Spring 2024 Peak Flow Outlook

March 20, 2024 Ashley Nielson-Hydrologist



Presentation Overview

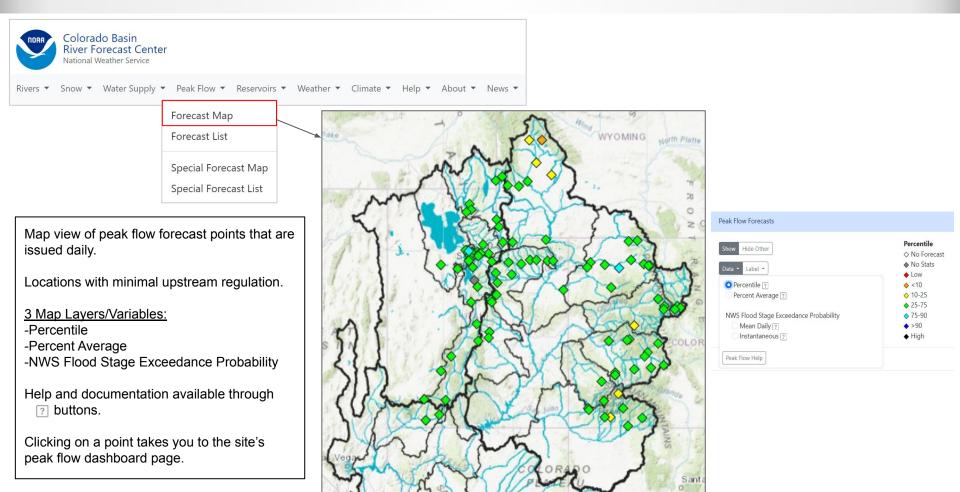
- Peak Flow Forecast Products Overview
 - Map View
 - $\circ \quad \text{List View} \quad$
 - Peak Flow Dashboard Page
- Current Conditions
 - Snow conditions
 - Mid-March Peak Flow Forecasts
- Spring Weather Impacts
- Summary

Participants will be muted during the webinar.

If you have a question please type it in or raise your hand and questions will be answered at the end of the webinar.

Webinar recording & slides will be available on the CBRFC webpage.

Peak Flow Forecasts - Map View



Peak Flow Forecasts - List View

Forecast Map



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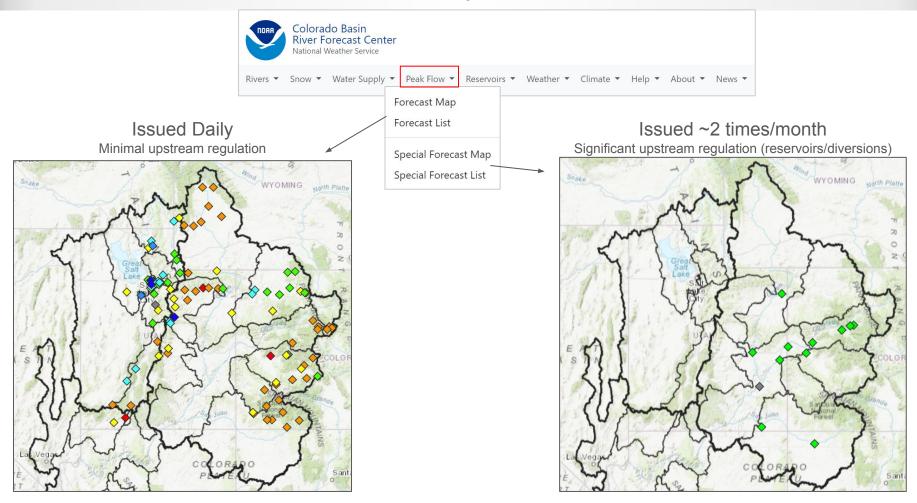
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Search

