CBRFC
Operations Update
Water Year 2018

CRFS March 29, 2018

Ashley Nielson
Senior Hydrologist
CBRFC Operations Update

• Model calibration efforts
• Western water supply (map)
• Other forecast improvements
• New staff assignments reminder
Calibration

**Ongoing work:**

- Lower Colorado recalibration

**Completed:**

- Gunnison basin recalibration and new segments
Lower Colorado Calibration

• Working on creating a calibration quality gridded precipitation and temperature data set for use in the lower basins.
  • Uses all available gages to create a grid that is then converted to Mean Areal values
    • Can do this because runoff is primarily precipitation driven vs. snow melt
  • Will be able to easily add years to the calibration/ESP data set
  • The grids that are being created can be used in the next generation of distributed hydrologic models
  • Ensures that calibrations and operations are identical
    • Current operational model is driven by grids converted to mean areal values in the lower basin, but was calibrated on station weighting method
Additional modifications to improve snow modeling:
- standardize elevation zone breaks
- investigate use of newer SNOTEL sites
Forecast Improvements

- 15 day deterministic forecast forecast ability (Yampa, North Fork Gunnison)
- Intervening Flow Forecasts (Lake Powell to Lake Mead)
New Staff and Basin Assignments

Patrick Kormos - Bear and Weber
Cody Moser - Colorado Headwaters
Zach Finch - Lower Colorado Basin

Ashley Nielson - Green River Basin and Lake Powell
Greg Smith - San Juan, Gunnison and Dolores
Tracy Cox - Lower Colorado Basin
Brent Bernard - Six Creeks, Provo, Sevier
Brenda Alcorn – Support and Backup