



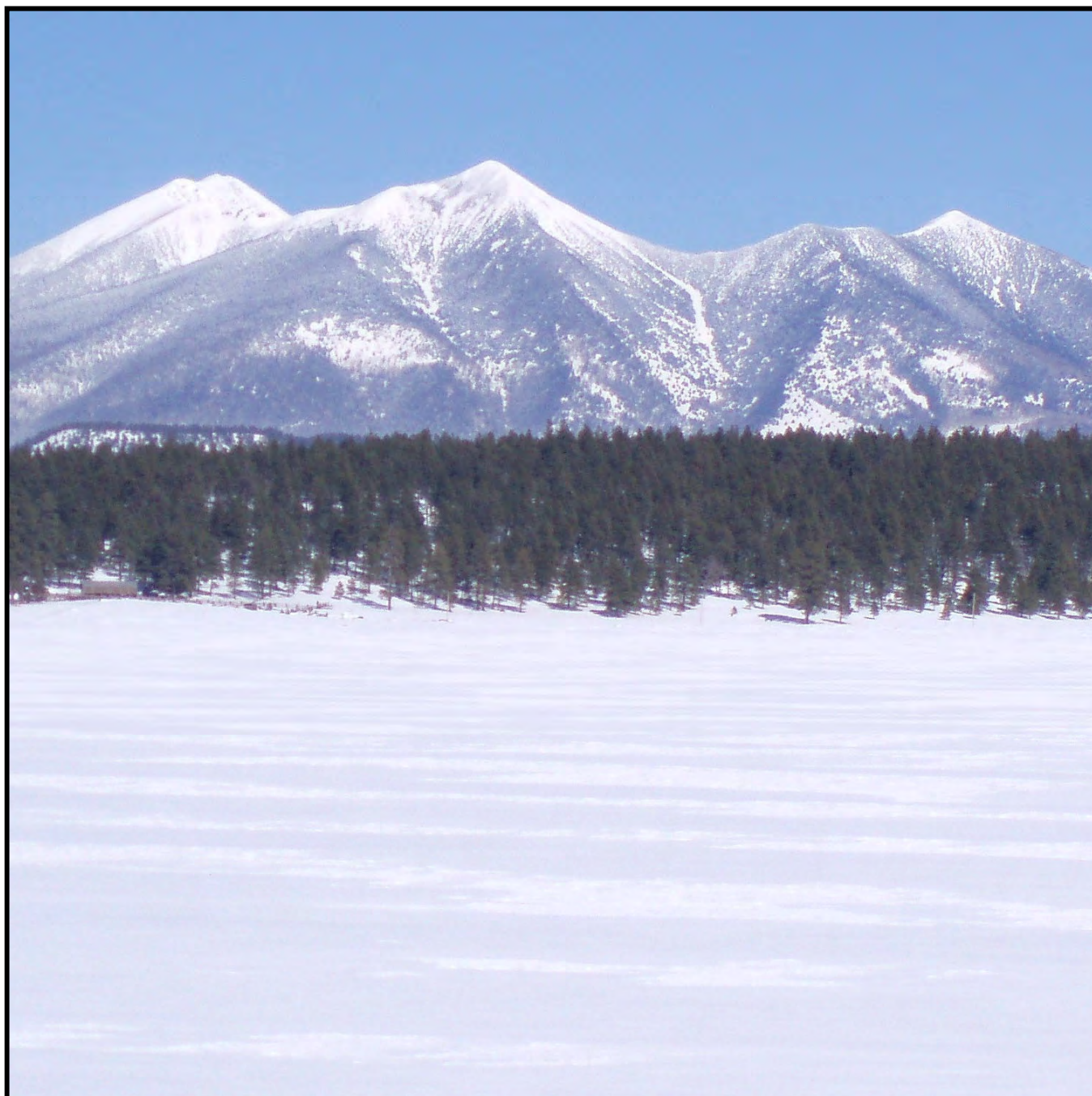
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Arizona

Basin Outlook Report

February 1, 2020



Issued by

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Basin Outlook Reports And Federal – State – Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

How forecasts are made

Most of the annual streamflow in Arizona originates as snowfall that has accumulated in the mountains during the winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Measurements of snow water equivalent at selected manual snow courses and automated Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) sites, along with precipitation and streamflow values, are used in statistical and simulation models to prepare runoff forecasts. These forecasts are coordinated between hydrologists in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) the National Weather Service, and the Salt River Project.

Forecasts of any kind are not perfect. Streamflow forecast uncertainty arises from three primary sources: (1) uncertainty of future weather conditions, (2) uncertainty in the forecasting procedure, and (3) errors in the data. The forecast, therefore, must be interpreted not as a single value but rather as a range of values with specific probabilities of occurrence. The middle of the range is expressed by the 50% exceedance probability forecast, for which there is a 50% chance that the actual flow will be above, and a 50% chance that the actual flow will be below, this value. To describe the expected range around this 50% value, four other forecasts are provided, two smaller values (90% and 70% exceedance probability) and two larger values (30%, and 10% exceedance probability). For example, there is a 90% chance that the actual flow will be more than the 90% exceedance probability forecast.

The wider the spread among these values, the more uncertain the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known. This is reflected by a narrowing of the range around the 50% exceedance probability forecast. Users should take this uncertainty into consideration when making operational decisions by selecting forecasts corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to assume about the amount of water to be expected. If users anticipate receiving a lesser supply of water, or are concerned about having an adequate water supply, they may want to base their decisions on the 90% or 70% exceedance probability forecasts. On the other hand, if users anticipate receiving too much water, or are concerned about the threat of flooding, they may want to base their decisions on the 30% or 10% exceedance probability forecasts. Regardless of the forecast value users choose, they should be prepared to deal with either more or less water.



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ARIZONA Basin Outlook Report as of February 1, 2020

