



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Arizona

Basin Outlook Report

March 1, 2006



Issued by

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ARIZONA

Water Supply Outlook Report as of March 1, 2006

A full range of Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting products is available on the Arizona NRCS Home Page

Arizona Snow Survey Program

<http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/index.html>

Helpful Internet Sites

Defending Against Drought – NRCS

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/highlights/drought.html>

- Ideas on water, land, and crop management for you to consider while creating your drought plan.

Arizona Agri-Weekly

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/az/cur-agwk.pdf>

- Provides an overview of Arizona's crop, livestock, range and pasture conditions as reported by local staffs of the USDA's Agricultural Statistic Service and the University of Arizona, College of Agriculture.

SUMMARY

Snow surveys confirm the early melt out of any snow remaining in the central mountain watersheds of Arizona. Most in-state reservoirs carried over storage from last year and are in good condition compared to previous drought years. The ongoing drought does pose a serious threat to the upcoming runoff season with near minimum stream flows forecast through spring and summer.

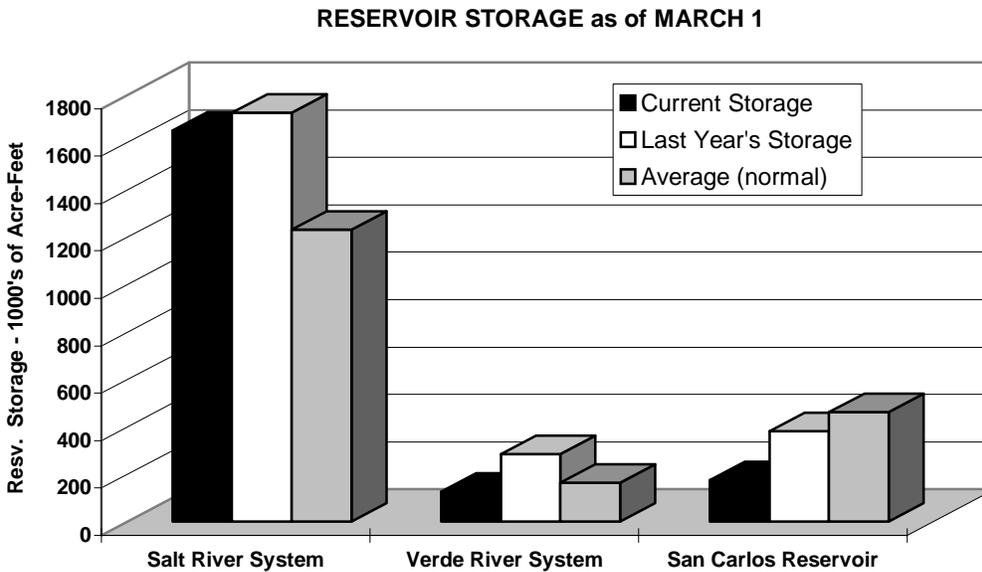
SNOWPACK

Watershed	Percent (%) of 30-Yr. Average Snowpack Levels as of March 1
Salt River Basin	1%
Verde River Basin	0%
Little Colorado River Basin	1%
San Francisco-Upper Gila River Basin	1%
Other Points of Interest	
Chuska Mountains	5%
Central Mogollon Rim	0%
Grand Canyon	0%
San Francisco Peaks	8%
Statewide Snowpack	2%

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation amounts for February were 7 percent of average over the Salt River basin, 5 percent of average over the Verde River basin, and 13 percent of average over the San Francisco-Upper Gila River basin. The Little Colorado River basin received 3 percent of average precipitation in February. Please refer to the basin graphs found in this report for more information regarding seasonal precipitation amounts.

RESERVOIR



Key storage volumes displayed in thousands of acre-feet (1000 x):

RESERVOIR	CURRENT STORAGE	LAST YEAR STORAGE	30-YEAR AVERAGE
Lyman Lake	8.0	4.9	15.4
Show Low Lake	---	6.2	3.7
Lake Pleasant	738.1	813.4	----
Lake Havasu	546.7	613.4	552.4
Lake Mohave	1626.1	1722.9	1675.1
Lake Mead	15520.0	15739.0	22122.0
Lake Powell	10793.0	8265.0	18236.0
Salt River System	1649.0	1724.8	1231.5
Verde River System	124.9	284.5	163.5
San Carlos Reservoir	173.5	381.5	461.4

