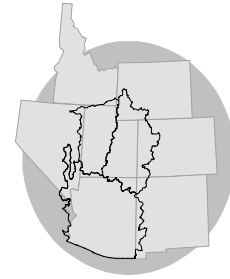


# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

for the  
**LOWER COLORADO**  
**COLORADO BASIN**  
**RIVER FORECAST CENTER**

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, SALT LAKE CITY, UT



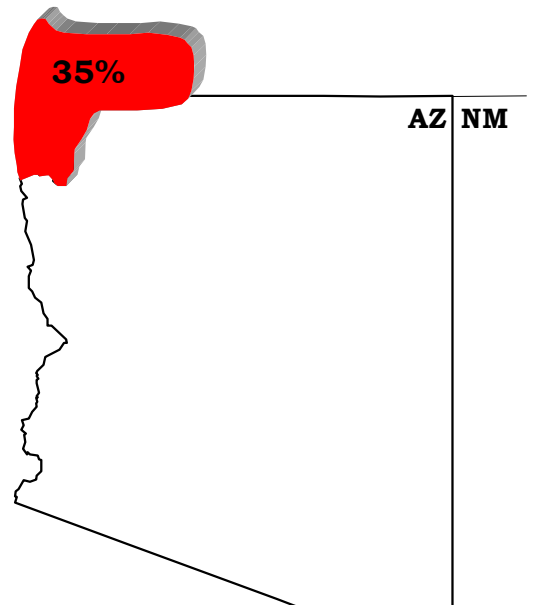
**MAY 1, 2004**

## Virgin River Summary

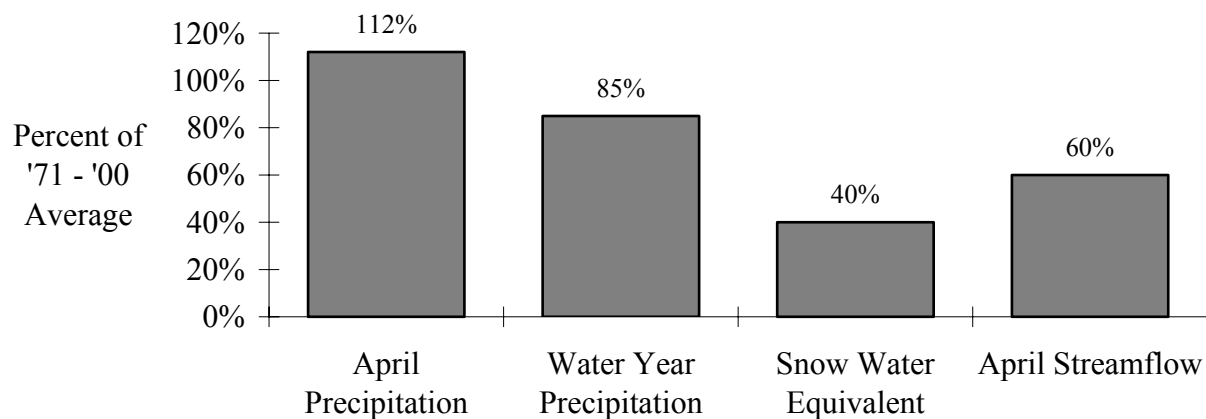
Forecasts are only provided for the Virgin River basin. Individual forecasts for April-July range from 25% to 45% of average. The forecasted flows are perhaps lower than one would expect from a seasonal precipitation of 85% — this is partially due to the peak snow melt occurring a month prior to the forecasted runoff period. Persistent dry conditions continue to influence the basin's short-term response; i.e., dry soils result in less runoff.

April-July stream flow forecasts for the Virgin River are as follows:

Virgin River:  
Much Below Average



## BASIN CONDITIONS - MAY 1, 2004



## SPECIFIC SITE FORECASTS—WATER YEAR 2004

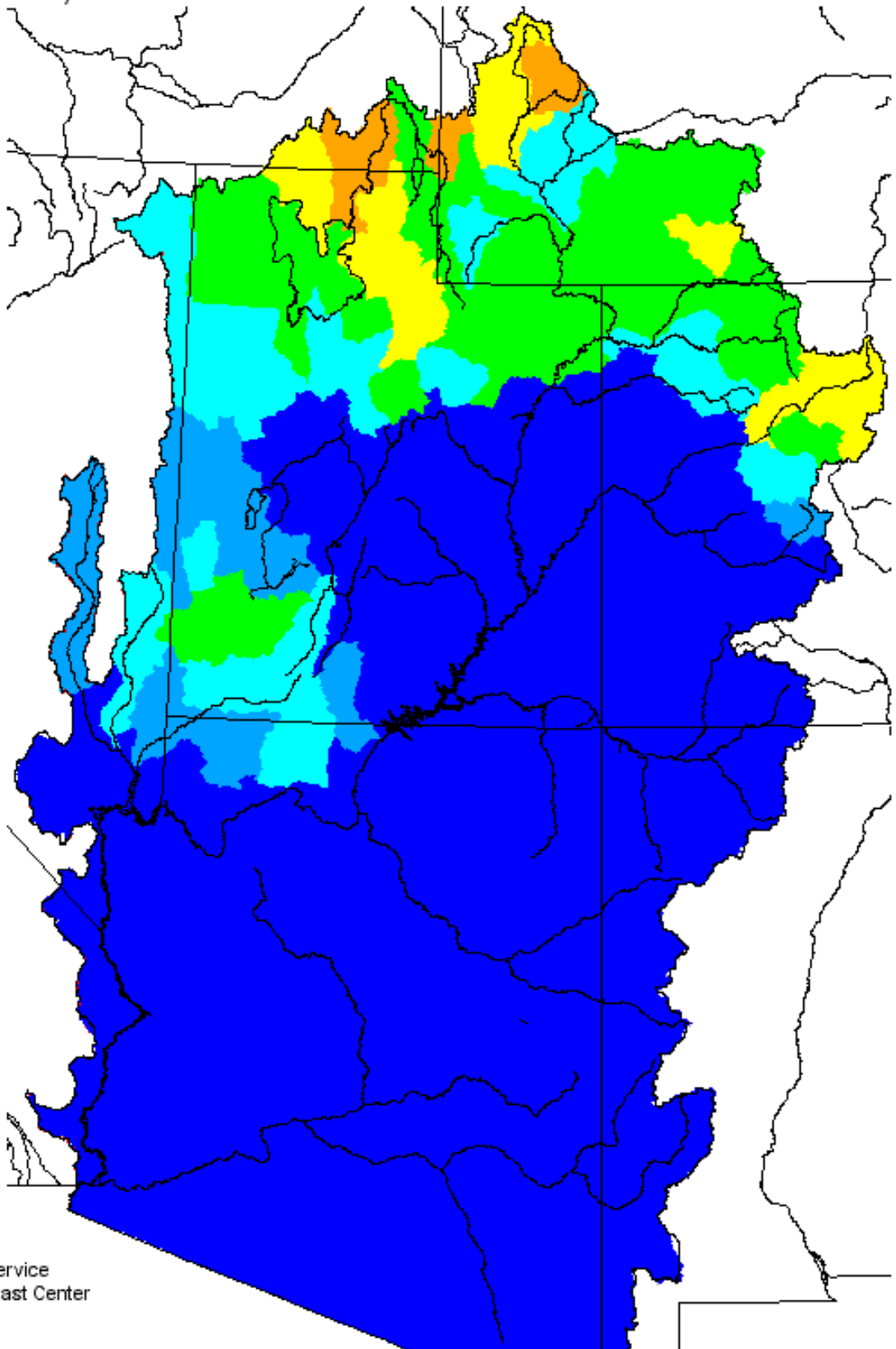
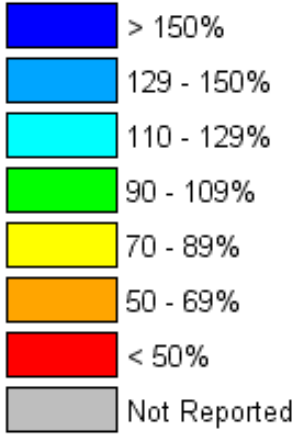
April through July volume (kaf) forecasts.

Stream	Station	Most Probable	Percent Avg.	Reas. Max	Reas. Min
SANTA CLARA	PINE VALLEY, NR	2.5	45	4	1.59
VIRGIN	VIRGIN	28	44	44	19.3
	HURRICANE, NR	21	30	31	12.4
	LITTLEFIELD	18.2	25	28	11.1