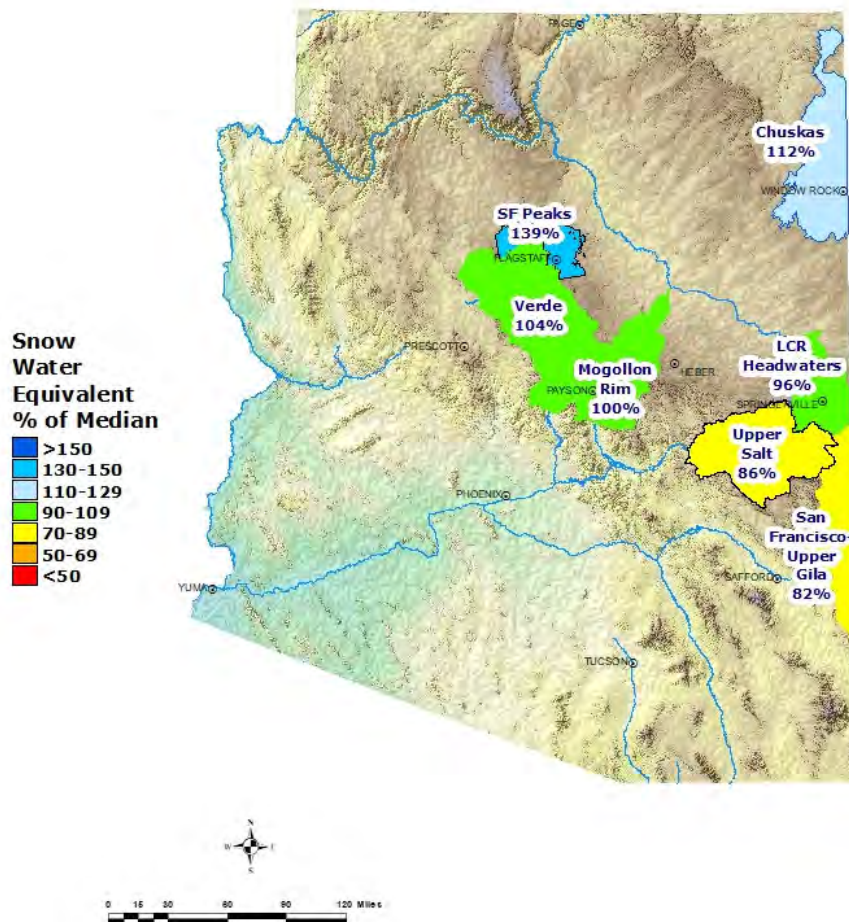
SUMMARY

As of February 1, snowpack levels are below normal to normal throughout the major basins of the state. Precipitation for the month of January was well below normal in the major river basins. The Salt and Verde River reservoir system stands at 76 percent of capacity, while San Carlos Reservoir is at 9 percent of capacity. The forecast calls for normal to well above normal runoff in all basins for the spring runoff period.

SNOWPACK

Snow water equivalent levels in the state's major river basins are below normal to normal, ranging from 104 percent of median in the Verde River Basin to 82 percent of median in the Upper Gila River Basin. The statewide snowpack is normal at 102 percent of median.

**Arizona
Snow Water Equivalent
as of February 1, 2020**

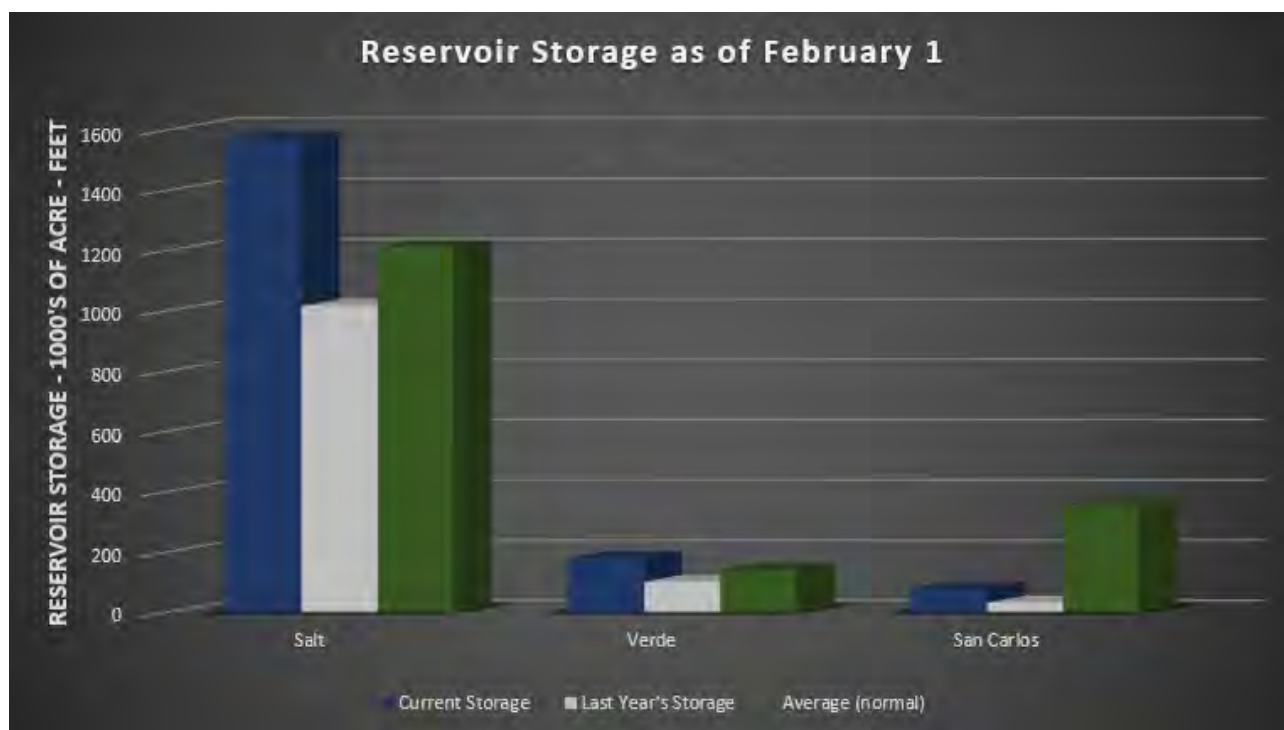


PRECIPITATION

Mountain data from NRCS SNOTEL sites and NWS Cooperator gages show that precipitation for January was well below average in the major river basins. Cumulative precipitation since October 1 is normal to above normal throughout the basins. Please refer to the precipitation bar graphs found in this report for more information on precipitation levels in the basins.

RESERVOIR STORAGE

As of February 1, the Salt and Verde River reservoir system stands at 76 percent of capacity. San Carlos Reservoir is currently at 9 percent of capacity.



