February 2026
Water Supply Briefing

Colorado Basin
River Forecast Center

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Weather Service

Presentation Overview

Observed Weather

Snowpack Conditions

Soil Moisture Conditions

2026 Water Supply Forecasts

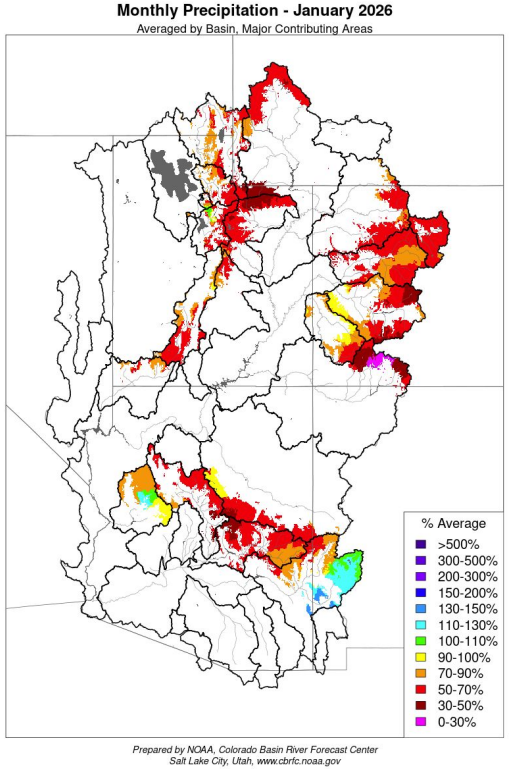
February Forecast Error

Upcoming Weather

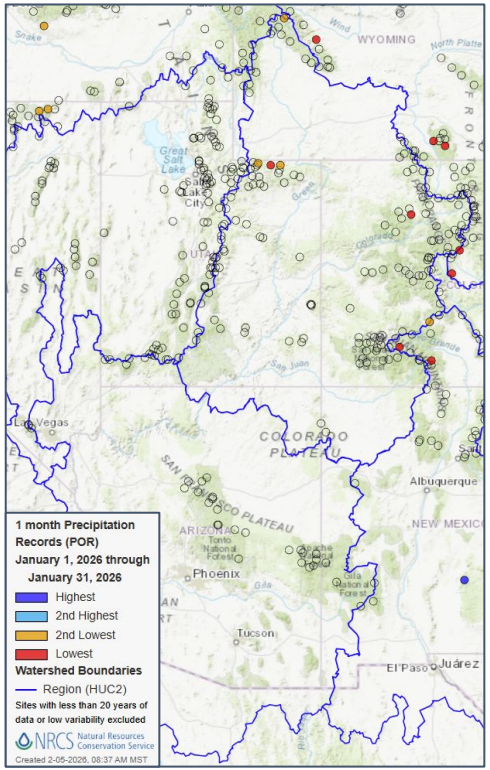
Contacts & Questions

January 2026 Observed Weather

Observed precipitation during January was below to well below normal across the region and generally ranged between 50-75% of the 1991-2020 average.



Water Year 2026 CBRFC Precipitation (Major Contributing Areas) Percent of 1991-2020 Average		
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN		
	Jan	Oct-Jan
Above Lake Powell	62	85
Green River Basin		
Above Fontenelle	57	126
Above Flaming Gorge	58	112
Yampa/White	69	81
Duchesne	49	92
Price/San Rafael/Dirty Devil	69	78
Colorado River Headwaters		
Above Kremmling	65	65
Eagle	70	65
Roaring Fork	67	67
Above Cameo	67	67
Southwest Colorado		
Gunnison	64	86
Dolores	76	93
San Juan	44	101
LOWER COLORADO RIVER BASIN		
Virgin	69	118
Little Colorado	62	107
Verde	60	128
Salt	63	92
Upper Gila	95	77
GREAT BASIN		
Bear	72	108
Weber	72	85
Six Creeks	83	82
Provo/Utah Lake	78	77
Sevier	74	83



Water Year 2026 Weather Summary (October-January)

October precipitation was above normal in most areas, and included a heavy rain event that led to high water impacts across portions of southern UT, southwest CO, and central AZ.

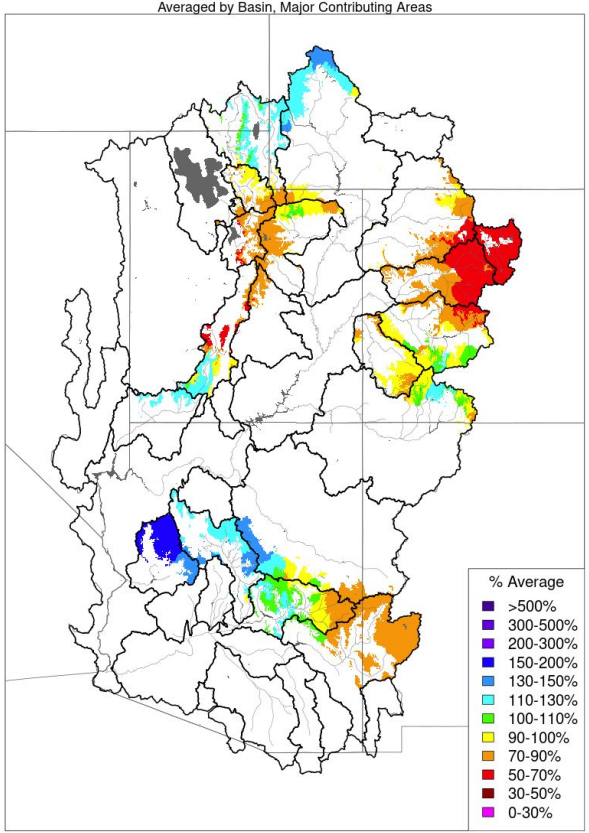
November was drier than normal across northern areas and wetter than normal across southern areas.

December weather was much warmer than normal, with precipitation mostly favoring northern areas.

January precipitation was generally 50-75% of average.

Water Year Precipitation, October 2025 - January 2026

Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas



Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov

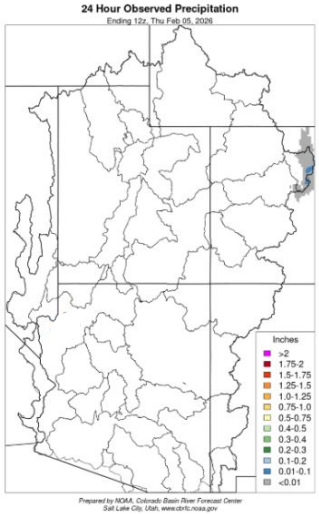
Water Year 2026
CBRFC Precipitation (Major Contributing Areas)
Percent of 1991-2020 Average

	Jan	Oct-Jan
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN		
Above Lake Powell	62	85
Green River Basin		
Above Fontenelle	57	126
Above Flaming Gorge	58	112
Yampa/White	69	81
Duchesne	49	92
Price/San Rafael/Dirty Devil	69	78
Colorado River Headwaters		
Above Kremmling	65	65
Eagle	70	65
Roaring Fork	67	67
Above Cameo	67	67
Southwest Colorado		
Gunnison	64	86
Dolores	76	93
San Juan	44	101
LOWER COLORADO RIVER BASIN		
Virgin	69	118
Little Colorado	62	107
Verde	60	128
Salt	63	92
Upper Gila	95	77
GREAT BASIN		
Bear	72	108
Weber	72	85
Six Creeks	83	82
Provo/Utah Lake	78	77
Sevier	74	83

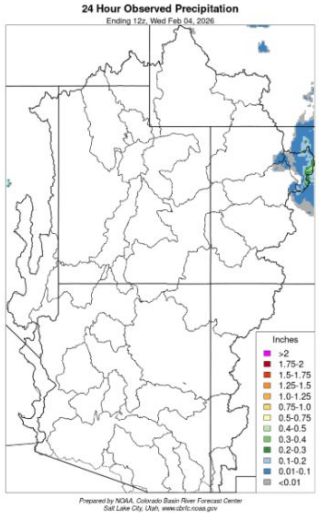
February-To-Date Precipitation

Dry weather has continued into early February.

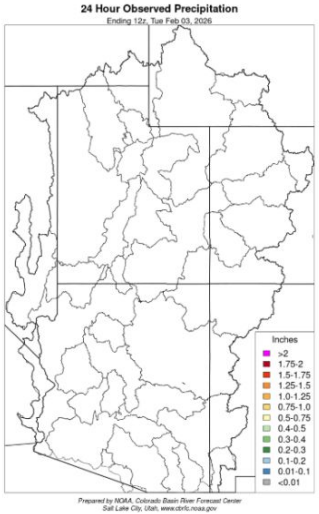
05 Data File



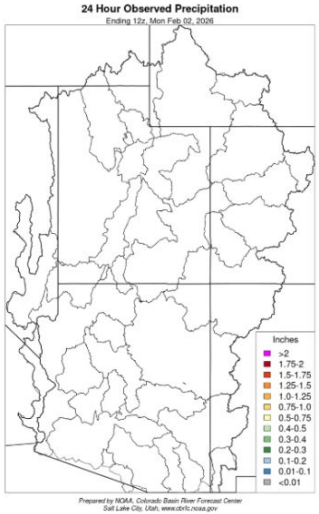
04 Data File



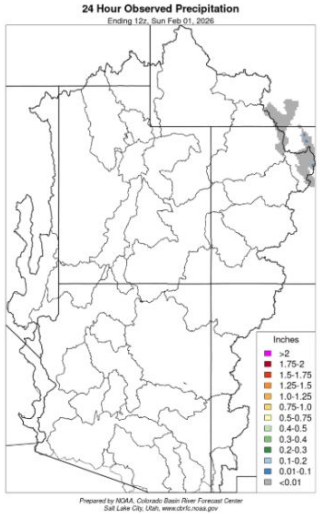
03 Data File



02 Data File



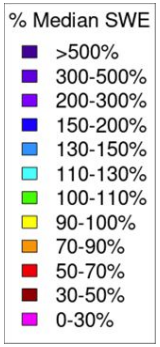
01 Data File

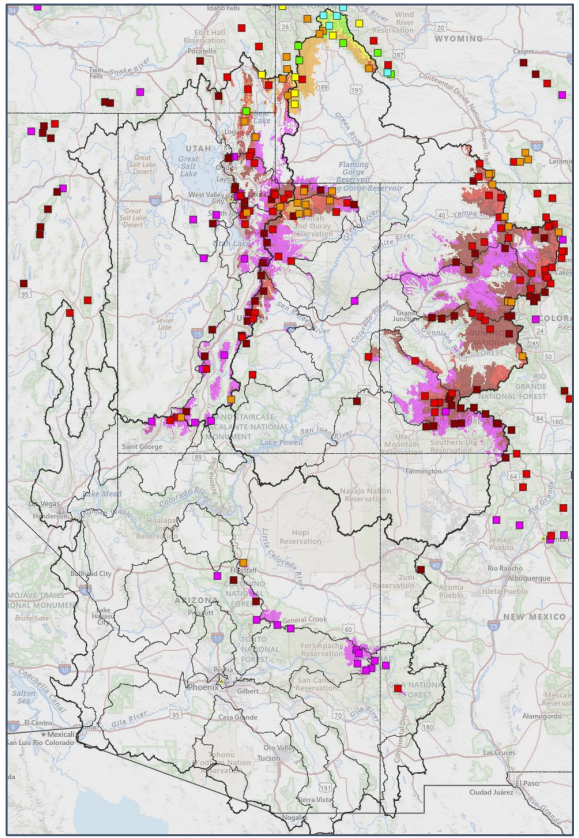


Snowpack Conditions

February 5 SWE Conditions

NRCS SNOTEL Observed (Squares)
CBRFC Model (Significant Areas)





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

Water Year 2026
CBRFC Model SWE (Major Contributing Areas)
Percent of 1991-2020 Median

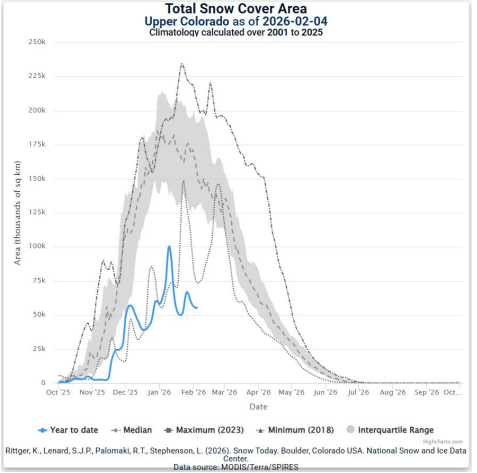
	Jan1	Feb1	Change
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN			
Above Lake Powell	45	47	2
Green River Basin			
Above Fontenelle	108	96	-12
Above Flaming Gorge	88	80	-8
Yampa/White	50	49	-1
Duchesne	69	58	-11
Price/San Rafael/Dirty Devil	28	42	14
Colorado River Headwaters			
Above Kremmling	47	47	0
Eagle	31	37	6
Roaring Fork	35	42	7
Above Cameo	39	43	4
Southwest Colorado			
Gunnison	39	45	6
Dolores	34	49	15
San Juan	34	32	-2
LOWER COLORADO RIVER BASIN			
Virgin	39	19	-20
Little Colorado	5	6	1
Verde	4	1	-3
Salt	2	26	24
Upper Gila	0	16	16
GREAT BASIN			
Bear	67	66	-1
Weber	37	46	9
Six Creeks	35	41	6
Provo/Utah Lake	28	44	16
Sevier	25	27	2

Storm systems this winter have typically been warmer than normal with high snow levels resulting in much of the precipitation falling as rain rather than snow.

