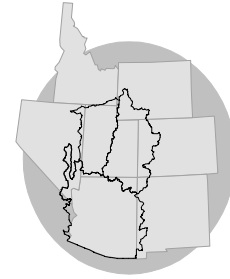


# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

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



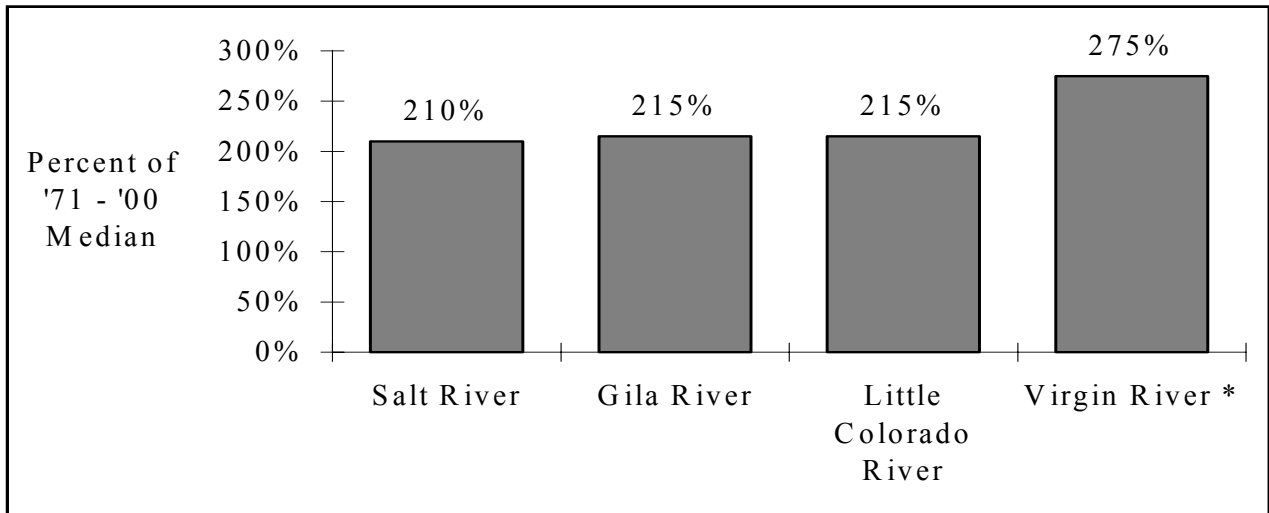
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, SALT LAKE CITY, UT

## MARCH 1, 2005

### SUMMARY

The 2005 Lower Colorado Water Supply Outlook is wet for the first time in several years with all points now forecasted much above median (much above average for the Virgin River Basin). The snow conditions are good throughout the Basin, with the exception of a small section of the Little Colorado basin's eastern edge; where a pocket of relatively dry snow conditions continues to persist.

### MARCH - MAY VOLUME FORECASTS



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EOM Reservoir Contents	7
Monthly Streamflows	8,9
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\* Virgin River Basin forecasts are for the April through July period and expressed in percent of average.

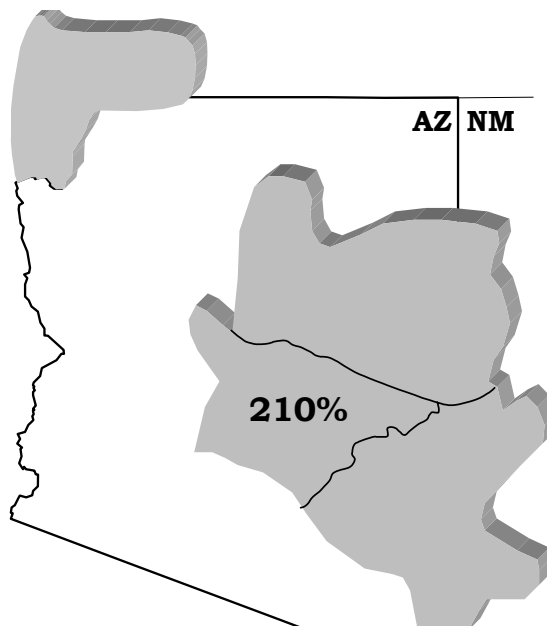
**SALT RIVER** The 2005 Water Year is certainly **not** another dry year in Arizona. Above normal temperatures are expected during March, April, and May and above normal precipitation is expected during March. Snow is 150% of median on March 1st. Forecasted stream flows for this area are much above median.

