

# 2012: A Look Back 2013: What's Coming?

BSTC Meeting

Oct 16, 2012

Michelle Stokes

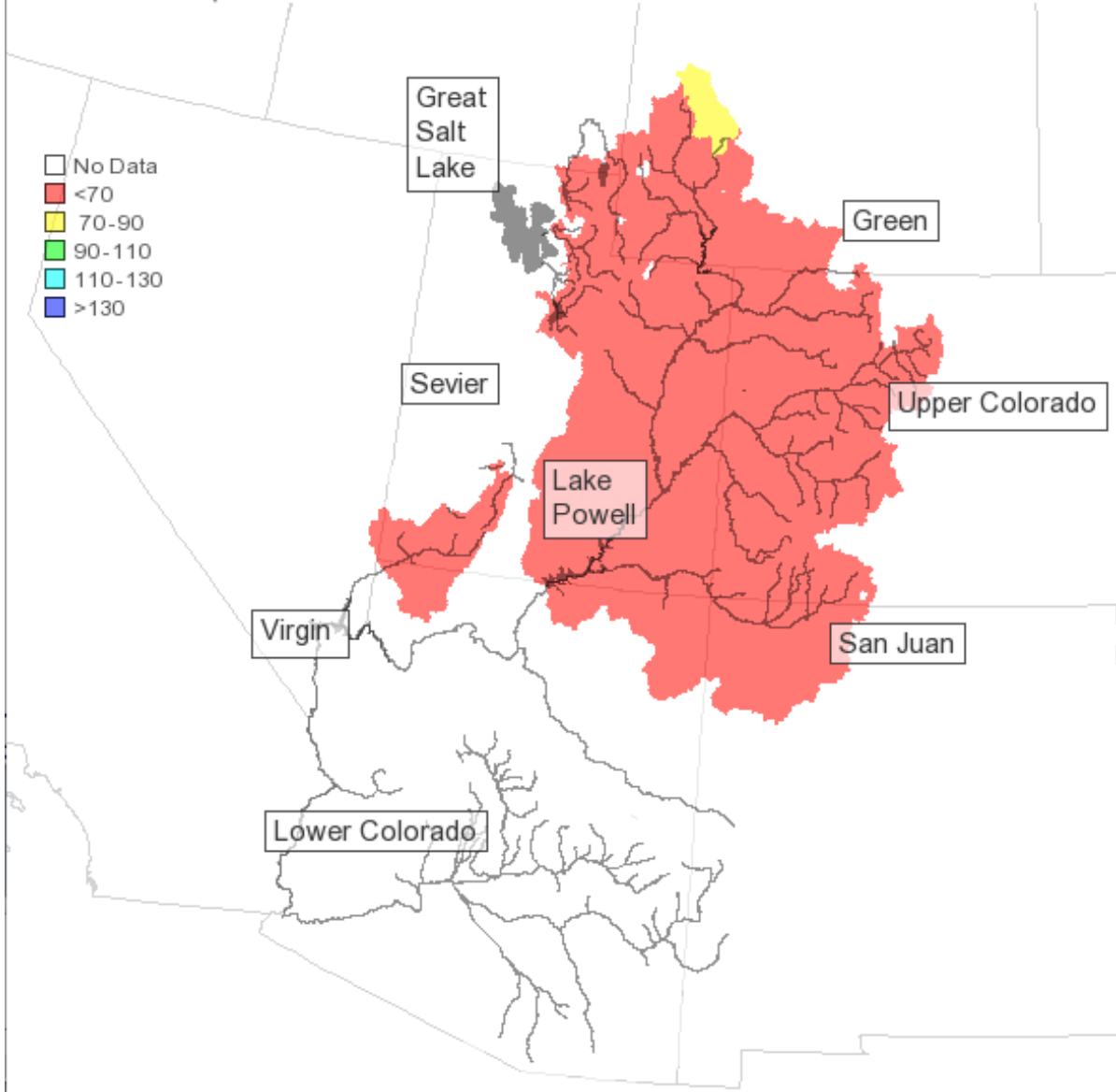
Hydrologist in Charge, CBRFC