Daily Peak Flow Forecasts - Colorado - Latest - Sorted by Area

)						Г	-				1			-									
Choose Area -	Sort By ▼ Sho	w/Hide ▼	Forecast	Month Forecast Year	Legend	CSV Dat				Forecas	st Lis	t						Data filt	er/so	ortinc	option	s avail	able.			
Green < Colorado										Special Special								Clicking		-				w dasl	nboar	d page.
San Juan Great										-1																
Sevier Virgin	Sub Area	NWS ID	River	Location	Forecast Created	Foreca 50	t Forecast 25	Forecast 10	Percent Cond	ile Percentile	Rank		Percent Average Cond		Average Peak		lood 1	Observed Peak to Obse Date Date		Historic Peak	Hist Peak Date	Forecast Earliest Date	Forecast 50 Date	Forecast Latest Date	Normal Earliest Date	
Lower Colorado	Upper	WBRW4	Green	Daniel; Nr; Warren Bridge; At	2024-03-	18 211	2555	2847	♦	20	73	91	•	72	2891	٠	8609			5620	1997-06-12	05-16	06-10	07-07	05-27	06-24
	Upper	FRAW4	Pine Ck	Fremont Lk; Abv	2024-03-	18 112	1285	1636	•	7	59	63	٠	71	1558	•				2300	2017-06-23	05-15	06-10	07-04	05-29	06-27
	Upper	BPNW4	New Fork	Big Piney; Nr	2024-03-	18 370	4376	4959	٠	24	53	69	٠	75	4898	٠	8813			9110	1986-06-08	05-17	06-10	07-07	05-25	06-23
	Upper	BSRW4	Big Sandy	Farson; Nr	2024-03-	18 55	5 769	949	•	24	62	81	٥	74	741	\$				1690	1986-06-05	05-09	06-06	07-02	05-21	06-18
	Upper	LABW4	Green	La Barge; Nr	2024-03-	18 673	8148	8792	•	30	43	60	•	79	8415	1	0933			18800	1986-06-10	05-23	06-14	07-08	05-26	06-22
	Upper	HMFW4	Hams Fork	Frontier; Nr; Pole Ck; Blo	2024-03-	18 56	9 770	907	•	36	46	71	٠	85	667	٠	1889			2000	1986-06-06	04-23	05-27	06-15	05-10	06-05
	Upper	BNRU1	Blacks Fork	Robertson; Nr	2024-03-	18 116	4 1340	1651	•	27	38	51	•	82	1416	•	1938			2860	2011-07-01	05-14	06-02	06-25	05-21	06-16
	Upper	HFMW4	Henrys Fork	Manila; Nr	2024-03-	18 69	2 1047	1368	٠	52	43	88	•	90	762	٠	2815			3780	1965-06-14	04-26	06-09	07-09	05-08	06-20
	Yampa/White	STMC2	Yampa	Steamboat Springs	2024-03-	18 327	7 3663	4682	•	51	57	116	٠	105	3093	٠	5922			5870	1921-06-15	05-12	05-31	06-24	05-16	06-07
	Yampa/White	ENMC2	Elk	Milner; Nr	2024-03-	18 387	4572	5870	•	51	27	54	۰	98	3946	٥	5535			7000	2011-06-08	04-28	05-23	06-22	05-16	06-06
	Yampa/White	ELHC2	Elkhead Ck	Long Gulch; Abv; Hayden; Nr	2024-03-	18 119	5 1351	1702	٠	56	12	25	•	100	<mark>1</mark> 195	٠	2753			2120	2011-05-17	04-25	05-13	06-06	04-20	05-17
	Yampa/White	WIKC2	Williams Fork	Mouth; At; Hamilton; Nr	2024-03-	18 173	5 2079	2527	•	76	5	17	٠	106	1632	\$				3620	2008-05-21	04-26	05-22	06-27	05-07	06-01
	Yampa/White	MBLC2	Yampa	Maybell; Nr	2024-03-	18 1092	5 12118	15597	•	62	42	108	٠	107	10155	<mark>ہ</mark> 2	2799			24400	1984-05-18	04-29	05-23	06-25	05-11	06-06
	Yampa/White	LILC2	Little Snake	Lily; Nr	2024-03-	18 437	5119	6277	٠	51	50	102	٥	111	3924	۰ 1	8522			13400	1984-05-19	04-28	05-23	06-20	05-07	06-05
	Yampa/White	YDLC2	Yampa	Deerlodge Park	2024-03-	18 1530	17959	20009	٠	66	14	39	<u> ♦</u>	119	12758	و ک	0744			32300	1984-05-19	04-29	05-23	06-24	05-13	06-06
	Yampa/White	WRMC2	White	Meeker; Nr	2024-03-	18 253	5 2997	3514	٠	34	79	119	٠	90	2811	٠	8929			6320	1984-05-26	05-12	05-29	06-27	05-15	06-09
	Yampa/White	WATU1	White	Watson; Nr	2024-03-	18 252	3 3027	3538	٠	36	61	95	•	91	2756	•	9568			8160	1929-07-16	05-10	05-29	06-28	05-16	06-11

