

February 7, 2011 RESERVOIR LEVEL AND SNOW UPDATE

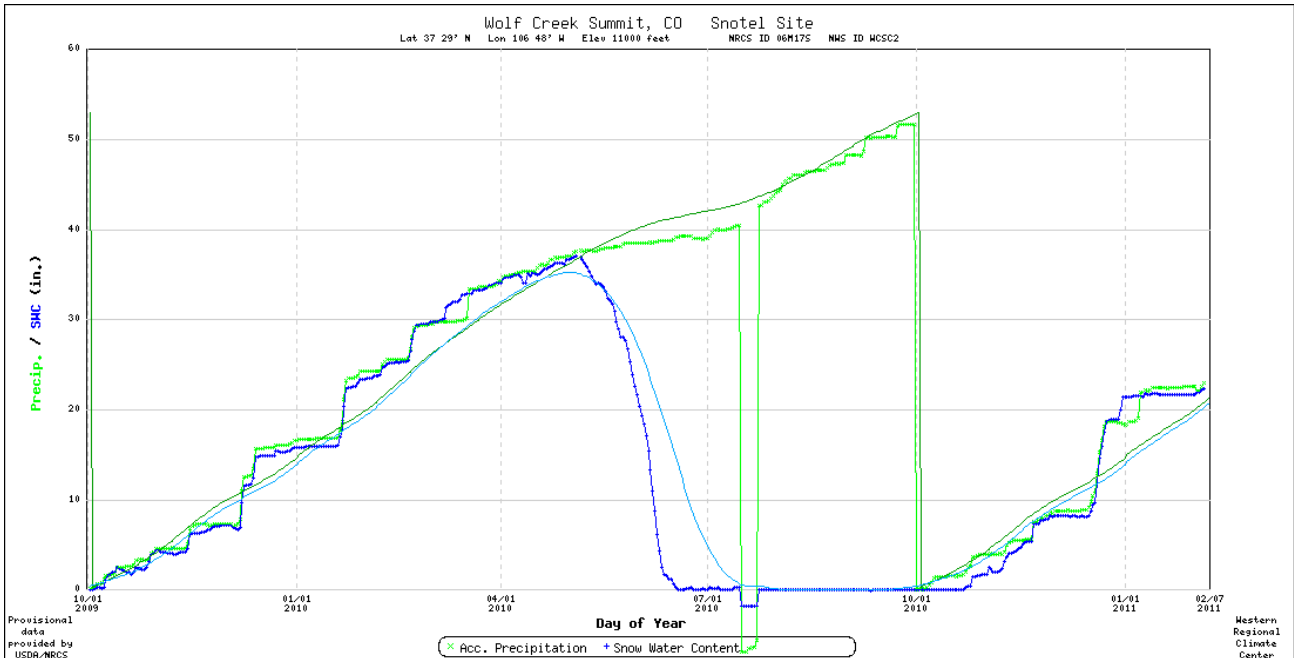
The snowpack relative to the average is just about the same as it was last week in the Upper Rio Grande and Rio Chama basins, but has improved a little in the Sangre de Cristo basin. There should be some improvement in the Upper Rio Grande as there is a very good (60-80%) chance of snow Tuesday and Tuesday night, with accumulations in the range of 4-8 inches. The latest (February) NRCS forecast of March to July runoff at San Marcial is 405,000 ac-ft. This is about 100,000 ac-ft less than last month's forecast, which is attributed to the continuing La Nina weather pattern affecting New Mexico. Storage in Caballo and Elephant Butte dams has now risen above 500,000 ac-ft.

COMBINED STORAGE Elephant Butte and Caballo February 4, 2011 500,072 acre-feet

S N O W - P R E C I P I T A T I O N U P D A T E
Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
As of Monday February 7, 2011

BASIN	ELEV.	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT	TOTAL PRECIPITATION
Data Site Name	(Ft)	%	%
		Avg	Avg
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN			
	Basin wide percent of average	96	100
RIO CHAMA BASIN			
	Basin wide percent of average	90	78
SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAIN RANGE BASINS			
	Basin wide percent of average	68	72

WOLF CREEK



FORECAST

UPPER RIO GRANDE VALLEY/EASTERN SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS BELOW 10000 FT-
INCLUDING...CREEDE...SOUTH FORK
329 AM MST MON FEB 7 2011

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 5 AM TO 8 PM MST TUESDAY

TODAY

PARTLY SUNNY WITH A 10 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW. HIGHS 25 TO 33. SOUTHWEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH. WIND CHILL READINGS 5 BELOW TO 15 BELOW ZERO IN THE MORNING.

