Today’s Presentation

• Who is the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center?

• Weather Review (Fall + Winter)

• Current Conditions Impacting Forecasts
  • Soil Moisture (modeled)
  • Snow

• Forecasts
  • April-July Water Supply Volumes
  • Peak Flows

• Weather Outlooks
Who is the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center?

Mission: To understand and predict changes in the Earth’s environment...to meet our Nation’s economic, social and environmental needs.

The NWS has 13 river forecast centers defined by major river basins across the country that produce timely and accurate water forecasts to support the NWS/NOAA missions.
CBRFC: Who are we?

• One of 13 NWS River Forecast Centers

• Major Programs Include
  • Flood and routine river forecasts
  • Water Supply Forecasts
  • Flash Flood Support

• 14 person staff includes meteorologists, hydrologists, and IT

• Forecasts drive a broad range of important stakeholder decisions
Weather Review: Winter Precipitation

Above Flaming Gorge: 115%
Yampa River: 125%

Above Flaming Gorge: 93%
Yampa River: 125%

Above Flaming Gorge: 65%
Yampa River: 55%
Weather Review: Water Year and March Precipitation

Water Year Precipitation, October 2015 - February 2016 (Averaged by Basin)

Month to Date Precipitation - March 23 2016 (Averaged by Basin)
Soil Moisture
November 15, 2015

Soil Moisture representation from the CBRFC hydrologic model
Snow (CBRFC Hydrologic Model)

March 22th 2016
Significant Runoff Areas

% Median SWE
- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%
Snow (Upper Green SNOTELS)

3/23: 98% Normal
91% Peak
Snow (Yampa River SNOTELs)

3/23: 100% Normal
92% Peak
March 1st Water Supply Forecasts

Upper Green and Yampa River Basins
April-July Forecast Streamflow Volumes (% of 1981-2010 average)

March 1st Forecasts:
- Flaming Gorge: 67%
- Yampa: 83%
- Green River: 73%
- White: 93%

March 23 Forecasts:
- Flaming Gorge: 62%
- Yampa: 80%
- White: 91%

Legend:
- Below 25%
- 25% - 35%
- 35% - 45%
- 45% - 55%
- 55% - 65%
- 65% - 75%
- 75% - 85%
- 85% - 95%
- 95% - 105%
- 105% - 115%
- 115% - 125%
- 125% - 135%
- 135% - 145%
- 145% - 155%
- 155% - 165%
- 165% - 175%
- Above 175%
- NA
Forecast: Flaming Gorge Inflow

Seasonal Forecast Progression

Green - Flaming Gorge Res- Flaming Gorge Dam- At (GRNU1)
2016-03-15Apr-Jul Official 50% Forecast: 625 kaf (64% of average)
ESP is Unregulated and No Precipitation Forecast Included

The latest (2016-03-21) 50% ESP forecast is 604 kaf.
Forecast: Yampa River-Deerlodge

Seasonal Forecast Progression

Yampa - Deerlodge Park (YDLC2)
2016-03-01 Apr-Jul Official 50% Forecast: 1030 kaf (83% of average)
ESP is Unregulated and No Precipitation Forecast Included

The latest (2016-03-20) 50% ESP forecast is 994 kaf.
Plot Created 2016-03-21 13:13:52, NOAA / NWS / GBRFC
Forecasts in the forecast target period include observed values.
Peak Flow Forecast: Yampa River-Deerlodge

Forecast: 10000 CFS
Average: 13500 CFS
Flood: 20700 CFS
Last Year: 10100 CFS

These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Peak Flow Forecast: Green River - Green River, Utah

Forecast: 21000 CFS
Average: 21700 CFS
Flood: 36400 CFS
Last Year: 15900 CFS
Weather Outlook: Short-Term

Temperature

6-10 DAY OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
MADE 22 MAR 2016
VALID MAR 28 - APR 01, 2016

Precipitation

6-10 DAY OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
MADE 22 MAR 2016
VALID MAR 28 - APR 01, 2016
Weather Outlook: April

Temperature

Precipitation

ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY 0.5 MONTH LEAD VALID APR 2016 MADE 17 MAR 2016

ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY 0.5 MONTH LEAD VALID APR 2016 MADE 17 MAR 2016
Contact Us!

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Questions?