STREAMFLOW

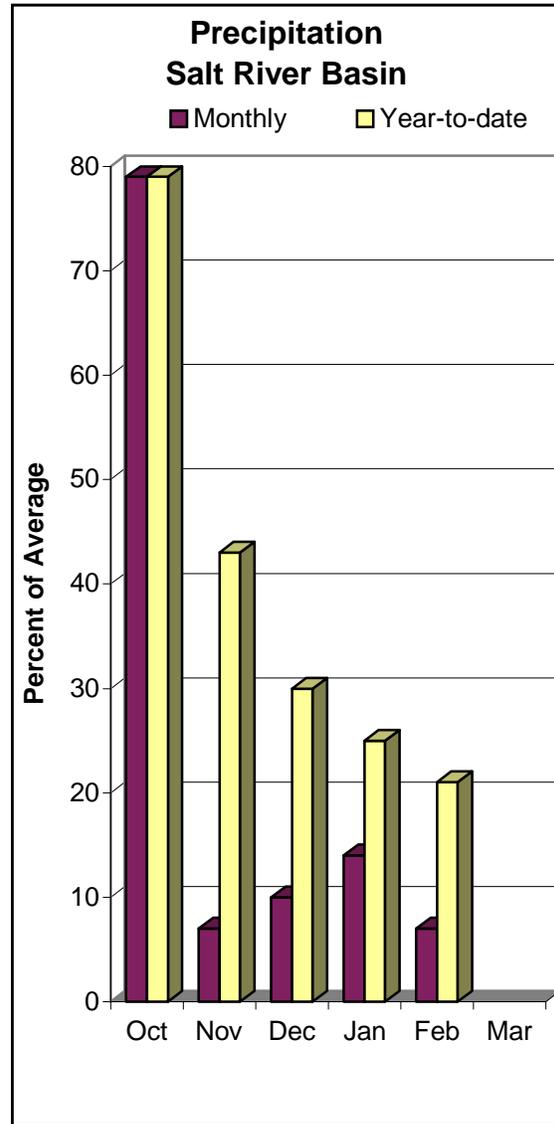
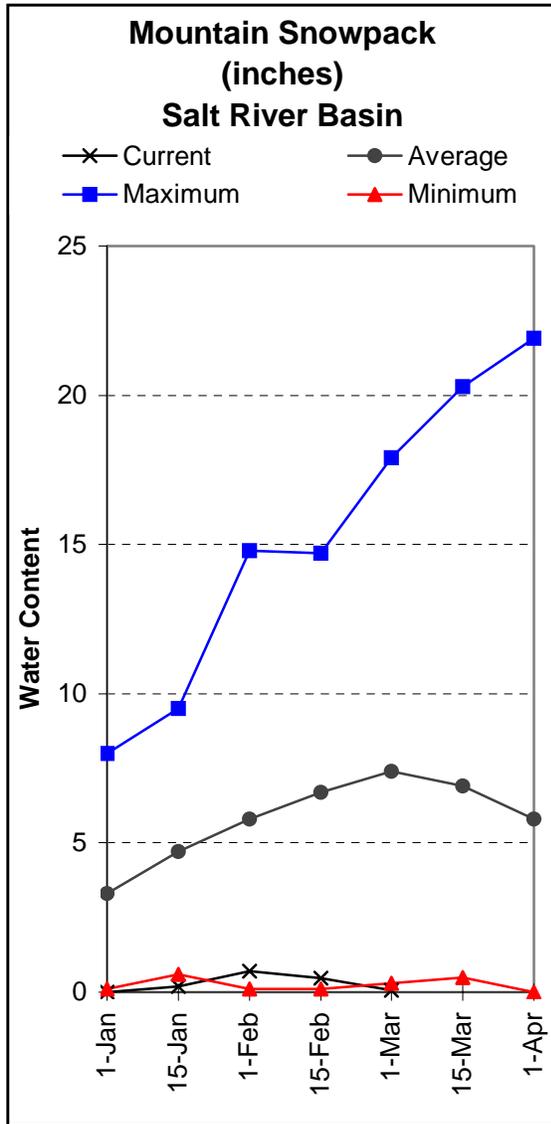
The ongoing drought poses a serious threat to the upcoming runoff season, as well as to agriculture, and the natural resources of the state. Please refer to the basin forecast tables found in this report for more information regarding seasonal water supplies.



SALT RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 2006

Much below median stream flow is forecast for the basin. In the Salt River, near Roosevelt, the forecast calls for 9 % of median stream flow volume from March 1-May, while at Tonto Creek, the forecast calls for 4 % of median stream flow volume from March 1-May.

Snow survey measurements show the Salt snowpack to be 1 % of the 30-year average, while combined reservoir storage for the Salt River system stands at 1,649,007 acre-feet.



SALT RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2006

Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Med (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF) (% MED.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)		
Salt River nr Roosevelt							
MAR-MAY	19.0	22	25	9	41	76	270
MARCH	7.0	8.0	9.0	7	23	46	131
Tonto Creek ab Gun Creek nr Roosevelt							
MAR-MAY	0.6	0.9	1.0	4	3.3	10.7	26
MARCH	0.2	0.3	0.5	3	3.4	8.4	16.9

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average and median are computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

- (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.

