

Peak Flow Forecast Briefing

March 13, 2018

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Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
National Weather Service
NOAA

Conference Phone #: 877-929-0660

Passcode #: 1706374

* Please mute your phone until you have a question-Thank You *



Today's Presentation

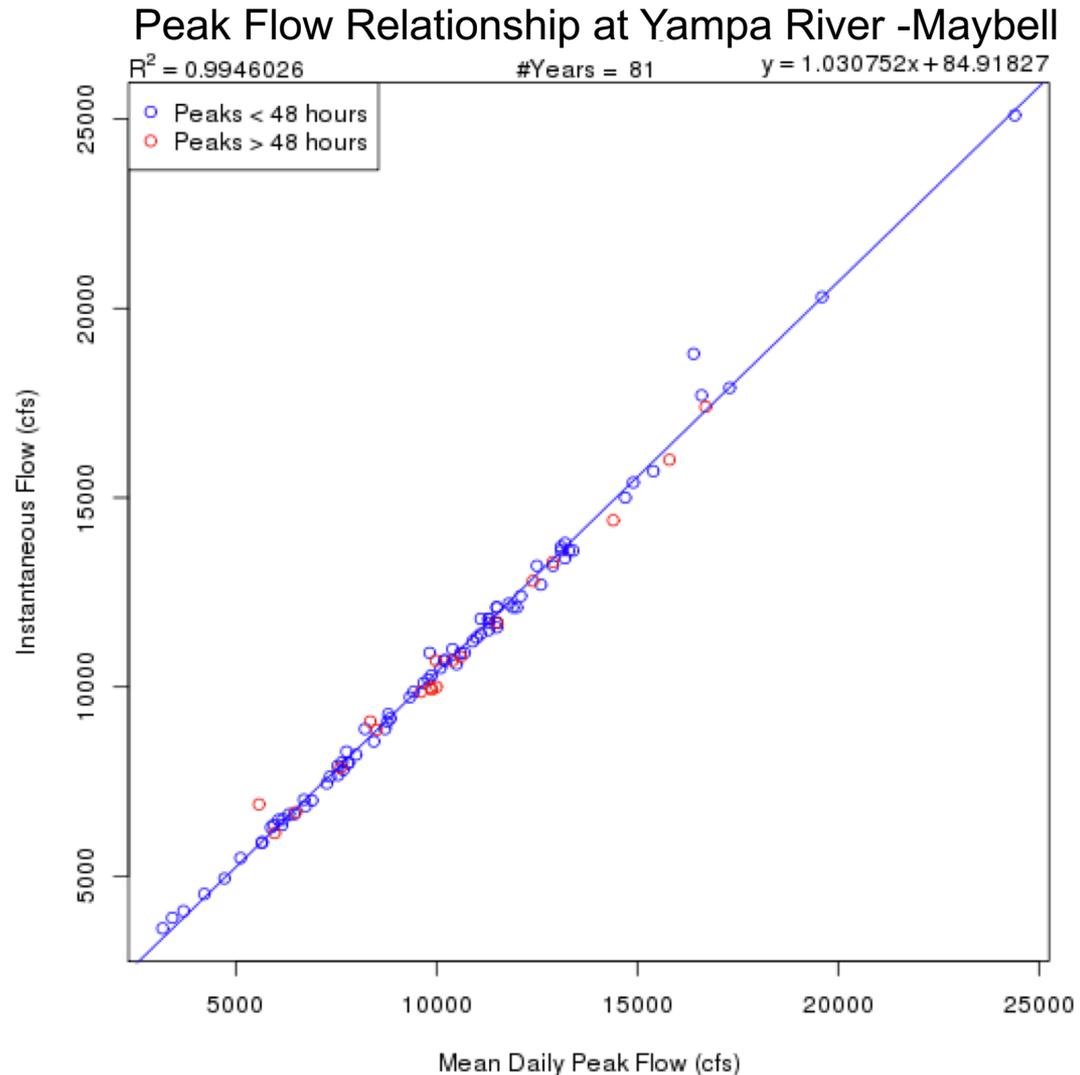
- Peak Flow Forecasts Described
 - Mean Daily Peaks
 - Instantaneous Peaks
- Peak Flow Map, Lists, & Graphics
- Current conditions driving the peak flow forecasts
- Specific peak flow forecast graphics
- Summary of flood concerns
- Spring Weather Impacts
- Upcoming Weather

What is a Peak Flow Forecast?

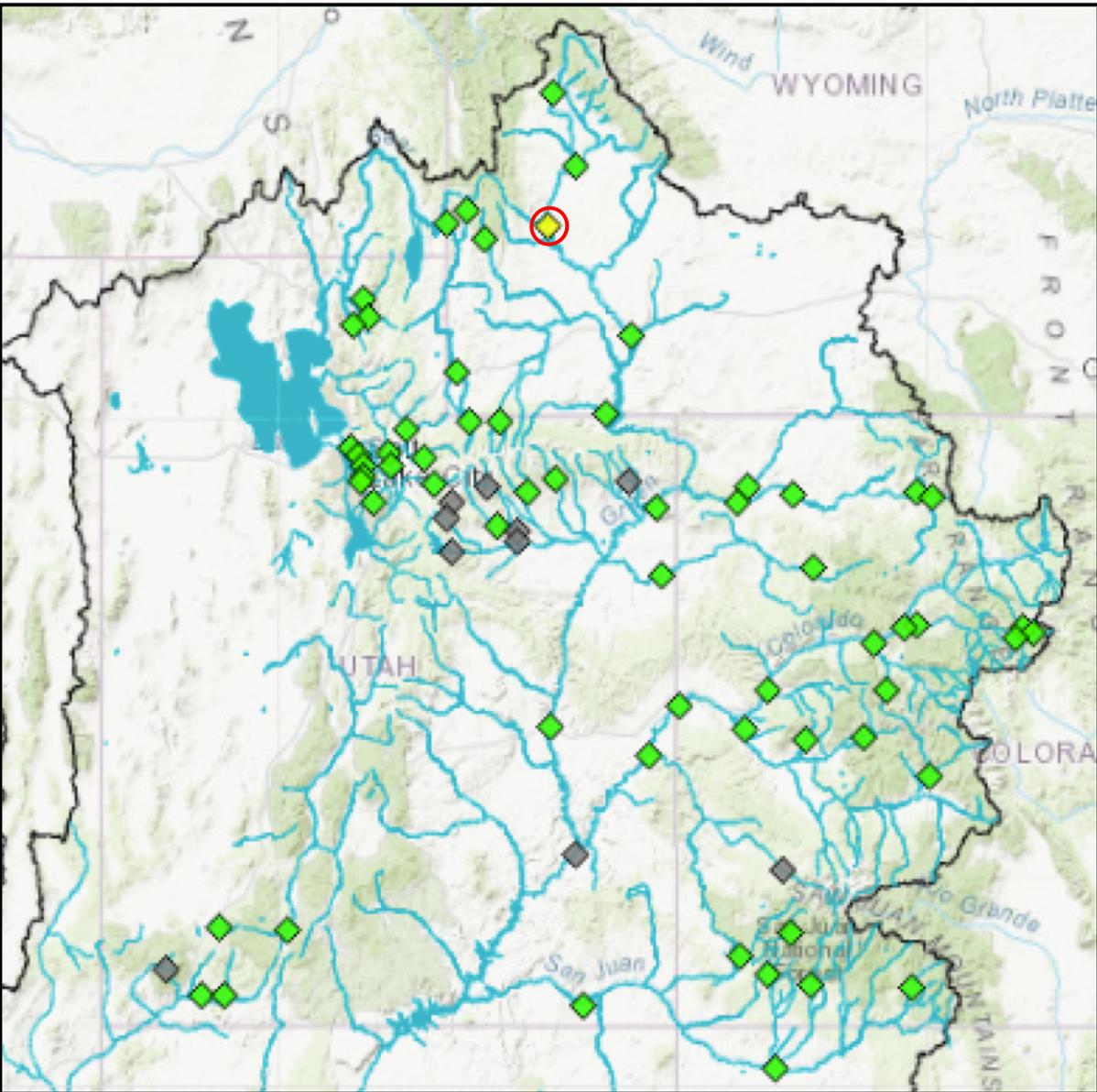
- Maximum Mean Daily Flow due to snowmelt
 - April-July period
- Probabilistic Forecasts
 - Exceedance Probabilities = 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%
- Regulated Flow (Downstream Points)
 - Accounts for reservoirs/diversions
 - Scheduled operations (if known), or assumptions based on past ops.
- Long range outlooks of peak magnitude for several locations
- Do not provide a specific date of the peak forecast
 - Typically only have a 5-10 day lead time for timing the peak
 - Prior to that we provide the average time period of the peak

Instantaneous Peak Flow Forecasts

- Relationship between max daily flow and instantaneous peak
- Only available for locations with good correlations & historical data
- Sites with frequent heavy rain have poor relationships



Peak Flow Map – A quick look at flood potential



Peak Flood Probability

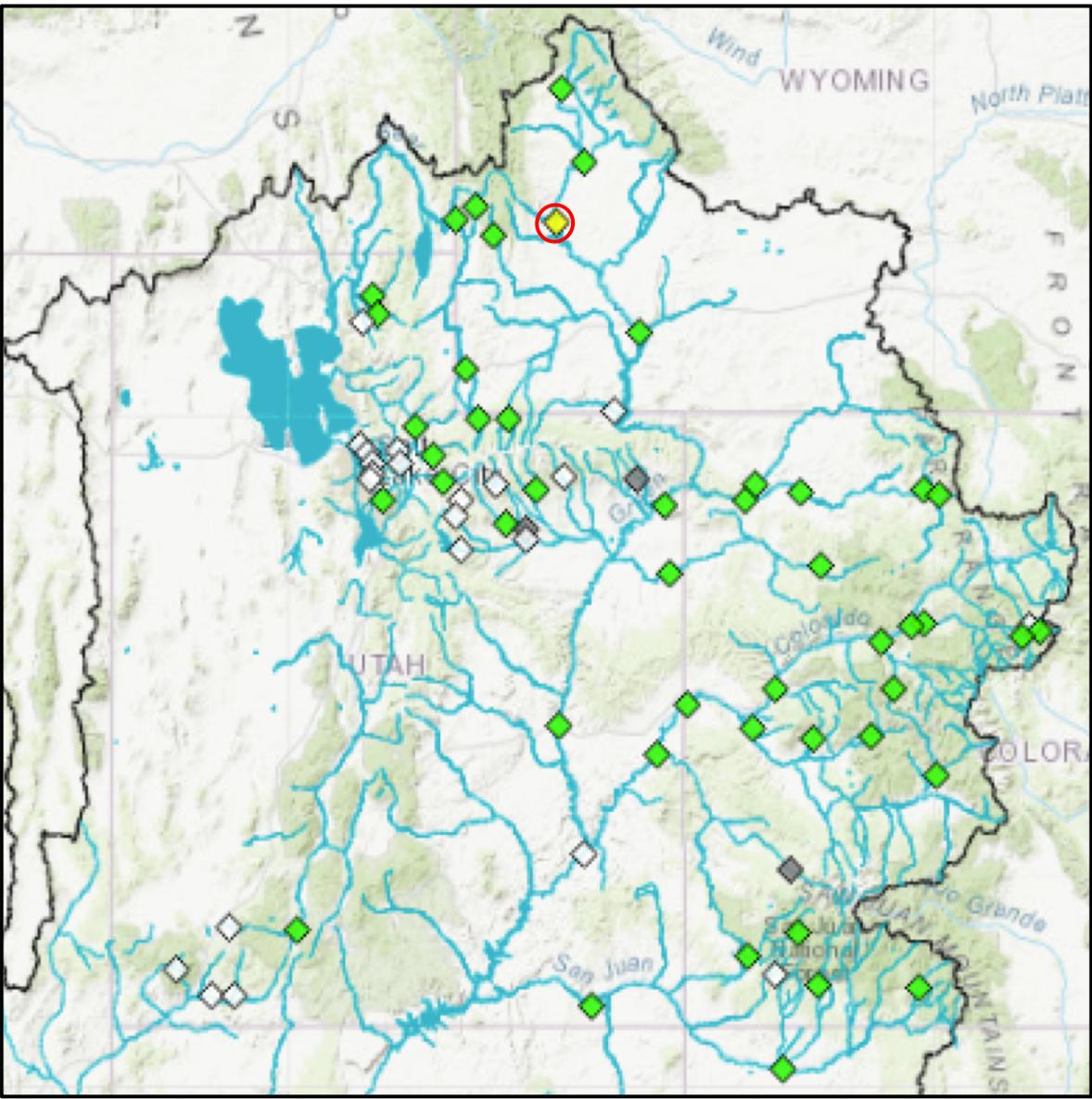
Forecast Date: 2018-03-01

Show [Hide Other Types](#)

Mean Daily
 Instantaneous

◇ No Forecast
◆ No FLOOD Stage
◇ <10%
◇ >10-25%
◇ >25-50%
◇ >50%

Peak Flow Map – Instantaneous Peaks



Peak Flood Probability

Forecast Date: 2018-03-01

Show [Hide Other Types](#)

Mean Daily
 Instantaneous

◇ No Forecast
◆ No Flood Stage
◆ <10%
◆ >10-25%
◆ >25-50%
◆ >50%

Peak Flow List

Peak Flow Forecast List [Help](#) | [Download Data](#) | [Requery](#) | [Rebuild Plots](#)

Peak Flood Probability Legend

◇ No Forecast ◇ No Flood Stage ◆ <10 ◆ >10 ◆ >25 ◆ >50

Options (on/off): [Mean Daily Forecasts](#) [Instantaneous Forecasts](#) [Plot](#)

Select by Area: [CBRFC](#) [Green](#) [Colorado](#) [San Juan](#) [Great](#) [Sevier](#) [Virgin](#) [Low Col](#)

Columns (on/off): [ID](#) [River](#) [Location](#) [Flood Flow](#) [PI](#) [Issue Date](#) [Observed Peak to Date](#) [Observed Date](#) [Historic Peak](#) [Hist Peak Date](#) [Average Peak](#) [Normal Earliest Date](#) [Normal Latest Date](#) [Last Year Peak](#) [Last Year Date](#) [Notes](#) [Area](#) [Sub Area](#) [DS](#)

Click column heading to sort by that data. Click ID to view point info.