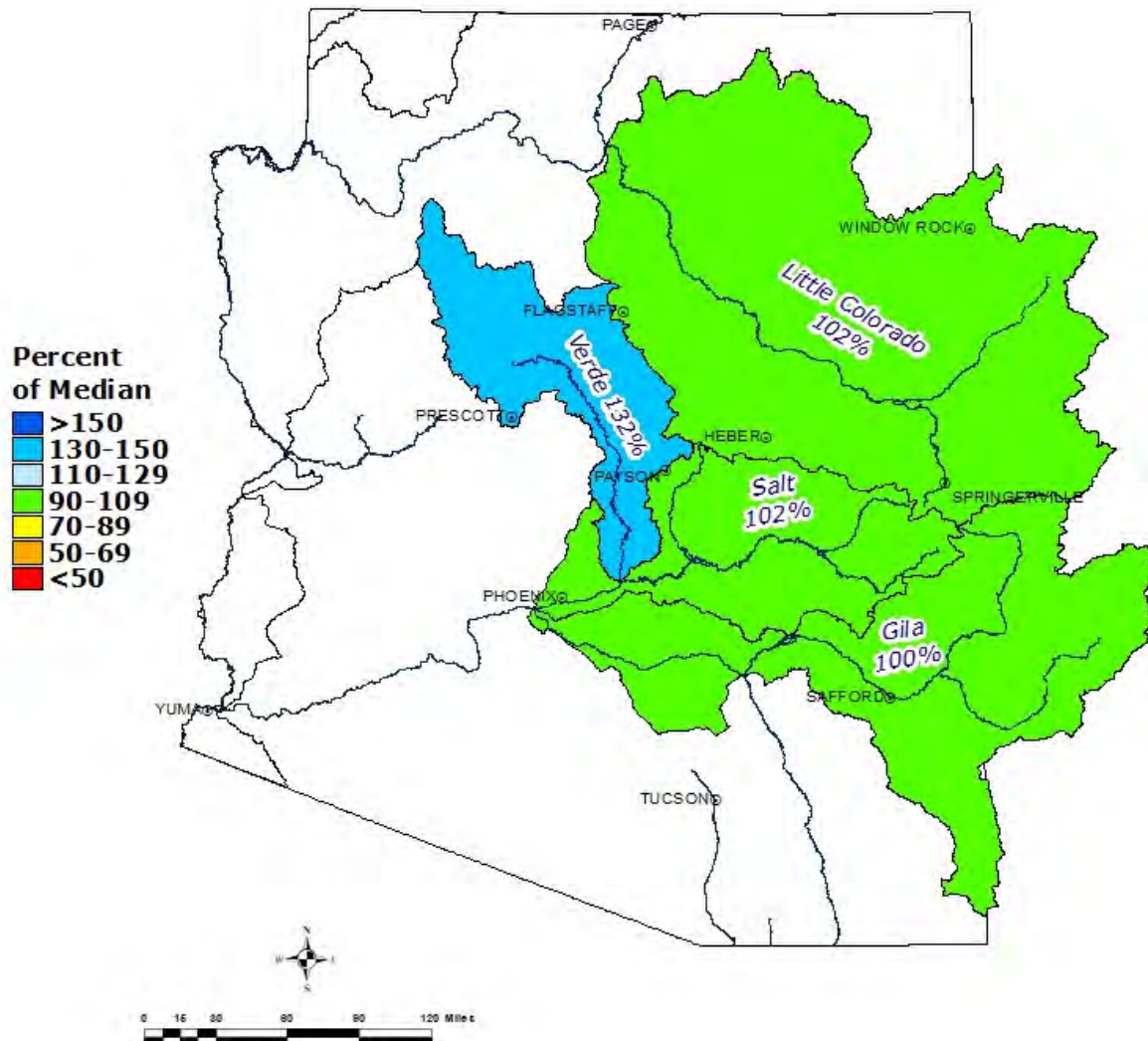
Key storage volumes displayed in thousands of acre-feet (x1000):

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Last Year Storage</u>	<u>30-Year Average</u>	<u>Storage Capacity</u>
Salt River System	1570.7	1015.7	1181.0	2025.8
Verde River System	179.4	101.0	135.7	287.4
San Carlos Reservoir	78.1	31.8	324.9	875.0
Lyman Lake	8.7	3.7	11.8	30.0
Lake Havasu	553.0	553.4	562.7	619.0
Lake Mohave	1653.0	1668.4	1602.0	1810.0
Lake Mead	11274.0	10495.0	20297.0	26159.0
Lake Powell	12280.7	9612.0	17745.0	24322.0

STREAMFLOW

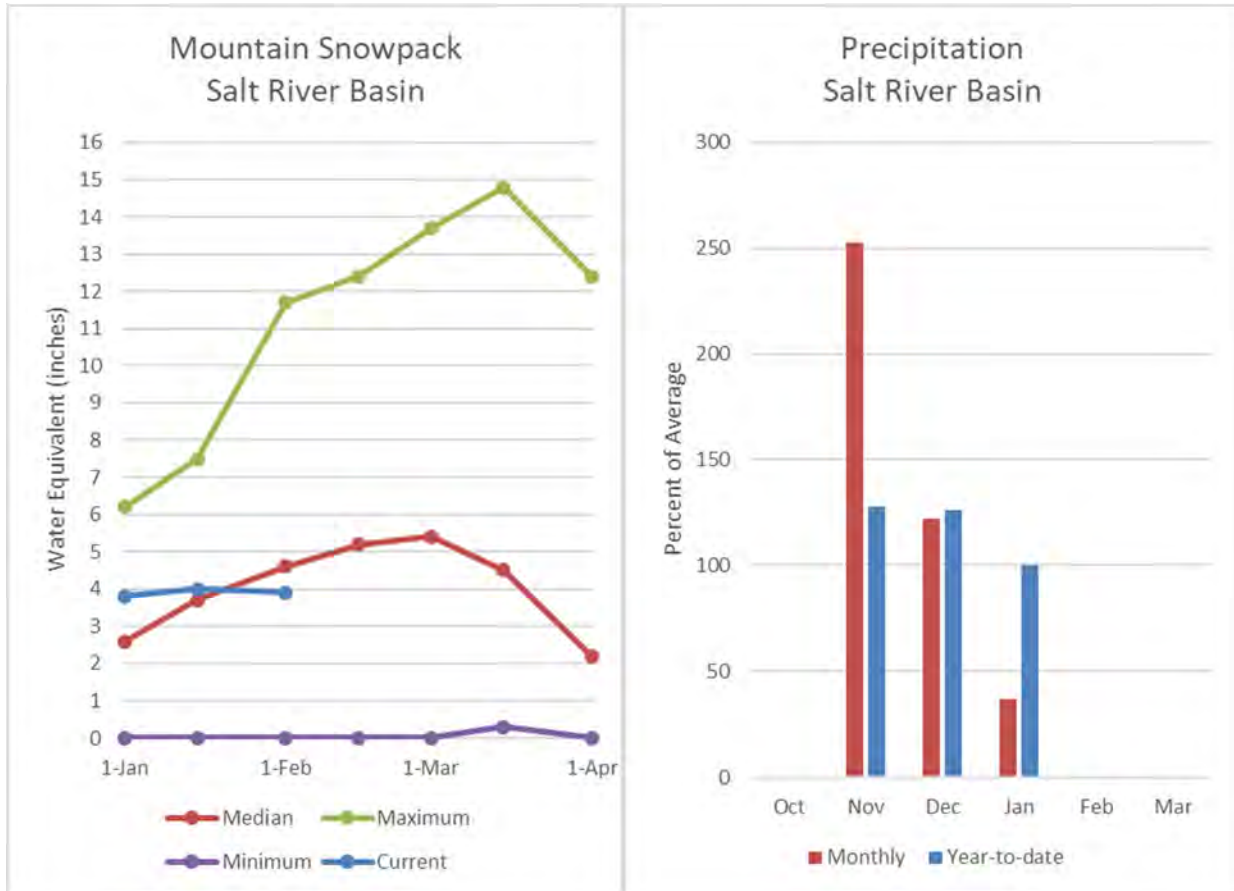
As of February 1, the forecast calls for normal to well above normal streamflow for the spring runoff period, ranging from 100 percent of median in the Gila River near Solomon to 132 percent of median in the Verde River near above Horseshoe Dam. Total precipitation since the beginning of the water year has been slightly above average for the state, producing more favorable conditions for runoff. Please refer to the basin forecast tables found in this report for more information regarding water supply forecasts.