SALT RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	***** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	***** Average
SALT RIVER RES SYSTEM	2025.8	1649.0	1724.8	1231.5

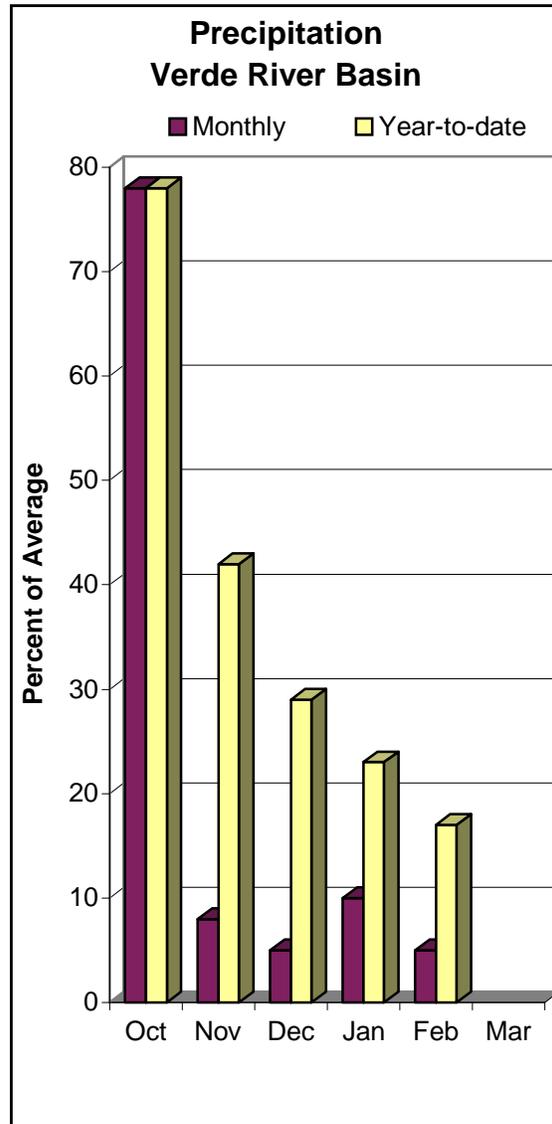
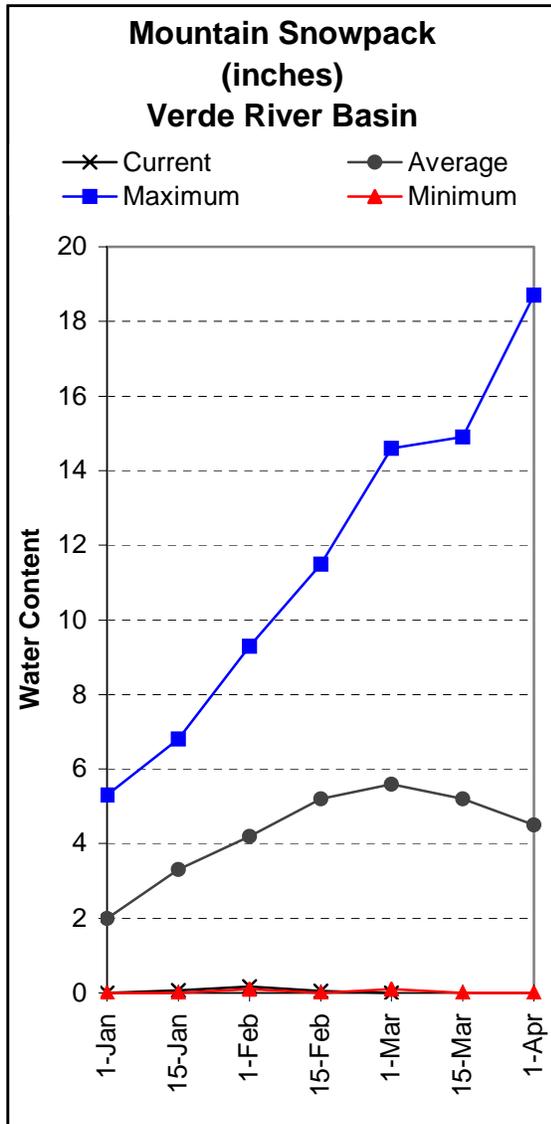
SALT RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
SALT RIVER BASIN	8	1	1

VERDE RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 2006

Much below median stream flow is forecast for the basin. In the Verde River, at Horseshoe Dam, the forecast calls for 21 % of median stream flow volume from March 1-May.

Snow survey measurements show the Verde snowpack to be 0 % of the 30-year average, while combined reservoir storage for the Verde River system stands at 124,980 acre-feet.



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VERDE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2006

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Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Med (1000AF)
	===== Chance of Exceeding * =====						
	90%	70%	50%	30%	10%		
	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF) (% MED.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
=====							
Verde River abv Horseshoe Dam							
MAR-MAY	26	29	30	21	49	88	144
MARCH	11.5	12.0	13.0	26	16.5	32	50

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

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VERDE RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

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Reservoir	Usable	***** Usable Storage *****		Average
	Capacity	This Year	Last Year	
VERDE RIVER RES SYSTEM	287.4	124.9	284.5	163.5

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VERDE RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2006