ID	River	Location	Flood Flow	PI	Issue Date	Mean Daily 90	Mean Daily 75	Mean Daily 50	Mean Daily 25	Mean Daily 10	Inst 90	Inst 75	Inst 50	Inst 25	Inst 10	Historic Peak	Average Peak	Normal Earliest Date	Normal Latest Date	Last Year Peak	Last Year Date
1 WBRW4	Green	Daniel	6100	◆	2018-03-01	2500	2700	3200	3500	4000	2600	2800	3300	3600	4100	5620	2695	05-27	06-28	5310	2017-06-20
2 BPNW4	New Fork	Big Piney	8850	◆	2018-03-01	3000	3500	4500	5000	5500	3100	3600	4600	5200	5700	9110	4730	05-26	06-23	9010	2017-06-20
3 LABW4	Green	La Barge	10900	◆	2018-03-01	6500	7000	9000	10000	11500	6700	7200	9200	10000	12000	18800	8000	05-26	06-21	15900	2017-06-12
4 GRRW4	Green	Green River	11000	◆	2018-03-01	5000	6000	8000	9500	10000	5100	6100	8100	9700	10000	15400	5790	05-05	07-08	10500	2017-06-26
5 HMFW4	Hams Fork	Frontier	1790	◆	2018-03-01	250	350	400	550	700	260	370	430	590	750	2000	710	05-09	06-06	1240	2017-05-14
6 BNRU1	Blacks Fork	Robertson	2580	◆	2018-03-01	500	700	800	1000	1300	620	860	980	1200	1600	2860	1380	05-23	06-17	1380	2017-06-06
7 HFMW4	Henrys Fork	Manila	2960	◆	2018-03-01	150	200	250	450	650	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3780	750	05-10	06-26	627	2017-06-07
8 STMC2	Yampa	Steamboat Springs	5930	◆	2018-03-01	1300	1700	2100	2700	3600	1600	2000	2400	3000	3900	5870	3070	05-19	06-10	2640	2017-06-08
9 ENMC2	Elk	Milner	6220	◆	2018-03-01	1500	2000	2500	3000	4500	1700	2300	2800	3400	5100	7000	3865	05-17	06-03	3960	2017-06-12
10 MBLC2	Yampa	Maybell	21200	◆	2018-03-01	4000	5000	6500	8000	10500	4200	5200	6800	8300	11000	24400	10300	05-12	06-05	7930	2017-05-16
11 LILC2	Little Snake	Lily	14700	◆	2018-03-01	1300	2000	2500	3000	4500	1500	2300	2800	3400	5100	13400	4320	05-03	06-04	2870	2017-05-16
12 YDLC2	Yampa	Deerlodge Park	20600	◆	2018-03-01	5500	7000	8500	10500	13500	5900	7400	8900	11000	14000	32300	13470	05-11	06-04	10700	2017-05-16
13 WRMC2	White	Meeker	8570	◆	2018-03-01	1100	1300	1600	1900	2500	1200	1400	1700	2100	2700	6320	3040	05-17	06-09	2300	2017-06-12

Peak Flow List

Peak Flow Forecast List [Help](#) | [Download Data](#) | [Requery](#) | [Rebuild Plots](#)

Peak Flood Probability Legend
 ◆ No Forecast ◆ No Flood Stage ◆ <10 ◆ >10 ◆ >25 ◆ >50

Options (on/off): Mean Daily Forecasts Instantaneous Forecasts Plot

Select by Area: CBRFC Green Colorado San Juan Great Sevier Virgin Low Col

Columns (on/off): ID River Location Flood Flow PI Issue Date Observed Peak to Date Observed Date Historic Peak Hist Peak Date Average Peak Normal Earliest Date Normal Latest Date Last Year Peak Last Year Date Notes Area Sub Area DS

Click column heading to sort by that data. Click ID to view point info.

ID	River	Location	Flood Flow	PI	Issue Date	Mean Daily 90	Mean Daily 75	Mean Daily 50	Mean Daily 25	Mean Daily 10	Inst 90	Inst 75	Inst 50	Inst 25	Inst 10	Historic Peak	Average Peak	Normal Earliest Date	Normal Latest Date	Last Year Peak	Last Year Date
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2 TADU1	Duchesne	Tabiona	200	◆	2018-03-01	120	150	200	250	350	210	240	290	350	460	2810	925	05-14	06-12	1450	2017-06-09
3 YLLU1	Yellowstone	Altonah	200	◆	2018-03-01	300	350	500	650	800	340	410	610	810	1000	1980	950	05-22	06-16	1070	2017-06-07
4 NEUU1	Uinta			◆	2018-03-01	250	400	550	750	950	540	690	900	1100	1300	3000	1245	05-15	06-11	1030	2017-06-07
5 JESU1	Green	Jensen	24100	◆	2018-03-01	9500	11000	12500	16000							16990	1245	05-11	06-07	17900	2017-06-10
6 GRVU1	Green	Green River	36400	◆	2018-03-01	10000	11500	13000	17000							21700	21700	05-16	06-11	21800	2017-06-11
7 WBRW4	Green	Daniel	6100	◆	2018-03-01	2500	2700	3200	3500	4000	2600	2800	3300	3600	4100	5620	2695	05-27	06-28	5310	2017-06-20
8 BPNW4	New Fork	Big Piney	8850	◆	2018-03-01	3000	3500	4500	5000	5500	3100	3600	4600	5200	5700	9110	4730	05-26	06-23	9010	2017-06-20
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14 ENMC2	Elk	Milner	6220	◆	2018-03-01	1500	2000	2500	3000	4500	1700	2300	2800	3400	5100	7000	3865	05-17	06-03	3960	2017-06-12

flood level

10% or greater mean daily forecast exceeds flood level

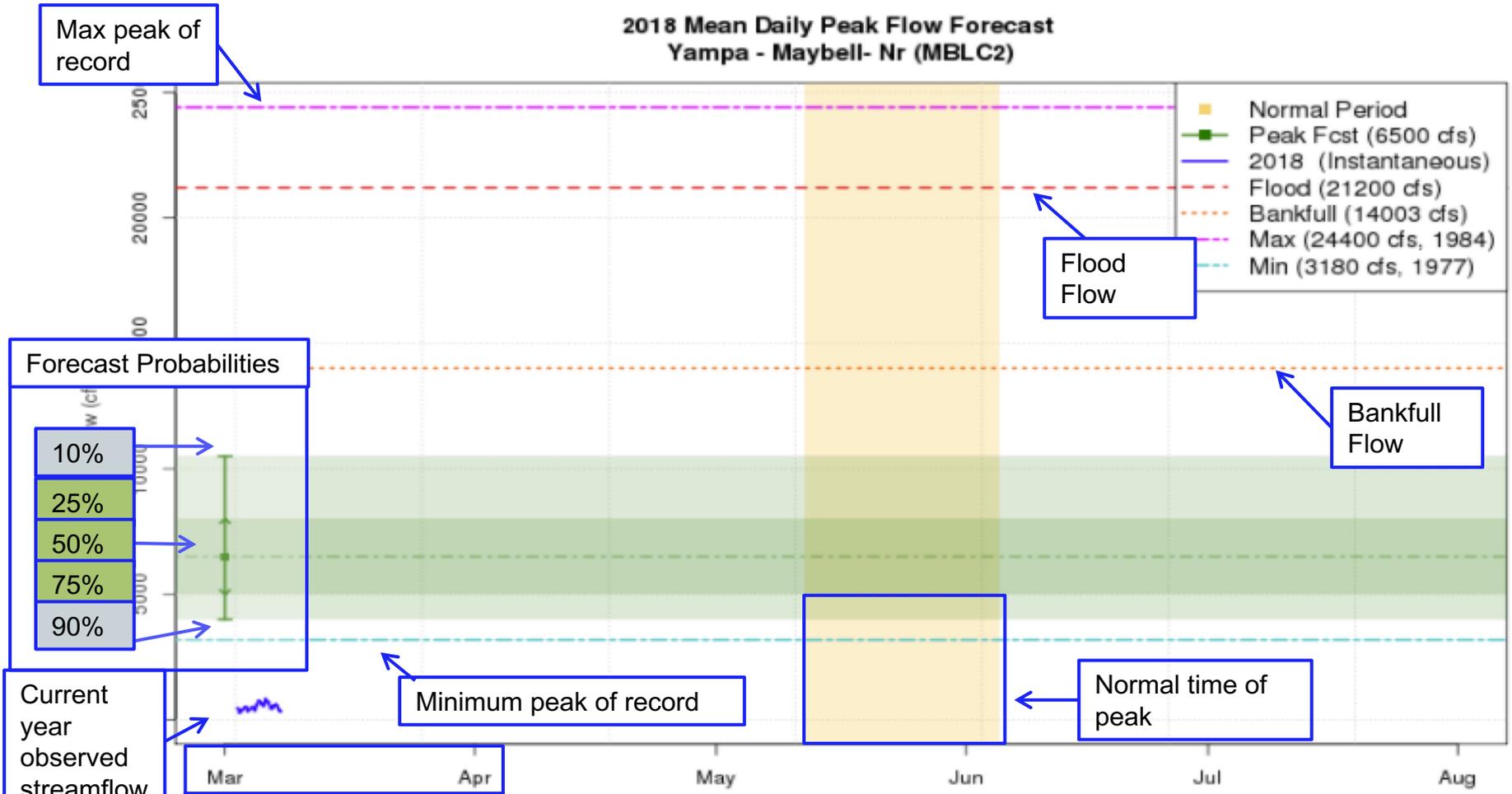
Peak Flow Graphic

MBLC2 Peak Flow Forecasts

[Mean Daily Plot](#) [Instantaneous Plot](#) [Forecasts](#) [Observations](#) [Help](#)

Plot Options (on/off): [Record Year Data](#) [Yearly Peaks](#) [Flood Flow](#)

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Yampa - Maybell- Nr (MBLC2)



Forecasts are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:31:53
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Peak Flow Graphic

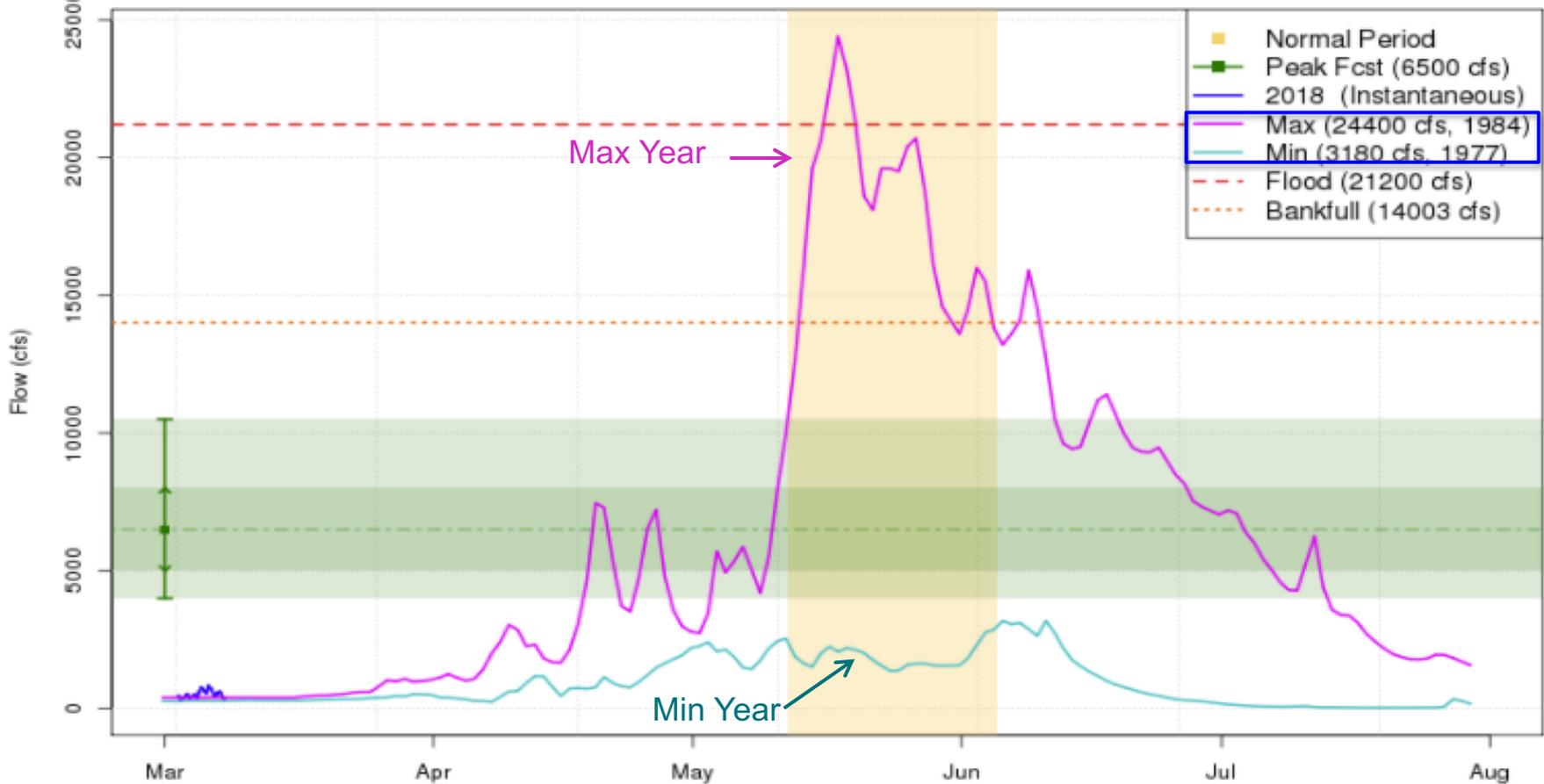
MBLC2 Peak Flow Forecasts

Mean Daily Plot Instantaneous Plot Forecast Help

Plot Options (on/off): Record Year Data Yearly Peaks Flood Flow

Select to plot min and max year hydrographs

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast Yampa - Maybell- Nr (MBLC2)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1

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CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Peak Flow Graphic

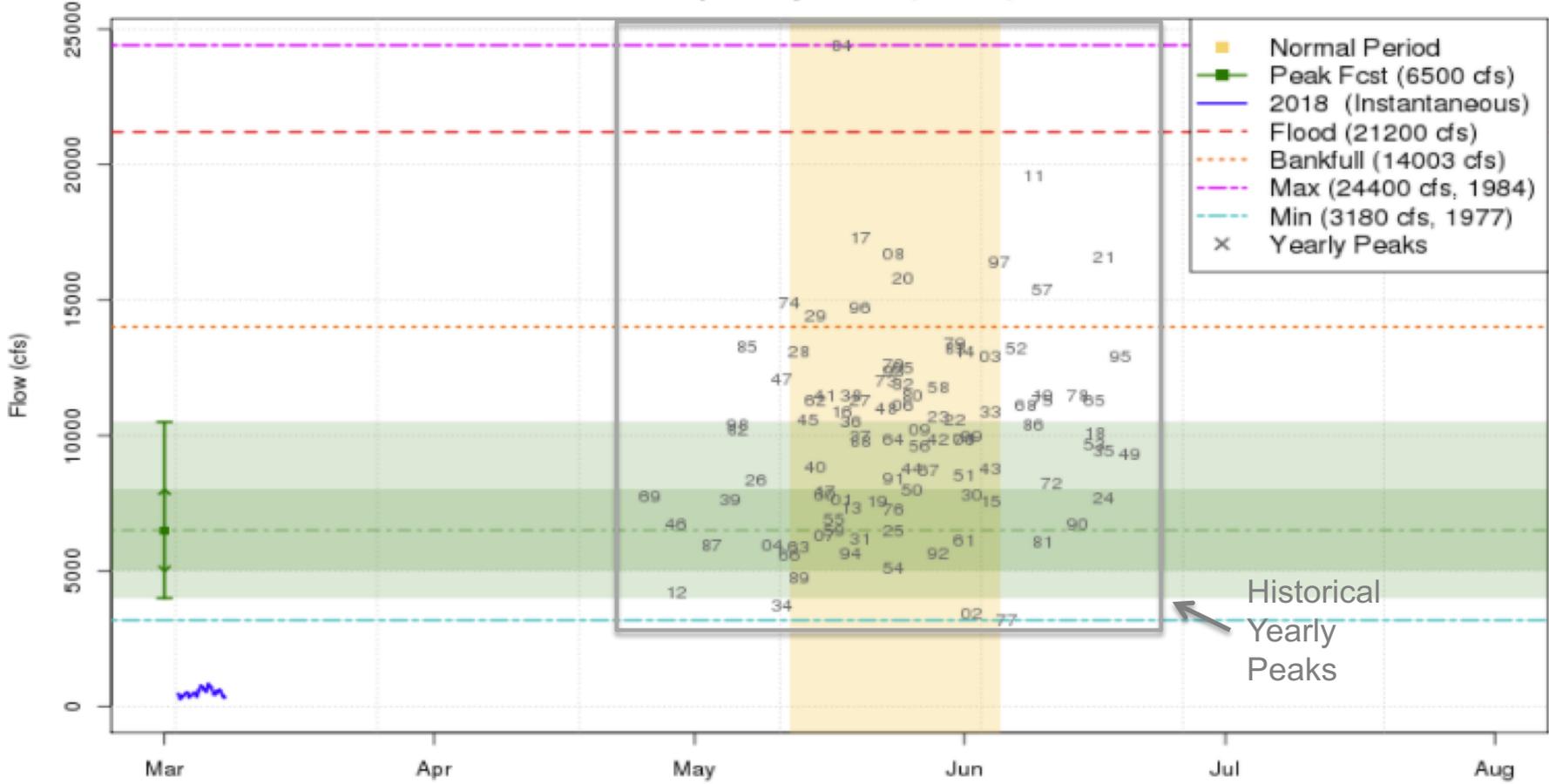
MBLC2 Peak Flow Forecasts

Mean Daily Plot Instantaneous Plot Forecasts Observations Help

Plot Options (on/off): Record Year Data Yearly Peaks Flood Flow

Select to plot all historical peaks

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Yampa - Maybell- Nr (MBLC2)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1

Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:31:53
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Where do I find peak flow forecasts?



