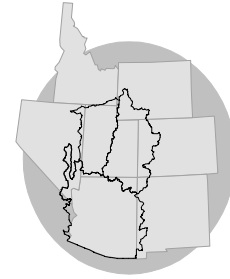


# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

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



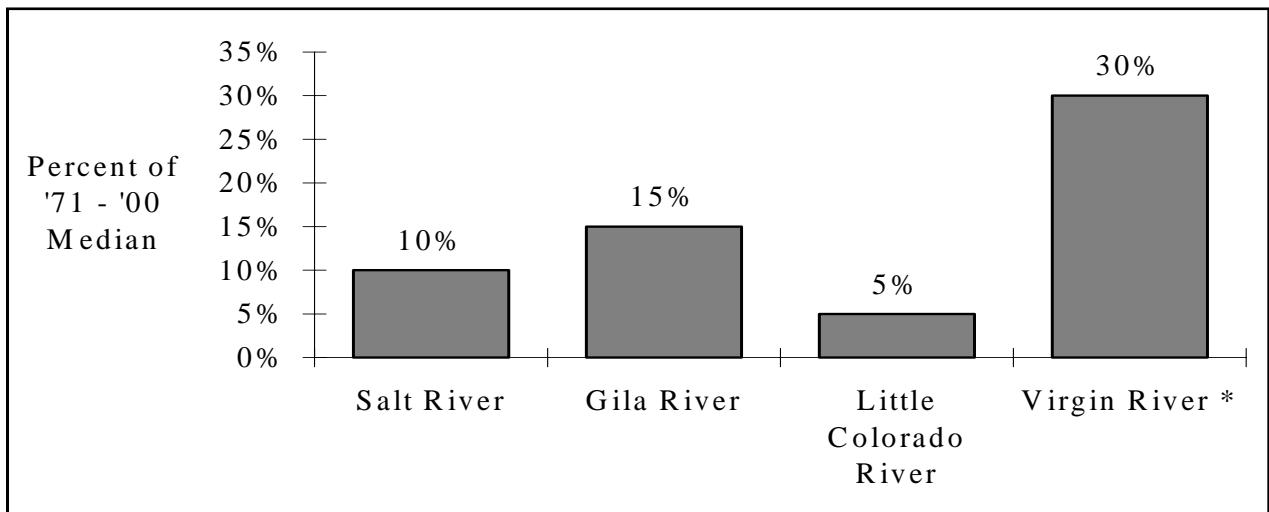
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, SALT LAKE CITY, UT

## MARCH 1, 2006

### SUMMARY

The 2006 Lower Colorado Water Supply Outlook is dry. **For Arizona there is essentially no snow pack at this time (10% or less) and essentially no rain in the forecast.** Forecasted flows range from 1% to 43% of median. The San Pedro River is at 43% due to groundwater contribution. The outlook for the Virgin River in Utah and Arizona is about the same or perhaps slightly better. Forecasted flows range from 22% to 41% of average.

### MARCH - MAY VOLUME FORECASTS



<b>INSIDE</b>	
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Gila River	3
Little Colorado River	4
Virgin River	5
Specific Site Forecasts	6
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.

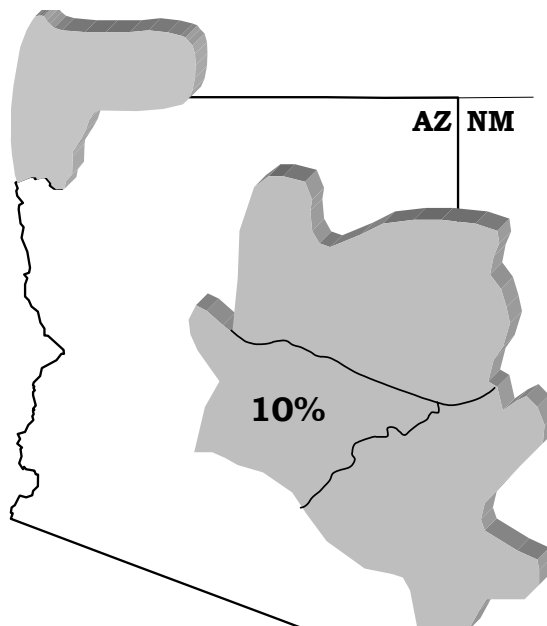
**SALT RIVER** The 2006 Water Year is dry in the Salt River drainage. There is essentially no snow pack (5% or less) and essentially no rain in the forecast. **A record low for 92 years of record is forecasted for the Salt River near Roosevelt.** Conditions in the Verde River are slightly better than the Salt due to groundwater contribution.