TONIGHT

CLOUDY. CHANCE OF SNOW IN THE EVENING AND OVERNIGHT... THEN SNOW LIKELY EARLY IN THE MORNING. SNOW ACCUMULATION OF 1 TO 2 INCHES. LOWS 9 TO 16. SOUTHWEST WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 70 PERCENT.

TUESDAY

SNOW LIKELY EARLY IN THE MORNING...THEN PERIODS OF SNOW IN THE LATE MORNING AND AFTERNOON. SNOW ACCUMULATION OF 3 TO 6 INCHES. HIGHS 19 TO 27. SOUTHWEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 80 PERCENT.

TUESDAY NIGHT

MOSTLY CLOUDY. SNOW LIKELY UNTIL MIDNIGHT...THEN CHANCE OF SNOW AFTER MIDNIGHT. LIGHT SNOW ACCUMULATIONS. LOWS 4 BELOW TO 3 ABOVE ZERO. NORTH WINDS UP TO 10 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 60 PERCENT.

WEDNESDAY

PARTLY SUNNY WITH A 10 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW. HIGHS 15 TO 21. WEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

MOSTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 12 BELOW TO ZERO.

THURSDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHT

PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS 26 TO 32. LOWS 1 TO 12.

FRIDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHT

PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS 31 TO 38. LOWS 4 TO 16.

SATURDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT

PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS 36 TO 44. LOWS 3 TO 15.

SUNDAY

PARTLY SUNNY. HIGHS 33 TO 41.

NRCS Forecast

NEW MEXICO Water Supply Outlook Report as of February 1, 2011

During January, New Mexico continued to remain under the influence of a fairly strong "La Nina" pattern. As is typical with this pattern, most of the storm activity and precipitation remained north of New Mexico. Along with the below average snowpack, temperatures were somewhat above average overall, which is not overly favorable for the snowpack in place. The southern end of the state has been especially impacted by the recent weather patterns, with the Gila Region and Sacramento Mountains seeing well below average snowpack numbers. The eastern slopes of the northern mountains have also seen below average snowpack numbers. The north-central mountains have fared somewhat better, but are still below average for the most part. Although we have had some storm activity recently, it does not appear that New Mexico is in the storm track on a regular basis at this point. If this pattern continues, our chance of seeing the snowpack improve this spring will continue to diminish in coming weeks. This would continue to negatively impact both runoff forecasts and spring fire conditions.

SNOWPACK

It seems that the "La Nina" which has been in place for several months has continued to influence the storm track in recent weeks, leading to below average January snowfall for most of the state. After exceptional snowpack numbers in

January last year, this year seems very poor in comparison. The southern part of the state has been the most severely impacted, with many areas in the Gila, Mimbres, and Rio Hondo Basins seeing current snowpack numbers around 50 percent of average, or less. Temperatures were also slightly above average for most of the state in January, which limited the snowpack to higher elevations. If these warm and dry conditions continue the spring runoff forecasts could continue to fall. Traditionally, some of the heavier snowpack is built in February and March, so there is still time for the snowpack to improve if the storm track swings south.

RESERVOIRS

Despite a decent runoff year for New Mexico in 2010, reservoir storage levels remain fairly low overall. Combined with lower than average snowpack levels so far this winter, this may have a serious impact on water users through the spring and summer. The southern basins are in a position to see well below average runoff, and with no reservoir storage in these basins, there will be nothing to fall back on as a supplement. The northern basins, which provide most of the reservoir storage in the state, are in somewhat better shape, but runoff forecasts still reflect drier than average conditions overall.

The only thing helping bolster runoff forecasts in some of these areas is the decent snowpack levels in southern Colorado. Reservoir storage in New Mexico remains below average for much of the state, which makes it tough to catch up even in an "average" year. This year is shaping up to be below average, which could lead to a reduced allocation for some water users unless we see a significant shift in the storm track in the next few months.

