

March 9, 2010 RESERVOIR LEVEL AND SNOW UPDATE

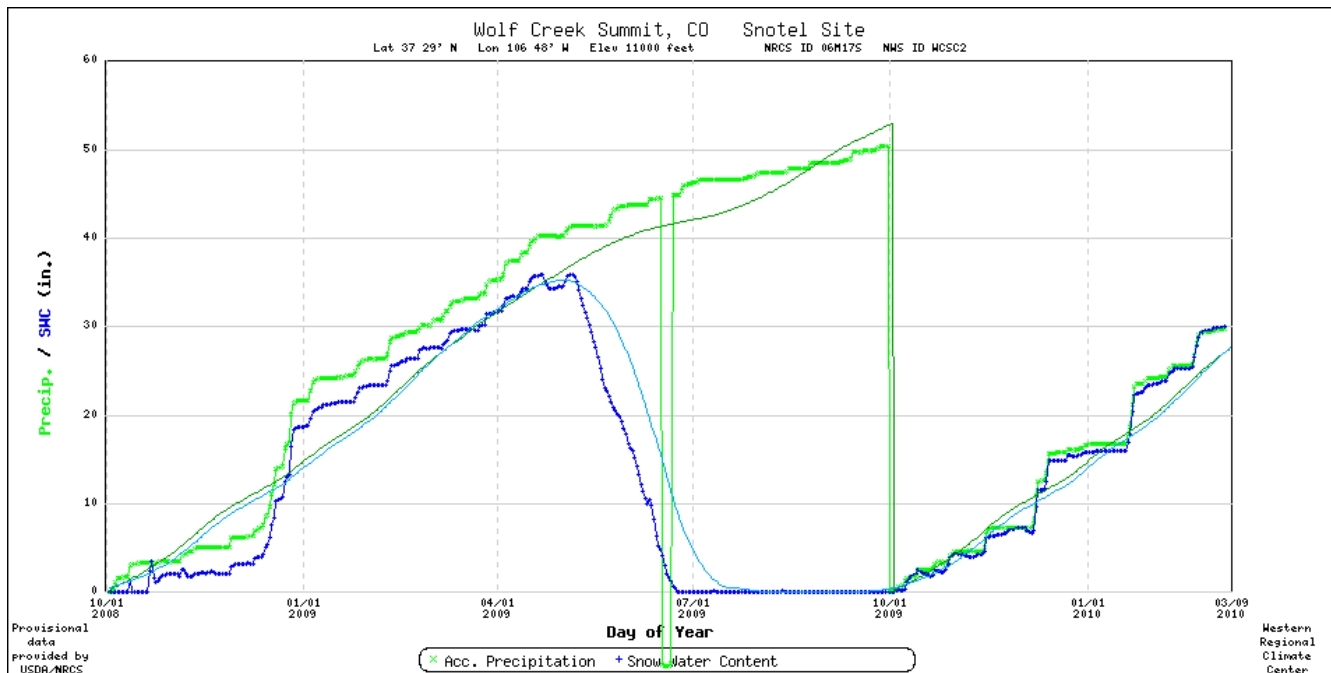
The release of water from Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs was initiated last week. The current release amount is approximately 661 cfs. The snow water equivalent (SWE) remains above average. Below is a NRCS graph of the SWE for Wolf Creek Summit in Colorado. The graph shows a SWE of about 30 inches or about 110% of normal. On the next page the NRCS report for the Rio Grande Basin shows the SWE of Wolf Creek Pass as 13.1 inches or about 47% of normal.

Clearly one of the two pieces of information is incorrect. The NRCS report also shows some extreme quantities of snow at lower elevations (527% of normal at the Upper Rio Grande site). Hopefully this information is correct. It is disturbing that the NRCS reports may be in error and I will work with Reclamation and EBID to determine where the problem exists.

The weather forecast for the Upper Rio Grande basin has a good probability for more snow this week. The flow into Elephant Butte is below normal at around 526 cfs. The NRCS March 1, 2010 March-July (50% probability of being exceeded) streamflow forecast is 570,000 acre-feet. River operations upstream of Elephant Butte would typically reduce this amount to approximately 500,000 acre-feet. This amount of water combined with the existing amount of water in storage will provide for over 800,000 acre-feet of Project Water available for release in 2010.

