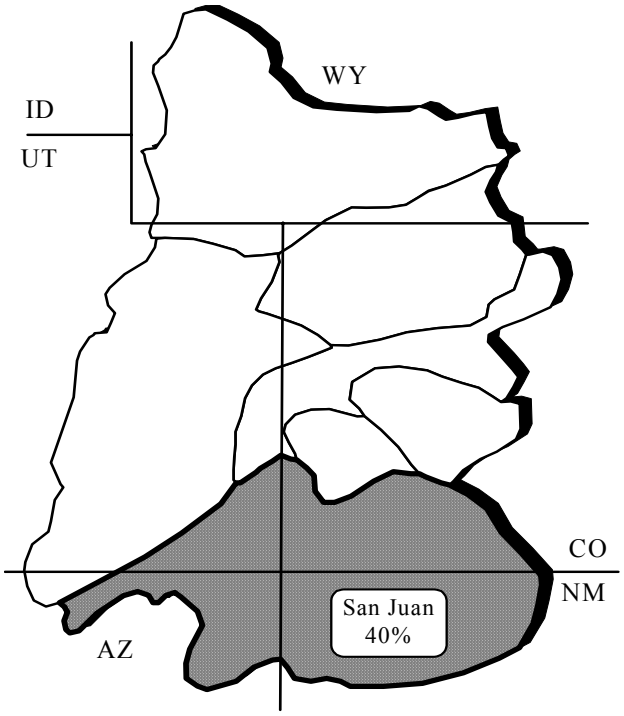
Specific site forecasts are listed beginning on page 8.

SAN JUAN RIVER

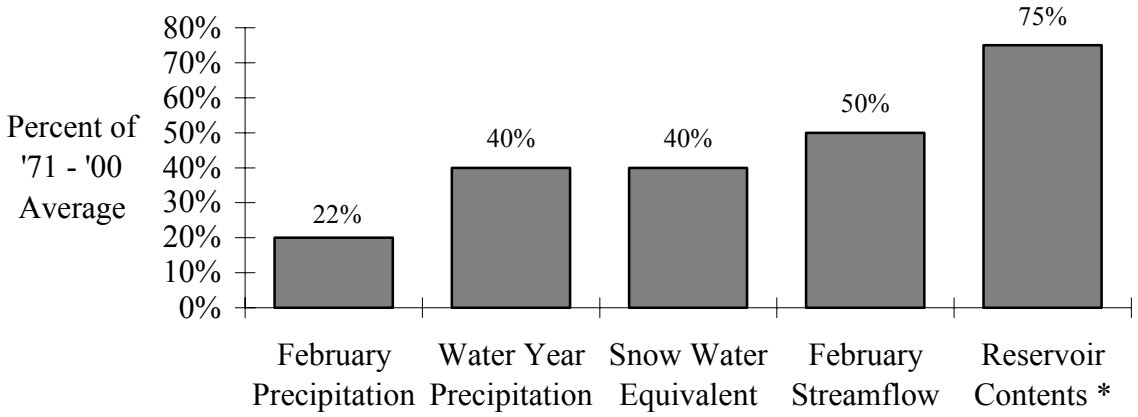
Seasonal precipitation and snowpack remain much below average for the entire San Juan Basin. Seasonal precipitation, due to an extremely dry February, fell to 40% of average on March 1. Snowpack conditions also declined during February to 42% of average. All April-July runoff forecasts have again been reduced to reflect this very dry trend. Forecasts range from 31% to 50% of average.

April-July streamflow forecasts for the San Juan Basin are as follows:

San Juan River:
Much Below Average



BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2002



* Percent usable capacity, not percent average contents.

Specific site forecasts are listed beginning on page 10.

SPECIFIC SITE FORECASTS

Upper Colorado Mainstem: April through July volume (kaf) forecasts (except where noted).

Stream	Station	Most Probable	Percent Avg.	Reas. Max	Reas. Min
COLORADO	LAKE GRANBY, GRANBY, NR	165	73	225	121
	DOTSERO, NR	1000	69	1520	485
	GLENWOOD SPRINGS, BLO	1430	66	2040	820
	CAMEO, NR	1600	66	2430	770
	CISCO, NR	2300	52	3860	740
WILLOW CK	WILLOW CK RES, GRANBY, NR	33	65	50	19.6
FRASER	WINTER PARK	15	75	20	9.6
WILLIAMS FORK	WILLIAMS FORK RES, PARSHALL, N	68	72	89	50
MUDDY CK	WOLFORD MTN RES, BLO	36	60	66	19.7
BLUE	DILLON RES	135	81	189	81
	GREEN MTN RES	235	84	290	185
EAGLE	GYPSUM, BLO	265	79	390	180
FRYING PAN	RUEDI RES, BASALT, NR	100	71	146	69
ROARING FORK	GLENWOOD SPRINGS	450	63	640	295
PLATEAU CK	CAMEO, NR	50	43	133	8
MILL CK	MOAB, NR, SHELEY TUN, AT	3	60	5.78	1.72

SPECIFIC SITE FORECASTS

Gunnison and Dolores Basins: April through July volume (kaf) forecasts (except where noted).

