# February 10, 2013 RESERVOIR LEVEL AND SNOW UPDATE

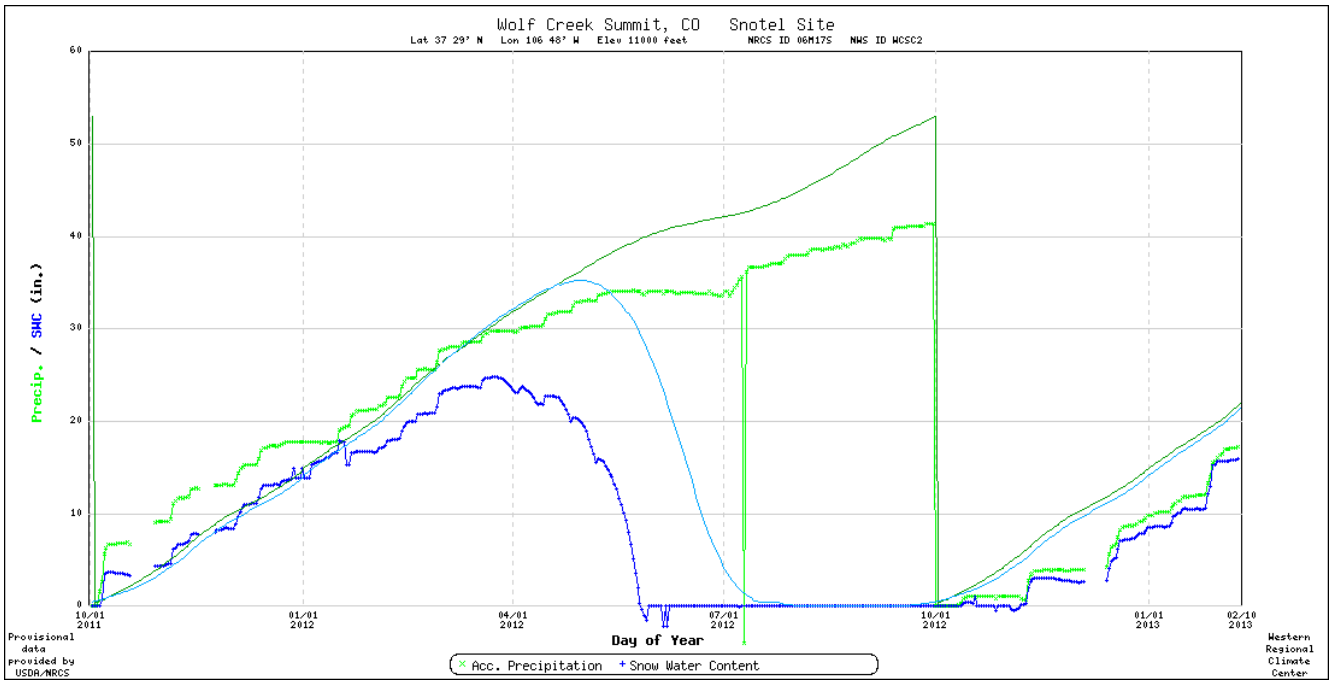
There has not been much new snow this past week, so the snowpack relative to the average has fallen following the significant recent increase. All three basins remain below average, and as we head into the final 8-10 weeks of the season there is less time to catch up. There is however a good chance of snow (80%-90%) through Monday night which should help. The February water supply outlook for New Mexico is now out, and is little changed from January, with March to July runoff in the Rio Grande basin forecast at about 200,000 ac-ft at the 50% chance of exceedance level, or less than 40% of average. Storage in Elephant Butte/Caballo, which is increasing by 800-900 ac-ft/day should soon pass 200,000 ac-ft, much below the storage on this date last year.

## COMBINED STORAGE Elephant Butte and Caballo
### February 08, 2013 198,756 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 Saturday February 9, 2013**

| BASIN<br>Data Site Name | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT<br>% Avg | TOTAL PRECIPITATION<br>% Avg |
|---|---|---|
| **UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN** | | |
| Basin wide percent of average | 77 | 72 |
| **RIO CHAMA BASIN** | | |
| Basin wide percent of average | 74 | 64 |
| **SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAIN RANGE BASINS** | | |
| Basin wide percent of average | 68 | 63 |

## WOLF CREEK




FORECAST
UPPER RIO GRANDE VALLEY/EASTERN SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS BELOW 10000 FT-
INCLUDING...CREEDE...SOUTH FORK

350 AM MST SUN FEB 10 2013

**TODAY**
PERIODS OF SNOW SHOWERS. SNOW ACCUMULATION UP TO 2 INCHES. HIGHS 17 TO 26. SOUTHWEST WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 90 PERCENT. LOWEST WIND CHILL READINGS 5 BELOW TO 15 BELOW ZERO IN THE MORNING.

**TONIGHT**
PERIODS OF SNOW. SNOW ACCUMULATION UP TO 3 INCHES. LOWS 4 BELOW TO 9 ABOVE ZERO. SOUTHWEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 80 PERCENT. LOWEST WIND CHILL READINGS 5 BELOW TO 15 BELOW ZERO AFTER MIDNIGHT.

