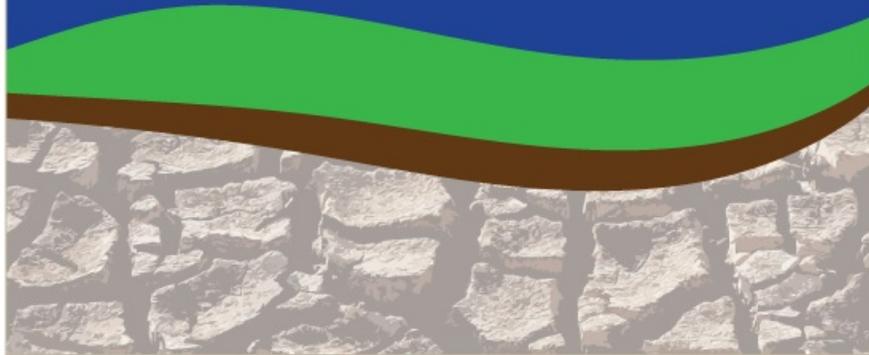


UCRB Weekly Drought and Water Assessments

NIDIS



Upper Colorado River Regional Drought Early Warning System

Weekly Climate, Water & Drought Assessment

<http://climate.colostate.edu/~drought/>

NIDIS
 Upper Colorado River

**NIDIS Upper Colorado River
 Regional Drought Early Warning System**
 March 17, 2015

COLORADO CLIMATE CENTER

Precipitation | SNOTEL | SPI | Streamflow | Surface Water | Temperature | Outlook | USDM Discussion

Colorado, Utah and Wyoming 7 Day Precipitation
 9 - 15 March 2015

Colorado, Utah and Wyoming Month to Date Precipitation
 1 - 15 March 2015

Colorado, Utah and Wyoming February 2015 Precipitation as a Percentage of Normal

Colorado, Utah and Wyoming Water Year 2015 Precipitation as a Percentage of Normal
 October 2014 - February 2015

The images above use daily precipitation statistics from NWS COOP, CoCoRaHS, and CoAgMet stations. From top to bottom, and left to right: most recent 7-days of accumulated precipitation in inches; current month-to-date accumulated precipitation in inches; last month's precipitation as a percent of average; water-year-to-date precipitation as a percent of average.

Last Week Precipitation:

- The Upper Colorado River Basin was dry the past week seeing less than 0.10" over most of the basin.
- The northern portion of the Upper Green River Basin in Sublette, Lincoln and down into Uinta counties in WY and Summit County in UT saw up to 0.25" with an area up to 0.50" in Lincoln County.
- The San Juan Mountains in southwestern CO saw an area of up to 0.50" as well.
- East of the Divide was dry as well, with all of the plains east of I-25 seeing no precipitation for the week.
- Up to 1.00" fell in parts of Jefferson, Park, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Boulder and western Larimer counties. Some of this precipitation spilled over the divide into Summit County as well.
- The San Luis Valley was dry with less than a tenth of an inch of precipitation.
- The eastern Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Costilla, Huerfano, Custer and Fremont counties saw areas between 0.10 and 0.25" with a few spots seeing up to 0.50".