COLORADO BASIN RIVER FORECAST CENTER

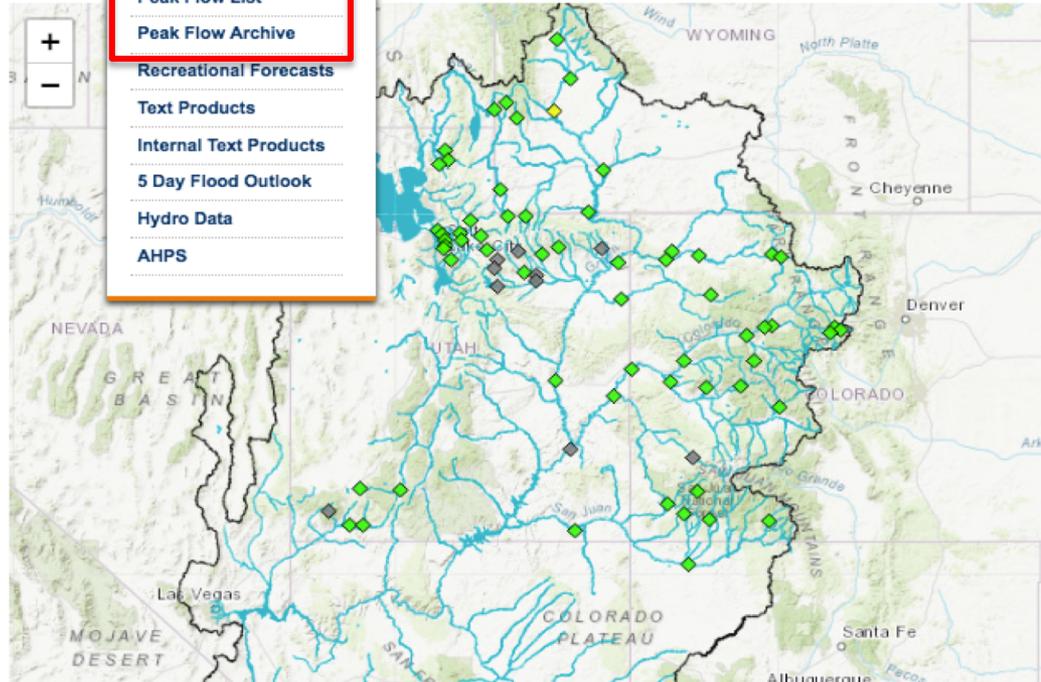
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE / NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

- HOME
- RIVERS**
- SNOW
- WATER SUPPLY
- RESERVOIRS
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News

Flow Webinar Tue March 13th at 11 am MT. [More Info...](#)
Webinars have been scheduled for 2018. [More Info...](#)

- Conditions Map
- Conditions List
- Peak Flow Map**
- Peak Flow List**
- Peak Flow Archive**
- Recreational Forecasts
- Text Products
- Internal Text Products
- 5 Day Flood Outlook
- Hydro Data
- AHPS



www.cbrfc.noaa.gov

- River Conditions
- Snow Conditions
- Water Supply Forecasts
- Peak Flood Probability**

Forecast Date: 2018-03-01 [Help](#)

Show [Hide Other Types](#)

Mean Daily
 Instantaneous

- ◇ No Forecast
- ◆ No Flood Stage
- ◇ <10%
- ◇ >10-25%
- ◇ >25-50%
- ◇ >50%

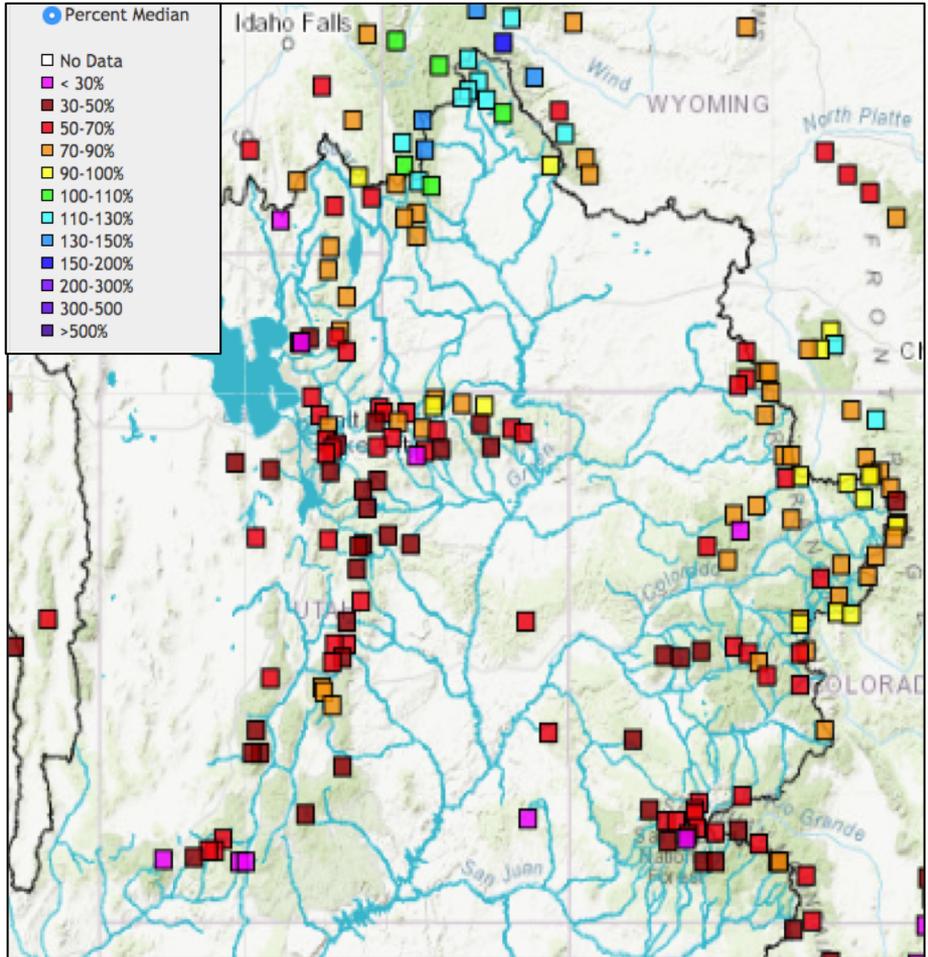
- Reservoir Conditions
- Daily Precipitation
- Monthly Precipitation
- Soil Moisture
- Map Options
- Search Points

Map indicates probability of reaching flood flow

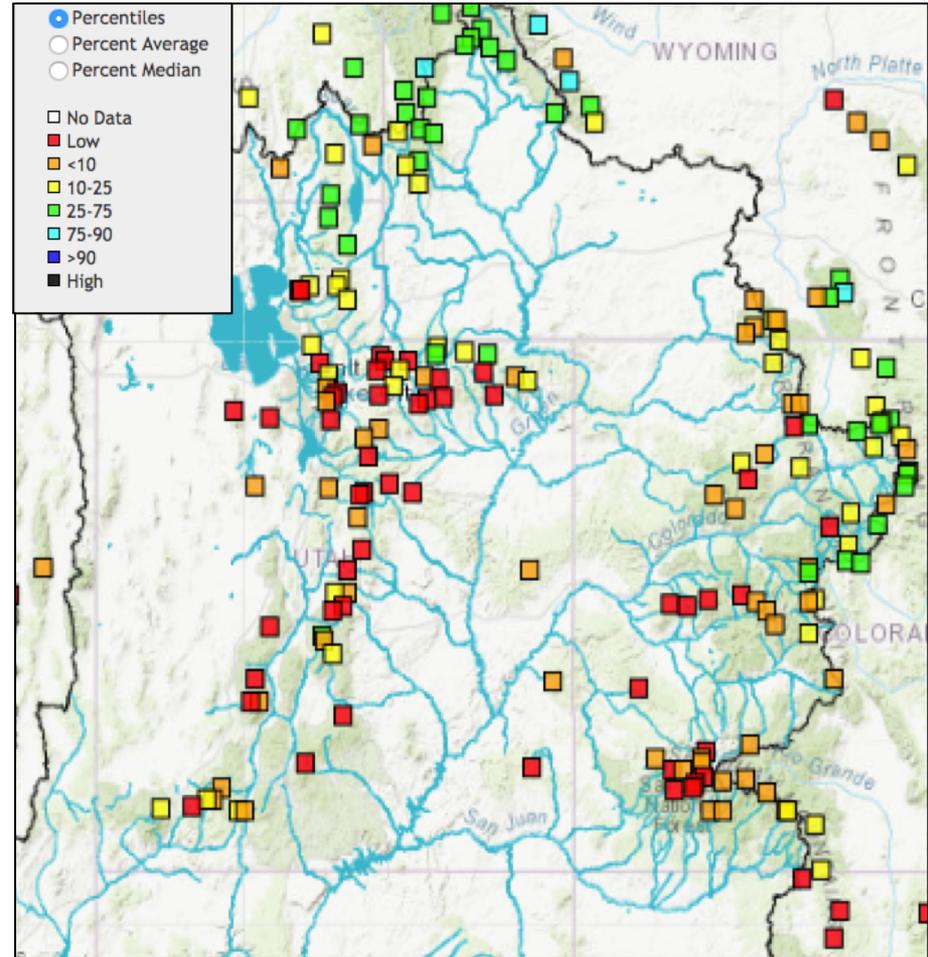
Green = Low probability
Red = High probability

Current conditions impacting peaks: SNOTEL Network

Red – Lowest on record
 Orange – Bottom 2-4 of record

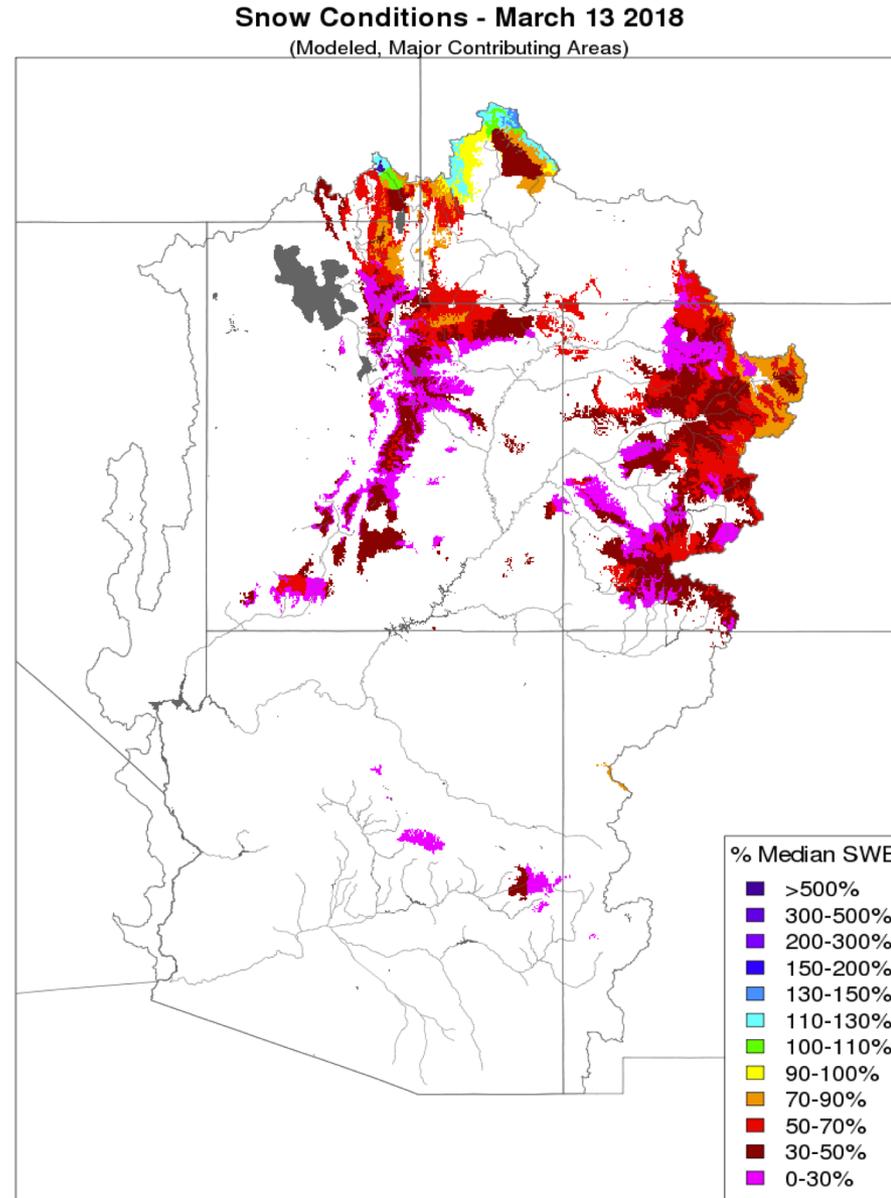


Snow (% median): March 13 2018



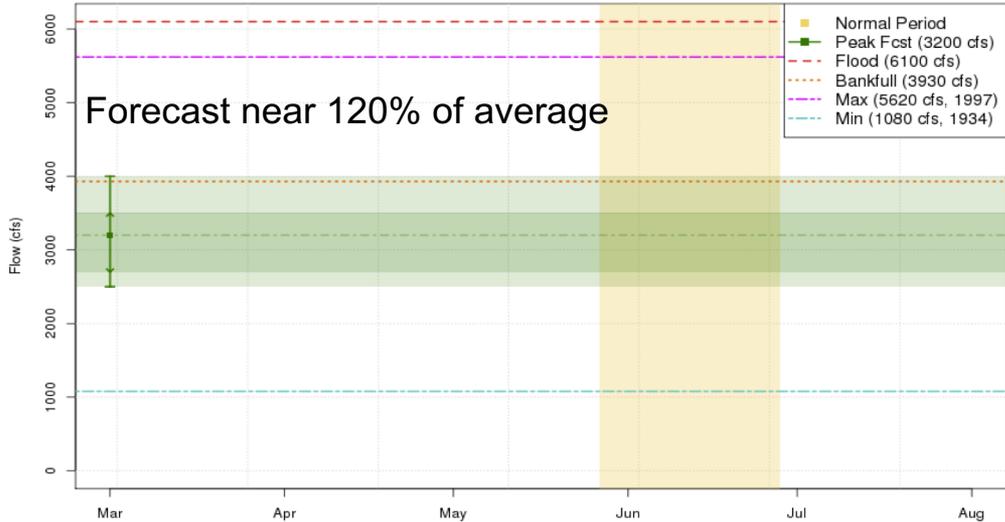
Snow (ranking): March 13 2018

Current conditions impacting peaks: Model Snow Conditions



Green River Basin – Upper Green

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Green - Daniel- Nr- Warren Bridge- At (WBRW4)