**MONDAY**
PERIODS OF SNOW. SNOW ACCUMULATION OF 2 TO 5 INCHES. HIGHS 19 TO 26. LIGHT WINDS BECOMING SOUTHWEST AROUND 10 MPH IN THE AFTERNOON. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 80 PERCENT.

**MONDAY NIGHT**
CLOUDY. PERIODS OF SNOW UNTIL MIDNIGHT...THEN CHANCE OF SNOW AFTER MIDNIGHT. LIGHT SNOW ACCUMULATIONS. LOWS 8 BELOW TO 6 ABOVE ZERO. SOUTHWEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH UNTIL MIDNIGHT BECOMING LIGHT. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 80 PERCENT.

**TUESDAY**
MOSTLY SUNNY. HIGHS 21 TO 28. WEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH IN THE MORNING BECOMING LIGHT.

**TUESDAY NIGHT**
MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS 8 BELOW TO 8 ABOVE ZERO.

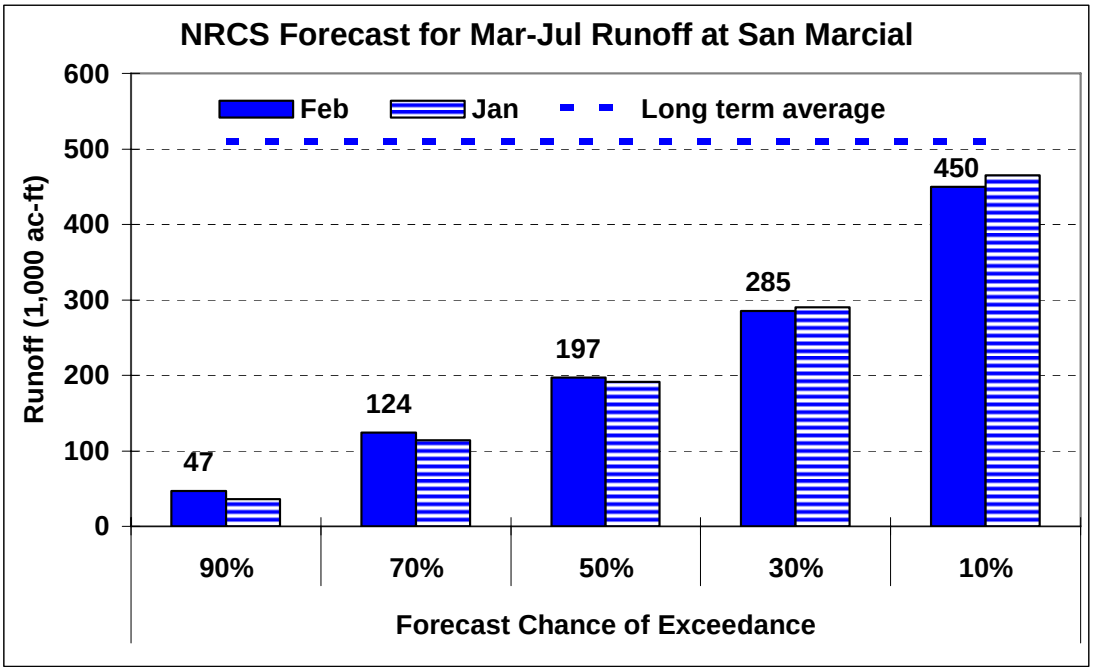
**WEDNESDAY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT**
PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE LOWER TO MID 30S. LOWS 2 BELOW TO 12 ABOVE ZERO.

**THURSDAY**
PARTLY SUNNY. HIGHS 25 TO 31.

**THURSDAY NIGHT**
MOSTLY CLOUDY WITH A 20 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW. LOWS 6 BELOW TO 8 ABOVE ZERO.

**FRIDAY**
MOSTLY SUNNY WITH A 20 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW. HIGHS 23 TO 28.

**FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY**
PARTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 8 BELOW TO 9 ABOVE ZERO. HIGHS 32 TO 37.



# NEW MEXICO Water Supply Outlook Report as of February 1, 2013

After a somewhat moisture starved series of storms dominated the weather pattern in December, January did a little better with storms bringing some measureable precipitation to parts of the state. Given the dry start to the season, this hit and miss pattern was not enough to build snowpack in New Mexico to even close to average if it continues. Most basins in the state received less than 85 percent of the normal precipitation for January, with some closer to 55 percent. The one exception was the Animas/San Juan Basin in southern Colorado, which saw somewhat above normal precipitation for the month. This pattern is not what is needed to break the drought that has gripped New Mexico for the past couple years, and the February 1 runoff forecasts are reflecting this moisture deficit. Many models indicate that the dry pattern will probably continue to dominate through the spring, which will not be favorable for building snowpack as we head toward our normal peak snowpack period. If these models are correct and New Mexico remains out of the active storm track, snowpack numbers and runoff forecasts could both continue to fall through the remaining snow season. Water managers and users need to be prepared for well below normal water supply through this runoff season.