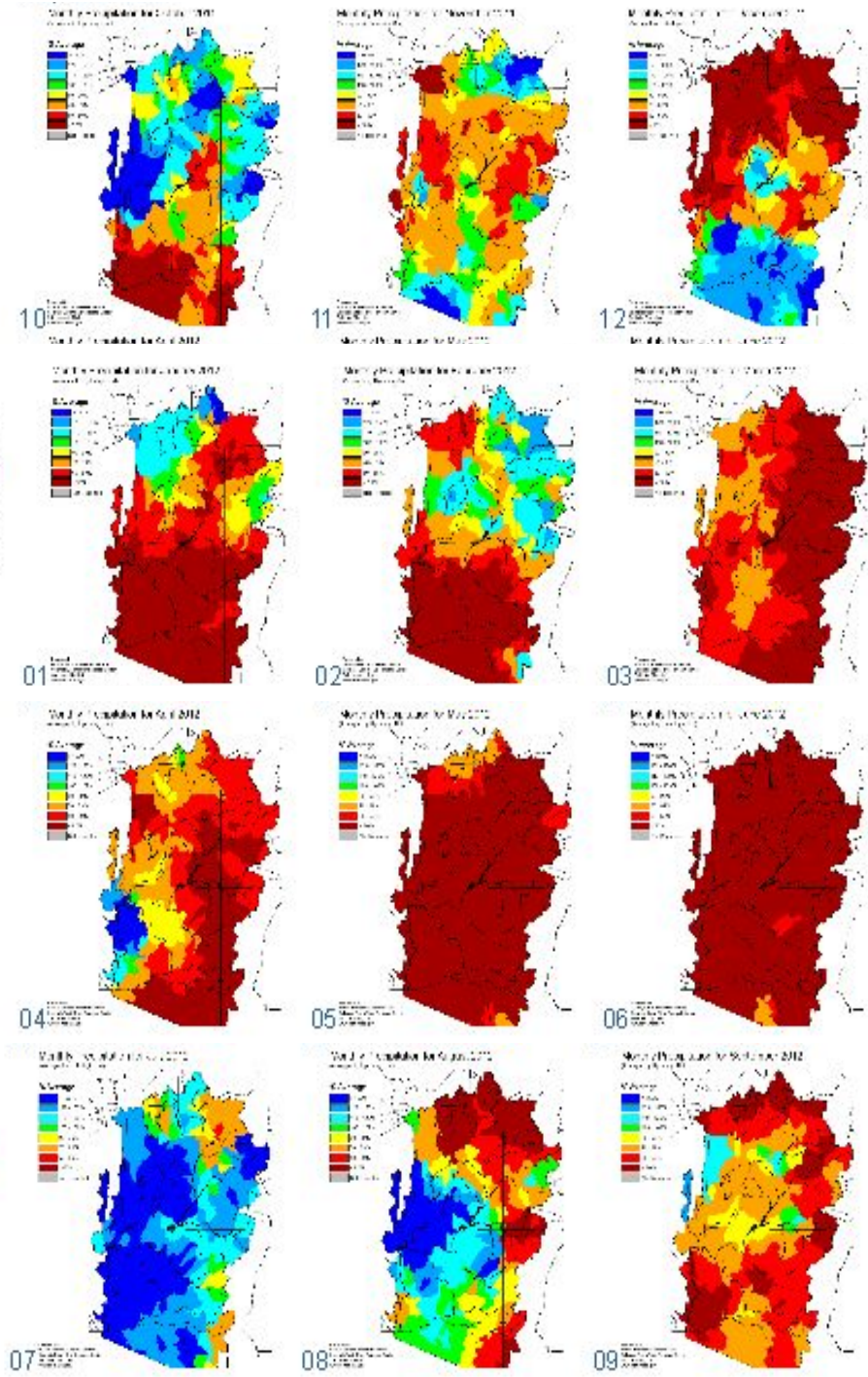
**New 1981-2010 Averages being used this year.**

Click on text box for publication. Colors indicate the values of residual forecasts.