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

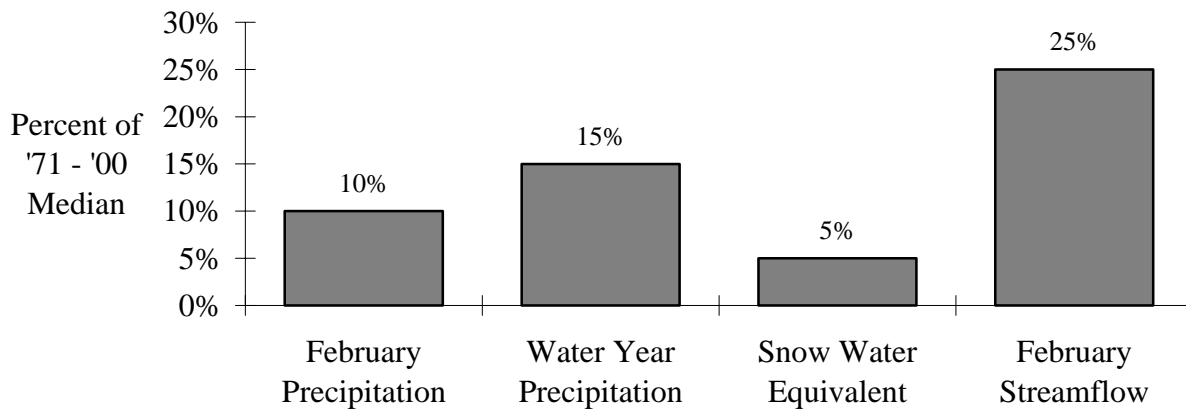
Verde River:  
Much Below Median

Tonto Creek:  
Much Below Median

Salt River:  
Much Below Median



### **BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2006**

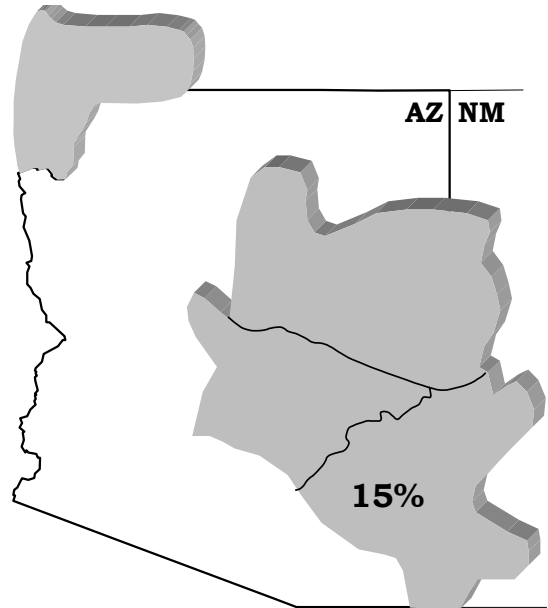


Specific site forecasts are listed on page 6.

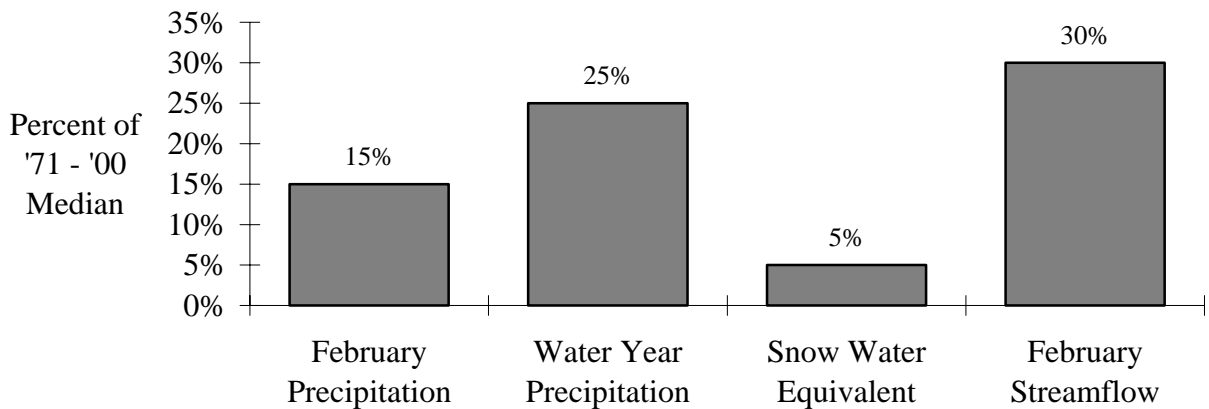
**GILA RIVER** The 2006 Water Year is dry in the Gila River drainage. There is essentially no snow pack (5%) and essentially no rain in the forecast. **A record low for 78 years of record is forecasted for the Gila River near Gila.**