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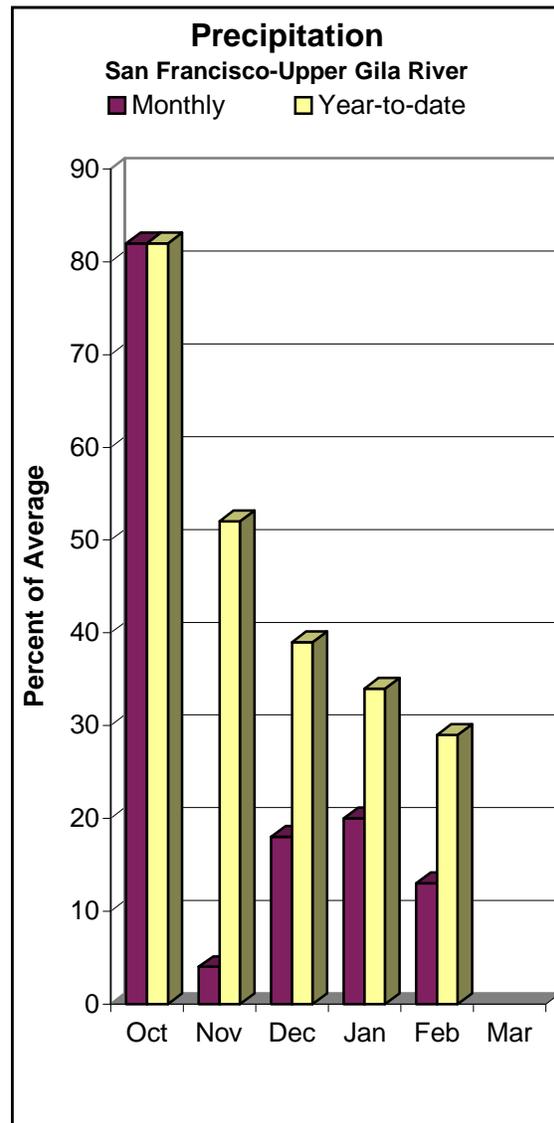
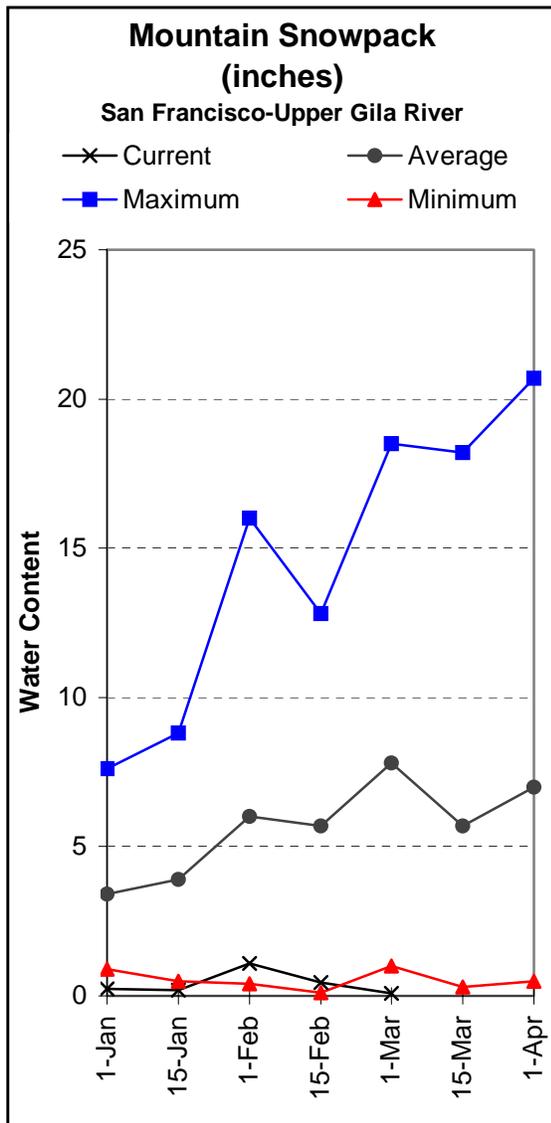
Watershed	Number of	This Year as Percent of	
	Data Sites	Last Year	Average
VERDE RIVER BASIN	10	0	0
SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS	3	3	8

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SAN FRANCISCO - UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 2006

Much below median stream flow is forecast for the basin. In the San Francisco River, at Clifton, the forecast calls for 17 % of median stream flow volume from March 1-May, while in the Gila River, near Solomon, the forecast calls for 12 % of median stream flow volume from March 1-May. At San Carlos Reservoir, inflow to the lake is forecast at 9 % of median volume for the forecast period March 1-May.

At San Carlos, reservoir storage stands at 173,500 acre-feet, while snow survey measurements show snowpack levels to be 2 % of the 30-year average.