Stream	Station	Most Probable	Percent Avg.	Reas. Max	Reas. Min
TAYLOR	TAYLOR PARK RES	63	61	90	35
	ALMONT	95	58	140	50
EAST	ALMONT	120	62	175	65
GUNNISON	GUNNISON, NR	220	56	340	102
TOMICHI CK	GUNNISON	35	43	75	15
LAKE FORK	GATEVIEW	82	65	120	45
GUNNISON	MORROW POINT RES	450	57	695	190
	CRYSTAL RES	500	55	815	200
MUDDY CK ●	PAONIA RES, BARDINE, NR	39	37	71	16
NF GUNNISON	SOMERSET, NR	157	51	245	88
SURFACE CK	CEDAREDGE	9	53	17	4
UNCOMPAHGRE	RIDGWAY RES	63	62	92	43
	COLONA	77	55	122	30
	DELTA	60	51	115	30
GUNNISON	GRAND JUNCTION, NR	735	47	1310	280
DOLORES	DOLORES	130	49	215	50
	MCPHEE RES	150	47	255	50
	CISCO, NR	140	25	440	45
SAN MIGUEL	PLACERVILLE, NR	80	61	130	35

● = March - June forecast period.

Green River Basin: April through July volume (kaf) forecasts (except where noted).

Stream	Station	Most Probable	Percent Avg.	Reas. Max	Reas. Min
GREEN	DANIEL, NR, WARREN BRIDGE, AT	205	77	265	146
	GREEN RIVER, WY, NR	550	63	785	315
	GREEN RIVER, UT	1900	60	2990	805
PINE CK	FREMONT LK, ABV	75	72	91	59
NEW FORK	BIG PINEY, NR	275	70	380	169
BIG SANDY	FARSON, NR	43	74	61	26
BLACKS FORK	ROBERTSON, NR	62	65	90	34
EF SMITHS FORK	ROBERTSON, NR	19	61	25	14.4
HAMS FORK	FRONTIER, NR, POLE CK, BLO	45	69	66	28
	VIVA NAUGHTON RES	58	65	90	26
YAMPA	STAGECOACH RSVR, ABV	20	69	31	9
	STEAMBOAT SPRINGS	185	66	270	101
	MAYBELL, NR	640	65	960	320
ELK	MILNER, NR	215	66	320	131
ELKHEAD CK	ELKHEAD, NR	25	64	50	12.6
	MAYNARD GULCH, BLO	42	71	71	13.3
FORTIFICATION CK ●	FORTIFICATION, NR	5.2	69	9.8	0.6
LITTLE SNAKE	SLATER, NR	93	58	144	53
	DIXON, NR	185	56	295	73
	LILY, NR	200	55	315	84

● = March - June forecast period.

Green River Basin continued: April through July volume (kaf) forecasts (except where noted).