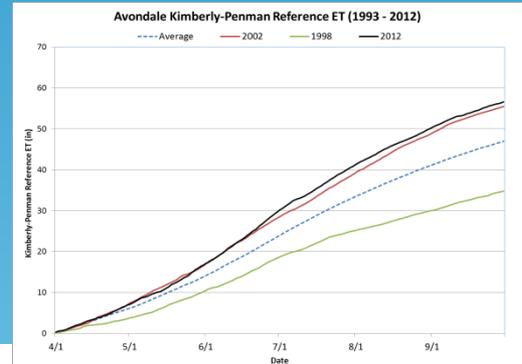
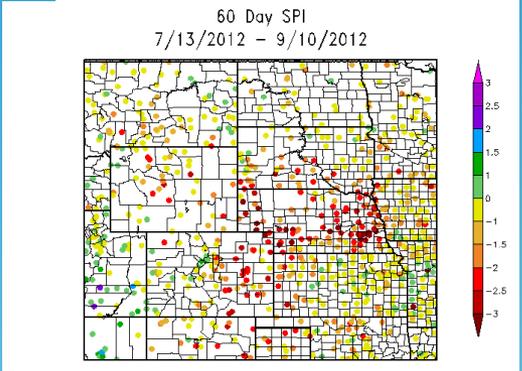
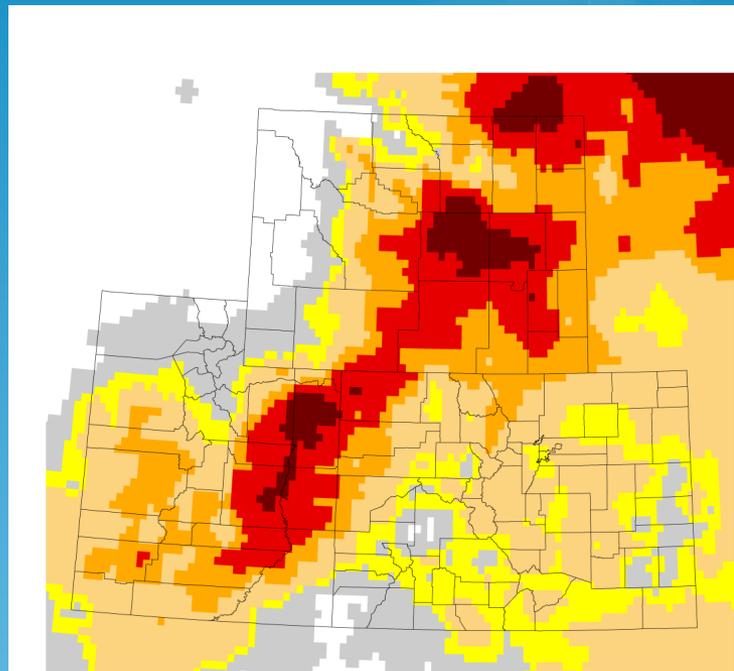
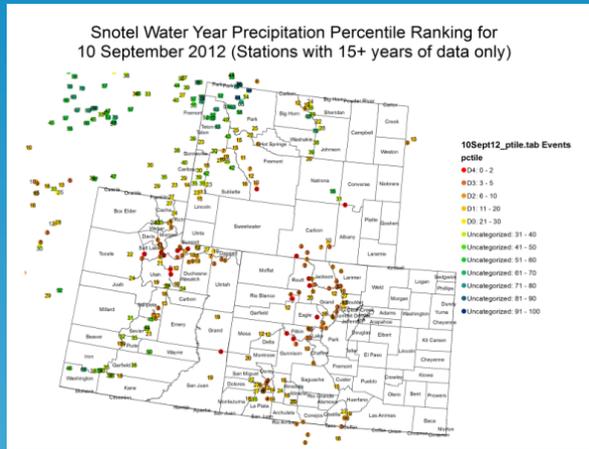
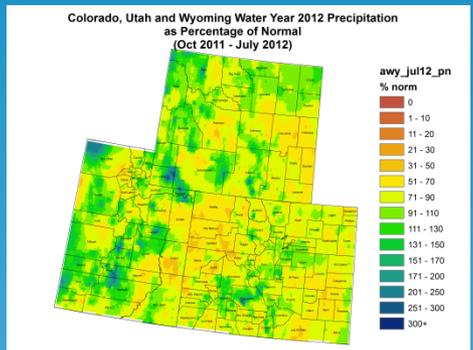
February Precipitation:

- February was variable over the UCRB with above normal precipitation over the Green river basin and Four corners and dryer than normal conditions in the Duchesne, Yampa, White, Colorado and Gunnison basins.
- The headwaters of the Upper Green river basin saw normal to above normal moisture for February.
- The driest areas were NE Utah and NW Colorado where less than 70% of normal precipitation fell, particularly over lower elevations. The high country also struggled in the northern basins.