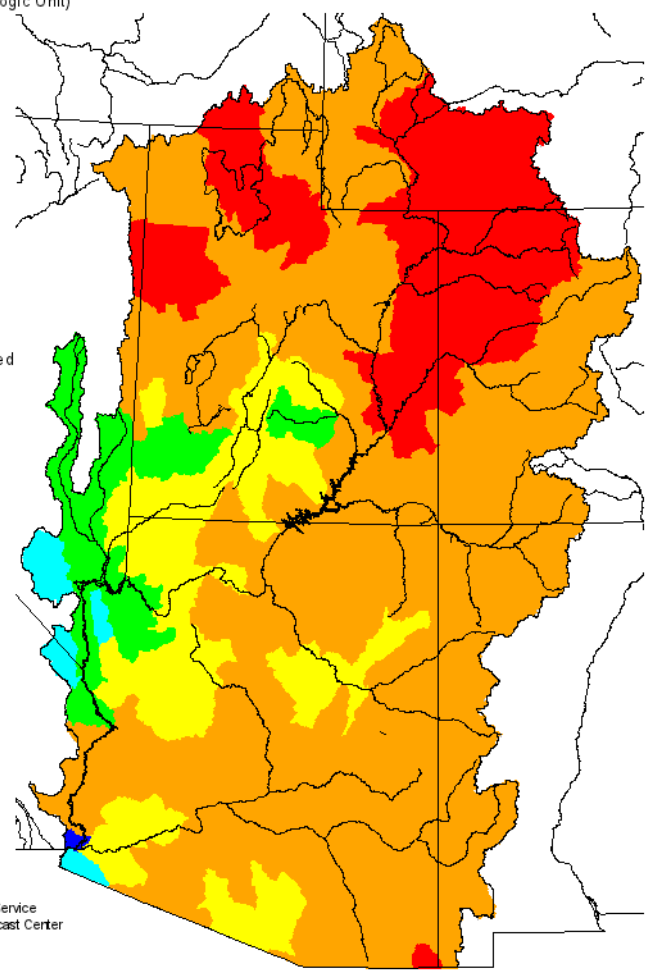
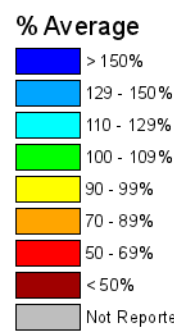
# Outline

- 2012 in review
- 2013 forecasts
- Preview of upcoming changes in forecast procedures





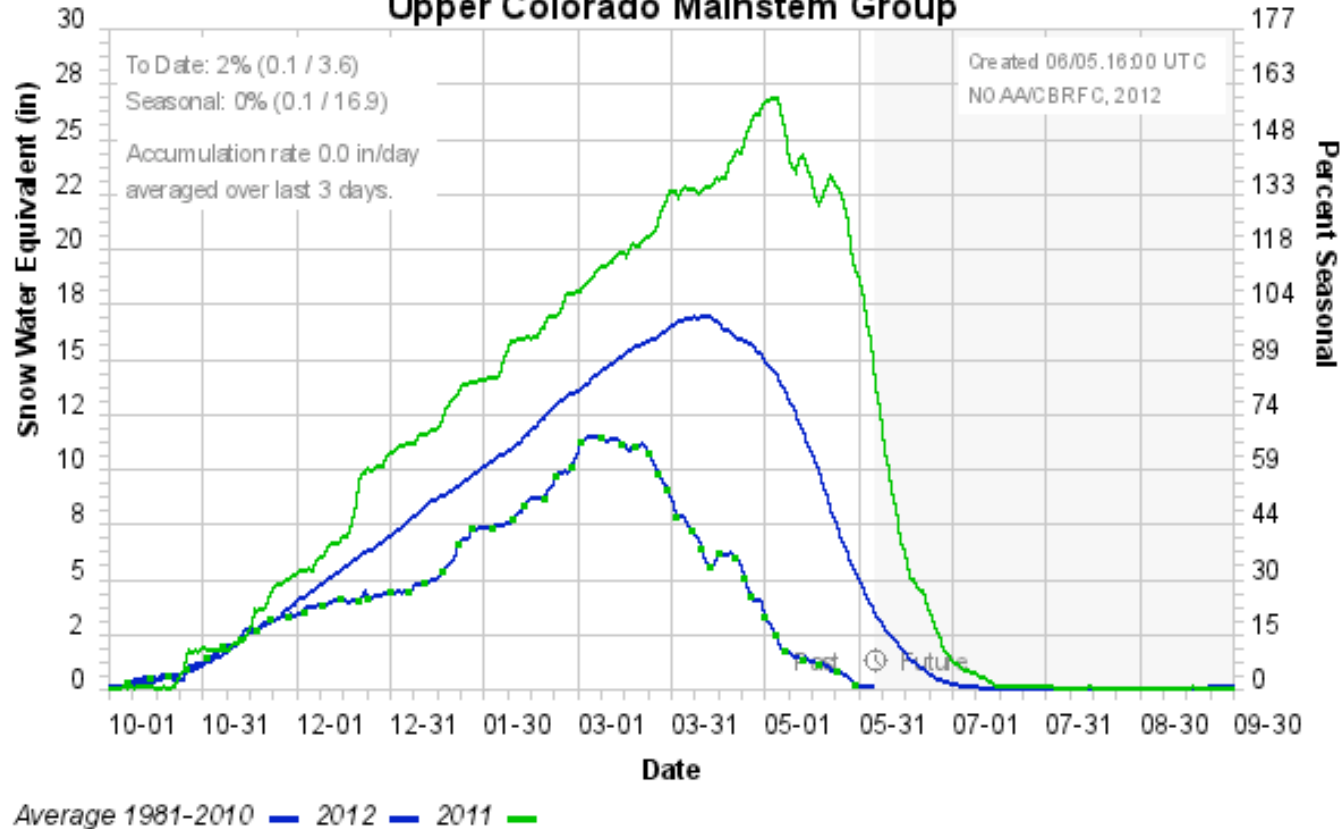
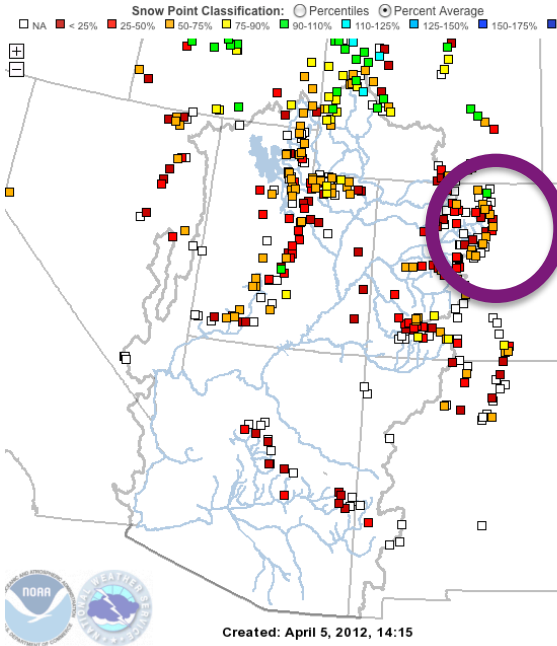
## Seasonal Precipitation, October 2011 - September 2012 (Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)