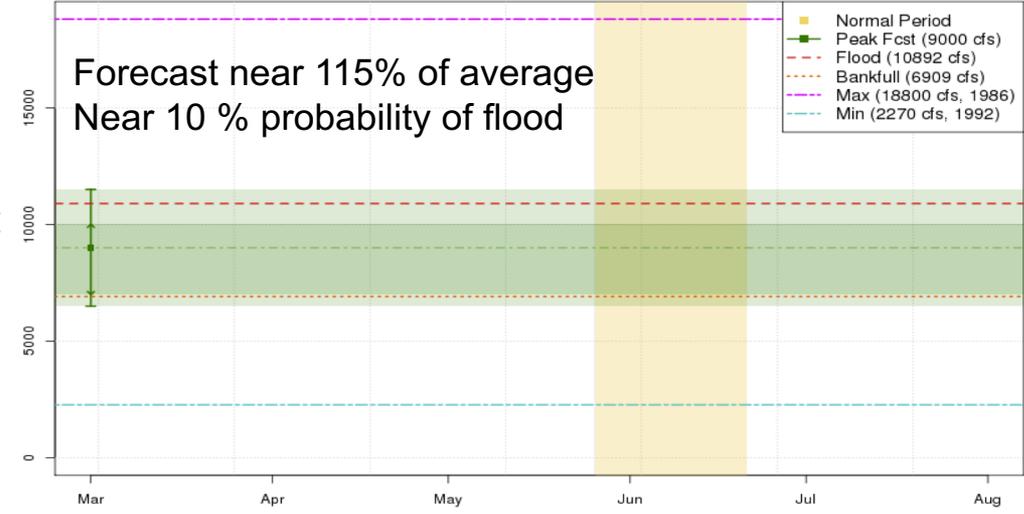


These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:30:55
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Green River – Warren Bridge

Forecast:	3200 CFS
Average:	2700 CFS
Flood:	6100 CFS
Last Year:	5310 CFS
Max of Record:	5620 CFS

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Green - La Barge- Nr (LABW4)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:31:07
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

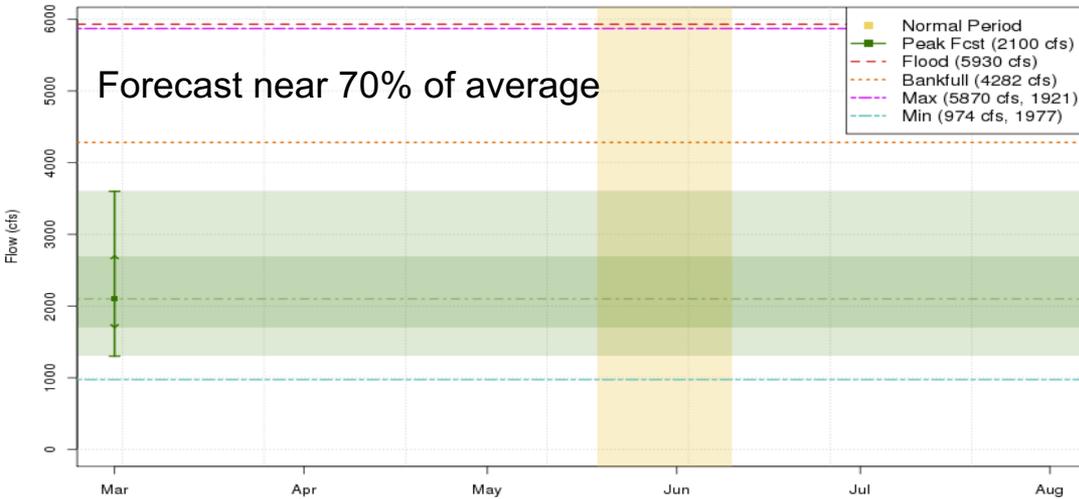
Green River - Labarge, WY

Forecast:	9000 CFS
Average:	8000 CFS
Flood:	10900 CFS
Last Year:	15900 CFS
Max of Record:	18800 CFS

Forecasts are 50% Exceedance

Yampa River Basin

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Yampa - Steamboat Springs (STMC2)

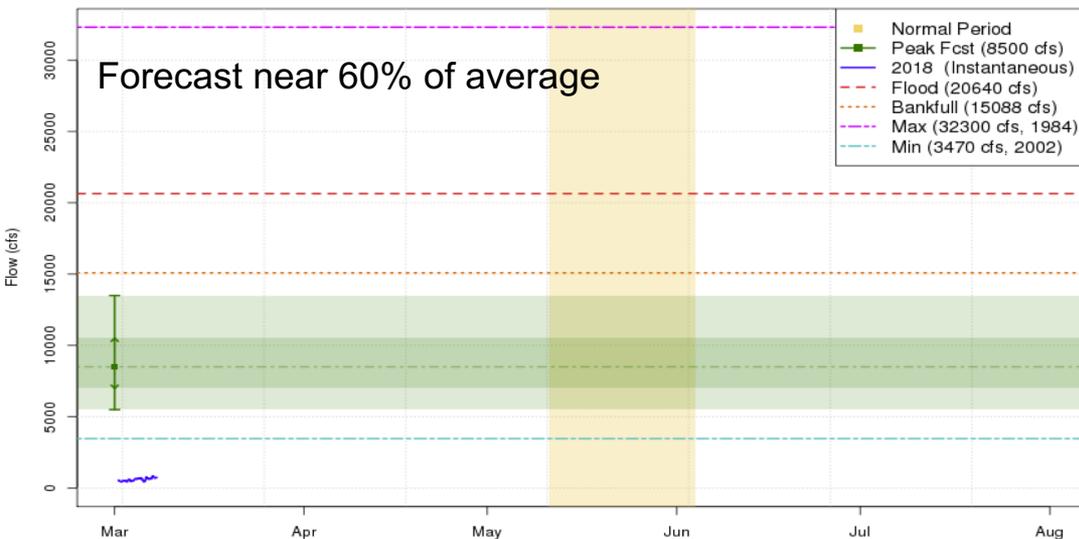


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Yampa River-Steamboat Springs

Forecast:	2100 CFS
Average:	3070 CFS
Flood:	5930 CFS
Last Year:	2640 CFS

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Yampa - Deerlodge Park (YDLC2)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
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CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

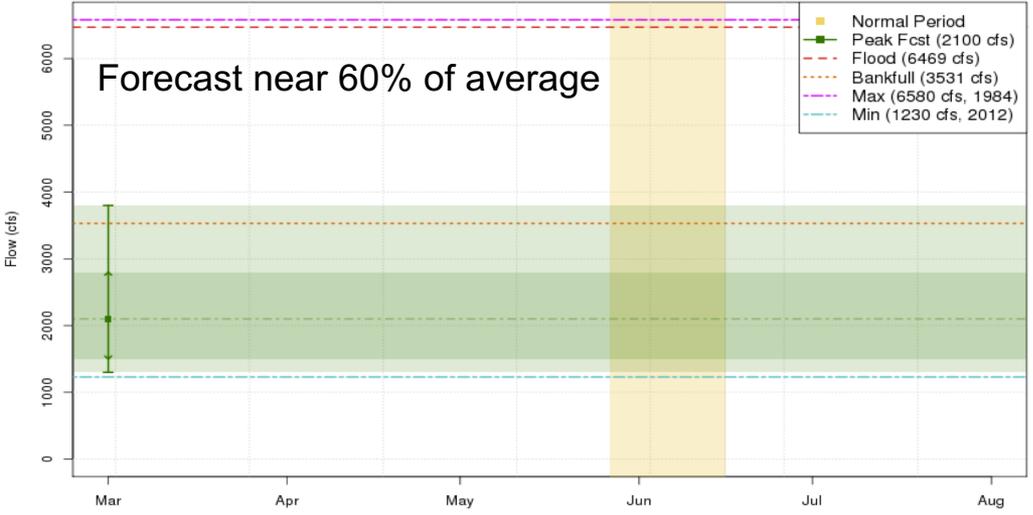
Yampa River - Deerlodge

Forecast:	8500 CFS
Average:	13500 CFS
Flood:	20600 CFS
Last Year:	10700 CFS

Forecasts are 50% Exceedance

Upper Colorado River Basin

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Eagle - Gypsum - Blo (GPSC2)

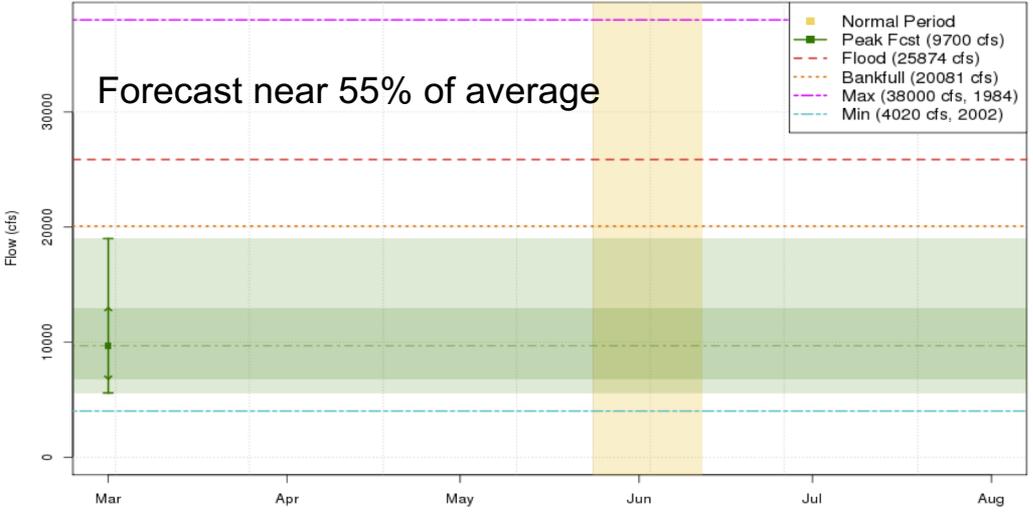


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Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:33:17
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Eagle River - Gypsum

Forecast: 2100 CFS
Average: 3600 CFS
Flood: 6500 CFS
Last Year: 3400 CFS

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Colorado - Cameo - Nr (CAMC2)



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CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

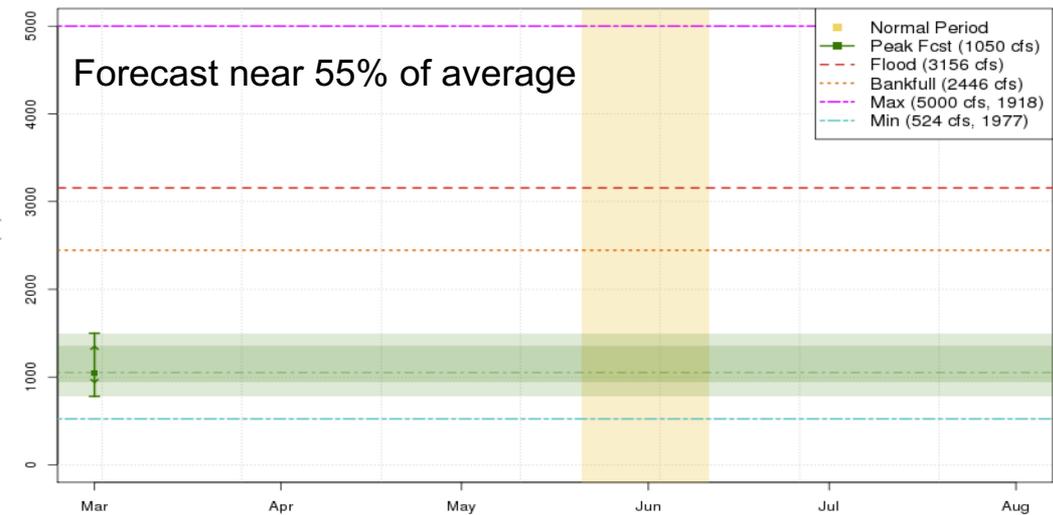
Colorado River - Cameo

Forecast: 9700 CFS
Average: 17000 CFS
Flood: 26000 CFS
Last Year: 16500 CFS

Forecasts are 50% Exceedance

Gunnison River Basin

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
East - Almont (ALEC2)

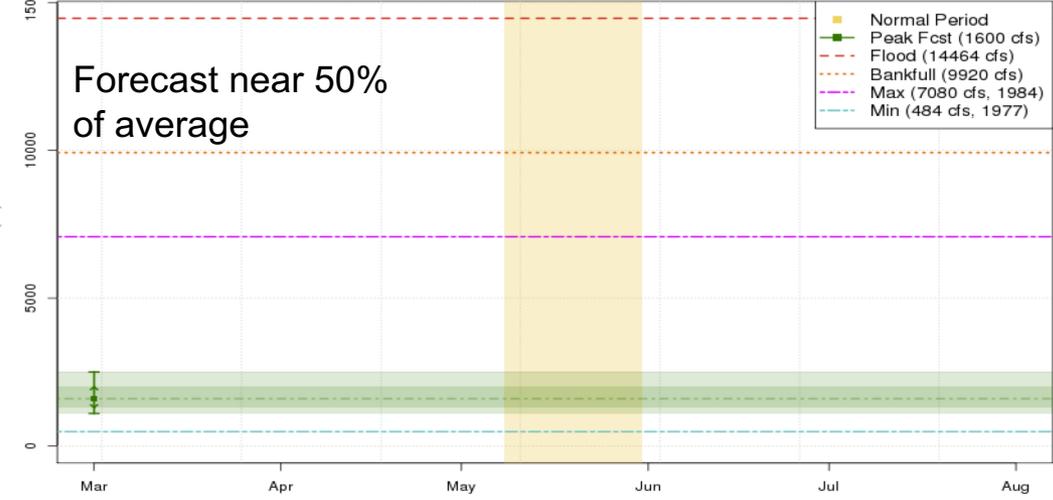


These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:35:49
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East River - Almont

Forecast:	1050 CFS
Average:	2000 CFS
Flood:	3150 CFS
Last Year:	2550 CFS

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Nf Gunnison - Somerset - Nr (SOMC2)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
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CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