Peak Flow Forecasts - Daily Points vs. Special Points



Peak Flow Dashboard Page

Long Range Probabilistic Peak Flow Forecast: Planning Tool

- Peak forecast evolution plot
- Tabular forecasts
- Probabilistic Forcings
 - 30 years of historical precipitation and
 - temperature (1991-2020)

Daily Deterministic Streamflow Forecast: Use as time of peak nears

- 10-day streamflow forecast hydrograph
- Tabular 10-day streamflow forecast table
- Deterministic Forcings
 - 10 days of future temperature
 - 7 days of future precipitation

Supplemental Information:

- Model snow: driving peak flow forecasts
- Historical April-July observed peak flows

Snow * Water Supply * Peak Flow * Reservoirs * Weather * Climate * Help * About * News * Search this site. Daily Peak Flow Forecast - ENMC2 - Elk - Milner Ni Model Pup Dat 2024-03-18 (Incl 7 Day Precip Forecast Elk - Milner, Nr (ENMC2) NOAA 7 Day OPF, Mean Daily ESP. Mean Daily Special No Special Forecast FSP 50% (2024-03-18): 3872 cfs (98% Avg), (51% below 27/54) 5535 cfs Flood Flow 50% Forecast 3872 cfs 2011 2019 Rank of 50% Forecast 27th Highest Flow / 54 Total Years Percentile 51% of Years Below Forecast Max 2011-06-08 Peak to Date Average Peak 3946 cfs 5000 2016 Action 1905 Percent Average 98% Average Normal Time of Peak 05.16.06.06 Last Year's Peak Min 1915-6-26 **Exceedance Probability** Mean Daily Flow (cfs) Exceedance Probability Date of Peak Maximum 6145 Latest 06-22 10% 5870 06.08 10% 25% 4572 06-03 25% 50% 3872 50% 05-23 75% 3495 05-19 75% 90% 3251 90% 05-10

Magnitude and Timing are independent forecasts.

Minimum

Colorado Basin

River Forecast Center

Date	Time	Flow
/20/2024	12Z	153
1/21/2024	12Z	188
/22/2024	12Z	225
/23/2024	12Z	269
1/24/2024	122	323
/25/2024	12Z	312
/26/2024	12Z	222
/27/2024	12Z	183
/28/2024	12Z	172
/29/2024	12Z	184

2639





04-28

Search

Rank Year Peak Date 2011 7000 6/8 2019 6410 6/22 2010 6100 6/9 2008 5780 5/22 2023 5670 5/16 2005 5660 5/25 1921 5350 6/16 1920 5220 5/26 2014 5190 5/31 1997 5040 6/3 11 2006 5030 5/24

Farliest

Peak Flow Dashboard Page

50%

75%

90%

Minimum

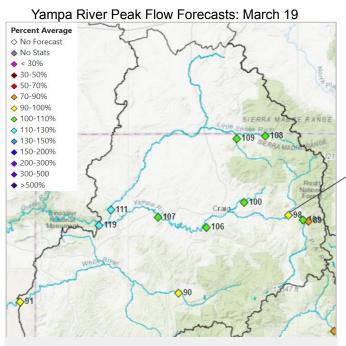
Magnitude and Timing are independent forecasts.

3872

3495

3251

2639



Clicking on a point takes you to the site's peak flow dashboard page.