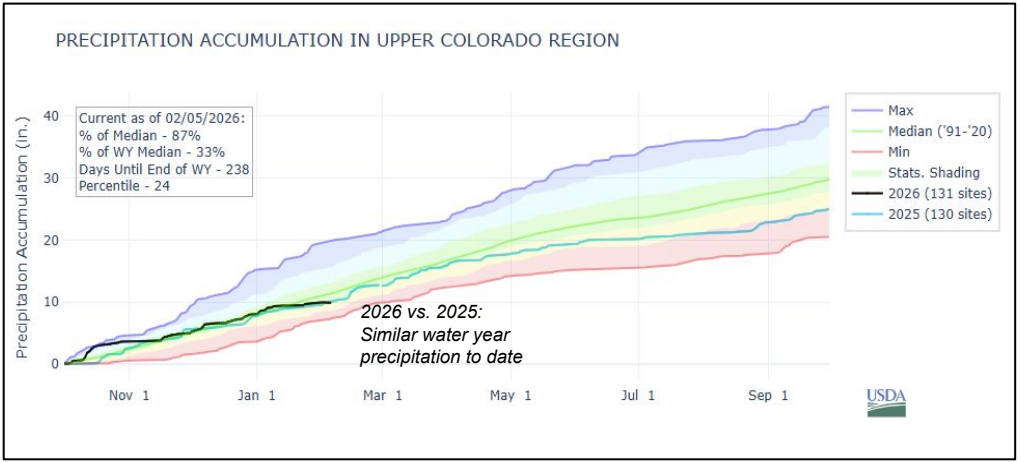
Record low SWE at numerous SNOTEL sites across central UT and central CO.

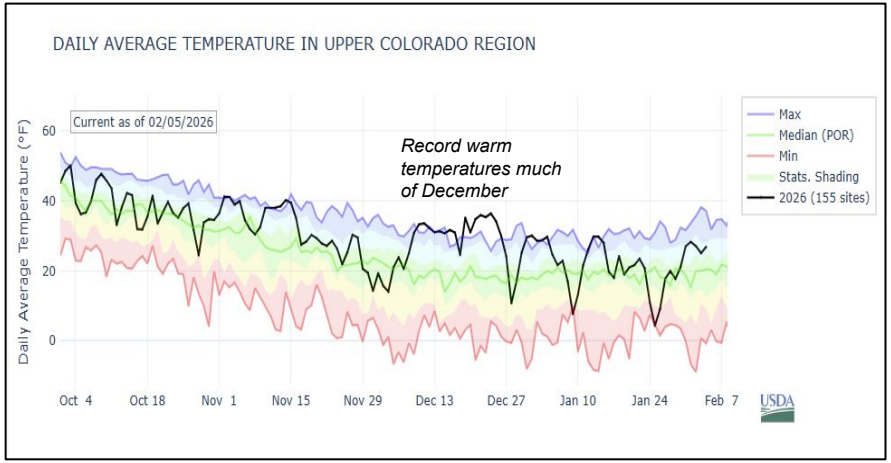
Snowmelt has occurred as high as 10,000’.

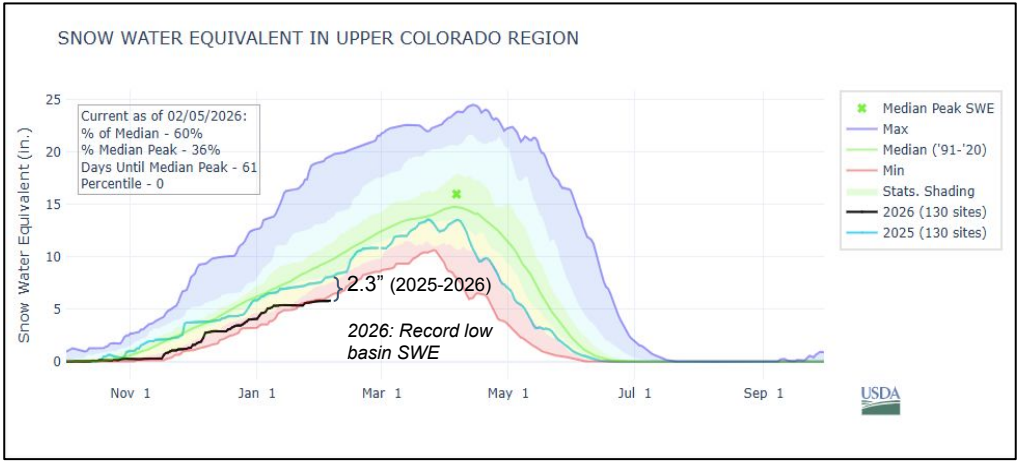
Early February snow cover is the lowest on record dating back to 2001.

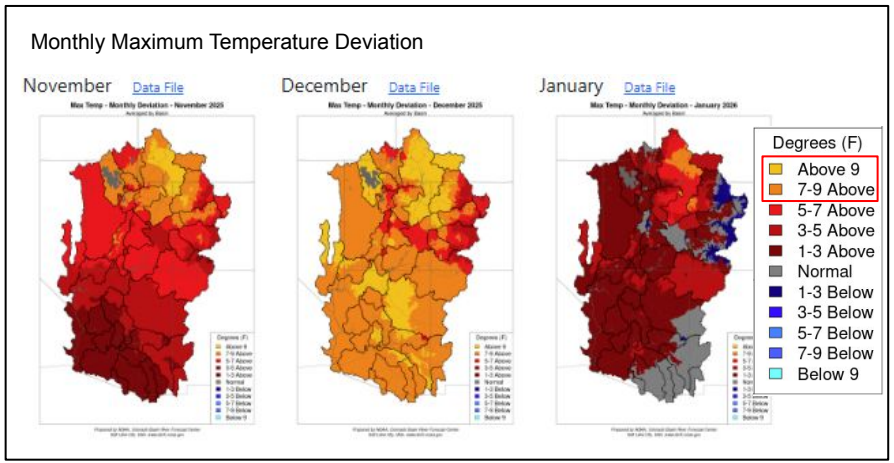


2026 Winter Temperature Impacts

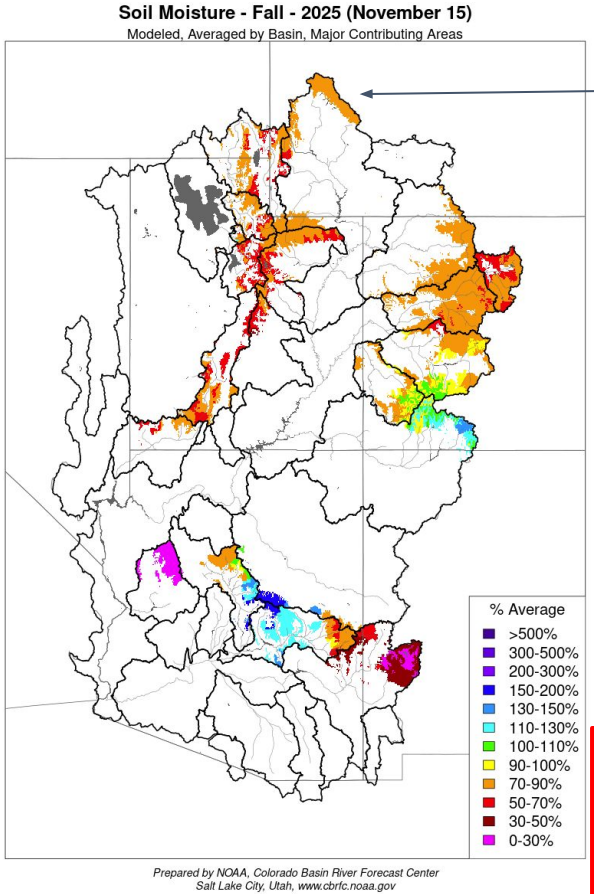








CBRFC Hydrologic Model Soil Moisture Conditions (November)

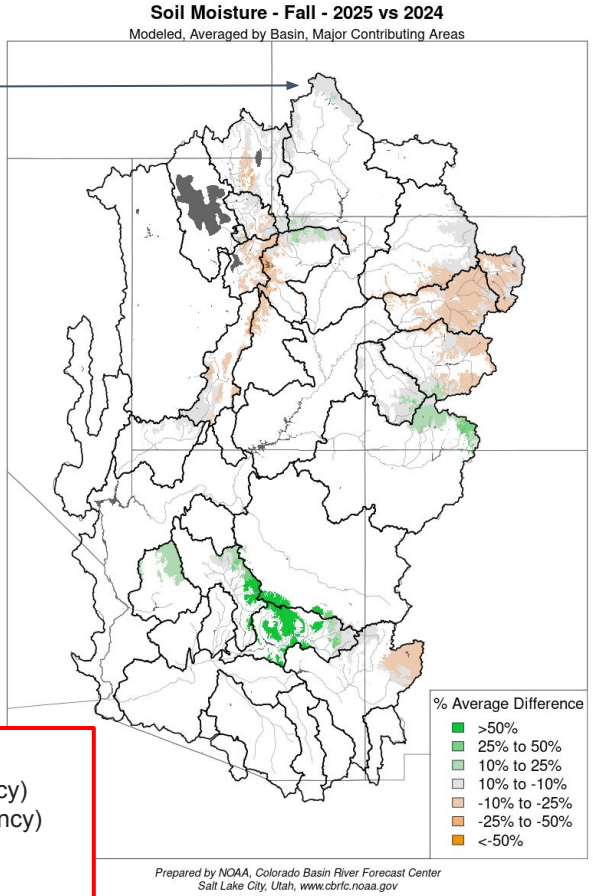


<u>Below Normal + Similar</u>
Upper Green
Northern/SW Utah
Dolores (Lower)

<u>Below Normal + Worse</u>
Central Utah
Colorado Headwaters
Upper Gunnison

<u>Above Normal + Better</u>
San Juan
Central Arizona

<u>Near Normal + Similar</u>
Uncompahgre (Gunnison)
Dolores Headwaters

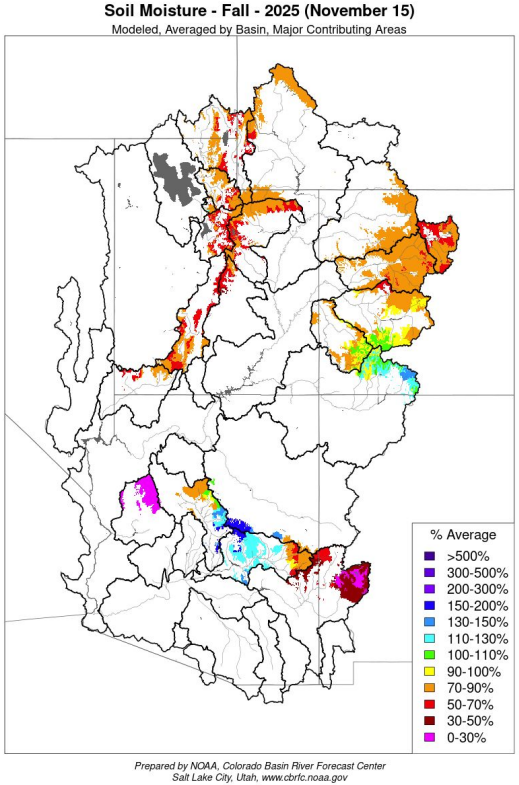


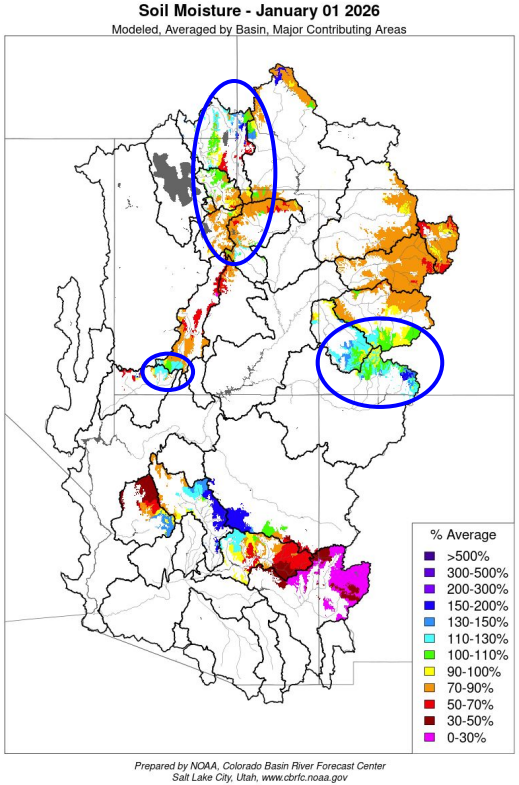
<u>Soil Moisture Impacts on Water Supply / Runoff</u>
Above normal → positive impact (increased runoff efficiency)
Below normal → negative impact (decreased runoff efficiency)

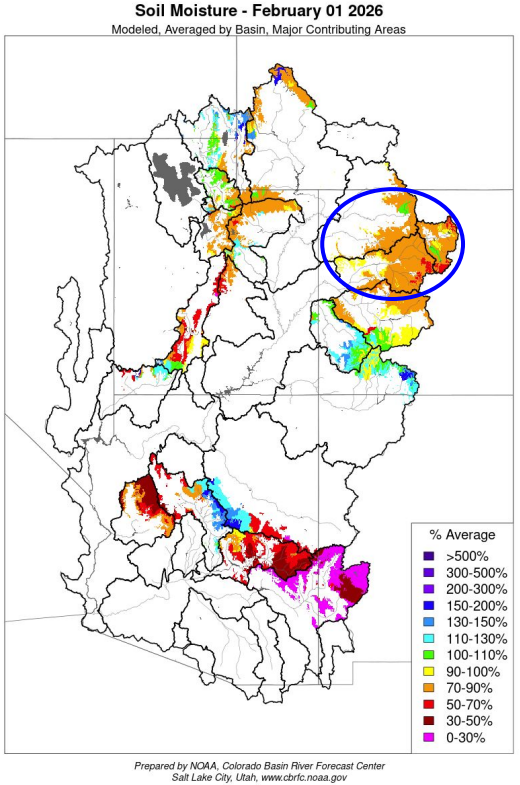
<u>Spring Runoff Timing and Magnitude Factors:</u>
snowpack conditions, spring weather, soil moisture conditions

CBRFC Hydrologic Model Soil Moisture Conditions (Nov vs. Feb)

Soil moisture/baseflow conditions typically don't change much during winter months as the snowpack is accumulating.
This has not been the case this winter due to warmer than normal conditions leading to high elevation snowmelt and rain instead of snow.