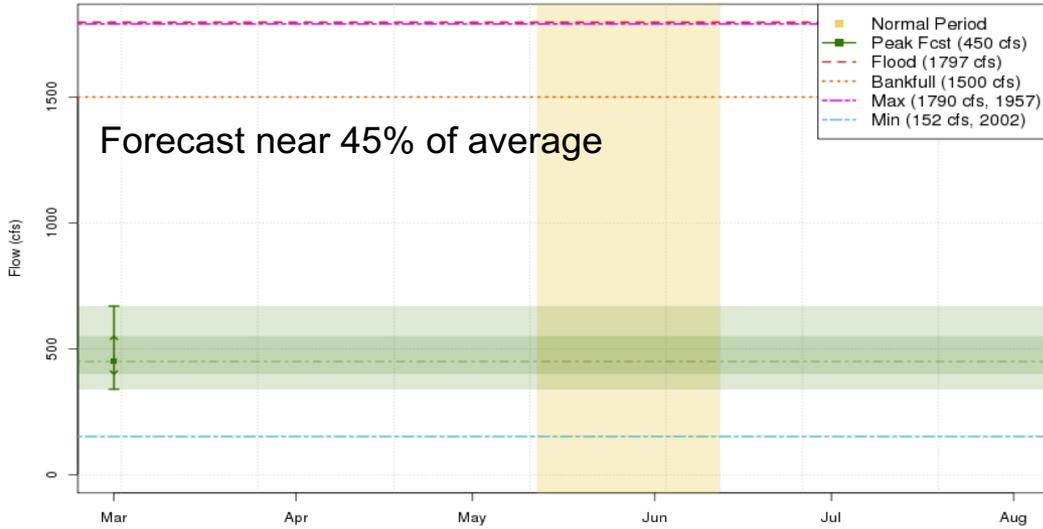
NF Gunnison - Somerset

Forecast:	1600 CFS
Average:	3120 CFS
Flood:	14460 CFS
Last Year:	2900 CFS

Forecasts are 50% Exceedance

Dolores River Basin

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Dolores - Rico- Blo (DRRC2)

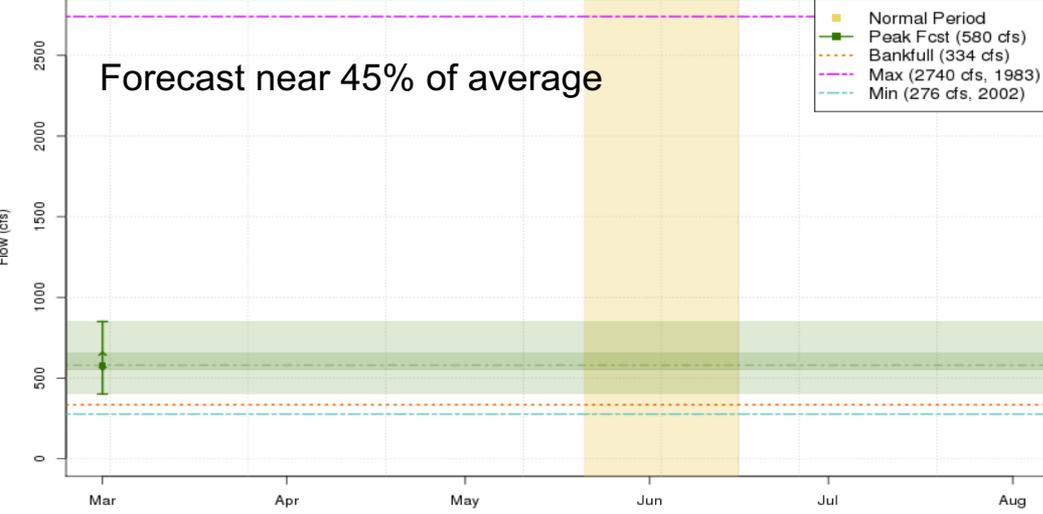


These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:36:33
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Dolores- Rico

Forecast:	450 CFS
Average:	970 CFS
Flood:	1790 CFS
Last Year:	970 CFS

San Miguel - Placerville- Nr (SMPC2)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:35:43
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

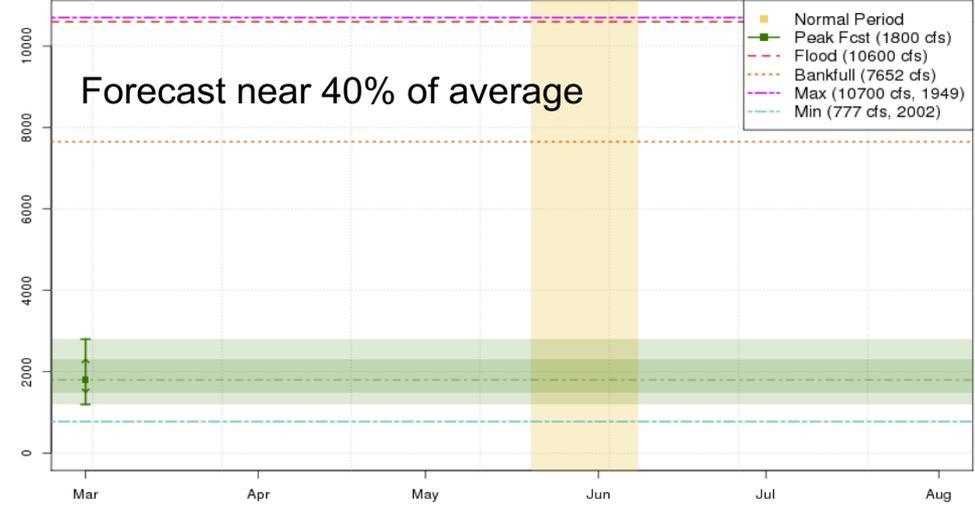
San Miguel- Placerville

Forecast:	580 CFS
Average:	1260 CFS
Flood:	*3190 CFS
Last Year:	1270 CFS

* Previous gage location
Forecasts are 50% Exceedance

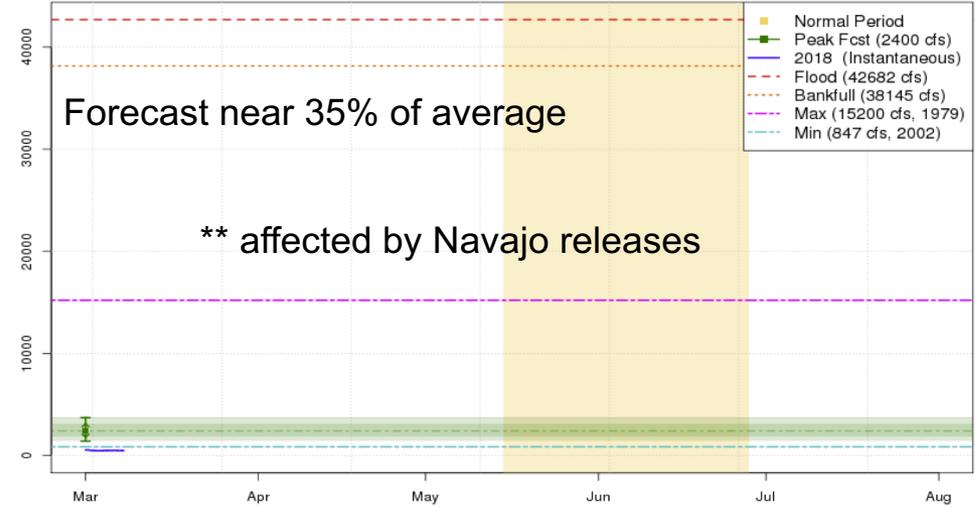
San Juan River Basin

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Animas - Durango (DRGC2)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
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CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
San Juan - Bluff- Nr (BFFU1)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:32:50
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Animas River - Durango

Forecast:	1800 CFS
Average:	4580 CFS
Flood:	10500 CFS
Last Year:	4290 CFS

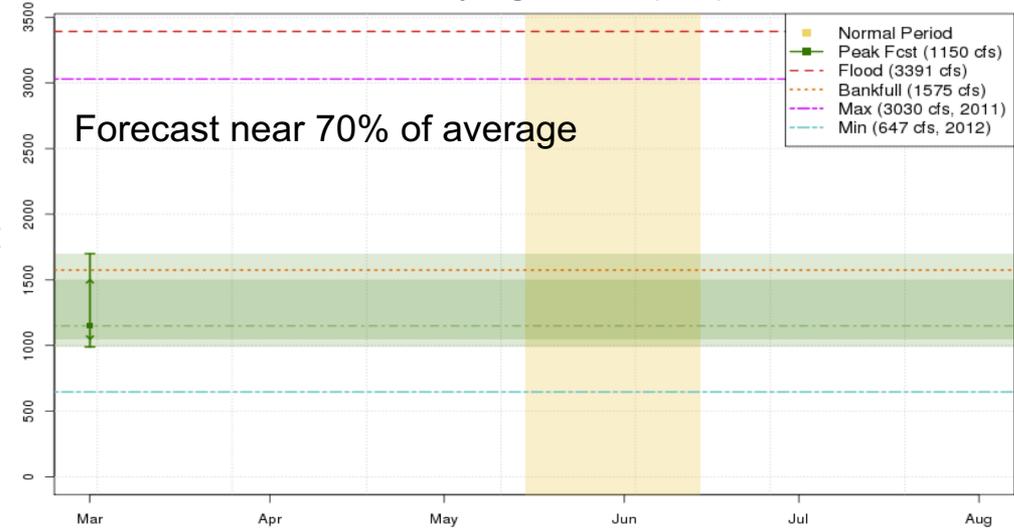
San Juan River - Bluff

Forecast:	2400 CFS
Average:	7340 CFS
Flood:	42680 CFS
Last Year:	8540 CFS

Forecasts are 50% Exceedance

Great Basin – Bear / Weber Basins

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Bear - Utah-wyoming State Line- Nr (BERU1)

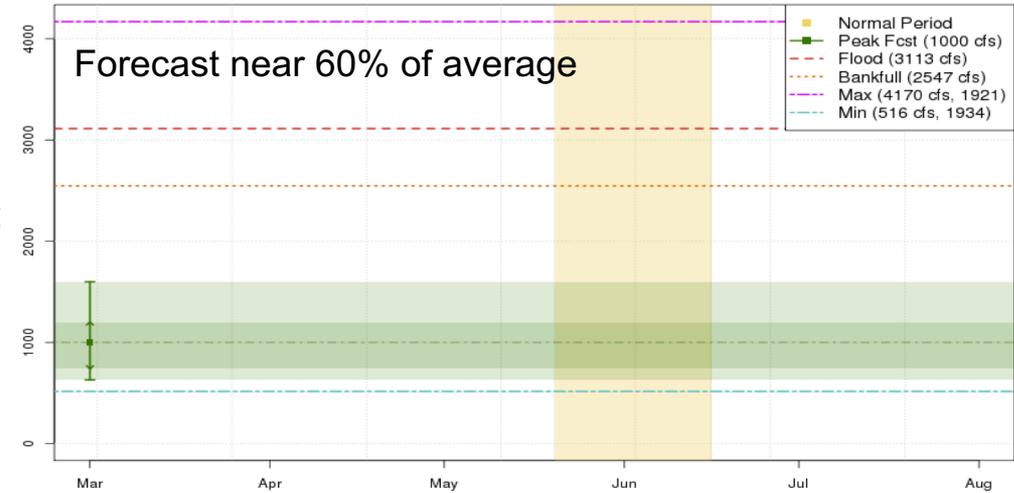


These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:34:01
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Bear River – UT / WY Stateline

Forecast:	1150 CFS
Average:	1600 CFS
Flood:	3400 CFS
Last Year:	2050 CFS

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Weber - Oakley- Nr (OAWU1)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:35:16
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

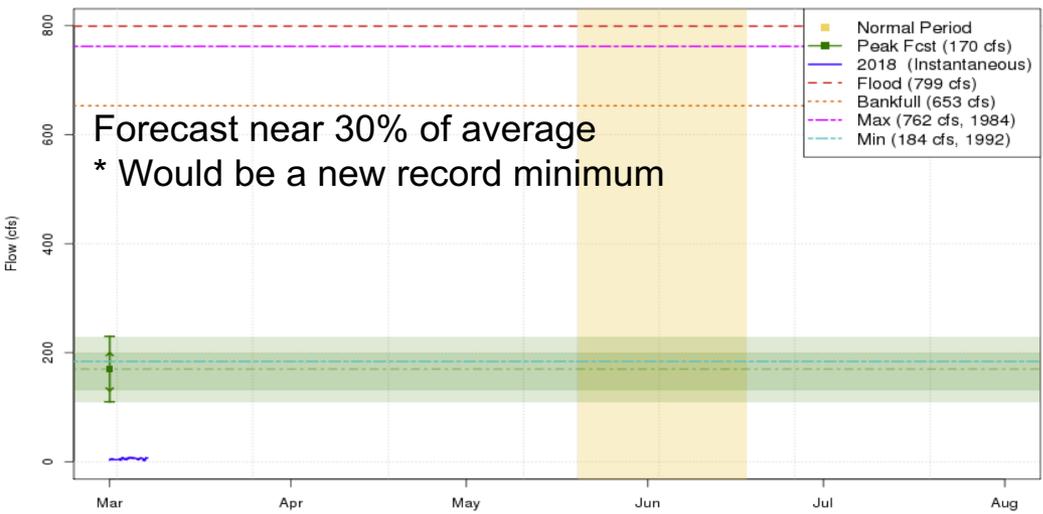
Weber River - Oakley

Forecast:	1000 CFS
Average:	1650 CFS
Flood:	3100 CFS
Last Year:	2200 CFS

Forecasts are 50% Exceedance

Great Basin – Six Creeks / Provo Basins

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Little Cottonwood Ck - Salt Lake City- Nr (LCTU1)



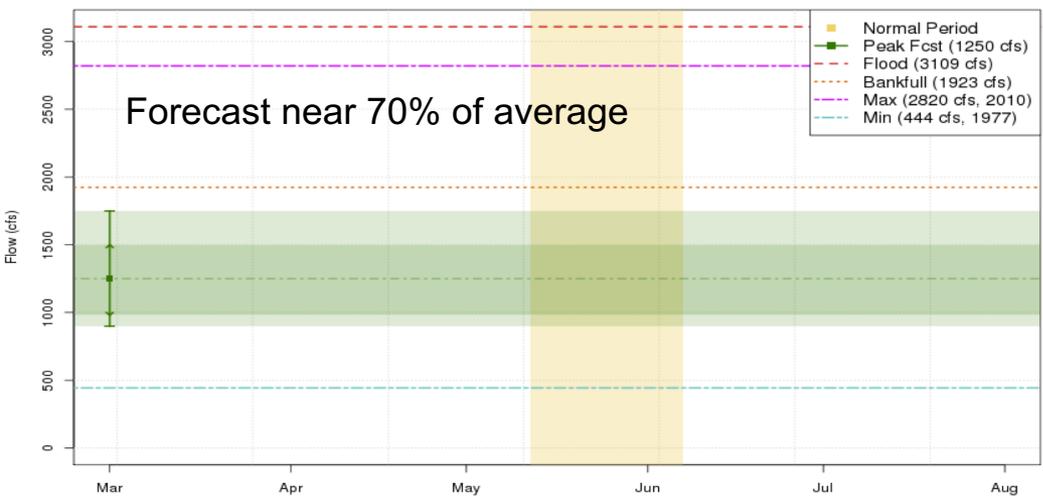
Forecast near 30% of average
* Would be a new record minimum

These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:34:44
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Little Cottonwood - SLC

Forecast:	130 CFS
Average:	460 CFS
Flood:	800 CFS
Last Year:	290 CFS

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Provo - Woodland- Nr (WOOU1)