# Monthly Precipitation for April 2004

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

## % Average

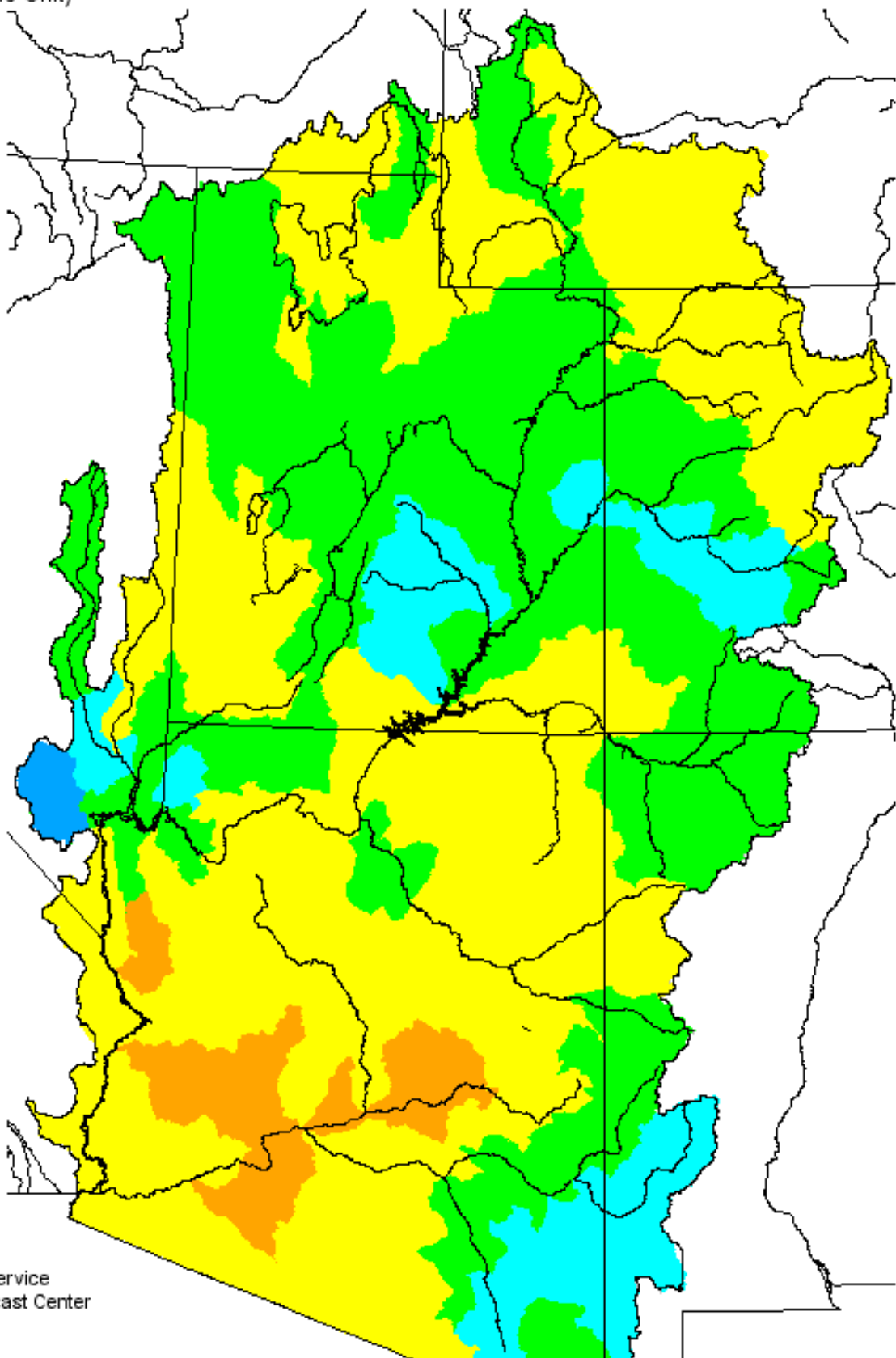
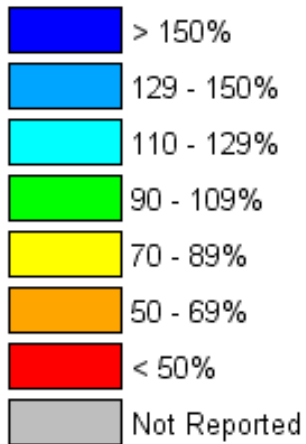


Prepared by  
NOAA, National Weather Service  
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
[www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

# Seasonal Precipitation, October 2003 - April 2004

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

## % Average



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## 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 April 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, Salt River Project, 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 Median	Above Median	Near Median	Below Median	Much below Median
Greater than 130%	111-130%	90-110%	70-89%	Less than 70%

**Forecast Period:**

Variable. Current month through May 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

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