March-May stream flow forecasts for the Salt River are as follows:

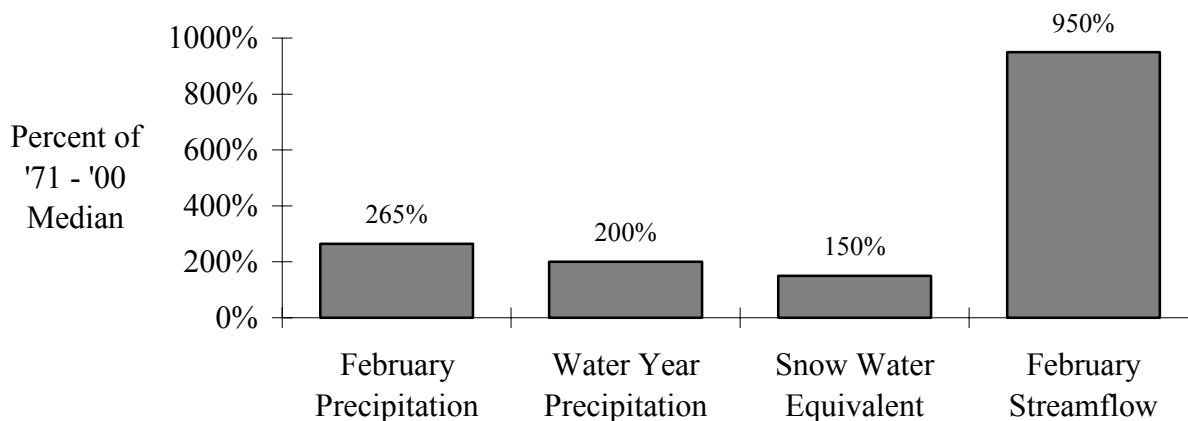
Verde River:  
Much Above Median

Tonto Creek:  
Much Above Median

Salt River:  
Much Above Median



### **BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2005**

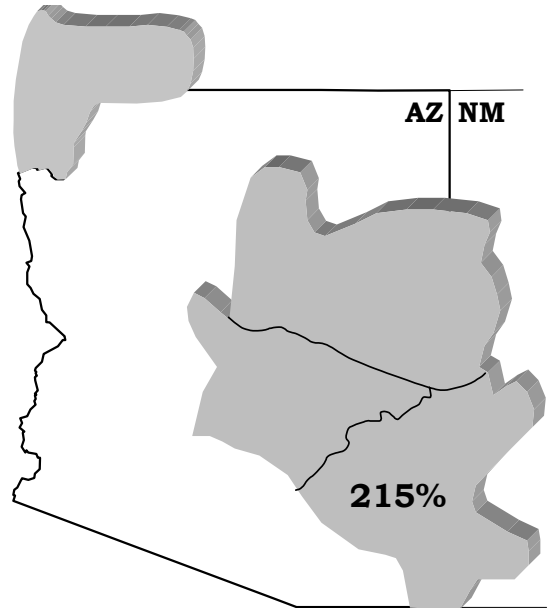


Specific site forecasts are listed on page 6.

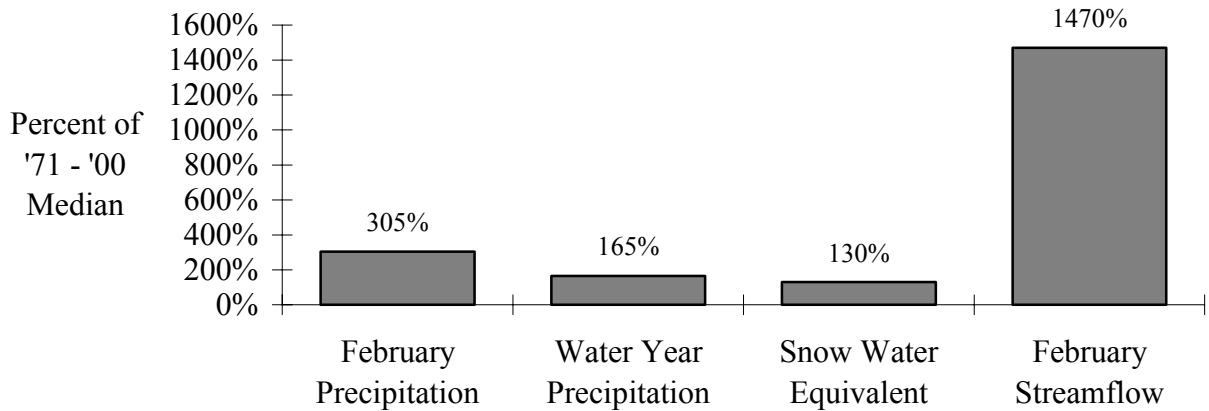
**GILA RIVER** The 2005 Water Year continues to be wet in most of Arizona and Southwest New Mexico. Above normal temperatures are expected during March, April, and May and above normal precipitation is expected during March. Stream flows are high and are expected to continue high through March.