Forecast near 70% of average

These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
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CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

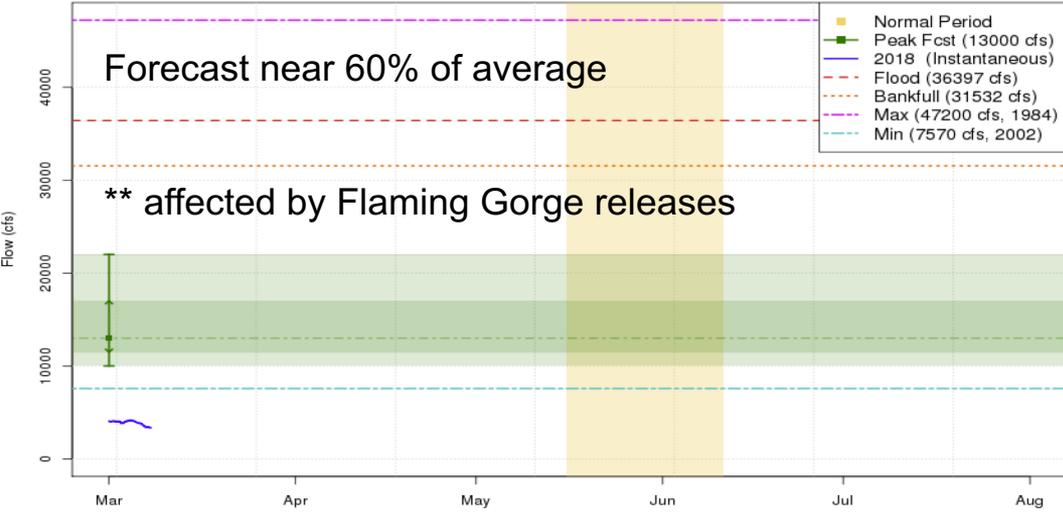
Provo River - Woodland

Forecast:	1250 CFS
Average:	1800 CFS
Flood:	3100 CFS
Last Year:	2200 CFS

Forecasts are 50% Exceedance

Southeast Utah – Green & Colorado

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Green - Green River- Ut (GRVU1)

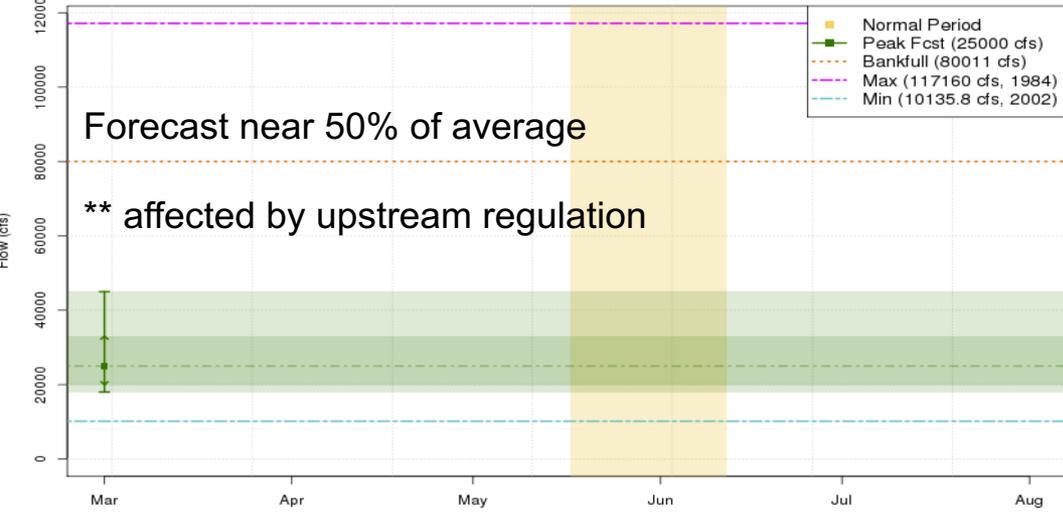


These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:30:48
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Green River – Green River UT

Forecast:	13000 CFS
Average:	21700 CFS
Flood:	36400 CFS
Last Year:	21800 CFS

2018 Mean Daily Peak Flow Forecast
Colorado - Cataract Canyon (CTRU1)



These graphics are updated approximately every two weeks between 3/1 and 5/1
Plot Created 2018-03-07 15:33:57
CBRFC / NWS / NOAA

Colorado – Cataract Canyon

Forecast:	25000 CFS
Average:	48000 CFS
Last Year:	48780 CFS

Forecasts are 50% Exceedance

Peak Flow Forecast Summary

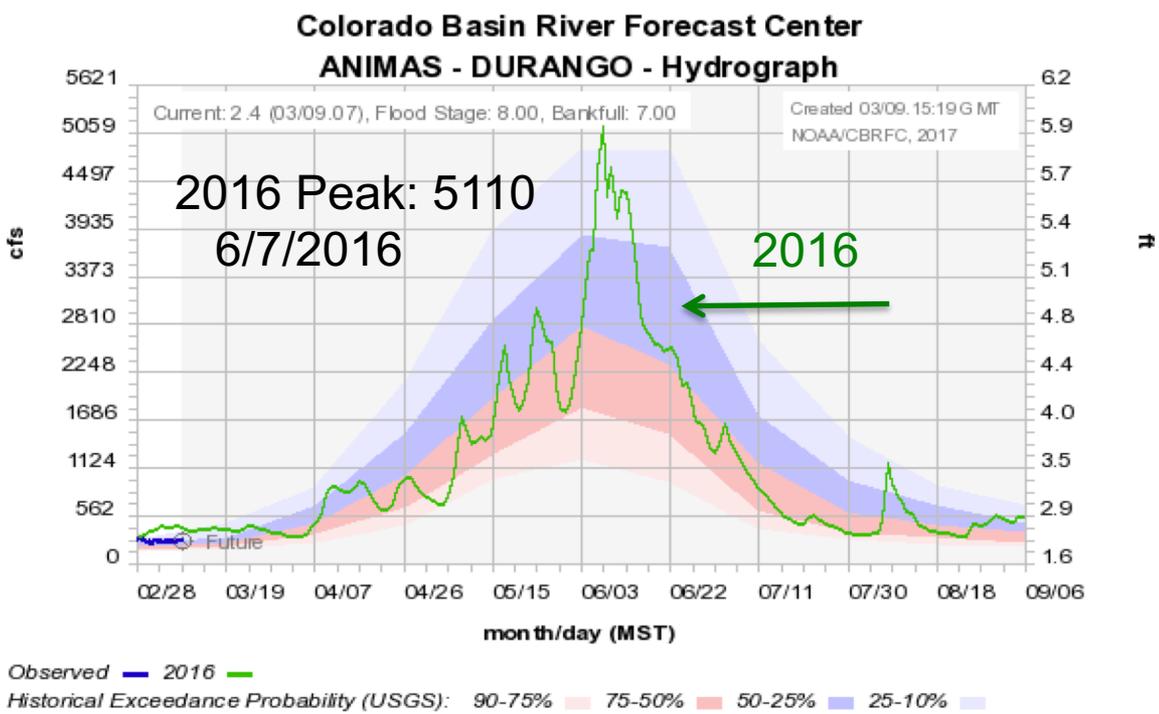
- At this time no forecast points are anticipated to reach flood levels due to snowmelt alone.
- Near or above average peak flows in the upper Green Basin.
- Below average flows everywhere else. Many streams are forecast to have peaks less than half of what was observed last year. Rain may play a larger part this year.
- Significant rainfall during runoff can cause high water issues in any year. Always need to be prudent to this fact.
- Situation may change throughout the spring. Higher flows are possible if cool wet weather develops and a delayed snowmelt results.

Impacts of Spring Weather (temperatures)

Animas – Durango March 1 2016 Forecast

90%	75%	50%	25%	10%
2800	3100	3600	4300	4700

Normal Peak Period 5/20 – 6/8



Durango Temperatures: 2-6 degrees below normal final 10 days of May
10 degrees above normal by June 5th

Transition to using daily model for guidance

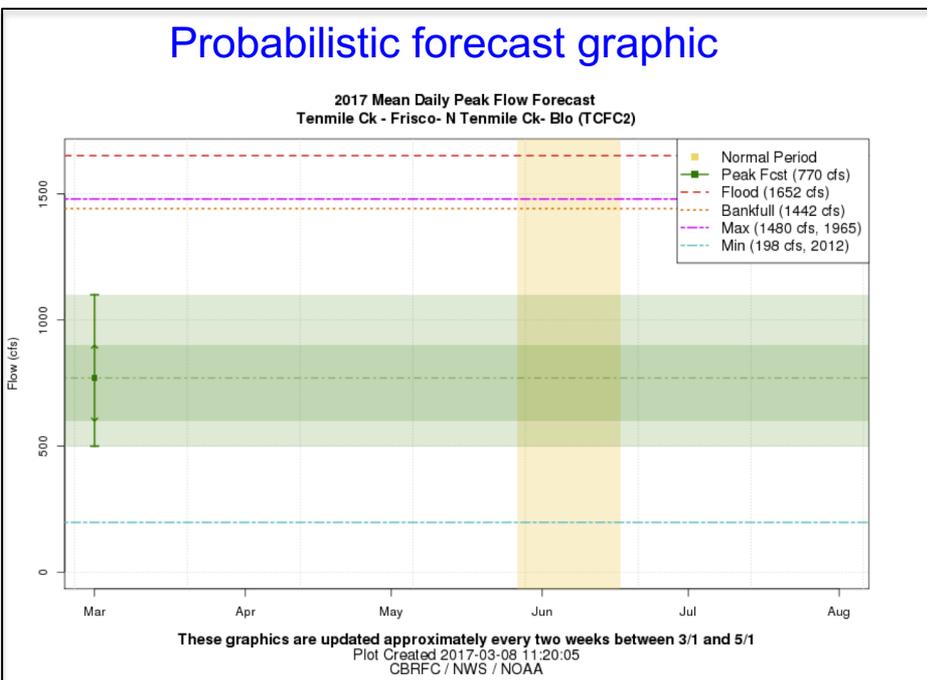
As the time of the peak nears – transition from using probabilistic guidance to output from the daily deterministic hydrologic model. Daily model forecasts are for 10 days into the future.

The daily model uses 5 days of precipitation forecasts and 10 days of temperature forecasts from meteorological models instead of climatology.

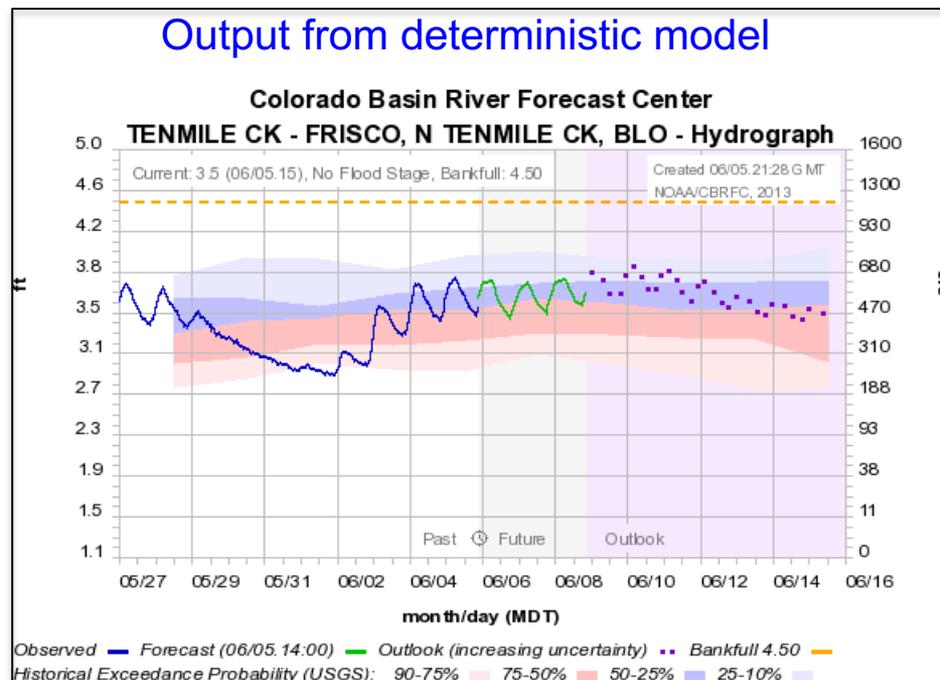
The daily model will also have observed reservoir releases (& planned if known) that are routed to points downstream.

The probabilistic graphics are discontinued at that time (usually early May) and the forecast lists indicates “peaking soon” or “peak has already occurred”.

Probabilistic forecast graphic



Output from deterministic model



CBRFC Main Web Page

Daily deterministic / Daily operational model output is available from the CBRFC main web page: www.cbrfc.noaa.gov



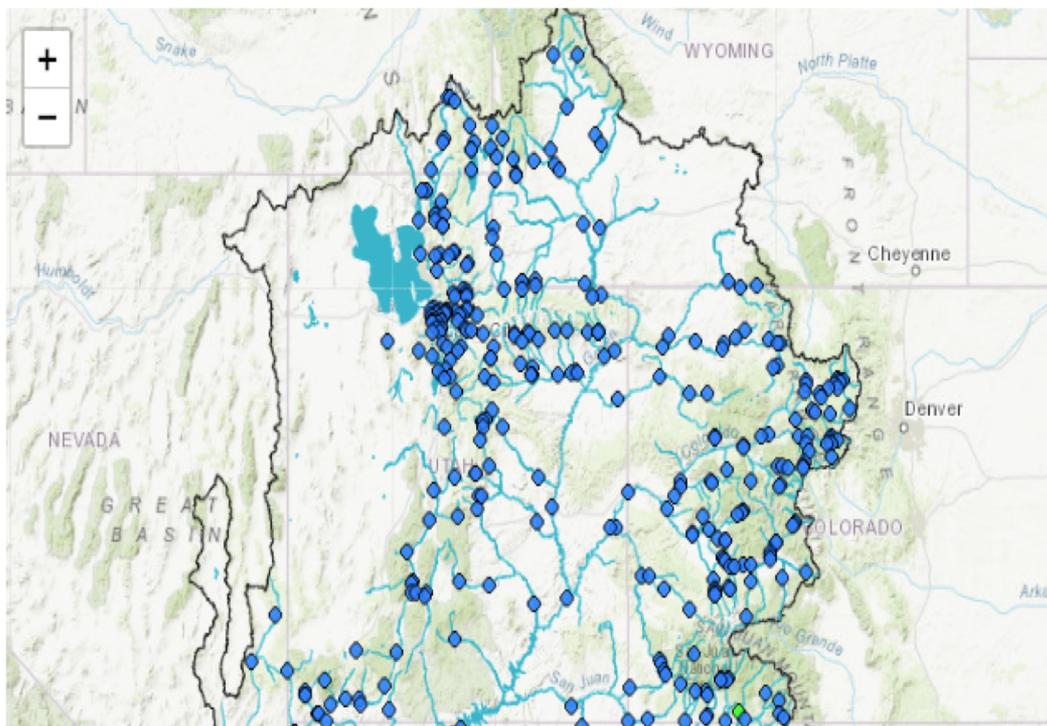
- HOME
- RIVERS
- SNOW
- WATER SUPPLY
- RESERVOIRS
- WEATHER
- CLIMATE
- HELP
- ABOUT
- NEWS
- SEARCH