Colorado B River Foreca National Weather	ast Center						
ers ▼ Snow ▼ Wat	er Supply 🔹 Peak Flow 👻 Reservoirs 👻 V	∕eather ▼ Cli	mate ▼ Help ▼ A	bout ▼ News ▼	Search this sit	Sea	arch
	Daily Peak Fl	ow Foreca	st - ENMC2 - E	lk - Milner Nr			
Vverview Forecast Tables	Forecast Graphic 10-day Streamflow Forecast	istorical Peaks	Model Snow Help				
odel Run Date	2024-03-18 (Incl 7 Day Precip Forecast)	Elk - Mi	iner, Nr (ENMC2) M	IOAA			
ood Flow	5535 cfs	No Special					
% Forecast	3872 cfs	ESP 50% (2024-03-18): 3872 cfs (98%	Avg), (51% below 27/54)			
nk of 50% Forecast	27th Highest Flow / 54 Total Years	8000				2011 2019	
rcentile	51% of Years Below Forecast	7000 M	ax 2011-06-08		2023	2010	
ak to Date		6000			A	2014 006 1997 1921	
verage Peak	3946 cfs		ction		1996	2000 2016	
ercent Average	98%				1916	1906 904 1905 1924 1914	
ormal Time of Peak	05-16 - 06-06	3000			2004 1994	A & A -	
st Year's Peak			in 1915-6-26		012 A 1912	1992 19	15
		1000					
		0			No	rmal Time of Peak	
		02-01	03-01	04-01	05-01	06-01	07-01
Da	ily Peak Flow Forecast Magnitude			Daily Peak	Flow Forec	ast Timing	
cceedance Probability	Mean Daily Flow (cfs)		Exceedance Pro	obability		Date of Peal	k
aximum	6145		Latest			06-22	
%	5870		10%			06-08	
%	4572		25%			06-03	

50%

75%

90%

Earliest

05-23

05-19

05-10

04-28

Peak Flow Dashboard Page: Forecast Overview and Peak Flow Evolution Plot

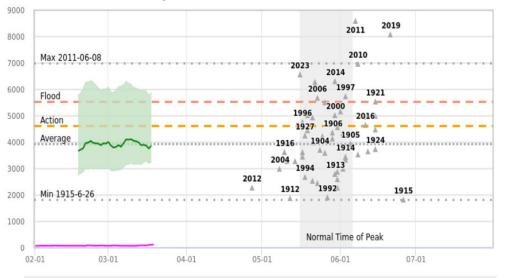
Daily Peak Flow Forecast - ENMC2 - Elk - Milner Nr

Overview Forecast Tables Forecast Graphic 10-day Streamflow Forecast Historical Peaks Model Snow Help

Model Run Date	2024-03-18 (Incl 7 Day Precip Forecast)
Flood Flow	5535 cfs
50% Forecast	3872 cfs
Rank of 50% Forecast	27th Highest Flow / 54 Total Years
Percentile	51% of Years Below Forecast
Peak to Date	
Average Peak	3946 cfs
Percent Average	98%
Normal Time of Peak	05-16 - 06-06
Last Year's Peak	

Elk - Milner, Nr (ENMC2) NOAA

7 Day QPF, Mean Daily ESP, Mean Daily Special No Special Forecast ESP 50% (2024-03-18): 3872 cfs (98% Avg), (51% below 27/54)



Clicking on the plot will take you to an interactive evolution plot.

Peak Flow Dashboard Page: Peak Flow Evolution Plot



Peak Flow Dashboard Page: Daily Peak Flow Forecast Tables

Daily Peak Flow Forecast Tables

- Probability of peak flow magnitude
- Probability of peak date
 - Forecast peak flow timing generally points to the 'normal time of peak' until the actual time of peak is near.
- Magnitude and timing are independent forecasts

Daily Peak	Flow Forecast Magnitude	Daily Peak Flow Forecast Timing						
Exceedance Probability	Mean Daily Flow (cfs)	Exceedance Probability	Date of Peak					
Maximum	6145	Latest	06-22					
10%	5870	10%	06-08					
25%	4572	25%	06-03					
50%	3872	50%	05-23					
75%	3495	75%	05-19					
90%	3251	90%	05-10					
Minimum	2639	Earliest	04-28					

Magnitude and Timing are independent forecasts.