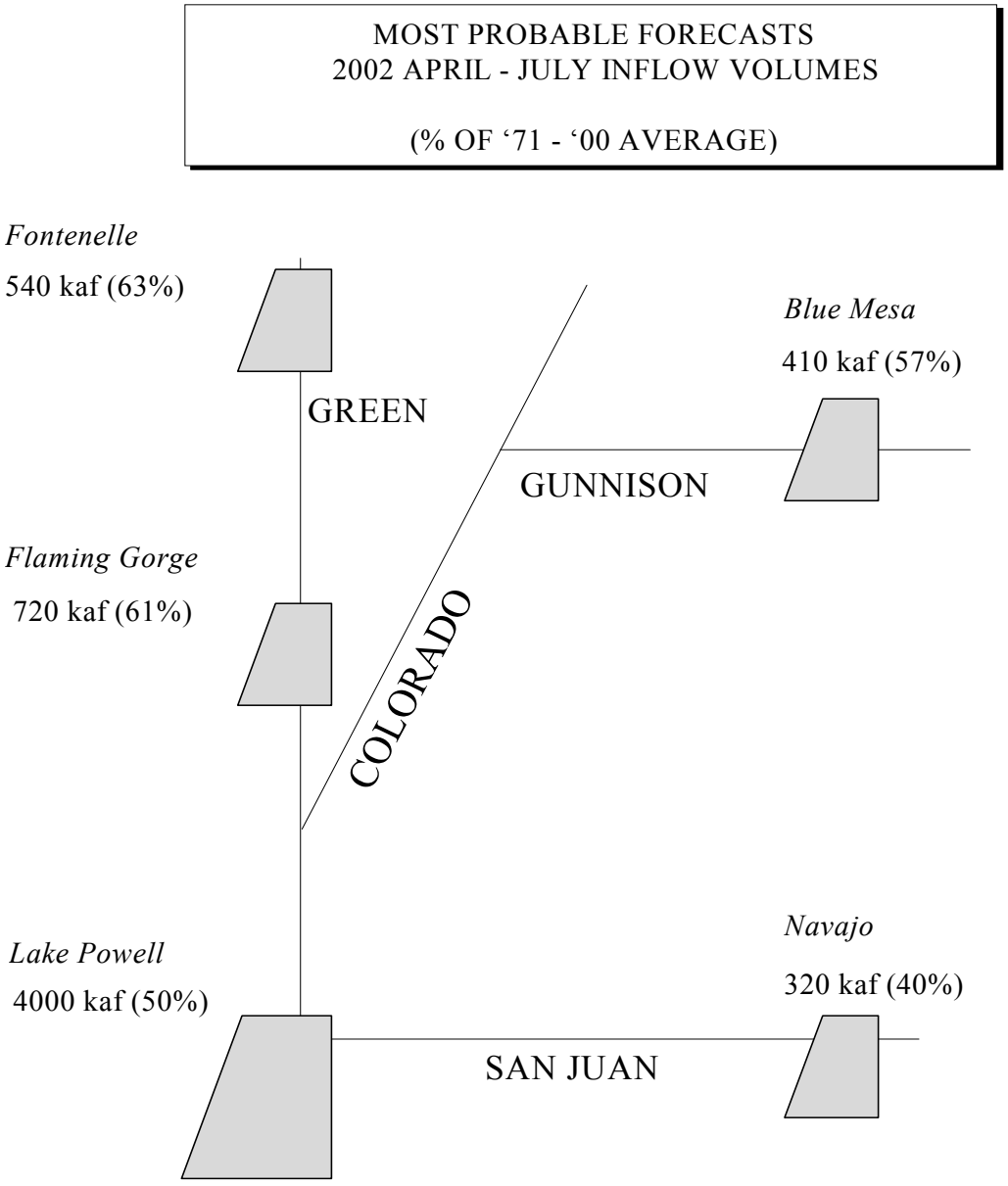
Stream	Station	Most Probable	Percent Avg.	Reas. Max	Reas. Min
BIG BRUSH CK	VERNAL, NR, RED FLEET RES, ABV	13.8	66	21	6.6
ASHLEY CK	VERNAL, NR	33	63	58	7.9
WF DUCHESNE	HANNA, NR	15	62	25	7.3
ROCK CK	UPPER STILLWATER RES	49	60	68	30
	MOUNTAIN HOME, NR	52	58	73	31
DUCHESNE	TABIONA, NR	64	61	90	38
	DUCHESNE, NR, KNIGHT DIV, ABV	100	53	159	41
	MYTON	125	48	235	15
	RANDLETT, NR	145	45	385	49
STRAWBERRY	SOLDIER SPRINGS, NR	32	54	56	14.8
	DUCHESNE, NR	65	54	104	26
CURRANT CK	CURRANT CK RES	12.3	49	19.4	5.2
LAKE FORK	MOON LAKE RES, MTN HOME, NR	44	65	62	26
YELLOWSTONE	ALTONAH, NR	38	61	64	12.5
WHITEROCKS	WHITEROCKS, NR	35	62	67	3.2
WHITE	MEEKER, NR	185	64	270	126
	WATSON, NR	190	62	280	91
GOOSEBERRY CK	SCOFIELD, NR	6.8	57	11.4	2.2
PRICE	SCOFIELD RES, SCOFIELD, NR	24	52	59	8.3
WHITE	BLO TABBYUNE CK, SOLDIER SUMMI	8.5	49	16.3	3.2
HUNTINGTON CK	ELECTRIC LAKE	8	51	13.5	4.3
	HUNTINGTON, NR	29	58	51	6.5
SEELEY CK	JOES VLY RES, ORANGEVILLE, NR	34	59	59	9.4
FERRON CK	FERRON, NR	25	64	38	14.9
SEVEN MILE CK	FISH LAKE, NR	5.1	73	9.6	0.6
MUDDY CK	EMERY, NR	13.7	69	25	2.8

San Juan River Basin: April through July volume (kaf) forecasts (except where noted).

Stream	Station	Most Probable	Percent Avg.	Reas. Max	Reas. Min
SAN JUAN	PAGOSA SPRINGS	95	42	185	7
	CARRACAS, NR	185	46	349	73
	FARMINGTON	395	33	1100	4
	BLUFF, NR	400	33	852	240
RIO BLANCO	PAGOSA SPRINGS, NR, BLANCO DAM	24	45	48	13
NAVAJO	CHROMO, NR, OSO DIV DAM, BLO	31	45	61	16
PIEDRA	ARBOLES, NR	95	41	183	7
LOS PINOS	VALLECITO RES, BAYFIELD, NR	77	38	145	9
ANIMAS	DURANGO	200	45	345	53
FLORIDA	LEMON RES, DURANGO, NR	25	43	49	1.4
LA PLATA	HESPERUS	11	44	22	1
MANCOS	MANCOS, NR	20	50	43	8.5
SOUTH CK ◆	LLOYD'S RSVR NR MONTICELLO, AB	0.4	34	1.2	0
RECAPTURE CK ◆	BLANDING, NR, JOHNSON CK, BLO	1.9	31	6.1	0.6

◆ = March - July forecast period.