March-May stream flow forecasts for the Gila River are as follows:

Gila River:  
Much Above Median



**BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2005**

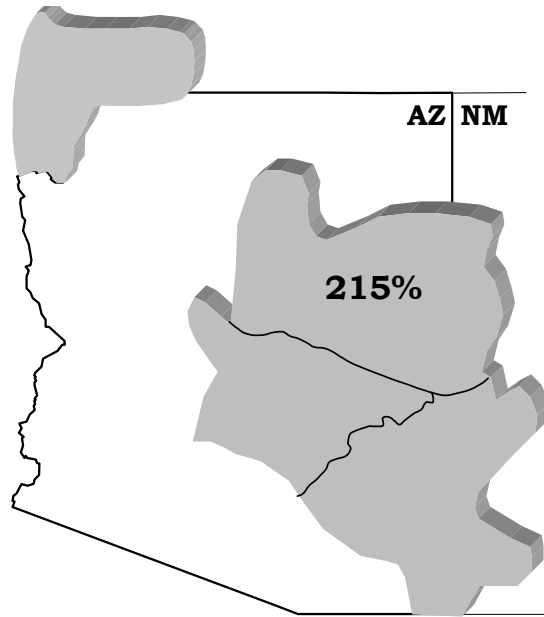


Specific site forecasts are listed on page 6.

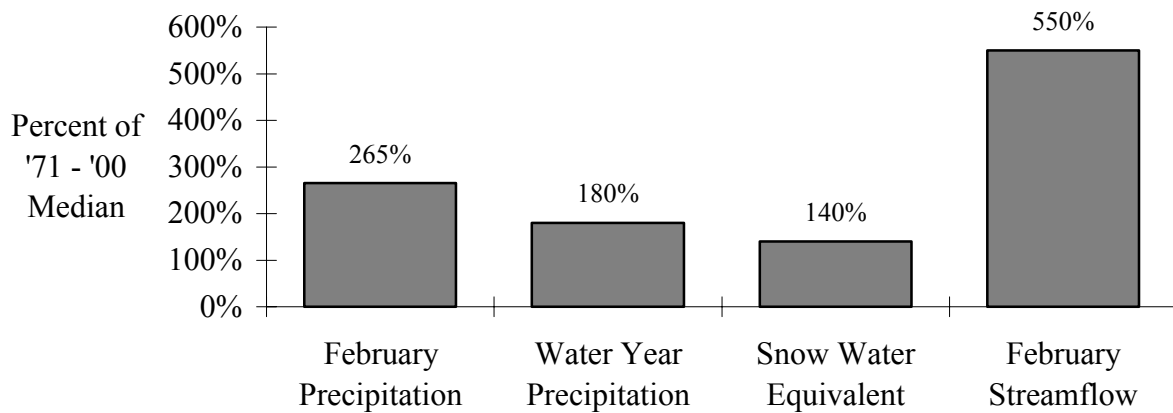
**LITTLE COLORADO RIVER** The 2005 Water Year for this basin is wet with the exception of a slice of basin's eastern edge; where a small pocket of relatively dry snow conditions continues to persist. Above normal temperatures are expected during March, April, and May and above normal precipitation is expected during March.

March-May stream flow forecasts for the Little Colorado River are as follows:

Little Colorado River:  
Much Above Median



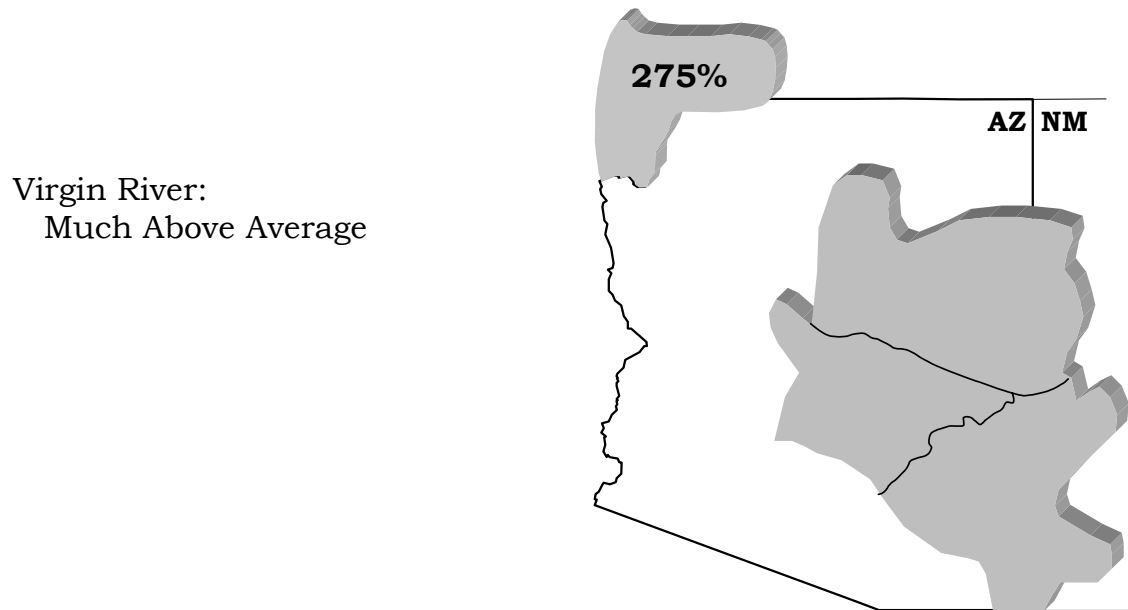
**BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2005**