Latest 10 day Streamflow Forecast Table

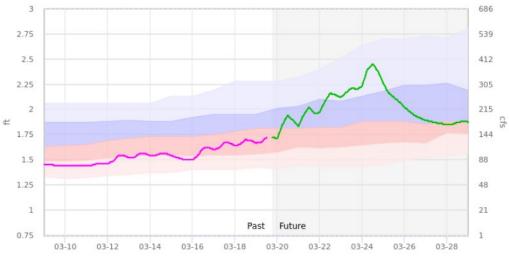
Date	Time	Flow
3/20/2024	12Z	153
3/21/2024	12Z	188
3/22/2024	12Z	225
3/23/2024	12Z	269
3/24/2024	12Z	323
3/25/2024	12Z	312
3/26/2024	12Z	222
3/27/2024	12Z	183
3/28/2024	12Z	172
3/29/2024	12Z	184

Daily Average Forecast Flow, CFSD (ending at date/time)

Latest 10 Day Streamflow Forecast Plot

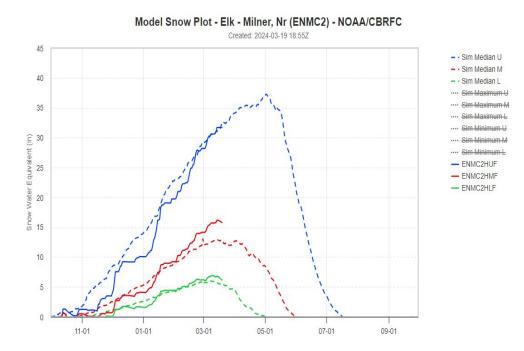
ENMC2: Elk - Milner, Nr - Fcst Date: 03/19/15Z - NOAA/CBRFC

Latest Ob: 1.72 ft, 136 cfs (03/19/12Z) - Flood: 7.5 ft, 5535 cfs - Action: 7.0 ft, 4618 cfs



Peak Flow Dashboard Page: Supplemental Information

Apr-Jul Historical Peaks											
Rank	Year	Peak	Date								
1	2011	7000	6/8								
2	2019	6410	6/22								
3	2010	6100	6/9								
4	2008	5780	5/22								
5	2023	5670	5/16								
6	2005	5660	5/25								
7	1921	5350	6/16								
8	1920	5220	5/26								
9	2014	5190	5/31								
10	1997	5040	6/3								
11	2006	5030	5/24								
COVEL				Ť							

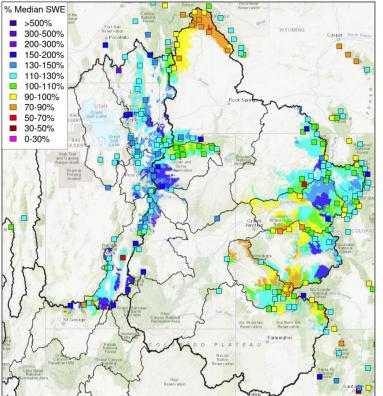


CSV file

Current Snowpack Conditions

March 19 SWE Conditions NRCS SNOTEL Observed (Squares)

CBRFC Model (Significant Areas)



SWE = Snow Water Equivalent The amount of water in snow.

Water Year 2024 CBRFC Model SWE (Major Contributing Areas) Percent of 1991-2020 Median										
UPPER COLORA	DO RIVE	R BASIN								
	Mar1	Mar19	Change							
Above Lake Powell	97	107	10							
Green R	iver Basir	1								
Above Fontenelle	81	85	4							
Above Flaming Gorge	91	97	6							
Yampa/White	108	113	5							
Duchesne	110	111	1							
Price/San Rafael/Dirty Devil	116	130	14							
Colorado Riv	er Headw	aters								
Above Kremmling	100	112	12							
Eagle	98	105	7							
Roaring Fork	92	102	10							
Above Cameo	96	106	10							
Southwes	st Colorad	0								
Gunnison	95	103	8							
Dolores	84	102	18							
San Juan	84	101	17							
GREA	T BASIN									
Bear	111	118	7							
Weber	115	122	7							
Six Creeks	113	121	8							
Provo/Utah Lake	119	123	4							
Sevier	98	122	24							

Snow above and below SNOTEL stations is modeled in CBRFC's hydrologic model.