Arizona Spring Streamflow Forecasts as of February 1, 2020



SALT RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2020

Normal streamflow levels are forecast for the basin. In the Salt River, near Roosevelt, the forecast calls for 102% of median streamflow through May, while at Tonto Creek, the forecast calls for 126% of median streamflow through May. Snow survey measurements show the Salt snowpack to be at 86% of median.



Salt River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2020

SALT RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast						30yr Avg (KAF)
		90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	
Salt R nr Roosevelt ³	FEB			46	118%			39
	FEB-MAY	146	225	290	102%	370	505	285
	MAR-MAY	120	187	245	102%	315	435	240
Tonto Ck ab Gun Ck nr Roosevelt ³	FEB			7.7	75%			10.3
	FEB-MAY	12	28	44	126%	66	109	35

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

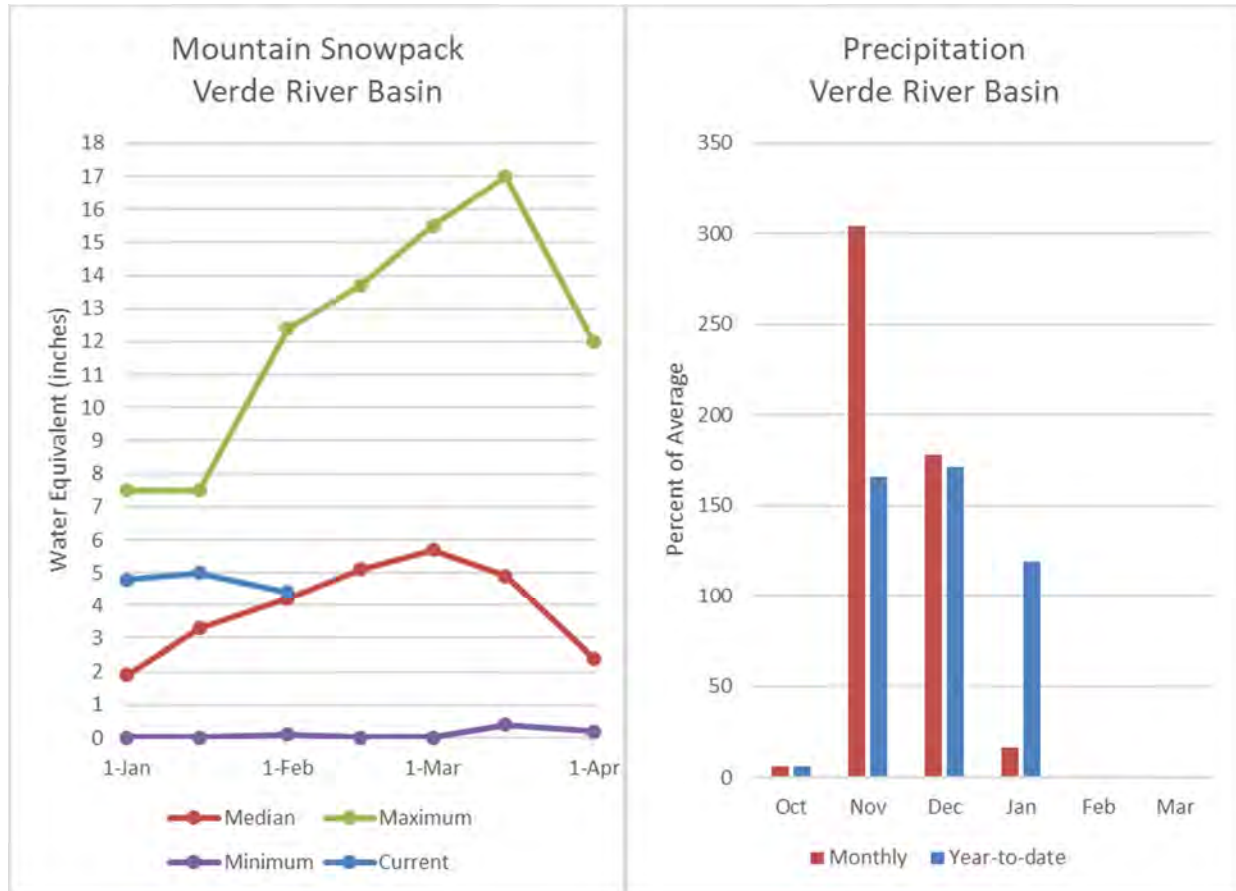
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2020	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Salt River Reservoir System	1570.7	1015.7	1240.0	2025.8
Basin-wide Total	1570.7	1015.7	1240.0	2025.8
# of reservoirs	1	1	1	1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2020	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
SALT RIVER BASIN	9	86%	72%

VERDE RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2020

Well above normal streamflow levels are forecast for the basin. In the Verde River above Horseshoe Dam, the forecast calls for 132% of median streamflow through May. Snow survey measurements show the Verde snowpack to be at 104% of median.



Verde River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2020

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

VERDE RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Verde R bl Tangle Ck ab Horseshoe Dam ³	FEB			40	114%			35
	FEB-MAY	73	129	180	132%	245	360	136

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

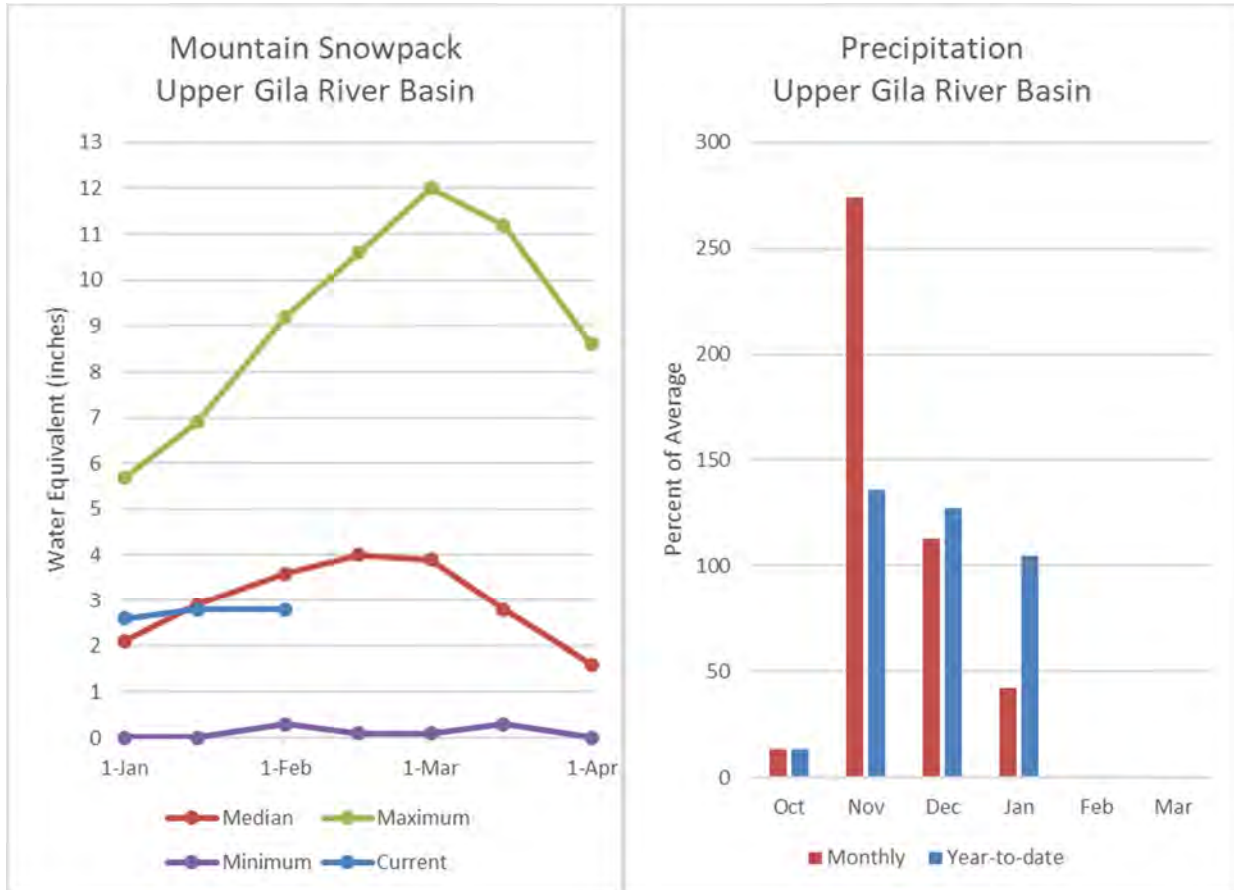
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2020	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Verde River Reservoir System	179.4	101.0	154.4	287.4
Basin-wide Total	179.4	101.0	154.4	287.4
# of reservoirs	1	1	1	1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2020	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
VERDE RIVER BASIN	11	104%	70%