SAN FRANCISCO - UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2006

Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Med (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding * 90% 70% 50% 30% 10% (1000AF) (1000AF) (1000AF) (% MED.) (1000AF) (1000AF)						
Gila River at Gila							
MAR-MAY	6.8	7.5	8.0	24	11.6	15.3	34
Gila River nr Virden							
MAR-MAY	5.6	6.6	8.2	17	13.2	17.9	47
San Francisco River at Glenwood							
MAR-MAY	2.0	2.1	2.6	16	4.1	6.1	16.4
San Francisco River at Clifton							
MAR-MAY	5.5	6.3	7.2	17	11.8	16.0	42
Gila River nr Solomon							
MAR-MAY	8.0	12.0	13.0	12	23	35	105
MARCH			6.3	12			53
San Carlos Reservoir inflow							
MAR-MAY	1.9	3.2	5.6	9	9.5	19.7	64

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(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

SAN FRANCISCO - UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	***** Usable Storage *****		
		This Year	Last Year	Average
SAN CARLOS	875.0	173.5	381.5	461.4

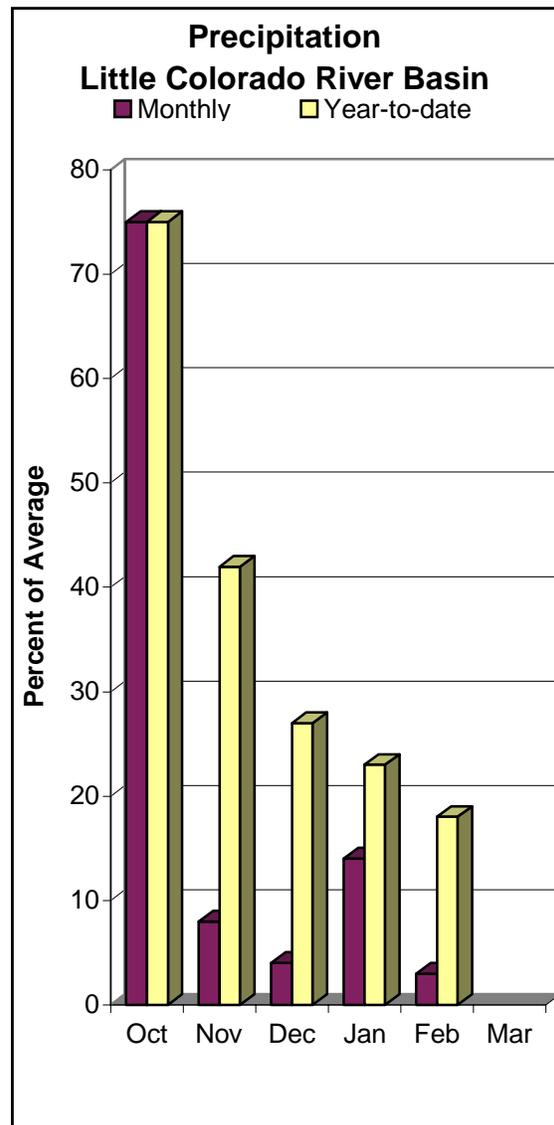
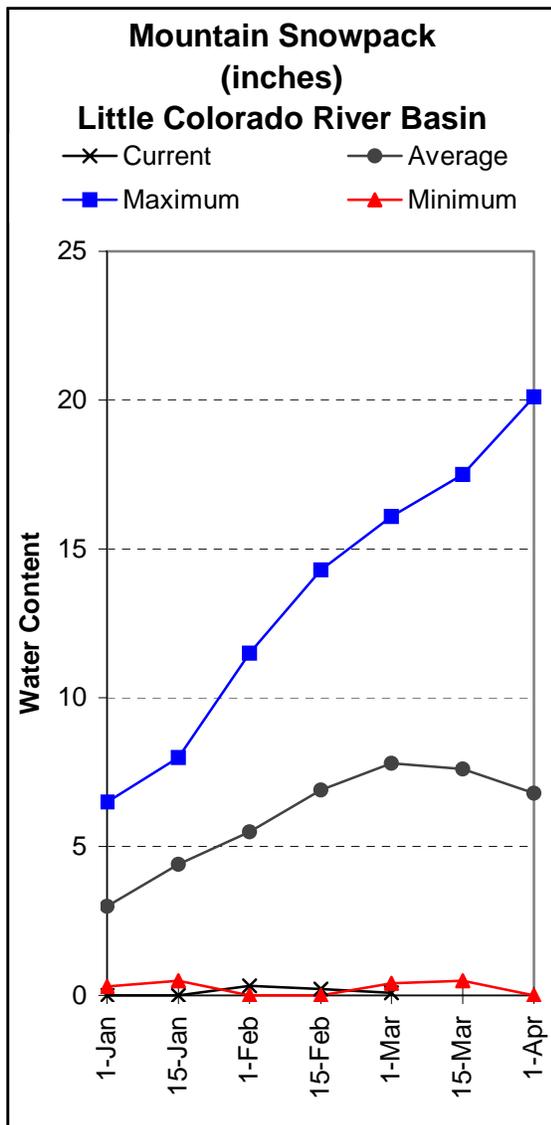
SAN FRANCISCO - UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of	
		Last Year	Average
SAN FRANCISCO - UPPER GILA R	9	1	1

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of March 1, 2006

Much below median stream flow is forecast for the basin. In the Little Colorado River, at Lyman Lake, the forecast calls for 8 % of median stream flow volume from March 1-June, while at Woodruff, the forecast calls for 5 % of median stream flow volume from March 1-May.