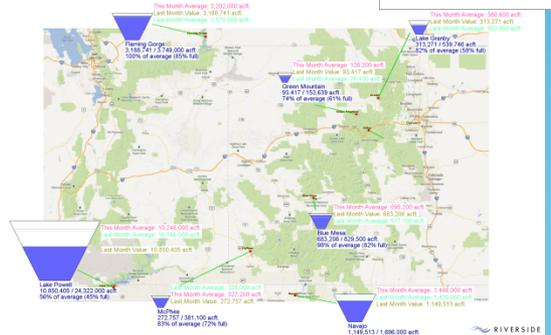
<http://climate.colostate.edu/~drought/>

50-90% of normal precipitation fell over Logan, Sedgewick and Northern Washington as well as SE Yuma

We put current conditions into historical perspective for diverse users



Generated 9/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data



Local and Regional Expertise

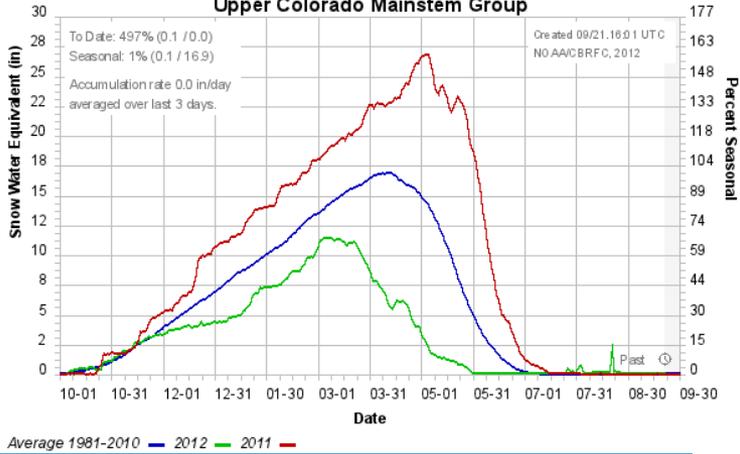
- CCC and other local agencies provide updates on current conditions.
 - USGS puts streamflow data into context.
 - NWS provides weather forecasts
- Regional experts provide less frequent, but desirable updates.
 - CBRFC provides water supply and peak flow forecasts. We refer folks to CBRFC forecast webinars.
 - Klaus Wolter provides long range climate outlooks.