Upper Colorado 85-130%

Great Basin 120-125%

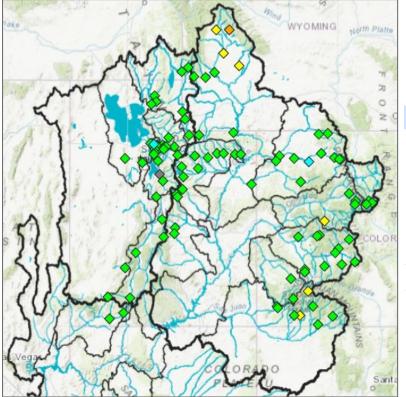
Mid-March Peak Flow Forecast - Percentile

Percentile: the percent of historical annual peak flow values that are below the current peak flow forecast.

Legend: Percentile Categories

Peak flow forecasts with a higher percentile correspond to locations with better snowpack conditions.

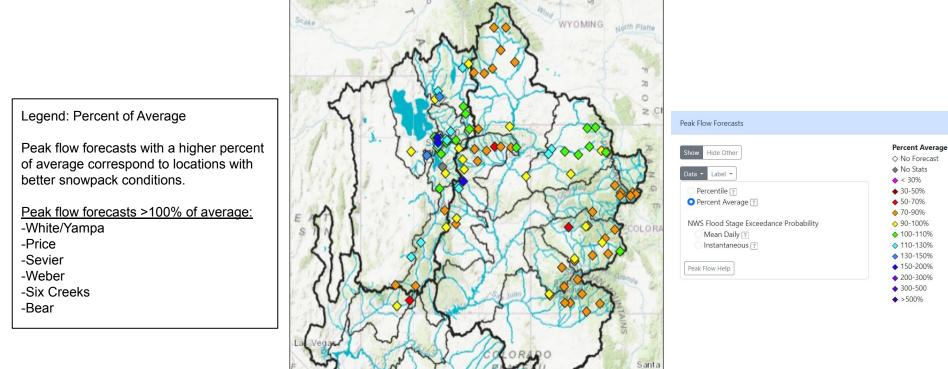
<u>Peak flow forecasts >90th percentile:</u> None as of mid-March



Show Hide Other	Percentile ♦ No Forecast
Data • Label •	 No Stats
	♦ Low
O Percentile ?	♦ <10
Percent Average ?	♦ 10-25
	♦ 25-75
NWS Flood Stage Exceedance Probability	♦ 75-90
Mean Daily ?	♦ >90
Instantaneous ?	♦ High

Mid-March Peak Flow Forecast - Percent of Average

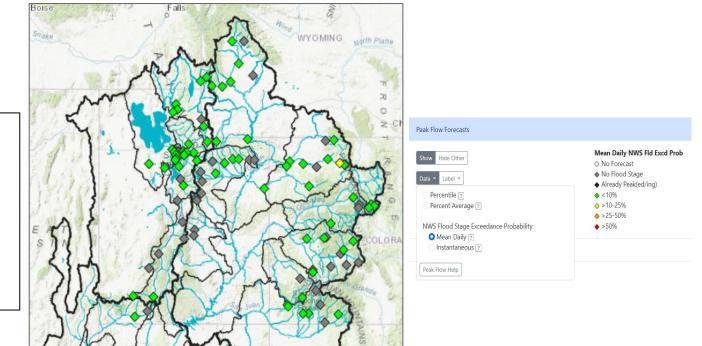
Percent of Average: the peak flow forecast percent of the 1991-2020 average peak flow.



Albuquerque

Mid-March Peak Flow Forecast - Flood Stage Exceedance Probability

NWS Flood Stage Exceedance Probability: the probability of the peak flow forecast exceeding flood stage.



Santa

Legend: Exceedance Probability

Peak flow forecasts with a higher exceedance probability correspond to locations with increased flood potential.

Peak flow forecasts >50%: None as of mid-March

*Note: flood stage not established at all peak flow forecast locations.