Snowpack levels along the southern headwaters of the Little Colorado River, and along the central Mogollon Rim, was measured at 1 % and 0 % of the 30-year average, respectively.



LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2006

Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Med (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding * 90% 70% 50% 30% 10% (1000AF) (1000AF) (1000AF) (% MED.) (1000AF) (1000AF)						
Little Colorado River abv Lyman Lake							
MAR-JUN	0.19	0.31	0.51	8	1.06	2.50	6.30
Rio Nutria nr Ramah							
MAR-MAY	0.00	0.03	0.09	3	0.37	1.39	2.70
Ramah Reservoir inflow							
MAR-MAY	0.01	0.03	0.09	6	0.37	0.75	1.49
Zuni River abv Black Rock Reservoir							
MAR-MAY	0.00	0.00	0.05	6	0.10	0.24	0.89
Little Colorado River at Woodruff							
MAR-MAY	0.04	0.07	0.11	5	0.33	0.77	2.20
Blue Ridge Reservoir inflow							
MAR-MAY	0.0	0.1	0.8	6	1.7	3.7	12.8
Lake Mary inflow							
MAR-MAY	0.00	0.04	0.08	2	0.62	1.43	4.10

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LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

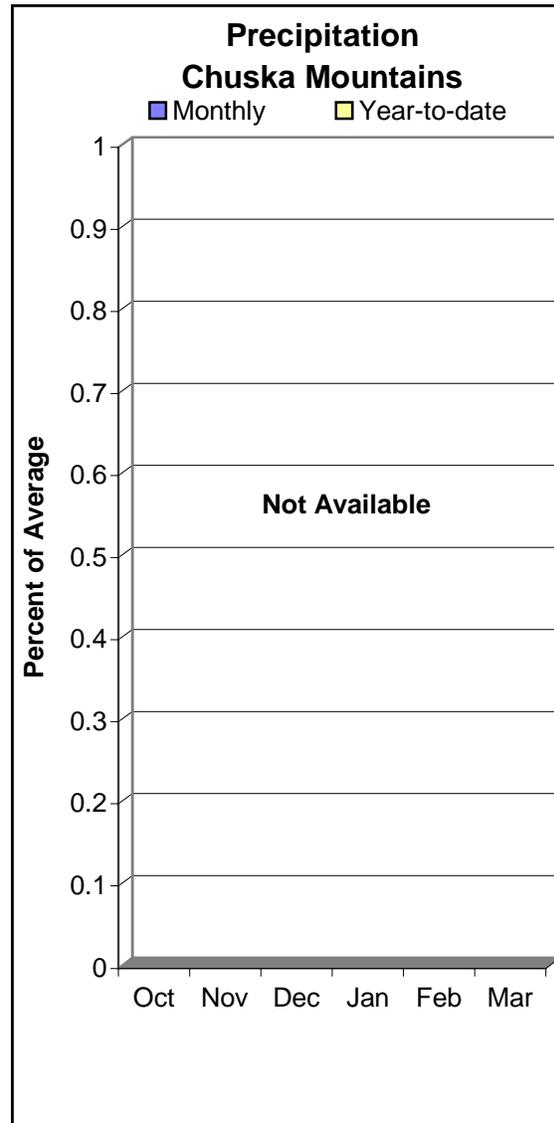
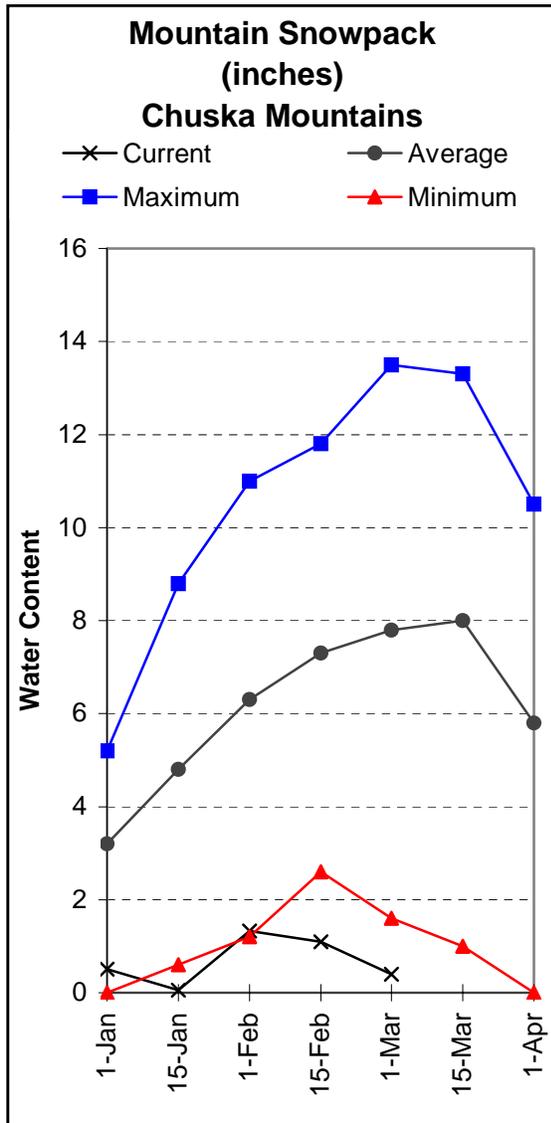
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	***** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	***** Average
LYMAN RESERVOIR	30.0	8.0	4.9	15.4
SHOW LOW LAKE		NO REPORT		