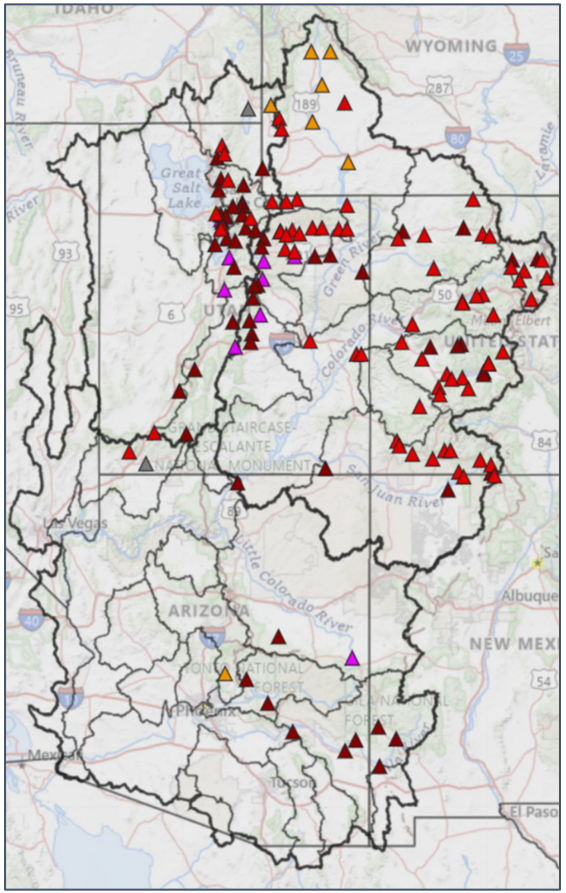






CBRFC Water Supply Forecasts

% Normal
- < 30%
- 30-50%
- 50-70%
- 70-90%
- 90-100%
- 100-110%
- 110-130%
- 130-150%
- 150-200%
- 200-300%
- 300-500
- >500%
- Regulated



Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Water Supply Forecasts
February 1, 2026

Basin	Volume (KAF)	%Normal (1991-2020)	Period
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN			
Lake Powell	2400	38	Apr-Jul
Green River Basin			
Green-Flaming Gorge Reservoir	630	65	Apr-Jul
Yampa-Deerlodge	630	53	Apr-Jul
Duchesne-Tabiona	53	51	Apr-Jul
Colorado River Headwaters			
Colorado-Kremmling	470	54	Apr-Jul
Eagle-Gypsum	168	50	Apr-Jul
Roaring Fork-Glenwood Springs	360	55	Apr-Jul
Colorado-Cameo	1200	53	Apr-Jul
Southwest Colorado			
Gunnison-Blue Mesa Reservoir	340	54	Apr-Jul
Dolores-McPhee Reservoir	134	53	Apr-Jul
San Juan-Navajo Reservoir	300	48	Apr-Jul
Animas-Durango	235	61	Apr-Jul
LOWER COLORADO RIVER BASIN			
Virgin-Virgin (*Regulated)	29	52	Apr-Jul
Little Colorado-Chevelon Creek	4.9	35	Jan-May
Verde-Above Horseshoe Dam	119	77	Jan-May
Salt-Roosevelt	80	32	Jan-May
Upper Gila-San Carlos Reservoir	27	37	Jan-May
GREAT BASIN			
Bear-UT/WY State Line	59	54	Apr-Jul
Weber-Oakley	61	55	Apr-Jul
Big Cottonwood Creek	18.5	54	Apr-Jul
Provo-Woodland	48	50	Apr-Jul
Sevier-Hatch	21	40	Apr-Jul

Apr-Jul runoff volumes as a percent of the 1991-2020 average.
Jan-May runoff volumes as a percent of the 1991-2020 median.

Seasonal water supply forecasts are well below normal and have declined during the past month as a result of January weather being drier than average.

Forecasts more favorable in areas with:
- -better soil moisture conditions
- -better snowpack conditions

Future weather is the primary source of forecast uncertainty.

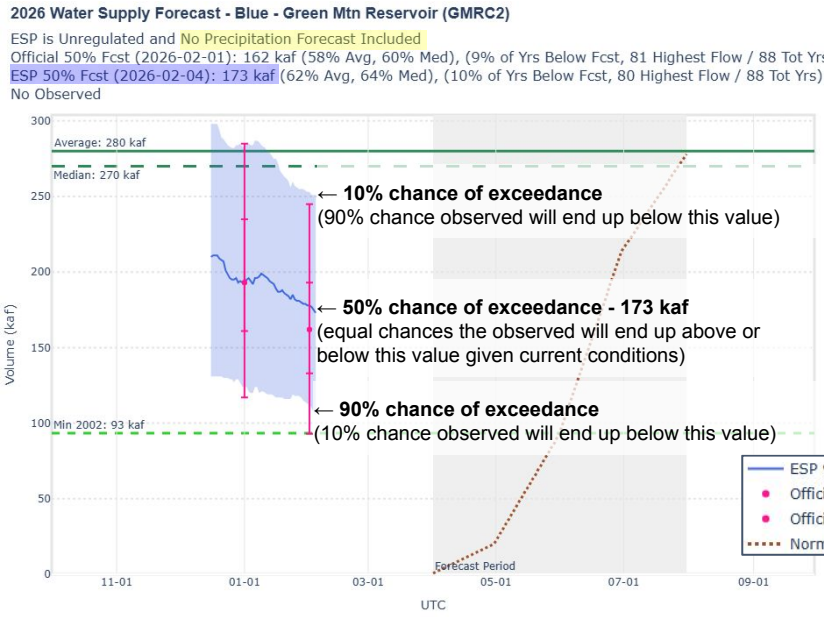
CBRFC Ensemble Streamflow Prediction (ESP) Guidance

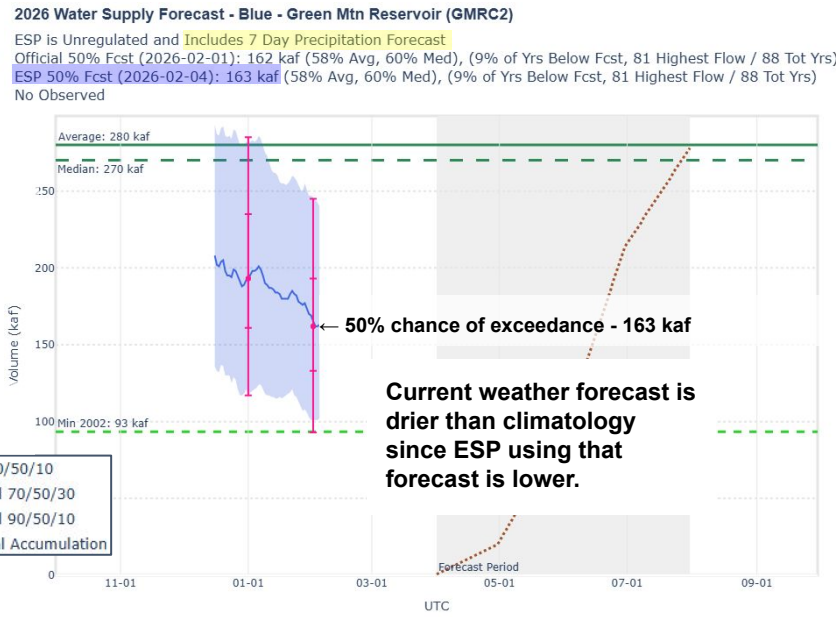
CBRFC probabilistic water supply forecasts are produced using current model soil moisture and snow states in addition to 30 years of observed weather (1991-2020).

The resulting 30 hydrographs provide information about the probability of certain volumes being exceeded.

ESP No QPF Model Run - default display
Day 1 → July 31: 1991-2020 precipitation/temperature

ESP QPF Model Run - select QPF Option
Days 1-7: current precipitation/temperature forecast
Day 8 → July 31: 1991-2020 precipitation/temperature





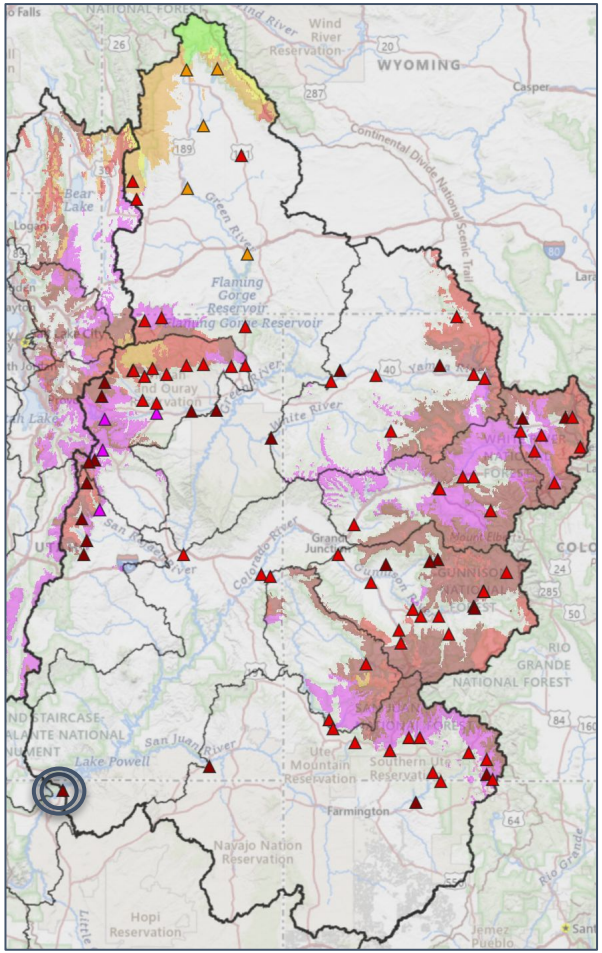
Lake Powell Water Supply Forecast

△ Water Supply Forecast

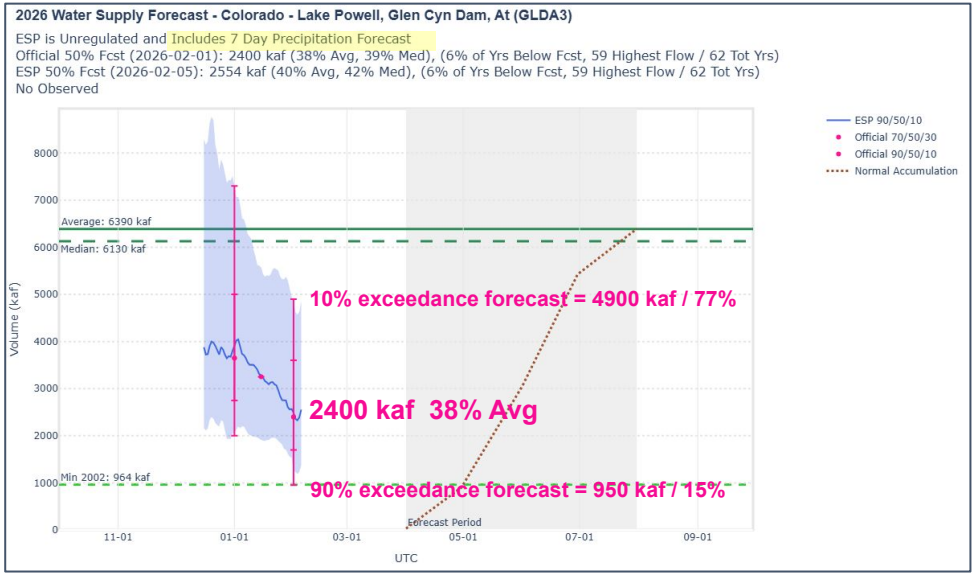
Model Snow

% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%



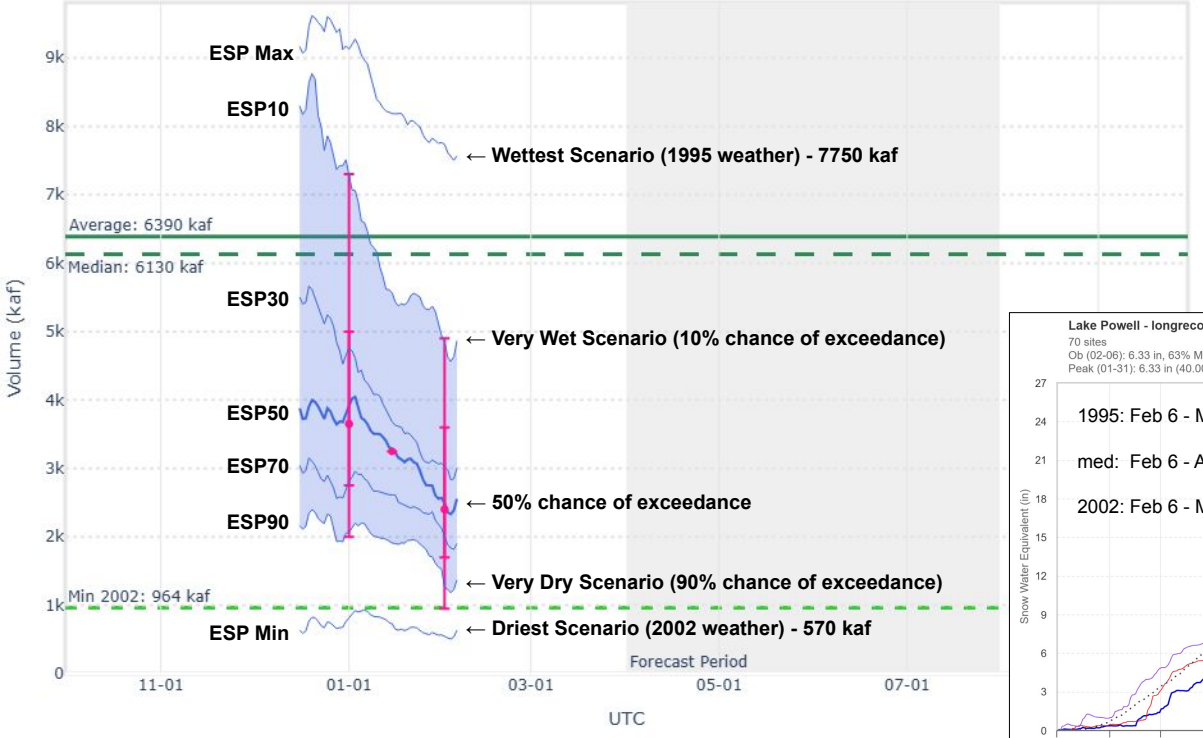
Lake Powell summarizes the hydrologic conditions throughout the Upper Colorado River Basin.

