

Water Supply Forecast Discussion June 1, 2025

The <u>Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC)</u> geographic forecast area includes the Upper Colorado River Basin (UCRB), Lower Colorado River Basin (LCRB), and Eastern Great Basin (GB).

Water Supply Forecasts

June 1 water supply forecasts are below to well below normal and summarized in the figure and table below. Snowpack, soil moisture, and future weather are the primary hydrologic conditions that impact the water supply outlook.



June 1, 2025 seasonal water supply forecast summary. Map | List

May Weather

May was drier than normal across most of the CBRFC area, and the last two months have been exceptionally dry across central and northern portions of the UCRB and GB, where the majority of SNOTEL stations received April–May precipitation amounts below the 15th percentile. Near normal May precipitation occurred along portions of Colorado's Continental Divide, and significantly above normal precipitation occurred during May in portions of western AZ, southeast NV, and southwest UT. In fact, Las Vegas observed its wettest May on record with 1.44 inches, easily surpassing the previous record of 0.96 inches from 1969. Precipitation is summarized in the figure and table below.

Temperatures in May started out above normal before crashing into below normal territory in the middle of the month. This significant drop in temperatures led to a sharp decrease in snowmelt rates for many areas. The cooldown lasted about a week, then temperatures climbed back above normal for the end of the month. Overall, monthly temperatures averaged out to near normal in the CBRFC area.



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

Water Year 2025 CBRFC Precipitation (Major Contributing Areas) Percent of 1991-2020 Average		
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN		
	May	Oct-May
Above Lake Powell	61	83
Green River Basin		
Above Fontenelle	47	97
Above Flaming Gorge	52	93
Yampa/White	52	89
Duchesne	53	81
Price/San Rafael/Dirty Devil	53	95
Colorado River Headwaters		
Above Kremmling	84	92
Eagle	48	87
Roaring Fork	47	78
Above Cameo	62	85
Southwest Colorado		
Gunnison	53	80
Dolores	68	79
San Juan	99	72
LOWER COLORADO RIVER BASIN		
Virgin	175	63
Little Colorado	76	51
Verde	130	56
Salt	63	36
Upper Gila	35	26
GREAT BASIN		
Bear	60	91
Weber	67	85
Six Creeks	62	89
Provo/Utah Lake	57	87
Sevier	76	76

Snowpack Conditions

Percent of normal (median) snow water equivalent (SWE) conditions can vary significantly this time of year as June historical median SWE values are generally small and it is not uncommon for some areas to have little or no snow remaining. With that said, June 1 SWE conditions are generally well below normal. UCRB June 1 SWE conditions range between 25-95% of normal and are most favorable in the Colorado River headwaters. SWE conditions elsewhere across the UCRB are generally less than 65% of normal.

June 1 SWE conditions in the GB range between 10-45% of normal and generally improve from south to north. Early June SWE is most favorable in the Bear River Basin and least favorable in the Sevier River Basin. SWE conditions are summarized in the figure and table below.



Left: June 1, 2025 CBRFC hydrologic model SWE (% median). Right: CBRFC hydrologic model SWE conditions summary.

Upcoming Weather

In the first few days of June, a surge of moisture brought spotty flash flooding to desert portions of the CBRFC area, mainly in northern AZ and southern UT. Warming temperatures and continued chances for daily showers and thunderstorms are forecast for the next few days. Above normal temperatures are favored into the middle of June, while precipitation signals remain more mixed.



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7-day precipitation forecast for June 5–11, 2025.



Climate Prediction Center temperature and precipitation probability forecasts for June 12–18, 2025.

CBRFC Web Links

Official Water Supply Forecasts: <u>Map | List</u> Latest Water Supply Model Guidance: <u>Map | List</u> Snowpack Conditions: <u>SNOTEL | CBRFC Model</u> Monthly Precipitation: <u>Map | Image</u> Soil Moisture: <u>Map | Image</u> 7-Day Precipitation Forecast: <u>Map | Image</u> Climate Forecasts: <u>Image</u> Water Supply Briefing Webinars: <u>Registration</u>

Acronyms & Abbreviations

ASO - Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc. CBRFC - Colorado Basin River Forecast Center CODOS - Colorado Dust-on-Snow Program **CPC - Climate Prediction Center** CRB - Colorado River Basin ENSO - El Niño-Southern Oscillation ESP - Ensemble Streamflow Prediction GB - Great Basin KAF - Thousand Acre-Feet LCRB - Lower Colorado River Basin MAF - Million Acre-Feet NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service NSIDC - National Snow and Ice Data Center NWS - National Weather Service **QPF** - Quantitative Precipitation Forecast SNOTEL - Snow Telemetry SWE - Snow Water Equivalent UCRB - Upper Colorado River Basin USGS - United States Geological Survey WPC - Weather Prediction Center