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

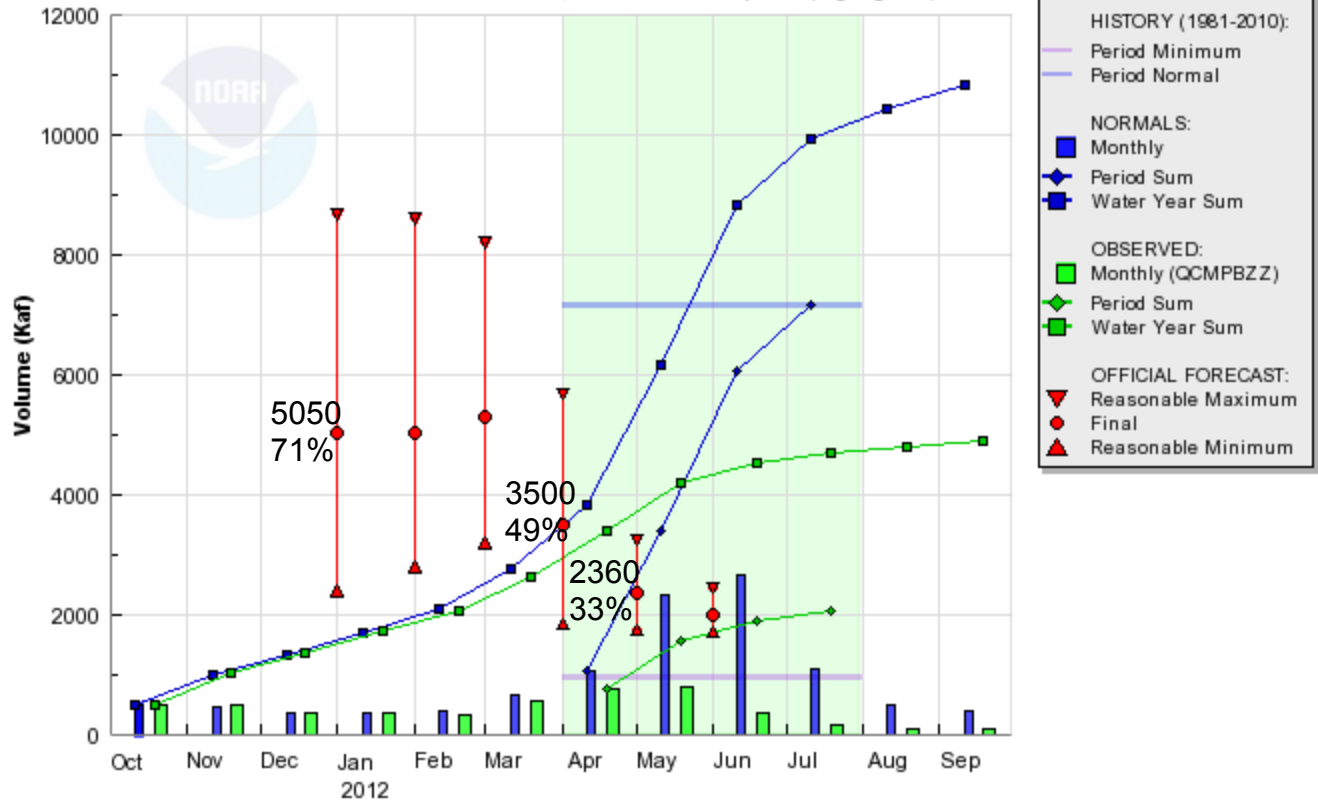
# Snow: Colorado Mainstem (above Cameo)

Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Upper Colorado Mainstem Group



# COLORADO - LAKE POWELL, GLEN CYN DAM, AT (GLDA3)

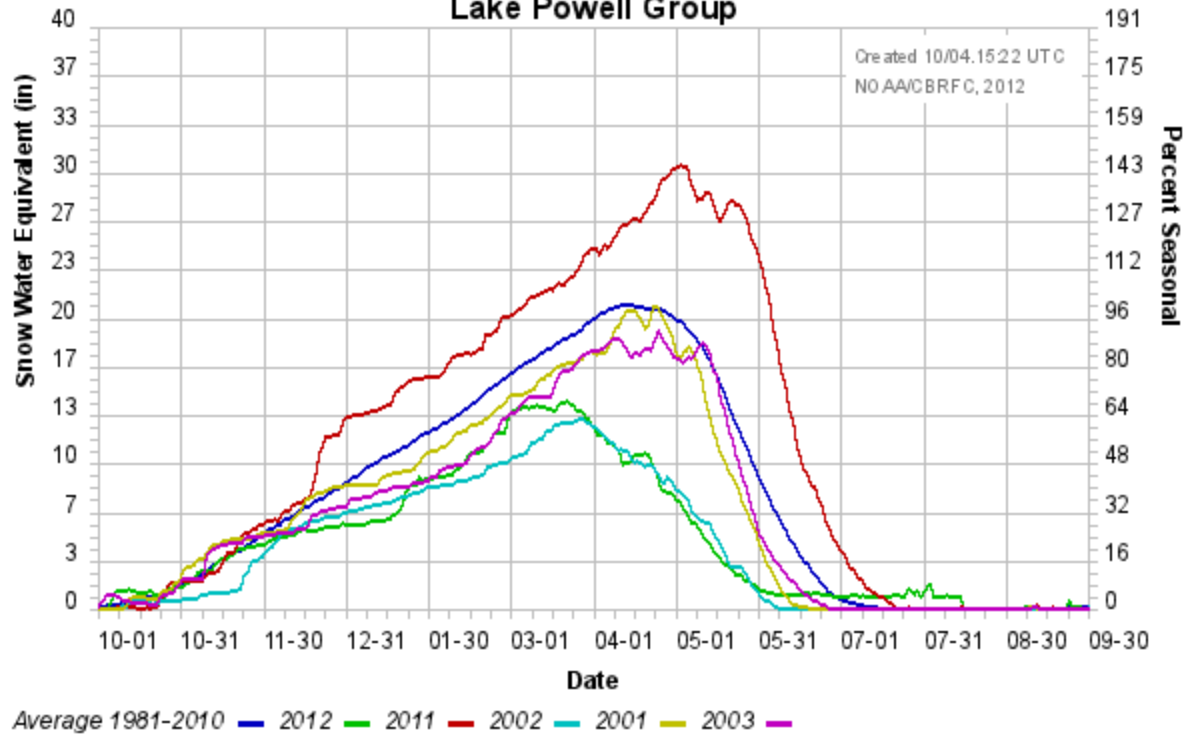
Water Year 2012, Forecast Period Apr-Jul (highlighted)