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
LITTLE COLORADO-SOUTHERN HEADWATERS	9	1	1
CENTRAL MOGOLLON RIM	4	0	0

CHUSKA MOUNTAINS as of March 1, 2006

Snow survey measurements conducted by staff of the Navajo Tribe show the Chuska Mountain snowpack to be 5 % of average, while much below average stream flow volumes are forecast for Captain Tom Wash, Wheatfields Creek, and Bowl Canyon Creek from March 1-May.



CHUSKA MOUNTAINS
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2006

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)		
Captain Tom Wash nr Two Gray Hills							
MAR-MAY	0.20	0.28	0.50	18	1.41	2.80	2.83
Wheatfields Creek nr Wheatfields							
MAR-MAY	0.20	0.29	0.52	18	1.45	2.90	2.90
Bowl Canyon Creek abv Assayi Lake							
MAR-MAY	0.07	0.10	0.17	17	0.45	0.95	1.00

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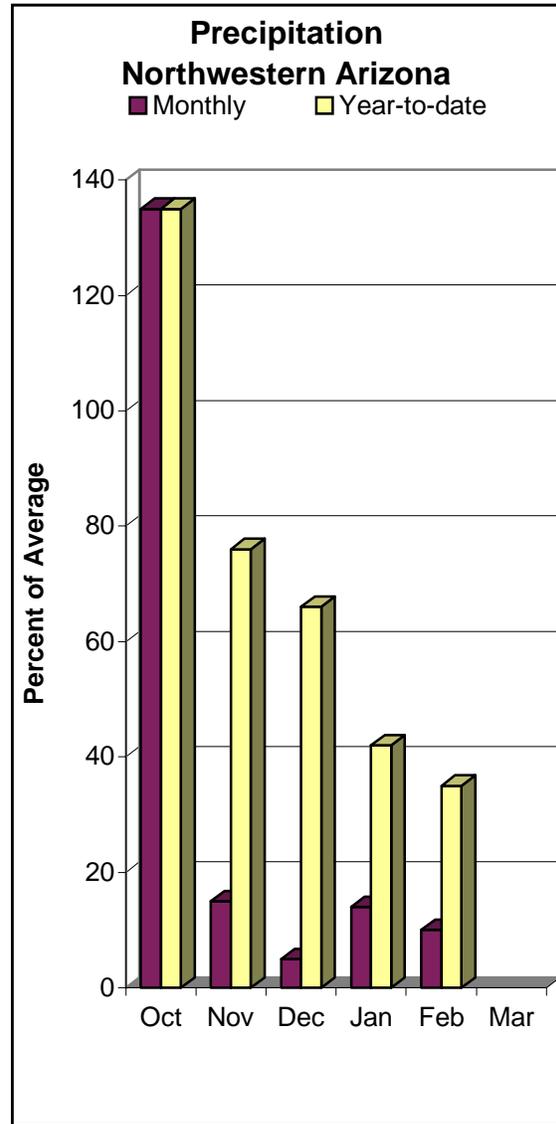
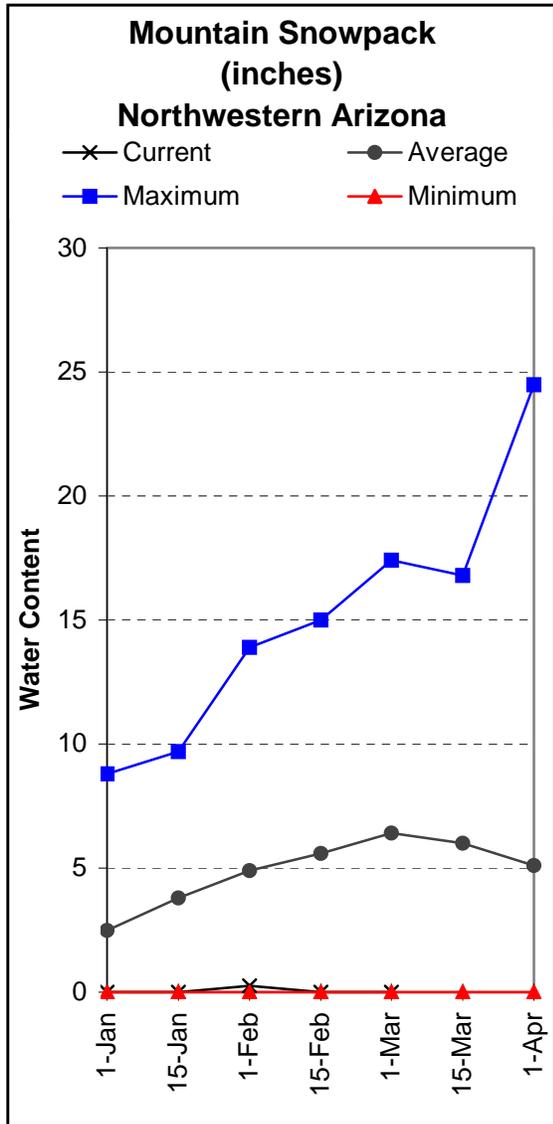
CHUSKA MOUNTAINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
CHUSKA MOUNTAINS	7	3	5
DEFIANCE PLATEAU	2	0	0