Mid-March Special Peak Flow Forecasts

Legend: Flood Stage Exceedance Probability

Includes mainstem river locations

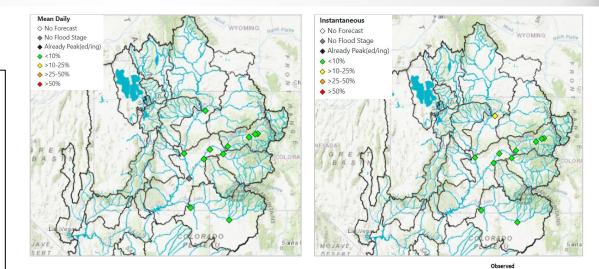
Upstream water management impacts downstream flows: -reservoirs -diversions

Requires more forecaster involvement –updated ~2x/month

Examples Colorado River Mainstem -peak flow augmentation

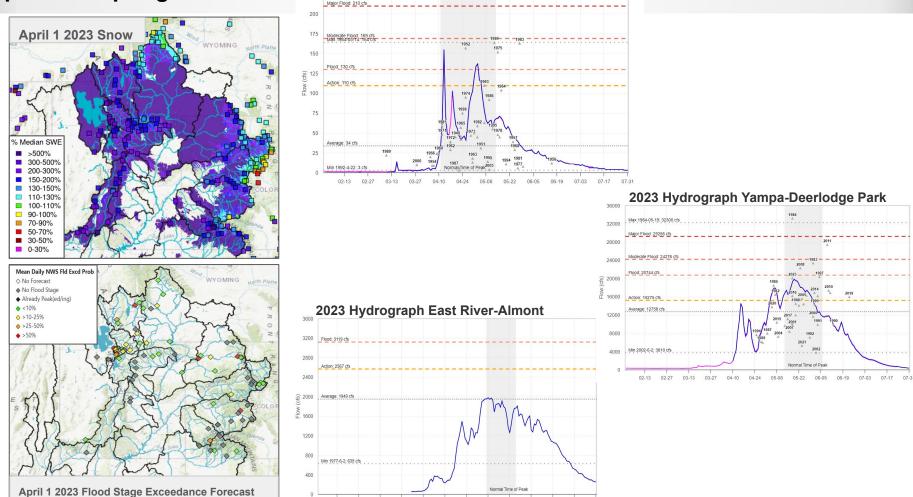
Gunnison/Green River Basin -downstream peak flow targets -magnitude/duration

-Real-time multi-agency coordination



Area	Sub Area	NWS ID	River	Location	lssue Date	Mean	Daily Mean 90	Daily Mean 75	Daily Mean 50	Daily Mean 25	Daily Mean 10	Inst	Inst 90	Inst 75	Inst 50	Inst 25	Inst 10	Average Peak	Flood	Peak to Date	Observed Date	Historic Peak	Hist Peak Date
Green	Lower	JESU1	Green	Jensen; Nr	2024-03-19	٠	14500	16500	18500	21000	24000	٥	15000	17000	19000	22000	25000	17012	24100			38500	1984-05-19
Green	Lower	GRVU1	Green	Green River; Ut	2024-03-19	٠	16500	19000	23000	27000	30000	•	17000	19000	23000	27000	31000	20869	37001			47200	1984-05-21
San Juan		ARFN5	Animas	Farmington	2024-03-19	٠	2500	2800	3500	3900	4300	٠	3000	3400	4100	4500	4900	4510	9218			11000	1949-06-20
San Juan		BFFU1	San Juan	Bluff; Nr	2024- <mark>0</mark> 3-19	٠	3000	3400	4000	4400	4800	٠	3700	4100	4800	5200	5600	6693	35640			15200	1979-05-31
Colorado	Mainstem	GPSC2	Eagle	Gypsum; Blo	2024-03-19	•	2300	2700	3200	3700	4800	٠	2600	3000	3600	4100	5400	3643	6027			6580	1984-05-26
Colorado	Mainstem	EGLC2	Colorado	Dotsero; Nr	2024-03-19	٠	5000	6500	7500	9500	13000	٠	5300	6900	7900	10000	14000	8946	16949			20800	1984-05-26
Colorado	Mainstem	<u>GWSC2</u>	Roaring Fork	Glenwood Springs	2024-03-19	•	3200	3800	4100	5000	6000	٠	3700	4300	4700	5700	6800	5579	13139			11800	1995-07-13
Colorado	Mainstem	CAMC2	Colorado	Cameo; Nr	2024-03-19	•	9500	12000	13500	17000	22000	٠	10000	13000	14000	18000	23000	16440	25966			38000	1984-05-27
Colorado	Gunnison	GJNC2	Gunnison	Grand Junction; Nr	2024-03-19	•	5000	7500	8000	8000	10500	٠	5600	8100	8600	8600	11000	8659	20524			23200	1984-06-09
Colorado	Mainstem	CCUC2	Colorado	Co	2024-03-19	٠	12500	18000	21000	24000	33000	٠	13000	19000	22000	25000	34000	23905	45947			68300	1984-05-28
Colorado	Mainstem	CLRU1	Colorado	Cisco; Nr	2024-03-19	•	14000	19500	23000	26000	35000	٠	15000	20000	24000	27000	36000	25464	54625			69500	1984-05-28
Colorado	Mainstem	CTRU1	Colorado	Cataract Canyon	2024-03-19	٠	29000	37000	45000	52000	64000	\diamond						43534				117000	1984-05-29