SAN FRANCISCO-UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2020

Normal streamflow levels are forecast for the basin. In the San Francisco River, at Clifton, the forecast calls for 129% of median streamflow levels through May. In the Gila River, near Solomon, the forecast calls for 100% of median streamflow levels through May. At San Carlos Reservoir, inflow to the lake is forecast at 62% of median through May. Snow survey measurements show the snowpack for this basin to be at 82% of median.



San Francisco-Upper Gila River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2020

 Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
 Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

SAN FRANCISCO-UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Gila R at Gila ³	FEB-MAY	16	27	37	74%	48	70	50
Gila R bl Blue Ck nr Virden ³	FEB-MAY	13.8	33	50	79%	71	109	63
San Francisco R at Glenwood ³	FEB-MAY	9.7	17.7	25	137%	34	51	18.2
San Francisco R at Clifton ³	FEB-MAY	26	47	66	129%	87	125	51
Gila R nr Solomon ³	FEB			33	143%			23
	FEB-MAY	43	85	123	100%	167	245	123
San Carlos Reservoir Inflow ³	FEB-MAY	6.4	26	50	62%	88	170	81

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

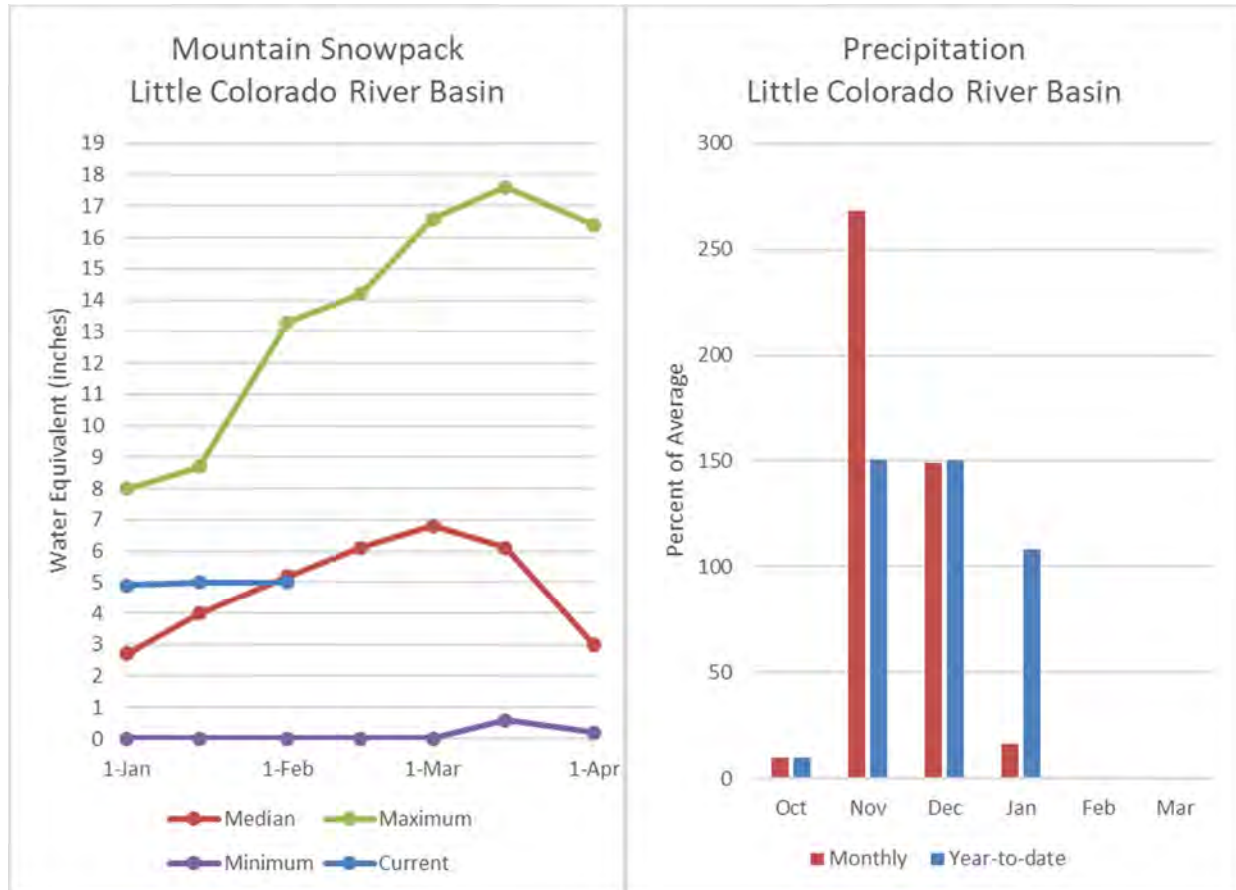
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2020	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
San Carlos Reservoir	77.0	32.0	366.8	875.0
Basin-wide Total	77.0	32.0	366.8	875.0
# of reservoirs	1	1	1	1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2020	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
SAN FRANCISCO-UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN	7	82%	66%

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2020

Normal streamflow levels are forecast for the basin. In the Little Colorado River, above Lyman Lake, the forecast calls for 102% of median streamflow through June. At Blue Ridge (C.C. Cragin) Reservoir, inflow to the lake is forecast at 92% of median through May. Snowpacks along the southern headwaters of the Little Colorado River, and along the central Mogollon Rim, were measured at 96% and 100% of median, respectively.