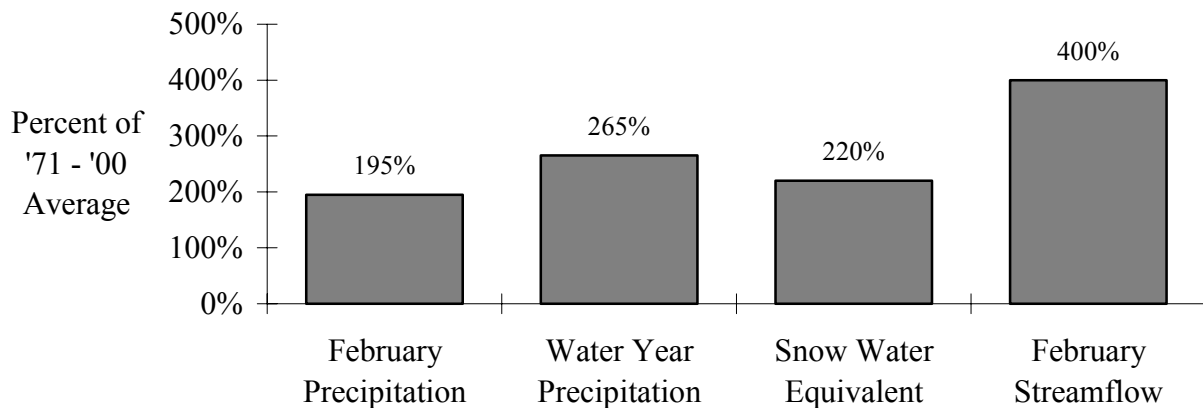
Specific site forecasts are listed on page 6.

**VIRGIN RIVER** Snow is 220% of average for the Virgin River Basin on March 1st. Above normal temperatures are expected during March, April, and May and above normal precipitation is expected during March. Because of the forecasted high temperatures for March, a significant percentage (up to 30%) of the snowmelt runoff may occur in March prior to the April-July forecast period. This additional runoff is not included in the April-July forecast.

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



### BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2005



Specific site forecasts are listed on page 6.

# SPECIFIC SITE FORECASTS—WATER YEAR 2005

March through May volume (kaf) forecasts (except where noted).

Stream	Station	Most Probable	Percent Med.	Reas. Max	Reas. Min
LITTLE COLORADO	◆ LYMAN LK, ABV, ST. JOHNS, NR	18.3	290	32	9.5
	WOODRUFF	6.5	295	9.1	3.9
RIO NUTRIA	RAMAH, NR	3.6	133	7.3	1.19
ZUNI	BLACK ROCK RES, ABV	1.18	133	3.3	0.13
CEBOLLA CK	RAMAH RES	2	134	4.5	0.6
EAST CLEAR CK	BLUE RIDGE RES, PINE, NR	25	195	36	15.9
CLEAR CK	WINSLOW, NR	84	271	117	51
CHEVELON CK	WINSLOW, NR, WILDCAT CYN, BLO	11.9	298	15.1	6.6
WALNUT CK	LAKE MARY	8.2	200	14.9	3.9
SANTA CLARA	✧ PINE VALLEY, NR	15.5	282	23	9.8
VIRGIN	✧ VIRGIN	167	261	225	119
	✧ HURRICANE, NR	193	280	235	152
	✧ LITTLEFIELD	205	277	260	151
GILA	GILA, NR	80	235	126	45
	VIRDEN, NR, BLUE CK, BLO	100	213	170	48
	SOLOMON, NR, HEAD OF SAFFORD V	200	190	345	96
	SAN CARLOS RES, COOLIDGE DAM,	160	211	245	79
SAN FRANCISCO	GLENWOOD, NR	45	274	82	19.7
	CLIFTON	90	214	163	39
SAN PEDRO	CHARLESTON	4.7	235	6.2	3.2
SALT	ROOSEVELT, NR	500	185	790	290
TONTO CK	ROOSEVELT, NR, GUN CK, ABV	60	231	134	19.9
VERDE	BLO TANGLE CK, ABV HORSEHOE DA	300	208	520	153
COLORADO	✧ LAKE POWELL, GLEN CYN DAM, AT	8600	108		

◆ = March-June forecast period.