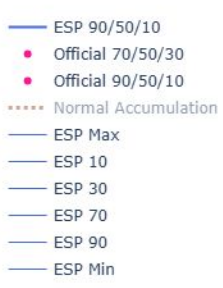


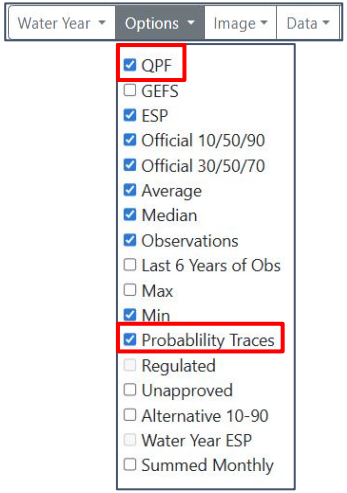
Lake Powell Water Supply Forecast

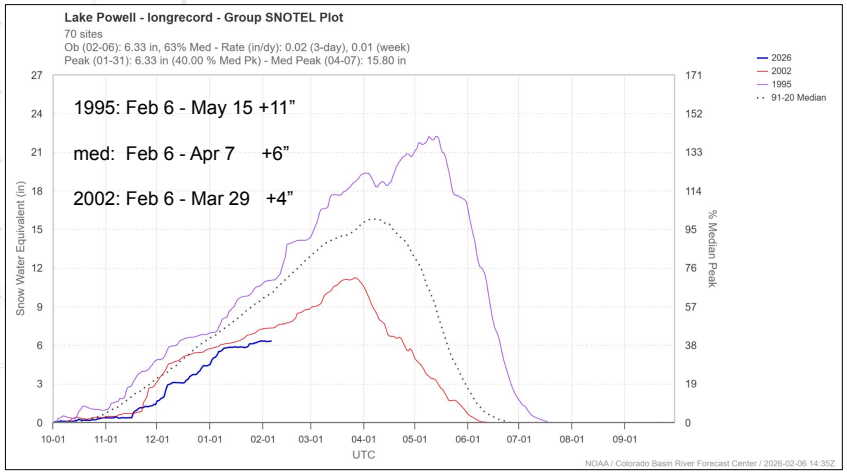
2026 Water Supply Forecast - Colorado - Lake Powell, Glen Cyn Dam, At (GLDA3)

ESP is Unregulated and Includes 7 Day Precipitation Forecast
Official 50% Fcst (2026-02-01): 2400 kaf (38% Avg, 39% Med), (6% of Yrs Below Fcst, 59 Highest Flow / 62 Tot Yrs)
ESP 50% Fcst (2026-02-05): 2554 kaf (40% Avg, 42% Med), (6% of Yrs Below Fcst, 59 Highest Flow / 62 Tot Yrs)
No Observed









Forecast vs. Historical Data

Water Year | Options | Image | Data | Help

- CSV
- Text
- Historical Volumes
- Verification
- Snow

Water Year | Options | Image | Data | Help

2026 Water Supply Forecast - Colorado - Lake Powell, Glen Cyn Dam, At (GLDA3)

ESP is Unregulated and Includes 7 Day Precipitation Forecast
Official 50% Fcst (2026-02-01): 2400 kaf (38% Avg, 39% Med), (6% of Yrs Below Fcst, 59 Highest Flow / 62 Tot Yrs)
ESP 50% Fcst (2026-02-05): 2554 kaf (40% Avg, 42% Med), (6% of Yrs Below Fcst, 59 Highest Flow / 62 Tot Yrs)
No Observed

GLDA3 Historical Volumes

	Year	Volume		
1	2002	963.96		
2	1977	1207.93		
3	2021	1826.70		
4	2012	2063.21		
5	2026	2400.00	FORECAST	2/2026
6	2013	2557.47		
7	2018	2602.40		
8	2025	2640.65		

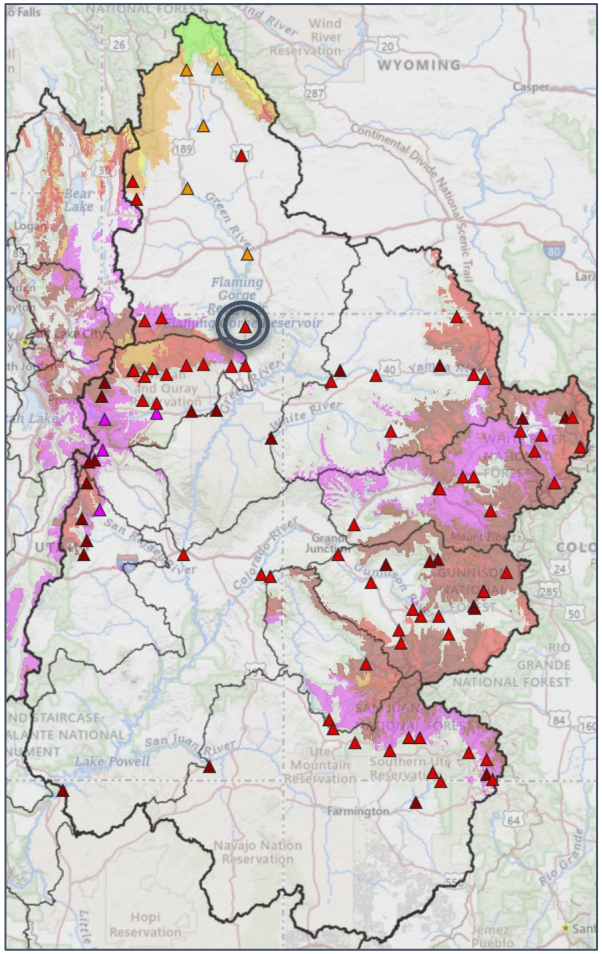
Upper Green River Basin: Flaming Gorge Reservoir

1 site with 90% exceedance forecast below minimum of record

Duchesne/Lower Green: 4 sites

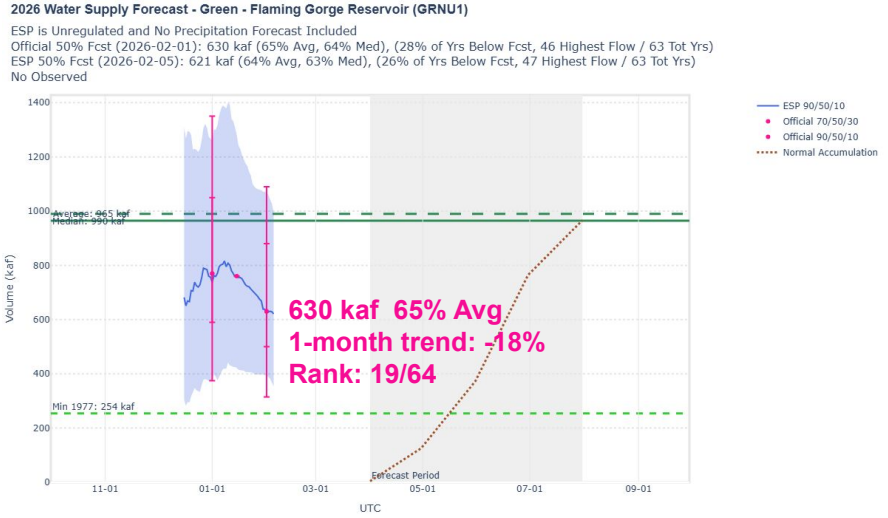
△ Water Supply Forecast

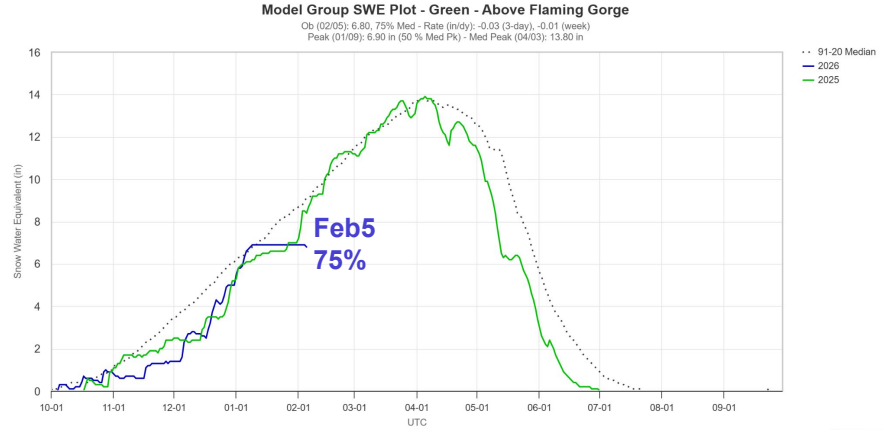
Model Snow



% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%





White/Yampa River Basin: Yampa-Deerlodge

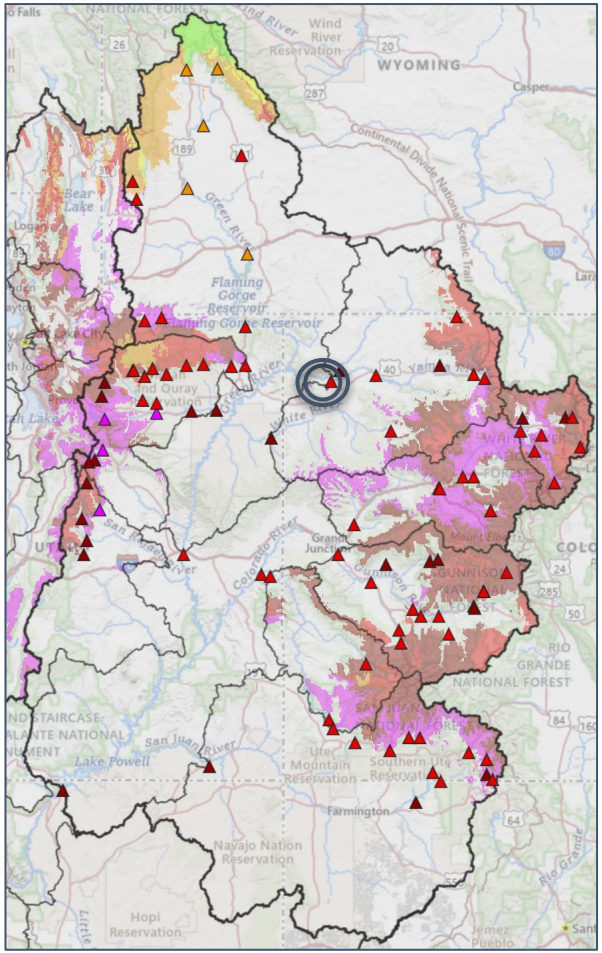
1 site with 90% exceedance forecast below minimum of record

△ Water Supply Forecast

Model Snow

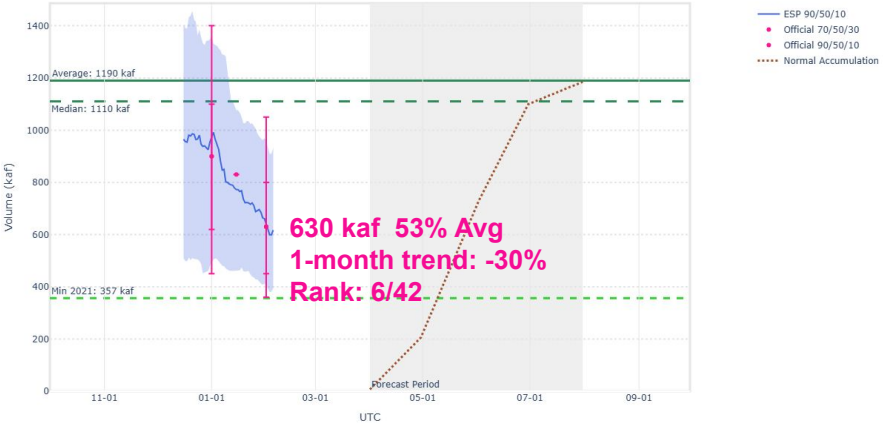
% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%



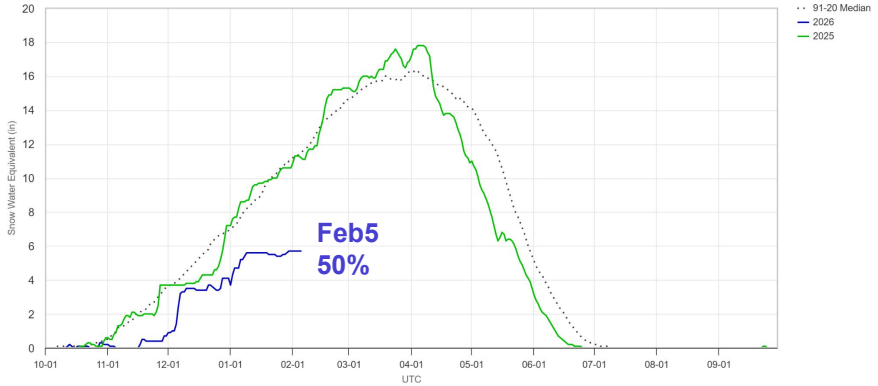
2026 Water Supply Forecast - Yampa - Deerlodge Park (YDLC2)