Little Colorado River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2020

 Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
 Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Little Colorado R ab Lyman Lake ³	FEB-JUN	3.1	5	6.7	102%	8.7	12.3	6.6
Rio Nutria nr Ramah ³	FEB-MAY	0.27	0.96	1.8	129%	3	5.7	1.4
Zuni R ab Black Rock Reservoir ³	FEB-MAY	0.04	0.09	0.5	132%	1.47	4.4	0.38
Blue Ridge Reservoir Inflow ³	FEB-MAY	4.5	9.8	15	92%	22	35	16.3
Lake Mary Reservoir Inflow ³	FEB-MAY	2.7	4.5	6	140%	7.9	11.2	4.3

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

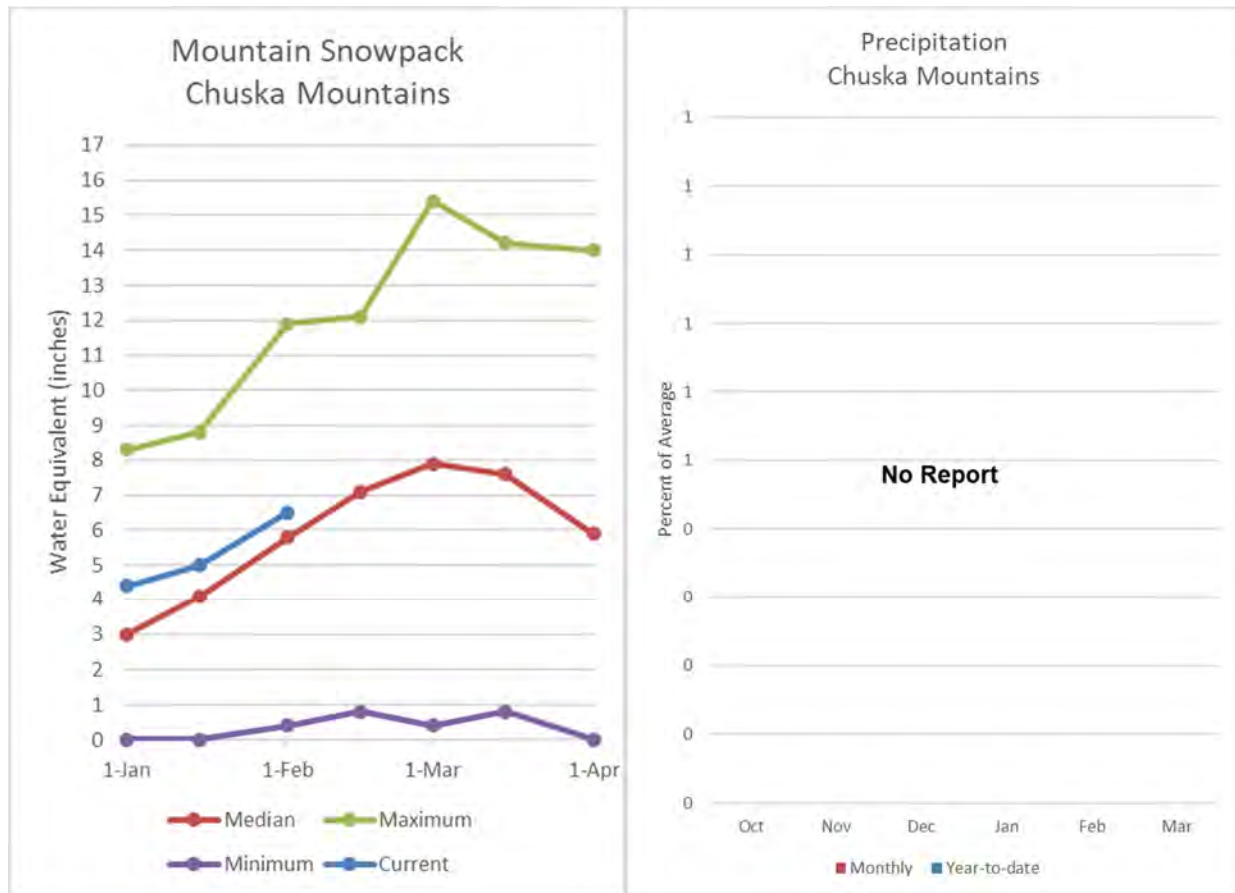
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2020	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Lyman Reservoir	8.7	3.7	12.3	30.0
Basin-wide Total	8.7	3.7	12.3	30.0
# of reservoirs	1	1	1	1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2020	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN	10	96%	74%
CENTRAL MOGOLLON RIM	4	100%	72%

CHUSKA MOUNTAINS as of February 1, 2020

Snow survey measurements conducted by staff of the Navajo Nation Water Management Branch show the Chuska snowpack to be at 112% of median. The forecast calls for normal runoff for Wheatfields Creek, Captain Tom Wash, and Bowl Canyon Creek.



Chuska Mountains Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2020

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

CHUSKA MOUNTAINS	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Captain Tom Wash nr Two Gray Hills	MAR-MAY	0.41	1.37	2.5	96%	4.1	7.6	2.6
Wheatfields Ck nr Wheatfields	MAR-MAY	0.75	1.42	2	95%	2.7	3.9	2.1
Bowl Canyon Ck ab Asaayi Lake	MAR-MAY	0.53	0.96	1.33	102%	1.76	2.5	1.3