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA as of March 1, 2006

On the Colorado River, inflow to Lake Powell is forecast at 91 % of the 30-year average for the forecast period April through July, while at Littlefield, the Virgin River is forecast at 22 % of the 30-year average for the forecast period April through July.

At the Grand Canyon, snow survey measurements conducted by the National Park Service show the snowpack to be at 0 % of the 30-year average.



NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA
Streamflow Forecasts - March 1, 2006

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)		
Virgin River at Littlefield							
APR-JUL	14.1	14.8	16.0	22	27	48	74
Lake Powell Inflow (2)							
APR-JUL	4250	6010	7200	91	8390	10150	7930

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NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) End of February

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	***** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	***** Average
LAKE HAVASU	619.0	546.7	613.4	552.4
LAKE MOHAVE	1810.0	1626.1	1722.9	1675.1
LAKE MEAD	26159.0	15520.0	15739.0	22122.0
LAKE POWELL	24322.0	10793.0	8265.0	18236.0

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 1, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
GRAND CANYON	0	0	0

S N O W S U R V E Y D A T A

MARCH 1, 2006

SNOW COURSE	ELEV.	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 71-00
ARBABS FOREST (AK)	7680	2/18	0	.0	.8	2.1
BAKER BUTTE SNOTEL	7330	3/01	0	.0	7.7	5.9
BAKER BUTTE #2	7700	2/28	0	.0	16.0	12.3
BALDY SNOTEL	9220	3/01	0	.0	11.3	8.0
BEAVER HEAD	8000	2/28	0	.0	1.4	2.9
BEAVER HEAD SNOTEL	7990	3/01	0	.0	6.3	3.0
BEAVER SPRING	9220	3/01	3	.8	13.5	9.7
BRIGHT ANGEL	8400	2/28	0	.0	17.5	10.9
BUCK SPRING	7400	2/28	0	.0	0.8	3.8
CHALENDER	7100	2/28	0	.0	1.6	3.3
CHEESE SPRINGS	8600	2/28	0	.0	6.3	5.9
CORONADO TRL SNOTEL	8400	3/01	0	.0	7.2	3.3
CORONADO TRAIL	8350	2/28	0	.0	3.9	3.0
FLUTED ROCK	7800	2/28	0	.0	2.8	3.5
FORT APACHE	9160	2/28	2	0.5	11.2	7.9
FORT VALLEY	7350	2/28	0	.0	5.4	2.6
FRY SNOTEL	7220	3/01	0	.0	13.4	6.8
GRAND CANYON	7500	2/28	0	.0	0.6	2.4
HANNAGAN MDWS SNOTEL	9020	3/01	0	.0	19.0	11.7
HAPPY JACK	7630	2/27	0	.0	7.0	4.8
HAPPY JACK SNOTEL	7630	3/01	0	.0	11.5	6.1
HEBER SNOTEL	7640	3/01	0	.0	6.6	5.0
LAKE MARY	6930	2/28	0	.0	4.4	3.3
MAVERICK FORK SNOTEL	9200	3/01	0	.0	14.6	10.2
MORMON MTN SNOTEL	7500	3/01	0	.0	11.3	6.7
MORMON MT. SUMMIT #2	8470	2/28	0	.0	21.2	13.5
NEWMAN PARK	6750	2/28	0	.0	3.3	2.5
NUTRIOSO	8500	2/28	0	.0	0.6	1.8
PROMONTORY SNOTEL	7900	3/01	0	.0	17.4	12.9
SNOW BOWL #1 ALT.	10260	2/27	0	.0	26.6	12.3
SNOW BOWL #2	11000	2/27	1	0.4	36.6	17.2
SNOWSLIDE CYN SNOTEL	9750	3/01	-	2.9	35.5	12.4
TSAILE CANYON #1	8160	2/28	0	.0	8.9	6.1
TSAILE CANYON #3	8920	2/28	3	.6	12.3	8.7
WHITE HORSE SNOTEL	7180	3/01	0	.0	5.9	5.3
WILDCAT SNOTEL	7850	3/01	0	.0	3.2	4.4
WILLIAMS SKI RUN	7720	2/28	0	.0	12.3	8.9
WORKMAN CREEK SNOTEL	6900	3/01	0	.0	1.4	5.3