ESP is Unregulated and Includes 7 Day Precipitation Forecast
Official 50% Fcst (2026-02-01): 630 kaf (53% Avg, 57% Med), (12% of Yrs Below Fcst, 37 Highest Flow / 41 Tot Yrs)
ESP 50% Fcst (2026-02-05): 617 kaf (52% Avg, 56% Med), (12% of Yrs Below Fcst, 37 Highest Flow / 41 Tot Yrs)
No Observed



Model Group SWE Plot - Green - Yampa

Ob (02/05): 5.70, 50% Med - Rate (in/dy): 0.00 (3-day), 0.00 (week)
Peak (01/30): 5.70 in (35 % Med Pk) - Med Peak (03/31): 16.30 in

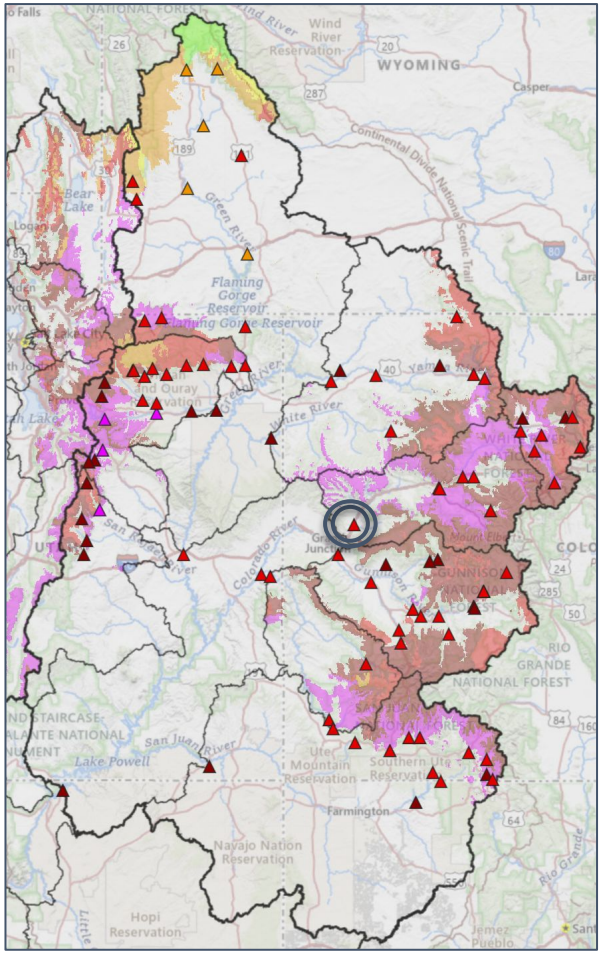


Colorado River Headwaters: Cameo

7 of 14 sites with 90% exceedance forecast below minimum of record

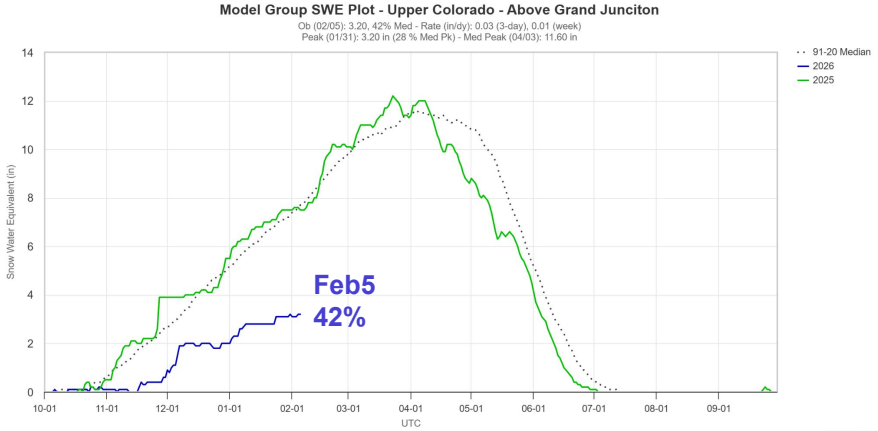
△ Water Supply Forecast

Model Snow



% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%



Gunnison River Basin: Blue Mesa Reservoir

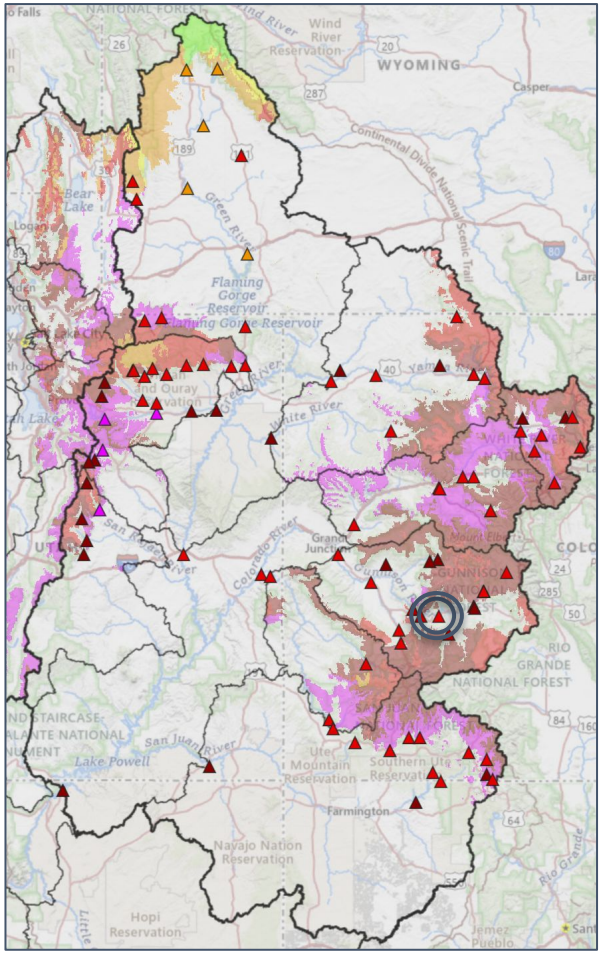
1 site with 90% exceedance forecast below minimum of record

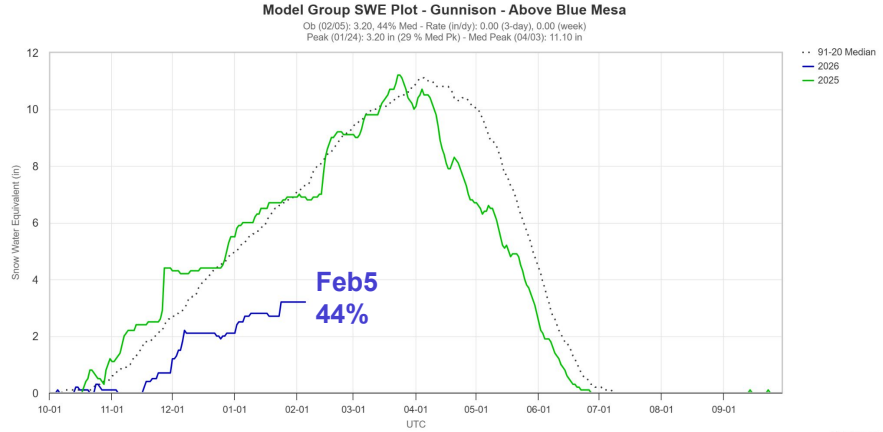
△ Water Supply Forecast

Model Snow

% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%





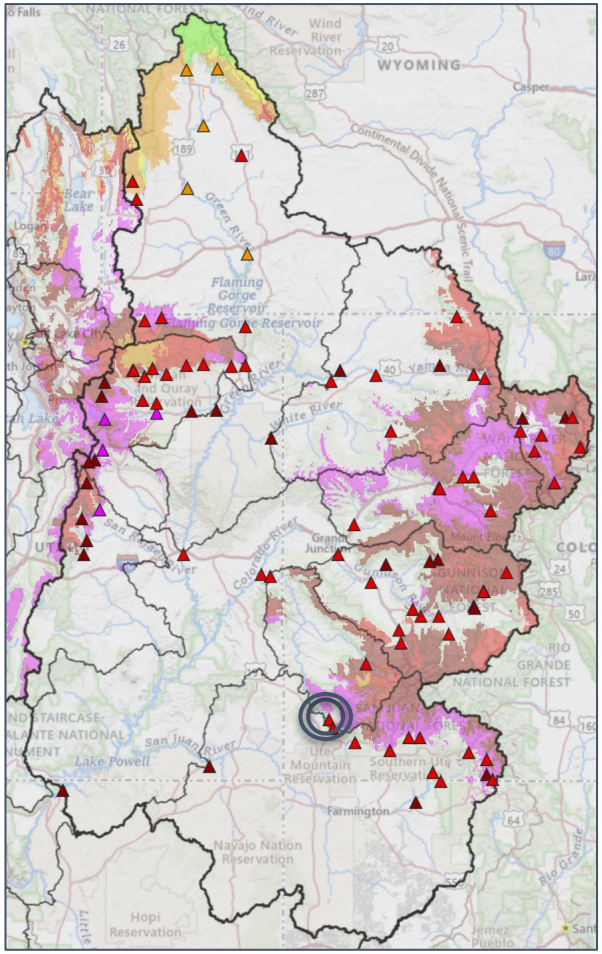
Dolores River Basin: McPhee Reservoir

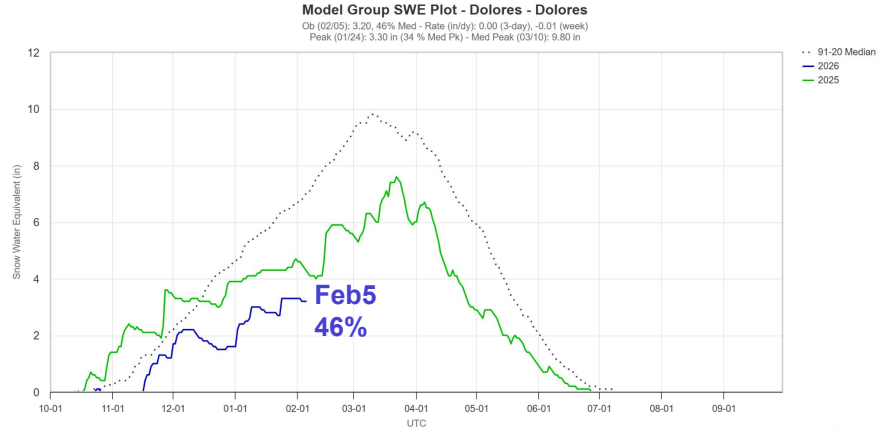
△ Water Supply Forecast

Model Snow

% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%





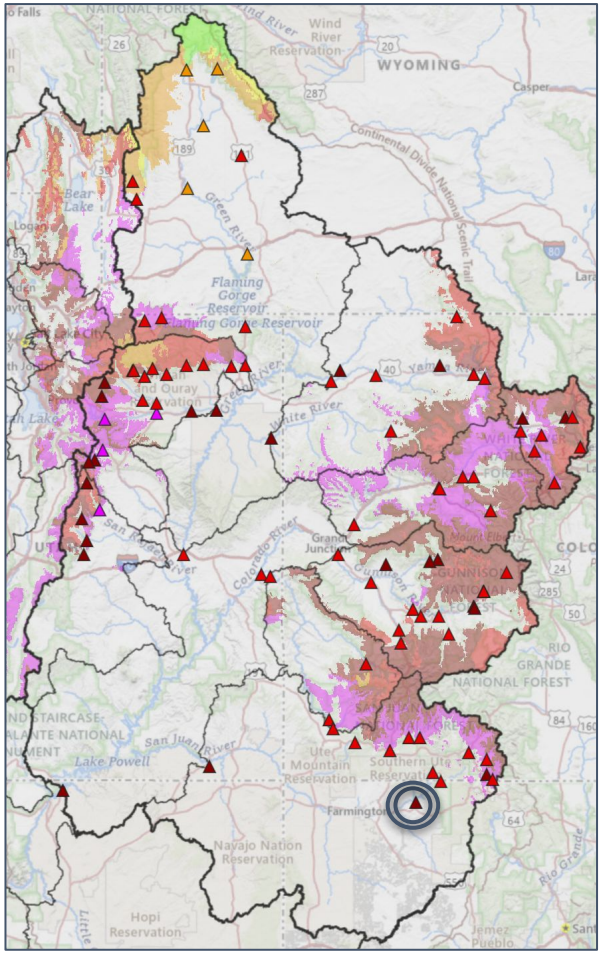
San Juan River Basin: Navajo Reservoir

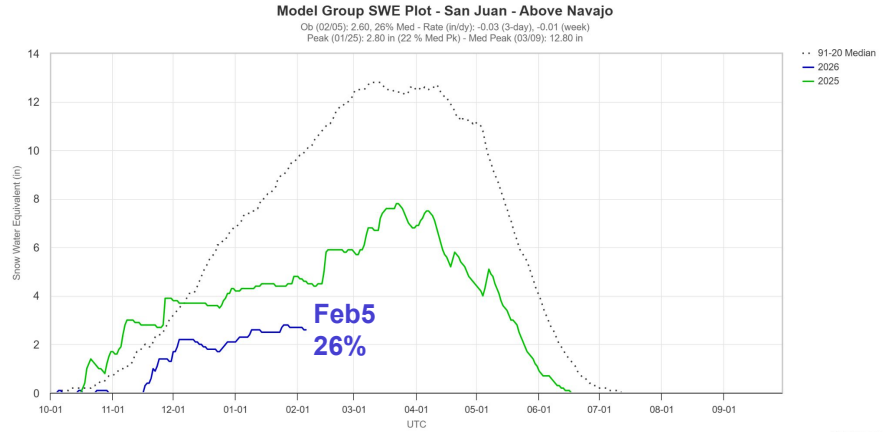
△ Water Supply Forecast

Model Snow

% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%





Great Basin: Bear River Basin

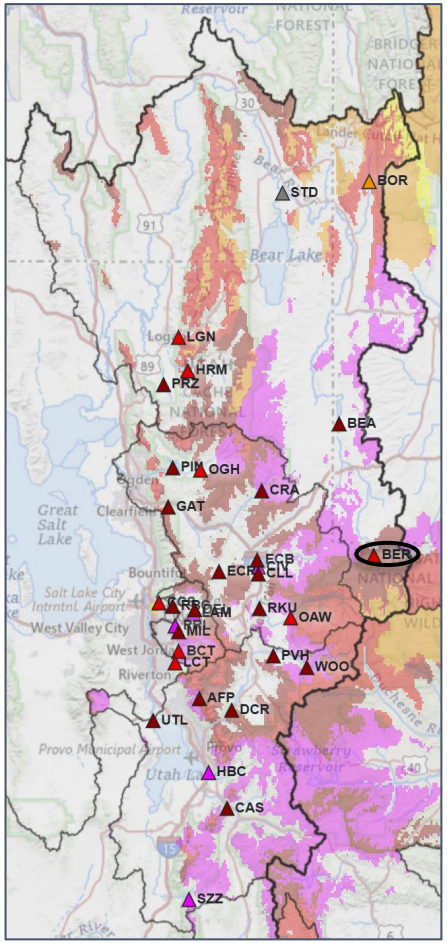
1 site with 90% exceedance forecast below minimum of record