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

Gila River:  
Much Below Median



**BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2006**

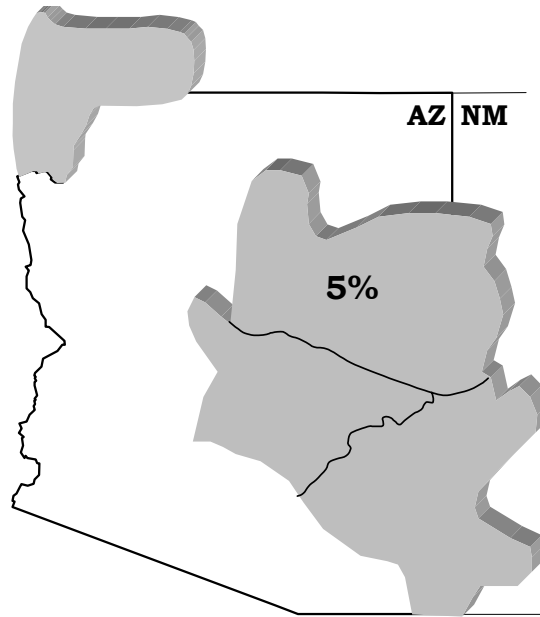


Specific site forecasts are listed on page 6.

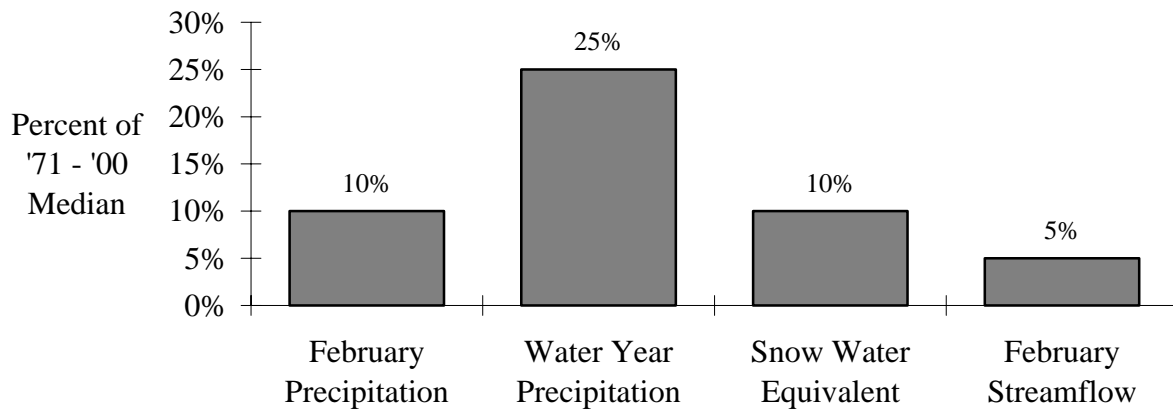
**LITTLE COLORADO RIVER** The 2006 Water Year is dry in the Little Colorado River drainage. There is essentially no snow pack (10%) and essentially no rain in the forecast. **A record low for 78 years of record is forecasted for the Little Colorado River at Woodruff.**