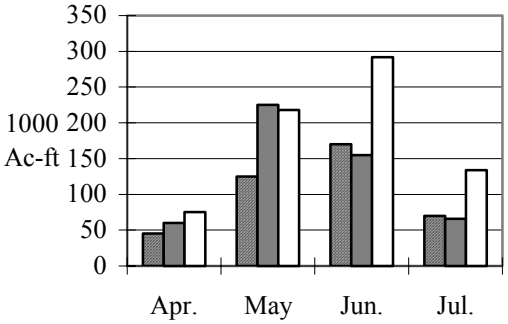
FLOOD CONTROL FORECASTS



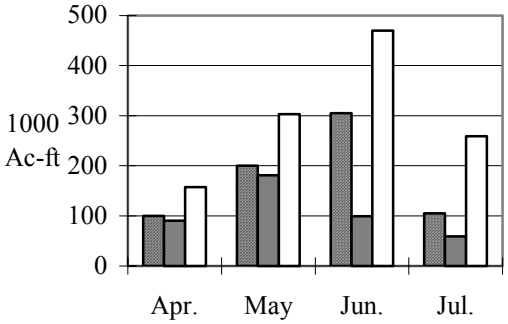
NOTE: Colorado River flood control forecasts account for a smaller set of upstream adjustments than water supply forecast points.

RESERVOIR MONTHLY INFLOW FORECASTS

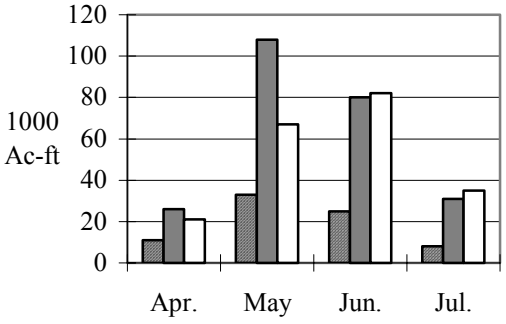
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow



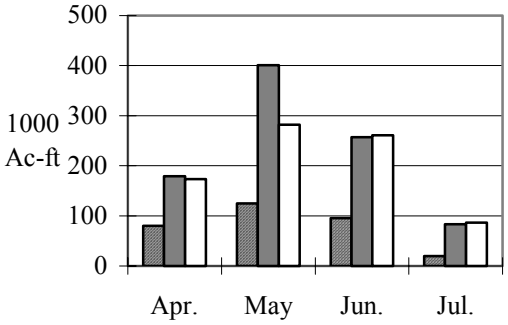
Flaming Gorge Reservoir Inflow



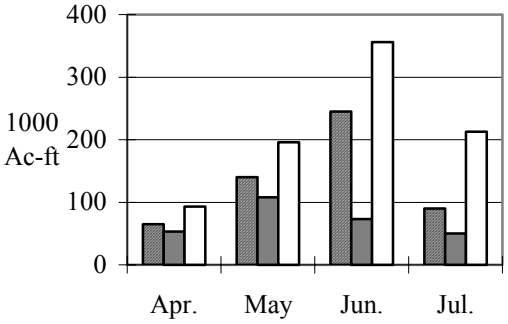
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow



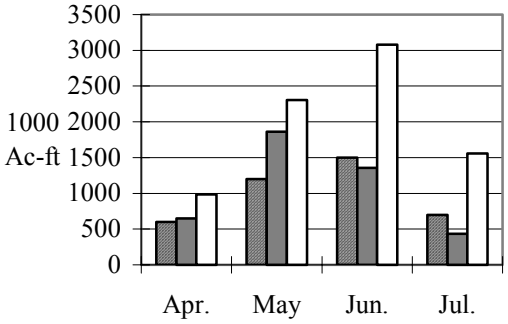
Navajo Reservoir Inflow



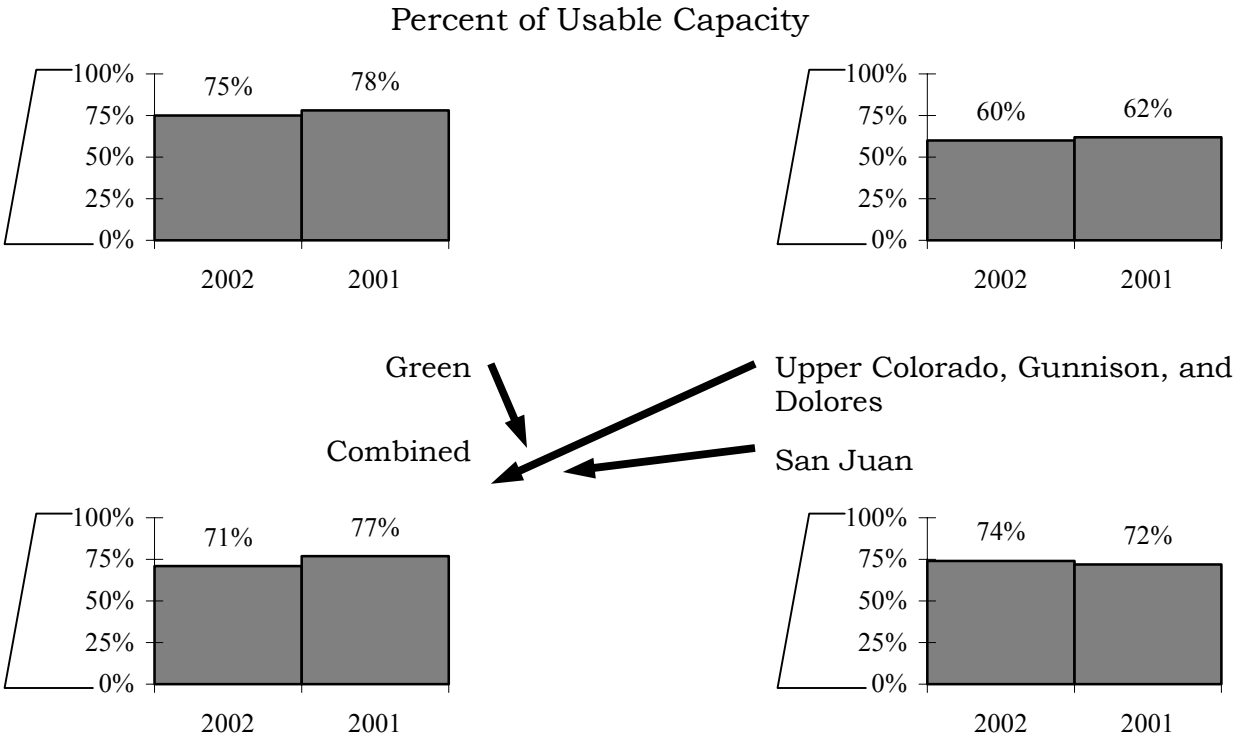
Fontenelle Reservoir Inflow



Lake Powell Inflow



END OF MONTH RESERVOIR CONTENTS

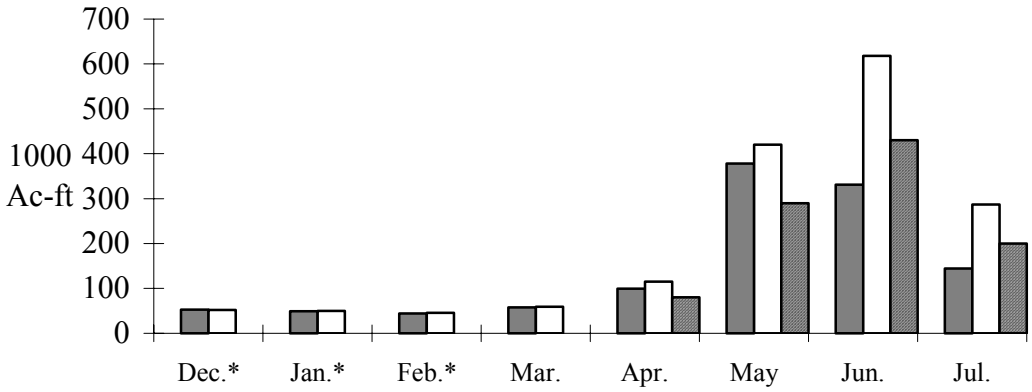


RESERVOIR (vol. in 1000 ac-ft)	Reservoir status	Usable Capacity	EOM Usable Contents	Percent Usable Capacity
Fontenelle	1,4	344.8	135.1	39
Flaming Gorge	1,4	3749	2834.9	76
Strawberry	1,4	1105.9	898.1	81
Starvation	1,4	165.3	158.5	96
Lake Granby	2,4	490.3	214.8	44
Dillon	2,4	254	200.1	79
Green Mountain	2,4	146.9	73.6	50
Taylor Park	2,4	106.2	63.1	59
Blue Mesa	2,4	829.5	522.4	63
Ridgway	2,4	83.2	67.4	81
McPhee	2,4	381.1	missing	missing
Vallecito	3,4	125.4	56	45
Navajo	3,4	1696	1293.3	76
Lake Powell	4	24322	17200	71

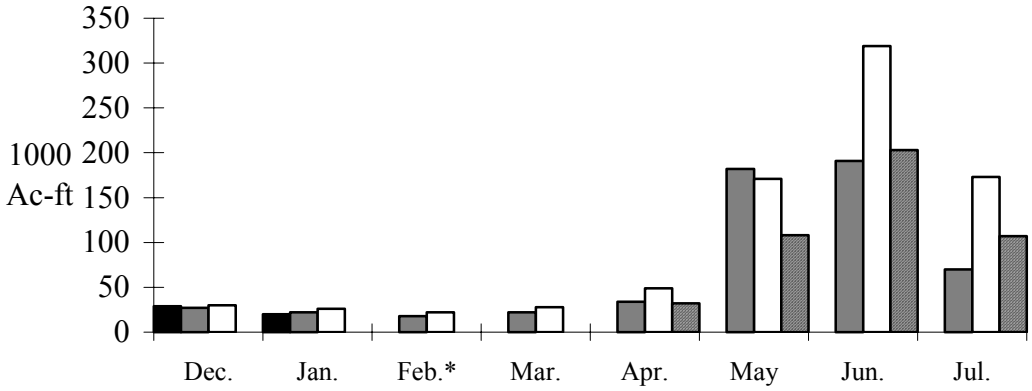
1 = Green River reservoir status
2 = Upper Colorado River reservoir status
3 = San Juan River reservoir status
4 = Combined reservoir status