CBRFC/NWS/NOAA 10/04/12 15:32:51 UTC

Apr-Jul: 2063 kaf / 29%  
 (#3\*)  
 WY2012: 4908 kaf / 45%  
 (#3\*)  
 \* since 1963; 2002, 1977 are lowest

## Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Lake Powell Group

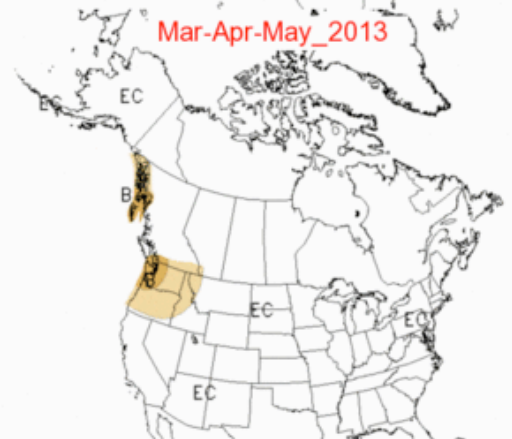
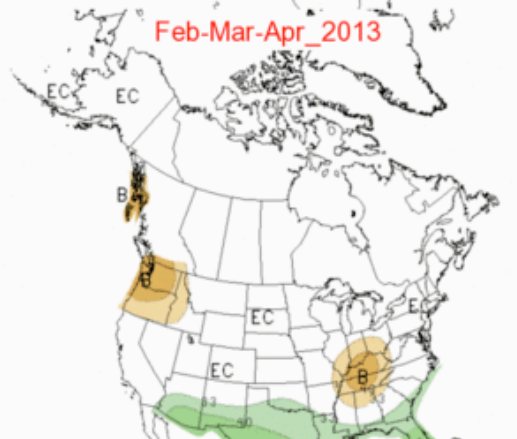
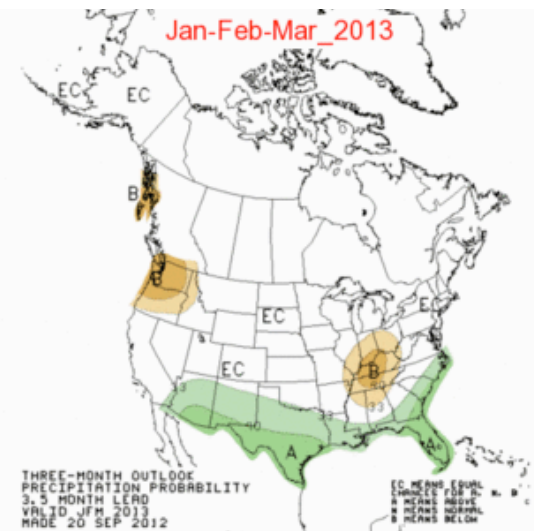
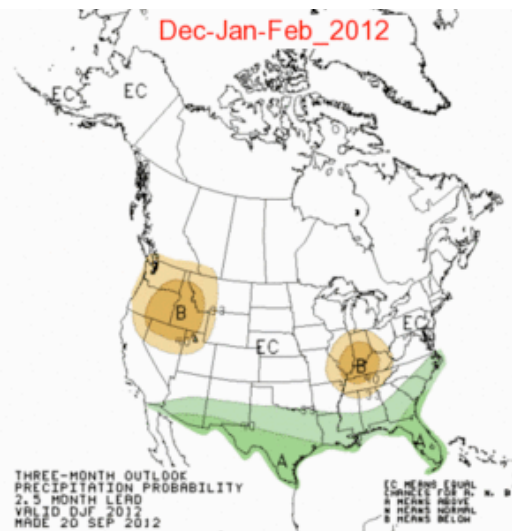
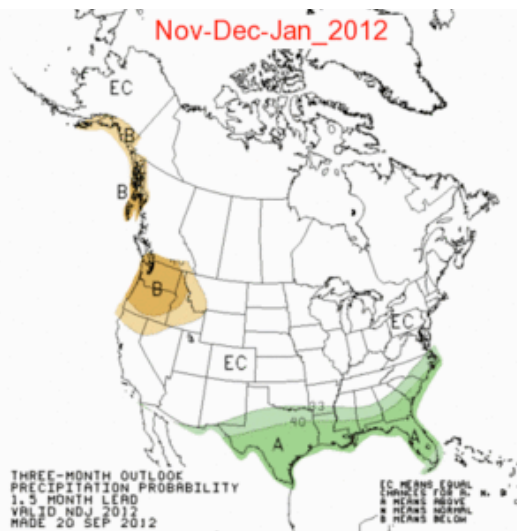