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

Little Colorado River:  
Much Below Median



**BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2006**

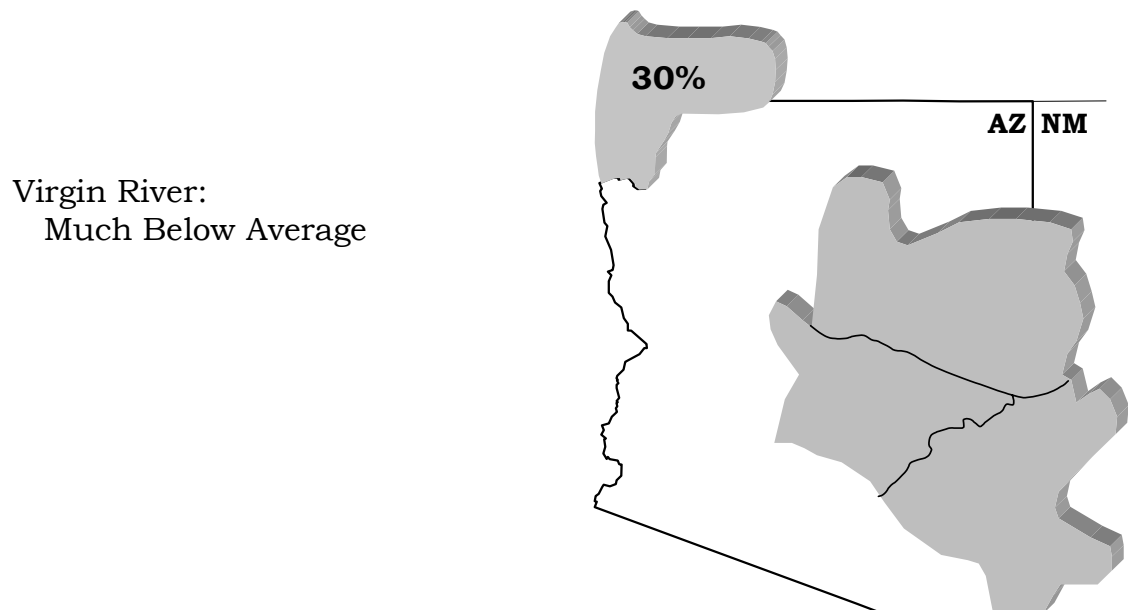


Specific site forecasts are listed on page 6.

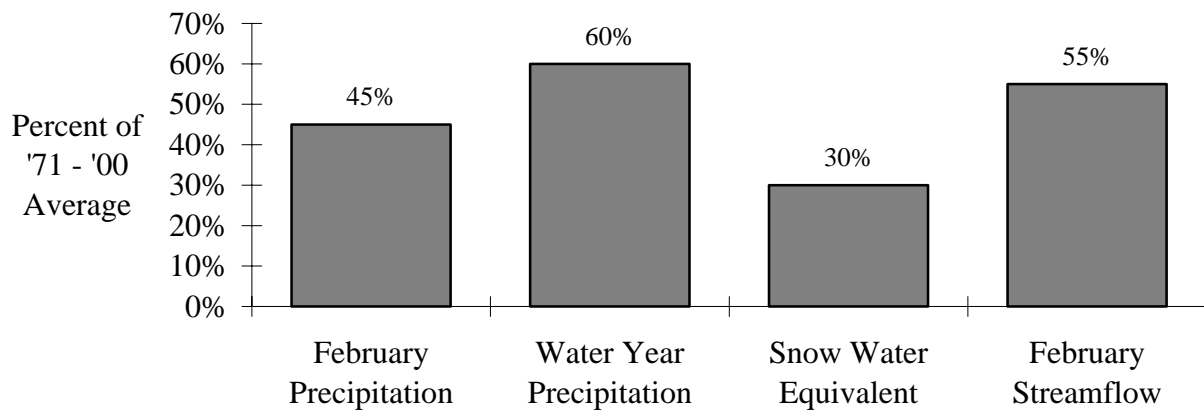
## **VIRGIN RIVER** On the Virgin River Basin snowpack level dropped to 30% of average.

Forecasted April-July stream flows are 20% to 40% of average along the main stem of the Virgin River, and 25% of average on the Santa Clara River.

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



## **BASIN CONDITIONS - MARCH 1, 2006**



Specific site forecasts are listed on page 6.

# SPECIFIC SITE FORECASTS—WATER YEAR 2006

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	0.51	8	2.5	0.19
	WOODRUFF	0.11	5	0.77	0.04
RIONUTRIA	RAMAH, NR	0.09	3	1.39	0
ZUNI	BLACK ROCK RES, ABV	0.05	6	0.24	0
CEBOLLA CK	RAMAH RES	0.09	6	0.75	0.01
EAST CLEAR CK	BLUE RIDGE RES, PINE, NR	0.8	6	3.7	0
CLEAR CK	WINSLOW, NR	0.27	1	9	0.1
CHEVELON CK	WINSLOW, NR, WILDCAT CYN, BLO	0.07	2	1.2	0
WALNUT CK	LAKE MARY	0.08	2	1.43	0
SANTA CLARA	✧ PINE VALLEY, NR	1.4	25	3.6	0.22
VIRGIN	✧ VIRGIN	26	41	51	14.1
	✧ HURRICANE, NR	24	35	50	12.4
	✧ LITTLEFIELD	16	22	48	14.1
GILA	GILA, NR	8	24	15.3	6.8
	VIRDEN, NR, BLUE CK, BLO	8.2	17	17.9	5.6
	SOLOMON, NR, HEAD OF SAFFORD V	13	12	35	8
	CALVA	4.7	7	6.6	1.7
	SAN CARLOS RES, COOLIDGE DAM,	5.6	9	19.7	1.9
SAN FRANCISCO	GLENWOOD, NR	2.6	16	6.1	2
	CLIFTON	7.2	17	16	5.5
SAN PEDRO	CHARLESTON	0.86	43	2.1	0.51
SALT	ROOSEVELT, NR	25	9	76	19
TONTOCK	ROOSEVELT, NR, GUN CK, ABV	1	4	10.7	0.6
VERDE	BLO TANGLE CK, ABV HORSEHOE DA	30	21	88	26
COLORADO	✧ LAKE POWELL, GLEN CYN DAM, AT	7200	91		