Impacts of Spring Weather



07-03 07-17

05-22 06-05 06-19

2023 Hydrograph Emigration Ck-Salt Lake City

225

02-13 02-27 03-13 03-27 04-10 04-24 05-08

Impacts of Spring Weather

					Forecast Hydrograph - Yampa - Deerlodge Park (YDLC2) - No Fost Date: 03/19/15Z - Latest Ob: 3.44 ft, 944 cfs (03/19/20Z) - Flood: 13.5 ft, 20744 cfs - Action	
					18000 WY 2010 - WY 1994	12.28
					16000 Action Stage: 15275 cfs — WY 2005 — WY 2010	11.35
Year	Mid-March SWE (in)	Peak SWE (in)	Peak Flow (CFS)	Peak Flow Date	14000 — WY 2021	10.38
1994	17.5	21.1	7270	May 20		9.36 8.29 Ø
2005	18.2	22.1	15200	May 25		8.29 Stage (ft) 7.43
2010	16.9	22.7	17000	June 11	WY 1994	6.68
2021	17.7	19.0	4930	May 26	4000	5.77
					Past Eufure WY 2021	4.50
						0.70

Peak flow forecasts have a high level of uncertainty and are highly dependent on spring weather.

Summary

- Peak flow forecasts represent a long range outlook of peak flows due to snowmelt.
- Mean daily peak flow forecast points are a subset of our daily river forecast points.
 - Available as:
 - Percentile
 - Percent Average
 - NWS Flood Stage Exceedance Probability
- Many, but not all, of these sites, have established flood stages and can provide some flood threat information.
- Peak flow forecasts have a high level of uncertainty and are highly dependent on spring weather.
 - Typically only have a 5-10 day forecast lead time for timing the peak
 - 10-Day streamflow forecasts are more accurate forecast of peak
- Instantaneous Peak Flow Forecasts
 - Relationship between observed mean daily peak and instantaneous peak in each year
 - Only available for locations with strong correlations and long historical record
 - Sites with frequent heavy rain have poor relationships
- Peak flow forecast points alone are not a comprehensive summary of any flood threat.

Basin Focal Points (Forecasters)

Brenda Alcorn - Green, Duchesne, White/Yampa brenda.alcorn@noaa.gov

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Cody Moser – Upper Colorado Mainstem, Sevier <u>cody.moser@noaa.gov</u>

Trevor Grout - Great Basin trevor.grout@noaa.gov

Nanette Hosenfeld - Virgin, Lower Colorado nanette.hosenfeld@noaa.gov

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John Lhotak – Development and Operations Hydrologist john.lhotak@noaa.gov

Cass Goodman - Computer Systems Analyst cass.goodman@noaa.gov

CBRFC Operations <u>cbrfc.operations@noaa.gov</u> 801-524-4004 CBRFC Webpage https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/

CBRFC Water Supply Presentations https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/present/present.html