YEAR	APR-JUL VOL (kaf)	% AVG	ENSO STATE
2001	4367	61%	la nina
2002	964	13%	neutral
2003	3914	55%	el nino
...			
2011	12584	176%	la nina
2012	2063	29%	la nina

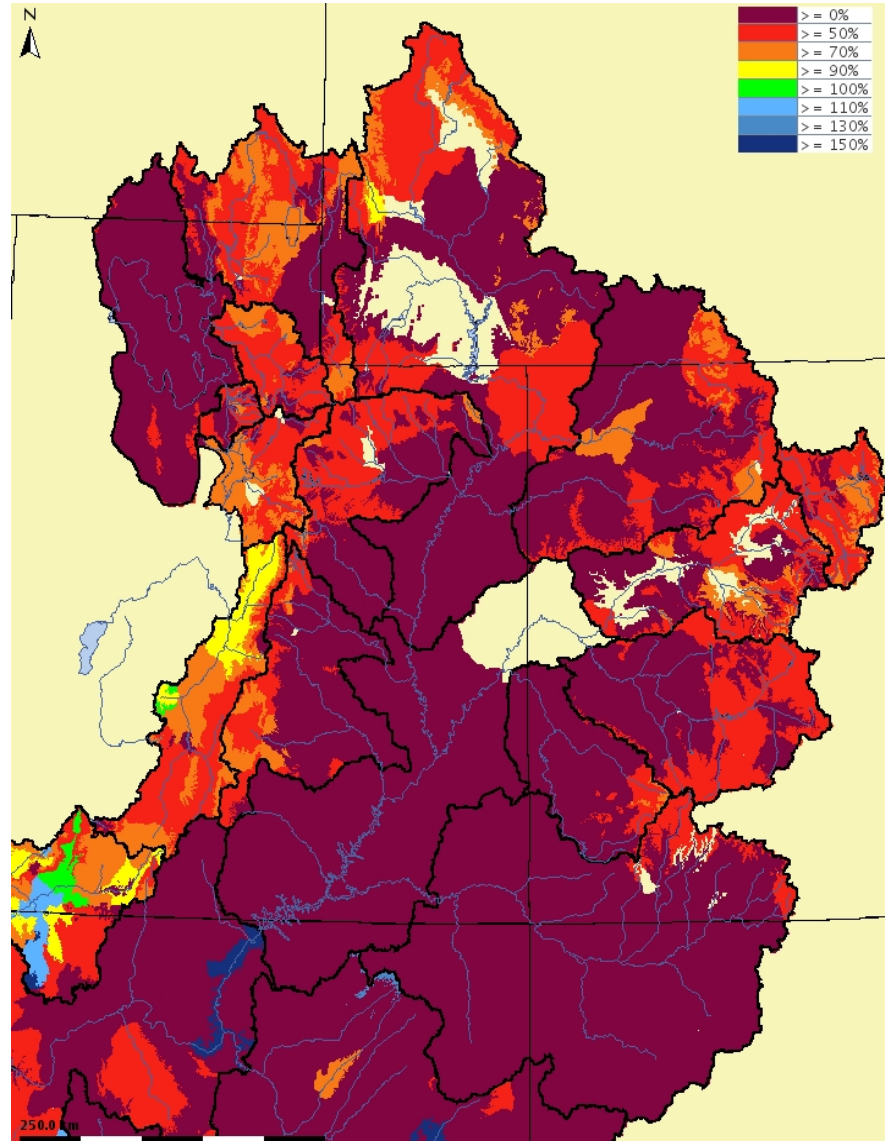


# 2013: What's Coming?

- Pre-snow season forecasts pretty uncertain compared to forecasts made in winter/spring