✧ = April-July forecast period.

Special Notes:

Lake Powell, Virgin and Santa Clara River forecasts use a 30 year percent of average (1971-2000).

## FEBRUARY 2005 END OF MONTH RESERVOIR CONTENTS

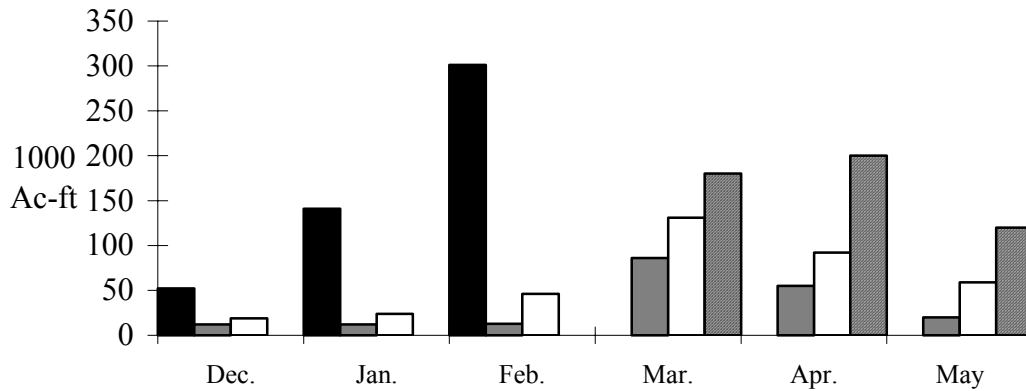
RESERVOIR (vol. in 1000 ac-ft)	Usable Capacity	EOM Usable Contents	Percent Usable Capacity (%)
Roosevelt	1653.0	1365.0	83%
Horse Mesa	245.0	240.0	98%
Mormon Flat	58.0	55.0	95%
Stewart Mountain	70.0	65.0	93%
Horseshoe	109.2	107.0	98%
Bartlett	178.0	178.0	100%
Total SRP Reservoirs	2313.2	2010.0	87%
San Carlos	867.0	383.0	44%
Waddell	1145.0	697.0	61%
Painted Rock	2476.0	329.0	13%
Alamo	1045.0	339.0	32%
Lyman	31.0	4.9	16%
Lake Powell	24322.0	8288.0	34%
Mead	27380.0	15717.0	57%
Mohave	1810.0	1713.0	95%
Havasu	619.0	613.0	99%

NA = Not Available.

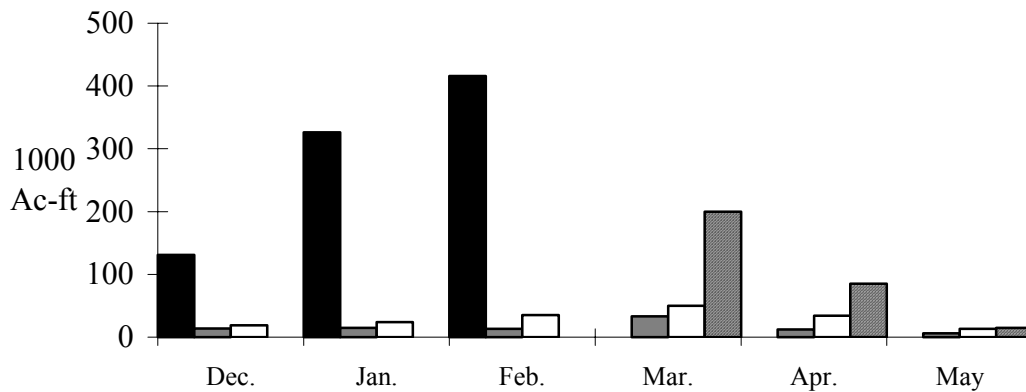
# MONTHLY STREAMFLOWS



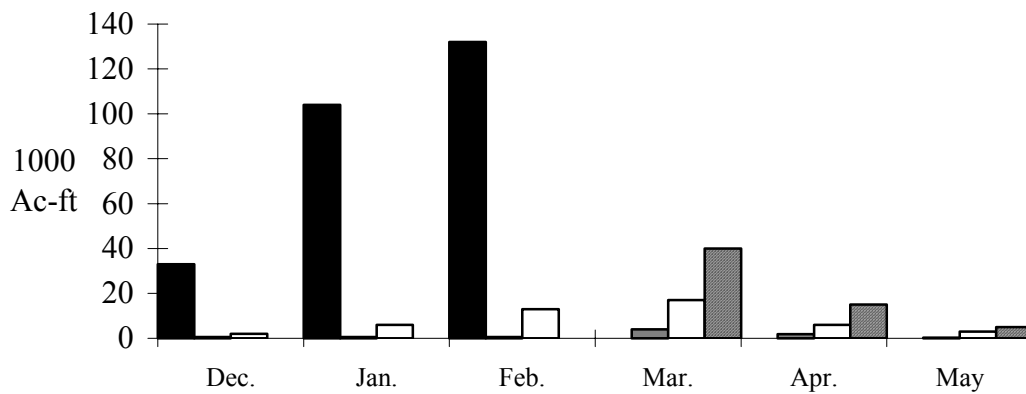
## Salt - Roosevelt:



## Verde - Horseshoe Dam, abv, Tangle Ck, blo:



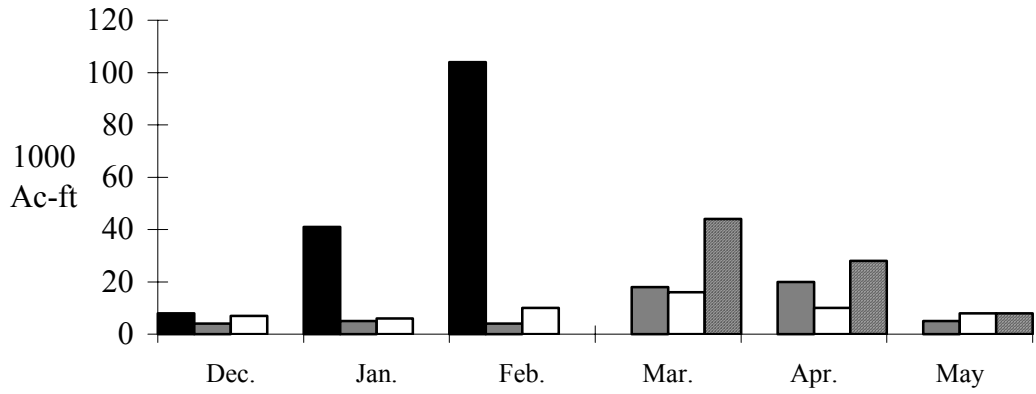
## Tonto Ck - Roosevelt, nr, Gun Ck, abv:



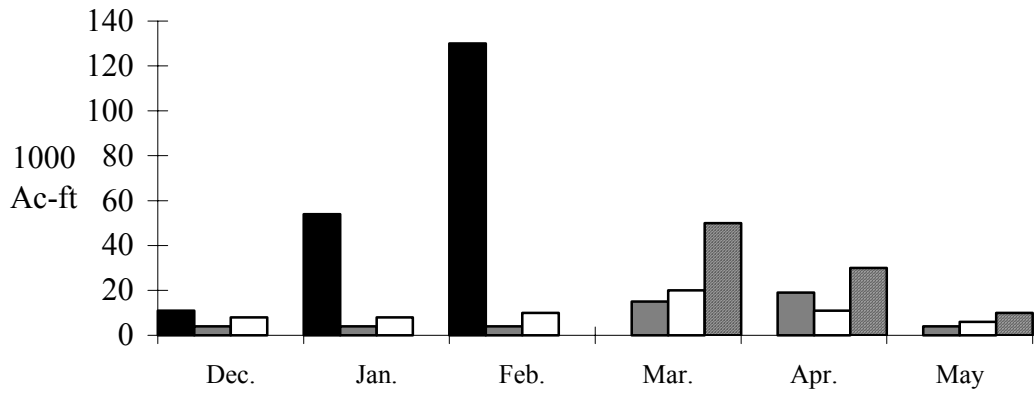




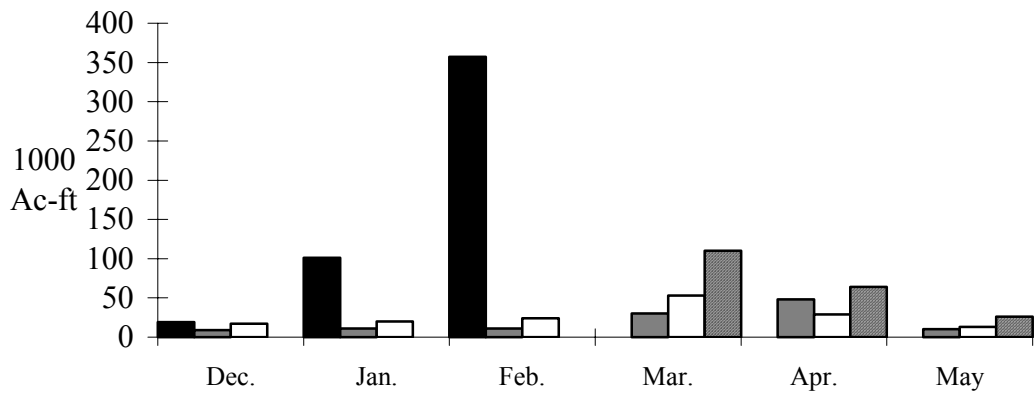
**Gila - Gila, nr:**



**San Francisco - Clifton:**



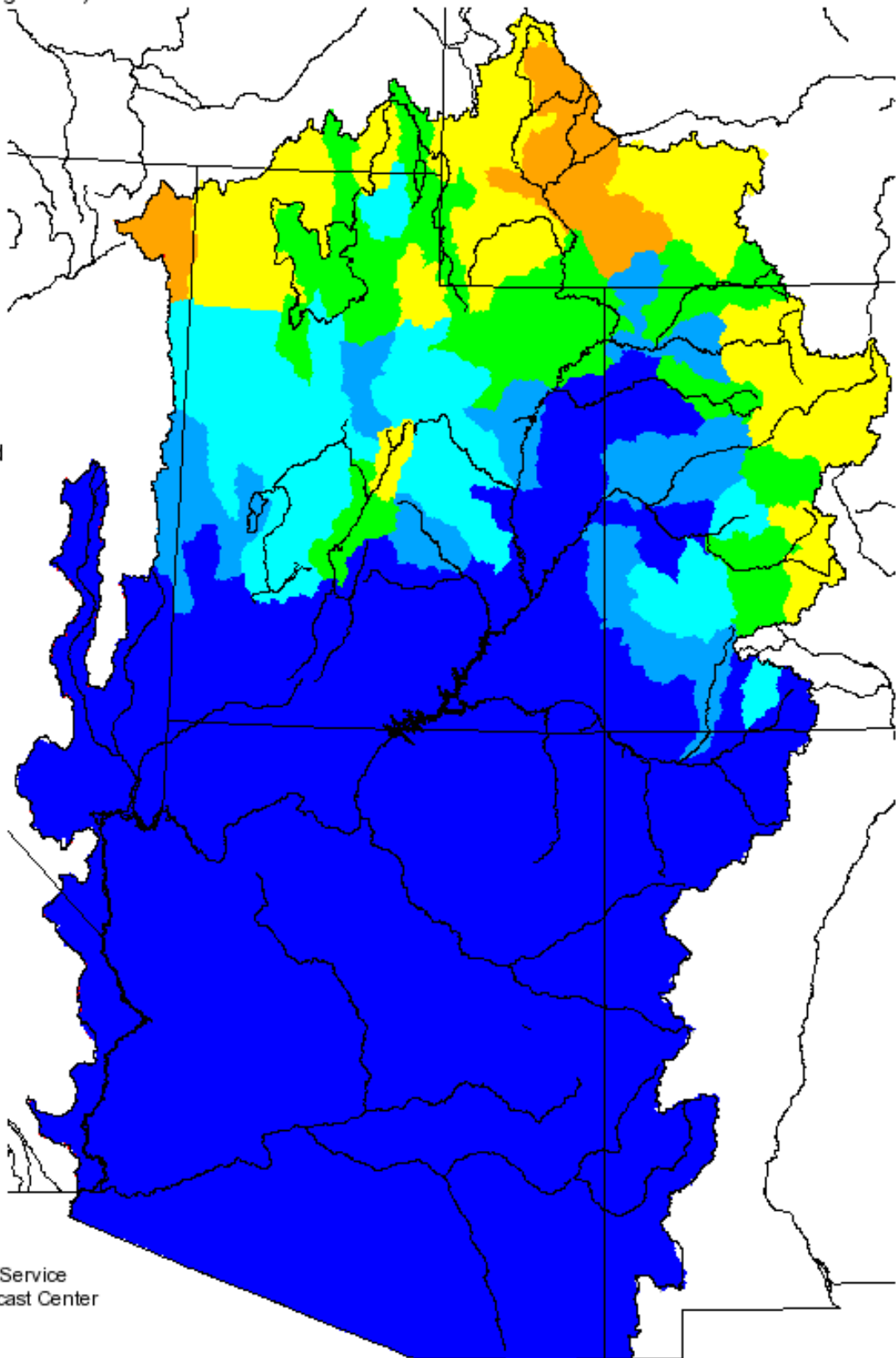
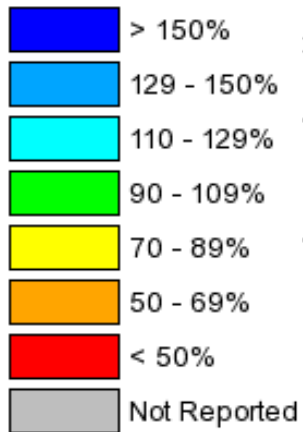
**Gila - Solomon:**