News

Spring 2018 Peak Flow Webinar Tue March 13th at 11 am MT. [More Info...](#)
Water Supply Webinars have been scheduled for 2018. [More Info...](#)

Conditions Map

[Help](#)



River Conditions

Data Updated: 03/13/19Z

[Help](#)

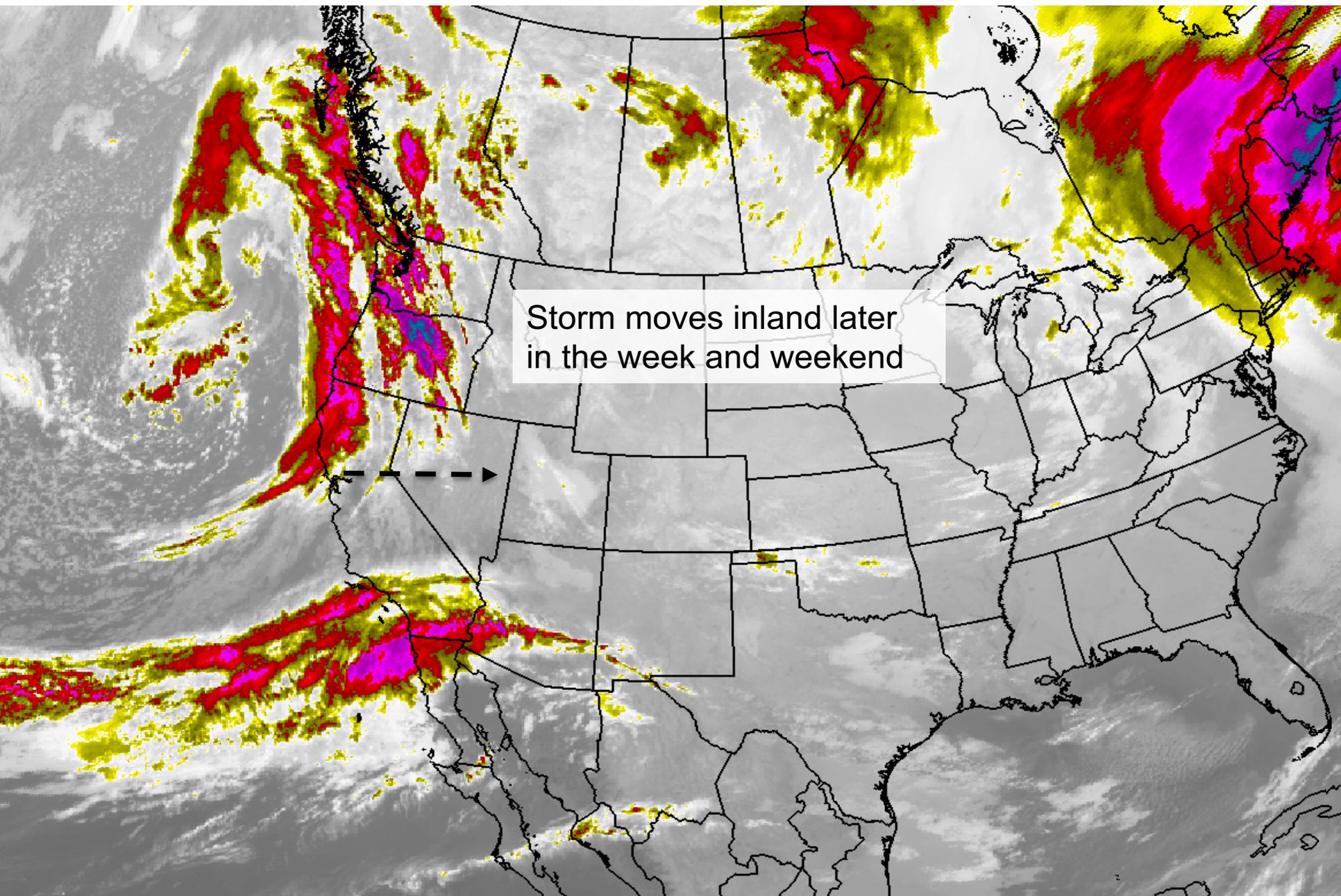
Show [Hide Other Types](#)

- Data
- Forecast
- Reservoir Inflow
- Reservoir Outflow
- Official Flood
- Active

- ◆ Not Available
- ◆ Normal
- ◆ Significant Rise
- ◆ Near Bankfull
- ◆ Above Bankfull
- ◆ Above Flood Stage
- ◆ Outlook (> 3 days)

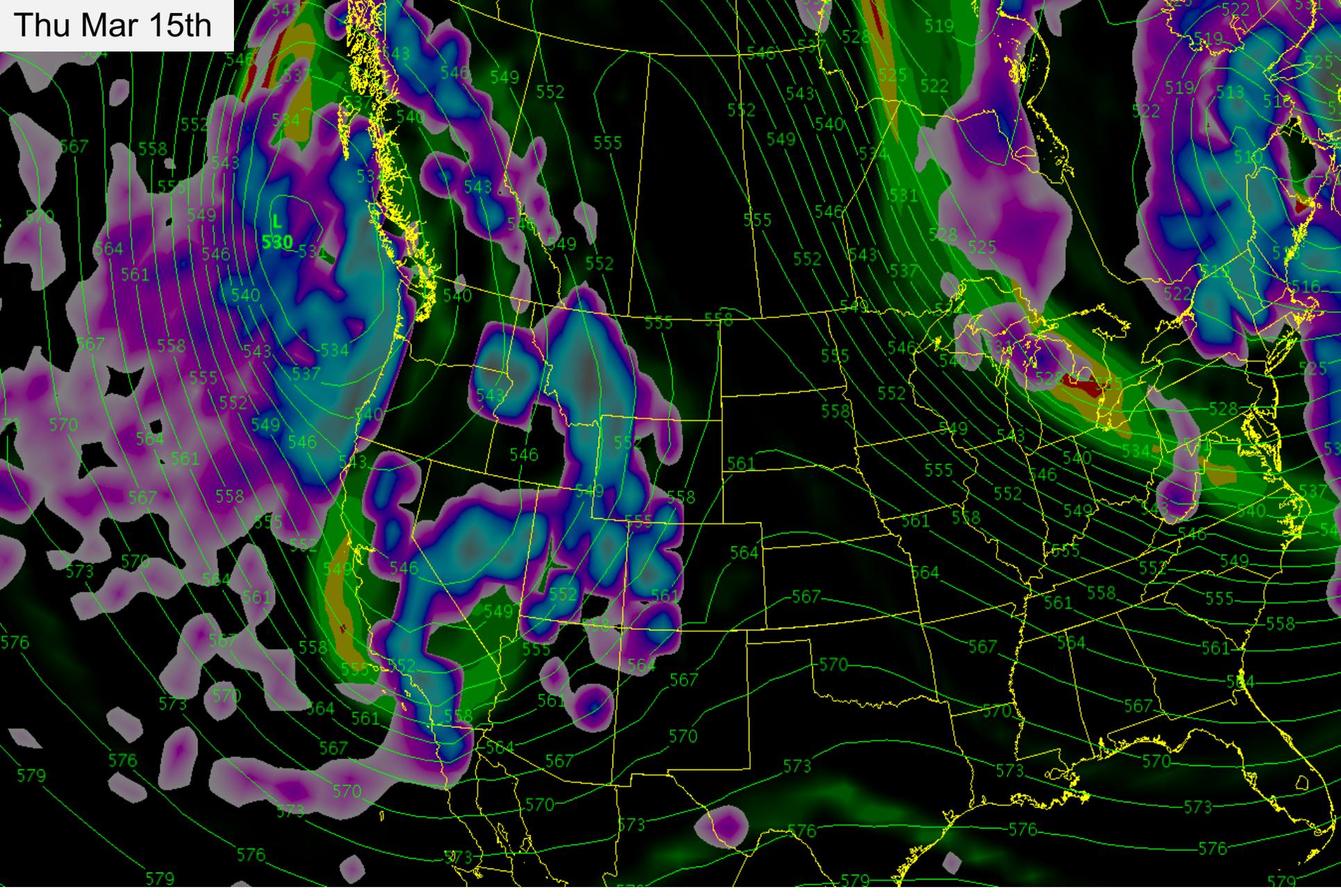
Indicators of active stream flow conditions

Upcoming Weather – Currently record warm & some snow is melting.
Chances of precipitation for certain areas later this week into the weekend



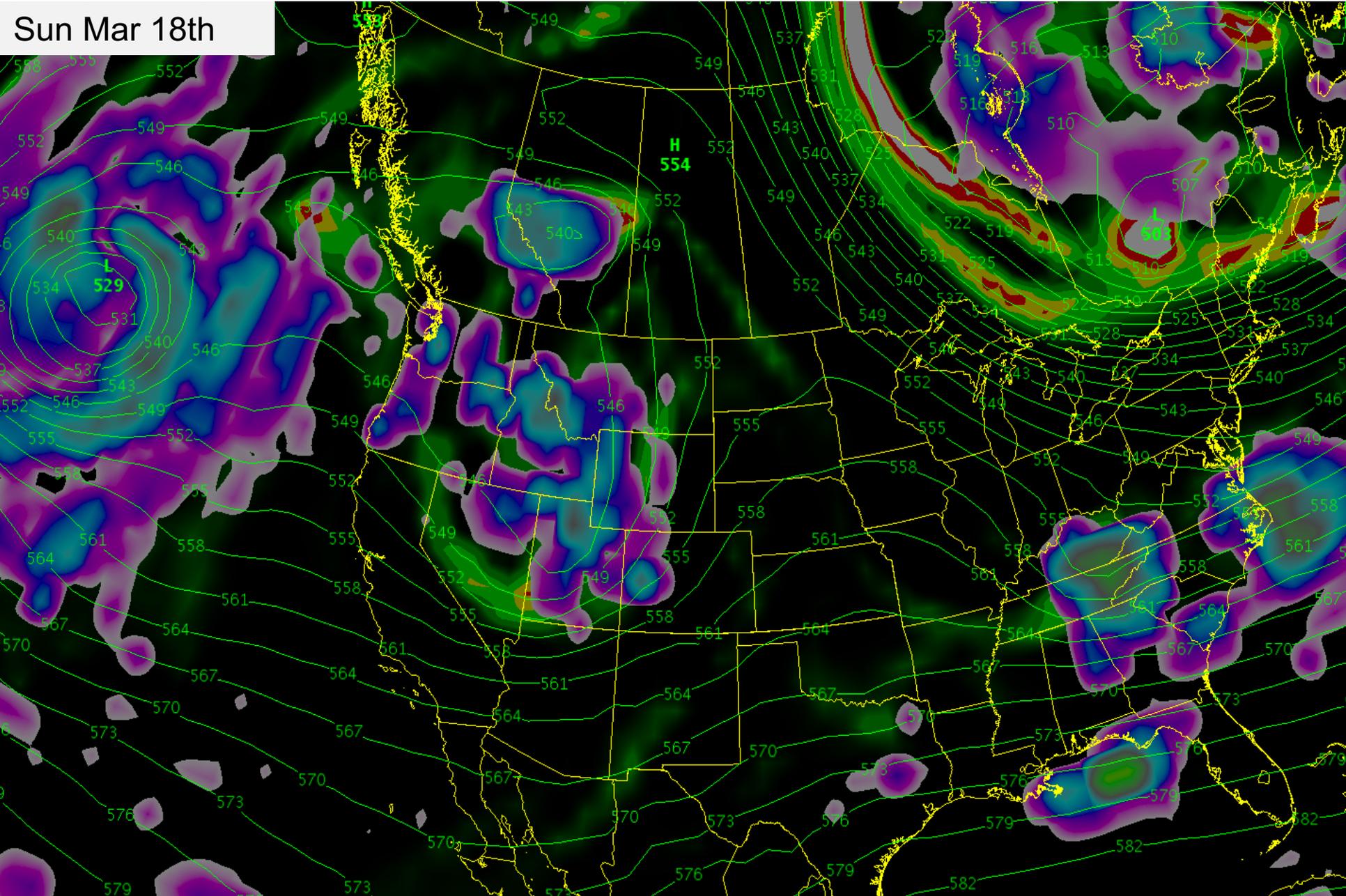
Upcoming Weather — Increasing chances of precipitation. The focus may be over the southern areas and those impacted by southwest flow (San Juan, Dolores, Duchesne, Virgin)

Thu Mar 15th



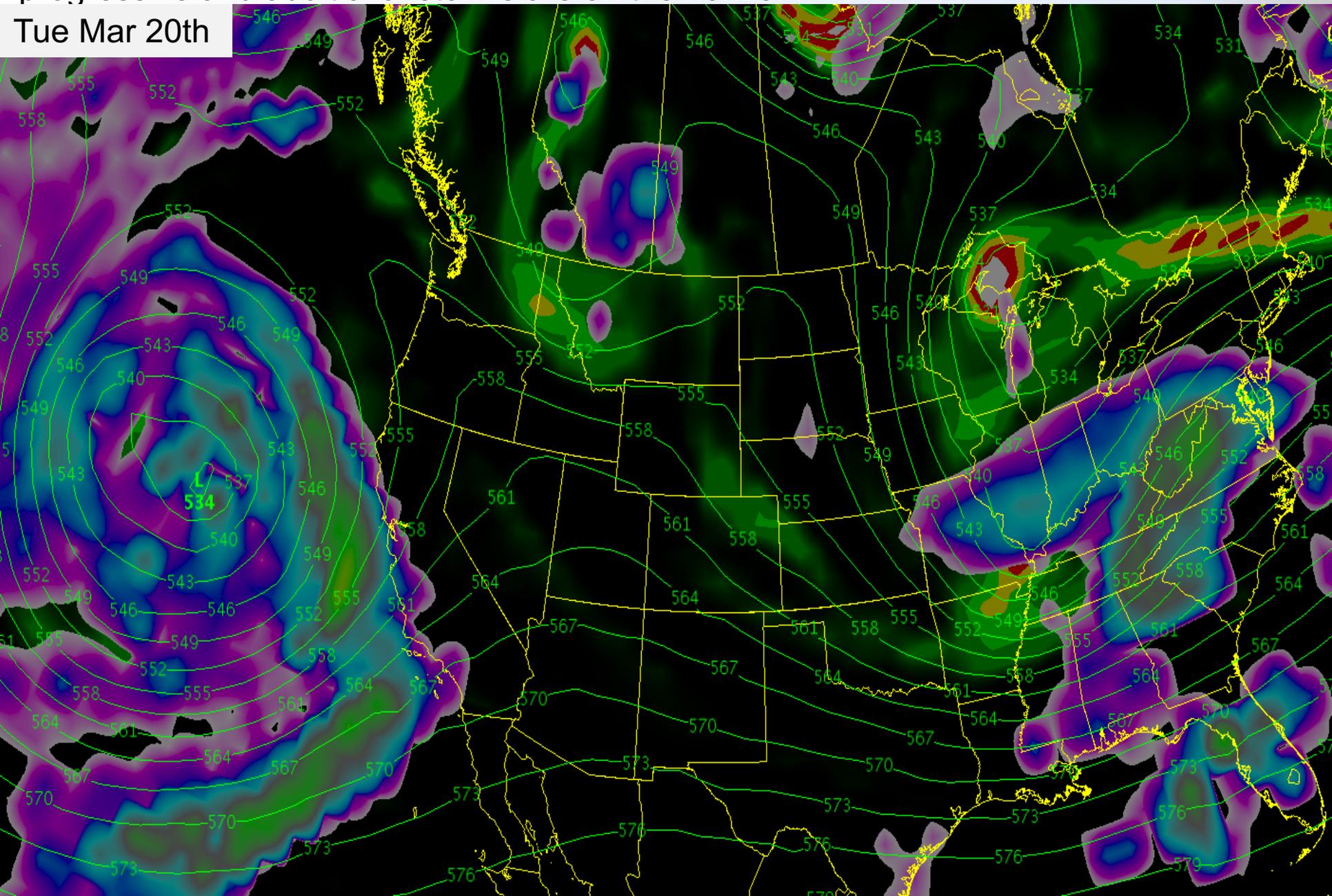
Upcoming Weather — Another storm system pivots through the area. Cooler with precipitation possibly on the lighter side.