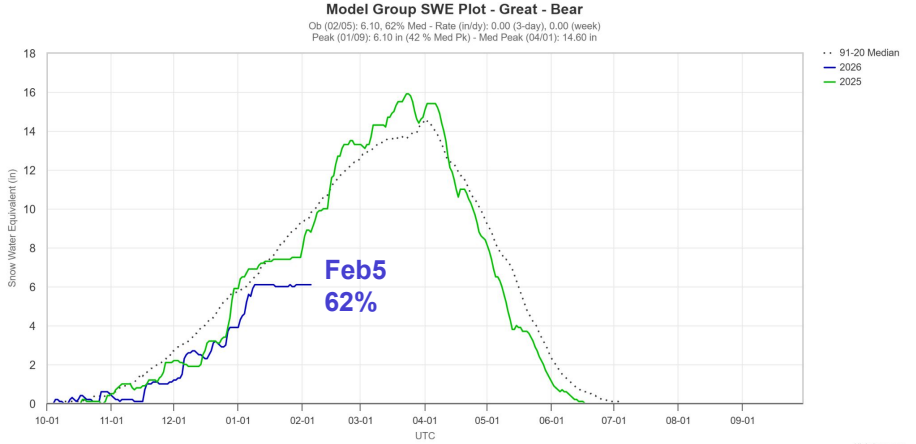
△ Water Supply Forecast

Model Snow

% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%





Great Basin: Weber River Basin

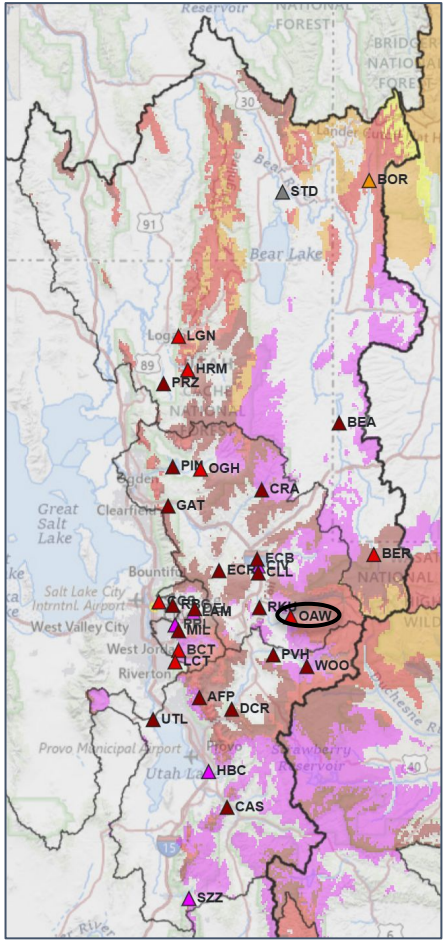
2 sites with 90% exceedance forecast below minimum of record

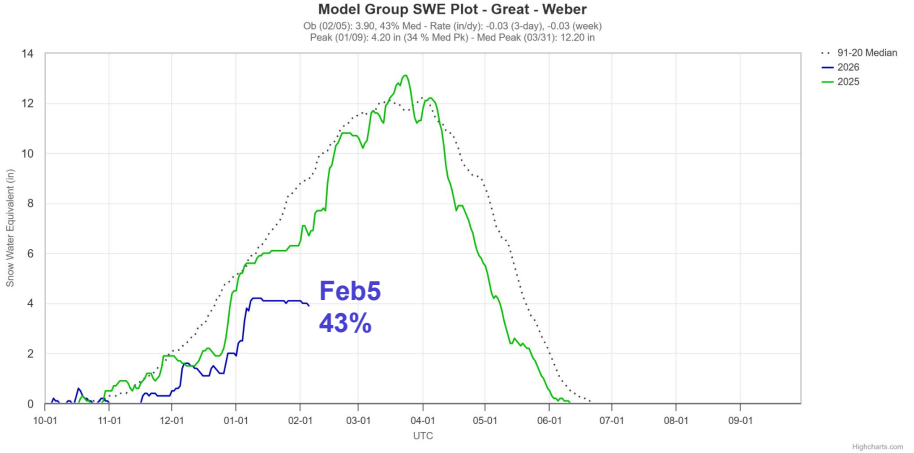
△ Water Supply Forecast

Model Snow

% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%





Great Basin: Big Cottonwood Creek

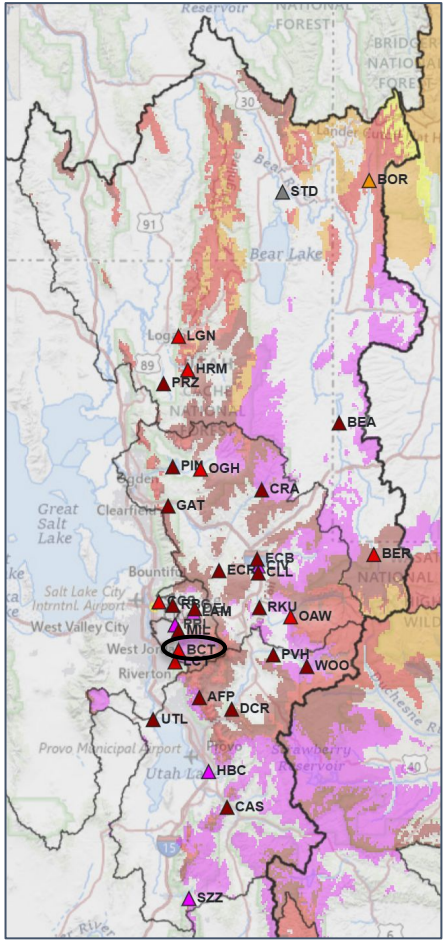
6 of 8 sites in Six Creeks with 90% exceedance forecast below minimum of record

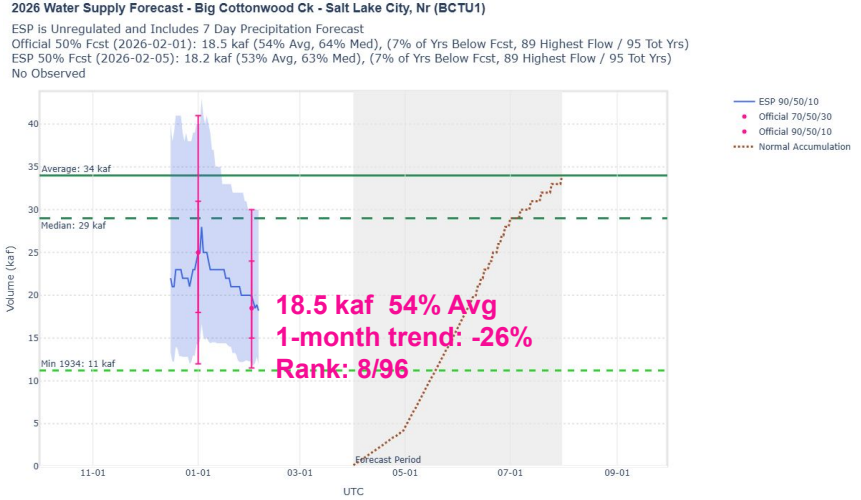
△ Water Supply Forecast

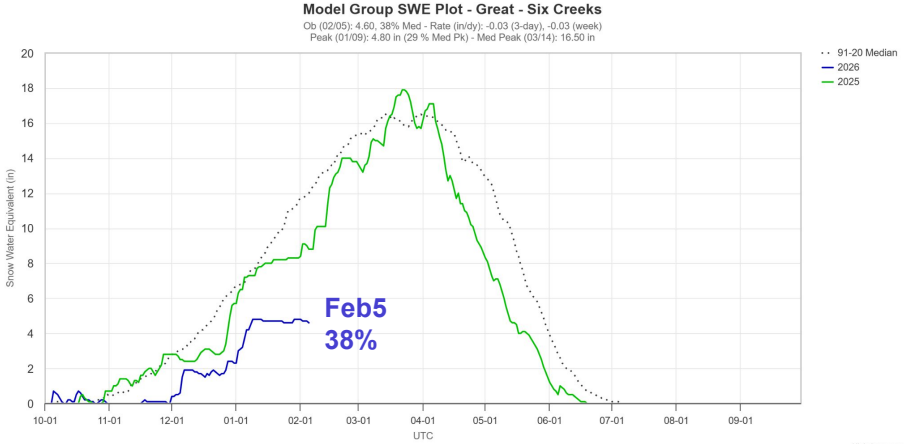
Model Snow

% Normal

- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%







Great Basin: Provo River Basin

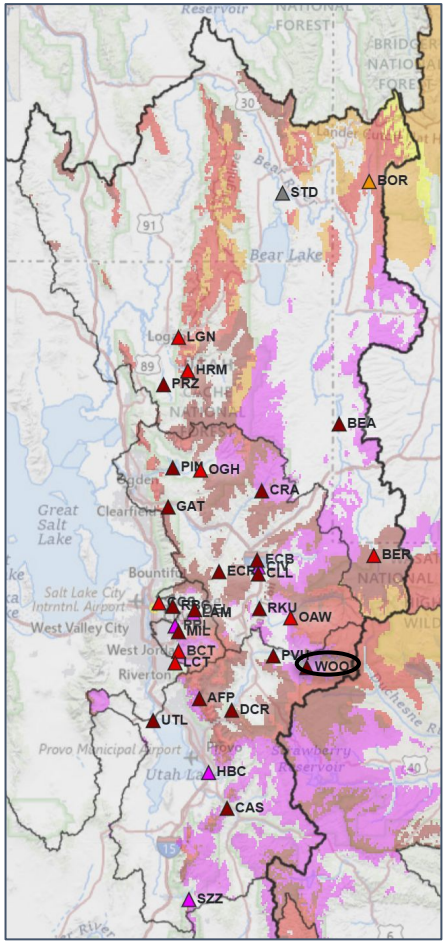
2 sites with 90% exceedance forecast below minimum of record

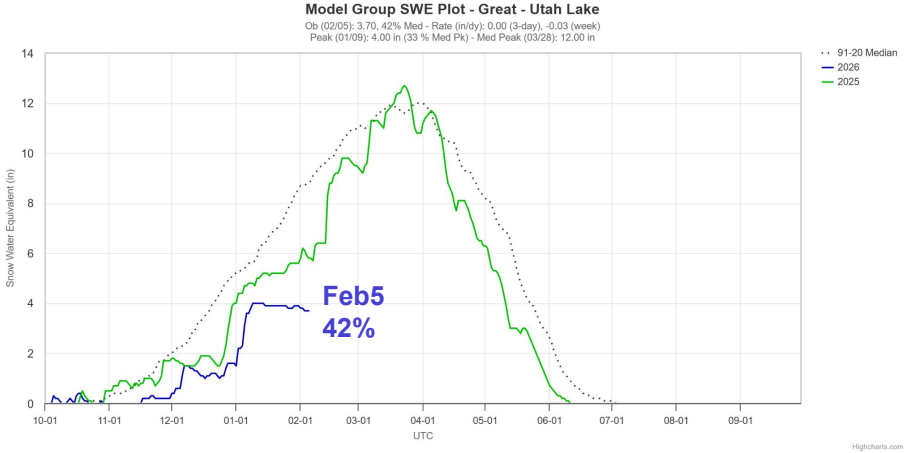
△ Water Supply Forecast

Model Snow

% Normal

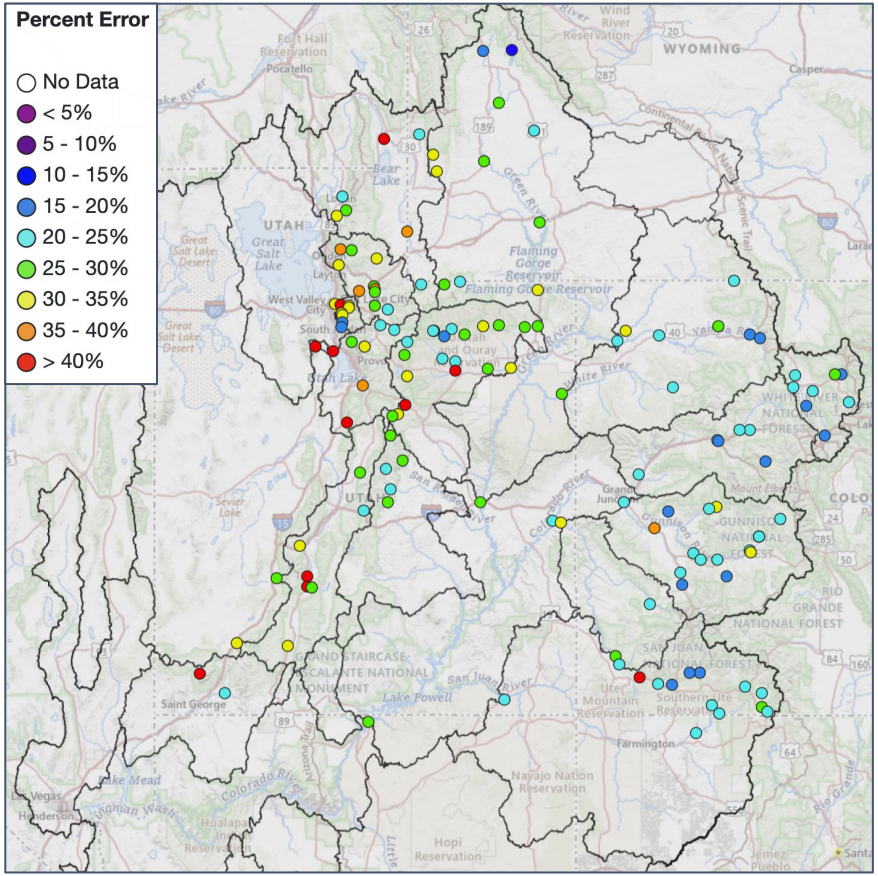
- >500%
- 300-500%
- 200-300%
- 150-200%
- 130-150%
- 110-130%
- 100-110%
- 90-100%
- 70-90%
- 50-70%
- 30-50%
- 0-30%