# Monthly Precipitation for February 2005

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

## % Average

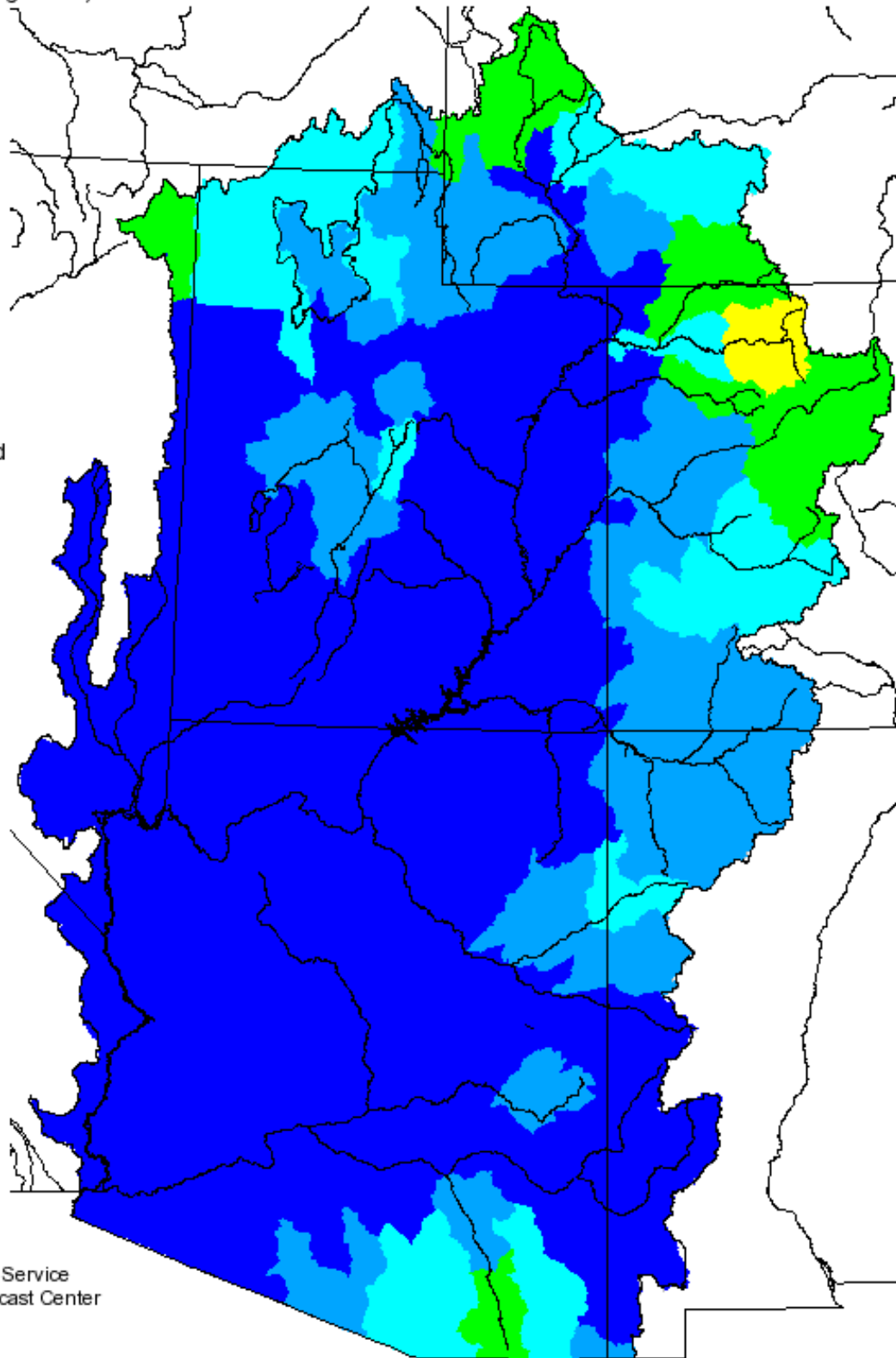
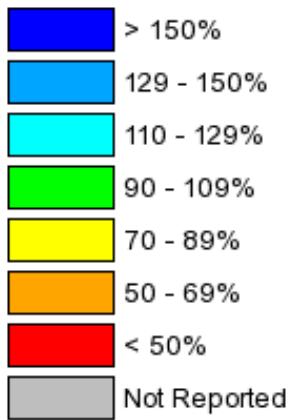


Prepared by  
NOAA, National Weather Service  
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
[www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

# Seasonal Precipitation, October 2004 - February 2005

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

## % Average



Prepared by  
NOAA, National Weather Service  
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
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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

2242 W. North Temple · Salt Lake City, UT 84116 · (801) 524-5130 · <http://www.cbrfc.gov>