Precipitation

May turned out to be our second wettest month of the water year across Nevada and the Eastern Sierra. Monthly precipitation was above normal across all basins, averaging 3.8 inches for the month for the 81 SNOTEL sites. The Walker Basin made out the best with 281% of the average May amount. This is nearly three times what normally falls and totals set new records for the month at a few SNOTEL sites. Pole Canyon SNOTEL on the northern end of the Ruby Mountains received the most for an individual site with 7.0 inches!

Water year precipitation as of June 1 is still below normal across Nevada, but is up 4% to 16% from May 1 percentages. June 1 water year to date precipitation ranges from 55% of average in the Carson Basin to 94% in the Clover Valley. Rains helped rangelands stay green, which is good news for ranchers. The timing of the rains should help irrigators stretch very limited reservoir storage and will hopefully help produce a second cutting of alfalfa in some areas. Weather forecasts hold hope for more rain later in June starting tomorrow.

Streamflow

Streamflow was better on May 31 than on May 1 for many points, particularly those in north central Nevada. June 1 streamflow forecasts show improvement from last month. April-July volumes in the Walker and Humboldt basins are now forecast two to four times better than the forecasts made on May 1. Averaging the April-July forecasts for the entire state the 50% exceedance forecasts are up from an average of 12% last month to 21% this month. These forecasts are still very low compared to historical amounts but any improvement is welcome. Click here to see streamflow forecasts
May SNOTEL Precipitation was above average across Nevada and the Eastern Sierra.
Averaging all 81 SNOTEL stations together monthly precipitation in May was 3.8 inches. Only December with 4.6 inches recorded more.
Water Year to Date Precipitation as a Percent of Average increased 4-16% from May 1 to June 1
Valley Station Water Year Precipitation

In Elko, Ely and Winnemucca May was the wettest month so far this water year. Winnemucca currently is about an 1” of precipitation above normal for the water year.
Monthly Precipitation Totals for Individual SNOTEL Stations ranged from 1.3 to 7.0 inches. Statewide precipitation averaged 3.8 inches in May.
The most precipitation was measured at sites in the Northern Rubies, Walker Basin and Snake River Basin with:

Northern Rubies:
- 6.4” at Hole in Mountain
- 6.5” at Dorsey Basin
- 7.0” at Pole Canyon

Walker Basin:
- 5.9” at Summit Meadow
- 6.3” at Lobdell Lake

Snake River Basin:
- 5.9” at Pole Creek RS
- 6.4” Jakes Creek
- 6.8” at Bear Creek
Soil Moisture increased from last month in the Northern Great Basin, Snake Basin, and Eastern Nevada and remained similar to last month in the Truckee, Carson, Walker, and Owyhee Basin.
Rains boosted streamflow. Streamflow was closer to normal on May 31 as compared to May 1.
Streamflow increased at upstream points and was enough to produce increases at downstream points as well.

Lake Tahoe got within a few hundredths of an inch of its natural rim.

Flows in the Truckee Canal below Derby Dam picked up for a period.

E Fk Carson May flows were better than during Mar/Apr snowmelt period.

Water even made it down to Fort Churchill.
May produced the best streamflow of the water year on the Walker River.
From upstream tributaries to downstream main stem points, May provided the best streamflow of water year on the Humboldt River.
7 Day Precipitation Outlook -
the wet trend may continue....
June 1, 2015 – Nevada Water Supply Summary

• May SNOTEL precipitation totals ranged from 1.3 to 7.0 inches.

• Statewide precipitation averaged 3.8 inches in May making it the second wettest month this water year.

• Above normal May precipitation boosted water year to date precipitation 4-16% across Nevada.

• Soil Moisture increased from last month in the Northern Great Basin, Snake Basin, and Eastern Nevada and remained similar to last month in the Truckee, Carson, Walker, and Owyhee Basin.

• Lake Tahoe got within a few hundredths of its natural rim, its highest water surface elevation since last fall.

• Streamflow in May was better than in April for the Carson, Walker and Humboldt rivers.

• Streamflow forecasts are still low compared to average, but June 1 forecasts improved from last month particularly in Walker and Humboldt basins. Click here to see streamflow forecasts

• Weather forecasts show more moisture headed our way in June.