Historical Forecast Verification

February Forecast Error: April-July Volume



Location	Avg February Forecast Error
Fontenelle Reservoir	28%
Yampa River - Deerlodge	24%
Colorado River - Cameo	20%
Blue Mesa Reservoir (Gunnison)	22%
McPhee Reservoir (Dolores)	29%
Navajo Reservoir (San Juan)	24%
Lake Powell	25%
Virgin River - Virgin	22%
Weber - Oakley	21%
Provo - Woodland	22%
Big Cottonwood Creek	19%

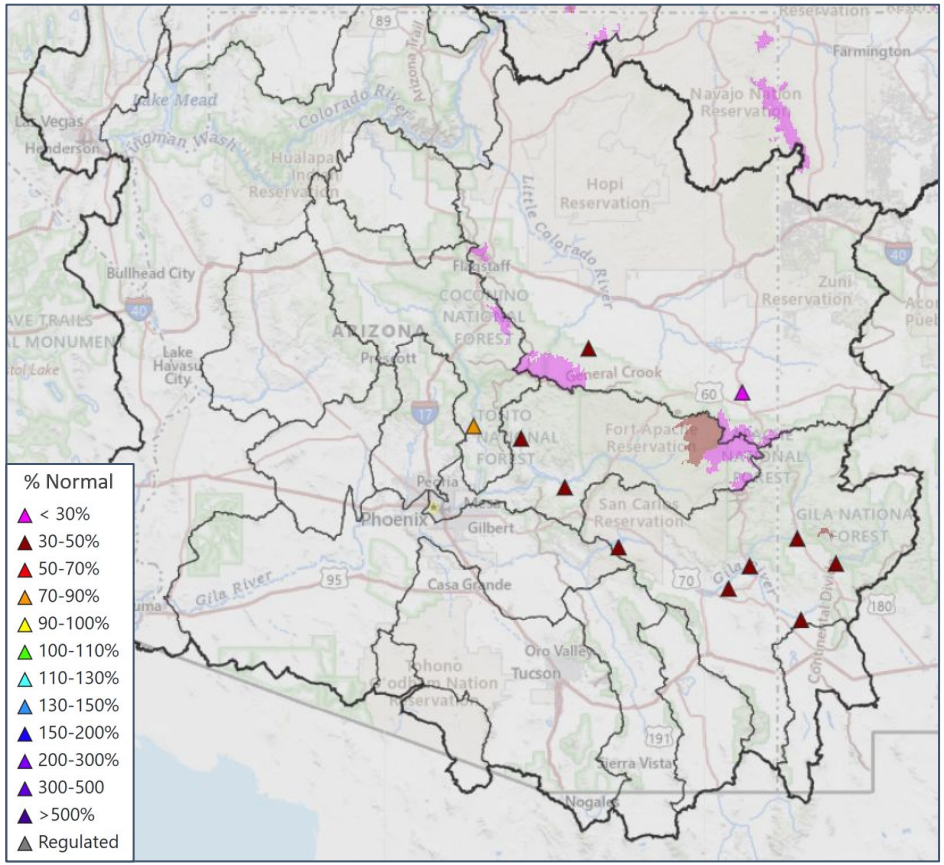
Error tends to decrease each month into the spring

Where Forecasts are Better:
- -Headwaters
- -Primarily snowmelt basins
- -Known diversions / demands

Where Forecasts are Worse:
- -Lower elevations (rain or early melt)
- -Downstream of diversions / irrigation
- -Little is known about diversions / demands

Future weather is the primary source of early season water supply forecast error/uncertainty.

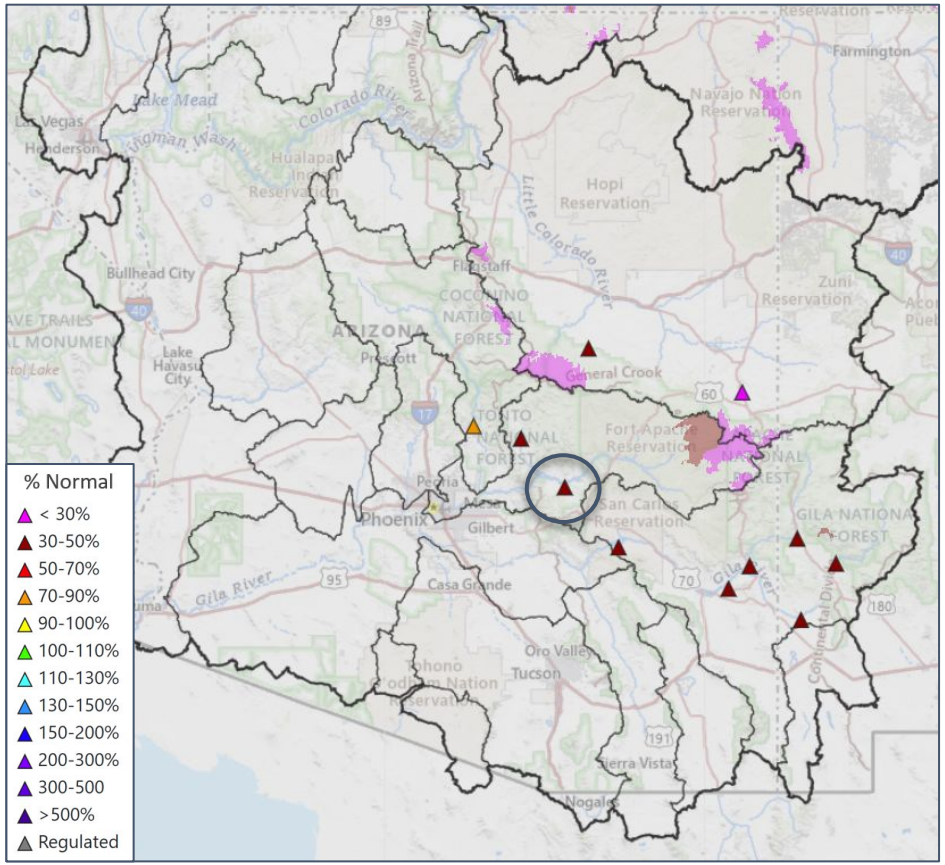
LCRB: Jan-May Water Supply Forecasts

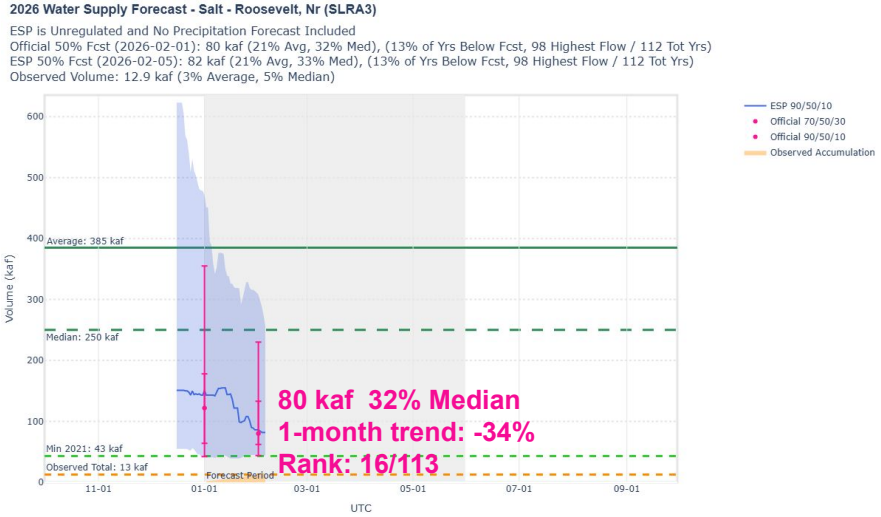


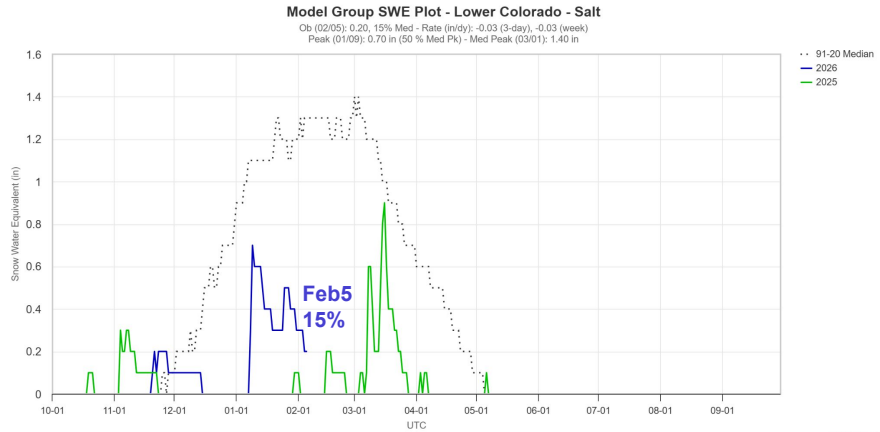
LCRB January-May volume forecasts are below normal, and range between 20-75% of the 1991-2020 median.

	ID	Vol	%Avg	%Med	%ile	Description
▲	CHWA3	4.9	26	35	20	Chevelon Ck - Winslow Nr Wildcat Cyn Blo
▲	CLDA3	27	14	37	35	Gila - San Carlos Reservoir Coolidge Dam At
▲	GILN5	20	28	38	20	Gila - Gila Nr
▲	GLHA3	39	18	37	19	Gila - Solomon Nr Head Of Safford Vly
▲	GSFN5	6.3	17	34	13	San Francisco - Glenwood Nr
▲	GVRN5	23	22	36	22	Gila - Virden Nr Blue Ck Blo
▲	LCLA3	1.19	15	20	10	Little Colorado - Lyman Lk Abv St. Johns Nr
▲	SFCA3	14.7	16	33	7	San Francisco - Clifton
▲	SLRA3	80	21	32	13	Salt - Roosevelt Nr
▲	TNRA3	13.6	17	35	30	Tonto Ck - Roosevelt Nr Gun Ck Abv
▲	VDTA3	119	43	77	43	Verde - Tangle Ck Blo Horseshoe Dam Abv

Salt River Basin





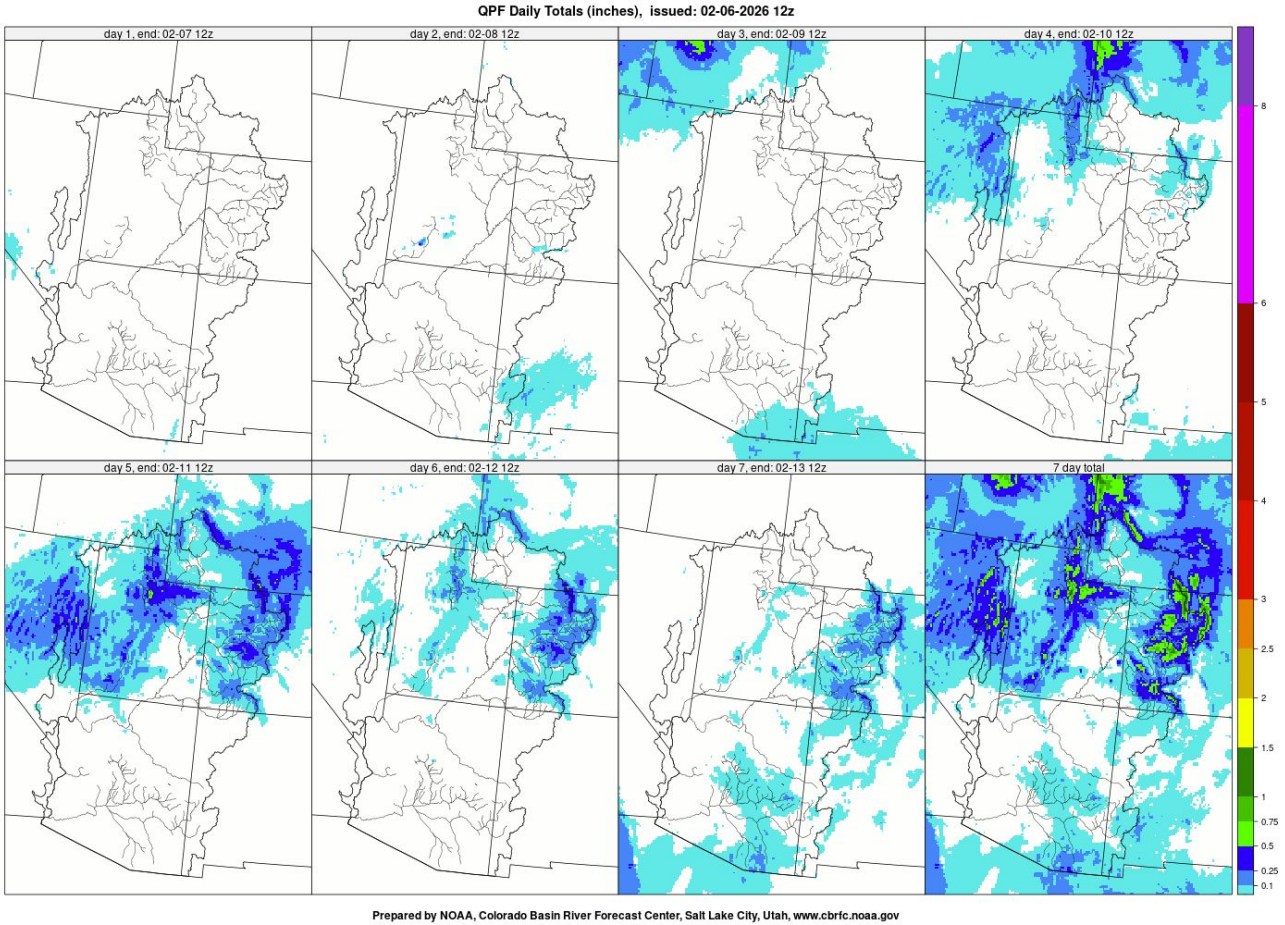


Upcoming Weather: 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

Dry and warmer than average conditions will continue across the region over the next few days.