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

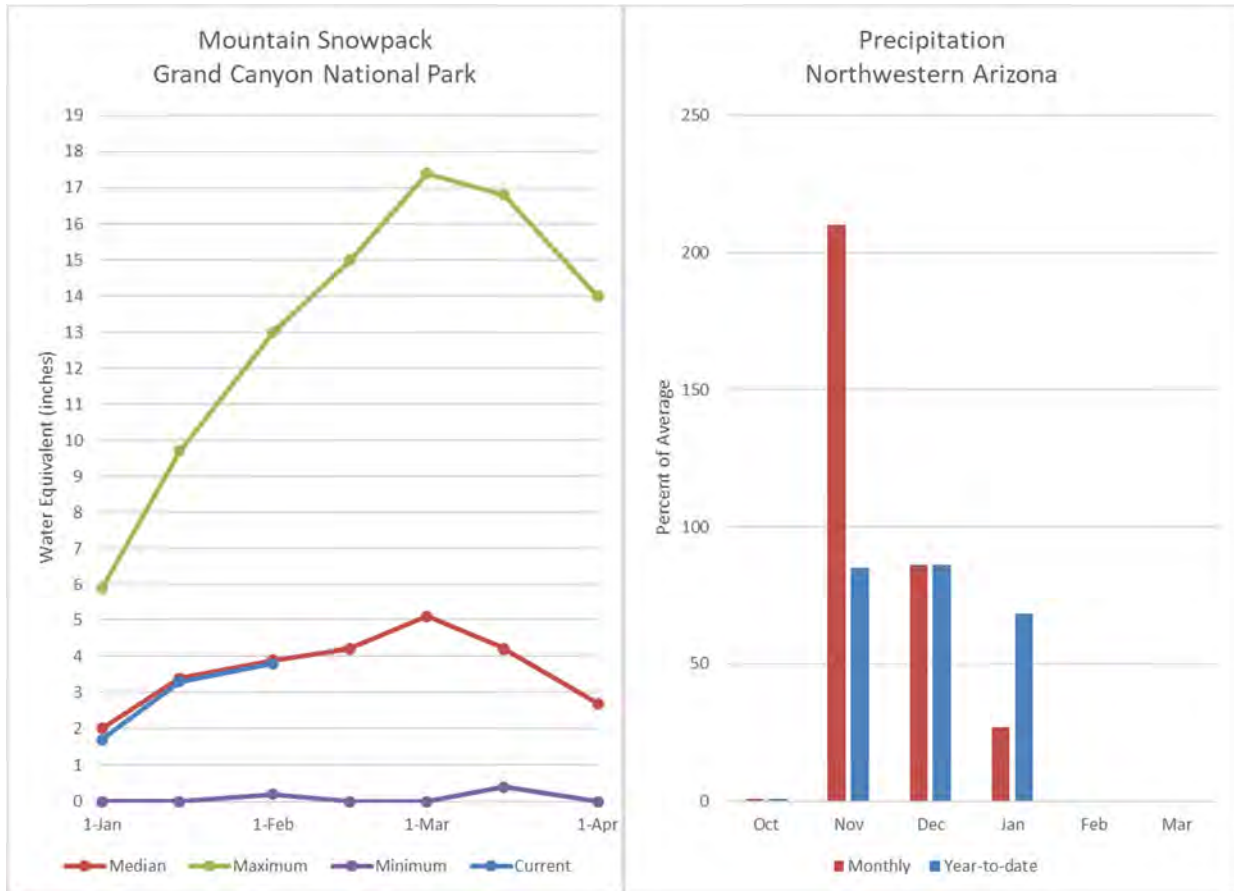
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

3) Median value used in place of average

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2020	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
CHUSKA MOUNTAINS	6	112%	114%
DEFIANCE PLATEAU	1	123%	158%

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA as of February 1, 2020

On the Colorado River, below normal inflow to Lake Powell is forecast at 80% of the 30-year average for the forecast period April-July. At the Grand Canyon, measurements conducted by park rangers show the snowpack to be at 117% of median.



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Northwestern Arizona Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2020

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Virgin R at Littlefield	APR-JUL	12.6	47	71	109%	94	129	65
Lake Powell Inflow ²	APR-JUL			5750	80%	7020		7160

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2020	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Lake Havasu	553.0	555.8	556.4	619.0
Lake Mohave	1653.0	1666.0	1676.0	1810.0
Lake Mead	11274.0	10495.0	20452.0	26159.0
Lake Powell	12280.7	9629.2	17338.0	24322.0
Basin-wide Total	25760.7	22346.0	40022.4	52910.0
# of reservoirs	4	4	4	4

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2020	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA	1	117%	120%

Basinwide Summary: February 1, 2020
(Averages/Medians based on 1981-2010 reference period)

Snowpack Summary for February 1, 2020

SALT RIVER BASIN	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
Baldy	SNOTEL	9125	23	6.8	6.4	106%	5.8	91%
Beaver Head	SNOTEL	7990	4	1.3	3.4	38%	2.1	62%
Buck Spring	SC	7400	2	0.4	2.0	20%	0.8	40%
Coronado Trail	SNOTEL	8400	7	3.4	3.2	106%	2.6	81%
Hawley Lake	SNOTEL	8300	29	9.2			8.4	
Coronado Trail	SC	8350			2.0			
Fort Apache	SC	9160	27	7.6	6.8	112%	5.9	87%
Hannagan Meadows	SNOTEL	9020	28	8.6	8.3	104%	7.0	84%
Maverick Fork	SNOTEL	9200	22	7.0	6.8	103%	5.2	76%
Nutriosio	SC	8500	0	0.0	1.2	0%		
Nutriosio	SNOTEL	8500	0	0.0			0.0	
Wildcat	SNOTEL	7850	7	3.0	3.0	100%	2.4	80%
Workman Creek	SNOTEL	6900	0	0.0	4.5	0%	0.1	2%
Basin Index						86%		72%
# of sites						9		9
VERDE RIVER BASIN	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
Baker Butte	SNOTEL	7300	11	3.8	4.3	88%	2.4	56%
Baker Butte No. 2	SC	7700	22	8.6	6.9	125%	4.0	58%
Baker Butte Smt	SNOTEL	7700	29	10.3			5.8	
Bar M	SNOTEL	6393	1	0.2			0.0	
Chalender	SC	7100	7	2.0	1.8	111%	0.6	33%
Chalender	SNOTEL	7100	12	4.1			3.1	
Fort Valley	SC	7350	0	0.0	1.8	0%	0.9	50%
Fort Valley	SNOTEL	7350	0	0.0			0.3	
Fry	SNOTEL	7200	25	8.4	5.0	168%	5.0	100%
Happy Jack	SNOTEL	7630	10	4.1	3.8	108%	4.1	108%
Happy Jack	SC	7630	4	1.6	3.2	50%	2.2	69%
Mormon Mountain	SNOTEL	7500	9	4.4	4.0	110%	2.6	65%
Mormon Mountain Summit #2	SC	8470	26	8.2	7.7	106%	6.8	88%
Mormon Mtn Summit	SNOTEL	8500	22	6.7			4.8	
Newman Park	SC	6750	5	1.4	2.0	70%	0.0	0%
White Horse Lake	SNOTEL	7180	7	3.3	3.4	97%	2.3	68%
Williams Ski Run	SC	7720			5.6		8.3	148%
Basin Index						104%		70%
# of sites						11		11
SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
Snow Bowl #2	SC	11200	49	14.8	11.6	128%	10.2	88%
Snowslide Canyon	SNOTEL	9730	36	15.3	10.0	153%	11.4	114%
Basin Index						139%		100%
# of sites						2		2
SAN FRANCISCO-UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
Beaver Head	SNOTEL	7990	4	1.3	3.4	38%	2.1	62%
Coronado Trail	SNOTEL	8400	7	3.4	3.2	106%	2.6	81%
Coronado Trail	SC	8350			2.0			
Frisco Divide	SNOTEL	8000	7	2.4	2.5	96%	2.0	80%
Hannagan Meadows	SNOTEL	9020	28	8.6	8.3	104%	7.0	84%
Hummingbird - Aerial And Snow Course	SC	10550			8.9			
Lookout Mountain	SNOTEL	8500	1	0.3	2.3	13%	0.2	9%

Nutriosio	SC	8500	0	0.0	1.2	0%		
Nutriosio	SNOTEL	8500	0	0.0			0.0	
Signal Peak	SNOTEL	8360	0	0.0	3.9	0%	0.0	0%
Silver Creek Divide	SNOTEL	9000	22	8.5	6.1	139%	5.8	95%
State Line	SC	8000			1.8			
Whitewater - Aerial And Snow Course	SC	10750			17.8			