MONTHLY STREAMFLOWS

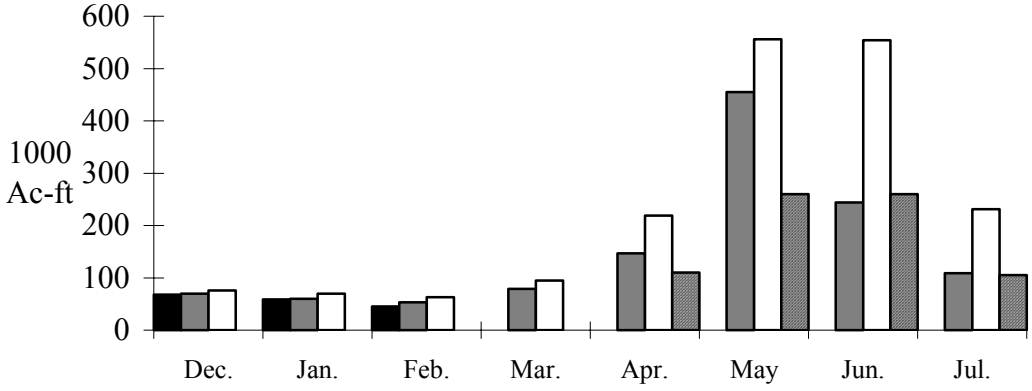
Colorado - Dotsero, nr:



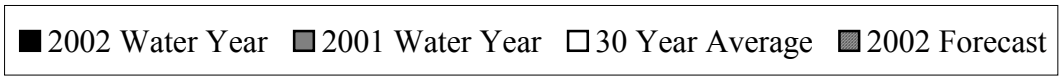
Roaring Fork - Glenwood Springs:



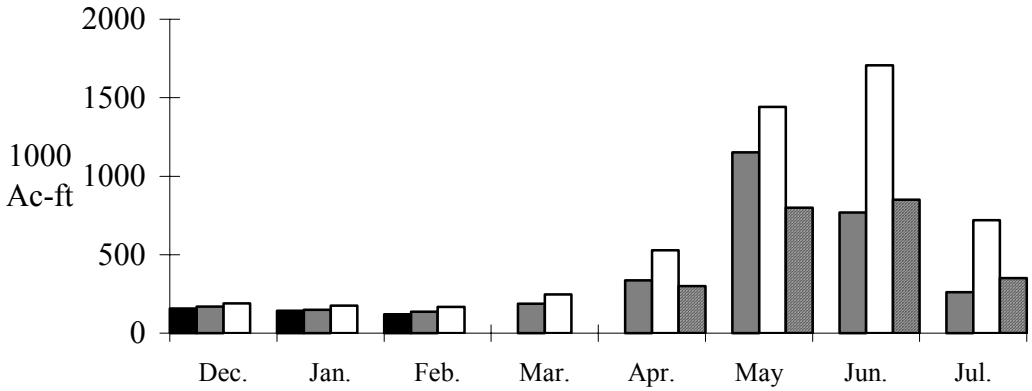
Gunnison - Grand Junction, nr:



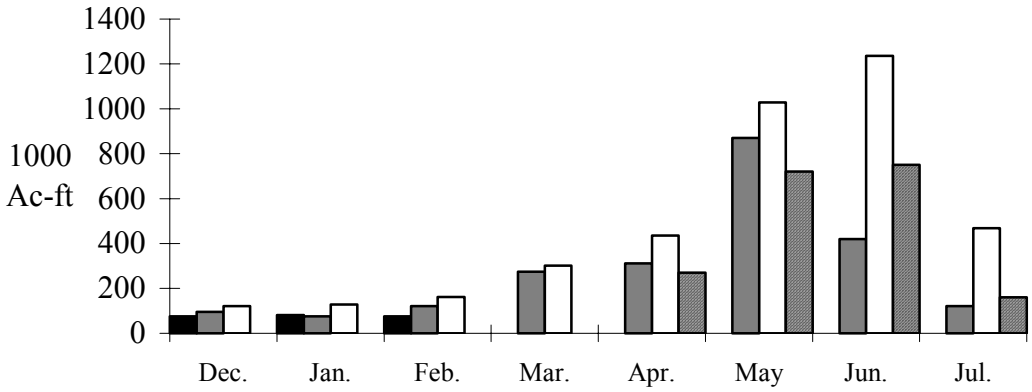
* Data Not Available



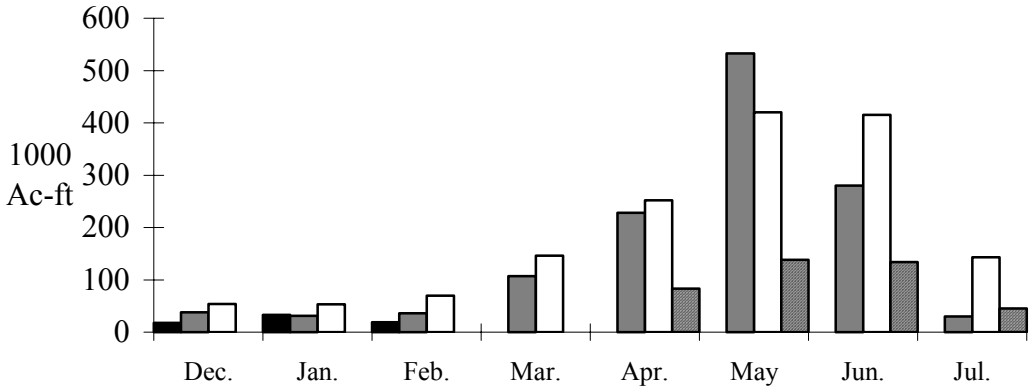
Colorado - Cisco, nr:



Green - Green River, UT:

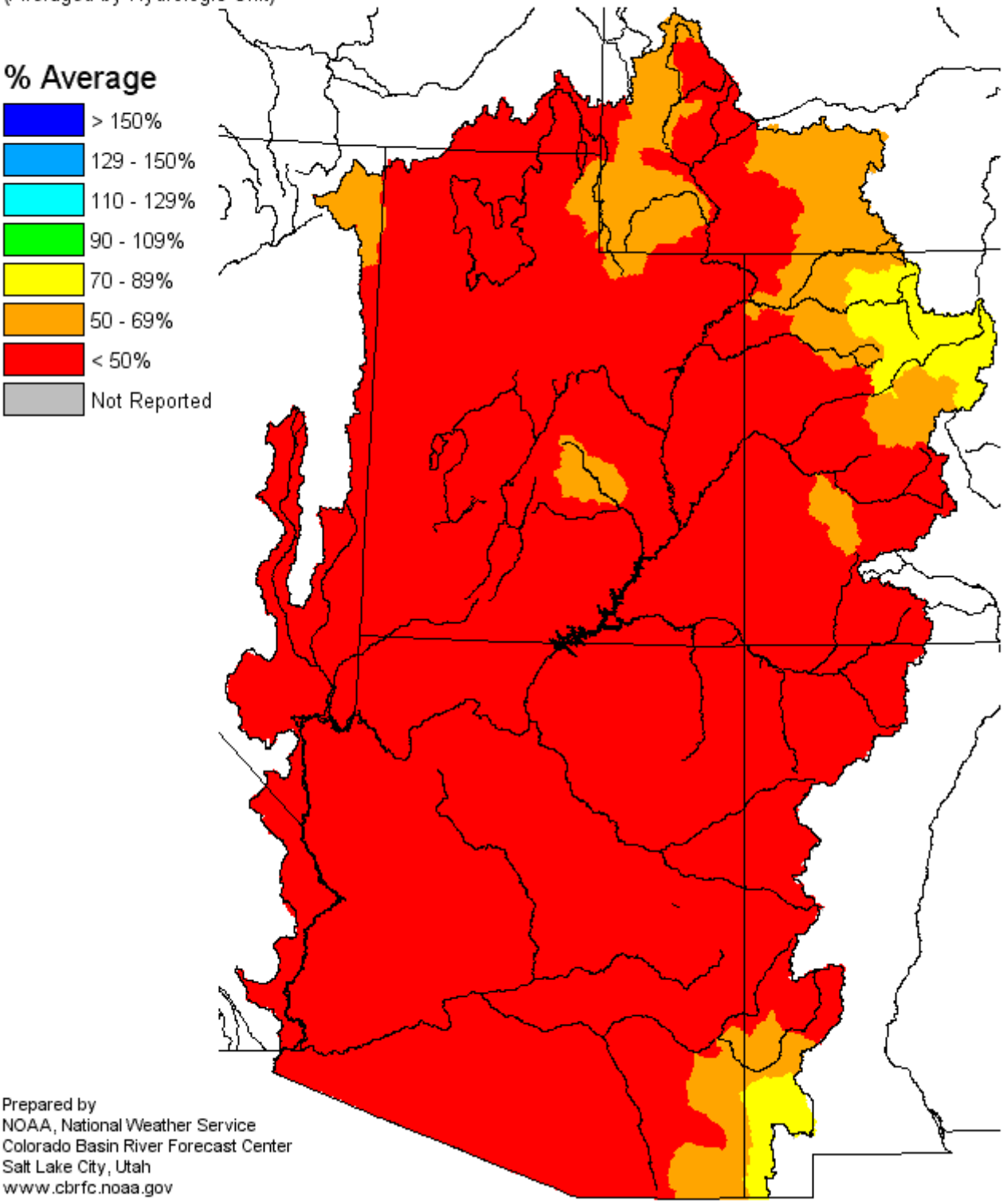


San Juan - Bluff, nr:



Monthly Precipitation for February 2002

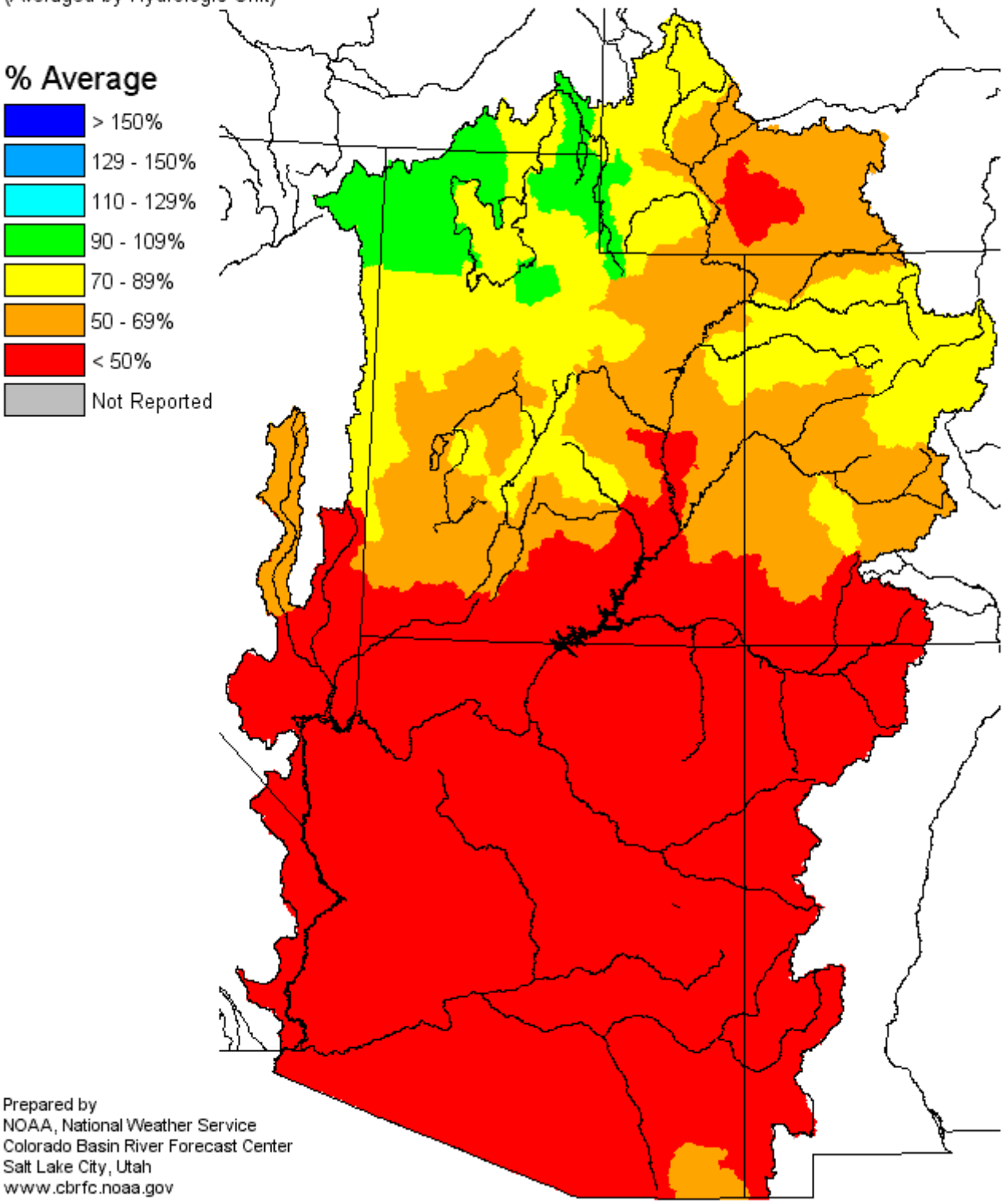
(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)



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

Seasonal Precipitation, October 2001 - February 2002

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)



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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Water supply forecasts take into consideration present hydrometeorological conditions and use average basin temperatures and precipitation for the forecast period. As the forecast season progresses, a greater portion of the future hydrologic and climatic uncertainty becomes known and monthly forecasts become more accurate.

Volume forecasts represent adjusted flows; that is, observed flows with upstream water use taken into account. Adjusted flows will closely approximate natural or unimpaired flows. However, not all upstream diversions or impoundments are measured or quantifiable. For specific adjustments used with each forecast point, consult the Guide to Water Supply Forecasting.

The Water Supply Outlook is issued monthly January through May by the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, National Weather Service. It represents a coordinated effort between the National Weather Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey and local water district managers.

DEFINITIONS:

Acre-Foot:
The volume equal to one acre covered one foot deep (43,560 cubic feet).
Average:

The arithmetic mean. The sum of the values divided by the number of values.
Categories:

Much above Average	Above Average	Near Average	Below Average	Much Below Average-
Greater than 130%	111-130%	90-110%	70-89%	Less than 70%

Forecast Period:

The period from April 1 through July 31.
Median:

The middle value. One half of the observed values are higher and half of the values are lower than this.
Most Probable Forecast:

Given the current hydrometeorological conditions to date, this is the best estimate of what the runoff volume will be this season.
Reasonable Maximum Forecast:

Given the current hydrometeorological conditions, the seasonal runoff that has a ten percent (10%) chance of being exceeded.
Reasonable Minimum Forecast:

Given the current hydrometeorological conditions, the seasonal runoff that has a ninety percent (90%) chance of being exceeded.
Water Year:

The period from October 1 through September 30.

NOTE: Data used in this report are provisional and are subject to revision.

For more information, or to be included on the mailing list, please contact:

Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, National Weather Service
2442 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84116