# Current model soil states





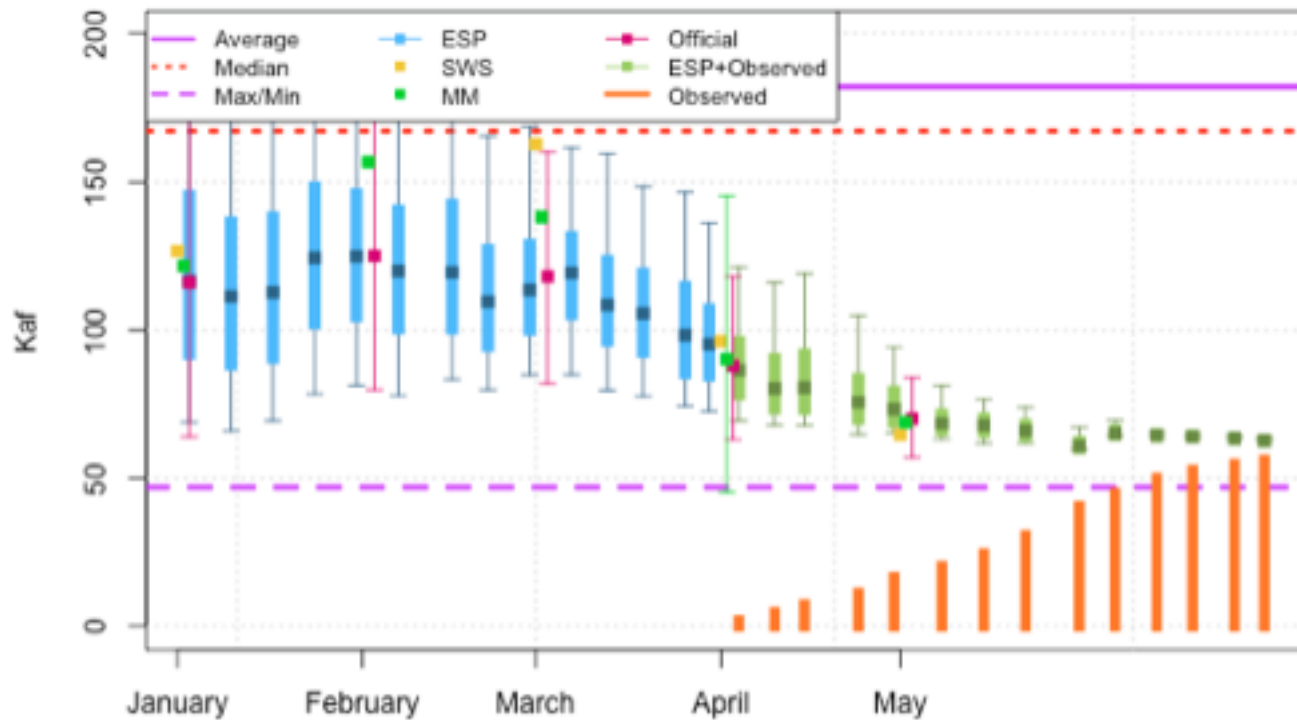
# Water Year 2013 ESP Outlook

Reservoir	Apr-Jul 2013	WY2013
Flaming Gorge	740 kaf / 75%	1070 kaf / 74%
Blue Mesa	500 kaf / 74%	693 kaf / 73%
Navajo	565 kaf / 77%	740 kaf / 69%
Lake Powell	5200 kaf / 73%	7600 kaf / 70%

# New Direction (NOAA/NWS)

- NWS RFCs are no longer coordinating forecast numbers with NRCS (informal coordination is important and will continue).
- NWS RFCs are moving toward:
  - Daily updating ESP forecasts
  - Routine integration of weather and climate forecasts
  - Full season and residual forecasts
  - Short to long lead ensemble forecasts
  - Verification and reforecasts to quantitatively assess forecast skill
  - Backward compatibility for key forecast products (e.g. emailed products)

### ALEC2 - East - Almont - 0 Days - wakeby



Max 342.4 1957 - Min 46.9 1977 - Created 2012-10-11 09:09:51 - CBRFC / NWS / NOAA  
 Exceedance Forecasts: Points are Most Probable (50%), Boxes are 30-70%, and Whiskers are 10-90%

Feedback, Questions, Concerns always welcome....



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