Basin Index	82%	66%
# of sites	7	7

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
Baker Butte	SNOTEL	7300	11	3.8	4.3	88%	2.4	56%
Baker Butte No. 2	SC	7700	22	8.6	6.9	125%	4.0	58%
Baker Butte Smt	SNOTEL	7700	29	10.3			5.8	
Baldy	SNOTEL	9125	23	6.8	6.4	106%	5.8	91%
Buck Spring	SC	7400	2	0.4	2.0	20%	0.8	40%
Cheese Springs	SC	8700	16	4.4	4.2	105%	4.3	102%
Fort Apache	SC	9160	27	7.6	6.8	112%	5.9	87%
Heber	SNOTEL	7640	9	4.0	4.6	87%	4.0	87%
Lake Mary	SC	6930	4	1.2	3.0	40%	0.0	0%
Maverick Fork	SNOTEL	9200	22	7.0	6.8	103%	5.2	76%
Promontory	SNOTEL	7930	20	6.5	7.2	90%	6.2	86%

Basin Index	96%	74%
# of sites	10	10

CENTRAL MOGOLLON RIM	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
Baker Butte	SNOTEL	7300	11	3.8	4.3	88%	2.4	56%
Baker Butte No. 2	SC	7700	22	8.6	6.9	125%	4.0	58%
Baker Butte Smt	SNOTEL	7700	29	10.3			5.8	
Heber	SNOTEL	7640	9	4.0	4.6	87%	4.0	87%
Promontory	SNOTEL	7930	20	6.5	7.2	90%	6.2	86%

Basin Index	100%	72%
# of sites	4	4

CHUSKA MOUNTAINS	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
Beaver Spring	SC	9220	27	8.1	7.7	105%	6.7	87%
Beaver Spring	SNOTEL	9200	29	8.3			6.9	
Bowl Canyon	SC	8980	26	7.6	5.8	131%	7.0	121%
Hidden Valley	SC	8480	22	6.8			6.1	
Missionary Spring	SC	7940	10	2.3	3.6	64%	4.6	128%
Tsaile Canyon #1	SC	8160	16	5.6	4.8	117%	5.9	123%
Tsaile Canyon #3	SC	8920	22	7.4	6.3	117%	7.1	113%
Whiskey Creek	SC	9050	25	7.6	6.3	121%	7.9	125%
Navajo Whiskey Ck	SNOTEL	9050	28	8.7			7.9	

Basin Index	112%	114%
# of sites	6	6

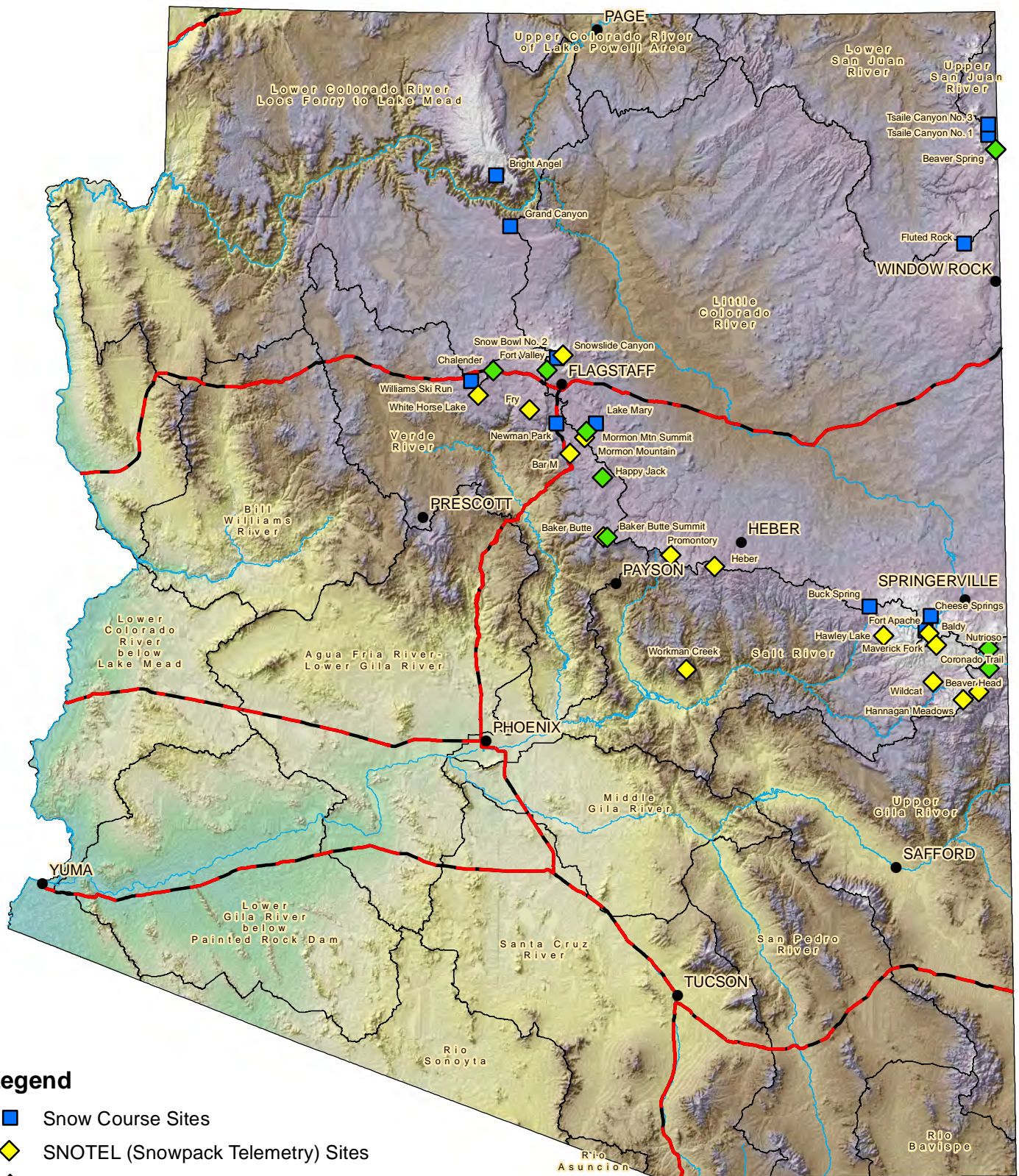
DEFIANCE PLATEAU	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
Fluted Rock	SC	7800	13	3.2	2.6	123%	4.1	158%

Basin Index	123%	158%
# of sites	1	1

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
Bright Angel	SC	8400	21	6.3	5.4	117%	6.5	120%
Grand Canyon	SC	7500	4	1.2	2.3	52%		

Basin Index	117%	120%
# of sites	1	1

Arizona Snow Survey Data Sites



Legend

- Snow Course Sites
- ◆ SNOTEL (Snowpack Telemetry) Sites
- ◆ SNOTEL and Snow Course Sites
- Basin Boundaries