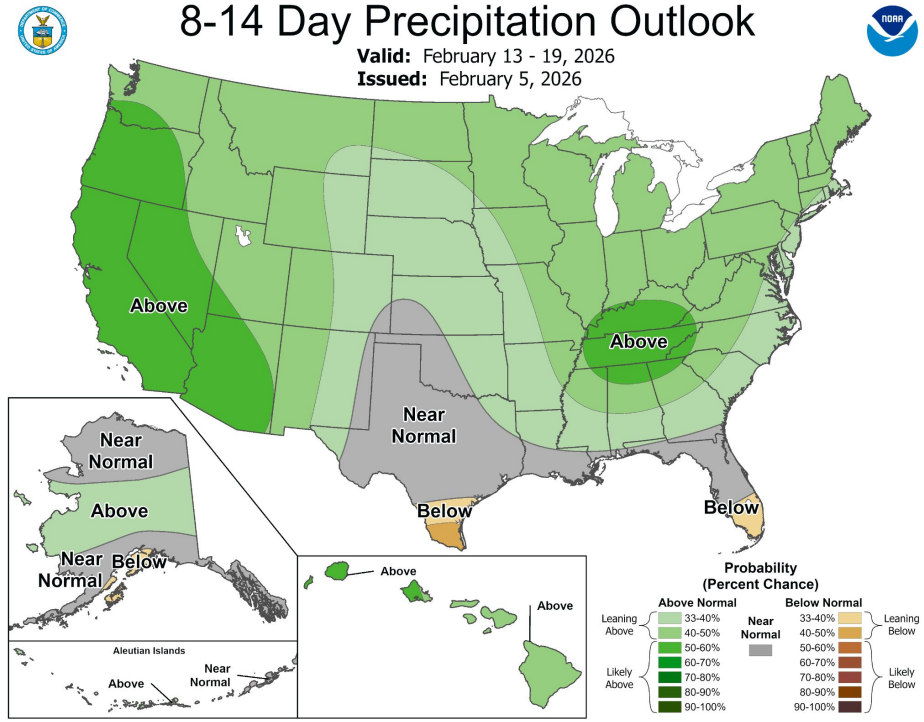
A change in the weather pattern is expected early next week, bringing some precipitation and relatively cooler weather to much of the CBRFC area.

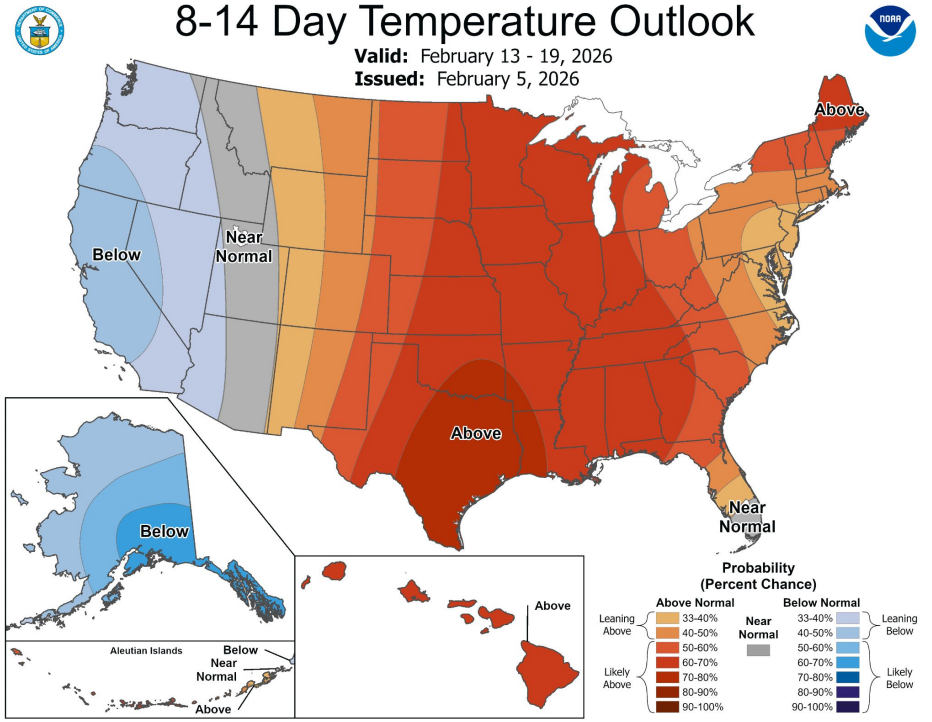
The forecast 7-day precipitation totals are up to 1-inch for some mountain regions in the GB and UCRB.



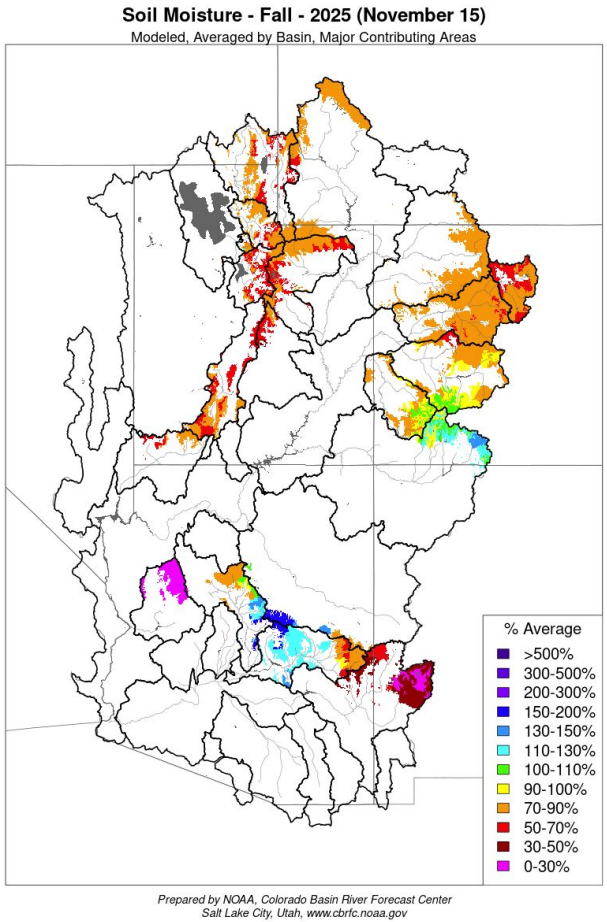
Upcoming Weather: 8-14 Day Outlook (February 13-19)

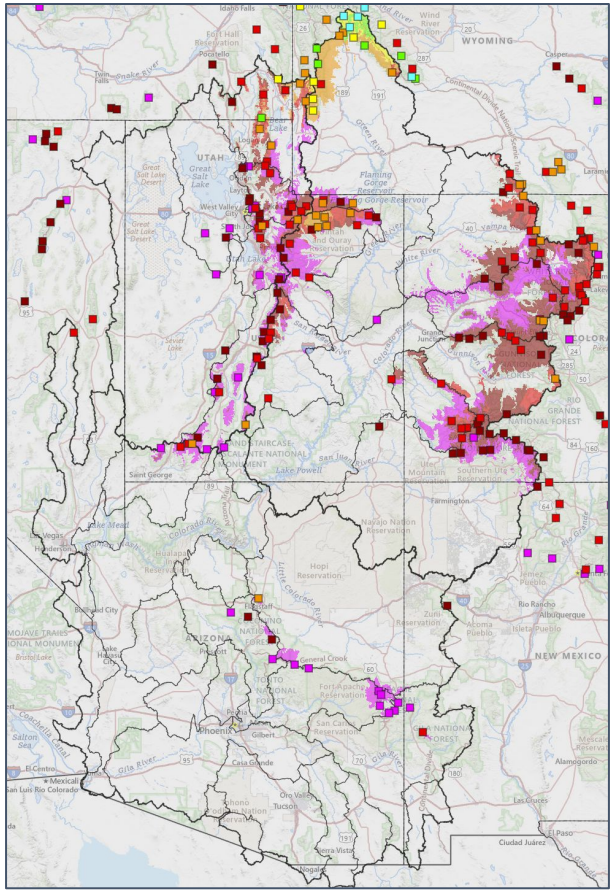
The pattern change is likely to persist into the middle of February, maintaining a favorable set-up for a period of above normal precipitation.

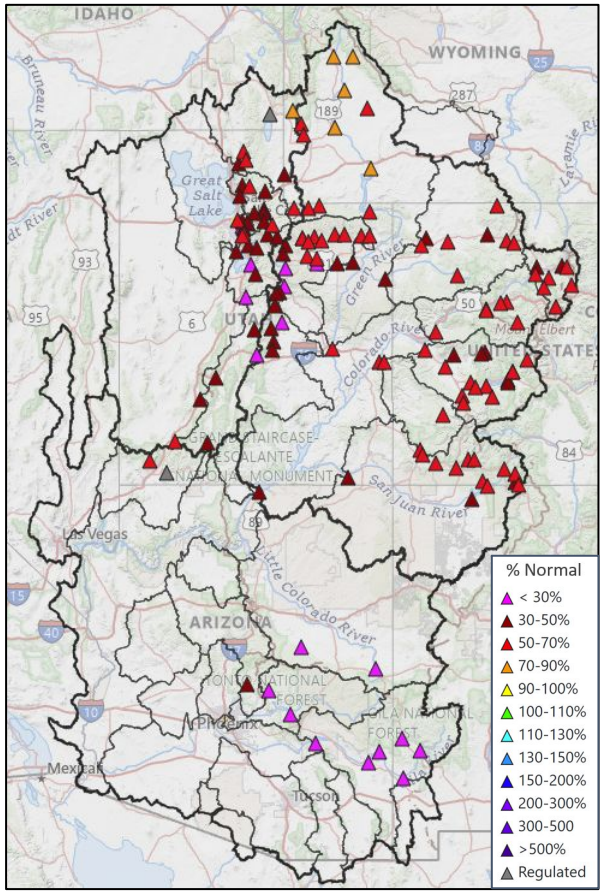




Summary


Soil Moisture - Fall - 2025 (November 15)
Modeled, Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas
% Average
>500%
300-500%
200-300%
150-200%
130-150%
110-130%
100-110%
90-100%
70-90%
50-70%
30-50%
0-30%
Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov


February 5 SWE Conditions


February 1, 2026 Water Supply Forecasts
Percent of 1991-2020 Normal Seasonal Volume
% Normal
< 30%
30-50%
50-70%
70-90%
90-100%
100-110%
110-130%
130-150%
150-200%
200-300%
300-500
>500%
Regulated

CBRFC 2026 Water Supply Briefings

Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
National Weather Service

cbrfc.noaa.gov

Rivers | Snow | Water Supply | Peak Flow | Reservoirs | Weather | Climate | Help | About | News

CBRFC Water Supply Briefing Webinar Thursday January 8, 2026 10am Registration

Webinars
Email Updates

CBRFC Water Supply Briefings - Webinar Schedule & Registration - Water Year 2026

The Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC) produces water supply forecasts for the Colorado River Basin and eastern Great Basin. CBRFC briefings provide information on water supply forecasts and current hydrologic conditions.

Register for a webinar using the links below.

Colorado River & Great Basin Water Supply Briefing Webinars @ 10:00 am MT

- ~~Thursday January 8~~
- ~~Friday February 6~~
- Friday March 6
- Tuesday April 7
- Thursday May 7

Spring Peak Flow Briefing Webinar @ 10:00 am MT → Peak flow forecasts issued starting in early March

- Wednesday March 18

Briefing material is available on the CBRFC presentations page.
A notification email will be sent if a date or time change occurs. Additional webinars are scheduled as needed.

CBRFC Contacts and Water Year 2026 Basin Focal Points

Basin Focal Points (Forecasters)

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

Cody Moser – Colorado River Headwaters, Gunnison, Lake Powell
cody.moser@noaa.gov

Wolfgang Hanft - Dolores, San Juan
wolfgang.hanft@noaa.gov

Benji Johnson - Virgin, Lower Colorado River Basin
benji.johnson@noaa.gov

Nanette Hosenfeld - Bear, Six Creeks
nanette.hosenfeld@noaa.gov

Cal Rockey / Jorge Gonzalez - Provo, Weber, Sevier
cal.rockey@noaa.gov
jorge.gonzalez@noaa.gov

Michelle Stokes – Hydrologist In Charge
michelle.stokes@noaa.gov

Paul Miller– Service Coordination Hydrologist
paul.miller@noaa.gov

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

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

CBRFC Operations
cbrfc.operations@noaa.gov
801-524-4004