**SNOWPACK**

January saw a series of storms brush New Mexico, with a couple of them dropping some much needed precipitation. Unfortunately, the strongest of these storms came in with a warm front and much of the moisture fell as rain, even at the mid to higher elevations. The northern mountains did pick up some measurable snowpack, but it was not as much as hoped for from this storm. Virtually all basins in the state have well below normal snowpack for this time of year. Temperatures have also remained somewhat above average for much of the state in January, which limited snow accumulation. If these warm and dry conditions continue, runoff forecasts could continue to fall. Traditionally, significant snowpack is built in February and March, so some time remains for snowpack to improve. If the storm track continues to bring relatively dry storms every few weeks, snowpack numbers will continue to drop.

**PRECIPITATION**

January precipitation was well below average statewide, with most basins receiving less than 85 percent of normal. The Animas/San Juan Basin in southern Colorado was the one exception, receiving about 148 percent of normal for the month. The Pecos and Hondo basins hovered around 56 to 57 percent of normal. For the water year so far, the state as a whole is less than 75 percent of normal, with most basins hovering in the 65 to 70 percent range. The Pecos River Basin is closer to 60 percent of normal, while the Mimbres is around 49 percent of normal precipitation for the water year. It is also worth mentioning, all basins were very dry in October and November, which could have an impact on the spring runoff as some of the snow-melt will infiltrate into the dry soils.

**RESERVOIRS**

After two well below normal runoff years for New Mexico in 2011 and 2012, reservoir storage levels continue to drop for the most part. Combined with mediocre 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 normal runoff for the most part, 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 also expecting significantly below normal runoff with forecasts continuing to reflect drier than average conditions overall. Reservoir storage in New Mexico remains below average for most of the state, which makes it tough to catch up even in an “above average” year. This year is shaping up to be below average, which

could lead to a reduced allocation for many water users unless we see a significant shift in the storm track in the next couple months.

**STREAMFLOW**

Streamflow conditions in New Mexico are currently below average for the most part. Most gauging stations in the Pecos and Rio Grande are reporting lower than normal flows at this time. The San Francisco/Upper Gila is the only basin in the state showing near to slightly above normal flows. Given our current snowpack conditions, runoff forecasts are generally significantly below average for the major basins in the state. Without a major shift in the weather patterns over coming weeks, the odds of a close to average runoff season statewide are very slim. Water managers and users need to be prepared for much lower than normal streamflow this runoff season. Streamflow forecasts for the Rio Grande Basin range from 35 percent of normal for the Jemez River below Jemez Canyon Dam, to 70 percent of normal for the Rio Lucero near Arroyo Seco. The Rio Grande at Otowi Bridge is forecast to be 53 percent of normal or 380,000 acre-feet, while The Rio Grande at San Marcial is forecast at 39 percent or 197,000 acre-feet. Precipitation for January was below normal at 79 percent, up slightly from January last year. Year-to-date precipitation is only 65 percent of normal, compared to last year's 101 percent at this time. Snowpack in the basin is 75 percent of normal, down somewhat from last year's 85 percent at this time. Total reservoir storage in the basin is less than 585,000 acre-feet, continuing to drop from last year’s 896,700 acre-feet. This is only 29 percent of the 30 year average of 2,008,900 acre-feet. There was no report for Costilla Reservoir this month due to equipment issues, but storage last month was only 2,300 acre-feet. Abiquiu is the only reservoir in the basin to post above average storage for January at 105 percent, but even this is down somewhat from last year. Elephant Butte storage continues to fall this year, with storage of 183,100 acre-feet as opposed to 333,300 acre-feet at this time last year. This is roughly 14 percent of the 30 year average of 1,299,000 acre-feet for Elephant Butte. Water users in Rio Grande Basin should plan for reduced water supply this year with the limited storage currently held in upstream reservoirs.

**RIO GRANDE BASIN as of February 1, 2013**

Streamflow forecasts for the Rio Grande Basin range from 35 percent of normal for the Jemez River below Jemez Canyon Dam, to 70 percent of normal for the Rio Lucero near Arroyo Seco. The Rio Grande at Otowi Bridge is forecast to be 53 percent of normal or 380,000 acre-feet, while The Rio Grande at San Marcial is forecast at 39 percent or 197,000 acre-feet. Precipitation for January was below normal at 79 percent, up slightly from January last year. Year-to-date precipitation is only 65 percent of normal, compared to last year's 101 percent at this time. Snowpack in the basin is 75 percent of normal, down somewhat from last year's 85 percent at this time. Total reservoir storage in the basin is less than 585,000 acre-feet, continuing to drop from last year?s 896,700 acre-feet. This is only 29 percent of the 30 year average of 2,008,900 acre-feet. There was no report for Costilla Reservoir this month due to equipment issues, but storage last month was only 2,300 acre-feet. Abiquiu is the only reservoir in the basin to post above average storage for January at 105 percent, but even this is down somewhat from last year. Elephant Butte storage continues to fall this year, with storage of 183,100 acre-feet as opposed to 333,300 acre-feet at this time last year. This is roughly 14 percent of the 30 year average of 1,299,000 acre-feet for Elephant Butte. Water users in Rio Grande Basin should plan for reduced water supply this year with the limited storage currently held in upstream reservoirs.