Sun Mar 18th



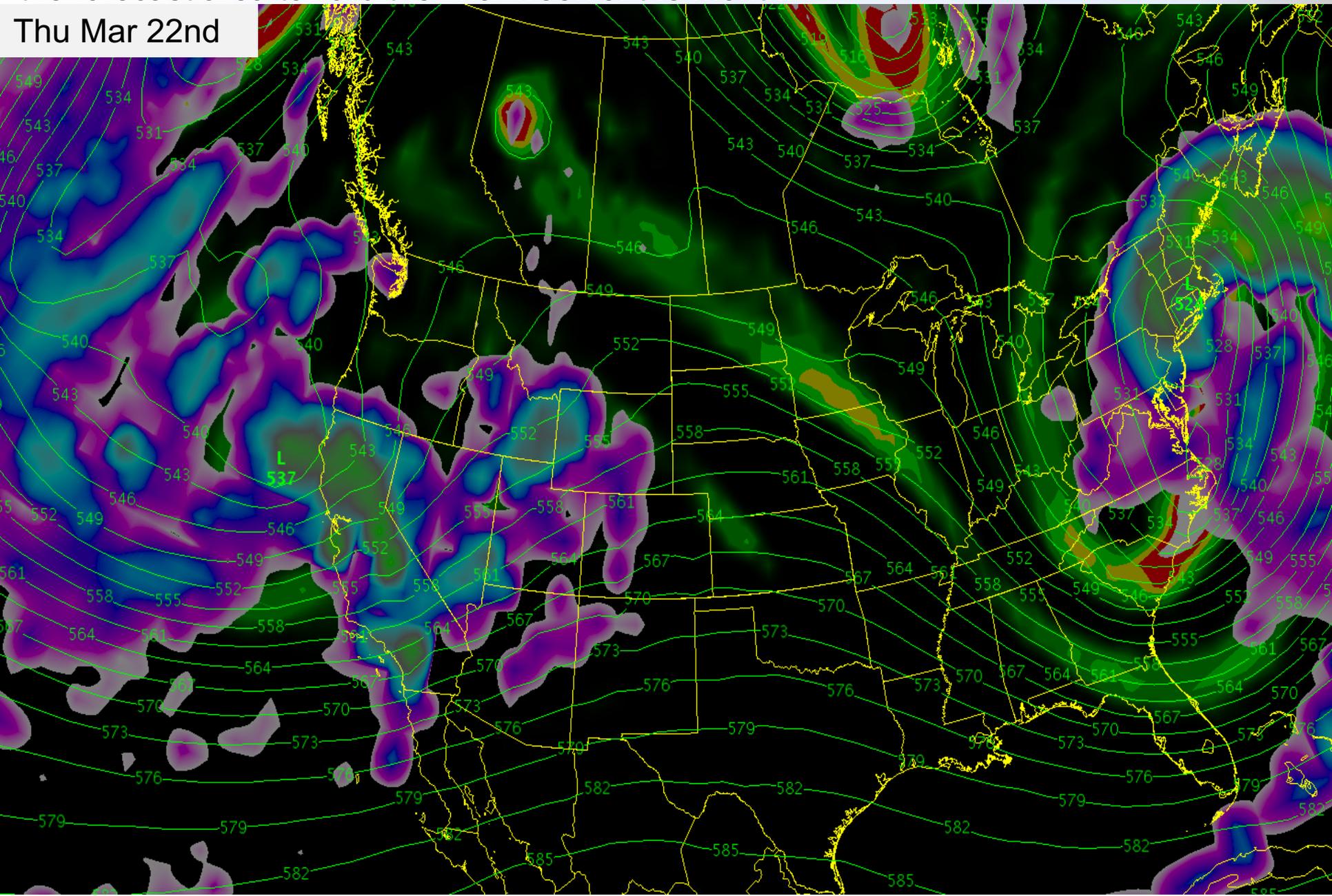
Upcoming Weather — High pressure ridge returns, but the pattern remains progressive and additional storms are on the horizon.

Tue Mar 20th



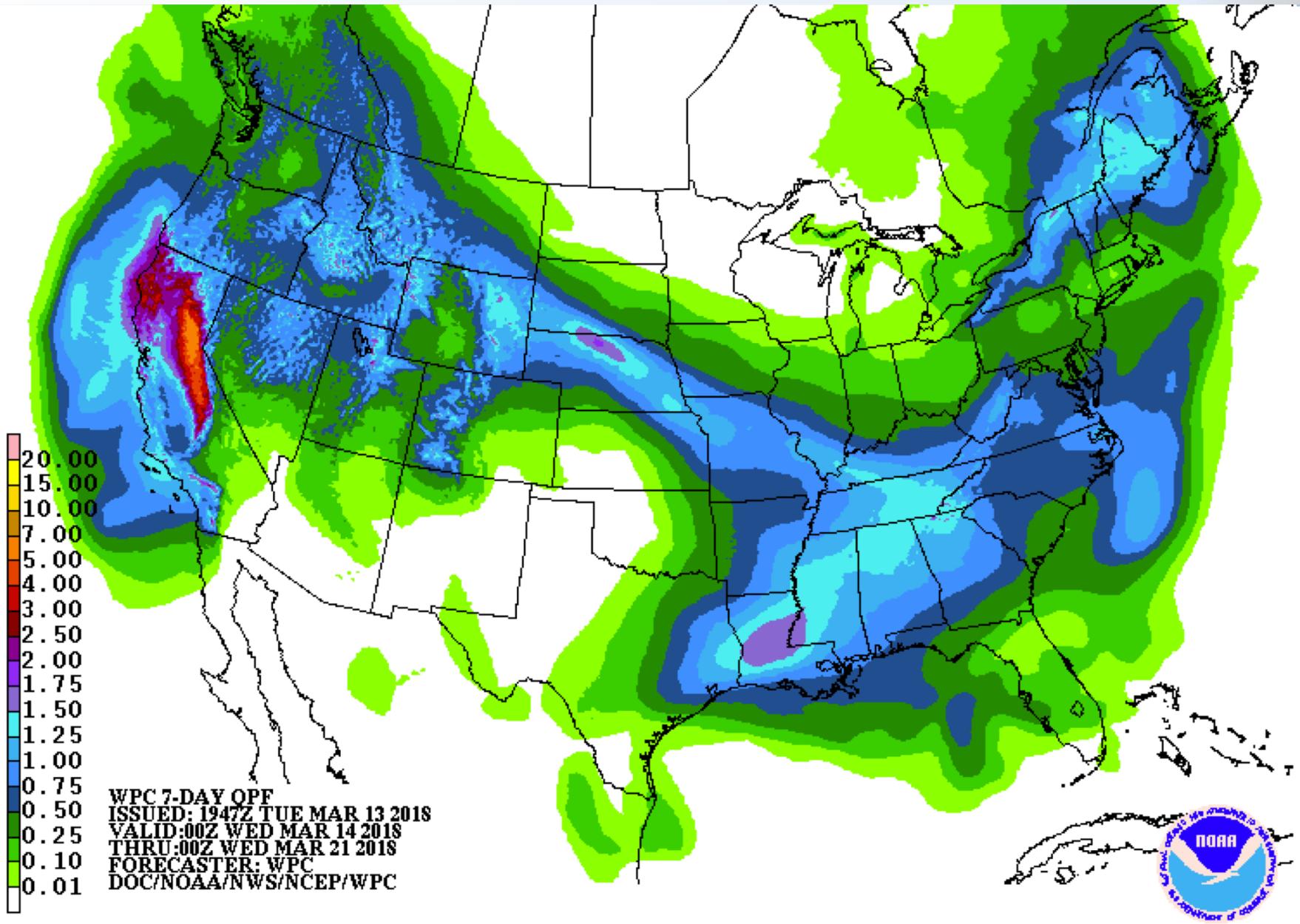
Upcoming Weather – Low pressure off the U.S. West Coast ejects storm energy into the forecast area toward the final week of the month.

Thu Mar 22nd



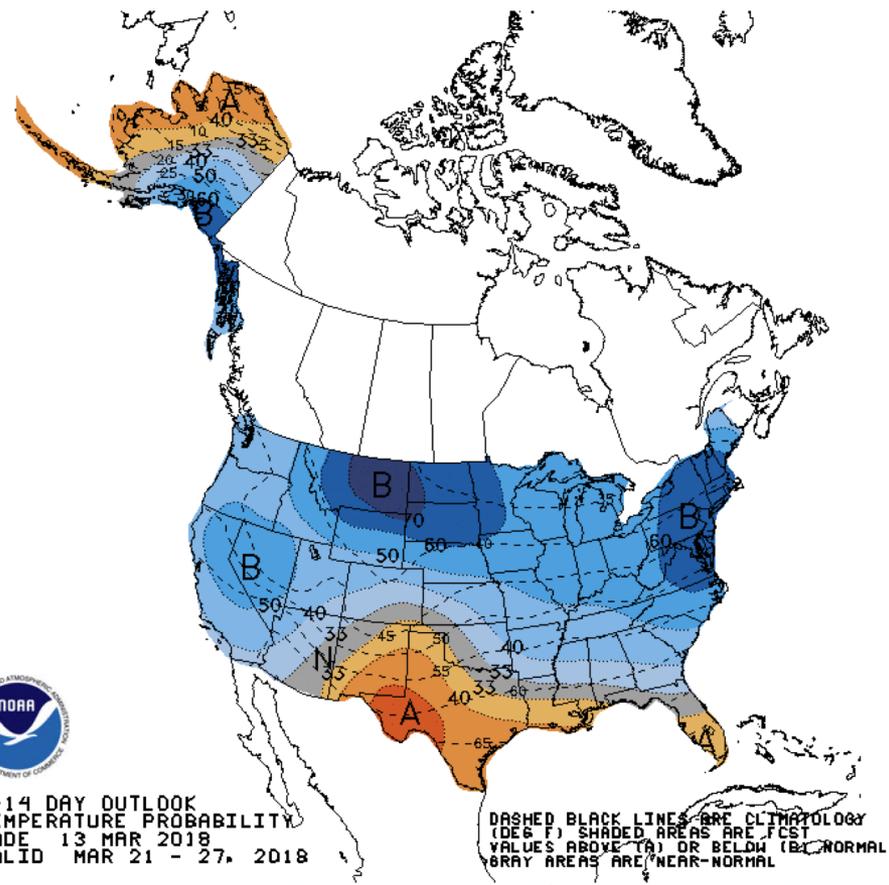
Upcoming Weather

Precipitation Forecast March 14 - March 21 2018

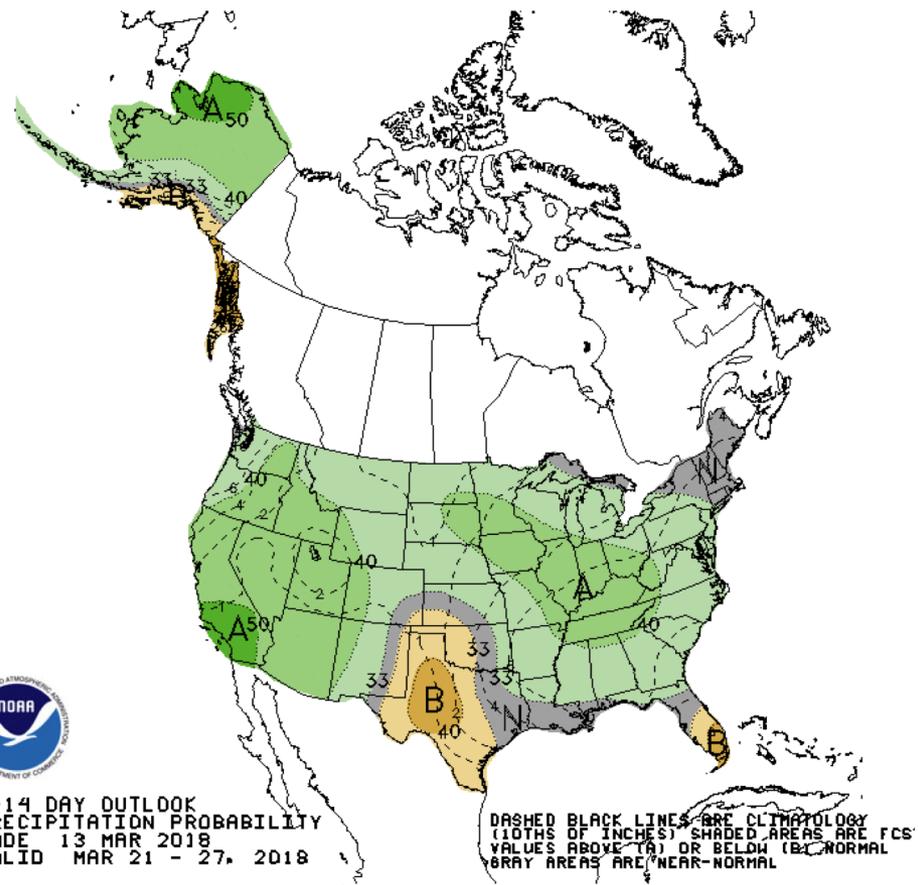


Upcoming Weather – Temperature Outlook

8-14 day temperature probabilities
March 21 - March 27 2018



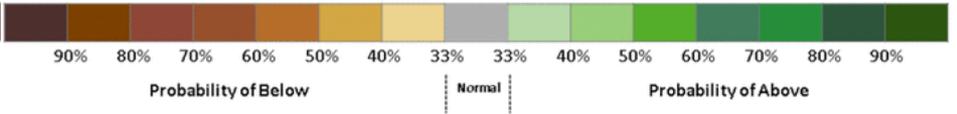
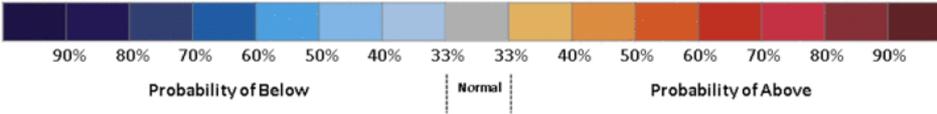
8-14 day precipitation probabilities
March 21 - March 27 2018



8-14 DAY OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
MADE 13 MAR 2018
VALID MAR 21 - 27, 2018



8-14 DAY OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
MADE 13 MAR 2018
VALID MAR 21 - 27, 2018



Up Next

- Peak Flow updates twice a month (Beginning mid April)
- April - Colorado River Basin water supply briefing
 - April 6th at 11 am MDT (www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)
- April - Great Basin water supply briefing
 - April 6th at 1:30 pm MDT (www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

These slides are available at: www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/present/present2017.cgi

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Please contact us with any questions

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