◆ = 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 2006 END OF MONTH RESERVOIR CONTENTS

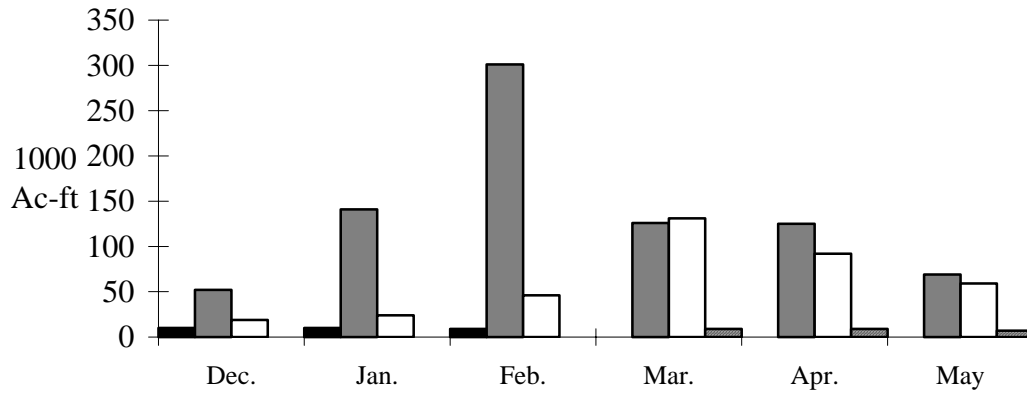
RESERVOIR (vol. in 1000 ac-ft)	Usable Capacity	EOM Usable Contents	Percent Usable Capacity (%)
Roosevelt	1653.0	1305.0	79%
Horse Mesa	245.0	221.0	90%
Mormon Flat	58.0	57.0	98%
Stewart Mountain	70.0	66.0	94%
Horseshoe	109.2	0.0	0%
Bartlett	178.0	126.0	71%
Total SRP Reservoirs	2313.2	1775.0	77%
San Carlos	867.0	174.0	20%
Waddell	1145.0	775.0	68%
Painted Rock	2476.0	0.0	0%
Alamo	1045.0	179.0	17%
Lyman	31.0	8.0	26%
Lake Powell	24322.0	10871.0	45%
Mead	27380.0	15520.0	57%
Mohave	1810.0	1626.0	90%
Havasu	619.0	547.0	88%

NA = Not Available.

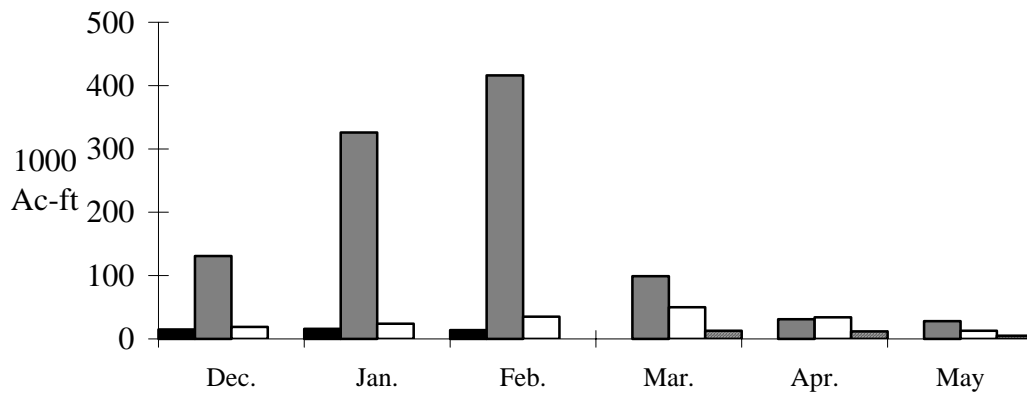
# MONTHLY STREAMFLOWS



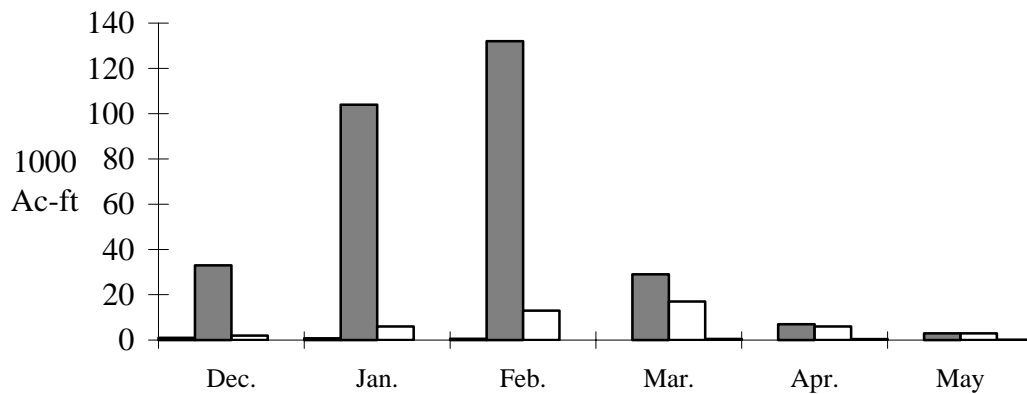
## Salt - Roosevelt:



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



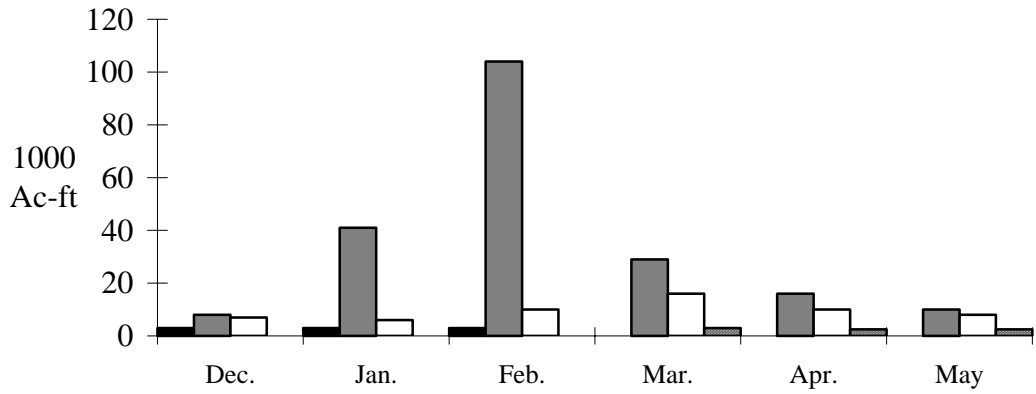
## Tonto Ck - Roosevelt, nr, Gun Ck, abv:



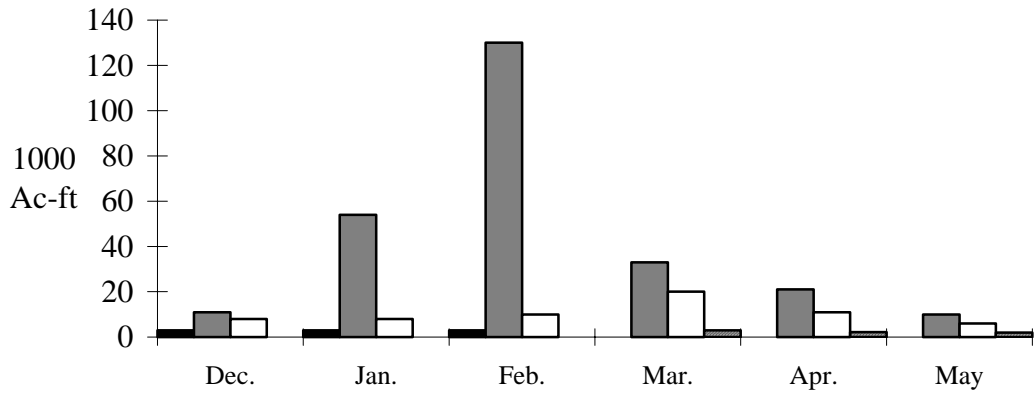




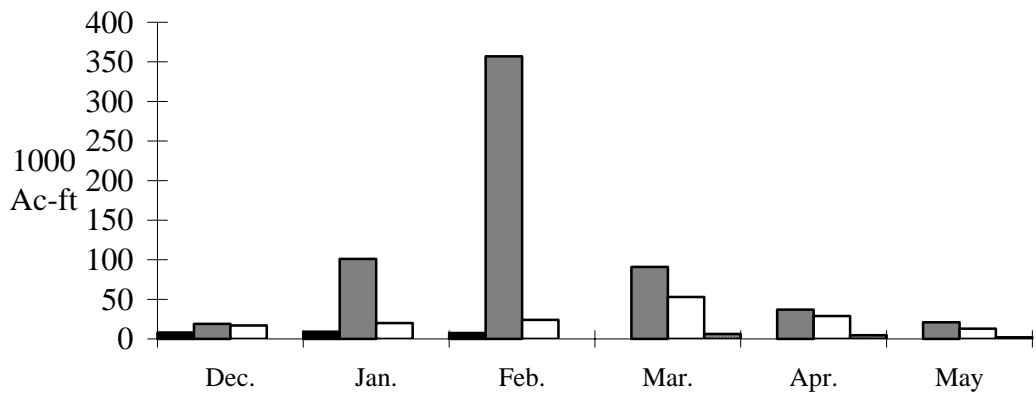
**Gila - Gila, nr:**



**San Francisco - Clifton:**



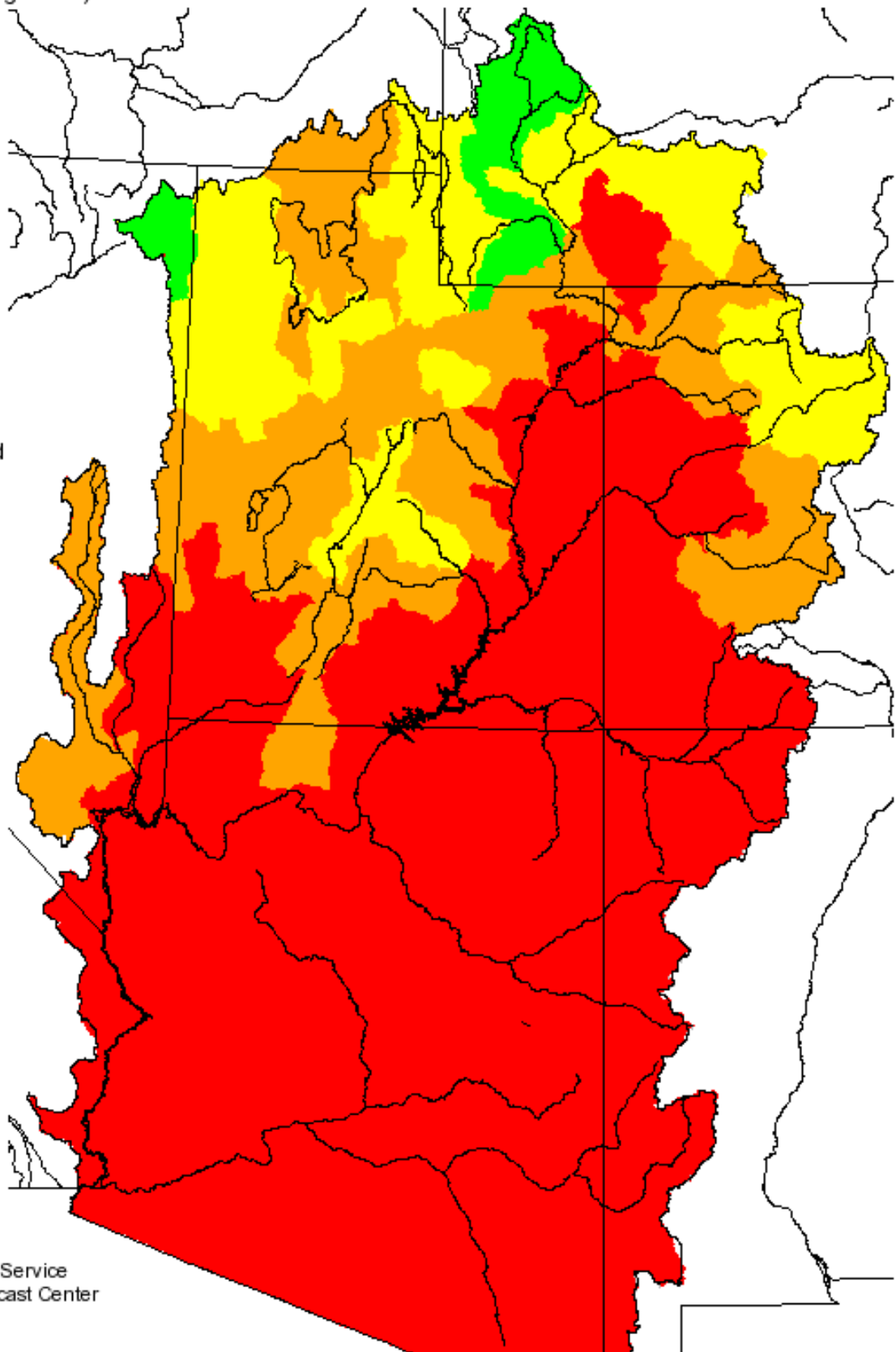
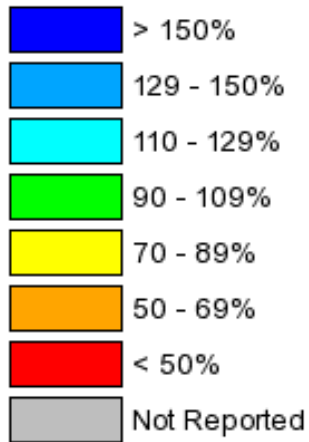
**Gila - Solomon:**