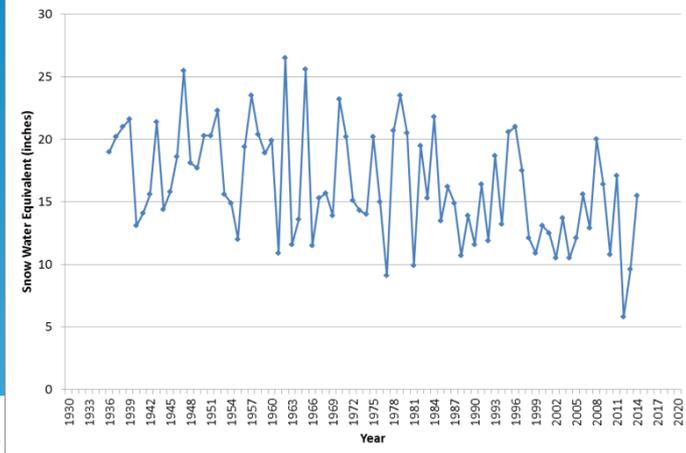
Snowpack and runoff monitoring



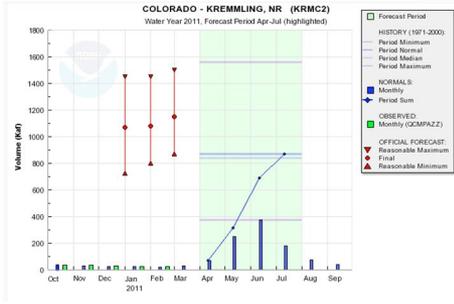
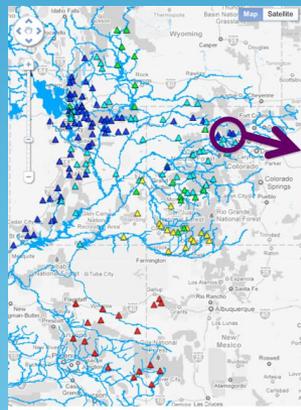
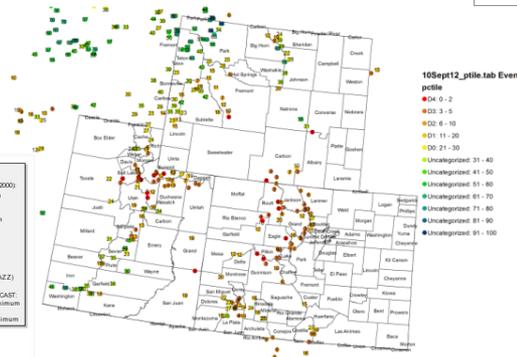
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Upper Colorado Mainstem Group



Independence Pass Snow Course April 1 Snow Water Equivalent



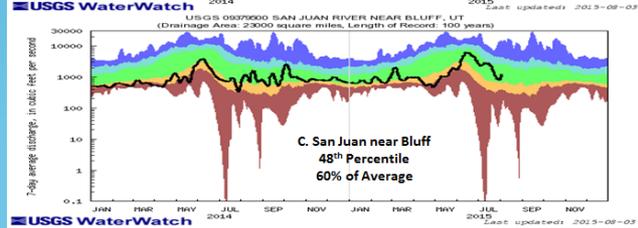
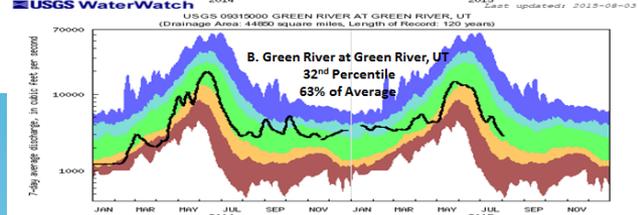
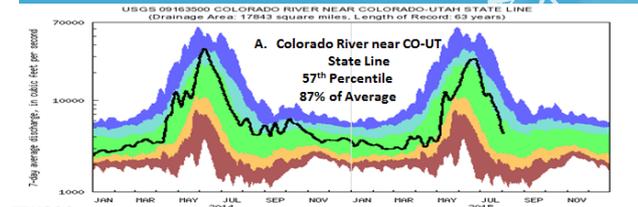
Snotel Water Year Precipitation Percentile Ranking for 10 September 2012 (Stations with 15+ years of data only)



Seasonal Water Supply Forecast © Forecast Period: Apr-Jul

1150 kaf 50% Exceedence (Official Forecast)	162.4% of Historical Median	132.2% of Historical Mean
870 kaf 90% Exceedence	1500 kaf 10% Exceedence	1st of 6 Official Historical Flows

Forecast Issued: Mar 1 2011 [View Water Supply Forecast Plot](#)



We even use on the ground reports of snowpack conditions



Copper Mountain, CO March 24, 2012
Looking NE

Copper Mountain, CO March 24, 2014
Looking NE



Weekly Drought and Water Assessment Webinars

- During critical times of year (Feb – June or times of drought), weekly webinars are held at 10AM on Tuesday.
 - At least monthly through the rest of the year
- Normally 15-20 are on the call and the USDM author is invited to attend.
 - Greater attendance with long range climate outlooks/streamflow forecasts.
- Approximately 30 minutes, covering precipitation, snopack conditions, streamflow, reservoir levels, water demand and NWS forecast.
- Ends with discussions, sometimes contentious, of the USDM and any needed changes.

Weekly Drought and Water Assessment Webinars

- Content is dynamic, it changes based on user input, current conditions and time of year
- Farm Service Agency contacts have been very useful for on the ground reports and indirectly provide evaluation of satellite/model derived products.
 - i.e. Does VegDRI depiction represent what is being observed on the ground?
- After the call, summaries are sent out to a larger email list of 400+ (and growing!).
- Suggestions and feedback are suggested and encouraged!

If you're tired of getting so few e-mails and would like one or two each week

Give me your business card today, and we can put you on our weekly update list

