

SUMMARY

The 2006 Lower Colorado Water Supply Outlook is dry. For Arizona there is essentially no snow pack at this time (less than 10%) and no rain in the forecast. Forecasted flows range from 2% to 56% of median. The outlook for the Virgin River in Utah is only slightly better. Forecasted flows range from 32% to 45% of average.

FEBRUARY - **M**AY **VOLUME F**ORECASTS



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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 and no rain in the forecast.

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



BASIN CONDITIONS - FEBRUARY 1, 2006



GILA RIVER The 2006 Water Year is dry in the Gila River drainage. There is essentially no snow pack and no rain in the forecast.

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



BASIN CONDITIONS - FEBRUARY 1, 2006



LITTLE COLORADO RIVER The 2006 Water Year is dry in the Little Colorado River drainage. There is essentially no snow pack and no rain in the forecast.

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



BASIN CONDITIONS - FEBRUARY 1, 2006



VIRGIN RIVER On the Virgin River Basin snowpack level has dropped to 25% of normal. Forecasted April-July stream flows are 30% to 45% of normal along the main stem of the Virgin River, and 45% of normal on the Santa Clara River.

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



BASIN CONDITIONS - FEBRUARY 1, 2006



SPECIFIC SITE FORECASTS-WATER YEAR 2006

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

Stream		Station		Percent	Reas.	Reas.
			Probable	Med.	Max	Min
LITTLE COLORADO	•	LYMAN LK, ABV, ST. JOHNS, NR	1.2	17	4.9	0.08
		WOODRUFF	0.22	8	1	0.08
RIONUTRIA		RAMAH, NR	0.15	5	1.5	0
ZUNI		BLACK ROCK RES, ABV	0.09	7	0.95	0
CEBOLLA CK		RAMAHRES	0.13	8	1.16	0
EAST CLEAR CK		BLUE RIDGE RES, PINE, NR	1	6	6	0
CLEAR CK		WINSLOW, NR	0.8	2	6	0.2
CHEVELON CK		WINSLOW, NR, WILDCAT CYN, BLO	0.9	22	9	0.2
WALNUT CK		LAKE MARY	0.77	16	3.4	0.05
SANTA CLARA	×	PINE VALLEY, NR	2.5	45	5.6	0.51
VIRGIN	×	VIRGIN	29	45	60	14.7
	×	HURRICANE, NR	25	36	65	13.8
	X	LITTLEFIELD	24	32	75	14.1
GILA		GILA, NR	13	25	33	10.1
		VIRDEN, NR, BLUE CK, BLO	16.3	22	45	7.5
		SOLOMON, NR, HEAD OF SAFFORD V	34	24	79	16
		CALVA	13	15	39	5
		SAN CARLOS RES, COOLIDGE DAM,	13	15	76	3.4
SAN FRANCISCO		GLENWOOD, NR	5.7	24	11.9	3.1
		CLIFTON	13.7	23	35	7.1
SANPEDRO		CHARLESTON	1.62	56	3.2	0.8
SALT		ROOSEVELT, NR	50	14	178	36
TONTOCK		ROOSEVELT, NR, GUN CK, ABV	4	8	40	1.5
VERDE		BLO TANGLE CK, ABV HORSEHOE DA	55	28	186	40
COLORADO	×	LAKE POWELL, GLEN CYN DAM, AT	8300	105		

February-June forecast period.April-July forecast period. •

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Special Notes:

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

JANUARY 2006 END OF MONTH RESERVOIR CONTENTS

RESERVOIR	Usable	EOM Usable	Percent Usable
(vol. in 1000 ac-ft)	Capacity	Contents	Capacity (%)
Roosevelt	1653.0	1306.0	79%
Horse Mesa	245.0	221.0	90%
Mormon Flat	58.0	55.0	95%
Stewart Mountain	70.0	64.0	91%
Horseshoe	109.2	0.0	0%
Bartlett	178.0	151.0	85%
Total SRP Reservoirs	2313.2	1797.0	78%
San Carlos	867.0	184.0	21%
Waddell	1145.0	715.0	62%
Painted Rock	2476.0	0.0	0%
Alamo	1045.0	179.0	17%
Lyman	31.0	8.0	26%
Lake Powell	24322.0	11241.0	46%
Mead	27380.0	15335.0	56%
Mohave	1810.0	1631.0	90%
Havasu	619.0	561.0	91%

NA = Not Available.

MONTHLY STREAMFLOWS



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



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



Gila - Gila, nr:













Seasonal Precipitation, October 2005 - January 2006 (Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

% Average > 150% 129 - 150% 110 - 129% 90 - 109% 70 - 89% 50 - 69% < 50% Not Reported 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 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 MedianAbove MedianNear MedianBelow MedianMuch below MedianGreater 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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