# Monthly Precipitation for February 2006

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

## % Average

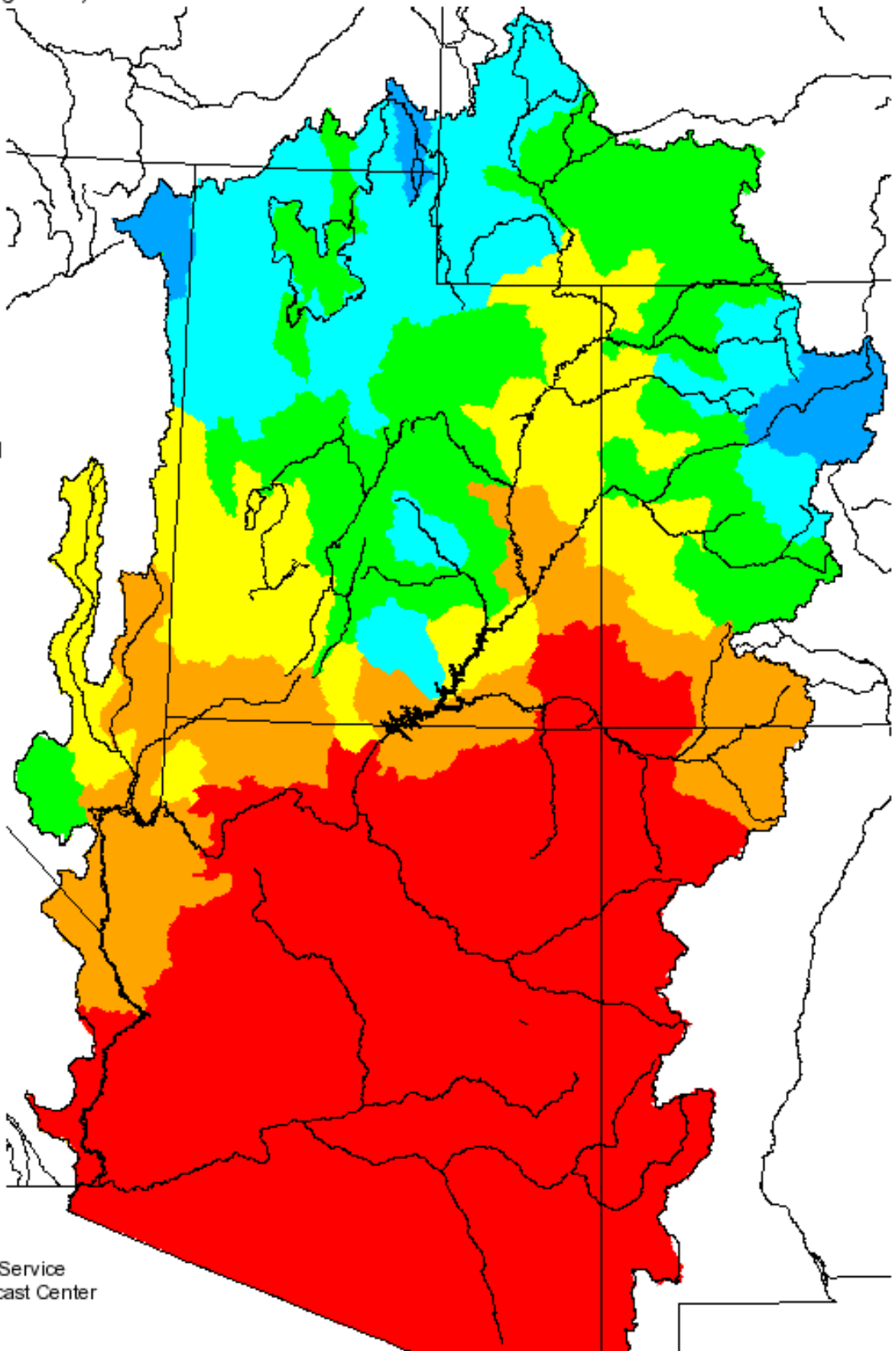
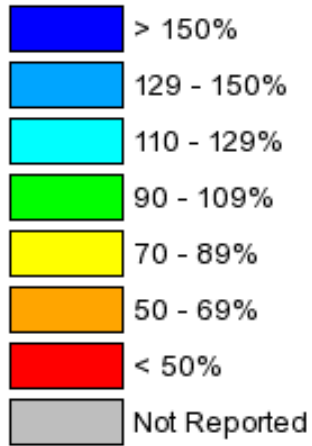


Prepared by  
NOAA, National Weather Service  
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
[www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

# Seasonal Precipitation, October 2005 - February 2006

(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)

## **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>