COMBINED STORAGE Elephant Butte and Caballo March 2, 2010 630,160 ac-ft

WOLF CREEK



Rio Grande Basin SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report

Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00) for Tuesday, March 09, 2010

Basin Site Name	Elev (ft)	Snow Water Equivalent			Year-to-Date Precipitation		
		Current (in)	Average (in)	Pct of Avg	Current (in)	Average (in)	Pct of Avg
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN							
BEARTOWN	11600	18.3	21.2	86	19.6	20.9	94
CUMBRES TRESTLE	10040	16.9	23.5	72	15.4	22.3	69
LILY POND	11000	11.3	13.8	82	10.6	17.8	60
MIDDLE CREEK	11250	8.1	16.4	49	10.1	20.5	49
SLUMGULLION	11440	28.6	11.6	247	32.8	11.1	295
UPPER RIO GRANDE	9400	31.6	6.0	527	29.7	9.6	309
UPPER SAN JUAN	10200	10.6	27.4	39	11.5	28.2	41
WOLF CREEK SUMMIT	11000	13.1	28.0	47	13.0	28.9	45
Basin-wide percent of average		94			90		
RIO CHAMA RIVER BASIN							
BATEMAN	9300	29.2	11.7	250	23.1	12.9	179
CHAMITA	8400	18.4	10.1	182	17.7	13.1	135
CUMBRES TRESTLE	10040	13.9	23.5	59	18.8	22.3	84
HOPEWELL	10000	7.9	17.0	46	11.1	19.1	58
LILY POND	11000	12.4	13.8	90	10.5	17.8	59
Basin-wide percent of average		107			95		
SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAIN RANGE BASINS							
APISHAPA	10000	6.9	6.9	100	12.0	9.9	121
CULEBRA #2	10500	10.0	10.9	92	12.3	11.1	111
GALLEGOS PEAK	9800	3.9	10.2	38	7.9	11.9	66
MEDANO PASS	9649	8.3	5.9	141	10.3	7.2	143
NORTH COSTILLA	10600	16.6	5.0	332	17.3	10.1	171
RED RIVER PASS #2	9850	16.9	6.9	245	19.1	8.2	233
SANTA FE	11445	10.0	12.3	81	13.4	13.5	99
SOUTH COLONY	10800	9.2	15.5	59	9.7	19.8	49
TOLBY	10180	16.3	7.4	220	17.7	10.3	172
TRINCHERA	10860	13.9	8.6	162	16.8	9.5	177
UTE CREEK	10650	9.6	11.9	81	11.8	13.3	89
WESNER SPRINGS	11120	11.8	13.5	87	12.9	15.6	83
WHISKEY CK	10220	9.4	8.8	107	12.6	13.0	97
Basin-wide percent of average		115			113		

UPPER RIO GRANDE VALLEY/EASTERN SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS BELOW 10000 FT-
INCLUDING...CREEDE...SOUTH FORK 344 AM MST TUE MAR 9 2010

TODAY MOSTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS EARLY IN THE
AFTERNOON. SLIGHT CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS AND SNOW SHOWERS LATE IN
THE AFTERNOON. HIGHS 28 TO 37. SOUTHWEST WINDS 10 TO
15 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 20 PERCENT.

TONIGHT

CLOUDY. CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS AND SLIGHT CHANCE OF
THUNDERSTORMS UNTIL MIDNIGHT...THEN CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS AFTER
MIDNIGHT. SNOW ACCUMULATION OF 3 TO 6 INCHES. LOWS 5 TO 18. WEST
WINDS UP TO 10 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 50 PERCENT.

WEDNESDAY SNOW LIKELY. SNOW ACCUMULATION OF 2 TO 4 INCHES. HIGHS 26
TO 36. WEST WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 60 PERCENT.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLOUDY WITH A 30 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW. LOWS
9 TO 21. WEST WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH.

THURSDAY MOSTLY CLOUDY WITH A 30 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW. HIGHS
28 TO 37. NORTH WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH.

THURSDAY NIGHT MOSTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 7 TO 16.

FRIDAY THROUGH SATURDAY PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS 31 TO 43. LOWS 2 TO 16.

SATURDAY NIGHT PARTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 10 TO 19.

SUNDAY THROUGH MONDAY MOSTLY CLOUDY WITH A 10 PERCENT CHANCE OF
SHOWERS. HIGHS 36 TO 45. LOWS 10 TO 22.

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RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2010
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Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>					30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *					
	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF) (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)						
APR-SEP	365	460	530	100	610	735
Rio Grande at Otowi Bridge (2)						
MAR-JUL	420	610	760	100	925	1200
Rio Grande at San Marcial (2)						
MAR-JUL	240	420	570	100	750	1050

- * 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.
- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
 - (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
 - (3) - Median value used in place of average.